



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE CAMP AT: **Christ's 40 Acres** Honobia, Oklahoma

### SENIOR WEEK-June 6-11

Entering 9th-12th Grade & Recent Graduates

Curtis Ray, Dean

FEATURING: Curtis Ray - *Vespers Speaker*  
Jaydee Miller - *Musical Guest*  
"The Texans" - *Musical Guests*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL WEEK-June 13-18

Entering 6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

Brian Doyle, Dean

FEATURING: Coleman Langley - *Vespers Speaker*  
Dave Melton Family Singers  
*Special Musical Guests*

### JUNIOR WEEK-June 20-24

Entering 2nd thru 5th Grades

Brian Doyle, Dean

FEATURING: Brian Doyle - *Vespers Speaker*  
Dave Melton Family Singers  
*Special Musical Guests*

The Theme for all three weeks will be "Following Jesus, The Ultimate Adventure". All lessons, activities, crafts, and music will come from the new Christian Board Game: "FOLLOW ME!" which was created and developed at Christ's 40 Acres as a class project for the first graduating class of the Kiamichi School of Preaching. This is a fun and exciting game for teaching Discipleship to children and adults. Every camper's family will receive a free game to take home and play at home and church.



Consult our website for more information about camp and to register on-line at:

www.kiamichimission.org.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS PLEASE CONTACT US.

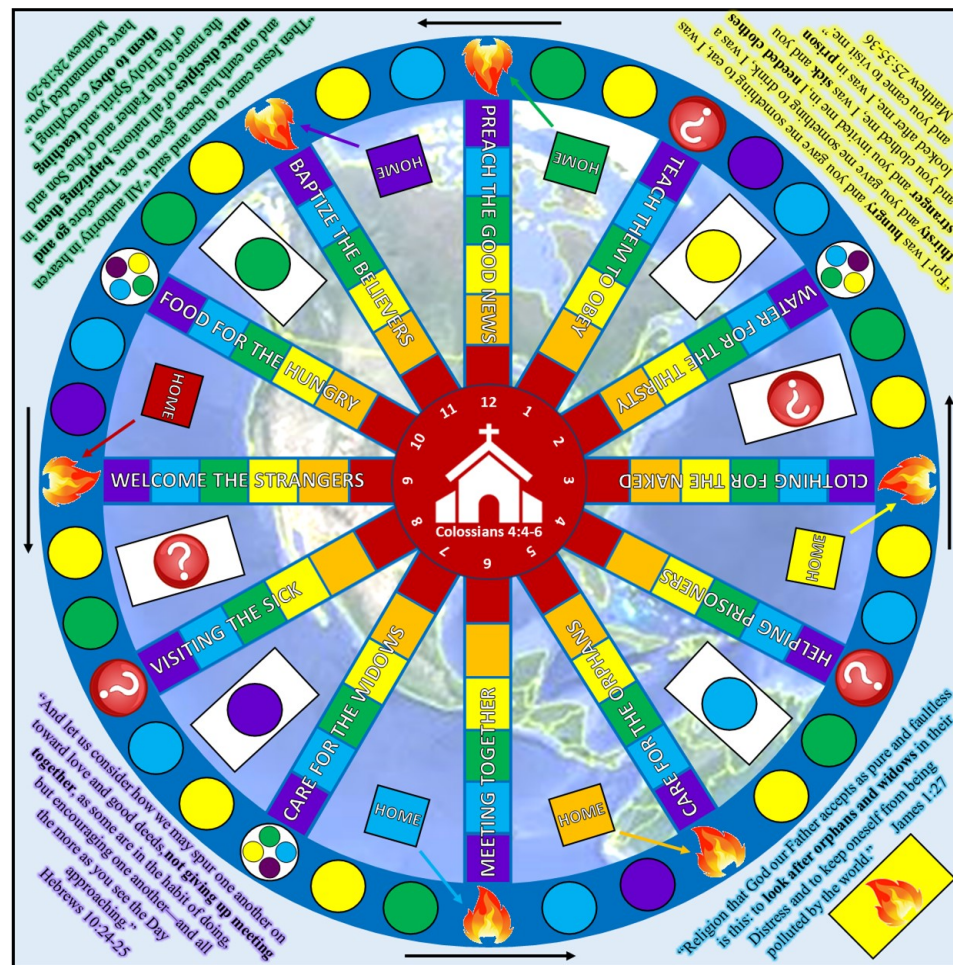
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# FOLLOW ME!



A FUN AND EXCITING GAME FOR TEACHING  
DISCIPLESHIP TO CHILDREN AND ADULTS.



A Game For 2-6 Players

Age 4 through Adult

**Lesson Guide for Children**

# 1. THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

**GETTING STARTED:** In this variation of Telephone, the kids will send messages 3 different ways.

1. Phone Call – Have the kids sit in a circle and very quietly whisper one of the following messages in one child's ear. Instruct them to quietly pass that message along until it comes back to you. Invite the final recipient to say it out loud to see if the message changed.
  1. I love to show love to the people I love.
  2. You love me and I love you, but who's going to love the kangaroo?
  3. L.O.V.E. that spells love for you and me.
2. Text Message – Have kids line up in a single file line all facing the same direction (break up into groups of 5-8 if you have a large group). Give the last person in line one of the following words, and have them spell that word on the back of the person standing in front of them using their finger. See how long it takes to send out the correct message.
  1. Heart
  2. Love
  3. Jesus
  4. Kind
  5. Hugs
3. No Words – Give a volunteer one of the following songs to hum or whistle and see if any of the kids can figure it out.
  1. Jesus Loves the Little Children
  2. I Love You, You Love Me (the "Barney" song)
  3. Jesus Loves Me
  4. His Banner Over Me is Love

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 22:34-46

## LESSON: ALL ABOUT LOVE

Before we get started, there are a few actions you need to know. When I say 'LOVE' I need you to cross your arms over your chest like your giving yourself a great big hug. When I say 'HEART' I need you to make a heart shape with your hands. When I say 'SOUL' I need you to point both thumbs at your chest. When I say 'MIND' I need you to put your hands on your head. And when I say 'NEIGHBOR' I need you to point at anyone else in the room.

Now let's get started.

The Bible has a lot to say about LOVE. It tells you God LOVES you. It tells you that God wants you to LOVE him. It tells you to LOVE your NEIGHBOR.

There is so much in the Bible about LOVE that some people call it a LOVE letter. A long time ago when Jesus was on earth, people thought the Bible was just about rules. Do this. Don't do that. Say this. Wear that. Go here. Worship there. Rule after rule after rule.

## Esther's Character - She Trusted & Obeyed

**Read Esther 2:10 - 11 and then 15-17.**

Esther was not only beautiful on the outside, she had a character that was obedient and wise. Esther trusted and obeyed Mordecai when he told her not to reveal she was Jewish. Also notice Mordecai was there watching over her daily; he showed he cared for her and Esther was able to trust him. Esther listened and followed the advice of Hegai who had authority over the young women. Esther knew she could trust both Mordecai and Hegai for they demonstrated their care for her. In the same way, we can trust God for He has demonstrated His own love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Care leads to trust and trust leads to obedience. The king loved Esther and chose her to be his next queen.

## Esther's Trust is Tested

Now that Esther was queen, you'd think that was a fairy tale ending - "they all lived happily ever after." Not yet though, for there was a wicked man named Haman. After Esther became queen there were those in the kingdom that planned to kill the king. Mordecai overheard their scheme and told Esther who told the king, and they were able to save his life. Soon after the king promoted a man named Haman to a position of power; the king was not aware of Haman's wicked heart. Haman was proud and did not like Mordecai because he would not bow to honor Haman.

## Read Esther 3:5-6

Mordecai sent word to Esther that she must speak to the king in defense of the Jewish people. This sounds like a simple thing since she was the queen, but anyone who approached the king without an invitation could be put to death...even the queen. Mordecai's next words are probably the most well-known from the Book of Esther.

## Read Esther 4:14

Queen Esther was wise. She trusted Mordecai, but she ultimately trusted God. She sent word for all the Jews in the land to fast and pray; she also fasted and prayed. Then she risked her life to save the lives of many. That's what made her a heroine. She put others before herself. She was also wise in that she did not immediately accuse Haman. The remaining chapters of the Book of Esther tell us she invited both Haman and the King to a couple of banquets. Haman proudly came, but did not realize that his plan to have Mordecai and the Jews put to death would also sentence the queen to death. Remember, the king loved his queen, Esther. Ultimately Haman was the one who lost his life while Mordecai, the Jewish people and Queen Esther all lived and from that point one were held in high esteem by the people in the land.

## Connections:

By putting the lives of others before her own, Esther became a heroine. It wasn't her beauty on the outside God used, but her obedient and wise character on the inside. Esther trusted God even when she did not understand His plan. She went to Him in prayer instead of following her own plans first. A hero is not immune to fear. In spite of fear, a hero does what needs to be done for the sake of others. Jesus is the ultimate hero!

# OTHER NEAT STUFF

**Memory Verse:** Proverbs 3:5-6 is an excellent memory verse to go with this lesson. Have students write it on their crowns so they may practice at home. If time permits, they can also decorate their crowns.

# 13. AN ORPHAN BECOMES QUEEN

**GETTING STARTED:** This lesson begins with making an easy Origami crown, but don't tell them what they are making! You can learn how to make this crown by watch a video on You Tube at <https://youtu.be/d8-Bu9CMNG4>.

As they follow your step-by-step instructions, they must trust you without knowing the end result. This process is used in the Bible lesson to show how we can trust God step-by-step even when we don't know His plans.

This introduces the Bible lesson on Esther and how she trusted God's plan - even the unknown, even the scary. God used an orphan to become a queen and rescued his people.

Points emphasized include:

1-God uses ordinary people like an orphan named Hadassah in extraordinary ways when they trust Him.

2-God has plans for each of our lives; the ultimate plan is for us to become His children through trusting Jesus as our Savior and Lord. When we do, we become princes and princesses because we become children of the One True King - Jesus!

3-We can trust God and follow His leading even when we don't know the plans He has for us. Just like with the Origami crown; you didn't know what we were making, but trusted me to lead you with the correct directions to get us there.

**SCRIPTURE:** Esther 2:5-7; 10-11; 15-17; 3:5-6; 4:14.

**LESSON:** Today we're going to learn that God had a plan for Esther and God has a plan for each of us. You didn't know what we were making; you had to follow my directions and trust me. In the same way, we don't know all God has planned for us, but we can know Him and learn to trust His directions for our life.

**A special Plan - Orphan to Queen**

**Read Esther 2:5-7**

The time the Book of Esther takes place is after Daniel. Mordecai's ancestors had been taken into captivity at the same time as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego. Mordecai and Hadassah (Esther) are Jewish and foreigners in this land which is no longer Babylon but Persia. The details in the names of places and people are key to seeing this as a true story of God at work and not a fairy tale. Esther lost both her father and mother to death. She was an orphan. She was adopted and cared for by her relative Mordecai. How sad and hopeless Hadassah must have felt losing both her parents; she probably lost hope. God had special plans for her though, and we know there is always hope with Jesus!

There was a little bit about LOVE, but there were so many rules that all people cared about was the rules.

But what Jesus cared about was LOVE. He came here to show each one of us just how much He LOVES us. He LOVES us so much that He even died for our sins so we can live with Him forever and always.

There were a whole bunch of people who really liked Jesus' message of LOVE, but there were also a bunch of people who really liked the rules. They thought following the rules was all that mattered, but they forgot that everyone makes mistakes sometimes and disobeys those rules. And then what?!? Is that it? One broken rule and it's all over? No way! Jesus came so that even when we make mistakes, He can save us. It's such an amazing way to show just how much He LOVES us.

One day the rule followers wanted to know what Jesus thought was the most important rule of all. If we could only ever follow one single rule, which one would it be? They expected Jesus to say one of the 10 Commandments; like obeying your parents, or keeping the Sabbath a day only for God. But Jesus had an even better one. The best rule of all, and it's all about LOVE.

Jesus said, "LOVE the Lord your God with all your HEART and with all your SOUL and with all your MIND. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: LOVE your NEIGHBOR as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." – Matthew 22:37-40 NIV

Jesus turned all of those rules into just two simple ones. LOVE God. And LOVE others. When you keep the Sabbath as a day for Jesus, that's a way of loving Him. And when you obey your parents, that's a way of loving them. Every single rule can fit into one of those two. It was so simple.

Now what do you think it means to LOVE God with all your HEART, SOUL, and MIND? It really means that you LOVE Him completely. So you can't say you LOVE God, or put money in the offering, or listen to the sermon; you need to LOVE God all the time and in every way.

And thankfully, Jesus LOVES us so much that He forgives us when we forget to LOVE Him and our NEIGHBORS as we should; which is great news, because everyone could use a little more LOVE.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

Optional – Download a free Love God coloring page from the internet as there are many from which to choose.

Closing Prayer – Ask for a volunteer to pray for the class before leaving, and encourage them to tell God they love Him, and ask Him to help them show that love to others.



## 2. TELL THE GOOD NEWS!

**GETTING STARTED:** If there is room in the fellowship hall or outside have the children play a regular game of tag. When a child is tagged the one who is “It” should say, “Have you heard the Good News? Jesus is here!” The one who is tagged becomes “It” and must tag someone else and say the same thing, and so on.

Have a newspaper or periodical, letter/card, phone, computer (forms of receiving news and communication); also optional: megaphone, bell. The details of how you choose to communicate this are adaptable and should cater to timing as well as to your audience and student needs. Use your judgment and ideas to best serve students.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 1:1-8.

### **LESSON: Prepare the Way with John the Baptist**

This message reminds us of what the Gospel is! Some prophets came bearing news that God’s people were not acting as they should, or needed to change behavior. John came to announce the hopeful good news of a coming rescuer. He came to point the way to Christ. So we, too, eagerly await Jesus, and point others to Him.

John the Baptist is a key figure in the Bible, not only for his place as baptizer of Christ, but also as the New Testament prophet brought the blessed news of Christ’s coming, announcing the Messiah and preparing the way for Him. This message communicates to kids while there is a lot of negative news emphasized, we know the greatest news of all. The Gospel is, by definition, good news, and we should share it with those around us!

Greet children, perhaps ringing a bell or making an announcement with a megaphone. Hello, children of God! Good news! I have good news to share! Listen up, important announcement on the way!!! Have you ever heard someone getting ready to make an announcement? Here’s another question: how do you receive information? Where do you hear about the world around you? (Take answers from kids, and then hold up examples of news sources one at a time). Perhaps you read the newspaper or a magazine...or more likely, you watch TV, or read things off the internet, or maybe use your phone or device to access information. Sometimes we get news from less reliable sources, like social media or other people around us. Does it sometimes seem like a lot of the news is not so great?

Elisha told the woman and her sons to go around to their neighbors and ask for as many empty jars as they could get. “When you get as many jars as you can, go into your house with your sons and close the door. Take the jar of oil that you have and begin to pour that oil into the empty jars that you have collected.” The widow went home and did exactly what Elisha had instructed. She and her sons went knocking on their neighbors’ doors and asked them if they could borrow any empty jars that they had. When they had borrowed all the jars that they could find, the widow and her sons went inside and shut the door.

The widow picked up the small jar of oil that and began to carefully pour it into an empty jar that she had borrowed. Amazingly the jar filled with oil to the top. There was still oil left in the widow’s original jar. She went to the next empty jar and began filling it with oil. Again, she was able to fill that jar with oil and still have oil in her original jar. Imagine how her sons felt as they were watching this miracle happen before their very own eyes! Their mother kept filling each and every empty jar that was in their house and she still had oil in her jar! She finally filled the last empty jar with oil.

The widow and her sons looked around at all the jars filled with oil that came from her one jar of oil. This was a miracle! God had provided in an amazing way! The widow ran to tell Elisha what had happened. He told her to go and sell her jars of oil and pay the debt her husband owed. With the remaining money, she and her sons would be able to live for a very long time.

It was a great day for the widow and her sons. They were faced with a very difficult situation, and they had no solution for their problem without God’s help. All the widow owned was one jar of oil and God was able to use that oil and multiply it to meet the widow and her two sons’ needs. God takes whatever gift or talent you may have, no matter how great or insignificant you may feel it is, and uses it in a great way to help others to know Him better.

As the widow went to the man to pay her husband’s debt, I wonder if she shared how God provided so miraculously to give the needed money and also to have money to live on as well? As the widow and her sons returned the jars to their neighbors did they share God’s miraculous provision?

God went above and beyond what she or her sons could ever imagine! God was glorified through this widow’s difficulty. Everyone was able to see the miracle God performed by providing for this widow. When God helps you in your difficulties it’s important to share with others so they may understand how much God loves and cares for His people.

The widow went to the right place to ask for help. She went to God’s servant and cried out for help. That’s true for us today. When we face difficulties in our lives we must cry out to God and ask Him for help. God may send us to a Christian we know who loves and obeys God to help us. God is waiting to answer and meet our every need.

If you are a Christian you are God’s servant. He can use you as He used Elisha to help someone who is in need. Will you pray that God will show you how you can help others in their time of need?

Read the Story: James 1:26 instructs us as Christians today to take care of the orphans and widows. We must obey.

## 12. ELISHA HELPS A WIDOW

**GETTING STARTED:** In a bag have items that would represent difficulties children may face. Divorce (2 toy houses), death of a loved one (framed picture), death of a pet (stuffed animal), a friend moves away, moving away, sickness, loss of a friendship, unkind children, and not doing well in school are some examples.) As a student comes and draws something from the bag ask the following questions: How do those difficult situations make you feel? Who do you go to for help when you feel sad, angry, or all alone?

God is always available to help us when we are facing a difficult problem. He knows our deepest needs and gives us exactly what we need, unlike anyone on this earth can do.

**SCRIPTURE: 2 Kings 4:1-7**

### LESSON: CARE FOR THE WIDOWS

One of the sons of a prophet died. He left behind a wife and two sons. They were very saddened by his death. After this man died there was a knock at the widow's door. It was a man who was looking for money that her husband owed him. Her husband had an unpaid bill with this man. The man wanted his money, now! "I am sorry, sir, I have no money to pay you the money my husband owed" the widow may have said. "Well, ma'am since you don't have the money to pay your husbands' debts, the law says I can take your two sons as full payment for his debt. I will make them my slaves for the debt your husband didn't pay."

How do you think this widow felt at this news? Her husband had just died and now she was going to lose her only two sons. What could she do? She had no money and nothing to offer this man to pay the debt that was owed.

She knew that Elisha was God's prophet. He could help her. When we have a need we should go to someone who believes and trusts in God for help. The widow went to Elisha and said, "Your servant, my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. Now that he is dead, the man he owed money to is going to take my sons away to be his slaves!"

"How can I help you?" Elisha asked this sad widow. "What do you have in your home that you could sell to make money?"

"All I have is a jar of oil," she said.

Sometimes we may feel like this widow that what we have is something that is insignificant for God to use. (Examples: I can't sing, but I enjoy sharing with others what God is teaching me from His Word. I can't play sports well, but I do like to write notes and send them to people I know.) As we learn from this story today, listen to how God used what the widow owned to help us realize what we think is little or insignificant is much if God is involved.

Especially lately, it can feel like a lot of what we hear is pretty negative information. Sometimes I don't even care for watching the news.

Well, in Bible times, God had a different way of communicating information. They didn't have TVs or computers back then. They didn't even have newspapers, in fact! But God sent messengers to spread His word. These people were called prophets, and they would give information to God's children about how they should be preparing. One of these special messengers was named John. He was called John the Baptist, because he baptized people and called them to repent, turning from their sins and starting life anew. He had some interesting habits. For instance, he wore rough scratchy clothes, and he ate bugs with honey! He was sort of a wild man in some ways. John also brought an important announcement. He had good news for the people. A Messiah was coming!

The people of Israel had waited a long time for God's promised Savior. They were enduring oppression and bitter times, but knew God had promised a Redeemer. Some people asked John if he was the Messiah, but he was quick to point the attention away from himself. He was not the one for whom all had been awaiting, and was in fact not even worthy to untie the shoelaces of the Messiah! John pointed to Jesus. His job was to let people know the awaited one was coming, and to remind them that God kept His promises.

John was the announcer, the newscaster, the messenger sent by God. He pointed people to the One who was to come, and he let them know that good news was on the way! We have a similar job as John the Baptist.

We can "prepare the way" by telling other people about Jesus. So we, like John, point others to look to Christ. And we recognize that good news is for us. We also take peace in knowing that we can trust and celebrate God's promises. There is much in life that we don't know right now. There is a lot of bad news. But thanks be to God, there is good news! Christ has come. He is risen! He will come again! Let's be eager to put our hope in that, and to spread the good news of the Gospel with all of those around us.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

Optional – Download a free Love God coloring page from the internet as there are many from which to choose.

Study "How to Preach the Good News in less than a Minute" from the Parent/Teacher Guide and be able to teach it to the children.

# 3. THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

**GETTING STARTED:** Play a game of “Don’t Baptize the Cat”.

Obtain several stuffed, toy cats. Have children choose a partner and stand on either side of a water source or marked area.

Players will toss the cat back and forth until all teams drop the cat in the water or marked area. The last team with a dry cat wins.

Teams can gradually take steps back to increase difficulty if needed.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 28:19; Acts 18:8; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Galatians 3:27; Acts 2:41; 1 Peter 3:21; John 14:15

**LESSON:** Christian baptism is an act of loving obedience to a positive divine commandment. The first public act in the ministry of Jesus was His baptism by John the Baptist in the river Jordan. The last commandment of our Lord to His disciples was, “Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. On the day the church was born, Peter directed inquiring believers, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin. John told them that he baptized them with water, but someone would come after him who would baptize them with the Holy Spirit! Who do you think he was talking about? (Jesus)

**Tell the Story:** Before Jesus had started his ministry, He had been working as a carpenter in the town of Nazareth. The people were still waiting for the Messiah to be revealed: they didn’t know it was Jesus! Even John didn’t know who it was, but God had given John a special sign to look for. God told John that he would see God’s Spirit descend on someone, and that man would be the promised Messiah.

One day Jesus came to see John as he was preaching to the people. Let’s read from God’s Word to hear what happened. Read John 1:29-31 *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that He might be revealed to Israel.’”*

## LESSON: Joseph Goes to Prison

(Genesis 39:1-23)

After Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites, they took Joseph to Egypt and sold him as a slave to Potiphar, who was the king’s official in charge of the palace guard. Joseph lived in Potiphar’s home.

Soon, Potiphar realized that the Lord was helping Joseph to be successful in whatever he did. Potiphar liked Joseph and made him his personal assistant, putting him in charge of his house and all of his property. Because of Joseph, the Lord began to bless Potiphar’s family and fields. Potiphar left everything up to Joseph, and with Joseph there, the only decision he had to make was what he wanted to eat.

Potiphar’s wife soon noticed that Joseph was handsome and wanted him to do bad things with her. Joseph said, “My master has placed me in charge of everything he owns. No one in my master’s house is more important than I am. The only thing he hasn’t given me is you, and that’s because you are his wife. I won’t sin against God with you.” She kept begging Joseph day after day, but he refused to do what she wanted or even to go near her.

One day, Joseph went to Potiphar’s house to do his work, and none of the other servants were there. Potiphar’s wife grabbed hold of his coat.

Joseph ran out of the house, leaving her hanging onto his coat. Potiphar’s wife kept Joseph’s coat until her husband came home. Then she said, “That Hebrew slave of yours tried to attack me! But when I screamed for help, he left his coat and ran out of the house.”

Potiphar became very angry and threw Joseph in the same prison with the king’s prisoners. While Joseph was in prison, the Lord helped him and was good to him. He even made the jailer like Joseph so much that he put him in charge of the other prisoners and of everything that was done in the jail. The jailer did not worry about anything, because the Lord was with Joseph and made him successful in all he did.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

### POINTS TO CONSIDER AND DISCUSS:

Do you think Joseph complained when bad things kept happening to him?

Do you think Joseph spent his time in prison making trouble or doing his job the best he could?

The Bible says that the Lord was with Joseph and made him successful. Why do you think the Lord helped Joseph so much?

What do you admire most about Joseph?

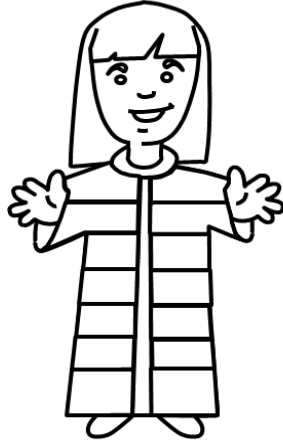
# 11. FROM PRISONER TO PRINCE

GETTING STARTED: Make Copies and Provide for Each Child

## Joseph Word Search

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

BENJAMIN	FORGAVE
BLOOD	JEALOUSY
BROTHERS	JOSEPH
COAT	KING
DREAMS	RING
EGYPT	SLAVE
FAMILIES	SOLD
FAMINE	TALENT



SCRIPTURE: Genesis 39:1-23

**Ask:** What did John call Jesus? (The Lamb of God.)

**Say:** That might sound really strange to us, but being referred to as the Lamb of God was actually really important. You see lambs were sacrificed in the temple for the peoples' sins. The people had to offer lambs over and over again because an animal couldn't truly take away their sin. Only God's perfect Son could do that. By calling Jesus the Lamb of God John was saying that Jesus was the Messiah who would die for the sins of all the people, and that anyone who believed in Him would be forgiven. Tell the Story: Jesus came to John asking to be baptized. John was shocked by this and said, *"You're the one who should be baptizing me and you're asking me to baptize you?!"* Jesus replied, *"You should baptize me because this is part of how I will fulfill all righteousness."* John agreed and baptized Jesus right there in the Jordan River.

As Jesus came up out of the water John saw something incredible. He saw the Holy Spirit descend on Jesus in the form of a dove. Then he heard the voice of God saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." Then John knew without a doubt that Jesus was the Messiah whom God had promised from long ago.

**Ask:** If People are baptized to show they are turning away from sin, why do you think it was important for Jesus to be baptized? He was absolutely perfect so there was no sin in His life from which He should turn!

**Say:** Jesus was baptized in order to identify with the sinful people He came to save and to give us a model for obedience to God. Jesus came to "fulfill all righteousness" and part of that includes being baptized!

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

**Optional** – Download a free Love God coloring page from the internet as there are many from which to choose.

**Video** - Obtain a video of someone being baptized and have the children view and discuss it.

**Short Field Trip** - Take the children to see the baptistry up close if your church building has one, and explain the process.

**Close with prayer.**

## 4. FOLLOWING JESUS

**GETTING STARTED:** Use the CD to teach the children this song.

### **Follow (Following Jesus)**

We're embarking on the journey of a lifetime  
We will follow in our Savior's steps  
The Word of God will be our light and our guide  
You can come and join us on this quest

We're gonna follow, follow Jesus  
Anywhere He leads us we will follow  
We're gonna follow, follow Jesus  
Anywhere He leads us we will go  
Anywhere He leads us we will go

O'er mountains high, Thru waters' deep  
We will go where our Savior leads  
We will trust, And never fear  
For He's promised us He's always near

We're gonna follow, follow Jesus  
Anywhere he leads us we will follow  
We're gonna Follow, follow Jesus  
Anywhere He leads us we will go  
Anywhere He leads us we will go  
Anywhere He leads us we will Follow!

Play a mime game...this could be done one-on-one or in a group. Have a leader make a motion or a facial expression, and encourage the other students to copy it. See how well they can follow along mimicking things that are done. Play old fashioned "Simon Says," encouraging students to do things that might seem extra challenging.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 9:51-62; Luke 14:25-34

**LESSON:** Explain to students that today they will be talking about what it means to follow someone, and why it is important to follow Jesus.

What does it mean to follow someone? Ask: Who gives you directions and how do you think they know what instructions to give. Jesus enjoyed spending time with His disciples and developing relationships with them. He also gave them important instructions and notes about how they should follow Him. Sometimes the disciples were misguided in how zealous they were about serving

*Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."*

*Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*8Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and He said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So He said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

Jesus was in Capernaum, news went around and a crowd gathered to hear him speak. People knew that Jesus could perform miracles such as healing. A man you could not walk would not have been able to make it through the large crowd to see Jesus and receive healing.

The friends of the man placed him on a stretcher and carried him up some stairs which eventually led to the roof, and they made a hole in which to use ropes to lower the man. They lowered him down to where Jesus was speaking. Jesus could see that these men had a high level of faith. These are true friends.

Jesus forgave the man of his sins and then went on to heal him. He could walk again!

### **GROUP DISCUSSION:**

Do you know someone who is or has been sick?

What will you do to obey Jesus' command to visit and help the sick?

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

1. Make a list of sick people the children may know. Discuss how the class could help them, then pray for each one.
2. Listen to the song on the CD entitled, "Let Your Little Light Shine". Then provide the words so the children may sing along a time or two.



# 10. JESUS-GREATER THAN SICKNESS

## GETTING STARTED: Build a Puppet Stage



Help the children work together to build this simple puppet stage. Images to cut and color may be downloaded from the internet. Be sure to emphasize the concept of “working together” just as the friends of this sick man worked together to help him.

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 2:1-12

### LESSON: Good friends help us come nearer to Christ.

Read the Story: Mark 2:1-12-Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

*“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that He had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and He preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to Him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When*

their leader. They got excited about the idea of following Jesus, but did not always realize the full extent of what that meant. He wanted the disciples to understand that they would have to make sacrifices, too.

But there was still some confusion over how much it might mean to follow this Master. Take a moment to discuss things that students follow or pay attention to. How do they keep up with things surrounding those objects of affection? How closely do they track or know about what interests them? We might put a lot of effort and attention into things that we value. But do we put the same effort into following Jesus? How can we truly follow Him?

Luke 9:57-62 - *As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay His head.” He said to another man, “Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the Kingdom of God.” Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”*

In order to follow Jesus, we must be willing to leave behind other things. This is called “sacrifice.” For instance, if we wanted to go to a concert that happened to fall on the same day as another fun event, we would have to pick the activity most important to us and sacrifice, or let go of the other activity. In the Christian life, nothing should come before Jesus, and we must be willing to make sacrifices in order to sincerely follow Him. Jesus says this same thing in further detail a little later in the Gospel.

Luke 14:25-27; 33 - *“Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them He said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple . . . In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have, cannot be my disciples.”*

Following Him means doing the things Jesus would do if He were here. Praying, studying the Bible, suffering for Jesus, and meditating are all good ways to follow Jesus but they are meant to prepare us for service. Then we should go and do the things Jesus did when He was here.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

Use the board game “FOLLOW ME!” to teach the twelve things we are instructed by Jesus and the Apostles to do for Jesus while He is not here.

Close with a prayer of commitment to be FOLLOWERS OF JESUS!

## 5. TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

**GETTING STARTED:** Try this simple object lesson to teach children the importance of the church community in their lives.

**Main Idea:** We are stronger together, the Church is a group of friends who help each other follow Jesus.

**Items Needed:** Several heavy books.

This object lesson involves a few children as volunteers at the front of the class. Begin by calling an older child to the front. Ask them to hold a single book above their head with flat palms.

Give them a few seconds to feel the weight and ask them if this is getting heavy. The delay is key to making the task more difficult with the least amount of books. If they are ready for more, carefully place another book on the stack. Repeat this process until the books slide off. Be sure to catch the books to prevent injury. Most kids will lose the balance of the books and they will slide off.

Invite several children to try this “strong” test. Always congratulate them for the effort, but remark how hard it must be to keep adding weight. Explain the point, “This is something like following Jesus. It may feel easy at first but over time it can feel more difficult.”

The world we live in, plus our own hearts, is like a constant force making it more difficult to follow God’s plan. But God gave us a wonderful gift. It’s a group of friends who are all working together to learn how to love God and love other people. It’s called the Church. Let’s get some helpers to try our difficult task together.”

Have 2-4 kids to try the task of holding the books at a time. As you add more books, remark how it’s still difficult but much easier than doing it alone. After several children get a chance to work together, restate the point.

This object lesson deals with a common error kids make when thinking about the church. They often imagine it as another place they go (like school or the movies) rather than a group of people. For this lesson, emphasize how the Church is a group of friends with whom we spend time and learn how to follow Jesus. In my teaching, Children should be encouraged to be involved with the Church by their own choice not just because they are forced by grown-ups. That’s my little hint toward their future ownership of their own faith and discipleship.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 17:20-26; Hebrews 10:24-25; Matthew 18:20; Acts 2:1-47; Colossians 3:16.

*separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.*

*“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in, I needed clothes and you clothed Me, I was sick and you looked after Me, I was in prison and you came to visit Me.’*

*“Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You something to drink? When did we see You a stranger and invite You in, or needing clothes and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and go to visit You?’*

*“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of Mine, you did for Me.’”*

So, Jesus states that when He returns, He will sit on a throne and will judge whether people did the right things or the wrong things.

What were the right things that some of the people did in this story? (They helped other people. They gave people food, they were nice to strangers, they gave clothes to people who didn’t have any money, and they visited people who were sick or in jail.)

The people who did the right things by helping other people will get to live in the new world that Jesus will create.

God likes it when we help other people. And Jesus states that if we help other people, then it’s like we’re helping Jesus Himself.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

**PLAY PRETEND:** Give one student a card with one of the 6 areas of service to others. Have them act it out while the class tries to guess what they are doing.

**CARD GAME:** Obtain the YELLOW DOT COMMAND CARDS from the “FOLLOW ME!” Board Game and select four players from the class.

1. Shuffle, then deal five cards to each player and place the remainder of cards on the table, face down, as a draw pile.
2. In turn, players will draw one card and discard one card in an attempt to get three of the same service area which they will spread before them. When they have at least two spreads they may attempt to “go out” by discarding their last card. Cards may be added to spreads already on the table when “going out”.
3. “Redirect Cards” are used as a wild card. “Draw Again Cards” allow a player to draw again for themselves and a friend.
4. The first one to “go out” with a minimum of 2 spreads is the winner.
5. When a player spreads cards they should read each one to give the other students ideas on how to serve in that area. There are six ideas per service area.

## 9. SERVING OTHERS

### GETTING STARTED: Bible Game: Sheep & Goats

**Set Up:** Establish a large playing area. On one side of the playing area, establish a "pen" for the sheep using flags, ropes or hoses. On the other side of the playing area establish a "pen" for the goats. Divide the class into thirds. One third are the shepherds, one third are the goats and one third are the sheep. Give one color of arm bands (or colored clothes pins) to the goats and another color to the sheep. **DON'T TELL THE SHEEP AND GOATS WHAT THEIR COLOR REPRESENTS.** Before the game begins tell only the shepherds which color represents the goats and which color represents the sheep. Also, tell the shepherds into which "pen" the sheep and goats must be placed.

**How To Play:** The sheep and goats begin at the center of the playing area with the shepherds standing to the sides. At the "Go", teacher yells, "Divide the sheep and goats!" At which point, the shepherds attempt to tag the sheep and goats. If a shepherd tags a sheep or goat, he or she leads the sheep or goat to the sheep or goat pen (which was designated before the game began). Once all the sheep and goats are in their pens, teacher tells the players who the sheep and goats are. Play continues as long as time allows with players taking turns being the shepherds, sheep, and goats.

**After The Game:** Ask the players, "When the end of the age comes, the end of time, what do you want to be, a sheep or a goat? Obviously we want to be "sheep." How can we be sure we are God's sheep? (Allow for discussion.)

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 25:31-40

### LESSON: HELPING OTHERS WHO NEED HELP

Ask students, If you believe in Jesus, what kinds of things are you supposed to do?

Sometimes, we think that the only things Christians are supposed to do are read our Bibles, go to church, pray, and not do bad things. But there's something else we're supposed to do if we believe in Jesus.

#### Read Matthew 25:31-40

*"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd*

**LESSON:** I am looking for someone who is very strong to help me this morning. Who would like to help? (If no one volunteers, choose someone.) You look pretty strong to me. Do you think you can break this stick? (Hand the child one small stick that can easily be broken.) Wow! You are strong! You easily broke that stick. Let's see if you can break these sticks. (Hand them the bundle of sticks that are bound together. After giving the child time to try to break the bundle of sticks, continue with the sermon.)

The sticks in this bundle are exactly like the stick that was so easily broken. Yet when they are bound together, they are much stronger than they are when they are by themselves. Even the very strongest person here this morning could not break this bundle of sticks.

These sticks can teach us an important lesson about the church. Sometimes when we think of the Church, we think of a building where we come to worship, but the Church isn't a building. The Church is made up of men, women, boys, and girls who have chosen to follow Jesus. You, me, all of the people here today -- all of us together -- we are the Church.

Some people say, "I can be a Christian without going to Church" -- and that may be true -- but by ourselves we are not very strong. When Satan tries to tempt us to do something that we know is wrong, it may be difficult to resist him if we try to go it alone. But if we stand together with others who follow Jesus, they will be a source of strength and encouragement. We will be much stronger than we would be by ourselves.

One day, Jesus went off by Himself to pray. He prayed for His disciples because He knew that His disciples had to live in the world and that they would be tempted by the evil things of the world. He also knew that if His disciples would come together as one, they would be much stronger than they would as individuals. So He prayed and asked God to protect them and to help them to be one, just as He and his Father were one.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

**Memory Verse:** John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**Song:** Learn and sing the song "Better Together" from the CD

#### Game: Be My Hands

1. This is the same as a Sword Drill only with two people.
2. The person in front will use their eyes.
3. The person behind them will put their arms through to the front of the first person and use the Bible.
4. The front person will give verbal instructions for the back person to find a text then the front person will read it.

# 6. JESUS FEEDS 5,000 PEOPLE

## GETTING STARTED:

### HUNGRY FOR CHANGE: MAKE YOUR OWN COLLECTION BOX

Make your own donation collection can and use it to collect donations for people facing hunger. You can keep the can at home for your family, or get permission to leave it at a supermarket, office building, congregation or other public space to encourage others to donate as well.

**MATERIALS NEEDED:** • Empty container with a soft plastic lid (coffee canisters work especially well for this) • Popsicle stick • Small piece of cardboard • Scissors • Paper • Crayons/markers • Glue

Cut a small hole in the center of the lid of the container—wide enough for change or dollar bills to go through. Wrap one piece of paper around the can, gluing it down and covering the entire can. Then, on another piece of paper, use bright-colored crayons or markers to write or draw words related to hunger (plates of food, empty plates, the Feeding America logo—get creative!).

You can also write out facts and statements, such as:

- 16 million children in the U.S. struggle with hunger
- 1 in 5 kids do not always have enough to eat
- Your change can help make a positive change in the lives of children in need
- Together, we can solve hunger
- Fight hunger in America!

**SCRIPTURE:** John 6:1-14

## **LESSON: Jesus Feeds The Five Thousand**

After this lesson, children will demonstrate knowledge of the key people and events in this passage ... by retelling the story to the teacher at the end of the session. Key points include:

1. Situation: Large crowd follows Jesus up the mountain.
2. Problem: No food for all the people.
3. Complication: Jesus tells his disciples to feed the crowd.
4. Complication: A young boy shares his lunch – but it's not enough
5. Resolution: Jesus performs a miracle by multiplying a small boy's gift.

You could keep it basic with goldfish or go for something bigger with real bread and cooked fish.

**Explanation:** This story has several great themes to emphasize to the children. Sometimes it has been reduced to a story about sharing, but the Biblical writer really wants us to see that Jesus can provide. It's about the power of Jesus. There is a lesson in the fact that God chose to use the young boy's gift, just don't let that overshadow the main

In the story, we are going to read from the Bible, Jesus tells a man what it really means to love your neighbor. In this story there are three characters. Listen carefully to see which person really showed love.

Read (and summarize) Luke 10:25-37. Be sure to engage the children with good storytelling. Characters the children are listening for:

Priest;

Levite;

Samaritan.

**Another Way To Say:** Jesus said that we should love our neighbors as ourselves. Have volunteers suggest another way to say the same thing with different words.

**Agree or Disagree:** Tell the children that you are going to read some statements that may be ways to love your neighbor. Ask them to stand if they agree. If they disagree, they should sit down with arms crossed. Relate each example back to the idea of loving your neighbor.

We don't need to help people if we are watching our favorite TV show.

We should be extra nice to kids at school who have trouble making friends.

We should obey our parents immediately.

**Act It Out:** Ask for volunteers to act out the story. For variation, assign several older students as 'project leaders' to coach a group of younger students to act out the parable.

**Test:** Ask for volunteers to suggest ways they can show love to people in their lives.

## OTHER NEAT STUFF



## 8. WELCOMING OTHERS

**GETTING STARTED:** This lesson is based on Luke 10:25-27 where Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan. The point is that we must love our neighbors and the story hints at the mission of Jesus to rescue us too.

**Learning Objectives:** After this lesson, children will demonstrate understanding of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, by giving personal examples of how they could love their neighbors.

**Items Needed:** Marked Bible for this passage. Prepare the copy in advance by highlighting the significant points to emphasize, underlining words or ideas that will need additional explanation. You may wish to make small notes in the margin.

- If you prefer, you can use visual aids to help tell the story.
- A marker board or piece of paper displaying the word “love” large enough for the class to see.
- Love Your Neighbor coloring activity

**Explanation:** This text begins with Jesus’ conversation with a Jewish teacher of the Law. After Jesus taught the great commandments, the man was trying to justify himself. His questions were aimed at lowering the ethical bar Jesus had presented him. So, the Great Teacher tells a story to make the point stick. This is a wonderful story for creative expression. It speaks to our prejudices and hard hearts toward suffering. In the context, Jesus is showing the Kingdom of God exists in action – not just talk.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10:25-27

### LESSON: Helping the Hurting

Write the word “love” on the board (or a piece of paper to display). Ask the children to close their eyes and imagine someone they love. Then, take volunteer answers. Try to restate the children’s answers into statements about whom we should love.

If a child says “mom” ... you say “Good answer, we should love our moms – God wants us to love our moms.

If a child says “friends” ... you say “Good answer, we should love our friends – God wants us to love our friends.

Say: These are all good answers, but today we are going to learn that God wants us to love everyone in our lives. Even people that we normally wouldn’t like!

point about the divinity of Christ. There is also the theme of compassion in this text. When Mark tells this story in Mark 6:34-44, he points out that the miracle was motivated by Jesus’ compassion for the crowd and a concern that they might faint without food returning home. There is certainly a lesson here about caring for the hungry. This miracle is also a set-up for an upcoming lesson on Jesus as the “bread of life” in John 6:25-40. You might hint to the kids that Jesus is going to give the people something better than food next.

Take out your snack and begin to eat it in front of the class. Wait for someone to ask you to share. Assure them you will share after the lesson, but ask them to think about how they would feel if there wasn’t enough food for everyone. Say, “In today’s story, we are going to learn about a time when Jesus provided food for 5,000 families from one small snack.”

Ask the children to listen carefully for the details of the story, so that they can retell it to you afterward. Read (and summarize) John 6:1-14. Be sure to engage the children with good story telling.

**Read the following statements.** Have the children stand up if this was something that happened in this story. If it didn’t happen in this story they should sit with arms crossed – even if they are true statements taught in other parts of the Bible the children should remain seated.

Jesus turned regular water into wine to save a wedding party.

Jesus told his disciples to feed the 5,000 families.

A young boy offered to share his five loaves of bread and two fish.

Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread.

God sent down bread falling from the sky to feed the Israelites.

Jesus told the disciples to pick up all the leftover bread.

**Talk About It:** Ask the children to discuss the following questions to better understand the story.

Why do you think Jesus wanted to feed the 5,000 families?

What do you think the little boy was feeling when he saw Jesus use his gift for the miracle?

What does this story tell you about who Jesus really was?

**Test:** Ask several volunteers to come up to the front to retell the story to the class. If they need help, prompt them with questions like “what happened next.”

## OTHER NEAT STUFF

**Listen to the song “5 Loaves and 2 Fish” from the CD and teach it to the children.**

**Bring Goldfish snack crackers and regular Saltine Crackers to simulate a miniature five loaves and two fish snacks for the children to eat.**



# 7. LIVING WATER

## GETTING STARTED:

### Learning Aim:

God refreshes our lives as water refreshes us when we are thirsty. We must have God, just like we must have water.

### Basic Supply List:

- Bible
- Water bottle for each child to drink
- Empty water bottle
- Glitter, Beads, Sequins, etc.
- Duct Tape
- Sensory Table with water and plastic toys (optional)
- Bowl
- 1 Cup Dish soap
- ½ Cup Light Corn Syrup
- Small Bubble Wand

**Life Connection:** This lesson aims to help young children understand that God is refreshing to their souls just as water is refreshing to them when they are thirsty. The more time that we put into spending with God the more refreshed our lives will become. We need God. Our lives are pointless without Him, just like water is necessary for life.

**SCRIPTURE:** John 4:4-14

## LESSON: Living Water

Greet each student as they arrive. Begin by asking them how high they can jump. Challenge the class to show you how high they can jump. Now, ask them how long they can jump. Challenge them to carefully jump as many times as they can. Have cups or bottles of water ready for the class when they finish jumping. Make a big deal of drinking water once they have finished their jumping. Once everyone has some water, have them sit and get ready to listen to the lesson.

### Biblical Evidence:

After playing the jumping game, everyone was tired and wanted a drink of water. Why did you want water? They will probably say that they are thirsty and tired. Say: “When we are tired water refreshes us. We need water. We cannot live without it. Whenever we are thirsty there is nothing better than a drink of water. The more water we drink the better we feel. God is like water in our lives. He keeps our soul healthy. He refreshes us when we are sad or mad.”

One day Jesus was walking through the town of Sychar when He came to a well. He was thirsty so He asked the woman who was there to give Him a drink. This gave Him an opportunity to explain how He was like water. Let’s read this story from John 4. At this point, read John 4:4-14 or retell the story in your own words.

When Jesus was talking about water He wasn’t talking about water like the water in our cups. He was meaning to say that God would make her life new and make her happy again. If we want to live forever, we need Jesus in our lives, too. We cannot live without Jesus, just like we cannot live without water.

How can we keep ourselves close to Jesus? Possible answers could be that they can read their Bibles, pray, go to church, and talk about Jesus with their parents.

**Water Bottle Shakers:** Give each child a clean plastic water bottle. Fill with beads, glitter, and/ or sequins. Then, if desired, put water in the bottle. Close the lids tightly and wrap duct tape around the lid so it doesn’t spill.

**Deep and Wide:** Sing the children’s song Deep and Wide to reinforce the idea that Jesus is the source of living water who gives life. The kids can use their water bottle shakers as well for dancing and to make music.

**River Tag:** Jesus is the living water. In this game, one child will be it. All the other children will run around the room/playing area as if they are swimming. If someone gets tagged, they must sit down. In order for them to get back in the game, someone must swim in a circle around them. The game is over whenever everyone has been tagged or whenever the teacher blows the whistle and stops the game. You may want to play several different rounds so that more children can be “It”.

**Everlasting Bubbles:** Make bubbles that do not pop as easy as regular bubbles to reinforce the idea that God stays with us always. To make these bubbles, mix 1 cup of dishwashing liquid with ½ cup of light corn syrup. Mix well and use a small wand to blow them to the class. Explain that these bubbles do not pop. They are like Jesus because He stays with us always as well. The bubbles will pop and are sticky, but they will last longer than regular store bought bubbles.

**Conclusion:** End the lesson by showing the class a bowl, or cup, of water. Swish the water around to show that water is always moving. Jesus is just like this water because He is always moving and working in our lives. Water goes on forever, just like Jesus. Whenever we are having a bad day, Jesus refreshes our souls.

Close the lesson by praying for the class, asking God to help them continually have a deeper understanding of their need for Jesus and the eternal life that He gives.