

First Day Introduction and Overview: What is Bible Study & Why am I Here?

Verse: *"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you."* Psalm 119:11

The Point: The Bible is God's word. We study it to learn about Him.

Visual Aids for story: A few well-known children's books, a Bible

Songs: The B*I*B*L*E, I Like the Bible

Center suggestions: paper, pencils and crayons for writing, play-dough (you can make letters for each child's name), magnetic letters, chalk and board.

Craft: Name tags.

Need: name tags (provided), stickers, crayons, markers, water colors, brushes, water. **Two's:** Write each child's name on the paper tag. Have them decorate their tags w/crayons and stickers. **Three's and up:** Have child write their own name if they can. If not, write it for them. Have them decorate tags w/watercolors, stickers, markers, crayons, etc. Insert paper into plastic cover. Have children wear name tags each week. Don't forget to collect them as they leave.

Circle Time/Attention Getter: Play a "name game" to get to know each child's name. Repeat your own name often so they learn it too. Example: "My name is Mrs. Steiger and I like fish! What is your name?" First child says, "My name is Alice and I like dogs." You say, "It's nice to meet you Alice! (Look at next child in circle.) My name is Mrs. Steiger and I like fish. This is Alice, who likes dogs. What is your name?" Second child says, "My name is Bob and I like elephants." You say, "It's nice to meet you Bob! (Look at third child and say, "My name is Mrs. Steiger...This is Alice, who...and Bob, who likes elephants...What is your name?" and so on...

Lesson: Does anyone here like books? Has anyone read these books to you? (Show and talk about some popular children's books you brought). Books are fun to read. I like books about... What kind of books do you like? But there is one special book that is different from any other book. Do you know what that is? (Let lots of children answer.) The book I am talking about is the Bible. How is the Bible different from any other book? It's different because it's the word of God. God used many different men to write down what he wanted us to know about him.

What does it mean to study the Bible? Studying the Bible means reading it. When we read the Bible carefully, we begin to understand who God is and how he wants us to live. Do you think we can understand the Bible if we read it once or twice? No! God wants us to read the Bible often. That is why our moms (aunts, grandmothers, friends) come here each week—so they can study the Bible and learn about God. We are going to study the Bible too! That way you can learn about God too.

When we study the Bible, we start to remember God's word. The Bible says we are to hide God's word in our heart. That means we study it so much, that we can remember what it says for a long time. Then, we can use God's word to help us grow and make choices that honor him.

There is one other reason why we come to Bible study. We come to make friends! The Bible tells us it is good to have friends. John 15:12-13 says (read from the Bible), "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Look around this circle. When you come to Bible study each week, we are going to learn about God. And, we will make lots of friends too!

WBS Lesson 1
Matthew 1:2-23
Baby Jesus Is Born

Verse: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

The Point: Jesus is God's son. He is birth was humble.

Visual Aids for story: Mylar birthday balloon (dollar store has these), a few birthday party supplies, photograph of newborn baby, nativity set if you have one

Songs: Happy Birthday, Oh, How I Love Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lord

Craft: Star Wands! Kids will decorate precut colored paper stars. Pre-cut ribbons for them to choose from. Tape ribbons to back of star. Tape star to Popsicle stick. Remind them that God used to stars in the heavens to announce Jesus' birth. Put on music and let them dance with stars.

Center Suggestions: playdoh (make baby Jesus, use cookie cutters to make stars), animal puzzles, Fisher Price animals, animal memory game

Misc: any story book about Jesus' birth, or about a baby being born for the end of the morning

Snack animal crackers and juice (talk about which animals may have been in the stable)

Circle Time: Welcome kids to bible study. Address kids by name and remind them who you are. To get their attention, show them some things related to a birthday party—candles, picture of a cake, card, wrapped gift, Mylar balloon.

Story: Do you see all the things I have here? What do you think we use these things for? Yes, to celebrate someone's birthday! Have you ever had a birthday party? What kind of fun things do you do to celebrate your birthday?

When we have a birthday party, we celebrate a very special day. We celebrate the day someone was born! Look at this picture I brought today. This is a picture of a baby when they were first born. Today we are going to talk about the day a very special person was born. This person is Jesus. Some of you may already know about Jesus. Some of you may have never heard his name before. Have you heard the name Jesus? Jesus was very special because he was a person just like us, but he was also God's only son. He was a person just like us, but the Bible calls him the King of Kings, because he was God's son. Jesus was a very important person, someone who all the people in the world should know!

We don't have pictures of the day Jesus was born, but we have a book that tells us all about it. That book is the Bible. I'm going to open my Bible to the part that talks about the day Jesus was born. (Read Luke 1:26-38 and Luke 2:1-8)

We can't remember the day we were born. Does anyone here have a younger brother or sister? Do you remember the day they were born? Most of us were probably born in a hospital, with doctors and nurses around. When a baby is born today, he is usually born in a very clean place with not a lot of germs around. But Jesus was born in a different kind of place. He was born in a place called a stable. A stable is like a barn. Has anyone been to a barn? What do you see in a barn? What does it smell like in a barn? Can you imagine what it would be like to sleep in a barn? This is the kind of place where Jesus was born. (show nativity set if you have one.) You see, when he was born, he looked just like a regular baby.

Probably a lot like the picture I showed you, But he was different, because he was God's son! He was born the King of Kings. But he was different than other kings. He was born in a stable, with animals. There was not a big birthday party for him, with a lot of people shouting and singing. Probably just some cows mooing or sheep baaaaaing. Can you moo like a cow? Or baaaaaaaa like a sheep?

Something very special happened Jesus was born. A star in sky shined extra bright in the sky to announce

the birth of this special king! Can you imagine that, a newborn baby king, born in a stable, with a big star shining super bright in the sky right over where he was sleeping? People followed that bright star and walked from faraway places to honor and worship that special baby. They brought him special gifts. Why did they do that? That's right, because he was God's son, and he was the King of all Kings!

Not everyone was happy that this baby was born though. There was already a king when Jesus was born, and he was jealous. Do you know what it means to be jealous? It means to want something that someone else has and to be angry that you don't have it. King Herod was angry that people were worshipping baby Jesus. So Jesus' parents took baby Jesus to a place far away from King Herod so he would be safe. After king Herod died, they brought Jesus back home. Each week when you come to Bible study, we will learn more about Jesus. We will learn about all kinds very important things he did. And we will learn about how we can learn to love him and what it means when we say he will save people from their sins.

WBS Lesson 2
Matthew 3:1-4:17
Jesus is Baptized

Verse: “This is my Son, whom I love.” Matthew 3:17

The Point: Explain what it means to be baptized

Visual Aids for Story: dish of soapy water, sponge, dirty dish (you need to bring these)

Book suggestions: Harry and the Dirty Dog

Craft: Sponge painting. Each child will get a large sheet of white construction paper. We will provide sponge pieces for stamping. Pour a few colors of paint in shallow bowls. Just use a small amount of paint. Kids can use sponges to stamp or sponge paint randomly on paper.

Circle Time/Attention Getter: Get some dirt and put it in a cup or bowl. Take a small basin and fill it with soapy water. Let the kids help you wash the cup/bowl. Talk about how the water washes the dirt away.

Story: Last week, we talked about when Jesus was born. Jesus was very special—he was God’s son! Today we are going to talk about something that Jesus did when he was a little older. We are going to talk about Jesus being baptized.

Have you ever heard the word baptized?

One day, Jesus was walking near a river. He knew that one of his friends named John was down by the river. Jesus listened to God and went down to the river. He saw his friend in the water baptizing people. That means John was carefully helping people go under water and come up again. Have you ever gone under water? Well, these people weren’t swimming or taking a bath. They were in the water because they were being baptized. Jesus’ friend John was telling people to turn away from their sins and turn to God instead. Do you know what sins are? Sins are the bad things we do that every day. Everybody sins. We sin when we don’t do what God wants us to do. Sins are like garbage. They make us dirty. Just like the cup before we washed it in this soapy water. John was telling people to stop doing things that were bad and start obeying God instead. When people said they wanted to stop doing bad things and obey God, John baptized them. He put them under water for just a second. He was showing people that God can make us clean when we turn away from our sins and love him instead. God sent Jesus to save us

from our sins. We will learn about that this year at Bible study. When we are baptized, we are showing other people that we believe in Jesus and trust in him. We are showing other people that we know Jesus can make us clean again after we sin. When Jesus went to see John baptizing people in the river, Jesus knew God wanted him to be baptized too. But there was something different about Jesus—he never sinned! But he knew God wanted him to be baptized anyway, and he obeyed God. John baptized Jesus in the river that day too. He put Jesus’ head under water and lifted him back up above the water. When he was done, a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love.” Matthew 3:17. God was pleased with Jesus, because he obeyed him. And God is pleased with us when we obey him too. What does obey mean? It means to do exactly what God wants us to do.

WBS Lesson 3
Matthew 4:18-21
Jesus Calls the First Disciples

Verse: “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” Matthew 4:19

The Point: We can follow Jesus

Visual Aids for Story: homemade fishing pole? (stick w/string tied to end)

Book suggestions: Rainbow Fish, One Fish Two Fish

Craft: Fish Mosaic. Children will glue colored shapes to paper to form a fish mosaic.

Activities: Follow the Leader. Simon Says. Fishing for People: Bring a stick or dowel with a string (fishing pole). Spread a blue sheet as a mat for the kids to sit on. Have kids sit on sheet with their backs to the fisherman. Fisherman casts his line toward kids. Whoever the line fall on is the next fisherman.

Circle Time/Attention Getter: Put some play sand in a dish basin or bucket. Bury several small items in the sand. Have kids taking turns pulling something out.

Story: Read Matthew 4: 17-22 from you Bible.

One day, Jesus walked along a lake, called the Sea of Galilee. Have you been to a seashore? Jesus watched fishermen try to catch fish in big nets. He was about to find some very special friends. Jesus saw two brothers named Peter and Andrew. He called out to them— he said, “Come, follow me.” Peter and Andrew stopped what they were doing right away. They dropped their nets right away and went with Jesus. They knew Jesus was very special. Do you remember why Jesus is so special? Yes, because he is God’s son! Jesus kept walking along the beach with Peter and Andrew. He saw two more fishermen. They were brothers named James and John. They were on a big boat trying to catch fish. Jesus called out to them and said, ‘Come, follow me!’ Right away, they dropped their fishing nets. They left their boat and their father and they followed Jesus. These four people; James, John, Peter and Andrew, were special friends of Jesus. They were called his disciples. That means they were going to stay with Jesus and learn from him. They were going follow Jesus and learn how to love people. They were going to learn how to teach people about Jesus. Jesus said he would teach them how to be fishers of men.

Did you know that you can follow Jesus just like Peter, James, John and Andrew. You can’t walk with Jesus on the seashore, but you can read all about him in the Bible. You can love him and obey him just like his special friends did. Can you tell me what a fisherman does? That’s right, a fisherman catches fish! Jesus saw fishermen catching fish and bringing them into their boats. But how can someone fish for men? That just means you help people learn about Jesus. You show them love so they understand what it means when you tell them God loves them. You catch them and let them know they can be part of God’s wonderful family. You show them how they can follow Jesus too. You can all be fishers of men by helping your friends and family learn about God. You can tell them all how much God loves them and cares for them and wants them to be part of his family.

WBS Lesson 4
Matthew 5:21-6:18

Verse:

This, then, is how you should pray: 'Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.'

The Point: God gave us a special prayer to be able to pray to him.

The Lesson:

When Jesus lived on the earth, his disciples wanted to know how to pray. Jesus said to them that when you pray to God, your prayers can be short or long and God will always hear you. You don't have to use fancy words and if you don't know what to say, God always knows what you mean. Let's try to understand God's words a little better.

Our Father, who art in Heaven. Does anyone know what art means? (The kids could answer things like paintings or drawings) Art actually means more than one thing. It could mean art in an art museum like paintings, but it also means to live. So it could also be "Our Father, who *lives* in heaven." So Our Father, who art in heaven means that we are praying to God.

Hallowed be thy name means that God is holy. We are telling him that he is holy and that he is special to us.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. What do you think it will be like in heaven? (Beautiful, no more hurt, no more crying, no darkness) This part of the prayer means that God wants us to live in peace on earth and love one another just like it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread means that we are asking God to give us all that we need each day. What are some things that we need each day? (Food, air, water, a home)

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. This means that we are asking God to forgive us for the bad things that we did. Do you know what forgive means? When we ask God to forgive us he will take all of the bad things that we did and throw them away and forget about them. We also need to ask God to help us forgive the people that did bad things to us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Do you ever want to do something you are not aloud to do? Like what? In this part of the prayer we ask God to help us do the right things and to not do the bad things. We ask him to lead us away from the evil things that are in the world.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen. This is the best part of the prayer! This means that heaven will last forever and God will always be there. God is all powerful and all glorious and he will be FOREVER and EVER! God loves you and he will never leave you.

Prayer:

Dear God, thank you for everything you give us. Thank you for giving us your special prayer. I pray that you will forgive us from our sins and help us to forgive the people who sinned against us. I pray that you will lead us away from evil. I thank you for how powerful and mighty you are and for how much you love us. Amen.

Craft:

Staple, glue, or tape pages of the Lord's Prayer booklet together (follow page numbers). The kids can color and decorate the pages. Read the Lord's Prayer from the booklet once they finish decorating it to help them remember it.

WBS Lesson 5
Matthew 6:19-7:29

Verse: Matthew 7: 24,” Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

The Point: Wisdom is not just knowing what God tells us to do, but doing it.

Song: “The Wise Man Built his house upon the Rock” (see words and actions below)

Craft: A house built on a Rock

Materials needed- Construction paper, house pieces cut out, rock cut out, words with “Jesus is my Rock”, glue

Directions- Have children glue a rock at the base of the paper, and the word on top. Then have them glue the house pieces together on top of the rock.

Activity: Try a listening activity to help them remember to listen and follow God. Bring a straight pin and a piece of paper. Ask the kids to be quiet and listen. Share that you are going to drop a pin behind a piece of paper. They are to raise their hands when they hear the pin drop and hit the ground or table. Take turns dropping the pin. Talk about how we must listen to God and do what He says.

Lesson:

Ask: Have you ever built or seen a sand castle? Does it last very long? What happens when the waves come up? Would you want to build a house on sand or on a rock?

One time in the Bible, Jesus talked to many people about God and Heaven. They sat down and listened to Him for hours! Can you imagine what it must have been like to hear Jesus and see Him face to face?

Jesus told the people many things about God and about how to act. As He was talking, He shared how important it was to listen and do the things that He said.

Jesus shared a story to help the people know why it was important to obey God and do what He said:

There were two men who wanted to build new houses. They looked and looked for the perfect spot for their homes. (Put your hand over your eyebrows like you are looking for something) One man was wise.

This means that he thought about things before he did them. He was careful in making decisions and listened to the ideas of others.

The other man was foolish. This means that he did not listen to what others thought. He did whatever he wanted and did not worry about what would happen.

The wise man decided to build his house on the hard rock. He poured a foundation of concrete first, then built his house. (Pretend like you are hammering) He made sure everything was done correctly.

The foolish man loved the beach. He thought it would be wonderful to have a house on the beach by the ocean. It would be close to the water and he could go swimming whenever he wanted. He did not think about the water being close to his house or what would happen when a storm came.

One day, dark, gray clouds drifted into the town. Suddenly, lightning bolted across the sky. (Make a noise like thunder) The wind blew hard and raindrops flooded the town. (make a noise like the wind and rain) The water began to rise and rise.

The tide from the ocean began to creep up to the foolish man’s house. Before long, the house was

flooded! There was nothing the foolish man could do! The winds blew harder and knocked the house down with a **CRASH!** (be sure to make a crash noise)

The wise man watched the storm come from his warm home. He had thought about the importance of a safe, secure home. Now, when the storm was here, he was safe. He did not have to worry. His house stood strong.

Jesus told this story to help us see that we should be like the wise man. When we are doing things, we should ask God for help and listen for His answers. He will show us what to do and make sure we are safe. The important thing to remember is that we must do what God says. One way you can do what God says is by obeying your parents. If you hear your parents, but do not obey what they say you are like the foolish man. If you hear your parents, and do what they say you are like the wise man. Jesus wants us to be wise and not only hear the right thing to do, but to **DO** it!

Song:

The Wise Man and The Foolish Man

The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
And the rains came tumbling down
The rains came down, and the floods rose up
The rains came down, and the floods rose up.
The rains came down, and the floods rose up.
But the house on the rock stood firm.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
And the rains came tumbling down.
The rains came down, and the floods rose up.
The rains came down, and the floods rose up.
The rains came down, and the floods rose up.
And the house on the sand fell down. **SPLAT!**
So build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ.
Build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ.
Build your life on the Lord Jesus Christ,
And the blessings will come down.
The blessings will come down as the prayers go up.
The blessings will come down as the prayers go up.
The blessings will come down as the prayers go up.
So build your life on the Rock.

Actions:

"built/build" -- pound one fist on top of the other

"rains came down" -- wriggle fingers while moving hands down

"floods rose up" -- in slight rippling motion, raise hands up in time with music

"love" -- give self a hug

"stood firm" -- make upside-down "V" with hands to represent rooftop

"hands" -- hold out hands

"fell flat" -- make upside-down "V" with hands to represent rooftop, then suddenly let hands fall flat

"CRASH" -- clap loudly

"Lord Jesus Christ" -- form cross with arms

"blessings" -- wriggle fingers while moving hands down

"prayers" -- fold hands in prayer, slowly lifting folded hands upward

"Rock" -- firmly hit fist against palm

WBS Lesson 6
Matthew 8-9:13

Verse: Psalm 89:9 “You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.”

The Point: We do not have to be afraid; Jesus will take care of us.

Craft: Construction paper boats

Materials needed- construction paper, popsicle sticks, glue, paper cut out in boat and triangle shapes, markers, crayons, “Do not fear, for I am with you” written on the side, or in strips to be glued to side.

Directions--Have children construct and decorate boats with markers.

Lesson:

What are you frightened of? We are going to hear a story about a time when the disciples were frightened.

The day was almost over and Jesus was getting tired. It had been a very busy time for Jesus because He had spent a lot of time telling stories or parables to the people and teaching them how they should live. Jesus said to His friends, "Come with Me across the lake".

The disciples were fishermen so they had their boats nearby. Together with Jesus, they climbed into the boat to sail to the other side of the lake. Jesus laid down in the back of the boat with a cushion under His head and very quickly fell asleep.

They were sailing quickly across the lake when, suddenly, very strong winds began to blow on the water. The little blue waves got bigger and bigger. They changed quickly from little blue waves to big, strong, dark grey waves. The waves splashed against the boat with smashes! Suddenly, the sound of crashing thunder began to rumble loud and clear. The higher the waves got, the louder the thunder got.

The fishermen pulled on the ropes to take the sails down. Some tried to scoop water out of the boat. But bigger, stronger waves came into the boat faster than they could get the water out! Because of the strong wind and the big waves, it was hard to steer the boat. The boat was filling up with water! No matter how hard the fishermen worked, they could not empty the boat. The boat was beginning to sink! Jesus' special friends, His disciples, were getting worried now!

"We're going to fall into the water and drown!" one of the disciples yelled.

"Where is our friend, Jesus now?!" another fisherman asked.

Jesus was still sleeping in the back of the boat. The storm did not even wake Jesus. He just kept sleeping.

The fishermen couldn't wait any longer. They were afraid that they were going to die in the water.

They woke Jesus up by calling to Him, "Teacher! Teacher, don't you care if we drown?!" They couldn't believe He was peacefully sleeping through the storm!

Jesus awoke and stood up. He looked right at the crashing waves and shouted at the strong wind, "Quiet! Be still!"

Right in front of them, the fishermen saw the big, frightening waves become small. The strong wind became a gentle breeze. The boat floated safely on top of the peaceful lake. The disciples were amazed!

They had just seen Jesus perform a miracle!

"Why were you afraid? Don't you have faith in God?" Jesus asked His friends.

Jesus' disciples could hardly believe what they saw. They were surprised but they realized that their friend, Jesus, had helped them when they needed His help!

Do you remember how we talked about things that scare us? We can remember that Jesus is always with us and will take care of us when we are frightened.

WBS Lesson 7
Matthew 9:14-10:20

Verse: 2 Corinthians 1:3 "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort."

The Point: Jesus is the great healer and comforter.

Song: Sing this little song to the tune of "Are you sleeping?"

Are you sleeping, are you sleeping (Make motion like you are asleep)
Little girl, little girl?
Jesus is coming, He will help you. (Move two fingers like Jesus is walking)
Now, you're well. Now, you're well. (Smile)

Activities:

Bring a long robe. Choose a volunteer to put on the robe and be blindfolded. Then have another student touch the edge of the robe. Allow the child to guess which student touched the robe. Tell students that unlike us, Jesus did not have to guess who touched Him. He already knew the lady and what she needed.

To remind the kids of the woman who touched Jesus, make a "touch bag". Fill a large paper sack with things with different textures like cotton balls, orange, golf ball, balloon, sponge, small candle, etc. Let the kids try to identify the objects without looking into the bag.

Craft: Card for children to give someone to cheer and comfort.

Materials- construction paper, strips with verse, markers, crayons, stickers

Directions- Hand out construction paper cards with the words "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort." 2 Corinthians 1:3 NIV printed on the inside. Have children decorate cards using markers, crayons, and stickers. Ask them to take the cards home and give to someone they know who isn't feeling well.

Lesson:

One day Jesus was walking along and a great many people were following him. Because he had healed so many people, great crowds would press close to him in hopes of touching him and being healed of their sicknesses and diseases. One woman that had been bleeding a long time touched him on the the edge of his cloak and was healed because of her faith. Then the ruler of a synagogue (a place of worship) came to Jesus in hopes that he would heal his dying daughter. About the same time he approached Jesus, some people from his house came to tell him the bad news. His daughter had already died, and there was no reason to bother Jesus about it.

The Bible says that as soon as Jesus heard this he told Jairus, Be not afraid, only believe. Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him to Jairus' house. The people were wailing and crying because the little twelve-year-old girl was dead. Jesus asked them why they were weeping because he said the girl was not dead, but only sleeping. The people all laughed at Jesus because they knew she was dead. So Jesus took the parents into the room with Peter, James, and John. It was a custom to lay hands on the sick to heal them. Jesus took the little girl's hand and told her to rise.

Do you know what happened next? The little girl arose from the dead! Jesus had called her back to life! Because Jesus is God, he can do anything. As you might imagine, Jairus' family was astonished at what happened. Jesus told them to not tell anyone what happened and to give her something to eat. Jesus gives us hope of eternal life, because He has risen from the dead to be alive forever. One day He will raise those that believe in Him to live forever with him. We have a great hope and a great God.

WBS Lesson 8
Matthew 10:21-11:30

Verse: Matthew 5:16 “Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your Heavenly Father.”

The Point: Learn that God has a special job for His followers to do.
Understand what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ
Recognize things we can do to help others know Jesus

Songs:

“This little light of mine”

“There were 12 Disciples”

There were twelve disciples Jesus called to help him:
Simon Peter, Andrew, James, his brother John,
Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus,
Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew.
He has called us, too. He has called us, too.
We are His disciples, I am one and you!
He has called us, too. He has called us, too.
We are His disciples, I am one and you!

Sing this fun song to the tune of “BINGO.”

Jesus told His friends to go into all the town-s
Go and tell the news, go and tell the news, go and tell the news,
Tell it to all people.

The helpers went and told the news to everyone they me-t
It was happy news, it was happy news, it was happy news,
News that Jesus loves them!

Craft: Sunshine with verse written in the middle.

Materials needed—yellow suns cut out of construction paper, glitter, yarn

Directions—Have children decorate the sun with glitter. Put yarn through the holes so that they can hang it up at home as a reminder to let their light shine for Jesus

Lesson:

Ask students if they have ever played “Follow the Leader.” Play the game for about 5 minutes, and then say that today we will learn how Jesus wants us to follow Him and lead others to Him also!

Shorter version: Jesus had 12 special friends and helpers. Their names were Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas. They walked with Jesus and listened to all the good things that He said.

One day, Jesus asked His friends to go tell others about Him. He also wanted them to share about Heaven. Jesus wanted His friends to go to homes and tell people the good news of how they can love God

and get to Heaven.

Jesus' friends walked down the dusty roads to the towns (Make walking noises). They knocked on doors (make knocking sound) and told people about Jesus. They smiled (SMILE) and shared wonderful things about Jesus and how much He loved them. It was fun to tell people about Jesus!

We can tell people about Jesus, too! He is the best thing we can tell people. Let's practice. Practice knocking and telling someone about Jesus or inviting someone to church. Another thing we can do is to be kind and help people. Then they might want to know more about Jesus because you were nice to them!

Pray and ask God to help us tell someone about Jesus this week.

Longer version: Jesus had 12 special friends called **disciples** that walked with Him everywhere He went. These men listened to Him and learned from Him. Their names were: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon, and Judas.

After Jesus had taught His disciples many things, He sent them out to different towns. Jesus wanted them to tell the people about God and the Kingdom of Heaven. He told them that they would be able to make people well and help them with their needs. Jesus also told His disciples not to worry about what to take with them. He instructed them not to take any money with them or even a mat to sleep on. Jesus knew that someone in each town would be kind and let them sleep in their home. Jesus encouraged them to be grateful to those who helped them.

Next, Jesus warned His friends that not everyone would want to hear their message. He told them that some people would not listen and might even try to hurt them!

He said to be as wise as snakes and as innocent as doves. This means that Jesus wants His followers to have wisdom to make good choices. He also wants them to follow God's ways and stay away from sin in their lives.

Jesus reminded the disciples that if people treated Him badly, they would treat His followers badly too.

Jesus told the disciples that they did not need to be afraid. He told them that God loved them so much that He even knew little things about them—like how many hairs they had on their heads! Jesus also told His disciples not to be ashamed to tell others about God and Heaven.

Finally, Jesus reminded His followers that they needed to put Him first in their lives. This means giving up anything that might get in the way of following Him.

Jesus talked about being kind to others and helping them with their needs. That is a big part of being His follower. Whenever we help someone, we are showing them the love of Jesus! And they might be more willing to hear what we have to say about God when they know that we care about them.

Today's memory verse talks about this. We should make good choices and do kind things for people—not so they will think WE are great— but so they will praise God!

Think of ways we can “let our good deeds shine.” (Examples: help your Mom with chores; help teacher clean up; share your toys;

share a Bible verse with someone). Remember to give the honor and glory to Jesus!

WBS Lesson 9

Matthew 12

Verse: Matthew 25:40 “Whatever you did for the one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me”.

The Point: See that it is always the right time to help those in need

Song: “Jesus Loves Me”

Craft: Hands and Feet

Materials—construction paper, glue, markers, crayons

Directions—Have children trace hands and/or feet on the construction paper, and color in. Glue the words “We are Jesus’ hands and feet to help others” across the bottom.

Lesson:

Have you ever had a broken arm or wrist? What is it like not to be able to use your hand/arm for a while? Today we will learn how Jesus helped a man who could not use one hand.

Shorter Version: One church day, Jesus and His friends went into the church. They saw a man that had a crippled right hand. It did not look like the other hand. Other people were at the church too. These people were trying to find a way to trick Jesus because they didn’t believe Jesus was God’s Son.

They thought of a good question to ask Jesus. They said, “Is it all right to help people by healing on a church day?”

Back then, the people had special rules they had to follow on church days. They could not do certain things because it was God’s day. These sneaky people were trying to trick Jesus.

Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He said, “If you had a little sheep that fell into a pit on church day, would you get it out?” Of course! Jesus helped the people know that a person was much more important to God than a sheep. Then, He told them that it was all right to do good on a church day.

After He answered their question, He asked the man to stretch out his crippled right hand. When the man did this, a miracle happened! The man’s hand was well!! It looked just like the other hand!

Many people saw what happened and followed Jesus.

Jesus loved all kinds of people no matter what they looked like. He cared for them and showed them that they were special to Him and to God.

This week, let’s find ways to help all kinds of people and show them that Jesus loves them.

Longer Version: Jesus and His disciples went to the synagogue. Remember, this was the place where the Jewish people worshipped God. This particular day, it was a **Sabbath** day. This was a very important day for God’s people. They were to rest and worship God.

However, the Pharisees had added to what God had required for the Sabbath. They created their own rules for people. This made it hard for people to do *anything* on the Sabbath!

The Pharisees had already criticized Jesus and His disciples for picking wheat and eating it on a Sabbath. Somehow, the Pharisees said it was work to pick *and* eat. Now, in the synagogue, they tried to trick Jesus again. When Jesus noticed a man with a crippled hand, the Pharisees asked Him if it was right to heal people on the Sabbath. They considered it work even to heal someone on the Sabbath!

Instead of answering the question, Jesus asked them a question. He said, “If you had a sheep that fell into a pit on a Sabbath, would you get it out?” Of course! Jesus helped the people know that a person was

much more important to God than a sheep.

Then, He told them that it was right to do good on a Sabbath day.

After He answered their question, He told the man to stretch out his crippled hand. When the man did this, a miracle happened! The man's hand was well!! It looked just like the other hand! Jesus had healed the man's hand.

The Pharisees were angry with Jesus. They went away and began to plan how they could kill Jesus. Sadly, they had seen Jesus do this and other miracles, and yet they did not believe in Him. They wanted people to be under their control. That is why they made so many extra rules for the people to follow. The Pharisees felt threatened by Jesus. They did not want to lose their control over the people's lives.

Jesus told the Pharisees that He was Master, even over the Sabbath. He knew it was right to help people in need, no matter what day it was.

Many people saw what happened and followed Jesus.

Jesus loved all kinds of people no matter what they looked like. He cared for them and showed them that they were special to Him and to God.

This week, let's find ways to help all kinds of people and show them that Jesus loves them.

WBS Lesson 10
The Treasure and the Pearl
Matthew 13:1-58

Verse: For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

The Point: Knowing Jesus is the best treasure of all.

Visual Aids for story: Box with costume jewelry

Craft: Make a pretty treasure chest on your paper. Add glitter, sequins or other sparkly things.

Circle Time: If you had to leave your house and could only take one thing with you, what would you take? It is probably the thing that means the most to you. Today we will learn about the best kind of treasure.

Story: *Before the lesson, hide a box with costume jewelry in the room.*

Jesus told stories to help us know what Heaven is like.

Once upon a time, there was a field where people plant vegetables and grain. One day, a man was walking by. (Stand up and begin walking—or pretend walking) While he was walking, he saw something buried in the ground. Quickly, he started digging. Guess what?

He found a buried treasure chest! (Walk to the hidden box and show everyone!)

When he opened the chest, what do you think he found? TREASURE! (Show what is in your box.) He looked around and no one saw him. He put the treasure back in the ground and buried it. Then, he ran to the person who owned the land and bought the land so that he could have the treasure! He used all the money he had to buy the land with the treasure.

Jesus told another story:

Once there was a man who wanted to find the most beautiful pearl in the world. He traveled everywhere to look at pearls. (Teachers, show the kids what a pearl is.)

Then one day, after looking everywhere, he found it! He found the most beautiful pearl in the whole world. Do you know what he did? He sold everything he had to buy that pearl.

He was so happy!

Just like the treasure and the pearl, Heaven is a beautiful place. Jesus wants us to know that we can go to Heaven one day if we believe in Jesus. Jesus loves YOU and cares for you.

WBS Lesson 11
Jesus Walks on the Water
Matthew 14:1-36

Verse: Take courage, it is I! Don't be afraid. Matthew 14:27b

The Point: We can keep our eyes on Jesus when we are afraid.

Visual Aids for story: Blue tarp, blanket, or towel; cup or spray bottle of water

Craft: Trace child's foot on a piece of blue paper. Draw waves under the foot. Decorate with stickers of fish.

Circle Time: Bring a blue tarp or blanket and take turns having the kids "walk on the water." You could also have students sit on the tarp and pretend they are in the boat with Jesus. Spray water, if desired.

Story:

We are going to tell today's story from Peter's point of view.

One day, Jesus asked the disciples (I'm one of those) to go ahead to the other side of the lake. So we began rowing the boat across the lake. Jesus told us that He would catch up with us later. He wanted to pray to God.

Suddenly, stormy winds began to blow our boat. Dark clouds began to roll in, and the waves began to grow. It was really hard to row the boat.

Then, all of a sudden, we saw something walking towards us. We were so scared! It looked like a ghost! We were afraid and not sure what to do.

Immediately, Jesus said, "Have courage, it's Me. Don't be afraid."

I couldn't believe my eyes. Jesus was walking on top of the water like it was land. Before

I could think, I asked Jesus if I could walk out to Him on the water.

Jesus told me to come to Him, so I began walking on the water. I couldn't believe how the water was holding me up!

Then, I took my eyes off Jesus. I started looking around at the waves and felt the wind rush by. I got scared and I started to sink into the water. I knew that I would drown if Jesus didn't help me. I cried out to Jesus for help, and He reached out His hand and saved me. Quickly we climbed into the boat. When we did, the stormy winds stopped. We were amazed at how the storm was immediately gone! We knew again that Jesus was God's Son. Only He could make the weather change and walk on water! Then we all worshipped Jesus by telling Him how wonderful He was and how much we loved Him. We bowed down to Him and honored Him.

Just like Peter and the disciples, we can trust Jesus and worship Him.

WBS Lesson 12
Jesus Feeds Many People
Matthew 15:1-16:12

Verse: I am the bread of life. John 6:35

The Point: We need Jesus more than anything else.

Visual Aids for Story: Your packed lunch

Craft: Make a basket out of brown construction paper, and have children glue fish and bread inside.

Circle Time: Show your lunch and ask the children if it would be enough for everyone in the room.

Story:

One day, Jesus sat down and talked to many people. He helped them learn more about God. He also told them how much God loved them. Many people came to listen to Jesus. Some people that came were blind, sick, or even crippled (they could not move an arm or leg). When Jesus saw them, He healed them. The blind could see, the sick were well and the crippled could walk! It was an exciting day.

The people loved to hear all that Jesus was saying. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that they listened to Jesus for 3 days!

But, they forgot something! The people forgot to bring something to eat! They had not eaten in 3 days! That's a very long time.

Jesus knew that God could do a special miracle. He told His helpers that He wanted to help the people. They told Jesus that they had 7 loaves of bread and some fish.

Jesus asked everyone to sit down on the ground. Jesus prayed and thanked God for the fish and bread. He broke it into little pieces and gave it to the people. There were many, many people there. Jesus' friends helped pass out all the food. Do you know what happened? That little bit of food fed everyone! Everyone ate and ate and ate. When everyone was finished and stuffed, Jesus' helpers picked up 7 big baskets full of leftovers!

Sing this song to remember the lesson. It's to the tune of "Mary had a little lamb."

Jesus fed 4,000 men, 4,000 men, 4,000 men.

Jesus fed 4,000 men on a hillside.

They ate and ate till they were full, they were full, they were full.

They ate and ate till they were full, on a hillside.

Seven baskets of food were left, food were left, food were left

Seven baskets of food were left, on that day.

WBS Lesson 13
The Transfiguration
Matthew 16:13-17:27

Verse: We have seen his glory. John 1:14

The Point: God told the disciples that Jesus was his Son.

Visual Aids for story: Flashlight

Craft: Color and decorate “Jesus is the Son of God” picture.

Circle Time: Have you ever climbed a mountain or hill? When you get to the top, the view is glorious. In today’s story, three of Jesus’ friends got a glorious view at the top of the mountain!

Story:

Act like you are climbing a mountain. Have the children take some deep breaths and stomp their feet like they are climbing.

Jesus had twelve special friends, called disciples. One day, Jesus took three of His friends, Peter, James and John, and they climbed a mountain. While they were there, Jesus’ face began to shine brightly, like the sun! (*Bring a flashlight and shine it on your face*) Then His clothes began to shine as well! It was an amazing sight. But that wasn’t all! Two men appeared there with Jesus—Moses and Elijah. These were important men in the Bible. They were very close to God.

A cloud came down around the men and a voice came from the cloud— *God’s* voice! God said, “This is my Son, who I love. Listen and obey Him!” When Peter, James and John heard God’s voice, they were afraid and they fell to the ground. But Jesus encouraged them. He touched them and told them to get up and not to be afraid. Then the disciples realized that they were alone with Jesus again. Moses and Elijah were gone.

Wow! What an amazing experience for these three men.

Do you ever wonder about who Jesus is? The Bible says that Jesus came from God and is God. It also says that Jesus became a man and lived here with us. John, the writer of the book of John, says that he **saw** God’s glory! This same John was one of the three disciples on the mountain with Jesus. He really *did* experience God’s glory! Not only that, but he saw Jesus die on the cross. Three days later, John saw Jesus risen from the dead. We can experience God’s glory, too! When we put our faith in Jesus, He will come into our hearts and give us a new life. He will completely change us. And one day, we will be in Heaven with Him, and will get to see *all* His glory!

WBS Lesson 14
The Little Children and Jesus
Matthew 18:1-19:15

Verse: Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me.” Matthew 19:14

The Point: Jesus loves children very much.

Craft: Make a picture frame magnet. Have kids decorate the frames with markers, stickers, or fun material. Write “I Am God’s Child” at the top of the frame. Attach a magnet to the back of the frame. Tell them to put their picture in the frame and place it on their refrigerator. Every time they see it, they can remember that God is thinking about them!

Circle Time: Sing, “Jesus Loves the Little Children.”

Story:

One day, Jesus’ friends asked Him, “Who is the most important person in Heaven?” Jesus called a child to Him. He showed the child to His friends. He said that they needed to be like a child if they wanted to be with Him in Heaven! Wow! That must have really shocked His followers!

Jesus meant that we have to trust God to take care of us. God is our Heavenly Father. We are His children. We need to do what He says. He tells us to love God and each other. That makes God happy. Jesus doesn’t want us to worry about who is most important. He loves ALL of us!

A little bit later, some parents brought their children to Jesus. They must have known Jesus loved children. The parents asked Jesus to bless and pray for their children. But the disciples got mad. They thought Jesus was too busy and important to spend time with children! They tried to stop the parents from bringing the children to Jesus. But Jesus told His disciples to let the children come to Him. He reminded them that God’s Kingdom belongs to people with hearts like children. Then Jesus blessed the children.

When we ask Jesus into our hearts, we become God’s children. This means we know that God is our Father. He loves us, provides for our needs, and takes care of us. And as His children, we must obey God and follow His teachings.

We can always feel special to Jesus, because He loves us!

Pray, thanking God that He is our Heavenly Father. Ask Him to help us obey Him.

WBS Lesson 15
The Kingdom of God is about
loving God with an open heart
Matthew 19:16-20:16

Try to bring in grapes for a snack or some to show during the story if you can find them at a good price.

Verse: “You are all children of God by believing in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

Craft: make a gift box out of wrapping paper with a cross

Story: We have learned about many stories Jesus told that had a special meaning. In today’s lesson, Jesus told a story to remind His disciples not to worry about who is first. Or wanting more than what Jesus has promised us.

Jesus told about a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a big piece of land that has lots of grapes growing on it. The man needed help in his vineyard. Early one morning, he went to town to hire some people to work in the vineyard. The workers agreed to work all day for 1 silver coin.

At about 9:00, the owner went back to town to find more help. He saw more people standing around, so he hired some of them to help with his vineyard. The man also went out at 12:00 and 3:00 and found more men to work in his vineyard. Around 5:00 in the afternoon, the owner returned and found some men standing around. He asked the men why they had done nothing all day. They answered that no one gave them jobs to do. Quickly, the kind man hired them to work in his vineyard. At the end of the day the workers lined up to get their money. The owner asked the boss to first pay the people that were hired last. When they came to get their money, to their great surprise, they got 1 silver coin! They were so excited. The kind man had paid them very well. The others who were there all day became excited. They figured that since they had been there all day, they would get lots of silver coins. When it was their turn to receive their money, they all received 1 silver coin. They could not believe their eyes! It seemed sooooo unfair. They did not understand why the owner gave them the same wage as the one who had only worked a little while. The owner explained that he had been fair to the workers. They had agreed to work for 1 silver coin for the day. They should have been happy with what they got and happy that the others received good money.

In this story, the owner represents God, who is always looking for more people to be in His family. The workers represent people. Some accept Christ when they are young, and some are later in life. God calls us in different ways. He calls us at different times in our lives. But all the workers receive the same gift—eternal life.

But I have a question for you? Do you want to be working with God for what he wants? (Yessss) Or do you want to spend any part of your life away from God or away from His work? (Noooo). It seems in this story that the workers who started first had the harder job. They were working while the others were not. But! They were working in the Master’s field. They got to be near Him. They got to bring in the good, good grapes that He would use to feed others and to feed them. They also got to taste the grapes as they went through the field. They got the best reward. They got to spend all day in God’s field, and that’s a great thing. And he still paid them for their work.

And even though the workers that came late in the day didn’t have as much time with the Master, they still received the gift of eternal life. We can be happy that God loves us and others.

Pray that we will love others the way that God does.

WBS Lesson 16
The Kingdom of God is about *Serving*
Matthew 20:17-28

Verse: “He came to serve others.” Matt 20: 20-28

Craft: trace hands on circles. Color in hands. Older kids—hands on self portrait with pipe cleaners.

Story:

One day, James and John’s mother came to see Jesus. She loved her boys and wanted to ask Jesus a very special question. The mom asked Jesus, “Can my sons sit in chairs on both sides of you in heaven?” She wanted James and John to sit in important spots in heaven. Jesus told His friends that it was not important to be at the front and get attention. He told them that the best place to be is in the back, helping others. He told them that they must help others and do for them first. After that, Jesus told His friends that He did not come for people to serve Him. He told them that He came to serve others and to give His life for all people. What is the difference between being great and being a servant? Jesus wants us to think about others before we think about ourselves. He does not want us to boast or brag. Instead, He wants us to care for others and accept them.

What are some ways that we can serve each other?

(Letting someone get a drink first. Letting someone sit in your favorite chair...)

Jesus showed us how to be a servant by His example. Remember that He was in Heaven with God before He came to earth as a baby. Instead of being proud, He became a servant and helped others. Even more, Jesus substituted Himself on the cross to die for all our sins. We should care for others in the same way.

Jesus wants us to help others, too. How can you help someone this week?

WBS Lesson 17
The Kingdom of God is about
Declaring Jesus is King
Matthew 21:1-16

Verse: “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” Matt 21:9

Craft: scepters

Story:

Before Jesus entered Jerusalem, He told two of His disciples to go to a village. He told them they would see a donkey with its colt tied there. He said they should bring the animals to Him. If they were asked what they were doing, they were to say that the Lord needed them. Wow! Jesus had a plan. Somehow, He knew where the donkey and the colt would be. The disciples found them just as Jesus had said, and they brought them to Jesus. When the crowds saw Jesus coming into town, they worshipped Him by laying down their coats and palm branches on the ground. The people shouted praises to Jesus, saying, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Bless the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” Everyone was so excited.

But why were they so happy, and why were they calling Jesus the Son of David? David was Israel’s greatest king. And Jesus’ daddy was name was Joseph.

A long time before Jesus came to live with us, a man named Isaiah told the people of Israel that a savior was coming. He said, “The authority of his rule will continue to grow. The peace he brings will never end. He will rule on David's throne, and over his kingdom. He will make the kingdom strong and secure. His rule will be based on what is fair and right. It will last forever. The Lord's great love will make sure that happens. He rules over all.

When the people shouted “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they were calling Jesus their king. They were shouting that he would be just like their ancestor David. They wanted Jesus to be a strong ruler of the army. They were happy because they thought that Jesus was a great man who would make them free from the Romans.

Jesus went into the temple in Jerusalem. Do you know who was shouting “Hosanna” in the temple?
Children!

Matthew tells us that the teachers at the temple got really mad that the children were calling Jesus king. They wanted Jesus to tell the children to stop. Jesus said, “no.” He reminded the teachers that the Psalms say, “You have made sure that children and infants praise you.”

We can praise him too! It makes Jesus happy when we live the words of that psalm by praising him.

Songs that we will add for this section
Praise Him Praise Him All ye little children
Beloved, let us love one another
Jumping up and down

WBS Lesson 18
The Kingdom of God is about *action*
The parable of two sons
Matthew 21:23-31

Craft: Fire and smoke

Verse: I have promised to obey your words. Psalm 119: 57b

Story:

Have you ever heard this conversation?

“Sally, did you hit your sister?”

“Yes, mommy.”

“That was naughty. Tell sister that you are sorry.”

“Sooooorrrrrrrryy” (in a mock tone of voice and roll your eyes).

Do you think that Sally is really sorry for hitting her sister?

(no)

But she said the word “sorry” didn’t she?

(for older kids) What does mommy really want Sally to do? (to think about what she did wrong. To understand that it is against God’s law to hit someone in anger.)

Jesus told a story about what it means to try to obey with just your words. A man had two sons. Come and work in my field, the father said. His first son said, “no, I won’t.” but later changed his mind and went.

The dad then went to his second son and said, “Come and work in my field.”

“Sure, dad,” he said. But he never went!

“Which of the two did what his father wanted?” Jesus asked his listeners.

The first, they said.

They were right! Even though the first son was rude to his father and said “no” he changed his mind and went. Even though the second sons sounded like he was obeying his father with his good response, he didn’t really obey his father, did he?

Jesus shows us here that he likes it when we use good words, like “Yes Mommy, Yes Daddy,” but that our actions are so much more important. If we say “Yes, I’ll pick up my toys” and then keep playing” now two bad things have happened. The first bad thing is that I’m not doing what mommy asked. The second bad thing is that my words don’t have any meaning.

God isn’t just interested in just the words we say. He wants us to act on the good things His Spirit tells us to do.

Jesus’s brother James wrote a book in our Bible. He wrote a lot about what it means to follow Jesus. He wrote that our faith should show in the things that we do, that they go together like smoke and fire.

He said, “Dear friends, do you think you’ll get anywhere in this if you learn all the right words but never do anything?”

(Older classes can read further in James) Does merely talking about faith indicate that a person really has it? For instance, you come upon an old friend dressed in rags and half-starved and say, “Good

morning, friend! Be clothed in Christ! Be filled with the Holy Spirit!" and walk off without providing so much as a coat or a cup of soup—where does that get you? Isn't it obvious that God-talk without God-acts is outrageous nonsense?

WBS Lesson 19
The kingdom of God is about
Loving God with your whole heart
Matthew 22:36-40

Verse: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart” Matt 22:37

Craft: big heart with Love God on one side/ Love Others on the other

(Bring a large and small heart. Ask the kids if we should love God a little, like the little heart, or a lot, like the big heart.)

Story: Last week, we learned that God has invited us to be a part of His family. When you are part of a family, you love each other. You help each other out. This is how God wants us to treat each other. (Ask for volunteers to shake hands or hug others.)

A man asked Jesus, “Which one of God’s commandments is most important of all?” (Hold up a paper with a question mark on it.)

Jesus answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. The second is this: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” (Hold up the big heart.) These two commands come from the Bible. (Show kids a Bible.)

Since Jesus was God, He knew the meaning of the commandments. He knew why God gave people rules to follow—because He loves us!

To begin to love God with all of who we are, we must accept Him into our lives. Then He can change us into the person He wants us to be.

The second greatest commandment, to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, can be tough! We can only love others like that if we have God’s help. But these two commandments go hand in hand. (Put hands together.) The more we love God, the more we will love the people He created.

Jesus went all the way to the cross to show us how much He loves us. (Hold up the big heart.) We need to accept His love into our lives. Then we can experience this awesome love and share it with others!

Pray, thanking God for loving us. Pray that we will love Him more. Ask Him to give us a love for others.

WBS Lesson 20
Matthew 25:14-30
A Wise Servant in the Kingdom of God

The Point:

- Learn that God has a job for us to do until He comes back for us
- Understand that God gives every person certain gifts He wants them to use
- Recognize that we should use our gifts to please God and build His kingdom

Verse:

(Younger kids) Obey Jesus your Lord. Colossians 3:17

(Older kids) Everything you do or say should be done to obey Jesus your Lord.
Colossians 3:17

Visual Aid: Coins

Songs: The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock

Craft: Fold paper. Trace and cut out hand. Open the paper to show two hands together. Have children identify gifts, good deeds. Write them on coins. Glue the coins on hand.

Other Centers: Coloring pages

Circle Time: Have your parents or teachers ever told you “Good job,” or “Well done?” When do they tell you that? What types of things do you do when they tell you good job or well done?

Story:

In today’s lesson, we will learn about two servants who did well and one who did not. We will learn what Jesus wants us to be **DOING** until He comes back.

(Have a few students act out the role of the servants. Use the chocolate coins. Have the two productive servants circle the room. Each time they pass, add a coin or two. Have the lazy servant sit in a corner or middle of the room while the two walk around him.)

Jesus told a story about a master who had three servants. He was going on a trip, so he called the servants to him. To one servant, he gave five bags of gold, to another he gave two bags of gold, and to another he gave one bag of gold. He wanted his servants to make good use of his money. He wanted them to multiply what they had into even more.

After a long time, the master returned home. He called his servants to him to see what they had done with the money. The first servant whom had been given five bags of gold had doubled it—he now had ten bags of gold! The master was so pleased. He said, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” The man who had started with two bags of gold now had four! He also received praise from his master. But the man who had been given one bag of gold had hidden his money. He told his master that he was afraid of what might happen, so he dug a hole and buried the money in the ground! The master was not at all pleased with this servant. He told the servant that he had been unwise and lazy.

Jesus wants us to understand that He has given each of us certain talents and abilities.

He expects each of us to use the things He gives us to help His kingdom grow. If we sing, we can worship God with our voices. If we are good at sports, we can have a good attitude when we play and help others learn about God. Can you think of a way that we can multiply the things God has given us?

The main thing is to help others know that God loves them. When we do this, we are multiplying God’s kingdom, like the servants in the story. If God finds us faithful, when He returns we will hear Him say to us, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” Pray that He will find us faithful servants.

WBS Lesson 21
Matthew 26:6-13
Jesus is Anointed

The Point: Learn that a woman was willing to share all she had with Jesus
Understand the meaning behind her act of love—to worship Jesus
Recognize that God wants us to give Him all we have

Verse:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart. Matthew 22:37

Visual Aid:

Songs: Praise Him, All Ye Little Children

Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Love Him, love Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.
Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love;
Thank Him, thank Him, all ye little children,
God is love, God is love.

Craft: Cup and Jewels

Circle Time:

Do you like to give gifts? Have you ever given a gift that you wanted to keep yourself?
Did you give it anyway? We will learn about a woman who gave a very precious gift to Jesus.

Story:

Once Jesus had finished His teaching time with the disciples, He went to Bethany. He and the disciples went to the home of a man named Simon. While they were there, a woman came to Jesus carrying a jar filled with expensive perfume. She poured the perfume on Jesus' head while He ate. When the people around Jesus saw this, they didn't understand why the lady had done this. They thought it was wasteful for her to pour all of the perfume on Jesus. They were more concerned about the money the perfume was worth. They said that the money could have been used to help people in need. But Jesus corrected them for thinking this way. He knew why the woman had done this with the perfume. He told the people that she was preparing His body to be buried. He knew that the woman was worshipping Him the best way she knew how. She gave what she had— without holding anything back. That is what God wants from us. He wants all of our heart, not just part of it. Jesus gave His life for us when He died on the cross. He gave us all that He had, so we should be willing to do the same for Him. Jesus went on to say that this lady's gift would be talked about around the world. He said that her story would be part of the Good News story about God's love. Why was her gift so important? The jar of perfume the woman poured on Jesus was probably worth about a year's wages. She spent a year's worth of work on Jesus in one moment! But she knew that Jesus was worth all the perfume and money in the

world—and more.

We can show Jesus we love Him. We can sing praise songs to Him. We can go to church, read our Bibles, and pray. This makes Jesus very happy. Pray and thank God for loving us. Ask Him to help us share His love with others.

The story of the woman and the perfume happened just a few days before Jesus was arrested and crucified. Jesus knew that this woman had obeyed God's will by her precious gift. God may be telling us to do something for Him. Are we willing to do it? It may involve sacrifice—that means giving up something we want even when it doesn't feel good or we don't want to. Jesus sacrificed His life when He died on the cross. It certainly didn't feel good for Him to suffer and feel all that pain. But He did it for a reason—to save us from our sins.

Are we willing to sacrifice our will for what God wants us to do? It may mean not watching a certain TV show to go to church, or sharing our favorite toy with someone who doesn't have any. God might want us to help our little brother or sister with their homework instead of playing outside, or helping Mom with dinner instead of playing a video game. The woman in today's story could have done a lot of other things with the money the perfume was worth. But she did what she knew was right, and Jesus blessed that gift. We can do the same!

WBS Lesson 22
Matthew 26:57-67
Jesus Goes Before the Sanhedrin

The Point: Jesus is the son of God and will one day return

Verse: You will see Jesus....coming in the clouds of heaven. Matthew 26:64

Craft: Cotton ball craft

Circle Time:

Have you ever been accused of something you did not do? Maybe it was something that was spilled or starting a fight with a sibling? Maybe a friend accused you of something that was not true? How did it make you feel?

Story:

We are going to read about people who accused Jesus of lying.

After Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, he was brought before an assembly of judges, known as the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was afraid of Jesus. They were afraid that the Jews would start to follow Jesus instead of them. They wanted to look for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.

They questioned a number of men who had been given money to lie about Jesus, but none could produce any convincing evidence. Eventually, two came forward who swore they had heard Jesus say he could perform a miracle that only God could perform - destroying and rebuilding the temple in three days.

“What do you say to this? Are you the Son of God?” they asked.

Jesus said, “Yes, I am tan din the future I will be sitting at the right hand of God and will return on the clouds of heaven.”

Jesus was then brought before the Roman governor, Pilate. There the chief priests again accused him and questioned him. Jesus let them make accusations and did not defend himself. He knew it was God’s plan for him to die.

Pilate could not find any fault with Jesus. Pilate was allowed to let go one prisoner. He let the crowd decide. They were now shouting “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” They were even offered the choice of whether to free a criminal name Barabbas or to free Jesus. They chose to have Barabbas freed and have Jesus crucified.

You and I have to make a choice. One day Jesus will return on a cloud. He will return for his children. We can choose to follow Jesus and make him the King and Lord of our life, or we can choose to forsake him like the people who cried, “Crucify Him! He is not our king!” Will we be found faithful?

Prayer:

Jesus, Blessed Jesus, today we choose to make you King and Lord of our life. Help us to be strong, and to follow you, even when all others have forsaken you. Amen.

WBS Lesson 23
Matthew 27:27-56

Story:

Last week we learned that Jesus was arrested and put on trial before the religious leaders. The leaders of the Temple hated Jesus. They did not believe that He was the Son of God, and they were jealous because all the people listened to Him. So they made up lies about Jesus. They held a trial in the middle of the night where they said that Jesus deserved to die. Only the Romans had the power to execute someone. So they decided to take Jesus to the Roman governor, Pilate.

It was very early in the morning when the religious leaders took Jesus to Pilate. Pilate asked Jesus a question, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answered, "Yes that is right." Then the leaders accused Jesus of many other untrue things. Jesus remained quiet. When Pilate heard everything, he asked Jesus, "They are saying all these things about you. Why don't you answer?" Pilate was very surprised because Jesus did not try to defend Himself.

It was Passover time in Jerusalem, and the governor would give people a chance to pick one prisoner to be released to them. The religious leaders went into the crowd and told them to say, "Barabbas!" So Pilate released Barabbas to them. Then he asked the crowd, "What, then do you want me to do with Jesus?" The crowd yelled, "Crucify Him!" Pilate asked, "Why? What has He done wrong?" But the crowd did not change their mind. They yelled even louder for Jesus to be crucified. Pilate wanted to please the people, so He turned Jesus over to the soldiers.

The soldiers took Jesus away and beat Him with a whip. After they beat Him, they put a purple robe on Him. They made a crown of thorns to put on His head. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said as they made fun of Him.

The soldiers made Jesus carry the big cross to the place where they would kill Him. Jesus was weak from the beatings and he could not carry the cross very far. They nailed Jesus to the cross. The soldiers put a sign above his head that read "KING OF THE JEWS". Jesus continued to suffer, growing weaker and weaker. He cried out to God. Soon after that, Jesus died. At that moment, the curtain of the Temple was split down the middle. One of the soldiers standing at the cross said, "He really was the Son of God!" A man named Joseph of Arimathea went to Pilate and asked to take Jesus' body to a tomb that he owned. So he wrapped Jesus' body in linen cloth and place it in the tomb carved out of rock. He then rolled a large stone in front of the tomb.

We know that this is not the end of the story. Jesus did not stay dead. Three days after He died, Jesus came out of the tomb, alive! We will celebrate and learn more about this next week.

WBS Lesson 24
Matthew 28
Go and Tell Others

The Point:

Learn that Jesus rose from the dead after three days in the tomb
Learn that Jesus appeared to several people, including the disciples
Learn that ALL of Jesus' followers have the job of telling others about Him

Verse:

So go and make followers of all people in the world. Matthew 28:19

Songs:

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Savior,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

*Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foe.
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever, with His saints to reign.*

He arose! He arose!

Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Savior;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

Death cannot keep its Prey, Jesus my Savior;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain

Craft: Stain glass craft

Circle Time:

Last week, we learned about how Jesus died on the cross. It was a very painful time for Him. But it was all part of God's plan to save us and give us eternal life. Today we are going to read about Christ's resurrection and about how God wants us to spread the good news. (If you have a different version from a children's bible that you would like to use, I would recommend using whatever children's translation you feel comfortable with.)

Story:

After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. ⁴The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to

me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 2Oand teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Discussion:

Did you know there are people all around us who do not know Jesus loves them? It seems hard to imagine, but it is true. That is why Jesus gave us the command to go and tell others about Him. It takes all of us to reach this world for Christ. We are all in different places and see different people every day. So wherever we go, we need to remember to take the love of Jesus with us—and share it!

Why do you think the Scripture says that people who share the Good News have beautiful feet? We use our feet to go places. Jesus told us to go and tell others about Him. So even our feet can be useful for God! Let’s take our feet and go share Jesus with someone this week. Think of someone that needs to know about Jesus’ love and forgiveness.

NOTES

The following website is useful for children's versions of the Bible text as well as for craft resources and coloring pages:

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/>