

Christian Habits for Children – Spirit and Truth Kids

Lesson 1 – Faith

Scriptures to study: Genesis 5:18-24; Luke 3:37; Hebrews 11:5-6; Jude 14

Supply List

Examples of awards – ribbons, certificates, trophies

Bibles

Crown copies, markers, scissors, markers, star stickers, stapler

Enoch coloring page copies, crayons, optional: cotton balls, star stickers

Welcome

Do you like prizes? Have you received an award at school? Have you won a sports award? What is the best reward of all? (Display award examples.)

Bible Lesson - Enoch's Faith

Students find Genesis 5:18-24.

Enoch received an amazing reward.

Enoch's faith in God was very strong. The Bible says Enoch walked with God. (Have students stand and walk in place for a few moments.)

Most likely, that meant that he prayed every day. Sin and evil did not sidetrack him. (Have students walk in a straight line for a few moments.) Enoch did not join in when all the other kids were fighting, cussing, and stealing.

One day, when he was older, Enoch was walking along and . . . (Have students walk in place again. Have everyone say, POOF!) Suddenly, Enoch was gone! No one could see him. No one could find him. Where did he go? (Ask students to guess.) God took him to Heaven!

Genesis 5 shows a list of Enoch and his relatives. (Show students the Bible verses.) Enoch is the only one honored the words, "he walked with God." How do you think Enoch's behavior was different from all of his relatives? Discuss.

Enoch walked so close to God that he could even understand God's plans for the future. We know this because in the book of Jude, verse 14, (show verse to students) says Enoch spoke of Jesus coming back with his saints. Enoch knew we would go to Heaven to be with Jesus one day. He must have told all of his family and then they passed the word down through generations. That's why Jude wrote the words hundreds of years later.

Enoch is also on the list of relatives of Jesus in Luke 3 (show students Bible verses).

A life of faith is rewarding. Being close to Jesus is the best reward of all.

Life Application

What does Enoch's life mean to us? We can be faithful too.

How can we follow Enoch's example?

What happens when we stay close to God?

(Have students walk in place again.) Walking close to God keeps us ready for Heaven. When Jesus comes back, we'll be ready to go with Him.

Prayer

Lead students on a prayer walk. First have them thank God. Then have them ask God for needs. Have them ask God to help them be faithful and walk with Him every day. End with worship.

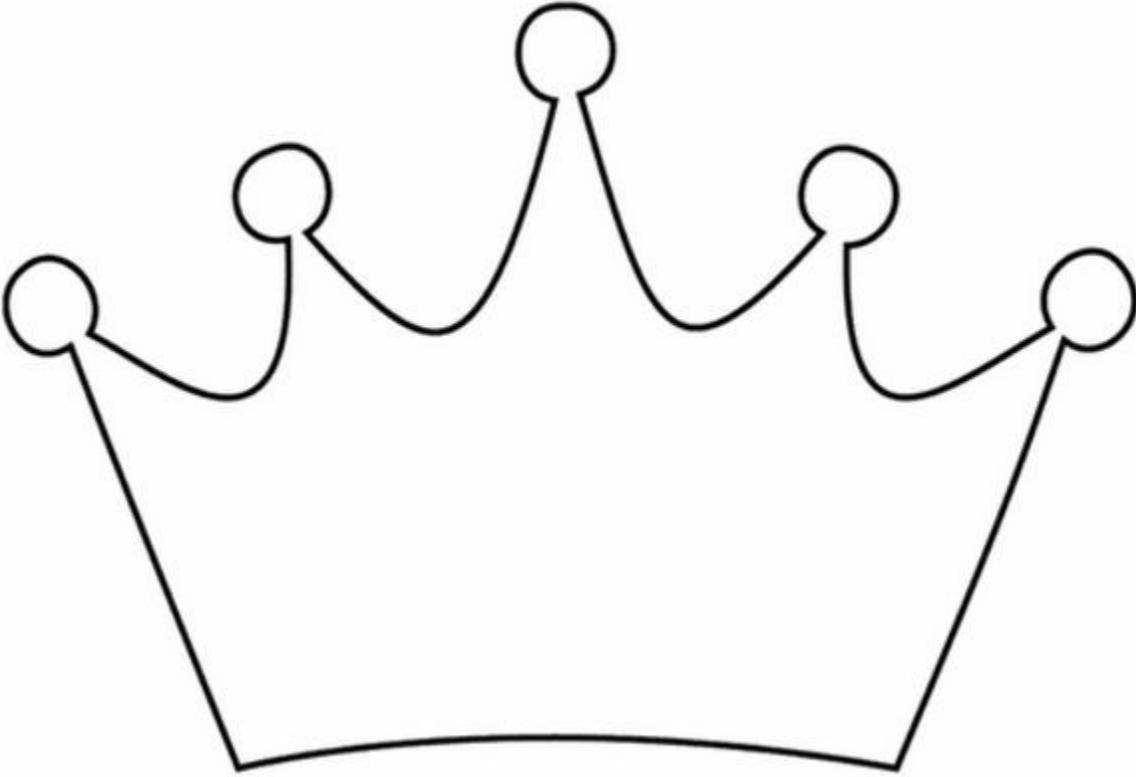
Craft Idea

Cut out and decorate paper crowns with markers and stars. Discuss the rewards of staying close to Jesus and keeping our faith strong. Not only will we receive a crown in Heaven, but we will also find success in life.

Strips of paper can be cut and stapled to the crowns so students can wear them.

Older students can use the crown as a gift card for an adult whose life is an example of faith. Students should write a short note of thanks, decorate the crown, and sign their name.

Crown Template



Enoch Coloring Page

Optional: Glue cotton balls to the clouds and add foil stars to the sky.



Lesson 2 – Prayer

Scripture Text: I Samuel 1-2 (God Answers Hannah’s Prayer)

Supply List

Several books

Baby doll, wrapped in a blanket

Scrap paper, waste basket

Copy of Hannah’s poem for each student (see below)

Paper, crayons, markers

Opening Activity

Have students build a “house” of books on a table. Choose an older student to try to blow the house over. Most likely, the house will fall.

Demonstrate the trick of placing a book on either side of the anchor legs of the house, with one book sandwiched between the anchor legs. This causes the house to be more stable. Ask the student to blow again and see if the house stands.

Why did putting the extra books between the supporting books help the house become stronger?

What is one habit that helps us stand stronger for Jesus? (Prayer)

Bible Lesson: God Answers Hannah’s Prayer

Students will need Bibles. Keep a baby doll, wrapped in a blanket, nearby but out of students’ sight. Help students act out the roles and add sound effects as you teach.

Ask: Have you ever been bullied? What did you do?

Read I Samuel 1:1-5.

Explain this type of family situation was common at the time. The resulting dysfunction caused

jealousy, conflict, and sadness. Women were shamed if they could not have children. Discuss the lack of modern medical procedures and doctors. As a result, people often used superstitions to explain physical problems and illnesses. Some people even believed a woman who could not have children was cursed by God.

Hannah could not have children while Peninnah had several children. Peninnah mocked and bullied Hannah. Have students describe their thoughts about Hannah's feelings.

Explain how the family traveled to Shiloh every year to worship God in the Tabernacle, where Eli served as priest and leader.

Ask a student to read I Samuel 1:6-7. Notice that Hannah was even bullied when she went to church.

Have students act as bully Peninnah with mean facial expressions and screechy cat noises. Then students show how Hannah cried.

Have a student read verse 8. *Clap and cheer for Elkanah's kindness.*

Did Hannah screech and fight with bully Peninnah? No. What did she do instead? (She prayed.)

Have a student read verses 10-11. Point out the sincerity of Hannah's promise to the Lord.
Students bow down and demonstrate intense prayer.

Suddenly Eli, the priest, asked Hannah, "Have you been drinking?"

Students shout, "No way!"

Hannah told Eli, "No, I am not drunk. I am sad and grieving. I cannot have children. I am seeking God for a son."

Eli said, “Go in peace. God will answer your prayer.”

Students clap and cheer.

Have a student read verse 20. Hold the doll. *Students imitate a baby’s cry while you rock the baby, worship, and thank the Lord.*

God answered Hannah’s prayer. God loves to hear His people pray.

Later Hannah kept her promise to God and brought Samuel to the Tabernacle to serve the Lord. God blessed her family. Hannah and Elkanah were also blessed with more children. Samuel became an important prophet who served God and helped many people.

Life Application

Discuss the importance of praying daily and the joy of receiving answers from God. Share your answered prayers and ask students to share too.

Prayer

Read Hannah’s poem together and pray together.

From 1 Samuel 2 (*New International Reader's Version*)

Then Hannah prayed. She said,

“The LORD has filled my heart with joy.

He has made me strong.

I can laugh at my enemies.

I’m so glad he saved me.

There isn’t anyone holy like the LORD.

There isn’t anyone except him.

There isn't any Rock like our God.

He guards the paths of his faithful servants.

Craft Idea – Personal, graphic prayer requests

On a piece of paper (or on the opposite side of Hannah's poem copies), have students use colored pencils or crayons to draw random, connected loops or squares. Inside several of the loops or squares, students write prayer needs and the date. They should leave several blank spaces to add answered prayers and dates later. Then they can add designs and patterns with more colors.

Hannah Coloring Page (for younger students)



Lesson 3 – Listening

Supply List

Paper, pencils

Paper clip, a penny, and a cotton ball

Bibles, two pillows

Drawing paper, crayons

Give each student paper and a pencil. Stand behind students. Tell students to listen closely. Ask them to close their eyes. Drop three items (a paper clip, a penny, and a cotton ball) on a hard surface and hide them quickly. Then ask students to open their eyes and write their guesses about each item.

Compare the activity to listening closely for God’s instructions. Ask: Why is it important to listen to God? Discuss.

We usually won’t hear an actual voice from God. Discuss the various ways God speaks to us: through reading His Word, church leaders and teachers, and our parents. We can also sense His directions when we pray.

Bible Lesson – Samuel Listens

Ask: Have you ever felt God speaking to you? What happened?

Have students find I Samuel 3.

Samuel was Hannah’s son. At a young age, Samuel began serving and helping in the house of God. He worked for Eli, the priest. In chapter 3 Samuel was probably about twelve years old. Eli was very old and almost blind.

One night Samuel and Eli were sleeping.

Choose a student to act as Samuel asleep on a pillow on one side of the room. Choose another student to act as sleeping, snoring Eli on the other side of the room.

Suddenly Samuel heard someone calling his name. Direct the student to jump up, run to Eli, and say, “Here I am.”

Eli rubs his eyes and says, “Huh? I didn’t call you. Go back to bed.” Eli turns over and snores again.

Samuel goes back to sleep.

Call out, “Samuel!” in an echoing voice.

Again Samuel goes to Eli. “Here I am.”

“What? Not again! Please, go back to bed. I didn’t call you.” Eli snores again.

Samuel goes back to sleep.

Call out, “Samuel!” in an echoing voice again.

Samuel runs to Eli again. “Here I am.”

This time Eli sits up, rubs his eyes, and says, “Oh . . . I know who called you. The Lord! Go back to bed and if He calls you again, tell him you’re listening and He can speak to you.”

Samuel goes back to bed. When he heard the voice again, he said, “Speak, Lord. I’m listening.”

As Samuel listened carefully, God explained future events. It was the beginning of Samuel’s ministry. As an adult, Samuel became a great leader and a blessing to God’s people.

Life Application

Just like Samuel, we should listen to God.

- What are some ways God might call you?
- What might God ask you to do?
- If you listen to God, how will your life be blessed? What can you do for Him?
- Why does God want us to listen to our parents?

Prayer

As you prayer together, mention each student by name. Ask the Lord to help them listen to God, their parents, their church leaders, and instructions from God's Word.

Craft Idea

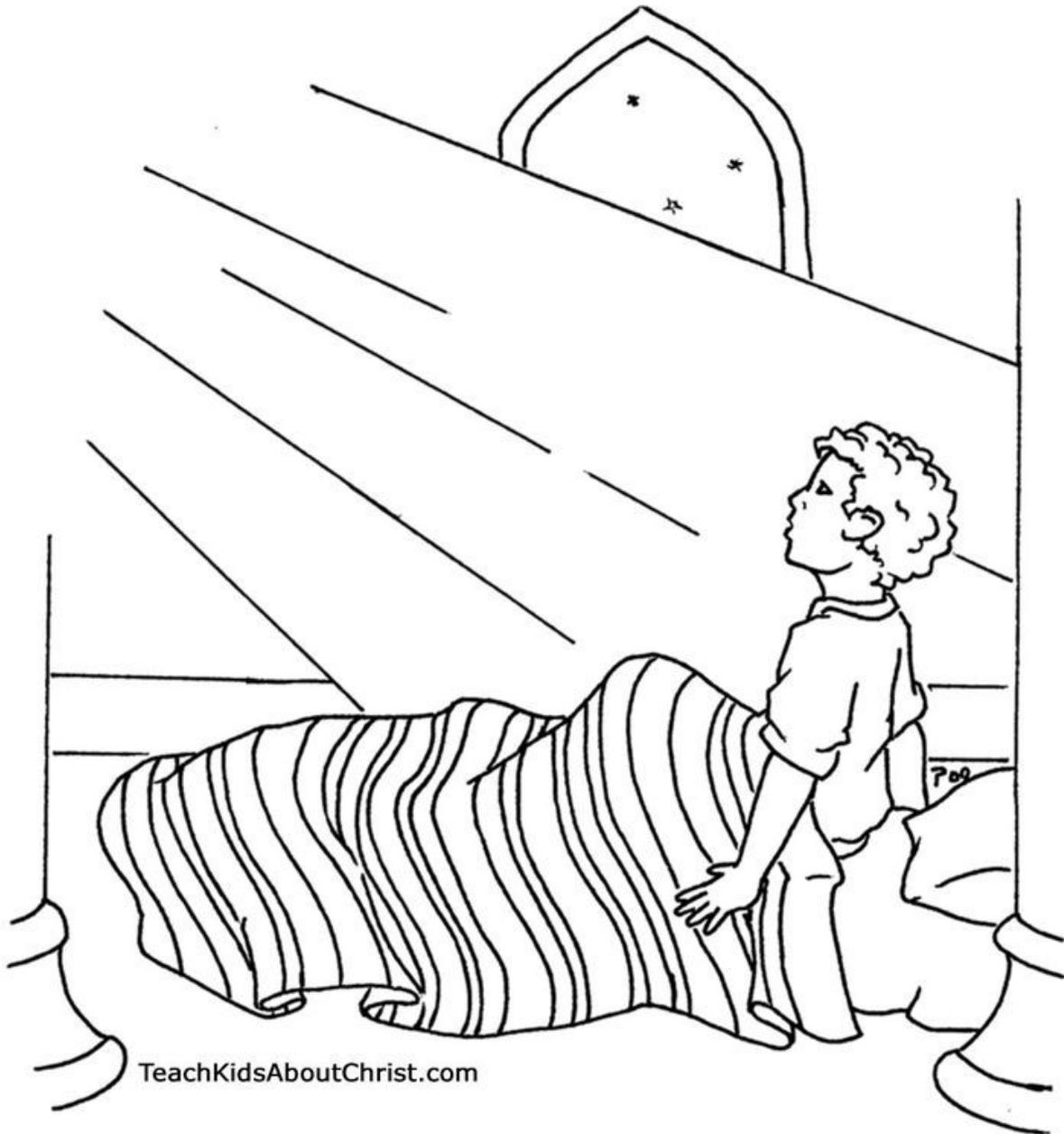
Give each student a piece of paper and crayons. In the middle of the page, have students write, "God's Voice." Then they should draw an outline around the words. Direct them to choose another color of crayon to draw an outline around the first outline. Continue outlining with several different colors to create a design that looks like sound waves proceeding out from God's voice. At the lower edge of the page, have students write, "I will listen" and sign their names.

Extra Time

Play Simon Says. Students must listen carefully!

Samuel Coloring Page (for younger students)

Samuel Hears God



TeachKidsAboutChrist.com

Lesson 4 – Respect

Supply List

Cow pictures



Ark of the Covenant Picture



Cut a large cloud shape from paper (Use gray paper, if possible.)

Add dry beans to a disposable foil pan. Cover tightly with foil.

Large rock

Respect page copies, fine-point markers, pencils

Thunder coloring page copies, crayons, markers

Optional: cotton balls, glue

Welcome

Ask students to create the sounds of thunderstorms, wind, and rain. After a few minutes, tell everyone to be seated and make gentle sounds of soft snow falling.

Bible Lesson – God Expects Respect

Ask students: How do you respect God?

Help students find I Samuel 6. (Students need to know the lesson is from the Bible.)

The Ark of the Covenant (display picture) was a very special piece of furniture in the Tabernacle. It represented God’s Holy Spirit. It was respected and honored.

One day enemy Philistines stole the ark. Every time they moved the ark to another place, God allowed consequences. A stone idol fell over. People became sick with painful boils.

After time passed, everyone cried out, “What shall we do?” (Have students repeat several times.)

The Philistine leaders decided to send the ark back to Israel. The leaders instructed people to make a new cart to hold the ark. Then they tied two cows to the cart. (Display cow pictures.) The Philistines placed the ark on the cart.

The cows mooed and mooed. (Students make mooing sounds.)

But the cows did not return home. Instead, without any person leading the cows, the animals took off down the highway, walking and mooing all the way back to the Israelites.

(Students continue to make mooing sounds.)

The cows walked about twelve miles!

Everyone in Israel jumped for joy. (Students cheer and clap.) They worshiped. (Students praise and worship.)

However, there was a big problem.

God had given careful instructions about the ark. The ark was holy. No one was to touch it or look inside.

Many people disobeyed God, looked inside the ark, and died.

So the ark was moved to another city. The people had false gods and idols. People did not respect the one true God or His prophet, Samuel.

For twenty years, all of Israel lamented, according to I Samuel 7:2. (Students moan and cry.) Enemy Philistines still controlled Israel.

Finally, in I Samuel 7:3-6, the people listened. Everyone gathered together in Mizpeh.

Idols were destroyed. (Students use actions to “toss things away.”)

People fasted. (Students rub their stomachs.)

They repented. (Students bow down.)

Everyone listened to Samuel. (Students cup hands around their ears.)

Meanwhile, the enemies said, “Aha! They’re all together in one place! Now we can conquer them.”

(Students cry out, “Oh, no! The enemies are coming back!”)

Everyone shivered and shook. (Students shiver and shake.)

Samuel called, “Keep worshiping. God will save us!”

(Students worship and pray.)

Samuel offered a sacrifice to God.

The Philistines marched closer! (Students march in place.)

Suddenly . . .

(Hold up cloud shape. Shake foil pan with dry beans inside. Have students stomp on the floor.)

God thundered!

(Students shout, “Boom! Boom! Boom!”)

Philistines scattered! The men of Israel chased them away. (Have students stomp the floor again.)

God won the battle! (Students cheer and wave their hands.)

(Display large rock.) Samuel created a stone memorial to celebrate God’s victory. The Philistines were defeated. Israel had peace for the remainder of Samuel’s life, about twenty years.

Discuss:

How does this lesson demonstrate the importance of respecting God?

Where does the Spirit of God live today? In our hearts.

How can you respect God’s presence in your life?

Discuss the importance of prayer, reading the Bible, and listening at church.

How can you show respect for your parents?

How can you show respect for church leaders and teacher?

Why do you think God wants us to respect others?

Prayer

Pray together for respectful attitudes to God, parents, and others.

Respect Page (for older students)

Have students write statements or draw pictures about respecting God, family, and others within the outlines of RESPECT (below).

THESE ARE

Thunder Coloring Page (for younger students)

Optional: Glue cotton balls on the cloud

thunder



Lesson 5 – Self-Control

Supply List

Bibles

Print Bible lesson pictures

Cut a heart shape from paper and write “God’s Spirit” in the middle.

Blocks or Legos

Welcome

How many of you have a wall around your yard? Why?

Is there a fence around your school? Why?

Fences often protect us from harm. Walls can keep us from running into a busy street. In the same way, self-control protects the Spirit of God inside our hearts. It also keeps us from harming others with unkind words and actions.

Bible Lesson – David Spares Saul’s Life

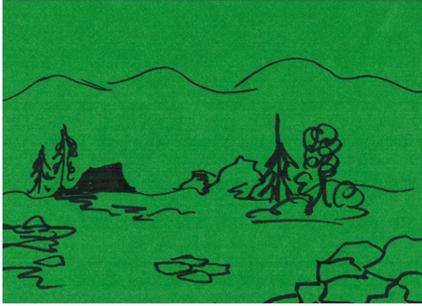
Have you ever been bullied? What happened?

Have students find I Samuel 26.

Discuss King Saul’s behavior toward David. (Display picture.) Compare Saul to a cruel bully. He knew the Lord had chosen David to be the next king. He was very jealous.



Saul kept trying to kill David. When David ran away, Saul chased him. One day David hid in the wilderness. (Display picture 2)



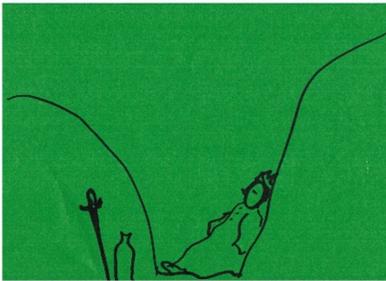
There he had found other men willing to travel with him as a small army. David became their leader.

Have a student read I Samuel 26:1-2.

The people of Ziph told King Saul where David was hiding. King Saul called 3,000 soldiers and marched to find David.

How do you think David felt as he saw Saul's men marching toward him?

Have a student read I Samuel 26:5. (Display picture.)



That night David spied on Saul's group. He saw Saul sleeping in a trench. David and one of his men, Abishai, crept through the darkness, tiptoed around 3,000 soldiers, and stood right next to sleepy Saul.



Abishai was ready for revenge! Have a student read verse 8.

David, however, showed extreme self-control. He refused to kill Saul. He knew God had chosen Saul to be king. Instead of hurting Saul, David and Abishai grabbed Saul's spear and his water bottle. Who helped Saul and the soldiers stay asleep? Look at the end of verse 12 for the answer.

David ran to a high hill. (Display picture.)



David called out to Saul's soldier, Abner. "You are not taking very good care of your king! Look what I have!"

Saul heard David's voice. "Is that you, David?"

"Yes! Why are you chasing me? I haven't done anything wrong."

"I'm sorry, David," said Saul. "I've been foolish. Thank you for sparing my life. You will do great things for God."

Life Application

God blessed David because he practiced self-control. And God blesses us when we control ourselves in difficult situations.

How do we find self-control?

Discuss the repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus, and the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Once we experience new birth, God gives us extra strength. If we stay close to Him with prayer, Bible reading, and listening at church, He helps us control our anger, jealousy, revenge, bad words, and mean, grumpy attitudes.

Prayer

If students are comfortable, ask them to share their specific needs for self-control. Pray together and assure students the Lord sees their sincerity. He will honor and bless their prayers.

Role-Play

To illustrate self-control, ask students to work together and dramatize a few scenarios. Examples:

During your baseball game, an umpire makes a bad call, causing your team to lose the game. Your teammates are yelling. What will you do?

The weird-looking substitute teacher is giving wrong answers and assigning lessons the class has already studied. Kids are acting crazy—throwing stuff, cracking jokes, and whispering crude remarks. What will you do?

You and a friend are sleeping in a tent in the backyard. You plan to spend time playing a super cool game on your iPad. It's G-rated, no violence, and no problem at all. However, your friend's mom comes out to say good night and asks you not to play the game. She goes back inside the house. What will you do?

At the school drama tryouts, the meanest kid in your class gets the part you wanted. You could tell the principal a few things from the past and get the kid kicked out of the drama. What will you do?

Group Activity

Place the prepared heart shape on a table or on the floor. Instruct students to build fences or walls around the heart with blocks or Legos to represent keeping self-control around our hearts to protect God's Spirit.

Lesson 6 – Serving

Supply List

Apron, plate, napkin, utensils, cup
Bibles
Interviewer name badge, toy microphone
Hiking hat, walking stick, water bottle
Script copies
Copy of place setting diagram
Copies of coloring pages
Crayons, markers

Wear an apron. Hold a plate. Define serve. (Assist, attend, help, lend a hand, obey, provide, supply, wait on.)

Explain serving others in our families, in the church, and in our community is part of a healthy Christian life. Jesus served; He wants us to serve.

Have students find Ephesians 2:10 in Bibles. Use actions to learn the words.

Ephesians 2:10 (*New International Version*)

For we (Point to self.)

Are God's handiwork, (Move hands as if creating a sculpture.)

Created (Move hands as if shaping clay.)

In Christ Jesus (Point up.)

To do good works, (March in place.)

Which God (Point up.)

Prepared in advance (Place fingers at temples as if thinking.)

For us (Point to self.)

To do. (March in place.)

Bible Lesson – Jonathan Serves God and His People

Ask students how they serve God and others.

Open Bibles to I Samuel 14. Explain this chapter shows an example of Jonathan serving God and the people of Israel.

Choose two good readers and hand them script copies and props. The interviewer needs a name badge and a toy microphone (substitute a kitchen utensil if necessary). Jonathan needs a hiking hat, a walking stick, and a water bottle.

Script

Interviewer: Hello, Sir. How are you today?

Jonathan: My legs ache and I have blisters on my feet.

Interviewer: You look like you've been hiking.

Jonathan: Yes, Sir.

Interviewer: Is hiking your hobby?

Jonathan: Not really. I am Jonathan, King Saul's son. I fight wars for Israel.

Interviewer: Wars?

Jonathan: Yes. Enemy Philistines are all around us. They have stolen our weapons. They even took our tools so we could not make new weapons.

Interviewer: How do you defend yourselves?

Jonathan: We've been hiding inside caves, under bushes, between rocks, up on mountains, and even below ground in pits!

Interviewer: Sounds like Israel has big problems.

Jonathan: That's why I decided to help.

Interviewer: What did you do?

Jonathan: I planned a surprise attack on the enemy. I asked my armor bearer to go with me. We knew the Philistines were camped between two mountains, covered with sharp rocks.

Interviewer: You had to climb up those rocks?

Jonathan: Yes.

Interviewer: What happened next?

Jonathan: I told the armor bearer to watch for the enemy. If the Philistines saw us and asked us to come closer, it would God's sign to move forward.

Interviewer: Were you afraid?

Jonathan: My heart pounded. My legs shook.

Interviewer: Then you walked right up to the enemies?

Jonathan: We hiked to them. It was a tough climb! When they saw us, they thought we were surrendering. We fooled them!

Interviewer: They were surprised?

Jonathan: Oh, yeah. We knocked out twenty of them. And, then, God sent some extra help.

Interviewer: God sent help?

Jonathan: Sir, did you feel that earthquake last night?

Interviewer: Yes! It was the worst earthquake ever! It shook me right out of bed!

Jonathan: The earthquake shook up the enemies too. They screamed like babies. They started killing each other! They left their camp and ran in circles!

Interviewer: I heard people yelling after the earthquake.

Jonathan: Everyone else heard it, too. All of Israel came out of hiding and helped us chase the Philistines away.

Interviewer: So Israel won the battle?

Jonathan: Please, have your audience look up I Samuel 14:23.

(Wait for students to find the verse.)

Interviewer: (Opens Bible and has everyone read the verse together.) "So the Lord saved Israel that day."

Jonathan: God is good!

Interviewer: Thank you for serving God and His people.

Life Application

The Bible shows that Jonathan loved the Lord served His people. God gave Jonathan courage to accomplish a difficult task.

This lesson helps us understand how we can serve today.

Did anyone have to tell Jonathan to serve?

Describe how you think Jonathan felt before he decided to climb the mountain.

Describe Jonathan's courage.

Why is serving God and others sometimes difficult?

Help students dramatize various serving opportunities.

Demonstrate how you can serve God in your family. (Helping around the house, taking care of younger siblings.)

Act out how you can serve in our church. (Cleaning, greeting, singing, helping with younger children.)

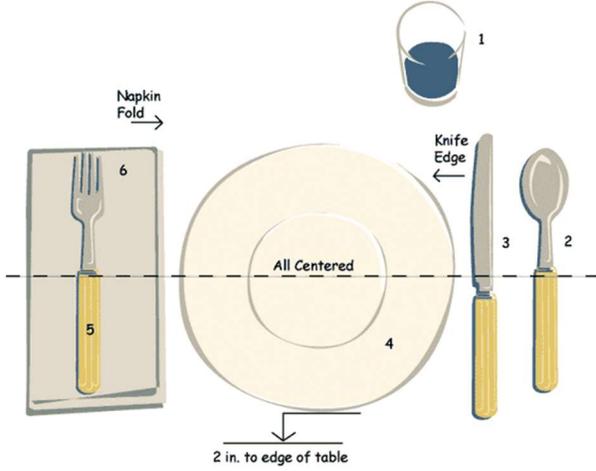
Show how can you serve in our community? (Picking up trash, helping elderly neighbors.)

Serving Relay Game

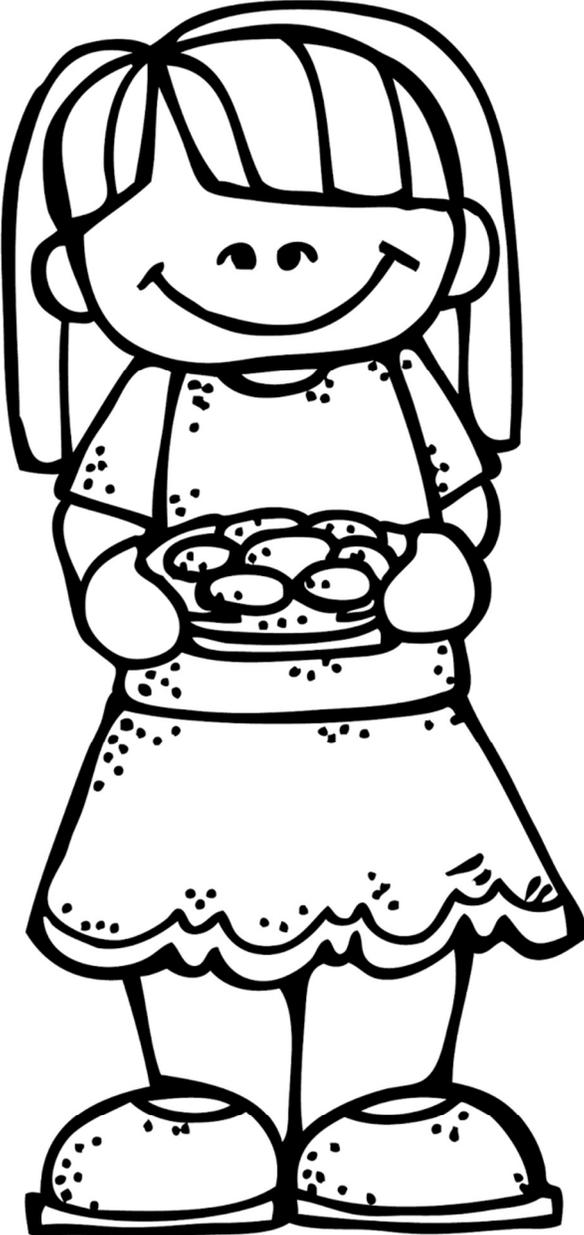
Place a copy of the place setting diagram on a table, along with all the items necessary, but jumbled and out of order. Put an apron on the chair.

Each student takes a turn putting on the apron and following the diagram to put the place setting in order. Then he mixes up everything, takes the apron off, and tags the next student. Time each process to see which student is the fastest server.

Place Setting Diagram



Serving Coloring Pages (for younger students)



SERVE OTHERS

♥ 1994



I can follow Jesus by helping others.

Extra Ideas

Examine God's Creation

Provide toy magnifying glasses (there are some in the classrooms at church—see Deanna) for students to examine items God created: flowers, leaves, shells, bugs.

ABC Worship — Go through the alphabet saying a different praise attribute for God: Almighty; Beautiful; Cornerstone; Delightful; Everlasting...

Artsy Worship — Have students listen to a praise song and listen closely to the words. Then instruct them to draw a picture of worship for God.

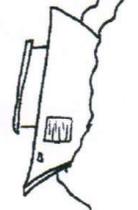
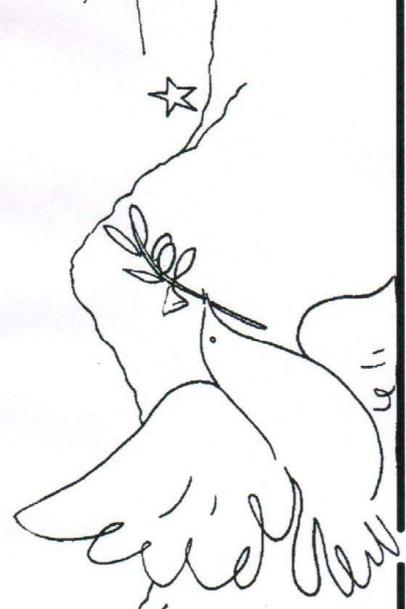
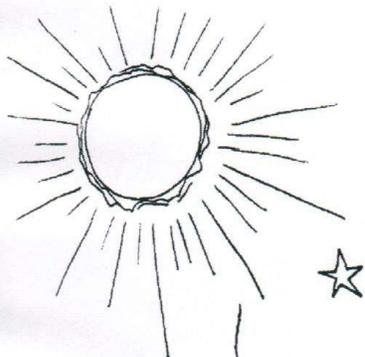
Worship Sculpting — Provide foil, clay, or pipe cleaners for students to create something they think is cool about God.

Books of the Bible

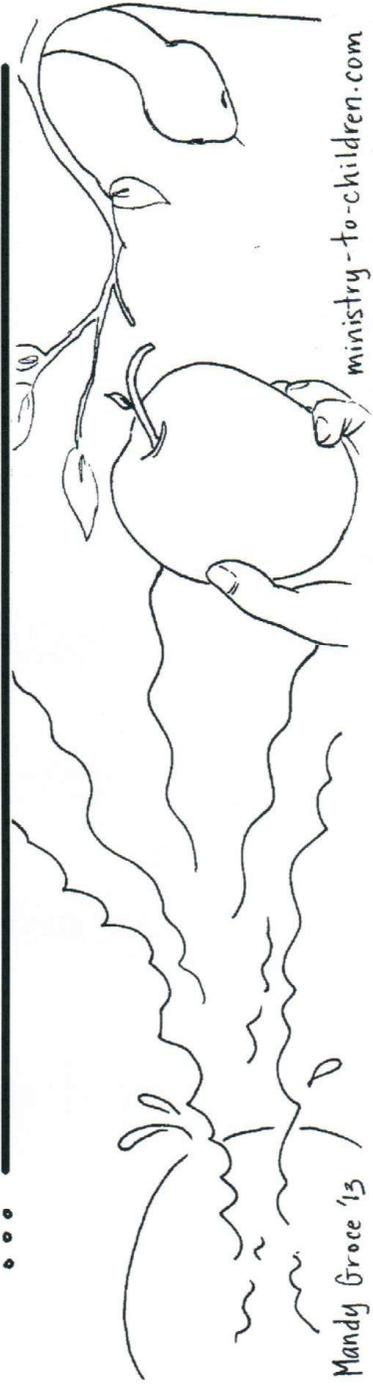
Write the books of the Bible on index cards, craft sticks, or stacking plastic cups. Encourage students to put the books in order using the table of contents pages in their Bibles. This activity can be repeated every week.

Discuss Genesis and Exodus

Students will be studying the first two books of the Bible on Sundays at STWC. Use the Genesis and Exodus coloring pages to reinforce their learning.

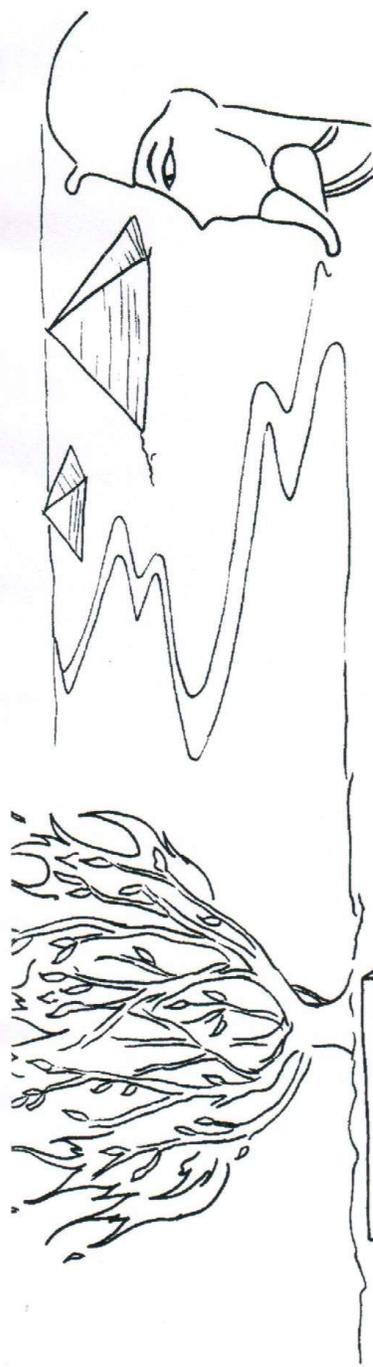


Genesis

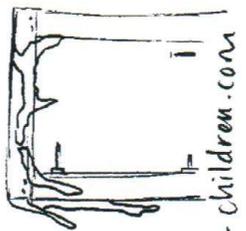


Mandy Groce '13

ministry-to-children.com



LEXXUS



ministry-to-children.com

andy Groce '13