



52 Lesson Plans for Students with Cognitive Disabilities

A year's worth of lessons about God, Jesus, people of faith (Old Testament characters) and the church. The material can be used with children or adults.



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Christian Horizons
25 Sportsworld Crossing Road
Kitchener, ON N2P 0A5
Phone: (866) 362-6810
Email: ministry@christian-horizons.org
Website: www.christian-horizons.org

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©CCFH Ministries, 2005
PO Box 9869
Knoxville, Tennessee 37940
(865) 546-5921 phone
(865) 525-2282 fax
info@ccfh.org
www.ccfh.org

Teacher's Guide for Using the Lessons

This material is structured to help teachers prepare their own lessons. They are basic ideas that can be adapted to meet the individual needs of students.

As teachers, you should know your student's needs and you may adjust the material to be more specific. It can be customized in accordance with the student's age and learning level.

Even though some students may not be able to read, the Bible should always be visible in the learning environment. It is important to stress that the Bible is the source of the material being taught.

The *emphasis verses* written in this publication are from the New Century Version (NCV) of the Bible. The NCV puts the scriptures in easy to understand language. The emphasis verses are not meant to be memory verses. It is most significant that students understand the concepts addressed in the lessons.

Know your students, if you see that any activity listed may be a source of antagonism, revise your plans. For example one lesson suggests using a blindfold and others speak of direct contact (lead by the hand). It will be necessary to adjust these activities if your student responds negatively.

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Lesson 1

God Created Everything

Objectives:

Students will learn that God created us all.

Materials:

Cards with pictures of the days of creation
A large mirror or several smaller mirrors
Paper
Crayons

Scripture:

Genesis Chapter 1

Lesson:

Tell the story of creation using the picture cards for each individual day. God created the light and darkness (day and night), the sky, the dry lands and the seas; the plants and the trees, the sun, moon, and stars; the seasons, days, and years, sea creatures and birds; land animals, and people. Emphasize the special place that people hold in God's creation.

Emphasis Verse:

"Know that the Lord is God. He made us, and we belong to Him. We are His people, the sheep He tends." (Psalm 100:3)

Application:

God made each one of us. He loves us and he gave each one of us a soul so that we could love him back. He has made each one of us special. God created each person specially and individually. He has a plan for each of us.

Activity:

Have students look into a mirror and then draw a picture of themselves. Underneath it, either the teacher or student can write: God Created Me – He Thinks I'm Special!

Lesson 2

God Cares About Me

Objectives:

Students will discover God's caring love.

Materials:

Sand
Cold Water
Paper
Crayons

Scripture:

Genesis 21:14-19

Lesson:

Tell the story of Hagar and Ishmael in the desert wilderness. Hagar was running away with her son, Ishmael. They were in the hot, dry desert and they were alone. They had run out of water and food. Hagar had given up hope, but she did not want her son to die. She cried and God heard her. He showed her the way to water and food. God loved Hagar and Ishmael. He loves you too.

Emphasis Verse:

"The Lord gives strength to those who are tired. He gives more power to those who are weak. (Isaiah 40:29)

Application:

God knows all of our needs. God knows what we need before we ever ask. He likes to hear us ask for His help when we pray. Even when we give up on ourselves, God wants to help us. Discuss the implications of this story in their lives.

Activity:

Talk about how hot and thirsty a person gets in the desert. Show the students pictures of the desert. Bring in some sand and let them feel how dry it is. Then let them put their hands in some cool, clear water. Talk about how hot, tired, and thirsty Hagar and Ishmael were but, God heard their prayers and gave them what they needed.

Lesson 3

God is My Heavenly Father

Objectives:

Students will learn that we are all children of God.

Materials:

Paper
Crayons
Dry Erase Board
Dry erase Marker

Scripture:

Romans 8:15-17

Lesson:

Talk about God adopting us as His own children. God becomes our Father who lives in heaven. When we decide to believe in God and do what He says, we become a part of His family. He wants us to call Him "Father". All the other people who believe in God become our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Emphasis Verse:

"The spirit that we received is not a spirit that makes us slaves again to fear. The Spirit that we have makes us children of God. And with that Spirit we say, 'Father, dear father'." (Romans 8:15)

Activity:

Have the students draw on one side of paper a picture of their own family. On the other side have the draw a picture of themselves with God, our heavenly father.

Lesson 4

God Protects Me

Objectives:

Students will discover God's protecting love.

Materials:

Pictures of lions
Paper
Crayons
Pencils

Scripture:

Daniel 6:3-23

Lesson:

Tell the story of Daniel and the lion's den. Daniel believed in God. He worshipped only God. When the king tried to make Daniel bow down and worship him, Daniel would not do it. So the king's men threw Daniel into a place where the lions lived. They even put a big rock over the opening of the lion's den to be sure that Daniel could not get out. But God protected Daniel, and He didn't let the lions hurt him. The next day the king came to the lion's den to see if God protected Daniel during the night. When he saw that Daniel was safe and sound, he wanted to tell everyone what a great God Daniel's God was.

Emphasis Verse:

"The Lord will guard you from all dangers. He will guard your life." (Psalm 121:7)

Application:

God wants to protect His children when we are faithful to Him. Everyone who believes in God is His child, no matter how old or young that person is. When we believe in God and don't let other people change our minds, God knows that we love Him and He will protect us. We can tell other people about how God protects us just like the king did in the story. For our God "will guard you from all dangers."

Activity:

Bring in pictures you have found of lions from magazines or books. Show how big and fierce they can look. Let the students draw a picture of a lion on one side of the paper. On the other side ask them to write as if they were Daniel in the lion's den. How would they feel? What would the cave look like? What would they pray to God?

Lesson 5

God Leads Me

Objectives:

Students will learn that God can lead us through hard times.

Materials:

Blindfold

Scripture:

Exodus 13:17-22

Lesson:

Tell the story of God leading Moses and Israelites through the Red Sea wilderness. The Bible tells us about a man named Moses who was taking some people out of slavery. The people had to travel across the desert. Moses was not afraid that they would get lost because he knew that God would lead them. God chose to lead the people by a pillar of fire at night and a cloud during the daytime. The cloud and pillar were never out of the people's sight. Moses and the Israelites knew that God was with them.

Emphasis Verse:

"All the Lord's ways are loving and true for those who follow the demands of His agreement." (Psalms 25:10)

Application:

The Bible says that God will lead us too when we trust Him, like Moses trusted Him. He helps us to know what to do. When we read the Bible, we find the answers to our questions. God doesn't want us to be afraid, he wants to lead us and He is always near.

Activity:

Blindfold each student one at a time. Have the teacher lead them around the classroom. Take them around obstacles in the classroom. Talk about trust and faith that they must have in the person who is leading them. Tell them to apply this trust to God. After the student has been led by the teacher, have the student do it alone. Talk about how they felt about being led versus doing it on their own.

Lesson 6

God Listens to Me

Objectives:

Students will learn that God listens to us when we talk to Him.

Materials:

Plain paper or pre-drawn ears
Crayons
Contact paper
Scissors

Scripture:

Acts 16:22-26

Lesson:

Tell the story of Paul in prison. The Bible tells us about a man named Paul who was thrown in jail because he believed in God's Son, Jesus. The people were angry with Paul and his friend Silas. They beat Paul and Silas with sticks. The man in charge of the jail tied up their feet and threw them into a dark place. The prison did not make Paul or Silas afraid. Instead of giving in to fear and crying, they prayed to God and sang songs to Him. They sang so loudly that everyone in the prison heard them.

Suddenly the earth began to shake. The ground moved under their feet, and the bars of the prison began to rattle. Suddenly the doors to the jail opened. God had heard the prayers of Paul and Silas and He set them free.

Emphasis Verse:

"They will call to me, and I will answer them. I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honour them." (Psalms 91:15)

Application:

Even when we feel that no one is listening to us, when we feel all alone, God listens and He cares. Paul and Silas were down in a deep dark jail and were locked up and tied up. They were not free to move where they wanted or do what they wanted. But they never got discouraged. They prayed to God, they sang, and God listened. The Bible also tells us that when we pray, He listens.

Activity:

Have the students talk about times when God has listened to them. Either give them a pre-drawn picture of an ear or a blank piece of paper. Have them colour it in and then cut it out. Then with the contact paper, laminate it. Have them put it in their Bible or someplace special as a reminder. When they look at it they can know that God is there, and His ear is always listening.

Lesson 7

God is Love

Objectives:

Students will learn about the depth of God's love.
Students will learn that He wants us to love one another.

Materials:

Pink and Red paper
Lace doilies
Glitter
Markers
Glue

Scripture:

John 3:16-17

Lesson:

Tell how God sent Jesus to us because He loves us. God shows His love for us in many ways, but the most beautiful was in sending Jesus to us. God expects us to love one another, as He loves us. He says in the Bible that it is impossible to say that we love God, and then say that we hate someone else. "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

Emphasis Verse:

"Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (I John 4:8)

Application:

God wants us to not only say we love others, but to show we love others. Discuss with the students ways that they can show their love to people around them. They can say nice things, help their parents around the house, send cards, etc.

Activity:

Using the materials available, have the students make Valentine cards to God or to friends and family. Have them write inside some where "God is Love".

Lesson 8

God is Powerful

Objectives:

Students will learn about God's mighty strength.

Materials:

2 large sheets of blue paper (each about 5 feet in total length)

Pictures of different sea creatures

Crayons

Scissors

Glue

Scripture:

Exodus 14:1-29

Lesson:

Tell the story of Moses and the Israelites crossing the Red Sea. When Moses was leading the people out of Egypt, he believed that God would help him. All of the people were excited to be free, but wanted to quickly get away before the Pharaoh changed his mind. They came to a sea of water, and became afraid that Pharaoh would recapture them. They thought that it would be impossible to get across. But Moses believed that God would help, that there was nothing that God could not do. Moses held his walking stick out over the water, and God opened up a pathway through the middle of the sea. The water was pushed back and the Israelites walked safely on dry land to the other side of the sea. There is nothing that can stop the power of God.

Emphasis Verse:

"Oh, Lord God, you made the skies and the earth. You made them with your very great power. There is nothing too wonderful for you to do." (Jeremiah 32:17)

Application:

God is powerful. When He saw that His people needed help, He used his great power to help them. But what came before God's help? Moses' faith in the power of God. Moses didn't become afraid when he saw the water in front of them. Moses believed that God was more powerful than the sea. He believed that God had the power to help them, and called upon God for help. God wants to help us with our problems.

Activity:

Have students decorate the pictures of the fish and sea creatures. Take the two large pieces of blue paper and make it look like a sea, cut it to look like waves. Have the students glue their sea animals and fish onto the pieces of paper. Then have several students hold the paper while the others walk through like the Israelites did. Students can even hold the pieces of paper together and move apart when "Moses" splits the sea.

Lesson 9

God is Everywhere

Objectives:

Students will learn that God is always near.

Materials:

Coloured paper
Markers

Scripture:

Psalms 139:6-12

Lesson:

Explain that God is everywhere. The Bible tells us that God is all around us. David was a servant of God, and happy because He knew that God was always with him. He knew that God was always with him because He loved him. God always watches over us, especially when He knows that we are going through hard times and we need Him.

Emphasis Verse:

"I am a God who is near,' says the Lord, 'I am also a God who is far away.'" (Jeremiah 23:23)

Application:

Discuss with the students the different places that they think God may be. He is not just in church, or near when we pray, or with us when we are happy. God goes with us wherever we go. He is with us when we go to school and when we go to work. God is near us when we are being tempted to do something wrong, and when we are feeling sad and lonely. He loves us very much, and wants us to remember that He is always nearby.

Activity:

Write God is here on various pieces of coloured paper. Hide those papers all around the room, and if possible, in other parts of the church before the lesson starts. Tell students that they must go and look for where God is. After all the papers have been found, ask them some of the places where God was. How do they feel knowing that God is everywhere and always with them? What does it mean to them?

Lesson 10

God Knows Everything

Objectives:

Students will learn that God knows our thoughts as well as our actions.

Materials:

Paper
Pencils

Scripture:

Matthew 26:69-75

Lesson:

We have learned that God is everywhere. We have learned that He can see what we are doing. But He also knows what is in our hearts, and what we are thinking. Jesus knew that Peter would deny Him, because He could see into Peter's heart and see his fear. God knows us so well because He made us. He knows what we are thinking and doing even before we think it and do it. But we can also talk to God much easier because He knows us so well. When we talk to God, we can think our prayers and our thanks. We can say "I love you" in our mind at any time and God will hear it. Good thoughts and good deeds make God happy with us.

Emphasis Verse:

"Lord, even before I say a word, you already know what I am going to say." (Psalms 139:4)

Application:

Discuss with the students thoughts that make God sad- angry thoughts, mean thoughts, jealous thoughts. Then talk about the good thoughts- happiness, thankfulness, peace. Be sure to give examples for some.

Activity:

Ask the class what good thoughts they could send to God. Make prompts for them to write out their thoughts. For example, "I am happy when...", "I am thankful for..." etc. After everyone has written down a few things, let them share some of the special thoughts that they share with God.

Lesson 11

God Lives in Me

Objectives:

Students will discover that God dwells in each of us.

Scripture:

II Corinthians 6:16

Lesson:

The Bible tells us about Paul and how he wrote letters to different places and people who believed in God. In one letter, Paul writes about how we should take care of our bodies because God is living there. Paul says that we are the home of the living God. It is wonderful to think that God loves us so much that He would want to live inside of us. We should always take care of our bodies, because we need to take care of the place that God lives.

Emphasis Verse:

"The temple of God cannot have any agreement with idols. And we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live with them and walk with them. And I will be their God. And they will be my people." (II Corinthians 6:16)

Application:

Our bodies and minds are God's home. We need to take every good care of ourselves because we belong to God. We should put only good thoughts into our minds, and healthy things into our bodies. And we should do things to help keep our bodies healthy.

Activity:

Discuss with the students different ways to take care of their bodies. What kinds of food should we eat? What daily activities will keep our bodies healthy? Talk about daily living skills like brushing hair, brushing teeth, wearing the right clothes for the right weather, exercise, etc.

Lesson 12

God Has Feelings

Objectives:

Students will learn that what they can do can make God happy, sad, or angry.

Materials:

Masks or paper with different emotion and feelings

Scripture:

Genesis 6:5-6

Exodus 34:14

Deuteronomy 29:23

John 3:16

Lesson:

God has feelings. He loves us and cares about what we do. When we do what He wants, He is happy. When we do what is wrong, He gets sad. When we care about other things more than we do Him, He gets angry. The reason that He feels all sorts of emotions is because He loves us so much. Talk about the different emotions of God from the Scriptures above.

Emphasis Verse:

"Give all your worries to Him, because He cares for you."

(I Peter 5:7)

Application:

The students need to realize that what they do affects God. Discuss what we can do to make God happy. Have them think about what they do that makes God happy or sad. Remind them that God is showing them how much He cares for them by His emotions.

Activity:

Give the students a face with a feeling or emotion on it. Have them act out what they look like and feel like at times when they share that emotion. Follow it with a discussion of things that make them feel those different emotions.

Lesson 13

God Helps Me Know What is Right

Objectives:

Students will learn how to discover God's will in their lives.

Materials:

Cardboard "tablets"
Photocopies of the 10 Commandments
Scissors
Glue
Markers

Scripture:

Exodus 20:1-17
John 13:34-35

Lesson:

Tell the story of the 10 Commandments, and then talk about the greatest commandment. God does not just tell us to be good, He has given us rules to live by. He doesn't want us to worship anyone else or anything else except Him. He wants us to use His name only when we are talking to Him. He tells us to remember His special day, Sunday. He wants us to respect our mothers and fathers, no matter what age we are. We must not kill or steal. He wants us to be truthful with everyone we meet, and never to lie. God wants us to be happy with what we have and not jealous when someone else has something we do not have. These are the important laws, but Jesus gave us the most important law. He tells us to love God and to love one another.

Emphasis Verse:

"I give you a new commandment: Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you." (John 13:34)

Application:

Discuss with the class how God has let us know what is right and wrong. Talk about how we act towards those that we love. When we care about other people's feelings as much as we care about our own, we will make God happy. We should feel good when we are doing what is right.

Activity:

Cut two "tablets" out of cardboard for each student. Have a list of the 10 commandments typed on sheets of paper. Give a list to each student and have them cut them out into individual commands. Then have them paste the commands on the tablets. On the back of each tablet print the words: Love One Another.

Section Two

Lesson 1

A Baby Named Jesus

Objectives:

Students will learn that Jesus was a baby in need of love and care.

Scripture:

Luke 2:3-24

Lesson:

Tell the story of the birth of baby Jesus. There was a man named Joseph and he had a pregnant wife named Mary. They had to take a long trip back to Joseph's hometown, Bethlehem. The city was very crowded and there was no room for them to sleep in any of the inns. They found an innkeeper who said he could put them in his barn. That was the night that the baby Jesus was born. He slept in a manger, a place where the animals were fed. Even though He was God's Son, He was still just a tiny baby who needed someone to take care of Him.

Emphasis Verse:

"She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed." (Luke 2:7)

Application:

Emphasize the complete dependency of the baby. Help the students to understand the need for love Jesus must have felt as a baby.

Activity:

Ask the students if they have ever been around a baby? Do they have baby sisters or brothers? Have a woman from your church with a younger baby come into the classroom. Let the students ask her questions about the baby. What does she do when he cries? What do you feed the baby? How do you help them fall asleep?

Lesson 2

Gifts for Baby Jesus

Objectives:

Students will discover the joy of giving their love.

Materials:

Paints
Paper

Scripture:

Matthew 2:1-12

Lesson:

Tell the story of the wise men. The wise men had studied the stars and came to Jerusalem to find the baby Jesus. They asked people where they could find Him, because they wanted to worship Him. King Herod heard this and became very jealous because he wanted everyone to worship him. He decided to trick the wise men. He told them that Jesus was in Bethlehem and asked that when they found the baby, tell him because he wanted to worship the baby too. So the wise men traveled to Bethlehem to find Jesus. They had brought Him beautiful gifts of gold, perfume, and spices and they worshipped Him. That night God came to them in a dream and told them to go home another way, because King Herod wanted to kill the baby. So the wise men obeyed God and went home by another route.

Emphasis Verse:

"They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:11)

Application:

Emphasize the point that the wise men brought gifts of love to baby Jesus. They brought whatever they treasured and valued to share with Him.

Activity:

Talk about what each student would give to the baby Jesus. What would be something they could give that would mean a lot? Then have them paint a picture of the object that they treasure. Have them write To: Jesus on it. Let them discuss why it means so much and why they would want Jesus to have it.

Lesson 3

Where is Jesus?

Objectives:

Students will realize the importance of obedience to God.

Scripture:

Luke 2:41-52

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus in the temple. When Jesus was twelve years old, he and His family went to Jerusalem for a religious holiday. After it was over, Mary and Joseph started back home. After a whole day had passed, they realized that Jesus wasn't with them. They looked for Him for three days and they finally found Him in the temple. He was talking with the teachers, and everyone was surprised by how much He knew. His parents scolded Him for not telling them where He was, and for worrying them. He said, "Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I would be in my Father's house?" Jesus obeyed His parents and went home.

Emphasis Verse:

"Jesus went with them to Nazareth and obeyed them. His mother was still thinking about all that had happened." (Luke 2:51)

Application:

Emphasize the fact that Jesus obeyed His parents. He loved them and He wanted them to be happy and not have to worry. We can show our love to God and to our parents by obeying them. Also point out that Jesus was in the house of God. So that even though Mary and Joseph thought He was lost, He was with His Father.

Activity:

Have the students discuss whether they have ever been lost before. How did their parents react when they were found? Were they angry that you disobeyed them and wandered off? Were they scared because they thought you were gone? How did they feel while they were lost?

Lesson 4

Jesus is Baptized

Objectives:

Students will learn that Jesus obeyed God even after He was grown.

Scripture:

Matthew 3:13-17

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus' baptism. John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin and he was at the Jordan River. Jesus went to him and asked to be baptized. John tried to say no because he did not think that he was good enough to baptize Jesus. But Jesus said, "Let it be done now. We should do what is right." So John agreed to baptize Jesus, and when He came up out of the water the heaven opened up. The Holy Spirit came down and rested on Jesus like a dove. Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him."

Emphasis Verse:

"And a voice spoke from heaven. The voice said, 'This is my Son and I love Him. I am very pleased with Him.'" (Matthew 3:17)

Application:

Emphasize the fact that even after Jesus was grown, he still obeyed His Father. He wanted to please God, and to make God happy. God was so pleased with Jesus that His voice came down for everyone to hear. We should want to please God too. We can make God happy with us by obeying our parents and Him.

Activity:

Discuss why did Jesus get baptized? Because God commands it. Did He need to get baptized? No, but He wanted to show God His obedience as a man on this earth. Was God pleased with what Jesus did? Why should we get baptized?

Lesson 5

The Devil Tempts Jesus

Objectives:

Students will discover that Jesus was tempted to do wrong things just like we are.

Materials:

Finger Paints
Paper

Scripture:

Matthew 4:1-11

Lesson:

Talk about the three temptations that the devil put before Jesus. Jesus was in the desert. He went without food for forty days and forty nights, and He was very hungry. The devil told Him to turn the rocks into bread. But Jesus said it would take more than bread to keep a man alive. Then the devil told Jesus to jump off a high building and let the angels save Him. But Jesus told the devil it was wrong to test God. Then the devil said if Jesus would worship him, that he would Give Jesus all the nations of the world. But Jesus answered that He could only worship God. The devil finally gave up and went away. Then the angels came down to take care of Jesus.

Emphasis Verse:

"Jesus said to the devil, 'Go away from me, Satan! It is written in the Scriptures, 'You must worship the Lord your God. Serve only Him!'" (Matthew 4:10)

Application:

Jesus was tempted just as we are everyday, because He was a human just like us. But He never gave in to the temptations because He had faith in God. We can love Jesus that much more now because we know that He understands how we feel, because He went through temptations just like we do.

Activity:

Using finger paints, have all the students express how they think the devil looks and how they feel about him. As they create, discuss with them how the devil tries to get us to do things that we should not do.

Lesson 6

Jesus Teaches Me That I am Important

Objectives:

Students will discover the unique and important place that each person has in God's world.

Scripture:

Matthew 5:13-16

Lesson:

Tell how Jesus taught that we are the light of the world. Jesus went up on the mountain one day and many people followed Him there. He began to teach them and told them that we are like candles. A person does not light a candle and put it under a basket, he puts it on a table so that everyone can see it. Jesus tells us to let our light shine in front of everyone, so that they can see the good things that we do and give praise to our Father in heaven.

Emphasis Verse:

"In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do. Live so that they will praise your Father in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Application:

Discuss the important role that we each play in our families, group of friends, or at work. Talk about the different kinds of "light" people show. Some examples are smiles, good deeds, kind words, hugs, etc.

Activity:

Have the students dramatize different situations in which they could let their light shine for someone else.

1. Mother is running late with dinner and the table isn't set.
2. A friend is very sad and needs someone to talk to.
3. The newspaper boy didn't throw the paper on the porch and it has started to rain.
4. An older person can not see whether the traffic light is red or green.

You can make up other scenarios or have the students come up with examples.

Lesson 7

Jesus Listen to Me

Objectives:

Students will learn that they always have someone to talk to, someone who cares.

Materials:

A goody bag for each child with things they need like a snack, a toothbrush, socks, etc., anything that a person could use on a daily basis.

Scripture:

Luke 11:5-13

Lesson:

Tell the picture story that Jesus told about prayer. Jesus said to His followers, "Suppose one of you went to your friends' house at midnight and said to him, 'A friend of mine has come into town to visit me. But I have nothing for him to eat. Please loan me three loaves of bread.' Your friend inside the house answers, 'Don't bother me! My door is already locked. My children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up and give you the bread now...' But he will surely get up to give you what you need if you continue to ask." (***Luke 11:5-8***)

Emphasis Verse:

"Yes, everyone who continues asking will receive. He who continues searching will find. And he who continues knocking will have the door opened for him." (Matthew 7:8)

Application:

Jesus listens to us and through Him we talk to God. Jesus listens when we talk to Him. He expects us to help one another by listening and caring for them. He expects us to show our love by giving them things that need.

Activity:

Ask the students to think about the things that they need. Do they ask God when they need something? Does he listen? How do your family and friends help you and show that they are listening?

Gather a bunch of things that a person could use on a daily basis and make a little "survival bag" for each student. Have the students stand outside of the classroom door and knock on it one at a time. When the door is opened allow the student to take what is sitting inside the doorway. Have students write a thank you note to Jesus.

Lesson 8

Jesus Loves Me

Objectives:

Students will learn how Jesus feels about us as people.

Scripture:

Mark 10:13-16

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus giving thanks for all of the little children. Parents brought their children to Jesus, and wanted Him to touch them. But the disciples, Jesus' followers, scolded them and told them that Jesus was too busy for the children. When Jesus heard them say this He became angry. He wanted the little children to come to Him, because the kingdom of God belongs to the people with hearts as pure as the children's. He said, "You must accept the kingdom of God as a little child accepts things, or you will never enter it." Jesus took the children into His arms and put His hands on them. He blessed them because He wanted good things to come to them.

Emphasis Verse:

"....Let the little children come to me. Don't stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people who are like these little children." (Mark 10:14)

Application:

Emphasize the tenderness of Jesus' love for the children. Jesus accepts us even though we are not perfect. Talk about some ways we can show our love for Jesus.

Activity:

This is a good story to dramatize. Have the teacher play the character of Jesus. Then divide the students into three groups: the disciples, the parents, and the children. Encourage students to show tenderness (teacher), anger (disciples), anxiety (parents), and joy (children). After they act it out, tell them what is special about each of them and what you love about them.

Lesson 9

Jesus Teaches Me I Can Change**Objectives:**

Students will learn that even though we have done wrong, we can always turn to Jesus and He will help us make changes within ourselves.

Scripture:

Luke 19:1-10

Lesson:

Tell the story of Zaccheus. Jesus was passing through the city of Jericho, and in that city was a rich man whose name was Zaccheus. Zaccheus was rich because he took money from other people. When he heard that Jesus was coming through Jericho, he wanted to see him. But Zaccheus was a short man and he could not see over the heads of the people. So he climbed up into a sycamore tree. When Jesus walked by He saw Zaccheus and said, "Zaccheus, come down. I'm going to your house today." So Zaccheus took Jesus to his house and after talking with Jesus told him he was going to give one-half of his money to the poor. And that anyone he had cheated, he would give them even more back than what he had stolen. Jesus was happy and pleased that Zaccheus wanted to change the faults that he had.

Emphasis Verse:

***"The Son of Man came to find the lost people and save them."
(Luke 19:10)***

Application:

Jesus wants us to follow Him and turn away from bad ways. He tells us that it is never too late to change ourselves for the better. We should be thankful that Jesus is so kind and understanding.

Activity:

Sing the song "Zaccheus Was a Wee Little Man" several times.

Zaccheus was a wee little man,
A wee little man was he;
He climbed up in a Sycamore tree
For the Lord he wanted to see;
And as the Saviour passed that way
He looked up in the tree,
And he said: "Zaccheus, you come down!
For I'm coming to your house today!
For I'm coming to your house today!"

Then have the students act out the story. The characters are Jesus, Zaccheus, and the crowd. Emphasize the changes that Zaccheus made in his life. Make a list of those changes. What are some changes we can make in our lives?

Lesson 10

Jesus Died for Me

Objectives:

Students will learn that Jesus died to take away our sins.

Materials:

Paper
Markers

Scripture:

John 19:17-42

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus' death. Jesus was told that He would have to die. He carried His cross to a hill, and soldiers nailed Him to the cross. They put a sign over His head that said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Jesus knew that he was dying. He said He was thirsty and they gave Him sour juice to drink. He would not take it. He looked up toward heaven and said, "It is finished." He put His head down and died. A man came to take His body away, and put Him in a tomb. They wrapped His body in cloths and then rolled a stone in front of the tomb. After three days, Jesus came alive again. He rose from the dead!

Emphasis Verse:

"There they nailed Jesus to the cross. They also put two other men on crosses, one on each side of Jesus with Jesus in the middle." (John 19:18)

Application:

Emphasize the fact that Jesus died for all of us. God loves us so much that he gave us Jesus. Jesus willingly died to save us from our sins.

Activity:

Ask the students to draw a picture of something very important to them, and then a picture of someone very important to them. Would they give up that thing to save that person? Emphasize how God gave up His only Son to save us.

Lesson 11

Jesus Comes Back to Life

Objectives:

Students will discover the miracle of the resurrection.

Materials:

Replica of a large stone
Hand puppets

Scripture:

Mark 16:1-

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus' resurrection. Three days after Jesus died on the cross, some women friends were on the way to His grave. They were bringing spices to put on His body; they came in the early morning at the rising of the sun. As they walked, they began to worry about how they would get into the cave because of the large heavy stone. When they got there they saw that the stone had already been rolled away. They went into the tomb and saw a young man sitting there wearing a long, white robe. They were afraid but the man said, "Do not be afraid. You are looking for Jesus, who was nailed to a cross. He is not here. He has risen." He told them to go tell all of Jesus' followers that Jesus was going to Galilee, and that they would see Him there. The women were scared and ran from the grave. Mary Magdalene went and told Jesus' followers.

Emphasis Verse:

"...You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, the one who was killed on a cross. He has risen from death. He is not here. Look, here is the place they laid Him." (Mark 16:6)

Application:

Emphasize the truth of the resurrection. Jesus came back to life. He is our Saviour. We must be like the women and run and tell others about His miracle of love.

Activity:

Set up a replica of a large stone against one of the walls. Use hand puppets and act out the story.

Lesson 12

Jesus Goes to Heaven

Objectives:

Students will understand what Jesus is doing now.

Materials:

Paints
Paper

Scripture:

Luke 24:50-53

Lesson:

Tell the story of ascension. After Jesus rose from the dead, He stayed with His followers for a short time. He then led them out of the city. He lifted up His hands and prayed. He prayed that good would come to them. While He was praying, he was lifted up into heaven. His followers went back to the city filled with joy. They spent their time in the temple, the house of God, worshipping Jesus and giving thanks to God.

Emphasis Verse:

"While He was blessing them, He was separated from them and carried into heaven."

(Luke 24:51)

Application:

Use the illustration that just as our parents have jobs, or we have jobs, Jesus' job is to love us and guide us. Emphasize that Jesus is back with His father, sitting at the right side of God in heaven. He loves us and we love Him in return. He has given us so much. He even gave His life.

Activity:

Let the members of the class paint what they think heaven looks like. Talk about it being Jesus' home. Nothing they paint will be incorrect. Since heaven will be perfect, it may be represented by anything that makes that person happy.

Lesson 13

What Can I Do For Jesus

Objectives:

Students will discover the joy of living for Jesus.

Materials:

Scraps of paper
Pencils
Basket
Fishing pole (stick with a piece of string on end)
Tape
Duct tape

Scripture:

Matthew 28:16-20

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jesus sending His disciples out. He rose from the dead, and before He went to heaven, Jesus met with His followers on a mountain. When they saw Him, they worshipped Him. Jesus told them to go all over the world and tell people about Him. He told them to baptize people and teach them. Then Jesus said that He would be with them until the world came to an end.

Emphasis Verse:

"So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach them to obey everything that I have told you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Application:

Emphasize that Jesus is always with us. We are never alone. Then tell how we can show our love for Jesus by letting our light shine for Him to others.

Activity:

Sing the song "Fishers of Men". Then play the game "Fishers of Men". Divide the class in half. The first half writes their name on pieces of paper and puts them in the basket. The second half will use the pole (with a piece of duct tape stuck to the tip) and "fish" out a name. For the rest of the day they will be Jesus' helper for that person. Then have them switch positions.

Section Three

Lesson 1

Abraham and Sarah

Objectives:

Students will learn about having complete trust and faith in God.

Materials:

Situation Pictures

Scripture:

Genesis 21:1-7

Lesson:

Tell the story of Abraham and Sarah's trust in God. God told Abraham and his wife, Sarah, to move away from their home and go to a land far away. Abraham and Sarah were both old people, and they did not even know where God wanted them to go. But they obeyed God anyway. God promised He would give them a son. They believed God even though they thought they were too old to have children. After many years, God gave them a son. Abraham and Sarah were very happy. They called their son "Isaac."

Emphasis Verse:

"Abraham believed the Lord. And the Lord accepted Abram's faith, and that faith made him right with God" (Genesis 15:6).

Application:

Help the students see how much faith it took for Abraham and Sarah to leave their home and follow God. Even though their minds told them that what God said was impossible, their hearts believed His promise. Through their acts of faith, the wonderful plan of salvation for all men could unfold.

Activity:

Take pictures (either from a Bible book or self illustrated). Have children look at a picture of God's command and then choose between two response pictures; One of faith and one not trusting God. Have them show they understand what having trust is. Ask them about a situation they are going through - or give them a scenario and have them tell you how you would respond in faith.

Lesson 2

Rebekah

Objectives:

Students will see an example of working cheerfully and following God's leading.

Materials:

Picture of boy or girl
Crayons

Scripture:

Genesis 24:1-67

Lesson:

Tell the story of Isaac and Rebekah. When Isaac was growing up, Abraham sent a servant back to his homeland to find a woman for Isaac to marry. He wanted to find a woman who believed in God. The servant did not know how to choose. He was afraid he might choose the wrong woman for Isaac, so he asked God to help him. God heard the servant's prayer and showed him which woman would be a good wife for Isaac. Her name was Rebekah. The servant brought Rebekah to Abraham and she married Isaac.

Emphasis Verse:

"Blessed is the Lord, the God of my master Abraham. The Lord has been kind and truthful to him...." (Genesis 24:27).

Application:

Emphasize how important it was to Abraham to find a wife for Isaac who believed in God. When we choose our friends, we should look for good qualities like love for God. Rebekah also had the quality of working cheerfully. Stress the practical aspects of this concept.

Activity:

Give the students a picture of a boy or girl and have them draw things on their friend that illustrate good qualities to have. (Big heart, kind eyes, strength, and laughter).

Lesson 3

Joseph

Objectives:

Students will learn the harmful effects of jealousy.

Students will learn the beauty of forgiveness.

Materials:

Lollipops

Scripture:

Genesis 37:1-36

Lesson:

Tell the story of Joseph. Joseph had eleven brothers. All but one was older than him. But Joseph was his father's favourite and he gave Joseph a coat with many colours. The other brothers were jealous. They took Joseph's coat and sold him as a slave to some people who were going far away to Egypt. Many years later Joseph saw his brothers again. They had come to Egypt to get food, because there was no food in their land. Joseph could have been angry and hurt his brothers, but he didn't. He helped them. He was good to them. He forgave them for what they did to him years before.

Emphasis Verse:

"Then Joseph kissed all his brothers. He cried as he hugged them. After this, his brothers talked to him." (Genesis 45:15).

Application:

Joseph showed he loved God by forgiving his brothers. How can we love God that we love Him? Discuss with the students the concept of jealousy. Ask if they have ever felt jealous. Talk about forgiveness- not only how God forgave us, but how we should forgive others.

Activity:

Have teacher sucking a lollipop and telling the kids how good it is. Selects at random one student and give them a lollipop. Let them suck on it in front of everyone for a bit. Ask the other students how they are feeling. Jealous? Sad? Then give everyone else a lollipop and explain that God is fair and will bless all of His people that are faithful.

Lesson 4

Moses

Objective:

Students will discover that each one of us has something special to offer God.

Materials:

Bush

Scripture:

Exodus 4:1-17

Lesson:

Tell the story of Moses and the burning bush. One day a man named Moses was on a mountain. He saw a bush that was on fire but did not burn up. God spoke to him from the bush. God wanted him to lead some people out of slavery. Moses did not think that he could do this. He did not think he had the ability. But he decided to trust God. He had faith that God would help him. God helped Moses lead the people to the Promised Land.

Emphasis Verse:

***"Now go! I will help you speak. I will tell you what to say."
(Exodus 4:12).***

Application:

Even though Moses did not think he had the talent for leadership, God used his willing heart. Emphasize that God can use each one of us; although we may not think we have any special abilities. Discuss with the students the different ways God can use us.

Activity:

Act out the story. Have a "bush" and the teacher is God. Have each student act as Moses, saying, for example, that they do not think they have a special talent like leading people. Have the teacher tell students about a special talent they have or something special about them.

Lesson 5

Joshua

Objective:

Students will learn that God can help us tear down the “walls” or problems in our lives.

Materials:

Cardboard boxes
Markers

Scripture:

Joshua 6:1-27

Lesson:

Tell the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho. Joshua was a general who led the army of God’s people. God told him to attack the city of Jericho, but this would be difficult, because Jericho had great, high walls built all around it. God told Joshua to march his whole army around the city seven times and to blow their trumpets and shout after the last time. Then the walls would fall down flat, and Joshua and his army could march right in. They did what God told them to do, and it worked! The walls fell down, and their army entered and captured the city just like God told them.

Emphasis Verse:

“Everyone who is a child of God has the power to win against the world” (1 John 5:4).

Application:

When we do what the Lord tells us to do, HE will give us victory. No matter how high the “walls” in our lives may be, God can help us deal with them. Discuss the challenges that we face today. Encourage students to share some of their “walls.” Also talk about some of their victories.

Activity:

Build a wall with cardboard boxes. Write on the “walls” things that you discussed that the students struggle with. Dramatize the story of marching around the walls and blowing the trumpets. Then watch the calls come tumbling down.

Lesson 6

Jonah

Objectives:

Students will see that everyone needs to know God.

Materials:

Paper
Pencils

Scripture:

The book of Jonah

Lesson:

Tell the story of Jonah. God told Jonah to go and preach in the city of Nineveh. Jonah didn't want to, so he got up on a ship going the other way. But God sent a storm, and Jonah was thrown off the ship into the sea. There, he was swallowed by a great fish. He stayed inside the fish underwater for three days. He was afraid and he prayed to God. Then the fish spit him out on dry land, and he was safe. After that, Jonah went and preached at Nineveh the way God had told him to.

Emphasis Verse:

***"....I knew that you are a God who is kind and shows mercy. You don't become angry quickly. You have great love. I knew you would rather forgive than punish them."
(Jonah 4:2).***

Application:

Jonah didn't care whether the people of Nineveh heard about God or not. Talk about how you are being disobedient to God by not sharing Jesus with others. Discuss that when you know God and do not share that with those who do not, you are leaving them out of something special.

Activity:

Have students pick out a person that they want to share God with. Have them write that person a letter and tell them about Jesus OR write how they plan to tell someone about Jesus.

Lesson 7

Hannah

Objectives:

Students will learn the importance of saying “thank you” when God answers our prayers.

Materials:

Paper
Markers
Crayons

Scripture:

1 Samuel 1:1, 20, 26-28

Lesson:

Tell the story of Hannah’s sacrifice of praise. The Bible tells us about a woman named Hannah who wanted to have a baby. She cried to God to give her a child. She had faith that God could help her. When He gave her a baby, she dedicated him (gave him) to serve God. This is the way that she showed her gratitude.

Emphasis Verse:

“Thank the Lord because He is good.” (Psalms 107:1).

Application:

Hannah had faith that God could give her the son for which she prayed. In response to her answered prayer, she dedicated her son to God. Not only should we have faith that God will hear our prayers, but we should also thank Him with joyful hearts.

Activity:

Discuss with the students what they could do to show appreciation to God for His blessings. Tell the students to think of something they can do to show appreciation to God and share with the class: make a card, draw a picture, sing a song, and say a prayer.

Lesson 8

Samuel

Objectives:

Students will learn that we should not judge people by the way they look on the outside, because God sees their hearts.

Materials:

Paper
Hearts
Pencils
Crayons

Scripture:

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Lesson:

Tell the story of Samuel looking for a new king. Hannah's son was named Samuel, and Samuel became a special servant of God. When Samuel grew up, God told him to choose a man to become king over all of God's people. God said, "Go to Jesse's house, and choose the one I tell you to choose." So Samuel did. He saw all of Jesse's sons. They were all tall and good-looking. Samuel would have picked a certain one, but God said no. They had to wait for Jesse's youngest son to come, a boy named David. When David came in, God told Samuel, "He's the one I want." So Samuel picked David.

Emphasis Verse:

"....God does not see the same way people see. People look at the outside of a person, but the Lord looks at the heart."

(1 Samuel 16:7).

Application:

God tells us not to judge a person by the way he looks or how tall he is. God does not make decisions the way we do. "Men judge by the outward appearances, but I look at the man's thoughts and intentions," God says.

Activity:

Read emphasis verse. Have pictures of hearts that the students can colour. Ask them to draw what people would see in their hearts if they could look at them the way God does.

Lesson 9

David

Objective:

Students will learn about the power of faith.

Materials:

Paper for Goliath
Pebbles

Scripture:

1 Samuel Chapter 17

Lesson:

Tell the story of David and Goliath. When David was a few years older, God's people were at war with another country. The other country had a giant, Goliath, on their side fighting for them. Everyone in God's army was afraid to fight the giant. But not David. Even though he was only a boy, he went out to fight Goliath all by himself. He did not even wear armour on his body to protect himself, "God will take care of me", he said. He had only a slingshot, but he took the slingshot and hit the giant in the head with a rock. The giant fell down dead. God had helped David win the battle when everyone else was afraid to fight.

Emphasis Verse:

"Be careful. Continue strong in the faith. Have courage, and be strong." (I Corinthians 16:13)

Application:

David's faith in God enabled him to face great odds. It not only made him brave, it also made him sure. He had no doubts about God's power or God's faithfulness.

Activity:

Have paper on a wall somewhere that can illustrate the size of Goliath. Talk about how strong he was. Have students go out and find a pebble just like David would have used. Remind them that the size of the pebble or rock would make no difference because the power of God in David and in us is what makes us strong.

Lesson 10

Job

Objective:

Students will discover Job's unchanging faith.

Materials:

Newsprint
Pencils, Crayons, Markers
Magazine pictures
Glue

Scripture:

The book of Job

Lesson:

Tell the story of Job. There was once a rich man named Job. One day the devil told God, "Job loves you because you have given him so much." But God said, "No that is not true." God let the devil take away from Job the good things He had given Him. Soon Job lost his house and his money and everything he had. All his children died and Job had nothing. Then Job became very sick. He was very unhappy. He did not know why God let this happen to him. Through it all, he never stopped loving God, no matter what. God was proud of Job, so He made Job well again and gave him anew home, riches, and children.

Emphasis Verse:

"God does great things by His power. No other teacher is like Him" (Job 36:22).

Application:

Emphasize how Job never doubted God-even when it seemed he had lost everything. Even when his wife pushed him to curse God, he still remained faithful. Talk about how Satan works very hard to persuade us to deny God. Then discuss the blessings that Job received when he did not deny God.

Activity:

Make a wall mural from newsprint. Have the students draw Job's blessing: wife, children, cattle, sheep, house, and barns. Add flowers, trees, sun, streams, etc. (If drawing is not appropriate, cut picture from magazines and allow students to paste them on the mural).

Lesson 11

Elijah

Objectives:

Students will learn how important it is to put our trust in the real God.

Materials:

Rocks
Sticks
Water

Scripture:

1 Kings 18:20-39

Lesson:

Tell the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. Elijah was a preacher of God. But when Elijah lived, most people worshipped another god named Baal. Even the king and queen did. Elijah wanted to show them that they should worship only God. He told everyone that only God could send fire from Heaven, and Baal could not. So they had a contest. Everyone went up to the mountain. The people who worshipped Baal asked Baal to send fire. They did everything they could think of to get fire to come down. But nothing happened. Then Elijah asked God to send down fire from Heaven, and the fire came down and burned up everything there on the mountaintop. All the people could see that they should worship only God.

Emphasis Verse:

"When all the people saw this, they fell down to the ground. They cried, 'The Lord is God! The Lord is God!'" (1 Kings 18:39).

Application:

Elijah wanted the people to realize and declare who was the true almighty power, God or the false god Baal. When they did not, he decided to force the people to see which one was the real God. Elijah stood up for what he believed. We must also take a stand for what we believe.

Activity:

Build a small altar with rocks. Put some sticks on top. Ask students to imitate how they think the people reacted when fire came down. Discuss how God's almighty power is in evidence all around us. What are some things people depend on today other than God?

Lesson 12

Hezekiah

Objective:

Students will be challenged to stand up for what they believe.

Scripture:

2 Kings 18:1-7

Lesson:

Tell the story of Hezekiah and the bronze serpent. King Hezekiah believed in God. He wanted all people to worship only God. But they had other things they worshipped. One of these was a bronze rod that Moses carried. The people thought that it was magic. King Hezekiah destroyed the rod. He was not afraid to stand up for what he believed.

Emphasis Verse:

"Hezekiah trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all kings of Judah. There was no king like him, before him or after him." (2 Kings 18:5).

Application:

Moses had not intended for the bronze rod in the shape of a serpent to be worshipped. But people began to worship it instead of God. King Hezekiah was being faithful to God when he destroyed the idol. We must always worship God, not things. We must never be afraid to stand up for what we believe. Talk about being brave. Have the students ever stood up for something that no one else believes in? Why are we afraid to stand up for God?

Activity:

Have students list several ways we can stand up for God and show people He is the real power to worship.

Lesson 13

Esther

Objective:

Students will learn that if they have faith in God, He will lead them.

Materials:

Paper
Pencils

Scripture:

The book of Esther

Lesson:

Tell the story of Queen Esther. God's people were living in another country. The king there did not believe in God, but his wife, Esther, the queen did. God's people worshipped only God and not the false gods of the country. So the kings passed a law that all of God's people would be killed on a certain day. God's people were afraid. They asked Queen Esther to save them. So she prepared a big banquet for the king she asked him to grant whatever she asked. Esther was afraid because this was dangerous. If the king said no, Esther would die. But the king said he would do whatever she wanted. She asked him to let God's people live in peace. Esther was very brave and trusted God to lead her.

Emphasis Verse:

"It was a time of happiness, joy, gladness, and honour for the Jews." (Esther 8:16).

Application:

Esther's people, the Jews, would not bow down to anyone but God, even if it meant their lives being taken. Esther trusted God and was faithful to Him. He showed her a way to solve the problem. God is faithful to those who trust Him. He will show us the way to deal with our problems, too. Discuss what we do when we have problems? Do we ask God for help when we have a problem so big we do not know what to do?

Activity:

Have the students write a story of what they would have done if they had been Esther.

Lesson 1

What is the Church?

Objectives:

This lesson will introduce students to the concept of the "family of God."

Materials:

Family Pictures

Scripture:

John 1:12 -13

Lesson:

What is the church? The church is not a building. It is not just a place where people go on Sundays. The church is the family of God. Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and follows Him belongs to the family of God. The Bible tells us that God sent Jesus to us to save us from our sins. People who believe in Jesus are a family. They are brothers and sisters. They are called Christians. Christians love each other. When we get together, Jesus is always right there with us. Jesus is happy when we want to be a part of His family.

Emphasis Verse:

"Some people did accept him. They believed in him. To them he gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12).

Application:

Discuss the concept of "family" with the members of the class. Remind them how God takes care of us and loves us as a father would. Jesus is our brother. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Relate some different ways family members take care of each other.

Activity:

Have everyone bring in a family photo. Talk about how each member of the class is related to the other members because they are all Christians. Take a class portrait. Have it developed and give students copies next week.

Lesson 2

What is Baptism?

Objectives:

Students will learn what Jesus said about following Him.

Scripture:

Acts 2:38

Lesson:

God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son to us. Jesus came here to save us from our sins. When we believe in Jesus we become part of God's family. God has promised to take us to Heaven someday. If we believe in Jesus, we want to do what He tells us. We want to obey Him. When we decide to follow Jesus, we ask Him to forgive us for all the bad we have done. We tell Him we are sorry for doing those things. In the Bible, Jesus tells us to be baptized. Being baptized means having our sins washed away. We go into the water and Jesus washes all that sins out of our lives. Isn't that wonderful? After we are baptized, we live our lives for Jesus. We always try to do the things that Jesus would want us to do.

Emphasis Verse:

"Peter said to them, 'Change your hearts and live and be baptized, each one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (Acts 2:38)

Application:

Talk to the students about Christian living. When we believe in Jesus and want Him on our lives, we want Him to forgive our sins. We should also try to do the right thing. Jesus can give us strength to turn away from evil. Talk to the students about how Jesus was baptized to show His obedience and to follow His example. Ask the students if any of them have seen a baptism or have been baptized themselves. If they are willing, ask them to share their experiences.

Activity:

Talk about baptism. Answer any questions the students may have. At the next opportunity, have them witness a baptism in the church family.

Lesson 3

What is Communion?

Objectives:

Students will learn the meaning of the Lord's Supper.

Materials:

Bread
Grape juice

Scripture:

Matthew 26:26-29

Lesson:

When Christians gather to praise God and Jesus, we have a special time together. There is a special time to remember what Jesus did for us. It is called Communion or the Lord's Supper. During Communion, Christians think about Jesus dying for our sins. When we drink the juice and eat the bread, we think about Jesus' body on the cross. We think about how He promised to come back again someday. We think about how much He loves us.

Emphasis Verse:

"They spent their time learning the apostles' teaching. And they continued to share, to break bread, and pray together." (Acts 2:42).

Application:

Communion is not a time to be sad. It is a time to be thankful for all Jesus did for us. It is a time for all of us to look into our hearts. What do we see when we look into our hearts? Do we see good, happy things? Jesus helps us change into cheerful, helpful people.

Activity:

Have students take Communion. Walk them through the process and instruct their prayer time. Tell them to thank Jesus for dying on the cross for their sins, their families, friends, etc.

Lesson 4

Who Is The Holy Spirit?

Objectives:

Students will be introduced to the Holy Spirit.

Materials:

Paper
Pictures of fruit
Glue
Markers

Scripture:

John 14:16-17, 26

Lesson:

When Jesus returned to Heaven, He asked God to send us someone to help us. Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, that He may be with you forever." The Holy Spirit is our friend who helps us remember what Jesus has taught us. He will be beside us forever. We can thank God for sending such a wonderful friend. When we are baptized the Holy Spirit enters our life and stays with us forever.

Emphasis Verse:

"But the Helper will teach you everything. He will cause you to remember all the things I have told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name" (John 14:26).

Application:

Talk about what the Holy Spirit brings us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Discuss what each of these words mean.

Activity:

Make a tree on one wall. Have the students pick a "fruit of the Spirit" and write it on a piece of fruit. Have the students hang fruit from the branches to be a class reminder of what the Holy Spirit gives us.

Lesson 5

Becoming a Christian – Help from the Holy Spirit

Objectives:

Students will understand how the Holy Spirit assists in Christian growth.

Materials:

Index cards
Pencils

Scripture:

Galatians 5:22-23

Lesson:

When the Holy Spirit comes into our lives, He helps us become better people. He gives us love and joy. He gives us peace and patience. He gives us self-control. All of these qualities help us become better Christians.

Emphasis Verse:

"We get our new life from the Spirit. So we should follow the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25).

Application:

Discuss each quality. Talk about what each one means and how we can show it in our everyday lives. Ask students to give examples of how they could show love to their families and to the people they work with. Ask them to illustrate one area in which they could practice having patience.

Activity:

Write each quality on an index card and put all of them in a basket. Pass the basket around and allow each student to pick one card. That card will represent the quality he will try to display this week. Ask students to make a commitment to showing love, joy or peace. Write down each student's name and the quality he will practice this week. Next week, ask each person to give a report on what he did the previous week to show this quality in his life.

Lesson 6

Being a Christian – Praising God

Objectives:

Students will learn that God loves to hear our praise.

Materials:

Musical Instruments
Tape player
Worship songs

Scripture:

Psalms 35:28

Lesson:

A man named David loved to play the harp and sing praises to God. Even when he was afraid or worried or tired, he would praise God. David wrote his praises in a book. This book is called Psalms. Jesus praises God, too. We can tell Him how wonderful we think He is.

Emphasis Verse:

"If one of you is having troubles, he should pray. If one of you is happy, he should sing praises." (James 5:13).

Application:

Sometimes when we are happy, we sing. Sometimes we dance with joy. Sometimes we grin and laugh. We know God fills us with joy. We can let God know how happy we are to know of His love, care, and power; He loves to hear us praise Him.

Activity:

Have a bunch of musical instruments available and a tape player. Play worship songs and let them play along to it.

Lesson 7

Being a Christian – Praying

Objectives:

Students will learn the importance of prayer.

Materials:

Tape of "Turn your Eyes upon Jesus"
Prayer Journals

Scripture:

Matthew 7:7-11

Lesson:

Are you ever sad? Do you ever feel lonely? Are there times when your troubles seem to get heavier and heavier? God knew that we would have times when we feel this way. That is why He gave us a special way to find relief, a special way to feel better. The secret is prayer. Prayer is talking to God. Jesus told us that if we ask, it will be given to us. We do not have to feel sad or alone. Christians also pray for each other. If you find out that one of your friends needs something, pray for him. We should all take time to talk to God every day.

Emphasis Verse:

"Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other. Do this so that God can heal you. When a good man prays, great things happen." (James 5:16).

Application:

When we are feeling low, we should turn our eyes to Jesus. When we do this, the troubles will seem much lighter. Give each student a small picture of Jesus to take home with him. Ask the students to look at it whenever they feel sad or upset. Sing Turn your Eyes upon Jesus together.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of His glory and grace*

Activity:

Have the students talk about times when they have been low. Did they talk to God? Did they feel better after doing so? Give the students a prayer journal and tell them that they can keep track of their prayers in it.

Lesson 8

Being a Christian – Serving

Objectives:

Students will find fulfillment in helping others.

Materials:

Chart with class member names listed
Marker

Scripture:

Philippians 2:3-8

Lesson:

How can we show our gratitude for God after all that He has done for us? One way is to serve Him. The Bible tells us that we should model the same attitude we see in Jesus. From the time Jesus first came to the earth, He had the attitude of a servant. He was so dedicated to serving that He was even willing to die. More than likely, we will not be asked to go to that extreme. But we are called to have the same servant-like attitude as Christ displayed. There are many things that we can do for people. The Bible tells us that when we help someone in need it is just as if we are doing it for God Himself.

Emphasis Verse:

***"Serve the Lord with joy. Come before Him with singing."
(Psalms 100:2).***

Application:

Have you ever looked around to see if anyone needed your help? Sometimes helping others is the best way to make ourselves feel better. Serving the Lord with a happy heart is a wonderful Christian trait.

Activity:

Ask students to discuss what they have done recently to help others outside of church. Ask how they are serving or helping others within the church. Assign students a church task or project. Record it on the chart. Follow up and put a check next to their assignment when completed or started, if ongoing.

Lesson 9

Being a Christian – Forgiving Others

Objectives:

Students will learn the importance of forgiveness.

Materials:

Paper
Pencils

Scripture:

Matthew 6:9-15

Lesson:

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that if we want God to forgive our sins, we must forgive those who sin against us. That means that if someone does something wrong to us, we must forgive them. If we hold on to our bad feelings toward them, it gets in the way of your love for God. It makes the Holy Spirit sad when we keep our bitterness and anger. He does not want us to talk about other people in a mean way. The Bible says to be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God as forgiven us.

Emphasis Verse:

"Yes, if you forgive others for the things they do wrong, then your Father in Heaven will also forgive you for the things that you do wrong." (Matthew 6:14).

Application:

Sometimes it is hard to forgive. When someone does something that hurts us or makes us mad, we want to hurt them, too. But Jesus tells us to forgive those who do wrong to us. He wants us to be kind. He tells us to remember that God has forgiven us. We should also to the same for others.

Activity:

Have the students make a list of things that people have done to them that made them sad. Then have them make a list of things that we do that make God sad. Would He forgive us? As they answer yes, mark off the things that make God sad. Ask if we should forgive those who make us sad.

Lesson 10

Being a Christian – Telling Others

Objectives:

Students will learn about the Great Commission

Materials:

Chair for each student
Flashlights
Paper
Crayons
Markers

Scripture:

Acts 2:38

Lesson:

When you believe in God, you have something special. When you believe in Jesus, you have something special. When the Holy Spirit is your guide, you have something special. That something special is hope. You can look forward to Heaven. You can live life fully without being afraid. The Bible tells us to tell others about the hope that they can see in us. But we should not brag about it. We should tell them in gentleness and reverence.

Emphasis Verse:

"....Jesus is the Lord of all people" (Acts 10:36).

Application:

Don't you wish everyone could have the hope of living forever in Heaven? Don't you wish that everyone could know Jesus as you do? How can they find out? You can tell them. Every Christian has the power to tell anyone about God. You can tell your family and friends. You can tell your neighbours and the people that you work with. God wants us to spread the good news. We can sing about it, we can whisper about it, we can shout about it. Jesus is Lord!

Activity:

Turn off the lights to darken the room. Place the chairs in a circle. Give each student a flashlight. Starting with the teacher, turn on the flashlight of the person next to you and whisper, "Jesus is Lord." After all of the flashlights are aglow, point out how much light they make together. Explain how this is similar to us telling others about Jesus. Have each student make a card inviting a friend to church next week.

Lesson 11

Being a Christian – Looking forward to Heaven

Objectives:

Students will learn about Heaven.

Materials:

Index cards
Pencils

Scripture:

Matthew 5:12

Lesson:

“Our homeland is Heaven, and we are waiting for our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from Heaven. He will change our simple bodies and make them like His glorious body. Christ can do this by His power. With that power, He is able to rule all things” (***Philippians 3:20-21***). Isn’t that exciting? Heaven is going to be wonderful. Everyone will be happy. There will be no sadness or pain. And Jesus is going to take our bodies and make them like His body. We will not need wheelchairs or canes anymore. We will not be too fat or too skinny. What joy we will find there!

Emphasis Verse:

***“Rejoice and be glad. You have a great reward waiting for you in Heaven.”.....
(Matthew 5:12).***

Application:

The Bible says that our name is recorded in Heaven. When we believe in Jesus and live the way He wants us to live, our name is written down in the Book of Life in Heaven. We will see all our Christian brothers and sisters there. What a family reunion that will be.

Activity:

Ask the students to talk about what they are looking forward to most about Heaven. Have each student share their thoughts with the rest of the class. Write each student’s thoughts on a card for them. Ask the students to keep their cards in their Bible as a promise from God.

Lesson 12

Being a Christian – A Full Life

Objectives:

Students will learn about abundant life.

Materials:

Paper
Pencils

Scripture:

Philippians 4:4

Lesson:

God wants us to look forward to Heaven. But He does not want us to be miserable here on earth. He has given us many blessings to enjoy. Serving Him gives a person a happy life. Living in this beautiful world is a pleasure. The Bible tells us to rejoice in the Lord always. What He has given us, no thief can take away.

Emphasis Verse:

"Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say it again, be full of joy." (Philippians 4:4).

Application:

Some people are so busy looking toward the future and what might be that they forget to enjoy the present. Each day brings us an opportunity to find pleasure in God's creation. If we are living in obedience to God, we will truly have an abundant life.

Activity:

Sing "Count your Blessings." Help each student make a list of his blessings, one by one. Allow the students to take their lists home as a constant reminder of all the wonderful things that God has given them.

Lesson 13

Being a Christian – Always Learning More

Objectives:

Students will learn the importance of growing in grace and knowledge.

Materials

2 Peter 3:18

Lesson:

When do you know everything about God? When do you stop studying the Bible?

Never! Christians should always study God's word. The Bible tells us that Christians who lived a long time ago did these things. They got together to learn more about Jesus. They met to take communion and they shared their meals with great joy and thankfulness. God wants us to always learn more about Him.

Emphasis Verse:

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Glory be to Him now and forever! Amen." (2 Peter 3:18).

Application:

It is such a privilege to know God and His Son, Jesus. It is a blessing to have the Holy Spirit as our guide and comforter. The more we learn, the more we can enjoy their presence.

Activity:

Buy each student a Bible; write their name on the cover or the presentation page. Make laminated bookmarks with the letters GOD'S WORD on one side and the student's name on the other.