

How to Use Your



MUSIC & PRINT EXTRAS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras is a great tool for teachers who want to help babies, toddlers, and preschoolers really dig into the Bible and explore it. Each quarter's resource includes printable files that relate to the teaching suggestions in your Explore the Bible Leader Guide. Some items can be used with the children during Bible-learning sessions; others can be used by teachers for outreach and ministry to families. You'll find many uses for the printable teaching aids included in *Preschool Music & Print Extras*.

Plus—Fun songs will help get your kids ready to connect with Bible truths! Lyrics for the songs are included on one of the files. Play the songs during sessions to teach simple Bible concepts and enhance learning for everyone!

You have permission to print the files (unless noted otherwise).

Winter 2023-24

Parent Email Messages

Stay in touch with today's busy on-the-go families by sending weekly emails. Copy these quick FYIs into your messages to inform parents about the Explore the Bible content you will be sharing with preschoolers each session. Personalize the messages by adding a postscript or signing teachers' names.

Song Lyrics & Copyrights

Use the Song Lyrics page to learn songs related to this quarter's Bible emphases. Sing and play the songs during sessions to enhance Bible learning for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

Story Picture Pages

This item includes reproducible black and white versions of the full-color story pictures included in the Explore the Bible Preschool Leader Packs.

Next Hour Sessions: Toddlers

Next Hour Sessions: Preschool

Weekly teaching suggestions are provided for the extended teaching time when families are in the worship service. Space is provided for writing teachers' names, time to arrive at the classroom, and location of the classroom.

Allergy Sign

Babies & Toddlers: Sessions 2, 3, 6, 11

Preschool: Sessions 1, 3, 5

Several activities in the Leader Guide sessions include foods, plants, animals, or other nature items. Some children in your class may have allergies to these items. Whenever you plan to use nature items, inform parents ahead of time. Write the name of the nature item being used. Post the sign on the door for parents' attention.

Print several Allergy Signs to have on hand.

Baby Pictures

Babies & Toddlers: Sessions 1, 3

Preschool: Session 1

These photos showcase babies at various ages and stages. Print as many pages as needed and cut on the dashed lines to make picture cards. Babies will enjoy discovering and exploring pictures through a see-through box or latticed laundry basket. Toddlers may be encouraged to find matching pictures of babies.

See the Babies & Toddlers Leader Guide and Preschool Leader Guide for specific instructions and times to use the Baby Pictures.

Bible Times Coins

Preschool: Session 7

This item features some coins representative of money used during Bible times. Print and cut out the coins to use

HOW TO USE MUSIC & PRINT EXTRAS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.

during Session 7 as you talk about offerings and the two coins given by the woman at the temple. The Preschool Leader Guide suggests an activity for matching coins hidden under cups.

Bible Times Sandals

Preschool: Session 8

Print several copies of this page. Cut out the sandals and tape them to the floor to make a path. The Preschool Leader Guide suggests making a path for children to walk from Babylon to Jerusalem. See Session 8 for information about this activity related to the Israelites returning from captivity to rebuild Jerusalem.

Child Figure Outlines

Babies & Toddlers: Session 5

Preschool: Session 5

Print these simple outlines for children to decorate during Session 5. Use a marker to write the Bible verse from 1 John 3:2. See the Babies & Toddlers Leader Guide for more detailed information about using the outlines.

Preschool teachers may also want to use the Child Figure Outlines. Write the Bible verse from 1 John 3:1.

Craft Stick Nativity Figures

Preschool: Session 3

Print a set of figures on heavyweight paper for each child. Provide crayons, colored pencils, or markers for preschoolers to decorate the figures.

Cut apart a child's set of figures. Give the child craft sticks on which he can tape or glue his set of figures. Suggest that the child use the figures to "tell" the story of Jesus' birth.

Giving Pictures

Babies & Toddlers: Session 7

Use these pictures during Session 7 to help children learn that God wants us to give with joy. The Babies & Toddlers Leader Guide suggests that toddlers glue pictures on poster board to make a poster about giving our resources, time, and service as expressions of love.

Medical Bag Outline

Preschool: Session 6

Print a page for each child. Children may decorate the medical bag however they wish, then glue or tape pictures of medical items or actual items around the bag. The Preschool Leader Guide includes an activity using the outline during Session 6.

Missionary Photos

Preschool: Sessions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10

Print photos of five missionaries currently serving and one historical missionary. Use the photos as suggested in Missions activities in the Preschool Leader Guide.

People Pictures

Babies & Toddlers: Sessions 7, 11

Print several pages of pictures to use at different times during the quarter. People Pictures will be taped to blocks to make play figures for use during Session 7. Teachers will tape a path of pictures for babies to crawl over and move blocks to discover the pictures.

Preschool teachers may find the pictures helpful for activities during this quarter.

Places to Pray

Babies & Toddlers: Session 12

This item features 16 photos suggesting places where people can pray. During Session 12, toddlers will be guided to make a wall visual showing where children and grown-ups can pray and talk to God. See the Babies & Toddlers Leader Guide for more information.

Preschool Verse Markers

Preschool: Sessions 1-13

Print these pages and cut apart the Bible verse strips. Place the markers in an envelope and use them as instructed in the Preschool Leader Guide.

Quetzal Picture

Preschool: Session 2

The quetzal is a colorful bird native to the country of Guatemala. The picture will be used to make a puzzle for the Missions activity in Session 2. See the Preschool Leader Guide for more information about the activity.

Tell About Jesus Cards

Preschool: Session 1

Print this page and cut apart the cards. Each card has a statement about Jesus that can be shared with others. Specific ideas for using the cards are provided in the Session 1 Missions activity in the Preschool Leader Guide.

Trail Mix Recipe

Preschool: Session 1

See Session 1 in the Preschool Leader Guide for suggestions for using the recipe and activity to connect to the Bible content.

SONG LYRICS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras

Winter 2023-24

1. THIS CHRISTMAS!

We celebrate Jesus' birth
Jesus was born on this earth

(Chorus)
We celebrate, we celebrate, Jesus
This Christmas
We celebrate, we celebrate, Jesus
This Christmas
We celebrate, we celebrate, Jesus
This Christmas
We celebrate, we celebrate, Jesus
This Christmas

Jesus is God's only Son
He loves us all, everyone

(Repeat chorus)

Angels told Mary that Jesus would
be born
Angels told Joseph that Jesus
would be born

(Repeat chorus)

Words and music by Wayne Tester and
Esther Maus-Tester.
Arranged by Wayne Tester.
© Copyright 2017 Van Ness Press, Inc.
(ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI)
(admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Ser-
vices, www.musicsservices.org). All rights
reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #7094037.

2. LITTLE BABY JESUS

Little Baby Jesus lying in the hay
We have come to praise You on this
Christmas Day
You are God's Son sent down to
earth
We want to celebrate Your birthday

Words and music by Cindy Berry.
© 2002 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)
(admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Ser-
vices, www.musicsservices.org). All rights
reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #4564520.

3. THANK YOU, GOD, FOR JESUS (TESTRICITY*)

Joyful, joyful, how God loves us
Thank You, God, for Jesus
Simeon gave thanks to God
We thank You, God, for Jesus

Joy to the world the Lord is come
We thank You, God, for Jesus
Joy to the world the Lord is come
We thank You, God, for Jesus

Joyful, joyful, how God loves us
Thank You, God, for Jesus
Anna gave her thanks to God
We thank You, God, for Jesus

(Repeat chorus 2 times)

Words and music by Esther Maus-Tester
and Wayne Tester.
© 2014 McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI)/Van
Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by
Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.
musicsservices.org. All rights reserved.
Used by permission. CCLI #7024786.
*www.TESTRICITY.com.

4. IT WAS TIME

It was time for Baby Jesus to go to
the temple, the temple (Repeat)

Simeon was there and held Jesus in
his arms
Simeon prayed, "Thank You, God,
for sending Your Son, Your Son"

It was time for Baby Jesus to go to
the temple, the temple (Repeat)

Anna was there and knew Jesus
was God's Son
Anna prayed, "Thank You, God, for
sending Your Son, Your Son"

Words and music by Vicki Hancock Wright.
© 2000 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)
(admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Ser-
vices, www.musicsservices.org) All rights
reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #4371713.

5. GIVE

Give, give, give to others,
Give, give, give
Give, give, give to others,
Giving makes me happy.

Words by Derrell Billingsley. Music by
Sandy Wilkinson.
© Copyright 2003 Van Ness Press, Inc.
(ASCAP)/Broadman Press (SESAC)
(admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Ser-
vices, www.musicsservices.org). All rights
reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #4452962.

6. ANYTIME, ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

Anytime, anytime, anywhere I pray
God is there and listening to every-
thing I say
Anytime, anytime, anywhere I pray
God is there and hears my prayers

Anytime, anytime, anywhere at all
God is there and listening to
prayers big and small
Anytime, anytime, anywhere at all
God is there and hears my prayers

(Repeat all)

SONG LYRICS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. Duplication prohibited.

God is there and hears my prayers

Words by Trilby Jordan. Music by Dora Ann Purdy.

© Copyright 2008 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #5174926.

7. LET'S PRAY

The Bible tells us God will hear our prayers

He loves us and wants us to know
He cares

Let's pray
We can talk to God
Let's pray, pray, pray
Let's pray
God is listening
Let's pray, pray
Come on everybody let's pray

Wherever we are God will hear us
pray
Let's ask Him for His help and give
Him thanks

Let's pray
We can talk to God
Let's pray, pray, pray
Let's pray
God is listening
Let's pray, pray
Come on everybody
Let's pray
We can talk to God
Let's pray, pray, pray
Let's pray
God is listening
Let's pray, pray
Come on everybody let's pray
Let's pray
Come on everybody let's pray
Let's pray
Come on everybody let's pray

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.
© Copyright 2023 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin by Lifeway Worship c/o

Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7218865.

8. GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND PRAISE HIM

Give thanks to God and praise Him
Give thanks to God and praise Him
Tell of the things He has done for
you
Give thanks to God and praise Him

Give thanks to God and love Him
Give thanks to God and love Him
Tell of the things He has done for
you
Give thanks to God and love Him

Give thanks to God and serve Him
Give thanks to God and serve Him
Tell of the things He has done for
you
Give thanks to God and serve Him

Give thanks to God and praise Him
Give thanks to God and praise Him
Tell of the things He has done for
you
Give thanks to God and praise Him

Words and music by Don Phillips.
Arranged by Barny Robertson.
© Copyright 1998 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #4495015

9. PLEASING TO GOD

Do those things that are pleasing to
God
Do those things that are pleasing to
God
Do what the Bible tells you to do
Do those things that are pleasing to
God
Do those things that are pleasing to
God

(Repeat all)

Words and music by Esther Maus-Tester.
© Copyright 2012 McKinney Music, Inc.

(BMI) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7112362

10. MORE THAN ANYTHING

I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
More than anything

I love God more than candy
He is so good to me
I love God more than playing games
That's why I obey Him happily

I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
More than anything

I love God more than TV
I'm learning He loves me
I love God more than all these
things
I want to tell everyone I meet
I love God more than anything

I want to show Him I love Him
I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
More than anything

I want to thank Him more than
anything
I want to praise Him more than
anything
I want to thank Him more than
anything
I want to praise Him

I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
I love God more than anything
I want to show Him I love Him
More than anything

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.
© Copyright 2023 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI)

(admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #7218866

II. GOD WANTS US TO OBEY

God wants us to *obey each and every day
In all we do and all we say,
God wants us to *obey

*Substitute: be kind

Words and music by Janet McMahan-Wilson and Tom McBryde.
© Copyright 1998 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #3417355

12. EVERY STORY

CHORUS

This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all
This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all

VERSE 1

Rap: The Old Testament
Starts with the Pentateuch
The first five books are
The Law
Then History and Poetry
Wisdom and Prophecy

(Kids: "The Law!")

Genesis, Exodus
Leviticus, Numbers
Deuteronomy ("History!")
Joshua, Judges, Ruth
1st & 2nd Samuel
1st & 2nd Kings
1st & 2nd Chronicles
Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther
("Poetry and Wisdom!")
Job, Psalms, Proverbs

And Ecclesiastes
Then the Song of Songs
We're heading into Prophecy
("Prophecy!")
Isaiah, Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel, Daniel
Hosea and Joel
Amos, Obadiah
Jonah, Micah, and Nahum
Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai
Zechariah and Malachi

CHORUS

This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all
This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all

VERSE 2

Rap: The New Testament has the
Gospels
And the History of the apostles
Then Letters called Epistles
And the Prophecy of John

(Kids: "The Gospels!")

Matthew, Mark
Luke, John
("History!")
Acts
("Letters!")
Romans
1st & 2nd Corinthians
Galatians, Ephesians
Philippians, Colossians
1st & 2nd Thessalonians
1st & 2nd Timothy
Titus, Philemon ("Here we go!")
Hebrews, James
1st & 2nd Peter
1st & 2nd and 3rd John
Jude
("Prophecy!")
And Revelation

CHORUS

This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all
This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all

This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all
This is the Word of God
Every story
His story
Written for us all

Words and music by Jeffrey B. Scott.
Arranged by Jeffrey B. Scott.
© Copyright 2020 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin by LifeWay Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission.
CCLI #7146487.

Duplication of this page is prohibited.
Permission from the copyright owner of each song is needed before duplication can be made. If duplication is for congregational use, you must have a CCLI license. For more information about CCLI, contact 1-800-234-2446.



COPYRIGHTS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24

1. This Christmas!

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.

Arranged by Wayne Tester.

© Copyright 2017 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7094037.

2. Little Baby Jesus

Words and music by Cindy Berry.

© 2002 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #4564520.

3. Thank You God, for Jesus (TESTRICITY*)

Words and music by Esther Maus-Tester and Wayne Tester.

© 2014 McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI)/Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7024786.

*www.TESTRICITY.com.

4. It Was Time

Words and music by Vicki Hancock Wright.

© 2000 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org) All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #4371713.

5. Give

Words by Derrell Billingsley. Music by Sandy Wilkinson.

© Copyright 2003 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/Broadman Press (SESAC) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #4452962.

6. Anytime, Anytime, Anywhere

Words by Trilby Jordan. Music by Dora Ann Purdy.

© Copyright 2008 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #5174926.

7. Let's Pray

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.

© Copyright 2023 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7218865.

8. Give Thanks to God and Praise Him

Words and music by Don Phillips.

Arranged by Barney Robertson.

© Copyright 1998 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #4495015

9. Pleasing to God

Words and music by Esther Maus-Tester.

© Copyright 2012 McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7112362

10. More Than Anything

Words and music by Wayne Tester and Esther Maus-Tester.

© Copyright 2023 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP)/McKinney Music, Inc. (BMI) (admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7218866

11. God Wants Us to Obey

Words and music by Janet McMahan-Wilson and Tom McBryde.

© Copyright 1998 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin. by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #3417355

12. Every Story

Words and music by Jeffrey B. Scott.

Arranged by Jeffrey B. Scott

© Copyright 2020 Van Ness Press, Inc. (ASCAP) (admin by Lifeway Worship c/o Music Services, www.musicsservices.org). All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #7146487.

GOD'S MESSENGER

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Son for Zechariah
 Luke 1:1-25,57-80
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

John helped people get ready for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

You will tell people about Jesus.
 Luke 1:76

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Care for a Baby Doll
 - Pass a Ball
 - Lace a Picture Card



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music and give each child a streamer to wave as you move to the Circle Time area.
- Direct children to be seated. Collect the streamers and put them aside.
- Say: "I loved hearing the songs about Jesus and the Bible. Music is one way we learn about Jesus. Hearing stories from the Bible is another way. Let's listen to a story about someone who celebrated good news about a baby who grew up to tell about Jesus."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Luke 1 and tell today's story in your own words.
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 1), then ask questions: What surprising news did the angel tell Zechariah? (*He and Elizabeth would have a baby son.*)

What did the couple name the baby? (*John*)
 What would grown-up John do? (*He would help people get ready for Jesus.*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Read today's verse from a marker placed at Luke 1:76. Close the Bible and pass the Bible around the circle.
- Give each toddler a turn to open the Bible to the marker and say the Bible verse. Prompt as needed to help the child say the words.
- Say: "John told people about Jesus. We can tell people about Jesus, too."

PRAY

- Thank God for having a plan to send Jesus to help people.
- Thank God for teachers, families, and friends who help children learn from the Bible.

CARE FOR A BABY DOLL

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, 2 plastic baby dolls and accessories, doll diaper bag, child's rocker, book about babies

- Lay the dolls and accessories where toddlers will notice them.
- Invite a child to care for a doll and “read” the book. Talk about things the child’s family does to care for her.
- Show the toddler the picture on the Family Card. Say: “When Zechariah was old, an angel told Zechariah that he and his wife would have a baby boy. The boy would grow up to tell people about Jesus.”
- Recall the Bible story as the child plays.

PASS A BALL

Tools: Bible, December Verse Markers (Pack Item 17), large plastic ball, Story Picture: A Son for Zechariah (Pack Item 1)

- Guide children to stand in a circle. Open the Bible to today’s marker and say the verse. Lead children to say the verse with you.
- Next, pass the ball around the circle. After a few seconds, say “Stop.” Lead the child holding the ball to say the verse.
- Repeat passing the ball and stopping to give other children turns to say the verse.
- After a while, sit down together and show children the Story Picture. Guide children to recall what they remember about the story.

LACE A PICTURE CARD

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, hole punch, long shoelace, shape sorter toy or other manipulative

- Punch holes around the Diaper Bag Card and tie the shoelace through a hole and knot it.
- Place the lacing card with the toy. Open the Bible to Luke 1.
- Invite a toddler to lace the picture card or put shapes in the sorter. While the child is busy, read the Text Truth printed on the card.
- Say: “Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, loved and trusted God. They were happy when God gave them a baby son. Zechariah and Elizabeth celebrated with their friends and thanked God for John.” Lead the child to touch the baby on the card.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

A FAMILY IS CHOSEN

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

News for Mary and Joseph
 Luke 1:26-56;
 Matthew 1:18-24; Isaiah 9:6
*The Bible story is printed on the
 back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God chose a family for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

You will have a son, and you
 will name Him Jesus.
 Luke 1:3

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Fold Baby Blankets
 - Play with Manger Figures
 - Listen to Directions

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Put some news-related items in a backpack. Carry the backpack, Bible, and Story Picture (Pack Item 2) to the Circle Time area.
- When children are seated, talk to them about news. Say: “We tell people news in many ways.”
- Remove items from the backpack and comment on their use in spreading news or traveling.
- Remark: “Mary heard some very good news. Let’s listen to a story about the news.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture. Point to Mary. Say: “An angel visited Mary to give her some surprising news.”
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:26 and tell the Bible story in your words.
- Pass the picture around the circle and ask a few questions:

Who visited Mary? (*an angel*)
 What news did Mary hear? (*God chose her to be Jesus’ mother.*)
 Who else heard the news about Baby Jesus? (*Joseph*)
 What did Joseph do? (*He took care of Mary.*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say Jesus’ name. Ask toddlers to say Jesus’ name with you.
- Open the Bible to Luke 1:31. Show children Jesus’ name.
- Say today’s Bible verse, then lead toddlers to repeat the verse with you.
- Put aside the Bible, then picture-read a book to the group.

PRAY

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.
- Ask God to help you remember that Christmas is a special time to worship God and thank Him for Jesus.

FOLD BABY BLANKETS

Tools: Bible, several small baby blankets, small laundry basket, Preschool Family Card

- Invite preschoolers to fold baby blankets. Give some general directions, or demonstrate once. Then watch the toddlers imitate you!
- Talk about the children's families, and thank God for family members and friends who love children and care for them.
- Turn to Luke 1:31 and say today's Bible verse. Lead toddlers to say the verse with you.
- Show the Family Card picture. Recall the good news Mary and Joseph received.

PLAY WITH MANGER FIGURES

Tools: Bible, Christmas Story Figures (Pack Item 20), plastic or wooden manger figures, cardboard blocks, Story Picture: News for Mary and Joseph (Pack Item 2)

- Prepare the Story Figures as directed on the Leader Pack item.
- Encourage toddlers to play with the figures and play out the Bible story. Comment: "Mary heard good news. Do you remember what the angel told Mary? That's right. God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother. God told Joseph to take care of Mary."
- Show the Story Picture and recall today's Bible story. Open the Bible to Luke 1:31 and look for Jesus' name.

LISTEN TO DIRECTIONS

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card

- Invite two or three children to play a game with you. Explain that children must listen carefully and do what you say to do.
- Call out simple directions such as touch your head, stomp your feet, or spin around. Finally, direct toddlers to sit down.
- Sit with the children and open the Bible to Luke 1. Say: "Today, our Bible story is about two people who listened and followed directions."
- Recall the Bible story. Point to the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Say: "Mary and Joseph listened to the angel. They followed the angel's directions to get ready for Baby Jesus to be born."

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

GOD'S SON IS BORN

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:1-20

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Jesus was born.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Today, a baby, Jesus, was born.

Luke 2:11

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play with Baby-care Items
- Sing & Read About Jesus
- Make a Christmas Collage

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Shine a flashlight on the floor as you walk around the room. Encourage children to follow the light to Circle Time.
- Say: "The light helps you find your way to Circle Time. Let's hear a story about some shepherds who saw bright lights in the sky the night Jesus was born."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Luke 2, then show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 3).
- Point to the shepherds and sheep. Say: "The shepherds heard some wonderful news! When they heard about Jesus' birth, they hurried to see Him."
- Tell the Bible story in your words.
- Distribute shiny ribbon garlands to the toddlers. Play music and lead children to wave their garlands

in time to the music. Encourage children to sing about Jesus' birth.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 again and lay it in the center of the circle.
- Give a child a flashlight and direct her to shine the light on the Bible pages.
- Say: "The words in this verse tell us that Jesus was born. Can you say the verse with me?"
- After saying the verse together, pass the Bible and flashlight around the circle. Tell each child she may have a turn to shine the light on the Bible verse page.

PRAY

- Thank God for the children who came to church to learn about Jesus.
- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

PLAY WITH BABY-CARE ITEMS

Tools: Bible; baby doll; small diaper bag; baby items such as a disposable diaper, clothing, baby food dish, spoon, rattle or teether; Diaper Bag Card

- Lay the Diaper Bag Card on the Bible opened to Luke 2.
- While a child explores the diaper bag and items, talk about families caring for their babies. Relate this to Mary caring for Baby Jesus. Show the picture on the Diaper Bag Card.
- Guide a child to use the baby-care items to care for the baby doll. As the child plays, say: “God planned for Jesus to have a family to love and care for Him.”

SING & READ ABOUT JESUS

Tools: Bible, Book: The Story of Jesus’ Birth (Pack Item 20), Music & Print Extras, children’s musical instruments

- Play songs about Jesus, and encourage toddlers to play instruments. Remark that singing is a way to celebrate Jesus’ birth.
- Suggest that toddlers march around the room a few minutes. Move to an area where you can be seated.
- Put away the instruments and show children the book. As you turn pages to show the pictures, ask children to tell what the pictures show. Help toddlers recall the story of Jesus’ birth in their words.

MAKE A CHRISTMAS COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, large sheet of paper, tape, washable marker, glue sticks, gift wrap paper pieces, plastic container, Story Picture: The Story of Jesus’ Birth (Pack Item 3)

- Write on the paper the words *Jesus Is Born!* Tape the paper to the wall at toddlers’ eye level.
- Put the paper pieces in the container and put it in a chair near the wall. Invite two toddlers at a time to choose gift wrap pieces to glue on the paper.
- As children work on the collage, read the words on the paper. Say: “At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. We thank God for sending Jesus to love and help people.”
- Show children the Story Picture as you summarize today’s story.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

PRAISES FOR GOD'S SON

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Simeon and Anna See Jesus
 Luke 2:21-38
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

People praised God for the coming of Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

People thanked God for sending Jesus.
 Luke 2:38

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Move to the Color
 - Uncover the Story Picture
 - Draw on a Box



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as children move to the Circle Time area.
- Play an action game. Lead toddlers to scoot, tiptoe, march, swim, hop, then sit and clap hands.
- Comment: "I'm happy to be at church with my friends. Our Bible story is about two people who were at church. Something wonderful happened."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 4) around the circle. After children see the picture, lay it on the floor.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2:21 and tell the Bible story in your words.
- Ask questions about the story: Who was at the church every day to worship God? (*Simeon and Anna*)
 Whose family went to the church? (*Baby Jesus*)

What did Simeon and Anna do when they saw Jesus? (*They thanked God.*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Choose two Letter & Shape Cards (Pack Item 24) to lay on the floor. Give each child a Letter & Shape Cutout (Pack Item 25) for the words you have chosen.
- Call on each child to show his Shape Cutout and name the color. Next, guide the toddler to place his cutout on the correct shape.
- When both words are formed, read them to the children.
- Say: "These words help us think about Jesus, God, and the Bible."

PRAY

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.
- Ask God to help us tell others about Jesus.

MOVE TO THE COLOR

Tools: Bible, sheets of colored paper, Color Cube (Pack Item 22), Preschool Family Card

- Use paper colors that match those on the Color Cube. Lay the paper in a path around the room. (Use at least two sheets of paper per color.)
- Ask a child to toss the Color Cube and name the color facing up. Tell another child to move to the color that is shown.
- Give another child a turn to toss the cube so the first child may move to a colored paper.
- When a child reaches the end of the path, show the picture on the Family Card and recall the Bible story.

UNCOVER THE STORY PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Simeon and Anna See Jesus (Pack Item 4), sticky notes

- Cover the Story Picture with sticky notes. Mark the Bible story with a sticky note.
- Invite a child to remove a few sticky notes to reveal portions of the picture. When the picture is uncovered, say: “Simeon and Anna loved God. They knew that God had promised to send someone to help people.”
- Open the Bible to the marked page. Find Simeon’s and Anna’s names. Help the toddler touch Jesus’ name.
- Review the story. Remind toddlers that people were thankful that God sent Jesus.

DRAW ON A BOX

Tools: Bible; cardboard box; washable markers, crayons, or chalk; Diaper Bag Card; Book: Thank You, God (Pack Item 29)

- Write today’s Text Truth on one side of the box. On another side, write the Bible verse.
- Invite a child to draw on the box. While he enjoys scribbling and marking, point to the words printed on the box. Remark that the Bible helps us know that Jesus’ birth was special and that people thanked God for sending Jesus.
- Show the child the picture on the Diaper Bag Card and ask the child to point to Jesus. Recall the Bible story for the child.
- Picture-read the book to the child. Comment: “We can say thank you to God.” Lead the child to pray a simple thank-you.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

LOVED BY GOD

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

A Father and His Son
 Luke 15:11-32
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God loves us.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

We are God’s children, and He loves us.
 1 John 3:2

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Make a Gifts Collage
 - Read About Families
 - Match Letters & Shapes

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as children walk to Circle Time. Carry the gift bag with you and set it on the floor.
- After everyone is in place, give every child a colored paper square.
- Toss the Color Cube (Pack Item 22) and name the color. Tell all children with that color to run in place or clap.
- Toss again and name a different action for people with that color.
- Thank children for playing. Direct attention to the gift on the floor.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Say: “Today’s story is about a father, a son, and a welcome home party.”
- Open the Bible to today’s story and tell the Bible story.
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 5) to the children.

- Say: “Jesus told this story so people could understand how much God loves them. God loves us even more than a father or mother loves his or her children.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Play music again and pass the ball around the circle. Stop the music and call on the child with the ball to stand.
- Help the child say the Text Truth.
- Resume the music, but this time after stopping, help the child say today’s Bible verse.
- Play one more round. This time tell all the children to stand and say the Bible verse together.
- Say: “The father in the story loved his son. We read in the Bible that we are God’s children, and He loves us even more.”

PRAY

- Thank God for loving us no matter what we do.

MAKE A GIFTS COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, clear contact plastic, tape, picture cutouts of God's provisions and gifts (food, houses, family, friends, pets, flowers)

- Tape the plastic to the wall with the sticky side facing out.
- Show a child the Family Card and recall that the father welcomed his son home and gave him wonderful gifts.
- Say: "Jesus wants people to know that God loves us like a father loves his child. The father gave his son what he needed. God does the same for us, His children."
- Lead toddlers to say today's Bible verse together.

READ ABOUT FAMILIES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Father and His Son (Pack Item 5), several books about families

- Sit with toddlers to read books. Talk about families and things they do. Ask toddlers about their families.
- Say: "People in families love and care for one another. Your family loves and cares for you. You can love your family, too."
- Open the Bible to Luke 15. Say: "The Bible has a story Jesus told to help people learn how much God loves them."
- Show the Story Picture and recall the story. Turn to 1 John 3:2 and read today's Bible verse.

MATCH LETTERS & SHAPES

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, Letter & Shape Cards (Pack Item 24), Letter & Shape Cutouts (Pack Item 25)

- Use the Diaper Bag Card to mark Luke 15 in the Bible.
- Give the cards to a few children. Name the colors and shapes.
- Say: "The cutouts are the same shapes and colors, but they have letters on them that spell words from the Bible. The words help us think about our Bible story."
- Lead toddlers to match the cutouts to their cards. Read the words and relate them to the story Jesus told about a father's love.
- Show children the picture on the Diaper Bag Card as you recall the Bible story.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

GIVE THANKS

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS	REMINDERS	SCHEDULE
1. Continue explorations from first hour. 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Bible! • Talk to children about the Bible. • Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom & Snack (10 min.) • Exploration Activities (30-40 min.) • Circle Time (10 min.) • Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Only One Thank-you
 Luke 17:11-19
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Give thanks to God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

I will praise God with all my heart.
 Psalm 111:1

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Draw with Crayon Bundles
 - Match Blocks to Outlines
 - Play a Memory Game



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Sing these words as you walk around the room:
*A-walking we will go,
 A-walking we will go.
 I will hold your hand in mine,
 A-walking we will go.*
- Sing the song again, pausing to name things in the room. Suggest that these things help children learn when they are at church.
- Direct toddlers to be seated, then say: “Let’s listen to a story about some men who walked to town.”

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Luke 17 and hold the Bible in your lap.
- Tell today’s Bible story in your words, then pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 6) around the circle.
- Ask questions to help children think about the story:
 Who did Jesus see as He walked

on the road? (*10 men who had a skin disease*)
 What did Jesus do? (*He stopped to help the men.*)
 How many men said thank you to Jesus? (*only one*)

- Say: “The man said thank you and praised God. That is what we should do, too.”

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open a Bible to Psalm 111:1. Say the words of the verse.
- Guide children to follow your movements as you say:
“I” (point to self) “will praise” (cup hands over mouth) “God” (point up) “with all my heart” (place hands over heart). “Psalm 111:1” (hold hands open like a book).

PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus to teach people about God.
- Ask God to help us be thankful for His love and care.

DRAW WITH CRAYON BUNDLES

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, crayon bundles (3 crayons taped together; make several bundles), copy paper, marker

- Write today's Text Truth on each child's paper.
- Give a child a choice of crayon bundles. Before she draws, read the words on the paper. Remind the toddler that a man gave thanks when Jesus made him well.
- As the child draws, recall today's Bible story. Show the picture on the Diaper Bag Card and point to the man thanking Jesus.
- Say: "We give thanks to God."

MATCH BLOCKS TO OUTLINES

Tools: Bible, large piece of poster board, marker, foam or wooden blocks, clear packing tape, Preschool Family Card

- Mark today's Bible verse at Psalm 111:1 with the Family Card.
- Trace around a block shape on the poster board, placing the block in a few different positions. Draw around several other shapes and sizes of blocks. Tape the poster to the floor.
- Invite toddlers to match actual blocks to the outlines. Some children may want to simply enjoy stacking blocks.
- As children play, open the Bible to the marked page. Read the Bible verse and lead children to say the verse with you.

PLAY A MEMORY GAME

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Only One Thank-you (Pack Item 6), solid-colored towel, 4 items from the room, Book: Thank You, God (Pack Item 29)

- Lay the items and the Story Picture on the floor and name each one. Cover the items with the towel.
- Tell toddlers to look up at the ceiling while you remove one item and put it behind you.
- Say: "You may look now. What is missing?"
- When children respond with the correct answer, comment on how the item can help us learn about giving thanks, praising God, or learning about Jesus.
- Hold the Story Picture as you help children recall today's story.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

OFFERINGS TO GOD

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS	REMINDERS	SCHEDULE
1. Continue explorations from first hour. 2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the Bible! • Talk to children about the Bible. • Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restroom & Snack (10 min.) • Exploration Activities (30-40 min.) • Circle Time (10 min.) • Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Woman's Offering
 Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Give offerings.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Give with joy.
 2 Corinthians 9:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

- See next page.*
- Match Paper Colors
 - Make a Giving Poster
 - Pretend with Purses & Wallets



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Put three chairs side by side in the center of the circle. Set a bucket in each chair.
- Play music as toddlers move to the Circle Time area.
- Show children a bag of coins. Ask toddlers if they heard a teacher talk about coins today.
- Say: "Yes, we heard a story about a woman who put all her coins in the offering container at the temple church."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Set the bag of coins next to you and open the Bible to Luke 21.
- Hold the Story Picture (Pack Item 7) and point to Jesus, then the woman dropping in her coins.
- Say: "Let's pretend we are the people at church. We will drop our coins into containers."

- Give a small number of toy coins to each toddler. Tell each child to walk down the line of chairs and drop her coins into the buckets.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Read today's verse from the marker. Then tell children to follow your directions.
- Lead toddlers to crouch down low and say the verse very quietly.
- Next, guide children to stand up tall and raise their arms up high and shout the verse loudly.
- Finally, direct children to stand on tiptoes and say the verse.
- End by saying: "God wants us to give our offerings with joy."

PRAY

- Thank God for today's true story that helps us remember that we should give with joy.

MATCH PAPER COLORS

Tools: Bible, 5 pieces of paper (each a different color), black marker, scissors

- Cut the papers in half. On one half of each color, write a word: *Give, Joy, Jesus, Offering, Bible*. Put these papers in the Bible.
- Spread the remaining paper halves on the floor. Name the colors of the papers for a toddler. Then suggest that he get same-colored papers from the Bible to match to the papers on the floor.
- As colors are matched, connect the words to the Text Truth and Bible verse.
- Open the Bible to Luke 21 and find some of the words.

MAKE A GIVING POSTER

Tools: Bible, poster board, glue sticks, Giving Pictures (Music & Print Extras), washable markers, wide gift wrap ribbon pieces, basket

- Print and cut out several Giving Pictures. Put the cutouts and ribbons in the basket.
- Use the marker to write today's Bible verse across the poster. Lay the poster on a table or the floor.
- Invite a few toddlers to choose pictures and ribbons to glue on the poster. Say: "All the pictures remind us of people giving money, time, or things to help others. The Bible says to give with joy."
- Lead children to say the Bible verse while they glue pictures on the poster.

PRETEND WITH PURSES & WALLETS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: A Woman's Offering (Pack Item 7), 2 women's wallets and/or small purses, 2 men's wallets, play paper money (opt.), toy coins (opt.)

- Invite a child to choose a wallet and fill it with paper money. (Or offer strips of paper to suggest money.) Another child might add toy coins to a purse.
- While children pretend to use the money, show the children the Story Picture. Point to the people walking by the offering containers and dropping in their offerings.
- Ask children what they remember about the story. Say: "You have listened well today. You have learned that we should give offerings with joy in our heart." Look for today's verse at 2 Corinthians 9:7.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

The People Go Back

Ezra 1-3

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God had a plan for His people to go home.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God said, "I will bring you back to the land."

Deuteronomy 30:5

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Look Through a Magnifying Glass
- Match Ribbons & Read
- Walk on Sticky Plastic

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Encourage children to join you in a song. Make up a tune to sing: *God had a plan, God had a plan, God had a plan to send His people home.*
- Say: "Today's story is from the book of Ezra. Ezra wrote about a time when a king told God's people they could go back to their home, Jerusalem."
- Show toddlers the Story Picture (Pack Item 8), then set it aside.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Ezra 1 and tell the Bible story in your words.
- After the story, pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 8).
- Comment: "God's people were excited to return to Jerusalem. They had been gone a long time."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Mark Ezra 1-3 in the Bible. Put another marker in the Bible at Deuteronomy 30:5.
- Play music and pass the Bible around the circle. Stop the music after a few seconds and direct the child holding the Bible to stand.
- Ask the child to open the Bible to a marker. If the card is marking the story passage, remark that Ezra is the name of the Bible book that has today's story.
- If the chosen card is the verse marker, lead children to repeat the Bible verse together.
- Resume music and give more children turns to open the Bible.

PRAY

- Pray for each child by name.
- Thank God for the stories in the Bible that help us learn about God's people and the plan He had for them.

LOOK THROUGH A MAGNIFYING GLASS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: The People Go Back (Pack Item 8), child's magnifying glass, card with God's name written on it

- Lay the magnifying glass on the Bible opened to Ezra 1.
- Point to the word *Ezra* and ask a child: "Can you say this word? The word is *Ezra*. *Ezra* is the name of a book in the Bible. It is in the Old Testament part of the Bible."
- Guide the toddler to look at the Bible page through the magnifying glass. Find God's name in verses 1-3.
- Show the Story Picture as you summarize the Bible story for the child.

MATCH RIBBONS & READ

Tools: Bible, tissue box, 2 each of several colorful ribbons (each 8-ins. long), plastic interlocking blocks in the same colors

- Insert one set of ribbons between pages of Ezra 1-3 and Deuteronomy 30. Push the other set of ribbons in the tissue box.
- Help a child pull a ribbon from the box. Identify the color. Lead the child to find the matching color ribbon in the Bible.
- Open the Bible and comment on the text. For example, say: "This is where we read about God's people going back home." Or say: "This verse in Deuteronomy says that God planned for His people to go back."
- Match ribbon colors to plastic blocks.

WALK ON STICKY PLASTIC

Tools: Bible, January Verse Markers (Pack Item 18), Diaper Bag Card, clear contact plastic, tape

- Tape a long strip of contact plastic, sticky side up, to the floor.
- Encourage children to walk on the plastic. Talk about how funny it is that their feet stick to the plastic.
- Show children the picture on the Diaper Bag Card and remark that the Israelite people walked back to their home in Jerusalem. The people probably walked on dry, dusty roads.
- While toddlers have fun walking on the plastic, recall the Bible story. Say: "Even though the people had lived far away from Jerusalem for a long time, God had a plan for them to go back."
- Open the Bible to the Verse Marker and say today's Bible verse.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

A NEW TEMPLE

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

Building a New Temple

Ezra 4-6

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's people built a new temple for God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Happy are the people who praise God.

Psalm 84:4

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Wave Streamers & Sing Praises
- Trace Hands
- Lift & Load Blocks

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Put one set of the Ways to Praise Cards (Pack Item 26) in a bag.
- Lead toddlers to Circle Time.
- Direct children to remain standing and imitate your actions: tap your head, stand on one foot, wave your arms like wings, and so forth.
- Finally, tell children to be seated.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Ezra 4. Say: "We just worked together and followed directions. Our story today is about God's people working together to do something very important."
- Tell the Bible story in your words.
- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 9) around the circle. Ask a few questions: What did the Israelites do when they returned to Jerusalem? (*built a new temple*)

What did the people do when the temple was finished? (*they celebrated and praised God*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Say: "The people praised God for His goodness. The people were happy. We are happy when we praise God."
- Say the Bible verse together.
- Show children the paper bag. Say: "Inside the bag are pictures of ways we can praise God. Let's see what those are."
- Call on one child at a time to get a card from the bag and show it to the group. If possible, demonstrate the action as a group.

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and the stories about His people.
- Ask God to help us be ready to give Him praise and thank Him for His goodness.

WAVE STREAMERS & SING PRAISES

Tools: Bible, crepe paper streamers (12-in. lengths tied to margarine tub lids), Music & Print Extras

- Play music and listen for songs about God. Show toddlers how to wave streamers to the rhythm of the music. Wave streamers high in the air and low to the ground.
- Stop and mention words from some of the songs. Say: “I heard the word *praise*. People praise God because they love Him and want to thank Him for His goodness. Music is a way to praise God.”
- Turn to Psalm 84:4 and read today’s Bible verse.

TRACE HANDS

Tools: Bible, paper, pencil, crayons, stickers (opt.), Diaper Bag Card

- Using a pencil, trace around each child’s hands on a piece of paper. Print the child’s name on his paper.
- Encourage the preschooler to use crayons and stickers to decorate his hands.
- Talk about ways toddlers use their hands. Say: “One way you use your hands is to turn the pages of the Bible. The Bible helps us learn about God.”
- Show the child the picture on the Diaper Bag Card and lead the preschooler to tell how the people are using their hands. Recall today’s Bible story.

LIFT & LOAD BLOCKS

Tools: Bible, cardboard blocks, a few shoeboxes, child’s wagon or large box with rope handle, paper, marker, small plastic traffic cones

- Write today’s Text Truth on the paper and tape it to the wagon. Arrange traffic cones in and around a large space where children can move the wagon.
- Invite children to lift and load blocks or shoeboxes into the wagon. Say: “You are strong. You are working together. God’s people worked together to move and stack large stones to build a new temple.”
- Give each child a turn to pull the wagon. Help toddlers maneuver the wagon around the traffic cones.
- Say: “The story about people building the temple is in the book of Ezra in the Bible.” Turn to Ezra 4 and recall the story.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Zechariah Encouraged God's People

Zechariah 1-14

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God wants people to love and obey Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

I will help people because I love them.

Zechariah 10:6

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Toss Beads in a Bucket
- Make a Bible Verse Poster
- Work People Puzzles

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Put some activity items in a gift bag and take it to Circle Time.
- Play music as you lead toddlers to the circle.
- When children are seated, say: "What fun we have had today. Let's talk about some of the things we've enjoyed."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Take an item from the bag and tell how the related activity helped toddlers learn from the Bible. Do the same with other items.
- Comment: "We learned about Zechariah and what he told God's people."
- Open the Bible to Zechariah 1 and recall the Bible story.
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 10), then tell children to pass the picture around the circle.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Read the words on today's Verse Marker (Pack Item 19). Say: "These are words that God told Zechariah to write and tell the people. Let's say the words together."
- Lead toddlers to say the Bible verse with you two times.
- Remark: "God loves us, and He wants us to love and obey Him."
- Play the song "God Wants Us to Obey" (track 11), and lead toddlers to sing, hum, or wave hands as the music plays.

PRAY

- Say a brief thank-you to God for the Bible and for the stories that help us learn about Him.

TOSS BEADS IN A BUCKET

Tools: Bible, plastic pop beads (or table tennis balls), bucket, Preschool Family Card

- Place the Family Card in the Bible at the book of Zechariah.
- Invite toddlers to take turns tossing pop beads into the bucket. Comment on the sound the beads make. Thank God for ears to hear sounds and words.
- Remark that children hear teachers and others tell Bible stories.
- Recall today's Bible story while children toss the beads. Open the Bible to show the picture of Zechariah.
- Review the Bible story.

MAKE A BIBLE VERSE POSTER

Tools: Bible, copy paper, marker, colored stickers, strip of colored paper

- Write today's Bible verse on sheets of copy paper. Mark the verse in the Bible with a colored paper strip.
- Give a verse page to a child and give her some stickers. Help her peel stickers from the backing and place them around the printed words to make a verse poster.
- Read the words of the verse. Say: "Zechariah wrote these words that God said to him. We can read the words in the Bible."
- Open the Bible to the paper strip and point to the verse. Encourage the child to say the verse with you.

WORK PEOPLE PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Zechariah Encouraged God's People (Pack Item 10), 3 wooden puzzles featuring people of all ages, canvas bag

- Mix the puzzle pieces in the bag and lay the frames on a table. Open the Bible to the book of Zechariah.
- Invite a child to get a puzzle piece from the bag. Guide the toddler to decide in which frame the puzzle piece goes.
- After a while, a friend may be interested in working a puzzle. Involve the two children by offering one a turn, then the other. Thank the children for being kind to each other.
- When the puzzles are completed, show the Story Picture to the children. Recall that Zechariah encouraged God's people. Zechariah said that God loved the people and would help them.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

GOD FIRST

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

Haggai's Message
Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-9
*The Bible story is printed on the
back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

Do what God says to do.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Think about what you do.
Haggai 1:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Place Stickers on Lines
- Drive Construction Vehicles
- Create an Obstacle Course

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music to signal Circle Time.
- Play a game. Name two children and tell them to exchange places in the circle.
- Continue until everyone has moved to a different place.
- Comment: "You listened to my instructions and did what I said to do. Our story for today is about someone who told people to obey God and do what He said to do."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Haggai 1 and show Haggai's name on the page.
- Say: "The man who told people God's message was named Haggai. Can you say that name with me?" Repeat the name a few times.
- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 11) and tell the story in your words.

- Play music and pass the Story Picture around the circle.
- Stop the music. Tell the child holding the picture to tell something about the Bible story or picture.
- Give other children turns to talk.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Haggai 1:7. Say: "My Bible is opened to the book of Haggai. Let's say a verse from that Bible book."
- Roll a ball to a child. Say the Bible verse, then lead the child to repeat the words.
- Say: "Now roll the ball to a friend."
- Give every child a turn to say the verse and roll the ball.

PRAY

- Thank God for the Bible and for the people in Bible times who listened to God and helped people know what God said to do.

PLACE STICKERS ON LINES

Tools: Bible, long sheet of art paper, marker, plain office dot stickers (assorted colors), Preschool Family Card

- Use the marker to draw two or three lines from one end of the paper to the other. Make each line different—straight, zigzag, curvy. Lay the paper on the floor.
- Hold the Bible open to Haggai 1. Offer a child several stickers to place on one of the lines.
- When the child finishes, give another child a turn. While children put stickers on the lines, tell about Haggai telling God's message to the people. Show toddlers the picture on the Family Card.

DRIVE CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES

Tools: Bible, cardboard blocks, 3 or 4 large toy trucks and construction vehicles, interlocking blocks, Book: Builders at Work (Pack Item 32), Diaper Bag Card

- Encourage preschoolers to drive vehicles to pretend building sites, load “bricks” or wood, and build. Relate the children's pretend play to construction of houses, churches, and schools where you live.
- Show toddlers the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Recall that Haggai told the people that God wanted them to build a house (temple) for Him.
- Suggest that toddlers use the blocks to build houses or a church. Picture-read the book about building a church.

CREATE AN OBSTACLE COURSE

Tools: Bible, plastic hoops, masking tape, small cushions, plastic cups, Story Picture: Haggai's Message (Pack Item 11)

- Invite children to help make an obstacle course. Provide hoops to jump into, a line of tape to balance on, cushions to hop between, and plastic cups to walk around.
- As children create the course, then move through it, say: “You worked together. Our Bible story tells about people who got busy and worked together. God had something very important for the people to do.”
- Show children the Story Picture and point to Haggai. Open the Bible to the book of Haggai and recall the Bible story.
- Give every child a turn to move through the course.

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child's bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

BIBLE STORY:

Nehemiah Prayed
Nehemiah 1-2
*The Bible story is printed on the
back of the Story Picture.*

TEXT TRUTH:

God hears our prayers for
help.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Pray for God's help.
1 Chronicles 16:11

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Guess the Sound
- Decorate Bible Markers
- Pray in Different Ways

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Tape a large masking tape circle on the floor.
- Move around the room. Ask toddlers to join you in the circle.
- Play music and tell children to put different parts of their bodies in the circle: hands, chins, feet, elbows, knees, noses.
- Stop the music and tell everyone to be still. Direct children to be seated around the circle.

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask each child to tell something he heard at church today. Remark that we hear music, people praying, and teachers talking about the Bible.
- Say: "The Bible tells about Nehemiah talking to God. God heard Nehemiah pray to Him."
- Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1 as

you tell the Bible story.

- Pass the Story Picture (Pack Item 12) around the circle.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute pieces of the Prayer Picture Puzzles (Pack Item 30). Direct children to stand and look for a friend holding the piece that goes with his puzzle.
- Lay completed Picture Puzzles on the floor and review times, places, and occasions to pray to God.
- Ask children to say today's Bible verse with you two times.

PRAY

- Pray for each child by name. Encourage volunteers to pray, too.
- Thank God for caring about us and hearing our prayers for help.
- Close by singing to a made-up tune: *God hears me when I pray, God hears me when I pray.*

GUESS THE SOUND

Tools: Bible; variety of sound-making items (wind-up clock or kitchen timer, rotary egg beater, cell phone, bicycle bell, set of keys); paper bag; Diaper Bag Card

- Show a child the items and remark that all of them make a sound when used. Identify the items, then put them behind your back.
- Place an item in the bag and use the item to make a sound. Ask the child if she can guess what item made the sound.
- After identifying the items, tell the child that we can hear the sounds. Say: “When we talk, God hears us. God hears us pray and ask for His help.” Say the Bible verse.

DECORATE BIBLE MARKERS

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, wide strips of paper, crayons, stickers

- Write today’s Bible verse on each strip of paper. Invite toddlers to decorate the strips to make markers for their Bibles or family members’ Bibles.
- Read the words on a child’s marker, then lead her to say the Bible verse with you. Say: “This verse helps us remember that we can pray for God’s help. God hears our prayers.”
- Show the child the picture on the Family Card. Summarize the Bible story, helping the child remember that Nehemiah talked to God, and God heard Nehemiah’s prayer.

PRAY IN DIFFERENT WAYS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Nehemiah Prayed (Pack Item 12)

- Show the Story Picture and help children recall the Bible story. Ask questions such as: Who is praying? (*Nehemiah*) Who heard Nehemiah’s prayer and helped him? (*God*) Why was Nehemiah sad? (*Jerusalem’s walls and gates were destroyed.*)
- Tell toddlers: “We can pray to God, too. We can pray in different ways. Listen and follow me.”
- Lead children to do these actions as you chant:
I can pray in different ways. I can pray standing. (*Stand up.*)
I can pray in different ways. I can pray kneeling. (*Kneel.*)
I can pray in different ways. I can pray walking. (*Walk in place.*)
I can pray in different ways. I can pray traveling. (*Pretend to steer a car.*)

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE

YOUR CLASSROOM

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

New Walls for Jerusalem
Nehemiah 3-6; 12:27-43
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Praise God for His goodness.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Give thanks to God, for He is good.
Psalm 100:4-5

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Pass & Play a Drum
- Clip Cards on a Box
- Drop & Toss Balls



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Clap your hands a few times as toddlers follow you. When children are in the circle, tell them to stomp their feet, then hop up and down.
- After children have fun moving, tell them you are glad God helps us have happy times at church.
- Say: "We work and learn together, and we have fun. Let's hear a story about people who worked together then celebrated and praised God."

HEAR THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 13), then pass it around the circle.
- Ask a child to hold the Bible opened to Nehemiah 3.
- Tell the Bible story in your words.
- Ask toddlers a few questions to recall the story:

Who told the people that God would help them? (*Nehemiah*)
What did the people build? (*gates and walls for the city*)
What did the people do when the work was done? (*gave thanks to God and praised Him*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Psalm 100:4-5.
- Say: "Today's Bible verse is from the book of Psalms. Psalms includes many prayers and songs that praise God and thank Him. Let's say the Bible verse together."
- Distribute some ribbon streamers. Lead children to wave and worship as they say the Bible verse a few times.

PRAY

- Say a brief thank-you to God for His goodness.
- Ask God to help us praise Him each day.

PASS & PLAY A DRUM

Tools: Bible, Diaper Bag Card, Music & Print Extras, toy drum and mallet

- Show toddlers the picture on the Diaper Bag Card. Comment on the people playing instruments and celebrating.
- Say: “A verse in the Bible says to give thanks to God, for He is good. Let’s do that now.”
- Guide toddlers to sit in a circle. Tell them to pass the drum while the music plays. Stop the music and call on the child holding the drum to tap on it while saying today’s Bible verse with you.
- Resume play so other children can say the verse and tap the drum.

CLIP CARDS ON A BOX

Tools: Bible, Ways to Praise Cards (Pack Item 26), peg-type clothespins, small cardboard box, Preschool Family Card

- Put all the cards in the box and set it on a table. Put the clothespins on the table.
- Pick up the Family Card and show it to a child. Remark that the people were happy and thanked God for helping them build the walls and gates of the city.
- Say: “The people played instruments and waved and sang. They praised God for His goodness.”
- Tell the child to look in the box for pictures showing ways to praise God. Lead the toddler to clip the cards around the box.

DROP & TOSS BALLS

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: New Walls for Jerusalem (Pack Item 13), rectangular laundry basket, soft balls in a variety of sizes

- Lay the Story Picture in the bottom of the basket.
- Invite a child to drop or toss balls into the basket one by one. When the toddler is successful, suggest he try again, but from a distance farther away from the basket.
- After a few minutes, ask the child to get the Story Picture from the basket. Look at the picture together and recall the Bible story. Remark that the child worked to get the balls into the basket, and the people worked to build the walls and gates.
- Turn to Nehemiah 12 and say: “When the work was finished, the people celebrated and thanked God.”

DON'T FORGET!

- Make a final diaper check.
- Put a Diaper Bag Card and Preschool Family Card in each child’s bag.
- Release children to authorized adults.

GOD'S MESSENGER

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Son for Zechariah
Luke 1:1-25,57-80

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

John helped people get ready for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

You will tell people about God's Son, Jesus.

Luke 1:76

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Make Trail Mix
- Match Baby Pictures
- Find & Spell Names in the Bible
- Work Birth Announcement Puzzles

 **CIRCLE TIME****GATHER**

- Invite children to tiptoe to the circle. Quietly sing a familiar lullaby.
- Say: "Babies are special. Our story for today is about a baby who would grow up to do something important."

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Luke 1. Hold the Story Picture (Pack Item 1) as you review the Bible story.
- After the story, ask children what John would do when he grew up. (John would get people ready for Jesus.)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Luke 1:76. Invite children to say the verse together.
- Remind preschoolers that John helped people get ready for Jesus by telling them about Him.

PRAY

- Thank God for His plan to send John to help people get ready for Jesus.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

MAKE TRAIL MIX

Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign (Music & Print Extras), Trail Mix Recipe (Music & Print Extras), trail mix ingredients, plastic bowls, small scoops, ziplock bags, permanent marker

- Pour each ingredient into a bowl. Add a small scoop.
- Explain: “Let’s make a snack together. We will follow a recipe plan to make trail mix.”
- After cleaning his hands, a child may choose various ingredients to scoop into one ziplock bag. Write the child’s name on his bag.
- Open the Bible to Luke 1. Say: “We had a plan for making a snack. We read in the Bible that God had a plan for Zechariah’s son, John. John would help people get ready for Jesus.”

MATCH BABY PICTURES

Tools: Bible, Baby Pictures (Music & Print Extras), 2 Preschool Family Cards, tray

- Lay the Baby Pictures and Family Cards facedown on a tray. Put the Bible, opened to Luke 1, next to the tray.
- Invite a child to turn over two cards. If the pictures match, the child leaves them faceup. If cards do not match, the child turns both cards facedown again. The child may continue or alternate turns with a friend until all the cards are matched.
- Remark that people are excited when babies are born and will often celebrate. Say: “Zechariah and Elizabeth had a baby when they were very old. Neighbors and friends celebrated the birth of their baby. Zechariah and Elizabeth named the baby John.”
- Point to Zechariah’s name and John’s name in the Bible at Luke 1.

FIND & SPELL NAMES IN THE BIBLE

Tools: Bible, 2 large cards, marker, plastic alphabet letters or letter tiles

- Use the marker to write the names *Luke* and *John* on the cards (one name per card). Put the cards on a table with the letters.
- Show a child the name cards and read them. Say: “We read about the birth of John in the book of Luke. Luke told about God’s plan for John to be born and tell about Jesus.”
- Say: “Let’s look for the book of Luke in the New Testament part of the Bible.”
- Help the child turn to Luke 1. Next, direct the child to find letter tiles to spell Luke’s name and John’s name.

WORK BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, several colorful birth announcement cards, scissors, Story Picture: A Son for Zechariah (Pack Item 1), shallow basket or pan

- Use the fronts of the cards to make puzzles. Cut each card front into two pieces. Vary the cut lines, making some straight, some curvy, and some zig-zag. Put all the puzzle pieces in the basket.
- Show children the Story Picture and summarize today’s story. Remark that neighbors and friends celebrated the birth of John.
- Invite a child to put together puzzle pieces to form pictures. Remark that announcement cards are used to tell people the good news that a baby has been born.
- Help a child open the Bible to Luke 1:76. Say today’s Bible verse together.

A FAMILY IS CHOSEN

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

 **CIRCLE TIME****BIBLE STORY:**

News for Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-56;

Matthew 1:18-24; Isaiah 9:6

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God chose a family for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

You will have a son, and you will name Him Jesus.

Luke 1:31

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Work Christmas Puzzles
- Read About Families
- Search for Letters to Spell a Name
- Build a Bible Times House

GATHER

- Play music as children move to the Circle Time area. Give each child two craft sticks to tap together as he hears songs about Jesus.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to Luke 1:31. Lead children to tap their craft sticks while saying the Bible verse with you. Say the verse a few times.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Luke 1. Display the Story Picture (Pack Item 2) as you review the Bible story with the children.
- Say: "God chose a special family for Jesus. An angel told Mary and Joseph they would have a baby and His name would be Jesus."
- Hold the Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31) and invite a child to choose a card. Read the question and give the child time to respond.
- Give other children turns to answer a question.

PRAY

- Thank God for sending His only Son, Jesus, to be the Savior of the world.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

WORK CHRISTMAS PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 puzzles featuring Jesus' birth, gift bag

- Put puzzle pieces in the gift bag. Lay the puzzle frames on a table.
- Invite two children to reach in the bag to get puzzle pieces. Children will need to work together to decide in which frames the pieces fit.
- Talk about the pictures on the puzzles. Say: "We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmastime. We remember that God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby. Jesus grew to be a man and helped many people."

READ ABOUT FAMILIES

Tools: Bible, Activity Page, 3 or 4 books about families

- Slip the Activity Page in the Bible at Luke 1 or Matthew 1.
- Invite a child to choose a book for you to read to him. After reading, say: "God chose a family for you. Tell me about your family."
- Show the picture on the Activity Page. Say: "God chose a family for Jesus. Do you remember their names?" Help the child recall Mary's name and Joseph's name.
- Hold the Bible as you summarize today's Bible story for the child.
- Finally, say: "Both Mary and Joseph were told to give a special name to the baby. What was that name?" Say the name *Jesus* with the child.

SEARCH FOR LETTERS TO SPELL A NAME

Tools: Bible, JESUS Letters (Pack Item 30), Story Picture: News for Mary and Joseph (Pack Item 2)

- Hide the JESUS Letters around the room at children's eye level.

- Show children the Story Picture and recall the news the angel told to Mary and Joseph. Ask: "What name did the angel tell Mary and Joseph to give the baby?" Affirm children for answering "Jesus."
- Tell children you have hidden letters around the room. The letters spell an important name. Encourage children to locate the letters and return to you.
- Once all the letters are found, assist children in arranging them to spell Jesus' name. Open the Bible to Luke 1:31 and point to the name *Jesus*.
- As time allows, lead a few preschoolers to hide the letters again while other preschoolers try to find the letters.

BUILD A BIBLE TIMES HOUSE

Tools: CSB® Read to Me Bible, wooden blocks, cardboard pieces, long sections of colorful fabric, a few pottery items (nonbreakable, if available), sticky note

- Open the Bible to the Biblical Times Illustrations in the front pages. Use the sticky note to tab the page showing illustrations of two Bible times homes (p. *xxii*).
- Invite boys and girls to build with the blocks and cardboard pieces to build a Bible times house. Ask a child to open the Bible to the sticky note to see some pictures of Bible times houses.
- While preschoolers work on their structure, comment: "Mary may have lived in a house like this. She may have been in her house when the angel visited her with the special news."
- Open the Bible to Luke 1 and explain that this is where we read the story about the angel visiting Mary.

GOD'S SON IS BORN

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:
_____**YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:**
_____**YOUR CLASSROOM:**
_____**OPTIONS**

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)



CIRCLE TIME

BIBLE STORY:

The Story of Jesus' Birth

Luke 2:1-20

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's Son, Jesus, was born.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Today, a Savior was born for you. He is Jesus.

Luke 2:11

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Find & Tell
- Care for a Baby Doll
- Taste Baby Food
- Cut Play Dough Stars

GATHER

- Play music as children move to the Circle Time area to be seated.
- Ask children to recall activities they enjoyed today. Ask: "What did you learn about Jesus when you did that activity?"
- Help preschoolers recognize that as they have fun at church, they can learn from the Bible.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 3). Recall the Bible story.
- Spread the Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31) on the floor. Toss a beanbag to a child and tell him to choose a question card. Give every child a turn to get a card and respond.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Pass the Bible around the circle. As each child receives the Bible, lead him to say today's Bible verse.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2:11 and point to the verse.
- Show children a simple Bible times map. Use the map to point out places associated with Jesus' birth, such as Nazareth and Bethlehem.

PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus to be the Savior of the world.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

FIND & TELL

Tools: Bible, Preschool Family Card, Nativity Picture Patterns (Pack Item 28), shallow plastic tub, shredded paper

- Put the shredded paper in the tub, then hide the Nativity Picture Patterns and the Family Card in the paper.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2 and place the Bible near the tub of paper.
- Invite a curious child to dig in the paper to discover some pictures. When a Picture Pattern Strip or the Family Card is revealed, suggest that the child retell today's Bible story using the pictures as prompts.
- Turn to Luke 2:11 and touch the words. Lead the child to repeat the verse a few times.

CARE FOR A BABY DOLL

Tools: Bible; baby doll; blanket, shoebox, shredded paper, straw, or raffia; Story Picture: The Story of Jesus' Birth (Pack Item 3); a few Bible times dress-up clothes

- Guide one child to fill the box with the paper to make a manger bed. Another child can wrap the doll in the blanket and lay it in the box.
- Invite children to dress up like Mary and Joseph and the shepherds. Encourage children to play out the Bible story as you summarize it. Show the children the Story Picture for an idea of how they might pose the scene.
- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to earth in order for people to have a Savior to help them.

TASTE BABY FOOD

Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign (Music & Print Extras), baby food such as applesauce or peaches, small paper bowls, disposable spoons, baby wipes

- Invite a preschooler to choose a flavor of baby food to taste. Spoon a sample into a bowl and thank God for good food to taste.
- Say: "Babies drink milk, and sometimes they eat food like this. Do you like the taste of baby food?"
- Open the Bible to Luke 2. Remark: "The Bible tells about the most special baby ever born." Summarize today's story in your words.
- Point to Luke 2:11. Say: "These words tell us that a Savior, Jesus, was born."

CUT PLAY DOUGH STARS

Tools: Bible, black construction paper or poster board, fresh play dough, play dough tools, star cookie cutters (different sizes if available)

- Open the Bible to Luke 2:8-12. Read the verses to children seated at the table. Ask: "What time of day were the shepherds watching their sheep when the angel appeared?" State: "Yes! The Bible tells us the shepherds were watching over their flocks at night."
- Show the items on the table and invite children to make stars with the play dough. Encourage children to work together to make as many stars as they can.
- Lay the paper on the table and guide preschoolers to arrange the stars.
- Summarize today's Bible story.

PRAISES FOR GOD'S SON

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

 **CIRCLE TIME****BIBLE STORY:**

Simeon and Anna See Jesus

Luke 2:21-38

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

People praised God for the coming of Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

People thanked God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Luke 2:38

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play "I Spy"
- Run a Diaper Bag Relay
- Make a Gift Wrap Collage
- Wait for the Signal

GATHER

- Direct children to move to the circle. Tell children to pretend they are looking for someone.
- Say the verse one more time, leaving out a word. Wait for preschoolers to supply the word.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- As children are seated, say: "Today's story is about some people who looked and waited for God to send a Helper. Do you remember the people's names?"
- Affirm children when they reply "Simeon and Anna."
- Put the Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31) in a small gift bag. Call on children one at a time to get a card and respond to the question you read.

PRAY

- Thank God for sending Jesus to earth to be a helper, guide, and Savior.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Read Luke 2:38 aloud. Prompt children to say the Bible verse together a few times.

PLAY "I SPY"

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Simeon and Anna See Jesus (Pack Item 4)

- Lay the Bible next to you. Prop the Story Picture in a window.
- Invite children to play the game "I Spy." Use statements such as: "I spy with my little eye something that is _____." (Name the color of an item.) Or you could say: "I see something wrapped in a baby blanket. It is a _____." (baby doll)
- Tell children to look around the room and guess an item you describe. The child who guesses correctly may say the next "I Spy" statement.
- Describe and spy items that can help children remember the Bible story. Comment: "When Simeon and Anna were at the temple worshipping God, they spied or saw someone very special. Who was that?" (*Jesus*)

RUN A DIAPER BAG RELAY

Tools: Bible, 2 small diaper bags, baby-care items (bottle, rattle, blanket, baby wipes, bib, diaper, baby brush), Activity Page

- Place the diaper bag and baby-care items in two piles at a wall.
- Form two groups of children. Explain that the children will hop to the pile of items, one child at a time, and pick up something to care for a baby. Direct the child to drop his item in a diaper bag and return.
- When both groups have gathered all the baby-care items in their pile, tell the children to sit down. Show the picture on the Activity Page and say: "Jesus' family cared for Him. They fed Him and clothed Him, and they took Him to the temple. At the temple, some people praised God for Jesus." Recall the Bible story in your words.

MAKE A GIFT WRAP COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, scrap pieces of Christmas paper (no cartoon designs), construction paper, glue sticks or tape, Preschool Family Card, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras)

- Invite children to create colorful collages using the paper scraps. Guide conversation to talk about reasons people give gifts to others. Comment that the greatest gift we have received is the gift of God's Son, Jesus.
- While children make their collages, open the Bible to Luke 2:21 and recall the story of Simeon and Anna seeing Jesus and praising God for His coming. Show children the picture on the Family Card.
- Turn to the Verse Marker at Luke 2:38 and read the Bible verse.

WAIT FOR THE SIGNAL

Tools: Bible, Gameboard: Motion (Pack Item 22), Color Spinner (Pack Item 24)

- Put the gameboard and spinner on a table and invite a few children to join you in a game.
- Ask the children: "Do you like to wait for things?" Hear children's responses. Acknowledge that waiting can be hard to do. Say: "Let's play a game in which you have to wait for a signal before you can move."
- Flick the Color Spinner. Name the action on the Motion Board that is the same color. Say to children: "Stay still until I count to 3. At 3, you may move around the room doing the action shown on the gameboard."
- Play as time allows. Sit down with the children and open the Bible to Luke 2. Remark: "People waited a long time for the One God promised to send. Simeon and Anna waited and prayed for that day."

LOVED BY GOD

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:
_____**YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:**
_____**YOUR CLASSROOM:**
_____**OPTIONS**

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Father and His Son

Luke 15:11-32

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

We are God's children, and He loves us.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God has shown great love to us, His children.

1 John 3:1

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play with People Figures
- Make a Verse Reminder
- Celebrate Together
- Spell Bible Words



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- As you move to the Circle Time area, sing these words to the tune "London Bridge Is Falling Down": *God loves us and we are His, we are His, we are His. God loves us and we are His, we are His children.*

- Comment: "John wrote these words in a different book in the New Testament. John wrote letters to churches to help people know about God's love. Both Luke and John knew Jesus and the things He taught about God."

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Distribute Bibles, or tell children to get their Bibles. Help the children locate Luke 15.
- Say: "Today's story is from this part of the Bible. Luke wrote about the story Jesus told to help people know about God's love."

- Help children recall the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open your Bible to 1 John 3:1. Say the Bible verse aloud, then invite preschoolers to say it with you.

PRAY

- Thank God for loving us and forgiving us for the wrong things we do.
- Thank God for calling us His children.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

PLAY WITH PEOPLE FIGURES

Tools: Bible, toy people figures, Story Picture: A Father and His Son (Pack Item 5), dollhouse (opt.), blocks

- Put the people figures near blocks and lay the Story Picture nearby. Pick up a figure and pretend to move it on the floor. Invite a child to play.
- While the child plays out situations using the people and dollhouse, talk about families loving and taking care of each other. Ask the preschooler the names of people in his family. Thank God for those people.
- Show the Story Picture and point to the father rushing to welcome his son home. Say: “This father loved his son so much. God loves us even more.” Summarize the Bible story while the child plays.

MAKE A VERSE REMINDER

Tools: Bible, Child Figure Outlines (Music & Print Extras), scissors, crayons or markers, hole punch, yarn

- Print enough outlines for each preschooler to have at least one child figure. Use a marker to write today’s Bible verse on each child’s paper.
- Show the art supplies to a child and say: “Today, we are learning about love. Jesus helped people learn about God’s love. God loves us.”
- Read the verse written on the paper, then invite the child to decorate his child figure to look like himself.
- When the child is finished drawing, offer to punch holes at the top of the paper and tie a loop of yarn to make a hanger. Suggest that the child take his work home to remind him that God loves him.

CELEBRATE TOGETHER

Tools: Bible, Allergy Sign (Music & Print Extras), crepe paper streamers, colorful napkins and plates, healthy snack food, baby wipes or hand sanitizer

- Wave a streamer to get children’s attention. Talk about celebrating special occasions with families. Mention decorating and cooking special foods for the party.
- Remark that in today’s Bible story, a father had a special party to celebrate his son’s homecoming.
- Invite children to think about an occasion to celebrate. Tell children to use the streamers, napkins, and plates to prepare for the party.
- When everything is ready, clean hands and eat the snack food together.

SPELL BIBLE WORDS

Tools: Bible; magnetic letters; cookie sheet or other magnetic surface; cards with words printed on them: Jesus, God, Luke, Love; markers; Activity Page

- Lay the word cards on a table with the letters. Read the words to a child. Say: “These words are in the Bible, and all of them help me think about the Bible story.”
- Guide the preschooler to look for letters that match those on a word card. Help the child arrange the letters correctly.
- Open the Bible to Luke 15 and look for some of the Bible words.
- While the child works, show him the picture on the Activity Page and summarize the Bible story. Say: “Jesus wanted people to know God loves them like a father.”

GIVE THANKS

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Only One Thank-you

Luke 17:11-19

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Give glory to God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

I will praise God with all my heart.

Psalm 111:1

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- "Doctor" Baby Dolls
- Match Shapes & Words
- Design a Thank-you Picture
- Count Out 10



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Softly tap each child on the shoulder and direct him to the Circle Time area.
- Play the song "Give Thanks to God and Praise Him" (track 8, Music & Print Extras).

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- As everyone is seated, lay the Story Picture (Pack Item 6) on the floor.
- Read a Bible Story Question (Pack Item 31). Ask one child to respond. Continue asking questions until children have recalled what they remember about today's Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open a Bible to Psalm 111:1. Clap a simple rhythm as the group repeats the Bible verse together.

PRAY

- Invite willing preschoolers to say simple thank-yous to God.
- After children finish praying, pray: "God, we thank You and give You glory for all the ways You show Your love to us. Amen."

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

"DOCTOR" BABY DOLLS

Tools: Bible, 2 or 3 baby dolls, toy medical kit, safe first-aid supplies

- Invite children to care for baby dolls who are sick. Say: "This baby has a fever. He feels very warm. What should we do?" Or "This baby fell and scraped her knee. How can we help?"
- As children treat the patients, listen to them recall their experiences being sick or hurt. Thank God for people who help others when needed.
- Turn to Luke 17 and comment that Jesus saw some men who were sick with a skin disease. No one cared about the men, but Jesus did.
- Say: "The men hurried away. Then they saw their sores go away. Only one man turned back to thank Jesus and praise God."

MATCH SHAPES & WORDS

Tools: Bible, craft foam shapes, permanent marker, bag, Music & Print Extras

- Print words of the Bible verse on individual foam shapes. Make two sets.
- Put one set of word shapes in the bag. Organize the other set on a table in the correct sequence.
- Read the words of the Bible verse. Invite a child to get a shape from the bag and match it to a shape on the table.
- After all the shapes are matched, point to each word and lead the child to say the verse.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 111:1 and show the verse.
- Play music and listen for songs about praising and thanking God.

DESIGN A THANK-YOU PICTURE

Tools: Bible, construction paper, washable markers, stickers, Story Picture: Only One Thank-you (Pack Item 6)

- Show a child the Story Picture and recall the story about 10 men being healed and only 1 returning to thank Jesus.
- Say: "Jesus was pleased that the man thanked Him and praised God. Jesus loved and healed sick people."
- Turn to Psalm 111:1 and say the Bible verse. Say: "We can give thanks to God and praise Him. What are some things for which you are thankful?"
- Lead the preschooler to name things such as family, friends, good health, church, the Bible, and so on. Suggest that the preschooler draw pictures of some things on his paper. Provide stickers for the child to add to his thank-you picture.

COUNT OUT 10

Tools: Bible, various small items that can be counted, muffin pans or ice cube trays, Activity Page

- Place the items on a table. Put the Activity Page on top of a muffin pan.
- Begin to count out 10 of one type of item. Drop the items in a section of the pan. When you have a child's attention, invite her to count out 10 similar items and put them in another section.
- As children sort and count the items, comment that the number 10 reminds you of today's Bible story.
- Show children the picture on the Activity Page as you summarize the Bible story. Remark: "Jesus cared about the men and healed them."

OFFERINGS TO GOD

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:
_____**YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:**
_____**YOUR CLASSROOM:**
_____**OPTIONS**

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

A Woman's Offering

Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Giving offerings shows our love for Jesus.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Give your offerings with joy.
2 Corinthians 9:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Arrange Word Blocks
- Pass the Plate
- Make a Joy Reminder
- Work Puzzles



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Play music as children go to the Circle Time area.
- Ask each child to tell about one activity he enjoyed at church today.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Ask a child to hold the Story Picture (Pack Item 7).
- Open the Bible to Luke 21 and ask a few questions to review the story:
Who was at the temple? (*Jesus and His disciples*)
What did Jesus see? (*people giving their offerings*)
Who did Jesus say gave the best gift? (*the poor woman*)

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to 2 Corinthians 9:7. Read the verse aloud.

- Lead children to repeat the verse several times. Tell children to show excitement by clapping, shouting, high-fiving, and so on.

PRAY

- Ask God to help us bring our best gifts to Jesus.
- Thank God for the woman in the story who demonstrated how to give with joy.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

ARRANGE WORD BLOCKS

Tools: Bible, 6 wooden blocks, square sticky notes, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras)

- Print individual words of the Bible verse, including the reference, on sticky notes. Put each sticky note on a block.
- Read the verse from the Verse Marker. Challenge preschoolers to work together to put the word blocks in order to form the full verse.
- Say the Bible verse with the children. Remark: “These words were written by Paul. He knew that when we give our offerings with joy, we are showing our love for Jesus.”
- Show preschoolers the verse at 2 Corinthians 9:7.

PASS THE PLATE

Tools: Bible, offering plate or other container your church uses, Music & Print Extras, Activity Page, Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31)

- Put the Story Questions in the offering plate. Direct a few children to stand in a circle. Play music and tell children to pass the offering plate around the circle.
- Stop the music and ask the child holding the plate to get a Story Question card. Read the question and give the child time to reply.
- Resume the music and pass the plate again. Give another child a turn to reply to a Bible story question.
- After a few rounds, open the Bible to Luke 21. Remark that the story children reviewed is in the book of Luke. Show the picture on the Activity Page.

MAKE A JOY REMINDER

Tools: Bible, heavyweight paper or poster board, scissors, marker, happy face stickers or stamps, crayons, hole punch, yarn

- Cut the paper into large heart shapes. Write the words of 2 Corinthians 9:7 (today’s Bible verse) on each heart cutout.
- Give a heart cutout to a child and say: “This heart reminds me of love. Today’s Bible story helps me remember that giving offerings shows my love for Jesus.”
- Show the child the words written on the heart. Help the preschooler say the Bible verse words with you.
- Invite the child to make a joy reminder. Give the child stickers and crayons to decorate the heart. When the child is finished, punch two holes in the top of the heart and thread yarn through the holes to make a hanger.

WORK PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Heart Puzzles (Pack 33), Praise Matching Cards (Pack Item 34), 2 favorite wooden puzzles, Preschool Family Card

- Spread the puzzle options on a table, allowing space for several children to work puzzles at the same time.
- While children work the puzzles, recall today’s Bible story. Show the picture on the Family Card. Comment that when we give willingly as the poor woman did, we show that we love Jesus.

THE RETURN TO JERUSALEM

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

 **CIRCLE TIME****BIBLE STORY:**

The People Go Back
Ezra 1-3

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's people returned to their land as God planned.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

God said, "I will bring you back to your fathers' land."

Deuteronomy 30:5

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Spell the Bible Book
- Reveal a Picture
- Create a Shape Collage
- Read in a Tent

GATHER

- Play music as children walk to the Circle Time area.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 8) and review the Bible story, using the Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31) to initiate conversation about the Bible story.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to preschoolers, or tell children to retrieve their Bibles.
- Hold up the Ezra Bible Book Card (Pack Item 21) and say the name.
- Ask teachers to help preschoolers locate the book of Ezra in their Bibles.

PRAY

- Thank God for keeping His promise to the Israelites to bring them back to the land He had given them.
- Thank God for keeping His promises to us.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

SPELL THE BIBLE BOOK

Tools: Bible, Bible Book Cards (Pack Item 21), Activity Page, letter tiles to spell EZRA, plastic bowl

- Lay the *Ezra* Bible Book Card on a table with the bowl of letters.
- Read the word on the card and call out the letters. Tell a preschooler: “The same letters are in the bowl. Can you match them to the ones on the card? You will spell the name of a Bible book.”
- When the child successfully forms the word *Ezra*, help him locate the book in the Bible. Remark that this book was probably written by a man named Ezra. The book is in the Old Testament part of the Bible.
- Show the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story. Say: “Ezra loved God and served Him. God helped Ezra know what to write in the Bible about the people returning to Jerusalem.”

REVEAL A PICTURE

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: The People Go Back (Pack Item 8), pad of sticky notes

- Cover the entire Story Picture with the sticky notes.
- Invite children to remove sticky notes one at a time and tell something about the picture. As more of the picture is revealed, recall the Bible story.
- Open the Bible to Ezra 1 to show children where we read the Bible story in the Old Testament part of the Bible.
- Find Ezra’s name on the page and comment that Ezra wrote about the Israelites returning to Jerusalem.

CREATE A SHAPE COLLAGE

Tools: Bible, long piece of paper, tape, colored construction paper cut into shapes, glue sticks, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras)

- Glue today’s Verse Marker to the paper. Tape the paper to the wall at children’s eye level.
- Suggest that a few preschoolers at a time glue shapes to the paper. As children glue the shapes and work side by side, read the words on the Verse Marker.
- Open the Bible to Deuteronomy 30:5 and say: “Moses wrote those words so the Israelite people would remember that God promised to help them return to their homeland. And that is what happened!”
- Summarize today’s Bible story.

READ IN A TENT

Tools: Bible, child’s pop-up tent or sheet spread over a table, several books related to God and the Israelite people, Bible map showing Babylon and Jerusalem (opt.), Preschool Family Card

- Put the tent in a safe area and lay the books inside.
- Invite a child to sit in the tent to read.
- Show the preschooler the picture on the Family Card. Remark: “You are sitting in a tent to read. When the Israelites left Babylon to return to Jerusalem, they probably stopped along the way to rest at night. They may have slept in tents.”
- Recall the Bible story, then read a book to the child. Thank God for helping the people return to their homeland.
- Guide the child to locate Babylon and Jerusalem on the Bible times map.

A NEW TEMPLE

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Building a New Temple
Ezra 4-6

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God's people built a new temple for God.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Happy are those who are in God's house and praise Him.
Psalm 84:4

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Decorate the Bible Verse
- Play Musical Chairs
- Explore Tools
- Play "Start & Stop"



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- After moving to the circle, ask children to tell about their favorite activities at church today.
- Say: "I am glad you came to church. Our church is a place to worship God."

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Ezra 4. Say: "Today we've heard about the temple being built."
- Ask children to tell what they remember about the Bible story.
- Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 9).

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Distribute Bibles to children, or ask those who brought Bibles to get them.

- Help children locate the book of Psalms. Mention that the book is in the middle of the Bible.
- Help children find Psalm 84:4. Say the Bible verse with preschoolers.

PRAY

- Thank God for places where people can gather to worship God.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

DECORATE THE BIBLE VERSE

Tools: Bible, glue, watercolor paintbrushes, shiny gift wrap ribbon cut into pieces, bowl, thick paper, washable marker, happy face stickers

- Write on each paper today's Bible verse. Pour glue into the bowl and lay the brushes nearby.
- Give a paper and a small amount of gift wrap ribbon pieces to a child. Also provide a few happy face stickers. Suggest that the child paint some glue on his paper, then add pieces of shiny ribbon to decorate the paper.
- Read the Bible verse to the child. Say: "David wrote these words in the book of Psalms. That verse says that people who go to God's house to praise and worship Him are happy. We worship God at our church, and we are happy."
- Find the verse in the Bible and say it with the child.

PLAY MUSICAL CHAIRS

Tools: Bible, chairs (1 per child), large sticky note, Music & Print Extras

- Place chairs in a circle with seats facing out. Mark Ezra 4 in the Bible with a sticky note. Place the Bible in a chair.
- Invite children to make a circle around the chairs. Play music and tell children to walk slowly around the chairs.
- Stop the music. Direct children to sit in the chairs. Tell the child who sits in the seat with the Bible to open it to the sticky note.
- Say: "You found the book of Ezra. Today's story is found in the book of Ezra. Ezra was a prophet who wrote about things that happened to God's people, the Israelites."
- Play until every child has a turn to open the Bible.

EXPLORE TOOLS

Tools: Bible, foam blocks, golf tees, toy tools, wood blocks, sandpaper, measuring tape, safety goggles, trowel, Activity Page

- Show children the tools. Say: "Workers building the temple used tools. Do you see any tools in this picture?" Suggest that the men are using tools similar to trowels used today to spread mortar on bricks or blocks.
- Guide preschoolers to take turns using the tools to sand wood or measure lengths of blocks. Before a child hammers golf tees into foam blocks, tell him to put on the safety goggles.
- Recall the Bible story while children play. Comment that the people were happy when the temple was finished.
- Open the Bible to Psalm 84:4 and say today's Bible verse.

PLAY "START & STOP"

Tools: Bible, action cards (see Leader Tip), paper bag

- Drop the cards into the bag. Shake the bag and invite children to play a start-and-stop game. Tell children you will read an action statement, then say "Start." The children should do the action until you say "Stop." After doing all the actions, sit down with the children to rest.
- Say: "Starting and stopping during our game was fun. When the Israelites were building the temple for God, people in the towns and even the king stopped the work. After a long time, the work started again! Start and stop."

LEADER TIP!

Write these action statements on separate index cards:

- Go 3 steps.
- Sit down.
- Jump 2 times.
- Spin around.
- Shake your head.
- Go the other way.

HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Zechariah Encouraged God's People

Zechariah 1-14

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God wants people to love and obey Him.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

I will strengthen my people because I love them.

Zechariah 10:6

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Listen & Obey
- Work Heart Puzzles
- Decorate a Heart
- Dig & Discover



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Walk around the room and ring a bell. Chant these words:
I can obey. I can obey. I can go to Circle Time. I can obey.

- Open a Bible to Zechariah 10:6. Read the verse aloud. Lead children to say the verse together.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Show preschoolers the Story Picture (Pack Item 10). Point to Zechariah.
- Ask preschoolers to recall things they remember about Zechariah.
- Say: "God had special messages for His people, and Zechariah was one of God's messengers. Zechariah told the Israelites to love and obey God."

PRAY

- Ask God to help boys and girls love Him and obey His commands.
- Thank God for sending a Helper, Jesus, to lead people and be their King forever.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Remark: "The Bible tells us that God will give us strength because He loves us."

LISTEN & OBEY

Tools: Bible, Activity Page

- Invite children to play a game. Whisper an instruction in one child's ear and direct the child to do what you say to do. Friends will guess what the instruction was. Give everyone a turn to hear an instruction and obey it.
- Give instructions such as: tiptoe to the door, take four giant steps, sit under a table, flap arms like a bird flying.
- Comment: "God wants us to listen to what our pastor and teachers and families tell us to do. Zechariah told God's people they should love God and obey Him."
- Show the picture on the Activity Page as you summarize the Bible story.

WORK HEART PUZZLES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Zechariah Encouraged God's People (Pack Item 10), Heart Puzzles (Pack Item 33), scissors, self-stick magnetic tape, small magnet board or metal pan

- Cut small pieces of magnetic tape to attach to puzzle pieces. Provide a magnet board on which a child can put together the puzzle pieces.
- Show the Story Picture to a child and remark that Zechariah encouraged God's people to love God and obey Him. Zechariah told the people that God would strengthen them because He loved them.
- Give the magnet board to the child and invite him to put together puzzle pieces. Each of the puzzles has a message related to God and people. Read the words and associate them with today's story.

DECORATE A HEART

Tools: Bible, large paper hearts (1 heart for each child), assorted heart stickers, crayons, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras), washable marker

- Write today's Bible verse on each heart cutout. Mark the verse in the Bible with the Verse Marker.
- Give each child a heart cutout and some stickers and crayons.
- Say: "Heart shapes remind me about love. God loved His people and wanted to help them. Our Bible verse says that God would strengthen or help His people because He loved them."
- Encourage the preschoolers to decorate their heart shapes to remind them that God wants us to love Him and obey what He says to do.
- Guide children to consider ways they can show their love for God by obeying Him.

DIG & DISCOVER

Tools: Bible; dishpan filled with shredded paper; 6 small objects on which to write words (wooden block, small gift box, plastic cup, plastic lid, for example); marker

- Write one word on each object, then hide all the objects in the paper. Words to write on objects might include: *Love, Obey, God, Zechariah, King, new city.*
- Invite a child to feel in the paper for an object. When she discovers one, read the word written on the object. Relate the word to today's Bible story, Text Truth, or Bible verse.
- Open the Bible to Zechariah 1 and recall the Bible story. Encourage the child to listen for what Zechariah told God's people to do.

GOD FIRST

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:
_____**YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:**
_____**YOUR CLASSROOM:**
_____**OPTIONS**

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Haggai's Message

Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-9

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Do God's work and be blessed.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Think carefully about what you do.

Haggai 1:7

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Play with a Dollhouse
- Make a People Poster
- Toss a Ball
- Choose What to Do

 **CIRCLE TIME****GATHER**

- Play music as you lead children to the circle.
- Tell children to listen for songs that tell about God.

- Lead children to repeat the Bible name a few times.

PRAY

- Ask God to help children think carefully about what they do and choose to put God first.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Haggai 1. Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 11) as you review the story.
- Say: "God wants us to put Him first in our lives. When we do God's work, we will be blessed."

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Go around the circle and ask each child to say his name.
- Open the Bible to the book of Haggai and point to the prophet's name. Say: "Haggai is an unusual name, isn't it? Let's say it together."

PLAY WITH A DOLLHOUSE

Tools: Bible, dollhouse and furnishings, toy people figures, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras)

- Use today's Verse Marker to mark Haggai 1:7 in the Bible.
- Invite children to play with the dollhouse. Encourage children to respect one another and take turns.
- During pretend play, listen for opportunities to talk about places where we live. Remark that God helps families have places to live.
- Open the Bible to the marker and say today's Bible verse. Comment: "God's people built houses for themselves, but they did not build a house for God. God was not happy about this. That is why Haggai told the people to think about what they had done."
- Recall more of the Bible story as children play.

MAKE A PEOPLE POSTER

Tools: Bible, long piece of wide paper, tape, glue sticks, picture cutouts of people, marker

- Tape the paper to the wall at children's eye level. Across the top of the paper write today's Bible verse.
- Invite a child to choose pictures to glue on the paper. While the child works, read the Bible verse. Point to some pictures on the poster and comment that God wants every person to think carefully about what he does.
- Turn to Haggai 1:7 in the Bible. Lead the child to say the verse with you.
- Give other children turns to add pictures to the poster.

TOSS A BALL

Tools: Bible, beach ball or large bouncy ball, Activity Page, Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31)

- Slip the Activity Page into the Bible at Haggai 1.
- Invite a few children to play a game. Show children the picture on the Activity Page and recall that Haggai talked to the people and told them what God said to do.
- Say: "Let's remember more about that story. I will bounce the ball to you and ask a question. Tell me your answer." Use the Bible Story Questions.
- After most children have answered a question, open the Bible to Haggai 1:7 and help children say today's Bible verse.

CHOOSE WHAT TO DO

Tools: Bible, index cards, marker, Music & Print Extras, Story Picture: Haggai's Message (Pack Item 11)

- On each card, write two choices a child could make. (See the Leader Tip.) All the statements suggest a choice or action that would put God first.
- Tell the children you will read a statement. Preschoolers should listen and decide which is the better choice.
- After reading all the statements and talking about the choices we can make, play the song "More Than Anything" (track 10).
- Say: "This song helps us think about what we should do first and what is more important. Haggai told God's people to put God first: build His house and do His work."

LEADER TIP!

Statements to write on cards:

- Watch a TV show./Read the Bible.
- Go to church./Sleep late.
- Give your money at church./Buy candy for yourself.
- Obey God./Disobey God.
- Do what God says to do./Do what you want to do.

PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

Nehemiah Prayed
Nehemiah 1-2

The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

God hears our prayers for help.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Seek God and His strength.
1 Chronicles 16:11

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Find Hidden Letters
- Talk Through Tubes
- Spin & Review
- Make a Paper Chain



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Help children sing these words (tune “Row, Row, Row Your Boat”):
We can pray to God; we can pray to God. Any-where at any-time, Yes, we can pray to God.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Nehemiah 1. Show children the Story Picture (Pack Item 12) as you review the Bible story.
- Say: “God heard the prayers of Nehemiah. Nehemiah trusted God to help him be brave and strong when he went to see the king.”
- Repeat the song.

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Open the Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:11. Read the verse aloud. Lead preschoolers to repeat the verse.

- Distribute a few Bibles to the group and ask teachers to help children locate the Bible verse.
- Say: “Both the Bible story and the Bible verse are from books in the Old Testament. The Old Testament tells about people and events in the time before Jesus was born.”

PRAY

- Ask God to help children seek God's help.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

FIND HIDDEN LETTERS

Tools: Bible, magnetic letters to spell the word PRAY, index card, marker, cookie sheet or magnet board, shoebox filled with shredded paper, Activity Page

- Hide the magnetic letters in the paper. Print the word PRAY on the index card and attach the card to the cookie sheet.
- Invite a child to find letters in the box to spell the word. Lead the child to identify and say the letters.
- Say: “P-R-A-Y. Pray. Nehemiah prayed and asked God to help him. God hears us pray to Him. God wants us to seek Him and His strength.”
- Show the child the picture on the Activity Page and recall the Bible story.

TALK THROUGH TUBES

Tools: Bible, Story Picture: Nehemiah Prayed, assorted PVC pipe pieces, cardboard tubes, marker

- Show children how to connect straight pieces of pipe with elbow- and T-shaped pieces. Often, these connections produce a “telephone” with which children can make calls. Encourage children to pretend to call family members or friends.
- Also provide a cardboard tube for each preschooler. Write a child’s name on his tube. Suggest that the child use his tube to talk to a friend. Use a tube yourself to whisper today’s Bible verse.
- Comment: “Did you hear me whisper? I said to seek God’s strength. God heard Nehemiah pray for strength, and God helped Nehemiah.”
- Lead children to speak the Bible verse through their tubes.

SPIN & REVIEW

Tools: Bible, Color Spinner (Pack Item 24), Bible Story Questions (Pack Item 31), Preschool Family Card

- Open the Bible to the Family Card marking Nehemiah
1. Say to a child: “Today, we have been learning about Nehemiah. Let’s review the story we’ve heard and remember some things about this man and what he did.”
- Invite the child to flip the Color Spinner and identify the color the arrow points to. Guide the preschooler to get the Story Question card that is the same color.
- Read the question and pause for the child’s reply. Repeat with other children to give everyone a turn.

MAKE A PAPER CHAIN

Tools: Bible, construction paper cut into 1-inch-wide strips, tape, markers or crayons

- Distribute several paper strips to each child. Ask the child to name different people or situations for which he might pray. Write the child’s ideas on the strips.
- Give the preschooler markers or crayons to decorate the paper strips. When he is done, show the preschooler how to create a chain by looping and taping the strips to one another.
- Comment: “God hears us pray for these things. God wants to help people when they pray to Him. We can pray anytime and anywhere.”
- Open the Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:11. Read the verse. Remind children that when we pray, we are seeking God’s help.

CELEBRATE GOD'S GOODNESS

YOUR TEACHING PARTNER:

YOUR TIME TO ARRIVE:

YOUR CLASSROOM:

OPTIONS

1. Continue explorations from first hour.
2. Try something different. Choose two or three new explorations.

REMINDERS

- Use the Bible!
- Talk to children about the Bible.
- Give children an Activity Page and Preschool Family Card to take home.

SCHEDULE

- Restroom & Snack (10 min.)
- Exploration Activities (30-40 min.)
- Circle Time (10 min.)
- Wrap-up (5 min.)

BIBLE STORY:

New Walls for Jerusalem
Nehemiah 3-6; 12:27-43
The Bible story is printed on the back of the Story Picture.

TEXT TRUTH:

Praise God for His goodness.

BIBLE VERSE PARAPHRASE:

Enter His gates with thanksgiving. God is good.
Psalms 100:4-5

EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES

See next page.

- Spin & Say
- Sticks Blocks on Plastic
- Walk in a Praise Parade
- Make a "Good Things" Picture



CIRCLE TIME

GATHER

- Sing the song "God Is So Good" as the group moves to the Circle Time area.
- After everyone is seated, comment: "We can praise God for His goodness. How has God been good to you?"
- Affirm children's responses.

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Open the Bible to Nehemiah 3. Show the Story Picture (Pack Item 13) as you review the Bible story.
- Toss a beanbag to each child. Say: "Tell something you remember from the story."

PRACTICE BIBLE SKILLS

- Lead children to repeat the song "God Is So Good." Sing:

*I praise God's name. I praise God's name. I praise God's name; God's so good to me.
God loves me so. God loves me so. God loves me so; God's so good to me.*

- After singing, open the Bible to Psalm 100:4-5 and show children the words of today's Bible verse.

PRAY

- Thank God for His goodness. Ask God to help children be thankful for the many ways God provides for them.

WRAP UP

- Form groups of two or three preschoolers and a teacher. Look at the Activity Page, review the Bible story, and say the Bible verse.

SPIN & SAY

Tools: Bible, small plastic turntable, large paper arrow, tape, Story Picture: New Walls for Jerusalem (Pack Item 13)

- Tape the arrow to the turntable with the point facing outward. Tell children to sit in a circle on the floor. Place the turntable in the center of the circle.
- Name a child to spin the turntable. When the turntable stops, call on the child to whom the arrow is pointing. Say: “Tell me something you know about God.”
- Acknowledge the child’s response, giving suggestions if needed.
- Give every child a turn to speak. Relate the children’s comments to recognizing God’s goodness to us.
- Show the Story Picture and summarize the Bible story.

STICK BLOCKS ON PLASTIC

Tools: Bible, large piece of contact plastic, tape, foam blocks or cubes, Activity Page, Preschool Verse Markers (Music & Print Extras)

- Tape the contact plastic to the wall with the sticky side facing out. Center today’s Verse Marker on the plastic.
- Invite a preschooler to stick foam blocks to the sticky surface. Suggest she create a pattern or design.
- Say: “The blocks remind me of bricks in a wall.” Show the picture on the Activity Page and point to the blocks in the wall.
- Remark: “The people marched around the new wall. They praised and thanked God because He had been so good to them.”
- Say today’s Text Truth and lead the child to say the words with you.

WALK IN A PRAISE PARADE

Tools: Bible, Music & Print Extras, long ribbons or crepe paper streamers

- Play music and give preschoolers the ribbons or streamers to wave as they walk in a praise parade around the room.
- Talk about worshiping God and praising Him for His goodness. Say: “We can worship God with our voices, our actions, and our thoughts. God wants us to be thankful to Him.”
- Turn to Nehemiah 12 and summarize today’s Bible story. Tell children that God loved the people and helped them repair the walls and build new gates in Jerusalem.
- Guide preschoolers to say today’s Bible verse together.

MAKE A "GOOD THINGS" PICTURE

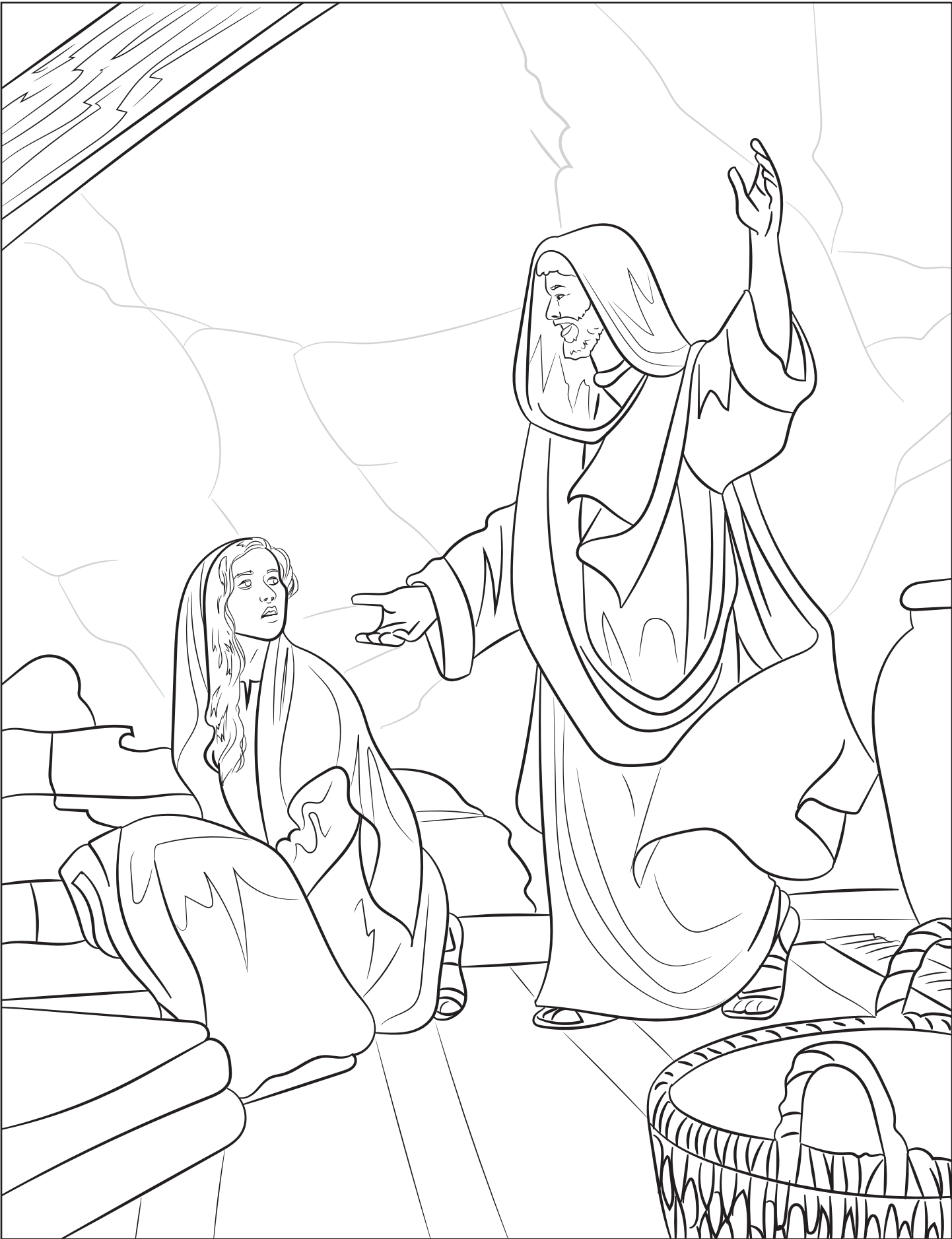
Tools: Bible; paper; washable marker; picture cutouts of people, homes, clothes, pets, food, nature scenes; glue sticks

- In the center of each paper, write the name **GOD** in large letters. Scatter pictures on a table within reach of children.
- Invite children to choose pictures to glue on paper. Say: “God’s name is written on your paper. The pictures show good things that God provides for people because He loves them. The Bible says to praise God for His goodness to us.”
- Lead children to say today’s Bible verse as they work on their pictures.



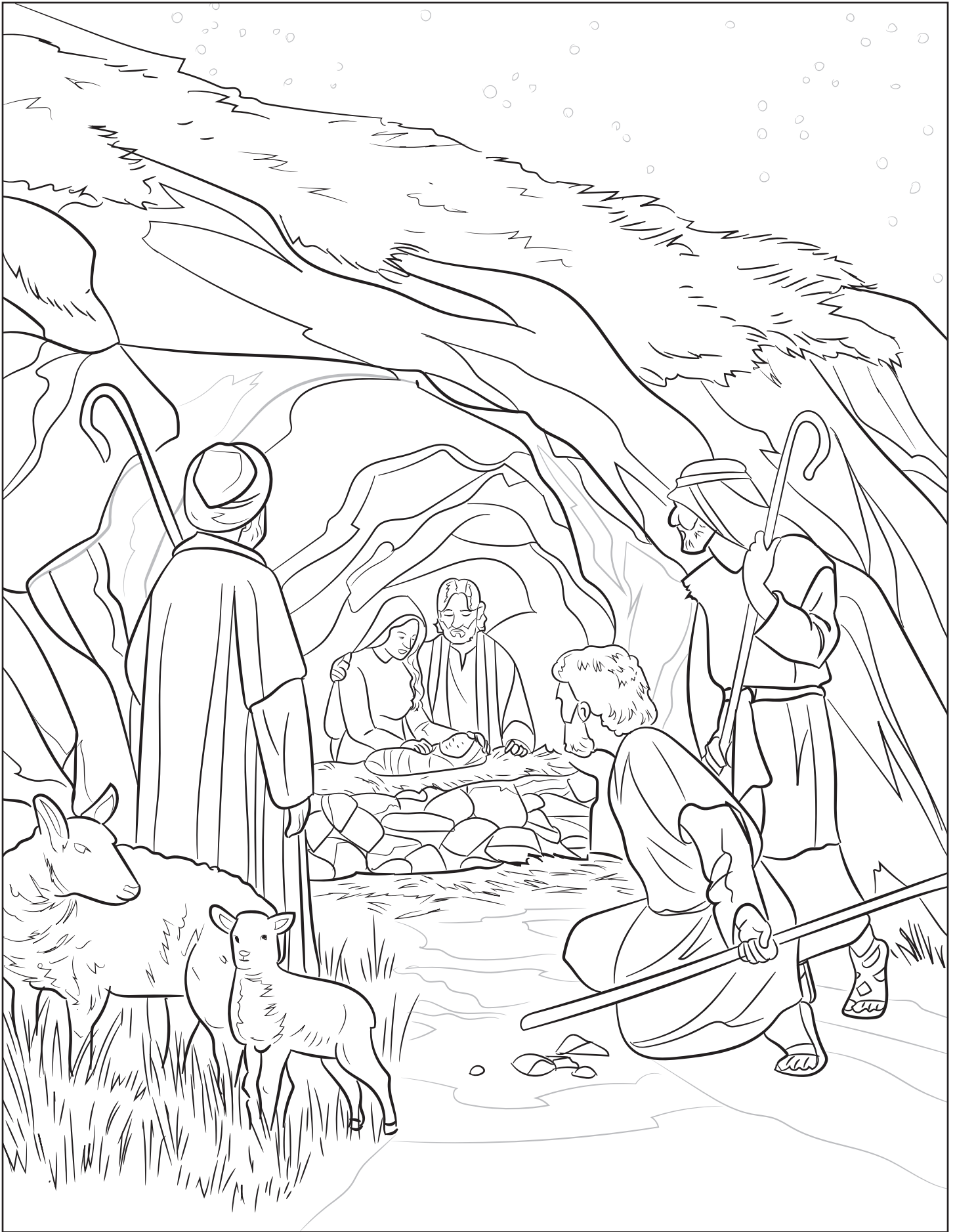
STORY PICTURE PAGE 1: A SON FOR ZECARIAH

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 2: NEWS FOR MARY AND JOSEPH

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 3: THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24

© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 4: SIMEON AND ANNA SEE JESUS

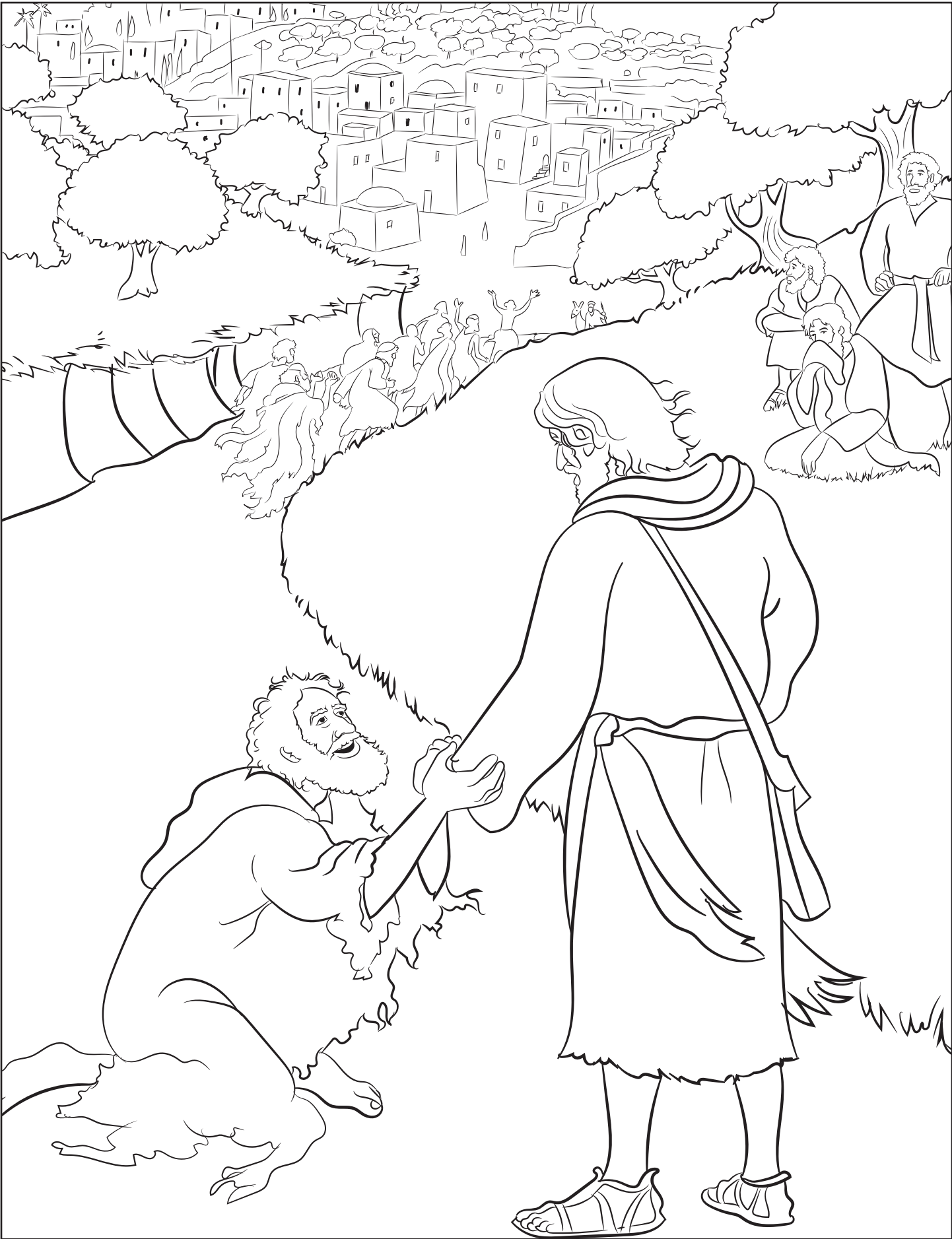
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24

© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 5: A FATHER AND HIS SON

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 6: ONLY ONE THANK-YOU

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



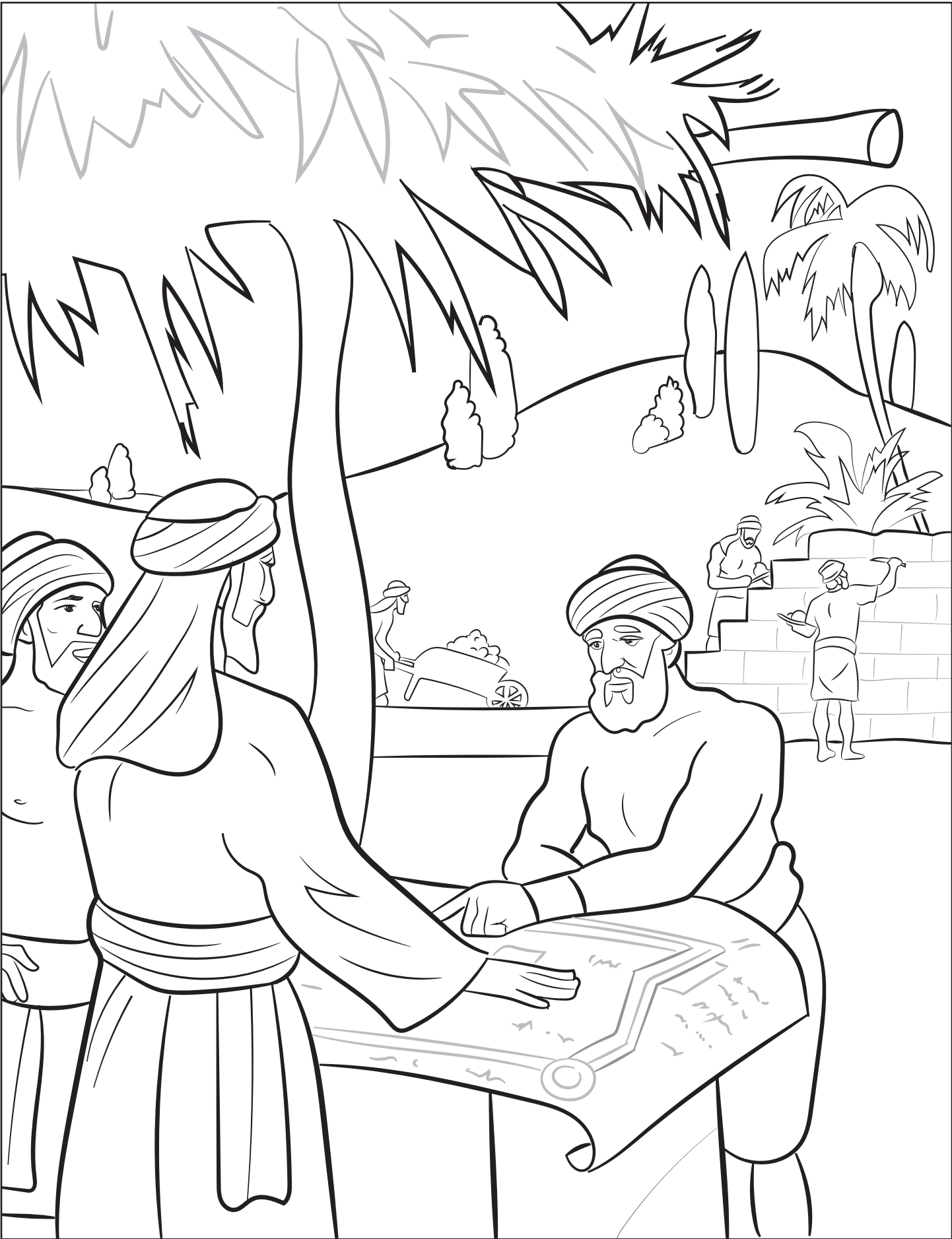
STORY PICTURE PAGE 7: A WOMAN'S OFFERING

Explore the Bible: *Preschool Music & Print Extras*, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 8: THE PEOPLE GO BACK

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 9: BUILDING A NEW TEMPLE
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 10: HOPE FOR GOD'S PEOPLE

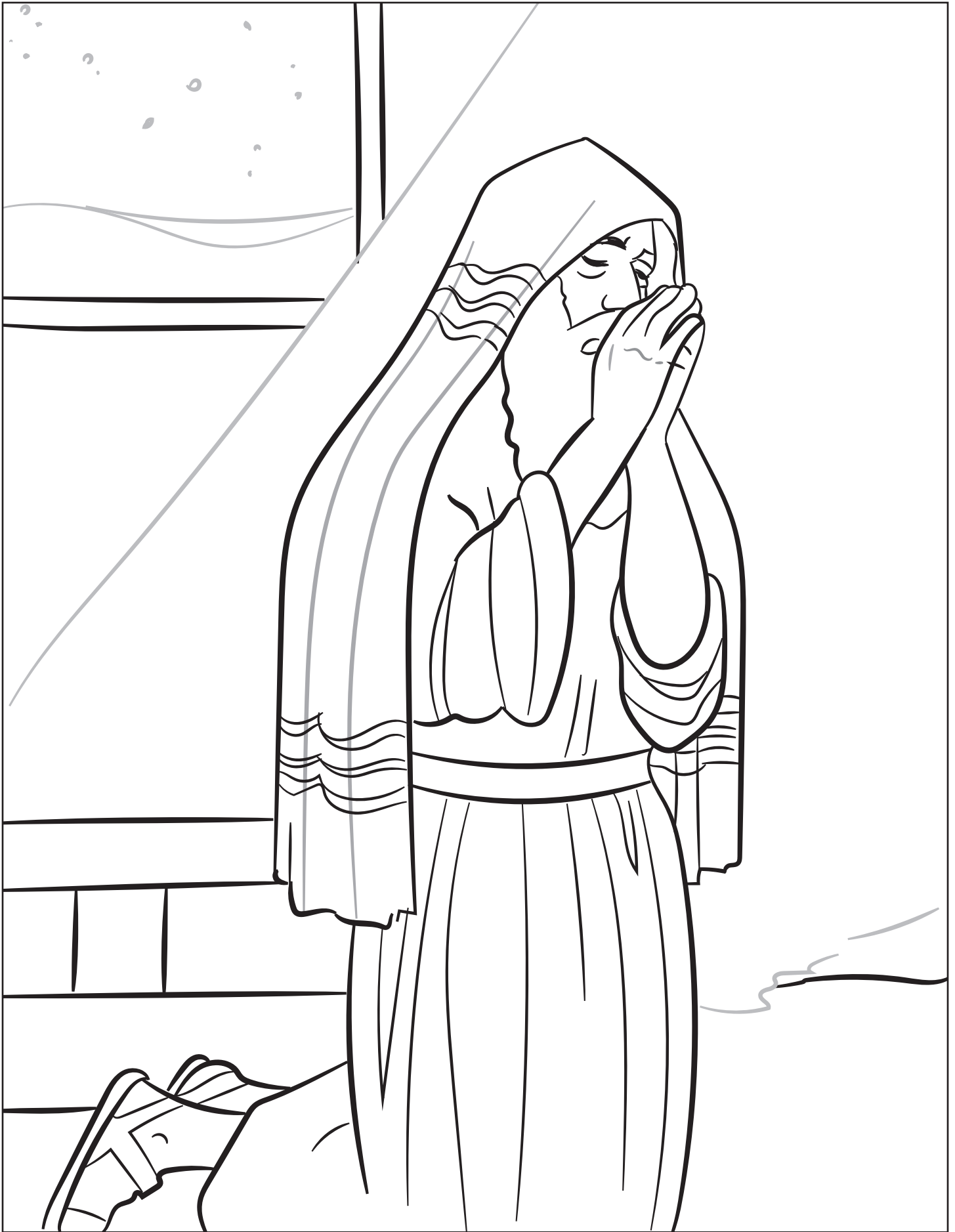
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24

© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



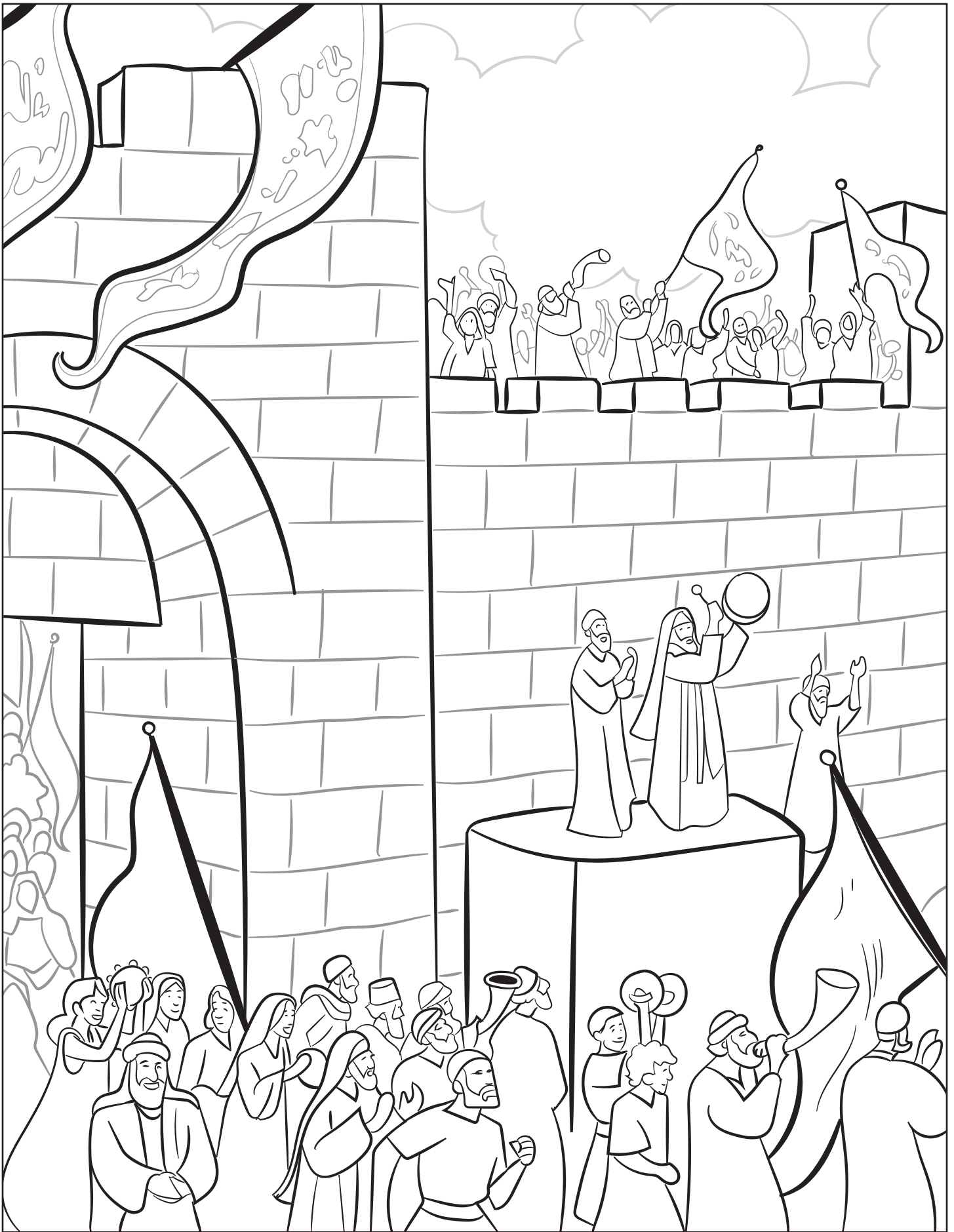
STORY PICTURE PAGE 11: HAGGAI'S MESSAGE

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 12: NEHEMIAH PRAYED

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



STORY PICTURE PAGE 13: NEW WALLS FOR JERUSALEM

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24

© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.

Families!

Allergy Alert!

Today in our class we are

Tasting

Touching

Is that OK?

Please tell us if
your child may
not participate.

THANKS!



BABY PICTURES

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



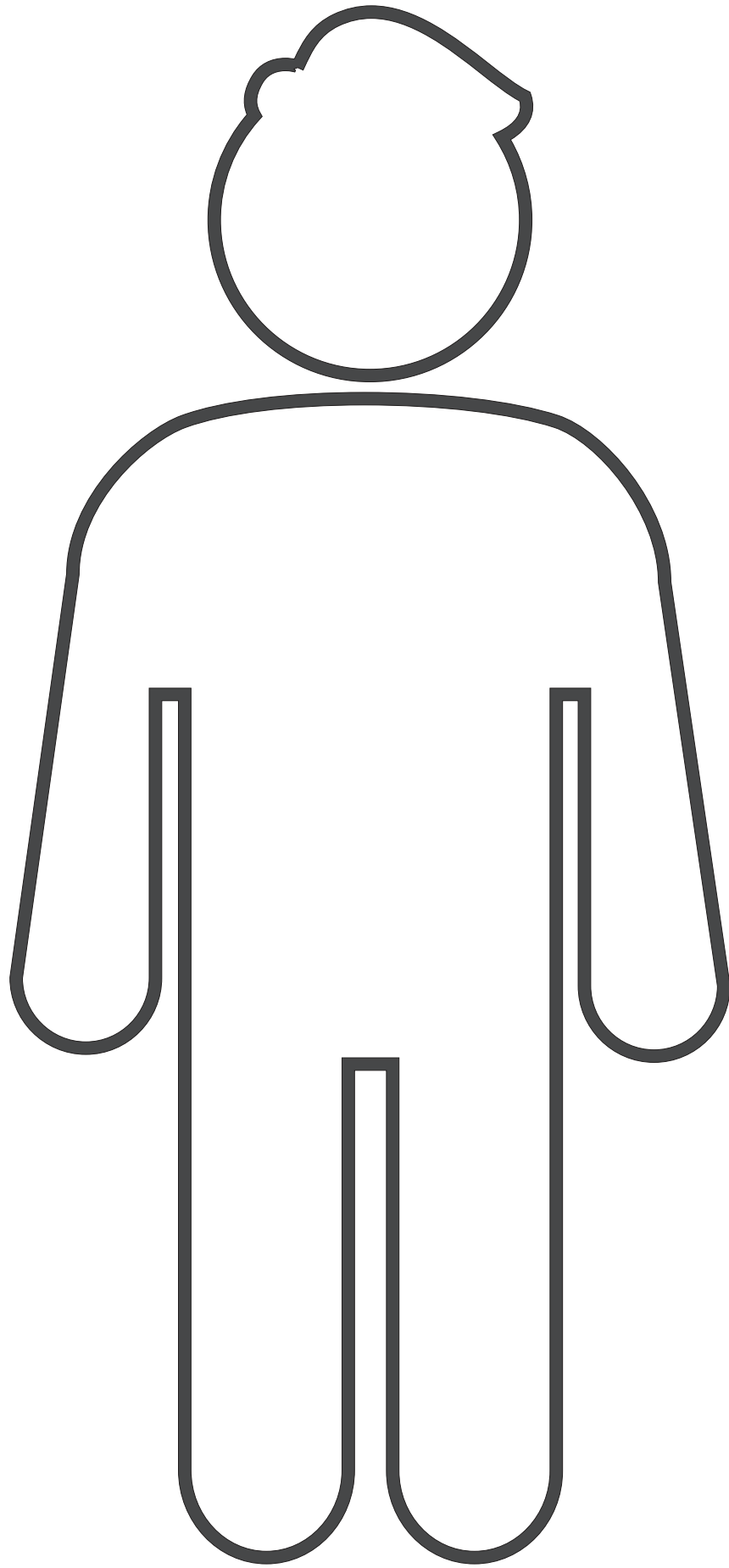
BIBLE TIMES COINS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



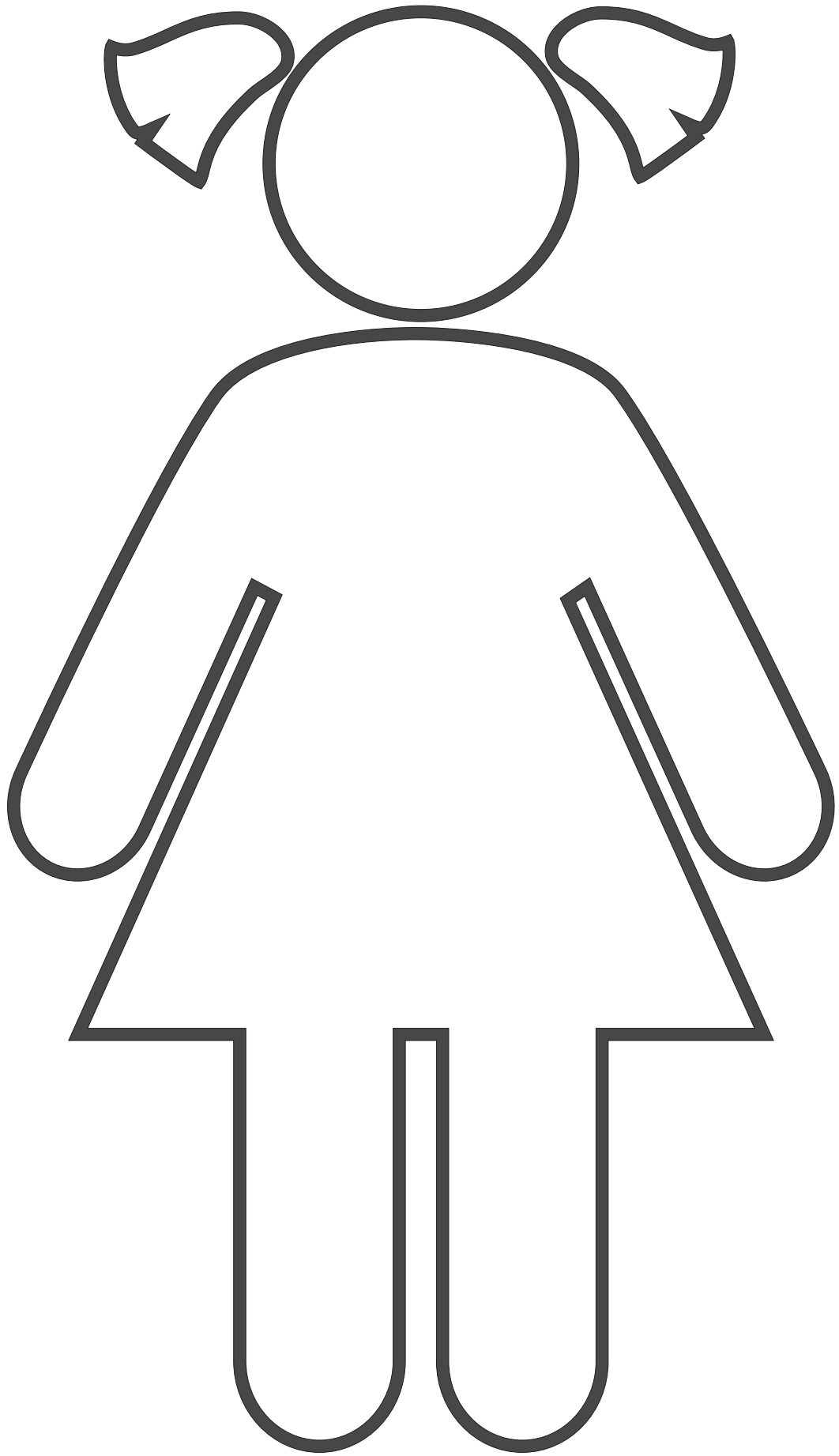
BIBLE TIMES SANDALS

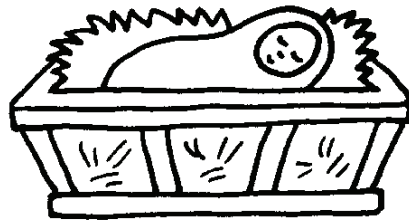
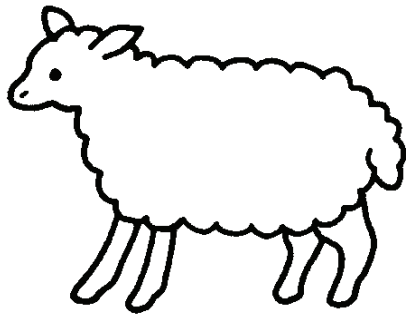
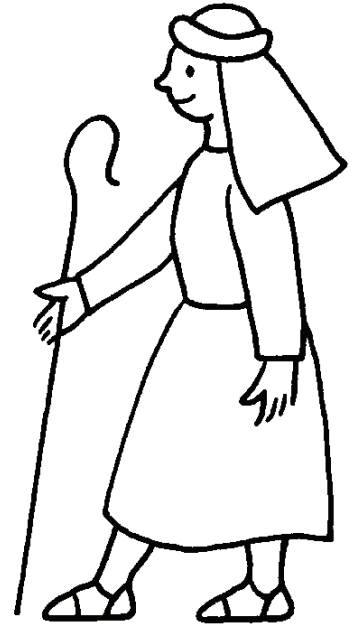
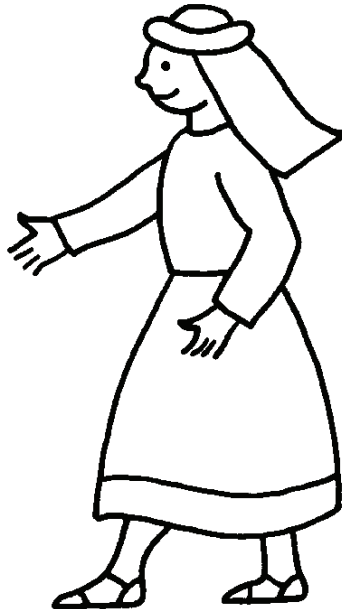
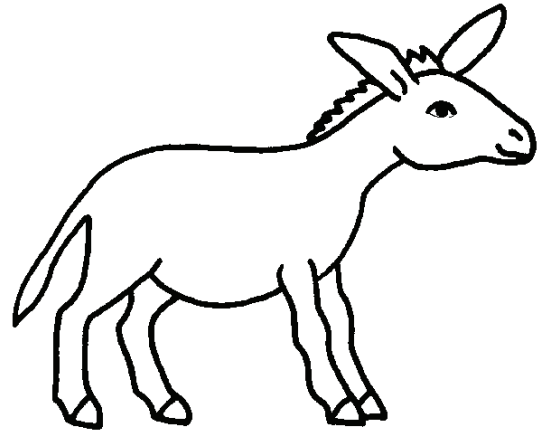
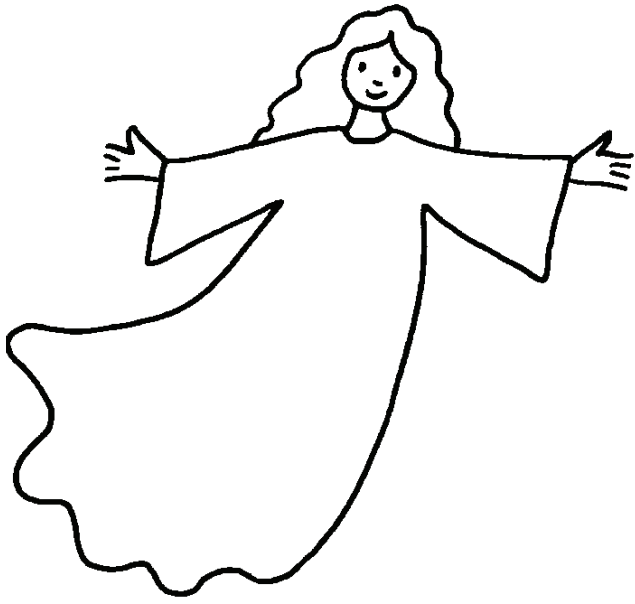
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



CHILD FIGURE OUTLINES

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.





CRAFT STICK NATIVITY FIGURES

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



GIVING PICTURES

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



MEDICAL BAG OUTLINE

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



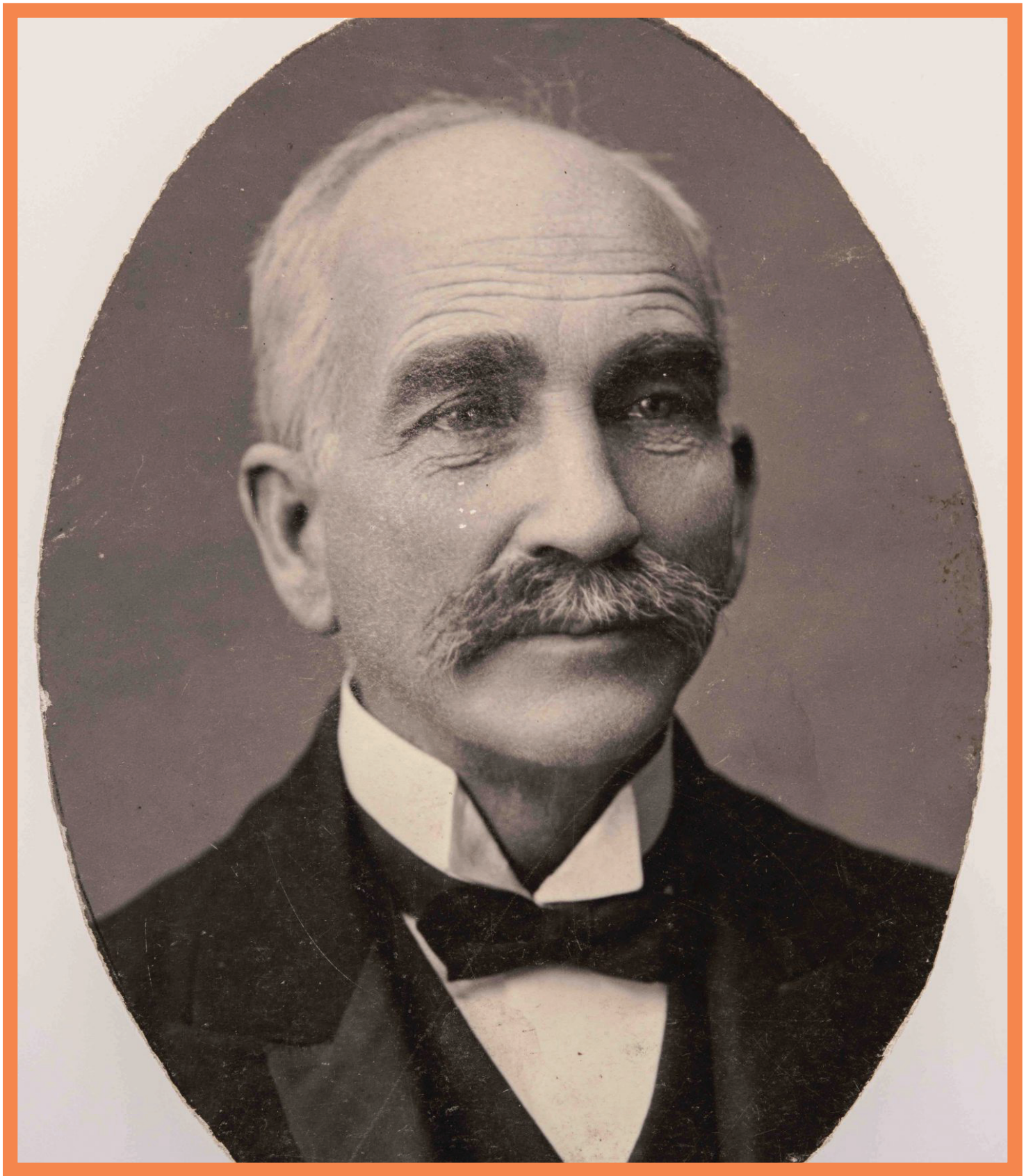
The White Family

MISSIONARY PHOTOS

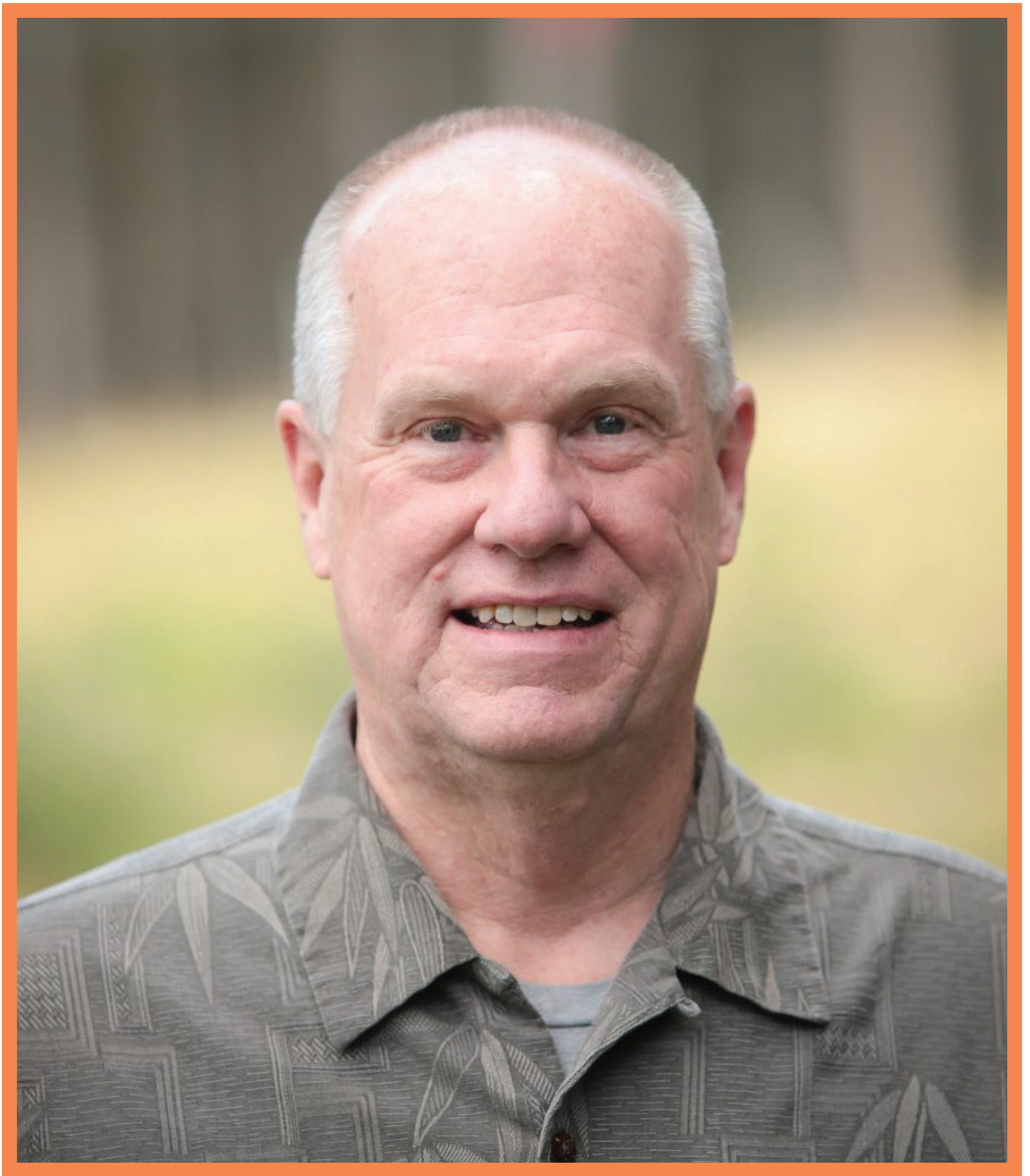
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



The Phillips Family



Cisero Washington Pruitt



Dave Howeth



The Cook family

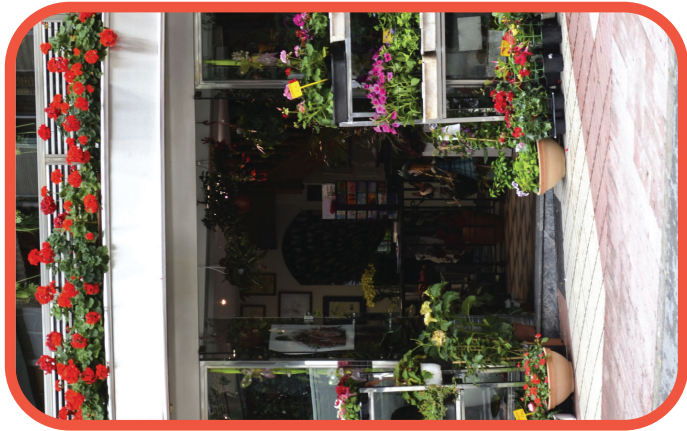


The Dubale family



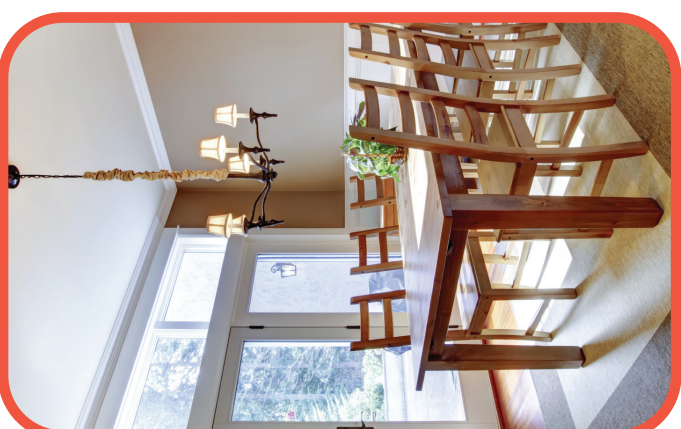
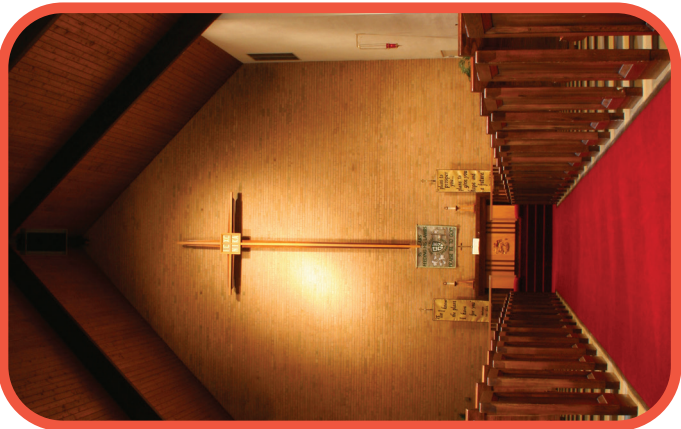
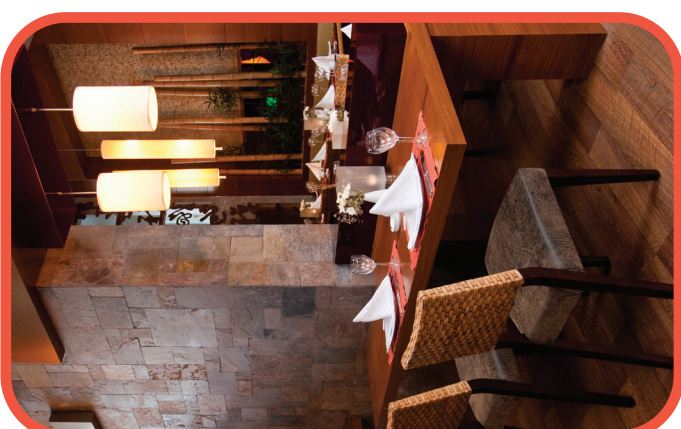
PEOPLE PICTURES

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



PLACES TO PRAY

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



Session 1

You will tell people
about God's Son, Jesus.

Luke 1:76

Session 2

You will have a son, and you
will name Him Jesus.

Luke 1:31

Session 3

Today a Savior was born for you.
He is Jesus.

Luke 2:11

Session 4

People thanked God
for sending His Son, Jesus.

Luke 2:38

Session 5

God has shown great love for us,
His children.

1 John 3:1

Session 6

I will praise God with all my heart.

Psalm 111:1

Session 7

Give your offerings with joy.

2 Corinthians 9:7

Session 8

God said, “I will bring you back to your fathers’ land.”

Deuteronomy 30:5

Session 9

Happy are those who are in God’s house and praise Him.

Psalm 84:4

Session 10

I will strengthen My people
because I love them.

Zechariah 10:6

Session 11

Think carefully about what you do.

Haggai 1:7

Session 12

Seek God and His strength.

1 Chronicles 16:11

Session 13

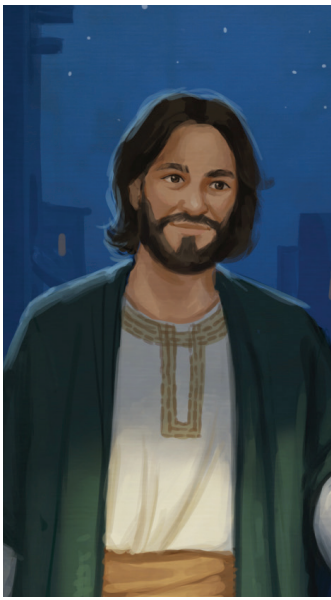
Enter His gates with thanksgiving.
God is good.

Psalms 100:4-5

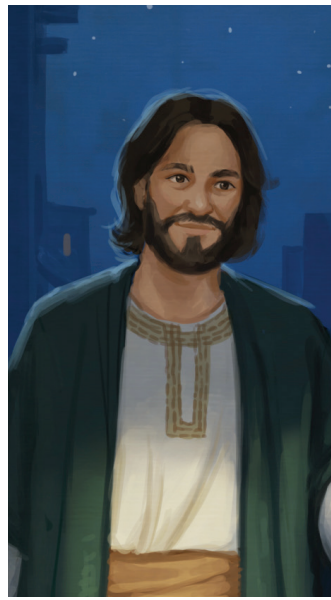


QUETZEL PICTURE

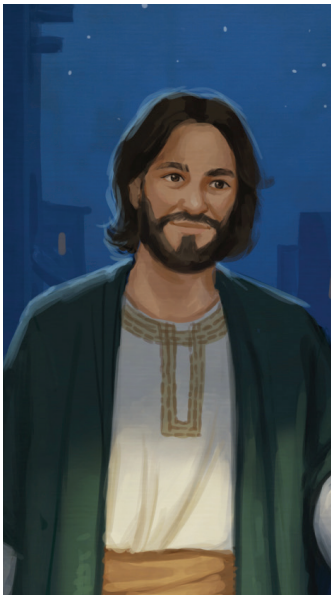
Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.



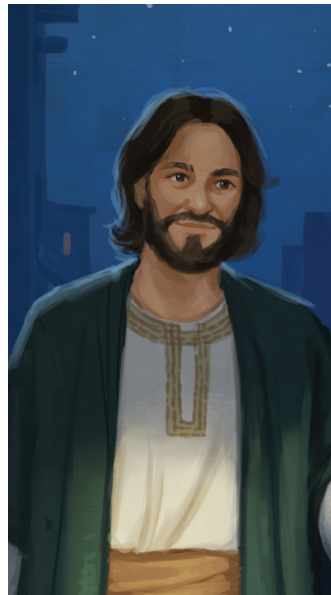
**Jesus
loves
you.**



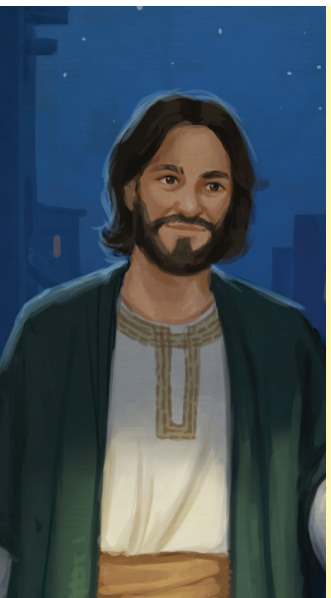
**Jesus
wants
you to
believe
in Him.**



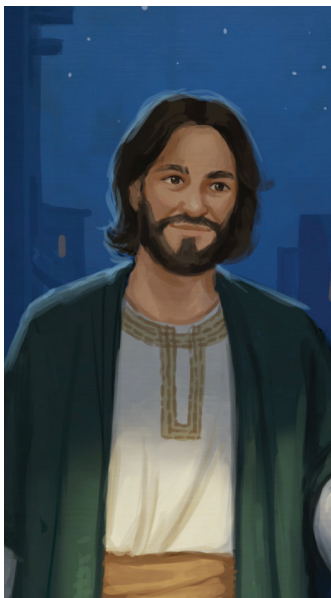
**Jesus
will help
you.**



**Jesus
is God's
Son.**



**Jesus
cares
about
you.**



**Jesus
will show
you how
to live.**

TELL ABOUT JESUS CARDS

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.

Trail Mix



2 scoops fish-shaped crackers



1 scoop O-shaped cereal



1 scoop mini pretzels



1 scoop raisins



1 scoop miniature marshmallows

TRAIL MIX RECIPE

Explore the Bible: Preschool Music & Print Extras, Winter 2023-24
© 2023 Lifeway. OK to copy.

AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
I	Dec. 3	God's Messenger	John helped people get ready for Jesus.
2	Dec. 10	A Family Is Chosen	God chose a family for Jesus.
3	Dec. 17	God's Son Is Born	Jesus was born.
4	Dec. 24	Praises for God's Son	People praised God for the coming of Jesus.
5	Dec. 31	Loved by God	God loves us.
6	Jan. 7	Give Thanks	Give thanks to God.
7	Jan. 14	Offerings to God	Give offerings.
8	Jan. 21	The Return to Jerusalem	God had a plan for His people to go home.
9	Jan. 28	A New Temple	God's people built a new temple for God.
10	Feb. 4	Hope for God's People	God wants people to love and obey Him.
11	Feb. 11	God First	Do what God says to do.
12	Feb. 18	Pray for God's Help	God hears our prayers for help.
13	Feb. 25	Celebrate God's Goodness	Praise God for His goodness.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: BABIES & TODDLERS WINTER 2023-24

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
	A Son for Zechariah (<i>Luke 1:1-25,57-80</i>)	Luke 1:76
	News for Mary and Joseph (<i>Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24; Isaiah 9:6</i>)	Luke 1:31
	The Story of Jesus' Birth (<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>)	Luke 2:11
	Simeon and Anna See Jesus (<i>Luke 2:21-38</i>)	Luke 2:38
	A Father and His Son (<i>Luke 15:11-32</i>)	1 John 3:2
	Only One Thank-you (<i>Luke 17:11-19</i>)	Psalms 111:1
	A Woman's Offering (<i>Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44</i>)	2 Corinthians 9:7
	The People Go Back (<i>Ezra 1-3</i>)	Deuteronomy 30:5
	Building a New Temple (<i>Ezra 4-6</i>)	Psalms 84:4
	Zechariah Encouraged God's People (<i>Zechariah 1-14</i>)	Zechariah 10:6
	Haggai's Message (<i>Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-9</i>)	Haggai 1:7
	Nehemiah Prayed (<i>Nehemiah 1-2</i>)	1 Chronicles 16:11
	New Walls for Jerusalem (<i>Nehemiah 3-6; 12:27-43</i>)	Psalms 100:4-5

AT-A-GLANCE

SESSION	SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF	SESSION TITLE	TEXT TRUTH
1	Dec. 3	God's Messenger	John helped people get ready for Jesus.
2	Dec. 10	A Family Is Chosen	God chose a family for Jesus.
3	Dec. 17	God's Son Is Born	God's Son, Jesus, was born.
4	Dec. 24	Praises for God's Son	People praised God for the coming of Jesus.
5	Dec. 31	Loved by God	We are God's children, and He loves us.
6	Jan. 7	Give Thanks	Give glory to God.
7	Jan. 14	Offerings to God	Giving offerings shows our love for Jesus.
8	Jan. 21	The Return to Jerusalem	God's people returned to their land as God planned.
9	Jan. 28	A New Temple	God's people built a new temple for God.
10	Feb. 4	Hope for God's People	God wants people to love and obey Him.
11	Feb. 11	God First	Do God's work and be blessed.
12	Feb. 18	Pray for God's Help	God hears our prayers for help.
13	Feb. 25	Celebrate God's Goodness	Praise God for His goodness.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE: PRESCHOOL WINTER 2023-24

	BIBLE STORY	BIBLE VERSE
	A Son for Zechariah (<i>Luke 1:1-25,57-80</i>)	Luke 1:76
	News for Mary and Joseph (<i>Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24; Isaiah 9:6</i>)	Luke 1:31
	The Story of Jesus' Birth (<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>)	Luke 2:11
	Simeon and Anna See Jesus (<i>Luke 2:21-38</i>)	Luke 2:38
	A Father and His Son (<i>Luke 15:11-32</i>)	1 John 3:1
	Only One Thank-you (<i>Luke 17:11-19</i>)	Psalm 111:1
	A Woman's Offering (<i>Luke 21:1-4; Mark 12:41-44</i>)	2 Corinthians 9:7
	The People Go Back (<i>Ezra 1-3</i>)	Deuteronomy 30:5
	Building a New Temple (<i>Ezra 4-6</i>)	Psalm 84:4
	Zechariah Encouraged God's People (<i>Zechariah 1-14</i>)	Zechariah 10:6
	Haggai's Message (<i>Haggai 1:1-15; 2:1-9</i>)	Haggai 1:7
	Nehemiah Prayed (<i>Nehemiah 1-2</i>)	1 Chronicles 16:11
	New Walls for Jerusalem (<i>Nehemiah 3-6; 12:27-43</i>)	Psalm 100:4-5