



VOLUME 70, QUARTER 3, 2020

LET'S STUDY ACTS !

PART 2

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Jesus had come to live on the Earth but was now gone. The Jews had a hard time believing Jesus was the Son of God. And everyone who wasn't a Jew--they were called Gentiles--had to give up their idols and sin to follow Jesus. This is the time and place we find a man named Saul.

Saul was given authority by Jewish leaders to persecute Jews who said Jesus was the Son of God. He beat them, put them in jail and even stoned them. Saul thought he was doing right, but thankfully, Jesus didn't let him continue doing wrong ignorantly.

Saul was on the road to Damascus when he met God. He was struck blind and realized he was wrong. He acknowledged his sins and became a new man! He even got a new name--Paul! God soon had a great work for Paul!

Now, instead of persecuting Christians, Paul was called to become a missionary. The Christians in Antioch anointed and prayed for Paul and a man named Barnabas. From there, these men traveled to many places telling about Jesus. Did they travel alone? No--the Holy Spirit went with them and gave them power and wisdom. Because of their willingness to follow God, many people came to know Jesus. They were brave men! Today you can be just as brave! Maybe you won't travel the world like Paul did, but you can tell those around us all the good things Jesus does for us today!

Memory Verse:

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. Acts 13:2

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

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 1. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

Breaking Down & Building Up

Jack listens to Mary hold court during recess. A group of students stand around as she proclaims her judgement. She's new at Timber Springs Elementary and Jack thinks she is a bully.

He steps closer to hear her tell a young girl, "You have a stain on your shirt. Why would you wear a stained shirt to school?"

Some of the children snicker and the little girl tries not to cry.

"Why are you so mean?" Jack asks loudly as Mary opens her mouth to speak. Mary is surprised to hear someone questioning her behavior. She looks at Jack and falters when she notices he does not look scared of her. He walks toward her and stands close. He folds his arms and looks her in her eyes. She glances away.

"I'm waiting," Jack says. "You were sure quick to say your piece before. What's changed?"

Several of the children look at Jack with eyes full of admiration.

"What a relief," one boy says.

Jack turns to face the group of children. "You shouldn't be scared of her. Just because someone says mean things doesn't make them powerful. You allow her to say these things because you say nothing back. And shame on you for not sticking up for your friends."

The children look at the ground and kick at imaginary rocks. They are embarrassed because they know Jack is right.

Jack places a kind hand on the young girl with the stained shirt. "I like your shirt. It's a really nice purple color."

Mary collects herself enough to shoot back, "But it's stained. It actually has a stain. What's so wrong with my pointing out the truth?"

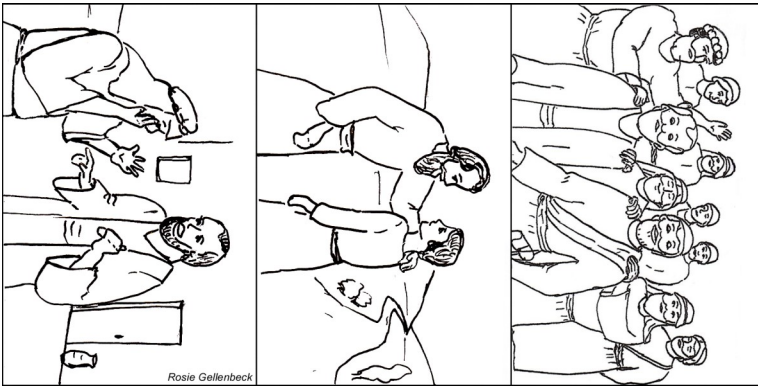
Jack feels like telling her he thinks her heart is stained, but he knows he can't say it kindly so he holds his tongue. Instead, he says, "It's also purple. It also looks very nice on this girl. What is your name, anyway?"

"Lara," the girl says quietly.

"Lara, I have a stain on my shirt, too. See?" Jack shows her where he spilled some tomato sauce earlier at lunch. Lara smiles at him and squeezes his hand.

"Mary, just because something is true doesn't mean you should be cruel about pointing it out. You aren't building Lara up, you are breaking her down. And you won't make friends by being cruel. If you really cared about Lara you would have helped her try to remove it somewhere private instead of trying to get other kids to laugh at her with you."

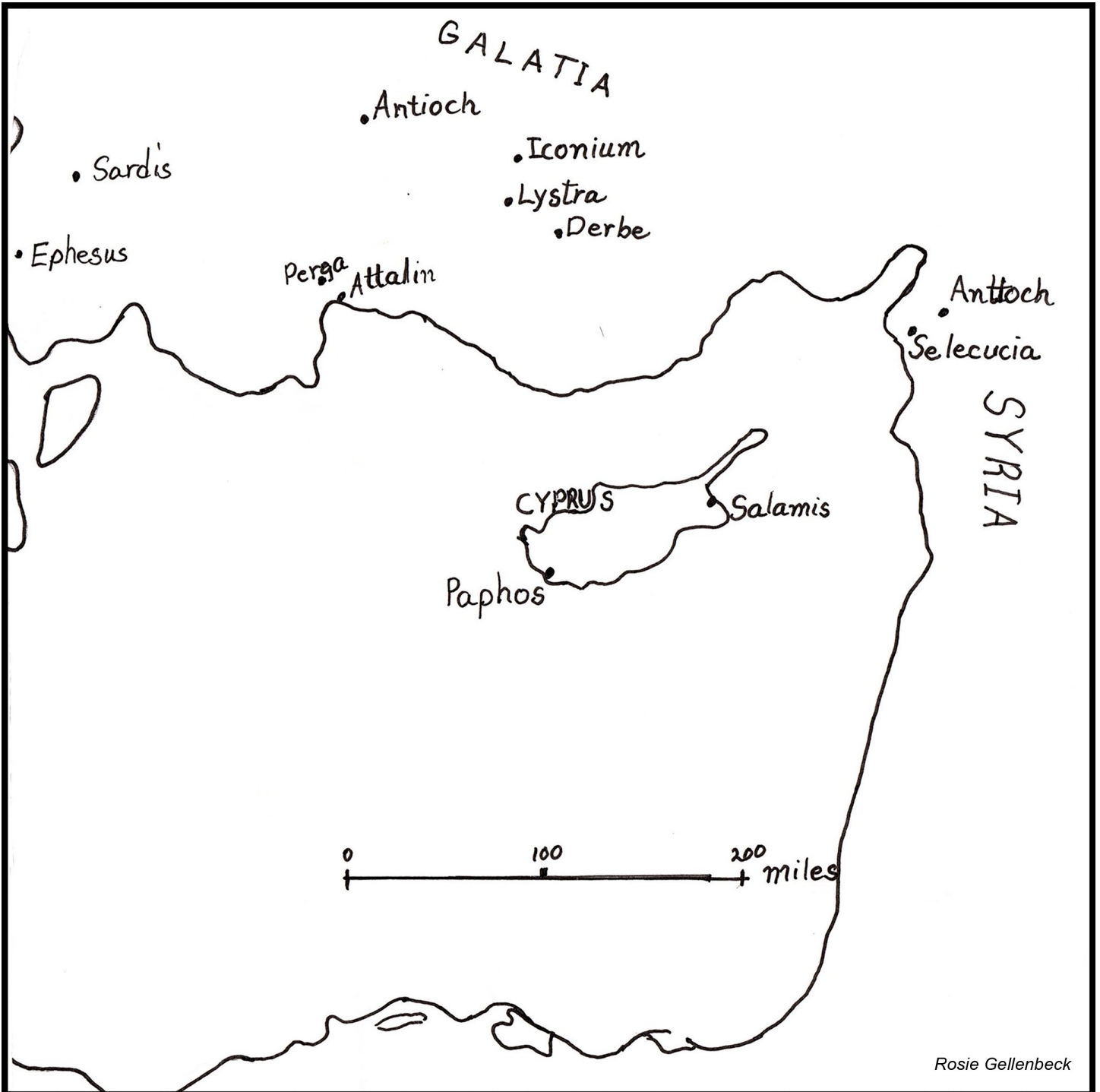
Mary stomps away. Jack decides he's going to try to become friends with Mary, because he knows that bullies at school are usually bullied at home.

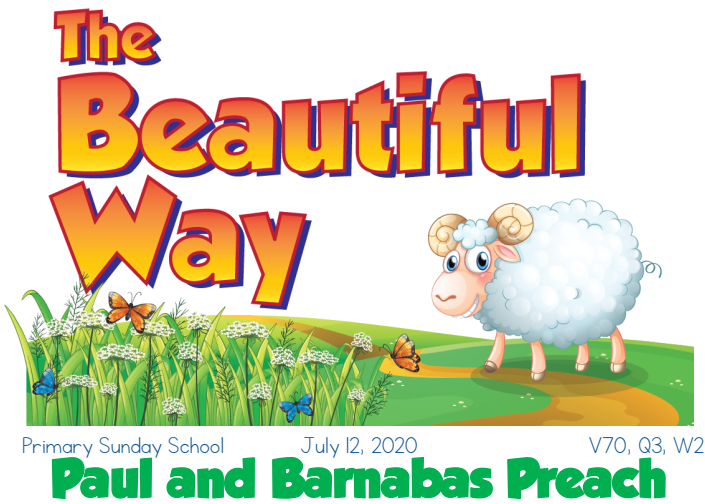


WHAT HAPPENED HERE?

Supplies: Crayons, glue, scissors

Directions: Color each small picture and paste it to the map next to the city in which it happened.





Let's continue to follow Paul through his missionary journeys. First, we need to understand the difference between the Jews and Gentiles. Do you remember? The two groups of people didn't like each other very much. The Gospel preached to the Gentiles proclaimed *they* could be part of God's family through Jesus. Some of the Jews didn't like this because, up until Jesus came, *they* had been God's chosen people. Also, some Jews did not want to admit that Jesus was the Son of God.

In a town named Antioch, Paul preached to the Jews in their church and powerfully explained how Jesus was the Son of God. The Gentiles loved and believed it! They asked Paul to stay and preach again and when he did, the Bible says almost the whole city came to hear him! This made the Jews jealous and they openly disagreed with Paul. Paul spoke very plainly with them when he said, "The word of God came to you (the Jews) first, but you didn't listen, so we preach to the Gentiles."

Instead of rejoicing with the Gentiles, the Jews came against Paul and Barnabas and kicked them out of their city. That was unfair to Paul and Barnabas! They were doing what *God* wanted! The Bible says they "shook the dust off their feet" and traveled somewhere else to preach. Sometimes we may be treated unfairly when telling others about Jesus. How can we shake the dust off our feet and continue God's work for us?

Memory Verse:
And the word of the Lord was
published throughout all the region.
Acts 13:49

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

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
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Division

Jack kicks at a stick. He is frustrated.

"What's on your mind, son?" Anderson says.

"Mom took us to the library today. I talked to a girl who never talks to me at school. We had a nice conversation. But I have a feeling that when school starts back up in the fall, she won't talk to me in front of her group. Why is that?"

"Ah, pack mentality," Anderson laughs.

"What's a pack mentality?" Jack asks.

"Pack mentality is when a group of people who spend time together start thinking the same way about everything. If one person in that pack thinks differently, they are afraid to say it because they don't want the pack, or group of friends, to turn on them and not be their friend."

"So are you saying that the girl I spoke to today might want to talk to me when school starts but she won't because she's afraid of what her friends will think?"

"Correct," Anderson says.

"Well then. I'll just have to offer a friendly and loud 'Hello!' and see what happens," Jack says in a determined tone.

"Does pack mentality happen in other places besides school?" Jack wonders.

"Oh yes," Anderson says. "Anywhere there are people, there's a chance for it to happen. Some people work in tall office buildings. That group of people might start what is called 'groupthink.' Groupthink is a word that means even though someone might know the group is not thinking correctly, they are too afraid to say anything because they don't want to be kicked out of the pack.

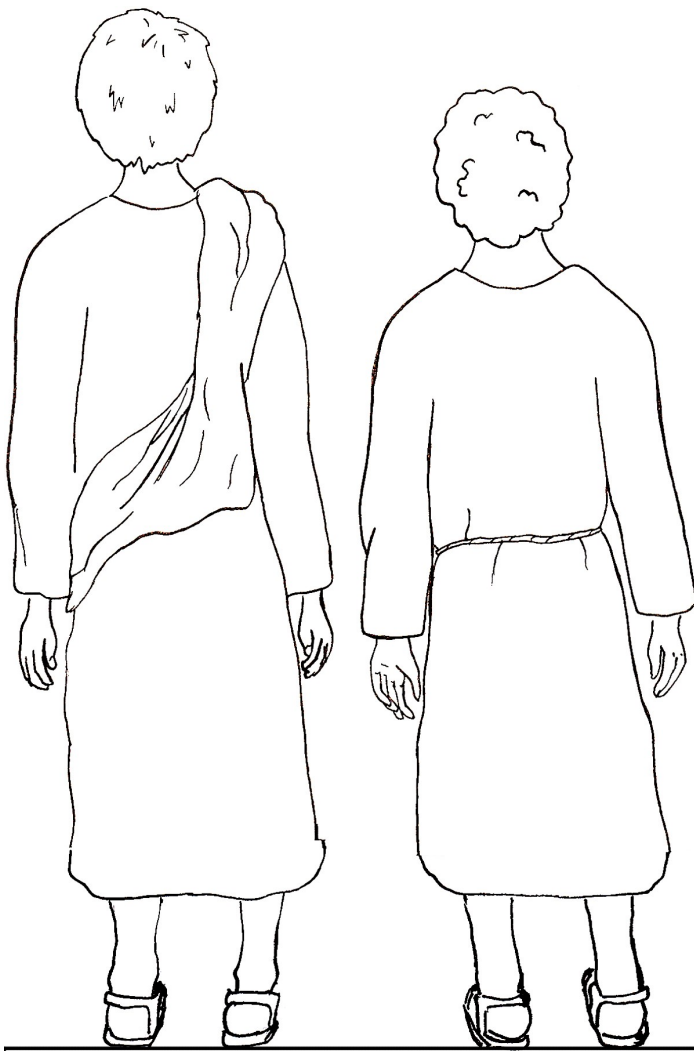
Government, churches, entertainment, schools; it happens everywhere. And do you know who makes the world change?"

"Who?" Jack asks, very interested in this mature conversation with his father.

"The ones who are not afraid to stand out, to be different. They are the ones that all the groups might laugh at or ignore, because groups don't know what to do with a free-thinker. But people still listen, and maybe a few more brave souls will leave the pack and see the truth.

Jesus rejected the pack mentality. He called out the religious leaders of his time. They were so concerned about tradition that they missed the truth of Jesus' presence right under their noses!

And look what happened because of Jesus. God does not have favorites. He wants everyone to be able to talk to Him, not just one group of people!"

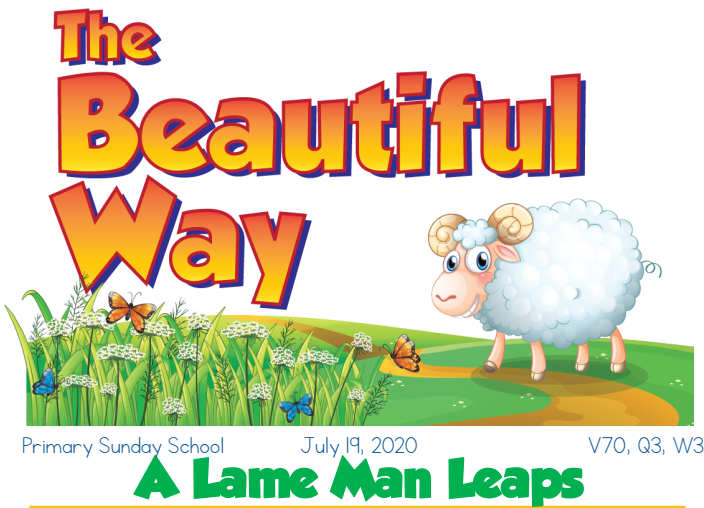


artwork: Emily Doolittle

SHAKE THE DUST

Supplies: Crayons, glue, scissors, brown tissue paper

Directions: Color and cut out Paul and Barnabas, being careful not to cut the rectangle from their feet. Fold the rectangle back so Paul and Barnabas can be seen standing from the back. Crumple up some brown tissue paper and glue it to the rectangle to signify the dust they shook from their feet.



Last week we read of Paul and Barnabas shaking the dust off their feet. Next, they went to another town. Half of this city believed the apostles and half did not. The half that did not believe wanted to stone them.

They fled to another city named Lystra. Here, there was a man who had never walked! Can you imagine never walking? This man had to depend on others for everything—even food. When Paul saw him, somehow, he knew this man had faith to be healed. Paul said with a loud voice, “stand upright on your feet.” And he walked and leaped. Does that remind you of a certain song?

When the men of the city saw this miracle, they believed their fake gods had come down to visit them. They started worshipping Paul and Barnabas. Remember one of the ten commandments says we are not to worship anyone but God. So, Paul and Barnabas tried hard to convince the men they were not gods. They were trying to preach the One True God.

Men from the last two cities came to Lystra and persuaded everyone to stone Paul. They drug him outside of the city and left him for dead. But God was not finished with Paul! He stood up and went back into the city! The next day, they fled again.

Do you think Paul and Barnabas were scared? Did that stop them from preaching about Jesus? What would have happened to the lame man if they weren’t brave?

Memory Verse:

[Paul] said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked. Acts 14:10

Stand Strong

Timber Springs Event Center swells with the sound of laughter. Hot sunlight streams through open doors and boys run in and out in a boisterous game of tag.

It’s Tommy Jenkin’s birthday party. The boys will be in sixth grade when school starts and they are excited to move from elementary to middle school.

The boys seek each other’s admiration by jumping off tall rocks, trying to make a basket with the basketball and sharing all their knowledge.

Tommy’s mother calls the boys for a sandwich lunch with cake and gifts to follow. The boys pile into chairs. They are sweaty, happy and hungry.

Jack is at the party. He almost stuffs his sandwich into his mouth with the other boys, but he remembers he has not prayed.

Jack feels funny bowing his head, but he’s used to it during school so he decides there’s no good reason not to during the summer. He says a quick but sincere prayer of thanks over his food and asks Jesus to help him stay strong and not be embarrassed about his faith.

“I see Jack is praying again!” Tommy booms from across the table. A few boys snicker.

Jack turns a little red from the attention. He says, “I do it at school and you all know that. Why not here?”

“It’s just weird,” Tommy says. “Why do you do it?”

All eyes are on Jack. He takes a deep breath. He’s glad he asked Jesus for bravery.

“God is the one who gives us our food. I say ‘thank you’ to Him, and I thank the hands who made my food, too.” Jack nods at Mrs. Jenkins, who smiles kindly back.

There’s a few seconds of silence. Jack wonders if they will laugh at him again. Then he hears a boy say, “Thank you for the sandwiches, Mrs. Jenkins. They sure are good!”

Several boys follow in thanking Tommy’s mother for the food. Mrs. Jenkins smiles and says “You are very welcome, boys. We don’t pray at our house, but I like the reasons Jack gave for praying over his food. Jack, would you like to say a prayer out loud for all of us?”

Jack nods, amazed at this turn of events. He prays a sweet, simple prayer. The boys echo a hearty “amen!”

Then they all re-dig back into their food.

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

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Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 3. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

HE WALKS !

Supplies: Crayons, scissors, brass fasteners

Directions: Color and cut the two halves of the lame man, and then attach him together with a brass fastener !





Have you ever had a disagreement with someone? We don't always agree with other people or the way they do things. Lately, we've been talking about Paul, Barnabas, the Jews and Gentiles. Let's see how Paul and Barnabas handled the differences between the Jews and Gentiles.

After Jesus died, many of the Jews still followed the laws we read in the first five books of the Bible. Some of these Jews told the newly saved Gentiles (who were the Gentiles again?) they needed to follow the same laws.

Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them. They knew Jesus had brought a better way to live. No one could agree what the Gentiles should do. Finally, Paul and Barnabas decided to take the difference before the elders in Jerusalem. Sometimes taking a tough problem to a godly person and asking for help is a good idea.

This meeting was important. How could the church continue to grow if its believers were divided? Again, many people gave their opinions. Finally, Peter stood and reminded the people how God had shown him this Gospel was for everyone. Then James stood up and pointed out how the same law proclaimed salvation was for ALL people—this means Jews and Gentiles! James also reminded everyone their opinions should not disagree with the Bible.

When the Gentiles learned they did not have to keep the old law, they rejoiced! And Satan's trick to divide the people did not work. What should we do if we disagree with someone?

Memory Verse:
 Whosoever shall call on the name of the
 Lord shall be saved Acts 2:21

Jack and Violet Argue

"Give me back that hammer!" Violet says, very loudly.

"No," Jack says.

"I was using it to take nails out of this old board!" Violet explains. "And you just took it from my hands!"

Jack rolls his eyes. "Don't you know? I am way better at using a hammer than you. So I took it because I want to use it."

Violet stares at Jack in disbelief. "What does that have to do with anything?" She shrieks.

Jack knows he is being mean. He's felt cross all day.

Violet's eyes fill with tears. "How will I learn if you don't let me learn? And it's not nice to grab."

Jack turns around so he can't see her tears.

"I decided that I want to work on my birdhouse. I need it."

Violet's face crumples. She runs out of the shed and finds her cat, Nova. She hides in her mother's greenhouse and strokes Nova's soft black fur. Nova licks Violet's wet cheeks.

"Meow?" asks Nova.

"It's Jack," Violet says. "He took the hammer from me. I barely know how to use the hammer but I'm learning. I have to practice. How can I practice if I don't have the hammer?"

She cries fresh tears again and lies down on the dirt. Nova curls happily on Violet's stomach and purrs so loudly that it lulls Violet into a little nap.

"Violet? What are you doing in here?"

Violet sits up and rubs her eyes. Nova is now perched on an old table, licking her paws. Violet's mother, Katherine, crouches beside her daughter and touches her cheek. "Have you been crying? What's wrong?"

"Oh," Violet says sadly. "I was practicing taking nails out of a board with the hammer and Jack took it from me for no good reason. I was sad so I came in here with Nova. I guess I fell asleep."

"Come in the house, dear. I'll find Jack and we can talk about this over supper."

The Mackey family discussed kindness and emotions over a supper of garden vegetables, fresh trout and hot rolls. Then Jack and Violet went back to the shed. Jack helped Violet with the hammer.

Once their parents were out of earshot, he apologized to his little sister for being so mean.

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JESUS BRINGS US



TOGETHER



Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit all the cities again and see how they are doing.” Barnabas liked the idea and wanted to bring his nephew, John Mark. On one of their previous trips, John Mark had started to go with them, but turned back. Because of this, Paul didn’t think John Mark should come. Paul and Barnabas disagreed so sharply, they parted ways. How sad! Barnabas and John Mark went to an island, while Paul looked for someone else. Paul and the saints chose a man named Silas.

Paul and Silas traveled together revisiting all the churches from the previous trips. Remember the trouble they had in some of the cities? Who can remember what miracle happened in Lystra? It was here, they met a man named Timothy. Does that name sound familiar? Our Bible has several books, or letters, Paul wrote to Timothy later in life. Does anyone remember how many?

This group continued to travel, encouraging the saints and preaching to new people. One night, Paul had a vision of a man in a new place asking for help. The next morning, Paul and his group traveled to that new place to take the Gospel! Here, they found a woman named Lydia who sold purple clothing. She believed in Jesus and had her entire household baptized. When Paul followed God, he found more people eager and waiting to hear the Gospel! We should never be afraid to follow God into new places.

Memory Verse:

And so were the churches established in
the faith, and increased in number daily.
Acts 16:2

Vacation

“What are we going to do on vacation?” Violet asks excitedly. She stares out the window as her dad’s truck rolls down I-84 past the mighty Columbia River, heading to Portland.

“First we are going to eat!” Anderson says with a grin. “Burgers at Stanich’s, where I took your mother on a date many years ago. Then we will visit Powell’s Bookstore, where I purchased your mother a book that same day and she decided she was going to marry me.” Katherine laughs. “Well, almost decided. I wasn’t convinced until your dad let me drive his truck back to my place. Then I knew. If Anderson Mackey dared to let someone drive his beloved truck, it must be true love.”

Jack and Violet giggle. They like hearing stories about their parents’ romance, even if all that love talk is a little embarrassing!

The family arrives in Portland. They enjoy delicious burgers and then drive to iconic Powell’s Bookstore. The children are amazed at the bookstore’s size. Violet enjoys looking at a book about horses. Jack finds one on outdoor skills and reads how to build a homemade raft.

Violet saved some of her French fries from lunch and nibbles on one as she walks with her family through the Pearl District, heading for the Willamette River.

Suddenly, she stops. She’s noticed a man sitting on the sidewalk. He’s carving a little bird with a pocketknife and a small piece of wood. His worn shirt does little to cover his gaunt frame. She looks down at her juicy fries. Then without hesitation, she walks up and hands him her food.

“Here,” she says shyly. “I want you to eat these, please.”

The man looks into her face, then hands her a fully carved bird from his pocket.

“Here,” he says quietly. “I want you to take this, please.”

Violet holds the man’s gnarled hand in her small one. She doesn’t want to leave.

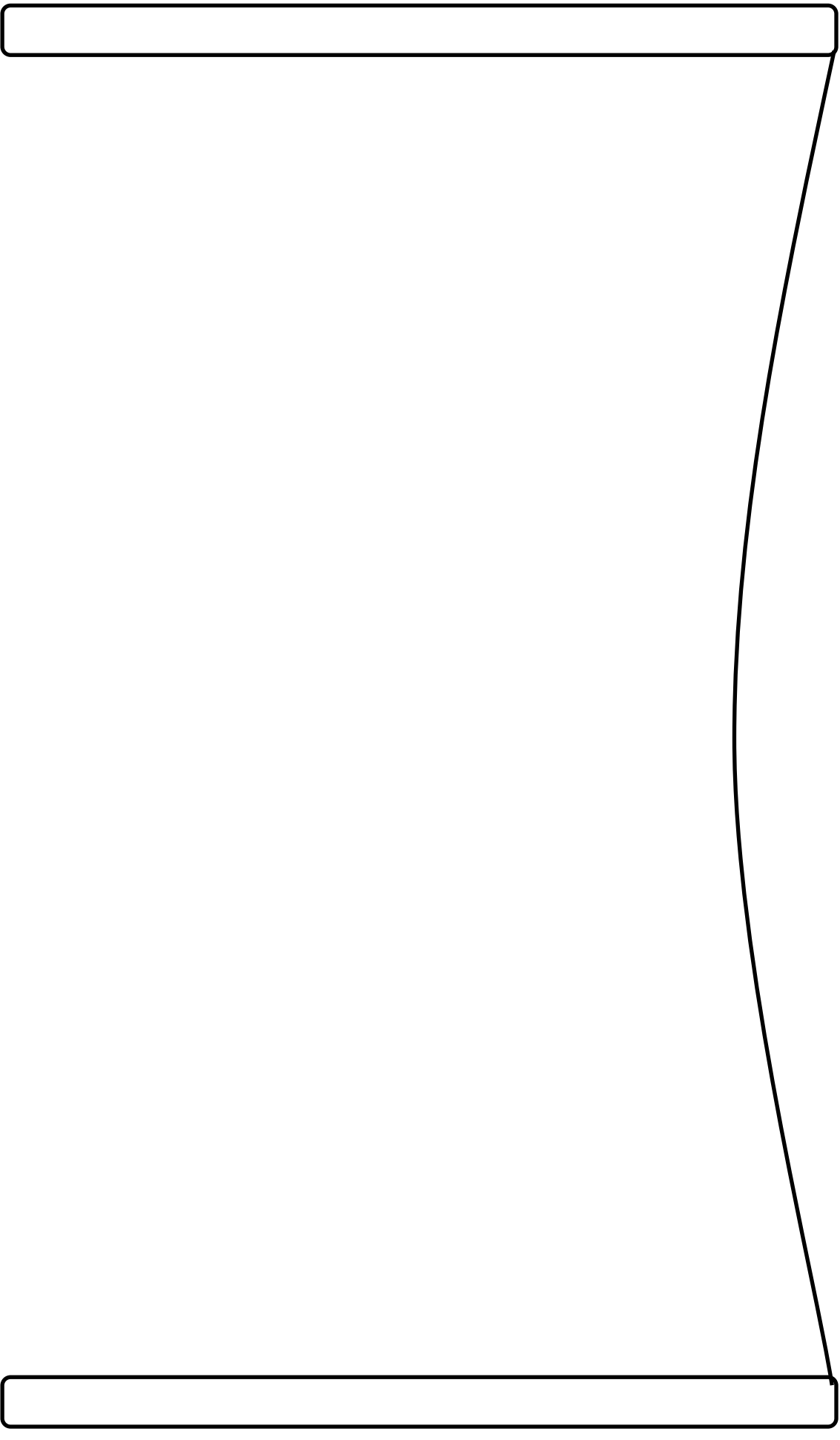
“God bless you, little one,” the stranger says and nods to Anderson. Anderson nods kindly back.

As Violet walks away, she looks at her dad and says, “Dad, there are lots of people here who look hungry. I think they live outside, too. Can I come back one day and give them some food?”

Anderson nods and squeezes his daughter’s hand. He says softly, “Who shall I send, who will go? Then said I, ‘Here am I, send me.’”

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Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
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SELLER OF PURPLE

Supplies: Scraps of purple fabric or purple paper, yarn, popsicle sticks, glue, scissors

Directions: Glue two popsicle sticks to this paper (or a separate piece) and string yarn between the two sticks to create a clothesline. Glue string in place. Cut small scraps of purple fabric (or paper) and glue it to the clothes line.



Paul and Silas in Prison

One day Paul and Silas met a girl with a spirit of divination. (The spirit inside her was not of God! The men that owned her made money when the girl told the future). Over and over the girl followed Paul and Silas and talked about them. Paul finally told the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of her.” The spirit came out of her and she couldn’t tell the future anymore. This made her owners upset!

They drug Paul and Silas before the rulers of the city and accused them. They were beaten and put into prison—the inner prison with their feet secured. Again, they found themselves in a bad situation for preaching about Jesus.

At midnight they prayed and sang praises to God. The other prisoners heard them. God heard them too because He caused an earthquake to shake even the foundations of the prison. All of the doors were opened, and their feet were loosed!

The prison guard thought he was in trouble, but Paul told him, “don’t hurt yourself! We are all here.” The guard brought a light and fell down before them. He wanted to be saved! He cleaned their wounds, brought them to his house and fed them. The next day the rulers of the city set them free.

Paul and Silas could have asked God why or felt sorry for themselves—but they found a secret—when we pray and praise God, there is power!

Memory Verse:

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed,
and sang praises unto God: and the
prisoners heard them. Acts 16:25

Violet's Decision

Violet hops down from the pickup. She waves at her mom. She is at the library for a morning of summer crafts.

“I will be back for lunch!” Violet’s mother calls through the window. “Have fun!”

Violet walks into the library. She finds the activity room and picks up a name tag.

“Hi Amy!” she calls out. Amy is a new friend. Amy used to be mean to Violet, but now they are friends.

“Violet!” Amy says happily. “I was hoping a friend would show up.”

She bends her head close to Violet’s and whispers, “Those girls over there aren’t very nice. They are mean, just like I used to be to you.”

Violet giggles at Amy’s honesty. She holds Amy’s hand in hers and says, “We will sit on the other side of the room and enjoy making crafts together!”

Amy thinks this is a very good idea.

The girls cut, glue and hum. They chatter about their summer and which teacher they hope to have when school starts.

One of the other girls walks up. She looks at Amy’s craft and says, “Your craft is ugly. Mine is the prettiest.”

Amy’s face turns red. She was proud of her craft, but now she’s not so sure.

Violet feels a swift rush of anger. She’s tempted to reach up and knock the girl’s craft out of her hands.

She swallows hard, then says, “There’s no such thing as an ugly craft or ‘the prettiest one,’ as you say. It all depends on who’s looking.”

Amy smiles gratefully at Violet. The girl doesn’t know what to say next, so she backs away and walks quietly to her group.

“I wanted to knock her butterfly painting right out of her hands,” Violet admits quietly.

Amy looks surprised. “You did? I never thought you’d think something like that.”

Violet laughs. “Amy. You have no idea. But I try really hard to pause when I feel angry. I think Jesus helps me make the right decision when I do that. I have time to think.”

“Jesus helps me, too. I’m glad you told me about Him, Violet. Sometimes I feel so sorry for myself at home, because I’m lonely and my parents don’t pay much attention to me. But then Jesus sends me songs I’ve learned in Sunday School and I’ll sing them and I feel better.”

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Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
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SINGING IN JAIL !

Supplies: Crayons, scissors, single hole punch, yarn

Directions: Color Paul and Silas, then cut around the outside square. Use a single hole punch to punch out the eight holes on the top and bottom of the picture. Use black or grey yarn to thread through the holes and create jail bars.





The Bereans

Imagine if the world were upside down. Have you ever stood on your head? Does everything look the same or is it different? One of the men who didn't like Paul preaching accused him of doing just that—turning the world upside down!

Leaving the last city, Paul, Silas and Timothy came to another place. Three Sundays in a row Paul explained about Jesus. A large number of Greek men and women believed. But a few Jews that did not believe were eaten up with the green monster of jealousy. They stirred up a mob and tried to find Paul. They knew he was staying with a man named Jason, but when they searched Jason's house, Paul wasn't there. Jason was brought before the rulers, and they cried saying, "The men that have turned the world upside down have come here too!" The rulers let Jason go while the brethren sent Paul and Silas to another city.

In Berea they finally found people with an open mind and willing heart! Not only did they accept the Gospel, they "searched the scriptures daily" to see if what they heard was true. When the Jews from the last city heard where Paul was, they came to Berea and stirred the people again! He fled while Silas and Timothy stayed behind.

When we have questions or don't understand something, we can search the Bible for the answers. Let's be like Bereans: read the Bible, search the Bible and memorize the Bible!

Memory Verse:
They received the word with all
readiness of mind and searched the
scriptures daily. Acts 17:11

Bible Challenge

"Jack, Violet, come in the living room please," Katherine calls out. She's watching her five-month-old twins, Carrie-Ann and Carter, play on the rug.

Jack and Violet walk to the living room. Jack bends down and makes a funny face at the twins. Carrie-Ann gurgles with laughter and Carter bats at his nose.

Jack laughs. He's glad his little brother and sister like to play with him, he thinks to himself.

Katherine hands her eldest son and daughter a stack of notecards. "Today is the beginning of a Bible challenge. I wrote verses, Bible characters and historical Bible facts on these notecards. Go through them together. Talk about them, try to memorize as much as you can. Tonight I will quiz you at dinner and see how much you remember."

Jack and Violet look on in interest. They enjoy listening to Bible stories and each week they learn a Bible verse for Sunday School. But their mother's Bible challenge is a little different. "This sounds exciting!" Violet says.

"Don't worry about afternoon chores today. I want you to go outside and enjoy the sunshine, the forest, wherever you want to go on the property. But stay together and have fun!"

Jack and Violet run outside. The grass is soft on their bare feet and a hot August sun shines on their skin. They hop, skip and walk toward a back pasture. They climb up on a tall round hay bale. Jack flops down on his stomach. Violet fishes a piece of straw from the bale and sticks it in her mouth.

"What's the first card say?" Violet asks her brother.

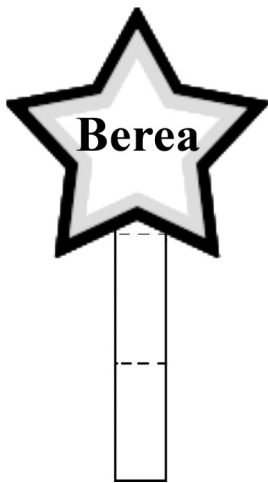
"Let's see. It says, 'Who were the Bereans?' And on the back it says, 'The Bereans were a group of people who lived in Berea, Greece. They searched the scriptures every day to make sure Paul preached the truth. Searching the scriptures helps us memorize and learn the Bible for ourselves. It is important to have our own relationship with God.'"

Jack and Violet amble off to the forest. They sit on a stump and read the next card. "It's a verse reference, Isaiah 48:17. 'I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee...which leadeth thee by the way that you should go.'"

The children spend the rest of the day playing outside and reading their cards. "I hope we do this again," Violet says. "I love learning about the Bible this way."

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FIND BEREIA ON THE MAP !

Supplies: Crayons, glue, scissors

Directions: Color the map and cut it out. Color and cut the star and strip (do not cut apart). Fold the strip beneath the star and attach the star where Berea is.





While waiting for Silas and Timothy to arrive, Paul walked the streets of Athens. He saw the city was wholly given to idolatry! Some said of Athens, you would meet a god (or an idol) more frequently than you would meet a man! This saddened Paul as no doubt he remembered God's first commandment: you should have no other gods but me. Paul was not quiet about this great sin. He discussed it with leaders, with the Jews in their churches, and even with people in the public places of business or the market.

The people of Athens prided themselves on being philosophers. (This means they loved learning and talking about everything.) They heard what Paul was preaching and came to him with questions and brought him to Mars' Hill. Mars' Hill was a place where they held court and it was filled with idols and false gods. Among all these idols, Paul found an altar "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD."

On Mars' Hill, Paul preached powerfully to the men and women of the city saying, "I found an altar to THE UNKNOWN GOD. I will preach to you about him. God made the world. And he doesn't live in a temple like this, made with hands." He continued to preach about Jesus, his death and resurrection. When they heard about Jesus coming back from the dead, some laughed, others wanted to talk about it more later, so Paul left. But there were some who joined Paul

Memory Verse:
Thou shalt have no other gods before
me. Exodus 20:3

Jack & Violet Seek Knowledge

Violet runs through the back pasture. She feels long grasses scratching her legs and the sun on her cheeks. She hears a happy bird in a tree nearby. And then she hears Jack's feet pounding the grass behind her.

She laughs and tries to run faster, but her big brother catches up, grabs her and playfully tackles her to the ground.

"Why does the sunshine feel so good?" Violet asks as she closes her eyes and enjoys the sounds and feel of outside.

"Mom told me the sun gives us vitamin D. Vitamin D is a hormone our body makes when we are in the sun, when we eat certain foods, and when we add it to our diet. It helps our immune system which helps us stay healthy and strong. I think our bodies just know when we do good things like playing outside in the sun."

"I wish I knew everything you know," Violet says to Jack.

"Violet, you learn new things as long as you live. And you've memorized these Bible facts. I'm sure Mom and Dad will be surprised when they find out we've learned Mom's Bible challenge!"

Violet giggles in excitement. "Let's go back to the house. I think it's about time to eat."

"I hear you two are learning some verses and Bible history," Anderson, Jack and Violet's dad, says as the family eats dinner.

"Yeah," Jack says, hiding his excitement. "We're trying to learn what's on all of the notecards. Want to quiz us, Mom?"

Violet wiggles in her chair. The surprise is almost too much for her to handle!

Anderson and Katherine grin in amazement as they quiz their children, realizing Jack and Violet learned every verse and fact.

"Children, there is much knowledge to learn. But knowledge of the Scripture and the historical significance of biblical times will serve your spirit more than any other area of learning," Anderson says.

"Good thing I have more notecards ready for you two," Katherine smiles. "We will add these cards to the ones you already have and keep on going!"

"What are these cards about?" Violet asks.

"Well, your first set didn't have a theme. But this stack focuses on God being our only God. He is King of the world and worthy to be praised!"

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

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 8. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

ONE GOD !

Supplies: Crayons, hole punch, scissors, yarn

FOR THERE IS
ONE GOD



Directions: Color and cut out the hand and the banner with the verse 1 Timothy 2:5. Use the circle marks to punch single holes and then thread yarn through the hand and banner to create a mobile. Tie a knot beneath the hand to keep the pieces from slipping off the yarn.





Primary Sunday School

August 30, 2020

V70, Q3, W9

Paul in Corinth

Paul left Athens and traveled to Corinth, a city between two seas. He made some Jewish friends named Aquila and Priscilla. They shared something in common—they were all tentmakers. Paul worked with his hands making tents during the week and preached to the Jews in the churches on the Sabbath. After a while, Silas and Timothy brought Paul some money from another congregation. This allowed Paul to return to full-time preaching and the work of the Lord.

Like Paul found so many times before, the Jews did not believe his preaching about Jesus. Finally, Paul tore his clothes and said he'd done enough to help the Jews. He told them the consequences of not believing were their own fault and from now on he'd preach to the Gentiles.

He left the Jewish churches and stayed with a Roman believer named Justus. The Lord appeared to Paul in a dream and said, "Do not be afraid to speak to the people. I am with you and no one will hurt you. I have many people in this city." Paul stayed in Corinth a year and a half—longer than anywhere else he'd been.

The Jews were still unhappy with Paul. They could not punish him themselves, so they gathered a mob and brought him before a Roman governor. The Roman governor didn't want to deal with this; he told the Jews to settle the issue themselves.

The spreading of God's gospel could not be stopped!

Memory Verse:

Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not
thy peace. For I am with thee.
Acts 18:9-10a

Mr. Neil Returns

Jack and his father mend a fence near their home. Jack wipes the sweat from his forehead. He knows how to fix fences now, and he knows not to complain. He's had many lessons in fence-mending and complaining. He digs a circle around a leaning post.

"Mr. Neil!" Jack's father booms. Jack jumps. He was daydreaming about how to sneak a lizard into school once it starts up again.

Jack looks around. He gives Mr. Neil a big grin. "Haven't seen you in months!"

"I've been around. Spent some time in a nearby town over yonder. Nothing like Timber Springs. Decided to come back for a spell," Mr. Neil explains.

"Help us with this fence?" Anderson asks.

Mr. Neil knows that a hearty dinner comes with helping the Mackey family. He quickly agrees.

The men and Jack make their way down the road, checking the fence and mending where needed. Jack admires their arm muscles. He looks at his scrawny forearm and flexes, imagining what it will look like when he's a man, too.

"Your father keeps you busy, Jack!" Mr. Neil calls out. "That's good. It's what will help you get those muscles you're dreaming about!"

Jack turns a little more red. The men chuckle. "Ain't nothing wrong with that," Mr. Neil says. "Hard work is good for body and mind, that's for sure. I hear your mother's got you working your mind, too. Tell me about it."

Jack knows Mr. Neil is talking about the Bible challenge his mother gave Violet and him. He feels a little shy talking about the Bible with Mr. Neil. An encouraging nod from his father helps him open his mouth and start talking.

"Mom has Violet and me learning all sorts of things from the Bible. She writes verses, historical facts, information about people, and a lot more from the Bible on notecards and then Violet and I try to memorize them. Right now we are learning about how God is the one true God."

"Any Bible character you especially like learning about right now?" Mr. Neil asks.

"Daniel!" Jack says. "He was so brave. He wasn't afraid to do right even though a lot of bad men didn't like it. And God stayed with him even in the scariest of times."

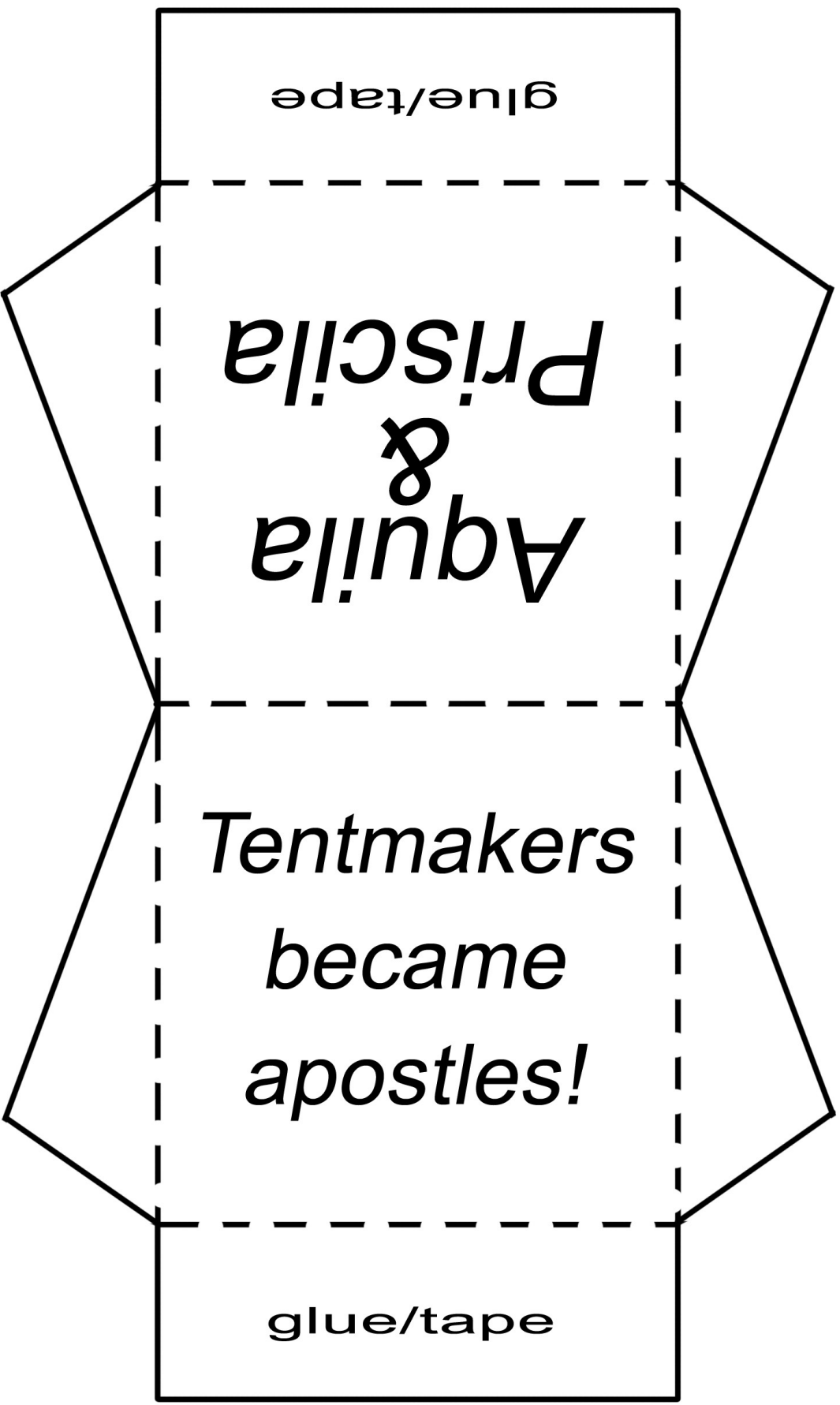
Mr. Neil looks at Anderson. He claps his hand on Anderson's shoulder and says, "You two are doing it right. Keep on workin' em hard and teaching them truth. Don't let anything get in the way of that."

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Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 9. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

MAKE A TENT!

Color and cut the tent template, then fold it on the dotted lines and tape the bottom flaps to a separate piece of paper.





Primary Sunday School September 6, 2020 V70, Q3, W10

The Preacher, Apollos

Do you remember learning about the tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla? They met a man in Ephesus who was preaching with a big, powerful voice. This man was named Apollos, and he knew a lot about the scriptures! He knew about Adam and Eve's disobedience, the verses that prophesy the coming of the Messiah (or Jesus), and even about John the Baptist!

Aquila and Priscilla saw that people liked to listen to Apollos because he was energetic and preached with exciting words. But they also realized that he didn't know Jesus, the Messiah, had already come! When Apollos finished preaching, they came to him and told him all about Jesus--how He was born, how He taught people and performed miracles, and how He died on the cross and then rose again!

Do you think Apollos listened and believed them? He did! He was so excited to learn about Jesus! When he preached after that, he told the *whole story*! Many people believed and were saved because of him.

In fact, some Christians started fighting with one another because some wanted to follow Paul and some wanted to follow Apollos. Who should they really have been following? Paul told them that they shouldn't follow him or Apollos, but should follow only Jesus. Can you think of a song that has those words in it?

"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back!"

Memory Verse:
[Apollos] spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord. Acts 18:25

Playing Favorites

"Is Jack your favorite, Mommy?" Violet asks as she folds laundry. She watches Jack go outside.

Katherine laughs. "Why do you ask that? Because Jack gets to be outside while he pulls weeds?"

Violet nods and looks wistfully out the window. Her mother laughs and says, "You will join him after this laundry is done. And no, Jack is not my favorite. Your father and I love all four of you equally. Each family member makes this family special."

"Like what?" Violet asks. She wants to hear what her mother has to say about her!

"Jack has a strong heart, and he's sensitive to other people. You enjoy a good laugh, and you give your all to the task at hand. Carrie Ann and Carter are so young, but their personalities are starting to show. Carrie Ann loves to snuggle and be close to people. Carter enjoys books and silly faces!"

Violet makes a funny face at Carter, who immediately gurgles and shakes his hands in glee. Violet laughs.

"Can I tell you what I love about you and Dad?" Violet asks, her love-tank filling at all these nice words about her family.

"You know how to make any food taste good, and you always know what to say when we are sad. Dad is the hardest worker, the strongest man, ever."

"So, are we all your favorite?" Violet asks her mother with a grin. Katherine laughs and says, "Yes, Violet. You are all my favorite! Now run along outside and help Jack pull those weeds."

The Mackey family drives to church that evening for a special one-night revival. "You children go back to school in a few days. I want you to listen closely for a thought you can carry with you as school resumes," Anderson tells Jack and Violet.

The children enjoy the message. The minister is energetic and speaks in a way that Jack and Violet understand. His message is titled, "God's Arm," and it's about letting God use our talents so He can reach others.

On the way home Violet proclaims, "He is my favorite preacher! He's the best! I wish I could listen to him every Sunday!"

Katherine says, "Violet, remember our conversation about favorites? God's ministers also have different abilities, just like our family. It is normal for you to enjoy someone's style, but remember that we are following God's voice, not a human voice. We must remember that the minister is a mouthpiece. He or she shares God's word."

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

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck, Sister Karissa Carver.

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Paul lived in the city of Ephesus for about two years. That is a long time! A lot of people believe that he wrote the book of 1 Corinthians while he lived there. During that time people all around heard the story of Jesus and salvation. Paul healed sick people and cast out evil spirits.

Pretty soon there were some evil people that thought they could make some money by copying Paul's miracles. They found a man who had evil spirits in him, so they called out, "Come out in the name of Jesus and Paul!" The evil spirit answered them! He said, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but I don't know you!" The story of the spirit answering the evil men spread quickly and even more people believed because of it!

In fact, there was a certain group of people who practiced magic, and when they heard the story, they believed in God with all their hearts! They even took their books that taught magic and burned all of them--the cost of all the books they burned was over fifty thousand pieces of silver! That's a lot of money.

Even though a lot of people believed in God, there were some who did not believe and who did not like Paul or the Christians. They were afraid that they would lose all their money because people would stop worshipping their false gods. To keep Paul from ruining their business, they created a big mob in the streets of Ephesus, and eventually, Paul had to leave the city.

This did not stop the gospel from spreading! People still continued to learn about Jesus and believe in Him.

Memory Verse:

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:20

Angels

"Mom, have you ever seen an angel?" Violet asks.

"I've never seen an angel as a great creature with wings, but I've heard stories of people who have."

Violet looks around the house, imagining powerful creatures with soaring wings filling the air of her home.

Katherine smiles. "Today must be a day to talk about angels. This morning I read Matthew 18. Let's read it together."

She pulls Violet onto her lap.

Katherine says, "Matthew 18:10 records Jesus telling His disciples that His children have angels who stand before the throne of God."

"Like a guardian angel?" Violet asks.

"I think so," Katherine responds. "And Hebrews 1:14 says God's angels are ministering spirits. To better understand this, there are several verses in the Bible talking about angels. Sometimes they look like men, sometimes women (Genesis 18:2, Zechariah 5:9). Psalm 104:4 says God uses the angels as elements like fire and wind to send messages. Many verses refer to angels as God's army."

Do you remember the story about Elijah praying that his servant's eyes be opened? When he looked to the hills he saw an entire army of angels protecting Elijah and himself."

Violet grins. She relishes the idea of mighty, unseen angels charging over the world and caring for God's own. Her mother adds, "And one more point. Do you remember when I said I don't know if I've seen an angel? Well, it's because Hebrews 13:2 reminds us to never forget to show kindness and hospitality to others, because we may be taking care of an angel and we don't even know it!"

Violet shivers. "That's a really big thought," she says. "I'm going to talk to my guardian angel tonight before I go to sleep!"

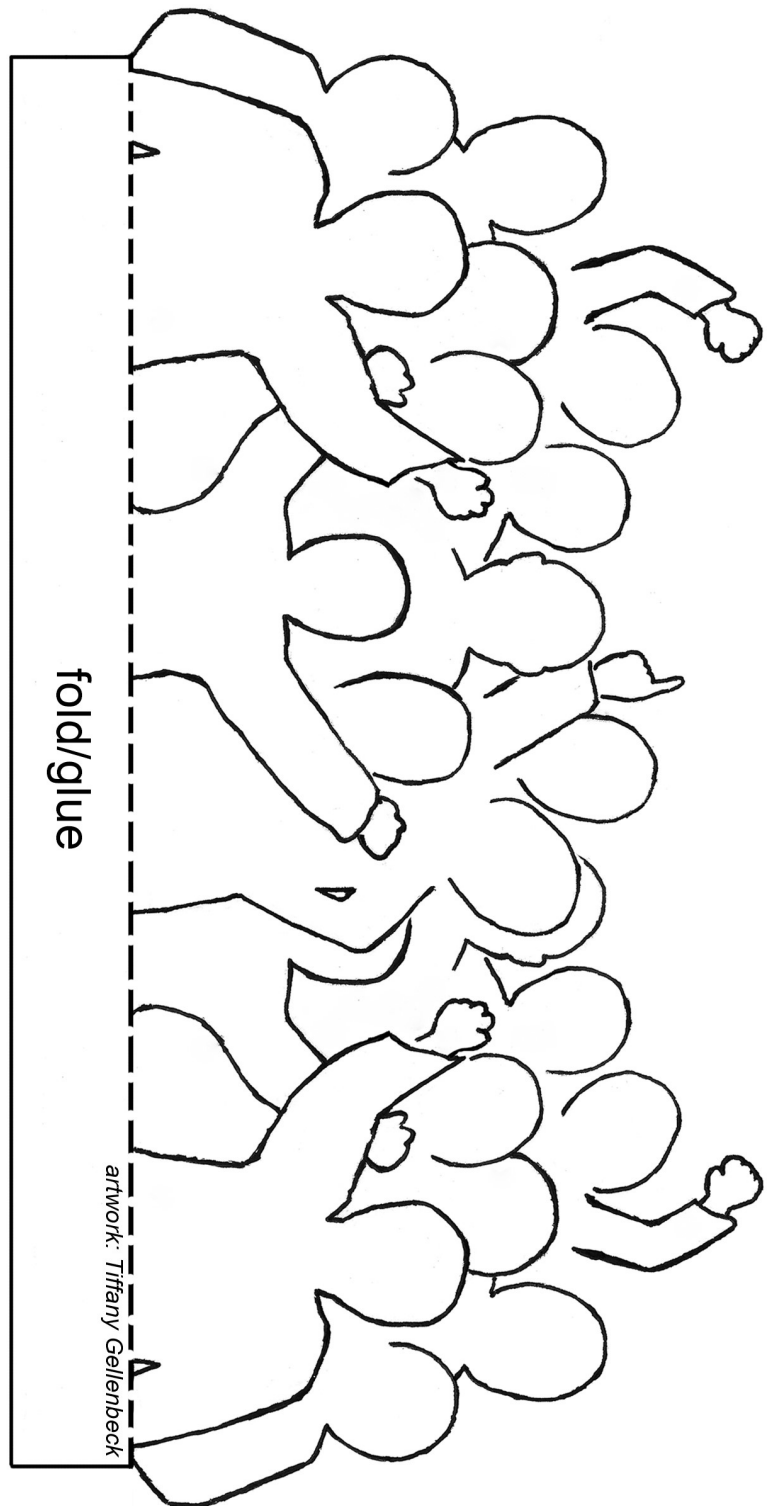
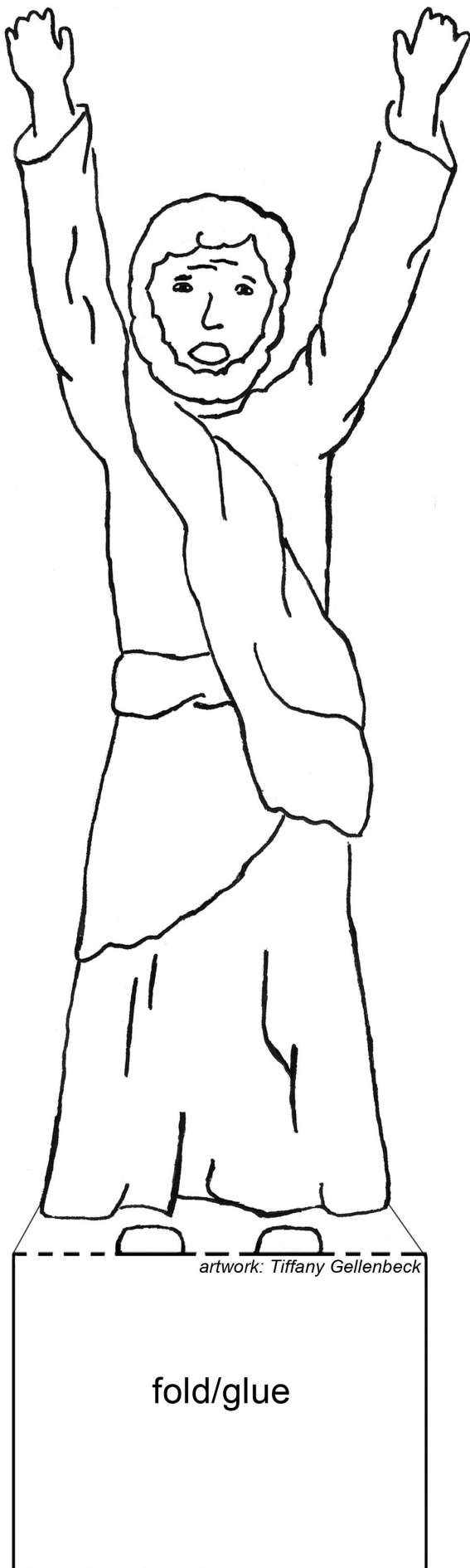
The Beautiful Way can be downloaded at sundayschoolliterature.com and churchofgodeveninglight.com/beautiful-way.

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 11. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck

MOB IN EPHESUS

Supplies: Crayons, glue, scissors, extra piece of paper

Directions: Color and cut Alexander and the crowd, making sure not to cut off the fold and glue tab. Fold and glue each piece to the paper, creating the scene of the riot in Ephesus.





Primary Sunday School September 20, 2020

V70, Q3, W12

Eutychus Falls from the Window

Meet Eutychus! He was a young boy that lived in one of the cities Paul traveled to on his journeys. Eutychus means “fortunate,” but something very unfortunate happened to him while Paul preached at his house.

Paul was holding service on Sunday, and a lot of Christians had gathered together to listen and eat together. It wasn’t like a normal Sunday service though, because Paul preached until midnight! That is a long time to preach.

Eutychus got tired, so he found an open window and sat down on the windowsill to rest and enjoy the breeze from outside. Soon he fell into a deep sleep. Have you ever felt sleepy while the preacher was talking? Eutychus slumped over in the windowsill and fell out of the window! It was three stories off the ground. By the time his friends and family ran downstairs, he had already died. They were heartbroken!

Paul had also gone downstairs, and he fell to the ground and stretched his body over Eutychus’. He said, “Don’t be scared. He is still alive.” And Eutychus, who had died falling from the window, was alive again! God performed an amazing miracle! Imagine how happy and excited his friends and family were now!

Everyone went back upstairs and Paul kept preaching until the sun rose! Soon after that, Paul and the other disciples got ready to travel to a new city, but they said goodbye to Eutychus, the fortunate boy whom God brought back to life!

Accident at the Barn

Violet leans out the hayloft window. The breeze feels good. She leans out some more.

Her foot slips and she tumbles out the window. She screams in pain. Jack hears and runs as fast as he can from the pond where he was trying to trap a fish.

He cradles her in his arms then shouts for anyone who might hear him. Soon their father comes running.

Violet sees her father and starts crying. “Daddy. It hurts. I fell out of the hayloft. Something is wrong with my ankle.”

Anderson carries her to the truck. Jack holds Violet’s leg still so the bumpy drive to the house doesn’t hurt his sister’s foot. He swallows a lump in his throat. It’s hard to see her hurting so badly.

Katherine runs out of the house. “I didn’t hear anything. I was getting the twins to sleep. What’s wrong with Violet?”

Anderson places a hand on Katherine and kisses her head. “I think it’s a broken ankle. Jack and I will take her in.”

Violet does have a broken ankle. A nice doctor sets it in a cast and sends her home with some crutches. She hobbles into the house. Jack follows like a puppy. He makes sure she is comfortable and brings her a glass of water. Katherine brings a plate of warm oatmeal bars. Jack squeezes Violet’s hand and says, “I haven’t prayed so hard in my life as when I heard you scream. But hey. Maybe we can use that cast of yours as a dam to help catch my fish!”

Violet giggles and leans back on the couch. She’s tired. She drifts to sleep, still holding the hand of her valiant big brother.

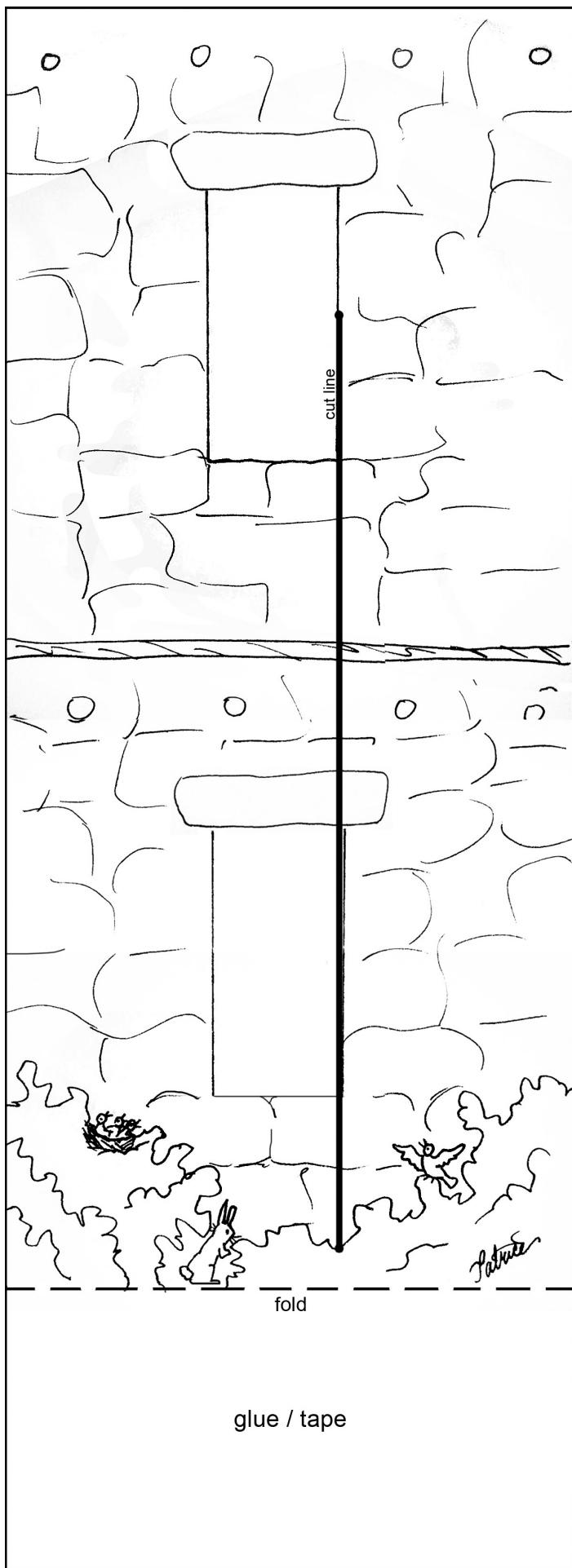
Memory Verse:

And as Paul was long preaching, he
[Eutychus] sunk down with sleep, and
fell down from the third loft. Acts 20:9

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

Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.

Volume 70, Quarter 3, Week 12. Editor: Lindsey Gellenbeck



OH NO, EUTYCHUS !

Supplies: Crayons, glue, scissors

Directions: Color and cut the house, being careful not to cut the tab off. Fold the tab back and glue the house to a separate piece of paper. Cut a slit along the cut line from the top window to the bottom window. Color and cut Eutychus out, including the tab attached to him. Insert tab into the slit and watch him fall from the window !



We have learned a lot about Paul in the last few weeks, but did you know that he isn't the main character of the stories? Jesus is! Jesus was who Paul preached about everywhere he went. Jesus was who came to live in the hearts of new Christians, and Jesus is the one who told Paul where to go and when.

Way back when Paul was young, he didn't listen to the voice of God. He treated the Christians very badly and even threw them in jail. But when he got saved on the road to Damascus, everything changed. Suddenly, he wanted to tell everyone about the new Messiah, Jesus Christ!

Paul traveled all over spreading the Gospel. He went to 25 cities over the course of 18 years! Because of him, many people came to know Jesus and to ask Him into their hearts.

Finally, Paul knew it was time to stop traveling, so he made plans to return home to Jerusalem. A prophet named Agabus came to him and told him that the Jews would capture him and give him to the wicked rulers if he went back to Jerusalem.

Paul's friends tried very hard to convince him not to go, but Paul knew that Jesus had told him to go back. He would not disobey the voice of God, and told his friends, "I am ready not only to be tied up, but to die for Jesus." His friends didn't try to change his mind after that.

Paul was a faithful preacher and obeyed everything God commanded him to do.

Memory Verse:

I am ready not to be bound only, but
also to die at Jerusalem for the name
of the Lord Jesus. Acts 21:13

Farewell, Mr. Neil

Anderson runs into the house. "Get ready, all of you. Mr. Neil is very sick. We need to hurry."

Jack and Violet pepper their father with questions, but he doesn't speak.

Mrs. Knelson and Miss Blanche are with Mr. Neil. He's on a sofa in the back of the general store.

"Ah, my favorite family!" Mr. Neil says with a weak smile. "Anderson, how'd you get them here so fast? I was prepared to tough this thing out a little longer."

Jack notices his father's hands are shaking.

"I'm sure it's my ole ticker," Mr. Neil says, waving away Mrs. Knelson. "I knew this was coming. Don't want no help. If it's my time, it's my time. But I want to say some words first."

His eyes fill with tears and he grasps Anderson's hand.

"Your family," he says--he stops, then starts again. "Your Daddy here--he's shown me more kindness this past year than anyone else has in all the other years I've lived. He gave me honest, hard work. Made me feel like a man again. And your mother."

"Your mother must be an angel. Katherine, all those sweet words, your hospitality. Makin' me know I was welcome at your house and around your table."

"Jack, I won't be around to keep you on the straight and narrow, young man," Mr. Neil says and points a finger at Jack.

"But where are you going?" Jack exclaims.

Mr. Neil looks out the window. It's the first time Jack has seen Mr. Neil look dreamy. "Your father led me to Christ several months ago, Jack. And I'm going to meet Him. I'm going to meet the One who saved my soul."

Mr. Neil's eyes flutter and then close. A hush fills the room. Violet says softly, "I can't see them, but there are angels here to carry him home."

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Contributors: Sister Nicole Gellenbeck. Sister Karissa Carver.
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