

PRIMARY PALS



Learning an Important Lesson

“Hi, Mom. I’m home,” Tricia called.

“Hi, Honey,” her mother answered. “How was your day at school?”

“Not too great,” Tricia replied sadly as she took off her jacket. “I didn’t get a very good grade on my reading test.”

Her mother looked puzzled. “Really? What was the problem? We went over all that material last night and I thought you seemed to know it.”

Tricia sighed. “Well, the biggest problem was that I didn’t follow the instructions. On the last part of the test, Mrs. Cooper gave five questions. I was supposed to answer each question with a complete sentence.

Instead, I just wrote one word answers so I could finish faster. Mrs. Cooper gave me a zero on that part.”

Tricia’s Mom hugged her gently. “I’m sorry, Tricia. I know this test was an important part of your grade and you did study hard for it. But do you think you have learned a lesson from this?”

“Yeah . . .” Tricia said thoughtfully. “I’m learning that you really do have to follow directions if you want things to come out right. I should have already learned that by now. Remember how mixed up I got on my piano lesson last week just because I didn’t follow the instructions?”

Her mother smiled and motioned for Tricia to sit down at the table where she had placed a plate of cookies. “I think you are getting the idea, Tricia. It is an important lesson to learn, because not following directions can hurt us in serving God also.”

“What do you mean?” Tricia asked.

“God’s Word is full of instructions for us,” her mother replied. “When we don’t do what He says, we miss out on the blessings He has promised.”

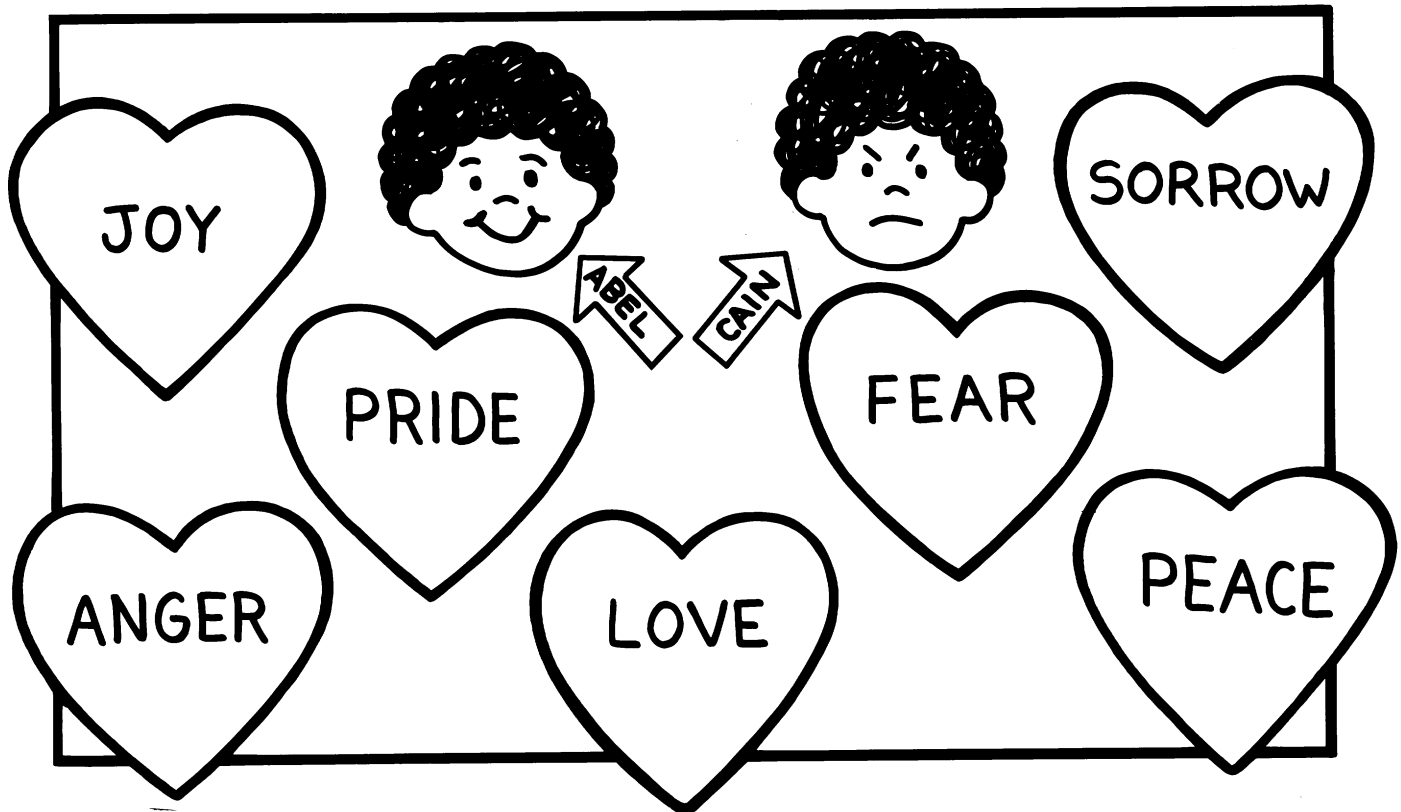
Tricia grinned and said, “Mom, our Sunday school lesson this Sunday was

the perfect example of that! It was about Cain and Abel. They both knew how they should make an offering to God. Abel followed the instructions but Cain didn’t. God accepted the offering that Abel made because he did it the way God wanted it done. Cain’s offering was refused.”

Tricia paused and thought a little more. “I’m really going to pay attention to God’s Word and do what He says. If I do that, God will help me remember to follow other instructions too.”

What Was in Their Hearts?

Draw a line from Cain and Abel to the different things that were in their hearts.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

One of the things a child must learn is the importance of obedience. That is the subject of this lesson which begins our unit entitled, "Let's Do It God's Way."

To illustrate to your child why obedience is important, do a project together in which he must follow your directions exactly in order to achieve the desired results. Guide him through the process of making Very Berry Milk Punch. In a blender, combine 1 cup of milk, an 8-ounce container of vanilla yogurt, 6 strawberries, 2 teaspoons of honey, and 4 ice cubes. Cover and blend until all the ice pieces are gone. Pour into glasses.

As you enjoy your punch together, talk about what would have happened if butter-milk had been used instead of regular milk. What if salt had been added instead of honey? Stress the importance of obedience, because this is God's way.

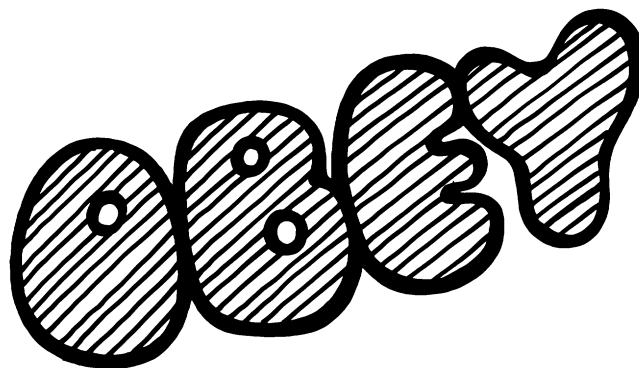
Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Acts 5:29
MONDAY: Exodus 19:5
TUESDAY: Matthew 12:50
WEDNESDAY: John 14:23
THURSDAY: I Peter 1:22
FRIDAY: Job 36:11,12
SATURDAY: Romans 6:16

Bible Text

Genesis 4:1-7



Memory Verse

We ought to obey God rather than men. — Acts 5:29

Two Brothers

Fill in the blank lines with the correct words from the word box. Each word will be used twice.

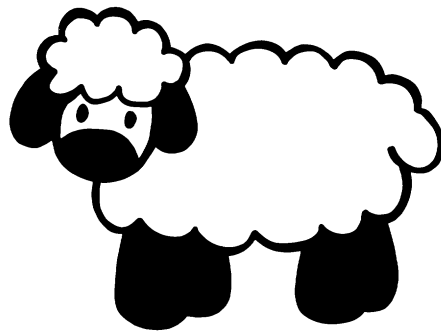
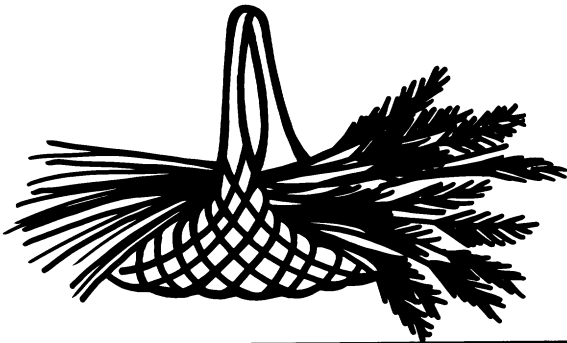
Cain

Abel

Farmer

Shepherd

1. _____ was the eldest son of Adam and Eve.
2. _____ was Cain's brother.
3. Abel was a _____ .
4. A _____ takes care of sheep.
5. Cain was a _____ .
6. A _____ grows grain in his field.
7. _____ did not love God.
8. _____ loved God.



Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS



Jonah's Journey

It was a terrible storm. Men were shaking me and shouting, "Jonah, Jonah, wake up! Pray to your God! This storm must stop or we will all drown! Hurry, Jonah!"

I jumped to my feet and nearly fell as the ship rolled from one side to the other. I ran up onto the deck and saw some men throwing cargo boxes and other things over the side, into the water. Other men were praying to their gods to stop the storm.

I knew all of this was happening because I did not obey God. He had told me to go to Nineveh and preach to the wicked people there. God loved

them and wanted them to be saved and to love Him. But I did not want to go, so I was running away.

I turned to the men who had followed me up onto the deck. "God has found me. If you want the storm to stop, you must throw me into the sea."

"No, Jonah," said the men. "We cannot do that! Just pray to your God."

"It is the only way," I said. "I have disobeyed God."

I knew they did not understand. They did not want to throw me overboard. But, they said if that was the only way to stop the storm, they would have to do it.

I hit the water with a big splash. Almost at once I could feel the storm stop. The waters became calm. Then, suddenly, I was being swallowed by a huge fish! Not eaten, but swallowed! I was still alive! What was happening to me?

There I was, down in the belly of a whale—what an awful place to be! Yuk! What hope was there for me?

I prayed for three whole days! I promised God that I would do what He had asked me to do, if He would just get me out of this awful place!

All at once there was a rumbling sound. With a swoosh I was thrown

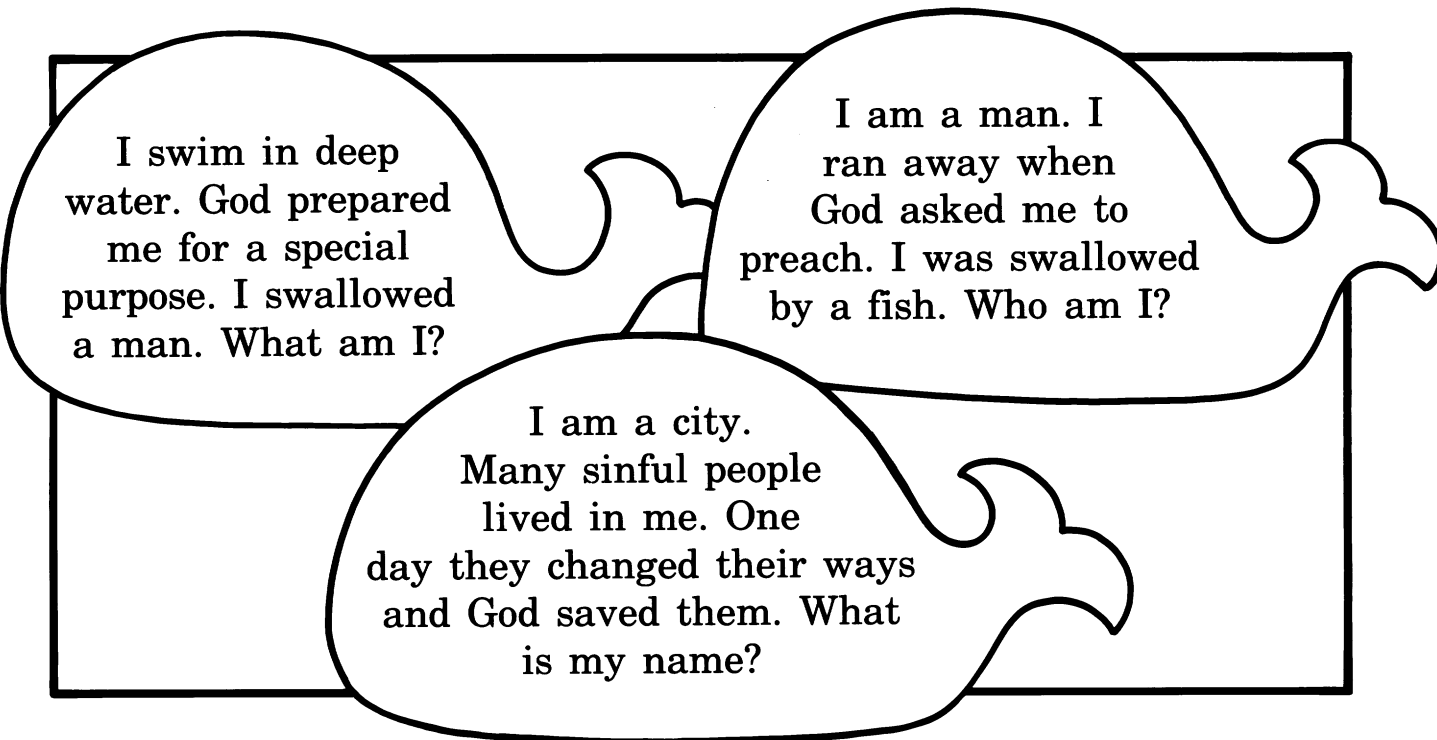
out of the whale's mouth onto a beach!

I scrambled to my feet. I pulled the seaweed out of my hair and rinsed myself off in the water. Before the sun could even dry my clothes, I started out toward Nineveh. When I reached the city my only duty was to tell the people to repent and to stop doing bad things. They must tell God they were sorry or in forty days He would destroy their city.

I saw many people pray that day. In fact, everyone in the whole city prayed. That was why God wanted me to preach in Nineveh. All those people prayed because I finally obeyed God.

A Whale of a Tale

Read these riddles to someone who didn't hear this story of Jonah. See if they can guess the answers.



I swim in deep water. God prepared me for a special purpose. I swallowed a man. What am I?

I am a man. I ran away when God asked me to preach. I was swallowed by a fish. Who am I?

I am a city. Many sinful people lived in me. One day they changed their ways and God saved them. What is my name?

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This lesson is one of the favorites of most children, and it has an important lesson to teach with regard to our theme of obedience. As the teacher goes through the story of Jonah during class time, emphasis will be placed on the fact that when God asks us to do something for Him it is in our best interest to do it!

To reinforce this theme, encourage your child to use his imagination and ingenuity to re-create this favorite Bible story with words, pictures, and letters cut from magazines and newspapers. Provide your child with several old magazines or newspapers, scissors, glue, and a large piece of posterboard.

Begin by reviewing the story from the Bible. Then let your child cut out words, letters, and pictures that will become a part of the story. Help him lay out the words or pictures on the posterboard, piecing words together by cutting out individual letters when necessary. When the story is ready, glue all the words in place on the posterboard, and allow your child to read his story to the whole family.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 14:23

MONDAY: Exodus 20:6

TUESDAY: Isaiah 1:19

WEDNESDAY: Deuteronomy 5:33

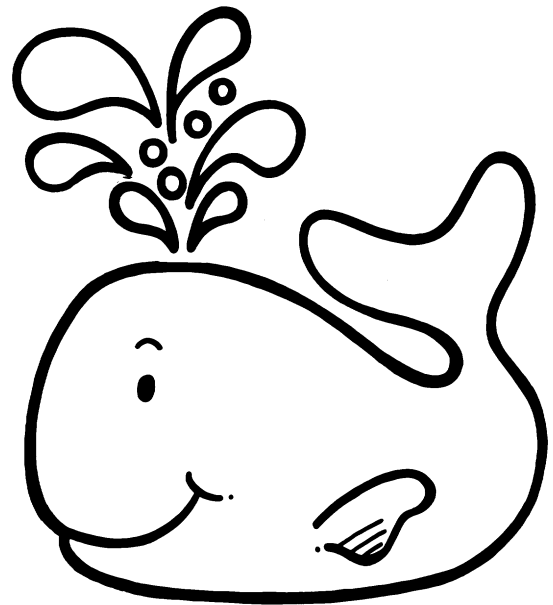
THURSDAY: I Samuel 12:24

FRIDAY: Luke 11:28

SATURDAY: Revelation 22:14

Bible Text

Jonah 1; 2; 3

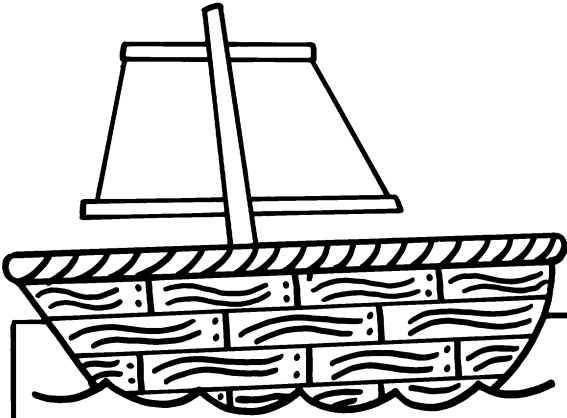


Memory Verse

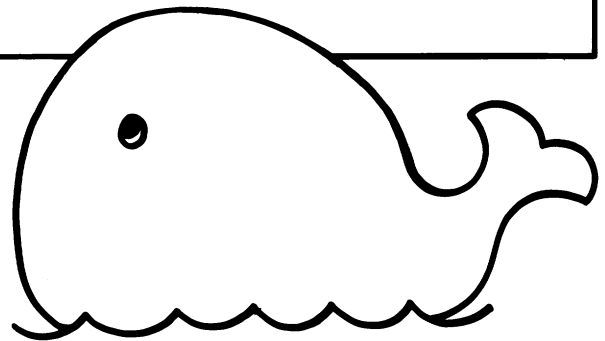
If a man love me, he will keep my words. — John 14:23

True or False

Read the sentences below and mark them T for true or F for false.



- ___ God told Jonah to go to Nineveh.
- ___ Jonah obeyed God right away.
- ___ Jonah found a boat that was sailing to Nineveh.
- ___ The storm stopped when Jonah was thrown into the water.
- ___ Jonah was swallowed by a big fish.
- ___ Jonah was inside the big fish for a week.
- ___ Jonah went to Nineveh after the fish spit him up on land.
- ___ Jonah preached to Nineveh, but God destroyed the whole city because none of the people repented.



Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS



Father's Day

It's Father's Day! Have you been having some special thoughts about your dad? Maybe you have been thinking about what you could do for him or give him on this day.

Did you ever stop to think that fathers come in all sizes, shapes, and colors?

Some are rich, some poor, and some in-between.

Some are happy and fun to be with; others are grumpy.

Some live with their children and some live elsewhere.

Some love Jesus and serve Him; others may never go to church.

Some find little jobs to do together with their kids; others don't.

Some dads are healthy, but some dads are sick and can't do many things.

Some scold or discipline when you've done something you shouldn't. Does that mean they don't love you?

Now, which fathers should be obeyed?

Did you say, "All of them"? You're right.

Jesus wants children to listen to their parents and then do what they are told. That will make parents happy, and it will make Jesus happy too.

The Bible tells us that we should honor our fathers and mothers. What does honor mean? Do you suppose it means to treat your father like a king? Should you make a crown for him to wear? Nooooo? Well, how about bowing to him before you speak? We don't do that in our country but in some countries children do bow to the parents and to teachers.

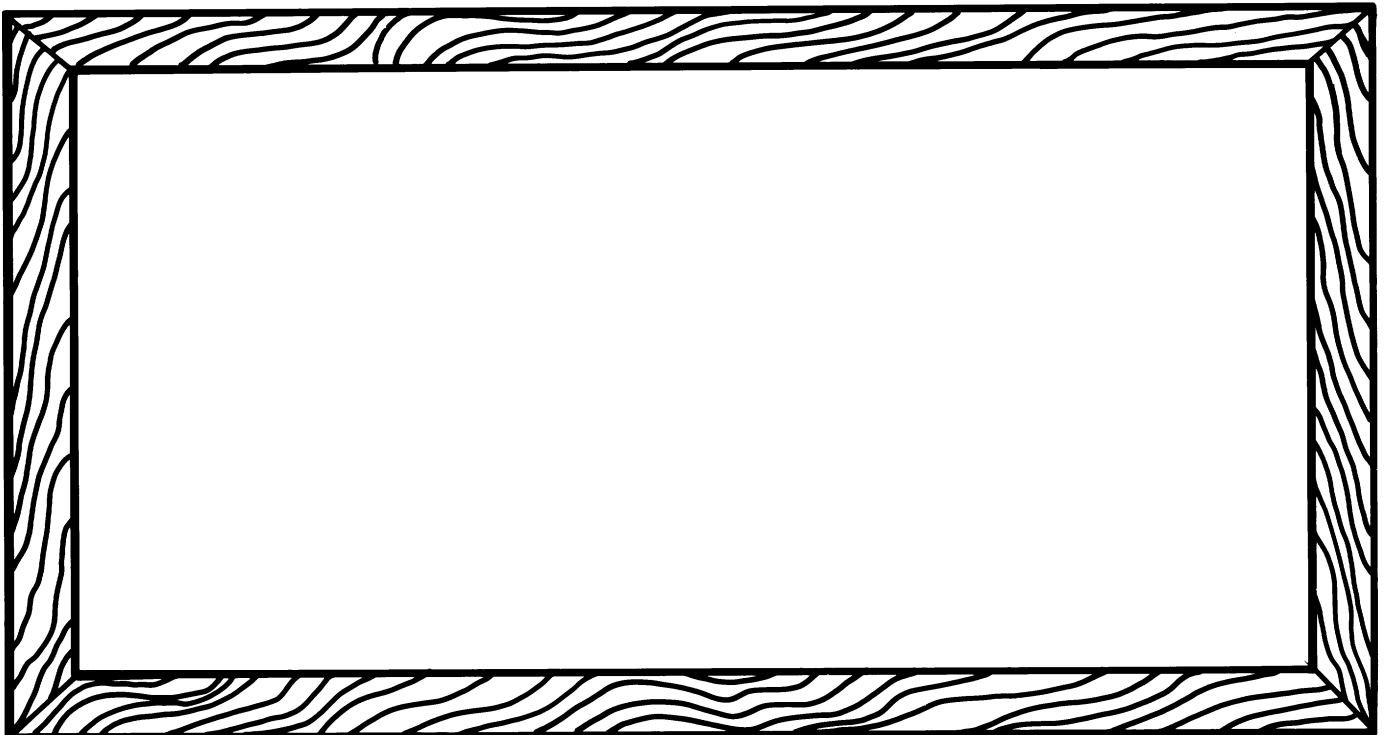
So how do we honor our parents? We've already talked about one way and that is to obey them. Is there a younger brother or sister in your family who sometimes says, "I won't! I

won't!" or, "no, No, NO!" Does that make your parents happy? Speaking in a respectful way is part of honoring another person. You wouldn't call your father "my old man," but some other children might. We feel unhappy when someone speaks against our parents or criticizes them. Why? Because it isn't respectful, it is not honoring our parents.

Show your father how much you love him, not just on Father's Day but every day. If you honor your parents, God will honor you. And your parents will be happy too.

A Special Person

In the picture frame below draw a picture of the person you love and honor today.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Father's Day works in well with our unit on obedience because it is vital that children learn the importance of honoring and obeying their parents. During our class time we will help your child recognize that these are commands found in the Bible.

One of the key factors in building a strong and loving relationship between father and child is appreciation. To emphasize this thought to your child, help him put together a booklet for his father called, "My Dad Is Special."

Pages in the book could include a poem for Dad, your child's version of a story Dad tells, a list of reasons why he is special, a picture drawn of Dad, a prayer for Dad, and a special award certificate for him.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Colossians 3:20
MONDAY: Genesis 18:19
TUESDAY: Exodus 20:12
WEDNESDAY: Proverbs 28:7
THURSDAY: Deuteronomy 6:2
FRIDAY: Proverbs 6:20
SATURDAY: Ephesians 6:1,2

Bible Text

Ephesians 6:1-4
Proverbs 1:8



Memory Verse

Children, obey your parents in all things. — Colossians 3:20

Our Heavenly Father

The verses below are from Proverbs 3:11,12. Below each portion of verse are two sentences. Put an X next to the sentence that means the same as the verse.

My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD;

- ☐ My child, don't be angry when God tells you to do right.
- ☐ My child, stop listening if God tells you to do right.

Neither be weary of his correction:

- ☐ Do not worry if you do wrong.
- ☐ Do not be angry when God tells you that you have done wrong.

For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth;

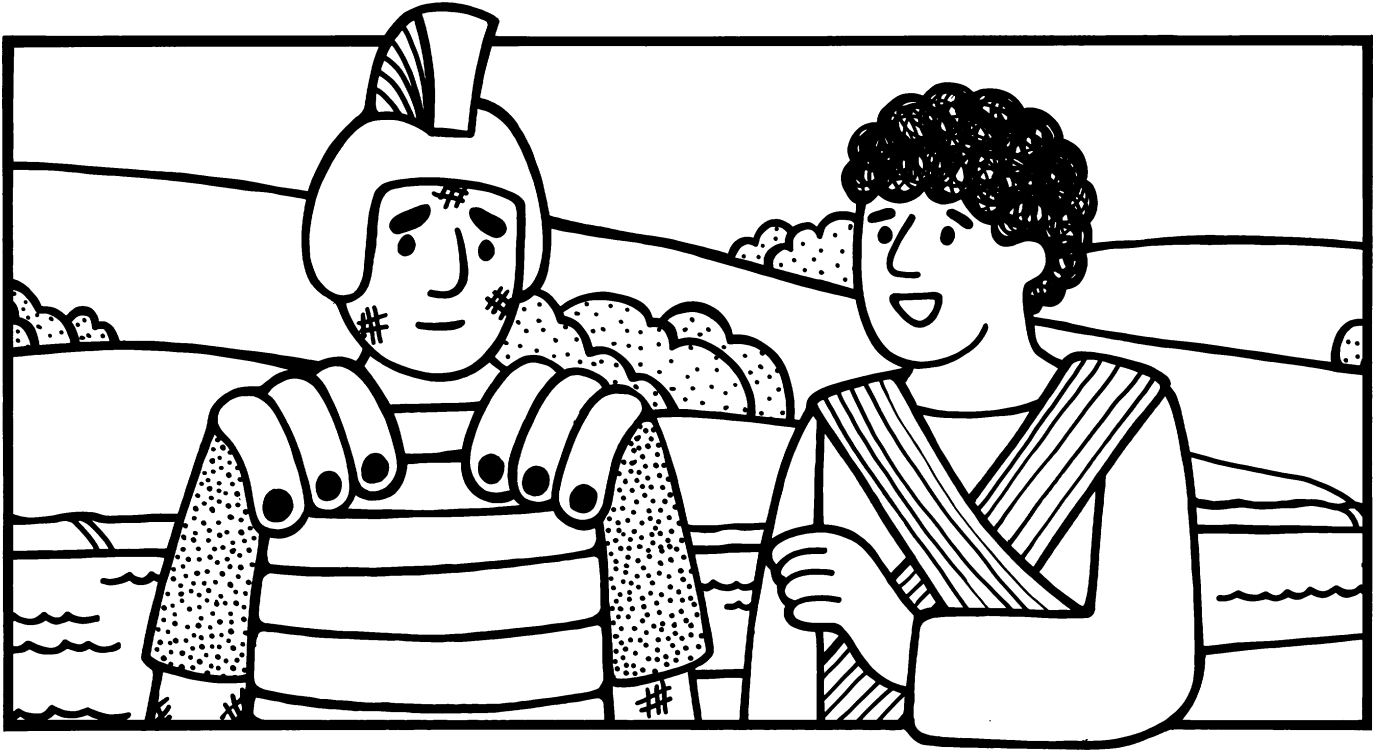
- ☐ God helps people He loves so they can do what is right.
- ☐ God is not nice to the people He loves.

Even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

- ☐ God is like a father who cares for the son he loves.
- ☐ God is like a father who does not care what happens to his son.

Name: _____

PRIMARY PALS



Washing in the Muddy Jordan

Captain Naaman could not believe his ears! Had he heard the servant right? Surely it could not be true that God's helper, Elisha, had sent that message! The servant had said he was to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan River.

What good could washing in any river do? How could his skin be healed with water? Naaman had bathed many times at his home in the country of Syria. That water had not changed the way his skin looked, not one bit.

The little maid who lived in his house had told his wife about the prophet, Elisha, who lived in Samaria.

Namaan had been sure that Elisha would come out of his house and lay his hands on him and pray loudly to his God to take away the sickness. But instead, only a servant came out of the house! And the servant told him to do this strange thing—go and wash seven times in the Jordan River.

Naaman said he would rather go to the rivers in his own country. There were two beautiful, clean rivers near his home. And he had seen the Jordan River on his way into Samaria to find Elisha. The water was dirty, with mud along the sides, and bugs floating on it. Who would want to wash in that?

Maybe this whole trip was just a waste of time. Maybe he would never find healing for his sickness. He turned around angrily to go home.

Then his own servant spoke. "Master, if the man of God had told you to do some great thing, you would have done it. This is just a simple thing. Shouldn't you do as he said?"

Naaman stopped. He thought about what his servant said. Then he made up his mind. He would do it! He would obey the strange words of Elisha. He would wash seven times in the muddy water of the Jordan River.

Down to the riverbank he went.

Stepping into the water, he felt the mud beneath his feet. He waded out until the river was around his waist. He dipped down under the water. He dipped again and again until, finally, he went under for the seventh time.

His heart was beating hard as he came up from the water. Would his skin be healed? As he wiped the water from his eyes, the first thing he saw was his hand. The white spots of sickness were gone! His skin was perfect, just like that of a little child! "God be praised!" he shouted, joy ringing in every word. "The sickness is gone!"

Circle the Words

God can use anyone who will obey Him. Circle the words under each name that describe Naaman and the maid.

NAAMAN

Adult — Child

Slave — Captain

Rich — Poor

Well — Sick

MAID

Adult — Child

Slave — Captain

Rich — Poor

Well — Sick

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Our lesson is about Naaman the leper and how he received his healing when he obeyed the instructions of the prophet of God and dipped seven times in the muddy Jordan River. Through this lesson, we want to stress that God's commands must be obeyed, even if they are not understood.

In your time together this week, review the story with your child and then allow him to make a river and a Naaman figure to dramatize the scene at the river. For the river, fold a piece of blue construction paper horizontally so the part that folds up is about an inch below the top of the paper. Help your child to cut waves along the edge that folds up.

A Naaman figure can be traced or cut from a Bible-story coloring book, or a figure could be cut from a catalog. Back the figure with construction paper or cover it with clear adhesive plastic to make it more sturdy. Your child can retell the story and "dip" Naaman under the water by inserting the figure between the two sides of the folded blue paper.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 15:14

MONDAY: Proverbs 3:5

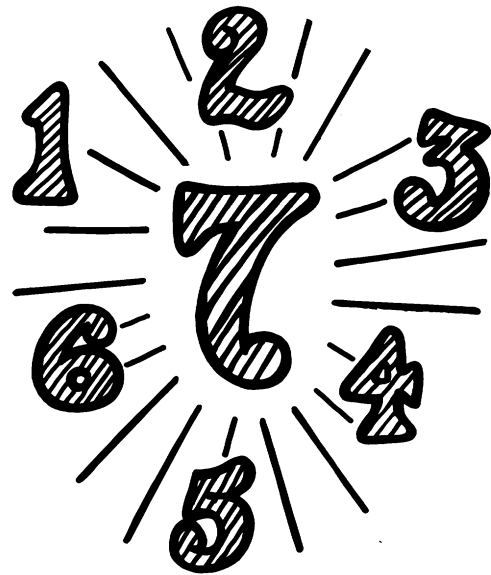
TUESDAY: Isaiah 26:4

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 25:10

THURSDAY: James 1:22

FRIDAY: Proverbs 19:16

SATURDAY: I John 2:3



Bible Text

II Kings 5:1-14

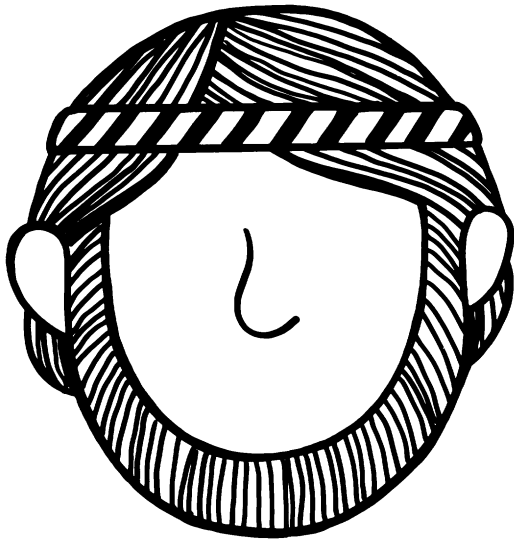
Memory Verse

Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. — John 15:14

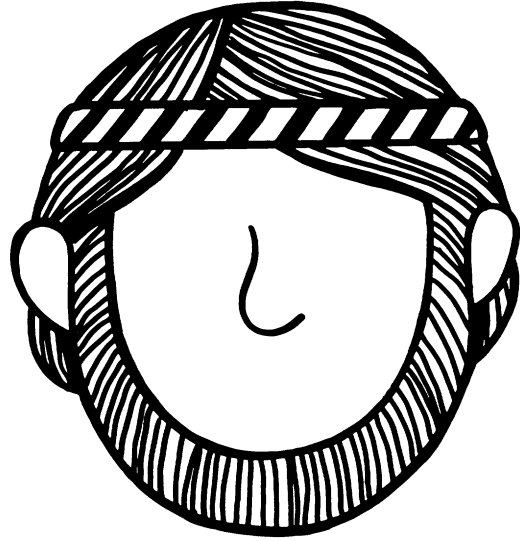
When He Obeyed

Draw expressions on the faces below to show how Naaman looked when

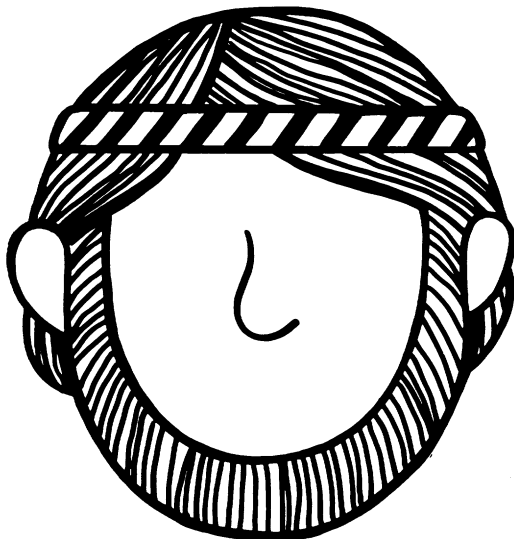
...he found out he had leprosy.



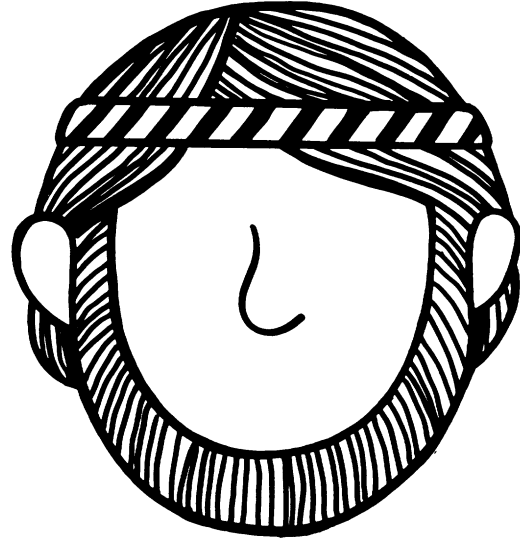
...he was told to go and see Elisha.



...he was told to wash in the Jordan River.



...he obeyed and was healed.



Name: _____