

FRIENDS OF JESUS



Book Three

HOW TO LEAD A CHILD TO FAITH IN CHRIST

- Pray for the child who shows interest in becoming a Christian.
- Expect the Holy Spirit to convict the child of sin.
- Counsel the child by asking simple questions:

"What would you like to talk with me about?"

"Why do you think you need to be saved?"

God loves you and wants you to love him.

"Why don't all people love God? (sin)

"What is sin? (disobeying God, breaking God's laws, making wrong choices)

"Who has sinned? (everyone)

"What does sin do?" (separates you from God, reason people are lost)

Jesus is God's answer for sin.

"Who is Jesus?" (God's only Son , lived a perfect life, is the only way to God)

" What did Jesus do for you?" (died on the cross, rose from the dead, prepared a place for you in heaven)

What do you need to do to be saved?

1. **ADMIT THAT YOU ARE A SINNER.** "Everyone has sinned and is far away from God's saving presence" (Romans 3:23).
2. **REPENT OF YOUR SIN.** Repent means to be so sorry for your sin that you will never want to do it again. "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that he will forgive your sins"(Acts 3:19).
3. **BELIEVE IN JESUS.** Believe that Jesus is the Son of God. Trust Him to save you from your sins. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life" (John 3:16).
4. **RECEIVE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE BY ASKING HIM TO COME IN AND BE YOUR LORD.** "Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children" (John 1:12).
"Have you ever done this?"
"Would you like to pray and ask God to forgive your sins and to come and live in your life? (Ask the child to pray.)

What has happened to you?

- Jesus comes to live in your life.
- Your sins are forgiven.
- You become a Christian.
- You become a child of God .

What is next?

► **MAKE A PUBLIC PROFESSION OF YOUR FAITH.** As soon as you receive Christ into your life you will want to tell others what has happened to you. "If anyone declares publicly that he belongs to me, I will do the same for him before my Father in heaven" (Matthew 10:32).

► BE BAPTIZED.

"What is baptism?" (a picture of death, burial and resurrection; an act of obedience; shows others what has happened to you)

What else should you do?

Read your Bible, pray, tell others about Jesus, get involved in church. "If you love me, you will obey my commandments" (John 14:15).

HOW TO COUNSEL A CHILD

Your goal as a leader is to help boys and girls to know Christ as their Saviour and Lord. Children should never be coerced or forced to make a decision for Christ. At the same time you can expect the Holy Spirit to convict of sin as you faithfully teach each week. So be aware of the children's responses as you teach.

You will know a child is ready to receive Christ when:

- he asks questions about how to be saved.
- he understands the meaning of sin.
- he continues to show interest for several weeks in becoming a Christian.

You can know a child is **not** ready if:

- he confuses being saved with baptism.
- he comes because his friends respond to the Gospel.
- he wants to join the church, be baptized and take communion.

SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNSELING A CHILD:

- Speak to the child alone but near other children.
- Use your Bible.
- Use simple words the child will understand.
- Assure him that he can be saved even if he is young.
- Give the child the opportunity to withdraw if he is not ready to commit his life to Christ.
- Pray with the child.
- Encourage the child to read the Bible and pray every day.

TALK TO PARENTS

Some parents and pastors do not believe that a child can understand how to be saved. There is evidence in the Old and New Testaments that God speaks to children and wants them to know him. "Never forget these commands that I am giving you today. Teach them to your children" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). God spoke to Jeremiah when he was young, (Jeremiah 1:7) and he spoke to the boy Samuel. (1 Samuel 3:6-16) Jesus asked the disciples to bring the children to him. (Matthew 10:14) He wanted to bless them, and he wanted the children to know God through him.

Ask the parents to encourage their child and help him grow as a new Christian. "Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life" (Proverbs 22:6).

FRIENDS OF JESUS



Book Three

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FRIENDS OF JESUS Year 2

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WHO AM I?

1. I Am Someone Special – Created to be like God
2. I Am Someone with Special Gifts
3. I Am Someone with Something to Share
4. I Am Someone with Decisions to Make

SALVATION

5. Jesus was Born for Our Salvation
6. Jesus Died on the Cross for Our Salvation
7. Jesus Rose for Our Salvation
8. What Does It Mean to Be Saved?
9. Why Do I Need to be Saved?
10. How Can I Be Saved?

CULTS

11. Cults
12. Staying Away From Cults

CHRISTIAN VALUES

13. Respect God and Others
14. Learning to Live with Others
15. Learning to Work and Play Together

AIDS

16. Understanding AIDS
17. Living a Pure Life

SEX EDUCATION

18. Staying Pure
19. My Body
20. Saying No to Premarital Sex

HEALTHY HABITS

21. Taking Care of My Body
22. Good Nutrition
23. Rest and Exercise

CHURCH

24. What is the Church?
25. What Is the Work of the Church?
26. Can I Be a Member of the Church?

PRAYER

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28. Learning How to Pray
29. God Answers Prayer – We Must Have Faith

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32. Swearing

PROBLEMS

33. Hunger
34. Sickness
35. Education

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37. Helping Others in Jesus' Name
38. Being a Christian Citizen

GOD'S WILL

39. God's Will
40. Can I Know God's Will for Me?
41. Doing God's Will

MIND

42. I Can Learn
43. I Can Know God
44. I Can Think
45. I Can Create
46. I Can Appreciate Others

PREJUDICE

47. Overcoming Prejudice

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

48. Forgiving Others

FAITH

49. What Is Faith?
50. How to Have Faith

HOPE

51. What is Hope?
52. How to Have Hope

positions for "S," "L," "F," and "P."

5. CLOSING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song: *Lord, I Want to be a Christian*
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

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How to Counsel a Child

Cover

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quickly help us rise up out of the water. This baptism reminds us that Jesus died and was raised up again. When we are baptized, we show people that our old way of living is dead. Now we are raised to a new life to follow Jesus.

You don't have to be an adult to be a church member. But you must be a Christian and be baptized. You don't have to be a man or a rich person. The Bible says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28) Even a child can be a church member. Even a child can please God with what he says, with how he lives, with how he loves others, with his faith, and with his pure life.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune if you do not know the one Richard Avery and Donald Marsh wrote with these words.)

We Are the Church

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,
All around the world,
Yes, we are the church together.

We're many kinds of people
With many kinds of faces,
All colors and all ages, too,
From all times and places.

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus,

All around the world,
Yes, we are the church together.

Pray:

Have the children bow their heads and pray, thanking God for the church. Ask God to help us be holy and pure so that we are pleasing in his sight. Pray that everyone we meet will know from the way we live that we are on God's team.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12

Say the verse to the children. Have the boys repeat the verse after you, a few words at a time. Do the same thing with the girls. Then tell the children they will use their bodies today to help them remember how to set an example for Jesus.

Have some of the children make letters with their bodies to spell out the first letter of "speech," then "life," "love," "faith," and "purity." For example, to make "P," two children can lie head to feet in a straight line. Another child will curve in a semi-circle beside the top child. To make an "L," two children can lie head to feet in a straight line. A third child will lie down at right angles to the feet of the bottom child. If you have a large group, they can spell out the entire word each time with their bodies.

Have the group say the verse several times as those making the letters work as quickly as they can to get into the

What did you do to be a member of the line? (remember the previous actions and add a new one)

How can you prove that you are a member of a group? (Let the children answer.) Just saying we belong to a sport team or a club is not enough. (Show the children a sport team uniform shirt or cap or a work uniform with a business name on it.)

Sometimes what we wear shows which group we belong to. If we wear a uniform of the _____ (use the name of a well-known sports team), we cannot play for the other team in a game. People expect us to play for the team whose uniform we wear. If your father works for a company that has uniforms for its workers, he cannot go inside to his job if he doesn't wear the right uniform.

How can someone tell if we are a member of the church? (Let the children give answers.) That is what our Bible story is about today. We don't wear a church uniform like a sport team shirt. But, there are things we do to become members of the church. We want the world to know we belong to God's team.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian,
In my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be a Christian,
In my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian
In my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus.....

Lord, I want to be more holy....

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Before Jesus went up again to heaven he told his followers that they would be his church. He gave them a big job to do. The church was supposed to go to every nation and make disciples for Jesus, baptize them, and teach them to obey everything Jesus had commanded. (Matthew 28:19-20) Even today this is still the main work of the church.

If you go to a building where a church is meeting on Sunday, you may find many different people. Fathers, mothers, old people, children, and babies all go to church. But are all of these people true members of the church? No. God is happy when people go to church. But, you are not a church member just because you go there sometimes.

The Bible tells us what we have to do to be a church member. First, we must believe that Jesus is God's son and that he died on the cross to save us from our sins. We are sorry for all the wrong things we have done, and we ask Jesus to forgive us. This makes us a Christian, a follower of Christ Jesus. Then, just like a player on a sport team puts on a uniform to show which team he plays for, Jesus told us something to do to show the world that we are in his church. Being baptized is like putting on a uniform to show we are on God's team. The pastor or another church leader will help us to lie back in water and then

INTRODUCTION FOR FRIENDS OF JESUS CLUB LEADERS

Welcome to Book Three of the four-year curriculum of Friends of Jesus club lessons. The lessons have been written to help boys and girls to grow as Jesus grew: in wisdom, in body and in favour with God and men. The lessons include Bible stories, Memory Verses, activities, games, dramas, music, object lessons and character stories.

The purpose of *Friends of Jesus* clubs is to reach children for Christ who are not in church. The clubs can meet anywhere and at any time which is convenient for you, the leader, and the children.

As a leader, you need only to have the lesson books and the *Friends of Jesus Leaders' Manual*. There will be eight lesson books, two for each of the four years.

Additional helps which are available are as follows:

- *Friends of Jesus Song Book* with 27 indigenous songs from different countries of East and Southern Africa.
- A CD of the songs in the *Friends of Jesus Song Book*.
- "*How to Become a Christian*" booklet to use with a child who wants to invite Jesus into his life.
- *Friends of Jesus* badges. The badges are green and white in colour. The logo is representative of growing as Jesus grew: physically, spiritually, socially and intellectually.

The lesson books, leaders' manual and the materials listed above are available at the following addresses:

BIMS	Kenya Baptist Media	Baptist Bookstore
P.O. Box 1759	P.O. Box 30370	Makishi at Great East Rd.
Edenvale 1610	Nairobi, Kenya	Lusaka, Zambia
South Africa		

May the Lord use these lessons to bring many children to faith in Christ.
Mrs. Evelyn Moss, editor

FRIENDS OF JESUS CLUB

Club Verse: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

Club Song:

Pastor Ambrose Nyangao



Jesus grew in wisdom,
Jesus grew in body,
Jesus grew in favour with God and men.

You can grow in wisdom,
You can grow in body,
You can grow in favour with God and men.

I can grow...

Luke 2:52...

Club Commitment: (Put hands over heart.) "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body and in favour with God and men."

Friends of Jesus Cheer: (Stand in a circle.)

Teacher: "We are..."

Children: "Friends of Jesus." (Repeat three times.)

All: (Hold hands up and shout.) "WE ARE FRIENDS OF JESUS."

Friends of Jesus Badge

The badge is green and white in colour. The logo is representative of growing as Jesus grew: physically, spiritually, socially and intellectually.

Requirements for wearing the badge are:

- Say the club verse.
- Sing the club song.
- Say the club commitment.
- Memorize and say ten salvation Scripture verses.
- Attend club meetings regularly for three months, or have perfect attendance for two months.



CAN I BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH?

SCRIPTURE: Acts 10:23-48, Galatians 3:26-28, Ephesians 1:13.

MEMORY VERSE: Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson each child will learn:

1. that the church is a body of believers.
2. that he can be a member if he believes in Jesus and is baptized.
3. that churches have members of many different races and nationalities and ages, all around the world.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Join My Line

The aim of this game is to see how long a line can be made of children repeating each other's actions. Have a volunteer agree to begin the line by doing some action such as patting his head. A second child will join him, pat his own head, and add a new action such as rubbing his stomach. A third child then joins the line, repeats those two actions, and adds a new one of his own. Continue until no one can remember all the movements in sequence. At this point the game will end, or if time permits, begin again with a new volunteer.

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

Do I Belong?: All of us want to be included in a group, to feel as if we belong. Did you want to fit in and be a part of the line during our game?

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare to teach this lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect teaching and learning aids. Collect a sport team uniform shirt or cap or a work uniform with a business name on it to use in the object lesson.
5. Read through the Bible teaching time and be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson. Be prepared to lead the activities and songs for the lesson.

3. Make announcements.
4. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song. Revise *Jesus Wants His Church to Preach*.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 1

I AM SOMEONE SPECIAL-CREATED TO BE LIKE

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 1:26-27; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 139:1-18.

MEMORY VERSE: "If anyone makes himself clean from evil things, he will be used for special purposes, because he is dedicated and useful to his Master." (2 Timothy 2:21)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson each child will learn:

1. God created him/her for a special purpose.
2. God wants to use us, and we are to serve him.
3. He/she must know Jesus in order to discover God's plan for life.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Study the Scripture.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Read the story many times and tell it in your own words.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Collect several different containers for the object lesson. You will need several kinds, both plain and fancy: a bowl, dust bin, flower vase, drinking glass, tin can, cardboard box, cake pan, toothpaste tube, cooking pot, paper or plastic bag, basket, bucket, etc.
7. Print the memory verse on a large piece of paper.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favor with God and men." (Luke 2:52)
3. Sing the club song: "Jesus Grew In Wisdom"
Jesus grew in wisdom, Jesus grew in body, Jesus grew in favor with God and men.
You can grow in wisdom, You can grow in body, You can grow in favor with God and men.
I can grow in wisdom, I can grow in body, I can grow in favor with God and men.
4. Say the club commitment: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favor with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Tell the children you will play a game where you walk in a circle and they follow you, imitating everything you do. Choose from the following actions or make up your

own: Place your thumbs in your ears and wiggle your fingers; pretend to play a guitar and sing; place your hands on your head and jump up and down; pretend to scold someone by shaking your finger as you tap your foot and place one hand on your hip; etc. Have the children sit down. Ask: Did you enjoy imitating me? Did we look funny? Who would you like to imitate? Why?

Tell the children that sometimes it is good to follow another person's example but sometimes it isn't. Ask: Is there someone who is always good and safe to imitate? Lead them to understand that Jesus is the only perfect example we can always imitate without being afraid of doing something wrong.

Object Lesson: (10 minutes)

(You will need several different kinds of containers, both plain and fancy: a bowl, dust bin, flower vase, drinking glass, tin can, cardboard box, cake pan, toothpaste tube, cooking pot, paper or plastic bag, basket, bucket, etc.). Place all the containers in a bag or box. Take the containers out one at a time and place them where everyone can see them. As you hold up each container for the children to see, discuss with them what that container is used for and what it might normally hold. Put the containers back in the bag or box when you have completed the object lesson

We can see that each of these containers is made for a different

purpose. Each one is useful in some way. Some containers such as a dustbin or a basket are very ordinary. We use them in our every day work. Containers such as a flower vase or a fancy drinking glass are used only for special occasions such as a party or a banquet. Many different kinds of containers are found in a large house. There are cups and glasses, pots and pans, trashcans and vases. Some containers are fragile; others are strong. But each container is designed to hold something. And each container is designed to be useful.

The Bible says we are like the different containers in a large house (Open your Bible and read 2 Timothy 2:21-22). God made each of us unique because he intends to use each of us differently. God wants to use us, and we are to serve him. Like containers, we are designed to be filled. God wants to fill us with himself through the Holy Spirit. Then he can use us to pour out his love and truth to others. God has created us to serve him. Are we allowing him to fill us and use us?

Prayer:

Dear God, teach us how to be useful to you, prepared to do every good work. Amen.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Trust and Obey
When we walk with the Lord
In the light of his Word

The church together took care of widows and orphans. They collected money and sent men to other countries to help when those people had no food.

God gave each of the Christians a special ability or talent to do something that would help make the church strong. This way each person had a job to do in the church. Some were teachers. Some preached. Some were good at encouraging the others or welcomed people to their homes to visit. Some could help people get well when they were ill. Others were good leaders and planners.

It takes every Christian to do together the huge job God gave the church. Jesus' followers remembered the most important thing of all. They remembered the last thing Jesus said to them before he went up into heaven.

Jesus said, "I want you to go to every place in the world. And, when you go, teach the people about me. Baptize them, and teach them to obey everything I have taught you."

This is the work God gave the church. It is a big job! And, if we are followers of Jesus, it is our job, too.

Pray:

"Thank you, Lord, for creating the church to help with your great work on earth. Thank you for Christians who go into all the world to tell others about your love. Thank you for giving each of us special jobs that we can do for you."

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up your own tune.)

Go and Make Disciples

Go and make disciples,

Baptize, baptize.

Go and make disciples,

Baptize, baptize.

Teach them to obey all things.

You are God's disciples,

Serve him, serve him.

You are God's disciples,

Serve him, serve him.

You are God's disciples,

Serve him, serve him.

Serve him as you work and pray.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Teach the memory verse in three phrases: "Go and make disciples of all nations / baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit / and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20

Ask the children wearing blue to say part 1. Then ask the children wearing white to say part 2. Those wearing red will say part 3. Have all three groups repeat the parts in sequence. Then choose three more groups to repeat the verse. (For example: boys—part 1, girls—part 2, leader—part 3) Continue until the children can say the entire verse and reference from memory.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(Have ready in a box or large bag a variety of containers such as a rubbish bin, a cup, a vase, a pan, a bowl, etc. You will need a container filled with water also.)

Say: We learned in our game today that we have different jobs and many kinds of work. God wants to use us in different ways in the church, too. In the Bible God calls us vessels. Our kitchens have different kinds of vessels. (Take objects out of the box as you name them.) There are cups, bowls, pans, rubbish bins, vases...Some break easily. Some are strong. But each one of them is able to hold something.

(Begin pouring water into one object and from that object to another, etc., until all have had water in them at some point.) Each vessel is made for a special purpose and has a different use. One holds milk, another flowers, another rubbish...(etc.).

We are all like vessels. God has a purpose he made us for, and he wants to fill us up with Himself and live inside us. Then, like vessels, he will use us to pour out his love to the rest of the world. We also hold his truths we learn from the Bible, and we pour those out to teach the world about Jesus. Will you let God fill you and use you to help with his work?

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Use the tune to the verses of *Do Lord* or make up one of your own.)

Jesus Wants His Church to Preach

Jesus wants his church to preach
In the world today.
Jesus wants his church to preach
In the world today.
Jesus wants his church to preach
In the world today.
To reach the world today.

Jesus wants his church to pray
In the world today.....

Jesus wants his church to teach
In the world today....

Jesus wants his church to love
In the world today....

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)
(Open your Bible to the book of Acts.)
When Jesus left the earth to return to heaven, his followers missed him very much. They remembered all the things Jesus had taught them. Soon they were meeting together to share what they had learned about God.

People began to call these followers of Christ Jesus "Christians." The Christians remembered that Jesus had taught them to pray. So, they prayed together that God would tell them what work they should do.

The Christians remembered that they were God's church. Jesus had told them to have unity and to love one another. The Bible says in Acts 4:32, "All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." This must have pleased God.

What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Teach the Bible Story: (10 minutes)

Today's Bible story is about a special boy that God chose to do a special job. (As you tell the story, open your Bible to 1 Samuel 16:1-13.)

"Go to Bethlehem," God told the prophet Samuel. "I have chosen a new king for the nation of Israel. He is one of Jesse's sons. I will show you who he is." Samuel obeyed God. He went to Bethlehem. Samuel invited Jesse and his sons to worship God with him. Jesse arrived with seven of his sons. The firstborn son was tall and handsome. Samuel thought Jesse's firstborn son would surely make a fine king.

But God did not choose that son. "You can see only his outward appearance," God told Samuel. "I can see what he is thinking in his heart. This son would not make a good king."

Samuel looked carefully at each of the seven sons of Jesse. God did not choose any of them. "Do you have any other sons?" Samuel asked.

"Yes, there is still my youngest son, David. But he is only a boy," said Jesse. "He is in the fields taking care

of the sheep."

"Send for him," Samuel told Jesse. "We will not worship God until he arrives."

Jesse sent for David. When David arrived, Samuel saw that he was handsome and healthy and his eyes were bright. God said, "This is the one I have chosen."

Samuel took oil and poured some on David's head to show that God had chosen David to be king. Then Samuel and David and Jesse and David's seven brothers worshipped God together.

Many years later David did become king of Israel. He wrote many worship songs to sing to God. Many of David's songs are written in the Bible for us to read. One of David's songs tells about how God cares for us. David knew that God had been with him always. God had created David for a special purpose.

Listen to what David sang about God: "You created every part of me; you put me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because you are to be feared; all you do is strange and wonderful. I know it with all my heart. When my bones were being formed, carefully put together in my mother's womb, when I was growing there in secret, you knew that I was there - you saw me before I was born. The days allotted to me had all been recorded in your book, before any of them ever began." (Psalm 139:13-16)

David was created for a special purpose. But God also has a plan for

each one of us. We are important to God because he has made us. God is always thinking about us. God always loves us. God wants us to know him and God wants us to know his plan for our life.

Do you want to know God? Do you want to know about God's plan for your life? If you want to know the truth about who God is and what he plans for your life, you must know Jesus. When we believe that Jesus died for our sins and we choose to follow Jesus, God changes us on the inside. We begin to understand God's plans for us. We want to obey him and learn how to please him. We can understand that our loving heavenly Father has created us for the special purpose of serving him.

God chose David to be the new king of Israel while David was still a young boy. You are also special to God. God has given you talents and abilities and he has something special that he wants you to do. He wants you to serve him now and also when you are older.

What special job did God choose David to do? (Be the new king.) What special thing do you think God wants you to do? (Allow the children a moment to think about it. You might need to encourage them with some of these ideas: follow Jesus, bring a friend to Friends of Jesus Club, attend Sunday Bible study, tell others about Jesus, study the Bible, study to become a doctor, study to become a teacher, etc.) Why did Samuel think Jesse's firstborn son

would make a good king? (Samuel was impressed with his outward appearance.) What did God see that Samuel could not? (God could see the thoughts in a man's heart.) Does God know what is in your heart and in mine? (Yes.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

God is so good (x3)
He's so good to me.
God sent his Son (x3)
He's so good to me.
New life he gives (x3)
He's so good to me.

4. MEMORY WORK: (10 minutes)

Let's learn a Bible verse about being useful to God: "If anyone makes himself clean from evil things, he will be used for special purposes, because he is dedicated and useful to his Master." (2 Timothy 2:21)

Write the verse on large paper and have the children read it together a few times. Then have the children stand in a circle. One child will say the first word of the verse. The next child in the circle will say the second word. The other children repeat the next word each time, in turn, around the circle. Go around the circle several times, reciting the words faster and faster. Finally, let everyone repeat the verse in unison once more.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. If time permits, the children can dramatize today's Bible story.

Lesson 25

WHAT IS THE WORK OF THE CHURCH?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:12-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; Acts 4:32-37, 6:1-7, 12:5, 13:1-3, 15:1-4

MEMORY VERSE: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20a

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children will learn:

1. what tasks God has given the church to do on earth until he returns.
2. that God gives gifts and abilities to every Christian to help the church do its work well.
3. that the church is important in God's plan and that they have an important role in the church as well.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect teaching and learning aids. Be prepared with several kitchen containers in a large sack or box (a cup, bowl, pan, rubbish bin, vase, etc.) for use in the object lesson.
5. Read through the Bible teaching time and be prepared to give illustrations

related to the lesson. Be prepared to lead the activities and songs for the lessons.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Before everything else, pray.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

What Is My Work?

Have the children sit in a circle. Have a volunteer begin the game by going to the center of the circle. This child should think of a job or occupation which he could do when he is grown. The child will act out what a person in this job does.

The first child in the group to guess the job correctly will have the next turn and act out another kind of work. Continue until everyone has had a turn. (If the children have trouble guessing sometimes, the player can give verbal hints such as, "I work outdoors," or "I wear white shoes," etc.)

man build his house? (on rock) What did Jesus say he would build on a rock? (the church) What is a church made of? (people who are Christians) What "rock" is the church really built on? (Jesus)

2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song. Revise *The Wise Man and the Foolish Man*.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 2

I AM SOMEONE WITH SPECIAL GIFTS

SCRIPTURES: 2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 12:3-13, 1 Corinthians 12.

MEMORY VERSE: "God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." 1 Corinthians 12:18

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children will know:

1. God has a purpose for their lives.
2. God gives each person one or more spiritual gifts.
3. God has created us with unique personalities and abilities to serve him in different ways.

Left hand = everyone
Right hand = of them,
Left leg = just as
Right leg = he wanted
Left foot = them to be.
Right foot = 1 Corinthians 12:18.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a Game: *I Can Do It* (10 minutes)

Say: We each have different abilities. Abilities are things we do well or enjoy doing. Some of us can tell jokes well or sing. Some people can cook delicious food or draw pretty pictures. Let's play a game to learn what each of us can do well.

Explain to the children that they will take turns acting out some ability they have or something they do well. The group will guess what each child is pretending to do. Call on a volunteer to begin. After several children have had turns, ask: "Can everybody sing well? Can everybody play soccer well? Today we will learn that we are all special in some way

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Study the Scriptures.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to tell it in your own words.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Be ready with a simple jigsaw puzzle which you have completed for the object lesson. Cut out the following body part shapes from pieces of paper and print the memory verse words on them as indicated:
Head = "God has
Left arm = arranged
Torso = the parts
Right arm = in the body,

and that God made each of us different for a purpose.”

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

Say: Today our story will be about someone who is very special and important. How important are you? Do you have a big job? Do you make lots of money? You may not feel very important, but I think you are and so does Jesus. I brought something today to help you understand.

(Show the children a puzzle you have brought or one made from a cut up picture.) Do you like to work puzzles? There are many pieces, and you must fit them all together in exactly the right places where they belong. What happens if I take away one piece? Does the picture look right now? What if I take away two pieces? Three? Soon you can't even tell what the puzzle is supposed to be. Every piece is important. You don't know how special it is until you lose one.

God said he has a special job for each of us to do. Remember how much he is depending on you to do your job, and you will realize how important you really are in this world. Only you will fit in your space perfectly.

Pray: Thank God for making each child special and for giving us the abilities we need to do the work he has planned for us.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

This Little Light of Mine
This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine. (2 x)
Let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine.

Won't let Satan blow it out,
I'm gonna let it shine. (2x)
Let it shine. (3x)

Let it shine till Jesus comes,
I'm gonna let it shine. (2x)
Let it shine. (3x)

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Many books in the New Testament are letters Paul wrote to the early Christians. (Thumb through the New Testament and point out some of Paul's letters. Note that the first verse of each book written by Paul gives greetings from him.) He wrote to teach them how to live in a way pleasing to God. Sometimes disagreements and problems began among the people. They came from different places. They did not have the same abilities and talents. Often they did not understand why God didn't make everyone the same.

When the Christians in Corinth began arguing, Paul wrote to them. God helped him think of a wonderful way to explain why differences are part of God's plan. Paul told the people that the church is like a human body. The Christians who make up the church are all parts of that body. And every part is special.

What if your hand decided it wanted to be a foot? The hand might say, "Okay, if I can't be a foot, then I'm not going to be part of this body!" But, it would still be part of the body

everyone who believes in Jesus as the son of God is like another stone or rock in the church. Jesus himself is the cornerstone, the most important rock that holds a building together.

Today Christians often meet in buildings, but the church itself is not the building. It is the people who meet inside. God says that our bodies are the temple of God. Temple is another name for church. Our bodies all together make up God's church.

Jesus came to earth to bring people to God and to tell us about God's love. In today's game you passed on the baton or stick to people behind you so they could finish the race you started. When Jesus returned to heaven, he passed on to the church, you and me, the work he started. Next week we will learn more about the work of the church.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Use the tune to *His Banner Over Us is Love* or make up one of your own.)

The Church

He said, "Upon this rock I'll build my church."

His banner over us is love.

He said, "Upon this rock I'll build my church."

His banner over us is love.

He said, "Upon this rock I'll build my church."

His banner over us is love.

His banner over us is love.

The church is not a building,
It's made of people.

His banner over us is love.....

Jesus is the rock of our salvation,
His banner over us is love.....

Pray:

Have the children bow their heads and pray, thanking God for creating the church. Thank God that the church is made of living stones—people who believe in Jesus. Pray that the church will spread the good news of God's love all over the world.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

(Send the children on a short trip outside so that each of them can find a small rock to bring back in for today's memory verse. If you meet in an area without gravel or stones, bring enough yourself for each child to have one.)

Repeat the memory verse 2 or 3 times together. "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18

Tell the children that you will build together as you learn today's verse. First, say the verse yourself. As you say the word "rock," place a small rock on the floor in front of everyone. Have each child repeat your action with his own stone as he says the verse himself. Remind them when the pile is finished that people are God's church today—living stones that he has put together to tell the world about Jesus.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. What did the three pigs build their houses from? (straw, sticks, stones) Where did the foolish man build his house? (on sand) Where did the wise

built his house from that. Along came a big, bad wolf and said, "Little pig, let me come in or I'll huff and puff and blow your house down." Because the house was only straw, it quickly fell apart when the wolf blew.

The second pig found a man with a load of sticks. So, he bought the wood and made his house a little stronger than the straw had been. Soon along came the wolf. "Little pig, let me come in or I'll huff and puff and blow your house down," he said. It took two huffs and puffs, but this house fell down, too.

The third little pig looked and looked until he found a man selling bricks and rocks. The pig spent many days building his house to be strong and sturdy. This time when the wolf came, he huffed and puffed with all his might, but he couldn't blow down the rock house.

A house built on rock is solid and won't quickly be destroyed. The people in Bible times knew this also. They understood why Jesus said he would build his church upon a rock. It would be strong and permanent. But you will learn in a few minutes that it wouldn't be an ordinary rock God meant for his church to be built on.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

The Wise Man and the Foolish Man

(You may use actions, if desired.)

The wise man built his house upon the rock (3x)

And the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up (3x)

And the house on the rock stood fast.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand (3x)

And the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up (3x)

And the house on the sand went smash.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

When Jesus was on the earth long ago, he spent a lot of time teaching his followers about God. One day Jesus asked his followers a question. "Who do people say I am?"

One man answered, "Some say you are John the Baptist." Another said, "They think you are a prophet." Still another said, "Jeremiah."

Then Jesus asked, "Who do you say I am?"

Peter quickly answered, "You are the son of the living God." How happy this made Jesus. Peter understood who Jesus was, and he believed Jesus' teachings were true.

Then Jesus said a strange thing to Peter. He said, "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church."

We know how important it is to build with stones and on rocks from our song and story today. But Jesus had a special meaning for rock. Do you know what the name "Peter" means? It means "rock."

Peter was the first man on earth to discover who Jesus really was. He believed and saw that Jesus was the son of God. So, in a way, Peter was the first member of God's church. The church would be built of living rocks—people like Peter who know who Jesus is. All through time,

anyway. It might as well be the best hand it can be and do the special things only hands can do.

What if your eye decided it was the only important part of your body and that no other body parts were needed? How would you walk? Smell? Hear? (Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians 12:18 and read.) Paul told the people, "God has arranged the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." That is our memory verse for today. God has a plan for each body part.

The head can't tell the feet that they aren't needed. Even the tiniest hidden part was created by God for a reason. Sometimes the parts we don't see (like the heart) are some of the most useful ones to keep us alive and healthy. A fingernail may not seem very special. But, if we tear it off, the pain may keep us awake all night. One part of the body hurts, but the whole body feels the pain.

Jesus wants us to work together as a whole and healthy body. This is what pleases him. How has God made you special and different from your friends? What is unique about you? Listen to what Paul's letter taught the early Christians. Be happy that God has made you just as you are. What things can you do well? (Let individual children answer.) How can you use your ability or talent for God? (Let the children answer.)

God is not pleased when we spend time wishing we could be like someone else. He isn't pleased when we think everyone should be just like

us either. Each one of us is unique. Each one of us is special. And there is a reason we are made the way we are. Even if we don't know why God made us this way right now, someday we will understand. For now it is enough to believe God's promise that he has arranged us just as he wants us to be.

Let's repeat this sentence three times just like our Friends of Jesus' cheer:

I am...someone with special gifts.

I am...Someone with Special Gifts.

I am...SOMEONE WITH SPECIAL GIFTS!

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(to the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*)

God Made Me

I'm so glad God made me, me
I'm so glad God made me, me
I'm so glad God made me, me
Just the way I am.

I'm so glad God made you, you
I'm so glad God made you, you
I'm so glad God made you, you
Just the way you are.

4. MEMORY WORK: (10 minutes)

Cut out the following body part shapes from pieces of paper and print the memory verse words on them as indicated:

Head = "God has

Left arm = arranged,

Torso = the parts

Right arm = in the body,

Left hand = everyone

Right hand = of them,
Left leg = just as
Right leg = he wanted
Left foot = them to be
Right foot = 1 Corinthians 12:18

Pass the shapes out to 10 children. Have everyone say the verse together as the children place the shapes on the floor to create the shape of a person's body. They should say, "God has," as the head is put down. They will say, "arranged," as the left arm is laid down. Continue until the paper body is complete. Read the verse several times. Then have all the children repeat the verse as they point to the corresponding parts of their own bodies. Continue until they can say the verse from memory.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing *This Little Light of Mine* again.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 24

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 1:2, 3:16; Colossians 1:18-20,24; Matthew 16:15-19, 7:24-27; Ephesians 2:19-22.

MEMORY VERSE: "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church." Matthew 16:18

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson each child will learn:

1. that churches are people, not buildings.
2. that Jesus is the head of the church.
3. that the church is God's design for reaching the world with the message of salvation.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Read and study all the Scriptures related to the lesson..
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect teaching and learning aids. You will need enough rocks for each child to have one (if you meet in a place where the children cannot pick them up outside). Have 4 sticks (20-30 cm. long) ready to use as batons in the relay race.
5. Read through the Bible teaching time and be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson. Be prepared to lead the activities and songs.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Relay Race

Have the children line up in 4 groups. Give the first child in each line a stick 20-30 cm. long. At a signal from you, the first child in each row will race to a pre-arranged point and then run back to pass the stick to the next person in line. That person will run and return the stick to the third child, etc. The first row to have all its members finish the race is the winner. Tell the children just as they passed on something to their friends in the race, Jesus also passed on something to his followers. We will learn in today's lesson how Jesus handed over a job to the church to do for him.

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

Three Little Pigs

Once upon a time there were 3 little pigs who decided to build houses for themselves. The first little pig met a man with a load of straw and quickly

by playing and doing chores. We should get plenty of rest, especially during the years when we are still growing. Then our bodies will glorify God.

Activity Time: (10 minutes)

Do some relay races to help get some exercise. Divide the children into two or three groups. Have the leader stand a good distance away. Each team will get in a row. Each row should be the same distance from the leader. The leader will tell them to do something like run, walk backwards, hop, or skip to the leader. Then each person in the row will come to the leader doing whatever the leader has said and then run back to his or her team. The next person in the row from that team will come to the leader the same way until all have had a turn. The group to finish first is the winner.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Continue with the relay races. Have each child come to the leader and say the verse: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52) Then the child can run back to his group. If he has trouble saying the verse, his group can help him.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. What are some healthy habits that can help our bodies grow strong? (eat vegetables and fruit every day, drink only clean water, brush our teeth after eating, go to a hospital to get good medicine when we are sick, rest every

day, exercise every day, always wash our hands with soap after toileting and before eating, and bathe often.) What are some bad habits to avoid? (drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco. We should not eat too much sugar.) Name some good foods. (fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs, fish, beans, peas, groundnuts) Name some bad foods. (greasy foods, sugary drinks such as Coke, sweets)

2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children to exercise and rest every day.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song:

He Has Made Me Glad

I will enter his gates
with thanksgiving in my heart,
I will enter his gates with praise;
I will say this is the day
that the Lord has made,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
He has made me glad,
I will rejoice for he has made me glad.

6. Close with prayer:

"Thank you, God, for the bodies you have given us. Teach us how to take care of them in a way that pleases you. Help us to use our bodies to glorify you in everything we do. In Jesus' name, Amen."

7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 3

I AM SOMEONE WITH SOMETHING TO SHARE

SCRIPTURES: Proverbs 19:17; Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 6:38; 9:10-17; John 6:1-13.

MEMORY VERSE: "Give to others, and God will give to you. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you." (Luke 6:38)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children will know:

1. God can do something great with the little that they are able to share.
2. God wants us to give our lives to him.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Study the Scriptures.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to tell it in your own words.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Seat all the children in a circle. Tell them you will play a sharing game. Everyone will share his name with the group.

The game is played this way: the first child says to the child beside him, "Hello, my name is Kris. What is your name?" The second child tells his name, then turns to the child beside him and says, "Hello, my name is Paulo, and this is my friend, Kris. What is your name?" The third child tells his name, then turns to the child beside him and says, "Hello, my name is Jondi. These are my friends, Kris and Paulo. What is your name?"

Each child will say the name of all the children before him. The game continues until the last person in the circle says the name of every child. The teacher should sit with the children to take part in the game.

Tell a story: (10 minutes)

Thomas was very interested as he listened to his teacher. She was telling the class about a family near their school. The father was sick and unable to work. Then a terrible thing happened. During a storm, lightning struck the family's house, and it burned to the ground. The mother and father lost all their possessions. Their three children had no home or clothes

or food.

Some adults in the neighborhood were going to try to rebuild a house for the family.

Thomas felt sorry for the children, especially for the son named Mark, who was the same age as Thomas. But Thomas didn't know what he could do to help.

A few days later was a special day for Thomas. It was his birthday. His mother made a beautiful cake. Thomas had fun blowing out the candles. One of his presents was an envelope from his Uncle Ben. Inside was a card and real money to buy whatever he wanted.

All day Thomas thought of what he might buy. He could get a new soccer ball or a truck or a music tape. So many choices!

Then Thomas remembered about Mark and the fire. He thought and thought. He made his decision. Thomas told his parents that he wanted to give his birthday money to Mark. What do you think about what Thomas did? Would his action be pleasing to God?

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune if you do not know this song.)

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust him,
In his presence daily live.
I surrender all, I surrender all,

All to you my blessed Saviour,
I surrender all.

Introducing the Bible lesson: (10 minutes)

Can you think of something you have shared with someone else? (Wait for the children to respond. Possible answers are: my food, a place to sleep, my time, a toy, some money, and clothing.) Can you think of something someone has shared with you? (Wait for responses.) The Bible story today is about a boy who shared something. If you listen you will learn what amazing thing happened because one boy was willing to share.

Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to Matthew 14:13-21.) Today our story is from the Book of Matthew. Long ago in Bible times, a young boy lived near the Sea of Galilee. One afternoon he noticed several people hurrying to the lakeshore. These people were not from his village. He wondered where they were going. More people passed by. Some of them were running. Soon there was a crowd of people heading for the lakeside. The boy asked a passerby, "Where are you going? Why are you in such a hurry?"

"Jesus has crossed the lake in a boat. He is coming this way. Soon he will land on the shore nearby," said the man.

Jesus! Everyone had heard about Jesus! He could make sick people

The Bible tells us that when Jesus was twelve years old, he went with Mary and Joseph to the temple in the big city of Jerusalem. While the boy Jesus was in Jerusalem, he amazed the religious teachers with his understanding of God's Word. As a boy Jesus already knew so much about the Bible. After that visit to Jerusalem Jesus went back to his hometown. The Bible says Jesus was obedient to Mary and Joseph all the years he lived at home.

The Bible does not tell us any stories about Jesus' life from the time he was twelve until he was thirty. But the Bible does say that during all those years Jesus was growing in many ways. Jesus' body was growing. He was becoming a strong and healthy young man. Jesus was also growing in wisdom. He was busy learning God's Word during his youth so he would be ready for the work God wanted him to do as a grown man.

While Jesus was growing up, the people who knew Jesus appreciated his honesty and his hard work. People went to Jesus with their problems because he was caring and wise. Jesus was always obedient to God his Father. And the Bible says that God was pleased with the way Jesus grew. When Jesus was a grown man, he began to teach the people about God's free gift of salvation. He was very busy. Jesus and his followers often walked many kilometres in a single day. Everywhere Jesus went crowds of people followed him. Many of them were sick people who needed help. Many were lonely people who needed

a friend. Jesus knew the importance of getting enough rest. Sometimes he took his followers away to a quiet place where they could be alone. Often Jesus went by himself to a quiet place where he could talk to God his Father in prayer.

We can learn many things from Jesus' example. We should take care of our bodies. We should exercise so our bodies can grow stronger. We should be helpful around the house. It is good to learn a useful skill or trade while we are young. Learning God's Word makes us wise. Are we learning God's Word, the Bible? Do we take time for resting? Do we take time for prayer?

(Open your Bible to 1 Corinthians.) Paul had a message from God for the church people at Corinth. He wrote them a letter that is part of God's Word, the Bible. The people in Corinth were not taking care of their bodies. They liked to stay up late and have parties. They ate too much food and drank too much alcohol. They used their bodies to sin. Paul told them their bodies should glorify God. (Read aloud 1 Corinthians 6:20)

The same is true for us today. We glorify God with our bodies when we take care of the body God has given us. When we take care of our bodies, we have the strength to serve God well.

We should eat healthy foods and drink clean water. We should avoid bad habits such as smoking tobacco and drinking alcohol. We should never use our bodies for immorality. We should not be lazy, but be willing to exercise

One day the children came running home from school. "Gift is sick," they said. Her mother ran out of the house to find Gift. She was at the end of the road walking very slowly. She looked exhausted! Gift told her mother about a class race at school. While Gift was racing against the other children, she had fallen down. She felt weak and dizzy when she tried to stand up. Her teacher took Gift to the nurse for some first aid treatment.

The next day Gift's mother went to talk with the nurse. The nurse said, "Gift is not sick. She is only weak. Gift must eat well and do some exercises. She must start doing a little exercise every day to help make her body strong." Gift decided she would try to exercise every day.

At first the other children laughed at her. She was not able to do very much. After a few days she started running short distances. Soon she was able to run a long way without becoming tired. At school, Gift's class was having another race. This time Gift was ready. She ran as fast as she could. She came in first. She was so glad she had started taking care of her body.

Why was Gift unable to run at first? (She was too weak.) How did exercising help Gift? (She grew stronger, little by little, until she was able to run a long distance.) Do we really need to exercise? (yes) Why? (to help our bodies grow strong)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Use the tune to *London Bridge is Falling Down*. Touch each part of the

body as you name it in the song. Tell the children that our whole body needs to glorify God.)

Head and Shoulders

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
knees and toes, knees and toes.

Head and shoulders, knees and toes,
Knees and toes together.

Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,
Mouth and nose, mouth and nose,
Eyes and ears and mouth and nose,
Mouth and nose together.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Did you know that Jesus was born a baby just like you were? (Show the picture of the baby.) Did you know that Jesus grew and learned just like boys and girls everywhere grow and learn?

When Jesus was a very small boy, he had to learn to walk, talk, and climb a tree just like you did. Jesus helped his mother Mary with the household chores just like all boys and girls help their mothers.

Jesus went to the market and collected firewood and worked in the garden. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a carpenter. He taught Jesus how to help him in the carpentry shop. Jesus learned how to plane the wood until it was smooth and straight. He learned how to use a hammer and a saw.

What other kinds of things can a twelve-year-old boy do? (Hold up the picture of the boy. Let the children give some ideas about what Jesus might have done when he was twelve.)

well again. The boy was excited. He wanted to see this Jesus that everyone was talking about. Maybe Jesus would do something miraculous.

The boy hurried. There were so many people ahead of him already. The boy could see Jesus and several of his followers getting out of a boat. As soon as Jesus stepped on the shore he started helping the sick people who were there. Jesus healed many sick people. Then Jesus led the crowd to a hilltop and sat down to teach them. He taught the people about the Kingdom of God. The boy stayed to listen.

All day people kept coming to hear Jesus. All day the boy stayed nearby to listen. He was so interested in what Jesus was saying that he forgot to eat the little lunch that he had brought. When the sun started going down there were thousands of people on that hillside listening to Jesus. No one wanted to go home.

Jesus' followers came to Jesus and said, "These people have been here all day. They have not had anything to eat. You should send them away so that they can go and buy themselves something to eat."

"You yourselves can give them something to eat," said Jesus. His followers were amazed. "But Lord," they said, "if a man worked for seven months he could not earn enough money to buy bread for all these people!"

The boy could hear what they were talking about. He thought of the little lunch that he carried in a small bag at

his side. He had only five small rolls of bread and two small fish. It was not much to share among so many people, but it was all he had. The boy stepped nearer the circle of Jesus' followers. He reached out and pulled on the sleeve of the one called Andrew. The boy showed Andrew his small lunch.

Andrew led the boy to Jesus. "Master," he said, "here is a boy with five small rolls of bread and two small fish to share. But surely this is not enough food for all these people."

Jesus smiled at the boy. Then he took the little lunch and told his followers to have the people sit down on the grass. Thousands of people sat down all over the hillside. Jesus took the bread in his hands and looked up to heaven. He thanked God. Then he gave the bread and fish to his followers to give to the people.

The boy was amazed. The followers of Jesus just kept passing out food to the people until they were full. When all the people were satisfied, Jesus told his followers to collect the pieces that were left over. There was enough to fill twelve baskets! The boy was amazed that Jesus could do so much with such a very small lunch.

Why did a crowd of people run to the lake shore that day? (They wanted to see Jesus.) What did Jesus do that day? (He healed many sick people; he taught the people about the Kingdom of God.) How many people were listening to Jesus? (Thousands.) How long did the people listen to

Jesus teach? (They listened all day.) The people were hungry. What did Jesus' followers want him to do? (They wanted Jesus to send the people away so they could find something to eat.) What did the boy have in his bag? (He had five small rolls of bread and two fishes.) How much of his lunch did he give to Jesus? (The boy gave all of it.) What did Jesus do with that small lunch? (Jesus used it to feed thousands of people!)

Jesus did not need that boy's lunch to feed all those people. Jesus is God. He has all power. He could have made food come down from heaven. But Jesus wanted to teach the people something about sharing. Whenever we are willing to share what we have, Jesus takes it and makes something wonderful happen. Sometimes we are like the boy in today's Bible story. We do not think we have enough to share. But if we give what we have, Jesus can use us to show his great power to others.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune if you do not know this song.)

All of My Heart

All of my heart, all of my heart,
Take all of my heart, Lord Jesus.
Take all today, take all I pray,
Take all of my heart, Lord Jesus.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Write the memory verse on a chalkboard or in the dirt on the ground: "Give to others, and God will

give to you. The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you." (Luke 6:38)

Have the children read the entire verse two or three times out loud together. Have them stand in a line (or several lines if your group is large). The first child turns to the child on his right and says, "Give to others and God will give to you" (holding out his hands as if giving a gift). The second child holds out his hands as if accepting the gift and says the second part of the verse, "The measure you use for others is the one that God will use for you." He then turns to the next child on his right and holds out his hands, saying the first part of the verse, etc. Repeat until all children have had a chance to say the entire verse.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song. (Make up a tune if you do not know this song.)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
All I am and have are thine,
They shall be no longer mine,
They shall be no longer mine.

6. Close with prayer.

Lesson 23

REST AND EXERCISE

SCRIPTURES: Mark 6:31-32;
1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 9:26-27

MEMORY VERSE: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and men." (Luke 2:52)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know:

1. that Jesus kept growing.
2. that our body is the temple of God.
3. that we can glorify God with our bodies.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the importance of taking care of their bodies.
2. Read and study all the Scriptures.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Bring your Bible to the club.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. Prepare pictures of a baby, a boy, and a grown man to show the children. You may cut the pictures from a magazine or draw the pictures yourself. Make sure the pictures are large enough for the children to see clearly.
6. Read through the Bible teaching time. Be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson and to lead the activities and songs.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Tell a Story: (15 minutes)

(Before class begins, ask two children to help you. Ask them to race to a tree and back. The first child should run as fast as he can. The second child should also run fast, but as he touches the tree, he should begin to slow down and finally stop without finishing the race. Begin the story time by telling the children they are about to see a race. Stand the two helpers beside you and say, "Go!" After the race, tell the children that this illustrates the story you will tell them.)

Gift was the oldest daughter in the family. She was twelve years old. Gift did not like to work out in the fields. She was slow about cooking and helping around the house. Often, her family found her just sitting and doing nothing. She never ran or played like the other children. She complained if she had to walk a long distance.

much sugar and sweets.

Talk about bad habits to avoid such as drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco. Put out some food or show pictures of food, one at a time. Let the children stand if the food is healthy. Tell them to stay seated if the food is unhealthy. Tell the children to pretend they have enough money to buy a Coke. Ask them what they could buy instead that would be better for their bodies.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

God loves us so much that he sent his Son Jesus to take the punishment we deserve for our sins. When Jesus suffered and died on the cross, he bought us with his own life. When I trust Jesus to be my Saviour, I do not live to please myself anymore. Jesus has bought me and now I belong to him. The Bible says that when we remember the special price God paid for us, we will want to please God with our bodies: "[God] bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Play this game to revise the memory verse. Divide the children into four groups. Have a piece of fruit for each group. Each team sits down in a row. The rows need to make a square. The first person gets up with the fruit and runs on the outside of the square. When he gets back to his group he should stand at the end of the row and say the memory verse out loud: "[God] bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 6:20). Then he will sit down and pass the fruit down the row

to the person who is now at the front of the row, waiting to go next.

When everyone in the group has run around the square, the first person may eat the fruit and bring the nut or peeling to the leader. The first group to give its nut or peeling to the leader wins. Lead all the groups to say the memory verse together.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. What did Ruth learn about eating good food? (eating too many sweets can make you sick) What did the king and his family like to eat and drink? (rich, sweet foods and strong wine) What did Daniel and his friends want to eat and drink? (vegetables and water) Is God pleased when we eat good food? (yes) Name some good foods. (fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs, fish, beans, peas, groundnuts) Name some bad foods. (greasy foods, sugary drinks such as Coke, sweets) Name some unhealthy habits to avoid. (drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco) What was the price God paid to purchase us? (God sent his own Son, Jesus, to die on the cross) If my life is so valuable to God, how should I treat my body? (I should honour God by taking care of my body)
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to eat everyday.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing the club song again.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 4

I AM SOMEONE WITH DECISIONS TO MAKE

SCRIPTURES: Colossians 3:12-17; Acts 8:26-39; James 1:12-15; 1 Timothy 6:9-10; Ephesians 6:11-13.

MEMORY VERSE: "Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children will know:

1. God wants to help them make good decisions.
2. They can decide to follow Jesus.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare and teach this lesson.
2. Study the Scriptures.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to tell it in your own words.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. If you want to make the monkey trap described in the object lesson, you will need one dried coconut, a sharp knife, a short length of chain or rope, a short length of wire, and some shiny pieces of glass or glass beads. If you are unable to make a monkey trap, you can use a jar. The neck of the jar should be large enough for your hand to enter the jar, but too small for your clenched fist to be withdrawn from the jar. Print the names of animals on

papers to be used in today's game.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Study the scriptures.
3. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper with the name of an animal printed on it. Each animal name must be given to two children. Tell them to keep their animal a secret. Tell them when you say, "Go," each child must begin making the sound of her animal. At the same time they are making their own animal sound, they must try to locate the other person in the room making the same sound. When all the children are paired up correctly, ask them if it was difficult to decide which animal each child was trying to sound like. Was it hard to decide who was making a sound like theirs?

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(To make the monkey trap Cut the husk off the coconut. Use the knife to bore a small hole about five cm. in diameter in one side of the coconut. Allow the coconut meat to dry for

several days. Then chip out the meat with a knife or screwdriver. You can eat the coconut meat. Wire the chain or rope to one end of the coconut.

Hold and refer to the trap throughout the object lesson. Show the children how the shiny glass is placed inside the hole. If you are unable to make a monkey trap, you can use a jar. Show the children how you can reach inside to grasp a pebble in the bottom of the jar. Show them that the narrow neck of the jar will not allow you to remove the pebble in your clenched fist.

How many of you have ever seen a monkey? Monkeys are very funny animals, aren't they? Monkeys are one of the most popular animals at the zoo or in the game park. People like to watch them and laugh at their silly antics. Sometimes monkeys are captured in the bush and then brought to the zoo or game park to live there. One way to catch monkeys is by using a monkey trap.

A monkey trap is a coconut shell with a small hole drilled in one side. A short, strong chain is attached to one end. The trap is very simple but it works every time. This simple trap is so effective because monkeys are curious, greedy, and stubborn.

While a monkey is watching, the trapper drops bait, such as glittering glass beads, into the hole in the trap. Then the monkey trapper carefully fastens the chain of the trap to a small tree. When the trapper moves out of sight, monkeys will come to investigate the trap.

Eventually, one monkey will reach

into the hole to grab the bait. But now the monkey cannot get its hand out of the coconut. In order to grab the bait, the monkey has made a fist. And the monkey's clenched fist cannot come out through the hole in the coconut. The greedy little monkey does not want to let go of the shiny glass beads; another monkey might get them! But the monkey cannot enjoy its new treasure.

When the monkey tries to walk away with the coconut, the chain pulls tight. The monkey is trapped. If the monkey would let go of the glass beads; the monkey could pull its fist out of the coconut and go free. But as long as the monkey holds the bait in its hand, the monkey trap has worked. Now the monkey trapper can throw a net over the monkey and take it away from the forest.

There are many traps in life that we must learn to recognize. Satan is our enemy. The Bible says he is a deceiver and a destroyer. Satan wants to trap us by making wicked behavior seem desirable to us. Sometimes, like the foolish monkey, our curiosity can lead to a dangerous conclusion. A boy or girl who is curious about drinking alcohol can quickly be ensnared by a very bad habit.

Sometimes our selfish stubbornness makes us want to hold on to a bad habit such as skipping school, even when we know it will cause problems.

But whenever we have been caught in one of Satan's traps, we can ask God to set us free. The strength of the monkey trap is not in the coconut, or the tree, or the chain. The trap can hold the

should eat and drink," said Ashpenaz. "If you do not look as healthy as the other young men, the king will become angry with me. He might even kill me!"

But Daniel still believed God's rules were right. He had an idea to do a test. Daniel said, "For ten days give my friends and me only vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare us with the young men who are eating food from the king's table. You can make a decision on how we look."

The guard agreed to the test. At the end of ten days Daniel and his friends looked healthier and stronger than all those who had been eating the rich, sweet food from the royal table. So from that time on the guard allowed Daniel and his friends to eat vegetables instead of the food the king provided. God was pleased with Daniel's obedience.

Not only did God bless Daniel and his three friends with strong, healthy bodies, but he also helped them to do well in their studies. At the end of their training, King Nebuchadnezzar was more pleased with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah than with any of the other young men. Daniel and his friends became members of the royal court and were the king's favorite helpers.

Daniel wanted to take care of his body. He wanted to eat good food. When Ashpenaz told him to eat the rich, sweet foods, what did Daniel do? (Daniel suggested a test to the guard.) How long did the test last? (ten days) Who won? (Daniel and his friends)

Why? (because vegetables and water are better for our bodies than rich, sweet foods and wine) Do you think God wants us to eat healthy foods, too? (yes)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

O Be Careful

1. O be careful little eyes what you see,
O be careful little eyes what you see,
For the Father up above,
Is looking down in love,
So be careful little eyes what you see.
2. ...ears what you hear...
3. ...teeth what you eat...
4. ...hands what you do...
5. ...mind what you think...
6. ...feet where you go...

Drama: (10 minutes)

Organize the children to do this story as a play. Someone can be King Nebuchadnezzar. Others can be Ashpenaz, the prison guard, Daniel, Daniel's friends, and the ones who eat the king's food. If you have many children, you may use several to play the part of the soldiers who capture the prisoners and take them to Babylon. As you retell the story have each one act out the parts.

Activity time: (10 minutes)

Teach the children about the different foods that help to make us healthy: fruits, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs, fish, beans, peas, and groundnuts. Our bodies will grow healthy and strong if we learn to eat a variety of good foods every day. We will not grow strong if we eat too much greasy food or too

them any more. I want something good to eat." Mom said, "Is this our little Ruth who always begs for sweets?" She prepared her some nsima and vegetables. She knew Ruth had learned an important lesson about eating right.

Sweets taste good, but are they good for us? (No) What will happen if we eat too many sweets? (stomachaches, being too heavy) What will happen if we never eat good food? (We will get very sick, not grow properly, possibly could die.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune if you do not know this song.)

What a Mighty God We Serve

What a mighty God we serve
What a mighty God we serve.
Angels bow before him,
Heaven and earth adore him,
What a mighty God we serve.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to the book of Daniel.) Today our Bible story is from the book of Daniel in the Old Testament. Long ago, Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon conquered the city of Jerusalem. The king took some of the treasures and some of the prisoners he had captured back to Babylon with him. King Nebuchadnezzar asked Ashpenaz, his chief officer, to choose some young men from the prisoners to be special helpers in the king's court.

The king told Ashpenaz to choose handsome, intelligent young men. They should be clever and strong. Ashpenaz would teach these young men how to read and write the language of Babylon. He would teach them the laws and customs of Babylon so that they would know how to serve the king.

King Nebuchadnezzar also told Ashpenaz that the young men should not eat plain food like the other prisoners. The king wanted those who were chosen to eat the same foods and drink the same wine that the king and his family enjoyed. Among the young men that Ashpenaz chose were Daniel and three of his friends: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Daniel and his friends were Jews who worshipped the one true God. Daniel tried to obey all of the rules God had given the Jewish people. Some of God's rules were about the kinds of food the Jewish people should eat. He wanted them to eat food that would help their bodies be strong. Daniel wanted to obey God's rules about food. He did not want to eat the rich, sweet foods that the king ate or drink the strong wine that the king drank. Daniel knew that a healthy body would please God.

When the prison guard brought food from the king's table to Daniel and his friends, Daniel asked to speak to Ashpenaz. Daniel told Ashpenaz that he and his friends would rather have plain water and good vegetables to eat. Ashpenaz liked Daniel, but he was afraid of King Nebuchadnezzar. "The king has already decided what you

monkey only as long as the monkey holds onto the bait!

When we are tricked by Satan's traps, we must let go of the bait and wait for God to satisfy us with his blessings. Then we will have the freedom to enjoy the good things he gives. Only God can give us the power to avoid Satan's traps. God can teach us how to make good decisions.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune if you do not know this song.)

I Will Follow Jesus

Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus;
Anywhere, everywhere,
I will follow him.
Follow, follow, I will follow Jesus;
Anywhere he leads me
I will follow him.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to Acts 8:26-39.) Listen to this Bible story from the book of Acts to hear about someone who made an important decision. Philip, who was a follower of Jesus, lived in Jerusalem long ago.

One day an angel came to Philip with a message. "Get yourself ready for a trip," the angel said. "You must travel on the road that leads south out of Jerusalem." Philip decided to obey God. Philip packed his bag and began walking along the road that went south out of Jerusalem.

Rumble, rumble. Philip heard a chariot coming down the road. Clip, clop, clip, clop. He heard the sound of

horses' feet. As the chariot came closer, Philip could see that the man riding in the chariot was a very important person. The Holy Spirit of God told Philip to go over to the carriage and stay close to it. Philip ran up next to the carriage.

The man riding in the chariot was the treasurer for the queen of Ethiopia. He had been to Jerusalem to worship God, and he was now returning home to Ethiopia. While the man was traveling along in his chariot, he read aloud from a book. Philip listened. He could hear that the man was reading from a book of the Bible.

"Good morning," Philip called to the stranger. "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"No," said the man. "I cannot understand it unless someone explains it to me."

Philip said, "I know the passage you are reading. I will help you understand it."

The man invited Philip to join him in his chariot. Philip climbed into the chariot and sat down. He read the passage from the Bible: "Like a sheep that is taken to be slaughtered, ...he did not say a word."

"These verses tell about Jesus," said Philip. And beginning with those verses, Philip explained the Good News about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.

"Jesus is God's Son," Philip said. "God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to take the punishment for sins that we deserve. Jesus was perfect.

Jesus always obeyed God the Father. But wicked men nailed him to a wooden cross. Jesus died and was buried, but three days later he was raised from the dead by the power of God. Now Jesus lives forever to be our Savior from sin. Jesus loves everyone. He loves you. He wants you to turn from your sinful ways and follow him."

The man listened to everything Philip said. Then he smiled. "I have a decision to make. I do love Jesus," he said. "I believe he died for my sins. I want him to be my Savior and Lord. Thank you, Philip. Thank you for telling me about Jesus."

Who made an important decision? (Philip and the Ethiopian official) What did each one decide? (Philip decided to obey God. The Ethiopian official decided to believe in Jesus as his Savior.) Every day each one of us has many decisions to make. We decide how to spend our money, how to spend our time, and if we will pay attention to our teachers at school. We decide whether or not to obey our parents and who will be our friends.

Learning how to make good decisions is an important part of growing up. The most important decision you can make is the decision to follow Jesus. When you receive Jesus as your Savior, God will change you on the inside. Then you will want to make decisions that please God.

Encourage the children to talk about good and bad things that they can decide to do. Which are some good things we ought to do? (share,

forgive, pray, etc.) How can we do these good things? (Only God can change us so that we are able to do the things that please him.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

I Have Decided

I have decided to follow Jesus (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.
Though none go with me, I still will follow (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Have the children stand in a circle and repeat the verse with you twice: "Everything you do or say, then, should be done in the name of the Lord Jesus, as you give thanks through him to God the Father." (Colossians 3:17)

Then have the children repeat the verse, jumping on the first word. Have the children repeat the verse, jumping on the second word. Have the children repeat the verse, jumping on the third word, and so on until every word in the verse has been emphasized by jumping. Do not forget to include the reference.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson. Encourage the children to ask God to help them make good decisions.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song: *Jesus Loves Me This*

GOOD NUTRITION

SCRIPTURES: Daniel 1: 1-21; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

MEMORY VERSE: "[God] bought you for a price. So use your bodies for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 6:20)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will understand:

1. the importance of a balanced diet.
2. that God wants us to take care of our bodies by eating correctly.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the importance of taking care of their bodies.
2. Read and study all the Scriptures.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect teaching and learning aids. Bring in food items or pictures of some good food and some bad food. Some examples of bad food would be rotten fruit, donuts, candy, and Coke. Some examples of good food would be pumpkin leaves, corn, fresh bananas, and groundnuts.
5. Read through the Bible teaching time. Be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson and to lead the activities and songs

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

One day a little girl named Ruth was complaining about having to eat nsima (or substitute a local staple food) every day. She wanted cakes, doughnuts, and sweets every day. Her mom told her that sweet foods were not good for her. Ruth's mom said that nsima and vegetables would help Ruth grow and stay healthy. Finally, her mother grew very tired of Ruth's fussing. She told Ruth she could have all the sweets, cakes, and doughnuts she wanted for one week.

Ruth was so happy. She had a doughnut right then. Yum! It tasted so good. Later, she ate some sweets. That evening she had a cake. The next day she ate another doughnut for breakfast. She had more sweets and cakes throughout the day. That evening Ruth did not feel well. Her stomach hurt. Her mom offered her sweets, doughnuts, and cakes. Ruth said, "Oh, no, thanks. I do not want

use the toothbrush, sing the song like this:

*This is the way we brush our teeth,
brush our teeth, brush our teeth,
This is the way we brush our teeth, so
early in the morning.*

After you have done this, let some children come up and try to show the other children. Everyone can sing the song together. Tell the children not to share combs or toothbrushes. This can cause sickness.

4. MEMORY WORK: (10 minutes)

Tell the children to stand and say their memory verse: "Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 10:31) Tell them to sit down and say the verse. Tell them to say the verse loudly. Tell them to say the verse softly. Tell them to say the verse fast. Tell them to say the verse slowly. Let the boys say the verse. Let the girls say the verse. Tell the children that everything we do to care for our bodies will give God glory.

Drama: (10 minutes)

Organize the children into several groups to prepare a pantomime. Explain that each group should choose some boys or girls who will pantomime several healthy habits that should become part of our daily routine. For example one child might pretend to wake up in the morning, wash his face and hands, and comb his hair. Another child can pretend to wash his hands before eating and then

brush his teeth afterwards. Another child might pretend to refuse a Coke and some cake and choose milk and a banana instead. Another child can pretend to refuse a cigarette given to him by a friend.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. Who made us? (God) How are we different from everything else that God has created? (We are made in the image of God. We are made with spirits that are designed to live forever. We can choose to love and obey God.) Who takes care of us when we are little? (Our parents) Who takes care of us when we get older? (We must take care of ourselves.) What are some healthy habits that can help our bodies grow strong? (We should eat vegetables and fruit every day, drink only clean water, brush our teeth after eating, go to a hospital to get good medicine when we are sick, rest every day, exercise every day, always wash our hands with soap after toileting and before eating, and bathe often.) What are some bad habits to avoid? (drinking alcohol, smoking tobacco, eating too much sugar.)
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do to take care of their bodies each day.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing the activity song again.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 5

JESUS WAS BORN FOR OUR SALVATION

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 1:18-25;
Luke 1:28—2:20; John 3:16; 1
Corinthians 15:3-4; Galatians 4:4-5; 1
John 4:9-10, 14.

MEMORY VERSE: "This very day
in David's town your Savior was born
- Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this
lesson the children will know:
1. that Jesus was born to be our
Savior.
2. they will begin to think about what
this salvation means to them.

birth such as towels or cloths for robes
and headdresses and a stick for a
shepherd's staff. You will also need a
ball for the memory verse game.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club
song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday
during the past week, visitors, and
those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they
remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Baby Charades

Tell the children they are going to
take turns pretending to be babies who
cannot talk. The first child who is the
baby will think of something he would
like to have. In order to let the others
know what he wants or needs, he will
have to tell them with motions and
actions only. The first child to guess
what the baby wants becomes the next
baby to do an action for the others to
guess. When everyone has had a turn,
tell the children that today's Bible
story is about a very special baby.

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

A nine-year-old boy was walking
alone in the mountains. As he turned a
bend, he came face to face with a

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God's help as you prepare
to teach this lesson. Ask God to
prepare the hearts of the children to
understand this lesson as it is being
taught.
2. Read and study the background
Scripture passages.
3. Memorize the memory verse.
4. Read the teaching story many times
and be prepared to teach it in your own
words.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Collect teaching helps for this
lesson. If possible, bring a picture of a
manger to class. Or you can make a
manger by putting some grass in a box.
Put a doll in the box. You might want
to bring some simple props to help the
children dramatize the story of Jesus'

cobra. He was afraid. He could not move. He knew the snake could strike at him at any moment. The boy did not know what to do.

Then a strange and amazing thing happened. Suddenly, while the boy was still wondering how to save himself, a large eagle flew down. The eagle snatched up the snake and flew away. The boy could not believe his eyes. He was very thankful he had been saved.

How do you think you would feel if you came upon a cobra? (very afraid, very hopeless) How would you feel about the eagle? (surprised, very grateful) In this story an eagle saves a boy from danger. In today's Bible story a baby boy comes to save the entire world from danger.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune for these words if you do not know this song.)

Coming For Me

Jesus my Savior to Bethlehem came,
Born in a manger to sorrow and shame;
Oh, it was wonderful, blessed be his name,
Coming for me, for me.
Coming for me, for me.
Oh, it was wonderful, blessed be his name,
Coming for me, for me.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

In the beginning when God created the earth and everything in it, he made everything beautiful and perfect. But not long after God created mankind to

live in the world, man chose to disobey God. Sin and death entered the world and began to spoil all that God had made. God was so sad about the sin that had spoiled his perfect creation that he made a promise. God promised to send a Savior - someone who could save all people from the punishment and the power of sin and death. Today's Bible story is about the coming of that promised Savior. It is a true story about the birth of Jesus, God's son, found in the book of Luke..

(Open your Bible to Luke — chapters 1 & 2.) Long ago in a town called Nazareth, an angel appeared to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary that God had chosen her to be the mother of the promised Saviour. Mary was astonished at this news. "How can this be?" she asked the angel. "I have never been married to a man." The angel told Mary that the Holy Spirit of God would enable her to become pregnant through the power of God. For this reason, the child she would bear would be known as the Son of God.

Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph. When Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant, he was very upset. But an angel appeared to Joseph also. The angel told Joseph that Mary was going to be the mother of God's own Son. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. Joseph was a righteous man. He wanted to obey God. Joseph decided to take care of Mary and her baby.

make good choices. He wants us to live forever with him in heaven.

God designed our body for our spirit to live in while we are alive on this earth. The Bible says that when we trust Jesus to be our Saviour, our bodies become like a holy place where the Spirit of God lives. That is the reason our bodies are so special to God. God wants us to honor him with our bodies and with our spirits. David wrote to us in the Psalms that God created every part of us. God put us together in our mother's womb. From the time we were born, God has been at work in our bodies. He designed each part of our bodies to work together for a long time. When we come into this world, our mothers and fathers must help us to grow. They give us our food and care for our bodies.

Soon we must learn how to care for our bodies ourselves. We need to eat food that will make us strong. We need to eat vegetables and fruit every day. We need to drink water that is clean. We need to try to eat different foods. We must not eat too much sugar. God wants us to love and obey him by the way we use our bodies. We must take care of the body he gave us. We will not get another body here on earth.

If we get sick, we must go to a hospital to get good medicine. We must rest every day so our bodies can get energy. We must exercise every day. We should always wash our hands with soap after toileting and before eating. We should bathe often, especially in hot weather. All of these

good habits help our bodies grow and be strong. We should avoid bad habits such as drinking alcohol and smoking tobacco. God is pleased when we care for the body he gave us.

Activity time and song: (15 minutes)

Have a basin of water, soap, a comb, and a toothbrush or stick. Show the children how to wash their hands using soap. Tell them to wash their hands with soap after toileting and before eating. As you wash your hands, sing this song:

*This is the way we wash our hands,
wash our hands, wash our hands,
This is the way we wash our hands, so
early in the morning.*

As you use the comb, sing the song like this:

*This is the way we comb our hair,
comb our hair, comb our hair,
This is the way we comb our hair, so
early in the morning.*

If necessary, show the children how to use a small twig to brush their teeth. Sharpen one end for cleaning between the teeth, then chew on the other end and use the fibers as a brush. Teach the children to brush their teeth from top to bottom, never from side to side. Teach them to brush the front, back, top, and bottom of all their teeth. Teach them to make a tooth powder by mixing equal parts salt and bicarbonate of soda. Wet the toothbrush first so the powder will stick to the brush. As you pretend to

someday as I have lost mine. I will help you. Let's go find some good sticks to use to clean your teeth after you eat. I will teach you how to take care of your teeth."

Erin listened to her sister. She did not eat a lot of sugar. She cleaned her teeth with a stick every day and rinsed her mouth out with water after eating. Her teeth grew straight and strong.

What happened to Ellen's teeth? (They fell out.) Why? (Because she did not take care of her teeth and used them to open a bottle) Did Erin listen to her sister? (Yes.) What do you think Ellen taught Erin about taking care of her teeth? (Avoid sweets. Brush teeth well every day.) What will happen if we take care of our teeth? (Our teeth will be healthy and strong.) God wants us to take care of our teeth and every part of our body. He wants us to grow up strong and healthy.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know the tune, make up one of your own.)

If You're Happy and You Know It

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (clap, clap)

If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (stomp, stomp) (2x)
If you're happy and you know it, then

your face will surely show it.
If you're happy and you know it,
stomp your feet. (stomp, stomp)

(Follow the same pattern to lead other verses: turn around, say "amen," touch the ground, reach up high, etc.)

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

God created everything. The Bible says when God created the heavens and the earth and all the animals, he was pleased with everything he had made. But when God created people, he was very pleased indeed! People are God's special creation. People are made in the image of God.

Rocks and rivers cannot choose to love and obey God. Flowers and trees cannot choose to love and obey God. The sun and the moon cannot choose to love and obey God. None of the animals can choose to love and obey God. Only people, men and women and boys and girls, can choose to love and obey God.

The part of us that can choose to love and obey God is called our spirit. God designed our spirit to live forever. It is the part of us that thinks and feels and makes decisions. We use our spirit to solve problems and make choices. When we choose to receive Jesus as our Savior and follow him, God says our spirit will live forever in heaven with God.

When we choose not to accept Jesus' free gift of salvation and to follow our own way, God says our spirit will be separated from him forever in a place of punishment. God loves you and me. He wants us to

At that time the emperor ordered that everyone in the land be counted according to their tribal groups. Each person had to return to his home place to be counted there. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby.

Bethlehem was full of visitors who had returned to be counted. All the rest houses were full. There was no room for them in the city. Finally, Joseph found an innkeeper who would let them have some space in the stable with the animals. While Mary was in the stable, she gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in the animals' feeding box.

That very night some shepherds were out in the countryside near their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared to them, and the dark night sky became bright. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I am here to bring you some very good news - news that will make all the people very happy. On this very day your Savior has been born in the city of Bethlehem. His name is Jesus Christ, the Lord. You will know that what I am saying is true when you find the baby in Bethlehem. He will be wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

After the angel had said this, the night sky was suddenly filled with a huge number of heavenly angels praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!"

The shepherds wanted to see the baby. "Let's go to Bethlehem," they

said to each other, "and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried to Bethlehem and found Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus, just as the angel had said.

When the shepherds saw the baby lying in the feeding box, they told Mary and Joseph what the angel had said about Jesus. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds told them. The shepherds went back to their sheep singing praises to God because of everything they had seen and heard.

This baby Jesus was God's way of rescuing us from the penalty and the power of sin. Jesus grew to manhood. Jesus always obeyed God, his Father. He lived a perfect life to show us how to live on earth. Jesus did not deserve to be punished, but he died to take the punishment for our sins that we deserve. Jesus died in our place.

But Jesus did not stay dead. After three days in the grave, Jesus was raised from death by the power of God. Jesus has power over death. Jesus lives today to give us power over sin. Jesus came to free us from our sinful desires. Only Jesus can give us the power to obey God.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(#9 in the Friends of Jesus song book)

Jesus Died to Set Me Free

He died to set me free, Hallelujah

Jesus died to set me free.

On the cross he died for me,

Praise God, he set me free.

Thank you for saving me,

Thank you Jesus,

I thank you for saving me.
Thank you Jesus, thank you Lord.
Thank you for saving me.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Say the memory verse and have the children repeat it after you several times: "This very day in David's town your Savior was born - Christ the Lord!" (Luke 2:11) Separate the children into two teams. Tell the teams to sit down facing the line you have drawn on the floor or ground. They try to hit the ball back and forth across the line, keeping the ball in the air. If the ball lands on the ground, then that team must say the verse. Play until the verse has been said many times.

Drama:

Act out the story of the birth of Jesus. The children can volunteer to play the parts of Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, baby Jesus, angels, and shepherds. The children can speak their individual parts or a narrator can read the story while the actors pantomime their parts.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his
sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked
down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the
hay.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. Why was Jesus born in Bethlehem? Who does Jesus want to save? Can we save ourselves? Jesus is a good friend. He wants to help us when we are in need. Jesus is always there waiting for us to ask him to save us.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 21

TAKING CARE OF MY BODY

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:12-14, 19-20; Ephesians 5:29; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 12:1-2; Genesis 1:1-2:2

MEMORY VERSE: "Whatever you do, whether you eat or drink, do it all for God's glory." (1 Corinthians 10:31)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know:

1. how to take care of his body.
2. that God wants us to take care of our bodies.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the importance of taking care of their bodies.
2. Read and study the Scriptures.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect teaching and learning aids: a bucket for water, soap, towel, combs and toothbrushes or sticks for the activity.
5. Read through the Bible teaching time and be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson. Prepare to lead the activities and songs for the lessons.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

One day a mother and her two girls went to town to sell firewood. They were lucky enough to sell all their wood. The mother took them to the store. They bought three Fantas. They did not have an opener for the drinks, so Ellen said, "I can do it." She took her teeth and pulled the first cap off.

Her mother said, "Ellen that is not good for your teeth."

Ellen just kept on going. On the last bottle she pulled hard to get the cap off. But this time Ellen's teeth came out instead. Two of her front teeth were gone. She knew that they would not come back. These were not baby teeth. She was sad.

Ellen went to the hospital to get some help. The dentist told her that she had not been taking care of her teeth for a long time. She would soon lose all her teeth and need to wear false teeth. She would not be able to eat uncooked vegetables, sugar cane, and other favourite foods.

Ellen looked at her little sister and said, "Erin, you must take care of your teeth so that you do not lose them

Buzz session: (10 minutes)

Divide the children into groups and use your box of questions related to the lesson to have them answer the questions. Read the question to the entire group and ask each small group to discuss it. Try to have an adult leader in each group.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(You may use the tune of *If You're Happy and You Know it, Clap Your Hands.*)

I Am Special

I am special, I am special to the Lord.
I am special, I am special to the Lord.
For the Lord made me, and I'm special, you see.
I am special. I am special to the Lord.

Prayer:

Let the children pray, thanking God for creating them to be special.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Since you are God's people, it is not right that any matters of sexual immorality or indecency or greed should even be mentioned among you." (Ephesians 5:3)

Teach the phrases of the verse. Divide the children into groups and assign a phrase to each group to say. Say it again and assign a different phrase to each group. Continue until everyone can say the whole verse well.

5. CLOSING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Briefly revise the lesson.
2. Sing: *I have Decided to Follow*

Jesus.

3. Make announcements.
4. Pray together.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 6

JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION

SCRIPTURE: John 18:1 —19:29;
Romans 5:8

MEMORY VERSE: "But God has shown us how much he loves us--it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8).

OBJECTIVES: As a result of hearing the story the child will understand that:

1. Jesus died to save sinners.
2. all of us are sinners. Only Jesus can save us.
3. he needs to be aware of sin in his

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Study the Scripture passage (John 19:1-29.)
3. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to teach it in your own words.
4. Memorize the memory verse.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Look for a picture of Jesus on the cross. If you do not find one, make a cross using two sticks.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with a prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, say the club pledge.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors and those who brought a visitor today.

4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Team Tag

One person is "it." All the others go and hide. When "it" finds someone, he helps "it" look for the others. The game continues until everyone is found. The last person found is "it" for the next game.

This game can illustrate how we can tell the good news about Jesus. When we tell someone about Jesus, they can help us find others whom they can tell about Jesus.

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

Tom was 11 years old. He looked big for his age. He lived in the village with his parents and grandmother. Tom was naughty and proud. He would bully other boys and girls at school and home. He did not respect his teachers. He got into trouble often.

One windy day Tom was playing with fire outside his grandmother's house. His mother saw him and said, "Tom, put the fire out right now. It is not good to play with fire." When Tom's mother left, he started playing with the fire again. This time he went

behind the house so his mother would not see him. One of the sticks fell on some grass lying against the wall of the house. The grass caught on fire quickly. Soon the thatched roof was on fire.

Tom tried to stop the fire, but the wind was too strong. He was afraid his grandmother's home would burn, so he ran into the house to save it. While he was in the house part of the roof fell towards the door and blocked Tom inside.

Tom's father saw the smoke. He ran to the house. He was told that Tom was blocked inside the burning house. Tom's father was able to get into the house through a window. He got the door open so Tom could be saved. Part of the roof that was left, however, fell on Tom's father. He died trying to save his son.

- How would you describe Tom? (big for his age, naughty and proud, did not respect his parents or teachers)
- What did Tom do wrong? (played with fire, did not obey his mother)
- What bad thing happened because Tom did not obey? (Tom's father died trying to save him.)

Drama: (10 minutes)

Ask the children to act out the story. Choose children to be Tom and Tom's mother and father.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so
Little ones to Him belong
They are weak but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me, this I know
He came to earth his love to show
Jesus died on the cross for me
Now from my sins I am set free.
Jesus, our Savior
Jesus, our Savior
He is alive today.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Jesus was with his disciples in the garden. Jesus had been praying. Judas, the disciple who was a traitor, led the Roman soldiers to the place where Jesus was.

The soldiers took Jesus to the home of the High Priest. The High Priest asked Jesus many questions about his disciples and the things he had been teaching. One of the guards slapped Jesus when he answered the High Priest's questions.

Early in the morning they took Jesus to Pilate, the Roman governor. Pilate also questioned Jesus, but he did not find that Jesus had done anything wrong. Pilate wanted to set Jesus free, but the people wanted him to die. They cried, "Free Barabbas." Barabbas was a bandit and a very bad man.

Pilate told the soldiers to whip Jesus. Then they put a crown of thorns

Discussion: (10 minutes)

How to resist pressure to have sex:

Describe the following situation and discuss the answer with the children.

You have been seeing someone older for a month. This person has treated you well and has done things for you. You have been given gifts. You have really enjoyed the attention. During a party at your friend's house, he/she suggests that you leave the party house and go somewhere private. You do not want to have sex. What do you do? (have children give answers)

Discuss the reasons for not having sex before marriage:

1. Protection from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV.
2. Protection from unwanted pregnancies and abortions.
3. Protection from damaging your self-image.
4. Protection from God's righteous judgment.
5. Protection from living a life of guilt and shame.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

The Love I Give Unto You

The love I give unto you.

It's the love that the world cannot give.

It's the love that the world cannot understand.

Love to know, Love to live,

The love I give unto you.

The joy I give unto you

The peace I give unto you

Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to 2 Samuel 13.) In

the Bible there is a story of a young woman named Tamar. She was beautiful and confident, a daughter of a great king. She was an innocent young woman, full of compassion. The Bible tells us that she was a victim of rape.

Amnon, a son of the king, thought he was in love with his half-sister, Tamar. His cousin, Jonadab, told Amnon to pretend to be ill and ask his father, King David, to send Tamar to come and make him some bread and feed him.

When her father, King David, asked her to help her half-brother, Tamar agreed. Amnon betrayed her. During that time, despite Tamar's pleas, he raped her.

Tamar was deeply damaged by the experience and the rest of her life was affected by it. She lived the rest of her life in her brother Absalom's house, "a desolate woman." The people who loved her failed her. Everyone in the family was affected by this betrayal, as well as all of David's kingdom.

Application: (5 minutes)

Tamar reminds us of women and girls in our time who have suffered sexual abuse. Sometimes the love that people profess to have for someone is not true love because they use a person for their greedy desire and then leave them in distress.

Learn to say "No". Tell the person if they continue, you will consider it rape. Try to run away from the person, tell a trusted adult, shout for help, or report to police.

The world behind me, the cross before me (3X)
No turning back, no turning back.

Drama: (10 minutes)

Narrator: *Rita was in her final year in primary education (grade seven) when she dropped out because she was pregnant. She has been advising her friend, Mwaka, to stay in school and to avoid boyfriends and sex. Mwaka is in her first year in secondary school, and she has been doing well in her classes. Despite her friend's warning, she has become pregnant and has come to break the news to her friend.*

(Rita is sitting outside her home. She is rocking her baby in her arms. As she sits alone with the baby, she talks about how tired she has been and how much work the baby turned out to be.)

Rita: *Oh, my baby, how troublesome you are, keeping me up all night like that! Won't you ever settle down?*

Mwaka walks up and shouts: *Hello, is anybody home?*

(Rita welcomes her warmly. She sits down and greets her friend. She enquires after the health of the baby.)

Mwaka: *How is the baby?*

Rita: *She has been sick and cries throughout the night. Why are you not in school today?*

(Mwaka changes the subject by talking about the baby.)

Rita again: *But why are you not in school today?*

Mwaka: *Where is the baby's father?*

Rita: *I have not seen James since the birth of the baby. I only heard that he is now studying in the UK, but he has never come to see the baby. I asked why you are not in school today?*

Mwaka: *My friend, do you remember the advice that you always gave me?*

Rita: *Of course, I do. I told you not to make the same mistake I made. Forget those boys until you finish your studies.*

Mwaka (in tears): *I am pregnant with Kennedy's baby.*

(Rita becomes angry and reminds Mwaka of all the advice she had given her.)

Mwaka (protesting): *But he loves me! He has promised to marry me.*

Rita: *Don't you remember that James promised me the same. Where is he now?*

Mwaka: *Kennedy threatened to leave me if I didn't have sex with him. He said that it was the only way to show that I loved him, and he said everyone was doing it.*

on his head. Jesus was mocked, slapped, and treated very badly. Finally they put a purple robe on him like a king would wear. They did this because they were angry that some said Jesus was the King of the Jews.

Jesus had to carry a heavy cross. The soldiers led Jesus to a hill outside the city of Jerusalem. There they nailed Jesus to the cross. Pilate wrote a sign to put on the cross. It said, "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews."

When Jesus was thirsty, they gave him vinegar to drink. The soldiers took his clothes and divided them among themselves.

Jesus was crucified and died on the cross. He suffered very much so that he could save us from our sins. No one else was good enough, only Jesus. Jesus loved us. He did not want us to have to die for our own sins.

These are sad stories. We feel sorry that Tom's father died in order to save his naughty son. If Tom had obeyed, his father would not have died.

In the same way, it is sin that caused Jesus to die on the cross. He had to die because of the wrong things we have done. We all sin.

Some people lie. Others are jealous of new or better things their friends have. Some get angry. People steal things that belong to other people. Others start fights and then feel happy when they see people bleeding and crying.

Tom could not save himself. He was trapped inside a house on fire. He needed someone to come and save

him. Tom's father died, but Tom was saved.

Many of you, like Tom, do not listen or obey your parents or other adults. It is because of sins like this that Jesus had to die on the cross.

Jesus loves us very much. He sees all we do, and yet he still loves us. Jesus knew we could not save ourselves from our sins. He had to do this for us. Jesus suffered and died so that we might be saved from the death we deserved to die.

When Jesus died on the cross, he took upon himself the burden of sin of everyone who has ever lived. On the cross he died for you and me just as he did for those who watched him die. Let us thank him for being willing to save us.

Prayer:

Thank God for dying on the cross so that we might be saved from our sins.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, make up a tune to fit the words.)

God So Loved the World
For God so loved the world
He gave his only Son
To die on Calvary's tree
From sin to set me free.
Someday he's coming back.
What glory that will be.
Wonderful his love for me.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Write the memory verse on a chalkboard or a large piece of paper. "But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!" (Romans 5:8).

Let the children repeat the verse beginning with slow, tired voices and repeating it with more enthusiasm each time until they are shouting it excitedly and can say it from memory.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson:
What did Tom's father do to save Tom? (He went into a burning house and died helping Tom escape.)
How did God show he loved us? (He gave his Son to die for us.)
Are all of us sinners? (Yes.)
What are some bad things we do which make us sinners? (lie, steal, disobey our parents)
Could we save ourselves? (No.)
Was there anyone else but Jesus who could save us? (No.)
2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Sing *Jesus Loves Me* again.
5. Close with prayer.
6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

SAYING NO TO PREMARITAL SEX

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 13:1-21,
Ephesians 5:3

MEMORY VERSE: Since you are God's people, it is not right that any matters of sexual immorality or indecency or greed should even be mentioned among you. (Ephesians 5:3)

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the lesson the children should:

1. know the meaning of abstinence in the matter of sexual behavior.
2. be able to give reasons for saying no to premarital sex..
3. be able to explain the importance of waiting until marriage for sex. (True Love Waits)

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God's power to teach the lesson well.
2. Read the Scriptures as you prepare for the lesson.
3. Memorize Ephesians 5:3.
4. Take your Bible with you to the club meeting.
5. Prepare for a short drama. Choose two girls and a narrator to prepare for the drama before the lesson. Tell them what to do and say in the drama.
6. Write questions on pieces of paper that the children will read and answer in groups. Place the papers in a box. The questions should include: Give one reason why it is important to say no to premarital sex. What should you do or

say if someone is trying to involve you in sexual activities? What does God want you to do when you might want to have sexual activities before marriage?

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer. Pray for the families of the children and pray that the Lord will protect the children from inappropriate sexual activities.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and with hand over the heart, say the club pledge.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors and those who brought a visitor.
4. Revise the previous lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Game: (10 minutes)

Ask the children to teach you a new game they have learned recently. Take turns playing two or three games, each for a short time.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

I have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus, (3X)
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow, (3X)
No turning back, no turning back.

his or her own way.

(Open your Bible to the following scripture.) 1 Corinthians 12:14-19 says, "For the body itself is not made up of one part, but many parts. If the foot were to say, 'Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body,' that would not keep it from being a part of the body. And if the ear were to say, 'Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body,' that would not keep it from being a part of the body. If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. There would not be a body if it were all only one part!"

This Scripture shows that both girls and boys need each other and should live in harmony. It cannot be said that boys are superior or inferior to girls. If some girls are more fragile than boys, it does not mean that girls are inferior. Boys have strength because they will become providers. Girls are usually very caring because they will become mothers.

Prayer:

Let the children bow their heads and pray, thanking God for creating them as a boy or a girl and for caring for them.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself but to God." 1 Corinthians 6:19.

Teach the memory verse by using the bean bag game. While standing in a circle, the children will throw the bean bag (or ball) to each other. The child who receives the bean bag (or ball) will say a phrase of the verse and throw the bag (or ball) on to another person until everyone has had a chance to say something.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Revise the lesson.
2. Ask the children to do or say something to show appreciation for the opposite sex.
3. Make announcements.
4. Sing: *Lord, I Want to be a Christian in My Heart*.
5. Close with prayer.
6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 7

JESUS ROSE FOR OUR SALVATION

SCRIPTURES: Luke 24:1-49; John 20:1-29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58.

MEMORY VERSE: "Christ died for our sins...he was buried and...he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3b-4)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know:

1. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead after three days in the tomb.
2. there were many witnesses to Jesus' resurrection.
3. the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the basis for our hope of eternal life with God.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson. Read the story several times until you can tell it in your own words.
4. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. Choose a stick about thirty centimeters long to be used as a microphone. You may want to attach a small ball on one end of the stick and wrap it in aluminum foil. Tie a string to the other

end, to give the appearance of an electrical cord. You will also need a large piece of paper with the memory verse written on it and a pair of scissors. Put two sets of large adult clothes in two suitcases or large bags to use in today's game.

6. Before class, choose three children willing to participate in a short drama to begin the lesson. Try to choose children who were present for the last session (Jesus Died On the Cross for Our Salvation). Explain the questions you will be asking them and help them practice their responses.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club pledge.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Quick Change Relay

Provide 2 sets of large adult clothing: jeans or skirt, shirt, hat, shoes. Place each set of clothes in a suitcase or large sack at one end of the room. Divide the children into 2 teams. Line them up at the end of the room opposite the clothing bags.

The first person in line for each team

will run to the clothes, put them all on, pick up the bag, race back to his team, take off all the clothes, and put them back in the bag.

The next player puts on all the clothes at the starting line, races with the bag to the opposite end, removes the clothes, puts them in the bag, and leaves it there before running back to his team to tag the next player. The first team to have all its players finish wins.

Introduce the Bible lesson: (10 minutes)

Use a pretend microphone to announce a radio interview with three witnesses to the crucifixion of Jesus. Be sure to hold the microphone in front of the children as they respond to your questions. A sample dialogue follows, but you should allow the children to be creative.

Teacher: "This is Mary Banda with MBN radio, broadcasting live from Jerusalem in Israel. Today I am talking with several eyewitnesses to the amazing events of the last few days. Excuse me, sir, can you tell me exactly what has caused all the excitement here in Jerusalem?"

Child #1: "Yes, our leaders have crucified Jesus of Nazareth."

Teacher: "And what crime did Jesus commit?"

Child #2: "Jesus did not commit any crime. He was completely innocent."

Teacher: "Innocent? Then why did they crucify him?"

Child #1: "Jesus said he was the Son of God. Jesus claimed he was the

only way to heaven. Many people believed he was God's promised deliverer."

Child #2: "Our leaders were jealous because Jesus was so popular with the common people."

Teacher: "And what do you think about this man Jesus?"

Child #3: "Well, now Jesus is dead and I am not sure what to think. There are rumors he will rise from the dead, but I am not so sure...."

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Have you ever been sad because someone you loved very much had gone away? (Allow time for children to respond.) Maybe a special friend moved to another town. Maybe your grandmother or a parent got sick and died. Maybe your favorite teacher at school left. The Bible story today is about a woman who was very sad when someone she loved was taken away.

(Open your Bible to the last two chapters of the book of Luke or to the 20th chapter of John.) Mary Magdalene was one of the followers of Jesus. She loved Jesus very much because he had helped her stop sinning and had given her a new life. On Friday, Mary had stood close to the cross where Jesus died. Mary was very sad when such a terrible thing happened. When Jesus' body was taken off the cross, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw how Jesus' body was placed in it. She watched as men rolled a large stone across the entrance to Jesus' tomb. How sad and

O Be Careful

1. O be careful little eyes what you see.

O be careful little eyes what you see.

For the Father up above is looking down in love.

O be careful little eyes what you see.

2. ...ears what you hear.

3. ...mouth what you say.

4. ...hands what you touch.

Tell a story: (5 minutes)

Mwape is thirteen years old. She feels her parents are becoming a real bother. They often say things like, "You must always be home before 19:00 hours." "You must not be seen in the company of that person."

Mwape loves her parents, but she also wants to be free from them so that she can enjoy the company of her friends. It will be sometime before she is the adult that she now longs to be. Meanwhile, she must go through this painful change which is all part of becoming an adult.

Parents can be very helpful during the time that a child is changing into a young adult, but not all parents understand how to do this. Sometimes children have to rely on their Heavenly Father to show them how to be obedient to their parents during the time that they would prefer to be independent of their parents' commands.

Mwape spoke with an older adult friend. Her friend advised her to speak with her parents about the changing needs in her life. Mwape took her older friend's advice. Her

parents seemed surprised that she wanted to discuss things with them. After some discussion, Mwape and her parents came to an agreement regarding how late she was allowed to be out with her friends in the evenings. They discussed safety issues and the possibility of her spending more time with her friends on Saturdays and on Sunday afternoons. Mwape's parents were very proud of her for taking the opportunity to speak with them. They realized that she was truly growing up and would soon need to be allowed some of the freedoms she so greatly desired.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me.

Yes, Jesus loves me.

The Bible tells me so.

Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

Boys and girls differ physically in the way they are made and the different things that they do. The Bible says we are the body of Christ. The different parts make up one body (church). Boys and girls complement each other as they use their gifts, feelings and qualities differently. Both boys and girls have energy, courage and intelligence, but each one uses these in

Prepare as many as you need for the size of your group.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart . . .

Introduce the lesson: (10 minutes)

Ask the children to mention different parts of their bodies and their functions, such as eyes to see, legs to walk, hands to hold things, nose to smell.

Say: There are some parts of the body that are very precious to us because they enable us to do work and others that enable men and women to have children. These parts are very important in boys and girls lives as they grow and become men and women.

The human body is something extraordinary. Look at the fascinating way your hands, eyes and feet are made. God created each one of us differently.

When boys and girls enter adolescence, they develop what are called secondary sex characteristics. In girls changes come as her breasts enlarge, her hips broaden and she begins her monthly cycle in preparation for being a mother. Changes in boys include the lowering of the voice, growing facial hair and developing muscles.

These changes can cause confusion and worries. Emotionally boys and girls experience new feelings that they do not know how to respond to. These changes are normal. Girls are attracted to boys, and boys are attracted to girls. This is what is called sexuality. At this stage boys and girls are interested in each other but without any thought of marriage.

The body changes inside and outside when girls and boys are about to become adult women and men. These times make one restless. Because they are no longer children, teenagers begin to want to express their own ideas and opinions. They don't want to be ordered about by grown-ups. They can be rebellious at times, unwilling to do what they are told. Teenagers need to realize that older people do remember what it is like to be an adolescent. Adults just want to help prevent mistakes that can hurt young people for the rest of their lives.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

lonely Mary must have felt! Very early on Sunday Mary Magdalene came to Jesus' tomb. She wanted to show her love for Jesus by pouring oils and spices over his body to make it smell nice. When Mary arrived at the tomb, she was surprised and afraid. Someone had moved the large stone from the entrance to the tomb! When Mary realized that the tomb was empty, she ran to tell Peter and John. They would know what to do.

When Peter and John went inside the tomb, they found the cloth that had been used to wrap Jesus' body. What could it mean? Peter and John went back home wondering about what they had seen.

Mary looked into the tomb again. Two angels were sitting where the body of Jesus had been! One of the angels said, "Don't be afraid! I know you are looking for Jesus. But he isn't here. He has risen, just as he said it would happen."

Mary did not understand the angels' message. She continued to cry. Then Mary turned around and saw a man standing behind her. She thought he was the gardener, so she said to him, "Please, sir, if you have taken Jesus away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."

"Mary!" said the man. Mary recognized that voice. And, suddenly Mary recognized the man - it was Jesus!

"Oh, Teacher!" she said, and she worshipped him.

"Go now, Mary," said Jesus, "and tell my disciples I am alive and I will

soon return to my Father in heaven."

So Mary ran and told the disciples everything. "I have seen Jesus! He is alive!" she probably said. Mary was not sad anymore. What a happy ending to a very sad story!

When Jesus rose from the dead, he did not rise out of the ground as a ghost to scare people. Jesus' body was real. His friends recognized him when they saw him. His disciples talked with him, and they touched him. He even ate food. We can know that the resurrection of Jesus is not just a pretend story because so many people saw him after he had risen from the dead. One time he appeared to more than five hundred of his followers at once!

When Jesus died on the cross, he took on himself the punishment for sin that we deserve. But Jesus' death was only the first part of God's plan to save us from our sins. God knew that a dead man could never save us. How can a dead man hear us when we pray? How can a dead man help us when we suffer? Because Jesus was victorious over death and lives today, we can know he is the only one who can promise us eternal life in heaven.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know the tune, make up one.)

My Jesus is Alive

Alive, alive, alive forever more.

My Jesus is alive, alive forever more.

Alive, alive, alive forever more.

My Jesus is alive.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Today we will learn a verse in the Bible to help us remember the good news that Jesus lives. (Hold up the sign with the memory verse written on it and read it out loud for the children.) "Christ died for our sins...he was buried and...he was raised to life three days later, as written in the Scriptures." (1 Corinthians 15:3b-4)

After the entire group has repeated the verse three or four times, ask for a volunteer to help the group revise the verse. Offer the scissors to the child and ask him to cut away one word of the verse (or the word may be carefully torn away). The child should hold the sign up for the group to see. Then have the entire group repeat the verse again, supplying the missing word. Ask another volunteer to cut away another word. The group should read the sign again, supplying the missing words. Continue in this manner until no words remain and the group can say the entire verse from memory. If time permits, have the volunteers arrange themselves in a line to read the words they have cut away in proper order.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Use the pretend microphone to help revise the lesson. Interview a volunteer who will play the part of Mary Magdalene. Ask questions such as these: Where were you when Jesus was crucified? (close to the cross)

How did you feel about his death? (very sad) Were you there when they put Jesus' body in the tomb? (I went to the tomb.) What did you see? (I saw where they laid him.) Why did you go to the tomb early on Sunday morning? (To pour oils and spices over his body.) How did you find the tomb? (The stone was rolled away and the tomb was empty.) What else happened that morning? (Two angels told me Jesus had risen.) Is it true that you saw the risen Jesus himself? (Yes, he spoke to me in the garden.) Have you told anyone else about these events? (I went and told his disciples.)

2. You can also use the microphone to revise today's memory verse with individual children or to ask other review questions of individuals.
3. Make announcements.
4. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
5. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
6. Sing a song.
7. Close with prayer.
8. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 19

MY BODY

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:13-20, 1 Corinthians 12:14-19

MEMORY VERSE: Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and who was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourselves but to God." (1 Corinthians 6:19)

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the lesson the children should be able to:

1. appreciate their bodies and desire to use them decently.
2. recognize body characteristics of adolescence.
3. use their bodies to honor God.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray that God will give you wisdom as you teach the children and that He will prepare the children's hearts to listen to your lesson.
2. Read and study the Scriptures as you prepare for the lesson.
3. Study the lesson and be ready to tell the stories in your own words.
4. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
5. Write descriptions of Bible characters on pieces of paper to be used in the game. Take a bean bag or ball to use during the scripture memorization.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Welcome the children and pray with them.
2. Together with the children, say the

club verse, sing the club song, and with hands over the heart, say the club pledge. - Luke 2:52.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors and those who brought a visitor.

4. Revise last week's lesson and memory verse.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Game: (10 minutes)

Who am I?

Write the description of a person in the Bible on a piece of paper and stick it on the back of each boy and girl. Let another child read the description so that the tagged child can guess who he/she is. If he/she cannot answer, let the other children help. These are examples:

1. I am a woman. I sang and gave praise to God when the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea. Who am I? (Miriam)
2. I left my home country and followed my mother-in-law to a foreign country. (Ruth)
3. I was a young man when I killed a lion with my hands. (David)
4. I climbed up into a sycamore tree because I wanted to see Jesus when he passed by on the road to Damascus. (Zacchaeus)
5. I lived in the desert and wore clothing made of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. (John the Baptist).

lamb and that he had taken her from Uriah. He was ashamed. He said, "Truly, I have sinned against the Lord."

Prayer:

Let the children bow their heads and pray that they will not give in to temptation but will be delivered from doing evil.

Game: (10 minutes)

Play this game of cards. Write a question on one side of each card. On the other side of the card, write a number between five and ten to represent the points a player will receive for answering the question. (The more difficult the question, the higher the number should be.)

Lay the cards out in front of the children and have them choose a card. They may base their choice on the number of points the question is worth. Be sure they realize the higher the points, the more difficult the question will be.

Examples of questions:

1. What are germs?
2. What do germs do to our bodies?
3. What is purity?
4. How can you keep yourself pure?
5. What should you do when you are tempted to do wrong?
6. Who can help you not to yield to temptation?

(Come up with more questions based on the lesson for today.)

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, think about such things." (Philippians 4:8)

Teach the memory verse by using a repetition game. Begin by having everyone say, in unison, the first word. Then add the second word. Continue adding words until the end of the verse, going back to the beginning of the verse each time.

Say:

Finally,

Finally, brothers,

Finally, brothers, whatever

Finally, brothers, whatever is

Continue all the way to the end of the verse adding the next word each time.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Revise the lesson by reminding the children of the main points on how to remain pure.
2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage the children to bring friends to the next meeting.
5. Sing: *I've Got Peace like a River*.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 8

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE SAVED?

SCRIPTURES: John 3:1-21; 19:38-42

MEMORY VERSE: For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know:

1. what it means to be born again.
2. he cannot enter heaven unless he is born again.

salvation from the front of this book with children who wish to talk after club is finished.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Confessions

Have one child stand with his back to the others. Tell the other children to ask him questions which he must answer "yes," "no," "once," or "never." The children must act out what they mean as they ask the questions. For instance, one child may ask the child who is not looking at them, "Do you do this everyday?" as he acts out combing his hair. Or, a girl may ask, "How many times do you do this everyday?" as she pretends to brush her teeth. The children should make the questions and actions as silly as possible. Let children take turns being the one who answers the questions.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Bring your Bible with you to the club.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. You will need nine squares of paper. The squares should be the same size and color. On six squares write "life"; on three squares write "death".
6. Read through the Bible teaching time and be prepared to give illustrations related to the lesson. Be prepared to lead the activities and songs for the lesson.
7. Be prepared to share the plan of

When the game is finished, tell the children that today's Bible story will be about a man who asked Jesus many questions. But his questions were very serious ones, not funny like these.

Tell a story: (10 minutes)

Once there was a farmer who wanted to build a new house for his family. He was in a hurry to finish building before the rains began. He could not afford to buy bricks, so he hired some friends to help him make the mud bricks to build his house.

But the farmer was impatient. He did not wait until the bricks were completely dry. He used damp bricks to build the walls. He put a grass roof on top and hung a wooden door in front. Now he was ready to move inside the new house with his family.

But when the rains came, those damp bricks began to mold. Soon some of the walls were crumbling down. Because the walls were not sturdy, the grass roof began to fall in. The rains came inside the new house. The family was wet and miserable.

The farmer knew he could not repair the house because he had used bad bricks. The family packed up their belongings and moved in with some relatives. Two families in one house were too many people. Those two families suffered together in the relative's house during the whole rainy season.

When the rains ended, the man tore down the first house and built another one in its place. This time the man was patient. He waited until the mud bricks were completely dry before he

built his house. When the house was finished, the man's family moved in and they were very happy living there.

Was the farmer able to repair the first house he built? (No) Because the first house was poorly built, what did the farmer have to do? (destroy the first house and build another one) Without Jesus, we are like the farmer's first house. Our sinful nature makes us unfit to live in heaven with God. God must take away our sins and make us clean to give us new life with Jesus.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Into My Heart

Into my heart, into my heart,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.
Come in today, come in to stay,
Come into my heart, Lord Jesus.

Change my life, change my life,
Please change my life, Lord Jesus.
Change me today. Take my sin away.
Please change my life, Lord Jesus.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to John chapter 3.) Nicodemus was an important teacher who lived in Jerusalem. He taught the Jews about God's laws. He was a leader among the Jewish people and was very respected. But now the people were not listening to Nicodemus. The people were listening to the teachings of Jesus.

Jesus was able to do many amazing things. He could cure people of their

greater chance of having a long and lasting happy marriage.

Temptations may come. James 1:4a says, "Make sure that your endurance carries you all the way without failing." Every believer can be tempted to do things that will harm the body. We cannot help others to live lives pleasing to God when our own lives are full of sin. They will avoid us and won't believe anything we say. The Bible gives us the example of Jesus Christ. He was tempted but overcame the devil by quoting what is written in the Scriptures. 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises that God will help us to run away from sin.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

This is the Day

This is the day,
This is the day,
That the Lord hath made,
That the Lord hath made.
We will rejoice,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
And be glad in it.
This is the day
That the Lord hath made,
We will rejoice and be glad in it,
This is the day,
This is the day
That the Lord hath made.

Character story from the Bible:

(15 minutes)

The life of King David in the Bible shows how sin can keep us from being everything God wants us to be. One evening David was walking on the roof of his palace. He looked down

and saw a beautiful young woman. She was so lovely that he sent his servants to find out who Bathsheba was. He fell in love with her and had her brought to his room to be with him.

Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, one of David's soldiers. David told the commander, Joab, to put Uriah in front of the hardest fighting so that he would be killed.

Joab obeyed the orders of the king. While they were fighting an enemy city, Joab sent Uriah to a place near the city wall. Men stormed out of the city and killed many of the Israelites. Uriah was one of those killed in the battle. Bathsheba mourned for her husband and later married King David.

God was not happy with David. He sent the prophet Nathan to David to tell David a story. Here is the story: There were two men in the same city. One man was poor and the other was very rich. The rich man had many flocks of sheep. The poor man had only one lamb. He fed it and protected and cared for it.

A stranger came to the rich man, hungry and in need. The rich man did not prepare one of his own animals for the stranger. Instead, he took the poor man's only lamb.

David heard this story and became angry. He said, "The man who would do such a thing deserves to die. He must pay back the poor man four times as much as he took."

Nathan said, "You are the man."

David understood that God was telling him Bathsheba was like that little

must become loyal to whatever role they are currently playing.)Continue playing until there are no more wolves or no more sheep.

Song: (5 minutes)

(Can use same tune as *Be Careful Little Eyes What You See*)

Keep Me True

Keep me true, Lord Jesus,
Keep me true.
Keep me true, Lord Jesus,
Keep me true.
There's a race that must be run,
There's a victory to be won,
Every hour, by thy power,
Keep me true.

Keep me pure

Introduce the lesson: (5 minutes)

Ask: What are germs? (micro-organisms which cause disease)

Ask: What do germs do to our bodies? (cause diseases and death)

Tell a story: (5 minutes)

Once upon a time there was a boy called Mumbi. Mumbi was naughty and never took advice from his parents.

One day Mumbi came home from school and he was very hungry. When he entered the kitchen, he found a pot of chicken sitting on the table. Mumbi looked in the pot and the chicken was looking very tasty. Mumbi did not want to ask his mother if he could have some of the chicken he had found in the kitchen. He took the pot outside behind a tree and ate all the

chicken that was in the pot. However, the chicken had gone bad because it was not well-preserved. Mumbi had an upset stomach. He suffered from diarrhea and became very ill. He could have died from the germs that were growing in the spoiled chicken.

Song: (5 minutes)

Peace is the Flag Flown High

Peace is the flag flown high
From the castle of my heart,
From the castle of my heart,
From the castle of my heart,
Peace is the flag flown high from the
castle of my heart

For the King is in residence there.

Chorus:

So let it fly in the sky.

Let the whole world know

Let the whole world know

Let the whole world know

That the King is in residence there.

Bible Teaching: (15 minutes)

Sin is like a germ. It enters our spiritual lives through many means such as bad friends and bad company and through the kind of music that we listen to. God wants us to live pure lives. Purity means staying away from things that contaminate. Bad morals can contaminate or pollute our spiritual lives.

Purity means much, not only to God, but it is the most wonderful gift you can give to your future spouse. When you choose to remain pure, you avoid the dangers of pregnancy, guilt, and disease. You give yourself a much

sicknesses and heal cripples. Jesus also taught about God's laws. But Jesus taught many things that even Nicodemus did not understand. Jesus taught that to enter heaven people should turn away from sinning and let God change them.

Most of the Jewish religious leaders were jealous and angry because crowds of people were following Jesus. Nicodemus was curious about Jesus and wanted to ask him some questions about his teachings. But he was a little afraid, too. The other religious teachers would be very angry if they found out that Nicodemus had been to see Jesus.

Nicodemus decided he would go to see Jesus at night. The streets of Jerusalem would not be so crowded after dark. Maybe no one would recognize Nicodemus as he made his way to the place where Jesus was staying. Shh! It was dark and quiet. Nicodemus hurried.

When Nicodemus found Jesus he said, "Teacher, I know that God has sent you to teach us. You could not do the amazing things you do unless God sent you." Jesus knew what Nicodemus was really thinking about. He knew Nicodemus had questions about heaven. Jesus said, "Listen carefully. No one can go to heaven unless he is born again."

Nicodemus was surprised. "How can a grown man be born again?" he asked Jesus. "He cannot enter his mother's body and be born a second time!"

Jesus explained that when we are born into our human family, we have

human parents. Because of our sinful nature we do not want to follow God's way. We want to do things our own way. Jesus said if we want to be part of God's family, we must be born of the Spirit of God. Only the Spirit of God can change us on the inside so that we want to follow God's way. Being "born again" is not a physical birth but a spiritual birth that makes us part of God's family forever.

How can the Spirit of God change a person on the inside? "Can you see the wind, Nicodemus?" asked Jesus. "You cannot see it but you can see its power when it makes the branches sway. You can hear it blowing. The Spirit of God is like that wind. When a person is born again, you can see the power of God's Spirit by the change that happens in that person. You can see that a person who has been born again wants to follow God's way."

When God puts his life in us, we become his children. Then we can have eternal life with God, and we do not have to be separated from God forever. Listen to what Jesus told Nicodemus: "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

When Nicodemus left Jesus that night, he had many things to think about. Later when Jesus was crucified on the cross, Nicodemus knew that Jesus did not deserve to be punished. Jesus had never broken any of God's laws. Nicodemus believed that Jesus was taking the punishment for the sins of the whole world.

Nicodemus put his trust in Jesus and was "born again" by the Spirit of God.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me (x3)
The Bible tells me so.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Bring nine squares of paper. The squares should be the same size and color. On six squares write "life"; on three squares write "death". Say the memory verse out loud for the children and then lead them to repeat it several times in unison. "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Ask for a volunteer to help revise the memory verse. When the volunteer comes to the front, let him choose one of the squares of paper. Fold the squares so that he cannot see the words. If his paper says "life," he may remain standing with his paper. If his paper says "death," he can trade it for one that says "life" only if he is able to quote John 3:16 from memory. If the child cannot quote the verse from memory, he should return the paper and be seated.

Continue calling for volunteers until six children are standing with papers

that say "life." Remind the children that being able to say John 3:16 from memory does not give us life. Only believing in Jesus can give us life.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. Who was Nicodemus? (an important Jewish religious leader) What was Jesus teaching the people? (They should turn away from sinning and let God change them.) How did Nicodemus feel about the teachings of Jesus? (He was curious.) Why do you think Nicodemus went to see Jesus at night? (He did not want other people to see him with Jesus.) What did Jesus tell Nicodemus? (You must be born again.) What does it mean to be "born again"? (It is a spiritual birth that makes us part of God's family forever, changed on the inside by the power of God. A person who has been born again wants to follow God's way.) Now is a good time to invite any children who have questions about how they can be born again to meet with you after class.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 18

STAYING PURE

SCRIPTURE: 2 Samuel 11:1-12:13a; 1 Corinthians 10:13, Philippians 4:8; James 1:14

MEMORY VERSE: Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, think about such things. (Philippians 4:8)

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the lesson the children should know:

1. that sin is like a germ that can destroy their spiritual life.
2. how they can overcome temptations.
3. the meaning of purity.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for wisdom as you prepare.
2. Study the background scriptures.
3. Be prepared to tell the stories in your own words. Since the sound of the letter "r" is difficult for some to pronounce, be sure to make an extra effort to pronounce the word "pure" properly so that it does not sound like "poor".
4. Memorize the memory verse.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Prepare the cards for the game.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Pray and commit the lesson to the Lord.

2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and with hand over the heart, repeat the club pledge.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors and those who brought a visitor.

4. Revise last week's lesson and memory verse.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Game: (10 minutes)

Sheep and Wolves

One child is chosen to be the shepherd; three children are chosen to be sheep; and three children are chosen to be wolves. All the rest of the children stand in a circle ("pen") holding hands. The "sheep" and "shepherd" are placed inside the "pen" and the "wolves" are outside the "pen". The wolves try to break into the pen and catch the sheep. The children who are holding hands must work hard to keep the wolves out of the pen by standing close to each other, by keeping their hands joined tightly.

If a wolf breaks into the pen, the shepherd can still save the sheep by tagging the wolf before he touches a sheep.

If the wolf is tagged, he must join the sheep. If the wolf captures a sheep, he must take it outside the pen and it becomes a wolf. (The wolf or sheep

to please you every day in all we do
and say. Amen.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

God Is So Good

God is so good (3x)
He's so good to me.
God wants me pure (3x)
He's so good to me.

I'll live for him (3x)
He's so good to me.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Teach the verse in two parts:
"Marriage should be honored by all /
and the marriage bed kept pure."
Hebrews 13:4

Explain that this verse means we
should not have sex with anyone until
we are married, and once we are
married, we should only have sex with
our husband or wife.

Divide the children into two groups,
and have one group say the first part
of the verse. Then have the other
group say the second half. Repeat
slowly, then faster. Then switch the
groups so everyone has said both parts
of the verse. Say it all together at the
end.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise today's lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Challenge the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Challenge the children to remain pure for their future husbands/wives.
5. Revise one of today's songs.

6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 9

WHY DO I NEED TO BE SAVED?

SCRIPTURES: Mark 10:46-52; 2
Corinthians 4:3-6; John 3:18-21; John
8:12

MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said, "I am
the light of the world. Whoever follows
me will never walk in darkness but will
have the light of life." (John 8:12)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this
lesson the child will know:

1. Spiritual darkness keeps us from seeing the truth about Jesus.
2. Living without Jesus is like living in darkness.
3. Jesus is God's way of salvation from the darkness of sin.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. Choose a small piece of cloth such as a handkerchief that can be used as a flag. You may tie it onto the end of a small stick if you wish. Write the lesson memory verse on a paper or chalkboard that is placed so all the children can see it. You will also need an empty box with a lid on it large enough for the whole group to see clearly. You will

need a strip of cloth to use as a blindfold, also.

6. Study the whole lesson before presenting it to the class.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Choose a small piece of cloth such as a handkerchief that can be used as a flag. You may tie it onto the end of a small stick if you wish. Write the lesson memory verse on a paper or chalkboard that is placed so all the children can see it. (Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." John 8:12)

Choose a helper who will wave the flag. Tell the helper to stand and wave the flag at least eight or nine times during the lesson. He may wave the flag at any time during the lesson except during prayer times. Explain to the entire group that when they see the helper stand and wave the flag, they must all stand with him and repeat the memory verse.

Though you will be interrupted many times during the lesson, this adds interest and variety and gives the children many opportunities to repeat the memory verse.

4. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

HOT AND COLD

Choose one child to be "It" and blindfold him. Let the others hide some object for the blindfolded child to find. As he moves around, the children will call out "cool" or "cold" if he is far from the object. As he moves nearer to it, they must call out "warm" or "hot" until the object is found. Let several children have turns being blindfolded. Tell them they will learn about a man today who was truly blind.

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(Hold the empty box so all the children can see it. Be sure the lid is on.) I have brought something here today in my box. Who would like to come up and see it? (Invite one or two children to come look into the box. Be sure the other children remain seated. Many will be eager to look into the box. You may let the others see, one or two at a time.) Do you see what I have in this box? (The children looking inside the box will say they see nothing at all. Close the lid.) I know it is in there now. (Open the lid.) Now it is gone. Can anyone guess what it is? (Close the lid.) Now it is in there. (Open the lid.) Now it is gone.

(Do this several times until someone guesses correctly or you give the answer.) Right! Darkness is in my box. When I open the lid the light comes in and the darkness goes away. Light and darkness cannot be in the same place at the same time.

Now everyone close your eyes tightly. What can you see? Think about darkness. Would you want to live in the darkness all the time? What are some things you do not like about darkness? (Let the children answer.) Today's Bible story is about a man who lived in darkness. He never saw any light.

Teach the Bible lesson: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to Mark 10:46-52) Today our story comes from the Gospel according to Mark. Everyday Bartimaeus walked slowly to the road just outside Jericho. Maybe a child led him. Maybe he used a stick to help him feel his way about. Everyday Bartimaeus sat beside the road and begged. He could hear all the people walking by, but he could not see them. Bartimaeus was blind. Bartimaeus listened carefully to the traffic that passed by. Sometimes he could hear an angry farmer beating his stubborn donkey with a stick. "Take pity!" cried Bartimaeus. Maybe the farmer would throw Bartimaeus a small ear of corn. Sometimes he could hear a young child cry, then the soft voice of the child's mother. "Take pity!" cried Bartimaeus. Maybe the kind mother would throw Bartimaeus a crust of

place.

As the girl grew older, she remembered what her parents had told her. She met many boys, and some of them tried to take her special gift, but she ran from those boys.

When she was 14 years of age, an older man told her, "If you give me your special gift in the box I will buy you new clothes." But the girl remembered what her parents had told her: that if she gave her special gift to the wrong boy she would be very sad. So she told the older man to leave her alone.

Then one day the girl met a boy at church. This boy was very kind, and he never got angry with her. He helped her with her schoolwork, and he never once asked if he could have her special gift.

A few years later the kind boy and the girl were married, and the girl brought the special gift in the box with her to the wedding. She knew that this was the special boy that her parents had told her she would meet someday; so once they were married, she gave the special gift to the boy. The special gift was the little girl's first kiss.

The boy was so happy that she had saved her special gift just for him for so many years. And so the girl gave the boy she had married her one and only first kiss. They became the happiest people in the village, and they lived happily ever after.

Questions:

Ask the following questions.
1. What did Mother and Father give

the little girl? (*a special gift in a little box*)

2. What did the older man say when he wanted to take her special gift? (*He said he would buy her new clothes.*)

3. What did the girl tell the older man? (*She told him to leave her alone.*)

4. What was different about the boy that the girl married? (*He was kind, helped with her schoolwork, and they met at church.*)

5. How did the boy she married feel when the girl gave him her very special gift? (*He was happy.*)

6. What would have happened if she had given her special gift to the wrong boy? (*She would have been very sad.*)

Say: But since she saved her special gift for her husband, she lived happily ever after. We all have that same special gift. All boys and girls only have one first kiss to give away. We should save it for our husband or wife when we are married someday. If we give our first kiss to the wrong person, we might end up doing things that God has told us not to do unless we are married.

Each boy and girl has only one first sexual experience to give away. We should save it for our husband or wife when we are married someday. God has told us to keep the marriage bed pure, so that means we must save this special gift for marriage and not have sex with anyone before then.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, thank you for loving us and for having a wonderful plan for our lives. Help us to stay pure. Help us

a large handful of dirt in another. Leave the third glass untouched.)

Ask the children if they would like a drink from the glass filled with dirt. (No)

Ask if they would like a drink from the glass with just a little bit of dirt in it. (No)

Then ask if they would want a drink from the glass with no dirt in it. (Yes)

Ask the children why they chose the glass with no dirt. Say: This last glass, the one with no dirt, is pure water. It does not matter if the water has just a little dirt in it or if the water has a lot of dirt in it. With any dirt, it is no longer pure. Today we are going to talk about how to keep ourselves pure, just like the pure water.

By doing things that God has told us not to do, we hold sin in our hearts. And, just as a little bit of dirt makes the water not pure, a little bit of sin in our hearts makes us not pure. God has told us that there will be consequences when we do not keep ourselves pure. One consequence of not following God's rules to keep ourselves pure is getting the sickness called AIDS.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my

heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to live like Jesus in my heart, in my heart.

Lord, I want to live like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to live like Jesus in my heart.

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

(Since you will have read over this story ahead of time, tell the following story to the children. Do not just read it to them.)

Once upon a time there was a little girl. When this little girl was six years of age, her mother and father gave her a gift. This gift was a very special gift. They put this special gift into a small box and gave the box to the little girl.

Mother and Father told the little girl, "This is a very special gift. When you grow older, you will give this gift to a boy. But you may only give this gift to one special boy, and it will be his forever. If you give this special gift to the wrong boy, you cannot have it back, and you will be very sad."

So the little girl took the special gift in the box and put it in a very special

bread.

Sometimes he could hear the stomping march of Roman soldiers. "Take pity!" cried Bartimaeus. Maybe one of the soldiers would throw him a small coin. Everyday Bartimaeus listened to the people passing by on the road. And everyday he wished he could see.

For many months Bartimaeus had heard talk about Jesus of Nazareth. Some said he was a prophet, sent from God. Some said he had come to save the nation of Israel from enemies. Others laughed and said he was just a carpenter trying to stir up trouble.

But everyone seemed interested in the amazing things Jesus could do. Jesus had made sick people well. The lame were able to walk, and the deaf were able to hear because of Jesus. Jesus had even raised someone from the dead! Bartimaeus believed Jesus must be God's promised deliverer, for only one sent from God could have such power.

One day while Bartimaeus sat by the roadside begging he heard a great commotion. A noisy crowd of people was coming his way! Other people came from the fields to stand on the road beside him. "What is happening?" Bartimaeus asked. "It is Jesus and his students. They are leaving Jericho and many people are following them," the people said.

Jesus of Nazareth, the prophet! Surely Jesus would heal his eyes so that he could see! Bartimaeus began to shout, "Jesus! You are God's promised deliverer! Have mercy on me!"

Many of the people scolded him. "Be

quiet, Bartimaeus!" they said. But Bartimaeus shouted even louder.

There were many people in the crowd. But Jesus knew Bartimaeus was there by the roadside. Jesus knew Bartimaeus was blind, and Jesus heard his cry for help. Jesus stopped walking and pointed to Bartimaeus. "Tell him to come here," Jesus said.

"Bartimaeus, get up and go to Jesus," the people told him. "He is calling you." Bartimaeus jumped up. He went to Jesus as fast as he could.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. Quickly Bartimaeus said, "I want to see!"

Jesus knew what was in Bartimaeus' heart. He knew Bartimaeus believed Jesus was God's promised deliverer. "Go your way, Bartimaeus," said Jesus. "Your faith has made you well."

Immediately Bartimaeus was able to see and he left his place by the roadside to follow Jesus. Bartimaeus did not live in darkness anymore!

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune to the following words or use the tune to *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.)

Jesus is the Light

Jesus is the light.

He shines his light on me.

Once I lived in darkness,

But now I can see.

Jesus is the light.

He shines his light on me.

He shines his light on me.

We cannot see very well outside when it is dark, can we? When we enter a dark room we want to turn on the electric lamp or light a candle first. Bartimaeus lived in darkness and suffered because of it. But Jesus knows there is a greater darkness than the darkness of blindness.

The greatest darkness of all is a spiritual darkness that covers our mind and heart so that we cannot see the way to stop sinning and follow Jesus. Only Jesus is powerful enough to open our spiritual eyes so we can see the truth.

Do you remember what Bartimaeus did when Jesus opened his eyes so he could see? He left his old way of life and began to follow Jesus. Jesus had also opened Bartimaeus' spiritual eyes so Bartimaeus could know the truth. Now Bartimaeus understood that Jesus is God's way of salvation from the darkness of sin and he wanted to follow Jesus. Bartimaeus knew that life without Jesus is like living in darkness.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to review the lesson. What was in my box today? (darkness) What are some things you do not like about darkness? (Let the children give different answers) Who was the man in today's Bible story who lived in darkness? (Bartimaeus, the blind beggar) Bartimaeus heard a crowd of people coming down the road one day. Who were they

following? (Jesus) What amazing things was Jesus able to do? (heal the sick, make deaf people hear and lame people walk, raise the dead) What did Bartimaeus want Jesus to do for him? (heal his eyes so he could see) What did Jesus tell Bartimaeus? ("Your faith has made you well.") As soon as he could see, what did Bartimaeus do? (He left everything and followed Jesus.) Who can open our spiritual eyes so we can see the truth? (Jesus) Who is God's way of salvation from the darkness of sin? (Jesus)

2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song: (If you do not know the tune, make one up.)

Walk in the Light

Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light.
Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light.
Walk, walk, walk, walk in the light.
Walk in the light of God.

6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

LIVING A PURE LIFE

SCRIPTURE: 1 Corinthians 6:13 and 18-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4.

MEMORY VERSE: "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure..." Hebrews 13:4

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the lesson the children should understand that God wants us to keep our bodies pure and that sexual relations are intended only for marriage.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray that God will give you wisdom as you teach the children and that He will prepare the children's hearts to listen to the lesson.
2. Study the Scripture passages and learn the memory verse.
3. Know the lesson well enough to teach without using the book. Be able to teach the story in your own words.
4. Fill three separate glasses 3/4 full of water, and have a handful of dirt ready for the object lesson. Have a cloth or handkerchief ready to use in today's game.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Welcome the children and pray.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and say

the club pledge.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

4. Revise last week's lesson and memory verse.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Pleases or Displeases

Bring a small handkerchief or piece of cloth to use in this game. Have the children form a circle. Run around the outside of the circle, then stop and drop the cloth behind one child, calling out "pleases" or "displeases" as it drops.

The child must pick up the cloth and, if you called out "pleases," he must name an action that is pleasing to God (such as sharing toys, taking food to a poor family, etc.).

If you called out "displeases," the child should name an action that does not please God (such as cursing, stealing, etc.). That child then runs around the circle and chooses another child to drop the cloth behind. Continue until all the children have had a turn.

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(Set up: Fill three cups or glasses with water and set them on the ground. As you begin the lesson, put a small amount of dirt in one glass and

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" 2 Corinthians 5:17

Teach the memory verse in phrases, until everyone can shout it out loud together.

Then explain that the verse means that Jesus Christ can wash away all our sins and make us new again. We can share this verse with people who have AIDS because God loves them and wants to bring them to heaven.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask the children questions to revise today's lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Challenge the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Challenge the children to put what they have learned into practice.
5. Let the children choose a favorite song to sing.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

HOW CAN I BE SAVED?

SCRIPTURES: Luke 15:11-32; Acts 16:31

MEMORY VERSE: "...Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...." (Acts 16:31)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know that he must believe in the Lord Jesus for salvation.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Memorize the memory verse.
5. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
6. Study the whole lesson before presenting it to the class.
7. Be prepared to present the plan of salvation similar to what is in the front cover of this book with children who wish to talk after club is finished.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those

who brought a visitor.

4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Lion and Chick

This game should be played in a large yard outside. The teacher stands at one end of the yard. One child acts as a lion. He stands at the opposite end of the yard. The rest of the class stands in a group between them.

The lion calls to the group: "Chick, chick, come here!" The group answers, "We are afraid." The lion asks, "What are you afraid of?" The group answers, "The lion." The lion says, "The lion is dead." The rest of the kids run toward the lion until the lion shouts, "The lion lives." Then they all run away from the lion toward the teacher.

Any child who can reach the teacher is safe from the lion. Any children that the lion touches must come to his den with him and help him catch the others. Then they play the game again.

Many people will say they can save us. The only one who can really save us is Jesus.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, make

up a tune or sing another song about salvation through Jesus alone.)

Blessed Be the Name

Jesus the name that calms my fears,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Tis music in the sinner's ears,
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name, (2x)
Blessed be the name of the Lord!
Blessed be the name, (2x)
Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Introduce the Bible lesson:

Jesus is wonderful! He can open our spiritual eyes so we can know the truth about God. Jesus is God's way to save us from the darkness of sin. God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to be our Savior. Listen to this story that Jesus told about God's great love for us as found in the Gospel according to Luke.

Teach the Bible lesson: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to Luke 15:11-24.) Once there were two brothers in a rich family. The older son worked hard to please his father, but the younger son was very rebellious. One day the younger son spoke very rudely to his father. "Father, I want every thing that will become mine when you die. I want it now." So the father divided all his property between his two sons.

A few days later the younger son sold all his property, packed all his possessions, and left home. He traveled to a distant country, far away from his father. He had plenty of money in his pockets, and he wanted

to have fun. He ate too much food. He drank too much alcohol. He stayed up all night singing and dancing with people who wanted to help him spend his money. He lived like this for many months.

He was having a good time! He was too busy having fun to get a job. One day all of his money was gone. And one by one, all of his friends left him.

At that time a terrible famine spread across the country where the younger son was living. Now his pockets were empty. He had no money, no food, no job. He was left without a thing.

He finally found work with a farmer who sent him to the fields to care for his pigs. He hated his job. The pigs were dirty and they smelled bad. He worked hard all day in the hot sun. He was always hungry. He even wished he could eat some of the food that he was feeding the pigs. But no one would give him anything.

One day he said, "My father's workers have plenty of food. I should go home and tell my father that I have sinned. I do not deserve to be his son anymore. He should treat me like one of his servants." So the younger son started on his way back home.

While he was still a long way from home his father saw him coming. The father could see how his son had suffered. The father ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him. "Father," said the son, "I know I have broken God's laws and I have treated you badly. I am not worthy to be called your son. But the

having sex with someone who has HIV.

You CANNOT get HIV or AIDS by mosquito bites, kissing, touching, coughing, sneezing, or sharing a toilet or meal together.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up your own tune.)

He Is the Rock

He is the rock of little children.
He is the shield all day.
He protects us; He guides us,
In each and every way.
He is the rock of little children. (3x)
Jesus is, Oh yes he is, our protector.

AIDS Test: (5 minutes)

I will read a statement with two answers. You must choose the right answer. Say the answer together.

1. HIV is:
 - 1) A virus which causes AIDS
 - 2) Caused by sleeping too much
2. Someone who is HIV positive:
 - 1) Looks sick
 - 2) Looks healthy
3. Someone who is in the last stage of AIDS is:
 - 1) Healthy
 - 2) Sick
4. Someone gets HIV by:
 - 1) Being bitten by a mosquito
 - 2) Having sex
5. Someone gets HIV by:
 - 1) Touching
 - 2) Sharing syringes

Caring for People with HIV and AIDS: (5 minutes)

Today we have talked about HIV

and AIDS. We need to do what Jesus would do if we meet someone with the sickness AIDS. Jesus Christ loved and cared for everyone he met. Christ helped people who were sick. We should do the same. If we know someone is sick, we should find out if we can help care for that person. Maybe we could carry some water to them or go buy some food for them.

Perhaps you know children who are orphans because their mom or dad died of AIDS. We should be friends and take care of them. This way we can show God's love to the people who really need it.

Pray:

Ask God to show us how to help those affected by HIV and AIDS.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. (3x)
The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me when I'm good,
When I do the things I should.
Jesus loves me when I'm bad,
Though it makes him very sad.

Yes, Jesus loves me. (3x)
The Bible tells me so.

This game must be played cautiously so that no one's back is injured. Hands are joined, not arms locked.

Introduce the lesson: 10 minutes

Today we are going to talk about AIDS. Does anyone know what AIDS stands for? (give time for answers) AIDS stands for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. Those are a lot of big words, but what that means is that AIDS is a sickness that you get from another person. It makes your body weak and tired so that many different germs can make you get very sick.

A virus causes AIDS. Viruses cause many different types of sickness like the flu, colds, TB, and chicken pox. A virus called HIV causes AIDS. When the HIV virus gets in your body, it waits there, sometimes for many years, before you know you have the sickness AIDS.

Most of the time when you get a virus, your immune system will kill the virus, and you will get healthy. But, our immune systems cannot kill the HIV virus. So, everyone who gets the HIV virus will get AIDS.

Object lesson: (15 minutes)

(If we compare the body's immune system to an umbrella, we will illustrate how AIDS develops.) Open up the umbrella and say:

Stage 1: Healthy people are just like me when I hold this umbrella over my head. If germs and infections try to get to me, like rain falling down, the umbrella keeps me safe. This stage is

called HIV negative.

Stage 2: When someone gets the HIV virus, they are called HIV positive. Someone who is HIV positive is like me when I hold this umbrella over my head. But, the umbrella has little viruses attached which are slowly eating holes. This person will usually feel completely normal and healthy. A person who has the HIV virus can be in this stage for 2 to 10 years.

Stage 3: The last stage is AIDS. In the last stage, the viruses attacking the umbrella have eaten holes completely through the umbrella so that it no longer provides any protection. Just like if I held an umbrella that had holes in it over my head when it rained, I would get wet. A person with AIDS has holes in his or her immune system so that all different kinds of germs can make that person sick.

The amount of time it takes to get sick from HIV is different for different people, but most will die 8 to 10 years after getting the virus if they do not have the powerful new drugs that help people to live longer.

How does someone get the HIV virus?

Someone gets the HIV virus by:

1. Having sex with someone who has HIV.
2. Using a syringe after someone who has HIV has used it.
3. Having a mother who has HIV and passes it to her baby.

By far, most people get AIDS by

father got a beautiful robe, a ring, and new shoes for his son. He cooked a fat calf and made a feast. He said, "My son was dead, but now he is alive again; he was lost, but now he has been found!"

What did the younger son ask of his father? (He wanted his share of the inheritance.) When the younger son got lots of money, what did he do with it? (He went to a far away country and wasted all his money.) What trouble came in that distant country? (He ran out of money; his companions left him; there was a terrible famine; he had to take care of pigs; he was always hungry; no one would help him.) When the younger son came to his senses, what did he decide to do? (He decided to go home to his father.)

The father in the story is like God, our Heavenly Father. Everything good and wonderful belongs to God. But we are selfish and rebellious. We would rather go our own way than obey God's commands. Each one of us is like the younger son who left his father's house. When we break God's commands we cannot enjoy all the good things that God wants to give us. But God loves us so much that he does not want us to be separated from him by our sinfulness.

The younger son was tired of his wicked and selfish way of living. He wanted to change his behavior and go back home to his father. If you want to be a part of God's family you must be willing to turn away from your sinful behavior and start following God's way. The son asked his father for

forgiveness. If you want to be part of God's family you must understand that you are a sinner and ask God to forgive your sins.

The Bible says, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved...." (Acts 16:31) Believing in the Lord Jesus means believing that Jesus is the only way to be saved from a life of disobedience and the punishment that such a life deserves. (Invite those who have questions to speak with you after class.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, make up a tune to fit these words or sing another song about the joy of salvation through Jesus.)

Oh Happy Day

Oh happy day! Oh happy day!
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day.
Oh happy day! Oh happy day!
When Jesus washed my sins away!

Drama: (10 minutes)

Act out the story of the prodigal son: Luke 15:11-24. The children can volunteer to play the parts of the father, the two sons, the friends of the younger son, the pig farmer, and the father's servants. A narrator can read the story while the actors pantomime their parts.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Believe in the Lord Jesus and you

will be saved...." (Acts 16:31)

Divide the children into two or three groups as for relay races. Have the leader stand a good distance away. Each team will get in a row. The leader will tell them to do something like run, walk backwards, hop, or skip to the leader. Then each person in the row will come to the leader doing whatever the leader said (hopping, skipping, etc.). When he reaches the leader the child should turn toward his group and quote the memory verse and then return to his team in the same way. If the child has trouble quoting the verse, his group can help him. The next person in the row from that team will come to the leader the same way until all have had a turn. The group to finish first is the winner.

5. CLOSING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Ask questions to review the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song. Revise a song from today's lesson.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 16

UNDERSTANDING AIDS

SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

MEMORY VERSE: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! (2 Corinthians 5:17)

OBJECTIVES: By the end of the lesson the children should be able to:

1. tell what HIV-AIDS is and how it is spread.
2. name things they can do to show they care about people affected by HIV and AIDS.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray that God will give you wisdom as you teach the children and that He will prepare the children's hearts to listen to your lesson.
2. Study 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Know the lesson well enough to teach without using the book. Be able to teach the story in your own words.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. You will need an umbrella to use for the Object Lesson.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Welcome the children and pray.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and say

the club pledge.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

4. Revise last week's lesson and memory verse.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (15 minutes)

Red Rover

Ask the children to stand, holding hands, in two lines facing each other. They must hold hands tightly so that no one can break through their line from the other side.

One side must choose a person from the other side to try and run into their line and break through.

When the team has chosen the person from the other side, they sing: "*Red rover, red rover, send (the child's name) right over.*"

When the child hears his or her name, he runs to the other line and tries to break through. If he does break through, he picks someone to return to his line with him. If he does not break through, he becomes part of the other line.

Only one child will be running at a time. After the child has run and either joined the other line or brought someone back to his line, then the other team picks someone to run.

the children so they can sing it back to you. Continue in this manner until the group has learned the entire passage and can sing it together. Use the same tune that you taught the children in the last lesson.

Allow time for the children to discuss the meaning of "selfish ambition" and "a cheap desire to boast." How can they behave with humility toward others? How can they look out for the interests of others? What kind of attitude did Christ Jesus have? You may want to read Philippians 2:6-11 aloud.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson. Encourage the children to look for ways they can work cooperatively with others in the coming week.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing *Keep Me True* again.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 11

CULTS

SCRIPTURES: Exodus 32:1-6; Psalms 25:5; John 8:31-47.

MEMORY VERSE: "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32).

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson on cults the children will:

1. know that Jesus is the truth.
2. learn that some half-truths exist, like cults, but that God is true.
3. begin to compare what they hear with what the Bible says.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray earnestly for God to guide you as you prepare. Pray for the children to understand the truths of this lesson.
2. Read and study all the Scripture passages carefully.
3. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to tell it in your own words.
4. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
5. Prepare questions for the game, "Is It in the Bible?" Write the Bible verse with extra letters (as shown in the memory work section) on a large piece of paper or chalkboard. Have a pen or eraser to mark out letters.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer. Commit the lesson into God's hands.

2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor today.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

The Cautious Vulture Died of Old Age

In the world of birds, there lived two vultures. One vulture was gray, and the other one was white. The vultures were best friends. Everyday they walked together and ate their food together.

One day the gray vulture saw a piece of soap on a lady's plate. The gray vulture took the piece of soap. He offered to give some of it to the white vulture, but he refused to take it. The white vulture insisted on eating things that he knew such as snails and food from the rubbish pits.

The gray vulture was not happy with his friend. He wanted the white vulture to join him in snatching things like eggs, small chickens, pieces of soap and other items from people. He chose to steal rather than eat the snails and trash. The white vulture warned him that snatching things from people could be bad. Doing such things could even hurt him.

It was not long before the gray vulture went again to look for things he could snatch from people. Soon he saw another piece of soap. Quickly he flew close to the plate so he could snatch the soap. The vulture did not know the owner was near by. When he tried to take the soap, the owner threw a stone with all her might. It hit the vulture's head and he died.

The white vulture lived on because he was cautious. He continued to eat the simple things he knew. He lived for a long time and died a natural death. It is always good to stay with the truth we know.

What colour was the cautious bird? (white)

Why was the gray vulture stoned and killed? (because he was stealing)

What things did the gray vulture like to steal? (eggs, chicks, soap)

Which vulture lived a long time because he was cautious? (the white one)

Play a game: (5 minutes)

Ask the children to pretend to be vultures. They are to do everything you say if you say "vultures" first. [For example: "Vultures fly." (wave their arms) "Vultures look for food." (walk around in a circle.) "Vultures eat." (bend to the ground)]

If you do not say "vultures," then they should **not** do what you say. [For example: "Fly," "Eat," "Look for food."]

After the game, say: We need to listen to the things God says. His words are always right and good for

us. We cannot be sure that the words of some men are right. The words of some can even harm us. It is good to measure the words of men with God's Word. If the things they say do not agree with the words of the Bible, then do not listen to them.

Pray: (Let the children repeat phrases of this prayer after you.) "Teach me to live by your words in the Bible, for you are my God, who saves me. I always trust in you" (Psalms 25:5).

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

I HAVE DECIDED

I have decided to follow Jesus (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, I still will follow (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

Our Bible story today comes from several books in the Old Testament. God created the world and everything in the world including people. God wanted the people he created to worship him only.

Soon after God created the world people began to worship other gods which they made themselves. God was very sad. He would have to destroy these people he created and start over again.

Men and women worked. Merchants and craftsmen worked. Rulers and priests worked. Everyone had a job to do, and they all worked together. In less than two months the walls of Jerusalem were rebuilt and all the gates were repaired and hung. The people learned well the lesson of cooperation that Nehemiah taught them. After they finished building the walls and gates of the city, they continued working together to protect Jerusalem from her enemies.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, make up a tune to the following words.)

Keep Me True

Keep me true, Lord Jesus, keep me true,

Keep me true, Lord Jesus, keep me true.

There's a race that must be run,

There's a victory to be won,

Every hour, by your power, keep me true.

Application: (5 minutes)

Cooperation is part of God's plan for families and communities of people. The Bible says, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for men." (Colossians 3:23) We should work and play in such a way that God will approve of our behaviour.

Jesus is the perfect example of the kind of behaviour that God approves. Whenever we behave as Jesus did, we

can know that our behaviour pleases God. Jesus was not selfish or boastful. Jesus loved us so much that he left all the riches of heaven and came to earth to live as a man. When we believe in Jesus, God changes us so that we can learn to work and play together in the way that pleases God. (Invite those who have questions to speak with you after class.)

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Separate the class into several teams of equal size. The teams should line up by pairs facing a finish line that you have chosen. Use a scarf or string to tie the inside legs of each pair together. Each team will race, one pair at a time, to the finish line and back. This is known as a "three-legged race."

The first team to have all its pairs run to the finish line and back is the winning team. Explain to the teams that each pair must work together cooperatively in order to reach the finish line. Encourage the teams to cheer for their team members.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had." (Philippians 2:3-5)

Divide the verses into phrases that you have put to music. Sing each phrase to

When you use a longer rope, you must have two people to swing the rope. If the rope is long enough, two or even three people can jump the rope at the same time. What happens if one of the people on the ends decides not to swing the rope? What would happen if both children on the ends wanted to swing, but no one wanted to take a turn jumping in the middle? Everyone must take turns and work together in order for the game to be fun. (If there is time and you have several long jump ropes, allow the children to take turns jumping and swinging the ropes.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Make up a tune to the following words or use the tune to *Row, Row, Row Your Boat*.)

My Turn, Your Turn

My turn, your turn,
Each of us will take a turn,
When we play together
Everyone will have a turn.
I will help, you will help,
Each will find a way to help,
When we work together,
Every one of us will help.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Open your Bible to the Old Testament book of Nehemiah.) Today our story is found in an Old Testament book named for our story's hero, Nehemiah. Long ago in Bible times a Jewish man named Nehemiah was cupbearer to the King of Persia. One day Nehemiah's brother came to visit

him. Nehemiah asked his brother about their hometown of Jerusalem, far away. "How are things with our relatives there? Are they all well?" asked Nehemiah.

Nehemiah's brother gave him some very sad news. "Our people are suffering," he said. "The walls that protect the city of Jerusalem are all broken down, and the gates into the city have been burned. Our families are discouraged. Even their neighbors look down on them and laugh at them because Jerusalem is in ruins." Nehemiah was so sad that he cried and would not eat. Nehemiah asked God for help.

God answered Nehemiah's prayers. When the King saw that Nehemiah was very sad, he was willing to help. The King gave Nehemiah permission to travel far away to Jerusalem. He also gave Nehemiah food and supplies for his long journey. Nehemiah wanted to help his tribe rebuild the walls and the gates of their city.

When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he rode around on his donkey. Nehemiah inspected all the broken walls and all the burned gates. Rebuilding the walls and fixing the gates would be a very big job! But right away Nehemiah organized all the people and gave each of them an assignment. Each family would work on the section of wall nearest its house. Every clan was assigned a section of the wall to rebuild or a gate to repair.

Nehemiah appointed supervisors for every section to oversee the work.

God destroyed all people except Noah and his family with a flood. Surely these remaining people would worship God only.

Years passed and God chose Moses to be the leader of his people. God wanted to give the people his commandments, so he asked Moses to come up on a mountain to meet with him.

While Moses was with God the people of Israel got tired of waiting. They said to Aaron, Moses brother, "We do not know where Moses is. Make us a god to lead us."

Aaron asked the people to bring their gold earrings to him. Then he made a gold calf for them to worship. The next day the people brought animals to offer as sacrifices to the gold calf. They sat down to eat a feast, but they also began to drink. Finally they began to have sex with one another as part of their worship to the golden calf. They thought only about themselves and their desires. They did not worship the true God.

Any worship that excludes the worship of God and Jesus, his Son, is wrong. People who think only of themselves do not have the truth. Groups that meet for worship and do not believe that Jesus died on the cross, was buried and rose from the grave have half-truths. They belong to a cult because they do not follow the truth.

Some cults say Jesus was just a great teacher or prophet. This is not true. Jesus was with God the Father when the world was created. He came

to earth as the only son of the Father. He is Lord. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me" (John 14:6).

Encourage the children to talk about groups they know which are cults. How do the people dress? Who is their leader? How can they know it is a cult? What would they do if someone from the cult asked them to worship with them?

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong,
They are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me (3x)
The Bible tells me so.

Pray: Ask the children to bow their heads and thank God for showing us the truth. Thank God for Jesus. Thank God for his love.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Begin the memory verse work by writing the letters below on a large piece of paper or a chalkboard. Have the children cross out or erase the letters V, Z, and J. The remaining letters will spell out today's verse. Take turns saying the verse until the children can repeat it without looking.

VIFZYJOUZOBZEJYVMYJVTVEA
VZCHJIVNGVJYOJUVARZEVRJE
AVZLLJYVMYJZDIVSJCIVPLZES.
VYJOUZWIJLLVZKNJOWVZTHJE

VZTRJUZHJVANZDJJTHVEZJTR
ZUJTHVZWJVLZVSEJTVYJOU
ZJFRVEEZ. (John 8:31-32)

Ask: Who was Jesus teaching? (his disciples)

Who are really Jesus' disciples? (those who obey his teachings)

If the disciples obey, what will they know? (the truth)

How will the truth help them? (It will set them free.)

"Is it in the Bible?" (15 minutes)

Tell the children things that are in the Bible and things that are not in the Bible. The children are to stand if they think it is the truth. They sit if they think it is a lie. Then tell them the correct answer. The questions may come from Bible stories they know well or from the stories they have had in the past weeks, such as:

Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again. (True)

Jesus said that everyone who believes in him receives money. (False—they receive eternal life.)

There is nothing we can do to earn salvation. (True—it is God's gift.)

Jesus says we should love our enemies. (True)

The younger son who left his father and spent all his money had to work with horses. (False—they were pigs.)

The father killed a fat calf and made a feast for his son when he returned home. (True)

Jesus died in a hospital for our sins. (False—he died on a cross.)

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask the children to tell what a cult is. (People who believe half-truths. They do not believe Jesus is the only way to be saved as the Bible teaches.)

2. Make announcements.

3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.

4. Sing *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*.

5. Close with prayer.

6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 15

LEARNING TO WORK AND PLAY TOGETHER

SCRIPTURES: Nehemiah 1-7:3;
Philippians 2:3-11.

MEMORY VERSE: "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own. The attitude you should have is the one that Christ Jesus had." (Philippians 2:3-5)

OBJECTIVE: As a result of this lesson, the children should know that unselfish cooperation is pleasing to God.

verses to music. Philippians 2:3-5 has been the Scripture memory passage for three lessons in a row, so the children should have had plenty of opportunities to practice it.

6. Study the whole lesson before presenting it to the class. You will also want to revise the last two lessons, in order to get an overview of this unit.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Before everything else, pray.

2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(You will need a long jump rope. Enlist three volunteers to demonstrate jumping the rope: two children will swing the rope, while the child in the middle jumps it. Follow the demonstration with the following explanation.) How many of you know how to jump rope? Some people jump rope using a short rope that they can swing and jump alone. But sometimes it is more fun to involve several people in the game.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.

2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.

3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.

4. Bring your Bible with you to club.

5. Collect teaching and learning aids. You will need at least one long jump rope. If you can find several, bring enough for the whole class to take turns jumping rope. You will also need several scarves or pieces of cloth or string to tie the children's legs together for the three-legged relay race. Be ready with a tune to put the memory

said. 'He has blessed everything you do. Let's agree not to harm each other but to always be kind to each other.'

Isaac prepared a feast. Then each man made his promise, and they parted as friends. Isaac found water again, and God continued to bless his family.

What attitude did Isaac have toward the Philistines? (He did not argue or complain when they quarreled.) What did Isaac do to avoid arguing? (He was willing to move.) What was the result of Isaac's willingness to compromise? (He had peace with his neighbors.)

If we have love in our hearts for others, we can learn to cooperate with them. If our hearts are full of anger and jealousy, we quarrel and fight. If our hearts are full of selfishness, we will gossip and cheat to get our own way. God knows that our hearts are sick and selfish. We cannot learn to live with others in peace until God gives us a new heart through the power of Jesus Christ

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own." (Philippians 2:3-4)

Divide the verses into phrases that you have put to music. Sing each phrase to the children so they can sing it back to you.

Continue until the group has learned both verses and can sing them

together. (Or you may divide the children into groups and let them create tunes for the memory verses.)

5. CLOSING TIME: (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. Emphasize the need to watch our attitudes and check our actions against the standard of the Bible.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing *Bind Us Together* again.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 12

STAYING AWAY FROM CULTS

SCRIPTURES: Matthew 7:21-23; Mark 12:29-31; John 14:6; 2 Corinthians 4:2-6; 1 Timothy 6:20-21; 2 Timothy 4:3-5; 1 John 4:1-3; 2 John 7-11; Jude 3-4, 17-21.

MEMORY VERSE: Jesus said, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.' John 14:6

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the child will know

1. how to tell if what they hear is true.
2. that Jesus is the only true way of

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Collect Bibles for the lesson activity.
5. Study the whole lesson before presenting it to the class.
6. Be prepared to share the plan of salvation with any children who have questions after the session is finished.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club

song, and say the club commitment.

3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Ask for a volunteer to be "It." Have the other children hide an object somewhere. Let 3 children agree to be guides to help "It" find the object. All 3 children must call out, "This way, this way." But, two of the children must give the wrong direction. Only one child is pointing to the right way. "It" must decide which child really knows the way in order to find the object. Continue until several children have had turns.

Have the children sit down. Tell them that even though many groups may tell us they know the way to God, the Bible says Jesus is the only way and the truth.

Tell a story: (15 minutes)

Eagles sleep at night and search for food during the day. Owls, on the other hand, rest during the day. They work and play during the night. One day an eaglet asked his parents why they made him work while the owls let their children rest all day long. The eagles tried to explain about their

different behaviors.

"Yes, the owls do rest all day," said the eagles, "because they must work all night. We work all day, and then we can rest at night." But the eaglet did not really believe his parents.

Early one morning the eaglet slipped away to join his owl neighbours. While the other eagles went to work, he enjoyed the day relaxing with the owls. Soon it was night. The owls were up and about looking for food and having fun.

The eaglet tried to join them. He was unable to see in the dark and he kept flying into trees and other objects. For many days the eaglet went without food because he could not catch any food in the dark. One day his parents came to take him home. He was barely alive, and soon he would have died. The eaglet was so glad to go home.

When do eagles work and play? (They work during the daytime) What did the eaglet ask his parents? (He asked them why he had to work all day.) Was it wrong for the eaglet to ask his parents this question? (No) The eaglet did not believe his parents when they told him the truth. What did he do then? (He ran away from his parents to try living with the owls.) Did the eaglet fit in with the owls? (No)

The eaglet was not wrong to ask questions about why he is different from others. But, it was wrong for him to run away from home. His parents had told him the truth, but he just would not listen. The eaglet had

to learn things the hard way.

Sometimes you might wonder if others have told you the whole truth. Sometimes you might feel like the eaglet and want to run away from your family to discover things for yourself. Don't be a person who has to learn the hard way because you will not listen to your family and friends.

You must be willing to listen to those who know the truth. Jesus is the truth. If you listen to Jesus, you will be wise. We find the truth about Jesus in God's Word, the Bible.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, choose another song about God's Word, the Bible.)

The B-I-B-L-E

The B-I-B-L-E,
Yes, that's the book for me,
I stand alone on the Word of God
The B-I-B-L-E.

Activity: (10 minutes)

The Bible is God's Word to us. The Bible tells us who God is and what he wants us to do. The Bible always tells the truth. We must measure everything we hear and see by the Word of God. Then we will know the truth.

Ask the children to stand in pairs, facing each other. Each pair should have one Bible. One of the two children should hold the Bible with just one finger and his thumb. Then

in the fields alone together, Cain killed Abel. God knew the wicked thing Cain had done. He asked Cain, "Where is your brother?"

"How do I know?" said Cain. "Do I always have to take care of Abel?"

Then God said, "Why have you done this terrible thing? I can hear Abel's blood crying out to me. You must be punished. From now on you will not live in one place and be a farmer, but you must move around all the time."

What kind of offering did Cain bring to God? (fruits and grains.) What kind of offering did God require? (a blood sacrifice.) What attitude did Cain have towards God? (anger) What attitude did Cain have towards Abel? (jealousy) What did Cain do? (murdered his brother) How did God punish Cain? (He was forced to move around all the time.)

The ability to live with others in peace depends on the attitude of our hearts. Abel accepted God in his heart, so he trusted Cain and learned to live with him. Cain rejected God in his heart so he hated Abel and failed to live with him.

Sinful attitudes lead to sinful actions. We must learn to obey God before we can live with others in peace and cooperation.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Bind Us Together
Bind us together, Lord
Bind us together
With cords that cannot be broken;
Bind us together, Lord

Bind us together
Oh, bind us together in love.

Teach a Bible story: (15 minutes)

The Bible also tells us a story about a man named Isaac who worshipped the one true God. Famine came to his land. Isaac moved with his family to live among the Philistine tribe because of the famine. The Philistines worshipped many idols and false gods. God blessed Isaac in the land of the Philistines, and he grew lots of food. Soon Isaac had so many herds of cattle and sheep and so many servants that the Philistines became jealous.

The Philistines filled in all his wells with dirt and rocks so that Isaac could not get water. Then the King of the Philistines said to Isaac, "You have become more powerful than we are. You must leave our country now." Isaac did not complain or get angry. He moved his family, his servants, and his herds to another place.

Isaac dug a new well in the valley and found water. The Philistine shepherds quarreled with Isaac's shepherds and said, "This water is ours. You found water on our land." Isaac told his servants not to argue. He dug another well. But the Philistines quarreled about that well also. So Isaac moved away from that place and dug another well. This time the Philistines did not argue. Isaac said, "Now God has given us freedom to live in this land."

After some time the Philistine leaders came to see Isaac. "'Now we can see that God is with you,' they

Then, that child goes to the end of the line, and the next child calls out a gift beginning with the letter "B." Continue through the alphabet or until all the children have had a turn.

Object lesson: (10 minutes)

(Be ready to show the children several different kinds of seeds.) I have in my hand a seed. Can you see what kind it is? It is a bean seed. What do you think will grow if I plant this seed in my garden? (Wait for children to answer.) That's right. If I plant this bean seed in my garden, a bean plant will begin to grow. Here is another seed. (Continue in this manner until you have shown three or four different kinds of seeds to the children.)

Everyone knows that whatever kind of seed you sow, that same kind of plant will grow from it. The Bible tells us the same thing about our attitudes and our actions. The Bible says, "A person will reap exactly what he sows." (Galatians 6:7b) Our sinful attitudes always result in sinful actions, and eventually we must get the punishment that we deserve. Listen to today's stories from the Bible and see if you can tell how sinful attitudes led to sinful actions.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(to the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*)

God Made Me

I'm so glad God made me, me (3x)

Just the way I am.

I'm so glad God made you, you (3x)

Just the way you are

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

(Turn in your Bible to Genesis 4.)

Our story today comes from Genesis, the first book in the Old Testament. After God made the world and everything in it, he put the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, in a beautiful garden. Adam and Eve fellowshiped with God there, and they took care of the garden. But they chose to disobey God, and he punished them by sending them out of the garden. God also told them that the punishment for not obeying was death.

God taught Adam and Eve that they must always come to him with an animal sacrifice. The blood of a bull or sheep would remind them that sin always leads to death. Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters. All of them learned how to worship God with an animal sacrifice.

Cain and Abel were two of the sons of Adam and Eve. Abel grew up to be a shepherd. But Cain was a farmer. One year Cain decided he would not bring an animal sacrifice to God. He brought some of his fruits and grains to God as an offering instead. But God was not pleased. God required an animal sacrifice.

That same year Abel brought the first lamb that had been born to one of his sheep and gave the best parts of it to God as an offering. God was pleased with Abel. Cain was angry that God had rejected his offering, and he was jealous because God was happy with Abel's animal offering.

One day when Cain and Abel were

the other child should grab it away. The first child holds the Bible with two fingers and a thumb, then three fingers, and then with the whole hand. Each time the other child snatches it out of his hand. When the Bible is held with the whole hand, it should be very difficult to snatch away.

If we only know a little bit about what God says in the Bible, we can be easily confused by the false teachings of others. We do not fully understand the truth, and the little bit that we do know can be easily taken from us. But if we read the Bible, study the Bible, and memorize what the Bible says, we can keep a firm grasp on all that God wants us to know. Then we will not be easily confused and no one can snatch the truth of God's Word from us. (If you do not have access to enough Bibles, two children can illustrate this for the entire group with just one Bible.)

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, choose another song about God's Word.)

God's Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

God's Word is a lamp to my feet,
A light to my path always,
To guide and to save me from sin,
And show me the heavenly way.
God's Word have I hid in my heart,
That I might not sin against him,
That I might not sin, that I might not sin,
God's Word have I hid in my heart.

Teach the Bible lesson: (15 minutes)

The eaglet was not allowed to die. He got back together with his parents because they loved him. They went after him. They brought him back to his family. Jesus wants us to be a part of his family. When we become God's children, Jesus will help us remain with our Christian family. We will know his love for us. We will know the truth. We will not be allowed to perish.

There is no need for you to go from place to place looking for the truth. God has already given us the truth in Jesus. Jesus said about himself, (Turn in your Bible to John 14:6 and read:) "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) You can read the truth in the Bible. God's Holy Spirit will help you understand the truth as you learn the Scriptures. When you trust in Jesus as your Saviour, God's Holy Spirit comes to live in you. The Holy Spirit teaches us God's truth. He will help us when we have questions.

Jesus said to his followers, (Turn in your Bible to John 8:31-32 and read:) "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32) The more we learn to obey Jesus' teachings, the more we are able to understand God's truth. You might know educated and intelligent people who are not followers of Jesus. But, they cannot speak the truth about God because they do not know Jesus. Jesus is the

truth. Those who do not follow Jesus cannot hear and understand the truth.

Jesus is God's only way of salvation. Jesus is the only one who can save us from the punishment we deserve for our sins. He is the only one who can free us from a life of disobeying and rebelling. Jesus is the only one who can give us the power to live a life that pleases God. Jesus is the only way to heaven.

Do you know someone who claims that Jesus is not the only way of salvation? That person does not know the truth. Do you know anyone who says there is any other way to enter heaven? That person does not know the truth. We can stand firm on the Word of God. God's Word teaches that Jesus is the only true way of salvation. God wants you to know the truth. God wants you to accept Jesus as your Saviour. (Never force any child to make a decision to follow Jesus. Invite those who have questions to speak with you after class.)

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Use the following actions to help the children memorize today's verse:

Jesus said (point to your mouth), *I* (point to your chest), *am the way* (place your hands with palms facing each other and push them out in front of your chest), *the truth* (push both arms up towards the sky), *and the life* (bring both arms down in a circle to each side). *No one comes to the Father* (shake your finger back and forth in front of your face), *except*

through me (point to your chest).

When the children are familiar with the movements, let each child say the verse by himself with the appropriate actions.

5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson. Did the Eaglet learn to live like the owls? (No) How did the eaglet get back home? (His parents came for him.) What book do we need to read so that we will know the truth? (the Bible) How can you know if someone is telling you the truth about God? (It should agree with what the Bible says.) Should we believe everything we hear? (No) Do people who do not follow Jesus know the truth? (No)
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song:

Trust and Obey

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey.

6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 14

LEARNING TO LIVE WITH OTHERS

SCRIPTURES: Genesis 4:1-16; Genesis 26:1, 12-33; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Philippians 2:3-4.

MEMORY VERSE: "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own." (Philippians 2:3-4)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children will know:

1. sinful attitudes lead to sinful actions.
2. that they must learn to obey God before they can live with others in peace and cooperation.
3. that they cannot learn to live with others in peace until God gives them a new heart through the power of Jesus.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Bring a Bible with you to the club.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. You will need several different kinds of seeds for the object lesson. Be ready with a tune to put the memory verses to

music.

5. Study the whole lesson before presenting it to the class. Revise the previous lesson and read the next lesson also in order to get an overview of this unit. Philippians 2:3-5 is the Scripture memory passage for three lessons, so the children will revise verse 3 today and learn verse 4.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

Alphabet Gifts

Have the children line up in a row in front of you. Tell them that you will call out letters of the alphabet. As you say a letter, the first child in line must shout out something that begins with that letter. The children should name something each time that can be given as a gift.

If they call out a good gift which they would like to receive, all the children must jump to the left. If it is a gift they would not want to receive, they all must jump to the right.

Have the groups repeat the memory verse after you, in phrases: "Don't do anything from selfish ambition / or from a cheap desire to boast, / but be humble towards one another / always considering others better than yourselves. / Philippians 2:3.

Have each group open its envelope and unscramble all the words until they have put the verse together again. Say the verse several times as a group until the children know it well.

5. CLOSING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Ask questions to revise the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
4. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.
5. Sing a song: *Jesus Help Me to Be Kind*.
6. Close with prayer.
7. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

RESPECT GOD AND OTHERS

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 20:12; 22:28; Leviticus 19:15, 32; Galatians 5:14; Philippians 2:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; James 2:1-4.

MEMORY VERSE: "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves." (Philippians 2:3)

OBJECTIVES: As a result of the lesson, the children will:

1. learn biblical standards for showing respect to others.
2. know they can show respect for God by obeying his commandments.
3. learn that only Jesus can enable them to truly love and respect God and others.

1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for God to guide you as you prepare for and teach this lesson. Pray for the children to understand the lesson.
2. Read and study all Scriptures related to the lesson.
3. Be sure you understand the objectives of the lesson.
4. Place a marker in your Bible by each verse that is mentioned in the Bible story for this session.
5. Collect teaching and learning aids. Make signs that say "Please," "Thank

you," "Excuse me," "I'm sorry," "May I help you?" Write the memory verse on 4 sheets of paper. Cut the words apart, mix them up, and put the sets in 4 separate envelopes to use during the memory work time.

6. Before class begins, enlist four children to help you with a dramatic skit. Two children should show the respectful way for a child to greet an adult. The other two will show a disrespectful way for a child to greet an adult.

7. Study the lesson before presenting it to the class. You will also want to read through the next two lessons, in order to get an overview of this unit.

2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club commitment.
3. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
4. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

3. TEACHING THE LESSON

Play a game: (10 minutes)

"Mother May I"

One child will be "Mother." The other children line up across the room. "Mother" tells the children to take 3 baby steps (or take one giant step, etc.). If any child forgets to say "Mother, may I?" before he begins moving, he must return to the starting point.

The child reaching "Mother" first wins. Let the children take turns being "Mother." Encourage them to be creative in the movements they tell the group to take.

Drama: (10 minutes)

What is respect? (Give the children an opportunity to answer.) We showed respect towards Mother in our game today when we asked permission before moving. Respect means honoring others by showing them courtesy and kindness, and by considering their ideas and wishes before making a decision.

(Choose 2 groups of children to do a short drama. One team will show the respectful way for a child to greet an adult. The other team will show a disrespectful way for a child to greet an adult.) Hold up signs with words like "please," "thank you," "May I help you?," "I'm sorry," "Excuse me" to remind the first team to include these words in their sketch.)

(Be ready with some skit ideas to help the groups get started, such as: students in the classroom showing respect for their teacher; children helping their mother with the supper chores; children visiting an elderly person at home; children playing games in the schoolyard, etc.)

After the dramas say: People in other countries might show their respect for each other in different ways. Some cultures stand when greeting; others kneel. Some cultures shake hands; others bow to one another. Although we cannot know

the customs of every people in every place, we can know that showing respect for others is God's plan to make sure we have harmony and good behaviour in every nation.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(If you do not know this song, choose another song about obeying God.)

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord,
In the light of his Word,
What a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey,
For there's no other way,
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

Teach the Bible story: (15 minutes)

[Since you have marked each of the following verses in your Bible, you may wish to have different children read these verses as you mention each one.]

The Bible teaches us that we should have respect for others. We should respect our parents. (Exodus 20:12) We should respect our leaders and the governmental authorities. (Exodus 22:28) We should not laugh at poor people, but rather show them kindness and respect. (Proverbs 14:31) We should show respect for elderly people. (Leviticus 19:32) We should treat church leaders and Christian ministers with great respect. (1 Thessalonians 5:12-13).

Paul was a missionary who traveled to many countries telling people about Jesus. In each of those different countries the followers of Jesus met together as a church to worship God and to encourage each other.

Often the people in the church came from different backgrounds. Some of the people were Jewish; some were Greek; some were Roman. Some of them were rich landowners; some were slaves; some were soldiers. Sometimes there was confusion about how these different people should treat each other.

Paul wrote letters to many of these churches to teach them how God wanted them to love and respect one another. In a letter to the Christians at Philippi, Paul wrote, "Don't do anything from selfish ambition or from a cheap desire to boast, but be humble towards one another, always considering others better than yourselves. And look out for one another's interests, not just for your own."

Paul taught them that they should have the same attitude that Jesus had. Jesus was willing to give up all his rights and privileges in heaven and come to earth in the body of a man.

We cannot truly have respect for other people until we first learn to respect the God who created us all. Jesus came from heaven to teach us what God is like and how we can show our love and respect for him.

One day a religious leader came to Jesus and asked him which of all God's commandments was the most

important. "Jesus answered, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

Jesus said that all of God's instructions to us depended on these two commandments. We show God how much we love him when we gladly obey all that he has taught us in his Word.

Sing a song: (5 minutes)

(Use the tune of *Jesus Loves Me*)

Jesus Help Me to Be Kind

Jesus, help me to be kind,
Good and loving all the time.
Jesus, show me what to do,
To love others just like you.
Love one another.
Forgive one another.
Help one another,
For this is right to do.

Pray:

Ask a volunteer to pray aloud for the group, asking God to help them love each other more and to love God more.

4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Write the memory verse on 4 sheets of paper. Cut the words apart and put each set in a separate envelope. Divide the children into 4 groups. Say the memory verse to them.