





# How To Use This Manual

These lessons coincide with the Good News Bears Leaders Manual. However, these lessons can be used in any Sunday school, children's church, club meeting or after school program.

There are two sections of weekly plans: Bible Discoveries and Special Activities. Each Bible Discovery is divided into four planning segments:



-  **Begin** (Opening activity)
-  **Educate** (Bible Discovery and memory verse)
-  **Activity** (Craft and/or activity and snack)
-  **Conclusion** (Closing prayer and guided conversation for life application)

## Begin

The opening activities are geared for various age levels. If you have multiple classes, you could bring all the children together for a few minutes each week for worship, recognizing birthdays, taking prayer requests, and introducing new children to their group leader. To make this time interesting for the children, avoid having the same routine. Plan skits, dramas, special speakers or object lessons for a change of pace.

## Educate

Bible Discoveries are used to lead the children into a deeper knowledge of God's Word. These lessons are easily understood and teacher friendly. A memory verse is included to plant God's Word in the hearts of children. The Good News Bears Leader Manual suggests many creative ways to teach the verses.

## Activity

Crafts can share an important part in a balanced program of ministry. Children of all ages enjoy making crafts, coloring, and building things. Activities and crafts should help reinforce the Bible truth. The craft can either be a take home reminder or an activity that reviews the Biblical truths of the lesson.

Snack time is important; some of your students may not have eaten before class. It is hard to concentrate on an empty stomach. During snacks you will have a chance to sit with your students and get to know them. You can discover their personalities, prayer needs, likes and dislikes.

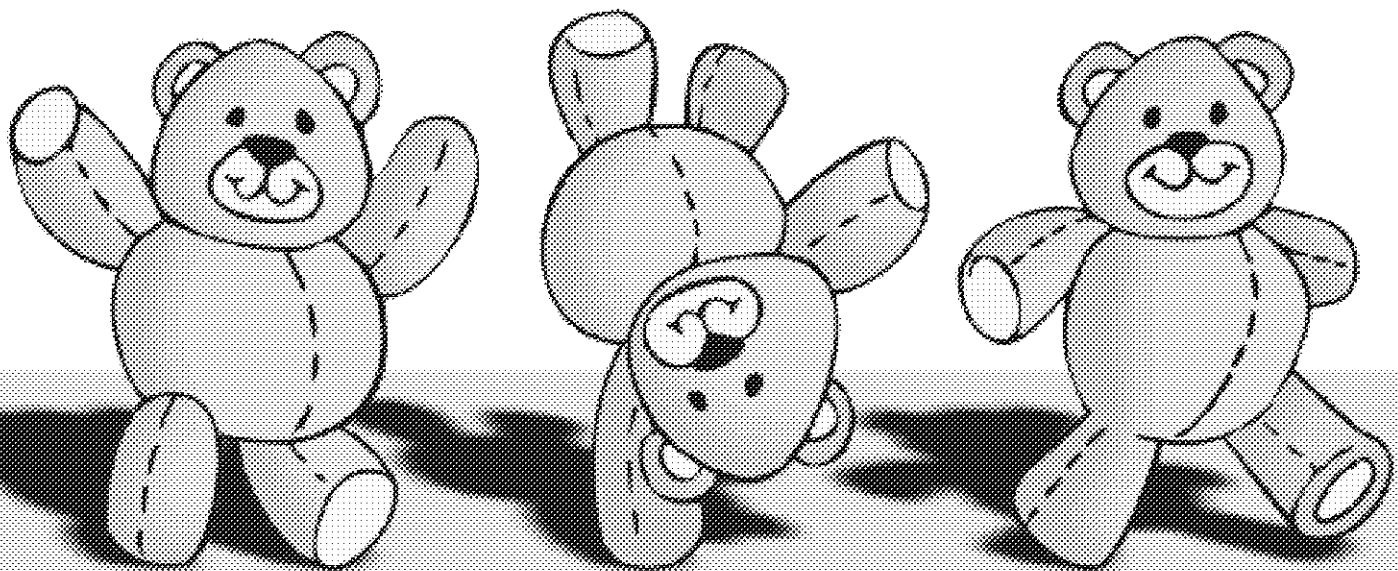
## Rap-it-up

This is a time to make sure the children grasped the Biblical truth presented in this meeting. It is always appropriate to pray with the children before dismissing the meeting. Encourage them to incorporate the Bible truth into their prayer focus.

## Special Activities

These times are geared for all ages. The whole congregation can get involved. They are entertaining with special times of food, fun, and fellowship. The Special Activities can also be excellent outreach opportunities.

Special activities are geared toward all ages – for the churched and non-churched. Have games and refreshments. Make sure you plan well enough ahead to reserve facilities, purchase or gather supplies and decorations and obtain sufficient volunteer help to make your special activity a success.



# Planning is the key to success

Listed below is a sample calendar in which to use these lessons. Good News Bear Badges are explained in detail in the Good News Bears Leader's Manual. Earning badges and/or purchasing the Good News Bears Leader's Manual is helpful, but not essential to make your teaching times a success.

We suggest several options for your class schedule. Each month you could plan two weeks of Bible Discovery, one week of a craft or field trip, and one week for a Special Activity or Missions Emphasis. The most effective teaching program is a well-planned program. We suggest a planning session with your teachers to determine your year's calendar and to list supplies and facilities you will need.

In the following examples, we have set aside evenings in which the teachers have time off. On these nights, perhaps someone in the church can teach the group an art or wood craft. Enlist the help of other volunteers (teenagers with adults) to help the children create the crafts.

## September

- 2 Special Activity: Banana Split Kick-off
- 9 Bible Discovery: Salvation (excellent lesson for earning Salvation badge)
- 16 Work with kids on Salvation badge requirements
- 23 Bible Discovery: Becoming God's Child
- 30 Craft Night: Make picture frames (Leader's night off)

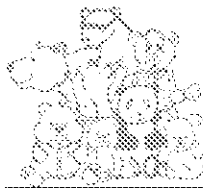
## October

- 7 Bible Discovery: Jesus is Baptized/Water Baptism
- 14 Field trip: Have staff pastor or elder take the group to baptismal and explain how the church baptizes people. Have question/answer time with pastor/elder.
- 21 Bible Discovery: God's Promises
- 28 Harvest Barn Party

## November

- 4 Work with kids on Water Baptism Badge requirements
- 11 Bible Discovery: Learning to Express Thanks to God
- 18 Bible Discovery: Happy Thanksgiving
- 25 Special Activity Video and Popcorn night





# Bear Trails

Good News Bears Lesson Themes

## Faith Trail:

Salvation  
Becoming God's Child  
Jesus is Baptized/Water Baptism  
Wordless Pompons and Pizza Party  
Who is the Holy Spirit?  
The Church is the People/The Baptism of the Holy Spirit  
Divine Healing  
The Meaning of Communion  
The Second Coming  
What We Believe (Foursquare Doctrine)  
Our Bible  
Giving Cheerfully (Tithing)  
Our Heavenly Home



## Christian Living Trail:

Fruit of the Spirit  
Prayer/The Lord's Prayer  
Pray Without Ceasing  
Worship  
The Armor of God  
Daniel and the Lion's Den/Daniel's Choices  
Good Choices in Jesus  
Learning to Express Thanks to God  
Follow The Lord

## The Identity Trail:

God Can Do All Things  
Don't Be Afraid/God's Thoughts About You  
Blessings from God  
God's Love  
God's Got a Plan for Your Life  
God's Promises  
Everything God Made is Good!  
Jesus is Our Guide  
Design Time  
I am Special  
Who Am I?  
Jesus the Life Saver  
Jesus Heals Two Blind Men  
Wonderfully Made



## Missions Trail:

Calling all Children to Global Prayer  
Understanding Others  
Bridging the Gap  
The Great Commission

## The Servant Trail:

Good Manners  
Forever Friends  
Handicap Awareness  
Controlling Our Anger  
Jonah and the Big Fish  
Heavenly Treasures  
Caring for God's Earth  
The Multi-colored Coat



## The Holiday Trail:

Crucifixion and Resurrection  
Freedom Festival  
Happy Thanksgiving  
Have a Beary Christmas by Giving  
Christmas Is

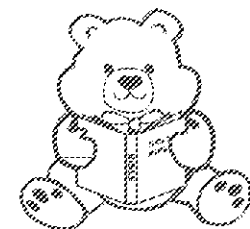
## Special Activities Trail (all ages):

Events:

Good News Beary Fun Circus  
Banana Split Night  
Good News Bear Double Dare  
Backwards Event  
Bear Olympics  
Ice Cream Fellowship  
Video and Popcorn Club  
Teddy Bear Night  
Funny Hat Event  
Pastor Appreciation  
Sock Hop and Hoop Event  
Teacher Appreciation  
Bible Breakfast  
Cool Night  
Giant Birthday Party  
GNB Camp-In  
Pinewood Derby  
The Heat is On

Holidays:

Millions and Millions (Valentines Day)  
Symbols of Easter  
Easter Celebration  
Parent Appreciation  
A Mother Is  
Letters of Love  
Honoring Fathers  
Grandparent's Day  
Fourth of July Celebration  
GNBC Harvest Barn Party  
Celebrating Jesus' Birth  
Happy Birthday, Jesus!



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Salvation"

Recommended for: **Preschool**

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**LESSON AIM:** Salvation is a difficult concept for most preschoolers to grasp. We have designed this lesson to help the preschool child understand his/her importance to Jesus and that He always has time for them. The word "Salvation" means saved from danger and destruction. When we become a Christian, Jesus is our Savior and protector.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Let the little children come to me..."* Matthew 19:14

**SUPPLIES:** Picture of Jesus, boy and girl paper doll cut-outs, crayons, small labels or small strips of paper, paper plates, yarn, hole-punch, glitter, glue, blankets, various pictures of children cut from magazines, catalogs, stickers.

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**OPENING:** Place a picture of Jesus on a classroom wall or bulletin (eye-level of children). Have "paper dolls" pre-cut. Boys for boys, girls for girls (see pattern). Each child can put faces and hair on the paper doll and color their clothes. Also have small sized labels or glue small strips of paper with each child's name to label each child's paper doll. Place the paper dolls around the picture of Jesus.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** For your visual, use a picture of Jesus with the children gathered around Him. You can find one in a Children's Picture Bible.

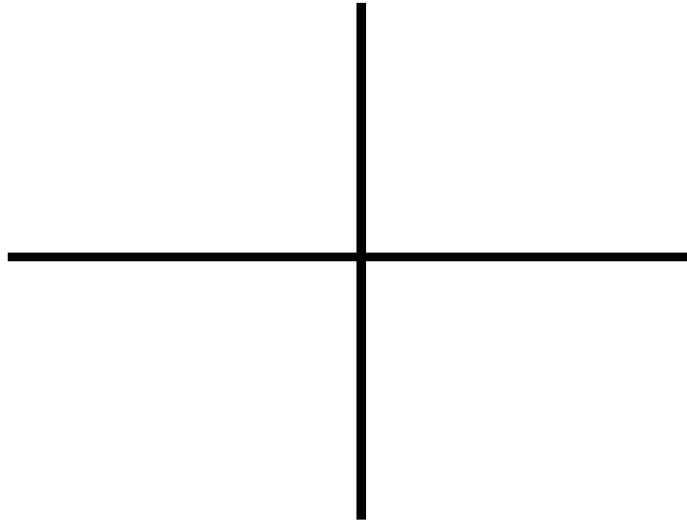
Explain that Jesus had been very busy speaking to crowds of people and helping them with their problems. A group of children came up to Jesus to talk to Him. The disciples said "Go away, Jesus is too busy to see you." Jesus heard this and got a little upset. He always had time to talk to children, especially you. That is where our memory verse comes from, Jesus told His disciples to let the children come to Him.

Jesus sat down and talked to them and listened to each one and cared about each one of their problems. Jesus wants to do that for you! He will listen to every word you say. Jesus cares when you feel sad, sick, or afraid. He always has time for you. You are important to Him!



**ACTIVITY:** Have ready for each child, a paper plate, yarn, hole punch, glitter and glue, pictures or stickers of Jesus and cut-out pictures of children playing, sleeping, eating, etc. Punch holes in the top of the plate and string the yarn through it for hanging. On the inside circle of the paper plate print the words “Jesus cares about (child’s name).” Then draw two perpendicular lines that divide the plate into four areas (See example). Place the picture of Jesus in one of the corners and the other pictures involving children in the remaining corners. Let the children decorate the edges of the plates with glitter.

**SAMPLE:**

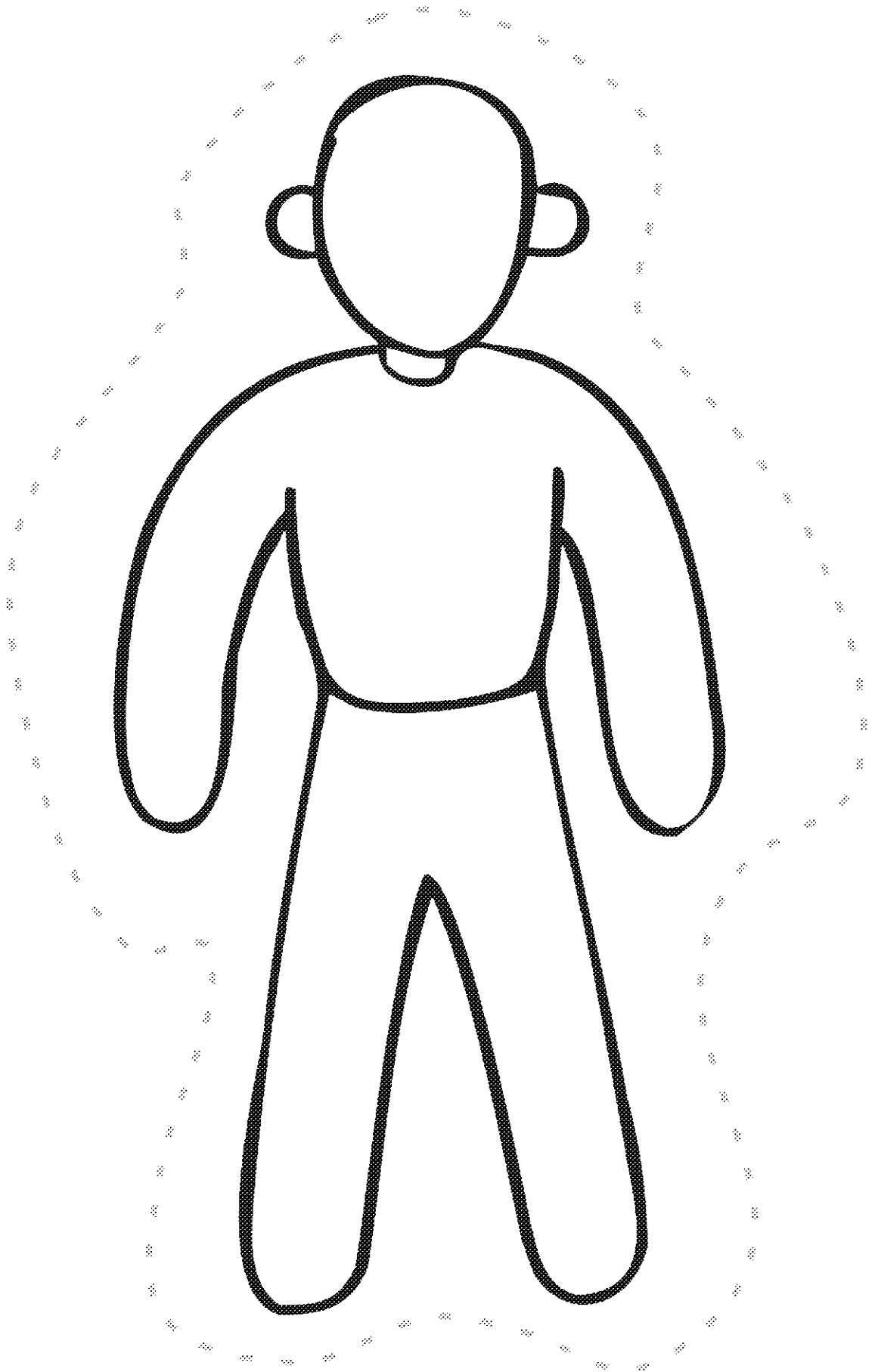


**SNACK:** Place several blankets on the floor. Have the children sit down on the blankets. Then give them each a paper cup filled with finger foods such as cheese cubes, crackers, carrot sticks or apple slices. Tell the kids: “When people came to see Jesus they usually walked a long time. They would pack a lunch and spend the whole day with Jesus. They would sit on blankets and eat food like we are eating now. Jesus loved spending time with people.”

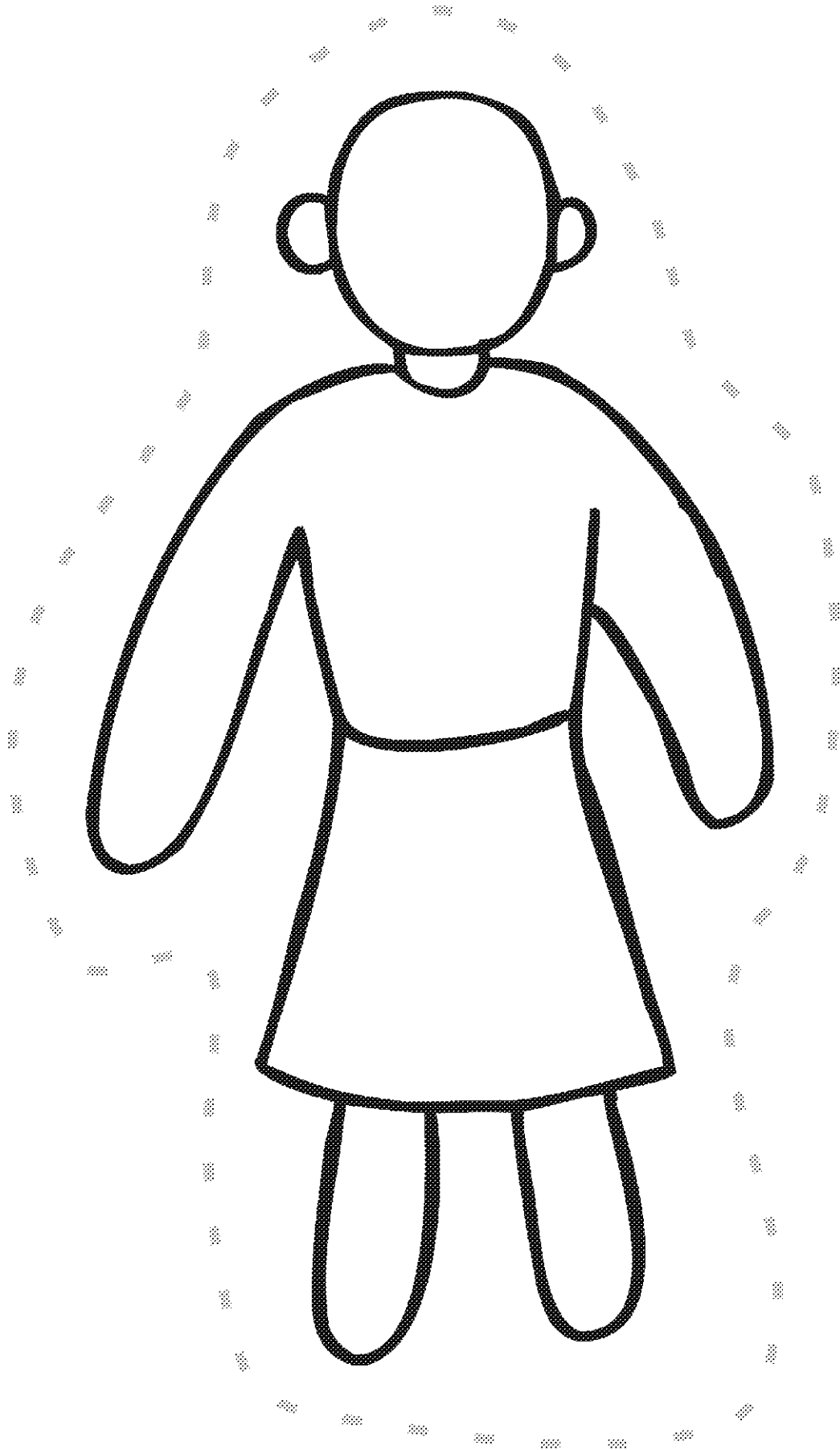


**CONCLUSION:** Carpet square stepping stones. Let the children use carpet squares to create a stepping stone path across the room. Then ask them to lay out the carpet squares in a particular way by giving such directions as “Make a path from the chair to the door that goes in a circle.”

# Paper doll pattern



# Paper Doll Pattern 2



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "Salvation"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the plan of Salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. To understand what it means to repent, and to be born again.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."* John 3:16

**SUPPLIES:** 3 x 5 cards Scripture cards, pencils, Bibles, masking tape. A large picture or drawing of a road (road should be at least a foot long) and a cross. String or leather laces, colored beads (black, red, white, green, gold or yellow) one of each color for each child.

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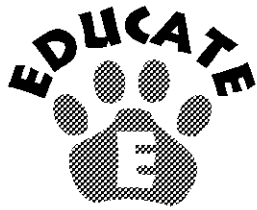
**Before the class:** Print on 3 x 5 cards the Bible verses listed below.



**OPENING:** Before class write this question on a chalkboard or whiteboard "What is sin?" As the children arrive have available pencils, Bibles and the prepared Bible verse cards. Ask the class to share their answers to the question on the board. Guide them to an understanding that sin is disobeying God and not following what the Bible (His Word, tells us to do).

Either individually, in pairs or groups pass out the 3 x 5 cards you prepared for class. Have the students look up the verses and write a few words explaining what the verse says. You will be placing these cards on the road during the EDUCATE time.

1. Romans 3:10 (There is none righteous)
2. Romans 3:23 (All have sinned)
3. Romans 6:23a (The result of sin)
4. Romans 6:23b (The gift of God is eternal)
5. Romans 10:9 (Confess Jesus as Lord; believe He is Lord)



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** One of the special things about humans is that we have the ability to choose. Unfortunately, we make wrong choices. When we make choices that go against what God wants, that is called sin. God loves us so much that He planned ahead by giving His son Jesus to take our sins and be the Savior for everyone. (Genesis 3:15)

Ask the appropriate person/group to read Romans 3:10 and share what they wrote on the card. Use tape to place the card at the first part of the road. It clearly says in God's Word that there isn't one person who can be called righteous. No matter how many good things a person tries to do.

Next, read Romans 3:23. Yes, every single person has sinned. Tape this card further down the road. Repeat this process with the following three cards.

Have them read Romans 6:23a. Sin is just like a disease. It affects our lives and can eventually cause spiritual death. Fortunately, God did not leave us in this condition.

Have the next group read Romans 6:23b. God has a better plan for us. He really loves us and doesn't want us to spend eternity in Hell. So He gave us His very best—His Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only perfect being that could take our sin upon Himself when He died on the Cross. When Jesus rose from the grave He shows His power over death.

Read Romans 10:9. We do have a responsibility in this plan. It is to confess our sin to Jesus, believe that He is the Son of God and has power over sin. And the precious gift of salvation is ours.

#### ACTIVITY

**Option 1: Wordless Bracelet Activity:** Provide either black string or leather laces and the following colored beads to make wordless bracelets.

#### COLOR

Black

Red

White

#### REPRESENTS

Sin/being in darkness, can't see where to go.  
Romans 3:23

Blood of Jesus. What Christ did on the cross was to make a way to heaven for us. I John 1:7

Cleansed from sin. As though we had never sinned.  
Isaiah 1:18



Green Growing in Jesus. We will make mistakes, but we can continue to grow in him everyday. 2 Peter 3:18  
Gold Heaven is our eternal hope. Revelation 21:21

Have the children put the beads in the appropriate order on their laces. Tie the bracelet just big enough to get over their hand and cut off any extra lace. They can use the bracelets to share the Gospel with others.

**Option 2: Water Watch.** (Microscope needed) Set a jar of clear tap water in front of the group. Ask the kids if they can see anything floating in it. Then take a drop and view it through a microscope. They will probably see things such as bacteria or dirt. Explain how sin in our life can be invisible but have a destructive effect on us.

**Option 3: Gospel Commercial.** Allow extra time. Have students get together and write a T.V. commercial about the importance of accepting Jesus as Savior. Let them practice it and then video tape it. The pastor may want to show the video to the congregation or you can show it to your group.



**CONCLUSION:** Have each child express in their own words the time they received Jesus as Savior. This would be a good time to ask if there is anyone who would like to receive Jesus and be born into God's family. Or have your pastor come in and share the plan of salvation with the group.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Becoming God's Child"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To help the children understand what being a Christian is all about. To teach them the transformation that takes place in our lives as we become God's child.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" 1 John 1:9*

**SUPPLIES:** Photocopies of activity sheets (patterns provided), a real caterpillar, a cocoon or butterfly, or a book with actual pictures for a visual. A suggested book is The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carl.

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Instruct the Bear Leader to pick and choose how much material to cover. By comparison, this lesson has three times the teaching content as other lessons.



**OPENING:** Make a display of information and books about caterpillars and butterflies for children to view. These may be obtained from your public library.

Discuss the analogy of the butterfly and the transformation that takes place when a caterpillar breaks through the cocoon along with becoming a new creature when we accept Jesus as our Savior.



**EDUCATE:** While the larva is in the cocoon, no one can see what is taking place but there is a definite change going on. The end result is a beautiful, colorful, living butterfly.

The same thing happens when we ask Jesus to be our personal Savior. No one can see inside us, but a change takes place when we become a Christian or one of God's children. People will know we are Christians by the way we act and talk. When we ask Jesus to be our personal Savior, some say that we become "born again" - this means that we have become a new creation in Christ Jesus. We have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Children may already be acquainted with the process that takes place when the caterpillar spins his cocoon. The caterpillar remains inside for a period of time and then breaks out when the process is completed. The beautiful, colorful butterfly is a new creature because of the transformation that took place.

## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE CATERPILLAR, COCOON, AND BUTTERFLY:**

There are four stages of a butterfly's life cycle: 1) egg; 2) larva (caterpillar); 3) pupa (cocoon or chrysalis); 4) adult.

1. Larva have rather elastic bodies, simple eyes, chewing mouth parts and small legs. They eat continuously, and shed their skin as needed, as they grow to hundreds of times their original size.

2. The cocoon is made up of a single silk thread that could reach up to a half a mile. It can take a caterpillar weeks, even months, to make a cocoon.

3. Once the cocoon is made the larva is now called a pupa. During the time they are in the cocoon the structure of the larva totally transforms: internal systems are reorganized and adult external structures develop.

4. The making of the cocoon:

a. The caterpillar finds a site and he hangs upside down.

b. He starts to spin around himself making a oblong cocoon.

c. He hangs onto a limb with a sticky liquid and keeps a firm grip as he is spinning.

d. The complete development of the cocoon is called the chrysalis which is a hard, protective shell.

e. In a matter of weeks, the skin of the cocoon begins to split from one end to the other.

f. In about two minutes after the skin splits, the caterpillar breaks out. It is now a butterfly.

g. The complete development from the caterpillar to the butterfly is completed within the chrysalis.

## **WORD DEFINITIONS: (This is for Juniors and maybe Primary.)**

**CHRYSLIS** - The pupa of a moth or butterfly, enclosed in a hard case or cocoon

**LARVA** - newly hatched wormlike form of many insects

**METAMORPHOSIS** - To transform, change of form; an alteration in appearance.

**COCOON** - A type of envelope, often largely of silk, which many insects form about themselves and in which they pass into the pupa stage. Silkworm cocoons are the source of silk. A cocoon is 1 - 1½" long and weighs about an ounce.

**CATERPILLAR** - The wormlike, often hairy larva of a butterfly or moth.

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE BUTTERFLY:** (This is for all)

The butterfly's body is slender. The scales on the broad wings help it to fly. If you touch a butterfly wing, you might damage the scales and it will not be able to fly. The scales are the powdery substance that comes off onto our fingers.

When a butterfly is ready to break out of the cocoon, its wings remain pressed together as it emerges. It has a firm grip on the empty chrysalis. A blood-like fluid is pumped from the tiny body into the wing veins. The wings expand. It will spread its wings out so they can harden and dry and then...it's ready to fly!

### **SALVATION: WHY IT'S IMPORTANT -** (This is for all)

Scripture verse:

1. *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 6:23)
2. *"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* (Romans 10:9)
3. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."* (I John 1:9)
4. *"And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* (Acts 2:21)



### **ACTIVITY: BIBLE DRILL** (For Primary and Juniors)

To involve the children with the use of their Bible and finding scriptures that relate to the lesson and their assigned memory work. Use verses listed above.

Set up 4 to 6 chairs, depending on the size of the class. Ask both boys and girls to volunteer for the Bible drill.

Teacher: "Attention! Bibles up!" [Kids hold up Bibles. Give scripture reference (book, chapter and verse).]

Kids: [Repeat reference after the teacher with Bibles still up.]

Teacher: "Charge!"

Kids: [First pupil to find the scripture stands and reads it.]

Teacher: [Acknowledges child, checks the verse and issues a bear buck.]

### **CRAFTS:** (For All)

Coloring sheet of a butterfly (included for 3 years - 3rd grade)  
caterpillar butterfly (included for 4th - 6th grade)

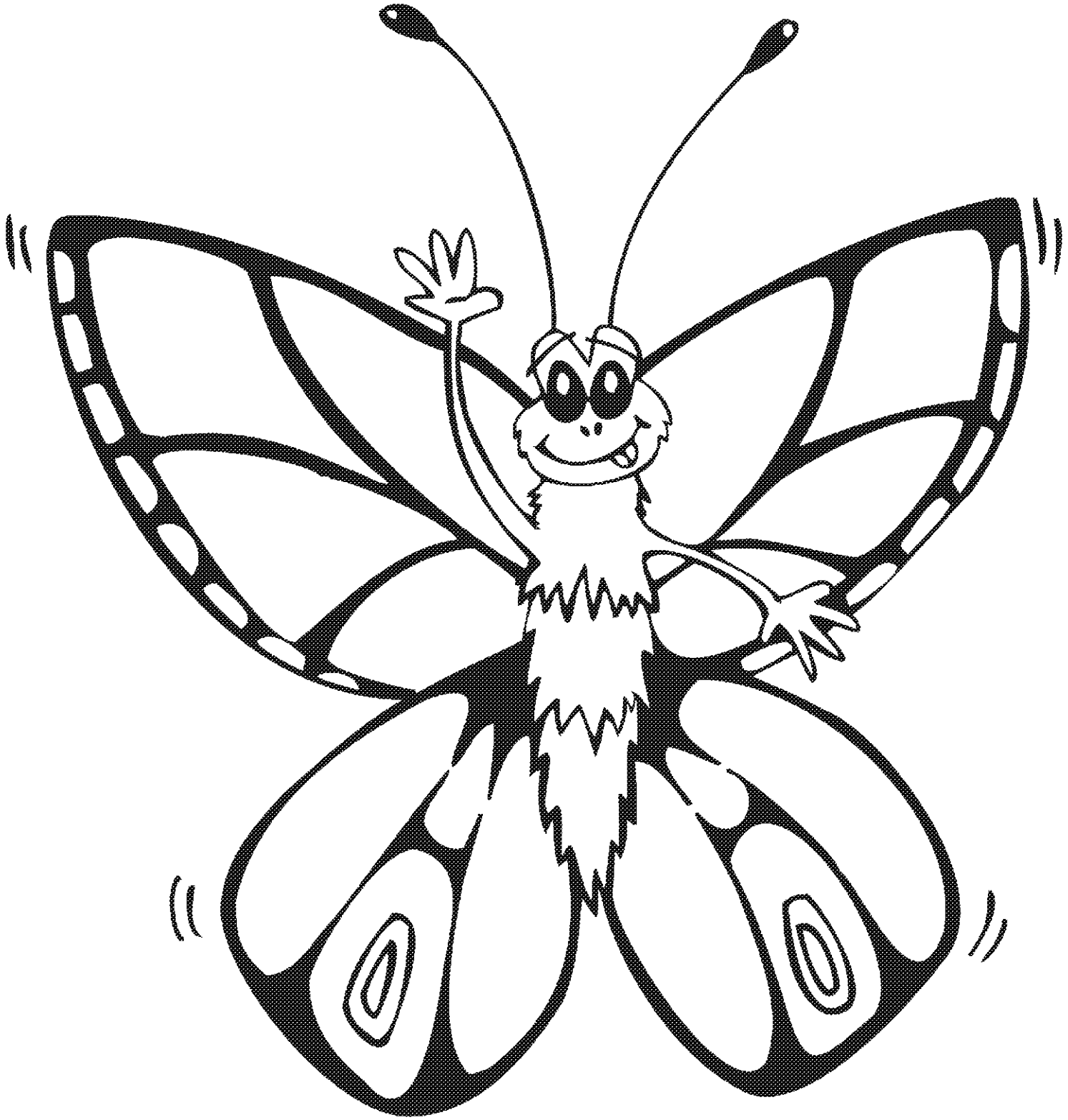
### **SNACK: SUNBURST SANDWICHES**

**INGREDIENTS:** Marmalade and pineapple Jelly. Slices of white bread and a sun cookie cutter. Have the children make sunburst sandwiches with the cutter and spread with one of the jellies.



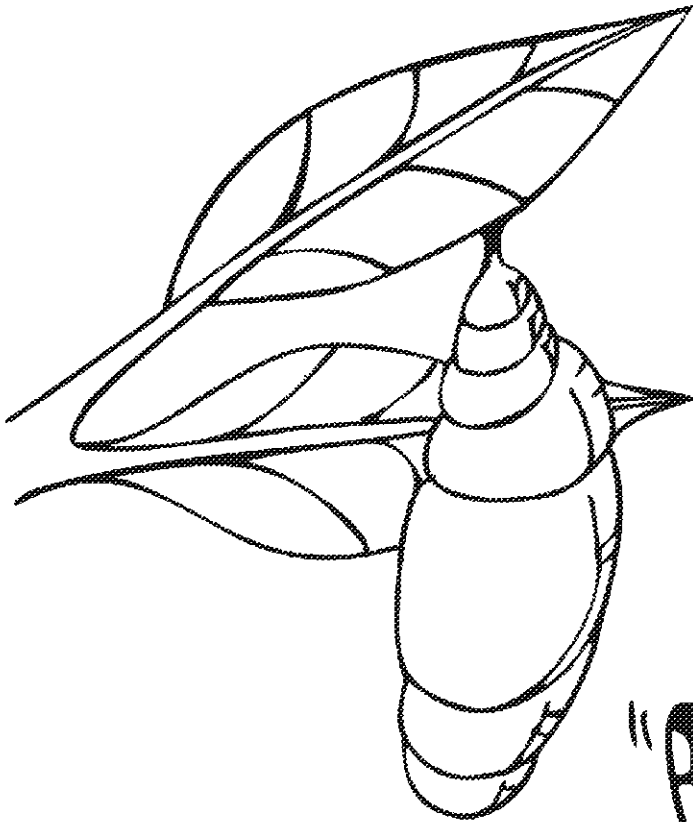
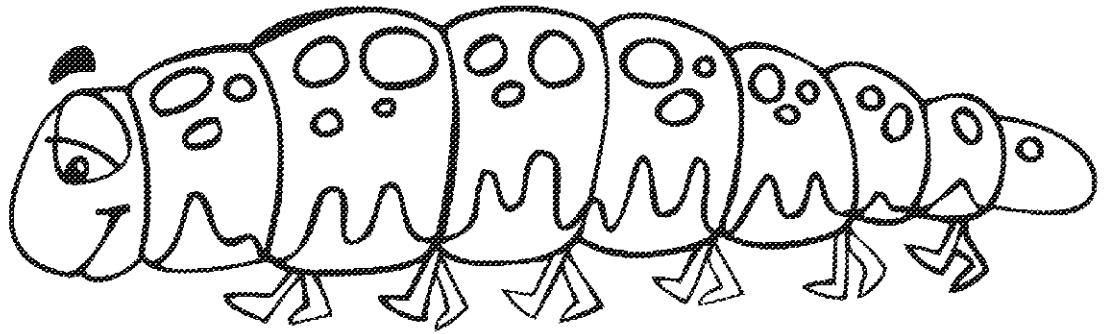
**CONCLUSION:** Have the children gather together for prayer time. Provide the opportunity for children to ask Jesus to be their Savior. Make sure to note those that asked Jesus into their heart so you can talk with them later and answer any questions they might have.

# Becoming God's Children Activity Sheet

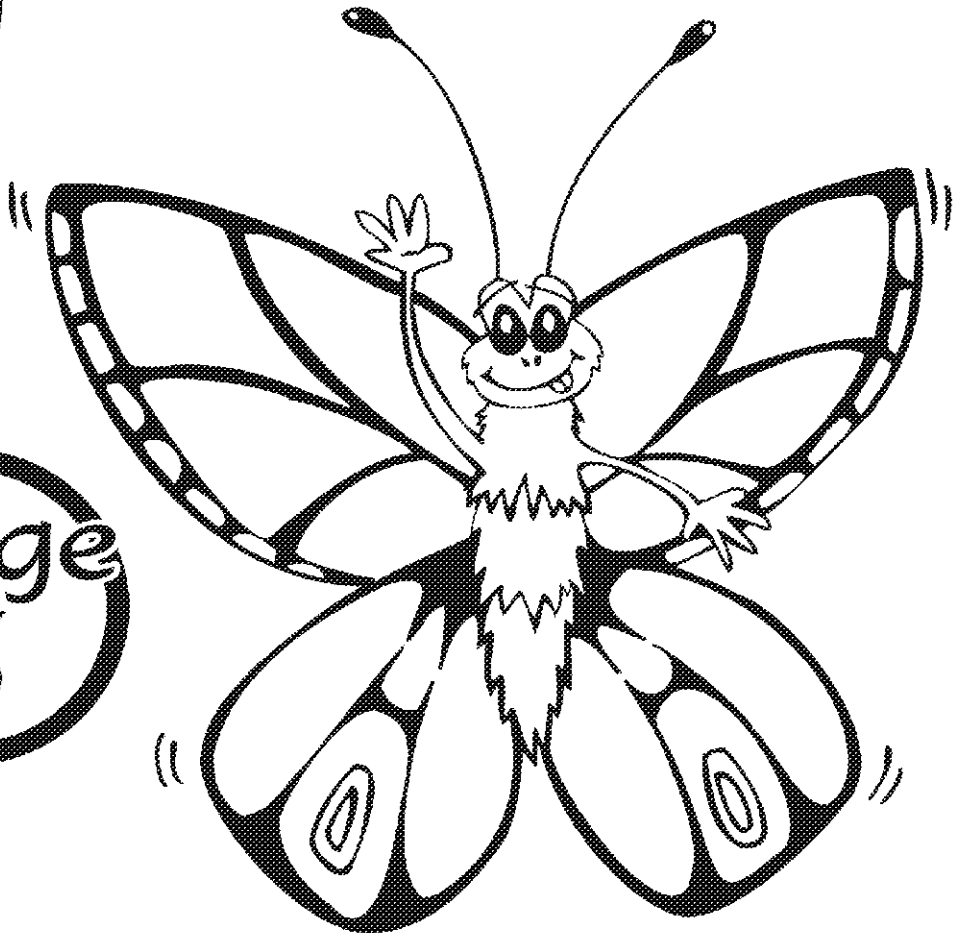


# Becoming God's Children Activity Sheet

Stage  
1



Stage  
2



Stage  
3

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Jesus is Baptized"

Recommended for: Preschool & Elementary

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**LESSON AIM:**

To help children become familiar with the idea of water baptism and to begin to prepare them for the time when they will make a personal decision to be baptized.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am pleased."* Matthew 3:17

**SUPPLIES:**

Photo copies of both sheets for each child, brass fasteners, scissors. Small wading pool or large dishpan and marbles.

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**OPENING:** Provide dish pans or a small wading pool of water. Place marbles in the bottom and place along the sides. Allow the children to either stand or sit while trying to pick up the marbles with their toes. Talk about water and what it is used for. It is used for cleaning their bodies, washing dishes and clothes, drinking, etc. When they drink water they are replenishing their bodies with fluid, this helps their body to keep clean on the inside. When they take a bath, the water helps to keep their bodies clean on the outside.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** This story is from Matthew 3:13-17 and is outlined here to help the children understand the baptismal process. Provide a picture of Jesus being baptized which may be found in a children's Bible or picture book. If you have difficulty locating this picture, use the activity pattern with this lesson to create your own visual.

John the Baptist was a person chosen by God to tell people about Jesus. One day John the Baptist was baptizing many people. They would meet at a nearby river or lake. Then the people would walk into the water to meet John the Baptist. They would stand in the water up to their waists. John the Baptist took the people, held them while tipping them backwards until they were covered with water. They were only under the water for a few seconds.

While John was baptizing, Jesus came and said, "I came to be baptized, I know that is what God, my Father wants." So John baptized Jesus. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Bible says that the Holy Spirit came

upon Jesus *like* a dove. Then God's voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am pleased."

Jesus understood what baptism was and obeyed God by being baptized. Someday, you will be old enough to understand what baptism means. When that time comes, you will be ready to talk to the pastor and be baptized yourself.

**SNACK:** Provide doughnuts or cookies for students to "dunk" in milk.



**ACTIVITY:** Use the attached page and pattern to create a visual about the story. You will need scissors and brass fasteners to complete the picture. Let the children color the picture, cut a slit in the water. Attach the pattern of Jesus with a brass fastener to allow the figure to be dipped in water.



**CONCLUSION:** Explain to the children that there are things in the Bible that Jesus tells us to do. Being baptized in water is one of the things we are told to do. You should get baptized when you are old enough to understand the meaning of being baptized in water.

**NOTE:** Usually, once children are in elementary school they can begin to understand baptism in water. Encourage moms and dads to help children know when the time is right for them to be baptized.

The children may have questions about what water baptism means. If you think that the children in your class would comprehend, try acting out the following scenario:

**ACTION:**

Standing in the water

**REPRESENTS:**

Believing in Jesus Christ

Going down into the water

Jesus died and went down into the tomb

Coming up out of the water

Jesus came out of the tomb and was alive again!

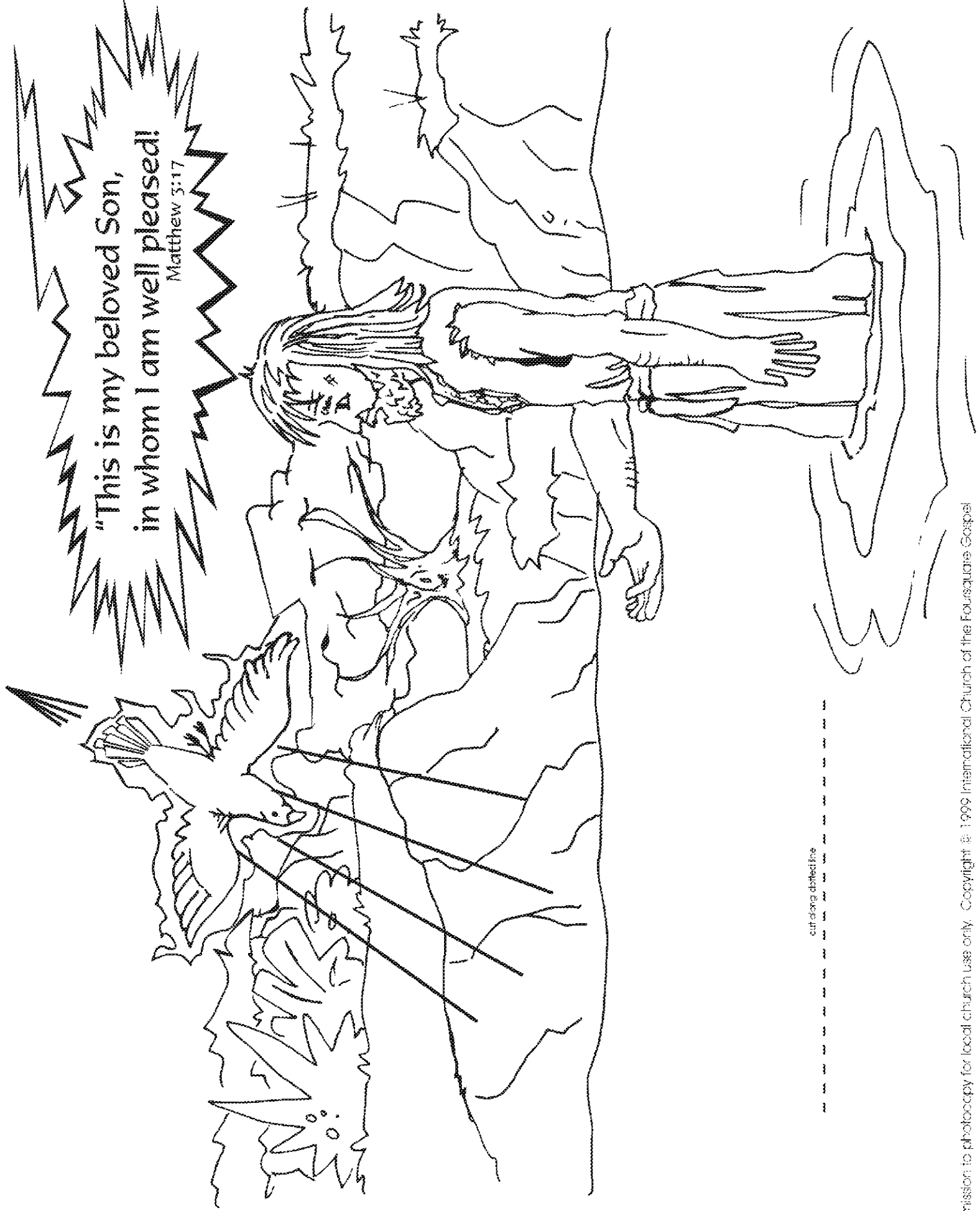
When we do these actions in the water, we are telling everyone that is watching that we believe Jesus is God's Son, that Jesus died and rose again, and that we are God's child.





**"This is my beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased!"**

Matthew 3:17



cut along dotted line

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Water Baptism"

Recommended for: Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** That the student can explain how water baptism represents death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"And Peter said to them, Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" Acts 2:38.*

**SUPPLIES:** Dictionaries, Bibles, pens/pencils and paper.

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**OPENING:** Have dictionaries, Bible, pens and paper available as the children arrive. Instruct the students to look up the following words in the dictionary or one of the scriptures in the Bible and write out the definition or text.

**WORDS**

Immersion  
Baptism  
Repent

**SCRIPTURES**

Acts 8:38-39  
Acts 2:38  
Romans 6:3-4



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Have the students share the definitions and scriptures that they worked on when they arrived.

Jesus was baptized as an example for us. Once we have received Jesus Christ as our Savior and repented for our sins we are commanded to be baptized in water.

Water baptism is an outward sign of the inward act of repentance. Just as Jesus died, was buried in a tomb, and rose up out of the tomb, we identify with what happened to Jesus. By getting in the water, being immersed under the water, and coming up out of the water, we are going through the same actions as Jesus. When we are baptized, we are telling everyone who is watching that we are identifying with Jesus Christ.



**SNACK:** Provide doughnuts or cookies for students to “dunk” in milk.

**ACTIVITY:** Interview someone who has been baptized. Have a pastor come and explain exactly how baptisms are done in your church. If possible, tour the baptismal tank or witness a baptism.

**True or False Statements:**

1. We need to be saved before we are baptized in water. (True)
2. Water baptism is a command. (True)
3. Unless you are baptized in water, you cannot go to heaven. (False)
4. Water baptism tells everyone we love Jesus, believe He died for our sins, and rose again. (True)
5. If you were baptized with the Holy Spirit you do not need to be baptized in water. (False)
6. Water baptism is a picture of what happens in our hearts. (True)
7. We are baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (True)
8. To repent means to be sorry for something we did or something we should have done (but didn't do) and to try to not do it again. (True)
9. Jesus was baptized by Paul the Apostle. (False)
10. When Jesus was baptized in water, the heavens were opened. (True)

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

1. For students who wish to be baptized, enact a baptism so they will know what to expect. Inform them about what to wear, what the pastor will say, how to fold their arms across their chest, etc.
2. To help students grasp the act of repentance, have them write out short skits that show a child repenting. (i.e., A child steals some cookies, gets caught, repents.)
3. Interview someone who has just been baptized and ask them how they felt about being immersed and if they felt a spiritual difference.



**CONCLUSION:** At the close of class, bring the children together in a discussion/prayer circle. Ask if any of the children have been baptized in water. Have them share with the others how it has affected their lives. (If none of the children have been baptized, you might take the time to share how it has affected your life.) Close in prayer thanking the Lord for giving each of us the opportunity to be baptized in water, to be able to be forgiven of our sins, die to our old self and be re-born a new in Jesus Christ.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**"Wordless Pompoms and Pizza Party"**

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the children the salvation message and how to share that message with others.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... *This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*" I Timothy 2:3-4 (NAS)

**SUPPLIES:** Photocopies of coloring sheet. Pencils, pens, crayons, yarn (yellow, red, green, white, black), 3" cardboard squares for each child. Wordless pizza supplies for snack.

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**OPENING:**

Make Wordless pizzas. If an oven or a microwave is not available, order out for pizzas with the following ingredients.

English muffins/pizza crusts	-	White
Sauce	-	Red
Cheese	-	Yellow
Black Olives	-	Black
Green peppers	-	Green

Have the above items prepared ahead of time and set out so the children can make their pizzas. (If you have a large number of children, have them take turns making their pizzas.) As they are building their pizzas, have the leaders explain what each color means, especially for any visitors present.

While the pizzas are cooking, have activities planned for the children and their visitors. If you don't make pizzas, plan another snack and choose one of the following options for your opening.

**Option 1:** Have the children draw a picture of their first experience of "hearing" the gospel. Use the coloring sheet provided. Have them draw wherever they were and what they remembered about the experience.

Read the verse on the coloring sheet together, and practice saying it aloud with a friend.

**Option 2:** Make felt, fabric or construction paper “Wordless Books,” using only the colors to tell the message of salvation. If you have enough materials have each child make 2 books so that they can give one away.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Review the plan of salvation using the wordless book format. Before class, prepare a 3 x 5 booklet by stapling together five sheets of colored paper: Black, red, white, green and gold.

Show the appropriate color as you explain the following scriptures:

<u>COLOR</u>	<u>REPRESENTS</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Black	Sin	Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (NIV)
Red	Blood of Jesus	I John 1:7b “The blood of Jesus, His son, purifies us from all sin.” (NIV)
White	Cleansed of sin	Psalms 51:7b “Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.” (NIV)
Green	Growing in Jesus	2 Peter 3:18 “Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (NIV) (Grow by praying, reading the Bible, and going to church)
Gold	Heaven	Revelation 21:21b “The great street of the city was of pure gold, like transparent glass.” (NIV)



**ACTIVITY:** Make “Wordless Pompons” (2 each). Use the different colors of yarn yellow, black, red, white, and green. Cut a length of yarn 20" long. This will be a yarn necklace. To make pompons; wrap one color of yarn around a piece of card board approximately 3" wide. Wrap at least 2 or 3 times. Take another piece of yarn and tie it around the loops at the top of the card. Tie the knot tightly. Cut the yarn along the bottom edge of the card and take the pompon and tie on the yarn necklace. Do this with each of the colors and place them in order on the necklace. You now have a “Wordless Necklace.”

**SNACK:** The wordless pizzas, if you made them.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the children roll-play “witnessing” to each other by sharing their wordless pompons, books, or whatever they have made to tell the salvation story.

Pray and ask God to show them opportunities to share the Gospel with others.

NOTE: The pizza party could be an opportunity to invite the adults from the church. Have the children share the Gospel message with the adults. Decorate the room. Have the children serve the pizza.



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Who is the Holy Spirit?"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To help preschool children begin to understand the person of the Holy Spirit. Young children cannot fully understand the person and work of the Holy Spirit, this is just a preliminary introduction.

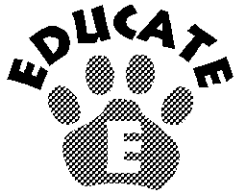
**MEMORY VERSE:** *"He will give you another Comforter, and He will never leave you. John 14:16"*

**SUPPLIES:** Paper plates, craft sticks, crayons, stapler, glue sticks, yarn or string, scissors, construction paper, and photocopies of mobile shapes (master provided).

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**OPENING:** Provide construction or thick paper with a circle cut out or two paper plates, a craft stick and crayons for each child. On the paper have faces drawn on each side, a happy face and a sad face. Color and glue the faces to the sticks. As you share the story, have the children turn the face to happy or sad depending on the area you are covering in the story.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Jesus knew He couldn't stay on earth any longer. He gathered his disciples together and explained to them that even though He wouldn't be with them anymore, He would send them another Helper. That Helper is the Holy Spirit. Let's talk about what the Holy Spirit can do for us. Use the faces to express the feelings that would be felt at that time.

Have you ever felt alone? (Sad face) The Holy Spirit is a Comforter. He helps us know that God is with us. (Happy face) Are there times you don't know how to pray for something? (Sad face) The Holy Spirit will give us the words to say. (Happy face) Are you sometimes confused about what to do? (Sad face) The Holy Spirit will teach us Truth. (Happy face) The Holy Spirit is always with us to help us. The Holy Spirit also helps us Praise God! (Happy face).



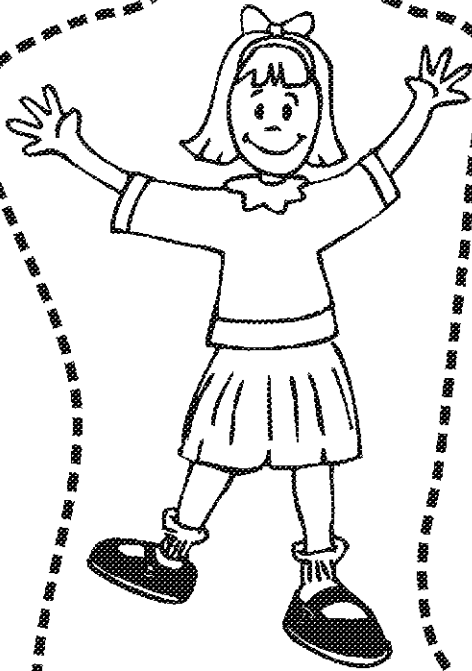
**ACTIVITY:** Use the attached page to make a mobile, Provide yarn or string, scissors, crayons, and have pre-cut shapes (master provided) for children who can't use scissors. If possible, copy on thick paper or mount pieces to construction paper.

**SNACK:** Biscuits, butter and honey. Call them “heavenly cakes” they refresh, and satisfy, and help us grow -- just like the Holy Spirit.

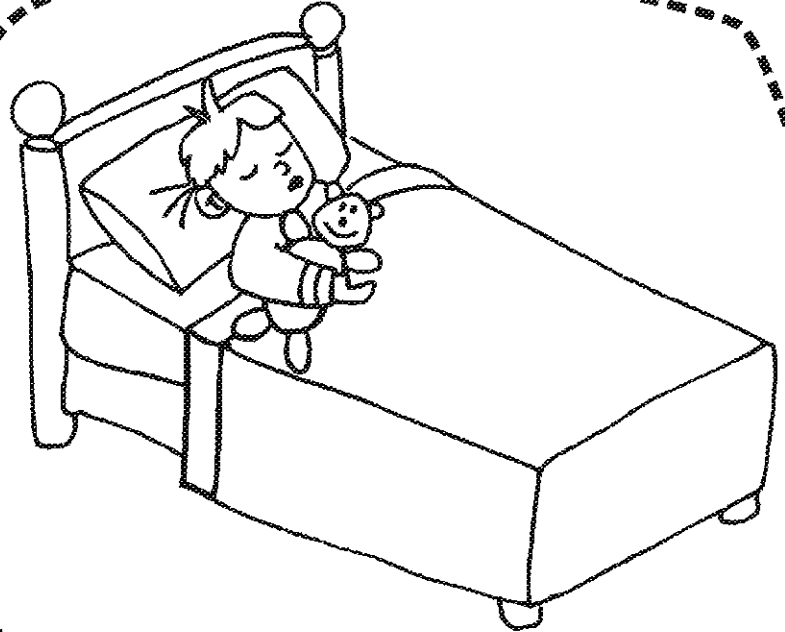


**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children, asking the Holy Spirit to remind the children that He is with them. If the children have any other needs pray with them.

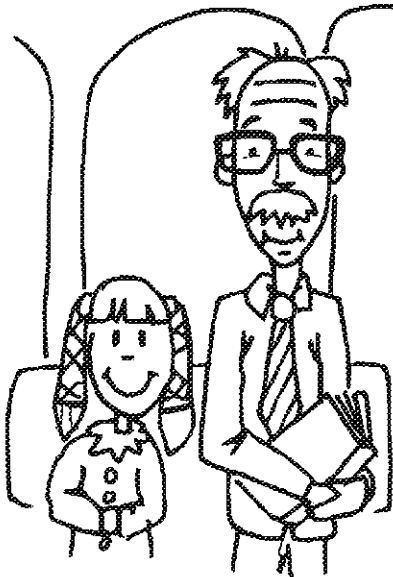
# The Holy Spirit Helps Me



Praise God



When I am Lonely



Know the Truth



Know How to Pray

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**“Who Is The Holy Spirit?”**  
**(The Person and Work)**

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach that the Holy Spirit is part of God and is here to help us.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26*

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, pencils, paper. Items and tray for opening.

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**OPENING:** Ask a volunteer (perhaps an adult from your church) to help you with this activity. Provide a tray with various items on it. Explain to your group that they need to pay close attention because their ability to observe will be tested. Have the volunteer carry the tray from one person to another for about 30 seconds each. Then have the volunteer leave the room with the tray. Now ask the students the following questions:

- What color was the person’s eyes?
- What color was his or her hair?
- Was he or she taller than you?
- What color were his or her shoes?
- Ask a question about their clothing.

Now, invite the volunteer back in and compare answers. Give a prize to the person who answered the most questions right.

Discuss that sometimes in our lives we become confused about what we should do or the kind of decisions we should make. We focus on the wrong things or look for answers in the wrong place. Today we will talk about the Helper God sent to help us focus on the right things and seek answers from the right sources.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Consider teaching this week only on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. Next week deal with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, if time permits, spend a week on the Fruit of the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is a person WHO was sent to Christians by Jesus after He went back to heaven. The Holy Spirit has a special work to do here on earth. Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as a “comforter,” or “one called along to help.” God knew that we wouldn’t be able to do a lot of things in our own strength, so he sent us a helper - a powerful helper.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is largely meant for Christians. The Holy Spirit was sent to teach and remind Jesus’ followers what Jesus taught while He was on earth. Christians need to know that they are never alone. God sent us a helper, a comforter, someone who will show us what is truth, someone who will lead people to Jesus.



**ACTIVITY:** Write the following Scriptures on the chalk or white board. Have the class look up each scripture. Have the subject words mixed up, but also written on the board. As the children look-up the Scriptures have them match the Scripture to the correct subject.

John 16:7	Helper/comforter
John 14:26	Teacher
John 16:8	Convict us of us sin
John 16:13	Speaks the truth
Acts 1:8	Power/strength
I Cor. 2:13	Helps us discern God’s truth
Romans 8:26	Helps us in our prayers
John 15:26	Glorify Jesus

Have each child pick out one of the words on the chalkboard. Have them write or draw a picture about how the Holy Spirit can help them in a specific area of their lives. GNBC leaders, keep these papers handy so that you may pray for the children in those areas during the week, and to help set the stage for next week’s lesson.

**SNACK:** Serve cookies or donuts with a hole in the middle. Explain to the children while they are eating that the Holy Spirit fills the “holes” in our lives.



**CONCLUSION:** Remind the students that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to produce a life-style that helps strengthen us as Christians and makes us a witness for God.

A final thought: If you would like to continue with a teaching series on the Holy Spirit, more in-depth information can be found in the Foursquare Christian Education Department’s **Baseline** curriculum.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "The Church is People"

Recommended for: Preschool

\* Use this lesson in conjunction with "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit" for Elementary and Juniors

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize that the church is made up of people who love Jesus and want to work together to help others.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Christ is head of the church." Ephesians 5:23 (NKJV)

**SUPPLIES:** Water color paints, brushes, white construction paper, paint smocks or shirts, paper plates, aluminum foil, craft sticks, enough white crayons for each child.

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**OPENING:** For each child, use a white crayon to draw a stick figure of a person on white construction paper. Have a supply of watercolor paints, brushes, newspaper and paint shirts. When kids arrive, give them each a stick drawing. Say: "There's a church hidden on this sheet of paper. Cover your entire sheet of paper with paint." After children have painted their papers, say: "Did you think you'd see a building?" When you're driving by our church building, do you say, "There's my church?" We use the word "church" when we talk about the building where we worship and study the Bible. The word "church" also means the people who believe in Jesus and do His work on earth. You and I are the church, too.

Say: "People often refer to churches as buildings. The church is really people, like you and me, who love Jesus. Whenever we go to the park to play, we're still the church." Have the children name places where they go. Confirm that they are the church wherever they go.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Tell a very simple version of the story of Peter in prison from Acts 12:1-17. Peter was put in prison—not for doing something bad, but for telling people about Jesus. However, while Peter was in prison, the people in the church prayed for him all the time. Verse 5 uses the word "constantly." Because of the people's prayers, Peter was miraculously freed by an angel of God. When Peter went to Mary's house there were lots of people praying. They were the church. When Peter knocked on the door and said who he was, the people were very happy because they knew their prayers for Peter had been answered.

- The church was the people who met in Mary's house to pray for Peter.
- The church was very surprised and happy to see Peter standing at the door of the house.
- God heard and answered the prayers of the church for Peter.

Have the children act out the story.



**ACTIVITY:** Make mirrors from paper plates. Around the edge of the paper plate write “(child’s name) is the church.” Glue a piece of aluminum foil in the center of the paper plate. Add a craft stick for a handle. Say: “When you look in your mirror, who do you see? Yes, you see the church.”

**SNACK:** Help children toast and butter bread. Use gingerbread cookie cutters to cut out “people” from slices of toasted bread. Use cheese to add facial features, hair and clothing. As kids eat their snack, say: “God’s church is not made of bricks or wood; God’s church is made of people like you and me.”



**CONCLUSION:** Gather the children in a circle. Have the children take turns standing in the center of the circle. Sing the chorus, “In My Life, Lord, Be Glorified” substituting the words “In Your church, Lord...” Have the children point to the child in the center as they sing and repeat this with each child. Close by praying: “Dear God, we are glad to be Your church. In Jesus’ Name, amen.”

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GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"The Baptism of the Holy Spirit"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To help the child know that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a promise from God. And to know that the Holy Spirit will give them power in their lives.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "...You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

**SUPPLIES:** Pictures of policeman, judge, president, etc.

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**OPENING:** Get pictures of people who are examples of power (not strength). Examples include a policewoman, judge, the President, businessman (CEO), David of the Old Testament. Explain to the class that these people were given the power to accomplish their jobs. They are able to make certain decisions or help people, or decide how to handle problems because they have been given this power. The Holy Spirit has been promised to give us power in our lives. Help them understand that power is the ability to do something, it has nothing to do with physical strength.

**NOTE:** You may want to arrange the class time so that the lesson comes last to allow for a prayer time.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** If you used "Who is the Holy Spirit," last week, take a few moments to review the concepts learned in that lesson.

Write the words PROMISE, GIFT, AND COMMAND on poster board or a chalkboard. Refer to these words as you explain this lesson.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a PROMISE of the Father and the Son. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples in John 14:26. In Luke 24:49 He also promised the Holy Spirit to a large group of His followers at the time when He went back into heaven. The Holy Spirit is promised to everyone of God's children.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a GIFT of the Father and the Son (John



14:16, 14:26, Acts 2:38, Acts 5:32.) It is a free gift given to those who have already accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and are part of God's family.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a COMMAND (Acts 1:4,5). The Lord commanded all of His followers to first receive the power of the Holy Spirit before they began their work for Him.

The first record of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs in Acts. The disciples had obeyed Jesus' instructions and were waiting in the upper room with great expectancy. The group remembered Jesus' promise (from Luke 24:49) "*Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*" The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to give us power to serve God.

#### **CHALK BOARD MEMORY VERSE:**

Write the words of the memory verse on the chalk board. Have the children say the words and erase them as you go through the verse. Repeat the verse several times until the children can say it from memory.

Ask the group to give their definition of PROMISE, GIFT and COMMAND.

Look up the following Scriptures and explain the meaning.

- Luke 11:13 It is God's desire that we be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 1:8 The Holy Spirit produces a life style of witness to others.
- 1 John 4:16 The Holy Spirit helps us understand God's love for us.
- Acts 10:46 The Holy Spirit helps us praise God.

**CONCLUSION:** Allow the children to ask questions about this lesson. Explain that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to everyone, young and old. If you are not comfortable answering their questions, ask your pastor or another pastor or church elder to speak to the class.

Invite them for a time of prayer to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Divine Healing"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand that Jesus brings healing to people who trust Him and ask Him to heal them. To learn to pray that Jesus will heal us.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up." (James 5:15)

**SUPPLIES:** Stuffed animals for every child (announce the week prior for them to bring these from home, provide extras for those who forget), medical supplies (see opening activity), drawing paper and crayons or markers.

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**OPENING:** Tell the children to bring their favorite stuffed animal. Use the first 15 or 20 minutes of this meeting to let the children pretend to be animal doctors. Provide small blankets for beds for each animal. The Bear Leader should decide the each child what illness or injury they are treating for each animal, (ie, fever, broken arm, ear infection, sore foot, etc). Provide gauze, bandages, and toy doctor/nurses equipment and allow the children to "treat" their animals and help them get well.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** After a few minutes of caring for their sick animals, tell the children that all the animals are now well and may join the children for a Bible story. Tell the children that Jesus shows us how to bring real healing to our lives and to the lives of other people.

Open your Bible while you tell them the brief story of Jesus healing the mother-in-law of Peter found in Matthew 8:14,15. Jesus noticed the lady was sick. He felt bad that she was not well, touched her hand and immediately the fever left her body and she was well.

Many of us have fevers when we get sick. In Bible times, a fever meant you didn't feel well, but people usually didn't die from a fever. Jesus cared about the disciples and their families so much that He wanted to help them. Just like the disciples, Jesus cares about you and wants to heal you.

The Bible tells us in James 5:14 and 15 how to bring God's healing into our lives today. These verses tell us...

- to pray in the Name of Jesus when we ask Him for healing.

- to pray with our church leaders when we ask Jesus for healing.
- to touch people with a drop of oil when we ask Jesus for healing.
- to expect that God will heal when we ask Jesus for healing.



**ACTIVITY:** Show the children a picture of Jesus healing a woman. You can find such a picture in a children’s story Bible. If you prefer, choose two children to dress up in Bible costume and create a living picture of what it would have looked like when Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law. Provide crayons or markers and drawing paper. Ask the children to draw their idea of what it looked like as Jesus healed Peter’s mother-in-law. Encourage them to discuss with you the elements of their pictures as they are drawing and to explain their pictures to their parents as they are picked up from class.

**SNACK:** Think of a “healthy” snack like fresh fruit or vegetables that the kids will enjoy. As they eat their snack, talk about the types of food we eat that keeps our bodies well.



**CONCLUSION:** Invite one of your church elders or the pastor to join the bears for this activity. Ask them to bring a bottle of anointing oil and pray for each of the children. If there is a need for healing within the group, ask the leader to pray for those needs. Be sure to stress that Jesus is the One who brings the healing. The pastor, elder or bear leader does not cause the healing. The oil or the touch of another person does not cause the healing. These are merely ways that we agree with God in Jesus’ Name for the healing.

**OPTIONAL OPENING ACTIVITY:** Gather medical supplies such as an ice pack, thermometer, bandages, tongue depressor, splints, and stethoscope. As you begin this lesson, you may want to hold these medical items up one at a time and discuss with the kids how these items help another person get well.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Divine Healing"

Recommended for: Elementary, Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand that God heals people who trust Him and will ask Him to heal them. To understand God's instructions for healing.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."* James 5:14

**SUPPLIES:** A hand carried stretcher and two football shapes cut out of brown construction paper.

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**OPENING:** Call this activity a "Reverse Stretcher Drop." You will need a hand carried stretcher which you might borrow or make. Remind the children of the Bible story where Jesus healed a man who had never been able to walk. He couldn't get inside the building where Jesus was preaching, so his friends cut a hole in the roof and lowered the man, on his stretcher, down in front of Jesus. Of course, Jesus instantly healed the man and he walked out the front door! (Don't spend a long time on this story. It is only a review and intended to set up the activity.)

Use two strong adult or high school age helpers to hold the stretcher a few inches off the ground and allow a volunteer to lie down on the stretcher. Then, with a "whoosh" have the helpers lift the stretcher up over their heads. Repeat the process as long as you have volunteers or as long as your helper's arms hold out. Then, begin to get a little more serious.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Let's think back to this activity. It was very tiring to lift that stretcher over our heads. Yet the friends of this men believed that Jesus could help him and were willing to go to extreme measures to get their friend to Jesus so that he could be healed. They must have known the promises in God's word.

From the very first book to the last book, God's promises of divine healing may found in the Bible. In the Old Testament, God made a covenant with His people to heal them. ". . . *For I am the Lord who heals*

*you*” (Exodus 15:26b). David thanked God for healing in Psalm 103:1-3: *“Bless the Lord, O my soul. . .who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.”* In the New Testament, we find many testimonies of people being healed by Jesus. *“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people”* (Matthew 9:35). Jesus Himself said, *“And these signs will follow those who believe. . .they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover”* (Mark 16:17,18). His disciples believed His words, and the book of Acts tells us about the many times they prayed for sick people and they were healed.

**GOD’S INSTRUCTION FOR HEALING TODAY:** Jesus’ desire to heal did not stop with the disciples. He wants to heal people today. Sometimes we don’t feel like we deserve healing. Or we don’t know how to pray for healing.

When we pray for someone, we are to ask for healing in Jesus’ name. He told us, *“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it”* (John 14:13).

When we are sick, we need to call someone to pray for us. This is a step of faith for the person who is sick. Have someone read James 5:14 and 15 aloud together.

“Anointing with oil” does not refer to a medicine, but is symbolic of the joyous presence of the Holy Spirit, Who has the power to bring healing. To anoint someone with oil is an act of faith. We are letting God know that we welcome His presence.

God’s healing power through the prayer of Christians who believe God is referred to as “the prayer of faith.” Sometimes a person needs help in the area of faith for divine healing. A person can call on the the elders to have faith to believe for the healing.

The word, “save,” in this instance refers to physical restoration because of divine healing rather than spiritual salvation.



**ACTIVITY:** Play a game of Bible football. Provide Bibles for the kids to share. Make a list of questions based on this lesson about divine healing. Set up a mock football field on a chalkboard or table. Make two footballs out of brown construction paper. Start each team on the 20 yard line. Take turns asking a question of each team. If they answer the question correctly, move them 10 yards to the opposite goal. If they can’t answer the question, give the next team a chance. The first team to score a

touchdown wins. You could make it more interesting by allowing the teams to choose to kick a field goal (a really difficult question or to recite a Bible verse about God's healing), at a certain place on the field. Offer small prizes for the winning team.

Here is a sample list of questions you could ask:

- What does Exodus 15:16 say?
- In whose name do we pray for healing?
- Why do we anoint with oil when we pray for the sick?
- Who can be the first to find John 14:13 and read it?
- What does Psalm 103-1-3 say that the Lord will do for us?
- Can God use doctors to heal?
- How would you pray for a doctor that was getting ready to perform surgery.



**CONCLUSION:** We can receive divine healing because of what Jesus did on the cross. A prophet by the name of Isaiah had a vision of the suffering Jesus on the cross 750 years before it actually happened. He wrote what he saw: “. . .and by *His stripes (wounds) are we healed*” (Isaiah 53:5,6). Peter confirmed this in the New Testament when he wrote, *Jesus “himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree. . .by whose stripes you were healed”* (I Peter 2:24). It says you WERE healed — that means Jesus already did this for us. Conclude with a time of prayer for anyone in your group who needs physical healing or who wants to agree for a family member in need.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"The Meaning of Communion"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize that the grape juice and bread used in Holy Communion remind us that Jesus died for our sins.  
To remember that Jesus is alive today and loves us very much.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... *This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*" Luke 22:19b

**SUPPLIES:** The elements of communion (see Opening section below), a shopping bag, a table, and copies of the "Jesus Loves Me" activity page.

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**OPENING:** Before the children arrive, prepare a shopping bag with these items inside: a bottle of grape juice, box of crackers (or bread, depending on what your church uses), plastic communion cups, communion trays and any other supplies you may need to prepare communion.

When you are ready to begin the lesson, place the bag where all the children can see the items as you take them from the bag. Set the items on a table and talk with the children about your trip to the grocery store where you purchased the juice and the bread. Point out that these are very common food items that most everyone can find and eat. Show them the communion trays and cups and discuss how these items are used in your adult worship services. As you discuss the meaning of communion, keep the elements in view and refer to them whenever appropriate.

Another option: Place the children around a table just like Jesus and the Disciples. Place a loaf of bread and a pitcher of juice in the center. Then go into the lesson.



**EDUCATE:** The night before Jesus died on the cross, He shared a meal with His disciples. After the meal was over, Jesus took a piece of bread and some wine and began to talk with the disciples. He told them that He would die the next day. He said this was the only way to make certain that all of our sin would be paid for. He assured them that He would rise again

from the dead and return some day to take them to heaven. Jesus asked them to remember His death until He returned for them.

When we take Holy Communion we obey the instructions of Jesus. He wants us to remember that He died to save us from our sins. He wants us to remember his great love for us. And, He wants us to remember His promise to come again so we can live forever with Him. He chose simple things -- bread and grape juice -- to help us remember how much He loved each one of us. He cared about us so much He was willing to give His life so we could live with Him for eternity.

Even though the bread and juice is a regular part of our lives, when we take it as part of Holy Communion, we need to treat these “elements” differently. For example, we don’t use them as a snack and grab a handful of crackers. We treat the bread and juice in a special way because Jesus told us to think of these elements and remember that He died on the cross to save us from our sins and He rose again.

Help the children understand that the most important part of Holy Communion is the being thankful toward Jesus. Jesus wants us to remember Him and what He did for us by dying on the cross. He wants us to be his friend.



**ACTIVITY:** Check with your church leadership before serving Holy Communion to preschool age children. If you choose to serve Holy Communion with your children, remind them how much our salvation cost Jesus. Help them make a heart felt commitment to living for Jesus throughout their entire life.

**ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:** If you decide not to serve Holy Communion to the children, use this activity to help them remember Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross and how much He loves them. Photocopy the “Jesus Loves Me” activity page and distribute one to each child. Explain that they should color all the shapes with a dot the same color. When all the spaces with a dot are colored the child will see something which reminds them of Jesus’ love for them.

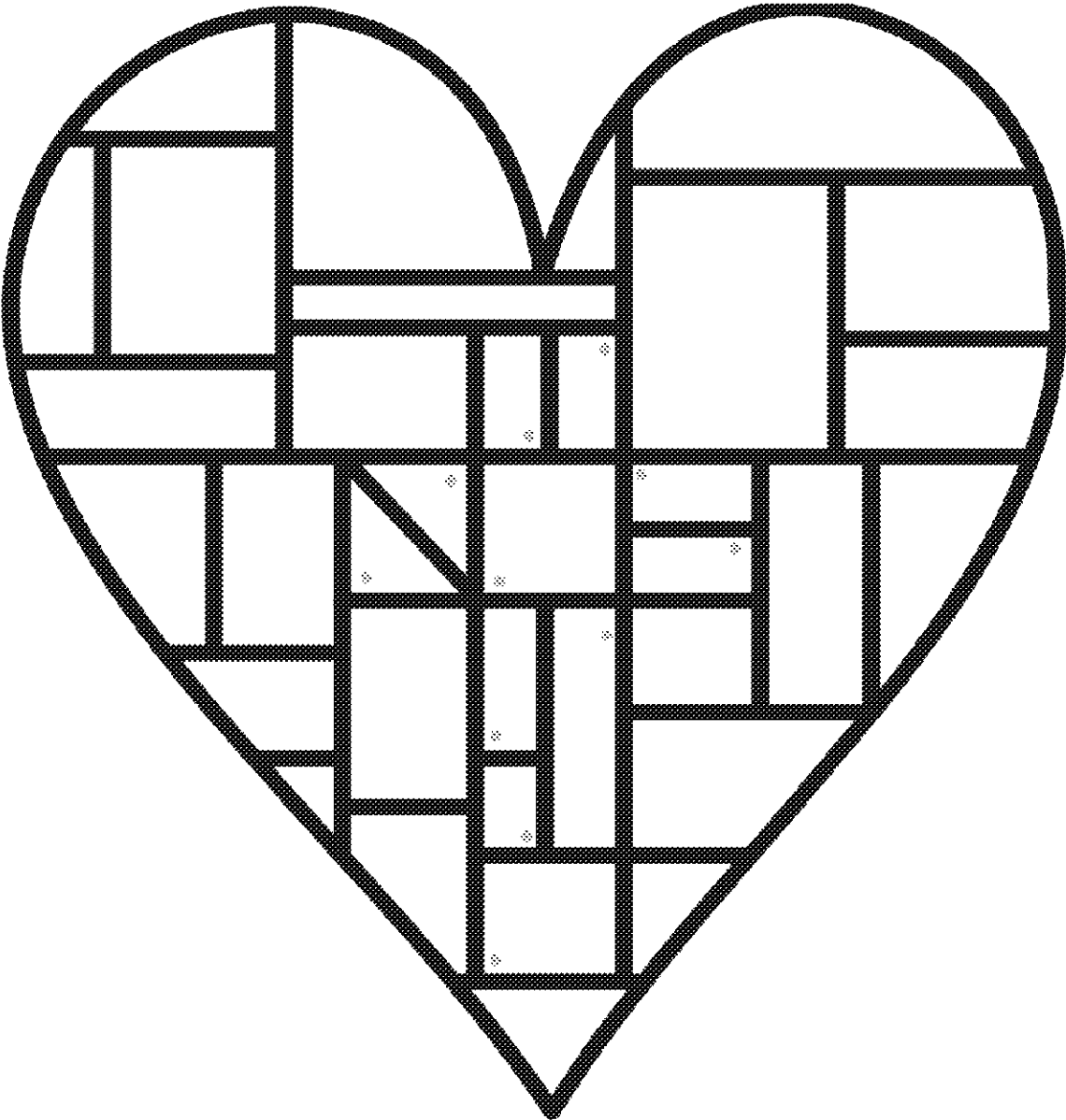
**SNACK:** Heart shaped cookies will help the children remember the love of Jesus that He shows on a daily basis.



**CONCLUSION:** Spend the last few minutes of your class letting the kids share about a story they remember about Jesus. Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus for taking away our sin and giving us eternal life with Him.



# Remember That Jesus Loves You



## He Showed His Love At Calvary

“ ... This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”  
Luke 22:19

Color all of the shapes with a dot to discover something  
which will remind you of Jesus' great love for us.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"The Meaning of Communion"

Recommended for: Elementary and Juniors

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize that the grape juice and bread used in Holy Communion are used as symbols of the body and blood of Jesus. To remember that Jesus died for our sins but He is alive today.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... *This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.*" Luke 22:19b

**SUPPLIES:** A photo album, home movie or video clips from family vacations or holidays (see Opening section below); a shopping bag filled with the elements of communion - bread and grape juice, plastic communion cups, serving trays; a table, and water soluble markers.

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**OPENING:** Begin by asking the kids to share special memories they have about people in their lives. For example, they might remember their grandparents because of a special Christmas gift they gave. Or, the children might remember a school teacher who showed them love or kindness. Share with the children memories from your family. This might be illustrated with a photo album, a family video or home movie. This portion of the lesson should be brief (5-10 minutes) but should establish the importance of remembering special people and events in our lives.



**EDUCATE:** The night before Jesus died on the cross, He shared a meal with His disciples. After the meal was over, Jesus took a piece of bread and some wine and began to talk with the disciples. He told them that He would die the next day. He said this was the only way to make certain that all of our sin would be paid for. He assured them that He would rise again from the dead and return some day to take them to heaven. Jesus asked them to *remember* His death until He returned for them.

Ask the children how many have ever taken Holy Communion before. Let them explain to you their understanding of the elements. After a brief discussion, take the communion elements out of a shopping bag. Point out to the children that Jesus chose every day elements to make it simple to remember His death.

Begin to assemble the communion trays while the children watch. Ask for volunteers to help you put the bread (or crackers) on the tray. If you can think of a non-messy way to use children to help you prepare the juice, do it! The more involvement, the better. Talk with the children about the trays and where they are usually stored in the church. By giving the children this perspective, you are removing the “mystery” that often surrounds communion in the mind of the child.

Even though the bread and juice is a regular part of our lives, when we take them as part of Holy Communion, we need to treat these “elements” differently. For example, we don’t use them as a snack and grab a handful of crackers. We treat the bread and juice in a special way because Jesus told us to think of these elements as if they were His body and blood.

Finally, the most important part of Holy Communion is the relationship between us and Jesus. Is there sin in our heart? Have we been hateful or unkind to others? It is our responsibility to *remember* the death of Jesus until He returns for us. It is our responsibility to treat Holy Communion as a special occasion. *And*, it is our responsibility to be certain that we tell Jesus about any sin or disobedience in our life before we eat the bread or drink from this cup. By confessing our sins to Jesus, we know that our hearts are right in His eyes and we share a pure relationship with Jesus.



**ACTIVITY:** If you choose to serve Holy Communion with your children, be sure to have them first examine their own hearts. Remind them how much our salvation cost Jesus. Encourage them to confess any sin in their life and ask for forgiveness. Pray together before receiving each element, thanking Jesus for:

His Body which was sacrificed for us;

His Blood which was given for the forgiveness of our sins.

**SNACK:** Heart shaped cookies will help the children remember the love of Jesus that He showed when He died on Calvary.



**CONCLUSION:** Hand out water soluble markers (make certain they are not permanent!) And have everyone draw a mark on his or her hand that represents a sin. Read a few passages about sins being washed away, such as Psalm 51:2. Then have the kids wash the ink off. If you do not have a sink in the classroom, use a plastic wash tub and paper towels. Remind the children that Jesus died on the cross to wash away every sin from our lives. Every time they take Holy Communion, they remember His sacrifice and His promise to return again for us.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
The Second Coming:  
"Get Ready for Jesus' Return"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize that Jesus promised to return for Christians so that we can live with Him in heaven forever.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... I will come again and receive you to Myself..." John 14:3

**SUPPLIES:** Illustrations of Jesus' ascension from Bible story books, cotton balls, a large sheet of blue construction paper for every child, glue or glue sticks, photocopies of the "Returning Jesus" figure (master provided) and clear tape.

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**OPENING:** Before class, prepare a large (12x18) piece of blue construction paper by writing these words across the top: "Come Quickly, Lord Jesus! Revelation 22:20." As the children arrive, direct them to tables pre-set with craft supplies (cotton balls, the prepared blue construction paper, glue or glue sticks). Instruct them to make a "cloud picture." Provide the necessary assistance to help the children pull apart the cotton balls so they are thin and stringy. Then, glue the stretched out cotton loosely to the blue paper. Write the child's name on the back of each picture. Allow the pictures to dry as you continue with the lesson. This project will be used again and completed at the end of this lesson.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** This would be a wonderful lesson to teach outside, weather and daylight permitting, of course. If outside is not possible, maybe the children could sit near a large window where they can see the sky. If you can teach outside, take the children to a comfortable, safe spot with an unobstructed view of the sky and instruct them to lie on their backs and talk about what they see. Give them a few minutes to study the sky, the clouds, birds, the sun and whatever else they notice. Then, have them sit up so they can give you their full attention and continue with the lesson.

When Jesus' ministry on earth was complete, He knew He had to return to heaven so the Holy Spirit could come. Jesus walked with His followers to a hillside where He gave instructions about how they should live after He was gone. When Jesus was finished talking, He began to rise right into the sky! This was a shock for the disciples because they had never seen anyone float off into the sky before. Use an illustration of Jesus' ascension to give the children an idea of what might have happened as Jesus left the earth.

Jesus' followers just stood there staring into the sky. The Bible records what happened next. "As they were straining their eyes to see Him, two angels suddenly stood there among them. They said, 'Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw Him go, He will return!'" (Acts 1:10,11 The New Living Translation).

When people talk about "the second coming of Jesus," this is what they mean. Jesus promised to return to earth to take all the Christians to live with Him in a special place called Heaven. Jesus told His disciples, "When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me ..." (John 14:3, TNLT).

The important thing for us to remember is to be ready to go when Jesus comes for us. On another occasion Jesus told His disciples, "... be prepared, because you do not know the day or hour of my return" (Matthew 25:13, TNLT). To be ready, we must know for certain that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. This means we must accept His forgiveness for sin in our life and obey what He tells us to do every day. If Jesus Christ is our Lord and we live for Him, we will spend eternity with Him in His special home. Jesus promised to return for us, and He will keep His promise.



**ACTIVITY / SNACK:** Photocopy the "Returning Jesus" figure (pattern provided). Ask the children to color the figure of Jesus and cut around the line. If cutting is difficult for them, have these figures cut out ahead of time. When they are finished, attach the figure to the child's "cloud picture" from earlier in the lesson. Attach the figure with a piece of clear tape near the top of the cloud picture so it appears that Jesus is returning from heaven. Remind them how the disciples watched as Jesus was carried away. Remind them of the angel's words that Jesus would return for us in the same way.

When they are complete, use these pictures to decorate the room for a celebration to welcome Jesus as He returns. This party is our way of telling Jesus that we want to be ready when He returns for us. Provide a

few goodies and punch along with balloons and other party decorations. During the party, talk about what a happy time it will be when Jesus returns for us. It will not be a time to be afraid, but a time for rejoicing and celebration. Encourage the children to take home their “cloud pictures” and talk with their parents about the second coming of Jesus.

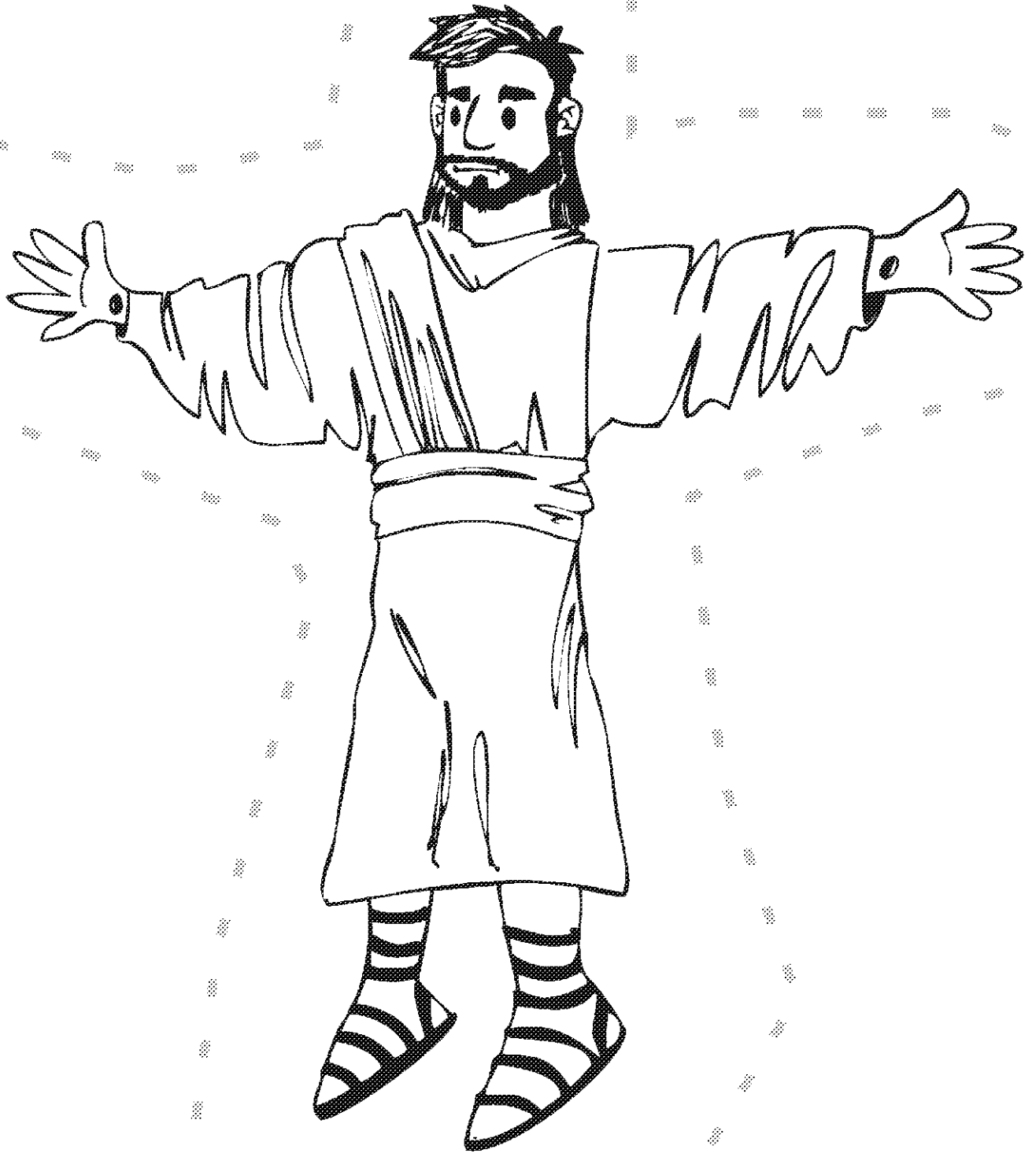


**CONCLUSION:** If time permits after the party, gather the children to a quiet area on the floor. Tell them to blink their eyes several times. Tell them that when everything is ready and Jesus returns for us, it will all happen very quickly. The Bible says, “it will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye...” (1 Corinthians 15:52). This is why we must be ready to greet Jesus when He comes. When He comes, He expects us to be ready to greet Him and live with Him forever. Have the children blink their eyes some more. Then, pray with them (individually, if enough adults can help you) to be sure that their hearts are right with God and they are ready to meet Jesus when He returns.

**JUST A THOUGHT:** Preschool children are dependent on their parents/families for physical, emotional, and spiritual direction. The thought of going to heaven might generate feelings of fear for preschool children. They may not want to leave their families, even for Jesus. Preschool children may be concerned that their parents are not yet ready to go to heaven.

Whatever the concern, the Bear Leaders should be careful about how they present the lesson on Jesus’ return. Keep in mind the possible concerns of this age and be sensitive to those who may be showing signs of fear or apprehension. Keep your words reassuring and positive. Instill hope about salvation for every member of the child’s family and pray with them to that end.

# Jesus Ascending Pattern



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## “The Second Coming”

Recommended for: Elementary/Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To help each child understand that Jesus Christ is the soon coming king.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“In my Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” John 14: 2*

**SUPPLIES:** Paper and markers or pencils, and a stop watch.

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**OPENING:** As the children arrive, make available pieces of paper and markers or pencils. Have the children write down what comes to mind when someone mentions “Jesus’ second coming.” The answers may vary from negative to positive. They may write “the end of the world,” “chaos,” “heaven,” etc. No matter what the children write, do not scrutinize their answers. As you educate the children, any misconceptions will be corrected about what will happen when the Lord returns.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Jesus has promised us all that He will come back for us. His promise to us is not like any promise we have ever heard. Jesus always keeps His promises. He says He is coming back and He is! He says He is preparing a place for us and He is! Jesus is not like humans who disappoint us and let us down. With Jesus there is no sadness or disappointment, because He will never break His promise to you.

Jesus does not tell us when He is coming back. He said that His return will be like a thief in the night; no one will be expecting it. The trumpets will sound and we will rise up to meet him. In a twinkle of an eye Christians will be in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:22). Imagine how fast that will be.



**ACTIVITY:** What’s worth the wait? Start the snack preparation before the discussion. Either put the popcorn in the popper or mix up the pudding. These snacks require waiting for completion. Have the class get into groups and discuss the following while they wait for their snack.



\*If you choose air popped popcorn for your snack, get everything ready and set up (with the children watching), but don't turn on the machine until the discussion is complete.

How long would you wait for?

- 10 million dollars
- A sports car
- Summer vacation
- Birthday party
- Bringing a friend to Christ.
- Being made righteous or right.
- Eternal life.
- Being at peace forever.

**SNACK:** Air popped popcorn or instant pudding.

If you choose to do instant pudding be sure to mix it up (with the help of the children) and cover it up before you start the lesson; this way it will be ready at snack time.



**CONCLUSION:** Have displayed several simple projects such as preschool puzzles, an untied shoe, etc. Ask the children how fast they think that they can complete the tasks. Use the stop watch and allow them an unrealistic time frame to try each project. For example give them 2 seconds to tie the untied shoe and 3 seconds to finish the puzzle. Explain that when Jesus returns it will be faster than even 1 second. If time allows let each child try to complete the project in the few seconds given; this will give them a reference in their imagination as to how fast the Lord will return for them.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**“What We Believe”**

Foursquare Doctrine

Recommended for: **Preschool**

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand the relationship between the name “Foursquare” and the four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ in the church today.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever.”*  
Hebrews 13:8

**SUPPLIES:** Photocopies of the “Foursquare Symbols Coloring Book,” Sponges and water soluble tempera paint, clean-up supplies (newspaper, water, clean sponges, paper towels), 2 photocopies of the “Foursquare Symbols” for the memory game.  
Note: The teacher should have one coloring book pre-made for an illustration and the symbols for the memory game should be colored as well.

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**NOTE:** This lesson deals with symbolism. Most preschool age children are not ready to comprehend the full significance of symbols and what they represent. The purpose of this lesson, however, is to introduce the children to the concept of the four special ways that Jesus ministers to us and that there is a reason behind the term.



**OPENING:** As the children arrive, have a coloring table set-up and ready for them. Provide crayons or water-soluble markers and instruct the children to color the four symbols of Jesus ministry. As an option, you may instruct the children to use the following colors: Red for the cross, Yellow for the dove, Blue for the cup, and Purple for the crown. These are the colors found in the Foursquare flag and coincide with the traditional Foursquare symbols.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Show the children something from your church with the name Foursquare printed on it. This might be the church sign in front of your building, or a tithe envelope, a bulletin, a brochure or letterhead. The more obvious, the better. Explain to them that the name Foursquare is taken from the Bible and describes the four most important things that Jesus does.

Have one coloring book already made and use it while you talk to the children about the symbols. Allow the children to help you by turning the pages of the book for you. You can also use this time to quiz the children on the names of the colors and ask them to name what is on the picture (a crown, a cross,...)

- SAVIOR, cross (red)
- BAPTIZER, dove (yellow)
- HEALER, cup (blue)
- KING, crown (purple)

**FOR TEACHER’S REFERENCE:** Here is a brief summary of the meaning and Scriptural significance of each symbol. The Bible verses are from the Open Bible (The New Living Translation, published by Thomas Nelson).

Cross	Jesus is our Savior	“Jesus is indeed the Savior of the world.” John 4:42b
Dove	Jesus is Baptizer with the Holy Spirit	“Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” Mark 1:8b
Cup	Jesus is our Healer	“The name of Jesus has healed this man” Acts 3:16a
Crown	Jesus is our Coming King	“They will see the Son of Man (Jesus) arrive on the clouds with power and great glory.” Mark 13:26



**ACTIVITY:**  
**SPONGE PAINT “THE FOURSQUARE SYMBOLS” COLORING BOOK:** Be sure to have copied off enough of the coloring books and have several sponges and containers of paint available. You may want to have the tables covered with newspaper before the children arrive. Have clean-up materials handy. While the pages are drying you can move on the memory game.

**MEMORY:** Play a game of memory with the four symbols which represent the ministry of Jesus (these should be pre-colored or painted). Use the Foursquare Symbols sheet (master provided) to photocopy on to card stock.(If card stock is not available, you may find it necessary to attach dark construction paper to the back of the symbols so that the children cannot see through the paper.) Cut the symbols in individual squares and lay the symbols face down. Allow the children to take turns

choosing until they make a match. After several matches, mix up the symbols and play again. As the children make a successful match, ask them to explain the meaning of the symbol they have matched.

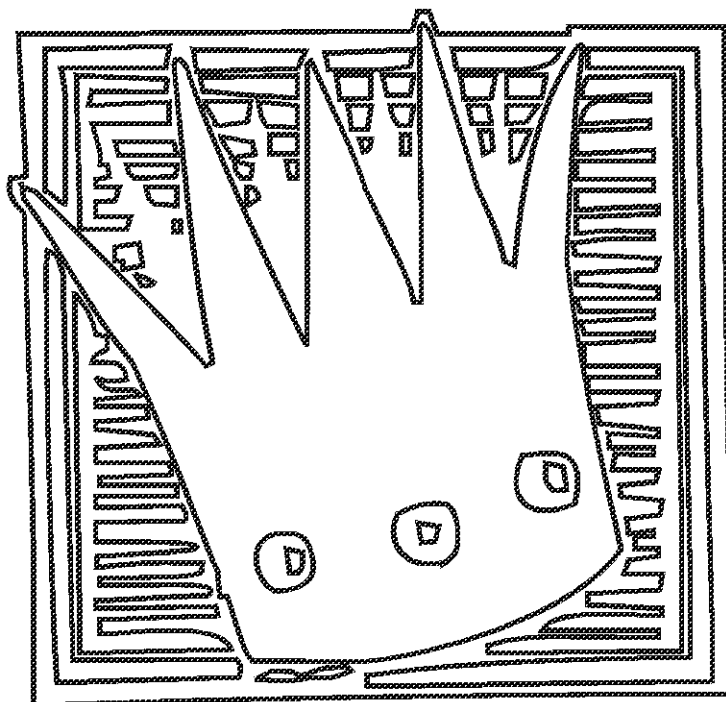
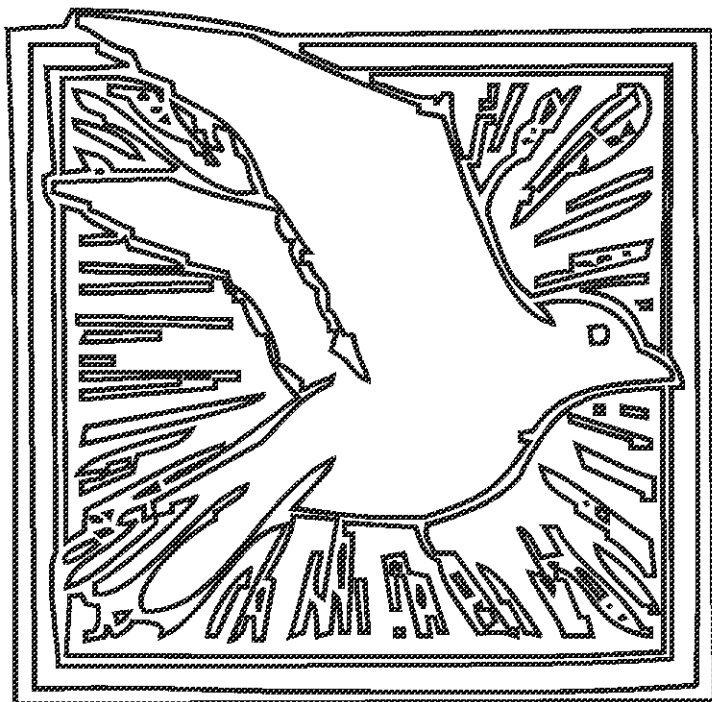
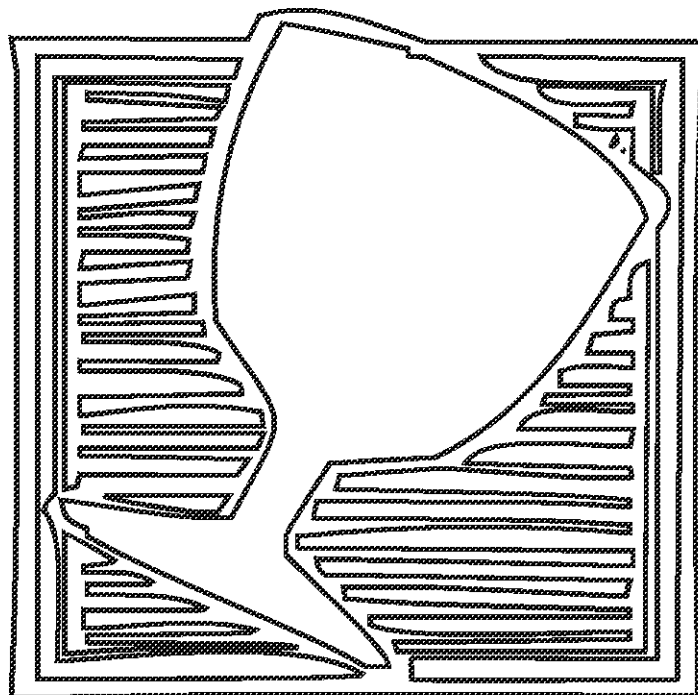
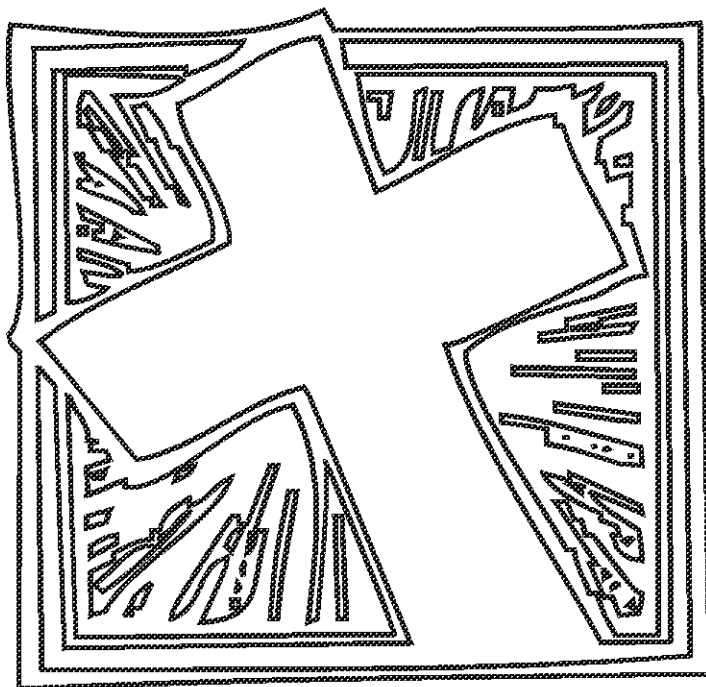
\*If you have a lot of children you may want to prepare more than one memory game.

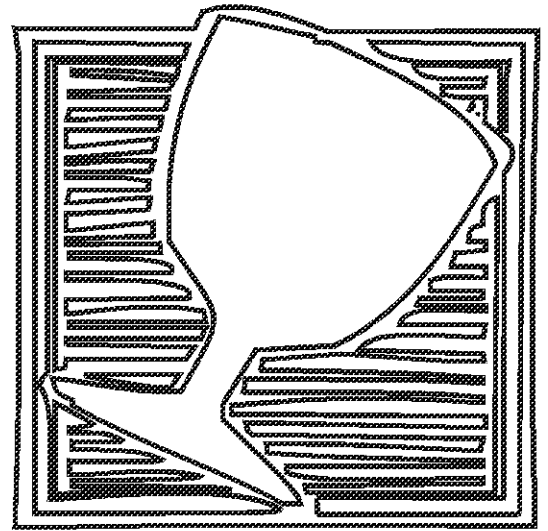
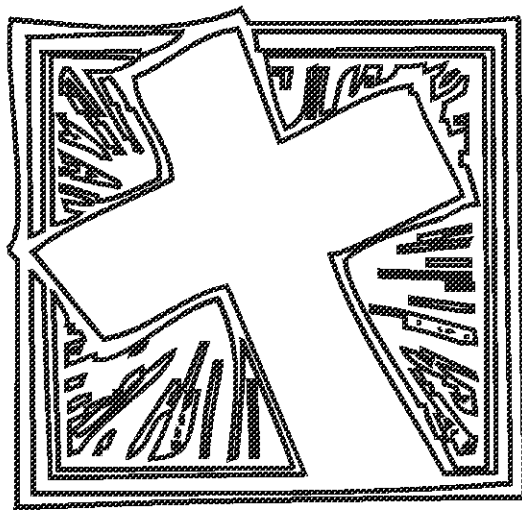
**SNACK:** Have snacks in square shapes or in groups of four.



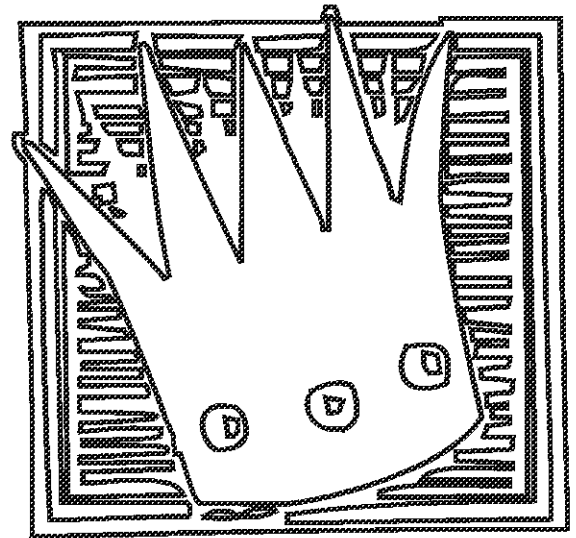
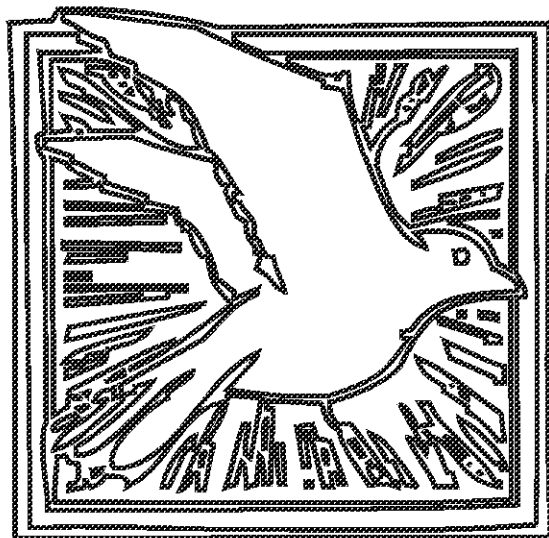
**CONCLUSION:** Encourage the children to take home their coloring books. Tell them to show the sheet to their parents and explain the meaning of each of the four symbols. Emphasize the ministry of Jesus and the fact that these symbols represent the most important things that Jesus does in our lives. Pray with the children that they will give their hearts to Jesus as Savior, expect the fulness of His Spirit as Baptizer, trust Him for healing when they are sick, and anticipate His soon return as their King of kings.

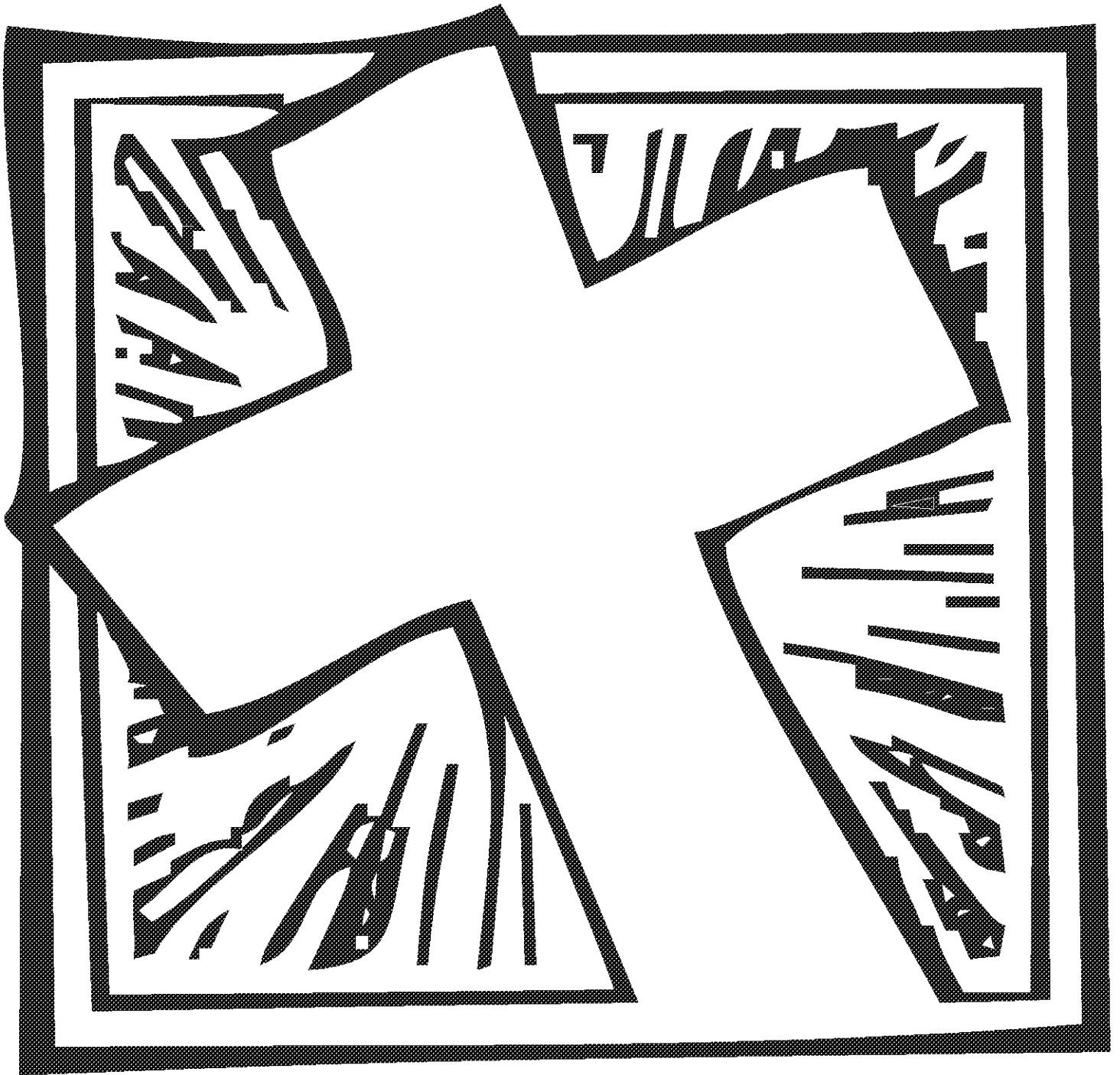
# Foursquare Symbols Memory Game





# The Foursquare Symbols Coloring Book





Savior

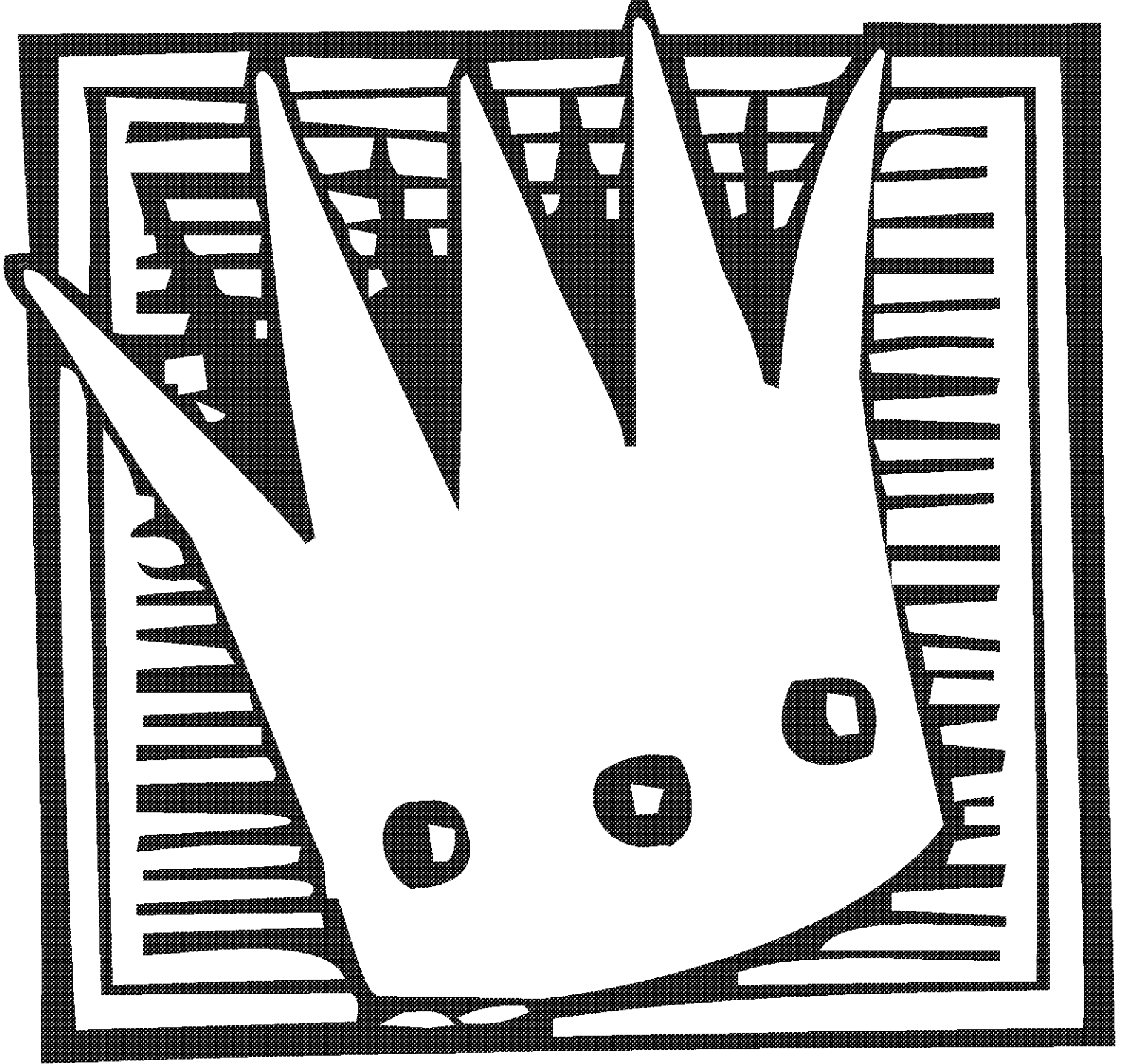


Healer





# Baptizer



# Coming King

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**“What We Believe”**

Foursquare Doctrine

Recommended for: Elementary and Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand the relationship between the name “Foursquare” and the four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ in the church today.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today and forever.”*  
Hebrews 13:8

**SUPPLIES:** A picture or images of the four symbols of Christ’s ministry—cross, dove, cup, crown, photocopies of the attached coloring or drawing pages.

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**OPENING:** Play the following game. Have one wall marked with a sign that says “believe.” On another wall place a sign that says “don’t believe.” Gather the kids in the center of the room and ask the following questions. They will move to the wall that represents their belief.

You will get an “A” on the next test you take.

You won’t have any cavities the next time you go to the dentist.

There is a God.

Jesus can heal my body and mind.

Jesus can give me the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus is the only way that I can be with God forever.

Jesus will come back to earth to take all the Christians to heaven.

Transition into the teaching time by discussing the following points:

- If someone were to ask you what the Foursquare Church teaches, could you tell them?
- How do you know that what you believe agrees with the Bible?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** The term Foursquare comes from the Bible. Show a square. It has four equal sides and four equal angles. In the dictionary, the word “foursquare” means “marked by firm conviction. The word “gospel” means the good news of Jesus Christ. The word Foursquare refers to Jesus’ fourfold ministry: Jesus is our Savior, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, the Healer and Soon Coming King.

The Foursquare Church uses symbols or images to represent the ministry of Christ. The symbol of the *cross* represents Jesus, the Savior. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, who in turn gave His life for us. If it were not for Jesus dying on the cross, we could not be Christians now. Whenever we see a cross, we should remember that Jesus took our punishment for us. The cross reminds us that Jesus is the Savior.

The symbol of the *dove* represents Jesus, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. We read about the Holy Spirit in Mark 1:9-11. When Jesus was baptized in water, the Holy Spirit came down as a dove and rested upon Jesus. The Holy Spirit, much like a dove, is gentle and pure. John the Baptist said that he baptized people with water, but Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will bring power to our lives. The dove reminds us that Jesus is the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

The *cup* represents Jesus, the Great Healer. When Jesus was in the Garden of Gethsemane before He was crucified, He talked to God and said "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). The cup, in historical times, meant either great joy or great sorrow. Jesus knew that He had the sorrow of taking the sin for the people and the beating for the wrong things they had done. But Jesus loved us and took that "cup" of pain, sickness and punishment so that we could be spiritually and physically healed. The cup should remind us that Jesus is our healer.

The symbol of the *crown* represents Jesus, the Coming King. People of royalty usually wear crowns. Though Jesus left the earth, He is with God. But He made a promise to come back to earth one day. When He does, all the world will know that He is King of Kings. Mark 13:26 says that Jesus will come back triumphantly and in glory—as the King.



**ACTIVITY:** There are two ways this activity could be done.

Option 1: Have the kids break into four groups. Then, have each group look up the following scriptures to see what aspect of Jesus' ministry it refers to.

Option 2: Have a Bible drill to look up the verses. Afterwards, talk about how those scriptural references reinforce the Foursquare Gospel, the four-fold ministry of Jesus Christ.

Savior	Romans 3:23,24; John 4:42; Luke 2:11
Healer	Matthew 4:23; Acts 3:16; Acts 3:6
Baptizer with the Holy Spirit	Mark 1:8; John 1:33,34; John 16:7
Soon Coming King	Mark 13:26; Matthew 24:48; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17

**ALTERNATE ACTIVITY:** Make photocopies of the Foursquare Symbols (master provided). Have the children draw the emblem and write what each emblem stands for.

**SNACK:** Have snacks in the shape of squares or in groups of four.

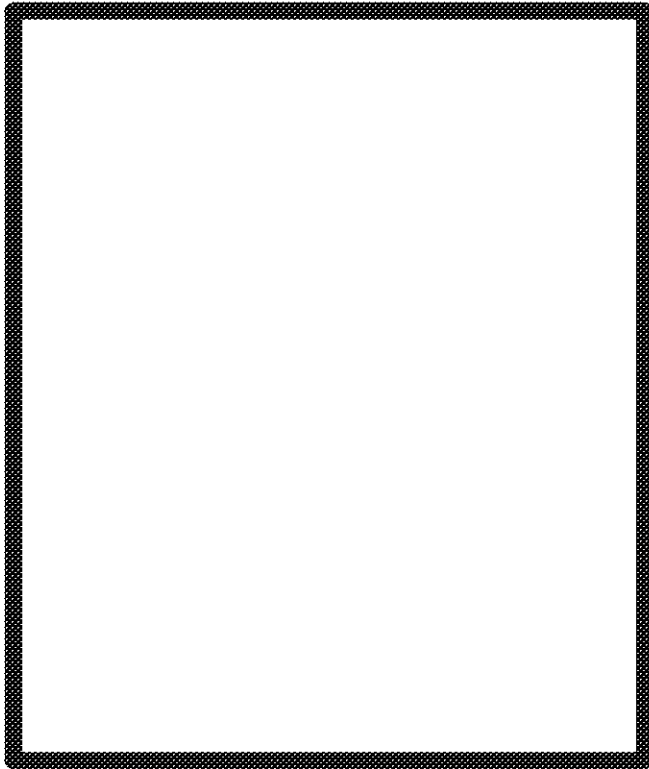


**CONCLUSION:** Jesus wants to meet every need in your life—salvation, truth and power through the Holy Spirit, healing for our bodies and our minds, and the hope we have that Jesus promised to come back for us as our King.

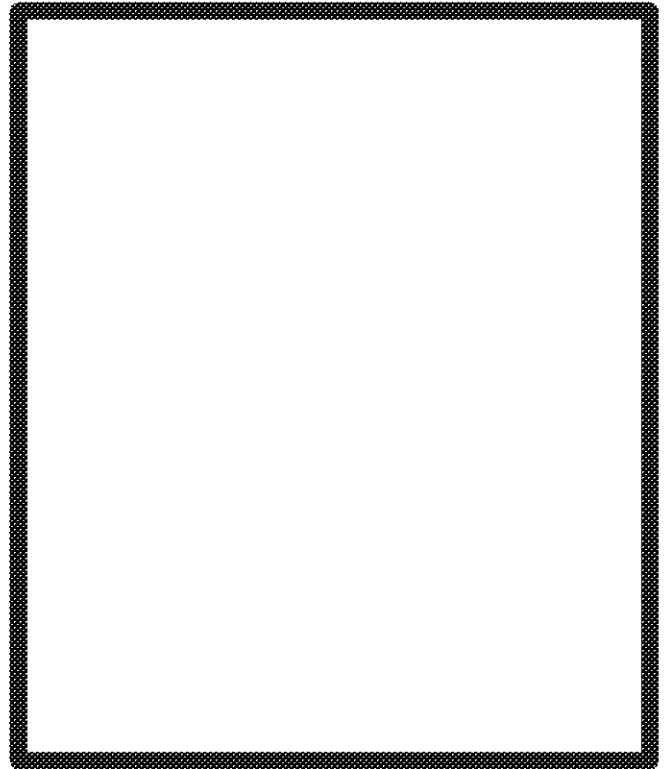
The message of the Foursquare Gospel is and always will be Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We worship Jesus as Savior, Jesus as Healer, Jesus as Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, and Jesus our Soon Coming King.

# Foursquare Symbols

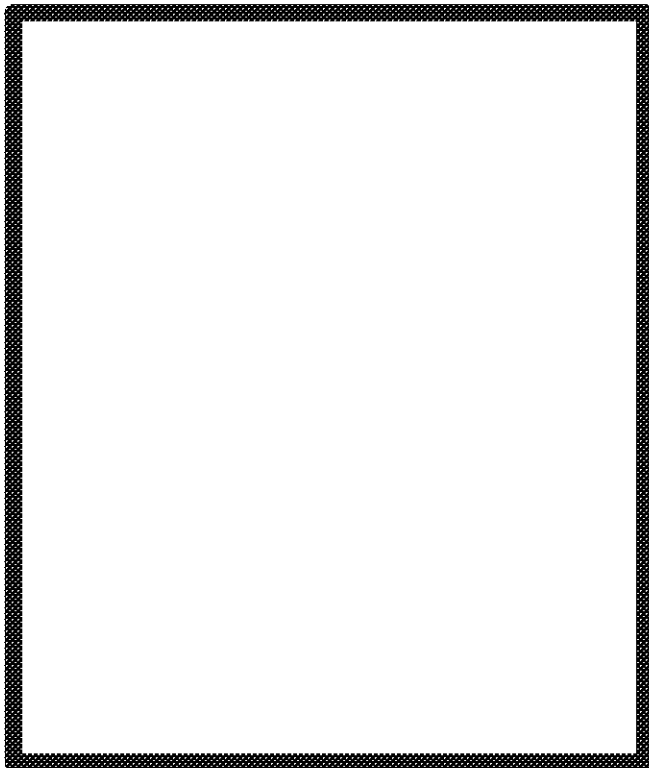
Read the following verses and draw the Foursquare symbol that corresponds to the verse!



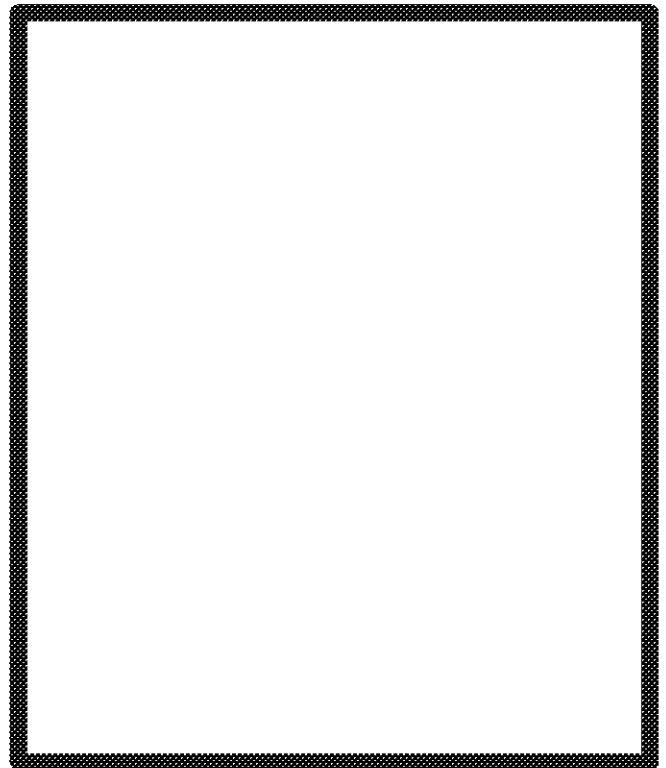
John 4:42b



Acts 3:16a



Mark 1:8b



Mark 13:26

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "Our Bible"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize that the Bible is the unique Word of God and gives us instructions for becoming a Christian and living for God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name."*  
John 20:31 (NKJV) Underlined portion is for younger children

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles (some with reference guides), pencils, paper, photocopies of scroll handouts or bear book marks (patterns provided), craft supplies; crayons, scissors, glue, felt, and decorative items.  
(Pick activities appropriate for each age group)

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### OPENING:

#### Option 1: Scavenger Hunt

Write two or more lists of ten objects each. The objects should be found in the room that you are in, or on the kids in the group. Some items should be vague and some specific. Here are a few suggestions:

something orange	eye-glasses with brown frames
a round object	a dollar bill
a ring	something that keeps time

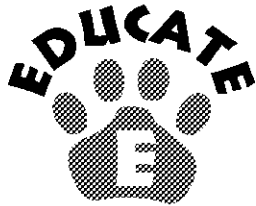
Break the groups into two or more teams. Ask them to start looking for the items on the list, they have to be in the room or on other children. Allow about 5-10 minutes for the "hunt." When they are done, lead the following discussion: Did you notice that some of the items were vague and you weren't sure what to look for?

**Option 2: Scroll coloring page.** Give the children the attached page to color and decorate with stickers or glitter. Explain how important the Bible is to us. In Bible times they didn't have books so they wrote everything on scrolls. Now we have Bibles that teach us what God says.

#### Option 3: Bible Code Breaker

Break the class into two teams and separate them from each other. Give one team Psalm 119:11. Give the other team Psalm 119:105. Have them

design a code for the letters. They can use some kind of design or number for each letter. For example: A=7 and Y=\$. Have each team write out their verse in code without the scripture reference. Give the opposing team the code and ask them to break it. Give a prize to the first team to break the code. Ask them: Was it hard to break the code in order to understand what God's Word was saying?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** (Hold an open Bible while you are talking to the group) When you read your Bible, sometimes you know exactly where to find a verse for example, John 3:16. But sometimes you don't. Would you know where to find verses that talk about prayer? What about verses that tells you about what to do when you are afraid?

One of the main ways God talks to us is through His Word, the Bible. He has the Bible arranged in a special way. First it has two main sections the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament talks about the promise of a Savior. The New Testament tells us that the Savior, Jesus Christ came to help us.

The Bible was written to teach us about God's love. It is called the Holy Bible because it comes from God. He told the men what to write in the Bible. The Bible tells us what is true.

Older Children: Continue to go more in depth. . . God inspired (guided, gave, showed) these men to write what they did. Without God's help and direction, their writing would not be able to help us today. Forty different men wrote the Bible in a period of 2,000 years.

The Bible shows us the way to live. It gives us guidelines on how to live peaceful lives, no matter what our circumstances are. The Bible gives us rules we should obey that will lead us in the right direction. They will lead us to the truth of Jesus Christ, who is God's Son.



**ACTIVITY:**

Younger Children: BOOK MARKS

Make GNBC book marks to use in their Bibles. When they are finished, explain that they can use these book marks in their Bibles. They can also mark special pages that have favorite scriptures or stories.

Older Children: WRITE A STORY

Divide into three groups. Make sure they can not hear the other groups. Tell the kids they are going to write a story about a young man who was separated from his family at birth. The story centers around his effort to be reunited with his family.



Group #1 writes the introduction. Group #2 will write the middle part. Group #3 will write the conclusion. After about 10 minutes bring the groups together to read their sections. Chances are they will not go together. Explain that the Bible was written by forty different writers over 2,000 years, yet it connects perfectly.

**SNACK:** Cookies and milk.

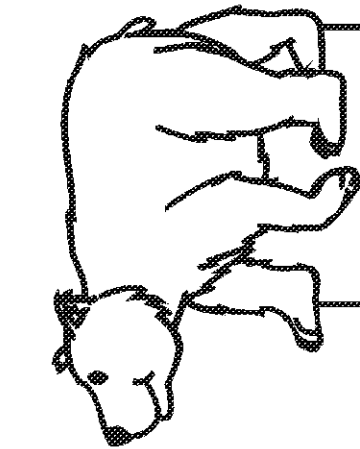


**CONCLUSION:** Have a Bible drill. Divide children into two groups (evenly matched as far as Bible knowledge) Have the children hold their Bibles. Say a scripture reference. Repeat it again. Say "GO!" and have the children find the scripture. When they find it, have them stand and read the scripture. Keep the score of the two teams.

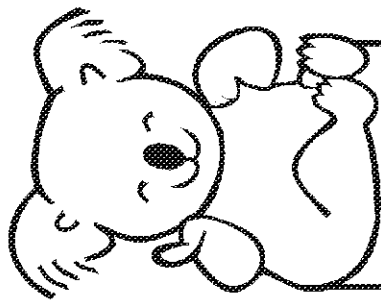
Younger Children: Help them memorize the verse.

# Craft Idea: Good News Bears Bookmarks

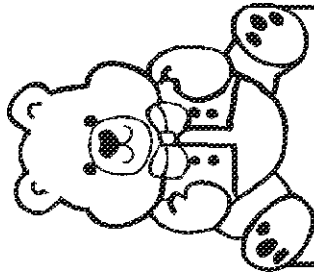
Print these bookmarks on cardboard or cardstock. Have the children color them and cut them out. (If your club is using one of the BEARS that is not pictured here, use the clip art provided of the Bears and make your own bookmarks.)



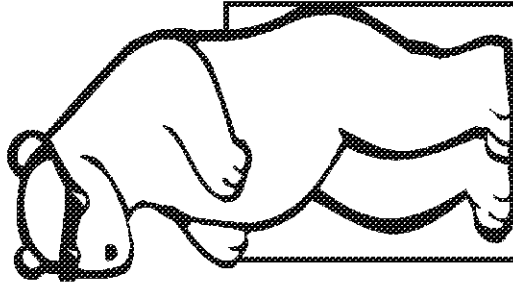
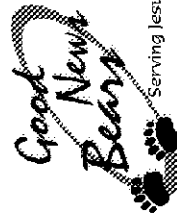
This  
Book  
Belongs  
To \_\_\_\_\_



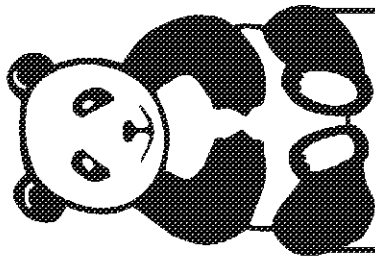
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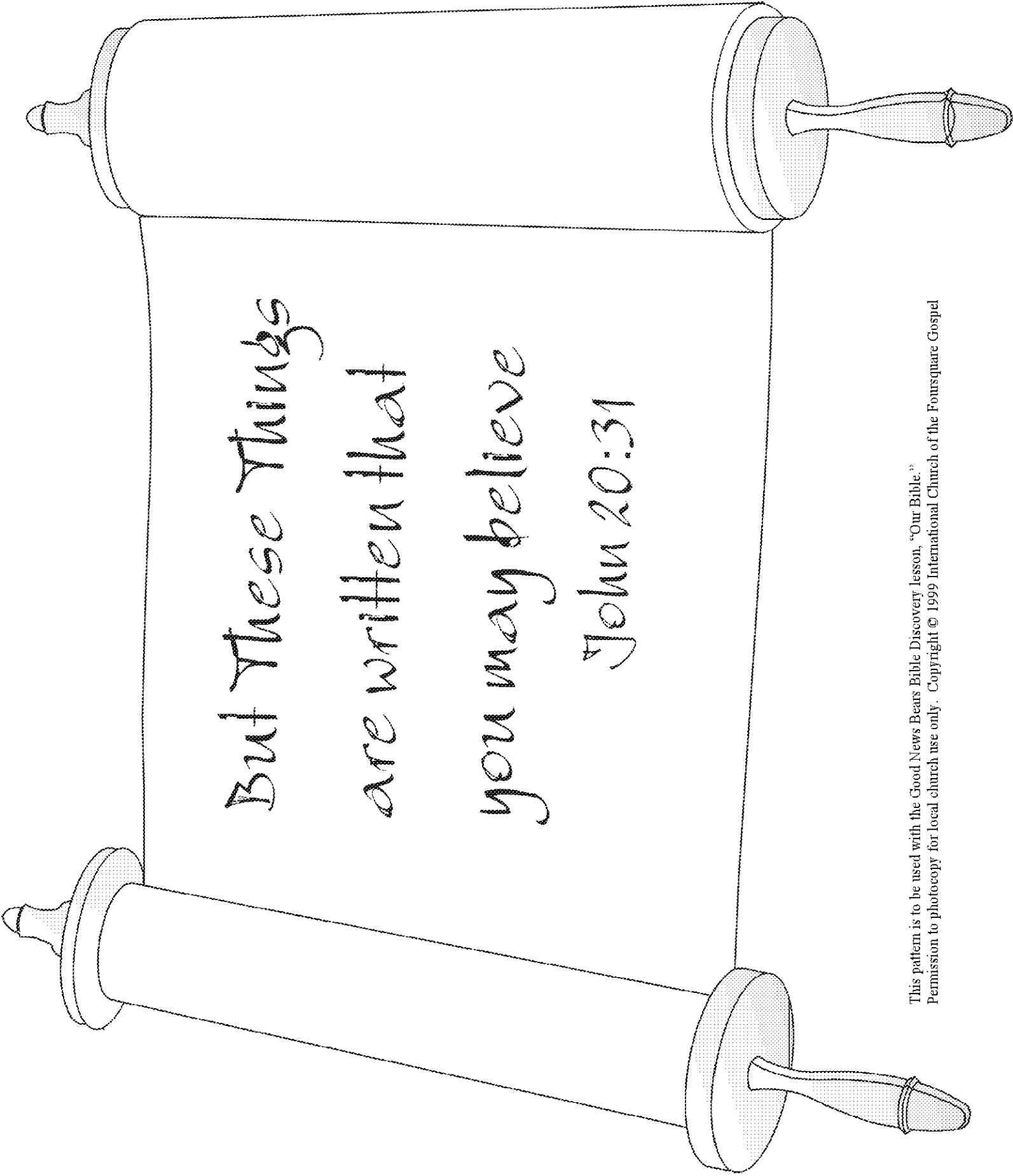


This  
Book  
Belongs  
To \_\_\_\_\_



This  
Book  
Belongs  
To \_\_\_\_\_





*But these things  
are written that  
you may believe*

*John 20:31*

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Giving Cheerfully"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the importance of paying tithes and giving offerings.  
To understand there is great blessing in giving.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

**SUPPLIES:**

- Boxes or jars to use as banks, decorating items for banks such as wrapping paper, glue, glitter, stickers, etc.
- A tithing envelope and dollar bills for lesson visuals.
- Pennies, dimes, ten one dollar bills and a ten dollar bill for the activity.

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**OPENING:** Make banks to hold the money the children will be saving to give back to God. Use boxes or jars. Cut slots out of the top for dropping money in the container. Using wrapping paper, glue, glitter, paint, stickers or other items, decorate the jars or boxes. Have nice labels or stickers that say "God loves a cheerful giver" and attach to banks.

Discuss the importance of saving money to give it back to the church so they can have a place for people to come and worship God and learn about His love.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Holding a completed bank from the opening activity or a tithing envelope from your church, talk about the meaning of the word tithe. Share the story from 1 Chronicles 21.

David was King of Israel. He knew it was very important to have a special place to worship the Lord. David found a piece of land on top of a big hill that would be a good place to build an altar to worship God. The land already belonged to a man named Ornan. He was a farmer. King David went to see Ornan.

Can you imagine how surprised Ornan must have been to see King David and all of his bodyguards and soldiers and helpers riding up to his place?

Ornan bowed down in respect to the King and asked, “What are you doing here? King David explained that he wanted to buy the field from him so he could build a place to worship God.

Ornan said, “You don’t have to buy my land, I’ll just give it to you. You can use my plows and anything else you need.” King David said, “No. It is very nice of you to offer the land for free, but I am supposed to make a sacrifice, to give up something so that this place of worship will mean more to me.” King David paid Ornan a fair price for the land (hold up dollar bills). David knew the importance of giving back to God.



**ACTIVITY:** Teach the children that the word tithe means one tenth of what you have. Using a ten-dollar bill, 10 one-dollar bills, 10 dimes and 10 pennies show them what one-tenth means. Let them practice sorting the money. Remind them that they can tithe one tenth of any money they receive and put it in their banks to bring back to church one Sunday or Wednesday.

**SNACK:** Use fruit, crackers or some other snack that can be divided up and counted among the children. (i.e. orange sections, crackers, sliced apples).



**CONCLUSION:** Help the children learn the memory verse. Thank God for His provision. Ask God to help each one give cheerfully and for those who want to give but cannot. Close by praying a blessing of provision over each child.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Giving Cheerfully"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the importance of paying tithes and giving offerings.  
To understand there is great blessing in giving.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**SUPPLIES:** Magazines, catalogs, newspapers

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**OPENING:** Tell the kids that they have just inherited \$2,000.00. Using magazines, catalogs, or newspapers, have the kids find items they would buy with the money. The pictures should be items such as skateboards, CD players, clothes, televisions, animals (dogs, horses), video games, etc. Also provide pictures of churches, banks, and homeless people or charities. Place the pictures around the room and have the kids walk around and make a list of their "expenditures." When they are finished talk about the choices they made.

- What items were most popular?
- How many would have thought of giving money to the church without being reminded?
- Do they know what tithing means?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** There are two words associated with tithing-- "tithe," which means one-tenth, and "steward," which means manager. Tithe money is the portion we give back to God. That money has historically been used for building places for people to come and worship God--the temple. The money has also been used for taking care of the people who teach about God--the priests and the pastors. Tithing is a way to honor God for His goodness to us. That is why it is important to be a "cheerful giver."

**Tithing is necessary.**

In the book of Leviticus, tithing by the people became the main source of support for the Levite priests who gave up their personal land and

inheritance to serve God. The tithe was used to maintain the temple and to feed, house and clothe the priests (pastors) and their families. In Malachi 3:10 it says that the tithe provides food or supplies for God's house, both spiritually and physically. In Philippians 4:10-18, the Apostle Paul thanks the people for providing for his physical needs as he did the work of the Lord.

What are some of the material means by which the Lord's work is done now? *(Allow the kids to answer this question—here are possible answers: Printing Bibles and tracts to teach people about the Lord; Buses to transport people to and from church; seating and classrooms for the people who come to a church; etc.)*

Today, there are many ways to spread the Gospel to other areas through computer, radio, television, and literature. There are also many ways to share God's love in your own community by helping provide food and clothing for those who need it, or offering a place where people can come and learn about God's love. Tithing also helps provide for the pastor and his family so that they can concentrate on teaching others about God's love.

**Tithing should be done in a right attitude.**

Read 2 Corinthians 9:7 again and stress that God loves a cheerful giver. When we get money our first response is to spend it or save it for a particular item we want. Do we consider taking a tenth of that money and setting it aside for the Lord?

The Lord loves a cheerful giver, a giver who shares his or her material benefits because he or she loves the Lord and wants to be a part of His work. Tithing is an act of obedience, an act of faith, and it is an act of worship. When you tithe, it is to God, not to a person. Your responsibility is to do what your heavenly Father wants. Anything you give to God is between you and Him and should be done in an attitude of love.

**Tithing brings blessing.**

There are also personal benefits to tithing. The individual who tithes will be blessed. It is a promise! Malachi 3:10 says *"See if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."* It also says in Luke 6:38 *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down...running over."* We give to God, and we receive blessing from our loving Father God. God's blessing for you may be an opportunity, an invitation, a new acquaintance, a financial blessing, or a spiritual blessing. As you obey, be ready for His blessing.



**ACTIVITY:** Listed below are nine verses relating to tithing. Divide the group into teams. Depending on the size and number of your teams, assign a group more than one scripture. After they look up the scripture, they should explain what the scripture is saying about tithing in 10 words or less. Listed below is an example of the activity:

<b><u>Group 1</u></b> Luke 6:38 What you give will be multiplied back to you.	<b><u>Group 2</u></b> 2 Corinthians 9:7 The children of Israel tithed on everything.	<b><u>Group 3</u></b> Philippians 4:15-19 Giving supplies for other's needs.
Hebrews 7:5 Tithes support ministers and ministries	Malachi 3:10 God pours blessing on those who tithe	Proverbs 3:9-10 Tithing honors God, brings blessing
Leviticus 27:30 All tithe belongs to the Lord	Matthew 6:19-21 We should give to heavenly treasures rather than earthly treasures.	Leviticus 27:32 One-tenth belongs to the Lord



**CONCLUSION:** Re-read Malachi 3:10 and Luke 6:38, talk about the blessings that we receive when we tithed. Pray with the class and thank God for opportunity to give back to the Lord.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Our Heavenly Home"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:**

To teach what the Bible says and what we believe about heaven, our eternal home. NOTE: This lesson may require more time than you have in your GNBC meeting. It may be divided into two parts.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" John 14:2*

**SUPPLIES:**

Flannel board and flannel backed pictures: clouds, airplanes, hot air balloons, birds, stars, the sun, the moon, planets, heaven, mansions, streets of gold, etc.; Three strips of blue flannel, magazines, glue, scissors, 4x6 butcher or shelf paper, crayons or markers, graham crackers, frosting, and assorted candies for gingerbread mansions.

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**OPENING:** Graham cracker house. As the children arrive, tell them that today they are going to learn about heaven and the home that Jesus is preparing for them. Have the children begin creating gingerbread mansions. Use graham crackers as walls and frosting to hold them together. Decorate the mansions with leftover frosting and the assorted candies. As the older children complete their mansion, have them help the younger children complete their mansions. As the kids create their gingerbread mansions read the memory verse and tell the children how God is preparing a place for those who believe in Him.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** The children will discover that heaven is a real place where God's people will someday live forever and ever. Use your Bible to read and describe heaven. Suggested Bible references are: John 14:2 refers to "mansions;" Revelation 22:5 refers to "no night in heaven;" Revelation 21:21 refers to the streets of the heavenly city, pure gold, as transparent glass; Isaiah 11:6 is symbolic of the tranquility of heaven. He refers to the world and the lamb being together; the leopard will lie down with the young goat and the calf and young lion will lie down together. This verse ends with "and a little child shall lead them."

Begin by asking some of the children what kind of place they live in; mobile home, apartment, house, etc. Some of them will live in large houses or mansions. Talk about how much room is in a large house. Then discuss how God has created enough rooms for us in heaven. This will lead you into the introduction of the lesson.

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions." Have you ever toured through a mansion? A mansion has many rooms, it is usually very beautiful. Very few people here on earth live in a mansion. Jesus promised that He would take us to heaven if we become one of His children while we live here on earth.

When we say "heaven" we sometimes think of what we see above our heads but there are actually three heavens (Have the three strips of blue flannel placed on the flannel board with the pictures defining each heaven above them.)

Let's talk about the three heavens. (Refer once again to the three strips of blue flannel).

The First Heaven (point to the bottom piece of blue sky) is the place where the birds fly, airplanes fly and where the clouds hang and float around. We can see this first heaven when we look up.

The Second Heaven (point to the second piece of flannel) is called the starry heaven. For a long time, only the stars and planets existed there. But now men have sent satellites, and space ships to explore the second heaven. Astronauts have been sent to the moon and have orbited around the earth in the second heaven.

The Third Heaven (refer to last piece of flannel) is the highest heaven where the mansions are. Jesus has told us in the Bible that there are many mansions. Mansions means "dwelling place." A better translation is "rooms" conveying the idea that there is ample space in heaven. This is the heaven we as Christians are most interested in. For we are going to live in heaven someday. Some of our relatives and friends are already with Jesus. Someday we will join them.

### **The Direction of Heaven**

Which way is heaven? (Allow children to respond.) Heaven is always described as being UP from the earth. When Jesus returned to heaven He went up (Acts 1:9). When wicked men stoned Stephen to death he looked up into heaven (Acts 7:55). When Paul saw the Lord on the road to Damascus he was blinded by a light from above (Acts 9:3). So we believe heaven is up, way beyond what we see in the first and second heaven.

### **The People of Heaven**

What makes where you live a nice home to live in? (Wait for several answers.) You and the people that live with you make the place you live either a happy or sad home; a quiet or a noisy home, a clean or messy home; a friendly or unfriendly home.

People really make our homes what they are. They also make the church what it is. Most people like to be at home with their family especially if they love one another. We will really enjoy heaven because Jesus, the angels, and the Christians who have already died will be alive and waiting for us.

We will all live with Jesus and enjoy everlasting life. It says in the bible there will be lots of food, fun, and games. This will be the best party ever. Our names must be written in the "Book of Life" otherwise we cannot be a part of heaven. For everyone to be a part of heaven, they must first accept Jesus as their personal Savior and friend. There is absolutely no other way for people to get to heaven.

### **The Pleasure of Heaven**

It is going to be exciting in heaven. It will be a beautiful place. Revelation 21:23 says, *"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."*

Our bodies will never feel pain. We will never get sick or die. We won't have to diet or try to make ourselves better looking by using makeup or getting a haircut, etc. Heaven is a PERFECT place. Not one thing will be bad or wrong. Read Revelation 21:4 - 25. Make a list on a chalk or white board about some of the things that won't be in heaven. (i.e. tears, suffering, murderers, liars, night, etc.).



**ACTIVITY: Preparation-** Decide which Bible Learning Activity you will use and gather the needed supplies.

Option #1: Have children create a collage of "heavenly" pictures (gluing and pasting pictures taken from magazines). You will need magazines, scissors, paste and a 4 x 6" piece of shelf or butcher paper which may be placed on a wall or a long table.

Option #2: Ask the children to draw people, things, clouds, mansions, that describe heaven on the shelf paper. You will need crayons and/or felt pens of various colors.

When Jesus comes back to earth to take us to heaven, we will be glad to leave our home here on earth. Are you ready to leave when the time

comes? If you are not ready or sure that you are, why not make sure right now as we pray. (Allow time for quiet and individual prayer.)

**SNACK:** Cotton candy, marshmallows, vanilla or banana pudding, sherbet or something that seems light to go along with the lesson.



**CONCLUSION:** Lead out in prayer for those who expressed a desire to accept Christ. Thank Jesus for His promises. Ask God to help us to live the daily Christian life and to be ready for His second coming.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Fruit of the Spirit"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To help preschool children understand the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ". . .the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."  
Galatians 5:22

**SUPPLIES:** Nine different fruits (strawberries, apples, oranges, bananas, pears, peaches, watermelon, cantaloupe, honeydew, tangelos, blueberries, pineapples, kiwi, etc.)

Nine sheets of posterboard with one Fruit of the Spirit written on each sheet; items for the activity you decide to do (see next page).

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**OPENING:** Cut the nine various fruits into small pieces and place each fruit on a separate plate. Allow the children to sample each fruit. Discuss how all of the fruit looks and tastes different, yet still provide the nourishment we need for healthy bodies.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read Galatians 5:22 & 23 in a contemporary version. Then talk about how the various fruit affect our lives. Show the appropriate word (on posterboard) as you talk about each fruit.

**Love-** the most important fruit is love. God wants us to love everyone. To show God's love you can share your toys, pick up your things around the house, help your mom and dad around the house, help someone when they are sick, etc.

**Joy-** is being glad that you belong to God. You let everyone know by how happy you are.

**Peace-** is when you are not afraid because you know God is there to take care of you.

**Patience-** means you don't get mad at people when things don't go your way. God wants us to have patience because, He has patience with us.

**Kindness-** is when you help others. Can you help someone else pick up his or her toys? Can you share your snack?

**Goodness-** you are nice, and people like to be around you. You don't talk back to others, and you always treat others kindly.

**Faithfulness-** really means that you try to trust and believe in God. You always try to do your best for him.

**Gentleness-** means that you try to stay calm and peaceful. You shouldn't have temper tantrums just because you don't get what you want.

**Self Control-** means you don't go overboard on television, food, video games. You act the way God would want you to.

If you try to do what these words say, people can't get mad at you because you are doing the right things. If people still get mad at you when you are doing the right things, then they are not using God's fruit of the Spirit. When this happens, the best thing you can do is pray for them.

**ACTIVITY:** Make fancy baskets from round doilies. Cut circles from construction paper, and paste the doily on the bottom (so it can be seen when the handle is attached). Make handles out of construction paper or ribbon. Place kind notes, flowers or other items into the baskets. The children can present the baskets to a family member or someone else in the church.



**Option:** Affirmation cards. Provide brown lunch sacks for children. Let them decorate or color their sack. On separate pieces of paper write these phrases or you may choose others, then photocopy enough for each child to have a sheet:

I Love you  
You are my friend  
Good job

You are nice  
I like your smile  
Have a good day

Teach the children what each phrase means. Try to place images on them that will help the children know what the words say. (Ex. Draw a smiling face for "I like your smile"). Have each child place them in his or her bag and take them home. Each morning they should take out one of the pieces of papers and say a phrase to someone in their family.

**SNACK:** Serve Fruit and discuss the unique characteristics and purpose of the fruit i.e: oranges have special thin skin to keep in the juices and apples and bananas fit just right into your hand. Talk about how each fruit of the

Spirit has a special purpose in our lives.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children, asking the Holy Spirit to show them how to have the fruit of the Spirit (say them together) in their lives everyday.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Fruit of the Spirit"

Recommended for: Elementary & Juniors

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**LESSON AIM:**

To recognize the characteristics (the fruit of the Spirit) that were obvious in the life of Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to bring the same characteristics into our lives.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*  
Galatians 5:22

**SUPPLIES:**

Flannel graph fruit (or real fruit), flannel board, construction paper, crayons, poster board and copies of the Fruit of the Spirit quiz.

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**OPENING:** If you are using the flannel graph on the fruit of the Spirit, designate which fruit will represent the characteristics. Otherwise, you can use real fruit as visuals. Ask the children to share with you what they think Jesus was like when He lived here on earth. You are looking for Christ-like characteristics (fruit of the Spirit).



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Have a few dictionaries set out for the children to use. Make sure the definitions are similar so you don't cause confusion. Have them look up the definition for the word FRUIT. Then explain how the meaning relates to a person's life. When a tree bears fruit it shows time of growth and strengthening (maturity). The fruit that the tree bears can bring nourishment and refreshment to our bodies. We should bear the fruit of the spirit. Have them look up the descriptions of the words that characterize the fruit of the spirit. If time is short, divide the words among the children. Then ask them to name someone who demonstrates that type of behavior and how they show it.

Write the following phrases on a chalk/white board and explain how the fruit of the Spirit is divided into three groups:

**Love, joy & peace-** reflect our relationship with God.

**Patience, kindness & goodness-**our relationship with others.

**Faithfulness, gentleness & self control-** our Christian conduct.



**ACTIVITY:** Attached quiz.



**SNACK:** Serve fruit and discuss the unique characteristics and purpose of the fruit, i.e: oranges have special thin skin to keep in the juices and apples and bananas fit just right into your hand. Talk about how each fruit of the Spirit has a special purpose in our lives.



**CONCLUSION:** Spend time after they have done the quiz talking about God's fruit in our lives. What fruit of the Spirit would they like to see operating in their life? Have children pair off, asking each child to pray for the other that the "fruit" they discussed earlier will be present in their life.

# The Fruit of the Spirit For Our Lives:

God tells us He expects new things to happen in our lives after we receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior. He knows we cannot change ourselves so He has given us His wonderful Holy Spirit. Below are scriptures that explain the behavior God expects from us through His Holy Spirit. All verses were taken from KJV of the Bible.

God's command to us:

The Holy Spirit produces:

James 1:4

\_\_\_\_\_

Romans 2:4

\_\_\_\_\_

I Peter 1:8b

\_\_\_\_\_

II Corinthians 5:7

\_\_\_\_\_

James 3:13

\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 22:37-39

\_\_\_\_\_

Philippians 4:5

\_\_\_\_\_

I Peter 1:7

\_\_\_\_\_

In Galatians 5:22, 23 these are specifically listed. They are called:

\_\_\_\_\_

Take a moment and think about what fruit of the Spirit you practiced this week at school or at home with your friends. Write them below.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "Prayer"

Recommended for: **Preschool**

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**LESSON AIM:** Teaching preschoolers that they, too, can talk to God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "God cares for you." 1 Peter 5:7

**SUPPLIES:** Construction paper cut into fourths, photo copies of attached four pictures (already cut), paste, crayons or markers, hole punch, yarn or stapler.

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**OPENING:** Have different items out for play that relate to God's provision. Play food, doll house, dolls, puzzles, stickers (nature, people, animals and food) and paper to put them on. Have guided conversation during this activity time. Talk about the different things God provides for us. He gives us food, a place to live, people who love us.

**SONG:** *I Love God Every Day* (Tune: Farmer in the Dell)

I Love God Every Day  
I Love God Every Day  
I tell Him so each time I pray.  
I Love God Every Day.

Taken from 100 Activity Songs for Preschoolers, David C. Cook Publishing, 1989



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Show a picture of someone praying or a picture of Jesus with the children. Share that God loves and helps them. He always listens to what they say. Call each child by name and repeat the memory verse to each one of them.

Talk about the different times they can talk to God. When they first get up, before they go to bed, when they are frightened, sick, or when they do something wrong. Explain that they just need to say a few words to God; "Thank you God for this food," or "I know you will help me when I am afraid," or "I am sorry for what I did."

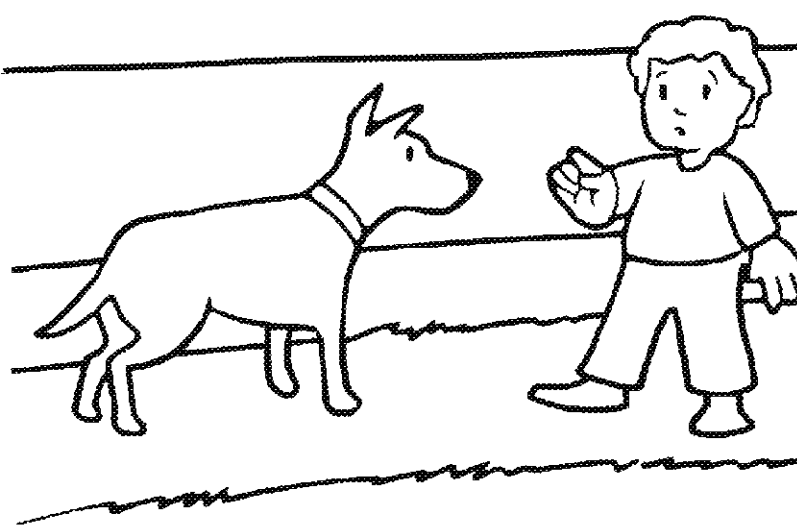
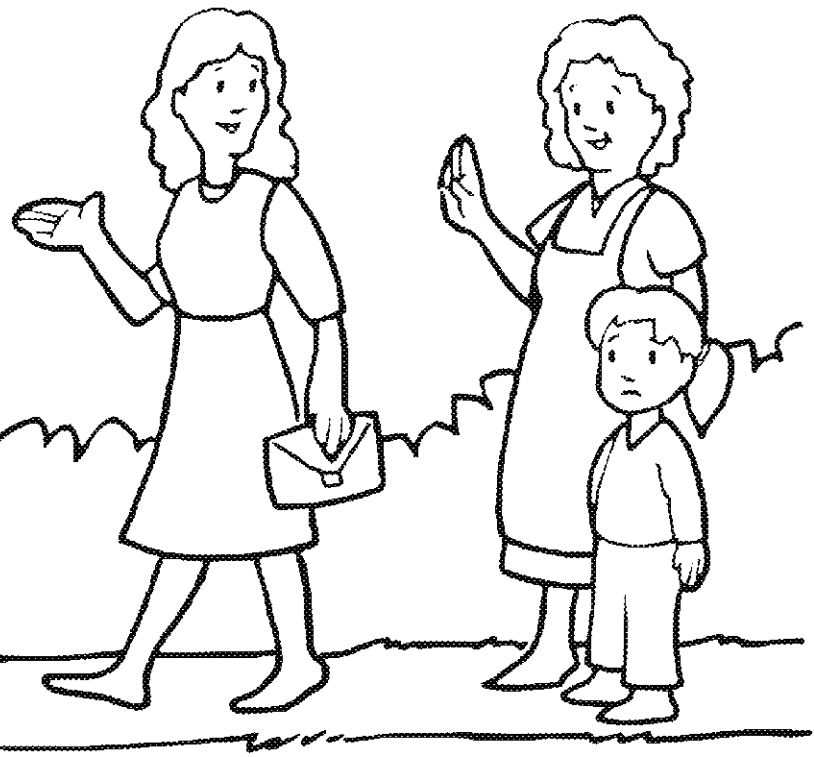
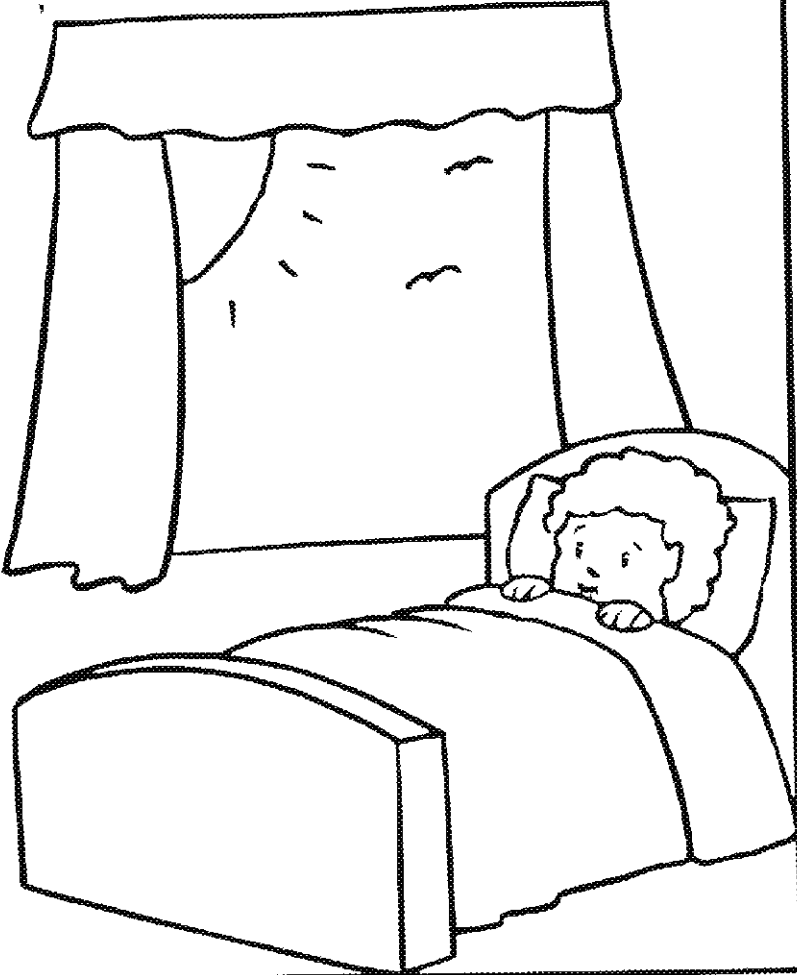


**ACTIVITY:** Read or tell them a story about prayer. It can be a Bible story about an answered prayer. Have the children make their own book on how God cares for them. See attached photocopy. Have the children color the pictures and paste them to the construction paper. Staple the sides together, or use a hole punch and thread yarn through to make a booklet.

**SNACK:** Provide soft bread slices and cookie cutters. Have the children cut out the bread with cutters. Serve plain or with peanut butter, jelly, or honey.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the children get into a circle and pray for one thing in their life. The teacher will start the prayer and end the prayer. This will give the children an opportunity to practice what they have learned.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**"Prayer"**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Recommended for: Elementary & Junior*

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**LESSON AIM:** To help them understand how to pray.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The Lords Prayer, Matthew 6:9-13 see attached sheet

**SUPPLIES:** Magazines, glue, construction paper, stapler.

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**OPENING:** Have all the supplies needed ready. The children are going to make "prayer booklets." They will use the magazines to cut out pictures and glue them onto the construction paper. These pictures should represent something the kids want God to take care of. If magazines are unavailable children can draw pictures. When they are finished put the papers together like a book, and staple pages together making a "prayer booklet."



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** How many of you talk to God every day? Be honest. Have them give reasons why they do or do not pray every day. Prayer is very important to our daily Christian living. You talk to your family, friends or neighbors almost every day. What about God? To keep your relationships with people strong, you need to interact with them. The same is true with our Heavenly Father. God is a good listener. He cares about what goes on in our lives and wants to help us.

What does Psalm 116:1,2 say about God responding to our prayers? He loves us enough to have sent His only Son to die for our sins and make a way for us to talk to God. See John 14:6.

As we look at Matthew chapter 6, we read that the disciples didn't know how to pray. So what did they do? They asked Jesus. Jesus not only taught them how to pray, He gave them a model prayer to follow. Share the Lord's prayer with the class. Take them through the prayer and talk about what different words or phrases mean (i.e.; hallowed, His will be done, etc.) Use this acronym ACTS, to help the kids understand the elements of a prayer. (Alternate words are included for younger ages.)

**A- Acknowledge**  
(admit, declare)

Our God is holy, powerful and can do anything.  
We should always remind ourselves of that.

**C- Confess**  
(admit, tell)

We need to confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.  
We need to understand our weakness and ask Him  
for strength.

**T-Thankfulness**

We should always thank God! Even when things  
don't seem to be going well we need to dwell on a  
good thing God has done for us.

**S-Supplication**  
(Pleading)

We can ask Him to provide for us and for others.  
And ask Him to help us stay strong to fight  
temptation.



**ACTIVITY:** Have the class write out a prayer to God in their own words. They can either fold it and put it in an envelope and refer to it later to see how things have worked out. You could have them leave their names off the paper and turn it into the leader. This would help the leader know how to pray for each child and to know what they are going through.

**SNACK:** Prepare peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and cut them into quarters.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the children get into a circle and put their prayers, that they just wrote down, out into the middle of the circle; pray over all of the needs of the children.

# The Lord's Prayer Memory Verse

"In this manner, therefore, pray:  
Our Father in heaven,  
Hallowed be Your name.  
Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debtors.  
And do not lead us into temptation,  
But deliver us from the evil one.  
For Yours is the kingdom and power  
and the glory forever.  
Amen."

Matthew 6:9-13



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Pray without Ceasing"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To serve as a constant reminder of the attitude of prayer that Scripture instructs us to maintain.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Pray without ceasing." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

**SUPPLIES:** Paper (any kind), photocopies of calendar pages, crayons or markers, various stickers. A baton or item for the game.

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**OPENING:** Prepare a large sheet of butcher paper, or have pieces of paper ready for the children. As the children arrive, give them crayons or markers. Ask the younger children to draw pictures of something they need prayer for. Older children can write or draw a prayer need. When they are finished, remind them that praying is something they can do all the time. Even throughout the meeting they can pray for that need, quietly to themselves. Even during school or play they can pray for a need. This activity is to help the kids understand what prayer without ceasing means.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the Bible account of the Unfair Judge in Luke 18:1-8. Start the class by asking the kids if they ever keep going back to their parents several times to ask the same question, hoping they will change their minds? Then lead into the story about the widow who was mistreated. A widow wanted a judge to punish someone who had committed a crime against her. The judge was an unfair man who didn't care about God or people. At first he wouldn't help the widow, but she kept going back—several times to see if his decision would change. Finally, the judge thought, "I'll punish the criminal because if I don't the widow will keep coming back and wear me out."

**Ask the Children:** If an unfair judge would help the widow, don't you think a fair judge would? God is our judge and He is a fair Judge. Jesus told this story to the disciples to teach them and us that God will always answer our prayers when we ask. Ask the older kids some of the following questions:

- How do you think the widow felt when she was rejected by the judge, not one time, but many times?
- So why did the widow keep going back?
- When we have a need in our own lives, do we make it a constant prayer request? Or do we give up, when God doesn't answer quickly, or the way we want?



**ACTIVITY:** Have the children make a calendar of things they can pray for that month without ceasing. Try to have stickers available that are associated with the theme of the month for the prayer calendar.

**SNACK:** Depending on the month of the year, associate the snack with the holiday or season that is celebrated then.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children in a circle and have each of them pray for another child in the circle. As the weeks go on, mark down dates that prayers are answered. Help the kids understand that sometimes we have to pray for a long time for an answer. It is not that God doesn't want to answer the need, He may want our faith and trust in Him to grow.

For older children (especially if they are praying for a parent who is unsaved) explain that God does want to answer our prayers, but He will never force a person to accept Him. Just keep praying for that need, no matter how long it takes. Tell the children God loves them and will answer their prayers. He is a good and fair judge.

**OPTION:** Play "Keep it Going" In a large room or parking lot. Mark outer boundaries with chalk or masking tape. Mark one small area as "home." To begin this game of tag, one child claps their hands or stomps their feet, or whistles, while the other children pass the baton (or object). When the child stops whistling or stomping, the child who ends up with the baton chases the other children. Of course the children try to avoid being tagged, but they cannot go outside of the boundaries. If a child is tagged by the baton, he or she must hold hands with the player who has the baton. As the line grows longer, the players work together to capture the others by encircling or cornering runners. A runner is only allowed to go into home one time during the game to avoid being tagged. If the chain breaks apart, the players in the chain must run back to home and regroup. At the end, discuss how hard it was to keep the chain going with all the different runners and players being involved. Sometimes it is hard for us to keep praying about a need, when there are other circumstances hindering us or discouraging us. Remind the children that this is why the Bible tells us to pray without ceasing.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Worship"

*Recommended for: All*

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach children that worship and praise is not just for adults; it is for children as well.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Oh come let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our God our Maker." Psalm 95:6*

**SUPPLIES:** A very large balloon; Children's Book of Psalms; white poster board (one or two for each class or group of children), markers, and crayons

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**OPENING:** As the children are coming in ask them the following questions. Allow them to share their thoughts and ideas.

- \*What does it mean to "worship" something?
- \*What does it mean to "praise" something?
- \*Who is someone that you admire (respect or look-up to)?
  - parents, teacher, professional ball player ...
- \*What are some things about that person that make them special to you?
- \*How do you show that person that you admire them?
  - Talk with them
  - Spend time with them
  - Listen to and obey them
  - Posters of the professional ball players
  - Collecting cards
  
- \*Is God worthy to receive our attention, praise, and admiration?
- \*What are some ways we can do this?
  - Anytime you give attention, praise, and admiration to God, you are worshipping Him!?
- \*What are some ways that we can praise and worship God here at church? At home?
  - Sing songs to God
  - Pray and believe that God hears you
  - Have communion to remember what God has done for you

- Tell others about God
- Tell God how much you love Him and how thankful you are for what he has done

After you have discussed with the children what it means to worship and praise, ask them to put their full attention on God. Get out your large balloon and explain to the children that the balloon's job is to represent the heart of God. The children's job is to raise their hand, one at a time, and praise or thank God. Each time a child speaks praise to God, the teacher blows into the balloon. The kids should be encouraged to speak to God and not to the teacher. Example: "God you are wonderful" or "Thank you God for my brother." The object is to burst the heart of God with the worship and praise of His children. (If your group of children is smaller, you may want to use a smaller balloon.)

NOTE: Be sure to have someone with strong lungs to blow up the balloon. It works better if the one blowing up the balloon does not have to do the calling on the children. Younger children might be afraid of the balloon popping, may want to fill the heart of God with praise rather than bursting it.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

Older Children: Have the children go on a Bible search for facts about praise and worship. Have them look for facts about "when" and "how" they should worship. Give the children the references and be prepared to record their findings.

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Daniel 6:10     | Ephesians 5:19 |
| Psalm 107:22    | Psalm 9:11     |
| Revelation 14:7 | John 9:31b     |
| James 5:13      |                |

OPTION: Psalm 95:2 says to "shout joyfully to Him [God] with Psalms". Have the children read some Psalms loudly, clearly, and cheerfully. Here are some suggestions for passages in the Psalms. Have a different child read each or choose one for everyone to take a turn reading.

- Psalm 19:1
- Psalm 23:1-6
- Psalm 24:1-2
- Psalm 27:1-3
- Psalm 30:4-5

Younger Children: Use a children's Bible and read several children's Psalms. Choose a Psalm with simple wording for the Preschoolers to repeat after the teacher line by line. Use hand motions with the children as you repeat the Psalm.

**OPTION:** Explain that there are many ways to show with our body that we love the Lord. Have the children stand up tall with their face looking up toward heaven, stand with hands out or lifted high, kneeling on the ground, hands folded and eyes closed for prayer, etc.



**ACTIVITY:** Each class will write and decorate their own Psalm. If your Bear club does not separate into classes, divide them into groups for this project. Each group should have one large piece of poster board and markers. A selected student or the teacher should write down the psalm. The whole group should help to write the Psalm and decorate the page. When each group is finished, each page should be brought together and made into a book.

\*Ahead of time have a creative teacher prepare a cover page for the children's psalm book.

**SNACK:** Saltine crackers and water

(Remind the children that in prison Paul and Silas were probably not fed much more than bread and water, yet they were praying and singing praise to God in Acts 6:24-34.)



**CONCLUSION:** Read the psalms written by the children as one whole book. Pray with the children that they would remember to worship and praise God all day long and in any circumstance.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "The Armor of God"

Recommended for: *Preschool and Elementary*

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the children how we can all be "victors" in Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies." Psalms 60:12*

**SUPPLIES:** Coloring sheet with the memory verse printed near the top; art supplies for coloring; props to illustrate the armor (see examples).

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**OPENING:** Provide art supplies for the children to draw pictures of times in their life when they need help or times when they are afraid. For example, they might draw a picture of being afraid at night in their bed or a time when they were sick and needed help or a time when a mean kid at school was threatening them.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** There are times in our lives when we need someone bigger to help us. Our parents want to take care of us. Teachers will do what they can to protect us at school. There are times when we are alone and don't have parents or teachers to help us face our fears or struggles. During these times we can feel alone and often wish someone else was there to help. It is during times like this that the devil likes to whisper lies to us and keep us afraid or unhappy.

Jesus has promised to help us in hard times. He gives us weapons to protect us and help us win the battle against our enemy, the devil. Open your Bible and tell the kids about the armor of God from Ephesians 6:13-18. Use these summaries about each armor piece to help explain the importance of the armor of God. You may want to show the children pictures of armor or have a contemporary piece of equipment to illustrate each piece as you talk about it. Some suggestions are given with each summary.

**The belt of truth** - (a wrestling belt or weight lifters belt) surround yourself with truth so you will be able to identify the lies of the devil.

**The breastplate of righteousness** - (a bullet proof vest) The

righteousness of Jesus covers protects us. When the devil tries to convince you that you are a bad person, remember that you are “right” because Jesus is in your life.

**Feet prepared with the gospel of peace** - (army boots or thick soled shoes) Don’t be afraid because Jesus gives you His peace and assurance that everything is going to be alright.

**The shield of faith** - (metal trash can lid) If we have strong faith in God, it is like holding up our shield to keep the devil from hitting us with his the lies and mean things that he throws at us. For example, sometimes the devil will try to make us afraid when there is no reason to be afraid. If we hold up our shield of faith and believe God more then the devil, the devil’s attempt will fail and we will not be afraid.

**The helmet of salvation** - (batting helmet or hockey goalies mask) The helmet protects our head and the brain which controls the rest of our body. It is not just our heart that is saved when Jesus comes to live in us, but our whole body should be controlled by Jesus.

**Prayer** - (game board from a Risk, Stratego or Battleship game) The Bible seems to indicate that prayer is more the battlefield than a weapon. Help the kids see that just as it is important to make the right move in a board game, it is more important that we pray in life so we can be winners in everything we do.

**The sword of the Spirit, The Bible** - (the biggest toy sword you can find) The more we know about the Bible, God’s Word, the better we will be able to defend ourselves against the devil’s mean lies. Learn what the Bible says. Memorize Bible verses. You may not think they are important right now in your life, but you will use these verses to defeat the devil for the rest of your life.



**ACTIVITY:** Have the children look again at the pictures they drew during the opening time. Talk about which weapons of our spiritual armor might help them in the situation they illustrated. Tell them to add the appropriate pieces of armor to their picture which will now show them a victor in Jesus. Some children may want to draw an entirely new picture. If time permits, this might be a good way for them to show what they have learned during this lesson.



**CONCLUSION:** Now, tell the kids to draw a picture of Jesus somewhere in their picture. Encourage them to take these pictures home and look at them often as a reminder that the armor of God and Jesus’ presence in our lives will protect us and equip us to defeat the devil’s attacks. We are victors in Jesus!

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "The Armor of God"

Recommended for: Juniors

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach the children how we can all be "victors" in Jesus.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies."* Psalms 60:12

**SUPPLIES:** Copies of worksheet, pictures from magazines of people who have just won a victory (if possible, try to use people who are not well known to the kids).

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**OPENING:** Ask the kids to describe a time when they competed against another person and won. For example, they may have played video games with a friend and won the competition, or they might have won a game of one-on-one in basketball at school. Now pass out a picture of a "winner" to each student. Give them a minute to make up a story about what kind of victory the person may have just experienced. After several people have shared their made up stories, collect the pictures.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Talk about the feelings of winning. When we are victorious we love talking about it! It's good to talk about our successes. Little successes help you develop good feelings about yourself. Victories in easy tasks prepare you for harder contests or conflicts.

Winning a baseball game or coming in first in a spelling bee is fun, but there is another kind of battle that is more important. In this battle Satan tries to trick us into sin. Can you remember when you won a battle against Satan? Over what? When? Where? How did you feel?

The Bible tells us that God gives us help to win against Satan's attacks. Read Ephesians 6:13-18 and have one of the older kids make a list on the chalkboard or overhead projector of the weapons mentioned in these verses. Talk with the kids about what these weapons are for the Christian today. Here is a summary you might use:



**The belt of truth** - surround yourself with truth so you will be able to identify the lies of Satan.

**The breastplate of righteousness** - The righteousness of Jesus covers and protects us. When Satan tries to convince you that you are a bad person or reminds of mistakes you made in the past, you can be confident that you are surrounded by Jesus' righteousness. Jesus will help you make right choices and be obedient to the Bible.

**Feet prepared with the gospel of peace** - When you have the peace of Jesus in your life, problems and fear will not control you.

**The shield of faith** - Our faith in God keeps us strong. Our choices and actions are based on the strength of our faith in God.

**The helmet of salvation** - The helmet protects our head and mind. We can protect our minds by accepting the truth of our salvation. We are saved and protected by the power of God.

**Prayer** - When problems arise in your life, pray. Praying establishes God's victory in our lives.

**The sword of the Spirit, The Bible** - When you are in battle with Satan, the Holy Spirit will bring to your mind Bible verses which will help you resist the enemy. These verses are like a sword. Satan cannot stand against the Bible because it is God's Word and has more authority and power than Satan could ever dream of.



**ACTIVITY:** God is always making His people victorious over their enemies and situations meant for harm. We might call these victories God's "military miracles." Let's go on a "victory hunt." Photocopy the worksheet for this lesson and give one to each student. Read the Bible verses on the chart, then write in the enemies of God's people and the miracles that happened.



**CONCLUSION:** Instruct the kids to complete the fill in statements on the worksheet. They will want to look up the Bible verses to discover the answers. Allow them to work in groups as they fill in the blanks. The Bear Leaders should circulate among the groups and help direct the activity so the kids all understand that God is the one who brings victory - and help to our lives.

Help the kids memorize the Bible verses on the worksheet and encourage them to use these verses when they feel like they are fighting with temptation or attacks of Satan.

# A Victory Hunt

Read the Bible verses on the chart, then write in the enemies of God's people and the miracles that happened.

LEADERS	ENEMIES	MIRACLES
Joshua 10:12-14		
1 Samuel 7:10,11		
1 Samuel 14:15,20,23		
2 Samuel 5:22-25		

God gave victories in military battles. He can give victories in other kinds of battles, too.

## A VICTORY FOR YOU:

1. Paul wrote in Romans 8:37, "In all these things, (listed in verse 35: trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger, or sword), we are more than \_\_\_\_\_ through Him who \_\_\_\_\_ us."
2. We as believers can have confidence, because "This is the victory that has \_\_\_\_\_ the world, even our \_\_\_\_\_. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only He who \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." (I John 5:4-5)
3. Because of Christ's resurrection, "\_\_\_\_\_ has been swallowed up in victory. . . Thanks be to God: He gives us the \_\_\_\_\_ through our \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ." (I Corinthians 15:54, 57).

## HOW TO FIND VICTORY FOR YOURSELF

Our sword is the Word of God. Reading the Bible and memorizing verses is the way you become equipped with your sword.

Memorize one or all of the following verses. As you do, discuss with your teachers what each verse means.

"With God we will gain the victory, and He will trample down our enemies."  
(Psalm 60:12).

"The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"  
(Psalm 118:6)

"If God is for us, who can be against us?"  
(Romans 8:31)

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GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Daniel and the Lion's Den"

Recommended for: Preschool, Elementary

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand God hears us when we pray and answers our prayers.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "My God sent his angels to close the lions' mouths. They have not hurt me, because my God knows I'm innocent." Daniel 6:22 (Use underlined portion for preschool children.)

**SUPPLIES:** "Pin the tail on the Lion," poster, tails, blind fold, large brown bags, lots of newspaper, stapler, black crayon or marker, construction paper, scissors, glue, yellow yarn.

**OPTION:** Posters/pictures of lions or stuffed animals, picture subjects to act out

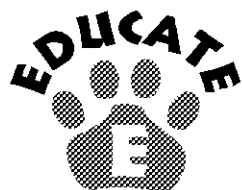
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**OPENING:** As club members arrive ask them if they have ever been in a fearful situation. Explain that during this club time they will be hearing about a man who obeyed God even though he was in a dangerous situation. God delivered him.

**OPTION 1:** Have a "pin the tail on the lion" game. This can be a poster purchased from a bookstore or you can draw a lion. Make the lion tails of construction paper and blindfold each child and allow the children to take turns until all students have arrived. (If you choose to use tape rather than pins for this game, laminate or cover the poster with contact paper so it can be used again.)

**OPTION 2:** As the children arrive, discuss their week. Discuss how sometimes we face situations that are hard to deal with but God is always there to help us. Have the children share experiences that have happened to them when God delivered them. (ie; car accident, earthquake fire)



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Relate the account of Daniel in the Lion's den (Daniel 6:1-28). Act out the story. After discussing the story with the children ask them the following questions.

- Have you ever been so afraid that you didn't know what to do?
- Did you remember to pray to God and ask Him for help?



**ACTIVITY: FOR PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN:**

Here is an exciting way to re-tell the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. (Directions following). After your preschoolers make the paper-bag-stuffed lions, re-enact the story through role play. Choose a Daniel, King Darius, and the princes. Set aside a corner of your room for the lion's den. Replace the paper bag lion's "den" with a few growling children. Your children will love it. Remind them that God is able to deliver them.

**PAPER BAG STUFFED LIONS:**

Give each child a large brown paper bag. Stuff the bag with newspaper. Staple the ends closed. Draw a face with black crayon. Cut out feet from construction paper and glue them to the bottom of the lion. Glue on pieces of yellow yarn for the mane, braid yellow yarn for the tail and attach with glue or a stapler.

**FOR ELEMENTARY CHILDREN:** Decorate the classroom like a lion's den. Have the children bring stuffed lions or posters of lions to decorate the room. Re-enact the story of Daniel, using several (children) ferocious lions.

**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY: Lion's Cub game.** Procedure: Players sit in semicircle. One player is selected to be the Lion. The Lion sits with eyes closed facing away from other players. The Lion's Cub (toy lion) is placed directly behind the Lion. One at a time, players form the semicircle sneak up behind the Lion and try to take the Lion's Cub. If the Lion can hear the player approaching, he or she roars like a lion and that player sits down. If the Lion does not hear the player, that player takes the Lion's Cub and returns to his or her seat. The player hides the Lion's Cub behind him or herself. The rest of the group then chants, "Lion, Lion, where is your cub?" The Lion turns around and has three chances to guess who has his Cub. If the Lion guesses incorrectly, the group says, "No!" If the Lion guesses correctly, the group applauds. The player with the Lion's Cub becomes the next Lion.

**SNACK:** Create a snack that relates to the story. Try crackers spread with peanut butter, raisin dots for the lion's eye's, cheese strips for a mane and whiskers, licorice for nose and mouth.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children about hard situations they are facing.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Learning How to Choose"  
"Daniel's Choice"

*Recommended for: Junior*

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**LESSON AIM:** To recognize the benefit of making right choices with an emphasis on choosing God's way of doing things.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"You are the God who was worshiped by my ancestors. Now I thank you and praise you for making me wise ..."*  
Daniel 2:23 a (The Promise, Contemporary English Version)

**SUPPLIES:** Table, healthy foods and junk foods, supplies for Licorice Drop (see Activity section).

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**OPENING:** Have the children come up to a table that is set with healthy food and junk foods. Ask them which foods they would like to eat? Which foods would be better for them? If they eat all junk food, how would they feel afterwards? Which food would be the best choice to eat for healthy living? Junk food might be fun to eat for a while, but do you ever think there would be a time when you would get tired of it? What would happen if you never had healthy food to eat? Does what you eat affect how well you think and function throughout the day?

Tell the children the following story of Daniel and his friends and the choices they had to make now that they lived in a foreign country (for the complete text of this story see Daniel 1).



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Daniel and his three friends had it all. They were good looking, smart, and athletic. They and their people had been taken captive by the country of Babylon. The king of Babylon wanted to train a select group of young men to serve him. They would wear the best designer clothes. They would be trained for three years to be the king's political leaders and special counsel. They would have great power, but they would have to be loyal to the king and his ways of doing things, which wasn't always God's way.

All of the men in training would eat from the king's food. The problem

was that much of the food had been offered to idols, which was forbidden for Jewish people. All of the men in training ate from the king's food, except Daniel and his friends. They knew they couldn't eat the king's food or drink his wine, so Daniel asked the king's chief guard for permission to eat according the food laws of the Jewish people. Daniel knew that if he and his friends chose to follow God's instructions, God would bless them. He knew that he and his friends would be healthier than all the other young men who ate the king's food.

Although the guard liked Daniel, he was afraid the four young men would not be healthy enough and the king would be angry because of their choice. What would the king do if he found out the guard had done what Daniel asked instead of following the king's orders? The four of them could become thinner and more pale than the other teenagers. Daniel asked the guard to test him and his three friends with only vegetables and water for ten days to see what the results would be.

The guard was surprised after ten days to find the four boys stronger and healthier looking than the other teenagers. Their choice was rewarded. God blessed them with knowledge, skill in literature and wisdom. And He gave Daniel the ability to interpret dreams and visions. These were all things that they would really need to serve the king. After three years of training, they were called to be interviewed by the king. The king found the four boys to be ten times healthier than anyone else.

It's easy to do what the world thinks is right, but because Daniel and his friends chose God's way of doing things, they came out further ahead of the other teenagers. They were well respected in the kingdom because of their right decisions and their relationship with God. They didn't follow the rest of the crowd.

**ACTIVITY:** Now divide the group into two teams for the "Licorice Drop" relay. Place a plastic milk jug and a bucket at the finish line in front of each team. Give each child a piece of licorice about 3-4 inches in length. When you say, "go," the first member of both teams puts the piece of licorice between their teeth and run to the finish line.



When they get to the finish line, they will have a choice to make – will they drop their licorice into the bucket with a wide opening or into the plastic milk jug with the small opening. They stand over the bucket or jug (no bending allowed) and try to drop the licorice into the jug or bucket, their choice. If they miss, they pick up the licorice and try again until they hit their target. Award 10 points for hitting the milk jug and 1 point for the bucket.

Explain that this choice symbolizes the many choices we make in everyday life. The easy choice will be rewarded less than the more difficult choice. Every team member should take a turn playing “Licorice Drop” with the fastest team earning a prize.

**SNACK:** Fresh Vegetables and water or juice.



**CONCLUSION:** Have every child identify a choice they need to make (i.e. I will spend more time in prayer, less time in front of the television). Be sure their choice is one they will be willing to share with another person from the group. Keep them focused on making choices that would please God.

Let kids choose partners to be accountable during the week ahead. Encourage them to check in with each other several times during the week to see how they are doing making right choices. Conclude this lesson with prayer for God’s help in making the right choices they know they should. Encourage the children to look for God’s rewards as they do what is right and to thank Him for blessing their choices.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Good Choices in Jesus"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach children how to make good choices and the realize that God always knows the choices we make even if those choices are hidden from other people.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Those who obey God's word really do love him."* 1 John 2:5a

**SUPPLIES:** Several pennies and pieces of children's clothing (ie, a sweater, a hat, mittens, a hair ribbon etc).

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**OPENING:** Play a game of "Simon Says" to see how well the children can listen and do what they are told. Develop a list of simple directions, (ie, take two steps forward, march in place, cough three times, hold up their right hand, etc).



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Open your Bible to Joshua 7. With your Bible open tell (don't read) the story of Achan's sin. Here is a summary of the events:

Joshua had led the people of Israel to great victory at Jericho. God told the people to march around the walls of the city and the whole city was destroyed. This was good news for the Israelites because the people who lived in Jericho were evil and tried to keep God's people from the blessing God wanted them to have.

Following God's instructions, Joshua now took the people to a small town called Ai. When Israel's army came up to the walls of Ai, they were attacked and chased away. Thirty-six of Israel's men were killed. What a difference from Israel's victory at Jericho!

Joshua prayed to ask God what went wrong. God told Joshua about a man in the nation of Israel who had disobeyed. This man had stolen clothes and money from the city of Jericho even though God specifically told the people not to take anything out of the city!

Joshua didn't know who the man was. He had all the people march in front of him until God showed him who the disobedient person was. His



name was Achan. Achan admitted what he had done. He explained that he saw a beautiful coat and some silver and gold. He didn't think anyone would notice, so Achan took the coat and the silver and the gold.

Achan and his entire family were punished for his disobedience. Joshua wanted the people of Israel to know that you can't sin in secret. God always knows what you have done. Like Achan, we need to learn to obey all the time, not just when someone is watching.



**ACTIVITY:** Before the children arrive, hide pennies and pieces of children's clothing (sweaters, hats, mittens, hair ribbons etc) around the room. After telling the story of Achan's sin, let the children look for the hidden money and clothing. After everyone has found something, bring the kids back together and discuss with them that Achan hid the same kinds of things in his tent. He thought they were well hidden. But God saw him and Joshua punished him for his disobedience.

**SNACK:** Oreo cookies and milk.

Tell the children to open the cookies and find the hidden filling. Then let them enjoy the cookies and milk.



**CONCLUSION:** Before dismissing, be certain the children understand the concept that God is always watching. He is willing to help us when we need Him. He is ready to answer our prayers when we ask. But He is also watching to be certain we obey what He says we should do. When we make right choices, God always provides a positive result! Pray with the children for God's strength to obey their parents, their teachers and especially God.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Good Choices in Jesus"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach children how to make good choices and how they can evaluate daily situations.

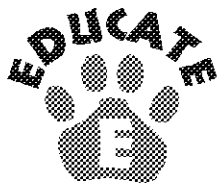
**MEMORY VERSE:** "Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight."  
Psalm 119:35

**SUPPLIES:** Balloons, Scripture verses, apples, caramel dip, cool whip.

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**OPENING:** Write these three scriptures Genesis 3:6; Psalm 119:35; I John 2:16; on paper and cut-out (i.e the first 2 or 3 words of a scripture on one strip, then the next 2 or 3 words, etc.). Place scripture phrases, rolled up, inside the balloons. Blow-up the balloons and have the children pop them and unscramble the phrases to form the complete scripture reference. Be sure to have the children pick up all the pieces of the balloon before moving on.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** We will explore how to "make good choices in Jesus." The Bible is full of examples of people making right and wrong choices. Sometimes we make wrong choices. Wrong choices can take us out of the will of God. Why do we make wrong choices?

Satan tempted Adam and Eve much like he tempts us. We read about his tricks in Genesis 3. Here are the two ideas he uses to tempt people:

1. *Wanting something that is not yours.*

Our eyes can lead us into the wrong decisions or right decisions. Sometimes you "see" something you really want, but would you be willing to do something dishonest or mean to get it? On the other hand, our eyes can also lead us to do the right thing. You may see someone who could use your help and you choose to help them.

2. *Believing that what you think is better than what God thinks.*

For example a decision has been made that you can not go over to a friends house and you go anyway. Something happens while you are playing and you get hurt. How will you tell your parents you

disobeyed them? What choice will you make? We should never think we can make better choices concerning ourselves than God. God gives our parents His wisdom to make right choices for us until we are able to make them on our own.

Satan, in the form of a serpent, began his attack by lying to Eve. He told her that she would not die from eating of the tree in the middle of the garden. God told Eve that she would die if she ate from it. The serpent told Eve that God did not want her to eat of it because if she did, she would be like God. After eating of the forbidden fruit she offered it to Adam and he also ate from it.

Eve: 1. Chose to listen to the lies of the serpent even though what the serpent said went against what God said.  
2. Did exactly what God said NOT to do.  
3. Encouraged someone else to do the wrong thing.

Adam: 1. Chose to do what God said NOT to do..  
2. Blamed Eve even though he made his own choice to disobey.

When God found them in the garden, Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent and they were all strongly disciplined by God. Adam and Eve knew the difference of good and evil. Because God sent them out of the Garden of Eden and the earth was no longer perfect, they saw the consequences of wrong decisions. They had to work hard for their food and their bodies started to get sore and sick. Even though they disobeyed, God still loved them and cared for them.

We can make good choices or bad choices. How should we go about making decisions?

1. Who is our authority? **GOD, OUR PARENTS, OUR PASTOR**
2. While our parents our responsible for us, who is responsible for our decisions? **WE ARE**
3. Who are we ultimately responsible to? **GOD**



**ACTIVITY:** Refer to the “Making Choices” activity on the next page.

**SNACK:** Apples cut up with Caramel dip and cool whip to dip them in.



**CONCLUSION:** Talk to the children about making choices. Let them express their feelings openly. Also let the children know that a bad choice can be turned around. Talking to their parents or teachers can help them understand that God always forgives. Close in prayer. Praying for the children that Jesus would give them guidance in their decisions.

# MAKING CHOICES

The following are some situations you may have. Circle the letter of the choice you would make.

Being called to get up in the morning?

- a. You would get up when called.
- b. You would say you are getting up, but don't.
- c. You would ignore the call and sleep some more.

You are watching television, your Mom or Dad calls to ask you to help them. You:

- a. Come immediately.
- b. Tell them to wait until the commercial.
- c. Ignore her/him.
- d. Run and hide.

You have a test to study for, and a friend wants you to come over to watch a new video, you would:

- a. Go to the friend's house.
- b. Study for your test.
- c. Go to the friend's house and study later, maybe at bedtime.

Your parent's are gone for about an hour, you have been told to stay at home and stay inside. A friend calls and wants you to come over for just five minutes to show you his new bike.

- a. You tell him you'll have to wait until your parents return.
- b. You go anyway and hope to be back before your parents.
- c. You have your friend come over with his new bike.

You break a valued possession of your parents. You:

- a. Tell them.
- b. Hide it.
- c. Hope they won't notice.
- d. Deny your wrongdoing.

You have a friend who is having trouble in school and at home. They want to copy your homework. You would:

- a. Let them copy your homework.
- b. Help them complete their own homework.
- c. Call them a cheater and walk away.
- d. Pray with them about their problems and help them by coaching them with some of the questions.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**“Learning to Express Thanks to God”**

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To realize how thankful we should be to God for everything.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“Offer unto God thanksgiving . . . ”* Psalm 50:14a

**SUPPLIES:** Younger Children: Teddy bear, paper plates, pre-cut magazine pictures, glue, crayons, glitter, yarn and hole punch.

Older Children: 3 x 5 cards, pencils.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children: Play “The Thankful Game.” Begin playing music (try to find a tape on being thankful”). Have one child begin by passing a teddy bear to the child on his left and so on as the music plays. Stop the music, and have the child with the teddy bear share something they are thankful for, with the class.

Older Children: Provide 3 x 5 cards and pencils for each child. Have the children write one sentence stating something they are thankful for, such as, food, a place to live, parents. Have the children put their cards in a hat or basket. Mix up the cards then pass them around. Have each child take a card and read it aloud.

**NOTE:** Discuss how we please the Lord when we’re thankful. Have the children discuss ways we could be more thankful for little things we sometimes take for granted. (i.e., life itself, health, water, electricity, our freedom to worship God, a beautiful country).



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

Younger Children:

Talk to the children as they are doing their activity. Let them know that God is teaching you, as their leader, to be thankful for areas of your own life.

Older Children:

Psalm 105:1 *“Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!”* NKJV

Have one or more kids in the class read the story about Jesus healing ten lepers (Luke 17:11-18). Discuss with them, how only one man came back to say “Thank you” to Jesus.

Ask the class if anyone has ever received a blessing or healing from the Lord. Have they always remembered to thank Him? Use an instance in your life as an example to help get the discussion started.

It is important that we learn to thank the Lord for the many things in our lives. Even when things aren’t going well, that is the best time to stop and thank Him. It helps us to remember that God really cares and knows our needs.



**ACTIVITY:** Use the following activities to emphasize thankfulness for the many things the Lord does in our lives.

Younger Children: Make wall hangers using paper plates.

a) Have the children choose from pre-cut pictures of food, animals, clothes, pictures of creation, cars, houses, etc. to paste in the center of the plate. Be sure to have plenty to choose from and more than one kind of picture of the same things (more than one picture of a family).

b) At the top of the plate write or have the children write “Thank you God for . . .” (whatever picture they picked).

c) Have the children color or decorate the rims and the other side of their plates with crayons, stickers or glue and glitter.

d) Punch a hole in the top of the plate. Cut a piece of yarn and thread it through the hole so that the plates can be hung.

Older Children:

Option #1- Have the class complete the activity page (pattern provided).

Here are the answers:

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus      | 6. Healed    |
| 2. Samaria    | 7. Returned  |
| 3. Away       | 8. Thank you |
| 4. Ten        | 9. Arise     |
| 5. Have mercy |              |

**Option #2-**

*Don't Know What You've Got 'Til It's Gone.* To get into a discussion of everyday blessings we take for granted, try “depriving” the group with one or more of these activities.

- Play one of your group’s favorite games, but do it without good equipment. For example: play volleyball or kick-ball with a half-deflated ball, or Monopoly with half the pieces missing.
- Turn off the electrical power to your meeting place.
- Serve meager snacks like plain crackers, or bring just enough snacks for half the group.

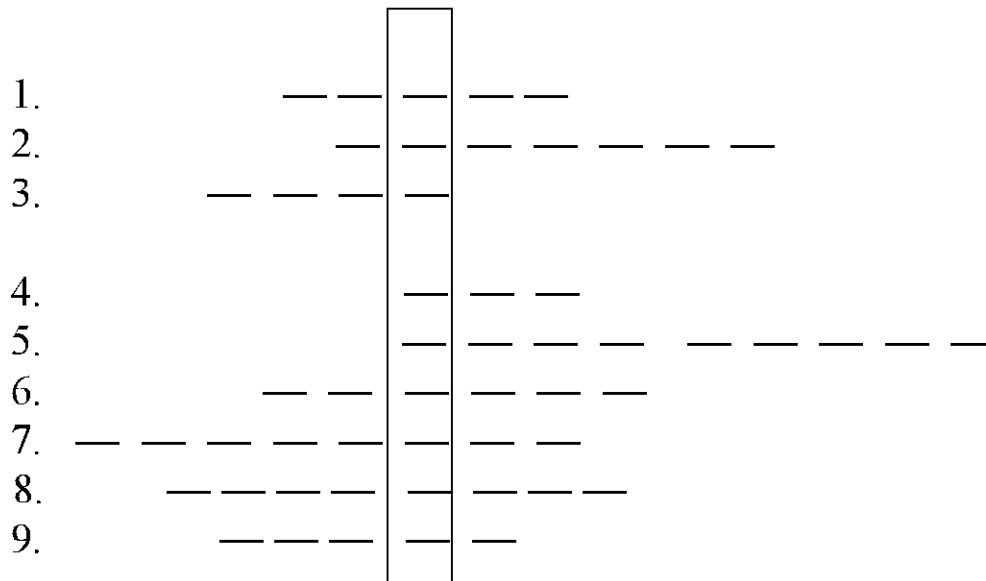
**SNACK:** Have different kinds of snacks for each child. (Something that can be shared, M&M’s, carrot sticks, cheese cubes, pretzels, etc.) Have the children share their different snack with one another. Make sure the children are expressing their thanks to each other for sharing.



**CONCLUSION:** Have a prayer over the snacks before the children partake. At the end, the children can give thanks to the Lord for one thing in their life they are thankful for.

# "Being Thankful" Puzzle

Look up the verse and fill in the blanks to find the hidden message.



Luke 17:11-18 NJKV

1. \_\_\_\_\_ was on His way to Jerusalem.
2. He stopped in the village of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Men who were lepers stood \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus.
4. There were how many lepers? \_\_\_\_\_
5. They called to the Lord to \_\_\_\_\_ on them.
6. The lepers were \_\_\_\_\_.
7. One of them \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus.
8. He told Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for cleansing me.
9. Jesus commanded the one man to \_\_\_\_\_. Your faith has made you whole.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Follow the Lord"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To know that when we obey and follow Jesus, we can be sure that we are in His care.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6)*  
Underlined portion is for the younger children to memorize.

**SUPPLIES:** Paper, colored markers, recipe, buzzers or bells, and small prizes.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children: Do one of two options.

1) Bring in a simple project or recipe that requires the children to follow instructions. As the children complete the project or recipe, talk about how important it is to follow instructions so the recipe or project will turn out right. Note: If they use a recipe it could be the snack.

2) As the children arrive, involve them in a game of follow the leader. You can have everyone working together, or assign them to groups with a leader. Talk about the importance of following what the leader does and says to do.

Older Children: Play a game of trivia. Set up teams like a college bowl. If you can, provide buzzers, or bells. Give the kids multiple choice questions, so they will have to decide on the answer. We have provided some hard general knowledge trivia questions, but you could come up with your own. If most of your kids are from the church you could try Bible trivia, but you need to be fair to the knowledge or capabilities of the whole group.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Ask the children if they ever had to make a decision and they did not know what to decide. Who can help us know what to do? Jesus. Sometimes our friends want us to do things or go places that would not please Jesus. Many times we will follow our friends even though our hearts tell us it is wrong.

Proverbs 3:5-6 says that if we trust in God, in everything that we do, then He will lead us in the right path. Should we follow our friends or should we follow the Lord?

The Holy Spirit will also help you to make your decisions according the Word of God. John 14:26 says, "*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*"

Relate the account of when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him. Jesus not only called the disciples to make a decision to follow Him, Jesus took care of the disciples. (Matt. 4:18-22; 9:9-14; John 1:40-46)



**ACTIVITY:**

Younger Children: WHICH WAY SHOULD I GO?

NOTE: Before class hide small prizes around the room (taped to the bottom of chairs, the table, a bookshelf, etc.)

Have a simplistic map of your church already drawn before class. Be sure to clearly mark your classroom. Have the children help you to find the bathroom, sanctuary, drinking fountain, etc.

Draw a map of your classroom with the children. Allow them to make sure that you include any detail that is important to them. They may want you label everything down to each child and yourself. Once the map is done to the satisfaction of the children, start marking X's. Explain that everywhere that there is an X on the map there is a small prize in the classroom. There should be one prize (stickers, candy, etc.) for every child in the class.

Older Children: Break into three groups. Assign each group one of the following verses: Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 9:9; John 1:40-46.

What can they find about the way that the disciples followed Jesus? Did they invite any one else to come with them?

Examples: The brothers Simon and Andrew stopped in the middle of what they were doing and followed Jesus when He called to them. The brothers James and John immediately left their ship with your father and followed Jesus. (Mt. 4:18-22)

**SNACK:** Cookies and milk. (Or the recipe you brought in for the opening.)



**CONCLUSION:** Review the memory verse. To illustrate the importance of walking in the right paths (following Jesus) send 2 students out of the room. Have the other students set up an obstacle course through the room. (Turn chairs to their sides, move tables, etc.) Bring in one child and blindfold him/her. Have them follow your instructions as you give directions to walk through the room. Blindfold the other student try to walk through the room without any verbal directions.

## Trivia questions for opening activity.

Answers are in **BOLD** type.

1. Which of the following is NOT one of the Seven Dwarfs?
  - A. **Silly**
  - B. Doc
  - C. Sleepy
  - D. Happy
2. Which of the following animals lives the longest?
  - A. **Horse**
  - B. Gorilla
  - C. Brown Bear
  - D. Cat
3. Which insect cannot bite humans?
  - A. Canadian flies
  - B. **Male mosquitoes**
  - C. Grasshoppers
  - D. Female bees
4. Which item will cool your mouth after eating spicy food?
  - A. Water
  - B. Milk
  - C. Bread
  - D. None
  - E. **All three together**
5. What foreign country did McDonalds open its first restaurant?
  - A. China
  - B. Russia
  - C. **England (1974)**
  - D. Paris
6. In what country did french fries originate?
  - A. France
  - B. **Belgium**
  - C. Italy
  - D. United States
7. What is North America's largest rodent?
  - A. River rat
  - B. **Raccoon**

- C. **Beaver**
- D. Guinea Pig

8. What non-white body part does a polar bear cover to escape discovery?

- A. Paws
- B. Ears
- C. **Nose**
- D. Belly

9. Moses parted the \_\_\_\_\_ Sea?

- A. Dead
- B. Black
- C. Nile
- D. **Red**

10. Jesus' first miracle was:

- A. Healing a deaf man
- B. Resurrecting Lazarus
- C. **Turning water into wine**
- D. Providing a fish with a coin in its mouth

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"God Can Do All Things"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** Help kids believe that God can do the impossible.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "There is nothing too hard for You." Jeremiah 32:17b

**SUPPLIES:** Styrofoam meat trays or paper plates, one or two dishpans or a wading pool of water, scissors for children, and a toy boat.

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**OPENING:** Have the children tell you about a favorite cartoon, or movie. Discuss what is possible or impossible for the characters to do in that show. Would it be possible for us to do that in real life? Why or why not?

Another option would be to read a fantasy book such as the Cat In The Hat. Again discuss what is possible or impossible.

Sometimes it is hard to tell which things on television are real and which are only pretend. Television can look very real, but not everything on television is true or even possible. The people who make T. V. shows can make things look possible when they're really not. Jesus actually DID the impossible.

For the lesson, get a toy boat and place it in one of the dishpans of water. As you tell the story, shake the dishpan and cause the water to rock the boat.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the story about Jesus walking on the water found in Matthew 14:22-23. "Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and go on ahead to the other side while Jesus climbed the mountain so he could be by Himself and pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night.

Meanwhile, the disciples got in the boat and sailed far out to sea. It was night time. All of a sudden, the wind came up against them and they were thrown around by the waves. The disciples felt very alone and very afraid. Then, at about four o'clock in the morning, before the sun was out, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They were scared because they thought Jesus was a ghost.

But Jesus was quick to assure them, “Don’t be afraid, it’s Me.”

Peter, suddenly wasn’t afraid anymore and said, “Jesus, if it’s really you, call me to walk to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come ahead.” Peter jumped out of the boat and actually started walking on the water to Jesus. But then Peter looked down and saw waves crashing about and became afraid and started to go down in the water. Peter called out to Jesus, “Help me!”

Jesus didn’t wait one second. He reached down and grabbed Peter’s hand. Jesus said, “Why were you afraid, I was here!” Jesus and Peter got into the boat and the strong wind stopped. The disciples said, “Jesus, you are really the Son of God.” JESUS DID THE IMPOSSIBLE!

Have you ever been all alone and been afraid. Jesus will help you.



**ACTIVITY:** Provide each child with 2 styrofoam meat trays, or paper plates. Trace their footprints with a sharp pencil so that there is a definite imprint. Have the children cut out their feet. Help those who can’t. Then let them float their footprints on the water.

**SNACK:** Lemon-lime soda with sherbet floating on top. Use diet drink if necessary.



**CONCLUSION:** Before closing in prayer, talk to the children about how God can do the impossible for them. Take prayer requests.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"God Can Do All Things"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** Help kids believe that God can do the impossible.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Ah, Lord God! Behold! You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You."* Jeremiah 32:17

**SUPPLIES:** Water, two plastic soda bottles with plastic caps, "krazy" glue, duct tape, food coloring. You will need a drill or something to make a hole through the bottle caps.

Large rocks, paints and brushes. Newspapers, items for cleanup.

Optional: Binoculars, microscope or telescope.

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**OPENING:** Make a tornado in a bottle using the items listed above. Glue the flat ends of the bottle caps together. Let dry overnight. Wrap the duct tape neatly around the outside of the double cap.

After the glue has dried, use a drill with a wide bit or something that will create a hole as large as possible between the two caps.

Fill one of the bottles 3/4 full with water. Add 10 drops of food coloring. Screw the double cap on this bottle. While holding the filled bottle right side up, screw the empty bottle onto the top of the double capped bottle.

Turn the bottles upside-down, give it a swirl and you will see a storm in a bottle.

**Note:** If you have enough bottles, put the kids into groups and give each group a set of previously glued caps and the other items and let them make their own storms.

Have the children tell you about a favorite action or science fiction movie. Discuss what is possible or impossible for the characters to do in that show. Would it be possible for us to do that in real life? Why or why not?



If you have time, show a film clip (with copyright permission) of a ship in a storm and how frightening it could be. Preview it first for content.

Sometimes it is hard to tell which things on television are really real and which are only pretend. Television can look very real, or be based on real circumstances, but not everything on television is true or even possible. Television producers create shows that can make things look possible when they're really not. Jesus DID the impossible.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the story about Jesus walking on the water found in Matthew 14:22-23. “Jesus told the disciples to get in the boat and go ahead to the other side while He climbed the mountain to pray. He stayed there alone, late into the night, to talk to His Heavenly Father.

Meanwhile, the boat was far out to sea. All of a sudden, the wind came up and the boat was thrown around by the waves. Even though such storms happened a lot in this area, the sea was a major means of transportation. These storms were very dangerous. The disciples became frightened and really wondered if they were going to die. After all, Jesus was at the mountain praying. How could He know what was happening with them. Then, at about four o'clock in the morning, Jesus came toward them walking on the water. They actually thought Jesus was a ghost.

But Jesus was quick to comfort them “Don't be afraid, it's Me.” These are simple words, but they are powerful. They are truth.

Peter, suddenly bold, said, “Jesus, if it's really you, call me to walk to you on the water.” Jesus said, “Come ahead.” Peter jumped out of the boat and actually started walking on the water to Jesus. But then Peter lost his focus, he took his eyes off Jesus and looked down at the desperate situation he was in. He saw waves crashing about and then became afraid and started to go down in the water. Peter called out to Jesus, “Help me!”

Though Peter wasn't strong in his faith, Jesus didn't wait one second to help him. He reached down and grabbed Peter's hand. Jesus said, “Why were you afraid, I was here!” Jesus and Peter got into the boat and the strong wind stopped. The disciples said, “Jesus, you are really the Son of God.” **JESUS DID THE IMPOSSIBLE!**

- Have you ever been so afraid that you thought you were going to die?
- Do you believe that you can call on God and He will answer your prayer? Why or why not?



**ACTIVITY:** Allow the kids to paint rocks. These can be reminders about how solid God's word is. If He promises to help us—He will. Perhaps they could put the scripture reference or the words "With God nothing is impossible."

**SNACK:** Ice cream floats.



**CONCLUSION:** Before closing in prayer, talk to the kids about how God can do the impossible for them. Have them look up Romans 8:28 and Philippians 4:6,7. Take prayer requests.

**OPTION:** Using the binoculars, microscope or telescope, give the kids something to look at through their eyes then through the powerful lens. Sometimes things can seem small or too far away to see clearly. With help, we can see very well. God wants us to focus on Him and what he can do with that situation. He can help us see His answers clearly.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Don't Be Afraid"

Recommended for: Preschool

\*We suggest that this lesson be taught with the "God's Thoughts of You" lesson for Elementary and Juniors.

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**LESSON AIM:** To know what to do when we are afraid

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"The Lord is my helper, so I will not be afraid."* Hebrews 13:6

**SUPPLIES:** 4-5 ft. butcher/art paper, markers, crayons, a photocopy of the memory verse page for each child. Sponges, paper, chenille wire. Dishpan of water and boat for lesson.

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**OPENING:** Tape a large piece of butcher/art paper to the wall. Draw a simple picture of the disciples in a boat during the storm with Jesus standing on the water.

As the children arrive, have them color in the picture and also write or draw on the mural something that has caused them to be afraid. Things that cause them to be afraid could be a dog, cars, riding their bike, going to school, a person bigger than their self, etc.



**EDUCATE:** Before class, take masking tape and create a large outline on the floor to represent the boat. Have the children sit in it as you tell the story.

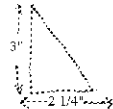
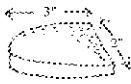
Relate the story of Jesus appearing on the water to the disciples during a storm (Matthew 14:22-33). *Use the dishpan and boat to simulate the stormy sea. Rock the dishpan to make big waves that toss the boat around.*

The disciples were alone; they thought Jesus didn't know about the danger they were in. The disciples were afraid! But Jesus did know what was happening and He came to them. At first, they were so afraid that they imagined a ghost was coming toward them, but then they realized that it was Jesus. Peter was not afraid at first- he walked out to Jesus on the water. When Peter realized what he was doing he began to be afraid and

he started to sink, but Jesus loved Peter and saved him from drowning. Talk with the children about how Jesus is always with us and will help us in times of fear. Make sure the emphasis of this time is on Jesus and how He is greater than any fear we might experience. Tell them they can always turn to Jesus; all we have to do is pray!



**ACTIVITY:** Pass out photocopies of the memory verse coloring sheet and have the kids color it. Encourage them to display their verse on the refrigerator at home and have their parents review the verse with them.



**OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:** Have the children make sponge boats.

- **Materials:** One 2" x 3" piece of sponge, a 2 1/4" x 3" piece of paper, and one chenille wire.

- **Directions:** Cut the sail from one corner of the paper to the opposite corner across from it. Write the words, "Do not be afraid" on each sail and allow the kids to color them. Punch two holes in the sail and insert the chenille wire for the mast. Place the mast into the sponge. If you are using the dishpan of water, let the children take turns sailing their boats.



**SNACK:** Provide hot chocolate with marshmallows floating on the top.

**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children to give their fears to God. Let them know that God will always take care of them.

THE LORD IS

MY HELPER,

SO

I WILL NOT

BE AFRAID.

HEBREWS 13:6

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"God's Thoughts of You"

Recommended for: Elementary, Junior

\* Use this lesson in conjunction with "Don't Be Afraid" for Preschoolers

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**LESSON AIM:** That each child will know Satan is a liar and understand how God views them.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"All you say can be trusted; your teachings are true and will last forever." Psalm 119:160 - Contemporary English Version*

**SUPPLIES:** Photocopies of the memory verse handout. 12 or more large round balloons, straight pins to pop balloons, soft-tipped permanent marker, Bibles for class use, large sheets of construction paper or 3" x 5" index cards for each child, pens, pencils, clear contact paper (for index cards), glitter or other optional items for posters.

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**Preparation:** Photocopy and cut out the Bible references from the Bible Reference Sheet (master provided). Prepare the balloons so that God's Truth is on the inside of the balloon and the Lie of Satan is written in felt pen on the outside of the balloon.

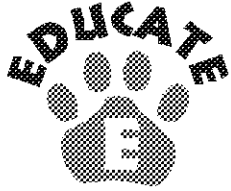
**Lies of Satan:**  
(printed on balloon)

"I am worthless."  
"I was just a big mistake from the beginning."  
"Nobody loves me."  
"Nobody wants me."  
"I can't do anything right."  
"I'm all alone."  
"There's nobody to protect me."  
"I can't trust anybody."  
"Nobody cares about me."  
"Nobody listens to me."  
"I'm no good."  
"Nobody knows how I feel."

**God's Truth:**  
(inside the balloons)

Matthew 10:29-31  
Psalm 139:13-18  
Jeremiah 31:3  
Ephesians 1:4-5  
Romans 8:1  
Hebrews 13:5,6  
Psalm 46:1  
Proverbs 3:5,6  
I Peter 5:7  
Psalm 34:15  
II Corinthians 5:17  
Psalm 139:1-4

**Solve the Bible Code:** As the children arrive, pass out the memory verse activity sheet and have them begin cracking the code to discover the memory verse.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Explain what Jesus said about Satan in John 8:44b. Jesus tells his followers that Satan is a liar and a murderer. He does not want us to feel loved. Have the children pick one or more balloons that describe how they sometimes feel. Let some of the children talk about how they feel and why. Explain that these are LIES of Satan and that we can't believe him or anyone who represents him. This is not what God's Word says about them. The Bible always tells us how much God cares for us. Let's pop the balloons representing the lies of Satan, one by one and read what God thinks about us from the Bible reference inside.



**Poster:** Have the children pick one of the verses as a theme for the week ahead and have them make a poster to keep in their room. Example: "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).

**Carry-along-card:** Another option is to make pocket-size verse cards (3x5). They may laminate them with clear adhesive paper and carry the cards with them wherever they go.

**Snack:** Popcorn and caffeine/sugar free drink.



**CLOSING:** Close by praying for the children allowing them to pray for understanding of how God loves them. He cannot and will not lie. He is truth. Believe Him, not Satan.

## Bible References Sheet

Matthew 10:29-31 - "Not one sparrow (What do they cost? Two for a penny?) can fall to the ground without your father knowing it. And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't worry! You are more valuable than many sparrows."

Psalms 139:13-18 - "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body, and knit them together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous - and how well I know it. You were there while I was being formed and in utter seclusion! You saw me before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Every day was recorded in your Book!"

Jeremiah 31:3 - "For long ago the Lord had said to Israel: I have loved you, O my people, with an everlasting love; with lovingkindness I have drawn you to me."

Ephesians 1:4-5 - "Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy, and innocent and loving people. God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children."

Romans 8:1 - "So there is now no condemnation awaiting those who belong to Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 13:5-6 - "For God has said, 'I will never, never fail you or forsake you.' that is why we say with confidence, the Lord is my helper so I will not be afraid."

Psalms 46:1 - "God is our refuge and strength, a tested help in time of trouble."

Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust the Lord completely; don't ever trust yourself. In everything you do put God first, and he will direct you and crown your efforts with success."

I Peter 5:7 - "Let him have all your worries and cares, for he is always thinking about you and watches everything that concerns you."

Psalms 34:15 - "For the eyes of the Lord are intently watching all who live good lives, and he gives attention to them when they cry to him."

II Corinthians 5:17 - "When someone becomes a Christian he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. An new life has begun!"

Psalms 139:1-4 - "O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me, and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it."



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Blessings from God"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To help the children know that they are a blessing from God. To understand that God will take care of their needs and bless them.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Matthew 6:33*

**SUPPLIES:** Jar pattern traced on folded paper, butcher paper, crayons, markers. Photocopies of finger puppet patterns. Bibles, pencils, paper.

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Younger Children:

As each child arrives have them lie down on a large piece of butcher paper. Draw an outline of the child. Write across the top of the paper, "God wants to bless me." Have the child color in the outline of him/herself. Adult assistance may be necessary as the child tries to draw eyes, nose, ears, mouth, etc.

Older Children:

Clear an area in your room for this activity. As each child arrives whisper one color to half the group, another color to the other half. However, one child, someone who has an outgoing personality will get a completely different color. (He or she will be the only one with this color) Turn off the lights and have the two color groups find their teammates by calling out their colors. When you are finished, ask these questions:

- How did you find each other?
- What happened to the person who was the only one with that color?
- Did you keep calling?
- How did you feel?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

Younger Children:

Read out loud about Elisha in 2 Kings 4:1-7. Use the jar pattern on folded paper. Cut out the jar while you are sharing the story, and at the end, unfold the paper and show them the multiplied jars.

Older Children: Sometimes we go through times in our lives when we feel alone. Perhaps we don't think God hears us or cares. Tell the following story, but have the children put themselves in the situation and to think about how they would feel.

Elisha was visiting a town and a woman, who was the widow of one of his friends, came up to him and asked him for help. Women in certain countries were not allowed to work. If a woman's husband died, she had to beg or ask other people for help. In those countries, women who didn't have husbands were not accepted by other people and they had a hard time getting help.

She still lived in her house, but she owed a lot of money to people. Back then, if you owed money and couldn't pay it, you or your children were sold as slaves to work until the debt was paid. The creditors were coming to get her two sons, which would have been her only hope for support. As her boys got older, they could have found work and helped their mother pay the debt. If the creditors came to take her sons away she would be left with nothing, not even family. She was very desperate.

Elisha asked her, "What do you have in your house? Is there anything you can sell to pay your debt?" The widow explained to him that she didn't even have food, all she had was a little bit of oil in a jar. Olive oil was used for both cooking and fuel. Elisha told her, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors- empty vessels; do not gather just a few." Then he told her to close her front door and have her sons help her pour the oil from her pitcher into the vessels. She did and the oil kept pouring and pouring until she finally ran out of vessels. She couldn't believe the huge amount of oil that was provided. Because of God's blessing, she was able to pay off her debts, keep her sons with her, and have enough money to buy food for her and her family.



**ACTIVITY: Younger Children:** Create finger puppets. Attached is a pattern for finger puppets. Have the children color the pattern and then help tape them on their fingers. Have the children repeat for you the story using the finger puppets.

Older Children: Provide paper and pencils for each child. List the following verses on a chalk board or poster board. Have a couple of children read the verses aloud.

Romans 8:28      Philippians 4:6,7      Matthew 6:32-34

Have the students write one of the scripture references on the paper and tell how that verse relates to a situation in their own life. Have them take

that paper home and look at it several times as a reminder that God wants to meet their needs and bless them.

**SNACK:** If you are able, make muffins, or a food that contains oil. Let the kids help. (bread, plain donuts, or crackers)

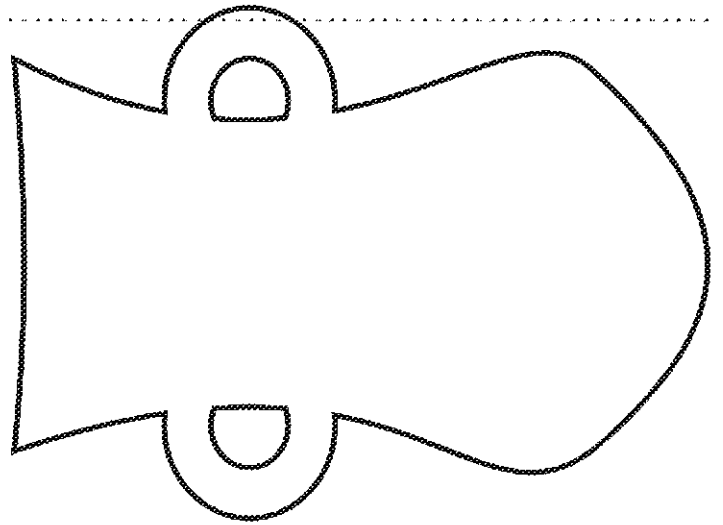
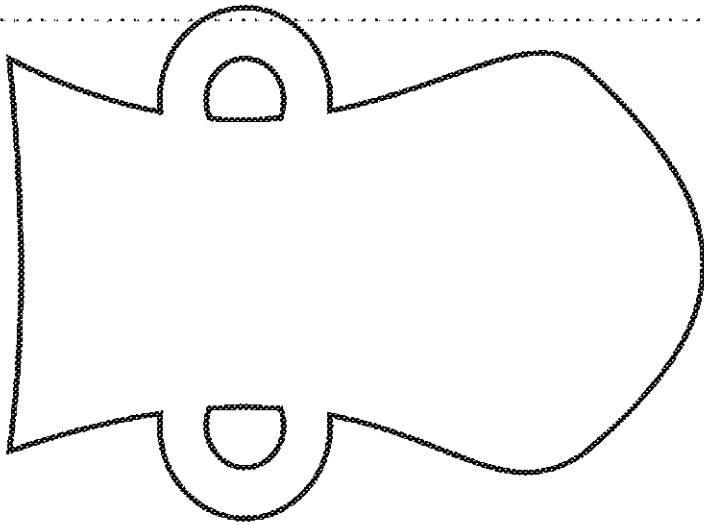


**CONCLUSION:** Talk about how each child is a blessing from the Lord, and what an important part they are in their family and in God's family. God loves you and cares for you. He knows when you are having hard times. He knows when your parents are having a hard time. Refer to the story read earlier, it shows God does help us. We can receive, from God, blessings bigger than we ever imagined.

**Note:** Consider the possibility that some children aren't happy with their family life; try to find something positive in their situation. Have an adult come and share their testimony, especially if they came from a hard environment or poor home. Please make sure the adult does not dwell on the negative aspects of their life. A message of comfort and help is what should be portrayed by your speaker.

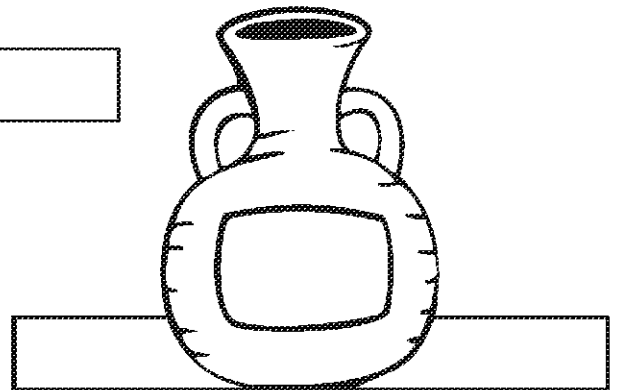
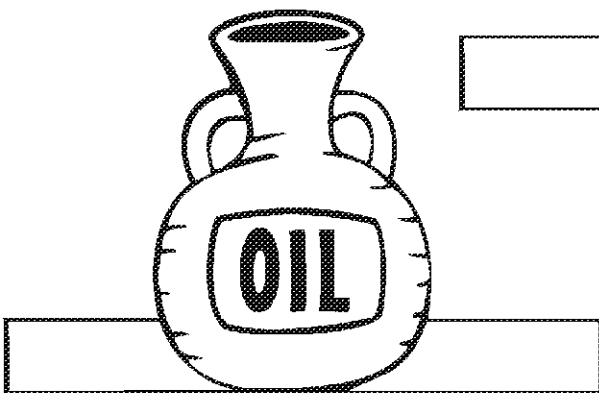
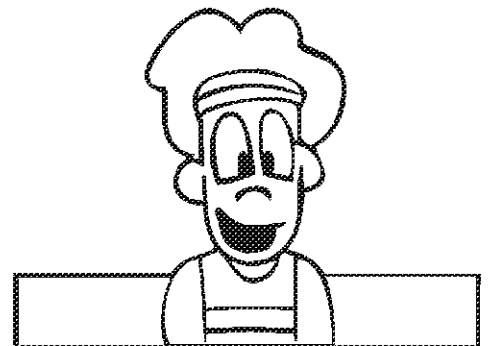
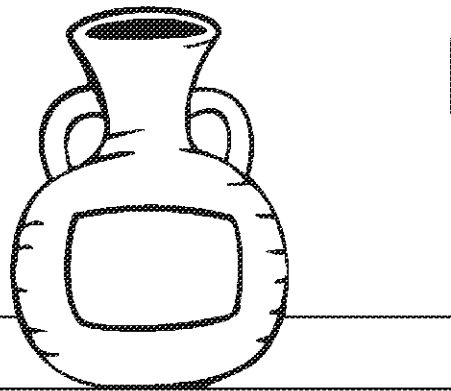
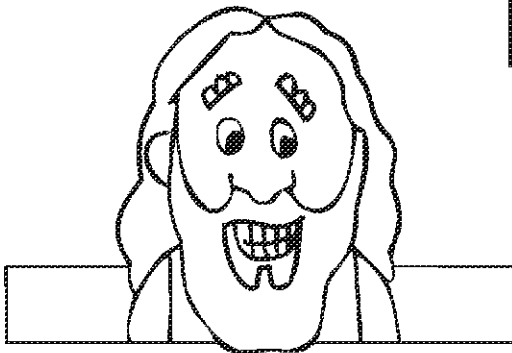
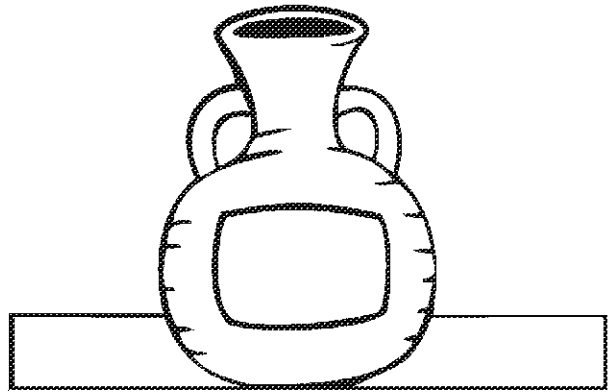
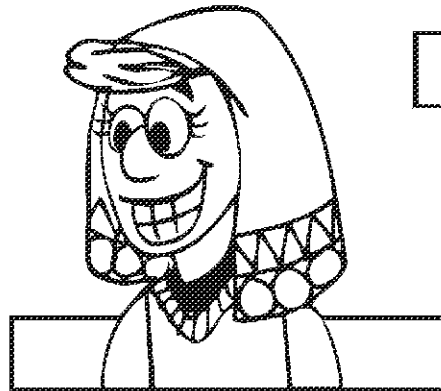
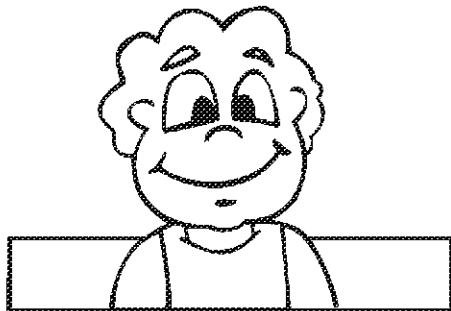
# Jar Pattern

Directions:  
Fan-fold this page according to the dotted lines and cut out the jar from the paper like you would a paper doll. Be sure to not cut around the handles they are supposed to overlap the edges.



# Elijah and the Widow Finger Puppets

Photocopy this page onto card-stock and pass them out to the children. Have the children color, cut-out and fasten the finger puppets with tape.



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "God's Love"

Recommended for: all

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand several ways that we can care for one another and show God's love and to do what God asks us to do.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God..."* 1 John 4:7

**SUPPLIES:** Pictures of families, elderly people, children, and a picture of Jesus. Items for making cards: construction paper or card stock, stickers, glitter, glue, fabric, etc., addresses of individuals in the church that are sick, handicapped, or unable to attend church, wrapped candy bar, or lollipop for each child in class.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children: Show examples of God's love by relating the feelings children show towards their parents, grandparents, and other family members.

Show warm loving pictures of small children with people they love. Listen to their response carefully.

Older Children: As children arrive, have the tables with card materials ready and begin making cards. This will be the main activity. Each child should make at least two cards.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Wrap a sucker, or piece of candy in a small box and present it to a child in the class. Allow them to open it and see what it is. Take a moment to ask the child how it felt to receive the gift. Then ask the other children how they felt not receiving a gift. Sometimes there are sick, elderly, or handicapped people that can't always come to church and sometimes feel left out. Talk about how happy it makes us feel when we have been sick and had to miss a Good News Bears Club meeting, and someone tells us how much they missed us. People like to know that they are missed and loved.

Ask if any of the children have a grandparent that lives in a rest home. How does that grandparent feel when they come to visit? There are a lot of people, like their grandparents, who need to know they are loved. When we give our time, smiles, hugs and small gifts (like cards) we are showing God's love to others. Be sure to pass out the remaining gifts to the rest of the children.



**ACTIVITY:** Make the cards.

**SNACK:** Heart shaped cookies and juice. The heart shape is to remind the children about the love of God.



**CONCLUSION:** Discuss how, when and to whom the cards will be given. Cards can be sent to club members when absent to show that they were missed, cards can be sent to visitors or given to whomever the children decide.

Show the children God's love by praying for them and give them a hug.

\*Note: Be sure to mail the cards to the people the next day.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"God's Got a Plan for your Life"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand that God will direct each of our lives when we surrender to Him.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations."*  
Jeremiah 1:5 (Underlined portion is for younger children)

**SUPPLIES:** 3x5 cards, shaving cream, large mirror or piece of glass.  
Volunteer to cook a meal for kids.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children: Place children in front of a large mirror or window. Squirt a ball of shaving cream on the glass in front of each child. Have them trace their images on the glass. Talk with them about how God created them.

Older Children: Divide children into teams. Give them a 3 x 5 card with one of the following scriptures written on it.

Psalm 33:11-12

Proverbs 3:5-6

1 Samuel 7:3

Jeremiah 29:11

Instruct the children to look up the Scripture and write down how God promises in His Word to take care of our lives if we look to Him.

When they are finished, ask the students what they would like to do when they get older. Some answers may not include a career. Then ask them how God fits into those plans.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Have all the students re-group. Have them read Jeremiah 1:5-8. God called Jeremiah to speak to the nation of Israel on God's behalf. God said he had a plan for Jeremiah's life even before Jeremiah was born. Jeremiah felt inadequate to do the job, but God says, "Do not be afraid of the faces of the people you will speak to."



In verse 8, God encourages Jeremiah by saying, “For I am with you to deliver you.” Just as God had a plan for Jeremiah’s life, God also has a plan for each of us.

Read this verse aloud:

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.”*

Matthew 7:7,8 (NIV)

- What kinds of things can you ask for?
- What should you look for to fulfill your life?
- What will God’s response be when we ask and seek?
- Have you ever gone to someone’s house and did not feel welcome to just walk in?

That right is usually reserved for family or close friends. God’s door is always open to us. We can just knock and He invites us in immediately. He has a plan for you, he has opened the doors for you. As Jeremiah says, God knew you and knew all about your life before you were born. He wants to meet your needs.



**ACTIVITY:** Have 2 or 3 adults share with the club how they knew what profession God wanted for them. Allow some of the students to interview the guests that you have chosen.

**SNACK:** If you have a chef or cook among your congregation, have them come and share about their profession and bring some fun snacks. Discuss why they enjoy their work. Or ask a mother who is a good cook to fulfill this role. The snack could be as simple as homemade cookies. They could also show the kids how to make the snack.



**CONCLUSION:** Ask the children what they like to do and ask them if there is a profession that correlates with their choice. Discuss how they can serve God in all occupations. Give the children examples to deal with, for example: police officer, mail carrier, store clerk, computer technician, teacher, and so on.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"God's Promises"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach how God always keeps His word to us. The Lord cares about each individual and promises us many benefits as His children.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises; in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature . . ." 2 Peter 1:4a (NAS)*  
Underlined portion is for the younger children.

**SUPPLIES:** Paper plates, scissors, 3 x 5 index cards, small squares of colored tissue paper, paper, glue, hole punch, yarn, butcher paper, balloons, playdough, masking tape.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children: Print the names (or pictures for children who do not read) of animals on 3 x 5 index cards. Have one child stand and act out the animal on his/her card. The children can guess the animal. The first child to guess correctly can then stand and act out what is on his/her card. Remember to allow adequate time (approximately 10-20 minutes), depending on your schedule.

Older Children: Have a Bible drill with the promise references. Ask the kids questions about the promises they looked up.

John 1:12- I am a child of God.

1 Corinthians 6:19,20- I have been bought with a price, I belong to God.

Ephesians 1:5- I have been adopted as God's child.

Philippians 1:6- I am sure that the good work that God has started in me will be finished.

Romans 8:35f.- I cannot be separated from the love of God.

Philippians 4:13- I am able to do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

How do these promises pertain to you?

What is God saying to you personally?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Review beforehand Genesis 6:5-8, 12-22, and chapter 7, 8, 9:1-17.

Younger Children:

1. Provide models of Noah's ark and the animals to reinforce the story of the ark and the rainbow. Pictures of Noah and the ark and lots of colorful pictures of different kinds of animals can also be used. (Your local toy store and Bible book store are good resources to find visuals for this story. Or, make a one-sided cardboard ark and have the children make the animals from Playdough.)
2. Display the colors of the rainbow in the room in creative ways.
3. Make colorful rainbows out of butcher paper for the walls (or paint the colors on white butcher paper).

**OPTIONAL:** Inflate balloons with helium for added color and atmosphere. Place a surprise inside each balloon before inflating them, such as small, lightweight plastic animals, candy, gummy bears, etc. (Remember to tell the children there's a surprise inside their balloon.)

**NOTE:** Popping balloons can be noisy and scary to 3 and 4-year-olds. Decide what your children can handle. If you choose this activity, decide beforehand when and where the balloons will be popped. For safety reasons be sure that all balloon pieces are picked up immediately!

Older Children:

Have the kids tape off the size of the ark in your church parking lot (450 feet). Let the children see how big the ark really was. Have a discussion about the story of Noah in the "ark" you've made. (You may get straw bails or something optional for the kids to sit on.)

If your parking lot is too small to fit the ark in it, take the children outside to see for their self that the ark was bigger than the whole parking lot and maybe even bigger than the whole church property.

The Story of Noah's Ark:

The Lord was very disgusted when he looked upon the earth and saw the sin and chaos. He was sorry that He had made man on the earth and he was grieved in his heart. So the Lord said "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them."

However, Noah had grace in the eyes of the Lord. He walked with the Lord and obeyed him. The Lord commanded Noah to build a large boat out of gopher wood and cover it with pitch. He also instructed Noah

to take his wife, three sons, their wives, and seven of every clean animal male and female and two of every kind of unclean animals male and female (Gen 6:5-8). Noah built the ark as God had commanded. The Lord said to Noah “For after seven days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights and I will destroy from the face of the earth every living thing I have made.” (Gen 7:4)

Noah and his family built the ark and gathered every animal as God had instructed and boarded the ark. It rained and stormed for forty days and forty nights. After the rains had stopped the waters receded continually from the earth. After forty days Noah sent out a raven that flew to and fro until the waters had dried. He also sent out for himself a dove. When the dove came back, he knew it was not time to go because she had no where to rest her feet. After seven more days he sent her out again and she returned with a freshly picked olive leaf in her mouth; and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

Then God spoke to Noah saying “Go out of the ark, you and you wife, and your sons, and your sons wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing of all flesh that is with you.”

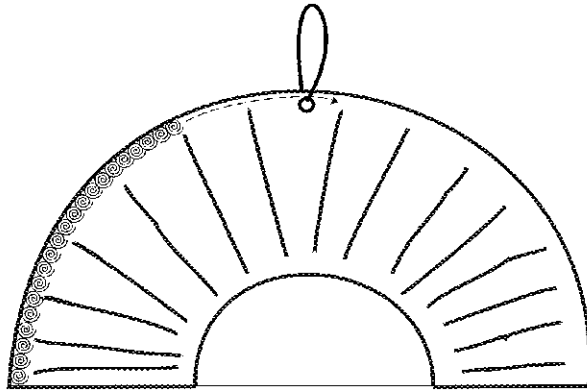
Noah took the clean animals and sacrificed them unto the Lord. The Lord then promised Noah “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake.”

**SNACK:** Serve animal crackers or animal cookies with rainbow punch. For rainbow punch you can either make 2-3 different colors of drinks to choose from or have a light colored punch with a different flavor of ice cubes. (Yellow Kool-Aid™ to drink with grape Kool-Aid™ ice cubes.)

**ACTIVITY:** Have the students make rainbows to hang in their rooms at home. Provide a paper plate, small squares of tissue paper in rainbows, glue, hole punch, piece of yarn.



Have the students cut the paper plate in half, and then cut the center away from the half. It should look like a rainbow. Apply glue to each section of the arch. Scrunch up a piece of the colored tissue paper and place on the previously glued arch. Arrange a row of like colors along the rim of the rainbow. Apply another row of tissue paper in another color underneath the first row. It should take about five or six rows to fully cover the paper rainbow. Punch a hole at the top of rainbow to string the yarn through to hang the rainbow. (Example on next page.)



**CONCLUSION:** Have each child think of a promise from God's Word that was discussed in the lesson. Have each child pray and give thanks that God will be faithful to fulfill His promise.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Everything God Made is Good!"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To help the children understand God made all animals.  
To help them learn to respect and love God's creatures.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good." Genesis 1:31a

**SUPPLIES:** Construction paper, crayons, animal stickers, story book on zoo animals. Photocopies of the "Origami Swan" pattern, enough pieces of square paper for each of the older children.  
If possible, bring in live animals or a petting zoo. It may be possible to arrange a veterinarian or humane society volunteer to speak about the special physical characteristics of certain animals.

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**OPENING:**

**Younger Children:** Have the children make "zoo" greeting cards for friends or family, using construction paper, crayons and animal stickers. Have them write the scripture verse inside or have it already written for younger children.

**Older Children:** Have the older children make an origami swan. Pass out a sheet of square paper to each child and walk them through the instruction sheet on how to make an origami swan. (Be sure to practice this ahead of time so you can easily show the children how to do this.)



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Younger children: As the children work on the activity, allow guided conversation about the animals. Tell them that God has made every animal. Don't assume they already know that. Talk about some of the characteristics of each animal and why they are made the way they are. Let the children share some things they have learned about animals. Read aloud a storybook about zoo animals.

Older children: (Option: Have the older children do their activity first. They could make the playdough for the younger children.)

Open a discussion with the children about all the different types of animals God made. In public schools, these children are taught that all animals evolved. Talk about the difference between the Christian belief that God “created” all animals and the evolutionist view. Read Genesis 1:20-25. (If you are not familiar with the theory of Evolution, you may want to do some research prior to this lesson so you will be prepared to answer any questions that may arise.)



**ACTIVITY:** Allow the children to make “play dough” animals. Provide metal cookie cutters in animal shapes. (See play dough recipe below or use pre-made play dough.)

**PLAY DOUGH:**

2 cups flour	1 cup salt
4 Tbsp. Cream of tartar	1 tsp. food coloring (in the water)
1 cup very HOT water	2 Tbsp. oil

Mix dry ingredients together. Combine water, oil and food coloring then pour into dry mixture. Knead dough until thoroughly mixed. Divide among children.

**ALTERNATIVE:** Allow older elementary children to be helpers that evening, especially if you bring in live animals. This is good training for them. If you lay down some ground rules before they enter the class it will alleviate potential problems. The older children could also make the playdough recipe for the class. Break them up into groups and make several colors.

**SNACK:** Animal crackers, juice or milk.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children, giving thanks to God for all the good things He made.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Jesus is our Guide"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To know that Jesus will always show us what to do and guide us.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."*  
Philippians 1:6

**SUPPLIES:** Bubbles, blindfold, card stock or construction paper, glue, photocopies of the Memory Verse Cards on cardstock.

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**OPENING:** As the children arrive, involve them in the following game. Give each child a bottle of soap bubbles. (If group is big, assign them to teams as they arrive.) Position them at a start line. They must blow a bubble and then blow it across to the finish line. If the bubble bursts, they must stop at that point and blow another bubble. If you use teams, make it a relay.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Share with the children a time in your life when you were unsure of a decision to make. How did Jesus help you know what to do? What are some ways that Jesus directs you? How did this verse relate to your situation? Did you learn something through that situation? Share with the children how Jesus talks to you through His Word. How do you know what Jesus wants you to do?



**ACTIVITY:** Send several of the children to another room with another adult. Instruct them to return one at a time. When each child returns, he/she will find a number of obstacles in the room. He is told to examine the room carefully and then be blindfolded. He/she must endeavor to walk across the room without bumping into any of the obstacles. After he/she is blindfolded, the obstacles are carefully and quietly removed so he actually has a clear path. It will be funny to watch this, but this is how we sometimes handle obstacles in our own life. We struggle through even though God has promised to make a way for us and continue working through us.



Sometimes we do not know what to do, but Jesus will help us make the right decisions. We shouldn't let "obstacles" get in our way. Have a brief discussion of what the real obstacles are in life?



**CONCLUSION:** Have the students review the memory verse. Distribute copies of the verse and put it on card stock paper. Have the students place the cards in their wallets, on a mirror at home or on their refrigerator and use as a reminder at home.

# Memory Verse Cards

**Being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work in you  
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ!  
Philippians 1:6**

**Being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work in you  
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ!  
Philippians 1:6**

**Being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work in you  
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Philippians 1:6**

**Being confident of this very thing,  
that He who has begun a good work in you  
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ!  
Philippians 1:6**

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Design Time"

Recommended for: Preschool, Elementary

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**LESSON AIM:** To know that God, who created all things helps us to be creative.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For by Him all things were created,..."* Colossians 1:16

**SUPPLIES:** Construction paper, glue/paste, playdough or clay.

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**OPENING:** Have a single sheet of construction paper and glue ready for each student. In the middle of the table have a pile of construction paper that has been torn into many different shapes.

Instruct the children to be creative and use the pieces of paper to make a picture. Glue the pieces onto the whole sheet provided for each child.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Ask the children to name things God created. How did God know to make the different animals? Did He make a mistake when He created certain animals? Why or why not?

God gave us all the gift of creativity. Think of the many ways you have been or can be creative. When you are at school and you are drawing a picture, thank God for the gift of creativity he gave you.

He was creative when he made us. Ten fingers and ten toes; brown hair, red hair, blond hair and black hair; blue eyes, brown eyes or green eyes. We all look different yet we are so beautifully, creatively made.



**ACTIVITY:** Provide Play-Doh™ for each child. Allow them to create animals and name them. Let every child show their own created sculpture. Make sure every child is praised for their creation. There is no right or wrong creation.

**OPTIONAL:** Provide a magnifying glass (more than one if possible) and several interesting objects. Spend time looking closely at things that God created. Look carefully at a leaf, an insect, each child's finger prints, etc. Talk about the special design of each thing that God created.

**SNACK:** Jello-Jigglers™, do not pre-cut them! Provide several different shapes of cookie cutters so the children can choose and cut their own shapes.



**CONCLUSION:** Form a prayer circle and have each child thank the Lord for one creative talent He has given them. As you are in the prayer circle thank the Lord for all of the creative Good News Bears he has given you.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Design Time"

Recommended for: Junior

**LESSON AIM:** To know that God, who created all things helps us to be creative.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For by Him all things were created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. . ."* Colossians 1:16

**SUPPLIES:** Construction paper, glue/paste, decorating items for cards, Play-doh or clay.



**OPENING:** Have a single sheet of construction paper and glue ready for each student. In the middle of the table have a pile of construction paper that has been torn into many different shapes.

Instruct the children to be creative and use the pieces of paper to make a picture. Glue the pieces onto the whole sheet provided for each child.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY: We can be creative.** Just as God created, we can be creative. We have the mental ability to create art, poetry, and music. We have the physical ability to create a building out of wood or brick or steel. One of the benefits of being created in God's image is to share in His creative ability. This creativity can be a real benefit in our daily lives. For example, the next time you have to complete a project for school, pray that God shows you how to really be creative. He will give you a new idea and a fresh approach to the problem.

**We can imagine.** God has given us His characteristic of imagination. We can conceive ideas in our minds and imagine things that we have never seen before. We can dream and pretend. Our imagination is a wonderful gift of God. Other created beings do not have the ability to imagine. Because we have been created in God's image, we can imagine things no one else has experienced and we can hope for things that we have not yet seen.



**ACTIVITY:** Design a helpful gadget from throw away household items like rubber bands, twist ties from garbage bags, paper clips, chenille wire,

empty toilet tissue or paper towel tubes, measuring spoons or cups from powder drinks or laundry soap. Lids with no containers and bottle caps. Give the kids 15 minutes to design their "gadget." Let them name their design and explain how it could be helpful to other people.

**SNACK:** Make popcorn balls.

8 cups popped popcorn

1/2cup dark corn syrup

1/2 cup brown sugar

1/4 cup margarine or butter

Combine brown sugar, corn syrup, margarine and salt in large pot. Heat over medium-high heat, stirring constantly. Add popcorn into mixture until well coated (2/3 minutes) Cool until safe to handle. Dip hands in cool water or lightly oil their hands. Shape into balls about 2" in diameter. Place on parchment or waxed paper and cool. Wrap in plastic wrap or bags. Makes six.



**CONCLUSION:** Have each child thank the Lord for one creative talent He has give them. As you are in the prayer circle thank the Lord for all of the creative Good News Bears he has given you.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"I Am Special"

Recommended for: All

**LESSON AIM:** To help the children know that they are special and unique.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "...I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalms 139:14a

**SUPPLIES:** Ink pads, colored markers, white paper, and various kinds of fruit



**OPENING:**

1) **FINGERPRINT CREATURES.** These are made with fingerprints, ink pads or markers. Begin by having each child press his or her thumb on the ink pad then press it on a sheet of white paper. Repeat until there is a shape or figure and that is the child's own masterpiece creature.

2) **HAND TURKEY.** Have the children trace around their own hand. The turkey is completed by decorating the thumb as the head and the fingers as the tail feathers. Add feet, a beak, eyes, etc.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Discuss how God has made each child special and different from anyone else. He knows them personally and even knows how many hairs are on their heads (Matthew 10:30). Matthew 10:31 states that we are more valuable than the sparrows. Humans have been given 5 very special senses; they are the abilities to: feel, smell, hear, taste and see.

Label the 5 senses on poster paper (touch, smell, taste, sight, and sound). Add a picture(s) to each word (hand, nose, etc.). Gather a few statistics about the five senses. Discuss situations when each of these senses are used.



**ACTIVITY:** On a couple of long tables place a number of items that the kids can touch, taste, and smell. Cover each of them with a lid, or kitchen towel. Blindfold the children and line them up behind one end of the table and have them walk, one at a time, down the line, feeling the different objects. Have the students guess what each item is. Tell them that God has wonderfully made us by giving us our five senses.

**OPTION:** You might want to add a little humor by cutting a hole in the center of a large piece of cardboard and attaching it to the end of the table. Have one of your Bears leaders put their head through the whole. Cover it with a serving tray cover or a towel and let the students guess what the object is by feeling it! It could be a blast, but might be a little frightening for preschoolers.

**SNACK:** Serve Jello™ snacks so the children can smell taste and feel the Jello™ in their mouths.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the children thank the Lord for their senses and some of the things that the senses help them to enjoy. (Sunshine, the ocean, flowers, etc.)



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "Who am I?"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To encourage the children to become all that God has intended them to be.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight."* (Ephesians 1:4)  
Underlined portion is for younger children to memorize.

**SUPPLIES:** Bibles, pencils, markers and paper.  
Construction paper, markers, glue and fake Jewels or glitter for crowns.

\*The week before, ask a couple of people in your church or neighborhood to share their profession with the class. Try to pick different occupations. Ask the speaker to explain why they feel they are in the right job (how they are a unique person for their job).



**OPENING:** Divide kids into three groups. Assign the following scripture references for the children to look up and read at a later time.  
Matthew 10:29-31    Psalm 139:13-18    Psalm 100:3

Younger Children: Collect fake or plastic jewelry, or cut out pictures of jewels or use glitter. Make crowns out of construction paper. Write the words "God values me" on the crowns. Explain to the children that God is the "King of Kings", there is no king above Him, and we are His sons and daughters. We are princes and princesses.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

Younger Children: Ask the following questions and encourage the children to respond:

1. Did you know you are a one of a kind person? Did you know that God mad each person unique? You are unique! (Read Matthew 10:29-31.)

2. How many birds do you think there are in the sky? Which is your favorite?
3. Do you think God has a favorite bird?
4. What bird is mentioned in the scripture verse?
5. Jesus says you are more valuable to Him than the sparrow. Why does God put more value on people than He does on birds?
6. Does that verse make you feel special?

**Note:** If you have the speakers, discuss this afterward.

Older Children: Have the children share traits they like about their family and that God would like, too. Tell them they are a masterpiece created by God. There can only be one original; there are no copies made of anyone. (You may need to explain that even identical twins are different in some ways.) Read Psalm 139:13-18, ask the children how those words make them feel.

If your class is old enough to write, have them write the answers to the following questions. If your class is not old enough to write, just ask the questions and give several children a chance to respond verbally.

"I am different from others because..."

"The best part of my day is..."

"I like my friends because..."

"Two things I look forward to are..."

"I like to learn about..."

Read Psalm 100:3. Not only are we made like Him, but He made us and we belong to Him. Just like a shepherd takes care of his sheep, God will take care of us.



**ACTIVITY:** Name Acrostic. This is a good way for you and the older kids to get to know themselves better and to give you an idea of what they think of themselves.

Have the student vertically list their first name (include last if the first name is short.) Then have them write a word that describes their personality. (Some words might be positive and some may not be.) After they are finished talk about how different and special God made us. Also discuss areas in which we can ask God's help in improving. Have them pray for one another. Teach them to be accountable to each other in helping them grow.

Younger Children: The teacher will write each child's name in large dark letters and 2 or 3 positive characteristics for each child. Encourage the children to help think of positive ways to describe themselves.

While children are decorating their name, remind them of how special they are to God.

Example:

**J**umpy  
**O**utgoing  
**E**ncouraging

### **SNACK: PEANUT BUTTER FACES**

**INGREDIENTS:**      bread                  peanut butter  
                         raisins                  coconut  
                         round cutter      cupcake papers

Spread a slice of bread with peanut butter for each child (this can be done in class by the children if they are old enough to handle a job such as this. Use your discretion). Using a large biscuit cutter, cut a large circle from the slice of peanut-buttered bread (save scraps for the birds). Give each child a paper baking cup with a few raisins, coconut and whatever else would be appropriate for face making. Let the children be creative in making a face of themselves. Explain that each face that they create is unique, this is just like God created them, unique and special. Then let the children eat it!



**CONCLUSION:** Talk to the children about how special they are to God; that they were made unique (one of a kind), with talents to share and, best of all, in the image (or likeness) of God. Close in prayer.

Younger Children: Teach the following cheer:

I am **BIG!** (Stretch hands high)  
I am **STRONG!** (Flex muscles)  
Jesus will help me  
All day long!

Who makes me **BIG?**  
Who makes me **STRONG?**  
Who makes me **HAPPY?**  
The whole day long? **JESUS!**

**JESUS, JESUS—HE IS STRONG!**  
Loves me, helps me  
All day long! Yea! (Clap for Jesus!)

From: Kathy Reimer, 1001 Ways to Introduce Your Child to God, 1992 Tyndale House Publishers.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Jesus the Life Saver"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To know that Jesus is the only One who can take away our sins and give us a new life of freedom.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Look, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world."*  
John 1:29

**SUPPLIES:** Small suitcase with heavy weights, paper plates, Life Saver® candies, felt pens or crayons, visual of Scripture verse.

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**OPENING:** Have a suitcase loaded down so heavy that none of the children can lift it. In large letters, label the suitcase "SIN." Have a strong person dressed as Jesus greet the children and participate with the class until the lesson.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** As you gather the children in a circle around the suitcase of "sin," act like a clumsy clown and keep tripping over the suitcase. With exasperation, ask if any of the children can lift it out of the way. After a few attempts, suddenly "remember" or "discover" that the suitcase is "sin." Tell the children how the Bible teaches us to get rid of sin. Read from the Bible about Jesus being the only One who has the power and strength to take away sin. Have a strong adult to play the part of Jesus. Ask Jesus to please come up and take away your sin. When he has, thank him. Then have him hand you an envelope in exchange for the suitcase of "SIN" before he leaves the scene with the suitcase. Open the envelope and show the word "FORGIVEN" written in large letters.



**ACTIVITY:** Have the children create a life preserver out of paper plates. Cut the centers out of paper plates. (For younger children have the centers already cut out). Have them color one side of the large "lifesaver" on the other side write "Jesus is my Life Saver." Allow them to take the Life Saver home or hang them around the room.

**SNACK:** Serve donuts which resemble a life preserver.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with any children that need to get rid of sin.

**Optional Activity:** Give the older kids magazines and newspapers. Ask them this question: "How do people deal with life, stress, etc.?" Cut out pictures, headlines or articles which show people dealing with the struggles of life. After 5-10 minutes, ask for volunteers who will share what they found and their opinions about the question above. Hopefully, someone cut out pictures or articles about turning to God. Steer the discussion to this point: "Nothing we can try will help us deal with sin as well as turning to Jesus. Jesus is our 'Life Saver!'"

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Jesus Heals Two Blind Men"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To help the children understand blindness and an example of divine healing.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "... I am the Lord who heals you" Exodus 15:26

**SUPPLIES:** Braille alphabet samples, blindfolds, Jenga™, board games, collage materials, loose leaves, tempera paints. A speaker who is blind or a representative from an Institute for the Blind.

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**Note:** Since this lesson is geared for all ages, pick the appropriate activity and questions for your group.



**OPENING:** Allow the children to study a few letters or words in the Braille alphabet and see if they can read simple words or letters with their fingers (usually available through your public library).

Allow time to blindfold the children and let them try to do simple tasks: drinking from a cup, eating with a spoon, combing their hair, putting their shoes on the right feet, etc.

While the children are attempting these tasks, explain that in Bible times, the blind people didn't have Braille books, special schools, or seeing eye dogs. They couldn't work so many of them begged in the streets to survive.

If you have a blind guest, allow the children to ask them questions. If the person speaks to groups regularly, they can handle any questions or comments that may arise.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the story from Matthew 9:27-31. (For younger ages, read from a children's Bible.) Have the better readers take turns reading verses and use visuals if needed. Have the children draw a simple picture depicting various scenes of the story either on regular paper

or overhead transparencies. Show the pictures while the children tell you the story.

Older Children: Read Matthew 9:27-31 and allow discussion.

Why do you think the blind men followed Jesus around?

Did they realize who Jesus was and that He was due respect?

Jesus went into the house for privacy to avoid a commotion or a public mob because, He had become so well known. Jesus asked the blind men if they knew who He was even though they couldn't see Him. Jesus wanted to know if they had faith in Him before they were healed of their blindness.

Have them look at verse 29 and notice that Jesus touched them. Sometimes He actually touched the people, sometimes He only had to speak words and they were healed. In verse 30 when their eyes were opened Jesus asked them not to say anything about it. Why do you think He said this? (Possibilities are: Jesus knew some people did not think He was the true Son of God and would have sought Him out for the wrong reasons. He knew the Pharisees and Sadducees were out to get Him and that it was not yet His time to die on the cross. He did not want to bring the wrong kind of attention to Himself.) But the two blind men told lots of people because they were so happy. Jesus became even more well known.



**ACTIVITY:** Have the children color the memory verse activity page. Cut out the square and mount it on colored paper. Encourage the children to take their poster home and put it in their room.

Play Jenga™ or any other board game once when the kids can see what they are doing, and once with blindfolds.

Gather materials for art projects. Make a collage, trace leaves, dip leaves in ink to make prints on paper, etc. Talk about how we 'see' things and how thankful we should be.

**SNACK:** Make popcorn (microwave or electric popper). While it is popping, have the children close their eyes and listen for the noise to see if they can tell when it is done. Also have them notice the smell.



**CONCLUSION:** Allow time to pray with children for healing. Then discuss how God has helped a blind person succeed by giving them strengths in other areas.

“I am the  
Lord who  
heals you.”

Exodus 15:26

Memory verse pattern for use with Good News Bears lesson, “Jesus Heals Two Blind Men.”

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GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Wonderfully Made"

Recommended for: All

**LESSON AIM:** To help the children know that they are special and unique.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "...For you formed my inner parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Your works, that my soul knows very well."  
Psalms 139:13-14 (Underlined portion for Preschool age children)

**SUPPLIES:** Ink pads, washable paints and construction paper, wet wipes.



**OPENING:**

1) **FINGERPRINT CREATURES:** Begin by having each child press his or her thumb on the ink pad then press it on a sheet of white paper. Until there is a shape or figure and that is the child's own masterpiece creature. Have them add legs, antenna, wings, ears and etc.

2) **HAND TURKEY:** Have the children trace around their own hand, or dip their hands in washable paint. The turkey is completed by decorating the thumb as the head and the fingers as the tail feathers. Add feet, a beak, eyes, etc.

3) **MYSTERY BOX:** As the children arrive have a box with objects inside that appeal to the senses. Let each student touch, smell, and taste with out looking. Watch to see if they can identify the objects.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Discuss how God has made you special and different from anyone else. He knows you personally, and He even knows how many hairs are on your head. Matthew 10:30 relates our importance to our Heavenly Father as told in the story of the sparrow. Matthew 10:29 God has given us man things to enjoy. He gives us our senses to be able to touch, smell, hear, taste and see.

touch smell taste sight sound

Print these words on poster paper. Add a picture(s) to each word (hand, nose, etc.) Gather a few statistics about the five senses.



**ACTIVITY: Younger Children:** Have them glue objects to a piece of construction paper that represents touch, smell, taste, sight and sound. You will need the following items for each child :

- Touch – small pieces of sand paper
- Smell – cinnamon sticks
- Taste – miniature marshmallows
- Sight – small pictures of eyes
- Sound – miniature bells

After they have finished. Ask them to find the object that represents each one of the five senses.

**Older Children:** Have the class members make journals. Provide lined or black paper for the writing pages. For the covers, provide wall paper, cardboard that can be covered with cloth or construction paper that can be decorated.

The journals can be used for either activity: each child writes in the journal something about themselves they like, even if it is a small thing. They can document how they took care of themselves in the previous week, what did they eat, how did they spend their time.

**SNACK:** Serve Jell-O snacks so the children can smell taste and feel the jell-o in their mouths.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the children thank the Lord for the senses He so wonderfully gave them.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**“Missions: Calling all Children to Global Prayer”**

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To train children to pray effectively for the salvation of the nations.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *“For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” I Timothy 2:3,4 (for older children)*

*“Pray for one another.” James 5:16 (for younger children)*

**SUPPLIES:** Globe or map, encyclopedia, flag from another country, cut-out figures of children from other countries (optional), and appropriate visuals for preschool children.

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**OPENING:**

Older children: As children arrive talk about current events familiar to the kids, (i.e., war zones, refugees, third world dictators, homeless or hungry children). Ask them if they have ever visited or lived in another country. Do they have relatives in another country? Do they know from what country their parents or grandparents came? Discuss how far away these places are, the time changes, lifestyles, etc.

Younger ages: Have coloring pages of maps or of children of the world, or have related puzzles ready for the kids to do. Talk about people in other countries. Talk about how they do different things and may talk in a different language, but God still loves them and He wants them to know that.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** (For younger ages, use visuals) Did you know that there are over 230 different countries in the world? The people who live in these countries not only dress differently, they speak differently, and believe differently. In some countries, there will be a lot of different groups living in that one country. These are called “people groups.” There are more than twelve thousand such groups. Each one of these groups need the protection of your prayers.

Do you know how important your prayers are? God wants you to love and pray for children everywhere to be saved. First, pray that children everywhere will know Jesus. Pray that every person will hear the Gospel and that every person will have a church. So many children do not know the love and peace of having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray that the Gospel gets through so they can know and experience that love no matter what is going on around them!

Prayer is simply talking to God, just like you would talk to anyone else. When we pray, we are actually joining God in what He wants to do—spread His love to the world. We can pray any time and any place. You can pray aloud or “in your head.”

What we don't always realize is that there are spiritual powers that are trying to prevent people from knowing God. So we have to keep praying for people.



**ACTIVITY:** Bring a globe or large world map and an encyclopedia to look up flags of the nations. Have the children lay their hands on a specific area on the map and pray for the people in that country. Here are some things to pray for:

Salvation, peace, physical needs, health, church, homes, happiness.

Have the children then draw the flag for that country and take it home and pray for the people on a daily basis. If the flag is difficult for them to draw, have them just draw the colors in a box shaped like a flag.

**SNACK:** Popcorn. Explain that although the kernel is small, once a fire is lit under it, it explodes to much larger dimensions. The same holds true with our prayers.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray for the children as they reach out to touch children in other countries. Pray for their spiritual protection, salvation, physical needs, homes, happiness, and church. As a leader, you need to realize that they are also facing spiritual attacks. They need strength in order to minister to others.

**OPTION:** Purchase cut-out figures of children of the world from a teacher supply store. Pray for those countries during your class meetings. Or choose one country each week to pray for throughout the year.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

Missions: "Understanding Others"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:**

To begin an interest in reaching out to people in another country.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek." Romans 1:16*  
(Underlined portion is for younger aged children.)

**PREPARATION:**

Craft sand, food coloring - brown, green, blue, yellow, glue, damp paper towels. Ingredients for edible playdough - peanut butter, honey, powdered milk.

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**OPENING:** Invite someone who has been to another country to share about their experiences, preferably a missionary. How is it different from where we live? What are some of their customs? Ask them to bring in interesting pictures or items from where they visited.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Tell the story of Paul at Thessalonica, Berea and Athens, as found in Acts 17:1-34.

-Paul preached at Thessalonica: He went into the synagogue of the Jews for three Sundays and talked with them from the Scriptures and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and some women, joined Paul and Silas.

-Ministering at Berea: Paul and Silas went to Berea and they went into the synagogue of the Jews. They were welcomed in Berea and the people received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether the things they were being taught were so. Many of them believed, some Greeks and prominent women as well as men.

-Ministering at Athens: Paul stood in the midst of them and said, "Men of Athens, I believe you are very religious, for as I was

passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar to the “Unknown God”. The false god you are worshiping, is not the God of heaven and earth. He does not dwell in temples made by your hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, because He is the giver of life and breath. Jesus is the God that you should serve.”

As you begin to witness for Jesus, whether it is in your own neighborhood or in another country, there will be some people who do not like what you are doing. Many people do not understand who God is. They may worship a “false god.” The only way they will know the truth is from us or someone like us who is willing to go and share the Love of Jesus.



**ACTIVITY:**

Older Children:

Determine ahead of time the country, your opening guest will be talking about and draw or trace on white paper an outline of that country. Be sure to include topography such as lakes, oceans, mountains, deserts etc. Make enough photocopies for each one in class.

**Sand Painting Procedure:** Mix the four different food colors with sand in four separate containers. Allow to dry completely. A cookie sheet is great for this. It can be dried in the oven on low heat.

The children spread the glue with their fingers to cover a particular area on their map. Then that area can be sprinkled with the appropriate color of sand. (ie: blue sand for the ocean) A salt shaker with large holes can be used to spread sand.

Younger Children: **Edible Playdough!** Have the children make round edible playdough worlds. Discuss with them (as they are making their worlds), there are many other places to live in our world other than where you are living. In many of these other places there are people who do not know about Jesus and how much He loves them. Missionaries are people who go to these other countries and tell the good news of how much Jesus loves them. Maybe the Lord will tell one of you to go to another place in the world and share the love of Jesus. How would you feel about that?

(Recipe for edible playdough on the following page)

**SNACK:**      **EDIBLE PLAYDOUGH:**  
1 cup peanut butter  
1 cup honey  
1 ½ cups dry powered milk  
Mix together in order given and enjoy! Makes  
enough for 8 - 10 children.



**CONCLUSION:** End the session by talking about how different we are. The way we were raised affects what we think. Explain the need to be sensitive or understanding of how others feel. Tell them to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show them what to say before they talk to someone about God.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
Missions: "Bridging the Gap"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:**

To help children understand that God loves people of all race, character, qualities, and attitudes.  
To help them relate to another culture especially as it applies to a missions outreach.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." Luke 10:27*

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**OPENING:** Look around your home for things made in other countries. (i.e. Knickknacks made in China, New Zealand apples, picture of a car made in another country. Cassette player made in Japan, an ornament made in Poland or Germany, money from another country, etc.) Bring the items in and talk to the kids about how much our country depends on the people in other countries to make the items we need. Talk about how important those people are to God. They are just as important to Him as we are.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Talk about God's love and how He loves us. Ask the children if they think God's love for us changes because of what we do or say, because of what we don't do, or because of a physical trait or characteristic? Does God's love depend on what we look like, where we were born, or where we live? Does God love us more because we speak English or Spanish? Which languages does God understand? Which part of the world is God's favorite?

Sometimes we think God doesn't love someone else because of where they come from or how they look. But in God's eyes we are all equal. You may have more in common with other people than you think. But do we care enough about other people to share the love of Jesus with them?

How can we love others as Jesus has loved us? What does that



love look like? (Tell, dramatize, or have the children tell the story of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37.) This is a brief synopsis of the story.

A lawyer asked Jesus what he should do to inherit life forever in heaven. Jesus replied, “love God with all your heart and love your neighbor.” Then Jesus went on to tell the story of the Good Samaritan.

Samaritans were hated by the Jewish people. A Jewish person would never help a Samaritan. One day a Jewish man got robbed, and beaten up and left for dead. Three different men walked by the man—a Jewish priest, another Jewish man called a Levite, and a Samaritan. The Samaritan stopped to check on the man, took care of his wounds, put him on his donkey and took him to an inn to recover from his injuries. The Samaritan knew the man had no more money so he paid for the man’s bill.

Ask the class to list the things that the Good Samaritan did for the Jewish man. Write the list on a chalkboard or whiteboard. Jesus finished the story with this question: “Who acted like the nice neighbor?”

It’s easy to talk about loving everyone. Sometimes it is difficult to love our classmate or neighbor who is different than us. Loving a person means we accept him and we want what is best for him. We want to give to him even when we don’t think that the person deserves it.

God loves everyone—He doesn’t play favorites. We should have the same attitude. Can you share the love of Jesus with someone who is different than you?



**ACTIVITY:**

**Option 1: Fiesta Sombreros**

1. Cut out one 13-inch circle from white posterboard for each child.
2. Have the children make eight hole punches around the outside rim.
3. In the center of the poster board cut out a 5 ½ inch circle, and slip a 6 inch wide plastic or paper bowl through the hole.
4. Have your Bear Leaders or older Bears hot glue the rim of the bowl to the edges of the center circle.
5. Color the hats and tie the tassels through the holes.

NOTE: Tassels should be made before hand. Loop brightly colored yarn around three fingers six or seven times. Slip the loops off of your fingers and use another piece of yarn to gather and tie in the center. Cut the ends of the loops.

**Option 2: Serapes**

Cut brown wrapping paper, or butcher paper, into 10 x 50 inch sections. Have the children color and decorate the paper using crayons, markers, colored construction paper scraps, paint, or stickers. Have the children use scissors to cut the paper on both ends to make fringe. The children will wear it over one shoulder and pin under the opposite arm. It can also be wrapped around both shoulders and pinned in front like a shawl.

**SNACK:** Prepare nachos with nacho cheese sauce. Serve juice.



**CONCLUSION:** Jesus loves us because He is love. It is not because of who we are or what we do. We should love other people this way. Pray for the children who live in other countries. Pray that God will send the right missionaries to the various places. Pray that they will feel love and that we will do what we can to help them.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**"Missions: The Great Commission"**

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand Jesus' commandment to reach others with His love.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.'" Mark 16:15*

**SUPPLIES:** Gather native costumes, hats, and artifacts.

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**OPENING:** Gather different native costumes and have the children dress up as they arrive. These can be authentic full-dress costumes or perhaps just a hat from the country that you will be discussing during the meeting. Decorate the classroom with as many artifacts and bright visuals as possible from the country or countries. **NOTE:** Contact people of an ethnic ministry affiliated with your church for ideas.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read Mark 6:15-18 together: *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Discuss with the children what Jesus was teaching his disciples. He was getting ready to leave this earth and to leave his disciples. He wanted to prepare them for his departure. The disciples were commissioned to go and teach the world about Jesus. The disciples were to carry on His work and teach the world about Him. This Scripture applies to us all. Jesus understood that His life here on earth was to accomplish the will of His Father. He told us that the same should be true of us.

Discuss with the children how we as God's children can help to spread the Gospel as the disciples did. Some of us are called to go to other countries, and some of us are called to stay here in America and share the Gospel which is the Good News of Jesus Christ. We can teach our teachers,

friends, family members, and neighbors about salvation and Jesus' love. Allow the children to make suggestions as to how they can help.



**ACTIVITY:**

Younger Children:

Make a helping hand poster to hang on the wall in the classroom. Have each child trace their hand print on a piece of construction paper. Write a statement across the bottom such as "China needs a helping hand."

Older Children:

Plan skits for the children to act out missionary stories of the Old and New Testament. How did God call missionaries in Bible times? Interview the children by asking questions such as "What were you doing before you became a missionary?"



**CONCLUSION:** Prepare special food from the country that you are featuring. Research cookbooks and remember to serve in snack size portions.

Close this session with prayer for the missionaries. Stress the importance of remembering to pray for all missionaries around the world.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# BIBLE DISCOVERY

## "Good Manners"

Recommended for: Preschool

**LESSON AIM:** Teaching children the importance of good manners and hospitality.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Love is patient, love is kind." 1 Corinthians 13:4*

**SUPPLIES:** Red construction paper, 11 x 14, crayons or tempera paints, clear contact paper, tape, children's story book, "Clifford Shows Good Manners." Cut a heart from red construction paper for each child to use as a name tag.



**OPENING:** As the children arrive, greet each one of them with a warm smile and tell them you are glad they came. Have them sit at a table and decorate hearts name tags with their name written in the middle. When they are finished tape the heart on the child's shirt and say: "This heart reminds us that God loves us and always treats us with kindness."



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** God is kind. He shows us love and care. God wants us to use the same kindness and care with other people. Ask the children to talk about a time when someone was kind to them. Now, read the story of Zacchaeus either from a child's Bible tell the story from Luke 19:1-10.

Highlight the following facts:

- Jesus was walking down a road with His disciples
- There were large crowds of people everywhere
- Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus but couldn't because of the crowds
- Zacchaeus was not liked because he was cruel and cheated the people
- Zacchaeus climbed a tree so he could see Jesus
- When Jesus noticed Zacchaeus in the tree, He stopped and talked to him
- Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus at his house
- Zacchaeus came down from the tree and took Jesus to his house
- Many people received salvation from Jesus that day

Zacchaeus was not a nice man. People in his town didn't like him because he cheated them out of their money and did dishonest things. Zacchaeus did not show good manners. But God wanted to help Zacchaeus change. Jesus wanted to spend time with Zacchaeus and show him God's love and kindness. Because Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus into his home, he showed that he wanted to change. And Zacchaeus did change. He gave all the money back to the people he had cheated. He told people he was sorry for doing wrong and everyone saw Zacchaeus change. Zacchaeus learned how to show good manners after Jesus changed his heart.

When we have Jesus in our lives we should show good manners to others. Good manners include being kind to people that visit our homes, sharing with others; helping with clean-up in our class or home and speaking kind words to others. Once Zacchaeus invited Jesus into his life, good manners followed.



**ACTIVITY:** “Hands can help” place mat. Give each child a sheet of construction paper. Print the words, “My hands can help” at the top of each sheet. Help children paint their hands with tempera paints and then press their hands on their paper to make a place mat, or have the child lay their hands on the paper and trace their hand with a crayon. Each child could then color the mat any way they choose. After place mats are dry, cover each one with clear contact paper.

**SNACK:** Serve finger foods such as: cheese cubes, crackers, fruit pieces, etc. When children are settled explain that they are going to have a snack and they should use their best manners. Encourage them to say “please” and “thank you” and that passing food to other children shows good manners.

After snack time, read the book “**Clifford Shows Good Manners**” (available at any bookstore or library). Then if time permits have the children play and be an example of showing good manners.



**CONCLUSION:** Place the children in a circle holding hands. Pray: “Dear God, thank you for letting us use our manners to help others! Amen.” Let all the children help with clean-up, reminding them that this is one way to use good manners.

Hand the place mats to each child as they leave encouraging them to show good manners on the way home and during the week ahead.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Good Manners"

Recommended for: Elementary

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**LESSON AIM:** Teaching children the importance of good manners and showing others God's love.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs." 1 Corinthians 13:4-5*

**SUPPLIES:** Large sheets of newsprint, 2 poster boards, stapler, white board markers or chalk, and a liter soda bottle (see Rap-It-Up).

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**OPENING:** Tell the children they are going to write and illustrate a "Big Book of Manners" for the younger children to use in their bear meeting. Have children form pairs and give each pair a sheet of newsprint and markers. Instruct them to draw pictures about using good manners, such as a picture of two children sharing toys. When the children are finished drawing, stack the news print pictures and place two sheets of posterboard on either side of them. Staple the "Big Book of Manners" together.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read Colossians 3:12-15 aloud. Make a list on a chalk/white board of good manners mentioned in these verses, i.e: mercy, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forgiveness, love, peace and thankfulness. Manners are the way we treat each other. Ask the children for examples of good manners at school, at home, at church and on the playground. List these on the board beside the appropriate trait from the Scripture verses in Colossians. For instance, beside the word "patience," you might write "waiting your turn in line."

Now write the following on the board: "Keep Away," "Dodge Ball," and "Three Flies Up." Allow the children to express opinions about how these games encourage good and bad manners. "Keep Away" usually results in some people feeling left out and often made fun of by the rest of the children. Can the children share ideas of ways to play competitive games and still show good manners? Share these ideas.



**ACTIVITY / SNACK:** Form pairs. Have kids work together to make sandwiches. As children work together, encourage them to practice good manners, such as saying “please” and “thank you.” After the sandwiches are made, have children enjoy their cooperative efforts by eating the sandwiches. Encourage them to use good table manners. Be sure they clean up their mess, sharing the responsibility and showing kindness.



**CONCLUSION:** Play the game, “You’re It.” The children sit in a circle and use a liter soda bottle as a giant spinner. The bottle is spun around until the opening of the bottle is pointing to someone in the circle. That person has to say something complimentary about someone else in the group. The purpose is to edify one another and get to know each other better. This game stresses group support. Scripture references: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Romans 15:5; Philippians 2:1.

Here are guidelines for the “You’re It” game to keep everyone showing good manners.

1. Have a group of five to fifteen children sit in a circle. There can be more than one group.
2. Pick a line judge to determine who the bottle is actually pointing to.
3. Spin the bottle (a plastic liter bottle may not work on carpeted surfaces) if your area doesn’t sell glass cola bottles, use a mineral water bottle.
4. Suggestions: Try to make sure every child gets a chance to participate. You may find that some children struggle with how to give words of encouragement or compliments. Some children may not know how to accept a word of encouragement or compliments. The leader can tell the children that this is not just a game but a biblical principle. We are all special in God’s eyes. Also, you will find that they will start by complimenting on appearance. Help them learn to look at the character of the person.



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Good Manners"

Recommended for: Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** Teaching children the importance of good manners and hospitality

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

**SUPPLIES:** Paper, pencils, scrap paper for message pads, hole punch, yarn, table settings.

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**OPENING:** Form two teams and have them line up against opposite walls. Give each team sheets of paper and pencils. Have them write on each sheet, names kids call each other—nothing vulgar. When they're finished, designate a line down the middle of the room. On "go," have the kids wad up their papers and bombard the other team with the papers without crossing the line. Call time after several minutes and ask them: "How did it feel to be bombarded with paper wads? How would it have felt if those paper wads would have been actual names spoken and not just written on paper?"



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read I Corinthians 13:5 aloud. Love shows good manners. Ask the kids if it is good manners to call people names. Why or why not? What are some other examples of good manners? Why are manners important to God?

Give each child another sheet of paper. As you read situations that require manners, tell the children to write down what they would do in that situation. Talk about their responses. Here are suggested situations (The correct answers are underlined):

1. A friend wears an outfit that others laugh at, you: (a) laugh; (b) ignore the friend; (c) point out something good about the outfit.

2. Someone calls while your mom is in the bathroom. You: (a) tell the caller where your mom is; (b) say your mom is busy and take a phone message; (c) tell the caller to call back later but you don't take down their name or number.

3. At a friend's house for dinner you drop a pea into the carpet. You: (a) pick it up with your napkin; (b) grind it into the carpet; (c) call the dog over to eat it.

4. In a restaurant you have a piece of pork chop stuck in your teeth. You: (a) try to dig it out with your fingernail, (b) excuse yourself and remove it in the bathroom; (c) loudly try to suck the meat out of your teeth.



**ACTIVITY:** You need good manners in almost every area of your life. Let's make something that will help you practice "good manners" at home. From scrap paper, have kids each make a phone message pad for their home. Have kids cut paper to an equal size, stack it and punch two holes through the top of the stack. Then have them thread yarn through the holes and tie it in a bow.

**SNACK:** Have the kids sit at tables and imagine they are in a restaurant. Serve (from the left) dishes of ice cream, spoons and napkins. Encourage kids to "coach" each other about appropriate table manners.



**CONCLUSION:** Encourage children to use good manners every day of their life not only during a class on manners. People with good manners are the people who have friends, get good jobs and have happy relationships with other people.

Ask for volunteers to role play situations that require manners. One at a time, have the volunteers role play these situations: someone cuts in line at the drinking fountain in the hall at church; in music class, there aren't enough books for everyone; you break a neighbor's window while playing baseball; there is a new person in your class who is really shy. Have the kids call out possible ways they could deal with these situations and others. Continue with the role-play situations until time runs out. Then, conclude with prayer.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Forever Friends"

Recommended for: All

**LESSON AIM:** To teach the children what a "friend" is and how important each one is. Also, to recognize ways to show true friendship.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13 (NAS)

**SUPPLIES:** See below, dependant upon chosen activities and age group.



Working Together  
Relay



**OPENING:** Play the relay game "Working Together."

Items needed: Inflated balloons. Divide the group into teams (between three and eight members on a team). Each team gathers at starting line and makes a tight circle with their hands extended into the middle. Each team member grabs a hand of two other team members in a crisscrossing pattern. The teacher places a balloon on the top of each team's grasped hands. (See sketch) When the teacher says "Go!" each team runs to the finish line and back, keeping the balloon on top of their grasped hands. If a team lets the balloon drop, or lets go of a partner's hand to balance the balloon, they must start over. The first team to complete the race wins.

**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Study the story of Jonathan and David in I Samuel 18:1-16. David and Jonathan had a strong friendship. There was no jealousy between David and Jonathan, even though the people favored David. David always showed respect to Jonathan's father, Saul, even though Saul sometimes had a bad attitude. Ask the following questions: How was Jonathan a friend to David? What did Jonathan give to David? How did David behave toward Saul? Was Jonathan jealous of David? How can we follow Jonathan and David's example? Relate the importance of friendship to the children and have a discussion on ways to show true friendship.



### **ACTIVITY OPTIONS:**

Younger Children: Make special “friendship cards” using materials from the following list:

construction paper                      glue and glitter  
crayons/markers                         finger paints  
different types of stickers

**NOTE:** Provide a poem or verse about friendship to glue on the inside of their cards.

Make “ pudding Paint Friendship Cards.” Mix one box of instant pudding (sugar-free can be used) with enough water to finger paint consistency. Give each child a piece of construction paper and approximately one tablespoon of the pudding paint (use small paper condiment cups or cupcake papers to spoon the pudding paint into beforehand if desired). Encourage the children to make pretty designs or hand prints with their pudding paint on the construction paper. Provide a poem or verse about friendship to glue onto their card.

Older Children: Have the children invite a special friend to Bears (who they consider their best friend). Promote a week or two before and send notices home for the parents explaining the activity. Plan a party with refreshments and games to make the visitors feel welcome. Decorate the room with GNBC balloons (available through Resource Center) and banners beforehand. Remember, a child’s best friend could be a family member or an adult that they deeply respect.

Make “ Friendship Bracelets”: Use embroidery floss (can be purchased at most needle craft shops). You will find shops listed in your local “ Yellow Pages,” usually under “ Needlework” or “ Art Needlework Supplies.” The instructions for making friendship bracelets is as follows:

### **Helpful hints:**

1. When working with long lengths of Embroidery Floss, the thread may become tangled. To avoid this problem, simply wind the excess thread into a small manageable ball and wrap it with a small elastic band. As your cord progresses, unwind small amounts of thread as needed.
2. Use masking tape to secure your thread to a surface while you work. It may be helpful to periodically move the tape lower as work progresses. You could also use a safety pin to hold your work - simply pin it through the large knot to your jeans and start knotting!

### Style No. 1

**COLOR ORDER** (lengths need to be long enough to fit around the persons wrists that the friendship bracelet will be given to plus extra for ties at both ends). Take three strands each of 3 different colors (A, B, and C). Tie all 9 strands together and secure to a surface (leave a 2" tail on both ends).



**NOTE:** The three strands of each color are worked together

**Step 1:** Holding colors A, B, and C, taut, take color C and place it over Color B.

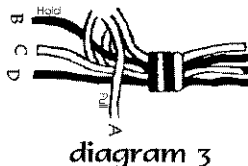
**Step 2:** Pick up color A and place it over color C (see diagram 1).

**Step 3:** Pick up color B and place it over color A.

Repeat steps 1-3 (see Diagram 2) until the friendship bracelet is the desired length. Tie all 9 strands together, leaving a 2" tail. Tie on wrist using both tails to form a bow or knot.

### STYLE NO. 2

**COLOR ORDER** (lengths are tripled for this version because of the process): One strand each of 4 different colors (A, B, C, and D). Tie all four strands and secure to a surface (leave enough of a tail to tie later).



**Step 1:** Take first strand A and wrap it over, then under strand B (see diagram 3).

**Step 2:** Hold firmly onto strand B while pulling up on strand A towards large knot you made in the beginning.

**Step 3:** Repeat steps 1 and 2, making a second small knot on top of previous knot. You have now completed a double knot around strand B. Drop strand B (see diagram 4).

**Step 4:** Now take strand A and make a similar knot around strand C, wrapping strand A over, then under strand C ( see diagram 5). Make a second knot around strand C to complete a double knot. Drop strand C.

**Step 5:** Make a double knot with strand A around stand D. Strand A will be at far right side of row now that all double knots are completed (See diagram 6). You will notice that this first row of double knots slants diagonally down towards the right.



**Step 6:** With strand B work a second row of double knots, with strand C work a third row of double knots with strand D work a fourth row of double knots. You will now have completed one full color pattern.

Continue repeating this 4 row pattern until the desired length. Tie all 4 strands together, leaving a tail long enough to tie on person's wrist into a bow or knot.

**SNACK:** For a "Friendship Party" plan special refreshments. Make heart-shaped cookies or heart-shaped single layer cakes. Have the children decorate the cookies or cakes with frosting and sprinkles (decorating candies).

Younger Children: Make pudding cones by taking ice cream cones (available in grocery stores) and fill with pudding if you have chosen the pudding paint activity.



**CONCLUSION:** Close with them praying for the friend that they invited or made the bracelet for.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Handicap Awareness"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To help children understand how physical handicaps affect people.  
To learn how to minister to the handicap.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made:  
Marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."*  
Psalms 139:14 (KJV)

**SUPPLIES:** Blindfold, string, masking tape. Props for skit.

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**OPENING:** As the children arrive, give each one a handicap:

- blindfold one or both eyes
- tie one leg in a bent position so only one leg is functional
- tie one arm or both arms to sides so they can't move.
- assign someone to sit in a wheelchair (and not get out!)
- tie a piece of material (or tape) over the mouth so a child cannot talk.  
(Make sure the child can breathe through their nose.)

Explain that during the club meeting, you will be discussing handicaps and how children with handicaps function. Discuss the following: What does handicap mean? What are some handicap disabilities? Are they contagious? Why are some people handicapped? (Birth, accident, drug abuse, etc.) Does God love everyone just as they are?

You may have coloring pages, hidden word searches, or crossword puzzle pages available on a table for the children to work on while the other members arrive.

Be sensitive to the children and any discomfort they may be experiencing due to their temporary handicap. You may want to undo the handicaps after a few minutes, or let them go for as long as they can tolerate it.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Bring the children together and have them take off their temporary handicap. Discuss with them how the handicap made them feel, give each child a chance to share. Then ask if they know anyone with these kinds of handicaps? How do they see these people

treated by others? Ask the children if Jesus were to meet these handicapped people, how would he treat them (with acceptance, love, kindness and understanding).



**ACTIVITY:** Prior to the meeting, arrange for three of the group members to be prepared for the following skit. Props: a wheelchair, baseball and glove. Before the skit, read and discuss the meaning of Galatians 6:10.

**Skit #1:** Setting: Park, after school - handicapped child sitting alone watching the other kids play. The boy's name is Tim. Chuck and Nancy walk through the park tossing the baseball back and forth.

Chuck: "Hey, Nancy, look at that freak! He can't walk, I'll bet he's retarded, too!"

Nancy: "Wait, Chuck, don't tease him, he probably wants to be left alone."

Chuck: "Okay, let's walk the other way, then."

**Skit #2:** Setting: Same place, a couple days later.

Chuck: "I don't believe it! There is that kid again."

Nancy: "Let's go and talk to him."

Chuck: "Are you kidding?" He's probably deaf."

Nancy: "It won't hurt to say Hi. Come on, Chuck."

Chuck: "Ok, you talk first. I'm not getting too close, it might be catchy or something."

Nancy: "Hi, my name is Nancy. What's yours?"

Tim: "Tim."

Chuck: "What happened to you?"

Tim: "I was born with a disease called Spinal Bifida. My legs don't work, but it's not that bad."

Chuck: "Well, do you want to play catch?"

Tim: "Sure!"

The kids start playing ball together and the skit ends.

**SNACK:** Serve a snack that requires two hands to eat easily (jello, applesauce, pudding, etc.). Give each child a bowl with a snack item and a spoon. Instruct them to keep one hand in their laps the entire snack time. They must eat the snack with one hand. (This will be challenging)



**CONCLUSION: Discussion:** Do you think Tim really wanted to be left alone? Do you think Nancy was a little scared the first time she talked with Tim? Were any of Chuck's fears true? Did Tim want their pity or acceptance? Was it okay for Chuck to ask Tim about his handicap? (Yes, handicap children are very knowledgeable and talk freely about their handicap.)



**SUGGESTION:** Invite an adult with a physical handicap to join your group for this lesson. They might answer questions or share insights from personal experience. Consider having a handicapped child play the part of Chuck in the skit and a child without a handicap to play the part of Tim. This reversed role play might help all the children see the hurt caused by making fun of others.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Controlling Our Anger"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To learn to please God by controlling our anger.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Be angry, and do not sin: do not let the sun go down on your wrath." Ephesians 4:26  
(For younger children use the underlined portion of the verse.)

**SUPPLIES:** Sugar cookies and M & M's, paper, crayons, props for skits (optional), funny pictures of people getting angry from magazines or children's books, and copies of the "Controlling Our Anger" puzzle.

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**OPENING:** Give the children a piece of paper and crayons. Ask them to draw a picture of a person getting really angry about something. While children are drawing, choose a few of your real "hams" to help you prepare one or all of the following skits for the group. Use this "coloring time" to let these child actors talk and think about what they want to do.

Before the children perform, show the group some funny pictures or cartoons of angry people. Pictures like these make us laugh, but real people with bad tempers are not funny. Anger is a serious problem. Have the children act out the following short skits. (You will notice that the dialog is intentionally limited to allow the kids to respond spontaneously. Encourage them to have fun with these skits and not stick to a set script.)

**Skit scenario 1**

Characters: Skooter, Boomer and Francine

Situation: Skooter and Boomer are building a sand castle on the beach when Francine approaches and destroys the castle. Francine should be very animated and exaggerated as she destroys the castle. Then, she gloats while the boys react. Skooter begins to cry and then pouts with folded arms and long face complete with big lower lip sticking out. Boomer begins to throw imaginary sand toys at Francine who ducks and reacts to the attack. The Bear Leader steps in and brings the fight and the skit to an end.



### **Skit scenario 2**

Characters: Bertha Marie, Betty Lou and Mrs. Taughtright

Situation: Bertha Marie and Betty Lou are students in Mrs. Taughtright's third grade class. The girls are taking a test under the teacher's watchful eye. Bertha Marie is marking answers quickly and shows great confidence in what she is doing. Betty Lou is frustrated and confused. She mutters under her breath that her parents are going to be very upset with her if she fails this test. When Mrs. Taughtright's back is turned, Betty Lou peeks at Bertha Marie's paper and begins to copy answers. This goes on for a while Bertha Marie unsuccessfully tries to keep her paper hidden.

Eventually, the teacher catches Betty Lou and takes the test papers from both girls, throwing them in the trash and scolding both for cheating. Bertha Marie acts very upset with Betty Lou for copying from her paper and begins to yell at Betty Lou about the unfairness of her cheating and the teacher taking both papers and she doesn't deserve to be punished because she wasn't cheating. Betty Lou acts innocent and claims that she wasn't cheating either telling Mrs. Taughtright that it is unfair that either girl is punished. The girls are arguing with each other and with Mrs. Taughtright until the Bear Leader steps in and breaks up the argument and the skit.

### **Skit scenario 3**

Characters: Mother Bear, Papa Bear, Teddy Bear, and Goldilocks

Situation: The entire bear family is in Teddy Bear's bedroom as he discovers Goldilocks napping in his bed which, by the way, she thinks is "just right." Teddy Bear reacts with outrage that Goldilocks is in his bed, "Yuck! A girl is in my bed! Get out, Get out!" She scrambles for the door as the entire family chases her out the door around the house and out into the forest.

During the chase, Mother Bear is yelling things like, "you upset my baby, don't come back! You ate my baby's porridge, then you broke his chair!" Papa Bear is growling and chasing Goldilocks waving his paws. Teddy Bear continues to ad lib things like, "Yuck, a girl was sleeping in my bed! I can't touch my pillow ever again." The chase continues until the Bear Leader steps in, breaks up the chase and ends the skit.

Ask the children how they felt about doing the different parts. How did it feel to be the one who was angry? How did it feel to be the one who had someone mad at them?

**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Anger is something that children need to learn to control. They need to understand that God fights for them.

*"Bless your enemies; no cursing under your breath. Laugh with your*

*friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down. Get along with each other; don't be a stuck-up. Make friends with nobodies. Don't hit back; discover beauty in everyone. If you've got it in you, get along with everybody. Don't insist on getting even; that's not for you to do. 'I'll do the judging,' says God.*

*'I'll take care of it.'*

*Our Scriptures tell us that if you see your enemy hungry, go buy that person a lunch, or if he's thirsty, get him a drink. Your generosity will surprise him with goodness. Don't let evil get the best of you; get the best of evil by doing good." Romans 12:17-21 from the Message.*

The earlier we learn to control our anger and realize that God is in control and that He fights for us, the easier it is to get along with others. Talk to the children about what makes them angry and how to control it. Share an instance in your life when you suffered the consequence of not controlling your anger. Let the children express times when they didn't control their anger. The most important thing to remember is that God will fight for us, but we need to allow him that privilege. If you choose to get even first, then you have taken it out of God's hand.

**ACTIVITY:** Complete the puzzle on the next page by cutting out the pieces and putting them where they fit. Put the words of the scripture on the different pieces for the younger children. Put the letters BE on the first piece, ANGRY on the second piece, AND on the third piece, DO on the fourth piece, NOT on the fifth piece, SIN on the sixth piece. For the older children, let them paste the pieces and then print the words on each piece.



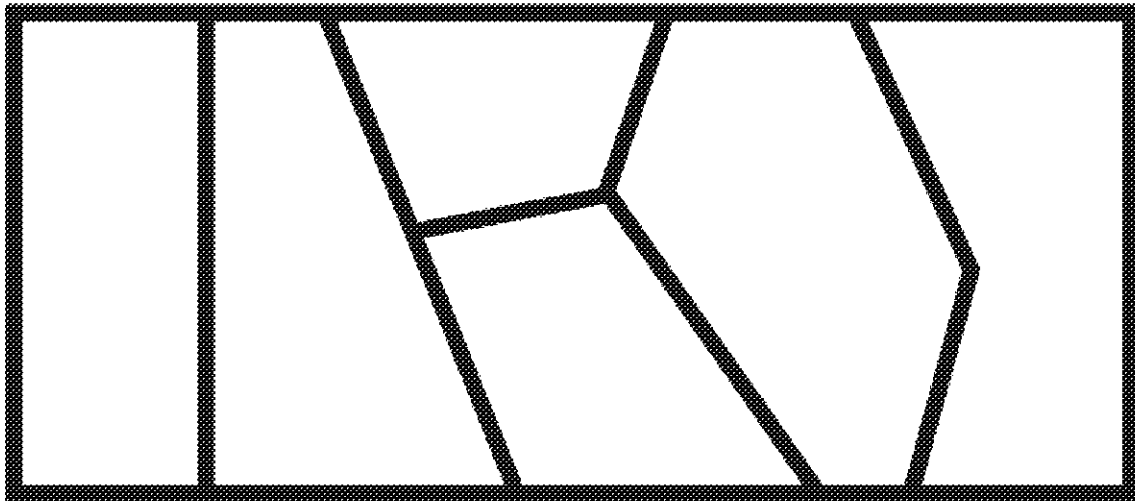
**SNACK:** Serve sugar cookies and let the children put happy faces and unhappy faces on them with M & M's.

**CONCLUSION:** Let the children talk about anger and how hard it is to control their anger. Ask for prayer requests regarding anger and pray for the children. Be very positive in your prayer and let them know that God is always there to help us when we struggle. Remember, God fights for us.



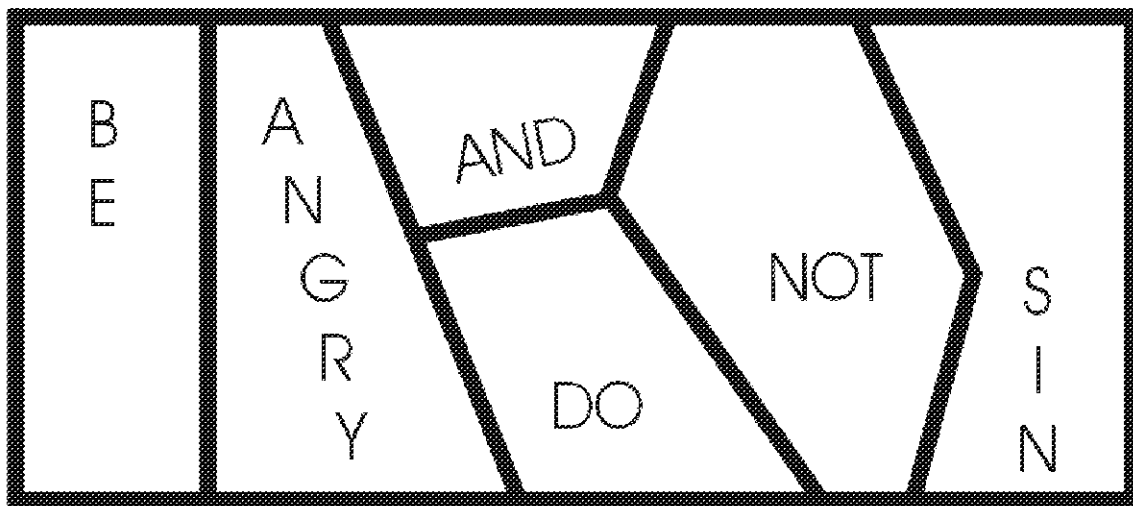
# Controlling Our Anger

## Ephesians 4:26



**Directions:**

Complete the puzzle by cutting out the pieces below and putting them where they fit on the puzzle above.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Jonah and the Big Fish"

Recommended for: All

**LESSON AIM:** To teach the children about obedience and repentance

**MEMORY VERSE:** . . . "But I will sacrifice to Thee with the voice of Thanksgiving."  
*Jonah 2:9a (NAS)*

**SUPPLIES:** See below (different items for older & younger lesson plans)  
Choose material suitable to your group.



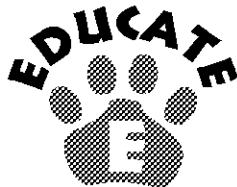
**OPENING:**

Younger Children:

1. Make copies of the big fish (pattern page provided) to pass out to the children. Have them color their fish. As they are coloring, discuss fish and whales. Where do they live? What do they eat? What would it look like, smell like, feel like inside the belly of a huge fish?
2. Show a 5 or 10 minute video about whales (research through a library for resources). Have a discussion about the information given on the video.

Older Children:

1. Go to the library in your town and check out several books on whales and fish. Provide paper and pencils, have each student or teams of students look up one or two interesting facts about either whales or fish. Have one student from each team read their facts. Have a discussion.
2. Show a 5 or 10 minute video about whales (research through a library for resources). Afterward, have a discussion about man's respect for the whale and endangered species.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

Younger Children: Read the story of Jonah from a children's picture book or Bible.

Older Children: Read and study the book of Jonah. Jonah ended up inside the big fish because he was disobedient to the God. The Lord spoke to Jonah and told him to go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it.

Jonah did not want to go even though he was God's chosen prophet. Why do you think Jonah refused? Allow the children to interact.

Jonah was an Israelite and did not understand "why" God wanted to speak to the people of Nineveh. They were not God's "chosen people" and their wickedness was great. Jonah was being awfully stubborn to wait for 3 days and nights before he called out to the Lord! Are you that stubborn about asking the Lord for help?

God is greatly compassionate and loving, he loves ALL people the same. The people of Nineveh were valuable to the Lord. They believed in God and turned from their wickedness after Jonah decided to obey the Lord.

What happened then? Jonah got angry! He went out of the city and found a place to sit. He built a shelter for shade and sat down to "see" what the Lord would do. Jonah was angry at the Lord for not destroying Nineveh. Do we get angry at God? God loved the people of Nineveh but he also loved Jonah. God had great compassion for Jonah even though Jonah was angry at Him.

The lesson we can learn from this story is that we are all unworthy of God's compassion and forgiveness. God loves us anyway because of what Jesus did for us. Sometimes as "Christians" we become critical of others, we disobey and we have to learn to repent just like Jonah did. Hopefully we do not have to be swallowed by a big fish to learn our "lesson." What do you think?



#### **ACTIVITY:**

##### Younger Children:

1. Make a large blow-up whale out of sheets of heavy plastic. Draw a whale pattern on the plastic, cut out and seal seams with duct tape. Leave the mouth and tail open. Place an area fan at the tail and tape plastic to frame of fan allow the air to blow-up the whale. Have the children take turns crawling in and out of the whale's mouth. NOTE: Be sure to protect the children from the fan while it is turned on.

##### All Ages:

2. Have the children make kites out of lightweight butcher paper or other paper that is sufficient to be carried by the wind. Draw several patterns on posterboard for kites. The children place the pattern onto the butcher paper, trace and cut out. They can color their whale or write different scriptures on it (e.g. Colossians 3:20; Ephesians 6:1).

Older Children:

1. Prepare a skit on disobedience or repentance. The Bible book store in your area has resource books on skits and added visuals to use to teach about Jonah and the big fish. A skit option follows:

**BEST FRIENDS**

Robin Jones Gunn

**Main Theme:** Submitting to Jesus.

You may want to use this skit as part of a study of John 14:15, 23-24; Romans 8:7-9 Philippians 2:9-11 or James 4:7.

**Characters**

**Marci:** A Christian

**Jessica:** Marci's non-Christian friend

**PROPS:** Two purses, assorted shopping bags.

**Marci and Jessica come out of a store holding shopping bags.**

**Jessica:** (checking for her purse): Oh no! I left my purse in there!

**Marci:** (looking around): Who?

**Jessica:** (pointing in a concealed way): Danny! Marci, don't let him out of your sight! I'll be right back.

**Jessica exits quickly.** Marci starts moving furtively toward where Jessica pointed out Danny. She bumps into an invisible someone (the Lord).

**Marci:** (tensely): Aaugh! (She shushes herself and looks to see who surprised her.) Oh, it's you. Don't do that, Jesus. You scared me to death. What are you doing here, anyway? I mean, this isn't your usual hang-out, is it?

Marci listens for a moment and looks kind of ashamed.

Yeah, I know we were supposed to spend some time together, and we will. Really. Just as soon as I get home. But I'm with Jessica right now. You want me to witness to my friends, don't you? So that means I've gotta spend time with her. Jessica is my best friend, you know.

**MARCI listens again and gets a determined look on her face.**

No, Jesus, that just wouldn't work. You don't really want to come this



time, anyway. You'd be bored, trust me. You'd be better off going back home. (She looks around.) Oh, hush. Here comes Jess.

**JESSICA** (tearing out of the store, waving purse): I got it! Is he still there?

**MARCI** (looking uncomfortable at Jesus): Uh, wait a minute. I'm not sure I want to see that movie. I heard it has some parts in it that aren't very good, if you know what I mean. Besides, I used up all my money.

**JESSICA**: Hey, no problem. I'll pay. Anything to get near to Danny. Just close your eyes during the parts that bother you. Come on, Marci. Don't be so goody, goody.

**MARCI**: Oh, all right. (She glances toward Jesus then back to JESSICA.) You go ahead and get in line to buy the tickets. I'll be right there.

**JESSICA**: Hurry, Okay?

**MARCI**: I will, I will.

**JESSICA exits.**

**MARCI** (to Jesus): Okay, listen. I'm going with Jessica. I'll be back before you miss me and I promise I'll close my eyes during the bad parts, okay?

No, you can't come in with us. You don't understand. This really isn't your kind of movie.

**MARCI listens again, no longer even trying to be patient.**

I don't know when! Sometime, Okay? For now, I just want to go with her and show her that I'm her friend. Now you stay here and I'll be back later.

**MARCI heads towards the movie. Near the place where she would exit she turns around abruptly.**

Why are you following me? Don't you understand? I don't want you to come with me!

**Blackout: (exit)**

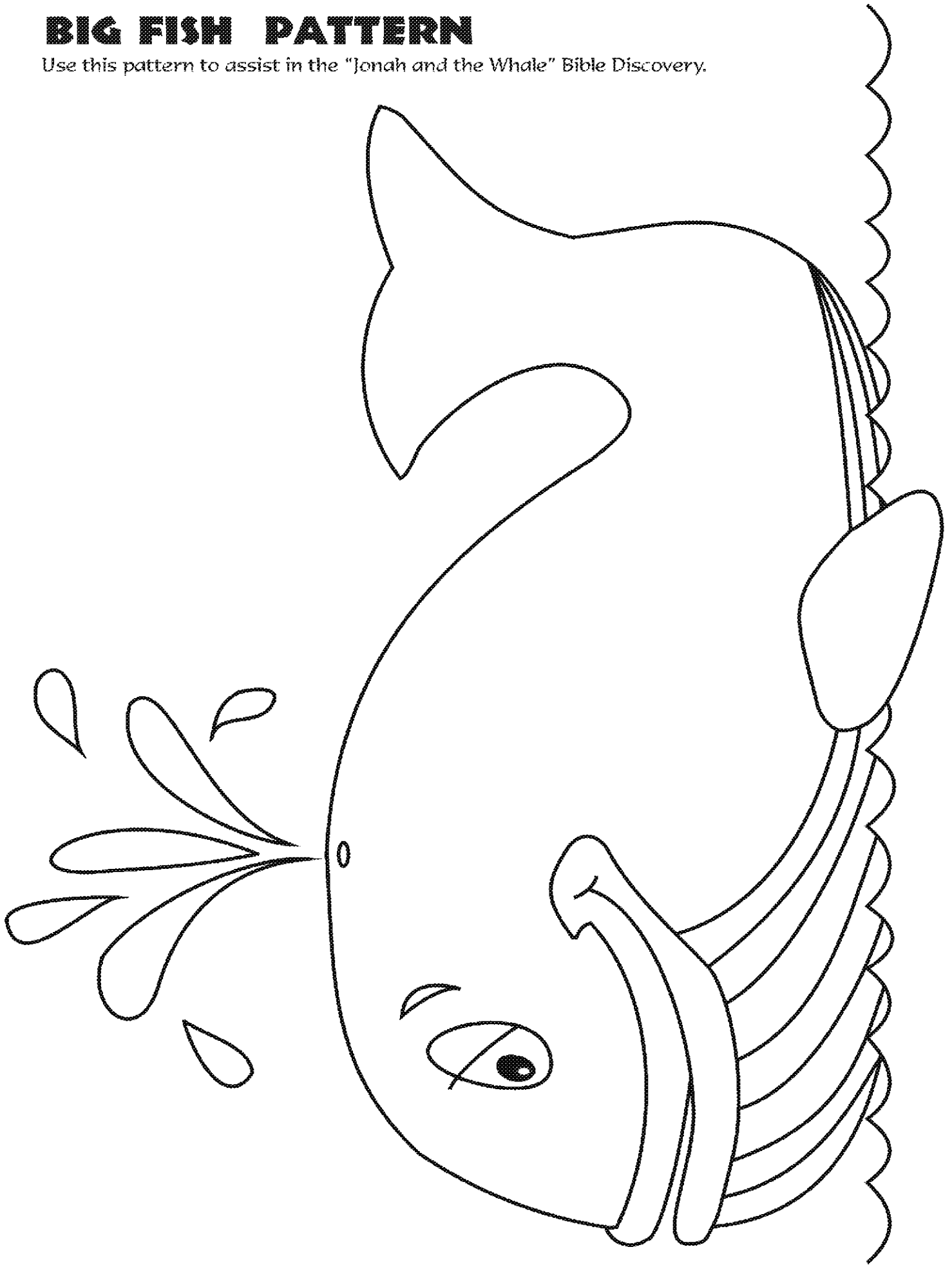
**CONCLUSION:** Provide opportunity for the children to search their hearts for any areas of disobedience they need to confess to Jesus.

Pray with the class, asking for forgiveness and thanking Jesus for His love!



# BIG FISH PATTERN

Use this pattern to assist in the "Jonah and the Whale" Bible Discovery.



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "Heavenly Treasures"

Recommended for: All

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- LESSON AIM:** To teach that our reward in heaven is so much better than the greatest prize on earth.
- MEMORY VERSE:** *"But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not do not break in and steal."* Matthew 6:20
- SUPPLIES:** Two clipboards, two Bibles, bear bucks, miniature candy bars, two treasure hunt questionnaires, two maps, two secondary maps, two "Buried Treasure" Bible research pages.
- 



**OPENING: The Other Half** -- Play this game to emphasize the aim of the lesson. The children are given 3 x 5 index cards with words written on them. Use the following Scriptures and write part of the Scripture on one card and the last part on another card. Some of the Scriptures will require 2 or more cards. Provide Bibles for reference if the children need them. Children will figure out which scripture parts fit together.

**SCRIPTURES:**

Matthew 6:20

Matthew 19:21



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the story in Luke 13:21. Discuss the story and have interaction with the children. Examples of suggested questions for discussion:

1. What does Jesus mean when He spoke of an "abundance of possessions?"
2. In the parable of the barns, what do you suppose the rich man did wrong?
3. Is it wrong for us to have savings accounts?
4. Does the Lord want us to have nice things?

Read I Timothy 6:10. Discuss how important our attitude is to the Lord. The attitude of our heart should be to “serve.” There have been many wealthy Christian men who have made their life count for the Lord. A few of these people are Rockefeller (who was a Sunday school superintendent), Kerr of Kerr™ caning jar company, and Colgate™ who has developed many products. These men were very wealthy but didn’t allow their wealth to change their attitude or their heart towards serving the Lord.



#### **ACTIVITY:**

##### Younger Children:

Have a Treasure Hunt in the room. Divide into two/three groups. Make two/three maps. Be sure each group has a leader.

**BEFOREHAND:** Prepare maps and hide “treasures.” You will need the following:

1. Maps
2. “Treasures” can be:
  - An envelope with a Bear buck for each student
  - Miniature candy bars (e.g. \$100,000, Bounty, or 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.)
  - A small treasure chest with small toys from which to choose
  - A Bible that has a Scripture verse for each child in it
  - A special pencil for each child

Your maps for the preschool children would be pictures instead of words. Example: Pictures of a Bear buck, candy bar, treasure chest, Bible, or pencil. If you have 18 children in your class you would need 3 maps, so they can be in groups of six with a leader. Each map should have the pictures in a different order.

##### Older Children:

Have your treasure hunt in the church or church parking lot. **REMEMBER**, make your treasure hunt unique for your children and your church facilities. Hide your “treasures” well and place a treasure (one per child) with the secondary map.

#### **ACTIVITY PROCESS:**

1. Divide the children into two teams. Have 2 to 3 adult leaders with each group.
2. Select a team leader from each team to be “in charge” of the clipboard. Give them a pencil or pen. Instruct them to not look at their clipboard until you give the OK.

3. Give each team a Bible. Assign one person to be in charge of the Bible.
4. Explain the rules of the treasure hunt to the teams.
5. Start the treasure hunt by having a short prayer for the safety and attitudes of the children and that everyone will have fun.
6. See Treasure Hunt Questionnaires (master provided).
7. See attached "Buried Treasure" for both teams.



**CONCLUSION:** Close in prayer and let the children thank the Lord for treasures that they have as a Christian.



# TBuried treasure

Complete this page and hurry back with your answers to the leader for evaluation and scoring of your total points!

1. Where are our "treasures" supposed to be collected? (Matthew 6)
2. Who was Jesus talking to about storing "treasure" in heaven? (Matthew 19)
3. What can happen to us when our riches are misused? (James 5)

**THE**

# **TREASURE HUNT QUESTIONNAIRE**

**TEAM ONE**

The winning team is the one with the highest score. Each member of the winning team will receive **2 BEAR BUCKS!!** You will need to use this clip board and a pen or pencil. Utilize every member of your group. Please do not leave anyone out!

1. You will need a Bible.
2. First, Write the license number of three pick-up trucks in the parking lot. (2 points)
3. What is the Pastor's name and the names of his family? (2 points)
4. Write the middle names and the shoe size of each member of your group on your clip boards. (2 points)
5. Pick up 5 pieces of trash from the church parking lot. Any size (5 pieces per group, not per person). (2 points)
6. What does the sign say in front of our church? (2 point)
7. Next, select two members from your group and tie a shoe each one using only one hand. (2 points)
8. What snack is being served for BEARS tonight? You better go ask nicely. (2 points)
9. Count the steps from one end of the parking lot to the other. What is the distance? (2 points)
10. How many doors lead into the church? (2 point)

**THE**

# **TREASURE HUNT QUESTIONNAIRE**

**TEAM TWO**

The winning team is the one with the highest score. Each member of the winning team will receive **2 BEAR BUCKS!!!** You will need to use this clip board and a pen or pencil. Utilize every member of your group. Please do not leave anyone out!

1. You will need a Bible.
2. Pick up 5 pieces of trash from the church parking lot. Any size (5 pieces per group, not per person). (2 points)
3. Count the steps from one end of the parking lot to the other. What is the distance? (2 points)
4. How many doors lead into the church? (2 points)
5. Write the license number of three mini-vans in the church parking lot. (2 points)
6. What snack is being served for BEARS tonight? You better go ask nicely. (2 points)
7. Next, select two members from your group and tie a shoe each one using only one hand. (2 points)
8. Write the middle names and the shoe size of each member of your group on your clip boards. (2 points)
9. Go to the Preschool room and ask how many children are in attendance? Be polite and thank them! (2 points)
10. What is the Pastor's name and the names of people in his family? (2 points)



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Caring for God's Earth"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To teach awareness and respect for God's earth and some positive ways that we can do our part.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. . ."* Genesis 1:31a

**SUPPLIES:** Flower pots (clay or plastic), flats or pony packs of flowers or plants, potting soil, craft sticks (popsicle type), flower pattern (see last page), construction paper, markers or crayons, glue or hot glue gun. Old spoons to transfer plants. Paint for older kids (optional).

Newspaper or magazine articles about pollution or taking care of the earth. For younger children, pictures of creation (trees, fruit, rivers, etc.).

**NOTE:** A couple of weeks beforehand ask the church to donate small flower pots or try to buy a quantity at a discount from a local nursery.

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**OPENING:** As club members arrive, ask the kids to describe the most beautiful place they have ever seen on earth. Discuss with them how much God cares for us and how He wants us to enjoy the things He has created for us. The flowers, trees, snow, and birds are all there to remind us how much He thinks about us and cares for us. He cares so much, that He gave us this whole earth to live in and appreciate. When you appreciate something, you take very good care of it.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read Genesis 1:27-31.  
Younger Children: Provide visuals of created things and/or the process of creation. Explain that God made everything we see today and told Adam and Eve to be in charge of the world and all created things.

Older Children: Review all previous information. Discuss what it means to “subdue” the earth or to have dominion. Emphasize the important role God gave to Adam and Eve as the “managers” of the earth. Bring in a magazine or newspaper article talking about the environment.

Discuss ecology, pollution, and what man is doing to the earth (research at the library). What are some of the damaging effects of pollution? God gave us a definite responsibility to take care of the earth. When we pollute the earth by damaging the environment, we are not pleasing God. We are not showing Him respect. Discuss ways we can make a difference (i.e.; recycling, natural resource conservation ideas, don’t litter, be “earth” conscious, don’t pollute the water, etc.) We don’t worship the creation, however, we worship God the Creator.



### **ACTIVITY: HAND MADE FLOWER POTS**

**PROCEDURE:** (Adequate help required for this project.)

1. Remove flower plants or seeds from the container, carefully loosen the roots so they will have room to grow in the potting soil. Place inside the clay or plastic pot, filling with potting soil where needed. Tap gently to pack dirt. Water the plant but, not too much.
2. Trace and cut a flower from the construction paper using the 2 or 3" flower pattern. (See attached page.)
3. Write the memory verse onto the cut-out construction paper flowers.
5. Glue or hot glue the flower onto the craft stick and insert into the dirt of the flower pot.

**NOTE:** For younger children, have the flower patterns pre-cut. (The older kids could help with this.) Older kids could paint their clay flower pots with tempera or acrylic paints.

Discuss how these plants can remind them of God’s care for them. The flower pots can be made as gifts to be given away by the children.

**SNACK:** Plan a healthy snack. (i.e.; trail mix, nuts, fruits, vegetables)

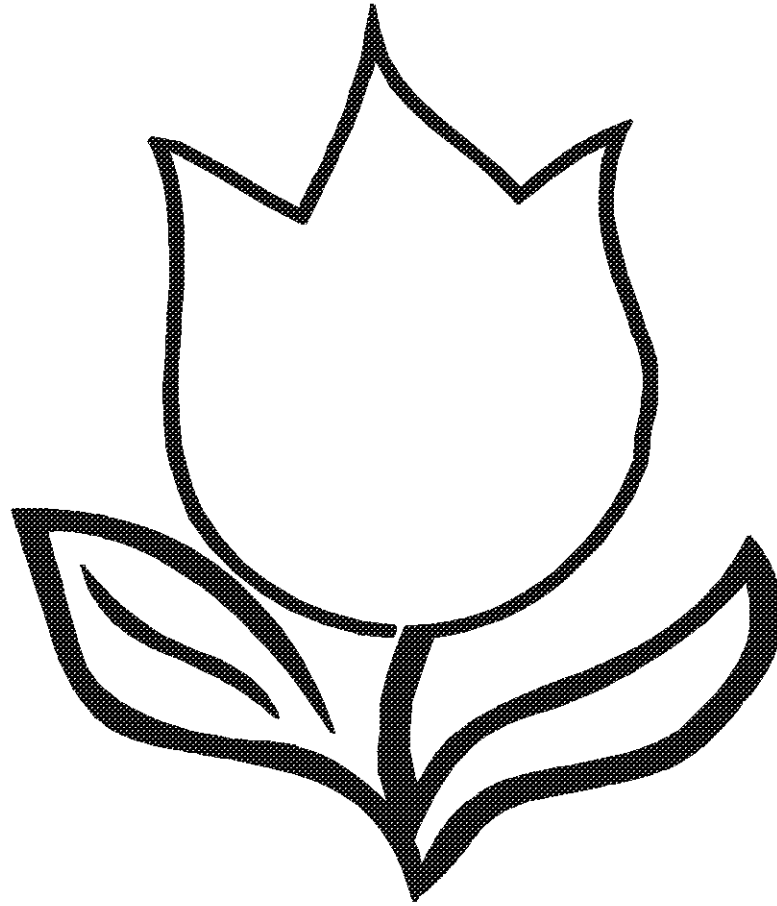


**CONCLUSION:** Take the kids for a quick “Nature walk” around the church premises. See what neat and exciting things they can pick up along

the way. Bring in a person who can do an interesting demonstration about nature.

Thank God for His creation and pray that He will help us to be responsible to care for what He has given us.

# Flower Pattern



Memory verse pattern for use with Good News Bears lesson, "Caring for God's Earth."  
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GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"The Multi-colored Coat"

Recommended for: Preschool

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**LESSON AIM:** To show how envy can damage people and relationships.  
To help students understand God's plan for their own lives.

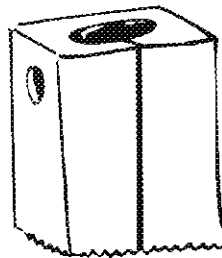
**MEMORY VERSE:** *Love does not envy.* I Corinthians 13:4

**SUPPLIES:** Brown paper bags, scissors, paints, markers, crayons, card-stock photocopies of "Joseph's Multi-colored Coat", jelly beans, colored marshmallows, or colored noodles.

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**OPENING:** Bring large grocery bags to class. Cut a circle in the bottom and sides of the grocery bag then cut vertically along the front of the paper bag. This will now be a vest. Have the children color or paint their "multi-colored" vests. Have them wear the vests during class.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the following - Genesis 37:2-32  
(The students don't have to answer the following questions, they are to provoke thought about the subject of envy.) Have you ever envied or been so jealous of someone that you became angry? Has envy ever made you want to hurt someone? Many of you have heard the story about Joseph and his brothers. His brothers were so jealous of Joseph that they wanted to hurt him.

Joseph had ten older brothers. However, Joseph didn't have a good relationship with his brothers. Joseph's dad loved him more than his brothers. He gave Joseph a very nice coat. The coat was nicer than anything his brothers had. Joseph's brothers got very angry. They said mean things to him and they tried to hurt him.

Joseph liked to brag. He used to tell on his brothers. Joseph had a dream and told his brothers that they would bow down and serve him. That dream made the brothers very jealous, they did not want to ever bow down to their brother. They became so envious that they became angry. They thought, “What is this boy thinking? He’s not better than us.” They plotted to kill Joseph then throw him into a pit where he couldn’t be found. They were really going to do it, but the older brother, Reuben, realized how bad this was and stopped them. What they decided to do instead was sell him into slavery.

If you read the end of this story you find out that Joseph went through some hard times, but God helped him and blessed him—not because of what Joseph did, but because God had a bigger plan. In fact, Joseph ends up not only forgiving his brothers, but saving their lives during a severe famine (a lack of food because there was no rain.)

Many of us think that envy doesn’t really affect us, but it does. It is true that Joseph was favored by his father. This may have been wrong, but it was a fact. Joseph also had a strong ego. He thought a lot of himself. This, also, was wrong. The issue of this story is that Joseph’s brothers did wrong. They let their envy affect the way they treated their little brother. In fact, the way they treated Joseph was not the way God would. He wants us to not be jealous of what others have.

What are some of the things envy can cause us to do? (Say bad things about people, do mean things to them, and physically hurt them.)

God warns us about the dangers of envy and jealousy in His Word. He tells us that it will hurt us and make us do things that are wrong.



**ACTIVITY:** Pass out the multi-colored coat page, and a decent amount of jelly-beans, colored marshmallows, or colored noodles to each child. Instruct them to paste the candy, or noodles, onto the coat to create a multi-colored coat!

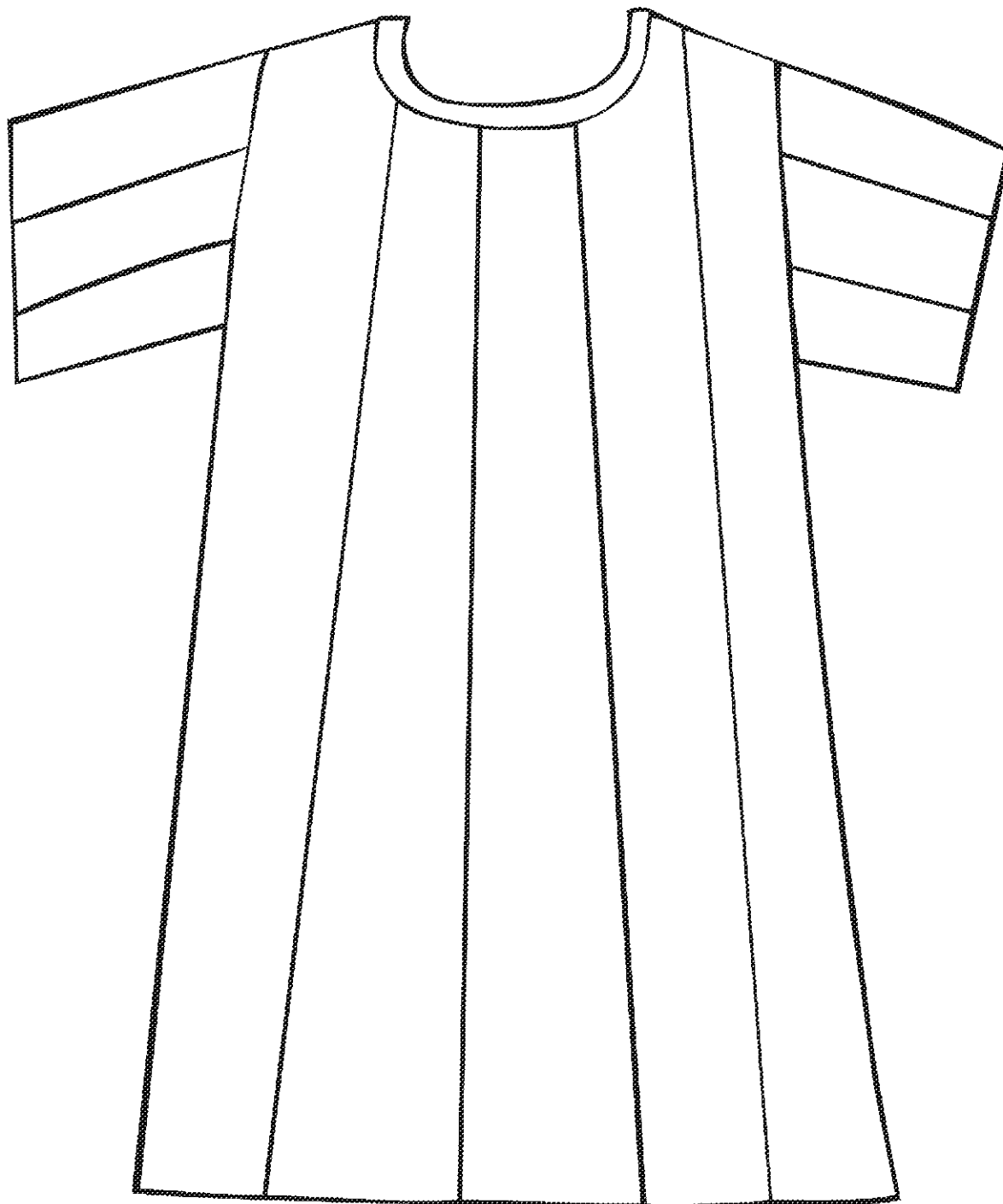
**SNACK:** Variety of colorful foods.



**CONCLUSION:** Have the kids pray and ask the Lord to help them deal with envy in their own lives. Ask the kids to quietly pray a blessing over the person they are envious of. If they will do this, they will be surprised at the blessings they will receive for being obedient and having a right attitude by not harboring envy.

# Joseph's Multi-Colored Coat

Glue colored jelly beans onto the stripes of the coat to create Joseph's multi-colored coat!



# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

## BIBLE DISCOVERY

### "The Multi-colored Coat"

Recommended for: Elementary & Junior

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**LESSON AIM:** To show how envy can damage people and relationships.  
To help students understand God's plan for their own lives.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones."* Proverbs 14:30

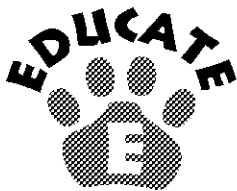
**SUPPLIES:** Broken items such as toys, glassware, china, etc. Glue, tape, newspapers. T-shirts, stones, rubber bands, dye, hot water, large bowls, wooden stirrers, hangers, paper towels  
NOTE: Tell children ahead of time to bring in a white t-shirt for this weeks project.

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**OPENING:** Bring in broken items - especially items which are difficult to repair. Divide into groups. Give each group a broken item or two, glue and tape. Have the groups try to put them back together. Use newspaper to place the items on, after approximately ten minutes aks them to stop. Ask the group to show their repair jobs. Ask the following questions:

- Can items get so damaged that they can't be fixed properly?
- Can people become so hurt or damaged that it is hard for them to be healed?
- Have you ever been so envious of someone that you did something to hurt them?



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the following - Genesis 37:2-32  
(The students don't have to answer the following questions, they are to provoke thought about the subject of envy.) Have you ever envied or been so jealous of someone that you became angry? Has envy ever made you want to hurt someone? Many of you have heard the story about Joseph and his brothers, but think about how that event affects our lives today.

Joseph had ten older brothers. However, Joseph didn't have a good relationship with his brothers. Part of the problem was Joseph, but part of the problem was his brothers' attitude. Jacob favored Joseph; he loved



him so much he gave him an expensive coat, but didn't give one to the rest of the brothers. Verse 4 says, *"When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him."*

Joseph liked to brag. He used to tell on his brothers. Joseph had a dream and told his brothers that they would bow down and serve him. That dream made the brothers very jealous, they did not want to ever bow down to their little brother. They became so envious that they became angry. They plotted to kill Joseph then throw him into a pit where he couldn't be found. They were really going to do it, but the older brother, Reuben, stopped the death plot. Instead they sold Joseph into slavery.

If you read the end of this story you find out that Joseph went through some hard times, but God helped him and blessed him—not because of what Joseph did, but because God had a bigger plan. In fact, Joseph ends up not only forgiving his brothers, but saving their lives during a severe famine.

Many of us think that envy doesn't really affect us, but it does. It is true that Joseph was favored by his father. This may have been wrong, but it was a fact. Joseph also had a strong ego. He thought a lot of himself. This, also, was wrong. The issue of this story is that Joseph's brothers did wrong. They let their envy affect the way they treated him. In fact, the way they treated Joseph was completely opposite of the way God wants us to deal with the problem of envy.

What are some of the things envy can cause us to do? (Say negative things about people, do mean things to them, and physically hurt them.)

God warns us about the dangers of envy and jealousy in His Word. He tells us that it will hurt us and make us do things that are wrong. Have groups of students look up the following Scriptures, discuss the meaning, and then share what it says to them.

Proverbs 14:30  
James 3:4-16

Proverbs 27:4,  
1 Corinthians 13:4

### **ACTIVITY: TIE-DYED T-SHIRTS**

Materials required:

- 1 clean white T-shirt per child
- 6 or 7 clean smooth stones or rocks per child (approximately 2")
- 1 rubber band per rock used per child
- Different color dyes (red, green, yellow, blue)



Hot water (not scalding; be sure to have constant adult supervision)  
Large bowls (one for each color of dye)  
Wooden stirrers (one for each color of dye)  
Hangers and paper towels

**Instructions:**

1. Have each child bring a clean white T-shirt to class for this activity. (Note: Be sure to bring extras for those who don't have one.)
2. Give each child 6 or 7 rocks and rubber bands. From the inside of the shirt, wrap each rock and tie tightly with a rubber band.
3. Have child dip portions of the shirt into the different color dyes.
4. When finished, remove rocks and hang shirt on a hanger to dry.

**CAUTION:** Water must be **very hot** for the dyes to dissolve. The water does not need to remain as hot for the dying process. Allow the water to cool to a safe temperature before allowing children to dye their shirts. Constant adult supervision around this hot water is a **must** for the safety of the children and workers.

**CONCLUSION:**

Have the kids pray and ask the Lord to help them deal with envy in their own lives. Ask the kids to quietly pray a blessing over the person they are envious of. If they will do this, they will be surprised at the blessings they will receive for being obedient and having a right attitude by not harboring envy.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Crucifixion and Resurrection"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To understand the Crucifixion of Jesus, the son of God, and help the children relate it in a way they can understand.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"  
John 1:29

**SUPPLIES:** 3x5 cards, construction paper, heart doilies, pre cut hearts, "cross" stickers and stickers that represent children, and copies of the crossword puzzle. Optional: "glow in the dark paper or paint" for crosses.

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**OPENING: Younger children:** Provide construction paper, heart doilies, or pre-cut hearts, "cross" stickers, and stickers that represent children. On the hearts write "*Jesus loves \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name).*" Place a sticker of a girl or boy plus a sticker of a cross on the hearts. Then glue the hearts on the construction paper.

**Older Children:** Write questions about the crucifixion on 3x5 cards (one question per card) and fold in half. Put questions in a basket and have each child draw a card as they arrive. Once all of the children have arrived, ask the children to answer the question on their card. Have the children help one another if they cannot answer the questions by themselves.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR QUESTIONS:**

- 1) What happened to cause sin to enter the world? *People chose to disobey what God said.*
- 2) What is a Savior? *It is someone who saves people from danger.*
- 3) What does the name Jesus mean? *Savior*
- 4) What is sin? *It is a word, thought or act against what God has said, disobedience.*
- 5) How did Jesus reveal His power over sin? *By conquering death, by raising from the dead.*



#### **BIBLE DISCOVERY:**

**Younger children:** Read the Easter story from Victor Book's Toddler Bible or a similar resource. These types of resources are usually geared to that age level as it is hard for younger children to fully understand the crucifixion and resurrection.

**Older children:** Ask a staff pastor to have a short message or discussion time explaining what the resurrection means to a child of their age. Stress the importance of Jesus' power over sin and death. Jesus proved to be stronger than anything satan could dish out.

Have you every heard or seen something that seems impossible? Can you imagine something being dead and finally coming back to life? That is exactly what Jesus did. He is the only one who has the power to do this.

He died on the cross to take our sin, but He rose from the dead to prove His power over satan.

Use "glow in the dark" paper or paint and make a cross. When you finish the lesson, darken the room and the cross will glow. Reinforce the resurrection of Jesus that He has power over sin and the fear that satan puts in our minds.



#### **ACTIVITY:**

##### **Younger children:**

Do an Easter (new life) mural. Place butcher paper along one wall. Have the children paint trees, birds, animals, etc. on the mural. If painting is too messy, have them cut out pictures from magazines and paste them on the mural. Another option is to purchase or make bulletin board patterns representing spring. Then have the children paste those on the mural. Talk about how spring time reminds us that new things are growing and being born. Jesus did the same for us. When He died on the cross and then rose from the dead, He gave us new life.

**Older children:** Distribute the crossword puzzle and have the children complete it now.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTIVITY:** Bring the class into a group and ask the following questions.

#### **Resurrection Power**

**What difference does the Resurrection mean for you today?**

To get kids thinking about this, ask what difference the Resurrection could make to someone who. . .

- **is afraid of death.** (You don't have to fear death because you know God will raise you to eternal life.)
- **has trouble breaking a bad habit.** ( Because He defeated sin and Satan, Christ can help you defeat your problems, including temptation.)
- **has a friend who's depressed.** (Eternal life gives you a hope for the future to share with others.)
- **feels that life is pointless.** (It makes life meaningful to know that earthly actions have eternal significance.)

**SNACK:** Fruit Kebobs made with sliced apples, bananas, pineapple, watermelon or any combination of fresh fruit.



**CLOSING:** Have children express prayers of thanksgiving to Jesus for dying for us.

Have the children make their own "glow in the dark" crosses.

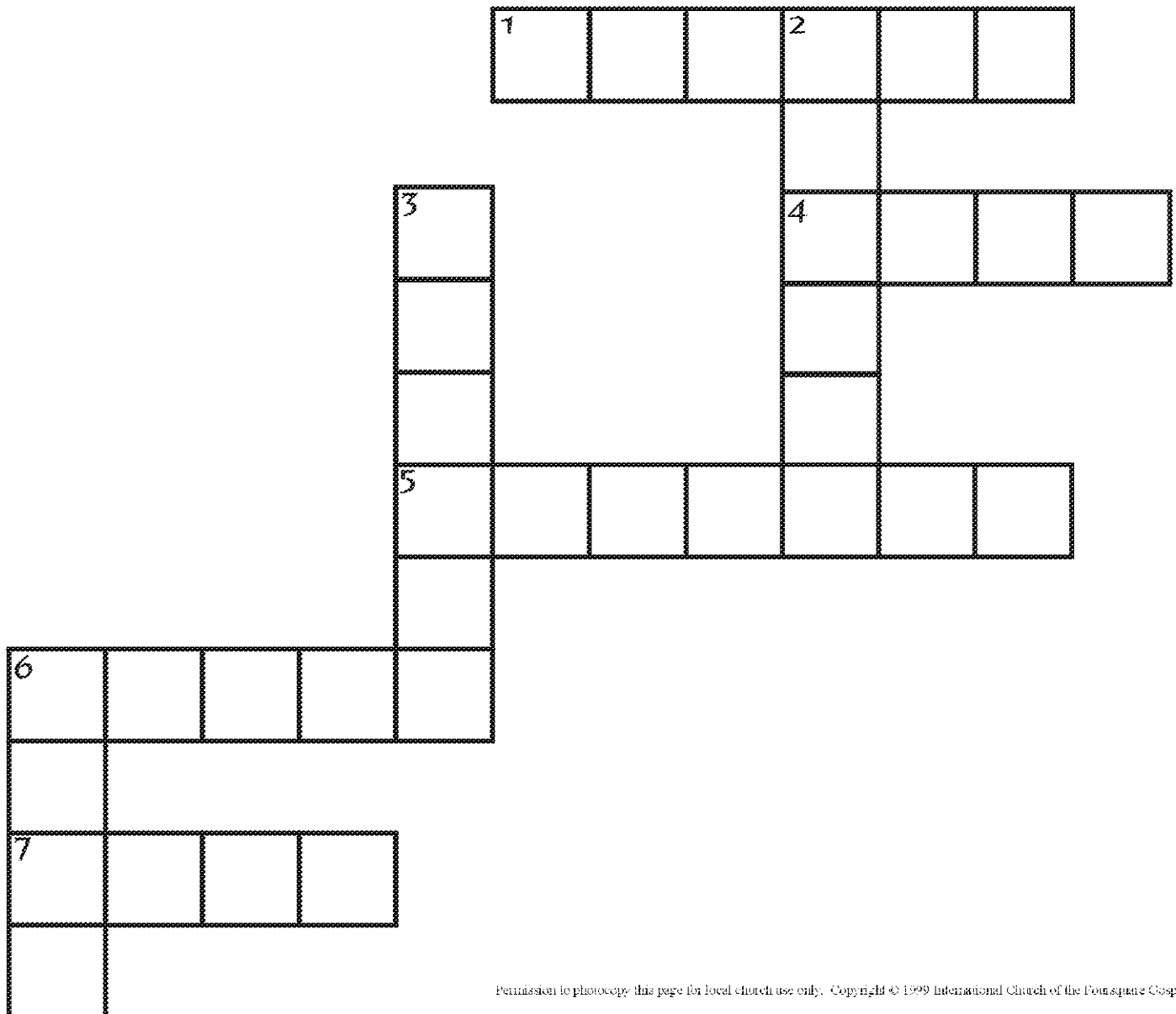
# Crucifixion Crossword Puzzle

## Across:

1. What Color was the coat they put on Jesus at the crucifixion? Matthew 27:28
4. What did the soldiers do to keep Jesus' followers from stealing His body? Matthew 27:63-66
5. What were the two men who were nailed to the cross with Jesus? Matthew 27:44
6. Which of Jesus' disciples killed himself? Matthew 27:3-5
7. The soldiers gave Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ to drink. Luke 23:26

## Down:

2. Who was the leader of the country? Matthew 27:2
3. What was the crown they put on Jesus' head made of? Matthew 27:29
6. They called Jesus "The King of the \_\_\_\_\_." Matthew 27:37



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Freedom Festival"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** We as Americans have been given freedom. Being a Christian, you will have more freedoms.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed"*  
John 8:36

**SUPPLIES:** Cake, ice cream, punch, balloons, construction paper (red, white and blue) star stickers, corn with husks on (enough for each child), measuring stick, handcuffs or something heavy for a child to hold. A flag and a cross.

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**OPENING:**

Younger Children:

Pre-cut strips of red, white and blue construction paper for chain necklaces.

Older Children:

- 1) They can make flags out of the construction paper.
- 2) Ask a soldier, police officer, or government representative from your church to come and talk with the children about what freedom means to them. They could talk about what happens when freedom is taken away from people.

During the story place construction paper "hand cuffs" or wrist restraints snugly around the children's wrists. Another idea is to have the child hold something heavy throughout the story. This is to demonstrate not having freedom. When the story has concluded, tell them to rip the wrist bands apart or to put down the object.



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Hold up the flag and ask:

What do you think of when you hear the word "freedom" or the phrase "Independence Day?" Freedom is defined as the power to act, speak or think freely. Being free means that there is nothing holding us down or making us feel bad.

Have you ever felt like you did was so wrong that you almost couldn't breathe? Have you ever lied or done something that made you feel sick? Those kinds of feelings do not make us feel free. Those feelings are the result of having sin in our lives.

Christians have been given another independence day (Hold up the cross. It is the day that we declare Jesus is our Savior and we accept Him into our hearts. Jesus died on the cross so that we would be free from our sins. Jesus loves you so much and He does not want you to live each day with sick feelings. Tell Him about the wrong things you have done and how sorry you are. He wants to help you. He wants you to feel good about yourself. He doesn't want you to feel weighed down with problems. He gives you freedom from the things you have done wrong.

Take time to thank Jesus for the freedoms he has given to us! (Break the construction paper restraints now or have child lay down heavy item). The freedom you feel now is the same freedom we feel in Jesus. The chains of sin that bind us can now be broken. Jesus is the only one who can give us freedom from the bondage of sin!

For the older ages: Pass out Bibles, paper, and pencils sign the following Scripture verses to individuals or groups of kids. Ask them to discuss and then write down what they think the verses mean to them.

John 8:33-36  
Romans 6:22

Romans 8:2  
Galatians 5:1



**ACTIVITY:** "Freedom Festival," will conclude with a party! Have a large sheet cake made. Make sure it is festive with red, white and blue. It can say "Freedom in Jesus" or something else that pertains to the holiday. Have streamers and balloons. Celebrate with a few games.

Shoes in a Muddle: Have the children remove their shoes and socks, and put them in a pile. At a signal, children run to the pile, find their own shoes and socks, put them on and run back to the starting line. The first person back wins.

Corn Huskers' Race: Place brown paper bags approximately 6 feet apart. Divide group into equal teams. Teams line up 12-15 feet from bags. Give each player an ear of corn at the start line. Team members take turns running to the bag, shucking ears of corn and running back to the team. The first team with all the shucked corn is the winner.



**SNACKS:** Serve punch and ice cream with the cake.



**CONCLUSION:** Pray with the children and ask Christ to make them free. Lead them through a prayer of salvation. Teach them the memory verse and have them repeat it back to you.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Happy Thanksgiving"

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To share why we celebrate Thanksgiving each year, and how this day relates to God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *Psalm 92:1, "It is good to give thanks to the Lord. And to sing praises to Thy name, O Most High."*

**SUPPLIES:** Varies on activity chosen.

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**OPENING:** Purchase or make cards prior to class, and write a thank you note to each one of your regular students and prepare extras for visitors. help the children understand that the word Thanksgiving was used to celebrate thankfulness to God, and that the Thanksgiving feast was held by the pilgrims to show God how grateful they were to still be alive and growing food.

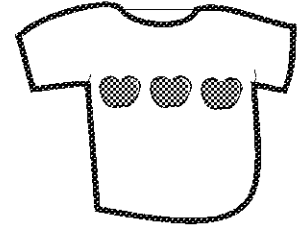


**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Many of the pilgrims had died the previous year and food was low. They lived in dirt-covered shelters. The Wampanoag Indians didn't necessarily like the pilgrims, but they were Indians that practiced hospitality and giving to others, so they help the pilgrims.

The year before the Thanksgiving feast the Indians brought the pilgrims deer meat to eat and animal skins to keep warm. The Indians taught the settlers how to plant corn, and they show them how to build wigwams in order to keep warm. The Indians also showed them which plants were good to eat, which plants were medicinal, and which were poisonous.

That fall things were going so much better due to the help they received. The Pilgrims decided to have a thanksgiving feast to celebrate their good fortune. Because they believed in God, a time of thanksgiving was an important part of their lives. However, the Indians also celebrated a time of thanksgiving - six times a year. They would celebrate after the various harvests of the foods they grew.

Only some of the Indians were invited to the Thanksgiving feast. Mostly, the Indians who had helped them the year before. Because they didn't know each other very well, the Indians and Pilgrim still didn't trust each other. But regardless of these kinds of problems, the people still recognized that God had miraculously provided for them through the help of the Indians.



Thanksgiving was not celebrated every year after that. Many times the New England people would celebrate the arrival of an important supply ship, or another blessing. This became their times of "thanksgiving." After a few years, the Americans held a celebration bringing the community together for thanksgiving by feasting and having fun. It was also used as a time to bring the parents and children together to teach and reinforce Christian values. This was usually in Autumn. However, there were many years that they did not celebrate a unified time of thanksgiving.

It wasn't recognized as a national holiday until President Abraham Lincoln made it a holiday. On November 26, 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the last Thursday in November to celebrate Thanksgiving.

**This information was excerpted from *The Thanksgiving Tradition* by Plimoth-on-Web. This Internet site was prepared by Plimoth Plantation Museum staff, and can be found at: <http://plimoth.org/Library/Thanksgiving/thangsei.htm>**

A sample of a prayer by the pilgrims went like this:

"O Lord our God and heavenly Father, which of Thy unspeakable mercy towards us, hast provided meate and drinke for the nourishment of our weake bodies. Grant us peace to use them reverently, as from thy hands, with thankful hearts: let Thy blessing rest upon these Thy good creatures, to our comfort and sustentation: and grant we humbly beseech The, good Lord, that as we doe hunger and thirst for this food our bodies, so our soles may earnestly long after the food of eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, Amen."

Just like the pilgrims who recognized God's miraculous provision, we need to recognize God and His blessings during the Thanksgiving holiday.



**ACTIVITY: Apple Printing:** Make a fun design, wrapping paper, decorate a T-shirt, or place a printed pattern on a tote bag or vest. Items needed: apples cut in half, fabric paint, paper plate or shallow tray, items to print on (i.e. paper, shirts, etc.) Newspaper or plastic for tables and floors.

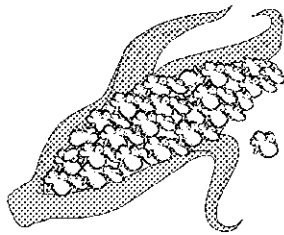
Put paint on paper plate or tray. Place apple half in paint and then place on paper, shirt or tote. Let dry. If the apples are too hard for the younger children to handle, insert popsicle stick into apple and use as a handle.

**Make place mats:** As the children are making their place mats, discuss the Thanksgiving story with them and how thankful we are to God for the care He gives us.

Items needed: 12" x 18" construction paper, rolls clear adhesive shelf paper (to cover place mats), glue. Decorating items such as fall leaves, or patterns of leaves, rice, beans, acorns, twigs or glitter and ribbon.

Procedure: Write the words Thank You God in the center of the construction paper. Around the edges, glue the decorations. Cover with the clear shelf paper (this makes them waterproof).

**Popcorn Collage:** Items needed: Pattern, crayons, glue, popcorn kernels, or popped popcorn.



Procedure: Use the attached corn on the cob pattern. Have the kids color the page and then glue the popped corn or just popcorn kernels on the page. (Note: If you are worried about authenticity, the pilgrims did not have popcorn the first thanksgiving. Indian corn didn't pop well and regular corn was not introduced yet.)

**Color the pilgrim's planting picture.** As the kids color this page you could read the following Fun Facts about Pilgrim Children:

-Children in the 1600's had to work hard. Their chores included: fetching water from the brook or springs, gathering firewood, herding animals, gathering berries, helping parents cook, clean, preserve food, plant and harvest crops, and care for the younger children.

-Though they worked hard, they also had time to play. They would play marbles, running games, board games similar to checkers or chess, games with sticks or balls.

-Children were expected to serve meals to their parents. Children only ate after their parents were served. They often ate on stools by the fire place.

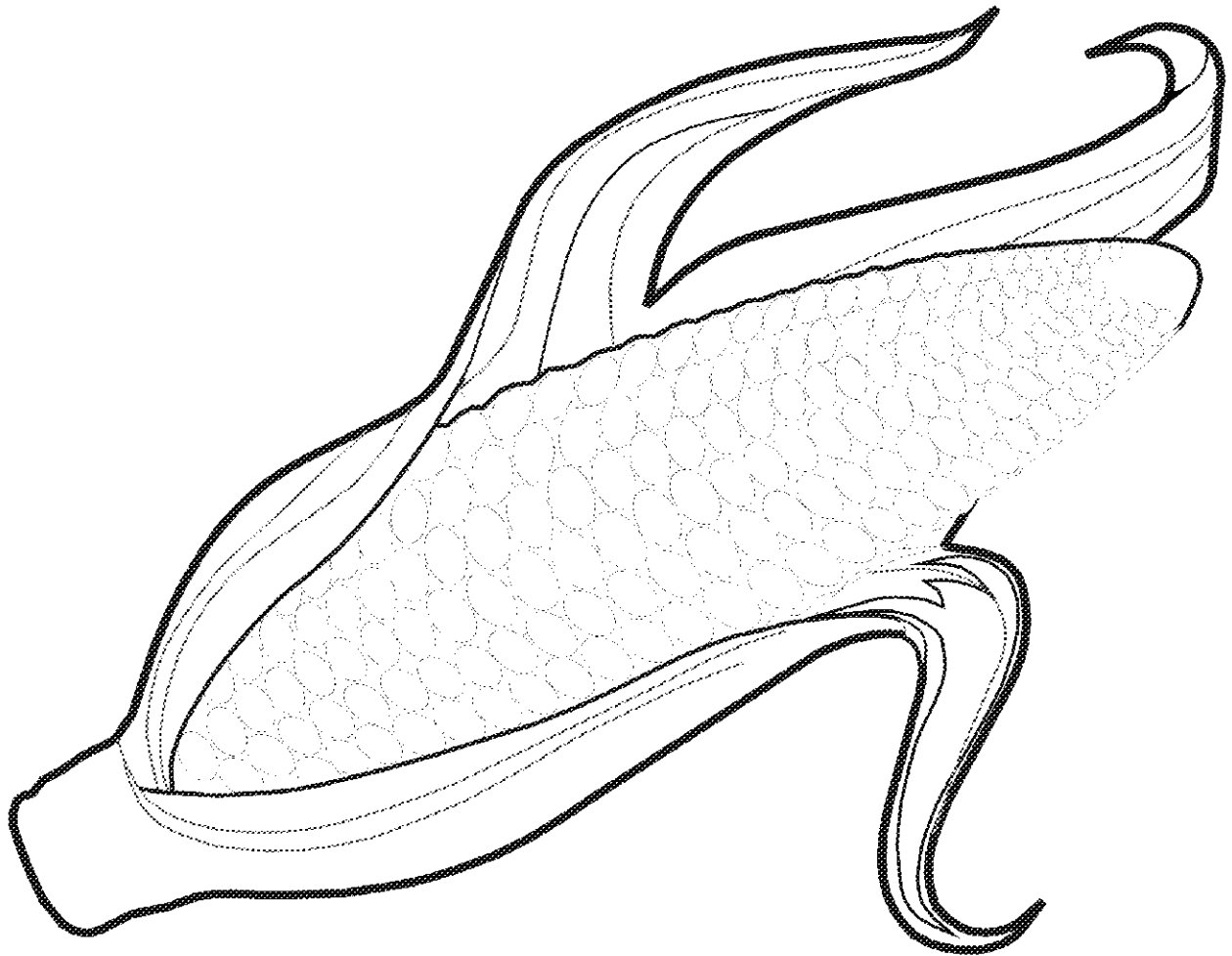
-Both the boys and girls wore gowns until they were about seven years old.

- Children slept on the floor on mattresses stuffed with straw. (Sometimes the straw had bugs.)
- Children and adults only took a few baths a year.

Are you more thankful for your life now?



**CONCLUSION:** Ask the kids to mention one thing they are thankful for. On a chalkboard or overhead list those things. In a prayer, thank God for the things he has done for us.



# Pilgrim Children Planting Corn



This pattern is to be used with the lesson "Happy Thanksgiving."

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GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**

**"Have a Very Beary Christmas by Giving"**

(Two week lesson/activity)

**Recommended for: All**

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**LESSON AIM:** To provide an opportunity for the club member to give of himself during the Christmas season.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (The underlined portion for the younger children.)*

**SUPPLIES:** **Week One:** Boxes, coloring pages, puzzles/or Christmas gifts, word search, card supplies, paper, old Christmas cards, markers, glue, glitter, cookie ingredients, Christmas cookie cut outs, cookie sheets. Signed permission slip for second week.

**Week Two:** Colored cellophane, plastic baggies, ribbons or ties, pre-made cards (from last week). Signed permission slips. Prior arrangements should be made for the children to go to a convalescent home, homeless shelter or assisted living center to sing Christmas carols and pass out the cookies. Have one or two children prepared to read the Christmas story from the Bible.



**OPENING:** As the children arrive, have them work on one of these activities:

Younger Children: Have books, coloring pages or puzzles about the Christmas story available at a table.

Older Children: Make CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

If time permits, watch a half-hour Christmas video such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas" or "Veggie Tales Christmas." Both of these have the message of Christmas in them.





**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Talk with children about Christmas and ask what it means to them. Some children will mention that it is Jesus' Birthday, while others will talk about presents, decorations, etc. Ask the following questions:

- What do they first think of when you mention Christmas?
- How do they feel about receiving and giving gifts?
- What is the best gift you have ever received?

Talk about God giving the greatest gift of all—His only Son, Jesus. During this season it is important for us to remember the reason for Christmas. God's gift of His Son to provide us with eternal life. It is the best gift of all! (If you have chosen a video to watch, be sure to preview it and ask questions that relate the video back to the Christmas message.) *Be sure to get permission to show the video from the Motion Picture Licensing Corporation 800.462.8855.*



**ACTIVITY:**

**Cookies:** Explain that each will make a dozen cookies. Six of these will be given away next week. The other six will get to be eaten by the club members. Have ingredients ready for the children to mix, shape and bake cookies to save time, (for health reasons have children wash their hands first) have adults wrap and freeze the cookies after the club meeting. For younger children use pre-made dough.

**Cards:** Each club member is to make a card that will be given away next week with the cookies. Provide construction paper, markers, glitter, glue, Christmas decorations, etc. to be used to make cards. Old Christmas cards can be cut and used on construction paper. Freeze cookies and store cards for the following week.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS:**

If you do plan to sing some carols next week, have the children practice two or three songs that will relate well to the Christmas Story. Talk about what the words in the songs mean. If possible, try to find the history of the songs you will be singing and share the information with the class.



**CONCLUSION:** Older Children: Have the students complete the "Christmas Gift Word Search" (next page).

Younger Children: Give them little gifts to wrap and let them take them home and open them on Christmas Morning.

**WEEK TWO:**

Children need to understand that some people do not have very good lives and how the holidays affect them. Tell the children it is important to be sensitive to this fact.

As the children arrive, have each one wrap 6 of the cookies made last week. Provide colored cellophane, plastic baggies, ribbons and ties. Put a card with each bag. Then go to your appointed destination. Allow enough time for this project. As you return to the church, talk about how good it feels to bless others. Before they go home, have the children pray for one another that they will understand what Christmas is about and enjoy Christmas no matter what their family situation is.

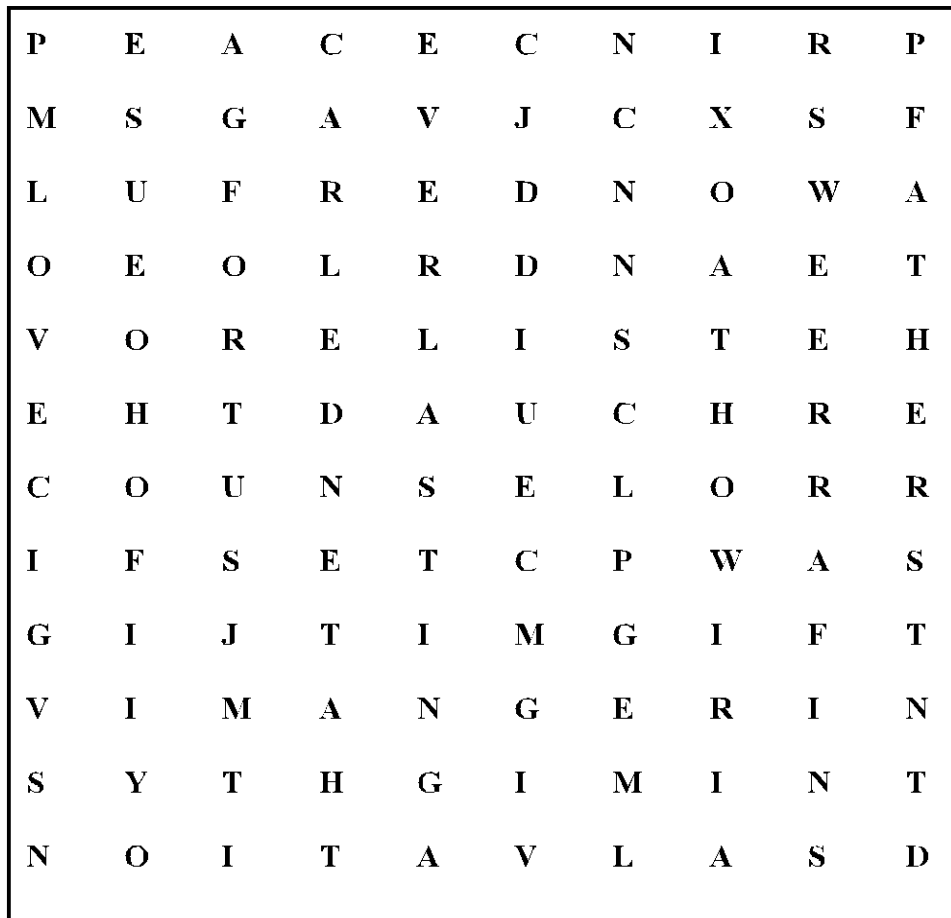
# Christmas Gift Word Search

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)**

**Find the following words in the puzzle below. Words can be backwards, upside down, sideways, or straight forward.**

**Jesus  
Son  
Gift  
Manger  
Love  
Peace  
Salvation**

**Wonderful  
Counselor  
Mighty  
Everlasting  
Father  
Prince**



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**BIBLE DISCOVERY**  
"Christmas Is..."

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To know that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth.  
Christmas is more than gifts, decorations, etc.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"For God so loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that anyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16 (LB) (Visualize this verse on your Bulletin Board and use it throughout the Christmas season.)

**SUPPLIES:** Gather the following items, (preferably in miniature- an old nativity scene will work well): Manger, straw, angels, crown, stars, plastic animals (sheep and camels), Mary, Joseph, shepherds, wise men, gifts for Jesus, etc. (Many of these items may be purchased from Wal-mart or various novelty stores.  
Also: various Christmas decorations, i.e. Christmas lights, wrapping paper, garland, candy canes, Santa Claus figurines, ornaments, etc.

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**OPENING:**

*"Christmas is..."* The Nativity Scene.

*"Christmas is not..."* wrapping paper, ribbons, toys, stocking, Santa Claus, presents, lights, ornaments, decorations, money, candy, bells, etc. (Focus on the true meaning of Christmas.)

Place the gathered items on a covered table. Spread them out across the table, using books or pieces of styrofoam to make different levels.

Take 3x5 cards, fold in half and print in large letters on each card "YES" on one side and "NO" on the other. Place card in front of each item on the table.

Ask the children from a Biblical standpoint, "What items on the table speak of the true Christmas story?"



**BIBLE DISCOVERY:** Read the Christmas story from the Bible or a child's book, or tell the story in your own words, which is more effective. As you tell the story, point to the various items on the table that are related to the true Christmas story.

Older Children: Have each child come up and pick an item from the table and talk about it. They should try to tell the part of the Christmas story involving the object that they pick up.

**SNACK:** Sugar cookies in angel shapes and punch. Ask the children if Christmas cookies are an important part of the Christmas story. The answer is no but the angels are a very important part!



**ACTIVITY:** Give each child one of the items that speak of the story. Ask the child to explain how it was used in the Christmas story (i.e; manger – was used as a bed for the baby Jesus). Whatever the kids do not know about the people or the items, teach them. . .



**CONCLUSION:** Sing Christmas Songs.

*"Oh how I love Jesus"*

*"Away in the manger"*

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
“GOOD NEWS BEARY FUN CIRCUS”

*Recommended for: ALL*

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**PURPOSE:** To promote neighborhood evangelism and interaction of adults and children.

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**DESCRIPTION:** Have an old fashioned neighborhood circus with adult involvement other than GNB Club Leaders. (i.e. Bear Essentials Team, women’s ministry, and men’s ministry.)

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Plastic flags (similar to the ones used at car lots) or streamers
- Brightly painted cardboard props
- Old wire reels for the lions to stand on
- Stage for the circus acts
- Research large party stores for circus decorations, props
- Bags of popcorn, peanuts, or caramel corn. You can also serve hot dogs, drinks, or candy apples. (If a simple snack is desired, create a mixture of popcorn, shelled peanuts, and a few candy corn pieces or gummy bears.)

**PREPARATION:** Secure a large meeting hall or outside area if nice weather permits. (Section the outside area with ropes for crowd control.) Set up folding chairs in rows, forming a semi-circle facing the performing area.

**Prior to the Circus:** The GNB Club Director and the Bear Essentials team are responsible for the circus. Recruit adults not normally involved in the GNB Club program to help in organizing and planning the circus. The regular GNB Club leaders should be free of responsibilities other than sitting with their children to keep order.

**PERSONNEL:** You will need helpers to do the following: **Note:** This is a must for a successful circus.

- 1) to set-up circus
- 2) to decorate
- 3) to prepare snacks
- 4) be circus performers
- 5) to clean up

**ACTIVITIES:****CIRCUS ACTS:**

- 1) Bicycle riders (bikes should be brightly decorated.)
- 2) Unicycle riders if available.
- 3) Dog acts, or any type of animal act that is a resource for you.
- 4) Lion act (Rent or make a lion costume, use an old Boy Scout uniform for the trainer, a jump rope makes a great whip.)
- 5) Clowns, tumblers, and jugglers.
- 6) Strong man and an assistant (Make a bar for bending.)
- 7) Ringmaster (Red coat with white pants, black boots and hat.)

**BE CREATIVE** and unusual when you select circus acts.

**SNACKS:**

Consider circus type snacks, popcorn, peanuts, candy apples, or hot dogs and fruit punch. *Be cautious giving popcorn and peanuts to toddlers.* They are small snacks and can easily cause choking.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- 1) Recruit adults from your church to prepare props, seating, and other details beforehand
- 2) Create invitation flyers a few weeks ahead of the scheduled circus and have the children distribute to friends, neighbors, and relatives
- 3) Use a P. A. system for noise control especially if your circus is outdoors.
- 4) Release the children to come to the ring from their regular classes. Have the Bears leaders bring the children into the circus seats. The group leaders need to sit with the children to supervise and be a part of this fun time.
- 5) Seating should be arranged so the children remain seated with their group. Seat the children starting with the youngest group to the oldest so everyone has a better chance for viewing the circus.
- 6) Pass out helium filled balloons at the close of the circus if resources permit.
- 7) This can be a time-consuming activity but with advanced planning and recruiting it is well worth the effort. Make this special activity an opening to kick off the club year or to close the club year.

**CLOSING:** If your circus is evangelistic you may want to invite the visiting children to attend your children's church. Have information about your church's services and your children's programs available for any curious parents. Make this a fun time for the kids in your church and those who are visiting. Encourage the children to talk to each other and to tell the visiting children what children's church is like.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"BANANA SPLIT NIGHT"

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** This is a great event to kick off the BEARS' club each year! Plan to have a Banana Split Night (or day) in August or September to launch the club registrations.

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**DESCRIPTION:** Plan the event to include all the children of the church and neighborhood and even the entire church, if possible. Advertise a giant (depending on the number of people you anticipate) banana split that's free! It can be 15 feet, 50 feet or 200 feet long. Here's how:

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Large plastic rain gutters - buy enough depending on the number of kids you have. One kid should have about 1 foot of gutter space.
- Plywood saw horses
- Screws to secure troughs to saw horses
- Saran wrap or foil
- Plastic banana split bowls (optional)
- Electrical tape (optional)
- 3 different flavors of ice cream in 5 - gallon containers
- Chocolate, strawberry, caramel, butterscotch, and pineapple toppings
- Canned whipped topping
- Bananas
- Nuts
- Cherries

**PREPARATION:**

1. Make a trough using plastic rain gutters overlapped end to end on plywood saw horses. Use screws through the rain gutter into the saw horses to hold the trough together. Gutter length should be the number of children multiplied by one foot long.
2. Clean with chlorine bleach and water. Rinse thoroughly before and after use.
3. Line trough with saran wrap or foil. If desired place plastic banana split bowls in the gutter.

4. Use electrical tape across top of gutter, spaced one foot apart, to separate between children if necessary.
5. Purchase 3 flavors of ice cream in 5-gallon containers. Use chocolate, strawberry and pineapple toppings, canned whipped cream, whole bananas for older children and sliced bananas for younger children. You can also top with whipped cream (from the can), nuts and cherries.
6. Alternate the children on opposite sides of the trough for good spacing (elbow space).

Begin the meeting by explaining the **GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB** program. Introduce the leaders, Bear Essentials, etc. See if the pastor will wear a club shirt and join in! Meanwhile, ask for help in preparing the banana split. When ready, instruct the children on where to line up and who to follow to the trough, etc. Be sure to plan time fillers, (songs, games, etc.) to cover the time it will take to put the Banana Split together!

This is a great way to advertise the start of the **GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB**. Everyone enjoys ice cream, and this is easy to prepare and has a fun impact!

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"GOOD NEWS BEAR DOUBLE-DARE"

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** To develop large group interaction between the children and leaders.

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**DESCRIPTION:** Good News Bear Double-Dare is a night of zany fun, similar to a game show. It is complete with contestants, co-hosts, and filled with crazy messy stunts and creative props.

**PLACE:** A large assembly area where all the children can be seated and are able to see the Bear Double-Dare Leader.

**SEATING:** Regular chairs are fine (place the youngest children in the front and the older towards the back so everyone will have a good view).

**SNACKS:** Provide a simple snack and serve right before or after the Bear Double-Dare Hunt (at Half-Time).

**PREPARATION:**

1. Prepare special Bear Double-Dare Bucks. They will be used for this activity only (print them on a different color of paper than regular Bear Bucks because they are not negotiable in the Bear Cave). Print them in \$1,000 denominations (pattern provided).
2. Choose a Bear Double-Dare host and hostess. These people need to have a flair for theatrics and play their "role" well. The success of this event depends on them. Have them dress the part. Both should wear the same type of hat (details later).
3. Label slips of paper with the numbers 1-5 for use during game.
4. Choose an assistant to help change Bear Double-Dare box contents.
5. Set up two tables, one table should have three boxes. The other table should have the same number of boxes as the number of bear groups participating. (Ex. For five bear groups, have one table with five boxes marked with the numbers 1 through 5, on the other have three boxes marked 1 through 3). The boxes will be used to hide double dare items. (Read further)

Cover tables with butcher paper or table cloths.

Table 1 Box Contents: (number of bear groups)

- #1 - Cupcakes, brownie, snack cake, etc.
- #2 - M&M's on a paper plate (person to eat with no hands)
- #3 - cooked Brussel sprouts
- #4 - small cream pie (eat with no hands)
- #5 - sardines

Table 2 Box Contents: (3 boxes)

- #1 - Packet of McDonald's gift certificates.
- #2 - Envelope with 100 Bear Bucks inside.
- #3 - Card with the Bible verse and envelope with 50 Bear Bucks inside. The person needs to read the verse aloud and explain the meaning. **See "Round Two" for items needed during second half of Bear Double Dare.**

6. Create a list of items to be searched for during the Bear Double Dare Hunt. If necessary purchase the items and have Bear Essentials hide them shortly before the event begins.

7. Assign someone to gather the supplies on the shopping list below.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- \$1,000 Bear Double-Dare bucks
- 3 identical hats for the host, hostess, and assistant (check at a costumers for economical plastic top hats)
- Write the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 1, 2, 3 on 3 x 5" index cards Cut-out numbers and use for the number drawing of the participants. (Provide a number card for each Bears class participating plus 3.) They will take turns drawing a number from the hat
- Colorful signs and banners with "BEAR DOUBLE-DARE" (For promotion and put signs up across the bottoms of the tables to decorate)
- Tables for the Bear Double-Dare boxes
- Flourescent or regular tempera paints and brushes
- Table coverings
- Hostess Ding Dong cakes (or alternate if chosen, 1 box is enough)
- M & M's (one bag)

- Cooked Brussel sprouts
- Small frozen cream pie
- Can of sardines and opener if needed
- McDonald's gift certificates (2 books)
- Envelopes for Bear Bucks
- Your regular Bear Bucks for prizes
- Bible and a 3x5" card with a verse written on it.
- A disgusting flavor of baby food (spinach or squash)
- Paper plates.
- Soy milk
- Small clear drinking glass
- Ice-cream sundae items (whip cream, nuts, topping, etc.)
- Chocolate donut (or some other type if preferred)
- String for donut
- Package of Bubble Yum Bubble Gum™
- Chocolate layer cake (Optional: one layer used for hat)

**“BEAR DOUBLE-DARE HUNT” ITEMS:**

- toothpicks
- candy wrappers
- bark pieces
- old toothbrushes (1 per participating Bears group)
- gum wrappers
- rock
- leaves

**BAKE-A-CAKE INGREDIENTS:**

- flour
- baking powder
- eggs
- wooden spoon
- sugar
- ketchup
- milk
- chocolate syrup
- salt & pepper
- soy sauce
- butter container
- mustard

**HAIR-DO ITEMS:**

- hair brush
- hair spray
- bobby pins
- bows
- styling mousse
- ribbons

**BEAR DOUBLE-DARE, ROUND ONE!!**

A. Have Each GNBC class choose one person (not a leader) to participate as a contestant in the Bear Double-Dare.

B. Have each contestant draw a number from the show host's hat to determine the box they will open.

C. The host and hostess begins with a scenario similar to the following:

Double-Dare host speaking to first child: “You have drawn Box #1. I'll give you 10,000 Double-Dare Bucks for completing the task under Box #1.

The hostess reveals what is under Box #1 and the child makes a decision if he will accept the offer.

Double-Dare host: “WAIT! BEFORE you eat that Ding Dong, I’ll pay you the 10,000 Double-Dare Bucks PLUS 2,000 more for your team if you’ll trade me Box #1 for the Box #1 on the alternate table.

The Double-Dare host then plays this part of the transaction to the hilt! Offer several options, raising the price so the child anticipates his decision carefully. BUT, remind the child that there could be something really great under box #1 or it could be a BLOOPER! They have to decide what to do.

*Be very theatrical while revealing the contents of the boxes if the child accepts Box #1 on the alternate table.*

D. Follow the same scenario until all boxes are revealed. Remember the contents under each box because not all participants can choose the 3 boxes on the alternate table. Offer larger amounts of Double-Dare Bucks for the boxes with the sardine and brussel sprouts so the children can choose an alternate box.

#### **HALF -TIME:**

##### **BEAR DOUBLE-DARE HUNT:**

The Double-Dare Hunt is used as a break in the activity for the children to expend some energy (remember, they’re sitting for most of this activity). Naturally, the items listed should be accessible in your location. Each item is worth 1,000 Double-Dare Bucks with the Bonus items worth 5,000. Release the children with their leaders for the Double-Dare hunt and allow 10 minutes in your schedule. If these items are not readily accessible then arrive early and place items where the children will find them.

##### **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE BLITZ:**

Each verse counts for 1,000 Bear Double-Dear Bucks and must be over 5 words in length. The children need to remember the reference for credit. (You can pre-select 5 or 6 scriptures for them to memorize on the spot.)

## **BEAR DOUBLE-DARE, ROUND TWO!!**

A. During the Double-Dare Hunt change the table box contents for the BEAR LEADER'S DOUBLE-DARE.

Table #1 Box Contents: (5 boxes or whatever number of Bears classes participating. Place box contents items on paper plates.)

- #1 - A disgusting flavor of baby food
- #2 - Soy milk in a glass
- #3 - An ice-cream sundae (has to be eaten without using hands)
- #4 - Package of Bubble Yum™ (leader has to open and chew all pieces and blow a big bubble)
- #5 - Chocolate donut, leader has to eat without hands from the dangling string

Table #2 Box Contents: (3 boxes)

- #1 - Bake-A-Cake on Your Head (see instructions following)
- #2 - McDonald's gift certificate book
- #3 - New Hair-Do (hostess can be the hairdresser)

B. Follow the same scenario used for the children's Bear Double-Dare with the leaders.

**NOTE:** Pre-arrange with the two leaders beforehand that they will be doing the Bake-A-Cake and the Hair-Do activity. Choose Box #1 and #2 to be the boxes that contain these activities. Keep the cards with those numbers separate when the other leaders are drawing their numbers. Do this discreetly so no one will notice, then put the #1 card in the hat and allow the Bake-A-Cake leader to draw that number. Put the #2 card in the hat and let the Hair-Do leader draw that card out of the hat. Make sure to have plenty of towels and clean-up items for the leaders. Instead of using the Double-Dare Bucks to buy their boxes, use the following list of questions.

1. How long is a cubit? (17 ½")
2. What was the name of Job's #2 friend? (Bildad)
3. What did God create on the 6<sup>th</sup> day? (Man and animals)
4. How many pages are in the GNBC Director's Bible?
5. List the Fruit of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22-23)

If they can't answer the questions, they have to choose to do the Dare under their boxes or the host buys as in the children's version.

**BAKE-A-CAKE Activity (from Table #2, Box #1):**

A. The Bear Double-Dare host asks his assisting hostess to have the Bake-A-Cake baked on her head. Cover the area well with plastic drop clothes or sheets, put a towel on the lap and around the shoulders of the hostess (do this even though she will not be the one getting messy).

B. The use of 3 identical hats is required for this activity. Secure an empty butter container inside the 3<sup>rd</sup> hat with a piece of double-back tape so it won't fall out when tipped. The host takes the hostess's hat and switches it with the hat containing the butter container. The assistant is a key person here. The host and assistant need to interact without the audience realizing that the switching is taking place. (Rehearse this a few times before the event to help with realism.)

C. The host takes the hat and mixes small amounts of the cake ingredients in the butter container hat with a wooden spoon.

D. The assistant has placed a Hostess Ding Dong upside down inside the original hostess hat that has been concealed.

E. The host is "playing it up" during the mixing process. He turns to the assistant and switches hats for the one with the Ding Dong or cake.

F. The host takes the hat (with the Ding Dong), quickly places it on the hostess's head. Have everyone count 1, 2, & 3! He lifts the hat off and there is the Ding Dong (or whatever you're using) sitting on her head!

G. The same scenario is used with the leader except there is no butter container. The host mixes the ingredients in the hat, but not too soupy. Remember, there is no switch! The host quickly places the hat on top of the leader's head and everyone says 1, 2, & 3. Be very creative in your mixing of ingredients, the kids love it!

H. The host removes the hat and the mess is evident! The children will find this extremely funny! The host then asks what happened and the game goes on.

SPECIAL NOTE: Provide plenty of clean-up towels, etc. If you have explained in detail to the leaders beforehand, they should be adequately prepared with clean-up towels, etc.



**“HAIR-DO” ACTIVITY (from Table #2, Box #3):**

A. The leader has agreed beforehand that his/her hair will be a mess when finished.

B. The hostess **fixes** the GNBC leader’s new Hair-Do using the items provided.

**CLOSING:** Reward the winning team with an Ice-Cream Sundae Party, 10 Bear Bucks each, or a field trip. Choose a GNBC leader from each class to total their class Double-Dare Bucks.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"BACKWARDS EVENT"

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** Everything is done backwards to emphasize how opposite the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world are to each other.

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**DESCRIPTION:** This is a fun club meeting that helps teach kids that the Kingdom of God is opposite of the kingdom of the world.

Plan to do everything backwards!  
Announce in advance for everyone to wear their clothes backwards.

**SHOPPING LIST:** Drumstick™ Ice Cream Cones, marshmallows, cups or bowls to catch ice cream drips.

**PREPARATION:** Reverse the order of your club meeting. If you usually begin with worship, do that last, etc. If you cannot reverse the order, do as much as possible backwards.

1. Turn the chairs around backwards. If you cannot do this, have the children sit backwards on the chairs and you stand in the back (which would now be the front).

2. Everyone must walk backwards during the club meeting.

3. You can announce that you will be doing things backwards and opposite. Explain what opposite means. When you say stand up, they sit down. When you say to sit down, they stand up.

**SNACK:** Do a fun, hands-on snack they won't forget easily. Have drumstick ice cream cones and eat them from the bottom up! (Messy, but fun!)

**ACTIVITIES:** 1. Backwards Musical Chairs. Contestants must walk backwards until the music starts.

2. Backwards Relays. Contestants must walk, run or skip backwards.
3. Have them practice saying the alphabet backwards. The first one to do so wins a prize.
4. Read Scripture verses backwards and see if they can guess which one it is.
5. Have a marshmallow toss, but the thrower will stand quite a distance from the receiver, who is holding a styrofoam cup. The receiver must run around trying to catch the marshmallow.
6. Pick a simple song they all know, like "Jesus Loves Me" and sing it backwards (Me Loves Jesus). Sing a fast song slow or a normally slow song really fast.

**APPLICATION:**

The Kingdom of God is opposite to the kingdom of this world. Satan wants us to think that doing things His way is the right way, but it is always the opposite, or backwards of what God wants us to do. Discuss the following situations. Have the children try to answer how they feel the world would respond to each situation and how God would want them to respond to each situation.

**SITUATION**

**WORLD VIEW**

**GOD'S VIEW**

1. If someone hates you	Hate them	Love your enemy
2. If someone takes from you	Get it back	Give them love and care, they probably need it.
3. If you want to get stuff	Take it or horde stuff	Give it away
4. If you want to be important	Get power/use people	Be humble and serve others
5. If you want to have power	Be controlling	Submit to authority
6. If you hurt someone	They probably deserved it	Ask for forgiveness & don't do it again.
7. If you do something nice	Tell everyone	Do it in secret
8. If someone hurts you	Get even with them	Forgive them
9. Kids have rights!	Do what you want call police if parents are mean	Obey your parents and other authority.

# GOOD NEWS BEARS SPECIAL ACTIVITY "BEAR OLYMPICS"

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** To create an atmosphere of fun and fellowship. To encourage healthy competition and cooperation among the Bears. A special night to bring non-churched friends or family.

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**DESCRIPTION:** A series of fun "Olympic" events to be held in a recreation hall or outside. Make sure there are a variety of events so that everyone has a chance to participate.

**SHOPPING LIST:** (Choose activities and then buy appropriate items)

- Decorations for room (streamers, balloons, car lot flags)
- Items for relays (balloons, masking tape, ribbons or trophies, cloth remnants, fabric paints or markers, marshmallows, dish pans, flour, large trash bags, squirt bottles or squirt guns, toilet paper, cream pies)
- Snack foods (Gatorade™, energy bars, orange juice, etc.)

**PREPARATION:**

1. LANES- 40' long- "L" shaped (inside should be shorter than the outside lane) or set starting positions to create handicaps for older groups. Masking tape works well on carpet to form lanes.
2. AWARDS- Paper or ribbon participation awards work well and are inexpensive. Trophies are available at trophy or novelty shops.
3. POINTS- A chalkboard works well for keeping score. Give one point for 3<sup>rd</sup> place: two points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place: and three points for 1<sup>st</sup> place. Awards are given for the 1<sup>st</sup> place group and participant ribbons for the rest. (Do not have a "last place" position.)
4. CLASS FLAGS- Make flags of cloth. Use fabric markers or fabric paints to create Olympic signs with the word "BEARS." If you have five teams each team can have a flag with just one letter of the word "BEARS."
5. DECORATIONS- Plastic car lot flags and crepe paper work well.

**ACTIVITIES:** Listed below are some suggestions, but be imaginative and come up with some of your own ideas.

**Ping Pong Ball Roll-** roll with nose. You could also use squirt bottles. Have three from each group participate.

**Pie Eating Contest-** tie child's hands behind their back. Use trash bags with a hole in the bottom to protect child's clothing. Have dry and wet towels available. One child from each group should participate. Consider using a 1/4" cream pie for each child. (You could use one piece of pie each and use a stop watch for the fastest time.)

**Wheelbarrow Race-** three teams of doubles from each group can participate. One partner will walk on their hands while the other holds on to their feet.

**Toilet Paper Roll-** Divide all the children into groups of five, with one captain per group. Give each group one roll of commercial toilet paper. (The team must wrap the paper around their whole group of bodies! The first one to finish the roll of paper wins!)  
OPTIONAL: Give award for the team that is most creatively wrapped up.

**Leap Frog-** Great for younger children!

**Walking on air -** Blow up balloons about three quarters full. Attach balloons to the bottom of stocking feet and palms of hands with masking tape. Have the kids walk a short relay on hands and feet without a "flat." The least popped balloons at the fastest rate wins. (Be sure to pick up any pieces of popped balloons immediately!

**Yodeling contest -** find a recording of a yodeling song. Play it for the kids (some may not have heard yodeling before). Then have a contest to see who the best yodeler is.

**Relays -** The older children love relays and races. If you have the space, have races.

**SNACKS:** Serve snacks that replenish the body. Talk about how we need to read God's Word and pray to replenish our spiritual bodies.

**NOTE:** This BEARS OLYMPICS can be an exciting time for the children! Don't allow overly competitive attitudes to develop- promote a spirit of cooperation and fun. Even famous athletes compete against one another, but are friends away from the sport. This is supposed to be fun. Everyone can win!

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"ICE CREAM FELLOWSHIP"**

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To teach the children how to fellowship with one another. The children should learn how to be a good example with their manners, how to show that they are thankful, and to clean up after themselves.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ". . . Give thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:20

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**DESCRIPTION:** Start passing out flyers to the children two weeks ahead informing parents of the field trip. Permission slips should be required. This can be a simple ½ page flyer with the following information:

Attention! **KOALA BEAR PARENTS!**

The Koala's will be going out for ice cream on (day & date) at (time). Please allow your child to bring (\$ amount) for ice-cream.

Also, if you would like to join us, you are more than welcome! Please inform Koala's leaders if you plan to go.

\*As the children arrive begin by explaining to them that the evening is not just to have ice-cream but also to have fun and to be good witnesses. We are the Lord's witnesses everywhere we go even at an ice-cream parlor. Children should be encouraged to be on their best behavior, use manners, and to keep their eating area clean.

**PREPARATION:** Make arrangements with your local ice-cream parlor or McDonald's if your group is larger than 10 people. Inform them of approximate number of children and time. Sometimes they will give the children special attention and to talk to them about the business of making and selling ice-cream.

On the way to and from the ice-cream parlor, sing songs or play games (some games are explained under ACTIVITIES).

## **ACTIVITY:**

### Older Children

1) "License Plate Search" - How many out of state license plates can each child spot?

How many license plates have the letter "S"?

How many license plates have the number "3"?

2) "Story game" - Have each child in the car tell a story with each word beginning with the first letter of their name. Example: Paul planned Patti's party. Purple potatoes pounced proudly past Pam's parents.

Younger Children: Sing songs or tell a short story. Let the children tell you a story, or talk about how ice cream is made and the many flavors available. What flavors of ice-cream would they like to invent.

## **AT THE LOCATION:**

1. Line the children up outside - 2 lines (boys and girls).
2. Allow the "ladies first". Teach the boys about manners in allowing the girls to go first. Teach the girls to be thankful and appreciative of the gesture.
3. Be careful when entering not to disturb people that are there beforehand. Explain manners to the children of being quiet and respecting others who are there to have a fun time too.
4. Allow each child to choose their flavor (if applicable) of ice cream. While they are ordering, remind them to be polite to the server and not to put their hands on the glass.
5. As children are eating ice-cream, award Bear Bucks for the biggest smile, the quietest child, the one with green on, and so on.
6. Request clean up cloths for the children as well as the tables. (DO NOT allow children back in the vehicles with unfinished ice-cream). Have the children clean up their tables.
7. Have the children thank the servers for their time and services.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"VIDEO AND POPCORN CLUB"**

Recommended for: ALL

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**LESSON AIM:** To develop leader/student relationships in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

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**PREPARATION:** \*Send a notice to the parents announcing the special night and what movie(s) you will be showing (in case the parents object). Be sure you have a VCR and large size (not portable) television set. If you anticipate a large group, split them up as viewing the movie could be a problem. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE PREVIEWED THE MOVIE FIRST!**

\*Plan to have a sufficient number of chaperones. Responsible teenagers or single adults would be good. Try to stay away from using the parents of the bear club members, it might not be a relaxing evening for the child.

\*Invite the members to bring a pillow or small blankets to sit on. Spread a sheet or sheets on the floor to catch food spills.

**DESCRIPTION:** To get to know the kids better ask some of the following questions:

What is your favorite food?

What is your middle name?

What hobbies do you have.?

What is your favorite movie or TV Show?

Name something you think is "yucky."

Some ideas for movies:

Quigley's Village series

McGee and Me series

Veggie Tales

"The Incredible Journey" or "Homeward Bound"

"Free Willy"

\* "Laurel and Hardy" or "Keystone Cops" movies

(Some of the children may have never seen an old comedy.)



**SNACK:**

Popcorn and drinks. Provide soft drinks or punch for the kids to drink. Popcorn will make them thirsty. You can prepare the popcorn ahead of time and serve in lunch or sandwich bags, or provide styrofoam or paper bowls or cups and serve them.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"TEDDY BEAR NIGHT"**

*Recommended for: Preschool /Elementary*

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**PURPOSE:** Students bring Teddy Bears from home for a Teddy Bear Parade. You can even have them bring their miniature tea sets and have a tea party. Use this event to talk about how we need to be hugged and treated with kindness and gentleness.

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**PREPARATION:**

- Promote this event in advance so students will know to bring their favorite Teddy Bears from home. The children may want to bring more than one teddy bear.
- Consider having a Teddy Bear Tea Party. Even the older elementary students will have fun with this if the leaders have fun.
- Announce in advance so that students can bring any miniature tea sets they have at home.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Purchase or make a Teddy Bear that can be signed by the students and presented to the Club Director or Pastor.
- Take pictures of the Teddy Bears and their owners to use on a Good News Bears Calendar. Once the pictures are developed, scan into a computer or make photocopies. For a later lesson provide calendar pages for each student. Let the students make calendars, attaching the copies of their pictures. These calendars can be used for Good News Bears events or prayer reminder calendars.

**DESCRIPTION:**

- As the students arrive, have them put on name tags. Their bear also needs a name tag.
- Focus the worship time on the gentleness and kindness of Father God.
- Teddy Bears are a symbol of warm and cuddly friendliness. If Teddy Bears are treated rough, they will tear and come apart. People are like that too, people need to be treated with kindly. Our

arm may not fall off when someone says something unkind, but we hurt inside. We all need hugs everyday!

-Have a Teddy Bear Tea Party. Supply cookies, tea breads, crackers or special sweets for the students to prepare. Gather the miniature tea sets and have the students set tables for a tea party. This can be a fun and silly time, over-emphasizing manners and table etiquette. Pretend English accents will also contribute to the occasion. Right-o!

-Have a Teddy Bear parade. Let the students parade in front of the leaders while showing off their Teddy Bears. You may consider having awards or certificates for certain categories of Bears.

TEDDY BEAR PARADE CATEGORIES:

Smallest	Cutest	Biggest
Most Like It's Owner	Hairiest	Most Outrageous
Most Biblical	Funniest Costume	Ugliest

**SNACK:**

Serve Teddy Bear crackers (Teddy Grahams™) or bear shaped sugar cookies, little tea sandwiches and sweetened ice tea (children may not like the bitterness of unsweetened tea).

# GOOD NEW BEARS CLUB

# SPECIAL ACTIVITY

## "FUNNY HAT EVENT"

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** Students make funny hats and wear them in a parade

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**DESCRIPTION:** This is a good, old-fashioned, fun time for all the students. The students either make their hats at home, or if there is time provided during the class meeting they can make them at church.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Prizes for contest
- Novelty items capable of being used as decorations for a "funny hat." Be creative! Here are a few ideas:
  - Feathers
  - Construction paper
  - Pipe cleaners/Chenille wires
  - A variety of stickers
  - Silk flowers, greenery
  - Glitter
  - Fabric Paints
  - Pieces of fabric
  - Buttons
  - Wiggly eyes
  - 2-3 glue guns (used by leaders for younger kids, or for older kids with supervision)

**PERSONNEL:** Five or six staff members, or parents, to judge the Hat Parade competition.

**PREPARATION:**

1. Promote this event in advance so students have time to make funny hats at home (unless you're going to be making hats in class). It's best if there are no rules for the hats – the students will surprise you with their creativity.
2. Prepare a list of the categories of the hats you will be awarding or recognizing. This lets the students know what to work toward.

3. Have prizes available if you decide to have a contest for each category.
4. Make sure you have a camera available!
5. Contact five or six parents or staff members to be judges.
6. Dig through resource rooms, grandma's back porch, Sunday School cabinets and Aunt Susie's garage to find anything that can be used to create hats. Toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, egg cartons, strawberry baskets, yarn, pantyhose, cardboard, grocery bags, left over pieces of material and lace, plastic fruit, ANYTHING is fair game for this event!

NOTE: If there is any chance that you will have children showing up who do not know about FUNNY HAT NIGHT, plan on making the hats during the evening. (No one should be left out.)

#### **ACTIVITIES:**

1. Have items available in the classrooms for the students to make funny hats. Give them a time limit to work on their creations. They can make a hat out of anything. They don't even need a hat to begin with – they build their own. (If this event is announced ahead of time, children can bring in materials for the hats.)
2. At a designated time, all classes should come to a general meeting for the HAT PARADE. Have students walk in front of each other in parade fashion while the judges decide which hat wins in each category.
3. Have the judges announce the winners of each category. If you can make a simple sign with the title of each category, have the winner hold the sign while wearing the hat to have their picture taken.

#### **SUGGESTED FUNNY HAT CATEGORIES**

- |                      |                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Tallest hat       | 6. Widest hat               |
| 2. Funniest hat      | 7. Most colorful hat        |
| 3. Most biblical hat | 8. Most creative hat        |
| 4. Smallest hat      | 9. Silliest hat             |
| 5. What Is It? hat   | 10. Used-the-most-stuff hat |

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"PASTOR'S APPRECIATION"**

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** It is recommended that one Sunday each year be set aside as a Pastor's Appreciation Day. It would be appropriate for your Bears groups to set aside one night to show appreciation to their pastor. This is geared for all age groups.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe. . . respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."* Roman 13:7 (NIV)

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**DESCRIPTION:** Share the scripture with the group, explaining the role of pastor: studying God's Word and teaching it to us; loving us no matter what we do; visiting the sick; and sometimes working another job to help his family. Pastoring is a hard job - why do they do it? Because they believe that this is what God wants them to do. So we'd like to take this opportunity to show our pastors that we appreciate them.

**PREPARATION:** -Take a snapshot of your class the week before, unless you have a Polaroid camera to take one that night. Place the photograph on the front of a piece of folded poster board and have each child write something on the huge card and sign it.

-Have the class prepare short speeches and video tape them or record them on audio cassette. Gift wrap and attach the card from the class.

-Have the students write a joint-effort poem or prayer for the pastor. Place it on nice paper and/or frame it.

-If you have the facilities, have the kids bake and decorate a cake or cookies (even microwave brand).

NOTE: You could plan ahead of time for the children to bring in various food items (canned or boxed) that they think the pastor and his family would enjoy and put together a food basket. The class could then present the basket with their huge appreciation card.

**ACTIVITY:**

Invite the pastor to come to the class at a certain time for them to make the presentations to him, or make arrangements to present them to him in front of the congregation.

**GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB**  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**“SOCK HOP AND HOOP EVENT”**

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** Everyone wears socks to participate in games and fun!

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**PREPARATION:** If you have a gym or fellowship hall, plan to have the activity there. Anywhere socks can be worn to play games will work. Have pairs of extra socks on hand in case someone forgets to wear socks.

**GAMES AND ACTIVITIES:**

Basically you will have two groups of games – hopping games and Hoola-Hoop games. (Hence the Hop and Hoop theme!)

**HOOLA-HOOP GAMES:**

**HOOLA-HOOP CONTEST:** Time contestants to see who can keep the hoola-hoop going the longest. Have a contest for each age group to make it fair. (If time allows you can have Hoola-Hooping contest with different parts of the body. Ex. neck, arm, one leg, foot, etc.)

**LOOP-THROUGH-THE-SOUP:** Have relay teams roll the hoop to a designated area and back to the team. Use a soup of miscellaneous obstacles to make this more difficult. Make the soup thicker for the older kids (add more obstacles).

**HOOP RELAY:** Have relay teams with the first person on each team holding a hoop. On a signal, the first person must put the hoop over his/her head and drop it on the floor. The second person will step into the hoop and lift it over his/her head and then hand it to the next person who will put it over his/her head and drop it to the floor. This continues until the entire team has gone through the hoop. The team to finish first wins!

(The pattern should be; head-to-toe, toe-to-head, head-to-toe, and so on.)

**LOOP-THE-GROUP:** Have designated small groups (containing a fair mixture of each age student) see how many kids they can get inside a Hoola-Hoop within a certain amount of time.



NOTE: Save this game (LOOP-THE-GROUP) for the end of the Hoola-Hoop games. The hoops may get bent in the excitement.)

\*Some students may be able to twirl the hoop on a foot while their other foot steps in and out of the hoop. See who can do this the most times.

### **HOPPING GAMES**

**SOCK HOP:** Relay teams must hop to a designated spot and return to tag the next person on their team who then hops. This continues until the entire team has completed the relay.

**HOP 'TIL YOU DROP:** With a balloon or orange or small ball placed between their knees, children must hop to a designated place and return to the starting line without dropping the item. If the object is dropped, that person must return to the starting line and start over.

**FROG HOP:** Place green lily pads out (make at least 12, from large construction paper or poster board). The children must do a frog hop (spring from the legs and land with hands and feet on the floor) from one lily pad to the other. For younger children make more lily pads and place them closer together. This could be set up as a team against team relay or with everyone in one line as a follow-the-leader type game.

**HOP ALONG:** Instead of having the teams stand in a line facing the back of the person in front of them, have them stand side by side and join their arms together. The entire team must hop together to a designated place.

### **LIMBO**

Using a broom handle or long stick, have the students line up and go under the limbo stick. Have some music playing for this activity. After everyone has gone under the limbo stick, the two people holding the stick lower it a few inches. Have the students go under it again. If someone cannot bend backwards and clear going under the stick, they can help by watching for when someone touches the stick. Repeat this until there is only one or two students left that can bend low enough to clear the stick. Hands cannot touch the floor!

**OPTION:** A stick could be made by tying several tube socks together (to stay with the theme).

### **SNACK:**

Serve a trail mix made of round cereals (like Cheerios™) representing hoops and small marshmallows (white like socks!). Stick pretzels can be added to represent the limbo stick.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"Teacher Appreciation"

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To provide encouragement and appreciation for the commitment of the GNBC leaders.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe . . . respect, then respect; if honor, then honor." Roman 13:7 (NIV)

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**DESCRIPTION:** Someone once said, "If you need more leaders for your children, then make heroes out of the ones you have!" We need to appreciate our GNBC leaders. It takes time, care, finances, prayer and spiritual support to be a leader. Tell your leaders how much they are appreciated and the kids will follow. Pick a date that you want to honor the leaders. Prior to that date have activities to prepare the children for the chosen date.

- PREPARATION:**
- You and the various classes can create banners or posters promoting "Teachers Appreciation Night"
  - Have students make a "bouquet of thanks." Have them cut-out flowers and write a message of "thanks" on the flowers. Put all of the flowers together like a bouquet and present to leader.
  - Have children make a class card or individual cards saying thank you.
  - Have the class prepare short speeches and video tape them or record them on audio cassette. Gift wrap and attach a card from the class.
  - Have the students write a joint-effort poem or prayer for the leader. Place it on nice paper and/or frame it.
  - If you have the facilities, have the kids bake and decorate a cake or cookies.
  - Have the children bring grocery items and prepare a nice food basket.
  - Have kids can sing a special song in honor of the teachers.

**ACTIVITY:**

Either cater or have someone in your church prepare a nice meal for the teachers. Have the children act as waiters and waitresses by seating the teachers, placing the napkins on their laps, and serving them food. Children can take turns saying why their teacher is special to them. (If possible let the children use a microphone; they will feel grown up and it will be an honor for them.)

# GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB

# SPECIAL ACTIVITY

## “BIBLE BREAKFAST”

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** An opportunity to celebrate a holiday such as Memorial Day, Labor Day, Independence Day or as a “Back to School” event.

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Plan a Bible Breakfast for a Saturday morning or during the Sunday School hour to show children what kind of breakfast the Israelites may have eaten after God led them to the Promised Land. This multi-sensory experience is one that kids will remember forever.

The more elaborate you make your environment the better. Set up low tables so children can sit on the floor. (Plywood on bricks will work fine.) Cover tables with cloths. Use large pottery jars as centerpieces. Earthenware serving pieces and baskets also add to the ambience.

Have one server for each table. Encourage your servers to dress in costume. For example, have them wear fabric headbands, sandals, and a robe tied with a sash around the waist. Have servers explain each food’s biblical connection as they serve it. Servers can connect the Israelites’ new found freedom to our freedom in Christ.

Here’s a sample menu:

- Bread - Exodus 12:14-20 (Unleavened bread is available in stores.)
- Honey - Proverbs 24:13 (Serve in a pot with a honey server)
- Milk - Judges 4:19 (Serve in cups rather than in cartons.)
- Eggs - Luke 11:11-13 (Boil and cut in pieces to serve.)
- Figs - Exodus 8:7-10 (You can get these in a can.)
- Grapes - Deuteronomy 23:24 (Serve in bunches.)
- Cake - I Samuel 30:11-15 (Use Fig Newton™)
- Fish - Matthew 14:17-20 (Serve pieces of Tuna.)

Mildred Musgrave, Fairfield, Illinois

**GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB**  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**“COOL NIGHT”**

*Recommended for: Elementary and Junior*

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**PURPOSE:** Students participate in a series of “COOL” games and activities. This works great with the Polar Bear class or during a summer heat wave.

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**DESCRIPTION:** This activity/lesson is to focus on the idea that what the world says is “cool” is not always what God says is cool.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

1. Promote this event in advance so students will know what to wear and bring.
2. This is best for a hot, summer day or evening.
3. This Special Event can be used to launch your POLAR BEAR CLASS (upper elementary students). Since the POLAR BEAR of the Good News Bears wears sunglasses, you can go with the sun glass theme, too.
4. For the miscellaneous items required, consider calling the “**Oriental Trading Co.**” They will send a free catalog of novelty items which you can purchase for inexpensive prices. You can reach them at [www.oriental.com](http://www.oriental.com) or 1-800 327-9678.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Several large blocks of ice
- A pair of plastic sunglasses for each individual
- Shaving cream (white, no colors)
- Snow cones, ice-cream, or another cold treat

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Set out the large blocks of ice. See who can sit on it the longest.
2. Give each child a pair of sunglasses (can be purchased through “Oriental Trading Co.” cheaply). Provide items for the students to decorate their glasses like puff paints or paint pens.
3. Have small plastic fish in a large tub of ice water. Students must bob for the fish, just like polar bears do. (You will need paper towels on hand for the students to dry their faces and hair.)
4. Hibernation Game: See which student can sit perfectly still the longest.
5. Use shaving cream like snow to build miniature snowmen.

**SNACK:** Serve snow cones or ice cream.

**APPLICATION:**

1. **BEING COOL:** Sometimes we feel pressure to be or act “cool,” but the world’s standard of cool is different than God’s standard. Have the students discuss what is cool to God and what is cool to the world.

2. **SUN GLASSES:** Sin can blind us from seeing what is real, but the Holy Spirit helps us to see the truth. If we hate someone, the sin of hate will blind us from seeing the good qualities of that person. Sin also blinds us from seeing how wrong we are. If we want to be popular very badly, we may do things that are wrong, because all we can see is that we might be popular if we do this one thing. We need the Holy Spirit and the Word of God to help us see the truth clearly. Let’s pray that the Lord will help us keep our eyes open to see things that are pleasing to Him.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"GIANT BIRTHDAY PARTY"

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To celebrate the birthdays of all bears in one event.

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- SNACK OPTIONS:**
1. Sandwiches cut in the shape of a bear head or paw
  2. Veggie sandwiches of two slices of carrot and cream cheese or two slices of zucchini with cheese spread.
  3. Sparkling Apple Punch made with apple juice and club soda.
  4. Bear Paw Prints (see recipe below)

**Supplies:**

2 cans (10 count) extra large refrigerator biscuits  
80 whole blanched almonds  
1/4 tsp. Cinnamon  
1/3 c. honey  
1 c. softened butter  
Baking sheets  
Foil  
Permanent felt pen  
Measuring cups/spoons  
Bread knives

**Preparation:** Tear or cut foil into 8 inch lengths – one for each child. Preheat oven to 400°.

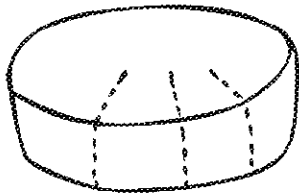


Figure 1



Figure 2

**Procedure:** Give each child a foil piece, an uncooked biscuit and a bread knife. Child uses felt pen to letter name on foil. Child places biscuit on foil and stretches it slightly into an oval, then cuts three slits for toes (see figure 1). Insert the rounded end of an almond into the end of each toe. The pointed end will look like a bear claw (see figure 2). Almonds must be pushed halfway into the dough or they will pop out during baking. Place biscuits (on foil pieces) on ungreased baking sheets about 2 inches (5cm) apart, spreading toes. Bake biscuits for 12 minutes or until they are golden brown. When biscuits are finished baking, serve with honey butter and/or a mixture of butter, honey and cinnamon.

**DECORATIONS  
AND SUPPLIES:**

1. Streamers, party favors, and balloons.
2. Birthday cards for every bear signed by all the pastoral leadership of your church. Include a special Bible verse for each bear selected by the Bear leaders for that child.
3. If appropriate, invite the parents and siblings to help familiarize families with the ministry of Good News Bears.
4. Prepare goodie bags with bear items, stickers, whistles, and possibly small items usually found in the Bear Cave.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Sing "Happy Birthday" to all the Bears. To do this and include all their names, be sure every bear has a name tag with their first name in large print. Line the bears up across the front of the room and let the parents, families and friends sing the song through one time and include each bear's name in the song.
2. Crossing Bear Creek - Make a line on the floor which will be the starting line. Make another line about 25-30 feet away from the first line. Have the bears line up behind the starting line and cross Bear Creek. To do this, have the bears hop on one foot, take a long step, and then a long jump. The bear with the longest hop, skip and jump is the winner.
3. Bear Balloon Float - Have the bears assume the grizzly position on all fours. Throw a balloon into the middle of the group and see how long the bears can work together to keep the balloon afloat using only their heads, backs or feet (hands are optional, depending on the age of the kids). After the group has mastered this skill, add a second balloon at the same time and eventually a third balloon and a fourth until the bears have set a new record.

**APPLICATION:**

At the end of the party, conclude by having the pastor join you to pray over each of the bears. Pray for the blessing of God in their lives through the coming year, for protection and strength to serve Jesus, and fulfillment and happiness throughout their whole life.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"CAMP-IN"

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To gather the students together for an indoor camp-out. Preschoolers may need to be picked up at the end of the day.

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**DESCRIPTION:** A fun, GNBC group building activity.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

- Will vary according to activities chosen.
- logs for the campfire
- Christmas lights (blinking and multi-colored will work fine)
- hot dogs
- hot dog buns
- condiments
- punch
- milk
- some kind of dessert, cookies are a favorite, perhaps Hot Cocoa for around the campfire!

**PREPARATION:**

- 1) Advertise the event at least 3-weeks in advance.
- 2) Clear out a large room to conduct the activity in.
- 3) Create a pseudo-campfire with a pile of logs and random blinking Christmas lights.

**ACTIVITIES:** Have leaders run each of the activities and award Bear Bucks to students.

**Movie House:** In a room separate from campfire room, set up a TV and a VCR to make the movie house.

**Shooting Gallery:** You could set up a small shooting gallery of little plastic ducks and a Nerf™ dart gun. (Squirt guns may work for the gallery you set up.)

**Bean Bag Toss:** Cut a hole in a 4-foot square piece of pegboard or plywood and let the Bears try to throw beanbags through.

\* You could also, cut two small hole for eyes and a large crescent shaped hole for a smile and a nose. The eyes and nose could be worth 2 bear bucks and the mouth just one.



**World's Loudest Bowling Game:** In the church kitchen, or another room with uncarpeted floors, stack ten empty gallon tin cans on top of each other, as shown in picture, and supply a volley ball for the children to "bowl" the cans down. Reward bowlers with Bear bucks for the cans that were left lying on their side. With a wide roll of butcher paper, create the bowling lane, and mark off minimum standing positions for each age child.

**Balloon Relay:** Divide the group into teams of ten or more, forming lines. The first child must take an inflated balloon and pass it over their heads to the hands of the next person who then passes it under their legs. That person must then pass it over their heads and continue the cycle to the end. The last person, one holding the balloon must run to the front and start the cycle over again. Once the first child cycles through the line the team wins!

**Pictionary™:** Divide the group into teams again and play a game of Pictionary™. If you do not own the game, write items on index cards. Use a chalkboard, white-board, or large paper pads to draw on. There are two ways you can play. Have one person at a time and have both teams guess, or have one team guess and after a certain amount of time if they haven't guessed it allow the other team to guess. Here are some suggestions:

- a pizza
- a tube of toothpaste
- a computer
- Goldilocks and the 3 Bears
- the Bears Leader
- a telephone
- the White House
- Garfield (cat)

**Ping-Pong Basketball:** Have participants bounce ping-pong balls once on the floor into different sized containers. Award Bear Bucks according to the size of the container. Allow each person in line three tries. Make smaller containers worth the most points.

**SNACK:**

- Serve a late night snack of hot dogs, milk, juice, and a dessert
- At 8:00 am serve a Pancake breakfast to the children. Serve pancakes, scrambled eggs, biscuits, and sausage gravy. Serve milk and orange juice for drinks.

**APPLICATION:** Briefly discuss several laws of the Camp-in (i.e: no running, no more than one bear at a time in the restrooms without permission). Look at some of man's laws: speeding laws, tax laws, etc. Look at some natural laws: gravity, buoyancy, etc. and then look at some supernatural laws:

- a) God loves us and has a plan for our life.
- b) All have sinned and are separated from God.
- c) Jesus Christ is our only hope.
- d) Everyone needs Jesus for forgiveness of sins.

**The children will love it!**

\*\*The remainder of the time can be filled with games, crafts, and contests for Bear Bucks, and finally the opening of the Bear Cave (children's store). Be sure that the Bear Cave is fully stocked before hand.

GOOD NEW BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITIES**  
**"PINWOOD DERBY NIGHT"**  
(3-4 week project)

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** An evening where boys and girls make pinewood derby cars from kits and race them at a designated track. The nature of the event is a social gathering with the parents and with the children who built the cars.

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**DESCRIPTION:** A big project which can be an excellent all church activity. Good event to involve kids' parents or relatives who don't usually come to church. Stresses creativity and sportsmanship. Teaches technical and social skills to the children.

**PREPARATION:** Have sponsorships for the kids who can't afford to purchase the kits. Every car will receive an award. Groups will make cars at the church, not at home. This prevents the unfair advantage of parental intervention and provides tools for children who don't have them at home. Involve other adults in the church to help if the child does not have parental or sibling help. Look over requirements to see what you will need. If you don't have the resources to build a track, have a design contest and don't race the cars.

**Steps (will be listed in detail)**

1. Assign a date and time for the Derby. Make flyers to send home with the kids.
2. Provide adequate facility space for equipment, participants, spectators and activities. (A gym, lunch room, fellowship hall, parking lot, or playground would work well)
3. Purchase kits in advance. Any hobby shop sells them for a reasonable price. You can also purchase quantities at discount rates.
4. Purchase or build a track
5. Determine what awards will be given and purchase or make.
6. Have a show and tell workshop on making a derby car for a minimum of two sessions preceding the day of the Derby.
7. If you have a large number of participants, have a pre-weigh in prior to race day.
8. Assign helpers in advance of the Derby night.

9. Plan alternate activities in between heats.
10. Recognize and thank everyone involved.

**STEP 1:** Assign a date and time for the Derby.

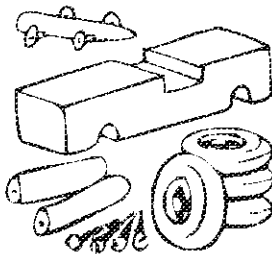
Assign a date well in advance of the Derby to assure the date and facilities. Below is a suggested weeknight schedule. Prepare flyers to send home with children listing the time, the activities, the awards and the cost of a kit.

Set up	5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Registration/weigh-in	6:30
Racing, awards, activities	7:00 - 8:30
Tear down and clean up	8:30 - 9:30

Large groups should have a weigh-in before the evening of the event, or the weigh-in could extend the evening too long. (Have it the last night of the workshops.)

**STEP 2:** Provide adequate facility space.

- Standard Derby tracks are 32' plywood. However, churches have used 20' tracks. The track is at an incline, usually 5'.
- Microphone and speakers (optional)
- Tables for cars waiting to race, pit stop table with tools and repair parts, graphite table with pie plates and newspaper, and a display table for cars and awards (those that are finished racing).
- Table and chairs for food service (optional)
- If space is limited, provide rooms for registration, displaying cars and serving food.



**STEP 3:** Purchase cars ahead of time.

Official Pinewood car kits can be purchased at any hobby shop. A kit includes: One block of soft pine wood, four plastic wheels, four axle nails, basic instructions. Extra wheels usually come with the kits, but it would be wise to have extra wheels on hand in case of needed repairs the night of the Derby. For children who may not be able to afford a kit, provide sponsorships or a way of earning a kit.

**STEP 4:** Purchase, rent or build a track.

Many Royal Rangers and Boy Scouts sponsor an annual Pinewood Derby. It may be possible to rent the use of a track. Two sources listed for purchasing a track:

S & W Crafts Mfg., P. O. Box 5501, Pasadena, CA  
91117,  
(626)793-2442. Piantedosi Oars, P. O. Box 643, West  
Acton, MA 01720, (978)263-1814.

If you build a track, the standard track is 32 feet long, composed of 4 & 8 foot sections each. The first section is a vertical drop about 48 to 55 inches and the last section is flat. A good track is easy to set up, easy to take down, and stable when assembled. The standard lane-to-lane centerline spacing is 3.5 inches. Nearly 70% of Pinewood organizations have 3 lane tracks.

**Derby Cars Built by Others:** Most children are able to build a car similar to the designs listed below with little adult supervision.

**The Candy Bar** - The modern plastic film used to package candy bars make this one easy to build. Cut and shape the block, sand it smooth, and paint it the same color as the background color on the package. Then carefully trim the brand name and other writing from a large candy bar wrapper and glue it to the block.

**The Anchor** - Immediately after painting the final coat, spray it with just a touch of green paint. The wet paints blend together very nicely.

**Fish, Sharks, etc.** - There have been several fish and sharks entered. One of the best ones used heavy paper for the fins, which looked great, even if it wasn't durable.

**Watermelon** - A wedge of watermelon. The real watermelon seeds added just the right touch to complete the effect.

**The Ice Cream Bar** - This one looked like a standard chocolate-covered vanilla ice cream bar, complete with a popsicle stick.

**The Pencil** - A standard hexagonal yellow No. 2 pencil, complete with a real rubber eraser.

**The Canoe** - The inside couldn't be carved out very much, but dark colors created a reasonable illusion of depth.

**The Turtle** - This boy-built car is very unusual. The shell was textured. The feet stuck out of the shell right where the wheels attached to the car.

**The Screw** - Make it look like a giant screw.

**The Carrot** - Shaped like a carrot with stuffed bunny riding on it.

**Bubbles (Bathtub)** - Paint the tub to resemble blue marble. Create a "bubble bath" using white textured paint. A tiny rubber duck and a bit of improvised plumbing complete the effect.

For more information on building a Four-Lane Derby Track, see the Internet <http://www.rabul.net/mcgreew/derby/track/> .

**STEP 5:** Determine what awards will be given and purchase or make the awards.

Judging should be in several categories: Uniqueness. Most Like a Race Car. Most Unusual. Best Looking.

Also various categories for awards according to age groups: Best Use of Paint. Most Beautiful. Most Original. Funniest. Most Creative, etc. Every car must be returned to the creator with a ribbon attached. You can purchase old trophies and have the name plates changed.

**STEP 6:** Have a show and tell workshop on making a derby car for a minimum of two sessions preceding the day of the Derby.

Organize a workshop to assist those who have never constructed a car, or who might not have the tools or skills to build the car at home. Have the tools and materials ready to show and use. It might be helpful to have example cars at various stages of construction.

Tools for the workshop should include coping saws or a jig saw, a hand electric drill, a bench or table, chisels, hammers, hot glue gun, glue sticks, sanding blocks, rasps (wood files), pliers, screwdrivers, punch, and a board to pound on. Materials should include sandpaper, paint, sealer, wax, buffing cloth, weights, hand cleaner and paper towels.

**The Ten Steps listed below will help you to have a great finished car.**

1. Show a basic car design on paper. Show how to draw the pattern lines on the block of wood, either by tracing or using carbon paper. Demonstrate how to make the initial cuts with a coping saw or jig saw. Adults can help with power tools at this stage. For younger ages, have models ready to paint and finish.
2. Demonstrate detailed shaping. Instead of using a knife, encourage the use of a wood rasp with fine and coarse teeth. Also adding pieces of wood, dowels, or decals other than carving makes it easy to design.
3. Drill and/or chisel cut a hole in the block of wood for weight to be added. You will need a bench vise, drill and bits, and extension cords. Weights can be purchased from hobby stores, or you can use lead fishing sinkers, plumbing solder, or other metal weights.
4. Weigh the car components (wood block, axles, and wheels) along with the weights. Don't forget to allow for the glue, sealer, paint, and wax coats to come later.
5. After the weights are put in the holes, conceal them with wood filler. (Rather than carving, just glue weights on the cars).
6. Sand the car with fine sandpaper. A sanding block could be helpful. Encourage the children to do lots of the sanding to get a good finish on their car.
7. Apply a coat of sanding sealer and two coats of paint to the wood. Add stripes, decals, or any detailing. Apply an overcoat of either clear lacquer or wax and buff.
8. Wheels can be sanded to remove burrs or imperfections, but the treads must be left flat. Put the wheel in the chuck of a drill, and sand it lightly with a sanding block. The axles can also be sanded lightly to remove burrs.
9. Insert the axles (nails) through the wheels and into the grooves in the car body. Cars with crooked wheels don't race too well, so make sure they're straight, and apply a little hot glue to keep them in place.
10. Squirt some graphite into the wheels at the axle. Spin off the excess into newspaper. Graphite is pretty messy, but it makes the cars roll much better. You can obtain graphite from a hobby shop.



**STEP 7:** If you have a large number of participants, have a pre-weigh-in.

Bring an accurate scale, calibrated to 5 ounces (141.75 grams.). A food scale, postal scale, or if someone has a scale that they have used from a previous Pinewood Derby. Have a drill available at the Derby to remove some weight from cars that are over the limit.

Width and length of the cars can most easily be checked with a small wooden box with inside dimensions of 7 inches long by 2.75 inches wide. A box (or boxes) constructed from 0.25 inch plywood and hot glue works nicely.

The rule is that the Wheelbase cannot be modified, it must be the same as the official kit.

**STEP 8:** Assign helpers in advance of the Derby night.

Get as many parents involved as possible. Some of the helpers you will need are:

- Set Up Crew (minimum 4-6 adults or older boys)  
Sets up track, tables, chairs, and microphone. At least one person on the set up crew should have experience setting up and testing the track. Run several test races, moving the cars to all lanes, to ensure that there aren't any "bumps."
- Registration Table (2 to 3 adults) Adult(s) print child's name and car number on the card. The cards can identify the cars on the holding table, and/or can be used on a Race Board.
- Weigh in car (maximum weight 5 ounces or 141.75 grams).
- Check car length (7"), width (2 3/4"), underside clearance (1") and inspect each car to ensure that they comply with the rules you have set up to be qualified for the race.
- Have extra wheels and axles for replacement of any that do not meet specifications.
- Pit Stop Table (1 adult) Graphite cars using dry or powdered graphite. Cover table with newspaper, taped down at the corners. A pie plate can be used to catch excess graphite..

- Car repair facilities can include an electric drill and bit, hot glue gun, extension cords and three-prong adapters (if required), small hammers and screw drivers, a fine-tooth rasp, emery cloth or fine sandpaper, a knife, hand cleaner and paper towels, and a trash bag or can.
- Holding Table (1 adult) - Place cars by categories on carpet pieces.
- Track Crew (6-8 adults) Race Announcer: Announces names and lane assignments, says "Ready, Set, Go!" about 500 times, and makes other announcements as required. Needs microphone and speaker with extension cords.
- Race Chart Controller: Determines lane assignments for each heat. Can either use a clipboard or a large "Race Board" which holds the name cards.
- Race Starter: Makes sure that cars are properly aligned on the lane strips. (The children should place their own car on the track.) Releases the cars to start the race.
- "Get Ready" Person: Assembles the next group of children to race, collects name cards and forms, all just a little away from the track.
- Finish Line Judges: (2-3 adults) Make final decisions on race finishes, and communicate winners to the Race Chart Controller. If an electronic scoring system is not available, they will have to "eyeball" the finish (and agree on the winner). Judges are also responsible for control of the children at the finish line.
- Clean Up Crew (minimum 4-6 adults or older boys) Disassemble and store track. Put away tables, chairs, and microphone. At least one person on the clean up crew should have experience setting up taking down the track. Sweep up afterwards, paying particular attention to the Pit Stop Table area.

**STEP 9:** Plan alternate activities in between heats.

With so many parents being involved in the event, it is important for the races to flow smoothly. You don't want people sitting around waiting for something to happen. Especially with large groups. Consider scheduling each sub-group for its own time slot, so that people know when they need to be there. Plan alternative

drop-in, drop-out activities in a separate room from the race itself. Such as: Food Booth, Displays of old cars, fire engines, etc.,

Fun facts to share:

Did you know that each year over 1 million kits are sold and built in the United States?

The favorite color for most pinewood cars is red, followed by blue.

Did you know that 5 ounces, the maximum pinewood derby car weight, is equal to about 56 new copper-clad US pennies?

Did you know that Pinewood Derbies began in Southern California in the mid-1950's?

Did you know that a very thin car can actually run upside down and backwards?

Some churches have major competitions for design, unique concepts and appearance and may not race cars at all?

**STEP 10:** Recognize and thank everyone involved.

This is very important to make sure that all the workers, attendees, race car participants are recognized. Naming names is impossible because you always forget someone. So call them up in groups and have the rest of the people clap for them. If someone from the community has donated time, money, etc. be sure to recognize them.

There are many websites available that offer tips, resources, and instructions to help you have a successful Pinewood Derby Night.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"THE HEAT IS ON"

**Recommended for: All**

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**PURPOSE:** To promote team participation. To encourage "fun" activities which can be beneficial to their spiritual growth through Bible memorization and team cooperation.

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**DESCRIPTION:** A four to six-week or eight-week competition between classes. This activity is better for Bear clubs that have larger attendance.

**PREPARATION:** "The Heat Is On" can take whatever length of time you decide would be beneficial for the children of your church.

The GNBC Director needs to prepare a progress chart to keep a running total of "The Heat Is On" class progress. Post the chart on a hallway bulletin board or somewhere so everyone can see the progress. Prepare advertisement posters to place on the church bulletin boards to promote the activity. The Director can update the progress chart each club meeting.

The "prize" for the winning GNBC class can be an outing to a zoo and a picnic, going to an amusement park, a pizza party, etc. Research to find a GREAT prize so the children will be motivated to participate in "The Heat Is On!"

Decide what point requirements and participation options you will use in "The Heat Is On."

**DESCRIPTION:** INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATION OPTIONS CAN BE:

- \*Memory verses
- \*Bringing visitors - 1st visit and 2nd visit
- \*Uniform participation
- \*Visitors parent(s) are in attendance in church services.
- \*Bringing their Bibles

**POINT REQUIREMENTS CAN BE:**

\*1,000 points for each memory verse learned and recited as a class. The class must know the address (reference) where the Scriptures lives in their Bibles. The verses must be 10 words or more.

\*1,000 points for half of the children in attendance and wearing their GNBC Bear Club shirt.

\*1,000 points for each child that is in attendance at the GNBC Bible Club.

\*1,000 points for each first-week visitor.

\*2,000 points for each second-week visitor.

\*2,000 points for each student or visitor who brings an adult (parent or friend) that does not attend the church services during the regularly scheduled GNBC meeting time (if you do not have an adult service at the regular Bears Club meeting time, then at the next adult service you do have). Only 1 parent counts.

(Points can also begin at 10 or 100)

**BONUS POINTS INVOLVING EACH GNBC CLASS AS A WHOLE UNIT:**

\*5,000 points for the class with the best participation during the opening/closing time of GNBC. This would not apply if you do not have the children all together for an opening or closing time.

\*5,000 points for each GNBC class skit performed during the opening or closing time of all the kids. Allow the children to perform for the whole GNBC if you do not have an opening or closing.

\*1,000 points for every GNBC Bible Club report slips turned in by the children's parents each month.

*NOTE: Remember, this is not a detailed activity for a regular club meeting but an all-group activity that runs for a number of weeks while regular club meetings are in progress.*

*Use this sample information sheet as a guideline to produce your own "The Heat Is On" information sheet that is unique to your GNBC.*

# THE HEAT IS ON!

## Good News Bears Class Competition:

1. **Classes participating:**
  - a. Grizzly
  - b. Koala
  - c. Polar
  - d. Running
  
2. **Reward for the winning class**
  - a. An overnight trip to Wild Life Safari.(example)
  
3. **Participation and point requirements:**
  - a. Memory verses learned as a class, 1,000 points each. The memory verses must be recited collectively to the teacher. The class must know the address. Also, the verses must be ten words or over.
  
  - b. 1,000 points for each child wearing their shirts each week.
  
  - c. 1,000 points for the children present that are currently enrolled in the Bear Bible Club.
  
  - d. 1,000 points for each first time visitor.
  
  - e. 2,000 points for each second time visitor.
  
  - f. 2,000 points for each student or visitor that has brought one of their parents or an adult to church that evening. (Only 1 parent counts and either the 1st or 2nd week is applicable.)
  
4. **Bonus points involving the class as a whole unit.**
  - a. 5,000 points for the class with the best participation during our opening of bears each week.
  
  - b. 5,000 points for a class skit performed during the opening of our Bears evening. Only 1 skit per class.

Use this sample of "The Heat is On" tally sheet for recording the GNBC class points.

**THE HEAT IS ON!**

GNBC CLASS NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

NO. IN ATTENDANCE \_\_\_\_\_ LEADER \_\_\_\_\_

CATEGORIES	POINTS	CHILDREN	DESCRIPTION	POINTS
1. Memory Verses				
2. Shirts Worn				
3. Bible Club Att.				
4. First Time Visitors				
5. Second Time Visitors				
6. Student with a parent in service				
BONUS POINTS:				
1. Best Participants				
2. Skits				
TOTAL POINTS				

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"MILLIONS & MILLIONS OF WAYS  
TO LOVE JESUS"  
(Valentine's Day Celebration)**

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** A fun party that reinforces how much we should love Jesus and others. A great activity for neighborhood outreach.

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**PREPARATION:** Have the children make party invitations to pass out to their friends if you are making this a neighborhood outreach (sample invitation included).

Read the activities below and purchase appropriate items. NOTE: The theme is M& M's so have a large amount and a variety of M&M's available.

**DECORATIONS:** Make construction paper M&M's. Cut circles 6" across of red, orange, yellow, blue, and green construction paper. Hang these from the ceiling with yarn. On one side print "M & M" and on the other side print "We love Jesus."

-Throughout the room, hang groups of streamers from the ceiling, using the same colors as above.

-When you are cutting the circles, cut approximately 20 more. Print "M & M" on one side and nothing on the other side. Place these on the floor. They will lead the children from the entrance of the church to the "party room."

-Decorate with lots of colorful helium-filled balloons.

-Have your helpers arrive in plenty of time to help decorate for the party.

-Remember to assign a clean-up crew beforehand (people not involved in decorating are a good choice).



## ACTIVITIES:

### **Musical Chairs:**

This game is good for younger children. Place chairs (one for each child) in a circle. Have children march around the chairs singing "Jesus Loves Me." Remove one chair at a time as the children circle around. When you yell, "STOP!", the children stop singing and scramble to sit in a chair. A child is left out each time. Continue until all but one child is out.

Variation: Leave all chairs in the circle. Tape an M&M shape under one chair. When the music stops, and children sit down, the one sitting on the heart wins a prize. Be sure to change the place of the M&M each time. (It is a nice idea to give everyone a prize at the end of the game whether they have won or not.)

**M&M toss.** Good for older children. Obtain jars and bottles with different sizes of necks. Mark the bottles with points: higher points for narrow openings, lower points for wide openings. Give each child a small package of M&M's. Have them stand a fair distance away and toss the M&M's into the various jars. Keep track of points and offer prizes.

If you have a large number of kids, set up several sets of jars. Break into teams and have the teams toss their M&M's together into the appropriate set of jars.

**Create a Valentine:** Share the message of the love Jesus has for each one of us by making and exchanging valentines at your party. Provide plenty of red and white construction paper, markers and enough heart-shaped patterns for everyone to have one for tracing hearts (pattern included). Some suggested ideas are: Wrap candy hearts or some type of valentine candy and glue onto the center of the construction paper hearts. Have the children write sayings on their cards such as:

- a) "I'm sweet on you!"
- b) "You're huggable!" (Hershey's hug)
- c) "My heart pines for you!" (Candy hearts)
- d) "Let's stick together!" (wrapped gum)
- e) "I'm bananas over you!" (Runts candy)

**"M & M" taste test.** Set up bowls of three different types of "M & M's" (peanut, plain, crispy, and peanut butter). Have the children taste 3 or 4 each and talk about the differences.

**One way I love Jesus:** Have each child share one way they love Jesus. (Prayer, helping others, etc.)

**Guess the amount:** Have three jars set up for the GNBC to guess how many “M&M’s” there are in each jar. Whoever guesses the closest wins the jar.

**Concentration board:** Use a large piece of cardboard, black construction paper (for the background) and several large construction paper “M & M’s” that will cover words such as: Jesus, Savior, blessing, pray, share, obey, etc. Each word should be written twice and the game is played like Memory.

**Pin the nose on the M&M:** Cut a large circle out of craft paper to resemble a large “M & M.” Cut out a smaller circle to resemble a nose. (Use the same rules as “Pin the Tail on the Donkey.”)

**Match the hearts:** This game is good for older children (reading is required). You will need:

- 3 teams with 1 to 5 people in each team
- 15 construction paper hearts
- Masking tape for a wall or chalkboard, or pins for a cork board (bulletin board)

Divide the hearts into 3 groups (5 hearts each). Use the following phrases and write on hearts:

- a) “Jesus loves me, this I know.”
- b) “Be kind one to another.”
- c) “Love thy neighbor as thyself.”

Mix up each phrase and tape on wall or pin onto cork-board with back sides up. Keep each phrase separate from the other.

Each team member goes to the board one at a time. When it is your turn, you select one heart. Turn it over and read it. If you think it is the next word or phrase, tape it right-side up at bottom of board for your team to see. If not, return it to board with back-side up and return to your team. This repeated until a team completes the phrase and wins the game. (Add any number of teams and phrases to accommodate the number of people at your party.)

**SNACKS:** 4 liters strawberry-flavored/or any red flavor carbonated soft drink  
2 liters ginger ale  
½ gallon pineapple sherbert, vanilla ice cream, or any other flavor  
Mix strawberry-flavored drink and ginger ale in large punch bowl.  
Add sherbert or ice cream and leave in chunks. Double the recipe for larger parties.

**Nut Cup recipe:**

You will need to purchase or make nut cups (quantity depends on size of group). This recipe makes approximately 70 nut cups.

2 (12 oz.) boxes of raisins

2 (16 oz.) jars of roasted peanuts

2 (32 oz.) bags of M&M's (both types)

1 box of Vanilla wafers

Mix the above ingredients (except cookies) in a large bowl. Place a vanilla wafer in each cup and then add 2 tablespoons of the mixture in each cup.

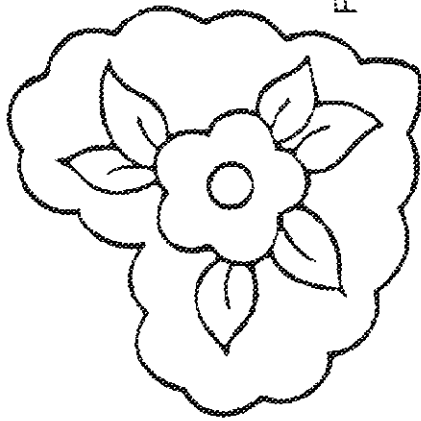
**DAY OF THE ACTIVITY:**

1. Arrive early for last minute preparations.
2. Decide beforehand if the children are meeting in individual GNBC classes with their teachers or arriving randomly and all teachers will greet as one large group.
3. Explain the party "rules" to the children as a whole group or leaders can share in classes before coming together.
4. Allow plenty of time for games, activities and crafts.
5. **DEVOTIONAL TIME:** Having fun is important to children and the Lord likes to see His children having fun. Be prepared to have a serious devotional time (approximately 15 minutes). There will be children present who may not know Jesus as their Savior.

**HAVE FUN, FUN, AND MORE FUN!** Remember, children deeply appreciate all of the time and effort spent on them. Your rewards will be great!

# An Open Door Valentine:

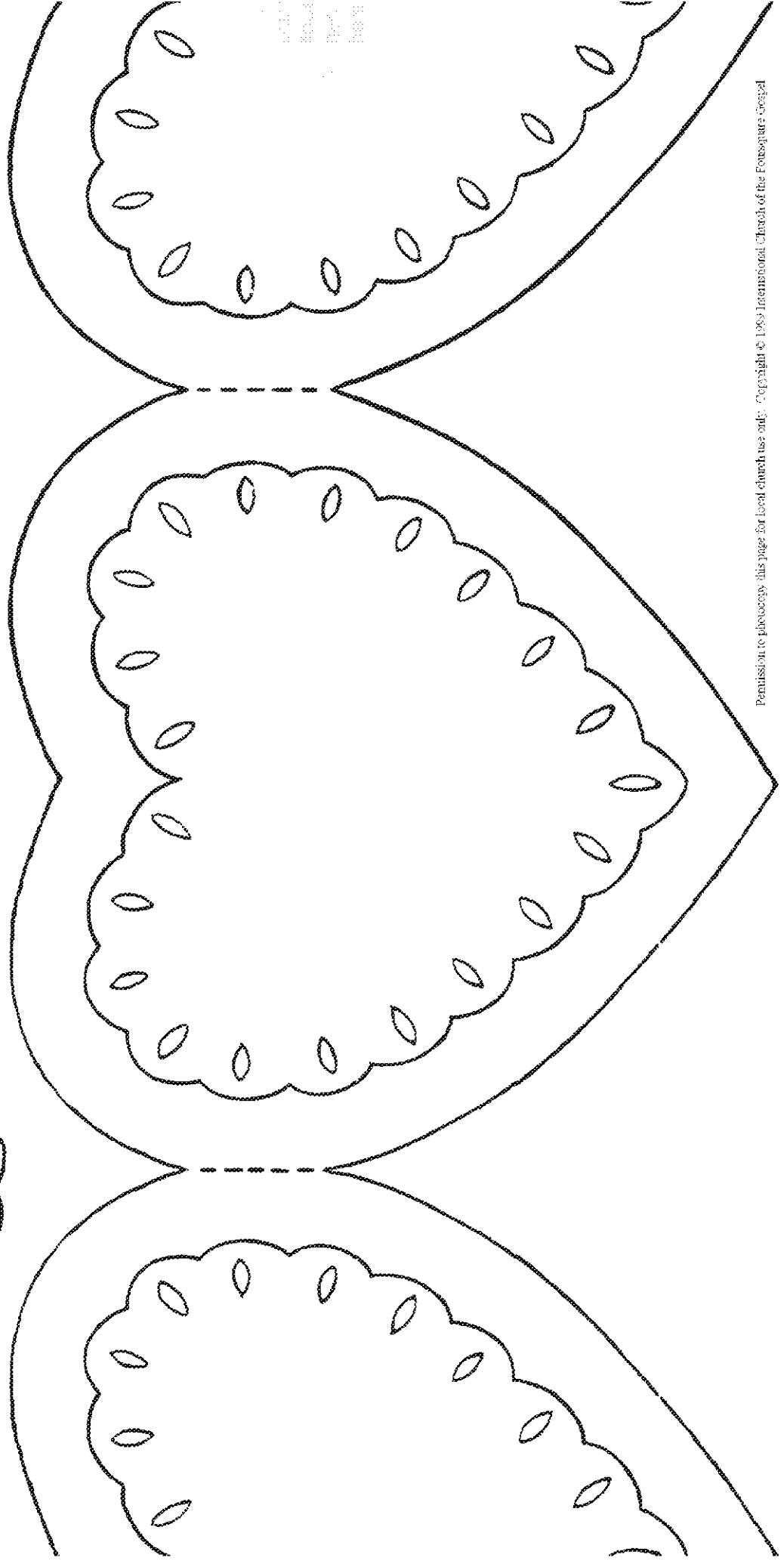
To make for someone you love.



Flower Heart

## Directions:

1. Make photocopies of this page for each member of the group.
2. Have the kids cut out the heart making sure they include the halves on either side.
3. Have the kids fold the halves together so that you can see the design.
4. Let them color the cards and write a special note inside to someone they love.
5. Paste one half of the flower heart over one of the half flaps to make a decorative seal.

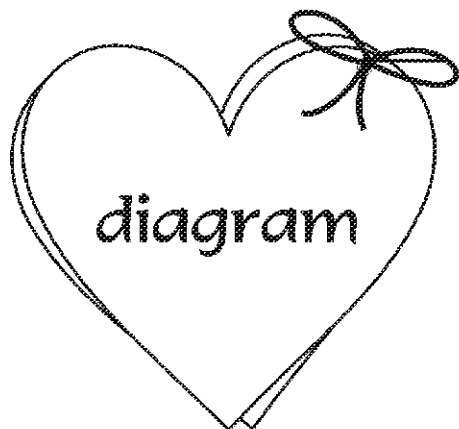
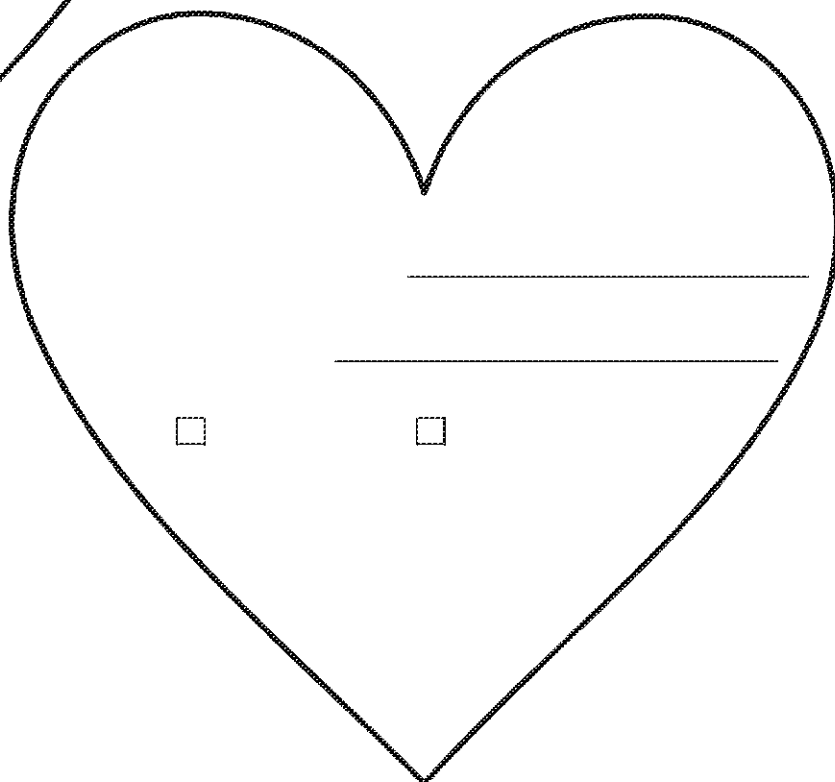
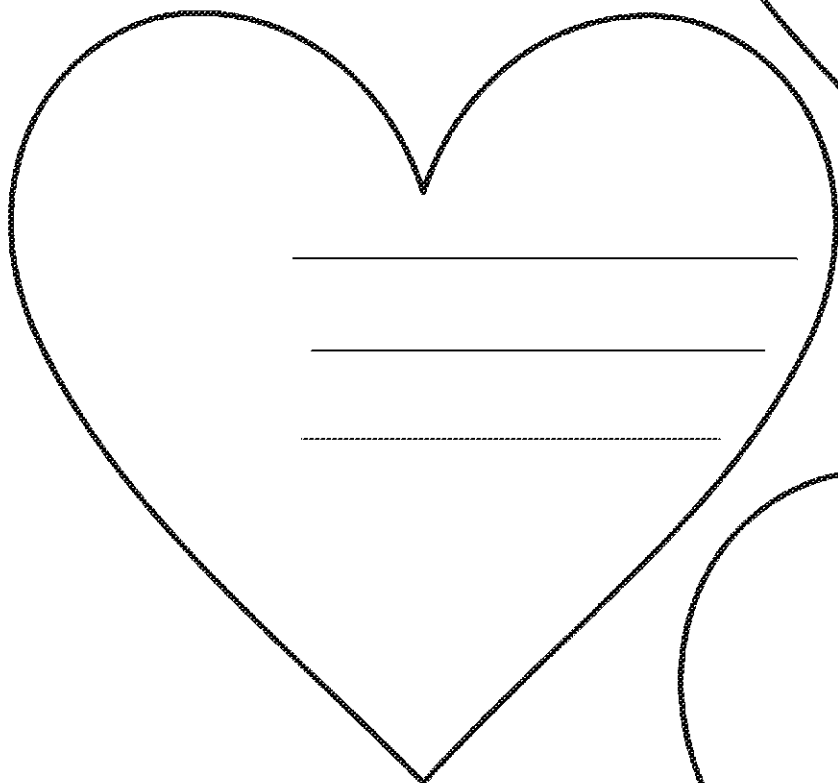
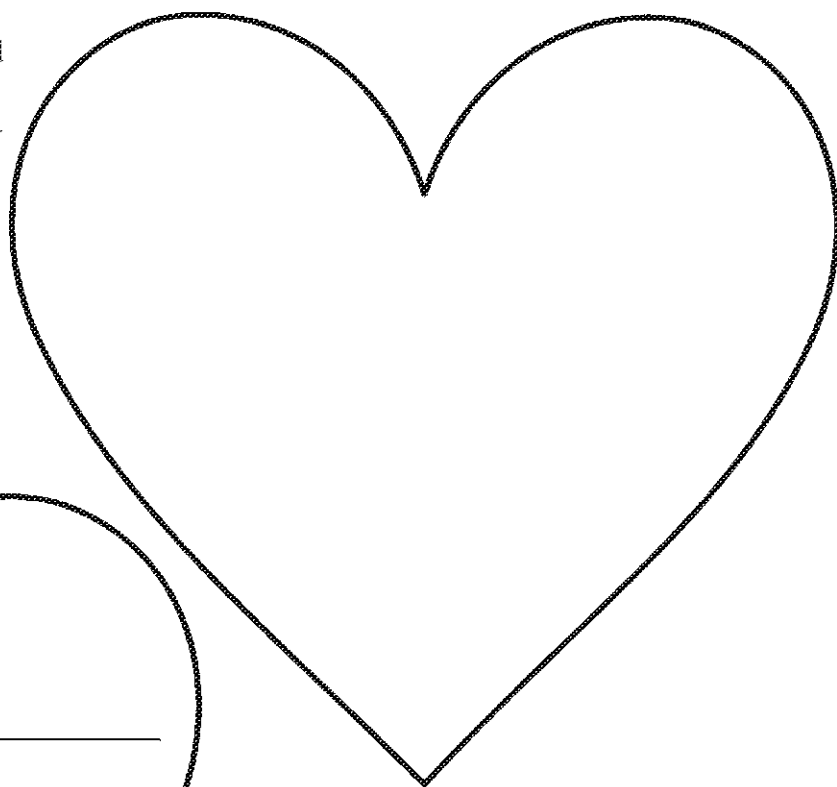


# M&M Valentine Party Invitation

Directions:

1. Reproduce one set for each guest.
2. Color and cut out on dark line.
3. Punch holes and attach with red yarn or ribbon (see diagram)
4. Fill in information and hand out.

adapted from Shining Star Publications  
"Valentine's Day", © 1989.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"SYMBOLS OF EASTER"**

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To enjoy fun activities which will accomplish two goals: 1) to recognize items associated with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ; and 2) to identify items from nature which remind of us of new life in Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"... by His boundless mercy God has given us the privilege of being born again. Now we live with a wonderful expectation because Jesus Christ rose again from the dead."*  
1 Peter 1:3b, New Living Translation

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**SHOPPING LIST:** Items for scavenger hunt (listed below)  
Pictures or examples of seeds, flowers, baby animals, etc.  
Items for Lambs:  
    Black construction paper (one piece per child)  
    Cotton balls (twenty or thirty for each child)  
    Hole punch and scraps of paper to make eyes for lambs  
Items for New Life Chicks:  
    Cotton balls (two for each child)  
    Orange and black construction paper for beaks and feet (scraps can be used)  
    Yellow powder tempera paint  
    Glue  
    Empty, clean egg shell halves

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Conduct a Resurrection Scavenger Hunt using items mentioned in **Matthew 26-28, Mark 14-16, Luke 22-24, and John 18-20**. Make sure to have a set of items for each team. Reward the team that finds them all first.
  - calendar with Friday, Saturday and Sunday highlighted (as the period of time when Jesus was crucified, buried and resurrected.)
  - stick with sponge on the end
  - thorns (crown of thorns)
  - purple cloth
  - name cards of people who stood near the cross

- toy spear
- whip, or part of whip (leather piece)
- nails
- picture of black thunderstorm
- cross
- white linen cloth (to represent the covering used on Jesus' body when He was taken down from the cross)
- rock (to represent the huge boulder placed in front of the tomb's entrance)
- toy soldier/G.I. Joe (to represent the top-notch guards posted at the tomb)
- perfume (to represent the spices and fragrant oils the women took with them to anoint His body)

2. Tell the resurrection story: As you tell the resurrection story, ask the children to try to associate which item goes with the part of the story. Collect the items from the children as you are telling the story. An outline of essential events from the book of Matthew is provided below.

A. The religious leaders plot to kill Jesus.	26:1-5
B. Mary anoints Jesus for burial.	26:6-13
C. Judas agrees to betray Jesus.	26:14-16
D. The disciples celebrate the Passover	26:17-35
1. The Lord's Supper is instituted.	26:26-29
2. Peter's denial is predicted.	26:30-35
E. Jesus is betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane.	26:36-56
F. Jesus is tried before Caiaphas and Pilate	26:57-27:25
G. Peter denies Jesus three times.	26:69-75
H. Jesus is crucified.	27:26-56
1. Jesus is whipped.	27:26-28
2. Jesus is led to Golgotha.	27:29-33
3. Jesus is crucified.	27:34-44
4. Jesus dies.	27:45-50
I. Jesus is buried.	27:57-66
J. The empty tomb.	28:1-8
K. The appearance of Jesus to the disciples.	28:16-17

3. Everyday reminders of new life in Christ: Demonstrate various examples of new life in nature which remind us of our new birth in Jesus. Use pictures or examples from nature of seeds, flowers, baby animals, etc to illustrate your point. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- A. Seeds and flowers or vegetables
- B. Eggs and baby chicks, ducks or birds
- C. Mother sheep and baby lambs

4. Crafts to remind us of new life: "Hand" lambs: Have the children trace their hands on black construction paper. Turn the paper upside down so that the four fingers become the legs and the thumb becomes the head of the lamb. Glue cotton balls to the body. Use a hole punch to make eyes and glue the eyes to the lamb. Write the Bible reference "1 Peter 1:3" in white crayon or chalk on the black construction paper.

5. New Life Chicks: Pour some powdered yellow tempera paint in a resealable bag. Add cotton balls to the paint, zip up the bag and shake it until the cotton balls are yellow. Cut beaks and feet from orange and black construction paper and glue to the yellow cotton balls. Glue the New Life Chick into a half egg shell.

#### **APPLICATION:**

Conclude this special activity by gathering the children together and discussing the many symbols of Easter. Use this time to allow children to complete their projects and other adults to begin cleaning up from the craft activities. Talk with the children about new life, new beginnings, a fresh start and other concepts that will help them live for Jesus every day. Remind them to remember Jesus' gift of new life whenever they see a flower or a baby animal which is just starting it's new life. Pray together for God's help every day that the children will live the way Jesus wants them to.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"EASTER CELEBRATION"**

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To teach Jesus' death and resurrection to the children.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him."* Mark 16:6, Use the underlined portion for younger children.

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**SHOPPING LIST:** It will vary depending on Activity:  
Easter egg activity  
- pre-colored, hard boiled eggs  
- Easter stickers  
- Plastic strawberry baskets (for egg baskets)  
- Easter basket grass  
- Cross decorations activity  
- Cross pattern photocopied for each child.  
- Different colors of yarn  
- Construction paper for egg invitations

**BEFORE CLASS:** Gather materials for Resurrection egg project:  
egg cartons                      thorns  
purple cloth                      plastic eggs  
twigs                                pieces of craft sticks  
crackers                            nails  
pennies or dimes                sponge  
rubber bands                      small rock  
toothpick                          2" strip of red ribbon

Older Children: Play a game of "I Spy" using a few of the egg project items, (i.e. crackers, pennies/dimes, sponge, rock, etc.).

Younger Children: Have hard boiled eggs - pre-colored for the children to decorate with stickers. Buy Christian Easter stickers from a Christian supply store. Have 3-4 eggs ready per child. Provide strawberry baskets and Easter grass to protect the decorated eggs as they take them home.

## ACTIVITIES:

1. Have materials ready for the children to make crosses. Hang decorations from the ceiling using yarn of spring colors.
2. For younger children: Make large egg-shaped invitations from spring colors of construction paper. Have the information (what, when, where) printed on small (4 x 5') pieces of paper and glue to their "egg invitation." Easter is a wonderful time of year for outreach to new children (visitors for Easter services).
3. Resurrection egg project for younger children: Use 12 plastic Easter eggs each containing one item from the list below. Be sure to leave the last egg empty to represent the empty tomb. Have the kids sit in a circle and discuss the meaning of each item as you open the eggs one at a time.
4. Resurrection egg project for older children: Give each child an empty egg carton, 12 plastic Easter eggs, and one each of the items listed below. Instruct them to insert one item into each egg. As they open the egg, they tell the part of the story that goes with the item, ending with the empty tomb!

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>REPRESENTS</u>	<u>SCRIPTURE</u>
Crackers	Last supper	Mark 14: 16-26
Pennies or dimes	Judas betrayed Jesus Casting lots for garment	Matthew 26:14-16 John 19:24
Toothpick	Spears	John 19:34
Purple cloth	Purple robe	John 19:2
Thorns	Crown of thorns	John 19:2
2 Small twigs rubber bands (used to make the twigs into a cross)	Cross	John 19:17
Piece of craft stick	Wooden sign	John 19:19
Nails	Nails	John 20:25
Sponge (small piece)	Sponge	John 19:29-30
Piece of red ribbon	Blood of Jesus	John 19:34
Small rock	Rock that rolled away	Luke 24:2
Empty egg	Empty tomb	Mark 16:6b

**SNACK:**

## Resurrection Rolls

Ingredients: Large marshmallows, melted butter, sugar cinnamon mixture (three parts sugar, one part cinnamon), cans of crescent rolls.

1. Open can of crescent rolls and separate into triangles
2. Dip one marshmallow into melted butter.
3. Roll the marshmallow in the sugar/cinnamon mixture.
4. Place the marshmallow in the center of the crescent triangle. Fold and pinch the edges tight. Put each crescent wrapped marshmallow on a slightly greased cookie sheet.
5. Bake the rolls as directed on the package.

When cooked, the marshmallow melts leaving only the puffed crescent roll. It is empty inside which demonstrates that Jesus rose from the dead.

“He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him.” Mark 16:6b (NIV)

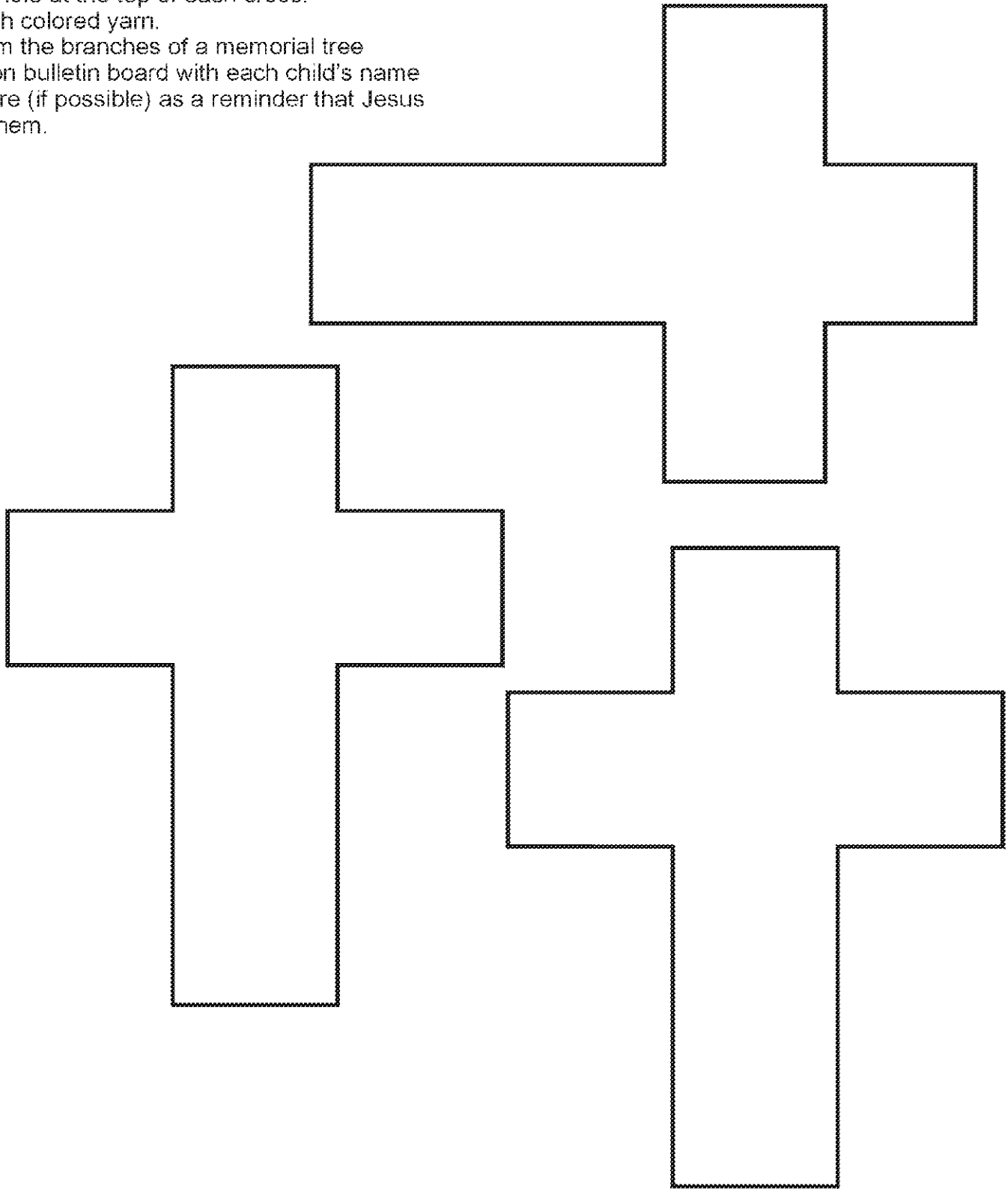
**APPLICATION:**

Allow the children to share the Easter story with a friend until they are comfortable telling it. Pray with the children that they will be bold to share this story with friends and family.

# Easter Decoration Idea

## Cross Patterns For Easter Decoration

Reproduce the patterns provided on white paper.  
Punch a hole at the top of each cross.  
String with colored yarn.  
Hang from the branches of a memorial tree  
or hang on bulletin board with each child's name  
and picture (if possible) as a reminder that Jesus  
died for them.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"PARENT APPRECIATION"**  
(2 week lesson)

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To show our love and appreciation for our parents by giving a party in their honor.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"Honor your father and mother, then you will live a long time in the land." Exodus 20:12*

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**DESCRIPTION:** A time to teach children what it means to honor their parents and to practice what they have learned.

**PREPARATION:** Week One: Make some kind of gift and/or card for the parents to present the next week. Gift and craft are explained below.

Week Two: Have tables set up with frosting, candy decorations, and serving trays; cookie sheets covered with foil make great serving trays. Have some of the children decorate the cookies and the other children decorate the room. This will save time. Be sure that you leave 30 - 45 minutes for the party itself. Have the cards and gifts available. Be sure to have extras for the children who were absent last week.

**WEEK ONE:** Talk about the memory verse.

Younger Children: Explain that honor is respect. Respect means that you do what your parents ask, help around the house, don't do things that will embarrass them.

Older Children: Ask the children what "Honor" means to them. You could have older children look up the word "honor" in the dictionary. Discuss with the children ways they can honor their parents. Explain that even though they may get mad at their parents, God gave us instruction to honor them. Honoring our parents is good for our lives. When we obey God - we live peaceful lives.

Craft: Spend a large amount of time making a craft for the children to give their parents. We suggest making wrapping paper, sand candles, potpourri sachets, or clay bowls for spare change! Visit the local library and check out a book on making crafts. You might also want to spend some time having the kids make cards from construction paper telling their parents how much they appreciate them.

- Invite the parents to come to a party in their honor for week two. If possible, have invitations to pass out to them as they pick up their children.

- Ask the Bear Essentials to make or bring cookies for decorating during week two.

## **WEEK TWO:**

After the parents arrive, have children who have chosen to, take turns introducing their guest to every one. Have the children share one thing they are thankful for in their mother/father, aunt/uncle or special care giver.

- Have the parents and children decorate the cookies together.

- After the cookies have been decorated, have the children serve their parents and themselves refreshments. After refreshments have been served, have a staff pastor, elder, or council member share with the group how special our parents are and how the Lord wants us to honor our parents.

-Be sure to thank everyone for coming and thank the children for serving their parents.

-Have the children present the gifts and cards to the parents before dismissing.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"A MOTHER IS"  
(Two Week Activity)

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** To teach the importance of obeying God's word in regard to parents; we are to honor them. To give significant meaning to Mother's Day.

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you." (Exodus 20:12, Living Bible).

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**DESCRIPTION:** Preparing and hosting a Mother's Day party. Use week one to teach the kids about honoring their mothers. Week two is the party itself.

**SHOPPING LIST:** 8½ x 11 colored paper (pastel), stickers or pictures of roses and/or other flowers, scissors, fine line markers or pens of various colors, and envelopes. Suggested menu for the party: Fruit salad using fruit cocktail as a base. Vanilla wafers and/or a variety of crackers, punch, tea and/or coffee.

**PREPARATION:** Decide at least three weeks beforehand what decorations, menu, etc. you will use. Have the children prepare a short but meaningful presentation on "A Mother is. . ."

**WEEK ONE ACTIVITIES:**

1. Visualize the memory verse in some way; using chalkboard, white board or poster board, etc. Discuss the meaning of the memory verse. Explain the meaning of honor: to prize highly; show respect; to show and express appreciation.
2. Discuss the following. Stress the importance of right relationships in the family; mother/child, etc.
  - a. WHAT does it mean to honor our mother? (To think highly of them, to give them respect, to be obedient, to admire.)
  - b. WHERE should we honor our mother? (At home, everywhere.)
  - c. HOW can we show honor? (Words of appreciation, being helpful, respectful, etc.)

d. WHEN should we honor our mothers? (At all times, especially on her special day.)

3. Invitations: Have the children make invitations to the Mother's Day Appreciation Party. These will be given to their mothers ahead of time. Using the craft supplies, stickers and markers, make the invitations out of the 8½ x 11 colored paper. Be sure the paper is cut ahead of time to fit the envelopes.

4. Card for Mother: Ask each child (depending on age) to write some words that describe their mother. Begin the card with "My Mother is. . ." then use the words to describe their mother. Put a list on the chalkboard. Use words like, kind, special, helpful, friend, loving, caring, thoughtful, Christian, forgiving, pretty, working, gentle, wise, truthful, loyal, unselfish, faithful and tender.

5. Alternate craft for younger children: Instead of making a card with a detailed description, have the children make a craft of your choosing to present to the mothers.

#### **WEEK TWO ACTIVITY:**

The Mother's Day Party: Decide which child or group of children will make the presentation. This may be in form of a poem, song or a reading. Allow the children to use their own creativity. It may be appropriate to allow the children to take turns reading their cards aloud and then giving their mothers a hug or a flower.

NOTE: Be sensitive to those who are in foster care and/or live with someone other than their mother. You may suggest that these children adopt a mother for the special occasion.

The Day of the Party: Let the children be hosts and hostesses and seat the mothers. Welcome the mother's and open in pray. Continue with the program that you have planned.



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**“LETTERS OF LOVE - A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT”**

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*Recommended for: All*

**PURPOSE:** To honor our mothers (or grandmother for children whose mother is not living with them). To teach the value of serving our parent/grandparent.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “. . .and do not forsake your mother’s teaching.” Proverbs 1:8b (NAS)

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**DESCRIPTION:** As children arrive, ask them what they like best about their mother/grandmother. Have the children share stories of special times they have had with their mothers/grandmothers. Have a teaching about how we can honor our parents everyday in several areas of our lives, such as: listening to their instruction (Proverbs 1:8 and 4:1); helping them with responsibilities at home; showing respect, etc. Discuss the activities you will be doing to help honor their mother (or grandmother) in class and explain the procedures.

**SHOPPING LIST:** Construction paper, special stationery, glue, glitter, stickers, heart-shaped paper doilies and markers. Materials for refrigerator magnets (See Activity) Ingredients for sugar cookies **or** packaged cookie dough. Decorating items for cookies.

**ACTIVITIES:**

1. Provide special stationery with colorful stickers for the children to write their “letters of love” to their parent. Have them fold their letter and seal with a special sticker (research your local Bible book store for a variety of stickers). **VARIATION:** Create special stationery by taking plain white paper and allowing the children to be creative with stickers, glitter, markers, etc.
2. Make refrigerator magnets. Magnet strips or magnets from a craft store, glue, items for magnet decorations. Using clay or art dough, have the children make heart-shaped magnets they can paint them or paint the Scripture reference on them. Glue magnets on back.

You could also buy or make small valentines and laminate them with clear adhesive shelf paper and attach to the magnets.

**SNACKS:** Make heart-shaped sugar cookies, frost and decorate. Have the children take one home to mom and eat one for their GNBC snack with some milk. Use decorative icing tubes and hard candies to decorate the cookies.

Sugar cookie recipe:

Cream together	2/3 cup shortening
	3/4 cup sugar
Beat in:	1 egg
	2 teaspoons vanilla
	3 to 4 teaspoons of milk
Sift together:	2 cups flour
	1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

Blend creamed mixture and dry ingredients together. Chill dough 1 to 2 hours. Roll out on floured surface. Cut into shapes. Bake at 375 degrees for 5 to 10 minutes. Makes 3 dozen cookies.

Prayer for mothers/grandmothers in closing.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"HONORING FATHERS"

*Recommended for: All*

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**PURPOSE:** To teach honor and respect for our earthly fathers. To teach obedience to our heavenly Father.

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**SHOPPING LIST:** Construction paper  
scissors  
hole punch  
yarn (various colors)  
pencils  
markers (assorted colors)

**PREPARATION:** Reproduce the tie pattern on white construction paper. If fathers are to be invited for the snack time, notify them in advance. Also notify the Pastor that this will be taking place.

**APPLICATION:** Have the children try to name as many of the Ten Commandments as they can. Write them on the chalk board or white board.

**Honor our earthly fathers.**

How many of you know the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses? Did you know the fifth commandment is to HONOR your father (and mother)? Did you also know that if you honor your father (and mother) your life will be full of blessings? Let's name some ways God will bless us if we obey this commandment (allow children to respond). 1. Long life. 2. Your children will honor you.

God said to honor our fathers. Honor means to respect, listen to, and obey. Giving our fathers a special gift is one way to show love toward our fathers. What are some other ways we can honor our fathers on Father's Day? (Allow time for children to name some ways.)

Note: Some children see their father only once or twice a month. Take this into consideration. Be super-sensitive to the child who does not have a father, who lives with a stepfather, who lives in a foster home, etc.

**Honoring our Heavenly Father:**

If needed, emphasize the fact that some children do not have an earthly father that they know or live with but EVERYONE has a Heavenly Father. His name is God.

God, our heavenly father, cares about us, loves us and wants each of us to live for Him, to talk to Him, and read about Him in the Bible.

We can wish a Happy Father's Day both to our earthly father and our heavenly Father, God.

**ACTIVITY:**            **My Father's Tie** (See pattern attached)

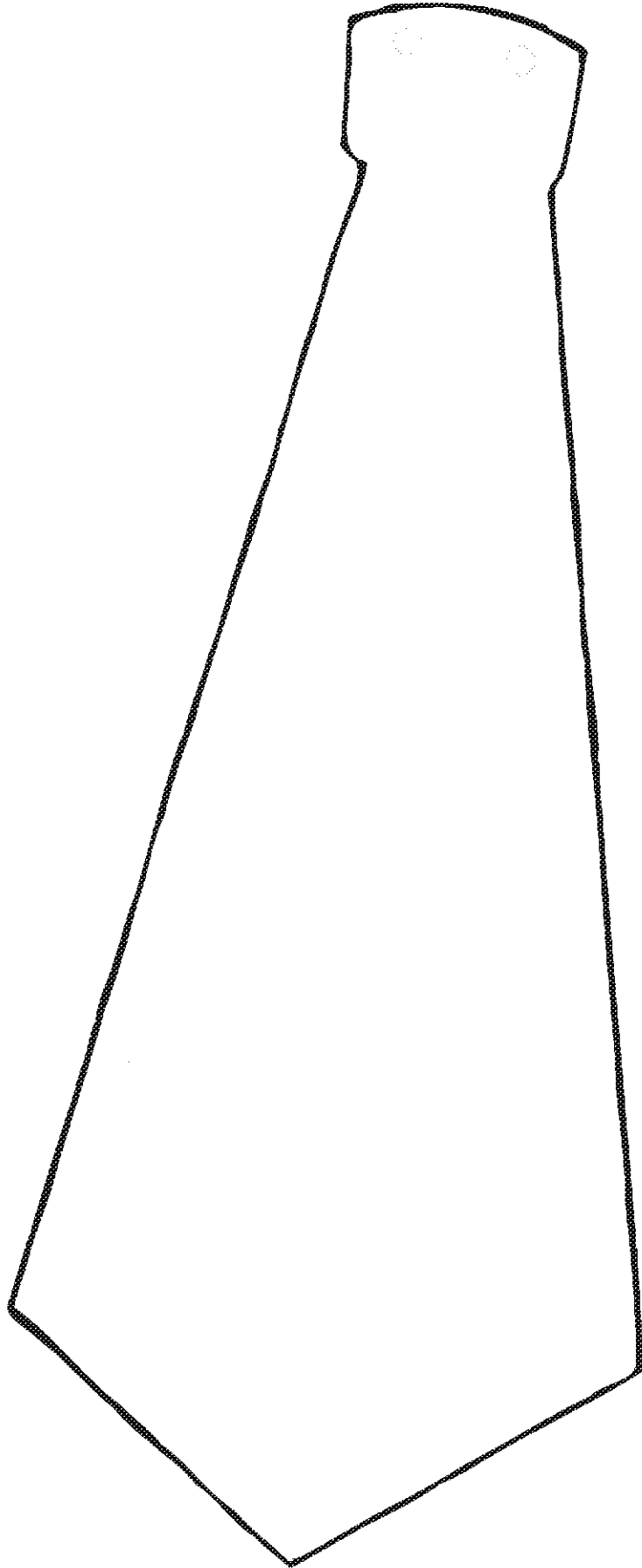
Directions: Have the children make a Father's Day tie for their father, grandfather or favorite adult male. Ask them to make it to look like the kind of tie he might wear. On the back, write a "Happy Father's Day" wish. Then cut it out. Punch two holes in the top of the tie. Thread a 24 inch piece of yarn through the two holes and tie the two ends together in a knot. Make sure that it is large enough to fit around a man's head.

**SNACK:**            Popcorn with a caffeine/sugar free drink. If you have invited the fathers/grandfathers to come at the close of the class, the decorated ties could be presented at this time. If a child's father, grandfather or favorite adult male is not present, suggest they take the tie home or mail it. Let the children serve the guests popcorn and punch.

**CLOSING:**            If time permits, gather the children together in a circle. Suggest that each child thank God (in one sentence) for their father and/or express praise to God, their Heavenly Father, ie., "Thank you God for my father who. . . ." or "I thank You, Heavenly Father, for..." The leader will close in prayer when everyone who wanted to has prayed.

# Father's Day Tie Pattern

for use with Bible Discovery Lesson, "Honoring Our Fathers."



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"GRANDPARENTS DAY"**  
(2 week lesson)

Recommended for: All

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**LESSON AIM:** To honor grandparents or senior citizens on this special day.

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**PREPARATION:** Ask the bear essentials or club members to bring: a batch of cookies, candy, fruit, sample size toiletries, potpourri sachets, a box of note cards or stationary, attractive gift bags or baskets. Allow for both masculine and feminine items.

Select a few items and place them in a basket or colorful bag. Have the children make or draw a card telling the person how special they are. Try to personalize the card as much as possible.

**WEEK ONE:** On the week previous to Grandparent's Day create gift baskets or colorful gift bags. If you are planning to attend a senior's center or a nursing home call ahead to tell them you are coming and to ask what items would be useful to their occupants.

Have the students make cards wishing the elderly a Happy Grandparents Day! Have them write as personal a message as possible remembering that many of the people you will meet in these homes are unloved by their families and are almost never visited by anyone.

Also during week one, teach the kids some classic children's songs to sing to the senior citizens. Some suggestions are, "Jesus Loves Me," "Father Abraham," "Jesus Loves the Little Children," and "I'm in the Lord's Army." They love to see the children and will be blessed by their songs.

**WEEK TWO:** Be sure to have arranged drivers for the children. Review rules about appropriate behavior for the nursing home or senior center. Remind them to not be afraid to hug the elderly because they rarely receive love from anyone. Have fun!

**OPTIONS:**

- Have the children pass out balloons to the elderly while singing “You Are Special”. (Words to the song can be found at the end of this lesson.)
- Have a special party for the senior citizens in your church. Plan desserts, make crafts, have the children perform the same songs as suggested above. Perhaps the children could write and present a poem.

**You Are Special**  
**(To the tune of “Are You Sleeping”)**

You are special,  
You are special,  
If we look,  
We can see,  
Someone Jesus died for,  
Someone Jesus died for.  
Yes, that’s you,  
Yes, that’s you.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**“FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION”**

*Recommended for: ALL*

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**PURPOSE:** To have a picnic for the whole church and to bring the families of your Good News Bears Group together to celebrate the Fourth of July!

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**DESCRIPTION:** A fourth of July picnic suitable for the whole church and especially for the families of your Good News Bears.

**SHOPPING LIST:**

Misc. Items: - Paper plates  
- paper cups  
- silverware  
- napkins  
- paper towels  
- food  
- foil  
- plastic trash bags (cut open to cover tables)  
- masking tape (to tape table covers)  
- condiments  
- ice, ice, & more ice  
- charcoal or wood  
- paper  
- lighter fluid (don't forget matches)

Cooking Items: - Bar-B-Ques (if needed)  
- Bar-B-Que tools (brush, tongs, spatula)  
- Serving utensils and serving trays  
- Camping coolers for ice and cold storage  
- 5-6 gallon insulated thermos for lemonade  
- Plastic pitchers for mixing and large spoons  
- Cutting board for cheese (can do ahead)

Food Items: - Bar-B-Que Hamburgers or Hot Dogs  
- Chips  
- Walking Salad (recipe included)  
- Cheese Fingers (64 pieces to a 2 lb block of cheese)  
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Victory Cupcakes (recipe included)  
- Lemonade



- Snack Items:
- Fresh Fruit, watermelon, cantaloupe, grapes, apples, pears, apples, peaches, etc.
  - Ice Cream Cones
  - Cake mixes
  - Paper cupcake cups
  - Frosting ingredients
  - Paper American flags
  - Red, white, and blue decorating candies

- Party Favor Items:
- Red, white, and blue, stars cut from construction paper
  - White Styrofoam cups
  - Glue
  - Scissors
  - Rolls of cherry flavored Lifesavers™ candies
  - Red tissue paper
  - String: a 3" piece for each favor
  - Small American paper flags
  - Type the last verse of the song "America" onto white paper the length of the roll of the candies (1 per favor).
  - cellophane tape
  - white glue
  - Red, white, and blue construction paper
  - Red, silver, and blue gummed stars

**PREPARATION:** **Location:** Plan the your 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic at a local park if possible. Contact the Department of Parks in your county for reservation information. Alternative locations would be the church property, a church member's large backyard, or perhaps a school yard.

If weather is questionable in your area, plan an indoor picnic in the church fellowship hall.

**Transportation:** Prepare for transportation if needed. Don't forget permission forms, insurance information, and each child will need to have a seat belt. Remember, parents are generally eager to help with special activities – so recruit them! Assign a helper (besides the driver) to each vehicle to keep order. Suggested activities: Sing songs, play word games, and search games (e.g. How many cars have the "A" in the license plate? How many stop signs do you see? How many out-of-state license plates can you find?).

**Decorations:** One or two weeks ahead plan activities the children can participate in such as:

- Making party favors (see samples illustrated).
- Make posters for picnic decorations.
- Make centerpieces for picnic tables.
- Plan old-fashioned relays and gather materials.
- Plan and rehearse skits! (Rehearse a lot!)
- Decorate with a lot of balloons, streamers, & flags.

**Food:** Have salads, cheese fingers, cupcakes, prepared before hand. *Plan on having plenty of liquids for thirsty children.* Purchase, hot dogs, hamburgers. Consider making it a potluck. The church brings salads, deserts, chips. You bring burgers, hotdogs or buns. Make a list of items needed, including dinner ware, utensils, cooking supplies, and double check to make sure you haven't forgotten anything (refer to first page)

**Crafts:** Do the following crafts at a previous GNBC meeting to prepare for this event:

**Patriotic Party Cups:**

- Materials: Red, white, and blue construction paper or gummed stars, white Styrofoam cups, glue, scissors
- Procedure:
  1. Using a star pattern, cut red, white and blue stars from the construction paper. Glue them at random on white Styrofoam cups.
  2. Optional: Use gummed stars instead of construction paper stars.

**4<sup>TH</sup> of July Tray Favors**

- Materials: Rolls of cherry flavored Life Savers, red tissue paper, string (3" for each favor), small American paper flags, Type the last verse of the song "America the Beautiful" ("America, America, God shed His grace on thee") onto pieces of paper that are the length of the roll of the candies. Use tape or glue to attach one piece to each candy.
- Procedure:
  1. Tape the string to one end of the roll of Life Savers.
  2. Wrap Life Savers with red tissue paper.
  3. Glue song verse onto the roll of candies.

NOTE: Tray favor should resemble a fire cracker.

### Uncle Sam Hat Favors

- Materials: red, white, and blue construction paper, scissors, glue, red, silver, and blue gummed stars

- Procedure:

1. Cut the hat's crown from white paper, the rim from blue paper, and the stripes from red paper. Use the patterns provided.

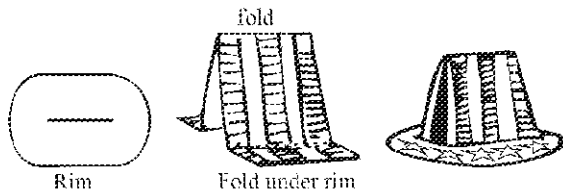
2. Glue the stripes onto the crown.

3. Slit the rim as indicated.

4. Fold out the tabs of the crown on the broken line.
5. Insert the crown up through the slit in the rim as far as the folded out area. The folded out area will make the hat stand upright.

6. Place red, silver, and blue stars at random on the hat.

NOTE: If gummed stars are not available, cut out stars from construction paper and glue on hat. (These hats will make great table decorations.)



### ACTIVITIES:

Following is suggested relay type activities. Award all participants ribbons or Bear Bucks with perhaps a special award for the group exhibiting the best overall team spirit.

**Gunny Sack Races** – Two people, each place one leg in one sack, race from one point to the finish line, or one person per sack with both legs in the sack.

**Human Wheelbarrow Races** – Two people, one on the ground walking on hands while the other holds legs and steers to the finish point.

**Egg Toss** – Two lines of people (however many you want) facing each other. Give each participant in one of the lines an egg (raw), have them approximately 5' from each other. They gently toss the egg to the opposite team member. Each time the opposite person catches the egg they each move back, increasing the distance each time. Continue until one set of winners are left.

**Pie Eating Contest** – Use light cream pies or pie tins with whip cream only. (Hold this event in the afternoon after lunch.) Don't forget towels and clean-up cloths.

**Pie Throwing Contest** – Use pie tins filled with whipped topping only (more economical than pies) if desired. This is a good contest to recruit the pastor, GNBC Director, youth pastor, or someone fun to be “it.” Allow each child to throw one time only. Place the pie recipient person far enough away that they won’t get too “creamed” so to speak!

**Water Balloon Toss** – Fill balloons with water and toss in the same fashion as the Egg Toss. (See above instructions.)

**Watermelon Eating Contest** – Cut open plastic trash bags and tape down to picnic tables for easy clean-up.

**Horse Shoes or Badminton** if sources are available.

**Bicycling** – Check to see if there are bike paths at the park.

**Discovery Walk and Nature Awareness** - Take the children on a walk through the park. Discuss nature and God’s handiwork as you are walking.

Nature Experiences You Might See:

- 1) Look for a rainbow.
- 2) Watch for different things that blow in the wind.
- 3) How many different kinds of leaves there are?
- 4) How many kinds of bugs can you find?
- 5) Find different kinds of rocks.
- 6) Collect seed pods – Sycamore, Spruce, and Magnolia trees.
- 7) Find an ant colony and watch them.
- 8) Watch for different birds. Count how many kinds you find.

**SNACKS:**

Try these delicious recipes:

**Walking Salad:**

• Ingredients:

- A variety of fresh fruit i.e., watermelon, cantaloupe, grapes, apples, pears, peaches, etc.
- Ice Cream Cones

• Procedure: Cut up fruit into pieces less than 1" across. Mix well. At serving time, spoon fruit into ice cream cones. DO NOT allow to sit because bottom of the cone will soften and break. Use a slotted spoon to drain excess juice.

#### **4<sup>TH</sup> of July Cupcakes:**

- **Ingredients:**

- cake mixes
- paper cupcake cups
- frosting ingredients
- paper American flags (on tooth picks)
- red, white, and blue decorating candies

- **Procedure:** Follow directions on cake mix and pour into cupcake cups placed in muffin pans. Bake according to directions on mix box. (If desired, you can make in advance and freeze until the day of the activity.) Frost cupcakes and decorate with candies and flags.

#### **SUGGESTIONS:**

1) This would be a GREAT time to give students an opportunity to acquire the "Country Badge." To award the Country Badge require each individual Bears group to perform a 3 to 5 minute skit during the picnic day pertaining to "What it means to be a 'free' country."

Suggested themes:

- A. Free to be individuals.
- B. Free to worship as we choose.
- C. Free to develop our skills or interests.
- D. Free to obtain an education.

**NOTE:** They'll need to research facts and prepare a skit one to two weeks in advance.

*Refer to the GNBC Leaders Manual for more information on the Country Badge. To award the Country Badge, have a presentation ceremony the day of the activity.*

2) This activity can involve the whole church and would be a great opportunity for adults to build relationship with the children. The men's and women's ministries may want to sponsor the picnic for the children's department.

3) Invite a civil service person such as police officer, fire fighter, or parks personnel and recreation to come to the picnic. Have them share about how fortunate we are in the United States to have resources such as these available.

4) Remember to schedule eating events so they do not conflict with the scheduled meal time. Eating event can be found in the activity section.

5) Suggested time for an all day activity – 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. If time doesn't afford an all day activity, have the picnic on a

regular Bears Club meeting date at the church or on a Friday evening from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and adjust activities accordingly.

**SUGGESTED 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC SCHEDULE:**

10:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.	INTRODUCTION & DEVOTION TIME (Don't forget name tags.)
10:30 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.	RELAY EVENTS
11:30 A.M. – 12:00 A.M.	WASH THOSE HANDS & FACES
12:00 P.M. – 1:00 P.M.	4 <sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PICNIC LUNCH
1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.	EGG & WATER BALLOON TOSS SOFTBALL GAME
2:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.	GNBC PATRIOTIC SKITS
3:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.	DISCOVERY WALK & NATURE AWARENESS
3:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.	WATERMELON & PIE EATING CONTESTS
4:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.	COUNTRY BADGE AWARDS, SPECIAL THANK YOU'S, TEAM AWARD, ETC.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
"GNBC HARVEST BARN PARTY"

Recommended for: All

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**PURPOSE:** To promote a neighborhood outreach and give the children a fall season celebration.

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**DESCRIPTION:** An old fashioned Harvest Barn Party that involves the whole church with the event planned for a Friday evening or Saturday afternoon.

**PLACE:** Large fellowship hall or outside area if weather permits. A barn with lots of hay is an ideal atmosphere.

**THEME:** Country-Western wear is obvious. If the theme you choose for your Harvest party is more of a carnival type atmosphere, other suggested themes are:

Biblical costumes  
God's animals

Bear costumes  
Circus theme

NOTE: Discuss the theme with your club leaders and require their participation by coming in costume. Don't allow costumes that do not fit into theme. (i.e.: scary costumes)

**PERSONNEL:** A Harvest Party Committee (approximately five persons per 200 people, depending on the size of your church). The GNBC Director and the Bear Essentials Team, plus church recruitments from the youth group, men's and ladies ministries will assure a successful activity. (Do not make BEARS leaders in charge. Allow them to wander and interact with the kids). The committee can be responsible for planning, footwork, set-up, booth maintenance, and clean-up activity. All helpers and leaders need to wear the theme costumes. The committee should plan the format and schedule for the Harvest Party.

## SHOPPING LIST:

- Activities:
- Large plastic swimming pool
  - Loose hay or shredded paper - enough to fill pool
  - Dimes, bear bucks, small prizes for Needle in a Haystack game
  - Different lengths of cut string
  - Lots of donuts
  - A 6 foot high board to use for fishing game
  - 2 fishing poles with clothes pins attached to the end
  - 4' by 4' piece of plywood or cork board for Balloon game
  - Cup hooks
  - Large assortment of balloons
  - Slips of paper marked "S" "M" "L" - larger ratio of small compared to large.
  - At least 3 bean bags for Bean Bag Toss
  - 3' by 4' board
  - Old Fashioned Milk Can
  - Softballs
  - At least 3 rings for Ring Toss
  - Lots of lollipops/suckers
  - A 4' by 4' piece of styrofoam or plywood
  - Whatever foods you desire to serve at the food table
- Prizes:
- Rolls of carnival-type tickets
  - Miscellaneous novelty items can be purchased from the *Oriental Trading Co.* You can call 800.228.2269 to order a free catalog or you can visit their web page at [www.oriental.com](http://www.oriental.com).
- Decorations:
- Decorate according to your theme. If you decide to go with the barn party theme we suggest the following items:
    - Hay Bales
    - Pumpkins
    - Corn-stalks
    - Straw Hats
    - Horse Bridles/saddles
    - Barrels
    - Scarecrow
    - Hand-painted cardboard cut-outs

**PREPARATION:** The committee should be in charge of planning. Planning is the key for a successful Harvest Party. If advance planning is adequate, the majority of preparation will be done prior to the day of the event with the exception of set-up and booth maintenance.



Plan this activity according to your church needs. If you are limited on resources and help, don't wear yourself ragged trying to do everything listed. Remember—this outline is merely a suggestion.

- Praying:** Pray and decide a theme for your GNBC Harvest Party. Remember, the aim of this activity is outreach and a fun time for your club members so don't over burden yourself with too large a party resulting in less quality.
- Publicize:** Make colorful posters, announcements in the church bulletin, and fliers to be sent home with the children several weeks before the event. If you plan this activity as a neighborhood outreach, advertise in the local paper, or place posters on supermarket bulletin boards. If you are charging admission by having each child bring a bag of snack-sized candy, be sure to make this known.
- Booths:** A simple booth can be constructed out of bales of hay by building dividers by between your booths or making a simple three-sided wall (open in front). Dividers can also be made with crepe paper, streamers, or rope strung between posts. To make free standing posts, fill large coffee cans or paint buckets with plaster of paris. As the plaster hardens, insert a five foot wooden dowel in the center of the bucket. Allow the plaster to set overnight. These posts are lightweight, inexpensive, easy to make, and easy to reuse.
- If you choose to build a booth out of wood, try to devise a pattern that can be easily taken apart and stored for reuse. You may choose 4x8 sheets of plywood as backboards for some or all of your booths. These can be painted and customized for each particular game. For example, if the game is a Bean Bag Throw, cut the plywood through which the bags can be thrown. Incorporate the name of the game into the painted design on the backboard.
- Tickets:** A good way to equalize participation at each booth is to distribute tickets to the children. Each ticket will allow the children to participate at a booth. We suggest you give each child one or two tickets per booth at the party, depending on the amount of time you have. Give a separate ticket to the students (of a different color than the rest) to be used at the food booth. Rolls of carnival-type drawing tickets can be purchased at a large party supply store. Few churches have the resources to afford the children countless trips to each booth receiving a prize each time.

Decorations: Decorate booths according to theme of each booth (i.e.: The fishing booth looks like a ship with nets, fishing gear, poles, etc.)

Christmas lights placed from booth to booth create a colorful atmosphere. Paint signs on butcher paper to hang above each booth so the children can easily identify the game.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

**NEEDLE IN A HAYSTACK:** Use a large plastic swimming pool and fill with a lot of loose hay or shredded paper. Hide prizes, dimes, or Bear bucks in the hay. This booth is very popular but should be done outside or in an area that can be swept easily.

**DONUT STRINGS:** Tie or secure different lengths of strings from the ceiling. Tie a donut at the end of each string. Children stand with their hands behind their backs and try to eat the donut without it falling to the ground. Have lots of strings cut ahead of time for the booth attendant to save time. (One per child.) Allow for different heights.

**FISH POND:** Place a sheet or decorated board approximately 5' high at the front of the booth. Divide the booth into a boy's side and a girl's side. Place a fishing pole with a cup or a clothespin attached to the end of the line on each side. The player places the ticket in the cup or clothespin and fishes over their side of the partition, the attendant on the other side "hooks" their prize onto their pole and they reel it in.

**BALLOON TAG GAME:** Obtain a 4'x4' piece of plywood or cork board and draw lines 6" square. At each intersection, insert cup hooks. Place board approximately 5' from front of booth. Prepare 75 tags. 55 marked with an "S" (small prize), 15 an "M" (medium prize), and 5 with an "L" (large prize). Place 2 "L" tags, 6 "M" tags, and fill the balance of hooks with "S" tags. Make sure tags are placed face down on hooks. Store balance of tags in a box. Place an inflated balloon on each hook. The player throws darts until one balloon is broken and receives prize indicated by the letter on the tag. Remove tag after balloon is broken and replace with a different tag from the storage box. Increase or decrease the number of "S", "M" and "L" tags placed on the board according to the number of prizes you have available.

**BEANBAG THROW:** As a class project, have a class make a clown out of a 3'x4' piece of board. Paint the face and put a 7" hole for the mouth. Place clown approximately 7' from line. Each

player receives 3 beanbags. 3 successful throws through the mouth receives a large prize; 2 throws receives a medium prize. Offer a consolation prize for all players as well.

**MILK CAN TOSS:** Obtain an old-fashioned milk can and place it approximately 8' from the front of the line. Players receive one softball, and if successful in tossing it into the can, they receive a prize. Player receives only one softball per try. Offer a consolation prize for all participants.

**RING TOSS:** Insert lollipops into the holes of the 4' by 4' board (as mentioned in PREPARATION: Booths). Place this about 6 feet away from the front of the booth and allow the kids to throw a total of three rings. If a student hooks all three rings give them the lollipops and a large prize. If they only hook two, give them a medium prize, and if they only hook one, give them a small prize. Give suckers as consolation prizes to the kids.

**FOOD BOOTH:** This one is always a hit. Form an area near the kitchen or serving facilities so the children can sit down and eat. Tables and chairs, bales of hay, and picnic tables are a few suggestions. Plan a simple menu that can be kept warm since the children will spend their food booth ticket at random during the activity (hot dogs, french bread pizza). You could also charge a small fee for the food.

#### **TIPS ON RUNNING BOOTHS:**

- a) Before the Harvest Party begins, test your games so that the distances vary according to the age group you are working with.
- b) Have a central supply area for your game prizes. One person should be in charge of going from booth to booth to check on prize supply and game operations, or set up a supply area behind each booth. If a booth starts running short of prizes due to heavy play, obtain prizes from a slower booth.
- c) GNBC leaders should distribute tickets at the start of the party in the individual classrooms.
- d) Generally each child is allowed to go from booth to booth at their leisure. The leaders stroll about, keeping order and an "eye" out for their GNBC members.

e) Retain information from the party. This will enable the committee for next year to make qualified judgements as to prize quantities and game popularity for the next Harvest Party.

**SNACK:** Require each child (or family represented) to bring a bag of candy the day of the activity. Gather and sort. Use as prizes or place in treat bags to pass out at the close of the party.

**SUGGESTIONS:** If funding is limited, remember to approach individuals within the church (with Pastor's permission of course!) Often people who are not able to participate regularly for lack of time are thrilled to be a part in donating foods, treats, prizes, or monetary contributions. Remember all donations are tax deductible. (See your church administrator for details.) Keep all receipts, etc. for reference next year.

Try not to turn this fun activity into a production or you will lose sight of the real goal. Keep focused and remember to have fun and show love to the children that will be participating.

**For younger Bears** (3, 4 & 5 years old) allow them to go through the booth area first. Little ones can become easily overwhelmed by the excitement of the older children.

The children should meet in their individual classrooms to receive their tickets if this activity is on a regular Bears Club meeting day. For a Saturday activity plan one central booth where the tickets will be distributed.

Leaders should be in costume, ready to have fun and minister God's love to His little ones. Remember, this could be a time when you will have lots of visitors. (Suggestion: one adult leader or helper per 5 children.)

**OPTION:** Gather the children together at the end of the day and go through the "Wordless Book." Discuss how each of us can be thankful to God for Salvation. Provide a time for kids who do not know God to pray and receive Him as their Lord. Pass out wordless books in each of their take-home treat bags.

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"CELEBRATING JESUS' BIRTH"**

Recommended for : All

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**PURPOSE:** To relate Christmas as a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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**DESCRIPTION:** A special birthday party centered around Jesus involving all GNBC groups. The setting would be in a large meeting hall or dining area (wherever you normally hold activities when food is served). All children could be seated on the floor if carpeted or in chairs facing stage or performing area.

**PREPARATION:** 1. Publicize the party celebration. Pass out fliers with information two to three weeks ahead for the children to take home.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY!**

**WHEN:** December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Church Fellowship Hall

**BRING:** Happy Birthday Jesus presents. (Toys for children's hospital, canned food for the needy, or Happy Birthday Jesus card.)

FUN!

BIRTHDAY CAKE!

LIVE NATIVITY!

FRIENDS!

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Children, please bring a nativity scene to place in our Nativity Village. You will take it home after Bears Club is over.

2. Inform your GNBC leaders that the club meeting the week before this activity will be a time to inform the children about the party and to make "Happy Birthday Jesus" cards or ornaments to hang on the Happy Birthday Jesus Christmas tree.

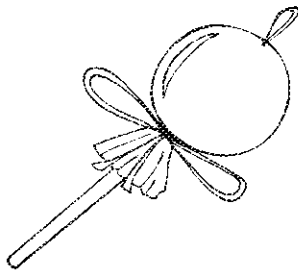
### MATERIALS NEEDED FOR ORNAMENTS:

Styrofoam balls (craft stores)	straight pins
plastic craft stars (craft stores)	marshmallows
fabric circles (Christmas patterns)	popsicle sticks
fabric ribbon (¼ or ½")	construction paper
old Christmas greeting cards	curling ribbon

### ACTIVITIES:

**1. MARSHMALLOW STAR ORNAMENT:** Center a marshmallow and plastic colored star onto a straight pin and stick into a styrofoam ball (3"). Cover the ball until you no longer can see any styrofoam surface. Loop fabric or curling ribbon and pin to ball and hang on tree.

**2. LOLLIPOP ORNAMENT:** Cut circles of brightly colored Christmas fabric using a margarine lid for a pattern. Make pattern large enough to cover a 3" Styrofoam ball with a scalloped edge (pinking shears) overhang forming a ruffle. Stick a craft stick into the ball and tie fabric ribbon around the ruffle to secure and form a lollipop. Form a loop with the ribbon and pin to the top of the lollipop to hang from the tree.



**3. HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS CARDS:** Use construction paper and cut-outs from old Christmas cards. Make card approximately 3" by 5." Have the children decorate the card with the old Christmas card cut outs and then write a birthday greeting to Jesus inside. Form a loop out of curling ribbon and thread through a punched hole at the top of the card to hang on the tree.

#### 4. NATIVITY VILLAGE:

a) Have children bring different nativity scenes for a nativity village. Moms love to bring their special nativities to display. Don't forget to ask! Assure them they will be displayed in a roped off area out of reach of the children.

b) Place the nativity scenes on tables and the larger ones on the floor.

c) Make a pathway and allow the children to stroll by viewing the nativity village. Rope off nativity area except pathway. Use quilt batting to create a snow effect.

d) Place lit Christmas candle arrangements here and there for added atmosphere.

## 5. Plan a "LIVE NATIVITY:"

a) Ask adults to play the nativity characters.

b) Characters:

Joseph

Mary (can be a recent mother in the church).

Baby Jesus (new baby in the church)

Two shepherds

Wise men

A live lamb if available or use cardboard scenes of animals

Hay or straw

**SPECIAL NOTE:** Type scripture references on a 3" x 5" card and give to each character to study their part at least 2 or 3 weeks ahead.

c) Place the nativity characters in a scene of the stable and manger before the children arrive in the fellowship hall.

d) Interview the nativity characters. Make a list of questions to ask. (e.g. what is it like being a shepherd? Were they scared when the angels came?)

**SNACKS:** Order or ask volunteers to make a Happy Birthday Jesus cake or cupcakes. You can purchase one decorated cake and make plain sheet cakes if you have a crowd. (A regular serving size of cake is a 2" square.) Your Bear Essential team can take care of this part of the activity. Don't forget plates, forks, and Happy Birthday Jesus napkins.

### **SAMPLE "HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY" SCHEDULE**

6:00 P.M.	Children will meet with their GNBC leaders in their regular classrooms. Leaders will organize and pass out the ornaments or cards made the week before. Also, they will explain the need to be calm and courteous when they stroll through the nativity village.
6:15 P.M.	Leaders will bring the children to party.
6:15 P.M. - 6:30 - P. M.	Bring ornaments and gifts to place on tree. Begin with the little ones first. They can reach the bottom branches!
6:30 P. M. - 7:00 P. M.	Live Nativity interviews

7:00 P. M. - 7:30 P. M.

Children will form a line to view the Nativity and go through the Nativity Village. Start with the little ones first. Pass by serving area to receive Happy Birthday Jesus cake and napkin. Sit back down and eat.

7:30 P. M. - Closing

Christmas carols

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S RICHEST BLESSINGS!**



GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB  
**SPECIAL ACTIVITY**  
**"CHRISTMAS - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!"**

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*Recommended for: ALL*

**LESSON AIM:** To celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** *"You shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21b*

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**SHOPPING LIST:** Party decorations  
balloons  
confetti  
banner (Happy Birthday, Jesus!)  
construction paper  
glue  
glitter

**PREPARATION:** As the children arrive have construction paper, crayons, stickers, glue, glitter, etc. available for each child to make a party hat. To make a party hat, take construction paper and roll into a cone and staple or tape in place. Allow the children to be creative and make different kinds of decorations on their hats.

Birthday cake decorated with "Happy Birthday, Jesus!", drinks, etc.

**ACTIVITY:**

**Stocking Game** - Purchase or make small Christmas stockings. Place a question about the birthday of Christ in each stocking. Choose boys and girls to pick out of the stocking one question and then try to answer it correctly. Example: Who was born on December 25? How many wise men were there? Where was Jesus born? Who first saw the star?  
**OPTION-** Have one huge stocking filled with the questions and the children can take turns picking a question from the huge stocking

**Secret Word** - Choose various words (person, place or thing) from the Christmas story. Use a child's magnetic board and magnetic letters. Place the letters of a word on the board. Allow everyone to see what the word is EXCEPT for the child who is going to try and spell it after you have jumbled the letters. Have the audience count (quietly) to ten as the child places the magnetic letters in correct order. (NOTE: Felt letters will work on a flannel board or even a chalk board, if magnetic materials are not available.)

**Music:** Happy birthday to You, Happy birthday to You  
Happy birthday, dear Jesus, Happy birthday to You!  
(Tune: "Happy Birthday to You")

Jesus is the Son of God, Son of God, Son of God  
Jesus is the Son of God, the Son of God is He.  
(Tune: "Mary had A Little Lamb"? Taken from 100 Activity Songs for Children, David C. Cook)

"Away In A Manger" plus other Christmas songs of your choice.

**Prayer:** Gather the children together for a time of prayer. What can we give to Jesus on His birthday?

"Dear Jesus, thank You for loving me and for coming to this earth. Thank You for being my Savior and King. My gift to You is me. I give You my life and all that I am. Help me to live for You all the days of my life. I love You, Jesus! Amen."