

TEACHER
RESOURCE

UNIT 1

From Creation to Jacob's Ladder

LEVEL ONE

SON SEEKERS

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AGES 4-5



Name:

Learning to serve ...

REBEKAH



Teacher Resource

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visionone inc

ABN 37 430 685 890

10 Old Goombungee Rd

Toowoomba Qld 4350

Australia

Phone: 1300 885 048

Fax: 1300 728 293

Email: info@visionone.org.au

Web: www.visionone.org.au

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Teaching Sonseekers ...

Dear Teacher

Teaching young people about God's Word is a great honour and privilege. We note God chose Abraham, a man of faith because he "would teach his children and his household after him, to know the Way of The Lord" (Gen 18:19)

One who undertakes such a task will understand they have accepted a responsibility to become a witness of God's great love and faithfulness. As an example of Christian faith and integrity they have a wonderful opportunity to share their love for God's Word. The tremendous blessing for those who commit themselves to this task is that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and equip you to shine as a light to your class.

Recent trends away from Sunday School structures towards child minding activities have, we believe, been unfortunate as they fail to recognise the impact and effect the message of God's love through Christ has on young people.

Children are the Church's future. As such they are precious and well worth any investment in quality resources and dedicated teachers.

The 'Sonseekers' curriculum offers children Sunday School material that gives them a sound background in Biblical events, people and places. Secondly it offers a pastoral approach for the children to know God is able to help them and change their lives.

Structurally, any program will operate effectively if those teaching are faithful, zealous and committed to a team approach that might include:

- regular prayer and discussion in relation to curriculum issues, student needs and upcoming events and presentations;
- organisation and management of resources;
- training and development needs of teaching staff.

Teaching Sunday School is a rich and rewarding task. May God bless and guide you as you serve in this way.

Yours in Christ

The Sonseekers Team

A teacher's guide to using the Sonseekers materials . . .

Timeline

4000BC	<i>Creation</i>
	<i>Adam and Eve</i>
	<i>The Fall</i>
2500BC	<i>Noah</i>
	<i>The Flood</i>
	<i>Tower of Babel</i>
2000BC	<i>Abraham</i>
1900BC	<i>Isaac</i>
1800BC	<i>Esau and Jacob</i>
1750BC	<i>Joseph</i>
1360BC	<i>Moses</i>
1280BC	<i>Exodus from Egypt</i>
	<i>and Journeys</i>
	<i>Joshua</i>
1240BC	<i>Entry into and</i>
	<i>Conquest of Land</i>
1220BC	<i>Judges</i>
1100BC	<i>Gideon</i>
1070BC	<i>Samson</i>
1063BC	<i>Samuel</i>
1020BC	<i>Saul as King</i>
980BC	<i>David as King</i>
940BC	<i>Solomon as King</i>
900BC	<i>Kingdom Divided</i>
839BC	<i>Elijah Emerges; Mt Carmel</i>
	<i>Jehoshaphat</i>
814BC	<i>Elisha's Ministry</i>
749BC	<i>Jonah</i>
662BC	<i>Hezekiah; Isaiah</i>
576BC	<i>Josiah</i>
540BC	<i>Daniel taken to Babylon</i>
527BC	<i>Exile into Babylon</i>
457BC	<i>Restoration from Babylon</i>
4BC	<i>Birth of Jesus</i>
26AD	<i>Baptism of Jesus</i>
	<i>Call of Disciples</i>
28AD	<i>Feeding of 5000</i>
	<i>Parables</i>
29AD	<i>Miracles; Transfiguration</i>
30AD	<i>Raising of Lazarus</i>
	<i>Parables</i>
	<i>Palm Sunday</i>
	<i>Jesus' Crucifixion and</i>
	<i>Resurrection</i>
	<i>Day of Pentecost</i>
	<i>Peter's Ministry</i>
33AD	<i>Conversion of Paul</i>
45AD	<i>Paul's Missionary Journeys</i>
60AD	<i>Paul as Prisoner to Rome</i>

What are the Sonseekers materials?

The Sonseekers Sunday School materials are a four year course of 128 Bible lessons. The lessons are written with the twin aims of teaching the students an accurate chronology of Biblical events and also drawing from each lesson pastoral points relevant to the age and stage of each child. They are written at four levels to cover from Prep to 12+ age groups. The 128 lessons are organised into 8 units, each of sixteen lessons. The table below indicates the suitable age group for each level:

Sonseekers Level	Student Age	School Level
Level One	4 - 5	Kindergarten, Prep
Level Two	6 - 7	Lower Primary
Level Three	8 - 10	Middle Primary
Level Four	11 - 12+	Upper Primary

The Sonseekers materials comprise two related elements:

- **Teacher Resource** – including lesson plans & activity masters which can be photocopied;
- **Student Handbooks** – including homework activities.

There is also a Bible timeline showing chronology of major events, with the dates of the current unit's lessons highlighted, included in each Teacher Resource.

What's in my Sonseekers Level One Teacher Resource?

Each Level One Teacher Resource contains sixteen lesson plans for the relevant age of your students. Each lesson plan comprises:

- the key thought or focus for the lesson;
- a suggested way to introduce the lesson;
- a summary of the relevant bible story;
- a memory verse for the lesson, together with a suggested way of teaching that verse;
- an activity which can be used in the lesson;
- a number of extra ideas involving fun, practical activities.

Note: The photocopy masters for each activity are included with the lessons in this Teacher Resource book.

.../cont'd

... teacher's guide ...

How do I best use my Teacher Resource?

The art of serving as an effective Sunday School teacher is linked to the degree of diligence in preparing for each lesson. The Sonseekers materials are only designed to assist the teacher in this process. They do not take away from the teacher his or her responsibility to prayerfully consider the needs of the children in the class and to seek God's revelation and wisdom in presenting each Bible lesson. The following suggestions are then made with regard to using this resource.

Prior to the lesson

- ◆ Prayerfully read the Bible passage for the lesson. The reference is provided in the header on the first page of the lesson plan. All Scripture references are taken from the New King James Version (1983 edition).
- ◆ Read through the lesson plan and decide which activities will be most appropriate for the students in your class. Generally, aim for a variety of activities over a unit.
- ◆ Think about how you will combine the various elements of your lesson. Refer to the suggested teaching approach for ideas if necessary. Link the activity to the story so that the significance of the activity is clear to the students.
- ◆ Prepare all activities thoroughly prior to the lesson. Rehearse any planned activity at home to make sure:
 - that you know how to do it yourself;
 - that you have all the relevant materials in the quantities you will need;
 - that you know the length of time that the children will need for the activity.

During the lesson

- ◆ Review the memory verse from the previous lesson with the children. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- ◆ Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.

Publisher's note:

The publisher wishes to acknowledge the use of clip art from Coreldraw, Clickart, Bible View Clip Art by Pastoral Computer Services and Logos Bible Clips.

The publisher gives permission for artwork masters to be photocopied for the use of the students in the Sonseekers classes. However, no other part of this publication may be produced or transmitted in any form without permission in writing from the publisher.

Creation 1

Genesis 1 & 2

Focus

For the children to understand that God's word is powerful.

Memory Verse

"God created" (Genesis 1:1)

Lesson Introduction

1. Please note that this lesson is an overview of Genesis 1 and 2 - Lesson 2 is more detailed. As this may be the first ever Sunday School lesson for new Prep children, keep each part of the lesson short to allow for short attention spans and nervousness.
2. Show the children two 'pictures' - one of a plain sheet of black paper or cardboard, and the other of a busy nature scene. Discuss with the children what the differences are between the two pictures. Link the pictures to the story to tell how God created from nothing.
3. Use some pictures from the Activity Master Sheet, leaving some to introduce in later lessons.

Story Summary

1. In the beginning was God and nothing else.
2. God spoke and what He spoke happened.
3. He began to create everything, starting with light.
4. God created heaven and earth.
5. He created the trees, sun, moon and stars, fish, birds and animals.
6. He also created man, Adam, in His own image.
7. God made woman, Eve, as Adam's helper.



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Teaching Suggestion

Children sit in a circle. Roll a ball to each child and as you do, repeat the memory verse and encourage the children to say it with you. As each child rolls the ball back to you, say the verse again.

Extra Ideas

1. **Crayon Etching.** Before class, cover each child's sheet of paper with light coloured paints, dry. Cover painted paper with thick coating of black crayon. In class, with a drop sheet or newspaper under, children use empty biro (or similar) to 'draw' by scratching away the black crayon to reveal the light background underneath.
2. **Creation Wheel.** If chosen, the teacher is committed to use this activity in this and the following two lessons. You will need photocopies of the Extra Ideas Activity Sheets, strong cardboard, split-pins, black crayon, glue and glitter. Make a wheel for demonstration in class. Cut out and glue circles onto cardboard, dry. Colour first half of 'day one' black, glitter on the second half. Place incomplete circle on top of days circle and add split-pin to centre. Collect and bring back for additions in the next two lessons.
3. **Black Finger paint.** Recipe: In large saucepan place 1 ½ cups laundry starch, mix in 1 ½ cups cold water, add 5 cups boiling water, cook until clear, stirring constantly. Remove from heat, add 1 cup soap flakes, eg. Lux (not detergent). Use black powder paint or 3 primary colours of food dye to make dark brown to colour finger paint. Care will need to be taken to protect clothes and furniture.
4. **Action Songs.** "Follow the Leader", "Everybody do This", "Punchinello", "This is the Way We ...", or similar song known to the teacher.
5. **Morning Tea.** Chocolate cake iced, half and half, with chocolate and vanilla icing.

Preparation and routine are vital in running a smooth lesson. Take time before you begin to consider the steps you will take in teaching each lesson. As the children become familiar with the routine, it will settle and prepare them for each lesson as they are secure with the format.

Activity - Bleach Painting

This activity really captures the children's attention. It does not matter whether the children can draw, for dots look just as effective as drawings and gives the children a sense of achievement, something so important for their first lesson.

Materials

- 1 Cotton wool bud per child.
- Small containers (eg. small medicine or tablet bottles, a little shorter than the cotton wool buds).
- Dark coloured (preferably black) tissue paper.
- Liquid bleach.
- Large white sheet of paper.
- Damp washers.
- Painting shirts or cover-ups.
- Drop sheet.

Steps

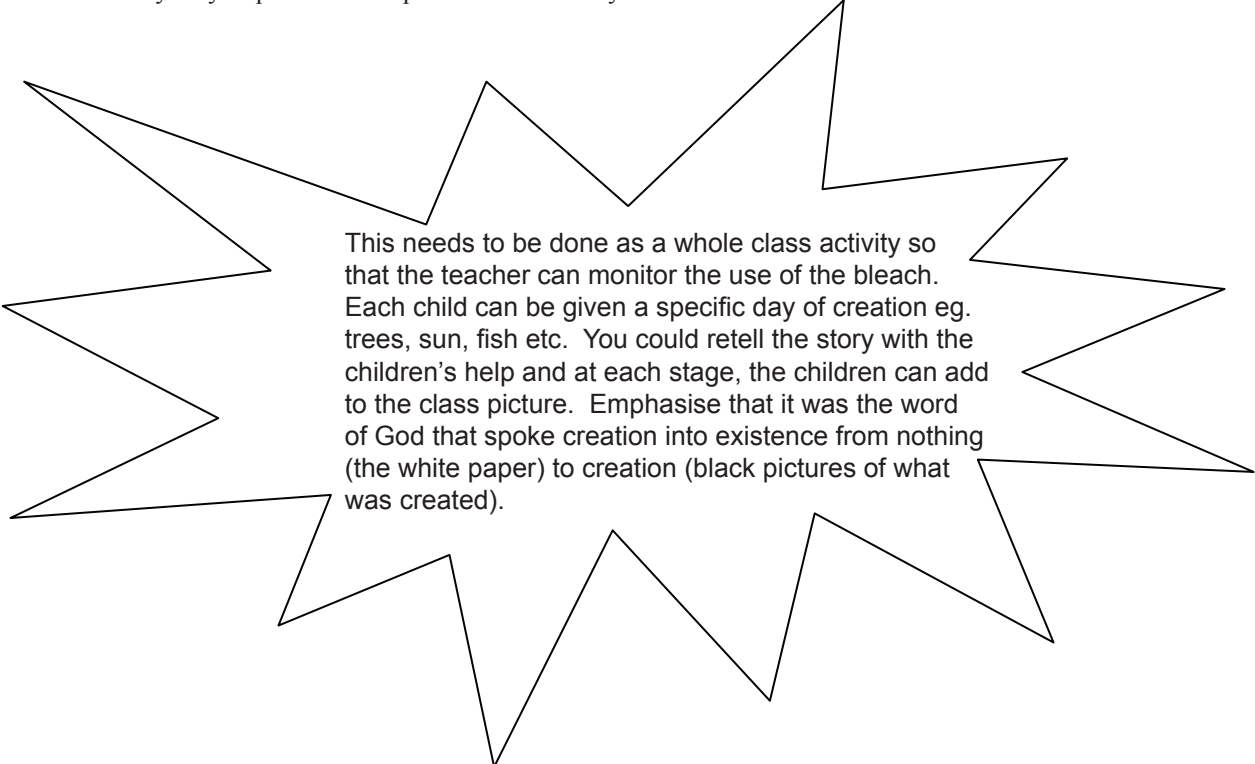
Before Class

- Make a hole in the lid of a small container. Make the hole large enough for the cotton bud to pass through. This makes the bottle non-spill and also removes excess bleach as the bud is taken out of the container.
- Place a small amount of bleach in the container and lay drop sheet over the work area.

In Class

- Give each child a sheet of tissue paper.
- Demonstrate how to carefully remove the cotton bud, wiping the excess bleach back into the lid. Stress the need to avoid contact with the bleach.
- Children dip end of cotton bud into bleach and draw with that onto the tissue paper. The bleach will quickly turn the area that has been 'painted' white. The white paper underneath will make the bleaching more obvious.

NB: This activity may require extra helpers to ensure safety for students.



This needs to be done as a whole class activity so that the teacher can monitor the use of the bleach. Each child can be given a specific day of creation eg. trees, sun, fish etc. You could retell the story with the children's help and at each stage, the children can add to the class picture. Emphasise that it was the word of God that spoke creation into existence from nothing (the white paper) to creation (black pictures of what was created).

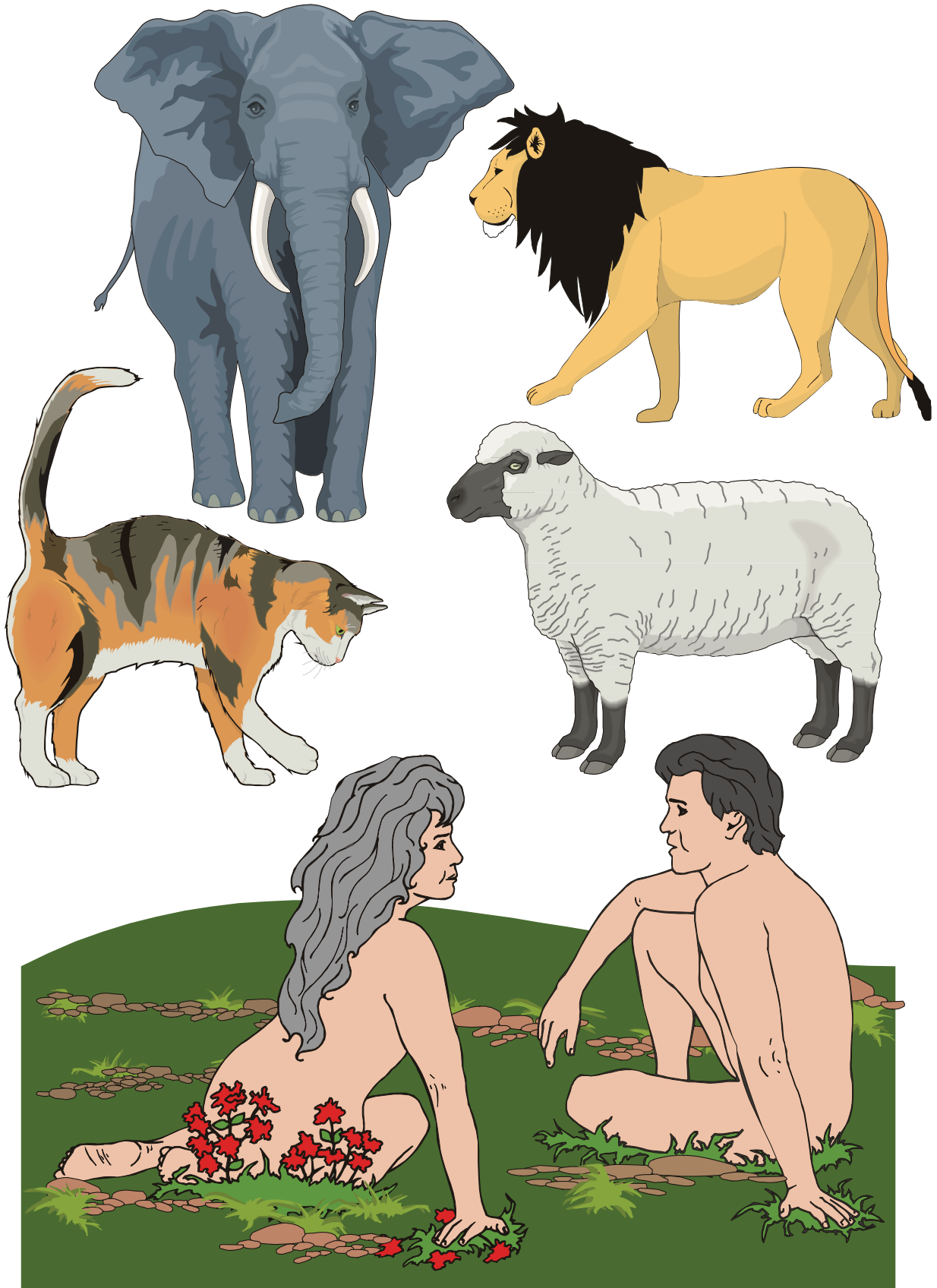
Creation 1

Teaching Aid Sheet



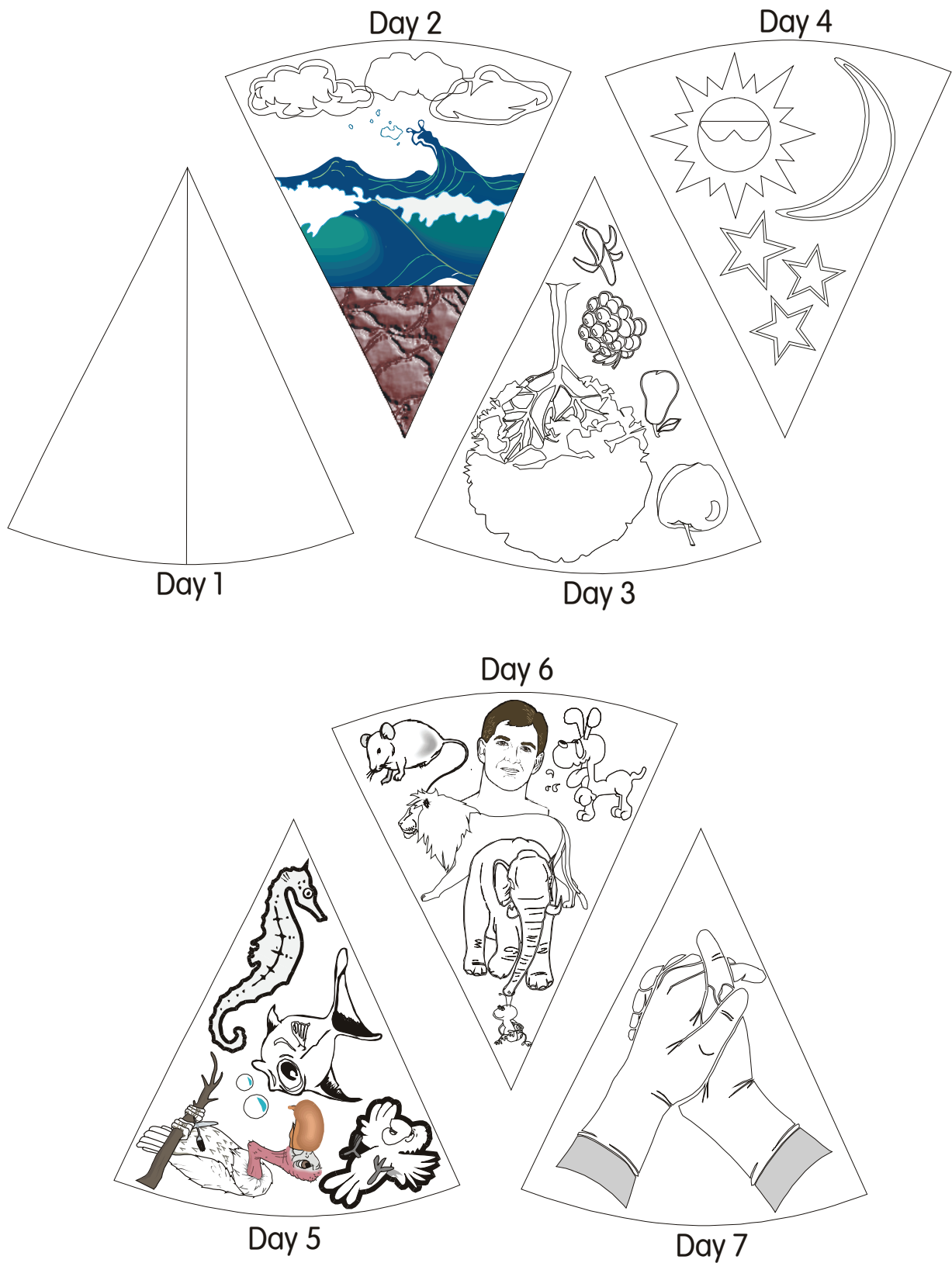
Creation 1

Teaching Aid Sheet



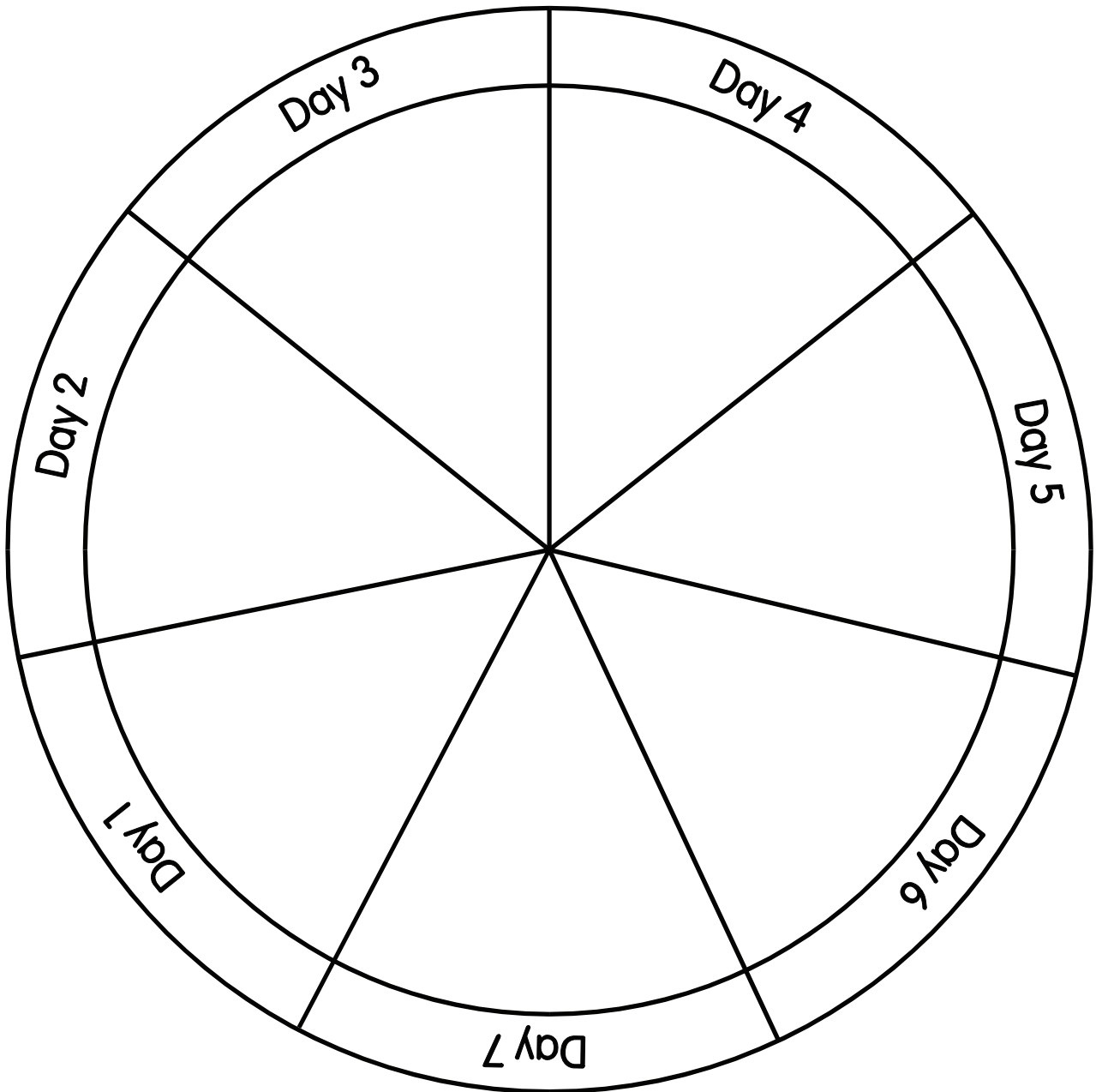
Creation 1

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



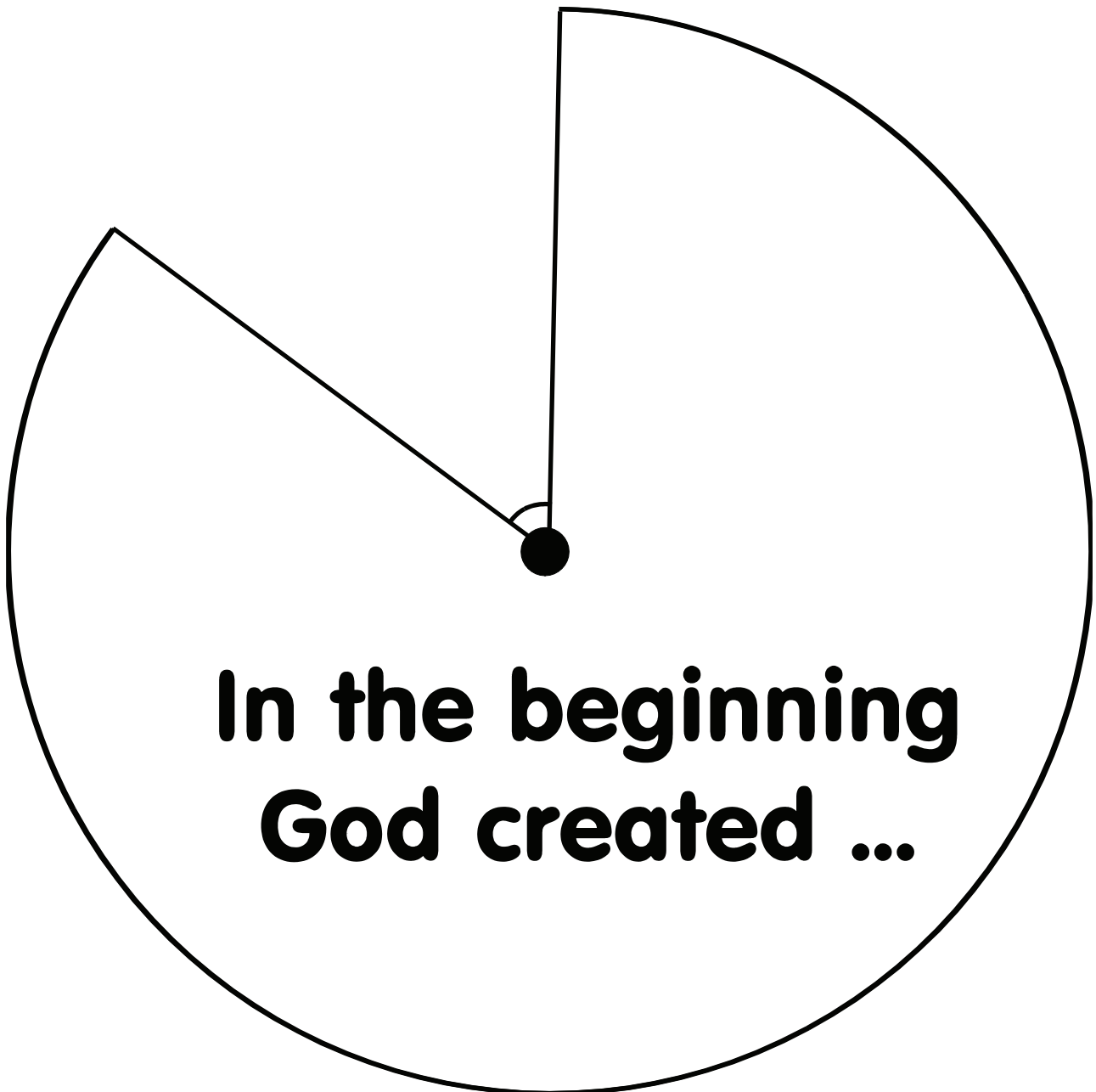
Creation 1

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



Creation 1

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



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Creation 2

Genesis 1& 2

Focus

For the children to understand that God's word is powerful.

Memory Verse

"Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3)

Lesson Introduction

1. Show a demonstration model of the flip-book from the activity, allowing the children to briefly create strange animals (eg. a cat's head with a dolphin's tail could walk on land or breath in water) to demonstrate God's wisdom and order in creation.
2. Use the pictures from the Teaching Aid Sheet from Lesson 1 plus some other visual aids to tell the story. Use a felt-board or blu-tack pictures onto a large sheet of paper with a simple background of sea, earth and sky drawn on it.

Story Summary

1. God started creation with His words, "Let there be light".
2. Day 1 - He created light (day) and darkness (night);
3. Day 2 - heaven;
4. Day 3 - the earth with grass and trees;
5. Day 4 - sun, moon and stars;
6. Day 5 - fish and birds;
7. Day 6 - animals and man;
8. Day 7 - God rested.

Time management of lesson is important. Make sure you give yourself enough time on each activity for it to be done well and tidied up. Some children will always finish first, so it might be useful to have a simple activity for them to go on with eg. colouring in.

Teaching Suggestion

Use either a torch or desk lamp. Let the children take turns to say the verse with you and then let them switch on the light.

Extra Ideas

1. **Creation Wheel.** Continue on from last week by adding pictures from Extra Ideas Activity Sheet to days 2, 3, and 4 on the wheel. Children colour, then paste cut-out pictures in correct day spaces. Remember to collect wheels for additions next week.
2. **Torch Play.** Make a dark cubby house with heavy blanket draped over table. Provide as many torches as possible. Practise memory verse.
3. **Shadow Play.** Use slide projector as source of strong light.
4. **Memory Game.** Children help retell the story using pictures on the background suggested in the Lesson Introduction. Then remove one of the pictures while children close their eyes. Children identify which is missing.
5. **Movement.** Place some pictures of various animals in a bag. Children take turns to select a picture (eg. lion). When teacher instructs, "God said, let there be lions", the class pretend to be that animal.
6. **Where Does it Belong?** Have a sheet of blue cardboard with a wide strip of green paper pasted across centre. Cut a variety of animals to paste on each of the three areas - sky, earth, sea. This can be a group or individual activity.
7. **What's Wrong?** Create absurdities of animals (cut from magazines) of plants, fish, birds and other animals, eg. a fish swimming in the air. The children identify what is wrong and why.
8. **Mobile.** Make a mobile for each or all of the days of creation.
9. **Song.** "God made the Monkeys", or other appropriate song known to the teacher.
10. **Morning Tea.** Use cookie cutters of stars, circles (sun and moon) and different animals, on bread to create shapes for the children to add toppings such as vegemite, peanut paste, hundreds and thousands, nutella, etc.

Activity - Creation Flip Book

Materials

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- Colouring pencils/crayons.
- Scissors.
- Stapler.

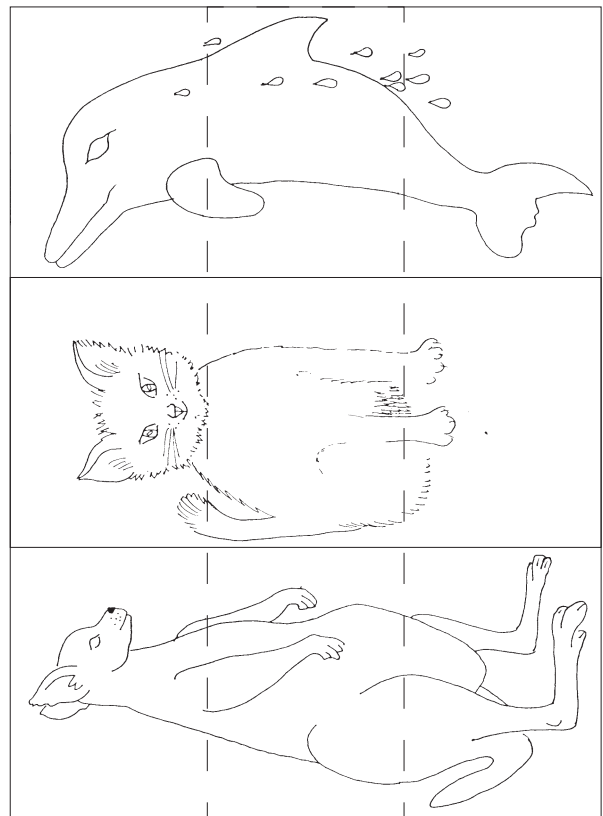
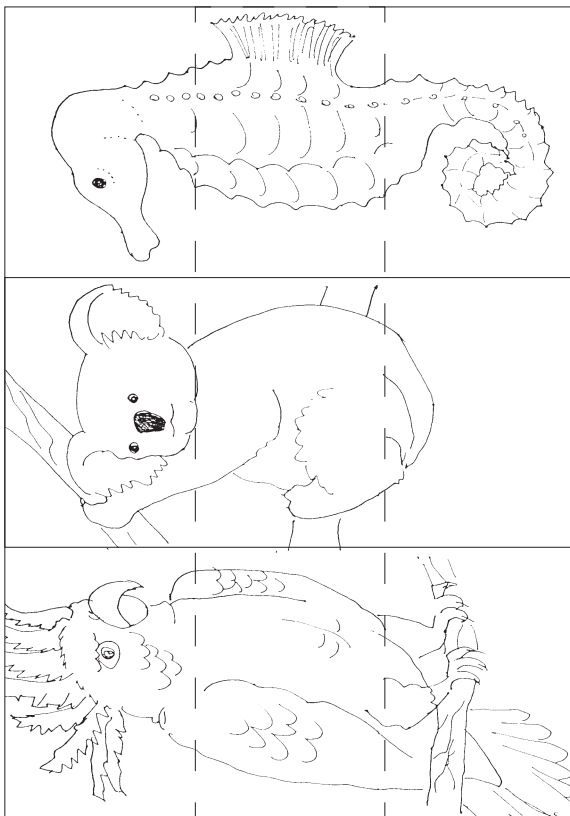
Steps

At Home

- Cut each Activity Sheet into the three rectangles as marked.

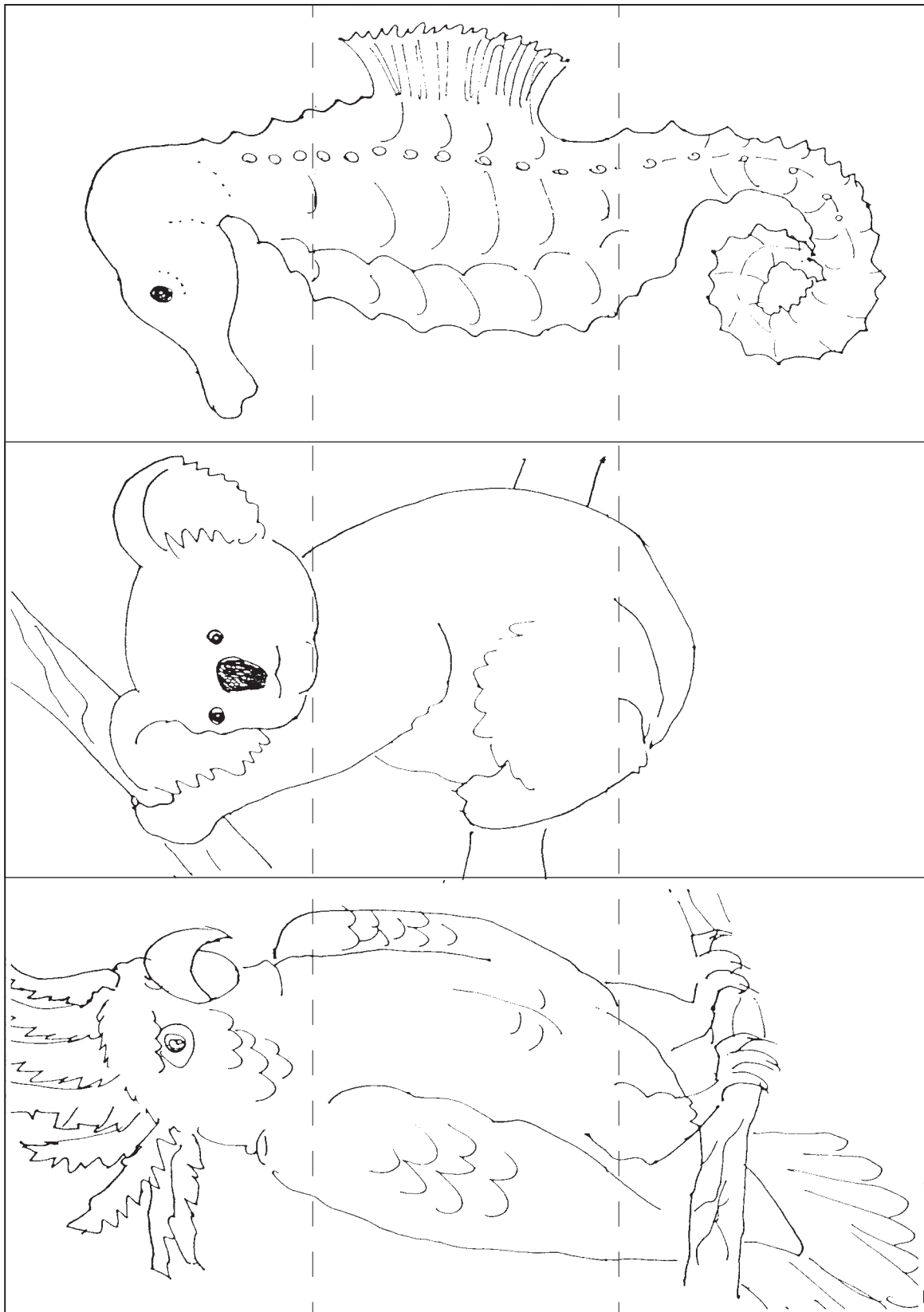
In Class

- Children colour in each animal.
- Teacher assists children to assemble pages into a 'book' and staple together.
- Teacher assists children to cut across dotted lines on each page so that a 'flip-book' is made.



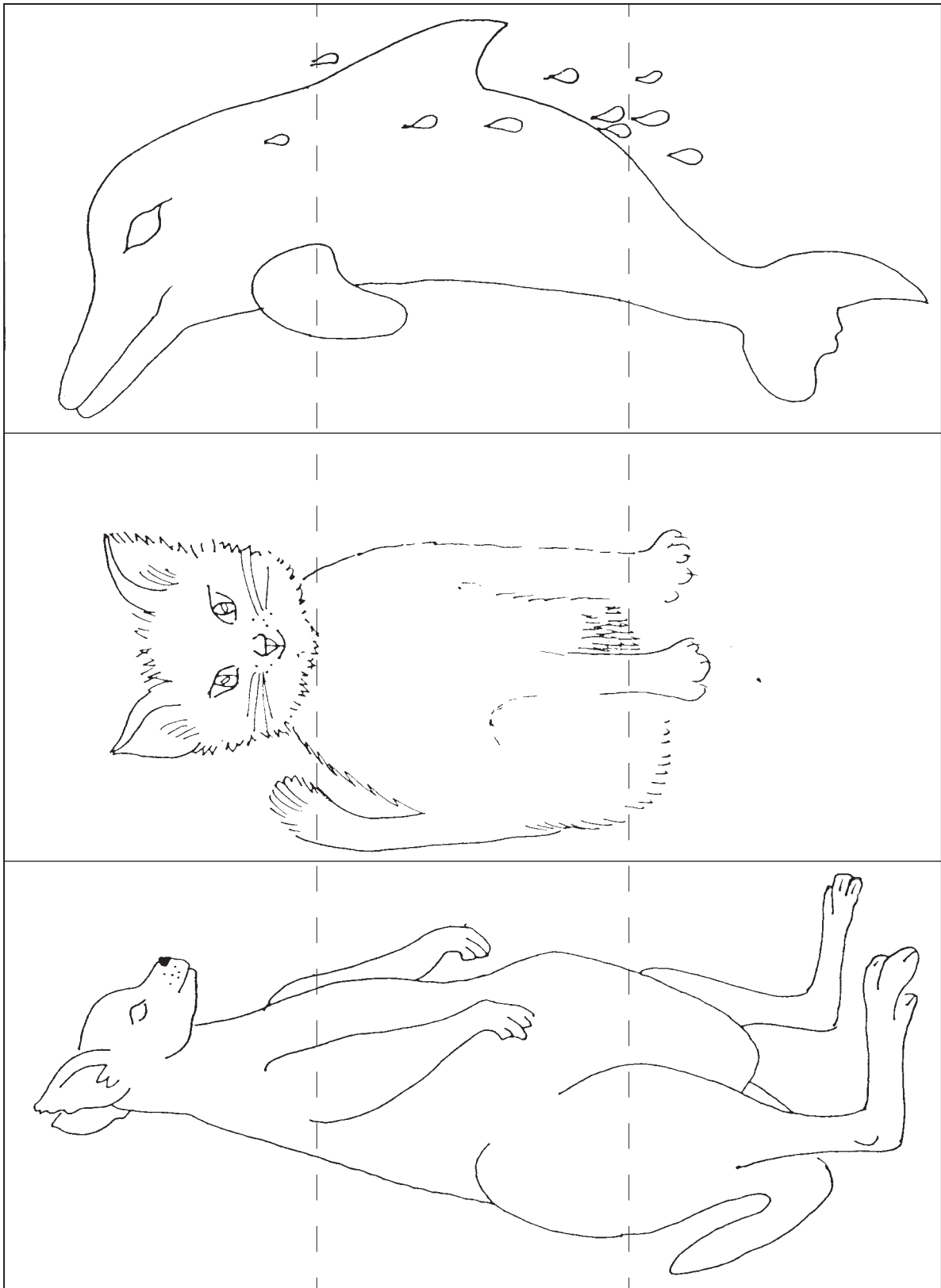
Creation 2

Activity - Creation Flip Book



Creation 2

Activity - Creation Flip Book



Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26 - 2:25

Focus

For the children to understand the beauty of the world God created before it was changed by sin.

Memory Verse

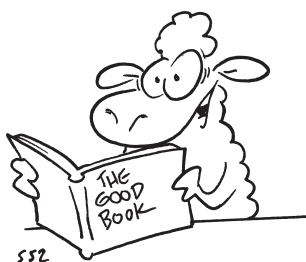
"God created man." (Genesis 1:27).

Lesson Introduction

1. Revise last week's story using the pictures and background.
2. For this lesson, add pictures of Adam and Eve, fruit, and trees from Activity Master Sheet (Lesson 1). Use extra pictures if you like. Blu-tack or paste to cardboard with strip of sandpaper and use with felt-board.
3. Set the scene for the children to notice the beauty of the garden of Eden before sin.

Story Summary

1. God made man, Adam, in His own image.
2. God told man to look after the animals and gave instructions about what to eat.
3. God put man in the Garden of Eden.
4. Adam named all the animals.
5. God told Adam about the two special trees in the garden.
6. It was not good for man to be alone so God made woman, Eve.



Teaching Suggestion

Do some jumping - a big jump for 'God' and smaller jumps for 'created' and 'man'. Keep jumping until the children can remember the verse.

Extra Ideas

1. **Creation Wheel.** Continue on by adding the last pictures of animals and man, plus folded hands to appropriate days. Remember to colour first then paste.
2. **Clay Play.** Use clay rather than playdough as alternative for the activity. If there is plenty of clay, children could also make and 'name' some animals.
3. **Garden Sand Tray.** Use damp sand or soil in deep foil or take-away containers; flowers; small pieces of bushes. Photocopy Adam, Eve and some animals from Lesson 1's Teaching Aid Sheet, back with card and use a toothpick attached to stand in the sand.
4. **Song.** "If I were a Butterfly", or other appropriate song known to the teacher.
5. **Animal Game.** Use animal pictures from Activity Master Sheet plus others. Child selects picture without looking. Picture is shown to the rest of the class who act out the animal. Child guesses which animal was in the picture.
6. **Morning Tea.** Garden of Eden cake. Use a slab cake. Decorate with green icing, 2 small gingerbread people (or other), lollies (spearmint leaves, raspberries, marshmallows cut with scissors), glace cherries, coloured desiccated coconut. Share for morning tea.

The Teacher's enthusiasm for the lessons is important in conveying the excitement and life of God's Word. Enjoy it!

Activity - Playdough Figures

Materials

- Playdough: 1 cup plain flour, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup salt, 1 tablespoon cooking oil, few drops of food colouring, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of water. Mix flour and salt together. Add oil. Add food colouring to water. Add coloured water, a little at a time, to flour mixture. Knead until mixture is smooth and has consistency of scone dough.
- Small objects for facial features, eg. buttons, frozen peas, dried fruit.
- Paper plates on which to take creations home.

Steps

- If time permits, make the playdough in class, pretending the flour is dust.
- Teacher makes figures of man in front of the children, talking about how man was created out of dust.
- Children then make their own playdough figures.

The fall

Genesis 3

Focus

For the children to understand that God wants us to be obedient.

Memory Verse

"Obey God." (Acts 5:29).

Lesson Introduction

1. Use the felt-board pictures from the previous lessons to tell this story, with the addition of a picture of a snake.

Story Summary

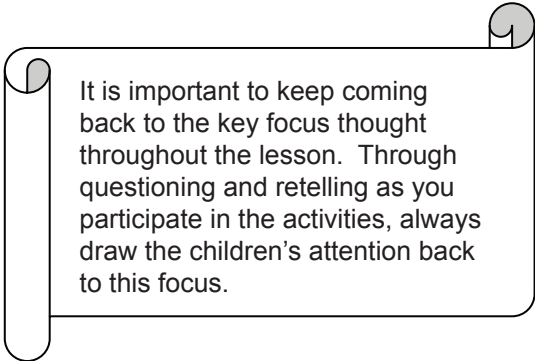
1. The serpent came to trick Eve into disobeying God's instructions.
2. Eve ate of the fruit that God had said not to eat and shared it with Adam.
3. Immediately they knew that they had disobeyed God and were afraid and tried to hide from Him.
4. God discovered their disobedience and they had to leave the beautiful garden forever.

Teaching Suggestion

Sit in a circle with the children. As you say 'obey' slap the tops of your legs to the two syllables, then clap hands once for the word 'God'. Encourage the children to join in and repeat the activity until the children know the verse well.

Extra Ideas

1. **Spiralling Snake.** You will need one copy of the Extra Ideas Activity Sheet per child. Children may decorate the snake with pencils or crayons first, then, with help, cut along the line.
2. **Dad Says.** As obeying parents is also obeying God, play "Simon Says" with a difference. Instead of "Simon says" being the command to listen for and do, try "Dad says" or "Mum says".
3. **Crayon Resist.** Instead of using the cut-outs of Adam and Eve in the Activity, try drawing the figures in the scene with white crayon or candle and allowing the children to paint over to reveal Adam and Eve in the garden.
4. **Long Snake Sock/Stocking Puppets.** Have a sock or stocking per child (attach forked tongue before class), place on non-dominant hand and arm so child can add features and patterns to snake. Felt pen, stickers and wet chalk can be used. Or, stuff sock/stocking with rags or crumpled newspaper and tie end.
5. **Rope Snakes.** Teacher and helper hold ends of rope stretched across classroom. Wiggle rope sideways or up and down, like a snake. Children try to jump over rope.
6. **Morning Tea.** Jelly snake lollies.



It is important to keep coming back to the key focus thought throughout the lesson. Through questioning and retelling as you participate in the activities, always draw the children's attention back to this focus.

Activity - Adam and Eve Hiding

Materials

- 1 of each 2 Activity Sheets per child.
- Scissors.
- Coloured pencils/crayons.
- Glue.
- Document envelopes - 1 per child.

Steps

At Home

- Cut out Adam and Eve.
- Paste front of envelope to lower back of scene.
- Place 1 Adam and 1 Eve in each of the pasted envelopes.

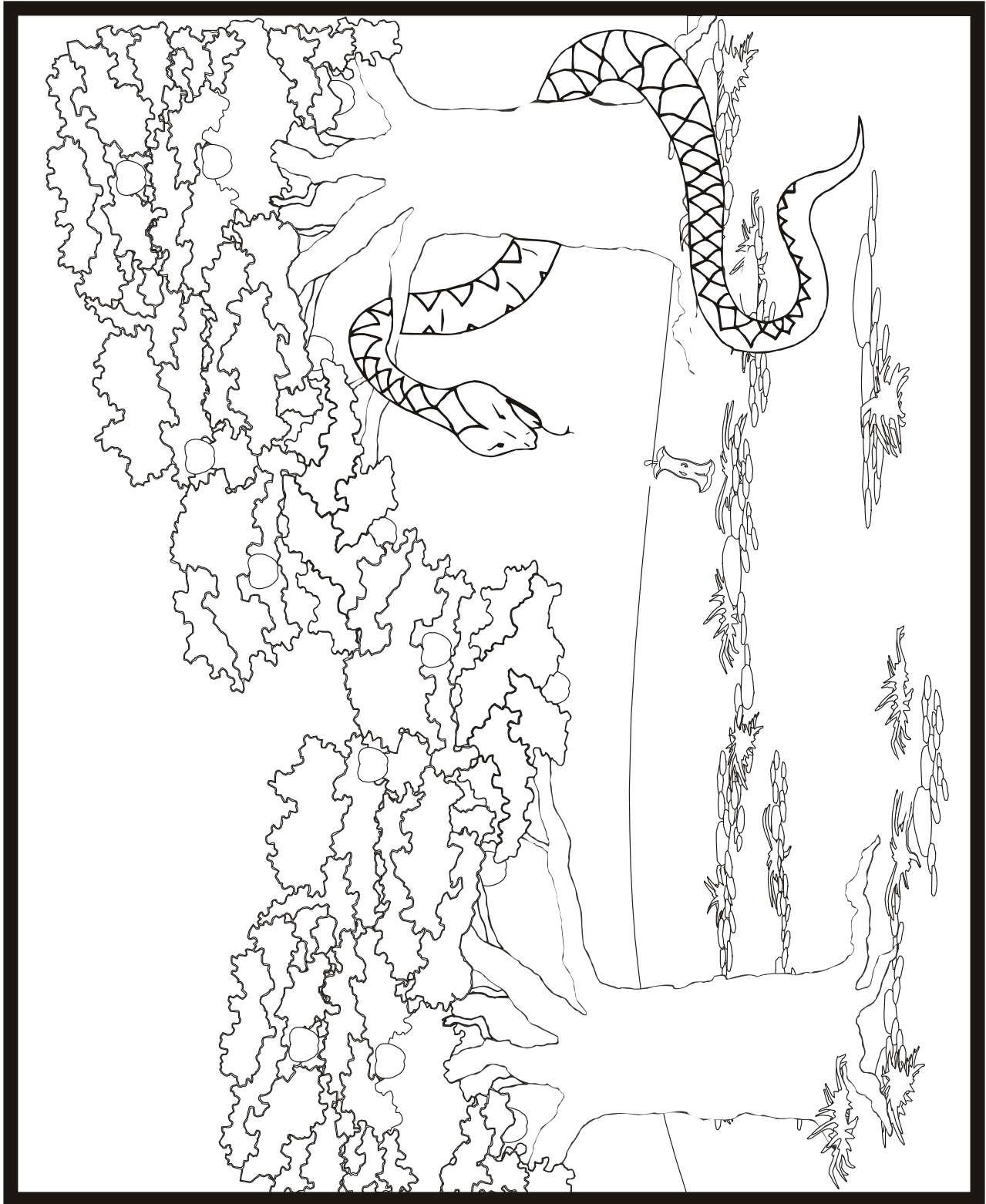
In Class

- Teacher shows one of the scenes and asks where Adam and Eve could be hiding and finally turns scene around to reveal envelope and then Adam and Eve.
- Children's scenes are then distributed.
- Children colour scene and Adam and Eve, and then paste the figures in the scene.



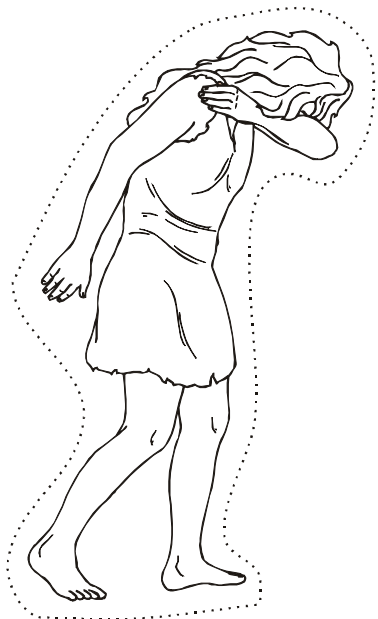
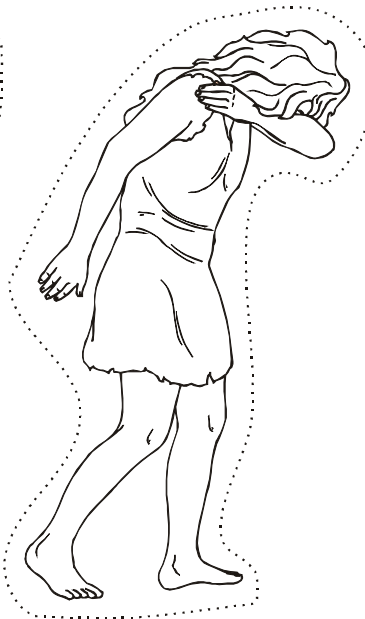
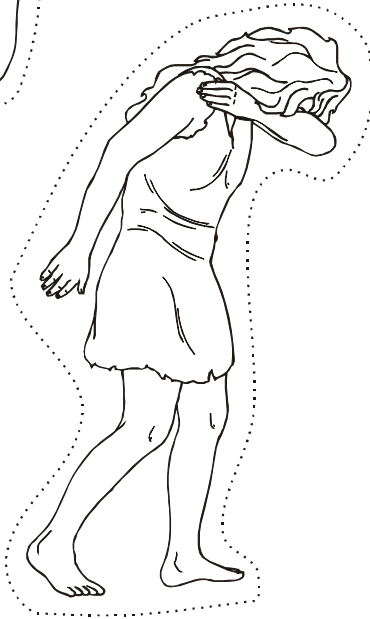
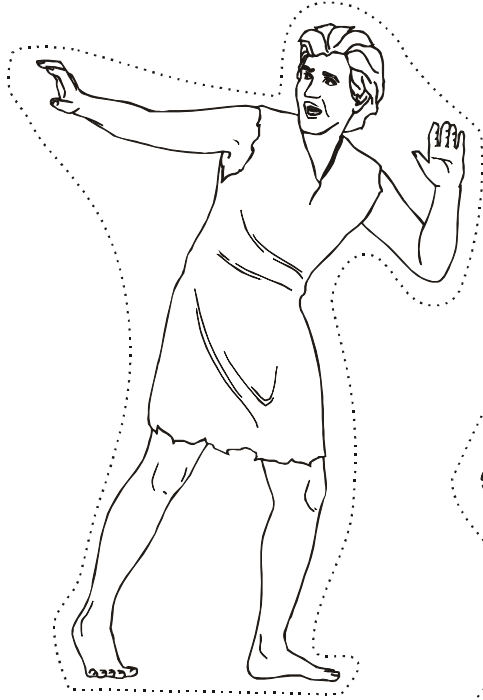
The fall

Activity



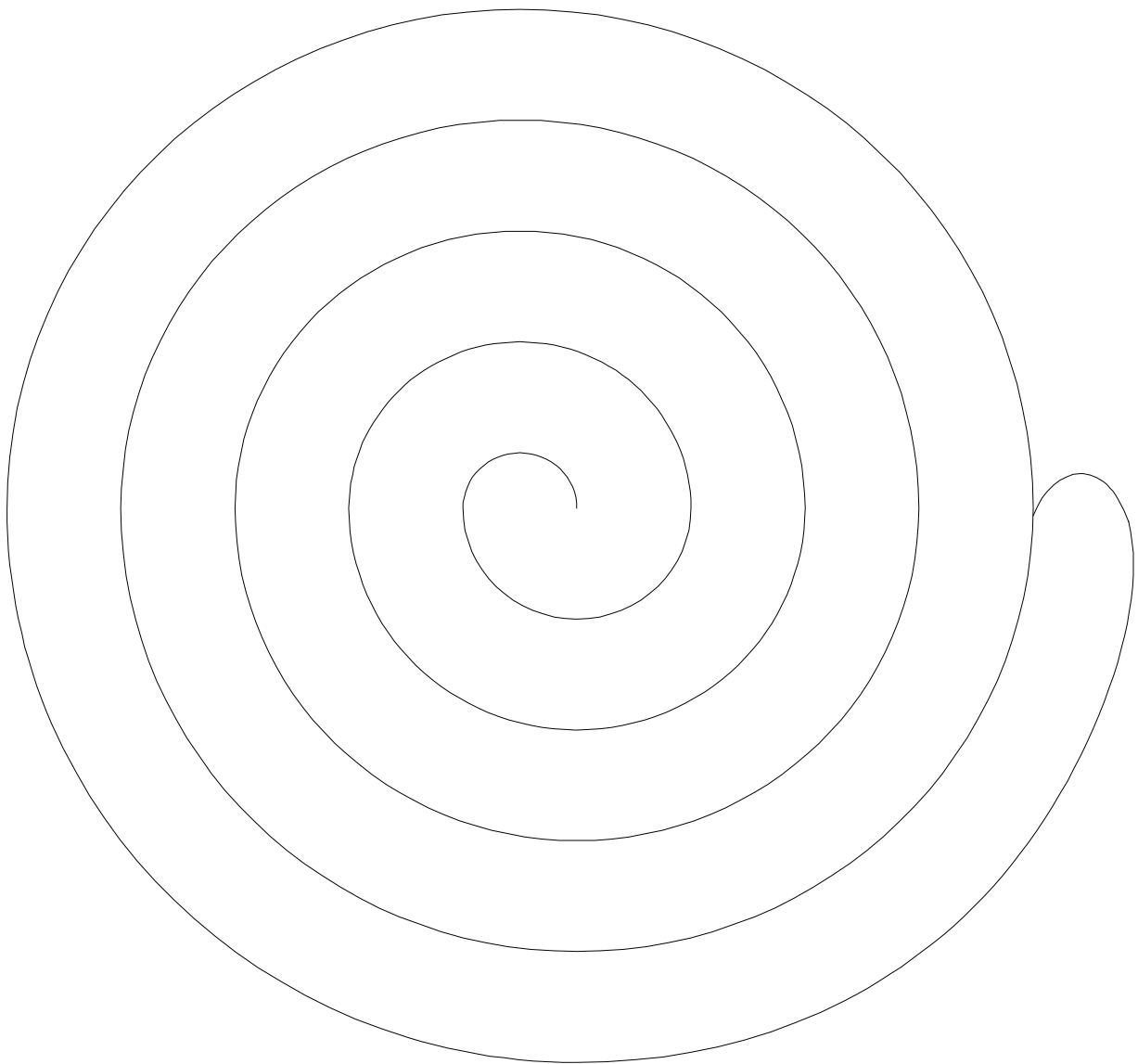
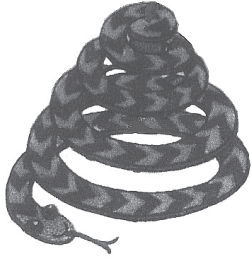
The fall

Activity



The fall

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



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Cain and Abel

Genesis 4

Focus

For the children to understand that, like Cain, they need to be able to say that they are sorry, rather than be angry.

Memory Verse

"Put off anger." (Colossians 3:8).

Lesson Introduction

1. To illustrate that the Lord looks on the heart, show the children two apparently identical pieces of fruit, one of which is bad inside (bananas work well as they can be easily bruised without damaging skin). Point out how they each look the same on the outside before cutting them open to show the bad centre. Link this to the story and Cain's heart attitude.
2. To tell the story, use a felt-board or the puppets made as demonstration models for the Activity.

Story Summary

1. Some time after Adam and Eve left the garden, they had two boys called Cain and Abel.
2. They grew up to do different work; Cain grew crops, Abel kept sheep.
3. One day they brought an offering to God - Cain, the fruit of the ground, and Abel, one of his flock.
4. God was pleased with Abel's offering but with Cain's He was not pleased.
5. Cain became angry and God told him that if he did not put away his anger he would sin.
6. Cain took no notice and killed Abel.
7. Because of this God sent Cain away from his home and he became a wanderer.

Teaching Suggestion

Put on a hat, and as you take it from your head, say the verse. Now pass the hat onto a child. Child puts on hat and as he/she takes it off, says the verse with the teacher. Continue passing the hat until children know the verse.

Extra Ideas

1. **Open Hearts.** Fold coloured cardboard to gift card size. Draw a heart on front making sure that one side of the heart is on the fold so when cut out the card has 2 joined hearts. Children decorate with coloured pencils/crayons.
2. **Memory Game.** Display 5 to 10 objects related to the story (eg. sheep from farm set, fruit or vegetable, 2 paper bag puppets, gardening tool, heart shape, etc). Name and discuss the use of each, then remove 1 item while children close their eyes. Children try to guess which is missing.
3. **Feely Bag.** Use items from Memory Game above, and place in a large bag (pillow slip). Add 2 hearts, 1 sand paper and 1 soft velvet material. Children take turns to reach into the bag and identify by touch. Mention that our hearts are not hidden to God.
4. **Floor Puzzle.** Before class, enlarge by photocopier the 2 pictures (Cain and Abel) from this week's Homework Activity. Colour and glue to cardboard. Dry flat, then cut into a jigsaw of 10 pieces each. Reassemble as a group activity, discussing the differences between the two pictures and revising the story.
5. **Action Activities.** Pretend to be Abel leading his flock, looking for water for them, counting them, etc. Pretend to be Cain, digging, planting, pruning, etc. Pretend to be Abel and show a happy face, or Cain and show a sad face; hide like Cain.
6. **Morning Tea.** To show God knows what is in our hearts. Provide or make in class small sandwiches or biscuits with 'mystery fillings'. Use bread with crusts removed cut into heart shapes using cookie cutters or plain biscuits like arrowroot. Suggested fillings - jam, hundreds and thousand, nutella, vegemite. All sandwiches/biscuits should look the same from the outside. Children try to guess from the taste only what the filling is.

Before giving instructions make sure all children are looking at and listening to you. Make instructions simple and concise and not too many at one time.

Activity - Paper Bag Puppets

Materials

- 1 photocopy of each offering from the Activity Master Sheet per child.
- 2 paper bags per child (lunch box bags available at supermarket).
- Crayons/colouring pencils.
- Wool/strips of paper for hair.
- Sticky tape.

Steps

At Home

- Make demonstration model puppets.

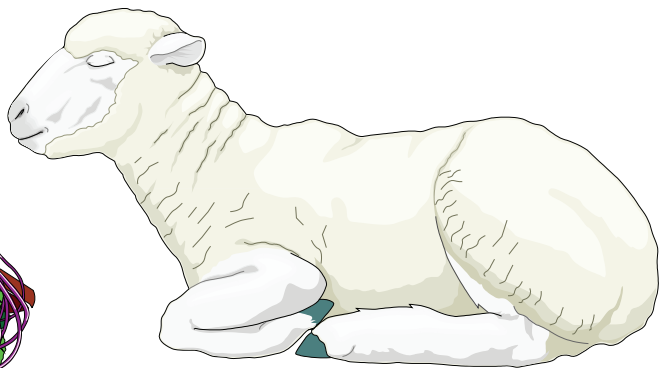
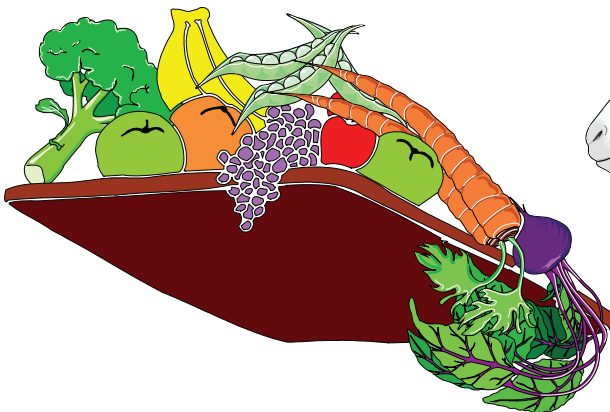
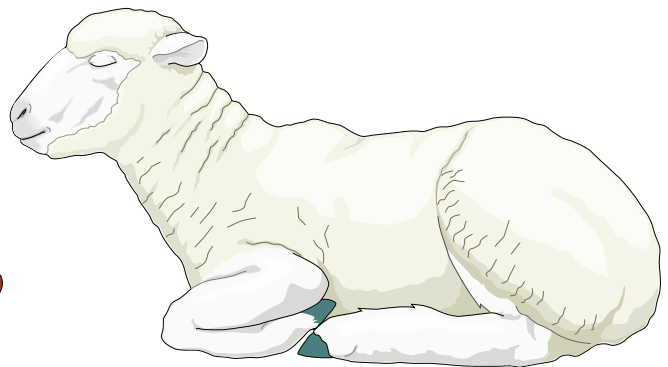
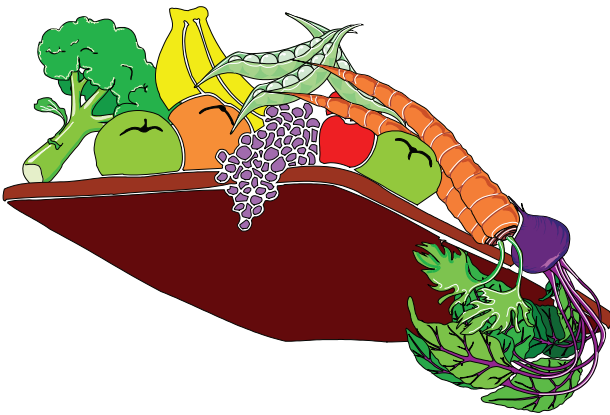
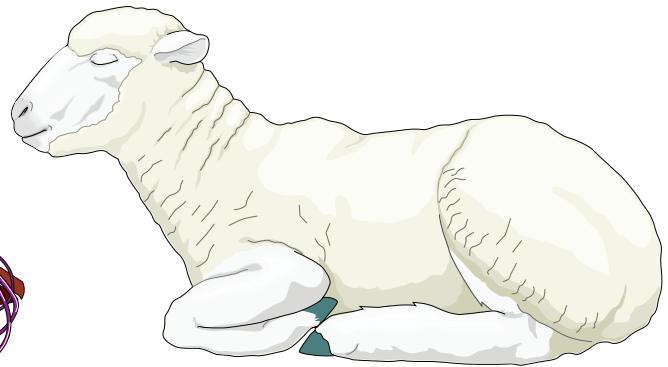
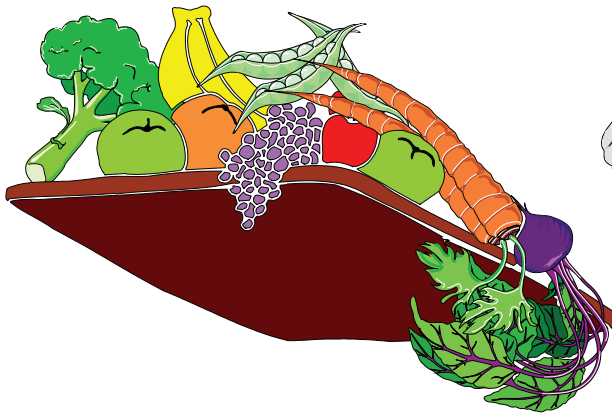
In Class

- Children draw Abel's happy face on one bag and Cain's sad face on the other.
- Children attach hair (and beards) with sticky tape.
- Children glue offerings to lower edge of appropriate puppet.



Cain and Abel

Activity



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Noah builds an ark

Genesis 6:1 - 7:16

Focus

For the children to understand that God blesses those who obey but opposes those who are proud and disobedient.

Memory Verse

"Make an ark." (Genesis 6:14).

Lesson Introduction

Use a picture book or picture Bible to tell the story.

Story Summary

1. Men multiplied and became wicked.
2. Because of their wickedness, the Lord decided to destroy man by means of a great flood.
3. But Noah and his family found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
4. God explained how Noah should build an ark by which he and his family could be saved.
5. Instructions were given to Noah about the animals he should take on board.
6. Noah followed all the Lord's instructions.
7. When Noah's family and chosen animals were inside, the Lord shut him in and it began to rain very heavily.

Teaching Suggestion

Pretend to be hammering and hammer to each word as you say it. Encourage the children to join in.

Extra Ideas

1. **Building an Ark.** Distribute tape measures, rulers, note pads, and pencils. Pretend to build an ark, measuring, drawing diagrams, pretending to cut wood, carrying it to the site, nailing, painting, putting on pitch and bringing in the food.
2. **Simple Concentration.** Use Extra Ideas Activity Sheets. Mount on cardboard, and cut out cards. Spread out face down. Children take turns to find pairs.
3. **Animal Partners.** Use cards from concentration activity above. Each child takes a card and acts out the animal on their card. The aim is to find whoever is acting as their animal partner as quickly as possible. Go into a pretend ark together.
4. **Paper Ark.** Fold an A4 piece of paper or card lengthwise. Cut diagonal from ends for blunt hull. Staple ends. Children draw Noah, his wife and animals on the sides of the ark.
5. **Playdough.** Recipe in Lesson 3. Children make animals, Noah and his wife. Use rectangular take-away containers (or similar foil containers) with ramp/door cut from side to resemble the ark.
6. **Song.** "Rise and Shine and Give God the Glory, Glory", "The Animals Went in Two by Two", or other appropriate song known to the teacher.
7. **Morning Tea.** Some 'Zoo Animal' biscuits or slab cake children can ice (as if coating it with pitch) and press zoo biscuits into icing, to share.

Activity - Animal Headbands

Materials

- Photocopies of Activity Sheets - 1 pair of animals per child.
- Cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Coloured pencils/crayons.
- Stapler.
- Collage materials, eg. cotton wool, wool, crepe paper, etc.

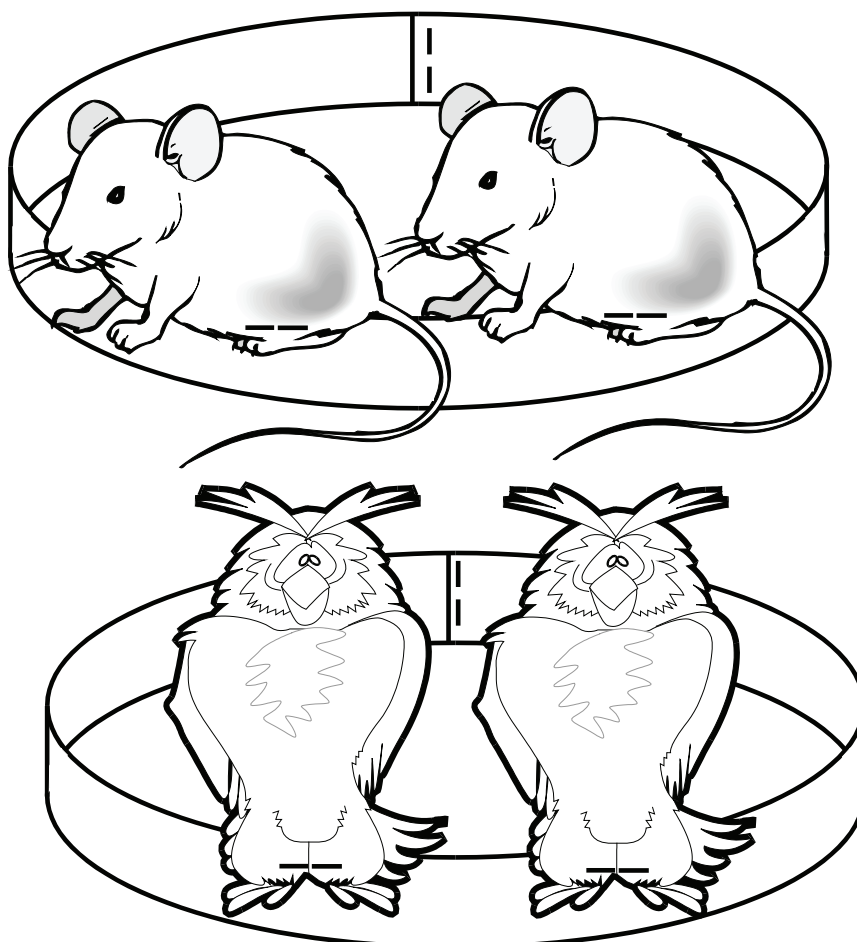
Steps

At Home

- Cut strips of cardboard approximately 5cm wide and long enough to fit around a child's head.
- Cut out animals.

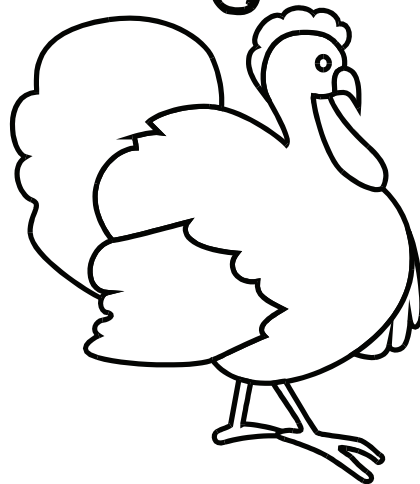
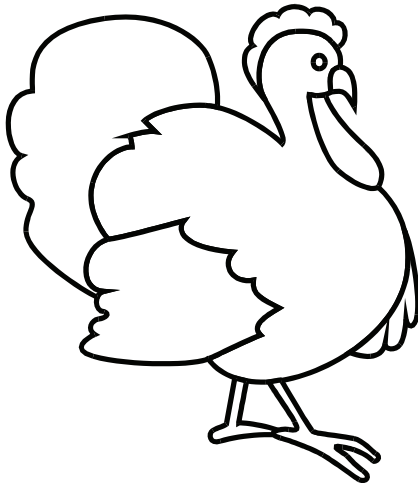
In Class

- Children colour in animals.
- Discuss animals going into the ark two by two.
- Glue collage materials onto animals.
- Staple headband together to fit child's head making sure ends of staples are on **outside**.
- Staple animals to headband also making sure ends of staples are on **outside**.
- Children may act out the procession of animals into the ark, singing as they go. Use a table as suggested in the first Extra Ideas for making the ark.



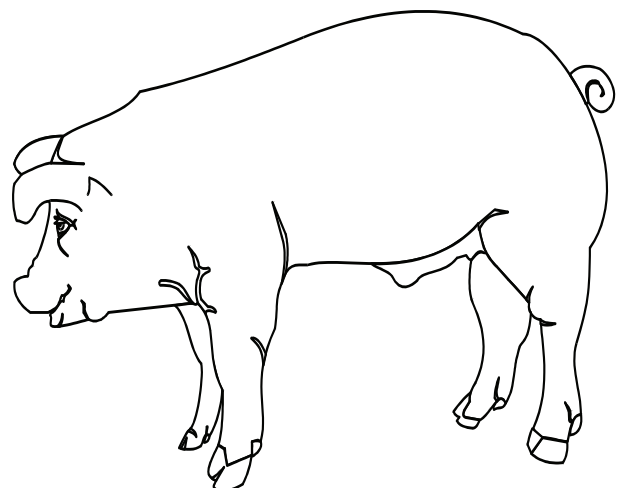
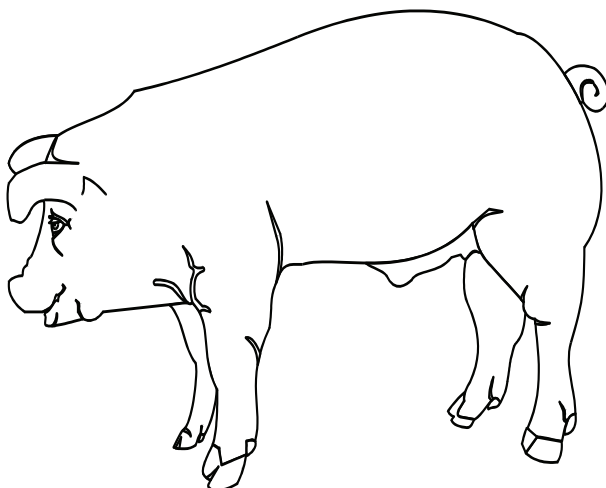
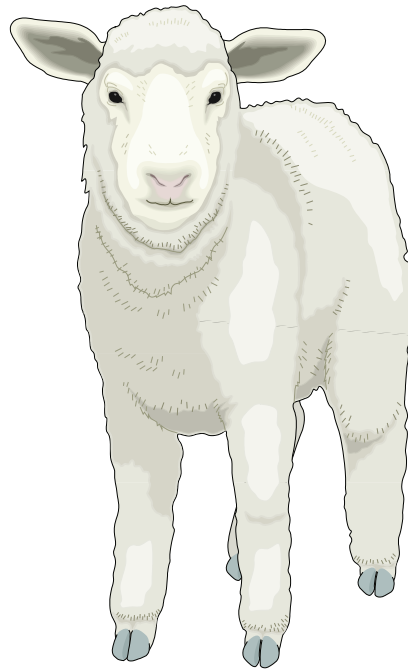
Noah builds an ark

Activity



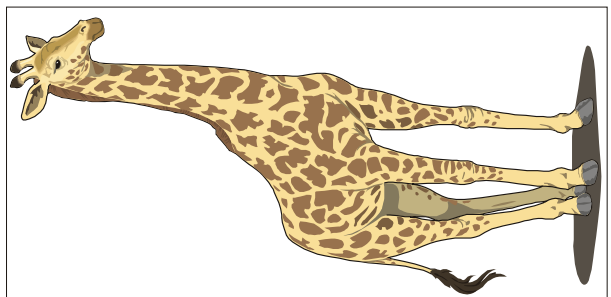
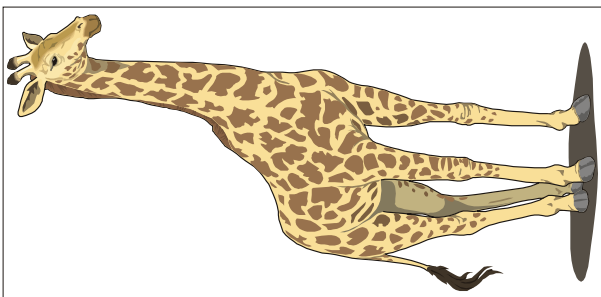
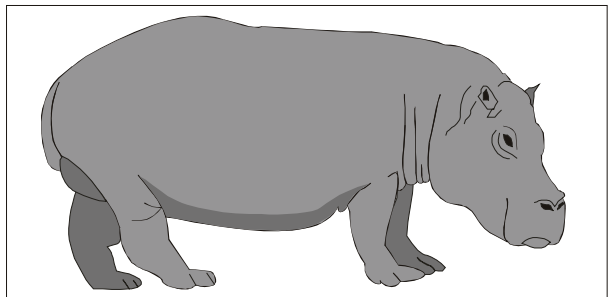
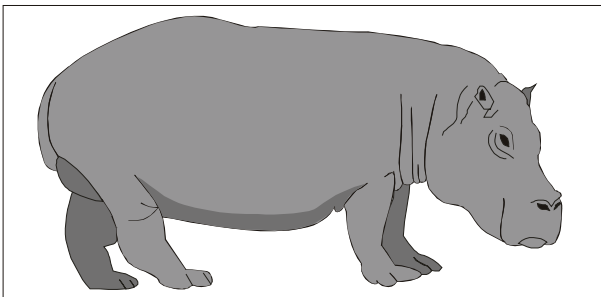
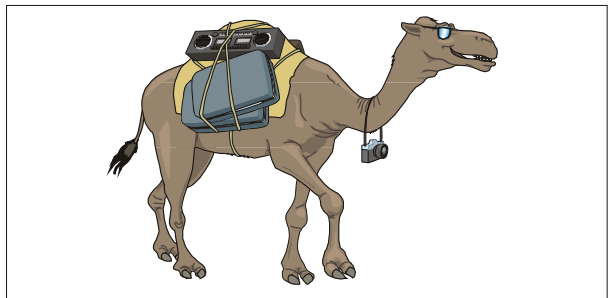
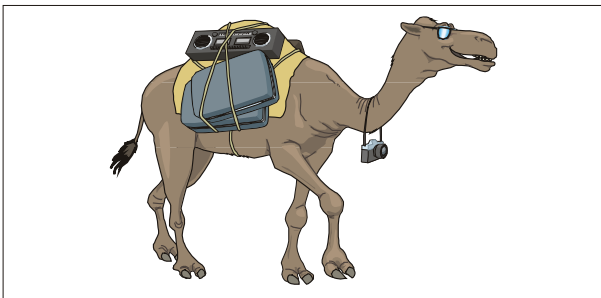
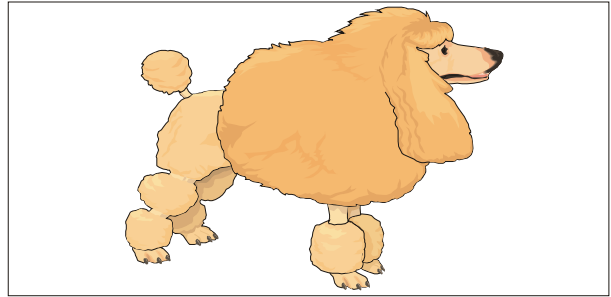
Noah builds an ark

Activity



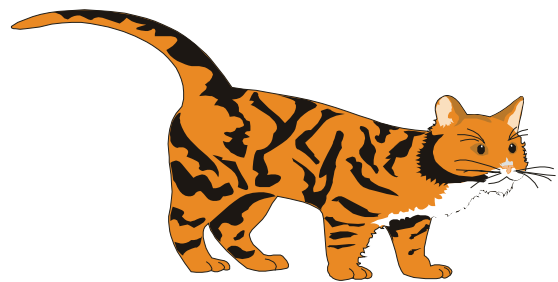
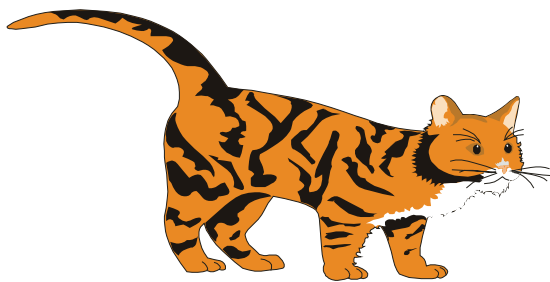
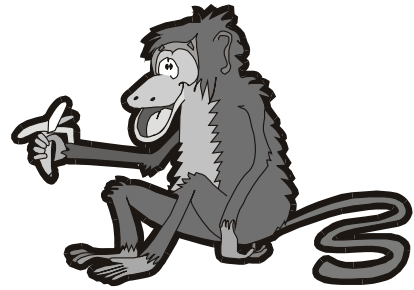
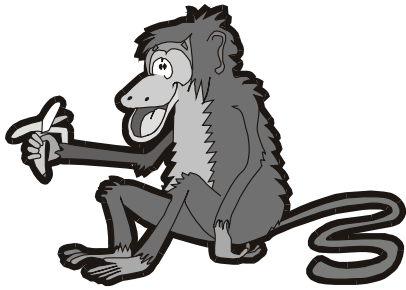
Noah builds an ark

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



Noah builds an ark

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



The flood, Noah and his sons

Genesis 7:17 - 9:29

Focus

For the children to understand that the Lord saves.

Memory Verse

"God blessed Noah." (Genesis 9:1).

Lesson Introduction

Use the picture book or Bible to revise the previous week's lesson, then continue with this week's.

Story Summary

1. The rain continued and lasted 40 days.
2. The whole earth was flooded and everything that was not in the ark was destroyed.
3. When the rain stopped and the waters receded, the ark came to rest on a mountain. Noah released a raven and later a dove.
4. At God's command, Noah took his family and the animals from the ark.
5. God made a promise to never again destroy the earth by flood. The sign for the promise was a rainbow.



Teaching Suggestion

Hold your hands, palm out, to one side. As you move them together, up over your head and down to the other side, tell the children that you are making a rainbow with your hands. Then say the memory verse as you do the rainbow movement and encourage the children to join in with you. Repeat the verse and movement several times.

Extra Ideas

1. **Water Play.** Do this outside! Use a child's wading pool or similar and a boat or box which floats for the ark. Place the ark in the pool, then add water with a hose. Children blow for wind, stamp and clap for thunder and make waves. A tyre or brick in the pool can represent the mountain the ark rested on when the water subsided.
2. **Spray Rainbow.** See a rainbow in a fine spray of water made with a sprinkler or spray nozzle on the hose.
3. **Marble Painting.** Use small amounts of blue, green and black paint. Place a marble in each colour. Line a cardboard box (shirt box size) with child's sheet of paper. Spoon paint covered marbles onto paper, moving box from side to side. Remove the paper. Press the picture of the ark onto the wet paint to represent the ark in the flood.
4. **Finger Painting.** Have blue, green and black paint (see Lesson 1 for recipe). When finished finger painting, add a cut out of the ark.
5. **Spray Painting.** Cover each child's picture of the ark with clear contact and cut out. Glue to a large sheet of paper and dry. Attach to outside wall or fence. Children spray with blue water paint (rain), but no marks will be left on contacted arks.
6. **Colourful Rainbow.** Paste brightly coloured pieces of paper onto outline of rainbow. Use as either a group or individual activity.

Always revise the previous week's story to determine how much has been retained. Involve the class in retelling the story.

Activity - Re-enact the Story

Materials

- Very large box or table and blanket as from the previous lesson. (A large box is obtainable from electrical or furniture stores and can easily be transported when collapsed flat - reassemble using strong masking tape).
- Stanley knife.
- Black paper.
- White paper.
- Rice in plastic containers for the sound of rain.

Steps

At Home

- Cut a window and door in the box.
- Fold the black and white paper into 'aeroplane' shapes for the raven and dove.

In Class

- Children help act out the story of the flood, the end of the flood, sending forth the two birds, and thanksgiving for their safety.

The flood, Noah and his sons

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



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The tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

Focus

For the children to understand that God does not like proud, selfish behaviour.

Memory Verse

"Remember the Lord." (Deuteronomy 8:18).

Lesson Introduction

1. Talk to the children about what their homes are made of. Some people have brick homes. Help the children to imagine if there were no bricks.
2. Introduce the story by talking about how clever men felt when they were able to make brick buildings.
3. As you tell each part of the story, add another block to a tower/block building which you knock down at the climax of the story.

Story Summary

1. Noah's family set up new homes.
2. Some time passed and many people forgot God's promises. They decided to make a name for themselves by building a tower to reach heaven.
3. God was very angry and in order to scatter them, God confused their languages.

Teaching Suggestion

Sit with the children in a circle. Teacher stands up and walks around the outside of the circle touching each child on the shoulder and each time saying "remember", until he/she touches one child and says "the Lord". This child then chases the teacher back to the teacher's place. Begin the game again with the child chosen.

Extra Ideas

1. **Collage Tower.** Use A4 paper and draw a simple tower. Pre-cut scraps of fabric, coloured paper, cellophane, etc. In class, children glue the scraps onto the tower.
2. **Brick Patterns.** Provide a variety of small rectangular and square objects, paint trays (icecream lids with thin layer of thick poster paint), and a sheet of paper per child. Children press object into paint and then onto paper to make brick prints. Print closely together. Paint shirts and protection are vital.
3. **Heights.** Talk about tall things. Find out who is the tallest in the class and who might be the tallest at church. Point out the tallest tree or building.
4. **Playdough Towers.** Children create their own towers out of playdough. They can then enjoy knocking them down. Retell the story as you go.
5. **Morning Tea.** Ice a slab cake with white icing. Use open end of a match box dipped into cocoa and then pressed onto the cake for a brick pattern. Or, make a slice and cut into 'bricks'.

Activity - Block Tower

Materials

- Building blocks, cardboard boxes or plastic containers.

Steps

- Build a tower until it is so high that it topples over. This can be done as many times as the children find it fun. This may not take long so have one or more of the Extra Ideas ready to use.

Abram called, Abram and Lot

Genesis 12 - 14

Focus

For the children to understand that if we obey and trust God He will bless us and look after us, so that we may serve Him.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord." (Proverbs 3:5).

Lesson Introduction

1. Pack a small suitcase with a few things that you might take with you on a long trip eg. a picture book, toothbrush, pyjamas, teddy bear etc. Introduce the lesson with a discussion with the children about the contents of the case and where you might be going.
2. Abram was told by God to leave his home and travel far away. Ask the children to think how they might feel if they had to move to a new home.

Story Summary

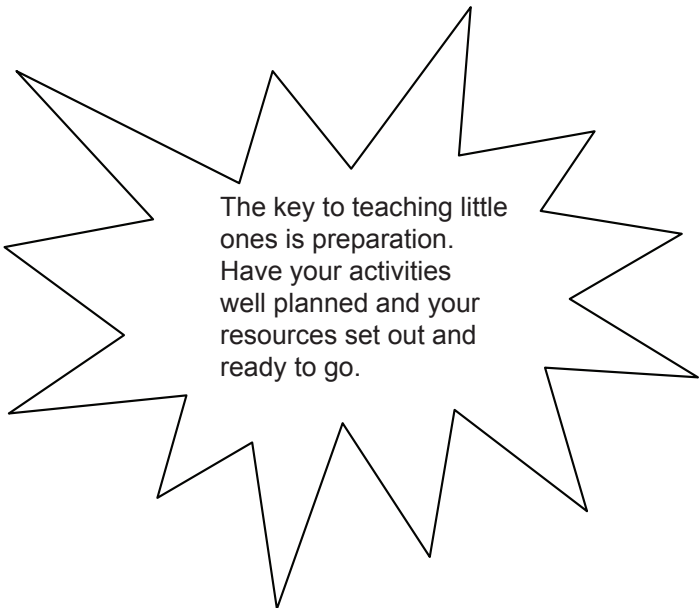
1. God told Abram to leave his home and travel far away.
2. God directed Abram where to go.
3. Abram obeyed God and God blessed Abram in many ways.
4. God told Abram to walk throughout the land of Canaan.
5. God told Abram that this land would one day belong to him and his family.
6. When there was very little food to eat in Canaan they moved to Egypt.
7. Abram was afraid of Pharaoh and so didn't tell him that Sarai was his wife.
8. God protected Sarai.
9. Abram and Lot travelled together with their families, animals and servants.
10. God blessed them and their herds became too large for one place.
11. The herdsmen began to argue.
12. Abram let Lot choose land for himself and they separated.
13. Lot moved into one of the wicked cities and was captured by bad kings, so Abram rescued him and all his possessions.

Teaching Suggestion

The children dance or move in any way they wish to some taped music. Stop the music every so often. When the music stops the children jump into the air as high as they can and call out "Trust in the Lord".

Extra Ideas

1. **Pack a Suitcase.** This is a variation on the main activity - instead of making a suitcase, use Extra Ideas Activity Sheet (picture of a suitcase). The children paste the items from the Activity Sheet onto suitcase.
2. **Pyjama Bag.** Use plain pillowcases or sew up a piece of material for each child into a pillowslip. Sew the middle of a length of ribbon onto the pillowcase at the open end so that the bag can be tied together. Wearing protective aprons, the children decorate their bags with fabric paint (obtainable from craft shops). As the children work, talk with them about the things they will need to pack into their bags when they sleep-over at a friend's house.
3. **Free Play.** Take plastic toys to make a campsite - sheep, camels, trees, tents.
4. **Pitch a Small Tent.** Have the lesson inside the tent.
5. **Morning Tea.** Share some food for a long journey.
6. **Memory Game.** "I went on holidays and I took . . .". Each child adds an item while trying to remember the previous items.



The key to teaching little ones is preparation. Have your activities well planned and your resources set out and ready to go.

Activity - Packing a Suitcase

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 plastic or paper plate per child (round or rectangle shaped).
- 2 pipe cleaners per child (or lengths of wool/ribbon).
- Staples, masking tape, scissors, felt pens.
- Self-stick labels.

Steps

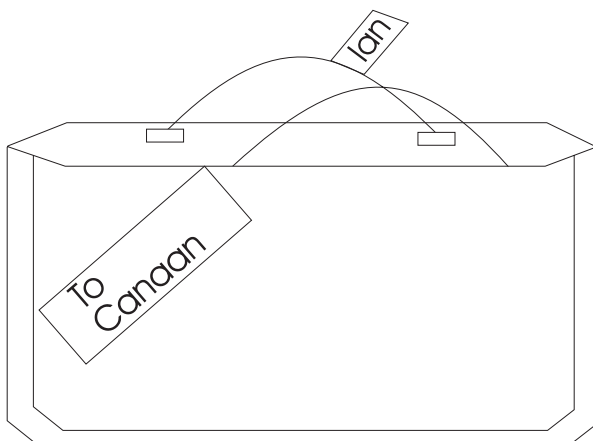
At Home

- Make the suitcases by cutting the plates in half. Place the two halves of the plate together with the tops of the plate facing each other. Join together with staples around the edge. Cover staples with masking tape.
- Attach pipe cleaners/wool to inside of plates with tape to form handles.
- Write memory verse for each child on a cardboard strip.



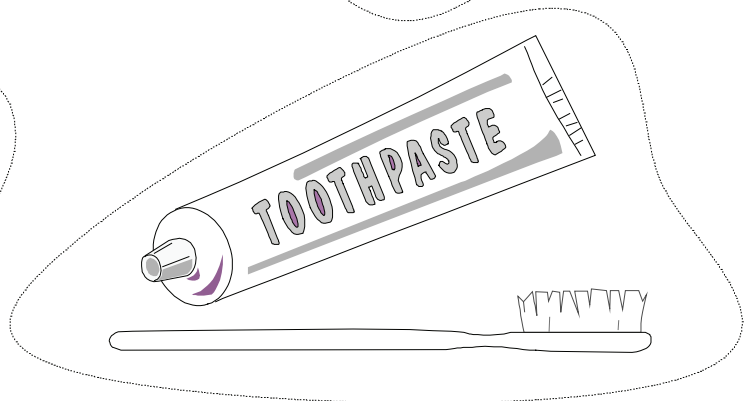
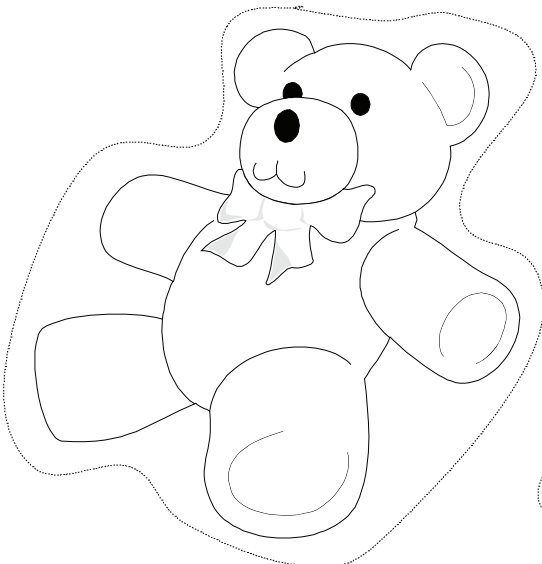
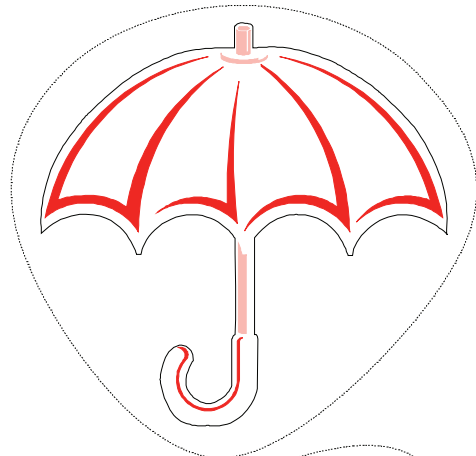
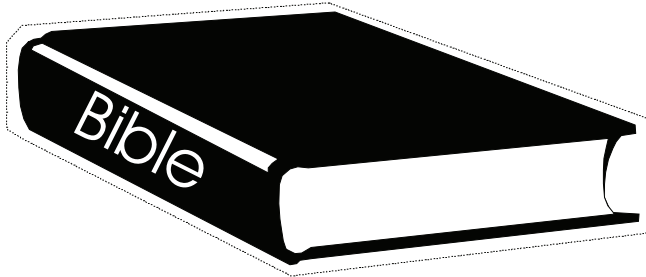
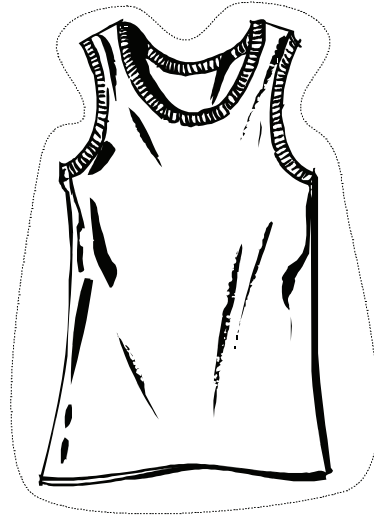
In Class

- Children colour activity sheet and cut around dotted lines. Some children will need help with this.
- Children place the items in their suitcase together with the memory verse.
- Write the child's name on one sticker and fold in half and stick around handle.
- Write 'To: Canaan' on another sticker and the children can stick this to the outside of their case.



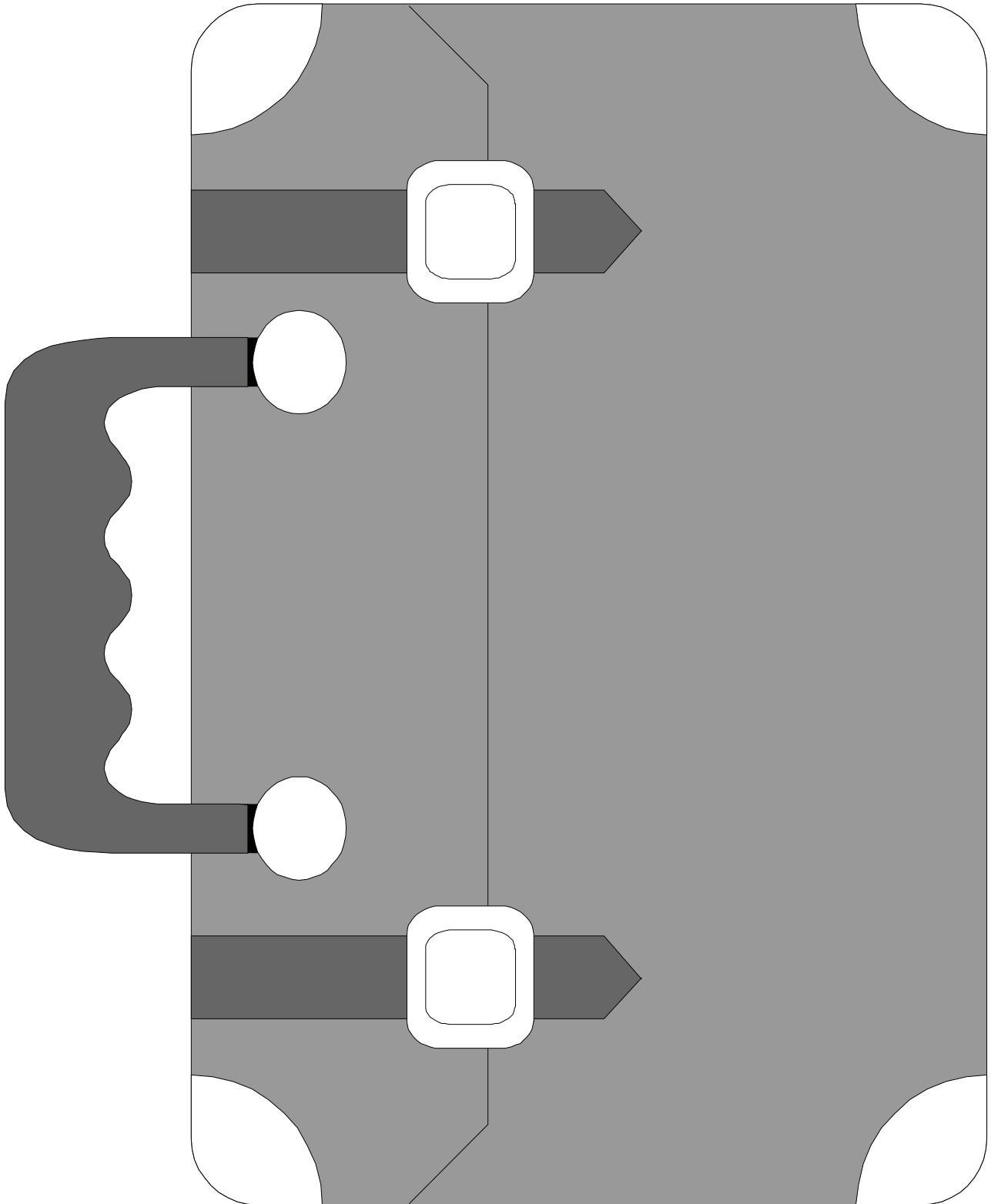
Abram called, Abram and Lot

Activity - Packing a Suitcase



Abram called, Abram and Lot

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



The covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15 - 17

Focus

For the children to know that God keeps His promises. We must believe that He will do what He says.

Memory Verse

"Have faith in God." (Mark 11:22).

Lesson Introduction

1. Show the children a picture of the sky at night time (if available) or make a picture of the night sky using black cardboard and silver star stickers.
2. Ask the children if they have ever tried to count the stars at night time.
3. Talk about making promises - easy to make, easy to break.
4. Lead into the story of Abraham who had to wait and believe for many years to see God's promise come true.

Story Summary

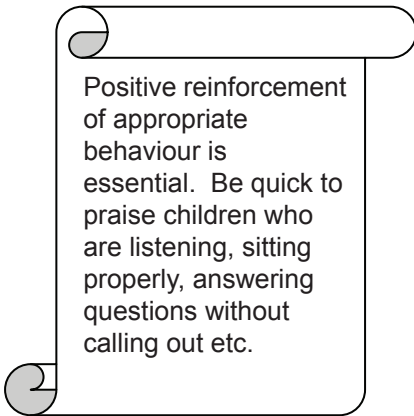
1. Abram and Sarai were very old and they were sad because they didn't have a child.
2. God took Abram outside his tent and told him to look up at the stars.
3. Abram looked up and saw millions of twinkling stars.
4. God promised Abram that he would have as many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren as there were stars in the sky.
5. Abram believed God and God was pleased with Abram.
6. God made a covenant (a promise) with Abram and changed his name to Abraham.
7. God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah.

Teaching Suggestion

Children sit in a circle. Take one child by the hand and explain that you are going to lead him/her around the outside of the circle and back to his/her place while his/her eyes are closed (a blindfold could be used). The child repeats the memory verse three times while being led around the circle. Repeat with the other children, or have the children lead their classmates. Explain that trusting their friends while they have their eyes closed is a little like having faith. Faith in God is trusting and believing Him.

Extra Ideas

1. **Playdough.** Use star shaped cutters. Children count how many stars they make.
2. **Family Pictures.** Trace around a star shaped cutter many times on a piece of paper for each child. The children draw pictures of their family and extended family - one person in each star.
3. **Morning Tea.** Cut star shapes out of cheese slices and fairy bread.
4. **Play Tent.** Could be used outside to help tell the story.



Positive reinforcement of appropriate behaviour is essential. Be quick to praise children who are listening, sitting properly, answering questions without calling out etc.

Activity - Twinkling Stars

Materials

- Yellow paint in shallow dishes.
- Paint shirts for children.
- Cotton buds.
- Paper (black will be best) - 1 sheet per child.
- Glitter.

Steps

- The children dip the end of their cotton bud (or finger) into the yellow paint and make yellow dots all over the paper.
- Sprinkle glitter over the paper while the paint is still wet. The glitter will stick to the paint.
- Shake excess glitter off over a large sheet of newspaper or into the bin.
- Ask the children if they can count how many stars they have made. Are there too many to count? There were too many for Abraham to count.



Ishmael and Isaac

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-21

Focus

For the children to know that we must be patient and trust God. We must not try and work things out our own way.

Memory Verse

"God is able." (II Corinthians 9:8).

Lesson Introduction

1. Use a baby doll to introduce the lesson. Talk about babies and the happiness that a new baby brings. Abraham and Sarah were very old but they were still waiting for the baby that God had promised.

Story Summary

1. Abraham had tried to bring about God's promise himself by marrying Sarah's maid Hagar and having a son called Ishmael.
2. God told Abraham that this was not the son He had promised.
3. Abraham was sitting outside his tent when he saw three men coming towards him.
4. The Lord told Abraham that Sarah was going to have a son.
5. Sarah was listening inside the tent and laughed because she thought they were too old to have a baby.
6. The Lord said, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"
7. Sarah had a baby and named him Isaac.
8. Sarah and Abraham were very happy and had a great feast - Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah was 90 years old.
9. Hagar and Ishmael were jealous of Isaac so God told Abraham to send them away. God looked after Hagar and Ishmael.

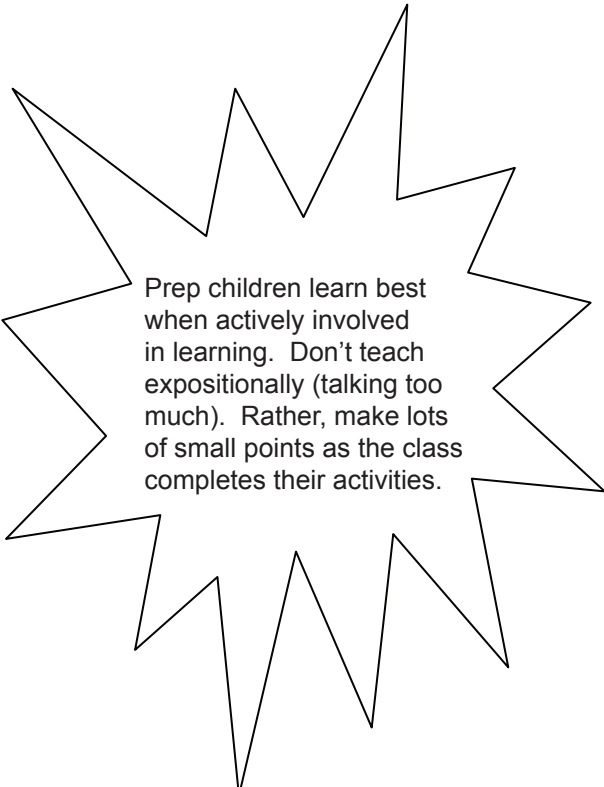


Teaching Suggestion

Children sit in a circle. They roll a ball to each other. As they roll the ball they recite the verse. Repeat until all children have recited the verse.

Extra Ideas

1. **Cradles.** Use empty matchboxes to make cradles. Put some cotton wool in the box. Use a small plastic doll for Isaac (available from toy, novelty shops).
2. **Make a tent.** Use sheets draped over tables or chairs. Have the lesson inside or in front of the tent.
3. **Song.** "My God is so Big", or a similar song.
4. **Morning Tea.** A feast to celebrate the birth of Isaac.



Prep children learn best when actively involved in learning. Don't teach expositionally (talking too much). Rather, make lots of small points as the class completes their activities.

Activity - Abraham and His Staff

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- 1 pipe cleaner per child.
- Colouring pencils, felt pens, crayons, sticky tape.
- Collage materials if needed.

Steps

At Home

- Cut 2 slits in each Activity Sheet.
- Bend each pipe cleaner to make a staff.

In Class

- Children colour or collage the picture of Abraham.
- Help the children slide the pipe cleaner through the slits.
- Tape the back to hold in place.



Ishmael and Isaac

Activity - Abraham and His Staff



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Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19

Focus

For the children to know that God is just. He will not turn a blind eye to those who deliberately do wrong.

Memory Verse

"God is faithful." (1 Corinthians 1:9).

Lesson Introduction

1. Remind the children of Lesson 1. Abraham and Lot separated and Lot chose the green valley by the River Jordan near the town of Sodom.
2. Make a model to help tell the story. Use a large cardboard box. Cut a section out of one side for the gate of Sodom. The sides of the box will be the walls of Sodom. Use smaller cardboard boxes for buildings around a centre open square - the children can help build up the city. Use figures made from cardboard cylinders for Lot, his wife, two daughters and two angels.

Story Summary

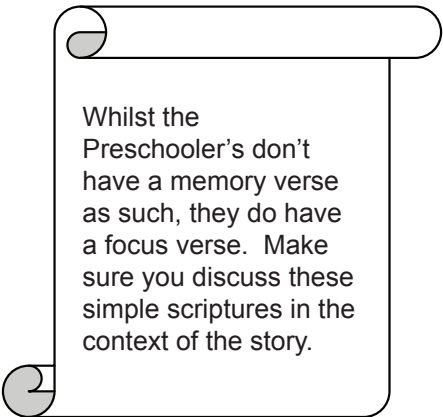
1. The people who lived in Sodom and Gomorrah were proud, greedy, lazy, cruel and violent. Terrible things were done in Sodom and Gomorrah and no one was sorry or ashamed.
2. The Lord, who had visited Abraham to tell him he was soon to have a son, also told him that God was going to destroy Sodom, the town where Lot now lived.
3. The only good people in Sodom were Lot and his family.
4. God sent His messengers to warn Lot to escape before it was too late.
5. Lot's family did not want to leave Sodom.
6. Just in time, God's messengers hurried them outside the town.
7. Fire and sulphur rained down on Sodom and Gomorrah and the cities were destroyed.
8. Lot and his family had been told not to look back, but Lot's wife looked back and she became a pillar of salt.
9. Only Lot and his two daughters escaped. God had saved their lives.

Teaching Suggestion

The children take turns dressing up like Abraham. A towel or tea-towel held in place on the child's head with a headband, old dressing gown, broom handle for staff. Place these items in the middle of the circle. Each child takes a turn at dressing up like Abraham while the rest of the class count how many times they can repeat the memory verse before he/she is dressed.

Extra Ideas

1. **Pillar of Salt.** Add a little water to a cup of salt until it is just moist. Tip salt onto a plastic placemat and the children can model the salt into a pillar.
2. **Printing.** Thick yellow, red, and black paint in shallow trays. Use the side of a matchbox to dip into the black paint and then press onto a sheet of paper to make building shapes. Use sponges or potatoes cut into flame shapes to press into the yellow or red paint and print over the building to make the flames around Sodom.
3. **Game.** "Don't Look Back". Outside, set out a short course for the children to follow to a given destination. Keep all children in sight all of the time. Tell the children that they must not turn around and look at you no matter what you say. Follow the children calling out their names and try to trick them to turn around. If they turn around or look behind them they become a statue.
4. **Statues.** Play music. When the music stops the children make their bodies into an interesting statue shape.
5. **Sodom's Fire.** The children add crumpled yellow/red cellophane to a box model of Sodom to look like fire.



Whilst the Preschooler's don't have a memory verse as such, they do have a focus verse. Make sure you discuss these simple scriptures in the context of the story.

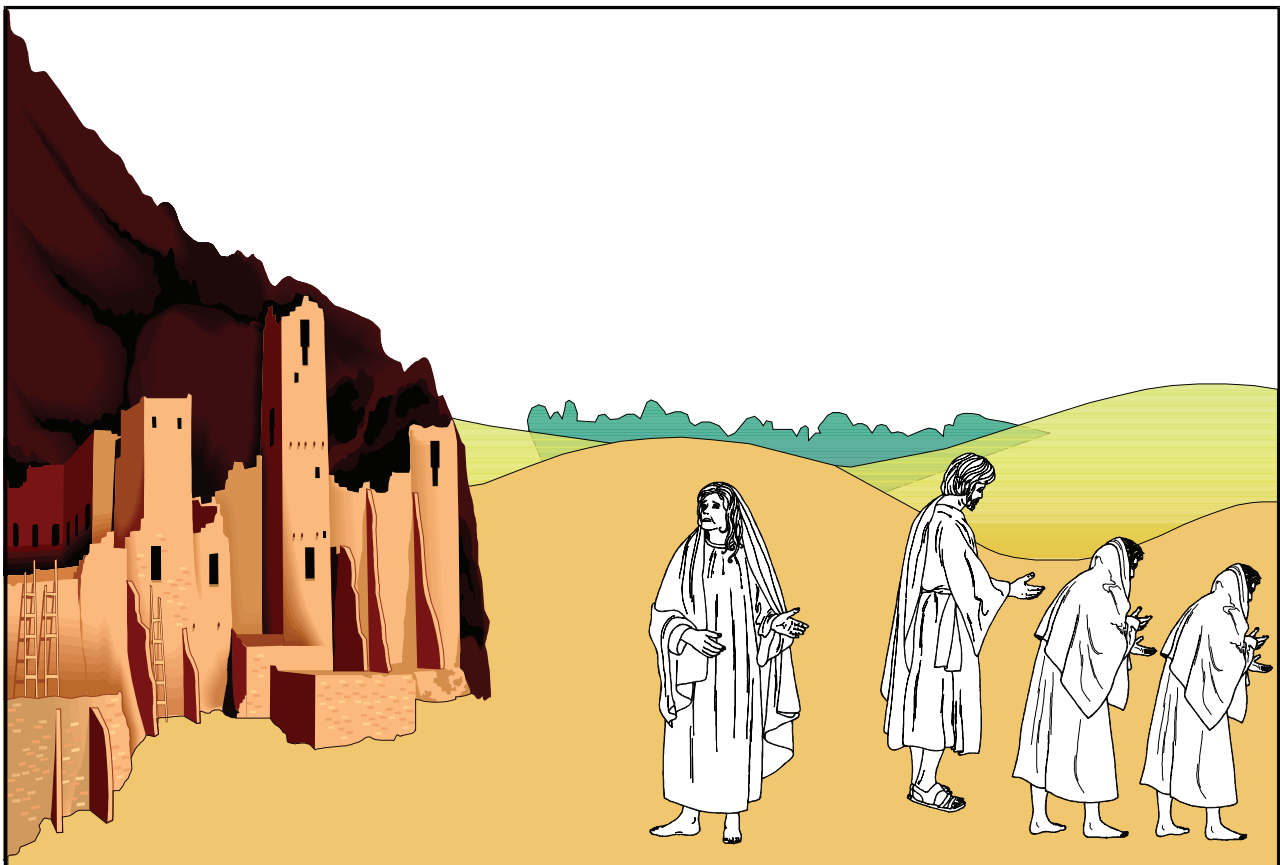
Activity - Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Red and yellow cellophane paper strips.
- Sticky tape, glue, salt in salt shakers.
- Black/grey wool scraps, cotton wool dipped in grey paint.
- Matchsticks (with ends cut off) or pipe cleaners.

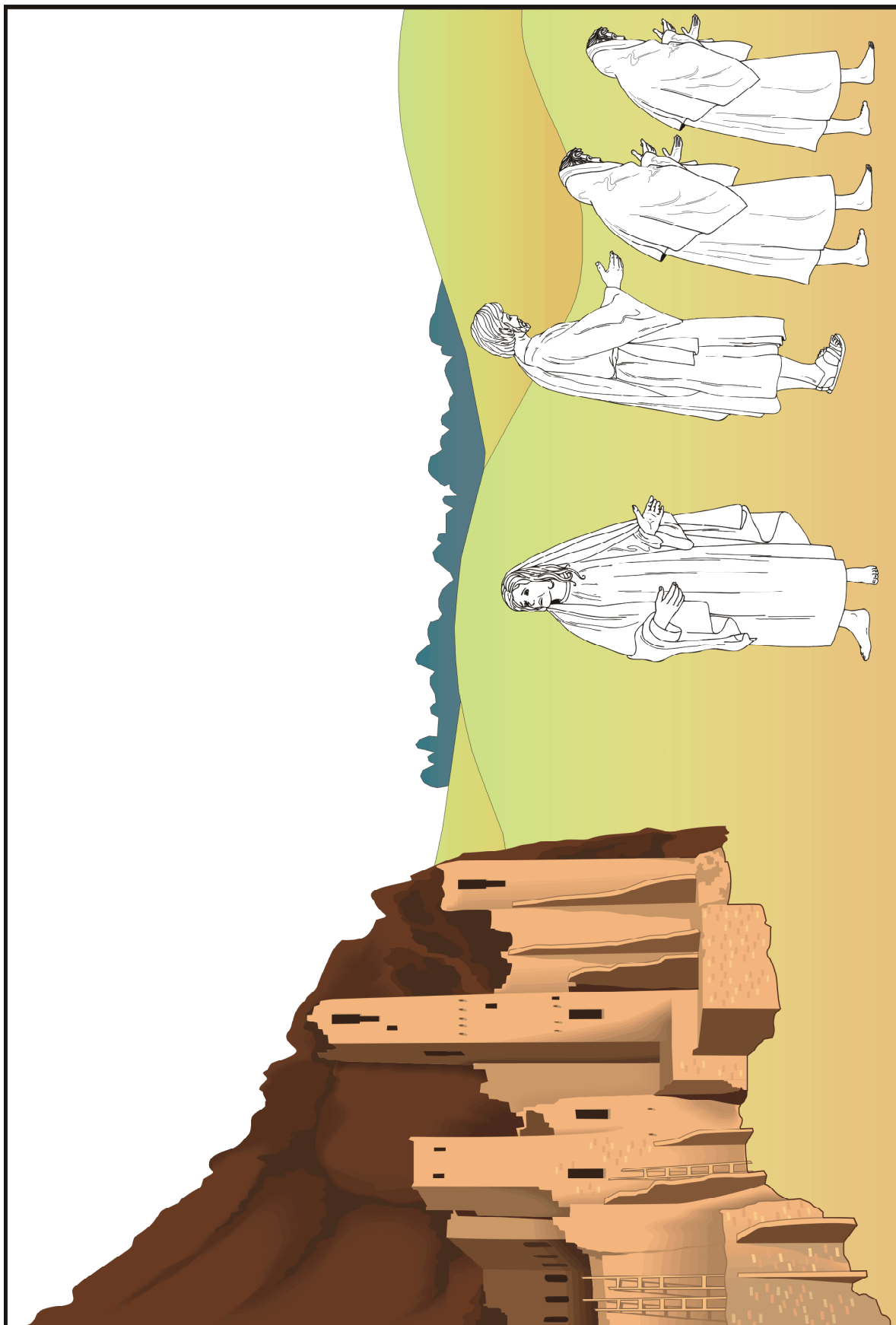
Steps

- Children paste strips of cellophane onto the city of Sodom.
- Put paste on figure of Lot's wife. Sprinkle with salt. Shake excess off over bin or newspaper.
- Past cottonwool and grey wool scraps in the sky to look like smoke and ash.
- Colour the figures. Tape matchsticks into the hands of Lot and his daughters.



Sodom and Gomorrah

Activity - Collage



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The sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22

Focus

For the children to understand that to obey and trust our parents is the beginning of obeying and trusting God.

Memory Verse

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

Lesson Introduction

1. Introduce the story by talking with the children about the different responses they might have when their parents ask them to do something. Do we always ask "Why?" or "Why me?" "Why not him?" "I don't want to." "In a minute?"
2. Lead into the story of Isaac - a son who obeyed his father Abraham without questioning because he trusted him. Talk about God wanting Abraham to give his son Isaac back to Him. God **knew** Abraham was willing to do this and then provided a ram for Abraham to offer Him.

Story Summary

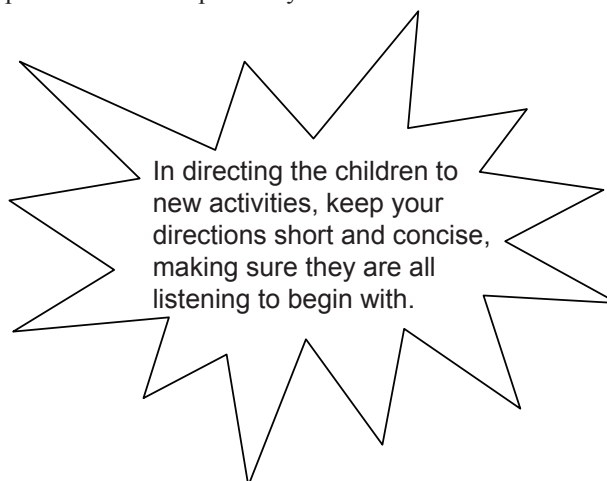
1. Years passed and Isaac grew big and strong.
2. God decided to test Abraham.
3. God told Abraham to take Isaac to the Land of Moriah and sacrifice him.
4. Abraham had leant to trust and obey God so early the next morning he took Isaac, wood, hot cinders and a knife and travelled for three days.
5. Isaac asked about the offering (the lamb) and his father said that God would provide one.
6. Abraham build an altar, put the wood on it, tied up Isaac and laid him on the wood.
7. He was ready to sacrifice Isaac when God called his name. "Do not lay your hand on the lad ... for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son."
8. God provided a ram for the sacrifice.
9. Because of his obedience, God told Abraham He would bless him.

Teaching Suggestion

Suggest some simple things that parents might ask their children to do that can also be acted out, eg. brush your teeth, tie your shoelaces, dry the dishes etc. Children stand in a circle. Choose one child to stand in the centre (they will be mum/dad) and think of an action to ask the rest of the class to perform. The class call out the memory verse "Children, obey your parents" and the child in the centre tells the class what to do. The class mime the action and then another child is chosen for the centre. The girls could wear an apron and the boys a hat for their turn in the middle.

Extra Ideas

1. **Sheep Puppet.** Copy 1 Extra Ideas Activity Sheet for each child. The children glue cottonwool onto the sheep's back. A paddlepop stick could then be taped onto the back to make a puppet.
2. **Magic Painting.** Using a white crayon draw a sheep on a piece of white paper for each child. Press firmly. Give the children brown crayons to draw the thicket (bush) around the sheep. The children then paint over the page with deeply coloured thin green paint to reveal the sheep. Retell the part of the story where God provides the ram for the sacrifice as they do this.
3. **Collage.** Provide the children with small thin twigs, sticky tape, cotton wool, glue, paper and crayons to make a collage of the ram in the thicket. Attach twigs to make a thicket using tape.
4. **Collage.** Use magazine pictures of children with their parents. Write the memory verse on each child's picture.
5. **Game.** Ask the children to do a variety of actions. Begin each statement with, "Children ...", eg, "Children hop on one leg." Whenever you say "Children, obey your parents", the children pretend to be sheep and say "baa".



Activity - Woolly Sheep

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Strips of white paper 3cm wide x 10cm long (about 12 per child).
- Thick pencils to roll paper strips around. 1 per child.
- Glue sticks.
- Colouring pencils.

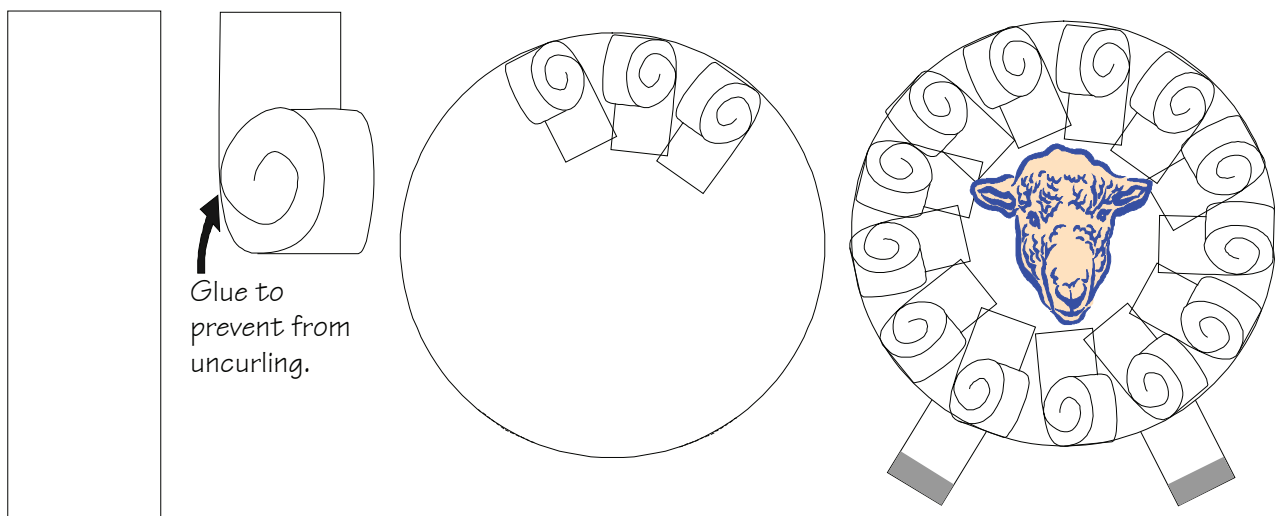
Steps

At Home

- Cut out Activity Sheets for the children.
- Cut up white strips of paper.
- Pre-curl a quantity of paper for those who may have difficulty with this.

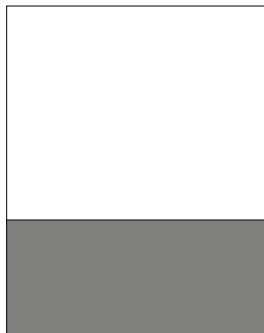
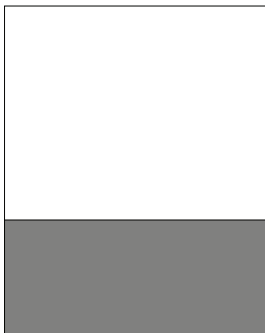
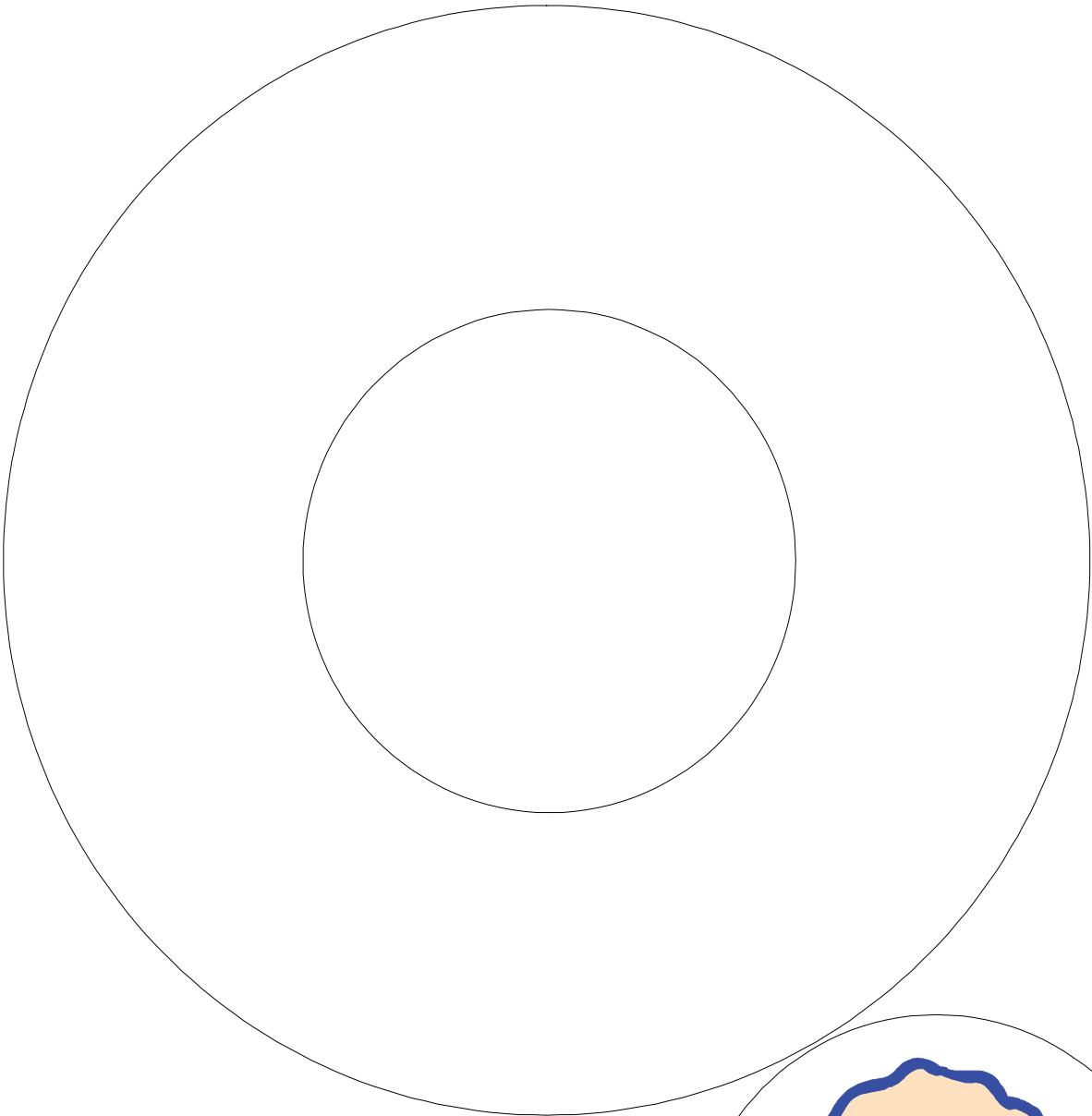
In Class

- Glue legs to circles.
- Show class how to roll the paper strips around their pencils so that the paper curls when the pencil is removed.
- Glue 1 or 2 rows of curls around the circle.
- Colour sheep's head.
- Glue the sheep's head in the centre of the curls.



The sacrifice of Isaac

Activity - Woolly Sheep



The sacrifice of Isaac

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet



Rebekah, Isaac's Bride

Genesis 24

Focus

For the children to understand that the Lord will guide them if they ask.

Memory Verse

"He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:6).

Lesson Introduction

1. Discuss situations when we are asked to do something and need the Lord's help. For example, it may be your turn for show and tell at Prep and you can't think of anything to say and are feeling shy. The teacher should also share a situation from his/her experience.
2. Lead into today's story of Abraham's servant who had something very important to do but needed God to guide him.
3. Use aids to tell the story. A bucket for the well, a jug and water. Make a camel from a toilet roll with paddle pop sticks for legs and head. Use a butter container for a water trough. Two dolls for Rebekah and Abraham's servant. Use an elastic band to keep a hanky in place on each doll's head. Plastic rings from milk containers for bracelets.

Story Summary

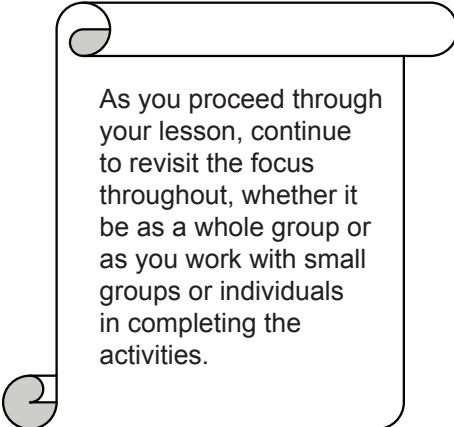
1. Abraham wanted Isaac to marry, but not a Canaanite girl who worshipped idols.
2. Isaac must marry one of his own people.
3. Abraham's servant was given the job of going back to Abraham's country to find a wife from Abraham's relations.
4. The servant asked God to help him choose the right girl. He asked that it be the girl who, when asked for a drink of water, would also offer to bring water for the camels.
5. Rebekah came to the well to draw water and it happened as the servant had prayed.
6. The servant thanked the Lord and gave Rebekah presents. He went to stay with Rebekah's family.
7. Rebekah's family knew that it was God's will for her to go back with Abraham's servant and marry Isaac although they were sad to lose her.
8. Isaac loved Rebekah and they were married.

Teaching Suggestion

Make five arrows from paper or cardboard. On each arrow write one word from the memory verse. Lay a path on the floor with each arrow pointing to the next word of the verse. Space the arrows appropriately. Ask each child in turn to follow the arrows and repeat each word of the verse as they come to each arrow. Change the path for each child.

Extra Ideas

1. **Role Play.** Tie cushions onto the children's backs with a belt to make a camel. A tea-towel or shawl for their heads and a few bracelets will do for props.
2. **Bracelets.** String macaroni, patty cases etc onto wool to make bracelets. Tie one end through a piece of macaroni to secure end.
3. **Chalk Chase.** Draw up a simple chalk chase outside. The children must follow the arrows back to the start or to a new destination, eg. under a tree for morning tea. **Make sure** you can see all of the children, all of the time.
4. **Playdough Path.** Use playdough to roll out long thin strips, then ask the children to make an interesting path with them.
5. **Make camels** from toilet rolls, using paddlepop sticks for legs and head. Cover with brown wool.



As you proceed through your lesson, continue to revisit the focus throughout, whether it be as a whole group or as you work with small groups or individuals in completing the activities.

Activity - Jigsaw Puzzle

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child (copy a couple of extra sheets in case of accidents when cutting).
- Thin cardboard.
- Glue stick.
- Colouring pencils/crayons.
- Scissors.
- 1 snap-lock sandwich bag for each child.

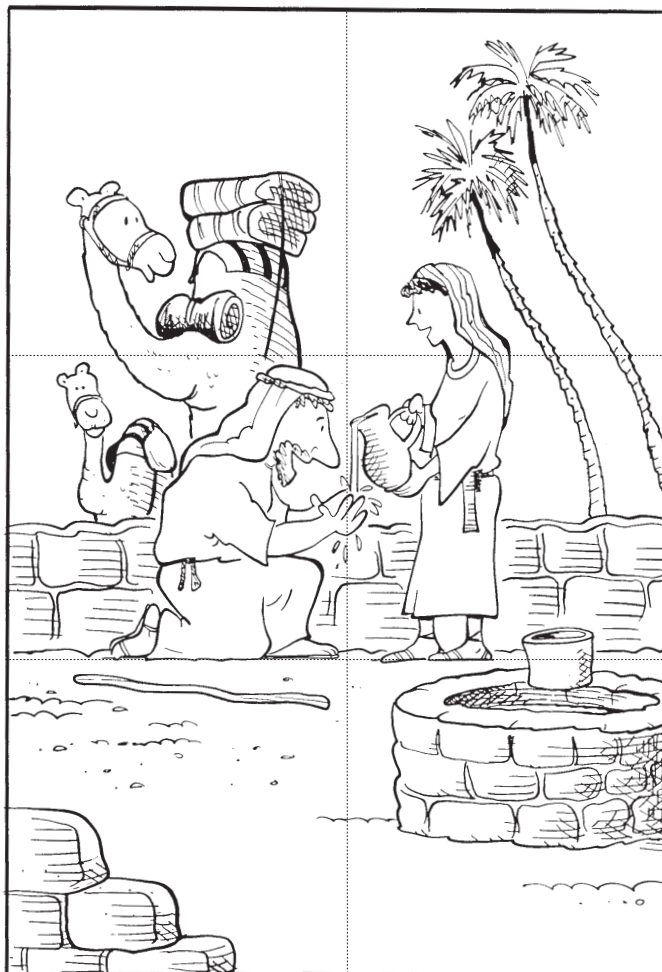
Steps

Before Class

- Glue Activity Sheet to cardboard or photocopy sheet onto white, light card (this would be preferable).

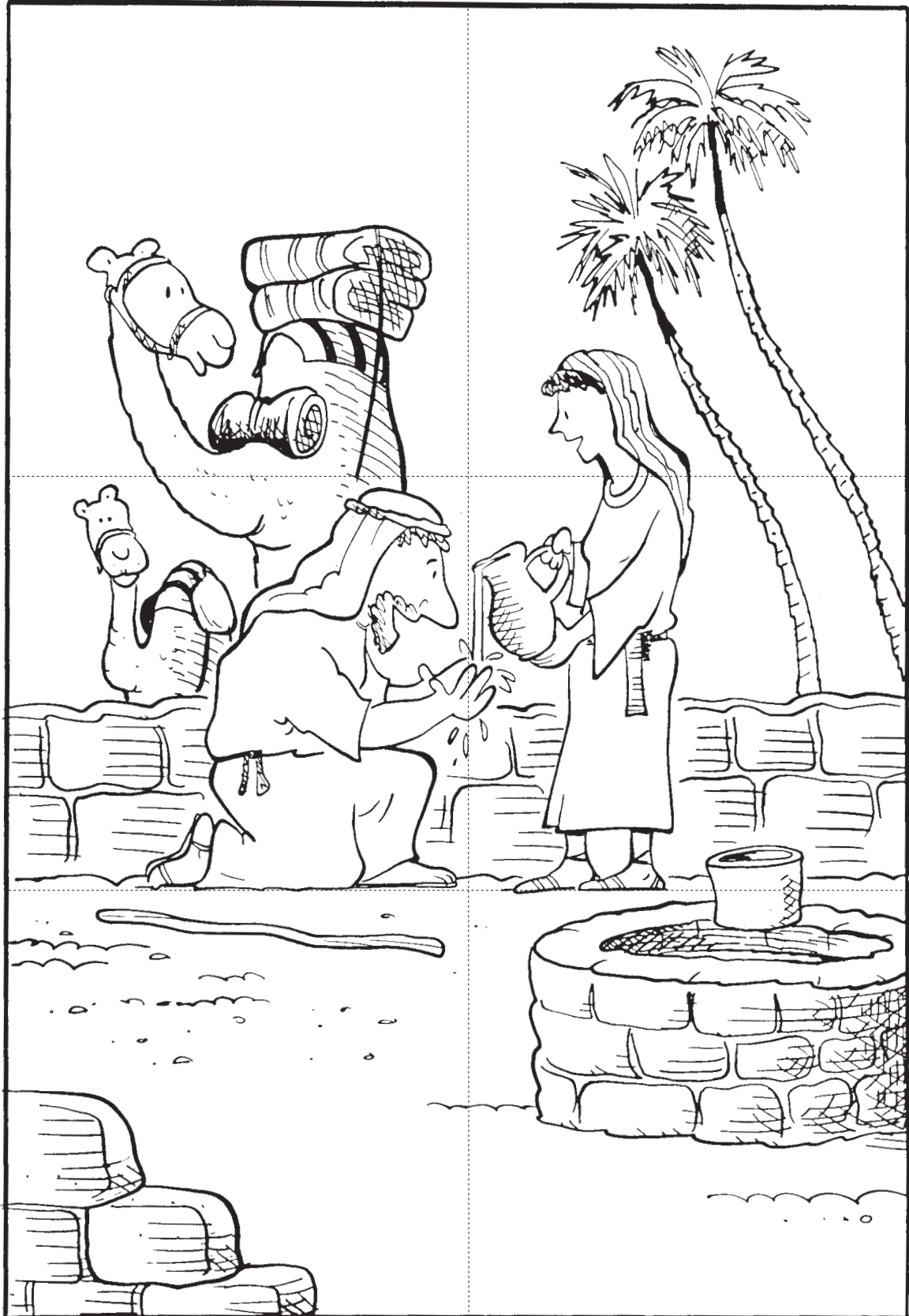
In Class

- Children colour the Activity Sheet.
- Children cut out jigsaw. The teacher will need to help some children with cutting. It won't matter if children go off the cutting lines since the pieces will still fit together.
- Children assemble jigsaw.
- Put jigsaw in snap-lock bag to take home.



Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Activity - Jigsaw Puzzle



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Jacob and Esau

Genesis 25:19-34; 27

Focus

For the children to understand that God will work out His plan for us. If we try to get there by cheating, we will lose our friends and will always be afraid of being found out.

Memory Verse

"Do not lie." (Colossians 3:9).

Lesson Introduction

Talk with the children about cheating, lying and wanting something that someone else has. Explain that at first you might feel good or have good things happen after you have lied or cheated, but eventually you will be found out and you may make others sad or angry as well.

Story Summary

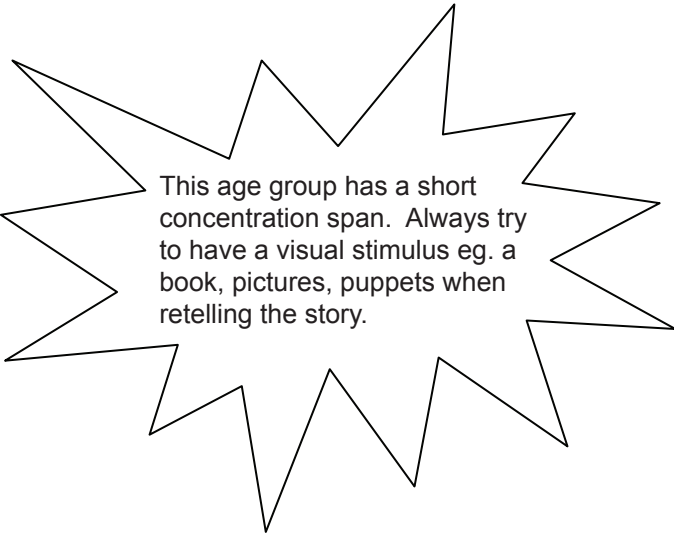
1. Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife Rebekah to have children.
2. Rebekah had twins, Esau and Jacob.
3. Jacob grabbed Esau's heel at birth (a sign that he would be more important - fulfilling what the Lord had told Rebekah before they were born).
4. The two boys grew to be quite different; one was a hunter, the other stayed at home listening and learning from his mother.
5. Jacob understood the "birthright" and desired it.
6. He traded a pot of stew for the birthright which Esau despised.
7. The boys became enemies once Esau realised what Jacob had done.
8. When Isaac was very old he wanted to give the blessing (as was the custom) to his eldest son.
9. Rebekah and Jacob tricked Isaac into giving the blessing to Jacob instead.
10. Esau wanted to kill Jacob so Rebekah helped Jacob escape to his uncle, Laban.

Teaching Suggestion

Have the children sit in a circle with their eyes closed. The teacher taps one child on the head and they then say the memory verse. The teacher then taps another child on the head. The children must not open their eyes and can only say the memory verse when they are tapped on the head.

Extra Ideas

1. **Miss Mousie.** Children sit in a circle and a blindfolded child is placed in the middle of the circle. One child from the group sneaks up behind the blindfolded child and says, "Mousie, Mousie, who am I?" The blindfolded child has to try to guess who is behind him/her. The children take turns at being Miss Mousie.
2. **Playdough.** Have the children make a bowl for Jacob's stew pot. They can then roll balls of playdough to put in the pot for the stew.
3. **Role Play.** Have the children act out the story with Isaac, Esau, Jacob and Rebekah. A sheepskin rug or similar can be thrown over Jacob for when he tricks Isaac. Jacob's stew can be a bowl of mixed sultanas, dried apples, dried apricots etc. The children can share the stew after they have finished the play.



This age group has a short concentration span. Always try to have a visual stimulus eg. a book, pictures, puppets when retelling the story.

Activity - Collage/Colouring In

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Glue.
- Small strips of wool.
- Packet of noodle soup mix.
- Drop cloth.

Steps

At Home

- Cut strips of wool approximately 3cm long.

In Class

- Have the children colour Esau in red.
- Glue the wool on Jacob's arms and hands.
- Place glue on the picture of the stew pot and sprinkle the soup mix over this. Shake off excess mix onto the drop sheet.



Jacob and Esau

Activity - Collage/Colouring In



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Jacob's Ladder, Leah and Rachel

Genesis 28 - 30

Focus

For the children to understand that the Lord loves us and watches over us all the time.

Memory Verse

"I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20).

Lesson Introduction

Ask the children who has relatives (grandparents, aunts and uncles etc) or friends that live a long way away. Talk about the ways that we stay in touch with these people (telephone, letters, internet) and how we can still love and care for them even though they are not with us all the time.

Story Summary

1. Because of Esau's anger, Jacob had to leave.
2. His father told him to get a wife from his relations far away.
3. Isaac blessed him before he left.
4. He felt alone but God was with him.
5. He slept on stones and had a dream of a ladder reaching up to heaven and angels going up and down.
6. The Lord stood above the ladder and gave a promise that He would always be with him.
7. God knew about Jacob's wickedness and yet He still loved, cared for and wanted to use him.
8. Jacob made his first promise to God.
9. Shepherds guided Jacob to Laban, his uncles, in Haran.
10. He met Rachel and loved her.
11. He stayed with the family and chose to work for seven years so he could marry Rachel.
12. Laban tricked Jacob into marrying Leah and he then had to work another seven years before he could marry Rachel.
13. Jacob wanted to take his family back to Canaan, but Laban continually tried to stop him.
14. One night the Lord spoke to Jacob and reminded him of their promises to each other and told him to return to his land and brother. Jacob then knew it was time to go.

Teaching Suggestion

Have the children sit in a circle. One child is asked to find a friend. They hold hands and say the memory verse. They continue around the circle until all the children are holding hands.

Extra Ideas

1. **Napkin Angels.** You will need three white paper napkins, a rubber band, glue, glitter and felt pens for each child. Roll one of the napkins into a ball. Unfold the second napkin and place over the first rolled up napkin. Secure this with a rubber band. This will form the head, neck and dress of the angel. Unfold the third napkin and then fold into a thin concertina fan. Place around the neck of the angel and tie at the back. Spread this napkin out to form wings. Place some glue carefully on the wings and sprinkle with glitter. Use a felt pen to draw eyes, nose and mouth on the angel. A yellow felt pen can be used to make a halo.
2. **Collage of Jacob's Ladder and Rachel's Face.** You will need craft glue or Aquadhere, straws, pasta (straight tubes or spaghetti), wool for hair, small buttons or round circles of paper for eyes, strips of paper or leaves for mouth etc. and a photocopy of each Extra Ideas Activity Sheet per child. Explain or demonstrate to the children that they can make Jacob's dream ladder and Rachel's face out of the materials in front of them. Allow them freedom to use their artistic flair.
3. **Morning Tea.** Have a party to celebrate Jacob's return home to his family with his wives and children.

In discussion times, encourage the quieter children in the class to participate as well, using questions that are directed/relevant to them. As children can get off track easily, it is important to not allow calling out and as a teacher to continue to focus the children's attention to the key point.



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Activity - Telephone to Jesus

Materials

- 1 x1 litre milk carton for each child.
- Glue (Aquadhere) or sticky tape.
- 1 Activity Sheet per child (cut heading and footer off and copy onto plain paper).
- Colouring pencils.
- 1 heart sticker for the centre of the telephone per child.

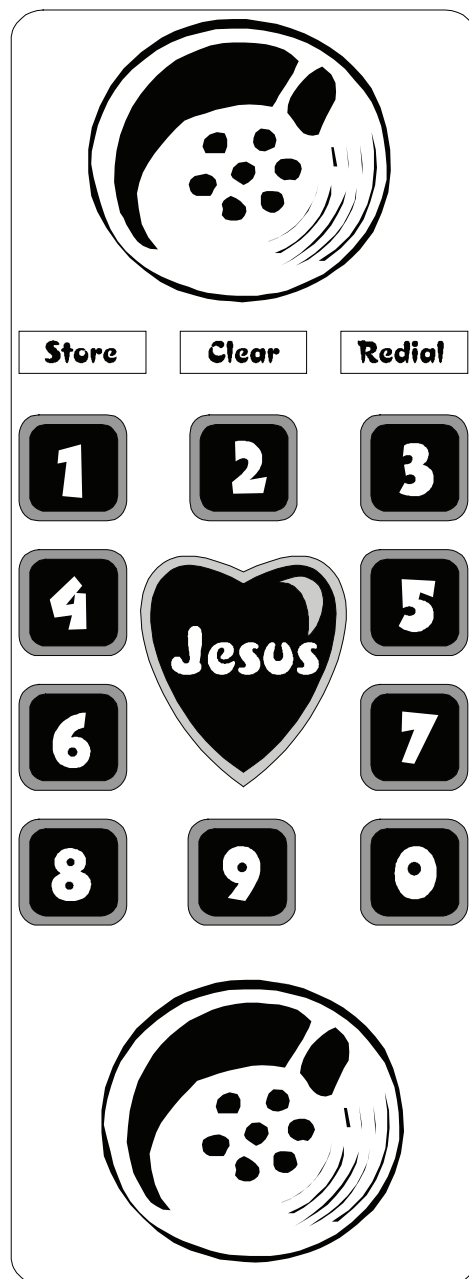
Steps

At Home

- Collect and clean milk cartons thoroughly.
- Tape top of the carton flat.

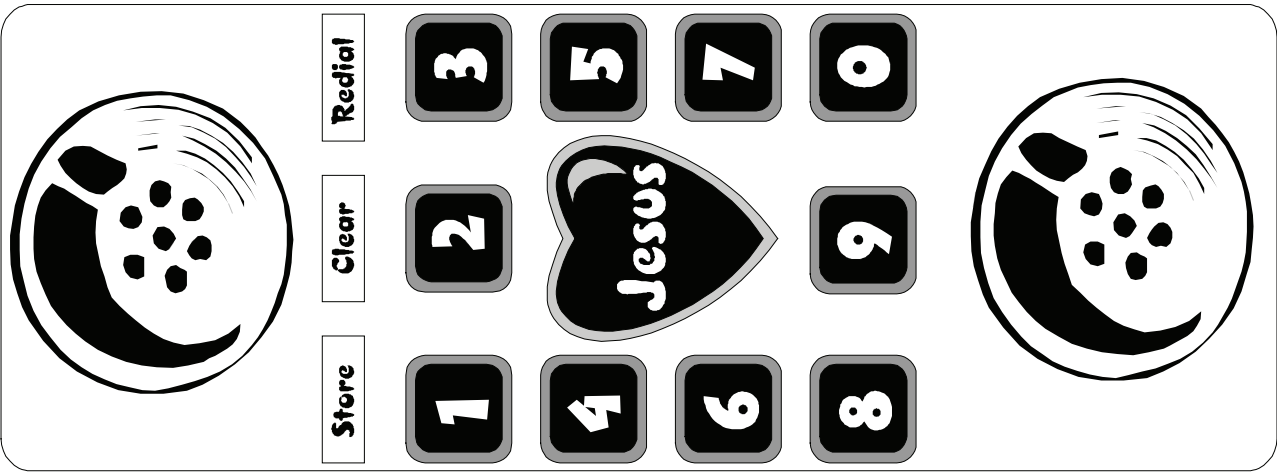
In Class

- Children colour the telephone.
- Place the heart sticker in the centre of the telephone.
- Fold the Activity Sheet along dotted lines and tape or glue to milk carton.
- Emphasise that this is a game - Jesus can't really be talked to on the telephone, but is closer to us than a phone call.



Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Activity - Telephone to Jesus



Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet

A ladder diagram consisting of two vertical side rails and five horizontal rungs. The rungs are represented by empty rectangular boxes, intended for a matching activity.

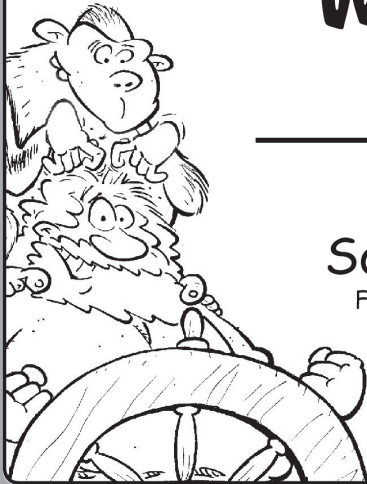
Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Extra Ideas Activity Sheet

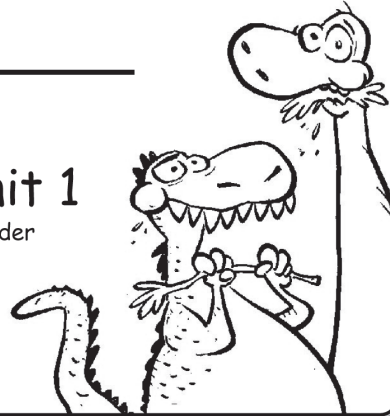




Well Done!



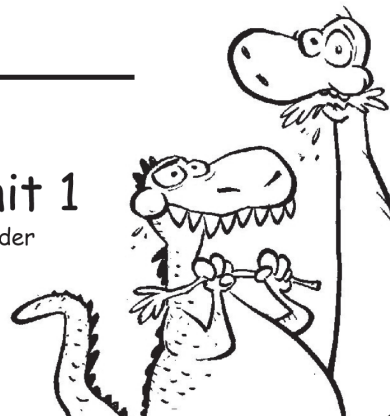
for completing
SonSeekers Unit 1
From Creation to Jacob's Ladder



Well Done!



for completing
SonSeekers Unit 1
From Creation to Jacob's Ladder



Sonseekers Curriculum

Unit One	Unit Two	Unit Three	Unit Four
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creation 1 Creation 2 Adam and Eve The fall Cain and Abel Noah builds an ark The flood, Noah and his sons The tower of Babel Abram called, Abram and Lot The covenant with Abraham Ishmael and Isaac Sodom and Gomorrah The sacrifice of Isaac Rebekah, Isaac's bride Jacob and Esau Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jacob becomes Israel Joseph, the favourite son Joseph goes to Egypt Joseph interprets the dreams Joseph's brothers Israel in Egypt Israelite slaves, Moses born Moses flees and returns to Egypt "Let My people go" The first passover, Israel delivered Crossing the Red Sea Manna, water from the rock Sinai and the ten commandments Moses and the tabernacle The golden calf Twelve spies, 40 years of wandering 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aaron's rod Moses hits the rock The bronze serpent Balaam and his ass Joshua and Rahab Crossing the Jordan, Jericho The sin of Achan The sun stands still Gideon's fleece Gideon and his army Samson Samson and Delilah Ruth, Naomi and Boaz Hannah Samuel hears God speak Eli, Hophni and Phinehas 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Saul chosen Saul and the Amalekites David chosen David and Goliath David and Jonathan David and Saul David crowned David and the ark Absalom Solomon becomes king Solomon's temple Israel divided, Rehoboam and Jeroboam Elijah and the widow Elijah on Mount Carmel Good King Jehoshaphat Elisha and the double portion
Unit Five	Unit Six	Unit Seven	Unit Eight
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The widow's oil, a boy raised Naaman Famine in Samaria Jonah The captivity of Israel (the northern kingdom) Hezekiah and Sennacherib Isaiah Josiah Jeremiah The captivity of Judah (the southern kingdom) Daniel interprets the king's dream The fiery furnace The writing on the wall Daniel in the lions' den Esther Restoration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary and John The birth of Jesus Jesus in the temple John the Baptist Jesus baptised and tempted The call of the disciples Water turned to wine The temple cleansed, Nicodemus The woman at the well Healing of the paralysed man The house built on the rock Jesus stills the storm The feeding of the 5000 The centurion's servant Forgiveness in Simon's house The sower and the seed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Jairus' daughter, a woman touches Jesus Jesus walks on the water Miracles of healing The transfiguration A boy is healed The unmerciful servant A man born blind The good Samaritan Prayer The raising of Lazarus The lost sheep, coin and son Attitudes of a servant The marriage of the king's son The ten lepers The ten virgins The talents 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Palm Sunday The last supper and Gethsemane The crucifixion The resurrection Peter restored The risen Christ and His ascension The day of Pentecost Peter and John Peter and the Gentiles Stephen Philip Paul's conversion Paul's first missionary journey Paul's second and third missionary journeys Paul's capture and imprisonment Paul's final journey