



The Tower of Babel

After God spared Noah from the flood, his family grew until there were a lot of people. His family began to fill the world, and they all spoke the same language. Some of the family moved to Babylonia and began to learn how to do many different things. They made bricks and built large buildings. They thought they were very smart.

One day, they had an idea to build the tallest building in the world. They became so focused on this building, that they thought would touch the sky, that they didn't think about God anymore. This made God sad and angry. He didn't like that they thought only of how smart they were and how tall their tower would be. God knew that if He let the people continue, they would think more and more about how important they were and less and less about Him.

The people had to talk to each other to be able to work on this tower. If they spoke different languages, they wouldn't be able to decide what needed to be done next in their work. So, God made them all speak different languages. They couldn't understand each other any more, and the work on the tower came to a stop. The people scattered all over the earth.

What happened to the huge tower they planned on building? That tower was named Babel, and it remained half-built forever!

Therefore is the name of it called
Babel; because the Lord did there
confound the language of all the earth.
Genesis 11:9

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Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

Pride Comes Before a Fall

It is a bitterly cold January day. The tall mountain evergreen boughs sway back and forth as though shivering. The Mackey family works briskly, dressed in flannels, thick wool socks, and sturdy boots.

A tree toppled a few days ago in a storm, and Anderson is keen to chop it up for firewood before a big snow hits the mountain.

It is Jack and Violet's job to separate the branches from the trunk and drag them to a pile.

Maybe it's the cold, or maybe it's because Jack looked sideways at Violet while they brushed their teeth that morning, but both are cross.

Without speaking, both know they are in a competition to try and add more branches to the pile. It is not the friendly type.

The children trot from the tree to the truck, dragging branch after branch; their cheeks red, their breath coming out in little puffs.

The pile grows taller and taller. Jack puts his branches on one side and Violet places hers on the other. Jack's age gives him the advantage, and his pile grows a little taller.

Violet, a determined little girl, does not give up. Doggedly, she follows her brother back and forth. Her little arms grow tired from dragging branches so fast, but she won't be the one to call it quits and let Jack win.

Finally, the tree is cut up and the branches all in one place. Anderson suggests that the family drive back to the house for lunch before loading the branches and wood into the truck.

Katherine studies her children as they sink into their chairs at the table. The silent feud continues. "Does anyone remember the story of the tower of Babel?" she asks.

Violet sees an opportunity to beat Jack and breaks her silence with a hurried affirmation.

Katherine says, "The builders worked very hard to make their tower larger and taller than any other. Kind of like you two are doing with the branch pile. But, God saw that though they worked hard, which is good, the attitude of their heart was not good. If you are putting your all into a job simply to one-up another person, that is wrong. It doesn't matter how hard you work, a spirit of pride will surely bring a fall."

Karissa Carver

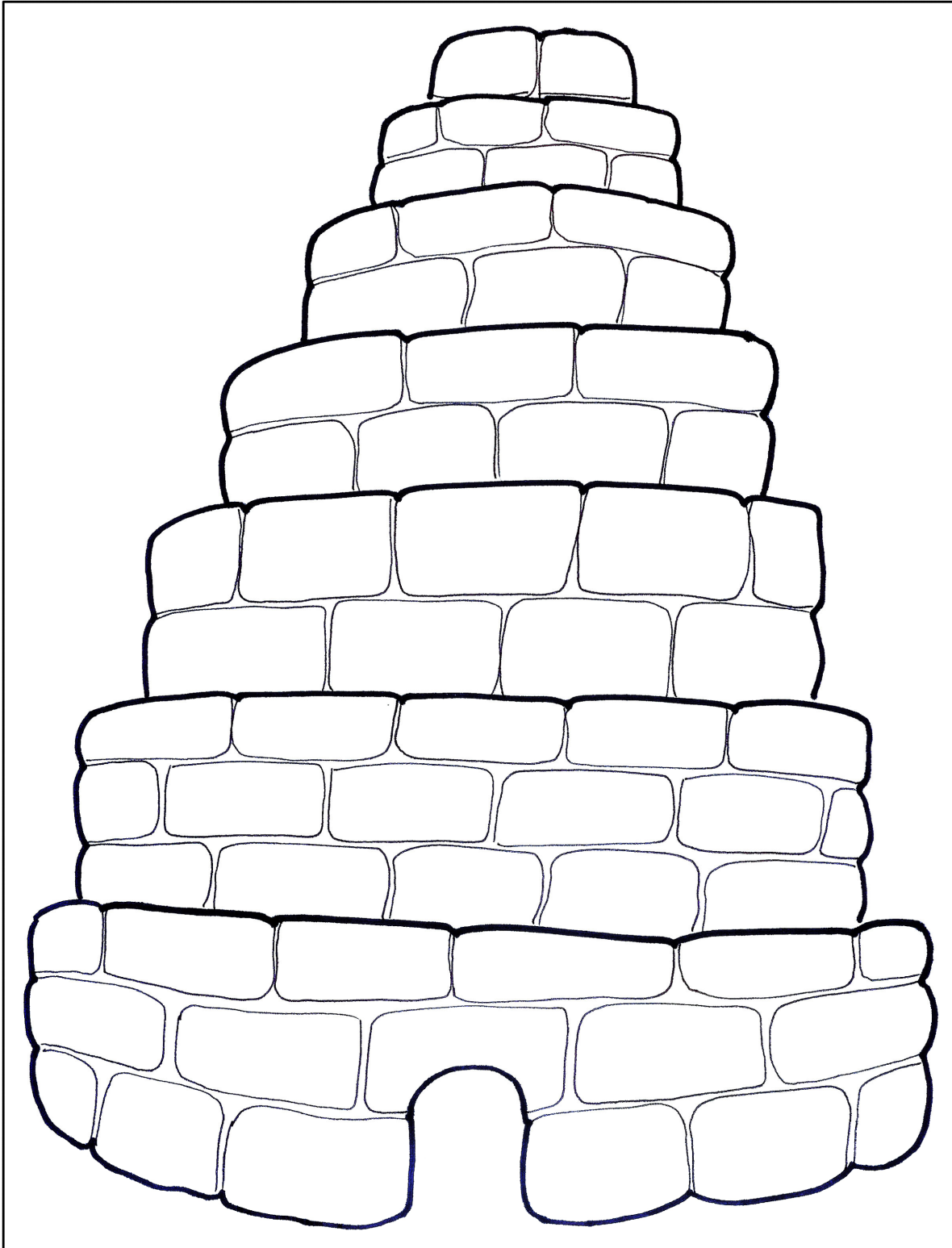
Build a Tower !

Supplies:

1. Scissors
2. Glue
3. Brown construction paper

Directions:

Cut brick shapes out of brown construction paper and glue to the tower outline in order to "build" your own Tower of Babel!





Joseph's Coat

Jacob had twelve sons who eventually became the twelve tribes of Israel. The Bible says that, out of all of his sons, Joseph was his favorite because he had been born in Jacob's old age. He made his favorite son a coat of many colors. In those days, making fabric different colors was something only the wealthy people could afford to do, so the gift was a very special one.

Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more and became very jealous and angry. They would not even speak nicely to their brother. When Joseph told his brothers of his dreams about ruling over them, they decided to kill him. Rueben, one of the twelve brothers, convinced the others to cast Joseph into a pit instead. Keeping his coat, they cast their brother into the pit, then sat down to enjoy their lunch.

When they looked up, they saw a caravan of slave traders headed to Egypt. Another of the brothers, whose name was Judah, said to the others, "What good will it do us if we kill our brother and hide it from our father? Let us sell him to the slave traders instead, so we are not guilty of killing our own flesh and blood." The brothers were content with this plan.

They lifted Joseph from the pit and sold him to the slave traders. Then, they killed a ram and smeared the blood on Joseph's coat, so they could lie to their father. Jacob believed a mighty beast had killed his son and mourned for him. He refused to be comforted by his family.

Joseph lived many years in Egypt and rose to a position of power. When a famine came upon the land, he was reunited with his family whom he delivered from it and provided with a home and food! Joseph forgave his brothers with all his heart.

And be ye kind one to another,
tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
even as God for Christ's sake hath
forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Sabotage

Anderson, Katherine, and Mrs. Knelson poured over a farmer's catalogue and discussed crops, animals, and prices while Jack and Violet explored the old general store.

Two little boys strolled in from outside. They stomped their feet to warm their cold toes, ordered hot chocolate with their pocket change, and sat down at one of the tables.

"Haha," one of the boys laughed. "Did you really cut up the doll your mom made your sister?"

"Yup!" the other said proudly. "Mom is nicer to her than to me. I wanted to teach her a lesson!"

"How'd you do it?"

The doll cutter whipped his little pocket knife out and proudly showed his fellow mischief-maker. "I took her doll in one hand and hacked at it until it was ripped and torn!"

"And you didn't get in trouble?"

"Naw, too smart for that! I put the doll right outside our dog's bed so that it looked like he had got a hold of it and ripped it up."

Jack and Violet stared at each other in horror. They had their spats, but they would never dream of doing something so mean to the other.

Suddenly, all four children noticed a man standing in the doorway with a funny look on his face. The boys gulped, and Jack and Violet looked curiously from man to boys.

"That is quite the story, son. I'm glad to know what really happened to your sister's doll. We best go home now. I have some talking to do, and you have some listening to do."

The Mackey children watched, wide-eyed, as the father took his son firmly by the arm and led him out of the store. The second boy followed miserably behind and slunk away toward Main Street.

Mr. Potter, an elderly man tending the kitchen that day, beckoned the children to pull up a stool at his counter. He slid two hot chocolates toward them and said, "On the house. You Mackey youngsters would never do a thing like that, would you?"

Jack and Violet swung their heads back and forth with an emphatic "no." They sipped on their hot chocolate and chatted pleasantly with one another. Today, they were glad for each other's friendship. Neither argued over who had more whipped cream in their mug as they sometimes would.

Karissa Carver



Colorful Coat Puppet !

Supplies:

1. Brown paper bags (1 per child)
2. Strips of colorful

construction paper

3. Scissors and glue
4. Crayons/markers/colored pencils

Directions:

Color and cut out Joseph's head. Paste it to the bottom of the bag using the guides to center it.

(Do not unfold the bag yet.)

Paste strips of colorful paper to the body of the bag to recreate his colorful coat!

Unfold the paper bag enough to slip your hand over the fold at the top and use as a puppet!





Daniel & the Lion's Den

The children of Israel had disobeyed God by worshipping idols. Because of their sin, they were captured as slaves and carried into Babylon. While they were there, King Darius chose 120 men to be advisors in his kingdom. Then, he chose three men to be in charge of the 120 advisors. One of these three men was named Daniel.

Even though Daniel was an Israelite, King Darius liked him better than all the other advisors. The Bible says that Daniel was without fault and was faithful. He advised the king wisely and prayed three times a day to God. The advisors soon became jealous of the favor Daniel had gained, so they came up with an evil plan.

They talked to the king and convinced him to pass a law that said no one could pray to any god for thirty days. They could only pray to King Darius. The punishment for disobedience to this law was to be cast into a den of lions.

The advisors knew that Daniel would not follow this law. When they found Daniel praying the next day, they immediately reported it to King Darius. As soon as he heard the news, the king was displeased with himself for making such a terrible law, but he knew he could not go back on his word. He called Daniel to his court and said, "The God who you serve will deliver you."

Daniel was thrown into the den of lions, and a stone was used to seal it. King Darius waited anxiously all night and then arrived at the den early in the morning. He said, "Daniel, oh Daniel, servant of the living God! Has thy god been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "My God sent angels to shut the mouths of the lions, and they have done no harm to me."

The king was so happy that Daniel was saved that he made a decree, saying that every person in his kingdom was to fear God.

Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. Daniel 6:16

Jack's Decision

Mr. Stook addresses his fifth-grade class. "Remember, we have a geography test tomorrow. I hope you are studying your states and capitals."

Jack smiles to himself. He studies his U.S. map every night, and can fill out the blank maps Mr. Stook supplies.

Scott groans. "Why do we have to take that dumb test," he grumbles under his breath.

Prescott hears him and agrees. "Yeah, I don't even care about states and capitals. Where's Rhode Island, anyway?"

The boys snicker, feeding off each other's negativity. Jack frowns. He thinks knowing the states of the country he lives in very important. Learning the location of each state and their corresponding capital has ignited an interest in Jack to explore America. He hopes to visit every state one day.

"Earth to Jack!" Scott roars annoyingly, breaking Jack from his thoughts. "I said, you wanna help us on that test tomorrow? We know you've been studying like a goody two-shoes."

Prescott snickers again, a hyena-like chortle. Jack fights the urge to roll his eyes.

"No, I'm not helping you cheat."

Scott narrows his eyes. Jack's words make him feel guilty.

"Ok," he says slowly. "If you don't help me on this test, I'm going to find your bike and pop the tires."

That evening, Jack is silent at dinner until Anderson squeezes his shoulder. The words start tumbling out. He ends the story and says miserably, "What should I do, Dad?"

"You are right for standing up against cheating. I'm sorry Scott is threatening you. You pricked his conscience, and he's trying to silence truth. I hope he does not act on his threat. But if he does, we will help you fix your bike. Stay strong, son. We are proud of you."

That weekend, Jack rides his bike into town. He goes into the general store to say hello to Mrs. Knelson. A few minutes later, a big man walks into the store holding Scott by the ear.

"Son," he says to Jack. "I believe that's your bike out front?" Jack nods.

"Best go and get home when you can. I found this one about to pop your tires. Caught him just in time."

Jack pedals home, thanking God for protecting him and keeping his bike safe because he chose to stand up for right.

Karissa Carver



Fierce Lions !

Supplies:

1. Paper plates
2. Scissors
3. Tape/Glue
4. Markers/crayons/colored pencils

Directions:

Color and cut out the head of the lion. Color the outside edges of the paper plate to match the lion's mane, and cut slits all around to imitate hair. Attach the lion's head to the center of the paper plate.





Jonah and the Whale

There was a prophet in the land of Israel named Jonah. God came to him and said, “Get up, and go to Nineveh and cry out against their wickedness.” Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, a great and powerful nation, but they were disobeying God’s law in many terrible ways.

Jonah arose and fled from God’s call. He bought a ticket on a large ship that was sailing to Tarshish, thinking he could run away from the presence of the Lord. However, God sent a strong wind into the sea, causing a mighty storm. Those aboard the ship feared it would be broken to pieces by the powerful sea. The sailors were so afraid that they asked every passenger to cry to his god.

The shipmaster came down into the bottom of the ship and found Jonah fast asleep. He said, “Why are you sleeping?! Get up and pray to your God so we don’t perish in this storm!”

The storm did not calm, so they decided to cast lots. That means that they wrote every name on a piece of parchment or stone and cast them out of a dish. The first name to fall out was the man who was proclaimed guilty. Jonah’s name came out first.

He said, “Throw me into the sea so that the storm will go away.” The sailors did not want to throw Jonah overboard, so they rowed as hard as they could toward shore, but it did nothing to help them. Finally, they agreed to Jonah’s plan. The fear of God was upon them all.

In the water, a great fish swallowed Jonah, and he spent three days in its belly. He prayed and repented for running from the Lord. God caused the fish to vomit Jonah up onto the sand. Jonah was finally ready to obey and immediately traveled to Nineveh to deliver the Lord’s message.

Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Jonah 1:17

Violet Ignores Instruction

Violet and Emma quickly became best friends after Miss Jane placed them beside one another at the beginning of the school year. Now, they are joined at the hip.

Miss Jane tells her class that another classroom needs her for an hour, so a student teacher will watch the class during this time. Miss Jane stops by Violet and Emma and asks them to cut out the shapes she’s drawn on a thick stack of papers.

“Please have this finished by the time I return.”

The girls walk to the back of the classroom and sit at a little table tucked into a corner. The paper stack sits in the middle of the table with scissors placed on top.

For a while, the girls work diligently. Soon, they are in such an animated discussion that they stop working and just start talking. The girls push aside the scissors and paper, and they talk about the musical the school is practicing for the spring. They dream of being older and trying out for the big-kid parts in the play.

All of a sudden, Miss Jane walks through the door. The girls turn pink and frantically reach for scissors and paper again. Their teacher sees them still at the back table. She frowns, and heads their way.

“Why girls, this should have been done in the first half hour of my leave! What happened?”

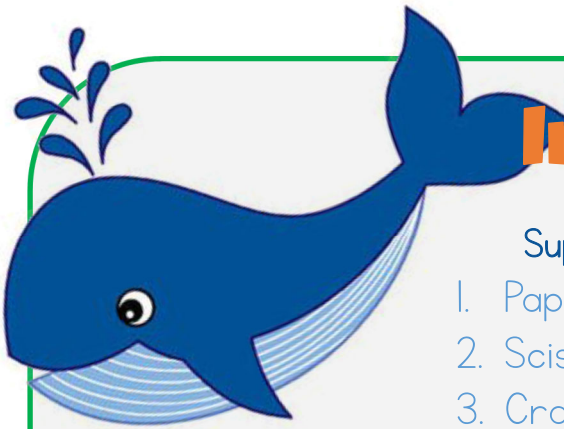
Violet mumbles something about the school musical and Emma nods miserably.

Miss Jane listens, sighs, and pats their heads. “It’s a good thing this is first grade. What do you think will happen when you have a job and you ignore your responsibility when you are older? I’m glad you are such good friends, but you must learn not to ignore instruction because it can have serious consequences. Do you remember what happened when Jonah didn’t obey God?”

Emma and Violet stare wide-eyed at each other. “I don’t want to be swallowed by a big fish!” Emma says with a shudder.

Miss Jane smiles. “You probably won’t be swallowed by a big fish, but God sees your every action. He wants you to obey authority on Earth so you can also obey Him when He asks you to complete a job.”

Karissa Carver



In the Whale's Belly

Supplies:

1. Paper plates
2. Scissors
3. Crayons/

colored pencils/markers

4. Tape/glue
5. Wiggly eyes (optional)

Directions:

Cut a triangle from the paper plate and attach it to the opposite side to create the whale's open mouth and tail.

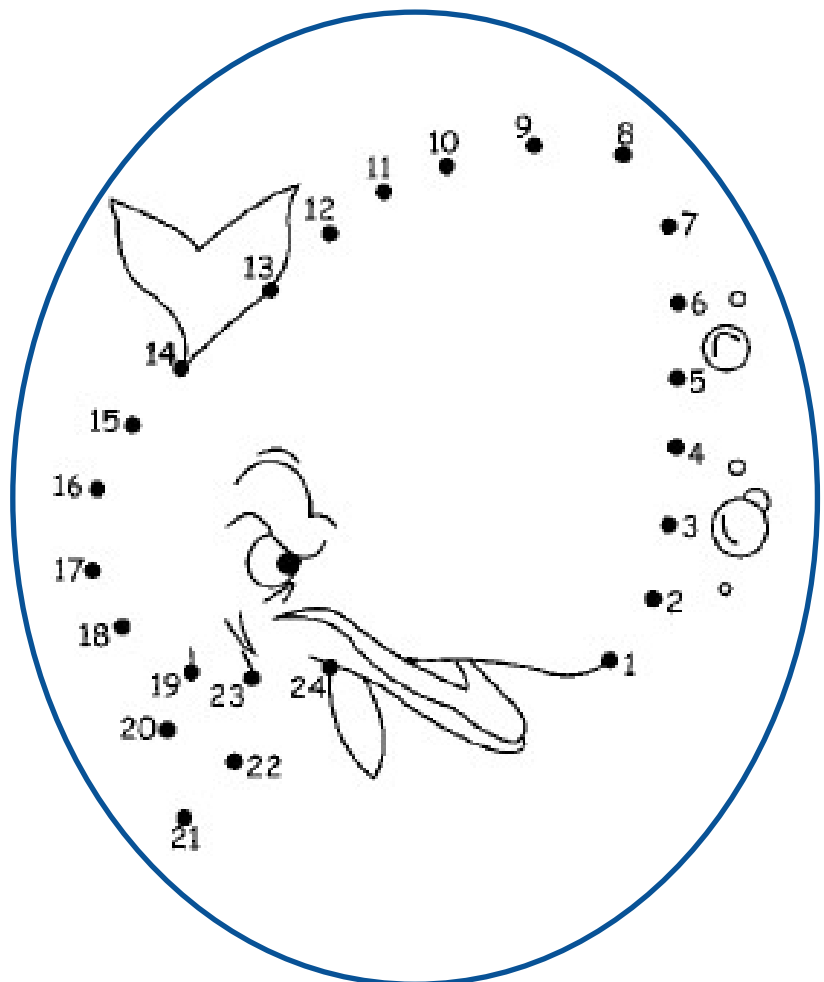
Color Jonah (below) and the whale. Attach wiggly eyes to the whale (optional) or draw/color eyes on the paper plate.

Attach Jonah to the body of the whale.

Color Jonah and cut around his body.



Connect the dots, starting at 1 and ending at 24!





John the Baptist

When Jesus was still in Mary's womb, Mary went to visit her cousins, Zacharias and Elisabeth. When Mary entered their house and called out a greeting, the child within Elisabeth's womb leapt for joy to hear the voice of the Messiah's mother! That child, the one that leapt for joy, was a miracle baby just like Jesus. His name was John, and he was sent to his parents in their old age.

John grew up and became known as John the Baptist. Before Jesus began His own teachings, John prepared the people to hear the news of salvation! He preached often in the wilderness saying, "Get ready for the way of the Lord! Make His paths straight." He wore camel skins and leather for clothes, and he ate locusts (or grasshoppers) and wild honey!

Even though John the Baptist didn't dress and eat like other people, there were many who listened to his words and were baptized by him. The religious leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees, stood around while he baptized new believers. John knew they were proud in their hearts and didn't want true salvation. He said, "You are all like evil vipers! Repent again and believe, otherwise the wrath of God is coming!"

Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize Him. Even though John felt unworthy, he baptized the Son of God. Just as Jesus came out of the water, the heavens opened, and a voice came from above saying, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

Eventually, John the Baptist was killed because he believed Jesus was the Savior. But, he spent his entire life spreading the Gospel of salvation, and he was a blessed and holy man.

John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. Mark 1:4

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Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 5. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

A New Baby

"Children, we plan to visit the Aldana family tonight for dinner. Do you think you two can complete your chores in time?" Kathryn asks after Jack and Violet arrive home from school on Friday.

"Wa-hoo!" Jack whoops.

"You just want to see Zoel!" Violet teases.

Jack grins, and his ears turn pink. "So what if I do? She's one of the nicest girls I know."

Kathryn smiles and hands Jack and Violet a cinnamon roll with a glass of milk. "Go do your chores after this snack," she says.

The children rush to the barn and quickly, but thoroughly, complete the necessary chores. Violet measures out chicken feed and checks the watering system. Jack mucks out a few stalls and then works on oiling and conditioning a saddle Anderson picked up at a flea market.

Soon, chores are finished and the children are clean. The family loads up in their Chevy truck and wind down the mountain road toward the Aldana's.

The Aldana's live outside of town. Alex and Juan wave from the porch as the Mackeys pull into the driveway. Both families greet one another with handshakes and hugs. Ana, a few years older than Violet, takes Violet by the hand and leads her to a playhouse in the backyard. Alex asks Jack if he'd like to play a boardgame in the living room. Jack says yes, and grins happily when Zoe agrees to play with them too.

The adults gather in the kitchen and all pitch in to finish meal prepping the chicken tortilla soup for dinner.

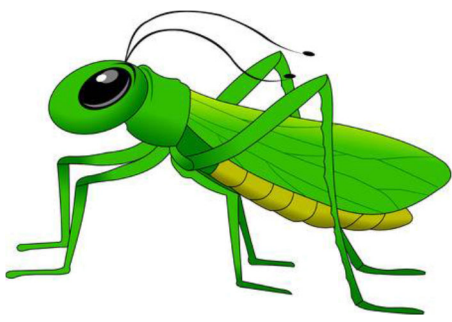
Once dinner is ready, the children are called into the dinning room, and everyone gathers around a large wood table. Matthew Aldana says grace, and the two families dig in to the delicious food. Bowls of steaming soup are passed around, as are condiments of shredded cheese, avocado slices, mixed fresh greens, blue corn tortilla chips, and sour cream.

The Aldana children's mother, Sofia, waits until everyone is fed and then smiles and announces, "Our family has some exciting news to share. We will be meeting the newest little Aldana in about six months!"

"Oh, that's wonderful news!" Kathryn cries in delight. She leans over to give Sofia a quick hug and kiss on the cheek. Violet's eyes shine. A new baby! She can't wait to hold her friend's tiny, precious miracle.

That night, she prays, "Thank you for sending Mrs. Aldana a baby. Please send my mommy a baby, too."

Karissa Carver



John the Baptist ate locusts for dinner !

Supplies:

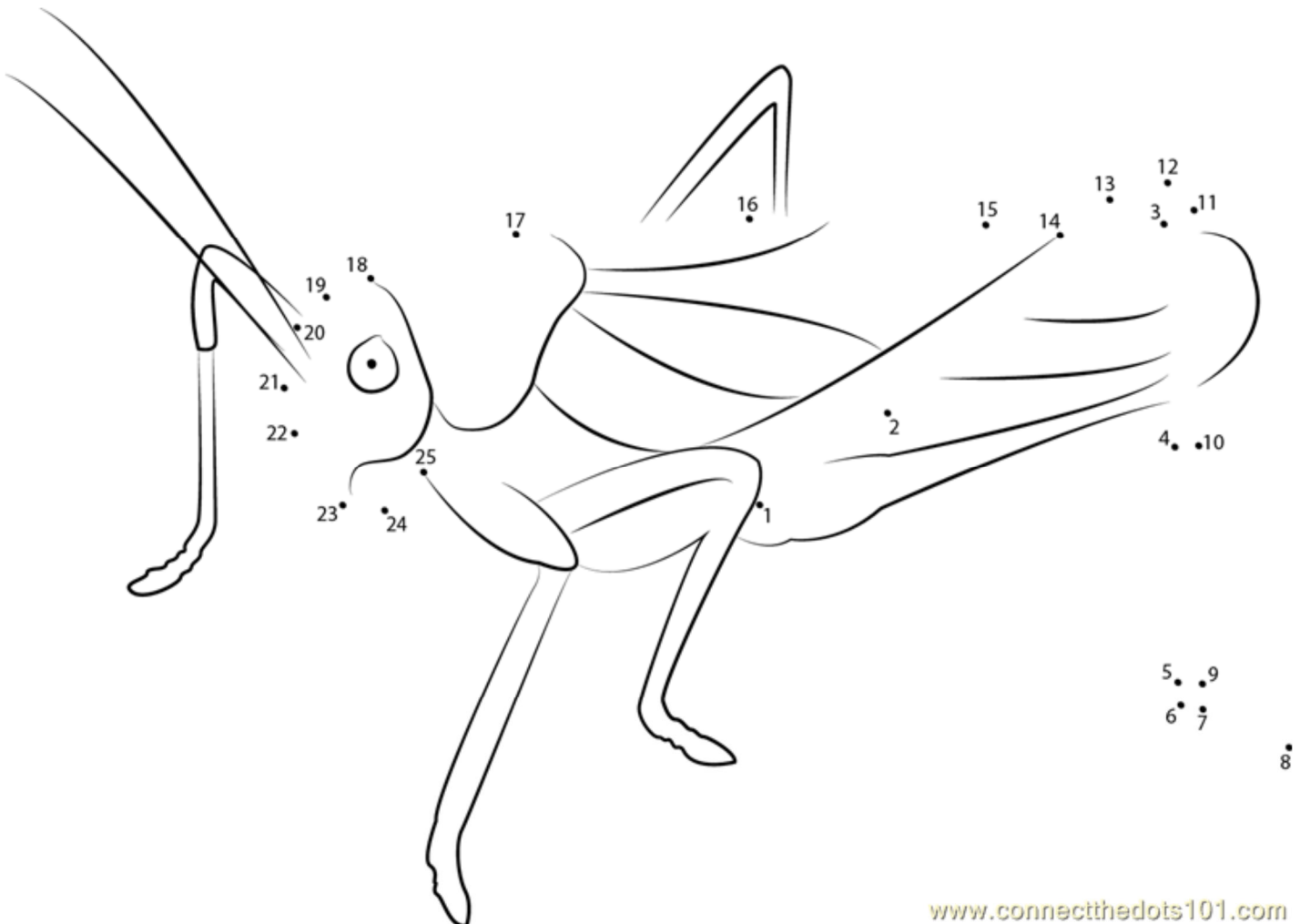
1. Clothespins
2. Green paint
3. Paint brushes
4. Green pipe cleaners
5. Liquid glue or hot glue gun
6. Wiggly eyes

Directions:

For the body of the locust, paint the clothespin green. (If you prefer not to paint in class, you can paint the clothespins ahead of time.)

For the legs of the locust, cut two pipe cleaners in half, bending all four of the pieces into the shape of grasshopper legs. Glue to the sides of the clothespin.

Glue wiggly eyes to the closed end of the clothespin (the end you pinch to open the clothespin should be the backside of the locust.)





Peter Loves Jesus

Jesus had taught the Gospel for three years on Earth and then given Himself to die on the cross so every person could live free of sin. Three days later, He performed the greatest miracle ever and rose from the dead!

After He had risen, Jesus lived on earth another forty days and appeared to His disciples in a few different places. In John 21, we read about one of the last times Jesus appeared to His disciples. Peter and a handful of the others went back to the job they had before following Jesus, fishing. After a full night of work and no fish, Jesus filled their nets and cooked them a dinner of fish and bread.

Everyone ate their fill. Jesus spoke and said, “Peter, do you love me?”

Peter answered, “Yes, Lord. You know I love you.”

Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

After a pause, Jesus asked the same question, and Peter answered the same way. Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.”

There was another pause, and Jesus asked, “Peter, do you love me?”

Peter started to feel sad because Jesus had asked him a THIRD time if he loved Him. Peter answered with all the love in his heart, “Jesus, you know everything. You know that I love you.”

Jesus said for the third time, “Feed my sheep.”

Jesus wanted to make sure Peter loved Him with all of his heart. It is the first commandment that we love God above everything else. But, Jesus also wanted to make sure Peter would love other people (or the “sheep”) as well!

Remember on Valentine's day that you should love for Jesus first of all and that Jesus wants us to love others too!

Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought
also to love one another. 1 John 4:11

Jack's Secret Gift

Jack and Violet walk up the steep road toward home. Jack tells Violet about his exciting day at school, but soon realizes Violet is only half-listening. “What’s wrong, Vi?” he asks. “Are those girls at school bothering you again?”

A tear manages to squeeze out of one eye and trickles helplessly down her cheek. Jack takes Violet’s hand and gives it a squeeze.

Violet bursts into tears as soon as she’s home. She tells her mom, Kathryn, “They told me my shoes were shabby, just because they didn’t come new from the catalogue. They called me poor. What does that mean, Momma? Are we poor?”

Kathryn soothes Violet. “A poor person is someone who doesn’t have a lot of money. It is true, we don’t have as much money to spend as some of the people in town. However, we are also rich. We are a strong family, and we love each other. We are children of the King. We own this beautiful mountain farm and all the animals you love so much. We always have food to eat. We are warm. We have everything we need, don’t you agree?”

Violet smiles up at her mother and snuggles a little closer. “And I have my doll and my favorite ribbon, and I like my shoes because they are so warm and keep my feet dry.” Kathryn kisses Violet’s hair.

Meanwhile, Jack strides to the barn, face flushed and heart beating hard. He wants to make Violet smile again, but how?

Jack rummages around the shop. He finds fabric scraps. “Violet loves her light blue hair ribbon. I’ll make her another!” Jack thinks. He finds a deep blue corduroy scrap. He sits at his Dad’s workbench and draws two large, chunky bow shapes. He carefully cuts the fabric, fits the shapes together and roughly sews them up. He’ll get Mom to help him with the rest, he decides.

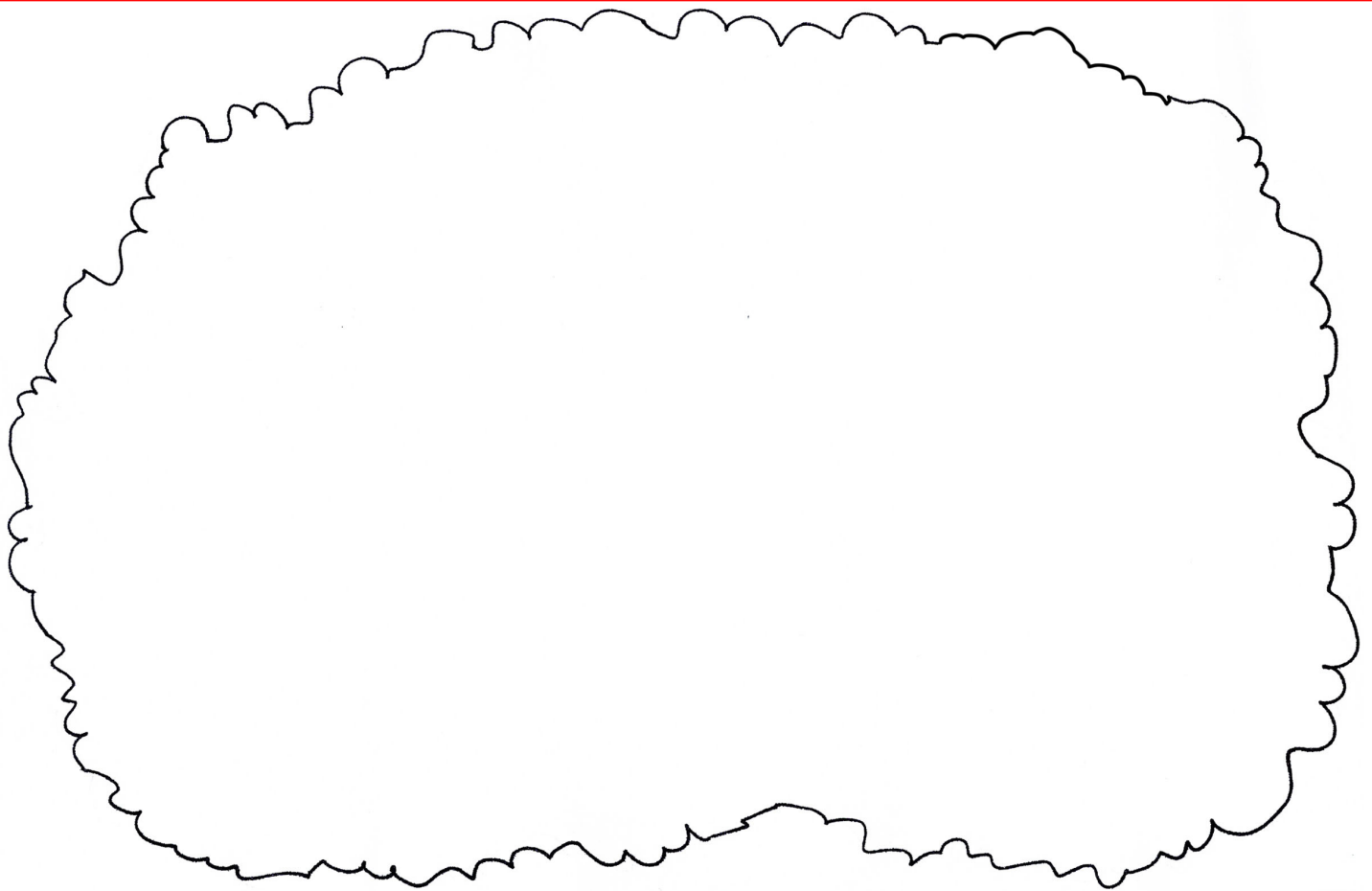
That evening, Jack sets the table. He can’t wipe the grin from his face as Violet sits at her place and stares curiously at the napkin covering her plate. She lifts the napkin and sees the bow. Her eyes shine as she tenderly touches the soft fabric. She looks at Jack. She knows it’s from him. This time, happy tears fill her eyes.

“I am very rich,” she whispers to herself.

Karissa Carver

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Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 6. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



*"Beloved, if God so
loved us, we ought
also to love one
another."
1 John 4:11*

My Love for God Grows Strong !

Happy Valentine's Day



Supplies:

1. Brown and red construction paper
2. Scissors and glue
3. Crayons/colored pencils

Directions:

Color and cut out the leafy portion of the tree, and the heart containing the memory verse.

Trace each child's hand and forearm on brown construction

paper. Cut out and paste to the leafy portion of the tree as the trunk and branches.

Paste the memory verse on the trunk of the tree. Cut out small heart shapes from red construction paper and paste to the leafy portion of the tree. (If you have stickers or other ideas for the hearts, use your creativity!)

*Your finished
project should
look something
like this!*

HERE'S AN IDEA !

**Make a handful of
these trees to give to
your loved ones on
Valentine's Day !**



Jesus Heals

One day, Jesus was coming into Cana, the place of His very first miracle. There was a nobleman (or a man who worked for the king) whose son was sick at his home in Capernaum. When the nobleman heard that Jesus was coming to Cana, he looked for him desperately. He had heard many stories of the miracles that Jesus performed, many of which were of people being healed of terrible illnesses.

When the nobleman found Jesus, he begged Him to heal his sick son. He knew that his beloved boy was near death, and his heart was broken because his son was dying.

Jesus answered the nobleman and said, "Unless I perform many wonderful miracles and signs, you will not believe that I can heal your son."

The nobleman was desperate, and he knew that Jesus was his last hope of saving his son. He said, "Sir, please come to my house or my son will die."

No doubt, Jesus saw into this man's heart. He saw how much he loved his son and that it was breaking his heart to watch him die. He said, "Go on your way. Your son lives."

The nobleman believed Jesus's words and went on his way. While he was traveling back to his house, one of his servants met him and said, "Your son is alive!"

"What hour was it that he began to feel better?" the nobleman asked. The servant answered that it was the day before, about the seventh hour. The nobleman knew that it was that same hour that Jesus had spoken the words, "your son lives." He and his entire house believed in Jesus from that day forward.

This story tells about Jesus's power to heal a person's body--the young son of the nobleman was made whole. But Jesus also has power to heal hearts. He reached inside the nobleman's desperate heart and restored it the day He healed his son.

Has your heart been hurt? Has someone that you loved passed away? Did a friend treat you unkindly? Jesus has the power to heal the hurts inside your heart, if you only ask Him.

Blanche Finds Healing

"Hi, Miss Blanche!" Violet says and smiles shyly. Blanche turns from the kitchen counter where she is helping Kathryn, Violet's mom, make cinnamon rolls.

"Hello, Violet. How are you today?"

"Well. I have lots of reading for school, but I don't mind because I like to read! Mom, I'm going to read my book in the hayloft after I get a blanket from my room."

"Alright, Vi. We'll call you in when dinner is ready," Kathryn says.

The women resume their conversation. Blanche has been opening up to Kathryn about her life. She moved to Timber Springs six months ago, and is slowly making friends and settling into the town.

Blanche tells Kathryn about her life. Her parents were poor and worked in a factory until they both fell ill and died. She was seven and went to live with her great-aunt. She did not receive love or attention there and was sent to a boarding school at age nine until she graduated.

Blanche wipes a tear from her cheek as she finishes telling her sad story to Kathryn. "I was so lonely before moving here. I had a good job as an accounting clerk in California, but I had no friends, no family. Then I moved here, and Mrs. Knelson invited me to church...."

Her words falter and Kathryn wraps a reassuring arm around Blanche's shoulders, and she says, "We are so glad to have you, Blanche."

"Jesus has healed my broken, lonely heart," Blanche breathes through her tears. "He led me here, to this little mountain town, and filled my life with people who love me. More than that, I believe with all my heart that He loves me most of all."

The women laugh and cry together, praising the Lord for His goodness and love.

While dinner and dessert cook, Kathryn shows Blanche around the family farm. Blanche scoops up a kitten and sticks him in her coat pocket, his soft little head poking out, and his purr as loud as a little motor.

After Kathryn rounds her family back to the house, Anderson says a prayer and the family and their guest enjoy the hot food.

Blanche's face shines with happiness. She is content, loved, and finally fits into her world. Jesus has given her a new home and breathed life into her sad heart.

Karissa Carver

He healeth the broken in heart, and
bindeth up their wounds. Psalm 147:3



A Broken Heart

Supplies:

1. Scissors
2. Crayons/
colored pencils/
markers
3. Colorful bandages

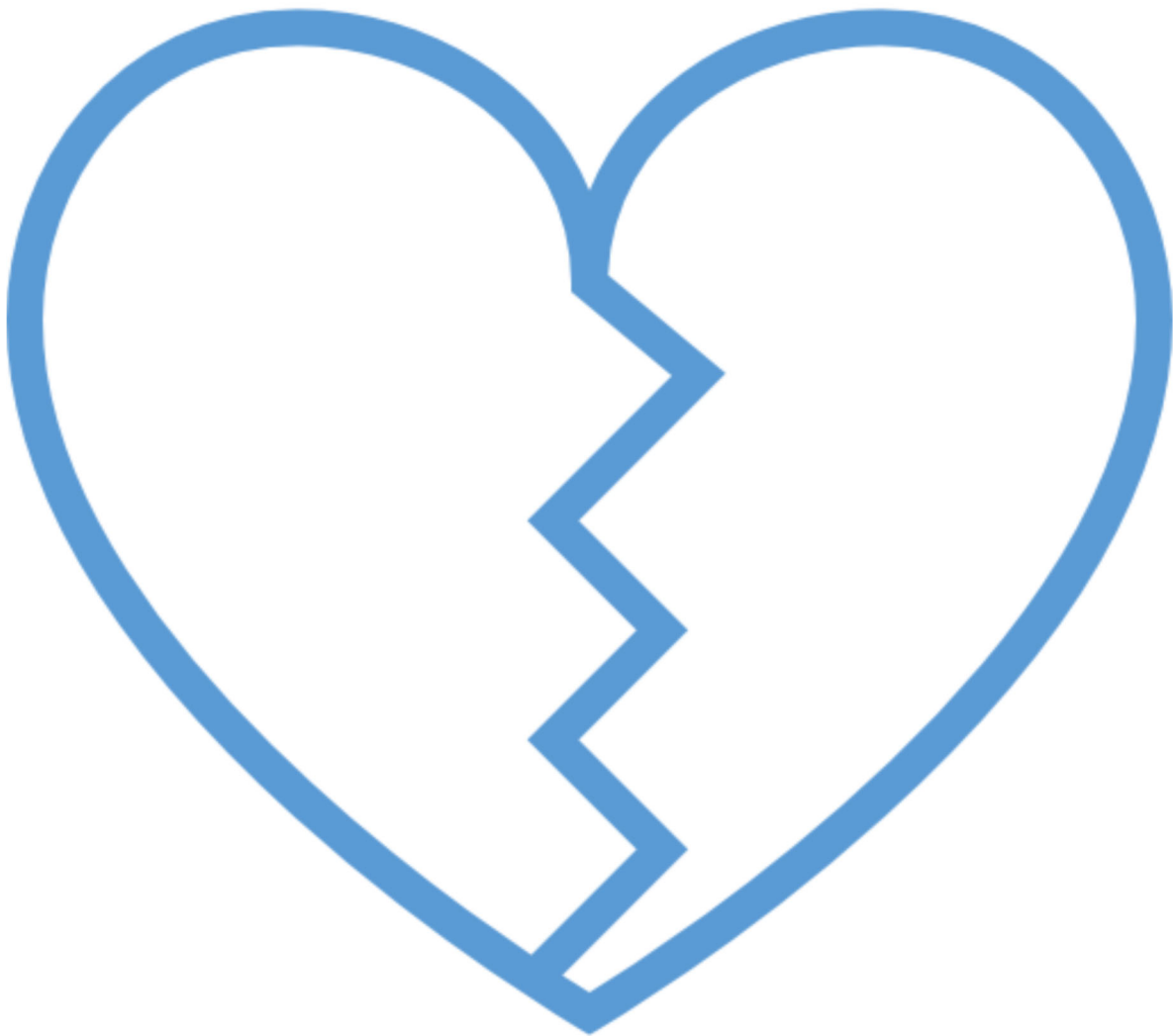
Directions:

Allow children to color the heart and verse while you discuss different age appropriate reasons our hearts might break, and reinforcing the idea that Jesus heals our broken hearts.

Give each child two or three bandages to place over the "crack" in the broken heart.

The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 7. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



He healeth the broken in heart



Jesus is Your Anchor

There are a few stories in the Bible that take place in the midst of a storm. Can you think of any? Let's read about a couple of them and see if we can find one part of each that is the same!

The first storm recorded in the Bible is from the story of Noah and the ark! Noah was the only man left that served the Lord in a wicked world, so God gave him plans to build a massive boat for his family and the animals. Noah obeyed God, and after years of building, the day finally came when the rain started to pour. It was the biggest rainstorm that has ever come upon the earth! Every inch of ground was covered by water, but Noah, his family, and the animals were warm and dry in the ark. God took care of them and kept them safe because they loved and obeyed Him.

Another mighty storm happened on the lake where Jesus and His disciples were sailing. As they set out across the lake, Jesus laid down in the boat and fell fast asleep. Soon, He was awakened by His disciples who were scared for their lives. Water crashed into the boat and wind tossed the it back and forth on the water. "Master, Master!" the disciples yelled. "We are going to die in this storm!" Jesus arose from His sleep and rebuked the wind and waves. Suddenly, the lake was calm and quiet.

These two stories are very different, but there is one part of them that is the same. GOD was the one who saved Noah and the disciples from the storms!

If you are in a hard situation, remember Jesus is your anchor. An anchor keeps a boat in safe water, and Jesus wants to keep you safe if you obey Him.

Which hope we have as an anchor of
the soul, both sure and steadfast.
Hebrews 6:19 esv

The Long Night

"Sounds like a storm is headed our way," Anderson says at the dinner table. "Jack, we better round the livestock up and get them in the barn before the rain hits. I heard in town we should expect several inches of rain through the night."

Father and son work quickly with the little remaining light left. They drive their cows to the safety of the lean-to off the barn, make sure all the chickens are in their coop, and guide the cows with babies into stalls.

The rain begins to pour as Anderson and Jack head to the house, and they race for the backdoor. Laughing, they step back into their warm, dry home. The rain pounds the mountain without stopping.

"Aren't you glad we took care of affairs when we had the time, Jack?" Anderson asks as he reclines in his leather easy chair by the fire. "It sure makes a man feel good when he's at peace with his world and God."

He smiles gratefully at his wife, Kathryn, as she hands him a mug of hot herbal tea. Jack grins happily at his mug of hot chocolate. Violet holds her doll close.

"Let's see," Anderson says as he thumbs through the Bible. "I think reading about Jesus and a storm is fitting for tonight. Jack, why don't you read this passage, Mark 4:35-41."

Jack carefully reads about Jesus and the disciples on the lake of Galilee. Violet listens intently. She knows the story, but it takes new meaning as a storm rages outside her home.

"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, 'Peace, be still'. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. Mark 4:39," Anderson repeats after Jack finishes reading the passage. "Oh, what a beautiful truth. You know children, Jesus will not always calm the storm of life we face. The literal storm outside still rages. Sometimes you will face a financial storm, or maybe you will have a disagreement with someone, or a loved one may hurt you deeply. Jesus will calm the storm in your soul, though, and give you peace as you journey through your storms of life."

"Yes," Kathryn agrees. "Believe that He is right beside you, keeping you safe. He will never fail you or forsake you."

Karissa Carver

Jesus Keeps You Safe

Supplies:

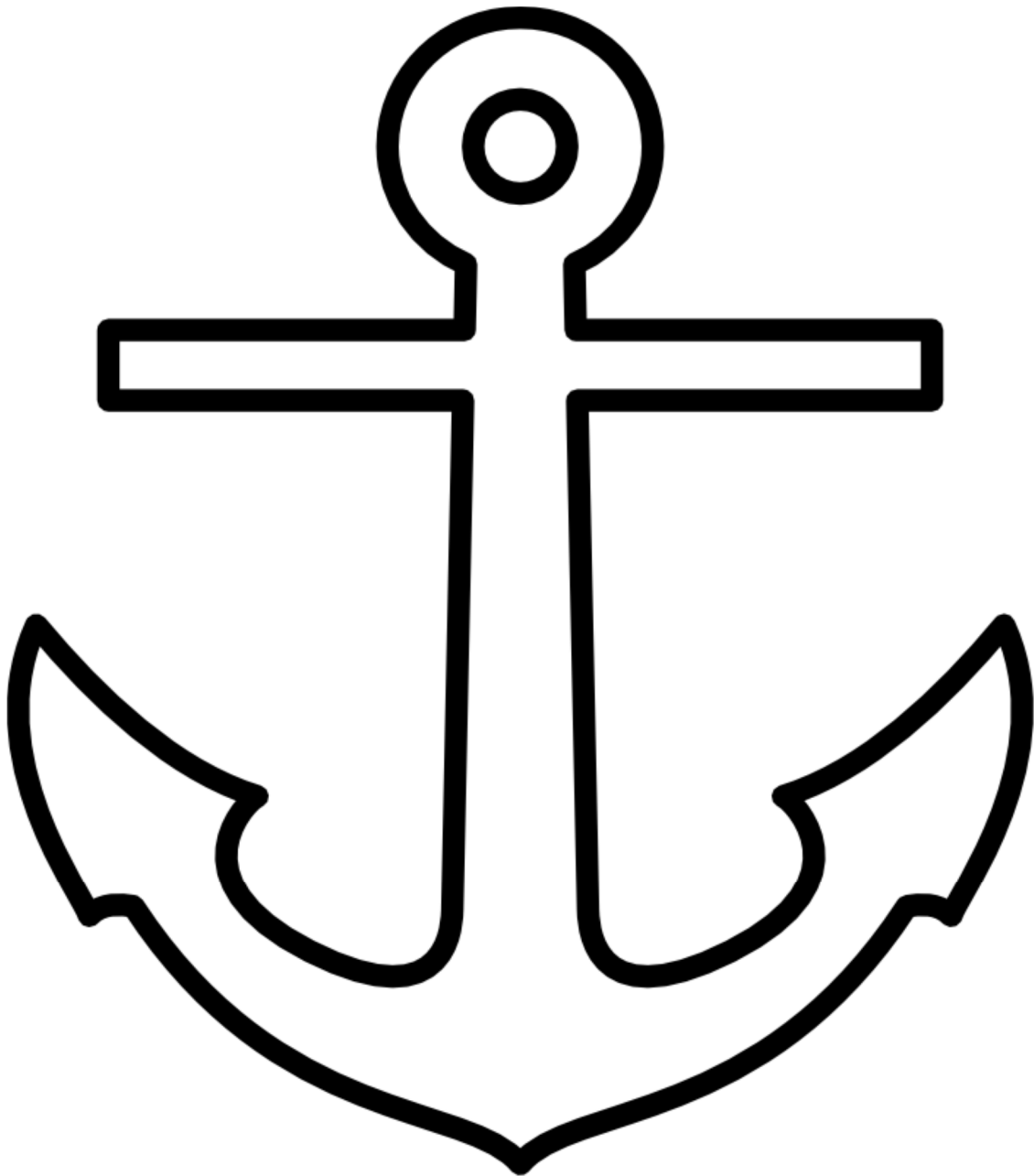
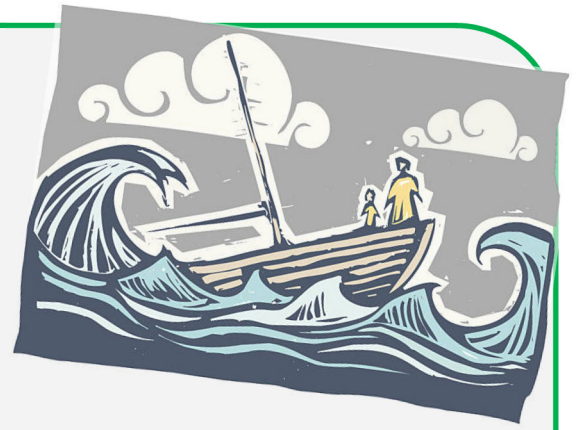
1. Scissors
2. Crayons/markers/colored pencils
3. Tape/glue
4. Colored construction paper

Directions:

Color and cut the anchor picture. Write each child's name

on their anchor and assist them in cutting the hole out of the top, if they need it.

Make a paper chain out of the construction paper and attach it to the top of the anchor by looping the first chain through the hole





Jesus Feeds a Crowd

Jesus was so busy teaching and helping people that, sometimes, He didn't have time to eat. He told His disciples, "Let's go to a desert place and rest for awhile." They climbed aboard a private ship and started to leave.

Many people saw Jesus leaving, and because they wanted to hear Him speak, they ran by foot to the place where His ship would land. When His ship arrived, Jesus saw the large crowd of people waiting to hear Him, and His heart was moved. They were like sheep without a shepherd to lead them. So, instead of resting, Jesus spent the day teaching them many things.

The day went on, and eventually people became hungry. The disciples told Jesus to let them go into the villages and buy bread. Jesus answered, "Give them something to eat."

"We would have to buy a lot of bread to feed all these people!" the disciples said.

Jesus asked them to check how many loaves they had among them, and the disciples came back with five loaves and two fish. Taking the food, Jesus commanded the crowd to sit down on the grass in groups of fifty and one hundred. Then, He took the loaves and fish, looked into heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves. The disciples took the food and divided it among the crowd of hungry followers.

Every single person--5,000 men, plus women and children--ate until they were full! And when everyone was done, there were *twelve* baskets of leftover food!

Most of the time, we don't have to worry that we won't have enough to eat. But if you ever feel hungry in your heart, hungry for love, peace, or comfort, remember that Jesus *always* has enough to fill you up!

And they did all eat, and were filled.
Mark 6:42

The Soup Kitchen

"Children, we are going to spend our Saturday helping Mrs. Knelson at the soup kitchen. Volunteering there is something I've wanted to do with you all for quite some time now," Kathryn says to Jack and Violet over breakfast.

Violet stops eating her bacon mid-munch and asks, "What's a soup kitchen?"

"It's a place where free food is served to those in need," Kathryn answers.

Jack, quiet, continues to eat his breakfast. Finally, he says, "I looked for soup kitchens when I ran away from my foster parents on my way here. I was sure glad to have a dry place to eat some food. Glad I don't have to look for them anymore."

Kathryn's eyes fill with tears. She walks around to Jack's side of the table and gives him a big hug. "We are so happy you are our son, Jack. You will always have all the food you need here."

Jack and Violet follow their mother into the building. They've never noticed it before when in town. It's just a nondescript square brick building, but many people hang around the awnings and along the back alley.

Kathryn smiles kindly at every person she passes as she guides her children to the front where they find Mrs. Knelson. Mrs. Knelson tells them everything is ready to go and that they just need servers. She places them in a row along the serving line.

Kathryn is responsible for the turkey and gravy, Violet has the bread rolls, and Jack is in charge of the mashed potatoes.

Mrs. Knelson rings a bell. It's obvious everyone present knows what that means because they begin to file into a line that snakes out the door and into the street. The Mackeys serve food onto many plates. The children's presence seems to cheer many a person who comes through the line. The scraggly whiskered cheeks of one elderly man stretch almost beyond capacity when Violet stares up at him with a shy smile and asks, "Would you like a roll, sir?"

Jack nods politely as he serves his mashed potatoes, and one woman straightens proudly when he refers to her as "ma'am."

The children had no idea there were so many in need right in their hometown of Timber Springs.

Karissa Carver

Teachers:

Prepare a "basket" of loaves and fish for your class by filling a snack bag with two "fish" and five "loaves."

Staple or tape the snack bags to the image of the basket to the right.

Supplies:

Snack sized Ziploc bags

A snack to represent the fish (Swedish fish candy or goldfish crackers)

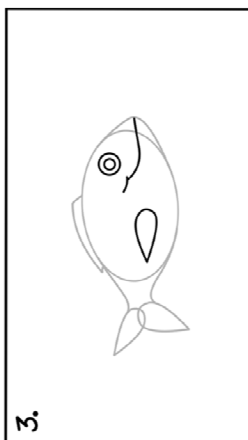
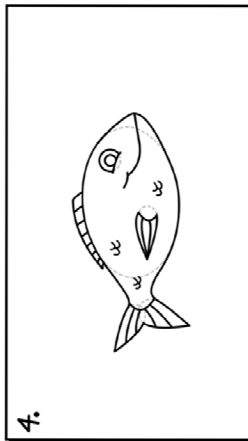
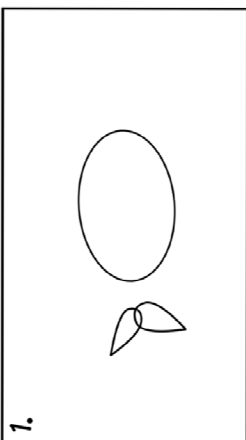
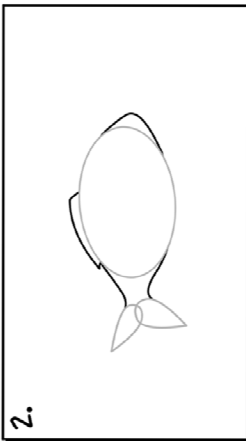
A snack to represent the loaves (Oyster crackers, saltine crackers)



Learn to Draw...

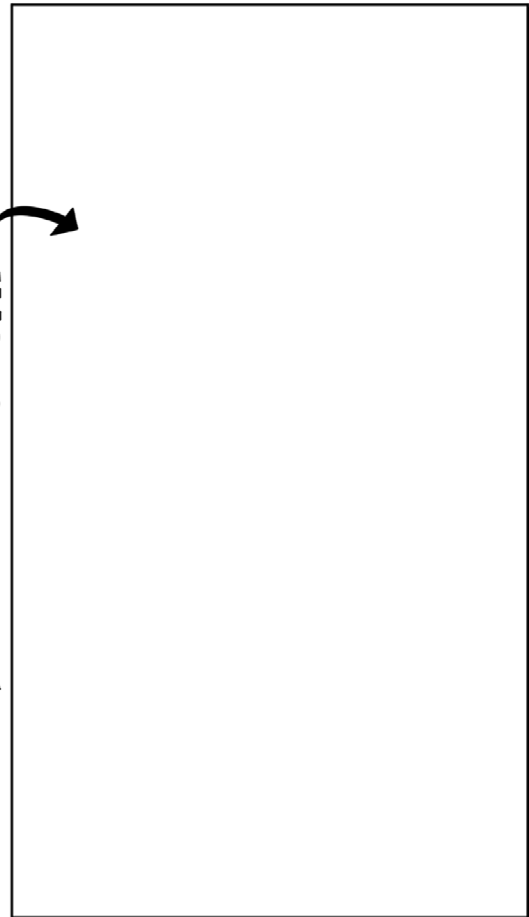
FISH

Use a pencil,
Erase LINE after step 4



Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Matthew 5:14

Now it's Your turn!





The Lost Sheep

One day, while Jesus was teaching, the tax collectors, who were known to be dishonest, the sinners came close to hear what He had to say. Among the crowd of people, there were also scribes and Pharisees. They were the religious leaders of that time and believed themselves to be very important and holy. They did not like Jesus or His teachings, and they whispered among themselves, "This man talks to and eats with sinners!"

Jesus knew what was in the hearts of the men listening to Him, so He told a parable, or a story, to explain why He was on earth. He said, "Imagine that you had one hundred sheep, but one of them was lost. Wouldn't you leave the ninety nine other sheep and go searching for your lost lamb? When you found it, wouldn't you lay it on your shoulders and rejoice that you had found it? You might even call your friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice and be happy with me! I have found the little lamb that was lost!' There will be that much joy in heaven when one sinner repents."

Think about your own life. Have you asked Jesus to forgive your sins? If you have, then you can imagine the joy He felt when He found you, just like the lost sheep. If you haven't repented, ask Jesus to erase all of your sins from your heart. There will be a great celebration in heaven when you do!

Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. Luke 15:6

Anderson's New Friend

Anderson throws a sack of feed into the back of his pickup truck. He turns around to grab the fencing materials when he spots the man. He's stumbling along the sidewalk, eyes bloodshot and hair disheveled. Anderson hears the man's stomach growl from several feet away. His heart softens with compassion. It's the town drunk, Neil Atwell.

"Mr. Neil," Anderson calls out, "Would you help me load these supplies into my truck?"

Neil looks up, surprised. He's used to being ignored, avoided. "Why, why... yes," he finally sputters.

Anderson keeps up a steady conversation as the men arrange posts, railings, and some extra wire Anderson ordered.

"Got to fix a fence that buckled after a tree fell on it during the storm a few weeks prior," Anderson grunts as he heaves a railing in place.

"Yeah, that was a doozy of a storm," Neil agrees. "Long and wet."

Anderson doesn't say anything, but his chest constricts. He knows Neil spent that long, cold night outdoors, seeking ramshackle shelter where he could.

The smell of alcohol is heavy on Neil's breath, but Anderson shows no sign of disgust toward the down-and-out man.

Instead, he treats him with dignity and respect.

"Would you like to come home with me this evening, Neil? You could help me with the fence and you could eat dinner with us before I bring you back into town. It's the least I could do for your help."

Anderson phrases this carefully so Neil doesn't feel like Anderson feels sorry for him.

Neil nods and grins. He climbs into the passenger side of the truck, sitting straight and tall. A few people on the street frown disapprovingly. Anderson notices the looks and casts his own their way. One glance at his stern, thundering expression causes the naysayers to duck their heads and scurry away.

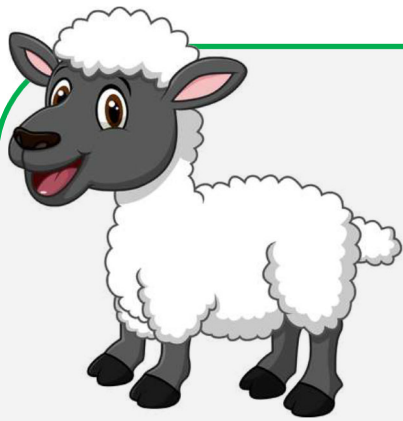
Neil enjoys feeling useful as he helps Anderson mend the fence. He grins shyly at Kathryn and the children as he sits with the family at the dinner table. He wolfs down his beef and vegetable stew and quickly asks for more. They keep his bowl full during the entire meal.

Anderson asks him if he'd like to come again in a few days and help mend the barn. Neil nods his head happily.

Karissa Carver

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Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 10. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



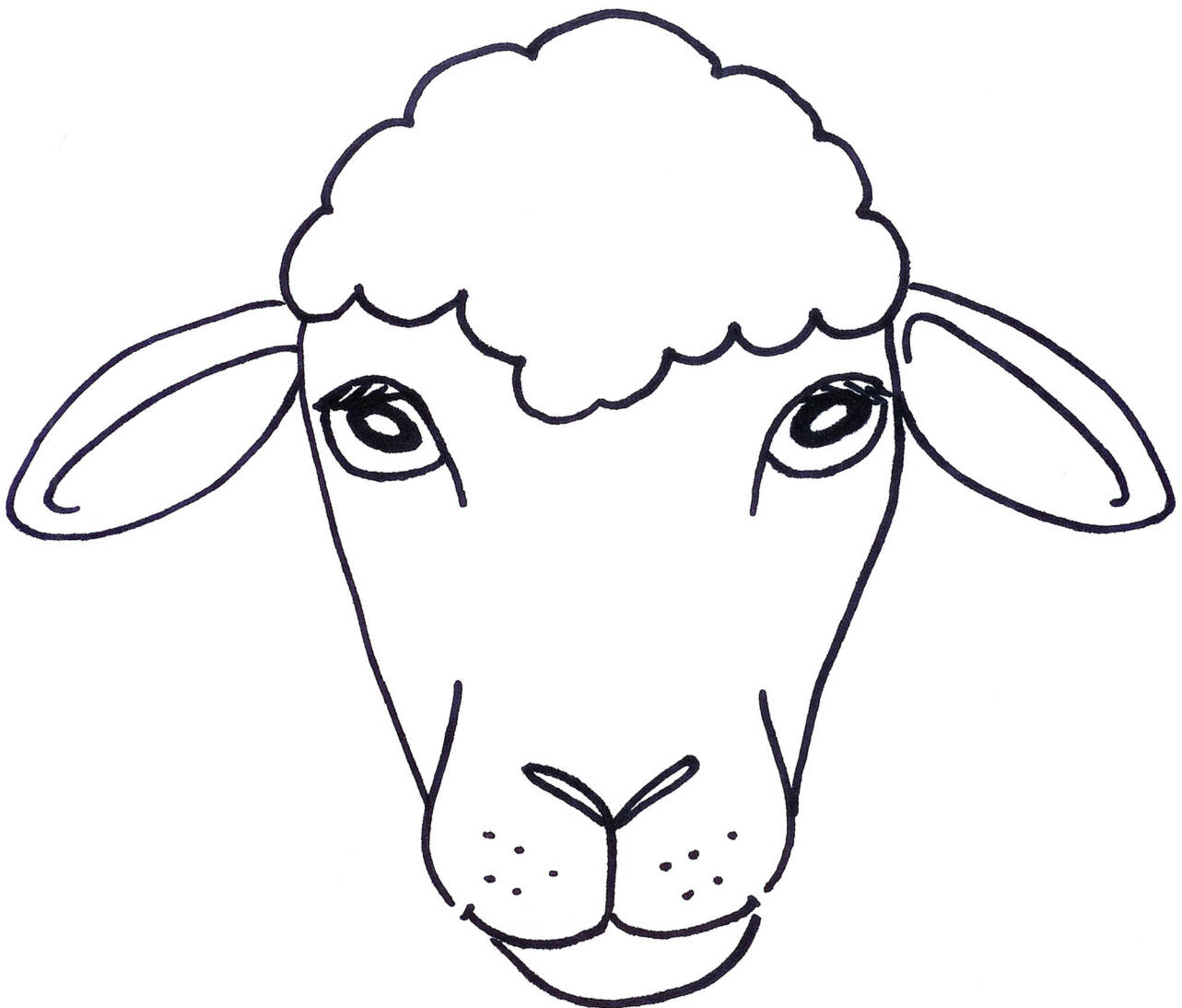
Jesus Found Me !

Supplies:

1. Paper plates
2. Cotton balls
3. Wiggly eyes (optional)
4. Crayons/markers/colored pencils
5. Glue
6. Scissors

Directions: Color and cut out the sheep's face. Attach wiggly eyes (optional).

Using glue, cover the entire surface of the paper plate with cotton balls. Let dry for a few minutes, then glue the sheep's face to the center.





Jesus is the Light

Jesus was busy spreading the Gospel of salvation during His time on earth. He had forgiven people of their sins, healed many sick, and even raised some from the dead! His fame was spreading far and wide.

One day, after forgiving a sinful woman, He said, "I am the light of the world. Anyone that follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have light in their life." The Pharisees, proud religious leaders, argued with Jesus about His words, but there were those who took His words to heart.

Have you ever tried to walk through your house after your parents shut the lights off? It's very hard to see where you're going, and you will most likely run into a piece of furniture or even step on a stray toy. Ouch! It's such a relief to be able to flip a switch and have the whole room light up! Everything is much more clear, and it's much easier to make it from one side of the room to the other without getting hurt.

That is what Jesus meant when He said He is the light of the world. He is what makes it easy for us to see what is right and what is wrong. When He is lighting the way for us, we don't have to worry about getting hurt on accident because we can see where we are going. Following Jesus's light makes everything easier!

I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

A Clean Room

"Ouch!" Jack yelps. He hops to his bedroom wall and fumbles for the light switch. Looking around, he spots the offender. His Lego airplane. He sits on the floor and examines both his throbbing toe and the broken airplane.

He was just going to the kitchen for a glass of water, but now he realizes his bedroom floor is quite messy. "Mom keeps warning me I need to clean my room before something - either a toy or me - gets hurt," he thinks and grins ruefully at the broken design.

He places it on his desk to fix in the morning. As he hobbles into the kitchen, he remembers the words Dad read from the Bible a few nights back. "I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

He knows it's talking about spiritual light and darkness, but he also sees how he can apply the verse to his messy room.

"I've let my room get really messy instead of keeping everything in order. Since it's full of obstacles, I tripped on something tonight when I was trying to find my way out. I needed the light to see what was going on.

If I had kept my floor clean, I wouldn't have as much to worry about running into when the light was off and I wasn't sure where I was going.

In the same way, Jesus wants me to keep my heart clean and picked up like my bedroom. The less I have making my way messy, the less I have a chance of getting hurt. There will be times when I don't know which way to turn, and I will be so glad I have the light of Jesus to show me the way to go."

The next day, Jack finds a place for every item he owns until his floor is clean and clear. He calls Kathryn in for a look. She smiles and hugs him. Jack smiles proudly back.

"It's just like having a clean heart and following Jesus so I have light instead of darkness," he tells her. She hugs him tighter. "I think you learned a lesson you'll never forget, Jack."

Karissa Carver

Directions: Color the words below and tape/glue a birthday candle over the light rays.

I am the light of the
world

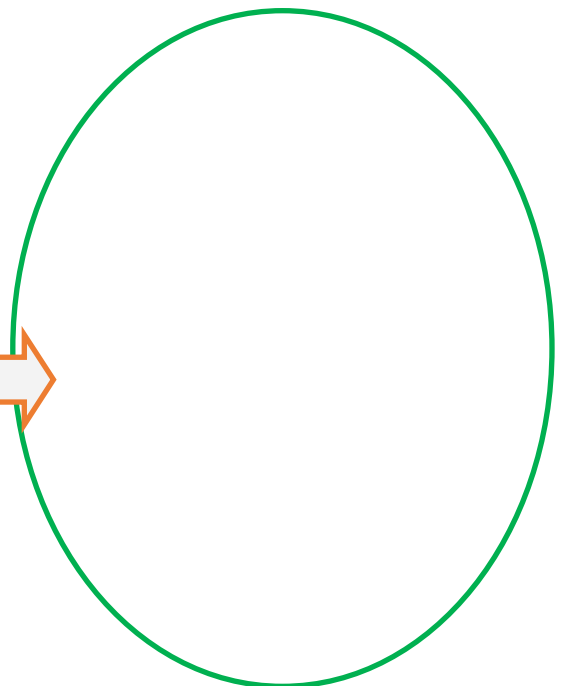
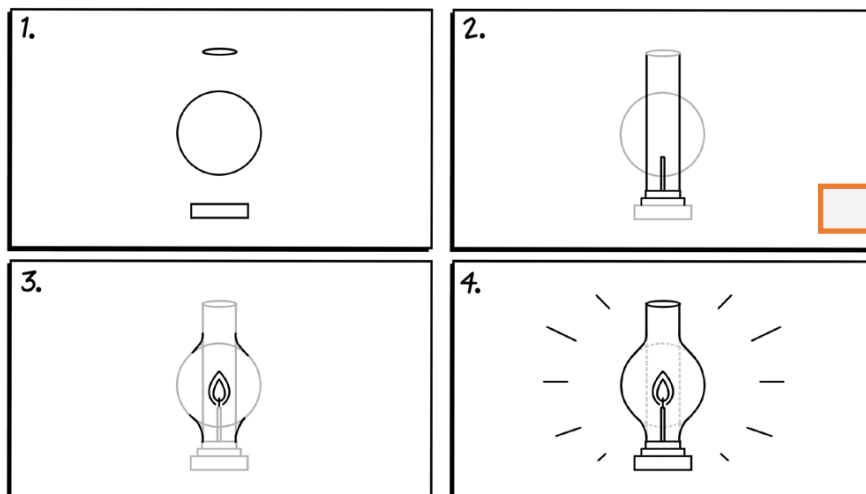


He that followeth me shall
not walk in darkness but
have the light of life

Learn to Draw...

LANTERN

Use a pencil,
Erase "LINE" after step 4





Woman at the Well

Samaria was a town north of Judea. The people of Samaria and the Jews were not friends, but Jesus never met a person He couldn't be friends with. While He was traveling through Samaria, He stopped at a well to take a drink of water. It was not the usual time for the women to come and draw water, but, as Jesus sat there, a Samaritan woman walked to the well.

Jesus said to her, "Please draw me a drink of water."

The woman was surprised! She said, "You are Jewish! Why are you asking me, a Samaritan, for a drink? I thought Jews wouldn't talk to Samaritans."

Jesus knew this woman had lived a sinful life, and He wanted her to be saved. He said, "If you knew who I was, you would be asking for a drink, and I would give you living water!"

This time, she was confused. "You have no water pitcher to get water from the well. How will you give me living water?"

"You may drink the water in this well, but you will be thirsty again soon. The water I give you will be like a well springing up into everlasting life! If you drink of it, you will never thirst again." Jesus explained in greater detail that He was the Messiah! He was sent to save her from her sins.

The woman was so excited that she left her water pot and ran into the city, telling everyone she met about Jesus! She had found the living water, and her soul would never be thirsty again!

Anderson Scolds a Gossip

The old pick-up sputters to a stop. Anderson cranks the window down, leans his head out, and calls to Neil. "Hullo, Mr. Neil! Fine morning. Ready to take off?"

Neil rouses from his spot. He's pressed against the side of the general store, in a wedge of cool sunlight. He grins at Anderson and stuffs his cap over his tousled hair.

As he shuffles to the truck, a few women watch from the other side of the street. Anderson sees their disapproving stares, but ignores the loud whispers.

Neil buckles in, and Anderson hands him a ham and cheese sandwich. He wolfs it down. They hum to the song on the radio as Anderson drives out of town and up the mountain.

The next day is Sunday. Anderson guides his family to their church pew. Then he hears the whispering. The loud whispering. The kind of whispering intended to be heard.

"Do you know that Anderson is friendly with that drunk, Neil? My, my. I feel sorry for his poor wife and children, being around such a wicked influence. My, my."

Anderson turns. He looks the gossiping women in the eyes and says firmly, "Neil is a soul, same as you. He works harder than many of the men in this building, and I'm proud to call him my friend."

They gasp, but Anderson isn't finished.

"If you recall, a few Sundays back, we discussed the Good Samaritan and the text found in Matthew 25:36-40. It was that lesson that prompted me to reach out to Neil. I have a feeling if Jesus came to visit our town, he'd want to see Neil."

The women blushed a deep shade of crimson.

"I, I, I don't know what to say," one of the women, Mrs. Wagner, finally spluttered.

Anderson gave a sad little grin and said, "We need to be very careful that we don't become as the Pharisees: looking perfect on the outside but empty and dead inside. How will we spread the light of God if we are so quick to pass by on the other side just because someone doesn't live up to our standards?"

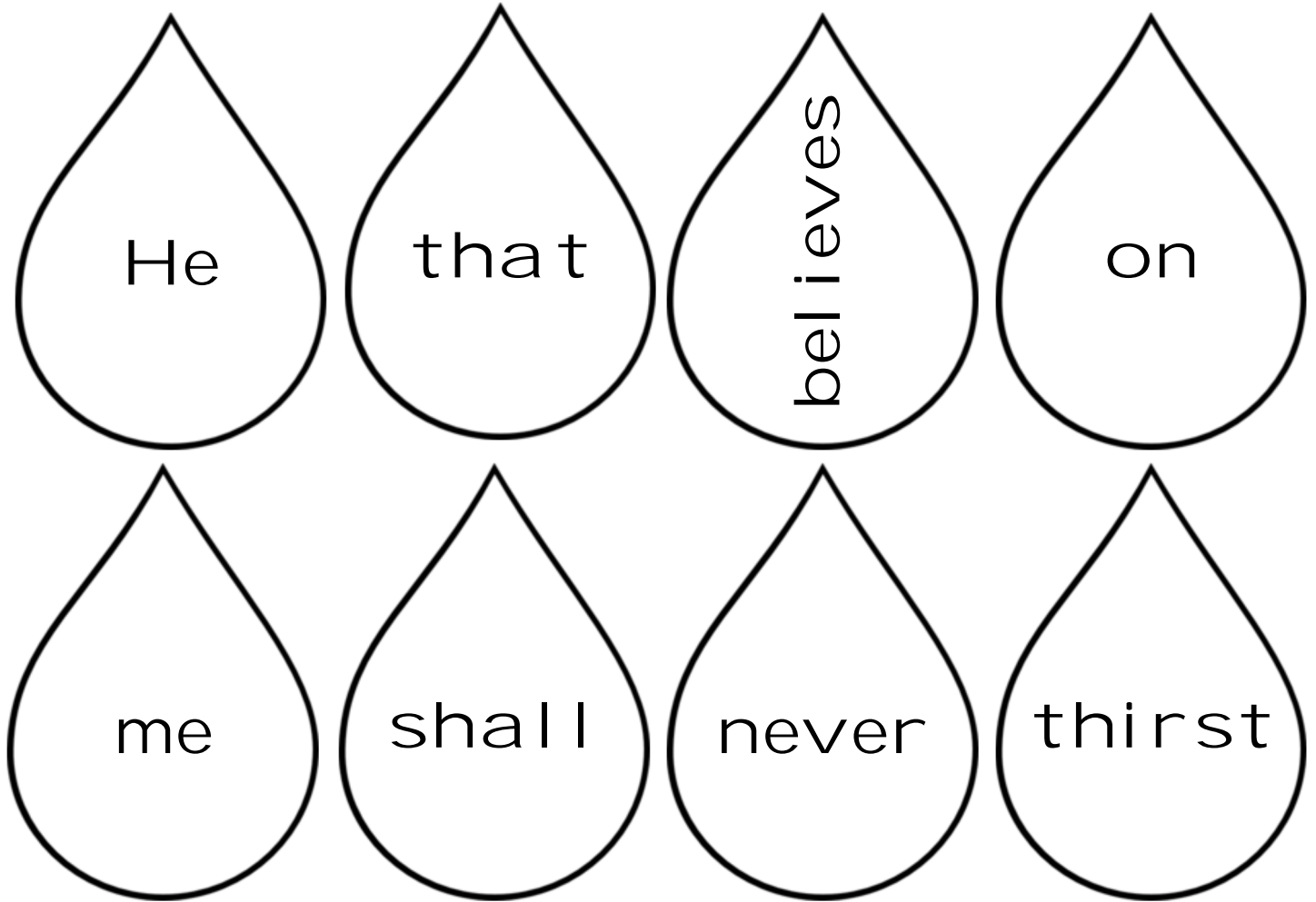
Karissa Carver

He that believeth on me shall never
thirst. John 6:35

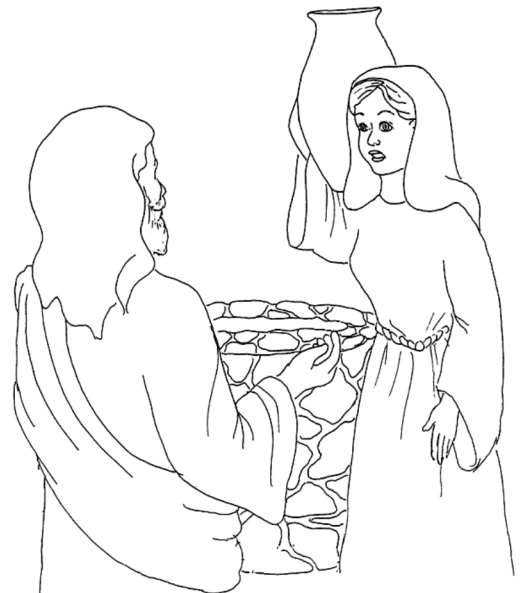
Supplies:

1. Scissors
2. Glue/tape
3. Crayons/markers/colored pencils
4. Hole punch
5. Yarn
6. 12 oz paper cups

Directions: Have children color and cut the cup label and the water drops. Punch holes at the top of each water drop. Tape or glue the cup label around the outside of the paper cup. String the water drops on the yarn, tying a knot at the top of each to keep it from sliding. (Make sure the drops are in the correct order: He that believeth on me shall never thirst.) Tape the top end of the yarn to the bottom of the cup.



Jesus is
the Living
Water





One Thankful Leper

Jesus traveled a lot during His three years of ministry on earth. One day, while He was passing through Samaria and Galilee, He entered a certain village. Far from the side of the road stood ten people who had leprosy. Leprosy is a terrible disease that changes the color of the skin and makes it hard to stay clean and healthy. It is very contagious, so most people during Jesus' time wouldn't talk or interact with anyone with leprosy! Lepers were outcasts and had to live alone outside of the village.

When Jesus entered this village, the ten lepers began shouting in desperation. They said, "Jesus! Master! Have mercy on us!"

His heart was full of compassion, and Jesus went to the lepers and said, "Go show yourselves to the priest so that he will proclaim you to be clean of the disease." As the lepers made their way to the priests, they were each healed. Their skin was new and clean, and they had no more leprosy.

One of them, seeing that he was healed, turned back and fell down on his face at Jesus's feet. "Thank you for healing me!" he said over and over.

Jesus answered, "Weren't there ten of you? Where are the other nine? You are the only one who has returned to give glory to God. Arise, and go on your way. Your faith has made you whole."

When Jesus does something wonderful in your life, He wants you to be like the one healed leper. Return to Him with a thankful heart and give Him glory for what He does for you!

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God. Luke 17:15

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Volume 69, Quarter 1, Week 13. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

Healing for Jack

Spring is arriving in Oregon. Little wild flowers dot the mountain town of Timber Springs, and birds chirp happily as they hunt for worms. Jack can't wait to explore the woods for rabbits and squirrels. He goes to bed Friday night dreaming of his upcoming adventure.

Jack rouses from bed, frowning. He rubs his temples. They hurt. "I must have another headache," he thinks miserably. He occasionally wakes up with bad headaches. He does not feel well enough for a woodland jaunt. It hurts his eyes to just look out his window into the sunlight.

He shuffles to the living room to find his parents. "I think I have a headache," he says dejectedly. "I so wanted to go exploring today."

"Oh baby, come here," Kathryn croons. She runs her fingers through his hair and feels his forehead. "Well, I don't think you have fever. We best keep you in here under low light."

Jack tries his very hardest, but he can't stop a few stubborn tears from escaping and running down his cheeks. "Why do I have to get these headaches, Mom? Why did it have to happen the day I had off, when I wanted to play?"

Kathryn hugs him close. Anderson hurts for his son. He knows how much Jack loves to explore outside. "Let us pray for divine healing, son," he says. "The Lord can touch you and take this headache away."

Kathryn calls Violet in, and the family prays for Jack. Kathryn grabs Jack's pillow and a few blankets for the couch. She dims the lights and plays a tape full of stories and songs. Jack enjoys listening, and Kathryn tells him they are from a man at their church named Bro. Leslie. He's pleased to hear that his mother has many more tapes.

Jack's headaches usually last all day, and only disappear after several naps and another night's rest. However, after a sandwich and some homemade ginger ale for lunch, Jack realizes the headache is now just a dull throb!

He closes his eyes and listens to another tape. He falls asleep for a few hours, and when he awakes, the headache is completely gone!

"Praise the Lord!" he shouts. He races for the back door and into the light. Not a twinge! He rolls down the hill, laughing in joy.

Karissa Carver

Be the Thankful One

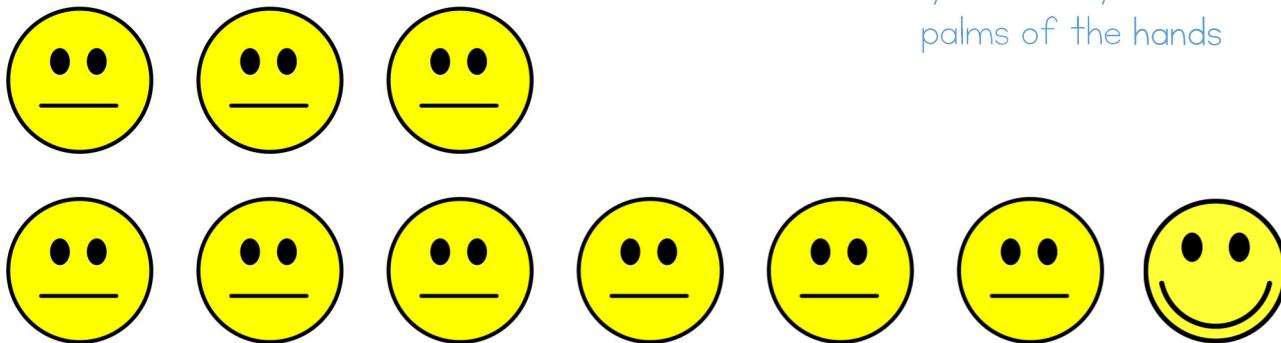
Supplies:

1. Scissors
2. Glue
3. Colored construction paper

Directions: Trace each child's hands on a piece of construction paper and cut them out.

Cut out the nine unthankful faces and the one thankful face and paste one on each finger.

Write today's memory verse across the palms of the hands



Help the one thankful leper return to Jesus !

