

# FRIENDS OF JESUS



**Book Six**

## 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 Six

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Printed by:  
Baptist publishing House  
P.O. Box 8241, Belmont  
Bulawayo Zimbabwe

### FRIENDS OF JESUS Year 3

Wes Hook, Editor

#### WHO AM I?

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the dead and is the Son of God. Saul did not believe them although they were telling the truth. Saul was angry with the disciples because he thought they were telling lies about God, and he wanted to punish them. He traveled around the country putting Jesus' followers in prison.

One day he went to arrest Jesus' followers in Damascus. On the way a miracle happened. There was a bright flash of light, and Saul fell to the ground. He could not see, but he heard Jesus speak to him.

Then Saul believed what the disciples had been saying. Saul was blind for three days until Ananias, one of Jesus' followers in Damascus, placed his hands on Saul's eyes; and God healed him.

Saul's life changed. He was baptised and began teaching people that Jesus is the Son of God. Saul became known as Paul and became a great friend and follower of Jesus. He knew so much about Jesus he was able to teach other people about him.

Paul was able to know Jesus by spending time in prayer. When Paul first heard about Jesus, he did not believe in him; but Jesus became the most important person in Paul's life.

Read Philippians 3:4-9. Repeat the memory verse: "I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ

Jesus my Lord." Ask the children to repeat the memory verse with you.

Paul knew that Jesus' love for us is more important than all these things. He knew the best blessing we can have is to have Jesus as our friend.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
 What a Friend we have in Jesus,  
 All our sins and grief to bear!  
 What a privilege to carry  
 Everything to God in prayer!  
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit!  
 Oh, what needless pain we bear!  
 All because we do not carry  
 Everything to God in prayer.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children to pray and thank Jesus for being their friend.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Divide the memory verse in two parts and the children into two groups. Have the children take turns saying the two parts until they know the verse. Then say it together.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Remind the children that Jesus was Paul's friend. If we commit our lives to Jesus and allow him to lead and guide us, Jesus becomes our friend, too.
2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

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## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Desiree DeVilliers  
Martie Spangenberg  
Stephen Mantlwa  
Lorraine Ritchie  
Dorothy Selebano  
Dorcas Lynch  
Ishmael Keagile  
Clare Ball  
Helen Chileshe

**Editors:**  
Wes Hook  
Sandra Hayashida

**Special thanks:**  
Mary Monroe  
Lorie Mattox  
Beth Kilpatrick  
Elizabeth Thames

Second verse:  
Sit down and whisper if you love  
my Jesus.

### **Application:** (5 minutes)

Knowing Jesus is the most important thing in our lives. How do we get to know Jesus? Can we invite him to our house like Martha and Mary? Will he come and have dinner with us and tell us stories?

We cannot see Jesus, so can we still know him and be his friend? Let's play a game that shows us that we can still know Jesus though we cannot see him.

### **Game:** (15 minutes)

Choose a child to be "blind man" and tie a cloth or blindfold around his or her eyes. Ask the other children to run around the "blind man" until the "blind man" is able to catch someone.

The "blind man" must guess who he has caught by asking questions, such as: "Are you a boy or a girl?" "Where do you live?" "How old are you?"

The person he has caught is not allowed to speak; the other children must answer for him. The "blind man" cannot see or hear who he has caught, but he should soon be able to guess who it is from the answers to the questions.

Let the children play the game a few times, taking turns to be the

"blind man" and asking different questions.

### **Application:** (5 minutes)

This game is a little like knowing Jesus. We cannot see him or hear him like Martha or Mary did, but we do have the Bible. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John tell us all about Jesus' life on Earth.

We also know from our Bible that Jesus is alive today, and we can talk to him by praying to him. As we learn more about Jesus, we learn to live in his way and to follow his commands. We learn he loves us and wants the best for us. He is our best friend. He is always with us and has promised never to leave us.

### **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.

### **Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Today I want to tell you about Saul, who became Paul. Saul lived at the time of Jesus, but he did not know Jesus when Jesus died on the cross.

Jesus' disciples were telling everyone that Jesus has risen from

Martha and Mary. Give them time to read and understand the scripts.

Make a stage with two chairs and give Martha the duster and cooking pot. Martha and Mary are sitting on the chairs. They hear someone knocking, and Martha jumps up to answer the door.

*Martha:* "Jesus! How good to see you! Will you come and have a meal with us?"

*Jesus:* "Thank you Martha, I would like that very much."

Jesus sits in Mary's chair and Mary sits at his feet. Jesus opens the Bible and starts to read from Psalm 103. He reads two lines; then Martha jumps up.

*Martha:* "Excuse me Jesus. I just have something to do."

Martha grabs the duster and starts dusting where Jesus and Mary are sitting. Jesus carries on reading to Mary. Martha comes and sits down. She listens to one line then she jumps up and fetches the cooking pot. She stands in the corner of the room with her pot.

*Martha:* "Now I must tidy the house and cook because my sister will not help me."

Mary looks at Martha and shakes her head and listens to Jesus. Martha bangs the pot down and marches up to Jesus.

*Martha:* "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!"

*Jesus:* "Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, but there is only one thing you should care about. Mary has chosen the right thing—learning from me—and it will not be taken away from her."

(Children return to their seats.)

**Questions:** (5 minutes)

1. Do you think it was fair when Mary let Martha do all the work? (Not really)

2. How would you have felt if you were Martha? (Angry? Upset?)

3. What did Jesus say? (Repeat Jesus' words) Explain: In Israel in Jesus' time it was important to welcome visitors. If someone came to your house, you had to make them a meal and give them a bed if they needed one.

It was very important for Martha and Mary to give Jesus something to eat. Jesus knows these things are important, but he knows that to be his friend is more important. Jesus honored Mary for choosing the most important thing to do.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Stand up and Shout*

Stand up and shout it if you love my Jesus.

Stand up and shout it if you love my Lord.

I want to know, yes, I want to know.

Do you love my Lord?

## INTRODUCTION FOR FRIENDS OF JESUS CLUB LEADERS

Welcome to Book Six 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  
P.O. Box 1759  
Edenvale 1610  
South Africa

Kenya Baptist Media  
P.O. Box 30370  
Nairobi, Kenya

Baptist Bookstore  
Makishi at Great East Rd.  
Lusaka, Zambia

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 Nyangoo



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



## THE BEST BLESSING—TO BE A FRIEND OF JESUS

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 10:38-42, Philippians 3:7-9, Ephesians 3:16-19

**MEMORY VERSE:** "I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:8).

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

1. Learn how to know Jesus as a friend,
2. Learn the blessings of being a friend of Jesus.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and the children you will be teaching.
2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson, Luke 10:38-42, Philippians 3:7-9 and Ephesians 3:16-19.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse
4. Prepare the activities:  
 Provide a duster and cooking pot as props for the play. Write out or photocopy the parts of Mary, Martha and Jesus for the play. Provide a cloth or blindfold for the game.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.

2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Count Your Blessings*

Count your blessings,  
 Name them one by one,  
 Count your many blessings,  
 See what God hath done.  
 Count your blessings,  
 Name them one by one,  
 Count your many blessings,  
 See what God hath done.

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Ask all the visitors to raise their hands. Welcome them to the class. Say: I know a story about a very special visitor. His name is Jesus. I would like you to help me by acting out the story.

**Drama:** (15 minutes)

Choose three children who can read well to play the parts of Jesus,

Answer: Righteous people love God. They show their love for God by loving others.

4. What is the remedy for God's curse on people who disobey him?

Answer: The remedy is Jesus. When we accept him as our Saviour, the curse is taken away.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Whatsoever You Do*

Whatsoever you do, to the least of my brothers, That you do unto me. When I was hungry, you gave me to eat, When I was thirsty, you gave me to drink. Now enter into the home of my Father. When I was lonely you stood by my side, Cold and in prison, you visited me. Now enter into the home of my Father.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

When we accept Christ into our lives, he not only takes away the curse of sin, he also protects us from curses other people may put on us.

Can anyone remember God's words to Abraham? God said, "I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse those who curse you" (Genesis 3:12). These promises become true for us when we accept Jesus into our lives.

There are people today who do not know God is the only one with authority to curse. Sometimes others

might even place curses on us or on our families. We need not be afraid. God is all-powerful. His love for us is stronger than the power of curses.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Read Romans 8:35-39. Repeat verse 38 and 39. Say: These verses teach us that nothing can separate us from God's love. Divide the verses into parts and assign each part to a group of children. Change parts so that each group learns all of the parts. Then recite the verses together until they are learned.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name.  
You are mine.  
When you walk through the waters, I'll be with you.  
You will never sink beneath the waves.  
When people turn and curse you, I'll be with you,  
They can never take away my love.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements.
2. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
3. Pray with the children. Thank God for his protection and unfailing love. Thank him for Jesus, who died so we need not be under the curse of sin. Ask for God's blessing and protection on the children.
4. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## GOD WANTS ME TO BE DILIGENT

**SCRIPTURE:** Daniel 6

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings" (Colossians 3:23).

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

1. Understand that God wants us to be reliable and to work hard,
2. See that hard work means we try our best, even though we are not perfect.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and for the children whom you will teach.
2. Read Daniel 6 and Colossians 3:23.
3. Prepare a cleaning up activity.
4. Prepare a list of questions for the "Can you?" game.
5. Prepare the lesson so that you can tell it in your own words.
6. Memorize this week's memory verse.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Pray for the children.
2. Together say the club verse, "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom,

gaining favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Give of Your Best to the Master*

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give Him first place in your heart;  
Give Him first place in your service;  
Consecrate every part.  
Give, and to you shall be given;  
God His beloved son gave;  
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,  
Give Him the best that you have.

**Chorus:**

Give of your best to the Master;  
Give of the strength of your youth;  
Clad in salvation's full armour,  
Join in the battle for truth.

**Activity:** (20 minutes)

Prepare a cleaning activity that all the children can be involved in. Perhaps they can wash the hall windows, someone's car, carry

water to someone's home, work in a garden, clean up a playing field (or anything else you can think of). The activity must be work and something that will take them about 20 minutes. Make sure all the children work together and do a good job.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### **Introduce the lesson:** (5 minutes)

We have all just been working hard. It is not always fun to work, but it is important.

1. How do we feel when we have done work well?
2. Is it easier to work hard alone or to work hard together?
3. Did everyone work hard or did some let others do the work while they found other things to do? How did that make you feel?
4. Can you think of some ways to make the work easier?
5. Why is it important to be willing to work hard?
6. Can we honour God in our work?

I want to tell you about a man in the Bible who worked hard.

#### **Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

His name was Daniel. He was taken away to a foreign country where he was made to work for the government. Daniel worked hard at whatever he was asked to do, and he did good work in all of his assignments. Most important of all Daniel did not forget to honour God.

His work was so good that the king of that country put him in charge of everything in the government. This favouritism made the other leaders very jealous. To try to get Daniel into trouble they looked at all the work he had done.

They tried to find a mistake that he had made. They looked to see if he took money that did not belong to him or if he cheated someone. They could find nothing wrong. Daniel was very reliable. He had integrity. He had done his work so well that they could find no way to get him into trouble.

Finally the other leaders thought of what they could do. They could make up a new law that they knew Daniel would break. It was a law about not being able to pray. They knew the only way they could get Daniel into trouble was if they made his faith in his God illegal. They knew he would not turn from the Lord.

The jealous leaders did change the law and made praying to any god other than the King against the law. Daniel got into trouble because he would not stop praying to the Lord.

It was Daniel's custom to open his window towards Jerusalem and pray three times a day. As soon as he heard about the new law, he went home, opened his window, and prayed.

The other leaders were watching and caught him. They took Daniel to

Tell the children that in the days before Jesus came to earth, it was just as difficult for God's people to keep God's laws as it was for the children to balance the papers on their heads.

Show the children it is also impossible for you to carry all the folded pieces of paper on your head.

Next, explain when we accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, he forgives us for the times we disobey him. We are no longer cursed for disobeying God. If we listen to Jesus and let him lead and guide our lives, he will help us keep his commands.

Put the crown on your head and explain you can wear the crown only when you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. Put the pieces of paper inside the crown and walk with the crown holding them in place.

Explain to the children that just as you could not carry all the papers until you put on the crown, you cannot obey God until you accept Jesus as your Lord. Then the curse is taken away, but it is still there for people who do not trust in Jesus.

When we accept Jesus into our lives, we begin a relationship with him. As we learn to know Jesus better, he teaches us how we should live. We learn to do what is right, not because there is a law telling us what to do, but because we love God.

Jesus talks about cursing and blessing in the New Testament. The

words he says are found in Matthew 25:31-46.

Ask the children, "Who will find the book of Matthew?" Wait for their answers.

#### **Drama:** (15 minutes)

Explain to the children that you would like them to dramatize this story. You would like them to use their imaginations and first play the parts of the people on earth.

Then they will dramatize the Final Judgement, using their Bibles to read aloud the words recorded in Matthew.

Choose children to be those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, cold, sick or in prison.

Other children can play the parts of the people who were kind to those in need, and those who ignored those in difficulty. Also, choose a child to be the King at the Final Judgement.

#### **Questions:** (5 minutes)

When the children have finished the drama, ask the following questions:

1. Who were the people cursed by the King?

Answer: Those who were not righteous.

2. What does the word "righteous" mean?

Answer: It means that we have accepted Jesus as our Lord, and he has forgiven us our sins.

3. What do righteous people do?

There were many laws. There were laws about what food the people could eat and what clothes they could wear. There were laws about how they should behave. There were so many laws that Moses had to write them in a book. This was called "The Book of the Law" or simply "The Law."

It was very difficult for the Israelites to keep all the laws, and they were always breaking one law or another.

It is the same for us. We do not have the same laws that the Israelites had. Instead we have the Bible which teaches us how to live God's way. People these days also find it difficult to do all that the Bible says. We often do things that are wrong, no matter how much we try to be good. The Bible calls the things we do wrong our sins.

Ask the children: "Do you think this means all of us are cursed?"

Wait for answers, then say: "We were all cursed until Jesus came to earth. When he died on the cross, he died for our sins. He took the blame for all the times we disobeyed God. Jesus died for everyone, but he will only take away our sins if we ask him. We must turn to him, tell him we are sorry for disobeying God and let Jesus be in control of our lives."

The Bible tells us these things in Galatians 3:10-14. Read the Scripture to the children. Tell them to listen carefully because it is a

difficult passage to understand. Answer any questions they may have about the passage you have just read.

**Game:** (15 minutes)

Explain you would like to play a game to help them understand the Bible verse. Give pieces of paper (about the size of a postcard) to everyone in the class.

Ask each child to write one of God's commands on his/her piece of paper. If they cannot think of anything, give them examples: "Do not steal," or "Love your neighbour as yourself." Ask them to fold their pieces when finished and bring them to you.

When all the children have brought you their pieces of paper, explain you want to play a game called *Keeping God's Commands*.

In the game, God's Commands are "kept" as the children balance the folded papers (with commands written on them) on their heads. The children must then walk ten steps without dropping any of the pieces of paper.

If they drop one, this means that they have broken that command. (Explain they have not really broken the command, but the game is "make believe".) Invite a few children to come to the front one at a time to play the game. You should find that they cannot balance more than a few pieces of paper without dropping one.

the King and accused him of not obeying the King. Because the law could not be changed, the King had no choice but to throw Daniel into a pit of hungry lions.

The Lord was pleased with his servant Daniel and all his hard work, so he closed the mouths of the lions. Daniel was found alive the next day.

The King was so cross at the jealous leaders for what they did that he threw them into the pit of lions and set Daniel free.

The Lord wants us to be like Daniel and work hard at all we do. That does not mean we can do everything perfectly, but we must try our best. Daniel tried his best, and the Lord was pleased with him.

**Game:** (10 minutes)

*Can You?*

Ask the children questions like "Can you do maths?", "Can you help your mother in the kitchen?", "Can you pick up a car?", "Can you write your own name?" "Can you ride a bike?" "Can you drive a car?" (Ask them about things you know they can do and things they can't do.)

Tell them to jump up if they can do what you ask and sit down if they cannot. Ask the questions quickly.

Tell them that there are many things we can do and some things we cannot do. God wants us to work hard to do our very best at all the things we can do. He wants us to honour him.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*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.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Let the children pray quietly to themselves to ask God to help them to be reliable and to work hard. They can also ask God to help them to do the things they find hard to do. Close the prayer time thanking God for the work that he gives us to do.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Teach the children Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings" (Colossians 3:23), with the following actions to help them remember the verse:

*Whatever you do*, (point at someone else),  
*work at it* (pretend to be digging),  
*with all your heart*, (put your hand on your heart),  
*as though you were working* (pretend to be digging),  
*for the Lord* (point up to heaven),  
*and not for human beings*. (shake your head and point at others).

Let the children practise this a few times until they know the verse. Remember to teach them that the verse is found in Colossians 3:23.

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements about the lesson next week.
2. Tell the children to try to work hard at all they do this week.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.

#### 4. Sing: *I'll Be True*

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

#### 5. Close in prayer.

#### 6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

### Lesson 51

## HOW TO STOP CURSES

**SCRIPTURE:** Galatians 3:10-14; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 8:35-39

**MEMORY VERSE:** "For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the world above nor the world below - there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

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

1. Learn about God's salvation and will be given the opportunity to commit their lives to Christ,
2. Learn God is all-powerful and we are secure in him,
3. Learn Jesus Christ has power over any evil forces that may attack us.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the class.
2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson, Galatians 3:10-14; Matthew 25:31-46 and Romans 8:35-39.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
4. Prepare the activities:  
You will need postcard-sized pieces

of paper and a cardboard crown (with a cross drawn on the front) to fit your own head.

Take writing materials for the class.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Sing the club song: *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. Say the club commitment: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

#### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Tell the children: This is the last lesson about curses. We have already learned that God curses those who are disobedient to him.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

In Deuteronomy 27:26, it says "God's curse is on anyone who does not obey all of God's laws and teachings."

This verse is one of the things Moses told the Israelites after he had led them out of Egypt. At the same time he told them all the laws and teachings that God had given him.

Jesus was not the only one who told us we are not to curse. The apostle Paul also wrote the same thing in his letters to the churches.

Paul wrote: "Ask God to bless those that persecute you—yes, ask him to bless, not to curse" (Romans 12:14). Paul also wrote: "When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure" (1 Corinthians 4:12).

**Activity:** (15 minutes)

Tell the children to sit in a large circle. Distribute the cardboard crown and six sticks among the children. Play music or ask the children to clap.

The children must pass the crown and sticks from one to the other. When the music or clapping stops, the child with the crown must put it on. Those with sticks must then come to the crowned child and say "I want to persecute you and curse you."

The child with the crown must reply, "I bless you" while placing the crown upon the head of one of the children with sticks. Then take the stick and break it.

This game is repeated with five sticks, then four and so on until all the sticks have been broken.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Explain to the children: If we bless those who persecute us or curse us, their persecutions or curse will

not hurt us. Instead we will feel only God's joy as we bless them.

Next week we will learn more about this. We will see we need not be afraid if people curse us because there is a remedy for curses.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

(Tune is *Row, Row, Row the Boat.*)

Tell me what you do,  
when people curse you.  
Bless them, bless them, bless them,  
bless them,  
That is what you do.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Spend time praying with the children. Ask them to each think of somebody they do not like, or somebody who has done something bad to them. Tell them that you want them silently to bow their heads and ask God to bless that person.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (5 minutes)

Say the memory verse together until everyone knows it.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Sing the song: *I Bless You in the Name of the Lord*
2. Make announcements
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Close with prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer

## FEAR OF OTHERS

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 23:37-38

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me!" (Matthew 23:37).

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

1. Know Jesus as Protector and Defender,
2. Know because God is our Protector and Defender, we need not fear others.
3. Understand because there is evil in the world, we must deal wisely with others.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Study the following Scriptures before teaching the lesson: Psalm 18:1-6; Psalm 91:1-16; Matthew 10:16-17, 28-31; 23:37.
2. Learn the songs.
3. Find the following materials:
  1. A picture of a farm (some land to show to the children.)
  2. A picture of burning land.
  3. A picture of a hen and chickens.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).
3. Sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom.*
4. Say the club commitment: (Put hand over heart) Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body and in favour with God and men.
5. Recognise those who had a birthday during the past week. Let one of the children welcome visitors. Recognise those who brought visitors.
6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*How Great is Our God*

How great is our God,  
How great is His name,  
How great is His love  
Forever the same.  
He rolled back the waters  
Of the mighty Red Sea.  
And He said, I'll never leave you.  
Put your trust in Me.

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Tell a story:** (10 minutes)

There is a story about a hen with many chicks. One day during the dry winter months a fire started

on the farm and soon the grass was burning all across the land.

When the chicks saw the fire, they all ran underneath the wings of the hen for safety.

After the fire the farmer was walking across the land, and he came across something that was burned. He kicked the burnt object; and when he did, the chicks came out from under it. The fire had burnt the hen to death, but the fire did not burn the chicks because they were protected under the wings of the hen.

**Application:** (10 minutes)

Ask children to discover who/ what each of the characters represent. Supply the following names from which to choose: the farm, world, Jesus, wings, God's protection, chicks, lost people, hen.

1. The hen represents Jesus who is calling us to come to him for protection.
2. The chicks represent lost people who are in danger without Jesus.
3. The farm represents the world.
4. The wings symbolise God's protection.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*I Will Stay Right Under the Lord*

I will stay right under the Lord.  
(3X)

Where the devil can do me no harm.

No harm. (3X)

Where the devil can do me no harm.

**Bible teaching:** (20 minutes)

Because God is our Protector and Defender, we need not fear others. God is a caring Father who protects his children from all evil. We need to trust him.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times have I wanted to put my arm around all your people, just as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me!" (Matthew 23:37).

Jesus calls people to come to him for salvation and protection. Jesus is like the hen who wants to gather her chicks under her wings. Jesus wants all people to come to him for salvation and protection. We must trust Jesus to be our Protector and Defender.

Since there is evil in the world, we must be wise in dealing with others. Let us read Matthew 10:16-17. In these verses, Jesus tells us how we should relate with others. (Discuss what Jesus tells us to do in these verses.)

1. We must be as careful as snakes, but gentle as doves. This means we must be wise in dealing with others.
2. We must be as innocent or gentle as doves.

(Discuss the meaning of wisdom, gentle, and innocent as doves.) We must not be rude or do wrong things when dealing with others. We must not be afraid of

When Cain killed Abel, he fell under the following curse: "God's curse on anyone who secretly commits murder" (Deuteronomy 27:24).

When Ham did not honour Noah, he fell under a curse. "God's curse on anyone who dishonours his father or mother" (Deuteronomy 27:16).

Deuteronomy 27:26 states: "God's curse on anyone who does not obey all of God's laws and teachings." These were the people cursed in Malachi who did not tithe and those who wanted to rebuild a city which God wanted destroyed. We see God keeps his word.

**Sing a song:** (10 minutes)

*Joshua fought the battle of Jericho*  
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,  
Jericho, Jericho.

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho,  
And the walls came tumblin' down.

A curse on those who try to build it  
up again, up again, up again.

A curse on those who try to build it  
up again,

Cause God brought those walls  
down.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

We have learnt that God alone has authority to curse. Sometimes he gives that authority to others such as Joshua, and they can curse in God's name.

What about Jesus? How did Jesus have authority to curse?

Listen to the children's answers. Explain Jesus could curse people because he was God's son. Ask the children if they can name anyone who was cursed by Jesus. Wait for their replies.

**Object lesson:** (10 minutes)

Tell them Jesus did not curse anyone, but he once cursed a fig tree. Jesus was hungry and saw a fig tree by the road. When he got closer, he found nothing on the tree except leaves. (Hold up your leafy branch as an illustration.)

Jesus said to the tree, "You will never again bear fruit;" and the fig tree dried up and died. (Pull the leaves off the branch one by one until you are left with a bare branch.)

This seemed a strange thing to do, but Jesus wanted to teach his disciples a lesson in faith, which is why he cursed the tree. (Matthew 21:18-22)

Jesus never cursed a person. Instead, do you know what he said? (Give the children time to think and answer.)

He said we are to bless people instead of cursing them. Read aloud Luke 6:27-31.

Tell the children you want them to learn verse 28 as the memory verse:

"...bless those who curse you, and pray for those who ill-treat you."

Ask the children to recite the verse after you until they know it.

used the first curse to punish Adam and Eve for their disobedience. Today we are going to look in the Bible at other examples of cursing.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

God does not change. He used the first curse to punish Adam and Eve's disobedience. We read in the Bible that God continues to curse people for their disobedience. Before God led the people of Israel into the Promised Land, he spoke to them through Moses. This is what God said about blessings and curses:

"Today I am giving you the choice between a blessing and a curse - a blessing if you obey the commands of the Lord your God that I am giving today; but a curse, if you disobey these commands and turn away to worship other gods that you have never worshipped before. When the Lord brings you into the land that you are going to occupy, you are to proclaim the blessing from Mount Gerizim and the curse from Mount Ebal" (Deuteronomy 11:26-29).

Moses was careful to tell the Israelites about God's instructions. He told the people upon which mountains they must stand to proclaim the blessings and curses. He told them every single disobedient act that would be cursed by God. (Deuteronomy 27) We can see how people in the Bible disobeyed God and how they were

cursed. Let's look at some of those people now.

**Activity:** (20 minutes)

Divide the class into four groups. Give each group one of the following Bible references:

1. Cain and Abel. (Genesis 4:3-12)
2. Noah and his sons. (Genesis 9:18-27)
3. The battle of Jericho. (Joshua 6)
4. Instructions about tithing. (Malachi 3:6-12)

Explain that each group is to read their Bible passages. Then, each group must present their Bible reading to the class. Each group can tell the story in their own words. They can even draw a picture and read the passage from their Bible. They can dramatize their story. Remind them to show how the people in the story were cursed for disobedience.

Provide the children with any drawing materials they need and give them time to prepare. Ask each group in turn to come forward and tell the class about their Bible reading. When all the groups have finished, explain the following:

All of these disobedient acts are listed in Deuteronomy 27. When the tribes stood on Mount Ebal and pronounced the curses, their words were true. They were either talking about things which had already happened or about what God would do in the future.

others, but we must be courteous and friendly. We are not to fear others and regard everyone as enemies. God gives us favour with people as he did for Joseph in Egypt (Genesis 39:6). God is able to help us find favour in the eyes of others.

It is good for Christians to make friends. Friends are people with whom we can share problems, sorrows and joys. Let us read what God's word says about this matter: "Help to carry one another's burdens and in this way obey the Law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

God gives us Christian friends with whom we can talk and share our burdens. We should not fear others. As children of God who have the love of Jesus in our hearts, we should show the love of Jesus to others.

If we have the love of Jesus in our hearts, we shall trust God as our Protector and Defender. God protects us from all evil which people may plan against us. We must not be careless, though. We must be as cautious as snakes. We must be as innocent and gentle as doves.

**Application:** ( 10 minutes)

1. Discuss why we sometimes fear others.
2. Ask children to give advice to another child who fears people.
3. Ask the children what other things that they can fear? Will God protect them from these fears? Discuss how he will do that.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*We Are Never Alone*

*Chorus:*

We are never alone,  
God has given us His family.  
We are never alone,  
In God's family we have security.

*Verse:*

In the mountains or in the valleys,  
When things go right,  
When things go wrong,  
It's good to know  
We have God's family,  
A family where we know we belong.

Sing chorus again.

*Verse:*

As we share and as we live,  
As we receive and as we give,  
We will build up  
Each other till we all attain  
The fullness of the stature of  
Christ.

Sing chorus again.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Thank God that his love removes all fear from our lives. Ask God to help the children trust him to take care of all of their fears.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem! You kill the prophets and stone the messengers God has sent you! How many times I wanted to put my arms around all your people, just as a

hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not let me!" (Matthew 23:37).

1. Learn the memory verse phrase by phrase with the children. Remind them that these are the words of Jesus.

2. Ask the children to say the memory verse together as a group three times.

3. Then ask for volunteers to repeat the memory verse aloud.

4. Give as many children opportunity to say the verse as time allows.

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions:

1. What should one do to come under God's protection?

2. How should we deal with others?

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. Close with prayer.

6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

#### Lesson 50

### EXAMPLES OF CURSES

**SCRIPTURE:** Deuteronomy 11:26-29, Luke 6:28

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who ill-treat you" (Luke 6:28).

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

1. Learn about some of the curses in the Old and New Testaments,

2. Learn we are not to curse but to bless others.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Pray to begin the club meeting.

2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.

3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

#### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

*In the Name of Jesus*

In the name of Jesus, (repeat)

We have the victory.

In the name of Jesus, (repeat)

Demons have to flee.

Who can tell what God can do?

Who can tell of his love for you?

In the name of Jesus,

In the name of Jesus,

We have the victory.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the class.

2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson, Deuteronomy 11:26-29; Luke 6:28; Genesis 4:3-12; Genesis 9:18-27; Joshua 6; Malachi 3:6-12.

3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.

4. Prepare the activities:

Take some drawing materials for the activities. Find a leafy branch you can take to illustrate the story of the fig tree.

Make a cardboard crown to fit the heads of the children. Provide six sticks to use in the game. If you have a CD or cassette player, take music for the game.

#### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

##### Introduce the lesson: (5 minutes)

Ask the children if they can remember what they learnt last week. Wait for responses. Remind them: Last week we learnt about curses. We learnt God alone has the authority to curse. We saw how God

**Bible teaching:** (10 minutes)

Explain the King of Moab was wrong when he tried to curse the Israelites. But a curse even worse than trying to curse God's chosen people is a curse against God himself. There is a man in the Bible, named Job, who was told to curse God.

Have the children find Job 1:11 and Job 2:5 and read them aloud.

When these verses have been read, explain how Satan tried to make Job curse God:

1. By taking away all Job owned.
2. By hurting Job's body and making him sick.

Tell the children to close their Bibles again. Ask what Job did when Satan took away his possessions and made him sick.

Ask: Did he curse God? Would you curse God if you lost everything you had and were very sick?

Have the children find and read Job 2:9-10.

When these verses have been read, explain that Job did not listen to his wife and did not curse God. This was a good thing because if he had cursed God, he would have died.

Whatever bad things happen to us, we must be like Job and refuse to curse God.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children to pray thanking God for his blessings and promising him not to curse him or other people.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Teach the children the memory verse. Divide the verse into four parts and the reference.

1. "And he said to the man,"
2. "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat."
3. "Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse."
4. "You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you" (Genesis 3:17).

Memorise the parts until the group is able to say the entire verse.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Ask the children what they have learnt from the lesson today. If they seem unsure, remind them of the lesson objectives. Explain that this means they must never curse anyone. They must especially never curse God.

2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Sing the song *I Bless You in the Name of the Lord* (from the previous lesson). Remind the children of any words they might have forgotten.
5. Close with prayer.
6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

**Lesson 29**

**OVERCOMING FEAR**

**SCRIPTURE:** Hebrews 2:14-15

**MEMORY VERSE:** "For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control" 2 Timothy 1:7.

**OBJECTIVES:** Children should be able to:

1. Trust God to remove fear from their lives,
2. Cast all their care on Jesus,
3. Have hope for the future because God loves them.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Trust God to set you free from fear before you teach the children.
2. Pray God will use this lesson to help the children.
3. Study the following Scripture background for the lesson: Psalm 23; 2 Timothy 1:7; Hebrews 2:14-15.
4. Memorise the club verse and pledge.
5. Know the teaching story so you can tell it in your own words.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Begin the lesson with prayer.
2. Say the club verse: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining

favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

3. Sing the club song: *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

5. Welcome those present, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Why Worry When You Can Pray*

Why worry when you can pray,  
Trust Jesus and He will lead your way.

Don't be a doubting Thomas,  
Just lean upon His promise.

Why worry? Worry? Worry?  
Worry?

When you can pray.

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Introduce the lesson:** (10 minutes)

Ask the children to share things they fear. Make a list of the things they share. The list may be like this:

1. I fear the dark.
2. I am afraid to die because I do not know where I will go when I die.
3. I am afraid of people because I fear they may take me and hurt me.

4. I am afraid my parents may die, and I will have no one to take care of me.

5. I fear being bewitched.

6. I fear certain animals.

Tell them that in all these things Jesus is able to help them. They must trust him.

Fear is a normal, good emotion, but to live in fear is not good. Jesus wants to help us overcome our fear. God loves us, and he has a wonderful future for us. The love of Jesus in our hearts will take away all kinds of fear. "There is no fear in love, perfect love drives out all fear" (1 John 4:18). Jesus said: "I am the resurrection and life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die" (John 5:25-26).

Christians need not fear death because they know when they die they are going to be with Jesus in heaven. God tells not to fear. "Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you which will bring great joy to all the people" (Luke 2:10).

#### Questions:

1. Who can remove our fear? How?
2. Why should a Christian not fear death?

#### Tell a story: (15 minutes)

Two boys were at school. One boy was big and a bully, and the other was timid and weak. The big boy always watched for the weak one when they were walking to and

from school. The big boy would hit the weaker one.

As a result, the weak boy was afraid to go to school alone. He told his older brother about the big boy. His older brother promised he would go with him to school and protect him from the strong boy.

The following day the older brother went with his brother to school. When the big boy saw the older brother, he did not hit the weak boy. The weak boy did not fear the big boy because his older brother was with him.

#### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

*I am Delivered*

I am delivered, praise the Lord!

I am delivered by His Word

Once I was bound by the chains of Satan

I am delivered, praise the Lord.

#### Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

Gideon lived during a time when his country was occupied by soldiers from another country. One night Gideon was hiding in a wine press while he threshed his grain. He did not want anyone to know he was there.

Suddenly Gideon realized he was not alone. A person dressed in shiny, white clothing was watching Gideon. The first thing the person said to Gideon was to not be afraid. Then he called Gideon a mighty warrior.

There are several examples in the Bible of people who had God's authority to curse others. We will study these next week.

Today we will learn anyone who curses another person without the authority of God is judged by God.

When God blessed Abraham, he said: "I will give you many descendants, and they will become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, but I will curse those who curse you" (Genesis 12:2-3).

God had blessed Abraham. If anyone cursed Abraham or any of his descendants, they would be going against God's will. This is why God promised to curse anyone who cursed Abraham.

#### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

Sing to the tune *If You're Happy and You Know It, Clap Your Hands*.

God is Lord, and only God can curse.

God is King, and only God can curse.

Only God can curse

And it will be the worse

For you, if you try like God to curse.

God will bless His children who obey.

God will bless His children who obey.

If we listen to His word,

And do just what He says,

God will bless His children who obey.

#### Bible teaching: (10 minutes)

Tell the children a story about a king who tried to curse the people God had blessed. (Numbers 22-24)

Tell the story in your own words as it is too long to read directly from the Bible. (Keep your Bible open on your lap as you tell the story.)

#### Activity: (10 minutes)

Say to the children "Let's pretend to bless or curse the Israelites." Pass around the bag containing the pieces of paper with "blessing" or "curse" written on them.

Tell the children to each take a piece of paper. Hang your picture of the Israelites. The blessings will stick easily when licked, but the curses will not stay on the picture. The result is a very blessed Israelite camp.

#### Questions: (5 minutes)

1. Why was Balaam not able to curse the Israelites?

(God had blessed them and would not curse those he had blessed.)

2. Why did Balaam curse the King of Moab? (The King had disobeyed God by asking Balaam to curse God's chosen people.)

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

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Bless the Lord*

Bless the Lord, Oh my soul,  
And all that is within me  
Bless His holy name. (2x's)  
He has done great things. (3x's)  
Bless His holy name.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (5 minutes)

Remind the children that the past two lessons have been about blessing. Blessings are good things from God.

Ask the class if anyone can tell you the opposite of a blessing. Listen to their suggestions.

The opposite of a blessing is a curse. Explain: A curse is when a person asks for a bad thing to happen to another person or group. Those who curse others usually call upon another power to enforce the curse. This power may be of God or of Satan. The very first curse was spoken by God.

**Game:** (15 minutes)

*Bible Telescope Game*

Take the sheet of stiff paper and roll it into a tube. Have the children look through the tube and say: "Through my telescope I see the people God cursed with the first curse. You must discover who I see."

The children may ask only twenty questions to discover the names of the people. (Adam and Eve)

When the children have discovered the correct answer, ask if anyone can tell:

1. The name of the place where Adam and Eve were cursed. (The Garden of Eden)
2. The one who was also cursed with Adam and Eve. (The serpent)
3. The reason that God cursed Adam and Eve. (They had been disobedient to God.)

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Tell the children the story of Adam and Eve in your own words. Read aloud the Scripture passage for today. (Genesis 3:17-19).

Explain the curse resulted in it being difficult for Adam to grow crops. He would have to work hard all his life to grow enough food to eat. Then he would die, and his body would become like the soil again.

God spoke a curse on the ground. God keeps his word, so today the curse is still there. We have to work hard to grow things from the ground, or have money to buy the food we need.

God is the only person who has the authority to curse. Sometimes he gives this authority to his people. They are then able to curse people in God's name.

Gideon looked around to see the mighty warrior. He knew that he was not a brave person. God had seen what Gideon could become. The angle called Gideon by what God was going to do in Gideon's life.

God wanted Gideon to lead the children of Israel to defeat the army of the enemy. Gideon was afraid, but he believed and obeyed God.

The first group of men under Gideon's command numbered 32,000. God said that was too many people. He wanted Gideon to depend upon him, and he wanted everyone to know that he, God, had delivered the children of Israel. God had Gideon to reduce the number by allowing all of those who feared the enemy to leave. When they left, 10,000 remained.

God reduced the number of soldiers again until Gideon only had 300 men. How could he fight and win a battle against a much larger army?

God told Gideon what to do, and Gideon obeyed him. When Gideon and his men approached the Midianite camp during the night, God had the men to blow trumpets and smash jars that held torches. The Midianites turned on themselves with their swords and fled with the army of Gideon pursuing them.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Jesus destroyed the power of Satan when he died on the cross and rose from the dead. "I am the living one! I was dead, but now I am alive

forever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead" (Revelation 1:18). Because Jesus has authority over death, those who believe in him need not fear death.

**Discuss the following:**

God knows all about your fear. He sent Jesus to set us free from fear. Allow Jesus to come into your heart. Give your life to him. You must believe when you invite him to come into your heart. He does as he promised.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*No Never Alone*

No, never alone, no never alone;  
He promised never to leave me,  
Never to leave me alone.  
No, never alone, no never alone;  
He promised never to leave me,  
Never to leave me alone.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

1. Invite children to pray, asking Jesus to come into their lives and set them free from fear.
2. While all heads are bowed, lead them to say prayers to receive Jesus as their Saviour.
3. Counsel children as appropriate after class.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

"For the Spirit that God has given us does not make us timid; instead, his Spirit fills us with power, love, and self-control" 2 Timothy 1:7.

1. Review the memory verse with the children. Ask the children to repeat it after you three times.
2. Ask the children to say it together as a group three times.
3. Now ask one child to repeat it.
4. Continue this process as time allows.

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Ask questions to review the lesson.
2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage them to bring friends next week.
4. Close with prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

#### Lesson 49

### CURSES

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:17-19, Numbers 22 - 24, Job 1-2:10

**MEMORY VERSE:** "And he said to the man, "You listened to your wife and ate the fruit which I told you not to eat. Because of what you have done, the ground will be under a curse. You will have to work hard all your life to make it produce enough food for you" (Genesis 3:17).

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

1. God used the first curse to judge man for his sin,
2. God is Sovereign. He alone has the authority to curse and bless,
3. Anyone (other than God) who curses another is potentially under God's judgement.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the children you will be teaching.
2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson, Genesis 3:17-19, Numbers 22-24 and Job 1-2:10.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
4. Prepare the activities:  
Provide a thick piece of paper which

can be rolled into a tube for the *Bible Telescope Game*.

Draw a large picture of Balaam and the King of Moab overlooking the Israelite camp. (You can use stick figures if you prefer).

Take a sheet of gummed paper. (You may use sticky tape if you cannot find gummed paper) Divide into small rectangles (approx. 5cm by 2cm ) and in each rectangle write the word "blessing".

Take a sheet of non-gummed paper. Divide into rectangles as before, but write the word "curse" in each rectangle.

Cut out the rectangles from both sheets. Make sure you make enough rectangles to be able to give one to every child in the class. Put these in a bag for the children to pick out.

5. Read Numbers 22-24. Prepare to tell the children this story in your own words as it is too long to read directly from the Bible.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Pray as you begin.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

can bless a family member by praying for them and asking God to bless them. You can also bless someone by helping or being kind.

Ask the children if they remember the assignment from last week. Remind them you had asked them to look for ways they could bless their family and friends. Tell them your testimony; that is, how you blessed someone during the week. Invite the children to share their testimonies.

Tell the children that to give a blessing is a good thing. When you bless someone, you are allowing God to work through you. Therefore, you are also blessed when you give a blessing. Tell the children that you can show them how this works.

**Object lesson:** (5 minutes)

Have the children stand in one large circle. Ask one of the children to cup their hands. Pour some glitter into their hands from a container. (Flour can be used if glitter is not available, but it is not as effective.) Ask the first child to pass the glitter or flour to the child next to them. This child must then pass the flour or glitter to the next child. Continue until all the children have held the glitter.

Explain to the children that the glitter represents God's blessing. As they pass the "blessing" on to the next child, some of the glitter remains on their own hands; and they too are "blessed."

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

Sing using the tune: *I Love You with the Love of the Lord.*

I bless you in the name of the Lord.

Yes, I bless you in the name of the Lord.

May the Lord bless you,

May His blessings flow,

As I bless you in the name of the Lord.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Divide the children into groups of two or three with people they know well. Help each child to bless the others in their group by praying for God's blessing on them. Move around the room to help each group.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (5 minutes)

Ask the girls and boys to recite their part of the memory verse again. Have the children repeat the verse together.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Give the children an assignment. Ask them how God can use them to bless other people. Explain you would like each of them to bless the other members of their families.

2. Make any announcements for the following week..

3. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.

4. Sing *I Bless You in the Name of the Lord* again.

5. Close with prayer.

6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## I WILL NOT FEAR THE FUTURE

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 23

MEMORY VERSE: "The Lord is my shepherd: I have everything I need" Psalm 23:1.

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

1. Know God's love for them never changes,
2. Know God can control their futures,
3. Know they can trust God to always love them.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and the children whom you will teach.
2. Read the following Scriptures: Psalm 23; Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Kings 17:8-24.
3. Study Psalm 23.
4. Memorize the Friends of Jesus song, verse, and pledge.
5. Read the teaching story many times and be prepared to tell it in your own words.
6. Practice "The Lord is my Shepherd" hand activity.
7. Bring a torch or candle to show the class.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Begin the lesson with prayer.
2. Say the club verse, "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and man" (Luke 2:52).
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom.*
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*My God is So Great*

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!  
There's nothing my God cannot do!  
(clap, clap) (repeat)  
The mountains are His,  
The rivers are His,  
The stars are his handiwork, too.  
My God is so great, so strong and so mighty!  
There's nothing my God cannot do  
(for you)!

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Introduce the lesson:**

Today we are going to hear about a boy and a girl who were

sometimes afraid. Listen and see if these stories remind you of things that you sometimes fear.

**Tell a story:** (15 minutes)

Eric was a boy about your age. He lived in a village high in the mountains. During the day, the sunshine would light the mountains, but at night it became very dark.

Eric was afraid of the dark. He could not see clearly in the dark. He thought there were "things" waiting to catch him. Each night he became more afraid.

One night he was too afraid to go to sleep. "Why will you not go to sleep?" asked Eric's father.

"I am afraid of the dark," said Eric.

Eric's father thought a moment, then said, "Make a fist with your hand. Now raise one finger with each word as you say, "The Lord is my shepherd." Now your hand is open. Take God's hand in yours. You don't need to be afraid anymore because God will always look after you."

Another story is about a girl named Caroline.

Caroline's family loaded their suitcases into the car.

"I don't want to move," Caroline said. "I am afraid of going to a new place."

"Don't worry," said Caroline's father. "God will be with us. He will keep us safe."

Caroline worried about making new friends.

"Talk to God when you are afraid. He will always hear your prayers," her father reminded her.

**Discuss the following:**

A shepherd is a person who cares for sheep. He gives the sheep food and water. He keeps them safe from other animals who want to hurt them. He helps the sheep if they are sick. God is our shepherd. He gives us food and water. He keeps us safe when we are afraid. He helps us when we are sick. God is always with us.

Have you ever been afraid of what will happen later? (Wait for answers.) Have you worried about your mother, father, brothers, sisters or yourself? (Wait for answers.)

God does not want you to be afraid. God loves you like a shepherd loves his sheep. He will always look after you.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*The Lord is My Shepherd*

The Lord is my shepherd.

I'll follow him always (2X)

Always, always

I'll follow him always (2X)

**Stand up activity:** (5 minutes)

1. Have the children make a fist with their hand.
2. Say the words, "The Lord is my shepherd" out loud.

promised. When Jacob became old, he wanted to bless his sons. This story is found in Genesis 49.

**Game:** (10 minutes)

*Unscramble the names of the sons of Jacob*

Divide the children into groups, making sure each group has a Bible. Ask them to find Genesis, chapter 49. Stand in front of the class and hold the prepared cards one by one.

Each group must try to be the first to find the name represented by the anagram. Keep the name of Joseph (HE JOPS) until last.

**Memory work:** (15 minutes)

Explain that Joseph was the favourite son. Jacob gave him the best blessing.

Read this blessing aloud. (Genesis 49:22-26) Repeat verses 25 and 26.

Tell the children that you want them to learn this section as the memory verse. Divide the class into boys and girls. Ask the boys to learn verse 25 and the girls to learn verse 26. Have them recite the verses from memory.

Explain the verses: Jacob was acting as God's representative. When Jacob blessed Joseph, he was giving him God's blessing. God is faithful, and his blessing is like a promise. Joseph was blessed for his entire life by Jacob's blessing.

Joseph and Jacob were both blessed by their fathers because the

fathers loved their children. The blessings were very real and were like good gifts to the children.

God blessed Isaac and Jacob so powerfully because they were very special people. Isaac was the son of Abraham, and Jacob was Abraham's grandson. God had promised to build an entire nation from Abraham's children. By blessing Isaac and Jacob, God was just making sure he kept his promise to Abraham.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Abraham's Blessings are Mine*

Abraham's blessings are mine,

Abraham's blessings are mine,

Abraham's blessings are mine,

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

**Application:** (15 minutes)

Ask the children if they think fathers can bless their children today as Jacob and Isaac blessed their sons.

Explain it is unusual for a blessing to be as powerful as the blessings of Isaac and Jacob. It is possible, however, for a father to bless his family in many smaller ways. And today, it is not just the fathers who can bless their families. Mothers can bless their children, and children can bless each other and bless their parents. People can bless friends, too.

Ask the children to describe ways they can bless family members.

Explain blessings can only come from God. God can use people to bless others with his blessings. You

5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Give Me Oil In My Lamp*

- Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
 Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.  
 Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,  
 Keep me burning 'til the break of day.  
 Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna,  
 Sing hosanna to the King of Kings,  
 Sing hosanna, Sing hosanna,  
 Sing hosanna to the King.
- (2) Make me a fisher of men, keep me seeking.
  - (3) Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing.
  - (4) Give me love in my heart, keep me serving.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:**

Tell the children this week's lesson is "Family Blessing." Tell them there is a story in the Bible about a father who wanted to bless his son and was tricked into blessing the wrong child.

Ask: Does anyone know the name of the father and his two children? (Isaac, Esau and Jacob) This story of the blessing is in Genesis 27.

**Bible teaching** (15 minutes)

Read Genesis 27:1-40 slowly, giving the children time to dramatise the story as you read it.

Choose children to play the parts of Isaac, Esau, Jacob and Rebecca. Give them the animal skins (or cloth) and soup bowls to use as they act.

**Questions:** (5 minutes)

1. Who were the dishonest people in the story? (Jacob and Rebecca)
2. Why did they want Isaac to bless Jacob? (Isaac was the son of Abraham. He was God's representative and could bless his sons with God's blessings. God's blessing was a good thing to have.)
3. Why could Isaac not change his blessing to Esau when he found out he had been tricked? (God always keeps his promises. Through Isaac, God promised to bless Jacob. The promise could not be changed or broken.)
4. What bad thing happened because of the trickery? (Jacob ran away because Esau hated him. He never saw his parents again.)

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children if they know what happened to Jacob after he had been blessed by Isaac.

Explain that Jacob married and had twelve sons. He was a very good farmer and became very rich. God blessed him in all the ways he had

3. With each word they say they must lift one finger.
4. Finally, their hand must be open.
5. Have the children close their eyes and imagine holding Jesus' hand.

**Object lesson:** (10 minutes)

When it is dark, we cannot see. We use certain objects to help us see in the dark. Ask the children if they can name any of these things. (torch, fire, candle, match).

Hold up the torch or candle that you brought to class. Say: "God is like a torch or candle to us. He is light. The light sends away the darkness, so we can see clearly. When we trust God, his love for us takes away our fear."

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Did you know that there was a woman in the Bible who was afraid of the future? She had no money. She also had no food, and her son would soon be taken away and sold as a slave.

A slave is a person who has to work for another person. A slave can't do what he wants to do. He must listen to the person who has bought him.

The woman did not know what to do, but she trusted God. God loved her, and he sent a man to her home to help her.

The man was Elijah. Although the woman had only a little flour and oil in her house, she made some

bread for Elijah. Elijah asked God to help the woman because she had given him food.

After that day, the woman always had some oil and flour to make bread. Her containers were never empty. Her son did not have to be sold as a slave.

God looked after her. She did not have to be afraid of the future.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

God did not forget the woman in the Bible. God will not forget you. He loves you. He loves you today, and he will love you tomorrow. He wants you to trust him for the future.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*No Never Alone*

- No, never alone, no, never alone;  
 He promised never to leave me,  
 Never to leave me alone.  
 (repeat all three lines)

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children to bow their heads and thank God for his love. Thank God for controlling our futures. Thank God that we do not have to be afraid of the future.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Divide the class into two groups. Let each group repeat the verse they learnt in the stand up activity: "The Lord is my shepherd" (Psalm 23:1).

Have the children do the hand actions as they repeat the verse.

**5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)**

1. Make announcements about the meeting next week.

2. Sing the club song.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next time.
4. Close with prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

**FAMILY BLESSING**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 27:1- 45;  
Genesis 49:1-28

**MEMORY VERSE:** "It is your father's God who helps you, the Almighty God who blesses you with blessings of rain from above and of deep waters from beneath the ground, blessings of many cattle and children, blessings of corn and flowers, blessings of ancient mountains, delightful things from everlasting hills. May these blessings rest on the head of Joseph, on the brow of the one set apart from his brothers" (Genesis 49:25-26).

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

1. Learn a blessing is a way to uplift and encourage family members,
2. Realise that giving a blessing is a powerful way of showing love.

**TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and your class before the lesson.
2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson, Genesis 27:1- 45 and Genesis 49:1-28.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
4. Prepare the game. Take 12 cards and write the following words on

each: "AND", "DAG", "VILE", "HAD JU", "SHEAR", "IN SOME," "BURNEE", "HE JOPS", "LUNE BUZ", "JAB IN MEN", "AH I PLANT" and "HAS I CARS". These are anagrams of the twelve sons of Jacob. (An anagram is made by putting the letter in the words in different order). Write the words clearly so everyone in the class will be able to see when you hold up the cards.

5. Think of a way in which you have blessed someone this past week and be ready to share this testimony with the children.
6. Take a tube of glitter for one of the activities. (If glitter is not available, ordinary flour (or maize meal) can be used.
7. Take some rough pieces of animal skin or cloth. Also take two soup bowls to use in the telling of the story of Esau and Jacob.

**2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)**

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

Explain that we talk about the family as a vine and olive trees because these things grew in Israel.

Repeat verse 1 and the memory verse, verse 4.

Have the children repeat the memory verse after you. Explain that the word "man" also applies to women and to children. Tell them that the Bible is true, and God blesses those who follow him.

Tell the children that there are many examples in the Bible of good people who have been blessed by the Lord. Let them dramatise the story of Daniel as an example.

**Drama:** (10 minutes)

Choose one child to be Daniel, one to be the king, one to be an angel, three to be enemies of Daniel, and all the others who want to act as lions. Read the story slowly and have the children act as you read. Find a space which can be used as a stage. Put the lions in one area. Put the king, the enemies, and Daniel in another area. Tell the story:

Daniel was a good man, but he lived in a country where he had enemies. These enemies tricked the king in order to get Daniel in trouble. They had the king order that for one month everyone must pray to him and him only. They knew that Daniel loved God, and he prayed to him every day.

The punishment for praying to someone other than the king was to

be put into a pit of lions. Daniel was thrown in the lions den for disobeying the law.

God stopped the lions from eating Daniel, and in the morning the king freed Daniel. God blessed Daniel by saving his life because Daniel obeyed God

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)  
Sing *Count your Blessings* again.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)  
Thank God for his blessings. The children can name blessings, or they can say a longer prayer. (Examples: "Thank you, God, for Daddy's job." "Thank you for my friends.")

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)  
Divide the children into pairs and have them repeat the Memory Verse to each other. When everyone had learned it, have them say it together.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (10 minutes)  
1. Make announcements.  
2. Say, "Isn't it good that God can use us to bless others like he blesses us?" Tell the children to think about God's blessings during the week, and to look for ways in which they can bless their family and friends. Be prepared next week to tell how they have blessed others.  
3. Repeat the song *God is So Good*.  
4. Close with prayer.  
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## CAREERS

**SCRIPTURES:** Jeremiah 29:11-13; Matthew 6:25-34; Deuteronomy 30:9-10

**MEMORY VERSE:** "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for" (Jeremiah 29:11).

**OBJECTIVES:** The child will learn:  
1. God has a plan for our lives, and he will be faithful to reveal it and bring it about,  
2. God commands us to seek him first.

### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the children.
2. Study the Scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11-13; Matthew 6:25-34; Deuteronomy 30:9-10.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
4. Prepare the activities.

### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Say the club verse: "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and man" Luke 2:52.

3. Sing the club song: *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. Say the club commitment: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Game:** (10 minutes)  
*What Career is This?*

Divide the class into eight groups. To each group give one of these career titles: Doctor, Teacher, Mother, Shopkeeper, Farmer, Secretary, Housepainter and Lawyer. Let each group dramatize the career title they have been given. The other groups must try to guess each career.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:**  
Ask the children if any of them know what they want to do when they are older. Listen to the different careers they choose.

**Teaching activity:** (10 minutes)  
Say: There are many different careers. Some people such as pastors and missionaries feel called by God to work in that way. Others may choose a different career. Any career can be done for God.

Ask the children to name the careers they did in the game. For each career ask how that person can work for God. For example, a doctor tries to heal people. A shopkeeper can serve honestly and cheerfully. A painter can paint the house well.

Read Colossians 3:23: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as though you were working for the Lord and not for human beings."

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)  
(You can make up a tune.)

*This I do for you*

1. I might be a doctor, a policeman or a vet.

I might be a plumber, or fly a jumbo jet.

I might be a farmer or work in a clothing store.

But whatever I do will be for You.

*Chorus:*

Guide me, Lord, in the path that I must go.

Help me choose the things that I must do.

And thank you, Lord, that as I follow You,

Whatever I will do will be for you.

2. I might be a teacher, a mother or a nurse.

I might be a singer, or write books of song and verse.

I might work in a hospital and make sick people well.

But whatever I do will be for you.

Sing Chorus

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Ask the children if anyone feels worried about the future. Perhaps they are unsure of what they want to do, or think it will be hard to find work.

Explain that they cannot know what is going to happen when they are old enough to work. However, God knows all things. God knows the path he has chosen for each child. We can trust God, knowing he has a plan for our lives.

Read Jeremiah 29:11-13. Say the Memory Verse (v.11) and ask the children what it means.

Ask the children if they know what the word "prosperity" means. Explain it is another word for "riches". Tell them in this passage God is telling his people that he has great riches in store for them. Ask: What kind of riches does God give to us?

"Riches" are not just money and possessions. One can also be rich in relationships and happiness. In the Bible we can see how God wants his people to prosper in our relationship with him and others.

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

Ask the children to try to find the Scripture you call out as quickly as possible. The first person to find the reading can stand up and read the verses aloud to the class.

1. Deuteronomy 30:9-10.
2. Job 42:12-17.
3. Psalm 128:1-6.

true to her word. Joanna was very sad when Mary returned from town with a new toy.

If Joanna had listened to her mother, she also could have had a new toy. Joanna's mother was also sad. Parents like to do special things for their children. Joanna's parents were sad that Joanna had been naughty and could not have her toy. You see, the mother loved both her children very much, even when one was good and the other one naughty.

**Questions:**

1. Why did Joanna not get a new toy?
2. How was the mother fair/not fair to the girls?
3. What would you have done if you had been Joanna?

**Application:** (5 minutes)

God is like the children's mother. He loves us very much and wants to give us good things. He cannot bless us in every way he wants to if we do things we know he will not like. Ask the children how they feel about this statement.

Anticipate any questions. (Example: Why do bad things happen to good people? Explain sometimes God allows us to suffer even when we obey him so we can grow to be like Jesus. If we continue to love God and obey him when times are hard, God will bless us.)

Encourage the children to think positively. Salvation is a blessing which no one can take from us. We

know that we will live with God in heaven if we accept Jesus as our Saviour and the Lord of our lives.

Ask the children to spend time thinking of the ways God has blessed them and their families. Tell each child to find a partner whom they know well. Each child must then tell their partner:

1. How God has blessed their life.
2. How he/she thinks God has blessed their partner's life.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*God is So Good*

God is so good.

God is so good.

God is so good.

He's so good to me.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Tell the children how the Israelites lived.

The Israelites were a nation of farmers. They kept sheep and cattle. They grew wheat, grapes and olives. If their crops did not grow or their animals died, the Israelites would have nothing to eat. Therefore, it was important for rain to make the crops grow. They liked to have large families with many children and to live a long time. They were pleased to work because they would be able to earn money to buy the things they needed. They considered all these things blessings from God.

Read aloud Psalm 128. Ask the children to listen for the blessings you have just discussed.

Count your many blessings,  
See what God hath done.  
Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings,  
See what God hath done.

**Game:** (15 minutes)

*What are God's blessings?*

Divide the class into groups of 8-10 children. Give each group a set of cards. Tell them to sort the cards into two stacks:

1. The things that are blessing from God.
2. Those that are not blessings from God.

When the children have finished, go through the cards and for each one ask the group to raise their hands if they think it is a blessing.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (5 minutes)

Say: "Let us begin by learning something from the Bible." Tell how good it is to learn God's Word by heart. Ask the children to say the word "blessed" (Psalm 128:4). Ask them to repeat it. Ask if anyone can say what the word "blessed" means. Listen to their suggestions. Blessed means happy.

**Tell a story:** (15 minutes)

God blesses us as he did those in the Bible. God also wants us to obey him. This story shows how we are blessed when we are obedient.

There were two sisters named Mary and Joanna. Mary was very good. She always listened to her mother and would do what she was told. She was also kind and helpful.

Joanna was sometimes naughty. She often got into trouble and caused problems. She would forget to do the things that her mother told her.

One morning the mother called both the children to her. She saw they were both wearing their good clothes and told them, "Do not wear your good dresses to play outside. I am going to town that afternoon. If you stay clean, you can come with her and choose a present at the store."

Mary helped her mother in the morning, and at lunchtime she was ready to go to town. Joanna, however, forgot what her mother told her. She went outside to play in her best dress. By lunchtime, she was very dirty and her dress was torn.

The mother stood the two girls in front of her and spoke to them.

"Well, Mary", she said, "You have been very good so you can come to town with me." She looked at Joanna. "You, however, have not listened to me. You must stay at home with your aunt, and you will not get anything from the shops today."

It hurt the mother to say this, but she loved Joanna and had to be

Explain that God does promise to bless his children. However, in each case there is a command attached. Read again today's Scripture, Jeremiah 29:11-13. Explain the command is that we put God first and seek him with all our hearts.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Seek ye first the Kingdom of God*

1. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness.

And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu, Alleluia."

*Chorus:*

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia.

2. Man shall not live by bread alone,  
But by every word.

That proceeds from the mouth of  
God,

Allelu, Alleluia

*Chorus*

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children:

1. How do we put God first?  
(We must seek him)
2. How do we seek him?  
(a. By worshipping God. As we sing songs to God and tell him of our love, we will grow closer to God.  
b. By spending time praying to God. Jesus often rose early in the morning, so he could spend time praying with his Father while alone.

c. By reading the Bible. God tells us much about himself in his Word. It is important to read the Bible. It is also important to understand what the Bible says and to ask Jesus to help us live as the Bible tells us.)  
Read Psalm 119:105.

**Sing the song:** (5 minutes)

*Thy Word is a Lamp unto my Feet.*

*Chorus:*

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet  
and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost  
my way,

Still you're there right beside me;  
And nothing will I fear, as long as  
You are near;

And please be near me to the end.

*Chorus*

2. I will not forget, Your love for me  
and yet,

My heart forever is wandering:  
Jesus be my Guide, hold me to  
your side,

And I will love You to the end.

*Chorus*

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Spend time praying with the children. Ask Jesus to bless them and guide their lives at school. Also ask the Lord to guide each child into the career God has chosen for him.

#### 4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for" (Jeremiah 29:11).

Teach the Memory Verse in the three phrases by dividing the children into three groups. Practice saying the verse and then switch phrases twice so that everyone has an opportunity to say each phrase. Then have everyone say the verse at the same time.

Ask the children what the word *prosperity* means. (riches) Ask them again if that means that every Christian is going to be rich with money.

Explain that God promises to take care of the needs of his children, but he does not promise to give us many things in this life. This scripture is telling us that God will provide the very best life for us according to his plan. His purpose in our lives is to make us like Jesus. Our greatest hope in life should be to become like Jesus.

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Make announcements for the next week.

2. Give the children an assignment. Ask each child to think of one talent they have which God has given them. Tell them that you would like them to tell the other children about their talent next week.

If they play an instrument, ask them to bring their instruments (if possible) and play something for the others in the class, or come ready to sing a song.

3. Sing: *Seek ye the Kingdom of God.*

This time sing it as a "round". Divide the class in half. The first half begins by singing the verse; then as they sing the chorus, the second half sings the verse. Both groups sing through the song until it finishes just as the second group finishes singing the last chorus.

4. Close with prayer.

5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

#### Lesson 47

### GOD'S BLESSINGS

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 128

MEMORY VERSE: "A man who obeys the Lord will surely be blessed like this" (Psalm 128:4).

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

1. Learn that God will bless followers who obey him,
2. Recognize God's blessing in his or her life.

#### 1TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the children you will be teaching.
2. Study the Scripture for this lesson, Psalm 128, so you understand it well.
3. Read the following passages which also speak about God's blessing: Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 119:1-2; Deuteronomy 28:1-14.
4. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
5. Read the section about the way of life for the Israelites in biblical times. Prepare to teach this in your own words.
6. Prepare the game by making sets of cards for the children to use. Divide the class into groups of 8-10 children. Decide the expected number of groups from the number of children who usually attend. Prepare a set of 15 cards for every group.

(Each set will be the same.) Write on the cards the following blessings: "Big family", "Cattle and sheep", "Crops", "Health", "Long life", "Rain", "Success", "Victory", "Work", and the following words: "Defeat", "Disaster", "Drought", "Hunger", "Robbery" and "Sickness."

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom.*
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Ask any new children to raise their hands. Ask their name and welcome them to the club.
6. Ask the children to raise their hands if anything special like a birthday surprise happened to them during the week. Have them tell the others about it. Tell the children that these things are blessings from the Lord.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Count Your Blessings*

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,

**Game:** (15 minutes)

*Bible Train*

1. Choose a student to be the train conductor. He/she moves his/her arm forward and backward like a moving train wheel. Makes a "toot" sound like a train makes.
2. Choose another student and say, "All aboard the Bible train."
3. Child shares a Bible truth or a Bible promise.
4. He/she puts his/her right arm on the first person's right shoulder and the left arm moving like a train. He/she then becomes the conductor.
5. They move on to the next pupil and repeat steps 2 to 4.
6. Continue until all the pupils are on the Bible train.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Oh Be Careful*

Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.  
Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.  
For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful, little hands, what you do.

- (2) Oh be careful, little eyes, what you see.
- (3) Oh be careful, little mouth, what you say.
- (4) Oh be careful, little feet, where you go.
- (5) Oh be careful, little mind, what you think.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

This week we are going to learn the last part of the memory verse. Let those who can say all of it so far, do so. Then, as before, help them to learn the last part.

"and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes." (Romans 6:12-13)

Ask: What does "righteous purposes" mean? (These are the right things that we will do when Jesus comes to live in our hearts.)

Have the children say all of the verse together several times.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Make announcements about the lesson next week.
2. Remind the children that they can come and speak to you about becoming a friend of Jesus.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Close in prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Verses of the Roman Road to becoming a Christian:

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 6:23
- Romans 5:8
- Romans 10:9-10
- Romans 10:13

Lesson 32

**TALENTS**

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 4:11-13; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Matthew 25:14-30

**MEMORY VERSE:** "It was he who 'gave gifts'; he appointed some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, others to be pastors and teachers. He did this to prepare all God's people for the work of Christian service, in order to build up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-12).

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

1. Know that God has given each one gifts and talents for the good of the body,
2. Know that all talent comes from God, and we should always be ready to use our talents for God's service.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and the children you will be teaching.
2. Study the Scriptures for the lesson.
3. Prepare the activities. Draw five pictures to illustrate the Memory Verse. Try to show characteristics of each person in your drawing.
  - a. An apostle - one who is sent to represent God.

- b. A prophet - a person who speaks the words of God.
- c. An evangelist - one who tells people the good news of Jesus.
- d. A pastor - a person who leads the church.
- e. A teacher - one who teaches people about God.

Second, draw different parts of the body on a large stiff paper. Draw a trunk, head, eyes, nose, ears, mouth, upper arms, lower arms, hands, thighs, lower legs, and feet. Cut the pieces (there should be twenty altogether) so they can be fitted together to make a complete body.

Third, cut fifteen large coins and write on each "1000", using the symbol for your country's money.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, sing the club song, and say the club pledge together.
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors and those who brought a visitor.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Count Your Blessings*

Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings,

See what God hath done.  
Count your blessings,  
Name them one by one,  
Count your many blessings,  
See what God hath done.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduce the lesson: (10 minutes)

Ask the children if they remember the assignment from last week to share any talents they have. Encourage them to stand and tell about something they are good at doing. If they have brought an instrument, they can play a song. They can talk about a sport they play, recite a poem or do a dance.

When the children have finished, explain that these talents are given to us by God. However, God gives us more than our talents (the things that we do like singing or playing football).

God also gives gifts that make us the kind of people we are. Encouraging others is a gift. Sharing is also a gift. Being able to explain things is a gift. There are many different gifts that God has given to each one of us.

#### Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

Read Ephesians 4:11-13. Tell five different types of people according to their work mentioned in this passage. Each has been gifted by God so they can do the work he has called them to do.

Using the pictures, explain what these people do and the gifts God

gave them to enable them to work for him.

1. An Apostle - One who is sent to represent God. Apostles have authority and are willing to go where God sends them.

2. A Prophet - One who speaks God's words. Prophets understand the will of God and tell the people what God is saying to them.

3. An Evangelist - One who tells people the good news of Jesus. Evangelists are gifted by God to explain the good news of Jesus to those who do not know him.

4. Pastors - One who leads the church. Pastors are gifted in taking care of the people God has put in their church.

5. Teachers - One who teaches others about the Christian faith. Teachers are gifted in being able to explain things clearly so that everyone can understand.

Read the memory verse for today and have the children repeat it.

The five types of people listed all use their gifts to serve God. Ask the children if they know what the words "the body of Christ" mean.

Listen to their suggestions, then explain that "the body of Christ" means the church. (When we talk about the church, we are talking about the people of God and not the building where we meet to have services.)

In this Scripture Paul is talking about adults and not children.

I love Thee, my Saviour, I love  
Thee, my God;  
I love Thee, I love Thee, and that  
Thou dost know,  
But how much I love Thee, my  
actions will show.

#### Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

Our memory verse is in Romans chapter 6, and in Romans chapter 5 we find these words in verse 10, "We were God's enemies, but he made us his friends through the death of his Son. Now that we are God's friends, how much more will we be saved by Christ's life."

The last few weeks we have been hearing about Noah. The people in those days were so evil that God had to wipe out everything and start again with Noah, his family and the animals they put in the boat.

God wanted to deal with the sin in those people's lives. God wants to deal with our sin. Jesus is the one who deals with my sin and yours.

Just like this verse in Romans says, we were God's enemies because we have all sinned; but because Jesus died for our sins, we can now be his friends.

Eternal life is a free gift from God. If we confess Jesus as our Lord and believe that God raised him from the dead, we can ask God to save us from the punishment of our sin and he will. We just need to confess and sins and repent.

Maybe there are some of you who don't know Jesus as your

friend. He has not forgiven your sin because you have not asked him. Jesus wants to take away your sin and to help you each day not to sin, but to live for him.

If you want to be a friend of Jesus just like our club name says, then why don't you come and talk to me about it? You can come (mention any times which you know will suit the children and yourself).

#### Prayer: (10 minutes)

Ask the children to pray quietly for themselves and others to be friends with Jesus. Ask the children to ask Jesus to help them deal with their sin.

After Jesus forgives us of our sins and comes into our hearts to live, we still are not perfect people. What happens to the sins that we do after Jesus comes into our hearts?

Jesus paid the price for those sins also. We just need to admit to him the things that we do wrong and ask for his forgiveness.

The difference in our lives is that now we have Jesus in our hearts reminding us of what we have done wrong and what right things that we need to do. One of the ways that we learn what the "right and wrong things" are is to study what the Bible, God's Word, says.

Let's play the Bible Train game to remind us of some things that we already know are in God's Word.

without breaking their hands apart. He must move the children over and under each other so he can get them back into the circle they started with.

Give him a few minutes. If he can't finish, the children can untie themselves.

A new volunteer is chosen and goes and stands away from the group while they stand in a circle and mix themselves up again. Play the game three times or more if there is time.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** When we become a Christian, we have a testimony that we can share with our friends and family. Our testimonies tell how we were before we knew Jesus and that we had a great need for him in our lives, how we met him, and what he means to us today.

**Tell a story:** (10 minutes)

James was nine years old. He grew up in a Christian home. All of his life he had heard about Jesus, and he knew that Jesus loved him.

Since he was a very little boy, his parents had told him that one day God would speak to him. James was beginning to think that maybe Jesus was speaking to him now.

When he heard the preacher on Sunday morning talk about sin, James was reminded of all the things that he did that were not right. They were not what some people would call "big" sins, but James knew that God was not happy about those sins.

One night as James was thinking about his relationship with God, he

was troubled. He decided to talk with his father about how to become a Christian.

"Father," James said, "I believe that Jesus wants me to ask for forgiveness for the things that I have done wrong."

His father replied, "James, your mother and I have been thinking for several days that Jesus must be talking to you about your need to ask for forgiveness for your sins. Let us sit down and look at what the Bible says."

James' father opens his Bible to the book of Romans. He begins with Romans 3:23 which says that all of us have sinned. James knew that he sinned many times everyday.

When his father read to him about his need to ask for forgiveness from God and to turn away from sin, he knew that was what he wanted to do. He believed that Jesus would forgive him because he had died for his sins.

"James," his father asked, "would you like to pray and ask Jesus to forgive you and come live in your heart?"

"Yes," James replied, "I would like to do that."

After James prayed, he felt a peace in his mind. He knew that Jesus had taken care of all of his sin and now he wanted to live like Jesus.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*I Love Thee*

I love Thee, I love Thee, I love  
Thee, my Lord;

However, children can have the same gifts that prophets, evangelists, teachers, pastors and apostles have.

Say: Perhaps you are good at explaining things, and God wants you to be a Sunday school teacher when you are older. Perhaps you like talking to people about Jesus, and God wants you to be an evangelist."

Explain to the children that if they read the Bible and pray to God, they will begin to know what God wants them to do with their gifts.

Repeat the Memory Verse and then read Romans 12:4-8. Say: This Scripture explains more about the gifts that God has given us. Kindness, sharing, encouraging and serving others are all gifts. Anything we enjoy doing which helps other people is a gift from God. We should use these gifts to help one another.

Repeat verses 4 and 5 and say that you have a game to help them understand more about how people become the body of Christ.

**Game:** (10 minutes)

Give the paper parts of the body to the children. Ask them to put the pieces together like a puzzle and then read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31.

Hold up different parts for the children to see. Show how an eye is different from a foot, and a hand from a thigh. Show that by itself, each part is not useful; but in the body, each has an important job.

Ask the children to rearrange the pieces so that will see how strange the body looks when the parts are in the wrong place.

If God wants us to be a hand, we must be a hand. We might admire and wish to be eyes, but the body would not be able to see if a hand was where the eye should be and there would be nothing on the end of the arm to do the job of the hand.

It is good to admire the other parts of the body and to praise God for the gifts of others. However, it is also important to discover our own gifts and use them.

Return all the parts to the correct place. Explain that only when everyone is using their gifts properly will the church be as God wants it to be.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*For I'm Building a People of Power*

For I'm building a people of  
power

And I'm making a people of  
praise.

That will move through this land  
by My Spirit,

And will glorify My precious  
Name.

Build Your Church, Lord.

Make us strong, Lord.

Join our hearts, Lord, through  
Your Son.

Make us one, Lord,

In Your Body, In the Kingdom

Your Son.

**Drama:** (10 minutes)

Say: There are two things we must do with the gifts and talents that God has given us: we must be sure we use our gifts and we must remember to thank God for the gifts and talents he has given us

Dramatize the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Choose children to play the master and the three servants. Use the paper coins as they tell the story. They can learn their words and say them from memory while you narrate the rest of the story, or you can read the story and let the children act as you read.

**Questions:** (5 minutes)

1. How many of the servants were good servants? (Two)
2. Why were they good? (They used the money they had been given.)
3. What happened to the bad servant? (His money was taken away, and he was thrown outside.)

As we use our gifts, we grow closer to God and learn more about him. God will bless us and reward us in heaven. If we do not use our gifts, we cannot grow closer to God and his people.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Thank you, Jesus*

Chorus:

Thank you, Jesus, thank you  
 Jesus,  
 Thank you, Lord, for loving me.  
 (Sing again.)

1. You went to Calvary, there you  
 died for me,

Thank you, Lord, for loving me.

You rose up from the grave, to me  
 new life you gave,

Thank you, Lord, for loving me.

Chorus

2. You gave me many gifts, you  
 gave them, Lord, to me,

Thank you, Lord, for loving me.

Help me to use them well, that  
 your church may grow,

Thank you, Lord, for loving me.

Chorus

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Divide the children into small groups and have them pray quietly, thanking God for their gifts and talents and asking God to show them how to best use the gifts and talents they have been given.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Repeat the memory verses. Say the verse and let the children fill in the names of the gifts. Then ask why God did this.

Repeat the verse until all have learned it. Let each child say it.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Ask each child to think carefully about the gifts they have been given. Suggest they use their gifts to help others this week.
2. Make announcements for next week.
3. Close with prayer.
4. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## HOW CAN I STOP SINNING?

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:10

MEMORY VERSE: "Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes" (Romans 6:12-13).

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children should:

1. Understand that the remedy for sin is found in Jesus,
2. Be encouraged to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

**Sing:** (5 minutes)

*Search Me, O God*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:

See if there be some wicked way in me,

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

**Game:** (15 minutes)

*Doctor, Doctor*

Choose one volunteer to walk a little way from the group and stand with his or her back to everyone.

Tell the children to stand in a clump and grab random free hands, making sure not to have both of one person's. Then step back until the knot is visible.

The children must cry "Doctor, Doctor" loud enough to call the volunteer back. He or she must then try to untie the knot of children

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and for the children whom you will teach.
2. Read Romans 5:10.
3. Study the scriptures of the Roman Road to salvation.
4. Prepare the lesson so that you can tell it in your own words.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.

## 5. CLOSING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Sing two or three songs.
2. Make announcements about the lesson next week.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Close in prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## Lesson 33

### ACHIEVEMENTS

SCRIPTURE: Luke 12:15-21

MEMORY VERSE: "God has made us what we are, and in our union with Christ Jesus he has created us for a life of good deeds, which he has already prepared for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10)

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

1. Know that God has created us for a life of good deeds,
2. Know good deeds are done by grace and not to earn salvation.

### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study Luke 12:15-21 thoroughly.
3. Memorize Ephesians 2:10.
4. Prepare game one.
5. Prepare crossword puzzle.
6. Prepare "Find the Hidden Words" activity.

### 2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Pray as you begin.
2. Say the club verse, "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and man" Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the

club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

5. Recognize those who had a birthday, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

*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 Thee, my blessed Saviour,  
I surrender all.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduce the lesson: (5 minutes)

Ask the children: "What do you think would be the biggest achievement in your life?" (Explain "achievement") Some of the answers could be to own a nice house, to make lots of money, to be able to afford to buy anything one wants, etc. Discuss the answers.

### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

*Take My Life*

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.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Jesus tells a story about a very rich man. He had a large farm, and his crops were very good. One day he decided to build bigger barns to store all his crops. He then said to himself he was so lucky that he had all the good things he needed for many years. He said he would take life easy, eat, drink and enjoy himself.

God called him a fool. God said people who are only looking after themselves will not be happy. God said he would take his life that night. This story says we must do good unto others and not just think about our own needs. Read Luke 12:15-21.

**Drama:** (10 minutes)

Divide the group into two smaller groups.

Give each group a paper with the following:

1. "You have just learned your best friend has no food. You ask your mother to give you some food to take it to their house. They are very proud people, but very thankful for the food. The next day you visit other friends and tell them your best friend has no food. You also boast about how you took them food."

Have the group dramatise this story.

2. "You have just learnt your best friend has no food. You ask your mother to give you some food to take to their house. They are very proud people, but very thankful for the food. The next day you ask some friends to assist by taking food to them. This is all done in a quiet, helpful way.

Have the group dramatise this story.

1.	X	X	X	X	7.			4.			X	X
	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
6.		2.		X	X	X	9.			5.	X	X
	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
	X		X	X	X	X	X		X		X	X
	X		X	3.	X	X	X		X		X	X
	X		X		X	X	11.			X	X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X

Only one person was left, and he could not play on his own. God does not want us to be left on our own. He wants to be our friend forever. For him to be our friend, he has to change our hearts just like he had to change the world long ago so he could start anew.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Oh Be Careful*

Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.  
 Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.  
 For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
 So be careful, little hands, what you do.

- (2) Oh be careful, little eyes, what you see.
- (3) Oh be careful, little mouth, what you say.
- (4) Oh be careful, little feet, where you go.
- (5) Oh be careful, little mind, what you think.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Let us read the end of the story of Noah. (Read Genesis 8 to the children.) We see that God took care of Noah and his family. It must have been a very difficult time for Noah, his family, and all the animals, but God had to do something about all the sin in the world. He had to remove all of that sin.

At the end of the story, we see how God promises never again to punish the earth with a flood that will cover the whole earth.

What sign did God give of his promise? The rainbow reminds us of God's promise, but we also know that God continues to deal with sin. Just like in Noah's day, God today wants to take away our sin and make sure we do not keep on sinning.

God will not send a flood to deal with our sin. Instead, he has sent Jesus. Jesus has made a way for us to be forgiven for our sin and to have the strength to stop sinning.

Next week we will hear more about that in our last lesson about evil in the world.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Search Me, O God*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
 Try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:  
 See if there be some wicked way in me,  
 Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Pray in a circle, giving every child a chance to ask God about what is on their hearts. Tell them that if they don't want to pray aloud, they should touch the shoulder of the next person when it's their turn.

Then teach the third section, "Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life." Ask the children what they think the memory verse means. Ask them some of these questions and give them time to answer:

1. The memory verse first begins by telling us that we must not let sin rule in our hearts.
2. What were the people in Noah's day doing?
3. Was Noah the same as the people of his day?
4. Who should we give ourselves to?
5. What did God decide to do so that he could deal with the sin in Noah's day?
6. Who and what all was effected by the evil the people did when Noah lived?

Say the memory verse together a few more times.

#### 4. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Today we will begin with playing a game that teaches us an important lesson.

**Game:** (15 minutes)

##### *Make a Group Quick*

Tell the children to all stand in one big group. When you say "GO", they must walk around in the big group and say hello to each other. Then you will call out a number, any number between one and ten.

When you have called out the number, they must make a group of that number and sit down together. You will check that the groups are of the right number and all those who are not in a group of the right number will have to stand on the outside and watch the others.

As you play the game, the group will get smaller. The children will pull each other in or push others out in order to make the right number.

When you are down to two people, call out "One," and the child who sits down the fastest is the winner. Have the other children congratulate the winner by clapping hands for him or her.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Have the children to sit around you and tell them about the game. This game is very much like our lives. We sometimes are friends with some, and then we are not. Some of us only want to be friends with certain kinds of people. Some only like rich people for friends.

You may not like someone because you think they are ugly or stupid. When you do this, you behave just like those people in Noah's day. You become selfish and your heart shows the same kind of evil as the hearts of those people long ago showed. What happened at the end of the game? How many people were left?

Discuss the two ways and explain the Christian way to help someone is to do so in a compassionate way without letting everyone know what you have done.

**Crossword puzzle activity:** (10 minutes)

Prepare the puzzle on page 130..

Give each child a paper and pencil to complete.

Down

1. Another word for a story in the Bible (v16) (Parable)
2. The rich man had good ..... (v16) (Crops)
3. The rich man thought he was very ..... (v19) (Lucky)
4. He also said he had the ..... of life (v19) (Good things)
5. The rich man was not saved, but ..... (Lost)

Across

6. The man in the story was not poor, but ..... (v16) (Rich)
7. He said he would build ..... barns (v18) (Bigger)
8. He said he would eat, drink and ..... himself (v19) (Enjoy)
9. God called this man .a ..... (v20) (Fool)
10. He was not a rich man in God's ..... (v21) (Sight)
11. God said the rich man would give up his life (another word)? (Die)

**Game:** (10 minutes)

Divide the group into smaller groups. Ask each group to think of a good deed. The group must then dramatise the deed without any words.

The other groups must guess what the good deed is. Discuss each group's good deed.

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

#### 4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

*Find the Hidden Words*

Work the puzzle on page 131.

Words may be across, down or backwards.

Words are:

DEEDS	GOOD
JESUS	MADE
GOD	UNION
LIFE	CHRIST
CREATED	

Fill in the missing words:

"..... has ..... us what we are and in our ..... with .....

he has ..... us for a ..... of

.....,"

Ephesians 2:10

Learn this part of the verse and then add the last phrase, *Which he has already prepared for us to do.*

#### Application: (5 minutes)

When we achieve something through God's grace, we must not be like the rich man the Bible tells about. God was good to him, but he thought he could take easy life and not help others. He would just keep all of his wealth for himself.

We must do good deeds because we are grateful to God for helping us achieve something in life. We should not do good for others so we can boast, but because God created us for a life of good deeds.

We cannot be saved through our works or good deeds, but we are saved by God's grace alone, through faith.

Ask the children to do a good deed this week that they can tell about next week in Friends of Jesus. Ask the children to give examples of good deeds to do (e.g. obeying parents, doing my chores without being asked, volunteer do a task to help Mom or Dad, watch a younger brother or sister to help Mom, being kind to another sibling, clearing the table, etc.)

#### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

*Trust and Obey*

Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

#### Prayer: (5 minutes)

Dear Father, thank you for giving us opportunities to do good deeds. Help us to do good to others.

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

#### Lesson 45

### WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE SIN?

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 8

MEMORY VERSE: "Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes" (Romans 6:12-13).

OBJECTIVES: As a result of this lesson the children should:

1. Understand that God deals with our sin because he loves us,
2. Desire God's help in dealing with their sin.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and for the children whom you will teach, praying for those you know by name.
2. Read the whole story of Noah found in Genesis 6 - 8.
3. Read the memory portion.
4. Prepare the memory verse by setting it up as described in the Memory Work section.
5. Prepare the lesson so that you can tell it in your own words.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom.*
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

#### Song: (5 minutes)

*I Love Thee*

I love Thee, I love Thee, I love  
Thee, my Lord;  
I love Thee, my Saviour, I love  
Thee, my God;  
I love Thee, I love Thee, and that  
Thou dost know,  
But how much I love Thee, my  
actions will show.

#### 3. MEMORY WORK (15 minutes)

Say: "Today we are going to begin with our memory verse. Who can tell us where the verse comes from? Now who can tell us the first two sentences?" Let a few children stand up and say the first two sentences of the memory verse.

## 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements about the lesson next week.
- 2 Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
- 3 Close in prayer.
- 4 Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## Lesson 34

# RISKING

**SCRIPTURE:** Philippians 3:4-10;  
Matthew 19:16-30

**MEMORY VERSE:** "But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake. Not only those things; I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Philippians 3:7-8a).

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

1. God calls us to obedience,
2. Any risk we might take is nothing compared to the riches Christ has given us.

### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and your class.
2. Study the Scriptures for this lesson so you know them well.
3. Know the song, club commitment and verse.
4. Prepare the activities. Write on six separate pieces of card the words: "Ridicule", "His family", "Their lives", "His money", "Their jobs", "His reputation".

### 2. BEGINNING TIME (15 minutes)

1. Pray as you begin.

2. Together with the children, say the club verse, "Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and man" Luke 2:52.

3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, visitors, and those who brought one.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (5 minutes)

Explain to the children that the title of today's lesson is risking. Ask what "risking" means. Explain that it usually means, "taking a chance".

However, if we risk something for God, we are not taking a chance. Risking means trying to do something without knowing what will happen for sure. God will keep his promises to us when we risk things for him. We risk in faith, trusting God for the result. God knows how things will turn out—for his good.

Sometimes Jesus asks us to take risks when we follow him. This is not unusual. There are many examples in the Bible of people who were asked to take risks for God.

**Activity:** (20 minutes)

*Taking risks for God*

Divide the class into six groups. Give each group the name of a person in the Bible and a passage of Scripture to read.

1. Noah. Genesis 2:5-6 and Genesis 6:9-22.
2. Abraham. Genesis 22:1-14.
3. Gideon. Judges 7:1-8 and 7:19-22.
4. Zacchaeus. Luke 19:1-10.
5. Nicodemus. John 3:1-2, John 7:45-52 and John 19:38-42.
6. Peter, Andrew, James and John. Luke 5:1-11.

Place the six prepared cards at the front of the class where all the children can see them.

Explain that you would like the children to carefully read the passage given them. They must then decide which of the six risks were taken by the person in the passage they have read.

Ask each group in turn to read the passage aloud and to tell the rest of the class which risk was taken. Listen to the children's answers, then explain.

1. Noah risked ridicule. No rain had ever fallen on Earth when God told him to build an ark. Noah's friends and neighbours laughed at him because they could not imagine water covering the earth. However, Noah trusted God; and when the flood came, he and his family were safe in the ark.

2. Abraham risked the life of his son. God tested Abraham to see if he would do whatever was asked of him. God asked Abraham to sacrifice his son Isaac, and Abraham was ready to obey and risk his son's life. God saw that Abraham was obedient, and he provided a ram for Abraham to sacrifice instead of Isaac. In the New Testament we read that Abraham believed that God would bring Isaac back to life in order to keep his promise to Abraham.

3. Gideon risked his life and the lives of the 300 men who fought with him. A large number of men may have had a chance of defeating the Midianites, but it was dangerous for only 300 men to fight such a big army. God had a plan. When Gideon obeyed God, God won the battle for them.

4. Zacchaeus risked his money. After he met Jesus, he realised he had done wrong and returned the money he had taken. He lost his money, but he gained joy and salvation. He gained something much better than the money he lost.

5. Nicodemus risked his popularity and respect. He was a Pharisee, and Pharisees did not approve of Jesus and spoke against him.

The Pharisees were highly respected by the people, and Nicodemus knew he could lose respect if people knew he followed Jesus. He visited Jesus at night so

and try to find the other person acting like that same animal. You can allow them to make noises or only actions.

3. You can say that the first team to find each other is the winner and have them raise their hands. Or you can play it several times and the last team to find each other sits out to watch the others play.

**Review the Story:** (5 minutes)

Ask the following questions to review the story from last week and for today.

**Questions:**

1. What was God going to send to destroy the world? (a flood)
2. How was God going to save Noah and his family? (They were going to build a boat so that they wouldn't drown)
3. What else was Noah to take in the boat with him? (animals and birds)
4. How many of each animal did God bring to the ark? (two)

Next week we will see how the story of Noah in the boat with all the animals ends.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Oh Be Careful*

Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.  
Oh be careful, little hands, what you do.

For the Father up above is looking down in love,  
So be careful, little hands, what you do.

- (2) Oh be careful, little eyes, what you see.
- (3) Oh be careful, little mouth, what you say.
- (4) Oh be careful, little feet, where you go.
- (5) Oh be careful, little mind, what you think.

**Prayer:** (10 minutes)

Ask the children to make groups of two and three to pray together. Have them ask God to help them not to sin and to help all people who are hurting because of other people's sin.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (15 minutes)

Set up a board on which the memory verse is written. Follow the same pattern as last week. First ask who can remember where the verse comes from. Then ask how many can say the first sentence which they learnt last week.

Have the children say together where the memory is found and the first sentence which they learned last week.

Then, in the same way as last week, teach them the first sentence of verse 13, "Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes."

The idea of the game is to catch the children out. Do different actions with your hands and legs, for example, touch your toes, put your hands on your head, wave your hand in the air.

Try to go quickly from one action to another while saying "Simple Simon says do this" and then suddenly do an action and say "Simple Simon says do that". The children who follow your action when you say "Simple Simon says do that" have to sit down and watch the others until you get all the children out. If you have time, play the game a second time. Perhaps one of the children can call the actions.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### **Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Today we are continuing with the story of Noah from the book of Genesis in the Bible.

Ask the children what they remember from the story last week. Make sure they understand what the world was like when God spoke to Noah. Men were so full of wickedness that God decided to wipe out all he had created.

#### **Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Read the story of Noah from Genesis 6: 9-22.

Though all the other people were evil, Noah and his family pleased the Lord. The Bible tells us that Noah was the only good man of his time.

It is very sad that God had to destroy all of his beautiful creation because of the wicked men who only did evil. All of creation had to suffer because of the people's sin. In the game we played, if you did the wrong thing you had to sit down. You lost out.

Just like that game, all the people in Noah's day were about to lose out because of their sin, but they were not the only ones to suffer. All of the animals and plants would be destroyed as well. Only those who went into the boat would be saved.

The same thing happens to us today. When people sin, other people feel it to. If someone steals something, it means someone else loses out. If someone starts a war, it means many people are hurt and killed. The wicked things people do are felt by many others. We, too, must remember this when we are tempted to do something wrong. We do not only hurt ourselves but other people too.

#### **Game:** (10 minutes)

##### *Animal Pairs*

Materials: pieces of paper with animal names (each animal name should be on 2 pieces of paper)

Directions:

1. Give each child a paper with an animal name. Tell them not to tell anyone what it says.
2. When you say "go", the children have to act like that animal

no one would know. When Jesus died, Nicodemus put Jesus' body in his own tomb.

Everyone knew Nicodemus followed Jesus, but Nicodemus did not mind because he loved Jesus.

6. Peter, Andrew, James and John risked their jobs. They quit their fishing jobs to follow Jesus and lost the security and money that a job provides. However, they spent three years with Jesus learning about the kingdom of God. They became "fishers of men" as they taught others about God's kingdom. They also knew they would be with Jesus in heaven when they died. They gained far more than the jobs they quit.

#### **Song:** (5 minutes)

##### *I Will Make You Fishers of Men*

I will make you fishers of men,  
Fishers of men (2x)  
I will make you fishers of men,  
If you follow me,  
If you follow me. (2x)  
I will make you fishers of men  
If you follow me!

#### **Application:** (10 minutes)

We can learn from all these people. God may ask us to take a small risk for him. Perhaps our friends will laugh at us if they know we follow Jesus. If we risk telling them we love Jesus, God will bless us and will reward us one day in heaven.

God may ask us to take a big risk. He may want us to give up a job so we can become a pastor or a missionary. If we are obedient to God, he will bless the work we do; and we will receive God's blessings.

When we risk for God, we are not gambling. We know God made us and loves us. His plans for us are much better than any plans we have for ourselves. We may lose things which seem important, but we will gain new riches in God. We must just trust God and be willing to obey him whatever the risks.

(Read Philippians 3:4-10.) Explain Paul risked everything he had learnt from childhood. He gained a knowledge of Christ which was much more valuable. He considered all the rest as useless.

#### **Scripture memory:** (10 minutes)

Repeat the memory verses. Ask the boys to learn verse 7: "But all those things that I might count as profit I now reckon as loss for Christ's sake." and the girls to learn the first part of verse 8: Not only those things; I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."

#### **Song:** (5 minutes)

##### *Trust and Obey*

Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

**Bible teaching** (15 minutes)

Ask the children who knows a person in the Bible who was asked to take a risk and said "No." Listen to their suggestions. Tell them you are thinking about the rich young man.

Have the children dramatise this story (Matthew 19:16-30). Choose children to play the parts of Jesus, the rich ruler, the disciples and the narrator. Each child can use their Bible and read the parts as they dramatise the story.

Explain the "eye of a needle" was a small gate in the wall of Jerusalem. A camel could just get through the gate. Any bags on its back would have to be removed.

Sometimes money can be like the load on the camel's back. It is good to have; but if it stops us from coming to Jesus, we do not need it. Money is only wrong if we love our money more than we love God.

If we love God more than we love our money, we will be willing to use our money the way God wants. We will be prepared to risk our money and to give it away if that is what God wants.

Sometimes God will ask us to let go of our money, but sometimes God will bless us by giving us more money. Even when God blesses us with money; we should always be generous in giving money both to the church and to others in need.

We must trust God and be prepared to do what he asks. Whatever he decides for us is better

than anything we could decide for ourselves. The rich young ruler kept his money. He had many things, but the Bible tells us he went away sad because he did not have Jesus in his life.

Ask the children if anyone can tell you when it is wrong to take risks. Discuss.

Explain any time we take a risk which is not for God, we are in danger. If we drive fast on the roads, we could have an accident. If we do things our parents tell us not to do, we could get hurt or punished. If we trust in chance or luck and not in God, we could lose whatever we are risking.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Pray with the children for God to give them wisdom to know when he wants them to take a risk for him. Pray for strength for the children and ask that they be obedient to God's will. Pray they will be richly blessed as they follow Jesus.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Have the children recite their part of the memory verse.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Ask the children what they have learned from today's lesson. Remind them of the objectives.
2. Make announcements.
3. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
4. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

**WHAT DOES SIN DO?**

**SCRIPTURE:** : Genesis 6: 9-22

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes" (Romans 6:12-13).

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of this lesson the children should:

1. Understand what the effects of sin are on their own and other peoples lives,
2. Look to God to help them and others not to sin.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and for the children whom you will teach.
2. Read the whole story of Noah found in Genesis 6 - 8.
3. Read the memory verse.
4. Prepare the memory verse by setting it up as described below.
5. Prepare the lesson so that you can tell it in your own words.
- 6 Prepare for the game by going through the actions.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Search Me, O God*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;  
 Try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:  
 See if there be some wicked way in me,  
 Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

**Game:** (10 minutes)

*Simple Simon Says*

Ask the children to stand facing you with some space between each one of them. Tell them that when you say "Simple Simon says do THIS" they must do what you do. But when you say "Simple Simon says do THAT" they must not do what you do.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Search Me, O God*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:

See if there be some wicked way in me,

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Stand in a circle and ask if any of the children want to pray. Let one child start and then give the others time to pray. When each child who wished to pray aloud has done so, close the prayer time off.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Set up a board on which the memory verse is written. Cover each word with a piece of paper. Tell the children over the next four weeks they are going to learn Romans 6: 12-13.

This week they are going to learn the first sentence. Uncover the words from "Sin" to "self" (verse 12). Read the verse to them, then let them read it aloud. Then cover the last word in the sentence and let them read it aloud, remembering the last word.

After each time they have read it aloud, cover another word and see if they can remember the whole sentence once it is all covered up. It may take a second or third practise of covering one word at a time. Encourage them to work on the memory verse so that at the end of four weeks they can say the whole portion of Scripture.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements about the lesson next week.
2. Encourage the children to bring a friend next week.
3. Close in prayer.
4. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 35

**FAILURE — GOD**

**SCRIPTURE:** Job 10:1-18

**MEMORY VERSE:** "We know that in all things God works for good with those who love him, those whom he has called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

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

1. That we must act in faith on what the Bible promises, even when it seems that God failed us,
2. That God never fails and always turns bad things into good things.

**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 Job chapters 1 to 2:8.
3. Learn the memory verse.
4. Prepare puzzle verse.
5. Prepare cards for match up card game.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Pray as you begin the lesson.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*God is Still on the Throne*

God is still on the throne and  
He will remember his own.  
Though trials may press us and  
burdens distress us,  
He never will leave us alone.

God is still on the throne and  
He will remember His own.

Every promise in the Book is  
mine,  
Every chapter, every verse, every  
line.  
Every promise in the Book is  
mine.

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Have you ever asked your parents for something that you really wanted, and they didn't give it to you? Sometimes we ask for things we think we need, but we don't really need them. This is why we don't always get things we want.

**Tell a story:** (10 minutes)

Maria was six years old, and she wanted a bicycle for Christmas. On Christmas day she received a very nice doll, but she was extremely disappointed.

She thought that her parents didn't love her because her brother received a bicycle and she did not. She asked them why and her parents replied, "Maria, your legs are still too short for a big bicycle. You will have to wait until next year when you are big enough."

Maria wasn't happy with this explanation and thought to herself, "I know what I will do. I will try my brother's bicycle. I know I am big enough."

She climbed onto the bicycle. What do you think happened next? (Wait for some answers). Her legs were indeed too short, and she fell off! Maria then realized that her parents were right, and she should wait another year.

After our song we will hear about a man named Job, who thought that his father had failed him.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*The Thing to Do*

The best thing to do is trust Him,  
The best thing to do is trust Him;  
And if you on Him depend,  
He will keep you to the end;  
Oh, the best thing to do is trust  
Him.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Tell the following story about Job in your own words according to Job chapters 1 to 2:8:

Something bad happened to Job. He lost all his riches, his children and his good health. He became very ill. He could not understand it because he did not do anything wrong. The Bible says he loved God and served him. He must have wondered why all these things were happening to him. Listen to what he says.

Read Scripture in Job 10:1-9. Job felt that God failed him. He said God was secretly planning to harm him! Sometimes we feel like Job. We cannot understand why we get sick, our grandparents die, or we have no food to eat. We must remember what the Bible promises us in Romans 8:28. If we love God, then everything will work out for God's best.

Job could not understand, but he remembered God's promises. Read Job 42:12-13, 16 and 17. Job remained faithful (explain the word faithful) and believed even when things did not go well for him.

We must believe God even when we do not understand. God loves us, and he wants what is best for us. At first, Maria didn't believe her parents, and as a result she was hurt.

God lets things happen which we don't understand now, but later

No one could give a good reason. Finally one of them spoke up. "You're right," admitted Sarah. "We were very unkind." She walked over to where Anna was sitting nearby. "I'm sorry that I was so mean to you. It was wrong, and I'll never do it again." Anna, who loved God just like Emmanuel did, smiled and said, "It's okay. You really hurt my feelings, but I forgive you."

The other children also said that they were sorry, and from that day on Anna and Sarah were best friends. As for Emmanuel, the other children were not mean to him, but treated him with respect because he had stood up for what was right. Every day that Emmanuel saw the change in his school, he thanked God for answering his prayers.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Have the children sit in a circle and read Genesis 6:5-8 to them.

This is a very sad story. A long time ago people began to behave so badly that when God looked into their hearts he saw only wickedness. They were not like the children at Emmanuel's school. When they were told that what they were doing was wrong, they didn't listen. They did only evil all day long. They were blind to the Lord and his love. They were so evil that God's heart was deeply hurt as he looked down on them. God was so hurt that he was sorry he even made human

beings. How sad that things got so bad!

This is what happens when people allow sin to rule their hearts. They do only evil things and they make God, the one who made them, sad. God made you and me, so we should try to please him. When he looks into our hearts, what does he see? Does he see wickedness like he did in those people?

Or does God see what he saw when he looked into the heart of Noah? It says that Noah pleased the Lord. How wonderful! I hope when God looks into our hearts he sees what makes him happy.

This story does not end here. God saw all this evil in the people's hearts and decided to start over with people. Next week we will see just what God did to take away all this sin.

Noah had tried, just like Emmanuel did, to convince his neighbours to stop their wickedness, but they wouldn't listen. God not only wants us to be good and to follow him in everything we do, but he also wants us to try to influence others to please him, too. This is called positive peer pressure. When you see that your friends are gossiping or being unkind, you should try to stop them. Tell them how much God loves them and that they should try to please him by keeping his commandments and making good decisions.

children who are not blindfolded will call to the one who is blindfolded to help him or her know where they are.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

When they are finished, hold the blindfold in your hand and ask the children how it felt to be blindfolded.

Tell them that in the Bible story today they are going to hear about people who lived as if they were blind to God and his love.

**Tell a story:** (10 minutes)

Emmanuel Phiri was a good boy. He read his Bible every day, he was kind to others, and he went to church every Sunday. He loved the Lord. Whenever he had a problem, he would pray about it.

One day Emmanuel knelt down beside his bed and prayed, "God, I don't know what to do. All the kids at school are so unkind. They talk about the new girl, Anna, behind her back; and they're always laughing at her because she's in a wheelchair. I know that what they are doing is wrong, but I don't know how to stop them. I'm afraid that if I say anything, they'll start being mean to me, too."

The next day Emmanuel went to his pastor and told him about his problem. Pastor Charles said, "It is good for you to be concerned. We should always try to help those who

are being treated badly. First, why don't you talk to the children, and try to get them to stop behaving that way? Then, if they won't listen to you, maybe you should tell your teacher about it."

Emmanuel went home to think. He was still worried that the other children might be unkind to him, but he knew in his heart that it was the right thing to do. Finally, he decided that he would do the right thing, no matter what.

That night he prayed again, "Dear God, I know that you want me to speak to the other children about their behaviour toward Anna; but I'm afraid of how they might treat me. God, please don't let them be mean to me. But if they are mean, please help me to keep being kind to them, the way Jesus was kind to those who were mean to him. Thank you. I pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen."

The next day, Emmanuel went to school as usual. He watched sadly as the other children laughed at Anna, and he heard them saying nasty things about her when she went by. Praying to God to give him courage, Emmanuel boldly stepped out in front of the unkind children.

"You should be ashamed of yourselves!" Emmanuel declared to the surprised children. "Anna has never done anything wrong to any of you. She is a sweet girl, and she doesn't deserve to be treated this way. Why are you so mean to her?"

we often see how God worked. God sometimes allows us to get hurt when we do not listen to him. We must believe the promises in the Bible and understand that God never fails us.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*God is So Good*

God is so good  
God is so good  
God is so good  
He's so good to me.

**Game:** (10 minutes)

*Swords in the Sheaths*

Divide into groups. Each pupil or group must have a Bible. (Teacher to decide grouping before the lesson, depending on availability of Bibles.) Give Scripture verses with Bible truths.

Say: "Swords in the Sheaths."  
Pupils must hold their Bibles to their sides.

Say: "Swords out."  
Pupils must hold Bible in the air in front of them with both hands.

Teacher gives a Scripture verse.  
Say: "Begin."  
Pupils must find the particular verse. First one to find the verse must read it aloud.

Example of verses:

1. Philippians 4:6
2. Matthew 6:34
3. 1 Timothy 1:15
4. 1 John 1:9
5. Psalms 91:15
6. Matthew 7:8

**Application:** (5 minutes)

The verses you read were Bible promises and truths. We must believe these. If the Bible says God will provide our daily needs, we must trust him to do it. We must trust God even if we do not know from where we are going to get our next meal. If we are worried about something, we must believe the Bible when it says we must give our worries to God, and he will give us rest. (Philippians 4:6)

**Sing:** (5 minutes)

*God is Still on the Throne*

**Activity:** (15 minutes)

*Match up Cards*

Prepare cards and write a Bible truth on each. Prepare other cards which say the opposite of the Bible truths. Distribute the cards. Allow children to match each Bible truth with its opposite falsehood. (See examples on next page.)

Discuss the Bible truths with the pupils. We can believe all these Bible truths because God always knows what is best for us and he will not fail us. Let the pupils share a personal experience of a Bible truth. Teacher will need to share first.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Have the children thank God that he is always faithful and at work in their lives.

**BIBLE TRUTH:**

God saves by grace through faith.

Jesus died on the cross.

Do not be afraid. God is with us always.

God heals sickness.

Grace is a gift from God.

We can trust God.

God never fails.

God forgives us of our sins.

Once you are saved, you are a child of God.

**FALSEHOOD**

We must work for/earn our salvation.

Jesus did not die on the cross

We are alone. There is no one to help us.

Only a doctor can heal a sick person

We must earn grace by doing good deeds.

We must only trust people.

God fails people.

God never forgives our sins.

If you are saved and you sin, you are no longer a child of God.

**4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)**

Write the Memory Verse on paper. Cut into a puzzle. Divide pupils into groups. Give each group a puzzle.

First group to complete puzzle wins.

Example:

**"WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE." ROMANS 8 v.28**

Practice saying the verse until everyone knows it.

**5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)**

1. Whenever you are in a situation where you feel confused, read your Bible and believe its promises and truths. God is faithful, and he will not fail us.

2. Sing: *The Best Thing To Do*

3. Make announcements.

4. Encourage children to bring friends next week.

5. Close with prayer, thanking God for the Bible and all its promises.

6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

**Lesson 43****HOW DO I KNOW IT IS SIN?**

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 6 - 8

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Sin must no longer rule in your mortal bodies, so that you obey the desires of your natural self. Nor must you surrender any part of yourselves to sin to be used for wicked purposes. Instead, give yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life, and surrender your whole being to him to be used for righteous purposes" (Romans 6:12-13).

**OBJECTIVES:** As a result of this lesson the children should:

1. Have a picture of the world where sin is allowed to rule in men's hearts,
2. Seek God as the answer to the problem of sin in our world.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and for the children whom you will teach.
2. Read the story of Noah found in Genesis 6 - 8.
3. Read the memory verse for the next four weeks.
4. Prepare the Memory Work as described in the lesson.
5. Prepare the lesson so that you can tell it in your own words.
- 6 Prepare a cloth for the game.

**2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)**

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Sing a song: (5 minutes)**

Sing several songs which the children choose from the Song Book.

**Game: (15 minutes)***Blind Man's Bluff*

You will need a cloth that you can fold to blindfold the eyes of one of the children. Mark out an area the children have to stay in. Make sure it is not too big and be sure to remove everything which can trip or hurt the child who is blindfolded.

Explain to the children that one of them will be blindfolded and will need to try and catch the other children. They may not go outside the marked area. If they are caught, they will wear the blindfold and have to catch someone else. The

Have everyone say all of the verse together. Allow individuals to say the verse.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Why is it important for us to know we are sinners? Let the children answer this question.

Jesus answers this question. "People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick" (Matthew 9:12).

In this verse, we learn before one can be saved from sin, he/she must realise he/she is a sinner. We must all know we are sinners (also called "lost" persons). It is only those who realise they are sinners who may seek Jesus for salvation.

Jesus said: "...I have not come to call respectable people but outcasts" (Matthew 9:13). Jesus said these words because he knew all people are outcasts in the sight of God.

"There is no one who is righteous, no one who is wise or who worships God" (Romans 3:10). "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and there is no truth in us. But if we confess our sins to God he will keep His promise and do what is right: He will forgive us our sins and purify us from all our wrongdoing" (1 John 1:8-9).

Only those who realise their sinfulness can come to Christ for forgiveness and cleansing.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

1. Invite children to pray asking Jesus to come into their lives and set them free from sin.
2. Ask them to indicate their decision by raising their hands.
3. While all heads are bowed, lead them to say prayers to receive Jesus as their Saviour.
4. Close the prayer.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 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. Close with prayer.
6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## FAILURE—PARENTS

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 22:1-14

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Respect your father and your mother, so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you" (Exodus 20:12).

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

1. Learn we must follow Christ at any cost,
2. Know if Christians fail, including parents, Christ will not fail us and we will be rewarded in heaven.

### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study the Scripture thoroughly.
3. Read other relevant Scriptures.
4. Provide paper and pencils for drawing.
5. Provide various written situations on paper to discuss in "buzz groups." (A buzz group is a small discussion group of 3-4 persons.)
6. Have a piece of string or line and some washing pegs.

### 2. BEGINNING TIME

 (15 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.

3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.

4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Follow, Follow*

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.

**Activity:** (15 minutes)

Give the children papers and pencils. Ask them to write their names on the papers and draw pictures of their families.

When they are finished, ask the children to describe them.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (10 minutes)

Say: "You must always obey your parents. Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not?"

Listen to what the pupils say. Ask the children to provide a solution to the following situation.

**Tell a story:** (15 minutes)

Mark's father drank much beer and other strong drinks. Mark wanted to go to church on Sunday morning. His father had a headache from all the drinking and said that Mark must cut the grass. Mark was very unhappy. What should he do? Discuss answers and read Exodus 20:12.

The Bible says that we must respect our parents even when we feel that they have failed us.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*I Have Decided*

I have decided to follow Jesus  
(repeat twice)

No turning back, no turning back.

(2) Though none go with me, I  
still will follow (repeat as  
above)

(3) The world behind me, the  
cross before me. (repeat as  
above)

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Read Genesis 22:1-14. God called Abraham to kill his only son, Isaac, and to offer him as sacrifice. (Explain "sacrifice" in the Old Testament.)

Abraham loved his son very much as he did not have any other children. Isaac must have been very afraid when he saw the wood and the

coals, but there was no animal to sacrifice. He must have wondered why his father didn't love him anymore when he was laid upon the altar his father built.

Abraham was willing to kill his son because he knew God has a perfect purpose when we trust God in faith. Read verses 13 and 14. We read in the book of Hebrews that Abraham believed that God would bring Isaac back to life in order to fulfil the promise that God had made.

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

Divide the children into groups to dramatize the story of Abraham. As one group dramatizes, the others must be judges and discover if everything is done according to the story in the Bible.

**Buzz groups:** (5 minutes)

Divide the pupils into groups of four to six. (Buzz groups).

(Groups may be smaller or larger than six, depending upon the size of the group.)

Give each group a paper describing a different situation. Let each group discuss the situation. The children will answer the following questions after the discussion:

How did the parents act correctly/incorrectly?

How did the child act correctly/incorrectly?

What would have been the correct way to handle the situation?

This story is in Genesis 3:1-6. Have someone read the scripture.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Sin came into the world through their disobedience, and their sin brought death with it.

Just like Adam and Eve, we also sin and death comes to all of us. All people are sinners. "Even our best actions are filthy" (Isaiah 64:6).

Ask the children to share things they know God says we must not do.

Make a list of the things they share. The list may be like this:

1. Do not kill.
2. Do not steal.
3. Do not desire what belongs to someone else.
4. Do not accuse someone falsely.
5. Do not use the name of the Lord God for evil purposes.
6. Respect your father and your mother.
7. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it.

If we do the things which God says we must not do, then we are committing sin. Sin is disobeying God's law. "All wrongdoing is sin..." (1 John 5:17).

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Ask the children to stand together in a certain area. Draw a line. Tell them they must not cross the line. Anyone crossing this is disobeying my instruction. Doing what God has told us not to do is to commit sin. It is like crossing the line you are told not to cross.

Some people try to see how close they can get to the line without crossing over. They are trying to play with sin, but not be punished. It is better to stay as far away from the line as we can.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Trust and Obey*

Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

Divide the children into four groups to dramatise the story of Adam and Eve. The first group represents Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. The second group represents Eve talking with the snake. The third group represents Adam and Eve eating the fruit. The fourth group speaks the words spoken by God to Adam and Eve.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Divide the children into 4 groups. Assign each group a part of the verse as indicated by the / dividing the verse.

"Sin came into the world through one man,/ and his sin brought death with it./ As a result, death has spread to the whole human race/ because everyone has sinned" Romans 12:5.

Have the children say their part of the verse until they know it well. Then have them change parts until they have said all parts of the verse.

His parents told him not to join other boys who drink and smoke. Themba was happy and successful.

Some boys became envious of Themba. (Explain "envious" means you want what someone else has.) They made plans to make Themba join them in the wrong things they were doing.

One of them said to Themba: "You are such a clever boy in school; but when you are out of school, you act like a fool. You are not really happy and have not experienced real life. You always stay at home like an old woman. Look here, Themba! You are still young. Do not listen to old people. Join us tonight when we go to a drinking party. Let us go and enjoy life there."

Themba disobeyed his parents and joined these bad boys at the drinking party. On his way from the party, he was robbed and beaten by robbers as it was very late and dark. Why do you think these things happened to Themba? (because he disobeyed his parents)

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Bible truths in the story:

1. Themba resembles Adam and Eve.
2. The boys who were envious of Themba resemble Satan because they followed Satan.
3. Themba's disobedience resembles the disobedience of Adam and Eve.

**Sing a song:** (10 minutes)

*Search Me, O God*

Search me, O God, and know my heart today;

Try me, O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray:

See if there be some wicked way in me,

Cleanse me from every sin and set me free.

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

Today we are going to learn about the beginning of sin. Sin came from the disobedience of Adam and Eve. Sin means rebellion or disobedience.

Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. God told them what to do and what not to do to be happy. God told them they could eat the fruit of every tree in the garden except the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said if they ate this fruit, they would die.

The snake was a very clever animal that was created by God. It came to the woman and told her lies. The snake said that she would not die if she ate of this fruit, but that she would become like God, knowing good and bad.

The woman saw the beautiful fruit of the tree, and she thought how wonderful it would be to eat it. She thought that God was keeping something good from Adam and her, so she took some of the fruit and ate it. She gave some to her husband, and he also ate it.

**Problem solving of different situations:**

1. Paul didn't come back from school and played at his friend's house until late in the evening.

Paul's parents were worried about him and were angry when he finally came home.

Paul's parents punished him by not letting him play at his friend's house for a month.

2. Elizabeth decided not to go to school one day. She pretended to go to school, but went to a friend's house to play all day. The school contacted her parents and told them that Elizabeth was not at school. Her parents went to Elizabeth's friend's house, gave her a spanking and took her home.

3. John's parents did not have jobs. His parents would send John to the neighbour's homes to ask for food. They also sent John to beg on the streets. John decided to run away from home.

4. Peter's father was a very violent man (explain "violent"). Father asked Peter to buy some liquor for him. Peter was a Christian and didn't want to buy the liquor. His father beat him because he was disobedient.

5. Paul's mother gave Paul away when he was still a baby. Paul loves the people who raised him and thinks of them as his birth parents (explain "birth parent"). One day Paul's birth mother came back and

wanted him to live with her. Paul decided not to live with his birth mother.

Call the entire group together to discuss the situations. Discuss each group's situation one at a time. Allow all children to discuss each situation after each group has reported. (Teacher may create other situations according to area and culture.)

**Game:** (15 minutes)

Divide into groups again. Ask children to dramatize situations of their own creation. Each situation must involve children and parents as characters.

After each situation is dramatized, children should reverse the roles and dramatize again. Discuss the dramatizations as an entire group.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Sometimes we all feel someone has failed us. Sometimes we even feel this way about our parents. Some of us may even have parents who fight, drink or beat us. Maybe some of us feel we could never invite our friends to our homes because our parents embarrass us in some way.

Remember what the Bible says. We must obey and respect our parents. Those of us who have Jesus in our lives will be rewarded even though we may suffer right now.

Isaac wondered about his father, and God worked things out. In the activities and dramas we did, we looked at different situations and how to handle them.

We should apply what the Bible teaches us to our lives even when we do not understand why our parents act the way they do. We must love our parents and obey them. Decide to do something special for them this week. Maybe you can help mother in the kitchen or father in the garden. Come and share what you have done with us next week.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Trust and Obey*  
Trust and obey,  
For there's no other way,  
To be happy in Jesus,  
But to trust and obey.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Thank Jesus for giving us parents. Pray that parents will love their children and treat them correctly. Pray that children will obey and respect their parents.

#### 4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Cut pieces of paper to look like clothes. Write one word of the Memory Verse on each paper. Use the line or string as a washing line.

Let the children help their "parent" (the teacher) "hang the washing" on the line in the correct order. Then help the children learn the Memory Verse.

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements.
2. Encourage everyone to bring a friend next week.
3. Sing a song:

*I Love Thee*

I love Thee, I love Thee, I love  
Thee, my Lord;  
I love Thee, my Saviour, I love  
Thee, my God;  
I love Thee, I love Thee, and that  
Thou dost know,  
But how much I love Thee, my  
actions will show.

4. Close with prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

#### Lesson 42

### THE BEGINNING OF SIN

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 3:1-21

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death has spread to the whole human race because everyone has sinned" (Romans 5:12).

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

1. Learn about sin and how sin came into the world,
2. Know all persons have sinned,
3. Understand the importance of knowing and acknowledging sin in our lives.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study the following Scriptures thoroughly: Genesis 2:15-17, Romans 3:10-20.
3. Obtain these necessary materials:  
A picture of a beautiful garden, resembling the garden of Eden.  
A picture of a man resembling Adam.  
A picture of a woman resembling Eve.  
A picture of a snake resembling Satan.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Trust and Obey*  
Trust and obey  
For there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus  
But to trust and obey.

#### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (1 minute)

Ask, "Who has never disobeyed his or her elders or parents? Everyone has at one time or another disobeyed elders or parents. Sometimes we refuse to do what they tell us, or we do what they tell us not to do."

**Tell a Story:** (15 minutes)

Themba was sixteen years old. He had always obeyed his parents.

Each person is special to God. He created people to have different skin colour, speak different languages, and to do different things. The memory verse teaches that God sees all people in the same way.

There is only one person like you, so thank God he made you special.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Ask God to help the children to love people who are different from them.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*Jesus Loves Everybody*

Jesus loves everybody,  
Everybody in the world.  
Every tribe and every race  
are included in his grace.  
Jesus loves everybody in the  
world.

**Game:** (10 minutes) Choose one of the games to play.

*Guess the Animal*

God made everyone to look different. He also made fruit and animals to be different.

Divide the children into four or more groups. Each group must choose an animal and act out how it walks or looks without speaking. Other groups can ask only three questions before guessing what the animal is. The group which answers correctly gets a point. The group with the most points wins the game.

*A Very Special Person*

Tape a piece of rope to the floor for the children to pretend they are walking a tightrope. Cut out both ends of a big box for the children to crawl through. Place a chair near the box for the children to go around. Then place a stack of books for them to jump over.

Put Bible questions from the lesson on cards or paper near each obstacle.

Explain: 1) First you must walk on the rope, pick up a card and answer the question. 2) Then you will walk around the chair, pick up the next question and answer it. 3) Next you must jump over the stack of books and answer a question. 4) Finally you will crawl through the box and answer the last question.

The one who completes the course and answers all the questions is A VERY SPECIAL PERSON. Change the questions for the next child. Make the questions easy to answer.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (15 minutes)

1. Make announcements.
2. Ask the children to draw a picture of a person from another country/tribe/culture. To bring next week to show and tell why this person is special to you.
3. Encourage the children to make friends with someone different from them this week.
4. Close with prayer.
6. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

**MY PARENTS**

**SCRIPTURE:** Ephesians 6:1-13

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Respect your father and your mother, as I, the Lord your God, command you, so that all may go well with you and so that you may live a long time in the land that I am giving you"(Deuteronomy 5:16).

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

1. Learn families are important to God,
2. Know God promises blessings for those who uphold the family,
3. Know God commands us to honour our parents.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study Ephesians 6:1-13 thoroughly.
3. Read other Scripture in the lesson..
4. Bring cards and strings for the memory verse.
5. Prepare the "Changing Parents" activity.
6. Prepare Scripture verses about responsibilities of parents/children.
7. Bring paper for children to draw pictures of their parents.
8. Bring a large rubber ball.

- 2. BEGINNING TIME** (15 minutes)
1. Begin with prayer. .
  2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
  3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
  4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."
  5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
  6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*He's got the Whole World In His Hands*

(Use actions singing the song.)  
He's got the whole world  
In His hands. (4 times)  
He's got my mother and father  
In His hands. (3)  
He's got the whole world  
In His hands.  
He's got my brothers and sisters  
In His hands. (3)  
He's got the whole world  
In His hands.  
He's got you and me  
In His hands (3)  
He's got the whole world  
In his hands.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### Introduce the lesson: (5 minutes)

Ask, "How do you think a child should be punished if he/she does something wrong?" Discuss the children's answers.

#### Sing a song: (5 minutes)

##### *Be Glorified*

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

#### Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

Today we are going to learn more about relationship with our parents. Read Ephesians 6:1-3. There is a command and a promise in this Scripture. Who can tell me what it is? (Wait for answers.)

It is our duty to obey our parents. If we do this, things will go well for us and our lives are blessed. Let us read some more Scriptures and discover our responsibilities as parents and children. What do you think your parent's responsibility should be toward you?

Discuss answers.

Read the following Scriptures:

2 Corinthians 12:14b. This verse says that our parents must provide for our physical needs.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7. This verse shows our parents must teach us.

Proverbs 23:13-14. This verse shows us our parents must discipline us. Ask, "Do you think it is wrong for a parent to spank his child?"

Discuss answers. Discuss difference between discipline and punishment.

What is our responsibility toward our parents? Discuss answers.

Read the following Scriptures: Proverbs 6:20, Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20, Proverbs 1:8-9, Proverbs 3:1-2. All these verses show us how to be obedient to our parents.

Exodus 20:12 teaches us to honour our parents. Leviticus 19:3 and Proverbs 23:22 show we should respect our parents.

Now that we have learnt more about how parents and children should behave, let us draw pictures of our parents. Next, we will write three things we like most about our parents. Give this paper to your parents at home.

#### Activity: (10 minutes)

##### *The Children and Parents*

Divide the children into groups of 4-6. Prepare the following on paper and give each group a paper.

One evening two of your friends drop by and you decide to attend a party the next weekend. You ask your parents if you can attend. Although they do not know the people, they give their permission.

On Friday night your friends come to collect you. Your parents ask you where you are going. You remind them that they had given you permission to go to the party.

#### Song: (5 minutes)

##### *I'm So Glad*

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.

#### Game: (10 minutes)

##### *The fruit game*

Choose a child and give him/her a fruit you brought. Other children should not see the fruit. The child must describe the fruit, and the rest must guess what it is.

Say: "We see each fruit is different. We say a mango is a fruit, a banana is a fruit, an apple is a fruit. But each fruit is different. It has a different shape, size and colour. Each fruit smells and tastes differently."

#### Activity: (10 minutes)

Have the children draw a picture of their favourite fruit and write why it is their favourite fruit. If you do not have paper, then discuss the different fruits and ask the children why they like it.

#### Bible teaching: (10 minutes)

(Open your Bible to Luke 18:9-14.)

Jesus told a story about a Pharisee and a tax collector who went to the temple to pray at the same time. The Pharisee boasted in his prayers about how good he was. He thought that he was better than

the tax collector. He told God all the good things he did.

The tax collector was an humble man. (Explain that humble means he did not think too highly of himself.) The tax collector prayed that God would forgive his sins. Jesus said the tax collector, and not the Pharisee, was the man who was right with God. These men were very different. They had different schooling, families and jobs. They did not think the same way, dress the same or act the same.

It was wrong for the Pharisee to think he was better than the tax collector. Jesus told the story to show that this attitude did not please God.

It is wrong when we think we are better than another person, too. If we want to please God, then we must treat everyone as we want to be treated.

#### 4. MEMORY WORK (10 minutes)

Write the names of the following on the pictures of people you brought or on the chalkboard: JEW, GENTILE, SLAVE, FREE, MAN, WOMAN

Read the memory verse: "So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles, between slaves and free men, between men and women; you are all one in union with Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28).

Ask the children to hold up the pictures as you say each name. Mix the pictures and repeat the exercise.

### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

#### **Introduce the lesson:** (5 minutes)

Say: Look at the person to your left for a few seconds. Now describe the person without looking at him/her again.

Was there anyone who looked exactly like you? No, everyone is different. Some are tall; others are short. Some children are large, and others are small. God created each person to be different from anyone else. Even twins who look alike have different personalities.

Today we will learn what the Bible says about the way we relate to people who are different from us.

#### **Tell a story:** (5 minutes)

One day a king walked around in his garden. The plants and trees did not look very good. The king went to an oak tree and asked the tree what was wrong. The oak tree said, "I want to die because I am not tall and pretty as the pine tree."

The king asked the pine tree why he was unhappy. He said, "Because I can't bear nice fruit like the grapevine."

The grapevine wanted to die because he could not stand upright with his fruit like the peach tree.

The king listened to the complaints of all the plants and trees. No one seemed to be happy.

Then the king came to a pretty flower. (Show the flower you brought.) The flower was happy and

smiling. "Well," said the king, "This is a welcome change to all the sadness I saw this morning. You seem to be happy. Why?"

The flower replied: "I am not unhappy because I am important. If you had wanted a peach, oak or pine tree, you would have planted one. However, you wanted a flower like me, so I want to be the best flower I can be to please you."

#### **Application:** (10 minutes)

Discuss the main teaching of the story: that a person is to be the best person he can be to please Jesus.

Read Psalm 139:13-16. The Psalmist wrote that everyone is wonderfully made. He created every person to be just as it pleased him.

How should you react to persons who are different from you? You must accept them because they are also special to God. A person's skin colour or language does not matter. Jesus sees us all as equals, and no one is better than another.

The Bible teaches that we are all one in Christ if we believe in him. (Read Galatians 3:26-29.) We do not all have the same culture or background. We do not all agree on everything, but we can disagree without thinking we are better than others. God made us different so we could learn how to love each other. Love brings us closer to him and to each other.

Your father responds, "Well, I did some checking, and I was going to talk to you. I forgot you were going tonight. From what my friends tell me, these people get into trouble. They drink a lot of liquor, and I don't think you should go. I am sorry, but you cannot go."

Your friends look at each other with amazement. They cannot believe your father's response. As your friends leave, you can tell they think your parents are cruel and strict. You feel very embarrassed and angry.

Discuss the following questions in your group.

1. Did the parents do the right thing? Why/ why not?
  2. Do parents have the right to change their minds at the last minute? Why/ why not?
  3. If you were a parent, how would you have handled the situation?
  4. If your parents would have done this, how would you have responded?
- Get the group together as a whole and discuss their answers.

#### **Activity:** (5 minutes)

Present the following situation: Your brother or sister has just had a fight with your parents. Your parents forgot to tell your sister/brother they had something planned for Saturday and he/she could not go to his/her friend's house. Your brother/sister

angrily walks back to his/her room. He/she begins grumbling and mumbling about how unfair the situation is. What do you say?

1. "Yes, isn't it just like parents? I get treated that way, too!"
2. "It's rough, isn't it? It's hard being number two or younger."
3. "You feel unappreciated and unimportant, don't you?"

It is important for us to discuss situations about relationships with our parents. It does not help to get angry. Listen to their side of the story and ask them to listen to your side.

#### **Game:** (15 minutes)

The children stand in a circle. Assign a different number to each child.

"It" stands in the middle of the circle and throws the ball up in the air. As the ball is thrown, he/she calls out one of the numbers.

The person with the number that is called runs to catch the ball on the first bounce.

The child who catches the ball must tell something which will please his/her parents.

If he/she tells something, he/she throws the ball and calls a number.

If he/she cannot do this, he/she loses his/her turn.

**Activity:** (15 minutes)

Prepare an acrostic as follows:

Write words which describe a good friend, using the following letters:

Each letter of the word "friend" begins each word.

F  
R  
I  
E  
N  
D

The children must write suitable words after the letters. Example:

F orever  
R eliable  
I nteresting  
E ternal  
N ever too busy

**Bible teaching:** (15 minutes)

The Bible tells a story about two young men who were best friends. Do you know who I am talking about? (David and Jonathan) Read 1 Samuel 18:3. Jonathan promised eternal friendship with David because of his deep affection for him.

When David was in trouble with King Saul, Jonathan promised to help David.

Jonathan's father, King Saul had disobeyed God, and God had chosen someone to replace him. That person was David and not the King's son Jonathan. Saul wanted to kill David because he was jealous of him.

Saul was very clever about hiding his intention to kill David, and at first Jonathan did not think that his father would kill David.

David and Saul made a plan to see what Saul's intentions towards David were. At the time of the New Moon Festival, David did not go to eat at the table of the king, but he hid in a field.

Saul was so angry that David was not there, that he threw his spear at Jonathan. When Jonathan discovered that Saul was planning to kill David, he was very upset.

Jonathan followed through with the plan that he and David had made in order to protect David.

The next day Jonathan took a young boy with him to the field where David was hiding. He pretended to be shooting arrows at a target. When Jonathan told the young boy to look for the arrow beyond the target, David knew that Saul planned to kill him.

Jonathan sent the boy away with his weapon so that he could talk with David. Jonathan and David cried as they parted, but they renewed the vows of friendship and promises that they had made to each other.

Best friends like David and Jonathan trust one another and do not break any promises they make.

David kept all of his promises to Jonathan. You can read this story in 1 Samuel chapter twenty.

very angry because God was angry. Read Exodus 32:19-20. These people did not want to be taught. They wanted to follow their own wishes and not God's wishes.

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

Give each child a piece of paper. Write the following on chalkboard and ask children to unscramble the names of Bible teachers. (Alternate activity: Children can be given pre-prepared papers with the names listed on the papers.)

SOMSE (MOSES)  
UPAL (PAUL)  
AUHSOJ (JOSHUA)  
ETPRE (PETER)  
VDADI (DAVID)  
JSEUS (JESUS)

**Application:** (10 minutes)

The greatest teacher of all was Jesus. He taught people everywhere he went. He set an example of what a teacher should be. Read John 13:12-17.

Jesus, the Great Teacher, washed his disciples feet to show he was a servant! He said no person is greater than another. We must respect our teachers and learn from them.

Many times God will use a teacher to inspire and challenge us to become the very best that we can be in our life's work.

Just as there are good friends and bad friends, there can also be

good teachers and bad teachers. We know when there are teachers who do not want the very best for us. When these teachers want us to do things that are wrong, we need to refuse.

Sometimes we are afraid of the power that teachers have over our marks. What are some of the things that we could do if we are asked by a teacher to do something that is wrong? Discuss choices.

Remind the children that it is always best to do what they know God wants them to do and to ask God to show them how to do the right things.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Keep Me True*

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

I'll be true, Lord Jesus, I'll be true. (repeat)  
There's a race that must be run,  
There's a victory to be won.  
Every hour, by thy power, I'll be true.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Pray with the children and thank God for their teachers. Pray that they will always respect their teachers. Pray that they will discern between teachers who want the best

In his village school Ben had been a good student. He was a leader among the students. Now he was at the bottom of his class.

"Stay a few minutes after class," Mr. Tembo said as Ben was walking towards the door.

Ben was worried. He asked himself, "What have I done wrong?"

Mr. Tembo smiled at Ben and said, "Ben, I know that you are new in town and that you are struggling with English. I have asked John if he will help you with your assignments until you adjust to this new school."

"Thank you," Ben said, smiling gratefully. "I will work hard, and I am sure that with help I will be able to do better work."

Ben did study and worked with John until he was caught up with the other students. He went on to graduate at the top of his class. Mr. Tembo was always an encouragement to him.

When Ben was a successful businessman, he always remembered that it was Mr. Tembo who helped him make a good start in school.

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

There are very good teachers, but some also need much improvement. Prepare papers with various Scripture verses as shown below.

Let the children find the verses and read them aloud. Explain the meaning after each verse.

These Scriptures teach us about good and bad teachers. Moses was a good teacher. God called him to teach the people of Israel, but at first he was afraid. Read Exodus 6:28-30 and 7:1.

He tried making excuses, but God knows best. Moses was a good teacher, but the people did not always listen to him.

What happened when Moses climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Commandments from God? (Wait for answers.) Let us read Exodus 32:1-4.

The people did not wait to hear what Moses said, but decided to make a golden bull. When Moses returned from the mountain, he was

POSITIVE		NEGATIVE	
Micah 3:1-3	Justice	Ezra 9:1-2	Bad example
1 Timothy 4:12	Exemplary	Matthew 20:25	Domineering
Romans 12:1	Dedicated	Ezekiel 34:4	Selfish, cruel
Matthew 20:26	Unselfish		

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Trust in the Lord*

Trust in the Lord and don't despair,  
He is a Friend so true,  
No matter what your troubles are,  
Jesus will see you through;  
Sing when the day is bright,  
Sing thro' the darkest night;  
Ev'ry day, all the way,  
Let us sing, sing, sing!

**Activity:** (15 minutes)

Prepare two cards with the words: "GOOD FRIENDS" "BAD FRIENDS"

One child holds the card "GOOD FRIENDS" and another child holds "BAD FRIENDS".

Distribute paper with Scriptures. Children must find the verse and stand by the person with the correct flashcard.

Discuss the various Scriptures and explain the difference between good and bad friends.

Good Friends:

Loyal—Proverbs 27:6

Love and Understand—Proverbs 17:17, Proverbs 18:24, Acts 24:23

Comfort in pain—Job 2:11, John 11:11, John 11:33-36

Bad Friends:

Give bad advice—1 Kings 12:8-14

Are deceitful—Psalm 41:5-9, Proverbs 16:28

Leave us—Psalm 38:11

Lead away from God—Deuteronomy 13:6-8, Proverbs 22:24-25

**Activity:** (5 minutes)

Divide group into smaller groups. Let each group think of a situation which involves friends being influenced by bad friends. Help them decide how they would deal with the situation.

Dramatize the situation. Discuss the influence of bad friends.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Thank God for our friends. Ask God to help us to be good to our friends and those who need friends.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

Today we learnt if you want to be a good friend, you must work at it. It is not easy to be a good friend. It takes love and commitment from both persons. David and Jonathan were best friends. They kept their promises and trusted one another. We can learn much from them.

Jesus says we are his friends if we keep his commandments. We must trust and obey him because he is our Best Friend. God gave his only Son to die on a cross for our sins. Isn't that the greatest love of all, to give your life for your friend?

Do something special for your friend this week. What things can we do? (Wait for answers) By doing something special and loving them, they can see that you are friendly because Jesus is your Best Friend. Do you behave in the friendly way that Jesus' best friends should act? Is he really your Best Friend?

**Sing:** (5 minutes)

*What a Friend We Have in Jesus*  
What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

: Divide the group into two groups.  
The first group will say, "The greatest love a person can have for his friends is"  
The group will answer, "to give his life for them."  
Then the first will say, "And you are my friends if"  
The second group answers, "you do what I command you."  
All together say: John 15:13-14.

Have the groups exchange parts until everyone has learned all of them. Then have everyone say the parts together.

**5. CLOSING TIME** (5 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. Close with prayer.
6. We are the Friends of Jesus club, so let us say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

Lesson 40

## MY TEACHERS

SCRIPTURE: John 13:12-17

MEMORY VERSE: "Listen to what you are taught. Be wise; do not neglect it" (Proverbs 8:33).

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

1. Learn God uses teachers, even those we do not agree with, to help us gain wisdom.

**1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study John 13:12-17; Exodus 6:28-30; Exodus 7:9; Exodus 32:1-4, 19-20.
3. Paper and pencils.
4. Provide cards with Scripture verses.
5. Chalkboard and chalk
6. Prepare papers with scrambled Bible teacher names.
7. Prepare Memory Verse.

**2. BEGINNING TIME** (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in

favour with God and men."

5. Recognize those who had a birthday during the past week, those who are visitors, and those who brought a visitor.
6. Ask the children what they remember about last week's lesson.

**Song:** (5 minutes)

*The B-I-B-L-E*

The B-I-B-L-E  
Yes, that's the book for me.  
I stand upon the Word of God.  
The B-I-B-L-E

**3. TEACHING THE LESSON**

**Introduce the lesson:** (15 minutes)

Ask the children to name other words for "teacher." Discuss their words.

The dictionary gives other words such as educator, master, leader, guide, trainer, informer, ruler. A teacher is someone who gives us information about a subject and guides us as we learn.

Ask, "How would you describe a good teacher?"  
Discuss the children's answers.

**Tell a story:** (10 minutes)

Ben was struggling in school. He had come from his village into town, and now he was in a new school where all of the lessons were taught in English.

What did Jacob give his father to eat? (Goat meat)

How did Isaac get tricked into believing it was Jacob not Esau? (Used Esau's clothes and goat skins.)

Name a blessing Isaac gave Jacob. (Fertile fields, corn and wine, people will serve him, he will rule over his relatives.)

How did Esau feel about Jacob taking his blessing? (Angry)

How did Jacob cheat Esau the first time? (He took his right as the first born son.)

How did Esau feel towards Jacob? (He hated him/wanted to kill him.)

How should a family live together according to God's Word? (In harmony.)

#### 5. CLOSING TIME (5 minutes)

1. Make announcements.
2. Remind the children of things they need to do before the next lesson.
3. Encourage children to bring a friend next week.
4. Close with prayer.
5. Say the Friends of Jesus cheer.

## MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 27

MEMORY VERSE: "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1).

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

1. Learn God is delighted when families and brothers/sisters can live in unity.

#### 1. TEACHER'S PREPARATION

1. Pray for yourself and the pupils.
2. Study the Scripture thoroughly.
5. Prepare questions for "Naughts and Crosses" activity.
6. Find a chalkboard/chalk (or large piece of paper to place on the wall) for the Naughts and Crosses game.

#### 2. BEGINNING TIME (10 minutes)

1. Begin with prayer.
2. Together with the children, say the club verse, Luke 2:52.
3. Together with the children, sing the club song, *Jesus Grew in Wisdom*.
4. With hands over the heart, say the club pledge together: "Because Jesus is my example, I commit myself to grow in wisdom, in body, and in favour with God and men."

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

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

#### Song: (5 minutes)

*I Have the Joy Down in My Heart*  
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart.  
I have the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

2. I have the love of Jesus...

3. I have the peace that passeth understanding...

#### 3. TEACHING THE LESSON

**Introduce the lesson:** (10 minutes)

Ask: "Does anyone here have a brother or a sister?" "Who has never fought with their brother or sister?"

Everyone has at one time or another fought or argued with family members. Sometimes we get so angry, we even feel like hitting our brothers and sisters.

Today we are going to learn more about relationships between family members and how God expects us to act .

#### Bible teaching: (15 minutes)

The Bible tells us about two brothers. They were twins, but they

were very different, and they did not like each other very much. Their names were Jacob and Esau. Esau was born first, but from the beginning Jacob was trying to be first.

Esau was like his father Isaac in the way he liked to live. Jacob was like his mother Rebecca. Esau did not appreciate his rights as the first born. One time when Esau was hungry, Jacob got Esau to sell him Esau's right as first born for a bowl of soup.

Jacob was not satisfied with having the rights of the first born; he also wanted his father, Isaac, to give him the blessing due to Esau.

Blessings were very important, and only one blessing could be given to the eldest son. This would result in the eldest son being more prosperous and taking charge from the father. Other relatives would be his slaves.

Isaac was very old and blind. Jacob and his mother tricked Isaac into thinking that he was blessing Esau. When Esau found out what had happened, he was very angry with Jacob and he hated him. He even considered killing his own brother!

Jacob had to leave home. He was gone for many years. He never saw his parents again. Jacob and Esau were old men before they met again and Esau forgave Jacob.

Ask: "Do you think that Esau was correct in wanting to kill his brother? What would you have done if Jacob were your brother?"

**Activity:** (10 minutes)

Divide the group into pairs. The pairs pretend to be brothers and sisters. One child must fight with the other about a situation they create.

The other child must not fight back, but stay calm and try to explain his/her side of the story.

After the pairs have finished (give a time limit), ask: "How did it feel not to fight back and be pleasant?"

Reverse the rolls and discuss after role playing is finished.

**Sing a song:** (5 minutes)

*Be Glorified*

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;

In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

**Prayer:** (5 minutes)

Help the children to pray that they will learn to live in harmony with other family members, especially brothers and sisters.

**4. MEMORY WORK** (10 minutes)

Read the Memory Verse: "How wonderful it is, how pleasant, for God's people to live together in harmony!" (Psalm 133:1).

Learn the verse by dividing into two groups.

Group 1 says: "How wonderful it is,"

Group 2 says: "how pleasant"

All together say: "for God's people to live together in harmony" Psalm 133:1

When everyone has learned their part, change to the other part. Then say all together.

**Application:** (5 minutes)

We often get very angry with our brothers and sisters. Like Esau and Jacob, we also act hateful toward them. In our Memory Verse, we read that God said it is wonderful and pleasant if we live together in harmony. (Psalm 133:1)

It makes Jesus happy when he sees us living together without fighting and bickering. Jesus does not want us to fight like Jacob and Esau.

It is not always easy living together in harmony. Jesus had younger brothers and sisters. Because Jesus was also God, he never did anything wrong. Jesus knows how it is to live as part of a family.

How would the opposite of the Memory Verse read? How terrible and sad it is when God's people fight!

Next time you want to fight, think about God's words and be silent when possible. When your brother or sister sees this, the brother or sister who is fighting may become

embarrassed and think twice before starting another fight.

**Review:**

Play the following game to review the lesson. Use Bibles to find the answers in Genesis 27.

*Naughts and Crosses* (X's and O's)

Divide the class into two groups. One group is to draw the naughts (O's) and the other the crosses (X's).

Ask the following questions. The person who answers correctly gets to draw on the chalkboard for his/her team. If the answer is incorrect, the other team takes a turn.

The team who has three naughts or crosses in a row gets a point. The team with the most points wins the game.

Use a chalkboard or large paper and draw the following:

X		O
	X	O
		X

**Questions:**

Who was Jacob's and Esau's father? (Isaac)

Who was Jacob's and Esau's mother? (Rebecca)

Who was the eldest brother? (Esau)

Who was the youngest brother? (Jacob)