

## Ten Keys Children's Program

### FORWARD

Welcome to the wonderful world of Ten Keys! The lessons that follow were adapted from Colin Smith's book, *Ten Keys for Unlocking the Bible*. They were used for a children's program that coincided with an adult study of the Ten Keys at the Arlington Heights Evangelical Free Church. The children's program consisted of students aged 5-10, readers and non-readers, churched and un-churched.

Our aim was to take one age appropriate concept from each chapter to present to the children. The lessons are intended to build upon one another, leading to a deeper understanding of the gospel message from the beginning of the Bible to the end.

We departed from the order of Colin Smith's book at one point. We felt the children would benefit from a lesson on the life of Christ and also from combining the lessons on the Cross and Tomb, (chapters 6 and 7).

We highly recommend that all teachers working with students read *Ten Keys for Unlocking the Bible* by Colin Smith.

Resources to consider ordering ahead of time:  
Abingdon's Book of Buildings, Abingdon Press  
Flannel graphs for Nativity Story and Easter Story  
Max Lucado books referenced  
Video of Miracles of Jesus

Each lesson plan includes:

- Aim
- Scripture Reference
- Presentation
- Craft
- Materials List

In our program we did not include singing. If there was extra time, simple games were provided.

## LESSON 1

### THE GARDEN

- AIM: Because God is our creator, we are very special and valuable to Him.
- Scripture Reference: Genesis 1:1-2:2

**INTRODUCTION:** Show the children a box with a simple puzzle (24 pieces) in it. Tell them that you want to create a picture by putting the pieces together. Then shake the box, wait, look into the box; repeat several times -- shake, wait, look. Then pour the pieces out and ask the children why there isn't a picture yet. Then invite them to help you put it together. After it is together, congratulate and thank the children. Ask the following questions: *Why didn't I get the puzzle together at first? What was I missing?* (Try to draw them to the conclusion that you needed someone to put it together -- you needed a creator).

A. Tonight, we're going to talk about a creator, not of a puzzle or an invention or a painting, but the Creator of everything. Tell the creation story using simple flash cards which illustrate each day of creation. Pictures can be drawn, cut outs or taken from magazines. Be sure to include the following points.

- a. In the beginning, there was nothing at all, except God.
- b. God wanted to share his great love with someone, so he created.
- c. Explain what God created each day, but don't spend a lot of time on this until you get to God creating humans. Emphasize how great and powerful God must be to create all this.
- d. God created Adam then Eve and placed them in a beautiful garden where they could enjoy God, enjoy each other and enjoy working in the garden.

B. Let's go back to our puzzle.

- a. The universe, the world, the animals and plants, and even people are like a puzzle, but not a 24 piece puzzle -- a trillion/zillion etc. puzzle.
- b. Some people think that all of this world did not have a Creator. There was no one to put the puzzle together. In fact, there was no one to even make the puzzle pieces. It just happened by accident over a long time.
- c. Do you remember when I tried to put the puzzle together by shaking the box and waiting? What happened? (*Use a Mr. Potato Head to show this example*). What would happen if I got a big box and put in it some hair, skin, eye balls, a nose, arms, legs, etc. and shook it up? Would I get a person by accident? (*Show the box with Mr. Potato Head parts not assembled. Then assemble it as you speak*). No, there has to be a Creator, and not only a Creator to put the pieces together, but a Creator to design and make up the pieces and then to give it life.
- d. That is what God did with Adam and Eve and the whole world and universe. And God created each one of us in our mothers' tummies. He didn't take the ground or a rib like Adam and Eve, but God did create us. We didn't happen by accident. Why did God create us? Because God wants to share his love with us.
- e. Because God is our Creator, we are very special and very valuable.

C. Read "*You are Special*" by Max Lucado.

#### Questions for discussion (as time and interest permit):

1. In "*You are Special*", why was Punchinello special? Why are we special? Why did the stickers not stick to Lucia? Should Punchinello listen to the Wemmicks or to Eli? Should we listen to what God thinks of us or what others think about us?

2. What difference does it make that God created you rather than you being created by accident? (special, valuable, loved by God, God has a reason for you living, etc.)

3. If God created us, who is our owner?

*Note: We will get into the first sin in the next lesson rather than tie it into today's lesson.*

### **Items needed for story Lesson 1:**

24 piece puzzle

Creation Flash Cards

Mr. Potato Head®

Box

*You Are Special* by Max Lucado

### **Lesson 1 Craft:**

Decorated Foam Frames

Items needed:

Foam Frames

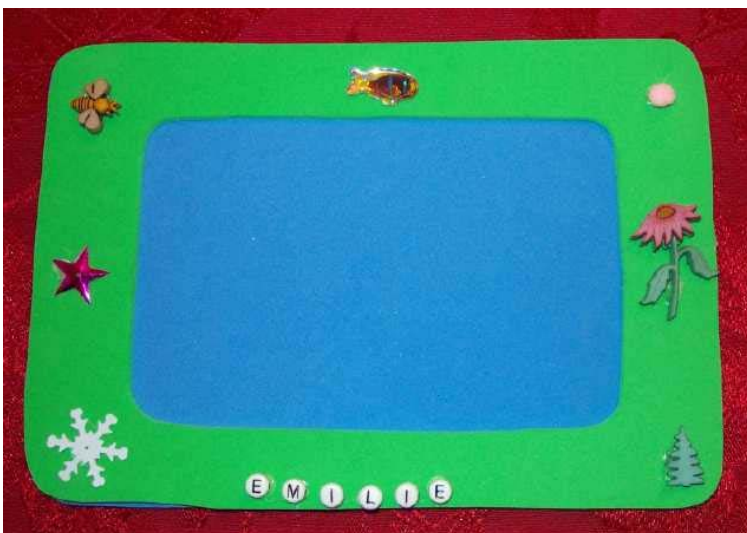
Foam Glue or Glue gun

Small items representing creation

letter beads

**\*\*If using glue guns, have children position items where they would like them to be placed and have adults glue items in place.**

Optional: Frames can also be made ahead by using craft foam. Using a standard size picture as a template cut two pieces of foam, adding approximately one inch on each side. Cut out the center of one piece of foam. Glue the two pieces together on three sides, leaving an opening at the top to insert the picture. Be sure to use glue specifically designed for foam projects. Peel and stick magnets can be added on the back for a refrigerator picture frame.



## LESSON 2

### THE LAW

- AIM: God loves us so much that he gave us directions to follow so we would know how to live the right way.
- Scripture Reference: Exodus 20:1-17

**Introduction:** (Come dressed like a builder with a tool belt and construction hat. If you would like, decorate the room with yellow plastic construction tape). Show the children a set of blueprints for a house and ask them what they think it is. Then explain that architects create blueprints so that houses and buildings can be built the right way. Architects go to school to learn how buildings are supposed to be built so that they don't fall down, have doors and windows in the right places, and have water/sewers/heat/air that work the right way. They also learn to make buildings that protect us from the snow/wind/ice/rain/heat, etc. The people who build the house need to follow the blueprints in order for the house to be built the way it is supposed to be. It's like following the directions. If they don't follow the directions and just do it the way they want to, the house will not be the way it is supposed to be and something bad might happen. What could happen if the builders don't follow the blueprints?

**Activity:** Now you're going to get a chance to be a builder. (Hand out the construction hats. Break up into small groups of three. Each group gets a set of Lincoln logs® and a set of directions to build a house. You'll have five minutes to try to build the house following the blueprints or directions. You have to build it just like the directions.

#### **Follow-up Questions:**

1. Were the directions helpful in making your building?
2. Do you think you could have built the building right without the blueprints/directions? (If yes, then ask if they could have built something more complicated).
3. Why do things come with directions?

#### **God's Blueprints:**

Today we are going to talk about God's blueprints or directions for us. In the Last lesson, we learned how God created everything in the world and universe and how his special creation was Adam and Eve the first people. We also learned that God created us in our mom's tummies and made us very special and he loves us very much. Adam and Eve were living in the beautiful garden enjoying God, each other, and all that God had made. But then something terrible happened which changed everything. God had told Adam and Eve that they could eat any of the fruit from the trees in the garden except the fruit from one tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. One day, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the tree. When they disobeyed God, they did something called sin, and sin separates a person from God. So Adam and Eve had to leave the Garden of Eden. The earth started to fill up with people--the children of Adam and Eve and their children and their children, until there were many people. With lots of people also came lots of sin, and evil was everywhere. So God chose a group of people to be his special people and he was going to be their God. They were called the Israelites. God brought them out of slavery in the land of Egypt to a new land. Before they entered the land, God gave them a blueprint or directions for how they were to live as his people. This was called the Law or the Ten Commandments.

#### **Story of Ten Commandments:**

*Put the clear plastic box in front of you on the ground so the children can see inside. Place the Israelites and Moses in the center. Have Mount Sinai off to one corner of the box. Place 10 Commandment tablets outside the box.*

Moses and the Israelites were wandering in the desert. God had freed them from slavery in the land of Egypt and he was now leading them to the new land. God wanted to give his chosen people instructions on how to live once they moved into the new land. God called Moses to come up to Mount Sinai so that he could give him instructions to give to all the Israelites. *(Move Moses and Israelites closer to Mount Sinai)*. When Moses and the Israelites came close to Mount Sinai they heard thunder and saw lightning. The mountain was covered with thick smoke. I am sure the people were frightened! *(Move Israelites back some and move Moses to the mountain)*. But Moses went up the mountain to talk with God. God told Moses how they should live. God told Moses that there were four best ways for loving God and six best ways for loving other people.

When Moses came down from the mountain, he told the people what God had said to him. Would you like to know what God told Moses to tell the Israelites?

*Hold up each tablet as you read the Commandment and explain it if necessary. Put the first four Commandments on the piece of paper "Loving God" and the remaining six Commandments on the paper "Loving People."*

1. Love God with all your heart.
2. Obey God.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy.
5. Love your parents.
6. Never hurt anyone.
7. Do not break your marriage promises.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not want what others have.

Remember how I told you that the first four Commandments are ways to love God? And, the next six Commandments are ways to love others?

Through the Ten Commandments, God told the Israelites the right way to live. They were his blueprints for a life that loved and honored God and that loved and honored people. These are the same blueprints for our lives. God wants us to "build" our life building using his directions because then it will come out right. Because he loves us, he gives us the directions to follow.

**Questions:** Now let's go back to when we were building our log houses. I asked you some questions. Now when you answer these questions instead of thinking about your block building I want you to think about your life as a building.

1. Is it important to have some directions for your life building so that you know what to do each day?
2. Do you think you could live your life right or do the right thing each day without any directions?
3. Why did God give us directions for our life?

In the next lesson, we're going to learn about how even though people have directions from God in the Ten Commandments, they often disobey God rather than follow what He says.

### **Because I Love You Story:**

Read *Because I Love You* by Max Lucado. This is a story that shows us the reason God gives us commandments.

**Follow-up Questions:**

1. What was Shaddai's rule about the wall?
2. Why did Shaddai make a rule or command about the wall?
3. Did Paladin follow Shaddai's directions? What happened to Paladin?
4. Did Shaddai still love Paladin even though Paladin disobeyed him?
5. What did Shaddai do after Paladin disobeyed him?
6. Does God still love us even though we disobey Him?

**Items needed for story Lesson 2:**

*Because I Love You* by Max Lucado

Construction worker outfit for storyteller

Room decorated in yellow "do not cross" plastic tape (optional)

Blueprints for a home

Construction hats for children (optional)

Lincoln Logs® for each group of children

Directions for building a simple Lincoln Logs® structure (directions are available at <http://www.hasbro.com>, go to Key Word search and put in "Lincoln Logs®," click on Hasbro game and toy instructions then choose a simple set of directions from the Lincoln Log® section to copy for each group. Another option would be to use another type of building block with simple directions printed up for students to follow.

Large clear plastic storage container

Corn based small mammal bedding material (to look like desert sand and to stand clothes pin people in)

Clothes pin people of God (depending on size of your container you may want about 10 people. To make clothes pin people, use pipe cleaner wrapped around the top of a clothes pin for the arms. Taking a rectangular piece of cloth with a hole cut in the center for the head to go through, drape over arms and then tie a piece of string or yarn around the waist to hold the cloth in place. You can draw a face on the front of the clothes pin.).

Clothes pin Moses

Large rock for Mount Sinai

One 8"X11" paper with "Loving God" written horizontally

One 8"X11" paper with "Loving People" written horizontally

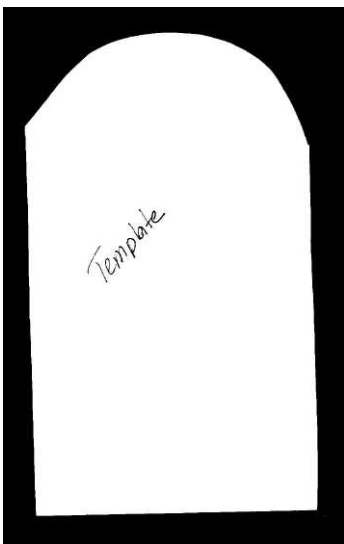
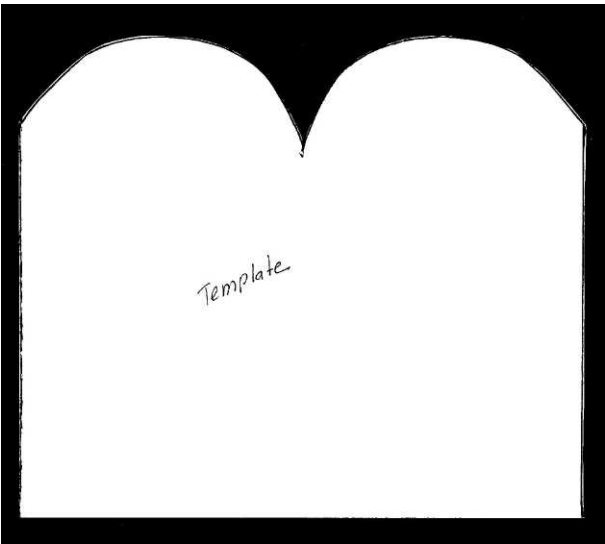
Ten individual tablets cut out with the Ten Commandments written as below. Write one Commandment on each tablet. Use one color marker for the first four Commandments and use another color marker for the remaining six Commandments.

1. Love God with all your heart.
2. Obey God.
3. Do not misuse God's name.
4. Keep the Sabbath holy.
5. Love your parents.
6. Never hurt anyone.
7. Do not break your marriage promises.
8. Do not steal.
9. Do not lie.
10. Do not want what others have.

**Lesson 2 Craft:**

Use the template provided to make ten tablets (adjust the size to meet your needs). Write the words of a Commandment onto each tablet and place the corresponding picture next to it. You are making a master for each Commandment from which you will make copies. After copies are made, assemble booklets either with spiral bound as shown, or stapled. Children can then color each picture as you discuss the Commandment and how it applies to our lives.

*During craft time, go over each one of the Ten Commandments and emphasize how these are God's good directions and rules for our lives and that He gives them to us because He loves us.*







## LESSON 3

### SACRIFICE

- AIM: Because we don't always live by God's directions, our sins separate us from him. Sacrifice has made the way to be brought back to God.
- Scripture Reference: Leviticus 16:1-22; Philippians 2:7; Matthew 8-9; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 7:24-27; 1 John 1:9; Psalms 103:12.

#### Review:

1. God made you and every person in the world and that makes you special to God and he loves you.
2. God made the first two people, Adam and Eve, and he loved them and put them in a beautiful place to enjoy each other, enjoy God and enjoy the garden.
3. Adam and Eve disobeyed God which brought evil into the world. That evil or sin separated people from God who does no evil. Adam and Eve had children who had children who had children and with all the people in the world came more evil
4. God called out a people named the Israelites to be his own and he would be their God. He gave them the Ten Commandments to show them the right way to live.

Even while God was giving Moses the 10 Commandments, the Israelites, God's people were breaking the Law already by making a golden calf to worship. The law showed them that they were sinners and did evil. The problem that we are going to look at in this lesson is how could the people come back to God when their sin separated them from him?

#### Introduction and Skits: (teacher wears all white)

We're going to do a little game. What color am I dressed in? We're going to use the color white to mean pure or without spot or without sin. So when we start out this game, I am going to be without any sin. Now let's see how long this lasts. I need four volunteers and I'm going to number you from one to four. Up on the board are eight pieces of paper with the name of something wrong or a sin on it. We're going to do four little skits up front, and after each skit I'd like the volunteer with the corresponding number to pick out the two papers that best match the wrong thing that is done in the skit and tape those papers onto my nice white outfit. The others can help you decide which ones best match. We'll see how long my nice white outfit stays white (teacher will play the part of "Leslie" in all three skits).

**1. Selfish and Mean** (*Maria enters with her coloring book in hand and sideways baseball cap on. Leslie is seated on the floor coloring with two sets (boxes) of markers in front of her. Maria sits down next to Leslie.*)

Maria: Leslie, can I borrow some of your markers so I can color too?

Leslie: Oh, sorry Maria. I need these for myself.

Maria: But you have two whole sets!

Leslie: Yeah, but I might want to color with both hands. And besides, I just don't want to share with you! (*Maria exits in frustration.*)

Ask volunteer number one to come up to the board and pick the two papers that correspond to the wrong actions displayed. (selfish and mean)

**2. Disobeying and Lying** (*Leslie enters with backpack. Maria is standing with an apron on stirring something in a pot.*)

Maria: Leslie, I'm so glad you're home. Where were you? I was worried about you.

Leslie: Oh mom, I stopped by Allison's house on the way home.

Maria: But don't you remember I asked you to come straight home.

Leslie: Yes, but Allison tied me up and wouldn't let me go until I listened to this great new CD she got.

Ask volunteer number two to come up to the board and pick the two papers that correspond to the wrong actions displayed. (Disobey and Lying)

**3. Stealing and Put Downs.** *(Maria is standing looking at a newspaper waiting for a bus. Leslie enters with a backpack on).*

Leslie: Excuse me. Did the 57 bus come yet?

Maria: I'm waiting for bus 35, but I don't think 57 has come yet.

Leslie: (She reaches into her pocket for a dollar bill). By the way, do you have change for a dollar? I need it for the bus.

Maria: Sure. (Maria reaches into pocket and pulls out four quarters but unknowingly drops a \$10 bill in the process. Leslie notices but says nothing). There you go, four quarters. (Maria hands Leslie the four quarters and Leslie gives her the dollar bill). Oh, there's my bus now! Bye.

Leslie: Bye, thanks. (Maria exits. Leslie waits until she is out of sight and picks up the \$10 and puts it into her pocket). Thanks a lot you clumsy person!

Ask volunteer number three to come up to the board and pick the two papers that correspond to the wrong actions displayed. (stealing and put downs)

**4. Cheating and Gossiping** *(Maria is standing with an open textbook while writing in a notebook. Leslie enters with her notebook and textbook).*

Leslie: Hey Maria, I didn't have time to finish my homework last night and math class is next. Can you give me the answers to the last twenty problems?

Maria: But that would be cheating Leslie. I don't want to do that!

Leslie: If you don't, I'll tell everyone that you still wear Sesame Street underwear. You'll be the laughing stock of the whole school.

Maria: You wouldn't do that!

Leslie: Just give me those answers and your secret is safe with me.

Ask volunteer number four to come up to the board and pick the two papers that correspond to the wrong actions displayed. (cheating and gossiping)

**Story:**

How does my shirt look now? I've got a big problem. How can I ever be made clean and pure again? Let's look into our Bible story for tonight, because as I said before, the Israelites had the same problem. They had sinned, and sin separates a person from God. Some of the Israelites had been selfish, or mean, or gossiped, or stole, or put others down, or cheated, or lied, or disobeyed (*as you say each word, put that word sticker on an Israelite figure and place it in the model*). But remember, God made and loves each person. So God made a way that would remove their sin, make them clean and pure again, and that way was through a sacrifice. A sacrifice was generally when an animal was killed to take the punishment for someone's sin.

After God gave the Israelites the Ten Commandments, He instructed them to build the Tabernacle, which was a place where they could worship God and offer sacrifices for their sins. This is a model of what the Tabernacle looked like.

Describe the Tabernacle that you will be using.

At the center of the Tabernacle was an area called the Most Holy Place. On one day in each year called the Day of Atonement, the high priest of the Israelites was to go there and offer a sacrifice and God would cover over their sin. The Day of Atonement was like a five-part drama.

### **Act 1: The Priest Appears**

The high priest had one of the most important jobs in Israel--to meet with God on behalf of the people. (*show high priest doll with robe on*). He would wear magnificent robes with jewels and gold as God instructed him. But on the Day of Atonement, atonement means bringing back together God and people, the high priest did not wear his robes and he appeared in the streets wearing a simple white cloth. (*take robe off and place high priest in model*). People would line the route as he made his way toward the tabernacle on the Day of Atonement, almost like watching a very serious parade. (*move Israelite people to the street in model*).

### **Act 2: The Priest Prepares**

The high priest was a very religious man. He did good things, prayed, worshipped, taught others--do you think he sinned too? Yes (*put sin stickers on high priest figure saying each sin as you put the sticker on*). So before the high priest could offer a sacrifice for the sins of the people, he first had to do something about his own sins. God told him what to do and what would be a good sacrifice to give. This is important that he did what God told him because his sins separated him from God, so only God could show him the way to be clean and pure again. God told him to take a bull and kill it and then sprinkle the blood on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place. (*have the priest kill the bull and then take the "blood" and put it on the mercy seat*). God did this to show that blood was needed for a sacrifice for sins.

### **Act 3: The bringing back together or God and people (atonement)**

Next two goats were brought forward and one was killed. The high priest sprinkled the goat's blood on the mercy seat. (*have the priest kill the goat and put the blood on the mercy seat*). God's judgment of death for sin was passed on the animal instead of on the people.

### **Act 4: Sin is confessed or admitted**

Next the live goat was brought forward. (*put the goat in the model and act out*). The high priest laid both hands on the goat and confessed or told or admitted all the evil things the people had done. He told God how the people had lied (*transfer stickers, etc.*) stole, were mean, gossiped, put down others, disobeyed, and were selfish. As he prayed, the guilt from those sins were removed from the people and laid on the goat.

### **Act 5: Guilt is removed**

Then God told the high priest to send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man chosen to do this. (*act out*). The man leads the goat away, between the tents and then outside the camp into the desert. The people would watch until the man and goat could not be seen any longer. This was to show how God took away their sin and it was seen no longer.

This Day of Atonement was observed every year to remind the people that sacrifice was needed to take away their sin and bring them back to God. The Israelites observed the Day of Atonement until shortly after Jesus came to earth. When Jesus came, He became the sacrifice that would once and for all take away the Israelites sin and everyone's sin including ours.

The five-part drama of the Day of Atonement prepares us to see the final five-part drama where our sins were taken away once and for all. You see, the Day of Atonement had to be repeated every year, but when Jesus came He offered one perfect sacrifice that never needed to be repeated.

### **Act 1: Christ appears**

Over 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem which is in the land of Israel. Remember that on the Day of Atonement, the high priest took off his magnificent robes and wore a simple white cloth. So Jesus who was God and came from heaven laid aside or took off his glory and was born in a stable not a palace, was wrapped in strips of cloth not robes of a king, and was laid in a manger not a bed of gold. (*show baby Jesus figure*).

### **Act 2: Christ prepares**

Do you remember what the high priest had to do to prepare for the Day of Atonement? (he had to offer a sacrifice for his sin). Jesus didn't have to offer a sacrifice because he had no sin. He lived a perfect life. He went around doing good to people, teaching them about God, doing miracles and healing sick people. (*show adult Jesus figure*).

### **Act 3: Christ makes atonement**

Do you remember what the high priest did next? He killed the goat and sprinkled the blood on the mercy seat, and the judgment of death for sin was passed on the animal instead of on the people. Well, after Jesus had gone around doing good for three years, some mean and jealous people arrested Jesus and sentenced him to die on a cross even though he had done nothing wrong. On the cross, Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins. God's judgment of death went away from us and onto him. (*show cross*).

### **Act 4: We confess our sins**

Do you remember when the high priest confessed the sins of the people while holding onto the goat, and then the sins were transferred to the goat? Well, this is where we have a part in the drama. God invites us to confess our sins to him so that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is applied to us. When we do that, then God transfers the guilt of our sin to Jesus. It's not enough to believe that Jesus is the sacrifice for everyone's sins, we need to ask him to be the sacrifice for our own sin. When we tell God that we are sinners--that we lie, steal, cheat, gossip, put down others, are mean, disobey, are selfish and other sins--and believe that Jesus' death on the cross as a sacrifice for our sin is the only way we can be made right with God, then he takes our sin away and puts it on Jesus. (*transfer sin blotches from t-shirt to the cross*). We are made clean and right with God.

### **Act 5: Our sins are removed**

God says he takes our sins away from us as far as the east is from the west. This is just like the sinful goat being led away into the desert until he could be seen no longer. And look, my t-shirt is pure and clean again because my sins were put on Jesus on the cross.

Ask for any questions from the students.

### **Follow-up Activity**

I'd like for each of you to think about a sin that you have done. I want you to take a piece of paper and either write that sin down or draw a picture of it and then fold it up. Then I'd like you to put it on this cross to show how Jesus can take our sins away when we believe in Him and confess those sins to Him.

**Items needed for story Lesson 3:**

2 Coloring books	base ball cap	2 boxes of markers
backpack	apron	pot and spoon
newspaper	\$1.00 bill	\$10.00 bill
4 quarters	2 text books	2 notebooks and pencils

8 pieces of black poster board cut to look like splotches. The following words written on white paper then glued to the black splotches:

selfish, mean, disobey, lying, stealing, put downs, cheating, gossiping

2 sets of the same 8 words written on  $\frac{3}{4}$ " dot stickers to stick on high priest and Israelites.

Tabernacle Model

*Abingdon's Book of Buildings*, Abingdon Press has a book with a Tabernacle model in it. This can be assembled ahead of class and used for the story.

People...Israelites, High Priest with robes and plain white clothing, goat, baby Jesus figure, adult figure of Jesus, cross (suggestions for people: clothespin figures, little plastic animals, for baby Jesus a nativity baby Jesus, for the adult Jesus a larger clothespin figure or a picture of Jesus).

"Blood"...some type of red sticky candy.

**Lesson 3 Craft:**

Jesus died for me Valentine...

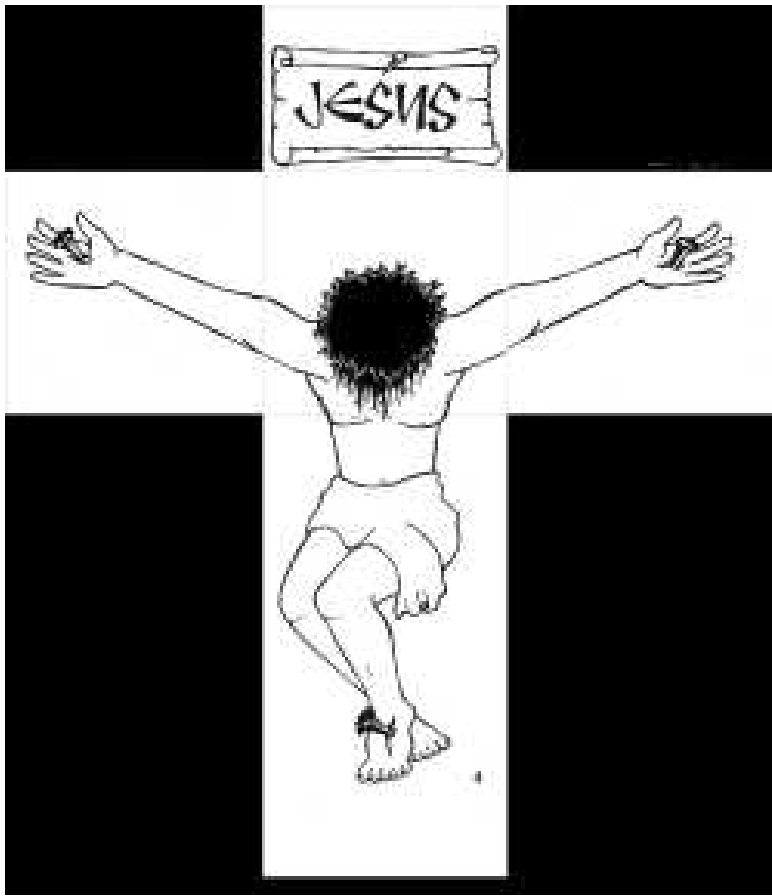
Using 11 X 17 card stock white paper, copy the template as a two sided document. Cut the paper as shown and glue together. Students can then color and decorate.

Teach the children the following words to use when presenting the Valentine:

Side 1: *God loves you and wants you to be His valentine.* (with "heart" facing out)

Flip valentine over and say: *But our sin separates us from God.* (Unfold "you" then "God")

Then turn card over to show Jesus on the cross and say, *"But Jesus died on the cross so that "you" can be brought back to "God"* (fold "you" and "God" inward as you speak, then turn and fold card to show front of valentine), *and be His valentine.*



# SIN



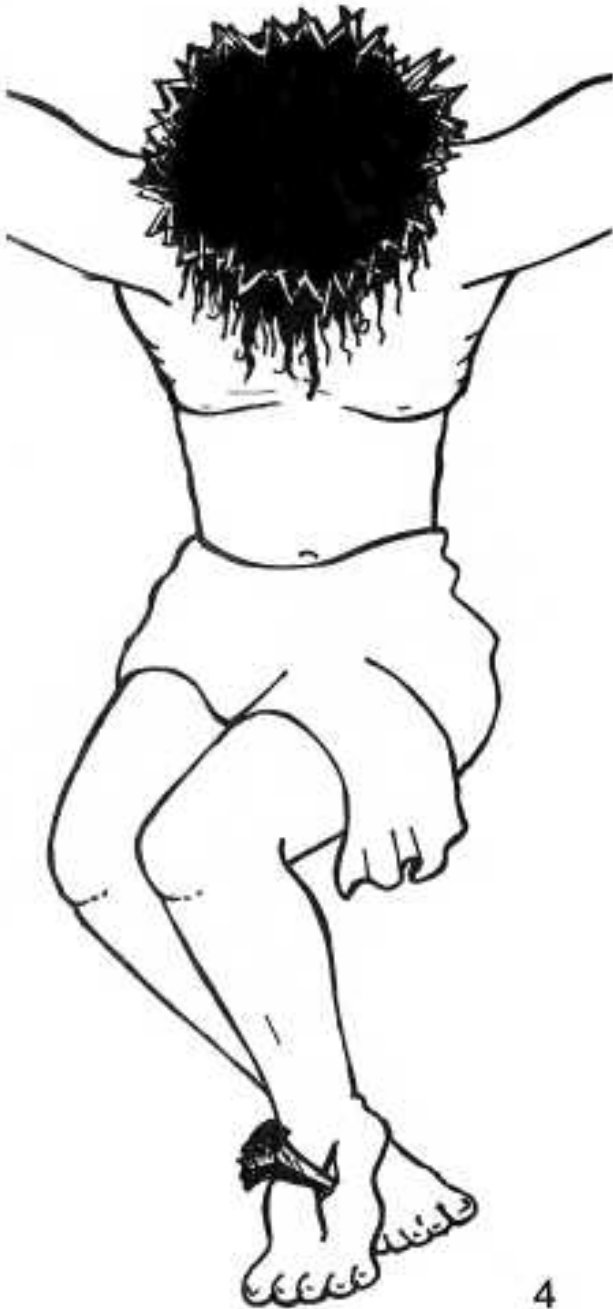
BE MY ...



Valentine  
*Valentine*



3



3a



4

## LESSON 4

### THE INVITATION

- AIM: There is nothing we can offer to God that will bring us back to him. God invites us to be brought back to him.
- Scripture Reference: Isaiah 55:1; John 7:37

#### Introduction:

#### 1. The Auction

Explain to the children what an auction is:

- Event where items are for sale
- Usually only one of each item
- The one who gets the item is the one who is willing to pay the most money
- People bid against each other and the one with the highest bid or highest price wins the item
- The auctioneer controls the bidding and keeps bidding going until only one person is left bidding, then auctioneer pounds hammer and then says "sold!".
- Bidder pays for the item and then keeps it.

--Tell the children that we are going to have a pretend auction with play money and play items (pictures of popular children's items) that they will get to bid on.

--Pass out an equal amount of play money to each child (ten \$1.00 bills or whatever works) and to about three adult helpers just to make it interesting and to assist in bidding in case the children don't get it at first.

--If time permits, hold the auction until each child has "bought" something.

--Make sure to pound the hammer and say "sold" at the end of each auction.

--If there is no bid on an item, explain that sometimes that happens and move onto the next item.

#### 2. The Reverse Auction

Tell the children that there is one item left in the auction and it is the most precious, magnificent item that could ever be auctioned off. However, the one who brought this item to the auction had very specific instructions on how it was to be auctioned off. First of all, it is going to be a sealed bid which means the participants only get one bid and they write the bid on a piece of paper and put it in an envelope. The auctioneer opens the envelopes and then declares the winner of the auction. We need five volunteers to be the five bidders in this auction. *(Pick older children who can read well. Give them their sealed bids and instruct them not to open their bids until the auctioneer tells them. Have the five children stand in line with by the auctioneer. Without telling them, place them in order of highest bid to lowest bid).*

Now let me tell you what the item is. "Jesus Christ offers forgiveness for our sins and to be made right with God. The offer includes everlasting life in heaven with God, and it is available today to the lowest bidder."

*Instruct the first child to open his/her sealed bid and read it aloud.*

1. I go to church every Sunday and have been baptized. I read my bible every night and say the Lord's Prayer before I go to bed. I try to live by the Ten Commandments. I would like to offer these good works as my bid.

That's a pretty impressive bid. So far, you are the winner. *Instruct the second child to open his/her sealed bid and read it aloud.*

2. I go to church often and read my Bible when I have time. I'm pretty good to my sisters except when I get mad at them. I obey my parents and my teachers. I would like to offer these good works as my bid.

Now it's with bidder number two who offered a lower bid than number one. *Instruct the third child to open his/her sealed bid and read it aloud.*

3. I don't go to church but I try to be a spiritual person. I pray and I do nice things for older people like cutting their grass and taking out their garbage. I'm not very good about listening to my mom and dad or getting along with my brothers. We fight a lot and I get pretty angry. I offer this as my bid.

Well that's not very much, but it is going to the lowest bidder so you have it now. *Instruct the fourth child to open his/her sealed bid and read it aloud.*

4. I don't know much about church or the Bible or anything. I've done some pretty bad things like fighting at school and picking on the little kids. But at least I feel sorry for these things. And because I am sorry I offer that as my bid.

That's even less than the person before you and since it's going to the lowest bidder, you have it. Is anyone going to offer a lower bid to Jesus? *Instruct the fifth child to open his/her sealed bid and read it aloud.*

5. I don't have anything to offer as a bid. I'm not as sorry as I should be for the wrong things I've done. I don't have faith the way I should have faith. And I don't do good things for others the way I should do them. I have nothing to offer. *Pound the hammer.* It's yours for the lowest bid. *Have the children sit down.*

### **3. The Gospel Message and Invitation**

What did you think of that second auction?

Was it kind of confusing? That's because we are so used to offering something in order to receive something. But it's just the opposite with God. We don't become right with God by offering God something like in the first auction where you had to offer money in order to get the item. Being made right with God is a gift that we do nothing to deserve or buy. All that we do is receive trusting that what Jesus did on the cross has taken our sins away and brought us back to God. Now once we have received Jesus, we will want to do good things and obey God because we are so grateful for what he has done for us. But we do not do these things in order to receive God's gift of being made right with him.

*Explain the gospel message with the bridge illustration overhead and using Scripture verses for each step. Answer any questions.*

### **4. Read "All You Ever Need" by Max Lucado**

In the Bible it says that Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." What he meant by that is if anyone wants to have their sins forgiven and have everlasting life with God in heaven, then come to Jesus and receive him as the one who saves you. In the story we just read, Tobias and Julian gave the water freely no matter what the people had to offer, unlike Elzevir who demanded that the people were good enough. The water was a gift and being made right with God is a gift that we need to receive.

*Offer an invitation to receive Christ.*

### **Items needed for story Lesson 4:**

Items to auction: use large pictures of items mounted on individual pieces of poster board. These can be items of interest to children, i.e. television, VCR or DVD player, popular games, clothing, cameras, sports equipment, board games, movies, dolls, etc. Be sure to have more than enough. (Children can keep the "item" they purchased. They will enjoy their bargains).

Play money divided up into bags for each child and adult participating.

*All You Ever Need* by Max Lucado

### **Sealed Bids (cut and put in five envelopes)**

1. I go to church every Sunday and have been baptized. I read my bible every night and say the Lord's Prayer before I go to bed. I try to live by the Ten Commandments. I would like to offer these good works as my bid.
2. I go to church often and read my Bible when I have time. I'm pretty good to my sisters except when I get mad at them. I obey my parents and my teachers. I would like to offer these good works as my bid.
3. I don't go to church but I try to be a spiritual person. I pray and I do nice things for older people like cutting their grass and taking out their garbage. I'm not very good about listening to my mom and dad or getting along with my brothers. We fight a lot and I get pretty angry. I offer this as my bid.
4. I don't know much about church or the Bible or anything. I've done some pretty bad things like fighting at school and picking on the little kids. But at least I feel sorry for these things. And because I am sorry I offer that as my bid.
5. I don't have anything to offer as a bid. I'm not as sorry as I should be for the wrong things I've done. I don't have faith the way I should have faith. And I don't do good things for others the way I should do them. I have nothing to offer.

### **Leading a Child to Jesus**

The following questions and Scripture verses are provided to help you as you interact with children concerning their salvation. This is meant to serve as a guide for leaders and teachers, not as a script.

Questions to ask a child that wants to receive Christ:

1. Why did Jesus die on the cross?
2. Why do you need to receive Jesus as the one to save you from sin?
3. Have you received Jesus before? (If so, counsel on assurance of salvation).
4. What is the only way to heaven? Can being good get you to heaven?

Questions to ask a younger child about Christ:

1. What do you like most about Jesus?
2. Do you love Jesus?
3. Have you ever done anything that would make Jesus unhappy? (Explain the need for forgiveness).
4. Why do people need to become part of God's family? (To receive forgiveness, to have a heavenly Father, to help them to do right...)
5. What happens to someone who asks to become part of God's family?
6. How can you become part of God's family?

Scripture to use to present the gospel:

- God loves us. John 3:16, Romans 5:8
- We have sinned. Romans 3:23, Isaiah 53:6, Romans 3:12
- The payment for sin is death or separation from God. Romans 6:23, Romans 5:12
- Jesus paid for our sins on the cross. 1 Peter 3:18, Romans 5:8
- We cannot save ourselves. Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5
- We must receive Christ. Acts 16:31, Acts 4:12, John 1:12, Romans 10:13

Sample prayer:

Dear God, Thank you that you love me so much that you send Jesus to die for my sins. I know that I do wrong and need Jesus to save me from my sin. I believe that Jesus died and rose again for me, and I now ask that Jesus be my Savior. Thank you for taking away my sin. Amen.

Scripture on assurance of salvation:

- No one can take you away from Jesus. John 10:27-29
- You may know that you have everlasting life. 1 John 5:12, 13.
- The one who believes shall not perish. John 3:16, John 5:24
- Nothing can separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38,39
- No condemnation or judgment for those who know Jesus. Romans 8:1.

\*\*Be sure to have enough helpers to be able to spend quiet time with those students with questions and also to be able to work with other students on the craft.

#### **Lesson 4 Craft:**

Using quick drying modeling clay, have children make a pitcher similar to the one in the story "*All You Ever Need*", by Max Lucado. Allow them to use their creativity to make their pitchers. Simple instructions in using clay may be helpful. Remind children that Jesus is the living water and what that means. Cut strips of paper for each student's pitcher with the following verse on it: *John 7:37 "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink."* Place finished pitchers on small pieces of cardboard to be carried home to dry completely.

## LESSON 5

### THE MANGER

- AIM: Jesus can be our savior because he is both God and man.
- Scripture Reference: Matthew 1:21; John 1:1; Philippians 2:6-7.

Using a Nativity Set, Flannel graph, picture book or acting out, tell the Christmas story. Be sure to share with students how God had told his people from the beginning that he would send a deliverer (someone who will bring what is needed).

Tell Nativity Story.

We know that Jesus had a birthday when he was born into this world as a little baby because Jesus was a human being. He is like us in that way because we all had a birthday when we were born into this world as little babies. But Jesus is very different from us because even before he was born, he already existed. He was with God in heaven because he is God's son. In the bible we read in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the word (Jesus Christ), and the word was with God, and the word was God." So Jesus is human because he had a birthday just like all of us, and Jesus is God because he always was—there has never been a time that Jesus did not exist. They called Jesus Immanuel because he was always God and now he was "with us" meaning he was now living with people. We are now going to play a game to help you see how Jesus is both God and human.

#### Activity:

The Game: (Use the game to present and reinforce the concept that Jesus is both God and man).

For the game you will need:

Emcee

Student "contestants"

A bell for ringing when contestant gets the answer correct

Chalk board or large piece of paper divided in half. One side to be titled "God," the other side titled "Human".

"Jesus facts" listed below written out on paper to be attached to their corresponding side of the chart. Do not put the answer, in parentheses, on the paper.

Emcee introduces game. Object of the game is to determine which side of the paper, "God" or "Human" the following statements relating to Jesus belong. We will ask contestants if the following facts about Jesus show that Jesus was God or does it show that he was human. *(Read the statement to the child or team. If he needs help the rest of the "audience" can help him. **This is a game show, so excitement and energy help!** Ring bell with excitement when the correct answer is given). When answer is given, put the statement on the correct side, "God" or "Human."*

Use girls against boys, or two students against each other or just divide the class in half. Try to involve as many students as possible.

- Born in a cave or stable (human)
- Angels appeared to the shepherds (God)
- Wise men saw his star in the east (God)
- He was wrapped in swaddling clothes (human)

- He had a mother (human)
- He was with God in heaven before he was born (God)
- He was called The Son of God (God)
- Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Prophets said he would be born in Bethlehem (God)

Wrap up: Only God can bring people back to him and only a human can be punished for peoples sins. Jesus can do this because he is both God and man.

### **Items needed for Lesson 5**

Bell for game

Jesus facts

“God” and “Human” signs

### **Lesson 5 Craft**

Nativity card holder craft kit from the Internet. [Orientaltrading.com](http://Orientaltrading.com) Item #IN-48/1144. Packaged in quantities of 12 per unit. Use a glue specifically designed for foam craft projects. The base of the card holder is better supported when glued to a cereal box cut down to the size of the base. Different sized cereal boxes will need to be checked to determine the correct size box to use. Use a glue gun to attach the base pieces to the cereal box.

*Note:* There are many small pieces to this craft. Consideration should be given to preparing certain parts of this craft ahead of time giving ample time to dry. The base, star with glitter, angel, Joseph, Mary, manger, sheep and cow can be assembled ahead of time and the craft then put together by students 5 years and older. Students can then use the foam glue to apply the pre assembled angel, Joseph, Mary, manger, sheep and cow to the pre assembled base.



## LESSON 6

### LIFE OF JESUS

- AIM: Jesus' teaching, miracles, healings and character shows us that he is the son of God.
- Scripture Reference: Matthew 8-9; 14:22-23; Luke 9:10-17.
- Briefly review each of the previous lessons by asking questions to draw out responses by the children.
  - Remember the first lesson we were together? God created the garden where Adam and Eve lived. What did we learn about the garden? (*God is the creator of everything, he made us, he loves us, we are very special to him*).
  - The second lesson, we learned about the Law. Why did God give us the Law? (*Because he loves us and wants us to live the right way*).
  - In the third lesson we learned that sometimes we disobey God and that separates us from him. How were the Israelites brought back to God after they had sinned? (*Some may even remember what each of the steps taken represented. Discuss for as long as you have time*). (*Let children describe as much as they remember. Priest appearing and taking off his beautiful robe. The priest would kill the bull and put the blood on the mercy seat to remove his own sins. One goat was killed, the other goat had all the sins of the people put upon it. The goat was sent away to show how God removed their sin and it was seen no longer*). Remind them that the Day of Atonement was observed every year to remind the people that sacrifice was needed to take away their sin and *bring* them back to God. Do you remember God's plan to take away our sins once and for all? (Jesus was the sacrifice. He came as a baby and grew to be an adult. He died on the cross to become the sacrifice for our sins. His sacrifice paid the penalty for our sins. We ask Jesus to be the sacrifice for our sins. We are made clean and right with God).
  - Do you remember our auction in the fourth lesson? We bought things with the money we had. But what did Jesus have to offer us at the auction? (*Forgiveness of sins, everlasting life with him in heaven*). How much did it cost? (*It's free. We trust Jesus to take away our sins*).
  - In the last lesson we learned about the birth of Jesus. Why was Jesus' birth so special? (*God sent Jesus to earth to be our savior. Jesus is both God and man*).

In this lesson we are going to learn about some of the wonderful things Jesus did while he was here. He did many miracles to show the people he really was God and man. Many people saw these miracles and believed that Jesus had come to take their sins away so that they would be brought back to God and live with him forever in heaven.

(Use a video of your choice suitable for your students that shows some of Christ's miracles). **One you might use is from:** Tommy Nelson Publication, The Visual Bible for Kids series, titled The Great Storyteller. This video is suggested for audiences 6 and older. It has a running time of 30 minutes.

Optional Activity: Your teachers might like to act out some of the Miracles of Jesus.

*To help keep your students interest high, spread blankets on the floor and offer a treat during the movie such as popcorn and water.*

#### Items needed for story lesson 6:

Video of Miracles of Jesus  
optional: snacks

**Lesson 6 Craft:** Wall hanging or mural depicting some of Jesus' miracles.



The 5 miracles shown are just a few of the many miracles Jesus performed in His lifetime. If you would like to read About these miracles in the bible, you can find them in the following books of the bible.

Jesus feeds the 5000 – **Luke** chapter 9 verses 10-17

Jesus heals the lame man – **Matthew** chapter 9 verses 1-8

Jesus brings a dead girl back to life – **Matthew** chapter 9 verses 18-26

Jesus walks on water – **Matthew** chapter 14 verses 22-33

Jesus heals man with leprosy – **Matthew** chapter 8 verses 1-4

## **LESSON 7**

### **THE CROSS & THE TOMB**

- AIM: Jesus' death and resurrection is the sacrifice that brings us back to God. By faith we receive this precious gift.
- Scripture Reference: Matthew 21, 26-28.

In the last lesson we learned about the love Jesus has for everyone. We saw some of the miracles that Jesus performed and heard about some of the things he taught the people he met. But there were some people that were not happy with what Jesus was teaching and doing. Today's story will tell us about those people and what happened to Jesus.

Using a flannel graph, tell the resurrection story from the triumphal entry through the resurrection. The Betty Leuken Flannel Graph series is an excellent one to use. The Betty Leuken Flannel Graph series is published by Betty Lukens, Inc.; published in 1966 and revised in 1992.

Be sure to emphasize these main points:

- Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Betrayal of Jesus by Judas Iscariot
- Trial before Pilate
- People's choice of Barabbas over Jesus
- Beating by Roman soldiers
- Jesus' compassion on the cross for the robber
- Mocking of Jesus by his enemies while on the cross
- Burial of Jesus by Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea
- Women in the garden confronted by the angel
- Empty tomb
- Mary encounters the risen Jesus

If using the Betty Leuken series these main points can be found in the following stories:

- #143 Jesus rides into Jerusalem
- #151 Crucifixion
- #152 Jesus in Tomb
- #153 Resurrection

#### **Items needed for Lesson 7:**

Flannel graph and corresponding pieces to tell the Easter story

#### **Craft for Lesson 7:**

Easter Story Eggs

Supplies: (all items are to be able to fit into plastic eggs)

Six plastic eggs per child

Labels numbered 1 – 6 for each child

The Easter Story (one for each child)

baby                      heart                      leaf

cross                      rock

\*optional: clear plastic egg cartons cut in half for students to carry and take their eggs home in.

Students will place the items in their eggs. Use the story to determine the number and the item for each egg #1 is the baby, etc.)



## The Easter Story

Let's talk about the Easter story. It is in the Bible. Open egg #1 with a baby inside. This baby reminds us the Easter story begins at Christmas. God sent his only Son, Jesus, to be the Savior. Jesus came as a tiny baby. He grew up to be a man. He was a good teacher. He taught people how to live so they would please God.

As a man, Jesus did many wonderful things. Open egg #2 with a heart inside. This heart reminds us Jesus showed love to every person. He made sick people well. He helped bad people change and start doing good. He told people about God's love.

Many people loved Jesus. Open egg #3 with a leaf inside. On a special day we call Palm Sunday, Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem. The men, women and children gathered along the road and waved palm leaves. They

were happy Jesus had come to be their king. People spread their coats and leaves on the ground so his donkey could walk on a special carpet. Everyone shouted, "God bless the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" It was a very happy day for everyone.

This happy day was soon followed by a very sad day. Open egg #4 with a cross inside. Some men who did not love Jesus put him on a cross. They did not believe he was God's Son. They wanted him to die. This was part of God's plan to save all people from their sins.

When Jesus died, one of his followers placed Jesus' body in a tomb which was like a small cave. Open egg #5 with a stone inside. A large stone covered the tomb. Some soldiers stood in front of the stone. No one was allowed to move the stone.

Jesus' body was in the tomb for 3 days. On Sunday, the day we call Easter, some women went to Jesus' tomb. They loved Jesus very much. The earth had shook and the big stone rolled away from the tomb. The women were very frightened. An angel sat on the big stone. He said, "Do not be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus. He is not here. He has come back to life just as he said he would. Come and see where his body was."

When the women looked in the tomb, this is what they saw. Open egg #6 which is empty. What is in the egg? It is empty, just as the tomb was. Jesus did not stay dead. He came back to life. What a happy day! The women ran to tell their friends the good news. Jesus is alive!

Allow students to practice telling the Easter story to each other so that they are able to share it with their families. Make copies of **The Easter Story** to be distributed to each student when they are done.

## LESSON 8

### THE SPIRIT

- AIM: God can use us and the church to tell the good news that we can be brought back to God.
- Scripture Reference: Acts 1:8; 2:1-12;

*Have a teacher introduce today's "guest" speaker. (Have storyteller dressed in a colorful robe). Storyteller enters carrying a bible. Storyteller speaks in a foreign language or in gibberish. Storyteller tries to tell the bible story for the day pointing to the bible while speaking a language no one can understand. After a few minutes (or moments) a great wind begins to blow (turn fan on). Storyteller slips a head band on his/her head with red, yellow and orange streamers attached. Storyteller starts to speak in English and seems surprised at his/her ability to communicate with the students and says:*

I can't believe what just happened. I was trying to tell you a story but you couldn't understand me because we speak different languages! Then all of a sudden the wind blew and this flame of the Holy Spirit came upon me and I didn't get hurt! And then I could speak a language that we all could understand.

This reminds me of a story from the bible. It is told in the book of Acts. God's people were in Jerusalem celebrating a great feast of Thanksgiving called Pentecost. The people had gathered from every country to worship at the temple. Because there were people visiting from so many different countries, there were many different languages being spoken.

*Using a large map of the area, show where the different people groups came from (areas include modern-day Egypt, Libya, Middle East, Turkey, Crete, Rome). Place the clothes pin people on those areas of the map and then "walk" them from their countries to Jerusalem. (If you have a small enough group, lay the map on the ground and have the children circle around the map. (If your map is small use one clothes pin person to represent the area).*

The followers of Jesus were meeting in a room. *Take clothes pin figures of disciples and place them in one area of the box.* The people that had come to Jerusalem from far away were gathered nearby. *Take the people groups from Jerusalem on the map and place those from the same country in groups around the disciples in the box.*

A short time later a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. Flames came and rested on each of them, yet no one was burned! Each of Jesus' followers was filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in other languages. Many of the people in Jerusalem for Pentecost were God fearing people. When they heard this sound they were amazed. Each person heard Jesus' friends speaking in his/her own language. The followers of Jesus were telling the crowds of people all about the wonders of God. Many people accepted the message Jesus' followers brought to them. They believed in Jesus and were baptized that very day!

And so Pentecost is the birthday of the church. *Place the 5 cupcakes in the center of the box. (You may need to move some of the people to make room for the cupcakes).* The church is made up of people who follow Jesus. *Move and place clothes pin people in a circle around the cupcakes.* And we are part of this church if we are following Jesus. Because we are a part of God's church we will want to share with others the good news that Jesus has made the way back to God possible for each of us. Here is a way to remember this good news using 5 colors. *(Place each candle in a cupcake as you introduce the color).* The gold candle reminds us of heaven where the streets are pure gold. That is where we all want to be someday, with God and his family in heaven. The black candle reminds us that we have all sinned and our sin separates us from God. The red candle teaches us that the blood of Jesus shed at the cross can bring us back to God. If I confess my sins and believe that Jesus' death on the cross takes away my sins, then the white candle shows me that my heart is now clean and

white as snow. Now that I am a part of God's family the green candle reminds me that I must continue to grow up in God's family and become like Jesus.

Have room decorated for a Birthday Party.

### **Items needed for Lesson 8:**

Fan  
headband decorated with streamers (red, yellow, orange)  
Variety of colored clothes pins (from craft store) decorated with different colored robes to represent each country (use 4 or 5 per country represented)  
clothes pin people to represent followers of Jesus  
large map of the area surrounding Jerusalem to show different countries that came for Pentecost (This can be an actual map if you have access to one, or can be drawn on paper)  
large clear plastic box filled with a corn based small mammal bedding – clothes pin people will be able to “stand” in this material  
5 cup cakes for the story  
5 candles – one of each of the following colors: gold, black, red, white, green

Streamers

Balloons

Party Hats

Cupcakes

Juice

### **Craft for Lesson 8**

Wordless bracelet—we can share the Good News of Jesus with those around us.

Supplies:

Piece of leather or strong string for each student  
Beads for each student in the following colors: yellow, black, red, white, green  
As children assemble bracelet, reinforce meaning of each color bead:

Gold: (or yellow) Heaven

Black: darkness of the sin in our lives that separates us from God

Red: for the blood of Christ that was shed for me and brings me back to God

White: for the clean heart that I now have

Green: we must grow in our knowledge of God

Each bead belongs on the bracelet in this order. Tie knots close to the gold and green beads to hold the row of beads in place. Then tie the bracelet on the student's wrist.



Activity after craft:

The giving of the Holy Spirit by God with the challenge for man to reach the earth with the gospel signals the birth of the Church. We have been charged with sharing the good news that we can live forever with God in heaven. So today's activity is a birthday party for the church. Have room decorated with streamers, balloons, party hats for the children, etc. Cupcakes and juice can be served as you discuss what our responsibility is to the church.

## LESSON 9

### THE FIGHT

- AIM: God gives us what we need to win the battle against sin.
- Scripture Reference: Ephesians 6:11,13-18.

*In preparation for this lesson, you will need to choose 3 sports or activities to prepare for this lesson. Some ideas are: soccer, camping, swimming, sledding, snorkeling, hockey. Gather equipment for each of the 3 activities or sports you choose to use. You may also want to include extra items that will not be used. The 4<sup>th</sup> activity that will be presented is "Fighting Satan". For that you will need the following equipment: a belt, breastplate, bible, shield and sword. Pictures of these items from the second part of the lesson may be used. Write the corresponding verse on the piece of equipment.*

In today's lesson we are going to play a game. (Choose 4 teams of 2 to 3 children per team). I will give each team the name of a sport or an activity. Your job is to go to the pile of equipment on the floor and choose each of the items you will need to play that sport or participate in that activity. Give each group a card with the sport or activity written on it. After they gather the correct items emphasize the need to be prepared and how important each of the items is in order to participate in the activity. Emphasize also how hard it might be to complete the task without the proper equipment. The goal is to see how important it is to be prepared with the proper equipment.

*Give the last group the card with "Fighting Satan" written on it. They may need help in choosing the right equipment. As you help them choose the correct equipment, explain that God has a plan to help them defend themselves against the temptations of sin.*

Even Jesus was tempted by Satan. The bible tells us in Matthew 4 about a time when Jesus went to the desert for 40 days. During that time Jesus ate nothing and at the end of those 40 days he was hungry. Satan came to him and said to him, "If you are the son of God, tell this stone to become bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man does not live on bread alone.'" Then Satan took Jesus to the highest point of the temple. He told Jesus to throw himself down. Satan even used God's word to remind Jesus that God would protect him if he threw himself from the top of the temple. Jesus reminded Satan that God said in his word: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test'. Again Satan took Jesus to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world. He told Jesus that he would give all of these kingdoms to him if he would bow down and worship him. Jesus said to Satan, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'

Even though Jesus was tired and hungry and Satan tried to trick him, Jesus knew God's word and knew that there was nothing Satan could give to him that would ever be better than what God had for Jesus. Just as Jesus was prepared with his equipment to battle Satan we too have equipment to use when Satan tempts us.

*Have Ephesians 6:11, 13-18 written on poster board and read it to the class before you begin this part of the lesson. This is the equipment that God has given each of us.*

#### **Ephesians 6:11, 13-18**

Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist, with **the breastplate of righteousness** in place, and with your **feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**. In addition to all this, take up the **shield of faith**, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take **the helmet of salvation** and the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God**.

These are the six pieces of equipment that God has given us to prepare us for the fight against sin. (*Lay six pieces out on the floor*). I am going to give you six different situations. You need to try and determine which piece of equipment is needed to battle the temptation or sin. *After a situation has been read and the children have agreed on a particular piece of equipment, allow someone to read the verse printed on the equipment. Help the children understand how the verse relates to the situation.*

1. You and your friends are playing baseball in the back yard. Your mom had told you not to play there because someone's window might get hit with the ball. But no one was in the house and you and your friends wanted to play ball. Well, guess what? You hit the ball and it went right through the window shattering glass everywhere. Everyone runs home just as your mom drives up in the driveway. She goes inside and sees the broken glass on the floor. She asks you if you know how the window got broken. What piece of equipment do you need right now? **Belt of Truth**
2. There is a new student at school. Everyone is picking on him. You want to be cool and have everyone like you. This student looks to you to defend him. What is the right thing for you to do? What piece of equipment do you need right now? **Breastplate of Righteousness**
3. You are outside on the playground at school. All of the children are talking about Jesus. Some of the children say he is just a good person. Another says Jesus was only a story in a book. Still another thinks he was a teacher. They turn to you and ask you, "Who do you say Jesus is"? What piece of equipment do you need right now? **Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace**
4. All of the girls that you thought were your friends are now saying mean things to you. What piece of equipment do you need to protect yourself? **Shield of faith**
5. Now all of your friends are asking you, "Do you think you really can know that you are going to go to heaven? What piece of equipment do you need now? **Helmet of Salvation**
6. You ask your mom if you can go over to your friend's house to play. She says yes, but not to go to the park. You are to stay at his house until she comes to pick you up. When you get there, all of the guys want to go over to the park and watch the ball game there. You decide to obey God's word, which says to honor your father and mother. You decide not to go with them. What piece of equipment did you use? **The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.**

God wants us to be prepared to defend ourselves and be able to stand firm against Satan. If we learn to call upon him and use these pieces of armor, we can defend ourselves against the temptations and sins of the world.

### **Items needed for Lesson 9**

Equipment for each of the three sports chosen. Be sure to have extra pieces of equipment from which to choose. You will also need either pictures of the six pieces of armor or the actual pieces from a kit.

Copy of the six pieces of the armor of God with the following words and verses written on each one:

- **Belt of Truth** – I have chosen the way of truth. Psalms 119:30
- **Breastplate of Righteousness** – Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight. Deuteronomy 6:18
- **Shield of faith** – The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. Psalm 28:7.
- **Helmet of Salvation** – And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. Acts 2:21.

- **The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God** – ...They have obeyed your word. John 17:6.
- **Feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace** – Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. 1 Peter 3:15

### **Craft for Lesson 9**

Put together and decorate young soldier with the Armor of God. Make sure to attach the reference verses so that children can explain each of the pieces of armor and its purpose.

**EPHESIANS 6: 11, 13-18**

*Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the*

**BELT OF TRUTH**

*buckled around your waist, with*

**THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

*in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes with the*

**GOSPEL OF PEACE.**

*In addition to all this, take up the*

**SHIELD OF FAITH,**

*with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.*

*Take the*

**HELMET OF SALVATION**

*and the*

**SWORD OF THE SPIRIT,**

*which is the word of GOD.*



**EPHESIANS 6: 11, 13-18**

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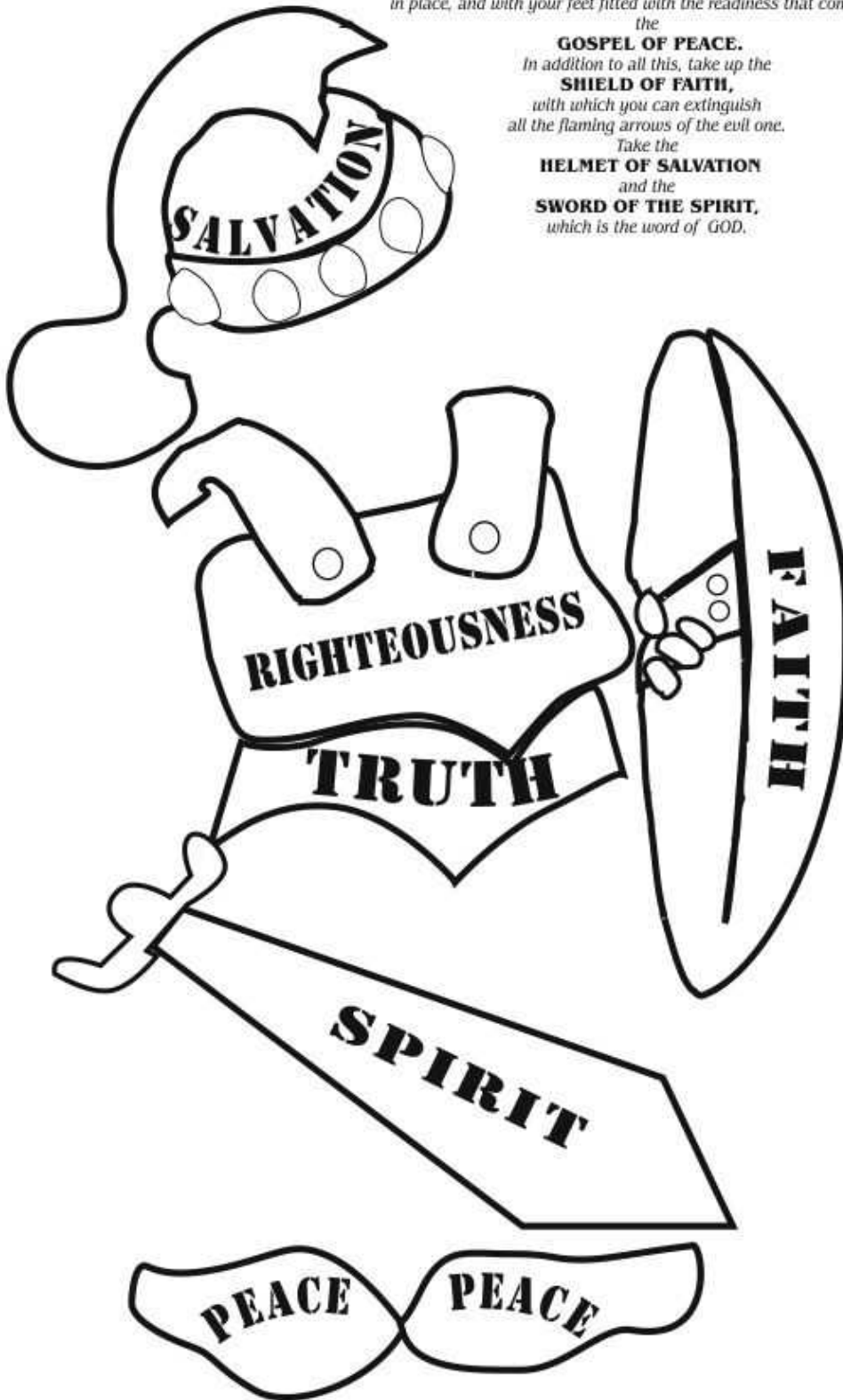
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## LESSON 10

### THE CITY

- AIM: God has prepared a wonderful place for us to live with him forever and wants us to say "yes" to his invitation.
- Scripture Reference: Revelations 21, 22:1-17; John 14:2.

What will heaven be like? (*allow students to give their thoughts*). Usually we think of clouds and angels and people playing harps. That is what you might see on television, but when we have questions about God and heaven, we can go to the Bible to find answers. The Bible is a special book that has stories and letters and writings about God that are true because God helped the writers know the truth when they wrote about him.

God's word tells us about a new heaven and earth yet to come. It will be better than anything we can imagine. God has promised to have a place for every one of his people.

What things will not be in heaven? (*allow children to give answers*). We are told in the Bible that these things will not be in heaven:

*Place transparency on overhead projector with papers still attached. Remove paper to corresponding picture as you say:*

#### A. Things **not** in heaven:

1. No church—we will worship God in his very presence
2. No sun or moon—God is the light that lights heaven
3. No night—light shines all the time
4. No sin—God keeps it out
5. No tears—God will wipe all tears away, no sadness
6. No sickness
7. No death—God takes it away

What things will be in heaven? (*allow children to give answers*). We are told in the Bible that these things will be in heaven:

*Place second transparency on overhead projector with papers still attached. Remove paper to corresponding picture as you say:*

#### B. Things **in** heaven:

1. God (no picture)
2. Angels
3. Lamb's Book of Life—everyone who has received Jesus as Savior has his/her name written in this special book.
4. City with a street of gold, twelve beautiful gates of pearl, pure river of water of life, foundation of 12 different kinds of precious stones
5. Tree of life that grows a different fruit every month
6. Mansions for those who know Jesus
7. Jesus

- C. What will we do in heaven? (*allow children to give answers*). The bible tells us a few of the things we will do in heaven:
1. We will serve God and reign with him.
  2. We will sing, make music and new songs and worship God
  3. It will be a place of great joy (baseball? Food? Amusement parks?), we trust that God has something wonderful in store for us.

Jesus tells a story about a man who held a great celebration or party (Luke 14:16-24)

Tell this story in your own words making sure to include the following points:

- a. The man sent a servant to invite many, but they had excuses—purchased land, purchased animals, just got married.
- d. The man was angry that people made excuses, so he invited others (poor, crippled, blind) and they came so that the house was filled for the banquet.
- c. Jesus told the story to say something about heaven. We're invited to a grand party in the future in heaven. Are we going to be like the people who made excuses or are we going to the party in heaven?

How can we know that we will go to heaven when we die?

- a. Some think it is by being good, but in the Bible we read in James (2:10) that even if we are obedient in everything except one thing, then we are guilty of all things.
- b. But the Bible also tells us in John (3:16) that if we receive Jesus as Savior we know we will be in heaven someday.

Read "*Before It's Too Late*" by Max Lucado. This story may be found in a compilation of stories entitled "*Before It's Too Late*" by Max Lucado and Ron DiCianni.

### **Questions for discussion:**

1. What is this story trying to tell us?
2. Who is the captain supposed to be?
3. Why wasn't Terrene their home?
4. What home has God made for us that Jesus will bring us to someday?
5. How can we be ready like Arion was?

### **Craft for Lesson 10**

Things in heaven bag

Things not in heaven bag

Supplies:

1 white sandwich size bag for each child

1 black sandwich size bag for each child

Labels for each bag..."Things in Heaven"

"Things not in Heaven"

Determine items to use for each bag that would represent items talked about:



