

TEACHER
RESOURCE

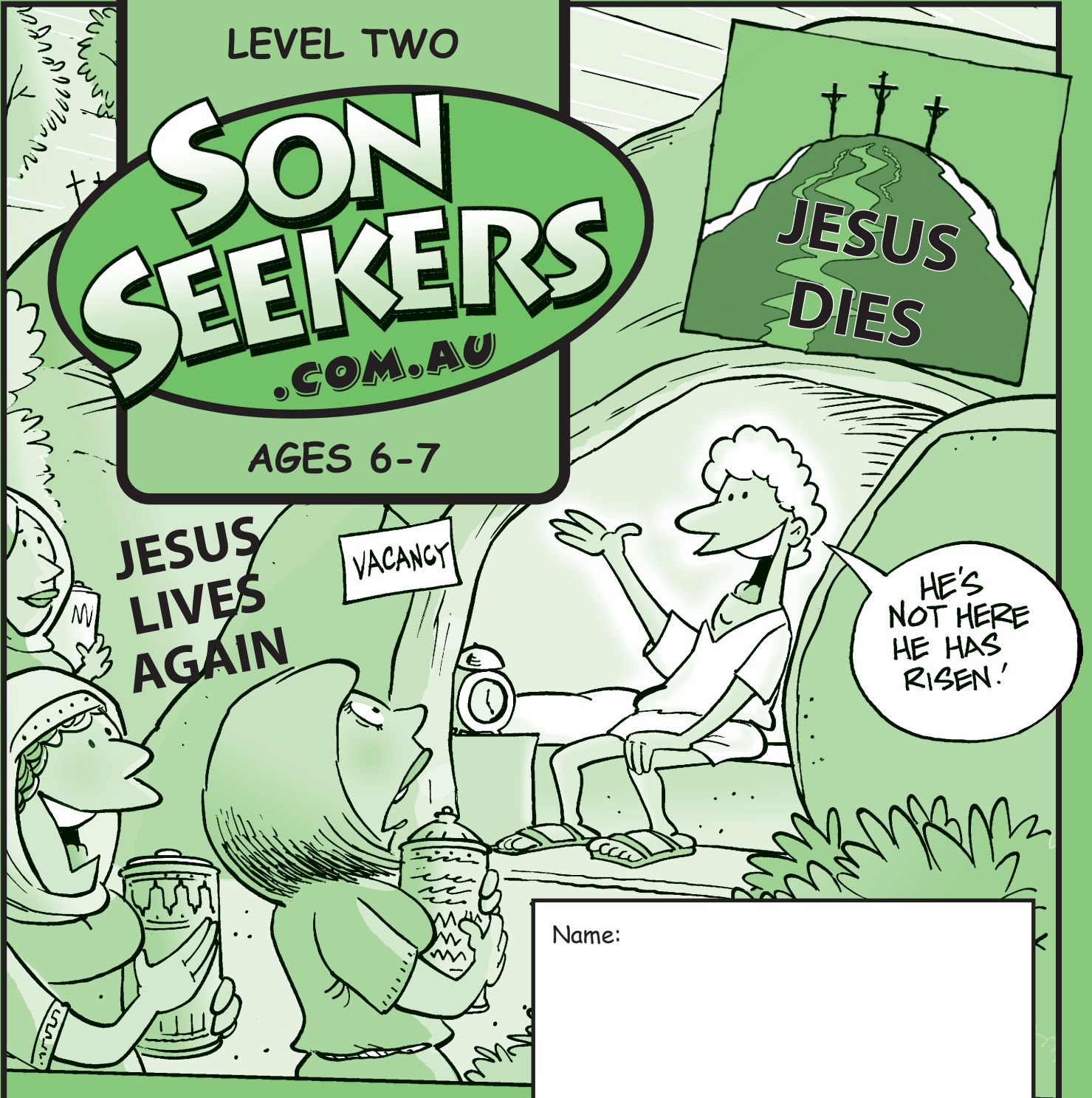
UNIT 8

From Palm Sunday to Paul's Final Journey

LEVEL TWO

**SON
SEEKERS**
.COM.AU

AGES 6-7



A man called **PAUL**



Teacher Resource

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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

	<i>Creation</i>
4000BC	<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 Two Teacher Resource?

Each Level Two 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.

Palm Sunday

Storyline

Jesus and the disciples walked towards Jerusalem. Jesus sent two disciples to the next village to bring Him a donkey with its foal. He told them that if they were asked what they were doing, to answer, "The Lord has need of them." When they came back with the donkey, they put their clothes on it. Jesus rode on it into Jerusalem. Lots of people, many of them children, gathered along the way and watched as Jesus was passing. They cut branches from trees and put them on the road in front of Him. They called out, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" The children were very excited because they knew that Jesus was their King.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Tell the story using a sand tray. Cut pieces of material and have leaves to lay before Jesus on the donkey as you move them toward Jerusalem. If possible obtain a plastic donkey, but you can make a donkey out of pipe cleaners. Place the donkey's foal behind its mother and speak to the children about Jesus wanting the young foal to be included in the celebrations.

Theme 1

- Discuss how God used the children in the story to encourage Jesus.
- Discuss how God might use children today - focus on helping mum and dad at home, praying for our family, being a good friend.

Theme 2

- Discuss how exciting it would be for a king to come and visit with us.
- Talk about how wonderful it would have been to have seen Jesus, our King.
- Discuss how we get excited about Jesus our King eg. sing praises at church.

Theme One

"Children are important to Jesus"

Children may think they are too young to be important to God. However those children made Jesus feel very happy when they sang and praised Him as He came into Jerusalem. In the same way we can please Jesus by singing His praises.

Key Thought

Children are important to Jesus. Jesus wants them to know that they are special to Him and they can also serve Him.

Aim

For the children to understand that Jesus accepts them as children and loves them equally as He does adults.

Memory Verse

"Let the little children come to Me." (Matthew 19:14).

Theme Two

"Showing worth and honour"

True worth and honour should be given to those who rightly deserve it. The children in Jerusalem were excited at the coming of Jesus because they knew He was the King. They expressed this by singing "Hosanna". We, too, can give worth and honour to Jesus.

Key Thought

By accepting Jesus as King, we must also give Him honour and sing of His worth-ship (worship).

Aim

For the children to know Him as King and to learn to glorify Him by our lives.

Memory Verse

"Blessed is the King." (Luke 19:38).

Activity A - Colour and Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Good supply of colourful kindy paper with sticky back, or glue and paper.
- Brown or green leaves.
- Pencils to colour the picture.

Steps

- The children glue paper on Jesus and the donkey, or use the pencils to colour the donkey.
- Glue the leaves on the ground around the donkey.



Activity B - Word Puzzle

Materials

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

Steps

- The children copy the letters hidden in the palm branches onto the lines below to discover the message.

Answer

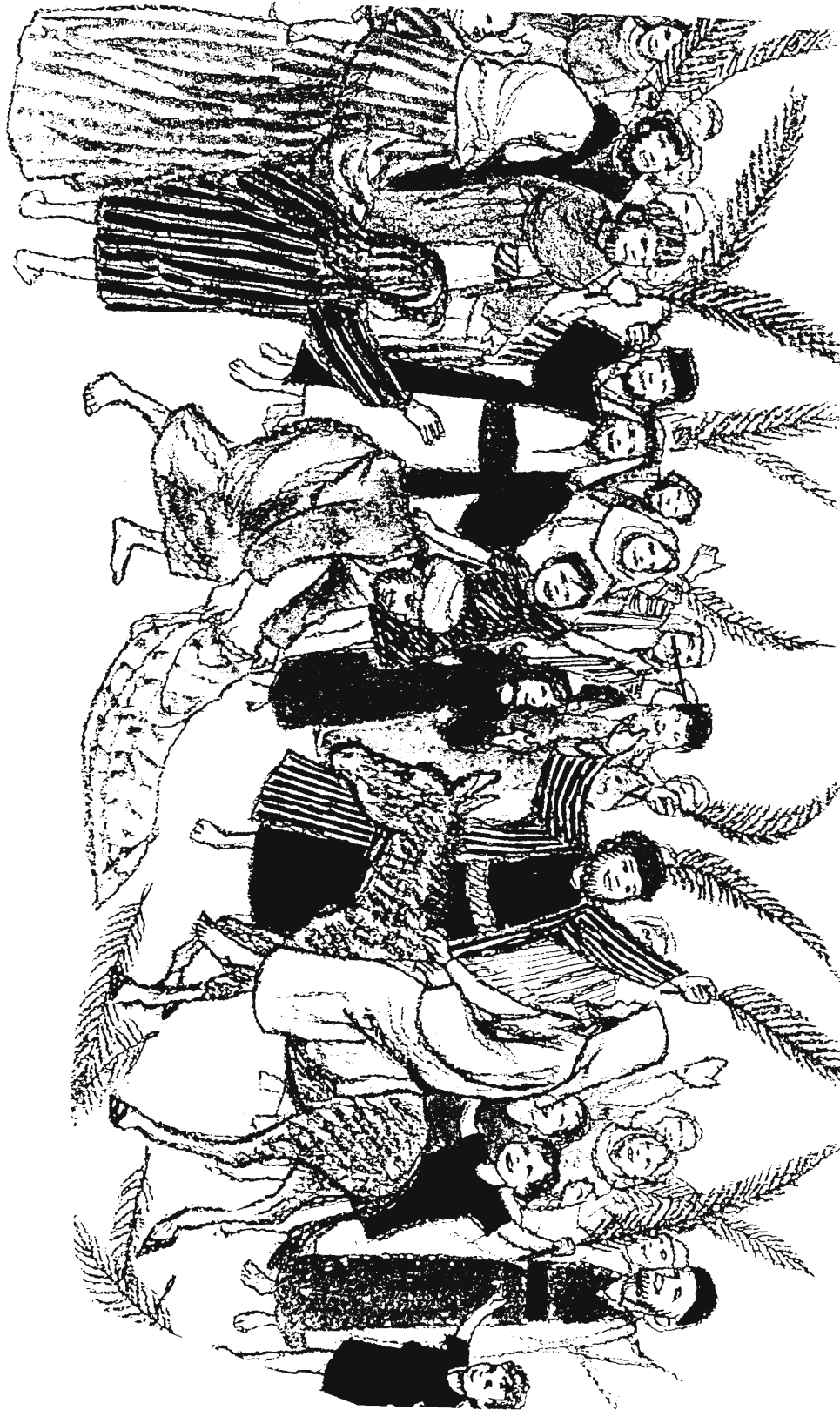
- Blessed is the King.

Write down the letters you find as you follow the palm branches.
You will find out what the people said when they saw Jesus coming.



Palm Sunday

Activity A – Colour and Collage



Palm Sunday

Activity B – Word Puzzle

Write down the letters you find as you follow the palm branches.
You will find out what the people said when they saw Jesus coming.



The last supper and Gethsemane

Matthew 26:1-56;
Mark 14:1-52;
Luke 22:1-62;
John 13:1-2,18-30;
18:1-27

Storyline

Jesus asked His disciples to prepare a special meal for them all called the Passover. Jesus showed kindness to Judas during that meal but Judas still betrayed Him. After the meal Jesus and the disciples went to a garden called Gethsemane where Jesus prayed to His Father but the disciples could not stay awake. The Jewish leaders didn't like Jesus. They wanted to kill Him. Judas said he would help them if they paid him. He let Jesus down by helping these bad men arrest Jesus. After Jesus was arrested, the disciples were scared and ran away. Later someone asked Peter if he was a friend of Jesus. He said he wasn't. This hurt Jesus, but He forgave Peter.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

- Present the story focusing on Jesus loving and forgiving His friends.
- Discuss "being a good friend" at home to our brothers and sisters and at school.
- Include concepts such as helping, sharing, not fighting, or arguing.
- Conclude by discussing forgiving and saying sorry.

Theme 2

- Present the story focusing on Jesus obeying God.
- Discuss what God wants small children to do.
- Introduce the concept that God wants us to obey our parents. Discuss how we do this.

Theme One

"Betrayed by a friend"

Peter was a close friend of Jesus but Peter let Jesus down by denying Him. Jesus forgave Peter and called him to serve in the church.

Key Thought

Jesus is a good friend who forgives us, even for the things we do which disappoint Him.

Aim

To help the children see that forgiveness is part of friendship.

Memory Verse

"Forgive, and you will be forgiven." (Luke 6:37).

Theme Two

"Trust and obey God"

Jesus trusted God the Father and obeyed Him by dying on the cross. God wants us to trust and obey too. For young children this means trusting their parents and obeying them.

Key Thought

God wants us to be obedient to Him and our parents.

Aim

To teach the children that by obeying their parents they are doing what God wants them to do.

Memory Verse

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

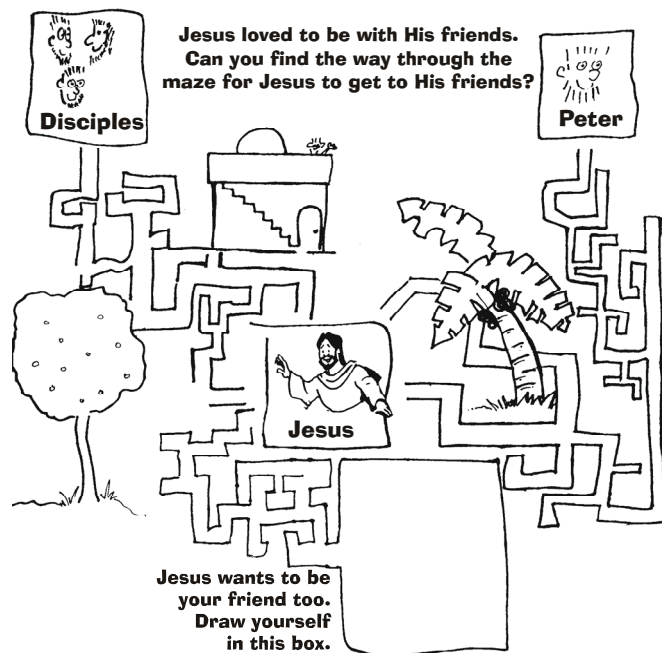
Activity A - Maze

Materials

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

Steps

- The children draw a picture of themselves in the box provided.
- They then trace the way through the maze for Jesus to meet his friends.
- If time permits they can colour the picture.



Activity B - Help Jake do his jobs

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.

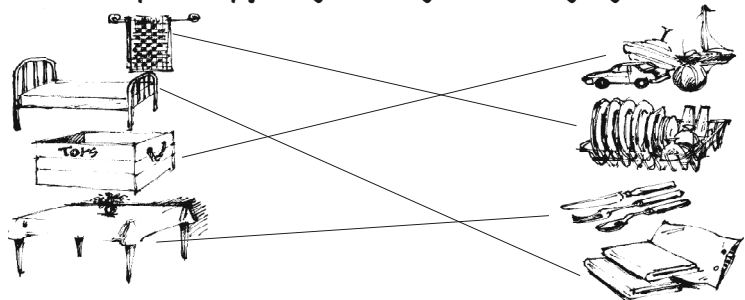
Steps

- The children draw over the dotted words and read out what Jake's chores are.
- They can then draw lines joining the pictures of the chores that belong together, and then draw a picture of themselves doing a chore.

Jake is happy to do his chores. Trace over these words to find out what they are.

1. Put his toys away
2. Set the table
3. Make his bed
4. Dry the dishes

Help Jake by joining the things that belong together.

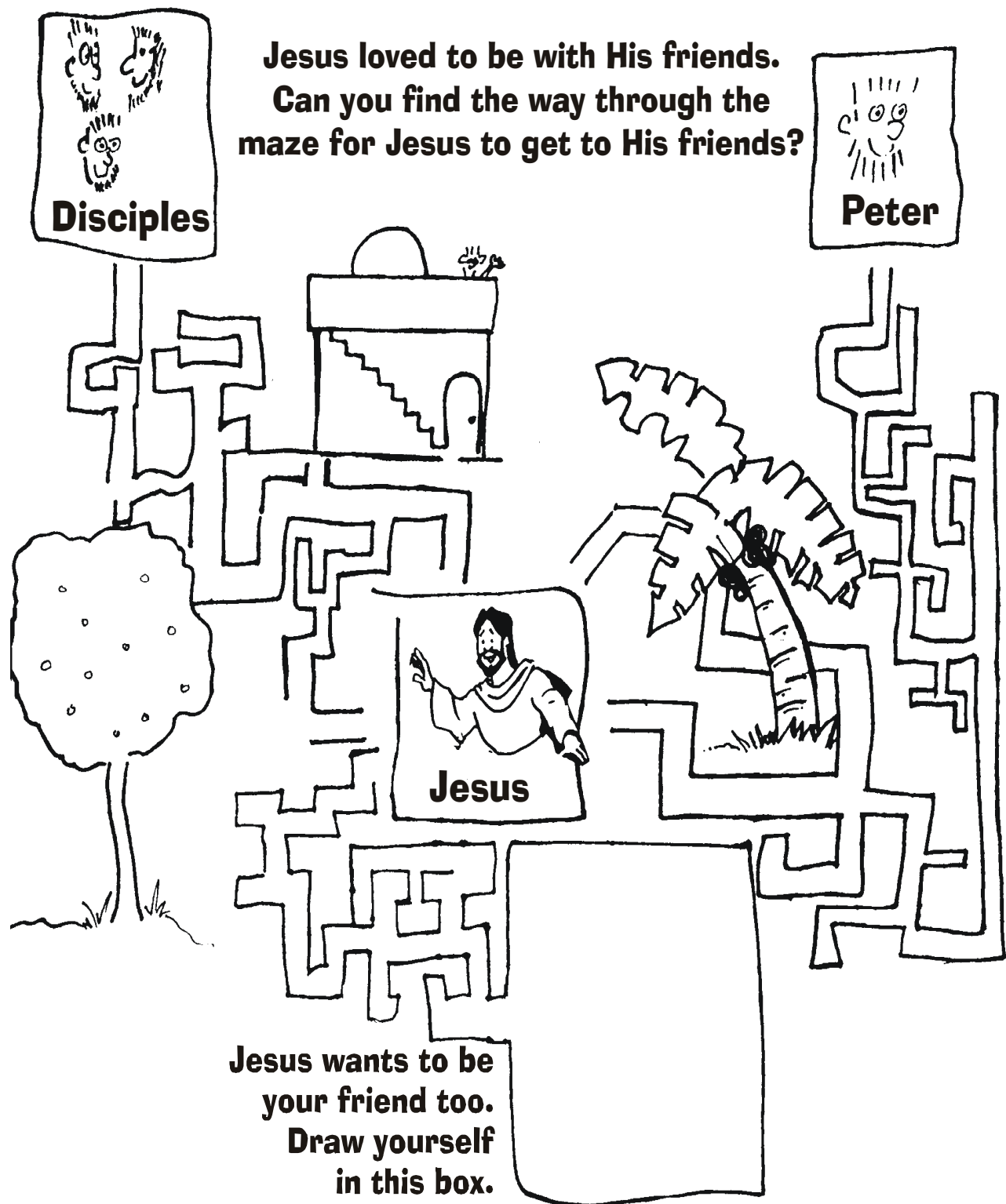


Now draw a picture of yourself doing a chore at home.



The last supper and Gethsemane

Activity A – Maze



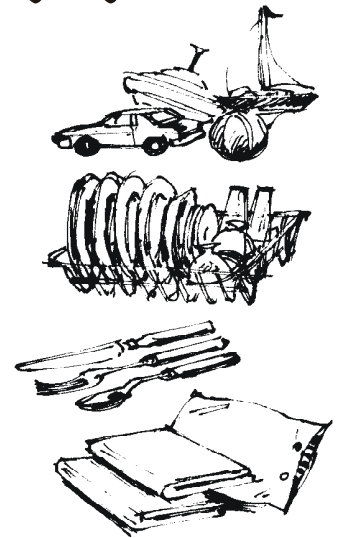
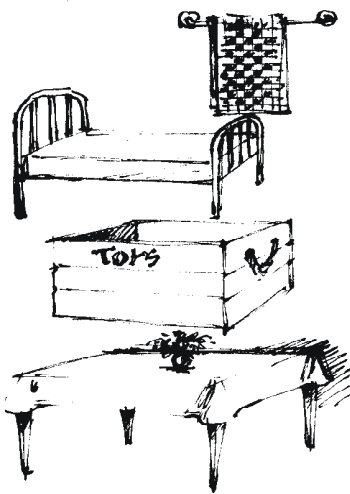
The last supper and Gethsemane

Activity B – Help Jake do His Jobs

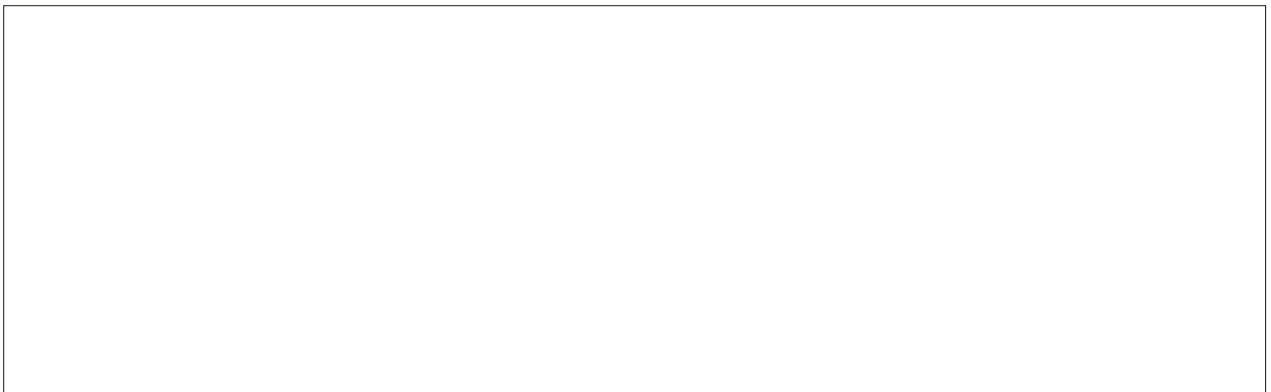
Jake is happy to do his chores. Trace over these words to find out what they are.

1. Put his toys away
2. Set the table
3. Make his bed
4. Dry the dishes

Help Jake by joining the things that belong together.



Now draw a picture of yourself doing a chore at home.



The crucifixion

Storyline

After Jesus was arrested, wicked priests had people tell lies about Him. They wanted Him crucified. They took Him to Pilate, the Roman ruler, where they urged the people to ask for Jesus to be killed. He finally gave them the choice between Barabbas and Jesus. They chose Barabbas. Jesus was crucified between two thieves. He prayed to His Father and died. In all of this He didn't sin. After He died, a man named Joseph wrapped His body in white cloth and put His body in a tomb.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. A children's picture Bible or pictures of the crucifixion can be helpful for the children to understand this concept. Help them to understand how hard this was for Jesus. Also explain that He was doing God's will and that this would bring reward for Him and all mankind.
2. Compare the attitude of the priests (anger, envy) to that of Jesus (obedience).
3. Discussion: What is sin? Keep discussion very practical, ie. sin is not doing what God wants us to do. Practically this will translate to obeying mum and dad, not getting angry, but sharing and helping. Explain and discuss how Jesus can help us to do these things. Extend the discussion to encompass Theme 2 - Being a friend of Jesus.

Theme One

"We can overcome sin"

Jesus obeyed God His Father even to death, but He did not sin. He has defeated the power of sin. We can know God's power to overcome our sin.

Key Thought

Jesus will help us not to sin if we genuinely ask Him.

Aim

To teach the children that Jesus will forgive us when we sin. He will also help us not to sin if we really want to change.

Memory Verse

"Jesus Christ ... washed us from our sins." (Revelation 1:5).

Theme Two

"Being a friend of Jesus"

Because of our sin we were enemies of God. Through His death, Jesus makes it possible to be His friends. Some people don't want to change from being sinners, so they can never be His friend.

Key Thought

We can live everyday with Jesus. We don't have to be His enemies, because He can forgive us.

Aim

To help the children understand that Jesus died on the cross to forgive them, so that they can live eternally as friends.

Memory Verse

"We should live together with Him." (1 Thessalonians 5:10).

Activity A - Join the Numbers

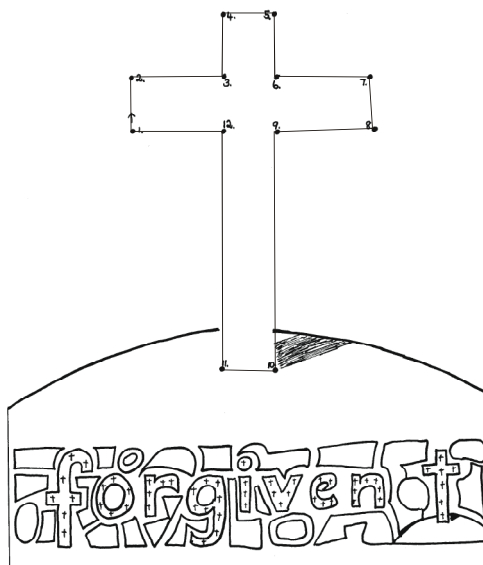
Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- The children join the dots to reveal the cross, then colour the hidden word, “forgiven”.

Join the dots to discover where Jesus paid for our sins.
Colour all the shapes marked ‘+’ one colour, to see what happened to our sins.



Activity B - Coloured or Alfoil Cross

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Colouring pencils.
- Alfoil (optional).
- Coloured card.
- Stanley knife.

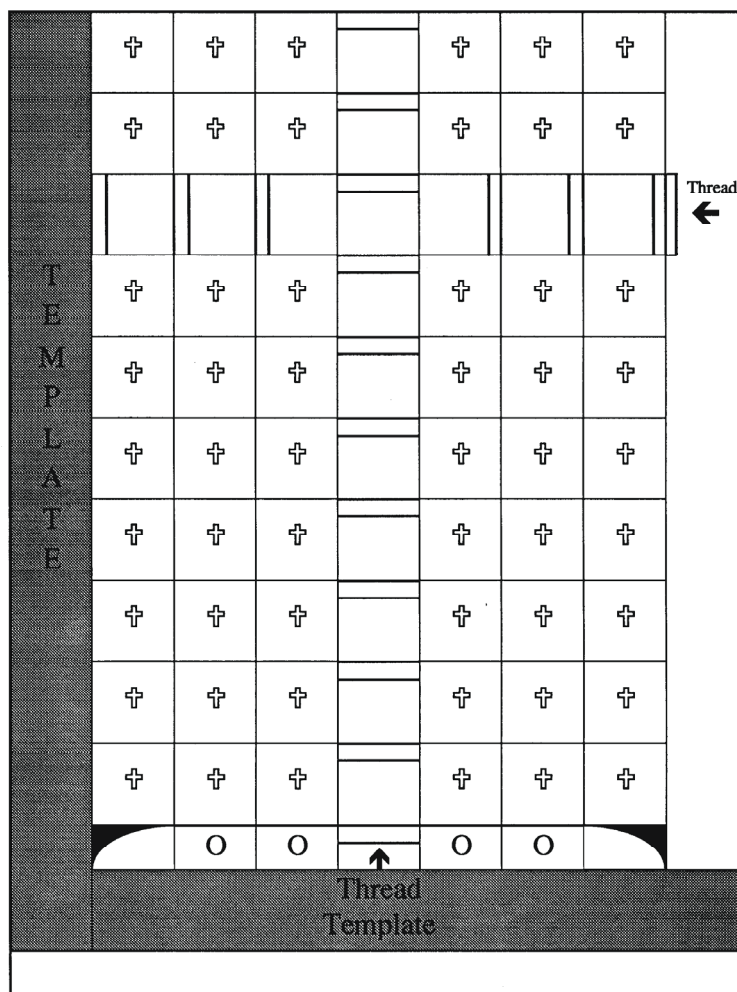
Steps

At Home

- Cut the templates from the edges of the Activity Sheet.
- Using the shaded templates, cut pieces of coloured card or alfoil.
- Using a Stanley knife, slice the marked slits.

In Class

- The children colour the boxes marked with a cross in blue and the ones marked with a ‘0’ in green.
- They then thread the cut pieces of contrasting card or alfoil through the slits, up first, then across.



The crucifixion

Activity A – Join the Numbers

Join the dots to discover where Jesus paid for our sins.
Colour all the shapes marked † one colour, to see what happened to our sins.

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•3.

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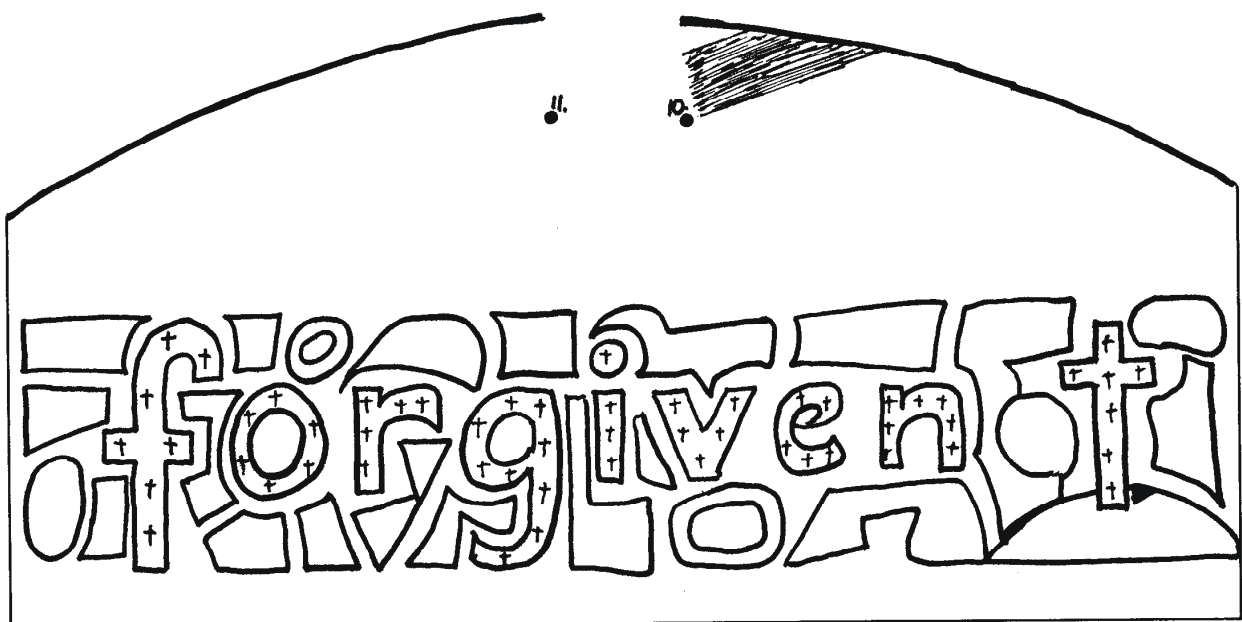
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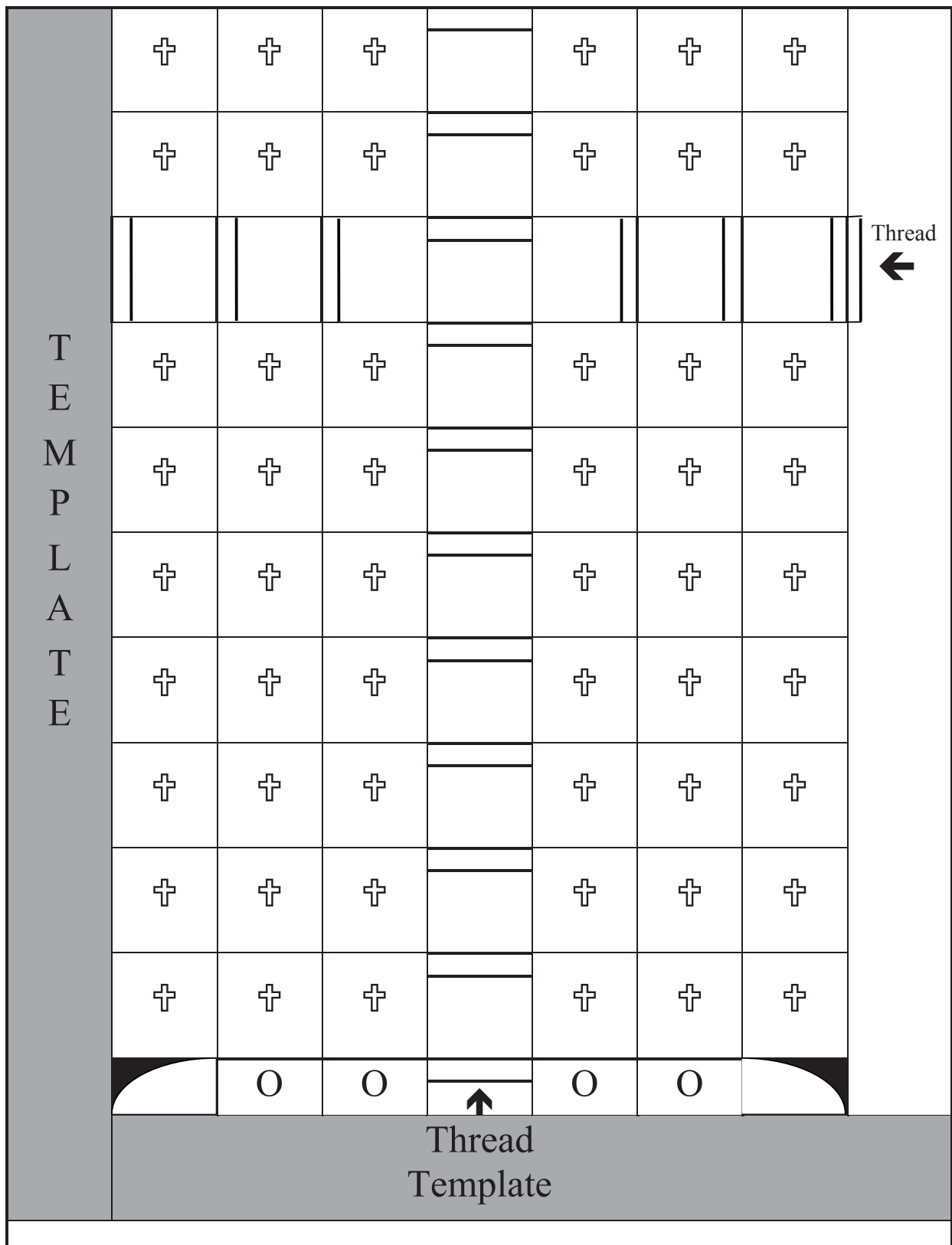
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The crucifixion

Activity B – Coloured or Alfoil Cross



The resurrection

Storyline

Before Jesus died He told the disciples that He would live again. After three days some women, who were friends of Jesus, came to the place where He was buried. They found the tomb empty. There had been a big earthquake and an angel, who had come down from heaven, told them Jesus was alive. They ran to tell the disciples. Peter and John ran to see for themselves and were amazed to see the tomb empty, with just the linen cloths, with which Jesus had been wrapped, lying there.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Discuss with the children what a tomb is, using an empty shoebox. Explain that Jesus was buried in a tomb.
2. Begin to tell the story of the two women visiting the tomb. Highlight that an angel came and told them the tomb was empty.
3. Have the children peep inside the shoebox to see what the women found - empty.
4. Open the tomb and explain that Jesus was alive.

Theme 1

Jesus is alive and with us everyday. Focus on all the different things children do everyday.

Theme 2

We can believe what God says. Talk about some of God's promises to us, eg. if we believe He is real and get to know Him we will live with Him forever; if we obey our parents we will live long, happy lives; if we are scared and we pray to Him, He will be with us and help us.

Theme One

"Jesus overcame death"

Jesus died on the cross and was buried in the tomb, but after three days He rose again. Jesus is alive today and we can know Him too.

Key Thought

Jesus' resurrection was forever. He is alive today for us to know Him.

Aim

To help the children understand that although they cannot see Jesus, He is alive and they can know Him and talk to Him everyday.

Memory Verse

"I am alive forevermore." (Revelation 1:18).

Theme Two

"We can always believe God's word"

Jesus' disciples found it hard to believe that Jesus would rise from the dead. God has made many promises in His word. He wants us to believe Him and His word.

Key Thought

God's word is true and we can depend on it.

Aim

To help the children understand that they can believe in God and the things the Bible tells us.

Memory Verse

"I believe God." (Acts 27:25).

Activity A - Playdough and Finger Puppets

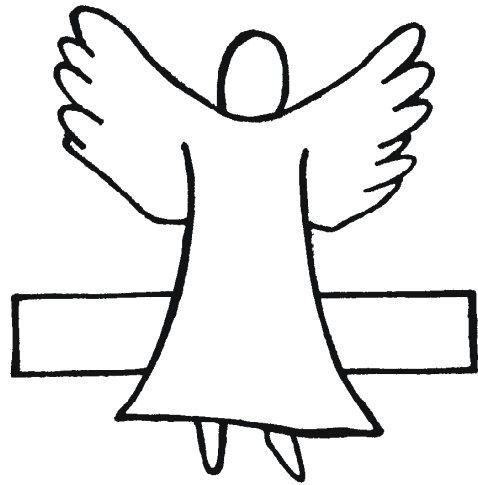
Materials

- Playdough.
- 1 finger puppet from the Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Colouring pencils.
- Sticky tape/stapler.

Steps

At Home

- Make playdough. Mix 2 cups of flour with 1 cup of salt. Add 1 tablespoon of cooking oil, 1 cup of water and green food colouring. Knead. Store dough in a plastic bag. This makes enough for six children.
- Cut out one 'angel' per child.



In Class

- Demonstrate how to make a simple tomb and stone out of playdough.
- The children then make their own tomb and stone.
- The children colour the angel finger puppet.
- Use sticky tape or stapler to fasten a finger puppet around each child's finger.
- With the teacher's help, the children can re-tell the story of Mary and some of the disciples coming to Jesus' tomb. The children can use their puppets to say, "Jesus is alive". They can roll the stone away and see the empty tomb.

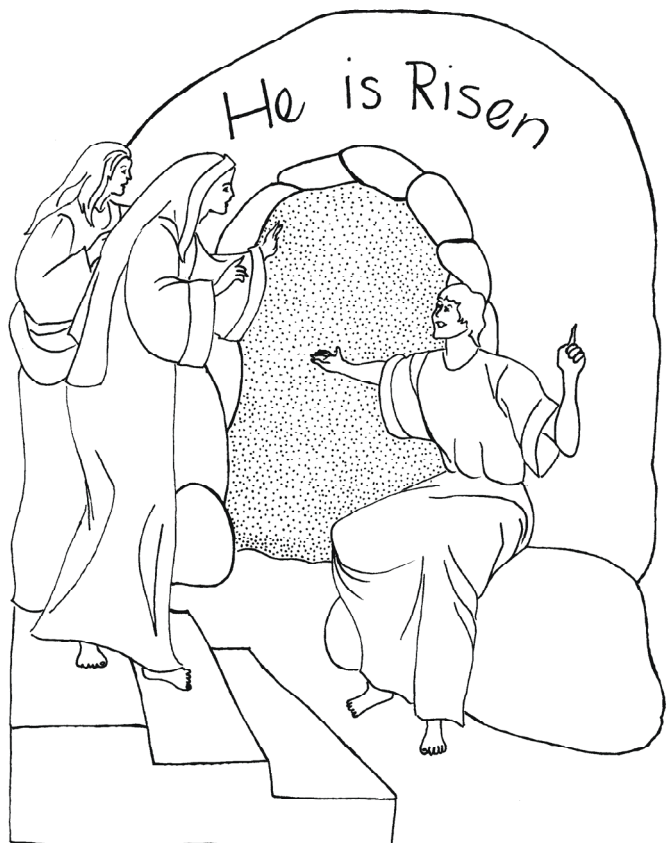
Activity B - Wall Hanging

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Cardboard.
- Glue.
- Hole punch.
- String or wool.
- Glitter.

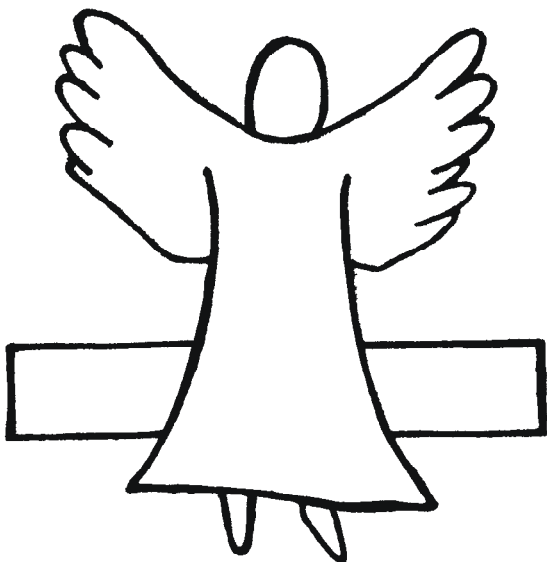
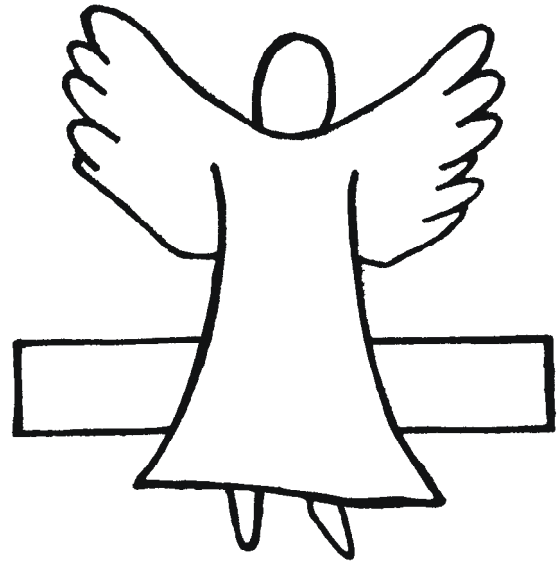
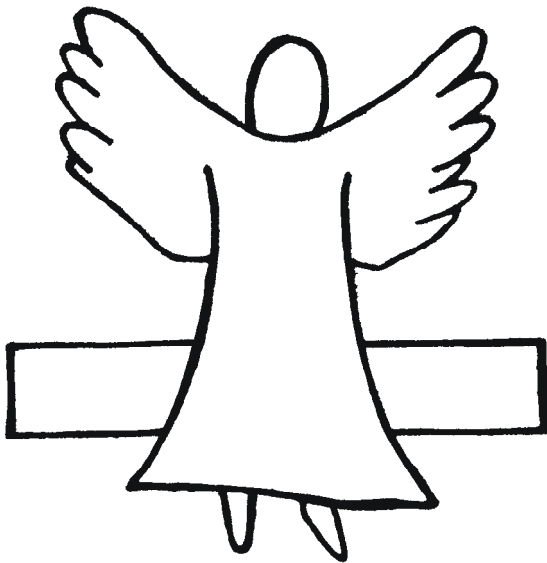
Steps

- The children colour the picture.
- If desired, spread glue over the angel and sprinkle with glitter.
- Glue the picture onto cardboard.
- Punch holes in the top of the picture and thread string or wool through, so the picture may be hung.



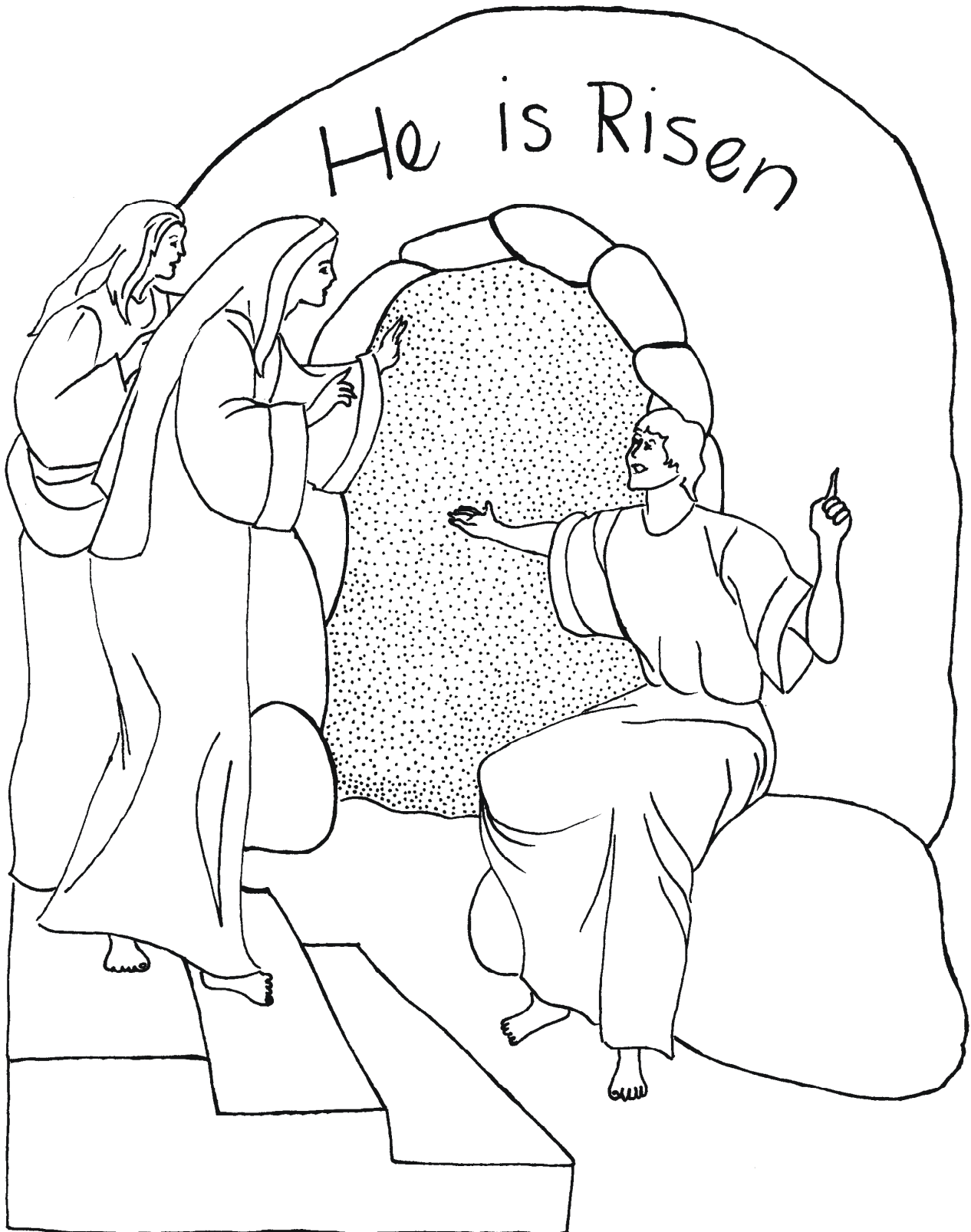
The resurrection

Activity A – Playdough and Finger Puppets



The resurrection

Activity B – Wall Hanging



Peter restored

John 21:1-19

Storyline

After Jesus' resurrection some of the disciples went fishing. They were disappointed as they had caught nothing all night. At dawn, a man on the beach spoke to them. He asked if they had caught any fish. He then told them to throw the net on the right side of the boat. The net was so full of fish they couldn't pull it in. Peter realised the man on the beach was Jesus, so he jumped out of the boat and went to shore. Jesus had bread for them, and was cooking fish on a fire for their breakfast. Jesus spoke to Peter who had denied Him before His death. He asked Peter if he loved Him and gave him the task of caring for the other Christians.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

- Recount the story.
- Hide a small 'net' full of treats somewhere in the room. Use tulle or a piece of onion bag for the net. Blindfold one child. The blindfolded child has to listen to the teacher's instructions to be guided to the net of treats, eg. "Take two steps forward" or "Take one step to the right." When treats have been found, share with class.
- Recall story of Jesus helping the disciples when they were discouraged. Discuss how Jesus will help us when we are sad, eg. if we are scared - when we pray to Him we know He is with us and He will keep us safe.

Theme 2

- Tell the story focusing on Jesus cooking breakfast for His friends. Ask the children what special preparations they would make if their school teacher was coming to dinner. Ask how much **more** special it is to invite Jesus into our homes everyday. Talk about how He provides **our** everyday needs.

Theme One

"A better way"

Jesus will help us at all times. Even though the disciples were good fishermen, they couldn't catch any fish. They would have been very disappointed. Jesus showed them a better place to fish.

Key Thought

Sometimes we can feel upset or sad. We can pray and God will help us.

Aim

For the children to understand that Jesus knows what they need and will help and give direction to their lives.

Memory Verse

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

Theme Two

"Everyday with Jesus"

The Lord is with us in everyday situations. The Lord was interested in the disciples when they were fishing. In the same way, He cares about every little part of our life each day, not just in what we call the important times.

Key Thought

God is with us in all things. Jesus met with the disciples in a familiar, everyday setting. He provided and prepared their meal, and invited them to "come and eat breakfast."

Aim

For the children to appreciate that God wants to meet with us everyday and always be a part of our life.

Memory Verse

"My God shall supply all your need." (Philippians 4:19).

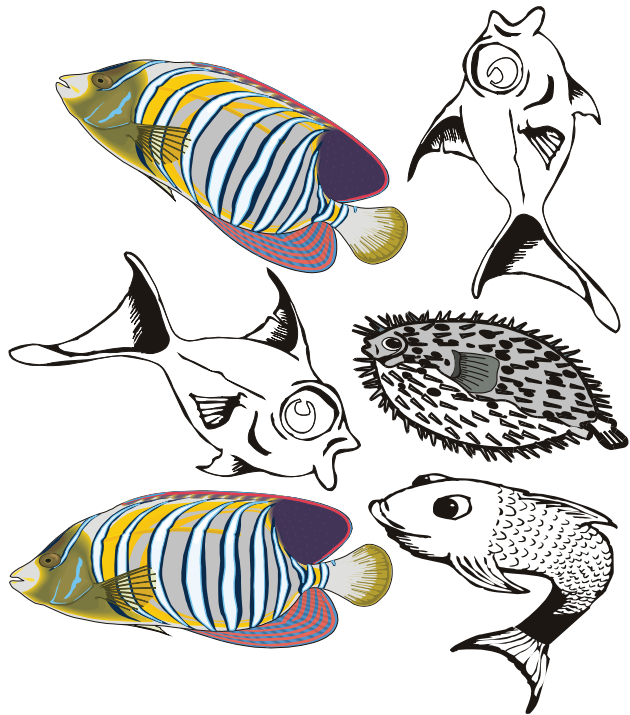
Activity A - Going Fishing

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Scissors.
- Metal paper clips.
- Colouring pencils.
- Empty bowl for the lake.
- Stapler.
- 1 fishing rod per child, consisting of a straw with a piece of string stapled to the end of it and a small magnet tied on the end of the string (these could be assembled at home if time is a problem).

Steps

- The children colour the fish and cut them out. The chosen memory verse could be written on the fish.
- Assemble the rods by stapling a piece of string to the end of a straw, then tying a small magnet to the end of the piece of string.
- Attach one paper clip to the mouth of each fish.
- Place the fish in the bowl (lake) and go fishing.



Activity B - Word Search Picture

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.

Steps

- The children count the number of times Jesus said, “Do you love me?” and “Feed My sheep.”
- Colour the picture.

Answer

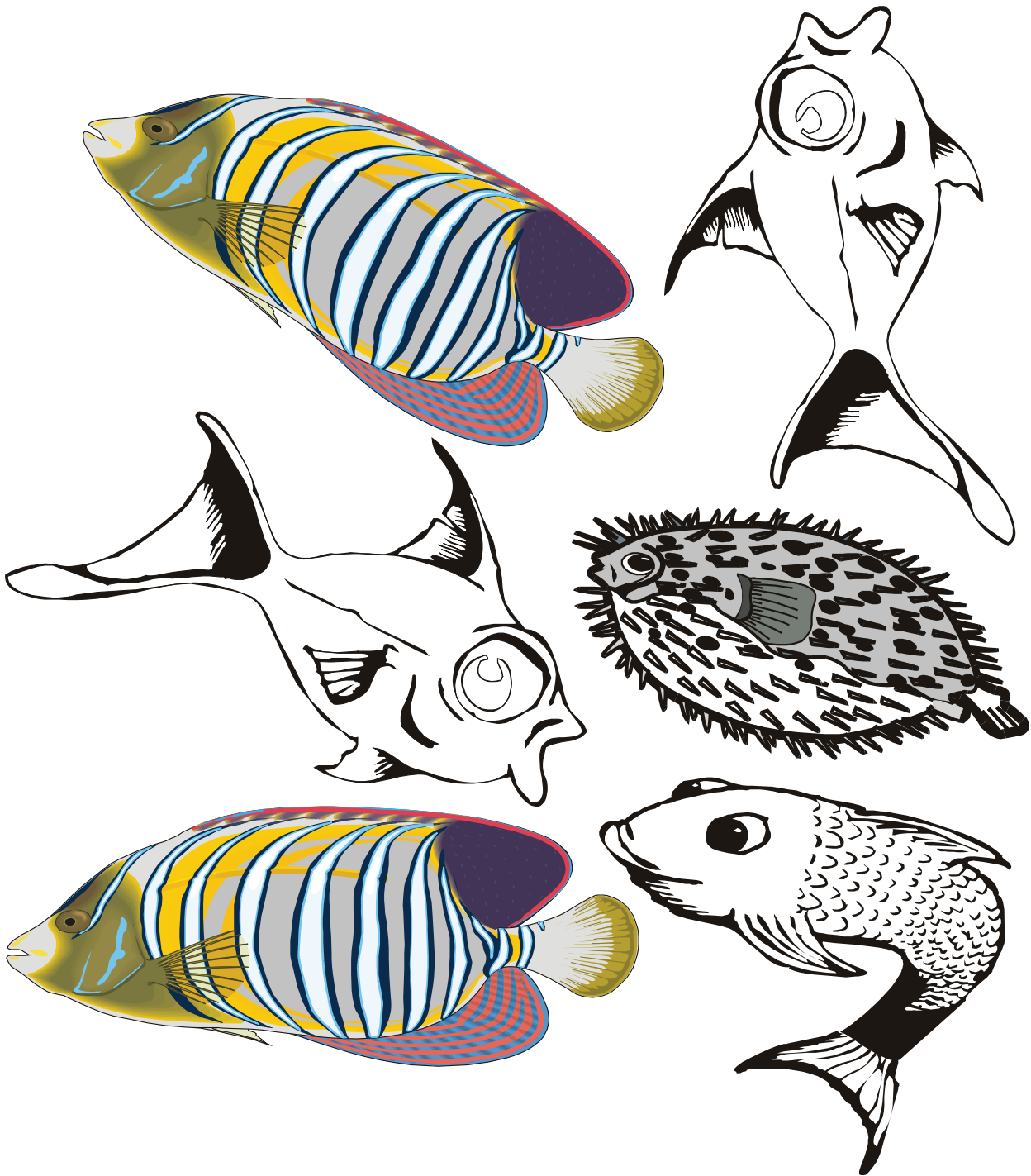
- Three times.



Colour the picture.
How many times can you find Jesus' words to Peter in this picture:
“Do you love me?” _____ “Feed My sheep.” _____

Peter restored

Activity A – Going Fishing



Peter restored

Activity B – Word Search Picture



Colour the picture.

How many times can you find Jesus' words to Peter in this picture:

"Do you love me?" _____ "Feed My sheep." _____

The risen Christ and His ascension

Matthew 28:9-10,16-20;
Mark 16:9-20;
Luke 24:13-53;
John 20:11-31;
Acts 1:1-11;
I Corinthians 15:4-6

Storyline

Mary Magdalene was the first to find Jesus' empty tomb and was sad. She sat crying outside the tomb because she thought someone had moved Jesus' body. A man came and asked why she was sad. She didn't recognise that it was Jesus until He called her by her name. Jesus then appeared to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and also to His disciples as they hid in the upper room. After Jesus rose from the dead, He spent forty days talking, sharing and caring for His disciples. He helped them catch fish, He talked with them about their troubles, He forgave His friend Peter and He told them He had a special gift of the Holy Spirit for them when it was time for Him to go to heaven. At the end of this time, Jesus went to be with His Father in heaven.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

- Recount the story focusing on Jesus being a good friend to the disciples.
- Discuss with the children how Jesus was a friend, eg. helped them when they were afraid; gave them gifts, the Holy Spirit; taught and shared things; was kind and patient, loving and forgiving them. Ask the children how they can be good friends, eg. sharing; helping; saying sorry; forgiving; thinking of others first.
- Conclude by focusing on the thought that Jesus can help us be a good friend.

Theme 2

- Recount the story of Jesus going up to heaven. Ask the children what they think heaven will be like, eg. beautiful music; praise and worship; being with God's family; no sickness or sadness; angels.
- Discuss with them that Jesus is God's Son, just as we are sons and daughters of God. He wants us to live in heaven with Him.

Theme One

"Faithfulness is a good thing"

Jesus was a good friend to His disciples by being with them before He returned to His Father. Caring for others and their needs is being a good friend. We can depend on true friends. The Bible calls this being faithful.

Key Thought

Jesus was seen by His disciples after His resurrection. This proved to them that He was faithful to His word by rising from the dead.

Aim

For the children to understand that they need to be faithful to their word.

Memory Verse

"A faithful man will abound with blessings" (Proverbs 28:20).

Theme Two

"Be a witness of the Lord"

The disciples saw Jesus after the resurrection. Not only were they witnesses of the resurrection, but they realised Jesus' words came to pass. We can also testify to God's love and faithfulness as we have seen God's wondrous works in our own lives.

Key Thought

As we see Jesus working in our lives we can also tell others.

Aim

To help the children see that Jesus was true to His word in showing Himself to be resurrected from the dead. We can, therefore, trust His word.

Memory Verse

"You shall be witnesses to Me." (Acts 1:8).

Activity A - Board Game

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, plus at least one enlarged one, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Colouring pencils.
- Dice.
- Counters.

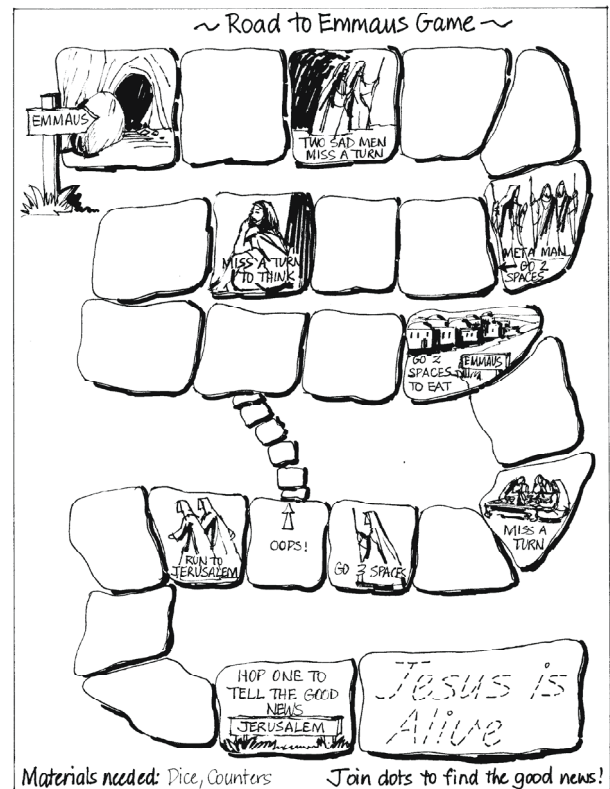
Steps

At Home

- If you have a large class you may wish to play the game in groups, so have enough enlarged copies of the game to do this.
- Colour the enlarged game with bright and appealing colours.

In Class

- Have the children play the game for a specified time, then allow them to colour their own copy to take home.



Activity B - Jesus in the Cloud

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Cotton wool.

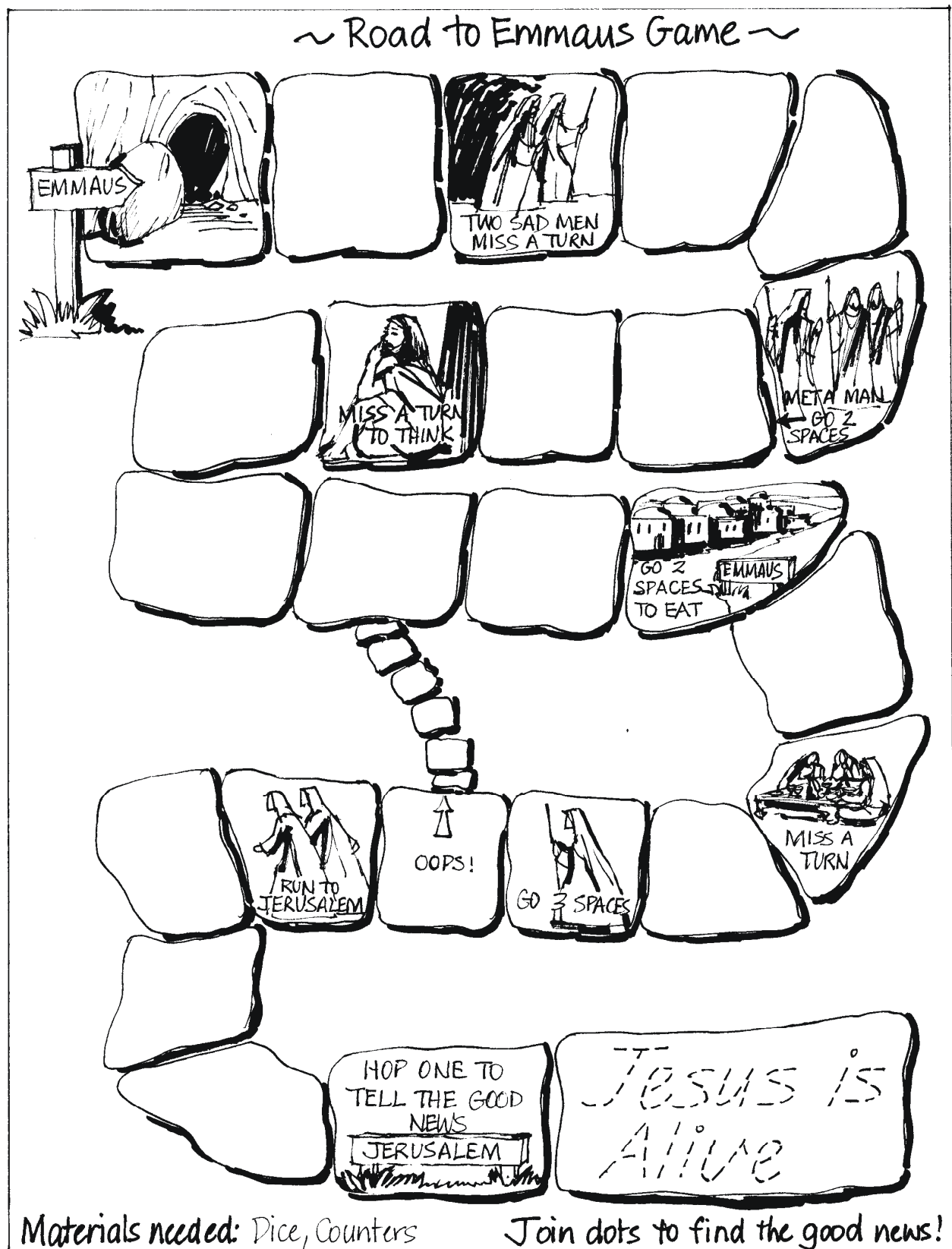
Steps

- The children colour Jesus in the cloud.
- Cut out both clouds around the dotted lines, separating the two parts of cloud "B".
- Glue both "B" tabs onto the "A" tabs.
- Glue cotton wool on to cloud "B" only.
- Cloud "B" can now be folded back to reveal Jesus.



The risen Christ and His ascension

Activity A – Board Game



The risen Christ and His ascension

Activity B – Jesus in the Cloud



The day of Pentecost

Acts 2

Storyline

Jesus had told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit. When the day of Pentecost came (the 50th day after the resurrection) they were all waiting on the Lord. Suddenly there came a sound like a mighty wind from heaven. Then tongues of fire appeared which settled on each one. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in foreign languages to the amazement of passers by. Jews from every country heard them speaking of the mighty works of God, each in their own language. Peter stood in the power of the Holy Spirit and told the people about Christ. About 3,000 people were convicted, repented and were baptised on that day.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Explain to the children who the Holy Spirit is and the work He does. Tell the children how the Holy Spirit helps us when we pray or when we're not sure what to do. Explain that someone can be filled with the Holy Spirit as others pray with them. God gives us a sign that we are filled by giving us a new prayer language. NB We are not using the Sonseekers program as a place to see children filled with the Holy Spirit. We are teaching them about how this happens.

Theme One

"God gives good gifts"

The Holy Spirit is a special gift from God. There are other gifts that God gives us, some of which may not appear to us to be good. Can we thank and trust Him that all things from Him are good for us?

Key Thought

The Holy Spirit came from the Heavenly Father as a sign that God is with us.

Aim

To help the children to understand what a great gift the Holy Spirit is.

Memory Verse

"Every good gift ... comes down from the Father." (James 1:17).

Theme Two

"The Holy Spirit is our Helper"

The Holy Spirit is given to help us obey the Lord. We are changed to be like Christ as we let the Holy Spirit fill us every day. We can know His power and joy to live a life that pleases God.

Key Thought

God's power is with us to live as Christians when we are obedient.

Aim

For the children to understand that God has sent the Holy Spirit to be with us and to help us at all times.

Memory Verse

"He will give you another Helper." (John 14:16).

Activity A - Cut Out and Colour Picture

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Red and yellow cardboard cut into small squares (3 cm).
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

At Home

- Draw flame shapes on the coloured cardboard squares.

In Class

- The children cut out the flame shapes and glue them on above each person's head to depict the Holy Spirit.
- Colour the people.



Activity B - Memory Verse Flags

Materials

- Rectangles of scrap material/stiff paper or cardboard (about 12 x 25 cm).
- Scissors.
- Straws or skewers (1 per flag).
- Thick tipped felt pens.
- Safety pins, staples or masking tape.

Steps

- Using felt pens, have the children draw pictures from the story around the outside of their flag.
- Write the memory verse in the centre of the flag.
- Attach the flag to the stick/straw.

The day of Pentecost

Activity A – Cut Out and Colour Picture



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Peter and John

Storyline

Peter and John went to the temple to pray. A lame man was outside the temple begging for money and he asked Peter and John for help. Peter said, 'Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.'" It was the best gift anyone could give him. He was so excited that he went into the temple walking, leaping and praising God. Peter and John were in trouble from the religious leaders for teaching about Jesus but they refused to stop sharing all the wonderful things they had seen and learned when He was with them. Later, Peter and John went to Samaria and prayed for the new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. Before He returned to heaven, Jesus had told Peter how he would die, and Peter wanted to know about John. Jesus said, in effect, "Mind your own business, you follow me." John, in fact, was the only one of the twelve apostles not to be martyred. In his old age, he was imprisoned on the Isle of Patmos and he had a revelation of the risen and exalted Lord Jesus and God revealed many things to him which are yet to take place.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

- Recount the story focusing on God using Peter and John to heal the lame man.
- Discuss how we can pray for others in family/church/Sunday School/prayer times.
- Teacher recounts how God has answered one of his/her prayers. Encourage the children to share about answered prayers.

Theme 2

Talk about being inquisitive. If mum or dad give a parcel to a brother or sister, we want to know what they have been given and why we can't have the same. Why do they give different gifts to different children? Mum and dad treat us each as individuals. In the same way, God treats us as individual persons. He gives us different things to do for Him, He has a different path for each of us. The only thing that matters is that we follow Him.

Theme One

"Pray for others"

Peter and John knew that in themselves they had no way to help the lame man, but they knew Jesus would heal him. Jesus had told the disciples they could ask anything in His name. So they used the name of Jesus to raise the lame man. We, too, can pray for others and see God meet their needs.

Key Thought

We are limited in our power to help others. God's power is greater than ours as we pray for others.

Aim

To help the children to understand we actually are 'giving' when we pray.

Memory Verse

"Lord, teach us to pray." (Luke 11:1).

Theme Two

"God has a different path for each of His children"

Peter was to glorify God by being martyred. John, on the other hand, was to live to old age and have remarkable visions of the Lord and the future. Can we accept God's path and direction for our lives as we follow Him as His disciples?

Key Thought

We are not to compare ourselves with others.

Aim

For the children to realise that God wants us to concentrate on what He has for us to do and not to question what others are or do.

Memory Verse

"My sheep hear My voice ... and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

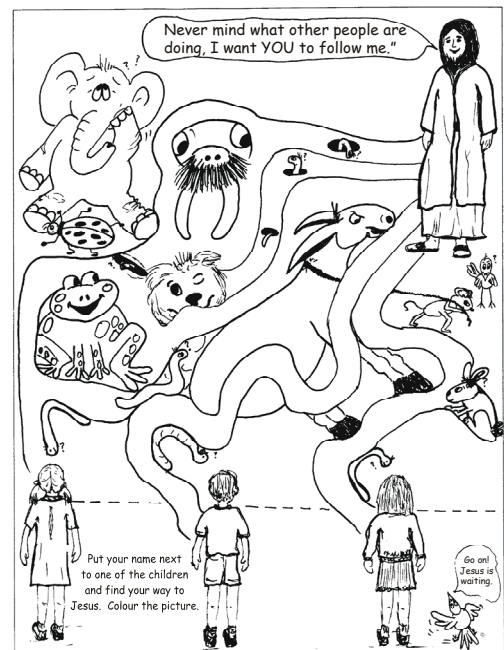
Activity A - Maze

Materials

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

Steps

- Tell the children to write their name beside one of the children. They are then to find and mark their way to Jesus through the maze.
- The quicker workers may like to mark the path the other children need to take to go to Jesus.



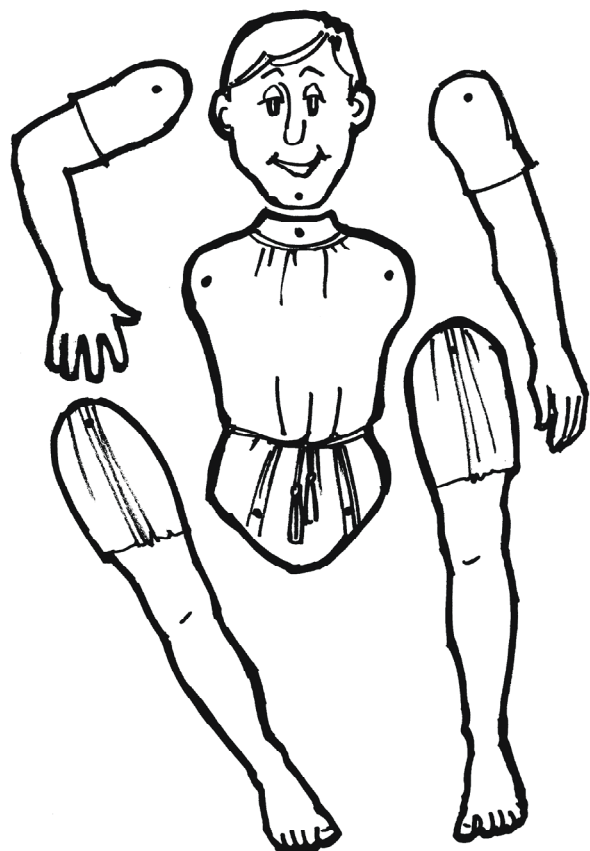
Activity B - Split-pin Man

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- 5 split-pins per child.
- Cardboard.
- Colouring pencils.
- Scissors.

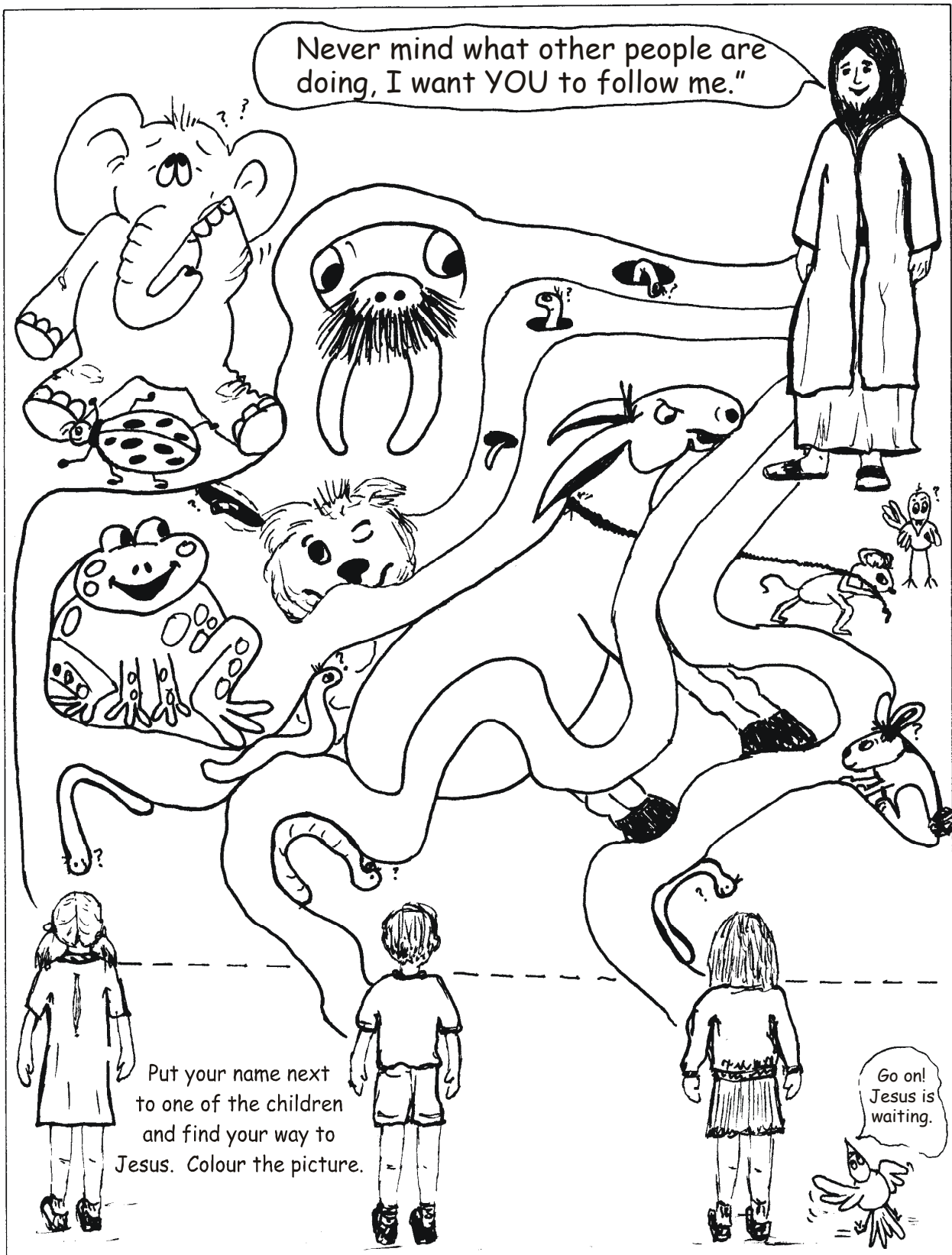
Steps

- The children colour the picture and cut out the pieces.
- Use split-pins to put the man together.



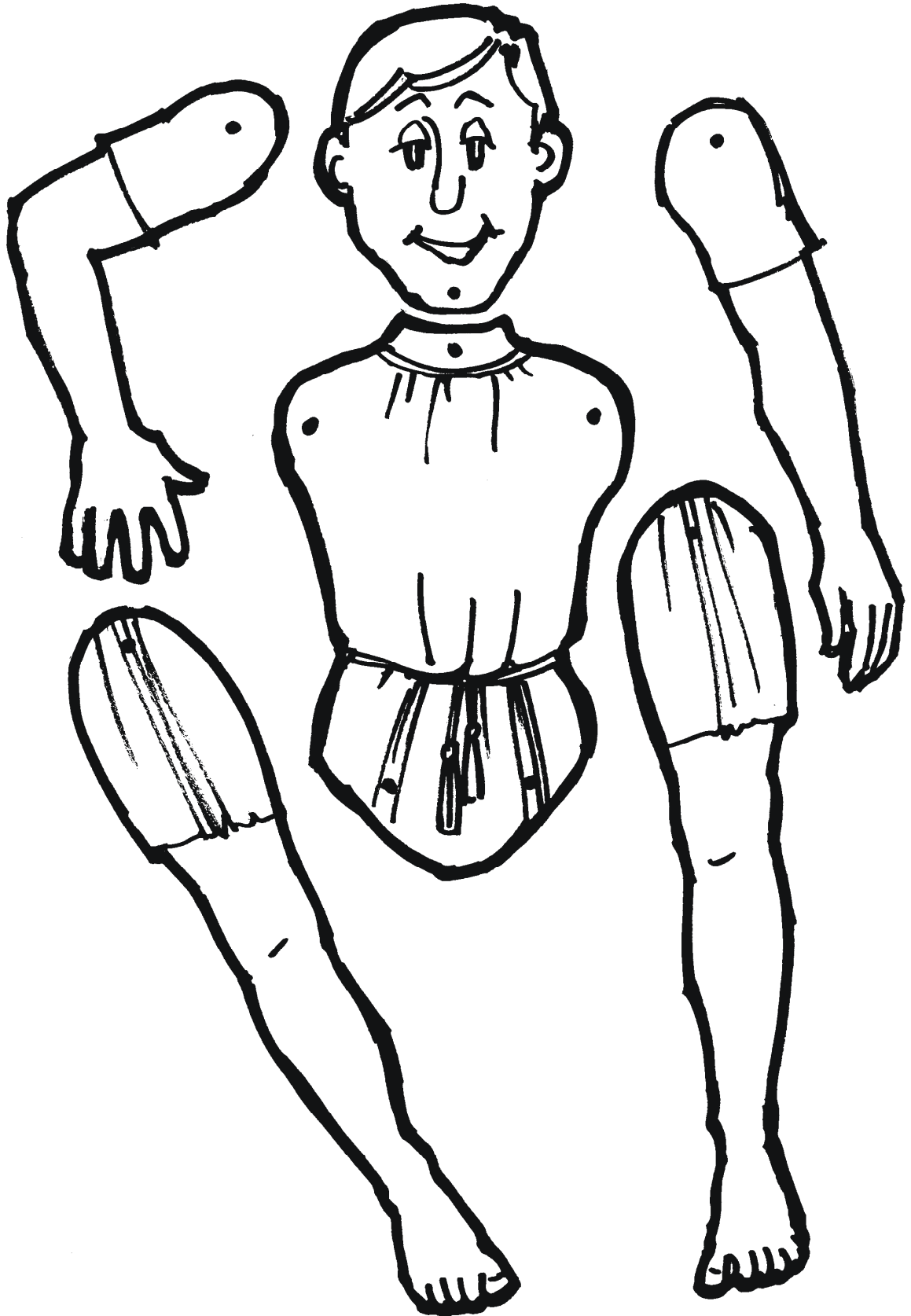
Peter and John

Activity A - Maze



Peter and John

Activity B – Split-pin Man



Peter and the Gentiles

Acts 9:32-43; 10;
11:1-18; 12:1-19

Storyline

Peter visited a town called Lydda and healed a man there. Then he went to Joppa, where one of the disciples had died. Peter prayed and she came back to life. There was another time when Peter was praying and the Lord showed him a vision of a sheet with all kinds of animals inside. He knew then that God loved the Gentiles and Jews equally. He went to Cornelius' house and told the people there that God loved them and had sent Jesus for them. Some years later, King Herod got angry with the Christians and put Peter in prison to kill him. However, the Lord sent an angel and the chains fell off Peter. He left the prison with the angel and went to the house where his friends were praying for him.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

1. The teacher could lead a discussion about God creating each one of us and loving us all the same. Explain that Jesus wants to come and live with every person.
2. Recount the story of Peter explaining that, although the Jews were God's people, God was showing Peter that He loved everyone the same.

Theme 2

1. Recount the story, focusing on how God was with Peter all the time.
2. Discuss how Peter would have felt in prison and how we sometimes feel scared, sad and lonely.
3. Explain that we can pray to God and He will be with us and help us through our troubles.

Theme One

"We are all special to God"

God showed Peter how He loved the Gentiles as much as the Jews. With the Lord, no person is loved more than another. He loves everyone the same no matter what the colour of their skin is, what they look like, and what they can do best.

Key Thought

The Lord has no favourites. We are all important to Him.

Aim

For the children to know that each one is special and they are loved by the Lord.

Memory Verse

"He will love you, and bless you." (Deuteronomy 7:13).

Theme Two

"God knows when we need help"

Life is not always happy and plain sailing. When things happen that make us feel sad or worried, God knows. He will be with us and help us, just like He helped Peter when he was in prison.

Key Thought

We can know that God will always be with us if we love and trust Him. He wants to look after us.

Aim

For the children to know that God cares about every part of our lives and is always watching over us.

Memory Verse

"The Lord shall help them and deliver them." (Psalm 37:40).

Activity A - Paper Folding/Colouring

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

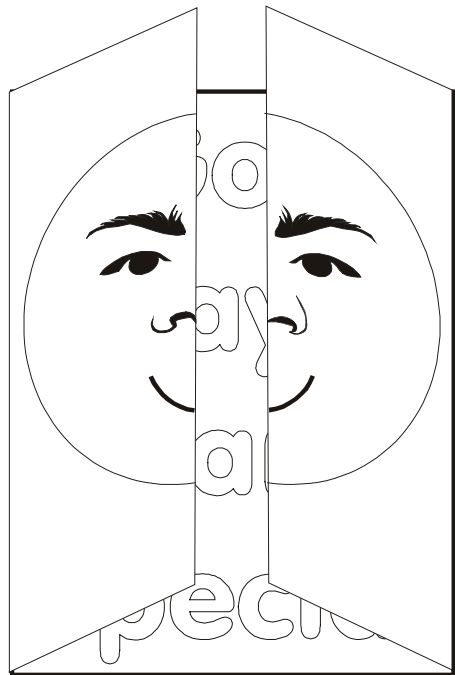
Steps

At Home

- Cut out around the box on the Activity Sheet.
- Fold the sides inwards along the lines.

In Class

- The children draw a picture of a face on the front of the card.
- They then colour the face and the wording.



Activity B - Colour the Correct Pictures

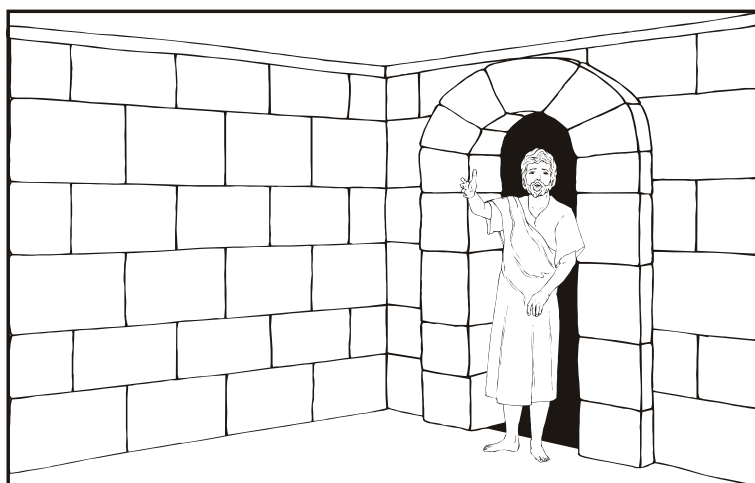
Materials

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

Steps

- The children colour in the pictures that are correct. message.

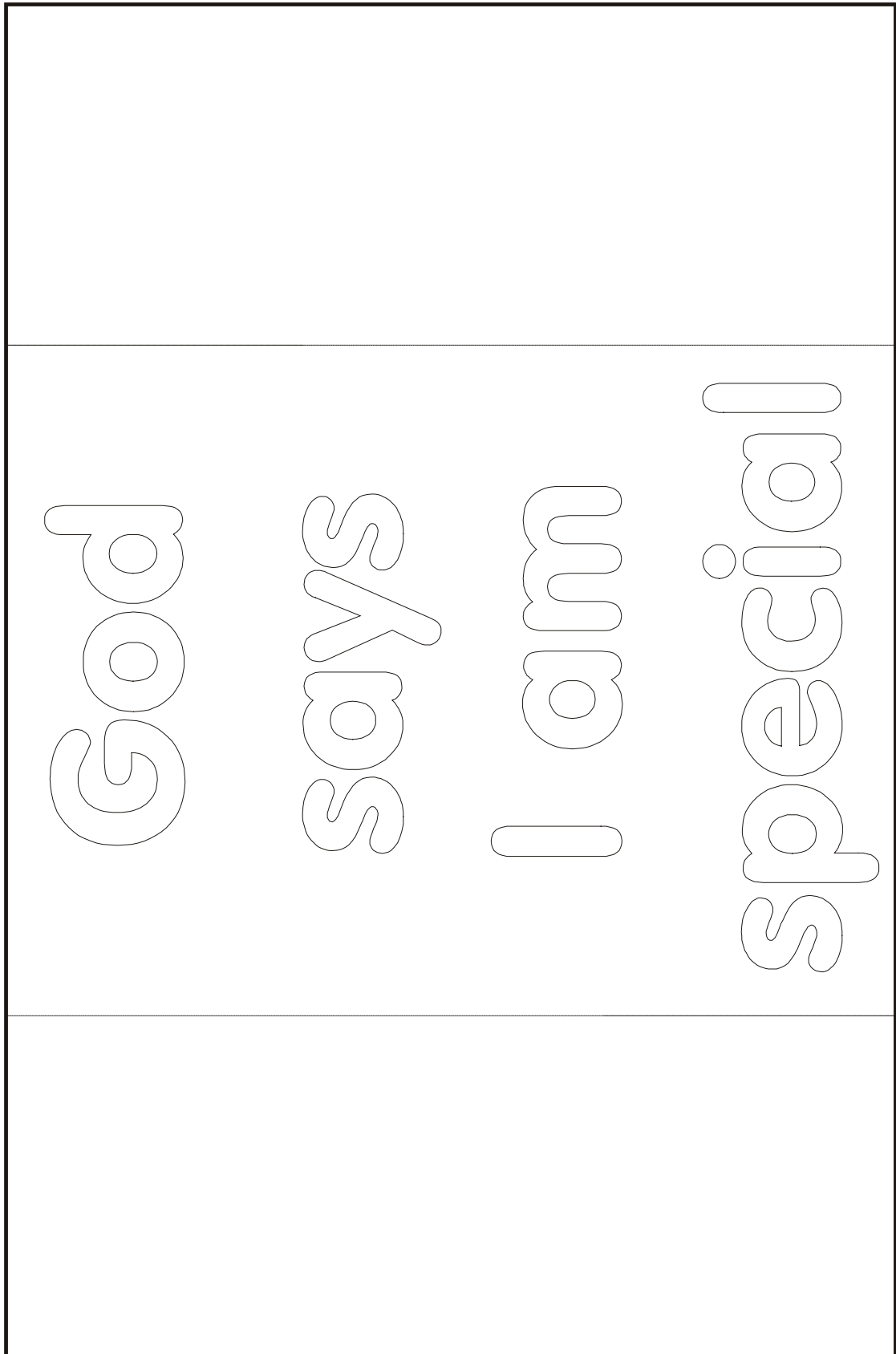
A lame man was healed



Peter was set free from prison by an angel

Peter and the Gentiles

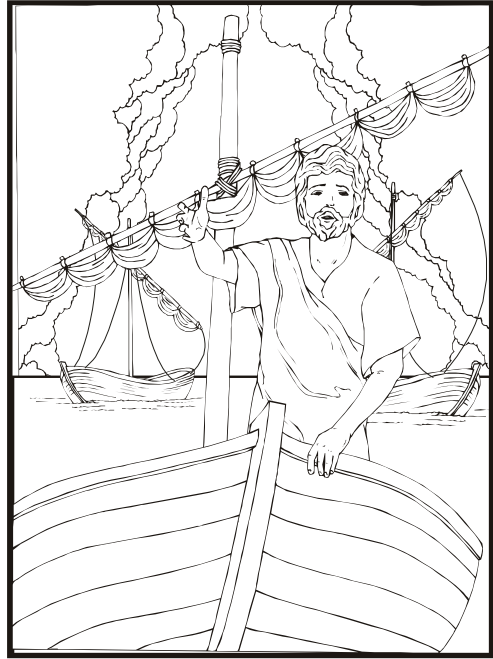
Activity A – Paper Folding/Colouring



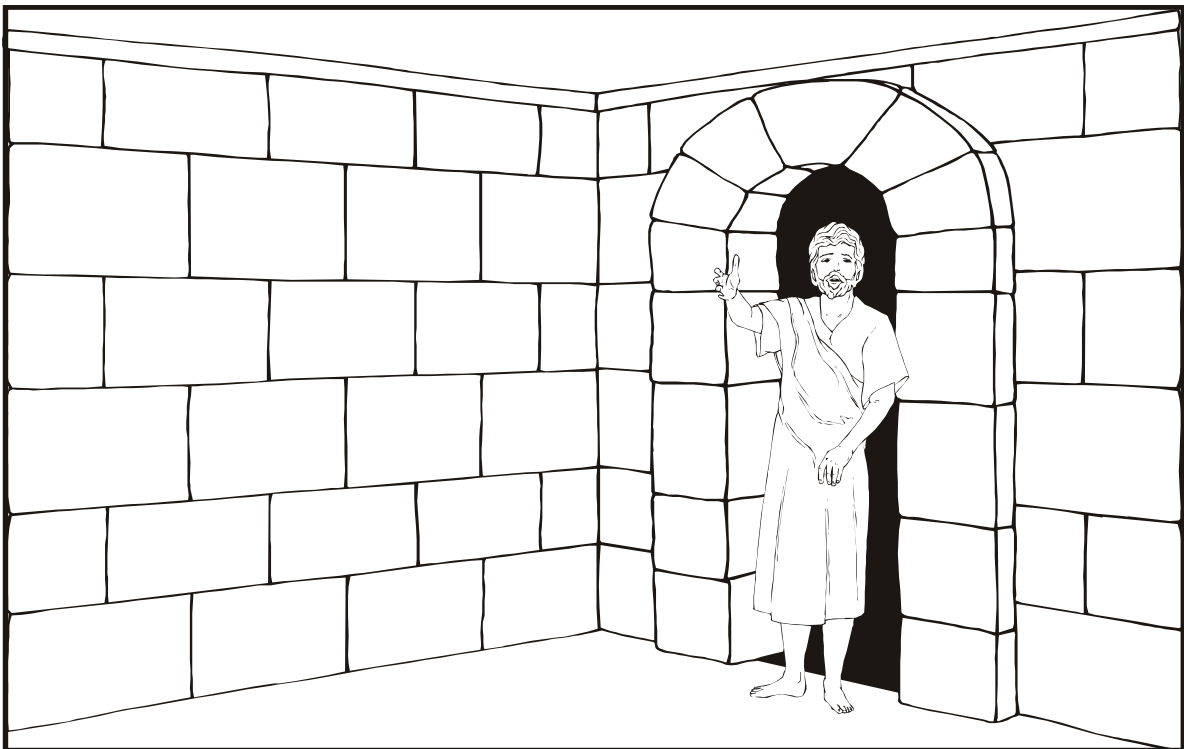
Peter and the Gentiles

Activity B – Colour the Correct Pictures

A lame man was healed



Peter sailed a
boat to Jerusalem



Peter was set free from prison by an angel

Stephen

Acts 6 & 7

Storyline

Stephen was one of seven faithful men chosen to help the apostles so they would be free to minister God's word. One day some wicked people told lies about Stephen because they hated him. He was brought before the council and told them about Jesus. They were angry. Stephen stared up into heaven and he said he could see Jesus standing at God's right hand. They covered their ears and dragged him out of the city and stoned him. Stephen asked the Lord to forgive the ones who were stoning him. Then he died.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

1. Recount Stephen's story, emphasising that he wasn't afraid, because God was with him.
2. Lead a group discussion on being afraid. Keep it simple, eg. waking in the night to strange noises; being teased by rough children; getting lost. Emphasise that when we feel afraid it is mostly because we feel alone and there is no one to help us. Explain that we can pray to God and know that He is with us. We don't feel scared when we remember that He is caring for us.
3. Recount a childhood memory of such an experience, if you have one.

Theme 2

1. Tell the story with a focus on the strength God gave to Stephen to help him forgive and pray for those who were stoning him.
2. Lead a simple discussion on forgiveness: eg. parents asking us to forgive brothers and sisters; forgiving a friend at school. Emphasise that we must forgive from the heart and not be angry or hold a grudge any more.

Theme One

"God helps us not to be afraid"

Stephen was not afraid even though he was about to die. He knew God was with him. He knew that he would live with God forever. God doesn't want us to be scared because He will be with us all the time.

Key Thought

We don't have to be afraid - God is always looking after us and is ready to help us..

Aim

For the children to know that God is with them, even in the most scary situations.

Memory Verse

"I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5).

Theme Two

"Forgive others"

Stephen knew God was with him. Even though the people were about to kill him, he was still able to truly care about them, asking God to forgive them. We must not hold unforgiveness in our hearts towards anyone.

Key Thought

When someone has done something to hurt us, God wants us to forgive them..

Aim

For the children to realise that the Lord can give us a real love and a truly forgiving heart.

Memory Verse

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." (Luke 6:27).

Activity A - Paint Wash Secret Message

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Food colouring – 1 or 2 colours.
- Old bowls/paint containers.
- Paint brushes (if you have them) or kitchen sponges cut into quarters.
- Aprons (or old shirts).

Steps

At Home

- Using a clear white candle, write the word 'Jesus' in the cloud above the face on each Activity Sheet. It should be invisible. (You can check your lettering by looking at a 45o angle under a bright light).

In Class

- Discuss why we don't have to be afraid.
- Explain that we will discover a secret message by painting the cloud.
- Have children paint a wash over the cloud revealing the name. There is no need to dilute the food colouring.
- Discuss that even though we can't see Jesus, we know He is with us.



I don't have to be afraid
because _____ is with me.

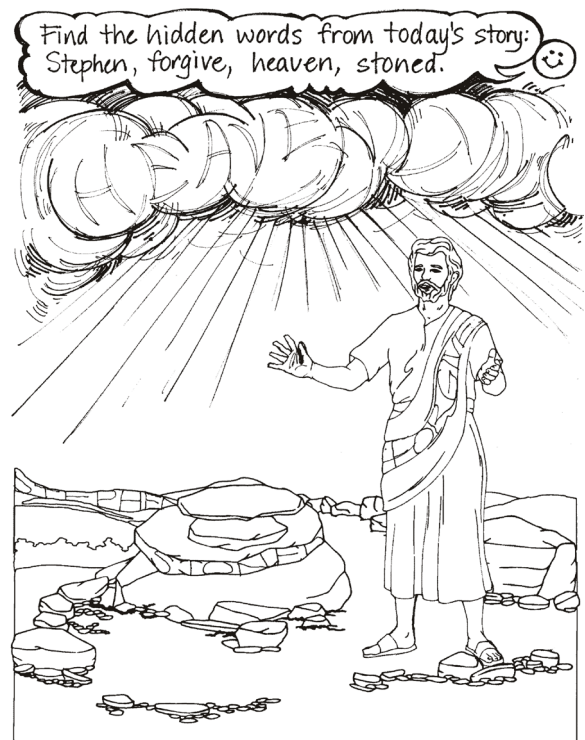
Activity B - Word Search

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

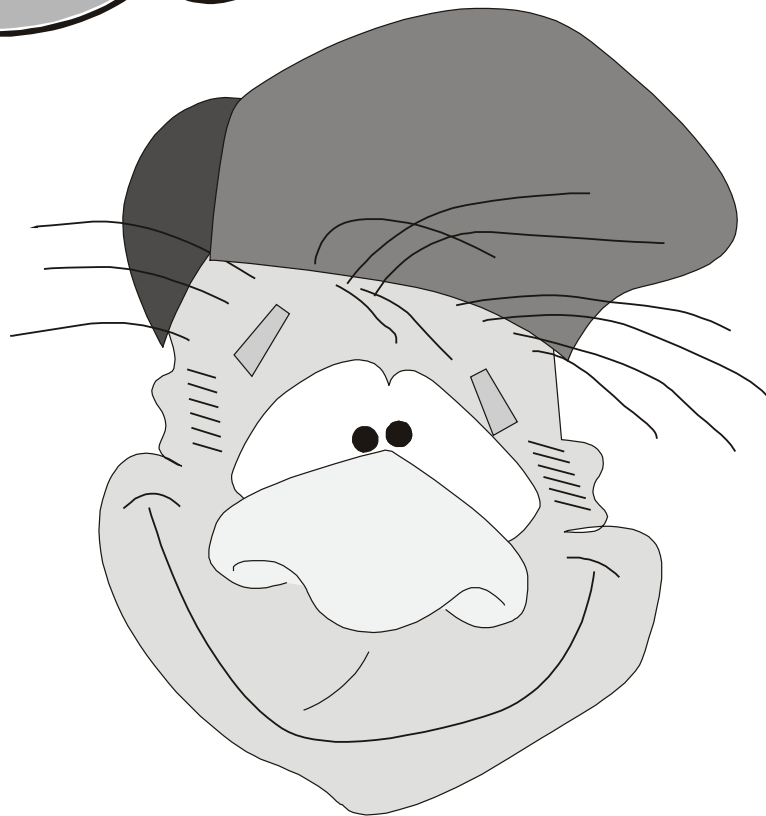
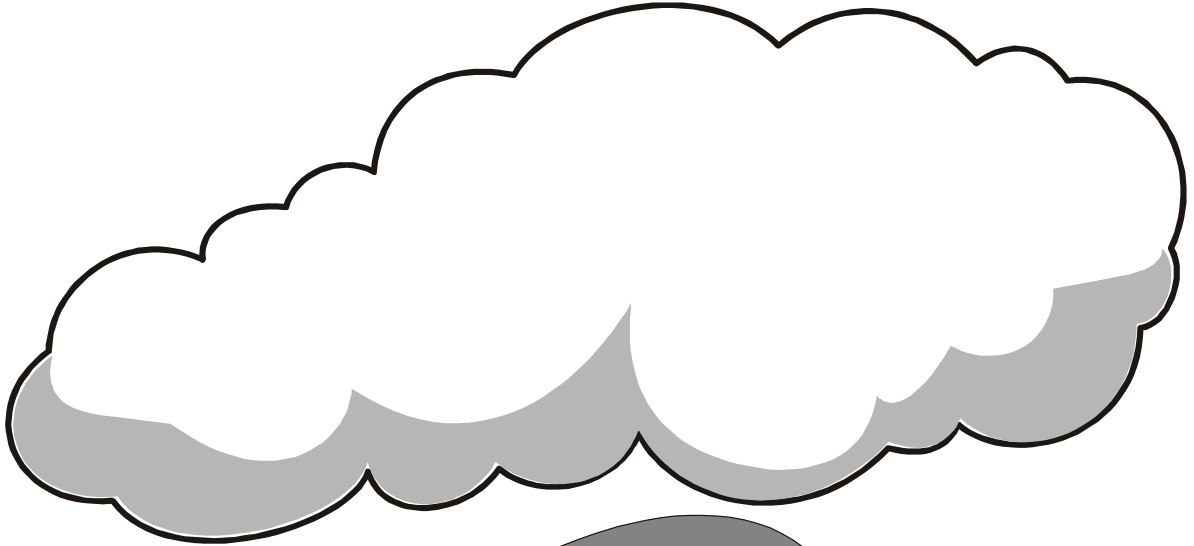
Steps

- Review the story, discussing the meaning of the words 'forgive', 'heaven', 'stoned'.
- Have the children search the worksheet for the key words that are hidden.
- The children can then colour the picture.



Stephen

Activity A – Paint-Wash Secret Message

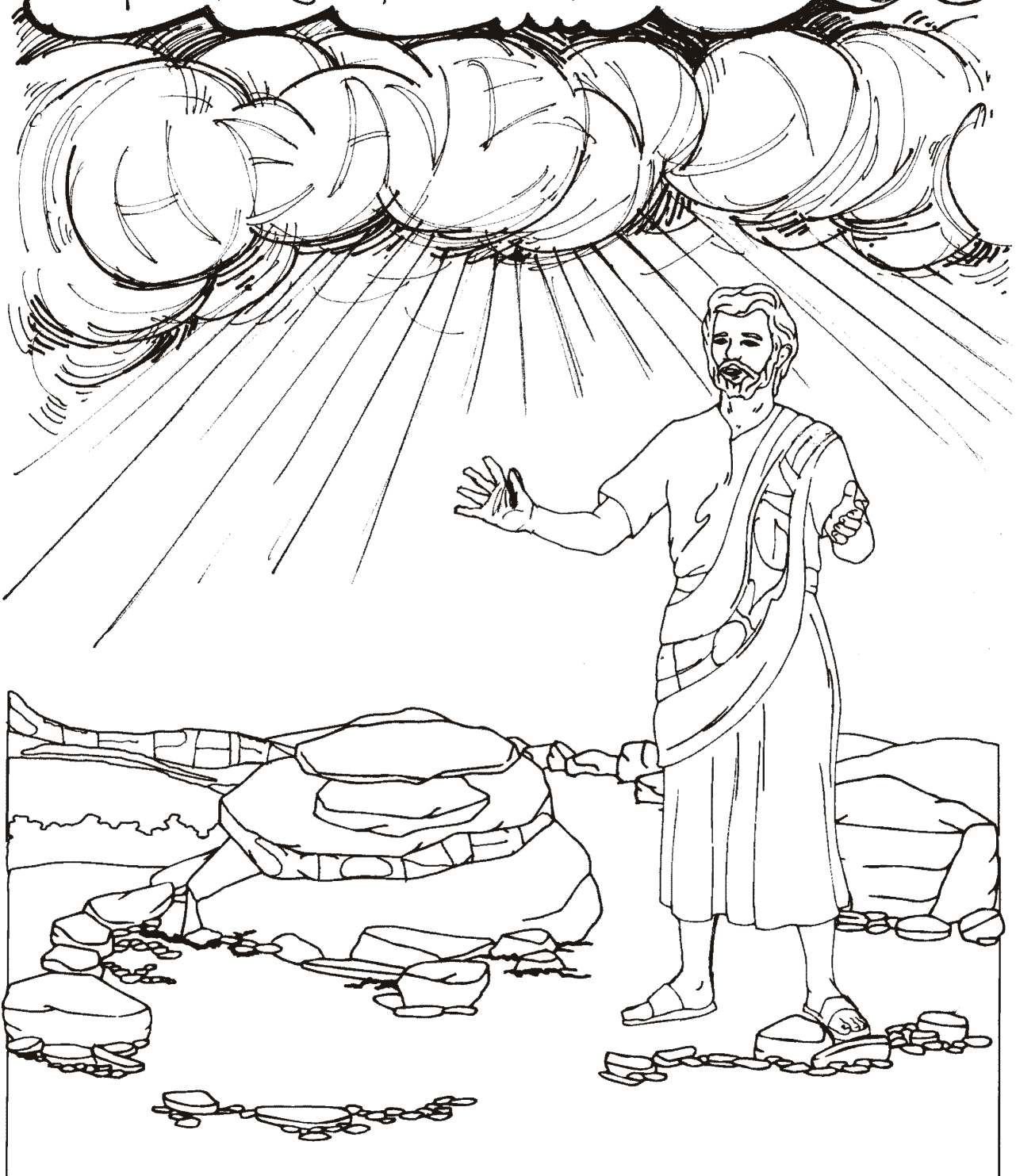


I don't have to be afraid
because _____ is with me.

Stephen

Activity B – Word Search

Find the hidden words from today's story:
Stephen, forgive, heaven, stoned.



Philip

Acts 8:4-13,26-40

Storyline

Philip, like Stephen, was one of the seven men chosen to help the apostles. He went to Samaria and preached Christ to them and did some miracles. Then an angel of the Lord told Philip to travel south to Gaza. On the way, he came across an important Ethiopian (an African man) who was reading the Scriptures. He told Philip he needed someone to help him understand what he was reading. Philip explained the Scriptures and told him about Jesus. The Ethiopian then asked Philip to baptize him. After the baptism, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip and placed him in a town about 30km away.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Incorporate both themes in recounting the story. Emphasise the Ethiopian's willing heart and his response to God's word. Note the importance of having others (Philip) to teach God's word. If possible, use a flannelgraph board or sand tray.
2. Complete game (Activity B) or commence Activity A (to be completed next week).

Theme One

"God's word is a lamp"

When God's word is explained to us, it is as though a light is shining to show us the way. From God's word, we can know how He wants us to live and understand how much He cares for us.

Key Thought

God wants us to understand all about Him. As we listen to His word, we will get to know Him better and better.

Aim

For the children to understand that listening to God's word will help them at home, at school and in all aspects of their lives.

Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet." (Psalm 119:105).

Theme Two

"A willing heart"

If we have keen hearts like the Ethiopian, God will teach and bless us and fill our hearts with understanding. We can discover that the Bible answers all our important questions.

Key Thought

God will teach us if we have a willing heart.

Aim

For the children to understand that hearing and reading God's word is different from reading a story book. If they have a willing heart, God's word will teach them His way to live.

Memory Verse

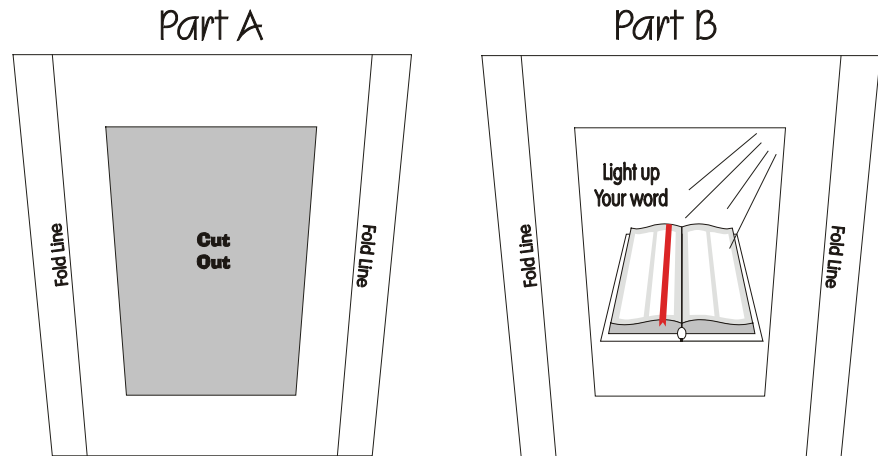
"The humble He teaches His way." (Psalm 25:9).

Activity A - Lantern Making (Part One)

Teacher please note that this activity continues for two weeks. The aim is for the children to make two sides of the lantern this week, with the teacher keeping them. Then next week, the children make the other two sides and assemble the lantern, to take home.

Materials

- 1 of each of the two Activity Sheets per child (Part A and B), photocopied or mounted onto cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Gold or silver glitter.
- Colouring pencils.
- Yellow or clear cellophane, or even plastic wrap.
- Sticky tape.
- Stapler.



Steps

At Home

- Cut out the marked center of Part A. Save the scraps of cardboard.
- Pre-cut cellophane to fit over this hole, with as much room as possible around the edges, for gluing.

In Class

- The children cut out both pieces of the lantern, along the outside lines. (Save all the scraps of cardboard, to make the handles for the lanterns next week).
- Sticky tape cellophane onto the back of the one with the hole cut out.
- Put a little glue on the light beams in the picture, (Part B) then sprinkle gold or silver glitter on the glue.
- Fold on the fold lines, and staple together along one side only.
- If time permits, colour the book.
- The teacher collects them all to keep for next week.

Activity B - Game - "Guiding the Ethiopian"

Materials

- Soft scarf(s) or handkerchief(s) to use as a blindfold. Make sure it is big enough to go around a child's head.
- Ball(s) of string or wool.

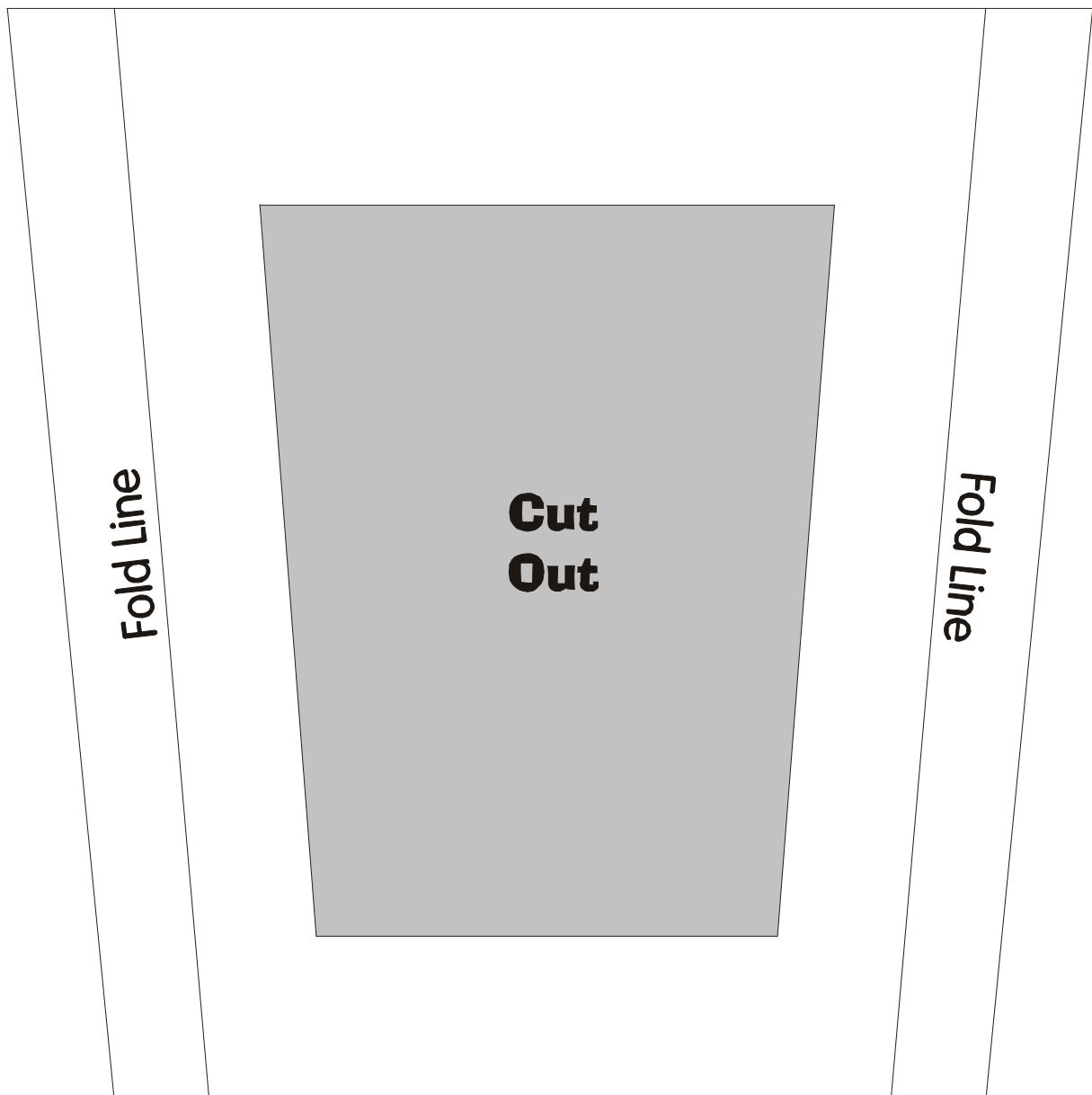
Steps

- Organise the children into pairs, one to be the Ethiopian, one to be Philip. Depending on the amount of space you have, and the number of children in your class, you may decide to have more than one pair working at the same time.
- Blindfold the Ethiopian and attach the string to a starting point. Then have Philip run the string in a course around the room, (or outside is possible). Use chairs, or trees, or playground equipment. A zigzag pattern would serve the purpose for this age group.
- Philip now helps the blindfolded Ethiopian find his way along the path. At the end Philip takes off the blindfold, so the Ethiopian can see fully. The Ethiopian could then find his way back and forth by himself.

Philip

Activity A – Lantern Making

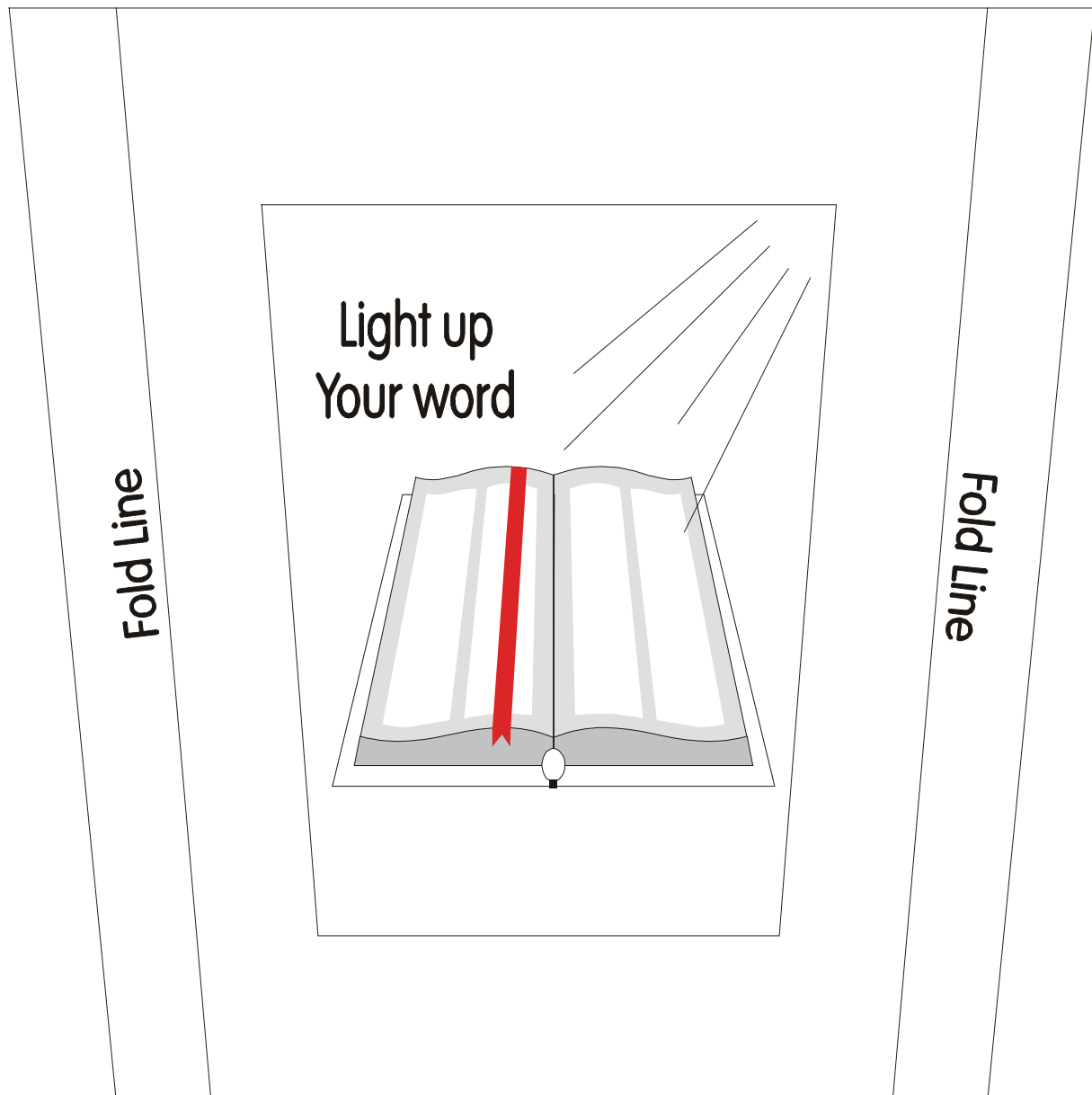
Part A



Philip

Activity A – Lantern Making

Part B



Paul's conversion

Storyline

Saul was being very cruel to the Christians all over the country. He was on his way to Damascus when a light from heaven shone on him and he fell to the ground. Jesus spoke to him and asked him why he was persecuting Him (by hurting God's people he was hurting the Lord). Saul was very sorry and repented. When Saul stood up he couldn't see and had to be led by hand to Damascus where he fasted for three days. The Lord spoke to a disciple called Ananias and told him to go to where Saul was, and to pray for him that he might see again. Afterward, the Jews got very angry with Saul, because he was now a Christian and they tried to kill him. He escaped by being lowered down a wall in a basket. From this time, Saul was known as Paul.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Recount Saul's conversion using a torch to emphasise God's light shining upon Saul. Stress the following points:
 - When he saw God's light, Saul saw who Jesus really was.
 - God's word became a light to Saul to show him how he was to live.
 - God gave us His word to be a light to tell us about God and teach us how to live as Christians.
2. Explain how Ananias would have felt going to Saul. Use a common example such as having to speak to a bully at school.
3. If Activity A was commenced last week, complete this activity.
4. Otherwise, undertake Activity B.

Theme One

"Seeing the light"

Saul thought he was doing the right thing in persecuting the Christians. He had to be shown that he was wrong. Often we need someone to show us that we are going the wrong way. As we hear God's word from our Dad and Mum and from others in God's family, it shines into our hearts to show us the sin that is there.

Key Thought

By listening to God's word at church and from parents, we can learn to be the sort of people God wants us to be.

Aim

For the children to realise that we all do things the wrong way until we are shown God's way and learn to obey His word.

Memory Verse

"Do not be wise in your own eyes." (Proverbs 3:7).

Theme Two

"Trust and obey"

Ananias had every reason to fear the meeting with Saul, but because God told him to go, he trusted and obeyed. Sometimes God may ask us to do something that we are afraid to do, like speaking to someone at school who laughs at us because we are Christians. We must learn to trust God and obey Him.

Key Thought

God is trustworthy, even when we are scared.

Aim

For the children to see that even if they feel scared, they can still trust and obey God.

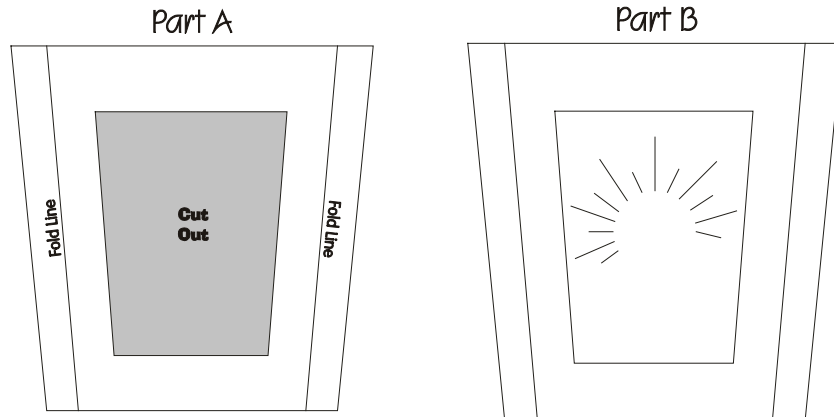
Memory Verse

"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3).

Activity A - Lantern Making (Part Two)

Materials

- 1 each of the 2 Activity Sheets per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Scissors.
- Glue.
- Gold or silver glitter.
- Colouring pencils.
- Sticky tape.
- Stapler.
- Cellophane or plastic wrap.



Steps

At Home

- Prepare the two lantern sides the same as last week.

In Class

- Have the children draw themselves in the centre of the light beams.
- Cut out the lantern shapes.
- Sticky tape cellophane or plastic wrap over the lantern side with the hole.
- Put a little glue on the light beams and sprinkle glitter on them.
- Fold on the fold lines and staple the whole lantern together.
- With scraps of cardboard, make a handle for each lantern and staple on top.

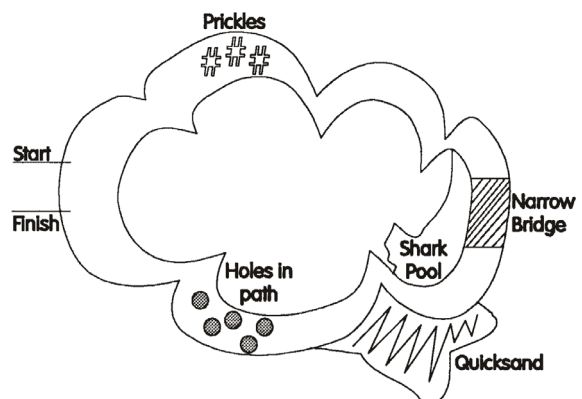
Activity B - Follow the Leader

Materials

- Chalk of different colours.
- Blindfold.

Steps

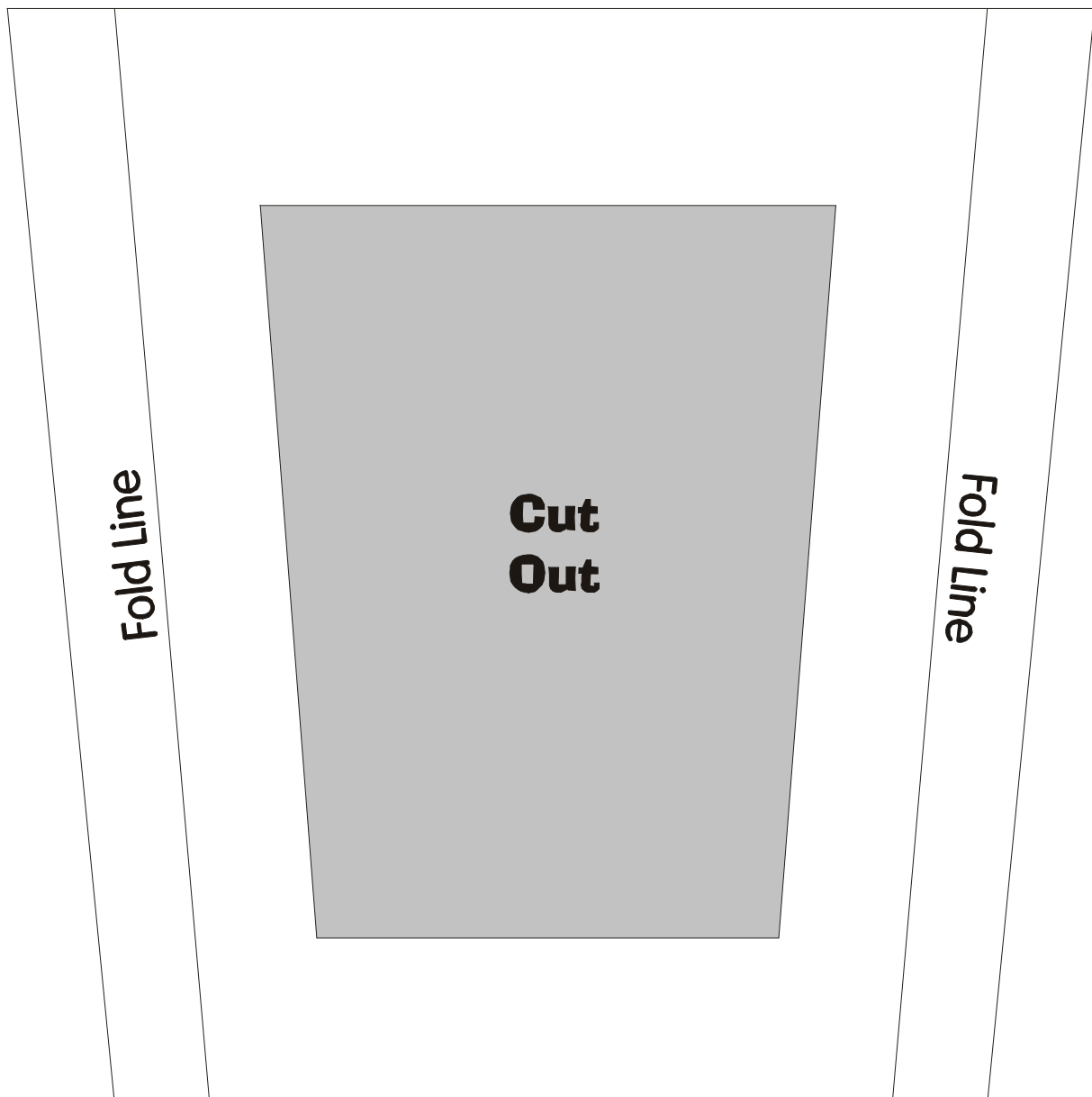
- Take the children outside to a concreted/bitumened area. (If it is raining or not suitable, set up in your room using furniture as danger areas.)
- Draw a narrow path on the ground and add some dangers, explaining them as you draw, eg, prickles, quicksand, sharks:
- Remind the children of the story of Ananias and the reasons that he might have been scared, eg. Saul had been hunting Christians and putting them in jail. Emphasise that he wasn't scared because God was with him.
- Have partners lead a blindfolded person around the course, stressing that God is with us, caring for us, even though we don't see Him.



Paul's conversion

Activity A – Lantern Making (continued)

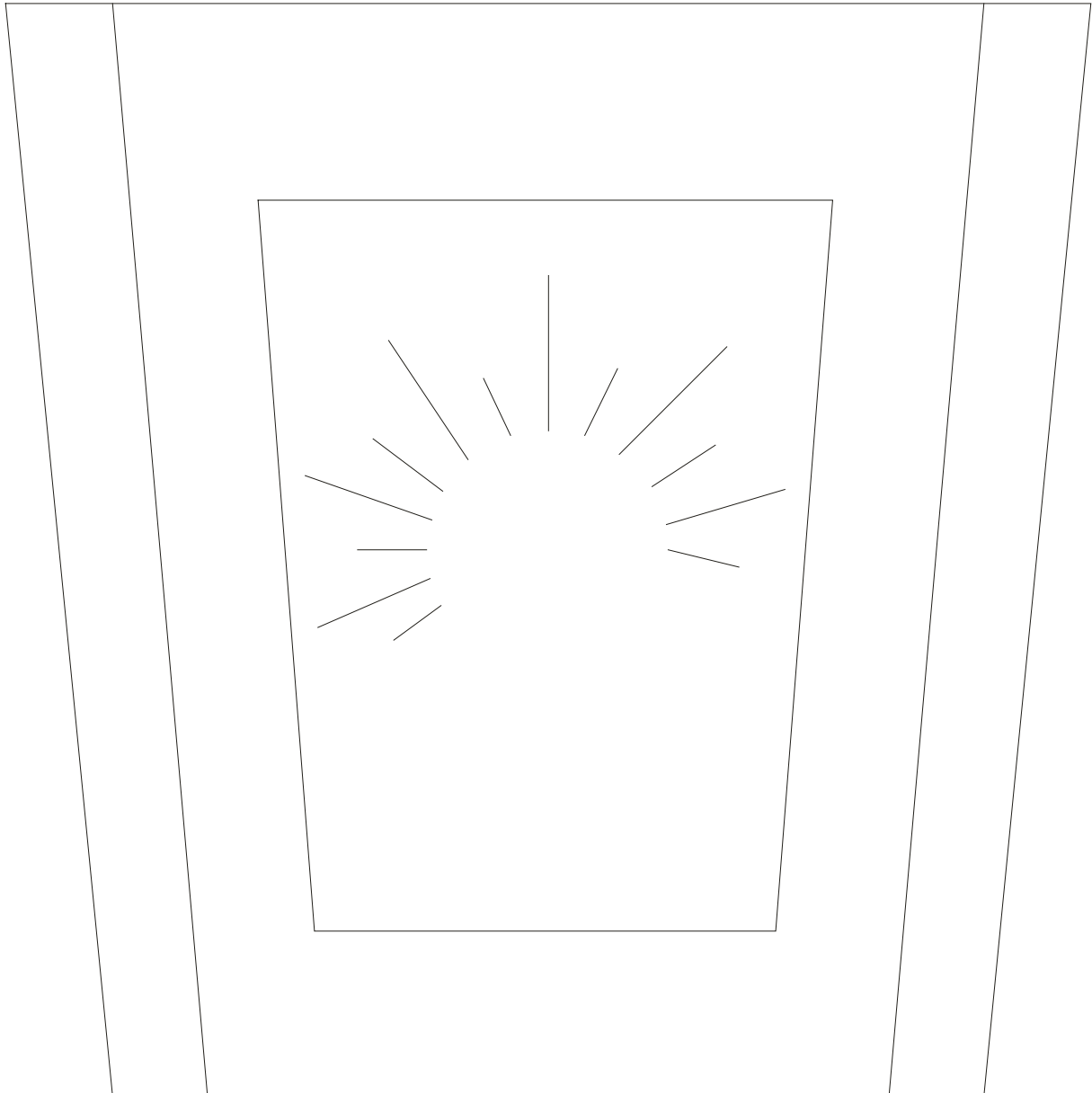
Part A



Paul's conversion

Activity A – Lantern Making (continued)

Part B



Paul's first missionary journey

Acts 13 & 14

Storyline

The Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas on a journey to tell people about Jesus. At Paphos, they told the governor about God's love. An evil man named Elymas began telling lies and saying wicked things about Paul and Barnabas to the governor. God worked a miracle through Paul, and Elymas was made blind. The governor was amazed by God's power, and believed in Him. As Paul and Barnabas continued their journey, many people believed in Jesus Christ and were filled with the Holy Spirit. Some people, however, became very angry when they heard Paul and Barnabas talk about Jesus. At a town named Lystra, some Jews became so angry that they stoned Paul and left him there to die. The disciples who lived in Lystra helped Paul and he quickly recovered and continued on his journey.

Suggested Teaching Approach

1. Recount the story, focussing on how the believers at Lystra were true friends of Paul. They cared for him and helped him recover so he could continue telling people of God.
2. Discuss what it means to be a good friend. God can teach us to be friends, to care for and love one another, forgiving others. God has placed us in His family.

Theme One

"Friends in Christ"

Paul helped the people in Lystra by telling them about Jesus. He was a true friend to them. When those who did not believe stoned Paul, the Christians showed themselves as true friends in caring for Paul. God has given us many friends in His family. We can help one another and be kind to each other, caring for everyone.

Key Thought

God's people should always be happy to help one another and care for those who need help.

Aim

For the children to understand they are part of God's family and need to be always ready to love and care for each other.

Memory Verse

"Let us love one another." (1 John 4:7).

Theme Two

"God helps us when we obey"

Because Paul obeyed God, he went to Lystra. When Paul was in trouble there, God looked after him by sending the Christians to help him. Sometimes people might tease us about going to church or obeying the teachers at school. Even though this hurts us, we need to know that God is with us and will help us do the things that please Him.

Key Thought

It is more important to be obedient and please God and Mum and Dad than to join with those who disobey.

Aim

For the children not to stop doing the things that please God because others tease them.

Memory Verse

"Diligently obey the voice of the Lord." (Zechariah 6:15).

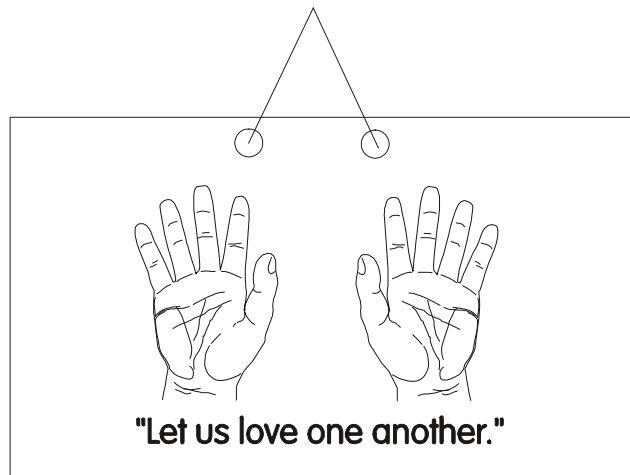
Activity A - Hand Tracing

Materials

- Coloured cardboard (enough for each child to have their hands traced on).
- 1 A4 sized piece of white cardboard per child.
- Scissors.
- Marking pens.
- Wool.

Steps

- Have the children in pairs.
- The children take turns tracing around their 'friends' hands on the coloured cardboard. Discuss how we can't do this activity by ourselves, that we need friends to help us. We have Jesus to help us be good friends.
- Once every child has had their hands traced, they cut around the outline of their hands and glue them onto their white cardboard.
- The memory verse can be written on the card.
- Tie wool at the top so the card can be hung up.



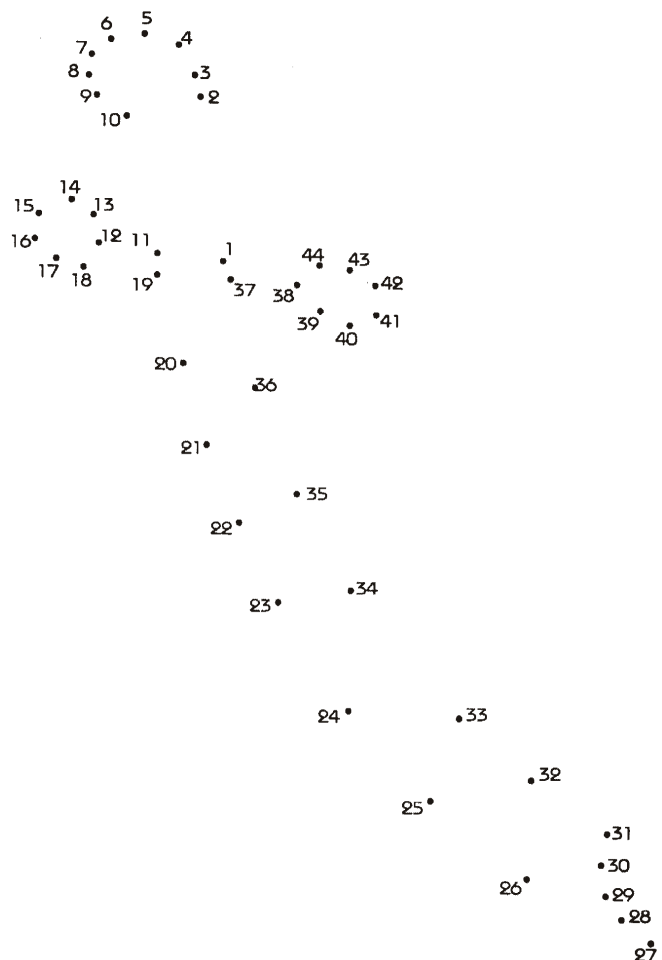
Activity B - Dot to Dot Sword

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.
- Aluminium foil.
- Wood shavings/brown paper.

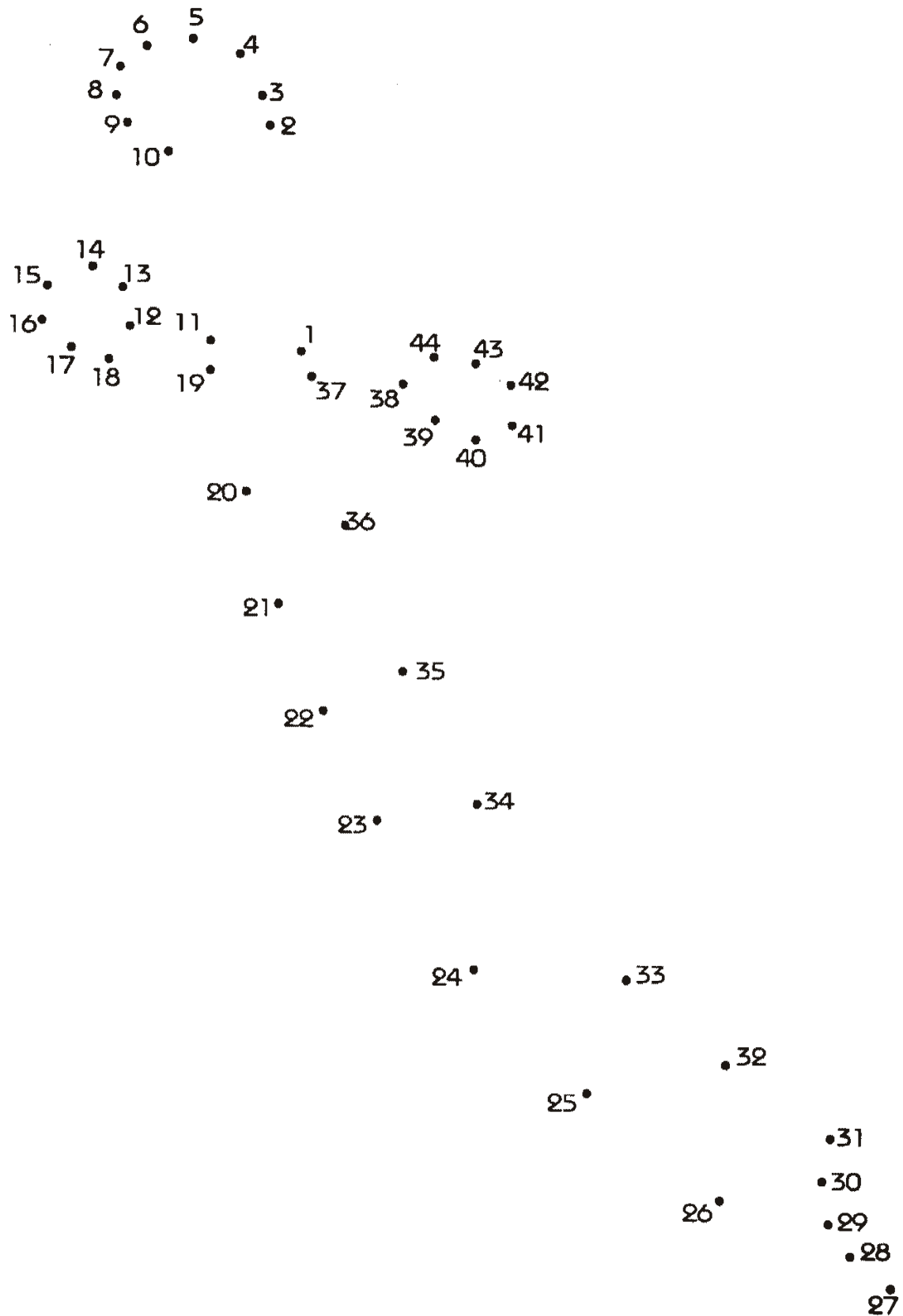
Steps

- The children join the dots together following the numbers 1 to 44 to reveal a sword, then colour it in.
- Cut out the sword.
- Glue on alfoil for the blade and wood shavings or brown paper for the handle.



Paul's first missionary journey

Activity B – Dot to Dot Sword



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Paul's second and third missionary journeys

Acts 15:36 - 21:19

Storyline

Paul and Silas continued their journey, visiting many cities and telling people about God. One night a vision came to Paul. In it, a man from Macedonia asked Paul to come and help the people of that place. Paul and his friends left straight away to tell the people about Jesus. When they got to Macedonia, Paul healed a slave girl. Her owners became very angry, and they had Paul and Silas thrown in prison. In the middle of the night, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God. Suddenly a great earthquake shook the jail and all the doors opened and the prisoners' chains fell off. The man in charge of the prison was very scared by what had happened. He thought the prisoners had all escaped, but Paul and Silas told him not to be afraid. They told him all about Jesus and he and his family believed God. On Paul's third journey he went to Ephesus. There he prayed for some disciples to be filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Paul stayed there for two years, preaching and doing many miracles, before going back to Jerusalem where he was imprisoned.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Recount the story, focussing on whichever aspect of the story is appropriate to the theme you have selected.

Theme 1

1. Lead a discussion on ways we can help.
2. Children may like to act out some of the ways they can help and the rest guess, eg. doing the dishes.
3. Emphasise that Paul, Silas and Timothy went straight away to help the Macedonians - they were keen helpers.

Theme 2

1. Write out or photocopy a song of praise which the children know.
2. Sing the song together and lead discussion on what the song means.
3. Link the words of the song to the story of Paul and Silas.
4. Discuss when/where we might sing to God

Theme One

"Keen to help"

God wants us to be good helpers. When we are asked to do our chores, we should have a happy heart. Paul and Silas were good helpers. They went straight to Macedonia to help the Christians there as soon as God told them to go.

Key Thought

God wants us to be ready and willing to help anyone who needs us.

Aim

To show the children that God calls all Christians, even the great Apostle Paul, to be helpers. This is a way of showing God's love.

Memory Verse

"Everyone helped his neighbour." (Isaiah 41:6).

Theme Two

"Sing praises to God"

God loves to hear us sing praises to Him from our heart. We can sing songs in church, or at home, or sometimes even quietly at school. Paul and Silas even sang hymns to God in jail. No matter where we are, we can sing praises to God.

Key Thought

God loves us to sing praises to Him. Praising God makes us feel much better when we are sad or lonely.

Aim

For the children to see that it's important to praise God wherever we are, not just in church. He hears us wherever we are.

Memory Verse

"Rejoice in the Lord always." (Philippians 4:4).

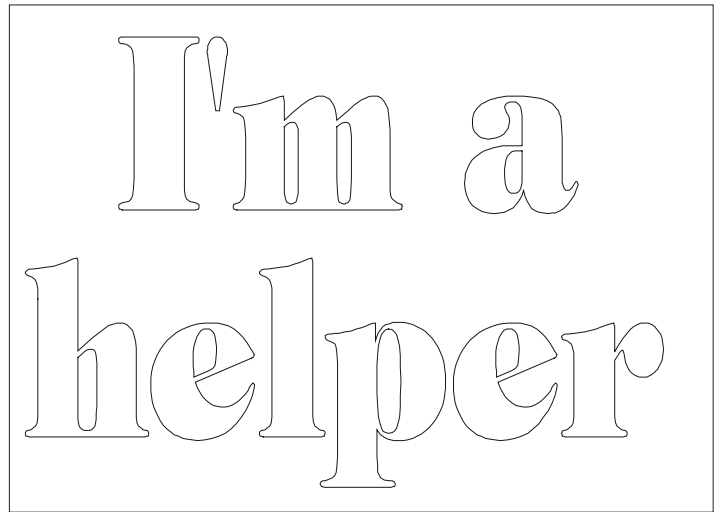
Activity A - Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Magazines/colouring paper/wrapping paper.
- Glue (glue sticks are far less messy for this style of activity).

Steps

- Give the children an Activity Sheet each.
- Have them tear up pieces of coloured paper and glue them inside the letter outlines.



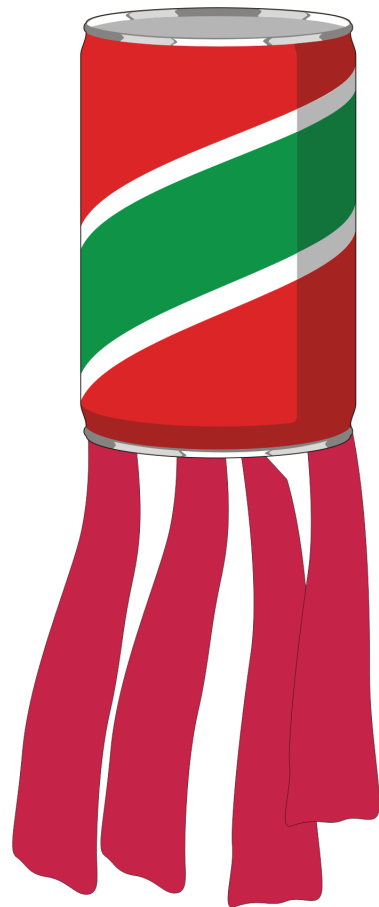
Activity B - Making a Musical Instrument

Materials

- Rice.
- Dry, clean, empty, soft-drink cans (1 per child).
- Masking tape.
- Crepe-paper streamers.

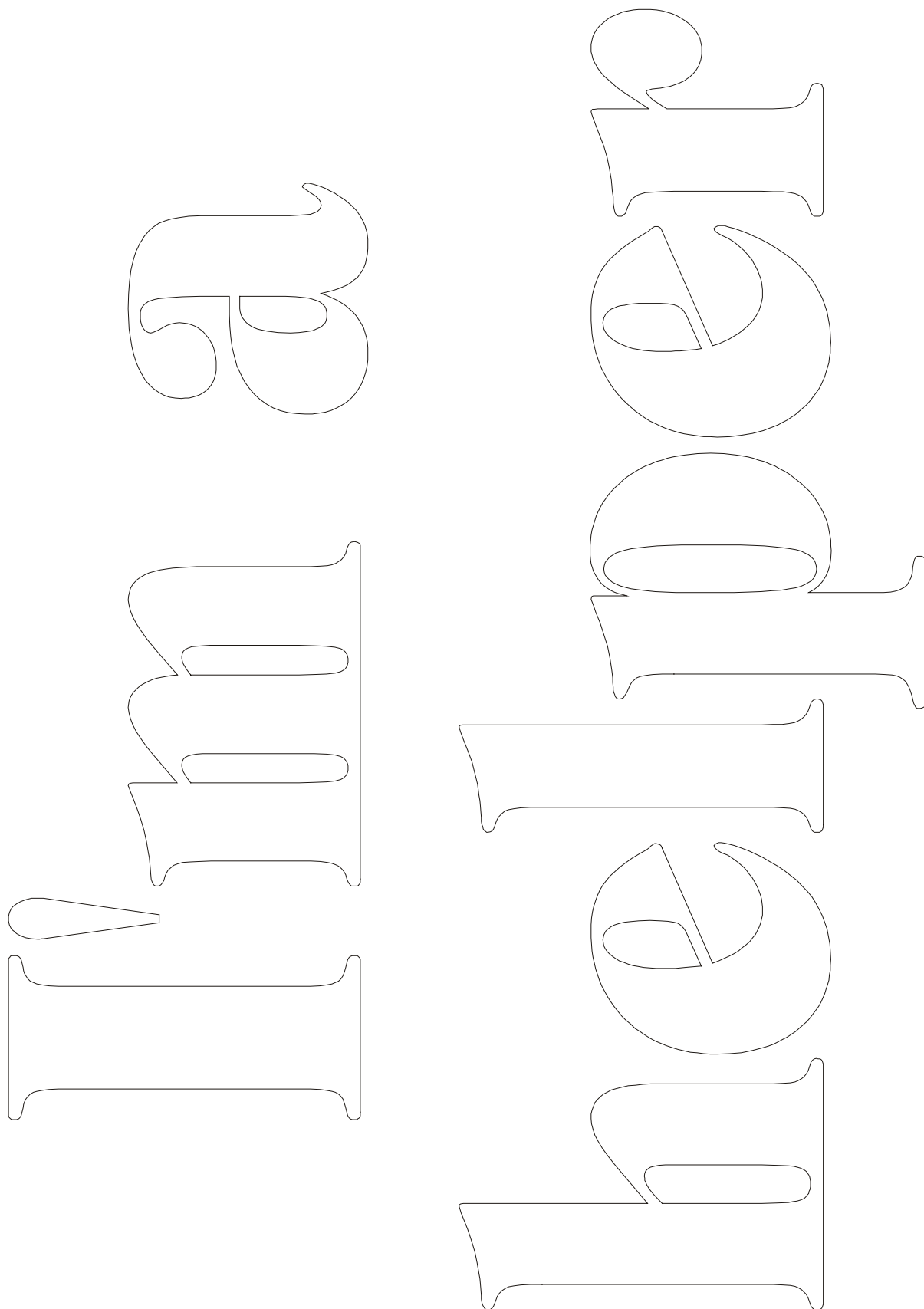
Steps

- Carefully put a couple of spoonfuls of rice in each can.
- Teacher tapes the hole up securely with masking tape.
- The children can tape streamers on the outside of the can.
- Sing a few choruses about praising God and play your shakers.



Paul's second and third missionary journeys

Activity A – Collage



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Paul's capture and imprisonment

Acts 21:26 - 26:32

Storyline

After travelling and preaching for several years, Paul returned to Jerusalem. When he went to the temple, the Jews became very angry. They dragged him out and tried to kill him. Even when he was chained up and on the way to prison, he spoke to the people about Jesus and told how God had changed him. Forty angry Jews plotted to kill Paul, but their plan was uncovered and he was moved to another town. For over two years Paul was kept prisoner, but had many chances to talk to important men and tell them about his belief in God. Although no one could really find him guilty of doing anything wrong, he was kept a prisoner in chains.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

1. Recount the story. Have the children recount all of Paul's adventures, stressing that Paul was serving God.
2. Discuss how we can serve God.

Theme 2

1. Recount the story.
2. Have the children recall all the different groups of people Paul spoke to about Jesus. Emphasise that many times people became angry with him and tried to hurt him.
3. Stress the point that Paul was never afraid to tell people the truth about God.
4. Explain that God is with us and will bless us when we tell the truth.
5. Recount an instance (if you have one) when you were a child when you may have been tempted to lie so you wouldn't get in trouble and how important it was that the truth was told.

Theme One

"We are God's servants"

Paul spent his life, after his conversion, being God's servant. He preached to the people wherever he went. Even when he was imprisoned, he served the Lord, and others were blessed by this. Even though we are young, we can serve God by obeying our parents, praying for others and being a good friend.

Key Thought

A good servant loves and obeys his master. People will know we serve God if we are loving and obedient at all times.

Aim

For the children to see that obeying their parents, praying for others and being a good friend, is serving God.

Memory Verse

"Through love serve one another." (Galatians 5:13).

Theme Two

"Always be truthful"

God wants us to always tell the truth and to be honest with others. Paul was never afraid to tell people the truth about God, even though others lied about him and tried to hurt him because of the things he said.

Key Thought

No matter what the circumstances, we should always tell the truth.

Aim

For the children to realise that God blesses us when we are truthful.

Memory Verse

"His truth shall be your shield." (Psalm 91:4).

Activity A - Cut Out - Paul in Chains

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child, photocopied or mounted on cardboard.
- Stapler.
- Colouring pencils.
- Cardboard.
- Paper.

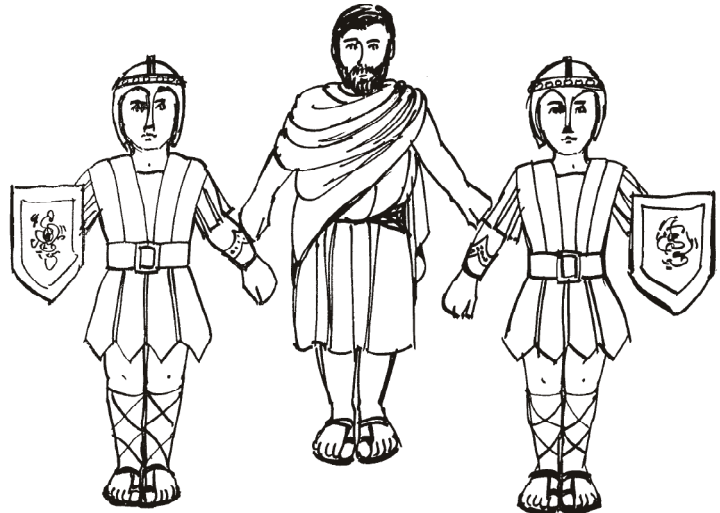
Steps

At Home

- Cut the figures out of the cardboard.
- Cut strips of paper 1cm wide x 7cm long. You will need about 12 per child to make two chains each.

In Class

- The children colour Paul and the soldiers.
- With strips of paper and staples, make two chains.
- Join the three figures together with the chains, ie: soldier, chain, Paul, chain, soldier.



Activity B - Make a Shield

Materials

- Thick cardboard (box).
- Aluminium foil.
- Masking tape.
- Oil-based marking pen.
- Glue stick/PVA glue (if desired).

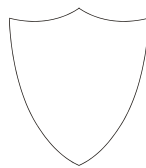
Steps

At Home

- Pre-cut 1 shield per child out of cardboard.
- Pre-cut a 20cm x 5cm strip of cardboard for the handle (1 per child).

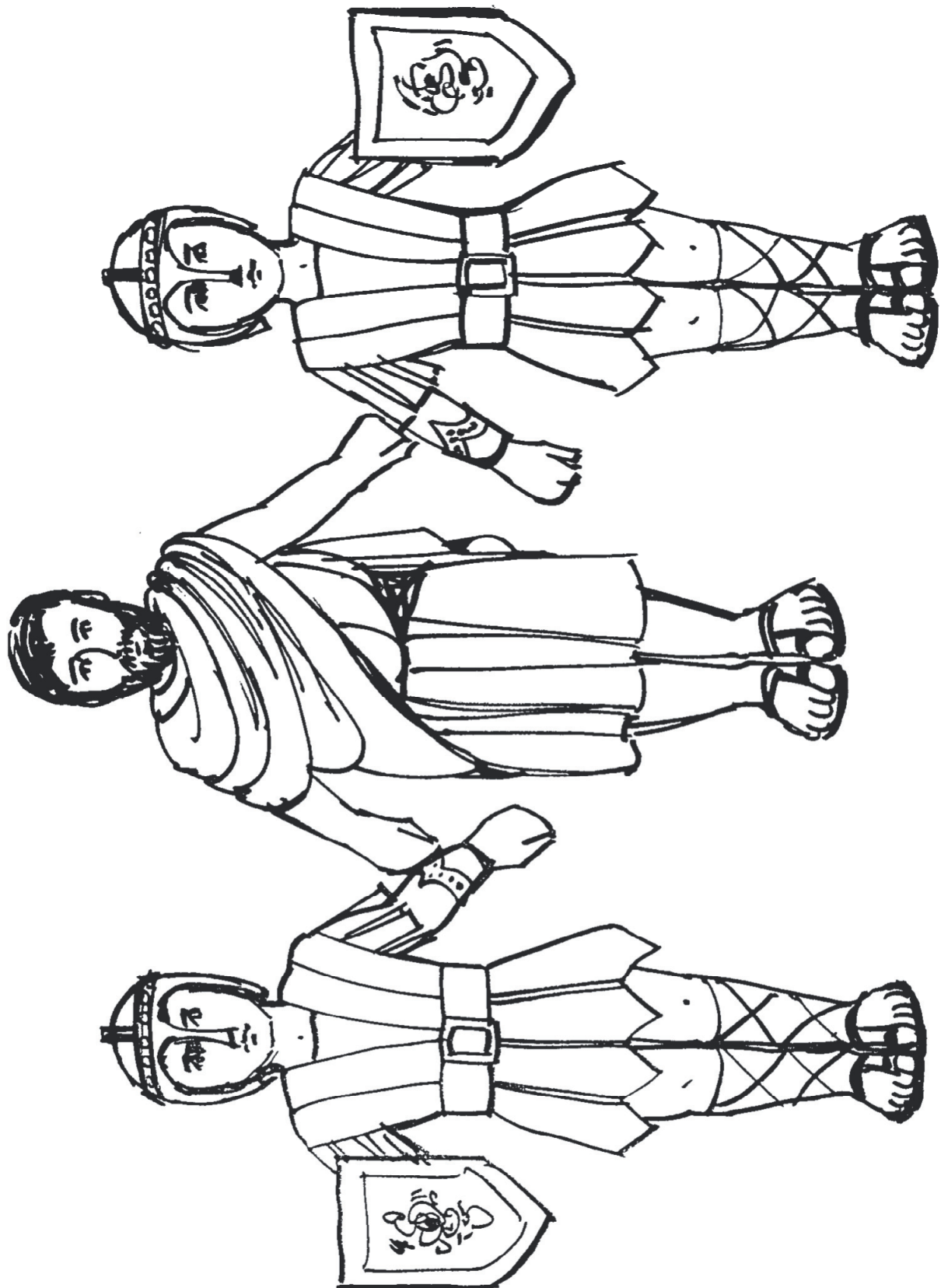
In Class

- Have the children cover their shield with aluminium foil, gluing with PVA if desired.
- Help the children fold the strip of card to form the handle. Tape it in place on the back of the shield.
- Write the memory verse in oil-based marker on the front of the shield.



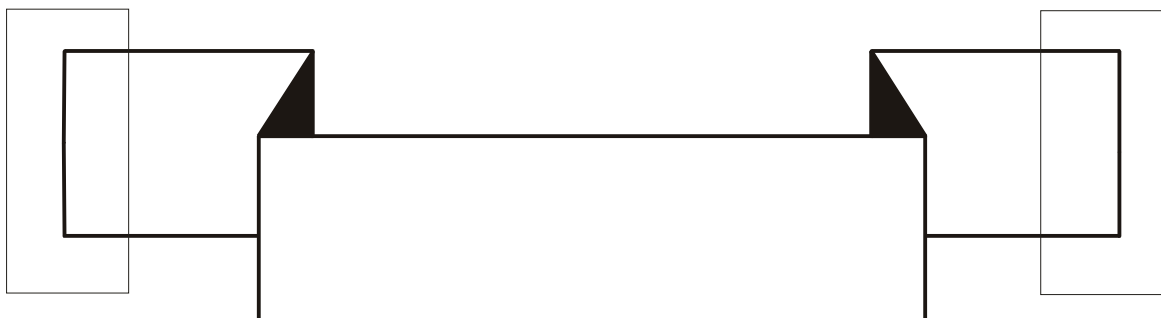
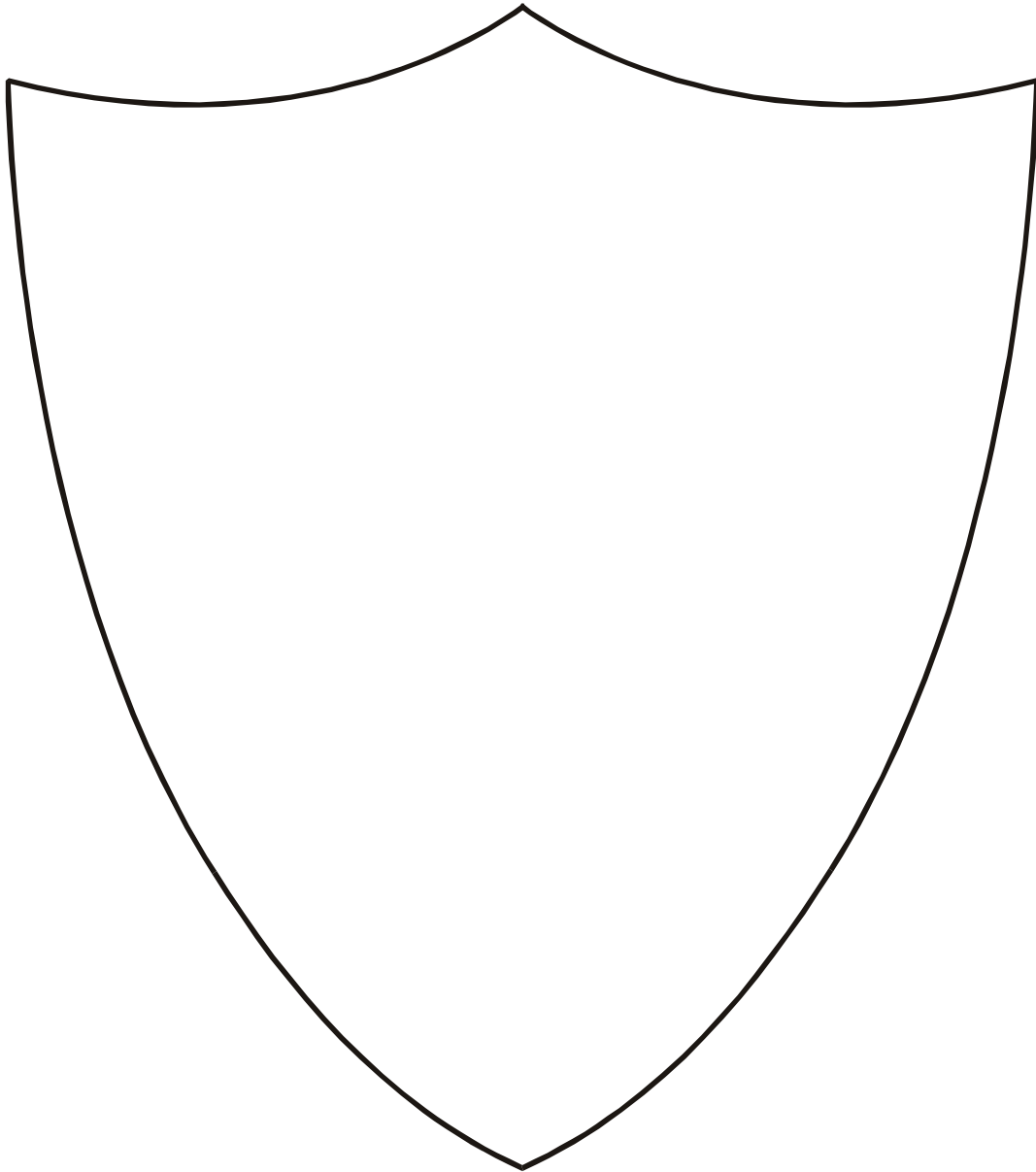
Paul's capture and imprisonment

Activity A – Cut Out – Paul in Chains



Paul's capture and imprisonment

Activity B – Make a Shield



Paul's final journey

Acts 27 & 28

Storyline

Paul had to go on a journey to Rome by boat as a prisoner. A huge storm tossed the boat about in the sea and everyone except Paul thought that they would sink and drown. Paul told them that God would look after them. Finally they found a place to shelter. It was on an island called Malta. Paul told the people about God and prayed for many people who were sick, to be healed. Later, they were able to get another ship and sailed to Rome. Paul lived in his house with a soldier guarding him for over two years. All this time he taught everyone who came to him about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Suggested Teaching Approach

Theme 1

1. Recount the story, focussing on how Paul trusted God completely that He would keep everyone safe.
2. Discuss with the children that God is with them, caring for them in the many things that they do in their day. Emphasise that they don't have to fear anything but can trust God to care for them and their families.

Theme 2

1. Recount the story, focussing on how Paul believed God that He would heal the many people in Malta as he prayed for them.
2. Discuss how God wants to hear our prayers and will heal us and strengthen us. We can believe Him.
3. Perhaps if there is anyone unwell or away, pray together that God would heal them.

Theme One

"Safe in God's care"

God looks after us and our families when we are at school, at work or travelling on the roads. Like Paul, we are cared for by God who knows what is best.

Key Thought

People who know and believe God feel safe at all times because they can trust Him to look after them.

Aim

For the children to understand that we are in God's care and that He watches over us and guides all that happens to us.

Memory Verse

"Casting all your care upon Him." (1 Peter 5:7).

Theme Two

"God will heal us"

Paul prayed for the people in Malta and they were healed. When we pray to God, he hears us. He wants us to be fit and well and to pray for our friends and family to be so too.

Key Thought

We pray for the sick to be healed because God is the One who can heal.

Aim

For the children to understand that God wants to heal us when we are sick. We can pray to Him and He will hear us and strengthen us.

Memory Verse

"Pray for one another, that you may be healed." (James 5:16).

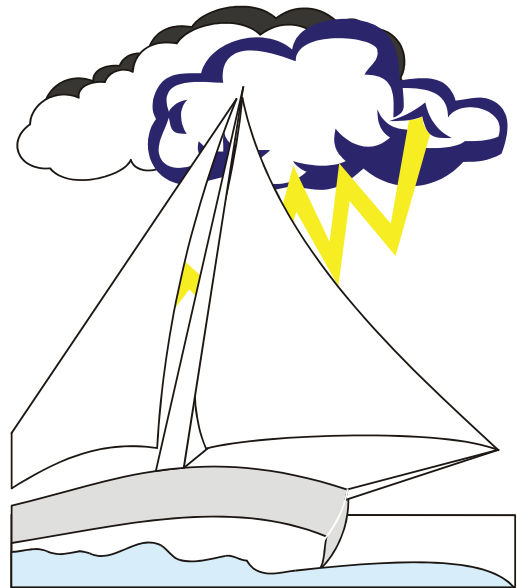
Activity A - Collage

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Material scraps.
- Glue.
- Oil-based marker.
- Colouring pencils/felt pens.

Steps

- Have the children cut up scraps of material to stick on the sail of the boat.
- Write the memory verse on the sails – “Casting all your care upon Him.”
- Colour in the rest of the picture.



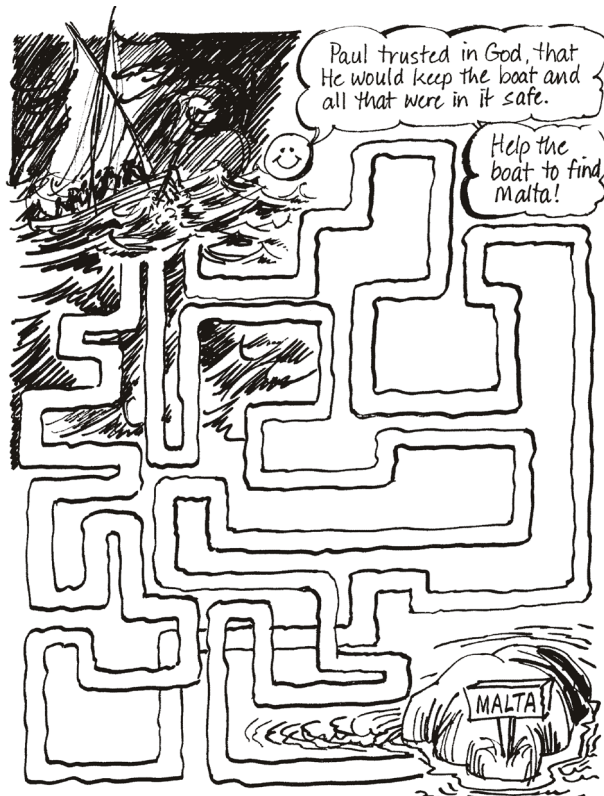
Activity B - Maze

Materials

- 1 Activity Sheet per child.
- Pencils.

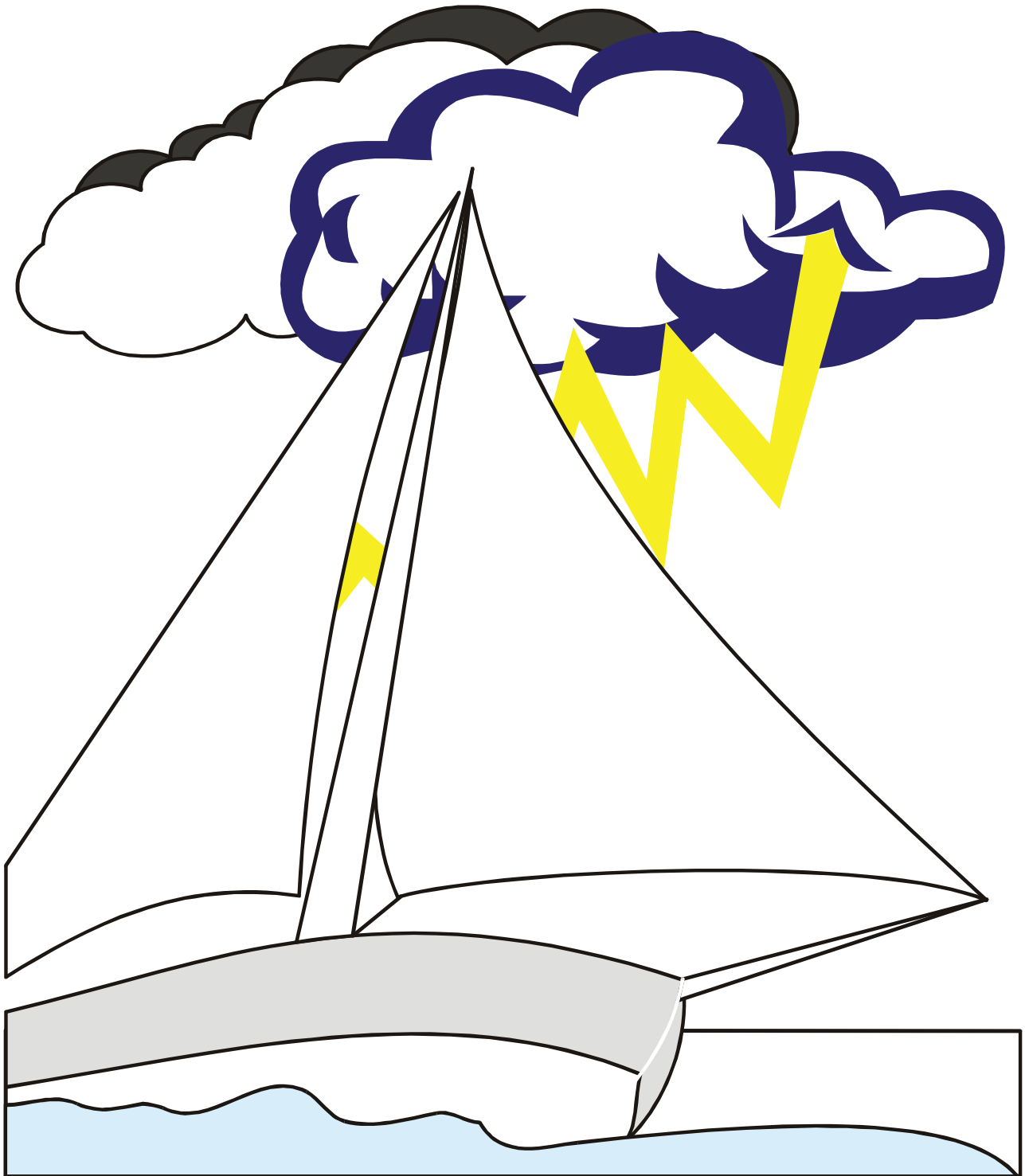
Steps

- The children trace a way through the maze for the boat to go to Malta..



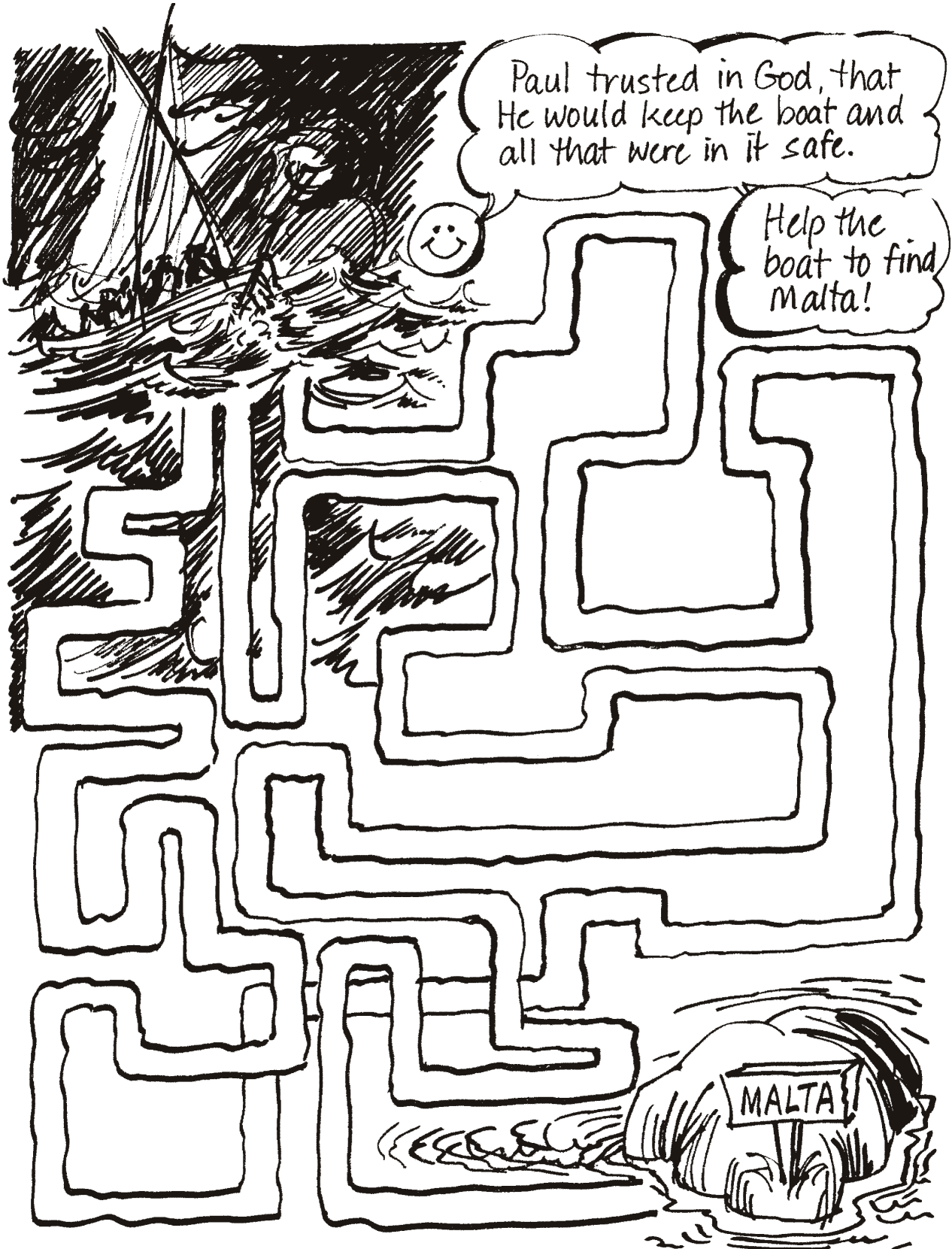
Paul's final journey

Activity A – Collage



Paul's final journey

Activity B – Maze



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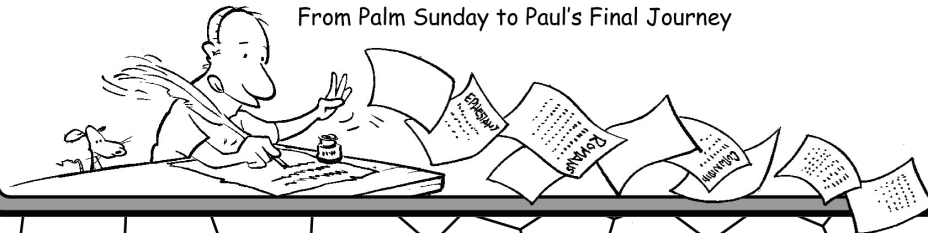


Well Done!

for completing

SonSeekers Unit 8

From Palm Sunday to Paul's Final Journey

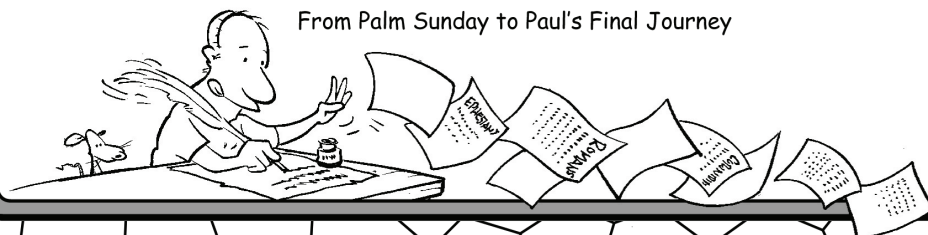


Well Done!

for completing

SonSeekers Unit 8

From Palm Sunday to Paul's Final Journey



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