

LEVEL ONE

SON SEEKERS

AGES 5-6

*Jesus
is Born*

Name:

COME
FOLLOW
ME!

JESUS CALLS FOR HELPERS

Wild John comes
to town.

LOCUST & HONEY
BURGERS

DO YOU
WANT FRIES
WITH THAT?

ME?

Teacher Resource

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Teaching Sonseekers ...

Dear Teacher

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in Christ

The Sonseekers Team

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

Timeline

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

What are the Sonseekers materials?

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

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

The Sonseekers materials comprise two related elements:

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

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

What's in my Sonseekers Level One Teacher Resource?

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

- 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

Zacharias and Elizabeth were an elderly married couple who had no children. One day, while Zacharias was serving the Lord in the temple, he saw an angel. The angel said his name was Gabriel and God had sent him to tell Zacharias that God was going to give him a son. Zacharias didn't believe him, because he and Elizabeth were too old now, so the angel stopped Zacharias from being able to talk, because he didn't believe. The angel told him he would stay that way until the baby was born and that the baby's name would be John. Some months later, the same angel came to a young woman called Mary and told her she was going to have a baby too. Mary believed, but asked how, because she and Joseph were not yet living together as husband and wife. The angel said God would make it happen through the Holy Spirit and that she should call the baby Jesus. Mary was very happy and praised the Lord.

Suggested Teaching Approach

For part of the lesson, tell the children they are not allowed to speak. Have them realise how difficult even simple everyday things can be when you cannot talk, e.g. one child without speaking is to have another pick up an object (pencil), carry it around the room and put it back. Let everyone have a turn with something different. Point out how difficult this has been for 10 minutes on one day - help them imagine what it would be like all day, every day for nine months - all because Zacharias did not believe. Ask if they think Zacharias learnt his lesson? What about them? Would they believe?

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

"With God nothing will be impossible." (Luke 1:37).

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

"I have called you by your name." (Isaiah 43:1).

Activity A – Thumb Prints

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Thick water-based paint in a sponge, or a stamp pad.
- Clean up gear (soap, water, towel).

Steps

- The children print their own name on the paper, using their thumb prints. (This reinforces the uniqueness of each child.)



Activity B – Heart Badge

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.
- Felt pens/colouring pencils.
- Safety pins.
- Masking/sticky tape.
- Scissors.
- Blu-tack.
- Glue.
- Glitter.

Steps

- The children colour and decorate the hearts as they wish.
- They then cut the hearts out.
- Tape a safety pin to the back of the heart and attach the heart to a pocket, sleeve or top. Alternatively, put Blu-tack on the back of the heart and the children can take it home and attach it to a window.



Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John

Activity A - Thumbprints



Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John

Activity B – Heart Badge



The birth of Jesus

Storyline

An angel told Joseph to live with Mary as her husband and not be afraid, so he did. At that time, a census had been decreed and every man had to return to his own city to be counted, so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem. There was no room for them in the inn so they stayed in a stable and that is where Jesus was born. That night, an angel appeared to some shepherds who were watching over their sheep in the fields and told them of the special birth and where they could find the baby Jesus. Then a multitude of angels appeared and praised God. Later, some wise men in the east, saw a new star in the sky and knew it announced the birth of Jesus. They followed the star so they might find and worship the new king of the Jews. When they got to Jerusalem, they asked questions about the new king. Herod, who was king at the time, became worried and tried to trick the wise men into telling him where Jesus was so he could kill Him. The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. An angel told them to leave town by another road. When Herod came hunting for Jesus, an angel told Joseph to take his family to Egypt to be safe.

Suggested Teaching Approach

A marvellous opportunity exists here for the children to dress up to portray all the main characters. A doll could be used for baby Jesus. Use old clothes and tell the story as the children act it out.

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.

Memory Verse

“We will rejoice and be glad.” (Psalm 118:24).

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

“God is our refuge and strength.” (Psalm 46:1).

Activity A – Celebration Party

Materials

- Party food, e.g. cake, biscuits, sweets, sultanas, fruit, chips, cordial, fruit juice, etc. or anything to make the time special. (When choosing food, be sure to take into consideration that some children may have food allergies, e.g. milk or additives.)

Steps

- Make sure there is plenty of singing and praising the Lord, as well as the special food, to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Remember, this is not a birthday party, but a celebration of Jesus' birth.

Activity B – What Can I Give Him? Bread Dough Heart

Materials

- A quantity of bread dough.
- 1 paper/plastic plate for each child.
- Baking tray or trays, to carry home the hearts.
- Approximately 20 cm of narrow ribbon or gift tie per child.
- Wooden or metal skewer.

Steps

At Home

- Make bread dough (preparation time is approximately 20 minutes).

In Class

- Give each child a small quantity of bread dough on a paper/plastic plate and have them shape a heart.
- Using a lead pencil, scratch the children's initials in the sides of their heart shapes.
- Using the skewer, the teacher makes a small hole near the top of each heart, so that when baked, a ribbon or tie can be attached, and the heart hung as a decoration.
- Take the hearts home and bake them in the oven. Return them to the children the next week.

Bread Dough Recipe (enough for 12 children)

- 4 cups plain flour.
- 1½ cups salt.
- 1½ cups water (approx.).
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 2 tablespoons water (for glazing).

Sift flour and salt into a basin and mix well with finger tips. Make a well in the centre and add water. Mix with a knife. When mix becomes too stiff to stir, use your hands for mixing. A little extra water may be needed to make the dough firm but pliable. Turn the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead until smooth. (If the dough is at the correct consistency, no extra flour will be needed for handling or kneading). Shape dough as required, brush with egg yolk and water mix after the shapes are on the baking tray. Bake in the bottom of a very slow oven for approx. 4 hours. The time will depend on the thickness of the shapes. Re-glaze the dough several times during cooking for a richer colour. Turn the oven off and leave the shapes in the oven until completely cold. Paint with clear varnish or lacquer. Dry overnight. The dough must be totally dried out and totally covered in varnish. Two coats of varnish gives the best appearance.

Jesus in the temple

Luke 2:41-52

Storyline

Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem every year to keep the feast of Passover. When He was twelve, they all went to the feast. Going home there were lots of friends and relatives to travel with. Jesus' parents thought Jesus was with them - but they found He was not. They returned to Jerusalem and after three days, they found Him in the temple, sitting with the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. His parents were very worried and upset when they found Him, but Jesus explained that He was doing His Heavenly Father's business. His parents did not understand. Jesus went with them, where He grew to be a man who continued to please God and His parents.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story with the aid of flannel graph, puppets, or Picture Bible, emphasising the fact that Jesus was able to share the Scriptures, even though He was a child.

Using Activity A encourage the children to share the Scriptures they know.

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

"I must be about My Father's business." (Luke 2:49).

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

"I believed and therefore I spoke." (2 Corinthians 4:13).

Activity A – Share the Scripture

Materials

- Picture Bible.

Steps

- Ask the children who would like to share on the following stories. Maybe bring a Picture Bible, to remind the children of characters. Encourage them to discuss some of the events surrounding the characters, by asking questions, e.g. “How do you think the person felt at that time?”, or “Was the person young or old?”

Stories

- The man who built a great big boat. (Noah).
- The baby who was put in a basket. (Moses).
- The men who sang in prison. (Paul and Silas).
- The boy who heard God in the temple. (Samuel).
- The lady who had a baby when she was very, very old. (Sarah).
- The boy who shared his food with Jesus. (Feeding the multitude).
- Two people who listened to a snake. (Adam and Eve).
- The man who had his hair cut off. (Samson).
- The lady who saved a nation. (Esther).
- The man in the lion’s den. (Daniel).
- The young man who killed a giant. (David).
- The One who walked on water. (Jesus).
- The three men who were thrown into a fiery furnace. (Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego).
- These are just a few of the many from which you could choose.

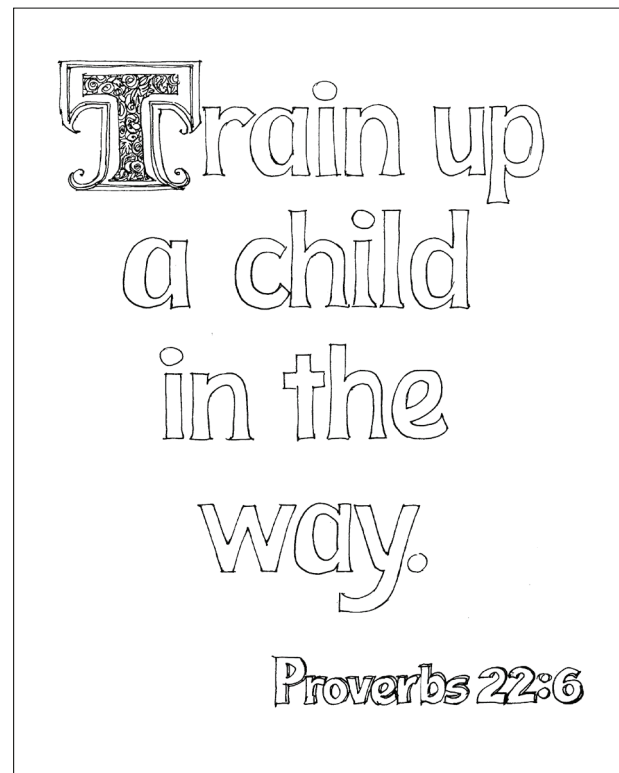
Activity B – Make a Scroll

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 length of ribbon, wool or string per child (approx. 20-30 cm long).
- Pieces of dowel to use as the ends of the scrolls.
- Masking or strong tape.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Glitter.
- Glue.
- Scissors.
- Any other collage materials you would like to use to decorate the scrolls.

Steps

- Show the children the picture of the biblical scroll on the Teaching Aid Sheet, and explain to them the old method of making and storing written words.
- Have the children colour and decorate their Activity Sheet.
- The children cut out their scrolls.
- Tape dowel to either ends and show the children how to roll the scroll up and tie ribbon around it.



Jesus in the temple

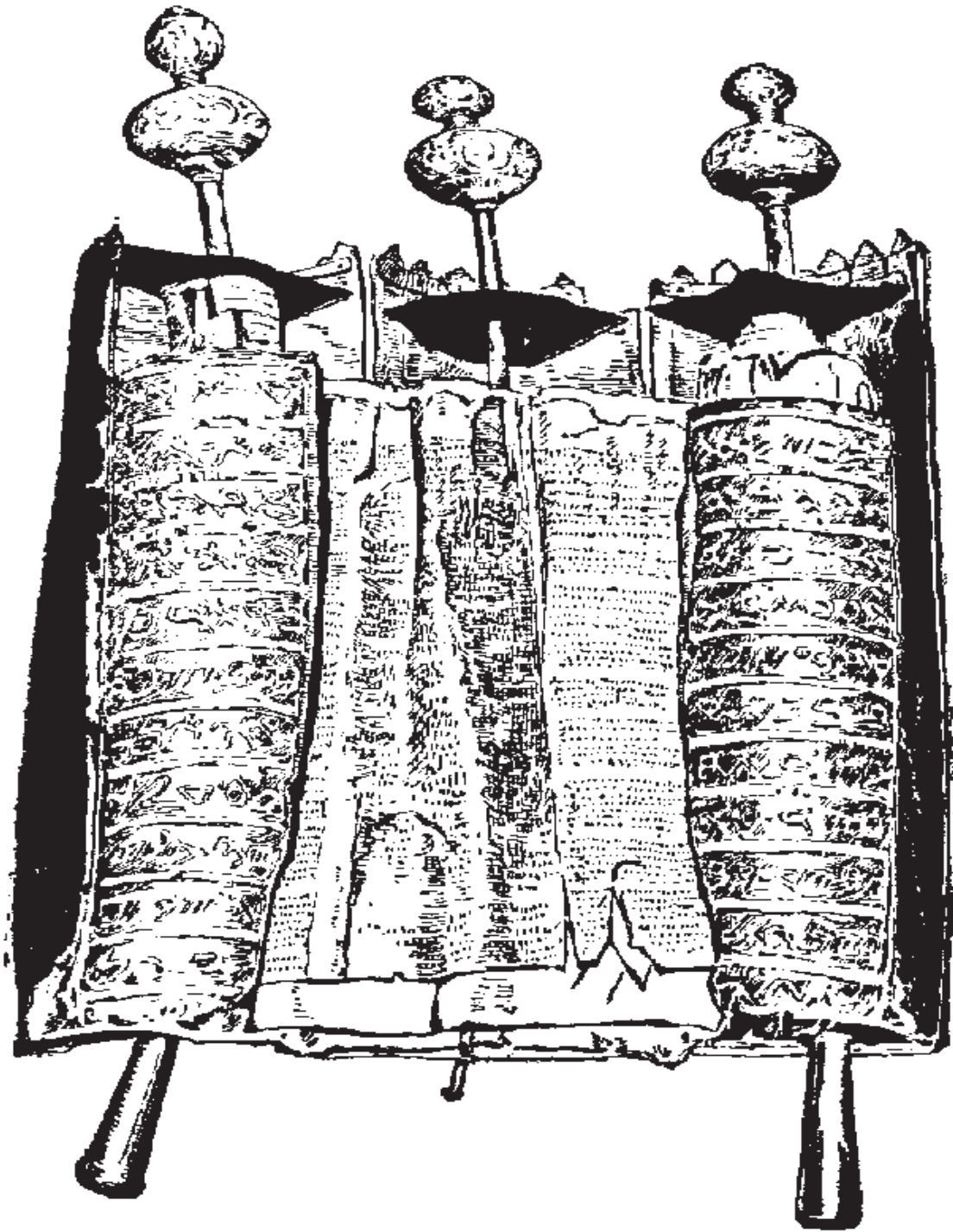
Activity B – Make a Scroll

Train up
a child
in the
way.

Proverbs 22:6

Jesus in the temple

Activity B - Teaching Aid Sheet



John the Baptist

Storyline

God chose John the Baptist to go to the people and tell them they needed to change their ways so they would be ready when Jesus came. They had to repent (or be sorry for their sins) and be baptised. John was an unusual man. He wore clothes made out of camel hair, with a piece of leather tied around his waist. He ate locusts (grasshoppers) and wild honey. The king of the land was a man called Herod. John was put in prison by Herod for preaching things that made Herod mad. Herod's wife tricked him into having John's head chopped off.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Use dressing up as an attention getter. Choose one (outgoing) child. Have a leather belt and something furry to represent the camel's hair - bring some honey and a bug similar to a locust - a wig or mop head for his hair and begin to share the story by introducing them to John the Baptist.

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

"Godly sorrow produces repentance." (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." (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Activity A – Pass on the Message

Steps

- Divide the class into two groups. One group is to decide on a message to be passed on. The message is to be story based, e.g. “John the Baptist told the people to repent.” When the message is decided upon, the teacher passes the message on to one child in the other group who then whispers the message to the next person, passing the message along until the last person receives the message and repeats it out aloud. The group that has sent the message make sure the message was received correctly. (Have the children passing the message stand in a line approx. 1 metre apart.)
- Reverse the process, allowing the other group to choose a message.
- Discuss if the message was received correctly, and if not, why not. Emphasise how we need to be listening, concentrating and remembering, to be effective.
- Continue alternating groups as time allows. If the group is too small to have two groups, choose one person from the group to decide on the message to be sent. Allow each child to have a turn at choosing a message.

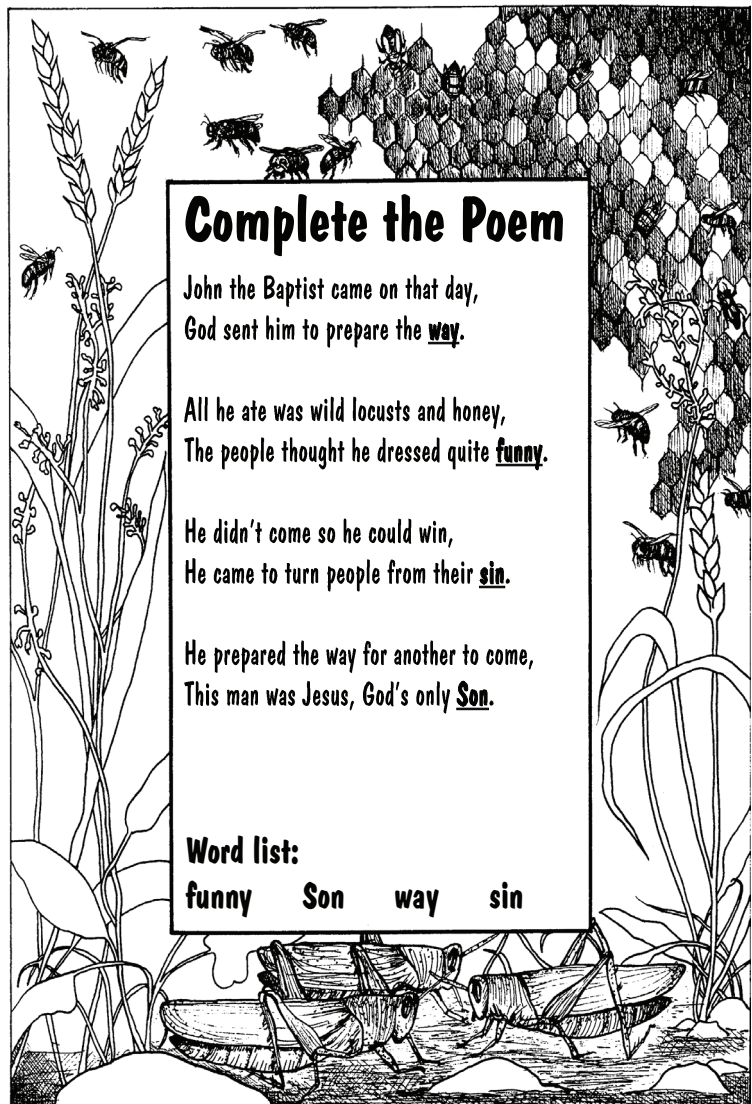
Activity B – Complete the Poem

Materials

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

Steps

- The children fill in the missing words from the poem, then colour the picture.
- Have the students read the poem out loud to each other or learn it off by heart.



Complete the Poem

John the Baptist came on that day,
God sent him to prepare the way.

All he ate was wild locusts and honey,
The people thought he dressed quite funny.

He didn't come so he could win,
He came to turn people from their sin.

He prepared the way for another to come,
This man was Jesus, God's only Son.

Word list:
funny Son way sin

John the Baptist

Activity B – Complete the Poem

A detailed black and white illustration of a beehive scene. In the upper right, a large, textured honeycomb structure is shown with several bees flying around it. To the left, there are tall, thin stalks of grain, possibly wheat or barley, with bees flying near them. At the bottom of the page, two large locusts are depicted on the ground. The entire scene is framed by a simple border.

Complete the Poem

John the Baptist came on that day,
God sent him to prepare the _____.

All he ate was wild locusts and honey,
The people thought he dressed quite _____.

He didn't come so he could win,
He came to turn people from their _____.

He prepared the way for another to come,
This man was Jesus, God's only _____.

Word list:

funny Son way sin

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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

Jesus came to the River Jordan to be baptised by John. John knew Jesus was the Son of God. After Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit, looking like a dove, came upon Jesus and God the Father spoke, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." After this, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where He fasted for forty days. Satan came to tempt Jesus but the Holy Spirit helped Him to resist Satan.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Use a blackboard and chalk, whiteboard and marker, or a large sheet of white paper pinned up on a board, and a marker. Have a basic outline of the River Jordan already drawn, then ask the children to help you draw the pictures as you tell the story, or, you could use a flannel graph to tell the story.

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

"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

"Blessed is the man who endures temptation." (James 1:12).

Activity A – Dove Mobile

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- 1 curtain ring per child.
- Length of wool or string per child.
- Scissors.
- Hole punch.
- Glue.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

- The children cut out their dove.
- Punch a hole in the beak.
- Thread wool or string through the hole and tie one end to the dove and the other to the curtain ring.
- The children write over the dotted word 'Son', and colour the dove.
- Use the dove as a kite and let the children go for a run. Make clear guidelines as to where the children can run.



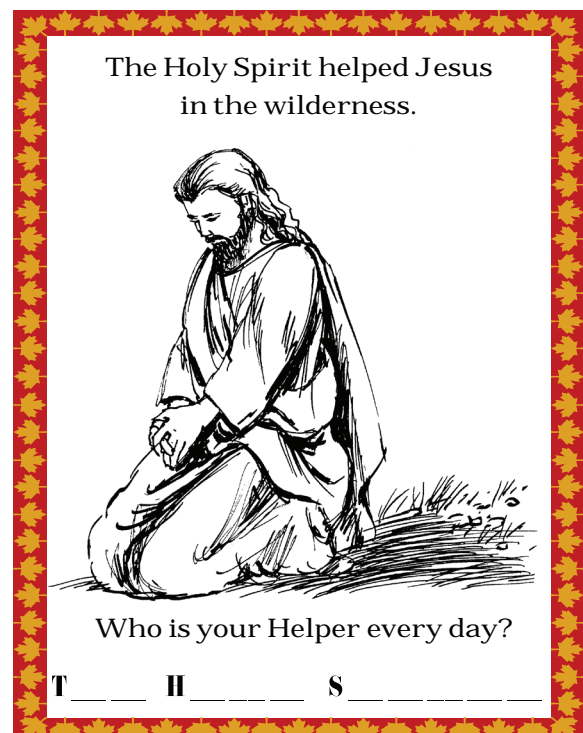
Activity B – Who is Your Helper?

Materials

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

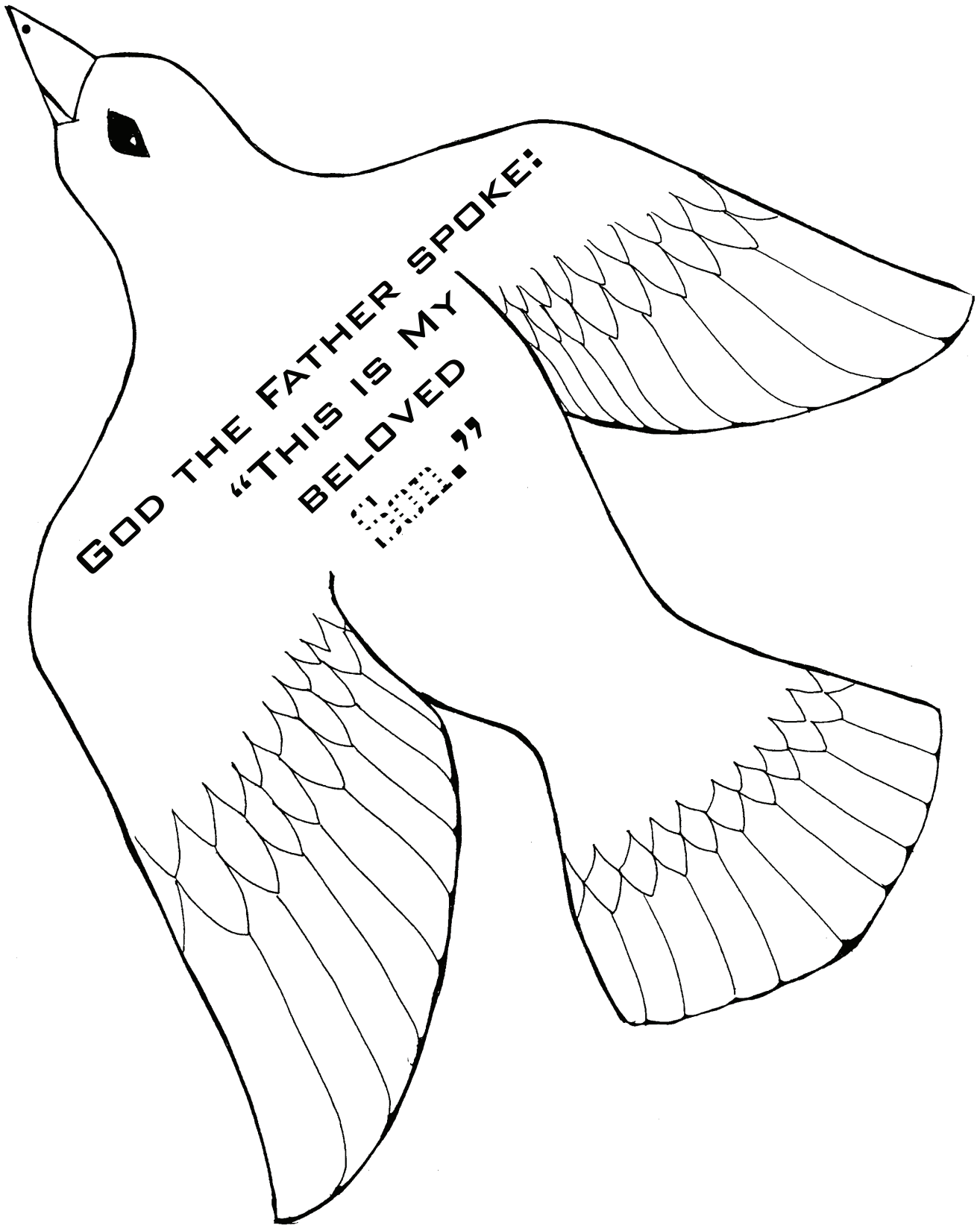
Steps

- The children write out the answer “The Holy Spirit”, then colour the picture.
- Discuss with the children ways that the Holy Spirit is our helper.



Jesus baptised and tempted

Activity A – Dove Mobile



Jesus baptised and tempted

Activity B – Who is Your Helper?

The Holy Spirit helped Jesus
in the wilderness.



Who is your Helper every day?

T _____ **H** _____ **S** _____

The call of the disciples

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

Storyline

Two days after His baptism, Jesus again met John the Baptist and two of his disciples. The two disciples heard John speak and followed Jesus, staying with Him that night. Andrew, one of the disciples, found his brother, Simon, and told him he had found the Messiah, that is Christ. When he brought him to Jesus, He already knew Simon and said he would be called 'Peter'. Jesus continued to seek out the men He already knew would become His disciples, amazing some of them by knowing their names before they met Him, like Nathanael. Nathanael was surprised that Jesus knew him, but he believed Jesus was the Son of God. Jesus told him he would see greater things.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story using a flannel graph or Picture Bible.

OR

The teacher could write a simple narration, take along some simple props, e.g. tea-towels, scarves and headbands to be made into head gear, and have the children act out the story.

Follow the story with Activity A which leads into a discussion. Make sure every child has some head-gear to wear to play the game "Follow the Leader".

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

"Follow Me." (Matthew 9:9).

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." (Jeremiah 12:3).

Activity A – “Follow the Leader”

Steps

- Children play the game “Follow the Leader”.
- One child is chosen as the leader, and all the children have to mimic the actions of that child. The leader can use various hand movements; leg movements e.g. hopping, skipping; move different directions e.g. left, right, weaving; or various height movements e.g. stretching, squatting.
- Discuss with the children the difficulties of following a ‘leader’. The children sometimes want to go their own way or do not want to follow a leader or direction.
- Ask the children who they are called to follow? (Jesus, parents, leaders, teachers).

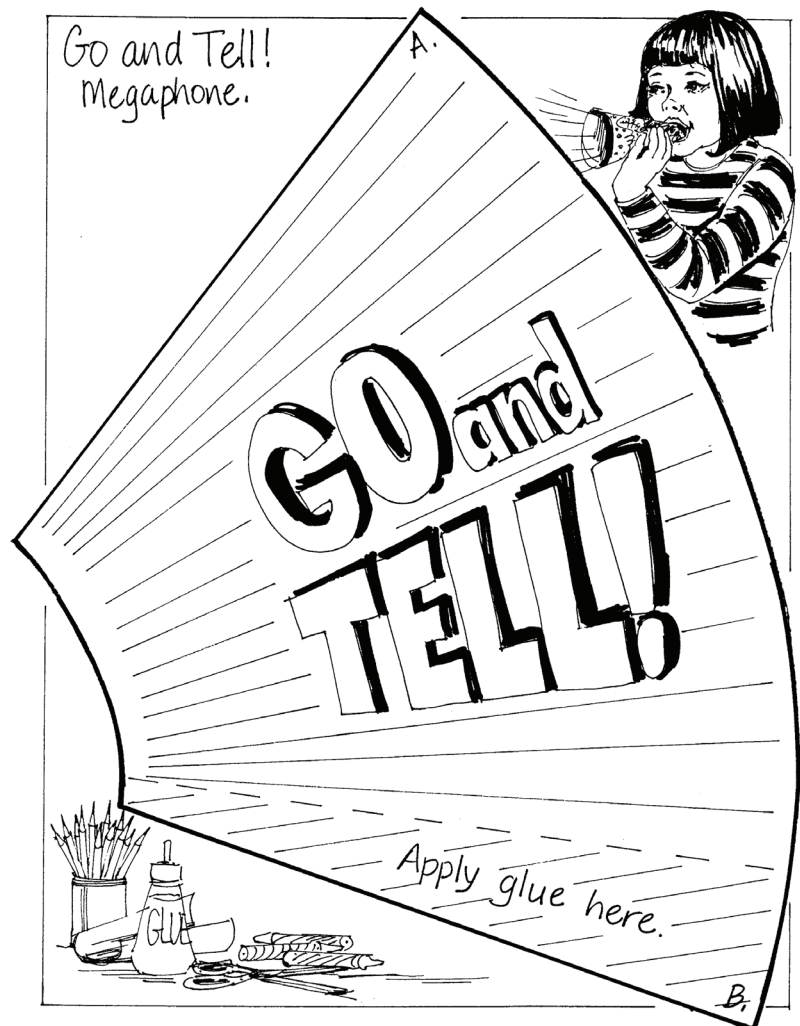
Activity B – “Go and Tell” Megaphone

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Decorations for the megaphone, e.g. glitter, stickers, colouring pencils, etc.

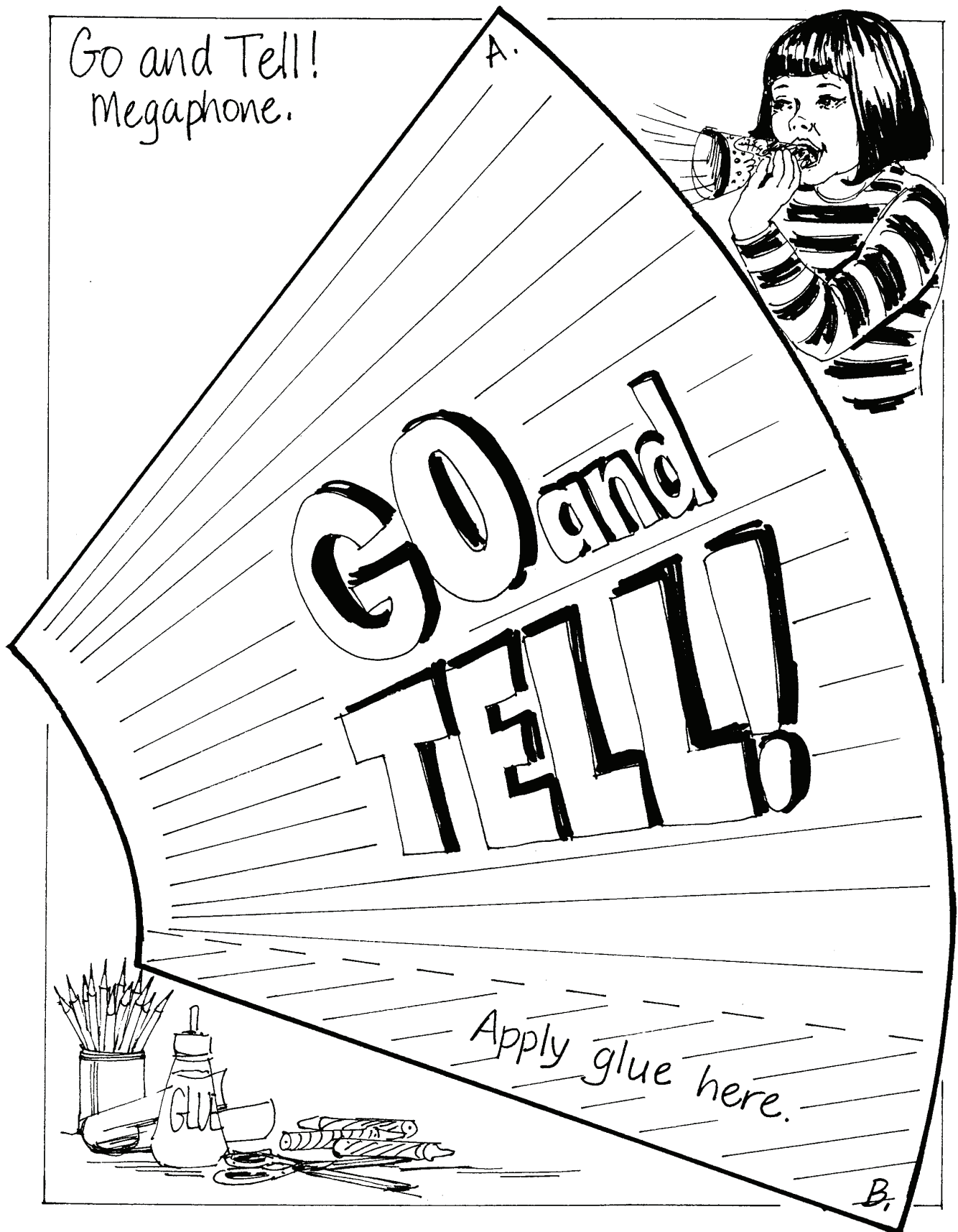
Steps

- The children colour and decorate their megaphone.
- Cut out the megaphone.
- Apply glue to the appropriate area, roll the megaphone into shape joining “A” to “B”.
- Tell the children this is a special megaphone to be used just for telling people Jesus loves them.



The call of the disciples

Activity B – “Go and Tell” Megaphone



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Water turned to wine

John 2:1-11

Storyline

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples were invited. When they ran out of wine, Jesus instructed the servants what to do. They filled the water pots with water. When they drew it out, it had changed into wine. The master of the feast was very impressed that the best wine had been kept until last! This was the first of Jesus' miracles and His disciples believed in Him.

Suggested Teaching Approach

A simple "party" setting may help to create the wedding atmosphere. The story could be told and while serving, make sure you run out of cordial or juice. Discuss how the people at the wedding may have felt e.g. upset, embarrassed, thirsty. Explain how Mary solved the problem by taking it to Jesus. Ask the children what sort of problems they take to Jesus.

Theme One

"Cast your cares on Him"

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

"The Lord is my helper." (Hebrews 13:6).

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

"Obey the voice of the Lord." (Jeremiah 38:20).

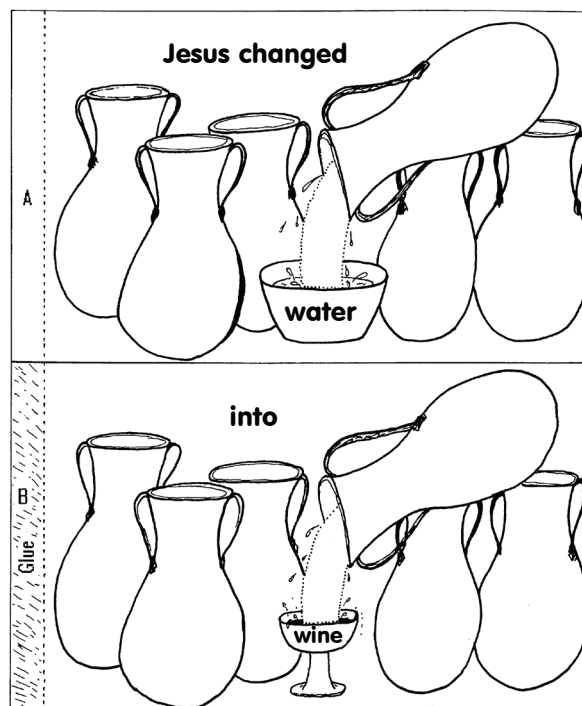
Activity A – “Water into Wine” Booklet

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Coloured cardboard (if desired).
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- Glue.

Steps

- The children colour the pictures, making sure the water poured from the first jug “A” is coloured blue, and the wine being poured from the second jug “B” is coloured dark red.
- Cut the Activity Sheet into two sections along the centre line.
- Glue “A” over the top of “B” to form a booklet.
- If you wish you could cut out pieces of coloured cardboard the same size as the booklet and glue that to the front and back to make a cover.
- Have the children retell the story. Include props such as clothes, table and chairs.



Activity B – Wedding Feast

Materials

- Containers for water (at least 2 identical jars)
- Food colouring
- Cups
- Paper and pencil
- Jug
- Food for a wedding feast (eg. piklets, cheese on biscuit, sweet biscuits or cake, dried fruit)
- Wedding attire (optional)

Steps

Before Class

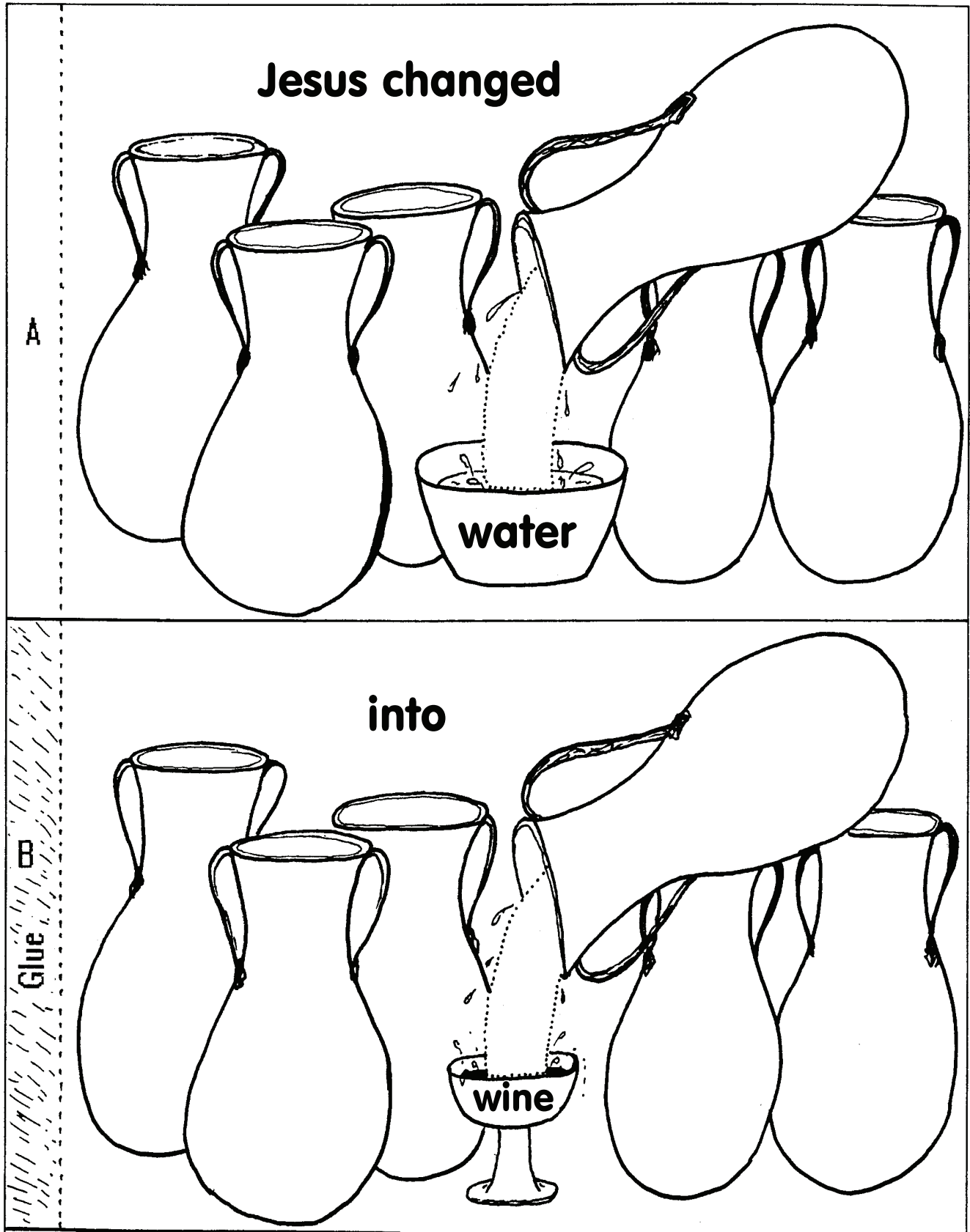
- Fill 2 identical jars with water. To one add drops of food colouring until it is red. Seal both jars.

In Class

- Present the 2 jars and add 1 drop of food colouring to the clear jar then ask the question – How many drops of food colouring will be needed to colour the water red like the other jar?
- Have the children record their suggestions and then begin adding the food colouring, ensure that the children assist with counting.
- Set out cups and ask the question – How many cups will the jar fill?
- Record the suggestions and have the children assist with the pouring and counting.
- Other questions to include could be – How much water do I need in a jug to serve a family of 5? How many jugs do you think the ladies use to fill the communion cups? etc. Talk about weddings and what is important at a wedding. Ask how important the promises are that the people make, etc.
- Use some red water (or substitute) and some wedding food for your feast. Add wedding attire if you desire.

Water turned to wine

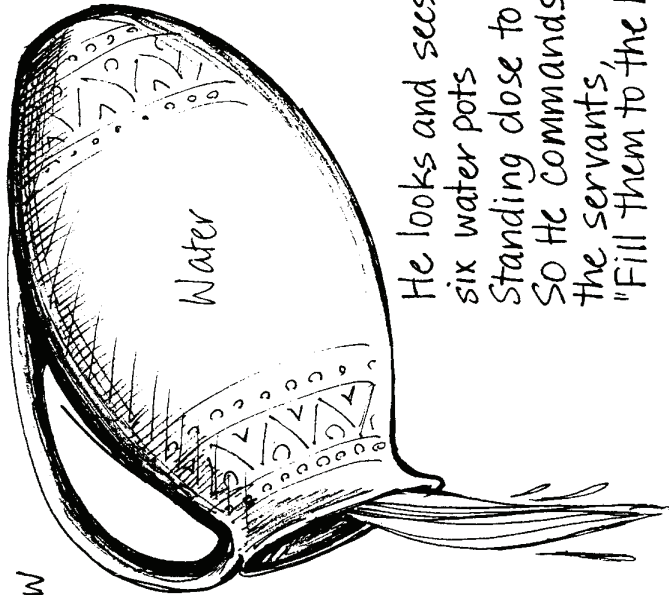
Activity A – “Water into Wine” Booklet



Water turned to wine

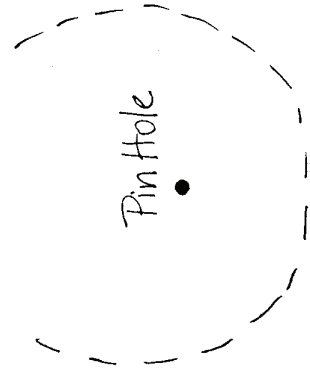
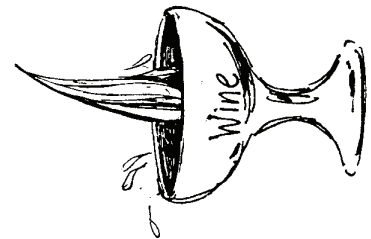
Activity B – Colour In

Jesus is at a wedding
But the guests are in a stew
There isn't any wine left
What will Jesus do?



He looks and sees
six water pots
Standing close to Him
So He commands
the servants,
"Fill them to the brim!"

Though they were
filled with water,
of that there is
no doubt,
When the jars
were emptied,
The finest wine
came out!



Cut out figure A.
Attach to • on page
using split pin.

CUTTING LINE

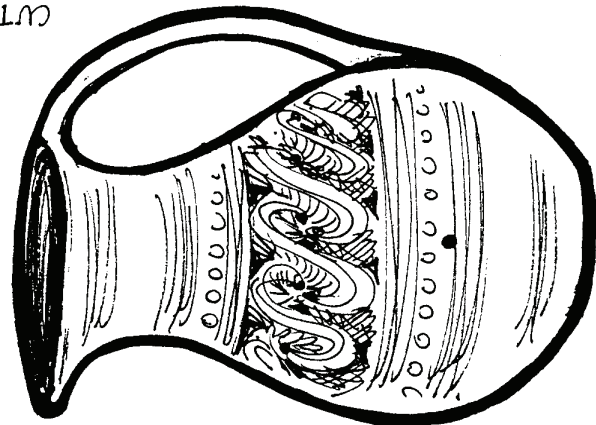


Figure A.

The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

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

Storyline

Jesus was very angry when He found that people were using God's temple to change money and sell animals. After making a whip, Jesus chased them along with the animals out of the temple. Afterwards, Jesus told Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, that if he wanted to be in the kingdom of God, he had to be born again. Jesus also said that people who love doing bad things, like to hide them, but people who love the truth aren't afraid for anyone to see what they are doing.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Discuss together the point at which a person is born from above. Explain why our hearts need to be cleansed even after we have been born again. Stress to the children that we don't chase sin out using our own strength - Jesus has already defeated sin and Satan.

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

"You must be born again." (John 3:7).

Theme Two

"You are a temple of God"

Jesus cleansed the world's ways out of the temple, which was a place for prayer and worship. When challenged, He said that 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

"You are the temple of God." (1 Corinthians 3:16).

Activity A – Self Collage

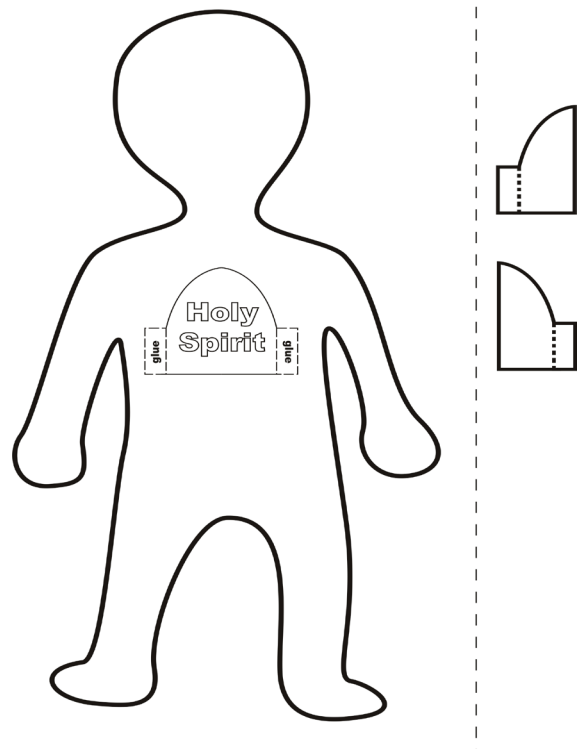
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet photocopied onto cardboard per child.
- Glue.
- Various pieces of coloured material.
- Wool/string for hair.
- Scissors.
- Coloured pens.

Steps

In class

- Cut out the 2 flaps on the right hand side of the page and fold along dotted lines.
- Match folded flaps to the diagram on the figure and glue.
- Encourage the children to add features to the face to match their own.
- Add pieces of material to create clothes for the body and add hair.



Activity B – “Seed of Life”

Materials

- Drop sheet and clean up gear.
- 1 stocking leg per child.
- Potting mix.
- Grass seeds.
- Felt pens.
- Tray on which to carry the worm home.

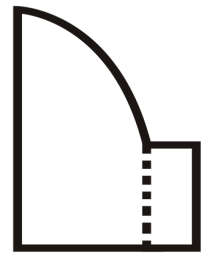
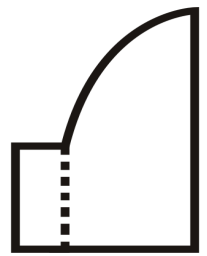
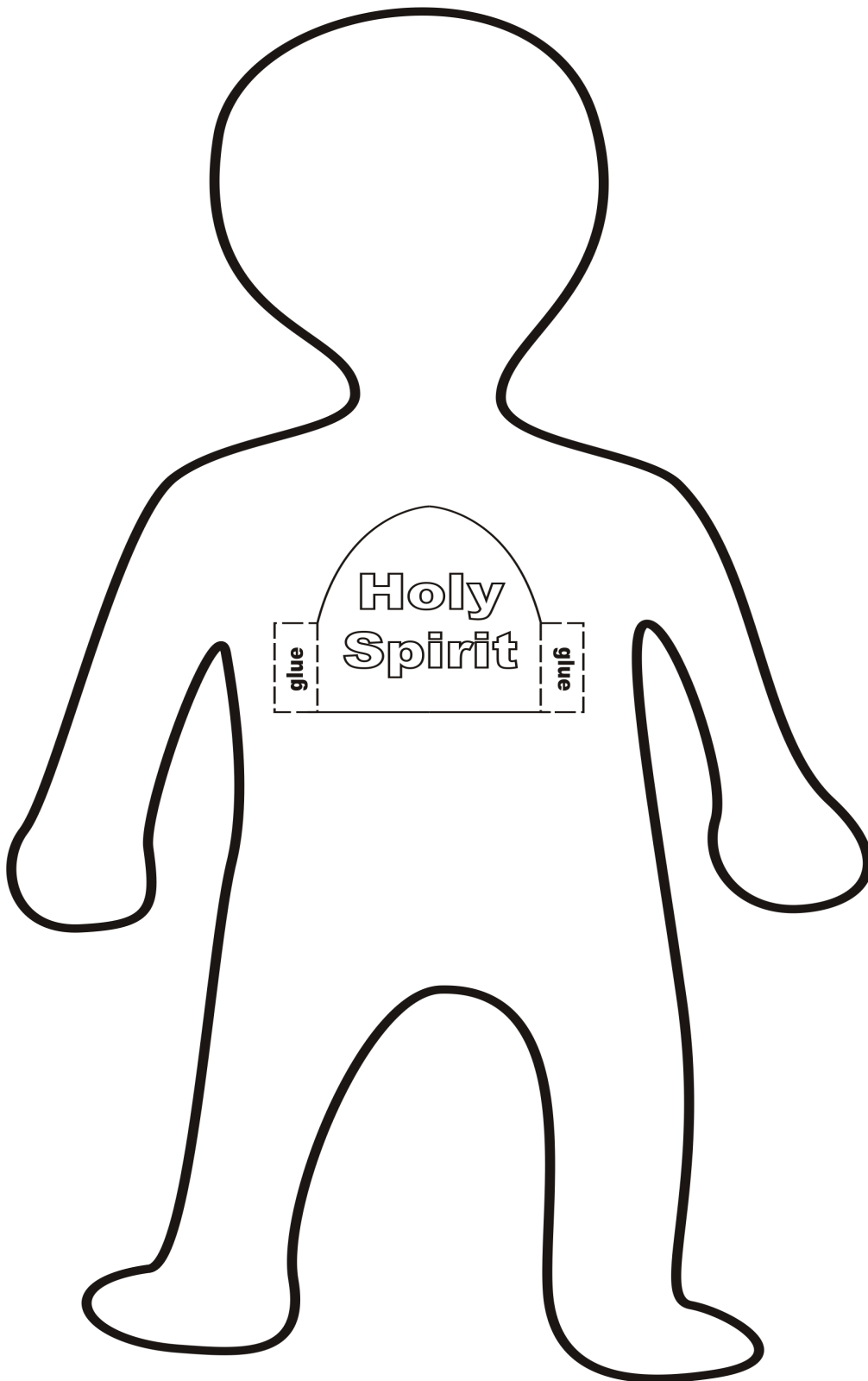
Steps

In class

- Help children fill stocking to the required length.
- Sprinkle grass seeds (inside stocking) just on one side of worm.
- Tie off stocking.
- Children can give it a face with felt pens.
- Talk about the new life that Jesus has for us and relate it to the seeds of grass.
- Encourage the children to keep their garden worm outside and to water it daily.

The temple cleansed, Nicodemus

Activity A – Self Collage



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The woman at the well

John 4:3-42

Storyline

Jesus was travelling from Judea to Galilee. When He came to Jacob's well, near the city of Samaria, He sat by the side of the well and His disciples went into the city to buy food. A woman from the city came to draw water and Jesus asked her for a drink. She gave Him a drink and He spoke to her about a well of living water. The woman asked Jesus for that water. Jesus then told her things about her life that no one else knew. Even though He was a stranger, He was able to tell her about herself. They also spoke about where they should worship and the Messiah. The woman was so excited, that she went back to the city and told others about Jesus. The men of the city came to see and hear Jesus and He spent two days in their city. Many people believed because of the words He spoke.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Now tell the story, with the aid of flannelgraph or a picture Bible. Discuss what it means to be a true worshipper. Why is it important to have a personal relationship with God the Father? Place a blanket over a chair or table and have one of the children hide behind it. Begin to ask the class questions about the hidden child. Start with questions that are easily answered, like, "What colour is Susie's hair?" Ask about eye colour, clothes, etc., then begin making the questions harder, e.g. "How do you think Susie feels when she is sick, or has a bad dream, or when she is being disciplined?" Explain that this is like trying to see into somebody's heart. We can see what is on the outside, but God can see what is going on, inside.

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

"Worship the Father in Spirit and truth." (John 4:23).

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

"Come and see the works of God." (Psalm 66:5).

Activity A – Water Well

Materials

- Large container (well) – eg. baby bath, extra large bucket
- A few smaller sized containers with which to fill the large container
- Paper and pencil
- Rewards (optional)

Steps

- Position activity as close as possible to water source.
- Choose 1 of the containers and ask the children how many times this container will need to be filled to fill the large container. Children's answer can be recorded.
- Have the children participate as much as possible to fill the container and count the number of times it needs to be filled. Make sure this is recorded.
- Empty the large container by watering some plants.
- Repeat the well filling with another small container.
- Discuss with the children the fact that Jesus knows all about us just like He did about the women at the well. He knows us fully.

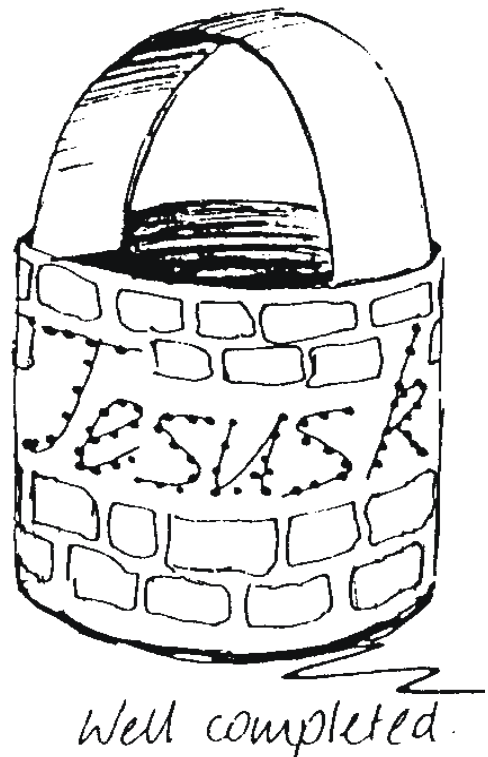
Activity B – Well Model

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- Tape.
- Glue or staples.

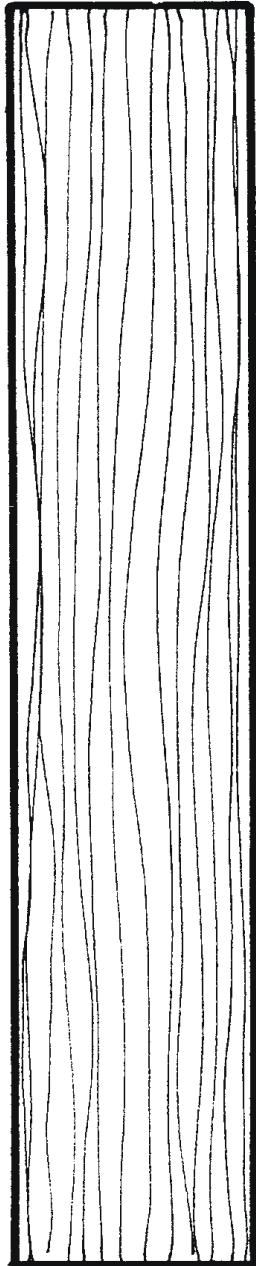
Steps

- Join the dots of the letters to form the words, "Jesus knows me".
- Colour in the well and handle.
- Cut both out.
- Attach ends 'A' and 'B' of the well together.
- Attach the handle at both sides of the well.

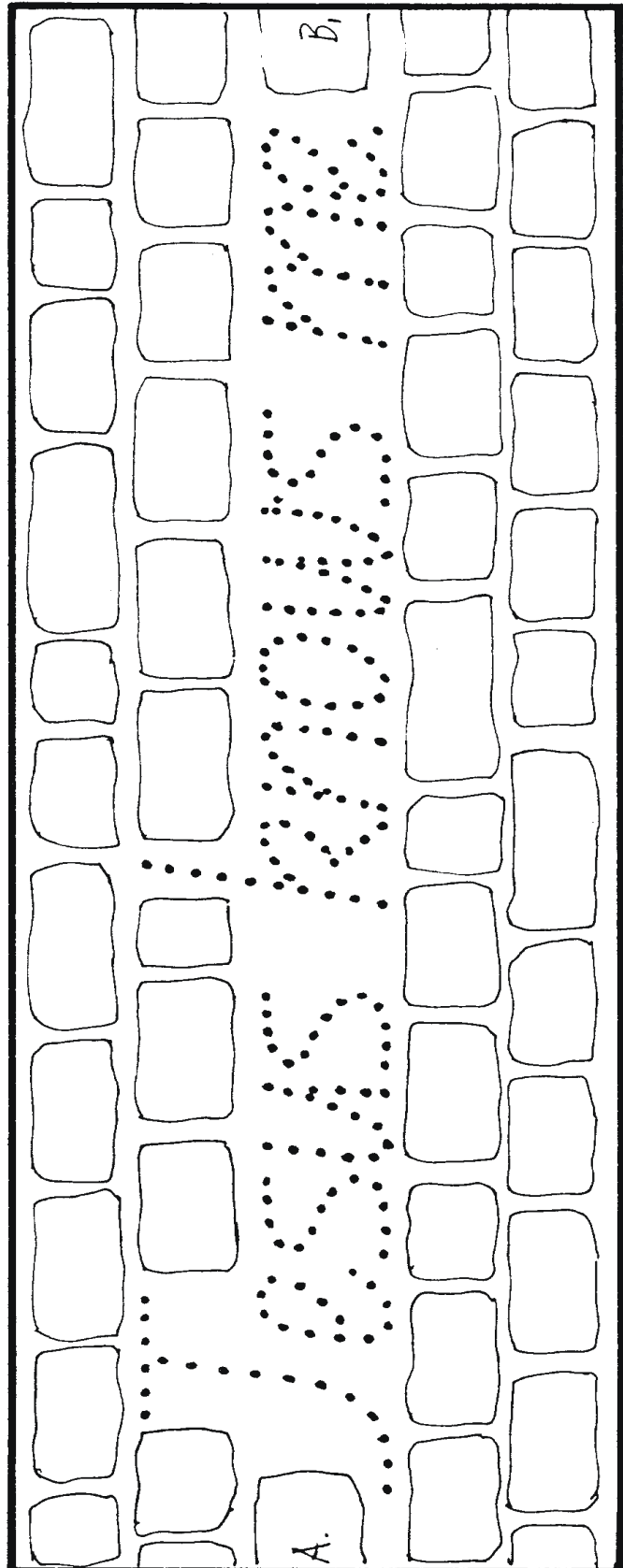


The woman at the well

Activity B – Well Model



Handle



Well.

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Healing of the paralysed man

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

Storyline

Jesus went to a house in Capernaum and there were so many people, there was no room to get through the door. Four men brought their friend, a paralysed man, and because the crowd was so great, took tiles off the roof and let their friend down on his bed in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus told the man his sins were forgiven. Some of the learned men objected because they knew that only God could forgive sins. Jesus asked them whether it were easier to say, "Your sins be forgiven" or to say, "Arise, take up your bed and walk". Then, to show He had power to forgive sins, He told the man to take up his bed and go home. The people were amazed at the healing of the paralysed man and glorified God.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Cut one long side out of a shoe box. Draw a crowd scene on the inside of the three remaining sides. Place the lid on the shoe box. Cut out a cardboard man of appropriate size and have a handkerchief or scrap of material with string tied to the four corners. As you tell the story, remove the roof and lower the man on the handkerchief into the room.

Children could be chosen to hold strings and lower the man into the room.

Points of discussion could be:

- How would it feel to be part of such a large crowd?
- What difficulties would the friends of the paralysed man have faced?
- What excitement there would have been as the roof started to be removed.
- Jesus' great love as He sees these faithful friends.

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

"Power belongs to God." (Psalm 62:11).

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 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 sick friends.

Memory Verse

"Let us love one another." (1 John 4:7).

Activity A – Body Dice Game

Materials

- 1 dice per group of 3 or 4 children.
- Paper
- Colouring pencils or felt pens.

Steps

- Have the children in small groups so that the turn taking is not delayed.
- The rules are – 6 for a body, 5 for a head, 4 for a leg, 3 for an arm, 2 for a hand, and 1 for a foot. (Of course, a leg or arm must be in place before a hand or foot can be drawn.)
- A 6 must be drawn first for a body (torso) to be drawn.
- Children can add other parts as the dice reveals.
- The aim is to complete the whole body.

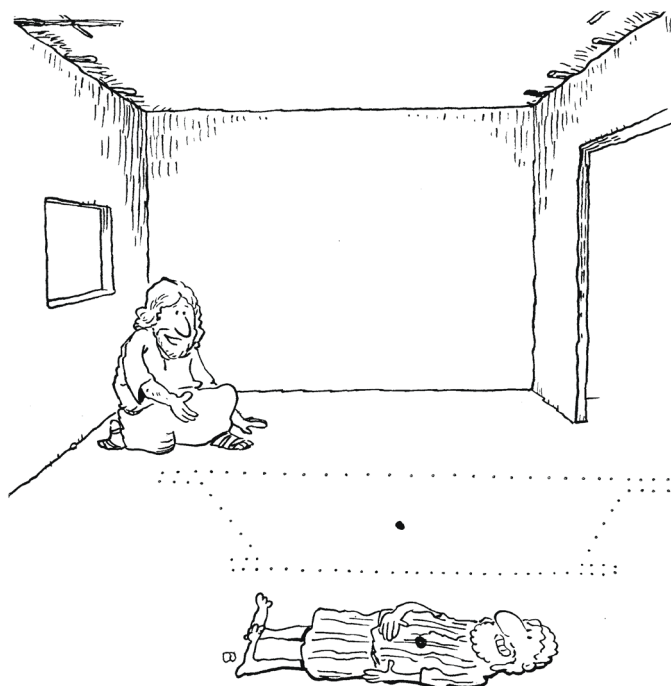
Activity B – Healing the Paralytic

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- 1 paper fastener or split-pin per child.

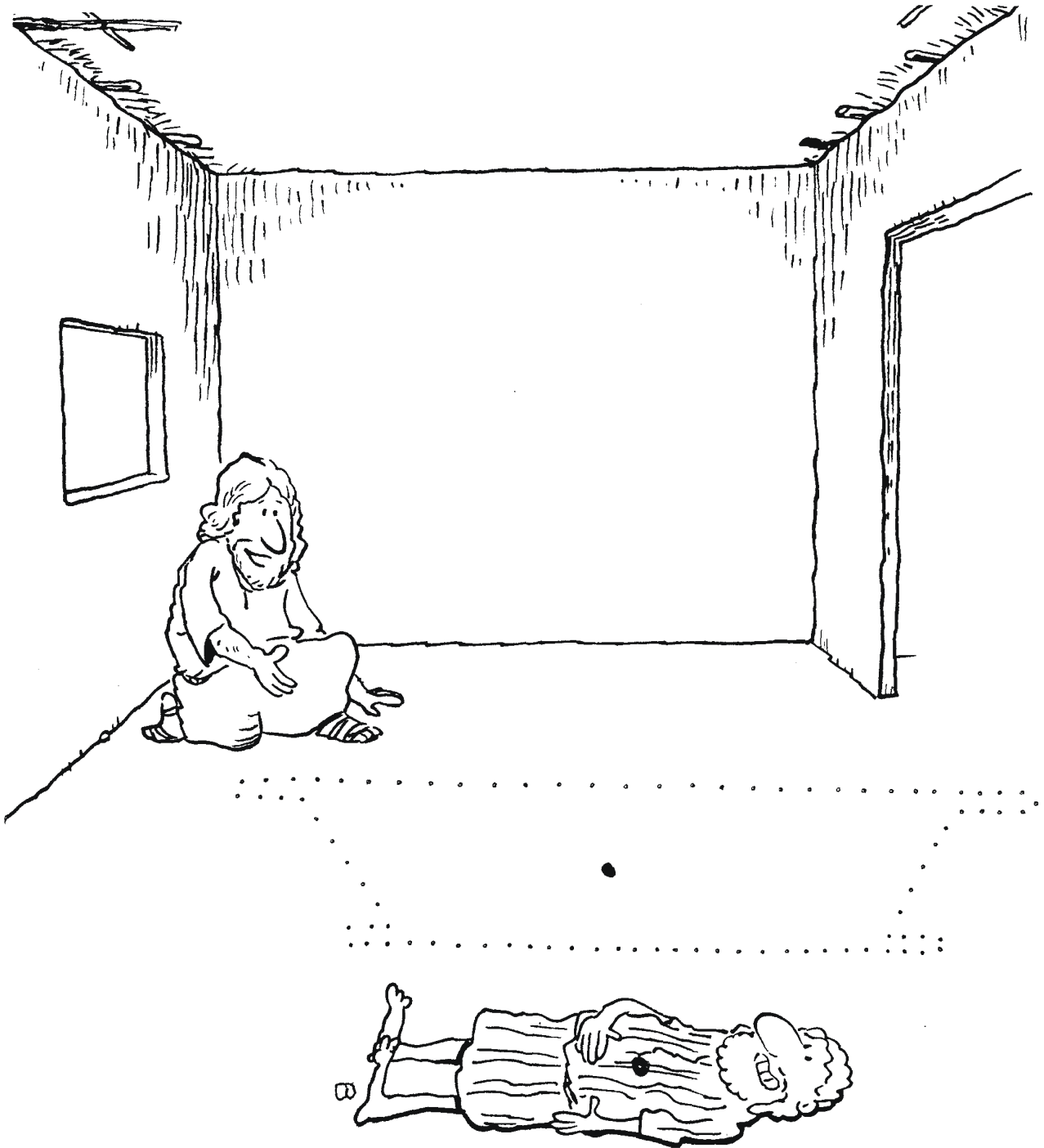
Steps

- The children join the dots to find out what is on the floor.
- Cut out the man (Figure B).
- Fasten the man to the bed with a split pin, through the large black dot.
- You can now swing the man up onto his feet.
- Draw his friends with happy faces on the roof and lots of people in the room.
- If time permits, the children may colour the picture.



Healing of the paralysed man

Activity B – Healing the Paralytic



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The house built on the rock

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

Storyline

Jesus had been teaching many lessons to the crowds. The last words He spoke to them at this time were a warning. He said that whoever heard His sayings and does them is like a wise man because he has built his house on the Rock (Jesus). The foolish man hears the words of Jesus but does not do them. His house is built on the sand and when the storm comes, it will fall. The people were surprised because Jesus spoke with such authority.

Suggested Teaching Approach

This will take a little preparation. Obtain a small bucket of sand, a baking tray, an egg cup (or similar), a flat rock approximately half the size of the baking tray and a bottle of water. Spread some sand in the bottom of the tray and place the rock at one end. Tell the story about the wise man who heard the teachings of Jesus and followed them and how this was like building a house on a rock. Take your egg cup and build a little sand castle out of dampened sand, on the rock. Now talk about the foolish man and how he heard the teachings of Jesus, but did not do them and how this was like building a house on the sand. Build another little sand castle on the sand. When the rains came, (begin to pour some water into the tray) what happened? Make sure the water doesn't come up over the rock or you will lose your whole lesson.

Theme One

"The right choice"

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

"Be doers of the word." (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

"The Lord is my rock." (Psalm 18:2).

Activity A – Two Houses

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- A sheet of brown paper (approx ½ A4 size) per child.
- Sand (if available).
- Glue (craft glue preferably).
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- The children tear brown paper into 1 cm squares (approx.).
- Scrunch each square of paper and glue it onto the rock. This gives a three dimensional look to the rock.
- Spread some glue next to the base of the rock and sprinkle sand on it, if you have any.
- Cut out the broken house parts and allow the children to place them anywhere on the sand (to signify destruction).
- Colour the water between the rock and the sand blue.



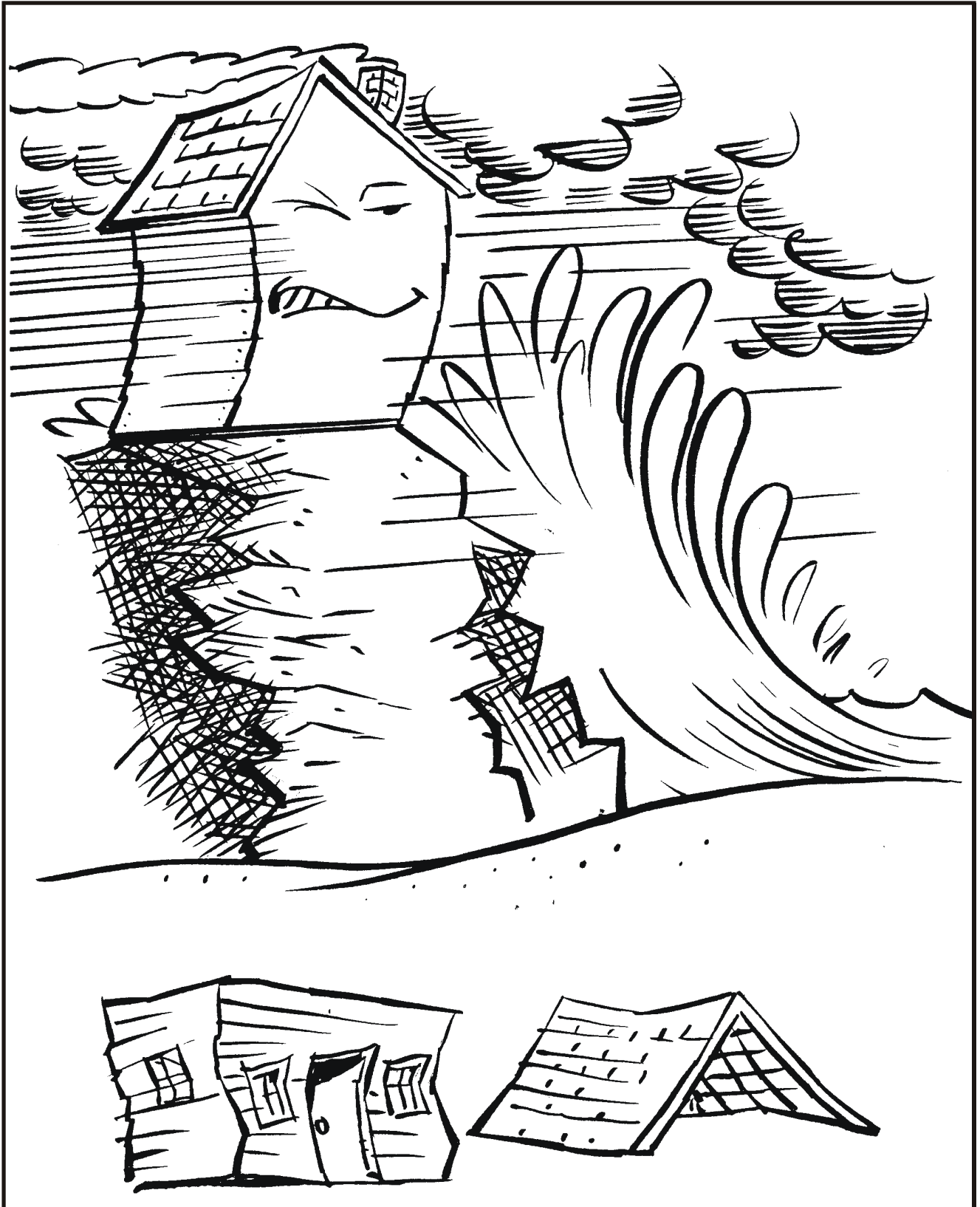
Activity B – “Jesus Says” Game

Steps

- This game is a cross between “Simon Says” and Charades.
- The teacher reads out the following Scriptural instructions and the children must interpret and obey them, e.g. Jesus says, “Feed My lambs”. The children would pretend to feed lambs, however they think that is done. Add any others you can think of.
- Jesus says:
 - “Feed My lambs” (John 21:15)
 - “Love one another” (John 15:12)
 - “I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28)
 - “I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19)
 - “Come unto Me” (Matthew 11:28)
 - “Follow Me” (Mark 8:34)
 - “Peace, be still” (Mark 4:39)
 - “Take up your bed and go to your house” (Luke 5:24)
- Sing “the wise man built his house upon the rock” or other appropriate songs you know.

The house built on the rock

Activity A – Two Houses



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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

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

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

"Faith without works is dead." (James 2:20).

Activity A – Make a Boat

Materials

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

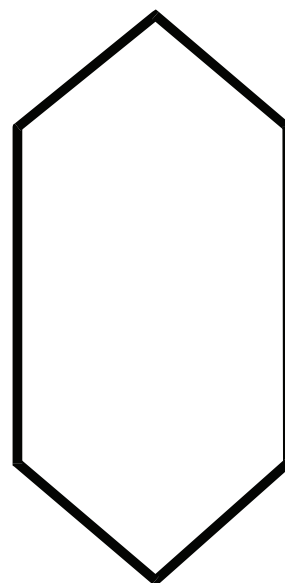
Steps

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

Jesus and His disciples went to a desert to rest, but thousands of people followed them. Jesus loved the people very much and knew they needed to hear about the kingdom of God, so He taught them about it. He also healed many of them. It was getting late and the people were hungry because they had been out in the desert all day. The disciples were getting worried and Jesus tested them by asking them where they could buy food for everyone. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, told Him about a young boy who was willing to share his food, which was five small loaves and two small fish. Jesus told them to make the people sit in groups of 50 or 100, then Jesus blessed the loaves and fish and they began to hand out to the 5000 men, and to the women and children. Everyone ate until they were full and when they collected all the scraps there was enough to fill twelve baskets.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Incorporating Activity A, spread the food out in front of the class and ask them if there is enough there for the class to have morning tea. The answer should be "Yes" or "No". Now ask, "Would there be enough for the whole Sunday School?" "What about the whole Church?" The answer should definitely be "No". Help the children to see, that under normal circumstances, it is impossible to feed a large number of people with a small amount of food. Cover the food while you tell the story, or that is all the children will concentrate on. Now distribute the food to reinforce the lesson. A waste paper basket would be an added advantage in illustrating just how many scraps or leftovers there were.

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." (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

"God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Activity A - Picnic

Materials

- Cane or paper plates.
- 5 bread rolls (long rolls).
- 2 bananas or frankfurts.
- A knife.

Steps

- While telling the story, the teacher can choose a couple of children to cut the bread rolls and bananas into slices and place them on two plates. Have them then serve the other children, thus detailing how much food these five rolls and 2 bananas (representing fish) do make when cut into serving size.

Activity B – Paper Baskets

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Enough slices of bread for each child to have 5 small pieces.
- Stapler or sticky tape.
- Glue.
- Scissors.
- Some coloured serviettes, cut to fit the size of the baskets.
- Colouring pencils.

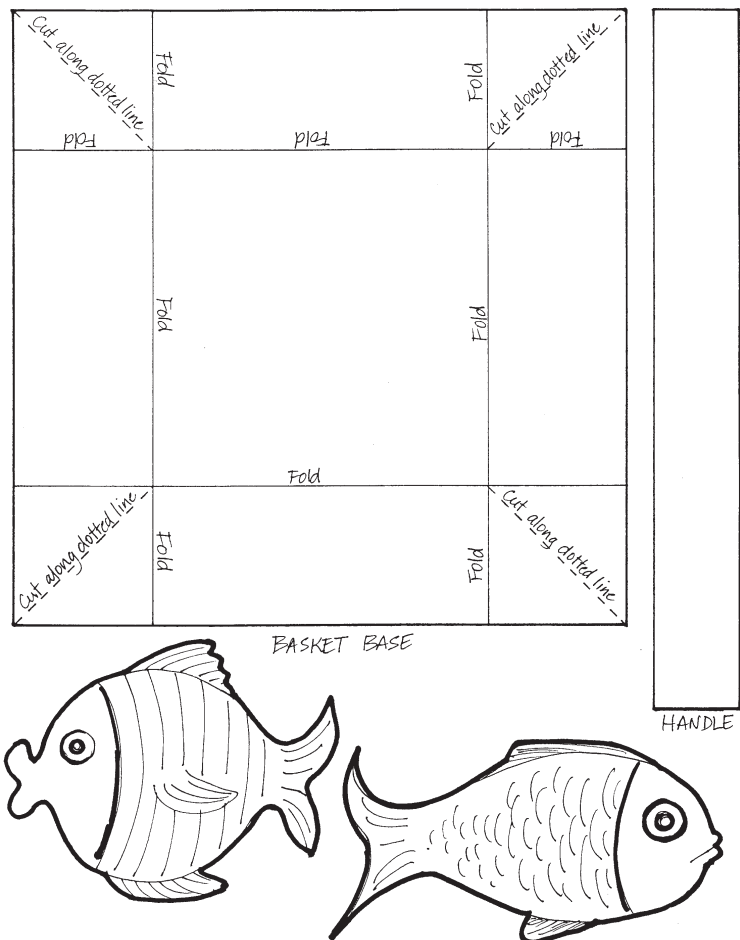
Steps

At Home

- Cut out the basket and handle pattern.

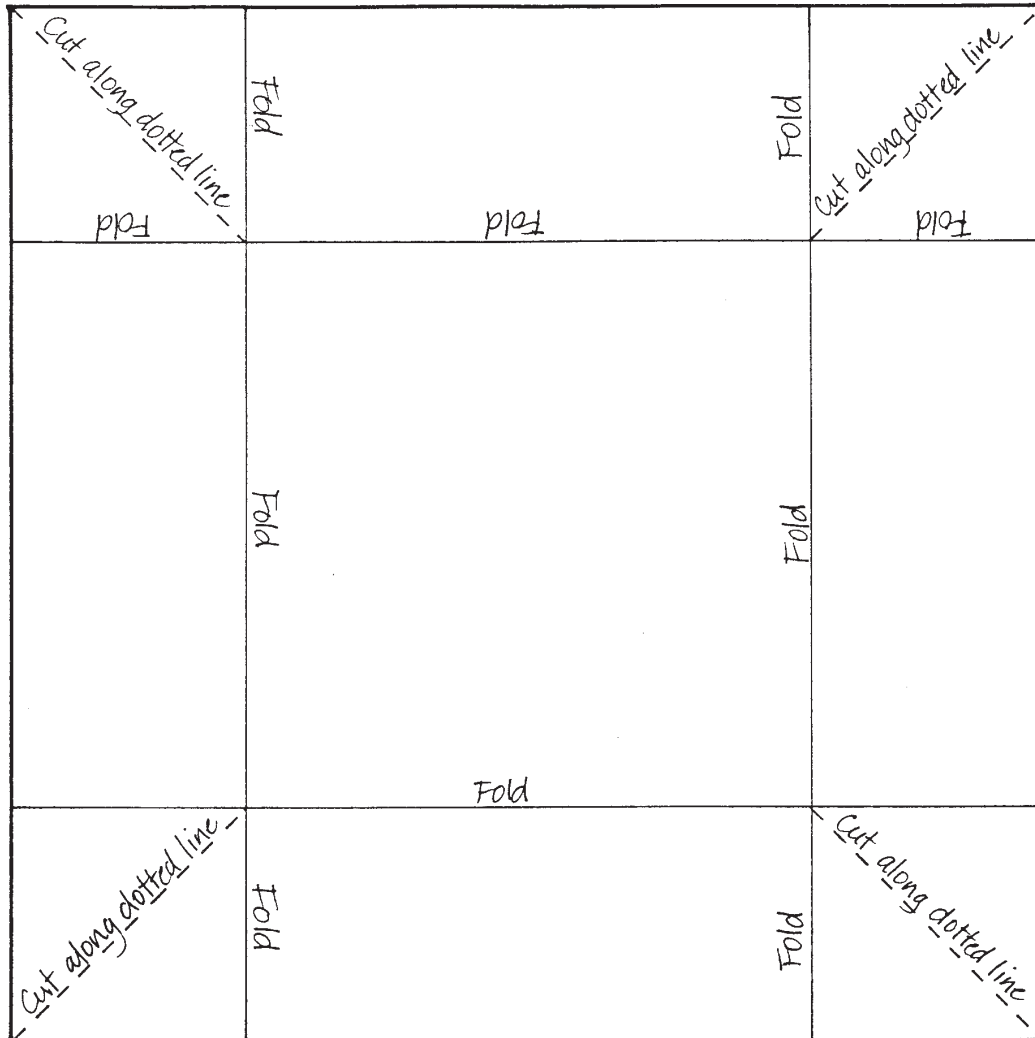
In Class

- Cut slits along the dotted lines on the basket, fold along the solid lines and make up the basket using a stapler or sticky tape to secure the tabs.
- Lay a serviette in the bottom of the basket.
- Colour and cut out the fish.
- Give each child 5 small pieces of bread to put in their basket.
- Staple or sticky tape the handle onto the basket.

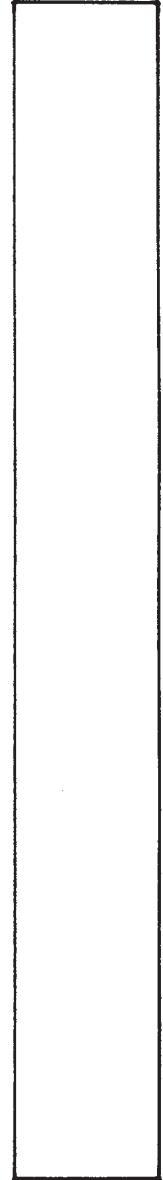


Feeding of the 5000

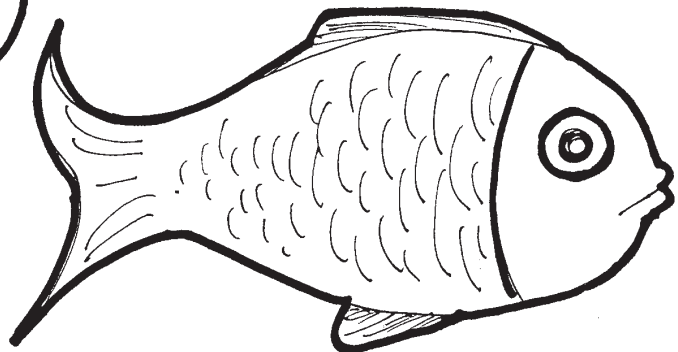
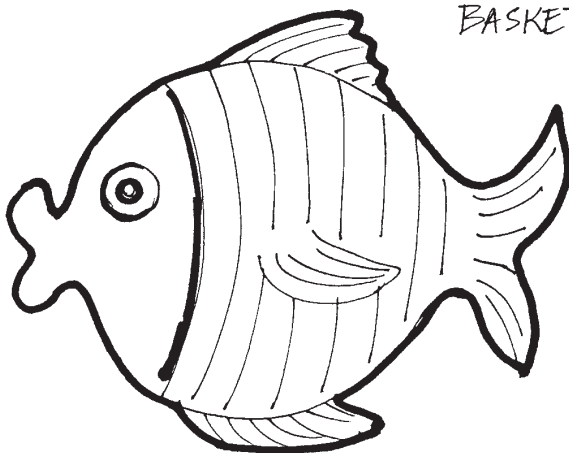
Activity B – Paper Baskets



BASKET BASE



HANDLE



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The centurion's servant

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

Storyline

In Capernaum, Jesus was asked to heal the servant of a Roman centurion (Captain of 100). When Jesus offered to go to the home of the centurion and heal the man, the centurion said that would not be necessary. The centurion knew that Jesus had only to speak the words and the servant would be healed. Jesus marvelled at the man's faith, exclaiming He had not found such faith in all Israel. The centurion was assured by Jesus that his servant would be healed, and it was so.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Begin the lesson by standing the children in army-like straight lines and running a very short parade. Use commands like, "Eyes front", "Stand to attention", and "Quick march". Now sit the children down and explain that today's story is about a soldier in charge of a lot of men. When he gave orders they were obeyed. When this man learned of Jesus, he knew Jesus had even more power to command and be obeyed.

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

"Ask in faith, with no doubting." (James 1:6).

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

"Be clothed with humility." (1 Peter 5:5).

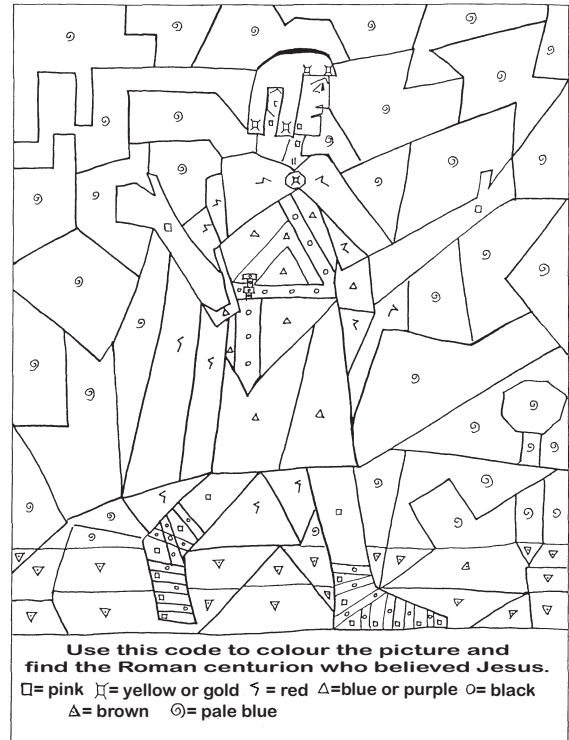
Activity A – Colour-Coded Picture

Materials

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

Steps

- Using the colour code, the children colour the picture of the Roman centurion.



Activity B – Jesus Loves to Heal

Materials

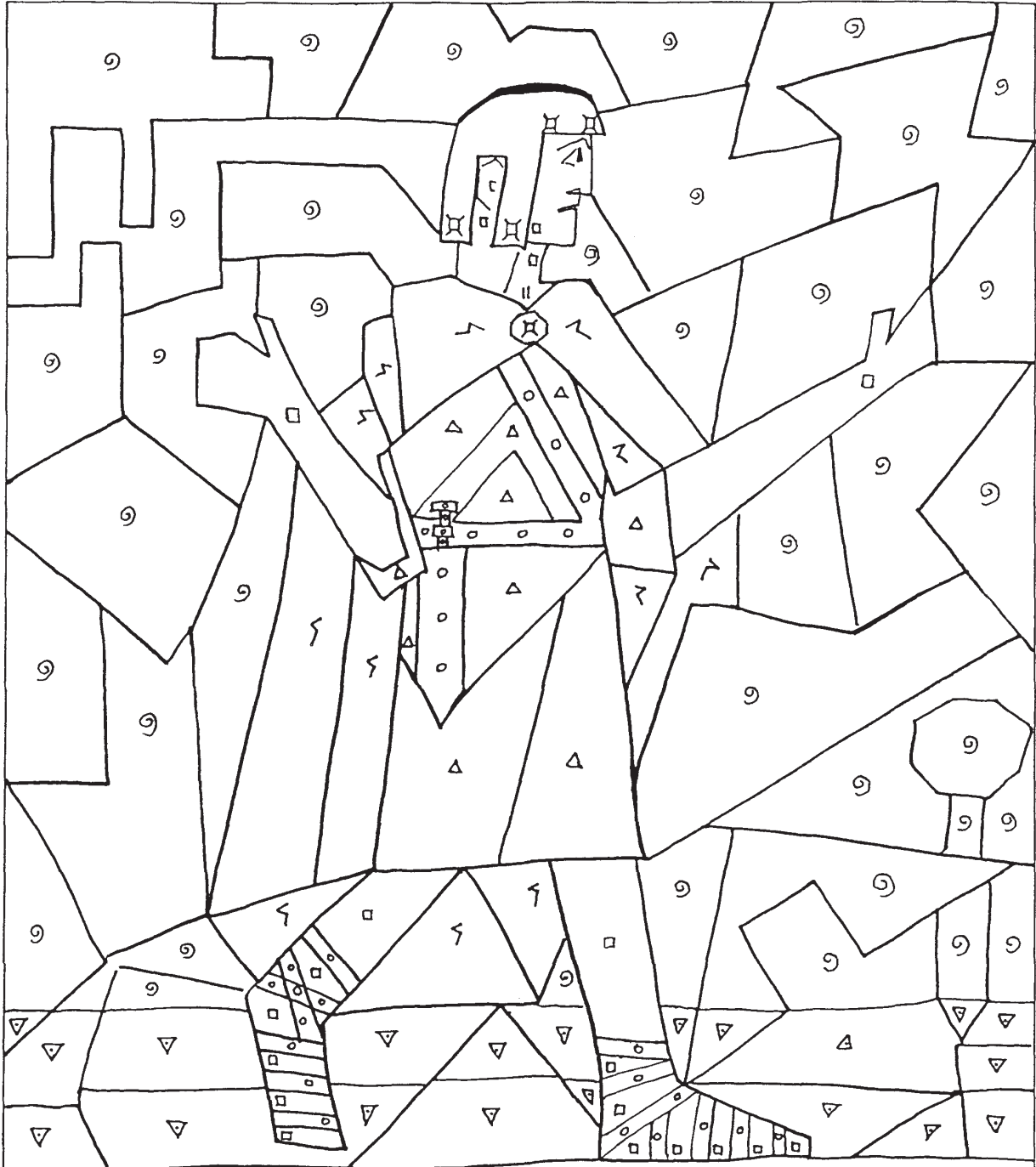
- Sling
- Bandages and clasps
- Band aids
- Blanket and pillow

Steps

- Set up the blanket and pillow for the sick.
- Children take turns at bandaging and being the servant, etc. (Make sure band aids are placed onto shirt sleeves and not on bare skin.)
- Discuss with the children that we need to be willing to believe Jesus for healing and that we are the ones who put limitations on His healing power.
- Take time to pray for any sick in the group or the congregation.

The centurion's servant

Activity A – Colour-Coded Picture



Use this code to colour the picture and find the Roman centurion who believed Jesus.
 □ = pink ⌘ = yellow or gold ∟ = red Δ = blue or purple ○ = black
 ▲ = brown ⊙ = pale blue

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Forgiveness in Simon's house

Luke 7:36-50

Storyline

Simon, a Pharisee (a religious person) invited Jesus to his house for a meal. While Jesus was there, a woman came in and knelt at Jesus' feet and wept. Her tears fell on Jesus' feet and she wiped them away with her hair. Then she kissed His feet and poured oil over them. Simon was very disturbed by this, because he knew the woman was very wicked. Jesus knew what he was thinking and spoke to him about a man who was owed money by two people. One owed him a little and the other owed him a lot. The man forgave the debts and Jesus asked Simon which of the two men would love the man most. It was the one who was forgiven the most. Jesus reminded Simon that He had not given Him water to wash His feet, he had not kissed Him when He entered the house, and he had not poured oil on His head, but this woman had washed His feet with her tears, constantly kissed His feet and poured oil on His feet. Jesus forgave the woman of her sins and told her that her faith had saved her.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story by acting much of it out yourself, or using a flannelgraph.

Bring out the point that what we call big sins and what we call little sins are all sins in God's sight. Ask the children some leading questions, eg:

- Is stealing \$1000 a sin?
- Is stealing \$10 a sin?
- Is stealing \$1 a sin.

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." (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

"Your sins are forgiven." (Luke 7:48).

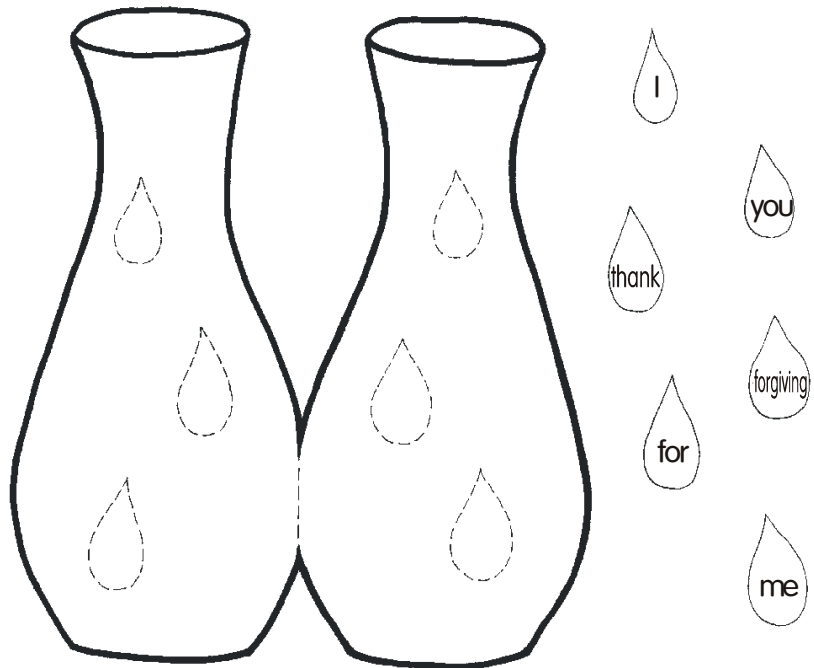
Activity A – Bottle of Tears

Materials

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

Steps

- The children cut out the double bottle around the solid lines.
- Fold the bottle along the dotted line and write the word “Jesus” on the front.
- Cut out the separate tears and glue them in the appropriate spaces inside the bottle.
- Colour the bottle.
- Explain to the children how tears can be a sign of mourning for sins.



Activity B – Stitch Picture

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.
- Hole punch.
- 1 piece of wool long enough to thread around the outside of the picture, per child.
- Sticky tape.

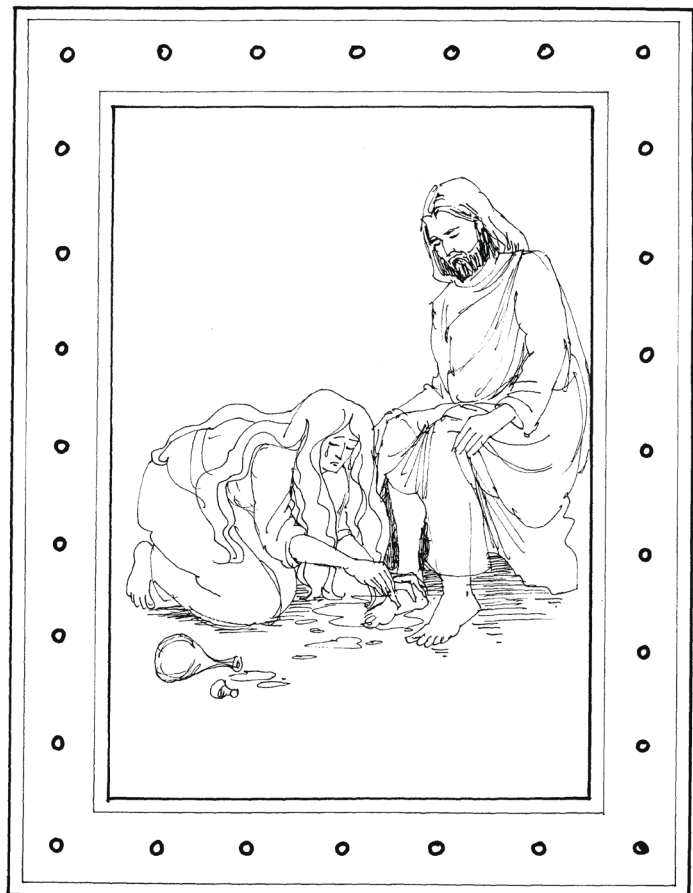
Steps

At Home

- Punch holes around the outside edge of each picture, as marked.
- Wind a small piece of sticky tape around the end of each child's piece of string.

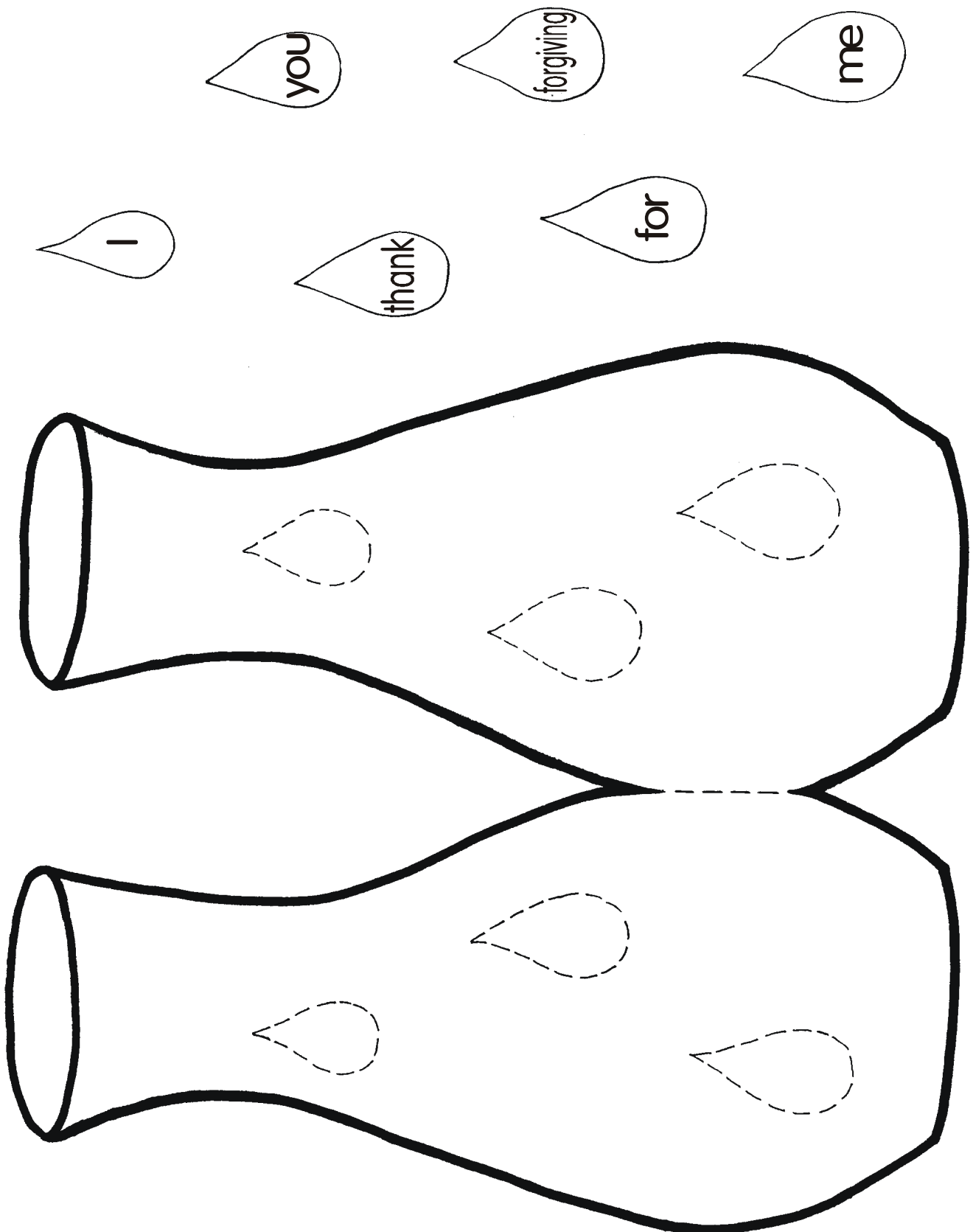
In Class

- The children colour the picture, then thread the wool in and out of the holes around the border of the card.



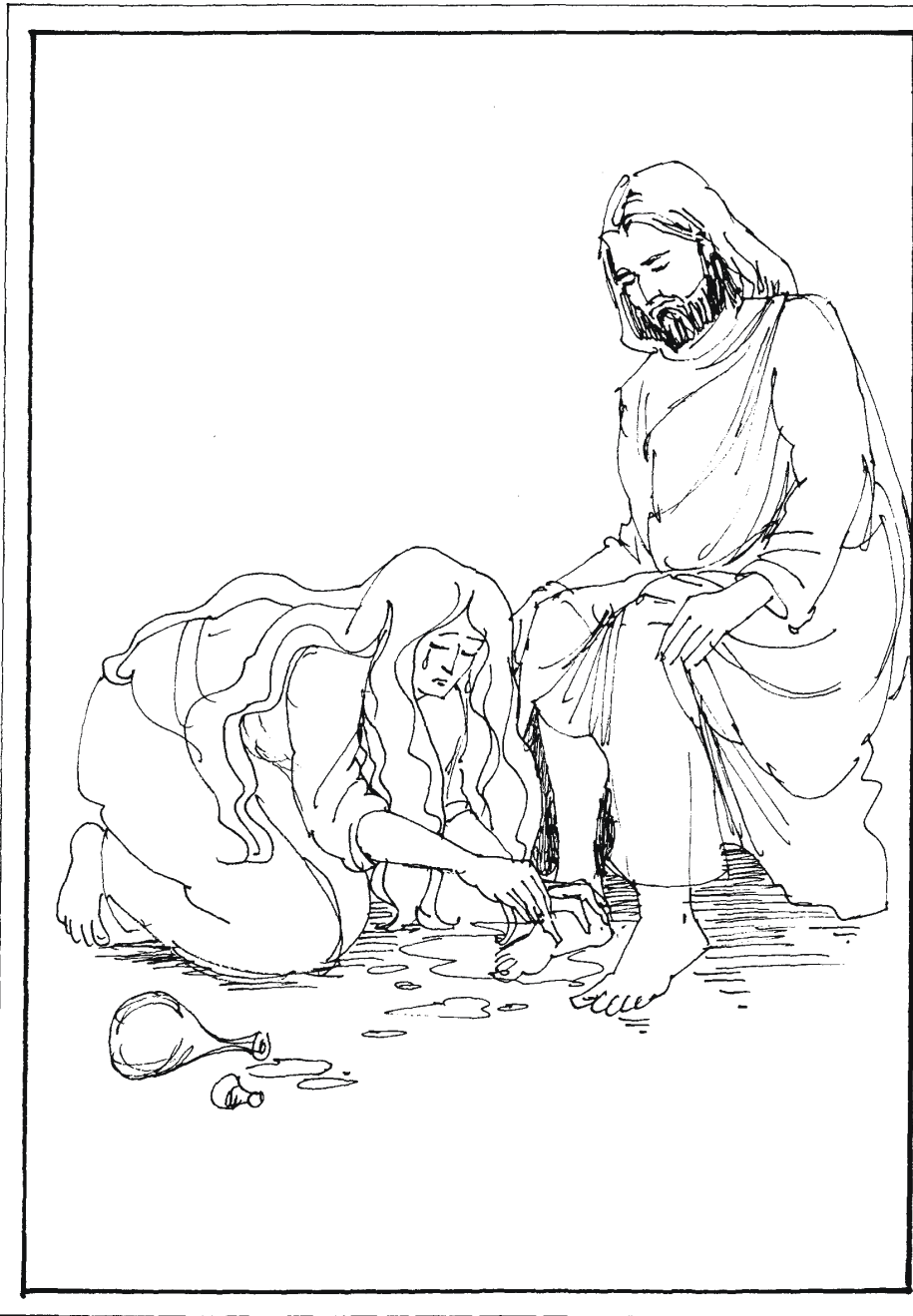
Forgiveness in Simon's house

Activity A – Bottle of Tears



Forgiveness in Simon's house

Activity B – Stitch Picture



The sower and the seed

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

Storyline

Jesus spoke to the people in parables (earthly stories with heavenly meanings). This one was about the sower who went out to sow and what happened to the seed as it fell on the different types of ground. Some fell on the path and was snatched away by the birds. This is like people who hear God's word, but Satan snatches it away before they believe. Some fell on stony ground, where it grew quickly, but was scorched by the sun. This is like people who hear the word and immediately believe, but when things get difficult they turn away from the word. Some fell on thorny ground and the thorns choked the seed. This is like people who hear and believe the word and go on well for a while. But the cares, riches and pleasures of the world choke them. Some, however, fell on good ground and produced fruit. This is like those who hear and believe the word and patiently continue until their lives produce fruit for God. The disciples asked Jesus why He spoke to the people in parables. Jesus answered by saying that even when they hear they won't understand and when they see they won't really see.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Using a box, or chair covered with material for concealment, make a series of sounds to test the children's listening skills. Pause after each sound and ask what it was that was making the sound. You could use castanets, saucepan lids, hammerings, rustling paper, blowing on tissue paper over a comb, etc. Discuss the art of listening. The children may like to cover their ears (or you could provide ear muffs) and see the effect this has on listening.

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

"Hear the word." (Mark 4:18).

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 and His word first in their lives.

Memory Verse

"I rejoice at Your word." (Psalm 119:162).

Activity A – Planting Seeds

Materials

- 1 punnet per child, and 4 punnets for the teacher (margarine containers are a good alternative – punch holes in the bottom).
- Potting mix.
- Pebbles or small rocks.
- Pieces of broken or hard dry clay.
- Fast sprouting seeds, e.g. beans/radish.
- Weeds.
- Water.

Steps

- Half fill teacher's 4 punnets with potting mix.
- To one punnet add pebbles or rocks.
- To one punnet add pieces of broken brick or hard dry clay.
- To one punnet add weeds.
- To the last punnet add more potting mix.
- Plant a few seeds in each punnet.
- Discuss the difference between the punnets and the projected results.
- The children fill their own punnets with potting mix and plant seeds in them, to take home and nurture.
- Bring your punnets back in the following weeks to show the children the results.

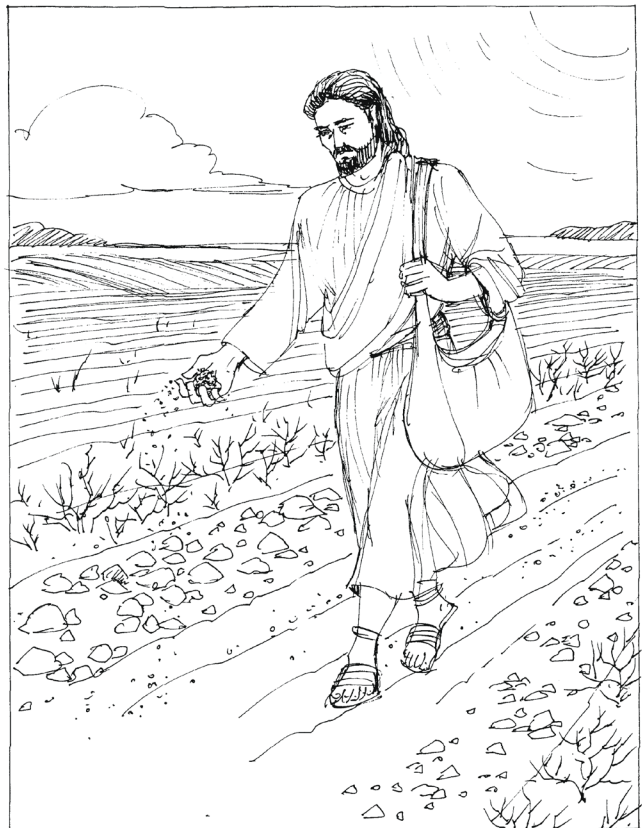
Activity B – Colouring and Collage Picture

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 light sheet of card per child.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Glue.
- Collage materials

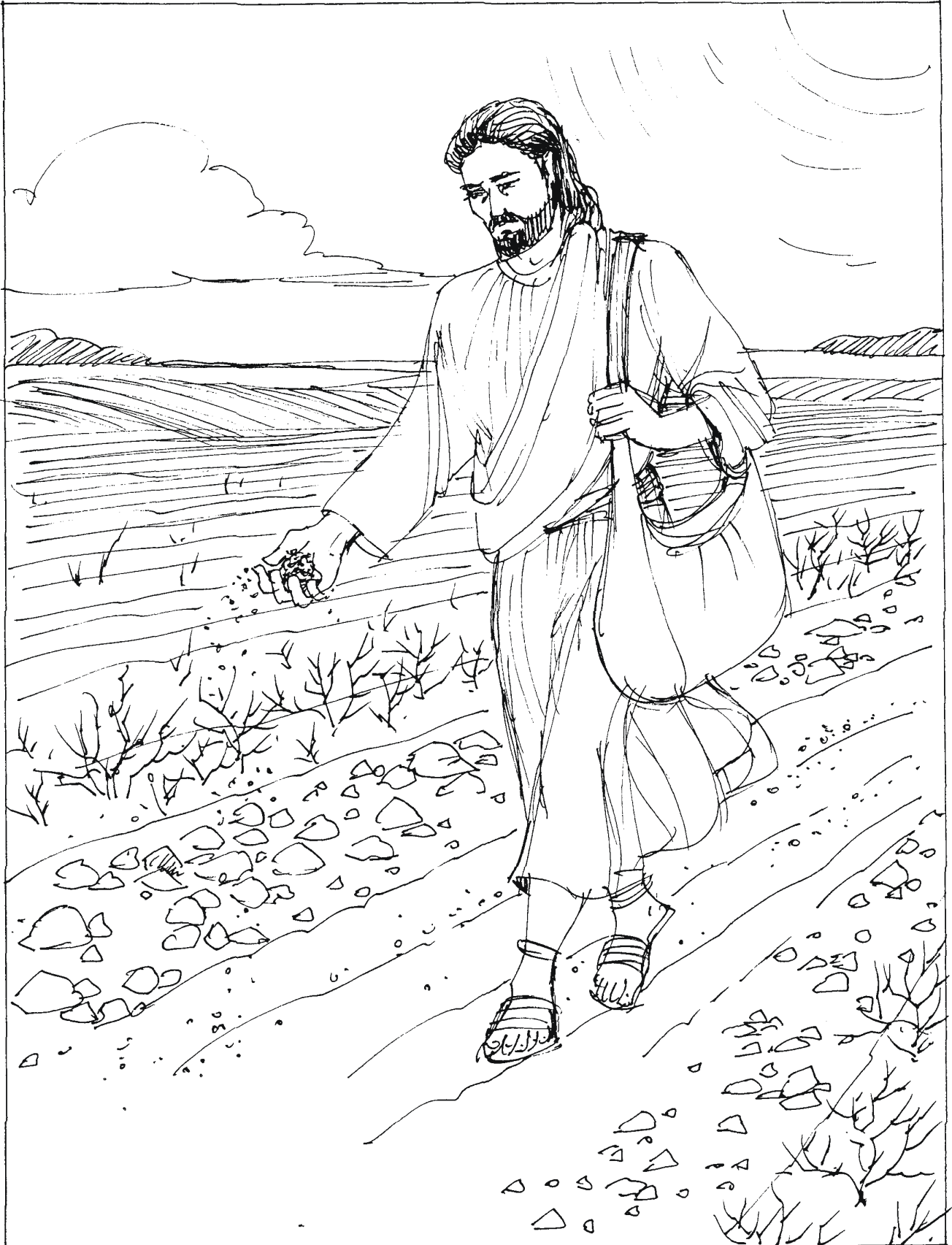
Steps

- Glue the Activity Sheet to the card and allow to dry.
- Glue collage materials in the appropriate places eg. blue for the sky; white for clouds, yellow for the sun etc.
- The children colour the rest of the picture.
- Discuss what happens to the seed in different types of soil.



The sower and the seed

Activity B – Colouring and Collage Picture



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Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 6
Jesus' Birth and His Ministry



Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 6
Jesus' Birth and His Ministry



Sonseekers Curriculum

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

