

Watch the Signals

Jeff opened the envelope his dad had just handed him as they walked out of the post office. “Look what my Sunday school teacher mailed to me. It looks just like a traffic light,” Jeff said. He held up a small, black piece of paper that had three circles glued onto it—green, yellow, and red.

“It sure does,” said Mr. Andersen. “With those three colors it has to be a traffic light.”

Jeff took another piece of paper out of the envelope and read it. Then he said to his dad, “We’re right! This note that came with it says, ‘Don’t miss next Sunday. We’ll learn how a traffic light can remind us of the different

ways God answers our prayers.’ I wonder what Teacher Dave means by that, Dad? How can traffic lights be like answers to prayers?”

Just then they came to the corner where they stopped and waited for the light to change before they crossed the street. Mr. Andersen said, “Jeff, this red light tells us that it is not safe to cross the street right now. That is sort of like God’s saying no when we ask for something that He knows is not good for us.

“Look at the light that just changed to yellow for the cars going the other way. That is a warning to them that they had better get ready to stop

because their light is going to change to red. They are going to have to wait for a little bit before it will be safe for them to go again. Sometimes when we pray, God tells us that we will have to wait. And it is a good thing for us if we do wait. We have to remember that God knows when it is the best time for us.

“Now look at our light. It just turned green,” said Mr. Andersen. He and Jeff started to walk across the street as he said, “A green light means we can go. When we pray and God answers yes, we can be sure that we have His blessing. We can know that it is a good thing and the right time for that answer.”

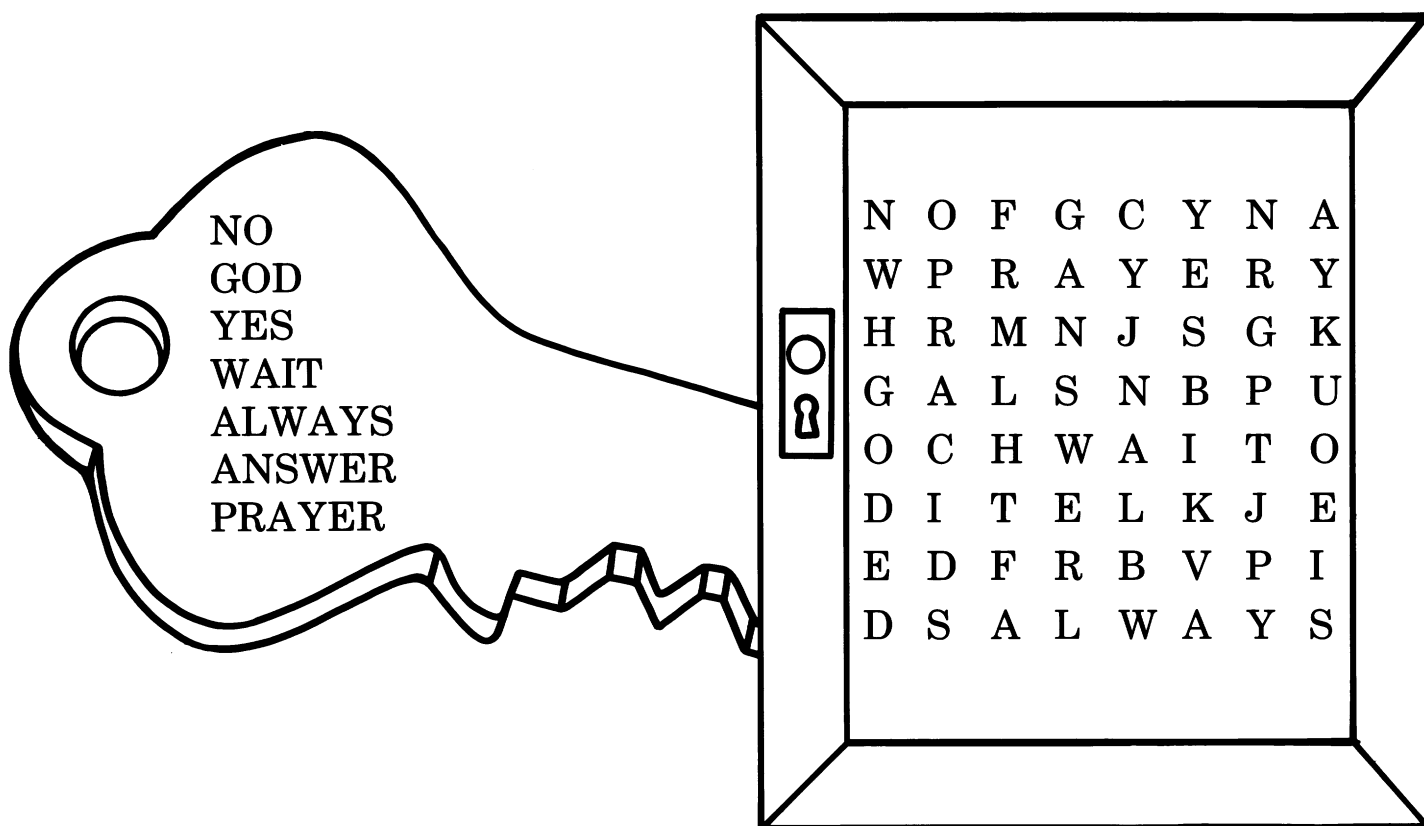
“It feels good when we know that God will give the right answer for each of our prayers,” said Jeff. “This will be a fun lesson in Sunday school. And now that we have talked about it, I’ll be able to answer a lot of the teacher’s questions.

“You know, Dad,” Jeff added quietly, “sometimes I have thought that God didn’t hear some of my prayers. Now I know that He was just saying no or wait.”

“That’s right,” said Mr. Andersen. “God loves and cares for us. He wants to protect us. It’s just like that traffic light. We can be safe as long as we pay attention to the signals.”

Prayer Is the Key

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

One of the most vital concepts a primary-age child needs to learn is that God cares about him and will answer his prayers. However, he also needs to understand that God does not always answer yes.

Our opening lesson for this unit presents the thought that there are three possible answers to prayer—yes, no, or wait. To illustrate this to your child, help him construct a traffic light from construction paper. Guide him in cutting out a black rectangle, and circles from red, yellow, and green paper.

As you assemble the traffic light, talk about what each color on the light means. Then relate the colors to the three ways God might answer our prayers.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Isaiah 65:24

MONDAY: Psalm 3:4

TUESDAY: Jeremiah 33:3

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 7:7

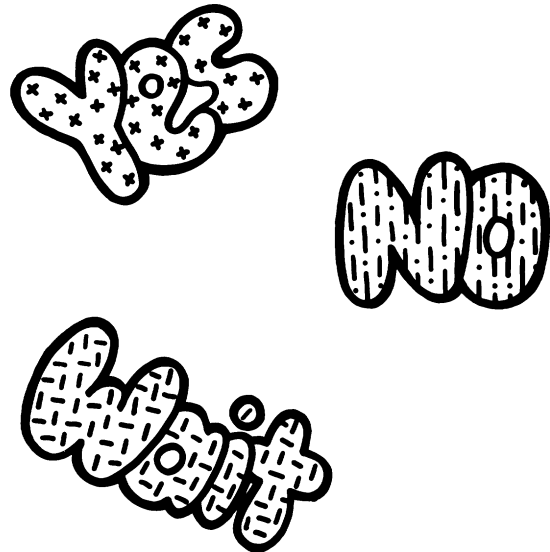
THURSDAY: Jeremiah 29:13

FRIDAY: John 15:7

SATURDAY: Isaiah 58:9

Bible Text

Joshua 10:12-14; Matthew
26:36-46; Genesis 12:1-4;
17:1-4,19-21; 21:1-3

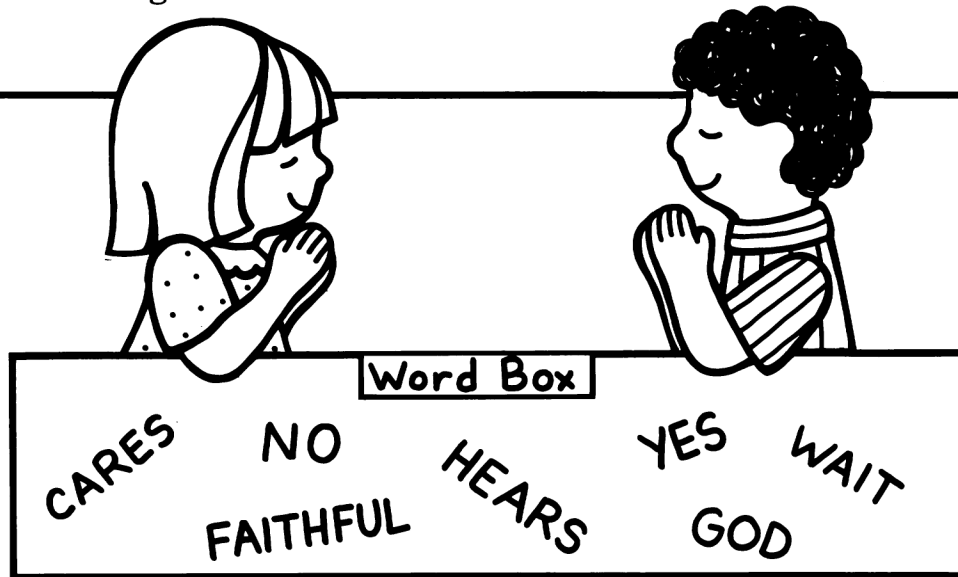


Memory Verse

Before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking,
I will hear. — Isaiah 65:24

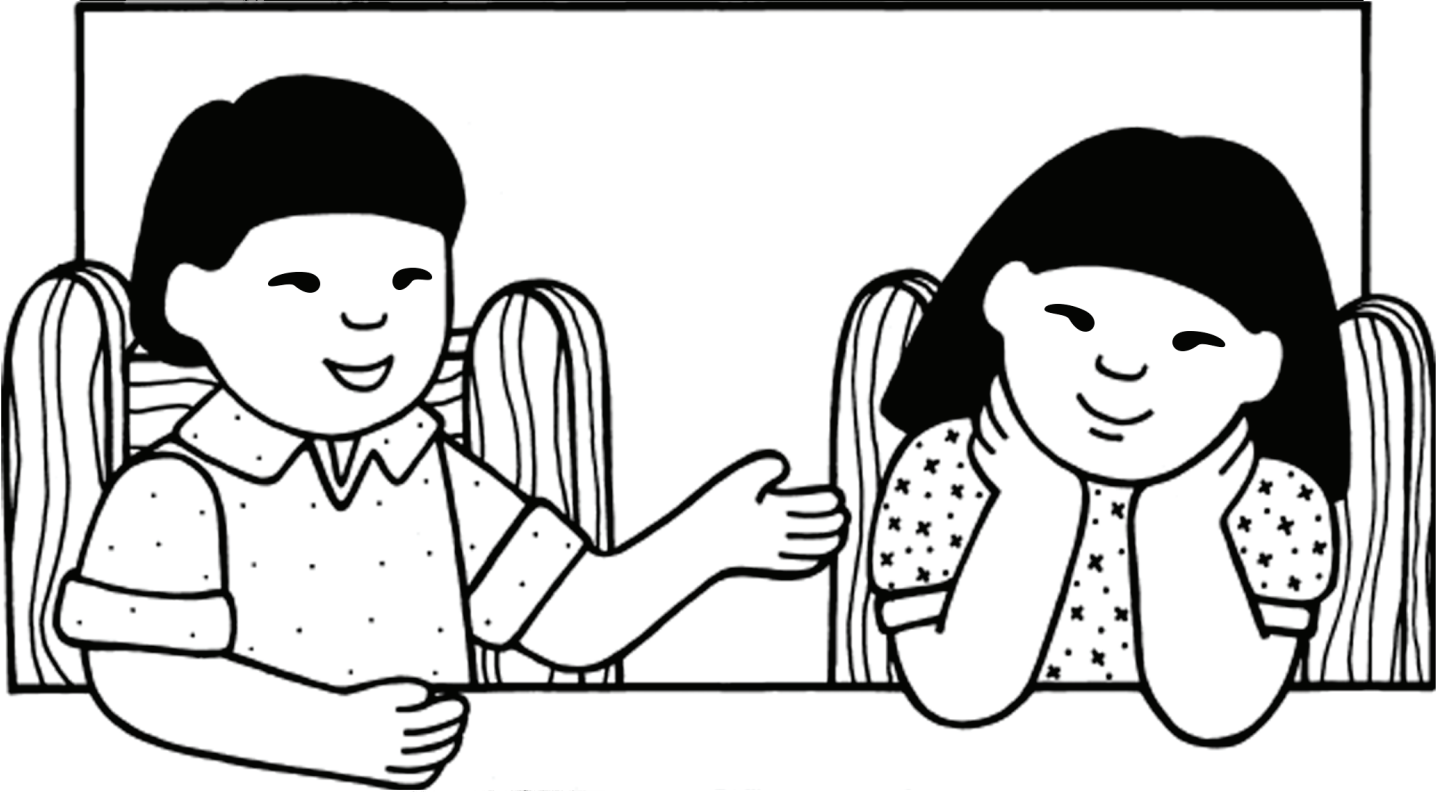
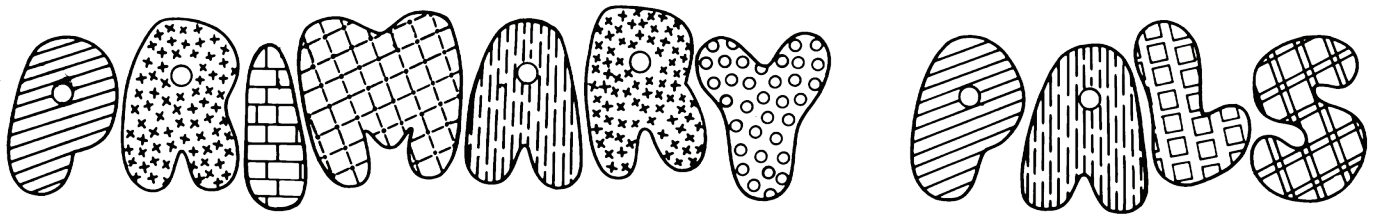
God Will Answer

Fill in the missing words in the sentences with words from the Word Box.



1. God _____ every prayer.
2. _____ always answers our prayers.
3. Sometimes God says _____.
4. Sometimes the answer is _____.
5. God often answers _____ for us.
6. God always _____ for us.
7. God is always _____.

Name: _____



The Right Answer!

“... So when Joshua told the sun to stand still, that’s just what God made it do!” said Andy. “And it stayed that way for about one whole day!”

Beth listened closely to every word her brother was telling her. She had been thinking that God didn’t always hear her prayers. But this story from the Bible was proof that God really did listen to her when she talked to Him. And Beth’s prayers seemed so much simpler than Joshua’s!

Just then Andy said to her, “Beth, don’t ever be afraid to pray and ask God for anything. Remember, if it is good for us He will say yes.”

A few days later their Aunt Sue told the family that the date for her wedding had been set. That very same night, as Beth knelt by her bed to pray, she thought about how God had answered Joshua’s prayer. She wondered if God would also say yes to her prayer. I know God can’t always say yes, she thought. But He knows when something we pray for is right for us and He lets it happen. Andy had said that God always answers our prayers in the way that is best for us.

Beth bowed her head and prayed. “Please, dear God, let me do something special for Aunt Sue at her

wedding. Maybe I could give out the groom's cake or something like that. Amen."

Beth never even dreamed that she could be the flower girl! But just two weeks later Aunt Sue called her on the telephone. She asked, "Beth, do you think you would like to be the flower girl in my wedding?"

Beth squealed with delight, "Oh, Aunt Sue, I would love it! Oh, thank you for asking me!"

The big day finally came. Beth had never been in a wedding before and she wanted to do her very best. She looked down at the beautiful, pink dress she was wearing. There were so many ruffles and lots of pretty white

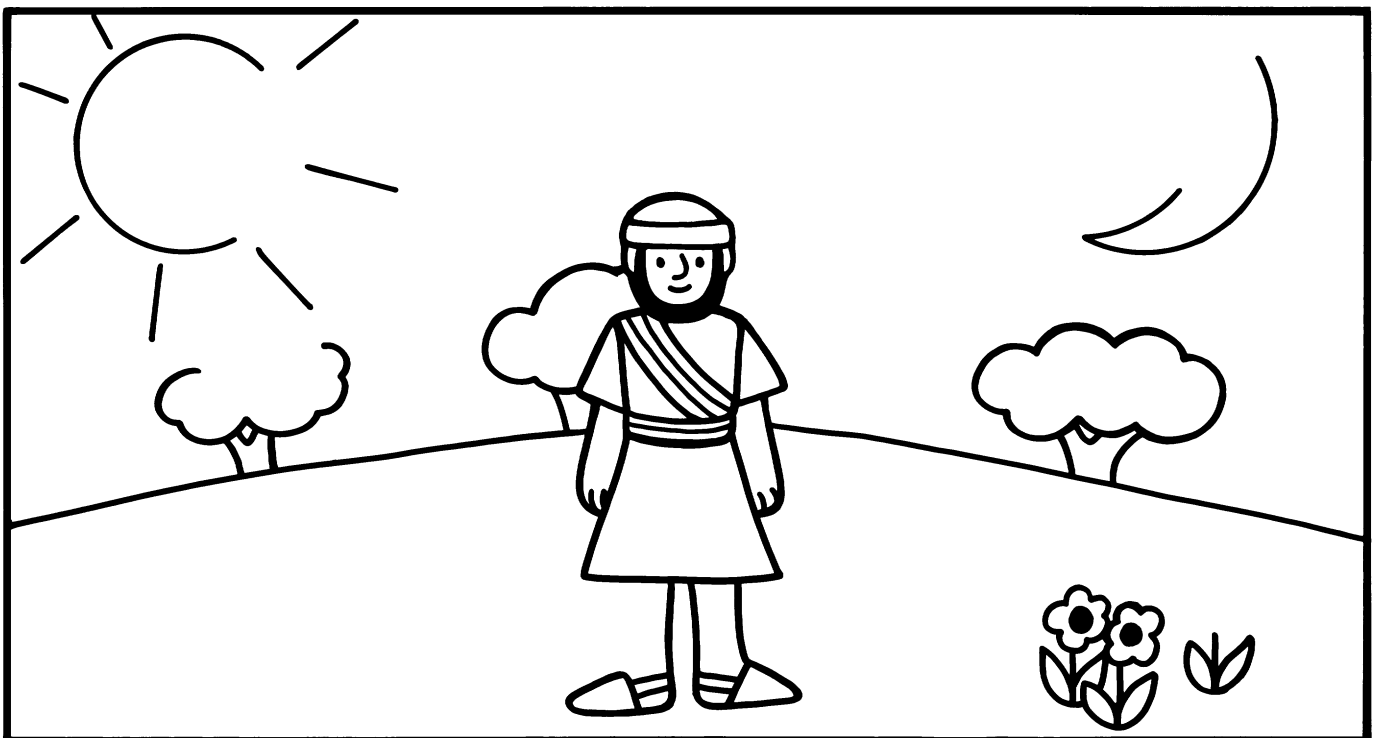
lace. She thought this must be the most beautiful dress at the wedding—except Aunt Sue's dress, of course! She looked behind her at Aunt Sue. She looked so pretty in her long, lacy, white wedding dress! Beth was so excited!

There was a lady telling each of them when it was their turn to walk down the aisle. Suddenly, Beth felt a hand gently nudge her toward the aisle. It was her turn.

"Go!" the lady whispered, and Beth stepped out, her heart beating fast. She looked up toward Heaven and said, "Thank You, God." She was so happy He had answered her prayer with a yes.

Finish the Picture

Finish drawing the picture of Joshua when the sun and moon stood still.
There are five places that are unfinished



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson gives two examples of times when God answered yes to a person's request. Read the Bible text together, being sure to explain any words your child may not understand.

To visually demonstrate the fact that even parents cannot always answer yes, tell your child that this week you are going to make three paper chains together — a Yes chain, a No chain, and a Wait chain.

Select three colors of construction paper and cut them into strips of equal length. Assign a color to each chain. Throughout the week, when your child asks for something, allow him to put one more link on one of the chains in accordance with your response. On Saturday, compare the three chains and review again the ways in which God answers our prayers.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 14:14

MONDAY: Psalm 6:9

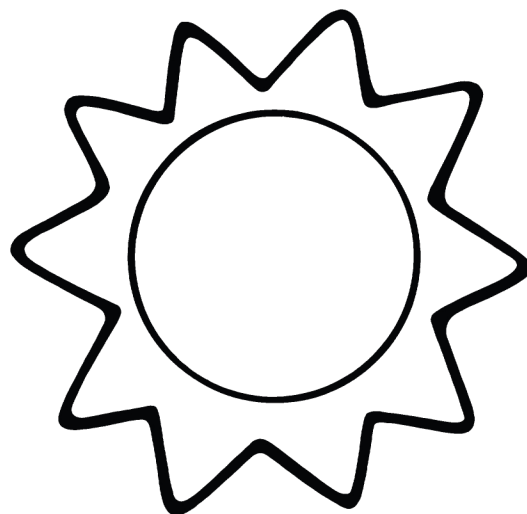
TUESDAY: Psalm 91:15

WEDNESDAY: John 15:7

THURSDAY: Mark 11:24

FRIDAY: James 5:16

SATURDAY: I John 5:14



Bible Text

Joshua 10:12-14

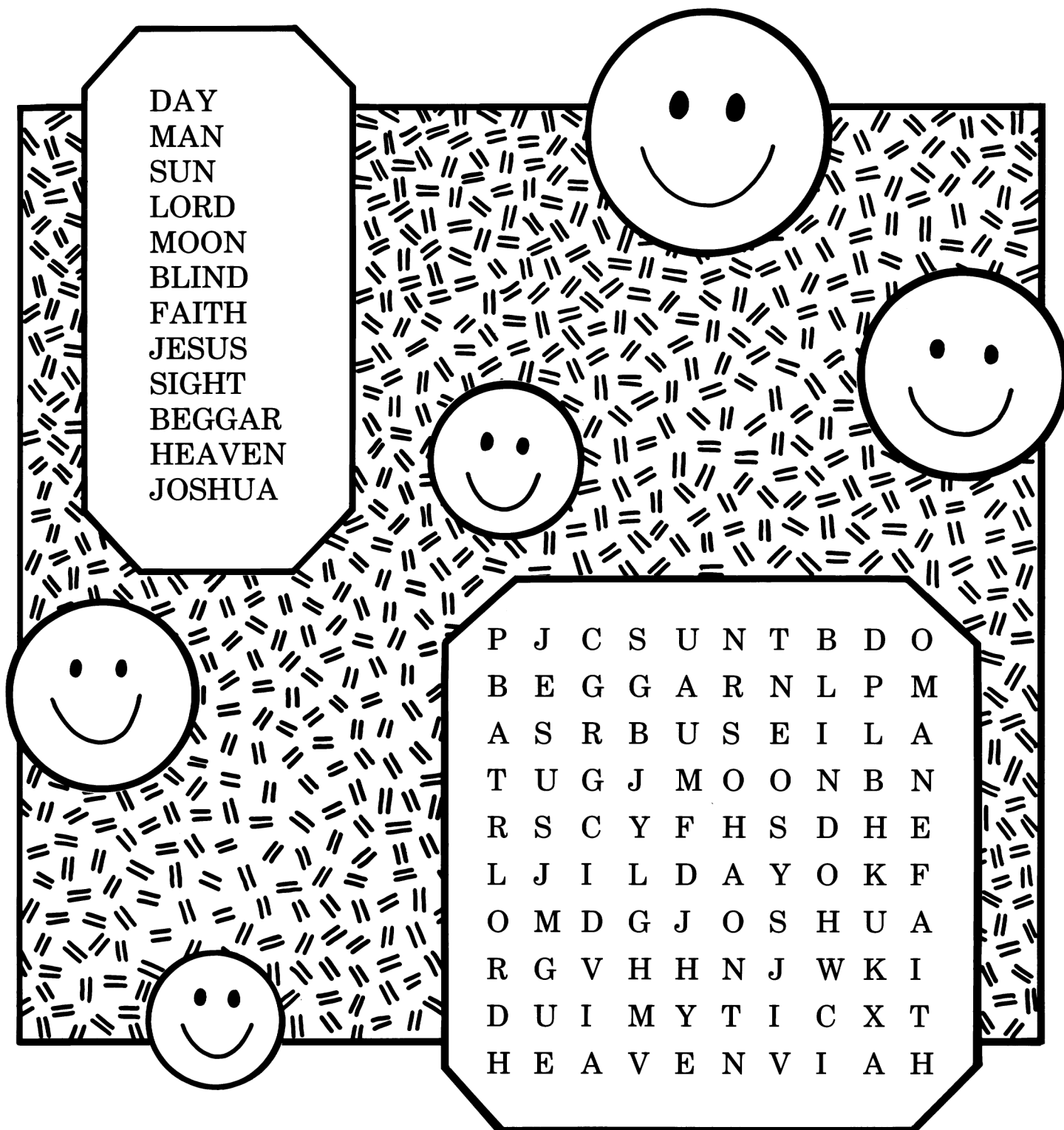
Luke 18: 35:43

Memory Verse

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. — John 14:14

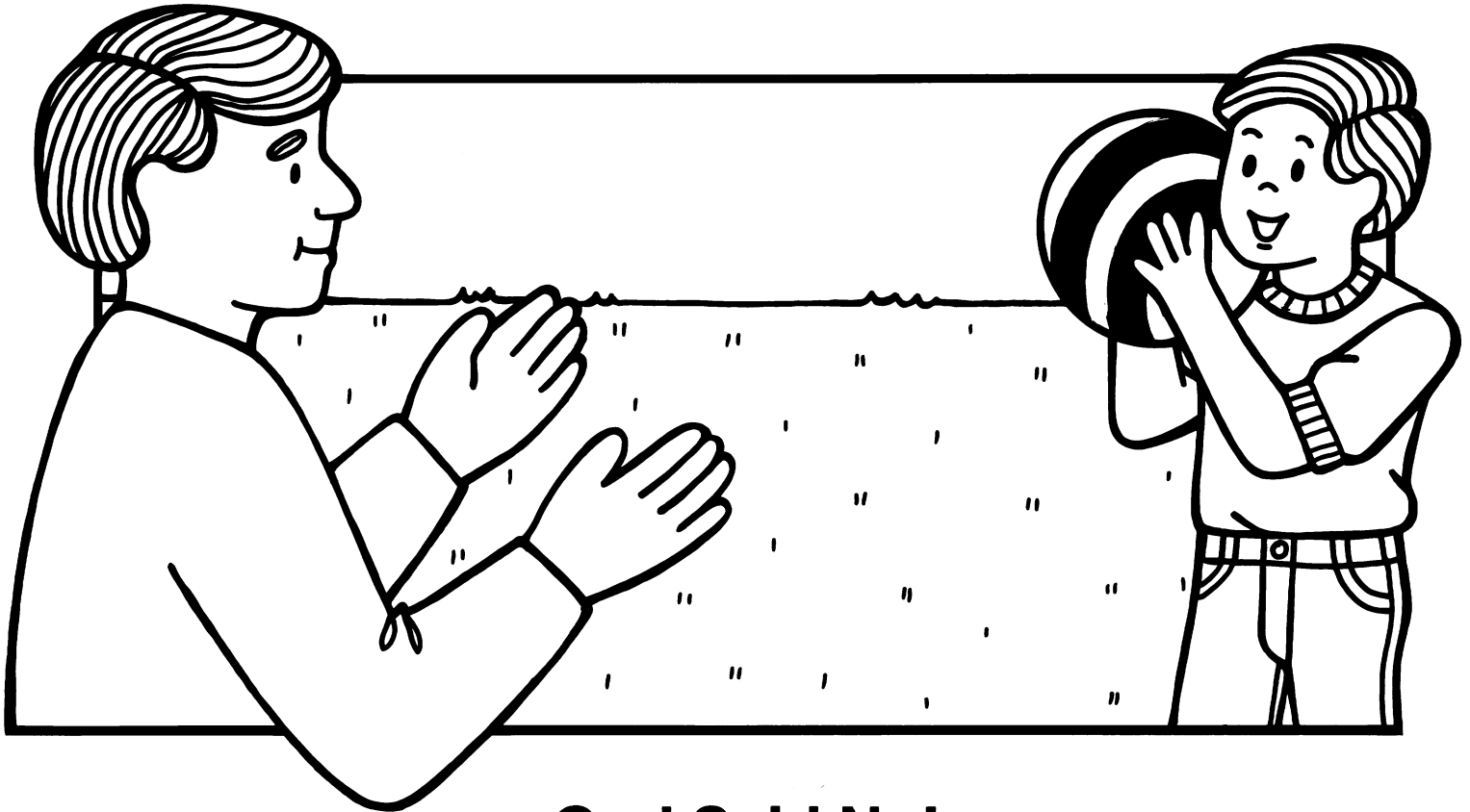
God Will Do It

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Name: _____

PRIMMARY PALS



God Said No!

"But I've been praying and praying to go fishing with Sam and his dad," David said as he tossed the ball to his father. "And I've even hinted to Sam that I want to go. Why won't God answer my prayer?"

Suddenly a loud squeal of brakes split the air. Crash! David and his father raced around the side of the house. Doors slammed and people came running from all directions to see what had happened. Down at the corner of the block two cars had crashed into each other.

David felt his father's hand on his shoulder. He looked up and asked, "Dad, what happened?"

"It looks like one of those cars went through a red light," his dad answered. "The driver must not have been paying attention. Or maybe he thought it would be okay for him to disobey just this one time. He should have stopped, but he didn't."

"Wow, what a mess!" David said. "Look at the side of the blue car. It's all smashed in and the window is broken. And the other car looks even worse. I hope nobody is hurt." He and his dad watched as a police car pulled up. An officer started to direct traffic around the two wrecked cars.

David and his father walked back to their house. They sat down on the

steps of the back porch and were quiet for a while. Then David said, "That was a pretty bad accident, wasn't it, Dad?"

"Yes, it was," said his dad. "That driver should have stopped for the red light. The traffic signal was placed there to help protect people from accidents such as this. You know, Son, a little while ago you asked me why God won't answer your prayer. I think He has answered you and you just weren't listening. God probably said no."

"But what's the problem? Why wouldn't God want me to go fishing?" David asked. "There's nothing wrong with fishing! I can't see why He would say no to me."

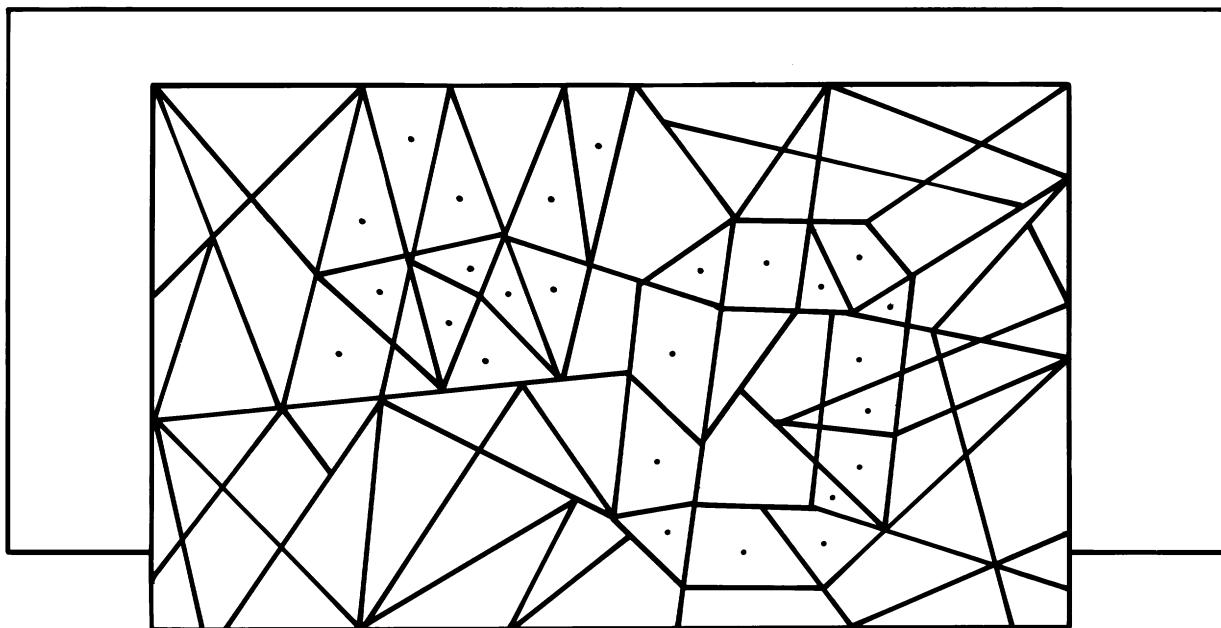
"No, there's nothing wrong with

fishing. There's nothing wrong with driving a car either. But the man who went through the red light knew the traffic signal said stop, and he didn't obey. Now he probably wishes he had. That signal was put at the corner for a good reason.

"We don't always understand why God says no to us, but we can be sure it is for a good reason too. And God doesn't always say no to some people and yes to others," David's dad continued. "Did you know that once He even said no to His very own Son, Jesus? It was the time when Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. When Jesus ended His prayer He said that He would do whatever God wanted, even if God said no to Him. Aren't you glad that Jesus obeyed?"

Color the Dots

Color the spaces that have dots inside. You will see the answer God gave to Jesus.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Our text for this lesson relates how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. He asked God to spare His life if it were God's will, yet He was willing to die if necessary. God answered Jesus' prayer with a no because God had a plan by which to save sinners. We realize this subject must be handled very gently with a child. If your child is afraid of the subject of death, stress that God said no to Jesus so we could all go to Heaven. Everything in Heaven is perfect, and everyone there feels good and is happy all the time.

Try to help your child see that sometimes God must answer no when we ask for something. He knows what is best for us. To illustrate this, tell some simple stories on your child's level: a mother's response to a child's wanting to cross a busy street alone, to a child's requesting a bowl of ice cream right before dinner, etc.

Pose some hypothetical situations and ask your child to provide a response for them. Help him see that the answer cannot always be yes.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: II Corinthians 12:9

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 32:4

TUESDAY: Exodus 33:18-20

WEDNESDAY: James 4:3

THURSDAY: James 1:6,7

FRIDAY: Ecclesiastes 3:14

SATURDAY: Deuteronomy 3:24-26

Bible Text

Matthew 26:36-46



Memory Verse

My grace is sufficient for thee. — II Corinthians 12:9

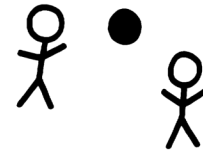
The Right Answer

Circle the things below to which your parents would probably say no.



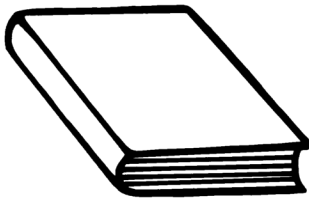
It is 4 o'clock and you want some candy.

Your friends ask you to play ball in the street.



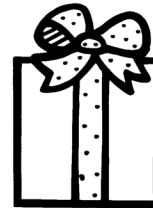
You want dessert after dinner.

You want to walk outdoors alone at night.



You want to read books at the library.

You want to open your gifts on your birthday.

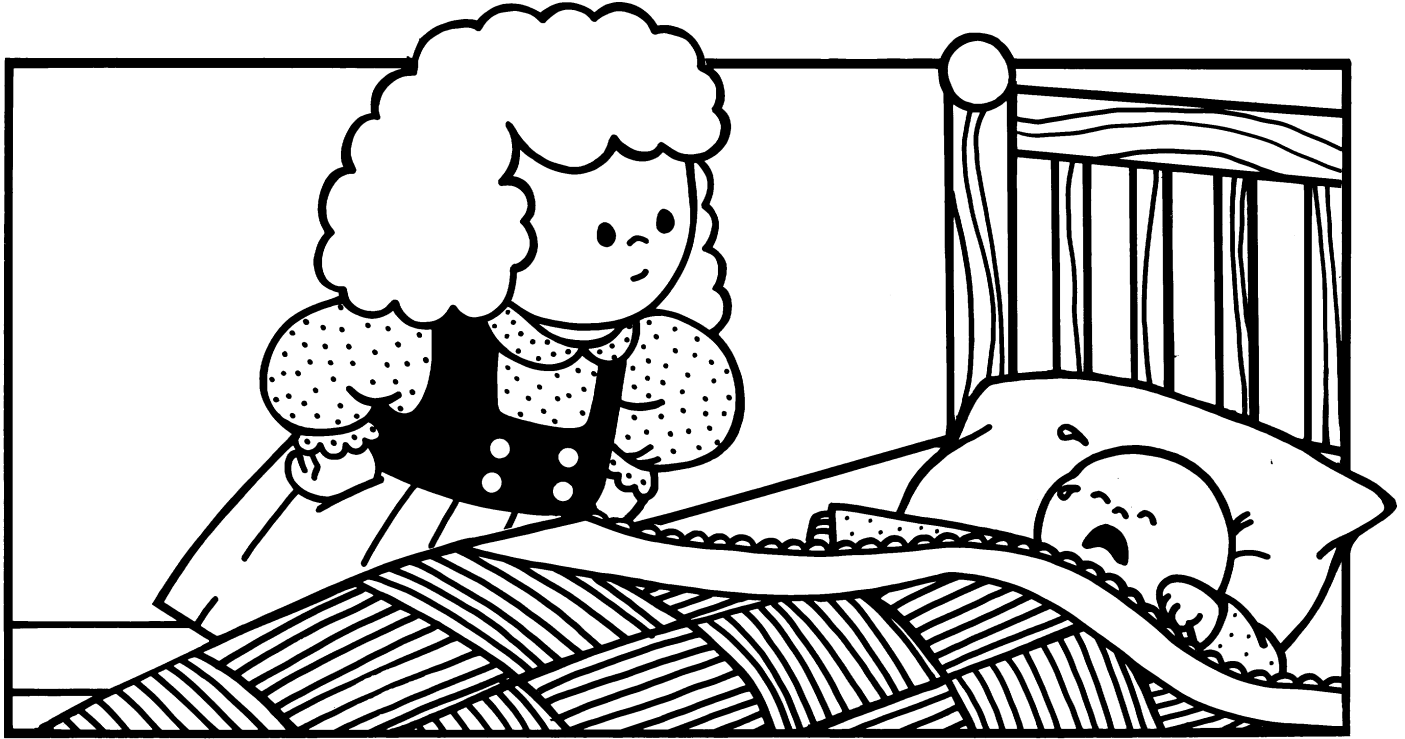


A stranger wants to talk to you.

God loves us very much. Sometimes He has to say no because it is best for us.

Name: _____

PRIMMITY PALS



Allison's Crybaby

Allison had a new baby brother. Danny was cute and cuddly but could he ever cry! He cried in the morning before Allison left for school. He was crying when she came home in the afternoon. And it seemed to her he cried all night long!

"Won't Danny ever stop crying?" Allison asked one evening while her mother rocked the fretful baby. "Each night when I say my prayers I ask God to please help Danny stop crying. Why won't God answer my prayers?"

Her mother smiled. "I'm sure God will answer your prayer, Honey. Each day Danny cries less and less. You just wait and see—one of these days Danny will hardly cry at all."

"I'll believe that when I see it!" Allison sighed and turned back to her homework.

But what her mother said was true. A few weeks later Allison noticed that Danny wasn't crying very much anymore. In fact, he laughed quite a lot now. Whenever Allison would talk to him he would smile and kick his little feet. All we had to do was wait, thought Allison.

One day Allison reminded her mom of that earlier conversation. "I thought God wasn't answering my prayers. I was sure Danny would never stop crying, but you said I just had to wait. And you were right, Mom."

"That's the way God answers

prayers sometimes,” Allison’s mother told her. “He doesn’t always answer with a yes or no right away. Now and then He tells us to wait.

“Allison, do you remember the story you heard in Sunday school about the promise God gave to Abraham? Abraham was seventy-five years old when God told him that He would give him a son. But Abraham had to wait for a long time before that promised son was born. We don’t know why God waited so long, but God knew. And God’s time is always the right time.

“God is still the same today, Allison,” she continued. “Abraham

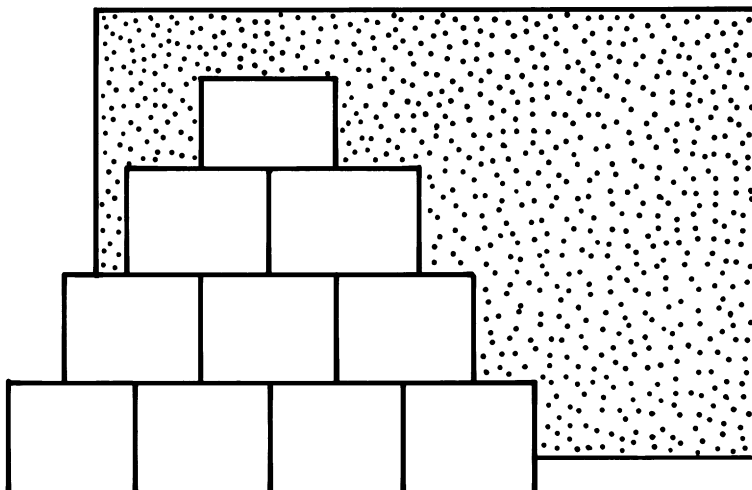
had to wait for twenty-five years before Isaac was born! But we only had to wait a few short weeks for Danny’s problem to be solved. We may not always understand why God wants us to wait. But if we are patient, He answers our prayers at just the right time—His time! He answered your prayer by telling you to wait.”

“You’re right again, Mom,” said Allison. “God always answers our prayers. And even though I don’t always understand why He tells us to wait, He does know what is best for us. I do believe God’s time is the right time.”

Wait!

This is a tricky puzzle. The word WAIT is hidden ten times! It may read up or down or forward or backward. Find and circle each one.

Each time you find the word WAIT, color in a space of the pyramid below.



W	A	I	T	I	A	T	W
I	W	A	W	A	T	W	A
T	A	W	A	I	T	A	I
A	I	T	W	I	A	I	T
T	T	A	A	T	W	T	T
I	W	A	I	T	T	I	A
A	T	W	T	I	A	W	I
W	A	T	T	T	I	A	W

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson focuses on the times when God tells us to wait. God made a promise to Abraham, but he had to trust and believe—to wait—for quite some time before he received the promise.

Explain to your child that you will make him a promise, just as God did to Abraham. Abraham did not know an exact date when he would receive the promise, but you will choose a certain time. Look at a calendar, and pick out a date together on which a treat will be given by you (a small gift, a trip together, etc.). Be sure that nothing will interfere with what you plan!

Count the days intervening. Allow your child to mark a big red X through each day as it goes by. As he does this, reinforce the fact that you are waiting but that the promise will be fulfilled on the appointed day.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Micah 7:7

MONDAY: Isaiah 40:31

TUESDAY: Psalm 27:14

WEDNESDAY: Hosea 12:6

THURSDAY: Psalm 37:7

FRIDAY: Psalm 40:1

SATURDAY: II Thessalonians 3:5

Bible Text

Genesis 12:1-4;
17:1-4,19-21; 21:1-3

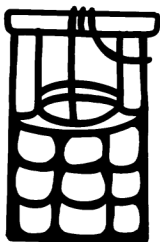


Memory Verse

I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. — Micah 7:7

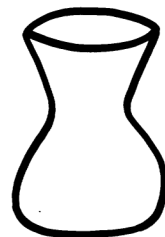
Have Patience

Finish the words on the lines next to the pictures. Then write those words in the squares below. Be sure to write the number 1 word on the number 1 squares, and so forth. God's answer to Abraham will be in the starred boxes.



1. W _ _ _

2. V _ _ _



3. R _ _ _

4. B _ _ _



1.	★			
2.		★		
3.			★	
4.				★

Name: _____