



BibleMAX First Steps

Unit 1 | Lessons 1 to 5

Unit One: Jesus, God's Son

This unit focuses on stories from the Gospel of Luke and the fact that Jesus is God. Each lesson shows the children that Jesus said and did things that only God could do.

LESSONS

- **Jesus calls his friends to follow him** (Luke 5:1-11) His friends start to learn about Jesus
- **Jesus healed a paralyzed man** (Luke 5:17-26) He had power to heal and forgive
- **Jesus calmed the sea** (Luke 8:22-25) He had power over nature
- **Jesus fed more than 5,000 people** (Luke 9:10-20) He had power to meet needs
- **Jesus is the Son of God** (Luke 9:28-36) He had God's power because He is God's Son

Unit One: Ten Weeks

JESUS, GOD'S SON

Unit theme: Jesus showed us that he was God's Son by doing things only God could do.

LESSONS

1. Jesus calls his friends to follow him (Luke 5:1-11) His friends start to learn about Jesus
2. Jesus heals a paralyzed man (Luke 5:17-26) He has power to heal and forgive
3. Jesus calms the sea (Luke 8:22-25) He has power over nature
4. Jesus feeds more than 5,000 people (Luke 9:10-20) He can meet our needs
5. Jesus is the Son of God (Luke 9:28-36) God shows that Jesus is his Son

Memory verse: We have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world (1 John 4:14 GNB)

PREPARE

Things you will need to do each week:

- Personal Preparation: Make sure you take time to spend some time reflecting on the theme of the lesson and its application to you. You can only share with the children what you have learned yourself.
- Learning Activities: Choose what activities you will use and gather the necessary materials.
- Bible Content: Decide on your visual aids and practice telling the story with them.
- Interaction: Gather the craft materials and make a sample or two
- During the week: Look for ways to continue your contact with the children and their families. Also take time to reflect on how your times together are going and how you can improve them.

LEADER TIP

Young children are extremely receptive to new things. They are like sponges – soaking up everything they see, hear and experience. They do not distinguish between “lessons” and general life experience.

One of the ways young children learn about the world and how to live in it is by observing the adults around them. For instance, if they see you becoming impatient with others, they will think that is the acceptable response. If however, they see you responding with patience and compassion, they will assume that is the right way to respond. This ‘modelling’ for young children goes on not only in formal learning situations, but in everyday life. It does not mean that they will always do what they see others doing do, but their concepts of right and wrong are profoundly influenced.

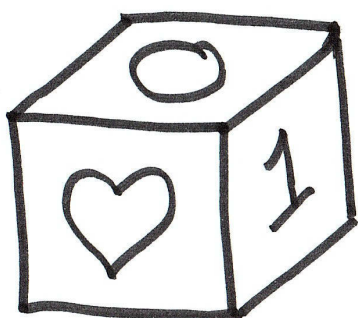
It is important to remember that children are always watching us. They learn more from what they see us do than from what we teach.

Teaching Points

This unit focuses on the fact that Jesus is God. Each lesson shows the children that Jesus said and did things that only God could do.

In order to help the children understand and remember the characteristics of God displayed by Jesus, symbols and colours have been used to represent some of the main points as follows:

- There is only one true and living God. (*purple number 1*)
- He is the ruler of everything. (*yellow crown*)
- He is the creator of everything. (*green tree*)
- He is all-powerful – He can do anything. (*yellow lightning bolt*)
- He never does anything wrong. (*white circle*)
- He is love - He loves me and wants to have a relationship with me. (*red heart*)



In this unit, it is suggested that you construct a 'God box'. This is made by taking a box about 20cm large and attaching a different one of the above symbols on each side.

Each week, you will bring out one or more of these concepts in the story. When you mention them, show the children the symbols. The box can also be used as part of a review of previous weeks at the beginning of the lesson



Lesson One

Jesus calls his friends to follow him

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON

Bible Passage: Luke 5:1-11 (See also: Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20)**Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:14**Main Idea:** His friends start to learn about Jesus**Teaching points:** He is the creator of everything; He is all-powerful – he can do anything.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Read Luke 5:1-11

Peter, Andrew, James and John knew fishing. They had probably worked in the family business all their lives. So when Jesus came along and told them to do something that they knew was foolish, they were hesitant to follow his guidance. But they finally agreed to his suggestion and set out in the middle of the day to look for fish that they knew weren't there.

They knew fishing, but they didn't know Jesus. He was about to turn their world upside down. Jesus did a miracle so overwhelming they had no answers but to fall at his feet in worship.

Have you ever had Christ call you to do something that you knew was just crazy? Have you ever held back, doubting his ability to do the impossible? Talk with God about what he is calling you to do at the moment and admit your fears and doubts. He will never let you down!

THE LESSON PLAN

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

*(Using play to explore ideas from the lesson.)***Individual Activities**

These activities help children begin thinking about the themes of the story as they play individually or in small groups. Discussion questions are suggested after each.

SUGGESTIONS

- Fishing with a net – Cut netting into sections which are about 0.5m x 0.5m. Fill a basin with about 10cm of water and add small plastic fish or other small plastic objects. Children can “fish” with the nets. *Have you ever gone fishing? Is this how you fished? This is how Jesus and his friends caught fish.*
- Wax-resist fish paintings – Children draw fish on paper with either crayons or candles. They paint over their drawings with blue water-based paints. These can either be bought or made by adding food colouring or dye to water. The paint will not stick to the areas which have the wax. *Have you ever gone fishing? Do you like to eat fish?*



Group Activities

Bring the children together with some group activities.

SUGGESTION

Move like fish - While music plays, children move around the room like fish. Change pace from fast to slow.

BIBLE CONTENT

(Discovering what the Bible has to teach us)

Visual Aids

Large piece of netting, figures of fish (cut from coloured cardboard, foam or plastic); "God box"

Story Outline

On the first week, introduce the story. The second week, review the story and emphasize the application.

Introduction

(Have children sit in a circle around the net.) Do you like to eat fish? Some people's job is to catch fish so that we can eat it. They often use a net like this to catch the fish. (Gradually throw fish into the net.)

Events

One day Jesus met some fishermen named Peter, Andrew, James and John. They were good fishermen, but they hadn't caught any fish even though they had been fishing all night. (Pick up all the fish.)

Jesus said, "Go back out into the lake and let down your nets again. Then you will catch some fish."

The fishermen knew that it was the wrong time and place to catch fish. They knew Jesus was special but they weren't sure if he knew anything about fishing! Finally, Peter said, "We have fished all night and didn't catch anything, but we will do what you say."

Peter and Andrew sailed back out into the lake and let down their nets. They caught so many fish that the net started to break!! (Throw all the fish into the net.)

"Come and help us!" they called to James and John. (Move net up and down to make fish jump.) They filled both boats so full of fish that they almost sank! (Gather net and fish.)

They were surprised and a little afraid of what Jesus had done. Only God could do something like that!

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. I want you to come with me and be my special friends. You will help other people to follow me too."

Peter, Andrew, James and John folded up their nets, left their boats and went with Jesus. Over the next couple of years they followed him. They saw him do many amazing things.

Application

What have you heard about Jesus? (Discuss.)

This week we saw that Jesus is powerful (show symbol for **POWER** on the "God box") and can do things we cannot do. He could control the fish and the sea because he made them. (Show symbol for **CREATOR**.) Over the next couple of weeks we are going to learn about some more wonderful things which Jesus did and learn more about him.



Memory Verse

We have seen (*eye*)
and tell others (*mouth*)
that the Father (*yellow crown*)
sent his Son (*manger*)
to be the Saviour (*red cross*)
of the world (*brown people*),
(1 John 4:14 GNB)

Draw or copy the symbols onto large sheets of paper. Introduce the verse and show the symbols.

Pray

Thank God for sending us Jesus to show us about God.

INTERACTION

(Remembering and applying the lesson)

Week One – Fishing picture

MATERIALS

- Paper plate
- Brown paper
- Netting
- Fish stickers (or fish shapes cut out of paper)
- Crayons/markers, glue, tape

PREPARE

- Cut a slit across the middle of each paper plate
- Cut out boat shape from the brown paper and squares from the netting
- Prepare sample

IN CLASS

- Colour the bottom half of the plate blue
- Glue boat shape under slit
- Tape netting to boat
- Add fish stickers/shapes to net
- Draw faces on the children's three middle fingers
- Children put fingers through the slit and pretend to be the disciples in the boat.

Week Two - Memory verse fishes

MATERIALS

- Fish pattern (page 13)
- Blue paper
- crayons/markers, glue

PREPARATION

- Photocopy or draw fish and words from verse.
- Cut out fish shapes and strips of blue paper (you may need to glue two strips together to make a strip long enough).

IN CLASS



- Colour fish
- Glue fish on blue strip in the right order

DURING THE WEEK

- Look for ways interact with the children and their families during the week
- Prepare for next week
- Choose a couple of children in your group to pray for:

TIME TO REFLECT

How are the children settling into the basic routine of your time together? Don't vary it too much until everyone feels comfortable and knows what is expected of them.



Lesson Two

Jesus heals a paralyzed man

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON

Bible Passage: Luke 5:17-26 (see also Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2: 1-12)

Memory Verse: Luke 18:27

Main Idea: Jesus has God's power to heal and forgive sins.

Teaching points: He is all powerful; he can do anything; He never does anything wrong; He is love; He loves me and wants to have a relationship with me.

PERSONAL PREPARATION

Read Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

The man had an obvious need—paralysis—and a hidden need—forgiveness. What are your needs? Do they burden you and stop you from doing what he has called you to do?

Take some time alone this week to write out a prayer to God—sharing your needs with him and confessing your sins. Don't be afraid to pour out your heart to the one who loves you and knows you intimately.

Then take your prayer and burn it. As the smoke rises, know that he has heard your prayer and he has power to heal and forgive. Leave your needs with him and trust him to care for you.

THE LESSON PLAN

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

(Using play to explore ideas from the lesson)

Individual Activities

These activities help children begin thinking about the themes of the story as they play individually or in small groups.

SUGGESTIONS

- Bible Time village – Build flat-roofed houses with blocks or from boxes by cutting out doors and windows and colouring them. Add small people and animals such as donkeys, sheep and cows. *(Explain that this is something like the villages in Jesus' time. People didn't have cars, TVs and other things we have now.)*

Playing doctor – Toy doctor's kits can either be purchased or made. Include such things as strips of fabric to wrap wounds, a craft stick marked as a thermometer *(have the children place this under their arms, not in their mouths)*, a used, clean syringe *(minus the needle!)*, empty pill bottles, a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff *(either make something similar or find old ones)*. Children can play doctors on their dolls or on each other. *What happened the last time you were sick? Did you go to see a doctor? Did you mum and dad take care of you?*



Group Activities

Bring the children together with some group activities.

SUGGESTION

Towel carry - Lay a towel on the ground. One child lays down on the towel. Children pick up towel by the corners and carry the child on the towel to the other end of the room. Children change places and another lays on the towel. For a race: Instead of a child, place a doll on the towel. Teams race to see who can carry the doll on the towel to the other end of the room the fastest without the doll falling off.

BIBLE CONTENT

(Discovering what the Bible has to teach us)

Visual Aids

Use houses from the Bible Time village (*make a special one with open side and a roof that opens*), people, stretcher, "God box"

Story Outline

On the first week, introduce the story. The second week, review the story and emphasize the application.

Introduction

Have you ever known someone who is really sick? What can you do to help them? Do you ever wish you could help them get better again?

Events

When Jesus was on the earth, there was a man who was very sick. He was so sick he couldn't move. He was paralyzed. (*Show man on stretcher.*)

His friends wanted to help him. They knew Jesus could heal him so they put the man on a stretcher and carried him to where Jesus was. (*Carry stretcher over to house.*)

Jesus was talking to people in a house with a big crowd around him. There were so many people that they couldn't get their friend into the house. (*Show Jesus inside the house with people.*)

Then they had an idea! They climbed up onto the roof on the house (which was flat) and took out some of the roof tiles to make a hole in the roof. (*Put stretcher up on roof.*) When the hole was big enough, they lowered their friend on his stretcher down through the hole until he was lying right in front of Jesus! (*Open roof and lower stretcher onto the ground near Jesus.*)

When Jesus saw how they had faith in him, he said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

The religious leaders who didn't like Jesus thought, "Who does Jesus think he is? Only God can forgive sins!" But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He asked, "Is it easier to forgive sins or heal the body? I will prove to you that God has given me the authority to forgive sins. I'll do both."

Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat and go home!"

The man jumped to his feet. He was completely healed! (*Stand man up.*) He picked up his stretcher and walked out through the people, praising God. (*Walk man out carrying stretcher.*) Everyone was amazed and said, "We have seen amazing things today!"

Application

Have you ever had to ask someone to forgive you? Did it make you feel better when they did?

The man was very sick and needed someone to make him better again. Jesus had the power to heal him. (*Show **POWER** symbol on the "God box."*) Like all of us, the man had done things



that were wrong and he needed someone to forgive him. Jesus could forgive him because he had never done anything wrong himself. (Show **WHITE CIRCLE**.)

The man came to Jesus and asked for help. Jesus helped him because he loved the man. Jesus loves us as well and we can ask him for help too. (Show symbol for **LOVE**.) We do that by praying to him. We know that he will always hear us.

Memory Verse

We have seen (*eye*)
and tell others (*mouth*)
that the Father (*yellow crown*)
sent his Son (*manger*)
to be the Saviour (*red cross*)
of the world (*brown people*),
(1 John 4:14 GNB)

Review the verse using the symbols.

Pray

Thank God that he can heal people and forgive sins.

INTERACTION

(Remembering and applying the lesson)

Week One: Man on a stretcher

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Fabric
- 2 sticks per child (craft sticks, twigs, doweling), Tape, scissors, crayons/markers

PREPARE

- Cut the fabric into rectangles a little shorter than the sticks and about half as wide
- Cut the paper into rectangles a little smaller than the fabric

IN CLASS

- Children draw a picture of a man onto the paper. Adults can cut around the drawing if desired
- Tape the fabric onto the sticks to make a stretcher
- *Children place the man onto the stretcher, then take the man off the stretcher and roll it up to show how Jesus healed him*



Week Two: Prayer Reminder

MATERIALS

- Heavy paper
- Box pattern (page 14)
- Crayons/markers, stapler or glue

PREPARE

- Use the pattern as a guide to cut out boxes for the children
- Make sample

IN CLASS

- On the sides of the box, children draw things they can pray about
- Staple or glue box together
- Children use the boxes to remind them to pray to God about everything. What are some of the things you could pray to God about?

DURING THE WEEK

- Look for ways interact with the children and their families during the week
- Prepare for next week
- Choose a couple of children in your group to pray for:

TIME TO REFLECT

How can you model forgiveness in the class?



Lesson Three

Jesus calms the sea

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON**Bible Passage:** Luke 8:22-25 (see also Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41)**Memory Verse:** 1 John 4:14**Main Idea:** Jesus has power over nature**Teaching points:** He is the creator of everything; He is all-powerful—he can do anything; He is love—He loves me and wants to have a relationship with me.**PERSONAL PREPARATION***Read 1 Peter 5:7.*

This is a very different Peter than the one who was afraid of the storm! He no longer thinks Jesus doesn't care or is unable to care for him.

What do you think had changed his attitude? Why could he now trust God's care?

Which Peter are you more like? What can you learn from his journey?

THE LESSON PLAN**LEARNING ACTIVITIES***(Using play to explore ideas from the lesson.)***Individual Activities**

These activities help children begin thinking about the themes of the story as they play individually or in small groups.

Suggestions:

- Water play – Provide a tub 5-6 cm water in the bottom. Make boats from smaller containers (e.g. margarine tubs). Children float boats and make waves by blowing on the water. *Have you ever been in a boat? Were there lots of waves? Were you afraid?*
- Books and Pictures – share pictures of the water and boats with the children. *Do you like playing in the water? What about when it is stormy? Are you ever afraid of the water?*



Group Activities

Bring the children together with some group activities.

SUGGESTION

Clap, Clap, Clap your hands - *Clap, clap, clap your hands as slowly as you can (say slowly). Clap, clap your hands as quickly as you can (say quickly).* Children do the actions in the way you suggest. Other actions: nod your head, stomp your feet, turn around, blink your eyes, etc.

BIBLE CONTENT

(Discovering what the Bible has to teach us)

Visual Aids

Tub of water, small container to be a boat, people (optional).

Story Outline

On the first week, introduce the story. The second week review the story and emphasize the application.

Introduction

What makes you afraid? Are you ever afraid when there is a storm and there is thunder a lightening? Can you stop the storm? Can your parents? Can anyone?

Events

Jesus' friends were learn a lot about him. They had seen him heal people. They had also heard him talk about God and how God wanted them to live. But they still weren't quite sure what they thought about him. They didn't totally understand who he was.

One day Jesus and his friends got into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. (*Put people into the boat and float the boat on the water.*) Jesus had been very busy healing people and teaching and he was very tired so he laid down in the boat and went to sleep.

As they sailed along the wind started to get stronger. It was blowing hard and making waves! (*Blow onto the water to make waves. You can also have the children blow hard to make wind.*)

The boat started to rock and the water was coming into the boat! (*Rock the tub to make bigger waves!*) They were afraid. But Jesus was still asleep!

They went to Jesus and woke him up. "Jesus, Jesus, don't you care? We are going to die!" They were VERY afraid!

Jesus got up. He wasn't afraid. He said to his friends, "Why are you afraid? Don't you trust me?" Then He spoke to the wind and said, "Be quiet! Be still!"

And you know what happened? The wind ceased and the waves calmed down. Jesus stoped the storm. (*Allow the water to calm down again.*)

Jesus' friends didn't know what to think. They asked each other "Who is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!" They were learning that Jesus was more powerful than anything they could imagine.

Application

Why were the disciples afraid? Why wasn't Jesus afraid? He made the world and he rules and controls it. (*Show **CREATOR and RULER** symbol on the "God box."*)

The disciples were afraid, but they didn't need to be because Jesus cared about them and he could take care of them. Jesus loves us too (*show **LOVE** symbol*) and he can take care of us when we are afraid.



Memory Verse

We have seen (*eye*)
and tell others (*mouth*)
that the Father (*yellow crown*)
sent his Son (*manger*)
to be the Saviour (*red cross*)
of the world (*brown people*),
(1 John 4:14 GNB)

Give the symbols out to the children and work together to put them in the right order. Repeat verse together.

Pray

Ask God to help us get to know Jesus more.

INTERACTION

(Remembering and applying the lesson)

Week One: Paper boats

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Crayons/markers

PREPARE

- Prepare sample (instructions for making boats by folding paper can be found at <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Boat>)

IN CLASS

- Either make the boats for the children or show them how to make the boats themselves
- Children can colour in the boats and draw people in the boat.
- Children float their boats in the tubs of water.



Week Two: Reminder bracelets

MATERIALS

- Narrow chenille wires (pipe cleaners) or wool
- Beads (pony beads or others with larger holes)
- Heart shaped beads or heart-shaped cardboard with holes punched (see diagram)



PREPARE

- Prepare heart shapes if needed
- If using wool, cut to required length and wrap tape around one end to make it easier to thread the beads.

IN CLASS

- Make bracelets by threading beads onto chenille wires or wool.
- Add heart shapes to bracelet
- When we wear this bracelet, the hearts will remind us that God loves us and we don't need to be afraid because he can take care of us.

DURING THE WEEK

- Look for ways interact with the children and their families during the week
- Prepare for next week
- Choose a couple of children in your group to pray for:

TIME TO REFLECT

What part of the lesson needs some more attention? Often this is the part with which you are least comfortable. Don't worry—the children are very forgiving and don't expect perfection!



Lesson Four

Jesus feeds more than 5,000

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON**Bible Passage:** Luke 9:10-17 (see also Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; John 6:1-13)**Memory Verse:** Luke 18:27**Main Idea:** He can meet our needs**Teaching points:** There is only one true and living God; He is all-powerful—he can do anything; He is love—He loves me and wants to have a relationship with me.**PERSONAL PREPARATION***Read: John 6:1-13*

“Give us today the food we need,” (Matthew 6:11). God cares for us and is interested in our daily needs. He cares about everything that concerns us. Do we trust him to take care of us? Do we thank him and acknowledge his provision?

Use your creativity to thank God for all he has done for you. Maybe make a **Thankfulness Collage** like the children will be doing the second week. Or you might want to draw a picture or write a song or poem expressing your gratitude.

Display whatever you create in a prominent place and use it to prompt you to regularly thank God for his love and provision. Also use it as a way to share with others what God has done for you and encourage them to express their thankfulness as well. Share what you create with the children the second week.

THE LESSON PLAN**LEARNING ACTIVITIES**

(Using play to explore ideas from the lesson. See the Introduction for details)

Individual Activities

These activities help children begin thinking about the themes of the story as they play individually or in small groups.

SUGGESTIONS

- Making snacks – Make simple snacks with children. For example: spread jam or peanut butter on bread or pour milk and instant pudding mix into jar and shake. *Who gives you your food? Do you help to prepare the food sometimes?*
- Lace-up pictures – Onto cardboard, draw or photocopy simple pictures of Bible Times objects such as a house, clay pot or clothes. Punch holes around the outline of the object. Wrap tape tightly around one end of string or yarn that is about half a meter long and tie a big knot in the other end. Children can lace the string or yarn through the holes. *How are these things different to what you have at home?*



Group Activities

Bring the children together with some group activities.

SUGGESTION

Picture hunt - Cut out or draw pictures of things children like to eat. Make 2-3 for each child. Hide the pictures around the room. Have the children go on a “picture hunt” to find the pictures. Each child should sit down when they have found 2-3 pictures. *Have the children talk about the pictures they have found.*

BIBLE CONTENT

(Discovering what the Bible has to teach us)

Visual Aids

Basket, 5 bread rolls, 2 cardboard shapes of fish OR real fish, Optional - some cooked fish for the children to try; “God box”

Story Outline

The first week, introduce the story. The second week, review the story and focus on the application.

Introduction

Do you ever get hungry? What does it feel like? Who gives you your food? *(Have children answer.)*

Events

One day, Jesus’ friends got hungry and Jesus helped them.

A big crowd of people was listening to Jesus – there were people everywhere! Jesus was telling them about God and healing people who were sick. It was getting late and Jesus’ friends came to talk to him. The people were getting very hungry and they wanted Jesus to send them away so they could get some food to eat.

Jesus said to them, “No, You feed them”. Jesus’ friends didn’t have any food and they didn’t have any money to go buy it. They didn’t know what to do.

One of Jesus’ friends, Andrew, found a little boy in the crowd who had some food. He had a basket with five bread rolls and two small fish *(show basket and contents)*. Andrew took the boy to Jesus. “This is all the food we have,” he said. He didn’t think there was any way the people could be fed from such a small amount of food.

Jesus told his friends to have all the people sit down. Then he took the five bread rolls and two fish and gave thanks to God. *(Hold up bread and fish.)* Jesus broke the rolls and fish into pieces and told his friends to give the pieces to the people. *(Break off pieces of bread and give to children.)*

He kept breaking off pieces and his friends kept handing them out. The bread and the fish didn’t run out! Everyone had enough to eat! *(Have children taste the fish if you have some.)* In fact when they collected all the scraps there were enough to fill 12 baskets. Can you count to 12? *(Have children count with you.)*

It was miracle – something only God could do. One little boy’s lunch became enough food for everyone to eat!

Application

How do you think the little boy felt as he watched Jesus feed all those people with his lunch? How do you think the people felt as they received the food?

Jesus cared that the people were hungry *(show LOVE symbol on the “God box”)* and he showed God’s power *(show POWER symbol)* as he provided them with what they needed. Only God could do these things. He is the only one. *(Show the number 1.)*



Today he is still the only one. He still uses his power to help us because he loves us. What can we thank him for? (*Food, families, house, friends, etc.*)

Memory Verse

We have seen (*eye*)
and tell others (*mouth*)
that the Father (*yellow crown*)
sent his Son (*manger*)
to be the Saviour (*red cross*)
of the world (*brown people*),
(1 John 4:14 GNB)

See if any of the children can say the verse by themselves.

Pray

Ask the children for ideas of things for which to thank God.

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INTERACTION

(Remembering and applying the lesson)

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Week One: Baskets

MATERIALS

- Paper bowls or small baskets of some kind
- Cardboard
- Flour/salt/water
- Optional: foil
- Crayons/markers

PREPARE

- Make dough by mixing equal parts of salt and flour with enough water to get a soft but not sticky consistency. This should not be eaten and will harden with time if left out in the air.
- Cut out two fish shapes for each child from the cardboard
- Optional: Cut squares for foil to wrap around the fish shapes
- Make a sample



IN CLASS

- Children make five bread rolls from the dough.
- Children either colour the fish or cover the fish shapes with foil
- Colour the bowl/basket
- Place the rolls and fish in the bowl/basket
- *How could Jesus do such a wonderful miracle?*

Week Two: Thankfulness collage

MATERIALS

- Paper
- Pictures from magazines
- Crayons/markers, glue

PREPARE

- Collect pictures of food, clothes, animals, etc from magazines
- Write on each piece of paper – “I thank God for ...”

IN CLASS

- Children choose pictures to glue onto their papers
- Children can also draw pictures of other things they are thankful for such as their families.
- *Discuss the things they are including in their pictures and encourage them to thank God for taking of them.*

DURING THE WEEK

- Look for ways interact with the children and their families during the week
- Prepare for next week
- Choose a couple of children in your group to pray for:

TIME TO REFLECT

Do you think the children are growing in their understanding of who Jesus is and what He was like?



Lesson Five

Jesus is the Son of God

OVERVIEW OF THE LESSON**Bible Passage:** Luke 9:28-36 (see also Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8)**Memory Verse:** Luke 18:27**Main Idea:** God shows that Jesus is his Son**Teaching points:** Review all from previous weeks; He gave us the Bible to tell us about himself and what he is doing**PERSONAL PREPARATION***Read: Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36*

Put yourself in the disciples' place. How would you have felt if you had seen Jesus like this? And to hear the voice of God like that—how amazing!

God chose to give Peter, James and John a glimpse of Jesus' deity. He wanted them to know that Jesus wasn't just another man whose opinion they should consider. Jesus was GOD and they needed to give him their total attention and obedience. But it wouldn't be until after the resurrection that they would really understand this.

Do we understand it today? Do we take the time to listen to him carefully and obey him totally and immediately?

Over the next two weeks, take the time to read through one of the Gospels. Ask Jesus to reveal himself to you again. Ask him to show you how you can better obey him. He is GOD!

THE LESSON PLAN**LEARNING ACTIVITIES***(Using play to explore ideas from the lesson)***Individual Activities**

These activities help children begin thinking about the themes of the story as they play individually or in small groups.

SUGGESTIONS

- Shaving cream painting – Spray shaving cream onto table. Encourage children to spread out shaving cream on table and draw pictures with their fingers. The shaving cream can also be built up for 3D effects.
- Experimenting with lights – Allow children to experiment with flashlights/torches - shine on the ceiling, on the floor, in dark corners, in the sunlight. Talk about the light changes in different circumstances. Add coloured plastic wrap to cover lights and see what happens. *What is the brightest light that you know?*



Group Activities

Bring the children together with some group activities

SUGGESTION

Simon Says - The children stand up in front of you. They are to do what you say, but only when you preface it with the words: "Simon Says". Start out with several instructions such as "Simon says touch your toes"; "Simon says nod your head". Then slip in one without the preface. If a child does it anyway, they have to sit down until someone else makes a mistake.

BIBLE CONTENT

(Discovering what the Bible has to teach us)

Visual Aids

Children act out parts of the story; bright light, white sheet; Bible.

Story Outline

The first week introduce the story. The second week review the story and focus on the application.

Introduction

Jesus' friends had seen Jesus do some amazing things. What were they? *(Use story pictures to review past weeks.)* Jesus had showed them God's power. The disciples knew that Jesus was very special.

Events

One day, Jesus went for a walk up a mountain and Peter, James and John went with Him. *(Children stand up and pretend to climb mountain.)*

When they got to the top, Jesus started to pray. Peter, James and John sat down to wait for Jesus and soon they fell asleep. *(Children sit down, then lie down pretending to sleep.)*

While they were sleeping, something very special happened. Jesus' face started to shine like the sun and his clothes became white and glowed! *(Turn light on and shine it at the children.)* Then two of God's friends who had died—Moses and Elijah—came down from heaven to talk to Jesus about what was going to happen when He died on the cross.

Suddenly Peter, James and John woke up. *(Have children sit up and cover their eyes because of the brightness of the light.)* When they saw Jesus, Moses and Elijah they were scared! They didn't know what to think—but they knew something very special had happened.

Peter said, "Lord, I'm glad we are here. We can make three special tents—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah".

But then a thick cloud came down and covered everything so that Jesus' friends couldn't see Jesus any more. *(Cover children with the sheet.)* A voice came from the cloud and said, "This is my Son whom I love very much. Listen to Him". This made Jesus' friends even more afraid!

Who do you think was talking? Yes, it was God.

Then the cloud lifted and the disciples looked up and saw Jesus standing all alone—looking normal again. *(Turn off the light. Lift cloth.)*

Wow! Jesus' friends had seen how Jesus looks when he is in heaven and they had heard God tell them that Jesus was His Son. I don't think they ever forgot that!

Application

What would you have thought if you had been there? God still wants us to listen to Jesus.

How do we find out more about Jesus? *(Let the children share their thoughts.)* We can find out



more about him in the Bible. (*Show Bible.*) That is where we find the stories we have been learning that past couple of weeks. What have we learned about Jesus? (*Review “God box.”*) Jesus isn’t just a great man, he is God.

Memory Verse

We have seen (*eye*)
and tell others (*mouth*)
that the Father (*yellow crown*)
sent his Son (*manger*)
to be the Saviour (*red cross*)
of the world (*brown people*),
(1 John 4:14 GNB)

Review verse.

Pray

Allow the children to pray, thanking God for sending Jesus.

INTERACTION (Remembering and applying the lesson)

Week One: Jesus puppet

MATERIALS

- Puppet pattern (page 15)
- Coloured and white fabric,
- Scissors, crayons/markers, stapler/tape

PREPARE

- Photocopy the Jesus pictures
(Note: if you cannot photocopy puppet, children can draw the two Jesus figures)
- Cut the sheets in half and fold in half
- Tape or staple down the long side
- Cut out fabric to fit over Jesus’ clothes (1 coloured and 1 white for each child)

IN CLASS

- Children colour the Jesus figures
- Glue the fabric on the figures
- *Children can act out the story with the puppets*



Week Two: Bible Reading Encourager

What you do here will depend on your situation and what you have available.

- If your children have Bibles and someone to read to them, you could make a chart that they check off their reading each day.
- If you have access to Bible reading notes for preschoolers (e.g. Scripture Union) you could give a booklet to each child.
- You could make something yourself. For each day, include a Bible story, some questions the parents can ask and an activity for the children to do.
- If it is an oral culture, you could give them pictures of the stories you have recently told (or have them draw pictures themselves) and encourage them to share the stories with their families.

DURING THE WEEK

- Look for ways interact with the children and their families during the week
- Prepare for next week
- Choose a couple of children in your group to pray for:

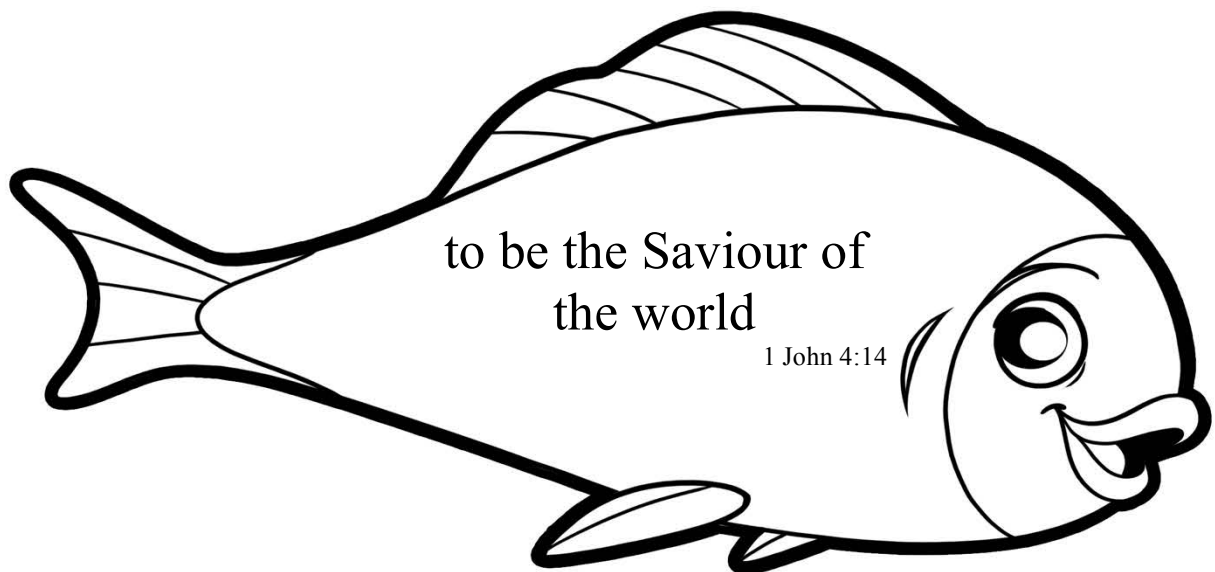
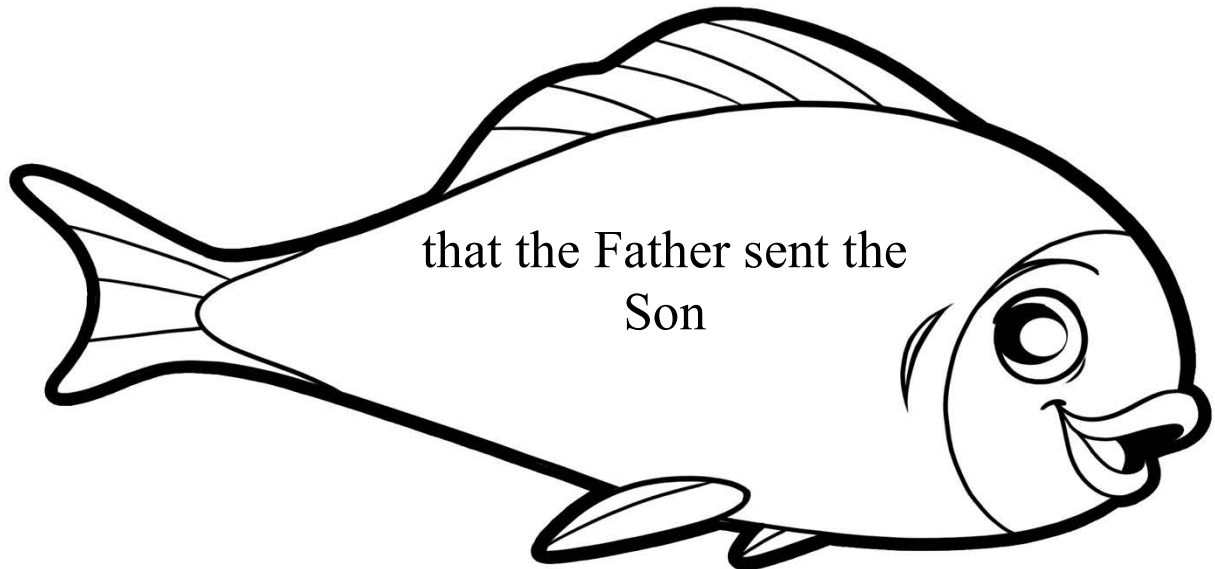
TIME TO REFLECT

How have the children responded to this unit? What parts of the program do you need to work on?

Thank you for taking this time to share Jesus with these children. What you do is important!

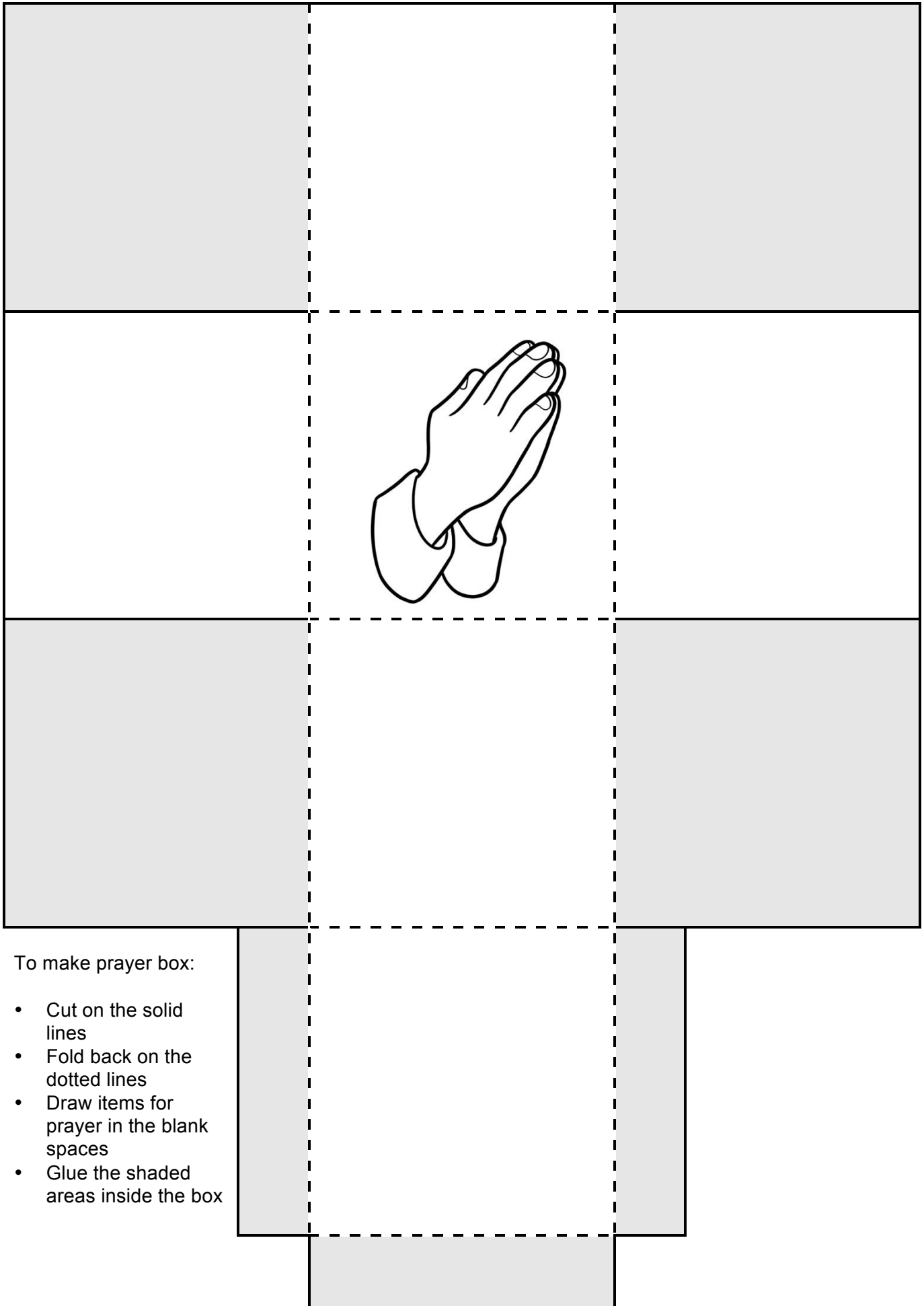


Lesson 1 – Week 2





Lesson 3 – Week 2

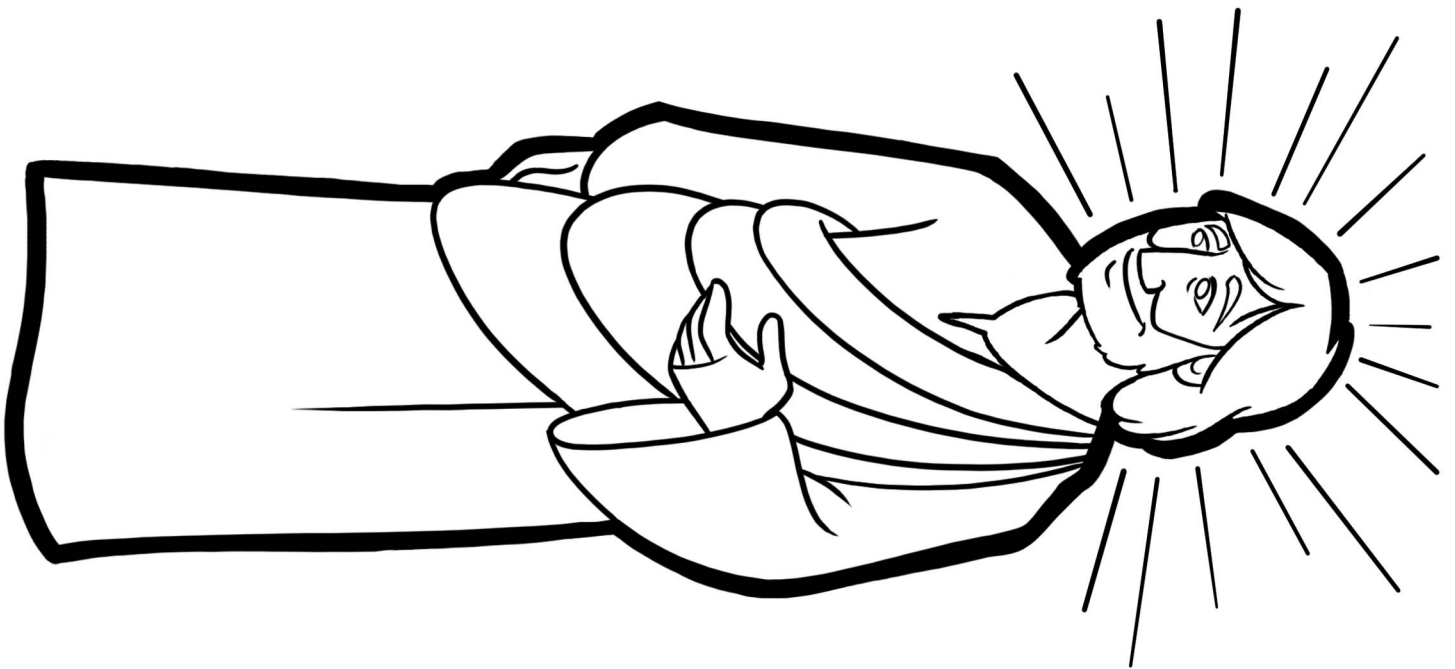


To make prayer box:

- Cut on the solid lines
- Fold back on the dotted lines
- Draw items for prayer in the blank spaces
- Glue the shaded areas inside the box



Lesson 5 – Week 1





Jesus, God's Son

Unit theme: Jesus showed us that he was God's Son by doing things only God could do.

LESSONS

Jesus calls his friends to follow him (Luke 5:1-11) His friends start to learn about Jesus

Jesus healed a paralyzed man (Luke 5:17-26) He had power to heal and forgive

Jesus calmed the sea (Luke 8:22-25) He had power over nature

Jesus fed more than 5,000 people (Luke 9:10-20) He had power to meet needs

Jesus is the Son of God (Luke 9:28-36) He had God's power because He is God's Son

Memory verse: *We have seen and tell others that the Father sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world, (1 John 4:14 GNB).*

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Read: Matthew 9:1-8

The man had an obvious need—healing from paralysis—and a hidden need—forgiveness for sin. What are your needs? Do they burden you and stop you from doing what God has called you to do?

Take some time alone this week to write out a prayer to God—sharing your needs with him and confessing your sins. Don't be afraid to pour out your heart to the one who loves you and knows you intimately.

Then take your prayer and burn it. As the smoke rises, know that he has heard your prayer and he has power to heal and forgive. Leave your needs with him and trust him to care for you.

PARENTING TIP

Young children are extremely receptive to new things. They are like sponges—soaking up everything they see, hear and experience. They do not distinguish between “lessons” and general life experience.

One of the ways young children learn about the world and how to live in it is by observing the adults around them. For instance, if they see you becoming impatient with others, they will think that is the acceptable response. If however, they see you responding with patience and compassion, they will assume that is the right way to respond. This ‘modelling’ for young children goes on not only in formal learning situations, but in everyday life. It does not mean that they will always do what they see others doing do, but their concepts of right and wrong are profoundly influenced.

It is important to remember that children are always watching us. They learn more from what they see us do than from what we say.

ACTIVITY IDEAS

- **Doctor's Kits** - These can either be purchased as toys or can be made. Include such things as strips of fabric to wrap wounds, a craft stick marked as a thermometer (*have the children place this under their arms, not in their mouths*), an used, clean syringe (*minus the needle!*), empty pill bottles, a stethoscope and blood pressure cuff (*either make something similar or find an old one*). Use your imagination! Children can play doctors on their dolls or on each other.
- **Clap, Clap, Clap your hands** - *Clap, clap, clap your hands as slowly as you can (say slowly).* *Clap, clap your hands as quickly as you can (say quickly).* Children do the actions in the way you suggest. Other actions: nod your head, stomp your feet, turn around, blink your eyes, etc.

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls his friends to
follow him





Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls his friends to follow him

Do you like to eat fish? Some people's job is to catch fish so that we can eat it. They often use a net to catch the fish. One day Jesus met some fishermen named Peter, Andrew, James and John. They were good fishermen, but they hadn't caught any fish even though they had been fishing all night.

Jesus said, "Go back out into the lake and let down your nets again. Then you will catch some fish."

The fishermen knew that it was the wrong time and place to catch fish. They knew Jesus was special but they weren't sure if he knew anything about fishing! Finally, Peter said, "We have fished all night and didn't catch anything, but we will do what you say."

Peter and Andrew sailed back out into the lake and let down their nets. They caught so many fish that the net started to break!

"Come and help us!" they called to James and John. They filled both boats so full of fish that they almost sank! They were surprised and a little afraid of what Jesus had done. Only God could do something like that!

Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. I want you to come with me and be my special friends. You will help other people to follow me too."

Peter, Andrew, James and John folded up their nets, left their boats and went with Jesus. Over the next couple of years they followed him. They saw him do many amazing things.

Jesus is powerful and can do things we cannot do. He could control the fish and the sea because he made them. Over the next couple of weeks we are going to learn more about Jesus and some wonderful things that he did.

Luke 5:17-26

Jesus heals a paralyzed man





Luke 5:17-26

Jesus heals a paralyzed man

When Jesus was on the earth, there was a man who was very sick. He was so sick he couldn't move. He was paralyzed. His friends wanted to help him. They knew Jesus could heal him so they put the man on a stretcher and carried him to where Jesus was. Jesus was talking to people in a house with a big crowd around him. There were so many people that they couldn't get their friend into the house.

Then they had an idea! They climbed up onto the roof on the house which was flat and took out some of the roof tiles to make a hole in the roof. When the hole was big enough, they lowered their friend on his stretcher down through the hole until he was lying right in front of Jesus!

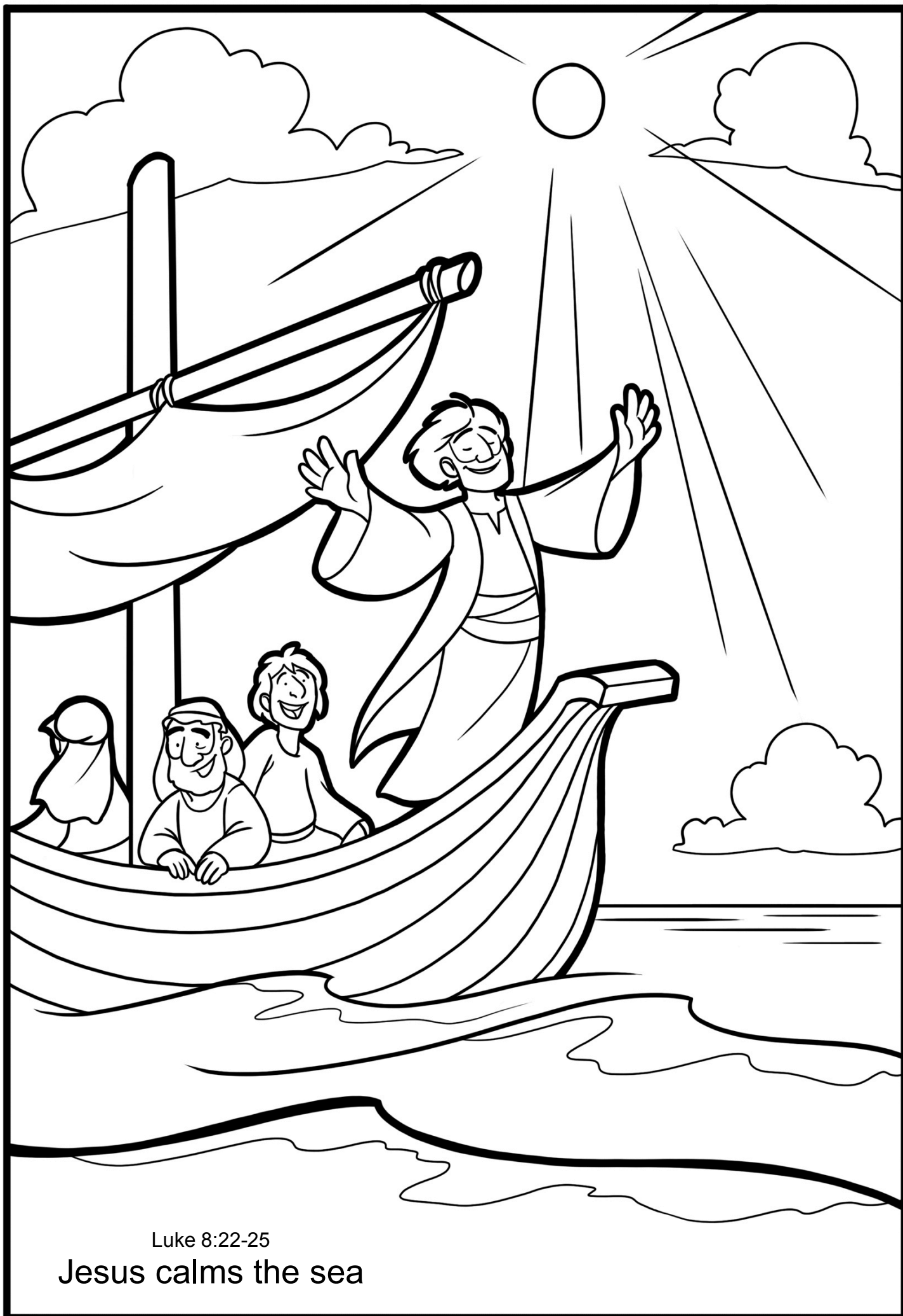
When Jesus saw how they had faith in him, he said to the man, "Young man, your sins are forgiven."

The religious leaders who didn't like Jesus thought, "Who does Jesus think he is? Only God can forgive sins!" But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He asked, "Is it easier to forgive sins or heal someone? I will prove to you that God has given me the authority to forgive sins. I'll do both."

Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat and go home!"

The man jumped to his feet. He was completely healed! He picked up his stretcher and walked out through the people, praising God. Everyone was amazed and said, "We have seen amazing things today!"

The man was very sick and needed someone to make him better again. Like all of us, the man had done things that were wrong and he needed someone to forgive him. Jesus helped him because he loved the man. Jesus loves us as well and we can ask him for help too. We do that by praying to him. We know that he will always hear us.



Luke 8:22-25

Jesus calms the sea



Luke 8:22-25

Jesus calms the sea

Jesus' friends were learning a lot about him. They had seen him heal people, They had also heard him talk about God and how God wanted them to live. But they still weren't quite sure what they thought about him. They didn't totally understand who he was.

One day Jesus and his friends got into a boat to go to the other side of the lake. Jesus had been very busy healing people and teaching and he was very tired so he laid down in the boat and went to sleep.

As they sailed along the wind started to get stronger. It was blowing hard and making waves! The boat started to rock and the water was coming into the boat! They were afraid.

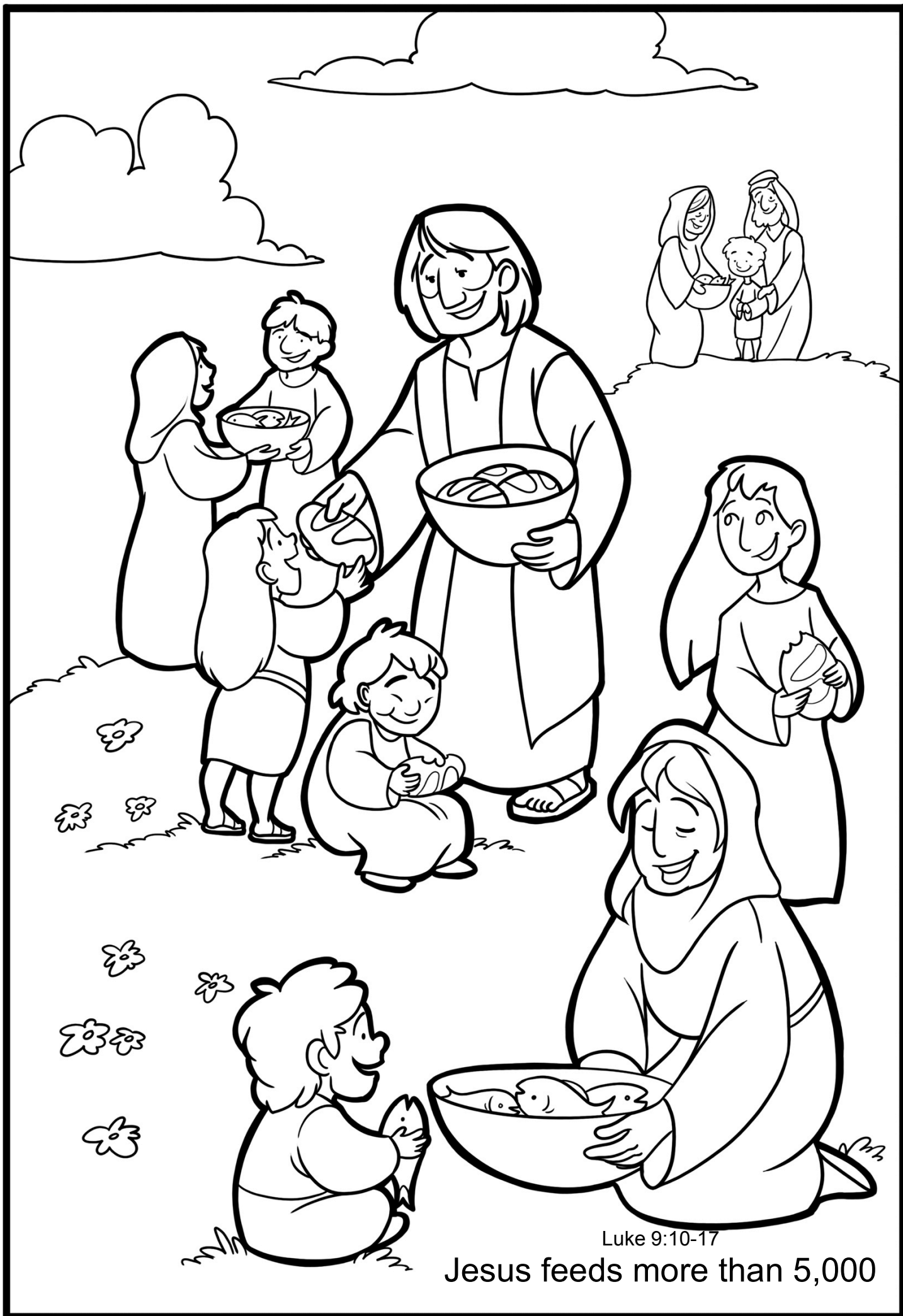
But Jesus was still asleep! They went to Jesus and woke him up. "Jesus, Jesus, don't you care? We are going to die!" They were VERY afraid!

Jesus got up. He wasn't afraid. He said to his friends, "Why are you afraid? Don't you trust me?" Then He spoke to the wind and said, "Be quiet! Be still!"

And you know what happened? The wind ceased and the waves calmed down. Jesus stoped the storm.

Jesus' friends didn't know what to think. They asked each other "Who is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!" They were learning that Jesus was more powerful than anything they could imagine.

The disciples were afraid but Jesus wasn't. He made the world and he rules and controls it. The disciples didn't need to be afraid because Jesus cared about them and he could take care of them. Jesus loves us too and he can take care of us when we are afraid.



Luke 9:10-17

Jesus feeds more than 5,000



Luke 9:10-17

Jesus feeds more than 5,000

One day a big crowd of people was listening to Jesus – there were people everywhere! Jesus was telling them about God and healing people who were sick. It was getting late and Jesus' friends came to talk to him. The people were getting very hungry and they wanted Jesus to send them away so they could get some food to eat.

Jesus said to them, "No, you should feed them". Jesus' friends didn't have any food and they didn't have any money to go buy it. They didn't know what to do.

One of Jesus' friends, Andrew, found a little boy in the crowd who had some food. He had a basket with five bread rolls and two small fish. Andrew took the boy to Jesus. "This is all the food we have," he said. He didn't think there was any way the people could be fed from such a small amount of food.

Jesus told his friends to have all the people sit down. Then he took the five bread rolls and two fish and gave thanks to God. Jesus broke the rolls and fish into pieces and told his friends to give the pieces to the people.

He kept breaking off pieces and his friends kept handing them out. The bread and the fish didn't run out! Everyone had enough to eat! In fact when they collected all the scraps there were enough to fill 12 baskets. It was a miracle – something only God could do. One little boy's lunch became enough food for everyone to eat!

Jesus cared that the people were hungry and he showed God's power as he provided them with what they needed. Only God could do these things. He is the only one. Today he is still the only one. He still uses his power to help us because he loves us.



Luke 9:28-36
Jesus is the Son
of God



Luke 9:28-36

Jesus is the Son of God

One day, Jesus went for a walk up a mountain and Peter, James and John went with Him. When they got to the top, Jesus started to pray. Peter, James and John sat down to wait for Jesus and soon they fell asleep.

While they were sleeping, something very special happened. Jesus' face started to shine like the sun and his clothes became white and glowed! Then two of God's friends who had died – Moses and Elijah – came down from heaven to talk to Jesus about what was going to happen when He died on the cross. Suddenly Peter, James and John woke up. When they saw Jesus, Moses and Elijah they were scared! They didn't know what to think – but they knew something very special had happened.

Peter said, "Lord, I'm glad we are here. We can make three special tents – one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah". But then a thick cloud came down and covered everything so that Jesus' friends couldn't see Jesus any more. A voice came from the cloud and said, "This is my Son whom I love very much. Listen to Him". This made Jesus' friends even more afraid - it was God talking from heaven!

Then the cloud lifted and the disciples looked up and saw Jesus standing all alone – looking normal again. Wow! Jesus' friends had seen how Jesus looks when he is in heaven and they had heard God tell them that Jesus was His Son. I don't think they ever forgot that!

God still wants us to listen to Jesus. We can find out more about him in the Bible. In the Bible we learn that Jesus isn't just a great man, he is God.