

TEACHER
RESOURCE

UNIT 1

From Creation to Jacob's Ladder

LEVEL THREE

SON SEEKERS

.COM.AU

AGES 8-10

Creation
In the beginning
God created ...

**NOAH
AND THE
FLOOD**

Name:

Learning to serve ...
REBEKAH

See more at www.sonseekers.com.au

Teacher Resource - Unit 1 Level Three

Teacher Resource

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Published by

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July 2009



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

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 Three Teacher Resource?

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

- a summary of the Bible passage for the lesson;
- two alternative pastoral messages to be drawn out of each lesson; each pastoral message includes a theme, key thought, aim and a memory verse;
- a suggested teaching approach, which although only a guide, outlines a possible way of putting the lesson together;
- two alternative class activities - the first activity (A) is written in a more practical hands-on style and the second activity (B) is of a written nature.

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

.../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

- ◆ Hear the students' memory verses from the previous lesson. Also check on the completion of the homework activity page.
- ◆ Make sure all students clearly indicate in their Student's Handbook which memory verse they are to learn.
- ◆ Revise the previous lesson before going on to a new story. You may like to use the timeline to help you do this.
- ◆ Encourage students to go over the story themselves during the week and to read ahead for the next lesson.

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

Storyline

Before the world was created, God was there. He created the world and everything in it from nothing. He had a perfect plan and He put this into action. Nothing in His plan was too hard for Him to do. Everything He created was exactly according to His plan. He thought of everything.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

1. Blowing bubbles - have some soapy water and show the children what beauty can come from dishwater; just as He can make beautiful 'things' from us.
2. Discuss with the children that there are things which we can and cannot do. Name some. Then discuss that nothing is impossible for God to do. Focus especially on creation.

Theme 2

1. Ask children how they would plan a birthday party, cubby house, etc.
2. Discuss how houses are built. Show a house plan and have the children say what would happen without a plan.

Introduce yourself to your new class and recount a funny story from your past - when you were nine or ten

Theme One

"God created the world from nothing"

Before the world began there was only God. He spoke and the world was created from nothing. When men make something they require either raw materials or previously made components. God is able to call things into being which do not already have existence

Key Thought

Only God can make something out of nothing.

Aim

To show the children that God made everything from nothing.

Memory Verse

"God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did." (Romans 4:17).

Theme Two

"God had a perfect plan for creation"

When God created the earth, He did not do it haphazardly, but according to His perfect plan. There was already an everlasting covenant between the Father and the Son. In order to make this effective, it was necessary for God to create man in His image. It was also necessary to create an environment in which man could live.

Key Thought

When God carried out creation, He did not do so by trial and error. God is a God of order and He created according to the plan He already had.

Aim

To teach the children that nothing happens by chance with God. He plans everything.

Memory Verse

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good." (Genesis 1:31).



Activity A - Inspection of Real and Artificial Flowers

Materials

- Real and artificial flowers.
- Magnifying glass.

Steps

- Teacher either takes children on nature walk to collect a flower for each child (same species, daisy or frangipani are good examples), or brings flowers to class.
- Observe with a magnifying glass the perfection and order apparent in each petal.
- Compare with an artificial flower.
- Notice how magnification emphasises the beauty of God's creation and the faults and imperfections in the man-made flower.
- List the differences you can see between the real thing and the artificial.



Activity B - House Plan

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children draw up a house plan on the Activity Sheet, labelling the rooms and furniture.



Creation 1

Activity B - House Plan

Plan a house in the box below and label the rooms and furniture, eg.

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| * kitchen | * bedroom | * dining room | * bed | * bath |
| * lounge room | * bathroom | * table | * chair | * stove |

What if the bath was in the bedroom, or the cooking stove in the bathroom? We need to plan properly don't we? What if trees grew upside down or we were flooded every time the tide came in? God is a God of order. Nothing happens by chance.



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Creation 2

Genesis 1 & 2

Storyline

God created the heavens and the earth, light, and land. God created the sun, moon and stars. He created living things - grass, herbs, fruit trees, birds, sea creatures, cattle, beasts of the earth. God created man. He gave man dominion over what He created and put him in charge of it all. God created these things in six days, and on the seventh, He rested.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

- Ask:
 - Who is the strongest child there? Why?
 - Which country is the most powerful? Why?
 - Is the strongest person or most powerful country able to make something out of nothing?
 - When we say "God is all powerful", what does it mean?
- Summarise Genesis 1 and 2 (and read II Peter 3:8 if desired).

Theme 2

- Ask:
 - What would happen to a baby abandoned by its parents? What does a baby need? What do children need? What do adults need?
 - Do parents who love their children abandon them? Who provides what children need?
 - Who provides what adults need?
- Develop Theme 2.

Theme One

"God's power"

It is impossible for man or angels to create anything. Yet God accomplished creation in six days. This is because our God is powerful. Not only is He powerful enough to create, but He is also powerful enough to maintain what He has created.

Key Thought

We should have reverent fear of God and be in awe of Him, because He is all-powerful.

Aim

To help the children appreciate how powerful God is.

Memory Verse

"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
(Matthew 19:26).

Theme Two

"God's wisdom"

God did not create man and then leave him with nothing to sustain him. God thought of everything for man. He provided man with food, with shelter, and with the companionship of the friendly animals. Most of all, God walked with man and talked with him.

Key Thought

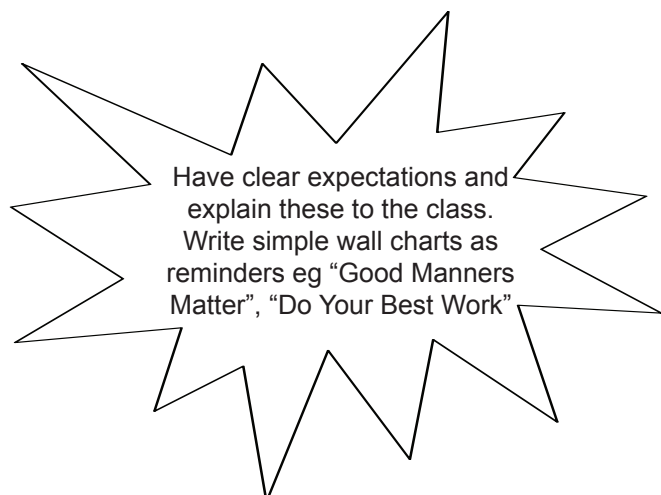
From the very beginning God showed that He does all things well.

Aim

To show that God knows our needs and provides for them.

Memory Verse

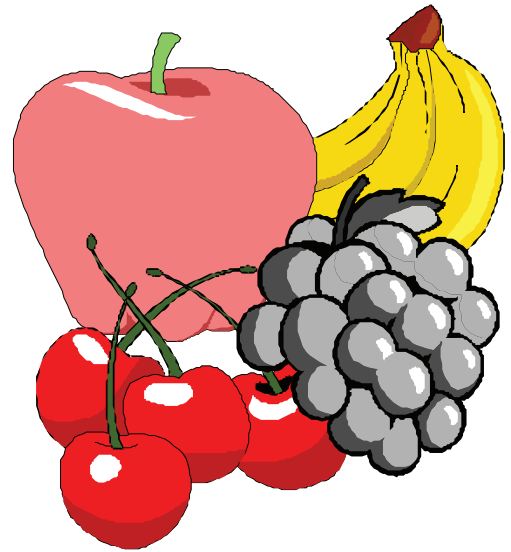
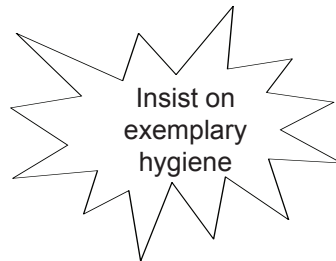
"In wisdom You have made them all." (Psalm 104:24).



Activity A - Discussion of Fruit

Materials

- Assorted fruits.
- Cutting board.
- Knife.
- Cloth for cleaning.



Steps

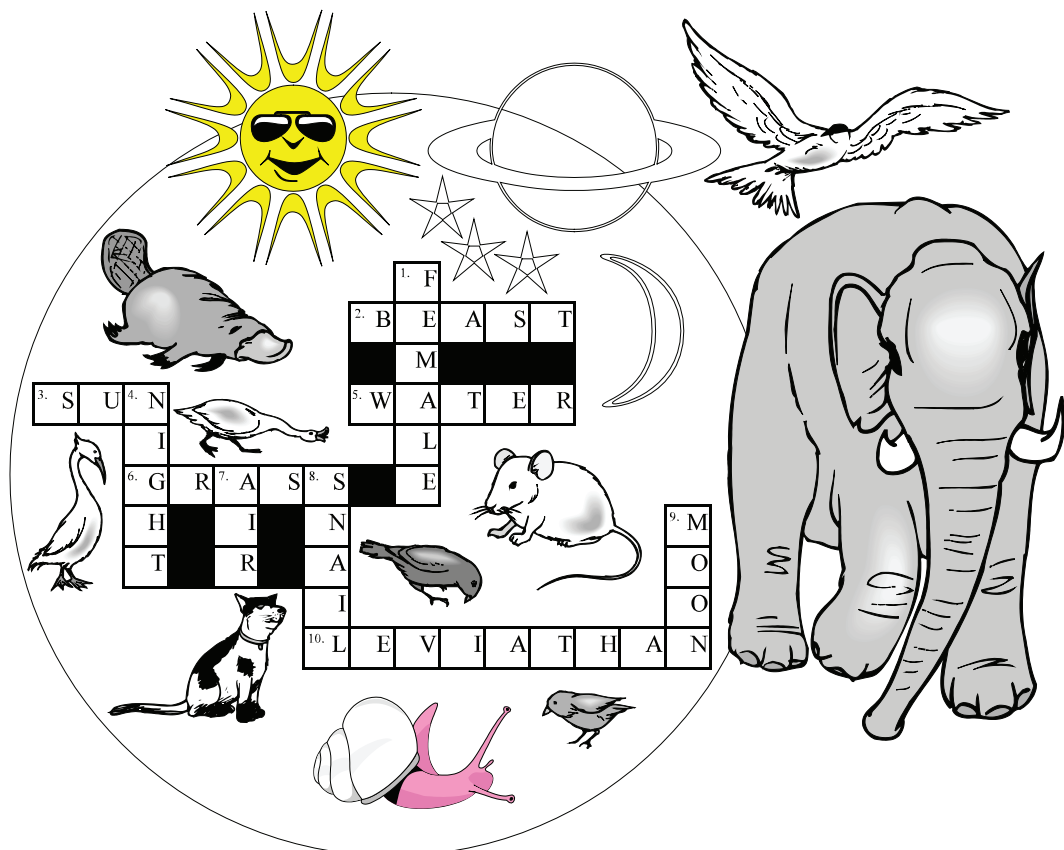
- Ask children if they like fruit, what kinds they like and why.
- Discuss that if people can't get any fresh fruit or vegetables for a long time they get sick and die.
- Discuss how God provided fruit as a food for man.
- Cut up fruit and allow children to feel and taste.
- Encourage other ideas of food supply, eg. nuts, vegetables, herbs.

Activity B - Crossword Puzzle

Materials

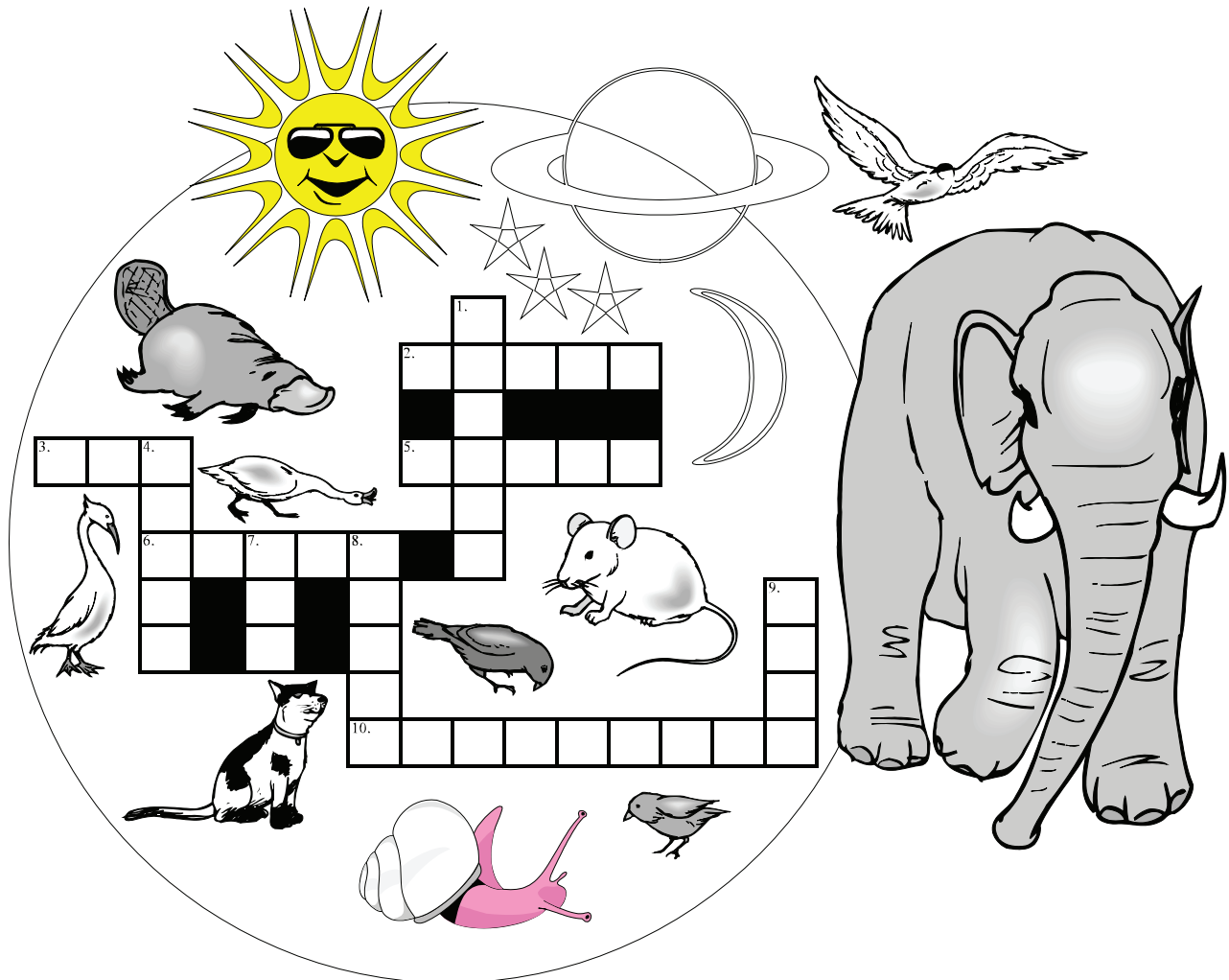
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.

Answers



Creation 2

Activity B - Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. What was made according to its kind?
(Genesis 1:25).
3. What warms the world?
5. What did God give us to drink?
6. Name a thing God created on the third day.
(Genesis 1:11).
10. What is this large sea-creature's name?
(Psalm 104:25 - 26).

DOWN

1. God created male and _____?
4. When do we sleep?
7. What do we breathe?
8. Something that creeps. (Genesis 1:24).
9. What gives us light at night?

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Adam and Eve

Genesis 1:26 - 2:25

Storyline

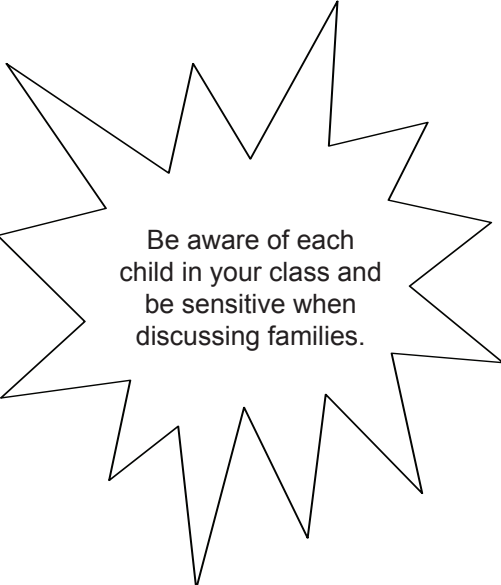
The Lord formed man from the dust and breathed life into him. Adam's home was the garden of Eden. The Lord created a garden in which was every good thing that man could need as well as the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. He told Adam not to eat of the latter or he would die. Adam was to name all living creatures. None was comparable to Adam. Each creature had a mate, but Adam had no companion. The Lord God caused Adam to sleep, took one of his ribs, created woman (Eve) and brought her to him to be a helper.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Bring along some photos of your family over several generations.

Discussion points:

- loneliness;
- we need others - especially our families;
- God wants our families to be a part of His family;
- God wants us to relate with Him, and with men, women and other children.



Be aware of each child in your class and be sensitive when discussing families.

Theme One

“God establishes family order”

God created Adam and put him in charge of all creation. God said it was not good for man to be alone. It was not sufficient for him to have the animals around him. He needed a wife with whom he could be joined. Together they could have children and become a family

Key Thought

Families are very important to God. God puts the solitary in families so that there can be family order.

Aim

For the children to appreciate their own family and God's family.

Memory Verse

“Therefore a man shall ... be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24).

Theme Two

“God created man and woman”

God created man to be like Him and to have fellowship with Him. Man looked at the animals, but there was none that could be a helper to him. He needed a helper who was comparable to him. God created the woman out of Adam's side to be a suitable helper for him

Key Thought

God made everyone according to His purpose so we could become like Him. We are to have fellowship with God and with other people

Aim

To have the children understand that God thought of everything needful for us to become like Him.

Memory Verse

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’.” (Genesis 1:26).

Activity A - Clay Modelling

Materials

- Modelling clay (purchased from ceramic/pottery outlet).
- Water.
- Protective sheeting.
- Firm cardboard for base, cut in circles.

Steps

- Divide clay equally between children.
- Have each child mould with fingers to soften, using water if necessary.
- Form shapes of Adam and Eve.
- Stand them on cardboard base.
- Allow to dry naturally in the sun.

Activity B - Word Search

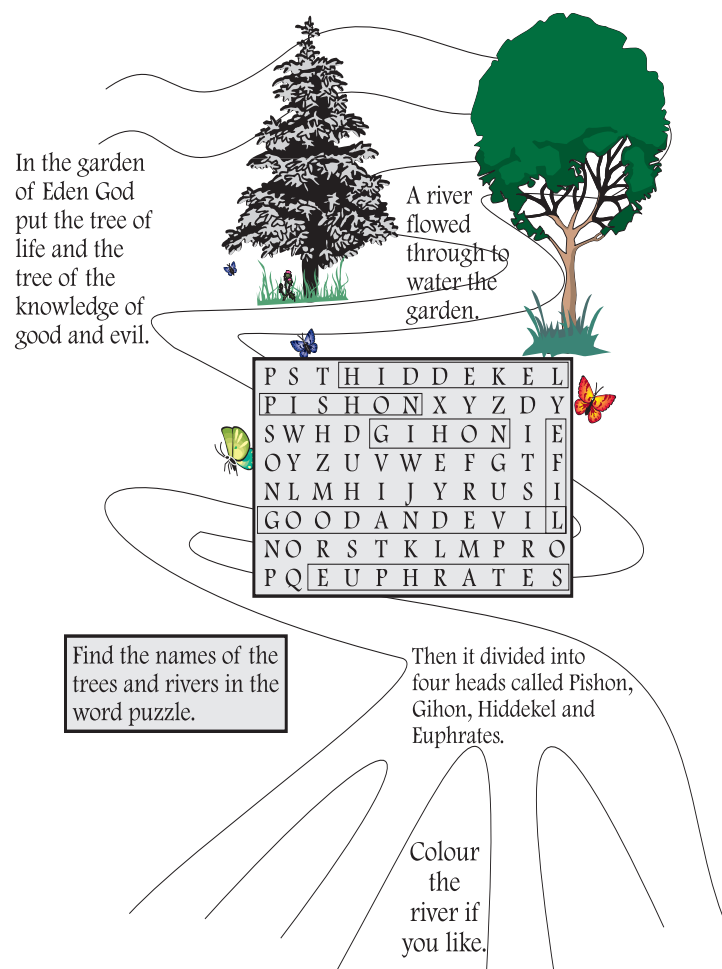
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.

Steps

- Children to find the names of the rivers and the trees in the puzzle, and colour river.

Answers



Adam and Eve

Activity B - Word Search

In the garden of Eden God put the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.



A river flowed through to water the garden.



Find the names of the trees and rivers in the word puzzle.

Then it divided into four heads called Pishon, Gihon, Hiddekel and Euphrates.

Colour the river if you like.

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The fall

Genesis 3

Storyline

Eve was tempted by the serpent. Eve ate of the fruit from the tree God told them not to eat from, and gave some of the fruit to Adam. As a result, they knew they were naked. They made coverings for themselves out of fig leaves and Adam and Eve then hid from God. They tried to shift the blame from themselves. God judged them. The garden of Eden was no longer their home. They had to leave to till the ground. God placed cherubim and a flaming sword to guard the way to the tree of life.

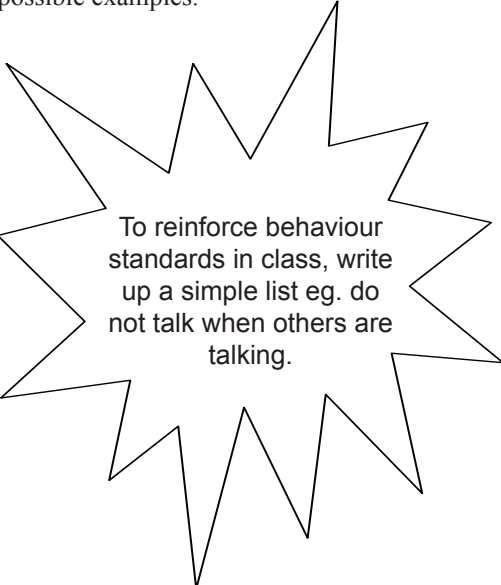
Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Discuss some temptations. Ask the children to give examples of how they can be tempted. Speak to the children about being content with what they have. Discuss what coveting means.

Theme 2

Discuss the consequences of Adam and Eve's rebellion, eg. God sent them out of the garden, they knew shame and nakedness. Discuss the consequences of our own rebellion and possible examples.



To reinforce behaviour standards in class, write up a simple list eg. do not talk when others are talking.

Theme One

“Temptation comes to us all”

When Eve was tempted by the serpent she did not need to give in to temptation. We will all be tempted at different times in our lives. However we can turn away from the temptation and look to the Lord who gives us victory over every temptation as He Himself has known temptation and resisted it.

Key Thought

Though temptations come our way, we have the power to overcome them by obedience to God's word. This was the way that Jesus overcame temptations.

Aim

To show the children how we need to avoid temptation and turn to the Lord.

Memory Verse

“He is able to aid those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:18).

Theme Two

“Man's rebellious nature”

When Eve ate the fruit she disobeyed the word of God and it had terrible consequences. We all have a rebellious nature which will cause us suffering. When we listen to, and obey, those in authority (eg. parents) it will be life to us and this pleases God.

Key Thought

Be obedient to what God says or you will not be able to escape the consequences.

Aim

To show that rebellion is in us, and as a result of the fall, we are all capable of disobedience.

Memory Verse

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (Ephesians 6:1).









Activity A - Cut and Paste

Materials

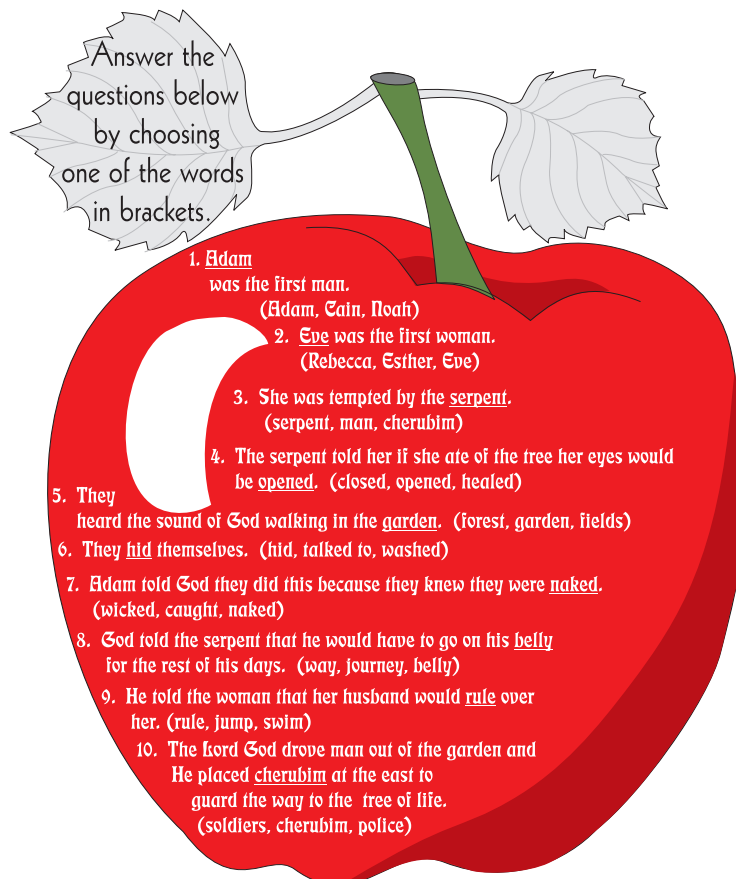
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Coloured pencils/felt pens.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Bibles.

Steps

- Children read Scripture, colour pictures, cut them out and paste them into the correct place in the Scripture.

"And the woman said to the , 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the  which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it lest you die'.¹ The  took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her  with her, and he ate. Then the  of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed  together and made themselves coverings."

Activity B - Missing Words



Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children choose correct word in brackets and write it in the space to complete each sentence.

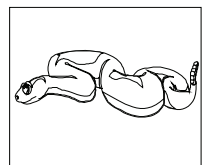
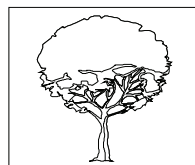
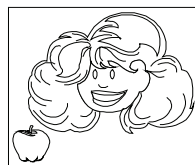
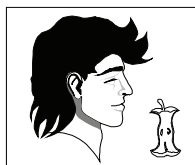
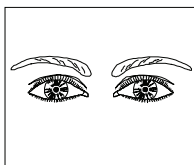
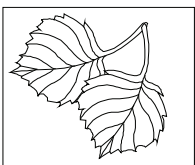
The fall

Activity A - Cut and Paste

Read Genesis 3:2-7.

Colour and cut out the small pictures and paste them in the correct spot to complete the Scripture.

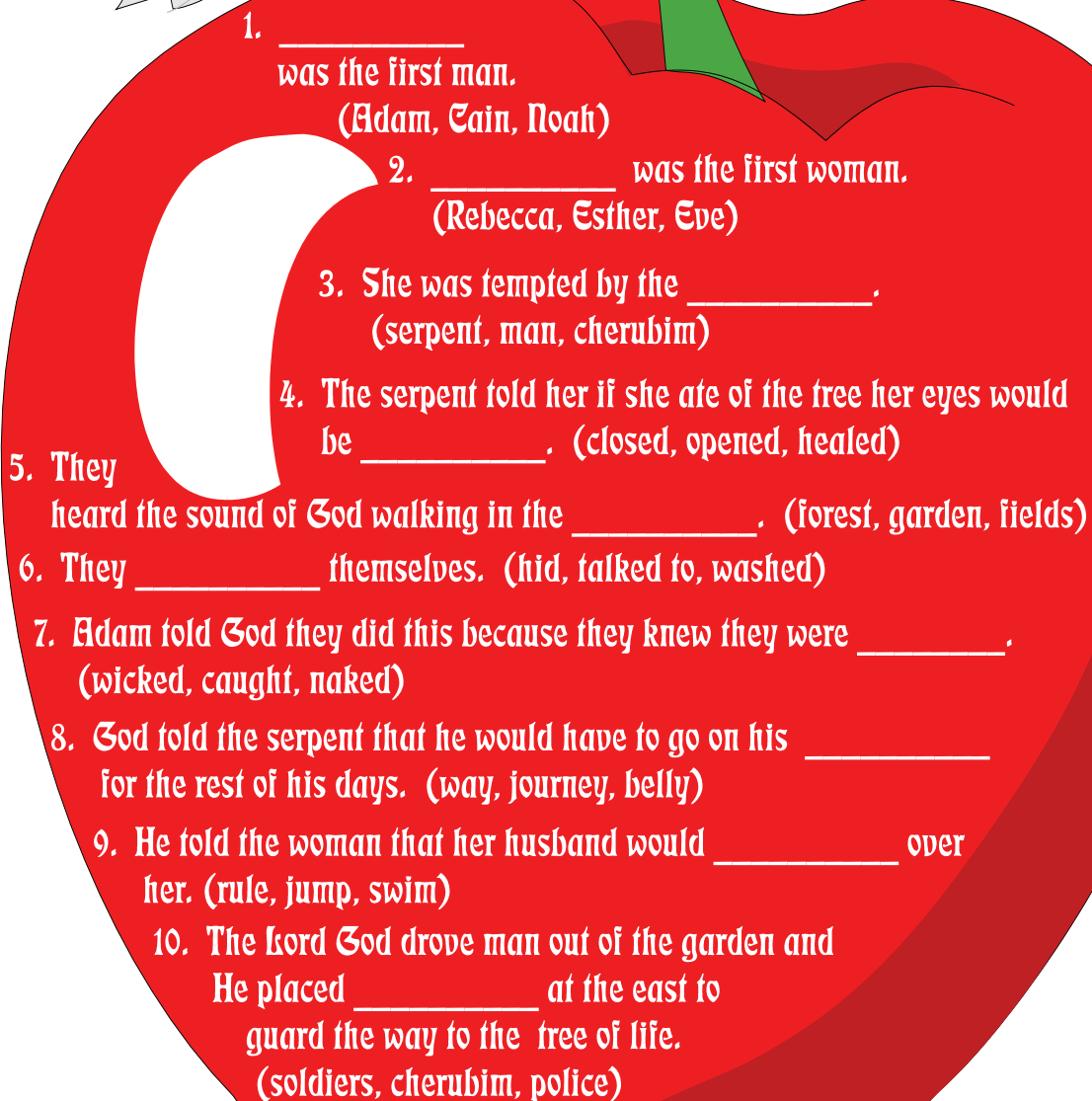
"And the woman said to the , 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, "You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it lest you die".' The took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her with her, and he ate. Then the of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed together and made themselves coverings."



The fall

Activity B - Missing Words

Answer the questions below by choosing one of the words in brackets.

- 
1. _____ was the first man.
(Adam, Cain, Noah)
 2. _____ was the first woman.
(Rebecca, Esther, Eve)
 3. She was tempted by the _____.
(serpent, man, cherubim)
 4. The serpent told her if she ate of the tree her eyes would be _____. (closed, opened, healed)
 5. They heard the sound of God walking in the _____. (forest, garden, fields)
 6. They _____ themselves. (hid, talked to, washed)
 7. Adam told God they did this because they knew they were _____.
(wicked, caught, naked)
 8. God told the serpent that he would have to go on his _____ for the rest of his days. (way, journey, belly)
 9. He told the woman that her husband would _____ over her. (rule, jump, swim)
 10. The Lord God drove man out of the garden and He placed _____ at the east to guard the way to the tree of life.
(soldiers, cherubim, police)

Cain and Abel

Genesis 4

Storyline

Adam and Eve had sons and daughters. There were two sons whose names we know - Abel, a keeper of sheep (a shepherd), and Cain, the eldest, a tiller of soil (a farmer). Cain and Abel brought offerings to the Lord. God was pleased with Abel's offering and accepted it, but Cain's was rejected. Cain was very angry and God told him he must master sin. Cain killed Abel and pretended he knew nothing about it. God judged Cain. He sent him out as a fugitive and a vagabond. God set a mark on Cain and forbade anyone to murder him. Adam and Eve then had a son called Seth.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Tell a story about a woman who has two children, Sally and Tim. Sally always wants people to like her, but hates tidying up her room. Tim doesn't like tidying his room either, but loves football. One day Mother had a childhood friend coming to visit. She really wanted to have a tidy house and so told both children to tidy their rooms. Tim did his room quickly and then went to play football with his friends. Sally did her homework, washed the dog, made Mum a cup of coffee and cooked lunch - all without having to be told. She thought Mum would be very happy with her. When Mum's friend arrived she was being shown the house. Mum was embarrassed by Sally's room and became angry with her. Mum was pleased with Tim.
2. Ask children to discuss the feelings of Mum, Tim and Sally - guiding the discussion according to the chosen theme.
3. How does this relate to Cain and Abel?

Theme One

"Jealousy is a sin"

Cain was very angry when God rejected his offering and he was jealous of Abel because God accepted his offering. Instead of listening to the Lord who told him he must overcome his sin; he ignored Him and his anger and jealousy led him to kill his brother. Sometimes we can be angry and jealous, but it is very important to quickly repent of these feelings and ask God's forgiveness and to soften our hearts towards one another.

Key Thought

Although we may have angry and jealous thoughts, we must repent of them and seek the Lord to change our hearts.

Aim

To show how dangerous jealousy can be if it is not repented of.

Memory Verse

"And be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another." (Ephesians 4:32).

Theme Two

"Doing the will of God"

Cain should have known how to bring an acceptable sacrifice to God. There was a judgment against him and God warned him not to sin. God wanted Cain to offer truly from his heart. Cain could have sought God's way but chose not to.

Key Thought

We need to remember that God's way is better than our way.

Aim

To show that we need to seek God for His way and not to turn to our own way.

Memory Verse

"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways." (Isaiah 55:9)

Students of 9-10 years often regard God as simply a rewarder of good or punisher of evil. We must always stress that God wants to relate to us as a loving Father.

Activity A - Playdough Modelling

Materials

- Playdough.
- Small rocks and stones.
- Thin sticks and twigs.
- Red cellophane in strips.

Steps

- Give each child enough playdough to make a shape like a fist.
- Push stones into the playdough all around.
- Place sticks on top and red cellophane strips to resemble flames.



Activity B - Coded Messages

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children use code to answer questions.

Answers

What did Cain say to the Lord when He asked, "Where is your brother?"

<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>'S</u>
1	13	9	13	25	2	18	15	20	8	5	18	19

<u>K</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>R?</u>
11	5	5	16	5	18

What did Cain and Abel spend their days doing?

A	B	E	L	W	A	S	A
1	2	5	12	23	1	19	1

K	E	E	P	E	R	O	F
11	5	5	16	5	18	15	6

S	H	E	E	P,	B	U	T	C	A	I	N
19	8	5	5	16	2	21	20	3	1	9	14

W	A	S	A	T	I	L	L	E	R	O	F
23	1	19	1	20	9	12	12	5	18	15	6

T	H	E	G	R	O	U	N	D
20	8	5	7	18	15	21	14	4



Cain and Abel

Activity B - Coded Messages

What did Cain say to the Lord when He asked, "Where is your brother?"

$\overline{1}$ $\overline{13}$ $\overline{9}$ $\overline{13}$ $\overline{25}$ $\overline{2}$ $\overline{18}$ $\overline{15}$ $\overline{20}$ $\overline{8}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{18}$ $\overline{19}$
 $\overline{11}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{16}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{18}$?

What did Cain and Abel
spend their days doing?

$\overline{1}$ $\overline{2}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{12}$ $\overline{23}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{19}$
 $\overline{1}$ $\overline{11}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{16}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{18}$
 $\overline{15}$ $\overline{6}$ $\overline{19}$ $\overline{8}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{16}$,
 $\overline{2}$ $\overline{21}$ $\overline{20}$ $\overline{3}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{9}$ $\overline{14}$ $\overline{23}$ $\overline{1}$ $\overline{19}$ $\overline{1}$
 $\overline{20}$ $\overline{9}$ $\overline{12}$ $\overline{12}$ $\overline{5}$ $\overline{18}$ $\overline{15}$ $\overline{6}$ $\overline{20}$ $\overline{8}$ $\overline{5}$
 $\overline{7}$ $\overline{18}$ $\overline{15}$ $\overline{21}$ $\overline{14}$ $\overline{4}$.



CODE:

\overline{A}	\overline{B}	\overline{C}	\overline{D}	\overline{E}	\overline{F}	\overline{G}	\overline{H}	\overline{I}	\overline{J}	\overline{K}	\overline{L}	\overline{M}
$\overline{1}$	$\overline{2}$	$\overline{3}$	$\overline{4}$	$\overline{5}$	$\overline{6}$	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{8}$	$\overline{9}$	$\overline{10}$	$\overline{11}$	$\overline{12}$	$\overline{13}$
\overline{N}	\overline{O}	\overline{P}	\overline{Q}	\overline{R}	\overline{S}	\overline{T}	\overline{U}	\overline{V}	\overline{W}	\overline{X}	\overline{Y}	\overline{Z}
$\overline{14}$	$\overline{15}$	$\overline{16}$	$\overline{17}$	$\overline{18}$	$\overline{19}$	$\overline{20}$	$\overline{21}$	$\overline{22}$	$\overline{23}$	$\overline{24}$	$\overline{25}$	$\overline{26}$

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Noah builds an ark

Genesis 6:1 - 7:16

Storyline

As the years passed and people were born and died, the world became full of sin. Due to man's sinful nature, God was grieved that He had ever made him. He found only one good man in the whole world; his name was Noah. God decided to destroy all the people with a flood, so He told Noah to build a special boat called an ark and gave Noah specific instructions on how to build it. It was to keep Noah, his family, and representatives of all animals safe. Before the rain began they all entered the ark and the Lord shut the door.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Show or discuss:

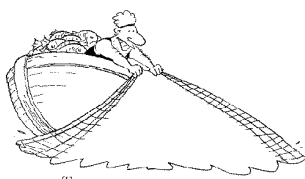
1. The dimensions of the ark.
2. The time it took to build.
3. How the animals were provided for.
4. Where they were housed.
5. How the ark floated.
6. How the animals might have come to Noah and how there were two of every kind and seven of every kind of clean animal.

Theme 1

Discuss what the Scripture means when it says "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether." (Psalm 19:9). What is a scoffer? How can we avoid cynical or negative attitudes?

Theme 2

Talk about how we can still choose to do right even if our friends do wrong, and how God helps us.



Theme One

"God is a just judge"

In the days of Noah, God judged the ways of men. God is judge of all generations and His judgment is always righteous. God wants to include us in His kingdom, however we need to be diligent not to scoff and refuse His voice, as they did in Noah's day.

Key Thought

God judges and weighs all things in His own way and in His own time.

Aim

For the children to realise that God judges and disciplines us in His love, so that we can be included in His kingdom.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is ... longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (II Peter 3:9).

Theme Two

"Choosing to be separate"

As Noah lived righteously among wicked people, so can we. People can choose to live as God would have them live even if people around them are living and doing ungodly things.

Key Thought

Choose God's way.

Aim

For the children to realise that they can live righteously in an ungodly world.

Memory Verse

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." (John 17:15).

If you are able,
measure out the
dimensions of the ark
outside with the class.
If you have room,
place markers so the
students can show
their parents.

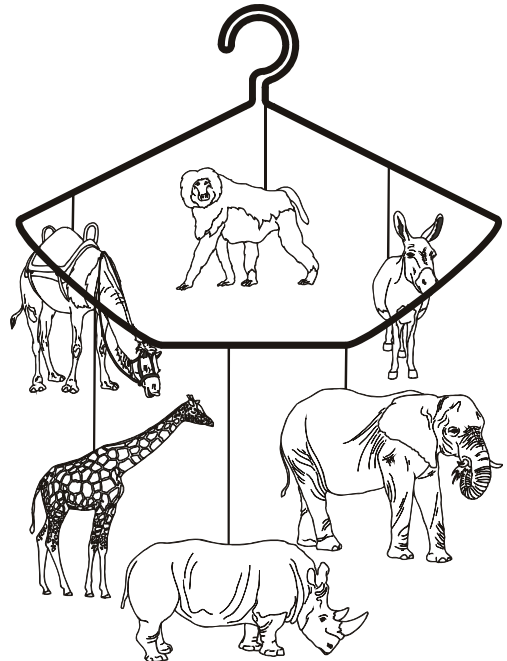
Activity A - Animal Mobile

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.
- Tape or staples.
- String.
- 1 wire coat hanger per child.

Steps

- Colour in animals, cut out, attach to strings and attach strings to coat hangers.
- Bend coat hangers to required shape.



Activity B - Verse Puzzle

Materials

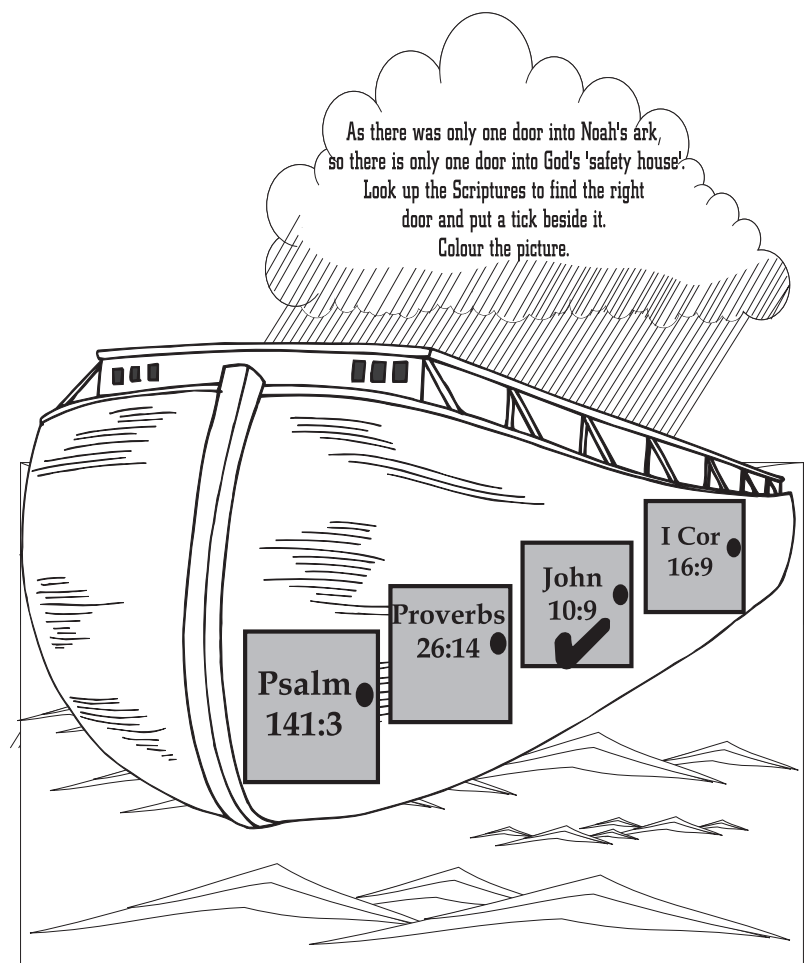
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.

Steps

- Children look up Scriptures to find the 'right door', then colour the picture.

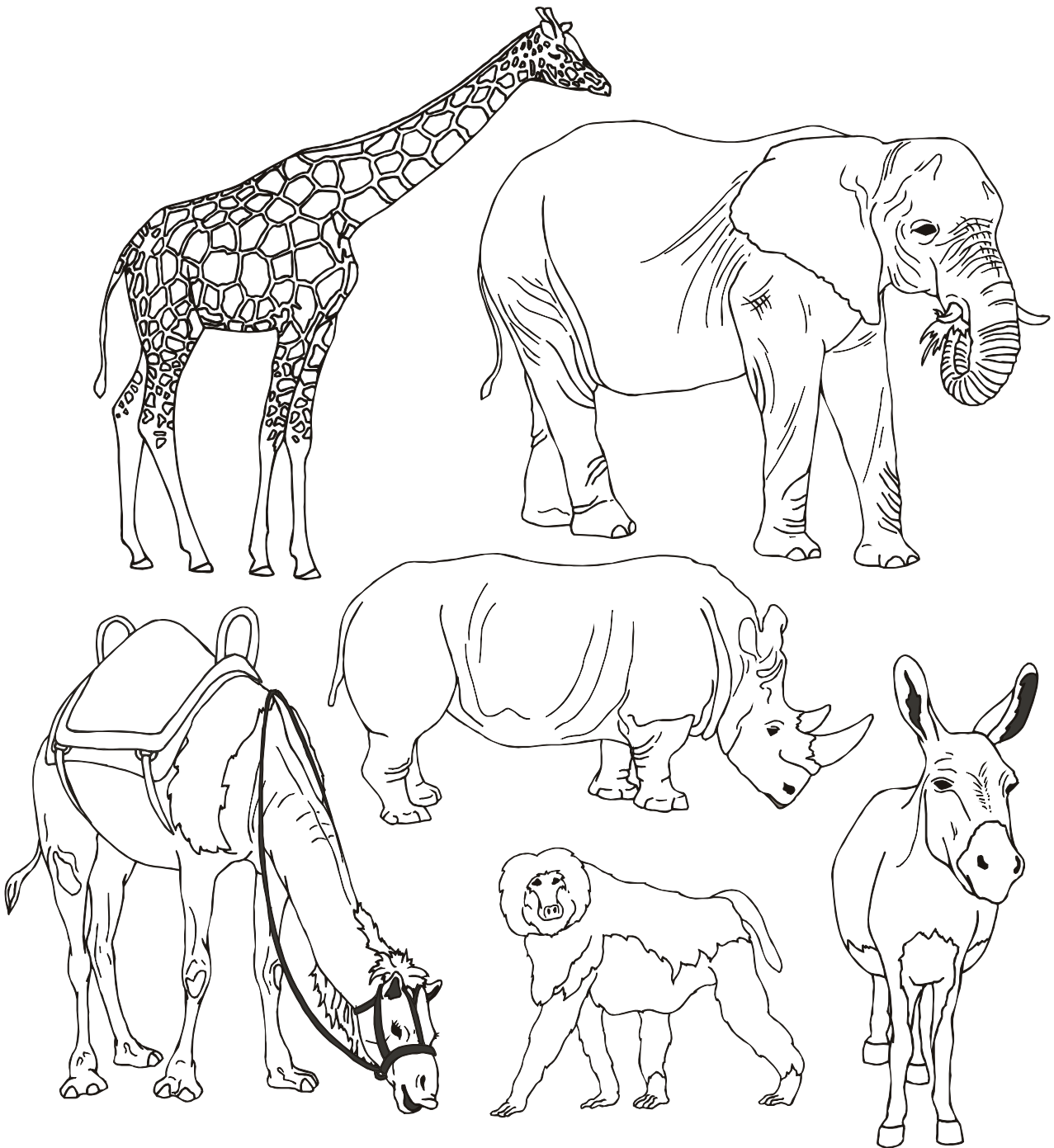
Answer

- John 10:9.



Noah builds an ark

Activity A - Animal Mobile



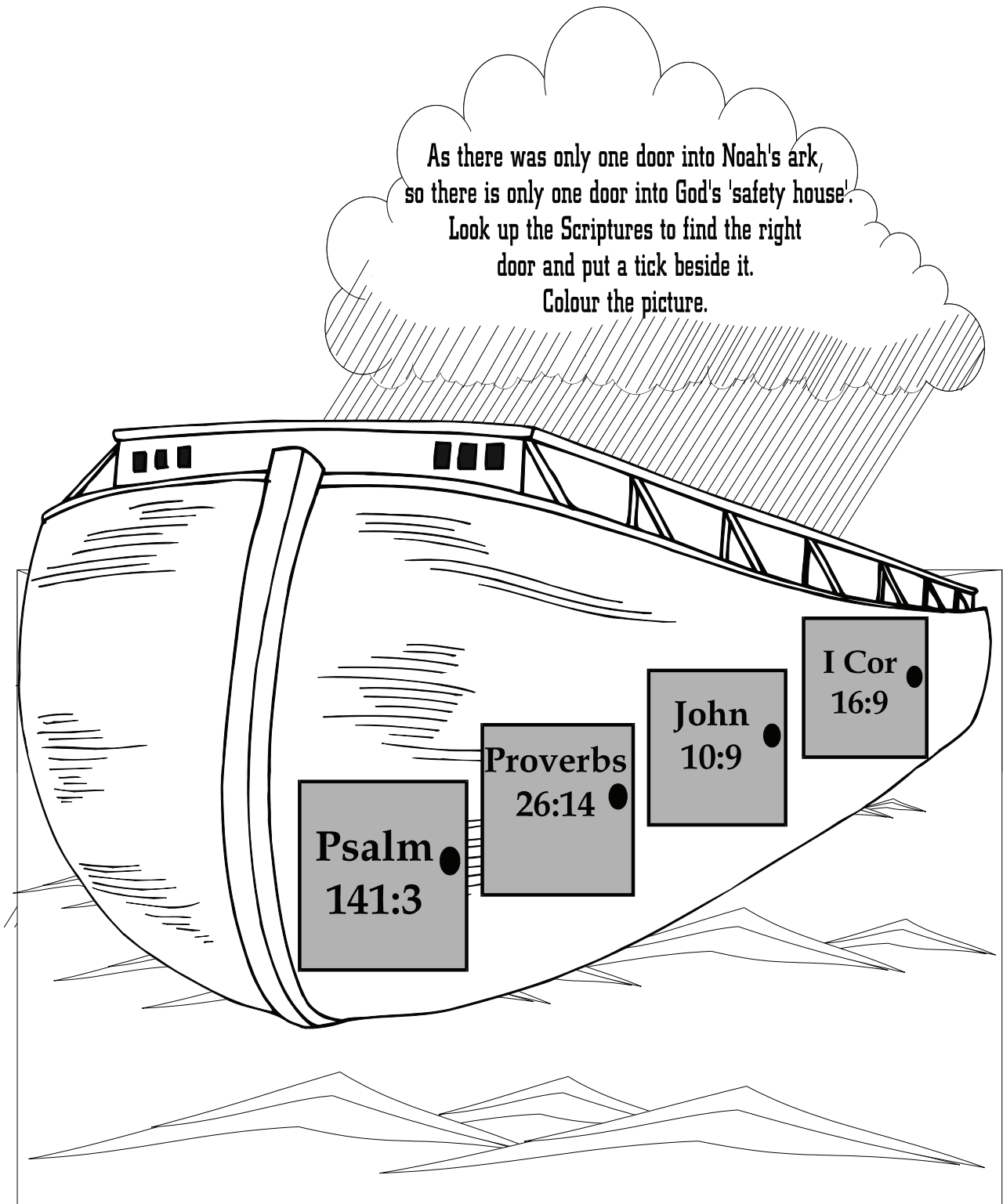
Noah builds an ark

Activity B - Verse Puzzle

As there was only one door into Noah's ark,
so there is only one door into God's 'safety house'.

Look up the Scriptures to find the right
door and put a tick beside it.

Colour the picture.



The flood, Noah and his sons

Genesis 7:17 - 9:29

Storyline

After Noah's family and the animals entered the ark, it rained for forty days and nights and the fountains of the deep were opened. The water rose and lifted the ark. God destroyed all living things except Noah and his family and the animals on board. In the seventh month, the ark rested on the mountain of Ararat. Noah sent out doves to see if the water had gone down. God told Noah and his family and the animals to leave the ark. Noah built an altar of thanksgiving to the Lord. God made a promise to Noah and his sons that he would not destroy the earth by flood again. God made the rainbow to remind them of this promise.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Ask the children if they know of a safe place that they can go in time of danger, eg.

1. stranger danger - safety house;
2. fire - an open area away from buildings;
3. flood - high ground;
4. if boat is sinking - life raft.

Then say: "When God provides a safe place for us it is because He knows of the danger to come. Here is one story of a safe place ... (tell story of Noah and his family). Discuss with children the safe places God has given them, eg. family, church, Sunday School.

Theme One

"God protects His people in times of trouble"

God kept Noah and his family safe from the raging storm around them. When we love God and follow Him, we can know Him as our strength, our shield, and our protector.

Key Thought

God protects those who love and obey Him.

Aim

To show the children how to trust in God's protection.

Memory Verse

"I will not leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:5).

Theme Two

"God is our provider"

God was able to provide all that Noah and his family needed because Noah listened to Him and obeyed Him. As we listen to our parents and obey what they have asked of us, we too will know His provision.

Key Thought

God will always give us what we need and what is best for us, not necessarily what we want and think is best.

Aim

To teach the children to accept God's provision as it is the best for them.

Memory Verse

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19).

Good questioning technique is important. Avoid asking questions that require a yes/no answer - rather, pose questions that elicit a substantial response eg. How did Noah obey God? NOT Would you say Noah was obedient to God?

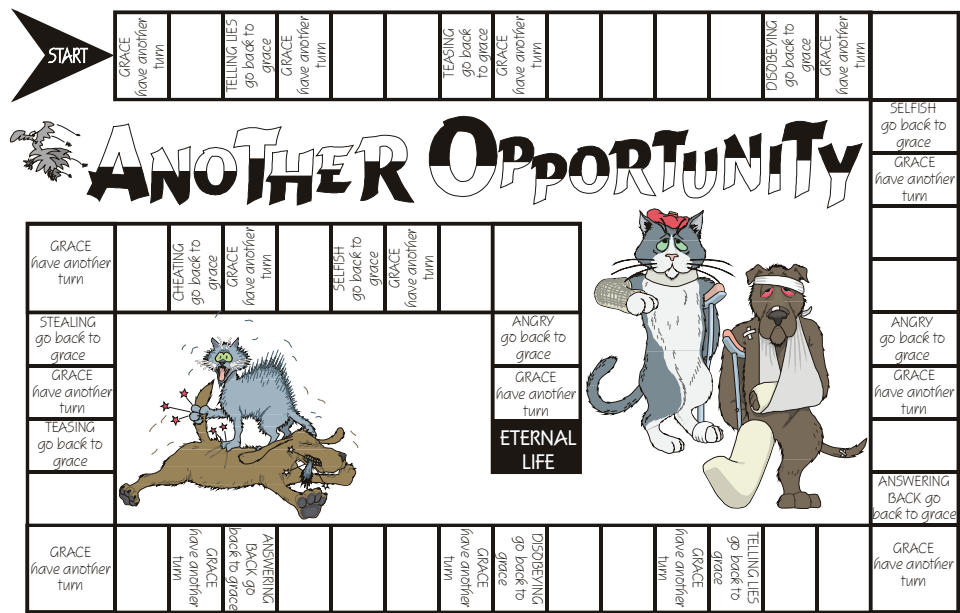
Activity A - Board Game - "Another Opportunity"

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 size and mounted on cardboard.
- 1 dice.
- 1 counter button per child.

Steps

- Take turns throwing dice and moving number of spaces indicated.
- If a player lands on 'grace' they throw dice and move again, if they land on 'sin' they must go back to the last 'grace' and throw dice again.



Activity B - Fill in the Missing Word



Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.

Steps

- Children fill in the missing words.

Answers

1. God told Noah to cover the ark with **pitch**.
2. God told Noah to take **seven** each of the birds of the air.
3. "And the rain was on the **earth** forty days and forty nights."
4. "So He destroyed all **living** things."
5. "Then God remembered **Noah**."
6. "Then the **dove** came to him."
7. "Then Noah built an **altar** to the Lord."
8. God set His rainbow in the **cloud**.

Activity A - Board Game - “Another Opportunity”



The flood, Noah and his sons

Activity B - Fill in the Missing Words



Look at the clues and fill in the missing words.

Use the Scripture references to help.

1. God told Noah to cover the ark with _____.
(rhymes with rich) (Genesis 6:14)
2. God told Noah to take _____ each of the birds
of the air. (rhymes with heaven) (Genesis 7:3)
3. "And the rain was on the _____ forty days
and forty nights." (rhymes with birth) (Genesis 7:12)
4. "So He destroyed all _____ things."
(rhymes with giving) (Genesis 7:23)
5. "Then God remembered _____."
(rhymes with boa) (Genesis 8:1)
6. "Then the _____ came to him."
(rhymes with love) (Genesis 8:11)
7. "Then Noah built an _____ to the Lord."
(rhymes with Walter) (Genesis 8:20)
8. God set His rainbow in the _____.
(rhymes with loud) (Genesis 9:13)



The tower of Babel

Genesis 11:1-9

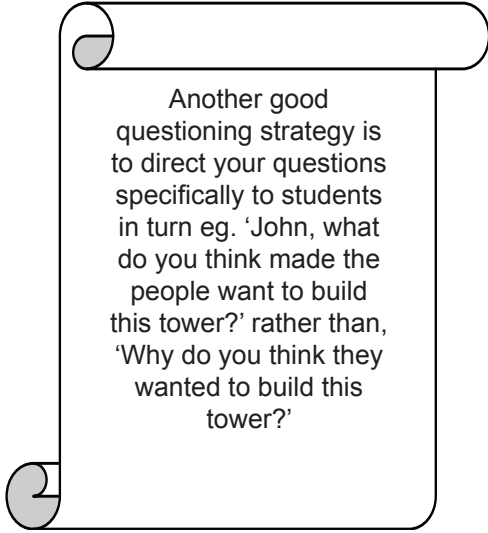
Storyline

After the flood Noah's sons had many descendants. All the people spoke the same language. The people journeyed from the east and settled in a plain in the land of Shinar. The people decided to make bricks and build a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens, to make a name for themselves so that they would not be scattered over the whole earth. However, the Lord came to see what they had done and was displeased. He confused their language and scattered them and they ceased building the city. Its name is called Babel, meaning 'confusion', because the Lord confused the language of the earth and scattered the people.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Have children build a tower with building blocks or cards until it is so high it topples. See who can build the tallest tower. Discuss:

1. Why people want to be the best at something?
2. Why did children want to build the tallest tower?
3. Why do people want to make a name for themselves?
4. This is making a name for ourselves.



Another good questioning strategy is to direct your questions specifically to students in turn eg. 'John, what do you think made the people want to build this tower?' rather than, 'Why do you think they wanted to build this tower?'

Theme One

"Man tries to reach God in his own way"

The people were trying to build a tower, upon which they could worship God their own way. By doing it this way, they missed God's way. His way is for us to walk in faith and obedience to His word. If we try to reach God in our own way and in our own strength, we will fail and be judged.

Key Thought

God's way is the only way. We must learn to trust His way and not our own.

Aim

To show the children that God only has one way for us to come to Him; trusting and believing in Jesus who is the way.

Memory Verse

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6).

Theme Two

"The need to rely on God"

The people wanted to make a name for themselves to preserve themselves. This affected their relationship with God. If we try to make a name for ourselves we begin to feel we no longer need God's guidance. This is a mark of pride and God requires us to be humble. If we allow God to work in our lives, He will lift us up as He thinks fit as we humble ourselves before Him. These men tried to do it all themselves and were judged by God. Their efforts were fruitless and brought about nothing but confusion.

Key Thought

Rely on God, not on self.

Aim

To show that doing our own thing is a useless exercise.

Memory Verse

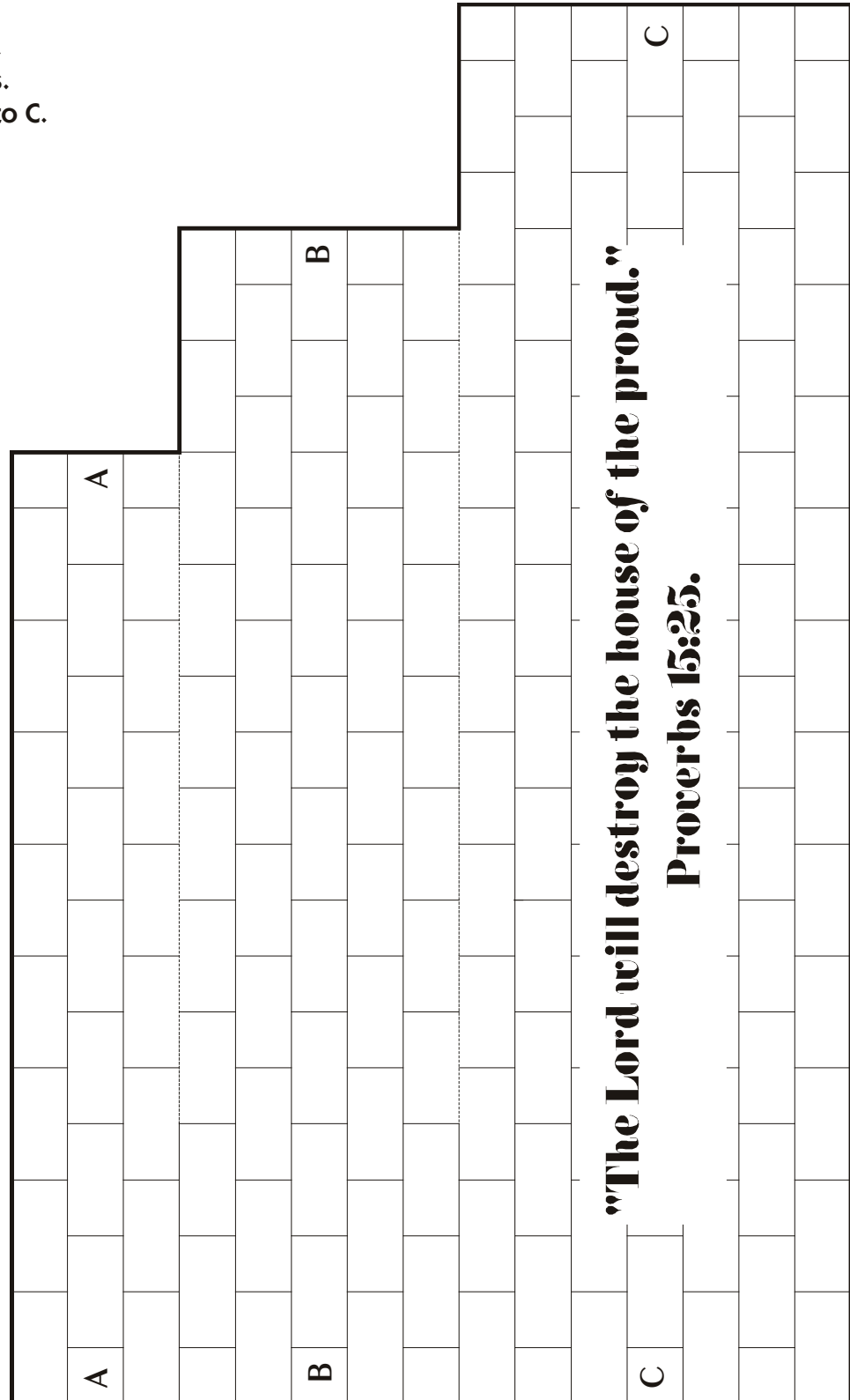
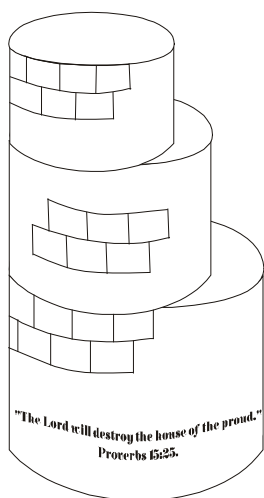
"Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain who build it." (Psalm 127:1).

The tower of Babel

Activity A - Construct a Tower

Colour in bricks.
Cut out around shape.
Cut along dotted lines.
Join A to A, B to B, C to C.

Diagram
of Tower



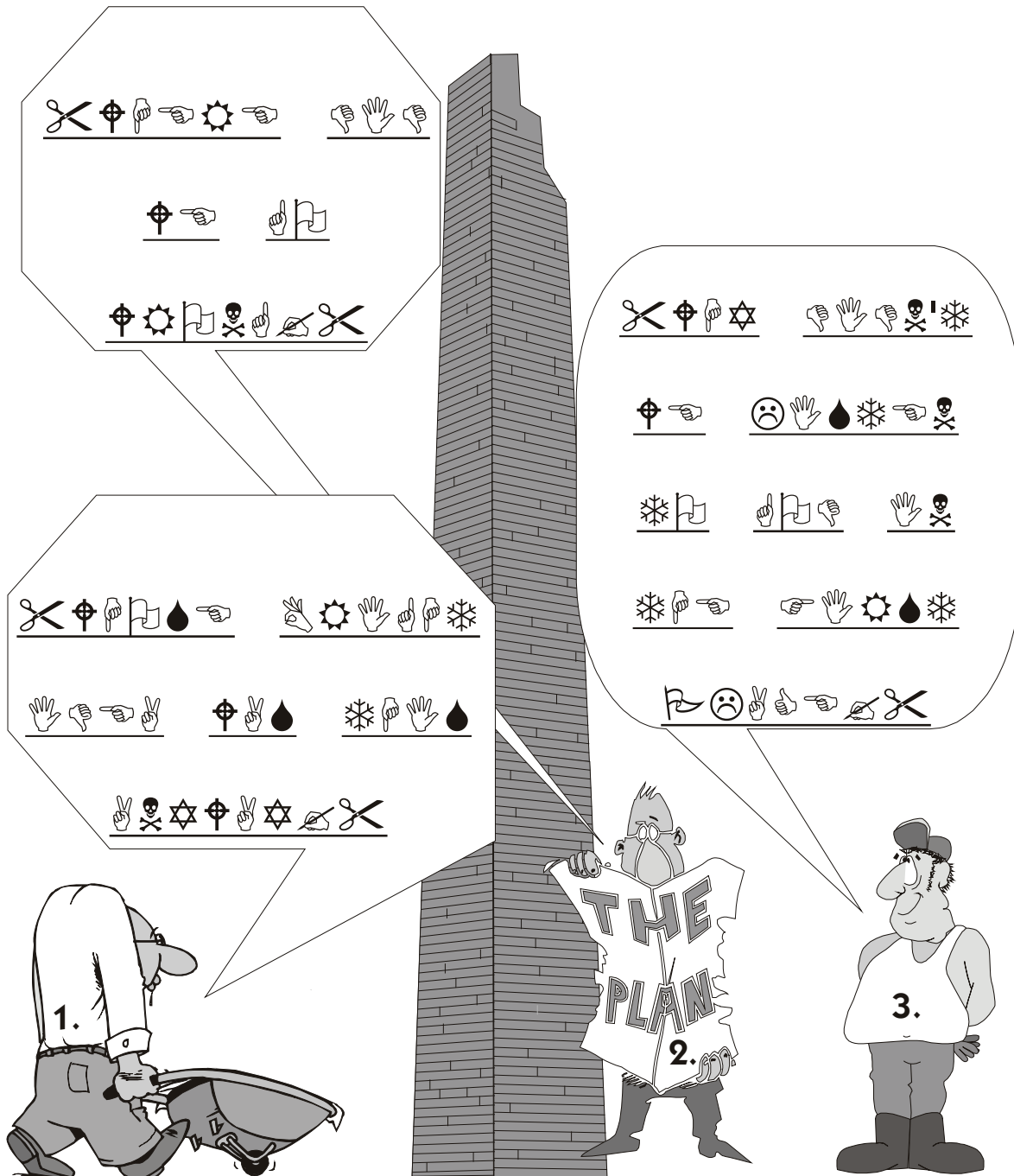
The tower of Babel

Activity B - Coded Message

God has confused their language!

These men don't know what they are saying to each other.

See if you can help them. Write the correct words above the coded ones.



The Code

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z " ?

Abram called, Abram and Lot

Genesis 12 - 14

Storyline

God told Abram to leave where he lived and go to live in the land called Canaan. God said that He would bless Abram if he did what he was told. Abram departed with his wife, Sarai, and his brother's son, Lot. After a while, because of famine, they went to Egypt, which wasn't what God wanted. The king of Egypt told Abram to leave because God had made the king's household sick. When they arrived in Canaan, Abram and Lot had so many sheep and cattle that they could not live together, so Lot went to live near an evil city called Sodom. After Lot arrived, there was a war and Sodom was captured by four kings. When Abram found out, he went after those who captured Lot and defeated them. The king of Sodom wanted to give Abram of the goods they had captured from the four kings, but Abram said, 'No', because he only wanted things from God.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. When we go on holidays to the beach, our parents watch over us. When we go out for a swim in the surf, our parents watch diligently to make sure we're safe. If they see danger, they warn us and take us away from that danger, or if we get into trouble, they come to rescue us.
2. Proceed to tell the children the story of how Abram rescued his nephew Lot when he got into trouble. Lot was a member of his family and Abram loved him.
3. In the same way God warns us of impending danger and comes to our rescue when we need Him. God loves and cares for us and is always watching over us.



Theme One

"God watches over His people"

Sometimes we only think about ourselves and what will be best for us. Lot made a selfish choice, when he went to live in the place where there was plenty of grass for his sheep and cattle. As a result, he was taken captive in a war. But God was still watching over him and sent Abraham to rescue him. Even when we stray, God still watches over us to bring us back to Himself.

Key Thought

God is our protector. No matter where we go or what we do, God knows and He watches over us.

Aim

To show the children that the Lord is always watching over us. Even when we sometimes do the wrong thing, He still loves us.

Memory Verse

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

Theme Two

"God blesses those who are obedient to Him"

God asks us to trust Him and obey Him. If we will do this, He will bless us. Because Abram believed God, he obeyed Him. So God was able to fulfil the covenant that He made with Abram. God has a wonderful plan for us, but we must trust Him and obey Him.

Key Thought

God requires obedience from His people. When God told Abram to leave his land and home, he did not ask why. He obeyed God and God blessed him.

Aim

To show the children that if we are obedient to God, He will bless us and be faithful to us.

Memory Verse

"I will bless you and make your name great." (Genesis 12:2).

After a holiday break, it is always good to review class rules - you may have these on a poster on your class wall. Express them positively eg. Always use good manners, always listen when others speak.

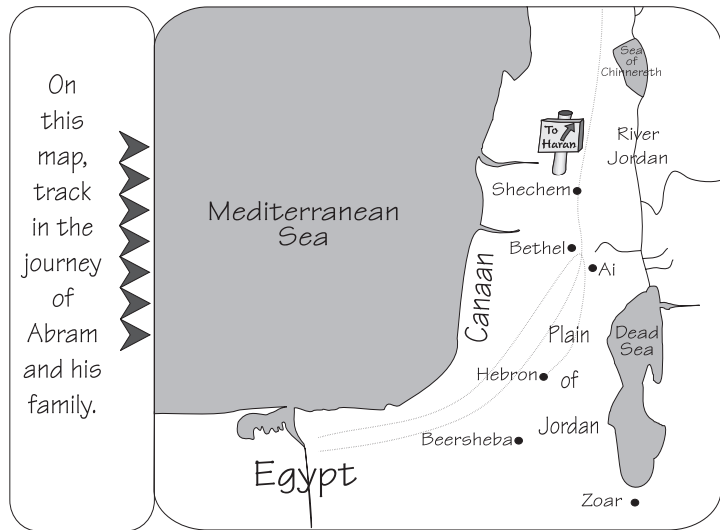
Activity A - Word Puzzle and Map

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.

Steps

- Children complete the activity as instructed on the Activity Sheet.



Activity B - Coded Message



Work out the Bible verses using the code.

a = 1 o = 4
e = 2 u = 5
i = 3

"If God is for us, who

3 4 3 4 5 4

can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)

1 2 1 13 5

"I will bless you and make

3 2 45 1 1 2

your name great." (Genesis 12:2)

45 1 2 21



Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.
- Bibles.

Abram called, Abram and Lot

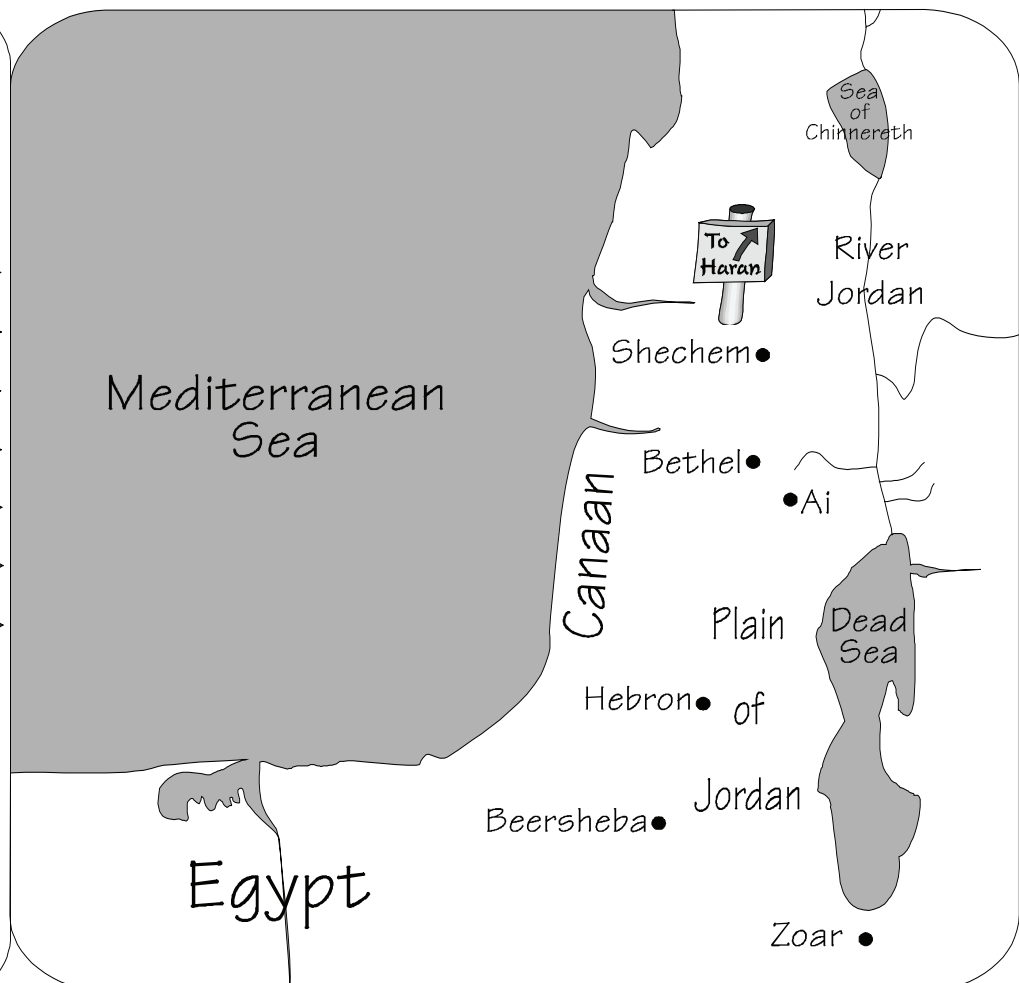
Activity A - Word Puzzle and Map



Fill in the missing words of God's promises to Abram in Genesis 12:2.

"I will make you a great;
I will you
And make your great;
And you shall be a"

On
this
map,
track
in the
journey
of
Abram
and his
family.



Abram called, Abram and Lot

Activity B - Coded Message



Work out the Bible
verses using the code.

a = 1 o = 4
e = 2 u = 5
i = 3

" 3 f G 4 d 3 s f 4 r 5 s, wh 4

c 1 n b 2 1 g 1 3 nst 5 s?" (Romans 8:31)

"I w 3 ll bl 2 ss y 4 5 1 nd m 1 k 2

y 4 5 r n 1 m 2 gr 2 1 t." (Genesis 12:2)



The covenant with Abraham

Genesis 15 - 17

Storyline

Abram heard the word of the Lord in a vision. Abram questioned Him about not having children. The Lord told Abram that his descendants would be as the stars of the heavens. Abram believed the Lord and He accounted it to him as righteousness. The Lord told Abram that the land was his and changed his name from Abram to Abraham. He also told him what would happen to his descendants and changed his wife's name from Sarai to Sarah.


Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Revise the initiation of God's covenant with Abraham. Discuss again the meaning of 'covenant'.

Theme 2

Why do we believe the things some people tell us and disbelieve others? What causes us to trust people?



Invite a guest speaker to class to share about when they were born again or when they trusted God and He helped them.

Theme One

"God makes a promise"

God makes promises to His children. The Lord made a covenant with Abraham, promising him children and the inheritance of the land. God has some wonderful promises for us also. We know that whatever God promises, He will do, because God is faithful.

Key Thought

God is good to us, and when He makes a promise, He always keeps that promise.

Aim

To show the children that we will not know God's plan for us if we do not take time to listen to Him.

Memory Verse

"The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works." (Psalm 145:9).

Theme Two

"We should believe God"

We may not always understand God's ways, but we should believe in Him. In fact, often we don't understand what God is doing. We must trust Him, even when we don't understand His ways. Abraham did not understand God's ways, but he believed and this pleased God

Key Thought

God asks us to believe Him and trust Him. Unless we believe, we cannot please God.

Aim

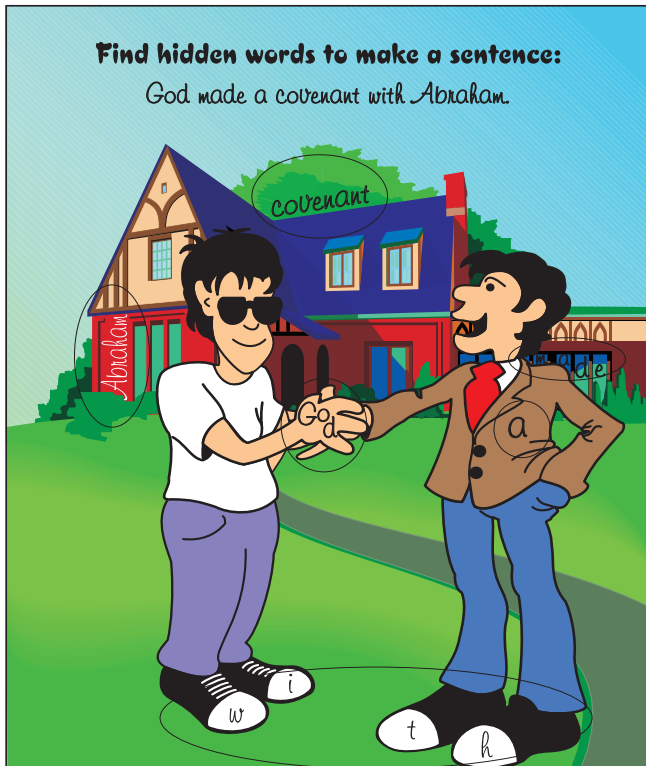
To show that God requires us to believe even though we may not always understand.

Memory Verse

"And he believed in the Lord, and He accounted it to him for righteousness." (Genesis 15:6).



Activity A - Find Hidden Words



Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Steps

- Children find the words hidden in the picture and make them into a sentence.

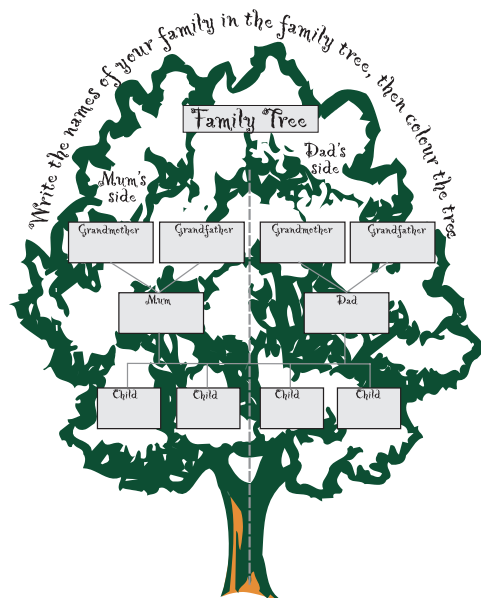
Activity B - Family Tree and Stars in Heaven

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils/felt pens.
- Glue.
- Glitter.

Steps

- Children write the names of their family in the family tree.
- Children cover the black area with glue and sprinkle with silver glitter, to see how hard it is to count the 'stars'.
- If time permits, the children can colour the tree.



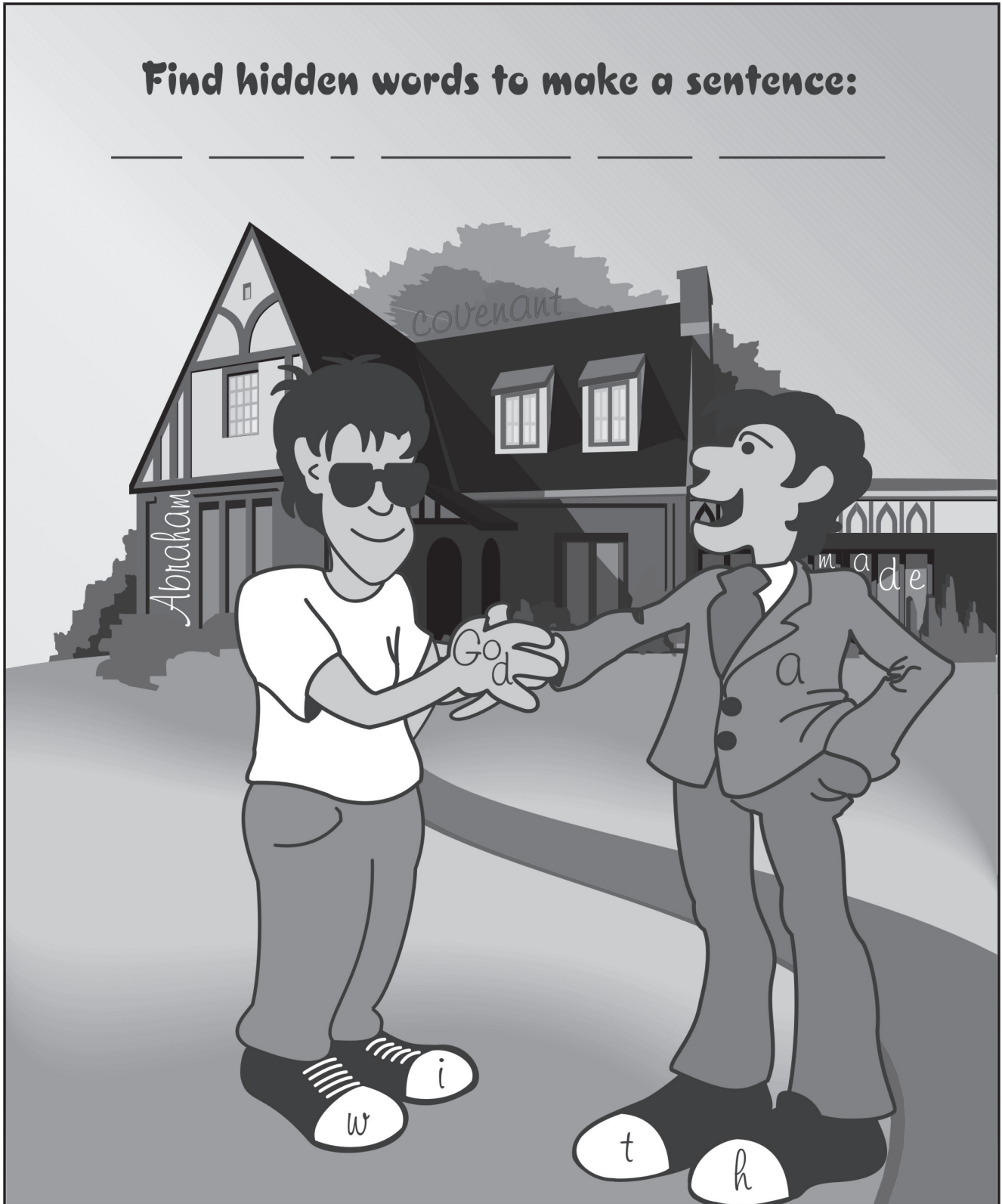
God promised Abraham his descendants would be as innumerable as the stars in the heavens. Cover this black box with glue, sprinkle with glitter and then see if you can count the bits of glitter.



The covenant with Abraham

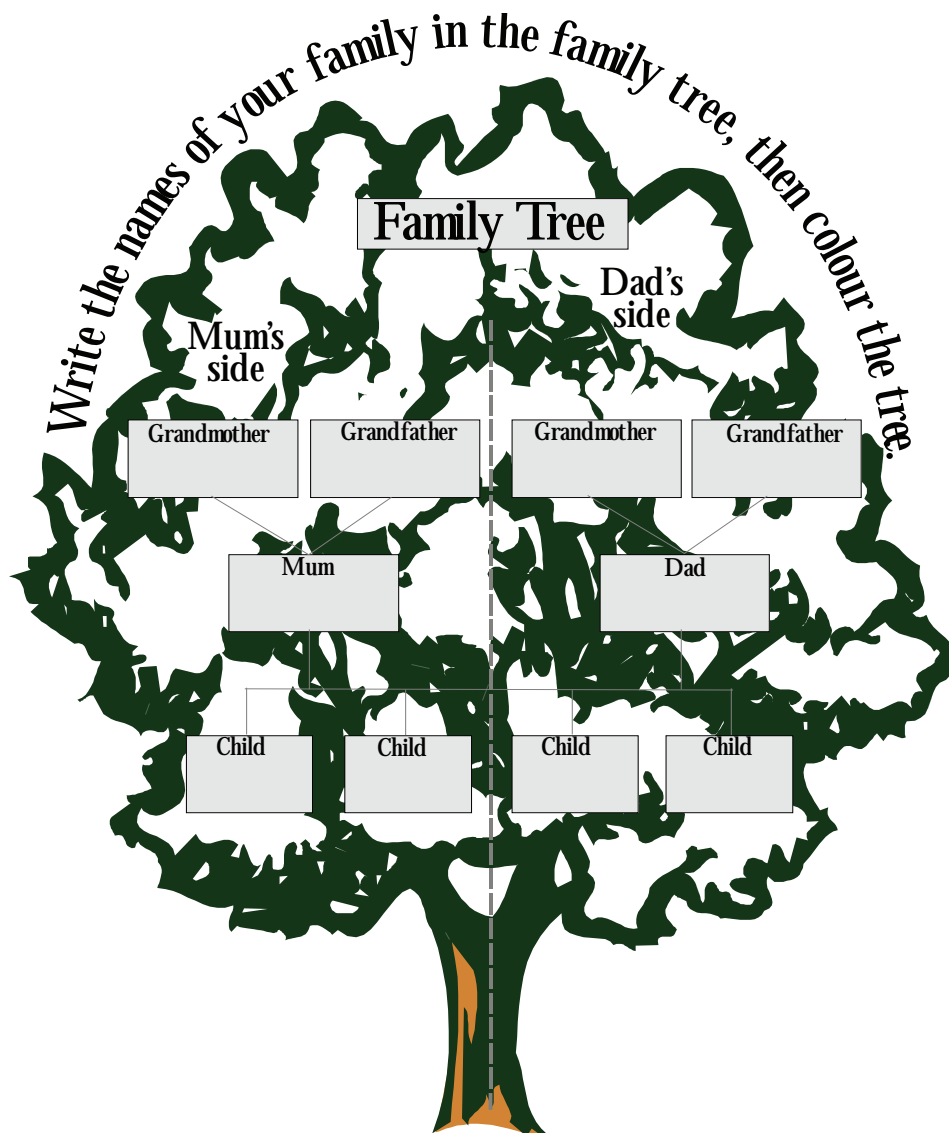
Activity A - Find Hidden Words

Find hidden words to make a sentence:



The covenant with Abraham

Activity B - Family Tree and Stars in Heaven



God promised Abraham his descendants would be as innumerable as the stars in the heavens. Cover this black box with glue, sprinkle with glitter and then see if you can count the bits of glitter.



Ishmael and Isaac

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

Storyline

Because Sarah had had no children, she suggested to Abraham that her maid, Hagar, could have a child for them. Abraham had agreed and Hagar, the bond-woman, had a son whom she called Ishmael. When Abraham was 99 years old, God told him that he and Sarah would have their own child. Sarah laughed because she thought she was too old to have a child. The following year, they had a son, whom they called Isaac. As the two boys grew, Ishmael mocked Isaac. Abraham, at Sarah's suggestion and with God's permission, sent Hagar and Ishmael away.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Discuss promises; how we have to be careful when we make them that we can deliver. Sometimes we can't. Why? God always keeps His.

Theme 2

Talk about 'impossible' things. Nothing is impossible for God but we can limit Him by using our own understanding.

Theme One

"God keeps His promise"

Sometimes God's promises seem to us to be a long time coming. We often become impatient and try to do things in our own strength. Chaos results. God never fails and we must be patient and wait for His timing.

Key Thought

We need to trust God's word and be patient until God fulfils His promise in His own time.

Aim

To show the children that if we do things in our own strength, we will make a mess of them.

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding." (Proverbs 3:5).

Theme Two

"We should never limit God"

Nothing is impossible with God. Sometimes He makes promises that we think are impossible. Sarah found it difficult to believe what God said because it was beyond her understanding. God sometimes waits until it seems impossible before He acts, to show us His power.

Key Thought

Because God is who He is, He can do all things. Nothing is impossible with God.

Aim

To show the children that, while a problem may seem insoluble to us, nothing is too hard for God.

Memory Verse

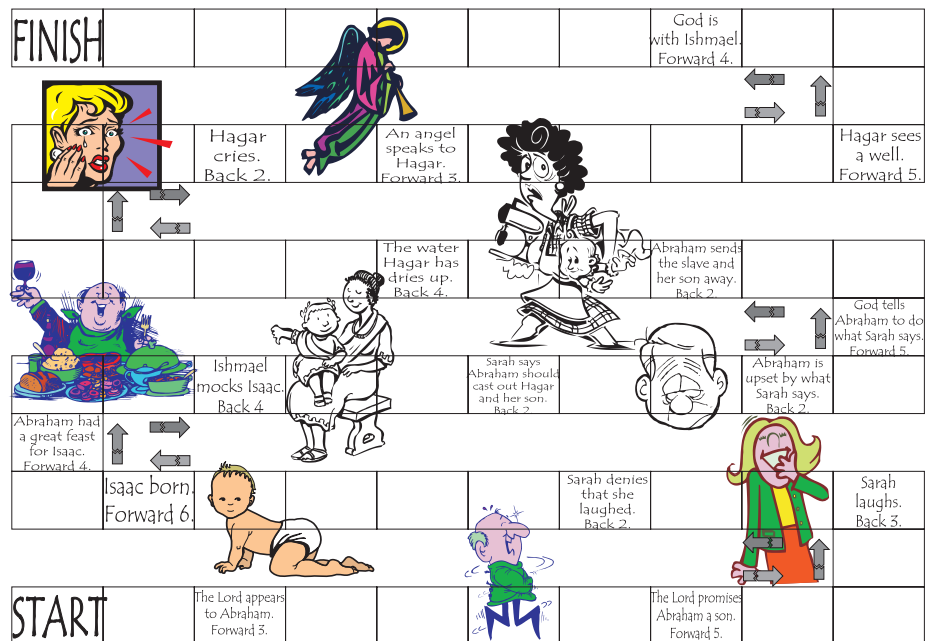
"The Lord has His way in the whirlwind and the storm, and the clouds are the dust of His feet." (Nahum 1:3).

In modern 'Christian' society, a bond-woman having your child would be scandalous. Take time to explain that in Abraham's day this was quite normal but unacceptable to God.

Activity A - Game

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 and laminated or mounted on cardboard. (If there are more than six children in the class you will need two copies).
- 1 normal size copy of the game for each child to take home.
- 1 dice for each board and 1 button for each child.



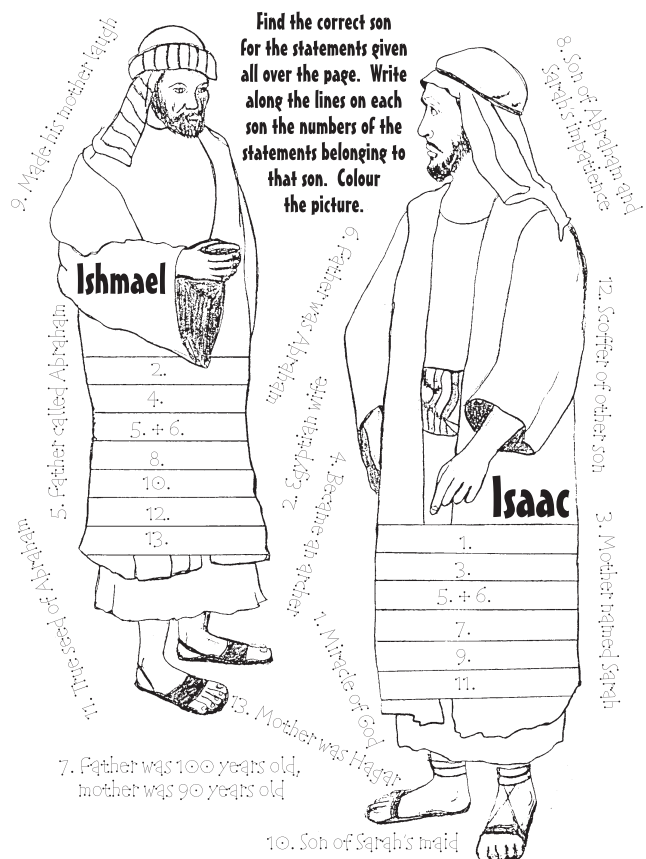
Activity B - Find the Correct Statements for Each Son

Materials

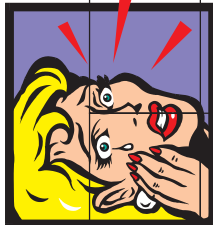
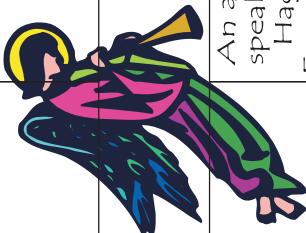



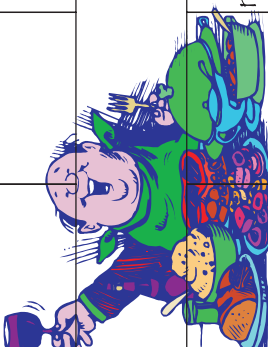
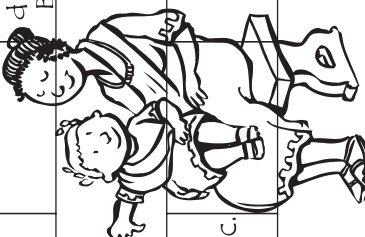



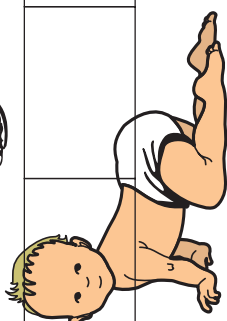
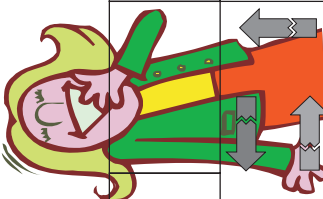

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/felt pens/colouring pencils.

Steps

- Children find the correct son for each statement on the page and write the number of the statement on the son.
- If time permits, the children could colour the picture.



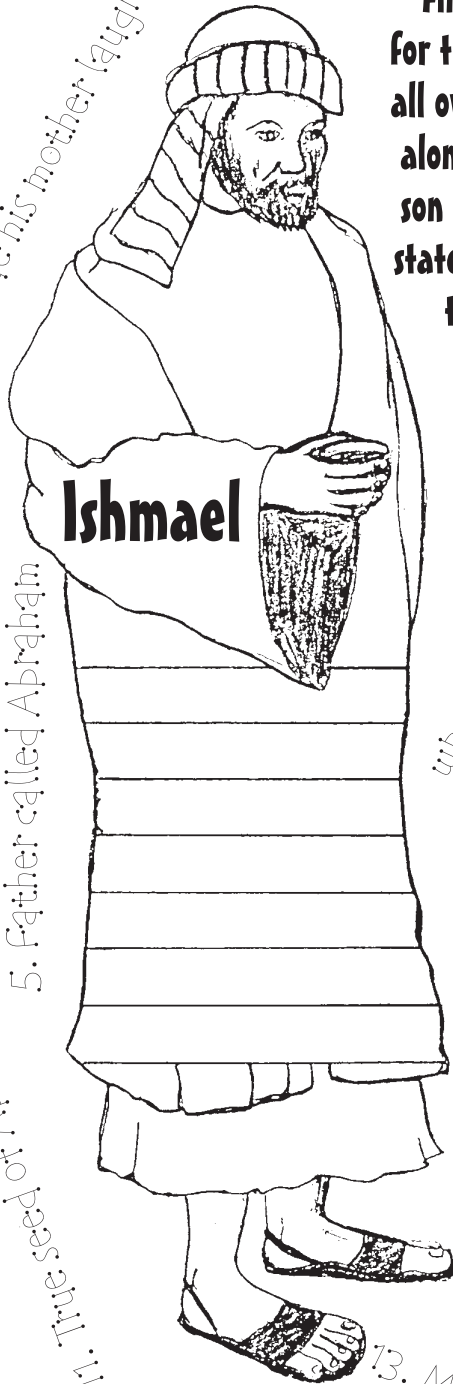
Activity A - Game

FINISH		Hagar cries. Back 2.	An angel speaks to Hagar. Forward 3.		God is with Ishmael. Forward 4.	  	Hagar sees a well. Forward 5.
		Ishmael mocks Isaac. Back 4		The water Hagar has dries up. Back 4.	Abraham sends the slave and her son away. Back 2.	  	God tells Abraham to do what Sarah says. Forward 5.
	Abraham had a great feast for Isaac. Forward 4.	Isaac born. Forward 6.		Sarah denies that she laughed. Back 2.	Abraham is upset by what Sarah says. Back 2.		Sarah laughs. Back 3.
START	The Lord appears to Abraham. Forward 3.		The Lord promises Abraham a son. Forward 5.				

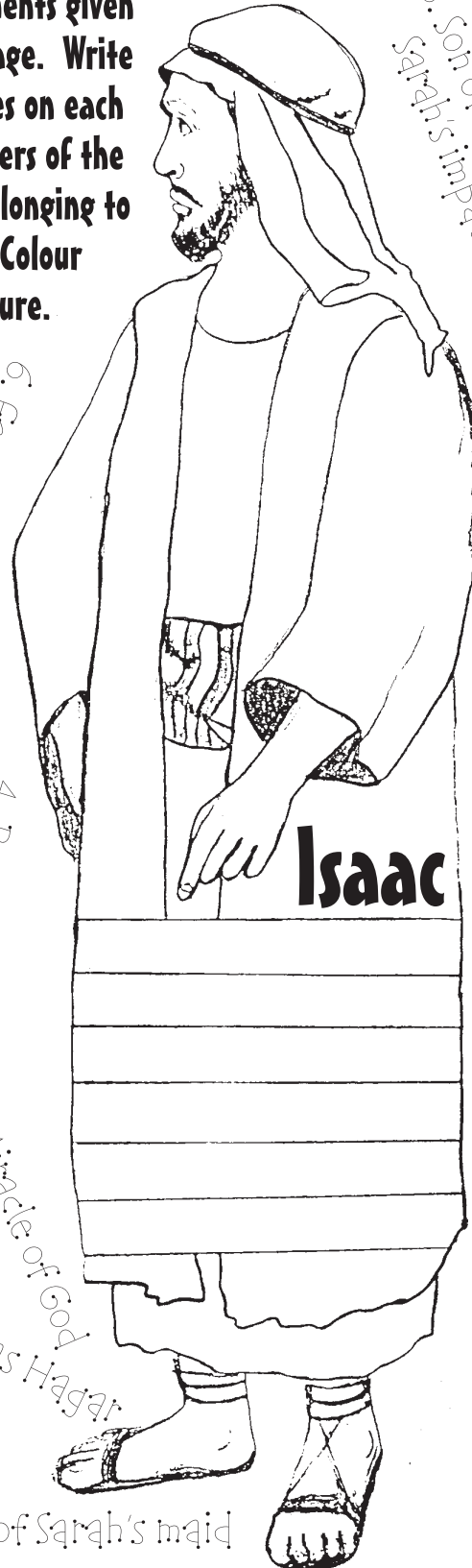
Ishmael and Isaac

Activity B - Find Correct Statements for Each Son

Find the correct son
for the statements given
all over the page. Write
along the lines on each
son the numbers of the
statements belonging to
that son. Colour
the picture.



Ishmael



Isaac

9. Made his mother laugh

5. Father called Abraham

11. True seed of Abraham

7. Father was 100 years old,
mother was 90 years old

6. Father was Abraham

4. Became an archer

1. Miracle of God

13. Mother was Hagar

10. Son of Sarah's maid

8. Son of Abraham and Sarah's impatience

12. Scoffer of other son

3. Mother named Sarah

Sodom and Gomorrah

Genesis 19

Storyline

Lot, Abraham's nephew, and his family, had chosen to live in the evil city of Sodom. One day, two angels visited Sodom. Lot insisted they stay with him. The evil men of Sodom tried to attack the men and almost seized Lot but he was saved by the angels. The angels told Lot to get all his family to leave as God had sent them to destroy the city. Lot, however, was slow in obeying, so the Lord was merciful and caused the angels to take his family outside the city. Lot and his kinsfolk were warned not to look behind, but to escape to the mountains. Lot asked instead to go to the city of Zoar. The Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's wife looked back as that was where her heart really was, and was turned into a pillar of salt.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Talk about others in the Bible who perished because they were evil, eg. Pharaoh's army, people in Noah's time. To have eternal life, we must obey God.

Theme 2

Talk about the dangers of looking backwards in the natural, i.e. we can stumble and fall, crash into something, etc. It is the same in the spiritual. We must look where we are going and keep on going, or we will not progress.

Try an outdoor activity where children walk backwards looking behind them, whilst trying to follow a winding chalk line (on a path) or a wool line (on the grass). Make sure you walk behind them as they have their turn in case they stumble.

Theme One

"God destroys the evil"

God is holy and just and He cannot tolerate evil. In the end, God will destroy all evil. Even now, sometimes God judges evil men and destroys them, unless they repent. Evil men lived in the cities of the plains. God finally judged and destroyed them.

Key Thought

Our God is a just God. Because of this He must judge wickedness and rescue those who are just, like Lot.

Aim

To show that God is merciful to those who listen to Him but will destroy the evil-doers.

Memory Verse

"For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth." (Psalm 37:9).

Theme Two

"God is merciful"

Although God is just, He is also merciful. Even before the time of the flood, when men were extremely evil, God gave them many years in which to repent before He finally sent the flood. Even in Sodom, Lot was a preacher of righteousness. At last, God destroyed Sodom, but He rescued Lot and his wife and two daughters. God's mercy endures for ever.

Key Thought

God is merciful, but we must not assume that we can live carelessly and not be judged.

Aim

To show that we have a merciful Father. We must obey His word and walk with Him or be destroyed.

Memory Verse

"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins ... I will remember no more." (Hebrews 8:12).

Activity A - Lot's Wife as a Pillar of Salt

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Glue.
- Silver glitter.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- Children answer the questions on the Activity Sheet.
- Colour the picture of Lot's wife and then glue glitter all over to represent salt.
- If time permits, the children could colour the rest of the picture.

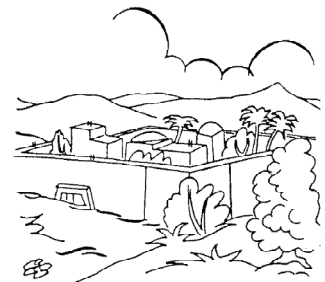
Answers

Zoar.

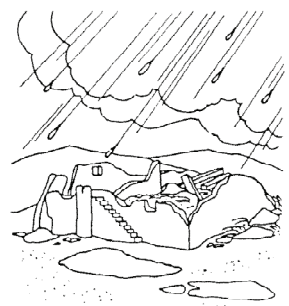
She looked back.



What did Lot's wife do?



What city did Lot want to go to?



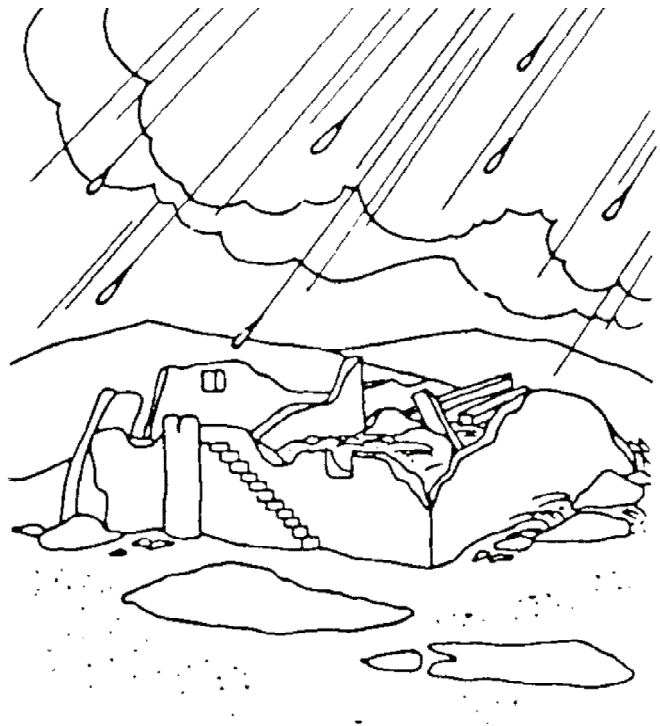
Activity B - Fire and Brimstone

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Red and yellow cellophane cut into strips (for fire).
- Little stones, coloured yellow (for brimstone).
- Craft glue.

Steps

- Have the children stick the cellophane and the yellow stones over the city to show how God rained down fire and brimstone from heaven to destroy the city.



Sodom and Gomorrah

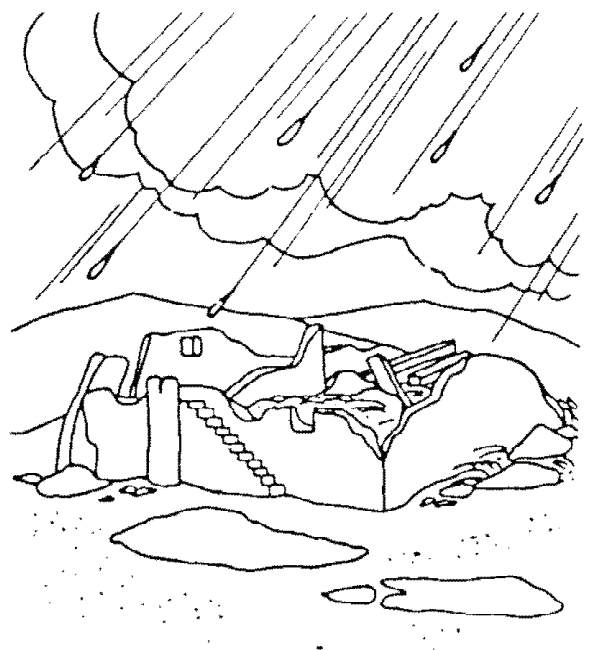
Activity A - Lot's Wife as Pillar of Salt



What did Lot's wife do?

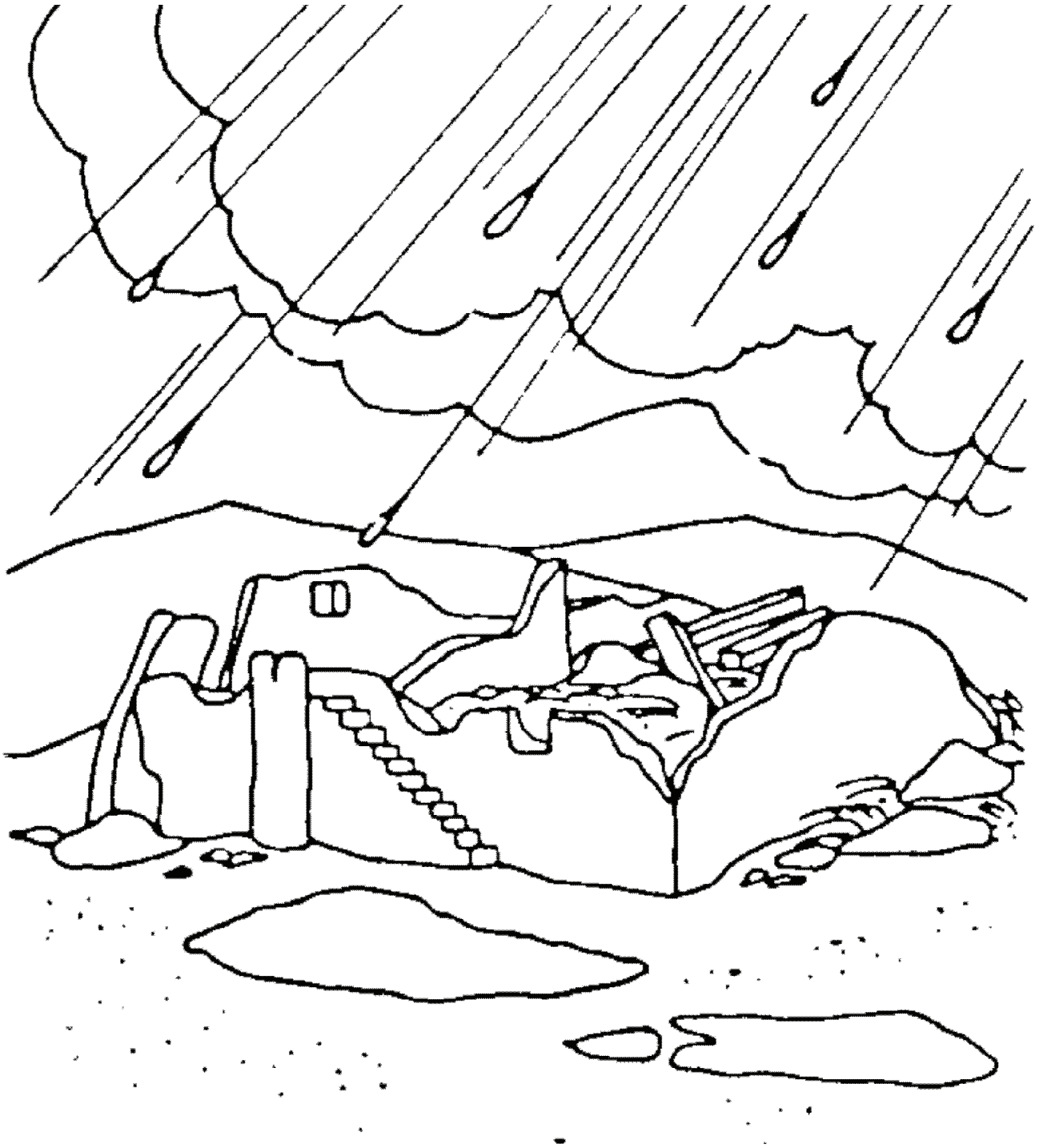


**What city did
Lot want to go to?**



Sodom and Gomorrah

Activity B - Fire and Brimstone



The sacrifice of Isaac

Genesis 22

Storyline

God tested Abraham by telling him to sacrifice his only son, Isaac, as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of Moriah. Abraham did not hesitate but went where he was led, gathered wood and built an altar and laid a fire. Isaac asked his father where the lamb was for the sacrifice. Abraham told him that God would provide it. Then he bound Isaac and laid him on the altar. As he prepared to slay him, an angel told him not to do so. Then Abraham saw a ram in a thicket which he offered up instead.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

Talk about being obedient to our parents, our teachers, the elders, and God. Explain how God asks us to do certain things and how we should respond by obedience. The children can then enact the drama (Activity A).

Theme 2

Be sensitive in telling this story. Explain that God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations and that Isaac was the promised seed. Abraham might have found it difficult to understand why God would want him to offer up Isaac, but he had complete trust in God. In fact, he believed that God would raise Isaac from the dead. We don't always understand what God requires of us, but we are to trust Him because His promises never fail. The children can then carry out Activity B.

Theme One

"We should obey God"

Sometimes God asks us to do things that are not easy for us to do, or things that we don't want to do. He may even ask us to do things that we don't think He should ask us to do. No matter what, God asks us to obey Him. Just as Abraham proved his faithfulness by being totally obedient to what God required of him, so should we.

Key Thought

God has the absolute right to ask of us whatever He chooses and to expect us to obey. God requires total obedience.

Aim

To show the children that no sacrifice God asks of us will be too hard for us.

Memory Verse

"If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." (Isaiah 1:19).

Theme Two

"We should trust God completely"

We may safely trust God. He will fulfil His promises and He will never ask us to do something that is impossible. When He asks us to do something, He will help us to do it, but we must trust Him. Abraham believed God when He said he would be the father of many nations. He was willing to sacrifice his son, trusting God to raise him again from the dead. If we trust God completely, we shall be willing to do whatever He asks us to do.

Key Thought

God never lies and never changes His mind. We can always believe God's word.

Aim

To impress on the children that God keeps His promises.

Memory Verse

"But he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered." (Proverbs 28:25).

As each week's activities take different lengths of time, always plan your lesson in time segments (eg. intro - 5 mins; activity - 20 mins; revision - 5 mins; memory verse/homework - 5 mins) to complete all activities.

Activity A - Drama

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per actor.
- Suitable props.

Steps

- Re-enact the events surrounding Isaac's sacrifice.
- Select children to play the roles of God, Abraham, Isaac, the angel and the young men.
- After the drama discuss important aspects of this event, drawing parallels to God and His Son, Jesus, as our sacrifice. eg. Isaac was obedient, Isaac trusted his father, Isaac carried wood on his own back, etc.

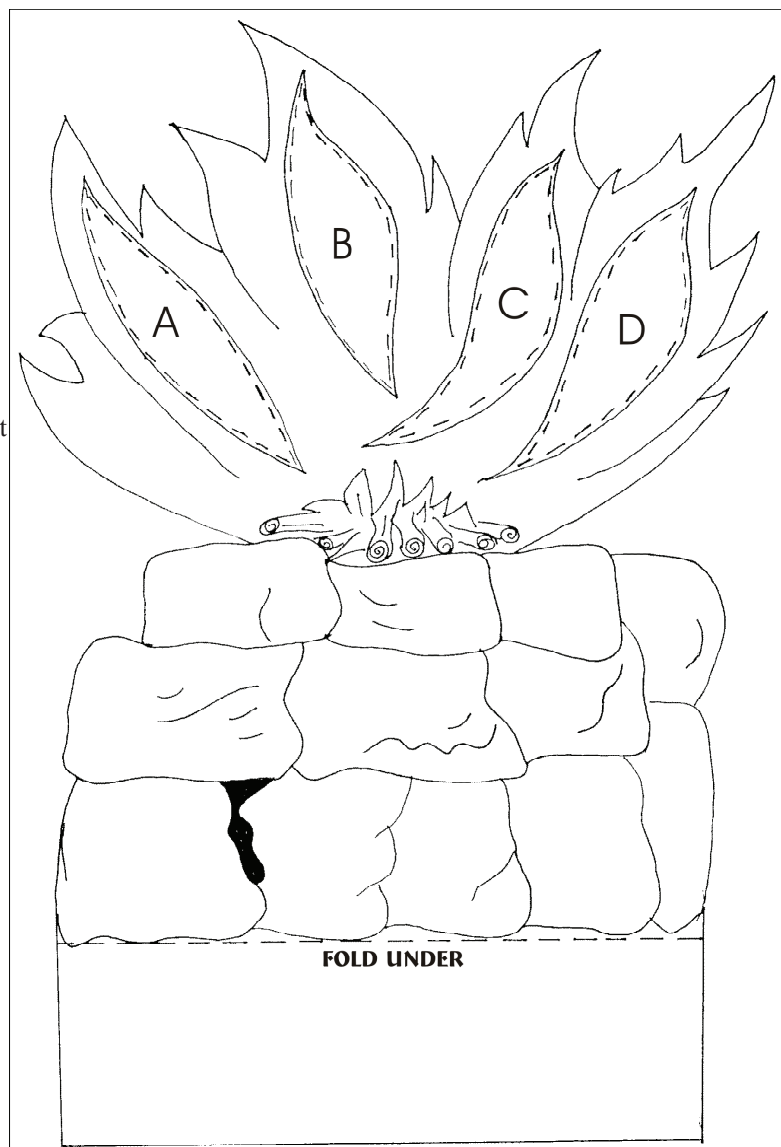
Activity B - Altar Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child mounted on cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Coloured cellophane.
- Material scraps, eg. hessian.

Steps

- Cut out altar.
- Cut out sections A, B, C & D.
- Paste coloured cellophane behind cut out sections.
- Glue pieces of material to bricks.
- Fold flap under.



The sacrifice of Isaac

Activity A - Drama

God: "Abraham!"

Abraham: "Here I am."

God: "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

(Abraham goes to sleep, then rises, saddles a donkey, chops some wood and takes two young men and Isaac and departs on the journey. After journeying for three days he looks up and sees the place afar off.)

Abraham

(to young men): "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

(Abraham takes the wood and puts it on Isaac's back, picks up a piece of burning fire and a knife, and he and Isaac head off.)

Isaac: "My father!"

Abraham: "Here I am, my son."

Isaac: "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

Abraham: "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering."

(The two of them keep going on together until they come to the place God had told them. Abraham builds an altar, places the wood on it, and then binds Isaac to the altar. He picks up the knife to kill Isaac.)

Angel of the Lord: "Abraham, Abraham!"

Abraham: "Here I am."

Angel: "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

(Abraham looks up to see behind him a ram caught in a thicket. Abraham takes the ram, and offers it on the altar instead of Isaac.)

Abraham: "I will name this place, 'The-Lord-Will-Provide'."

The sacrifice of Isaac

Activity B - Altar Collage



Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Genesis 24

Storyline

Abraham sent his faithful servant, Eliezer, back to Abraham's family to find a bride for Isaac. He did not wish his son to marry one of the Canaanites. The servant prayed for the Lord to guide him to the right young woman. Eliezer saw Rebekah by a well and she gave Eliezer and his animal's water. He asked her to go with him to be Isaac's wife and she went willingly.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. A guide for this lesson incorporates Activity A (treasure hunt) as per attached sheet; the bride doll (or dressed toy) being the treasure.
2. The game could be held inside or outside, and end with morning tea, as in a wedding celebration.
3. After morning tea, the story of Eliezer's search for Rebekah as a bride for his master's son, could be told and linked to the careful instructions in the treasure hunt. The treasure hunt instructions guided the children to the bride doll. As Eliezer prayed, God guided him very clearly to the bride for Isaac.

Students will naturally be excited and enthusiastic about outside activities. Before going outside, clearly state your expectations for behaviour eg. 'We will need to speak quietly while church is on,' 'When I am speaking, everyone come close and listen.'

Theme One

"The faithful servant"

We do not want to serve Satan, but rather we want to be the servants of God. Servants are required to do what they are asked to do and to do it faithfully. Eliezer did all that Abraham asked of him, not satisfying his own desires but looking after those of his master and family. In the same way, we should not try to satisfy our own desires, but do God's will.

Key Thought

Although those who believe in God are God's children, we are also God's servants. God requires us to be faithful and obedient servants.

Aim

To explain the duties of a servant and show how we should be a servant of the Lord.

Memory Verse

"Men shall call you the Servants of our God." (Isaiah 61:6).

Theme Two

"Called to be perfect"

Just as Abraham wanted a suitable wife for his son, so the Father wants a perfect bride for His Son. Eliezer discovered that Rebekah was beautiful, chaste, modest and unmarried - a suitable wife for Isaac. The Holy Spirit is looking for those who will be part of Christ's bride. The Lord is cleansing them so that He can present to Himself a bride that is spotless and pure.

Key Thought

God wants a perfect bride for His Son and He wants us to be part of the bride for His Son.

Aim

To show a parallel between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and Abraham, Isaac and Eliezer.

Memory Verse

"For her worth is far above rubies." (Proverbs 31:10).



Activity A - Treasure Hunt

Materials

- Paper, pen, envelopes, prizes eg. Minties.
- Bride doll.
- Morning tea, i.e. biscuits and drink.

Steps

- Write out clues and place them in envelopes with prizes.
- Select an area, either inside or outside to conduct the treasure hunt.
- Hide the clues.
- Example of clues:
 - Take 3 steps forward, now look for a clue (remember children have smaller steps than we do).
 - Look straight ahead, can you see the tallest tree - what is behind it?
 - Take 9 steps forward, turn right, what is in front of you?
- To make sure everyone has a turn at reading a question, place instructions on the front of the envelope saying who is able to open it, eg.
 - to the tallest,
 - to the shortest,
 - to the youngest,
 - to someone with blue eyes,
 - to someone with black hair, etc. to include all your children.
- The last clue will lead to a bride doll/teddy - whatever you have (Rebekah). We have found a bride for Isaac!
- Sit children down and discuss the story over morning tea or snack on the prizes.

Activity B - Maze

Materials

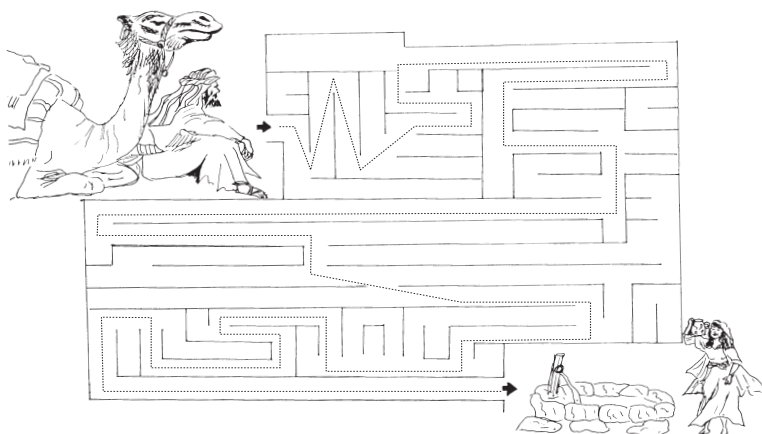
- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/felt pens/colouring pencils.

Steps

- Children find their way through the maze, then colour the picture.

Answer

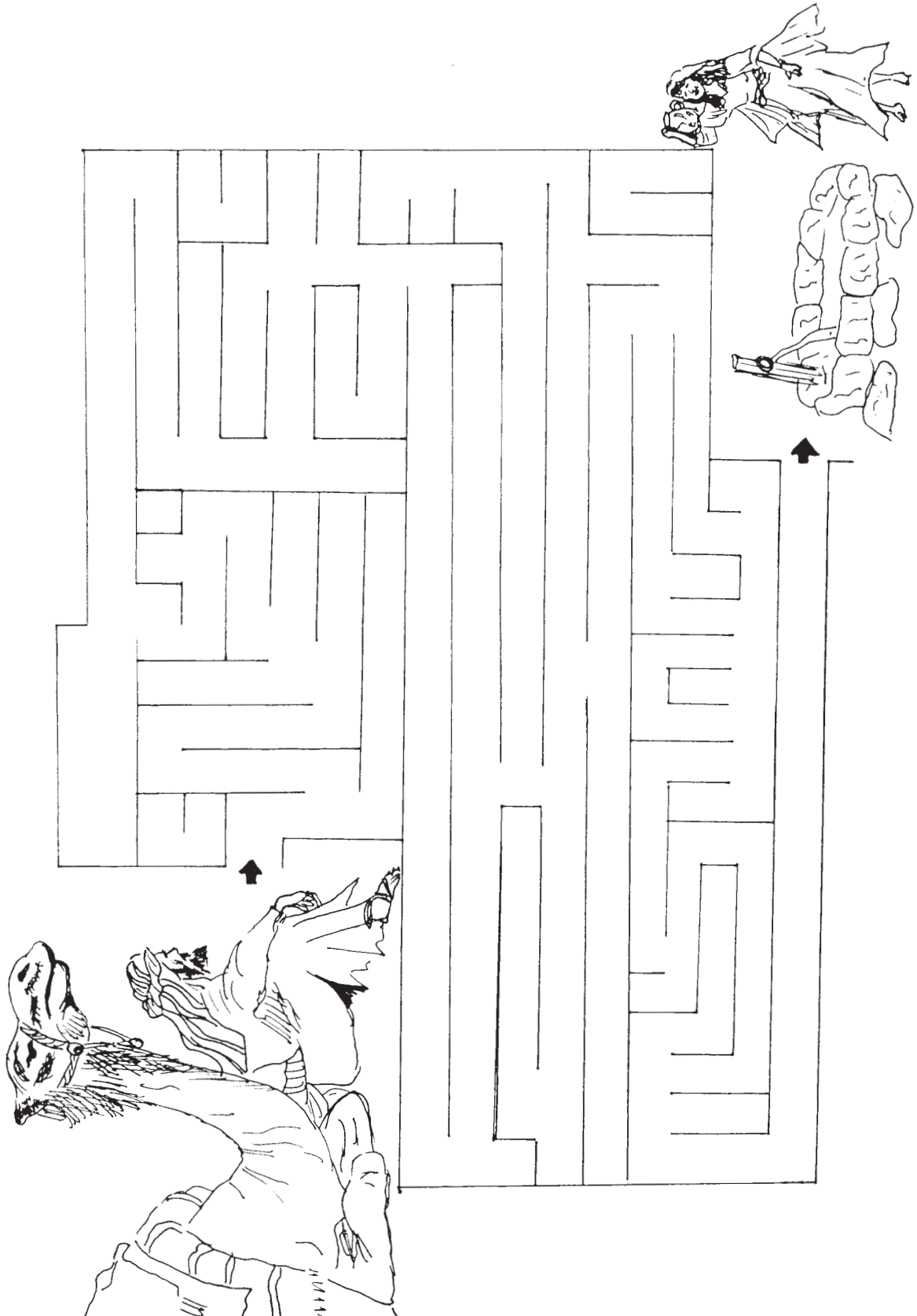
Help Abraham's servant find his way through the maze to Rebekah.



Rebekah, Isaac's bride

Activity B - Maze

Help Abraham's servant find his way through the maze to Rebekah.



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Jacob and Esau

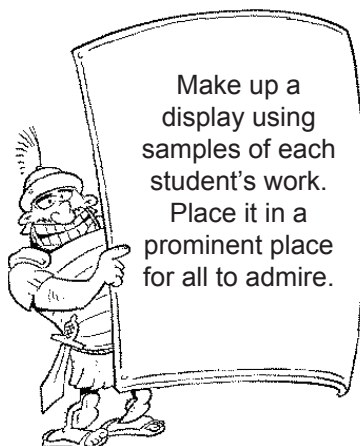
Genesis 25:19-34; 27

Storyline

Isaac and Rebekah had twin sons, Esau, the elder, who was a hairy man, and Jacob, who had a smooth skin. Esau sold his birthright to Jacob for a stew which Jacob had cooked. Isaac favoured Esau while Rebekah favoured Jacob. She told Jacob to trick Isaac by wearing skins over his smooth skin in order to pass for being Esau. Isaac thought he was Esau and gave him the blessing due to the firstborn. Then Esau hated Jacob and desired to kill him.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Ask the children: "What do you have that is very special to you?" eg. doll, roller blades, game, etc.
2. Then ask them: "How would you feel if you hadn't eaten for a few days?" eg. hungry, sick, stomach pains, tired, etc.
Teacher could dramatically act out how they may feel.
3. Then ask them: "Would you swap your roller blades for a Big Mac and fries?" That's just what happened to Jacob and Esau, but they didn't have roller blades and Big Macs. Esau wanted something that Jacob had and swapped with something that was very special which he could never get back. Explain what a birthright is and continue with the rest of the story.



Theme One

"Don't despise your birthright"

In Old Testament days, the birthright was very precious. Not only did the eldest son receive a double portion of the inheritance, but also he became the head of the family and a priest to the family before God. He also inherited the blessings that God had promised to Abraham. But the birthright meant so little to Esau, that he gave it up for a bowl of soup. We have a birthright, as God's children, and we should value it.

Key Thought

The Bible tells us that God's children are heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ. We should never despise our birthright.

Aim

To impress on the children how easily we can lose what is most precious if we do not treasure it above all else.

Memory Verse

"When he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected. (Hebrews 12:17).

Theme Two

"Secure your treasure"

God's purposes are sure and we do not need to manipulate things to bring about God's purposes. Abraham did not need to go in to Hagar to produce a son, because God had promised that Sarah would have the promised son. Because Esau despised his birthright, he lost his blessing. Although Jacob used the wrong means to secure the blessing, he saw the value in the birthright and the blessing and did all he could to get them. We must seek God's blessing with all our heart.

Key Thought

The Bible warns us not to lose what is ours. It tells us not to neglect God's great salvation. It tells us to hold on to what God has given to us.

Aim

To show the children that they should be diligent to hold on to the wonderful things God has given to us.

Memory Verse

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

Activity A - Two Games

Note

- Children play the games using the senses other than sight, eg. smell, taste, touch and hearing.

Game 1 - "Guess Who"

- Blindfold one child.
- Each child makes a statement about themselves one at a time, eg.
 - I enjoy football.
 - I don't like chocolate.
 - I have an older brother.
 - I have lots of freckles.
- Teacher may prompt questioning to encourage appropriate statements.
- The blindfolded child picks who is speaking, from what the child says about themselves.
- Sometimes recognition of the child's voice is sufficient.
- Children take turns at being blindfolded.

Game 2 - "Guess the Object"

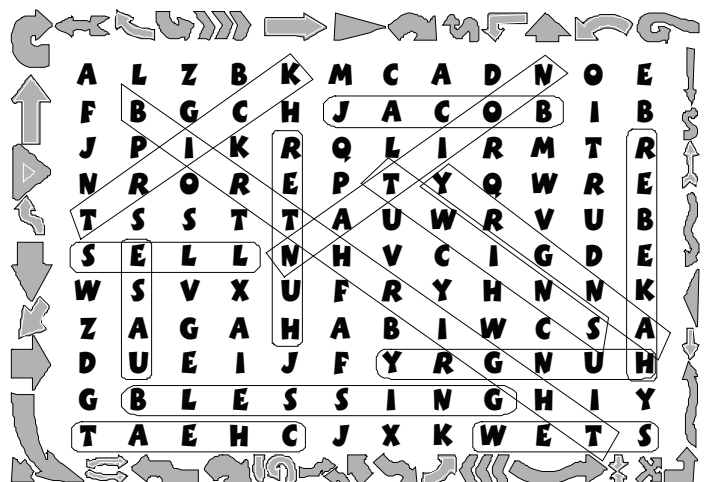
- Teacher supplies various objects on a tray in containers, eg. cotton wool, tea leaves, spices, rice, a leaf, cotton reel, salt, sugar, piece of lemon. (Keep these hidden from the children).
- Blindfold children one at a time. They handle and name each object from what they feel, smell and taste.

Activity B - Word Search

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pens/pencils.

Can you find these words



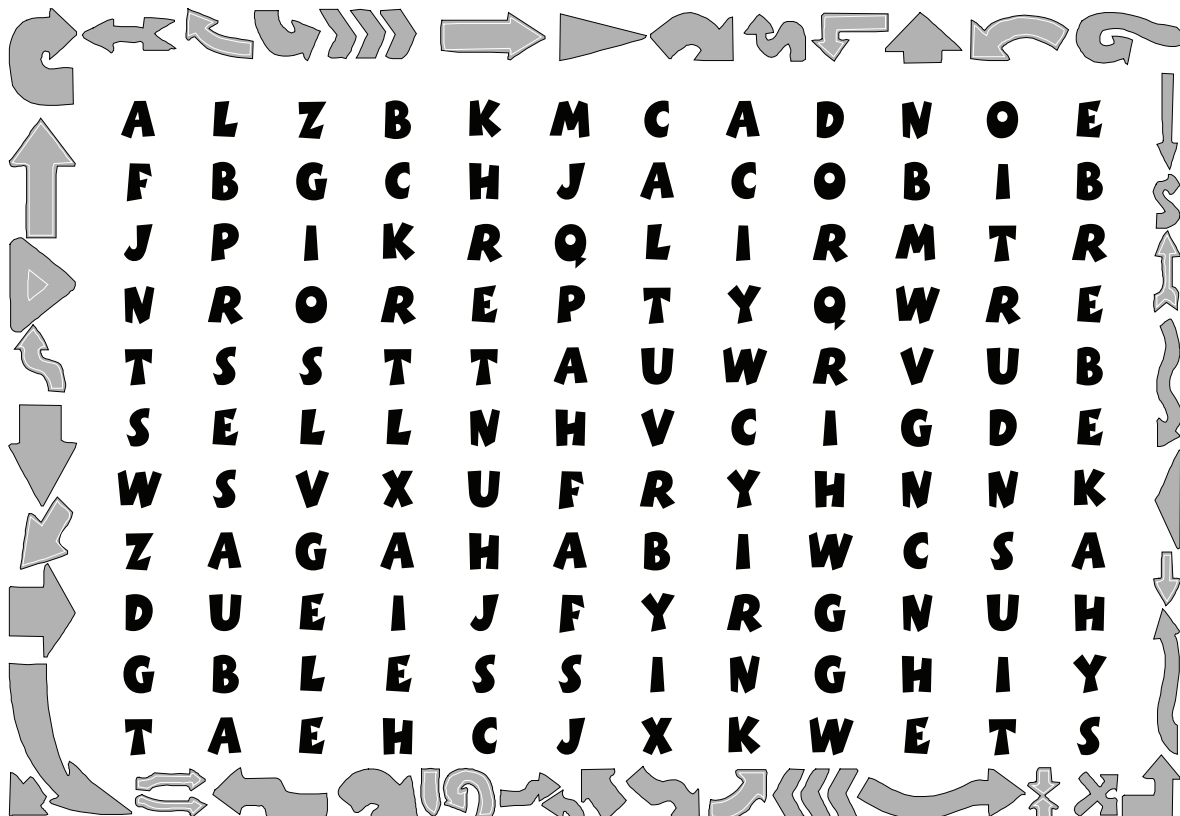
Jacob and Esau

Activity B - Word Search

Can you find these words



**SELL
STEW
ESAU
TWINS
TRICK
CHEAT
JACOB
ANGRY
NATION
HUNTER
HUNGRY
BLESSING
REBEKAH
BIRTHRIGHT**



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Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Genesis 28 - 30

Storyline

Isaac commanded Jacob not to marry one of the women of Canaan but to go to Padan Aram and take as a wife one of the daughters of Laban, his mother's brother. One night as he slept, he saw a ladder which reached from earth to heaven and angels of God ascending and descending on it. He realised for the first time that God is everywhere. After his dream, Jacob went cheerfully on his journey of 640 kims. He came to a well and saw Rachel, the daughter of Laban. He helped her water her father's sheep and told her who he was. He then met Laban. Jacob loved Rachel, so he worked for seven years so he could marry her. Laban, at the end of this time, tricked Jacob into marrying Leah, Rachel's elder sister. Jacob was very angry. Laban said if he worked another seven years, he could have Rachel as his wife, too. He loved her more than Leah, but the Lord gave Leah a number of children. Eventually Rachel had one son and another son was born some years later, just before she died.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. To emphasise Jacob's running away and hiding from Esau and God, the teacher could begin by having one of the children hide in the room before the others come in. When that child is found by the others, the teacher could commence with the question, "Can we hide from God?"
2. Then the application to the children's lives could be indicated with the question, "Have you ever done something wrong and hidden from Mum and Dad? They always know and find you."
3. The children could give their own examples and then the story could be told, possibly using pictures from an illustrated Children's Bible.
4. The link between Jacob's sowing of deceit with Esau and his reaping the crop of deceit with Laban's trickery in withholding the marriage to Rachel, could be made.

Theme One

"Not everything is easy"

It would be nice if life was easy and everything went smoothly, but it does not work out that way. Jacob went to his uncle Laban, as his father had instructed him. He wanted to marry Laban's daughter, but things did not work out very easily for him. We must be patient and allow God to work things out for us in His time and way.

Key Thought

Lots of things happen along life's journey. If we trust the Lord, although life may not be easy, we shall see God at work in our lives.

Aim

For the children to understand that because we are walking with the Lord, it does not mean everything will always go as we want it to.

Memory Verse

"The eyes of the Lord are in every place." (Proverbs 15:3).

Theme Two

"We should be patient and steadfast"

Sometimes God tests us, sometimes Satan tries to trip us up or hinder us. Sometimes God has to discipline us. Jacob must have known that God was disciplining him through his uncle Laban. He bore it patiently and worked hard. Eventually, he gained the wife he wanted. God does not give us everything we want immediately. We have to learn to be patient and diligent.

Key Thought

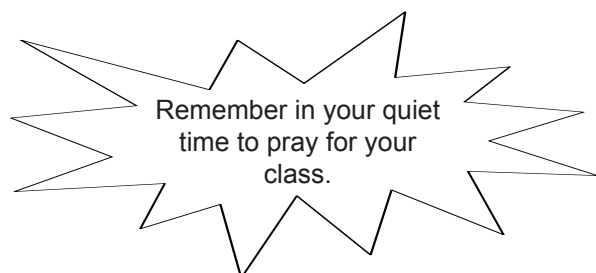
We are all impatient at times and sometimes we get tired of waiting for things to happen. God requires us to be patient and steadfast.

Aim

To show the children that, if we prize something, we must be willing to work hard towards it and wait patiently for it.

Memory Verse

"But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." (James 1:4).



Activity A - Making Jacob's Ladder and Angels

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.
- Glue.
- Masking tape.
- Long pipe cleaners.

Steps

At Home

- Early in the week, glue Activity Sheets to cardboard to allow time to dry.

In Class

- Colour in angels and cut out.
- Cut 3cm lengths of pipe cleaner (1 per angel).
- Bend pipe cleaner in half, attach to back of angel with masking tape.
- Bend to hook onto ladder.
- Make ladder out of pipe cleaners - 2 long pieces for sides, then hook smaller pieces around sides to make the rungs.
- Attach angels to the ladder.



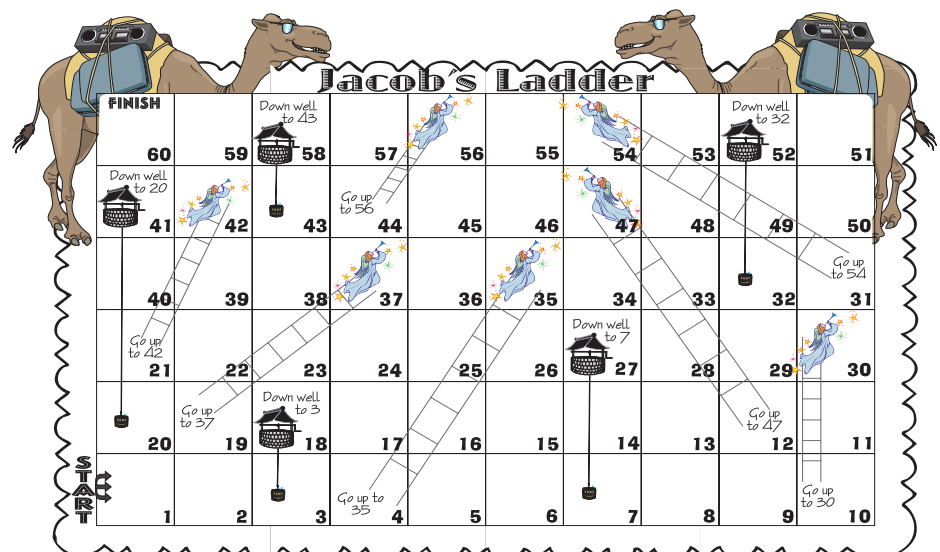
Activity B - Board Game - Jacob's Ladder

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet enlarged to A3 size and mounted on cardboard.
- 1 dice.
- 1 counter button per child.

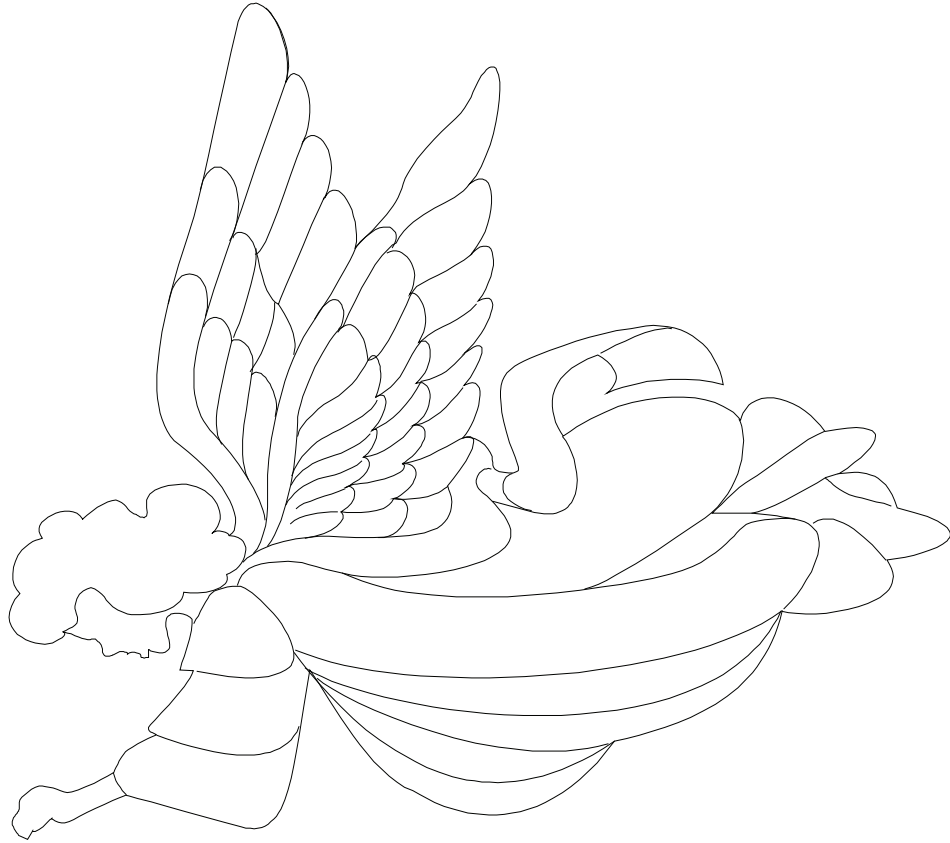
Rules

- Take turns throwing dice and moving the number of spaces indicated.
- If a player lands on a ladder, move up the ladder.
- If a player lands on a well, move down the well.
- The first player to reach 'Finish' win



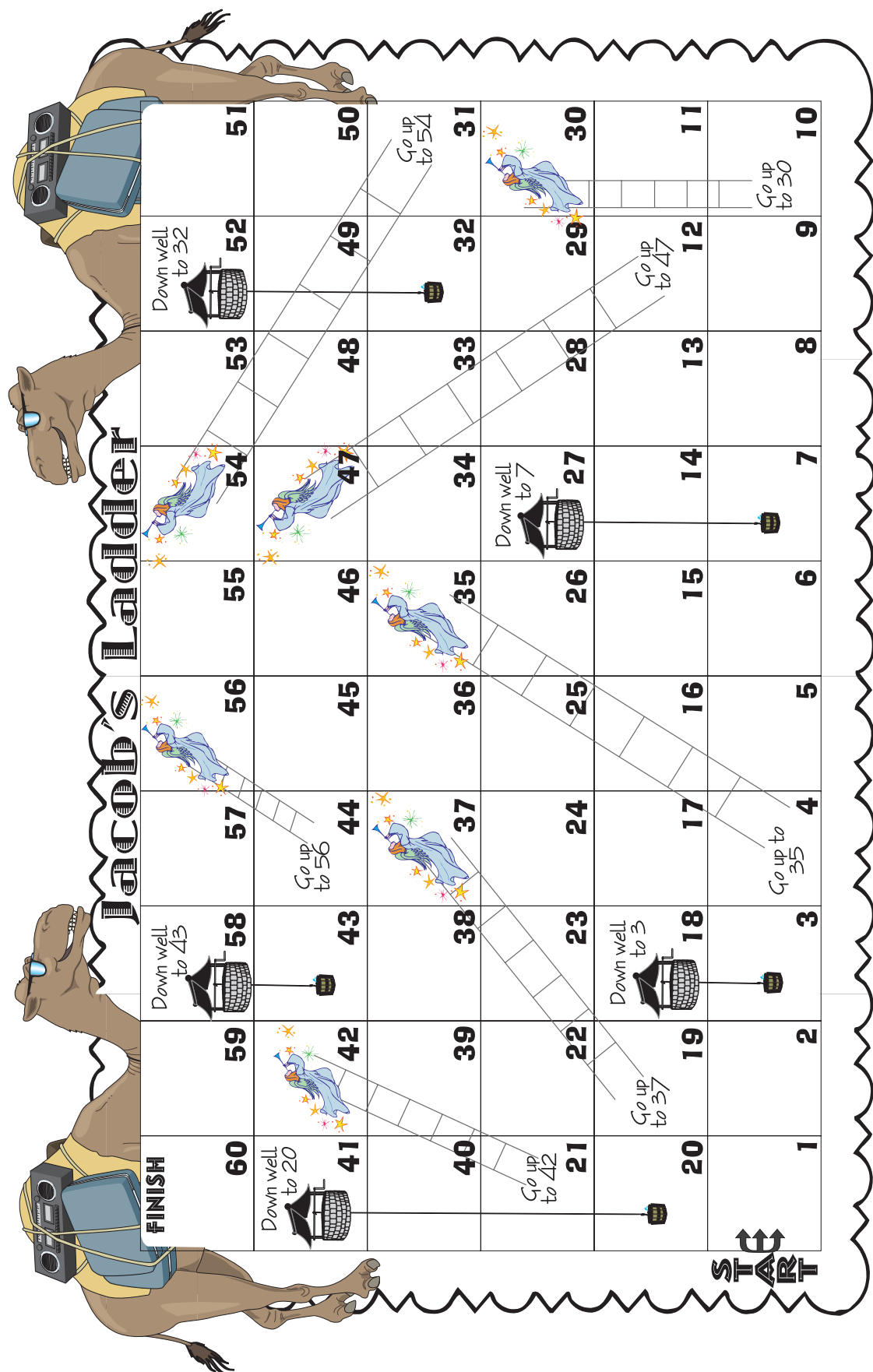
Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Activity A - Making Jacob's Ladder and Angels



Jacob's ladder, Leah and Rachel

Activity B - Board Game - Jacob's Ladder



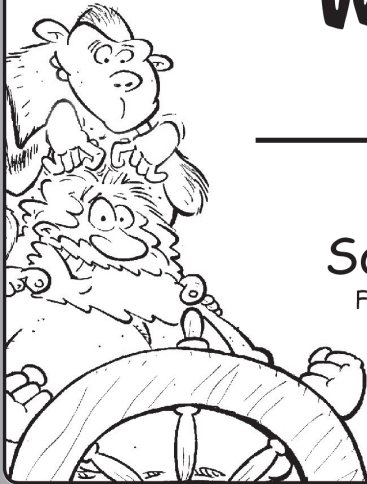
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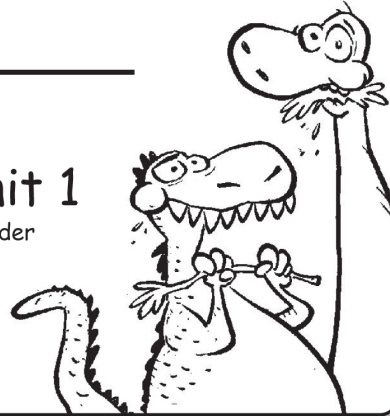
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Well Done!



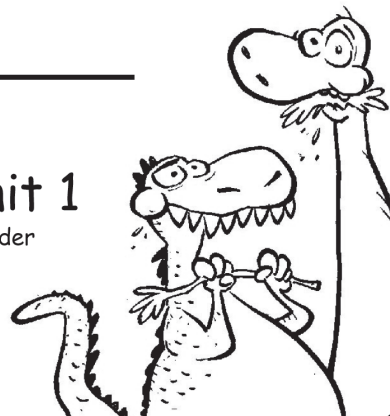
for completing
SonSeekers Unit 1
From Creation to Jacob's Ladder



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