

PRIMARY PAWS

Units 4,5,6 — Winter

We're going
to find out
all about how
Jesus came
to earth.

He set us a
good example
in lots of
ways.

I like to
learn about
Jesus!

I can hardly
wait to hear
the stories
He told!



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Booklet Instructions

Remove the staples and cover sheet. Then use one lesson sheet each week.

Primary Pals

(USPS 757-530)

Units 4,5,6

Apostolic Faith Church

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Dear Parents,

The lessons for this winter quarter begin with the birth of Jesus and continue through some of the events which took place in the course of His life on earth. The final unit focuses on some of the parables or teachings that He gave during that time.

You will find opportunities to reinforce your child's learning experiences as you follow the suggestions given in the Parent's Corner of each week's take-home paper. We can teach the lessons and plant the ideas, but we need you to help your child see how these lessons apply to his own life.

Post the weekly memory verse where you child can see it, and help him to learn it. Encourage him to read the story and complete the activities that are in the weekly take-home paper. These will deal with the lesson for the coming Sunday.

We appreciate the opportunity you have given us to work with your child, and we pray that this study of Jesus and His life on earth will be a real foundation for your child's faith.

Apostolic Faith Teaching Staff

PRIMARY PALS



Message from an Angel

Mary could hardly believe her eyes! She had thought she was alone as she worked. Then suddenly, there was an angel standing before her! He greeted her and began his message. He told Mary God was with her, and she was the most blessed of all women.

Mary did not understand what this meant. She knew God was always with her, but this sounded different. Was He to be even closer? And to call her blessed! What could this mean? She was still a young lady, and she was afraid.

The angel told her not to be afraid. He said God was very pleased with

her. But the next words he spoke seemed to echo around her.

“Thou shalt . . . bring forth a son . . . He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest. . . .”

Mary knew that this really was an angel sent by God. The message he had brought was amazing, but since it was from God it had to be true. Still, she wondered . . . how could this thing be? How could it possibly be?

The angel had said that her baby would be the Son of God! She loved God, but her family was just ordinary. They had no special place of honor in the city. Surely, if God was going to

send His Son to earth, He would want Him to be born into a royal family. Surely, God would choose a queen to be the mother of His Son. Mary had never had a child before. How could she be trusted to raise God's own Son?

As the angel spoke to her and explained what was to happen, Mary's fear began to go away. If this was what God wanted, she was willing to do her part. God would give her the strength and wisdom she needed.

As she thought about the angel's message, her wonder and amazement grew. A baby boy! She was going to have a tiny baby boy to hold and love and care for. Her son would be God's




Son, Jesus. Then she said, from the bottom of her heart, "I belong to You, God. Whatever You say, I will do."

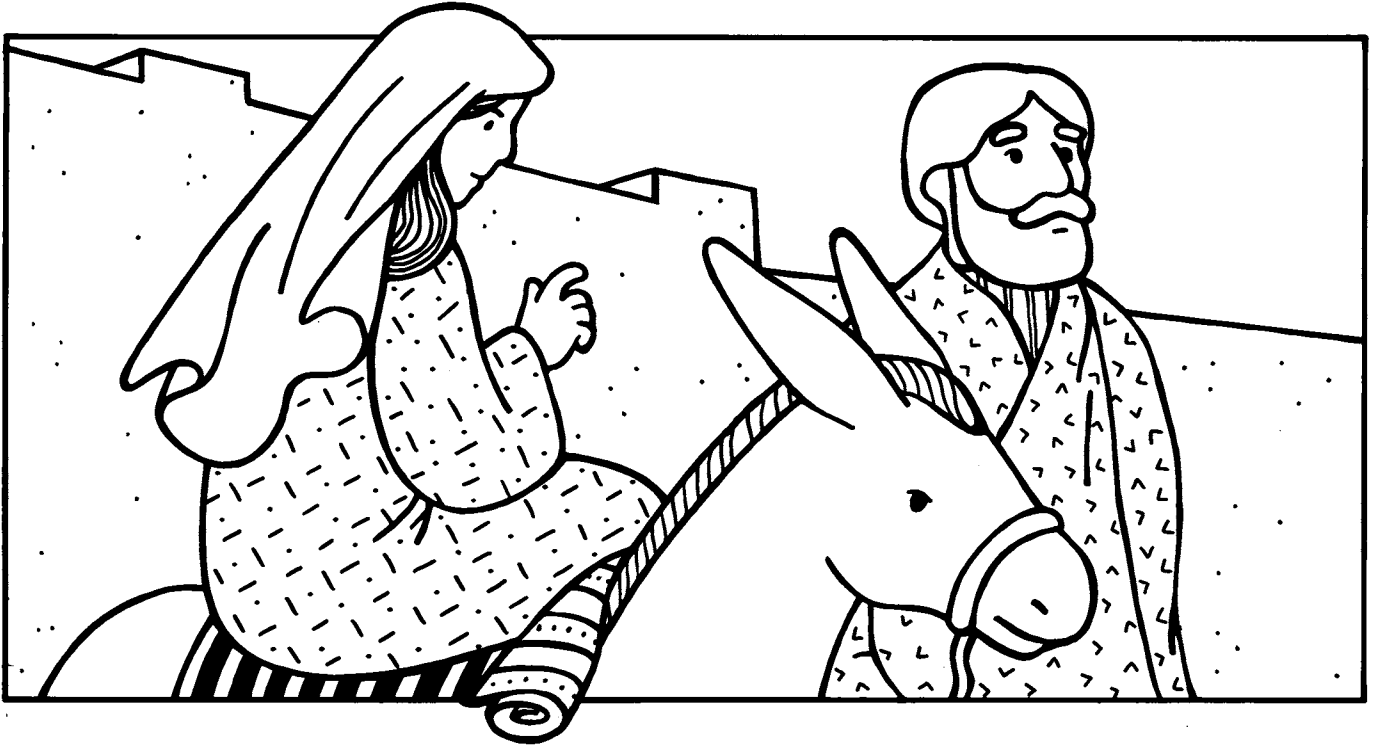
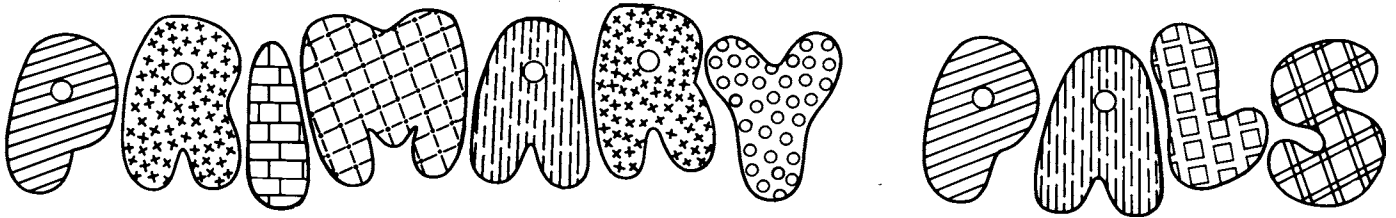
Soon after that, the angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream. He told him that God was going to give Mary a special baby, God's Son. Joseph was to be the baby's earthly father. They were to name the baby Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins.

When Joseph awoke he knew that his dream had been true. He did as the angel had told him to do. Mary and he were soon married. When the baby was born, Joseph called Him Jesus, just as the angel had said he should.

What's the Word?

Circle the correct words to complete each sentence.
Then write those words on the empty lines.

- 
- 
- 
1. God sent an _____ to talk to Mary.
a. angel b. friend c. teacher
 2. Mary was _____ when the angel came.
a. too busy b. afraid c. happy
 3. The angel told Mary to name the baby _____.
a. John b. Solomon c. Jesus
 4. _____ talked to Joseph about the baby.
a. The angel b. The king c. The priest
 5. God sent baby Jesus because He loves _____.
a. flowers b. all people c. hamburgers



A Special Birth

Clip, clop, clip, clop. The dust-covered donkey plodded steadily on, not knowing what a precious burden it carried on its back.

The journey had been long and Mary was very tired. But at last they arrived in Bethlehem. She rested on the donkey as Joseph looked for a place where they could stay. Oh, how good to have the traveling behind them for now and just sit still in the evening air.

"Mary . . ." Joseph gently touched his wife. Her weary eyes opened. "Mary, I have found a place." His low voice could not hide his relief. "It is true, every inn in all of Bethlehem is

full. But the innkeeper here says we may use the stable in the back." He gathered up the reins of the donkey.

"It is well, Joseph," Mary answered him softly.

Something in her voice made Joseph stop. He looked closely at her sweet face. "Mary, is it time?"

She nodded. "Yes, Joseph. The child will soon be born."

As Joseph led the donkey toward the stable, he thought about the reason they had made this long, hard journey. Caesar had said that everyone had to pay taxes. And to do that, they all had to go back to the city where their

families were from. That meant a lot of people had to travel a long way. But it had to be done. It was an order!

He thought back to the night when, in a dream, the angel had told him that Mary was to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. Now it was time for this special Child to be born! But would He be born here, in a stable? He thought about these things as he helped Mary off the donkey.

They walked together into the stable. Mary found a comfortable place where she could lie down and rest. The hay smelled fresh and sweet. It felt soft and comforting to her after such a long ride.

Joseph stood looking at his wife, concern showing in his face.

"Do not be afraid, Joseph." Her voice held a note of wonder. "If Jesus is born in this place, then that is part of God's plan. We don't need to worry. God's ways are right."

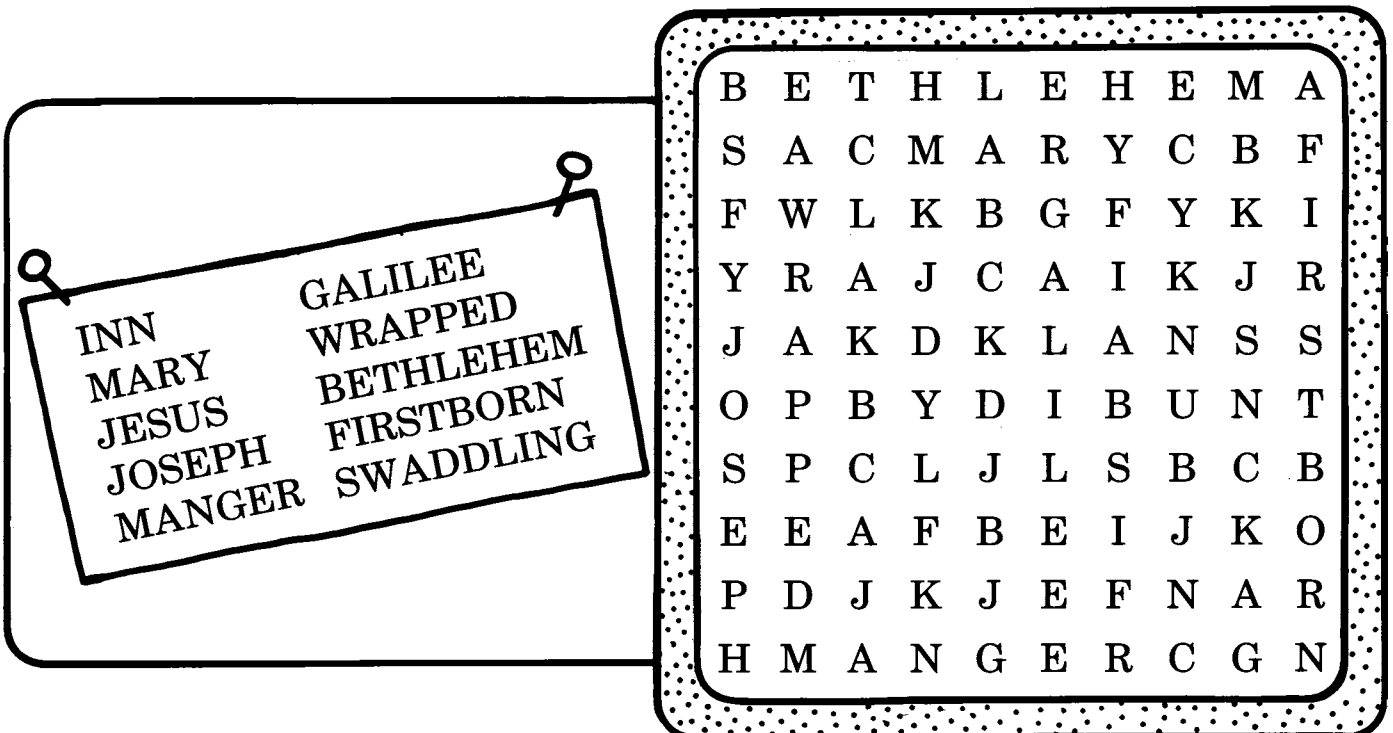
So, in the still of the night, while the rest of the world was asleep, Baby Jesus was born.

Joseph looked with wonder at the tiny bundle he held in his arms.

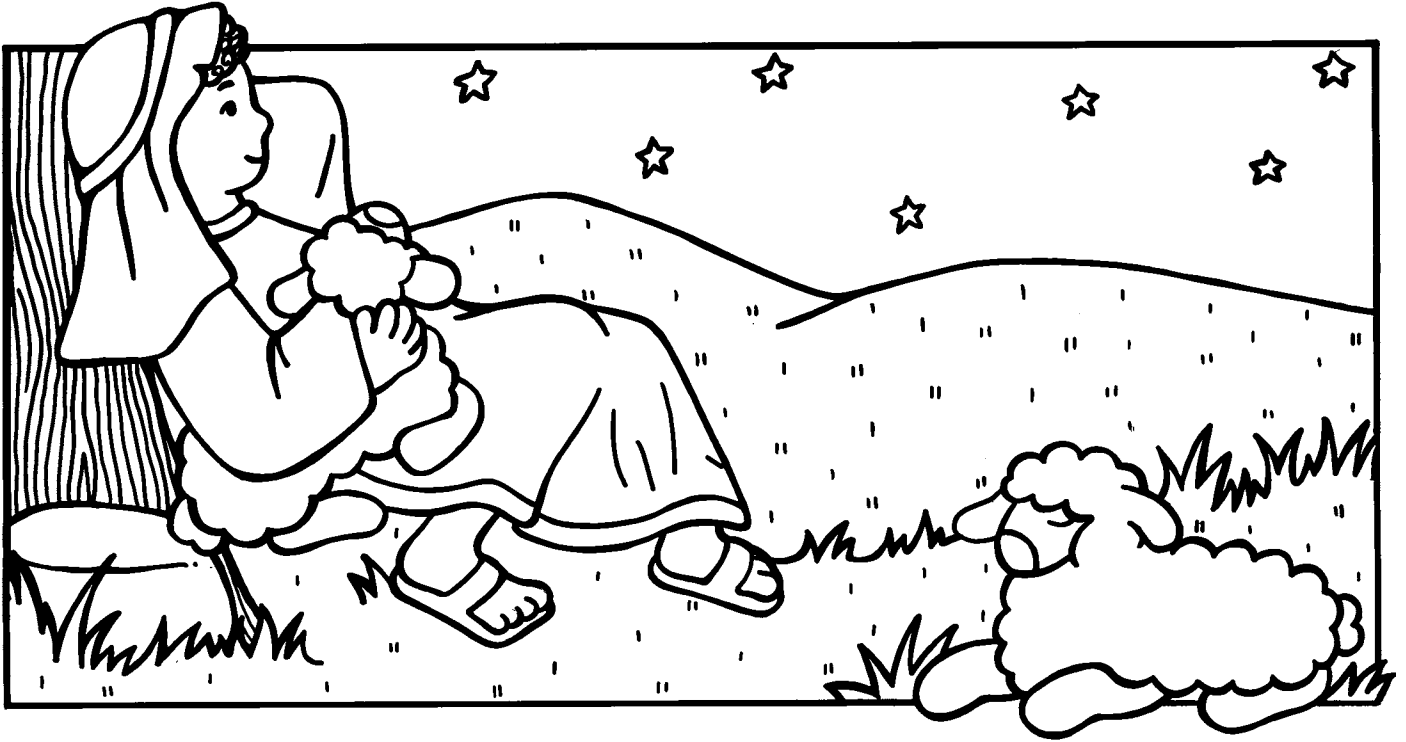
The Son of God, he thought. Here in my arms is the living proof of God's love for man! His heart filled with joy as he wrapped the newborn baby and cradled Him gently in the manger.

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle.



PRIMARY PAIRS



A Heavenly Announcement

Look at all the stars! Joel thought to himself as he lay on the quiet Judean hillside. There must be a million of them, he guessed. They looked like tiny lights sparkling in the heavens.

The other shepherds were gathered around a small campfire, quietly talking as their sheep rested contentedly nearby.

Joel closed his eyes. The night was so peaceful. He slept for a few moments; then suddenly became wide awake and sat up instantly!

His heart was pounding so hard he thought it would burst from his body! Could he be dreaming? Just moments ago he had been looking at a sky full of

twinkling stars. And now, the sky above was filled with light.

As he stared in fear, the light shifted and a shining form became clear. Surely this was an angel!

Even as that thought went through Joel's mind, a beautiful voice spoke out, "Fear not!"

Joel's fear left as quickly as it had come. In its place there was a feeling of wonder. God Himself was sending a message to man and he was hearing it!

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour . . ."

That city was Bethlehem! That's where I live, thought Joel. He didn't move as the angel went on to tell them

that the baby would be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Suddenly, the whole sky was filled with angels praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The sound was so beautiful!

As the shepherds listened, their hearts filled with joy. They were excited at the wonderful news they had heard.

Soon the angels were gone, and all was quiet once again. For many moments, Joel and the other shepherds sat in silence. They could hardly believe the things they had just seen and heard.

Then they said to one another, "Let's

go to Bethlehem and find the baby. The angel said we would know it was Him because He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

"Hurry! Let's go!"

"Yes!" Joel said excitedly, "Let's go!"

They headed for Bethlehem and soon found the stable. Quietly they walked inside and knew right away they had found Baby Jesus. There was a man, with a young woman nearby, gazing down into a manger of hay. The shepherds saw the tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, fast asleep.

As they knelt quietly beside the manger, the shepherds worshiped the newborn King. Their Savior had come at last.

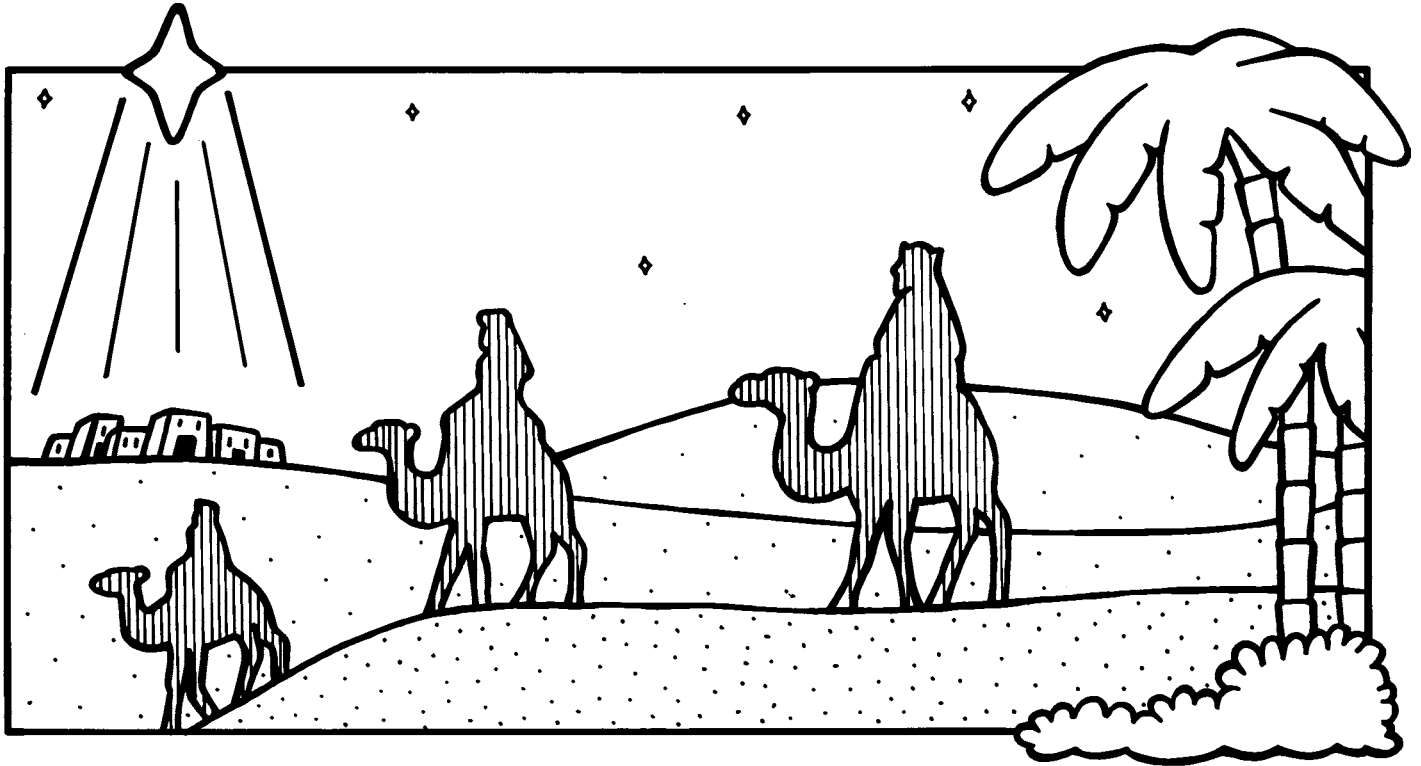
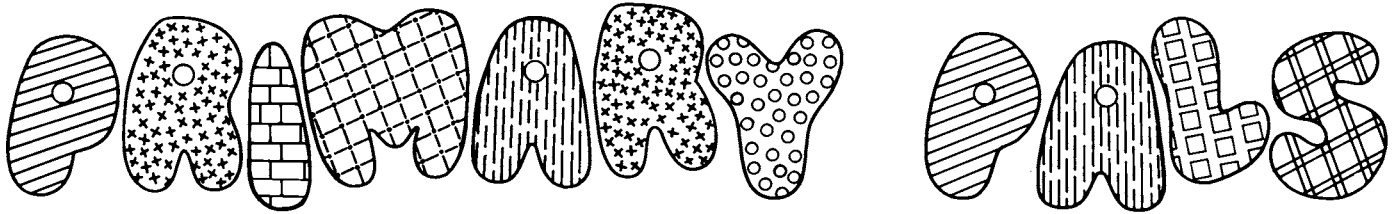
Hidden Angels

Can you find the six angels like this



in the picture?





Journey's End

The camels plodded majestically over the desert sand and up and down sloping hills. No sand was too hot, no hill too high for the Wise Men riding on the camels' backs. They were determined to find the newborn King. He truly must be a great King because they had seen His special star in the sky. It was beautiful, so brilliant and unlike any they had ever seen before. It seemed like a lantern lighting a dark pathway.

Finally, they told the camels to stop. They had entered the city of Jerusalem. We must be getting close, they thought. A King could easily be born in a city such as this.

They began to ask people where they

could find the child, born to be King of the Jews.

Someone told King Herod about the Wise Men questioning the people. He asked some priests and scribes if they knew where this new King was to be born. They told Herod of the prophecy that said Christ would be born in Bethlehem. Then he called the Wise Men to him and told them to search for the new King in Bethlehem.

So, they started out once again to look for the young child. And, again, the star was leading them.

When they came to the village called Bethlehem the star stopped and shone over a little house.

That was a surprise! No castle? No

royal palace? Still, this is where the star had led them. They climbed off their camels, carefully unpacked their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and went to knock on the door.

Joseph and Mary, inside the house, had no idea they were about to be visited by such great men. Joseph heard the knocking and opened the door. And there stood some of the most important looking men he had ever seen. Their clothing showed that they were rich. He knew they must be very great. Mary stood back and held Jesus in her arms, wondering what this was all about.

"Forgive us for disturbing you," the men said to Joseph, "but is there a

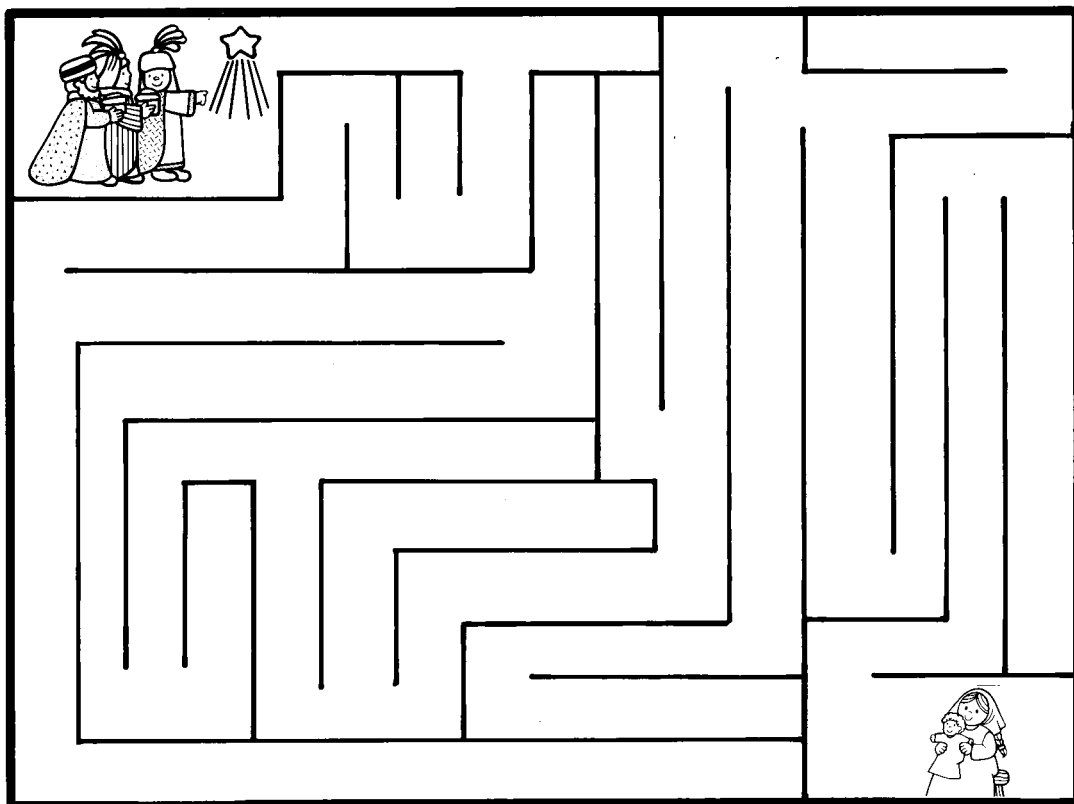
young child living here? We have been following a special star to find the child, born King of the Jews! The star is no longer moving so we think we must have found the place where He lives."

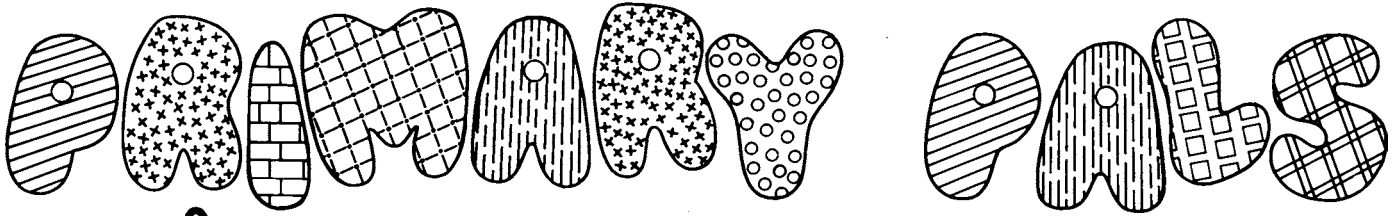
Joseph did not seem to find the Wise Men's words strange. He glanced at the gifts they held in their hands. Then he looked at their faces. "Yes, Jesus lives here," he said as he opened the door wide and motioned for them to enter.

Then they saw Jesus in His mother's arms. And, as they knelt to worship God's Son, they knew that every long and weary mile of the journey had been rewarded!

Follow the Star

Follow through the maze to help the Wise Men find Baby Jesus.





God Protects His Child

Pure gold! Wonderful-smelling frankincense and myrrh! What precious gifts the Wise Men had brought. Yes, it had really happened! Wise Men from the east had been in their home. Now, it was all over. The Wise Men were on their way home. These treasures and memories were the only things left to remind Joseph and Mary of that special visit.

The little family was tired from the excitement of the day. They settled down for a good night's rest.

Joseph awoke suddenly. He rubbed his eyes. Just moments ago an angel had visited Joseph in a dream. The message he gave was urgent. Joseph thought, There is no time to lose!

Quickly he lit the oil lamp and shook Mary from her sleep.

"Mary!" he whispered. "An angel came with a message from God. We must leave this city of Bethlehem right away. King Herod is going to try to kill our little Jesus."

Startled, Mary sat up. Her eyes were filled with fear. "Joseph, what can we do? Where can we go?"

"The angel said we must go to Egypt," Joseph replied. "We are to stay there until the angel brings us word that it is safe to return."

Mary quickly folded the covers from the bed and began gathering their few belongings.

Joseph helped her to wrap carefully

the gifts that they had received from the Wise Men. He thought of God's wonderful care. God knew they would need money for the journey and their stay in Egypt. How wonderfully He had provided—even ahead of time!

Walking to the open doorway, he looked out into the still night. Everything was quiet in the streets. No one would see them leave. Joseph did not know what would happen to them on this journey, but he was not afraid. God had always been very near to them.

Mary came to Joseph's side with the sleeping child in her arms. They were ready to go. Together they walked to

the donkey, and Mary once again settled herself on its back. She thought about the journey from Nazareth before Jesus was born.

Joseph gently laid Jesus into Mary's arms. Like the star guiding the Wise Men, God led the little family until, at last, they reached Egypt.

After they had lived in Egypt for a while, the angel visited them again. This time it was with the good news that it was safe for them to return to Israel. The wicked King Herod had died.

When they reached the land of Israel they went to live in the city of Nazareth. How happy they were to be home once again!

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle.

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

GOD
ANGEL
ARISE

CHILD
DREAM
EGYPT

NIGHT
JOSEPH
MOTHER

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Found at Last

“Joseph!” cried Mary, “I can’t find Jesus! Oh, where can He be?”

Everyone in the group was tired from the long journey. They were returning home from the city of Jerusalem where they had gone to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. And now they couldn’t find Jesus!

“Mary, Jesus is twelve years old now, so don’t worry. He’ll be all right. He’s probably just visiting with another group of travelers,” said Joseph.

They searched for Jesus among the other people, but no one had seen Him all day! Soon, Joseph began to be worried too. So he and Mary decided to go back to the city of Jerusalem.

They searched the city for a long time before they finally found Him in the Temple.

“Joseph, there He is!” Mary’s voice was full of relief. “He is sitting in the middle of that group of men. They are the elders of the Temple church!”

Joseph gave a deep sign of relief. The long hours of searching for their missing Son were over. “I am so thankful,” he said. “We searched everywhere on our way back into Jerusalem, and then all this time around the city. I couldn’t think where we would look next.” His voice sounded shaky. He swallowed hard, and then went on. “Let us go and speak with

Him. Why did He stay here in the Temple?"

Together Mary and Joseph hurried toward the group of men. They planned to take Jesus away from the group and start right away on their journey home. Mary wondered what the elders were telling her Son. He looked so young, sitting there with them.

Jesus didn't even look up as they came near. Mary said to Joseph, "He looks so interested in what the elders are saying He doesn't even see us." But as they came closer to the group she realized the truth. Jesus was not only listening to the elders but He was also talking to them and asking questions! And the elders of the Temple were

listening to Him! They were interested in all He said.

Mary went up to Jesus and laid her hand gently on His shoulder. "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been so worried as we looked for You."

Jesus told Mary and Joseph that He was doing the work of His Father in Heaven. But they did not understand what He meant.

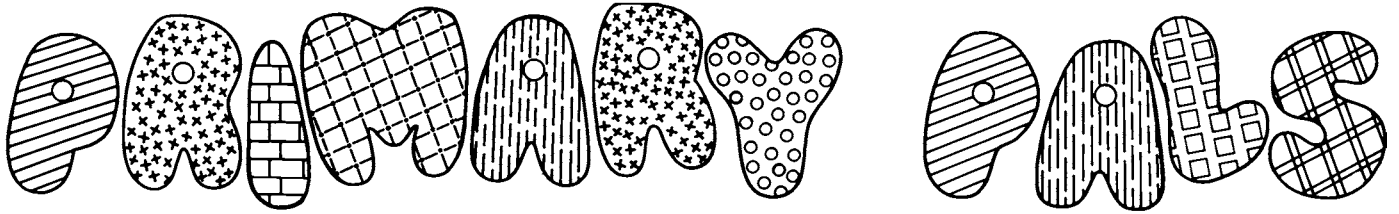
Then it was time for all of them to leave Jerusalem again. This time Jesus went with them. They returned to their home in the city of Nazareth. And for a long time, Mary thought about the words Jesus had said: "I must be doing the work of my Father."

Time to Grow

Find the right answers to the questions and write the correct numbers in the boxes.

1. How old was Jesus in this story?
2. Where did Joseph and Mary find Jesus?
3. Where was the Temple?
4. Whose business was Jesus doing?
5. What were the three ways Jesus grew?

☐ Jerusalem
☐ God's
☐ Wisdom
☐ Stature
☐ Favor
☐ Temple
☐ Twelve



I Saw It Happen!

“Look at all the people! Where are they going?” I asked.

Ruth looked at me in surprise. “Haven’t you heard? The man they call John the Baptist is preaching out at the Jordan River again today. I am going there to hear him. Would you like to go with me?”

I really wanted to go and see this man, John. I had heard a lot about him. People said he ate locusts and wild honey, and he didn’t have any fancy clothes. He just dressed in clothing made of camel’s hair!

So that was how it came to be that I went with Ruth to the Jordan River that day. And there I saw something I will never forget.

“Repent!” John the Baptist was telling the people. “Get ready for God’s Kingdom!”

Soon, some of the people in the crowd moved into the water. These were people who wanted to do God’s will and follow Him. They had told God they were sorry for all their sins. John lowered the people, one by one, into the water. When he brought them back out of the water they were very happy because they had been baptized by John.

John told the people about God’s Kingdom but he also told them about Jesus. These people thought that John was a great person. But he said that Jesus was much greater than he was.

Why, he told them that he wasn't even good enough to carry Jesus' shoes!

Suddenly John stopped talking. He looked beyond the crowd of people. A Man walked down to the river, past all the people, and into the water next to John. There was something special about this Man. When He asked John to baptize Him, John said, "Oh, I couldn't do that! Jesus, You are greater than I am. I need to be baptized by You. Why are You asking me to baptize You?"

Again Jesus spoke to John and said, "You must baptize Me now. For it is right that we do all that God says we should do."

I heard a woman say, "This is the

Man named Jesus. He is the One John has been talking about!" Everyone was so excited!

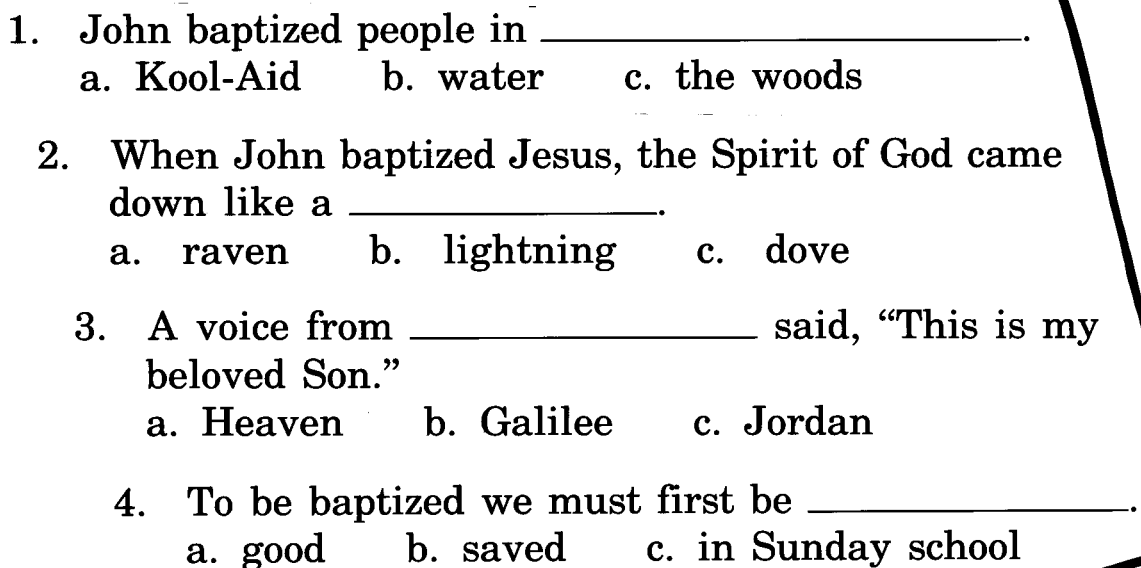
Then John lowered Jesus into the water. When they came up out of the water a wonderful feeling was in the air. Everyone could feel the Spirit of God when a beautiful white dove flew down from the sky and came to rest upon Jesus.

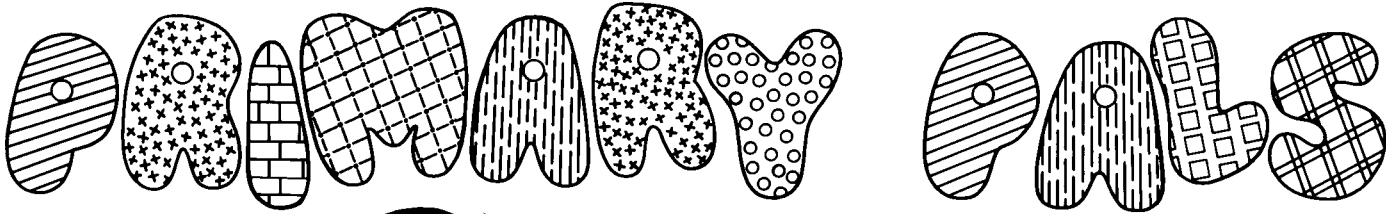
Everything became very quiet. Then from out of Heaven we all heard a Voice, the Voice of God, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

I will never forget that wonderful day, the day I saw John the Baptist baptize God's own Son.

Baptism

Circle the correct answer for each sentence below.

- 
1. John baptized people in _____.
a. Kool-Aid b. water c. the woods
 2. When John baptized Jesus, the Spirit of God came down like a _____.
a. raven b. lightning c. dove
 3. A voice from _____ said, "This is my beloved Son."
a. Heaven b. Galilee c. Jordan
 4. To be baptized we must first be _____.
a. good b. saved c. in Sunday school



Victory Over the Devil!

Forty days and forty nights is a long time to go without eating any food! That's how long Jesus had been praying in the wilderness. And He hadn't eaten at all!

He had gone to the desert wilderness right after He was baptized by John the Baptist. Now He was very hungry.

When the devil saw this he thought, I will tempt Jesus and make Him do as I say. If I can get Him to obey me I will be better than God.

He went to Jesus and said, "If You are really the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread." He thought that if Jesus was hungry enough He would do anything to get some food.

Instead of doing what the devil said, Jesus repeated a verse from the Bible. It says that people do not live just by bread. They need the Word of God also.

The devil wasn't very happy about Jesus' answer. He couldn't argue with it though, because he knew it was true. But he wasn't ready to give up yet. He then took Jesus to a high part of the Temple.

He decided to repeat a verse from the Bible too. "If You are really the Son of God, throw Yourself down to the ground," he told Jesus. "Because it is written in the Bible that God will send His angels to take care of You."

Jesus told him, "The Word of God says you should not tempt the Lord

your God.” He knew that God knew what was best for Him and would take care of Him.

By this time the devil was very unhappy. But he decided to try once more to make Jesus obey him. He took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, “I promise to give all of these to You, Jesus, if You will just fall down and worship me.”

Jesus knew that the devil could not be strong against the Word of God. So, for the third time, He repeated a verse from the Bible to defeat him. “God’s Word says that we should worship

only the Lord God in Heaven and we should serve only Him.”

Then the devil left Jesus, because he knew that he couldn’t be strong when someone repeated God’s Word to him.

After the devil was gone, God sent angels to take care of Jesus.

Do you know what we can learn from this story in the Bible? It is that God loves us and will always care for us. That is why He gave us the Bible, His Word. So, if the devil ever comes to tell you to do something wrong, remember to say what Jesus said. He is our example. You can always win against the devil if you use God’s Word!

Happy or Sad?

Sometimes people feel like doing things that are not right. This feeling is called temptation. There is a circle next to each sentence below. Draw a happy face in the circle if the sentence is about something you should do. Draw a sad face if it is a temptation from Satan.

☐ Love everybody.

☐ Help other people.

☐ Say bad words.

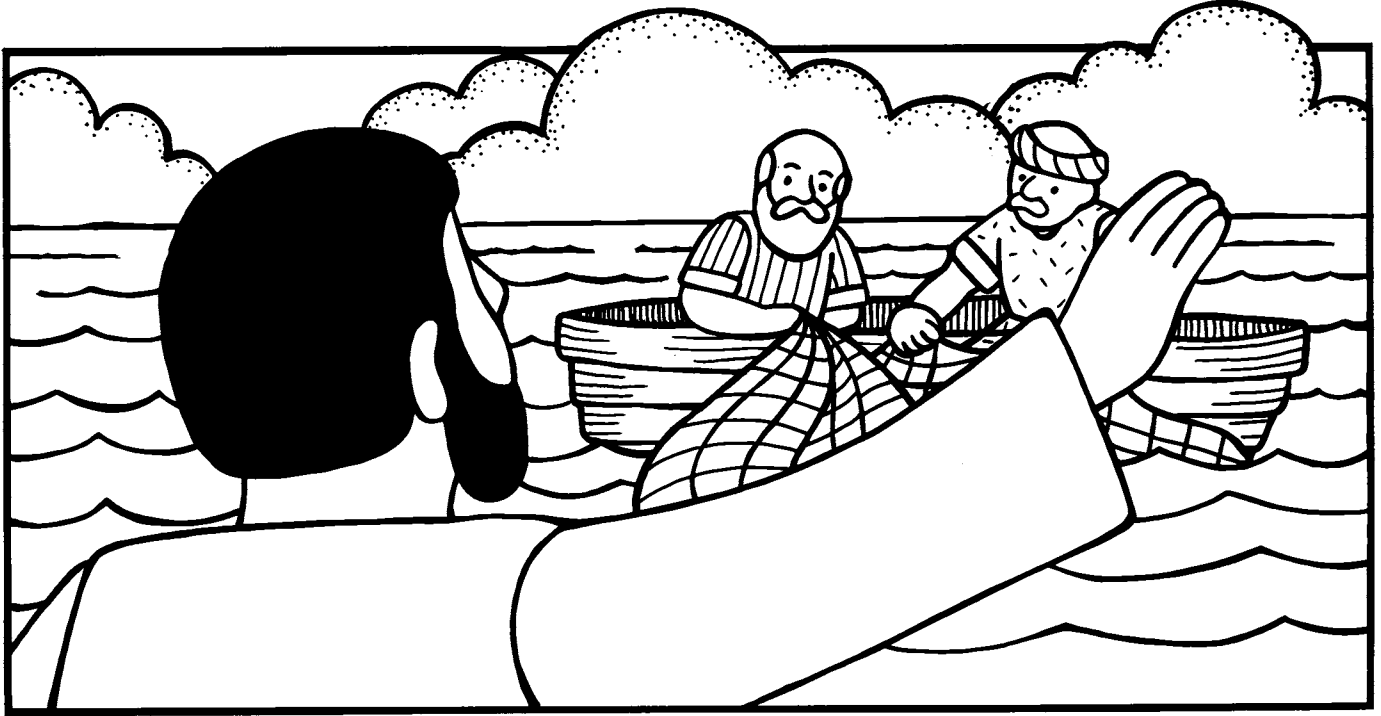
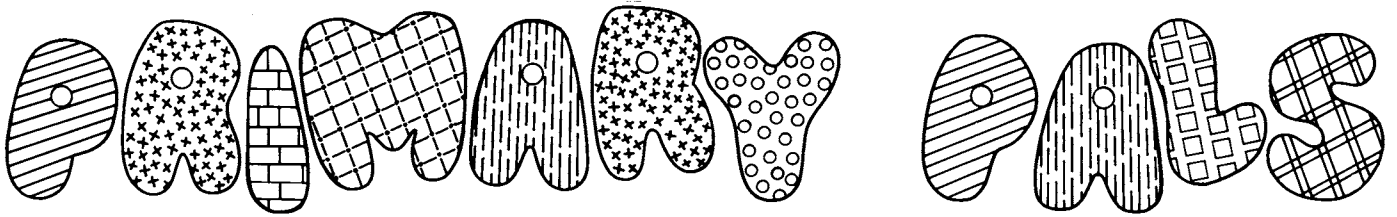
☐ Love something more than God.

☐ Tell things that are not true.

☐ Obey your parents.

☐ Be friendly.

☐ Take things that are not yours.



A New Kind of Fishing

Peter and his brother, Andrew, were getting ready to toss their net into the sea once more. It would be the last net of fish they caught that day. Then they would have to row to shore, put the boat away, and clean the fish. Looking at the net lying at his feet, Peter noticed a hole that had been torn open. He lifted the net and frowned. Well, there's another hole to mend, he thought.

He looked over at Andrew. "Fishing isn't exciting anymore."

Right away Andrew knew what he meant. "It's because of Jesus," he replied. He looked up at his brother. "I've felt the same way. There is something that happens to me when

I'm near Him. It makes me want to forget about the fishing business. It just isn't important now."

With a sigh, Andrew turned back to the net. He told Peter to help him, and together they tossed it into the water.

The boat was rocking gently on the waves when suddenly they heard someone calling their names. Peter turned to Andrew with a puzzled look. Who would be calling to them?

Then he looked toward the shore. "There's Jesus!" shouted Peter. "He is calling us! Come on, Andrew, let's go and see what He wants."

They turned the boat around and went toward the shore. Even before the boat scraped bottom, Peter jumped

out and ran to where Jesus stood. Andrew was close behind him.

When they got to where Jesus was, He told them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." That meant they would not be catching fish anymore. There was a greater job for them to do. He wanted them to be His disciples now. They would be telling other people about God's love. It would be like fishing for people!

That day Peter and Andrew left their boat and nets and became Jesus' disciples.

As they walked with Jesus by the seashore, they came to a boat that belonged to a man named Zebedee. He

and his two sons, James and John, were sitting in their boat mending their fishing nets.

Jesus called to the two sons and told them to follow Him also.

James and John left their boat right away. They knew they wanted to be followers of Jesus. They were happy that Jesus had chosen them to be His helpers.

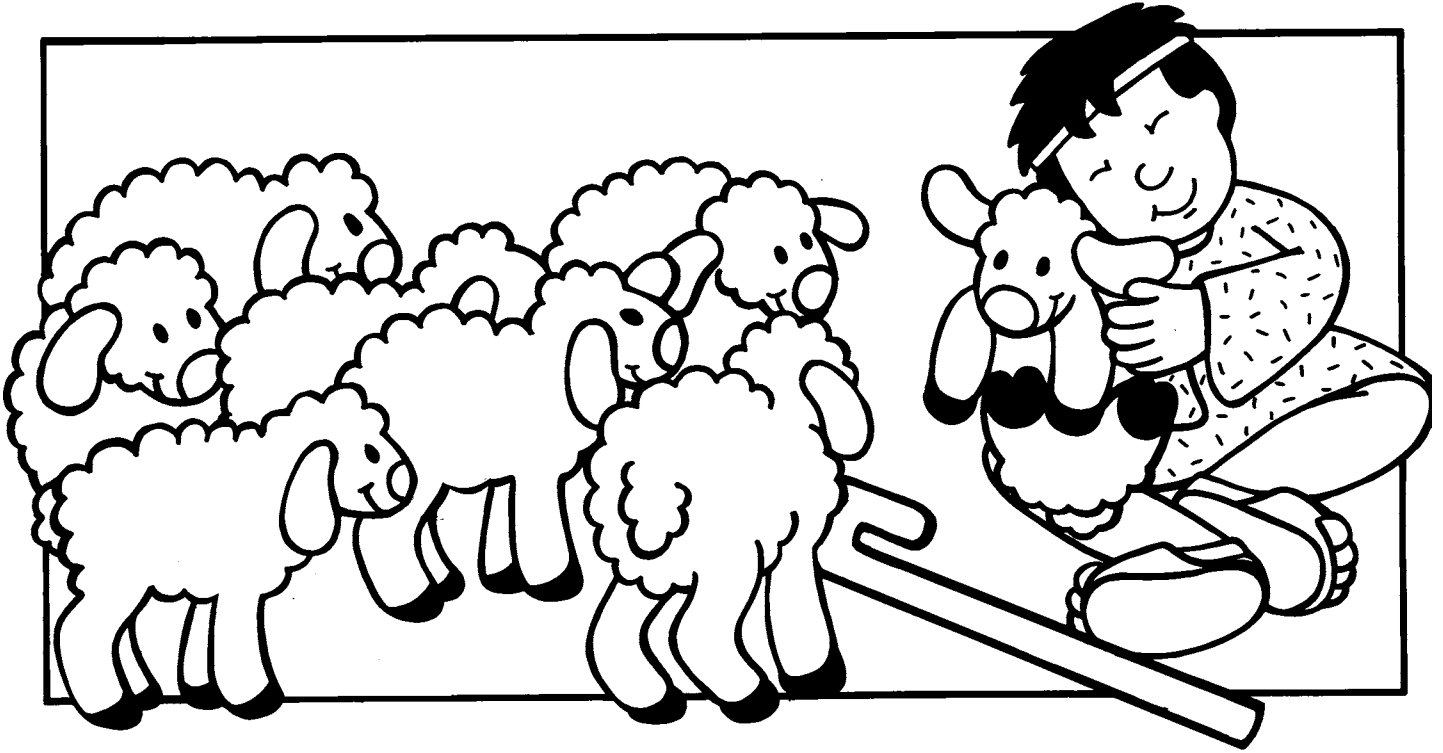
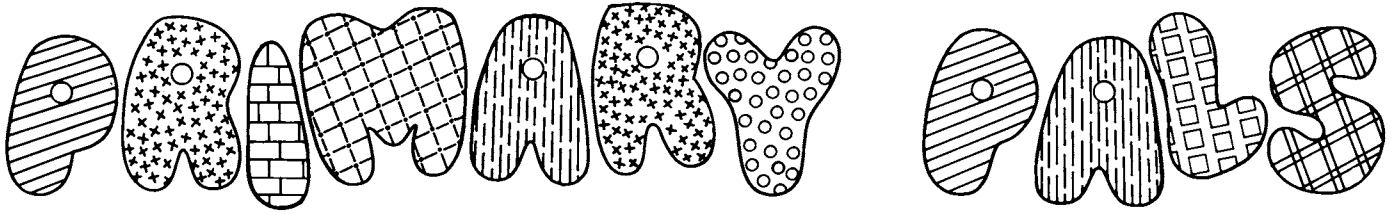
Jesus chose these four men and also eight others to be His special helpers. They are called the Apostles. Did you know that Jesus wants you to be His helper too? He loves you and has a special plan for you. Wouldn't you like to be a fisher of men and tell others about Jesus?

Choosing Helpers

Using the shapes as clues, write the missing letters into the empty spaces. Then read the names of the men Jesus chose to help Him.

P	E	T	E					R	A	N	D		E	W				
J				N	M	A			A	M	E	S	P	H	I		I	P
J				T					O	H				T	T		E	W
				H				B	A	R		H		L	O		E	W
								☺		T		A		D	E		S	☺
										O	M	A		J	A	M	E	S
								J		D	A	S	☺	S	I			

R																		
L																		
H																		
M																		
U																		



The Very Best Shepherd

Do you know what a shepherd is? A shepherd is someone who takes care of sheep. A good shepherd loves the mommy and daddy sheep and every one of the little lambs too. He watches over them all through the bright, sunny days. He takes good care of them all through the cold, dark nights.

A good shepherd counts his sheep carefully to make sure all of them are staying right with him. One, two, three . . . Yes, they are all there! He knows that if one of the sheep wanders away it will be frightened. He doesn't want his sheep ever to be afraid.

When it is time for his sheep to eat, a good shepherd looks all around to

find the best eating places where the grass is green and tall. He leads them by the cool streams where they can take a good, long drink of fresh water. He knows that sheep get thirsty too.

If his sheep get scratched on some thorns, a good shepherd takes care of all the sore places. He feels so sorry when one of his sheep gets hurt, and he always knows just how to make it feel better.

Sheep sometimes get tired, and then they need to lie down and take a rest. A good shepherd knows that, so he finds a safe place for them to sleep.

A good shepherd loves to watch his sheep. He laughs when the little

lambs jump and play in the wildflowers. He knows the name of each one. He speaks to them gently, and all of his sheep know his voice. They come when he calls, because they love their good shepherd.

Sometimes there may be danger near, but the sheep are not afraid because their good shepherd is always watching. He makes sure that no big, hungry animal comes near his sheep. They are always safe when they are in the shepherd's care.

Did you know that we are like sheep? And we have a good Shepherd too—the very best Shepherd of all. The Bible tells us that our good Shepherd is Jesus. He takes care of us

just the way a good shepherd takes care of his sheep.

Jesus watches over us day and night. He doesn't want us to be afraid of anything, so He stays close beside us. He makes sure that we have food to eat and everything else that we need. He promises to be with us always and keep us from danger.

Why does Jesus do all these things for us? For the same reason that a good shepherd watches over his sheep. He does it because He wants us to be safe and happy.

Remember that sheep know and love their good shepherd. Do you know Jesus? Do you love Him? He loves you.

The Good Shepherd

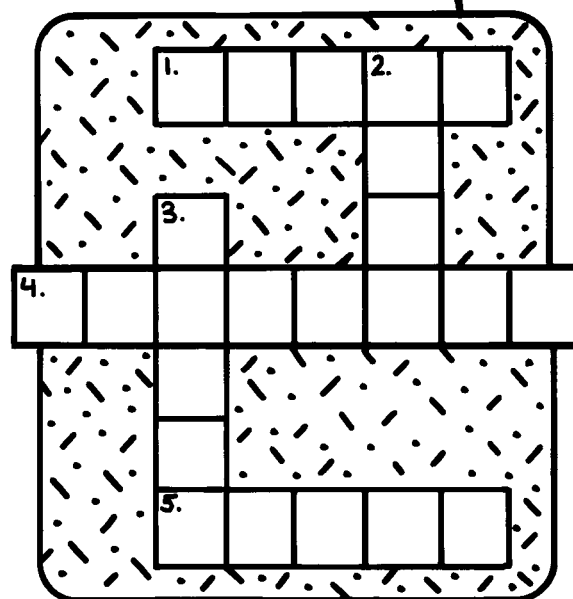
Fill in the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS:

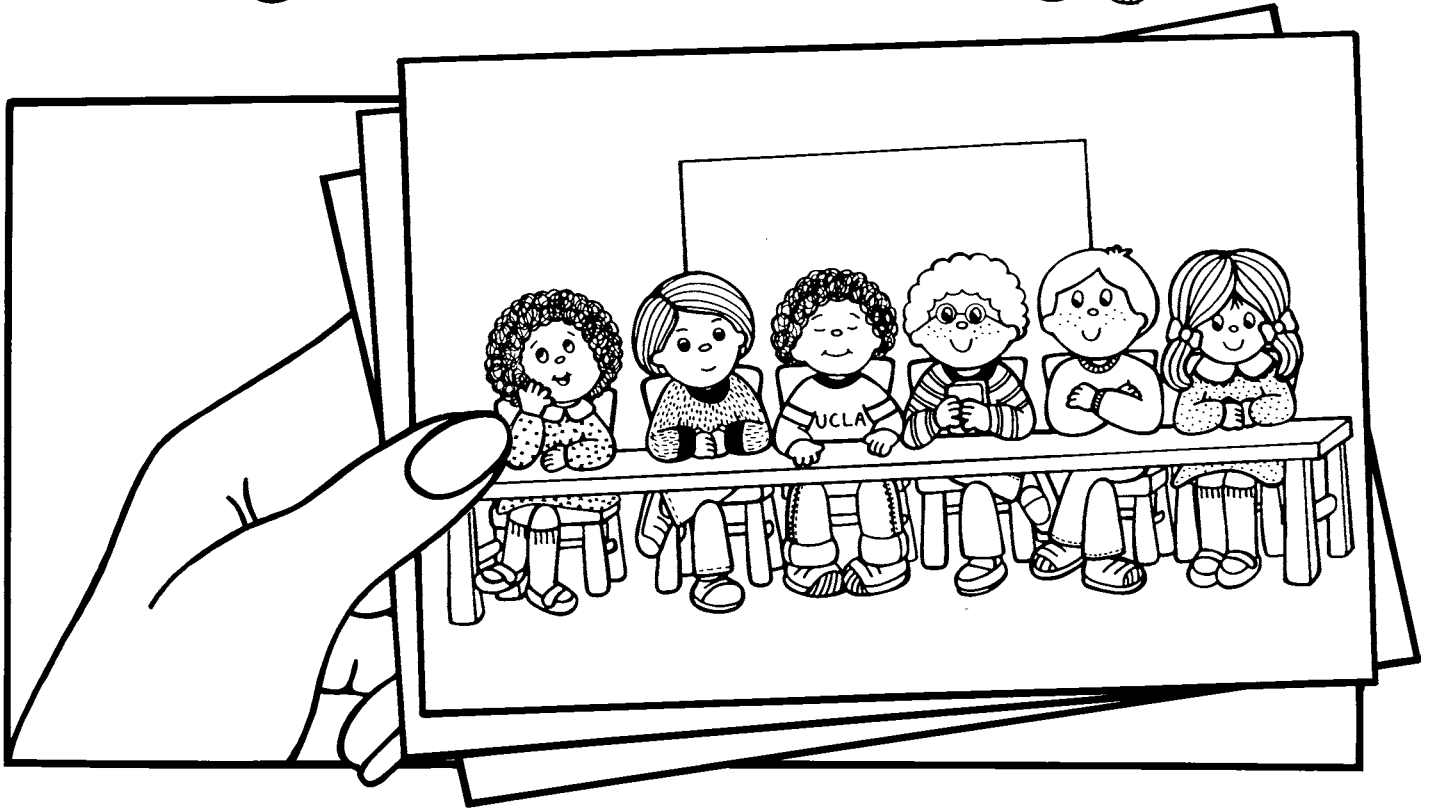
1. Jesus said, "My sheep hear my _____."
4. Someone who watches sheep.
5. Who follows a shepherd?

DOWN:

2. A shepherd takes _____ of his sheep.
3. Who is the Good Shepherd?



PRIMARY PAIRS



Who Is Listening?

After Carol left the store and got into her car, she opened the packet of pictures she had just picked up. She was happy to see that they had all turned out well. This picture of my Sunday school class is very nice, she thought. I'll have prints made for all of the children's scrapbooks. As she looked at that picture she began to think about how different the children were from each other.

There was Jan, gazing up at the ceiling. She is such a character, Carol thought with a sigh. She never sits still, and hardly ever listens. I wonder what more I can do to help her learn

about Jesus? She just doesn't seem to be interested.

Next to Jan was John. Two years ago John had prayed and asked Jesus to come into his heart and make him a Christian. He had loved Sunday school so much and never missed. But last year he had begun to miss Sunday school once in a while. He wasn't learning his memory verses like he used to. And just a few weeks ago John quit coming. Carol had gone to his home to visit him and to see if there was anything wrong. But John told her he wasn't saved any more and didn't want to go to Sunday school. It

had made Carol so sad to hear that.

Then, there was Benji. He came to Sunday school only now and then. He always had some reason why he was too busy. Fishing, watching television, or playing ball were all a lot more important to him than learning about Jesus. He told Carol he had only come to Sunday school the day of the picture-taking because he liked to have his picture taken. He seemed to think more of himself than of anything else.


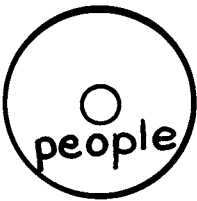
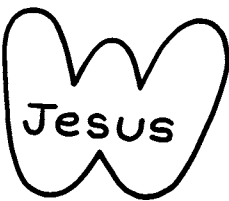

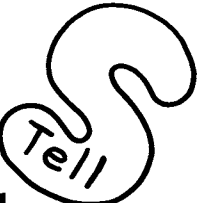
The last three in the picture were Tom, Mike, and Pammy. They were all Christians. They loved to hear the Bible stories. They listened when Carol told them about Jesus.

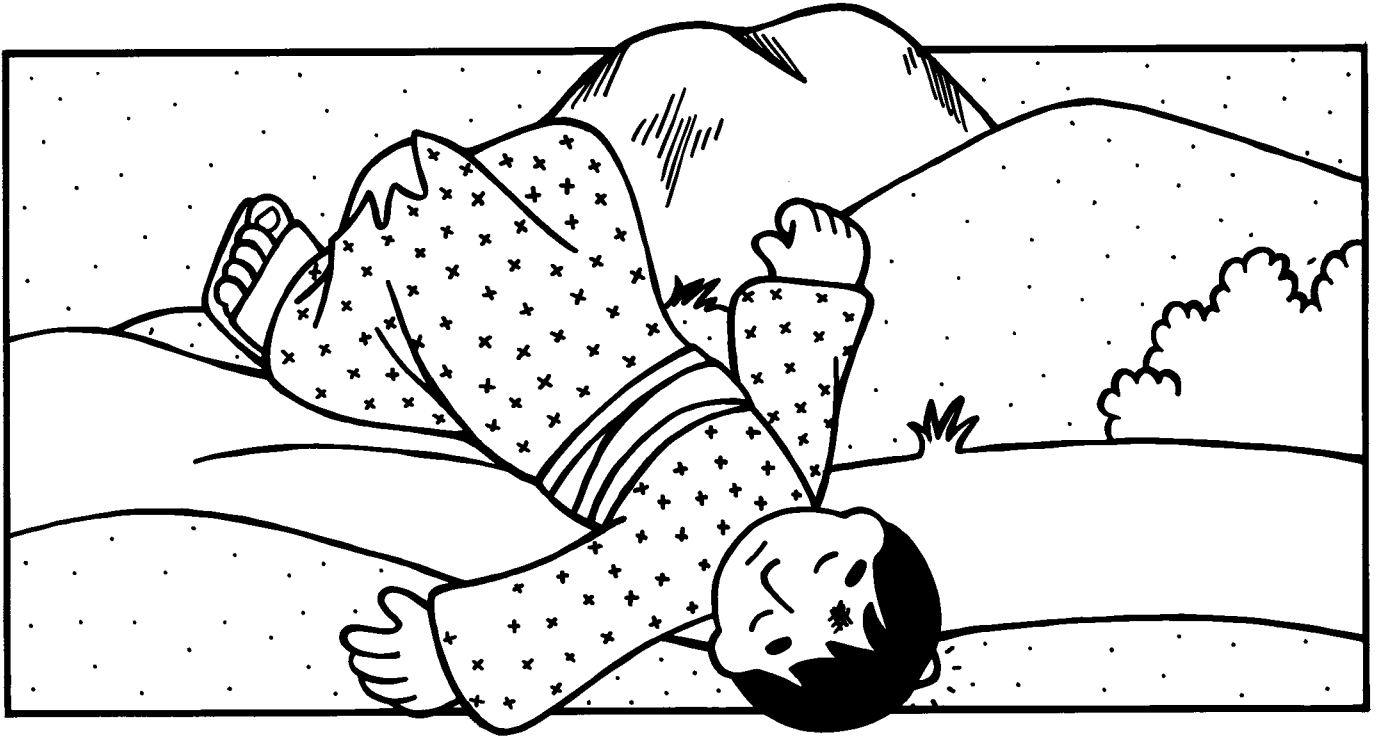
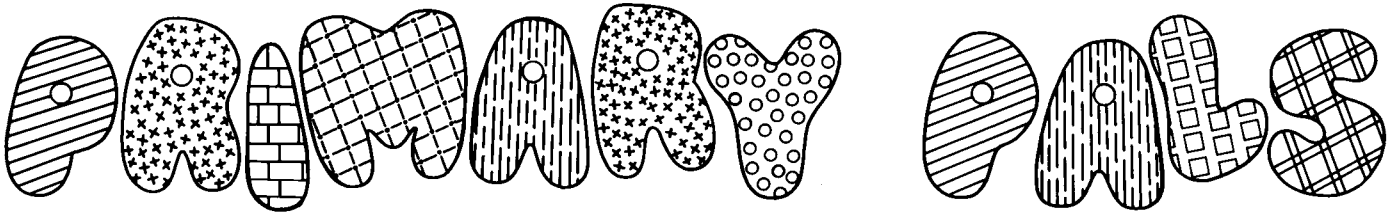
Carol laid the picture down and said a little prayer. "Thank You, Jesus, for my Sunday school class. Please help me to teach each child about You. Help them to be good listeners so that they will know that You really love them. Amen."

In the Bible, there is a story that Jesus told about a man who planted seed—the Sower and the Seed. The seeds fell onto four different kinds of ground. The sower was like a teacher who tells about Jesus' love. Each kind of ground was like the heart of a person who listens to the Word of God. How many different kinds of "listeners" can you find in Carol's class? What kind of listener are you?

What Are You?

Match the letters with the boxes. You will spell what you are when you tell someone about Jesus.

				
Tell	people	Jesus	loves	them



Who Will Help?

The man was lying by the road. His eyes were closed. Oh, he was hurting so much he couldn't even raise his head off the ground! Why wouldn't someone stop to help him?

A long time had passed since those awful men had beaten him up. He had been traveling from Jerusalem to the city of Jericho, minding his own business, when all of a sudden they had attacked him! They had taken all of his money and left him lying by the side of the road. They thought he was dead. It seemed that his body ached in a thousand places! He couldn't even walk.

Just then he heard a sound. Someone was coming. Maybe this

person will help me, he thought. Then, again, maybe he won't. No one else had stopped when they saw him. This one might not help either.

Two people had gone right by him. One of those people was a priest. The man had been sure the priest would stop to help him. Priests were supposed to help people. But when the priest had seen the hurt man, he walked over to the other side of the road!

The other man who had passed by was a Levite. He had come over and looked at the hurt man, then just walked away!

Why had they crossed over to the other side of the road? Why wouldn't

they help him? Were they afraid he would hurt them?

This next person was different. He did stop! He was a man from Samaria. He hurried to where the injured man lay. He knelt beside him and asked, "My friend, what has happened to you?"

In moments, he had taken ointment from his pack and had bathed the cuts and bruises. He carefully bandaged the hurt man's wounds. Then, he set him on his donkey and took him into town.

He found an inn where the hurt man could stay. He took care of him for the night. In the morning he had to leave so he asked the innkeeper to please take care of the hurt man until he was well. He gave the innkeeper some of

his own money and told him he would give him more, if needed, when he came back!

Jesus told this story to a young lawyer who had asked Him, "Who is my neighbor?" Which of the men do you think was the hurt man's neighbor, or true friend? Was it the priest, was it the Levite, or was it the Samaritan?

That's right. It was the Samaritan. Because he was so kind, we sometimes call him the Good Samaritan!

In the Bible, Jesus tells us that we should be like the Good Samaritan. When we see someone who needs help, we should always do what we can to help him. We should do things for others just as we would want them to do for us.

Good Neighbors

Write the name of each picture into the correct squares. Color the dotted squares. You will see a word. It is what we should do to be a good neighbor.


1

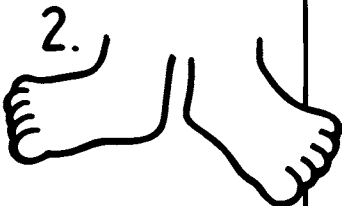
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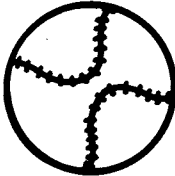
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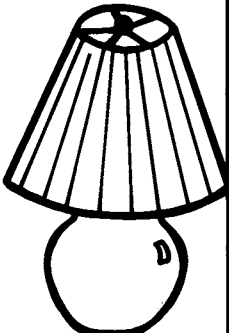
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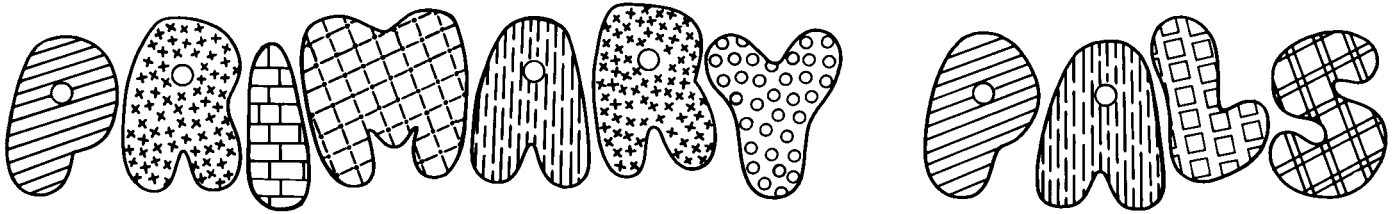
•				
	•			
		•		
			•	

1. 

2. 

3. 

4. 



Ready to Go

Susie checked her new skis and backpack over and over again. Everything was in order and had been packed for days.

She and her best friend Amy were now in the fourth grade, and this was the first year that they would be going on the Junior Ski Trip. She could hardly wait!

"Mom, is it time to go yet?" she asked for the third time.

"Yes, Dear," her mother smiled, "the van should be here any moment now."

When the van finally came she ran out the door as quickly as she could. She was so excited, she almost forgot to say goodbye to her mother!

Soon they arrived at the church where everyone was to meet. They would all ride to the mountain together on the big bus.

Susie looked all around for Amy. She wanted to be sure they could sit together on the bus. But Amy wasn't there yet! Susie found Brother Bob, who was to have picked up Amy.

"Where's Amy?" she asked.

"Well," he answered, "Amy's mom said she wasn't ready yet. She told us not to hold up the whole van load of kids to wait for Amy. Her mom said she would bring Amy here to the church if she got ready in time." He looked at his watch. "But she has only

four more minutes. The bus will leave at 8:00 sharp."

Susie asked Brother Bob if he wouldn't please wait for just a few extra minutes. She was sure Amy would be there soon.

"Amy and I have been talking about this ski trip for so long. She really wants to go this year," said Susie. "Please wait just five more minutes."

Brother Bob did have the bus driver wait for a little bit. But the other kids were anxious to go so the driver finally started the bus and drove away.

A few minutes later Amy's mom drove her into the parking lot of the church.

"Did I make it?" asked Amy.

"Where's the bus? Where are all the other kids?" But Amy knew that she hadn't been on time.

Amy had known about this ski trip for a long time. She knew that Susie had started getting ready days before. Amy cried and cried. She thought, Why didn't I start getting ready while there was still time?

You would feel as unhappy as Amy did if you missed an important trip because you weren't ready, wouldn't you? But do you know the most important trip that you must get ready for? It is the trip to Heaven. You must love Jesus more than anything else and do what He wants you to do. Then you will be ready to meet Him.

Be sure you are ready in time!

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle.

OIL
TEN
WISE
LAMPS
SLEPT
FOOLISH
VESSELS
VIRGINS
MARRIAGE
BRIDEGROOM

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

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

If you have access to an old-fashioned lamp with a wick, it will make a perfect illustration for your discussion of this week's lesson. Show your child how the lamp works, focusing on why fuel is necessary. Experiment with what happens when the fuel is removed. Point out that the lamp is still good. Everything is in working order but, without the fuel, it is of no use as a light.

Help your child make a list—either by writing the words or drawing pictures—of all the items in your house and yard that require fuel to operate.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 25:13

MONDAY: Luke 21:34,35

TUESDAY: Hosea 14:9

WEDNESDAY: Luke 12:37

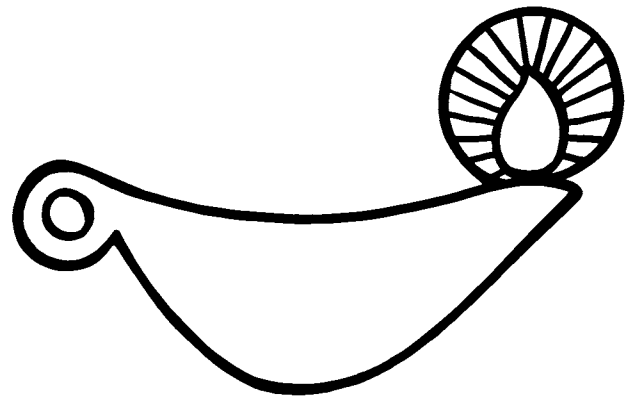
THURSDAY: Luke 12:40

FRIDAY: Revelation 3:11

SATURDAY: Luke 21:36

Bible Text

Matthew 25:1-13












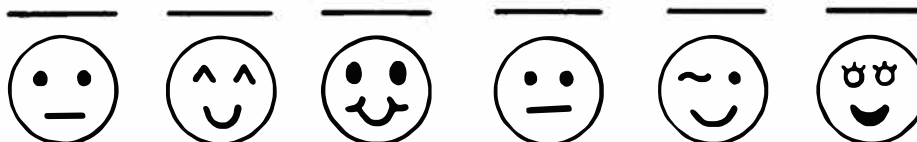
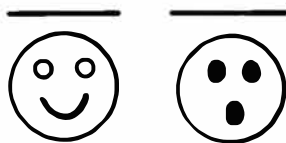
Memory Verse

Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour
wherein the Son of man cometh. — Matthew 25:13

A Trip to Heaven

Use the code below to find a lesson we learn from the ten virgins.

A = 	E = 	S = 
B = 	L = 	W = 
D = 	R = 	Y = 



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, as you talk about the Good Samaritan's example of love and caring, focus on ways we can show love by helping others. Let your child make a "Helping Others" poster. Give him several magazines in which to find pictures of people who are helping others.

For a family project, write the name of each family member on a separate slip of paper, and put the slips in a bowl. Have each person draw a name, and keep that name a secret. Each day during the following week, secret helpers are to help the person whose name they drew without his finding out. For instance, they could shine his shoes or make his bed.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 22:39

MONDAY: John 15:12

TUESDAY: John 15:9

WEDNESDAY: I Thessalonians 3:12

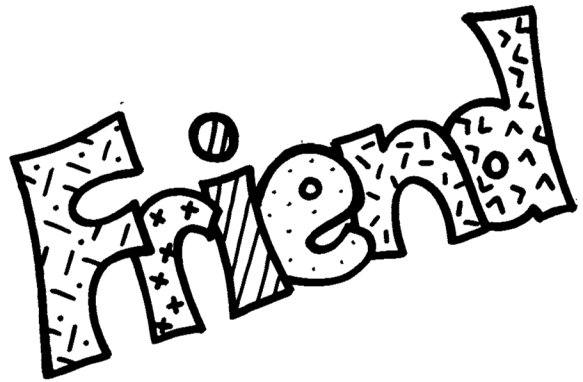
THURSDAY: I John 4:7

FRIDAY: I John 4:11

SATURDAY: Romans 13:10

Bible Text

Luke 10:25-37

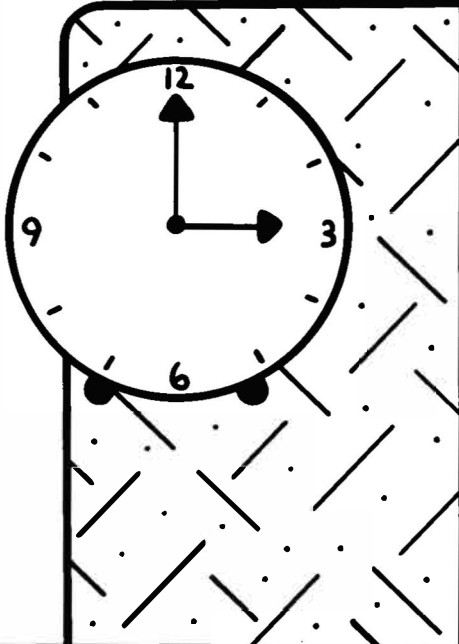


Memory Verse

Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. — Matthew 22:39

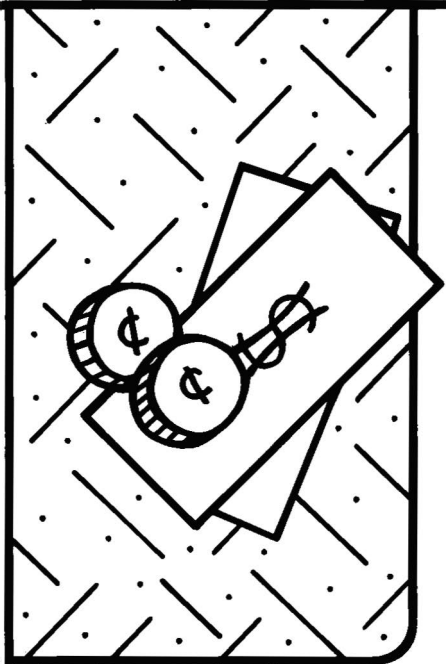
Be Kind

It cost the Good Samaritan time and money to show kindness to the traveler. Many people don't want to be bothered this way. But Jesus said we should do as the Good Samaritan did. In the squares below, write or draw at least one way you would like to show kindness this week.



I can use my time to be kind by . . .

I can use my money to be kind by . . .



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

After reading this lesson's Bible text with your child, let him illustrate the four types of soil. Divide a piece of paper into four equal sections. Give your child some seeds (popcorn or beans) to glue on each section. Then let him draw around the seeds to show what happened to each because of the type of ground in which it was planted.

Talk about what we can do to be sure our hearts are "good soil," receptive to the teachings of the Word of God.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Psalm 119:11

MONDAY: II Peter 3:18

TUESDAY: Psalm 92:13

WEDNESDAY: Mark 4:8

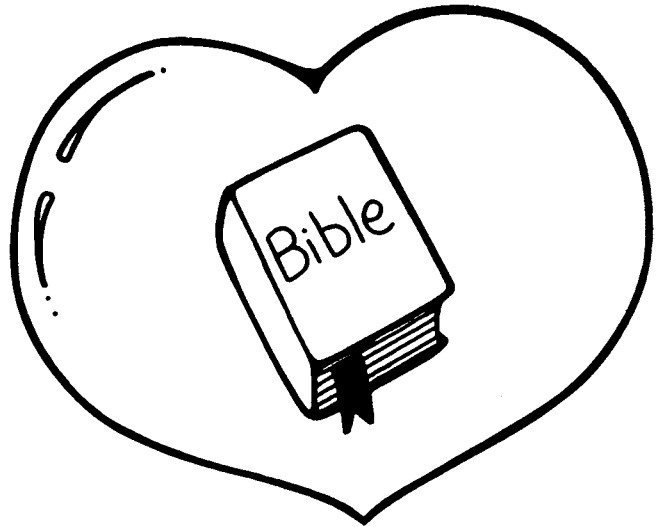
THURSDAY: Colossians 1:10

FRIDAY: I Peter 5:10

SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:15

Bible Text

Luke 8:4-15

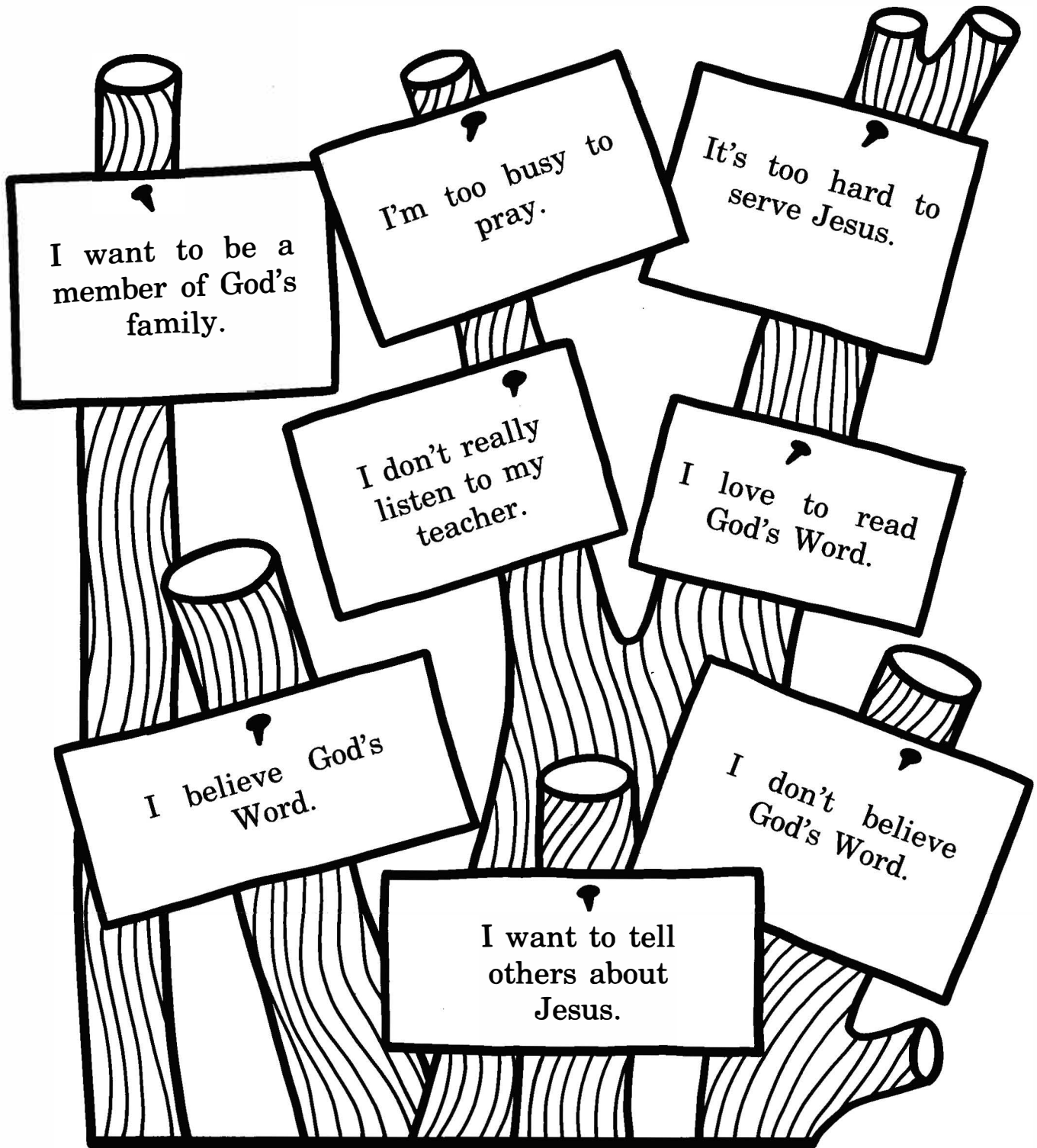


Memory Verse

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might
not sin against thee. — Psalm 119:11

Sow Good Seeds

Color the signs that show when there is good seed in a heart.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, read any information you can locate about shepherds—both present-day and those of ancient times. Discuss with your child what responsibilities a shepherd has, and what a good shepherd would be like.

If you have a pet at home, compare the care of a shepherd for his sheep to the care your child gives to his pet. Beyond supplying physical necessities, what else should the owner of a pet provide? Does he think a shepherd would also provide this?

Explain the shepherd's concern for his sheep by talking about how a child feels when his pet is hurt or lost.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 10:27

MONDAY: Psalm 23:1

TUESDAY: Psalm 100:3

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 79:13

THURSDAY: Isaiah 40:11

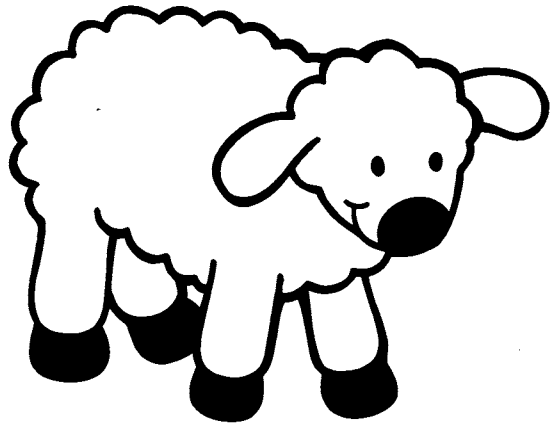
FRIDAY: Matthew 9:36

SATURDAY: John 10:11

Bible Text

John 10:11-15

Psalm 23

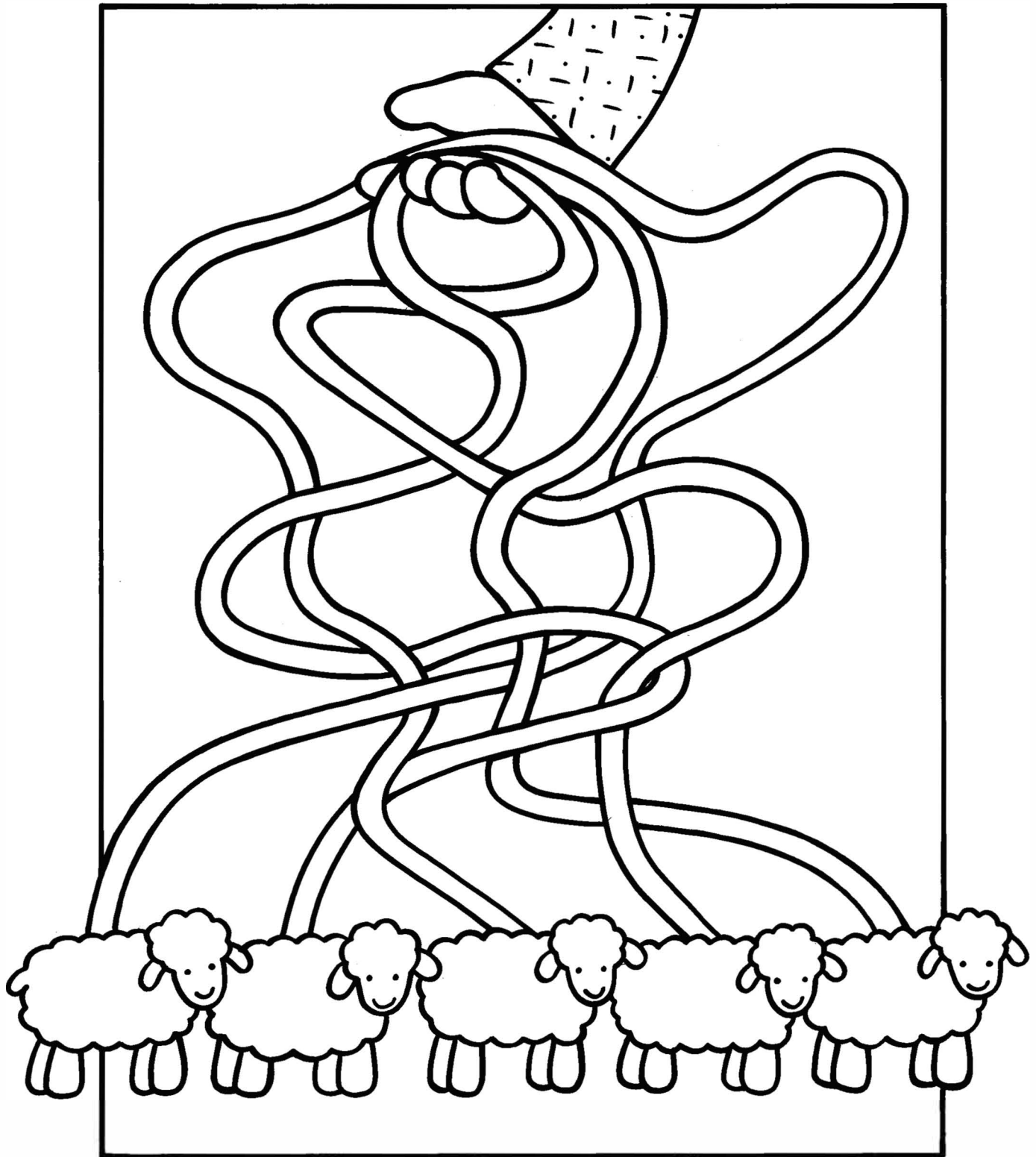


Memory Verse

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them,
and they follow me. — John 10:27

His Sheep

Follow the streamers from the shepherd's hand to the sheep. Color them different colors to show which streamer each sheep is connected to.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Focus on "choosing" in your time together this week. Make your child aware of little choices he makes each day. By writing a choice on each side of a set of index cards, let him select what clothes to wear, what to eat for breakfast, which book to read. Then talk about some of the things which influence his choices.

Discuss what things might have influenced Jesus' choice of followers. Help your child list some of the things he looks for in a friend or in someone to help him with a project. Does he think Jesus would have looked for some of these same qualities? Relate your discussion to the present time by considering what Jesus might be looking for in His followers today.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 4:19

MONDAY: John 15:16

TUESDAY: John 15:8

WEDNESDAY: John 12:26

THURSDAY: I Corinthians 7:24

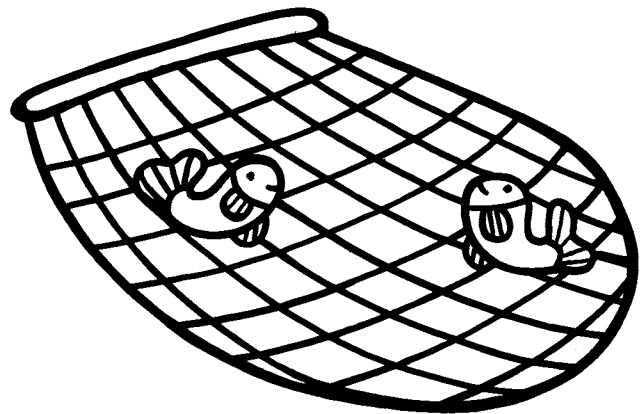
FRIDAY: John 8:12

SATURDAY: I Peter 2:21

Bible Text

Matthew 4:18-22

John 1:35-51



Memory Verse

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. — Matthew 4:19

Fishers of Men

Find and circle each of the words in the puzzles below.

BOAT
NETS
FISHING
MENDING

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

JOHN
JAMES
PETER
ANDREW

J A M E S P O P P
C O L A M B S Y E
H B H M O O N S T
N X A N D R E W E
P I C K L E S Y R

MEN
CHOSEN
FOLLOW
APOSTLES

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

TELL
JESUS
OTHERS
HELPERS

T R F T H O U J T
O T H E R S X E H
R O M L L E V S O
C A R L H A M U S
P H E L P E R S E

Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Temptations on a child's level are very different from the temptations that come to adults, and yet they are very real. Try to help your child understand that temptations can be overcome. Explain to your child how he can use memory verses from God's Word to help him do right when a suggestion to do wrong is made.

Compare the protection of God's Word to an open umbrella. Tape some words representing temptations (disobey, be unkind, say harsh words, etc.) onto Ping-Pong balls or balls of wadded paper. Allow your child to use the umbrella as a shield while you toss the balls in his direction. Point out that if he is alert and uses the umbrella, you can't hit him. In the same way, God's Word can be a shield.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 4:10

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 8:3

TUESDAY: Psalm 91:11,12

WEDNESDAY: John 4:24

THURSDAY: Mark 1:13

FRIDAY: Luke 4:13

SATURDAY: Deuteronomy 6:16



Bible Text

Matthew 4:1-11

Memory Verse

For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,
and him only shalt thou serve. — Matthew 4:10

Listen to Jesus

When Satan tempts people, he doesn't want them to listen to Jesus. Circle the things Jesus would want you to remember when you are tempted. Cross out the things Satan would want you to think.

He shall give his angels charge over thee.

No one will ever know.

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Maybe it will be OK.

What will my friends say?

Man shall not live by bread alone.

No one can see me.

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God.

Get thee hence, Satan!

Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, look ahead to Sunday's lesson by talking about all the things we learn by example. Make a list on a marker board or a large piece of paper, and post the list where it can be easily added to as more suggestions come to mind: tying a shoe, making a bed, setting the table, etc.

Talk about how Jesus set an example for us by His being baptized in water. Look up the word "baptize" in the dictionary and discuss its meaning. Help your child to understand that baptism is one way we tell those around us that we have a new life in Christ.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 1:29

MONDAY: Luke 3:16

TUESDAY: Luke 1:76

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 40:3

THURSDAY: John 1:23

FRIDAY: Mark 1:10,11

SATURDAY: John 1:15



Bible Text

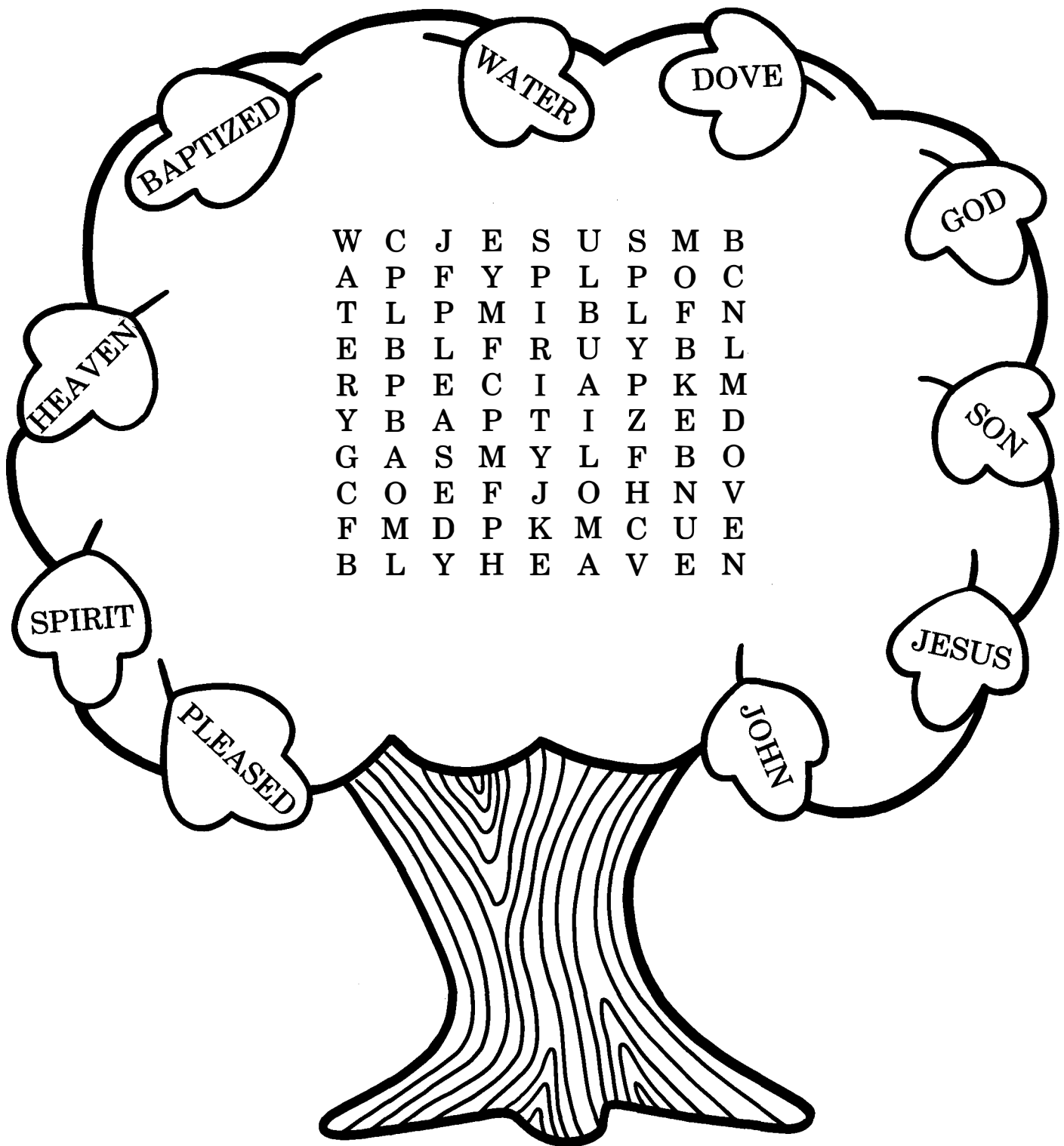
Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away
the sin of the world. — John 1:29

John Baptized Jesus

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

A good way to really zero in on this week's lesson might be to help your child stage the events described in the text, using Playmobil or Fisher-Price figures, or some other small dolls. Improvise props such as a road (long strip of brown paper or cloth) and the Temple (made from a shoe box). As you plan a dialogue, help your child to think about what kind of questions and answers were exchanged between Jesus and the Temple elders.

Arrange a special time for your child to put on his presentation for other family members.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:52

MONDAY: Psalm 122:1

TUESDAY: Psalm 26:8

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 27:4

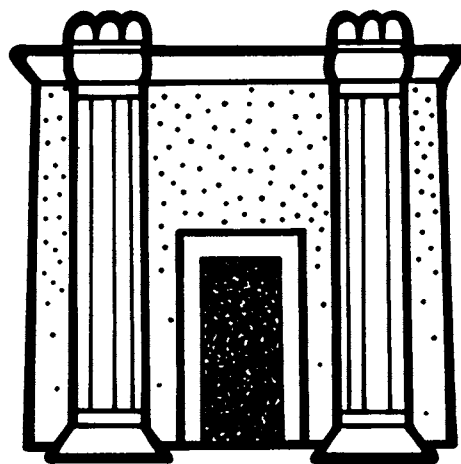
THURSDAY: Psalm 65:4

FRIDAY: John 4:34

SATURDAY: I Peter 2:2

Bible Text

Luke 2:40-52

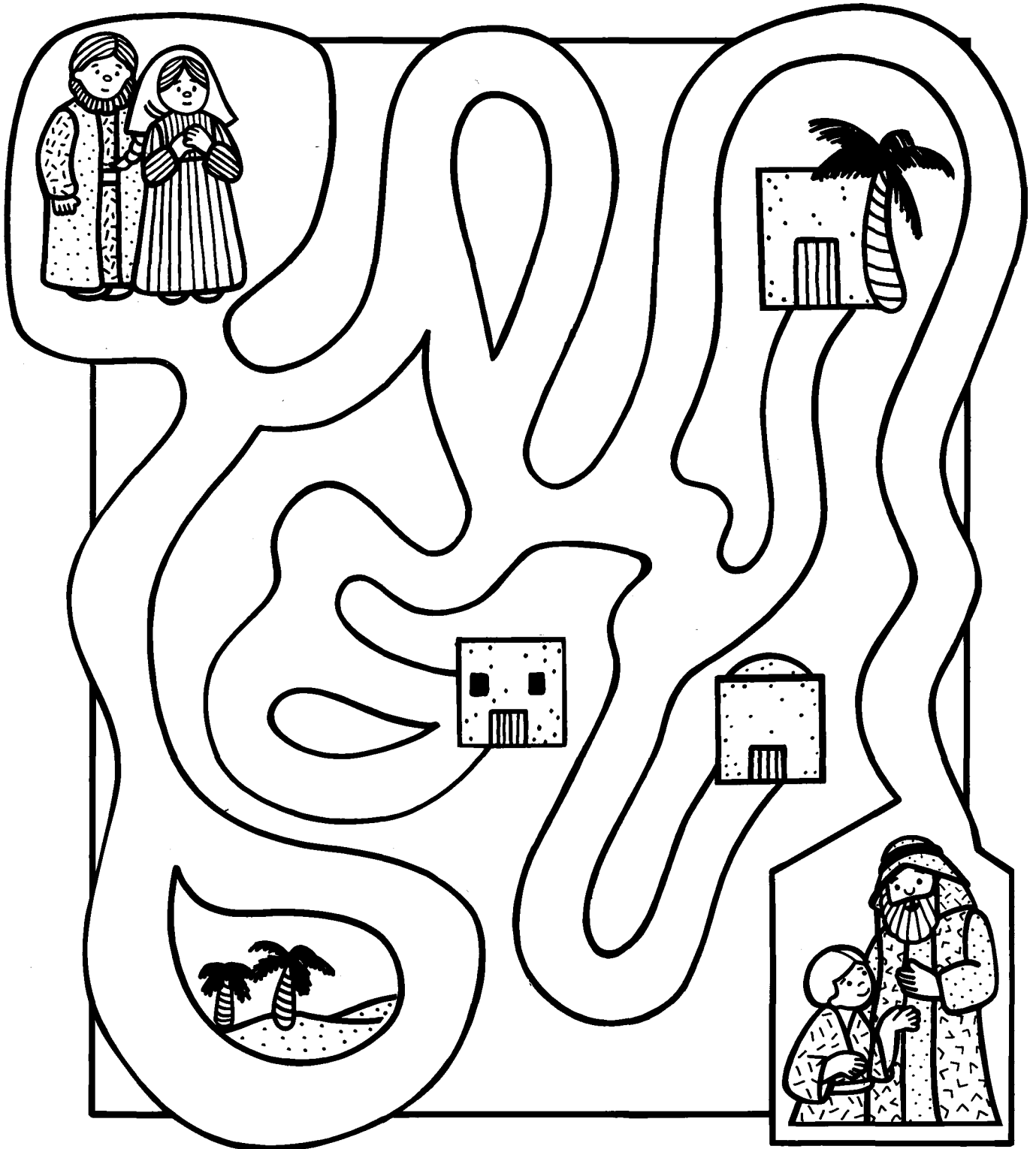


Memory Verse

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour
with God and man. — Luke 2:52

In the Temple

Follow through the maze to help Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Set up a game with your child to illustrate the importance of listening to God and trusting Him to care for us. Pick out several objects which will stand for danger—a wastebasket, chair, pillow, etc. Blindfold your child and explain that you are going to place these objects at various places around the room. Then you will direct him verbally through the room, helping him not to touch any of the “danger spots.”

Talk about how you had to keep your eyes on him as you gave directions, and liken this to God’s watching over us at all times. Then discuss why it is important for your child to listen and obey.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 2:13

MONDAY: Psalm 91:11

TUESDAY: Psalm 34:7

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 18:10

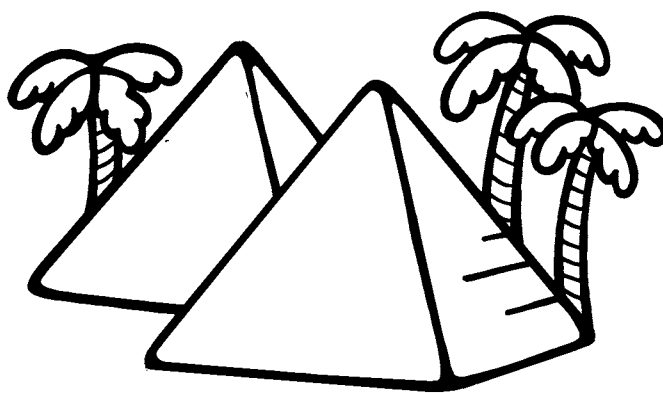
THURSDAY: Luke 12:7

FRIDAY: Psalm 91:4

SATURDAY: Psalm 125:2

Bible Text

Matthew 2:13-23

















Memory Verse

Arise, and take the young child and his mother,
and flee into Egypt. — Matthew 2:13

A Long Journey

Circle the correct pictures to complete the story.

God sent an   to Joseph. God said King Herod was  . King Herod wanted to kill all the  . Joseph was to take his   and   away. They went to  . They stayed there until God said it was safe to return.  

Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, direct your child's attention to the stars. If there is a clear night, bundle up and go out to view the many stars in the sky. Look at pictures of stars in books or an encyclopedia. Count how many stars you can find on the Christmas cards you have received. Do you put a star on your Christmas tree or wrap gifts in paper decorated with stars? Relate all of these to the miracle star followed by the Wise Men.

Cut out a large star, and on each point print one of the following references: Matthew 2:1,2; Luke 1:28; Luke 2:7; Luke 2:8; Luke 2:13. Stick a tack or pin through the middle of the star. Let your child spin the star, then draw a picture of the scene represented by the point that stops closest to him.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 2:10

MONDAY: Matthew 2:1,2

TUESDAY: Matthew 2:6

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 2:9

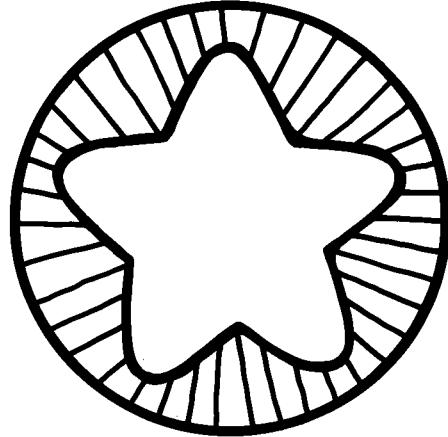
THURSDAY: Matthew 2:11

FRIDAY: Psalm 95:6

SATURDAY: Matthew 2:12

Bible Text

Matthew 2:1-12



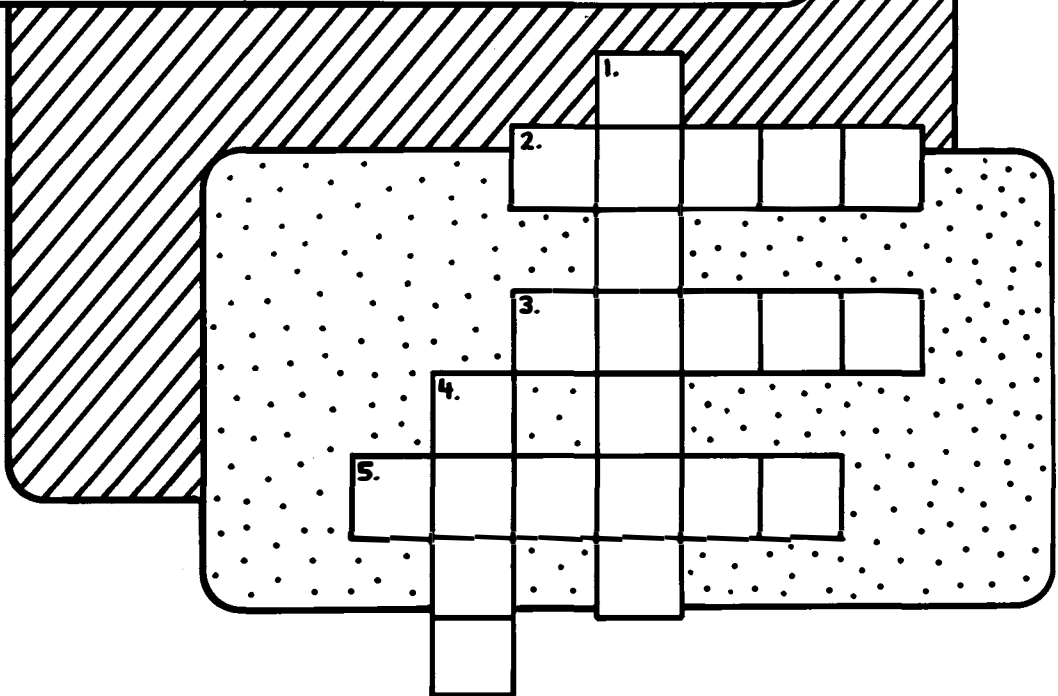
Memory Verse

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. — Matthew 2:10

To Find the Newborn King

Fill in the missing words in the sentences. Then, write the words into the crossword puzzle.

1. The _____ were led by a star.
a. teachers b. Wise Men c. neighbors
2. They brought _____ to the baby.
a. toys b. blankets c. gifts
3. The baby's name was _____.
a. Jesus b. Paul c. Moses
4. The Wise Men came from the _____.
a. south b. east c. north
5. They rode on _____.
a. horses b. bikes c. camels



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Discuss with your child how the shepherds must have felt the night they heard the heavenly choir sing about Christ's birth. Make a paper chain of angels to help him learn this week's memory verse. Accordion pleat a long strip of paper, making eight sections approximately three inches wide. On the top section, draw a simple outline of an angel, making sure wing tips and sides of skirt touch both sides of the folded paper. Help your child cut out the shape, leaving the parts on the fold uncut. When unfolded, write the words of the memory verse on the skirts of the angels.

Help your child hang the strip of angels above a mirror or across the top of a doorway.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:10

MONDAY: Luke 2:8

TUESDAY: Luke 2:9

WEDNESDAY: Luke 2:11

THURSDAY: Luke 2:15

FRIDAY: Luke 2:16,17

SATURDAY: Luke 2:20

Bible Text

Luke 2:8-20

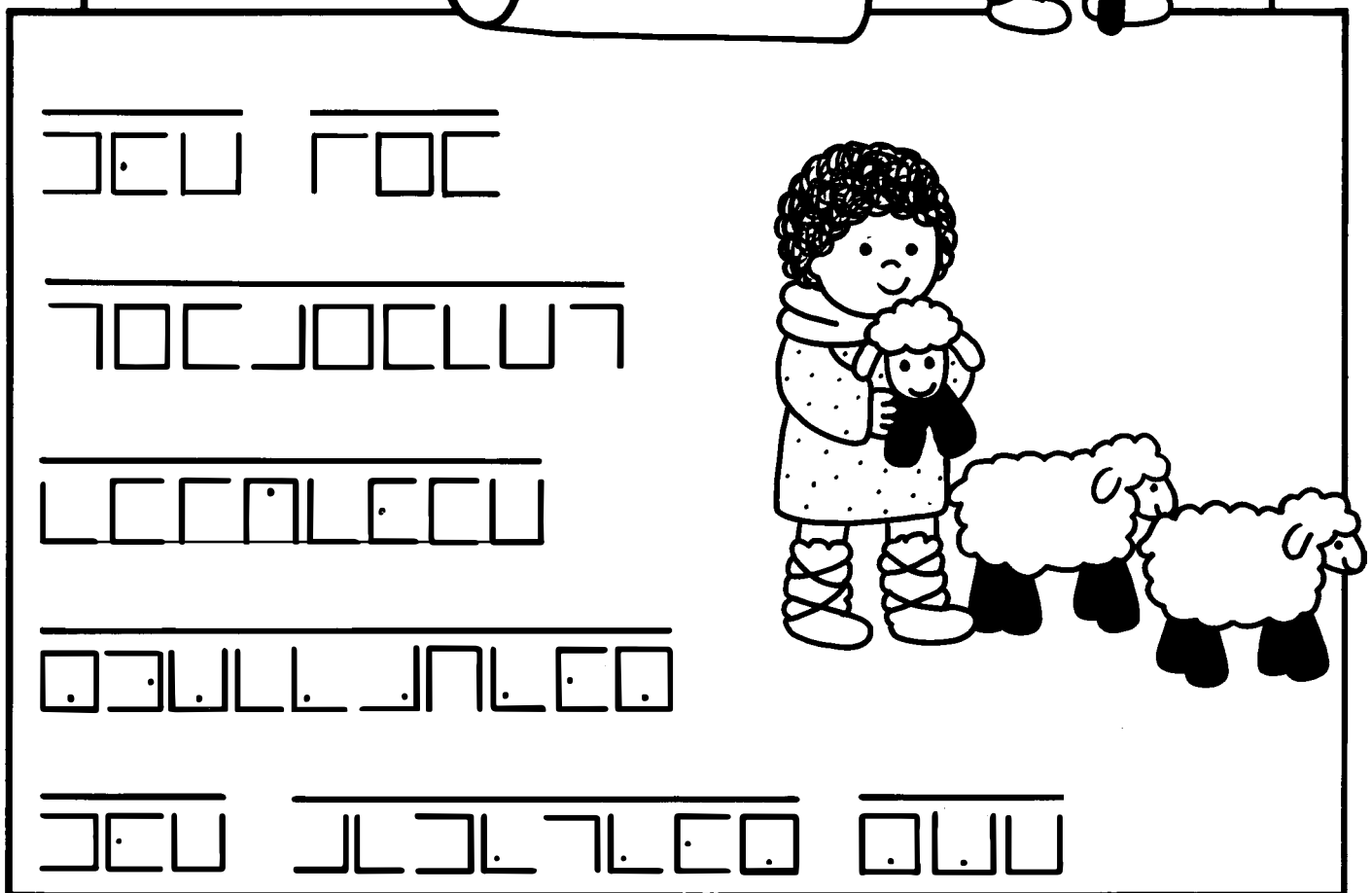
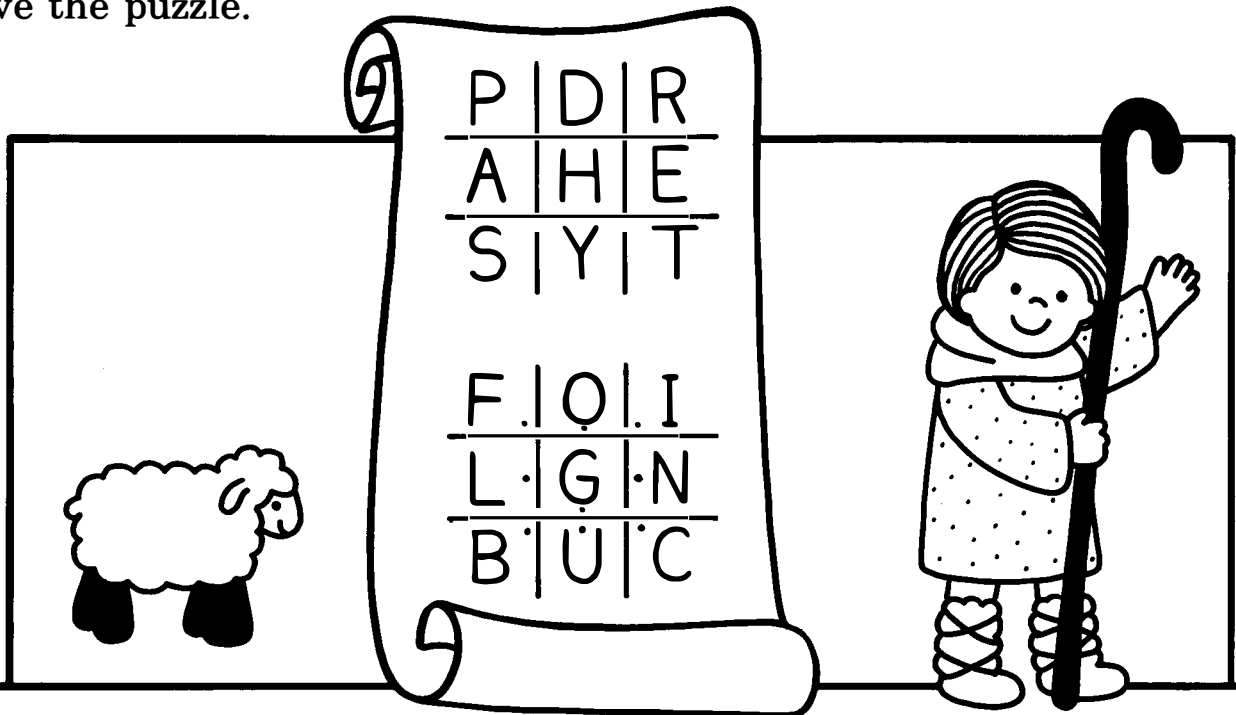


Memory Verse

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. — Luke 2:10

Great Joy

What did the shepherds do after they had seen Jesus? Use the code to solve the puzzle.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Christmas is a time for music, a time for singing about our Savior. Fill your home with the sounds of carols, and take time to make sure your child understands their meanings. Sing together the songs he has been learning for the Sunday school Christmas program.

Help your child make a musical "instrument" that can be jingled to the rhythms of the Christmas carols. Tie jingle bells onto a paper plate with pieces of yarn. Let your child decorate the center of the plate with pictures cut from cards or wrapping paper. Staple or tape a loop of heavy paper to the back for a handle.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:7

MONDAY: Luke 2:11

TUESDAY: Micah 5:2

WEDNESDAY: Galatians 4:4,5

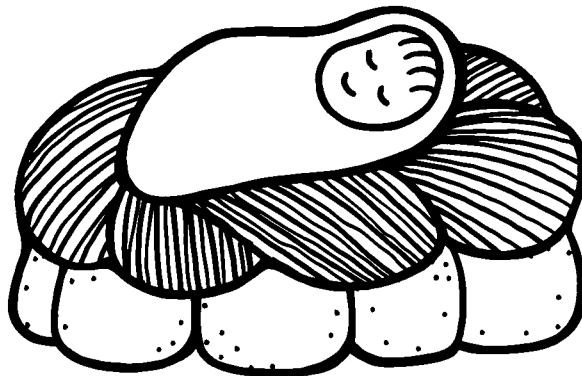
THURSDAY: Isaiah 9:6

FRIDAY: Matthew 1:22,23

SATURDAY: Luke 1:32

Bible Text

Luke 2:1-7

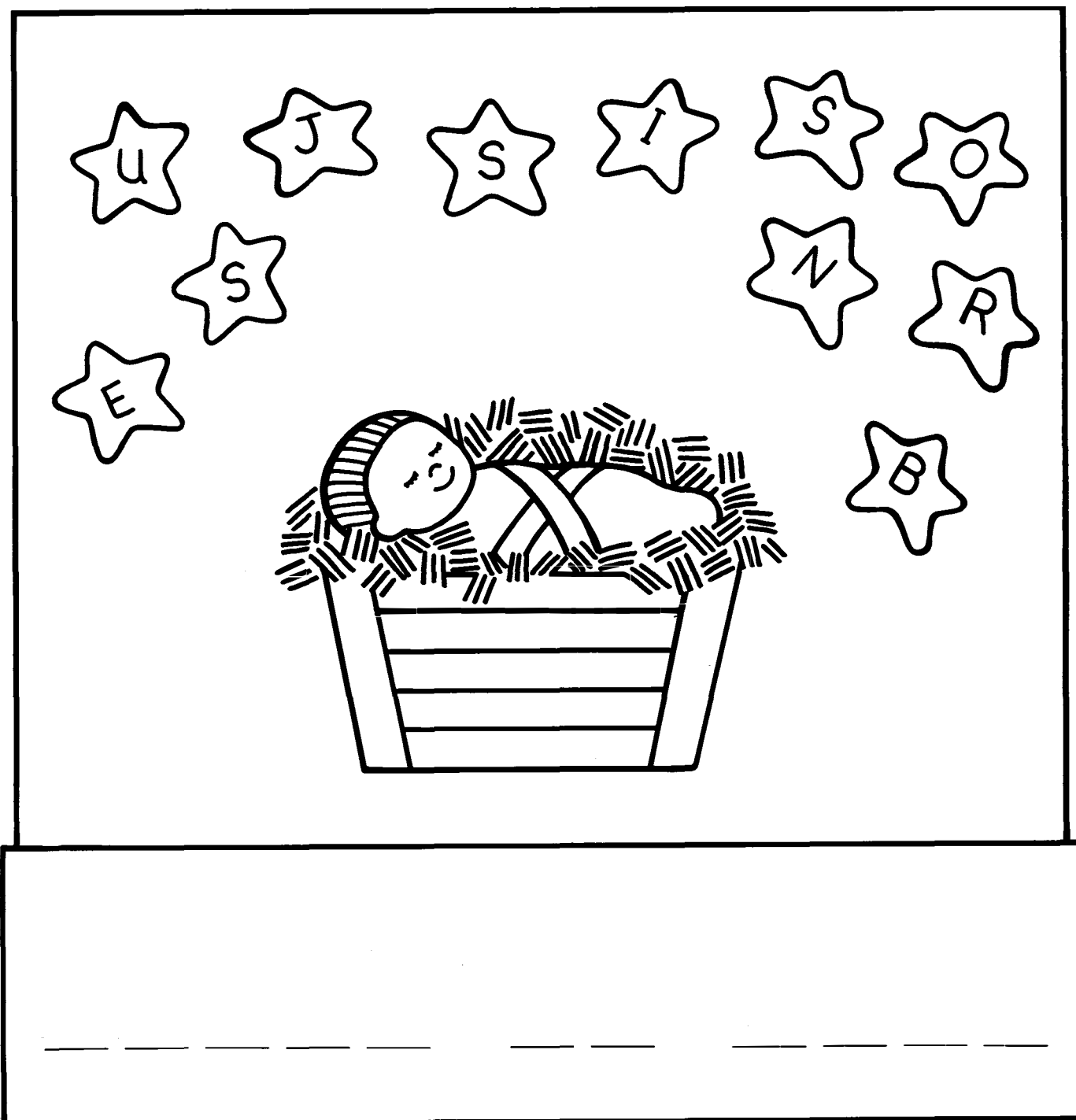


Memory Verse

She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. — Luke 2:7

Her Firstborn Son

Unscramble the letters in the stars to find the three hidden words. Write them on the lines below.



Name: _____

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

As the Christmas season approaches, begin an ongoing project with your child that reinforces the true meaning of the holiday. A Christmas mural might be one idea. Make a large background of construction paper, and let your child draw and cut out characters to add each week to coincide with the part of the story being studied. Begin this week by drawing the angel who made the announcement to Mary. (The angel can be used in succeeding weeks as one of the heavenly host.)

As you mail out Christmas cards and begin to receive them, share this pleasure with your child. Recall together the message of the angel, and pick out cards which reflect that message and the true meaning of Christmas.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 1:21

MONDAY: Luke 1:26

TUESDAY: Luke 1:28

WEDNESDAY: Luke 1:30

THURSDAY: Luke 1:35

FRIDAY: Luke 1:38

SATURDAY: Matthew 1:20



Bible Text

Luke 1:26-38

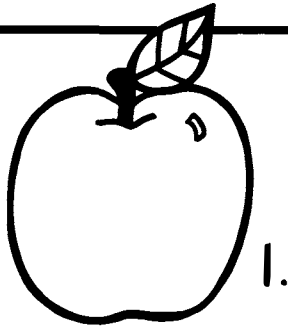
Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Verse

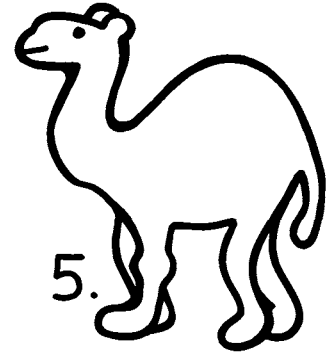
Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people
from their sins. — Matthew 1:21

A Special Messenger

Match the numbers and write the correct words in the squares. Color the starred boxes. You will find a word from today's lesson.



1.



5.

1.

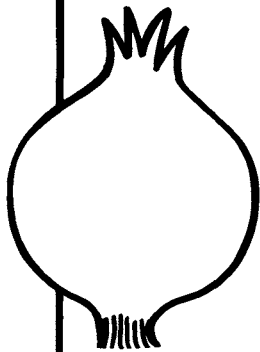
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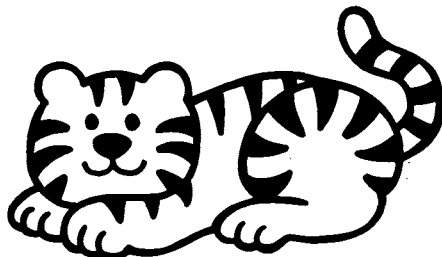
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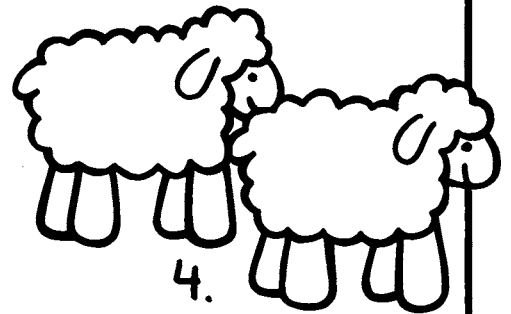
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2.



3.



4.

Name: _____

Bible Memory Verses

Winter

Color each star as you learn the verse.



Student's Name _____

Teacher's Name _____

A Bible lesson and activity handout
for use at home and church.

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