

Teaching Little Ones



3

Introducing the Bible
Sunday School material for 3 to 5 year olds

Term 4 [units 7-9]

Introducing the Bible

... for 3 to 5 year olds

Unit 7: God changes Peter and Paul

- 1. People in the Bible
- 2. Peter changes
- 3. Peter and the lame man
- 4. Paul becomes Jesus' friend
- 5. Peter and Paul talk about Jesus

Genesis 5:1-32, Matthew 1:1-17; 4:18-22
Mark 14:66-72, Acts 2:1-41
Acts 3:1-10
Acts 9:1-20; 13:9
Acts 3:1-4:22, 9:1-22

Unit 8: The Bible tells us

- 1. The Bible tell us about loving others
- 2. The Bible tell us about thanking God
- 3. The Bible tell us about praying

John 13:34; Ephesians 4:32
Colossians 3:15b, Psalm 92:1
Colossians 4:2

Unit 9: Christmas

- 1. Jesus is born
- 2. Shepherds visit Jesus

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7
Luke 2:8-20

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Teaching Little Ones

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Teaching Little Ones is a six-year syllabus of Sunday School lessons for young children.

1. First Steps (2-3 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 20 1

2. Learning About God (3-5 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 21 8

3. Introducing the Bible (3-5 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 22 1

4. Promises (5-8 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 65 5

5. Kingship (5-8 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 66 3

6. Salvation (5-8 year olds)

ISBN 978 1 921068 67 1

People in the Bible

Bible reference... Genesis 5:1-32
Matthew 1:1-17; 4:18-22

Lesson aim... To tell the children where Jesus fits into the Bible stories that they have been hearing this year, and that part of the Bible is before Jesus, part of it is about when Jesus lived on earth, and part of it is after Jesus returned to his Father in heaven. We are also going to help the children understand what ‘earth’ and ‘heaven’ mean.

Main message... The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus, some people who lived when Jesus was here on earth and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life.

Story preparation... You will need your class Bible and the “People in the Bible” chart for the story.
People in the Bible: Cut out the rectangles on page 12 to add Peter and Paul to the ‘People in the Bible’ chart.

Introduction...

[Show Bible] “Here’s our class Bible. I’m going to read something in a part of the Bible that’s in the middle—it’s called Psalms—it says [read Psalm 146:6], ‘God, the Creator of heaven, earth, and sea, and all that is in them.’ Creator means maker. Let me read that again [read verse again]. God made heaven—that’s where God and his son, Jesus live. God also made earth—that’s where we live. For a time Jesus lived on earth, then Jesus died, but he didn’t stay dead. Jesus came back to life and now he lives with God in heaven.”

Story...

“We’ve been hearing about lots of people from God’s Book, the Bible, [show class Bible] at Sunday School this year. All the stories we’ve heard from the Bible are true—they really happened. Today, we’re going to talk about all the people we’ve heard about at Sunday School this year.

“The very beginning of the Bible is a part called Genesis [*show Genesis*]. The beginning of the Bible tells us about God making everything. God made the land and the sea—the earth—and everything in them. [*point to ‘God made’ picture on ‘People in the Bible’ chart*] “God made people. God made Adam and Eve [*point to them on ‘People in the Bible’ chart*] and we can read about them at the beginning of the Bible.

“There are lots of other people in the Bible. There’s Noah [*point to Noah on ‘People in the Bible’ and then each of the other people as you mention them*] who lived a long time after Adam and Eve. There’s Abraham—God made some important promises to Abraham—and then Joseph. Joseph went to Egypt and then all God’s people, the Israelites, went to Egypt.

“Then a long time after Joseph, there was Moses. Moses helped God’s people, the Israelites, to leave Egypt. Then a long time after Moses there was Samuel. Then there was King David. All these people are in the Bible. They are all in the Bible before Jesus, God’s son, came to earth.

“Then some of the Bible is when Jesus was here on earth [*point to cross*]. Jesus is with God in heaven now, but for a time he lived here on earth, the world where we live. At the beginning of this year we learnt about Jesus’ special friends. They were called ‘the disciples’. One of those friends was Peter [*attach Peter to the right of the cross*]. Before Peter met Jesus he was a fisherman. The Bible tells us about Peter when he was with Jesus. The Bible also tells us about Peter after Jesus died and went back to heaven.

“Then some other people became Jesus’ friends after Jesus lived on earth. One of his friends was called Paul [*attach Paul to the right of Peter*]. The Bible tells us lots of things about Paul.

“We’ll be hearing some more about Peter and Paul at Sunday School.”

Conclusion...

“The Bible is God’s special book and it has lots of true stories about people in it. The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus [*point to all the people before Jesus on ‘People in the Bible’ chart*], some people who lived when Jesus was alive on earth [*point to the cross and Peter on ‘People in the Bible’ chart*] and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life [*point to Paul on ‘People in the Bible’ chart*].

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you for all the people that we have heard about from the Bible. Thank you for your special son, Jesus, and thank you for his friends Peter and Paul. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. 'People in the Bible' booklet

The class 'People in the Bible' chart is very long (horizontally) and it would be time consuming for you to cut and join each picture for each child, and also almost impossible for the children to colour. If you would like to make such a chart for each child—then great!

So this activity has the chart in a booklet form—not as ideal, but more manageable. Staple the pages together to make a booklet. Explain it to the children in the lesson. They will need help to understand that the top of the first page comes first, and the middle of the last page comes last.

Before the lesson, print pages 7-11 and staple together with page 7 as the cover. In the lesson, the children colour in the pictures.

2. Pictures

Print page 6 and cut out a caption for each child. Paste this on an A3 page for each child. In the lesson, first show the children the 'People in the Bible' chart again, then ask the children to think of someone they would like to draw. Each child chooses one, or more, of the people to draw. Soon after beginning their drawing, the teacher asks each child who their picture is of, and the teacher writes the name on the line.

3. Picture page

Before the lesson, print page 13 (preferably enlarge it) for each child. In the lesson, read and explain the sheet first. The children draw something that God has made in the first box and Noah in the second box.

Caption for activity #2:

The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus, some people who lived when Jesus was here on earth, and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life.

My picture is of _____

The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus, some people who lived when Jesus was here on earth, and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life.

My picture is of _____

The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus, some people who lived when Jesus was here on earth, and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life.

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My picture is of _____

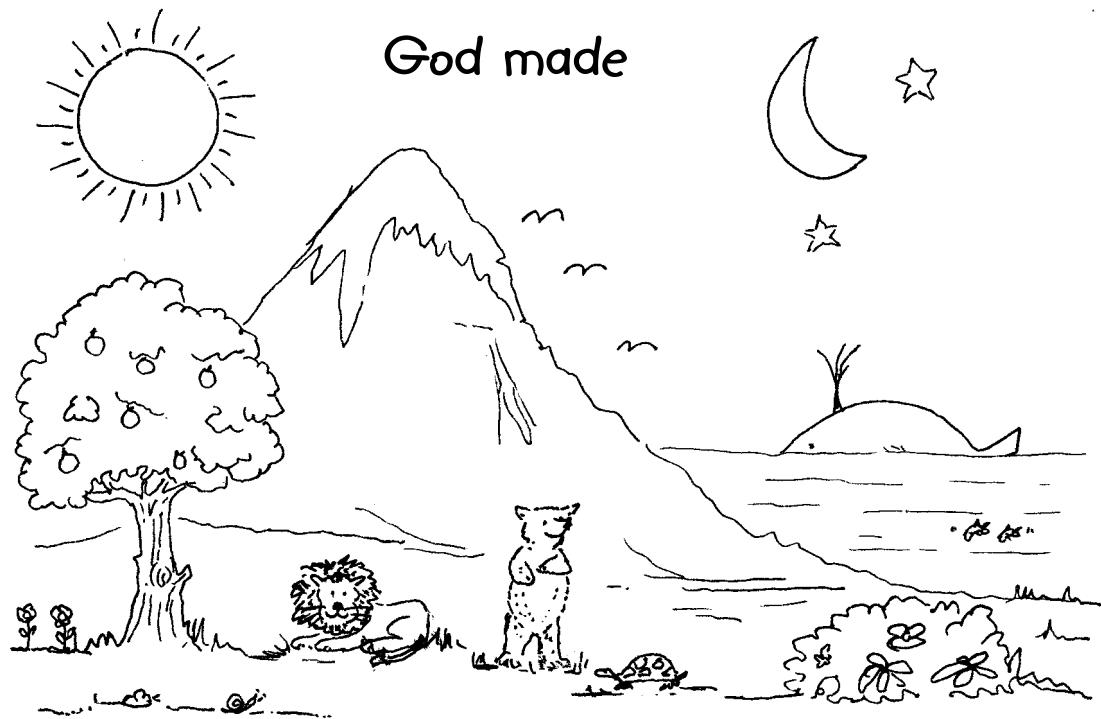
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My picture is of _____

The Bible tells us about some people who lived a long time before Jesus, some people who lived when Jesus was here on earth, and some people who lived after Jesus died and came back to life.

My picture is of _____

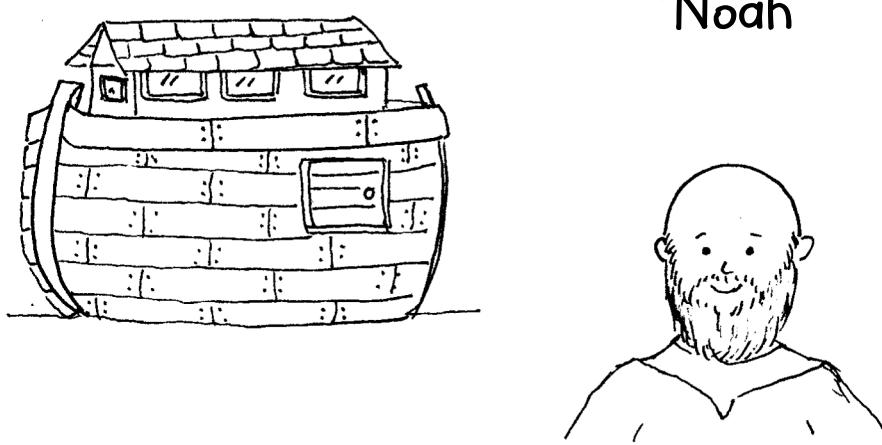
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Adam and Eve



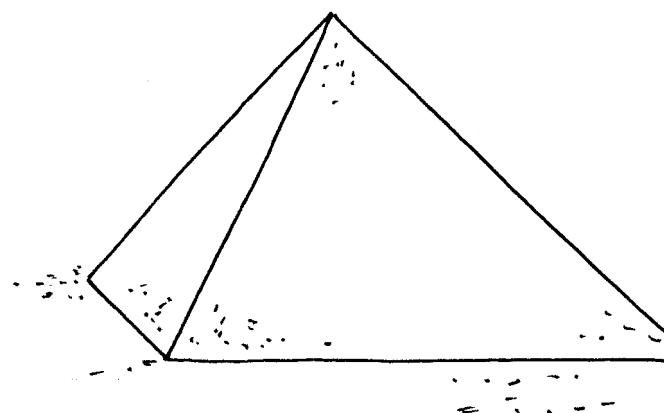
Noah



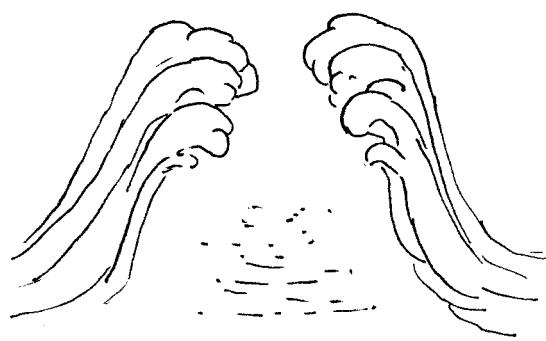
Abraham



Joseph

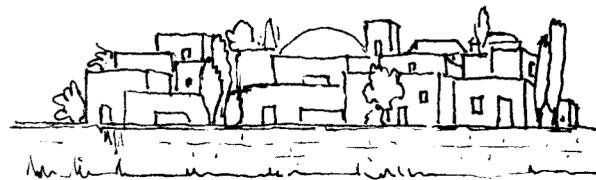


Moses

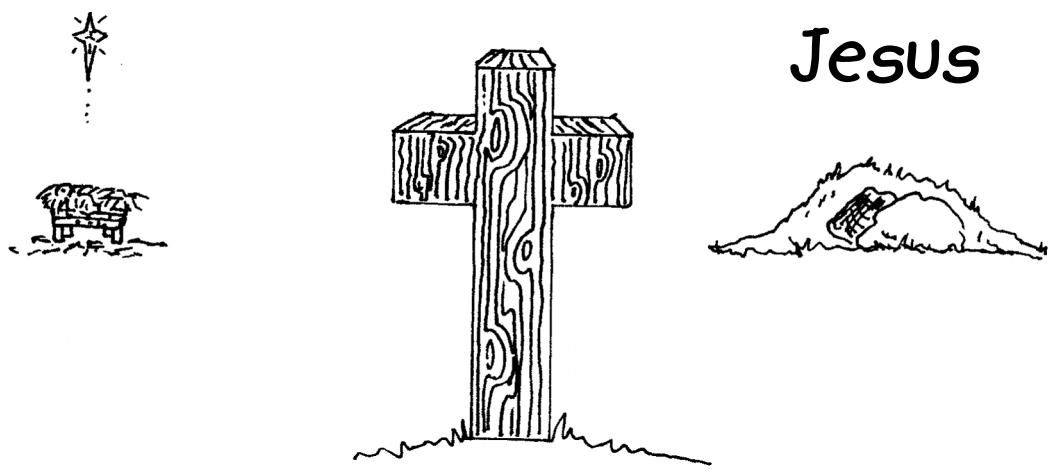




King David



Jesus



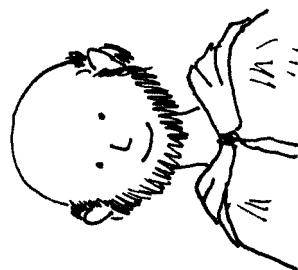
Peter



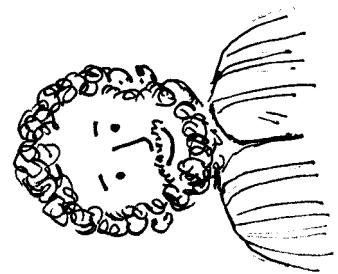
Paul



Paul



Peter



Today we talked about people in the Bible—people who lived before Jesus was born.

The beginning of the Bible tells us God made everything. Draw something that God made.

The Bible tells us that God made people. The Bible tells us about Adam and Eve.

The Bible also tells us about Noah, and how God looked after Noah and his family.
(Draw a picture of Noah's ark.)

The Bible also tells us about Abraham, Joseph, Moses, Samuel and King David.
These men lived a long time before Jesus lived on earth.

Peter changes

Bible reference... Mark 14:66-72
Acts 2:1-41

Lesson aim... To tell the children about God changing Peter and helping him to tell people about Jesus. After Jesus died and went to heaven to live with God, God changed Peter, and Peter wanted people to know that he was Jesus' friend. He also wanted to tell them about being Jesus' friend so they could be Jesus' friends too.

Main message... God changed Peter and helped him to tell people about Jesus.

Story preparation... Make a two-sided face puppet, eg. by using a paper plate. On one side have a happy face for Peter, and on the other side have a face which is neither happy nor sad (see far left illustration under activity #3). Make some tears from blue paper (see shape on page 16), or use round blue stickers, to add at the appropriate time in the story to the expressionless face.

Introduction...

Show a collection of pictures which have been cut from magazines. The pictures need to be of people, some with happy faces and others with sad faces. Show each and the children can say whether each person is happy or sad.

Story...

“Peter was a special friend of Jesus. [Show Peter puppet—the side which is neither happy nor sad]. Peter really loved Jesus, but he also found it hard to be Jesus' friend sometimes. Just before Jesus died, some people were very angry with Jesus, and Peter didn't want people to know that he was Jesus' friend. Isn't it sad that Peter, a really good friend of Jesus, was scared to tell people that he was Jesus' friend? Peter was very sad too. [Add tears to Peter's face]. He was sad that he had been scared to let people know that he was Jesus' friend.

“Everything changed after Jesus died and went to heaven to live with God. God helped Peter to be different. Now Peter wanted people to know that he was Jesus' friend. [Turn

Peter's face around to show happy face]. He also wanted other people to become Jesus' friends too. So Peter talked to lots and lots of people about Jesus. God helped Peter to be able to talk to them and tell them about how Jesus could be their friend. What exciting news Peter had to tell people, and isn't it wonderful that God changed Peter and helped him tell people about God?"

Conclusion...

"So just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend, and he felt very sad. Then after Jesus died and went to heaven to live with God, God changed Peter, and Peter wanted people to know that he was Jesus' friend. He also wanted to tell them about being Jesus' friend so they could be Jesus' friends too."

Pray...

"Dear God, thank you for changing Peter from someone who was afraid to let people know he was Jesus' friend into someone who wanted people to know that he was Jesus' friend. Thank you for helping Peter to tell people about Jesus. Amen."

Action Rhyme...

Peter was sad.	<i>Turn down mouth and look sad</i>
Then God changed him.	<i>Point upwards</i>
Peter was glad to talk about Jesus.	<i>Turn mouth upwards making a big smile</i> <i>Open and close hands like 'talking'</i>

People in the Bible...

Point to Peter on the chart on the right of the cross. Talk about the fact that Peter knew Jesus. Peter knew Jesus when Jesus was on earth. Then after Jesus died, and came back to life again, Peter lived for many years, telling people about Jesus.

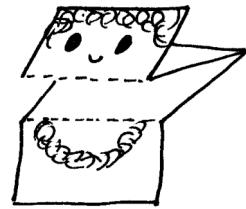
Activity suggestions...

1. Picture

Before the lesson, print page 18 for each child. The children draw the faces on each head: a sad face with tears on the first Peter and a happy face with a big smile on the second Peter (the teacher will need to draw faces if the children can't). Then the children draw Peter's body for each.

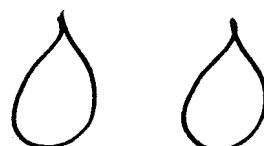
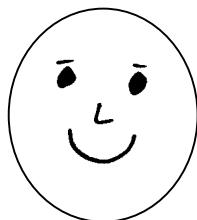
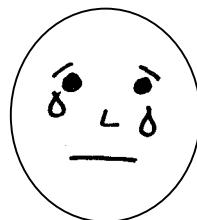
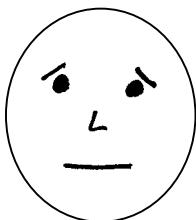
2. Peter speaking puppet

Before the lesson, print page 19 and cut out the caption and cut out the large rectangle along the outer solid line. Lightly fold along the dotted lines. Paste the caption on the back of the face. For the lesson, you will need small ripped squares of brown paper (for hair) and cotton wool (for beard) or just wool (for hair and beard). In the lesson, the children fold along the dotted lines and colour Peter's eyes, and they could draw a tongue and teeth inside the mouth (i.e. the third section). Then the children paste paper hair and cotton wool beard (or wool hair and beard) on Peter. See illustration at right.



3. Cardboard circle puppet

This activity is the same as the visual aid. Before the lesson, you will need to cut out a cardboard circle (or use a paper plate) for each child and tape it to a cardboard strip (as a handle). You will also need to rip up some paper bags or brown paper into small pieces (about 2 cm wide). In the lesson, the children draw a happy face on one side and a sad face on the other. If the children can't draw a face, then the teacher will need to draw them. See illustration below. Then they paste the brown paper pieces on both sides as Peter's hair. Once completed, the teacher will need to paste the captions (from page 17), one on either side of the cardboard strip, ensuring that the correct caption is on each side.



Captions for activity #3:

Just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend and he felt very sad.



Mark 14 verses 66-72

Just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend and he felt very sad.



Mark 14 verses 66-72

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Mark 14 verses 66-72

Just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend and he felt very sad.



Mark 14 verses 66-72

After Jesus came back to life and went to heaven, God changed Peter and Peter wanted to tell people about being Jesus' friend.



Acts 2 verses 1-41

After Jesus came back to life and went to heaven, God changed Peter and Peter wanted to tell people about being Jesus' friend.



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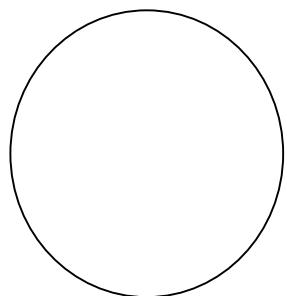
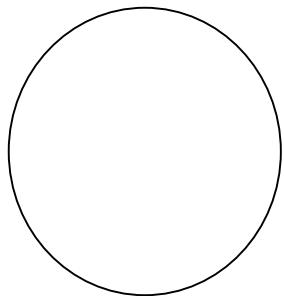


Acts 2 verses 1-41

After Jesus came back to life and went to heaven, God changed Peter and Peter wanted to tell people about being Jesus' friend.



Acts 2 verses 1-41



Just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend and he felt very sad.



Mark 14 verses 66 to 72

After Jesus died, God changed Peter and he wanted to tell people about being Jesus' friend.



Acts 2 verses 1 to 41

Caption to paste on the back of puppet:

Just before Jesus died, Peter didn't want people to know he was Jesus' friend and he felt very sad.



Mark 14 verses 66 to 72

After Jesus died, God changed Peter and he wanted to tell people about being Jesus' friend.



Acts 2 verses 1 to 41



Fold along the dotted lines



Cut out the puppet along the bold line (rectangle)

Peter and the lame man

Bible reference... Acts 3:1-10 [also read Acts 3:11-4:4]

Lesson aim... To tell the children about the lame man being healed by Jesus, through Peter, and that Peter then told everyone about Jesus.

Main message... Peter said to the man who couldn't walk, Jesus would make him able to walk again. And the man did walk!

Story preparation... Print pages 23-26 and colour them. Use them as picture cards or join them together to form a book by stapling down the left-hand side, or by pasting them in a scrap book. The text is written on the picture cards.

Introduction...

“See if you can all wobble your legs. What other things can we do with our legs?” *Have the children giving suggestions (eg. walking, running, stamping, dancing, skipping, jumping, hopping—they are not going to demonstrate all of these as it will hype them up too much before the story). Then talk about the fact that if your legs didn’t work you wouldn’t be able to do all those things. Today they will be hearing about a man whose legs didn’t work.*

“Can you remember the name of Jesus’ friend we heard about last week? That’s right, Peter. And can you remember what happened to Peter after Jesus died? God changed him and he wanted to tell people about Jesus and being friends with him. Well today we’re going to hear about a time when Peter told people about Jesus, but let’s hear what happened first...”

Story...

“This is my book about Peter and the man who couldn’t walk. This story is a true story—it really happened—and it comes from a part of the Bible called Acts.

[show page 23] “Two of Jesus’ friends were called Peter and John. One day, Peter and John went to the temple, which is like a church building, to pray.

[show page 24] “At the gate outside the temple, there was a man who couldn’t walk. He hadn’t been able to walk all his life. He was asking people for money. Everyday people

carried him to the gate to ask people for money. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him something. Peter said, ‘Look at us!’ The man looked at Peter waiting to get something from Peter. Peter told him that he had no money but the man could have something much better—Jesus would make him able to walk again.

[show page 25] “Then Peter held his hand and helped him up, and straight away the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around. Then he went into the temple with them—walking and jumping and praising God. He had a lot to thank God for, didn’t he?

[show page 26] “The people saw him walking and praising God and they were surprised because they knew who he was. And do you know what Peter did next? He told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus’ friends. What great news!”

Conclusion...

“Peter said to the man who couldn’t walk that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And he *could* walk, couldn’t he! So Jesus made the man better. And Peter was able to tell all the people who saw what had happened about Jesus and many people became Jesus’ friends.”

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that the man was able to walk. Thank you that Peter then told everyone about Jesus and about how they could be Jesus’ friends. Amen.”

Action Rhyme...

Peter was sad.	<i>Turn down mouth and look sad</i>
Then God changed him.	<i>Point upwards</i>
Peter was glad to talk about Jesus.	<i>Turn mouth upwards making a big smile</i> <i>Open and close hands like ‘talking’</i>

Activity suggestions...

1. Picture page

Before the lesson, print page 30 for each child and get some round stickers or cut some circles about 1.5 cm in diameter (you could draw faces on these, if you want to). There are two parts to this page. In the lesson, the children complete the top picture by drawing the man’s arms and walking legs and drawing hair. To complete the lower picture, the children place stickers on, or paste circles on, as the people that Peter is talking to. The children could add stick arms and legs.

An alternative to this activity is to print the caption below and paste it on a large piece of paper (about A3). The children draw a picture of Peter talking to people.

2. Puppet

This activity requires concertina folding—if you don't think your children can manage this, you have two options. Firstly, you could cut off part of the arms and legs to make them shorter and not require folding. Secondly, if you have a small class, you could do the folding with each child, or before the lesson. Decide what you will do when preparing the lesson.

Before the lesson, print page 31 for each child and cut out the pieces. Fill a container with pieces of coloured paper about 2 cm wide. In the lesson, the children draw the man's face on the side without the caption, and they draw or paste on paper scraps as clothes. Then the children fold the arms and legs in a concertina style. The teacher tapes or staples the arms and legs to the man's body. Now the puppet can jump with his concertina legs!

3. Book

The visual aid pictures can be used to make a book for the children to colour and take home. Before the lesson, print page 27 (per two children) and pages 28-29 for each child. Cut the pages in half (along dotted lines), then staple the pages together into a booklet with one half of page 27 as a cover. In the lesson, the children colour the pages and then decorate the cover.

Caption for activity #1:

Peter said to the man who couldn't walk, that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And the man did walk! Then Peter told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news! This true story is in the Bible in Acts 3.



Peter said to the man who couldn't walk, that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And the man did walk! Then Peter told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news! This true story is in the Bible in Acts 3.



Peter said to the man who couldn't walk, that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And the man did walk! Then Peter told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news! This true story is in the Bible in Acts 3.

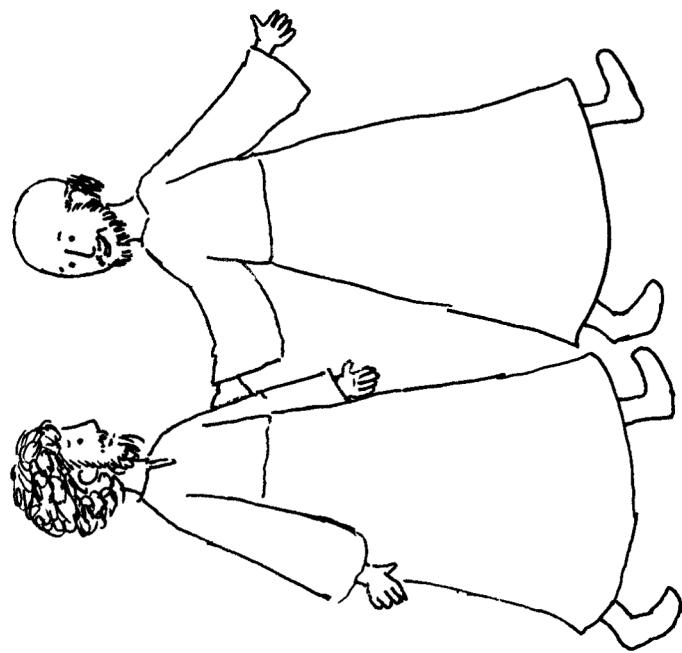


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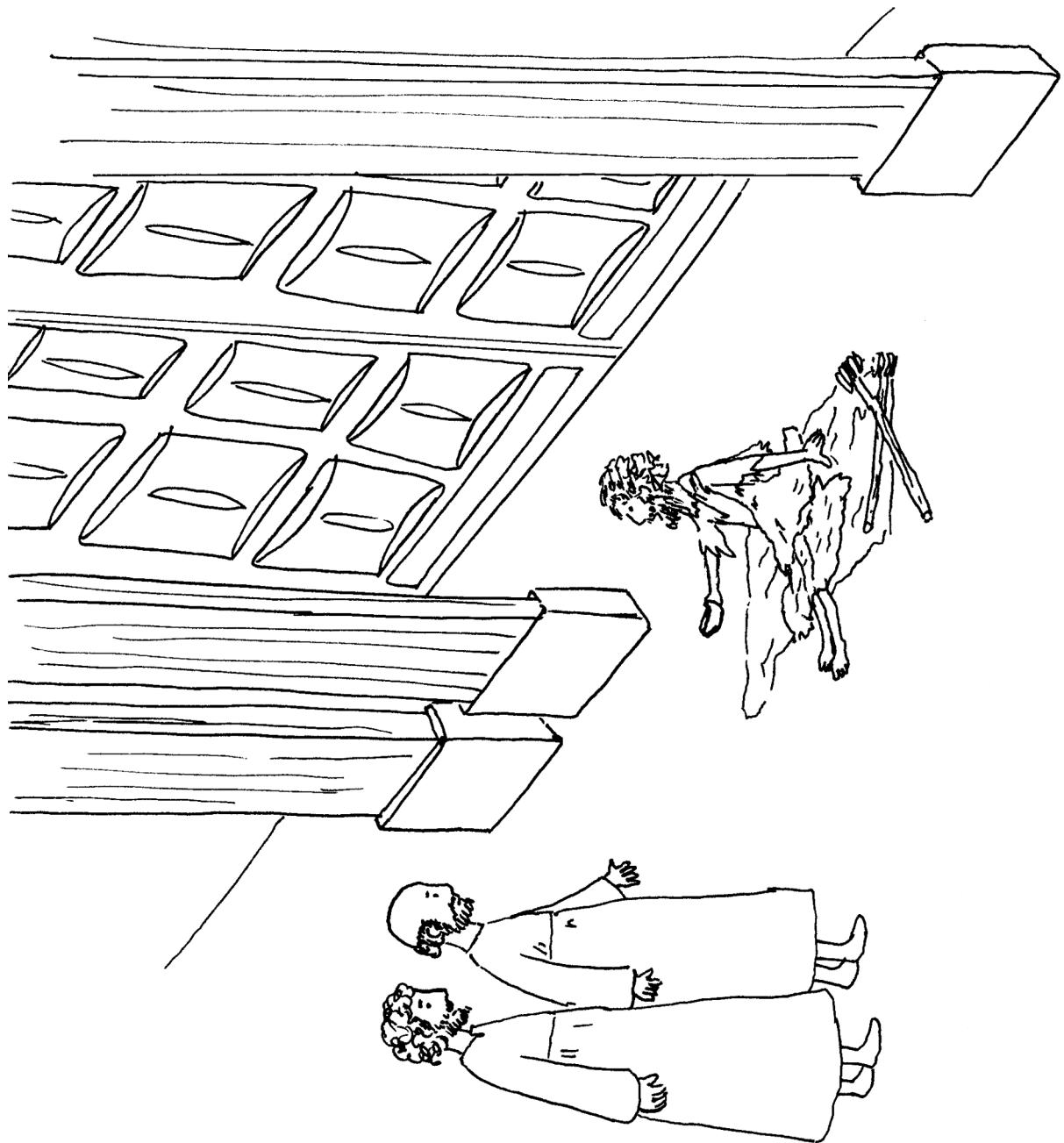


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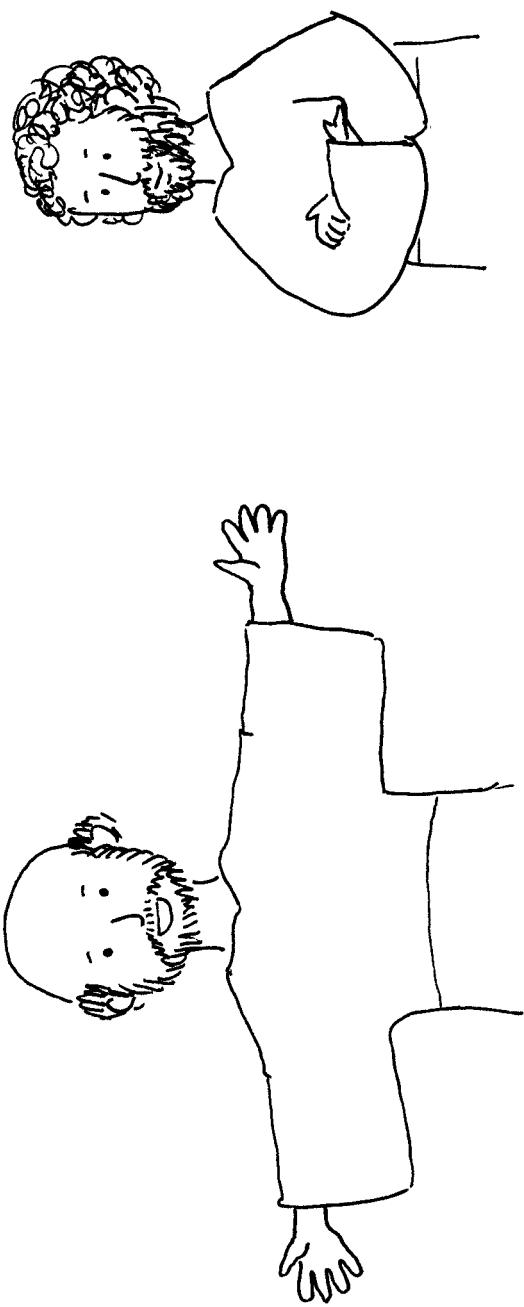
Two of Jesus' friends were called Peter and John. One day, Peter and John went to the temple, which is like a church building, to pray.



At the gate outside the temple, there was a man who couldn't walk. He hadn't been able to walk all his life. He was asking people for money. Everyday people carried him to the gate to ask people for money. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him something. Peter said, 'Look at us!' The man looked at Peter waiting to get something from Peter. Peter told him that he had no money but the man could have something much better—Jesus would make him able to walk again.



Then Peter held his hand and helped him up, and straight away the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around. Then he went into the temple with them—walking and jumping and praising God. He had a lot to thank God for, didn't he?



The people saw him walking and praising God and they were surprised because they knew who he was. And do you know what Peter did next? He told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news!

My book about Peter and the
man who couldn't walk.



This true story comes from Acts 3

My book about Peter and the
man who couldn't walk.

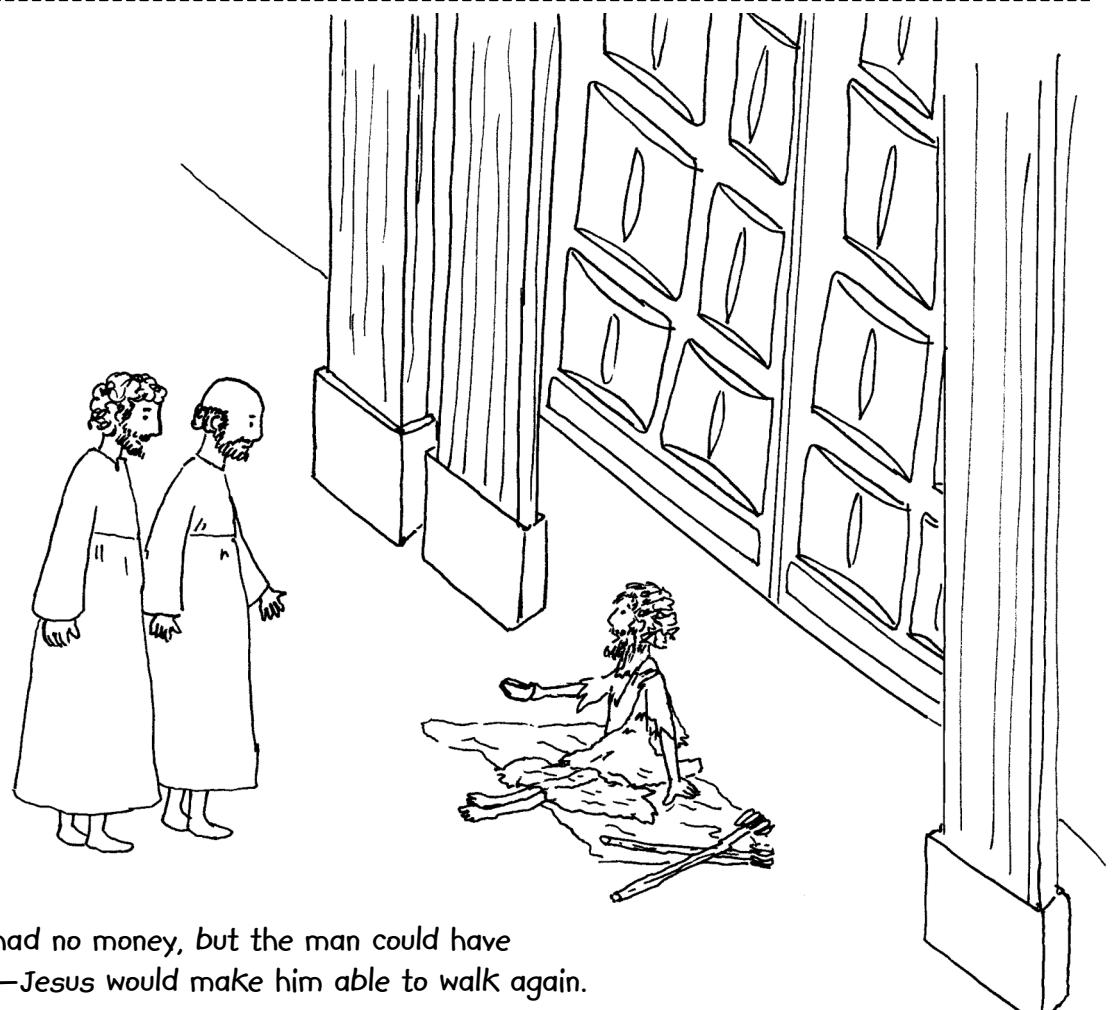


This true story comes from Acts 3



Two of Jesus' friends were called Peter and John. One day, Peter and John went to the temple, which is like a church building, to pray.

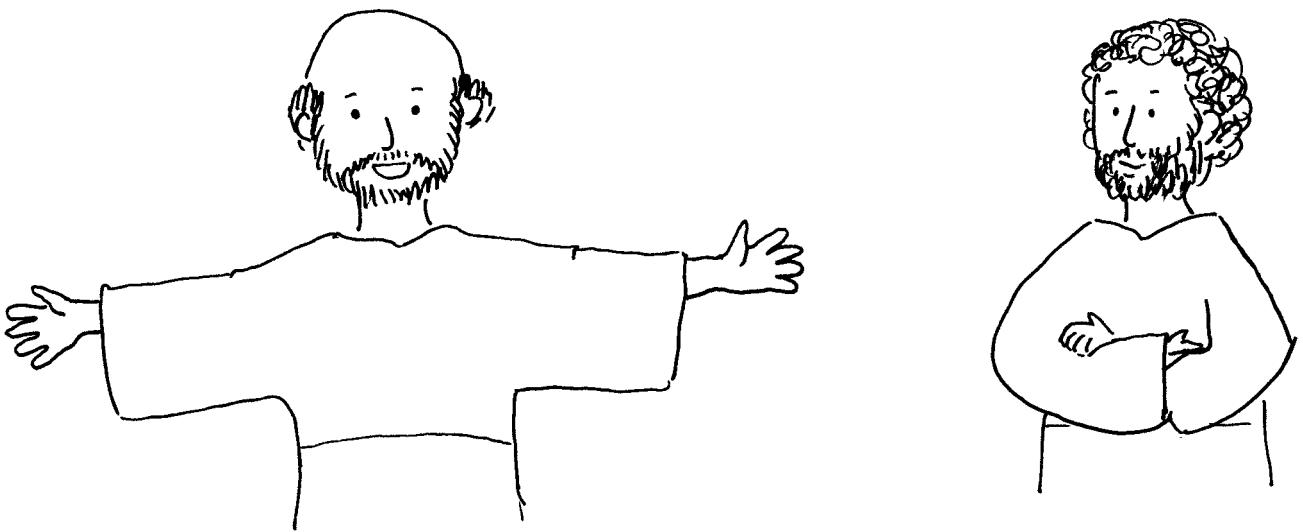
At the gate outside the temple, there was a man who couldn't walk. He hadn't been able to walk all his life. He was asking people for money. Everyday people carried him to the gate to ask people for money. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them to give him something. Peter said, 'Look at us!' The man looked at Peter waiting to get something from Peter.



Peter told him that he had no money, but the man could have something much better—Jesus would make him able to walk again.



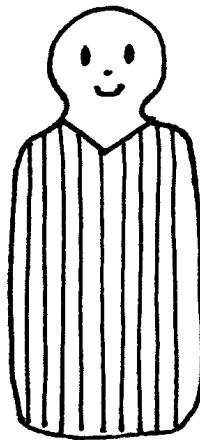
Then Peter held his hand and helped him up, and straight away the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet and started walking around. Then he went into the temple with them—walking and jumping and praising God. He had a lot to thank God for, didn't he?



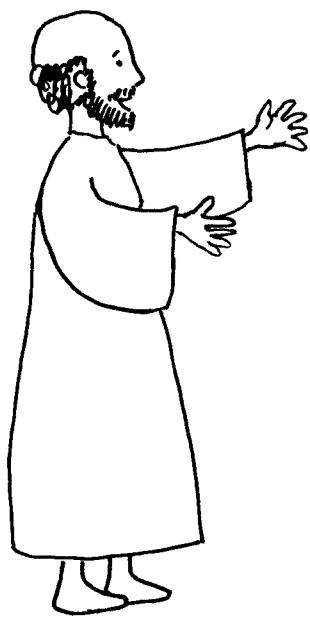
The people saw him walking and praising God and they were surprised because they knew who he was. And do you know what Peter did next? He told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news!

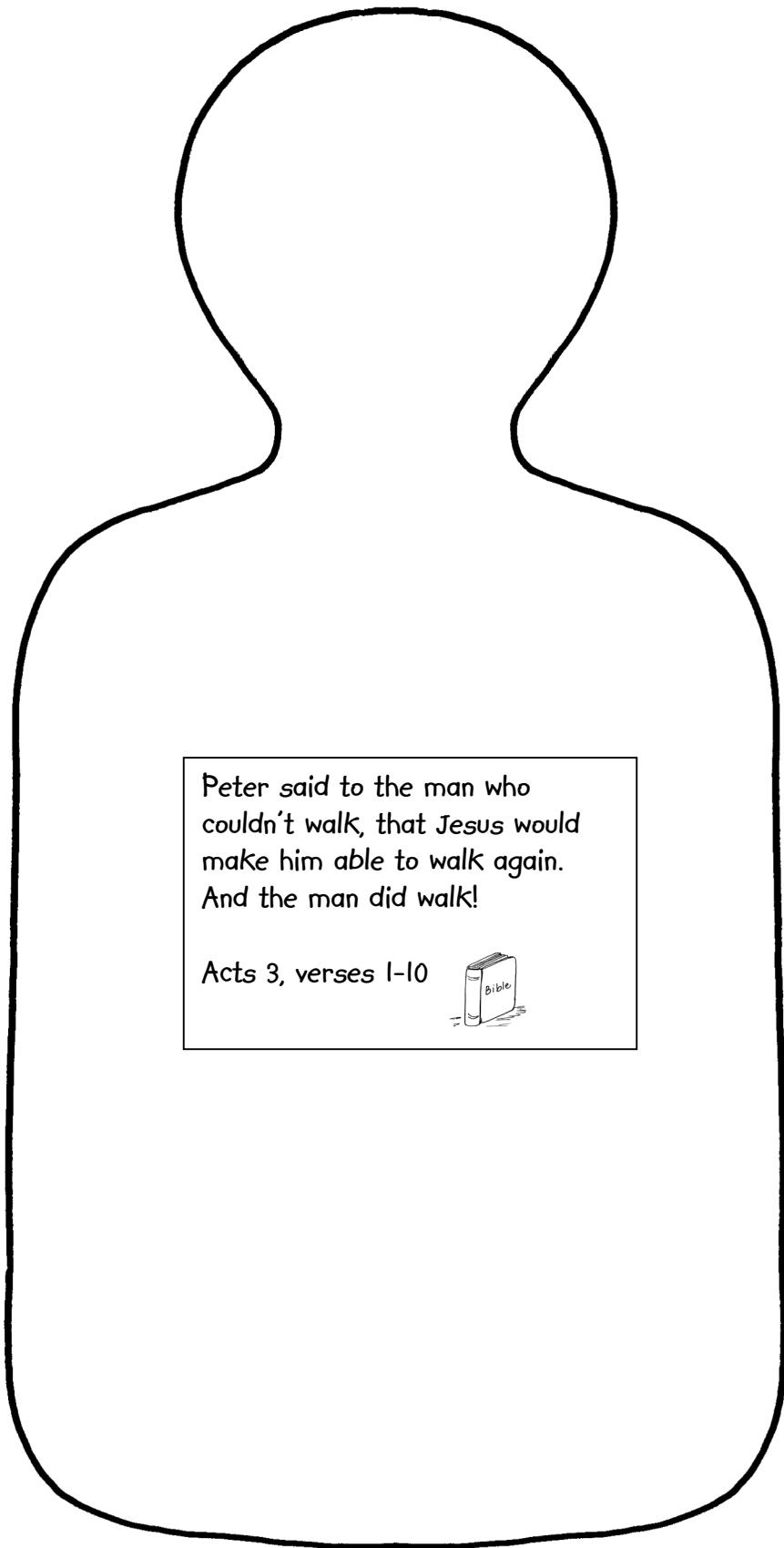


Peter said to the man who couldn't walk, that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And the man did walk!



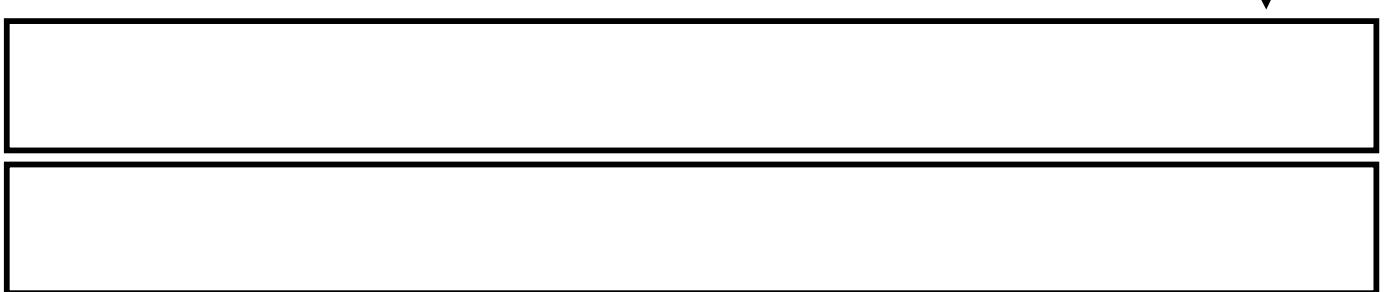
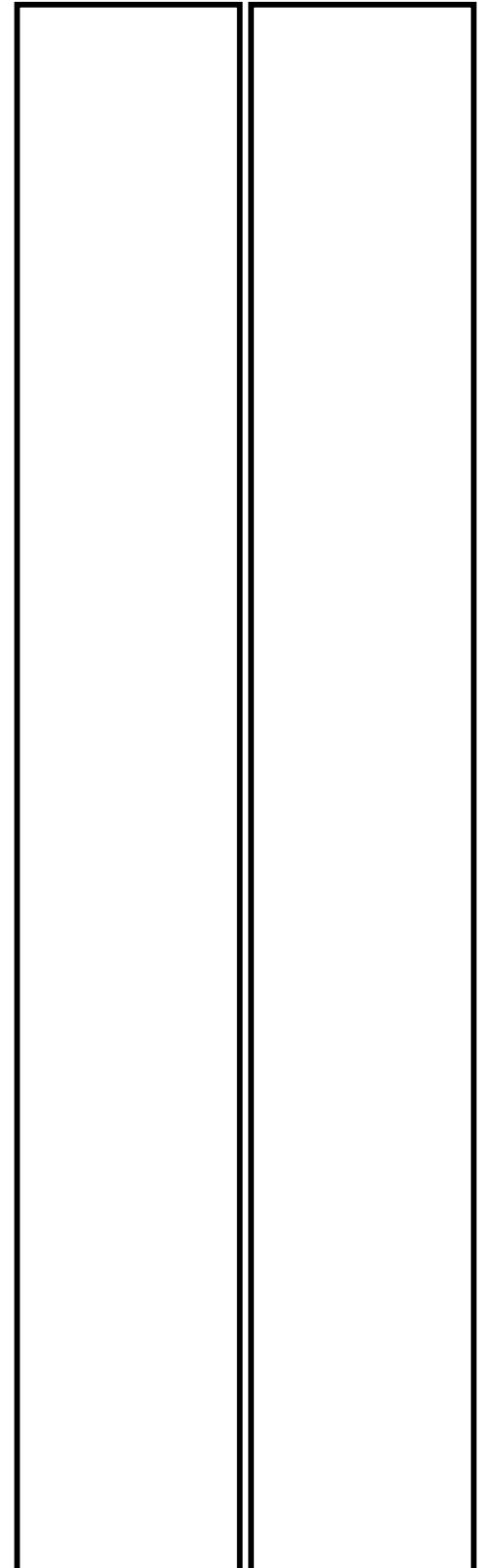
Then Peter told the people there about Jesus. And many, many people who heard Peter became Jesus' friends. What great news!





Peter said to the man who
couldn't walk, that Jesus would
make him able to walk again.
And the man did walk!

Acts 3, verses 1-10



Paul becomes Jesus' friend

Bible reference... Acts 9:1-20, 13:9

Lesson aim... To tell the children about Paul, and how God changed him from being someone who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends, to being a friend of Jesus himself.

Please note: In this passage Paul is referred to as Saul. Saul's name changes to Paul around Acts 13:9. Since we want to introduce the children to key Bible characters and since much of the reference to Paul in the Bible is as Paul, rather than Saul, for simplicity sake we will be calling him Paul in this lesson.

Main message... God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends, to become a friend of Jesus, and helped him to tell people about Jesus.

Story preparation... For the introduction, you will need a soft toy or puppet, and a picture of a caterpillar as well as a picture of a butterfly, or you could print pages 38 and 39 and colour. You will also need to print the story on page 37.

Introduction...

You will need a soft toy to use as a puppet. Let's call him Nick. Nick has a bag or a paper bag containing the pictures of the caterpillar and the butterfly, and the story (pages 37-39).

"This is my friend Nick. Nick has brought some things with him to show us." Show the children a picture of a caterpillar and a butterfly.

"I wonder why Nick has brought a picture of something that isn't very pretty and something that is very pretty?"

Put Nick to your ear and then say,

"Nick said that the ugly caterpillar turns into the pretty butterfly!"

Talk about the fact that the ugly caterpillar changes into a pretty butterfly.

“God changes caterpillars into butterflies. God can also change people. God can change people who are mean and nasty and are not Jesus’ friends, into people who are Jesus’ friends. Jesus’ friends are called Christians. What a wonderful change! Just like the ugly caterpillar becoming a beautiful butterfly.

Put Nick to your ear again.

“Nick just told me that he has a story of someone who changed...”

Story...

Take the story out of Nick’s bag and read it.

“Today’s true story comes from a book of the Bible called Acts.

“A while after Jesus was on earth, some people tried to stop other people becoming Jesus’ friends (who are called ‘Christians’). A man named Paul was very mean to Christians. He was going to a place called Damascus to find all Jesus’ friends and take them back to a place called Jerusalem. Paul wanted to hurt these Christians.

“Suddenly, on the way to Damascus, a light from the sky flashed around him. Paul fell down and heard Jesus speak to him. Jesus told Paul to go to a place called Damascus and he would be told what to do.

“When Paul got up he couldn’t see anything—he was blind. Men had to help Paul find his way to Damascus. Paul couldn’t see anything for three days and Paul didn’t eat or drink anything for three days.

“Then one day a friend of Jesus came to Paul and put his hands on him. Paul could see again. Paul became Jesus’ friend too. He didn’t want to be horrible to Jesus’ friends anymore, he wanted to be kind to them instead. He wanted to stay with them! And Paul started telling people that Jesus was God’s son. He wanted other people to be Jesus’ friends too.”

Conclusion...

“So God changed Paul from being someone who wanted to hurt Jesus’ friends, and stop them being Jesus’ friends, into someone who was Jesus’ friend. Paul wanted other people to be Jesus’ friends too. God helped Paul to tell people about Jesus.

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that Jesus wanted to be Paul’s friend. Thank you for changing him into a man who wanted to be Jesus’ friend. Amen.”

‘People in the Bible’...

Point to Paul on the chart, “This is a picture of Paul from our story today.” Talk about the fact that Paul became one of Jesus’ friends after Jesus died, and came back to life again. Paul lived for many years, telling people about Jesus.

Action Rhyme...

Paul hurt people
who loved Jesus.
Paul hurt people
who told the Good News.

*make a mean face
cross hands over chest and then point up
make a mean face
open and close hands like chatting mouth*

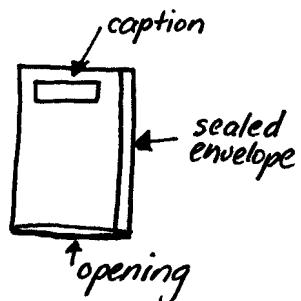
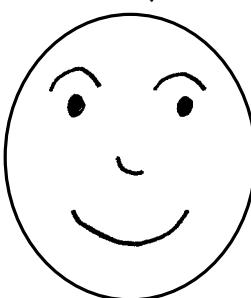
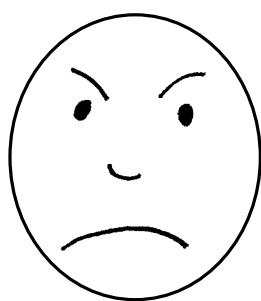
God changed Paul and
he loved Jesus.
God changed Paul and
he told the Good News.

*point upwards
cross hands over chest and then point up
point upwards
open and close hands like chatting mouth*

Activity suggestions...

1. Paper hand puppets

Before the lesson, you will need to get one standard or DL envelope for each child and stick it closed and then cut off one end (see diagram below), and paste the captions on page 36 on each side. In the lesson, the children draw a Paul who hates Jesus on the side marked (1) and a Paul who is Jesus’ friend on the side marked (2). Ensure that the children have the envelopes with the opening at the lower edge so that they can put their hand inside when finished. On one side have a mad face with the first caption on page 36. On the other side have a happy face with the second caption on page 36. Below is an idea for both faces which you could use as a guide to draw the faces yourself on the envelopes before the lesson. If you know your children would be able to draw Paul’s faces, then you needn’t do it before the lesson. The children could then either draw the body for Peter, or paste a coloured paper rectangle for his body and draw stick arms and legs.



2. *Butterfly page*

Before the lesson, choose which page you would like the children to complete: 40 or 41, and then print the page for each child. If you choose page 40, the children colour in the caterpillar and the butterfly and draw some nasty faces in the first box and some happy faces in the second box. If you choose page 41, the children colour the caterpillar and then complete the rest of the page in one of three ways:

- (i) Using round stickers—the children make a butterfly in the first box (two stickers for each wing) and faces in the lower two boxes using the stickers. Then the children draw dots for eyes and the teacher may need to draw angry mouths in one box and happy mouths in the other box.
- (ii) Using circles and glue—the children paste on two circles for each butterfly wing and then paste circles on as faces. As the circles can be larger than the stickers, the children might be able to draw their own faces.
- (iii) The children draw the butterfly and the faces.

3. *3D picture*

Before the lesson, you will need to print pages 42 and 43, cut out the circles and paste them onto either side of a cardboard circle. You will also need to cut out a square of crepe paper (about 10 cms) for each child and you will need pipe cleaners and small squares of brown paper (in a container) to use as Paul's hair. In the lesson, the children paste on brown paper pieces as Paul's hair, and then they colour the leaf on the other circle green. The children make a butterfly from a square of crepe paper by wrapping a pipe cleaner around the middle, with the two ends making antennae. The teacher tapes the completed butterfly onto the leaf.

Caption for activity #1:

1	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
2	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>
	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>	<p>God changed Paul, who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends...</p>
	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>	<p>...into being one of Jesus' friends. Acts 9, verses 1-20</p>

This is the true story of Paul becoming Jesus' friend...

"Today's true story comes from a book of the Bible called Acts.

"A while after Jesus was on earth, some people tried to stop other people becoming Jesus' friends (who are called 'Christians'). A man named Paul was very mean to Christians. He was going to a place called Damascus to find all Jesus' friends and take them back to a place called Jerusalem. Paul wanted to hurt these Christians.

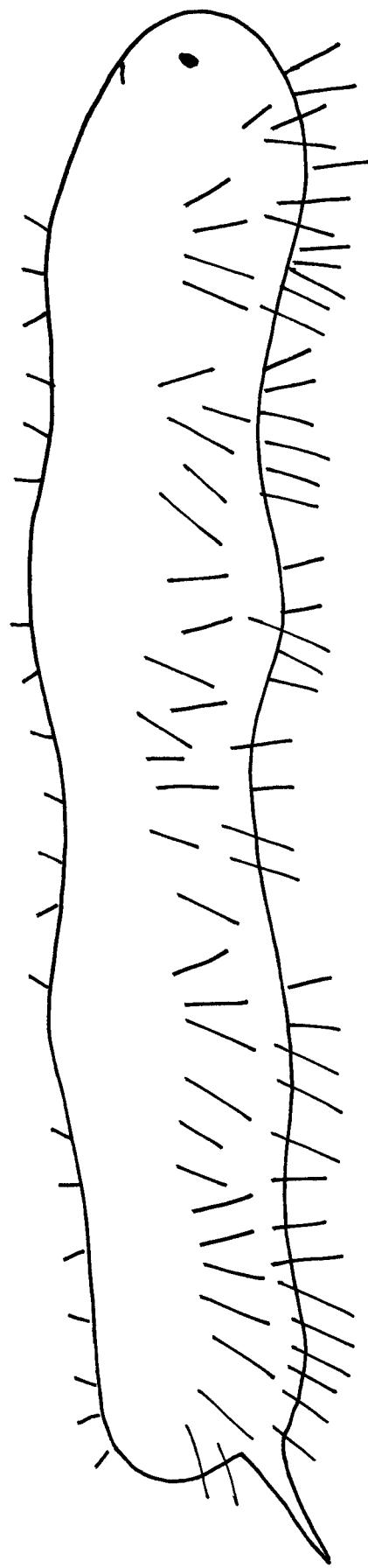
"Suddenly, on the way to Damascus, a light from the sky flashed around him. Paul fell down and heard Jesus speak to him. Jesus told Paul to go to a place called Damascus and he would be told what to do.

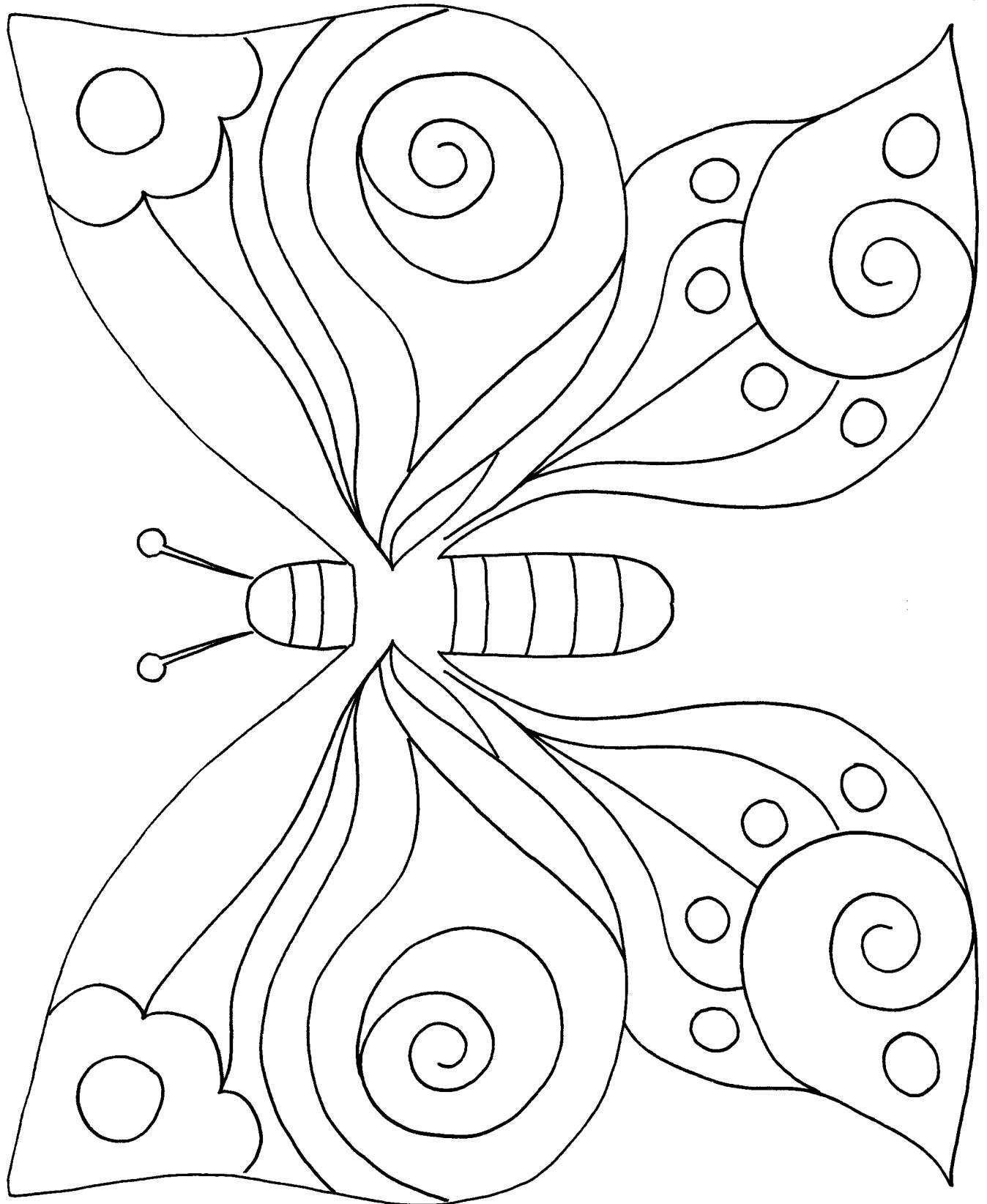
"When Paul got up he couldn't see anything—he was blind. Men had to help Paul find his way to Damascus. Paul couldn't see anything for three days and Paul didn't eat or drink anything for three days.

"Then one day a friend of Jesus came to Paul and put his hands on him. Paul could see again. Paul became Jesus' friend too. He didn't want to be horrible to Jesus' friends anymore, he wanted to be kind to them instead. He wanted to stay with them! And Paul started telling people that Jesus was God's son. He wanted other people to be Jesus' friends too."

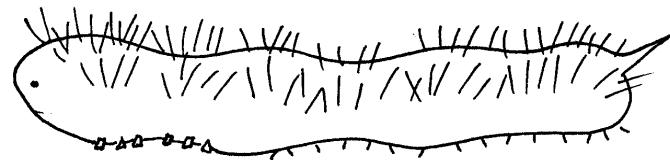
Conclusion...

"So God changed Paul from being someone who wanted to hurt Jesus' friends, and stop them being Jesus' friends, into someone who was Jesus' friend. Paul wanted other people to be Jesus' friends too. God helped Paul to tell people about Jesus.

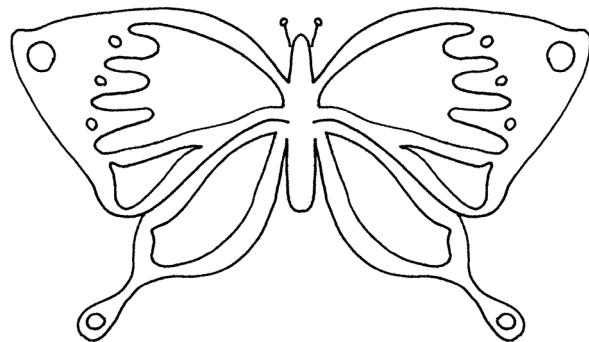




God changes caterpillars



into beautiful butterflies.



God can also change people, like Paul, who want to hurt Jesus' friends...



into being Jesus' friends.



We heard about Paul from Acts 9, verses 1-20.



God changes caterpillars

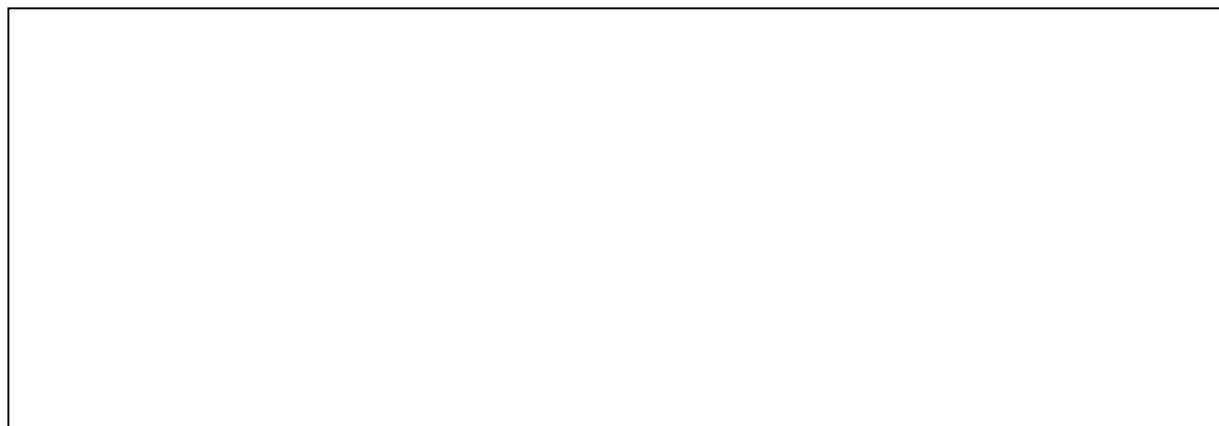


into beautiful butterflies.

God can also change people, like Paul, who want to hurt Jesus' friends...

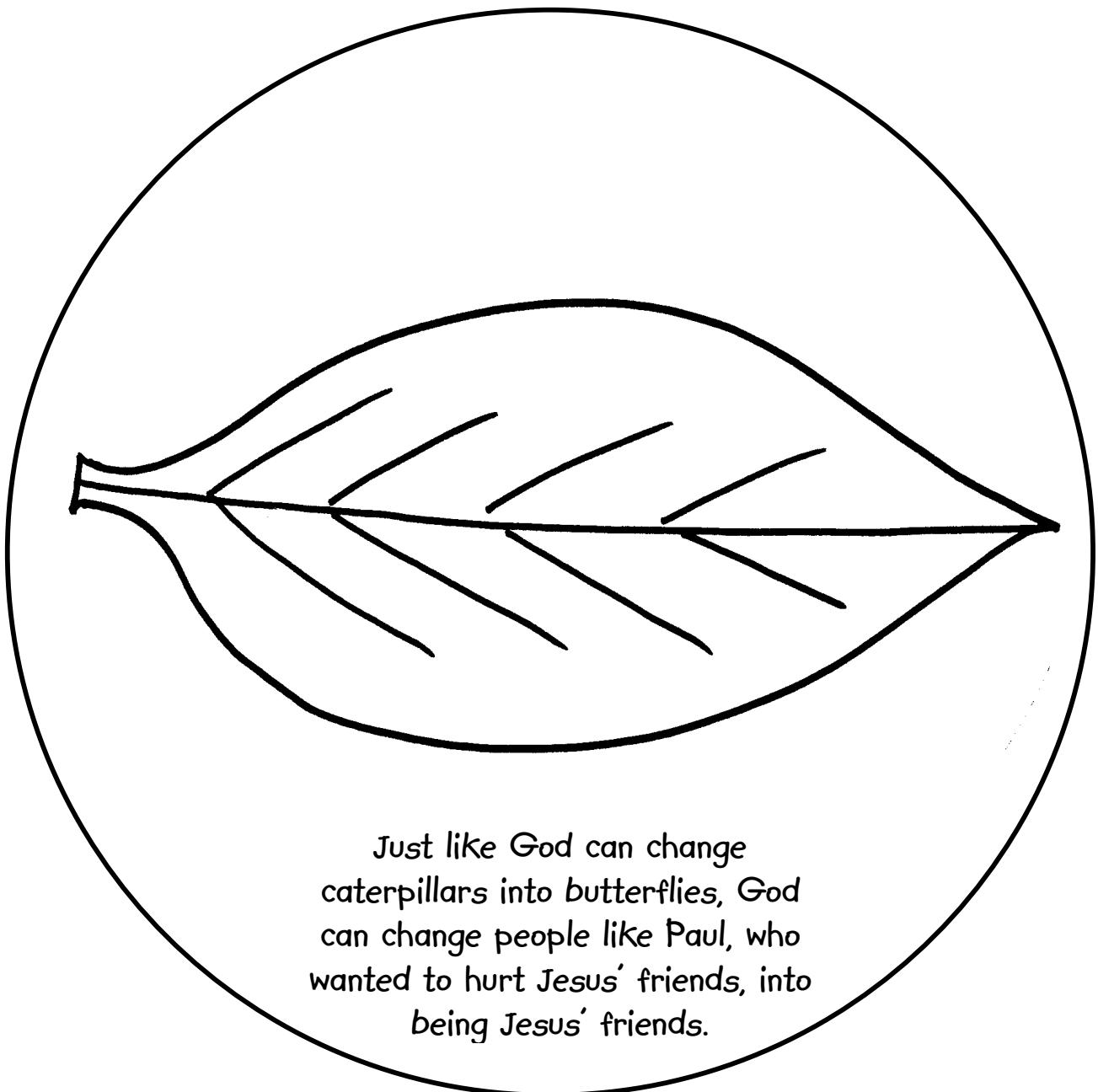


into being Jesus' friends.

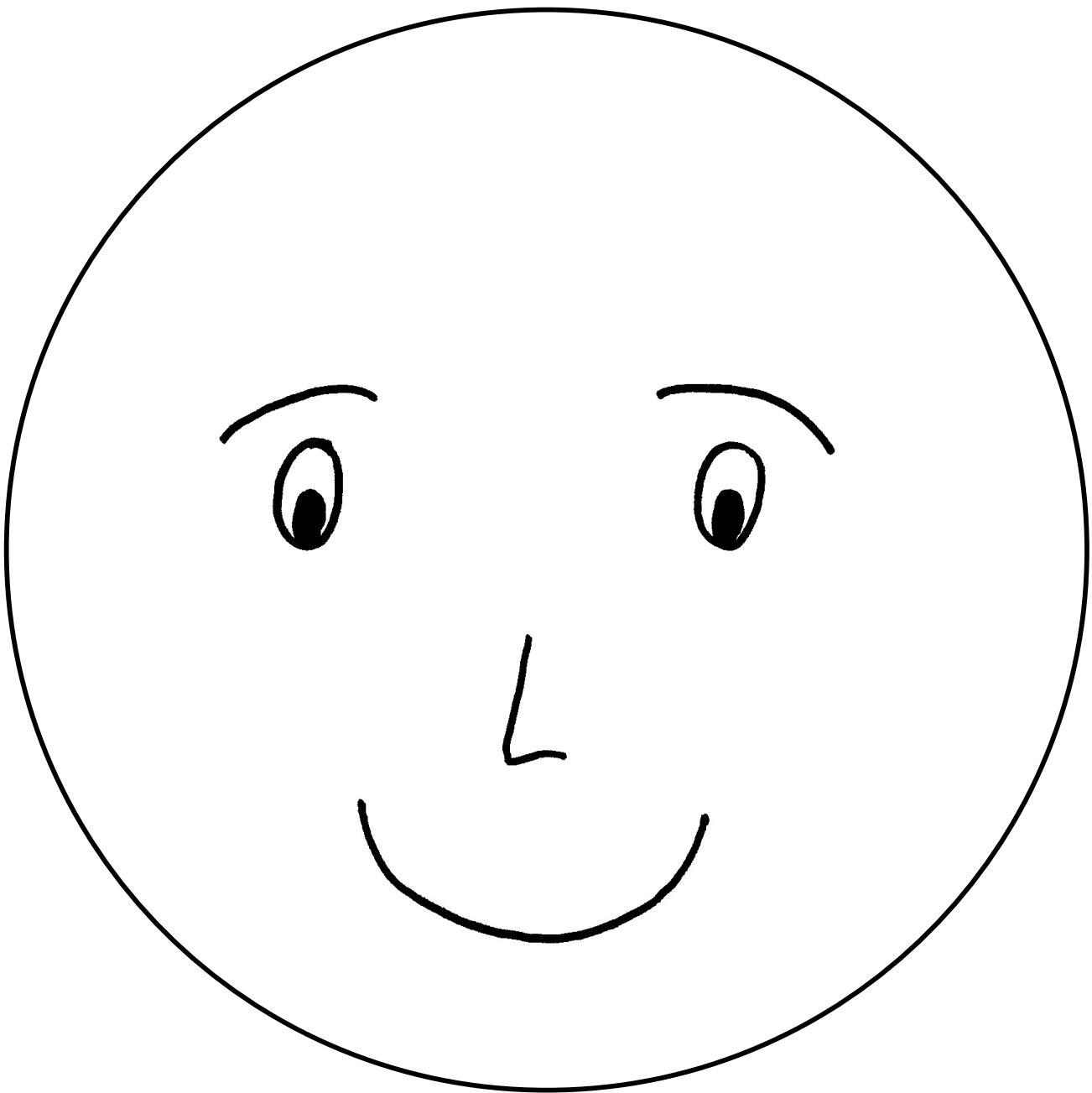


We heard about Paul from Acts 9, verses 1-20.





Just like God can change
caterpillars into butterflies, God
can change people like Paul, who
wanted to hurt Jesus' friends, into
being Jesus' friends.



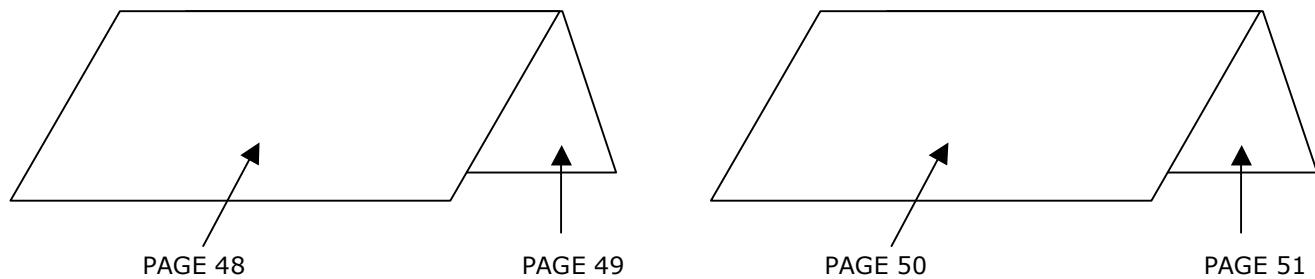
Peter and Paul talk about Jesus

Bible reference... Acts 3:1-4:22, 9:1-22

Lesson aim... To revise the series of lessons on Peter and Paul, emphasising the fact that God changed them, and to tell the children about how Peter and Paul talked to many people about Jesus.

Main message... Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.

Story preparation... For the story, print pages 48-51 and colour. Then you will need two A4 cardboard folders or simply folded cardboard. Place each folder on its side and paste the pictures in the following way: paste page 48 on the outside of one folder and page 49 on the inside, paste page 50 on the outside of the other folder and page 51 on the inside. See below...



Introduction...

[Think of one of your friends.] “Does anyone here know my friend, (Jess)? No? Well I’ll tell you about her. *[Say some things about your friend]* Now you know something about my friend, because I have told you about her.

“Today in our story, we hear about Peter and Paul telling people about someone. Let’s listen...”

Story...

“We’ve been hearing about two men changed by God. One was called Peter and one was called Paul.

[show page 48] “When we talked about Peter, we learnt that once Peter was afraid to tell people that he was Jesus’ friend. But then God changed him. Can anyone remember what was wrong with the man Peter saw outside the temple? The man couldn’t walk. Peter said to the man who couldn’t walk that Jesus would make him able to walk again. And he did walk!

[show page 49] “When all the people saw what had happened and came running to Peter, Peter told them about Jesus. He told them that Jesus had made the man better. He also told them about how they could become Jesus’ friends. So Peter was able to tell all the people who saw what had happened about Jesus and about being his friend.

“Peter didn’t just tell the people who saw it. Peter told lots of other people too. Some people were mad at Peter because of what he was telling people about Jesus. Peter wasn’t frightened by them. He told them about Jesus too.

[show page 50] “When we talked about Paul, we learnt that Paul was once a man who hurt Jesus’ friends. He wanted people to stop being Jesus’ friends. Then God changed Paul. Paul became Jesus’ friend too.

“When Paul was walking to a place called Damascus a light flashed around him and Paul fell down and heard Jesus speak to him. When Paul got up he couldn’t see anything—he was blind. After about three days, a friend of Jesus came to Paul and put his hands on him. Paul could see again.

[show page 51] “Paul became Jesus’ friend too. He didn’t want to be horrible to Jesus’ friends anymore, he wanted to be kind to them instead. And Paul started telling people about Jesus. He wanted other people to be Jesus’ friends too.”

Conclusion...

“Once Peter was afraid to tell people that he was Jesus’ friend. But then God changed Peter and he talked to lots and lots of people about Jesus. Once Paul hurt Jesus’ friends. But God changed Paul, and then he loved Jesus and wanted other people to become Jesus’ friends.”

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that you change people. Thank you that you changed Peter and Paul and that you helped them to be able to tell people about Jesus. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Peter, Paul and crowd

For the lesson, each child will need two cardboard rolls and an egg carton. Upturn the egg cartons (so the humps are pointing upwards). Leave two humps—one at either end—blank, and using a felt pen, quickly draw a simple face (two eyes and a mouth) on the other humps. You will also need small squares of wrapping paper and wool or cotton wool. Print page 47 and cut out a caption for each child. Paste this on the egg cartons.

In the lesson, the children make one cardboard roll into Peter, and one into Paul, by firstly drawing a face and then pasting on squares of wrapping paper to be clothes and wool or cotton wool as hair. The children turn the humps of the carton with faces into people by pasting on wool or cotton wool as hair. Once completed, the children place the two men on the two blank humps at either end of the upturned egg carton (the teacher may need to help push them on or secure them with tape).

2. Picture page

Before the lesson, print page 52 for each child. In the lesson, the children draw hair on the 'heads'. The children can then draw more heads to make a crowd, or they can draw bodies for the heads. You need to decide before the lesson and give the children clear instructions. Another option is to print page 53 for the children to draw the people. If this page is enlarged it would make drawing easier for the children.

3. Making tambourines

For this activity, you will need two paper plates for each child, some crumpled pieces of foil and some crepe paper streamers. Print page 47 and cut out a caption for each child. You will also need a container of coloured paper and wrapping paper shapes, and patty case and doily segments. Before the lesson, staple two paper plates together (covering the ends of the staples with tape for safety), leaving a gap of about 10cms. In the lesson, the children paste on the collage shapes to decorate the tambourine and paste the caption on the outside of one plate. Then the children place crumpled pieces of foil inside. The teacher finishes stapling the gap closed and staples some crepe paper streamers with the same staples (and then covers the ends of the staples with tape for safety).

Caption for activity #1:

God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus. Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus. Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus. Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus. Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus. Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



Caption for activity #3:

Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20

Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20

Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20

Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20

Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.

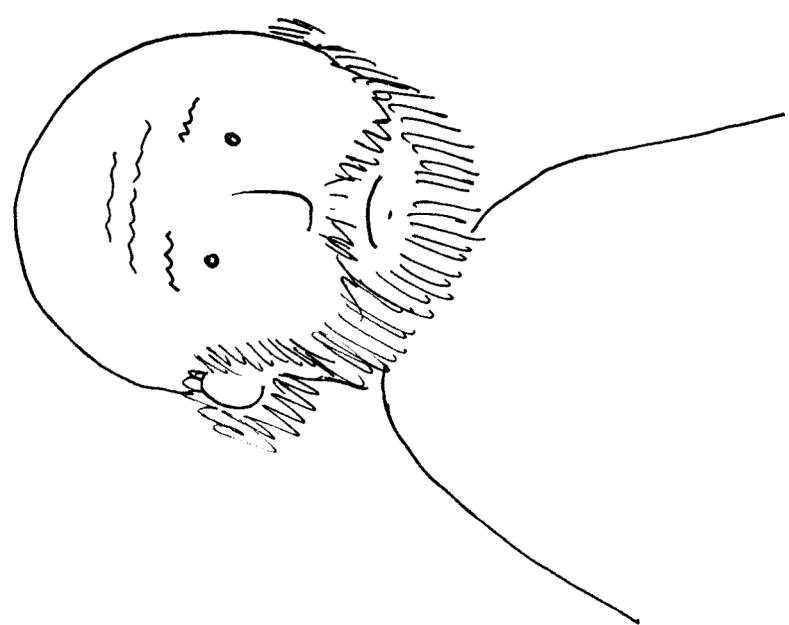


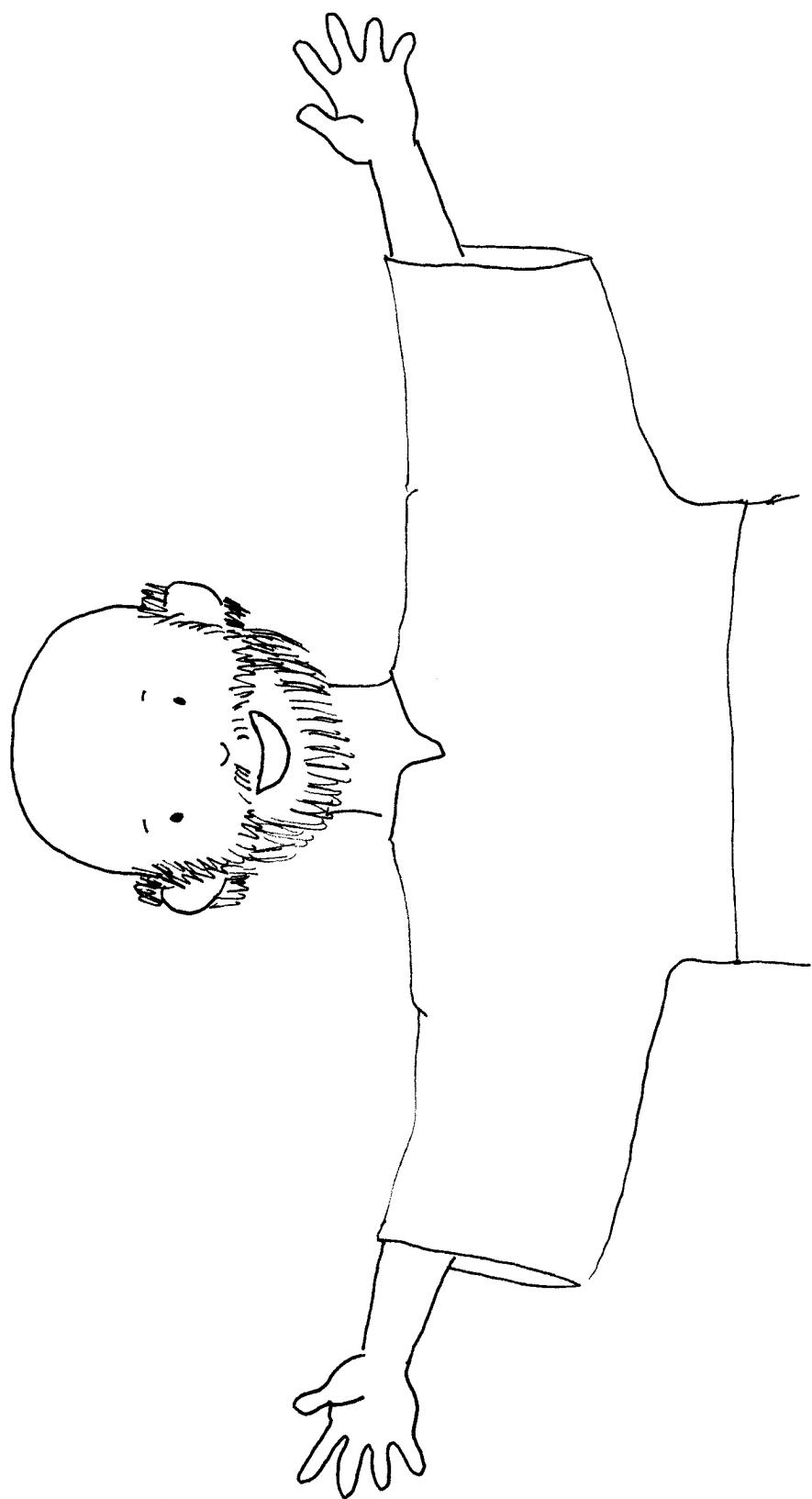
Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20

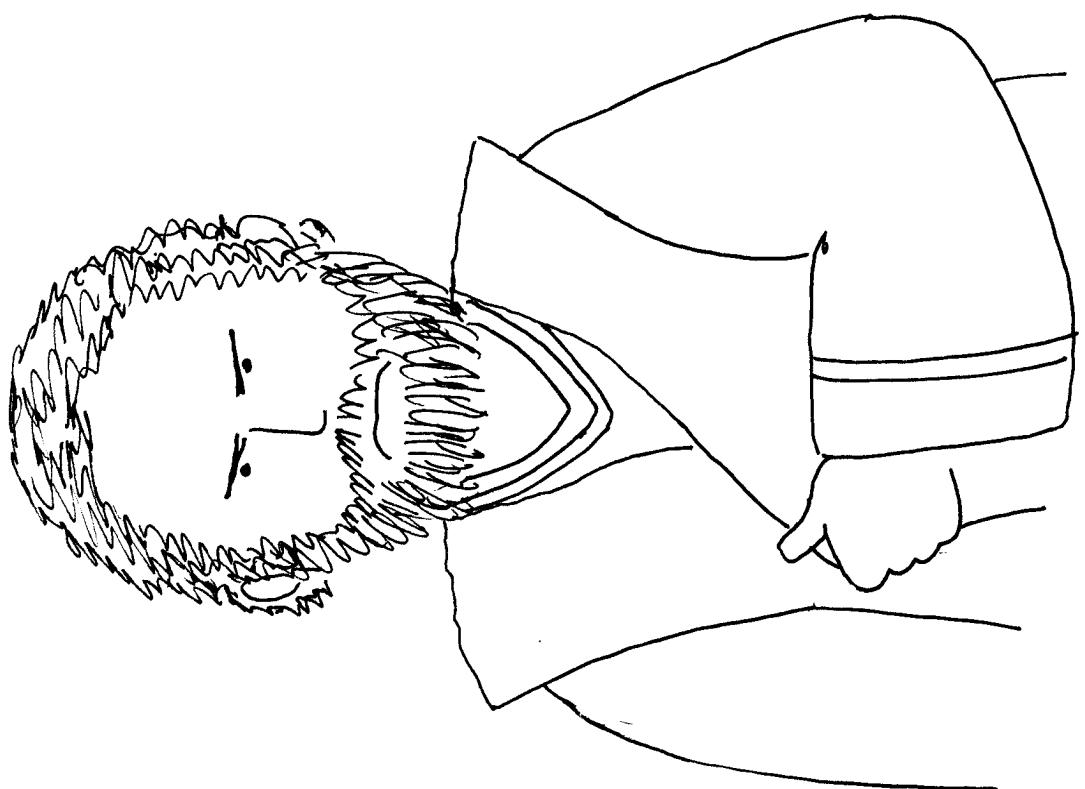
Let's thank God that he changes people. God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends. Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20
and Acts 9, verse 20





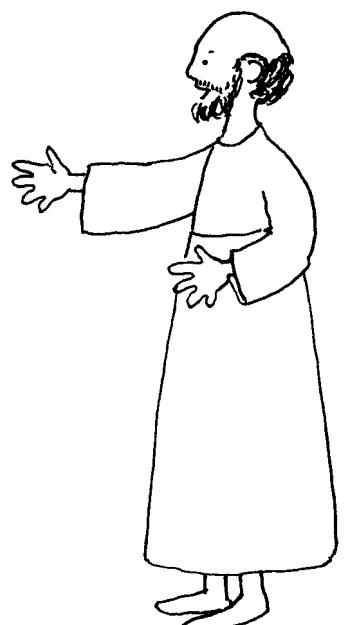
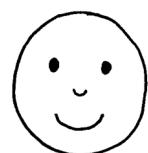




God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends.
Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



God changed Peter and Paul to be his friends.
Then Peter and Paul told people about Jesus.



Acts 4, verse 20 and Acts 9, verse 20.



The Bible tells us about loving others

Bible reference... John 13:34
Ephesians 4:32

Lesson aim... To talk to the children about how God wants them to love others, and in order to help them understand what this means, to talk about being kind.

Main message... God wants us to be kind.

Story preparation... You will need a soft toy (eg. a teddy bear or soft animal).

Introduction...

Do a simple skit with yourself and a soft toy, 'Jonno'. First have Jonno holding your arm.

Teacher: "Hello everyone. I've brought a friend of mine for you to meet today. His name is Jonno. What are you doing Jonno? Why are you holding my arm?"

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children], "Jonno says that he isn't holding my arm, he is hugging my arm!"

Teacher: "Why are you hugging my arm, then?"

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children], "Jonno says that he is loving me."

Teacher: "Oh. How else can you show me that you love me?"

[move Jonno to 'hug' your other arm, your leg, your tummy and finally your face]

Teacher: "What are you doing?"

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children], "Jonno says that he's loving my arm and my leg and my hand."

Teacher: "But you can show me you love me by doing something else instead of hugging me everywhere."

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children], "Jonno says that he only knows about hugging..."

Teacher: "There's another way you can show me that you love me instead of hugging me all the time. You'll have to listen to the story to find out!" [Sit Jonno down out of the reach of children so that he can hear the story too].

Story...

“I hope everyone can listen today like Jonno is listening. He’s being very quiet and listening very hard.

“We’ve been hearing this year about lots of people in the Bible. God’s book, the Bible, tells us about Jesus. God’s book, the Bible, tells us about some of Jesus’ friends, like the disciples and Paul. In the Bible we can hear how Jesus wants his friends to live.

“One important thing that Jesus says in the Bible is that he wants us to love each other. [Open your class Bible to John 13:34] Jesus says here in the Bible, ‘love one another’. That means that he wants us to love each other. Jesus doesn’t say ‘just love your families’. Jesus wants us to love other people too—people we know like our friends, and our teachers.

“God says in the Bible how he wants us to love people. Let me read from a part of the Bible called Ephesians [open your class Bible to Ephesians 4:32]. It says ‘be kind’. That’s what God wants us to be—to be kind. Loving people doesn’t mean hugging them all the time, like Jonno was doing! Loving people means being kind to them.

“So let’s think about how we can be kind.” [Ask the children to tell you how we can be kind to each other. You might get no response, or a hearty response, or a child suggesting something that is not an answer to your question! If you get the no response, say some ideas yourself, if the second response—great! if the last response, then remind the children what you wanted them to be thinking about, and they can talk about other things later].

“We can be kind by sharing our toys. We can be kind by helping each other. We can be kind by letting other children have a turn. We can be kind by being nice and not being mean.

“It’s not easy being kind—sometimes we do unkind things and then we need to say ‘sorry’. Because it’s not easy being kind, we can pray for God to help us be kind to our friends.

Conclusion...

“In the Bible, God tells us how he wants us to live. One big thing that God says is that he wants us to love each other and be kind. We show our friends that we love them by being kind.”

Teacher: [speaks to Jonno again] “So now do you know how you can show me that you love me?”

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children] “Jonno says that he is going to let me play with his toys. He’ll share his toys with me.”

Teacher: “That’s very nice, Jonno.”

Jonno: [Jonno then whispers in your ear for you to tell the children], "And Jonno says that he is going to be kind to me and he's going to help me."

Teacher: "Thank you Jonno. Now let's talk to God because we need God's help to be kind."

Pray...

“Dear God, please help us to love each other. Please help us to be kind to each other. Amen.”

Action Rhyme...

This is done as an echo. The teacher says the first line and then the children repeat etc.

<i>Teacher</i>	<i>Children</i>
God wants us to love each other, help and be kind to each other.	God wants us to love each other, help and be kind to each other.

Activity suggestions...

1. Cardboard heart

Before the lesson, print page 57, cut out the heart shape, paste onto a piece of cardboard, and punch a hole in the top. In the lesson, the children decorate the side of the heart without the caption by pasting on collage materials (like red cellophane triangles, tinsel pieces, foil circles, stickers etc.). Then, when that side is finished, the children can turn their hearts over and carefully decorate around (and not over) the caption box. Once completed, the teacher threads a piece of string or wool through the hole.

2. Booklet

For each child, print page 58 and fold vertically and then horizontally to make a booklet with 'Being kind means...' as the first page. In the lesson, the children add colour around the little pictures.

3. *Shape collage*

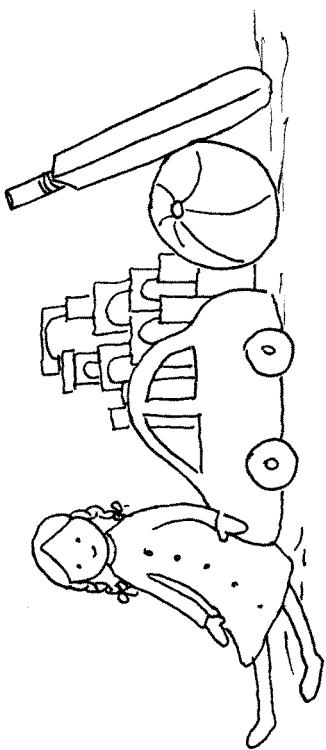
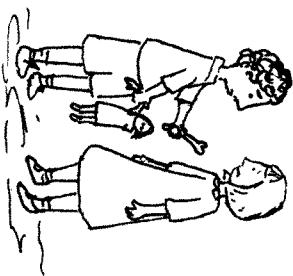
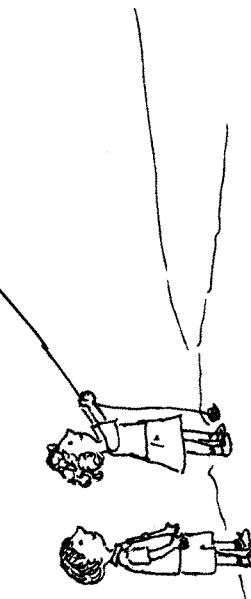
Before the lesson, print page 59 for each child, onto coloured paper if possible, and cut out the shapes, placing them in an envelope for each child ready for the lesson. You will also need to print page 60 onto a contrasting colour to page 59, cut enough hearts out for one per child, and place them in a container. In the lesson, each child will need a piece of paper or cardboard. The children select a shape from their envelope and paste it on their page, and then repeat until they have completed their collage picture. Then give each child a heart from the container to paste in the centre of their page, over some of the other shapes. (If it is pasted first it will get covered!).

God wants me to be kind.

Ephesians 4 verse 32

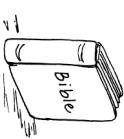


to take turns to say sorry



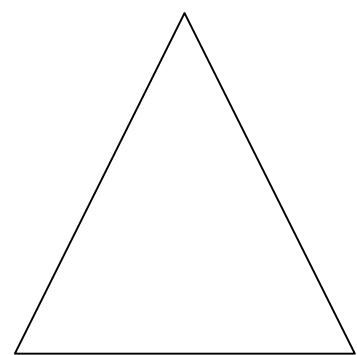
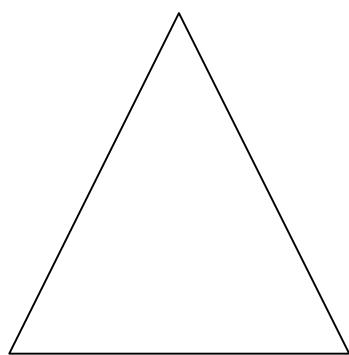
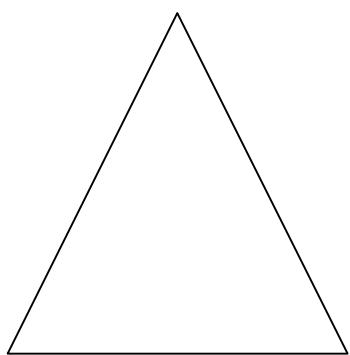
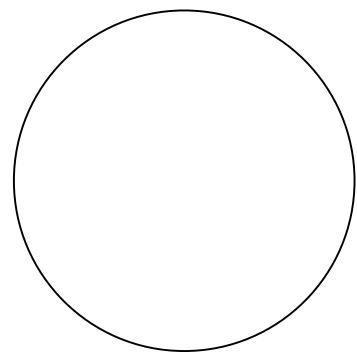
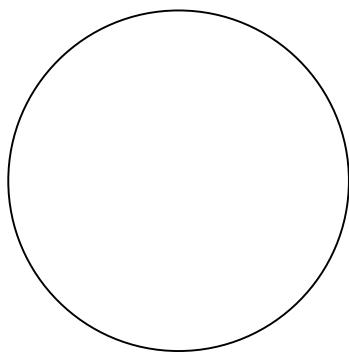
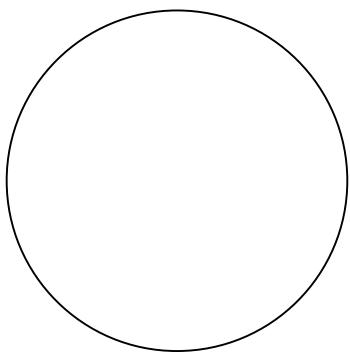
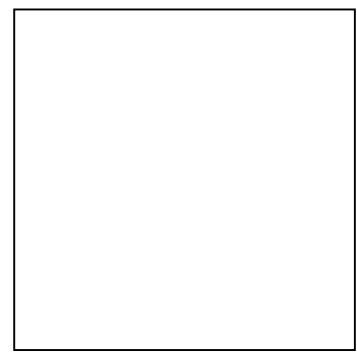
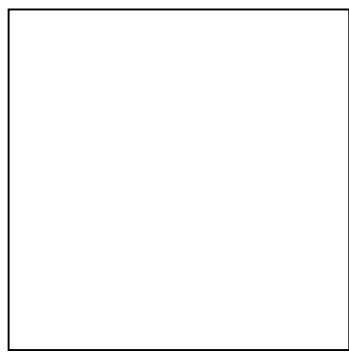
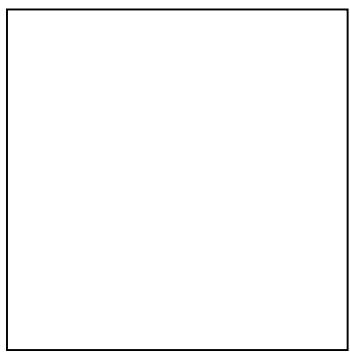
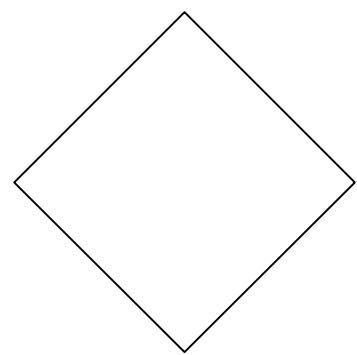
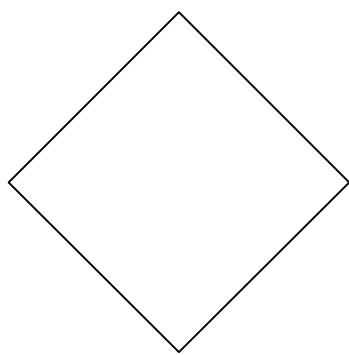
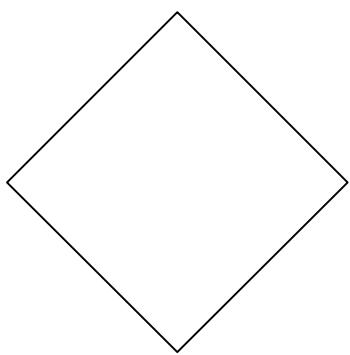
God wants us to
be kind.

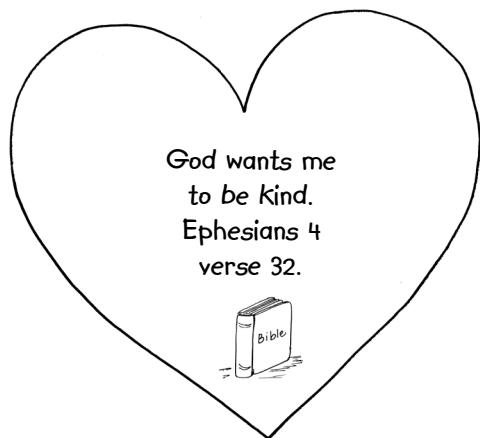
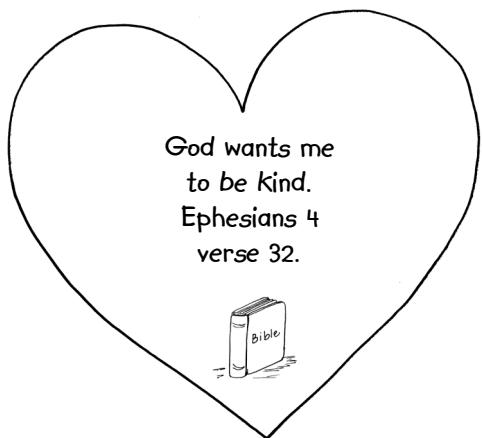
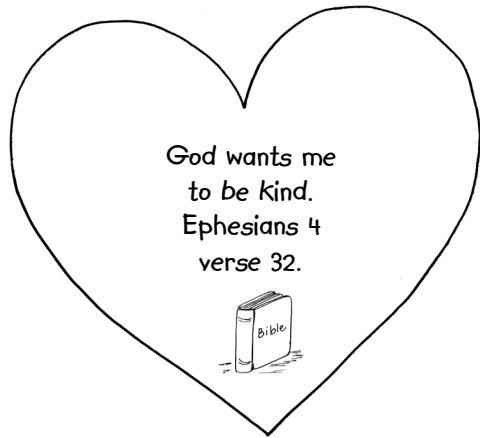
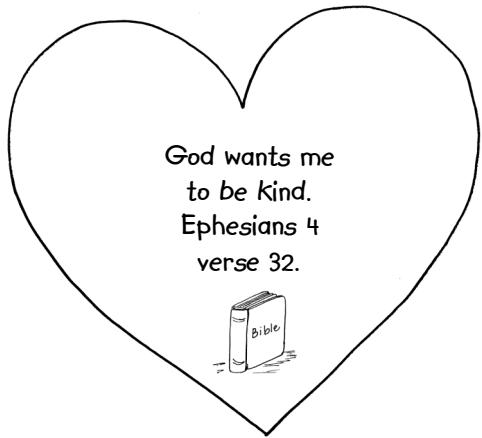
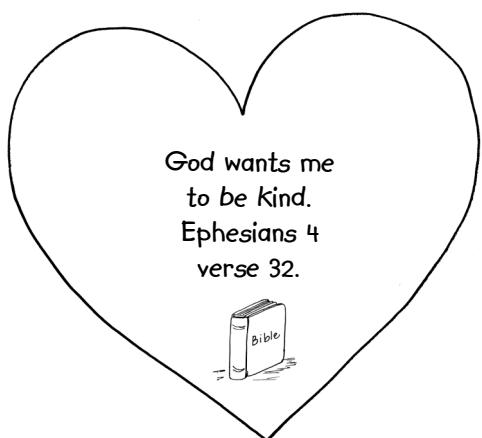
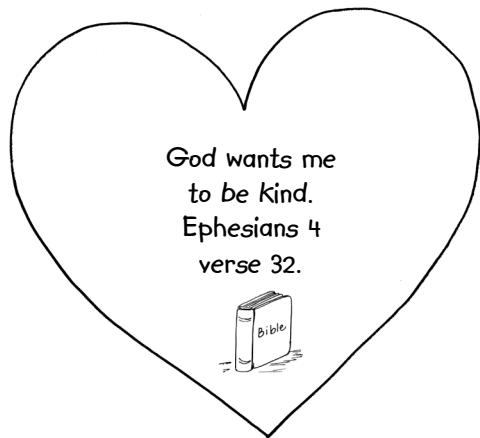
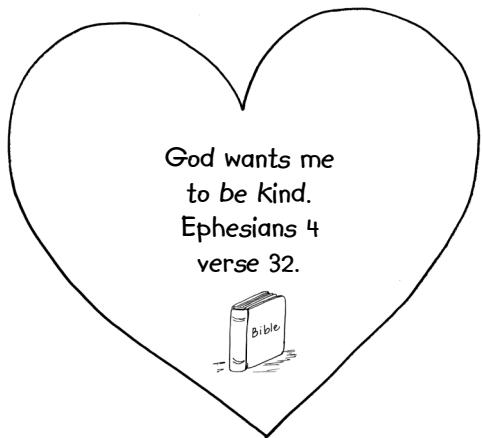
Ephesians 4 verse 32



Being kind means...

to say sorry





The Bible tells us about thanking God

Bible reference... Colossians 3:15b
Psalm 92:1

Lesson aim... To talk to the children about being thankful to God.

Main message... God wants us to say ‘thank you’ to him.

Story preparation... If possible, take some photos of places and people or things near to your church, eg. a park, some trees, a garden, a river or beach or mountain if there happens to be one, shops, some people, a dog etc. If this isn’t possible, show pictures from magazines or books of things similar to those in your area.

Introduction...

The purpose of this introduction is to remind the children about the area in which they live, with the intention of thanking God. Ask a variety of questions encouraging the children to be thinking of the things around them in the area where they live. Here are a few questions you could ask:

“Can anyone tell me something that you see when you are coming to church? Can anyone tell me something that you can see from your window at home? Can anyone tell me somewhere that you go to play? Can anyone tell me somewhere that you go to buy food?” *[Show your photos reminding the children of things which are in their area.]*

Story...

“The Bible tells us how God wants us to live. God wants us to be kind. The Bible also tells us that God wants us to talk to him. And one big thing that we can say to God is ‘thank you’.

“The Bible tells us that it is good to thank God.

“In a part of the Bible called Colossians *[open your class Bible to Colossians 3:15 and just read the end of the verse]* it says ‘be thankful’, which means say lots of ‘thankyous’ to God.

“There are lots and lots of things that we can thank God for. We can thank God for making us and for loving us. We can thank God for our family and our friends. We can thank God for food, for our homes and for our toys.

[Show the photos again] “Here are some things we can thank God for.” [Talk about the things in each photo that we can thank God for.]

If appropriate in your class situation, ask the children to tell you something that they each could thank God for. This is for them to be thinking of what they personally can thank God for, instead of just what you tell them to be thankful for. If you have a very quiet class, then you might be able to share some more specific examples of things that would be relevant to the children in your class.

“When can we say ‘thank you’ to God? We can say it any time! We can say ‘thank you for our food’ before we eat. We can say ‘thank you for today’ before we go to sleep. There are lots of times when we can say ‘thank you’ to God. We need to remember to say ‘thank you’ to God!”

Conclusion...

“The Bible tells us that it’s good to thank God. God wants us to say ‘thank you’ to him, and there are lots and lots of things we can thank God for. Let’s remember to say thank you to God. We’re going to say ‘thank you’ to God now.”

Pray...

Refer to what the children mentioned earlier. Either pray yourself using the children’s ideas, or, you could say, ‘Dear God, thank you for...’ and the children who want to could say their thing when you tap them on the shoulder.

Activity suggestions...

1. 3D thanking

This activity requires a bit of extra preparation. For the lesson, you will need to gather together some items such as: sunflower seeds (sold in supermarkets), pasta, gumnuts, dried leaves, shells etc. You will need a child-friendly PVA glue and each child will need a paper plate or cardboard circle. Before the lesson, print page 63 and cut out a caption for each child. Paste the caption on each child’s plate/circle. In the lesson, place the items you have gathered in containers in the centre of the table. The teacher will need to spread some PVA glue on each child’s plate/circle. The children make a collage by pasting their choice of the items onto their plate/circle (around and not on the caption).

2. ‘Thank you’ page

Before the lesson, you will need to cut pictures from magazines of things that the children can thank God for, or, you can print page 65 and cut out the squares. Place the

squares from each page in an envelope for each child. Print page 64 for each child and fold in half so that the text is the front cover. In the lesson, the children open their booklet and make a collage picture by pasting pictures on the page. They could also paste pictures on the back of the booklet.

Alternatively, this activity could be done quite differently. Print page 63 and cut out a caption for each child. Prepare a container full of coloured paper pieces which have been ripped or cut (up to 5-6 cms wide). In the lesson, give each child an A3 page (or larger). The children paste the paper pieces all over their page and then paste the pictures from page 65 and the caption from page 63.

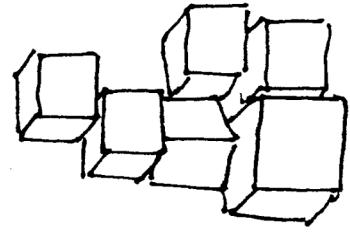
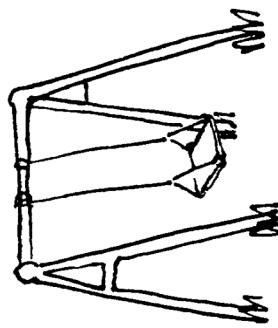
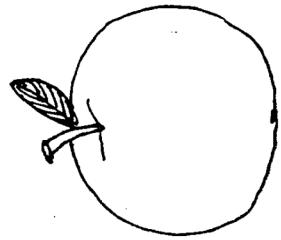
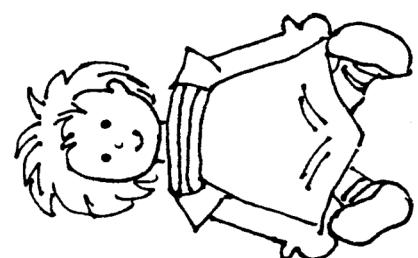
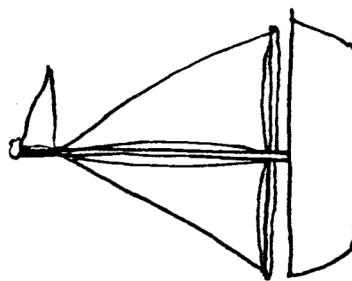
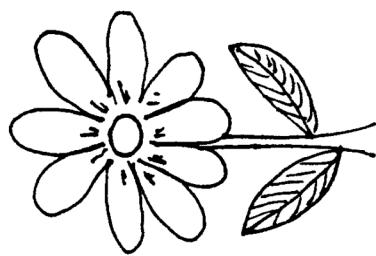
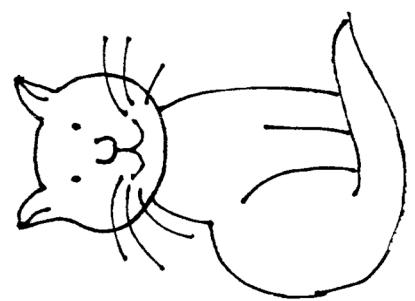
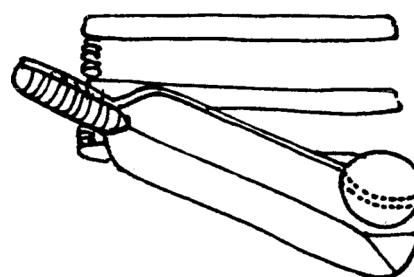
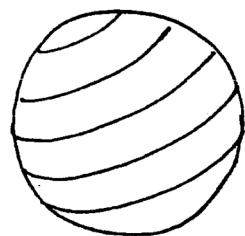
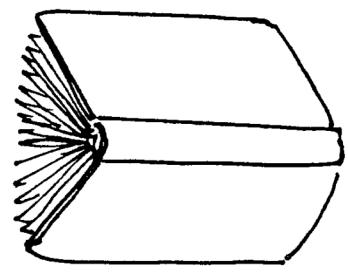
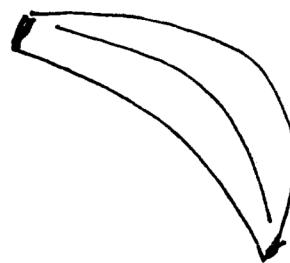
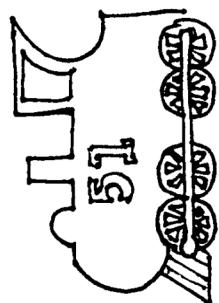
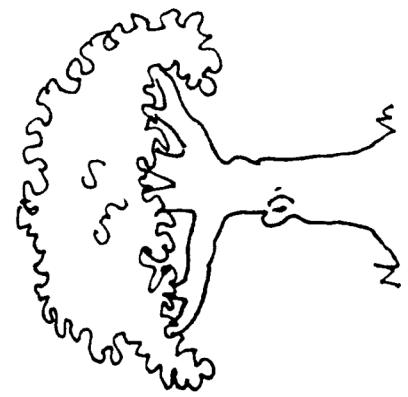
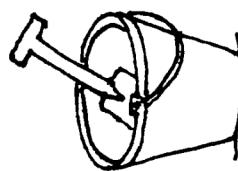
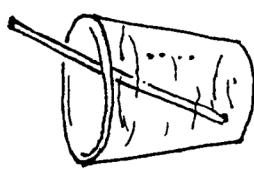
3. Drawing page

Print page 66 for each child to draw things that they would like to thank God for. Before the children do the activity, read the caption on page 66 and talk about the things that the children could draw.

Caption for activity #1:

Thank you God for...	Thank you God for...
Thank you God for...	Thank you God for...
Thank you God for...	Thank you God for...
Thank you God for...	Thank you God for...

Thank you
God for...



God likes us to say 'thank you' to him. I can thank God for...

The Bible tells us about praying

Bible reference... Colossians 4:2

Lesson aim... To help the children understand more about prayer and to encourage them in how they can pray.

Main message... God wants us to talk to him.

Story preparation... Bring in a phone (the more ordinary the better!) to show in the introduction. For the story, print pages 70-72 and cut them in half. Staple them together to make a book with the pages in the correct order from page (1) to (5). Alternatively, you could paste each page on to a piece of coloured cardboard to make picture cards. Brightly colour the pictures to show as you tell the story.

Introduction...

Before you begin, stress that children will need to be very quiet and listen—we don't want to hear all about their parent's mobile phones and what they can do!

“Can anyone tell me what this is? [*show them a phone*] It is a phone. What do I use it for? [*to talk to people*] When I talk to someone on a phone like this, can I see them? [*no*] We use a phone like this to talk to people who are far away and we can't see them.

“We are learning today about talking to God. God is someone we can't see, but we don't need a phone to talk to him [*put phone behind your back*] because he can hear us whenever we talk to him. We can't see God, but we don't need a phone to talk to him because God can hear us wherever we are.”

Story...

“The Bible tells us that we can talk to God. Talking to God is called ‘prayer’. The great thing is that God wants us to talk to him. God hears us when we talk to him.

[*Show the relevant page of the booklet as you begin each paragraph*]

“Here's a little book about talking to God. I'll read what's on the first page, ‘The Bible tells us that we can talk to God. God wants us to talk to him. God hears us when we talk to him. Talking to God is called prayer.’

“What can we say when we talk to God? We can say ‘thank you’. We talked about that last week. [read from page (2) of booklet] ‘When we talk to God we can say thank you for...’ food and toys and our families and clothes to wear and homes to live in.

[turn booklet to page (3) and read] “When we talk to God we can say ‘sorry’. We can say ‘sorry’ to God when we do naughty things or unkind things, or when we don’t do something that we should have done. Sometimes we don’t want to say ‘sorry’ and sometimes we forget to say ‘sorry’. We need to remember to say ‘sorry’ to our friends when we’re unkind to them and to our Mums and Dads when we don’t do what they tell us to. But we also need to say ‘sorry’ to God, because doing naughty or unkind things makes God sad. God wants us to say ‘sorry’ to him.

[turn booklet to page (4) and read] “When we talk to God we can say, ‘please help me’. We can ask God to help us to be kind, to help us to obey, to help us when we are scared, to help us when we are sick. God wants to help us and we can ask God to help us.

[turn booklet to page (5) and read] “When we talk to God we can say ‘please help other people’. We can ask God to help our families. We can ask God to help our friends. We can ask God to help other people we know, or sick people, or people in other countries. There are lots of people that we can pray for.”

Conclusion...

“There are lots of things we can say to God. Let’s read the booklet again. [read booklet again]. It’s wonderful that God wants us to talk to him. Let’s remember to talk to him.”

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that you want us to talk to you. Help us to remember to talk to you and to say sorry to you. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Praying book

Before the lesson, print pages 70-72 and cut them in half. Staple them together to make a book with the pages in the correct order from page (1) to (5) and cover the ends of the staples with tape for safety. In the lesson, the children colour in the pictures.

2. Picture page

Print page 73 for each child. In the lesson, the children draw their family in the top box and their friends in the lower box.

3. Prayer book

Before the lesson, print pages 74-75 for each child and cut along dotted lines. Assemble the book in the page number order, and staple at the top to make a flip book (covering the ends of the staples with tape for safety). You may need to trim the book so the pages are the same size.

In the lesson the children draw pictures in their book. This will require teacher supervision and direction so that the children draw the correct picture for each page. Before the children begin, read the prayer book to them and tell them what they will be drawing. Then go through the book, one page at a time, with them drawing their picture. Speedy drawers could draw extra pictures on the back of each page. Here are suggestions for drawings:

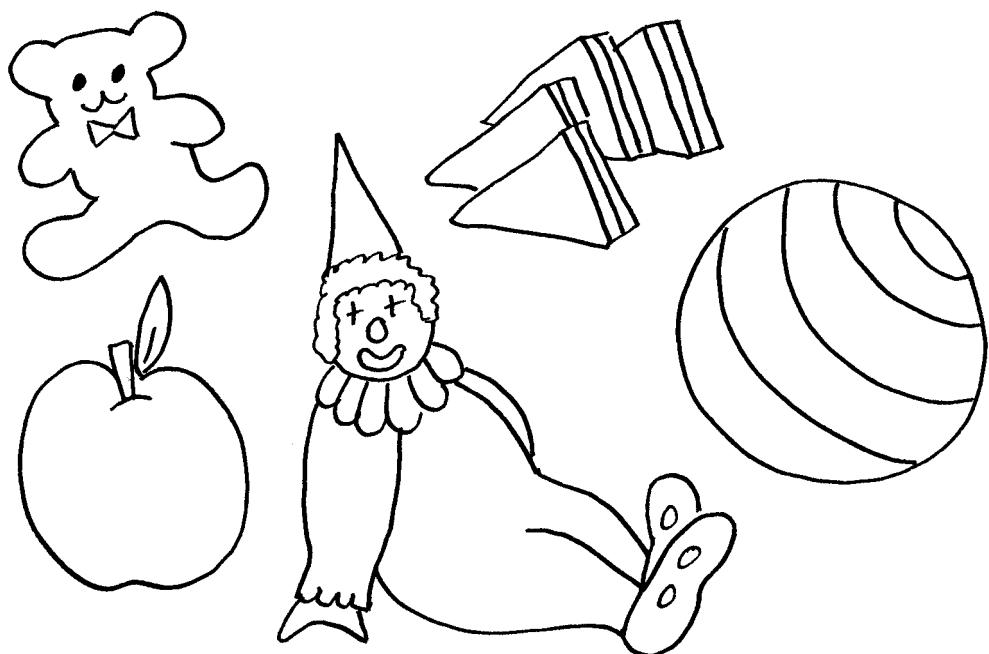
- (1) draw things that God has made, eg. flowers, sun, animals
- (2) draw their family
- (3) draw their friends
- (4) draw a picture of themselves
- (5) draw some food (or could add round stickers as 'food' like apples, oranges etc)
- (6) draw some of their toys

For those classes who would find this too much drawing, you could have a combination of drawing and colouring. Before the lesson, print pages 76-77 for each child. Here are suggestions:

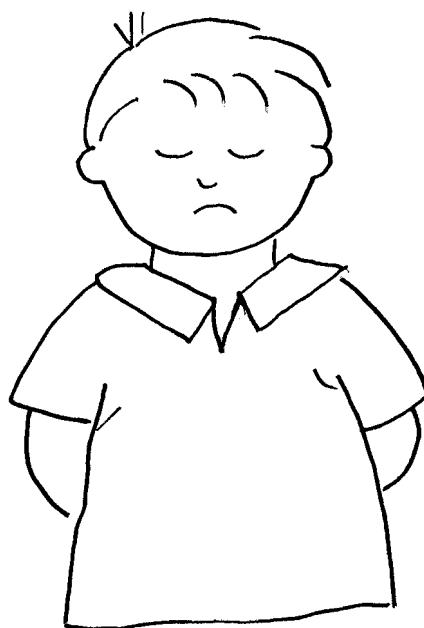
- (1) colour
- (2) add some colour
- (3) draw friends
- (4) draw a picture of themselves
- (5) draw food (or could add round stickers as 'food' like apples, oranges etc)
- (6) colour

The Bible tells us that we can talk to God. God wants us to talk to him. God hears us when we talk to him. Talking to God is called prayer.'

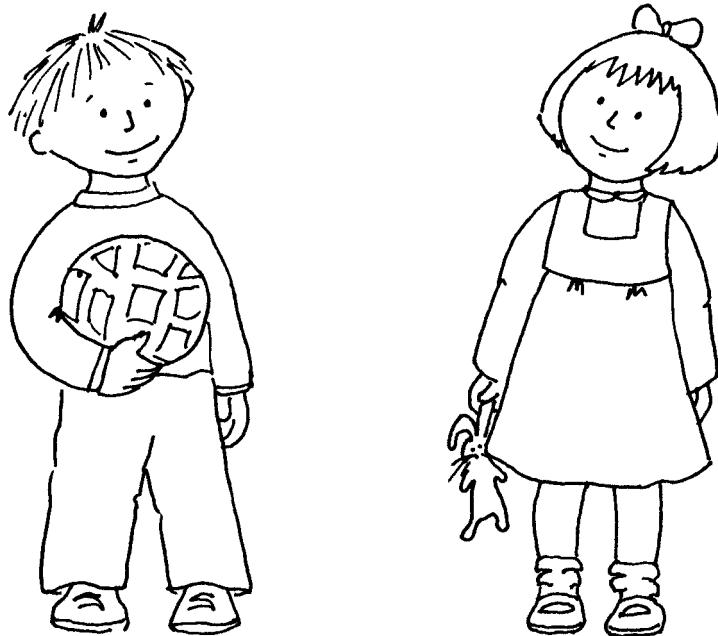
When we talk to God we can say 'thank you' for...



When we talk to God we can say 'sorry'.



When we talk to God we can say 'please help me'.



When we talk to God we can say 'please help other people'.



God wants us to talk to him. Talking to God is called 'prayer'.

I can pray for my family.

I can pray for my friends.

My
prayer book

I can pray
for my family

I can pray
for my friends

I can thank God for
everything he has made.

Thank you God for my family.
Thank you that you love us.

Thank you God for my friends.
And for the fun we have.

2

3

I can pray
for myself

I can thank
God for food

I can thank God for my
home and everything in
it. I can thank God for
my toys.

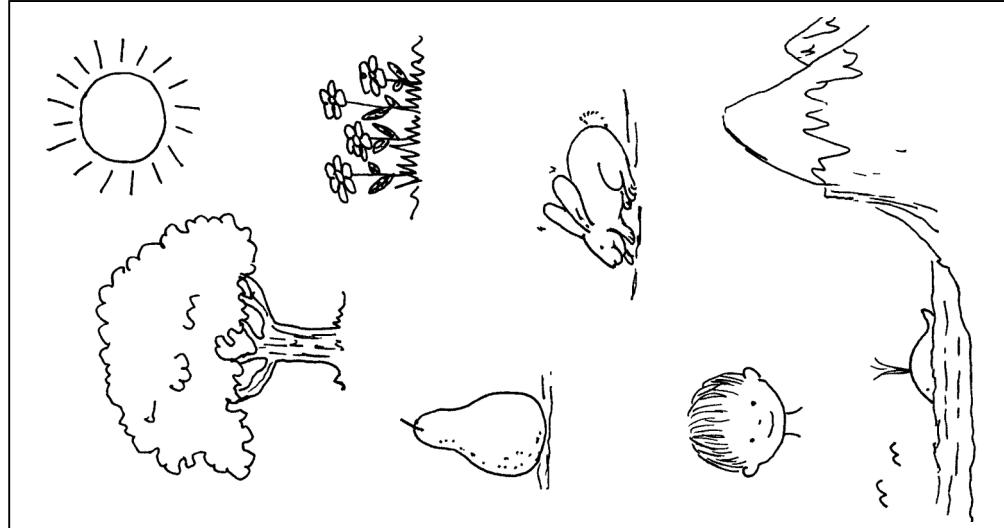
I can say 'please help me'.
I can say 'sorry God'.

and I can pray for children
who are poor and don't have
enough food to eat.

I can thank God for my
home and everything in
it. I can thank God for
my toys.

Please God help me to be
kind, share my toys,
and to be a helper.

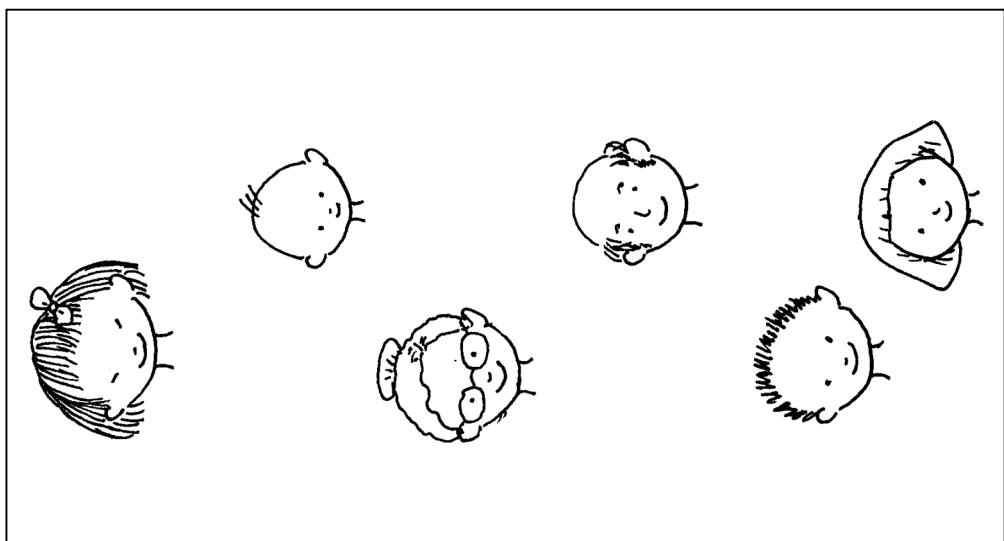
My
prayer book



I can thank God for
everything he has made.

2

I can pray
for my family



Thank you God for my family.
Thank you that you love us.

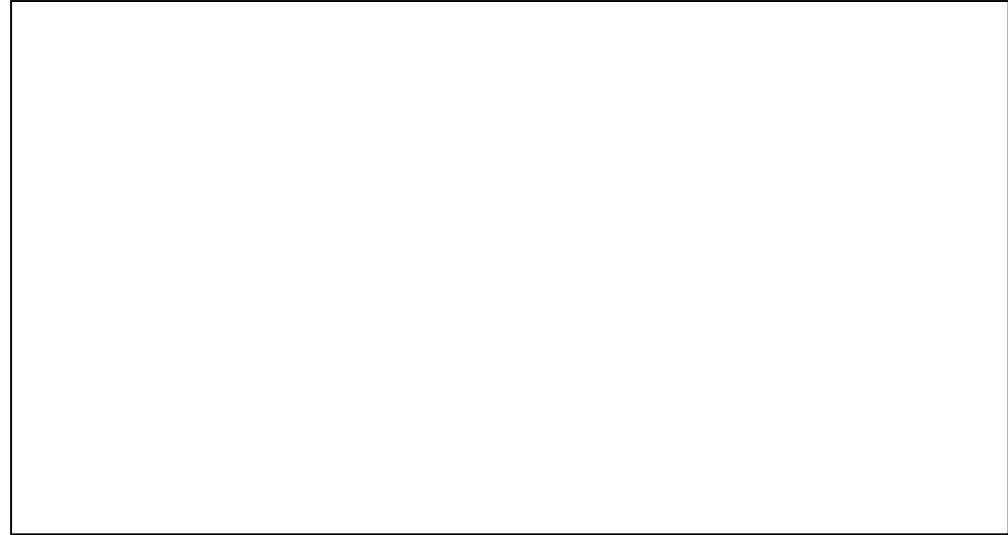
I can pray
for my friends



Thank you God for my friends.
And for the fun we have.

3

I can pray
for myself



I can say 'please help me'.
I can say 'sorry God'.

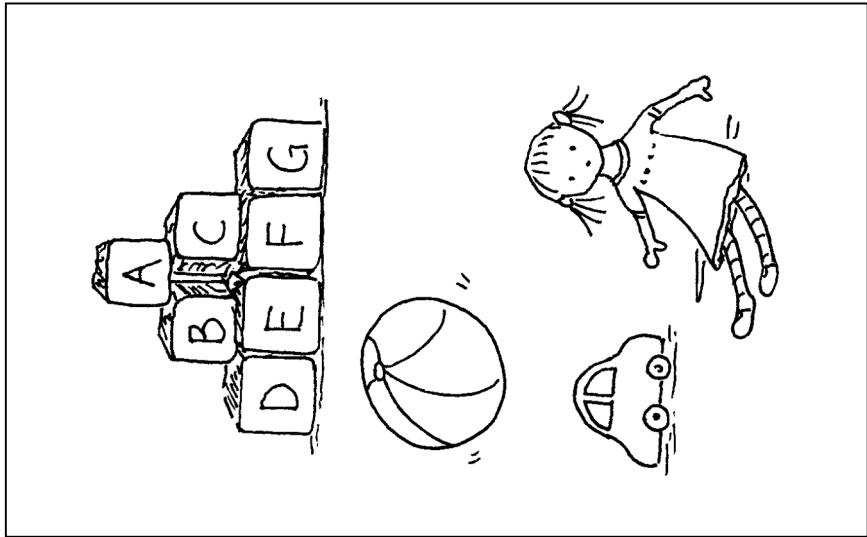
5

I can thank
God for food



and I can pray for children
who are poor and don't have
enough food to eat.

I can thank God for my
home and everything in
it. I can thank God for
my toys.



Please God help me to be
kind, share my toys,
and to be a helper.

6

Jesus is born

Bible reference... Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

Lesson aim... To tell the children about Jesus' birth and that he was a special baby because he is God's son and he is God's king forever.

Main message... Jesus is God's son and he is king forever.

Story preparation... For the story, you will be reading from your class Bible, but it would be helpful to print page 82-83 and cut out the figures. If possible, have some sort of display board on which to place the pictures (even just a piece of cardboard).

Introduction...

“Show the children the ‘People in the Bible’ chart. [point to King David] Can you remember that we heard about King David? He was a king. God was with him and he helped him to be a good king. But King David could only be king while he was alive. King David died and so he isn’t king anymore. There is someone on our ‘People in the Bible’ chart who died but he came back to life again. It’s Jesus. Today we’re going to hear the true story of Jesus being born [point to manger], but I want you to remember that Jesus isn’t dead now. We’ll hear more about why that is important...”

Story...

Ensure that you are sitting where the children can see the ‘People in the Bible’ chart.

“In the Bible, God sometimes used angels to tell people things. God sent an angel called Gabriel [place angel on board] to speak to a lady called Mary [add Mary to board]. Mary was going to marry a man called Joseph [place Joseph on board], and Joseph was a descendant of King David [point to King David on the ‘People in the Bible’ chart] so that means that King David was Joseph’s great-great (lots of greats) grandfather.

“The angel [point to angel] came to Mary [point to Mary] and told her that God was with her. The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. The baby would be a boy. I’ll read from the Bible what the angel said about the boy that Mary was going to have:

[read your class Bible from Luke 1:31b], ‘...you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High God. (That means God’s son.) The LORD God will make him a king, as his ancestor (or great-great and lots of greats grandfather) David was, and ... his kingdom will never end.’ That means that God’s son Jesus will be king forever.

“Mary was going to have a baby. He was going to be a special baby because an angel told Mary that she would have a boy called Jesus, who would be God’s son and would be king forever.

“Mary and Joseph had to go a long way from their home to a place called Bethlehem. While Mary and Joseph were there, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary and Joseph wanted to stay at a big house called an inn, but because there were so many people, there was no room for Mary and Joseph to stay inside. They had to go to a shed where animals lived. Jesus was born there in the shed [*place manger picture on board*]. When baby Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger [*point to manger*], which is a food box for animals. That was all there was for Mary to put Jesus in.”

Conclusion...

“So there in the shed the very special baby Jesus was born. The angel told Mary that Jesus would be God’s son and that Jesus would be king forever. Because Jesus is alive today he is still king. Jesus never stopped being king. Jesus is God’s special king forever.

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you for baby Jesus. Thank you that Jesus is your son. Thank you that Jesus is king forever. Amen”

Activity suggestions...

1. Booklet

Print page 84 for each child and fold horizontally and then vertically to make a booklet (with ‘The angel told...’ as the front). The children colour the pictures.

2. Christmas card

Print page 85 for each child and fold horizontally and then vertically. In the lesson, the children colour in the star (you could give the children special pens, like gel pens or glitter pens, to make it look spectacular!). Alternatively, you could use this card to print for each child and post to them at Christmas with a personal greeting.

3. *Manger scene*

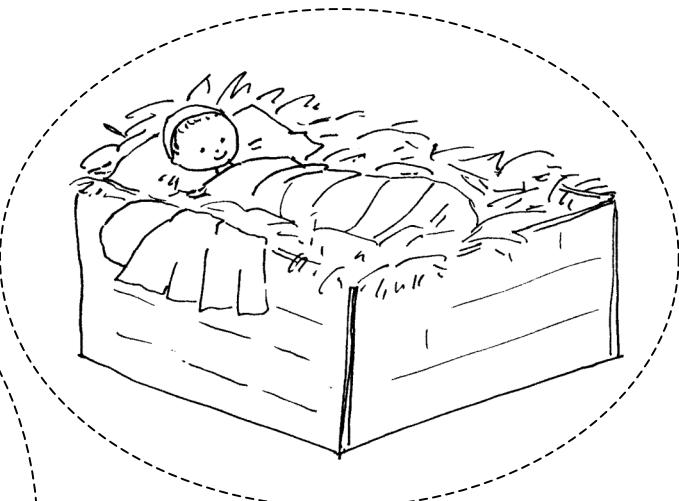
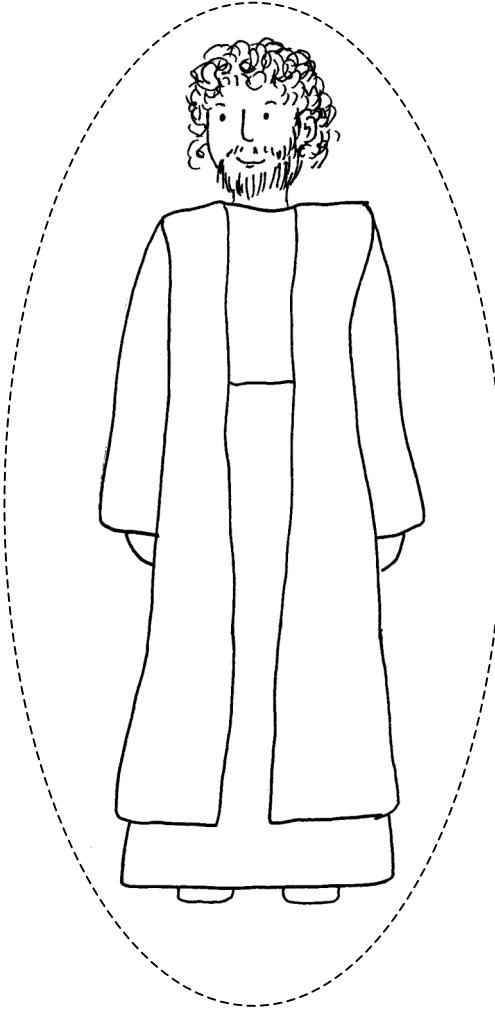
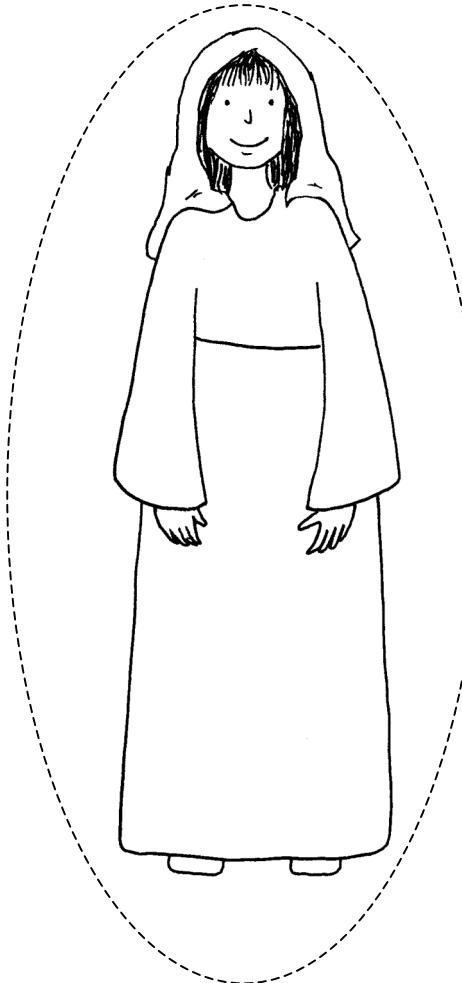
The children make a 3D manger scene. The possibilities for this scene are varied and so you will need to decide how extensive you want their models to be. Before the lesson, you will need to make a version of this 3D scene, to show the children and explain how they will make it themselves. For the lesson, each child will need two polystyrene cups (or yoghurt tubs), one egg carton hump (or mini yoghurt tub) as a manger, a small piece of playdough for baby Jesus, and a shoe box, cardboard lid or similar for a base.

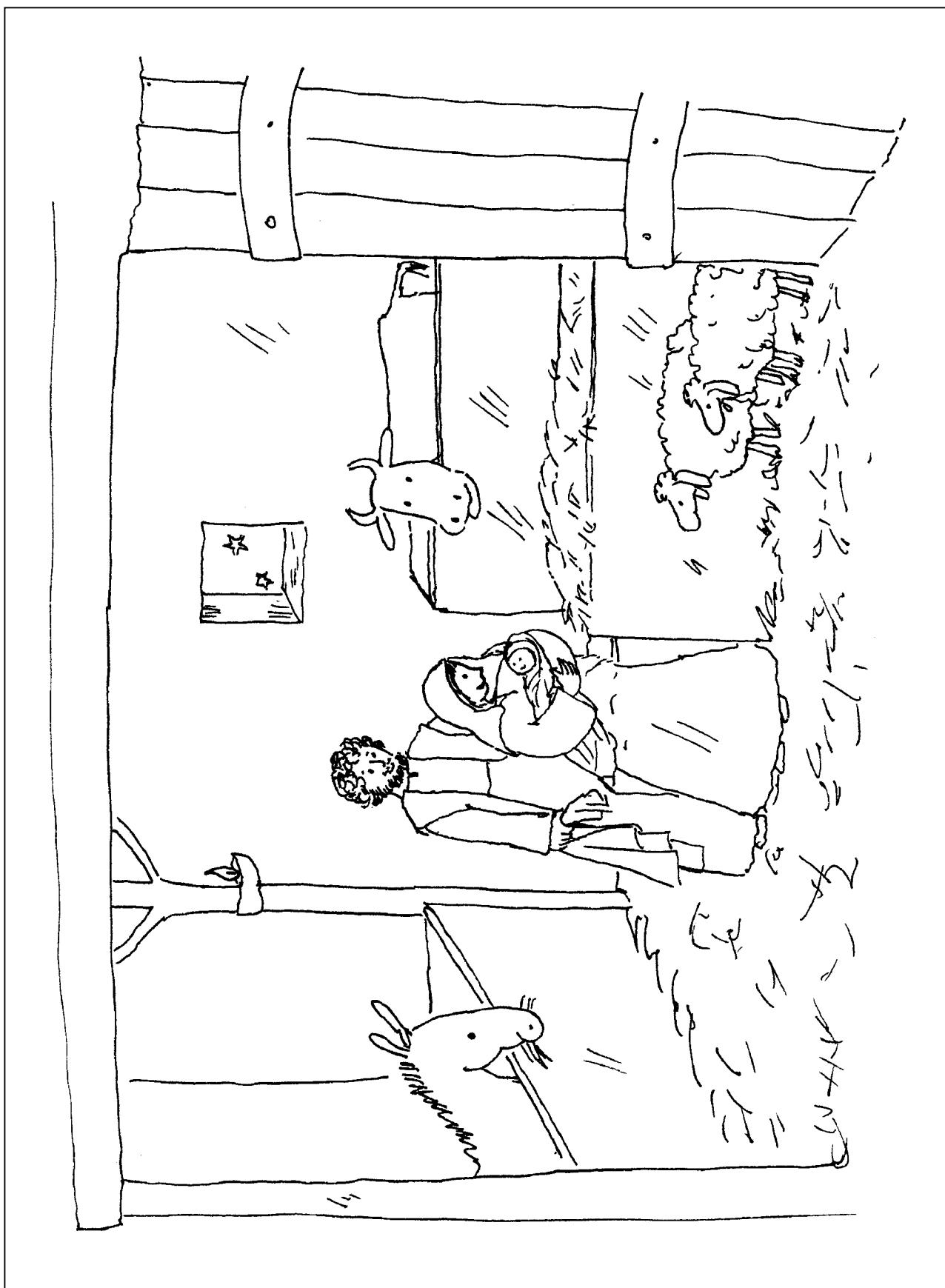
Before the lesson, print the caption on page 81 for each child and gather together small wrapping paper pieces, squares of fabric, fabric strips or paper towel strips for the strips of cloth, and wool, shredded paper, or raffia, for straw in the manger. You may need child-friendly PVA glue to paste onto the polystyrene cups. In the lesson, the children draw a face on their upturned cups with a suitable felt pen (you experiment before the lesson to ensure that the felt pen does not smudge or rub off). If your children are unable to draw a face, you draw a simple face for them, or draw faces on circles (before the lesson) which the children paste on. Then the children paste wrapping paper pieces on their puppets as clothes. For Mary, a teacher can help tie a square of fabric or paper towel (with a piece of wool) as a scarf over her head. For Joseph, the children can paste wool on as hair.

Then the children make a baby with a small ball of playdough. The baby can be wrapped in strips of fabric or strips of a paper towel. Shredded paper, wool or raffia, can be straw in the egg carton hump manger, with the baby placed on top. Once completed, paste the caption onto the base (shoe box, or cardboard lid or similar) and add Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger.

Caption for activity #3:

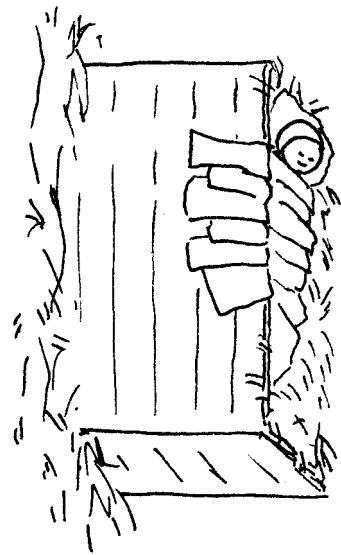
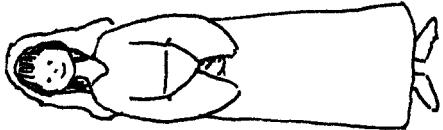
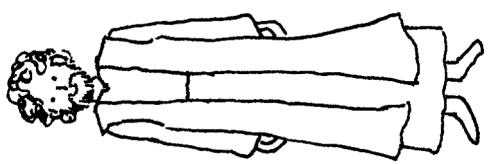
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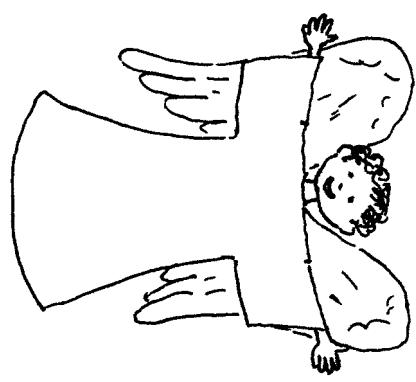


...Joseph

...Mary and



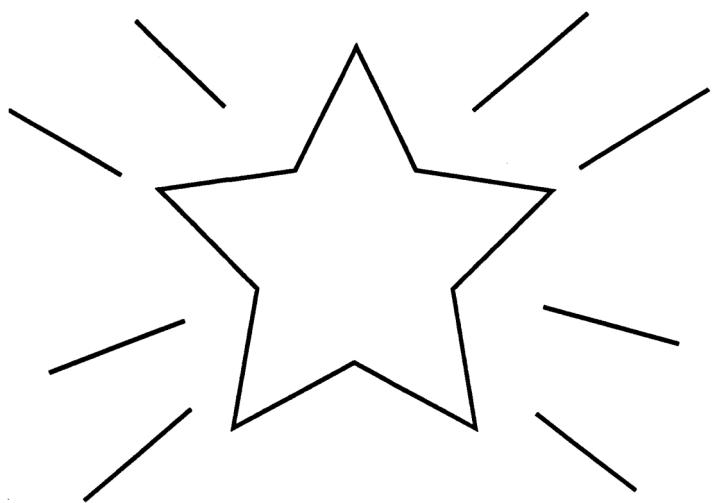
about Jesus, God's son



coming into the world.

The angel told...

Good news!



Luke 1 verses 26-38
Luke 2 verses 1-7

Jesus, God's son, is born.

Shepherds visit Jesus

Bible reference... Luke 2:8-20

Lesson aim... To teach the children that Jesus being born is very good news because he is God's son.

Main message... Good news—Jesus is born!

Story preparation... For the story, you will need two pieces of fabric to drape over your shoulders:

(i) something to indicate a shepherd—it could be a checked or striped tea towel or table cloth. You will also need a stick (any sort of long stick—just keep it out of reach of the children) to be a shepherd's staff.

(ii) something to indicate an angel—it could be a white sheet, scarf or table cloth, or piece of gold fabric.

Introduction...

Talk about what shepherds did in the days of Jesus—where they lived, why they were out in the fields with the sheep at night, etc. You could show a picture from an illustrated Children's Bible if you have one suitable.

Revise last week's story, asking a few questions. "Remember last week we heard about a very special baby being born? What was the baby's name? And where was he born? And what did Mary put him in when he was born? [*a manger*] Do you remember what a manger is? Well today we're going to hear about some men visiting Jesus. This true story comes from the Bible."

Story...

[drape checked cloth over shoulders and hold staff] "When Jesus was born, there were some shepherds not far away. They were outside looking after their sheep at night. They saw an angel and were scared [*look scared*], but the angel told them not to be afraid.

[remove checked cloth and drape white cloth over shoulders] “The angel said that he had some very good news, news that will make many people happy—that Jesus had been born and that he was God’s son. The angel said, ‘You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’ Suddenly, there were lots of angels singing to God.

[remove white cloth and drape checked cloth over shoulders] “When the angels had left them, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.’

“So they hurried off *[pretend you are walking—even if you are sitting!—by moving up and down and moving staff up and down—then stop]* and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they told everyone there what the angel said about him. They were all amazed at what the shepherds said.

“Everything happened just as the angel had told them, so the shepherds went back *[pretend you are walking—even if you are sitting!—by moving up and down and moving staff up and down]* to their sheep, thanking God for what they had seen and heard.

Conclusion...

“The shepherds were very glad that they had seen baby Jesus and that what the angel told them really happened. It was good news—God’s special son had been born.”

Pray...

“Dear God, thank you that the shepherds could visit the special baby, Jesus. Thank you that what the angels told them happened. Thank you that Jesus is your son. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. Booklet

Before the lesson, print page 89 for each child and fold horizontally and then vertically to make a booklet (with ‘The angel told...’ as the front). The children colour the pictures and they could use glitter glue (if you are game—it can make a mess!) or star stickers on the ‘Good News’ page. Another option is pasting gold paper on the angel and/or the star.

2. Shepherds and sheep

For this activity, each child will need a piece of coloured cardboard with the caption on page 88 pasted on. You will also need cotton wool balls and pipe cleaners. Before the lesson, print page 90 for each child and cut out shepherd’s tunics. In the lesson, the children paste on the shepherds’ tunics and draw their heads, arms and legs. The children then curl over the top of a pipe cleaner to make a staff for each shepherd. The teacher may need to help the children tape on the staffs with tape. Then the children paste on cotton wool balls as sheep.

3. Christmas decorations

Fun decorations can be made with a little imagination and a variety of junk bits and pieces. Choose what you would like the children to make from these examples, but remember to paste on the caption below when completed:

- cover a cardboard roll with coloured paper and paste on stickers or small crepe paper pieces, punch a hole in the top so that it can be hung;
- cut out a star shape from cardboard (and punch a hole so that it can be hung) and paste on foil or gold paper;
- wrap a cardboard roll or rolled up cardboard with cellophane, like a bon-bon;
- cut out cardboard shapes or use small boxes which the children decorate by pasting little pictures from old Christmas wrapping paper (be selective with the pictures—avoid Santa!);
- print page 91 for the children to paste on green paper and decorations (eg. small pieces of tinsel, star stickers). Punch a hole in the top so that it can be hung.

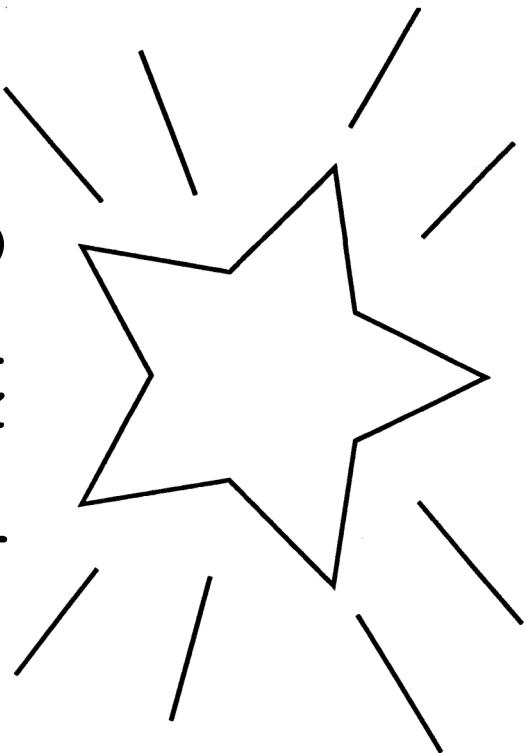
Caption for activity #2:

<p>The shepherds came to see baby Jesus—God's son.</p>	<p>The shepherds came to see baby Jesus—God's son.</p>
<p>The shepherds came to see baby Jesus—God's son.</p>	<p>The shepherds came to see baby Jesus—God's son.</p>
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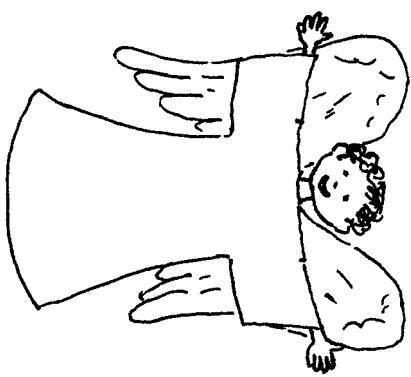
Caption for activity #3:

<p>Jesus is God's son.</p>	<p>Jesus is God's son.</p>	<p>Jesus is God's son.</p>	<p>Jesus is God's son.</p>
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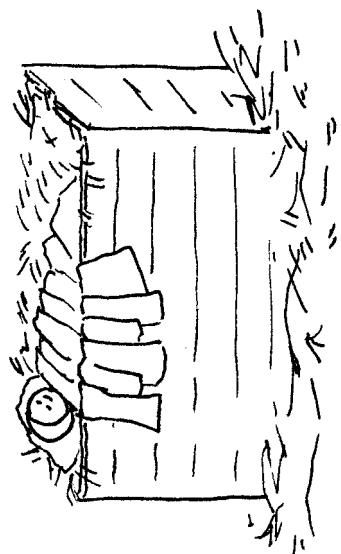
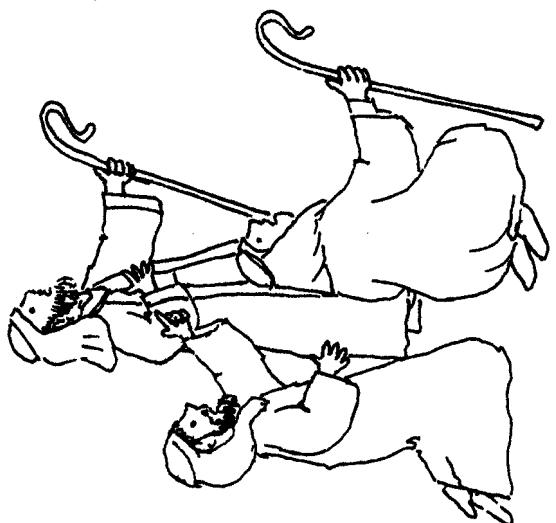
Good News!



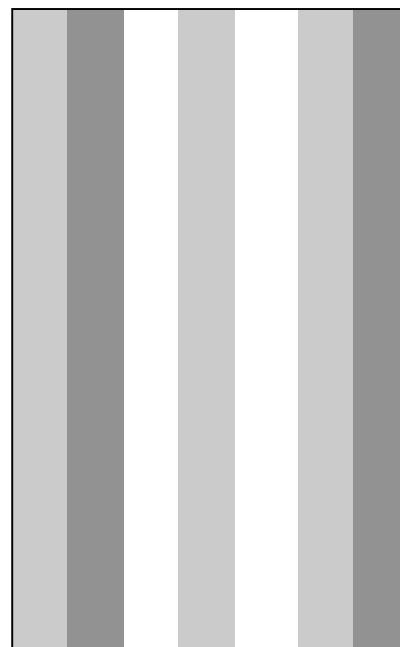
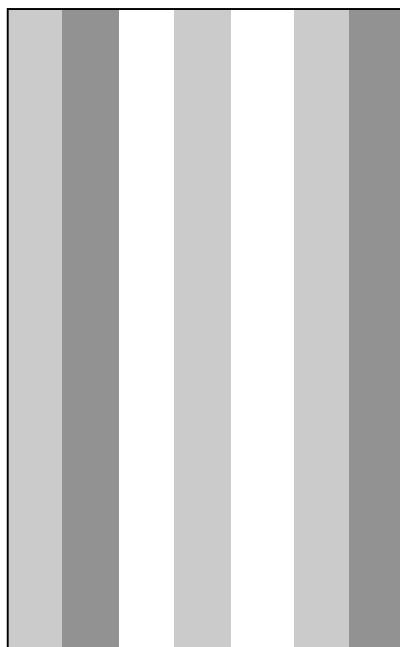
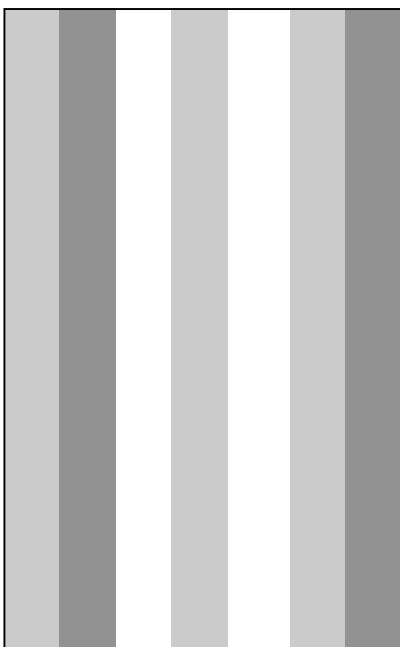
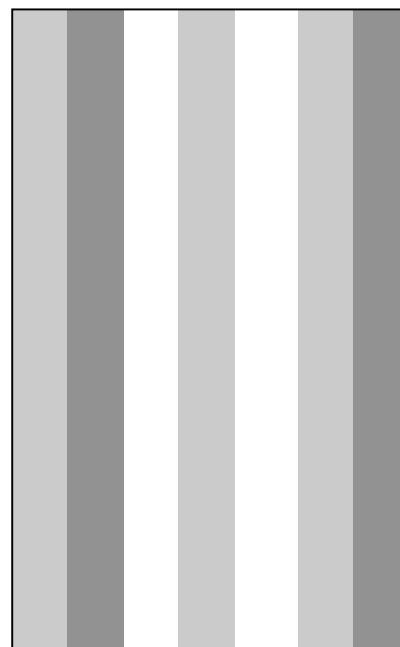
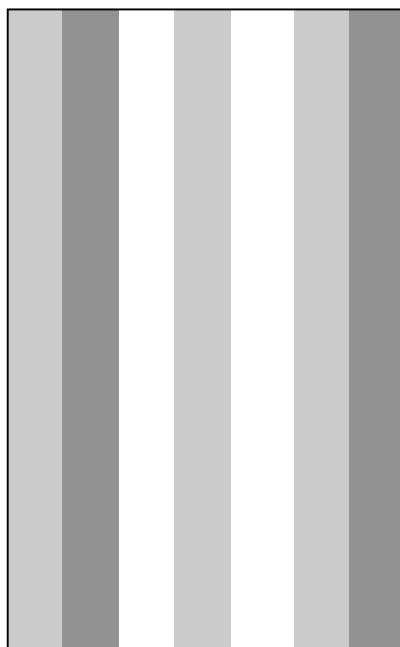
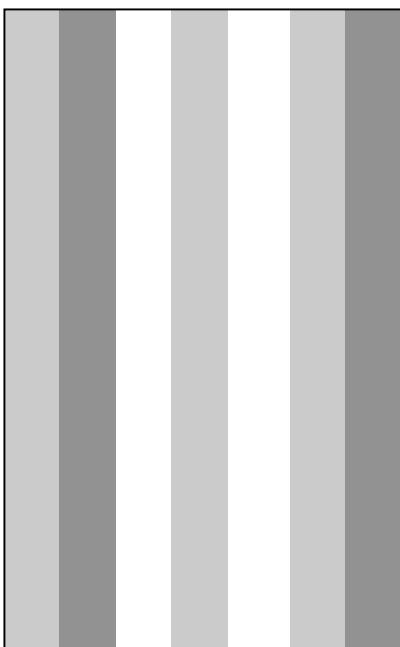
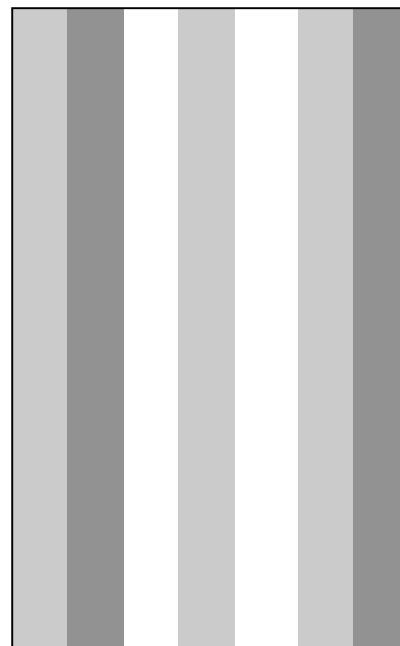
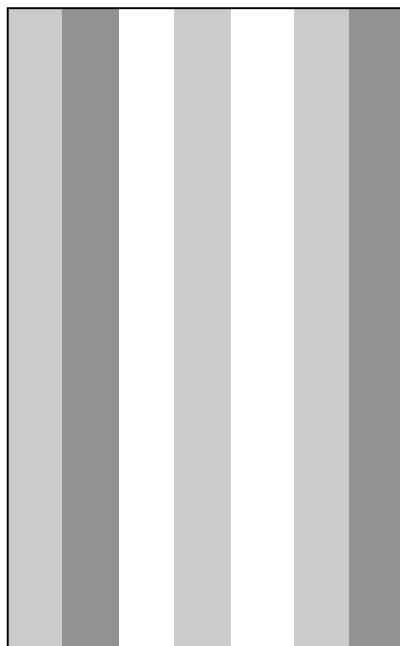
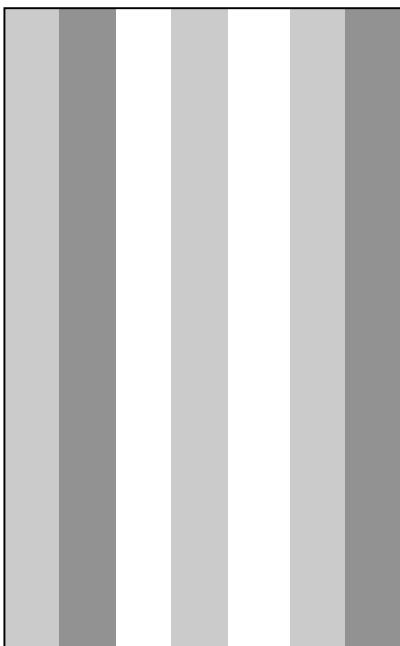
The angel told...

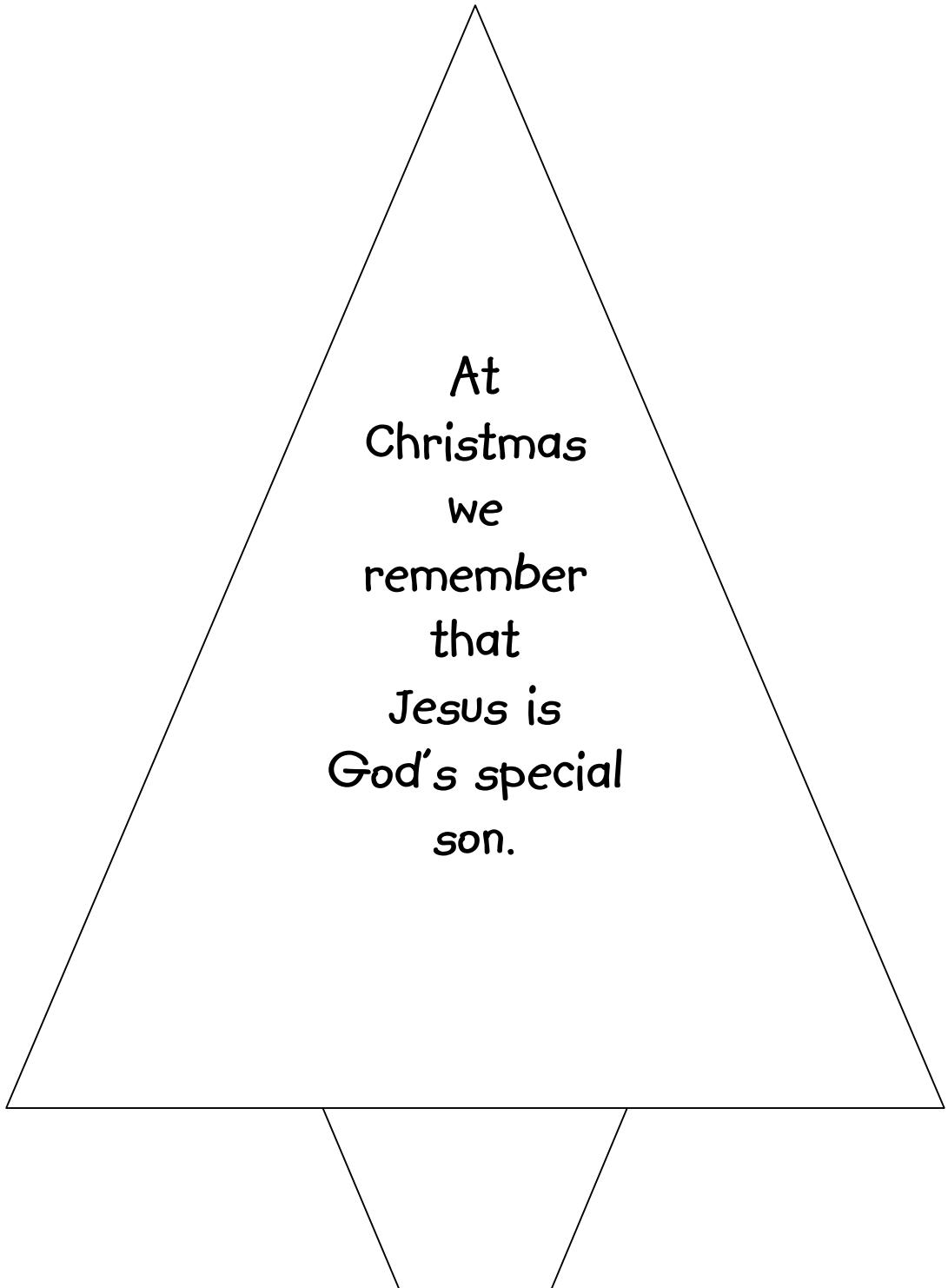


the shepherds



“Jesus has been born.”





At
Christmas
we
remember
that
Jesus is
God's special
son.



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