

Beginner

Bible Study Guide

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Beginner Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

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Year A, Fourth Quarter

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Special thanks to . . .

Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner**, of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University, for initial work in planning the GraceLink curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the GraceLink project and seeing it to completion.

Contents

SERVICE: We serve Jesus when we care for others.

1. Jesus Heals a Little Girl (October) 7

GRACE: God brings His love to us.

2. The Good Shepherd (November) 25

WORSHIP: We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.

3. Baby Jesus Is Born (December) 43

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when needs are met.
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lisp His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

A Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

Change is coming!

Starting the first quarter of 2015 the GraceLink curriculum is getting a major update. Here's what you can expect:

- Your child can study the lesson first at home and then review it on Sabbath. *We've looked at study patterns and recognize that this method continues to work well around the world.*
- Your child will be encouraged to remember scriptures as they build their relationship with God. *This will be done by learning the memory verse, which they will be given an opportunity to recite in Sabbath School.*
- Your child will learn to enjoy sharing God's love. *An opportunity will be provided for them to express in Sabbath School their experiences in sharing with others.*

But as much as we're updating, we know the value of what has worked so far. We're still going to have child-friendly and age-appropriate graphics, a message for each lesson, creative activities that apply to all learning styles, and an active and interactive approach to conducting Sabbath School.

We pray that all the updates and the continuing features will provide support as your young ones continue to grow in Jesus and in His grace.

E-mail us at www.gracelink.net.

**With Affection,
The Editors**

REFERENCES: MARK 5:21-43; LUKE 8:40-56; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 342-348.

Jesus Heals A Little Girl

Memory Verse:

"I pray . . . that your health is good." ³ JOHN 2, ICB.

The Message:

We can care for others.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child
Know that we serve God when we are kind to people who are sick or sad.

Feel sympathy for those who are sick.

Respond by cheering up and praying for sick people.

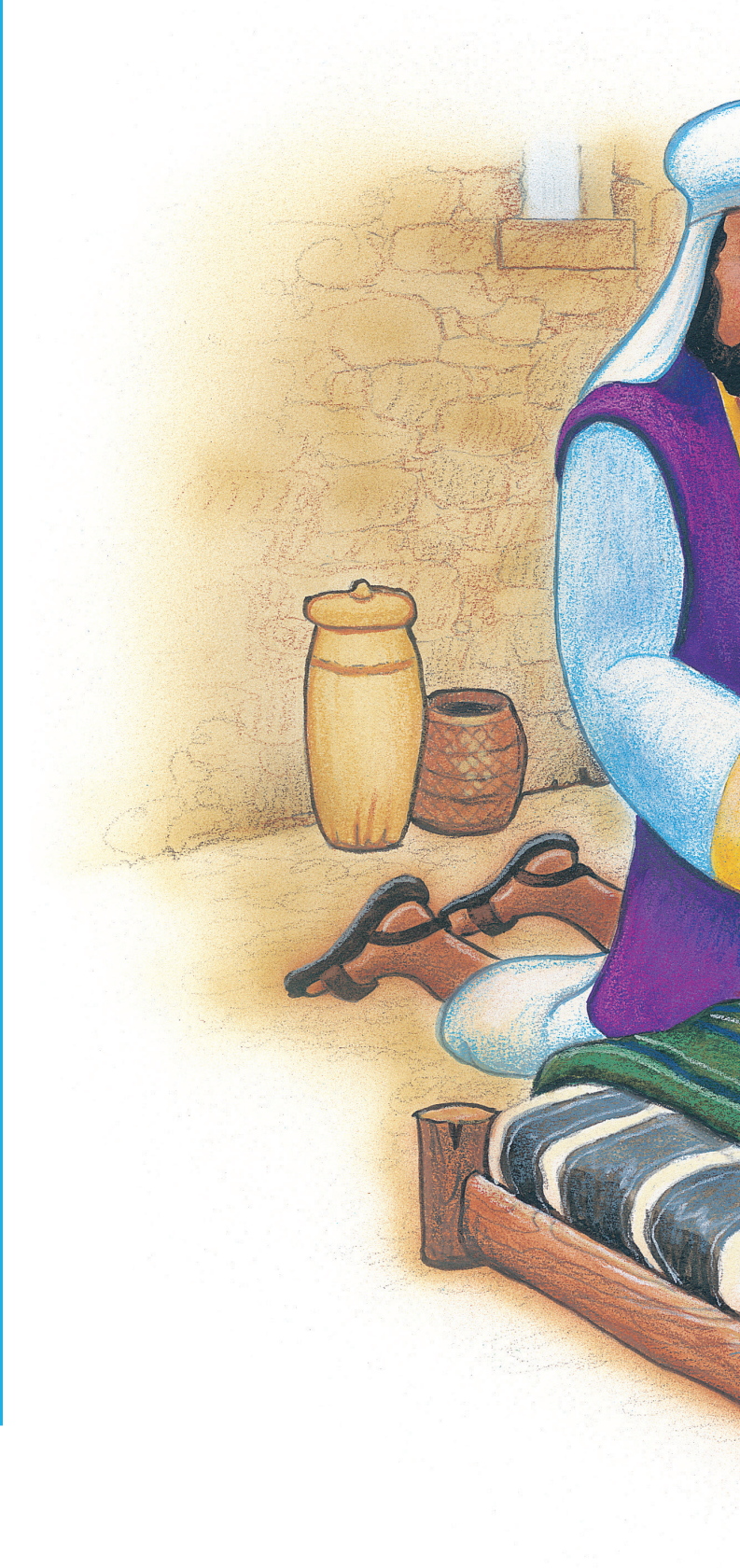
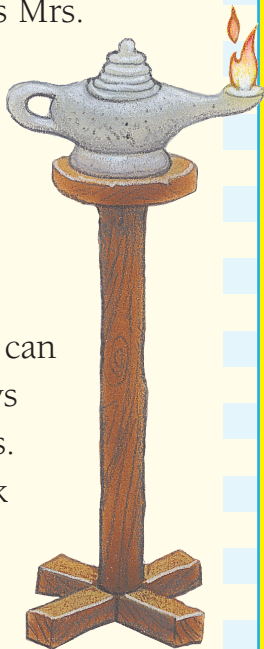


*Have you ever been really sick? Jesus cares when you are sick.
The Bible tells about a time Jesus made a sick girl well.*

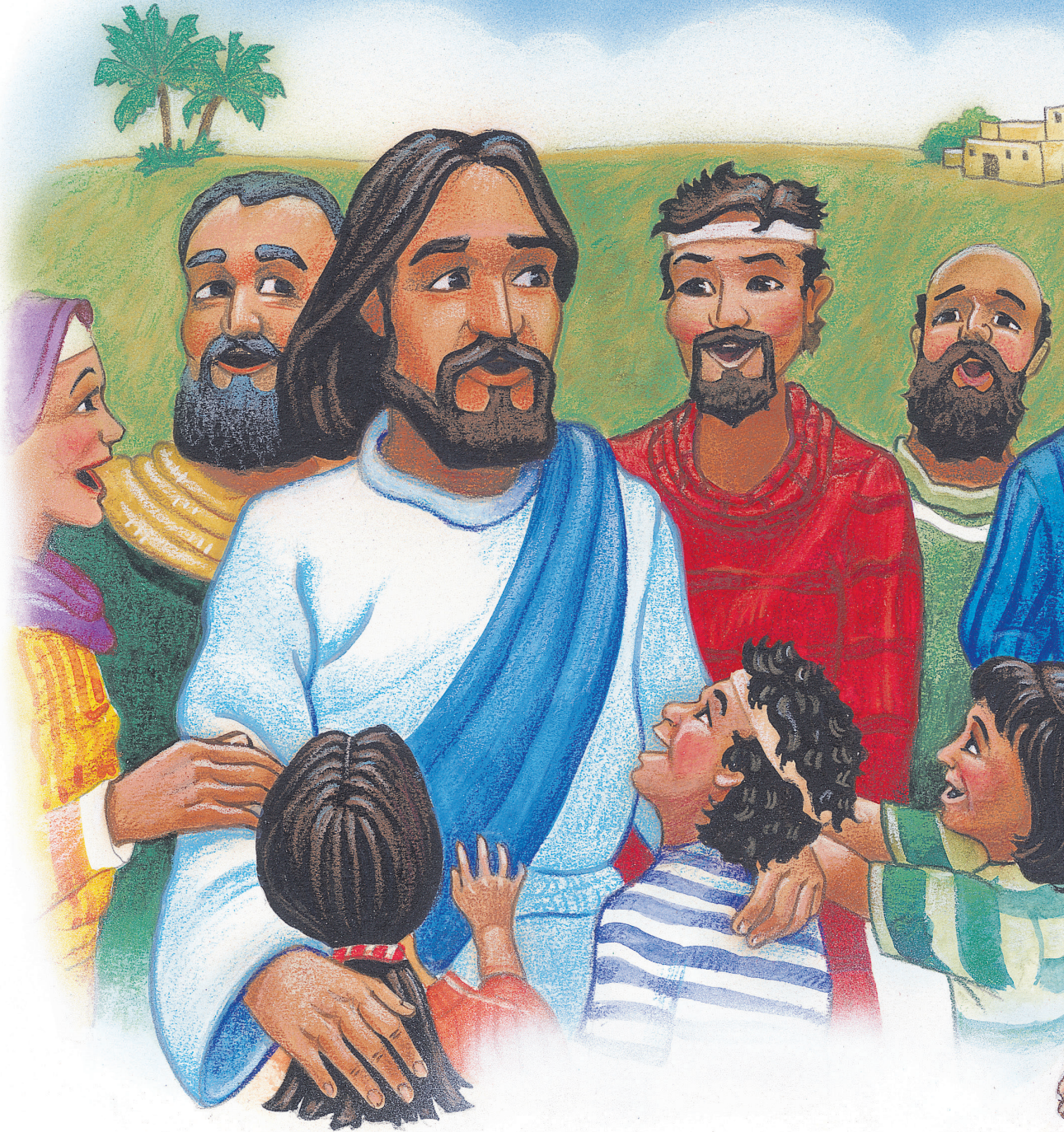
See Mrs. Jairus.
(Point to woman.) Boohoo!
(Pretend to cry.) See
Mrs. Jairus. (Point to woman.) She is sad.
See Mr. Jairus. (Point to Jairus.) He
is sad too. They
are worried. Their
daughter is very sick.

“Who can help
her?” asks Mrs.
Jairus.
“We
must get
help or
she
will die.”

“Jesus can
help,” says
Mr. Jairus.
“I will ask
Jesus
to help
her.”









See Jesus. (*Point to Jesus.*) Everyone wants to be with Jesus. Jesus smiles at the people. He smiles at the children. (*Point to the children.*) Jesus sees Mr. Jairus coming through the crowd. (*Point to Jairus.*) Jesus smiles at him, too.

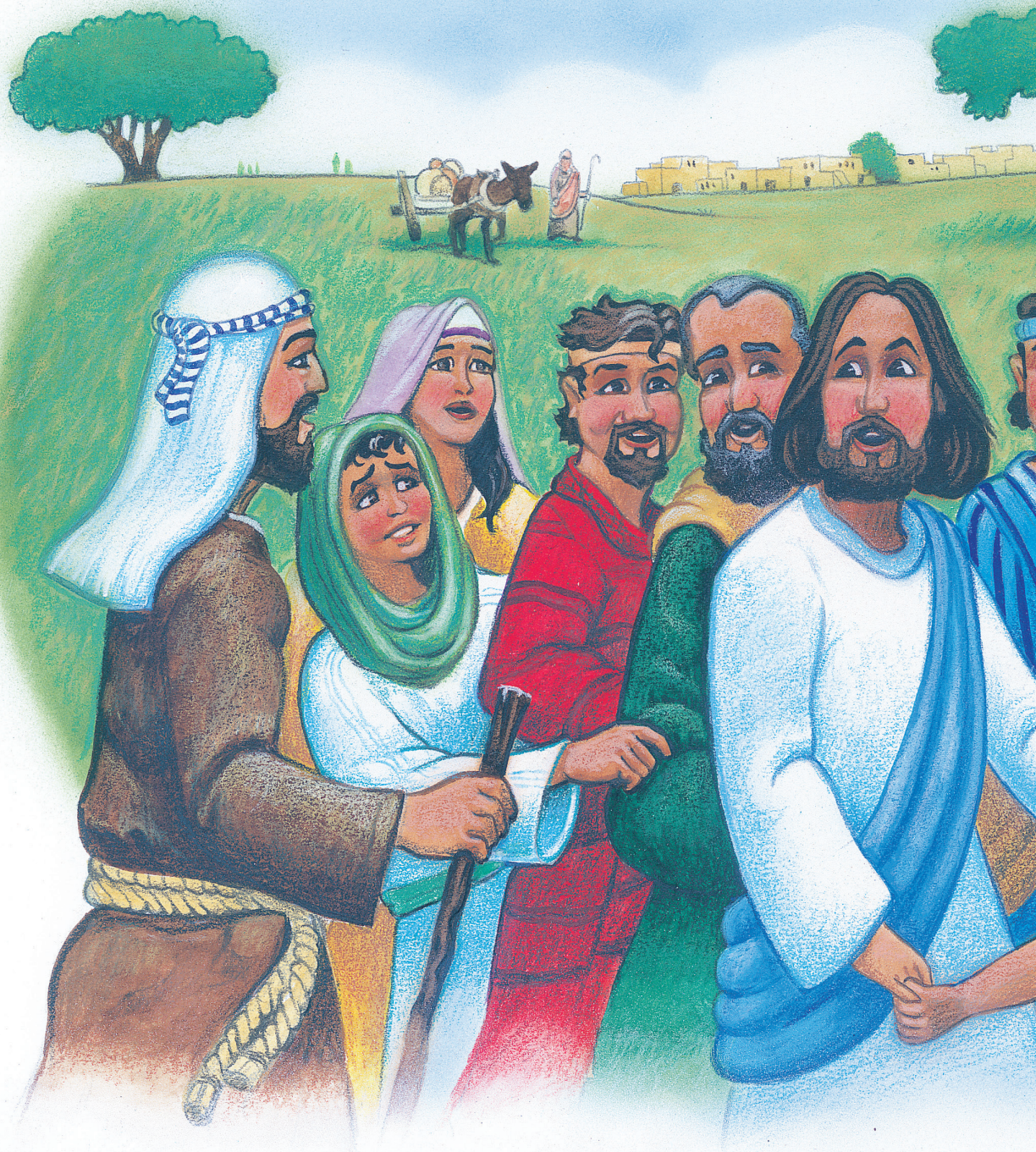


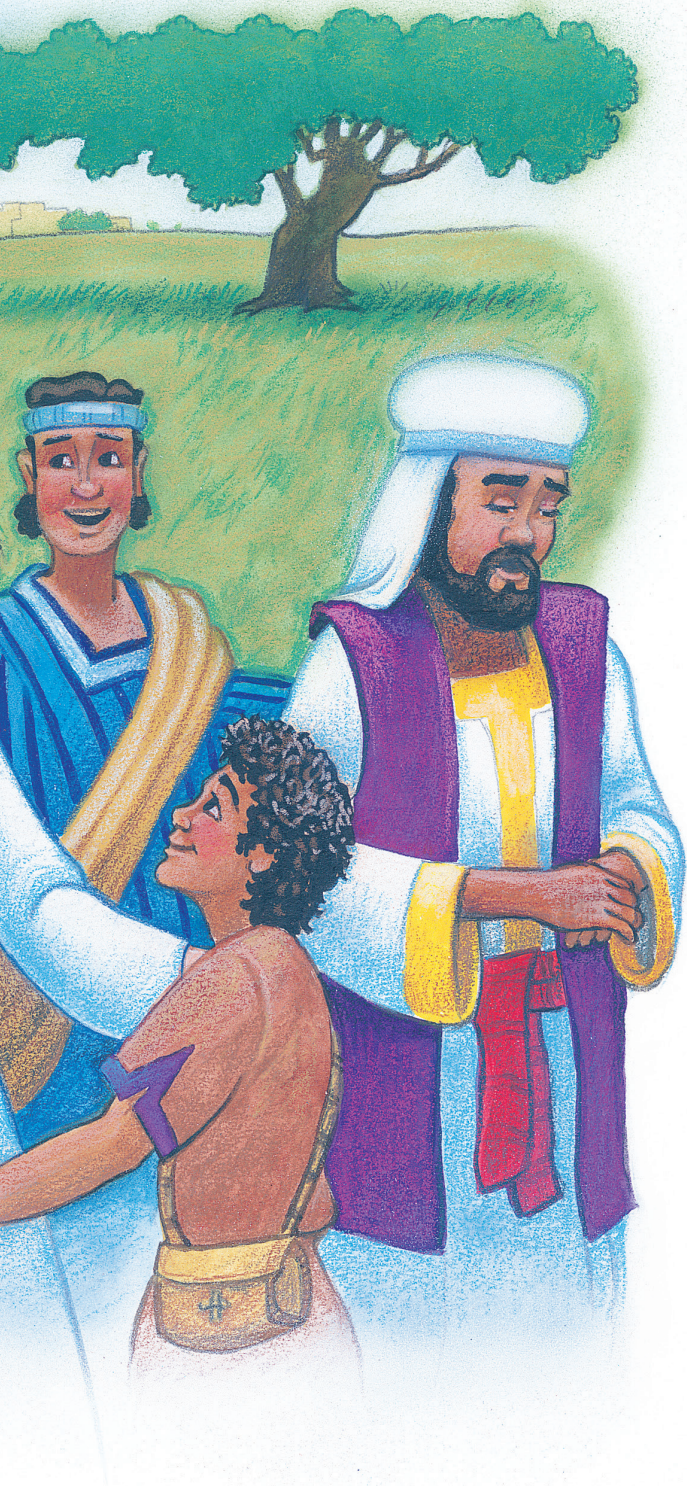
Jesus, please
come to my
house,” Mr. Jairus
begs. *(Point to Jairus.)*
“Please come and heal
my little girl. She is
very sick.”

Shh! The people
stop talking. Shh!
The people listen.
(Cup hand to ear.)
Will Jesus go?









A sick woman
needs Jesus.

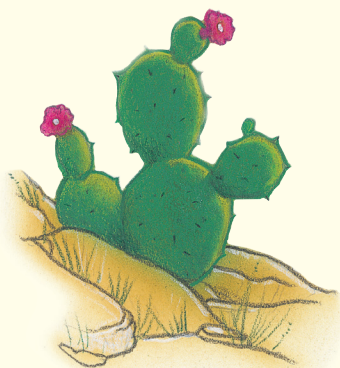
*(Point to the woman
trying to touch Jesus'
clothing.)* The sick
woman touches His
coat.

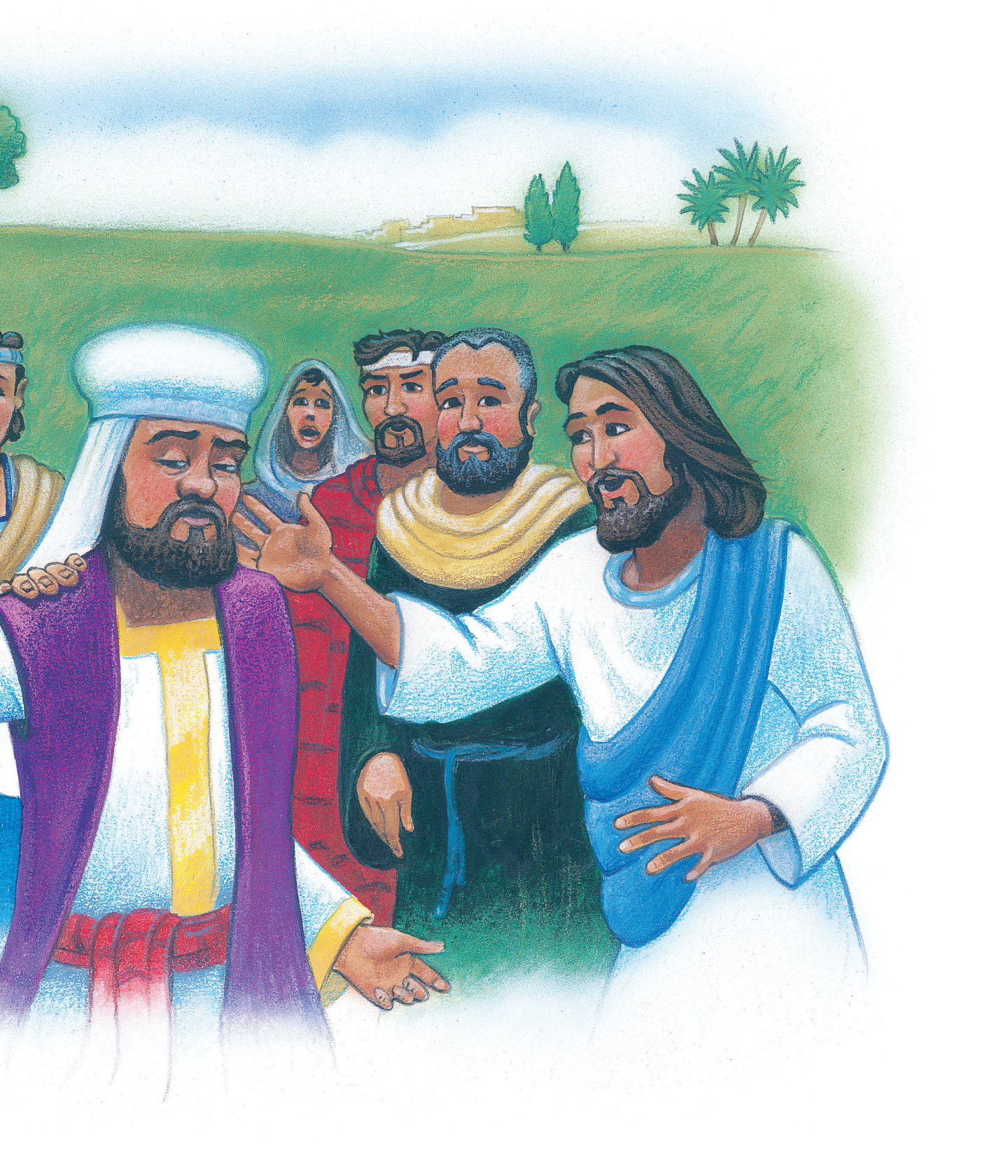
Jesus stops to
find out who touched
Him. The woman
comes and tells Him
that she did. Jesus
tells her that she has
been healed and that
she should go in
peace.

Poor Jairus! He
just waits. And waits.
And waits.

Mr. Jairus,
sir, come
home,” his servant
says. *(Point to the
servant.)* “Do not
bother Jesus
anymore,” the man
whispers. *(Whisper.)*
“Your little girl is
dead.”

(Loudly, urgently.)
“Wait!” says Jesus.
“Just believe, and
she will be all right.
I am coming with
you. Don’t cry.
Only believe.”









Don't cry,"
Jesus says to
Mr. Jairus. "Only
believe."

Jesus reaches Jairus'
house. "Don't cry,
Mother! I will help.
I will help your
daughter."

Shh! (*Whisper.*)
What will Jesus do?



Speak loudly; take
child's hand.)

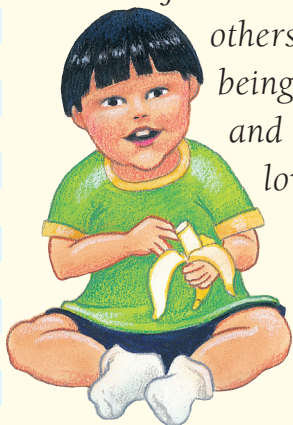
"Little child, get up,"
Jesus says. *(Pull your
child to sitting position.
Hug him or her.)*

Mrs. Jairus smiles.
Mr. Jairus smiles too.
"Thank You, Jesus!"
they say.

Jesus smiles and
says, "Give her
something to eat."

*Jesus cares if we're
happy or sad, sick
or well. We can help*

*Jesus care for
others by
being kind
and
loving.*





Do & Say

Make extra food for supper and, with your child, share some with a sick neighbor.

Write the memory verse on a card and decorate it. Help your child give it to someone who is ill.

Have your child blow bubbles for someone who is sad. Have your child give that person a hug.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.



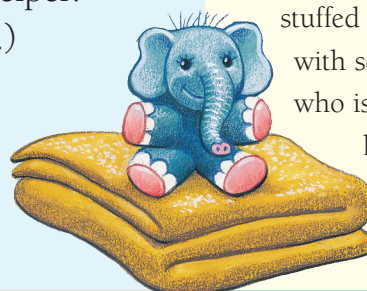
Line up cushions close together and you and your child squeeze through. Talk about Jesus and Jairus squeezing through the crowd on their way to Jairus' house.

At bathtime, as hands, feet, mouth, and ears are washed, talk about ways children can use those body parts to help others.

Draw a happy face on a piece of cardboard and have your child help you decorate it. Attach a string for hanging. Write "Jesus loves you." on it and send it to a children's hospital or nursing home.

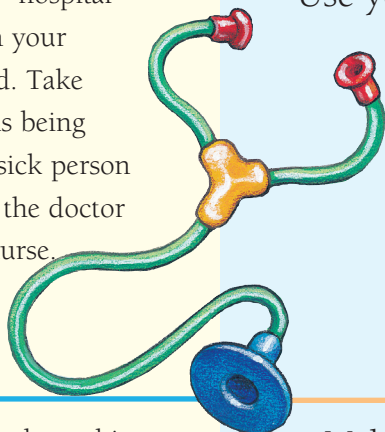
In the morning or after naptime, say, "Little girl/boy, get up!" Have them jump up, then tell them the story of Jesus and Jairus' daughter.

As you make the bed, sing together, "I'm a little helper."
(See page 63.)



Let your child share a favorite blanket or toy stuffed animal with someone who is sad or hurt.

Play "hospital" with your child. Take turns being the sick person and the doctor or nurse.



Use your "Little Girl's Bed" craft from Sabbath School to tell the story of Jairus and Jesus.

Record your child singing Sabbath School songs and send them to a shut-in or faraway grandparents who may be missing their family.

Talk about things that help you feel better when you get hurt. How can you help others feel better? Sing "Don't Cry, Little Baby" when someone is sad or hurt. (See page 62.)

Make cookies with a heart-shaped cookie cutter. Write out the memory verse and attach it. With your child, give them to friends and family.

Decorate cups or cans of food with paper and fabric to be Jesus, Jairus, a few disciples, and Jairus' daughter. Tell the story of Jesus and Jairus.

Activities for Lesson 1

God Made You, God Made Me

God made you,	(Point to a friend.)
God made me.	(Point to yourself.)
Now doesn't that make you	(Point to a friend.)
Happy as can be?	(Smile big.)
When I love you,	(Point to yourself, put hand on heart, then point to a friend.)
And you love me,	(Point to a friend, put hand on heart, then point to yourself.)
That's the way	(Shake index finger.)
God meant it to be.	(Point toward heaven and nod head.)

From *God's World Activities for Toddlers*, © 1998 Shining Star Publications, p. 48. Used by permission.

I Have Two Owies!

I have two owies! Look and see!
There's one on my (finger, arm, etc.).
And there's one on my knee.
But my friend (name) helped me today.
(She/he) put Band-Aids on my owies, and the hurt went away!

From *Finger Play Activities*, edited by Mary Gross, Gospel Light, 1995, p. 102. Used by permission.

REFERENCES: LUKE 15:4-7; CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS, PP. 186-192; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 476-484.

The Good Shepherd

Memory Verse:

"Be happy with me . . . I found my . . . sheep!" LUKE 15:6, ICB.

The Message:

Jesus cares for you and me.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child

Know that Jesus loves them as the shepherd loved his sheep.

Feel safe because Jesus cares for them.

Respond by saying thank You to Jesus.



*Baa! says the woolly lamb. Woolly Lamb wants his mother.
Baa-baa! Don't worry, little lamb. The shepherd boy will help you.*



Wake up,
shepherd!

It's time to get up.
(Point to the shepherd,
then the sheep.)

Wake up, sheep!
It's time to nibble the
thick, green grass.

Wake up, Woolly
Lamb! (Point to the
black lamb.) It's time
for breakfast. Baa-baa!





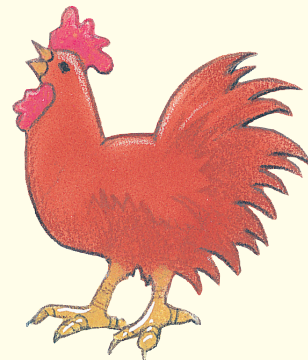




Don't move,
fluffy sheep.
Don't move, Woolly
Lamb. It's time for the
shepherd to count the
sheep.

*(Touch child's
nose for each count.)*
1-2-3-4-5. The
shepherd is counting
the sheep. 21-22-23-
24. Are all the sheep
safe? 97-98-99-100!
Yea! *(Clap hands.)*

All the sheep are
counted. All the sheep
are safe.





The sun is high in the sky. The sun feels hot. The sheep feel thirsty. Woolly Lamb stays close to mother sheep.

Sniff-sniff! (*Pretend to sniff.*) The sheep smell water.

Let's run to the water. (*Run to the sink; drink water.*)









Walking,
walking.

The sheep are tired
of walking. "Let's
stay here for a while,"
the shepherd says.

But big, ugly flies
buzz about the sheep.
(*Point to the flies.*)

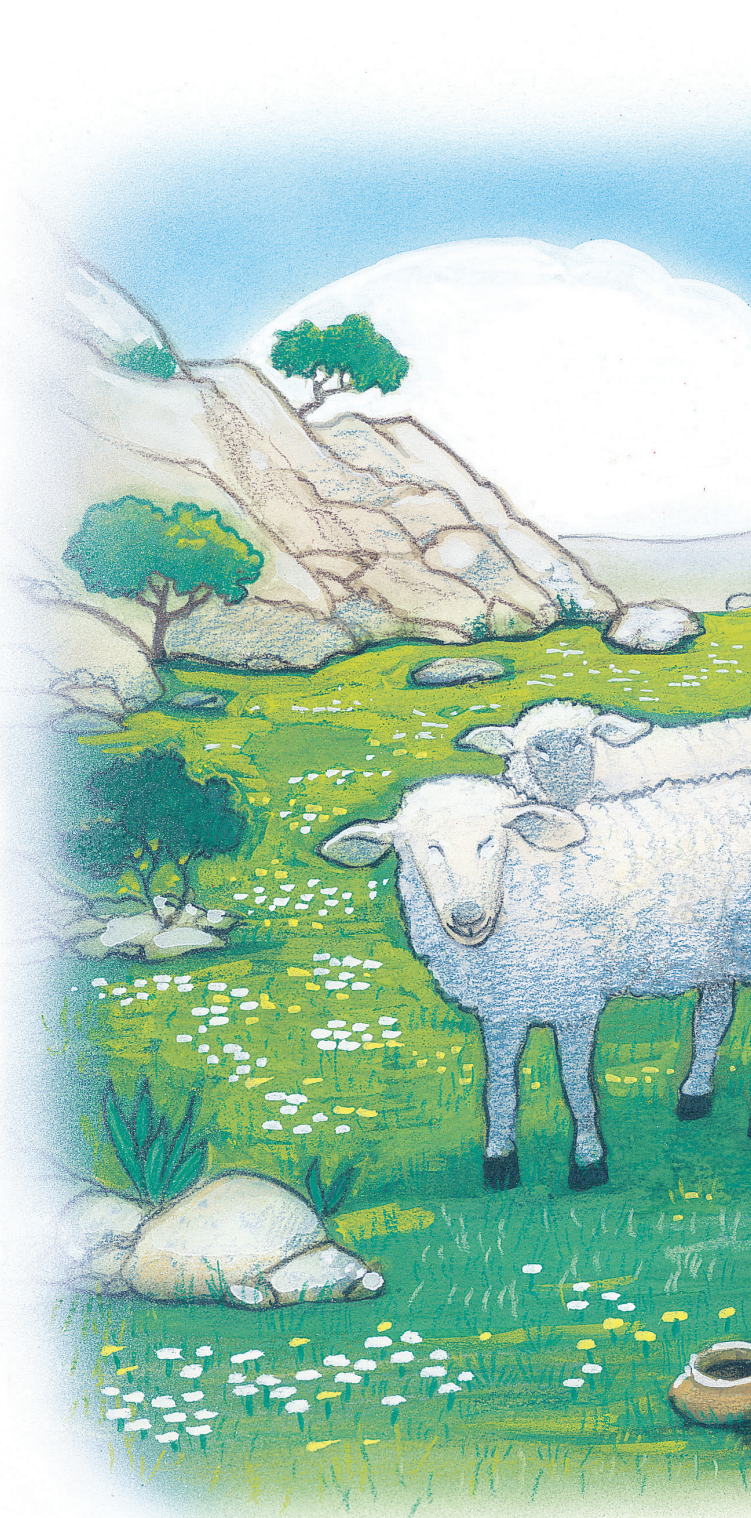
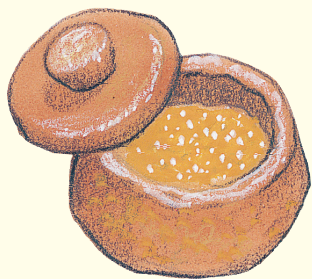
Buzz-buzz! (*Tickle
your child.*)

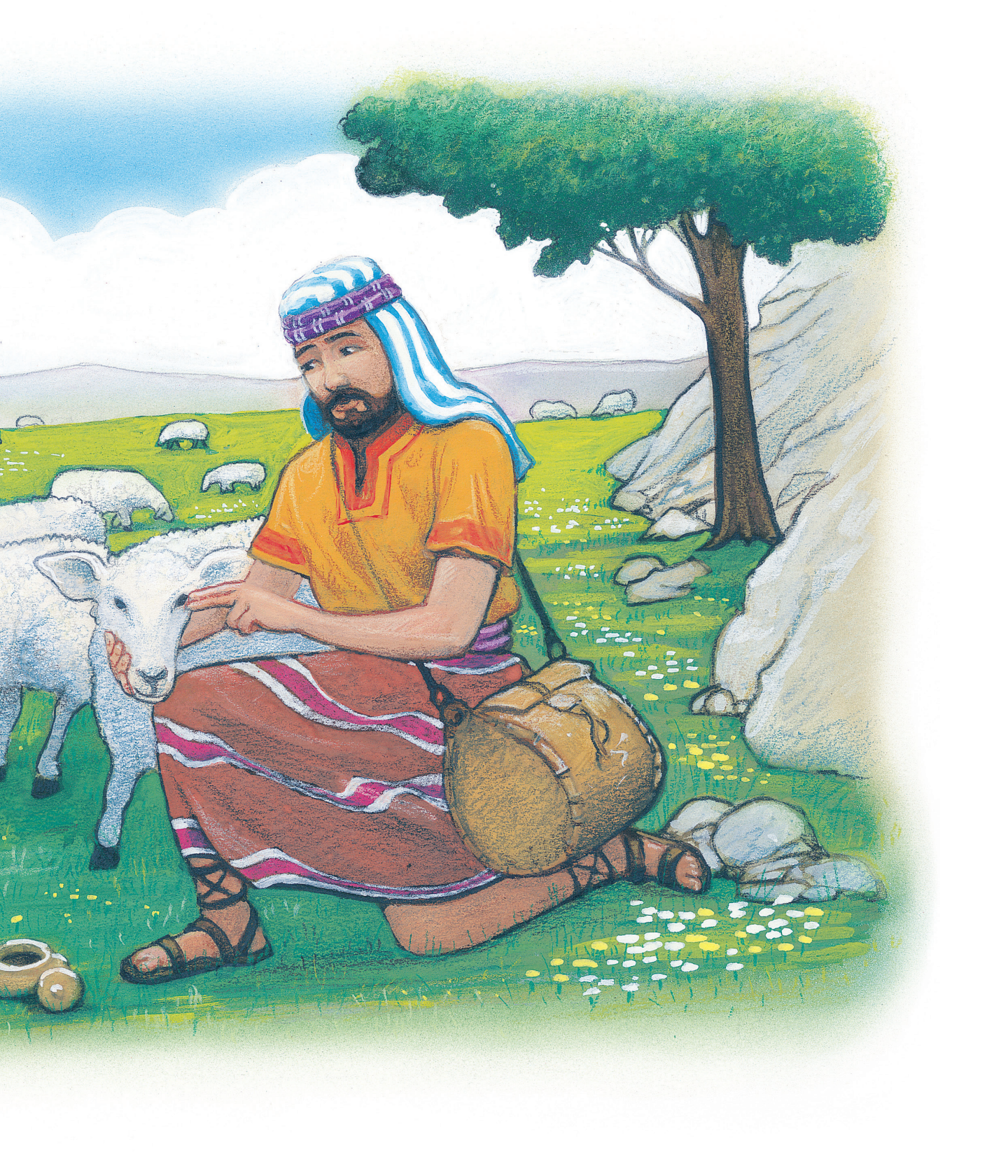
Flies buzz Woolly
Lamb's eyes. Flies
buzz Woolly Lamb's
nose. Woolly Lamb
stamps his feet.
(*Stamp feet.*) All the
sheep stamp at the
flies.



Don't move,
fluffy sheep,
don't move! The
shepherd gives
medicine to each
sheep. (*Touch child's
face.*) The shepherd
gives medicine and
counts (*touch child's
nose and count*) 97-
98-99.

Uh-oh! Woolly
Lamb is not here.
Where is Woolly
Lamb?









Woolly Lamb,
where are
you?" (*Child hides face
with tissue.*)

Is Woolly Lamb in
the pool? (*Point.*) No,
he is not there. (*Shake
head.*) Is he near the
rocks? (*Point.*) No, not
there.

Where is Woolly
Lamb? Shh! Listen.
(*Your child says, "Baa!"*)

Oh, there you are!
(*Remove tissue; hug
child.*)



Baa-baa! Woolly
Lamb is safe.

Thank you, shepherd,
for finding him.

Thank you, shepherd,
for bringing him back.

Thank You, Jesus,
for loving our own
little lamb. (Hug child.
Spin with child around
the room.)





You and your child play making different animal sounds. Thank God for animals.

Make up a little song about the shepherd and the sheep or, with your child, sing one that you learned in Sabbath School.

Look for things with different textures. With your child, touch them and talk about how different things feel. Look for a texture that feels like sheep's wool.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.



Play hide-and-seek with your child. Hug him/her when you find him/her. Then sing the memory verse song. (See page 42.)

Put in a drawer or in a box things related to the lesson (cotton or toy sheep, some food, water in a plastic bottle). Use them to tell the Bible story to your child.

Put some food for birds on a bird feeder, or let your child help you feed some animals at the park.

Tell the lost sheep story while playing "Follow the Leader." Crawl under the table, climb "mountains" (pillows), and so on.

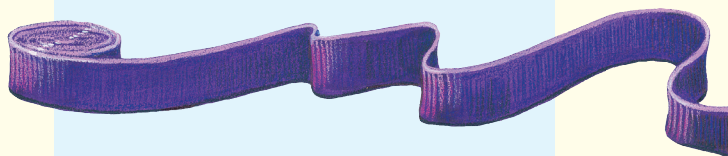
Make a trail with paper streamers. Have your child find his/her way to the "lost sheep" by following the streamers. Sing "The Good Shepherd." (See page 63.)

With your child, make an edible sheepfold and sheep. Make the sheepfold with bread, cookies, or fruit pieces. Make sheep out of banana pieces or some other fruit covered with coconut.

Sing a song or make one up about mother sheep and other animals taking care of their babies.



Along with your child, using blocks, build a sheepfold for the sheep.



Hide a toy stuffed animal. You and your child can look for it and sing the memory verse song when you find it. (See page 42.)

Show your child how to model some sheep with play dough or make cookies with the shape of sheep or a shepherd's staff.

Have your child say thank You to Jesus for giving them a mommy and/or daddy to take care of them.

Play a call-and-respond game. Parent calls: "Little lamb, little lamb, where are you?" Child answers with animal sound. (Repeat with other animals.)

Memory Verse for Lesson 2

Be Happy With Me, I Found My Sheep

Clap each time you sing the words “found my sheep” to the tune of “I’m So Small”
(*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 96). (See music below.)

Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
Be happy with me, I found my sheep,
Be happy with me, I found my sheep.
That is found in Luke 15, verse 6.

—Adapted from Luke 15:6, ICB

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REFERENCES: LUKE 2:1-20; MATTHEW 2:1-12; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 43-49, 59-67.

Baby Jesus Is Born

Memory Verse:

"I love you, Lord." PSALM 18:1, NIV.

The Message:

We love Jesus.

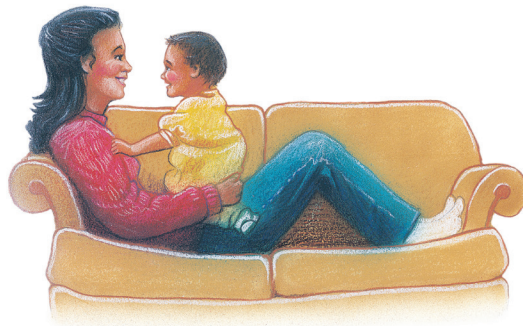
Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child

Know that we worship Jesus.

Feel love for Jesus as a baby.

Respond by worshipping Jesus.



See the mother with her new baby. New babies are so special.

See Joseph and Mary. They have traveled a long way. They want to rest.

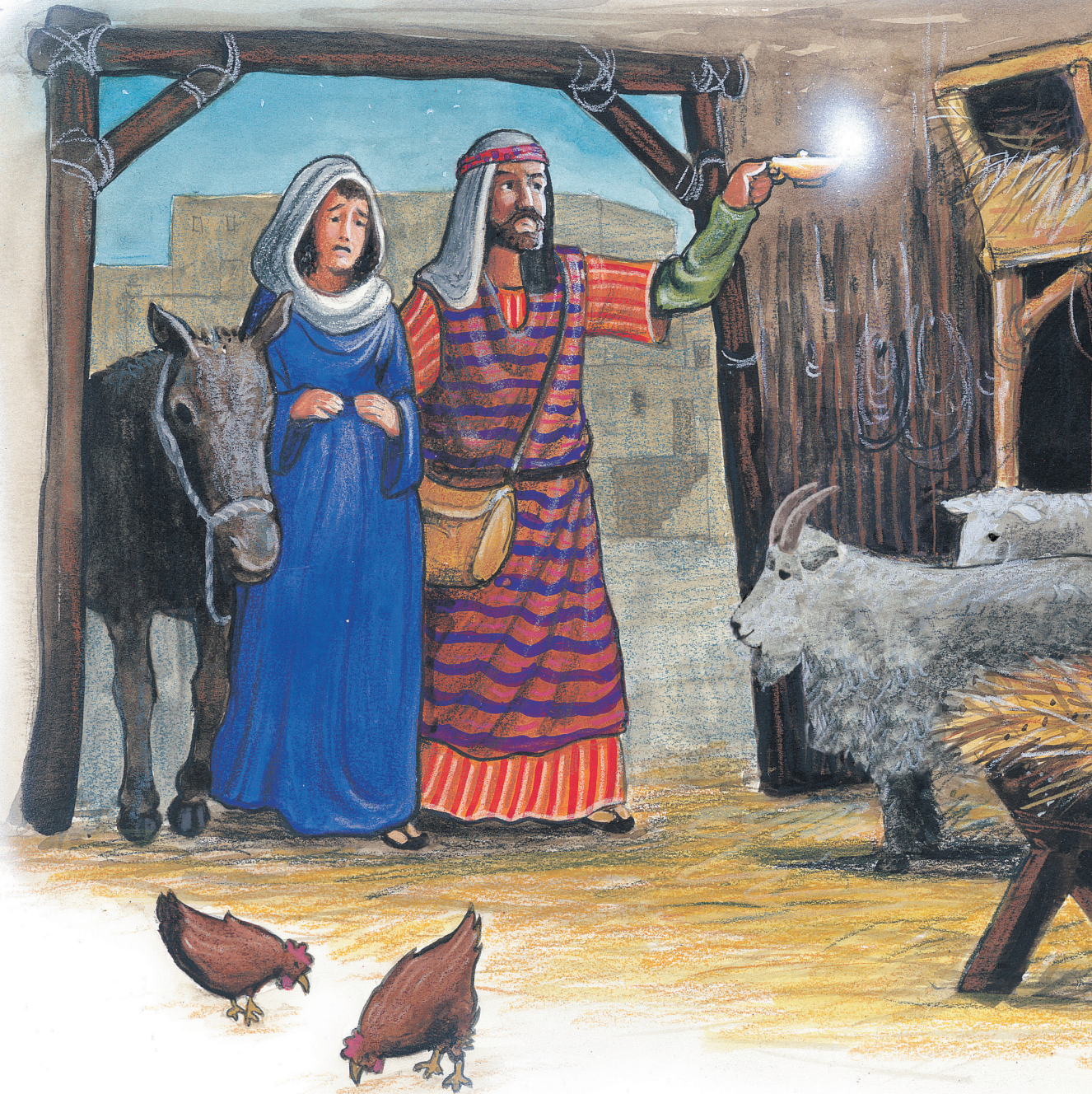
"I'm sorry," says the man (*point to the innkeeper*), "all my rooms are full."

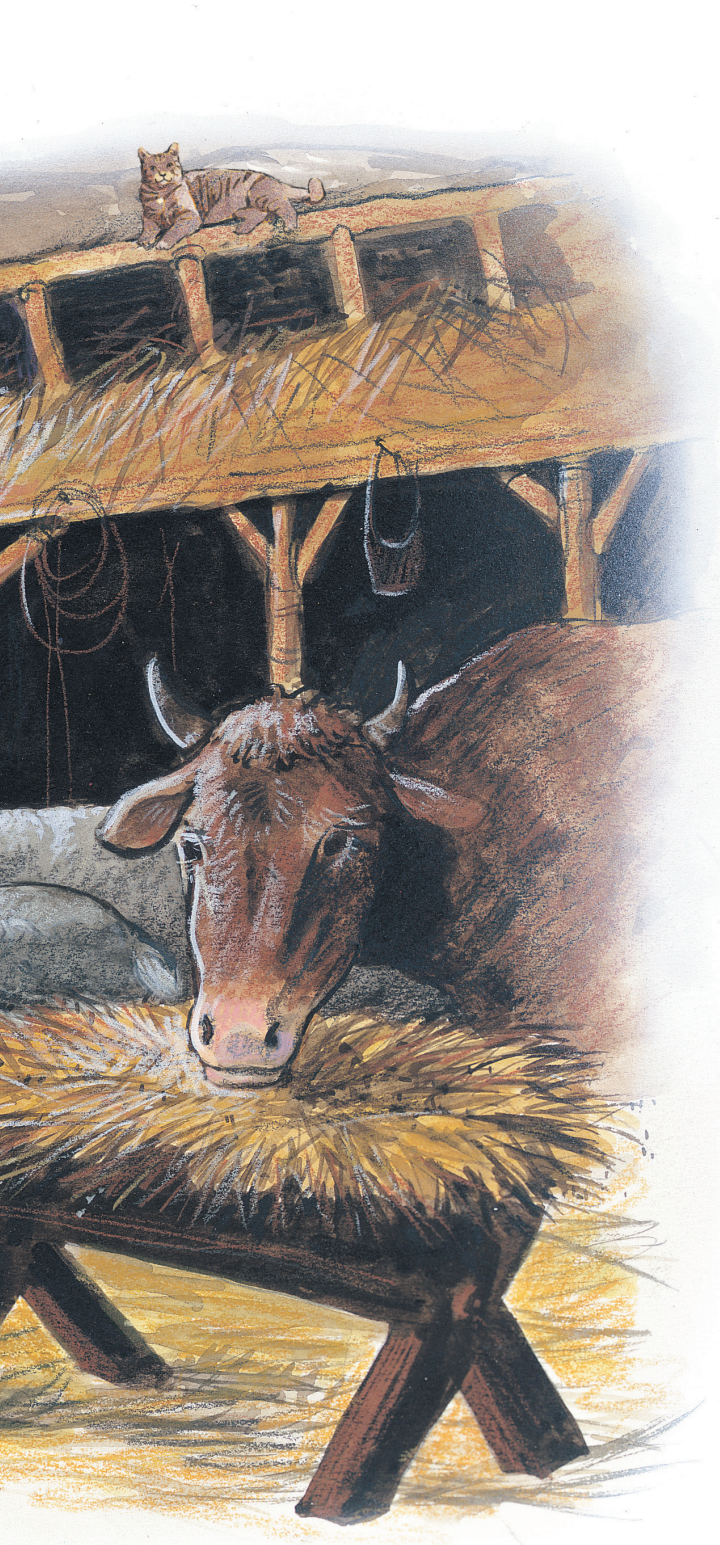
"But we have come a long way," Joseph says. (*Point to Joseph, then Mary.*) "And my wife will soon have a baby."

"Well, you could stay in the barn," answers the kind man. "I have some animals there, but it's warm and dry."









See the animals.
(Point to and
name the animals.)

See the manger.
(Point to the manger.)
The hay in the manger
is soft. It will make a
nice bed for a baby.

The barn will be a
good place to stay for
a while.

After a while, Baby
Jesus was born.



Let's put our baby on the soft hay in the manger," says Joseph. "You should rest a while." (Point to Joseph, then to Mary.)

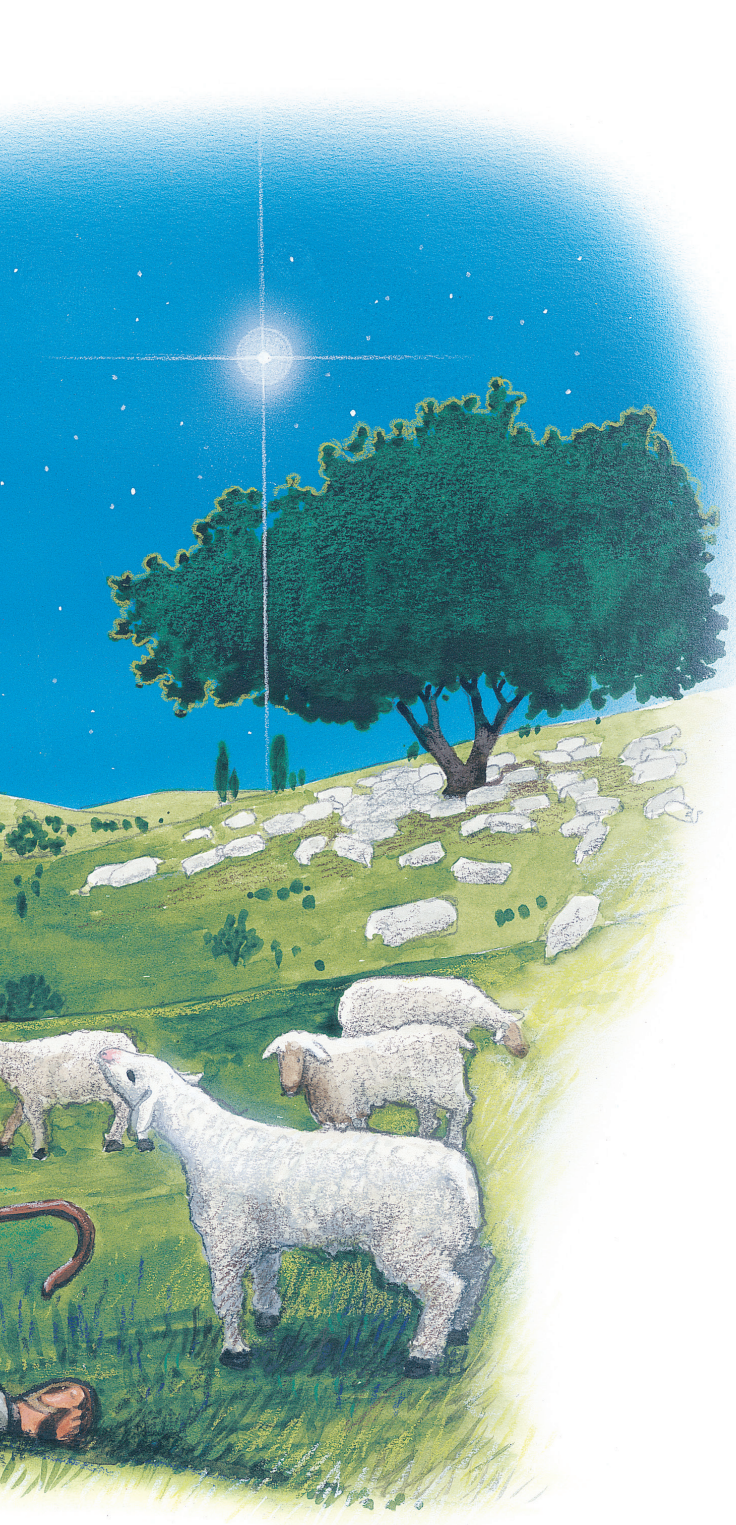
Mother Mary looks at her new baby boy. She touches His curly, dark hair and His tiny ears. (Touch your child's hair and an ear.) She loves him so much!

"Come," says Joseph. "Come and rest now."









Some shepherds watch their sheep on a nearby hillside. *(Point to shepherds, then sheep.)* They have heard that Jesus will come to earth. *When will He come?* they wonder. *Will He come soon?* *God's Word says He will.*

The shepherds see a bright, shining star. *(Point to the star.)*

Where did the star come from? they wonder.



Suddenly an angel appears.

“Do not be afraid,” says the angel. (*Point to the angel.*) “I bring you good news. Jesus the Saviour has been born. You will find Him in the city. Look for a baby lying in a manger.”









Many more
angels
come. So many angels!
(Point to the angels.)

The angels sing a
beautiful song. Their
song fills the air.

Glory to God
in the highest.
And on earth
peace to everyone.

“We must go,” the
shepherds say to one
another. “We must go
to the city and look
for this baby.”



Thank You, God,”
the shepherds
pray. “Thank You for
sending Your Son to
this earth. Thank You
for sending Jesus to
be our Saviour. We
will tell everyone we
meet about Him.”

*We can thank God
too. (Pray a simple
prayer, such as the
following.) Thank You,
God, for sending Jesus
to love us, to save us,
and to care for us. We
love Him, and we love
You, too.*





Do & Say

Roll both ends of a piece of paper together to look like a scroll. Decorate it and write “Follow the star. A Saviour has been born.” Talk to your child about the shepherds.

Make paper or elastic headbands for the family. Attach paper or felt animal ears—cow, donkey, sheep, etc. Sing “Away in a Manger.”

Allow your child to ride on a rocking horse. Talk to him/her about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.



Arrange stuffed toy animals in a corner. Count them and talk to your child about Jesus’ birth.

Provide a “donkey ride” for your older toddler. Talk to him or her about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

Shine a flashlight on the ceiling of a darkened room. Show your child how to follow the “star” to find Baby Jesus.

Wrap up a baby doll in strips of cloth. Sing a song about Baby Jesus. Thank God for Jesus.



Roll out cookie dough and use a star-shaped cookie cutter. Have your child help you decorate with yellow icing and sprinkles.

Stuff a white sock with cloth scraps and glue cotton balls to it. Draw a sheep's face and ears. Talk to your child about the shepherds who worshipped Jesus.

Buy plaster ornaments of the Nativity scene, stars, or shepherds, and, with your child, paint them with finger paints.

Visit a Nativity scene and look at the straw. Have your child touch it if possible.

Use blocks or pillows to make a stable. Place toy animals inside it. Sing "Away in a Manger."

Make a manger by shredding newspaper and putting it in a box. Use a doll for Baby Jesus. Sing "Away in a Manger."

Make a cardboard crown and decorate it. Write "Jesus Is King" on the front.



Have a party for Jesus. Sing songs of praise to Him. Talk about a gift your child might give to Jesus.

Activity for Lesson 3

Jesus' Birth Finger Play

Thank You, God,	(Point upward.)
for the innkeeper	(Hold up pointer finger.)
who offered the manger	(Cup hands.)
to Joseph the father	(Hold one thumb up.)
and Mary the mother	(Hold other thumb up.)
of Baby Jesus,	(Place palms together, resting against one cheek.)
and for the angels that sang,	(Wiggle fingers.)
and the shepherds	(Count fingers.)
who came to the manger	(Cup hands.)
to worship Baby Jesus.	(Place palms together, resting against one cheek.)
Most of all, thank You, God,	(Point upward.)
for Baby Jesus,	(Place palms together, resting against one cheek.)
who grew to be a big man	(Open arms wide.)
who loves us all.	(Point to self, then to others.)

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Activity for Lesson 3

No Room Finger Play

Clop, clop, clop
went the donkey's feet,



(Pat hands on thighs to make
clapping sound.)

Clop, clop, clop
down the stony street.

Knock, knock, knock
went Joseph at the door.



(Make fist in knocking motion.)

No, no, no,
there's room for no more.



(Wag index finger from side to
side in "no" motion.)

Nod, nod, nod
went Mary's head.



(Nod head as if falling asleep.)

She was so tired,
she needed a bed.



(Place palms together as if pillow
under one cheek.)

"Wait, wait, wait!"
the innkeeper said.



(Hold hand up in "stop" motion.)

"You can use the stable
over there for a bed."



(Point thumb over shoulder in "over
there" motion.)

—Unknown

Additional Activity for Lesson 1

Don't Cry, Little Baby

JANET SAGE

JANET SAGE

Don't cry, lit - tle ba - by, don't cry, don't cry;

Je - sus loves you, Je - sus loves you; Don't

cry, lit - tle ba - by, don't cry, don't cry;

Je - sus loves you, Je - sus loves you.

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Pianist: This lilting lullaby needs to flow along smoothly. Do not play it too slowly.

Leader: Once the children have learned the song, let them rock little dolls in their arms. The song is useful in illustrations of helpfulness, kindness, and family relations. It is a piece that the little ones can relate to easily, and it will bring out their own little parental instincts. Mothers will find it useful for many everyday circumstances.

Additional Activities for Lessons 1 and 2

I'm a Little Helper

JANET SAGE

JANET SAGE

I'm a lit - tle help - er, a help - er, a help - er, O

I'm a lit - tle help - er (for/like) Je - sus!

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The Good Shepherd

CAROL GREENE
Gently

JOHANNES BRAHMS, ADAPTED

1. The good shep - herd watch - es, So sheep may safe - ly feed. He
2. Lord Je - sus, our Shep - herd, Will watch us all our days. He'll

keeps them from dan - ger And gives them all they need.
keep us from dan - ger And lead us in God's ways.

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Leader: Pretend to be a shepherd and lead the children as your sheep. "Come over here, little sheep. Here's some really good grass to eat. Oh, oh! There's a bear! Get out of here, you bear!" Explain that Jesus lovingly protects us as His little lambs and gives us everything we need.

Additional Activities for Lessons 1 and 3

Memory Verses Finger Plays

Lesson 1

I pray . . .



(Place palms together.)

that your health



(Make fists, put arms in air with elbows bent and flex muscles.)

is good.



(Jump.)

3 John 2



(Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.)

Lesson 3

I



(Point to self.)

love



(Cross arms over chest.)

you, Lord.



(Point to heaven.)

Psalms 18:1



(Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.)