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Beginner

Leader/Teacher Guide

A Sabbath School Resource for Leaders/Teachers of Beginners
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

www.gracelink.net

Year A, Fourth Quarter

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A Letter to Teachers

Dear Teachers,

Starting the first quarter of 2015 the GraceLink curriculum is receiving a major update. It is our hope that these changes can strengthen the bond between church and home as we work together to lead little ones to Jesus. Here's what you can expect:

- Teachers will review the lesson in Sabbath School that the children have studied at home during the week. We've looked at study patterns and recognize that this method continues to work well around the world.
- Teachers will provide an opportunity for children to recite the memory verse that they have been encouraged to learn during the week.
- Sharing time during the lesson will give children the opportunity to express their experiences in telling others what they are learning about God's love.
- Teachers will use the new section, Previewing the Next Lesson, to build excitement for the following week's lesson.

However, as much as we are updating, GraceLink Sabbath Schools will still retain the active and interactive approach. Please check the teacher's guide very closely for further explanation of the new features and effective instruction and management strategies.

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

E-mail us at www.gracelink.net.

**With Affection,
The Editors**

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Special thanks to . . .

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We serve Jesus when we care for others.

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We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.

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Lesson Outline

Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
	SERVICE: We serve Jesus when we care for others.				
Lesson 1 October	Jesus Heals a Little Girl	Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; DA 342-348	3 John 2, ICB	We can care for others.	See pp. 14, 15.
	GRACE: God brings His love to us.				
Lesson 2 November	The Good Shepherd	Luke 15:4-7; COL 186-192; DA 476-484	Luke 15:6, ICB	Jesus cares for you and me.	See pp. 34, 35.
	WORSHIP: We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.				
Lesson 3 December	Baby Jesus Is Born	Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12; DA 43-49, 59-67	Psalms 18:1, NIV	We love Jesus.	See pp. 52, 53.

Bible Study Overview

- **Lesson 1** teaches us that little children can care for others.
- In **Lesson 2** we learn that God brings His love to us.
- **Lesson 3** reminds us of the birth of Jesus and His love for us.

To the leaders/teachers . . .

These guides were developed to:

- **Introduce the lesson on Sabbath.** The child then reviews and applies the principles studied with the help of their parents and Bible study guides during the week. In this way, the lessons learned in Sabbath School become a vital part of the child's growing faith experience. Memory verses, which are also learned in Sabbath School, are reviewed and reinforced during the following week, connected in the child's mind with the interesting activities they have already experienced.
- **Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message.** These messages each relate to one of the four dynamics of a growing faith experience: grace (God loves me), worship (I love God), community (we love each other), and service (God loves you, too).
- **Reach each child in the way he or she learns best.** By following the natural learning cycle on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with "the message" for the week in a way that will capture each one's attention and imagination.

- **Give children active learning experiences** so they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by *debriefing* sessions in which you ask questions that lead the children to reflect on what they experienced, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.
- **Involve the adult Sabbath School staff** in new and flexible ways. A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult. A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their learning experience while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator's part.
A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(Note: The Getting Started section is the time-honored "business" of Sabbath School and may be used at any point during the lesson; however, it is recommended that you begin with Arrival Activities, even while some children are still arriving.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning cycle outlined, but adapt activities as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

About Materials

As you follow the natural learning sequence outlined in each lesson, you may want to adapt activities for use in your particular situation, and this may require a change in the need for materials.

Look ahead at the Program Overview for each month's program so you can be prepared with the materials suggested. Before the quarter begins, obtain regularly used supplies.

Supplies Frequently Used in Beginner Sabbath School

Art Supplies

- ☐ aluminum foil
- ☐ chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- ☐ cotton balls or polyester fiberfill
- ☐ craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ☐ crayons, markers, colored pencils
- ☐ glitter or glitter glue
- ☐ glue or glue sticks
- ☐ hole punch
- ☐ inked stamp pads (various colors)
- ☐ magnetic strips (peel and stick)
- ☐ paints—finger paints, tempera
- ☐ pencils, pens
- ☐ plastic wrap
- ☐ pom-poms
- ☐ rubber bands
- ☐ scissors (blunt-nosed)
- ☐ stapler and staples
- ☐ tape—cellophane and masking
- ☐ toilet paper rolls and/or paper towel rolls (empty)
- ☐ yarn, string, thread (several colors of each)

Papers

- ☐ butcher or white table cloth roll
- ☐ construction (various colors, including black and brown)
- ☐ drawing
- ☐ finger paint paper
- ☐ newsprint
- ☐ poster board
- ☐ tagboard, cardstock or heavy paper
- ☐ tissue paper (various colors, including white)
- ☐ writing paper

Other

- ☐ animals (toy, stuffed, plastic)
- ☐ angel (felts or cardboard on sticks)
- ☐ artificial foods
- ☐ baby bottles
- ☐ baby wipes or paper towels
- ☐ bags—paper, plastic trash bags, sealable plastic, large and small
- ☐ baskets (various sizes)
- ☐ bells
- ☐ "Bible" books (cardboard or felt)
- ☐ blankets—baby/doll-size, regular size
- ☐ birthday cake (artificial) with candles, matches
- ☐ birthday gifts, inexpensive (optional)
- ☐ blindfolds, one for each child
- ☐ board books, variety of subjects
- ☐ broom (child-size), dust cloths, other cleaning supplies
- ☐ bubble solution and blowers
- ☐ building blocks, boxes, or Legos
- ☐ cassette or CD player with tapes/CDs
- ☐ carpenter tools (play hammer, saw, etc.), child-size
- ☐ costumes—angel, Bible-times for children and adults
- ☐ crowns
- ☐ cups—paper, plastic, Styrofoam
- ☐ dolls, doll clothes
- ☐ felts—angels, animals, children, flowers, Jesus, people, scenery, sun
- ☐ mirror (hand mirror)
- ☐ nature items (rocks, feathers, shells, bird nests, artificial flowers, and fruit)
- ☐ offering container (basket, bowl, etc.)
- ☐ paper plates, napkins, cups

- ☐ pull toy (optional)
- ☐ puzzles, simple wooden or cardboard
- ☐ rainbow sticks
- ☐ recorded sounds (bird, animal, storm, etc.)
- ☐ rhythm or toy musical instruments
- ☐ rocking chair, adult and child
- ☐ smocks or old shirts to cover children's clothing
- ☐ stickers (animal, nature, Jesus, etc.)
- ☐ squirt bottle
- ☐ things that float

Additional Supplies Needed This Quarter

Lesson 1

- ☐ clear contact paper
- ☐ cheese cloth or white fabric
- ☐ crackers or sliced fruit
- ☐ large piece of fabric
- ☐ musical instruments
- ☐ two sharing items for each child
- ☐ board books about medical helpers
- ☐ happy/sad face paper plates/posters (optional)
- ☐ gauze and adhesive bandages
- ☐ sling
- ☐ plastic or toy food
- ☐ picture of Jesus or white sheet and red sash
- ☐ cushions or sheet
- ☐ towels
- ☐ crepe paper or fabric strips
- ☐ artificial flowers in pots
- ☐ colored tissue paper
- ☐ strip of paper with memory verse (see p. 70)
- ☐ Jairus' daughter pattern (see p. 71)
- ☐ letter-size envelopes
- ☐ adhesive bandage outline (see p. 70)
- ☐ heart-shaped card pattern (see p. 72)

Lesson 2

- ☐ hand towel or fabric
- ☐ hay
- ☐ mixing spoons
- ☐ mother and baby stuffed animals
- ☐ picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus
- ☐ sheet
- ☐ tissue squares or small pieces of fabric
- ☐ walking stick
- ☐ toy sheep
- ☐ live pet
- ☐ nesting dolls
- ☐ mirror
- ☐ adult shepherd costume
- ☐ sheep ear and nose pattern (see p. 73)
- ☐ fleece

- ☐ hand lotion or baby oil
- ☐ pots or plastic bowls
- ☐ felt or paper hearts
- ☐ lunch-size paper bags
- ☐ sheep face pattern (see p. 74)
- ☐ pretzel sticks
- ☐ round crackers with spread (optional)
- ☐ flaked coconut (optional)
- ☐ raisins (optional)
- ☐ lamb's face pattern (see p. 75)

Lesson 3

- ☐ clean straw
- ☐ farm animals (stuffed or pictures)
- ☐ small white robes (optional)
- ☐ soft flannel
- ☐ toy stuffed sheep and other animals
- ☐ items of different textures (cotton balls, sandpaper, pinecones, etc.)
- ☐ baby bottles
- ☐ small flashlights
- ☐ toy stuffed sheep and other animals
- ☐ hand towels or fabric or pillow cases
- ☐ soft music
- ☐ play coins, money box
- ☐ rocking horse
- ☐ something to serve as manger
- ☐ star sticks or flashlight
- ☐ pretty bottle
- ☐ robes and crowns (optional)
- ☐ decorative box
- ☐ felt or paper hearts
- ☐ star outline (see p. 76)
- ☐ lollipops or plastic spoons
- ☐ animal ears pattern (see p. 77)
- ☐ netting
- ☐ cinnamon sticks, whole cloves
- ☐ copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78)
- ☐ rectangular crackers (optional)
- ☐ pretzel sticks (optional)
- ☐ peanut butter (optional)
- ☐ square shredded wheat (optional)

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
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance

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

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).

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 minitstep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

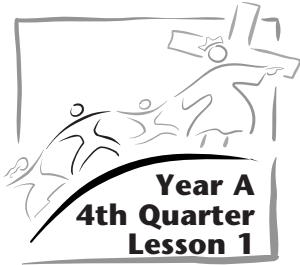
- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents

- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when the child's 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

LESSON



Jesus Heals a Little Girl

SERVICE

We serve Jesus when we care for others.

References

Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 342-348.

Memory Verse

"I pray . . . that your health is good" (3 John 2, ICB).

Objectives

The children will:

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 and praying for sick people.

The Message



We can care for others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jairus' daughter is very sick. Jairus tries everything to make her better, but it does not help. Jairus seeks Jesus to ask Him to come and heal his daughter. While on the way to Jairus' house, Jesus is delayed. Word comes from Jairus' house that his daughter has died. Jesus tells Jairus to believe. Jesus goes to Jairus' house and raises the little girl back to life.

This is a lesson about service.

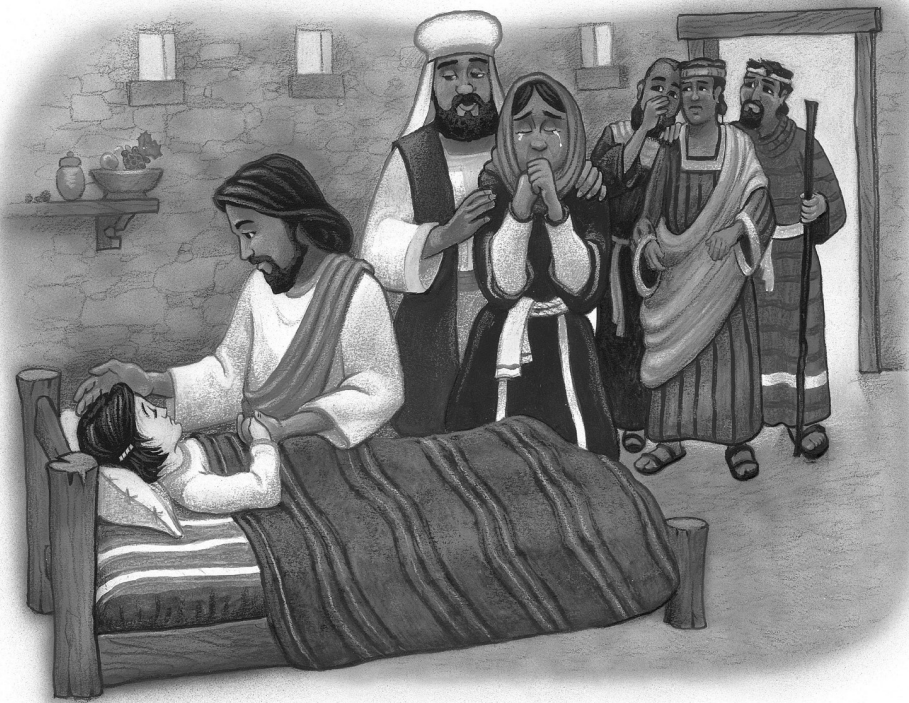
Showing love and care to those who

are sick is an act of service. As Christians we can share God's love with others when they need it most. Children can serve God by praying for, visiting, and cheering up people who are sick.

Teacher Enrichment

"God designs that the sick, the unfortunate, those possessed of evil spirits, shall hear His voice through us. Through His human agents He desires to be a comforter, such as the world has never before seen. His words are to be voiced by His

ONE



followers: 'Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.' The Lord will work through every soul that will give himself up to be worked, not only to preach but to minister to the despairing and to inspire hope in the hearts of the hopeless. We are to act our part in relieving and softening the miseries of this life" (*Welfare Ministry*, p. 22).

"Jesus set out at once with the ruler [Jairus] for his home. Though the disciples had seen so many of His works of

mercy, they were surprised at His compliance with the entreaty of the haughty rabbi; yet they accompanied their Master, and the people followed, eager and expectant" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 342).

Room Decorations

Use a dark piece of fabric as a boat, or make the outline of a boat on the floor with tape. Hang a sheet across the corner of the room to be Jairus' house. Place a little mat or bed there.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Book Basket</i> B. <i>Happy/Sad Face</i> C. <i>Don't Cry</i> D. <i>Sick Room</i> E. <i>Where Is Your___?</i> F. <i>God Made You</i> G. <i>Healthy Foods</i> H. <i>Rocking Chair</i>	books about Jesus, children, doctors/nurses, health, caring for others happy/sad faces paper plates/posters (optional) baby dolls gauze bandages, slings, adhesive bandages, dolls plastic or toy food adult-sized rocking chair
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	bells stickers or other small gifts (optional) offering container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gifts (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>Jesus in the Boat</i> C. <i>Jairus Looks for Jesus</i> D. <i>A Sick Little Girl</i> E. <i>Jesus Comes to Help</i> F. <i>Jesus Heals</i> G. <i>The Celebration</i> H. <i>Caring for the Sad</i> I. <i>Caring for the Sick</i> J. <i>Caring by Sharing</i>	felt or cardboard Bibles fabric or masking tape, picture of Jesus or white sheet and red sash cushions or sheet towels bubbles and bubble blower, crepe paper, fabric strips, or musical instruments baby dolls (optional) artificial flowers in pots, adhesive bandages or felt bandages and felt child two sharing items for each child

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Stained-Glass Heart</i>	clear contact paper, permanent marker, small colored tissue paper pieces, strips of paper with memory verse written (see p. 70), pen, scissors, string, hole punch
	Week 2	<i>Little Girl's Bed</i>	copies of Jairus' daughter (see p. 71), scissors, crayons, letter-size envelopes, stickers
	Week 3	<i>Big Bandage</i>	copies of adhesive bandage outline (see p. 70), heavy colored paper, gauze or cheese cloth or white fabric, scissors, glue sticks
	Week 4	<i>Holding Hands</i>	construction paper, pencils, scissors, glue sticks, stickers (optional)
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Get-Well Card</i>	copies of heart-shaped card (see p. 72), heavy paper, scissors, crayons (optional), stickers (optional)
Snack Center (Optional)			crackers or sliced fruit, napkins

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

When my oldest son was small he used to laugh at people when they got

hurt. I think it was his nervous reaction to a situation he didn't know how to handle, but I was appalled! We have worked hard on teaching him to show compassion for someone who is hurt.

My younger son carried around his favorite "snuggly" (blanket) for many years. He would show his concern for a hurt child by sharing his snuggly with them. From a young age both my boys would pat me on the back when I held them, as if to communicate their love even before they could speak. I want to be a good example of compassion to my children so they will learn to care for others as Jesus did.

How are you teaching compassion to your children? How are they communicating it to others?

Week 2

Two a.m. "Mommy! MOMMY!" I woke to a distressed cry. My 18-month-old daughter cried out again, "MOOOOMMMMMYYYYY!"

I ran toward the sound as quickly as my foggy brain would let me. Flipping on the light as I entered her room, I saw her standing up in her crib. I dashed over to her just in time to have her vomit the entire contents of her hurting little tummy into my outstretched hands. So there we were. I couldn't pick her up until I went to the bathroom to take care of my handful of yuck. And there she stood, hurting and helpless.

When you have moments of wishing you could be more than one person to help your hurting child, remember, Jesus knows your heart. He says, "Do not fear, for I am with you. . . . I will strengthen you and help you" (Isaiah 41:10, NIV).

Share a time you felt helpless to help your child. What verses from God's words encourage you in those moments?

Week 3

I didn't pay much attention to the one red blisterlike spot on my shoulder, but when I awoke to more spots I knew I was in trouble. Having a full-blown case of chicken pox at age 30 is miserable! The intense itching and pain are awful. I couldn't sleep, and I couldn't care for my 1-year-old for about three days. It took about two weeks before I felt presentable in public.

Then my 1-year-old came down with chicken pox. I was up with him until four one morning because he just couldn't fall asleep with the intense itching. I felt so sorry for him. But I was also thankful that I knew exactly how he felt. I could be more patient and kind in caring for him

because I understood.

Jesus understands the sufferings we are going through. Just as He was so sympathetic to the people He healed, He understands our problems as parents.

Share a time when you were able to empathize with your child. How can you help them learn to be kind and sympathetic toward others?

Week 4

My 2½-year-old woke early and followed his daddy down the stairs to the kitchen. While my husband poured cereal for himself, our son climbed up into his chair at the table and asked for breakfast too. My husband told him that he couldn't make breakfast for him because he was late, but Mommy would be down in a few minutes to get him some. To that our son replied, "You can. You're stronger."

Little ones put their complete trust in their parents. Is there anything Daddy and Mommy can't do? Yes, there are lots of things we can't do on our own for our children. We want to help them, but we often feel inadequate. God can give us wisdom. He can show us how to raise our children to His glory.

Share a time you wanted to help your child but felt inadequate. How did God assist you?

Week 5

My two boys were helping their dad wash the car. The 5-year-old squirted the 2-year-old with the hose. The 2-year-old yelled, "No! Don't water me. I'm not a flower!"

Many times I have witnessed these two hitting each other, grabbing toys away, shoving, calling names, and generally not being nice. Those are discouraging moments. But then there are the times, and they are not that far between, when they give each other a hug, hold hands while walking, play together and

share so nicely, and tell each other that they are best friends. Those are the golden moments! I cherish those times and always try to praise them for their kindness to each other.

If your young children are having

conflicts, take heart. It is normal. But find the positive and praise it.

Tell about a time you have witnessed kindness from your child. What can you do to encourage kindness in your home?

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities under the supervision of an adult until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

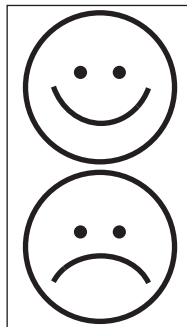
Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket full of simple picture books about Jesus, children, doctors/nurses, health, caring for others, etc.

B. Happy/Sad Face

Give each child a "happy/sad face" made from a paper plate (see illustration), or just ask the children to make a happy face and then a sad face. Talk about times that you're happy. Sing "If You're Happy and You Know It" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 200).



If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

—Alfred Smith

C. Don't Cry

Talk about things that make people sad or make them cry. Talk about how babies cry and when. Take turns holding, rocking, and comforting baby dolls.

D. Sick Room

Invite a doctor or nurse to bring their stethoscope to class and let the children hear their heartbeat. Or invite someone who has a cast, stitches, or who has been in the hospital recently to come to class for show-and-tell (within reason). Have a basket with an assortment of gauze bandages, slings, and adhesive bandages and dolls for the children to practice with.

E. Where Is Your _____?

Play "Where is your _____?" with the children as they identify and point to their body parts. Count fingers and toes. Count eyes and ears. Count arms, legs, mouth, and nose. Talk about the things you do with each body part. Thank Jesus for all your body parts.

F. God Made You

Talk about how special God made each of us and how He wants us to be healthy and happy. Do the "God Made You, God Made Me" finger play.

Allow the children to play with them as you help them name the foods. Talk about all the good food God made for us that helps us stay healthy.

G. Healthy Foods

Fill a basket with an assortment of plastic or play foods that are healthy.

H. Rocking Chair

Have an adult-size rocking chair available for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

"God Made You, God Made Me" Finger Play

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.

3

GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:
☐ bells

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls and moms and dads! I'm so glad**

you're here this morning! Can we say good morning to each other?

Go around the room and welcome each child and encourage children and parents to greet each other with a hug, handshake, etc. Sing: "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 3).

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
How are you today?
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

Say: **Sabbath is a special day. We are happy to be at Sabbath School. Let's ring our bells as we sing.** Sing: "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 235).

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,
Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **We talk to Jesus when we pray. Let's kneel down while we talk to Jesus now.** Prepare for prayer by singing the adapted fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,

I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer and have the children repeat your words similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for Sabbath School. Thank You for Bible stories. Thank You for listening to our prayer. We love You. Amen.**

Sing: "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Greet the visiting children and parents. You may choose to give the visitors a sticker or other small gift. Sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 25).

We're glad you came to our
Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath
school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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You Need:

☐ stickers
or other
small gifts
(optional)

D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ offering container

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves little boys and girls. Jesus loves mommies and daddies. We can help others know Jesus loves them. We share our money so others will hear about Jesus.** Use a basket, a church-shaped bank, or some other container for the offering. Invite children and parents to give their offerings to Jesus. Sing "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 29).

God loves a cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver,
Cheerful, cheerful, cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Let's ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple offering prayer.

E. Birthdays

Say: **It's a special day for _____.**

It's his/her birthday! Lead the child to the birthday chair. Sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 38).

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gifts (optional)

Just two* years old today,
Just two* years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
Jack's* two* years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's name and age.
Copyright Heidelberg Press.

Light the birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
Happy birthday to you.
—Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Let's thank Jesus for your birthday.** Have a short prayer for the birthday child and their parents. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

4

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse**You Need:**

- ☐ felt or cardboard Bibles

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.**

Distribute small individual felt, cardboard, etc., Bibles to the children. Sing "Jesus Talks to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 51).

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.

Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.

Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

—Susan Davis

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Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.**

I pray . . .

that your health

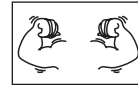
is good.

3 John 2

Place palms together.



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



Jump.



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

**B. Jesus in the Boat**

Put a large piece of fabric or some masking tape on the floor to make an outline of a boat. Have a picture of Jesus (or someone dressed in a white sheet and red sash) in the boat. Ask the children to sit in the "boat" with you. Say: **One day Jesus and His friends went across a lake in a boat. Let's pretend we're Jesus' disciples in the boat with Him.** Sing "See the Boat" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 172).

Rock, rock, rock, rock,
See the boat on the water;
Rock, rock, rock, rock,
See the boat on the water.

—Janet Sage

You Need:

- ☐ large piece of fabric or masking tape
- ☐ picture of Jesus or white sheet and red sash

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C. Jairus Looks for Jesus

Say: **On the other side of the lake, many people wanted to see Jesus.** Have everyone get out of the boat and sit on the floor or go back to their chairs. "Jesus" stands nearby (or someone holds the picture of Jesus). **A man named Jairus lived there. Jairus wanted to see Jesus too, so he went to find Jesus. Can you find Jesus? Where's Jesus? Jairus saw Jesus. Jairus knelt down in front of Jesus. Can you kneel down as Jairus did? Jairus wanted Jesus to help him. Do you ask Mommy and Daddy to help you? What does Mommy or Daddy help you with?** (Getting dressed, going to the bathroom, eating, etc.) **Jesus gave us mommies and daddies. Let's sing and clap together.** Sing "Jesus Gave Me a Mommy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 251). Sing a second time and use the word *daddy*.

Jesus gave me a mommy,*
She* says, "I love you."
Jesus gave me a mommy,*
She* says, "I love you."

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

* daddy/he, grandma/she, grandpa/he, etc.
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D. A Sick Little Girl

Say: **Jairus was a daddy. His little girl was very sick. What do you do when you're sick? Can you show me? Do you lie down and hold your tummy? Do you sit on Mommy's or Daddy's lap? Can you show me how you sit on Mommy's or Daddy's lap?**

Sometimes Mommy gives you medicine. Sometimes Daddy takes you to the doctor. What does the doctor do? Does the doctor look in your mouth? Show me your mouth. Can you open your mouth wide? Does the doctor look in your ears? Show me your ears.

The doctors couldn't help Jairus' little girl get better. But Jairus knew that Jesus could help his little girl. That's because Jesus cared for the little children then just as He cares for you today.

Sing and do motions to this adapted version of "Jesus Cares for You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 92).

Jesus *Point upward.*

cares for me, *Point to self.*

Jesus *Point upward.*

cares for me. *Point to self.*

He *Point upward.*

cares for me. *Point to self.*

—Beginner Writers Group/Arr.
by Kenneth D. Logan. Adapted.

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Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them.**

Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.

I pray . . .	<i>Place palms together.</i>
that your health	<i>Make fists, put arms in air with elbows bent and flex muscles.</i>
is good.	<i>Jump.</i>
3 John 2	<i>Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.</i>

E. Jesus Comes to Help

Say: **Jairus asked Jesus to come to his house. Jairus wanted Jesus to help his little girl. What do you say when you want something? Please! Jairus got down on his knees and said, "Please come to my house, Jesus! Please help my little girl!"**

Jesus cared for Jairus and his daughter. So Jesus told Jairus He would go with him.

Many, many people were all around. The people wanted to see Jesus. Jesus and Jairus squished through the crowd. Can you pretend to squish through the crowd like Jesus and Jairus? There were so many people. They moved very, very slowly. Can you move slowly?

Have four to six parents stand in two lines facing each other holding cushions, or place a sheet on the floor with parents holding the sides for the kids to "squish through" the crowd.

Can you stomp your feet very slowly? Can you stomp your feet fast? Jesus and Jairus moved slowly. Sing the adapted words to "Walking to Church" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 190).

Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk, walk,
walk;

Jesus walked to Jairus' house.

Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk, walk,
walk;

Jesus walked to Jairus' house.

Walk, walk, walk, walk, walk, walk,
walk;

To the girl who needed help.

—Marilyn Scholes. Adapted.

You Need:

☐ cushions or sheet

F. Jesus Heals

You Need:

☐ towels

Say: **On the way to Jairus' house, Jesus stopped to help a woman. While Jesus was talking to her, Jairus' servant came to find Jairus. He told him that his little girl had died. Jairus' servant told him not to bother Jesus anymore. Jairus was very sad, but Jesus told Jairus not to be sad. Jesus could make things better.**

So Jesus and Jairus went to Jairus' house. Lots of people were there. Jesus and Jairus went into the house. Jairus' little girl was lying in her bed. Can you lie down like the little girl? You may want to place towels on the floor as "beds."

Jesus held her hand and said, "Little girl, get up!" And she did! Can the mommies and daddies take your hand and say, "Little girl, little boy, get up"? Can you jump up like Jairus' little girl? Jesus told her parents to give her some food. Jairus and his wife were very happy. Everyone was very happy! Jairus thanked Jesus!

Sing words as follows to "I Am So Happy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 199).

Oh, I am so happy,
As happy as can be,
For I have my little girl
that Jesus healed for me.

—Emelie Cope Albertson. Adapted.

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Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the**

memory verse with me while we do the actions.

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.

G. The Celebration

You Need:

☐ bubbles and bubble blower or crepe paper or fabric strips or musical instruments

Say: **The little girl was alive and well! She was happy, too! Her mommy and daddy were happy. Everyone was so happy. They must have had a party to celebrate. Let's celebrate too.** Blow bubbles, give children strips of crepe paper or fabric

to wave, or pass out musical instruments for them to "play." Sing the adapted words to "I Love Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 205).

I am happy! O I am happy!
O I am happy, Jesus made me well.
I am happy! O I am happy!
O I am happy, Jesus made me well.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care**

for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.

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.*

H. Caring for the Sad

You Need:

- ☐ baby dolls (optional)

Say: **Jesus cared for others. We can care for others too. Jairus was very sad because his little girl was sick. How**

do you look when you're sad? Can you show me a sad face?

When people are sad we can sometimes help them feel better. Music sometimes helps. Do you like singing? We can sing a happy song for them. We can hold their hand. Can you hold hands with your mommy or daddy? We can hug them. Can you give Mommy or Daddy a hug?

Jesus cared for others. We can care for others too. Let's sing a song about caring for others. Sing "Things That I Can Do" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 299).

There are many things that I can do;
Doo-dle, doo-dle, doot, doot, doo.
I can sing a song with notes so true*:
Doo-dle, doo-dle, doot, doot, doo.

—Derrell Billingsley

*Second verse: "I can hug my friend and hold their hand." (Motions: Hug someone and hold their hand.)

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Say: **Let's pretend your baby doll is sad and crying.** Hand out baby dolls or put arms together as if cradling a baby. **Can you rock your baby and sing to it? Jesus cared for others. We can care for others too.** Sing "Don't Cry, Little Baby" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 246).

Don't cry, little baby, don't cry,
don't cry;
Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you;
Don't cry, little baby, don't cry,
don't cry;
Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you.

—Janet Sage

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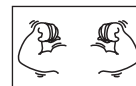
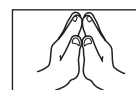
Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.**

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.*



I. Caring for the Sick

You Need:

- ❑ artificial flowers in pots
- ❑ adhesive bandages or felt bandages and felt child

Say: **We can care for others as Jesus did by going to visit those who are sick. We can take flowers to cheer them up so they will know we care about them. We can pray for them and ask Jesus to help them feel better. Let's pick some flowers and take a walk to give them to our sick friend.**

Allow children to "pick" a few flowers and then follow you around the room back to their seats. They can give the flowers to their mommy or daddy. Sing the fourth verse of "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 235).

Then we go see a sick friend,
a sick friend, a sick friend,
Then we go see a sick friend,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

Say: **Now that we've brought flowers to our friend, we can also pray with them. Let's kneel down and say a prayer for our sick friend.** Kneel down and say a short prayer similar to: **Dear Jesus, please take care of my sick friend. Help them to feel better. We know You care. Amen.**

When we are hurt or have cuts and bruises, adhesive bandages help us feel better. We can care for others by caring for their hurts. When we help others it's as if we are helping Jesus. Can you pretend your mommy or daddy is hurt and needs a bandage? You can care for them by putting it on them.

Distribute small adhesive bandages. An option would be to have a large felt child on a felt board and give the children felt "bandages" to put on the felt child. Sing "I Will Use My Hands for Him" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 303).

Because Jesus loves me, I will use my hands for Him.

Because Jesus loves me, I will use my hands for Him.

—Enid G. Thorson

© 1988 by Enid G. Thorson.

Do the following "Owies" finger play together. Point to each body part as it is named. Repeat it several times.

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.

Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.**

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.

J. Caring by Sharing**You Need:**

- ☐ two sharing items for each child

Say: **When we feel sick or sad, it's nice to snuggle with a little blanket or your favorite animal. When Mommy or Daddy**

feels bad, you can help them feel better too. Give two sharing items to each child. **You can let them hold your teddy bears** (or dollies, stuffed animals, blankets, toy cars, etc.).

Can you share with Mommy or Daddy now? Show me how you can help them feel better. Sing "Sharing

Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 279).

Possible alternate verses: Bibles, toy cars, etc.

I have two dollies and I am glad,
You have no dolly and that's too bad.
I'll share my dollies, for I love you,
And that's what Jesus wants me to do.

—Myrtle R. Creasman

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Say: **When Jesus was here He cared for others. We can help Jesus by caring for others too.**

5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1

*Stained-Glass Heart***You Need:**

- ☐ clear contact paper
- ☐ permanent marker
- ☐ small colored tissue paper pieces
- ☐ papers with memory verse (see p. 70)
- ☐ pen
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ string (12 inches or 30-centimeter piece for each child)
- ☐ hole punch

Beforehand, prepare for each child a piece of contact paper with a large heart drawn on it with a permanent marker.

Have the parents peel the backing off the contact paper, and, with sticky side up, lay it flat on the table. Place the strip of paper with the memory verse on the heart. Then allow the children to place the pieces of colored tissue paper on the sticky heart to make a "stained-glass" window hanging.

When the children finish, ask parents to place another piece of clear contact paper on top of the first and cut out the heart shape. Punch a hole at the top and tie the string to hang the heart in a window. (See sample on page 70.)

Week 2

*Little Girl's Bed***You Need:**

- ☐ copies of Jairus' daughter (see p. 71)
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ letter-size envelopes
- ☐ stickers

Beforehand, copy Jairus' daughter (see p. 71) for each child. Let the children color Jairus' daughter and then have the parents cut her out. The children can put stickers on the opening side of the envelope. Parents can write "Jesus Cares for Children" on the bottom of the envelope. Jairus' daughter can lay in her "bed" (the envelope) and get out of bed when Jesus makes her well.

Week 3

*Big Bandage***You Need:**

- ☐ copies of bandage outline (see p. 70)
- ☐ heavy colored paper
- ☐ gauze or cheese cloth or white fabric
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue sticks

Beforehand, copy the bandage outline (see p. 70) onto sheets of heavy colored paper. Also cut the gauze or cheese cloth or white fabric into $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch x $3\frac{1}{4}$ inch (8 cm x 8 cm) pieces to look like a bandage and to fit in the bandage outline. Allow the children to glue the gauze or cheese cloth or white fabric onto the outline on the colored paper.

Week 4

*Holding Hands***You Need:**

- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ stickers (optional)

Ask the parents to trace their adult hands on a piece of construction paper; then trace their child's hands on another piece. Cut out the child's hands and glue them beside the adult's hands. Write "Let's hold hands." on the bottom of the sheet. Decorate if time permits.

Week 5 (or optional activity)**Get-Well Card****You Need:**

- ☐ copies of heart-shaped card (see p. 72)
- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ crayons (optional)
- ☐ stickers (optional)

Beforehand, copy the heart-shaped card (see p. 72) onto heavy paper. Parents can cut out the heart shape. Allow the children to decorate it with crayons and stickers, if possible. Have the children give or mail their card to a sick person during the week.

Bible Activities (Optional)

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Snack Center (Optional)**You Need:**

- ☐ crackers or sliced fruit
- ☐ napkins

After raising Jairus' daughter to life, Jesus instructed her family to give her something to eat. A snack of crackers or sliced fruit would be appropriate

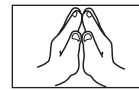
for use with this story.

Closing

Say: **The Bible teaches us about Jesus' care for people. Jesus cared if they were sad, sick, or scared. Jesus loved them. Our memory verse today tells us one way we can care for others. It says, "I pray . . . that your health is good." Praying is one way we can care for others. Say the memory verse with me while we do the actions.**

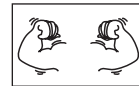
I pray . . .

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.



Say: **Jesus cared for people who were sick or hurting or sad. Jesus made them feel better. We help Jesus when we help care for people.** Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for showing us how to care for others. Please help us always to be kind to those who are sick or sad. We love You. Amen.**

As the children prepare to leave the room, sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."

—Kathleen Maguire

STUDENT LESSON

References

Mark 5:21-43;
Luke 8:40-56;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 342-348.

Memory Verse

"I pray . . . that
your health is
good" (3 John 2,
ICB).

The Message

We can care
for others.

Jesus Heals a Little Girl

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.*

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

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

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

4. 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.

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

6. 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.

7. 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.

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.

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

9. 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" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 246) when someone is sad or hurt.

10. As you make the bed, sing together, "I'm a little helper."

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

12. Make cookies with a heart-shaped cookie cutter.

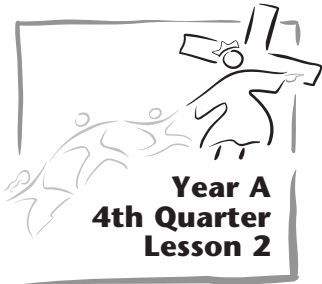
Write out the memory verse and attach it. With your child, give them to friends and family.

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

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

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

LESSON



The Good Shepherd

GRACE

God brings His love to us.

References

Luke 15:4-7; *Christ's Object Lessons*, pp. 186-192; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 476-484.

Memory Verse

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

Objectives:

The children will

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.

The Message



Jesus cares for you and me.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

A shepherd has many sheep. But one day he discovers he has lost one. He searches everywhere until he finds it. He is so happy to take the sheep home to be with all the others!

This is a lesson about grace.

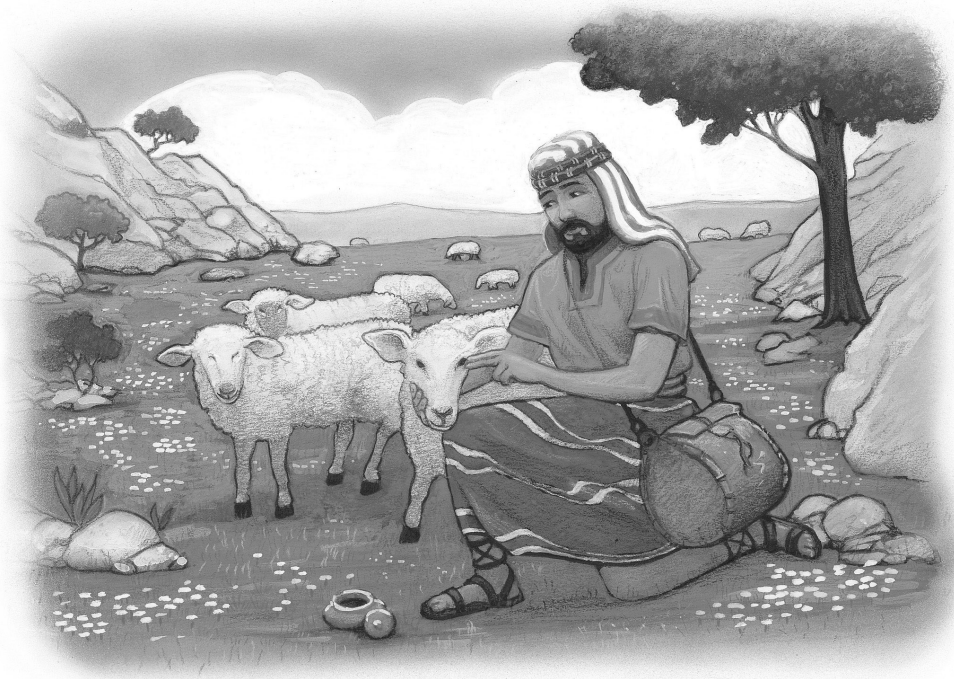
God's gift of grace includes watching over us wherever we go and whatever we do. Young children can understand and feel God's love through the love of their parents as the parents watch over them in every way.

Teacher Enrichment

"Of all creatures the sheep is one of the most timid and helpless, and in the East the shepherd's care for his flock is untiring and incessant. . . .

"As an earthly shepherd knows his sheep, so does the divine Shepherd know His flock that are scattered throughout the world. . . . Jesus knows us individually, and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. He knows us all by name. He knows the very house in which we live, the name of each occupant. . . .

TWO



"However much a shepherd may love his sheep, he loves his sons and daughters more. Jesus is not only our shepherd; He is our 'everlasting Father'" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 478-483).

How are you showing the love of the Shepherd to your family and students?

Room Organization

Have children sit in a semicircle with parents sitting at their side.

Room Decorations

Decorate your room with an outdoor scene. If possible, create "mountains" that can be climbed (can be rocks or wood or wooden boxes), a stream (paper or fabric), something to represent grass (green paper or fabric, imitation grass). Make a cave for the sheepfold with a sheet or build it with boxes, chairs, bamboo, or something easily available where you live.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<i>A. Animals</i> <i>B. Peekaboo Box</i> <i>C. Nesting Toys</i> <i>D. Pets</i> <i>E. Hide-and-Seek</i> <i>F. Rock-a-bye Baby</i> <i>G. Rocking Chair</i>	toy stuffed animals, blocks or boxes or a sheet, green paper box, hand towel or fabric, play objects toy sheep, nesting dolls or boxes or bowls live pet small object or toy animals dolls, blankets, quiet music, child-size rocking chair adult-size rocking chair
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	mirror or toy stuffed sheep, bells stickers or other small gifts (optional) offering container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<i>A. Memory Verse</i> <i>B. Naming and Counting the Sheep</i> <i>C. Sheep Fleece</i> <i>D. Sheepfold</i> <i>E. Feed the Sheep</i> <i>F. Drink of Water</i> <i>G. Hurt Sheep</i> <i>H. Nighttime</i> <i>I. Sheep Search</i> <i>J. Memory Verse</i>	small felt or cardboard Bibles toy stuffed or plastic sheep or sheep masks, adult to play shepherd, simple costume for adult, walking stick, ear and nose pattern (see p. 73), cotton balls, elastic thread or rubber band, stapler, white paper plates, pink and black construction paper fleece or something similar blocks or boxes or chairs, sheet grass or shredded green paper or green fabric strips or hay bowl of water or individual cups of water hand lotion or baby oil, bandages or masking tape (optional) parent and child to hide at prearranged time

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
		<i>K. Jesus, The Good Shepherd</i> <i>L. Jesus Gives Us Families</i> <i>M. Our Families Feed Us</i> <i>N. Our Families Love Us</i> <i>O. Jesus Loves Me</i> <i>P. Jesus Cares for Me</i> <i>Q. Thank You, Jesus</i> <i>R. We Love Jesus</i>	picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus; plastic, felt, etc., of family members pots or plastic bowls and mixing spoons; or artificial food and a basket “Jesus Loves Me” banners or rainbow sticks or rhythm instru- ments pictures or stickers of Jesus picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus, felt or paper hearts none
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Fingerprint Sheep</i>	heavy paper, ink pad or marker, felt-tip pen, cotton balls, glue sticks, baby wipes or water and paper towels
	Week 2	<i>Sheepfold</i>	paper cups, construction paper, cotton balls, black paper, hole punch, glue sticks
	Week 3	<i>Paper Bag Lambs</i>	lunch-size paper bags, cotton balls, markers, glue, copies of sheep face pattern (see p. 74)
	Week 4	<i>Stick Sheep</i>	wide craft sticks or tongue depres- sors, paper, cotton balls, glue, mark- ers, copies of lamb’s face pattern (see p. 75), scissors, stick-on mag- nets (optional)
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Stick Shepherd</i>	wide craft sticks or tongue depres- sors, tissues or small pieces of fabric, string or chenille sticks, markers, cotton balls, pretzel sticks, glue sticks, stick-on magnets (optional)
Snack Center (Optional)			round crackers, peanut butter or other spread, flaked coconut, pretzel sticks, raisins, plastic bags (optional)



PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

I used to be a decent, respectable human being. I knew how to organize things, accomplish things, finish a project. Then my son was born. Suddenly everything in my life seemed total chaos! My house was a mess, my body was a mess, my life was one big mess. How could it be that at this wonderful time in my life I felt so awful? I began to attend a mother's group that became my lifeline. It met only twice a month, but that was twice a month that I knew I wasn't alone! God used other people who were going through the same things to lift me up and help me remember that He knew me. God knows YOU! He feels every emotion you experience. He says to you, "I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you" (see John 14:18).

What are some things we can do to strengthen and encourage one another?

Week 2

Amy smiled. *I've actually accomplished something this morning!* she thought. The floor was mopped, and 22 cups of granola cereal cooled in a bowl on the counter. Going into the bedroom, she shut the door behind her. While the boys napped she could make a couple

of phone calls and fold some laundry.

Unknown to Amy, her 2-year-old was NOT asleep. He went to the kitchen, pulled a chair over to the counter, and proceeded to dump all 22 cups of fresh granola onto the floor. Then he added a big box of dry cereal. He continued the adventure by emptying the full garbage can on the mess. About that time Amy came into the kitchen. . .

Ever had that kind of day? Jesus understands. He calls you to Him. He knows your frustration. And He will pick up the pieces.

Share a time your child undid all the work you had done and the frustrations you felt. In those moments, what can help YOU remember God's love and care for you?

Week 3

One afternoon we took a walk. For some reason, our almost 3-year-old had decided that a walk was NOT what he wanted to do. He asked, "Daddy, will you carry me?" I answered him teasingly, "Oh, son, you're too big for me to carry!" Crossing his little arms firmly across his chest, he answered with determination, "Well, I am NOT too heavy for JESUS!"

Share a time the burdens of parenthood seemed heavy. Turn to someone near you and remind them, "NOTHING is too heavy for JESUS!"

Week 4

Here's a precious thought of encouragement today! Put YOUR name in each of the blanks: "Jesus knows the burden of _____'s heart. He is _____'s best friend in every emergency. His everlasting arms support _____" (Ellen White, *Bible Echo*, Sept. 1, 1893). (Read this

through more than once, to give everyone the opportunity to let the thought really sink into their hearts.)

Week 5

My friend, a nurse, was used to working the night shift. After her baby's birth she expressed her feelings of exhaustion

and amazement at what a lot of time it took to care for a newborn. "I'm doing OK with the baby being up a lot at night, but I keep wondering when the day shift is coming in!" Remember in times like these that Jesus knows your feelings.

Share a time you felt exhausted and needed a break.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Animals

Provide toy stuffed animals (some that make noises) for the children to hold. If possible, provide adult and baby animals for the children to match. Build a cave for the animals with blocks or with a sheet and two chairs. Let the children put the animals in their "house." Provide green paper for the older children to shred or crunch and then feed to the animals.

B. Peekaboo Box

Place a piece of fabric or a hand towel and play objects such as blocks, rattles, balls, stuffed animals, etc., into a box. Parents can hide an object under the fabric and let children play peekaboo to find something hidden, as the parent says this rhyme:

Peekaboo

Let's see who

Finds a (name of the object)

that got lost (child picks up the object).

(Name) did! (Hug the child. Affirm the child.)

C. Nesting Toys

Hide a small object (could be a small toy sheep) inside or under a nesting toys set. (Nesting dolls, different size boxes, or plastic containers all work well.) Children will open the nesting toys until they find the lost sheep or other object.

D. Pets

Bring in a small pet (turtle, bird, fish, hamster, kitten, or puppy) that children can look at, touch, and feed. Ask them to name the animal, make the sound the animal makes, and tell what it eats.

E. Hide-and-Seek

Hide objects or toy animals inside a box, under a chair, or in other places in the room. Ask the children to find them. When they find the animal, say: **How happy we are that we found the lost (name of the animal or object).** *Option:* Have children hide under a table. Have the other children or parents look for them.

F. Rock-a-bye Baby

Provide a child-size rocking chair and dolls and blankets for the children to hold and rock while singing or listening to music.

G. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-size rocking chair for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- ☐ hand mirror or toy stuffed sheep
- ☐ bells

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls, and moms and dads! I'm so glad you're here this morning! Can we say good morning to each other?**

Welcome each child personally as you sing the following song. (Suggestions: Hold a mirror up to each child's face so they can see themselves, or take a stuffed toy sheep to each child, shake each child's hand, etc. Encourage adults to greet each other with a hug, handshake, etc.)

Sing: "Good Morning to You" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 3).

Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
How are you today?
Good morning to you,
Good morning to you,
This happy Sabbath day.

—Mildred Adair

Give bells to the children. Say:
Sabbath is a special day. We are happy to be at Sabbath School. Let's ring our bells as we sing.
Sing "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 235).

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,

Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

B. Prayer Time

Say: **We talk to Jesus when we pray. Let's kneel down while we talk to Jesus now.** Prepare for prayer by singing the adapted fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer similar to the following and have the children repeat your words: **Dear Jesus, thank You for Sabbath School. Thank You for Bible stories. Thank You for listening to our prayer. We love You. Amen.**

Sing: "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors**You Need:**

- ☐ stickers or other small gifts (optional)

Greet the visiting children and parents. You may choose to give the visitors a sticker or other small gift. Sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
 Won't you come again?
 —Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering**You Need:**

- ☐ offering container

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves little boys and girls. Jesus loves mommies and daddies. We can help others know Jesus loves them, too. We share our money so others will learn about Jesus.**

Use a basket, a bank, or some other container for the offering. Invite children and parents to give their offerings to Jesus. Sing "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 29).

God loves a cheerful giver,
 God loves a cheerful giver,
 Cheerful, cheerful, cheerful giver,
 God loves a cheerful giver.
 —Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Let's ask Jesus to bless your gifts.** Pray a simple offering prayer.

E. Birthdays

Say: **It's a special day for _____. It's his/her birthday!** Lead the child to the birthday chair. Sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 38).

Just two* years old today,
 Just two* years old today;
 Happy birthday, happy birthday!
 Jack's* two* years old today.
 —C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's name and age.
 Copyright Heidelberg Press.

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Light the birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
 Happy birthday to you,
 Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
 Happy birthday to you.
 —Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Let's thank Jesus for your birthday.** Have a short prayer for the birthday child and their parents. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard Bibles

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small individual felt or cardboard Bibles to the children. Sing "Jesus Talks to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 51).

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.
Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

—Susan Davis

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Say: **Our Bible story today is about a man who lost one of his sheep. He loved his sheep, so he looked and looked until he found it. When he found it he said to his friends, "Be happy with me . . . I found my . . . sheep." That's our memory verse today.**

Clap each time you sing the words "found my sheep" to the tune of "I'm So Small" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 96).

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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B. Naming and Counting the Sheep

Directions for sheep mask:

You Need:

- ☐ for each child, toy stuffed or plastic sheep or sheep mask
- ☐ adult to play the shepherd
- ☐ Bible-times costume for shepherd
- ☐ walking stick
- ☐ white paper plates
- ☐ pink and black construction paper
- ☐ a copy of the ear and nose pattern (see p. 73)
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ black construction paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ elastic thread or rubber band
- ☐ stapler

To make a mask for each child, have the parent begin with a white paper plate. Cut out holes for eyes. Cut the ears out of pink paper and the nose out of black paper (see patterns on page 73). Glue the nose and ears to paper plate. Add cotton balls. Staple the elastic band to each side just above the ears.

Dress as the shepherd and tell the story, or ask another adult to be the shepherd while you narrate. The children will either hold and use the toy sheep during the entire program or wear their sheep masks and pretend to be sheep. Before you begin the story, ask one adult and a child to be the lost sheep and to hide at the appropriate point in the story.

Say: **Once there was a shepherd who had many sheep.**

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep or wear their sheep masks and come sit on the floor near the

shepherd. **The shepherd loved each of his sheep. He knew each of their names. There's Hannah, and Brian,**

and Rachel, and Daniel. (Use the names of each of the children in your class.) **The shepherd knew what was special about each sheep.** (Name characteristics about the children in your class, such as the oldest, youngest, biggest, littlest, hair color, etc. Be sensitive to differences that might be embarrassing.) **Each one of the shepherd's sheep was special, and the shepherd loved each one. He loved the big grown-up sheep, and he loved the little baby lambs. Every morning the shepherd counted to make sure all of his sheep and lambs**

were there. One, two, three . . .

(Count the children. Invite them to count with you.) **Yes, they were all there.**

The shepherd was very happy.

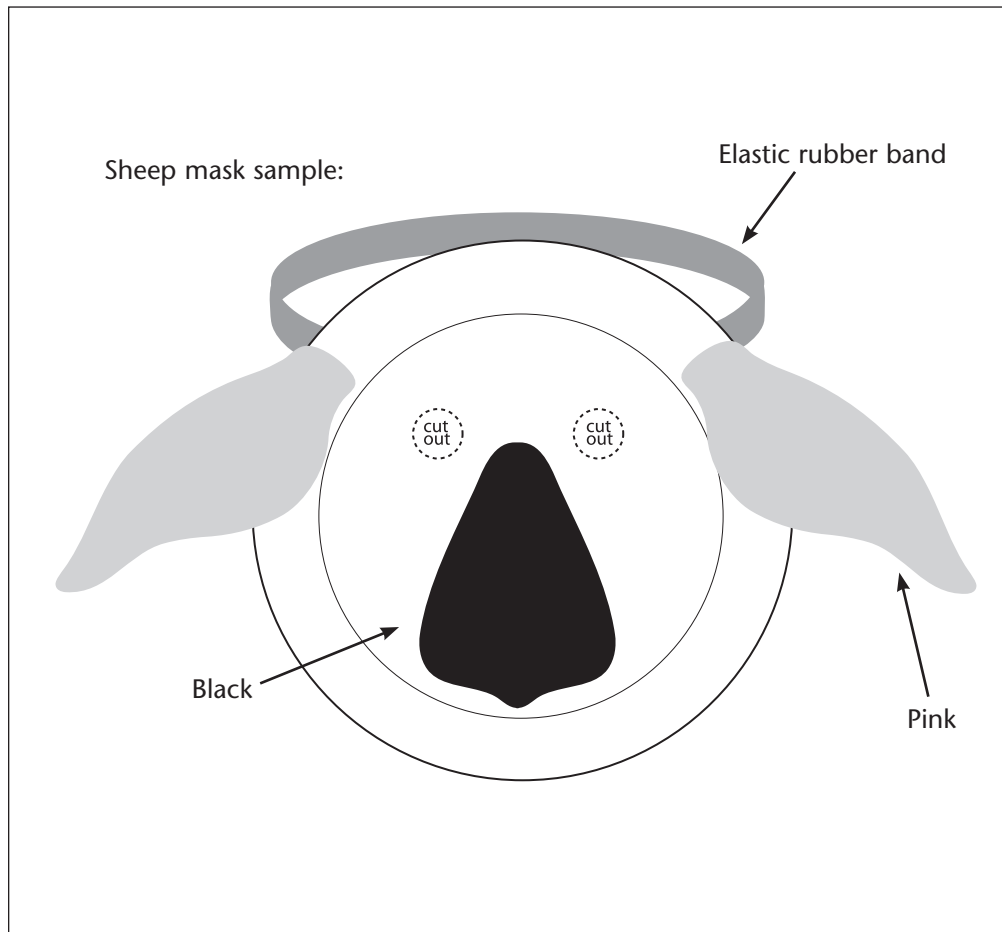
Pat, hug, or in some other way express affection for each of the children as you sing "The Shepherd Loves His Lambs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 114).

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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Note: Save the masks for use each Sabbath this month.

C. Sheep Fleece

You Need:

- ❑ a piece of fleece or something similar

Say: **Sheep and lambs are very soft. People use their soft wool to make cloth. Each spring the shepherd gives the sheep a haircut to get their soft wool. The sheep like having their heavy coats cut off before the hot summer.**

Give each child an opportunity to touch the fleece while you sing "Woolly, Woolly Lamb" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 171).

Woolly, woolly lamb,
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Jesus made you soft and woolly;
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Woolly, woolly lamb,
Jesus made you soft and woolly.
—Janet Sage

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E. Feed the Sheep

You Need:

- ❑ grass or shredded green paper or green fabric strips or hay

Say: **Each day the shepherd took his sheep to a place where they could find good food.** Give "grass" to the children to feed to their sheep while you sing the following words to the tune of "The Hungry Cow" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 174).

Jesus made the grass for the hungry sheep;
Let's feed the sheep, let's feed the sheep;
Jesus made the grass for the hungry sheep;
Let's feed the hungry sheep.
—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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D. Sheepfold

You Need:

- ❑ materials to build a sheepfold (blocks, boxes, or chairs covered with a sheet)

Say: **The shepherd built a sheepfold for his sheep. He wanted them to have a place where they would be safe from wild animals and bad storms.** Let the children help you build the sheepfold; then crawl inside. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 123) while you build the cave or while sitting inside the cave with the children.

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.
—Carol Greene

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F. Drink of Water

You Need:

- ❑ a bowl of water or individual cups of water

Say: **The sheep needed water every day, too. Each day the shepherd led his sheep to a place with clean, fresh water.**

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep to get a pretend drink out of the bowl, or give each child some water to drink. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 123).

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.
—Carol Greene

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G. Hurt Sheep

You Need:

- ☐ hand lotion or baby oil
- ☐ bandages or masking tape (optional)

Say: **Sometimes the shepherd's sheep got hurt. They might run into scratchy bushes or get cut or hurt another way. Then the shepherd put medicine on their wounds.**

Rub a drop of hand lotion or baby oil into each child's hand or arm. If desired, cover the area with a bandage or little piece of masking tape. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 123).

The good shepherd watches,
so sheep may safely feed.
He keeps them from danger
and gives them all they need.

—Carol Greene

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You Need:

- ☐ parent and child

H. Nighttime

Turn out the light.
Say: **When it started getting dark, the shepherd took all of his sheep back to**

their sheepfold. Do you remember why? Yes, so they would be safe from storms and wild animals. The shepherd wanted his sheep to be safe because he loved them. Let's take our sheep home.

Signal for the parent and child to hide instead of coming to the fold. Lead the rest of the children to the sheepfold. Say: **Are all the sheep and lambs here? The shepherd wanted to be sure they were all safe for the night. So he counted his sheep:**

one, two, three . . . (Invite the children to count with you. Call the children by name and remember some of the characteristics you mentioned earlier in the program.) **But wait! Something is wrong! Earlier we had** (name the number) **of sheep and now we have** (one less). **Someone is missing! Who is it?** See if the children can help you identify who is missing.

I. Sheep Search

Say: **What do you think the shepherd did when he found out one sheep was missing? Did he go inside his house and have supper? No. Did he crawl into his warm bed? No. The shepherd could never rest as long as one of his precious sheep was missing. Maybe his sheep was hurt. Maybe it was in danger. The shepherd couldn't leave his sheep out by itself. The shepherd went searching for his lost sheep.**

Pretend to search and search for the hiding child. Call out for the sheep during the search. When you find the "lost" parent and child say: **Oh, I've found my lost sheep! I'm so happy! I was so worried about my lost sheep, but now I have found him/her.**

Sing "Rejoice, I Have Found My Sheep" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 176).

Rejoice, I have found my sheep.
Rejoice, I have found my sheep.
I have found my sheep,
Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice,
I have found my sheep.

—Janet Sage

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J. Memory Verse

Say: **The shepherd was so happy, he told all his friends that he had found his lost sheep. He said to them, "Be happy with me . . . I found my . . . sheep!"**

Clap each time you sing the words *found my sheep* while singing the following song to the tune of "I'm So Small" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 96).

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

Give different children an opportunity to hide and be found, singing the memory verse song each time a new child is found. This will reinforce learning the memory verse.

You Need:

- ☐ picture of or stand-up cutout of Jesus
- ☐ plastic or felt "family members" of different ages

as the shepherd loved his sheep.

Invite the children to bring their "family members" and place them beside the picture of Jesus while you sing the following to the tune of "Jesus Gave Me a Mommy" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 251).

Jesus gave me a family. They love me,
I know.

Jesus gave me a family. They love me,
I know.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart. Adapted.

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K. Jesus, the Good Shepherd

You Need:

- ☐ a picture of or a stand-up cutout of Jesus

Say: **Jesus loves and cares for us, just as the shepherd loves and cares for his sheep.**

Invite the children to bring their toy sheep or their sheep masks and place them close to the picture or cutout of Jesus. Sing "The Shepherd Loves His Lambs" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 114).

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

The Shepherd loves His lambs, and
Jesus loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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L. Jesus Gives Us Families

Say: **Just as the sheep have a shepherd to take care of them, Jesus gave us families to take care of us. Jesus gave us families to take care of us because He loves us, just**

M. Our Families Feed Us

You Need:

- ☐ pots, pans, plastic bowls, etc. (toy or real)
- ☐ wooden or other mixing spoons or a variety of artificial food
- ☐ a basket

Say: **One thing our families do to take care of us is to give us good food to eat.** Give each child a pot or bowl and a mixing utensil to pretend to cook with or a piece of artificial food to put in a basket. Sing "My Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 252).

My family cooks good food for me,
my family cooks good food for me,
My family cooks good food for me,
I love my family.

—Edith Smith Casebeer. Adapted.

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N. Our Families Love Us

Say: **Can you think of another way our families show us love? Does your family hug and kiss you?**
Encourage parents to hug and/or kiss their children while you sing "My Family" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 252).

My family hugs and kisses me,
My family hugs and kisses me,
My family hugs and kisses me,
I love my family.

—Edith Smith Casebeer. Adapted.

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O. Jesus Loves Me**You Need:**

- ☐ "Jesus Loves Me" banners or rainbow sticks or rhythm instruments

Say: **Our families love us very much and care for us. Who else loves you and cares for you? Jesus does!**

Give each child a banner or rainbow stick to wave or a rhythm instrument to use while you march

and sing "Jesus Loves Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 102).

Jesus loves me! this I know,
For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong,
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

—William Bradbury

P. Jesus Cares for Me

Give each child a picture of Jesus to hold or a sticker of Jesus for the back of their hand while you sing "Yes, Jesus Cares for Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 118).

Yes, Jesus cares for me.
Yes, Jesus cares for me.
He gives me my home
and my food and my clothing.
Oh, yes, Jesus cares for me.

—Enid G. Thorson

You Need:

- ☐ picture of Jesus for each child or sticker of Jesus for each child

© 1988 by Enid G. Thorson

Q. Thank You, Jesus

Give each child a heart with their name written on it. Invite them to bring their hearts to Jesus while you sing "The Good Shepherd" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 123). If you use paper hearts, pin or tape them to "Jesus" so they stay in place.

Lord Jesus, our Shepherd, we
thank You for Your care.
We know that You love us; we're
safe with You anywhere.

—Carol Greene. Adapted

You Need:

- ☐ picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus
- ☐ felt or paper heart for each child with their name written on it

R. We Love Jesus

Say: **Jesus loves us so much that we want to love Him back. Let's tell Him that we love Him.**

Have the children hold up their pictures of Jesus or point to the sticker of Jesus on their hand as you sing "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love Thee, O Lord.
(Repeat five times.)

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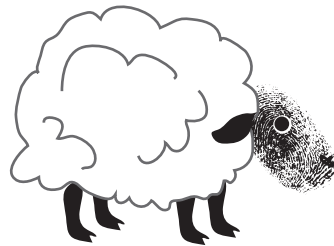
5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Week 1***Fingerprint Sheep*****You Need:**

- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ ink pad or marker
- ☐ felt-tip pen
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ baby wipes or damp paper towels

Press each child's index finger onto the ink pad (or color the finger with a marker) and press onto the paper. This will be the sheep's head. Glue a cotton ball onto the paper behind the head for the sheep's body. Use the felt-tip pen to draw facial features and legs. Clean fingers with the baby wipes or paper towels.

**Week 2*****Sheepfold*****You Need:**

- ☐ paper cups
- ☐ construction paper cut into 2" x 1/2" strips
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ black construction paper and a hole punch
- ☐ glue sticks

Give each child a paper cup and several strips of construction paper. Show the children how to glue the strips of paper in vertical stripes around the cup to create the "fence" around the sheepfold. Give each child 10 cotton balls and small black paper circles punched from the construction paper. Glue two black "eyes" onto each cotton ball. These are the sheep. Let the children practice counting the sheep as they put them in the sheepfold.

Week 3***Paper Bag Lambs*****You Need:**

- ☐ lunch-size paper bags
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ markers
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ copies of sheep face pattern (see p. 74)

Cut out the sheep's face pattern. (See page 74.) Allow children to color it, if desired. Glue the face to the bottom of the paper bag. Glue cotton balls around the face.

Week 4***Stick Sheep*****You Need:**

- ☐ wide craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ☐ paper
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ markers
- ☐ copies of lamb's face pattern (see p. 75)
- ☐ scissors (blunt-nosed)
- ☐ stick-on magnets (optional)

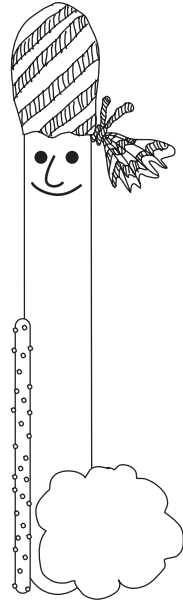
Copy the lamb's face pattern (see p. 75) onto a piece of white paper. Leave enough space for a child's handprint on the same page. Give each parent and child one copy of the face. Ask the parent to trace the child's hand onto the piece of paper, then cut out the handprint and the lamb's face. Demonstrate how to glue the handprint (with fingers pointing down) below the lamb's face onto the craft stick, then add cotton balls for wool. Attach a magnet

to the back of the stick if desired. (See sample illustration on page 75.)

From *More Than Mud Pies: Bible-Learning Crafts & Games for Preschoolers* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1998), pp. 88, 89. Used by permission.

Week 5 (or optional activity)**Stick Shepherd****You Need:**

- ☐ wide craft sticks or tongue depressors
- ☐ tissues or small (three- to four-inch square) pieces of fabric
- ☐ string or chenille sticks
- ☐ markers
- ☐ cotton balls
- ☐ pretzel sticks
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ stick-on magnets (optional)



Create a headdress for the shepherd by folding one edge of the tissue or fabric over

the front of the craft stick and pulling the rest of it to the back of the stick. Tie it with a piece of string or secure it with a chenille stick. Draw a shepherd's face with the marker. Glue on a pretzel stick for a staff and a cotton ball for a lamb. Attach a magnet to the back if desired.

Bible Activities (optional)

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Snack Center

(optional)

You Need:

- ☐ round crackers
- ☐ peanut butter or other spread
- ☐ flaked coconut
- ☐ pretzel sticks
- ☐ raisins
- ☐ sealable plastic bags (optional)

Spread a little peanut butter or other spread on a round cracker. Create a face with the raisins. Use pretzel sticks for legs. Sprinkle flaked coconut on the peanut butter for sheep's wool. (Children may put the finished "sheep" in a sealable plastic bag and take it home.)

Closing

Say: **Jesus loves us and cares for us just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. Jesus even calls Himself our Shepherd.** Close with a short prayer similar to the following: **Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and caring for us just as a shepherd cares for his sheep. We love You, Jesus. Amen.**

As the children prepare to leave the room, sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."

—Kathleen Maguire

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STUDENT LESSON

The Good Shepherd

References

Luke 15:4-7;
Christ's Object
Lessons, pp. 186-
192; The Desire of
Ages, pp. 476-484.

Memory Verse

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

The Message

Jesus cares for
you and me.

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

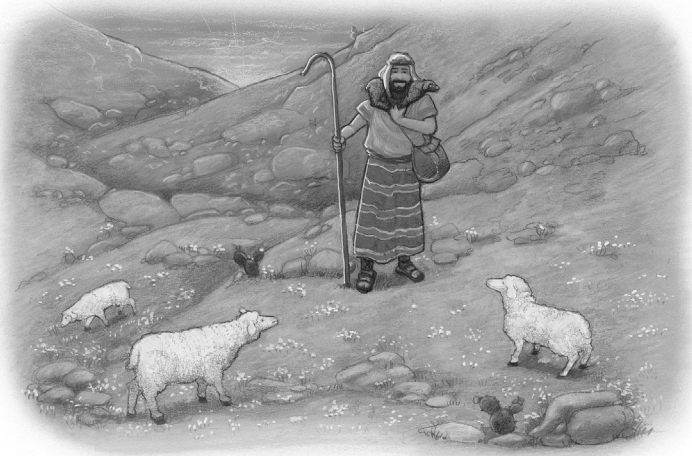
Flies buzz Woolly Lamb's eyes. Flies
buzz Woolly Lamb's nose. Woolly Lamb
stamps his feet. *(Stamp feet.)* All the
sheep stamp at the flies.

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.)*

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

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

3. 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.

4. Play hide-and-seek with your child. Hug him/her when you find him/her. Then sing the memory verse song.

5. 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.

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

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

8. Make a trail with paper streamers. Have your child find his/her way to the "lost

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.

sheep" by following the streamers. Sing "The Good Shepherd" (learned in Sabbath School).

9. 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.

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

11. Along with your child, using blocks, build a sheepfold.

12. Hide a toy stuffed animal. You and your child can look for it and sing the memory verse

song when you find it.

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

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

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

LESSON



Baby Jesus Is Born

WORSHIP

We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.

References

Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-49, 59-67.

Memory Verse

"I love you, Lord" (Psalm 18:1, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that we worship Jesus.

Feel love for Jesus as a baby.

Respond by worshipping Jesus.

The Message



We love Jesus.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem to be counted as ordered by Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor. But they can't find any place to stay because the city is full of people who have come for the same reason. An innkeeper lets them stay in his stable. Jesus is born there, and Mary wraps Him in swaddling cloths and lays Him in a manger. Angels show the shepherds where Jesus was born. The shepherds come and worship Jesus. The Wise Men follow a

star to find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him valuable gifts.

This is a lesson about worship.

Worship is our response to God as we recognize Him as the source of all. It is not possible to fully comprehend what it meant for Jesus, the God of the universe and our all-powerful Creator, to leave heaven and come to this earth as a newborn child. When we meditate on this radical act of love and accept His love for us, we can't help worshipping Him.

THREE



Teacher Enrichment

"The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings. His glory was veiled, that the majesty of His outward form might not become an object of attraction. He shunned all outward display. . . . Only the beauty of heavenly truth must draw those who would follow Him" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 43).

Those celebrating the birth* of Jesus were but a few men who traveled from afar to worship Him. "When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped him.' Beneath the lowly guise of Jesus, they recognized the presence of Divinity. They gave their

hearts to Him as their Saviour, and then poured out their gifts—'gold, and frankincense, and myrrh'" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 63).

Room Decorations

Divide the room into an indoor and outdoor scene. For the indoor scene, set up a nonbreakable Nativity set with a large star above it. Attach white lights to a sheet and drape it across the ceiling like stars or hang it on the wall with a "window frame" of wood or paper around it (to see the stars through the window). For the outdoor scene, hang on the wall green or brown paper with drawings of hills. Cover boxes with burlap and add a few trees.

* Note to teachers: The word birth here means that the Wise men were celebrating the fact that Jesus was born, not that they were present at His birth. Notice that the text below says that they came into the house, not the stable. It is believed that Jesus was at least 6 weeks old or older. See *SDA Bible Commentary* p. 288

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Good Bed/Bad Bed</i> B. <i>How Many?</i> C. <i>Farm Animal Sounds</i> D. <i>Baby Care</i> E. <i>Light</i> F. <i>Rocking Chair</i>	items of different textures such as cotton balls, extra-fine sandpaper, pine cones, shredded tissue paper, clean straw, soft flannel toy animals, stars, or doll babies toy stuffed farm animals or pictures of farm animals dolls, doll clothes, bottles, soft music small flashlights, black construction paper, tape adult-size rocking chair
3 Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	mirror or toy stuffed sheep, bells stickers or other small gifts (optional) offering container artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>Taxes</i> C. <i>Donkey Ride</i> D. <i>No Room Finger Play</i> E. <i>Birth of Jesus</i> F. <i>Animals</i> G. <i>Happy Day</i> H. <i>Shepherds</i> I. <i>Angels Sing</i> J. <i>Shepherds Worship</i> K. <i>Star</i> L. <i>Camel Ride</i>	small felt or cardboard Bibles play coins, money box rocking horse or hobbyhorse or chairs baby doll, something to serve as a manger, candle, matches, blanket toy stuffed farm animals bells or rainbow sticks or ribbon sticks pillowcases, elastic headbands, toy stuffed sheep bells, small white robes (optional) flashlight or star sticks

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5		<i>M. Gifts</i>	play coins, box, colored water, pretty bottle, decorative box, robes and crowns (optional)
		<i>N. Jesus' Birth Finger Play</i>	(see p. 79)
		<i>O. Worship the Baby</i>	felt or paper hearts
		<i>P. Talk to Jesus</i>	none
		<i>Q. Memory Verse</i>	none
	Make and Take (Optional)		
	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Star</i>	star outline (see p. 76), construction paper, hole punch, ribbon, crayons or glitter crayons, small paper cups, craft sticks, scissors
	Week 2	<i>Angel</i>	medium-size coin, heavy paper, plain, white paper, construction paper, glue, colorful stickers or glitter crayons
	Week 3	<i>Animal Ears Hat</i>	construction paper, reproducible animal ears (see p. 77), crayons, stapler or glue, scissors
	Week 4	<i>Incense Pouch</i>	netting, ribbon, potpourri
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Add the Star</i>	copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78), aluminum foil or shiny star, glue sticks, crayons (optional)
	Snack Center (Optional)		
		<i>Mangers</i>	pretzel sticks, rectangular crackers, peanut butter, square shredded wheat cereal

1

PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared

by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Outside at the park one day we were playing with rocks: tiny ones, big ones, smooth ones, and rough ones. "Mommy," said my sweet little girl,

"Jesus is my favorite rock!" That's right, my darling. Keep Jesus as your favorite rock. "The Lord is my rock, my place of safety, my Savior" (2 Samuel 22:2, ICB).

How can we teach our children to cling to Jesus? Is Jesus your favorite rock?

Week 2

Our baby was dying. He was born with a rare heart defect, and at that time there was no procedure to correct it. As the days passed and he became weaker, I would just hold him and look at his perfect little fingers and toes, and wonder *Why?* He lived for several months, and I began to look at each day as a gift. His short little life was truly a gift. Before he died, I became pregnant with our second child. I also began to see that my kind Father was giving me another gift. Those months with my baby, though bittersweet, were precious.

Children are a gift from the Father's heart. You may face heartaches and trials with them, but they are a loving gift. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming from the Father" (James 1:17, NIV).

Week 3

I had told our 18-month-old countless times not to pull the blooms off my flowers. Now he was out on the deck, and his brother was yelling at me: "He's doing it again!" In came my little boy with a plucked marigold in his tiny hands. He thrust it at me and said, "Mommy!" How could I get upset at the preciousness and sincerity of his gift? I took the flower from him and kissed his chubby cheek.

How much more was God's gift to us, His Son. Jesus was a helpless, crying, wetting baby. But what a priceless gift He was!

Can you think of a time your child's gift to you was from their heart?

Week 4

Every year I had longed to dash out and buy a "Baby's First Christmas" ornament. But year after year I was childless. I was teaching school, and one day after dismissal I went to the church to get ready for my students' Christmas program. As I walked into the sanctuary, I was impressed with the presence of God. "You are here," I whispered as I knelt there in worship. I knew I was in His care in a special way.

It was still three years before I was able to hang that "Baby's First Christmas" ornament on my tree, but when I held my young son on the eve of his first Christmas, the same feeling of God's presence surrounded me, and all I could do was whisper, "Thank You."

Share a time you just wanted to say to God, "Thank You."

Week 5

The stomach flu had hit with a vengeance. When I wasn't in the bathroom, I was huddled in a ball on the couch. My 3-year-old daughter, seeing my obvious distress, knew exactly what I needed. I opened my eyes when I felt something soft thrust into my hand. It was Pinky, her most beloved stuffed animal. "He'll make you feel better, Mommy," she whispered as she tucked him in.

It was the best gift she could give me. In the same way, our heavenly Father gave the best gift He could to rescue us from our distress—the gift of His Son.

Share a time you have been overwhelmed by an awesome gift from our Father.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages:

A. Good Bed/Bad Bed

Supply items of different textures and talk about Baby Jesus' bed. Suggestions: cotton balls, extra-fine sandpaper, pine cones, shredded tissue paper, clean straw, soft flannel.

B. How Many?

Put a few toy animals, stars, or doll babies on the floor or a table. Count them with the children.

C. Farm Animal Sounds

Show the children toy stuffed farm

animals or pictures of farm animals. Talk about the sounds they make and how Baby Jesus shared a stable with the farm animals.

D. Baby Care

Provide dolls for the children to hold, dress, pretend to feed, and wash. Talk about how mommies and daddies take care of their babies. Provide soft music for children who might wish to rock or sing to their baby.

E. Light

Bring in several small flashlights the children can hold and turn on and off. Create a star effect by cutting a piece of black construction paper a little bigger than the lens of the flashlight. Punch a few tiny holes in the paper and tape it securely to the flashlight lens.

F. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-size rocking chair for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- ☐ hand mirror or toy stuffed sheep
- ☐ bells

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls, and moms and dads! I'm so glad you're here this morning! Can we say good morning to each other?**

Welcome each child personally as you sing the following song. (Suggestions: Hold a mirror up to each child's face so they can see themselves, or take a toy stuffed animal to each child, shake each child's hand, etc. Encourage adults to greet each other with a hug, handshake, etc.)

Sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 1).

Good morning, Good morning,
Good morning, we say;
We're happy, so happy
to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Sabbath is such a happy day, and I love coming to Sabbath School. Let's ring our Sabbath bells and sing a happy Sabbath song.**

Sing "Listen to the Bells Ring" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 236) while you ring the bells.

Listen to the bells ring,
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Listen to the bells ring,
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Listen to the bells as they
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Come to Sabbath school
is what they always sing.

—Florence P. Jorgensen

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Say: **Christmas is such a happy time of year. It's when we celebrate the birth of a special baby. That baby was Jesus! Let's ring our bells and sing.** Sing "Christmastime" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 144).

Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love;
Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love;
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas,
sing the happy song!
Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love.

—Janet Sage

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **We talk to Jesus when we pray. Let's kneel down while we talk to Jesus now.** Prepare for prayer by singing the adapted fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer similar to the following and have the children repeat it: **Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth as a baby. Thank You**

for loving us. We love You, too, Jesus. Amen.

Sing: "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

You Need:

- ☐ stickers
- or other
- small gifts
- (optional)

Greet the visiting children and parents. You may choose to give the visitors a sticker or other small gift. Sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ offering
- container

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves little boys and girls. Jesus loves mommies and daddies. We can help others know Jesus loves them. We share our money so others will learn about Jesus.** Use a basket, a bank, or some other container for the offering. Invite children and parents to give their offerings to Jesus. Sing "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 29).

God loves a cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver,
Cheerful, cheerful, cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Let's ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple offering prayer.

E. Birthdays

Say: **It's a special day for _____ . It's his/her birthday!** Lead the child to the birthday chair. Sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 38).

Just two* years old today,
Just two* years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
Jack's* two* years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's name and age.
Copyright Heidelberg Press.

Light the birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
Happy birthday to you.

—Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Let's thank Jesus for your birthday.** Have a short prayer for the birthday child and their parents. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

You Need:

- ☐ artificial
- birthday
- cake
- ☐ candles
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gifts
- (optional)



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard Bibles

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small individual felt, cardboard, etc., Bibles to the children. Sing "Jesus Talks to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 51).

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.
Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

—Susan Davis

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Say: **Our memory verse today is "I love you, Lord." Can you say that with me?** Ask the children to repeat it after you. **We have a memory verse song. And it has motions with it.** Show the children how to do the motions:



I *Point to self.*



love *Cross arms over chest.*



you, Lord. *Point to heaven.*



Psalm 18:1 *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

B. Taxes

Say: **Before Baby Jesus was born,**

You Need:

- ☐ play coins
- ☐ money box

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for a census, or to be counted. Let's count how many of us are in this room.

Point to each child and then adult while the children count out loud. Before you count, sing the following to the tune of "Shall We Go for a Walk Today?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 82).

Mary and Joseph were on their way,
on their way, on their way,
Mary and Joseph were on their way,
to be counted.

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C. Donkey Ride

You Need:

- ☐ rocking horse or hobbyhorse or chairs

Say: **It was a long trip to Bethlehem. But Mary and Joseph didn't ride in a car. They didn't take a bus or a train. They rode a donkey.**

Let the children take turns on the rocking or hobbyhorse, or to sit in a chair while an adult rocks it. Sing "Clip-clop" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 158).

Clip-clip, clip-clop, hear the donkey walk;

Clip-clip, clip-clop, hear the donkey walk;

The donkey's walking down the street;
Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop.

—Janet Sage

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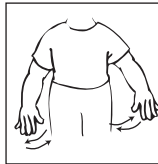
D. No Room Finger Play

Say: **Mary and Joseph were so tired when they got to Bethlehem.**

But there was no place for them to stay. Let's do a finger play about their trip.

No Room Finger Play

**Clop, clop, clop,
went the donkey's feet.
Clop, clop, clop
down the stony street.**



Pat hands on thighs to make clapping sound.

**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

E. Birth of Jesus

You Need:

- ☐ baby doll
- ☐ blanket
- ☐ something to serve as a manger
- ☐ candle
- ☐ matches

Say: **That night Mary's baby was born. It was a very special baby. It was Baby Jesus!** Turn out the lights and light the candle. Be sure to keep it out of the children's reach. Sing "Silent Night, Holy Night" (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, No. 143).

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

—Joseph Mohr,
translated by John F. Young

Say: **Mary loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse again and sing the memory verse song.**



I

Point to self.



love

Cross arms over chest.



you, Lord.

Point to heaven.



Psalm 18:1

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

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)
—based on Psalm 18:1

F. Animals

You Need:

- ☐ toy stuffed farm animals

Say: **Baby Jesus wasn't born in a nice, clean hospital, or even in a comfortable home. Baby Jesus was born in a stable, with all the animals. He had to share His first home with the sheep and the cows and the donkeys.**

Distribute toy stuffed farm animals. Invite the children to bring them to the manger while you sing "I'll Share My Home" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 147) or "Away in a Manger" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 141).

I'll Share My Home

"I'll share my home with You,
Baby Jesus,"
Said the spotted cow,* said the
spotted cow;*
"I'll share my home with You,
Baby Jesus,"
Said the spotted cow* long ago.
—Janet Sage

* woolly lamb, donkey gray
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Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down
where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
—Martin Luther

G. Happy Day

You Need:

- ☐ bells or rainbow sticks or ribbon sticks

Say: **Jesus was a very special baby. Mary and Joseph were so happy when He was born. It was a very happy day.**

Distribute bells, or rainbow sticks, or ribbon sticks for the children to ring or wave while you sing "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 148).

It was a happy day, happy day,
happy day
When little Baby Jesus was born;
It was a happy day, happy day,
happy day
When little Baby Jesus was born.
—Janet Sage

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Say: **Mary loved Baby Jesus, and we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse again and sing our memory verse song.**

I	<i>Point to self.</i>
love	<i>Cross arms over chest.</i>
you, Lord.	<i>Point to heaven.</i>
Psalm 18:1	<i>Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.</i>

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)
—based on Psalm 18:1

H. Shepherds

Say: **Shepherds were out on the hills around Bethlehem on the night that Jesus was born. They were watching their sheep.**

Dress the children in a simple shepherd headdress (pillowcase or dish towel and elastic headband) and give each a toy sheep to hold while you sing the following adaptation of the second verse of "Angels Singing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 140).

Shepherds watched their sheep at night;
Their sheep at night, their sheep at night;
Shepherds watched their sheep at night
When Jesus dear was born.
—Virginia Cason. Adapted.

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Say: **The shepherds loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**

I	<i>Point to self.</i>
love	<i>Cross arms over chest.</i>
you, Lord.	<i>Point to heaven.</i>
Psalm 18:1	<i>Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.</i>

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)
—based on Psalm 18:1

You Need:

- ☐ simple shepherd costumes
- ☐ toy stuffed sheep



I. Angels Sing

You Need:

- ☐ bells
- ☐ white robes (optional)

Say: **Suddenly, an angel appeared to the shepherds. The shepherds were very frightened, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid! The Saviour has been born!" Then they sang a glorious song to celebrate Jesus' birth.**

Distribute bells to the children and dress them in white robes (optional) while you sing the chorus to "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, No. 142) or "Joy to the World" (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, No. 125).

Angels We Have Heard on High

(chorus only)

Gloria in excelsis Deo,

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

—French carol. Adapted by Earl Marlatt.

From *The New Church Hymnal* copyright © 1937 by Flemming H. Revell Company; renewal © 1965 H. Augustine Smith, Jr. Published by Flemming H. Revell Company.

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

—Isaac Watts

Say: **The angels loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**

I	Point to self.
love	Cross arms over chest.
you, Lord.	Point to heaven.
Psalm 18:1	Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

J. Shepherds Worship

Say: **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the new baby. They found Baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph in the stable. Baby Jesus was lying in the manger. The shepherds knelt down beside Baby Jesus and worshipped Him.**

Invite the children to join you while you kneel at the manger. Sing the third verse of "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 148).

The shepherds came to pray, came
to pray, came to pray
When little Baby Jesus was born.
The shepherds came to pray, came
to pray, came to pray
When little Baby Jesus was born.

—Janet Sage

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K. Star**You Need:**

- ☐ flashlight or star sticks

Say: **Some Wise Men lived far away from where Baby Jesus was born. But they saw something very different in the**

night sky. They saw a special star that had never been there before. They studied their Bible scrolls and learned that the star meant a special baby had been born.

Turn out the lights in the room and use a flashlight to shine a light on the ceiling or give each child a star stick to wave while you sing "Christmas Star" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 143).

Shine, shine, star of light;
Shine, shine, shine tonight;
Shine, shine, shine so bright,
Beautiful Christmas star.

—Janet Sage

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L. Camel Ride

Say: **The Wise Men rode on their camels to go see Jesus. It was a long trip, and they had to travel at night so they could see the star. The star led them to Jesus.**

Invite the children to hold pretend reins and bend their knees with the music as if riding a pretend camel while you sing "Riding on a Camel" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 152).

Riding on a camel, a camel, a camel;
Following a star, following a star;
Riding on a camel, a camel, a camel;
See the Wise Men come from afar.

—Janet Sage

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M. Gifts

Say: **The Wise Men brought presents for Jesus. They brought gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. They brought very nice gifts to Jesus. And when they saw Him, they knelt down and worshipped Him.**

Dress the children as Wise Men (if you choose) and give them the gifts to carry around the room while you sing the fourth verse of "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 148).

The Wise Men brought their
gifts, brought their gifts,
brought their gifts

When little Baby Jesus was born.

The Wise Men brought their gifts,
brought their gifts,
brought their gifts

When little Baby Jesus was born.

—Janet Sage

You Need:

- ☐ play coins in a box
- ☐ colored water in a pretty bottle or perfume in a bottle
- ☐ decorative box
- ☐ robes (optional)
- ☐ crowns (optional)

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N. Jesus' Birth Finger Play

Say: **Let's learn/do a finger play about Jesus' birth.** Turn to page 79 and teach/do the finger play titled "Jesus' Birth Finger Play."

O. Worship the Baby

You Need:

□ felt or paper hearts

Say: **Mary and Joseph loved Jesus. The angels loved Jesus. The shepherds and the Wise Men loved Jesus. We love Jesus too.**

Give each child a heart to bring to the manger while you sing "Baby Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 142).

Baby Jesus, sweet Baby Jesus,
Baby Jesus, I love You.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Mary and Joseph loved Jesus. The shepherds loved Jesus. The angels loved Jesus. The Wise Men loved Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**



I

Point to self.



love

Cross arms over chest.



you, Lord.

Point to heaven.



Psalm 18:1

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

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

P. Talk to Jesus

Say: **How can we show Jesus we love Him? We can talk to Jesus. When we pray, we talk to Jesus. Can you fold your hands and get on your knees with me? Let's talk to Jesus.**

Kneel with hands folded while you sing the second verse of "I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 10).

I talk to Jesus when I pray, when I
pray, when I pray.
I talk to Jesus when I pray, and He
hears me, I know.

—Dorothy Robison

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Q. Memory Verse

Say: **We love Jesus, too. Jesus loves to hear us sing our worship to Him.** Say the memory verse and sing the memory verse song, "I Love the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 207). Use the motions.

I

Point to self.

love

Cross arms over chest.

you, Lord.

Point to heaven.

Psalm 18:1

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

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

5

MAKE AND TAKE (optional)**Week 1****Star****You Need:**

- ☐ reproducible star pattern (see p. 76)
- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ hole punch
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ crayons or glitter crayons

Photocopy the star pattern (see page 76) onto a piece of construction paper for each child. Parents can cut out the star. Punch a hole near one of the tips. Use crayons or glitter crayons (you can also make your own) if you have them and have the children color their stars. Tie a ribbon through the hole and use for hanging.

Week 2**Angel****You Need:**

- ☐ medium-size coin
- ☐ heavy paper
- ☐ plain, white paper
- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ glue
- ☐ colorful stickers or glitter crayons

Ahead of time, use a coin (not too small) to draw a circle on heavy paper. Cut out the circles. Distribute the circles to the children and have their parents or Sabbath School helpers help them glue it to a sheet of construction paper. Have them glue a rectangular piece of plain, white paper (2m x 6cm) to represent the body of the angel.

Give them colorful stickers to decorate or have them color with glitter crayons. Have an adult helper help them add facial features and hair. Have an adult write "The angels sang of Jesus' birth."

Week 3**Animal Ears Hat****You Need:**

- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ copies of animal ears patterns (see p. 77)
- ☐ crayons
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ stapler or glue

Photocopy one set of animal-ears patterns onto construction paper for each child. (Let the children decide which animal they will be.) Ask parents to cut them out. Let the children color them. Cut construction paper equal to the circumference of each child's head. Join the ends

and attach the ears.

Week 4**Incense Pouch****You Need:**

- ☐ netting
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ woodland potpourri or other

Create small incense pouches by putting a tablespoon of potpourri into a square of netting then tying with a piece of ribbon.

Week 5 (or optional activity)**Add the Star****You Need:**

- ☐ copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78)
- ☐ aluminum foil or shiny star
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ crayons (optional)

Photocopy the Bethlehem scene (see p. 78) for each child. Give each child aluminum foil to fashion into a star or a shiny star sticker. Have available parents or adults help the children make the star then glue it over the Bethlehem scene. Alternately, teachers

may give a shiny star sticker. Children may color the picture if desired.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Snack Center (optional)

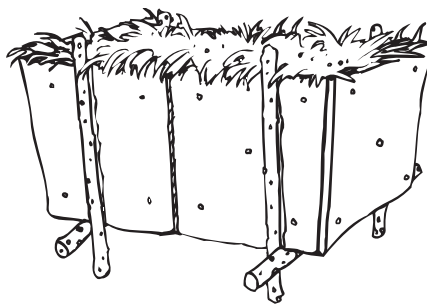
Mangers

You Need:

- ☐ pretzel sticks
- ☐ rectangular crackers
- ☐ peanut butter
- ☐ square shredded wheat cereal

Give each child a few shredded wheat cereal squares to shred into "hay." Use peanut butter* to hold together the pretzel sticks and rectangular crackers to form a manger, as shown. Place the "hay" in the manger.

* Please be very mindful of children with peanut butter allergies or just nut allergies in general when doing this activity. Soy nut butter may be a substitute if there is concern about peanut allergies.



Closing

Say the memory verse and sing the memory verse song again. Use the motions.

I *Point to self.*

love *Cross arms over chest.*

you, Lord. *Point to heaven.*

Psalm 18:1 *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Thank You, Jesus, for coming to earth as a baby. We know you are grown up now. We love You, Jesus, and we thank You for loving us too. Amen.**

As the children prepare to leave the room, sing "Good-bye Prayer" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
"Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day."

—Kathleen Maguire

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Notes

STUDENT LESSON

Baby Jesus Is Born

References

Luke 2:1-20 ;
Matthew 2:1-12;
The Desire of Ages,
pp. 43-49, 59-67.

Memory Verse

"I love you, Lord"
(Psalm 18:1,
NIV).

The Message

We love 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 that 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.

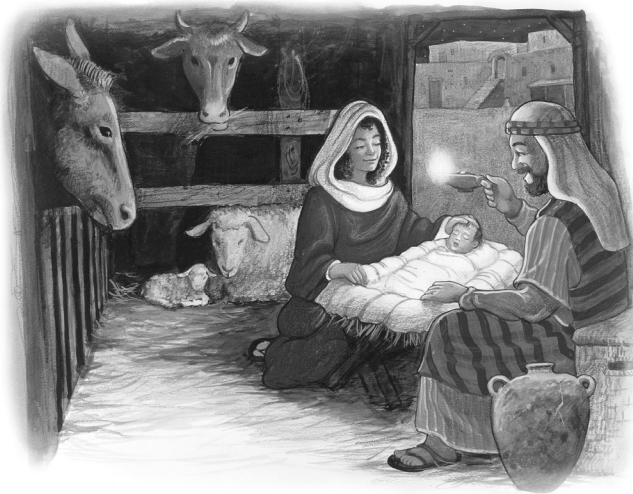
Glory to God in the highest.

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

1. 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.

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

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

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

5. Provide a "donkey ride" for your older toddler. Talk to him or her about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

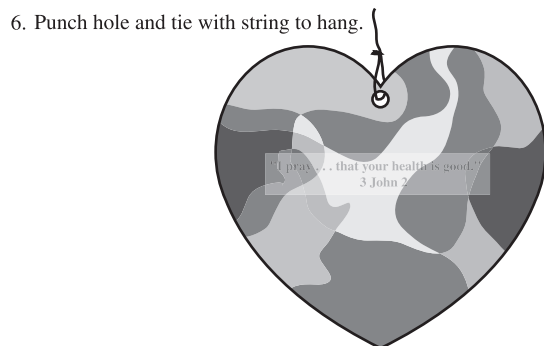
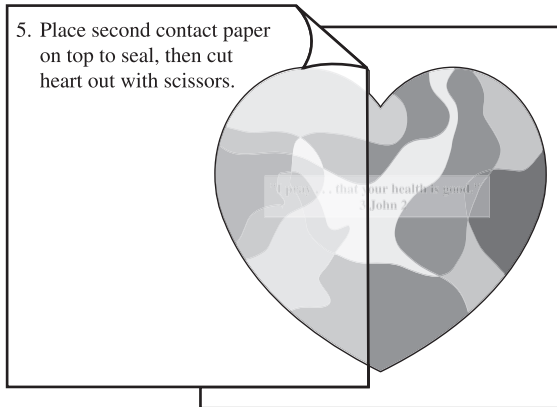
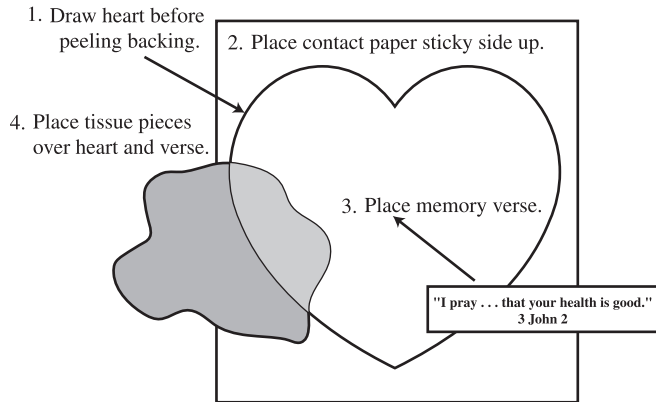
13. Stuff a white sock with cloth scraps and glue cotton balls to it. Draw a sheep's face and ears. Talk to your child about the shepherds who worshipped Jesus.

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

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

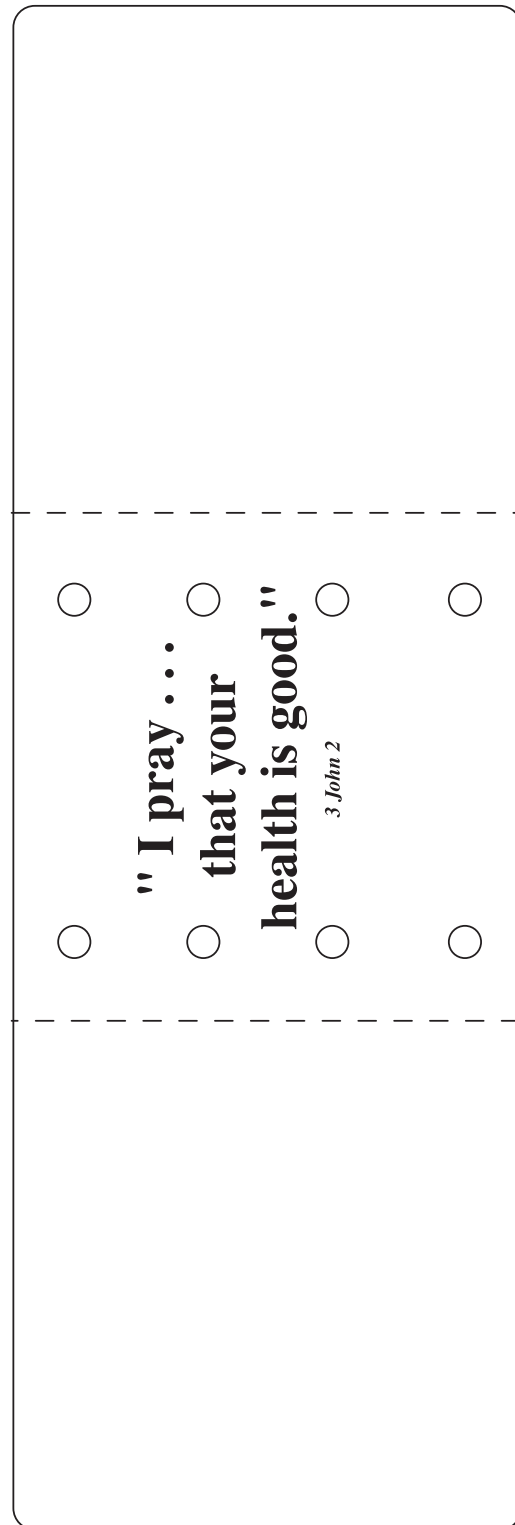
Make and Take: Stained-Glass Heart Lesson 1 - Week 1

Sample:

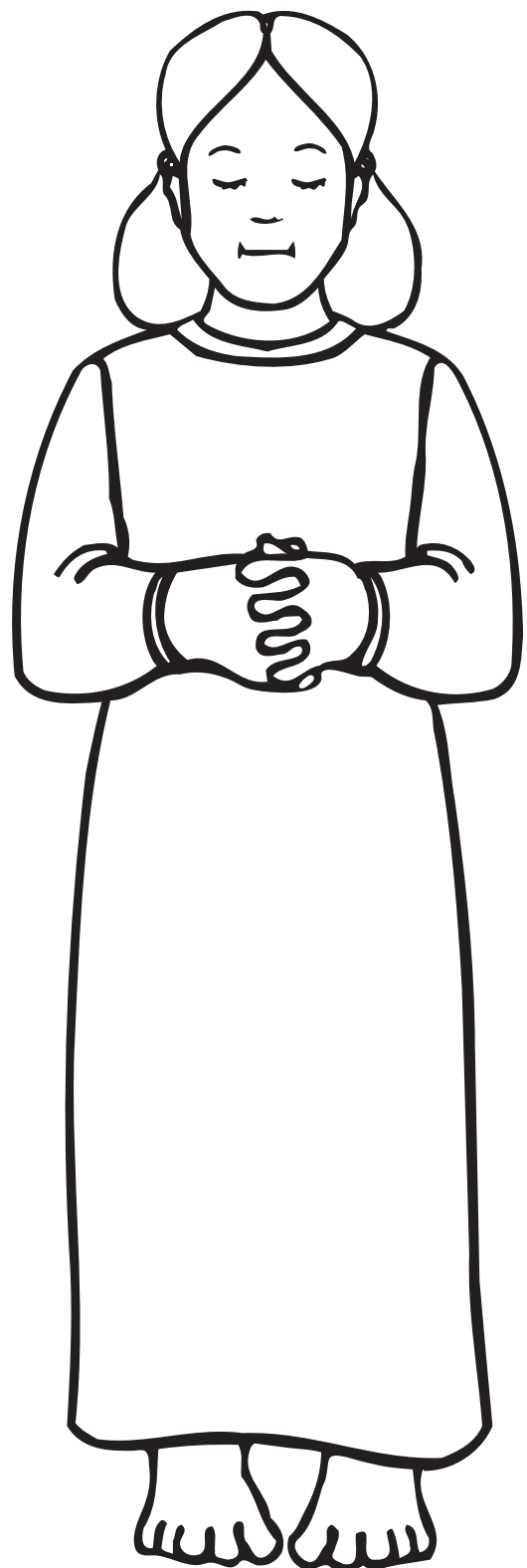
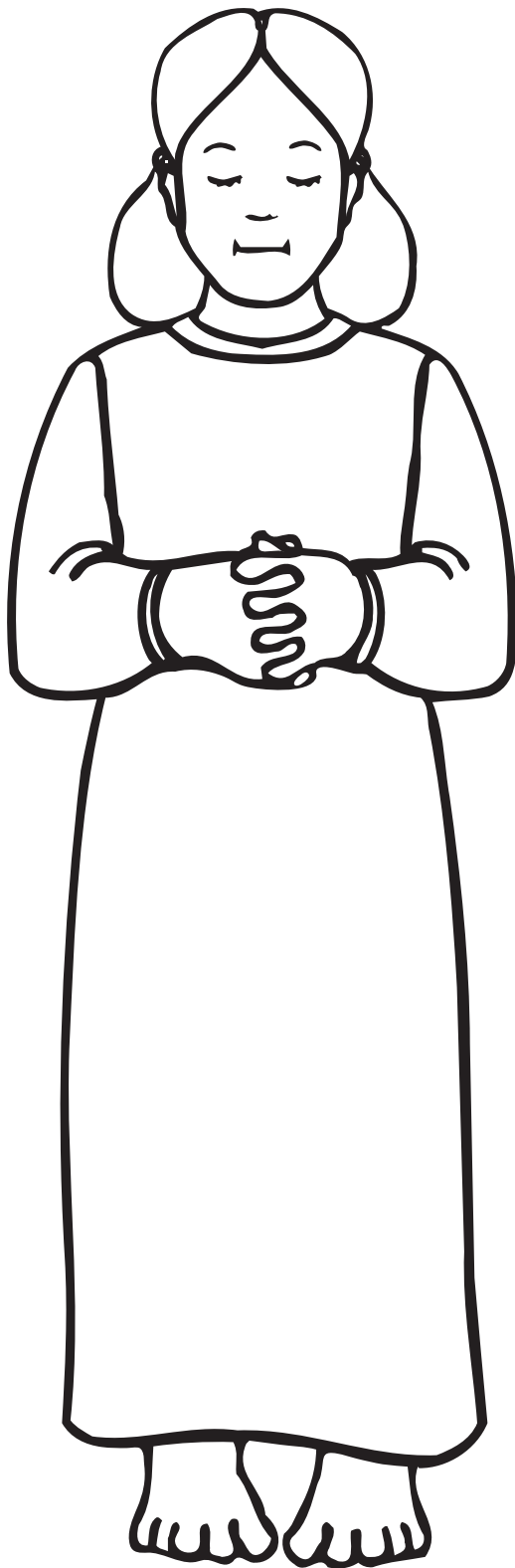


"I pray . . . that your health is good."
3 John 2

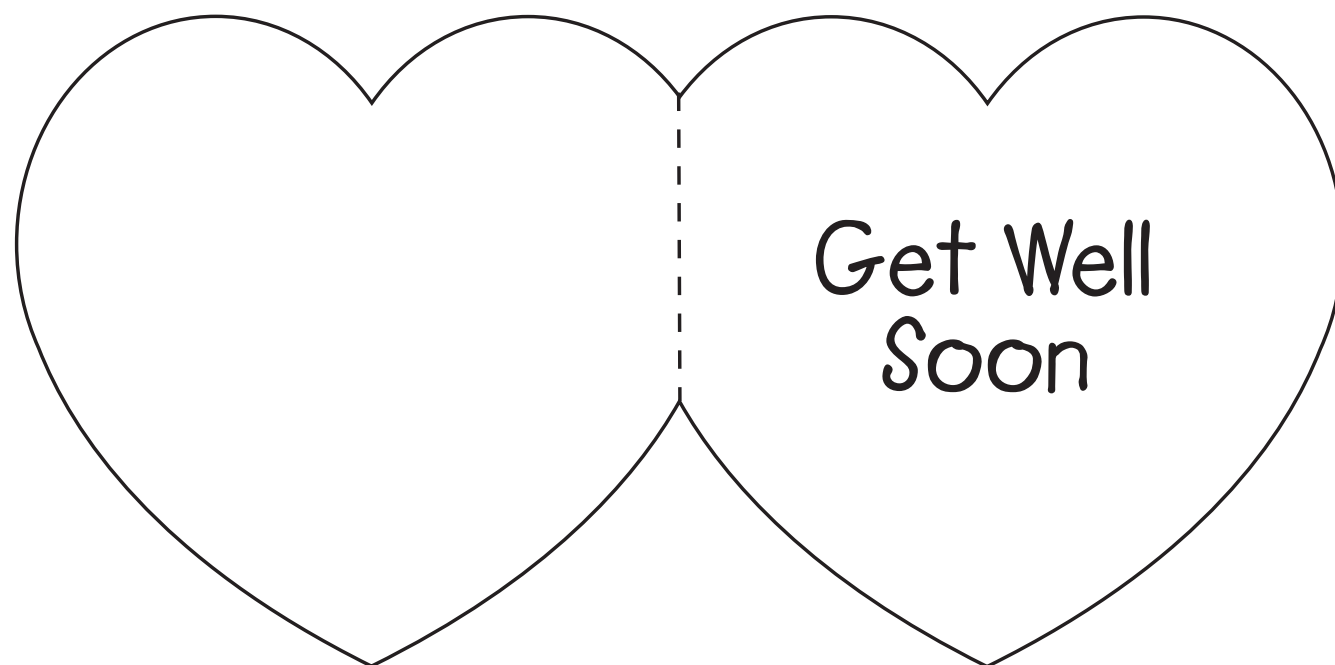
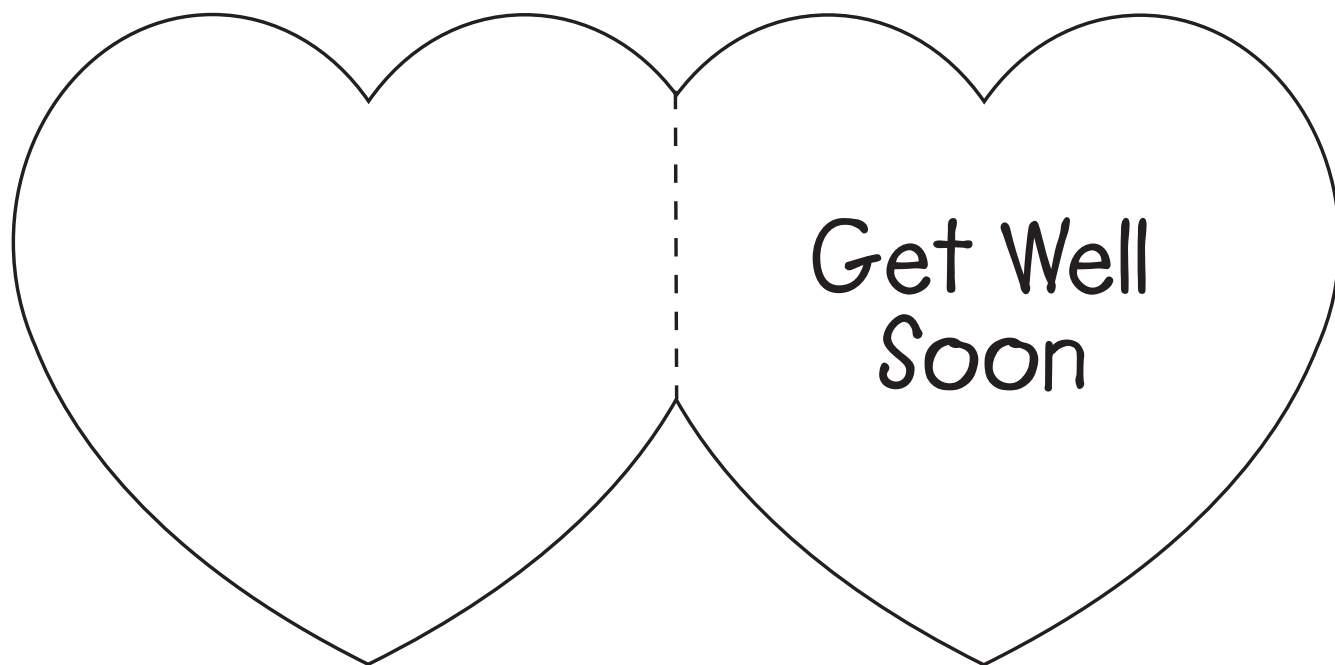
Make and Take: Big Bandage Lesson 1 - Week 3



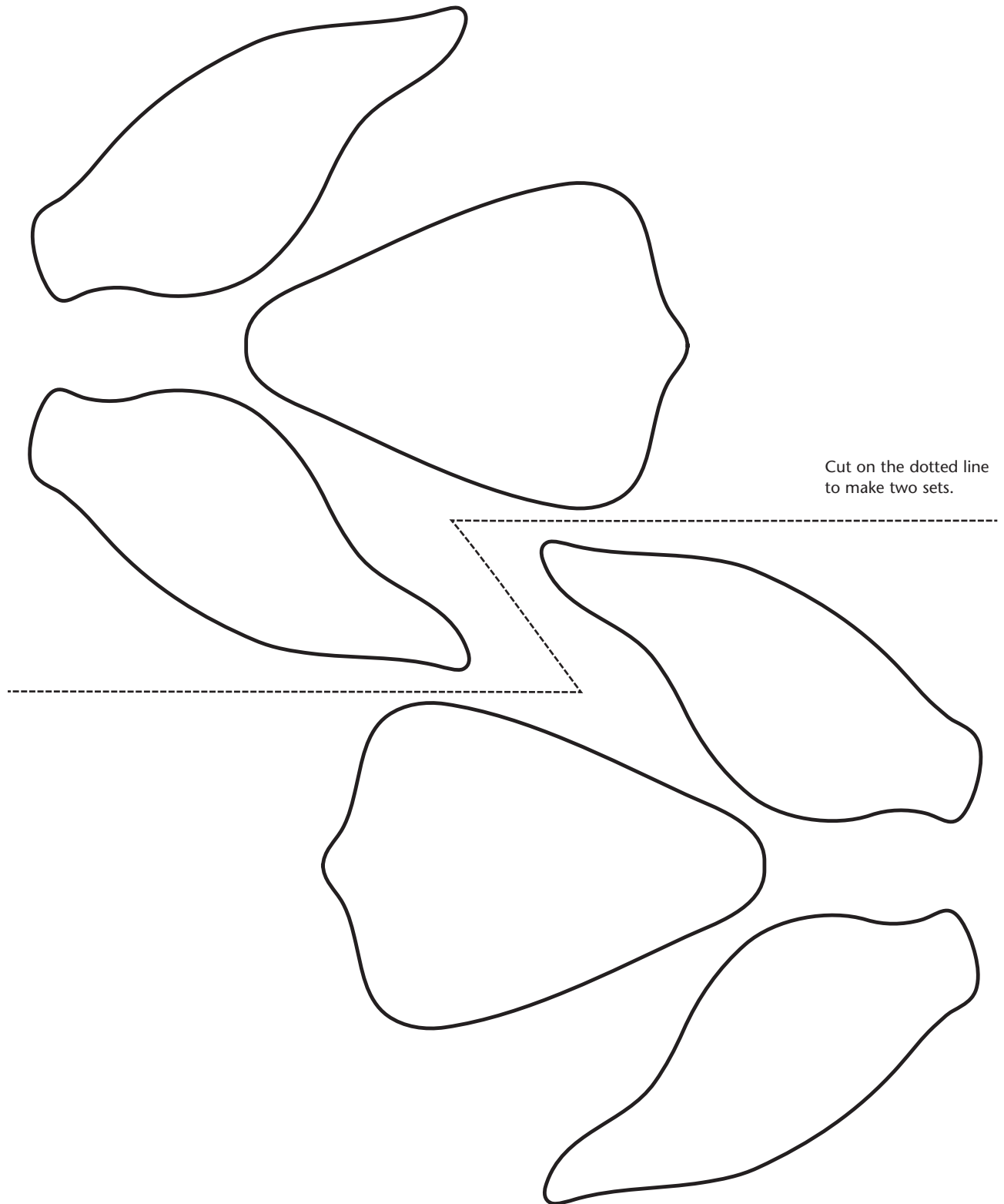
Make and Take: Little Girl's Bed
Lesson 1 – Week 2



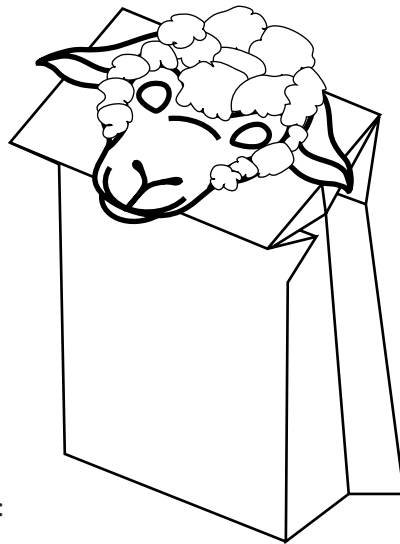
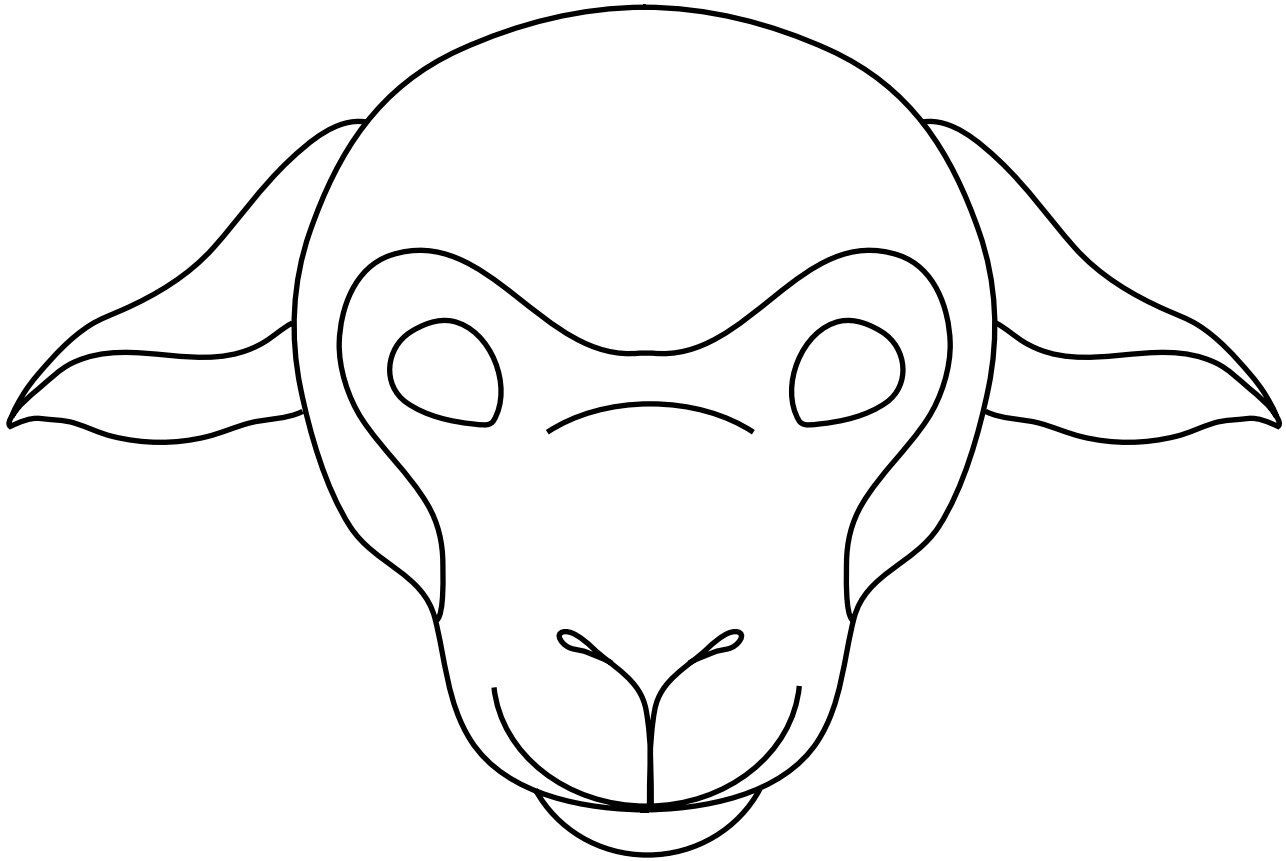
Make and Take: Get-Well Card
Lesson 1 – Week 5



Naming and Counting the Sheep
Lesson 2 - Experiencing the Story



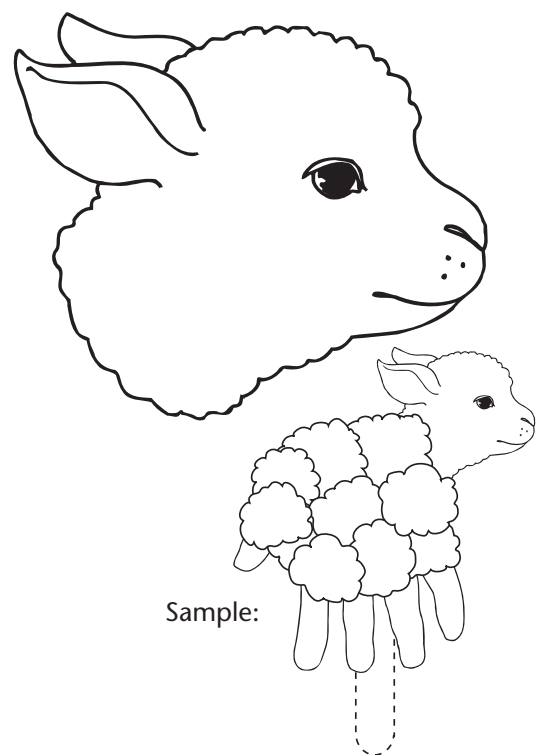
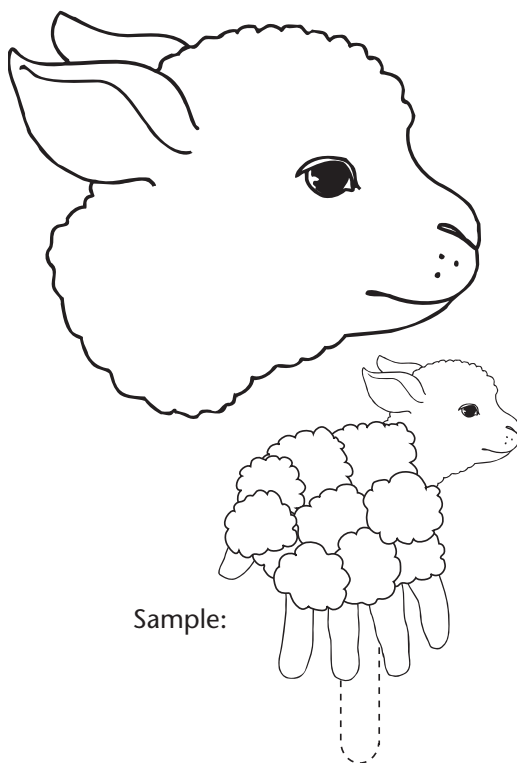
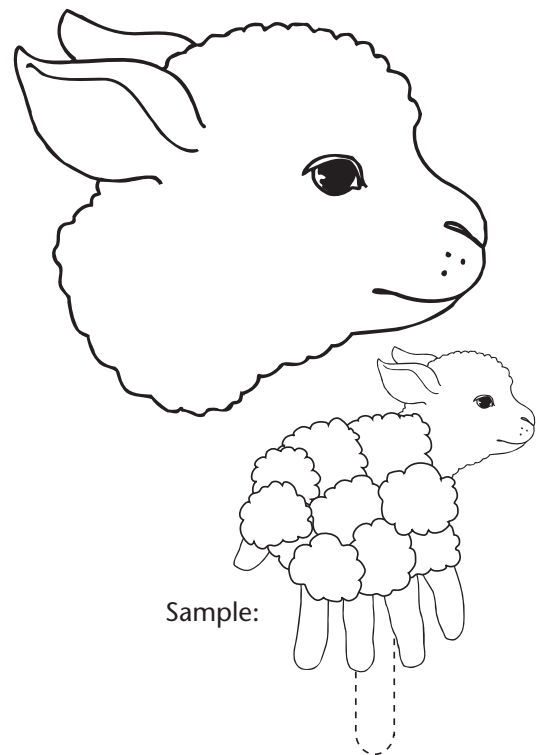
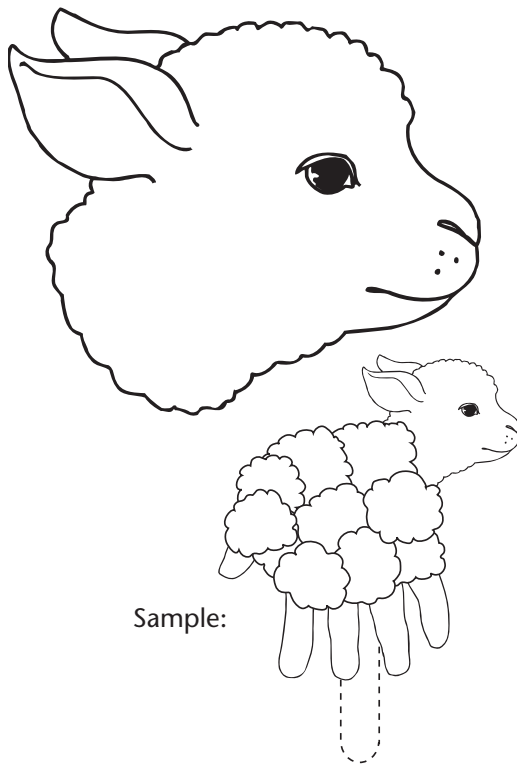
Make and Take: Paper Bag Lamb
Lesson 2 – Week 3



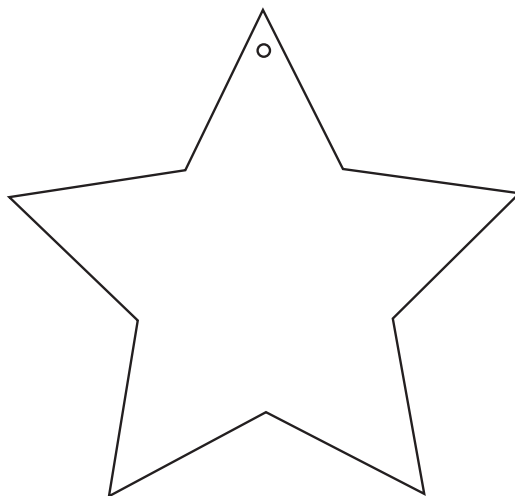
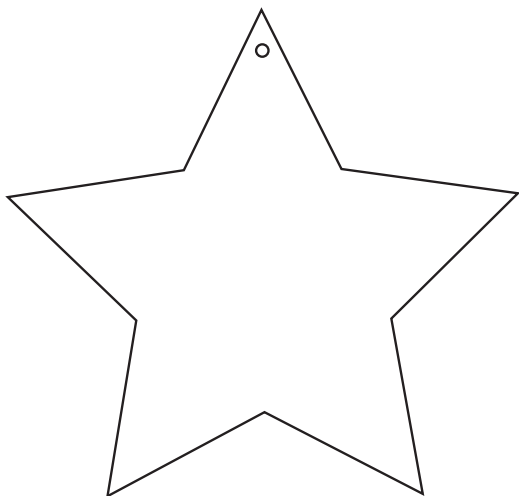
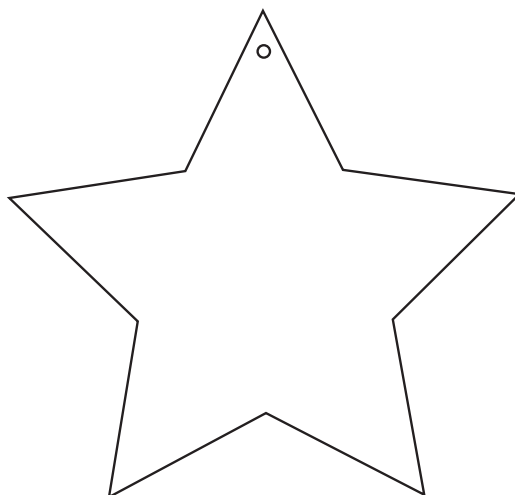
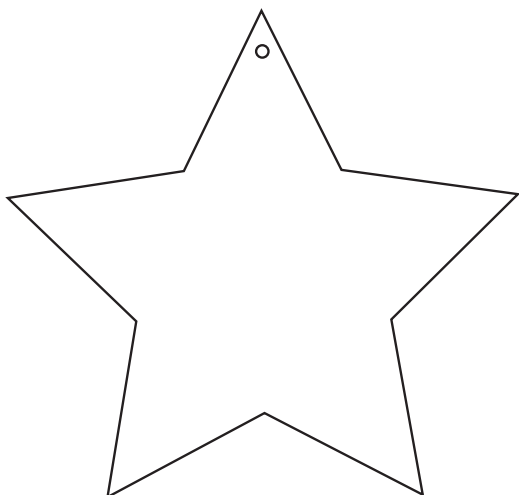
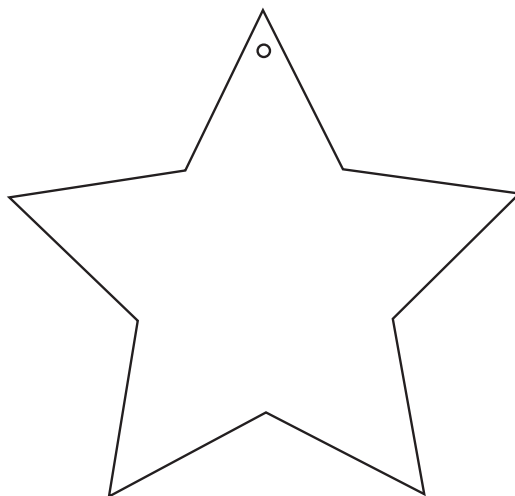
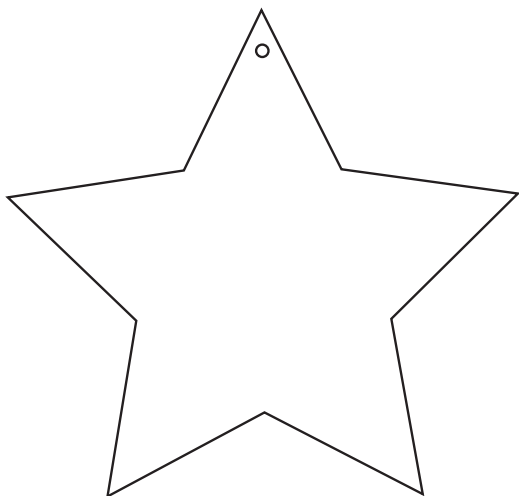
Sample of finished product:

Make and Take: Stick Sheep

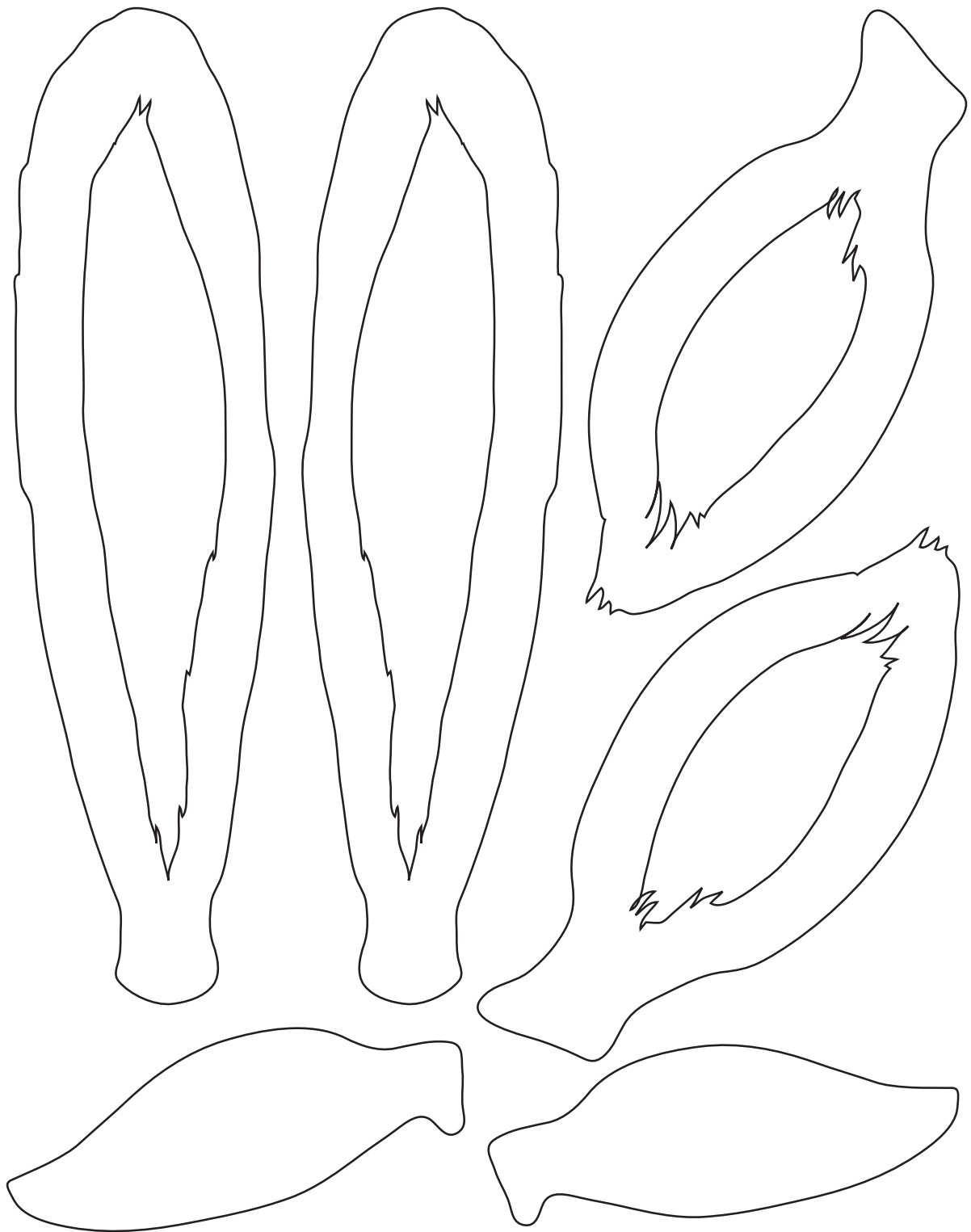
Lesson 2 - Week 4



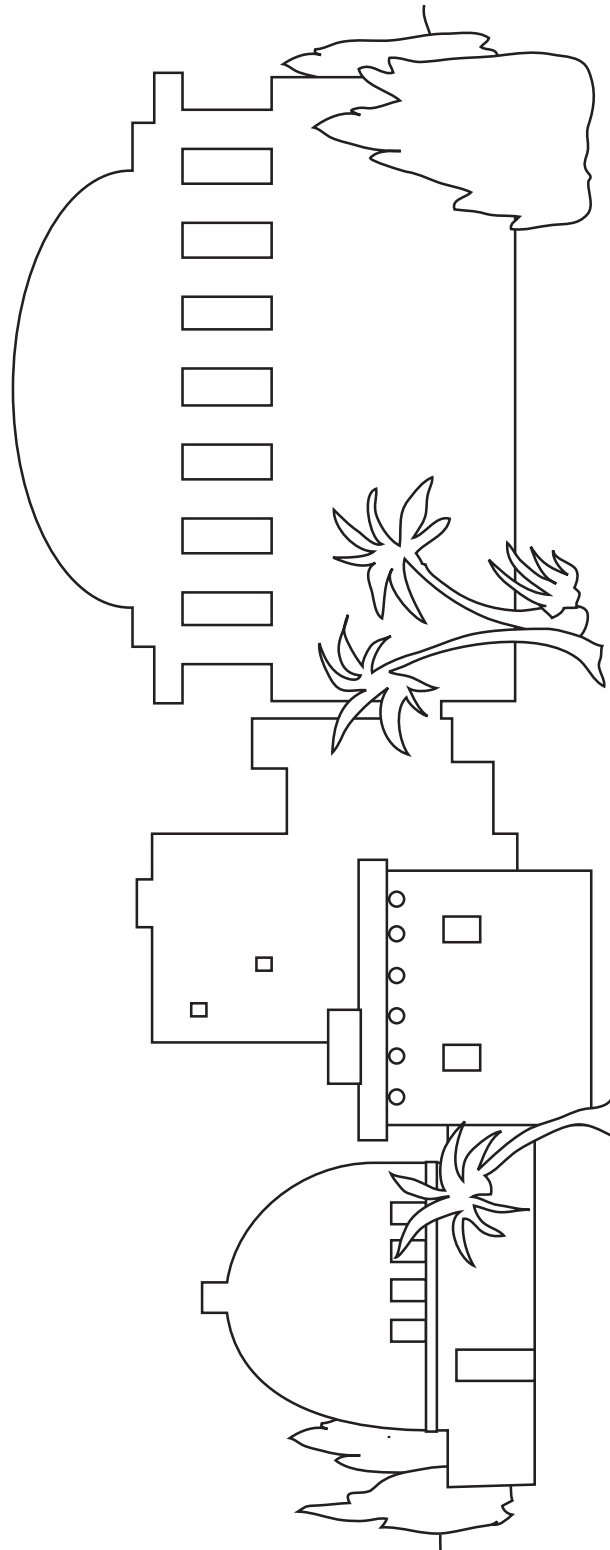
Make and Take: Star
Lesson 3 – Week 1



Make and Take: Animal Ears Hat
Lesson 3 - Week 3



Make and Take: Bethlehem Star
Lesson 3 – Week 5 (optional)



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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.)

