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# ABOUT THE STRAIGHT ARROW PROGRAM

The Straight Arrow program is a weekly program for boys ages 5 and 6. When properly presented, this program will have a profound effect on boys at this very impressionable age. The program has unlimited possibilities as a tool for evangelism, teaching, and recreation.

The name *Straight Arrow* comes from an Indian term meaning a person who lives a straight, honorable life. You as a leader will have the opportunity to encourage your boys to live the type of life that will be consistent with this name.

An Indian theme is very popular with boys this age. This theme provides a storehouse of ideas for special emphases and activities. May we suggest that you secure from your local library a number of good Indian lore books to supplement the materials in this manual.

## ADDITIONAL IDEAS

If the leader wishes to expand the Indian theme, he may encourage each boy to select an Indian name. A good craft project is to make an Indian-type necklace with the boy's Indian name on the necklace. (See illustration.)

You may follow the theme further by securing an Indian-bead rosette necklace for the lodge chief to wear.



INDIAN NAME NECKLACE

## ORGANIZATION

### THE OUTPOST COMMANDER

The Outpost Commander directs the Straight Arrow outpost meeting and other activities such as hikes and trips. The Commander determines when each boy passes his requirement for advancement.

### LIEUTENANT COMMANDER

The Lieutenant Commander has the responsibility of assisting the Outpost Commander in the activities of the Straight Arrow outpost at each meeting. The Lt. Commander may direct certain activities—such as games, crafts, projects, and so on. Should the Commander be absent, the Lt. Commander assumes charge of the meeting or outing.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Women are welcome as leaders in the Straight Arrow program, either as Commanders or Lt. Commanders.

### LODGES

The outpost is divided into two or more small groups called *lodges*. (Referred to as patrols in the other age divisions.) The boys in each lodge will select an Indian name for their lodge. You as a leader should assist each lodge in securing as much information as possible about the Indian group they select as their namesake. Also encourage and assist each lodge in making a flag or standard depicting the name of their lodge.

### LODGE CHIEF

The Outpost Commander will select one of the boys in a lodge to serve as lodge chief. A lodge chief should have at least the rank of "tribesman" (if the outpost is new, this requirement may be waived). The lodge chief will lead his lodge in games and other ceremonies. This position should be rotated from time to time so several boys will have an opportunity for leadership.

### STRAIGHT ARROW PLEDGE

"With God's help, I will do my best to live a good life and to do good things for others."

### STRAIGHT ARROW MOTTO

"READY"

Meaning of Motto: Ready for anything;

Ready to: work, play, serve, obey, worship live, etc.

### THE UNIFORM

The Straight Arrow uniform will be a red felt (or leather or suede cloth if preferred) vest.

Use an old vest as a pattern or secure a vest pattern from a fabric store. Many leather-craft shops have vest kits you may buy.



## ADVANCEMENT REQUIREMENTS

### STRAIGHT ARROW BRAVE

- \*1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for at least 2 months and complete the weekly craft projects.
- 2. Memorize the Straight Arrow pledge.
- 3. Select an Indian name and explain why this name was selected.



### STRAIGHT ARROW TRIBESMAN

- \*1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for 5 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
- 2. Memorize John 3:16.
- 3. Memorize the Golden Rule.



### STRAIGHT ARROW WARRIOR

- \*1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for at least 7 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
- 2. Memorize the Lord's Prayer.
- 3. Explain what it means to be a Christian. (This is an excellent time for the leader to encourage a boy to accept Christ if he has not already done so.)



### \*PLEASE NOTE

Boys who have a legitimate reason for missing a meeting may be allowed to "make up" the meeting by attending an additional meeting/meetings for this requirement.

### GETTING STARTED

- 1. Make arrangements to meet with interested boys at a designated time and place. The leaders should make detailed plans for this meeting. The Council should be invited to sit with the leaders in the meetings if they desire.
- 2. Explain the purpose of the program. State it in terms that boys can understand. Help them to see that being a Straight Arrow will open doors to adventure, friendship, and fun.
- 3. Set a definite time and place for the regular weekly meetings.
- 4. Give careful consideration to every phase of the planning for the first three meetings with the boys.

## CHARTER RECOGNITION

1. Charter application is made after three regular meetings are held. The application form itself is usually filled out at the third meeting. The form, along with the registration fees, is sent to the national headquarters. Your group will then receive a charter, membership cards, and the quarterly publication *Dispatch* for each Commander. This charter is renewed annually.

2. Minimum requirements for chartering a Straight Arrow unit:

- a. A minimum of five boys.
  - b. An Outpost Council composed of a minimum of three men.
  - c. A qualified Commander and, when possible, one or more Lieutenant Commanders.
  - d. A registration fee of \$1 for each boy and adult. If Outpost Councilmen serve more than one group, they pay only one fee.
3. Actual presentation of the charter should be handled through a special program and made as meaningful as possible.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF 5- AND 6-YEAR-OLD BOYS

### PHYSICAL

*Play is important to a boy's mind, body, and character.*

- Play should not be prolonged, just as study periods should be brief. Change is necessary.
- Play stimulates the imagination. He likes to act out things.
- Through play the boy learns to get along with others.

*He is developing muscle control.* He is frustrated when given small detailed work which requires coordination of the eyes and small muscles.

*He is energetic and active.* He tires from being inactive as well as from vigorous activity.

*His voice may tire easily.*

- Alternate singing with listening.
- His voice range is from middle C to C above. Try to keep your songs within his range.
- Encourage natural, easy singing—never loud.
- Do not expect boys to “sing on pitch.”

### MENTAL

*He is a questioner.* Do not ignore his questions. He should be given answers he can understand.

*He is curious.* He likes to experiment or investigate.

*He is alert to things going on around him.* This is not always evident to an adult.

*He has an active imagination.* Imagined situations become very real. His imagination allows him to become almost anyone or anything.

*He has a short interest span.* He bores easily if any one activity lasts too long.

*His vocabulary is increasing, but limited.*

- Use simple words.
- Add to his vocabulary by frequent use of words such as missionary, Christian, sin, and so on. Use them in conversations and stories that explain their meaning.

*He learns more by seeing and doing than by listening.* Provide lesson-correlated things to see, touch, hear, smell, and taste.

*He forgets easily.*

- Don't expect him to answer the question: “What was our story about last week?”
- Pictures may help him recall some details of familiar verses or stories.
- Don't expect him to recite alone. Let him repeat the memory verses with others.

*He has little concept of time and distance.* Omit exact dates and locations and use “a long time ago” or “in a faraway country.”

*He imitates those about him.* Teach him by your own example.

### SOCIAL

*He is becoming considerate of others and learning to share.* His love and concern for others is increasing.

*He is developing interests beyond his own home* and is becoming interested in those in other places.

*He is sympathetic and wants to help others.* He likes to make others happy and responds to suggestions.

*He seeks and needs approval.* Recognize his unselfish acts of kindness and cooperation.

*He trusts others—especially his teacher.* Don't betray his trust!

### SPIRITUAL

*He has a simple, believing faith.* He believes everything you tell him because of his lack of experience.

- Be truthful in answering his questions.
- Be careful not to overdo descriptions of devils, giants, or other scary subjects.
- Dreams and fantasy get mixed up with reality. Be careful to label fanciful stories as such. Try not to overdo them.

*He is growing in understanding of God, Jesus, the Bible, and church.* He is interested in learning more about God and how people help God.

### MEETING HIS NEEDS

He needs to know he is loved.

Don't push him beyond his capability.

Express confidence in him.

He learns by your example.

### HOW TO LEARN ABOUT BOYS

- Observe them.
- Watch them.
- Listen to their conversations.
- Visit their homes.

### DOS AND DON'TS

DO . . .

- Call the boys by name often when addressing them.
- Say your own name often the first few days (and to new members) so boys will know how to address you.
- Make newcomers feel welcome and encourage the boys to do the same.

DON'T . . .

- Be insincere. The boys will detect insincerity immediately.
- Be too critical of poor handwork but encourage neatness and good work.

# FACILITIES

## YOUR ROOM

Your room should not be so close to the sanctuary or another class that you are under pressure to keep the boys extra quiet. It should be cheerful and attractive.

## SEATING

- You will need a *child-size table and chairs*; large enough so that the boys can sit comfortably without being crowded together.
- If possible, have a separate semicircle of chairs for storytime. The change of seating will create needed variety and give a "break" in your schedule. (If chairs are not available, use a rug for the boys to sit on as you tell the story.)
- It is a good idea for the leader to sit in a small chair also.
- Separate children who need to be away from each other.
- The leader may sit next to a boy who is likely to cause a disturbance—without letting the boy know why.

## EQUIPMENT

- Because the 5- and 6-year-old is still developing control over the small muscles, use  
large pieces of paper  
large paintbrushes  
large crayons

# PLANNING THE MEETING

Five- and six-year-olds are *active*. Trying to stop their activity will only lead to frustration. It is not their nature to sit still for 30 minutes of formal service. Do not make any one activity last longer than 10 minutes. Space activities so there is variety in quiet times and active times.

Teach the boys to be quiet and reverent during quiet times. They must learn to obey and to remain in their seats at the proper times. However, you will need to allow times for them to stand, walk about, and play actively, or they will tire.

Be flexible with your plans. Always be prepared with extra stories and games.

## WELCOME

- Welcome each boy warmly as he arrives.
- Introduce new boys and encourage other boys to make them feel welcome.
- Allow the boys to wander around the room freely as they arrive, but keep order. (Five- and six-year-olds respect "rules.") An attractive bulletin board display, plants, and so forth will provide interest during this time.
- Plan your schedule so that you are free to talk with the boys as they arrive.

## OPENING

Have the boys stand and repeat the pledge together.

## SHARING

Plan for an informal 5 minutes as the boys share experiences they have had during the week. (Getting these things off their minds now will prevent them from coming out during your story or at other inappropriate times.)

Give each boy a chance to share (not all in the same meeting, though, unless your group is small). Your outgoing boys will want to monopolize this time, while you will have to encourage the timid boys to take part.

Guard against interruptions and long stories by laying down the basic rule of one at a time and by diplomatically cutting the long story short.

## RECORDS

Use the *Outpost Record Book* to keep a record of the boys names, addresses, telephone numbers, birthdays, and attendance.

## USING THE MATERIALS IN THE MANUAL

The materials in this manual are set up for the calendar year. If you begin the Straight Arrow program at a time other than the 1st of January, use the materials that coincide with the month you begin the program. This way the materials will be consistent with the seasonal themes, such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

- Equipment that is helpful—

- coatrack
- open shelves
- drawer space
- blackboard
- bulletin board
- flannelboard
- smocks (old shirts with opening at back fastened with spring-type clothespin)
- large crayons
- blunt scissors
- paste
- paint and brushes (optional)

## MUSIC

This is a happy, fun time for little boys. Begin with a song of your choice. Give the boys opportunity to choose some of their favorite songs.

- Teach a new song now and then (making sure you know it well first). *Make sure* the boys know the meaning of all the words in the songs.
- Your meeting plans suggest songs that correspond to the season or lesson theme. Purchase *Salvation Songs for Children*, Numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4, if you do not have them. (Available from Gospel Publishing House.)
- Sing some action songs.
- Use visuals with some songs, letting the boys take turns holding the visuals.
- Have a "sing-along." Bring a record with familiar Bible songs and sing along.
- Let the boys "lead" the songs occasionally.
- Although this is the main time of singing during your meeting, songs should be sung here and there throughout the meeting.

## MEMORY WORK

During each unit the boys will learn at least one new memory verse.

*First week*—Introduce the verse. Print it in large letters on the board or on a poster board. Read it for the boys and ask them to repeat it aloud several times.

*Second week*—Review the verse, discussing its meaning. Play Bible verse games. Repeat the verse together from memory.

## GAMES

1. Print the verse on a roll or scroll and have the boys "read" aloud with you as it is unrolled.

2. Give several boys large pieces of paper, each with a word of the verse on it, and have them put the verse together. (You will probably need to help them with their words, as many of them will not be able to read.)

## PRAYER TIME

Encourage the boys to think of things for which they are thankful. Point out specific things such as nature.

Take prayer requests—making sure that the boys understand they are praying for a *present* need and not something that happened “last year.”

Encourage the boys to take turns leading out in prayer, but do not force anyone or make them feel self-conscious in any way. They must pray because they want to and because they feel a relationship to God.

Teach the boys to pray by having them “pray after you.” Use simple sentences.

Teach them to open their prayer by thanking God and then to present their requests.

Sing prayer songs occasionally with eyes closed.

Teach the boys that prayer is simply talking to God in their own way.

Use simple language: “Dear God”—not, “Our most gracious Heavenly Father.”

Avoid memorized prayers.

## STORYTIME

Gather the boys in a semicircle for the story. If you cannot have them change seats (from the table to another part of the room) at least give them an opportunity to stand and stretch and touch their toes before beginning the story, or they will become restless.

*When you read to children:*

- Choose a story you have first read and enjoyed.
- Read the story aloud to someone.
- Show pictures or other simple visuals to illustrate significant parts of the story.
- Use a comment or question to suggest something for which children are to listen.
- Read the dialogue as you think the characters spoke it.
- Speak distinctly.
- Look up from the page frequently to keep eye contact with listeners.
- Add simple sound effects.
- Use hands, arms, and facial expressions to show action and reaction.
- When possible use simple visual aids to illustrate.
- Vary pitch of voice and speed of reading.
- Use a whisper, a pause, etc.
- Enjoy the story and enthusiastically share it with others.
- Discourage questions and comments from children during reading by explaining, “We will talk about the story later. You will have your turn then.”

*After the story:*

- Give the children a turn to speak.
- Plan specific questions to help the children understand the story and relate it constructively—in terms of a basic Biblical truth—to their experiences.

*Adapted*

## ACTIVITIES

Activities for boys will be found in the handwork packet. Sponsors will need their own packet.

Activities will range from dramatic play correlating with the story, to games, art, and project ideas.

Most projects will be for the boys to keep or take home to their parents.

Service project ideas may include:

- Making something for a sick friend.
- Making *simple* favors for children’s hospitals or rest homes. (Make sure that anything you take is *presentable and neat*.)
- Gifts for special occasions: Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Christmas, etc.

Use your imagination for other projects.

In most instances stories should not be told while boys do handwork. They are too young to concentrate on two things at once.

## HELPING

After your activity time, the boys should all share in restoring the room to good order.

Use a chart to rotate duties such as clearing the table, picking up papers, putting away crayons, and so on.

Compliment the boys on their work. Help them to want to take part.

Teach them that helping is a very important part of growing up.

## GOOD-BYE

Make this a warm, relaxed time so the boys will look forward to returning the next week.

While waiting for parents to arrive, you may engage in the following activities:

1. Help the boys think of the helpful things they can do this week.
2. Sing choruses.
3. Give the boys more time to “share and tell” experiences.
4. Review the story—having the boys take part in telling it.
5. Read a story.
6. Let the boys play a quiet game.
7. Ask the boys to act out the story you read that day.

Dismiss with a simple, brief prayer.

## SUPPLIES

Always keep a copy of the handwork packet with your manual. On a number of occasions you will use figures from the packet as patterns for the bulletin-board displays, storytelling, etc. To be well prepared, read the material in advance so you can gather up the items you will need for yourself and the boys to use during ACTIVITIES time.

Each boy should have his own box with his name on it to keep crayons, scissors, paste, etc., in. Encourage boys to take good care of these things.

Ask boys to bring Bibles to each meeting.

# LEADING A CHILD TO THE SAVIOUR

A child's readiness to believe in Christ as Saviour varies with age, background, understanding, and other individual differences.

Whether a child comes from a Christian home or not, he must first be *shown* the love of God if he is to feel God's love and respond to the Saviour. Patiently, lovingly, "precept upon precept; line upon line . . . here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:10), the child must be taught the concepts necessary for him to understand God's love for him.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will keep you sensitive to the child's needs; that the Spirit may bring the child to feel his need of the Saviour. Remember, the child's salvation is not of your doing. It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, who may do His work through you.

The little child may believe in Jesus and become a member of God's family, but he needs the way presented simply. Remember that children think in literal terms. A child may be confused by the suggestion that he ask Jesus to come into his heart, for he wonders how Jesus can come into his body. He may be further puzzled about giving his heart to Jesus. It is easier for most children to understand that they become members of God's family when they believe in the Lord Jesus as their Saviour.

Faithfully pray for the child with whom you speak about the Saviour. Keep close to him. Visit in his home.

Have a few key Bible verses in your heart and mind when you talk with a child about becoming a member of God's family. You may want to use your Bible to show the child where God tells us that—

- ° *God loves you.* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Repeat this verse with the child's name in place of "the world."
  - ° *You are a sinner.* "For all have sinned . . ." (Romans 3:23). Explain that sin is doing or thinking anything wrong, according to God's Word.
  - ° Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins. "Christ died for our sins . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:3).
  - ° When you believe that the Lord Jesus did this for you, God forgives your sins, and you become His child, a member of God's family. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God . . ." (John 1:12).
  - ° When you become God's child, He gives you the gift of eternal life that some day you will live in heaven with Him and with His Son, the Lord Jesus. "The gift of God is eternal life . . ." (Romans 6:23).
- It may be helpful to ask the child if he would like to thank the Lord Jesus for dying on the cross and taking the punishment for all his sins. Help him to pray aloud. The prayer may be a very short and simple expression from a sincere and trusting heart.
- ° When you sin—and members of God's family do—tell God. Ask Him to forgive you for Jesus' sake. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

*Adapted*

## VALUE OF A CHILD

### CHRIST WAS A CHILD

Christ could have entered our world as a mature adult, but He chose to pass through the years of childhood and adolescence and finally emerge into His comparatively short period of adult life.

Especially among the Jews, children are appreciated, loved, and nurtured with great care. The Jews never neglected any child. Josephus, the great Jewish historian, once stated, "Our principle care of all is to educate our children."

### CHRIST MAGNIFIED CHILD LIFE

*Jesus used a child as an example*, saying "Except ye . . . become as little children . . ." (Matthew 18:3).

*He made time in His busy schedule for children.* "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not" (Mark 10:14).

*He warned against despising them.* "Take heed that ye

despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:10).

*He promised a reward for kindness to them.* "And if, as my representatives, you give even a cup of cold water to a little child, you will surely be rewarded" (Matthew 10:42, *Living Bible*).

*He commanded reception of them.* "Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name is welcoming me" (Mark 9:37, *Living Bible*). In His last charge to Peter He commissioned him to "feed my lambs" (John 21:15).

"I have more confidence in the spiritual life of the children I have taken into my church than I have in the spiritual condition of the adults received. I will go further and say, I have usually found a clearer knowledge of the Gospel and a warmer love to Christ in the child convert than in the man convert."

—C. H. Spurgeon

## THEME—WE LIKE TO HELP

### PURPOSE

To arouse in the boys the desire to be helpful.  
 To teach the importance of unselfishly helping others.  
 To show the boys ways in which they can help others and Jesus.

### MEMORY VERSES

"We . . . are helpers" (2 Corinthians 1:24).  
 "Everyone helped his neighbor" (Isaiah 41:6).

### SONGS

"Jesus Wants Me for a Helper" (tune: "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam")  
 "All for Jesus" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

### BULLETIN BOARD

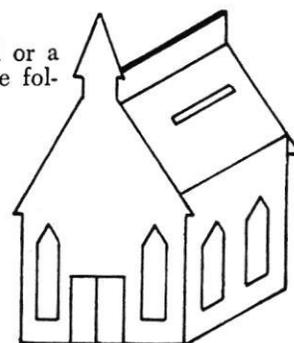
Cut out the lettering, WE LIKE TO HELP, and pin it to the bulletin board or a large piece of poster board. (See pages 73 and 74 for letter patterns.) Add the following words each week:

Our Friends

Those in Need

At Home

Jesus



It will be necessary to read this lettering with the boys each week, as many of them will not be able to read alone.

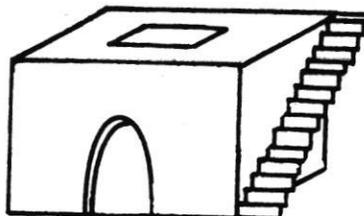
### FIRST MEETING

## WE LIKE TO HELP OUR FRIENDS

### FOR THE COMMANDER

This is the first week you will be using the theme of the month. Cut out the words WE LIKE TO HELP and attach to your bulletin board or a large piece of poster board. Then cut out the words OUR FRIENDS and place them below the main theme. Letter patterns will be found on page 73 and 74.

To help the boys better understand the story you will be telling today, draw features of a Palestinian house on an upside down cardboard box. Fold a cardboard strip to look like stairs and tape to the side of the house. (See sketch.) Cut a hole in the top of the house and cover it with another piece of cardboard.



Make a cloth-mat bed with strings attached to four corners. (Similar to mattress.)

Fashion five men from chenille stems (pipe cleaners) and use them to act out the story as it is told. (See sketch.)



You will want to make Little Beaver ahead of time to use in welcoming the boys to today's meeting. (See hand-work packet, page 1.) For a more realistic Little Beaver, cover with fabric, put a feather in hair, etc.

Boys will be making Little Beaver dolls this week. They should be left in the meeting room to use throughout the month and then taken home.

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, greet them warmly, wishing them a "Happy New Year." Draw their attention to Little Beaver, who is pinned to the bulletin board along with the words WE LIKE TO HELP OUR FRIENDS. Explain that Little Beaver will be a special guest during the next few meetings and that he will teach us many things.

## SHARING

The boys will be eager to tell of their experiences. Give each boy an opportunity to share, being careful to make each boy's experience seem equally important.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their motto and pledge.

## MUSIC

Let the boys sing several of their favorite songs. Teach them the following song, using the tune from "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam" (p. 83).

Jesus wants me for a helper  
To work for Him each day,  
Doing kind things for others,  
At home, at school, at play.

A helper, a helper,  
Jesus wants me for a helper.  
A helper, a helper,  
I'll be a helper for Him.

Begin teaching the song, "All for Jesus." Teach one new verse each week. Be sure that you know the song well before attempting to teach it to the boys. You may wish to use music taped on a portable recorder.

## MEMORY WORK

Repeat the memory verse, "We are helpers" (2 Corinthians 1:24). Explain that Jesus wants us to be helpers wherever we are needed. Say the verse together several times.

## PRAYER TIME

One way we can be helpers is by praying for others. Give the boys opportunity to express prayer requests and needs. Lead the boys in prayer for these needs.

## STORYTIME

### FRIENDS HELP A SICK MAN

Mark 2:1-12

In a town that Jesus visited there lived a man who was very sick. He could not walk. All day, every day, he had to lie on a mattress. (Show man on mattress.)

The man's friends were very sorry for him. They wanted to help him, but they could not make him well.

One day the friends heard that Jesus was coming to their town. They were very excited.

"We have heard that Jesus heals many sick people," they said. "We can take our friend to Jesus!"

"But how will I get there?" the sick man asked. "I cannot walk."

"We will carry you," the friends told him.

Then they picked up the mattress with their friend on it and began walking toward the house where Jesus was. (Fasten each corner of the mat to a chenille figure and walk toward Palestinian house.)

When the men arrived at the house, they found that it was so full of people they could not get inside.

"How will we get to Jesus?" asked the sick man.

"I have an idea," said one of his friends. "We can make a hole in the roof."

Tying rope on each corner of the mattress, they gently let their friend down into the house. (Do this.) How surprised all the people inside the house were when they looked up and saw the hole in the roof and the mattress coming down.

When Jesus saw the sick man, He said, "Get up. Pick up your mattress (bed) and go home. You are well."

The man suddenly felt his legs becoming strong. He stood up. He walked. He jumped. How happy he was!

The people in the house moved aside and let the man walk outside to join his friends. How happy they were. They were glad that Jesus had healed their friend. They were glad that they had helped their friend.

## ACTIVITIES

Give each boy the page from his handwork packet with the Little Beaver features on it. Instruct him to color Little Beaver and cut out the pieces. Help him connect the parts with brass fasteners. (For a neater Little Beaver, you may wish to cut out the parts ahead of time.)

If there is time tell the following story.

### LITTLE BEAVER HELPS A FRIEND

"Forty-eight, forty-nine, fifty! Ready or not! Here I come!" Little Beaver called.

He opened his eyes and looked about him for his friends. They were all hiding. Little Beaver left the tree that was "home base" and began looking for his friends. He looked behind the big bush. No one was there. He looked under the wagon. No one was there. He looked behind the rocks. There was Little Deer and Little Deer began racing toward the tree. If Little Deer reached the tree first and called "free" he would not be caught.

Suddenly Little Deer's foot caught on a rock. He stumbled and fell.

"Oh-h-h!" he cried. "My knee! It hurts!"

Little Beaver stopped running. He looked at Little Deer's knee. It was skinned and bleeding. The other children began coming out from their hiding places. They hurried to Little Beaver and Little Deer.

"What is the matter?" they asked.

"Little Deer fell and skinned his knee," Little Beaver answered. "I must help him back to his lodge. You go ahead and play without me."

Little Beaver put his arm around Little Deer's waist and helped him walk to his lodge. Little Deer's mother cleaned his knee and put medicine and a bandage on it.

Little Beaver stayed with Little Deer and played a quiet game with him. Soon Little Deer's mother brought them something to eat.

"Thank you, Little Beaver," she said. "You have helped Little Deer so much. You are a real friend."

## HELPING

Assign duties to the boys so that they all share in cleaning up the room and putting away supplies. Explain that this is one way of helping.

## GOOD-BYE

Before the boys leave, discuss ways they can help their friends such as helping to put away toys when playing at their house, sharing their toys, etc. Close with a prayer that God will help each boy to be helpful this week.

**JANUARY  
SECOND MEETING**

**WE LIKE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Be sure to put up the new word strip today, **THOSE IN NEED**. To illustrate the story use a donkey, an injured man, and the Good Samaritan from handwork packet, pp. 2, 3. Use figure of the Good Samaritan as a pattern to make two more men to illustrate the two in the story who passed by the injured man. Color clothing different colors to make a distinction.

**WELCOME**

Have Little Beaver welcome the boys as they arrive. He might ask them if they were helpers that week.

**SHARING**

During your sharing time encourage the boys to share ways in which they were helpers that week.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their motto and pledge.

**MUSIC**

After singing some favorites, sing again, "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper." Teach the second verse of "All for Jesus." Sing both verses and chorus.

**MEMORY WORK**

Repeat the memory verse together again. "We . . . are helpers" (2 Corinthians 1:24). Give the boys opportunity to say the verse individually from memory, but do not press anyone who is bashful or backward.

**PRAYER TIME**

Discuss things for which the boys should be thankful. Draw the boys' attention to the additional wording **THOSE IN NEED** on the bulletin board. Explain that we are going to pray now for those in need. Take prayer requests. Lead the boys in prayer.

**STORYTIME**

**THE GOOD SAMARITAN**

Luke 10:30-37

One day a man was walking along a road all alone. The road was rough and crooked. Suddenly some thieves ran out from behind the mountain. They beat the man and tore off his clothes. Then they took his money and ran away. The man was left lying on the road half dead. (Put figure of injured man on "road.")

The man lay there for a long time. Finally he heard footsteps coming down the road. Was it the thieves coming back? Maybe someone was coming to help him!

Soon around the corner came a traveler. (Walk traveler to and from scene.) He stopped and looked at the hurt man. Then he walked away on the other side of the road. After a long time, another man came down the road.

(Walk second man past scene.) When he saw the hurt man he stopped and looked at him. Then he too walked on past him on the other side of the road.

Again everything was quiet on the lonely road. At last there was the sound of donkey's feet coming up the road, clippity-clop, clippity-clop. (Bring third traveler on donkey's back to scene.) The donkey stopped and a kind man got off and looked at the hurt man. He felt sorry for the man. He knelt down and gave him a drink. Then he put medicine and bandages on him.

The kind man lifted the hurt man onto his donkey. Walking beside the donkey, he took the hurt man to a hotel. He put him in bed and took care of him. The next day the kind man went to the man who owned the hotel. He gave him money and told him to take care of the hurt man. "If you need more money, I'll pay it when I come back," he said.

The kind man had been a real friend and helper to someone in need.

**ACTIVITIES**

Give each of the boys the page from his handwork packet with a donkey drawn on it. Instruct them to color it gray. Then give the boys a picture of the injured man to color and place on donkey. Also give them the Good Samaritan to color.

After the boys do their handwork, tell them the following story.

**CHAD HELPS A STRANGER**

Chad was having fun! He and his friends were riding bicycles beside their houses. Sitting on the grass was a boy Chad had never seen before. He watched the children playing. His face was sad. Chad thought, "This must be our new neighbor. I will stop and talk to him."

"Hello," he said. "My name is Chad. What is your name?"

The boy smiled. "My name is Johnny."

"That is a nice name," said Chad. "Would you like to play with us?"

"Yes," said Johnny, "but I don't have a bicycle. The moving truck hasn't brought it yet."

"You may ride my bicycle," said Chad. "But first let me introduce you to my friends."

Chad watched Johnny playing with his new friends. Johnny was very happy now. Chad was glad that he had helped someone in need.

**HELPING**

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

**GOOD-BYE**

Before the boys leave, you may wish to have them reenact the story using their donkeys and figures of men. Discuss other ways we can help those in need, such as the elderly, the sick, and friendless people.

**JANUARY  
THIRD MEETING**

**WE LIKE TO HELP AT HOME**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Before the boys arrive you will want to have the word strip for this week in place, AT HOME. One of the activities for today is finger painting, so you will need to provide old shirts or aprons for the boys to protect their clothing. Also have paper and paint ready ahead of time. See the instructions under ACTIVITIES section for making finger paints.

**WELCOME**

Welcome the boys as they arrive, using Little Beaver to ask them questions about the past week.

**SHARING**

Encourage the boys to tell how they have helped those in need.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**MUSIC**

Sing several favorite choruses and "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper." Continue learning "All for Jesus" (third verse).

**MEMORY WORK**

Repeat the verse, "Everyone helped his neighbor" (Isaiah 41:6). Ask the boys to repeat the verse several times.

**PRAYER TIME**

After taking prayer requests, lead the boys in prayer. Thank God for His blessings and pray for the needs mentioned.

**STORYTIME**

**MIRIAM HELPS HER MOTHER  
Exodus 2:1-10**

Many years ago in a faraway land lived a man and a woman and their son, Aaron, and daughter, Miriam.

One day God sent a little baby brother to live with Miriam and Aaron. They were very happy. Mother and Father were very worried though. The wicked king in the country where they lived had made a new law. He said that every baby boy must be thrown into the river.

Aaron and Miriam's parents told them about the new law. They told the children that they would have to help hide their new brother. For many weeks the children helped hide the baby so the wicked king's soldiers would not find him. They played with him quietly so he would not cry very much.

One day Miriam's mother called her into the house. "Miriam," she said, "we cannot hide the baby any longer. He is getting bigger, and his cry is very loud now. The soldiers will soon hear him. We must ask God to help us think of a way to take care of our baby."

They thought and thought. Then God gave them an idea. Mother made a basket boat. Inside it she put the baby. Quietly Mother and Miriam took the basket boat with the baby to the river. Carefully they placed it in the water.

"Hide here beside the river," Mother told Miriam. "Watch the baby."

Miriam waited quietly watching the basket boat. Soon the king's daughter and her friends came to the river. The king's daughter saw the basket boat.

"Look at the basket boat," she called to her friends. "Bring it to me."

When the king's daughter looked inside the basket boat and saw the baby, she was very surprised.

"What a cute baby," she said. "I will keep him for my own. I will not let my father hurt him."

Miriam came out from where she was hiding.

"Do you want me to find someone to take care of the baby for you?" she asked the king's daughter.

"Yes," answered the king's daughter. "I would like that very much."

Miriam ran home to her mother as fast as she could.

"Mother! Mother!" she called. "Come to the river! The king's daughter wants you to take care of the baby for her."

Mother was very happy. She hurried to the river.

"Will you take this baby home with you and take care of him until he gets bigger?" the king's daughter asked her. "I will not let my father hurt him. We will call him Moses because I took him out of the water."

Mother and Miriam took Baby Moses home. They were very happy. They thanked God. Miriam was glad that she could help save her brother's life.

**ACTIVITIES**

Discuss ways the boys can be helpers at home. Suggestions: bring in the newspaper, empty the trash, put away their toys, clean their room, etc.

Let each boy hold his Little Beaver doll. He may raise the doll's hand (instead of his own) and have the doll give suggestions.

Give each boy an opportunity to be Little Beaver and act out something he can do at home to help, while the others attempt to guess what he is portraying.

Provide each boy with a large piece of paper and finger paints.\* (Be sure they are wearing old shirts or aprons to protect their clothing.) Ask them to create a scene showing how they will help at home. (When the papers are dry—probably the next week—the boys may take them home and present them to their mothers with the promise of helping in the way shown.)

**\* TO MAKE FINGER PAINTS**

Boil laundry starch. Let it cool. Pour into several jars and mix a little poster paint with the starch—a different color in each jar.

If you prefer, hand out page 4 of the handwork packet. Follow instructions for making snowflakes and snowmen.

**HELPING**

Assign various cleanup duties to the boys. Provide damp cloths or paper towels for cleaning the paint from their hands. (The table will be protected if newspapers are spread out before painting begins.)

**GOOD-BYE**

Sing together the first three verses of "All for Jesus." Close with a prayer of dedication to live for Jesus and help others.

## WE LIKE TO HELP JESUS

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Place last word strip, JESUS, on the bulletin board. After today's meeting remove all word strips having to do with the theme for January.

Prior to the meeting today, cut strips of construction paper  $\frac{1}{2}$  by 11 inches to use as handles for the baskets the boys will be making.

### WELCOME

This is the last week that Little Beaver will greet the boys. He might tell the boys that he will be going home with them today.

### SHARING

Encourage the boys to tell of ways they were helpful at home during the week.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### MUSIC

Learn the last verse of "All for Jesus." Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper" and other favorites.

### MEMORY WORK

Quote together: "Everyone helped his neighbor" (Isaiah 41:6). Give the individual boys a chance to say the verse alone if they desire.

### PRAYER TIME

Draw attention to the last caption on the bulletin board, JESUS. Explain that we must also help Jesus. Lead in prayer that Jesus will show the boys ways they can help Him each day.

### STORYTIME

#### A LITTLE BOY HELPS JESUS

John 6:1-15

Many, many people had followed Jesus into the desert to hear Him teach. All day they watched and listened as He healed the sick and taught about the kingdom of heaven. Evening came. Still the people stayed. They had not eaten all day. Jesus knew the people were hungry. He asked the disciples to get food for the people.

The disciples answered, "We cannot buy enough food for all these people. Why don't you send them home?"

Jesus did not want to send the people home. He asked if anyone had any bread.

A little boy came to Jesus' disciples. He had a lunch basket in his hand. In it were five little loaves of bread and two small fish.

"Please give my lunch to Jesus," said the boy.

Jesus took the boy's lunch. He told the people to sit down. Then Jesus blessed the bread and fish and broke them into pieces. He put the pieces in baskets and asked the disciples to pass the food to all the people. The disciples passed the food and passed the food and passed the food, until all the people had enough to eat.

When the people were finished eating, Jesus asked the disciples to collect the food that was left. The extra food filled 12 baskets full!

### ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 5 from handwork packet. Let each boy color, cut out, and construct his own basket, fish, and loaves. Staple handle to basket at each corner of basket.

### STEVEN HELPS JESUS

Riding to church on Sunday morning, Steven jingled

the money in his pocket happily. Counting the allowance he had saved and the money he had received for his birthday this week, he had almost \$5!

Whenever Steven went with his mother to town, he asked to walk by the toy store. In the store window was the neatest car he had ever seen. He wanted it so much.

When Steven and his parents arrived at church, Steven went to his Sunday school class. He liked Sunday school. He liked his teacher, Mrs. Glines, too. There were always so many wonderful things to learn. The lesson was about the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus.

After Sunday school, all the children went into "big church" with their parents instead of going to children's church. Pastor Hanley said that there was a missionary visiting today, and he wanted the children to hear him.

When the missionary stood up to speak, Steven was very excited. He was wearing a costume like the people in India wear. Steven listened carefully as he talked about the men and women and children in India who needed to learn about God. He was sad when he told of the children who had no father or mother—or even a home. He couldn't imagine people living on the streets and begging for food.

After the missionary had finished speaking, Pastor Hanley stood up. He said that the missionary needed money so that he could go back to India and tell the people about Jesus. Pastor Hanley asked all the people to bow their heads and ask God how much money they should give.

Steven bowed his head. Inside he had a strange feeling. It seemed as though God was speaking to his heart. Steven knew that God wanted him to give his money so that the children in India could hear about Jesus.

Steven thought about the car in the window of the toy store. He wanted it so much. Then he thought about the children in India. Many of them didn't have any toys—or homes, or even mothers or fathers.

Then Steven remembered the little boy who had given his lunch to Jesus so that everyone could have something to eat. Steven's heart beat faster. He could help Jesus too! He could help by giving his money to Jesus!

When the offering plate was passed, Steven placed his money in it. Even though he knew that he couldn't buy the car he was very happy.

When Steven arrived home after church, he helped his mother set the table for dinner. After dinner the doorbell rang.

"Who could that be," thought Steven.

"Surprise! Surprise!" boomed a big happy voice.

"Grandpa! Grandma!" shouted Steven. "What a wonderful surprise!"

"We came to wish you a happy birthday, Steven," said Grandmother. "Here is a gift for you."

Steven opened the package eagerly. When he saw what was in it, he couldn't believe his eyes. It was a car—just like the one in the toy store window!

"Oh! Thank you! Thank you!" he cried.

Then he whispered, "Thank You, Jesus. This is the happiest day in my life!"

### HELPING

Assign each boy a responsibility in straightening up the room.

### GOOD-BYE

Each boy may take his Little Beaver home this week. You may discuss ways in which the boys can help Jesus. Close with a prayer that all the boys will be helpers for Jesus. Sing "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper."

## THEME—HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

### PURPOSE

To train each boy to love and appreciate his home and family.

To inspire him to enjoy happy times with his family.

To teach him that there are different types of homes in different countries.

To teach him about his eternal home in heaven.

### MEMORY VERSES

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).

"Honor thy father and mother . . ." (Ephesians 6:2).

### SONGS

"Heaven Is a Happy Place" (*Salvation Songs*, Number 4)

"Happy, Happy Home" (See page 83)

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*Salvation Songs*, Number 1)

"The Happy Day Express" (*Salvation Songs*, Number 1)

### BULLETIN BOARD

Cover the bulletin board with white crepe paper. During the first meeting the boys may help by making red and white paper chains, which you may connect together to form one long chain around the bulletin board. For a 3-D effect, mount two large red hearts on paper springs. (Cut strips of paper 1 inch wide by the desired length. Glue ends together crisscrossed. Bring each strip up over in turn, forming a square *spring*.) Write the two memory verses on these hearts. (Use the pattern on page 6 of handwork packet.)

Form a house and family of mother, father, and children using chenille stems. Heads of family may be formed by cutting small styrofoam balls in half and making features with felt pen and sequins. Cut small scraps of material for dresses, shirts, and pants. Use your imagination in decorating the house or cut pictures of the house and family out of a magazine.



### FIRST MEETING

## HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

### FOR THE COMMANDER

February is an especially exciting month for boys. If you wish, prepare a valentine box and let them deposit their valentines for each other in it. Decorate the box with lace, ribbon, and so on to make it extra nice. Have it ready this first meeting of the month to show the boys.

Emphasize this month's theme at every opportunity and

impress upon boys how they can have a part in creating a happy home.

### WELCOME

Encourage the boys to look around at the change of decor in the room. Tell them that Valentine's Day will be here soon.

## SHARING

The boys may want to talk about the bulletin board scene. Introduce the theme **HAPPY, HAPPY HOME**. Encourage the boys to talk about their families.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

Teach the boys the song, "Happy, Happy Home." Sing other favorites. (See page 83 for words and music.)

## MEMORY WORK

Point to the heart on your bulletin board. Then open your Bible to Ephesians 6:1 and read the verse, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." Ask the boys to repeat the verse with you.

## PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for their parents, families, and homes. Ask God to help them to always obey their parents.

## STORYTIME

### THE FIRST FAMILY Genesis 3 and 4

Adam was the first man that God made. Adam lived all alone on the earth. He took care of the flowers and trees in the garden where he lived.

Adam liked to play with the animals. There were birds and lions and bears and sheep and many other animals. They were all friendly.

God liked to talk to Adam. Then He thought, "Adam is very lonely. I will give him someone to talk to and love. I will make Adam's wife."

One day while Adam was asleep, God made a woman named Eve. "Wake up, Adam," God said. "I have made someone for you to love and talk to. She will be your wife."

Adam and Eve were very happy living together in the beautiful garden of Eden.

One day Adam and Eve had to leave their beautiful garden home because they disobeyed God. After they had moved from the Garden, God sent them a baby boy. This helped to make them happy again. They named the boy Cain. They loved their baby boy very much.

Eve took care of Cain every day. She fed him and rocked him to sleep. She also kept their home clean and cooked meals for the family.

Adam worked hard too.

One day God sent Adam and Eve another baby boy. They named him Abel. Now there were four people in Adam's family. They were a happy family.

## ACTIVITIES

Provide red and white construction paper, doilies, lace, yarn, ribbons, felt, etc., and let the boys use their imaginations in making valentines for their families. (See handwork packet pages 6 and 7 for heart and cupid patterns.) You may make large envelopes by folding and gluing an 8½- by 11-inch piece of paper. Have each boy write the name of the person to whom he is giving the valentine on the outside of the envelope.

If there is time, some of the boys may make paper chains for the bulletin board scene border. (Cut strips of red and white construction paper ½ by 3 inches. Glue ends together to form links. Insert the next strip of paper through the link and glue. Continue this procedure until the chain is the desired length.)

## HELPING

Assign duties to the boys so they can all share in cleaning up the room and putting away supplies.

## GOOD-BYE

Close in prayer, especially thanking God for families and homes.

## FEBRUARY SECOND MEETING

# HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

## FOR THE COMMANDER

To add interest to this lesson, color and cut out pictures of children of different nationalities. (See handwork packet pages 8 and 9. You may find pictures in magazines also.) These may be pinned to the bulletin board or attached to light cardboard backing and arranged about the room.

## WELCOME

As the boys come in they will probably be interested in the children of the world. Explain where each child is from (remembering that 5- and 6-year-olds know little about geography).

## SHARING

The boys may want to tell about children or adults they know who are from another country. If any of your boys is from another country or has visited a foreign coun-

try, give him a chance to share this with the others.

## MUSIC

Sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Review "Happy, Happy Home." Begin learning "Heaven Is a Happy Place." Explain that Jesus is making a home for us in heaven.

## MEMORY WORK

Review the verse, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1). All the boys should know it. Explain that God made this rule for all the children of the world—including the children of other nationalities such as those shown in your meeting room.

## PRAYER TIME

Explain that all children of the world do not know Jesus as we do. Many have never heard of Him. Tell the boys

that this is why we send missionaries (especially a missionary they may know) so that all the children may learn about Jesus.

## STORYTIME

### A GIFT FROM GOD

1 Samuel 1:1-28

Many years ago, in a land far away, lived a woman named Hannah and her husband, Elkanah. Hannah and Elkanah loved each other very much, but one thing made them sad. They did not have any children. More than anything else they wanted a baby.

One day Elkanah and Hannah went to the temple. (Explain that this is another name for church.) They took their offering to give to God. Hannah's heart was very sad. She prayed, "Oh Lord, if you will give me a baby boy, I will give him back to you to serve you the rest of his life."

The minister saw Hannah praying. He noticed that her lips were moving but that there was no sound coming from her mouth. He wondered what was wrong.

Hannah told him, "I am very sad and I have been talking to God about my problem."

The minister told her, "Be happy, God will give you what you have asked for."

Hannah was not sad anymore. She knew that God had heard her prayer. Less than a year later, God gave her a baby boy. She named him Samuel, which means "asked of God."

When Samuel was old enough to help in the temple, Hannah packed his clothes and took him to the minister. She said, "One day I asked God to give me a child. He answered my prayer. Now I have brought my child, Samuel, to serve in the temple the rest of his life."

The minister knew that God was pleased with Hannah. He said, "I will take very good care of Samuel and teach him how to serve God."

Then Hannah and her husband returned to their home.

Every year Hannah and her husband went to the temple to take their offering. They were always so happy to see Samuel there. He was growing into a tall and good boy. They were happy to see how much he was helping in the temple.

Each year Hannah made a new coat for Samuel and took it to him. She loved her son very much. Even though she would have liked to have him at home with her, she was thankful that he was serving God in the temple.

Elkanah and Hannah were very happy. Samuel taught many people about God.

Because Hannah had given Samuel to God, He gave her three more sons and two daughters.

## ACTIVITIES

Give boys pages 8 and 9 from handwork packets. Have them color one figure and then cut it out before starting the next one. Precede this activity by the following information.

*Oriental girl*—Oriental children may be Chinese, Japanese, Korean, or other nationalities. Japanese children always take off their shoes and leave them beside the door before entering their house. Inside, the floors are covered with thick mats. The people sit on them and sleep on them. When they eat, they sit on their heels (squat) on the floor before their low table. The people eat with chopsticks (explain) instead of silverware. Mostly they eat rice, vegetables, and fish.

*African boy*—In many parts of Africa, families live in huts made of branches and mud. They sleep on mats on the floor and cook and eat outside. Many of the huts are

built close together and the families live in a village. Some Africans hunt and fish for their food. Sometimes they grow their food in the ground too. In the forests where it is very hot some of the forest tribes wear very few clothes. Some tribes paint themselves with clay and hang ornaments on their bodies to look pretty. In other parts of Africa, the people wear loose robes. There are also large cities in Africa where people live in houses and buy their food in the stores.

*American Indian girl*—In some parts of America today, Indians still live in tribes on reservations in hogans (houses) made of wood and mud. They farm or raise sheep to earn money. Others make jewelry or paint beautiful pictures to sell. Some of them work in mines and factories just like our fathers. Many Indian girls wear long dresses and go barefoot, but some of them dress just like you and I do.

This is a Navajo (Nav-ah-ho) Indian. Her people live in New Mexico and Arizona. Many Indians now live in houses just like we do and go to school and church.

*Dutch girl*—Most Dutch people live in the Netherlands, also called Holland. Their homes are almost like our homes. They keep them clean and neat. Many Dutch people wear clothing like ours, but in the country and villages some still wear wooden shoes because they keep their feet drier than leather. In some places the girls and ladies wear full skirts and lace caps. Every winter the children ice skate on the frozen canals.

*Eskimo boy*—Many Eskimos in Alaska live just as we do, but in the far North, where it is very cold, they live in wooden huts. On the floor are piles of skins and blankets on which to sit and sleep. There are no kitchens. The people cook over a lamp that burns fish oil and smells very bad. Still farther north, Eskimos live in igloos (houses) built of blocks of ice. Igloos are not very big, and many people must live inside them. Eskimos wear coats, trousers, and parkas (hooded jackets) which are made of animal skins. They eat fish and wild animals—sometimes raw. They like to eat the blubber or fat of whales because this helps to make their bodies warm. There are usually many children in Eskimo families. They are taught to obey their parents. They like to play, but are taught to never laugh or shout. Many of them never go to school.

*Mexican girl*—Mexican children attend school until they are at least 15 years old. At home the girls learn to sew and cook and take care of a family. Because it is so hot in Mexico everyone takes time in the middle of the day for a nap. They call it a *siesta*.

The rich people in Mexico live in nice houses, but the poor people live in adobe (mud) huts with dirt floors and few windows. Usually there are only two rooms in the house. The family often includes grandparents, parents, children, and other relatives. Many of the people are so poor they get little food. Mostly they eat beans and tortillas (tor-teé-yas)—flat corn cakes baked in an oven. The Mexican people may know about God, but many do not know that they can pray to Jesus and have their sins washed away.

Missionaries go to people around the world to tell them about God. As we grow up we must pray for the missionaries and give money so that these people can learn about God and His love.

## HELPING

Assign the boys duties cleaning up their crayons, etc.

## GOOD-BYE

"Jesus Loves the Little Children" may be sung again as the boys hold up the figures they have cut out and colored. The boys may take their *children of the world* home.

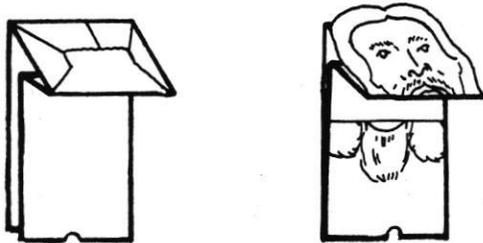
## HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

### FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need to make two paper-bag puppets before this meeting. See pattern on page 76. Color and cut out the man's face. Paste top half of face with dotted line on bottom of bag foldover. Match bottom half of face and paste to side of bag. Color in clothing on bag.

Color hair and clothing differently on second puppet to represent the prodigal son.

Put hand and arm up through bag. Put top of hand down through "bag bottom"—which is actually the top. Move hand to make puppet talk.



### WELCOME

As the boys arrive greet them with your paper-bag puppets. Explain that they will tell the story today.

### PENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

"What exciting thing happened to you this week?" you may begin. Guide the boys in being thankful for God's protection, for their families, etc., as they converse.

### MUSIC

Sing "Happy, Happy Home," "Heaven Is a Happy Place," and other favorites. Play the London Bridge game as you sing *Heaven is . . .*, making sure the boys are familiar with the song first.

### MEMORY WORK

Point to the heart on your bulletin board with the verse, "Honor thy father and mother" (Ephesians 6:2). Read this aloud from your Bible to the boys. Give them each a set of puzzle pieces which you have already cut up. (See handwork packet page 10.) Tell them to put the puzzle together on a blank piece of paper and glue the pieces to the paper. (If the pieces are taken home loose, they will probably be lost.) After the puzzles are put together, ask the boys to read the verse together. Explain the meaning of honor: to treat with respect and love.

### PRAYER TIME

Lead in a prayer of thanks for mothers and fathers. Pray that God will help the boys to honor their fathers and mothers always.

### STORYTIME

Using your paper-bag puppets, act out the following story.

#### THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-24

Many years ago in a faraway country a man had two sons. The man was very rich. One day his younger son came to him and said,

*Son:* "Father, give me my share of money that I am to have when you die."

*Father:* "Why don't you wait? You don't need the money yet."

*Son:* "I want the money now!" (Impatiently.)

So the father divided his money between his two sons and gave it to them. The younger son packed his things and went on a long trip. He began spending his money on things he didn't need. At first he had many friends. He spent lots of money on them. One day the young man looked into his bag to get some more money.

*Son:* "My money! It is all gone! I have spent it all! What will I do now?"

He went to see his friends to ask if they would help him. When he told them his money was all gone, they said, "We are not your friends anymore!"

The young man was very sad. He had no money and no friends. He had nowhere to stay and nothing to eat. To make things worse, there was a famine in the land. That means plants that are used for food stopped growing. The only food that was left was what people had saved in their barns.

The young man became hungry. He got a job taking care of a farmer's pigs. Even then he did not have enough to eat. Sometimes he wished he could eat the food he was feeding the pigs. How unhappy the young man was. Suddenly he thought,

*Son:* "My father has servants who have plenty to eat, and here I am starving. I will go back to my father and tell him how I have sinned. I will tell him I am not worthy to be his son, and I would like to be one of his servants."

Then the young man started home.

The father missed his son very much. He hoped that someday his son would return home. Every day he watched for him. One day the father saw his son coming down the road. How happy he was! The father ran to meet him and threw his arms around him.

*Father:* "Son, Son! How glad I am to see you."

*Son:* "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am not worthy to be your son anymore."

The father called his servants.

*Father:* "Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. Fix a big meal. We will eat and celebrate. The son I thought was dead is alive. He was lost, but now he is found."

They were very, very happy. The son knew that he would never go away again. He loved his father.

### ACTIVITIES

Let each boy make a scrapbook. Between two pieces of construction paper, staple several pieces of 8½- by 11-inch paper. Label the front cover, "Happy, Happy Family." You may also wish to print two memory verses on it.

Give the boys several old magazines and ask them to cut out pictures that they think show a happy, happy family. Glue onto construction-paper pages. The boys may take their scrapbooks home with them.

## HELPING

Have each boy help in cleaning up the activity supplies and scraps of paper.

## GOOD-BYE

Sing "Happy, Happy Family." Close with prayer.

## FEBRUARY FOURTH MEETING

### HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Today's story is about heaven. To add atmosphere to the story cover several small rocks with gold foil or spray with gold paint. Place them in an obvious place in your meeting room so boys will see them when they arrive.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they may handle the rocks. Then you may tell them that today you will study about the place God is preparing where the streets are paved with gold.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### SHARING

Emphasize that heaven is a happy place. Our Christian friends and loved ones who have died are already in heaven now. The boys may want to share names of people they know who are in heaven.

#### MUSIC

Sing "Heaven Is a Happy Place," "Happy, Happy Home," and other songs you may know about heaven, such as "We're Going to a Mansion" ("Happy Day Express").

#### MEMORY WORK

Review the two memory verses.

#### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer asking the Lord to help them to live so they will be ready to live in heaven when God calls them.

#### STORYTIME

##### WHEN JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN

John 20:26 to 21:25; Acts 1:1-12

The disciples were very excited. They had been very sad because Jesus was crucified on a cross a few days before. They had just heard though that Jesus had risen from the dead.

Suddenly, while they were talking, Jesus came and stood in the room. The disciples were so surprised they didn't know what to say or do.

"It is I," said Jesus. "Do not be afraid."

Then the disciples knew that it was Jesus.

"Don't you remember?" Jesus asked them. "I told you that I would die. I told you too that I would live again."

The disciples remembered that Jesus had told them these things. When He first told them He would die, then live again, they did not know what He meant. But now they understood.

"I must go away for a while," Jesus told them.

"Then we will go with You," the helpers said to Jesus. "No," Jesus answered them. "You cannot go with Me this time. I am going back to heaven. There I will get a home ready for you so you may come and be with Me in heaven . . . forever and ever!"

"Someday," Jesus told them, "I will come again from heaven. And I will take all those who love Me back to heaven with Me."

"When will You come to take us with You to heaven?" the disciples asked.

"Only God, my Heavenly Father, knows when I will come again," Jesus told the disciples.

The day came when the Lord Jesus was ready to leave the earth and go back to His heavenly home. "Walk with Me out in the country," Jesus said to His helpers.

As they walked along the road, Jesus told them about a very, very important job he wanted them to do.

"After I have gone away," Jesus told His disciples, "you must go all over the world. Tell people everywhere that I am the Saviour whom God sent. Tell them that God sent Me to show how very much He loves everyone. Tell them I too love everyone in all the world."

Then as Jesus talked with His helpers something wonderful happened. Jesus began to go up, up, up, from the earth. As the helpers watched a cloud covered Him. They saw Him no more.

For a few minutes the helpers stood there wondering. Jesus had gone back to heaven. But they remembered that Jesus had promised, I WILL COME AGAIN. They remembered too, that Jesus had given them very important work to do. They were to be His messengers, telling people everywhere of Jesus, the living Saviour.

So the disciples went back to the big city. They began their work of telling people about the Lord Jesus.

The Bible tells us many wonderful things about heaven:

Jesus is preparing a beautiful home for us in heaven.

No one will become old or die in heaven.

No one will be sad.

There will be no pain or crying.

It will always be daytime in heaven. There is no night there.

We will be able to see Jesus in heaven. We will sing praises to Him and the Father and worship them.

The streets and buildings in heaven are made of gold and jewels.

Heaven will be forever and ever.

#### ACTIVITIES

Give the boys crayons and paper and ask them to use their imagination to draw what they think heaven will look like.

#### HELPING

Each boy may put away his crayons.

#### GOOD-BYE

Sing "Heaven Is a Happy Place" again and close in prayer.

## THEME—GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATION

### PURPOSE

To teach the boys the wonder of God's creation.  
 To show them God's care and provision for all He has made.

### MEMORY VERSES

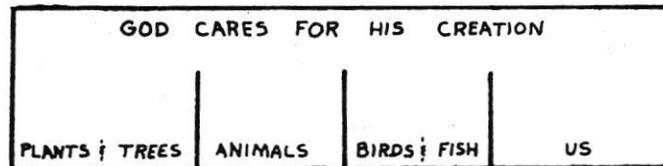
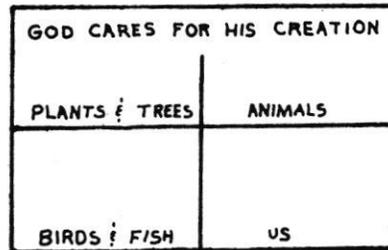
"God . . . created all things" (Ephesians 3:9).  
 "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

### SONGS

"The Wonder Song" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
 "The Birds Upon the Treetops" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
 "Surely He Will Care for You" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

### BULLETIN BOARD

This month's bulletin board will be added to each week as the unit progresses. (If you do not have a bulletin board, make a frieze by attaching a long wide piece of white shelf or butcher paper to the wall and decorating accordingly.) Begin the unit by printing the words GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATION across the top in large letters. Divide the bulletin board into four parts with long strips of yarn. (See sketch.)



**MARCH  
FIRST MEETING**

**GOD CARES FOR THE PLANTS AND TREES**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Decorate the first quarter of your bulletin board with such things as a budding branch, pictures of flowers, (or plastic ones), a sun, raindrops, seeds, etc. If possible, tape different types of seeds next to pictures of grown vegetables or flowers. (Can be taken from seed packets.)

Take several potted plants to your meeting this week. Color and cut out pages 11, 12, and 13 from handwork packet. Use when teaching "The Wonder Song."

**WELCOME**

The boys will enjoy looking at the plants and flowers as they arrive.

**SHARING**

Talk with the boys for a few moments about the warmer days you have been having lately. Explain that it will soon be springtime. Encourage their conversation as you ask if they have noticed the leaves coming out on the trees, flowers beginning to blossom, warmer days, and so on. Show the budding branches and explain that a few weeks ago the branches were bare. Let the boys examine the leaves beginning to form. Explain that God sends the sunshine and rain to make the leaves grow after the cold winter.

**OPENING**

Choose one of the boys to lead the others in their pledge, Scripture verse, and motto.

**MUSIC**

Begin learning "The Wonder Song." Sing the first verse through alone to teach the boys the tune. Ask them to sing with you as you hold up the picture cards one at a time and sing the nine verses. Then distribute the cards, asking each boy to hold up the picture relating to each verse as it is sung. Sing all nine verses again.

**MEMORY WORK**

Open your Bible to Ephesians 3:9 and read the new memory verse: "God . . . created all things." Explain the meaning of the word *create*—to bring into existence or make (from nothing).

**PRAYER TIME**

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for the things God has made for us: beautiful flowers, food growing, trees that give us shade, etc.

**STORYTIME**

**WHEN GOD SENT RAIN**

1 Kings 18

The people of Israel had a new king. His name was Ahab. Ahab was not a good king. He did not love God.

Ahab married a woman who worshiped idols. When she became queen, she asked Ahab to build an idol in the land of Israel. Ahab and his wife, Jezebel, prayed to the new idol. Soon the people of Israel began praying to the idol also.

When God saw this, He was very angry. He decided to punish King Ahab and the people of Israel.

For 3 years and 6 months God did not send any rain.

The brooks and streams became dry. There was no more water. The green grass all died. The flowers died. Leaves did not grow on the trees. When farmers planted seeds in the ground, they would not grow. There was hardly any food.

God felt sorry for the people. He decided to send rain again. Soon the sky became filled with clouds. The wind began to blow. People looked up and saw the big black clouds in the sky. How excited they were!

Then the rain began to fall. Drop! Drop! Drop! Faster and faster the rain fell. Water began running down the hills into the brooks and streams. There was plenty of water to drink again.

In the fields the seeds began to grow. Soon the grass was green and the flowers were blooming. Leaves began to grow on the trees. There was plenty of food for everyone again.

How happy the people were! They were thankful for the rain.

**ACTIVITIES**

The boys may color pages 11, 12, and 13 from the handwork packet. These figures are used to illustrate "The Wonder Song."

The day before your meeting soak some lima beans in a cup of water. At the meeting pour a little water in a plate. Place a piece of clean blotting paper on the plate and let it soak up the water. Curl the blotter inside a small glass jar. Place a lima bean between the blotter and the side of the jar. Fill the bottom of the jar with sand. Moisten the sand with water. Keep sand moist. The lima bean will begin to show some growth in a week. If you keep the sand moist you will be able to observe the growth of the bean throughout this unit.

Let the boys examine some seeds. Explain that God put a tiny baby plant inside every seed. In order to *wake up* and begin to grow, the seed must have water and warmth. To grow into a big plant it must have light and air. It receives food from the soil and the air.

Show a diagram of a tree (or draw one on the chalkboard). Briefly explain how God has made the tree.

Roots—The roots of a tree are like strong branches. Instead of reaching out into the air, they grow under the ground. The roots of some trees grow out as wide under the ground as the branches spread. They keep the tree from falling over in the wind. They also collect water and food from the ground to send up the trunk to the leaves.

Leaves—The leaves of the tree gather food from the sunlight and air and send it down through the tree.

Trunk—The trunk of the tree is a pipeline that sends water (sap) and food up the tree.

God makes plants grow the same way, with stems, leaves, and roots.

If there is time, the boys may draw pictures of trees and their roots.

**HELPING**

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

**GOOD-BYE**

Close with a prayer of thanks for the wonderful plants and trees God has made for us.

## MORE ACTIVITIES

**Grass.** Moisten a sponge and sprinkle with grass seed. Keep the sponge moist. In a few days the seeds will begin to sprout into grass.

**Water garden:** Cut most of the vegetable part off a carrot, beet, or turnip. Place the stub (top) in a shallow dish of pebbles and water. In a few days new shoots will appear if you keep it in the sunshine.



## A GAME

Have the boys crouch down, ducking heads down and grasping arms around knees and legs, as Commander says, "I am a seed sleeping in the ground waiting to wake up."

"Along comes the rain." (Commander makes "raining" gestures.)

"Down comes the warm sunshine." (Commander stretches arms out.)

Boys poke heads up and slowly begin growing. Commander says, "I am growing. Oh! I am out in the sunshine and warm air!" (Boys look around happily.)

"Now I am all grown up." (Boys stand up slowly to tip toes, extending arms for leaves.)

"Oh, look what I am . . . A TREE!"

## MARCH SECOND MEETING

## GOD CARES FOR THE ANIMALS

### FOR THE COMMANDER

If possible, bring a turtle, white mouse, hamster, or other small pet to the meeting today.

To the second quarter of your bulletin board, attach pictures of animals or small stuffed animals. Pictures of mother animals with their babies would be ideal. You may point out the names of grown animals and babies (cow-calf, chicken-chick, horse-pony).

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive they will be fascinated by the small animals or pictures. Let them browse around the room and look.

### SHARING

The boys will be anxious to tell about their own pets today. Lead them in the knowledge that God created all the animals, and He loves and cares for them.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### MUSIC

Continue learning "The Wonder Song," using the visuals. Begin learning "The Birds Upon the Treetops." Use figures on pages 14 and 15 from the handwork packet to teach this song. You may wish to back with flannel and place on flannelboard as objects are mentioned. Sing other favorites. Close with an action song.

### MEMORY WORK

Review last week's verse, asking if the boys remember the meaning of the word *create*. Read from your Bible Psalm 24:1. "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Explain that this means the earth and everything on it—the people, the trees and plants, the houses, everything belongs to God. Teach the boys the first half of the verse.

### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for the wonderful world He has given us—and for the animals and pets. The boys may have requests for some of their sick or injured pets. Express confidence that God cares for our pets and wants us to pray for them.

### STORYTIME

#### ABOUT ANIMALS

(If possible, take a book to the meeting with pictures of the following animals to show as you talk about each of them.)

Some animals take care of themselves as soon as they are born. Others have to be taken care of by their mothers.

When a **RACCOON** is born, it is a very helpless little baby. It cannot raise its head for many weeks. The mother raccoon must feed it and take very good care of it. She washes it with her tongue. When she needs to carry her baby, Mother Raccoon picks it up by some loose skin on the back of its neck made for that purpose. Other animals which are carried like this are **KITTENS**, **PUPPIES**, **BABY RABBITS**, **MONKEYS**, and **MICE**.

Baby **COWS** (**CALVES**) are too big to be carried by their mothers. God makes them so that they can stand up and walk the same day they are born. When they are only a few days old, they can run and jump and play. Baby calves still need some help from their mothers though. Mother Cow must feed her baby and watch over him. Other animals that can romp and play soon after they are born are baby **GIRAFFES**, **CAMELS**, and **DEER**.

Baby **TURTLES** never know their mothers. They are hatched from tiny eggs that their mother lays under the sand in the warm sunshine. After she has laid the eggs, Mother Turtle slowly walks away. The warm sand keeps the eggs warm. After many days the baby turtles are hatched. God has made turtles so they know what to do as soon as they are hatched. They know how to swim, what to eat, where to find water, and how to hide in their shells from danger. **WORMS**, **GRASSHOPPERS**, and many kinds of **FISH** can also take care of themselves as soon as they are born.

### ACTIVITIES

Give each of the boys a copy of the baby chick puzzler (handwork packet page 16) and let them help baby chick find its mother. Also give boys pages 14 and 15 to be colored. These are the same figures used to teach "The Birds Upon the Treetops."

If time permits, play this game.

### BARNYARD

Give each boy the name of a barnyard animal, duplicating the names so that at least two or three boys have the same animal name. Sit the boys in a circle of chairs,

with one boy standing in the center. As the boy in the center calls out the name of a barnyard animal, all boys by that name must get up from their seats and find another empty seat. The boy in the center tries to get one of the empty chairs. The boy left without a chair becomes "it." Occasionally "it" may call "barnyard" at which time all boys must get up and scramble for a new seat.

## **MORE ABOUT ANIMALS**

### **HOW GOD HELPS ANIMALS PROTECT THEMSELVES**

Because God loves the animals, He has given each of them a way of protecting itself from enemies.

#### **EYES—**

A RABBIT has eyes on the sides of its head. It can see an enemy sneaking up from behind without turning its head and quickly hop away.

A HIPPOPOTAMUS has eyes on top of its head. It can stay under water where nothing can see it, but keep its eyes above the water watching for danger.

#### **POISON—**

A TOAD has poison warts on its back and head. If an animal tries to bite it, the poison will make the animal cough and sneeze. Meanwhile, the toad hops away. Sometimes the poison makes the big animal very sick, so it will never bother toads again.

#### **SPEED—**

A GAZELLE is an animal something like a deer or antelope that lives in Africa. The gazelle can run very fast for a long time. Lions like to eat gazelles, but they have a hard time catching them.

The RABBIT cannot run faster than a dog, but it knows how to run in zigzags. It can also turn sharp corners. Then the dog cannot find it.

#### **TRICKS—**

Have you ever heard of *playing possum*? The OPOSSUM plays dead to save its life. When a dog catches it, the opossum falls over in a faint and looks dead. When the dog picks it up, its body is limp. The dog thinks it is already dead and leaves it alone. Then the opossum *wakes up* and walks away.

#### **HARD TO SEE**

Animals such as the DEER, QUAIL, SPARROW, and MOTH are colored just like the trees, ground, and

bushes where they live. It is hard for other animals to see them so they can hide easily.

Snakes like to eat the CHAMELEON (a small animal that looks something like a lizard), so God made them so they could change their color to protect themselves. Chameleons are brown when they are on a brown tree limb. When they sit on a green leaf, they turn green. It is very hard for snakes to find the chameleon.

#### **ARMOR—**

The ARMADILLO carries a coat of armor that he can roll into a ball. The animal trying to attack it cannot bite the "ball" or pick it up, so it finally leaves the armadillo and goes away.

The TURTLE carries a hard shell on its back. When danger comes, he pulls his head, feet, and tail inside and hides.

A PORCUPINE has stiff hairs called quills all over its back. If a dog or other animal tries to bite the porcupine, it will be painfully stuck by the quills.

#### **SMELL—**

The SKUNK cannot run fast, so when it is chased by a dog, it simply turns around, raises its tail, and squirts bad-smelling liquid into the dog's eyes and mouth. This makes the dog's eyes sting, and it runs away crying.

#### **CLAWS, HOOVES, NAILS—**

CATS, LIONS, TIGERS, and LEOPARDS have sharp claws to protect themselves.

The ZEBRA kicks forward and backward with its sharp hind hooves and bites with its teeth to protect itself.

The OSTRICH cannot fly, but it protects itself with the sharp nails on its feet. It can even hurt a large animal with its nails.

#### **HORNS and ANTLERS—**

When a DEER is attacked, it lowers its head and its antlers become a wall of sharp branches to protect it.

## **HELPING**

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

## **GOOD-BYE**

Express that just as God has made protection for the animals, He watches over and protects us. Thank God for that protection.

## **MARCH**

### **THIRD MEETING**

## **GOD CARES FOR THE BIRDS AND FISH**

### **FOR THE COMMANDER**

For your interest center today, take a fish in a fishbowl and/or bird in a birdcage.

On the third section of your bulletin board, place pictures of fish and birds. If possible, use a picture of a mother bird feeding her young.

### **WELCOME**

The boys will enjoy watching the fish and/or bird.

### **SHARING**

Your conversation will be based on the pets displayed

in your room today. Ask the boys if they have noticed birds around their yards at home lately. Tell them that the birds are building nests now. They can help the birds by placing pieces of string on the branches of the trees.

### **OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### **MUSIC**

Sing "The Wonder Song" and "The Birds Upon the Treetops" and learn "Surely He Will Care for You."

## OPENING

Ask, "Who would like to lead us in our pledge, motto, and Scripture verse today?"

## MUSIC

Tell the boys that at Easter time we remember that Jesus loves us. Sing "Jesus Loves Me," "Jesus Loves the Little Children," and "Surely He Will Care for You." In turn, we should praise Him. Also sing "The Birds Upon the Treetops."

Explain that before Jesus could arise from the dead He had to die. He died to pay for our sins. Read John 3:16 and sing "For God So Loved the World."

## MEMORY WORK

Review the memory verses the boys have learned this month.

## STORYTIME

### HE LIVES

Rachel and Benjamin stopped playing and listened as they heard shouting in the distance. What could be going on? It sounded like a huge crowd of people. What were they saying?

Running through the streets, Benjamin and Rachel followed the sound until they came to the governor's hall. People were everywhere, pushing and shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"

Looking up at the platform outside the hall, Rachel and Benjamin saw a man dressed in a white robe. He looked so kind. Where had they seen Him before?

Now they remembered! This was the man who taught about God. They had seen Him heal many people. One day when they were listening to Him teach on the hillside it had grown very late and they had become very hungry. Jesus took a little boy's lunch and made it big enough to feed everyone there—thousands of people! Rachel and Benjamin remembered how good it had tasted and how thankful they were.

The boy and girl slipped closer through the crowd to the place where Jesus stood. They wanted to see Him again. How they wished they could get close enough to say "thank you."

Now the Roman soldiers were taking Him away. Rachel and Benjamin watched sadly as they saw the soldiers begin hitting His bare back with a long sharp whip. They could hardly look as the blood began running down Jesus' back. Jesus did not cry or try to get away. How Benjamin and Rachel wished they could help Him. Soon the soldiers untied Jesus and took Him into the building.

After what seemed like a long, long time, the soldiers

brought Jesus out of the building again. A small cry slipped from Rachel's lips as she saw Him. On His head was a crown of long, sharp thorns that dug deep into his skin making the blood run down His face. His body was bruised and cut.

Oh no! What were the soldiers putting on His bleeding back? It was a cross—heavy and full of splinters!

Rachel and Benjamin followed the crowd through the city and out to a hill called "Calvary." Rachel cried as she watched the soldiers nail Jesus to the terrible cross. Benjamin tried to be brave, but he had to blink to keep back the tears.

Why were they doing this to Jesus? He was so kind and did so many wonderful things!

When the soldiers stood the cross up with Jesus hanging on it, Rachel and Benjamin could not stand to watch anymore. Slowly, with sad hearts, they walked home.

That night neither Benjamin nor Rachel slept very well—nor the next night either. The next morning, Sunday morning, Rachel and Benjamin woke up early. The sun was shining brightly. It was a beautiful day. Walking outside, they saw a man running toward them shouting, "He is alive! He is alive! Jesus is alive!"

Could it be true? How could such a thing happen? Rachel and Benjamin ran quickly to the tomb outside the city where Jesus' body had been placed. When they arrived, they saw that the big stone in front of the door had been rolled away. The tomb was empty! It was true! Jesus was alive!

Then Rachel and Benjamin remembered that Jesus had said one time that He was the Son of God. They had not understood Him then, but now they knew. Jesus was God's Son, and God had raised Him from the dead!

Lead the boys in discussion as you ask the following questions: "Why did Jesus die on the cross?" (To pay for our sins because He loved us.) "Did Jesus pay for everyone's sins?" (Yes, but we must accept Him as our Saviour and ask for our sins to be forgiven.)

Take time to ask if there is anyone who has never asked Jesus to forgive his sins. If so, pray with him. Lead the boys in prayer.

## ACTIVITIES

Have the boys work on the dot-to-dot puzzle. (Handwork packet page 18.) If there is time, you may want to color Easter eggs.

## HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning the room.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with conversation about Easter and God's love. Sing "The Wonder Song."

# THEME—CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

## PURPOSE

To familiarize the boys with stories of young Biblical characters.  
To teach them that God loves and watches over the children.  
To show them that children can help God too.

## MEMORY VERSES

“Suffer the little children to come unto me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God”  
(Mark 10:14).

“I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

## SONGS

“All for Jesus” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

“Jesus Loves Me” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

“Only a Boy Named David” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

“How Did Moses . . .” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

“Wear a Crown” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)

“Dare to Be a Daniel” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

## BULLETIN BOARD

This month use your bulletin board space to feature a contest (worm race) to encourage faithful attendance, giving, etc. The first week of the contest give each boy a head and the first section of a worm, printing his name on the first section as shown. Line the worms up against the *starting line* (a piece of yarn stretched from the top to the bottom of the bulletin board). A thumbtack may serve as the worm’s nose and it will hold the head in place. (See sketches.)

Cut several circles the same size as the head. Each week the boys will receive additional circles for:

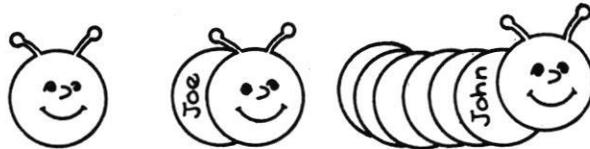
Attendance

Bringing a guest (one section per guest per week)

Memorizing the Bible verse

As the sections are added each week, move the head forward so that the worms *race* across the board. Keep the circles even vertically.

Inexpensive prizes should be awarded to the winners at the end of the month.



**APRIL  
FIRST MEETING**

**CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

If it is possible to have a missionary attend your meeting dressed in a native costume, this would add a lot of atmosphere. This person should speak for a few minutes about the children of the country he represents. Or you as the sponsor may wish to dress up in a costume from another country. While you may not have a costume on hand you might be able to borrow one or make one.

**WELCOME**

You may wish to have pictures of children placed around the room. As the boys arrive, they may observe the children.

**SHARING**

Ask the boys to raise their hands if they love God. (All will probably raise their hands.) Tell them that this month they will study about children who lived many, many years ago who loved God too. Explain that there are many ways we can show God we love Him. Ask for suggestions.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**MUSIC**

The boys will be familiar with the song "Jesus Loves Me." After singing it together, teach them the song "All for Jesus." Use motions. The boys may also like to sing "Jesus Loves the Little Children."

**MEMORY WORK**

Open your Bible to Mark 10:14 and read today's verse, "Suffer the little children to come unto me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God." Explain that the word *suffer* means *to permit*. Read the verse again changing it to, "Let the little children come unto me. . . ." Explain that this is what Jesus said when He was on earth. Repeat the verse together.

**PRAYER TIME**

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks that God cares for them. Pray for current needs.

**STORYTIME**

**JESUS AND THE CHILDREN**

**Mark 10:13-16 and Matthew 19:13-15**

Jesus was teaching the people, and many people had gathered around to hear Him. Some mothers were there. They had brought their children with them. The children loved Jesus. They liked to watch Him and listen to Him talk about God. He looked very kind, and His voice was very gentle. Hearing Him made them feel very good inside.

Some of the children wanted to get closer to Jesus. They wanted to touch Him and talk to Him. Their mothers wanted Jesus to touch them too. They wanted Jesus to put his hands on them and pray for them.

When the mothers brought their children to Jesus, He was very happy. He loved the little children.

Jesus' disciples saw the mothers and children. They were not pleased. They thought that the mothers and children were bothering Jesus. The disciples told the mothers, "You should not bother Jesus with your children. He has more important things to do."

Jesus heard what His disciples said. He was very sorry. He told His disciples, "Do not forbid the children to come to me, for of such is the kingdom of God. Whoever of you does not receive the kingdom of God just like a little child can never enter into it." Then He took the children in His arms.

The children and their mothers were very happy. They knew they would never forget this day.

**ACTIVITIES**

Pass out page 19 from the handwork packet. Let the boys color it and take it home.

**HELPING**

Ask the boys to put away their crayons and clear the table.

**GOOD-BYE**

Sing again together "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Close with prayer.



**APRIL  
SECOND MEETING**

**CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Prepare an interest center for today's meeting using one or more toy sheep and a child's slingshot. Many of the boys may have never seen a slingshot so this will be of special interest to them.

**WELCOME**

Welcome the boys as they arrive. Allow them to ask questions about the interest center.

**SHARING**

Open your discussion today by showing the slingshot and asking the boys if they know what it is. Explain that slingshots many years ago were made differently and we slung by swinging the arm round and round. Talk about how hard it would be to make the stone go where you wanted it to go.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

The boys are probably familiar with the song "Only a Boy Named David" and will enjoy singing it. Teach them the second verse of "How Did Moses Cross the Red Sea?" This is also a song that the boys will enjoy singing as they learn it.

## MEMORY WORK

Review the verse, "Suffer the little children. . . ." Be sure the boys know the meaning of the verse.

## PRAYER TIME

Tell the boys that David wrote many songs of praise to God while he was watching his sheep. Many of those are in the Bible today as psalms for us to read. Lead the boys in a song of praise before going to prayer.

## STORYTIME

### DAVID HELPS AN ARMY

#### 1 Samuel 17

David was sitting on the hillside watching his father's sheep. As he watched them, he sang songs of praise to God and played beautiful music on his harp. David spent many hours watching his father's sheep. Since three of his brothers had gone to war, David had to help his father.

One—two—three—four—five—David counted the sheep to make sure they were all there. He remembered when wild animals had come and carried away some of the little lambs. One time a lion had grabbed a lamb out of the flock and another time a bear had tried to get another lamb. David had seen them just in time and had rescued the lambs and killed the wild animals.

Suddenly David heard his name being called. "David! David!" It was his father. David ran quickly to see what he wanted.

"David, I want you to take this corn and these loaves of bread to your brothers and find out how they are getting along. Then come back and tell me."

Early the next morning, David set out on the trip. He was very happy that he would soon see his brothers. When David arrived at the soldiers' camp, he went quickly to find his brothers. As he talked to them, he noticed that something was wrong. All the soldiers were very afraid. Then he heard a loud voice calling from the enemies' camp, "Send someone out here to fight with me."

David ran quickly to see where the loud voice was coming from. Then he saw him—a giant—twice as big as the largest soldier in his brothers' army. Suddenly David said, "Why should this wicked man bother us? I will go out and kill him."

David's brothers were angry when they heard David say

that. "What are you doing here?" they said. "You are just a boy. You should be home watching our father's sheep."

One of the soldiers heard what David had said. He ran to tell the king. Then a messenger arrived to take David to the king.

King Saul looked at David. "You are just a boy," he said. "You cannot fight against a giant."

David told the king how God had helped him kill a bear and a lion when he was watching the sheep. He said, "The same God who helped me kill the bear and lion will help me kill the giant."

Then the king ordered his servants to bring his armor to put on David. The brass helmet was put on his head. The heavy metal coat was fastened around him. A sword was placed in his hand. But David could not move in this heavy armor.

David told the king that he could not wear the armor. Then he went out to meet the giant Goliath. At the brook he picked up five smooth stones and put them in his shepherd's bag. Then he took out his slingshot.

When the giant saw David, he was very angry. He roared, "Am I a dog that you come to fight me with a stick?" He said he would tear David to pieces.

Then David called out, "I come against you in the name of the Lord God of hosts. The Lord will help us win this battle."

The giant moved closer to David. David took a stone out of his bag and ran toward Goliath. He put the stone in his slingshot and threw it. The stone hit the giant on the forehead and he fell to the earth with a great crash.

When the Philistine enemies saw what had happened, they were very frightened. They left their tents and ran away as fast as they could. King Saul's army chased after them.

David's brothers and all the soldiers and all the people of Israel were very happy. They had won the battle! God had delivered them from their enemies.

## ACTIVITIES

Have the boys draw a picture of David watching the sheep. Give each boy a pipe cleaner. Tell him to bend it like a shepherd's crook and place it in David's hand. (Glue it onto the picture.) Give the boys the bottom part of page 25 from the handwork packet and some cotton or cotton balls and show them how to glue it onto the lamb for a woolly effect.

## HELPING

Assign each boy duties in cleaning up the supplies.

## GOOD-BYE

Sing again "Only a Boy Named David."

**APRIL  
THIRD MEETING**

**CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Since today's story is about Joash becoming king, it would add atmosphere to your room to put up some pictures of kings and queens of various countries of the world. Also include pictures of the president of the United States. Explain that a president is elected by the people while a king or queen inherits the position.

**WELCOME**

Today you may fix a *throne* by decorating a chair with crepe paper and foil. As the boys arrive, tell them that today someone will be a *king*.

**SHARING**

Ask the boys if they know what a king is. You may bring with you pictures of kings. Explain that in America we have a president instead of a king. Tell the boys that when a king dies, his son becomes king in his place.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**MUSIC**

Teach the boys, "Wear a Crown." Review the other songs they have learned.

**MEMORY WORK**

Tell the boys that, just as a king wears a crown, we will wear crowns when we get to heaven. Read from your Bible, Revelation 2:10. Repeat it with the boys.

**PRAYER TIME**

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks that He has promised that someday we will be in heaven and wear crowns. Pray for current needs.

**STORYTIME**

**THE YOUNG KING  
2 Kings 11:1 to 12:5**

Joash was only 7 years old when he became king of Judah. All his life Joash had had to hide so that he would not be killed.

Joash's grandmother, Athaliah, was a very wicked woman. When Joash's father the king had died, Athaliah ordered all of Joash's brothers and sisters to be killed. Only Joash had escaped.

Joash hid in the temple. Always there was someone to watch over him and protect him. The wicked queen Athaliah did not know that he was alive. Athaliah did not love God. She worshiped in an idol temple.

When Joash was 7 years old, his uncle decided it was time for him to become king so that his wicked grandmother would not rule anymore. Joash's uncle and some other men made a plan. They put guards all around the temple. Then they brought little Joash out onto the steps of the temple where all the people could see him. They anointed him king and placed the crown on his head. Everyone was very happy. They had not known that the little king was still alive. Everyone shouted, "God save the king!"

Queen Athaliah saw the crowds of people around the temple and heard the shouts. She rushed to the temple to see what was happening. When she saw King Joash, she was very angry. The guards carried her outside the city gate. There she was killed.

Joash's uncle helped him rule the people until he was grown up. He showed Joash how to be a good ruler.

Joash loved God very much. When he was grown up, he asked the people to bring money so that they could repair God's temple. God was very pleased.

**ACTIVITIES**

Help the boys make crowns following the instructions below.

After their crowns are made, let the boys wear them and play "musical chairs" to the music of "Wear a Crown." The boy who stays in the game the longest will have a crepe-paper *robe* placed on his shoulders and sit on the throne.

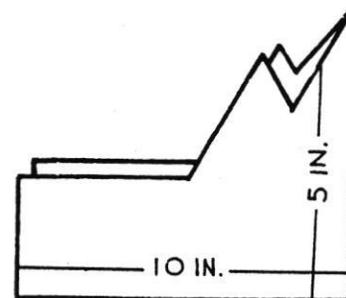
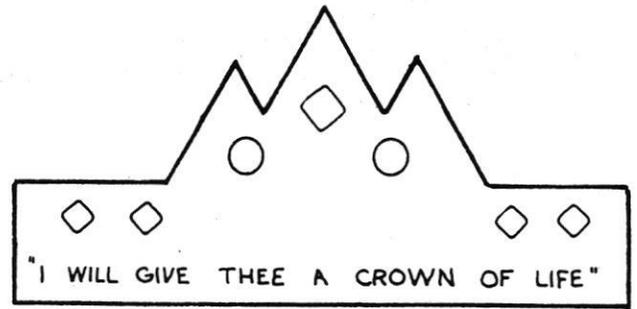
**TO MAKE A CROWN**

Let the boys cut out crowns you have traced on cardboard. (See sketch for design and sizes.)

Open the cardboard and paint or color it yellow. Across the bottom of crown print the words, "I will give thee a crown of life."

Glue some stars and jewels on the crown. Old jewelry may be used.

Paper clip the crown together in the back to fit the head.



**HELPING**

Ask each boy to help in cleaning up the supplies.

**GOOD-BYE**

The boys may want to wear their crowns again and sing "Wear a Crown." Close in prayer.

## CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Be prepared to present your contest winner(s) today with a special prize.

Since today's story is about a Latin American country and a missionary family who lives there, try to find items with a Latin American accent to decorate the room. This might include a large straw hat, serape, poncho, gourd rattles, guitar, etc.

### WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. Encourage them to browse around the room and ask questions about the decorations.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

Explain to the boys that the stories they have heard the past 3 weeks were of children who lived many, many years ago. Children *today* love God too. Ask the boys to suggest ways in which they can show God that they love Him. (Praying; obeying; going to Sunday school, church, and Straight Arrows; and so on.)

### MUSIC

Review the songs learned during this month. End with "Wear a Crown."

### MEMORY WORK

Show the boys a crown like the ones they made last week. Ask them if it reminds them of a verse in the Bible. Help them quote, "I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

### PRAYER TIME

In simple language lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for His wonderful promise and pray for current needs.

### STORYTIME

#### REAL MISSIONARIES (A true story)

More than anything else in the world Jadeane wanted to be a missionary. When she was very young she had given her heart to Jesus. Now she wanted to do everything she could to show Him how much she loved Him.

Jadeane had a sister a year younger named Lynette. She loved God too and always tried to obey Him.

The parents of Jadeane and Lynette were pastors of an Assemblies of God church. They were glad their daughters loved God. They hoped that as their baby daughter, Melody, grew older she would live for Jesus also.

Every week Jadeane and Lynette went to church with their parents. On Sunday mornings they went to Sunday school and church. On Sunday nights they went to church again. On Wednesday nights they went to Missionettes. Jadeane was a Junior Missionette and Lynette was a Prim.

Jadeane and Lynette liked to tell their friends about Jesus. They told them about Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. Many of their friends accepted Jesus as their Saviour and began going to Sunday school and Missionettes with them.

One day Rev. and Mrs. Peterson sat down beside Jadeane and Lynette. Their faces were very happy. They said, "We have some very special news to tell you."

Jadeane and Lynette could hardly wait to hear the news. They knew it must be something wonderful.

Rev. Peterson said, "God has called your mother and me to be missionaries to Argentina. Very soon we will begin getting ready to go. Argentina is many, many miles away in South America. We will take you and Melody with us, of course. Then we will all be missionaries, working together for God."

Jadeane and Lynette were very happy. Jadeane thought, "Now I will not have to wait until I am grown up to be a missionary. I can be a missionary right now!"

There were many things to do before the Petersons could leave for Argentina. First they had to begin raising the money they would need. There were lots of things they would have to buy, because they would be gone 4 whole years before coming back to America.

Jadeane and Lynette wondered how they could help their parents get the money. Then they thought of their bicycles. They liked their bright, shiny bicycles and rode them every day. The bicycles must be worth a lot of money. If they were to sell them they could use the money to help go to Argentina. Jadeane and Lynette talked to their mother and father about their bicycles. Then they parked the bicycles in the front yard and put big signs on them that read, "FOR SALE."

Soon someone came to look at the bicycles. More people came. It was not long before both bicycles were sold. How happy Jadeane and Lynette were! They gave the money to their parents to use for going to Argentina.

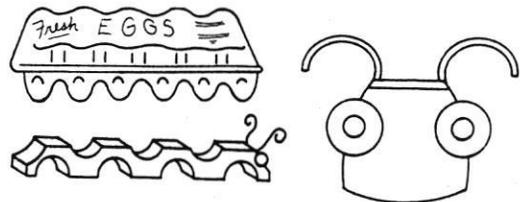
Jadeane and Lynette soon had to leave their friends and many of the things they loved. They traveled far away to a strange land where they did not know anyone. But they were very happy inside. More than anything, they wanted to be good missionaries for God because they loved Him.

### ACTIVITIES

Help the boys make the egg-carton worm following the instructions given.

Materials needed: one molded paper egg carton, scissors, green and orange poster paint, brush, two gummed reinforcements, one orange pipe cleaner.

Cut the bottom part of the egg carton in half lengthwise leaving four or six egg cups on a row. Turn the cups over so the open side is down. This gives the worm a humpy look. Insert the pipe cleaner through the top corners of the first cup to make the antennas. Starting with the antennas, paint an orange streak down the back of the worm. Paint the rest of it green. Paste the two reinforcements below the antennas for eyes. If you wish, paint the center of the eyes orange.



### HELPING

Assign each boy duties in cleaning up the supplies.

### GOOD-BYE

With an air of suspense, count up final contest points and award prize. Congratulate the winner and praise the other boys for their progress. Close with prayer.

## THEME—GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

### PURPOSE

To teach the boys how God's Word was given to us.  
To instill in them an appreciation for the Bible.

### MEMORY VERSES

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path" (Psalm 119:105).  
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God . . ." (2 Timothy 3:16).

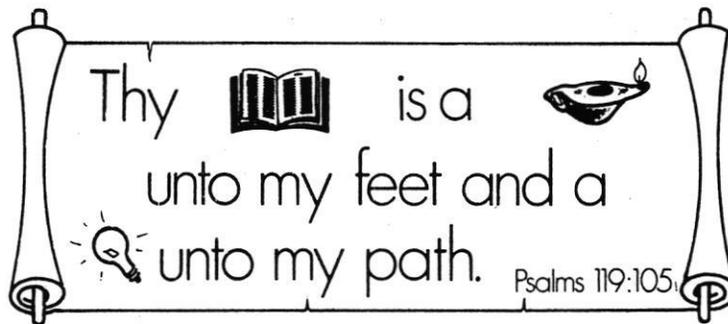
### SONGS

"The B-I-B-L-E" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
"Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
"Wonderful Words of Life" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
"I Believe the Bible" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

### BULLETIN BOARD

You will need a long piece of butcher paper or wide shelf paper (big enough to cover bulletin board when made into scroll) and two pieces of doweling slightly longer than the width of paper.

Attach the doweling to each end of paper with tape. Roll sticks together to center. Then unroll, leaving enough paper in center to print the wording and glue in place the picture shown. Tack to bulletin board.



## FIRST MEETING

# GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Because of the type of stories in the lessons this month, great care must be taken in telling them to create interest. *Do not read* the stories to the boys. Study them well and *tell them* to the boys using pictures, illustrations, motions, and vocal expression. There are many important things for the boys to learn in these lessons. Tell them in a way that will be most interesting.

Additional suggestions for Mother's Day projects will be found on page 79 of this manual.

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they will be interested in the bulletin board display and interest center.

### SHARING

Tell the boys that this Sunday (or next Sunday) is Mother's Day. Remind them that mothers love their families and do nice things for them. Mother's Day is a special time for families to tell their mothers they love them and to do special things for them. It is nice to plan surprises for Mother on this day. Ask for suggestions of things the boys can do. (Serve her breakfast in bed, give her gifts, help her with her work, give her a hug and a kiss, etc.)

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### MEMORY WORK

Point to the scroll on the bulletin board. Ask the boys to read it with you. Explain the meaning of the verse by asking what a lamp and a light do. (Give light to show the way so that we can see better.) Explain that God's Word teaches us how to live or how to walk each day. Read the verse together again. Ask the boys to read it separately.

### MUSIC

Sing "The B-I-B-L-E." Teach the song, "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart."

### PRAYER TIME

Lead in prayer, asking God to help us remember His laws and obey them each day. Thank Him for giving us His Word.

### STORYTIME

#### TABLETS OF STONE

Exodus 19; 20; 24; 32-34

The people of Israel were excited. This was a very important day. This was the day God was going to speak to them. Everyone was ready to listen. Their clothes had been washed. Everyone was very clean.

Suddenly thunder began to roar. Lightning began to flash across the sky. A dark cloud settled over the mountain nearby. Then the mountain began to shake. The people were very frightened.

Moses told the people to gather beside the mountain. He told them that God was going to talk to them.

"No! No!" they cried. "We do not want God to speak to us in the voice of thunder!" The people would not come near the mountain.

Moses was not afraid. He began climbing the mountain. Up, up, he climbed until he was inside the dark cloud. Someone else was inside the cloud. It was God. God talked to Moses. He told Moses many laws He wanted the people of Israel to obey. Moses wrote down the words that God had told him.

The next day Moses read the words to the people. One of the laws said, "Thou shalt not worship any other gods but Me." All the people said, "We will obey God and do everything He has told us."

Once again Moses climbed up the mountain. God wanted to talk to him again. God wanted to give Moses more laws for the people to learn and obey.

This time Moses did not come down from the mountain for a long time. He was talking with God and God was writing His laws on some tablets of stone. (Show picture of stone tablets on page 34.) One week went by. Then 2 weeks. Then 3 weeks. Then 4 weeks. Then 5 weeks. Still Moses did not come down.

The people became tired of waiting. They wondered if something had happened to Moses. Then they began to grumble and complain. They forgot the words that God had spoken to them. They forgot God's laws. They even forgot they had promised to obey God's laws.

Then the people did a terrible thing. They built an idol. It was made of gold and looked like a calf. The people bowed down to the idol and prayed to it. They sang and danced around it.

God saw the golden calf. He saw the people bowing before it and worshiping it. God was very angry! He told Moses what the people were doing.

Moses hurried down the mountainside. In his arms were the tablets of stone on which God had written His laws. When Moses came to the camp where the people were, he saw the golden calf. He saw the people dancing and singing around it. How angry Moses was! He threw down the tablets of stone that God had given him, and they broke into many pieces.

Then Moses ran to the idol the people had built. He tore it down, broke it to pieces, and threw it into the fire.

The next day Moses went back up the mountain. He told God He was very sorry for what the people had done. God told Moses to bring two more tablets of stone up the mountain. He said he would write on them the words that were on the stones Moses had broken.

Moses did what God told him. He stayed on the mountain for 40 days and nights while God talked to him.

When Moses came back down the mountain this time, the people were very glad to see him. They started to go and meet Moses, but when they saw him they were afraid.

Moses did not know why the people were frightened. Then the rulers told him, "Your face shines with a strange light like the sun. It is so bright we cannot look at you."

The light that was shining from Moses' face was God's glory, because Moses had been with God. Moses put a veil over his face. Then all the people came and listened as he told them God's laws.

Moses wrote down all the things God had told him. We still have those words to read today. They are written in our Bible. We call them the Ten Commandments.

### ACTIVITIES

Give the boys clay (see recipe) and have them shape the clay into tablets of stone. They may want to make markings on the stone to resemble God's laws. Let the stones dry. It will take a few days. (See page 33.)

## HELPING

Provide damp cloths or paper towels for the boys to clean their hands.

## GOOD-BYE

Ask the boys the following questions:

Q: What did God tell Moses while he was on the mountain?

A: His laws.

Q: Some of the laws were written on tablets of stone. Who wrote them there?

A: God.

Q: Why was God angry when the people built an idol and worshiped it?

A: Because God had told them not to worship any other gods but Him.

Q: How can we know God's laws today?

A: We can read them in the Bible, God's Word.

Sing "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." Close with a prayer of thanks for God's Word which has been given to us. Encourage the boys to bring their Bibles to the meetings with them.

## SALT CLAY

1 cup salt  
2 cups flour  
1 cup water  
(vegetable coloring)  
4-6 drops of oil of cloves or wintergreen

Mix salt, flour, and water to consistency of heavy dough. Add oil, mixing thoroughly. Add coloring. Store in airtight plastic bag or jar until ready to use.

## PLAY DOUGH

½ cup liquid starch  
2 tablespoons cooking oil  
1 tablespoon salt  
2 tablespoons soap flakes  
Add food coloring if desired  
1 cup flour  
¼ cup cornstarch

Combine and heat the liquid ingredients just enough to dissolve the soap flakes. Combine liquid and dry ingredients. Knead.

## MAY

### SECOND MEETING

## GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Straight Arrows probably do not realize that there are many translations of the Bible. Perhaps you can borrow some examples from friends to have on display for this meeting. Your pastor may be a good source of supply.

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, notice if they have brought their Bibles. Encourage those who have by looking at their Bibles with them, asking who gave them their Bible and if their name is in it, and complimenting them on their Bibles.

### SHARING

Today, emphasize the difference between stories and Bible stories. Fairy tales are *made up*. The things that happened are not really true. Stories are sometimes true. Bible stories are always true. They really happened many, many years ago. You may ask the boys to name their favorite Bible stories, fairy tales, etc., and categorize them for the boys.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### MUSIC

Sing "The B-I-B-L-E" and "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." Begin learning "I Believe the Bible."

### MEMORY WORK

Read the verse from the scroll together again. Turn to 2 Timothy 3:16 (help the boys find this in their Bibles) and read the first part of the verse. Explain the meaning of *inspiration* in the verse. God guided the writers of the Scripture and showed them what to write. Read 2

Peter 1:21 and explain its meaning as it corresponds with 2 Timothy 3:16. Ask the boys to repeat 2 Timothy 3:16 again.

### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer. Include a prayer of thanks for God's Word.

### STORYTIME

#### THE WORD OF GOD

Tonight when I came to church I carried in my hand 66 *books!* They were written by 40 different men during 1,600 *years!* Those books are in the room right now. Does anyone think he knows where?

Let the boys guess. Then show them your Bible. Open it so the boys can see it well, and thumb through it quickly, reading a few names of the books inside. Explain that the Bible has two parts: the Old Testament and the New Testament. Show the boys.

The books of the Old Testament were written before Jesus came to earth. They were written by Moses, King David, King Solomon, Daniel (make sure the boys remember these Biblical characters: Daniel in the lions' den, David who killed Goliath, etc.), and prophets like Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel. The Old Testament tells us many stories of what happened in the beginning of the world—how God created the world, about Noah and the great Flood, about Abraham and his son Isaac. It tells about the people of Israel, how they escaped from Egypt and wandered in the desert, about the wars they fought, how God helped them, how they began worshiping idols and were captured by enemies. Some books in the Old Testament were written by prophets telling the people to stop sinning and to worship God. The prophets also told the people that a Saviour, God's Son, was going to come to earth.

The New Testament was mostly written by some of Jesus' disciples (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, James, and Peter) and by the apostle Paul.

After Jesus went back to heaven, many people talked about the things He had done and taught while He was here.

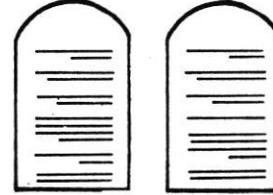
Mothers told the stories to their children, and their children grew up and told them to their children. Some people were afraid that the stories would be forgotten or that they would be changed. Finally Matthew, Mark, and Luke, three of Jesus' disciples wrote their Gospels. (Show Books of Matthew, Mark, and Luke in Bible.) Then John wrote his Gospel. (Show Book of St. John.) God helped them as they were writing. He helped them remember the things Jesus had done and said. He showed them the things that were important to write. These would be the things that people would read and remember about Jesus for many, many years.

The apostle Paul was an *evangelist*. This means he went to many towns preaching and telling the people about Jesus. Sometimes, when he was in one town, he needed to tell the Christians in another town more about Jesus. He couldn't go there himself so he wrote them letters. These letters became part of the Bible. The letters to the Christians in Corinth are called First and Second Corinthians (show in Bible); the letter to the Christians in Galatia is called Galatians, etc. God helped Paul when he wrote those letters and told Paul what to write. Those letters are

so important that they are part of God's Word and are for us today too.

## ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 20 from the handwork packet and have them work the number puzzle and color it, as well as the other picture on that page. (You may want them to glaze their tablets of stone this week or paint them gray with poster paint.)



## HELPING

Assign duties to the boys so they can all share in cleaning up the room and putting away the supplies.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with the song "I Believe the Bible" (as much as you have learned). Remind the boys to bring their Bibles again next week.

## MAY THIRD MEETING

# GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

## FOR THE COMMANDER

For this lesson, it would be good to have a scroll made from two pieces of short doweling and narrow shelf paper. Also bring several types of Bibles—New Testament, Bibles with leather bindings, Bibles with other bindings, etc., to show. If you are able, it would be nice to buy an inexpensive New Testament for each boy and give it to him today.

## WELCOME

As the boys arrive, compliment them for bringing their Bibles. Tell them that today you will show them what Bibles looked like many years ago (scrolls).

## SHARING

Today talk about how to properly care for a Bible—dos and don'ts. Encourage conversation on this subject. Emphasize the fact that we treat the Bible differently from other books because it is the Word of God.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

Continue learning "I Believe the Bible" and review other songs you have learned.

## MEMORY WORK

Review the two memory verses. You won't need to spend much time on this as today's activity will involve 2 Timothy 3:16.

## PRAYER TIME

Today pray for current needs.

## STORYTIME

### THE FIRST BIBLES

Many years ago, when the Scriptures were first written, people did not have paper and pens like we do today. There were no books. People wrote things on animal skins and a special kind of heavy paper made from a plant that grew in Egypt. Sometimes they carved things on tablets of stone or wood or clay. (Remind the boys of the stone tablets they made.)

Instead of books, people used scrolls. (Show your sample scroll. Demonstrate how they held the scrolls and rolled them to read them.)

The Bible was not all written at the same time. Moses was the first writer when he wrote God's laws during the days he was with God in the cloud on the mountain. God also told him all the things that had happened since the beginning of the earth, and he wrote these on scrolls. Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. (Show in Bible.)

Sixteen hundred years after Moses wrote His Bible scrolls, the last scroll was written. Forty different men wrote the Bible, but God told them all what to write. This is why we call the Bible God's Word.

The Bible was not written in the English language like we speak. The Old Testament was mostly written in the Hebrew language and the New Testament in the Greek language. For many years, these were the only languages the Scriptures were written in.

Today, when we want to read part of the Scriptures, we just open our Bible to the place we want and read it. (Demonstrate.) Many years ago the Bible was made up of many scrolls. Hardly anyone had all the scrolls it took to make up the whole Bible. If someone wanted a copy of a scroll of the Scriptures, it had to be copied on another scroll by hand. This took a long, long time.

Finally, books were invented and people stopped using scrolls. The books had to be copied one by one by hand. They called the book, "Holy Bible." There were not many Bible into our language. (Isn't it wonderful that the Bible

About 600 years ago, hundreds of years after the Scriptures had all been written, some people translated the Bible to our language. (Isn't it wonderful that the Bible is in our language now so that we can read it too!) After that, people translated the Bible into many languages. Now it is written in almost every language so people all over the world can read God's Word.

About 500 years ago the printing press was invented. Books didn't have to be written by hand anymore. The printing presses printed them very fast.

It is very easy to get a Bible now. Because of our modern printing presses, many Bibles do not cost much

money at all. This makes it possible for everyone to have his own Bible. How different it is from many years ago when the only Bibles were in the church and people could not read God's Word themselves. How thankful we should be for our Bibles!

(Optional: Give each boy a New Testament, explaining it is God's Word. It contains all of the Scripture that was written after Jesus came to earth. If this New Testament were written on scrolls, it would take many scrolls to hold all the words. Can you imagine carrying an armful of scrolls every time you came to church?)

## ACTIVITIES

Following the directions for your large bulletin-board scroll, help the boys construct miniature scrolls. On them they may print 2 Timothy 3:16. Tie the scrolls with ribbon. Then pour a few drops of candle wax onto the scroll to seal it. The scrolls may be opened to read the Scripture and then resealed.

## HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

## MAY FOURTH MEETING

### GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

If possible, have a Bible storybook on display so the boys who come early may thumb through it, looking at the colorful pictures. Be prepared to answer questions they may have.

#### WELCOME

Again, compliment the boys who have brought their Bibles with them today.

#### SHARING

Ask the boys to name places where they can carry their Bibles. (Church, school, on vacation, etc.) Emphasize the importance of reading God's Word and carrying it with us. (Most of the boys will not yet be able to read from the Bible, but they are not too young to learn the importance of knowing and carrying God's Word.)

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### MUSIC

Review all the songs learned during this unit. Learn "Wonderful Words of Life." If the boys are unfamiliar with the song, learn only the first verse and the chorus or just the chorus.

#### MEMORY WORK

Review the two Bible verses so the boys know them.

#### PRAYER TIME

Again thank God for His Word which He has given to us.

#### STORYTIME

##### WORDS OF LIFE

(In your own words, tell the boys the following.)

God wants us to love and read His Word. In it are many things that are very important for us to know. As we grow older, we should read our Bibles every day. We should also memorize important Scripture passages like the ones we have learned this month.

God's Word can keep us from sin. David wrote in Psalm 119:11: "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." If we read and remember God's Word, we will think of the things God has told us and they will help us.

Jerry was only 5 years old when he and his little brother, Tim, had to leave their mother and their home and go live with someone they didn't even know. At first Jerry was very frightened. Everything was so strange and different. He tried to be brave, so his little brother would not be afraid.

One of the first places Jerry and Tim went with their new family was to church. They had never been to church before. Jerry wondered what it would be like.

When Jerry and Tim arrived at church, they were taken to a Sunday school class. The children sat in little chairs around a table while their teacher told them about a wonderful baby named Jesus. Jerry had never heard that name before. Soon the teacher picked up a black book she called a Bible and read more about the baby. She said He was God's own Son.

After the story, the children sang a song: "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so. . . ."

All this was so new and wonderful to Jerry. He thought about the story and the song all that week. He could hardly wait for the next Sunday when he could learn more about Jesus.

Jerry went to Sunday school and church every week. He learned many stories about Jesus. Often the teacher read about Him from her black Bible. Jerry learned many songs about Jesus too. Then one Sunday he asked Jesus to come into his life and be his Saviour. His heart was now full of joy.

One day Jerry's Sunday school teacher gave him a present. It was a little black Bible. How excited Jerry was! At last he had his very own Bible! Jerry was so happy and proud as he carried his little Bible to church each Sunday.

Jerry's new mother loved Jerry and Tim very much, but the day came when she wasn't able to take care of them any longer. She hoped their real mother could take them to live with her again. She knew that Jerry and Tim loved their mother very much. How happy she was when she found that if she took the boys to a special place to stay with other children for a few days, they could go back and live with their mother again.

Jerry was sad when he learned that he must leave his new home. But he was happy that he would soon be with his mother again.

The lady told Jerry that he could take just a few clothes and one special thing of his choosing to the children's home where he would be staying the next few days. Later he would receive the rest of his clothes and toys.

Jerry looked around his room. He saw his new wagon he had received for Christmas. He saw his stuffed rabbit and his toy telephone. What should he take? Then Jerry saw his little black Bible. The Bible made him think of Jesus. Even though he must leave his home, he knew Jesus would never leave him. He remembered the words from his Bible, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5). This made him feel very good inside.

Jerry picked up his Bible. He held it very close. He said good-bye to his wagon and his stuffed rabbit and his toy telephone. He would take his Bible with him to the children's home.

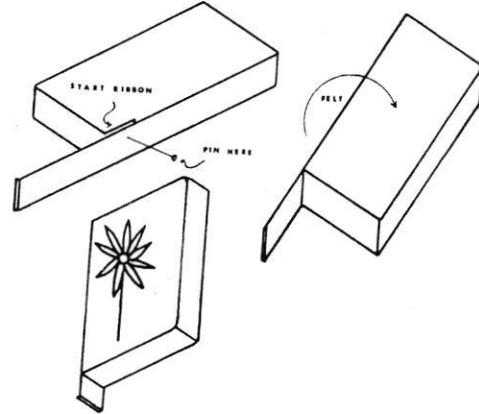
## ACTIVITIES

Make soap Bibles following these directions.

Materials needed—

- Black felt
- Red ribbon (width of soap)
- Bar of soap
- Small artificial flower

Cut ribbon into 14-inch strips. Wrap around four sides of soap and secure with pin, leaving 2 inches of ribbon extending as shown. (See sketch.)



Cut a piece of black felt 4 by 5 inches (with rounded corners to fit top of soap) and wrap around top and bottom and side of bar as shown. Fasten with pin.

Decorate top of soap Bible with small flower secured with pin.

## HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with the song, "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart."

# THEME—WE LEARN TO SHARE

## PURPOSE

To show the boys the Biblical teaching on sharing.  
To help them apply this practice in their own lives.

## MEMORY VERSES

“Give, and it shall be given unto you” (Luke 6:38).  
“Let us do good unto all men” (Galatians 6:10).  
“It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

## SONGS

“Giving Song” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
“Sermon in Shoes” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
“For God So Loved the World” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
“This Little Light of Mine” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
“Jesus Bids Us Shine” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)

## BULLETIN BOARD

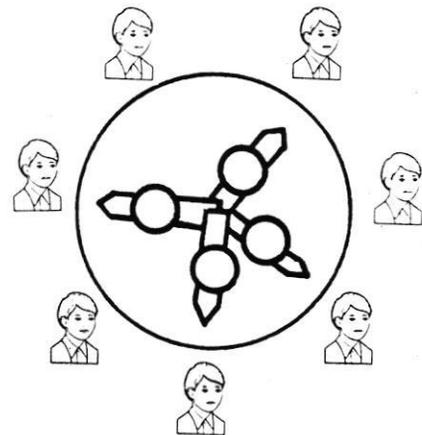
Follow these directions for making a *Sharing Time* for the bulletin board.

During the first meeting explain to the boys how the chart works and make assignments for the day. Change assignments each meeting time.

Cut out a large circle about 24 inches in diameter. Cut several colored pointers (strips of paper 2 inches by 8 inches with a point on one end) from construction paper. Paste pictures of jobs, such as passing the wastebasket and collecting crayons, on each pointer.

Fasten the pointers to the center of the circle like the hands of a clock, using a paper fastener. Cut out a head for each child in the class. (See illustration.) Write a child's name on each head.

Using Plasti-Tak hang the circle on the wall. Distribute the faces around the circle. Each day move the hands to give the children new jobs such as passing out crayons, paper, etc.; cleaning up the table, floor, etc. You may also want to include privileges such as choosing songs, leading the pledge, and so on.



## FIRST MEETING

# WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

### FOR THE COMMANDER

To add variety to this month's meetings, you will want to make up the Sam and Suzie puppets following directions on pages 77 and 78. Be sure to make frowning and smiling faces so they will be ready to use when needed in the stories.

### WELCOME

Greet each boy as he arrives, making sure to especially welcome visitors and acquaint them with the others. You might introduce the boys to this month's visitors, Sam and Suzie.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

After informal talk, announce that today you will be talking about *sharing*. Talk about sharing with friends. Ask the boys to tell the name of a friend with whom they shared a toy today. Talk about how they feel if someone does not share with them. Show them the sharing chart on the wall and explain how you will be using it this month. (You may want to continue using it even after the month is over.)

### MUSIC AND MEMORY WORK

Teach the boys verse 1 (only) of "Giving Song." Then open your Bible to Luke 6:38 and show the boys that the words are in the Bible: "Give, and it shall be given unto you." Jesus taught this to the people when He was on earth. Let the boys choose two or three favorite songs to sing. (Use sharing chart.) Tell the following story using puppets (Sam-frowning face; Suzie-smiling face).

Sam was playing with his friend Tom. They were racing little cars across the living room floor. Tom's mother was making cookies. Tom and Sam could smell them baking. They could hardly wait until the cookies were ready.

Just then Tom's mother walked into the living room. In her hand was a plate of cookies! "You may each have three cookies," she said.

"Oh boy!" cried Tom and Sam. "Thank you."

Sam had just finished eating his first cookie when the doorbell rang. Tom answered the door. It was Sam's twin sister, Suzie. (Bring out Suzie puppet.)

"Mother wants Sam to come home," she said. "She wants him to go to the store with us." (Bring out Sam puppet.)

Sam frowned. He didn't want to go home. Finally he answered, "A-l-l-r-i-g-h-t . . . I'm coming. 'Bye, Tom."

Then Sam thought about the two cookies in his hand. He knew Suzie would want one if she saw them. When Suzie wasn't looking, Sam slipped the cookies into his pocket. Later, when Sam was alone in his room, he took the cookies from his pocket and ate them.

Sam wondered why he didn't enjoy the cookies as much as the one he had eaten at Tom's house. Do you know why?

(After hearing comments from the boys, change Sam's path to a smile and retell the ending of the story.)

. . . The doorbell rang. Tom answered the door. It was Sam's twin sister, Suzie. "Mother wants Sam to come

home," she said. "She wants him to go to the store with us."

Sam called, "Will you wait a minute while I help Tom pick up the cars?"

Tom and Sam put the cars away quickly. Then Sam went to the kitchen and thanked Tom's mother for the cookies. On the way home, Sam shared a cookie with his sister. Suzie thought her cookie was delicious. Sam thought his was too.

### PRAYER TIME

Lead in a prayer that God will help us to share with our friends and family.

### OBJECT LESSON

Tell the boys that one way of sharing is working together with other people.

Place a large stone or other heavy object in the middle of the table. Give each boy a toothpick and ask the boys in turn, to try to lift the rock with the toothpick. (Test this ahead of time to make sure the rock is heavy enough so the toothpick will break rather than lift the rock.) Then distribute new toothpicks. Ask the boys to place them together under the rock and lift. (Again test this so you know the rock will lift with several toothpicks under it.) Explain that by working together we can often do things that cannot be done alone.

### STORYTIME

#### WORKING TOGETHER

##### Ezra and Nehemiah

Many, many years ago in lands across the sea cities often had big, high walls around them to keep enemies away. During the daytime the people could go in and out of the city through big gates. But at night the gates were closed. Guards watched the walls so that no enemies could sneak into the city.

Jerusalem was a large city with a big, strong wall built all around it. The people who lived in Jerusalem thought that no enemies would ever be able to get into their city.

One day an enemy army marched to Jerusalem. They broke down the big walls and ran into the city. They tore down the beautiful temple. Then they burned the city and took the people to a faraway country.

Many years went by. The people were very sad in the strange land. They wanted to go back to Jerusalem. At last they were set free. They could go back to their homes. How happy they were!

The people traveled many days. Finally they arrived in Jerusalem. When they saw their city they were very sad. It was not beautiful anymore. The temple was gone. Their homes were gone. The wall was falling down.

Then all the people started working. First they began building their temple. Then they built their homes. Finally they built a big wall back around the city. Everyone shared in the work. The ones who could not work gave money.

Some enemies who lived near Jerusalem did not want the people to build their city again. They tried to stop the workers. But the people kept on working. All day and all night guards watched over the city.

Finally the temple and the houses and the walls were all finished. The people were very happy. They were glad they had all shared in building their city.

## ACTIVITIES

Hand out page 21 from the handwork packet to each boy. Follow the directions given to make *sharing* paper dolls.

## HELPING

Use *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

## GOOD-BYE

Remind the boys as they leave to always share with their friends and family.

## JUNE

### SECOND MEETING

## WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH THE POOR

### FOR THE COMMANDER

On a table place things for which we should be thankful, such as food, clothing, books, and money. When the boys ask questions about the display impress upon them that above all else we should be thankful for Jesus' giving His life that we might be saved, and for the Bible, the Word of God.

### WELCOME

Welcome the boys warmly as they arrive. Tell them to check the *Sharing Chart* to see how they will help today.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

Open your conversation by stating that many, many people in the world never have enough to eat or warm clothes to wear. Many people in our own town or city are poor too. Talk about how we can help them.

### MUSIC

Review "Giving Song" and learn the second verse. Sing other favorites.

### MEMORY WORK

Give each boy an 8½- by 11-inch sheet of pink paper. Divide the boys into twos. Have them place both hands, palms downward, on the piece of paper while their partner outlines their hands. On the hand outlines have them copy the verse, "Let us do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10). If desired, hands may be cut and pasted onto a piece of 8½- by 11-inch paper. Explain that the word *men* stands for *people*. Read the verse together two or three times. Tell the following story using smiling faces.

Suzie and Sam were very excited! It was ice cream day at school. Yesterday they had taken home notes saying that ice cream would be sold after lunch the next day. Their mother had given them each a dime. Now with the money they had saved from their allowance they had enough to buy two double-decker ice cream cones. They could hardly wait!

Sam and Suzie thought the lunch bell would never ring. Finally, after reading and spelling and arithmetic were all finished, it rang. First Suzie and Sam ate their sandwiches and apples and cookies their mother had packed for them that morning. Then they hurried outside to buy ice cream.

When they arrived at the ice cream booth, the line

was already long. Suzie and Sam went to the end of the line and waited for their turn.

Suddenly Suzie whispered, "Look at Johnnie Brown and his sister Mary standing by the tree, Sam. They seem very sad. I wonder why they are not buying ice cream."

"They probably do not have any money," answered Sam. "I have heard that they are very poor. Their father was hurt in an accident last year and cannot work."

"Oh, how terrible!" Suzie cried. "Is that why they always wear old clothes? Sometimes Johnnie has only a piece of bread for lunch."

"May I help you?" Sam and Suzie looked up to see the ice cream man. They hadn't noticed they were already at the head of the line.

Sam looked at Suzie. Suzie looked at Sam. They were both thinking the same thing. "We'll take four *single* ice cream cones, please—two chocolate and two vanilla," Sam said.

Johnnie and Mary were surprised when Sam and Suzie walked up to them with four ice cream cones in their hands. "Which do you like best—chocolate or vanilla?" Sam asked.

Johnnie couldn't answer. He just blinked his eyes, and a little tear fell off his cheek.

As Sam and Suzie stood under the tree eating ice cream with Johnnie and Mary, Sam wondered who was happier, Johnnie or he. Sam felt so good inside. He thought of the verse he had learned in Sunday school: "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Suzie smiled as she watched Johnnie and Mary licking their ice cream cones. She was thinking. "Mary is just a little smaller than I am. I think the dresses I'm growing out of will fit her just right!"

Read Matthew 25:35-40. (You may condense into simpler wording if you wish.) Stress verse 40. When we do something to help someone and share with those in need, it is just as though we are doing it for Jesus.

### PRAYER TIME

Thank God for nice homes, warm clothing, and food. Ask Him to help us to help others in need. Pray for definite needs.

### STORYTIME

#### THE RICH YOUNG MAN

Matthew 19:16-22

One day a rich man came running to see Jesus. He knelt down before Jesus and asked, "Good Master, what shall I do to have eternal life?"

Jesus looked at the man and answered, "You must obey the commandments that Moses wrote."

"I have obeyed them ever since I was a little boy," the man cried. "But I am still not happy inside. What else can I do?"

Jesus liked the young man. He wanted to help him. "Go and sell everything you have and give the money to the poor," Jesus said. "Then you will have great riches in heaven. After that you can come back and be my disciple."

When the man heard Jesus' words he was very sad. He turned and walked slowly away. He did not want to sell everything he had and give to the poor. He loved his riches.

Jesus was sorry for the man, but He could not help him. The man loved his riches more than he loved God. (Sing "Giving Song" again or another appropriate song.)

### ACTIVITIES

Make a Father's Day gift. See page 80.

### HELPING

Use *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

### GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a song.

## JUNE THIRD MEETING

### WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH OUR ENEMIES

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Make up several extra sets of the Sam and Suzie puppets for the boys to play with before the meeting starts today. Tell them the puppets belong to you and they must be very careful not to tear them. They should always respect the property of others.

#### WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. You might encourage them to act out Sam and Suzie stories.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and edge.

#### SHARING

After 2 or 3 minutes of informal sharing, ask the boys if they have ever had an enemy. Explain that an enemy is someone who doesn't like us or who does bad things to us. (Be careful not to leave the conversation too open here, as it could turn into a time of complaining.) Ask the boys: "Do you know that Jesus tells us in His Word to love our enemies?" (Read Matthew 5:44,45.)

#### MUSIC

Emphasize the fact that as Christians—and as Straight Arrows—we must let our light shine for Jesus. Loving our enemies is one way of letting our light shine. Sing "This Little Light of Mine." If our light is shining for Jesus, our life will be like a sermon to everyone who sees us. We will be a "Sermon in Shoes." Teach the song, using visuals if possible.

#### MEMORY WORK

Review the verse, "Let us do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10). Explain that this includes our enemies too. Tell the following story using sad Sam and happy Suzie. (Use voice expression.)

It was recess time at school for Suzie and Sam.

"What's the matter, Sam?" asked Suzie. "You are crying."

"Oh-h-h, that terrible Danny!" sobbed Sam. "He wouldn't let me play in his game!"

"Why not?" asked Suzie. "I thought he was your friend."

"Not anymore!" cried Sam. "I'll never play with him again!"

"What happened?" Suzie asked.

"He was mean! He was just mean! He told me to go play somewhere else. He didn't want me!" (sob).

"I'm sorry, Sam," said Suzie. "You can play with me. Okay?"

"Okay," sobbed Sam. "But I hope something terrible happens to Danny. He deserves it!"

Sam and Suzie walked away together. Suddenly Suzie saw a pretty gold watch lying on the ground. "Look Sam! Someone lost his watch. We should give it to the teacher, don't you think?"

"Yes," answered Sam. "I'll put it in my pocket and give it to the teacher when we go back to our classroom."

Just then the bell rang. Recess was over. Sam went inside to his room. He was almost ready to take the watch to his teacher when he heard Danny talking to some friends.

"I lost my new gold watch," cried Danny. "Has anyone seen it? I must have lost it during recess. Mother said if I lost it I would be punished."

Sam looked at the watch in his pocket. He knew it was Danny's watch. He also knew that if Danny didn't find it he would be punished. "Serves him right," thought Sam. "He will never find his watch if I have it."

Then Sam went to his desk and sat down. All during class Sam thought about the watch in his pocket. At first he was glad that Danny was going to be punished. Then he remembered the verse he had learned in Sunday school, "Love your enemies . . . do good to them that hate you."

Sam knew that he wasn't obeying Jesus. He felt very sad inside. Finally he bowed his head and whispered, "I'm sorry, Jesus. Please help me to love Danny and do good to him."

(Change Sam's mouth to a smile.)

After school Sam called to Danny.

"What do you want?" asked Danny (rudely).

Sam took the watch from his pocket and gave it to Danny. "Suzie and I found this on the playground," he said. "Is it yours?"

Danny looked at the watch. Then he looked at Sam. He didn't know what to say. He was embarrassed because he had been mean to Sam.

Sam smiled at Danny. "I'm glad we found it," he said.

Danny smiled back. "Thank you," he answered. "You are a good friend." (Sing "Giving Song.")

#### PRAYER TIME

Ask God to help us to love our enemies and, if someone has done something wrong to us, help us to forgive them and do good to them.

## STORYTIME

### JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE

We learned in our first lesson that we are to share with our family and friends. Last week we learned that we should share with the poor. This week we are learning that we must even share with our enemies. (Read Proverbs 25:21.)

God doesn't ask us to do something He didn't do himself. After God had created the world, He created people. He wanted the people to love Him and serve Him. God was sad when many people did not love Him. He was sorry when he saw them sinning. He knew they would have to be punished. Then He sent His Son Jesus to earth. He let the people kill Jesus by nailing Him to a cross.

When Jesus died, He took the punishment for all of our sins. God loved the people of the world even when they didn't love Him back. He loved us so much He gave us His only Son to pay for our sins. (Sing "For God So Loved the World.")

### ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 22 from the handwork packet to color and take home.

### HELPING

Use the *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

### GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

## JUNE

### FOURTH MEETING

## WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH GOD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

This would be a good time to emphasize the meaning of the word *tithe* to the boys and show some examples. This could be done with dimes, pennies, apples, or oranges. Make a game out of learning by asking one boy at a time to come forward and take the tithe from the table where the items are displayed.

### WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive. Have them check the *Sharing Chart*.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

Open the conversation by asking the boys to tell how they have shared this week.

### MUSIC

Sing "Sermon in Shoes" and other favorites.

### MEMORY WORK

From your Bible, read the verse, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Explain the meaning of the verse and have the boys repeat it two or three times.

(Tell the following story using smiling faces.)

"Ninety-eight, ninety-nine, one hundred! Oh, boy!" cried Sam. "One dollar! There is enough to buy a model airplane and two candy bars and . . ."

"What about the part you owe God?" asked Suzie.

(Frown on Sam puppet) "Owe God? I worked hard for this money! I dug weeds all morning in Mrs. Jones' yard. This is *my* money!"

"But we should give God part of everything we earn," answered Suzie. "We owe it to Him."

"W-ell, how much do I owe Him then?" asked Sam.

"One-tenth of \$1 is—uh—let me see—10c. You owe God 10c."

"Why one-tenth?"

"That is what is called a *tithe*. Our tithe is one-tenth of what we earn. God said in the Bible to bring all our tithes into the storehouse. The church is our storehouse—or place where we take God's money."

(Reluctantly) "O.K. Here is 10c. I'll give it to God this Sunday. Now how much do I have left?"

"Just a minute, Sam," said Suzie. "I don't think God is very happy with your money."

"What do you mean? I gave Him enough to buy a candy bar. . . ."

"The Bible says, 'God loves a cheerful giver.' You are not being very cheerful about what you are giving to God."

"Does the Bible really say that? I am so ashamed. (Change face to smile.) After all God has done for me, I can at least share one-tenth of my money with Him. I think I will give Him more than 10c. I will give Him 20c! That is my offering because I love God."

### PRAYER TIME

Thank God for all He has given us. Lead the boys in a prayer of dedication of giving themselves to God.

### STORYTIME

#### SHE GAVE WHAT SHE HAD

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus was standing in the temple in Jerusalem watching the people bringing money to God. He saw many rich men bringing large offerings.

Then Jesus saw a poor little woman walk into the temple. She was a widow. Her husband had died, and there was no one to take care of her. She hardly had any food or money. The poor widow was bringing an offering to God too. Her offering was too small coins. The coins were worth less than a penny.

When Jesus saw what she had given, He was happy. He told his disciples, "This poor woman has given more than all the rich men together. They gave just a little of all the money they didn't need. She has given everything she has."

### ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 23 from the handwork packet to color and take home. Make sure they know what the words say and mean.

### HELPING

Use the *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

### GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and song.

# THEME—JESUS DOES MANY WONDERFUL THINGS

## PURPOSE

To teach that Jesus showed His love for others by helping them.  
 To help the boys appreciate the wonderful miracles Jesus performed while on earth.  
 To emphasize the fact that, as we pray, Jesus performs miracles just as wonderful today.

## MEMORY VERSES

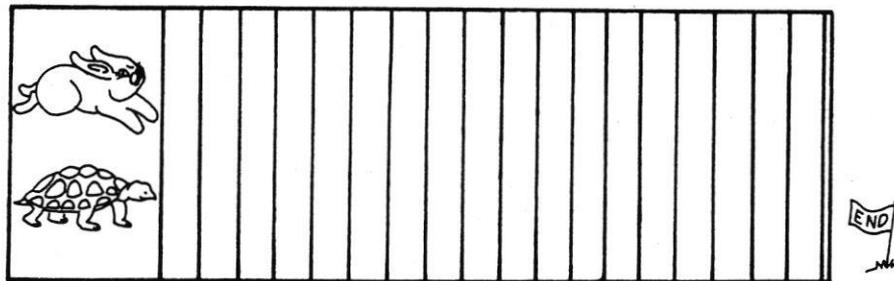
“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).  
 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).  
 “Lo, I am with you always . . .” (Matthew 28:20).

## SONGS

“Fishers of Men” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
 “Out on the Deep Blue Sea” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
 “Blind Eyes Jesus Made to See” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
 “I’m So Happy” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
 “All the Children Ought to Know” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

## BULLETIN BOARD

Your bulletin board will feature a contest this month between the Hare and the Tortoise. (See page 24 of handwork packet for patterns.) Tell the story of the Hare and the Tortoise (explaining that a hare is also called a rabbit and a tortoise is a turtle). Divide the boys into two teams—the *Tortoise* and the *Hare*. Explain that the winning team will receive a special prize (of your choosing).  
 (Suggested weekly: Team with perfect attendance—3 spaces  
 Each visitor brought—1 space)



## STORY

The hare was once bragging to the other animals about how fast he could run. “I have never been beaten,” he said, “I challenge anyone here to race with me!”  
 The Tortoise said quietly, “I accept your challenge. I will race with you.”  
 “Ha! ha! ha!” laughed the Hare. “That is a good joke! I could run circles around you all the way!”  
 “Don’t brag now,” said the Tortoise. “Wait until after I have beaten you. Let’s race.”  
 So the Tortoise and the Hare began racing.  
 The Hare darted almost out of sight at once. Soon he stopped, though, and lay down to have a nap.  
 The Tortoise walked on and on. When the Hare awoke from his nap, he saw the Tortoise way up ahead. He was almost to the finish line.  
 The Hare jumped up and ran as fast as he could, but he was too late.  
 The Tortoise walked over the finish line ahead of the Hare and won the race.

## JESUS GOES FISHING

### FOR THE COMMANDER

To add interest bring a bowl of goldfish to the meeting today. When you come to the part in the Bible story about catching fish with a net you could demonstrate this with a piece of nylon net and the fish in the bowl.

### WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. Explain the new contest and divide the boys into teams.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, pledge, and motto.

### SHARING

Open the conversation by asking how many of the boys have ever gone fishing. Ask how they caught fish—by fishing pole and line? Explain that many years ago people fished with large nets.

### MUSIC

Tell the boys that when Jesus called some of His helpers He found them casting a net into the sea. Jesus told them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Explain the meaning of this statement.

Teach the song "Fishers of Men."

### MEMORY WORK

Teach the verse, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Explain that these are the words of Jesus. Who gave Him this power? God, His Father. Even though Jesus was a man while He was on earth, He was still God's Son and He had power to do anything He wanted.

### PRAYER TIME

Thank God for sending Jesus to earth so He could do many wonderful things and die for our sins. Thank Him for the wonderful things He still does for us today when we ask Him. Pray for current needs.

### STORYTIME

#### JESUS GOES FISHING

Luke 5:1-11

When Jesus was on earth many years ago, people followed Him wherever He went. They wanted to hear Him preach. Many wanted Him to heal them.

One day Jesus left the city where He had been preaching and walked to the seashore. He saw Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John washing their fishing nets. They were fishermen.

Many people had seen Jesus leave the city and they followed Him. Soon there was a large crowd around Him. Jesus stepped into Peter's boat and moved just a little way from the shore. There He preached to the people gathered on the shore.

After He had finished preaching, Jesus told Simon, "Move out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch of fish."

Simon Peter and Andrew rowed their boat out into the deep water. They put down their nets. This time many fish swam into their nets. The nets were so heavy with fish that Peter and Andrew could not pull them out of the water. They called to their friends in the other boat, James and John, to help them.

The four men pulled on the nets as hard as they could. They had never seen so many fish at one time. Soon both boats were filled with fish—so full they almost sank.

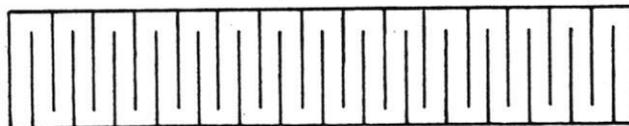
After that, Jesus' helpers left their boats and followed Jesus wherever He went.

### MUSIC

Teach the song "Out on the Deep Blue Sea."

### ACTIVITIES

Make fishing nets: Fold an 8½- by 11-inch sheet of paper in 1-inch accordion folds. Cut as shown below. Unfold carefully and stretch out to resemble a net. From gray construction paper, cut out fish and place in nets. Staple together four corners of nets. (Page 25 in the handwork packet.)



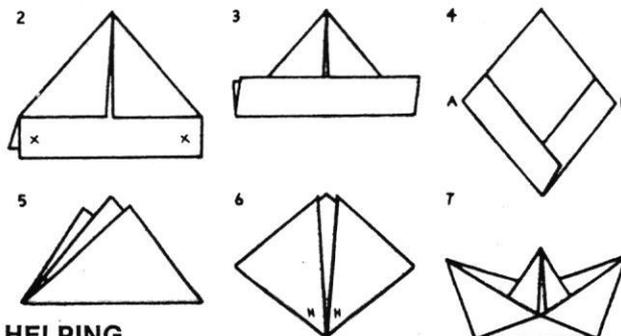
(Optional: Make a paper boat. You will need to practice this a few times. Then lead the boys carefully and slowly, helping them with each step.)

Use white typing paper, 8½ by 11 inches and follow the directions below.

1. Fold paper in half.
2. Fold corners down to center leaving X-----X extending.
3. Fold X---X up on opposite sides.
4. Slip thumbs into No. 3, spread and fold, tucking one flap under the other.
5. Fold on A-----B, bringing points up on opposite side.
6. Slip thumbs into peak inside, spread and fold as in 4.
7. Catch points H-----H between thumb and fingers and open into a boat.

Do "Fisherman Four" Finger Play (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4).

If time permits, pass out page 24 from the handwork packet and let the boys color and put together the hare and tortoise.



### HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

### GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

**JULY  
SECOND MEETING**

**JESUS HEALS BLIND EYES**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

For interest, place several items of beauty about the room: a flower, pictures of beautiful places, items of nature such as rocks and shells, brightly colored objects, etc.

**WELCOME**

As the boys arrive, let them examine the things you have placed in the room. Talk about the beautiful things they can see.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, pledge, and motto.

**SHARING**

Talk about the beautiful things God has made for us to see. Encourage the boys to think of other sights they have seen that were beautiful. Tell the boys that some people are blind and cannot see the beautiful things God has made. They do not know what other people look like. They cannot see all the things we enjoy. Have the boys close their eyes and imagine how it would be to be blind.

**MUSIC**

Teach "Blind Eyes Jesus Made to See." (Explain the meaning of "dumb lips.") Review other new songs and sing favorites.

**MEMORY WORK**

Tell the boys that Jesus can make blind eyes well so that they can see. Review Matthew 28:18. Explain that even though Jesus is in heaven now, as we pray to Him, He will do the same wonderful things He did while on earth. Learn Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

**PRAYER TIME**

Thank Jesus for the wonderful things He has done and pray for current needs.

**STORYTIME**

**JESUS HEALS BLIND EYES**

**Mark 10:46-52**

(Fill a paper bag with several miscellaneous items. Pass the bag around and ask the boys to reach in and feel the items, trying to guess what they feel. When they guess an item you might ask them, "What color is it?" (Of course they cannot tell you.) God gave us eyes so we can see and enjoy all these things. Our eyes tell us many things. (Open Bible.)

Our Bible tells us about a man who was born with eyes that could not see. He was blind. People called him Blind Bartimeus.

Every day Blind Bartimeus (place figure 1, page 26 from handwork packet, on bulletin or visual aid board) sat by the side of the road begging. People passing by gave him money so he could buy food and clothing.

One day when Blind Bartimeus was sitting by the roadside he heard many people passing by. He wondered why there was such a crowd. Someone told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Blind Bartimeus had heard of Jesus. He had heard how Jesus made sick people well and healed blind eyes. "Maybe," thought the blind man, "Jesus will heal me too."

Blind Bartimeus called very loudly, "Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me!"

The people standing near the blind man tried to make him be quiet. But Blind Bartimeus called even louder, "Jesus! Have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard Bartimeus call. (Place figure 2 on board.) He stopped and asked his helpers to bring the man to Him.

Bartimeus was so excited! He threw off his cloak and went to Jesus. (Place figure 3 on board.) Jesus asked Bartimeus, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, give me my sight," the blind man answered.

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Instantly Bartimeus could see—for the first time in his life! He saw houses. He saw the beautiful sky. How wonderful everything looked!

Bartimeus followed after Jesus, praising God. (Place figure 4.) All the people praised God too.

**MUSIC**

Sing "Blind Eyes Jesus Made to See" again.

**ACTIVITIES**

Have the boys draw a picture of something beautiful God has given us to see. Have each boy show and explain his picture. Pass out page 26 from handwork packet and color and cut out as many figures as time allows. Be sure the boys do Blind Bartimeus (figure 1).

**HELPING**

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

**GOOD-BYE**

Close with a prayer of thankfulness for our eyesight.

## JESUS RAISES HIS FRIEND FROM THE DEAD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Cut colored pictures from magazines and mount on construction paper. The pictures for today should show friends eating, playing, working, or talking together. Display in conspicuous places about the room. Using letter patterns on page 74 make the word FRIENDS and also display.

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them. Talk about the boys being friends.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, pledge, and motto.

### SHARING

Continue your discussion about friends. Emphasize that we are friends. The boys may mention some of their friends and playmates. Tell the boys that friends do kind things for one another. Jesus is our Friend. He loves us and does wonderful things for us.

### MUSIC

Learn "I'm So Happy." Review other songs.

### MEMORY WORK

Review Matthew 28:18 and Hebrews 13:8. You may have the boys repeat Hebrews 13:8 in "relay"—(Jesus Christ) (the same) (yesterday) (today) (and for ever) (Hebrews 13:8). Point to each boy consecutively to supply his word or phrase. Do this until the verse is said perfectly. Or, after the boys have repeated the verse together two or three times, ask the boys to repeat it in relay. Each boy missing his word or phrase must "drop out." Finalists must repeat the whole verse. The winner(s) should be given a small prize such as candy.

### PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for our friends. Thank Him for being our Friend too.

### STORYTIME

#### JESUS RAISES HIS FRIEND FROM THE DEAD

John 11:1-45

Many years ago in the little town of Bethany near Jerusalem, lived a man named Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved Lazarus and Mary and Martha very much. They were his very good friends. Many times He stopped to visit them when He was traveling to the temple in Jerusalem.

One day Lazarus became very sick. Mary and Martha were worried about their brother. They had seen Jesus heal many sick people. They knew He could heal Lazarus too. They sent a messenger to the place where Jesus was preaching asking Him to come quickly and help their brother. Then they sat beside his bed waiting for Jesus to come. But Jesus did not come. Finally Lazarus died.

Mary and Martha were very sad. They did not understand why Jesus had not come to heal Lazarus.

Soon their neighbors came and helped them wrap Lazarus' body in burial clothes and take him to a burial

cave. They rolled a big stone in front of the door. Then they went back home.

Still Mary and Martha wondered, "Where is Jesus? Why doesn't He come?"

Jesus knew that His friend Lazarus was sick, but He did not go to help him for 2 days. Then He said to His helpers, "Let us go back to Judea. Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I must awaken him."

The helpers answered, "If he is asleep he must be getting better."

Then Jesus said, "Lazarus is dead."

Four days after Lazarus had died, Jesus arrived at the town where Mary and Martha lived. When they heard Jesus was there, the two women ran to meet Him. Many of their friends followed them. "If you had only come sooner," they cried, "our brother would not have died."

Jesus saw how sad they were. He saw everyone crying. He was sad too.

Lazarus' friends saw that Jesus was sad. Some of them said, "Jesus must have loved Lazarus very much. If He can heal the blind why couldn't He heal His friend?"

Jesus asked the people to take Him to the place where Lazarus was. When they arrived at the burial cave, Jesus said, "Take away the stone from the door."

Martha cried, "No, Jesus! Lazarus has been dead 4 days! By this time his body is beginning to smell."

Jesus answered, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

When they had taken away the stone Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know You always hear Me. I am saying this so that the people who are here will believe that You have sent Me."

Then He cried loudly, "Lazarus, come out!"

The people looked at the door of the burial cave. How surprised they were when they saw Lazarus walk out! He was wrapped from head to foot with the burial clothes they had put on him. (Commander: You might demonstrate with a doll wrapped in white strips of cloth. Put regular clothing under the stripping.)

"Take off the burial clothes and let him go," Jesus commanded.

The people saw that Lazarus was alive and all well. Jesus had raised him from the dead! Everyone was very happy.

Lazarus went home with Mary and Martha. Their friends and neighbors said, "Now we believe! Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!"

### ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 27 from the handwork packet. Circle the pictures that show true friends.

### HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

### GOOD-BYE

Sing again "I'm So Happy."

## THE WIND AND THE WAVES OBEY JESUS

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Prepare a cork boat as shown in today's activity section. Prepare it in a pan of water and use it as an interest center.

### WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive and point out the boat on display. Tell them today's story is about Jesus and a boat.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, pledge, and motto.

### SHARING

You may ask the boys if they have ever ridden in a boat, letting them share their experiences.

### MUSIC

Review songs from this unit. Learn "All the Children Ought to Know." If the version "Everybody Ought to Know" is more familiar, you may use it.

### MEMORY WORK

Learn "Lo, I am with you alway" (Matthew 28:20). Explain that these are the words of Jesus and that they are for us today too. Elaborate on this if you wish. Review other Bible verses from this unit.

### PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for His love and protection for us. Pray for current needs.

### STORYTIME

#### THE WIND AND WAVES OBEY JESUS

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

(Show the toy boat in the pan of water. Talk about how calm the water is. Then show what would happen if a big wind blew. Let the boys create a "storm." A strong wind makes the water rough and almost makes the boat tip over.)

Jesus had been teaching the people all day beside the big lake (Sea of Galilee). It was evening and He was very tired. "Let us go over to the other side of the lake," Jesus said to His helpers.

Jesus and His helpers got into a boat. As His helpers rowed out onto the lake, Jesus lay down and went to sleep. Soon the wind began to blow. It grew stronger and stronger. (O-o-o-o.) The waves began to grow bigger and bigger. It was a bad storm.

Jesus' helpers pulled hard on the oars trying to get to the shore. (Explain what an oar is.) They were in the middle of the big lake. The boat began to rock back and forth and the waves splashed over the side filling the

boat with water. They became very afraid. They knew the boat would soon sink! Then they remembered Jesus asleep in the boat. The storm had not awakened Him.

"Jesus! Jesus!" they cried. "Wake up! Don't you care if we die in this storm?"

Jesus opened His eyes and looked at His frightened helpers. Then He stood up and said to the wind and waves, "Peace be still."

Suddenly the wind stopped blowing, and the water was still again.

Jesus looked at his helpers. "Why were you afraid?" He asked. "Don't you have any faith?"

The helpers looked at each other and said, "How wonderful Jesus is! Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

### ACTIVITIES

Make cork boats. You may want to place them in a large shallow pan of water and sail them.

Or use pattern given for paper sailboats in lesson 1 of this unit. (Handwork packet, page 28.)

#### CORK BOAT:

Materials—1 large cork, toothpick (plastic ones are best), one 2-inch square of white paper cut diagonally in two pieces, scissors, pen or pencil, pan of water.

A tape recording of the chorus of "Peace Be Still" would be very effective played softly in the background as the boys work.



### HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

### GOOD-BYE

Close with a chorus and prayer.

## THEME—GOD WANTS US TO OBEY

### PURPOSE

To teach the boys what the Bible says about obedience.  
To show them the reward of obedience and punishment of disobedience.  
To help them know more clearly whom they are to obey.

### MEMORY VERSES

“Obey them that have the rule over you” (Hebrew 13:17).  
“If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23).

### SONGS

“Trust and Obey” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
“I Don’t Want to Be a Jonah” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
“This Little Light of Mine” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
“Little Feet Be Careful” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

### ROOM DECORATIONS

August is vacation time. Create a vacation atmosphere in your room by mounting vacation-type scenes on colorful construction paper and arranging them around the room. (Choose pictures the boys will appreciate.) You may also place vacation-type articles around the room or on a special table (sand bucket, toy fishing pole, beach towel, toy boat, beach ball, etc.).



## FIRST MEETING

### GOD WANTS US TO OBEY OUR PARENTS

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Cut the letters O-B-E-Y from colored construction paper. Make them about 5 inches tall. They will be used during your MUSIC session today.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them walk about and look at your collection of vacation scenes.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### SHARING

Many of the boys have probably already taken their summer vacations. Others are planning to go somewhere. Ask the boys to share their vacation plans or experiences. (Since some boys are not able to take a vacation, try to

include them too. Ask them to tell about another vacation, a short trip, or their experiences around home.)

#### MUSIC

Hold up the letters O-B-E-Y. Have the boys call out the letters as you place them one by one on the bulletin board. Ask them to sound out the word and guess what it is. What does it mean? Tell them you are going to learn a song about obeying. Teach the chorus of “Trust and Obey.” Sing other favorites, including “Little Feet Be Careful.”

#### MEMORY WORK

Open your Bible and read Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents.” Since they learned this verse in the January unit, the boys will already be familiar with it. You may read the rest of the verse, “. . . in the Lord: for this is right.” *Today’s English Version* translates it: “Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do.”

*Discuss this situation.* When our mothers call us for dinner and we are busy playing, do we wait a few minutes and then come in? Is this obeying? When our parents ask us to do something we don't want to do, do we wait and hope they will forget? When we obey our parents, we are also obeying God, because He has told us in His Word, "Children, obey your parents."

## PRAYER TIME

Lead in a prayer of thanks for parents and ask God to help the boys to always obey their parents.

## STORYTIME

### ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD

Genesis 22:1-18

"Isaac, Isaac, wake up."

Isaac opened his sleepy eyes and looked up in the early morning light.

"Wake up, Son," his father, Abraham, said. "We must hurry and leave. We are going on a journey."

Isaac snuggled in his warm blankets. He did not want to get up yet. It was still so early. He knew he must obey his father. Quickly Isaac climbed out of bed and put on his clothes.

When Isaac went outside, his father was almost ready to go. Packed on their donkey were the things they would need on their journey and a small stack of wood. Isaac wondered where they were going and why they were taking the wood. But he did not ask any questions.

Soon Isaac and his father and two helpers started on their journey. They walked on and on through the desert. At night they stopped and slept under the stars.

After Abraham and Isaac had traveled for 3 days, Abraham stopped and looked up at the mountain ahead of them. "This is the place God has chosen," he said. "Isaac and I are going up on the mountain to offer a sacrifice and pray."

Abraham took the wood from the back of the donkey and gave it to Isaac to carry. Abraham carried a knife and some fire. Then they started up the mountain together.

Isaac looked at the wood he was carrying. He looked at the knife and fire.

"Father," he said, "did you say we are going to offer a sacrifice?"

"Yes, Son."

"I see the wood. I see the knife and the fire. But I do not see the lamb we are going to use for the sacrifice."

Abraham answered, "God will provide the lamb."

Abraham was very quiet as he and Isaac climbed up the mountain. His heart was very sad. He was thinking of the sacrifice he was going to offer. It was his only son Isaac. He loved Isaac very, very much. For many years Abraham and his wife Sarah had wanted a child. Finally, when they were very old, God had given them a baby boy, Isaac. How they loved him! They held him and played with him and watched him grow.

God looked down from heaven and saw Abraham and Sarah with Isaac. He knew they loved Isaac very much. God wondered, "Do they love Isaac more than they love me? I will see."

God called to Abraham, "Abraham!"

"Yes, God, here I am."

"I want you to take your son Isaac to a mountain that I will show you. There you are to offer him as a sacrifice."

Abraham was very sad when he heard God's words. Why would God ask him to sacrifice his only son—the son God had given him? Abraham knew, though, that he must obey. Now he was almost to the place God had chosen.

Sadly Abraham began gathering stones to build the altar. When it was finished, he placed the wood on top. Finally he spoke. "Isaac, my son, I love you very much. God has asked me to do something that is very hard for me to do. He has asked me to offer you as a sacrifice upon the altar."

Isaac looked at his father. He saw the tears in his eyes. Isaac knew his father loved him very much. He knew that his father must obey God. Isaac knew he must obey his father too. By obeying his father he would also be obeying God.

Slowly Abraham began tying Isaac's hands and feet. Sadly he placed him on the altar. Then he picked up the knife and held it above his son.

Suddenly Abraham heard someone call his name. It was the angel of the Lord! "Abraham! Do not kill your son. Now I know that you love God even more than you love Isaac. Untie his hands and feet and let him go."

How happy Abraham was! Quickly he untied his son. Just then Abraham saw a ram caught by his horns in the bushes. Abraham caught the ram and sacrificed it on the altar he had built.

Afterward the angel called to Abraham again, "Because you have obeyed God, He will bless you. Your children and grandchildren and their children will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand of the sea. Through them, all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed God."

Abraham and Isaac were very happy as they walked down the mountain. Isaac was glad his father had obeyed God. He was glad he had obeyed his father. He knew God would always take care of them.

## ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 29 from the handwork packet to color.

## HELPING

Each boy should put away his crayons and clean up any scraps of paper.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

## AUGUST SECOND MEETING

### GOD WANTS US TO OBEY THOSE WHO HAVE THE RULE OVER US

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

This is vacation time and a time when it is very important to obey laws whether they be for traffic, swim-

ming and boating, or rules set by parents. You may wish to relate to the boys a true incident of what happened when someone did not obey the law. Some of the boys may be able to cite similar examples.

## WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive, making sure to introduce visitors.

## SHARING

Again share vacation plans and experiences.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

The song to learn today is about a man who went on a trip and ended up somewhere he did not want to go. He started his trip in a boat going one direction and ended the trip inside a whale going the other direction! Ask the boys who it was. (Have the boys recount briefly the story of Jonah.) Stress that Jonah was swallowed by a whale because he did not obey God. Teach "I Don't Want to Be a Jonah." Sing "Trust and Obey."

## MEMORY WORK

Last week the boys learned that God wants them to obey their parents. This week they will learn of someone else He wants them to obey. Open your Bible and read Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you." Ask who that could be. It could be anyone who is responsible for them or who is taking care of them—the pastor, teachers, baby-sitters, other adults besides their parents. Give each boy a copy of pages 30 from the handwork packet. Lead them in reading the verse together two or three times. Teachers have the rule over them when they are in school. God wants the boys to obey.

## PRAYER TIME

Before they begin coloring, ask the boys to bow their heads in prayer as you thank God for their teachers, pastor, and those who help care for them. Pray that they will always obey them.

As the boys color, you may begin telling the following story.

## STORYTIME

### WHY BENNY CHANGED HIS MIND

"Benny, your father and I are going out tonight," Mrs. Brown told her son one evening. "I have asked Janice Jones our next-door neighbor, to come over and care for you while we are away."

Benny made a face. He didn't want his mother and father to go away. He didn't want someone else to come and care for him. Soon the doorbell rang.

"Benny, will you please answer the door!" called Mother. "It is probably Janice Jones."

Benny walked slowly to the door. He opened it and

looked up to the smiling face of his teenage neighbor, Janice.

"Hello, Benny!" said Janice. "May I come in? Your mother asked me to come over and care for you tonight."

"I guess so," mumbled Benny. He didn't smile at his neighbor or offer her a chair. Instead, he left Janice standing in the middle of the living room while he went to his bedroom and shut the door.

When Mrs. Brown walked into the living room, she was surprised to see Janice still standing. "Where is Benny?" she asked.

"Benny went to his room, Mrs. Brown. Is there anything you would like me to do right now? Shall I fix Benny's dinner?"

"No, Benny has already eaten his dinner. You may sit down and read if you would like. I must talk to Benny, then I will come back and show you around the house."

Benny heard his bedroom door open and looked up into his mother's serious face.

"Benny, why weren't you polite to your baby-sitter?"

"I don't like baby-sitters," pouted Benny.

"Father and I need to go out tonight, and you are too young to stay here by yourself," explained Mrs. Brown. "I will tell Janice what time you are to go to bed. You must obey her."

"Why do I have to obey Janice?" asked Benny. "She isn't my mother!"

Mrs. Brown sat down on the bed beside Benny. She opened Benny's little white Bible. "God's Word tells us to obey those who rule over us! While we are away, we have asked Janice to have the rule over you to take care of you."

Benny sat silently with his head down.

"Benny, do you think Jesus is pleased when you act this way?" Mrs. Brown asked.

"N-n-no."

"Do you want to talk to Him about it and ask Him to help you be nice to Janice and obey her?"

"Well, okay."

Mrs. Brown and Benny knelt together by the bed. When they were through praying, Benny said, "Thank you, Mother. I feel better inside now. I think I will go out and see if Janice needs someone to talk to . . . if that's all right."

## ACTIVITIES

Give the boys a clean sheet of paper and have them draw a picture of what they did or would like to do on their vacation. Give them page 30 from the handwork packet. Be sure to point out each word as the verse is read.

## HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

## AUGUST

### THIRD MEETING

## GOD WANTS US TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND

### FOR THE COMMANDER

If you wish to use the crosswalk game mentioned in the ACTIVITIES section for today, it will be necessary to make a stoplight ahead of time using the instructions in the same section. Make sure the light works correctly

before trying to use it with the game.

## WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they may wander about the room and talk quietly.

## SHARING

Tell the boys, "Today we are going to talk about laws. Do you know what laws are? Some of our laws were made many years ago. Others are being made now. It takes many, many books to hold all the laws that have been written."

"Laws are made to protect us from people who might hurt us or do harm to us. Can you name some laws?" (The boys might mention laws against killing, stealing, speeding, taking harmful drugs, etc.)

"Policemen protect us from people who break the laws. Policemen are our friends. They are always on the watch day and night to keep us safe. Some policemen watch to make sure that people do not drive too fast or that they stop for red lights. Other policemen keep the traffic moving along our streets. They blow their whistles and tell people when to stop or go. Others help people who have been in accidents. Policemen do many things to protect us." (The boys might want to tell about policemen they know or how a policeman helped them.)

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

Sing some songs about obeying, "Little Feet Be Careful" and "Trust and Obey." Those who obey the laws are letting their light shine for Jesus. Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

## MEMORY WORK

When Jesus was on earth, He taught the people to obey the laws of the land. He also said, "If a man love me, he will keep [obey] my words" (John 14:23). If we love Jesus, we will do the things He has taught us in the Bible. (Repeat the verse two or three times with the boys.)

## PRAYER TIME

Thank God for those who protect us and ask Him to help us to always obey the laws.

## STORYTIME

### THE RIGHT ANSWER Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus' enemies did not like the things He taught. They decided the only way to stop Jesus from teaching the people was to trick Him.

One day when Jesus was teaching the people some of His enemies came to Him and said, "Master, we know you always tell the truth. You teach God's way and don't care if the people like what you say or not."

The Pharisees really didn't believe this, but they were trying to flatter Jesus so that they could trick Him. Then they asked, "What do you think? Is it right or wrong to pay our tax money to Caesar?"

Jesus knew that the Jewish people hated to pay the tax money. If He said, "Yes, it is right," the people would be angry and not like Him anymore. Jesus knew that if He said it was wrong to pay taxes His enemies would report Him to the Roman government, and they would punish Him, because the law of the land said the people were to pay taxes. He knew the evil plan His enemies had in their hearts.

"Why do you tempt me?" Jesus asked. "Show me the money."

They brought Him a penny. Jesus looked at the coin. He asked, "Whose picture is on this penny? Whose name is on here?"

"It is Caesar's, the Roman ruler," the men answered. "Then give to Caesar the things that belong to him, and give to God the things that belong to God."

Jesus' enemies were surprised. They thought that they could trick Jesus, but they could not. The people knew that Jesus wanted them to obey the laws of the land.

## ACTIVITIES

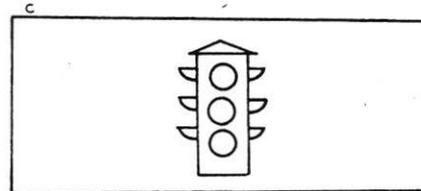
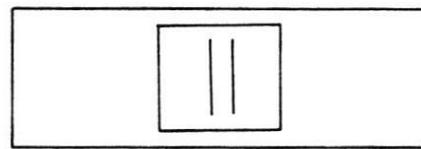
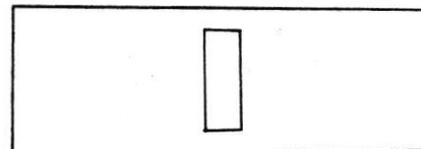
Give each boy a copy of page 31 from the handwork packet. Read the wording and let them color, making the stoplight red, green, and yellow.

Following instructions, make a stoplight. Quiz the boys on what to do for each color: STOP, WAIT, GO. Make a crosswalk (using string along the floor) and play a traffic game by changing the signals as the boys take turns walking across the crosswalk. (When the light turns yellow after they are already in the crosswalk, they should continue walking quickly to the other side.)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING STOPLIGHT

In the center of a sheet of large, heavy paper (approximately 12 by 20 inches) cut a hole 3 by 9 inches. (A) Make two slits  $9\frac{1}{4}$  inches long and 3 inches apart in an  $8\frac{1}{2}$ - by 11-inch sheet of paper. (B) Glue to back of large heavy paper so that slits line up with hole.

Color circles on enclosed paper red (top), yellow (middle), and green (bottom). Insert paper in slits so that colors show through hole. Cut out traffic signal and three circles. Glue onto front side of heavy paper, making sure that colored circles line up with holes on traffic signal. Move slip back and forth to create "red light," "yellow light," and "green light."



## HELPING

Make sure that every boy helps to restore order to the room before leaving.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

**AUGUST  
FOURTH MEETING**

**GOD WANTS US TO OBEY HIM**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

For the last lesson in this month have a picnic! If it is convenient you may do this outside somewhere near the church. Otherwise, put down a large picnic tablecloth on your floor and *make believe*. Have simple picnic-type foods: grapes, pickles, celery, carrot sticks, small sandwiches, punch, and cookies.

**WELCOME**

The boys will be excited about the picnic when they arrive. Ask them to be seated in their regular places while you call the roll, say your pledge, etc.

**SHARING**

Ask the boys to be seated around the tablecloth. Ask God's blessing on the food and begin serving in the way most convenient for you. Your time of sharing can be unstructured conversation today in a relaxed atmosphere while the boys eat.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**MUSIC**

Sing some favorite songs of the boys. You may also sing the songs you have learned this month.

**MEMORY WORK**

Ask the boys to quote (with your help, possibly) the verse they learned last week about what we will do if we love Jesus. ("Obey them that have the rule over you," Hebrews 13:17.) Ask who else they are to obey.

**PRAYER TIME**

Ask the boys for prayer requests.

**STORYTIME**

**THREE BRAVE MEN OBEY GOD**

**Daniel 3:1-30**

Many years ago in a land far away lived three men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They loved God very much.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young, they had been captured and taken to this land. God had helped them, though, and now they were rulers over many people.

The king of that land was named Nebuchadnezzar. He did not love God. He was a very proud man.

One day the king decided to make an idol. It was 90 feet tall—as tall as five or six houses stacked on top

of each other! It was covered with gold and stood where people could see it for many miles.

Then the king ordered all the rulers in his kingdom to come and worship the idol. He said, "When you hear the music, everyone must fall down and worship the idol."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the king's idol. They remembered that God had said, "Thou shalt not bow down to any graven image."

When the music sounded, all the people fell to their knees before the idol except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Some men saw them standing and hurried to tell King Nebuchadnezzar. The king was very angry. "Bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to me!" he shouted.

When they came before the king, he asked them, "Why didn't you bow down before my idol? I will give you one more chance. When the music sounds, you must bow down or I will have you thrown into the fiery furnace!"

Bravely the three men said, "O king, we will not bow down before your idol. We serve the one true God. He is so great that He can deliver us from your fiery furnace."

The king was very angry. He commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter. Then he told his soldiers to tie up the three men and throw them into the fire.

The soldiers tied Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with strong ropes and carried them to the furnace. The fire was so hot that the soldiers were killed by the flames as they threw the men into the furnace.

Nebuchadnezzar was watching. Suddenly his eyes grew wide with surprise. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were walking about in the fire. Their ropes were gone. The king looked closer. "Look!" he cried. "Didn't we throw three men into the fire? There are four men in the furnace now, and the fourth man looks like the Son of God!"

Nebuchadnezzar jumped up and ran to the furnace. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" he cried. "Come out at once!"

The three men walked out of the furnace. The fire had not burned them at all. Only the strong ropes that had been tied around them were burned off!

"Surely your God is the only true God," the king cried. "He has taken care of you because you trusted in Him. I will make a new command. Anyone who speaks evil about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be killed and his house destroyed!" Then the king made the three brave men greater rulers than ever before.

**HELPING**

Have the boys help you clean up the picnic supplies.

**GOOD-BYE**

Close with prayer.

## THEME—TALKING TO GOD

### PURPOSE

To teach the boys scriptural instruction on prayer.  
To give the boys confidence in the fact that God hears and answers our prayers.

### MEMORY VERSE

“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation” (Matthew 26:41).  
“Pray one for another” (James 5:16).  
“Ask, and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7).

### SONGS

“Always Take Time to Pray” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)  
“Whisper a Prayer” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
“Daniel Was a Man of Prayer” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
Optional—  
“Little Children Pray” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)  
“I’m Gonna Work” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

### CONTEST

The boys will have fun with the “Feed the Elephants” contest this month. It should help to increase attendance, punctuality, etc.

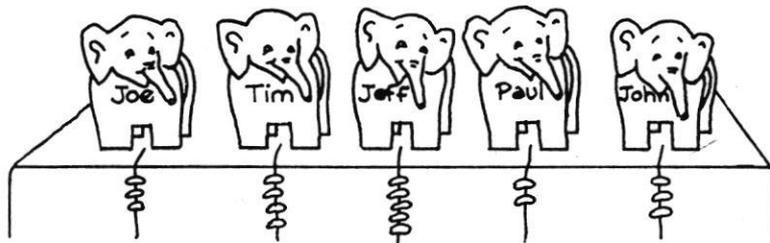
Materials needed:

large spool  
heavy gray paper  
gray paint  
glue

Instructions:

1. Paint a large empty spool gray.
2. Cut two leg patterns out of gray heavy paper. Cut out one head. (See page 32 in handwork packet for patterns.)
3. Glue the legs onto each end of the spool. Glue the head onto one end. (For a 3-D effect, place  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch thickness of art foam or cardboard between the head and front legs.) Cut out a circle as shown, cutting into it as shown by dotted lines.
4. Write each boy’s name on the front of his elephant. Line up the elephants on the edge of a table or paper-covered box.
5. Staple a string or piece of yarn in front of each elephant and let it hang down over the box or table edge.

Each week the boys’ elephants will get one peanut (in the shell) for each of the following: attendance, punctuality, bringing a visitor (one peanut for each one), learning the Bible verse, etc. Set your own requirements. Tie it to the string as shown. Give the peanuts to the boys at the end of the month. If you wish, award a small prize to the boy with the most peanuts.



**SEPTEMBER  
FIRST MEETING**

**TALKING TO GOD—ANYTIME, ANYWHERE**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

For today's lesson, you will need a toy telephone and an envelope. It would also be nice to have a picture of someone talking on the telephone. Also, you might have a toy mailbox or a picture of a mailbox.

**WELCOME**

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room and look at the decorations and play carefully with the toy telephone.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge. If you have made the contest elephants yourself, now is a good time to introduce the contest and feed the elephants their first "meal." (You may want the boys to help make the elephants during your ACTIVITIES time.)

**SHARING**

The boys will be anxious to talk about school which will be starting soon. Many of them will be entering for the first time and will be filled with excitement and also anxieties. Let them talk openly for a few minutes as you guide their conversation and provide the reassurance needed.

**MUSIC**

Begin teaching the song "Always Take Time to Pray." Sing other favorites.

**MEMORY WORK**

(Use a flexible doll to act out this little story.)

It was bedtime. Gerry was tired. He had played all afternoon riding his bicycle. After dinner he had helped Mother clear the table. Then he had taken a nice warm bath and put on his soft flannel pj's.

Before climbing into bed Gerry knelt down to pray. "Dear Jesus," he said, "thank You for watching over me today. Thank You for my nice home and Mother and Daddy. Please forgive me for any bad things I did today, and help me to always obey You and be a good boy. Amen."

Then Gerry hopped into bed and before you could count to 10 he was fast asleep.

The next morning Gerry woke up bright and early. It was so quiet. Mother and Daddy were still asleep. Gerry walked into the kitchen. He wished it were later so that Mother would be up to fix breakfast. He could almost smell bacon and eggs as he thought about it. Oh, he was hungry!

Then Gerry saw the cookie jar on the counter. He remembered the good chocolate chip cookies his mother had baked the previous day. Wouldn't some of them taste good now? Gerry pulled over a chair and was climbing up to the counter when suddenly he stopped. Somehow he didn't feel right inside. It seemed as though a little quiet voice was asking, "What did your mother say about taking cookies without asking? Should you be eating cookies before breakfast?"

Gerry knew that he was never to get into the cookie jar

unless he had permission. Sometimes the cookie jar was a *temptation*—something he wanted to do even though he knew it was wrong. It was like part of him wanted to eat the cookies, and part of him was saying, "No, I must obey."

Gerry bowed his head. "Dear Jesus, please help me to obey," he prayed. "Help me to say *no* to temptation.

Then Gerry put the chair back beside the table and slipped quietly to his room. He did not want to be near the cookie jar. It was such a big temptation.

Gerry was still hungry, but he knew that he could wait until breakfast. Inside he was very happy. He was glad that Jesus helped him to say *no* to temptation.

Read from your Bible: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Watch could be interpreted *look out*. The boys will know the meaning of temptation from the story. Help them to understand it better by explaining that temptation is wanting to do something that is wrong. When we pray every day, God helps us to say *no* to temptation. Repeat the verse together.

**PRAYER TIME**

Lead the boys in prayer, asking that God will help them to always say *no* to temptation.

**STORYTIME**

**A MESSAGE FOR BILLY**

(Ad lib the following by *playing along* with the boys' reactions.)

Tonight I need to get a message to my friend Billy in (name a nearby town or city). How can I get a message to him? I know! I will write him a letter. Now, let me see . . . I will need a pencil and paper and envelope. (Jot a few lines on the paper and put it in the envelope.)

Oh my, I cannot remember his address. (Laboriously look through your pockets for an address book. Copy address onto envelope.)

Now it is ready to send except for a stamp. (Find a stamp and place it on the envelope.) Finally my letter is ready to be mailed. (Pretend to mail letter.)

Oh! Oh! I just remembered—my friend needs the message tonight! The letter won't get to him for another day. What am I going to do? Telephone him? That is a good idea. (Pick up the receiver of the toy telephone and begin to dial—then stop.)

Oh, I don't know his number! Go through address-book routine again and slowly dial each number as you read it.)

What is that? The telephone is going beep-beep-beep-beep! (Look into receiver.) A busy signal. Oh! I guess I will have to wait. (Hang up receiver and talk with boys a few moments about how you must get the message to your friend Billy. Then dial his number again.)

Good. It is ringing. (Wait.) It is still ringing. (Hang up receiver slowly.) I guess he is not home. I will have to call him later.

Seriously now, explain to the boys that we cannot always talk to our friends when we want to. Sometimes they are away somewhere when we need to talk to them.

We do have a Friend though, who is never away. We can talk to Him whenever we want to. This is God (or His Son Jesus). All we have to do is talk to Him and He hears us.

Usually when we pray, we bow our heads and close our eyes. Why do you think we do this? (Explain that by bowing our heads we show reverence and respect to God. By closing our eyes we shut out all the things around us so that we think only about God. Often we fold our hands also, so that they will be still while we are talking to God.)

We can talk to God many different ways. At night we like to bow on our knees beside our bed while we talk to God. Jesus prayed this way sometimes. We pray while bowing on our knees at church often also. Other times we pray while we are sitting or even lying down. Sometimes we pray standing up. At times we even raise our hands to God while we pray.

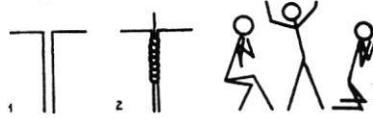
We can talk to God about many different things. God likes to have us praise Him. This means to thank Him and tell Him we love Him. He wants us to pray for others too—for our friends, for those who are sick, for those who do not know Jesus, for our missionaries, for our pastor, for our families. He also hears us when we pray for ourselves and for things we want and need.

When you ask your parents for things, do they always say *yes*? God does not always say *yes* either. He knows many things we do not know. He knows when things we want are not good for us. Sometimes God answers *no* or *not yet*. We know if we love and obey God, He always hears and answers our prayers! Isn't that wonderful!

God loves us very much. We show Him that we love Him too, when we talk to Him in prayer.

## ACTIVITIES

Following directions given, let each boy make and decorate a pixie. Show them how they can bend the arms and legs for bowing head and folding hands, kneeling, and raising hands.



Materials needed for each pixie:

1 white foam ball 1½-inch size

3 chenille stems

Take two chenille stems and bend as shown in Figure 1. Take third chenille stem and leaving 1 inch for the neck, continue wrapping chenille stem around and around to form body. Figure 2.

Place the white foam-ball head onto neck. Draw or paint eyes and mouth on white foam-ball head.

You may prefer to have the boys make elephants instead of pixies. Patterns for front and back of elephant may be found on page 32 of the handwork packet.

## HELPING

Boys should pick up scraps of chenille or foam before leaving today.

## GOOD-BYE

As you close in prayer, the boys may arrange their pixies in praying positions.

## SEPTEMBER SECOND MEETING

## WATCH AND PRAY

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Take to your meeting a shriveled up potato, carrot, etc., to use during your MEMORY WORK period. Also take a box and pretty wrapping paper and ribbon. Prepare two shoulder sashes, one with the word WATCH and the other with PRAY. Sashes may be made of wide ribbon or crepe paper.

### WELCOME

Let the boys wander about the room quietly as they arrive.

### SHARING

Let the boys share their *first* week of school experiences. Guide them in an open conversation.

### OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up contest points and *feed the elephants*.

### MUSIC

Ask how many remember the song they learned last week about praying. Sing "Always Take Time to Pray."

When Jesus was on earth, He talked to God His Father very often. Sometimes He woke up very early in the morning and went away by himself to talk to God. Other times He talked to God in the evening. Before Jesus chose His 12 helpers, He stayed awake and prayed all

night long! He knew that He needed God to help Him every day.

When we love Jesus, we want to talk to Him more than just one time a day. We like to bow our heads often and whisper a prayer to Him. Let's learn a song about whispering a prayer. Teach "Whisper a Prayer."

### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of love and thanksgiving.

### MEMORY WORK

Have the boys repeat the verse they learned last week. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41).

Take to your meeting an object that is ugly and undesirable, such as a shriveled-up potato. Show it to the boys and comment on how terrible it looks. Let the boys help you put it into a box and wrap the box in beautiful paper. Decorate it with ribbon and a big bow. On the side of the box write the word TEMPTATION. Set it on a table.

Say to the boys, "Doesn't the package look beautiful? Surely something wonderful must be inside! No? This is the way temptation is. It looks so good to us but really it is like a rotten potato inside."

"Let's pretend we don't know what is inside the box. We want the box very much because it is so pretty. However, we were told not to touch the box—to leave it alone. Part of us wants to get the box anyway and part of us says, 'No, leave it alone.'"

"Let's get someone to guard the box." (Choose two volunteers. Place over the shoulders of each a sash—one labeled WATCH and the other PRAY.) Have the boys stand in front of the box to keep the others away.

Now, one by one, let the other boys try to get the box. WATCH and PRAY act as guards. As long as they are standing in front of TEMPTATION, the boys cannot get the box. If they are pushed out of the way TEMPTATION will be easy to get. (You may need to watch that the game does not become rough.)

## STORYTIME

### WHEN THE ROOSTER CROWED

Mark 14:30-50, 66-72

Jesus knew the time had come that He must die. He called His helpers together for their last meal. After they had eaten, He told them that He would soon die and leave them alone.

The disciple helpers were sad. They did not want Jesus to go away. Peter cried, "Lord, I will never leave you!"

Jesus answered, "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me."

"No! No!" cried Peter. "I will never say that I do not know you even if I have to die with you!"

"That is right!" said the other helpers. "We will never leave you!"

Later that night Jesus took His helpers to a garden to pray. He asked Peter and James and John to stay near Him and watch and pray. While Jesus was praying, Peter and James and John went to sleep. Jesus was sad when He saw them sleeping. "Why couldn't you stay awake and watch?" He asked. "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation."

Two more times Jesus prayed. Each time His helpers fell asleep again. Finally Jesus woke them up and told them it was time to go.

As they were leaving the garden enemy soldiers came and captured Jesus. His helpers were so frightened they ran away and left Jesus alone with the soldiers.

Peter was frightened, too, but he wanted to stay near Jesus. He followed far behind the soldiers so that no one would see him. He was afraid they would capture him too. Finally someone saw Peter. "Aren't you one of Jesus' helpers?" they asked.

"No! No! I am not!" Peter cried.

Two more people asked Peter the same question. Peter was afraid and answered, "No, I do not even know Jesus!"

Just then a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him, "Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me."

Peter was very sad. He wished he had stayed awake and prayed with Jesus. Now it was too late. He had not been able to say *no* to temptation. Instead, he had told a lie three times and left Jesus all alone.

## ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 33 from the handwork packet showing Jesus praying in the Garden. Have the boys color the figure of Jesus and the leaves. The rest of the page should be blank. Then, with brush and black tempera paint, have them lightly paint the entire paper. The colored areas will resist the paint, while the rest will turn black.

## HELPING

Leave sufficient time to clean up today. (Spreading newspapers over the table before painting will save much work afterward. Be sure the boys' shirts are covered well with an apron or old shirt.)

## GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

## SEPTEMBER THIRD MEETING

### PRAY FOR OTHERS

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

The macaroni shells which will be used in today's ACTIVITIES session should be sprayed before this meeting so that they will be dry. You may use gold or any other color of your choosing. You will also need glue and glitter and several shades of light-colored construction paper.

#### WELCOME

Welcome the boys warmly as they arrive.

#### OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up contest points and *feed the elephants*.

#### SHARING

Continue your conversation about the boys' new ex-

periences at school.

#### MUSIC

Sing "Always Take Time to Pray" and "Whisper a Prayer."

#### MEMORY WORK

Impress on the boys the fact that God wants us to pray for not only our own needs but for others' also. Read James 5:16, "Pray one for another." Repeat the verse together.

#### PRAYER TIME

Talk about the needs of others for which the boys should pray. Have the boys take part in praying individually for these needs. Encourage them to pray at home, also, for the needs of others.

## STORYTIME

### A DESTROYED CITY

Genesis 18:1 to 19:29

Many years ago in a faraway land lived a man named Lot. Lot and his family lived in a city called Sodom. The people in Sodom were very, very wicked. They did many things that displeased God.

Not far from Sodom near the city of Hebron lived Lot's uncle, Abraham. Abraham loved God very much. He often prayed at an altar built near his tent home.

One day three heavenly visitors came to see Abraham. They looked like men but two of them were really angels. The third man was the Lord! While they rested under a tree, Abraham brought them something to eat and talked with them. When they were ready to leave, Abraham walked with them down the road.

The Lord told Abraham, "I am very displeased with the people who live in the city of Sodom. They are very wicked. I am going to destroy them."

Abraham thought about his nephew Lot. He knew that Lot lived in Sodom. He didn't want Lot to be destroyed. He knew that even though Lot lived in the wicked city, he was still a good man.

"Will you destroy the whole city?" Abraham asked the Lord. "If there are 50 good men in the city, will you change your mind and not destroy it?"

The Lord answered, "If there are 50 good men in the city, I will not destroy Sodom."

Abraham thought. He did not know if there were fifty good men in that wicked city. Then he asked the Lord, "If there are 45 good men, will you save Sodom for 45 men?"

"Yes," answered the Lord, "I will save the city if there are 45 good men. I will not even destroy the city if there are only 40 good men."

Abraham thought again. He did not know if there were even 40 good men in Sodom. "Please do not be angry with me, Lord," Abraham said, "but will you save the city if there are only 30 good men?"

"If I find 30 good men there, I will not destroy the city," the Lord answered.

Abraham knew that Sodom was a very wicked city. He did not know if there were even 30 good men in the whole city. "Will you destroy the city if there are 20 good men there?" he asked the Lord.

"No," answered the Lord. "If there are 20 good men, I will not destroy Sodom."

Abraham was almost afraid to ask any more, but he said, "Lord, please do not be angry with me. I will not ask any more after this, but if there are only 10 good men in Sodom . . . ?"

"I will not destroy the city if there are 10 good men," the Lord answered.

After Abraham and the Lord had finished talking, Abraham went back to his tent home.

When the Lord went to Sodom, He found that Lot was the only good man in the whole city. He knew that He must destroy the wicked city, but He would not destroy Abraham's nephew, Lot. Before the city was destroyed, two angels helped Lot and his family to escape.

## ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 34 from the handwork packet. Have them color and mount the figure of the boy on light-colored construction paper. Under the figure print the verse, "Pray one for another" (James 5:16). Spray paint macaroni shells and have the boys glue them around the edges of the paper. Spread and sprinkle glitter on wet glue around the praying boy.

## HELPING

Ask the boys to clean up the worktable before leaving. The room should look as neat as when they arrived.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a song.

## SEPTEMBER FOURTH MEETING

### ASKING GOD

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

As a special treat today, make cookies in the shape of a lion and bring one or two for each boy. If you have time to decorate them, this will be even nicer. Serve them during the ACTIVITIES period.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, greet them warmly, introducing yourself to any newcomers.

#### OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up points and *feed the elephants*.

#### SHARING

Ask the boys to share their new school experiences of the past week. Some leading questions, if you need them, are: "What is your teacher's name? What new things have you learned this week? What do you like best about school?"

Listen carefully to the boys' conversation during this time. It will help you to learn much about them and also give you a chance to guide them in their attitudes in practical matters.

#### MUSIC

Sing "Always Take Time to Pray." (This week's new song will be taught immediately following the Storytime.) Sing other favorites.

## MEMORY WORK

Say to the boys, "If you are hungry and you want your mother to give you a cookie, what do you do?" (Answer: Ask her.) "If you break a toy and you want your father to fix it for you, what do you do?" (Ask him to fix it.) "Wouldn't it be silly if, when you wanted a cookie, you just sat around and thought, I wish I had a cookie, I wish I had a cookie? Then, finally, you would think, 'My mother didn't give me a cookie. I guess she doesn't want me to have one.' And all the time you didn't even ask for a cookie."

God knows all the time what we are thinking before we even ask, but He wants us to ask Him for the things we need. When Jesus was on earth, He taught the people this—(read from your Bible Matthew 7:7) "Ask, and it shall be given you." (Say the verse together.)

"Does God always give us everything we ask for?" Explain to the boys that sometimes He doesn't give us the thing we ask for because He knows it isn't good for us—just as our parents do not give us everything we ask for. We ask our parents for things we need, knowing they will give them to us if they are good for us. God wants us to do the same with Him. (Repeat the verse again.)

## PRAYER TIME

Sing "Whisper a Prayer." Talk about things you need to ask God for today. Have the boys take turns leading out in prayer.

## STORYTIME

### DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

#### Daniel 6

Many, many years ago in a faraway land lived a man named Daniel. Daniel loved God very much. Every day he knelt down in his upstairs bedroom three times and prayed to God. He thanked God for helping him and asked God for the things he needed.

God made Daniel very wise. Soon Daniel became the ruler over many people. The king liked Daniel very much. He wanted Daniel to be his best helper.

The other rulers saw that the king liked Daniel better than he liked them. They were very jealous. They wanted to make trouble for him.

Every day they watched Daniel carefully. They wanted to catch him doing something wrong. Then they would report him to the king.

Every day the men saw Daniel kneel down three times and pray to God. As hard as they tried, though, they could not find him doing anything wrong.

Finally the men decided to trick Daniel. They went to the king and said, "Oh, King, all the rulers have met together. We have thought of a new law you should make. For the next 30 days, every person must ask only you for the things he needs. Anyone who asks someone else besides you for anything shall be thrown into the lions' den. You should make this law so that it cannot be changed."

The king liked the idea and made a new law. He liked being the most important person in the whole kingdom. He signed the law, and it was announced the next day to all the people.

Daniel heard the new law, but he did not obey it. He knelt down just as always to ask God for the things he needed.

The wicked rulers were watching in Daniel's window. When they saw him praying to God, they hurried to tell the king.

"Oh, King," they cried, "Didn't you make a new rule that if anyone asked someone else besides you for something he would be thrown into the lions' den?"

"Yes," answered the king, "and I cannot change that law."

"Well, that fellow Daniel is not obeying the rule," they said. "He is asking his God for things three times a day!"

When the king heard that, he was very sorry he had made the new law. He did not want Daniel to be killed. All day the king tried to think of some way to save Daniel.

That evening the wicked rulers came to see the king again. They reminded him that the law could not be changed. He must have Daniel put to death.

Sadly the king ordered Daniel to be taken to the lions' den. He told Daniel, "May the God you worship save you from the lions." Then Daniel was thrown in to the hungry lions and a stone was rolled over the top of the den.

The king went back to his palace. He was very unhappy. He would not eat any food or listen to any music. He did not sleep all night long.

Early the next morning the king hurried to the lions' den. He listened. Then he called, "Daniel! Has your God saved you from the lions?"

The king listened again. From deep down in the lions' den he heard Daniel cry, "Oh, King! My God sent His angel. The angel shut the lions' mouths, and they did not hurt me!"

How happy the king was! He called his servant to pull Daniel out. Then he commanded that the wicked rulers be thrown into the lions' den.

The king wrote letters to all the people in his kingdom. He said, "From now on, everyone shall fear Daniel's God. He is the living God. He has delivered Daniel from the lions."

Teach the song "Daniel Was a Man of Prayer."

## ACTIVITIES

Give each boy a picture of a lion to color or paint. (Handwork packet, page 35.)

## HELPING

The boys should help return the room to good order.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

## THEME—STORIES JESUS TOLD

### PURPOSE

To explore Biblical truths found in familiar stories Jesus told.

### MEMORY VERSES

"All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6).

"The Lord is my rock . . . in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2).

### SONGS

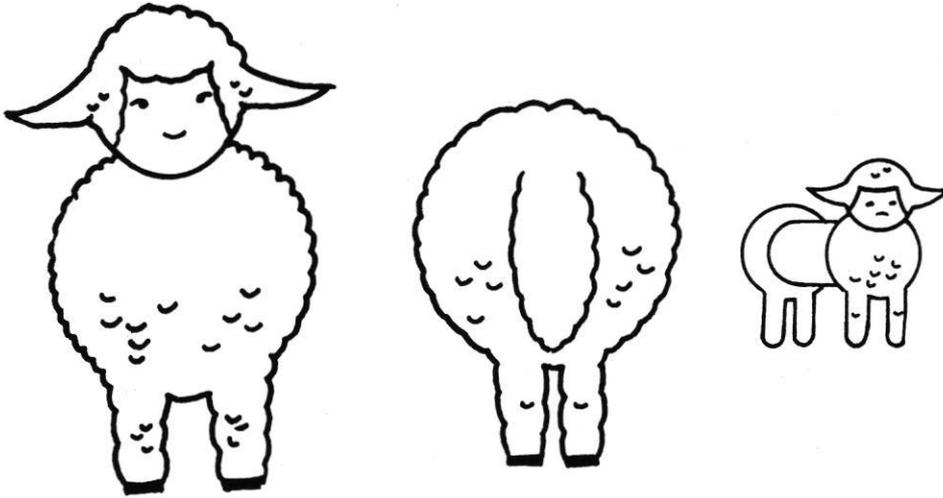
"My Secret" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

"One Door and Only One" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

"The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" (familiar tune)

"I'm on the Rock" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

"I'm Going Up, Up, Up" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)



### BULLETIN BOARD

Use the leaf patterns on page 81, cut orange, yellow, and brown leaves. Arrange as a border around the bulletin board. Use letter patterns to cut out the words STORIES JESUS TOLD and center on bulletin board. Page 73.)

**OCTOBER  
FIRST MEETING**

**THE LOST SHEEP**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Explain to the boys that the wool used in clothing comes from sheep. Tell how it is sheared (cut) from the sheep, carded (disentangled), and cleaned so that it can be made into yarn or woven into clothes. If possible, bring to the meeting and display some yarn, woolen cloth, and a woolen sweater or hat. Lamb's wool, which is sold in the drugstore, would make another good display item. (It is used by people with sore feet.)

**WELCOME**

As the boys arrive, let them wander quietly about the room looking at the new room decorations.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**SHARING**

Ask the boys if they have noticed the leaves changing color on the trees. Ask what colors they are now. The boys may want to tell about the trees by their homes or on their streets. Explain that God made trees so that their leaves would change color and fall off the trees at this time of year. We call this time *autumn* or *fall*. Point out the leaves on the bulletin board and talk about the beauty of fall leaves.

**MUSIC**

Sing a few of the boys' favorite songs. Ask the boys if they have ever seen sheep walking in the pasture. Ask what little sheep are called. (Lambs.) Mention that in the Bible we are called sheep and lambs. Jesus is called our Shepherd. (Read Psalm 100:3.) Place the colored picture of the shepherd on the bulletin board. (See page 36 in handwork packet.)

Teach the song about Jesus the Shepherd, called "My Secret."

**MEMORY WORK**

Sometimes while sheep are feeding in the pasture, one of them wanders away and becomes lost. The shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. When he finds that one sheep is missing, he hunts for the sheep until he finds it. People who do not love Jesus are like the sheep that wander away and become lost. The Bible says, "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus, our Good Shepherd, searches for the lost sheep. He wants to take them to safety. (Repeat the memory verse together.)

**PRAYER TIME**

Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd and caring for us. Tell Him your needs.

**STORYTIME**

**THE LOST SHEEP**

**Luke 15:1-7; Matthew 18:10-14**

There were many shepherds in Palestine when Jesus was there. These shepherds had many sheep. One day Jesus told the people this story.

If a man has 100 sheep and one of them becomes lost, he leaves the other 99 sheep and goes to hunt for the one lost sheep. When he finds the sheep, he takes it in his arms and is very happy.

When the shepherd arrives home, he calls his friends and says, "Come, be happy with me! I have found my sheep that was lost!"

Jesus told the people, "This is how much happiness there is in heaven when one sinner asks God to forgive him and make him a Christian."

How can we keep from becoming lost sheep? Jesus said He is our Shepherd and is leading us. We hear His voice and follow Him. If we cannot hear His voice, maybe we are not paying attention or have wandered too far away to hear Him.

How can we hear Jesus' voice? By listening to God's Word when it is read to us. By listening to the minister preach. By listening to the lesson as it is taught by the Sunday school teacher or commander. Sometimes Jesus speaks quietly to our hearts too. If we are following our Shepherd closely, we will hear Him when He speaks to us.

**ACTIVITIES**

Have the boys color the picture on page 36 of the handwork packet.

Help the boys make woolly lambs using the following directions.

Materials:

Piece of cotton 2 by 1 inches

1 white pipe cleaner

Use cotton for the body of the sheep. Cut pipe cleaner in half for legs. Twist one piece of pipe cleaner around cotton about three-quarters of an inch from one end to form head and front feet. Twist second piece of pipe cleaner about one quarter of an inch from the opposite end to form tail and back legs. (See sketches.)

If the boys wish to add detail, have them pinch a bit of cotton at each side of the head to form ears (sketched) and roll a little cotton from body between fingers to form a tail.



Let the boys use their lambs to act out the story of the lost lamb.

If there is time, play the following game:

**LOST LAMB**

As the other boys put their heads and folded arms on the table, closing their eyes, one boy hides his lamb. The other boys then leave their sheep in the pasture (table) and search for the lost lamb. The boy who finds it then hides his lamb for the others to find.

**HELPING**

Assign duties to the boys so they all share in cleaning up the room and putting away supplies.

**GOOD-BYE**

Pin the boys' lambs to the bulletin board so that they are following the shepherd. Under each lamb, write a boy's name. Sing "My Secret." Close with prayer.

## THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Before today's meeting color and cut out the pictures of Lazarus and the rich man (page 37 in handwork packet). They will be used when telling the Bible story.

### WELCOME

Greet the boys warmly as they arrive.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

Bring an assortment of dried weeds and flowers to the meeting. Let the boys examine them and name them if possible. Emphasize the beauty of God's wonders.

### MUSIC

Draw the boys' attention to the sheep on the bulletin board. Sing "My Secret." Tell the boys that Jesus says in His Word He is the door for the sheep. (Read John 10:9.) Explain that this means we can be saved only by coming to Jesus. Teach "One Door, and Only One."

### MEMORY WORK

Review, "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Remind the boys that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, looks for the sheep to take them to safety.

### PRAYER TIME

Now is a good time to ask if all your boys have accepted Jesus into their hearts. If some have not, encourage them to ask Jesus (the Good Shepherd) to forgive their sins and come into their hearts. Lead them in prayer.

### STORYTIME

#### THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31

One day Jesus was talking to the people. He told them this story.

(Put picture of Lazarus on bulletin board.) There was once a poor beggar named Lazarus. He was very sick. Terrible sores were all over his body. He had to beg for food from others.

(Place picture of rich man beside Lazarus.) Every day Lazarus lay by the gates of a very rich man. This man wore beautiful, expensive clothes. He ate the best kind of food. He had many servants to do all his work. But the rich man did not want to help poor Lazarus.

Finally Lazarus became so sick that he died. Lazarus loved God, and the angels carried him to heaven. In heaven he was not sick anymore. He did not have to beg.

One day the rich man became sick and died too. His friends were very sad. They buried him in a new cave and mourned for him. The rich man did not love God. The angels did not carry him to heaven like they did Lazarus. Instead, he was taken to hell. There he was in great pain.

The rich man looked up. Far, far away in heaven he saw Lazarus. Lazarus was with Abraham. He looked well and happy.

"Abraham!" cried the rich man. "Send Lazarus to dip

his finger in some water and cool my tongue! I am in pain!"

Abraham answered, "Remember all the good things you had when Lazarus had nothing? Now Lazarus is enjoying it here while you are in pain. Besides, there is a deep hole between us so that no one can cross over from here to you or from where you are to here."

The rich man remembered that he had five brothers who were still alive. He did not want them to go to the place where he was.

"Abraham," he cried again. "Send Lazarus to my father's house and let him warn my five brothers so that they will not come to this place of pain."

Abraham called, "Your brothers can read in God's Word what was written by Moses and the prophets. This will warn them."

"That is not enough," answered the rich man. "But if someone who was dead were to come alive again and go to them, then they would listen and be sorry for their sins."

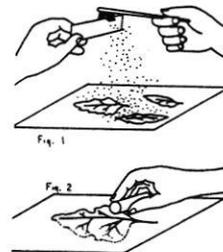
"No," said Abraham. "If they will not pay attention to the words in God's book, they would not pay attention to someone who died and came to life again."

### ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 37 from the handwork packet so they can color and cut out the figures of Lazarus and the rich man. If time allows, use one or more of the following projects.

#### Spatter Print

Gather some interesting leaves. Press them overnight in a book or magazine. When pressed, place them on white paper. Dip an old toothbrush in some colored paint. Shake the excess off. Slide a cardboard strip about 2 by 5 inches along this toothbrush as in figure 1. This will cause the paint to spatter all around the leaves. When the paint is dry, remove the leaves. You will have a pretty group of plain colored leaves against a spattered background. (Figure 1.)



#### Blue Print

Place a leaf on blue paper. Put in the strong sun for a day. Remove the leaf and you will have a leaf print.

#### Leaf Rubbing

Place a leaf, vein side up, on a table. Over this place a thin piece of paper about the weight of newspaper. Crayon over the leaf with the side of a crayon. Be sure to crayon the same direction each time. Move the leaf around and crayon over it until you have patterned paper that can be used for wrapping gifts. (Figure 2.)

### HELPING

Make sure there is time to clean up.

### GOOD-BYE

Sing again "One Door, and Only One." Ask, "Who is the door?" Close with prayer.

**OCTOBER  
THIRD MEETING**

**THE TWO HOUSES**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

For today's story, you will need two sheet-cake pans. In one, place a large rock. Fill the other with 1 to 2 inches of dirt or sand.

Following the pattern shown, (page 38 in handwork packet) construct two paper houses, cutting on solid lines and folding on dotted lines. Place one house on the rock (securing with tape or glue) and place the other house on the sand. Use during Bible story. Bring another rock to use when telling story.

**WELCOME**

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room looking at the bulletin board, etc.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**SHARING**

Talk about the change in weather—the shorter and colder days. Depending upon the climate in your area, explain how the weather will continue changing. Let the boys express their feelings about the fall season. Help them to appreciate its beauty.

**MUSIC**

Sing two or three of the boys' favorite songs, reviewing also the songs learned this month. Today's new song will be introduced following the STORYTIME.

**MEMORY WORK**

Say to the boys, "Two weeks ago we learned that Jesus is our *Good Shepherd*. Last week we learned that *He* is the *door*. Today we will learn another name that Jesus is called."

Read from your Bible: "The Lord is my *rock* . . . in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2).

Continue with, "Why is Jesus called a *shepherd*?" (Because He leads us and cares for us.) "Why is He called the *door*?" (Because He is the way to heaven.) "Why is He called a *rock*?" (Hold up a rock and let the boys look at it.) "A rock is strong. Many things can hit against the rock, but the rock will not break. A rock always stays the same. Summer or winter, hot or cold, the rock always looks the same. A rock is hard to move. Have you ever seen a rock as big as a house? Nothing can push that rock out of the way. A rock protects. High in the mountains, birds build their nests in holes in the rocks. The rocks protect them from the rain and wind."

"Jesus is strong, too. He is always the same. Nothing can move Him away from us. He protects us if we stay close to Him."

Read the verse again. Have the boys repeat it with you.

**PRAYER TIME**

Thank the Lord for His care and protection. Present your needs.

**STORYTIME**

**THE TWO HOUSES**

Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:24-27

Many people gathered to hear Jesus teach about God. He told them this story.

"Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain poured down, and the rivers flooded over. (Pour water from a pitcher into the cake pan with the rock.) The winds blew hard against the rock. (Blow on house and rock.) But the house did not fall because it was built strong on the rock."

Then Jesus said, "Everyone who hears my words and does *not* obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain poured down and the rivers flooded. (Pour water onto sand, creating a flood.) The winds blew hard against the house. (Blow on damp house.) And it fell! What a terrible crash that was!"

**MUSIC**

Teach "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock." You may also want to sing "I Am on the Rock."

**ACTIVITIES**

Following directions for finger painting, \* let the boys create scenes depicting the house on the rock and the house on the sand. Place one or more on your bulletin board. If time permits, give the boys page 38 from the handwork packet to make a house.

**\* FINGER PAINTING**

To Make Paint—

Mix ½ cup cornstarch with 3 tablespoons of sugar. Add 2 cups of cold water, and place over a low flame. Stir constantly until the mixture is smooth. To color, blend vegetable coloring to different portions of the mixture.

To Paint—

Spread newspapers over a large table. Dip glossy paper (shelf paper is excellent) into water and let excess water drain off. Place moistened paper onto table with the glossy side up, and smooth away wrinkles. Drip a teaspoon of paint onto the paper. Using your hand, spread paint over the entire surface with a circular movement. If the paint becomes hard, add a little water.

*Techniques*

1. Use side of the hand for long, sweeping lines.
2. Make fine lines with fingernails or a pencil, fork, etc.
3. Swirl with fingertips for small flowers, berries, etc.
4. Use side of your fist to pat paint for a stippled effect.
5. Pat with your index finger to make bunches of leaves.

To Blend—

Place various colors onto the paper, one below the other, and smooth by lightly passing your hand over them. Do not rub colors into each other.

To finish—

Lift paper by two top corners and place onto newspaper to dry (about 1 hour). If the paper wrinkles, press with a warm iron. To preserve the colors, apply a coat of clear shellac after paper is glued onto article. To clean hands and table, remove paint with a wet sponge.

**HELPING**

Allow time for cleanup today.

**GOOD-BYE**

Close with prayer.

**OCTOBER  
FOURTH MEETING**

**THE TEN YOUNG WOMEN**

**FOR THE COMMANDER**

Since this is your last meeting before Halloween, you may wish to decorate your room accordingly and serve refreshments at the end of the meeting.

For today's lesson cut out the two lamps, one with fire and the other without. See handwork packet, page 39.

**WELCOME**

Holiday decorations will catch the boys' attention as they arrive.

**OPENING**

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

**SHARING**

The boys will be excited about their holiday trick-or-treat or party plans. Their topic of conversation will probably center on what costume they will be wearing. Talk about proper manners and precautions for trick-or-treating.

**MUSIC**

Review songs learned this month. Save new song for after STORYTIME.

**MEMORY WORK**

Show the rock used in last week's lesson. Ask, "Does this remind you of a verse in the Bible?" Help the boys recite the verse learned last week.

**PRAYER TIME**

Lead in prayer for current needs and thanksgiving for many blessings.

**STORYTIME**

**THE TEN YOUNG WOMEN  
Matthew 25:1-13**

Many years ago, when Jesus was on earth, there were no electric lights like we have now. There were no flashlights, either. There were not even kerosene lanterns like we use when we go camping.

(Show lamp with fire.) People used oil lamps like this to light their way in the dark. As long as there was oil in the lamp, the fire would burn brightly.

One day Jesus told this story to His disciples. Ten young women were invited to a friend's wedding. They all started out together to meet the wedding party. Since it was night, they took their lamps for light. Five of the girls were wise; they took along extra oil for their lamps. Five of the girls were foolish; they did not take any extra oil.

The girls waited and waited for the wedding party to come so that they could go in to the wedding feast. Soon they became tired and fell asleep.

At midnight the girls awoke suddenly. Someone shouted, "Here is the bridegroom! Go out and meet him!"

The girls got up quickly. They began preparing their lamps so that they would be ready to join the wedding party. (Show lamp without fire.) The foolish five discovered that their oil was almost gone.

"What shall we do?" they cried. "Please lend us some of your oil," they said to the five wise girls.

"No. If we lend you ours, we will not have enough for ourselves," the wise girls answered. "Go and buy yourselves some oil."

The five foolish girls hurried to buy more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came, the five wise girls went with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed. No one else could go in.

Later the five foolish girls came back. They saw that the door was shut. "Let us in! Let us in!" they shouted as they pounded on the door.

But the bridegroom would not let them in. They had arrived too late.

Jesus told this story to teach us that we must always be ready for His coming. When Jesus left this earth, He said that some day He would come back again and take all those who obey Him to live in heaven forever. We do not know when Jesus is coming back to earth. We must stay ready all the time by obeying Him every day. Then we will be like the five wise girls who were ready when the bridegroom came.

(Place two lamps on bulletin board.)

**MUSIC**

Teach, "I'm Going Up, Up, Up."

**ACTIVITIES**

Follow directions given for soapsuds painting and let the boys fashion jack-o'-lanterns on large heavy paper. If there is time they may color the two lamps on page 39 of the handwork packet.

**SOAPSUDS PAINTING**

½ cup of dry detergent, or a capful of liquid detergent  
2 tablespoons of liquid starch  
brown wrapping paper  
poster paints or food coloring  
an egg beater  
a mixing bowl  
an old newspaper  
a spoon

Beat the detergent and the liquid starch with an egg beater in a mixing bowl. When it is like thick marshmallow frosting, you have beaten it enough. Now you have enough soapsuds for painting three or four pictures.

If you want soapsuds of several different colors, put the mixture into different jars. Then add just a few drops of color to the different jars and stir.

Put down a newspaper to work on.

Dip the colored soapsuds from the jar with your fingers and paint on some brown wrapping paper. If you want a darker color, add more coloring until you get the shade you want.

If the soapsuds thicken too much to paint with easily, add a little more starch when you are painting and beat it into the mixture with a spoon.

When you have finished your picture, let it dry lying flat on the newspaper before you show it.

**HELPING**

Allow time for cleanup.

**GOOD-BYE**

Close with prayer.

## THEME—WE ARE THANKFUL

### PURPOSE

To teach the boys to remember to thank God and others.  
To impress the boys with the importance of praise.

### MEMORY VERSES

"It is a good thing to give thanks . . ." (Psalm 92:1).  
"Be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).

### SONGS

"All for Jesus" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
"Oh Be Careful" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)  
"Hallelujah" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
"The Birds Upon the Treetops" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)  
"Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

### BULLETIN BOARD

Using letter patterns (page 73) cut out the words WE ARE THANKFUL and attach them to a background of tan or brown paper. Pin on the pictures selected by the boys during the first meeting.

If it is impossible to have a bulletin board display, paste your scene on a large piece of rolled paper (butcher paper or unprinted newspaper—available from newspaper offices). Tape to wall and roll up after each meeting.



### FIRST MEETING

## WE ARE THANKFUL FOR GOD'S CARE

### FOR THE COMMANDER

If you plan to use the game suggested in the ACTIVITIES section you should bring all of the things needed to play the game. Keep the items out of sight until you are ready for the game. You will also need blunt scissors and old magazines for the boys to use.

### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room looking at the Thanksgiving decorations you have provided. Decorations in a room are very important to the 5- and 6-year-old boy. They provide warmth and a sense of belonging. Decorations should, if possible, be things the boys can touch or handle.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### SHARING

Ask: "Have you ever cut your finger or stubbed your toe? Did it hurt? How long did it hurt—one day? two days? a week? a month? God made our bodies so that when we hurt them they will get better."

Show the boys a scar or a place where you were hurt. Explain that is all better now. The skin grew back, and it doesn't hurt anymore.

"If we break a glass or cut some paper it will always stay broken or cut unless we can glue it back together. Wouldn't it be terrible if our cuts and sores would never, never get better? God cares for us and helps our bodies to stay well."

The boys will probably want to show their scars, cuts, or bruises. Show interest and express thankfulness to God for making them better. You may wish to pray for recent cuts, scrapes, or sicknesses.

## MUSIC

Show the picture of the boy jumping rope (page 40 in the handwork packet). Talk about how nice he looks and what fun he is having. Ask, "What is the matter? He doesn't have any eyes? Why does he need eyes? Oh, so he can see! We will have to give him some eyes." (Draw eyes.) "Does he need anything else?" (Continue until eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and hands are all added.) Express thanks for these things God has given us.

Sing "All for Jesus" and "Oh Be Careful." You may wish to omit verses four and five in the last song and add: "Oh be careful little mouth what you say . . ." and "Oh be careful little feet where you go. . . ." Some versions of this song omit the other wording and read, "There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love" through all verses.

## PRAYER TIME

Thank God for the wonderful bodies He has given us and for His care.

## MEMORY WORK

Read from the Bible, "Be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4). Ask the boys to repeat this with you. Make clear the identity of the pronouns *him* and *his*.

## STORYTIME

### THE FIRST MAN Genesis 1

When God made the first man, Adam, He wanted him to be very happy. God gave Adam eyes so he could see. In the beautiful garden home God made for Adam there were many lovely things. What do you think Adam saw? (Let the boys guess: trees, flowers, animals, birds, grass, etc.) What color were the trees? the flowers? and so on.

God also made many things for Adam to feel. He felt the warmth of the sunshine. Have you ever felt the sun shining on your skin and making it warm? He felt the cool water. He felt the soft grass.

There were many delicious things for Adam to taste too. God made many good things grow in Adam's garden home. He makes many good things grow for us to eat too. What is your favorite taste? (Let the boys each name one.)

As Adam walked about in his beautiful garden home,

he could smell many wonderful things. He could smell the flowers. He could smell the clean, fresh air. He could smell the trees. Have you ever smelled the pine trees in the mountains? He could smell the ripe fruit hanging on the trees.

There were many interesting things for Adam to hear in his garden home. What do you think Adam heard—cars? motors? No. He heard the birds chirping and singing. He heard many animals. (Name some and make their sounds.) He also heard God. Every day God came to Adam's garden home and talked with him.

God loved Adam very much. He loves us very much too. He has made many wonderful things for us to see, smell, taste, hear, and feel.

## ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 40 from his handwork packet. Have him fill in the missing features and color.

"We call *seeing, feeling, tasting, smelling, and hearing* our *five senses*. Let's play a game with our five senses!"

1. SEEING. Choose one boy to be "it." He will go to the front of the room and say, "I see something that is . . ." (color, size, and so on). The boy who guesses what he sees becomes "it."

2. FEELING. Blindfold each boy. Pass around several objects, one at a time. (Have some soft, some hard, some round, some square, etc.) After all the boys have felt the object, let them guess what it was. Then pass around the next object.

3. TASTE. Cut several foods into bite-size pieces. With toothpicks, give the blindfolded boys samples, one type at a time. Let them guess, as before, what they are tasting.

4. SMELL. With their blindfolds still on, have the boys smell several objects, one at a time. Let them guess what they have smelled.

5. HEARING. Make several noises for the blindfolded boys. Let them guess what they are hearing. (Turn pages, file fingernails, tear paper, snap fingers, etc.) If there is time, play the following game:

The boys stand and form a circle, with one blindfolded and standing in the center. One tiptoes to the blindfolded child, touches him, and stands still and quiet. "It" says, "Gobble, turkey, gobble," to which the other must answer, "Gobble, gobble." The blindfolded child then tries to guess who the other one is. He may ask three times for the turkey to gobble. After that, succeed or fail, his time is up, and the other child gets a turn to be "it."

Provide old magazines and blunt scissors for the boys and ask them to cut out pictures of things for which they are thankful, pasting them to the bulletin board with the theme WE ARE THANKFUL.

## HELPING

Assign duties to each boy to help in cleaning up.

## GOOD-BYE

Sing "Oh Be Careful" again. Close with prayer.

## NOVEMBER SECOND MEETING

### WE ARE THANKFUL FOR FOOD TO EAT

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

For interest, you may have several magazine cutouts of food arranged about the room.

If you plan to follow the suggestion in the ACTIVITIES section today, be sure to bring along the items you

will need.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, have them walk around your meeting room looking at the pictures of food arrangements.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## SHARING

Pass around a plate of small candies or cookies. Talk about the foods pictured in the cutouts you have arranged. Encourage the boys to talk about their favorite foods. Mention the fact that in many lands—and even in America—many people do not have enough food to eat. Their stomachs hurt because they are hungry. We should thank God that we have food to eat. Ask the boys if they remember to thank God for their food before they eat.

## MUSIC

Sing “Hallelujah” and “The Birds Upon the Treetops.”

## MEMORY WORK

Read the verse from your Bible again, “Be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4). Ask volunteers to quote the verse.

## PRAYER TIME

Explain that you are going to do as the verse says and thank God at this time. Lead the boys in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

## STORYTIME

### WHEN GOD SENT MANNA Exodus 16:1-18, 31

Tramp, tramp, tramp! The Israelites walked on and on through the desert. They looked ahead of them. All they could see was desert—dry, bare land. They looked to their right—desert. They looked to their left—desert. There were no trees or gardens anywhere.

The people became sad. They remembered the good food they had eaten when they were slaves in Egypt. They

forgot how mean the king had been to them there. They forgot how hard he had made them work. They forgot how God had set them free from the cruel king. They forgot how He had opened the waters of the sea so that they could walk through on dry land. All they could think about was food.

“We wish we were back in Egypt where we had plenty to eat,” they grumbled. “We are going to die of hunger in this desert.”

Then God said, “I will send you food. I will send bread from heaven like rain. You will have plenty to eat. Then you will know that I love you and am taking care of you.”

The next morning the people looked outside. The ground was covered with little white things. The people picked them up. They tasted them. Yum! They tasted good! “We will call them manna,” they said.

Every morning after that God sent the bread from heaven. Every morning the people gathered it. Sometimes they ate it plain. Sometimes they ground it and baked it into cakes.

The people were not hungry anymore. God was taking care of them.

## ACTIVITIES

Place a large tablecloth on the floor. Have the boys pretend they are asleep. (If you have a rug, they might lie down on it.) While their eyes are closed, sprinkle oyster crackers (or small wafers) on the tablecloth. Tell the boys to “wake up.” Let them gather the *pretend manna* and eat it. (You might provide small glasses of Kool-Aid to go with it.)

Give the boys page 41 from their handwork packets and let them color it.

## HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer of thanksgiving.

## NOVEMBER THIRD MEETING

### WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

A Thanksgiving centerpiece or decoration that you can make cheaply or bring from home will add warmth and interest to your room.

The boys would enjoy pumpkin pie or cookies after hearing the story about Thanksgiving.

#### WELCOME

Open a conversation about being thankful as the boys arrive.

#### SHARING

You might open this time by talking about Thanksgiving Day and asking the boys about their plans for the holiday.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### MUSIC

Sing “Hallelujah” and “The Birds Upon the Treetops.”

#### MEMORY WORK

Read Psalm 100:4, “Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Point to each word as you say it. (Many of the boys will not be able to read.) Have the boys *read* the verse two or three times. Explain that God wants us to praise Him. (Praise means to thank God.) Thanking Him makes Him happy and pleased.

#### PRAYER TIME

Discuss things for which we can thank God—home, family, clothes, church, etc. During your prayer, thank God for these things. If any of the boys would like to lead out in prayer and thank God for something, this would be good. You may then want to take prayer requests and pray for these.

## STORYTIME

### THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Many years ago, people called the Pilgrims came to America. It was a strange and new land to them and much different from the land where they had lived before. There were no houses or roads or stores.

The people began building houses out of logs from trees they cut down in the forest. When they were hungry, they could not go to the store and buy food. There were no stores! The Pilgrims had to get their food by planting seeds in the ground and waiting for them to grow and by killing wild birds and animals. Often they were very hungry and cold.

They were very happy to be in the new land, though. They had not been happy in the land where they had come from because they could not worship God like they wanted to. Now they could build a church and worship God all they wanted.

When the Pilgrims first arrived in America, they planted seeds in the ground. They waited a long time for them to grow. Finally the food was ready to harvest. God had helped the seeds to grow into tall and healthy plants so that the Pilgrims would have enough food to last all year.

How thankful the Pilgrims were! They planned a special day for giving thanks to God. To celebrate they had a big dinner of the food that they found in their new land.

For part of their dinner, the Pilgrim fathers killed fat funny-looking birds that made a "gobble-gobble" noise.

They were the first Thanksgiving Day turkeys. (Hold up picture of turkey from handwork packet, page 43.)

For dessert, the Pilgrim mothers made a pudding out of pumpkins. Those puddings were the first Thanksgiving Day pumpkin "pies." (Hold up picture of pumpkin from handwork packet, page 44.)

The children helped too, by carrying food to the tables outside and turning the roasts that cooked over the open fires.

More than 80 friendly Indians came to the feast. They brought wild turkey and deer meat.

When the feast was ready, all the people sat around the tables like one big family. They sang songs and thanked God for their new land.

### ACTIVITIES

Give boys pages 42, 43, and 44 from the handwork packet. They may color pictures of turkeys and/or pumpkin and/or Pilgrims.

### HELPING

Assign duties to the boys such as putting away crayons, picking up scraps of paper from the floor, cleaning the table, etc.

### GOOD-BYE

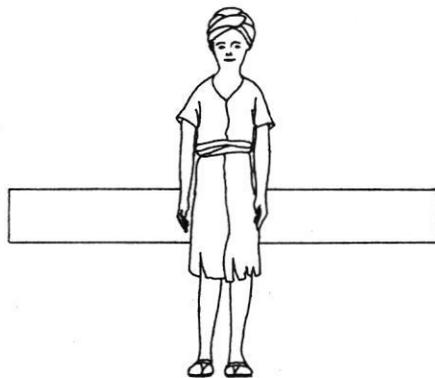
Close with prayer. Wish the boys "Happy Thanksgiving."

## NOVEMBER FOURTH MEETING

### WE ARE THANKFUL FOR HEALING

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Make finger puppets from pattern below. Attach one to each finger. Color and cut out pictures of Jesus and healed man. (Use when telling today's story.) Stand figure of Jesus by cutting a slit in an empty spool of thread and inserting figure. (Refer to handwork packet page 45.)



#### WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. Show them where to hang their coats.

#### SHARING

The boys will be eager to share stories of their Thanksgiving holidays. Help the boys to feel thankful for Thanksgiving dinner, automobiles (used to travel over holidays), Grandma and Grandpa, etc. If any of the boys were underprivileged in any of these areas, be careful not to emphasize that area excessively.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### MUSIC

Sing these songs together, "Praise Him, Praise Him," and "Hallelujah."

#### MEMORY WORK

Review Psalm 100:4 together. Make sure the meaning of the verse is clear. Teach the boys Psalm 92:1, "It is a good thing to give thanks. . . ."

#### PRAYER TIME

Explain to the boys that it is now time to give thanks. Lead them in a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank God for the things discussed in your SHARING time. Allow time for prayer requests. Pray for these.

## STORYTIME

### A MAN SAYS THANK YOU

Luke 17:11-19

(Put fingers up one by one as you count.)

One — two — three — four — five — six — seven — eight — nine — ten men were standing together in a field outside a village. They had a terrible sickness called leprosy. Because of their sickness they could not live at home with their wives or children or go close to any other people. Anyone who came too close to them might catch the sickness too.

Sometimes people would bring food to a certain place for them. After the people left, the sick men could go and get the food and eat it. They often wished that they could someday be with their families and friends again. But leprosy was a sickness from which people never got better.

One day the men heard that Jesus was coming down the road close to the place where they lived. They had heard that Jesus had healed many people from terrible sicknesses and that he had made blind people see and deaf people hear.

The sick men became very excited! (Move fingers about.) "Let's go see Jesus," they said. "Maybe he will help us."

The men could not walk very fast because of their sickness, but they hurried as fast as they could toward the road where Jesus and his friends were walking. (Fingers approach figure of Jesus and stop a distance away.) Being careful not to come near the people, they stood far off and called, "Jesus! Will you please make us well?"

Jesus looked at the men. He felt sorry for them.

"Go see your ministers," He said.

As the men turned to go, they were made well. How happy they were! Now they could go back to the village and live with their wives and children.

The men forgot about Jesus. They began running to the village to tell what had happened to them. Suddenly one of the men stopped running. He had forgotten to thank Jesus. (Take nine puppets off fingers and bring one puppet back to Jesus. Then exchange him for large *sick man* figure and have him go through actions of story.) He turned around and ran back to Jesus and fell on his face before Jesus thanking Him.

"Thank You! Thank You for making me well," he said.

Jesus smiled. He was glad the man remembered to say "Thank You."

## ACTIVITIES

Provide paper and crayons and ask the boys to draw pictures of something for which they are thankful. Give them some ideas. Paste them to the paper on which you have printed "We thank God for. . . ." These pictures may be pinned to the bulletin board scene.

If time permits, pass out copies of the picture of the healed man and Jesus. Ask the boys to color the pictures and take them home. (Handwork packet page 45.)

## HELPING

Assign duties to the boys: cleaning up crayons, paste, etc.

## GOOD-BYE

Close with a prayer that Jesus will help us to remember to be thankful. Discuss circumstances in which we should be thankful. (Example: Thank mother for preparing meals; thank father for providing clothing; etc.) When we are happy inside, we should bow our heads and say, "Thank You."

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## DECEMBER

# THEME—GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

### PURPOSE

- To instill in the boys' minds the fact that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.
- To teach the boys the joy of giving.
- To help the boys to be thankful that God sent His Son to earth.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God . . . loved us and sent his Son . . ." (1 John 4:10).

### SONGS

- "Away in a Manger" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
- "For God So Loved the World" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)
- "Silent Night" (In most hymnals)
- "I Was Glad" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

## BULLETIN BOARD

Christmas scenes and greenery will make an attractive border for this month's theme. Inside the border place pretty Christmas pictures from magazines or used greeting cards.

### DECEMBER FIRST MEETING

## GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

### FOR THE COMMANDER

Decorate your room to create a Christmas atmosphere. Provide Christmas scents: pine branches or tree, holly, a candle, etc. On a table set an empty stable. The people and animals will be added each week as the story is told. Play Christmas music softly in the background (record or tape) as the boys arrive.

### WELCOME

Let the boys move around room to look at decorations.

### SHARING

Open conversation by commenting about the Christmas decorations now up in stores, streets, and homes.

### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

### MUSIC

Along with your regular songs, begin singing Christmas carols. Be sure to sing "Away in a Manger." If possible sing along with a children's record. Sing "For God So Loved the World."

### MEMORY WORK

In large letters, print the memory verse on the blackboard. "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). Read the verse with the boys. Discuss the meaning of the verse—*why* God sent His Son, etc. Repeat it together.

### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in thanking God for sending His Son. Pray for current requests.

### STORYTIME

#### A BABY IS BORN

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

Many, many years ago in a faraway land, there lived a woman named Mary and her husband Joseph. They lived in a town called Nazareth.

One day an angel came to Mary and Joseph. He told them a wonderful secret. He said that God was going to give them a baby boy. The baby boy was to be God's own Son. They would name Him Jesus. God knew that Mary and Joseph would take very good care of Jesus as He grew up.

Mary and Joseph were very happy. They were anxious for the baby to arrive.

One day Joseph came home with a special message from the governor. "We must go to Bethlehem to be counted," he said. "Everyone will go to be counted."

The next day Mary worked very hard packing clothes and preparing food for the long trip. Soon they were ready to go.

All day Mary and Joseph traveled. Mary rode on a little donkey while Joseph walked beside her. At night they stopped and found a place to rest. All the next day they traveled again. They traveled for many days. Many other people traveled on the road with them.

Finally they arrived in Bethlehem. How happy they were to finish the long trip. They were very tired.

Joseph knocked on the door of an inn (hotel). Knock! Knock! Knock! The innkeeper came to the door.

"May we have a room to sleep in?" asked Joseph. "We are very tired. We have traveled a long way."

The innkeeper shook his head. "I'm sorry," he said. "There are many people visiting in Bethlehem now, and I have no more empty rooms." Then the innkeeper looked at Mary and saw how tired she was.

"You can sleep on the soft hay in my stable," he said. "The cows and sheep and donkeys are there, but they will not bother you."

(Put figures of Mary and Joseph in stable.) Mary and Joseph were very glad to have somewhere to rest. The soft hay felt good, and the animals were very friendly.

That night a very wonderful thing happened. God sent His Son to be born in the stable. Mary wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in the soft hay in the manger. (Lay Baby Jesus in manger. Put Mary and Joseph next to manger.)

Mary and Joseph were very happy. They called the baby *Jesus*. How glad they were that God sent Jesus to be their baby.

## ACTIVITIES

Instruct the boys to color the picture of Baby Jesus in the manger (page 46 in the handwork packet). For variety they may glue strips of yellow yarn on the picture for hay and a piece of soft cloth for the blanket. Repeat the memory verse together.

The boys may begin to work on their Christmas gifts. See page 82, "Christmas Gifts to Make."

## HELPING

Assign each boy a part in cleaning up.

## GOOD-BYE

Holding their mangers, the boys might sing "Away in a Manger" again. Encourage the boys to tell parts of the story and, perhaps, act out the part where Mary and Joseph look for a room and find the stable.

Close with a prayer of thankfulness that God sent Jesus to be born on earth.

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## DECEMBER SECOND MEETING

# GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

## FOR THE COMMANDER

It would be nice to serve Christmas cookies with punch or Kool-Aid at the conclusion of today's meeting. Perhaps the mothers of your boys would be willing to furnish this special treat.

## WELCOME

With Christmas music in the background, greet the boys warmly. They may want to look around the room and examine the manger scene. Talk with them about Jesus being born in the stable.

## SHARING

The boys will probably be bursting with the excitement of Christmas. They may talk of "what they want for Christmas." Teach them that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Lead them in the thoughts of what they can give, whether in material gifts or gifts of love and service.

## OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

## MUSIC

Sing the first verse and chorus of "Silent Night." Repeat "Away in a Manger." Sing other favorites.

## MEMORY WORK

Repeat the verse together: "God . . . loved us and sent

his Son" (1 John 4:10). Ask the boys to relate details of how He sent His Son. Explain that God's Son was His gift to the world.

## PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for God's gift. Pray for current needs.

## STORYTIME

### THE ANGELS' SONG

Luke 2:8-20

(On a table away from the manger scene, place figures of shepherds and sheep.) On the night that Jesus was born, in a field close to the little town of Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep.

They had to stay by their sheep all during the night so that no wild animals would come and hurt the sheep.

Everything was very quiet. The sheep were all curled up asleep. Some of the shepherds were asleep. Others were sitting by the fire talking quietly and watching the sheep.

Suddenly the whole sky around them became bright. An angel stood beside them. (Put figure of angel beside them.) The shepherds were very frightened.

Then the angel spoke. "Do not be afraid. I bring you wonderful news that will make the whole world happy.

"Tonight, in the town of Bethlehem, a baby was born. He is God's Son. Go and see Him. He is wrapped in a blanket and is lying in a manger."

Suddenly the whole sky was filled with angels. They were all singing, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth for all those pleasing Him."

Suddenly the angels were gone. (Take away angel.)

The shepherds looked at each other in surprise. Then they said, "Come on. Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened." (Carry shepherd figures to table with manger scene. Have them look about for stable. Then place them in the stable.)

They went to Bethlehem and found the stable where Mary and Joseph were staying. There they saw Baby Jesus sleeping in the soft hay in the manger.

"What a beautiful baby," they said.

After the shepherds left, they told everyone about Baby Jesus. They told them that God had sent His Son to the earth.

The shepherds were very happy. They were glad that God had sent His angels to tell them about His Son.

"Thank You, God," they said. "Thank You for letting us see Him."

## ACTIVITIES

If there is time, the boys may make an angel and a lamb. (Handwork packet, page 47.) Instructions are included with patterns.

Continue working on your Christmas decorations and gifts.

## HELPING

Assign the boys duties in cleaning up.

## GOOD-BYE

Let the boys "playact" the story of the shepherds and angels. Assign different characters to the boys: angels, shepherds, sheep, etc. You might play a record of the song "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" and have the boys act it out with the music.

## DECEMBER THIRD MEETING

### GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the theme today is gifts, you may want to give an inexpensive gift to each boy. Or ask each one to bring a small gift to be exchanged at the end of the meeting.

Make sure you have everything needed to make the ice-cream-cone wise men.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, have the music to "We Three Kings" playing in the background.

#### SHARING

Talk about the boys' plans for Christmas. Discuss ways in which they can help their mothers during the holidays.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### MUSIC

Repeat the Christmas carols the boys have been learning. You may wish to sing along with a children's Christmas record.

#### MEMORY WORK

Ask the boys to repeat together the memory verse: "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). By this time they should know the verse quite well.

#### PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks to God for the many gifts He has given us.

#### WISE MEN BRING GIFTS

Matthew 2:1-12

In a country far from Bethlehem there lived three men who liked to study stars. They knew the names of many stars and where they were in the sky. People called them 'Wise Men.

One night, as they were looking up into the sky, they saw a new star. It was very bright. They had never seen it before.

The Wise Men were very excited. They said to each other, "The new bright star must mean that a king has been born."

"Let's go find the king," they said.

The Wise Men hurried and packed their clothes and food. They also packed some shiny bottles of perfume and spices. They were called gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were presents for the new king.

Then the Wise Men climbed onto their camels and began their long, long trip. The Wise Men traveled for many days, weeks, and months across the hot dusty desert following the star. Finally, they arrived in the country where Jesus was born.

The Wise Men rode their camels to the palace where King Herod lived. They asked him, "Where is the new king that was born? We have seen his star in far-off eastern lands. We have come to worship him."

The king did not know that Baby Jesus had been born. He called his men who studied the Bible scrolls.

"The new king is in Bethlehem," they said. "Many years ago the man who wrote the Bible scrolls said that the new king would be born in Bethlehem."

The Wise Men got on their camels. They traveled to Bethlehem. There they found Baby Jesus living in a house with Mary and Joseph, his parents.

How happy they were! They gave the presents to Jesus and worshiped Him.

They were thankful God had shown them the star so that they could see Jesus.

## ACTIVITIES

Teach the following rhyme and finger play to the boys:

(Walk finger on arm.)

Wise Men traveled from afar,

(Put hand above eyes and look up.)

Following the eastern star.

(Hold out hands like they have presents in them.)

"Gold, frankincense, and myrrh we bring,

(Box, holding out "presents")

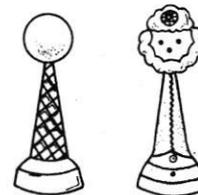
We will give them to the King."

## ICE-CREAM-CONE WISE MEN

### Needed:

- Ice-cream cone (colored)
- Rickrack or braid trim
- 1-inch styrofoam ball
- Sequins
- Cotton
- Scraps of material (If colored cones are not available, spray paint regular cones.)

With a sharp instrument, make a small hole in the styrofoam ball so that it will fit onto sharp end of cone. Glue. Decorate cones with rickrack or braid and sequins. With scraps, make fancy hats and glue to top of ball. Glue on sequins for facial features and cotton for beard. Finish Christmas presents.



### HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to the boys.

### GOOD-BYE

Say the finger play together again. Ask the boys to retell parts of the story. Play a recording of the song "We Three Kings." The boys may attempt to sing along with the record.

## DECEMBER FOURTH MEETING

### GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

#### FOR THE COMMANDER

Bring an assortment of colored yarn and pencils to use when working on the sewing cards. You may wish to award a candy bar to the boy doing the neatest and best work.

#### WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them warmly. They will each want to tell you what they received for Christmas, where they went, etc.

#### SHARING

Let the boys share their Christmas experiences.

#### OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge.

#### MUSIC

Teach the boys "I Was Glad." Sing other favorites.

#### MEMORY WORK

Have the boys repeat the memory verse together. "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). On an 8½- by 11-inch paper, print (large letters) the memory verse. (Make one for each boy.) Coat the back with the following sticker mixture: two parts white glue, one part vinegar.

Brush on. With glue side up, let dry, weighting the edges of the paper to keep it from curling. When dry, cut the paper into large puzzle pieces. (Make all the puzzles alike.) Give the boys a piece of paper on which puzzle lines have been drawn. Ask the boys to paste the puzzle pieces in the appropriate places.

#### PRAYER TIME

Explain to the boys that when you meet again it will be next year. Explain how the year ends in December (show them a calendar with 12 months). Talk about the things God has done for the boys during this year. Thank God. Ask Him to help the boys during the next year.

#### STORYTIME

##### BABY JESUS GOES TO CHURCH

Luke 2:21-38

One morning Mary woke up very early. She tiptoed quietly around the house so that she would not wake up baby Jesus.

Soon the Baby opened His eyes and smiled a tiny baby smile. Mary came to His cradle and picked Him up in her arms.

"Today is a very special day," she whispered. "Today we are going to take You to church for the very first time."

Mary fed Baby Jesus. She bathed Him and wrapped Him in clean blankets. She looked at Him and smiled. "You are a very beautiful baby," she whispered.

Then Mary put on a clean dress and brushed her hair until it shone.

Joseph brought the donkey to the door. He helped Mary onto its back. She held the Baby in her arms.

Mary and Joseph were very happy to be going to church with their new baby. As they walked into the church a nice old man with white hair came to meet them.

"My name is Simeon," he said, "I have waited a long time for this day. God told me that someday I would see His Son. May I hold Him?"

Mary put the Baby in Simeon's arms. Simeon prayed, "Thank You, God, for letting me see Your Son."

Simeon told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would grow up to be a great man. He said that Jesus would help many people. This made Mary and Joseph very glad.

Soon a sweet little old lady came to Mary and Joseph.

"My name is Anna," she said, "I have lived in the church for many years. I help by praying every day. May I see your baby?"

Mary showed Anna the baby. Anna was very happy. She knew that He was God's Son.

"Thank You, God, for letting me see Your Son," she prayed.

Anna told many people about Jesus. She said that He would help many people.

Mary and Joseph gave their offerings. Then they prayed to God and thanked Him for Baby Jesus.

After that Mary and Joseph went home. Their hearts were very happy. God was pleased with Mary and Joseph. He was glad He had sent Jesus to their home.

## ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 48 from the handwork packet. Let the boys cut out the church, using the broken lines around the outside edge. Ahead of time, you will need to punch a hole at each dot and cut broken lines at the door. The boys should begin and end yarn lacing at either side of the door. They may poke colorful yarn through the holes with a pencil.

Talk to the boys about the proper behavior in church. Ask the boys for their suggestions first. Include, "Not chewing gum," "Not running in church," "Not throwing down papers outside the church," "Sitting quietly in the

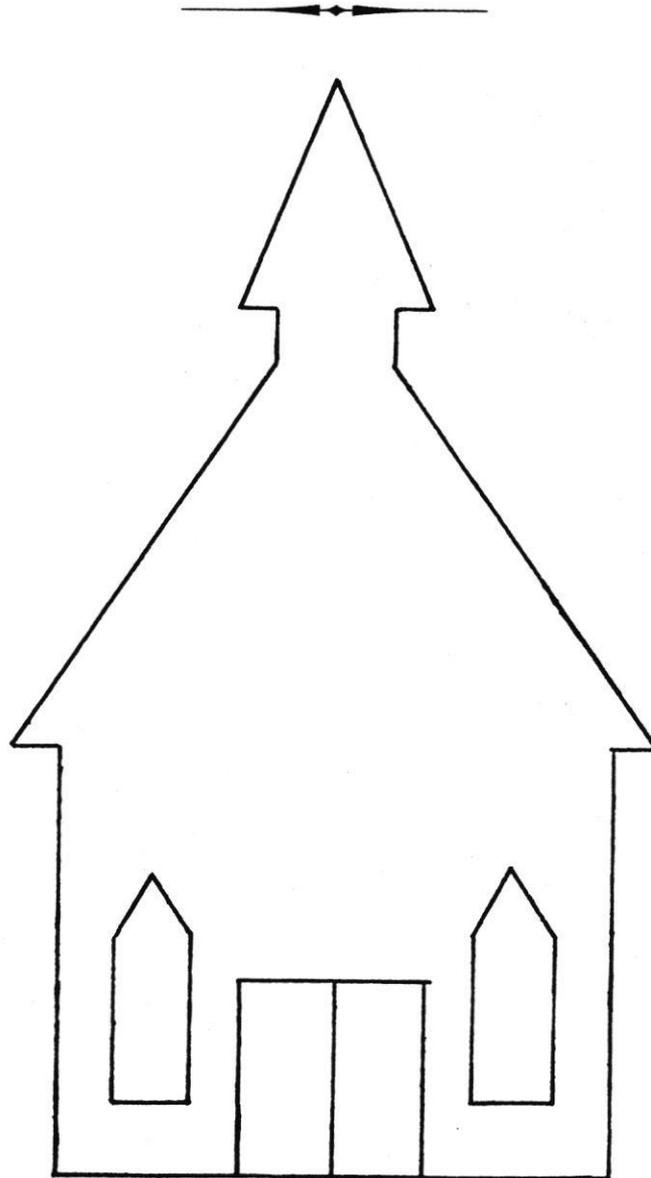
services," "Closing our eyes and praying during prayer time," etc.

## HELPING

Make the boys conscious of helping to keep the church clean. Encourage them to pick up papers that have been thrown or dropped on the floor. They may all help in dusting and straightening up your room at this time.

## GOOD-BYE

Encourage the boys to be in church at every service if possible. Talk about the days and times of service. Thank God for your church and pastor.



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G H I J K

L M N O P

Q R S T U

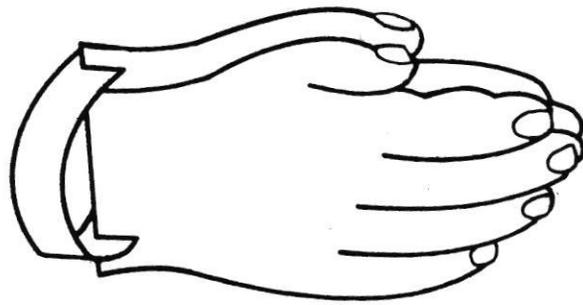
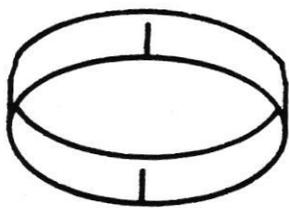
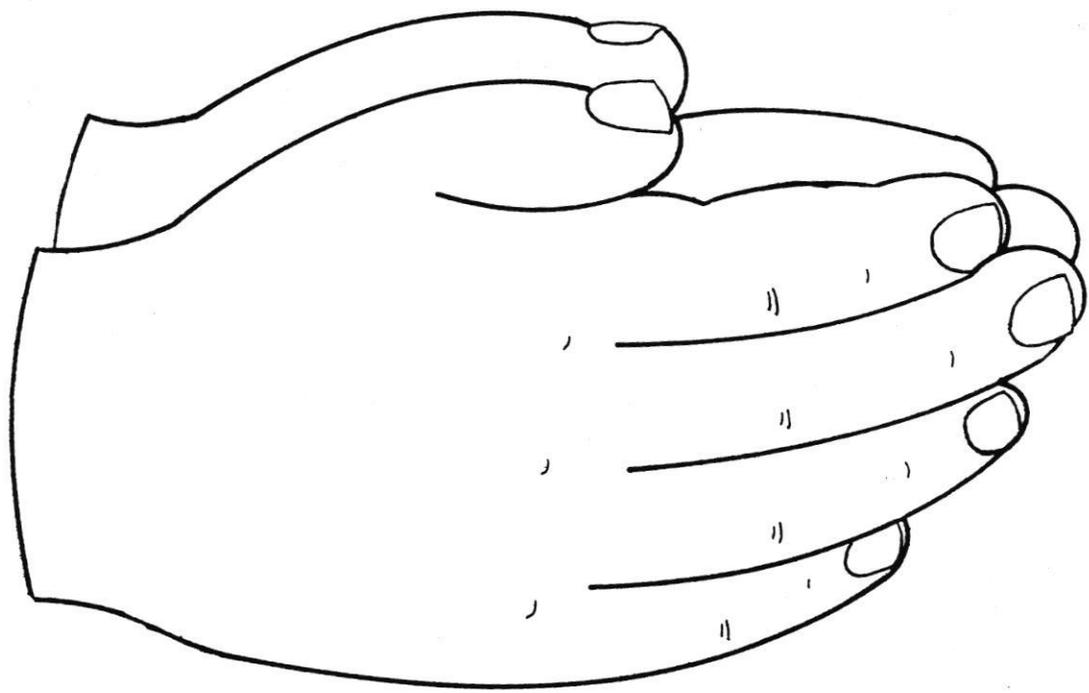
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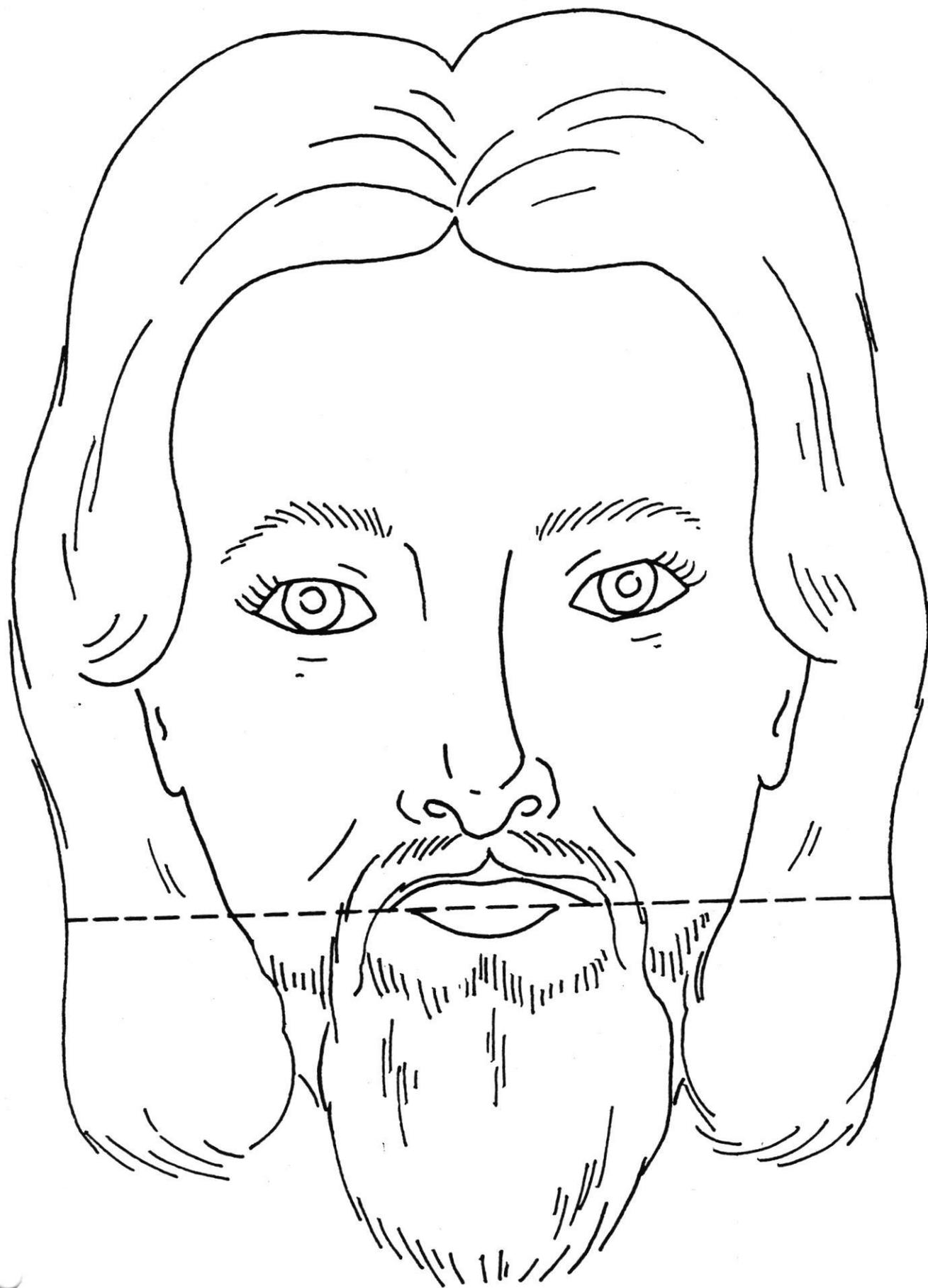
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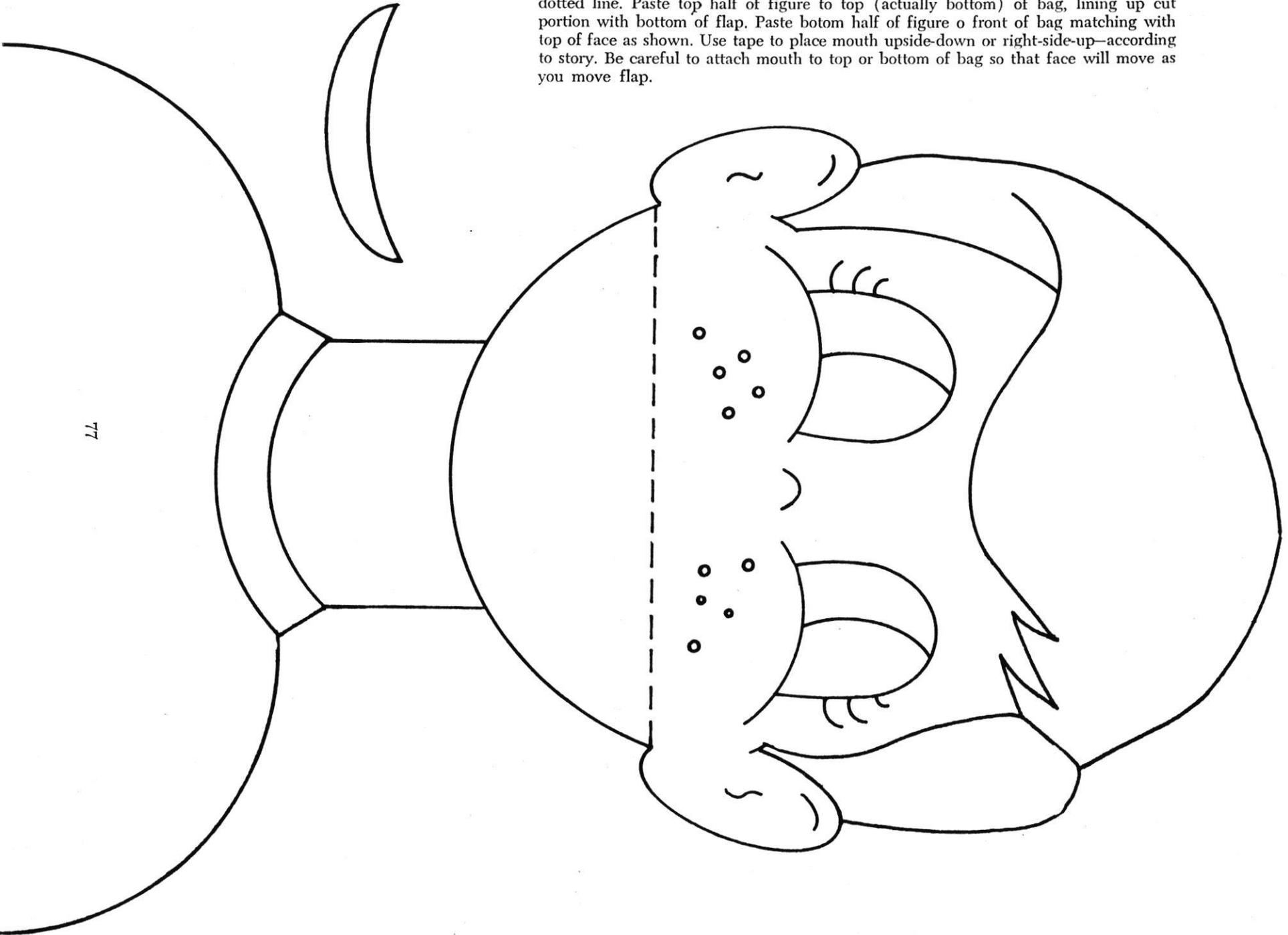
U V W X Y Z





## PAPER-BAG PUPPETS

Use the pattern on this page and the next to make the Sam and Suzie puppets to use with the stories during June. Color and cut out mouth and figure. Cut face on dotted line. Paste top half of figure to top (actually bottom) of bag, lining up cut portion with bottom of flap. Paste bottom half of figure on front of bag matching with top of face as shown. Use tape to place mouth upside-down or right-side-up—according to story. Be careful to attach mouth to top or bottom of bag so that face will move as you move flap.

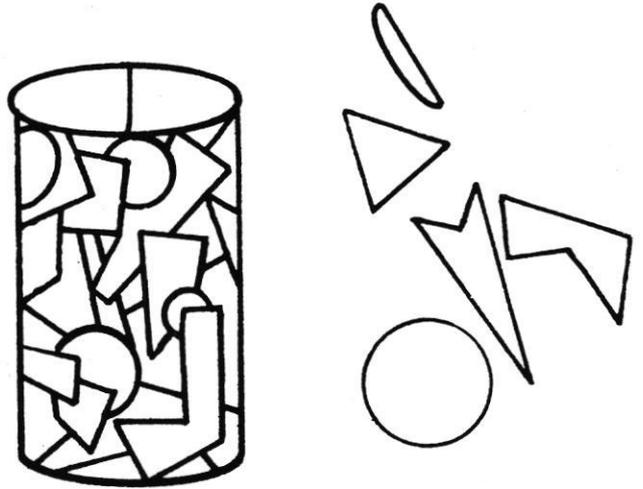


See directions to make Susie puppet on previous page.

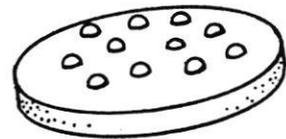


## IDEAS FOR MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

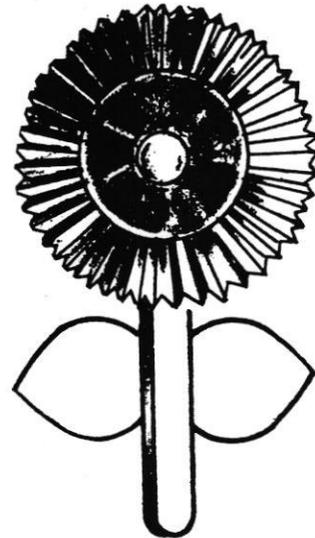
**Pencil Holder:** Wash a small can thoroughly removing label. Cut colored paper into small pieces, making all kinds of shapes. Glue the pieces of paper to outside of can. Have them overlap. You may wish to put a flower decal here and there.



**Hot Pad:** Mix plaster of Paris with water and pour into a coffee can or cottage cheese lid. Before the plaster dries, place in it pretty stones or marbles, making sure none of them are above the edge of the lid. (In place of marbles or stones, small tiles may be used. Designs may be formed by use of various colors of tile.)



**A Flower for Mom:** Paint a popsicle stick green. About two-thirds of the way down, glue two green leaves cut from construction paper. With a yellow thumbtack, attach a muffin cup to the top for a flower.



**MOTHER'S DAY PICTURE CARD**—Using a Polaroid camera, take a picture of each boy. Give the boys pieces of construction paper and show them how to construct a card, folding it in halves and using picture cutouts, decals, crayons, or spatter paint. On the front, they may print:

Mother, guess who loves you?

Use photo-mounting corner tabs or slits or glue to mount their pictures inside and print: Me!

## FATHER'S DAY GIFTS

### I-LOVE-YOU GIRAFFE

Materials needed:

1 piece of yellow construction paper 3" x 7"

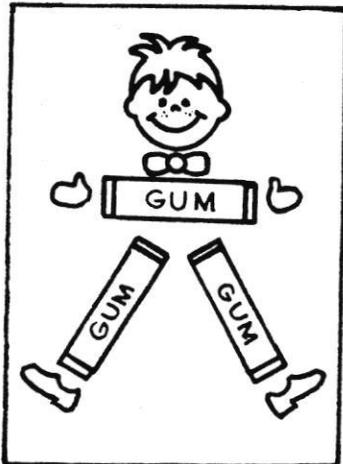
Crayons

1 piece of brown yarn 2" long

Pencil

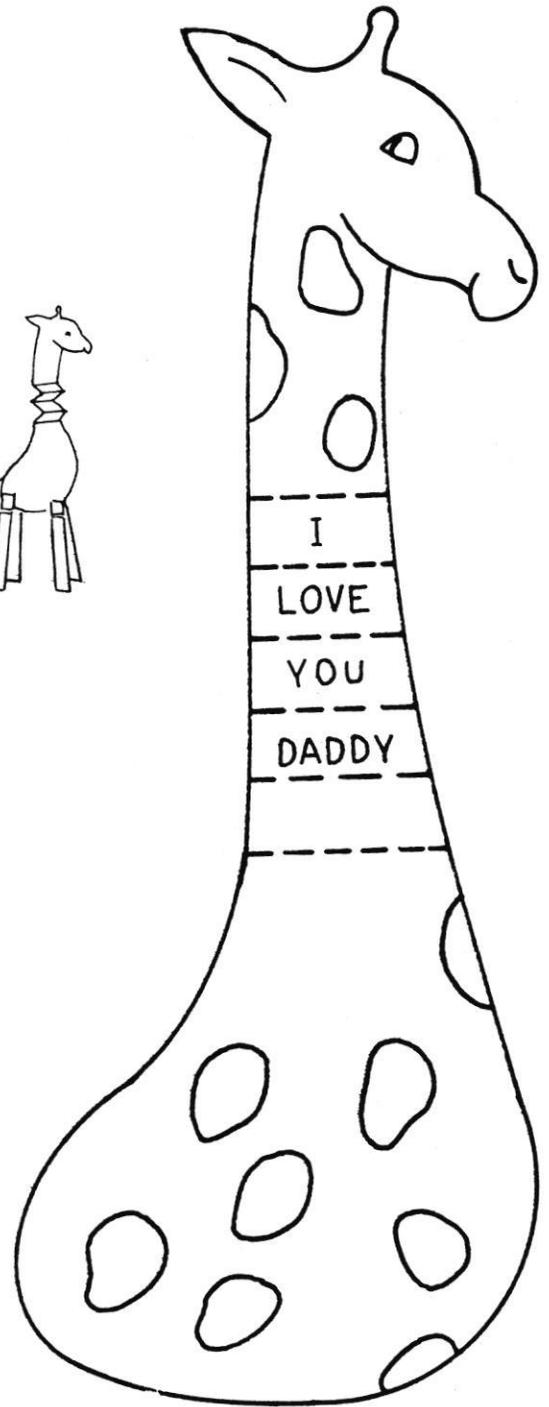
2 spring clothespins

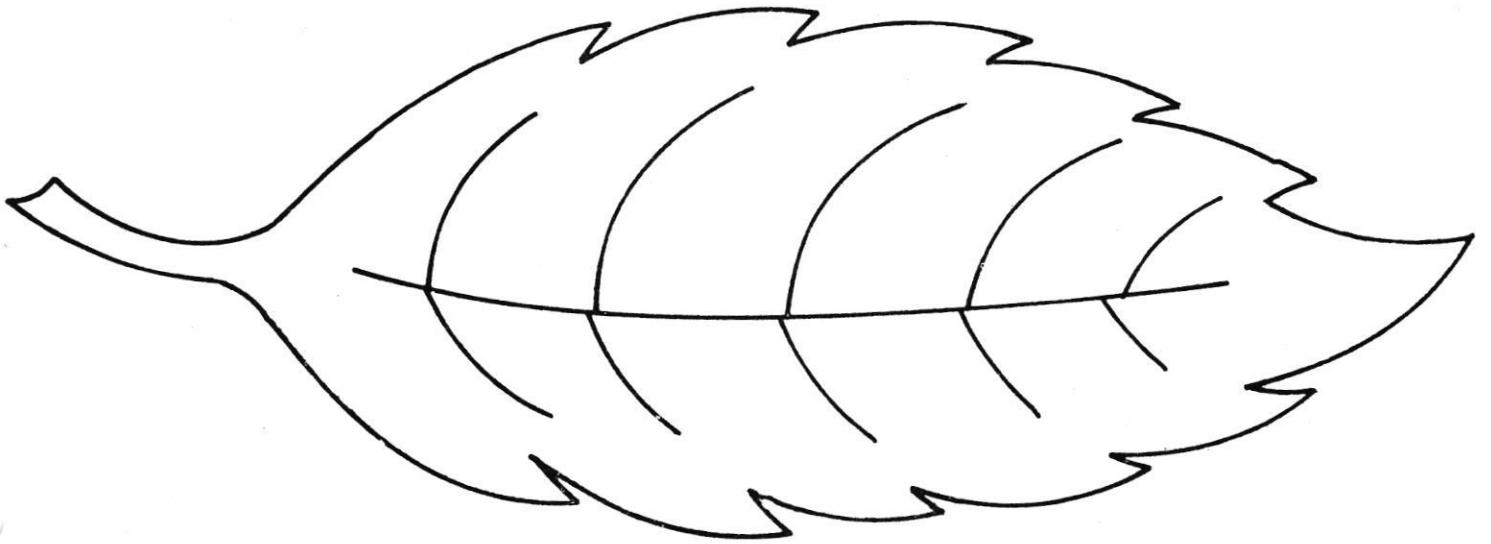
Trace giraffe body on yellow paper and let girls cut it out. Help them fold neck of giraffe accordion style so there will be six  $\frac{3}{8}$ " folds. Write verse on neck of giraffe, one word to each fold so verse will be hidden when neck is folded and will appear when neck is stretched out. Let boys color brown spots on giraffe's body. Use yarn for tail. Fasten clothespins to body to make legs. (See sketch.)



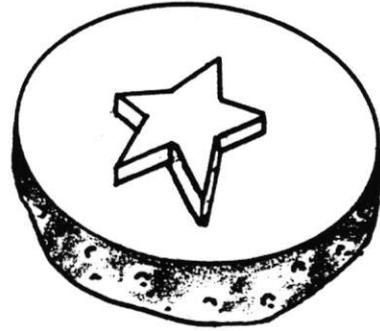
### GUM TREAT CARD

Before the meeting cut colored pieces of construction paper to 4" by 6" size. Give each boy three pieces of gum, a face, shoes, hands, and bow tie and let him make a card for Dad. (Use patterns on this page.) Across bottom of card boys might print, I LOVE YOU DAD.





## CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MAKE



### GRAPPING PAPER

#### Materials:

- Plain colored or white butcher or shelf paper
- A large potato
- Poster paints

#### Ahead of time:

Sponsor will cut a potato in half. Mark a star or other simple picture on the flat side of the halves. (If you want a letter of the alphabet, mark it backward.) Cut away the potato from your design.

#### In the meeting:

Cover your design with poster paint. Push the potato against the paper to make it print.

You can print the picture as many times as you wish if you cover the potato with paint before each printing.



### CHRISTMAS SHADOW BOX

Glue pictures cut from old Christmas greeting cards to the inside bottom of an aluminum pie tin. (Or construct your own scene with cotton and felt or other scraps.) Trim the outer rim with tinsel. (Glue on with a strong glue.) A three-dimension effect can be achieved by using plastic figures to form scene.)



### CHRISTMAS PAPER WEIGHT

Saturate in water a religious seal or picture cut from old greeting card. Place against side of small glass jar with top of picture facing bottom of jar and picture facing outside of glass. Fill the jar with plaster of Paris that has been tinted by adding food coloring to the water when mixing. When the plaster is dry, glue a felt circle over it. Turn upside down.



### CHRISTMAS CARDS

From old greeting cards, help the boys cut simple Christmas pictures. Cut 8½ x 11 inch construction paper in half. Fold in half again. Paste pictures to front fold. On the inside help the boys print, "From. . ."

Another idea would be to use the potato printing to make a design on the front of card or glue on a picture or design made with scraps of felt.

