

Mar Thoma Sunday Schools

Diocese of North America & Europe



Curriculum

GOD'S PEOPLE IN GOD'S WORLD

Grade Nursery

(Samajam Curriculum - Nursery)

Published By
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2006



MAR THOMA SUNDAY SCHOOL DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

Diocesan Bishop
Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos

Foreword

Dearly beloved in Christ,

A new curriculum for our Sunday School has been a felt need in this Diocese. I am glad that the new curriculum is ready to be introduced in 2006. Here we are in the process of a transition from Cokesbury to the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam Curriculum. While retaining the essential elements and the frame work of the Samajam Curriculum, the lessons and stories are made more conducive to our situations and challenges.

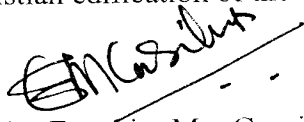
The overall theme is “Being God’s People in God’s World”

Summary of Work in Three Years: The work for the curriculum started in 2002 soon after the publication of the revised edition of the book, “The Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision (CSS Publication, 2001) and the special issue of Messenger in January 2002 which explained the development of Sunday Schools in North America. The Diocesan Sunday School Council in 2002 entrusted the task of the new curriculum with Dr. T. M. Thomas, who had been active for the growth of the Sunday schools even from the beginning of the Diocese. (He was the first convener of the Sunday school committee formed at the Zonal Assembly of 1982, Philadelphia, presided by our late Suffragan Bishop Rt. Rev. Thomas Mar Athanasius). Preliminary discussions were held at the Family Conference of Dallas, 2002. A plan of action and the Curriculum Format were approved by the Council at a special meeting of Sunday school teachers and officers at Regional and Diocesan levels at the Family Conference in Florida, 2003. Five lessons of all twelve classes were completed by the time of the Family Conference in New York 2004. These five lessons (Part III) were taught in the Spring of 2005. Necessary modifications were made and the new curriculum was released in the Summer of 2005. It is now being used in all Sunday schools of North America (nearly fifty) Sept. 2005 to June 2006 academic year. While teaching these lessons improvements are being made and a new CD will be distributed by the summer 2006. The target date for the completion of printing as a book is summer 2007. Though there are thirty lessons in each class we select 25 for each year. In addition to it, there are five lessons from the book, “Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision” for each class.

Unique Features of the New Curriculum: The manuscripts for the new curriculum were written by committees formed in all nine centers of our Diocese. All writers were expected to follow the same Format (Revised Format of 2004). Different from several other books, our curriculum includes a few values to be taught in each lesson. Today in most nations we can listen to the cry for values education, both secular and religious schools. Also, our curriculum includes two new items, one Bible Application (Bible Lesson for Our Times) and the other Life Response (Words for My Life). Here we can make the lesson appropriate for our times and relevant to the learner. Along with it there are the regular or usual items found in most lesson plans (aim, Bible reading, main ideas, memory verse etc.) There is a total of 14 items in all lessons.

I gratefully appreciate the hard work of the general convener of the New Curriculum, Dr. T. M. Thomas, Diocesan Sunday School secretaries, Mr. Thomas Koshy (2002-2005) and Mr. M. C. Varghese (2005-2008), Sunday School Council members, twelve committees each in charge of one book and others who helped for the creation of the new curriculum. Their names are mentioned in each book. Now it is our task to maximize the effectiveness of this curriculum. All Sunday School Superintendents and teachers are requested to follow the instructions of the convener in this regard.

In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit , I commend this new curriculum for the Christian edification of the children in the Mar Thoma Diocese of North America and Europe.



Rt.Rev.Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos
Diocesan Bishop

July 4, 2006



MAR THOMA SUNDAY SCHOOL DIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA & EUROPE

We remember with immense joy the great advancements we have made for The Mar Thoma Sunday School over the past three decades. The Indian immigrant community remained diligent in passing on the Christian faith and sustaining the spiritual growth for the second generation. In August 2000, Sunday School published “Order of Worship with Prayers & Hymns” with transliterated and translated versions of our traditional liturgy to bring our children to a deeper understanding. In June of 2001, our Sunday School published a Book “The Mar Thoma Church: Our Foundation and Vision” to share the faith and practices of our church to the young generation. After experimenting with several American Sunday School Curriculums for our needs, the Sunday School Teachers and the office bearers prayerfully made a leap of faith to develop a North American Mar Thoma Sunday School Curriculum with allegiance to the Sunday School Samajam Curriculum.

The collective product of the Mar Thoma heritage and the American Educational system was a Sunday School Student Book for every school grade at the appropriate vocabulary level and clearly articulated lesson with Values for Life, Words for Bible Times, Words for Our Times, Words for My Life, and Bible Learning Strategies and Activities. The first edition was released along with the Sunday School Centenary Celebrations by the Mar Thoma Sunday School Samajam President, Rt. Rev. Dr. Isaac Mar Philoxenos, at the 2005 Mar Thoma Family Conference. The year of our Lord 2005 will be remembered for ever in the history of the North American Sunday School for developing the curriculum. The leadership of Dr. T. M. Thomas for our Sunday School remains available from the time our activities began in this country. Dr. Thomas served as an inspiring leader, traveling the full length and width of this continent to organize the curriculum committees and to structure the final version. We are greatly indebted to him for the full time ministry that we receive from him to make all our publications a grand success. Moreover, the curriculum committee members, the clergy, staff and the office bearers deserve great appreciation for persevering to produce the first version and the revision of the full curriculum in a couple of years.

We have crossed a major milestone in the production of the curriculum. The next phase should be to bring excellence in teaching. We, teachers, should cultivate a habit of continuous learning so that we can serve in this ministry better more effectively and efficiently in these changing times. Please read the “Notes to Teachers on Teaching”. It is unique for each stage as we have divided twelve classes into five units. They are: 1. Preschool classes (Nursery and KG), 2. Primary (Grades 1, 2 &3), 3. Upper Primary (Gr.4, 5&6), 4. Junior High (Gr. 7, 8&9), and 5. Senior High (Grades 10, 11 & 12). A teacher in one grade of a stage is expected to read the “Notes” in other classes also because it deals with different stages of growth. A group effort, in the regional level, is encouraged for conducting teacher development workshops with expert assistance from professionals in the region. If there are geographical limitations as parish level workshop would be adequate. The “Teacher Manual” prepared by Samajam as booklet, was sent to all Sunday Schools last year. It is suitable for such workshops and seminars.

We, as secretaries of the current and the previous term, are greatly privileged and blessed to serve in Sunday School. It is a great joy to be the instruments of His Grace to participate in this blessed organization that continues to exhilarate techniques and technology to bring every child to Jesus. May the Lord Almighty continue to bless the challenges that we undertake in His Mighty Name.

Thomas Koshy
Secretary (2002-2005)

M.C.Varghese
Secretary (2005-2008)

July 5, 2006

Mar Thoma Sunday School
Diocese of North America & Europe

Notes to Teachers on Teaching in Pre-school classes (Nursery & KG)

The basic attitudes of a person's life are formed during early years, especially infancy. Erik Erikson, (a psychologist known for his life-span studies of eight stages from infancy to old age), begins with the first one or two years when a basic trust is developed. In all relationships (to other human beings, to the environment and to God) this sense of trust forms the foundation. A trusting relationship to God is considered as faith. All human beings need the most reliable person upon whom we depend and give our loyalty.

An infant depends on parents for everything, including survival. In this dependence the attitude of trust is formed. Also, in this warm trusting relationship, learning takes place. Slowly, teachers and other responsible adults step in and continue the task of teaching-learning process. The parents are the first and best teachers for most people. The role of a parent must be extended in the pre-school by maintaining an atmosphere of care and love. Teachers can work very closely with parents by allowing them to sit in class, but with goal of greater independence step by step. The principle of close working relationship between parents and teachers or home and school is a valid one to be adhered to throughout education in all different classes and stages.

The Nature of Pre-school Children (age group 3-5):

Children in this age group want to play always, except the time of sleep. They explore the world around them through the senses especially by touch. Other than the play room, if there is one, they like to handle objects in the kitchen and the living room where things are neatly arranged. Teachers and parents can organize and guide activities for preschool children. The 19th century German educator Friedrich Froebel who established the First Kindergarten in 1837 was a strong advocate of play. To Froebel play was educational and hence he wanted children to play all the time. All learning at this stage can be organized as play, games and songs.

The preschool children are rich in their imagination. They like make –believe situations, as “let us pretend.” A three or four year old child after seeing the neighbor's dog or hear its barking, may run to the mother and report that the dog was chasing after him. This is the time of “white lies.” The teacher can use the imagination for teaching by selecting good stories and other life situations.

Also there is a sense of wonder or curiosity at this stage and hence children want to explore and learn more about surrounding world. They ask numerous questions on everything including origins and purposes. Rather than bringing scientific explanations, give them just simple answers. Do not tease children for asking silly questions. Encourage the natural tendency to ask questions. The sense of wonder and reverence may be utilized to teach worship habits and prayer.

Even at this age children are very individualistic or self-centered. They repeat words like “it is mine” or “I want that”, disregarding the needs of others. Though the teacher recognizes such “selfish” tendencies, it is her responsibility to teach lessons of cooperation and

sharing. Children should see examples of grownups or adults because they imitate behaviors and establish new habits and practices.

There are other characteristic features to this age group. The attention span of children is short and hence teachers should plan activities for brief periods of time, 5-10 minutes. Also, teachers have to keep in mind that children have no sense of time and distance. It is better to omit history and chronology. Just, “once upon a time” is sufficient for them to cover much of time and place.

Nursery and KG. Teaching: In this age group there are two classes, Nursery and Kindergarten. In Nursery we can encourage the parents to be part of the class, especially if the children are only three years old. By age four many children will make the transition from home to school. In this class there are only 20 lessons while in all other grades the number is 30. Instead of adhering to the lesson format teachers are expected to follow the story style and make use of children’s power for imagination. Teachers should come down to their level in singing and play activities. Superintendents can pay attention in the selection of teachers for preschool years.

The same attitudes and arrangements must be continued in the Kindergarten. However, keep in mind that children should be ready to start formal schooling in Grade One. There are thirty lessons starting in KG. If the teacher needs more choice of activities, we suggest the following sources: 1. Linda Standke, Dot-to-Dot Bible Pictures (Grades PK-K Carson-Dellosa Christian Publishing, Greensboro, North Carolina 2. Janet Skiles, THRU-THE-BIBLE Coloring Pages (Ages 4-8) Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Acknowledgement: I would like to conclude this NOTE by expressing our gratitude to God Almighty, for His guidance, and say “thank you” to all those who worked closely with me. They include: first, our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Dr. Euyakim Mar Coorilos, who entrusted a great responsibility on me and gave necessary guidance; second, the two secretaries, Mr. Thomas Koshy (2002-2005) and Mr. M.C. Varghese (2005-2008) and other Diocesan Sunday School Council Members for their whole-hearted support; third, the Curriculum Committee Members who actually wrote the lessons in 12 classes following my directions (their names are listed at the end of each book) and last, but not least, all teachers and students for making use of this curriculum.

Dr. T. M. Thomas, General Convener
Diocesan Curriculum Committee

Lesson Format (Revised)

1. **Class:** There are 12 classes (Nursery, K .G, Grades 1-10)
2. **Title:** Refers to the title of the chapter or lesson.
3. **Lesson Topic:** Same as Title. It is used in the “ Table of contents” of each class.
4. **Lesson Theme:** Each lesson comes under one theme which is the same in all classes on any specific Sunday. (So introduce the theme at the Assembly.)
5. **Aim:** Purpose Of the lesson shall guide teachers for the lesson planning and presentation
6. **Bible Reading:** Each lesson is based on a specific Bible passage. Use New International Version, NIV.
7. **Values for Life:** A few values are taught through each lesson.
8. **Preparation:** Other terms are used: Introduction and Motivation.
9. **Bible Learning:** This is the body of the lesson. A few ideas are presented, one in each paragraph.
Main Ideas:
10. **Bible Learning:** The ‘how’ of teaching is covered here. The methods of teaching differ for each grade or age group.
Strategies & activities:
11. **Bible Application or Bible Words for Our Times:** Lessons are related to the realities of our contemporary world.
12. **Life Response or Words for My Life:** The lesson leads to personal commitment or life decisions.
13. **Memory Verse:** NIV is used for most lessons.
14. **Prayer:** Conclude the class with prayers given at the end of each lesson or extempore prayer.

Dr.T.M.Thomas

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Part I & II

God's Wonderful World & His People

Lesson 1

God Made the Sun

Aim: To help the students understand that God made the sun. We should thank God for the sun and sunlight.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:16

Introduction: Children see the sun everyday. But they may not be conscious of it. So by showing a picture of the sun and asking questions, children will understand more about the sun and its importance.

Bible Learning:

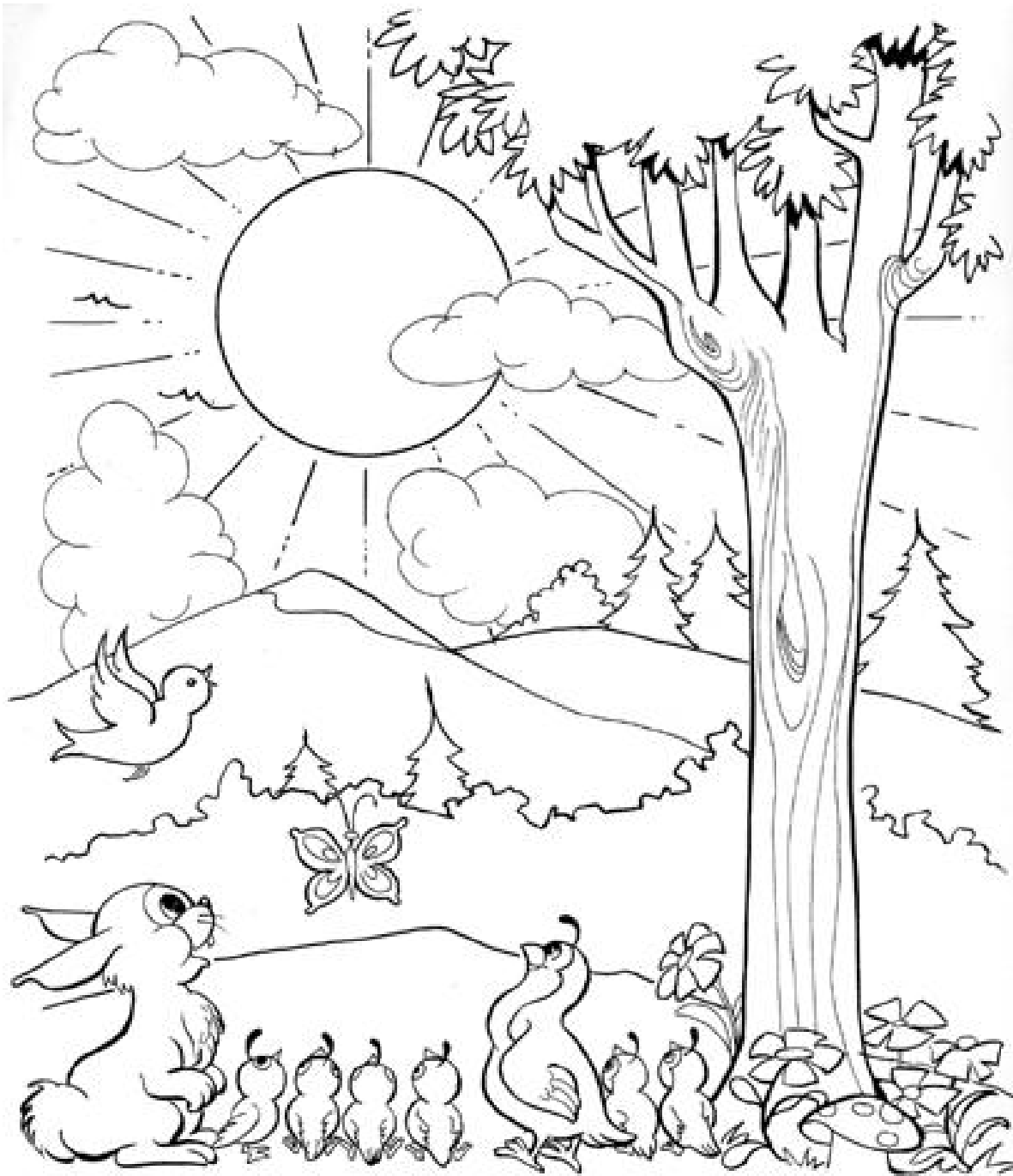
Shows the picture "Thank-you for the sunshine" and asks the children what they see in it? (Sun, tree, animals and birds.) Where do we see the sun? (In the sky, near the tree.) The sun is far away from us. But we get light from it. (Have the student close their eyes, the teacher asks, if they see anything. Ask them to open their eyes and say what they see around them.)
Once upon a time, there was no sun. There was only darkness. When the light comes, darkness goes away. God created the sun. It gives us light and heat. So the plants are able to grow. We need the sun for us to live. So we are thankful to God.

Activity #1: Color the picture "Thank you for the sunshine". Ask questions noted above.

Activity # 2: Color the picture "The sun smiles".

Memory Verse: Jesus said, "I am the light of the world" John 8:12

Prayer: Thank God for making the sun. Thank you for the sunlight, the plants and the trees. Amen.



Lesson 1

Thank You for the sunshine,

14

Activity # 1

Lesson 2

God Made the Moon and the Stars

Aim: To help the children understand that it was God who made the moon and the stars. So we should thank God for them

Bible Reading: Genesis 1: 16

Introduction:

Do you know the song “Twinkle, twinkle, Little Star.”

Let us sing the song: Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
How I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high
Like a diamond in the sky
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
How I wonder what you are!

Teacher encourages actions while singing the song.

Bible Learning: Once upon a time there was no moon, there were no stars. There was nothing in the sky. God commanded the moon to come into being. The moon rose in the sky. God commanded the stars to come into being. Many stars started glowing one two...How wonderful!

God made the moon. The moon gives us light at night. We have to thank God who gave us the moon. God made the stars and filled the skies with them. It is beautiful to see at night.

Activity #1: Children color the picture of the “Moon and the Stars.” The teacher asks the question, when do we see better? During the day or the night? When there is sunlight or moon light? We see better when there is sunlight.

Activity #2: Color the picture “Moon and stars that God made for us.”

Memory Verse: Praise him, sun and moon; Praise him, all you shining stars. Psalms 148:3.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for the wonderful night, for the moon which gives us light and the stars that brightens the sky. Amen



Lesson 2

Activity # 1



Lesson 2

God made the moon and the stars to give us light.

Genesis 1:16

Color the picture of the moon and stars that God made for us.

Activity # 2

Lesson 3

God gives us this Wonderful Earth

Aim: To teach children enjoy the beauty of the earth that we live in. To help them understand that God gave us the earth to use and live. We should be thankful to God for our earth.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1: 1-3

Introduction: In the spring time when we travel, we see new leaves coming out on trees. Also we can see beautiful flowers on plants and trees. We can enjoy the beauty of nature.

Bible Learning: God made this beautiful world. He filled it with mountains, valleys, fields, and flowers. We can enjoy the earth with all these things. Also, we need the earth for us to live. We build houses and live in it. We cultivate the land and get crops. Vegetables for our food. It is on earth that we walk, run, play and drive and enjoy our life. We have to take care of the earth and keep it clean.

Activity #1: Color the picture of “In the Beginning.” Use colors suitable for each item: flowers, animals (rabbit, butterfly, and bear) trees, plants, and mountains. Help children to select the colors.

Activity #2: Color the picture of “It’s a beautiful day”. Children color the pictures using different colors: roof, wall, windows, dress, shoes, and the tree.

Memory Verse: In the beginning God created the sky and the earth. Genesis 1:1

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for giving us the earth to live in. Amen.



"In the beginning God created the sky and the earth."
Genesis 1:1

Activity # 1

Lesson 3



It's such a beautiful day

Activity # 2

PART II GODS WONDERFUL PEOPLE

Lesson 4 God Made People

Aim: To help the children understand that God made human beings and that he loves them. All the people are God's children.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:26-31

Introduction: Who are some of the people loving us? (Father, mother, brother, sister, friends, etc) Who loves all of us? (God) Today, we will study more about God's Love.

Bible Learning: God shows his love through creation we have studied all the things that God created. What are some of them? (Light, earth, water, plants, animals) God could not talk with them. So he created someone special, with special abilities. It is the human being.

The first people were Adam and Eve. God could talk with them and walk with them. They were in the Garden of Eden. We like to talk with people whom we love. God loves us and we should love them. We can talk with Him and show our love to him. It is our prayer.

God loves all people. We are all God's children though we look different. We are different in color, size, gender (man or woman) and other aspects. So people fight against each other. But God loves all of us and he wants us to live in peace. We have to thank God for it.

God loves children. When Jesus lived in this world, he showed affection to little children. He wanted to be with them. He did not want adults to stand in between Him and children. He blessed his children.

Song: Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and yellow, black and white
We are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world

Activity #1: Color the picture "God makes People" Who are the people in the picture? There are leaves around them. Color the leaves and people. (Use suitable colors).

Activity #2: Color the picture "Creation" Use a different color for each animal and flower.

Memory Verse: God created man in his own image. Genesis 1:27

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for all the people in the world. Teach us to love all of them. Amen.



God Makes People
Genesis 1, 2

Activity # 1

Lesson 4



Activity #2

Nursery

Lesson 5

Zacchaeus Meets Jesus

Aim: To teach that Jesus loves sinners.

Bible Reading: Luke 19: 1-9

Bible Learning: Once Jesus and his friends came to a city called Jericho. A man named Zacchaeus lived there. People did not like him because he collected taxes. Sometimes, he forced people to pay more money than they are supposed to pay. He paid the money to the government and kept the extra money for himself. Thus he became rich and lived in a big house.

One day Jesus was passing through Jericho. People heard about it and wanted to see him. So there was a large crowd and Zacchaeus was among them. He was a very short person, not much bigger than a boy. He could not see over the heads of people following Jesus. People did not allow him to come closer. He really wanted to see Jesus. He got an idea. He ran ahead of the people and climbed on a tree. There he sat and waited for Jesus to pass by.

When Jesus came to the place below the tree, he stopped and looked up. There was Zacchaeus looking down from the tree. Jesus said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” At once, he came down and welcomed Jesus gladly. He took Jesus to his house. He told Jesus that he was sorry for the bad thing he had done. He wanted to give the money to the poor. He became a good person.

Some people in the crowd did not want Jesus to visit Zacchaeus because he was bad. But Jesus loves bad people also. He is a friend of sinners. He came to save us all. Jesus is our friend and our savior.

Activity #1: “Jesus and Zacchaeus” Who are the people in the picture? Who is talking to him? What animal do you see on the tree? Color the picture.

Activity #2: “Zacchaeus! Come on Down!” Find out the hidden things in the picture.

Memory Verse: Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today. Luke 19:5b

Prayer: Thank-you Jesus for loving me even when I do bad things. You are our friend. Amen.



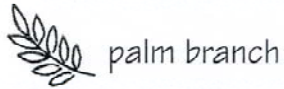
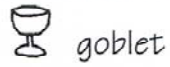
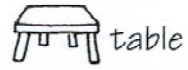
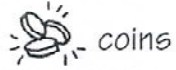
Jesus and Zacchaeus
Luke 19

Activity # 1

Name _____

Zacchaeus! Come on Down!

Read **Luke 19:4** to find out two things that Zacchaeus did so that he could see Jesus.



Activity # 2

Part III

God's Purpose for God's World

Lesson 6

Water is Necessary for Life

Aim: To help children understand that water is needed for life. We can use water to drink, bathe, and wash.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:9-10

Introduction: Teacher brings a glass of water in the class. Teacher allows the children to touch the water. Then she asks some questions: Do you like to play in the bath tub with water? Teacher also asks questions about the uses of water.

Bible Learning: God created water. What do you do when you are thirsty? (Drink water). What are the other uses of water? We need water to bathe, to play, to swim, and to wash clothes and other uses. The fish and some other animals live in water. The boats and ships need water to travel. So we give thanks to God for giving us water. It has many uses for us. We cannot live without water. When there is no water, people, animals and plants die. God has blessed us with water.

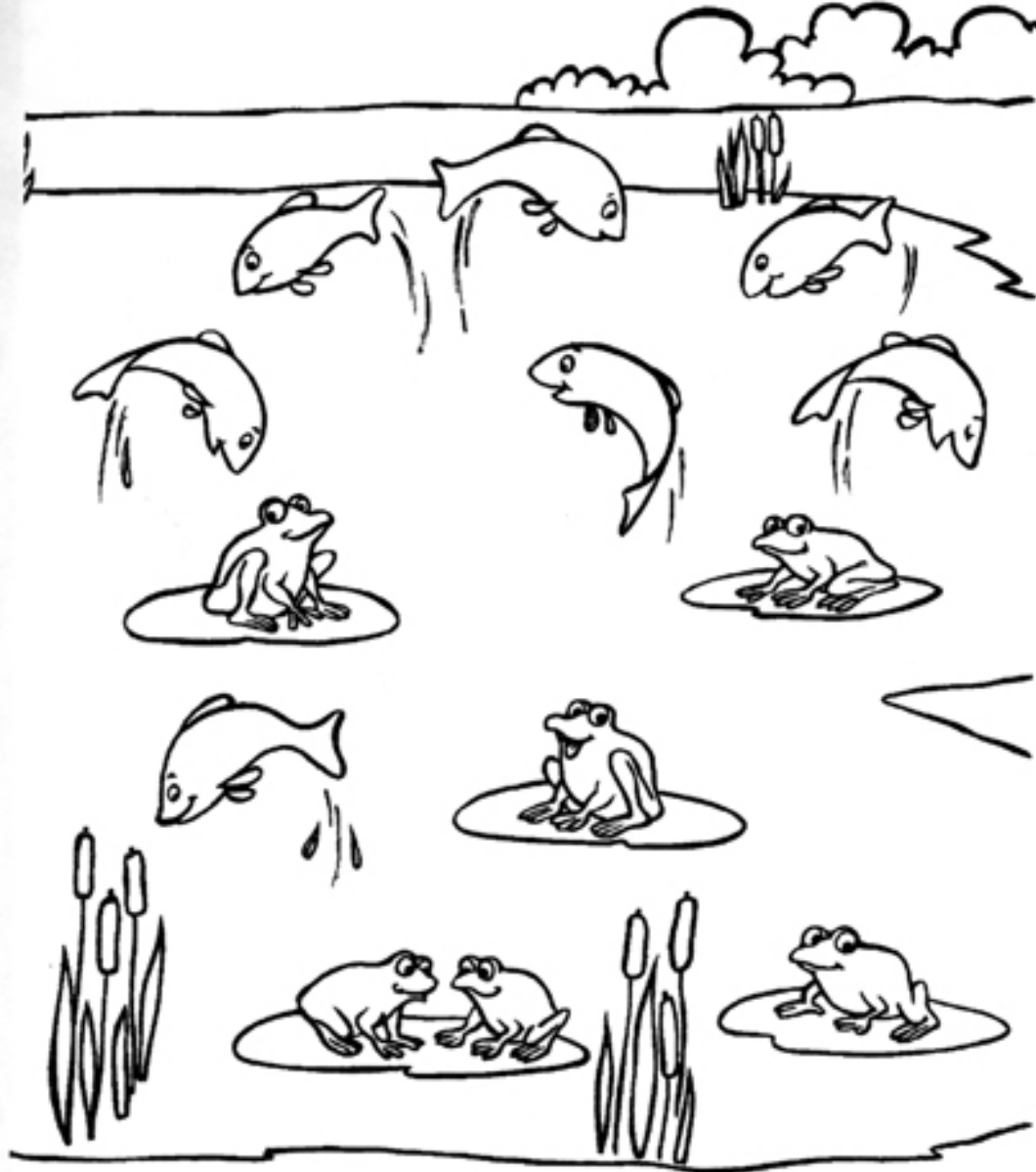
Activity #1: God made water and animals in it. Use different colors for animals and water (Usually blue is used for water).

Activity #2: Explain the picture "people in the boat that are fishing". Color various things in the picture including boat, children, and their father, trees, fish, plants in water.

Memory Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalms 136:
1

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for giving us water to drink, to bathe and to wash. Amen.

Lesson 6



Fish (11)

Activity # 1

Lesson 6



Activity # 2

Lesson 7

Plants are Essential for our Life

Aim: To help the children understand that plants and trees are important for life and we have to thank God for them.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:11-13

Introduction: The teacher brings some flowers and fruits. Also, the teacher brings some pictures of plants and trees. Teachers ask some simple questions. Let them observe the color and beauty of the flowers. To that way, they learn more about them and the God who created them for people to use.

Bible Learning: Children continue their observation of the above materials brought to the class and ask further questions about them. What are some of your favorite fruits? Which flower do you like best? Do they smell good? Children talk about fruits and flowers. They grow on plants or trees. Our houses are surrounded by them. They make our place beautiful. We can enjoy them. God gave fruit trees so that we can have fruits to eat. Some fruits are very sweet and tasty. Which one do you like? God made them and we are thankful to God. We need them to live our life.

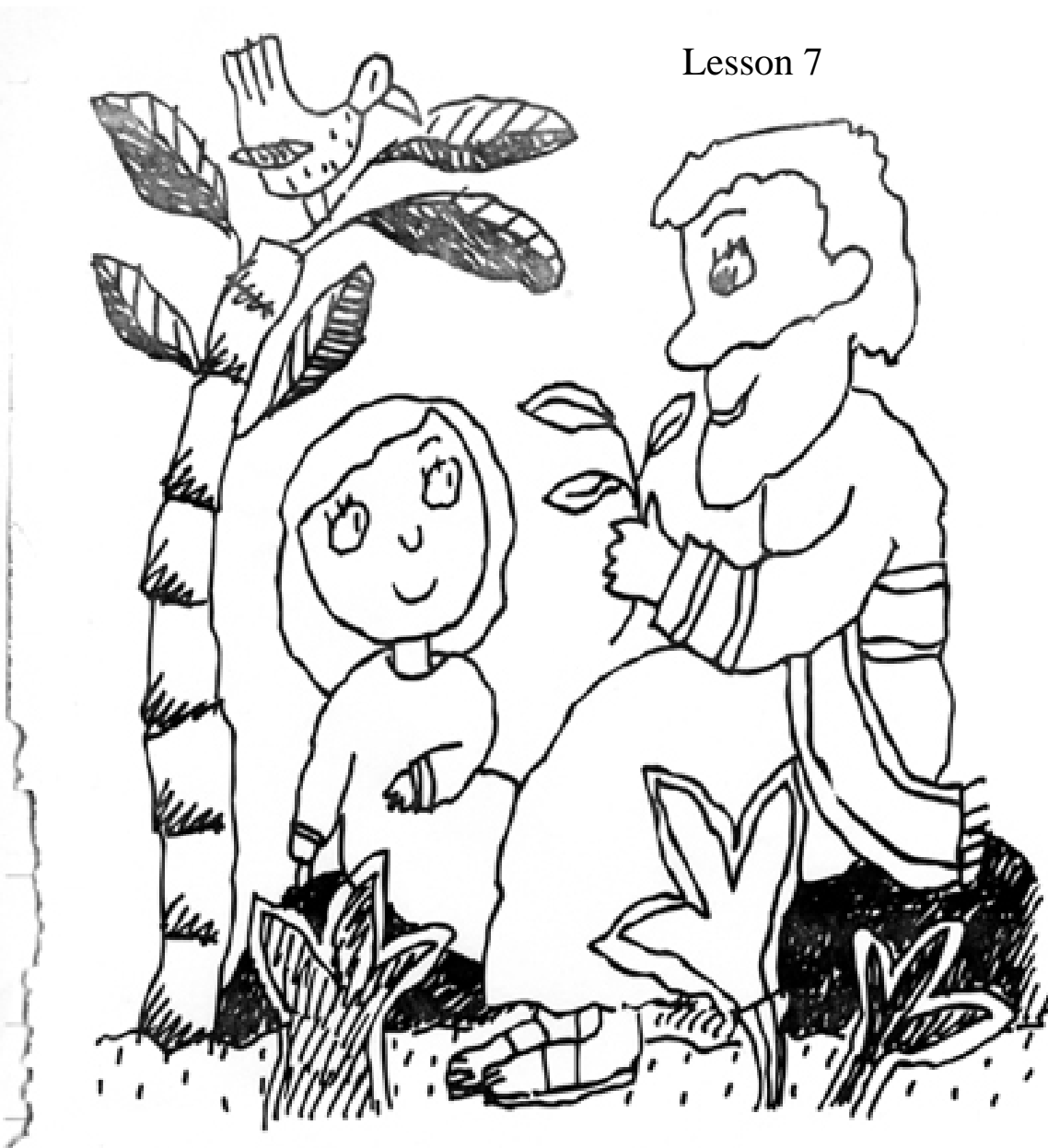
Activity #1: Teacher asks questions about “I will tell of the wonderful things that you have done”. Flowers and leaves and people enjoy that. Also, children can color the picture.

Activity #2: Color the picture “Tree”. Color the leaves green and use different colors to other parts of the tree.

Memory Verse: I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders.
Psalms 9:1

Prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for the fruits from the trees and the beautiful flowers with their sweet smell. Amen.

Lesson 7



I will tell of the wonderful things that you've done.
Psalms 9:1b

Activity # 1 & 2

Lesson 8

Fish and Animals that live in water

Aim: To help children understand that God made fish and other animals that live in water and beneficial to human beings. We thank God for the food that we get from water.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:20-23

Introduction: Do you have a fish tank in your house? Have you seen fish moving around in water? How do they swim? (Use the fin to move). How does your mom cook fish? Do like fried or fish curry?

Bible Learning: The teacher shows some colorful pictures of fish. Talk about the different types of fishes, like their size and color. Some are beautiful like gold fish. There are big and small fishes living in water. Whale is a huge animal that lives in water (even bigger than elephants). Some other animals that live in water are sea lion, crocodile, frogs and others. God commanded all these animals to come into beings. They filled the streams, rivers, and oceans. God is pleased with the animals in the water. We can enjoy watching them and eating them. WE should thank God for fish and other animals in the water.

Activity #1: Fishermen catching fish. They use a net casting from a boat. Color the picture of fishermen, fish, the boat, and water. Use different colors.

Memory Verse: Then God commanded, let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings and let the air be filled with birds. Genesis 1:20

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for the fish and all the animals that live in the water. Amen.



Activity #1

Lesson 9

Birds of the Air

Aim: To help the children understand that God cares even birds and other small animals. We should be thankful to God for birds that keep the environment clean and beautiful.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1:20-23

Introduction: What are some of the small birds? (Sparrow, dove, robin) What are some of the big birds? (Eagle, Peacock, Duck). Ask questions on how they move around? (Flying or flapping their wings).

Bible Learning: Teacher brings pictures of birds in different colors and size. Talk more about their color and size. Crow is black, Blue Jay is blue, Cardinal is red and Parrot is green and etc. Most birds fly while some of them don't. (Chicken, turkey, and duck do not fly long distance). Birds lay eggs and we eat some of them (What are some of the birds that we use for food) Birds sing well and we can hear them very early in the morning. God created the birds and we can enjoy them. So we give thanks to God.

Activity #1: Picture with hidden birds. Children are asked to find out the hidden things. They can color them.

Memory Verse:

Prayer: Our heavenly Father, the birds sing and praise you. Help us to sing and praise. Amen.

Name _____

Find and circle the pictures that are hidden in this picture of how God gave us the birds of the air. Color the picture when you're done.



Then God Commanded, let the water be filled with many kinds of living beings and let the air be filled with birds Genesis 1:20

Activity # 1

Lesson 10

Wild and Domestic Animals

Aim: To help the children understand that animals are friends to people. We should thank God for them.

Bible Reading: Genesis 1: 24-25

Introduction: What are some of the pets kept at our homes (kittens, dogs, parrots, or fish)? What are some of your stuffed animals? Mention their experiences with their pets. Do you like to pet these animals? Have you been to a zoo? What are some of the animals we find in a zoo? (Lion, bear, tiger, elephant, monkey, etc) Why are they usually locked up? (They do harm to people). They are wild.

Bible Learning: The animals that we have at home are called domestic animals. We like them. Do you like to feed pet them? Usually they show their love towards us.

Teachers bring pictures of wild animals. Teacher asks questions about them. Have you seen any of these animals in the zoo, if so, what? Are you scared of these animals, why? They can harm us; hence they are called wild animals. Usually they live in forest away from people.

Some of the wild animals are caught from the forest and tamed. A good example is an elephant. An elephant can work for people. By carrying big trees and logs. Also people can ride on an elephant.

When you visit India, at our houses, we see cows. They give us milk. The milk that we drink everyday comes from cows. What are some other animals which give milk? (sheep, goat, buffalo). From milk, we make butter and cheese. Also we get meat from these animals.

We should thank God for all these and other animals. They give us food. A dog guards our house and a kitten plays with us. Some animals are used to carry heavy loads and for travel. Some examples are donkey, horses, camels, etc.

Activity #1: Animals in a boat. Children identify some of the animals (elephants, giraffes, zebras, monkeys, birds, bear, etc). Who is the person in the boat (Noah)? Color each pair of animals.

Activity #2: "The Farm". What are the animals here? Where do they store their food? Select an animal that you like most and color.

Memory Verse: He gives animals their food and feeds the young ravens when they call.
Psalms 147: 9

Prayer: Lord, we thank you for all the animals domestic and wild. Amen.

Lesson 10



He gives animals their food and feeds the young ravens when they call. (Psalms 147:9)

Activity # 1

Going to the Farm

Coloring Book



Activity # 2

Part IV

God with God's People

Lesson 11

God gives us food to eat

Aim: To teach children that God gives us food to eat and we should thank God for every meal.

Bible Reading: Mark 6:38-42

Introduction: What are some of the favorite food your mom cooks? (cookies, cakes, etc). What do you like to buy and eat? (Hamburger, pizza, ice-cream and candy). Is there any food that you do not like? Today, we learn about the food and our eating practices.

Bible Learning: Children talk more about the food they like and dislike. Though we have our likes and dislikes we should learn to eat food that is good for our growth, such as fruits and vegetables. The food can be both tasty and nutritious.

There are several habits that we should learn when taking food. One of them is to wash our hands, face and mouth. It can be done before and after the meal to keep us clean. Another good habit is eating with family. We should eat slowly and chew the food. We also shouldn't talk while eating so we can enjoy the food God gave. To pray before a meal is a good habit. We can learn short prayers before the meal from our parents. We have to thank God for the food because God has given us food. We have to share our food with others because God gives food to us.

Activity #1: "Family eating Pizza". What food does the family eat? Who are the people eating together? How do they pray? (By holding hands together) use different colors.

Activity #2: Two children praying before meals. Who are the two children in the picture (a boy and a girl)? What else do you see in the picture? (kitten). Use different colors.

Memory Verse: Taking the five loaves and two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Mark 6:41a

Prayer: Lord, thank you for our food. Help us to be thankful for all that we receive from God. Amen.



Lesson 10:

Activity # 1

Color the family that is thanking God for the food God gave them.

Activity # 1

Lesson 11



Activity # 2

I thank You for my clothing and food.

5

Activity # 2

Lesson 12

God gives us beautiful clothes

Aim: To teach children that God gives us clothes. We should thank God for our clothes and we should share our clothes with others in need.

Bible Reading: Genesis 37:3-4

Introduction: The Teacher appreciates the clothes of each child, its style, color and beauty. Teacher notices and comments how beautiful the dress is with reference to each child's clothes. Who bought the clothes for you? Today, we are going to study about a boy who received a beautiful coat of many colors from his father.

Bible Learning: the boy is Joseph and his father is Jacob. The father loved Joseph more than his older brothers. There were 12 sons and Joseph was born when his father was very old. One day Jacob gave his favorite son a coat of many colors. His elder brothers became jealous of him because he had one and they didn't.

The teacher explains different colors with reference to the coat that Joseph wears. Red, Yellow, Blue and other colors make the dress beautiful. We have to keep our clothes nice and clean.

Joseph was a boy who loved God and God blessed him. Joseph took care of his father's sheep. So his father also loved him. Joseph loved and concerned about others including his brothers who hated him.

When we have nice things like our clothes, we must be thankful to God. There are people who do not have enough clothes. So we should share with others what we have. God expects it from us.

Activity #1: Joseph in Red, Yellow, Blue Coat. What does Joseph have in his hand (Staff)? What is standing near him (sheep)? Color his coat in red, yellow and blue. Use another color for his headdress.

Activity #2: Joseph and his father behind him. Joseph and his father are happy why? The brothers are standing on one side. How do they look? Color the picture.

Memory Verse: Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. Genesis 37:3a

Prayer: Thank you God for the good clothes that you gave me. Amen.

Joseph was a boy who loved God. God blessed and helped Joseph because he loved God. Joseph took care of his father's sheep. Because Joseph's father loved him very much, he gave Joseph a very beautiful coat made with many colors.

Red	1
Yellow	2
Blue	3



Lesson 11

Activity # 1

Lesson 12



Jacob gave his favorite son, Joseph, a coat of many colors.
Joseph's older brothers were jealous of him. Genesis 37:1-4

Activity # 2

Lesson 13

God gives us Happy Homes

Aim: To help children understand that all members of our family are given to us by God. Teach us to love and respect each other.

Bible Reading:

Introduction: Who are the members of your family? Let children talk about their family, mommy, daddy, uncle, aunt, chechi, achacha, etc. Today we learn more about our homes and the values we develop as part of our family.

Bible Learning: Children like stories. Parents tell stories especially from the Bible. Teacher brings one or two Bible story books and show it to them and make sure that the children are familiar with them. Also the teacher can talk with the parents on Bible story books and other story book. Also, they can learn nursery rhymes, songs, related to the Bible themes. In this matter, teacher can work closely with parents. Children learn from their own experiences that others in the family care about. In this loving atmosphere they learn to trust parents and others. Children should obey, respect and love other people based upon their relationship with family members. The same qualities, love, respect and obedience should be nurtured in our relationship with God. We thank God for our families.

Song: Jesus in the family
Happy happy home
Happy happy home
Happy happy home

Activity #1: Family that prays together stays together. Who are the family members praying together. (Mother and 2 children). What is Jesus doing? (He is praying) Where does Jesus pray? (In a garden). Color the picture.

Activity #2: Daddy reads about Jesus “who are the members in the family? (Daddy, mommy, two children). What do they read? (Bible) Color the picture.

Memory Verse: But as for me and my household, I will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for our families. Help to obey my parents, respect others and love God. Amen.

Family that prays together stays together



Nursery

Activity # 1



This Family is Listening as Daddy Reads About Jesus

Activity # 2

Part V
God's Work Among God's People

Lesson 14
We Thank You for Our Sunday School

Aim: To help children understand that we should be thankful to God for our Sunday school. It helps us to learn about Jesus and to find friends.

Bible Reading:

Introduction: Do you like to come to Sunday school? What do you like in Sunday school? (listen to stories, to color, to see friends). We are thankful to our Sunday school and church and many good things that we get here. We are going to study more about it.

Bible Learning: We are thankful to God for giving us many good things. We studied about the sun, moon, plants and animals. Also, we are thankful to for our families. Other good things are church and Sunday school. Do you go to day care or nursery school? In the church we have the Sunday school. In schools we learn and get more knowledge. In Sunday school we learn more about Jesus and his life.

What do we do in our Sunday school? We sing songs. What songs did you learn? We listen to Bible stories. Who tells Bible stories in our class? We color pictures. What color does you like that most? We learn verses from the Bible. Can you tell one Bible verse you learned this year? We learn to pray. We thank God for all the things that we do in our Sunday school.

Activity #1: "Children are in the Sunday school class". How many children are in the class.? What does the teacher do? Whose picture is on the wall? (color the picture).

Memory Verse: Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God. Psalms 147:1a

Prayer: We thank you God for our church and Sunday school. Bless our teachers and those are helping us. Amen.



These children are in Sunday-school class. They are learning about Jesus. How many children are in the class? Count them and write the number on the picture. Can you name some of the children who are in your Sunday-school class?

Activity # 1

Lesson 15

God's Great Gift: Baby Jesus

Aim: To help children understand that God's great gift is Baby Jesus and is how God showed his love.

Bible Reading: Luke 2:4-7

Introduction: What were some of the gifts that you received during Christmas last year? Which ones do you like most? After talking about Christmas gift the teacher mentions the great gift. The greatest gift that we can receive is Jesus.

Bible Learning: Once upon a time a baby was born in Bethlehem. His name was Jesus. The father was Joseph and the mother was Mary. Before his birth the parents traveled long distance for about two days, walking and riding on a donkey. There were no cars or planes in those days. They reached a new place without any friends or relatives. It was time for the mother to have the baby. They could not find a home or a hotel to stay. At last they stayed in a manger, where cows were kept. SO baby Jesus was born in a manger. The people who came to see were shepherds who were watching their sheep in the night. Also, three wise men that traveled long distance happened to reach the manger to see Jesus, by following a star. These wise men brought with them some valuable gifts. We celebrate the birth of Jesus during Christmas. At that time, we remember the birth and the life of Jesus, who is the greatest (Sing a song a Christmas song) gift to all of us.

Activity #1: "Baby Jesus". Who are the people in the picture? What is the animal that you find? Color the picture.

Activity #2: "Shepherds find the Baby" Find out the hidden things in the picture.

Memory Verse: "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given" Isaiah 9:6a

Prayer: Thank you God for Baby Jesus. You have shown love by giving us your son. Amen.



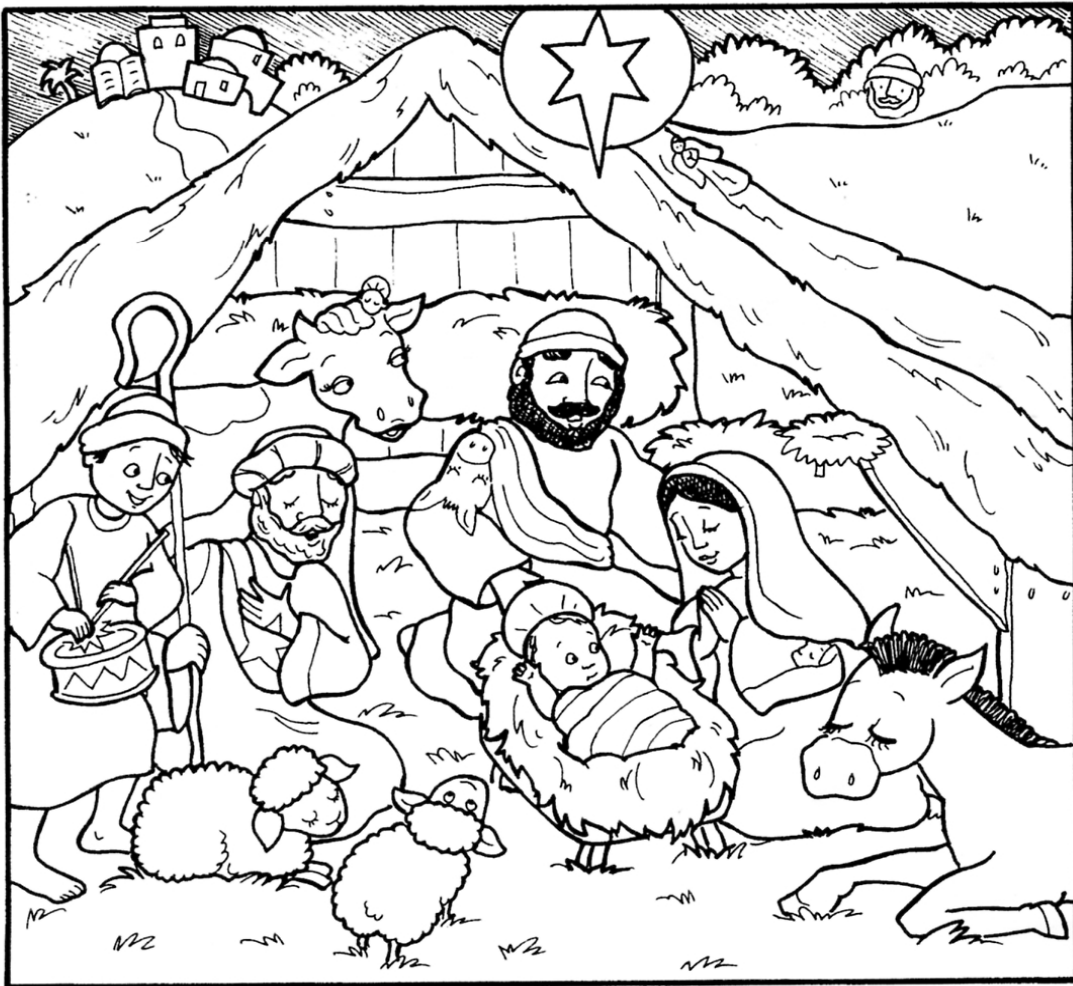
Lesson 14

Activity # 1

Name _____

Shepherds Find the Baby

Read **Luke 2:12** to find out what sign the angel gave the shepherds to lead them to baby Jesus.



Activity # 2

Lesson 16

The Boy Jesus

Aim: To encourage children to follow the example of boy Jesus. He obeyed his parents and helped them in their work.

Bible Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Introduction: How old are you? Do you have friends in other classes? Do you know or can you think of anyone studying in fifth or sixth grade? We are going to study about a boy who was twelve years old. It was Jesus.

Bible Learning: We learned that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But he grew up in the town of Nazareth. Joseph and Mary told him stories about God. They taught him how to pray. He went to school and studied scriptures (God's Word). He was a good student. He helped his parents in their work. Joseph, his father was a carpenter. He worked on wood and made things with them.

At the age of twelve, the boy Jesus went from Nazareth to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph. They went to worship in a big temple (church). It was called Jerusalem temple. Jews, from far and near came to this temple on special occasions. Jesus and his parents had to travel two or three days to reach there. Since there was no car they walked or used donkeys to ride.

After worshipping at the temple they returned. There were many travelers and the parents thought that Jesus was with others. Only after they traveled two days they realized that boy Jesus was missing. In desperation, they went all the way back to Jerusalem looking for him. There they found the boy Jesus sitting with teachers asking questions to them. He was learning from them. But when the parents came he returned with them to Nazareth. There he continued his work helping his father. He obeyed them and stayed with them.

Activity #1: Jesus obeys his parents. Find out Jesus in the picture. Who are the people that he is talking to?

Activity #2: "Children obey your parents" What does she carry? Color the picture.

Memory Verse: "And Jesus grew in wisdom." Luke 2:52a

Prayer: Thank you God for giving us Jesus so that v Lesson 15 1.



Jesus Obeys His Parents
Luke 2

Activity # 1



16
Lesson 16:
How is this girl obeying her parents?
How can you obey your parents?

"Children, obey your parents"
(Ephesians 6:1).

Activity # 2

Part VI

Our Mission in God's World

Lesson 17

Jesus, The King

Aim: To encourage children to worship Jesus as their king by songs and praises.

Bible Reading: Matthew 21:1-11

Introduction: Have you taken part in a rally of Sunday school students. Have you seen any parade? (Thanksgiving Day Parade, New Year's Day, St. Patrick's Day parade, Memorial Day parade) How do they march? What do they hold in their hands? (flags, signs, balloons) What kind of songs do they sing? (Band, flute, etc) Today we are going to study about a special parade or a rally.

Bible Learning: Once Jesus was riding on a donkey with his friends. He was going to Jerusalem, the important city with its famous temple. When people in Jerusalem heard that Jesus was coming they went out to greet him. Some of them took their fine clothes and laid it on the road in front of Jesus. Others ran and pulled off branches from palm trees. They waved the branches like flags, people who were walking with songs of praises "Blessed is he that come in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest." There were also children in the parade. It was a great procession!

In those days kings traveled on horses. On special occasion like the victory in the war, huge crowd gathered and honor the king. Donkey is a symbol of peace. For the ride Jesus selected a donkey to convey his message of peace. He is a King, but a different kind of king.

Activity #1: "Bless the King" Jesus is riding on a donkey. Who is riding on a donkey? What do people hold in their hands? (Leaves) What do they do? (Singing, praising etc.) Teacher can use the picture while telling the story rather than at the end. At the end they can color the picture.

Activity #2: "A Welcome for a King" Ask the same type of questions as in Activity #1

Memory Verse: "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest."
Mathews 21:9b

Prayer: O Lord, you are our king. We want to sing praises to you. Amen.

Name _____

Bless the King!



Bible



crown



Jesus



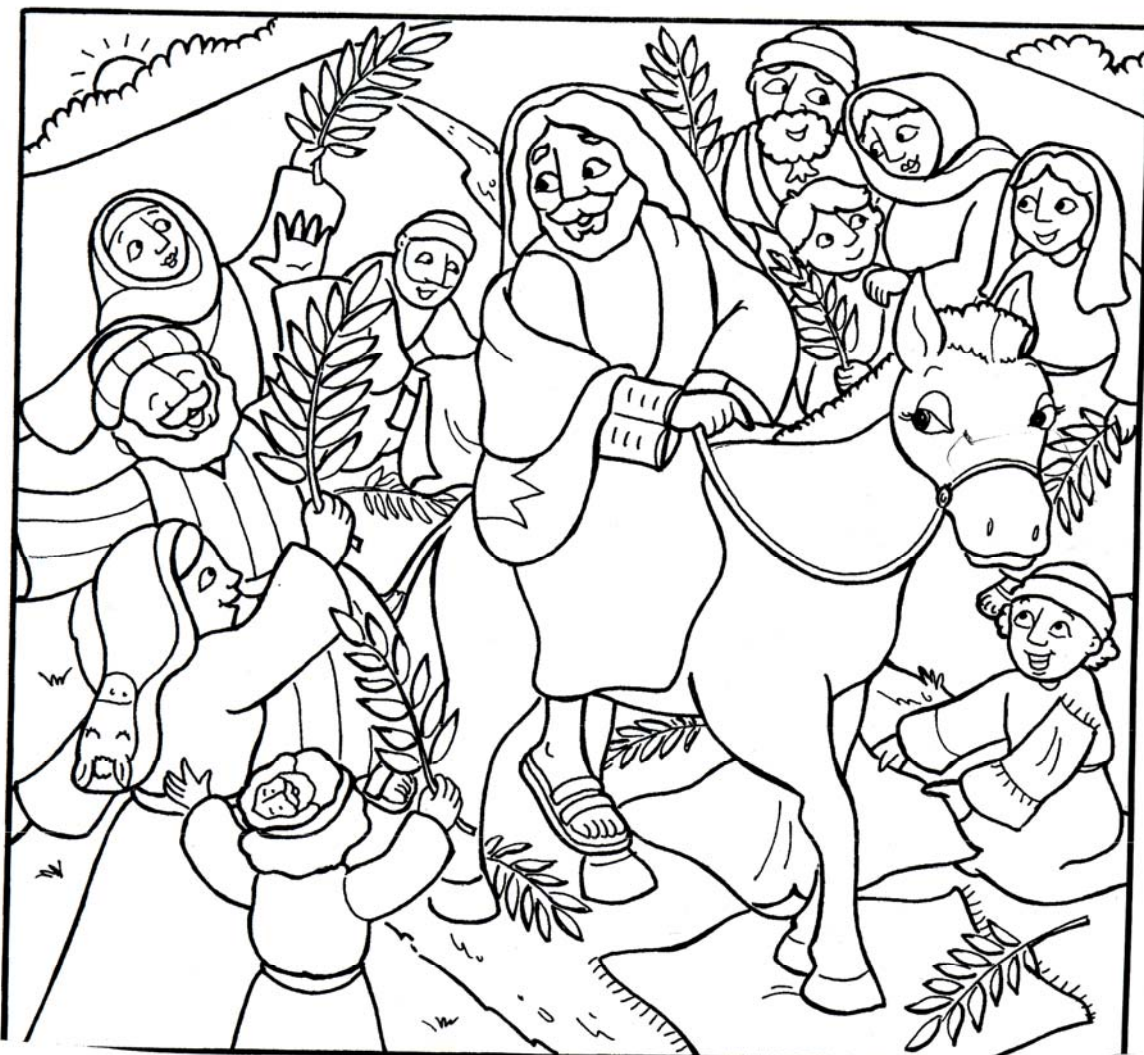
blanket



donkey



tree



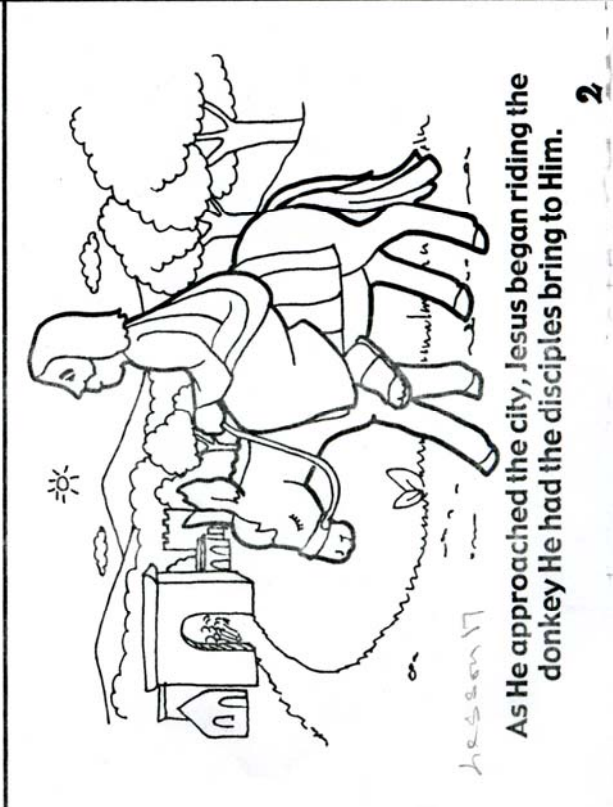
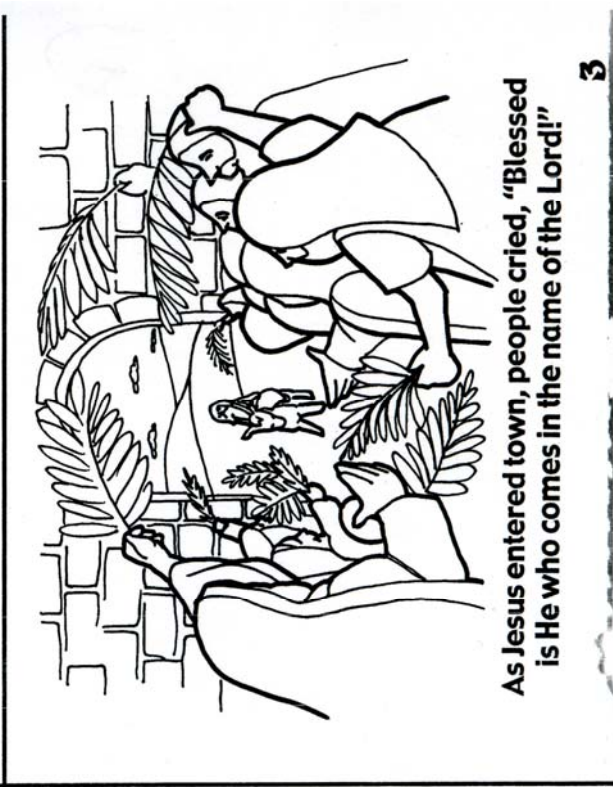
Lesson 17:

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Matthew 21:9

17 Jesus King

Activity # 1



Activity # 2

Lesson 18

Jesus, the Friend of Children

Aim: To help children understand that Jesus is the friend of children. He is always with us.

Bible Reading: Mathew 19: 13-15

Introduction: Do you like Santa Claus, why? (He likes children, they can talk to him and sit in his lap as a friend, and he gives candy and other gifts) Jesus likes children. When mothers bring children he holds them and tells stories. Today we are going to study more about it.

Bible Learning: When Jesus comes to a place large number of people would gather. One day several mothers came to Jesus with their children. They wanted to come closer to Jesus. Then his disciples did not allow that because children would disturb the meeting. Jesus noticed that. He calls the mothers and children to come to him. Jesus does not want older people to prevent him from talking to the children. He talked to them and blessed them.

Jesus loves all little children. He wants them in the church. We love Jesus because he is our friend and savior. He came to save us from our sins so that we could all be God's children.

Song:

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 (3 xs)
The Bible tells me so

Activity #1: Color the picture "come to me" says Jesus

Activity #2: "Jesus Blesses Little Children" Find the hidden pictures as noted in the activity sheet. Color them

Memory Verse: Let the children come to me. Mathew 19:14

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for being my friend. We need you always. Amen.



**“Come to Me,” says Jesus.
Do you like to talk with Jesus too?**

Activity # 1

Name _____

18

Jesus Blesses Little Children



Bible



disciple



Jesus



child



heart



tree



Lesson | 18:
Let the children come to me. Matt 19:14

18
Jesus' love

Activity # 2

Lesson 19

Jesus Fed Many People

Aim: To learn that Jesus will do miracles if we give him what we have.

Bible Reading: John 6: 1-14

Bible Learning:

Once Jesus traveled in a boat and came to the other side of a lake. Many people followed him. He spoke to them for a long time and it was getting late. They have to walk many miles to reach home.

People were hungry and there was no food to by nearby. Because people were tired and hungry, Jesus wanted to give them food. But how? Then one of the disciples said (Andrew) that there was a boy with five small loaves of bread and two little fishes. But there were many people and the food was not enough. Jesus answered, "Tell the people to sit down." The disciples asked the people to sit down on the grass.

The boy gladly gave his lunch to Jesus. Jesus took the bread and fish and thanked the heavenly father for the food. After that, something very wonderful happened. Jesus gave bread and fish to distribute it to the people. There was enough food for all the people. Yes, there were many people, but enough for all of them. It was a miracle.

When they finished eating, there was some food left over. Jesus asked his helpers to pick up all those pieces instead of wasting it. So they picked up twelve baskets full of food. This was a miracle that Jesus did. They started with a lunch of a boy and large number of people was fed (over five thousand people). And there was left over food. God gives us food everyday. So we must thank God for the food that he gives us. We must be willing to share the food with others in need. This was what the boy did; sharing.

Activity #1: "Jesus Feeds 5000". What does the boy carry? Whom did he talk to? Color the picture.

Activity #2: "Jesus can feed a crowd with a little food." What do the children do? What are they praying for? Use different colors for each item of food and basket.

Memory Verse: Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated. John 6:11a

Prayer: Thank you, Lord, for the food that we eat. Help us to give thanks to you before our meal. Amen.



Jesus Feeds 5,000
John 6

Activity # 1



Jesus can feed a crowd with a little food.

Activity # 2

Lesson 20

Jesus Heals a Blind Man

Aim: To learn that Jesus heals the blind and the sick. He wants us to obey him.

Bible Reading: John 9: 1-7

Bible Learning:

Do you know any blind person? Can you go upstairs and get a book and bring it back with your eyes completely closed? (With a towel I will blindfold you). What are some of the things that you cannot do when you are blindfolded? (Do as an exercise in class). Today we will learn about a blind man who was healed by Jesus.

One day Jesus and his disciples were walking through the narrow streets of Jerusalem. It was Sabbath day. On Sunday we go to church to worship. We do not do our regular work. Can we heal blind a person on Sunday? Jesus did.

While Jesus was walking, he saw a blind person. He could not work because he was blind. So he was begging to get some money. (He became a beggar). Jesus took pity on him and wanted to help him, not giving him any money, but giving the beggar his eyesight.

Jesus spit on the ground and made some mud. He covered the blind man's eyes with mud. Then Jesus asked the blind person to go and wash it in a pool (Siloam). He obeyed Jesus. His eyes were opened and he could see everything. How happy he was. He was able to see the trees, buildings, flowers, children playing etc. What else did he see?

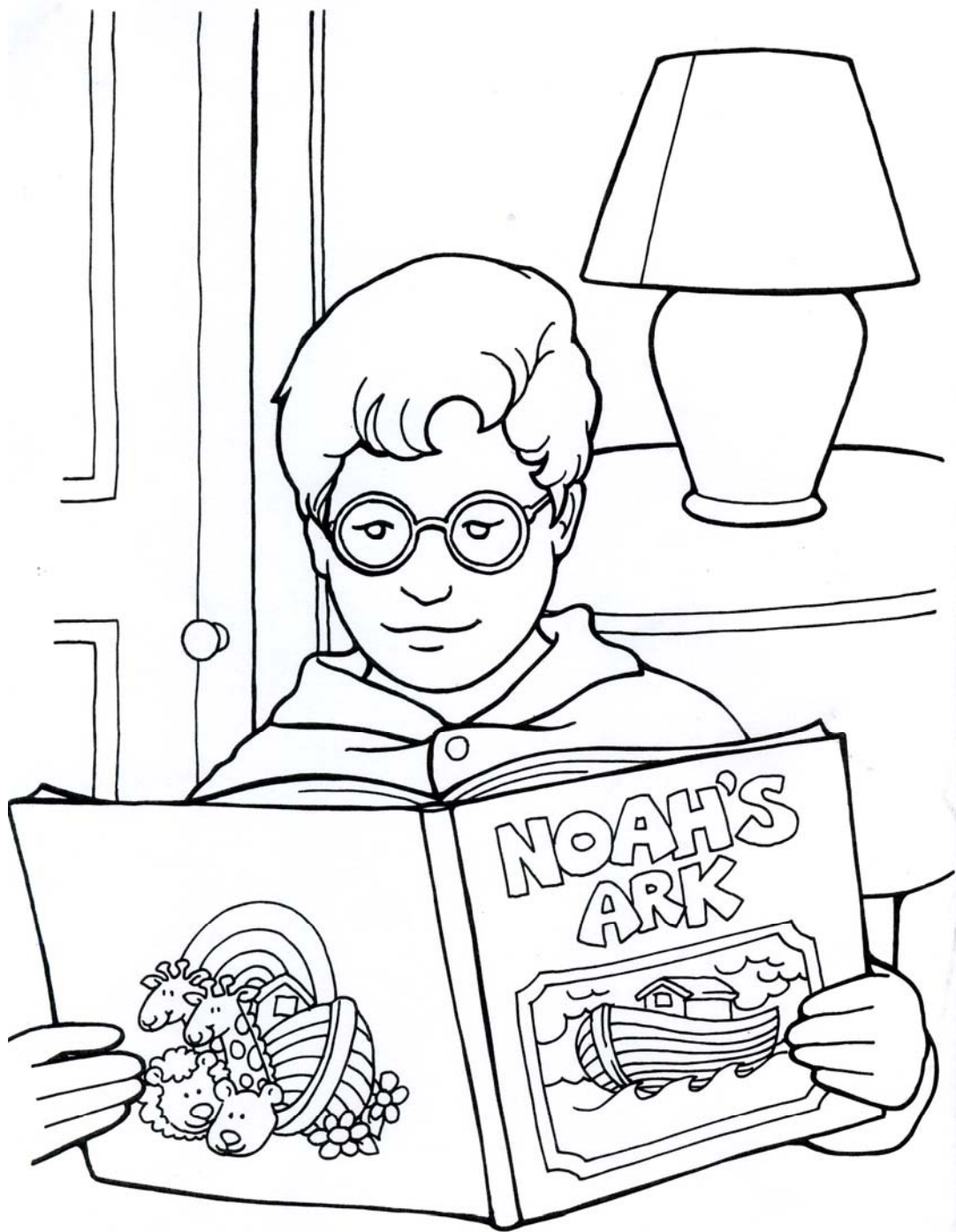
He was thankful to Jesus when he got his eyesight. Everyday we see beautiful things around us. We are able to play, read, travel and enjoy many other things because we can see. Our eyesight is a blessing given by God. We are thankful to God.

Activity #1: "Jesus heals a Blind man" Who are the two people in the picture. What did Jesus do? Color the picture.

Activity #2: "Jesus can make the Blind Eyes see" What does the boy do? What is behind the boy? Color the picture.

Memory Verse: Jesus said, "I am the light of the World" John 8:12a

Prayer: Thank you Jesus for our eyes and the ability to see and enjoy the beautiful the world. We pray for people who are blind. We give thanks for the people who help them. Amen.



Jesus can make blind eyes see.

Activity # 1



Jesus Heals a Blind Man
John 9

Activity # 2

Committee:

- Rev. Joseph Mathew (Chair, South Florida)**
- Rev. Alexander Tharakan (Chair, South Florida)**
- Ms. Shoba Jacob (Convener, South Florida)**
- Mrs. Saji Cherian (St. Thomas , NY)**
- Ms. Gena Mathews (St. Thomas, NY)**
- Mr. George Thomas (South Florida)**
- Mr. Babu Varghese (South Florida)**