QUARTER THREE

Discover What God Wants Us to Be

Introduction

Each unit of this quarter is planned to help you teach your 3s and 4s about a special quality God wants us to have.

The special quality in Unit 7 is thankfulness. Colossians 3:15 tells us to "be thankful." Even young children can learn to be thankful for food, for the love and care of parents and others, and for their friend Jesus.

Unit 8 centers on helpfulness. Learning to be helpful teaches children to be aware of the needs of others. Threes and 4s can "help Jesus" by telling others, "Jesus loves you!" and "Come to church," the special thrust of this unit.

Unit 9 stresses that each one of us is special because God made us, which is the only true source of one's "self-confidence." Young children are beginning to discover their bodies, their senses, and their feelings. Help them realize God made each one "wonderfully."

As a result of these lessons, the children will

Know: That God wants them to be thankful; that they help Jesus when they say, "Come to Sunday school" or "Jesus loves you!"; and that God made them.

Feel: Thankful (for Jesus, parents and caregivers, and food); feel good about themselves because God made them.

Do: Say "thank you" to God and to people; help Jesus by saying, "Come to Sunday school" and "Jesus loves you!"; thank God for making them.

Use these songs and action rhyme throughout the quarter, along with those specifically mentioned in the units.

Talk to God

(Tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

I can talk to God. *(Fold hands.)*
Yes, I can talk to God.
I know that He is listening. *(Hand to ear.)*
Yes, I can talk to God.

Head and Shoulders

(Tune: "London Bridge")

Head and shoulders, knees and toes;
Knees and toes, knees and toes.
Head and shoulders, knees and toes.
Thank You, God, for making me.

(Point to body parts.)
For Unit 9:
Eyes and ears, nose and mouth;
Nose and mouth, nose and mouth.
Eyes and ears, nose and mouth.
Thank You, God, for making me.

Angry, mad, happy, sad;
Happy, sad, happy, sad.
Angry, mad, happy, sad.
Thank You, God, for making me.

My Eyes, My Ears

My eyes, my ears, my nose, my mouth,
My hands and feet so small.
My arms, my legs, my tummy, my head—
I know God made them all!
(Point to each part of the body as you name it.)
—Sylvia Tester

Clean the Room

(Tune: "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")

Clean, clean, clean the room,
Put our things away.
When everybody does his share,
We have a happy day.

Spring Party Suggestions

March—Music Makers Mayhem

Purpose: To provide a fun time of praise and worship
When: During class time
Activity: Make musical instruments *(see p. 318)*; then go to another class and give a concert
Games: Musical Chairs *(Don't take out chairs for this age.)* Musical Circles *(Children sit in two circles and pass balls while the music plays. When the music stops, the children holding the balls switch circles.)*
Food: Cookies and/or bite-size pieces of fruit
Bible Story: Children praising Jesus or David playing the harp for King Saul

April—Easter Celebration

Purpose: To help children focus on the Easter story
When: During class time
Activity: Play "Hide and Go Seek Jesus." *(Take children from room to room looking for the risen Jesus or go to different corners in your own room. Have an empty "tomb" set up in the last area. "He is not here, He is risen!")* Sing songs and praise God!
Food: Let children decorate cupcakes with frosting and jelly beans.
Craft: Children can make Easter cards by using appropriate stickers *(cross, Jesus, empty tomb, etc.)* and markers or crayons.
Bible Story: The Easter story

May—Mother's Tea

Purpose: To help children do something special for Mom *(or Grandma, Aunt, etc.)*
When: During class time or some other convenient time
Craft: Take instant pictures of moms and children; mount on craft-stick frames decorated by children.
Food: Special cookies and punch *(tea for moms, if you want)*
Game: Dress-up relay *(use purses, shoes, and necklaces large enough to slip over the head)*
Bible Story: Mary and baby Jesus *(Talk about how she would have cared for Him.)*

UNIT 7

Be Thankful

Lessons 27–31

Unit Bible Words
"We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Resources from Standard Publishing
The Little Lost Sheep (04232)
My Story of Jesus (04340)
Jesus and His Friends (04260)
Jesus Lives! The Easter Story (04265)
Thankful Together (04077)
Let's Celebrate Jesus on Easter (04357)
The Best Thing About Easter (04039)
Please and Thank You Coloring Book (22074)
My Story of Jesus Coloring Book (22094)

27 The Lost Sheep

Luke 15:3-7—Jesus tells how important each sheep is and how important each person is to God.

28 One Man Is Thankful

Luke 17:11-19—A man thanks Jesus for healing him.

29 Jesus Is Thankful

Luke 22:7-19—Jesus gives thanks for juice and bread.

30 Thank You, God, for Jesus

Luke 19:29-38—Crowds of people give thanks for Jesus and praise Him.

31 Breakfast with Jesus

Based on John 18–21—Jesus shares breakfast with His friends.

By the End of the Unit, the Children Will

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful for Jesus, caregivers, and food.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Why Teach This Unit to Young Children?

Isn't it every parent's desire for their child to have good manners, including saying "please" and "thank you" to others when appropriate? And isn't it God's desire that His children also have good manners and say thank You to Him when appropriate?

In this unit, you will be helping the children you teach learn that God wants us to be thankful. They will also learn that saying thank you to God and to others is very important. The children will learn to show thankfulness verbally, through art, and through action.

You will find many suggestions for using the Bible words throughout the lessons. Incorporate the Bible words into your conversations and prayers. For example, say: **Look at the pretty flowers, Bethany. "We thank God" for the pretty flowers. I'm so glad we can pray to God whenever we want. "We thank God" that we can talk to Him.**

Have a Bible with the Bible words highlighted or underlined. Keep your classroom Bible in a place in the classroom where the children can see it. Allow the children to handle the classroom Bible and teach them to handle it respectfully.

Things to Do Ahead

- Make copies of the Parents' Letter *(p. 177)*.
- Prepare the Learning Center pages, 178-183, as you wish. You can copy and mount them on cardboard and cover with clear, self-adhesive plastic for durability, or simply copy and cut the pages apart.
- Gather/prepare materials listed on the Learning Center pages.

- For Lesson 27, make copies of the lamb on page 184 and draw 100 circles on a white board or poster board.
- For Lesson 28, make 10 copies of page 185. Cut on lines, fold, and glue on craft sticks as handles.
- For Lesson 29, make visuals of Jesus, the cup, and bread *(see pages 186, 187)*.
- For Lesson 30, make the visual of Jesus on a donkey, and cut coats and palm leaves *(patterns on page 188)*.
- For Lesson 31, copy page 189 and add color. Make a large happy/sad face visual.

Use These Songs and Action Rhymes During Unit 7

Thank You, God

(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

Thank You, God, for Jesus who loves us. *(Clap, clap. Repeat line.)*
Thank You, God, for Jesus. Thank You, God, for Jesus.
Thank You, God, for Jesus who loves us. *(Clap, clap.)*

Thank You, God, for people who love us. *(Stomp, stomp. Repeat line.)*
Thank You, God, for people. Thank You, God for people.
Thank You, God, for people who love us. *(Stomp, stomp.)*

Thank You, God, for food, good food. *("Amen!" Repeat line.)*
Thank You, God, for food. Thank You, God, for food.
Thank You, God, for food, good food. *("Amen!")*

Thank You

(Tune: "London Bridge")

Thank You, God, for Jesus, Jesus, Jesus.
Thank You, God, for Jesus.
We say thank You.
(Fold hands on "thank You"; point upwards on "Jesus.")

We Thank God

We thank God *(fold hands)* for Jesus,
Who loves us *(hug self)*, it is true.
We thank God *(fold hands)* for people,
Who love *(hug self)* both me and you *(point to self and another)*.
We thank God *(fold hands)* for good food,
That we can chew and chew *(pretend to chew)*.
We thank God *(fold hands)* for all these things *(spread arms)*.
We say thanks to You! *(Say together, "Thank You, God!")*

My Bible

This is my Bible;
(Hands held out in front, palms together.)
I'll open it wide,
(Open hands; keep them touching.)
And see (or say) what is written
On the inside! *(Say Bible words together.)*
—Jean Baxendale

I Can

I can stand up straight and tall, *(Do so.)*
I can curl up like a ball.
(Squat with arms around knees.)
I can spread out like a tree,
(Arms high, spread out.)
I can sit down quietly.
(Place finger to lips and then sit down.)
—Dorothy Fay Richards

The Lost Sheep

LESSON 27

Luke 15:3-7

Bible Words: "We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Children will accomplish the goals when they
1. Say the Bible words "We thank God."
2. Pray a thank-You prayer.
3. Sing thank-You songs.
4. In a play situation, say thank you to God and to people.

Let's Get Ready

For the Bible story, you will need copies of the lamb made from the pattern on page 184 for each child and yourself, and a basket or box. You can add cotton balls to the sheep if you wish. You will also need your classroom Bible with the new Bible words highlighted, Zach the puppet, and a white board or piece of poster board with 100 circles drawn on it. If poster board is used, draw the circles in pencil.

Prepare the Family Living Center, the Art Center, and the Book/Picture Center. If you are the only teacher, use just the Family Living Center. Use the activity suggested in the Games Center after the Bible story.

Learning Activities

(30 minutes, including 10 minutes presession)

Let's Get Started

Have Zach greet each child enthusiastically by name. Help children with coats, put on name tags, and place offerings in the container. Encourage the children to choose an activity by suggesting two possibilities, if you are offering more than one activity. Say: **Would you rather draw a picture of yourself or look for pictures of sheep in these books?**

Worship and Bible Story

(15 minutes)

Let's Worship God

Have Zach say, "It's time to put our things away so we can sing and pray to God." As the children gather in your worship/story circle, begin singing "Thank You" *(p. 166)* and "Jesus Loves Me." **Our new Bible words say, "We thank God."** Let a child hold the Bible and "read" the words. Have everyone say them together several times. Do the action rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*. **What are some things you can thank God for?** *(Let children respond; give them ideas as needed.)* **Let's thank God for Jesus.** Pray and ask children to say the prayer after you: **Thank You, God, for Jesus. Amen.**

Let's Learn from the Bible

Introduction: Before class, place the lambs in a covered box or basket. Have Zach say, "There are some lambs missing around here. Can you help me find them?" Let Zach sniff around until he comes to the container where they are. Let Zach call each child by name to come up and choose a lamb to hold during the Bible story. Place one in your Bible. **The Bible tells us that Jesus taught about how important each person is to Him.**

The Bible Story: Have the white board or poster board nearby. **Jesus told a story about a shepherd who had 100 sheep. That is a lot of sheep!** *(Show the circles.)* **One day, one little sheep got lost.** *(Erase one circle.)* **If the shepherd**

Lesson Value: What a beautiful story Jesus tells about the lost sheep that is found. Your children will enjoy the story, even though they will not grasp its deeper meaning. But they can learn that Jesus cares for them and about each person. And that is something they can be thankful for.

Jesus loves and accepts everyone. Do you? A child will know if you do not particularly like him. Go the "second mile" to love that unlovely child. Maybe it's a child from a different ethnic background. Maybe it's a child who has not had much discipline in her life. Maybe it's a child who is mean to others. Guide ALL your children to Christ. Pray for them. The shepherd in the story found a lost sheep. God can work through you to find that lost child.

had 100 and lost only one, he would still have a lot of sheep. Do you think the shepherd worried about that one little sheep? *(Let children respond. Pick up your sheep and stroke it.)*

Of course he did! Even one little sheep is important! Jesus said, "The shepherd left all of these sheep *(point to circles)* **to go after that one little lost sheep." The shepherd found the lost sheep!** *(Replace missing circle.)* **Then the shepherd carried the little sheep home on his shoulders. The shepherd was happy. He had found his one little lost sheep. I'm glad God made shepherds to take care of the sheep.**

Then Jesus said that is how God feels about every person. God loves each person. Each person is very important to Him. God loves *(name each child and yourself).* Pray: **Thank You, God, for loving each of these children and me. Amen.**

Let's Apply the Lesson

Have the children hold up their sheep and count them. **We have __ sheep. Are they all important?** Let children respond. **Would any of you like to lose your sheep?** Have the children stand up and count them. **We have __ children. Are you all important to Jesus? That's right. Each of you is very important to Jesus.**

Who takes care of the sheep? Yes, God made shepherds to take care of the sheep. Who takes care of you? *(Let the children name people—parents, grandparents, other caregivers, doctors, firefighters, etc. Make sure they name Jesus or God.)* **Let's thank God for people who take care of us.** Stand and ask willing children to pray and thank God for parents, doctors, grandparents, etc.

Learning Activities

(20 minutes)

Let's Play and Learn

Have children remain standing and sing "Thank You, God" *(p. 166)*. If possible take the children outside for the Game Center activity. Check your church's security guidelines first. Play several times as children are interested. If time allows and you have several teachers, repeat activities used earlier in the session.

Let's Go Home

Have Zach tell the children it is time to pick up toys. Gather the children in a circle and sing "Head and Shoulders" *(p. 163)* and do the rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*. Make sure each child has his self-portrait from the Art Center as well as a lamb to take home. See that parents get their letters too, as this is the first lesson in this unit. The Parents' Letter is on page 177.

One Man Is Thankful

LESSON 28

Luke 17:11-19

Bible Words: "We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Children will accomplish the goals when they
1. Say the Bible words "We thank God."
2. Pray a thank-You prayer.
3. Sing thank-You songs.
4. Name or point to people who say thank you.

Let's Get Ready

For the Bible story, you will need ten copies of the sick/well man on page 185. Cut out, fold, and glue or tape together with craft sticks in between for handles. You will also need your classroom Bible and Zach the puppet.

For learning activities, prepare the Family Living Center, the Block Center, and God's Wonders Center. If you are the only teacher, use just the Family Living Center. Have materials ready for the Art Center to use after the Bible story.

Learning Activities

(30 minutes, including 10 minutes presession)

Let's Get Started

Use Zach to greet each child by name as she arrives. Help with coats and name tags and allow each to give an offering. Give each child the choice of two centers, if you are offering more than one center, by asking: **Would you rather build some words with blocks or see some things God made that we can be thankful for?**

Worship and Bible Story

(15 minutes)

Let's Worship God

Have Zach tell children it's time to clean up. Zach can sing "Clean the Room" *(p. 163)*. Begin singing as children come to the worship/story circle. Sing "Head and Shoulders" *(p. 163)* and "Thank You" *(p. 166)*. Use the rhyme "My Bible" *(p. 166)* and end with the Bible words. Sing "Talk to God" *(p. 163)*. Ask children what they would like to thank God for and ask several children to pray and thank God for the things that were mentioned. Stand and do the action rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*.

Let's Learn from the Bible

Introduction: Encourage the children to come one at a time and give Zach a pat on the head. Have Zach say "thank you" to each one. Ask the children to hold up their 10 fingers and count out loud: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. **Whenever you hear the word "10," count out loud to 10.** Give each child at least one sick/well man that you made. If you have more than 10 children, have children sit close to a friend and take turns holding the figure.

The Bible Story: **The Bible tells us about 10** *(count)* **men who were sick with leprosy. That means they had sores all over their bodies. Can you show me the 10** *(count)* **men who were sick with leprosy?** *(Ask children to hold up the ten sick men.)* **This sickness made the men feel bad and sad. They hurt and they had to stay away from other people so they did not pass the sickness on. No one wanted to be sick with leprosy.**

One day Jesus was walking near where the 10 *(count)* **sick men lived.**

Lesson Value: One of the first lessons in good manners a young child receives from her parents is, "Say thank you." Probably many children have thought, "Can't they see I'm thankful? I turned three cartwheels when they gave me that gift."

The nine lepers may have felt the same way. They may have thought, "Jesus will know how thankful we are. We are excited that we are healed!" Excitement over the gift, however, is not the same thing as giving thanks to the giver of the gift. Today's Bible story will help you teach young children that it is important to say thank you to others and to God.

They called out, "Jesus, please make us well!"

Jesus said, "Go show the priest. You are well."

The men began to walk to the priest. Can you make your men walk? *(Let children pretend to walk men.)* **When the men had gone a little way, they felt different. They looked at themselves. They were well! All 10** *(count)* **men were well! Turn your men around so we can see the well men. They were so happy. Maybe they jumped up and down for joy. Can you make your men jump? Then 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 of them went on to show themselves to the priest. Let's count to 9.**

May I borrow your man, Emily? *(Hold up the man so the children see the well side.)* **But one man** *(ask children to count to one)* **had something special to do. Do you know what it was? Yes, he went back to say thank You to Jesus for making him well.** *(Return Emily's man.)*

Let's Apply the Lesson

How many men remembered to say thank You? Let children respond. **Can you imagine that! Just one man remembered to say thank You to Jesus! Do you think that man made Jesus happy?**

Which of the 10 men do you want to be like? I want to be like the one man *(count to one)* **not the nine men** *(count to nine).* **Jesus likes for us to say thank You to Him. Who else should we thank?** *(Allow children to name others, such as parents, grandparents, friends, teachers, etc.)* **Saying thank you to these people makes them happy too!**

Learning Activities

(20 minutes)

Let's Play and Learn

Stand and sing "Thank You, God" *(p. 166)*. Then direct children to the Art Center. If your class is large or you have multiple teachers, some teachers can take children back to centers used previously and allow them to repeat activities or try new ones.

Let's Go Home

Have Zach tell children when it's time to clean up. Gather children in a circle. Pass a beanbag or ball of yarn while music is playing. When the music stops, the child holding the beanbag can say the Bible words, "We thank God."

Make sure each child has his thank-you card from the Art Center. Tell parents what the cards are for so they can help their child follow through on this project.

Jesus Is Thankful

LESSON 29

Luke 22:7-19

Bible Words: "We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Children will accomplish the goals when they
1. Say the Bible words "We thank God."
2. Pray a prayer of thanks to God.
3. Name someone or something they are thankful for.
4. In a play situation, say thank you to God and to people.

Let's Get Ready

For the Bible story, you will need a Bible, the visual aid of Jesus *(p. 186)*, the cup and the loaf *(p. 187)*, bread and juice (in cups) for the children, and Zach the puppet.

Prepare the Family Living Center, the Art Center, and God's Wonders Center. If you can have only one center, use the Family Living Center. Have materials ready for the Game Center to use after the Bible story.

Learning Activities

(30 minutes, including 10 minutes presession)

Let's Get Started

Remember to use the words *thank, thanks, thankful,* and *thank you* often during this lesson. Use the words in your conversation and in prayers. Thank the children for the things they do to help—for sharing with someone, for being extra attentive, whatever you notice—but do be genuine about it. Modeling what you want the children to learn is the best way to teach.

Let Zach help you greet each child by name. Help children with coats and name tags and allow them to give their offerings. Give children a choice of activities if you are offering more than one.

Worship and Bible Story

(15 minutes)

Let's Worship God

Give the children a two-minute warning before it is time to clean up. Have Zach sing "Clean the Room" *(p. 163)*. Sing "Thank You" and "Thank You, God" *(p. 166)* as children gather in the worship/story circle. Do the rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*. Ask children to name some things they would like to thank God for. Then pray and thank God for those things. Ask a few children to pray also.

Do the rhyme "My Bible" *(p. 166)*. Open your Bible to today's Bible words and ask a child to hold the Bible and "read" the words. Ask all children to join in saying the words.

Let's Learn from the Bible

Introduction: Have the visual aid of Jesus, the cup, and the loaf ready. Put a piece of bread in (or hold up to) Zach's mouth before showing him to the children. **Zach, what are you eating?** Have Zach continue to eat the bread. **Zach, I asked what you're eating.** Zach says, "It's just a piece of bread. But it sure tastes good." **Zach, time to stop eating. It's time for our Bible story. You're really going to like the story today. There's food in the story!** Put Zach aside.

The Bible Story: **The Bible tells us about many times when Jesus said "thank You" to God. Let me tell you about one of those times.** *(Hold up the Jesus visual.)*

Lesson Value: Today's Bible story tells us how Jesus celebrated the Passover with His disciples and began what we know as the Lord's Supper. Even though your children will not be able to understand the significance of this event, they can understand a small, but important part of this story. Your children can understand that Jesus thanked God for the food He and His friends ate, and for the food He and His friends drank.

Some of the children in your class may come from homes where prayers are not said before meals or are not said on a regular basis. You can help children understand how important it is to tell God thank You for the food He gives us. Remember to pray and thank God before eating any snacks during your class time.

It was a very special night. Jesus and His friends were eating in a special room. Special foods had been prepared. Special prayers had been prayed. Jesus and His friends had spent a lot of time talking to each other.

Near the end of the meal, Jesus stood up. Jesus picked up a cup of juice made from grapes. *(Put cup in hands of Jesus.)* **Jesus said thank You to God for that juice. Then Jesus picked up a piece of bread.** *(Put bread in hand of Jesus.)* **Jesus broke the piece of bread and shared it with His friends. Jesus said thank You to God for the bread too.**

Let's all have some bread and juice too. What do we need to do before we eat the bread? *(Let children respond—thank God.)* Serve some bread to the children. **What do we need to do before we drink some juice?** Serve the juice.

Let's Apply the Lesson

While children eat and drink, ask some questions and let children respond. **Whom did Jesus pray His thank-you prayer to? That's right, Jesus prayed to God. What two things did Jesus say thank You for? Do you say thank You to God for your food before you eat? What do you say?** *(Let children tell you if they can.)* **We can say, "Thank You, God, for this good food."** Ask children to name some favorite foods they could thank God for.

Do you think Jesus was also thankful for His friends who were with Him that special night? Can you name some people you are thankful for? Take time to thank God for the people mentioned.

Learning Activities

(20 minutes)

Let's Play and Learn

Have the children stand and do the action rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*, then begin one of the games suggested for this week on the Game Center page. If you have several teachers and a large class, divide the children into small groups and let them repeat other centers used earlier. Young children love to repeat activities they enjoy!

Let's Go Home

Have Zach tell the children it's time to clean up. Say thank you to children who help clean up. Gather the children and show them the bread baked in the Family Living Center (if you did this activity). Let everyone have a taste of the bread. Sing "Thank You, God" *(p. 166)* and other favorite songs.

As you greet parents with a smile, tell them something good their child did, said, or the way she participated. Positive reinforcement helps children and encourages parents!

Thank You, God, for Jesus

LESSON 30

Luke 19:29-38

Bible Words: "We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Children will accomplish the goals when they
1. Say the Bible words "We thank God."
2. Pray a prayer of thanks for Jesus.
3. Sing thank-You songs.
4. Explore other ways of expressing thanks.

Let's Get Ready

For the Bible story, you will need a Bible, Zach the puppet, the visual aid of Jesus riding on a donkey, and lots of paper palm leaves and pieces of clothing cut from the patterns on page 188.

For the learning activities, set up the Family Living Center, the Block Center, and the Book/Picture Center. Remember to limit your centers to the number of adults you have. If you are the only teacher, use just the Family Living Center. Have materials ready for the Art Center to use after the Bible story.

Learning Activities

(30 minutes, including 10 minutes presession)

Let's Get Started

Have Zach enthusiastically welcome each child by name. **Zach is really glad to see you, Troy. Today we are going to learn about some people who were really glad to see Jesus.** Help children with coats, name tags and their offerings. Invite each child to get involved in a specific learning center.

Worship and Bible Story

(15 minutes)

Let's Worship God

Tell children when it's almost time for them to finish the activities they are working on. This will allow the children to finish their work in an unhurried way. Let Zach sing "Clean the Room" *(p. 163)*. When children have cleaned their area, invite them to your worship/story circle. When the first child arrives, begin singing "Head and Shoulders" *(p. 163)* and "Thank You" *(p. 166)*. Do the action rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*.

Ask a child to hold up the classroom Bible. Show the Bible words "We thank God" and have everyone say them together. **We thank God for Jesus.** Ask the children to say Jesus' name when you pause in the following prayer: **Dear God, we want to thank You for** *(pause—children say "Jesus")*. **We love** *(pause—children say "Jesus")*. **Amen.** Do the rhyme "I Can" *(p. 166)*.

Let's Learn from the Bible

Introduction: Have Zach ask the children, "How many of you have ever waited for someone special to come? Were you excited? How did you show that you were excited?" Give each child a paper palm leaf or a piece of clothing. Make sure you hold one yourself. **I want you to help me tell the story by waving the palm leaves or the pieces of clothing when you hear the name of Jesus.** Put Zach away and have your visual aids and Bible ready.

The Bible Story: Keep your Bible in your lap or in your hand as you tell the Bible story. **The Bible tells us about an exciting day. Jesus** *(wave leaf or clothing)* **was coming to town!**

Lesson Value: Today's Bible story tells of Jesus coming into Jerusalem, just prior to His crucifixion. How appropriate that the people praised Him, even though they probably did not understand what kind of king Jesus really was. Even though the children you teach will not understand the deeper significance of this story, they can learn that it's good to thank God for Jesus and praise Him. Guide your students to want to thank God for Jesus and teach them specific ways to express their thanks to God.

We do not know how people knew Jesus *(wave leaf or clothing)* **was coming. There were no televisions or radios back then. Perhaps someone ran through the crowds and from house to house shouting, "Jesus** *(wave leaf or clothing)* **is coming."**

Many of the people had heard about Jesus *(wave leaf or clothing).* **Many of the people had seen Jesus** *(wave leaf or clothing)* **do wonderful things. Many of the people knew Jesus** *(wave leaf or clothing)* **was very special!**

When Jesus *(wave leaf or clothing)* **passed by** *(place figure of Jesus on the donkey),* **the Bible tells us that the people laid down palm leaves and even their clothing on the road in front of Him to show how special they thought He was.** *(Have children scatter their paper palm leaves and clothes in front of Jesus.)* **The people shouted out, "Hosanna! Hosanna! Praise Jesus! We love Jesus!" What an exciting day it was! Everyone was so thankful for Jesus.**

Let's Apply the Lesson

How did the people show that they were thankful for Jesus on that special day? *(Laid down palm leaves and clothing in front of Him; shouted "Hosanna! Praise Jesus!")* **What are some ways you can show God that you are thankful for Jesus?** *(Accept children's responses and give ideas as needed—praying, singing, coming to church, telling others about Jesus.)*

Learning Activities

(20 minutes)

Let's Play and Learn

Stand and do the rhyme "We Thank God" *(p. 166)*. Direct children to the Art Center. After making flags in the Art Center, have the children hold their flags and wave them gently as they sing "Thank You" *(p. 166)* and other favorite songs about Jesus. If you have a large class and multiple teachers, let children enjoy the activities at the centers used earlier.

Let's Go Home

Have Zach tell children when it's time to clean up. Gather the children in a circle and sing "Thank You, God" *(p. 166)*. Try having a closing prayer circle. Encourage each child to pray, "Thank You, God, for Jesus. Amen." Make sure that each child has his belongings before parents arrive.

Breakfast with Jesus

LESSON 31

Based on John 18–21

Bible Words: "We . . . thank God" (2 Thessalonians 1:3, *NIV*).

Know: That God wants us to be thankful.
Feel: Thankful.
Do: Say thank you to God and to people.

Children will accomplish the goals when they
1. Say the Bible words "We thank God."
2. Pray a prayer of thanks to God.
3. Sing thank-You songs.
4. Tell how they can spend time with Jesus.

Let's Get Ready

For the Bible story, copy the picture from page 189, enlarge if possible, and add color. Draw a large happy face and a large sad face on separate sheets of paper *(or on paper plates).* Glue back-to-back with a ruler in between for a handle. You will also need Zach the puppet and your Bible.

NOTE: Five learning centers have been suggested for this lesson. You may choose to use four at the beginning and one at the end, or use three at the beginning and two at the end. Choose what you think will work best in your situation.

For the learning activities, you will need to prepare the Family Living Center, the Block Center, and the Art Center. If you are the only teacher, use just the Family Living Center now. The God's Wonders Center or the Game Center will be used after the Bible story.

Learning Activities

(30 minutes, including 10 minutes presession)

Let's Get Started

Have Zach help you greet each child by name and tell each child you are glad she came to learn about God and His Son, Jesus. Help children with coats, name tags, and their offerings. Have Zach guide each child to a learning center and see that each child gets involved in an activity.

Worship and Bible Story

(15 minutes)

Let's Worship God

Give the children a two-minute warning before Zach tells them it is time to clean up and go to the worship/story circle. As soon as the first child arrives at the circle, begin singing "Head and Shoulders" *(p. 163)* and "Thank You" *(p. 166).*

Do the action rhyme "My Bible" *(p. 166).* **Our Bible words say, "We thank God."** Show the words in the Bible. Let the children take turns holding the Bible and "reading" the words. Sing "Talk to God" *(p. 163).* Then invite the children to pray after you. *(Pray in short segments.)* **Dear God, thank You for Jesus and for all the good things You give us. Amen.**

Let's Learn from the Bible

Introduction: Have Zach ask the children, "Can you show me a happy face?" *(Let children do so.)* "Can you show me a sad face?" *(Let children do so.)* "Can you put on those faces when your teacher says the words 'happy' and 'sad' during the Bible story?"

The Bible Story: Have your happy/sad face visual, the visual of Jesus and friends, and your Bible ready.

The Bible tells us about some of Jesus' friends. There were a few days when they felt very sad. *(Children should look sad; hold up sad face visual.)*

Lesson Value: Since it is not appropriate to go into the details of Jesus' death with young children, this lesson only briefly mentions it. The lesson then moves quickly from His coming back to life to the breakfast Jesus shares with His followers. Young children will not understand these wonderful events, but then, we adults have a hard time understanding them too! Your children will be able to relate to the happiness Jesus' followers felt when they saw Jesus. Children love to be with friends and family members who love and care about them. Jesus' followers loved being with Jesus, because He loved and cared about them.

Some bad people had killed Jesus. Jesus' friends thought they would feel sad forever. *(Look sad; sad visual.)* **They thought all good times were over.**

One day something happened to make them feel very happy! *(Children should look happy; hold up happy face visual.)* **Jesus came back to life! Some of His friends saw Him. Some of them talked to Him. They were happy and excited!** *(Look happy; happy visual.)* **Jesus was alive!**

Then one morning something very special happened. Some of Jesus' friends had been fishing. When they were done fishing, they saw Jesus on the shore waiting for them. That made them happy. *(Look happy; happy face visual.)* **Jesus had cooked their breakfast on a fire right there by the lake.** *(Show visual of Jesus and friends.)* **Jesus' friends went to Jesus. They ate breakfast with Jesus. They talked with Jesus. They listened to Jesus. They just enjoyed being with Jesus. This made them very happy.** *(Look happy; happy visual.)* **How thankful they must have been for this time to be with their special friend Jesus.**

Let's Apply the Lesson

Give the sad face visual to a child and ask: **Why were Jesus' friends sad?** *(Jesus had died.)* Give the happy face to a child and ask: **What made Jesus' friends happy?** *(Jesus was alive, He cooked them breakfast, they spent time with Jesus.)*

How can we spend time with Jesus? *(Accept answers children give. Guide as needed. We can pray; listen to parents and teachers read about Jesus; go to church and/or Sunday school.)*

Learning Activities

(20 minutes)

Let's Play and Learn

If you did not use one of the learning centers listed at the beginning of the lesson, do so now. Or, do an activity used before that the children particularly enjoyed.

Let's Go Home

Have Zach sing "Clean the Room" *(p. 163)*. Gather the children in a circle and lead them in some of the songs and rhymes used during this unit. Make sure each child has his flower arrangements from the Art Center. **When you see these flowers, remember to give thanks for Jesus and for all the things God gives us.**

Dear Parent

During the next few weeks, your child will be learning about being thankful to God and to other people. Here are the Bible stories we will be using:

- ❖ The Lost Sheep *(Luke 15:3-7)*
- ❖ One Man Is Thankful *(Luke 17:11-19)*
- ❖ Jesus Is Thankful *(Luke 22:7-19)*
- ❖ Thank You, God, for Jesus *(Luke 19:29-38)*
- ❖ Breakfast with Jesus *(based on John 18-21)*

Your child will be participating in these lessons on thankfulness by singing thank-You songs to God, saying thanks to God and other people, saying the Bible words, "We thank God" *(2 Thessalonians 1:3, NIV)*, and in many other ways.

You can reinforce these lessons at home by doing some of the following:

- Watch for opportunities to say thank you to your child for nice things he does for you and others. Also, don't forget to let your child hear you say thank you to others often. Your example is the best way for your child to learn.
- Encourage your child to say thank you to others often, even for small things.
- As you and your child are outside and looking at some of the things God made, don't forget to spontaneously pray, "Thank You, God, for the pretty flowers You made." Invite your child to say a prayer of thanks to God too.
- You may want to visit a zoo or petting zoo with your child. Look at and talk about the fascinating animals God made. Ask your child what his favorite animal is and ask him to thank God for making that animal.
- Let your child say a prayer before meals often. Help her with words as needed, but don't expect her prayer to be "perfect." God must love to hear children pray using their own words of thanks!
- Use this song and rhyme to remind your child to thank God:

Thank You, God

(Tune: "If You're Happy and You Know It")

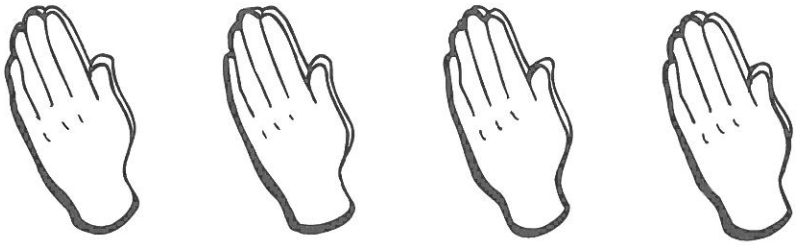
Thank You, God, for *Jesus who loves us. *(Clap hands and repeat.)*
Thank You, God, for *Jesus. Thank You, God, for *Jesus.
Thank You, God, for *Jesus who loves us. *(Clap hands.)*

*People; mommies; daddies, etc.

We Thank God

We thank God *(fold hands)* for Jesus,
Who loves us *(hug self)*, it is true.
We thank God *(fold hands)* for people,
Who love *(hug self)* both me and you *(point to self and another).*
We thank God *(fold hands)* for good food,
That we can chew and chew *(pretend to chew).*
We thank God *(fold hands)* for all these things *(spread arms).*
We say thanks to You! *(Say together, "Thank You God!")*

Your child's teacher,



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Art Center

Purpose: The child will make crafts as reminders to be thankful.

Lesson 27

Items to Include:

- Drawing paper
- Crayons or markers
- Yarn *(optional)*
- Small pieces of fabric *(optional)*
- Glue *(optional)*

Things to Do and Say

Show a sample of a very simple drawing of a child. Encourage children to draw themselves. Help younger children as needed. (Optional: Before class, cut yarn into short pieces and cut small pieces of fabric. Children can glue on yarn for hair and fabric as clothes.) **God made each of us special. We're the same as each other in many ways, and we're different from each other in many ways. That's the way God made us. Each of us is very important to God and to Jesus. We can be thankful for that.**

Lesson 28

Items to Include:

- Construction paper
- Stickers
- Crayons or markers
- Envelopes

Things to Do and Say

Let each child decorate the front of a folded piece of construction paper using stickers and crayons or markers. Write down a dictated thank-you message from the child. Say: **If you will tell me what to write, I will write a thank-you message for you to give to someone.** Give children ideas of whom they could write a message to. Have children put cards into envelopes and you can write a name on the outside.

Lesson 29

Items to Include:

- Paper plates
- Pictures of food cut from magazines
- Glue sticks
- Marker
- Food stickers *(optional)*

Things to Do and Say

Before class, print the words "We thank God" on the outer rim of paper plates and cut lots of pictures of food from magazines. If you have stickers of food, you could provide those also. Allow children to pick out pictures of food and glue onto their paper plates. Read together the Bible words written on the plates. As children work, ask: **What are some of your favorite foods? Do you remember to thank God for food before you eat? Did you know Jesus thanked God for food before He ate?**

Lesson 30

Items to Include:

- White fabric or heavy paper
- Short dowel rods
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers
- Glue or strong tape

Things to Do and Say

Before class, make flags by cutting white fabric or heavy paper into 8" x 11" pieces. Let children decorate with crayons, markers or stickers. Glue or tape the flags to the dowel rods. **In our Bible story, people probably waved palm leaves as Jesus passed by them. They were happy to see Jesus. Today we might wave welcome flags.**

Lesson 31

Items to Include:

- Artificial flowers
- Praying hands *(p. 187)*
- Crayons or markers
- Transparent tape
- Drinking straws
- Small containers

Things to Do and Say

Before class, use the pattern on page 187 to copy and cut a pair of praying hands for each child. Let children color and then tape the hands on straws. Allow each child to arrange some of the flowers and the praying hands in a small container as a love gift to someone. As the children arrange their flowers, help them decide to whom they will give them.

The pretty spring flowers remind me that God made Jesus alive again. How happy His friends must have been! They loved Jesus very much. It's nice to give gifts of flowers to people we love.

GAME CENTER

Purpose: The child will say thank You to God in play situations.

LESSON 27

Items to Include:

- Toy lambs or pictures of lambs

Things to Do and Say

Before class, hide one lamb or picture of a lamb per child. Tell each child to find a lamb and come back to you. Talk about how each lamb is different. **A good shepherd knows about each of his sheep. And each sheep is special. God knows about each one of us, and we are all special to Him. I'm so glad He loves each one of us! Thank You, God, for loving us. Let's all say that together softly—"Thank You, God, for loving us!" Now let's say it loudly.** If children are interested, hide the lambs and play again.

LESSON 29

Items to Include:

- Basket
- Fresh fruits and/or vegetables
- Canned foods

Things to Do and Say

Place an empty basket in the middle of the floor. Have the children form a circle around it. Ask them to pass an apple from one to another around the circle while singing the following words to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Thank You, God, for apples. *(Repeat.)*
Thank You, thank You, thank You.
Thank You, God, for apples.

When the song is finished, let the child holding the apple place it in the basket. Give children another piece of fruit or a vegetable to pass and sing the song again. Make sure the fruits and vegetables you use are fairly hard.

You may also want to play this game. Hide several cans of food around the room. Let the children find them and bring them back to the basket. **You have found a lot of good food. Let's see what you have found.** Talk about the different kinds of foods. Ask children to tell you what foods they like. **In our Bible story, Jesus thanked God for food. Let's do that now. Thank You, God, for so many good foods.**

LESSON 31

Items to Include:

- Sack
- Objects
- Pictures

Things to Do and Say

Fill a sack with lots of objects and pictures of things and people *(parents, grandparents, friends, church, school, toys, food, etc.)* the children can be thankful for. Let each child walk to the sack and draw out one object or picture. Ask each child to say, "We thank God for _____ (name of object or picture)." If the children are able to have a second turn, they may be able to say this alone.

Book/Picture Center

Purpose: The child will learn through the use of books and pictures to express her thankfulness for Jesus.

Lesson 27

Items to Include:

- Books with pictures of sheep
- Pictures of sheep
- Bookmarks

Things to Do and Say

Tell the children to look at pictures of sheep and/or find pictures of sheep in books and mark them with bookmarks. Encourage children to look at the sheep and tell you about them *(what they look like, what they eat, etc.).* Say: **Sheep need a shepherd to care for them. Who cares for you?** *(Mommies, daddies, grandparents, etc., and Jesus.)* **Jesus loves each one of us. We are all special to Him! We thank God for Jesus.**

Lesson 30

Items to Include:

- Books and pictures of Jesus' life

Things to Do and Say

If your books and pictures about Jesus include the triumphal entry, mark these with bookmarks. Let the children discover these pictures. Ask: **How do the people look in the pictures? Do they look happy? Do they look excited? What do they have in their hands?** *(Palm leaves.)* **These people were glad to see Jesus. They must have thanked God for Jesus. We thank God for Jesus too!**

If your picture books about Jesus do not include the triumphal entry, look at other pictures of people and children who went to see Jesus because they loved Him, or point out how much Jesus loved the people who were His friends, etc. **These people look happy to see Jesus. They must have thanked God for Jesus. We thank God for Jesus too!**

Family Living Center

Purpose: The child will have opportunities to say thank you to God or to people in play situations.

Lesson 27

Items to Include:

- Photos of children with their families
- Home-living equipment
- Drawing paper
- Crayons or markers

Things to Do and Say

Before class, contact each child's family and ask for a framed *(if possible)* photo of the child with his family. Let the children arrange the photos around the Family Living Center. For new children or those children whose parents forget to bring a photo, let them draw pictures of their families and display them also. Talk to each child about his family. Say: **Jesus cares for each of us in many ways. He has given us families who care for us.** Help each child to say, "Thank You, God, for my family," while looking at the family photos.

Lesson 28

Items to Include:

- Play food
- Small serving trays *(optional)*

Things to Do and Say

Demonstrate to the children good manners and times they can say thank you to others. **Let me show you how to pass a tray of cookies.** *(Do so.)* **When someone passes you the cookies, you say, "Thank you." When someone cooks you a hamburger, you say, "Thank you." Jesus likes for us to say thank you to people when they do something nice for us.**

Lesson 29

Items to Include:

- Flour, oil, water
- Shallow baking pan
- Bowl, spoon
- Toaster oven *(optional)*
- Loaf of bread

Things to Do and Say

Let the children help you mix 1 c. flour, 2 tbsp. oil, and 6 tbsp. water to make flat bread. Help them place this in a shallow baking pan. If possible, bake the bread in a toaster oven so the children can see and smell it. Make sure the children can't reach the oven! Or, have someone take it to the church kitchen to bake.

Show the loaf of bread you brought. **Would you be thankful if this were your dinner? Jesus was. The Bible says Jesus thanked God for bread before He ate it. Jesus was thankful for all the food God had made. Let's say thank You to God before we eat this bread.** Give each child a piece of bread. The bread that is baking can be tasted just before the children go home.

Lesson 30

Items to Include:

- Doll babies, clothes, blankets
- Picture of Jesus on a donkey *(optional)*

Things to Do and Say

Encourage the children to get their babies ready to go see Jesus. **In our Bible story, many people met Jesus as He rode into town on a donkey. They were glad to see Jesus. Let's play like Jesus is coming to our town and get our doll babies ready to go greet Him. We love Jesus. He loves us too!** If possible, have a picture of Jesus riding on a donkey. Lead the children to say, "We love you, Jesus! Thank You, God, for Jesus."

Lesson 31

Items to Include:

- Home-living equipment, including play food, cups, and dishes

Things to Do and Say

I want you to look for ways to show love for your friends here in our class. You may need to demonstrate or suggest some ways, such as taking someone a cup of tea, giving someone a piece of fruit, sharing a toy, or giving someone a hug. Help each child do at least one nice thing for someone else. Guide each child to say thank you to anyone who does something nice for him.

Block Center

Purpose: The child will have opportunities to say thank you to God and to people in play situations.

Lesson 28

Items to Include:

- Large cardboard or wooden blocks
- Long piece of paper
- Marker

Things to Do and Say

Before class, outline the words THANK YOU in large block letters on a sheet of long paper. Tell the children what the letters say. **Tony, can you help me put blocks on the words "thank you"?**

Each time a block is put on a letter say, "Thank you." Encourage children to also say, "Thank you." **Leah, who can you say thank you to?** *(Give ideas as needed— parents, friends, teachers, etc.)*

Lesson 30

Items to Include:

- Large cardboard or wooden blocks
- Picture of Jesus on a donkey *(p. 188)*
- Palm branches *(p. 188)*
- Green construction paper
- Large-size gelatin box
- Glue or tape
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Things to Do and Say

Before class, cut construction paper palm branches from the pattern on page 188. Follow the instructions on page 188 to make the visual aid of Jesus on a donkey.

Encourage children to construct a road with large blocks and let them "walk" the visual down the road as they put the palm branches on the road.

The people in our Bible story laid palm branches on the road in front of Jesus to show that they loved Him. Maybe they said, "Thank You, God, for Jesus." Let's say thank You to God for Jesus as we put our palm branches on the road.

Lesson 31

Items to Include:

- Large cardboard or wooden blocks
- Paper fish *(p. 187)*
- Scissors

Things to Do and Say

Before class, cut out lots of paper fish from p. 187. Show children how to build a campfire with blocks. You could put blocks in a large circle and then stack some blocks in the middle for the fire. Ask children to sit inside the large circle of blocks. Give them paper fish to "cook" on the campfire.

Jesus met with His friends and cooked fish on a fire for them. Jesus' friends were very happy to see Him! They were thankful that Jesus was alive!

God's Wonders Center

Purpose: The child will feel thankful for some of God's wonders.

Lesson 28

Items to Include:

- Basket of nature items *(shell, pinecone, leaf, flower, etc.)*

Things to Do and Say

Before class, put several nature items into a basket. Ask children to sit in a circle. Remove one item at a time from the basket and ask children what the item is. Have them pass it around the circle and carefully look at it. As they do, sing these words to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat." Repeat the song for each item. Encourage children to sing too.

Thank You, thank You, God.
Thank You, thank You, God.
Thank You for the _____.
Thank You, thank You, God.

Lesson 29

Items to Include:

- A few different types of grapes
- Grape juice and cups
- Napkins

Things to Do and Say

Invite children to look at the different types of grapes and tell you their different colors. Ask: **How do you think the green grapes will taste?** *(Let children respond.)* Then let children taste the green grapes. Do this for all the grapes you have.

The Bible tells us that Jesus gave thanks for the juice that comes from grapes. Before we drink some grape juice, we need to give thanks to God. Who would like to pray and thank God for our juice? Let one or more children pray. Then let children enjoy some grape juice.

Lesson 31

Items to Include:

- Nature items *(if staying inside)*

Things to Do and Say

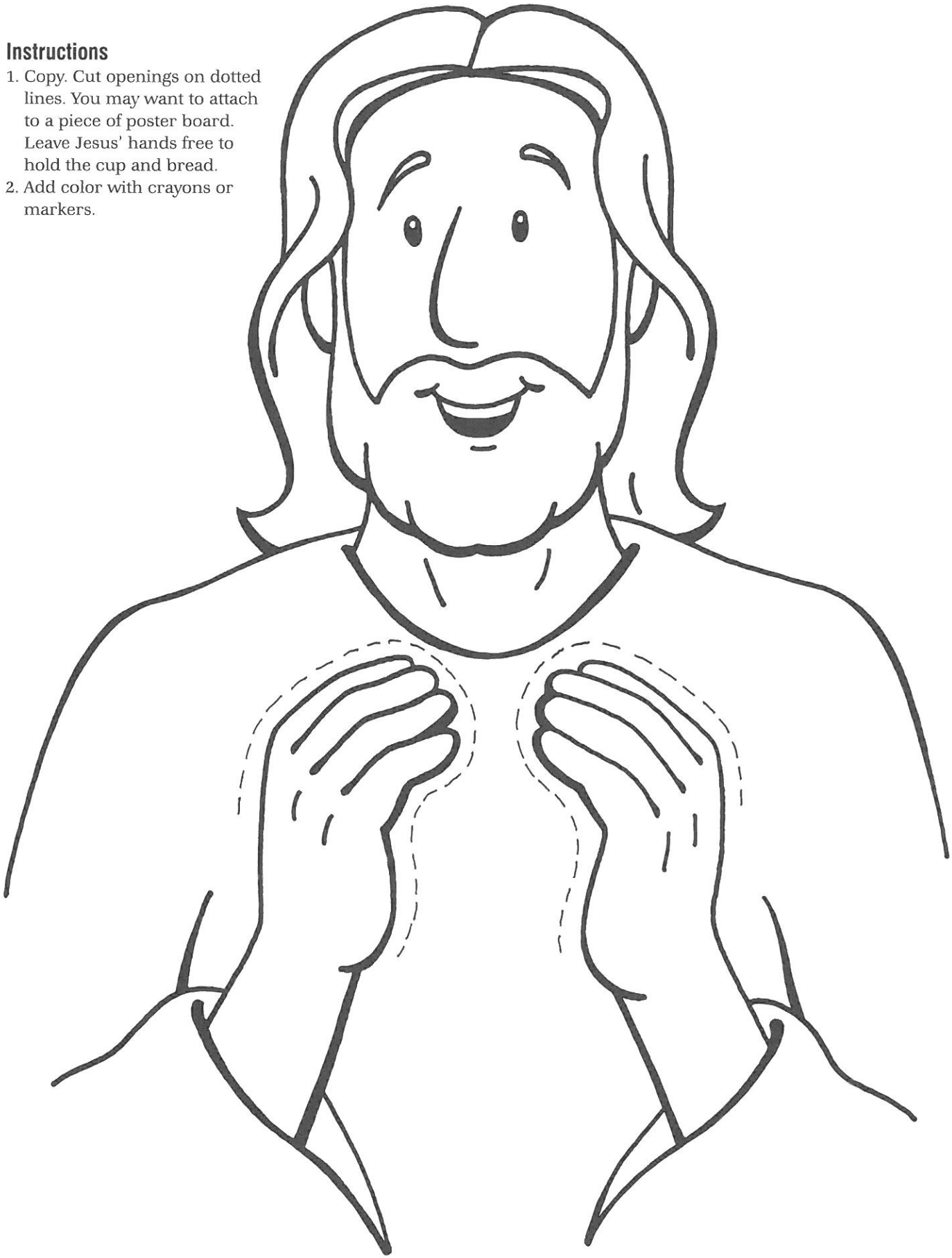
Take the children outside. You may want to have children hold onto a walking rope. Make sure you have plenty of adults to keep the children safe. Check your church's security guidelines before going outside.

God's world is so beautiful! Let's be quiet and listen. After a minute, ask: **What did you hear?** *(Let children respond to questions.)* **A bird? Thank You, God, for birds that sing.** Thank God for other things children mention. **Touch the grass. How does it feel? Thank You, God, for soft grass. Close your eyes and take a deep breath. What do you smell? Thank You, God, for flowers that smell good.**

If you must stay indoors, have a variety of nature items for children to look at, feel, smell, touch, and listen to *(a seashell or a tape of birds singing, for example).* Encourage the children to thank God for each item.

Instructions

1. Copy. Cut openings on dotted lines. You may want to attach to a piece of poster board. Leave Jesus' hands free to hold the cup and bread.
2. Add color with crayons or markers.



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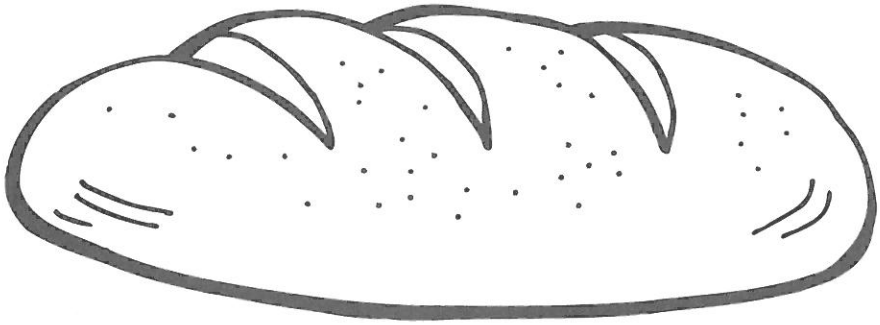
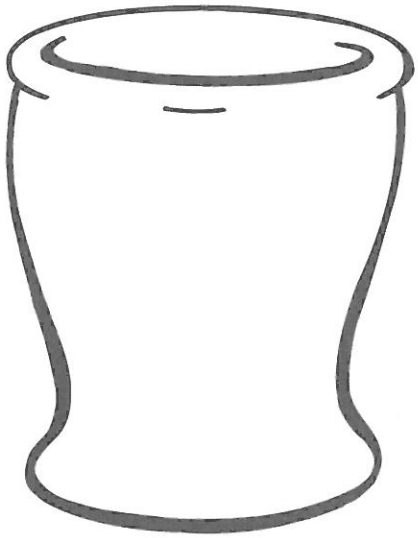
Quarter 3, Unit 7—Lesson 29 Visual

Make one copy of the loaf and cup and cut out.

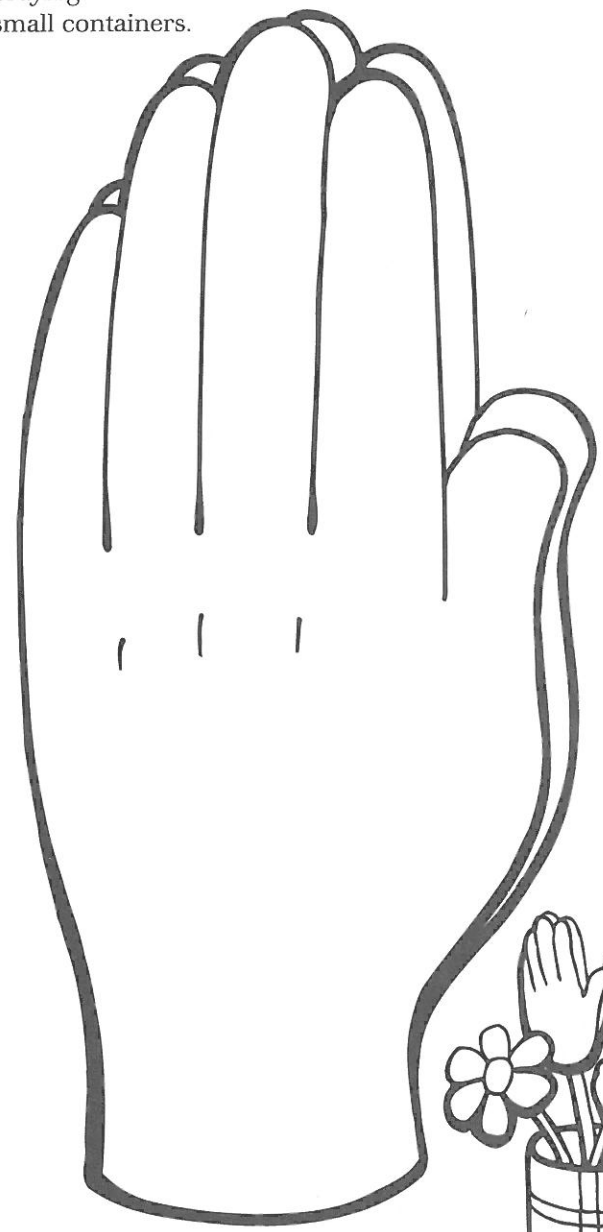


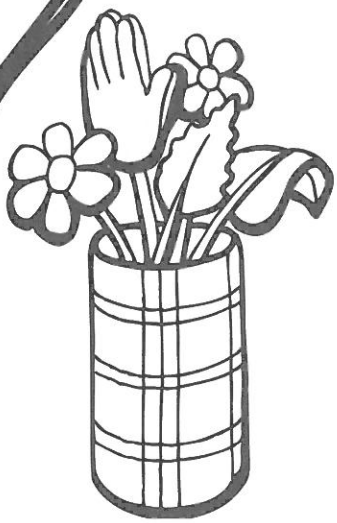


Quarter 3, Unit 7—Lesson 31 Art Center

Instructions

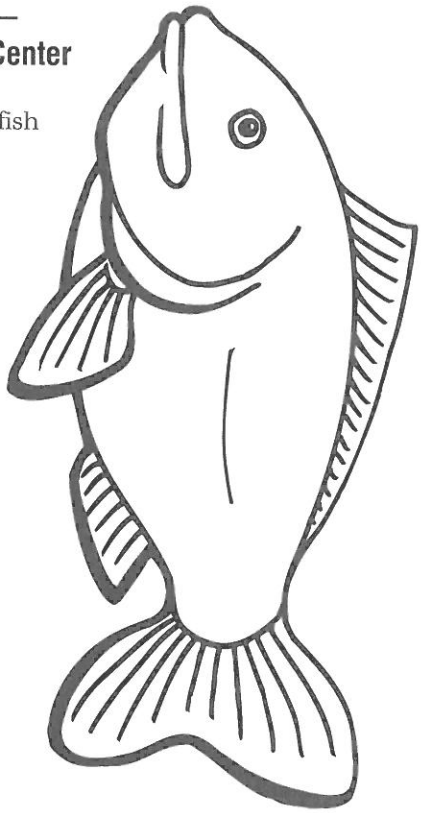
1. Use the pattern to copy and cut a pair of praying hands for each child.
2. Children can color and tape on straws.
3. Children will arrange some flowers and the praying hands in small containers.





Quarter 3, Unit 7—Lesson 31 Block Center

Make copies of the fish and cut out.



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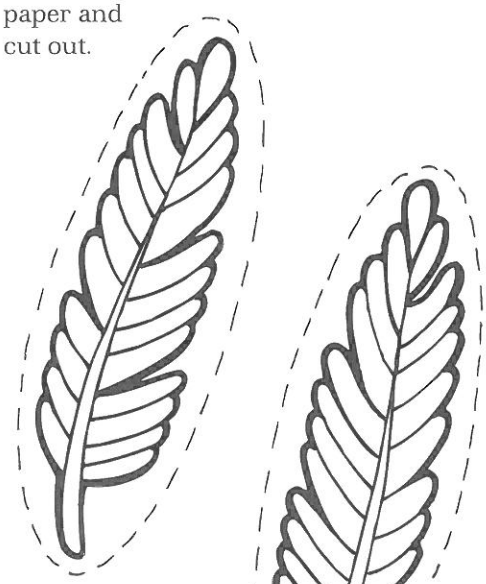
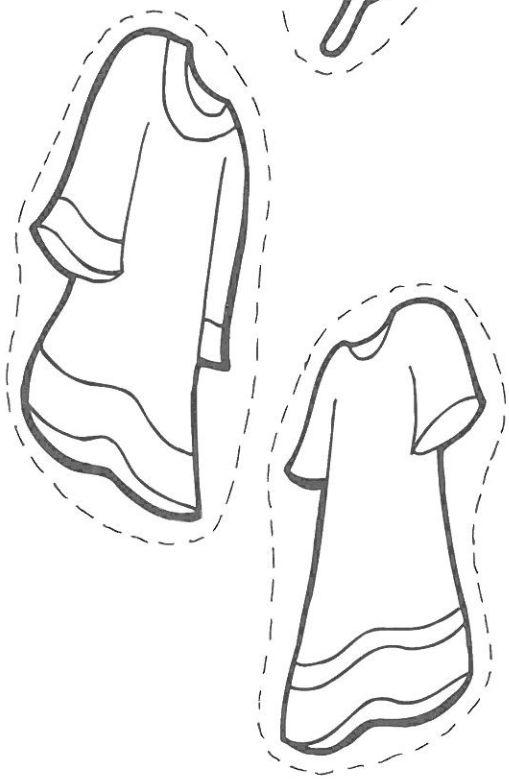
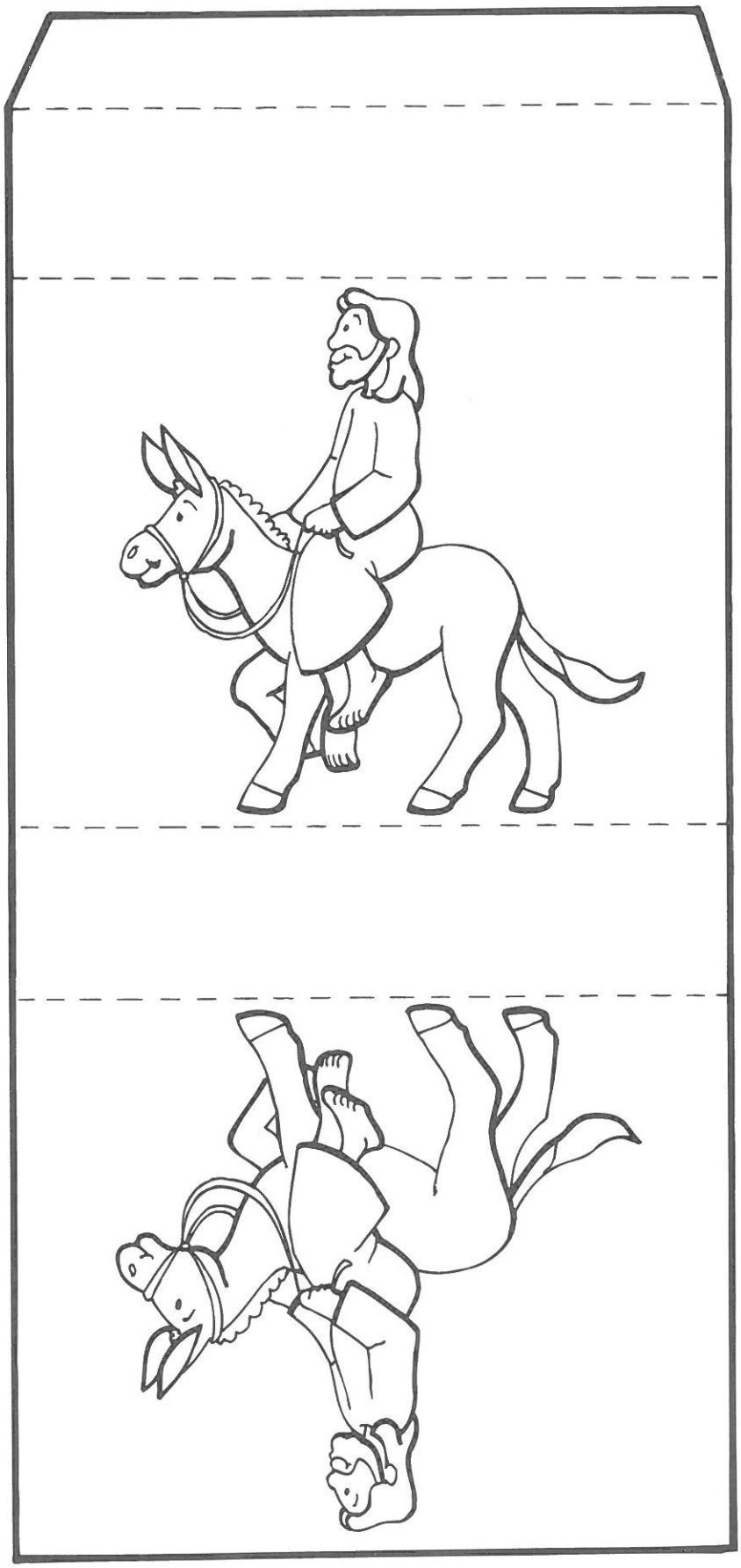
Instructions

1. Copy the visual of Jesus on a donkey.
2. Add color with crayons or markers.
3. Cut out on solid lines. *(Optional: Cover with clear, self-adhesive plastic.)*
4. Fold on dotted lines; glue or tape onto a large-size gelatin box.
5. For the Bible story, you may want to enlarge the picture and place it on a larger box.
6. Make several copies of the palm branches and clothes. Add color or copy on colored paper and cut out.







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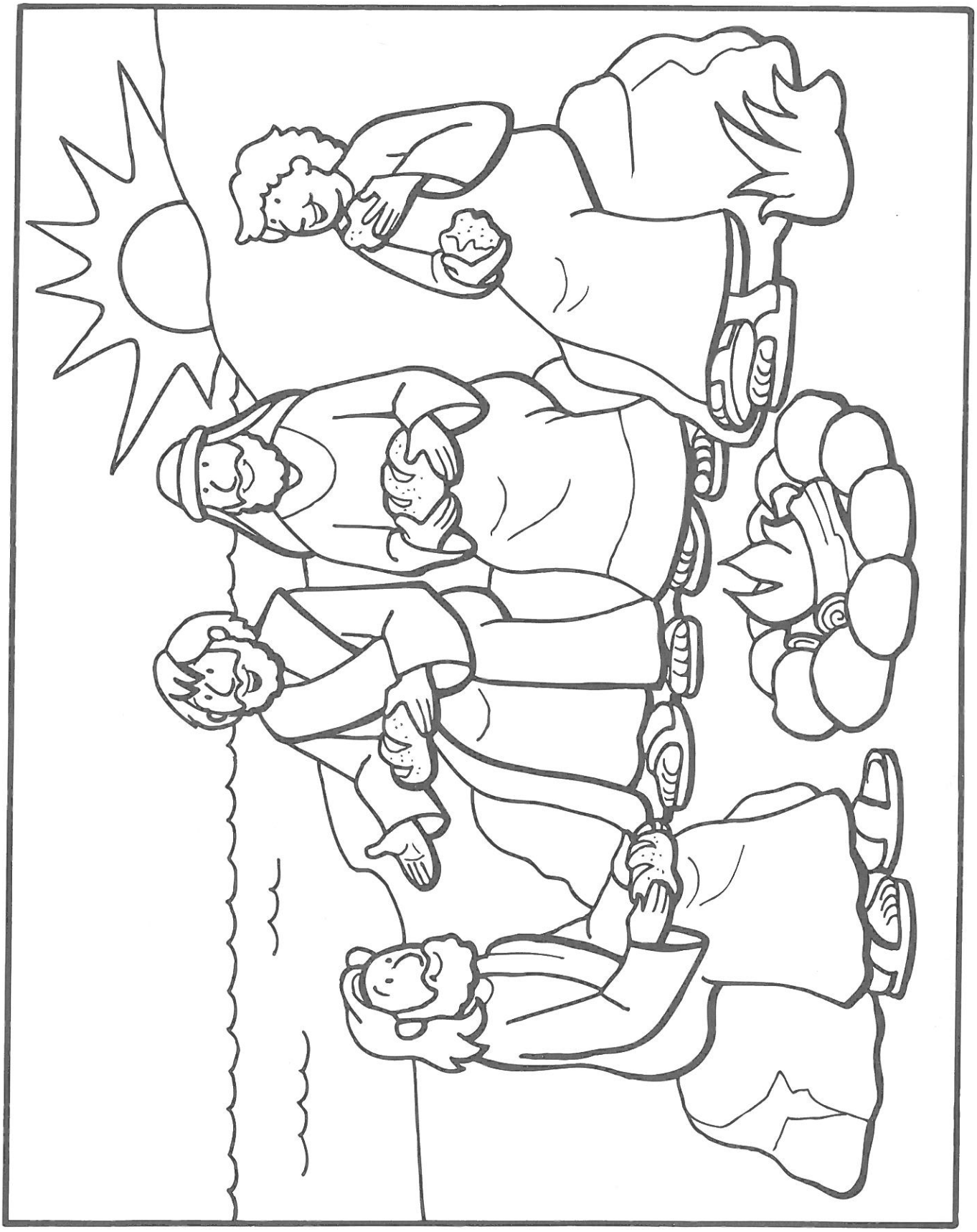
Instructions

1. For the Bible story, copy and enlarge *(if possible)* and add color.
2. For the optional coloring picture, copy for each child. Children can color in class or take home to color.



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UNIT 8

Help Jesus

Lessons 32–35

Unit Bible Words
"Work . . . for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23, *NIV*).

Resources from Standard Publishing
Good Habits for God's Kids: TV Time-Out (04341)
Good Job, Rob! (04331)
Keep Trying, Travis! (04310)
Thru-the-Bible Coloring Pages for Ages 2-4 (02405)
Tips for Teachers—Early Childhood (03157)

32 Andrew Is a Helper

John 1:40-42—Andrew is a helper when he takes his brother to meet Jesus.

33 Paul and Timothy Are Helpers

Acts 16:1-5—Paul asks Timothy to help him tell the good news to others.

34 Paul and Timothy Help Lydia

Acts 16:11-15—Paul and Timothy share the good news with Lydia and her family.

35 I Can Help

Review of Lessons 32–34

By the End of the Unit, the Children Will

Know: That we help Jesus when we say "Come to church," or "Jesus loves you!"
Feel: Eager to be a helper for Jesus.
Do: Say "Come to church," and "Jesus loves you!"

Why Teach This Unit to Young Children?

Young children can be good helpers and usually enjoy helping. They can help pick up toys, feed an animal, set the table, and help with other jobs around the house. Children learn that it feels good to work. That's the way God made us.

This unit of lessons will help children know that they can also be helpers for Jesus. They will learn that telling others "Come to church" and "Jesus loves you!" are ways in which they can be helpers for Jesus. They will learn that it feels good to work for Jesus. That's the way God made us.

Set the example for the children you teach. Enjoy your work for Jesus as you teach children. Work hard at it and give it your best. Tell children often that Jesus loves them. Invite a friend to come to church with you.

The Bible words should be used over and over—in your conversation, in the Bible stories, at the learning centers, and in your prayers. For example: **Let's work for the Lord and put away our toys! We work for the Lord when we sing about Jesus!**

Have a Bible with the Bible words highlighted or underlined. Keep your classroom Bible in a place in your room where the children can see it. Allow the children to handle the classroom Bible and teach them to handle it respectfully.

Things to Do Ahead

- Make copies of the Parents' Letter *(p. 200)*.
- Prepare the Learning Center pages, 201-206, as you wish. You can copy and mount them on cardboard and cover with clear, self-adhesive plastic for durability, or simply copy and cut the pages apart.
- Gather/prepare materials listed on the Learning Center pages.
- Make lunch-sack puppets of Andrew, Peter, Paul, Timothy and Lydia *(pp. 207-211)*.