

STRAIGHT ARROWS

LEADER'S MANUAL

VOLUME II

Royal Rangers
Men's Ministries Department
Assemblies of God

ABOUT THIS BOOK

This book is the second-year portion of a 2-year program for Straight Arrows. It is not to be used until *Straight Arrows*, Unit 1 is completed.



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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.

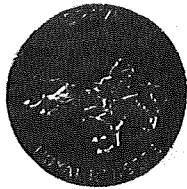
Use an old vest as a pattern or secure a vest pattern from a fabric store. Many leather craft shops have vest kits you may buy.



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.



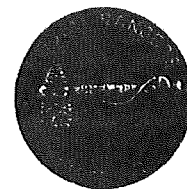
STRAIGHT ARROW TRIBESMAN

- *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.

THEME—THE CHILD, JESUS

PURPOSE

- To portray life as it was when Jesus was a boy.
- To help the boys understand that Jesus was once a child—just as they are.
- To increase their love for and admiration of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE

- “Jesus is . . . the Son of God” (John 20:31).
- “Jesus . . . went about doing good” (Acts 10:38).

SONGS

- “The Boy Jesus” (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
- “In the House and Out of Doors” (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- “Jesus Is the Children’s Friend” (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

BULLETIN BOARD

Cut out the figures on pages 73-75 and place them on your bulletin board for this month. Use figures on page 77 as patterns to make boy, tree, and donkey for bulletin board. You will want to paint or color the figures ahead of time. You may wish to cut out the letters to spell the theme *The Child, Jesus* and place this above the display.

**JANUARY
FIRST MEETING**

SAFE IN EGYPT

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since this will be the first meeting of a new year, you may want to bring several different kinds of calendars to show the boys. You could include wall calendars, desk calendars, religious types, and those from companies that use them as a means of advertising. Perhaps you can give each boy a calendar for the new year.

WELCOME

Greet the boys warmly as they arrive, listening to their conversation about the Christmas holidays.

SHARING

With an air of mystery, ask the boys if they like having something new. Then state that every one of them has something new tonight. It is the same thing. Let the boys guess what it could be. Show an old calendar and a new calendar. Explain that we have just finished an old year and that now we have a *new year*. It begins with January. During this year everyone will have a birthday. Leaf through the calendar, letting each boy identify the month of his birthday. Talk about the things you will be observing throughout the year: February—Valentine's Day; March or April—Easter; summer vacations; September—school begins again; October—Halloween; November—Thanksgiving; December—Christmas.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

This month we are going to pretend that we are living many, many years ago. We are going to pretend we are living during the years when Jesus was a child. We are going to learn about the Boy Jesus. Teach the first verse of the song, "The Boy Jesus." Sing other familiar songs about Jesus.

MEMORY WORK

Explain to the boys that while Jesus was a child at one time and though He had a father and mother and probably brothers and sisters, His real father is God. Read the verse: "Jesus is . . . the Son of God" (John 20:31). Have the boys repeat the verse with you.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer, remembering current needs.

STORYTIME

SAFE IN EGYPT
Matthew 2:7-21

When Jesus was born, a wicked king named Herod ruled the land.

Herod was very worried. Three Wise Men had told him a baby was born in Bethlehem who was called, "The King of the Jews." Herod did not understand that Jesus was called a "king" because He was God's Son. He thought that Jesus would grow up and take away his kingdom.

Herod told the Wise Men, "Go to Bethlehem and look for this newborn king. When you have found Him, come back and tell me where He is. I want to go and worship Him, too."

Herod did not really want to worship Jesus. He wanted to kill Him. Then he would be sure the new "King of the Jews" would never take away his kingdom.

Herod waited for the Wise Men to come back. He waited and waited and waited. The Wise Men did not come back. God had told them in a dream not to go back and see King Herod. They had obeyed God and had gone home by a different road.

When the Wise Men did not come back, King Herod became very angry. How would he be able to get rid of the new baby king? Then the wicked king had an idea. He would command his soldiers to kill every baby boy in Bethlehem. Surely this would get rid of the new "King of the Jews."

God knew about King Herod's plan. One night He sent an angel in a dream to Jesus' father, Joseph. The angel said "Hurry! Take Baby Jesus and Mary and go to the land of Egypt. King Herod wants to kill Jesus!"

Joseph got up. He took Mary and Jesus and hurried out of Bethlehem. They traveled on and on for many days. Finally they reached the land of Egypt.

Soon King Herod's soldiers arrived in Bethlehem. They killed all the baby boys in the town. Baby Jesus was safe, though. He was far away in Egypt.

Jesus lived with his mother and father in Egypt until they heard that wicked King Herod had died. Then they returned home.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 1 from his handwork packet to color and take home.

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning up art supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with the song "Jesus Loves Me."

**JANUARY
SECOND MEETING**

GROWING UP IN NAZARETH

FOR THE COMMANDER

For today's lesson try to provide the atmosphere of life as it was when Jesus was growing up. Use pictures and props to represent as many as possible of the following items: water pot, olives, figs, grapes, bread (small, hard loaves), oil lamp, well, mat (His bed), basic carpenter's tools, scroll, and grinding stones.

See the *Activities* section for materials you will need for each boy.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, point out the items on display and tell them they are related to today's story.

SHARING

Ask the boys to tell ways in which they help their families at home. Talk about ways Jesus helped His family.

- Helping His carpenter-father in their shop by hammering nails, sawing wood, and running errands.
- Getting water from the well and carrying it home for His mother. (Show motions of how this would be done.)
- Putting away His sleeping mat. (Just as we would make our beds.)
- Sweeping the floor. (The floors were of hard dirt.)
- Filling the oil lamps.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing verse one of "The Boy Jesus." Mention that we can be helpers at home just as Jesus was. Sing "In the House and Out of Doors." Another familiar song about helping that would be appropriate to sing is "Jesus Wants Me for a Helper" ("Sunbeam").

MEMORY WORK

Review last week's verse: "Jesus is . . . the Son of God" (John 20:31).

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to earth for us. Pray for requests given by the boys.

STORYTIME

GROWING UP IN NAZARETH

(As it might have been)

Six-year-old Jesus opened His eyes and stared into the early morning light. It was time to get up and get ready for school.

Jesus yawned and stretched. Then he hopped up, rolled up His mat bed, and put it away. Soon He had washed His face, combed His hair, and put on His robe and sandals. His mother had made the robe with her own hands. In fact, she even made the cloth by spinning thread.

It was time for breakfast. Jesus could smell fresh bread baking in the oven outside. There would also be fresh grapes to eat with the bread. While His mother was busy, Jesus picked up the big pitcher and hurried to the well down the street. Mother would need water today, and it was His job to be sure fresh water was drawn from the well every morning. Jesus took the bucket beside the well and carefully let it down with a rope into the deep well. When it was full of water, He pulled it up, up, up to the top. Then He filled His pitcher and hurried back home.

After breakfast Jesus walked to the church school in the village of Nazareth where He lived. Mostly boys were in the school. The girls stayed home with their mothers and learned how to bake and sew.

It was time for class to start. Jesus sat down cross-legged on a mat beside the other students. They faced the teacher who sat on a bench in front of them. All day the students studied from the scroll-Bibles, learning the sacred Scriptures. They also studied reading and writing.

When school was out, Jesus hurried home with the other boys. After telling His mother He was home, He went outside and played. Then He went to His father's workshop beside their home and helped by picking up scraps of wood and running errands for Joseph.

That night Jesus sat beside His family and ate a dinner of fish and bread. As the sun began to go down, He rolled out His sleeping mat and crawled into bed. His mother and father sat beside the oil lamp talking and resting.

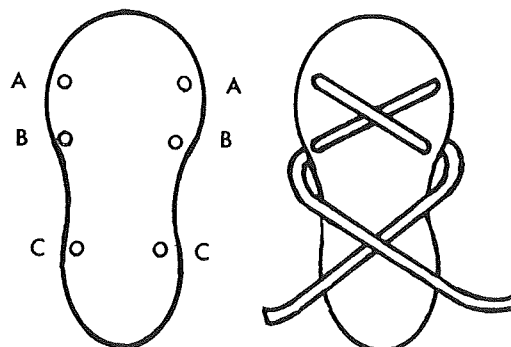
It had been a good day. Jesus was a happy, helpful boy.

ACTIVITIES

Help the boys make Bible-time sandals, following directions. Explain that Jesus wore shoes something like this when He was a little boy.

Materials needed: Cardboard, paper punch, yarn, white glue, pencil, child's shoes.

(See next page)



Trace around a pair of child's shoes that are the size most of the children in your group wear. Or you may trace each boy's shoes as he arrives.

Cut out the shoes and punch holes A, B, and C as marked on the sketch.

Dip both ends of the yarn in white glue and allow them to dry.

Let the boys lace the yarn through the shoe as in the sketch. The length of yarn should be long enough so the child's foot will slip under the crosses of yarn and the yarn can be tied behind the foot.

HELPING

Assign the boys duties in cleaning up.

GOOD-BYE

Sing again the first verse of "The Boy Jesus."

JANUARY THIRD MEETING

A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE

FOR THE COMMANDER

To emphasize the idea of travel, plan to display a number of pictures showing the various modes of transportation. Pictures should range from horse-and-buggy days, if possible, to modern airplanes. Mount each picture on colored construction paper and place about the room.

WELCOME

Greet the boys warmly as they arrive, helping them with their coats and sweaters.

SHARING

Begin by asking the boys about recent trips they have taken. How did they go . . . by car, by airplane, by train, by bus? When Jesus was a boy, most people *walked* when they went on trips. They took along donkeys to carry their things. Sometimes they would ride on the donkeys. Many times friends and families all traveled in a group. The children would laugh and play as they all walked along together.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Teach the second verse of "The Boy Jesus." Sing other favorites about Jesus.

MEMORY WORK

Read from your Bible, Acts 10:38: "Jesus . . . went about doing good." Have the boys repeat it with you a few times.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for the many good things He has done.

STORYTIME

A VISIT TO THE TEMPLE

Luke 2:42-52

Every year Jesus' mother and father took a trip to Jerusalem for a special church meeting. They always traveled together with some of their friends and relatives. It took more than 1 day to get to Jerusalem.

When Jesus was 12 years old, He was finally able to go with His parents to Jerusalem. How excited He was! What fun He had traveling along with the other children and adults.

Jesus and His family stayed in Jerusalem several days worshipping God in the special church meeting. Finally they began their journey home. After they had been traveling many hours, Mary asked Joseph, "Have you seen Jesus?"

"No," answered Joseph. "I am sure He is with the other children, though."

Mary and Joseph began searching for Jesus. They asked all the other travelers, "Have you seen our son, Jesus?"

No one knew where Jesus was. Mary and Joseph became very worried. They turned around and traveled back to Jerusalem hunting for Jesus. They looked for 3 days. Finally they found Him. He was in the temple-church talking to the wise teachers about God.

How surprised Mary and Joseph were to see Jesus there. "Son, why did you stay here when we were starting for home? We have been very worried and have spent 3 days looking for you!"

Jesus answered, "Didn't you know I would be at my Father's house?"

Jesus knew that His real father was God. He wanted to learn all He could about His Heavenly Father. Even the wise men in the temple-church were surprised that Jesus knew so much about God. They did not know He was God's Son.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 2 from his handwork packet. Let him color the picture.

HELPING

Assign clean-up duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

Sing the first two verses again of "The Boy Jesus." Close in prayer.

**JANUARY
FOURTH MEETING**

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

FOR THE COMMANDER

For interest today, a picture of Jesus as a man can be added to your bulletin-board display. Be sure to have a piece of brightly colored construction paper for each boy today. They will paste snowmen on the paper during the *Activities* session.

WELCOME

You may wish to spend a little time today talking about the weather. Mention how God has provided four seasons each year for variety. Ask the boys which season they prefer and why.

SHARING

If you have had a recent baptismal service in your church, open the conversation by talking about it. Ask if all the boys have seen someone baptized. Have any of them been baptized? (Most children are not baptized until they are a littler older.)

In simple terms, explain that a person is baptized to show others that he has become a Christian and is living for Jesus. The Bible teaches that we are to be baptized after we accept Jesus into our hearts.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Review "The Boy Jesus" and learn the third verse. Sing other favorites about Jesus.

MEMORY WORK

Review Acts 10:38: "Jesus . . . went about doing good."

PRAYER TIME

Pray for prayer requests of boys.

STORYTIME

JESUS IS BAPTIZED

Luke 3:21,22

As Jesus grew older, He learned to love God very much. He learned all about the Scriptures written in the Bible- scrolls and enjoyed praying to God, His Heavenly Father, and talking to others about Him.

Jesus also helped His father Joseph in their shop, learning to become a good carpenter. Later, Jesus was able to work in the shop by himself, earning money for His family.

When Jesus was 30 years old, He left His home in Nazareth and went to the Jordan River where His cousin, John the Baptist, was preaching and baptizing people.

John saw Jesus in the crowd. He called to the people, "This is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world."

When John saw that Jesus wanted to be baptized he asked, "Why have you come to me to be baptized? You are much greater than I." John knew that Jesus was God's Son.

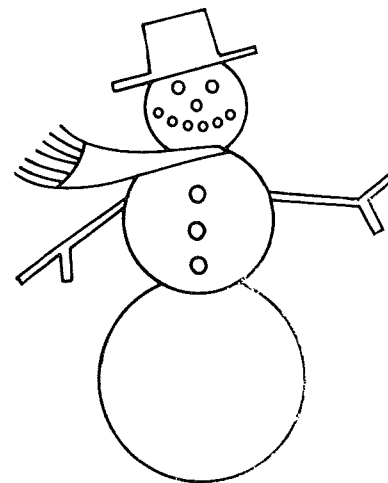
Jesus answered, "It is God's plan for me to be baptized. Baptize me now."

As John baptized Jesus, a very wonderful thing happened. The Spirit of God, in the form of a dove, came down from heaven upon Jesus. Then a loud voice from heaven called, "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus did not go back to Nazareth to live anymore after that. It was time now for Him to begin His work of telling people about God.

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 3 from their handwork packets. Let them cut circles and paste them in the form of a snowman onto a piece of brightly colored construction paper. Using crayons or scraps, have them decorate their snowman with a face, hat, arms, buttons, etc. (See illustration.)



HELPING

Make sure each boy helps clean up the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THEME—SHOWING LOVE

PURPOSE

To develop in each boy an awareness of God's great love.
To teach the boys how to show love to God.
To help each boy realize that Jesus wants people to love one another.

MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).
"A friend loveth at all times" (Proverbs 17:17).

SONGS

"For God So Loved the World" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Wide, Wide as the Ocean" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Do Young Children Love the Lord Today?" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

BULLETIN BOARD

The bulletin-board theme for February will be WAYS TO SHOW LOVE. Cut letters from patterns in Unit 1 of sponsor's manual. From magazines cut pictures depicting the theme. Pictures could be parent comforting an injured child, a nurse helping a patient, a child helping an older person across the street or in the home, a pet with a child, etc. Use your imagination to make the bulletin board as attractive and meaningful as possible. A border of red hearts would tie in the theme with Valentine's Day.

**FEBRUARY
FIRST MEETING**

GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US

FOR THE COMMANDER

Several projects are suggested in today's *Activities* section. You will want to look ahead and plan which one or two you wish to have the boys do. Make sure all the handwork supplies are on hand so there will be no time lost searching for crayons, scissors, etc.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them warmly and point out the bulletin board. Read the words aloud.

SHARING

Talk about Valentine's Day, which will be here in a few days. Ask the boys what special things we do on this day. Discuss why we give valentines: It is a way of saying I love you or I'm glad you are my friend. Ask to whom we give valentines. (Friends, family, etc.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Explain that many, many years ago God sent the world a special Valentine. The Valentine was His only Son, Jesus. God sent Jesus to die for our sins because He loves us so much. He loved us before we ever loved Him. We are going to learn a song that tells us about this. Teach "For God So Loved the World." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Explain that today's Bible verse is like the song. It is John 3:16. Read it from the Bible. Have the boys repeat the verse after you, phrase by phrase. Do this several times.

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

GOD SHOWS HIS LOVE FOR US

When God made the earth, everything was good and beautiful. There was no sadness or sickness . . . or sin. The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, loved God very much.

Then the devil brought sin into the world. This made God very sad. He knew that sin must be punished, but because He loved the world God said, "I will send my Son, Jesus, to the world. He will take the punishment for sin by dying on a cross. Then all who ask Jesus to forgive their sins will not have to be punished."

Our Bible verse we learned today tells us about this. Let's say it together. (Quote John 3:16 together.)

It is easy to love someone who loves you, isn't it? Have you ever tried to love someone who doesn't love you? who doesn't even like you? maybe someone who says mean things about you? It isn't easy, is it?

The Bible tells us (Romans 5:8, *Living Letters*): "But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us *while we were still sinners.*"

Isn't it wonderful that even while we were still sinners—even before we loved God—God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to take the punishment for our sins?

This is the greatest love that ever was.
(Teach "Wide, Wide, as the Ocean.")

ACTIVITIES

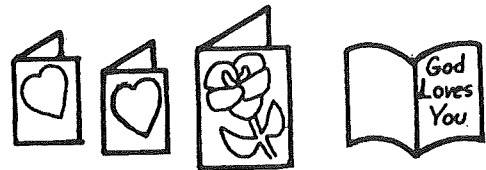
Help the boys make valentines or favors for shut-ins.

VALENTINES

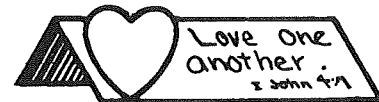
Materials needed:

1. 6- by 9-inch pink construction paper
2. red and green construction paper
3. green crayon
4. glue
5. scissors

Fold pink construction paper in half. Letter message inside. Cut out two red hearts—each $3\frac{1}{2}$ x $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (See page 4 in handwork packet.) Make flower center by fringing ends of a 1- by 2-inch piece of green paper. Glue one heart on front of pink paper folder. Glue fringed paper in center. Fold second heart (see sketch). Glue lower portion over bottom of fringe to make valentine flower. Draw in green stem and leaves.



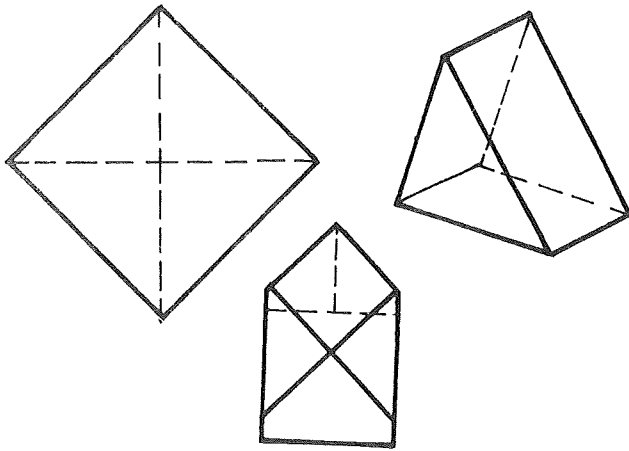
Here is another suggestion for making valentines. Provide a variety of materials for the boys to use—several sizes of red and white paper hearts; red and white bows made of narrow ribbon; paper doilies; gummed stickers of birds, flowers, fruits; cellophane tape; paste and crayons; an assortment of untied ribbons; half-sheets of red and white construction paper; and some printed or typed valentine messages—I love you, I'm glad you are my friend, I want to be your friend, or an appropriate Bible verse such as *Love one another or God is love.*



After talking to the boys about why we give valentines and showing the box of materials, encourage the children to use their own ideas in making the valentines.

ENVELOPES

To make the envelopes, take a 9- by 9-inch square of white paper. Place the square on the table with one corner toward you. Fold this corner up to the opposite corner, crease and open. (See sketches on next page.) Turn so righthand corner is toward you; fold this up to the opposite corner, crease and open. Place on table with one corner toward you. Fold opposite corners toward each other, overlapping at center. Paste. Fold bottom corner up and paste, making an envelope. Clip away excess corners as shown by dark triangles. Let each child make 3 or 4 of these.



FAVORS

Fold a 3- by 5-inch index card in half. Type a Bible verse for each boy to paste on a card. Decorate with gummed stickers.

HELPING

Assign each boy a part in clearing the table and putting away supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with the song "For God So Loved the World."



FEBRUARY SECOND MEETING

WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

The boys will receive the page from their handwork packet today to make a "singing" boy. Perhaps you will want to make one up ahead of time so they will know exactly what they are doing. Make sure you have enough brads on hand so each boy can have one to put his singer together.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them sense your love for them as individuals. Let them know by your actions that you are concerned about their interests and their problems.

SHARING

Review the things the boys learned last week about God's love, making sure they realize this love includes each of them as *individuals*. Emphasize the fact that God loves even the people who don't love Him. (Children often have the mistaken idea that God only loves Christians.) Help them to see that God loves all people—Christians and sinners.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "For God So Loved the World" and "Wide, Wide as the Ocean." Emphasize the fact that, as Christians, we love God, too. Teach "Do Young Children Love the Lord Today?"

MEMORY WORK

Have the boys quote together the verse they learned last week (John 3:16).

PRAYER TIME

Let the boys participate in your worship time today by taking turns leading in prayer, telling God they love Him and thanking Him for the many things He has provided. (Do not force anyone to pray aloud who doesn't want to.)

STORYTIME

A BOY WHO SHARED

John 6:1-13

God showed His love for us by sending His only Son to die for our sins. He also shows us He loves us by answering our prayers, healing us when we are sick, watching over us, etc.

There are many stories in the Bible of people who showed their love for God by helping others. One that you have probably heard before is about the little boy who shared his lunch with Jesus. He had only five small barley cakes and two fishes but he was willing to share what he had.

Five thousand people had come to hear Jesus speak. At the end of the day they were hungry and there was no food to give them. So Jesus told his disciples to ask the people to sit down in groups of 50 and 100.

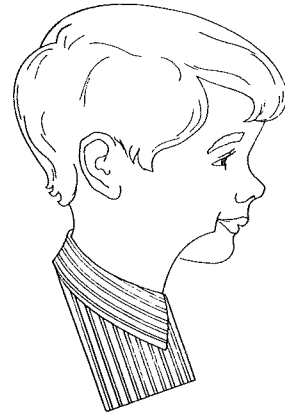
Then Jesus stood up before the crowd of people and taking the little boy's lunch in His hands, thanked His Heavenly Father for it and began to break the bread and fishes into pieces. He put some in each disciple's

basket and told them to pass the food out to all the people.

A wonderful thing happened. As fast as food was taken from the baskets it was replaced. Imagine how surprised the disciples and all the people were. No matter how much was passed out there was still some left. Jesus must have been very happy as He saw the people eating. Of course, the people were happy to have food.

When everyone finished eating and the pieces were picked up, there was still enough left to fill 12 baskets. This was a great miracle and it happened because a little boy was willing to share. This showed his love for God.

How can we show God that we love Him? (Let the boys name ways: going to church, praying, thanking God, being kind and good, etc.) God's Word tells us how we can show we love Him. (Read John 14:15 from your Bible.) What are His commandments and His words? (You may review some of the general teachings of the Bible such as the Ten Commandments and teachings of Jesus.)



ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 5 from the handwork packet. Have each boy color, cut out, and construct a singing boy. We can show God we love Him by singing praises to Him.

HELPING

Assign duties in clearing the table of supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Sing again "Do Young Children Love the Lord Today?"

FEBRUARY THIRD MEETING

WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR OUR FAMILIES

FOR THE COMMANDER

Find magazine pictures of family groups and mount them on construction paper. Place them around the room.

WELCOME

Call attention to the pictures around the room. Invite the boys to comment on them.

SHARING

For conversation today, let each boy tell about his family; naming his brothers and sisters, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Review songs already learned this month. Sing other familiar songs such as "Jesus Loves the Little Ones" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*), "Jesus Loves Me" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*), or "Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*).

MEMORY WORK

Say to the boys: "Have you ever had a friend who liked you sometimes and other times acted as though he didn't like you? You may have wondered whether or not this person was really your friend. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 17:17: 'A friend loveth at all times.' This means that if we are a real friend we will be a friend *all the time*—not just when we feel like it or when there is no one else to play with." (Repeat the verse together.)

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for friends and families.

STORYTIME

HELPING OTHERS

Jimmy was watching cartoons on television while Roger was outside riding his bicycle. It was getting late in the afternoon and Daddy would soon be home from work.

"Muuuuuuth—er," Jimmy called. "Is it time to eat?"

"It will be in a few minutes, Jimmy," Mother answered. "Would you like to come set the table? We will be ready to eat when Daddy gets here."

Jimmy turned off the TV and went to help Mother. He opened the drawer and took out four placemats. He put them on the table and then went to the drawer and got four knives, four forks, and four spoons. He had already learned just where each one should go. Mother didn't have to tell him! Mother set the glasses and a stack of plates on the corner of the table. Jimmy very carefully put one on each mat.

"Jimmy, would you ask Roger to come in and get ready to eat?" Mother asked.

"Yes," said Jimmy, as he went to the front door. "Roger! It's time to come in now," he called. He watched his brother ride his bicycle into the garage. He liked having a big brother. He came up the steps and into the house.

The slam of the car door meant that Daddy was home. Daddy washed his hands and the family sat down to eat.

"Thank You, God, for this food, for our family, and for such a nice day," Daddy prayed.

As they ate, Jimmy told Daddy about his kinder-

garten bus ride. Roger wanted Daddy to know that he had gotten all the answers correct on his test at school. Mother told them all about her visit with Mrs. Henderson in the nursing home.

"She was such a nice lady. She seemed so happy to have a visitor because her children and grandchildren live far away and cannot come to see her very often."

"Mother, could we go with you to see her sometimes?" Jimmy wanted to know.

"Yes, Jimmy, I told Mrs. Henderson that you and Roger and Daddy could come with me to see her."

Soon it was getting dark and Roger and Jimmy were ready for bed. Daddy turned off the TV and then read from his big Bible. Jimmy didn't understand everything that he read, but he did understand when he read the part that said, "Work with your own hands." Jimmy re-

membered that everyone in his family had worked. He said, "Thank You," to God for his family.

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ACTIVITIES

Give each boy a sheet of paper, a pencil, and crayons. Let them draw pictures of their families.

HELPING

As the boys help put away their craft supplies today, emphasize the fact that we show our love for our families by helping at home.

GOOD-BYE

Close by singing "Happy, Happy Home" (*Straight Arrows, Unit I*).

FEBRUARY FOURTH MEETING

WE SHOW OUR LOVE FOR EACH OTHER

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the story today is about friends, you may want to place around the room magazine pictures showing friendship. They could include pictures of children with animals and pictures of families.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, encourage them to be friendly by asking them to help each other in small tasks such as arranging chairs, running an errand, etc.

SHARING

Ask the children to think of different ways they can tell people they love them: saying it, doing something nice for them, helping them, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing all the songs you have learned this month.

MEMORY WORK

Give each boy page 6 from the handwork packet to color. Have the boys read the "verse" with you.

PRAYER TIME

Mention that one way we can show our love for friends is by praying for them. Take prayer requests of friends' needs and pray for them.

STORYTIME

TWO FRIENDS 1 Samuel 19:1-12

There is a story in the Bible about a very wonderful friendship. It is the story of two boys who became good friends even though one of them was a shepherd boy and the other was a prince. The shepherd boy was David and the prince was Jonathan, the son of Saul.

King Saul was very jealous of David when he heard the people praising him for killing the giant. But Jonathan was not jealous of his friend. The Bible tells us that the king's son loved David very much. One day the boys made a promise to each other that no matter what happened they would always be friends. To show that

he meant to keep his promise, Jonathan gave David some of his own special things.

Because he hated David so much, King Saul tried to kill him. But Jonathan helped David by warning him and secretly telling him all of King Saul's plans. When David knew he would have to leave the country to escape the king, the two boys sadly said good-bye. Years later, after Jonathan had died and David had become king, David proved he had not forgotten his old friend. He did a great kindness to Jonathan's crippled son.

ACTIVITIES

Play the following games:

I AM THINKING

This is a game in which a boy describes a friend and the others guess who it is. He may say, "I am thinking of a friend I like very much. He has black hair and is wearing a blue shirt." The winner then describes someone.

CHOOSE A FRIEND

To the tune of "Go In and Out the Window," sing the following words, letting the boys do as the song says. (Insert proper names.)

Mark, choose a friend to walk with,
David, choose a friend to walk with,
Joey, choose a friend to walk with,
And walk around the room,
(Continue until all are walking.)
We'll walk around the room,
We'll walk around the room,
We'll walk around the room,
And back to our chairs again.

THE MISSING FRIEND

Choose a boy to come to the front of the room, turn his back to the group, and close his eyes. Another boy should quietly leave the group and hide. When the others say, "Ready," the one at the front turns around, opens his eyes, and tries to guess which friend is missing. If necessary, some clues may be given: "This friend helped clean the paste off the table last week," or, "This friend is wearing a red sweater."

HELPING

Ask boys to assist in putting the room in good order.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

THEME—LEARNING ABOUT SALVATION

PURPOSE

To learn the meaning of the words *salvation* and being *born again*.

To teach the boys that believing in Jesus is the only way to be saved.

To help the boys realize that Jesus loves sinners and wants them to believe and be saved.

To teach the boys that Jesus paid for our salvation by dying on the cross.

To help them understand more fully the meaning of the Resurrection miracle and the eternal life it brought us.

MEMORY VERSES

"I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13).

SONGS

"One Door and Only One" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

"Whosoever Will" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Jesus Gave Her Water" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Wordless Book Chorus" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Just Like Nicodemus" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Zaccheus" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Into My Heart" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

BULLETIN BOARD

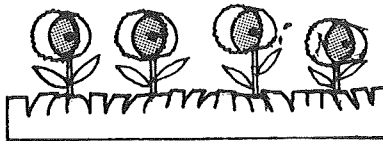
Using the patterns on page 78 prepare a quantity of tulips for the border of your bulletin board. Use several colors of construction paper to make the tulips. For variety, or in place of the tulips, you might make blooms from colored muffin cups. Attach to stems and leaves. (See sketch.)

Cut 3-inch-wide strips of green crepe paper and fringe them to 1½ inches. Fasten along bottom of bulletin board. (See sketch.) Fasten leaves, stems, blooms, and grass to the bulletin board with colored thumbtacks.

Use 1½-inch-letter patterns from Unit I of *Straight Arrows* to make the words *Spring Is Here*.

During the *Activities* period for the first meeting of this month, pass out page 7 of the handwork packet. Ask the boys to color the butterflies. Stress the importance of good work. Fasten the butterflies to the bulletin board for the remainder of March. Later give them to the boys to take home. Be sure their names are put on the back of the butterflies.

If Easter is in March, you may want to have an Easter emphasis on your bulletin board.



MARCH FIRST MEETING

LIVING WATER

FOR THE COMMANDER

The boys will be coloring page 7 from their handwork packet today. You may wish to color several butterflies ahead of time so they will get an idea of how to do a good job. See an encyclopedia for suggested colors.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive, talking with them informally.

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever been very, very thirsty. "What was the thing you wanted the very most right at that time?" (Water.) "How did you get the water?" (From a water fountain, faucet, etc.) "How did the water get in the faucet?" (Through pipes from a well or a water tower.)

Explain that many years ago, before there were water faucets or water pumps, people got their water from big wells dug near their homes. Every day the women balanced large pitchers on their heads or shoulders and walked to the well to get water for their homes. (Describe the actions involved in letting the bucket down to the water and filling the water pitchers. Perhaps you could let each boy take a turn trying to carry an empty plastic pitcher on his head.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Learn "One Door and Only One." Sing "Whosoever Will." Teach "Jesus Gave Her Water."

MEMORY WORK

When Jesus was on earth He called himself many different names to explain how He could help people. Once He called himself the *Good Shepherd*. Another time He said that He was the *Bread of Life*. Another time He told some people that He was the *Door*. "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved" (John 10:9). By this Jesus meant that believing in Him was the only way (door) to *salvation* (*being saved from sin*). Repeat the verse several times.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for salvation and for being the door so that anyone who wants to can come to Him and be saved.

STORYTIME

A WONDERFUL MEETING

John 4:1-30

Jesus and His disciples had been traveling many miles. Finally they reached a little city. They were very tired and hungry. While His disciples went to buy food, Jesus sat down beside a well to rest.

Soon a woman came to the well. She had a large pitcher on her head. She dropped a bucket into the well and began to draw up water to fill her pitcher.

Jesus was very thirsty. He had no pitcher or bucket with which to get water. "Please give me a drink," He said to the woman.

The woman was very surprised. She did not expect this stranger to ask her for water. "Why do you ask me for a drink?" she said.

Jesus answered, "If you knew who asks you for a drink, you would ask Him to give you living water."

The woman did not understand. She knew Jesus did not have anything to draw up the water from the well. "How can you give me living water?" she asked Him.

He said, "Whoever drinks of this water becomes thirsty again. Whoever drinks the water that I give will never be thirsty again."

The woman was excited. She did not know that the living water was Jesus' free gift of salvation. "Please give me this water so that I won't have to come here to get water anymore," she said.

Then Jesus told the woman some things about herself that she thought no one knew. He told her about God and about *salvation*. The woman had never heard such wonderful words. She said, "I know the Messiah, Christ, is coming from God. When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus told the woman, "I am Christ."

How surprised and excited the woman was. She left her water pitcher and ran to the city to tell her friends about Jesus. "Come see a man who told me all the things I ever did!" she said. "Is not He the Christ?"

Many people came back to the well with the woman to see Jesus. Jesus talked to them about the things of God. He stayed in their city for 2 days teaching them. Many believed. They said, "We know that this man is the Christ, the Saviour of the world."

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 7 from the handwork packet. Ask the boys to carefully color their butterflies so they can be placed on the bulletin board. Explain that they can take them home at the end of the month.

HELPING

Assign duties in clearing the table of craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close by singing again, "Jesus Gave Her Water."

MARCH SECOND MEETING

YE MUST BE BORN AGAIN

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need to construct a "wordless book" ahead of time so the boys can see it. See *Activities* section for directions. Be sure to have construction paper on hand.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they will be interested in the bulletin-board display and will want to point out the butterflies they made.

SHARING

If possible, have an empty cocoon to show the boys or at least a picture of one. Hold up the cocoon and tell them the following.

This was someone's tiny bed. He has gone away and does not need it anymore. This bed belonged to a caterpillar (show a picture). God showed him how to make it all by himself. He spun it around and around; then he went to sleep and slept there all through the cold winter. When he awakened in the springtime, he pushed his head out of the little hole. Something wonderful had happened. While he slept, God had changed him into a beautiful butterfly. (Point out butterflies on bulletin board. Compare their beauty with a caterpillar.) The caterpillar's home was on the ground in the grass, but the butterfly flies high among the trees and flowers.

Let the boys help you in thinking of other miracles of spring: dry bulbs and seeds in the ground becoming beautiful plants and flowers, bare branches covered with leaves and blossoms, brown hills covered with green grass, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "One Door." Ask who may enter the door to salvation. Sing "Whosoever Will." Use your wordless book to teach the "Wordless Book Chorus."

MEMORY WORK

Ask these questions: "Do you remember that last week we learned Jesus was called a *door*? To what is Jesus a door? (Salvation.) What is salvation? (Being saved from sin.)" Say John 10:9 together two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for washing away our sins and giving us salvation. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

THE WAY TO SALVATION

John 3:1-15

Many years ago, when Jesus was on earth, there lived a man called Nicodemus. Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews. His friends did not believe in Jesus. They did not like the things Jesus taught.

Nicodemus heard Jesus teach. He knew that Jesus was very great. He believed that Jesus was sent from God.

One night Nicodemus went to the place where Jesus stayed to talk with Him. He told Jesus, "Master, we know you are a teacher from God. No man could do the miracles you do unless God was with Him."

Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know about the kingdom of God. He said, "Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus did not understand what Jesus meant. He asked, "How can a man be born again after he is grown up? Can he become a tiny baby again?"

When Jesus said *born again*, He meant that when a person receives *salvation* his heart is changed. He becomes like a new person because the *Spirit* is living in him. This is being born again.

Finally, Jesus told Nicodemus: "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." By this, Jesus meant that soon He would die on the cross to pay for sin so that everyone who believes in Him and receives salvation (or, is *born again*) will live forever in heaven. (Have the boys repeat John 3:16.)

Teach the chorus, "Just Like Nicodemus."

ACTIVITIES

The boys will make wordless books. For each book you will need one sheet of green, black, red, white, and yellow (or gold) construction paper. (See sketch.)

Use the green sheet for the cover. Fold pages and put them together so the first page opens to black, the second to red, the third to white, and the fourth to yellow. Glue backs of pages together: green to black, black to red, red to white, white to yellow, and yellow to green.

HELPING

Have each boy help clear the table of art supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Sing the "Wordless Book Chorus" again. The boys can use the books they have made. Close with prayer.

**MARCH
THIRD MEETING**

ZACCHEUS MEETS JESUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Use palm branches to decorate your room today. If real ones are impossible to obtain, cut some from green construction paper. See page 80 for pattern to make palm branches. (Adjust as necessary so that this study always comes the meeting before Palm Sunday.)

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, give them each a palm branch. Explain that you will tell about the palm branches a little later.

SHARING

Tell *simply* the story of the Triumphant Entry (Matthew 21:1-11). Explain that this Sunday is Palm Sunday . . . the day each year that we think about the things that happened on that day years ago and sing happy songs to Jesus.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing familiar songs of praise. Encourage the boys to wave their palm branches as they sing. (The boys should know "Praise Him, Praise Him" and "The Birds Upon the Treetops" from last year—*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1.*)

MEMORY WORK

Teach Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Explain that *whosoever* means anyone who wants to. This includes everyone—good people and people who have done very wicked things. Jesus loves them all and wants them to be saved. Repeat the verse together.

PRAYER TIME

If there are boys who have not yet accepted Jesus as Saviour, use this time to lead them to the Saviour. (See "Leading a Child to the Saviour"—*Straight Arrows, Unit 1, page 11.*) Otherwise, the boys may pray for unsaved friends or family.

**MARCH
FOURTH MEETING**



JESUS IS ALIVE

FOR THE COMMANDER

It may be necessary to switch today's lesson with another one so that the Easter lesson comes during the week preceding Easter. (See *Sharing* section.)

STORYTIME

**A LITTLE MAN
Luke 19:1-10**

Jesus was going to Jericho, a large city. In the city of Jericho there lived a man named Zaccheus. Zaccheus was very rich.

Zaccheus heard people everywhere saying, "Jesus is coming to town. Jesus is coming."

Zaccheus wanted to see Jesus. He must see Jesus. He thought, I am short. I just won't be able to see Jesus in a big crowd. I know what I will do. I will go down the street to that big tree and climb up into it. I know I can see Jesus from there."

And that is what Zaccheus did. He hurried down the street, past tall people and short people to the sycamore tree.

He caught hold of a low limb, put his foot up on the tree, and quickly pulled himself high up into the tree.

When Jesus came to the tree, He looked up and said, "Zaccheus, come down from that tree quickly. I am going to your house."

Zaccheus obeyed. He happily climbed down as fast as he could.

Zaccheus had done some things that were not good. Like taking more money than he should from people when they paid a bill. When Zaccheus saw Jesus, he felt he wanted to do what was right. He said, "I have taken money that did not belong to me. I will pay back four times what I took and I will give half of what I have to those who need it."

Jesus said, "This is a good thing for you to do today."
—*Selected*

At the end of the story teach "Zaccheus."

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 8 from his handwork packet to color.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Repeat the Scripture verse. Ask: "Who can be saved?" (*Whosoever* calls upon the name of the Lord.)

Close in prayer. The boys may take their palm branches home.

SHARING

Ask the boys what special day is coming up this Sunday. Ask why we celebrate Easter. (The boys may suggest Easter eggs, new clothes, and such things.) Explain that Easter is a happy time. Coloring and hunting eggs is one of the happy things that children do. Also, at Eastertime the things in nature are changing. The trees are getting new leaves, the animals and birds get new coats of fur and feathers, etc. People are ready to wear spring clothes. They sometimes wear new clothes at Eastertime because they are happy.

Be sure to bring out the *real* reason for Easter. After Jesus was crucified on the cross by evil men who did not believe in Him, He lay in the grave for 2 days. On the third morning, God made Jesus come back to life again, and He came out of the grave. (Explain that Jesus was not buried under the ground. His grave was a small cave in the side of a mountain. This was the type of grave people had in those days.) Show picture and explain about the stone rolled over the door. The stone was flat and round—not just a big rock. (Use drawings on page 79 to make tomb and stone from gray or brown construction paper.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Why did Jesus die on the cross? (To pay for our salvation.) Sing "Wordless Book Chorus," "One Door and Only One," and others. Close with "Whosoever Will."

MEMORY WORK

Review Romans 10:13: "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Be sure the boys understand the meaning of the verse and are aware that anyone who wants to can receive salvation through Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for dying on the cross to pay for our salvation. Pray for unsaved friends and family.

STORYTIME

THE GLAD NEWS Luke 23 and 24

It was very early in the morning. Almost everyone was asleep. Mary Magdalene could not sleep. She was very sad. Jesus was dead!

Mary thought about the wonderful things Jesus had done when He was alive. She remembered the first time she met Him. Her heart had been full of sin. Jesus looked at her with kind eyes. He knew about her sin and He wanted to help her. When He spoke to her, all her sins were gone. Suddenly she was clean inside. How happy she was!

After that Mary helped Jesus wherever she could. She spent much of her time and money doing kind things for Jesus.

Mary remembered how afraid she had been when the mean soldiers came and took Jesus away. Time seemed to drag by as she waited to see what would happen to Him.

Mary watched as the soldiers whipped Jesus and put a crown of sharp thorns on His head. She had cried as she saw the blood running down His gentle face and His torn back. Then she followed Jesus as He walked the long road to Calvary, carrying the heavy rough cross on His bleeding back.

She had seen the soldiers pounding huge nails into Jesus' hands and feet and watched them stand the cross up on the hill. How angry she had been as she heard them mocking Jesus—calling Him names and laughing. Finally she had seen Jesus take His last painful breath . . . and then He was dead! How sad Mary was!

Mary quietly slipped out of her house into the dark streets. She wanted to visit Jesus' grave before other people were awake. On the way Mary met her friends Mary and Salome. They wanted to visit Jesus' grave also.

At last they came to the tomb.

"Look! The stone has been rolled from the door of the tomb!" cried Mary. "Someone has been here before us!"

The women quickly ran to look inside the tomb. They saw a beautiful angel. The angel was wearing a long, white robe. The women had never seen an angel and they did not know what to do. They were frightened.

"Do not be afraid," said the angel. "Jesus is not here. He is alive! Go quickly and tell His other friends that they will see Him again."

Then the women remembered something Jesus had said. He had told them He would come alive again.

"Let us hurry and share the glad news the angel has told us," said Mary Magdalene.

The friends of Jesus ran out of the garden. As they ran, who do you think they saw? They saw Jesus!

They knelt down in front of Jesus and worshiped Him.

"Tell My other friends I want to see them too," Jesus said.

The women ran as fast as they could to tell the glad, glad news. Everywhere they went they said, "Jesus is alive! Jesus is alive!"

Jesus died on the cross to pay for our sins. But He did not stay dead. He came back to life—rose again—and is alive now and for always. Because He is alive, we know that we who have asked Jesus to come into our hearts will live forever with Him in heaven.

Sing "Into My Heart" (see *Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1 for second and third verses).

If there are boys in your group who have not yet accepted Jesus, take this time to invite them (with bowed heads) to receive Jesus into their hearts. Pray with them.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 9 from the handwork packet. Use it as a pattern to make a cross from construction paper. Let each boy glue macaroni shells over a construction-paper cross. Spray-paint gold. Let dry. If desired, attach a pretty ribbon at the top for hanging.

HELPING

Have the boys help clear the craft supplies from the table.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

THEME—BIBLE BE'S

PURPOSE

To teach positive Biblical ideals toward which the boys should strive.
To help them apply these ideals in their own lives.

MEMORY VERSE

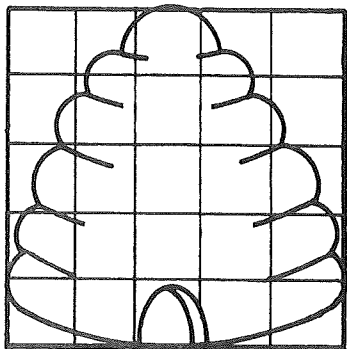
- "Be ye kind one to another" (Ephesians 4:32).
- "Be strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10).
- "Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).
- "Be . . . faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

SONGS

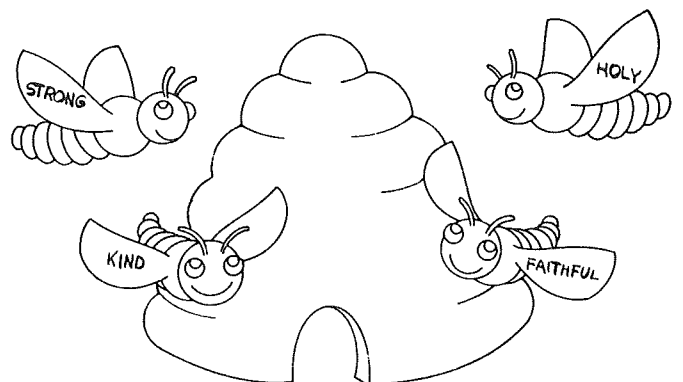
- "Little Feet Be Careful" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
- "I'm in the Lord's Army" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- "Listening All the Time" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
- "Wear a Crown" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

BULLETIN BOARD

You may use the suggested pattern below to make a beehive for your bulletin board. It should be from 15" to 18" high. Using the patterns on page 81 make the four "Be's" and place the appropriate one on the board near the beehive each week. Use a Magic Marker or something similar to print words on bees and hive. Use yellow construction paper to make bees and hive and add details with brown crayon or Magic Marker.



1 SQUARE = 2 or 3 INCHES



**APRIL
FIRST MEETING**

BE KIND

FOR THE COMMANDER

Today the boys will be making bees using the patterns in their handwork packets. You will need two brass fasteners for each boy to fasten the wings to the body of his bee. Also, thread or string will be needed if you wish to hang the bees from the ceiling during this month.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they will notice the beehive on the bulletin board. Answer their questions as to what it is.

SHARING

Ask the question: "How many of you have ever seen a real, live bee? Have you ever been stung by a bee?" (The boys will want to share their experiences concerning bee stings.)

This month we are going to talk about *Bible Be's*. A Bible Be is not really a bee like we see here, but a word. (You may point out the difference in spelling; however, most of the boys are not aware of proper spelling at this age.)

Have you ever heard your parents say, "Be good," or, "Be careful"? The Bible tells us many things like this also. We sometimes call them the *Bible Be's*. This month we are going to learn about four *Bible Be's*. The first *Be* we will learn about is *Be Kind*. (Point to bee on bulletin board.) Pretend that you are a bee saying, "Buzzz . . . zz . . . zzz . . . BE KIND . . . BE KIND."

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Today's bee tells us to BE KIND. Today's new song tells us to be careful. It also tells us to be kind. Teach "Little Feet Be Careful." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Turn in your Bible to Ephesians 4:32. Read: "Be ye kind one to another." Have the boys repeat the verse with you two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer that the Lord will help them to always be kind and good.

**APRIL
SECOND MEETING**

BE STRONG

FOR THE COMMANDER

If possible, have a honeycomb on display today. As the boys arrive, give them small wafers or quarter-slices of bread spread with butter and honey. (You will need a damp cloth for sticky fingers.)

STORYTIME

**A REAL MIRACLE
Acts 9:36-42**

Many, many years ago, there lived a lady called Dorcas. She was very kind. She took care of people when they were sick and took food to poor people. She helped sew warm clothes for mothers and children who had no one to take care of them.

One day Dorcas became very ill. Not long afterward, she died. How sad her friends were! They loved Dorcas very much. Then someone said, "Our friend Peter is preaching not far from here. Let's ask him to come."

When Peter heard that Dorcas had died, he hurried at once to her house. He went to the room where she was lying. Her friends were there by her bed crying. When they saw Peter, they began showing him the clothes Dorcas had made for them. "See my coat. See my shirt. Dorcas made them for me."

Peter asked the people to leave the room. He knelt down beside Dorcas' bed and prayed. Then he stood up and said softly, "Dorcas, get up."

Dorcas opened her eyes. She sat up. Peter helped her stand up. Dorcas was alive! She was well again!

How happy the people were when they saw Dorcas alive. How glad they were that God had made her well!

Discuss with the boys ways in which they may be kind. Give them opportunity to contribute specific ways they may be kind . . . to their families, their friends, the sick, etc.

(For the boys to receive maximum benefit from this lesson, it is very important that they be made to understand how they can apply to their own lives the ideal of being kind; in the realm in which they live every day.)

ACTIVITIES

Using page 10 from the handwork packet, each boy will make a bee. When their bees are completed, the boys may enjoy "buzzing" their bees about the room saying, "Buzz . . . zz . . . zz . . . BE KIND . . . BE KIND."

HELPING

Assign duties in straightening the room.

GOOD-BYE

Review today's verse one more time, repeating it in unison. Close in prayer.

SHARING

Ask the boys if they know where honey is made. Bees make honey by gathering sweet-tasting liquid called nectar from flowers and making it into honey. They store the honey in a beehive or on a honeycomb hanging from a tree. Ask the boys if they have ever seen bees flying from flower to flower gathering nectar.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

The Bible tells us that we are always in a fight against the devil. The devil tries to get us to do and think and say bad things. He tries to keep us from being Christians. He does not want us to be strong in the Lord. We are like soldiers fighting in a war. We are in the Lord's army, and we will win over the devil. Teach "I'm in the Lord's Army."

If the boys know "Dare to Be a Daniel," sing the chorus. Explain that Daniel was strong in the Lord. How? (Recall together the story of how he refused to stop praying to God and was thrown into the lions' den . . . but God saved him from being hurt.)

MEMORY WORK

(Point to the bulletin board.) Today's bee tells us to BE STRONG. This does not mean for us to be strong with muscles, but to be strong Christians, always living for God. Read Ephesians 6:10: "Be strong in the Lord." Have the boys repeat the verse together two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

One way to be strong in the Lord is to pray every day. We must ask God to help us to do good. (Pray together.)

STORYTIME

THE STRONGEST MAN Judges 13 through 16

Have you ever heard of being as strong as Samson? Samson was one of the strongest men who ever lived. Before Samson was born, an angel sent from God told his parents, "Your son will be a very special boy. When he grows up he will save your people from their enemies, the Philistines. I will make your son very strong. However, your son must *never drink wine or cut his hair*. If he does, he will not be strong anymore."

As Samson grew up, his parents told him many times what the angel had said. Samson knew that *his strength was in the Lord*. He knew that if he ever broke his parents' promise and drank wine or cut his hair, he would not be strong anymore.

When Samson became a man, he began making friends with the Philistines who were enemies of his people. He began doing many things that were wrong.

One day Samson did something to make the Philistines very angry. They tried to capture Samson, but they could not. Samson was too strong. He killed the people who tried to capture him and escaped. The Philistines became more and more angry. They wanted to find out the secret of what made Samson so strong so that they could trick him and take away his strength.

Samson loved a Philistine woman named Delilah. When the Philistine rulers heard this, they offered Delilah a lot of money if she would find out Samson's secret and tell them. Delilah wanted the money. She tried very hard to find out what made Samson so strong.

Samson did not want to tell Delilah his secret. Finally, though, he became so tired of hearing Delilah beg and cry he told her, "My strength is from God. As long as I keep my promise to Him to never drink wine or cut my hair, I will be strong."

Delilah hurried to tell the Philistine rulers Samson's secret. When he was asleep, they slipped in and cut his hair. Samson woke up and saw the Philistines. He tried to get away, but he could not. The strength of the Lord had left him.

The Philistines took Samson and threw him into prison. They put out his eyes and made him blind. Then they chained him and made him work very hard. Samson was in prison a long, long time.

One day the Philistines were having a big party in their temple. They called Samson to come so that they could laugh and make fun of him. They did not know that Samson's hair was growing and that he was becoming strong again.

Samson knew the temple was crowded with enemy Philistines. He prayed, "God please remember me one more time and make me strong." Then Samson put his arms around the tall, thick poles that held up the temple roof. He pulled with all his might. With a big crash, the temple fell down! Everyone inside was killed!

How sad Samson's parents were when they heard that Samson was dead. They were glad, though, that God had given Samson strength to kill their enemies, the Philistines.

Today's bee says BE STRONG IN THE LORD. God wants us to be strong as Christians . . . always living for Him and doing right. We cannot be strong Christians by ourselves. *Our strength is in the Lord*. This is our secret: As long as we go to church, pray, learn from God's Word (the Bible), and obey Him, we will be strong Christians. Our enemy, the devil, will never be able to capture a strong Christian.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 11 from his handwork packet to color. Explain that this is blind Samson as he was pulling down the temple.

HELPING

Assign clean-up duties.

GOOD-BYE

Repeat today's verse in unison again. Close with prayer.

APRIL THIRD MEETING

BE HOLY

FOR THE COMMANDER

Bring to today's meeting a branch with new leaves or flowers, a potted plant, or something else from nature to show the boys.

WELCOME

Greet each boy as he arrives. Show them your "springtime wonders."

SHARING

Your conversation today may center on the wonders of nature. Mention how God covers the bare tree branches with beautiful leaves so that they will give us shade during the summer days. He brings green plants shooting up through the ground. He puts beautiful flowers everywhere. Explain that God sends the rain to water the flowers and plants. (The wonders of springtime were discussed in the March unit. Approach today's conversation according to the progress of nature in your area.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

We know that God sees and hears everything we do and say. He also sees inside our hearts and knows what we are thinking. God is sad when we say and do bad things or think bad thoughts. We want to be holy so that God is pleased. Teach "Listening All the Time." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Today's bee tells us to BE HOLY. What does the word *holy* mean? Guide the boys in their answers until you arrive at the simple definition: "good," "without sin in our hearts."

Read from 1 Peter 1:16: "Be ye holy; for I am holy." Who is telling us this? God. (Clarify the fact that "I" refers to God.) Say the verse substituting the definition of holy instead of the word *holy*.

PRAYER TIME

Pray that God will help you to be holy—without sin.

STORYTIME

SORRY BILLY

"Running over, running over,
My cup is full and running over. . . ."

Billy sang loudly with the other Braves in his lodge. He liked to sing. Straight Arrows was so much fun!

All through *Storytime* Billy sat quietly and listened as Commander Matthews taught about Jesus. When it came time to color, Billy shared his crayons with the boy next to him. Everyone thought, "Billy is a very good boy."

After the meeting was over, Billy joined his mother and father and his brother John by the car. As John began to open the door, Billy pushed him out of the way. "Move!" he cried. "I want to get in the car first!"

"Billy!" scolded Mother. "Your brother was there first. You must not crowd in!"

"Oh . . . all right . . .," Billy pouted. "But it isn't fair! You like John better than you like me!"

"You know that is not true. We love you very much, Billy." Mother answered. "You must learn to be polite and nice, though. Fighting with your brother is wrong."

All the way home Billy pouted and whined. Finally his mother said, "Billy, you must go right to bed without any bedtime snack. You have been very naughty."

As soon as Billy was in bed, Mother slipped quietly into his room. "Billy," she said, "God is not pleased with the things you have done tonight. You have made Him very sad because He sees sin in your heart."

"I'm sorry, Mother," cried Billy. "I want to be good. I want God to be pleased with me. I am good to my friends, but sometimes it is hard to be nice to my brother!"

"Being kind and good when we are with our friends is not enough," Mother said gently. "We must be kind and good to our families too. We must obey and be thoughtful and kind at home."

"I will!" cried Billy. "I will ask God to help me to be good all the time. Not just to my friends . . . but to my family too."

Billy and Mother bowed their heads and prayed.

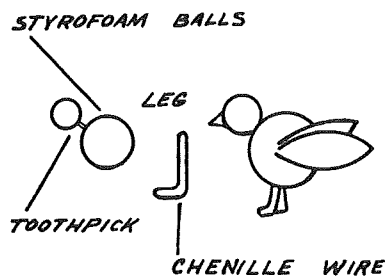
Show a cup washed clean on the outside, but dirty inside; or an apple that is pretty outside, but rotten inside. To be holy we must be clean inside. Discuss ways the boys can be holy. (Remember that holy means good, without sin in our hearts.) Tell the boys that reading God's Word or hearing it taught at church will help keep them from sin.

Read the Scripture verse and/or sing the song "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" (Psalm 119:11). Memorizing God's Word is one way of hiding it in our hearts.

ACTIVITIES

SPRINGTIME BIRD

You will need — 2 styrofoam balls (1½" and 3")
feathers (available at hobby shops)
1 2½-inch chenille wire
2 8-inch chenille wires
1 toothpick



Fasten styrofoam balls together with toothpick. Fold the 2½" chenille wire in half to form beak. Insert into the ball. Insert or tape feathers to bird. For legs fold the 8" chenille wires in half and insert into bird.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

**APRIL
FOURTH MEETING**

BE FAITHFUL

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need to make a crown for each boy before today's meeting. Since crowns are usually related to royalty, you may wish to use gold paper which should be available at a local bookstore. Crowns may be fastened in the back with a brad or paper clip. They need to be adjusted to fit different head sizes.

WELCOME

Greet each boy warmly as he arrives. Ask what he likes best about springtime. Give each boy a crown on which the words of the memory verse are printed: "Be . . . faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (See page 12 in handwork packet for pattern.)

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever seen a picture of a king or queen. How did they know it was a king or queen? Was he/she wearing something special? (A robe, a crown.) Your discussion may lead to kings and queens—what they do and where they live. The Bible tells us that if we love Jesus and live for Him, we will wear a crown someday.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Let the boys wear their crowns as they learn the song "Wear a Crown." (Be sure the boys know what is meant by *battle*.) Perhaps the boys would enjoy marching around the room in step as they sing this song. Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Read the verse together two or three times until the boys are familiar with it. Ask them to hold their crowns behind their backs and say the verse together by memory.

PRAYER TIME

Pray together that God will help us all be faithful.

STORYTIME

A CROWN OF LIFE

Today's bee says, BE FAITHFUL. There are many ways we can be faithful. Jimmy was a faithful friend to Dennis. He was Dennis' friend at all times. When others did something to hurt Dennis or said something unkind about Dennis, Jimmy tried to stop them. Everyone knew that Jimmy was Dennis' friend and that Jimmy would always be kind to Dennis.

John was a faithful worker. When his mother asked him to clean his room, he stayed in his room and worked until it was all clean. John's special chore was to empty the kitchen wastebasket every day. John's mother did not have to remind him about his chore. John remembered and was faithful to do his chore every day.

Steven was a faithful member of Straight Arrows and church. Every week he attended Sunday school, church, and Straight Arrows. His teachers knew he would always be there unless he was sick or away on vacation. They knew he would bring his Bible when he came.

God wants us to be faithful to Him. He said if we are faithful to Him, He will give us a crown of life. Read Revelation 2:10: "Be . . . faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

If we are faithful to God, we will always live for Him. Our friends will know that we are Christians and that we love God. We will want to go to church faithfully and learn God's Word.

If we are faithful to God "unto death" (until we die), God will give us a crown of life in heaven.

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys a supply of sequins, stars, etc., and let them decorate the crowns.

REVIEW

Review the *be's* learned in this unit. Ask questions about each *be*.

BE KIND—To whom are we to be kind? (*Our families, friends, the sick, etc.*) What Bible verse tells us to be kind? (*The boys will probably need help in recalling Ephesians 4:32.*)

BE STRONG—Does this mean that we should have strong muscles? (*No. It means that we should be strong in the Lord . . . be good Christians.*) How can we be strong in the Lord? (*By going to church, praying, learning from God's Word and obeying God.*) What Bible verse tells us to be strong in the Lord? (*Help them with Ephesians 6:10: "Be strong in the Lord."*)

BE HOLY—What does the word *holy* mean? (*Good—without sin in our hearts.*) Can we make ourselves holy? (*No. God makes us holy when we ask Him to forgive our sins. To keep holy we must keep sin out of our hearts. God's Word helps us to keep from sin.*) What verse tells us to be holy? (*1 Peter 1:16.*)

BE FAITHFUL—If we are faithful to God until we die, what will He give us? (*A crown of life.*) What verse gives us that promise? (*Say Revelation 2:10 together again.*)

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning up craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Before the boys leave, give them the bees they made during lesson 1. Announce a contest beginning next week with your new unit. To win the contest, the boys must be faithful. Close with prayer.

THEME—STORIES OF THE PROPHETS

PURPOSE

To acquaint the boys with the lives and ministries of five great Old Testament prophets.

To teach the boys how prophets helped God.

To emphasize some of the important truths given us through the prophets.

MEMORY VERSE

"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6).

"Hate the evil, and love the good" (Amos 5:15).

SONGS

"All We Like Sheep" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*).

"Trust and Obey" (Chorus—most hymnals)

"God's Word" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*).

BULLETIN BOARD

This month your bulletin board will feature an attendance contest. At the first meeting the boys will color their own mother hen and print their name on it. (See *Activities* section.) Attach it to a board in a vertical line. Each time a boy is present he will place a baby chick behind the mother. (See pattern on page 88.) He will also receive a chick for each visitor he brings. A visitor may be counted up to three times. You will need a good supply of yellow chicks on hand. Accent them with felt markers or crayons. You may wish to give the winner a prize at the end of the contest.

**MAY
FIRST MEETING**

ISAIAH TEACHES ABOUT SALVATION

FOR THE COMMANDER

May is a month when there are fresh flowers in most areas of the country. Place a bouquet or two in your meeting room to add a bit of cheer. Perhaps you can arrange to have different boys bring a bouquet each week during the month. If this is not possible, place a pretty bouquet of artificial flowers in the room.

WELCOME

Welcome each boy who arrives.

SHARING

Mention the name of a minister or evangelist who is well known to the boys. Explain that God has chosen that man especially to tell people about Jesus and to teach them how to live for Jesus. Ask the boys to name other ministers they know.

Many years ago, before Jesus came to earth, God chose special men to tell the people His word. Do you know what these men were called? (Prophets.) Prophets were men who taught the people God's will. The Spirit of God helped them to know what to say.

Many times prophets warned the people to turn away from sin and follow God's way. Often they were able to tell what would happen in the future. This is called *prophesying*.

We learn about prophets in the Old Testament of our Bibles. Many of the Books of the Old Testament were written by prophets.

OPENING

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

MEMORY WORK

The first prophet we will learn about is Isaiah. (Have the boys repeat the name with you two or three times.) Isaiah is sometimes called the greatest prophet in the Old Testament.

The Book of Isaiah was written by this prophet. (Show the boys this Book in the Bible.) In this Book, Isaiah teaches about salvation and prophesies that Jesus will come to earth to die for our sins.

One day Isaiah wrote these words: (turn to Isaiah 53:6 and read). Explain the meaning. We are like sheep that have wandered away and become lost. Isaiah prophesied that God would take our sin (iniquity) and put it on Jesus when He died for us on the cross.

Many years after Isaiah wrote these words, the prophecy came true. Jesus came to earth and died on the cross for our sins.

(Divide the verse into four parts and have the boys repeat it after you two or three times.)

MUSIC

Tell the boys they are going to learn a song about this verse. Teach "All We Like Sheep." Sing favorite songs about Jesus.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for sending Jesus to take away our sin. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

**SEND ME
Isaiah 6**

When Isaiah was a young man, he went to the temple to worship God. While he was there, he saw the Lord sitting on a high throne. All around the throne were angels singing, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah felt very small and unworthy when he thought about how great God is. He cried, "Woe is me! for I am sinful; I say wrong things and I live among people who say wrong things. . . ."

One of the angels flew with a hot coal of fire (piece of burning wood) in his hand to Isaiah. He touched the coal to Isaiah's lips and said, "All your sin is taken away."

Then Isaiah heard the Lord ask, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"

"Here am I," cried Isaiah. "Send me."

"Go and tell the people my words," the Lord commanded Isaiah. "Tell them they must stop sinning and serve me."

After that, Isaiah spoke God's words and preached to the people wherever he went. He tried to get the people to trust in God and serve Him with all their hearts.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 13 from the handwork packet to color and cut out. Place the mother hen on the bulletin board. Explain the contest rules to the boys and encourage them to bring visitors next week.

HELPING

Clear the table of art supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a favorite song and prayer.

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the stories this month are about the prophets, why not dress one of the boys as a prophet to show the others what was fashionable in those days? Pictures will be found in Sunday school visual aids or Bible storybooks. If you have a supply of robes, scarves, etc., on hand you may want to let each boy dress as a prophet. (See *Sharing* section.)

WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. If they have brought guests, record the names and addresses of guests, if possible. Add baby chicks behind each boy's mother chicken, accordingly.

SHARING

Ask the boys: "What do you think a prophet looked like? What do you think he wore?" (Let the boys give their answers.)

Some prophets dressed in special clothing. Others dressed the same as all other men in those days.

In Old Testament days, people did not dress like we do today. They wore long robes that fit very loosely. Around their waist, they tied another long piece of cloth. Usually they also wore a cloth tied around their heads. On their feet they wore sandals. Sometimes they went barefoot. (Show pictures from today's lesson or another source of typical Old Testament dress. For greater interest, you may want to dress one of the boys in Old Testament costume as you talk.)

Ask: "Do you wish people dressed like that now?" (Let the boys imagine themselves and their families dressed in long robes.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Messages given to God's people by the prophets long ago can still apply to our lives today. We read them in our Bibles and hide them in our hearts so that we will not sin. Sing "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." (How can we "hide something in our heart"?)

MEMORY WORK

Do you remember the verse we learned last week written by the prophet Isaiah? Quote Isaiah 53:6 together. Perhaps some boys would like to quote the verse individually. Sing "All We Like Sheep."

PRAYER TIME

Spend a few moments in praise to the Lord. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

ABOUT ELIJAH AND ELISHA 2 Kings

Elijah was a tall, strong, and brave prophet. His home

was in the wild forests and mountains. His clothes were made of camel's hair. Most of the time Elijah was alone. He did not have a lot of friends.

The king and queen of Israel at that time were very wicked. Many times God sent Elijah to tell the king and queen that God would punish them for their sins. This made the king and queen very angry with Elijah. They hated him and tried to kill him. Much of the time Elijah had to hide in the mountains so that the king and queen or their soldiers could not find him. God protected Elijah and provided food to eat and drink while he was hiding.

When Elijah became an old man, God told him to choose a man called Elisha to take his place. For some time, Elisha traveled with Elijah and learned many things from him.

Finally the time came for Elijah to go to heaven. God did not want Elijah to die. Instead, he sent a chariot of fire in a whirlwind to pick up Elijah and take him to heaven.

Elisha watched Elijah go up, up, up to heaven. Finally the chariot with Elijah disappeared in the clouds. When Elisha looked down he saw Elijah's old coat on the ground beside him. Elisha picked up the coat. He knew that God had chosen him to take Elijah's place preaching God's Word to the people.

Many people soon heard the story of how God had taken Elijah to heaven in a chariot of fire. Most of them believed, but some of them laughed and made fun.

One day, soon after Elijah was gone, as Elisha was walking down the road, some children began running after him making fun. "Go up, you bald head!" they laughed and shouted.

God was very displeased with the children for making fun of his prophet. Suddenly two bears came out of the nearby woods. They ran after the children and killed them. This was God's way of teaching the people that they must honor His prophets. (Today we too must honor the ministers God sends to us.)

For many years after that, Elisha traveled throughout Israel teaching God's Word to the people. Elisha was a very friendly and helpful prophet, and often he visited with people in their homes. Instead of wearing clothes of camel hair like Elijah, Elisha dressed like most of the other men in Israel.

As God's prophet, Elisha helped many people and did many miracles. When Elisha died, his friends buried him in a tomb. A year later, some men were burying their friend near Elisha's tomb. Suddenly they saw a band of enemy soldiers coming toward them. In fear, they threw their dead friend into Elisha's tomb and hid. When the dead man touched the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and stood on his feet. How surprised his friends were. God had used his prophet Elisha to perform a miracle even after he was dead!

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 14 from the handwork packet to color.

HELPING

Share in clearing the table and straightening the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

**MAY
THIRD MEETING**

AMOS—THE SHEPHERD PROPHET

FOR THE COMMANDER

Show the boys several pictures of sheep—with a shepherd, if possible. Tell them that there are still shepherds in parts of our country who live out in the open with their sheep. They usually travel by horseback and have a dog to help them keep the sheep from straying. Explain that wool comes from sheep. Show a garment made from wool or at least some wool yarn.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive welcome new guests and place baby chicks for each boy and visitor on the bulletin board.

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever seen a shepherd in the fields watching sheep or herding his sheep down the road. If some of the boys have been close to a herd of sheep, let them describe what they saw—the sheepdogs, the shepherd, etc.

In Biblical times, there were many shepherds and many sheep. Sheep were used for wool to make clothes and for meat to eat. They were very important to the people in those days.

The prophet we are learning about today is *Amos*. (Say the name together.) Amos was a farmer and a shepherd. As he was watching his sheep one day, God spoke to Amos and said, "Go, prophesy unto my people, Israel." Amos obeyed God right away. He said to the people, "Hear thou the Word of the Lord."

We must obey God when He speaks to us. He speaks to us through His Word, through our ministers and teachers, and also He speaks to our own hearts.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "All We Like Sheep." Review "Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

As a prophet Amos taught many things. They are written in a Book of the Bible for us today. (Show the boys the Book of Amos.) One of the things he taught is:

"Hate the evil, and love the good" (Amos 5:15). Explain that evil means bad. We must hate evil. If we hate evil, we will keep away from evil places and evil things. Ask: "Does hating evil mean that we should hate evil people?" No. We must love them, but hate the sin and evil that is in them. Have the boys repeat the verse with you two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer that God will help them to love good and keep away from sin and evil.

STORYTIME

**HATE EVIL AND LOVE GOOD
Amos 1-5**

God was displeased with the people of Israel. They were doing many evil things. Some of them pretended they loved God by going to the temple and offering sacrifices to God and singing songs, but their hearts were very wicked. They were not sorry for their sins.

God wanted someone to warn the people about their sins. He wanted someone to speak His Word to the people.

Amos loved God. Every day as he watched his sheep and took care of his trees, Amos thought about God.

One day God spoke to Amos. "Go, prophesy to my people Israel. Tell them the words that I will give you."

Amos obeyed God. He went to the people of Israel and warned them about their sins. He taught them that they must hate the evil and love the good. He told them that they must turn from their wicked ways and worship God with all their hearts.

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 15 from the handwork packet. Cut out the sheep and fold on the dotted line. Glue cotton on the sheep. Outline facial features.

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning handwork supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

**MAY
FOURTH MEETING**

JEREMIAH WRITES GOD'S WORDS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Besides showing pictures of scrolls as suggested in the *Sharing* section, why not make a scroll to show the boys. This can be done by using two unsharpened pencils or

small dowels. Fasten a strip of paper to each dowel and roll toward the center until they meet. Print a Bible verse on the paper and when it is unrolled the boys will see how the prophets wrote God's Word on scrolls.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome new guests and place baby chicks for each boy and visitor on the bulletin board. Today is the closing day of the contest. Awards can be given at the close of the meeting.

SHARING

In Unit I (May), the boys learned about Bible scrolls and how the Bible was written. Show the boys today's pictures and discuss again how the prophets wrote God's Word on scrolls and how they are a part of our Bible today. (See handwork packet, pp. 16,17.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Teach "God's Word." Sing other songs learned this month.

MEMORY WORK

Review the two verses learned this month. Remind the boys that this is God's Word which He spoke to the prophets many, many years ago and that it is still for us today.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for giving His Word to teach us how to live. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

AN OBEDIENT MAN

A man named Jeremiah listened to God. God said to him, "I want you to tell the wicked people about Me. Tell the people I love them. Tell them I want them to obey Me. Don't be afraid, I will be with you."

Jeremiah did what God told him to do. He talked to the people about God. But the people did not listen to him.

So God said, "Jeremiah, write all the things I tell you to write." So Jeremiah did. He and his helper wrote all God told him.

Jeremiah said to his helper, "Now take the scroll and go to the people in God's house."

The wicked king heard about the scroll. A prince brought the scroll and read it to him. The king was very angry. He cut the scroll into pieces and threw it into the fire. Then he said to his soldiers, "Go find Jeremiah."

The soldiers could not find Jeremiah. God hid Jeremiah and kept him safe.

God said to Jeremiah, "Take another scroll. Write the words once more." So Jeremiah wrote God's words again. He kept telling the people about God and God took care of Jeremiah.

(Show the boys the two Books Jeremiah wrote in the Bible; Jeremiah and Lamentations.)

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys pages 16 and 17 from the handwork packet to color. Explain that the first picture shows Jeremiah writing God's words. The second picture shows him reading the words to the people.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Award prizes to contest winner(s). Close with prayer.

THEME—TELLING THE GOOD NEWS

PURPOSE

To make the boys eager to want to tell others about Jesus.
To make them aware of Christ's command to "preach the gospel to every creature."
To teach them ways they can help spread the gospel at home and around the world.

MEMORY VERSE

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).
"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15).

SONGS

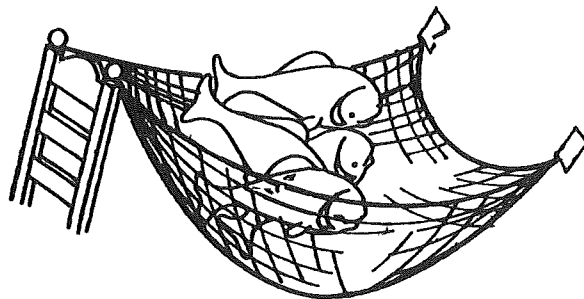
"Fishers of Men" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Knock! Knock! Knock!" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"If You Are Saved" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Little Missionaries" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Jesus Loves Children" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Sermon in Shoes" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"All the Children Ought to Know" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"Jesus Loves the Little Children" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

BULLETIN BOARD

Throughout this month have a *Fishers of Boys* contest. Attach one end of a fish net to the bulletin board and the other end to a table or chair back so the net hangs like a hammock. Give each boy a different color fish and write his name on it, placing it in the net. (See pattern on page 81.) Each visitor he brings will have his name written on a fish of the same color and placed in the net. He may receive a fish for each visit up to three for each new boy. The boys will enjoy watching the net fill up with fish. The boy with the most fish of his color wins the contest.

Make a number of fish from construction paper to make a border around the bulletin board. Or, you may place pictures of fish on the board which have been cut from magazines.

Cut out letters to spell the theme for June and place them on top at the center of the board—TELLING THE GOOD NEWS.



TELLING OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Before today's meeting, make a fish from construction paper for each Straight Arrow with the memory verse printed on it. (Use pattern on page 81.) Also prepare a fishing pole using a piece of doweling or bamboo. Tie a string to one end with a heavy magnet fastened to the end of the string. Attach a paper clip at the mouth of each fish. (This will be used during *Memory Work* time.) Also, using page 18 from the handwork packet, make an invitation to show the boys what they will be doing today.

WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive, listening to their conversation with an interest that shows that you care. When all are present explain the *Fishers of Boys* contest.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever been fishing. Let them share some of their fishing experiences. Talk about baiting hooks, catching the fish, etc. Tell them that some men earn their living by catching fish and selling them. Explain how men caught fish with nets in Jesus' day.

MEMORY WORK

Let the boys take turns fishing for a Bible-verse fish. After all the boys have "caught" a fish, say the verse together two or three times.

Tell that when Jesus was on earth, He saw two brothers fishing by the sea. Jesus wanted them to be His helpers. He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." The brothers were happy that Jesus wanted them to be helpers. They left their fishing nets and followed Jesus. They helped Jesus tell others the good news about God and heaven. Instead of fishers of *fish*, they became fishers of *men* by telling the good news.

MUSIC

Sing "Fishers of Men" using motions. Teach "Knock! Knock! Knock!" Sing other favorites from the suggested list of songs.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer. Ask Jesus to help the boys to be helpers by telling the good news to their friends and neighbors.

STORYTIME

PHILIP MEETS JESUS John 1:43-49

Many years ago when Jesus was on earth, there was a man named Philip, who lived in a little town beside the Sea of Galilee.

Philip's friends told him about Jesus. They told Philip that Jesus was God's Son . . . that He was the One the prophets had told about many years before.

Philip was very excited. He wanted to meet Jesus.

One day, Philip was standing beside the road. Suddenly a man walked up to Philip. It was Jesus! Jesus said to Philip, "Follow Me."

How happy Philip was! He ran to find his friend Nathanael.

"We have found Him; We have found Jesus!" Philip cried. "He is the one the prophets wrote about many years ago!"

Nathanael was not as excited as his friend Philip. He did not really believe that Jesus was the Son of God.

Philip took Nathanael to meet Jesus. When Jesus saw Nathanael, He said, "I know that you are a good man."

"How do you know me?" Nathanael asked Jesus. "I have never seen you before."

"I saw you standing under the fig tree before Philip called you," Jesus said.

Nathanael knew that Jesus had not been nearby when he was standing under the fig tree. If Jesus knew these things about Nathanael before He even met him, surely He must be the Son of God!

"Master!" cried Nathanael. "You *are* the Son of God! Now I believe!"

After that, Nathanael followed Jesus wherever He went, helping Him tell the good news about God.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 18 from the handwork packet. Explain how to put the invitations together. Ask each boy to give his invitation to a friend. Encourage them to tell their friends about Jesus. Talk about sharing the good news with their friends and neighbors. (Be sure the boys know that good news refers to God and Jesus and salvation.)

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning up the craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer. Encourage the boys to talk to their friends and neighbors this week about Jesus and to bring at least one friend with them to Straight Arrows next week.

**JUNE
SECOND MEETING**

TELLING OUR FAMILIES THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Make a sample of the clothespin puppet mentioned in today's *Activities* section. At the right time show the boys how they can use puppets to tell a story.

WELCOME

Greet the boys with your clothespin puppet as they arrive. (Name your puppet "Randy Tell"—he tells the good news about Jesus.) Greet the visitors and write their names and date of visit on a fish of the same color paper as the boys who invited them.

SHARING

Today's subject is families. Talk about families, asking the boys to tell how many brothers and sisters they have, etc.

Ask if any of the boys have someone at home who does not know Jesus and does not go to church. Stress the fact that we should share the good news about Jesus with our families. Discuss ways we can do this: by telling them Jesus loves them, by telling them how Jesus helped us or healed us, by telling the things we learn in Straight Arrows, Sunday school, and church, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

One way we can share the good news with our families is by living for Jesus every day. The things we *do* are just as important as the things we say. (Discuss ways a Christian boy should live.) Sing "A Sermon in Shoes." Check with your church's children's department for visuals to go with this song. Sing "Knock! Knock! Knock!" and "Fishers of Men."

MEMORY WORK

Review the verse learned last week.

PRAYER TIME

Ask God to help the boys tell the good news to their families. Thank God for Christian parents and families.

STORYTIME

CALLED TO BE DISCIPLES

John 1:40-42

Peter heard someone running toward him. He looked up. It was his brother, Andrew.

"Why are you in such a hurry, Andrew?" asked Peter. "I have good news!" cried Andrew trying to catch his breath. "I have seen God's Son, Jesus. He asked me to come with Him. Come! Maybe you can go with Jesus too. At least come and see Him"

Peter was excited. "Yes!" he said. "I will come! I want to see God's Son. Where is Jesus?"

"I will take you to Him." said Andrew. Andrew took his brother to where Jesus was.

When Jesus saw Andrew with his brother, Peter, Jesus said, "You are Peter."

Jesus was glad that Andrew brought his brother. Andrew and Peter became Jesus' helpers. They told people about Jesus.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 19 from the handwork packet. Color face details. Cut out and fold as shown. Apply glue to the back of the face along the fold. Insert clothespin. Allow to dry. Letter child's name on the side of the clothespin.

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

**JUNE
THIRD MEETING**

TELLING THE SICK AND HELPLESS THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE COMMANDER

You may write to the Division of Home Missions, 1445 Boonville, Springfield, MO 65802, and request a Braille ABC card for each of your boys. Pass cards out during *Activities* session. Have pieces of cardboard on hand for each boy to use during *Activities* period today.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys and become acquainted with the visitors. Write the name of each visitor on a fish of the color corresponding to the boy who brought him. Place them in the net.

SHARING

Today we will learn about telling the good news to those who are sick or helpless—people who cannot do all the things we can do—like see, talk, walk, or go to church. Let the boys tell of friends or acquaintances who are blind or bedridden, etc. Encourage them to share the good news of Jesus with these people. Emphasize appreciation to God for good eyes, ears, legs, health, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Teach "If You Are Saved." Sing other songs learned or suggested for this month. You may want to choose between the songs "Little Missionaries" and "Jesus Loves Children" as the songs are similar.

MEMORY WORK

Give each boy a set of Bible-verse shoe soles. (See handwork packet, p. 20.) Punch holes in each sole as shown. Place on a board one by one as the boys *read* the verse with you, finding their corresponding shoe sole. With brass paper fasteners, clip the shoe soles together in order. *Read* the entire verse two or three times. The boys may take the Bible verse home with them.

PRAYER TIME

Pray for the sick and helpless that were mentioned earlier. Thank God for good health. Ask God to help you take His Word to those who cannot come to church.

STORYTIME

A LAME MAN HEALED Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John were on their way to the temple-church to pray. As they came to the gate of the temple, they saw a man sitting on the ground. The man was a cripple. He could not walk. All his life the man had been a cripple. When he was a boy, he could not run and play as other children. Now he could not work and earn money as other men.

Every morning the man's friends carried him to the temple gate so that he could beg for money from people who were going into the temple. Every evening, the friends came and carried him home again.

When the crippled man saw Peter and John, he begged them to give him some money. Peter and John felt sorry for the man. They wanted to help him. Peter told the man, "I do not have any money, but I will give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ I order you to walk!"

Peter took the man by the hand and helped him up. At once the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and started running and walking around. Then he went into the temple with Peter and John.

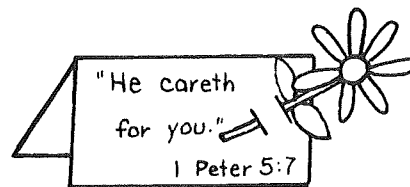
When the people in the temple saw the crippled man walking and jumping, they became very excited. They wondered what had happened to make him well. The man told everyone the good news that Jesus had made him well when Peter prayed.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 21 from the handwork packet. Have each boy use a dull pencil to punch out the dots on the back of the page. Give each boy a piece of cardboard to place under the paper as this will help to keep them from making holes in the paper. They should *not* press hard enough to make holes but rather just depressions in the paper. Then have them run their fingers over the bumps on the right side of the paper. This will give them an idea of what Braille is. Bibles that are made for the blind do not have printing in them. Instead they have bumps something like this in the paper. The blind people feel the bumps with their fingers. They know what each group of bumps means.

As time permits, make the following for a rest home and plan a time to go there to sing and visit briefly with the patients. Emphasize that this is "telling the good news" to the sick.

Give each boy a 4- by 6-inch card on which you have cut two slits and printed lightly the verse shown. Fold as shown in sketch. Have the boys copy over your printing and insert an artificial flower into the slits. Take the cards with you to a rest home and distribute them.



HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

JUNE FOURTH MEETING

TELLING THOSE IN OTHER LANDS THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Today it would be nice to have missionary curios, books, and/or pictures placed around the room. If your contest is closing today, be prepared to present a prize to the winner(s).

Each boy will need an empty oatmeal box for today's project. You may have to solicit ladies in the church to have enough boxes on hand for everyone.

WELCOME

Greet the boys. Place a fish in the net for all visitors. Let the boys walk around the room looking at your room decorations.

SHARING

Center your discussion today on missionaries. Mention missionaries your boys know. Discuss what missionaries do. Ask how *we* can help missionaries—by *praying* for them and giving money.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing the songs you have learned this month. Emphasize the missionary theme.

MEMORY WORK

Review Mark 16:15.

PRAYER TIME

Pray for missionaries with whom the boys are familiar.

STORYTIME

AN ETHIOPIAN FINDS JESUS Acts 8:26-39

(Recall with the boys the Biblical character Philip whom they met in lesson 1 when he brought his brother, Nathanael, to Jesus. Today's lesson takes place several years after Jesus went back to heaven.)

Philip was alone in the middle of a desert. It was very hot. He did not know why God had asked him to go to this lonely place.

Then Philip saw something coming toward him. He could tell it was a very fine chariot. It must belong to a very important person.

Philip ran to the chariot and it stopped. Philip could see the man in the chariot. He was from a far-away country where he took care of the queen's money. He told Philip he had come to Jerusalem to worship. Now he was going home. Philip saw that he was reading from the Bible.

Philip said to the man, "Do you understand what you are reading?"

"No," answered the man. "Will you explain this to me?"

Philip climbed up into the chariot and told how the Bible tells about Jesus. The man listened and asked many questions. Philip told him that Jesus died for everyone. He told him that Jesus wanted to be his Saviour too. Then the man believed on Jesus as the Son of God.

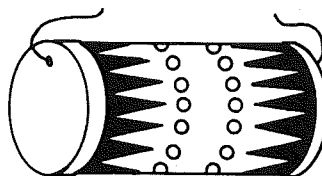
They came to some water and the man stopped his chariot. There Philip baptized him. As Philip came out of the water, God took him away to another place.

The man got back into his chariot and traveled toward his home. He was very happy. He wanted to tell others the good news about Jesus.

Now Philip knew why God had taken him to the lonely desert. It was to tell this man from a far-away country what the Bible tells about Jesus.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy an oatmeal box. Let the boys paint and decorate the boxes. Punch two holes opposite each other in the box just below the lid. Tie a piece of string in the holes. The string should be long enough to go around the neck of the boy when he holds the drum between his knees as he sits to play.



Teach "Jesus Loves Me" in the Yorumba (African) language. Explain that this is how some of the children sing "Jesus Loves Me" when the missionaries teach them about Jesus.

(Pronounce the words just as they look.)

Ah! Jesu fe mi; (ah ja-soo fay me)

Ah! Jesu fe mi;

Ah! Jesu fe mi;

Bibeli so fun mi be. (Be-ba-le so fun me bay)

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

THEME—PROMISES FROM GOD'S WORD

PURPOSE

To instill in the boy's hearts some of God's precious promises, in such a way that they may draw from them throughout their lifetime.

To teach and inspire the boys in the following areas:

- God's great care and concern for His children.
- The power of faith.
- The blessings in giving and generosity.
- Our promise of an eternal heavenly home.

MEMORY VERSE

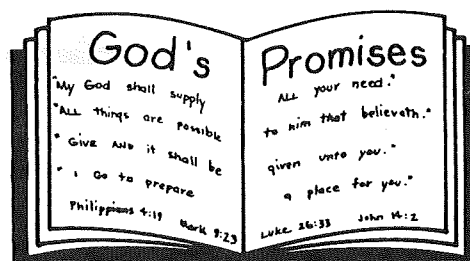
- "My God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19).
- "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).
- "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38).
- "I go to prepare a place for you" (John 14:2).

SONGS

- "Surely He Will Care for You" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
- "I'm on the Faith Line" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
- "Only Believe" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
- "Giving Song" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
- "Everything's All Right" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
- "The Happy Day Express" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
- "All Through the Night" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
- "Jesus Loves the Little Ones" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- "Just Keep on Believing" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
- "Go and Give and Pray" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
- "A Little Child May Enter" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
- "ABCDEFG" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

BULLETIN BOARD

Using white butcher paper for pages and black and red construction paper for edges, construct an open Bible approximately 2' x 3'. Cut out letters or write across the top: "God's Promises." Add a new Scripture verse each week (the four memory verses).



GOD'S CARE

FOR THE COMMANDER

Encourage the boys to bring their Bibles to each meeting during the month. You may need to have extra Bibles for those who do not own a Bible or New Testament. Add to your bulletin board the verse: "My God shall supply all your need" (Philippians 4:19).

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them. Make special comments about the Bibles they have brought, looking through them, and expressing respect for the Bible as God's Word.

SHARING

Ask the boys: "Have you ever needed something very badly, such as new shoes, a warm coat, or something to eat? To whom do you go when you need something?" (Their mother or father.) "Do they give you the things you need when you ask?" (Mention the fact that sometimes they cannot, but, when they can, our parents take care of our needs.)

God, our Heavenly Father, also takes care of our needs when we ask Him in prayer. He loves His children and wants us to have the things we need. There is nothing that God cannot do.

Sometimes our parents tell us *no* when we ask them for something, because they cannot give it to us. Others times they say *no* because they know what we have asked for is not good for us.

Sometimes God also says *no* when we ask Him for something. However this is never because He *cannot* give it to us. God says *no* when He knows we have asked for something that is not good for us.

God likes to give us the things we need. Let's think of some things God has given to us. (Mention general things supplied by God daily. Think of specific needs God has supplied for you. Ask the boys to think of things God has supplied for them.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

When Jesus was on earth, He once told the people that God even sees every sparrow that falls to the ground. If God cares even for the little sparrow, surely He will take care of you. Sing "Surely He Will Care for You." Sing other familiar songs such as "All Through the Night" and "Jesus Loves the Little Ones" or "Jesus Loves Me." Begin learning "I'm On the Faith Line." (Use motions.)

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for His promise to supply our need and thank Him for things He has supplied. Pray for other needs.

MEMORY WORK

Point to the verse on the bulletin board. Read it to the boys and then *read* it together. (Be sure the boys know that to supply means to take care of.) Help the boys look up the verse in their Bibles and *read* it together.

The boys will begin making *Promise Books*. Fold in half—

One 9- by 12-inch sheet of black construction paper.

Three 8½- by 11-inch sheets of white typing paper.

Staple them together in the center to form a book. Or punch holes through all thicknesses at the fold and tie with a 15-inch-long narrow ribbon as shown.

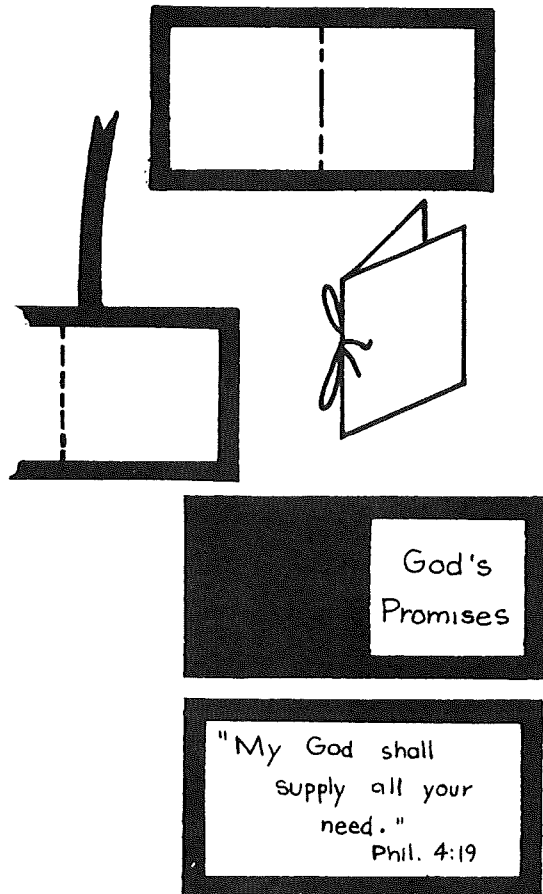
On the inside back cover of the book, staple one end of an 11-inch-long narrow red ribbon as shown. Fold down and use as ribbon Bible marker.

On the first single page of the book, have the boys copy the words *God's Promises*. (On the *back* single page, have them print their names.)

On the first *full* page, have the boys copy today's verse.

The books will be kept in the classroom throughout the month. Each week the boys will copy their new verse. (See example). The remaining full page may be left empty or used as you desire.

After the boys are finished printing today's verse, *read* the verse together. Have them close their books and say the verse from memory.



STORYTIME

FRAIDY FINDS A HOME

Jimmie and Susan hurried along the path toward home. They had been over to visit Aunt Mary. Now they were hurrying to get home before dark. They had just enough time to make it. Suddenly, up ahead of them in the shadows, they saw something fluttering and jumping along in the path.

"Oh, what is that?" cried Jimmie.

"It looks like a bird," said Susan.

"And I think it has been hurt," said Jimmie.

"Let's stop and see what's the matter with it, Jimmie," said Susan.

"All right," answered Jimmie. He stooped down to look in the weeds where the little bird had tried to hide.

"Here it is, Susan," he said finally. "I think it has a broken wing.

Susan took the bird gently in her hands, and they hurried on home.

When they got home, Mother was waiting for them on the porch.

"Oh, Mother," said Jimmie and Susan at the same time.

"We found a poor little bird with a broken wing hopping along in the road."

Susan handed the bird to her mother, and they went into the living room where Daddy was sitting. Daddy took it and looked at it carefully. Then he said, "I don't think the wing is really broken, but it is badly hurt. I'll fix a little cage, and we'll keep it until it is well."

The next morning Jimmie and Susan were up early. They put water in the cage for the little bird and also grain for it to eat.

At first, the little bird was scared when they came near the cage. It would run to the other side and try to hide from them. Because it was so scared, they nicknamed it Fraidy. But after several days the bird became more friendly, and finally it began to like to have the children come near the cage. One morning as Susan started to put the grain into the cage, the bird took a grain from her hand.

"Look, Jimmie," said Susan. "Fraidy wants to eat his breakfast from my hand this morning."

After that, Susan and Jimmie took turns letting him eat from their hands. One night Daddy came home from work and said, "Children, let's let Fraidy out of his cage tonight and see if he can fly; he seems to be getting well."

They let him out of the cage, and up he flew, from one corner of the house to the other. Then he flew down and lighted on the table and tilted his head to one side as if to say, "See, I am well now. I can fly as good as ever."

"Well, children," said Daddy, "You've done a fine job of caring for Fraidy, and now he is all well again. Tomorrow you must take him out in the open and turn him loose again."

"Oh, please, Daddy, let us keep him," cried Susan. "He loves us now, and we'll take good care of him."

"I'm sorry," Daddy said kindly, "but we must let him go. He is used to flying in the open air and sunshine and living in the trees."

Susan and Jimmie went to bed very unhappy. They felt so sad because they had to tell little Fraidy good-bye. The next morning, when they took him out to let him go, each of them kissed him on the top of his shiny brown head. Then they let him loose. He flew a little way and landed on a limb and tilted his head to one side as if to say, "Goodbye, Susan and Jimmie. Thank you for taking care of me." Then he fluttered his little wings and flew high into the air and out of sight.

That night when they sat down to supper, Susan looked over at the empty cage and thought of little Fraidy. She couldn't eat her supper, and big tears kept slipping down her cheeks and splashing in her plate.

When they started to have family prayer, Daddy quietly turned to Matthew 6:26 and read: "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them."

After their prayers, when Mother was tucking her into bed, Susan looked up at her and said, "Mother, I don't feel so sad about letting Fraidy go now, since Daddy read to us tonight. If God takes care of the birds, then I know Fraidy will get better care than we could give him."

Adapted from *Storytelling*

Sing again, "Surely He Will Care for You."

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 22 from the handwork packet. Color the bird and the wing, and cut a slit in the body and insert the wing. With a needle, attach thread to the top of the bird's back and tie in a knot. The birds will "fly" when the boys swing them through the air.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer. Remind the boys to bring their Bibles next week.

JULY SECOND MEETING

FOR THE COMMANDER

Write this week's verse on your bulletin-board Bible. Purchase a box of mustard seeds at your supermarket (in the spice section).

WELCOME

Greet the boys individually as they arrive.

FAITH

SHARING

Give the boys time to share their vacation plans or experiences.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "Surely He Will Care for You." Continue learning "I'm on the Faith Line."

MEMORY WORK

Ask: "What is faith? Can you see faith? Can you hear faith? How do you know if you have faith?"

Faith is just believing God; believing He will do the things He says in His Word He will do; believing when we pray that God hears us and will answer our prayers.

(Note: It is important that the boys realize that God does not give us everything we pray for. Although they are too young to understand the term "God's will," they must know that God does not give us some of the things we ask for because they are not best for us. The boys must be made to understand that if God does not give us something we ask for, it does not mean He did not hear us or does not care. Very often it is because there is some reason why we should not have that thing. Failure to realize this may result in the shattering of a boy's faith when he does not receive what he has prayed for.)

Because God knows all things, He knows what is best for us. Sometimes God answers *no* to our prayers when we ask Him for something, just as our parents say *no*, but we know that they are older and wiser than we, and they try to do what is best for us.

If you ask your mother for candy, and she answers *no*, do you never ask her for anything again? Do you stop believing that she loves you? Do you become afraid that she will not give you the things you need, or that she will never again give you special things or do nice things for you? Of course not! You believe in your mother. You have faith in her. You know that she loves you and will always do what is best for you. This is how we believe in God and *have faith in Him*.

We must remember, our parents are human just as we are. They try to do what is right, but sometimes they make mistakes. God *never* makes mistakes. He always knows and does what is right. We can always believe in God.

When you were just a little boy, did your father ever throw you up into the air and catch you? What fun it was! You laughed and threw out your arms, because you knew Daddy would not let you fall. You believed in him. You had faith in him. This is how we believe in God. We are not afraid. We know God is watching over us. We are God's children. He loves us.

Sing again, "I'm on the Faith Line." (It would be good to let the boys march around the room as they sing this song. This will give them a chance to "get rid of their wiggles" and settle down for the next portion of your lesson.)

Quote last week's Bible verse together. Point to the new verse on the bulletin board. "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23). Read it to the boys and then *read* the verse together. Help the boys look up the verse in their Bibles and *read* together. Have them copy the verse on the second full page of their *Promise Book*. Again *read* the verse together. Have them close their books and say the verse from memory.

OBJECT LESSON

Give each boy a tiny mustard seed. Let him hold it in his hand. Tell them this tiny seed grows into a huge plant—sometimes as tall as a man.

Jesus once talked to His helpers about the tiny mustard seed. He told them, "If you had faith as big as a tiny mustard seed, nothing would be impossible. You could do anything."

Even if we have just a little bit of faith—if we believe God a little bit—we can pray for big things, and, if it is good for us, God will let us have them.

PRAYER TIME

Sing "Only Believe." Take prayer requests and pray for the needs represented. Encourage the boys to believe that God will answer prayer.

STORYTIME

THE HEALING OF A SERVANT Luke 7:1-9

One day, as Jesus was walking into a town by the Sea of Galilee, a very important man came running to meet Him.

"Sir! Oh, Sir!" cried the man. "Please help me! My servant is home sick in bed, and he is about to die! Will you make him well?"

"Yes," answered Jesus. "I will go to your house and make your servant well."

"Oh no, Sir," said the man. "I do not deserve to have you come into my house. You are too good. Just say right here that my servant will be well, and I know he will be healed."

Jesus was surprised that the man believed so much. He said, "I have never seen so much faith in anyone. Go home, and what you believe will be done for you. Your servant will be well."

The man was very happy. He hurried home as fast as he could. When he arrived at his house, his servant was well. How excited the man was! He was glad that he had believed Jesus.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 23 of the handwork packet. Have the boys color the picture of the man asking Jesus to heal his servant. They may tape their mustard seed on the picture to remind them of the man's faith. As the boys are coloring, sing the song "Just Keep on Believing." Repeat it several times.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Sing "Just Keep on Believing." Close with prayer. Remind the boys to bring their Bibles again next week.

JULY THIRD MEETING

GIVING

FOR THE COMMANDER

For a special treat today, you may want to have chocolate candies wrapped in foil to resemble money. Distribute them at the end of the lesson. Place today's verse on your bulletin board.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them individually.

SHARING

Talk about why we give our offerings and what the money is used for. Ask the boys what Sunday school offerings are used for. (To buy our Sunday school books and papers and crayons, etc.) What are our church offerings used for? (To pay our pastor so he can use his time helping people and teaching about God, to pay for our church building and lights and heat, and to buy things that are needed so our church will be a place where many people learn about God). Sometimes we take special offerings to help missionaries so they can tell about God in other lands.

God is pleased when we bring offerings and give them with a happy heart. His Word tells us: "God loveth a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). We bring our offerings because we love God.

OPENING

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the Bible verses already learned this month. Point to the new verse on the bulletin board: "Give, and it shall be given unto you" (Luke 6:38). Read it to the boys and then read the verse together. Have the boys copy the verse on the third full page of their *Promise Book*. Read the verse together. Have them close their books and say the verse from memory.

Teach the boys that as we give to God and to others God will take care of our needs. God teaches us in His Word that it is good to give to others. He is very displeased when we are stingy and do not share what we have with those who are in need. He says that if we give to others, things will be given to us in return. (Discuss how the boys can give, bringing offerings, sharing with those who are in need, etc.) "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving" (Acts 20:35, *TEV*).

MUSIC

Teach the "Giving Song." If your boys learned "Go and Give and Pray" during last month, sing it together. Sing other songs learned this month.

PRAYER TIME

Pray for specific needs requested by the boys.

STORYTIME

SHE GAVE ME ALL SHE HAD

Mark 12:41-44

One day Jesus sat in the temple-church watching the people as they came to worship God. He saw them bringing their offerings and dropping them in special offering boxes.

Some people put in big pieces of money. Some people put in little pieces of money. Some people who were very rich put in many pieces of money.

As Jesus watched, he saw a poor woman come into the temple. Her clothes were ragged, and she probably did not have much to eat. She was happy, though, because she loved God.

The poor woman walked to the offering box and dropped in two tiny pieces of money. The coins were less than a penny, but they were all the money she had.

Jesus said to his helpers, "This poor woman gave more than anyone else. Other people gave only part of their money, but she gave all she had."

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 24 from the handwork packet. Let each boy cut out his offering purse. Glue the sides together at the small dots. The boys may write names on the blank side of the purse. (Perhaps you will want to distribute candy coins at this time for the boys to place in their offering purses.) Emphasize the fact that God is pleased when we bring our offering to His house (our church).

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Sing "Giving Song" and close with prayer. Remind the boys to bring their Bibles with them again next week.

JULY FOURTH MEETING

HEAVEN

FOR THE COMMANDER

Write the last memory verse in your *Promise Book* on the bulletin board.

If you have access to any pictures of what heaven may be like, put them on display in your meeting room today.

WELCOME

Greet each boy as he arrives.

SHARING

Talk about vacations again, letting the boys who have recently returned from vacations share their experiences. Say: "Someday I am going on a wonderful vacation from which I will never return. Where I am going everything is beautiful. Everyone is happy there. The weather isn't too hot or too cold. I will never have to fix meals or work, but there will always be plenty to eat. I will never become tired, sick, hungry, or thirsty. I will have a wonderful, wonderful time!"

Ask the boys if they would like to go on that vacation with you. Ask if they know *where* you are going. (Heaven, of course.)

Say: "Everyone who has asked Jesus to forgive his or her sins will go on this wonderful vacation! God has promised this in His Word."

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "The Happy Day Express" and "I'm on the Faith Line." Sing other favorites or suggested songs for this month.

MEMORY WORK

Point to the new verse on the bulletin board. Read it to the boys and then read the verse together. Help the boys look up the verse in their Bibles and *read* it together. Have them copy the verse on the fourth full page of their *Promise Book*. Read the verse together.

Have them close their books and say the verse from memory.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for His wonderful promise to prepare a home for us in heaven.

STORYTIME

A HOME IN HEAVEN

John 14:1-6

Jesus' helpers were sad. Jesus had told them that He was going away. They did not understand that Jesus was going to die on the cross and then come back to life and go to live in heaven. They wanted Jesus to stay with them.

"Do not be worried or sad," Jesus told them. "I am going to My Father's house where there are many beautiful homes. I go to prepare a place for you. I will come back and take you there so that you may live where I am."

Jesus' helpers did not understand. One of them said, "We do not know where you are going. How can we know how to get there?"

Jesus looked kindly at His helpers and answered, "I am the way. Anyone who wants to go to My Father's house must first come to Me."

Jesus' helpers did not know that He was talking about heaven. They did not know that Jesus would die on the cross to pay for our sins. Because there will be no sin in heaven, those who wish to go there must first ask Jesus to wash away their sins and come into their heart.

SONGS

Sing "Into My Heart." Take this opportunity to find out if any boy has not yet accepted Jesus as Saviour. If so, lead him to the Saviour. (See "Leading a Child to the Saviour," Unit I, page 11.)

Sing "Everything's All Right."

ACTIVITIES

Ask the boys to describe what they think heaven will be like. Assist them, if needed, with their answers. (Many beautiful homes (mansions), streets of gold, beautiful jewels (like we wear in rings). There will be no sadness or crying, no pain, no sickness, and no dying. We will never be hungry or thirsty. There will be no sun in heaven, but it will always be light. There will be no nighttime. Everything will be wonderful, and we will be very, very happy.)

Who will be in heaven? (Jesus and God and the angels will be there. Many of the people we have studied about in our Bibles will be there—Moses and Abraham and David and Daniel, etc. Also, all the people who have had their sins washed away will be there. We will have many friends in heaven.) Won't it be *wonderful!*

Give the boys blank sheets of paper. Have them color or paint pictures of what they think heaven will be like. Allow time for each boy to show and describe his picture.

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Give each boy his *Promise Book*. Read the four promises learned this month. Sing "Every Promise in the Book." Let the boys take their *Promise Books* home today. Close with prayer.

THEME—WHAT IS GOD LIKE

PURPOSE

To answer the questions of the 5- and 6-year-old concerning the person, character, and work of God.

To impress him with God's greatness and His control of the universe.
To help the boy know God as his Heavenly Father.

MEMORY VERSES

"O Lord, thou art our father" (Isaiah 64:8).

"God is a Spirit" (John 4:24).

"With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

"God . . . made the world and all things" (Acts 17:24).

SONGS

"The Child of a King" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

"My Father Is a Billionaire" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

"Surely He Will Care for You" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

"Our God Is One" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

"There's Nothing Too Hard for Thee" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

"God Is Good to Me" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

"For God So Loved the World" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)

INTEREST CENTER

Set up a small table on which the boys may place small souvenirs of their vacations or summertime activities. (So that the boys who are unable to take a vacation this year do not feel left out, encourage them to bring things they have collected on previous vacations or objects they have collected in their own neighborhood—such as rocks, pine cones, dried weeds, or flowers, etc. Attach name tags to the items to identify the owners of the objects. Perhaps you will want to suggest that the boys not bring valuable items—to prevent a possible loss that might occur when items are left over a period of time.

On sheets of construction paper, mount pictures depicting vacations or summertime and tape them on the wall or bulletin board near the activity table.

BULLETIN BOARD

Sailboats constructed during lesson 1 may be mounted on a bulletin board with dark blue (water) and light blue (sky) background, or taped along the wall over a long twisted strip of blue crepe paper (water). Write each boy's name on his boat.



**AUGUST
FIRST MEETING**

WHO IS GOD?

FOR THE COMMANDER

During this unit you will be answering many questions about God. Since this will involve more teaching of simple doctrine than storytelling, you will find the use of arm puppets very helpful in keeping the boys' attention. (Children listen much more attentively when they can watch the movement of a puppet.)

See page 78 for directions to make arm puppets. Design one to be a boy and the other to be a girl (bow in the hair, etc.). Name them Jerry and Judy or other boy-girl names. (Store-purchased puppets may be used in place of these if desired.)

Make magnetic fish . . . as described on page 35. On each fish, write one word of the verse and reference: "O Lord, thou art our father" (Isaiah 64:8). Place the fish in a bucket or bowl. Construct fishing pole with magnet.

WELCOME

Greet the boys with your arm puppets, introducing the puppets to the boys and carrying on conversations between them. Encourage the boys to examine your summertime and vacation pictures.

SHARING

Let the boys share for a few minutes their vacation or summertime experiences or plans.

OPENING

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

MEMORY WORK

Ask the boys: "Have you ever dreamed that you were rich—very, very rich—that your father was a king who owned houses and land and billions of dollars? Did you wish your dream could really be true? Guess what? It is! If you are a Christian (if you have asked Jesus to take away your sins and come into your heart), you are the son of a rich, rich King! Do you know who the King is?" (Let the boys guess. The answer, of course, is God.)

Turn in your Bible to Isaiah 64:8. Read the words: "Oh Lord, thou art our father." In many places the Bible calls God our Father. We have fathers here on earth who love us and take care of us. God is our Heavenly Father, (He lives in heaven.) He loves us and takes care of us, too.

(Note to Commander: Since, unfortunately, some boys have been given a bad father-image, be careful to express the *goodness* of our Heavenly Father. Explain that, although our earthly fathers sometimes make mistakes, God is perfect and always loves and cares for us.)

Repeat the verse together. Let the boys take turns fishing for a magnetic fish. Read each boy's word with him after he catches his fish. After all the fish have been caught, have the boys help you arrange the words in order on an easel or bulletin board. Read the verse together again.

MUSIC

Teach "My Father Is a Billionaire." (Practice this song several times before teaching it so you will be familiar with the beat.) Sing the chorus of "The Child of a King" and "Surely He Will Care for You."

PRAYER TIME

Pray to God as your Heavenly Father. Thank Him for His goodness and care.

STORYTIME

GOD IS ETERNAL

(Use Judy and Jerry puppets.)

Judy: (Twist mouth to give puzzled expression.)

Jerry: What's the matter, Judy? You look puzzled.

Judy: I'm just thinking, Jerry.

Jerry: Thinking! Ha! Ha! That's something different! (Laughs.)

Judy: Oh, Jerry! Don't be funny! I'm serious.

Jerry: All right, Judy. I'm sorry. What are you thinking about?

Judy: Promise you won't laugh if I tell you?

Jerry: I promise.

Judy: I'm thinking about God, Jerry. When was God born? I was born 6 years ago. You were born 12 years ago. Mommy and Daddy were born about 35 years ago. When was *God* born?

Jerry: Well, Judy. God was *never* born.

Judy: Never born! Then where did He come from? I'm all mixed up.

Jerry: The Bible tells us that God always *was*. Long before the earth and the mountains and the trees and the sun and the moon and the stars were made, there was a God.

Judy: But I don't understand. I know God made the earth and the sun and stars and everything, but who made God?

Jerry: No one did, Judy. God is *eternal*.

Judy: *E-TER-NAL*? What is e-ter-nal?

Jerry: Eternal means without beginning or ending. God *always was* and *always will be*. In the Bible God says *He is* the beginning and the ending. That means before there was anything else, there was God—and God will live forever and ever.

Judy: I think I understand now. It is hard to think of someone always being alive without ever being born. But I know that is the way it is with God because He is (pronounced slowly) *e-ter-nal*. Is that right, Jerry?

Jerry: That's right.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 25 from the handwork packet. Have the boys put their names on the boats and attach them to the wall or bulletin board as described on page 45.

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

AUGUST SECOND MEETING

CAN WE SEE GOD?

FOR THE COMMANDER

Place your Bible-verse fish in a bucket or bowl again as last week. Have your fishing pole ready, too, for the *Memory Work* section.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys again with your Judy and Jerry puppets.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Share vacation experiences or plans again this week. Show interest in the boys' activities. Talk about the things the boys have brought for your interest center.

MUSIC

Sing: "My Father Is a Billionaire," and the chorus of "The Child of a King." Begin teaching "Our God Is One."

MEMORY WORK

Using the same pole and fish used in lesson 1, let each boy catch a fish until all are caught. Have the boys arrange the fish in the proper order. Read the verse together.

Open your Bible to John 4:24. Read: "God is a Spirit." Ask the boys to define the word *spirit*. (Someone invisible—who cannot be seen.) Explain that no one has ever seen God. He is invisible. Repeat the verse two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

Address your prayer to our Heavenly Father. Remember to close your prayer "in Jesus' name."

GOOD-BYE

Sing "My Father Is a Billionaire." Close in prayer. Ask the boys to bring items for your interest center next week.

STORYTIME

GOD IS INVISIBLE

(Use arm puppets—Jerry and Judy.)

Judy: (Sits quietly with head bowed.)

Jerry: (Slips up behind her.) BOO!

Judy: (Squeals.) Jerry! You scared me!

Jerry: Didn't you hear me come in the room?

Judy: No, I was busy thinking.

Jerry: Thinking? Again? What about this time?

Judy: Well, I was just wondering. . . . What does God look like?

Jerry: I don't know, Judy. No one knows.

Judy: Doesn't the Bible tell us?

Jerry: No, Judy. The Bible says that no person has ever seen God. He is invisible.

Judy: IN-VI-SI-BLE? What is invisible?

Jerry: Invisible means cannot be seen. (Put your face close to Jerry and blow, pretending that Jerry is blowing.) Did you see that, Judy?

Judy: See what?

Jerry: My breath.

Judy: No—You can't see breath!

Jerry: Watch this! (Make Jerry blow on arm-part of Judy puppet.)

Judy: Oooh! That tickles!

Jerry: Did you see it this time?

Judy: No, but I felt it! I heard it, too!

Jerry: Now, watch this, Judy. (Make Jerry blow on a Kleenex or flowers or paper or something that moves.) Did you see that, Judy?

Judy: I saw the (paper) move, but I didn't see your breath.

Jerry: That's because breath is invisible. It is just like the wind that blows through the trees. We can hear it. We can feel it. We can see the trees move. But we cannot see the wind. It is invisible.

Judy: Is that the way God is?

Jerry: Yes, Judy! Now you understand! People have heard God's voice. They have seen the things He has done. They have even felt Him near them. But they cannot see God because He is invisible.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 26 from his handwork packet. Let them decorate and cut out the glasses. (If desired, you may relate the glasses theme to the fact that even though we cannot see God, we know He is alive and is in heaven watching over us every day.)

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Sing the chorus of "The Child of a King." Close in prayer.

AUGUST THIRD MEETING

HOW BIG IS GOD?

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will want to use your fishing pole and magnetic fish for this week's *Memory Work* session.

WELCOME

Greet the boys individually as they arrive. You may want to let them take turns playing with your Judy and Jerry puppets.

SHARING

Once again, share summertime experiences and plans and talk about new items added to your interest center.

MUSIC

Sing "My Father Is a Billionaire" and the chorus of "The Child of a King." Learn the rest of "Our God Is One." Learn "There's Nothing Too Hard for Thee," substituting the word *God* for *Lord*.

MEMORY WORK

Review the verses learned this month. Turn in your Bible to Matthew 19:26. Read: "With God all things are possible." Repeat the verse with the boys two or three times. Emphasize the fact that God can do *everything*.

PRAYER TIME

Ask for prayer needs, reminding the boys that God has all power and is able to help us.

STORYTIME

GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

(Use Judy and Jerry puppets.)

Judy: (Sobbing.)

Jerry: What's the matter, Judy?

Judy: Sniff! Sniff! Mommy spanked me!

Jerry: What did you do?

Judy: I was playing with her best perfume . . . and . . . and . . . I dropped the bottle and spilled it! (Sob! Sob!)

Jerry: I'm sorry, Judy. But you knew you were not to play with Mother's perfume. It cost a lot of money.

Judy: I told Mommy I was sorry!

Jerry: That's good. Did you tell God you were sorry for doing wrong?

Judy: Tell God! Does God know about it, too?!

Jerry: Why, yes, Judy. God knows everything.

Judy: He does?

Jerry: Yes. The Bible tells us that God sees everything that happens and that He knows all things. He even knows how many hairs we have on our head.

Judy: God must be very smart!

Jerry: Yes, He is, Judy. He is much wiser than any person could ever be. God is very big.

Judy: Is He big as a *giant*?

Jerry: I don't know, Judy. When I say that God is big, I mean that God knows everything and can do everything, and He can see everyone all at the same time. Right now, He can see me here, and the people in Africa, and the people in China, and everywhere!

Judy: Wow! God really is big. He really is wonderful!

Jerry: Yes, Judy. The Bible tells us that God is the King over all the world. Everything that is in heaven and earth is His.

Judy: I'm sure glad that God is my Heavenly Father. I'm going to ask him right now to forgive me for disobeying Mother. (Bows head.)

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 27 from the handwork packet. Have each boy fill in his name and draw pictures of his family in the windows of the car. Emphasize the fact that God watches over us while we are traveling in our car and takes care of us.

HELPING

Have the boys help tidy up the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with the song "There's Nothing Too Hard for Thee."

**AUGUST
FOURTH MEETING**

WHAT DOES GOD DO?

FOR THE COMMANDER

Each boy will need a piece of construction paper 12 by 18 inches for today's *Activities* session. Also, each boy will need two 12-inch lengths of yarn. You will need a paper punch too.

WELCOME

Greet the boys with your Jerry and Judy puppets again, perhaps letting them play with the puppets and make up their own stories.

SHARING

Once again, share vacation experiences or plans. Talk about any new items brought for your interest center.

MUSIC

Sing the songs learned this month. If time permits, and the boys learn songs easily, teach "God Is Good to Me."

MEMORY WORK

Review the verses learned during the first three lessons. Turn in your Bible to Acts 17:24. Read: "God . . . made the world and all things." Repeat two or three times together. Ask the boys to say the verse alone or in groups.

PRAYER TIME

Express thanks to God for the wonderful things He has made.

STORYTIME

GOD IS ALWAYS THE SAME

(Use Judy and Jerry puppets.)

Judy: (Holding a real flower—possibly pinned or taped to her.) Jerry! Jerry! Look at the flower I made! Isn't it pretty?

Jerry: Yes, it is pretty. But you couldn't make this flower.
Judy: Yes, I did! I did! I put the seed in the ground, and every day I watered it. Finally it grew up tall and now I have this flower. I made it!

Jerry: That's nice. But you didn't make the flower. Only God can make a flower. We can plant the seeds and water them, but only God can send the sunshine and make the plant grow.

Judy: God does lots of things, doesn't He?

Jerry: He sure does. God made the whole earth and everything in it. He made the animals and people.

Judy: What else does God do?

Jerry: He takes care of the world and watches over us, His children. He does many good things for us, like hearing us when we pray and answering our prayers, making us well when we are sick, keeping us from harm, and helping us with the things we do.

Judy: God sure must be busy!

Jerry: Yes, but God can do many things all at the same time. All He has to do is say the word, and things are done.

Judy: Is God magic?

Jerry: Better than magic, Judy, God knows everything. God sees everything. He can do everything. And God will never change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Judy: God sure is wonderful, and He makes pretty flowers, doesn't He?

ACTIVITIES

Fold a 12- by 18-inch piece of construction paper in half. Tape the sides together. Punch holes at the top. Tie two 12-inch lengths of yarn through the holes for handles. On the suitcase, print the lettering, "God cares for _____ (name of boy) _____"

Give each boy pages 28 and 29 from the handwork packet. Let them color and cut out the doll and clothes. Place the doll and clothes in the suitcase. They are going on a vacation.



GAME

Choose one boy to be *It*. Let him think of something God made and describe it. Let the boys guess what it is. The boy guessing correctly becomes *It* and the game continues.

HELPING

Share clean-up duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer. Let the boys take home the items they have brought for the interest center.

THEME—STORIES OF THE APOSTLES

PURPOSE

To acquaint the boys with some of the great apostles of the Early Church.
To teach Christian principles given to us by the lives of these great men.
To show God's power to help those who believe in Him.

MEMORY VERSES

"Pray for them which . . . persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).
"The Lord is my helper" (Hebrews 13:6).

SONGS

"This Little Light of Mine" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"I'm So Happy" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Climb Climb Up Sunshine Mountain" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Running Over" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"If You're Saved and You Know It" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"Bubbling in My Soul" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)

REVIEW

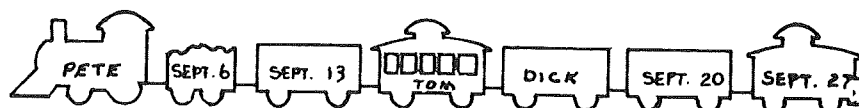
"Sermon in Shoes" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Fishers of Men" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Surely He Will Care for You" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

BULLETIN BOARD

Your bulletin board this month will feature an attendance contest. Use the sketches on pages 82 and 83 to make an engine and cars for each boy in your outpost. The first week each boy will see an engine and coal car (black construction paper) on the bulletin board when he arrives. His name will go on the engine and the date on the coal car. (Other cars can be made from various colors of construction paper.) White chalk may be used to print information on the engine and the cars.

For each visitor a boy brings he will receive a car with the visitor's name printed on it. Line up the engines against the left side of the bulletin board. Each week add the appropriate cars. The boys may receive a new car for the same visitor brought, up to three times.

The sketch below gives an idea of how the train will look. Always have a sufficient number of cars on hand for each meeting.



STEPHEN FORGIVES HIS ENEMIES

FOR THE COMMANDER

On eight 3-inch-wide strips of light cardboard, write the words: "Pray for them which . . . persecute you" (Matthew 5:44). Use this to teach the new memory verse.

WELCOME

Greet the boys individually as they arrive, recording the names and, if possible, telephone numbers and addresses of new guests.

SHARING

Ask: "How does an apple remind you of school?" (Children in school sometimes take a shiny, red apple to their teacher. This is one way of telling the teacher they like her.)

Remind the boys that a new school year will be starting very, very soon. Ask which boys will be going to kindergarten or first grade. Talk about the things they may expect to do at school. Explain that in some ways school may be like Straight Arrows. They will hear stories and color and write and play games and do many other interesting things. Compliment the boys on their good behavior in Straight Arrows and remind them that as Christians they will want to be good in school, too.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

(Many of the songs in this unit are "old favorites" with 5- and 6-year-olds. Others are reviewed from recent months. During lessons 1 and 2, songs learned in June will be appropriate.)

Remind the boys of the stories learned recently about Jesus' helpers telling the good news about Jesus. Remember Jesus told His helpers they would be "fishers of men." Sing "Fishers of Men. Tell the boys: "Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His helpers they must go everywhere telling the good news. Do you remember the verse we learned—Mark 16:15?" ("Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.") "Jesus wants us to tell the good news, also." Sing "Sermons in Shoes" and "This Little Light of Mine."

MEMORY WORK

After Jesus went back to heaven, His helpers went everywhere telling the good news. They taught that people must believe in Jesus and ask Him to forgive their sins if they want to go to heaven.

Some people did not like what Jesus' helpers were teaching. They tried to make them stop telling the good

news. When Jesus' helpers would not stop, some of the Jewish leaders began to *persecute* them—doing mean things to them, putting them in prison, and sometimes killing them.

Jesus' helpers remembered what Jesus had taught them when He was with them. (Turn in your Bible to Matthew 5:44. Read: "Pray for them which . . . persecute you.") Show the Scripture cards you have prepared, reading each word and asking the boys to "read" them with you as you distribute the cards, one to each boy. Ask the boys holding the cards to come to the front of the room. Give them time to arrange themselves in the proper order, facing the group. Have the boys read the verse and decide if the words are correctly arranged. Redistribute the cards. Repeat procedure.

PRAYER TIME

Ask the boys to quietly think of someone who has done or said mean things to them. (This should be done silently with no discussion.) Lead them in prayer asking God to help them love this person and help them tell the person that Jesus loves him/her.

STORYTIME

STEPHEN FORGIVES HIS ENEMIES

Acts 7:54-60

One of the people who helped spread the good news about Jesus after He went to heaven was a man named Stephen. Stephen was a very good man who loved God with all his heart. He told many people about Jesus.

Some of the Jewish leaders did not like Stephen. They did not want him to talk and preach about Jesus. When they saw that many people were listening to Stephen and believing in Jesus, they became very angry.

The Jewish leaders thought of a plan to get rid of Stephen. They paid some men to tell lies about Stephen and to make the people and the rulers angry with him. Then they grabbed Stephen and took him to the judge.

Stephen was not afraid. He knew he had done nothing wrong. He began telling the judge and all the people in the court the good news about Jesus. He told them that God was very displeased with them because they had not obeyed Him and did not believe in Jesus, His Son.

Suddenly Stephen looked up. His face was like an angel's. "Look!" he cried. "I see heaven opened . . . and I see Jesus!"

The angry Jewish leaders would not listen to Stephen any longer. They grabbed him and dragged him out of the city. There they began throwing stones at him.

Stephen knew that he would soon die. The sharp, hard stones were smashing and breaking his body. How sad he was that these men would not believe in Jesus. Just before Stephen died, he knelt on the ground and prayed for those who were persecuting him: "Lord! Please forgive these men for this sin!"

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 30 from the handwork packet to be colored.

GOOD-BYE

Close with "Climb, Climb Up Sunshine Mountain" and "I'm So Happy."

**SEPTEMBER
SECOND MEETING**

PAUL TELLS THE KING ABOUT JESUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

On a large card, print the word APOSTLE. This will be used during your storytime.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them choose the car they want to add to their train. Write today's date on the car and put it in its proper place. Add a car for each visitor brought with the visitor's name on the car.

SHARING

Most of your boys have probably entered school this week. Take time for them to share their new school experiences.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "I'm So Happy," "Running Over," "If You're Saved and You Know It," "This Little Light of Mine," and "Sermon in Shoes."

MEMORY WORK

Use last week's Scripture cards to review the verse: "Pray for them which . . . persecute you." Let the boys each hold a card and unscramble the words as directed last week.

PRAYER TIME

Ask the boys for special requests today. Suggest that one or more boys lead in prayer.

STORYTIME

PAUL TELLS THE KING ABOUT JESUS
Acts 26:1-23

Tell the boys you are going to teach them a new "big word." Show them your card with the word APOSTLE.

Pronounce the word for them and say it together slowly several times.

Explain that the men who helped spread the good news about Jesus after He went back to heaven were called apostles. An apostle was like a preacher . . . or an evangelist . . . or a missionary.

One of the greatest apostles was a man named Paul. He preached about Jesus everywhere he went. The Jewish leaders became very angry with Paul because he was preaching about Jesus, and they had him put in prison.

After Paul had been in prison for a long time, someone knocked at his door. Suddenly, in rushed two tall soldiers. "Come with us, Paul," they said. "King Agrippa wants to talk to you."

Paul marched with the soldiers to a beautiful building and up to the big throne. There, dressed in a long purple robe and wearing a golden crown, sat the most important-looking man of all—the king!

"Paul," the king said. "I want you to tell me why you are a prisoner. What did you do wrong?"

"I didn't do anything wrong," Paul answered. "I have always tried to do what is right. It is the people who do not love Jesus who have made me a prisoner. They are angry when I tell them that Jesus is God's Son and that He loves them and wants to forgive their sins.

"Let me tell you something wonderful that happened to me. At one time I did not love Jesus. I hated people who were Christians and even persecuted them. One day, I was traveling along the road, when, suddenly I saw a very bright light. I was afraid, and I fell to the ground. Then I heard a voice saying, 'I am Jesus. You have been hurting me! But I love you, and I want you to go and tell other people that I love them, too!'

"You see, King, I didn't love Jesus at all before that, but I love Him now. I try to tell everyone about Him.

"Jesus loves you, King Agrippa. I am praying that you will soon love Jesus, too, and give your life to Him."

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 31 from the handwork packet to color.

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Sing "Good News!" Close with prayer.

**SEPTEMBER
THIRD MEETING**

PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED

FOR THE COMMANDER

See the *Activities* section for the materials you will need to have on hand for today's project. Paper should be cut into strips ahead of time. A good variety of colors will make the paper chains very pretty. Make one before the meeting so the boys will know what to do.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, add the appropriate cars to their contest trains.

SHARING

Again, share new school experiences, talking about what new things the boys are learning; what they do at school; how they get to school (by bus, car, walking); etc. Encourage all the boys to join in the conversation.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "Bubbling in My Soul," "If You're Saved and You Know It," "This Little Light of Mine," and "Surely He Will Care for You."

MEMORY WORK

Ask the boys: "Have you ever been in great danger, and you were afraid something terrible might happen to you? What did you do?"

Teach the boys that God wants us to pray when we are in danger, asking Him to help us. He has promised to take care of us.

Read from your Bible Hebrews 13:6: "The Lord is my helper." Explain that these words were written by the great apostle Paul. God helped Paul many times when he was in danger.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for His care and for the many times He has helped you and your boys.

STORYTIME

PAUL IS SHIPWRECKED Acts 27:37-44

Paul was on a long trip. He was traveling in a big boat to a faraway city. It was almost wintertime, and the trip would take many, many days.

Suddenly the wind began blowing. Big dark waves began splashing over the boat. Everyone was very frightened. They were afraid the boat would sink. The men began throwing things from the boat into the sea so that the boat would be lighter. For days the wind kept blowing. The boat was lost at sea.

God sent an angel to talk to Paul. "Tell the people not to be afraid," said the angel. "Tell the people on the

boat that God is going to keep them safe, even though the boat will sink."

The next morning the people were more frightened than ever. The wind was still blowing. Water was splashing into the boat. Paul told the people the happy news from the angel.

Some sailors were going to leave the boat. "You will only be safe if you stay on the boat," said Paul. "Come, eat your food. You need the food to keep you well." Paul thanked God for the food, and all the people ate.

When the sailors saw land, they decided to try and sail the ship to shore. The boat hit something. Waves splashed against the boat, and it began to fall to pieces.

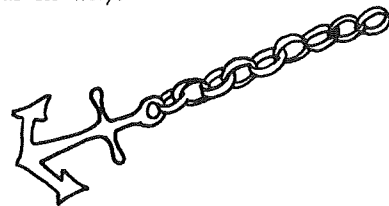
All the people jumped into the water. Some people could swim. Others held on to pieces of the ship. All the people made it safely to shore.

Paul probably prayed, "Thank You, God, for helping us all get safely to shore."

ACTIVITIES

When Paul's boat came near the shore, the men threw the anchors over the side to keep the boat in place. The boat sank, but *God* helped everyone to get to shore safely.

Give the boys page 32 from the handwork packet. Help them cut out the anchors and make and attach paper chains (as shown).



INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE PAPER CHAINS

Materials

10 strips of colored construction paper, ½" by 4" (use several different colors if you wish)

Paste and scissors

Let the boys paste the strips of paper together to form a chain. Paste the anchor to the last link in the chain.

HELPING

Make sure the room is left in good order.

GOOD-BYE

Have the boys sing again "Surely He Will Care for You."

SEPTEMBER FOURTH MEETING

PETER IN PRISON

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need colored construction paper for today's *Activities* time. You will also need glue and seven 5-inch lengths of string for each boy. Try to have these things ready ahead of time so the boys can complete the project.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, place the appropriate cars on their contest trains.

SHARING

Once again allow the boys time to share their new school experiences.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing several of the favorite songs your boys have learned and reviewed this month.

MEMORY WORK

Ask: "When we are in danger, who helps us?" (The Lord.) Review the verse: "The Lord is my helper" (Hebrews 13:6).

PRAYER TIME

Take your needs to the Lord, believing Him to be your helper.

STORYTIME

PETER IN PRISON

Acts 12:1-17

Peter was a great apostle, like Paul, who preached the good news about Jesus everywhere He went. (Recall familiar stories about Peter as one of Jesus' helpers.)

The Jewish leaders were angry with Peter for telling people about Jesus. To make the people happy, King Herod had Peter arrested and put into jail. There, Peter was tied with two chains and guarded by four soldiers.

Peter's friends knew that the king wanted to kill Peter. They began praying to God to help their friend.

One night as Peter was sleeping between two guards, an angel came into Peter's room. He shook Peter by the shoulder and said, "Hurry! Get up, Peter."

Suddenly the chains fell off Peter's hands. Peter got up, put on his shoes and coat, and followed the angel out of the jail.

Peter could hardly believe what was happening. He thought it must be a dream. On and on Peter walked—past the first guard, past the second guard, and finally to the big, locked, iron gate. As Peter and the angel reached the gate, it began opening—all by itself. Peter walked out into the street. He was free!

Blinking his eyes, Peter looked around to thank the angel, but the angel was gone! Then Peter knew it was really true. God had sent His angel and rescued him from jail. How thankful he was!

Peter hurried to find his friends. They were at Mary's house praying, asking God to help Peter get out of jail.

"Knock! Knock!" Peter knocked on the door. A girl named Rhoda came to the door. "Who is it?" she asked.

"It is Peter. May I come in?"

Rhoda recognized Peter's voice. She was so happy and excited that she forgot to open the door. She ran quickly to tell her friends. The friends stopped praying and listened to Rhoda, but they could not believe that Peter was free.

"It is true!" Rhoda cried. "Peter is standing outside the door."

"No," said Peter's friends. "It must be Peter's angel."

"Knock! Knock! Knock!" Peter kept knocking on the door. Finally someone opened it. How surprised they were to see Peter. They thanked God for helping Peter and freeing him from jail.

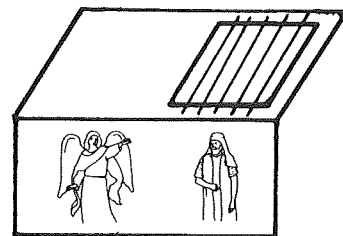
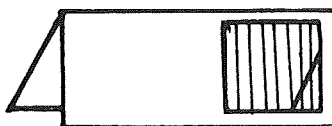
ACTIVITIES

For each boy, fold a 9- by 12-inch piece of construction paper in half. On the right side of the top half, cut out a 4-inch square. (See sketch.)

Give the boys page 33 from the handwork packet. Have them color and cut out the pictures of Peter and the angel. Glue the inside as shown.

On the inside of the top half, tape seven or eight 5-inch lengths of string to resemble vertical bars.

When the top half of the paper is folded down, Peter is "behind bars" in prison. Lift the page. Peter is free and the angel is standing beside him!



HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Sing a favorite chorus and close in prayer.

THEME—THINGS JESUS TAUGHT

PURPOSE

To teach the boys some truths that Jesus taught.
To help the boys apply these truths to their own lives.

MEMORY VERSES

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).
"Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them" (Matthew 7:12).
"Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven" (Luke 6:37).
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind" (Matthew 22:37).

SONGS

"Jesus Bids Us Shine" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Oh, Be careful" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Be Ye Kind One to Another" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"Happy All the Time" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Trust and Obey" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
Review:
"This Little Light of Mine" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)

BULLETIN BOARD

This month's bulletin board will be decorated with squirrels holding acorns that the boys will make during the *Activities* period of their first meeting. You may wish to have seasonal pictures around the room.

**OCTOBER
FIRST MEETING**

SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FOR THE COMMANDER

Have on hand a tall candle in a candleholder and several small candles—one for each boy. To keep the candles from dripping on their clothes, cut 2- or 3-inch squares of paper with an X slit in the center of each square, through which to place the candle.

WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive, making them feel welcome.

SHARING

Talk about the changing weather, the leaves turning colors and falling from the trees, the shorter days, etc. Tell the boys that God has made *seasons* for the world. Talk about the weather we may expect during each season (according to the climate where you live). The season we are now beginning is called *fall* (or autumn). If time permits, take a short walk outdoors observing the trees and plants.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing "This Little Light of Mine." Teach "Jesus Bids Us Shine." (First verse only.) Sing "Oh Be Careful."

MEMORY WORK

Read the verse again: "Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14). Repeat it together with the boys a few times.

PRAYER TIME

Pray, asking God to help each boy let his light shine to those around him every day.

STORYTIME

**THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT
Matthew 5:1-20**

Many people followed Jesus as He went about teaching and preaching and healing the sick.

One day Jesus saw many, many people around Him. He wanted to teach them some very important things. As Jesus walked up the side of a mountain, the people gathered around to hear Him. These are some of the things Jesus taught the people that day.

"Love your enemies" (Matthew 5:44). Last month we learned that we are also to love those who do not like us and who say and do mean things to us.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added unto you" (6:33). Jesus wants us to make Him most important in our lives. If we do this, He will give us the other things that we need and want.

"Ye are the light of the world. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (5:14,16). Do you remember the song we sang today, "This Little Light of Mine?" When we sing that song, we are thinking of what Jesus taught the people that day on the mountain. Christians are like lights shining in the world showing other people the way to God.

How can our lives be like lights? When we pray every day and go to church and read our Bibles, our lives become different. We are happy and good. We want to tell others about God, showing them how they can be Christians also.

(Light your big candle. Turn off the lights in your room. Talk about how the candle makes the room light. Let each boy carefully light his candle from the big candle. Point out how much lighter the room is when each boy lets his light (candle) shine. Sing again "This Little Light of Mine," and "Jesus Bids Us Shine." Talk again about the ways we can let our lights shine.)

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 34 from the handwork packet. Let them color and cut out the squirrels, printing their name on the tail. Color the acorns brown. Place them in the slit in the squirrel's paws. Place the squirrels on the bulletin board or in a border around the room.

HELPING

Give each boy an assignment in cleaning the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THE GOLDEN RULE

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the boys will be filling in the letters of the Bible verse for today, using a page from their handwork packet, you will want to have construction paper on hand to mount the pages. If possible, have a piece of gold-colored paper for each boy.

WELCOME

Welcome each boy as he arrives.

SHARING

Point to the squirrels on the wall or bulletin board. Talk about how God cares for the birds and animals in the fall and where they go when it gets cold—how God helps the animals know to store up nuts and acorns so that they will have them in the wintertime—and how God helps the birds to know where to fly to warmer weather.

MUSIC

Sing "Surely He Will Care for You," "Jesus Bids Us Shine," and "Oh Be Careful." Teach "Be Ye Kind One to Another."

MEMORY WORK

Teach the boys Matthew 7:12: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them."

PRAYER TIME

Pray, asking God to help you always obey the Golden Rule.

STORYTIME

THE GOLDEN RULE

(Ask the boys if they have rules that they must obey at home or school. Ask if they have ever heard of the Golden Rule. If so, see if someone can quote it.)

Tell the boys that the Golden Rule is found in the Bible. It's something that Jesus taught the people who followed Him, and it is written in the Bible for us today. Turn to Matthew 7:12 and read: "Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." Explain the meaning in simple terms, relating it to the boys in their daily living at home, church, school, and with friends. Say: "Wouldn't the world be a wonderful place if *everyone* obeyed the Golden Rule?"

"You are not my friend anymore!" Billy shouted at Matt.

"I don't want to be your friend!" Matt shouted back.

"Boys! Boys!" Miss White, their teacher scolded. "That is no way to talk to each other."

"It's his fault," Billy cried. "He crowded in front of me in line!"

"Did you crowd him, Matt?" Miss White asked.

"Well, he crowded in front of me in line yesterday," Matt complained.

"Come with me, Matt and Billy," Miss White said. "We will talk about this in the classroom."

Matt and Billy felt very sad as they stood before their teacher's desk. They loved their teacher, and they were not happy when she was displeased with them.

"Matt, Billy. Do you know the Golden Rule?" Miss White asked.

Matt and Billy shook their heads, "No."

"I think you should learn it now," Miss White said gently. The Golden Rule says: 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.' Matt, were you happy when Billy crowded in front of you in line?"

"No," Matt answered.

"Billy, were you happy when Matt crowded in front of you in line?"

"No," Billy answered.

"Next time you are tempted to crowd in line, boys, think—'Would I like someone to crowd in front of me in line?' If the answer is 'no,' you know it is wrong and you must not do it."

Billy and Matt were very quiet. Finally Billy said, "I'm sorry, Matt. I should not have crowded in front of you. I will not do it again."

"I'm sorry, too," Matt said. "I will not crowd in line anymore, either."

Miss White smiled. "Thank you, boys. You have learned a very important lesson today. From now on, always remember: 'Whatsoever ye would that men do to you, do ye even so to them!'"

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 35 from the handwork packet. Have the boys color in the letters and mount them on a piece of colored (gold) construction paper. Punch two holes in the top and tie it with yarn for hanging. "Read" the verse together several times.

HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Keeping the Golden Rule is one way of letting our lights shine. Sing "This Little Light of Mine." Close with prayer.

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVING

FOR THE COMMANDER

Notice the recipe for making fingerpaints in the *Activities* section. You will also need paper to work on and something for each boy to protect his clothing. Old shirts work fine.

WELCOME

Greet the boys warmly as they arrive.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Talk about the fall harvest, relating it to the crops grown in your section of the country. Mention the particular foods that are harvested during this time. Play a guessing game:

My color is orange.
I am big and round.
I grow on a vine
Down near the ground. (Pumpkin.)

Squirrels like me,
They store me away;
So they can eat
On a cold winter day. (Nut.)

My color is yellow
I'm so good to eat.
I grow long and round
In rows very neat. (Corn.)

A farmer grows me
And grinds me up small
To make good bread
So that you can grow tall. (Wheat.)

I'm round and red,
And I grow on a tree.
I taste very good,
And children like me. (Apple.)

MUSIC

Sing "Jesus Bids Us Shine," "Oh Be Careful," and "Be Ye Kind One to Another." Teach "Happy All the Time."

MEMORY WORK

Turn in your Bible to Luke 6:37. Teach the boys: "Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven."

PRAYER TIME

As the boys bow their heads and close their eyes, ask them to think if there is anyone who has done wrong to them whom they have not forgiven. Ask them to pray silently (or lead them in prayer) asking God to give them strength to forgive that person. Lead the boys in asking forgiveness, also, for the wrongs *they* have done. Thank God for forgiving.

STORYTIME

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT FORGIVING

Matthew 18:21-35

Peter was puzzled. "Lord Jesus," he asked, "how many times can my brother do something wrong to me and I have to forgive him? Seven times?"

"No, not seven times," answered Jesus, "but *seventy times seven*."

Jesus told His helpers a story.

Once upon a time, a servant owed his king a lot of money—millions of dollars! The servant did not have enough money to pay the king what he owed, so the king ordered him to be sold as a slave and his wife and children and everything he had to be sold to pay what was owed.

How sad the servant was. He fell on his knees and begged, "Please, King, do not sell me. Wait a little longer, and I will pay you everything I owe you!"

The king felt sorry for his servant. He said, "I will forgive you what you owe me. You do not have to pay me back, ever."

As the servant walked happily down the street, he saw a man who owed him just a little bit of money—a few dollars. The servant grabbed the man and began choking him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he shouted.

The man fell on his knees and begged, "Please, wait a little longer. I will pay you back!"

"No!" shouted the servant, and he had the poor man thrown into jail.

When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very upset. They went to the king and told him what they had seen. How angry the king was! He called the servant in. "You are a bad man," he said. "I forgave you everything you owed me, but you would not forgive your friend." Then the king had the servant thrown in jail.

Jesus finished the story by saying: "God has forgiven all of you your many sins. If you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you. If you forgive the wrongs others have done to you, your Father in heaven will also forgive you."

ACTIVITIES

Have suitable fall colors available for the boys to choose from for fingerpainting. Use butcher paper and the following recipe for inexpensive fun.

1 cup liquid starch
Powdered poster paint

Pour the starch in small jars. Mix in the poster paint until you have the desired color or shade.

Be sure the boys are wearing something to protect their clothing—and that there is newspaper to protect the table. Let the boys create fall scenes.

HELPING

Allow enough time for cleaning the room and the boys' hands.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

**OCTOBER
FOURTH MEETING**

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need to have a brad or another type of fastener for each boy to attach the wings of his owl to its body. See *Activities* section.

WELCOME

Greet the boys individually as they arrive.

SHARING

Using your own discretion, prepare the boys for the sights they will see on Halloween night. Halloween is a time for pretending. Ghosts, goblins, and other things seen on Halloween night are only make-believe.

Discuss proper manners for trick-or-treating.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing favorites recommended this month. Teach "Trust and Obey"—chorus only.

MEMORY WORK

What did Jesus mean when He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with thy mind?" (We must love God with all that we are.)

What did Jesus mean when He said: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself?" (We must love those about us—friends, family, neighbors as much as we love ourselves.)

Teach Matthew 22:37. (If it is too difficult for your boys to learn the entire verse, teach only the first part.)

PRAYER TIME

Express your love and praise to God. Teach the importance of praising God.

STORYTIME

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

Matthew 22:34-40,46

Some of the Jewish leaders were trying to trick Jesus. They wanted to make him say something wrong. "What is the greatest commandment in the Law?" they asked Jesus. They were talking about the laws that God had

given to Moses on the mountain many, many years ago. The Jews were very, very careful to obey those laws, but they didn't love God like they should.

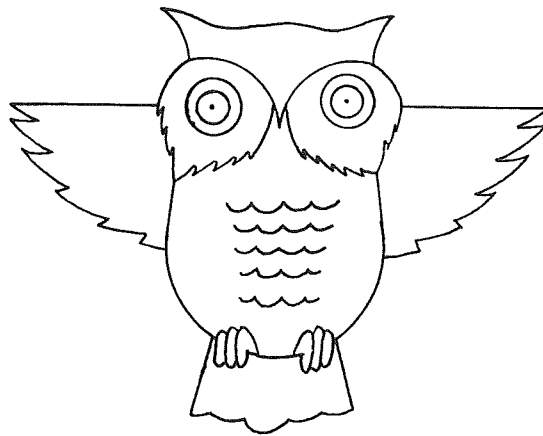
Jesus knew that the men were trying to trick Him. He answered, "This is the greatest and most important commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

Then Jesus said, "The second most important commandment is like it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

The Jewish leaders did not know what to say. They knew that Jesus was much wiser than they, and they didn't dare ask Him more questions.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 36 from the handwork packet. Color and cut out the owl and wings. Fasten the wings behind the body by inserting the brass fastener through the X's. Move the wings up and down.



HELPING

Share cleanup duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a song.

THEME—THANKSGIVING

PURPOSE

To teach the "Thanksgiving Prayer."
To point out the many things for which we should be thankful.
To create a spirit of thankfulness.

MEMORY VERSE

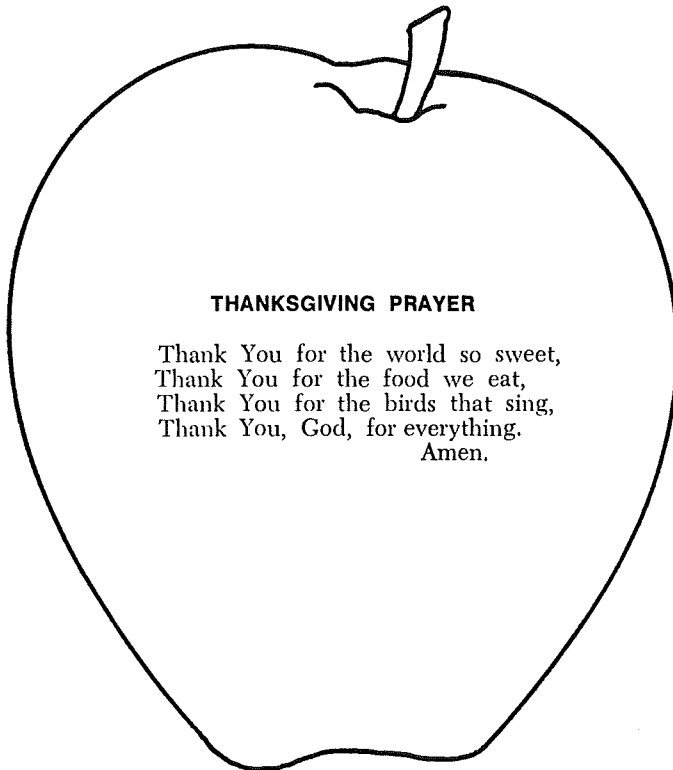
"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
"God . . . giveth us . . . all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).

SONGS

"All Through the Night" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*).
"The Wonder Song" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*).
"Hallelujah" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*).
"The Birds Upon the Treetops" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*).
"Thank You, Lord" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*).

BULLETIN BOARD

Cut out letters to spell THANKS BE TO GOD. Place them across the top of the bulletin board. Using green crepe paper, make a border around the board. Make a Thanksgiving scene using pictures from magazines. Or, if you prefer, cut out pilgrims, turkeys, etc. from a child's coloring book and use the figures to make an appropriate scene. (See pages 42-44 of *Straight Arrows*, Unit 1.)



Teach the *Thanksgiving Prayer* to the boys at the first meeting and repeat it at each meeting this month.

NOVEMBER FIRST MEETING

THANK YOU FOR THE WORLD SO SWEET

FOR THE COMMANDER

It will help to get the boys in a Thanksgiving spirit if you will make a Thanksgiving arrangement to display on a table. Place items such as Indian corn, gourds, pumpkins, etc., around an open Bible. You may want to have the Bible open to a special Thanksgiving verse that you have circled or underlined in red. Refer to the verse during the opening service.

You will need some cotton balls today during the *Activities* session. They will be used by the boys to form clouds when pasted on the blue sky.

WELCOME

Let the boys examine your Thanksgiving arrangement as they arrive. Answer their questions in identifying the pieces.

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever gone for a walk at night. What are some of the sounds they hear? the sights they see? (If possible, take the boys on a short walk outside. Point out chirping crickets, barking dogs, stars, the moon, lighted windows, etc.)

Tell them to imagine what it would be like if it never became dark. When they went to bed at night the sun would be shining. All night long it would be light. We would not know when to sleep, because it would always be daytime. (Talk about how nice it is when it becomes dark and everything becomes quiet and we snuggle down in our soft beds and go to sleep.)

In some countries of the far north (where it is very cold) the sun shines all summer long—day and night. In the winter the sun never shines. It is dark all day and all night. Ask: "Would you like to live there? What makes the daytime light?" (The sun.) "Why is it dark at night?" (The sun does down.) "What kind of lights do we have at night that God has made?" (The moon and stars.)

We are thankful to God for the daytime and nighttime He has made and for the sun, moon, and stars.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Teach the first two lines of "All Through the Night." Sing "Hallelujah."

MEMORY WORK

The very first verse in the Bible tells us that God made the heaven and the earth. (Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1 and read.) Repeat the verse together.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for the sun, moon, stars, daylight, and darkness.

STORYTIME

LED BY GOD

Exodus 13:17-22

(During your storytime, emphasize the thought that God cares for us all through the daytime and the nighttime. Try to dispel any fears of the darkness.)

Moses and the Children of Israel were going on a long trip. They did not ride in cars. They did not ride on a bus. They did not ride on a train or an airplane. They walked.

Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! On through the hot desert they walked. There were thousands and thousands and thousands of them. Day after day they walked. They were going to a new home.

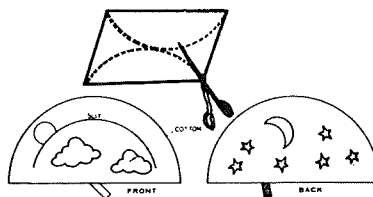
Moses and the people knew that God was leading them. God had put a cloud in the sky that moved ahead of them showing the way. At night, when the sky became dark, the cloud was bright like a fire.

Every time Moses and the Children of Israel looked at the sky, they could see the cloud and they knew that God was watching over them and protecting them all day and all night. They were thankful for God's care.

God watches over us also all day and all night. We do not have a cloud to watch in the sky like the Children of Israel, but we have God's promises written in our Bibles. God has promised: "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

ACTIVITIES

From a full sheet of light-blue construction paper, cut a half-circle for each boy. Make a slit in the center as shown. Cut pieces of dark-blue or black paper the same size. Let the boys glue two half-circles together just around the edges. (See page 86.)



Give each boy page 37 from his handwork packet. Have them color the round circle orange. It will not be necessary to color the strip attached to the circle. The boys may cut out the moon and stars after coloring them yellow.

(If you prefer, they can use gummed stars.) They will paste the moon and stars on the dark side of the paper. Paste cotton on the light-blue sky for clouds. (Under slit.) Then insert the strip into the slit on the light-blue side. Pull the strip to move the sun through the sky. Explain that when the sun goes down at night we see the moon and stars. (Reverse side.)

Talk about owls and cats that see in the dark. Mr. Owl stays awake all night to hunt for food.

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning up the art supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a favorite song.

**NOVEMBER
SECOND MEETING**

THANK YOU FOR THE FOOD WE EAT

FOR THE COMMANDER

For special interest today, you may place in your room some small potted plants or a growing carrot top or sweet potato. Prepare turkey following instructions in *Activities* section.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive today discuss plans for their Thanksgiving celebration in their own homes.

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have ever been to a farm. Discuss the following:

- What is seen on a farm? (Name animals, plants, trees.)
- How does the farmer grow things? (Plowing, weeding, harvesting, sending to market.)
- How does God help the farmer? (By sending sunshine and rain.)
- What are the sources of foods we buy at the store? (Eggs—chickens, milk—cows, oranges—trees, etc.)

Ask the boys what they have eaten today. Tell what foods grew on the ground or on trees.

MUSIC

Act out the following verses to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

The farmer plants the seeds,
The farmer plants the seeds,
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God made the seeds!

The rain comes falling down, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God sends the rain!

The sun shines on the seeds, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God made the sun!

The plants begin to grow, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God helps them grow!

Food grows on the plants, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God makes the food.

The farmer picks the food, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
God helped it grow!

We all eat the food, (repeat)
Heigh! Ho! The Cheery-O!
We're thankful for our food!

Begin learning or review "The Wonder Song." (Visuals for this song are found in Straight Arrows Handwork Packet, First year, March.) Sing "Hallelujah."

MEMORY WORK

Review Genesis 1:1.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for food and growing things.

STORYTIME

A NEW DISCOVERY

Yohama (Yo-hah-mah) huddled under the banana leaf his father held over them for an umbrella. The rain came slowly, then faster.

Yohama didn't mind the rain. Neither did his father huddled next to him, or the other people who lived in Yohama's village in Tanzania (Tan-za-nee-ah). Today their missionary friend, Mr. Knapp, would visit their village.

Yohama liked the missionary friend, called Mzungu (white man) by the villagers. The men, women, boys, and girls in the village liked this missionary friend who helped them grow better crops.

"Come, Son," said Yohama's father. "We must go to the meeting place. Mzungu will speak to us today."

Yohama and his father ran to join the others in the one-room building with a thatched roof. They sat on the cement floor. Yohama squirmed. The floor was hard and cold.

At the front of the room, Mr. Knapp stood behind a small table.

"Can I stand, Father?" pleaded Yohama. "I cannot see the missionary."

"You may kneel, if you like," answered Father.

Yohama wished that he was sitting up front with his friends. Next time, he thought, I will come early so I can see the missionary friend up close.

Mr. Knapp spoke, "Today I have a surprise for each of you. You will like my surprise because it is something good to eat."

Yohama smacked his lips. "Is it sweet potato?" he wondered. "Is it cooked banana?" Bananas and sweet potatoes were Yohama's favorite foods.

"What is it, Father? What is the surprise?" asked Yohama tugging at his father's arm.

"Wait and see," answered Father. "Wait and see."

The missionary continued speaking, "While you guess what my surprise is, I have more pictures to show you."

The missionary showed a movie of how carrots, cabbage, okra, turnips, and beans grew from tiny seeds planted in the soil. "When planted in the soil," said the missionary, "these seeds that I am holding in my hand will grow into the vegetables you see in the film. These vegetables will provide you with good food to eat and sell."

Yohama had heard the missionary speak before. He knew that if he ate carrots, beans, and other foods, his body would grow strong. "I still like sweet potatoes and bananas," he thought.

Missionary Knapp snapped off the movie projector and said, "I will help you get the ground ready for planting these seeds." Then the missionary gave out small packets of the vegetable seeds to the people. Yohama held tightly to his packet. He would plant his seeds in his own garden near his house.

"Now I can grow my own carrots, beans, and cabbage. I can sell some of my vegetables. Then I will have some money to help buy a Bible."

Yohama and the other boys and girls in his Sunday school class wanted a Bible written in their own language. He grew anxious to leave. He wanted to run home and plant his seeds.

"Missionary Knapp will help me plant my seeds," thought Yohama, "I will ask him."

The missionary dropped a handful of yellow kernels into a black pot and announced to the group, "Now for my surprise."

Yohama and the others watched and waited. Soon they heard a sound. Pop! Pop! Then more sounds. Pop-pop-pop-pop! Little white puffs were filling the big pot. Yohama and the others watched as the missionary scooped out the white puffs and poured them into another container.

Again the missionary walked among the group. The people reached out to sample the surprise.

"How do you like my surprise?" he asked.

The people clapped loudly. Yohama clapped. "What is it that tastes so good?" he wanted to know.

"Popcorn! How do you like my surprise?" asked Mr. Knapp.

"Popcorn tastes so-o-o good," said Yohama, nibbling the last bite.

Soon Yohama and the villagers had eaten every piece of the delicious white puffs.

One of the villagers raised his hand. "Mzungu, can we grow popcorn in our village?" he asked.

"Oh, yes," answered the missionary. "Once I gave some kernels of corn to a farmer in another village. He planted the kernels, and the corn grew. He had a fine harvest—enough for his family and other villagers. The next year, the man asked me for more corn."

"Didn't you keep some of the seeds from your harvest?"

"I did," the man replied, "But my family loved the corn so much that they ate the seeds before I could plant them."

—Selected

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 38 from the handwork packet. Let them cut out the picture of the turkey and paste or glue it on a piece of colored construction paper or lightweight cardboard. Show the boys the turkey you have made using colored seeds such as popcorn, peas, beans, etc. Separate the seeds in muffin tins or an egg carton so it will be easy for the boys to pick out the colors they want to use.

Show the boys some kernels of popcorn (*that you have soaked in water overnight.*) Peel off the thin covering and show the boys the white plant inside. The little corn plant on the inside is almost white. The covering protects the little plant so it will grow.

Plant a few seeds in a container of moist dirt. Take it home with you and care for it, taking it to each session so the boys can watch its growth.

HELPING

Let the boys help you prepare some corn to pop (in a popcorn popper). As the corn is popping, have the boys clear the table of their art supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer. Give each boy a small sack or paper cup of popcorn.

NOVEMBER THIRD MEETING

THANK YOU FOR THE BIRDS THAT SING

FOR THE COMMANDER

As the boys arrive, have music playing in the background. If possible, have a bird (preferably a canary) in a cage where the boys can observe it. (Otherwise, use an artificial bird or pictures of birds.)

WELCOME

Encourage the boys to talk about their pet birds as they arrive.

SHARING

Let your conversation today center on birds. Talk about how many different types of birds God has made, asking the boys to name a few if they can: *big birds*—eagle, peacock, etc.; *medium-size birds*—parrot, crow, hawk, buzzard, etc.; *small birds*—robin, blackbird, pigeon, etc.; and *tiny birds*—sparrow, canary, hummingbird, etc. (If possible, use a book from the library to show the different types of birds.) You might also ask the boys to imitate the different sounds made by these birds.

Stress the beauty of the birds and the lovely songs God has given them to sing.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Tell the boys that God must like to hear music. He made the birds to sing on earth. He made angels to sing in heaven. He made us so that we can sing too. Sing "The Birds Upon the Treetops," "Hallelujah," and other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Open your Bible to 1 Timothy 6:17 and read: "God . . . giveth us . . . all things to enjoy." Be sure the boys know the meaning of the word *enjoy*. Repeat the verse together.

PRAYER TIME

Mention that sometimes we pray to God by singing. If the boys are familiar with the song, sing "Thank You, Lord" as a prayer. Then lead them in a prayer of thanks for the birds, for our voices with which we sing, and other blessings.

STORYTIME

GOD USES BIRDS TO FEED A PROPHET

1 Kings 17:2-6

Once there was a man by the name of Elijah who was one of God's best helpers. He was tall and strong and brave, and he did many hard things which God told him to do.

Now there came a time when there was no rain for many days in the land where Elijah lived. The green grass became dry and brown. The flowers did not bloom. The corn and wheat did not grow. The seeds the farmers planted could not grow for there was no rain to give them a drink. The little river became smaller and smaller. In all the land there was only a little food and only a little water.

But God had not forgotten His good helper Elijah. God loved Elijah and He would take care of him.

One day God said to Elijah, "Go live by the little stream of water called the brook of Cherith. There is water in the brook for you, and I will take care of you."

Elijah took his strong walking stick and started off to the brook of Cherith as God had told him. He walked and walked. Clack, clack, clack, clack, went his sandals over the hard dry ground. He walked and walked, and at nighttime he came to the little brook.

He drank some of the cool water. Then he lay down and soon was sound asleep, for he was very tired.

Early in the morning, as it began to grow light, Elijah awakened. He drank the cool water from the brook, and then he sat down on a big rock beside the brook. He looked around him. Everything was dry and brown. There was nothing to eat, and there were no people near who might give him some bread.

"What shall I eat?" thought Elijah, for he was very hungry. Then he remembered that God had said, "I will take care of you."

As he sat there looking into the blue, blue sky, he saw some birds flying toward the brook. Elijah watched them. Closer and closer they came. They seemed to be flying toward him. As they came near Elijah, he could see that they were black. They came very near him. They were not afraid of him and they were carrying something in their bills (beaks). Some carried bread in their bills; some carried meat. They dropped the food near Elijah and flew away again.

Then Elijah knew that God had sent the birds with the bread and meat for him so he would not be hungry. He ate the food they brought him and drank the water from the little brook.

Every morning and every evening as long as Elijah lived by the little brook called Cherith, God sent the birds to him. Each time they brought food in their bills. Elijah never had to go without food because God took care of him.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out pages 39 and 40 from the handwork packet. Ask the boys to color their birds different colors. They can make redbirds, bluebirds, robins, canaries, etc. The trees should be colored brown. Paste the birds onto the limbs of the trees. Read together the words: "Thank you, God, for the birds."

If you can secure some feathers, let the boys paste them on the wings of the birds.

HELPING

Make sure all the boys help clean up the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close by singing again, "The Birds Upon the Treetops."

NOVEMBER FOURTH MEETING

THANK YOU, GOD, FOR EVERYTHING

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the Thanksgiving meeting is special you may want to serve cookies and hot chocolate or small pieces of pumpkin pie at the close of your meeting. Or, if you prefer, the boys would be thrilled to receive a popcorn ball as a treat. Tell the boys there will be a surprise at the end of their *Activities* session. Encourage them to do neat work on their placecards.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys warmly as they arrive, greeting each boy.

SHARING

The boys will be anxious to share their Thanksgiving

plans. Let them each share their plans, being careful that boys with no special plans do not feel underprivileged. Stress the things for which we should be thankful at Thanksgiving time.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

We show our thankfulness to God by singing happy songs of praise. Lead the boys in some of the songs of praise you have learned this unit. Sing other favorites. Help them to feel they are praising God in this way.

MEMORY WORK

God loves us very much. He wants us to be happy. He has given us many things to help us be happy. (Name a few of the things you have discussed during this unit as being gifts from God.) Read again from your Bible: "God . . . giveth us . . . all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17). Have the boys repeat it together. Ask the boys if any of them can say it alone.

PRAYER TIME

We also show our thankfulness to God by praying—or talking to Him—and telling Him, "Thank You." Let the boys take turns leading in a short prayer thanking God for something specific. (Do not force or embarrass any boys who do not wish to pray aloud.)

STORYTIME

A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

Leviticus 23:33-43; Nehemiah 8:14-18

Long, long ago, in that faraway country where Jesus lived, the people had a thanksgiving time. When all the grapes had been picked and all the wheat and corn and barley had been cut and stored in barns, there was a whole week of *thanksgiving*.

The people were happy and glad that there was food for the winter. They were glad for the sun and rain that God had sent to make the wheat and corn and grapes grow.

"We will have a week of thanksgiving," said the minister.

Then he told the people how God wanted them to have a thanksgiving time, so they made their plans. This is what they did.

The people cut down branches of trees and bushes. They made little huts to live in during the thanksgiving time. Some people built the huts on the flat tops of their houses. Some built the huts on the ground. It was just like camping out. The children loved the thanksgiving the time, which lasted 7 days. They helped gather the

branches and when they were finished they may have played hide-and-seek among the huts.

There were many good things to eat every day. There were roasted meats, loaves of hot brown bread, dates, raisins, honey, grapes, little cakes, and many other good things. There was plenty to eat for everyone.

Those who had more food than they needed shared with the people who had none. The children helped to carry the food to their poor and hungry friends. It was a happy time for everyone.

Every day the people went to church. They took gifts of their very best fruit and corn. As they walked up the hill to the church, they sang songs of thanksgiving to God. They thanked Him for the many good gifts He had given them.

When all the people had gathered in the beautiful church, the minister read to them from the Word of God. It was quiet in the church, and the people felt very near to God. They felt as though they wanted to talk to Him. They all bowed their heads and said, "Thank You, God, for all the good things You have given us."

ACTIVITIES

Help the boys make Thanksgiving placecards for their Thanksgiving meal. Help them count how many they will need so there will be one for each member of the family. They may also wish to include guests.

Fold a 5- by 6-inch piece of construction paper (or large notecard) in half lengthwise. Print: "I thank God" (2 Timothy 1:3), on each card. In the upper left-hand corner, place a Thanksgiving sticker. Under the printing, the boys may wish to write individual names.

HELPING

Have the boys share in cleaning up the supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close in prayer and wish the boys a Happy Thanksgiving.

THEME—CHRISTMAS . . . IN THE EYES OF A CHILD

PURPOSE

To teach the boys:

Christmas is a time to remember Jesus' birthday.
We celebrate Jesus' birthday because we love Him.
We can find joy in making someone else glad.

MEMORY VERSES

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem" (Mathew 2:1).
"We love him, because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

SONGS

"Little Baby Jesus" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"Gospel Bells" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Away in a Manger" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Silent Night" (*In most hymnals*)
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas" (*Familiar melody*)

BULLETIN BOARD

There are any number of ways to decorate your bulletin board for December. Make a border of fresh or artificial greenery. Decorate the board with pretty pictures from used greeting cards and/or magazines. The boys could make attractive decorations from construction paper to attach to the bulletin board. This might include bells, wreaths, snowflakes, etc. Cut the words *Merry Christmas* from red or green foil or construction paper and center them at the top of the display. (Letter patterns in *Straight Arrows*, Unit 1.)

**DECEMBER
FIRST MEETING**

GOD GIVES A GIFT

FOR THE COMMANDER

Plan with the workers, who may use your room on Sunday, to avoid duplication or overdecorating.

Perhaps you will want to bring some decorations from home. Avoid any suggestion of Santa Claus or secular-type decorations. Scented candles and fresh pine boughs add much *Christmas atmosphere*.

Let the boys decorate your Christmas tree during the first meeting. This may be either a small evergreen or a green paper tree taped to the wall. See *Activities* section of this lesson for instruction.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, have soft Christmas music playing in the background.

SHARING

Ask the boys about their Thanksgiving holidays, giving them a brief opportunity to share their experiences. Then ask who knows what other special day will be celebrated soon. Let the boys talk about Christmas *briefly*.

Explain that long ago there was no Christmas. There were no pretty Christmas trees with beautiful lights and fancy decorations. There were no Christmas presents. Then God sent a wonderful Gift to the world. The Gift was for everyone. It was His own Son, Jesus. He sent Jesus to the world because He loves us very much.

Let the boys share in relating the Christmas story—through the birth of Christ. (Refer to Luke 2:1-7.) Save the stories of the shepherds and Wise Men for lessons 2 and 3.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Lead the boys in singing one or two simple, favorite Christmas carols, finishing with "Away in a Manger." Place a baby in a manger before teaching the next song. (This may be a small model from a manger scene, a doll in a box with hay, or a picture.) Teach "Little Baby Jesus."

MEMORY WORK

Read from your Bible Matthew 2:1: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem." Make sure the boys understand that Bethlehem is the *town* where Jesus was born. (If possible, point out Bethlehem on a map of Bible lands.) Ask the boys if they remember the name of the town where they were born. Repeat the verse together two or three times.

PRAYER TIME

When someone gives us a gift, we always should *thank* them. God gave us the very best Gift: His Son, Jesus. Let's thank Him for sending Jesus to the world. Lead in prayer.

STORYTIME

A HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Karl carefully lifted the red candle with its yellow flame. It was only a paper candle, but he liked to believe that it was real.

Christmas was special to Karl this year. He had learned about Jesus at Straight Arrows. Now he knew what Christmas really was. It was Jesus' birthday!

Karl softly repeated: "For unto you is born this day . . . a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." He was so happy since he had asked Him to come into his heart.

Karl wanted his brother and sister to know the real meaning of Christmas. He asked God to help him tell them. "And please, God," he added, "Make Christmas happy for them too. We are so poor. There is no money for lights or trees or presents."

"What is that thing?"

Karl looked up to see his older brother, Bobby.

"A candle," Karl answered. "A Christmas candle."

"Why tape it on the window?" asked 5-year-old Connie, who had just walked into the room.

"Because it's Christmas."

"So what! There is no Christmas in this house," Bobby cried bitterly.

"Just the same, it's Christmas Eve, and I . . . I want to celebrate," Karl answered slowly.

"Celebrate! Celebrate what?" shouted Bobby. "There is no tree . . . and there won't be any gifts!"

"We don't celebrate Christmas because of gifts," explained Karl.

"Then *why do we celebrate Christmas?*" asked Connie.

"Because Jesus was born."

"So what?" snorted Bobby.

"That is the whole reason for Christmas," Karl said. "Jesus was born to save us from our sins."

"Well, I would feel more like celebrating if we had a tree!" Bobby said.

"Me, too!" cried Connie. "I would be happy if I knew I was going to get one gift."

"I know a gift you can have," said Karl.

"What is that?" asked Connie eagerly.

"You can have God's Gift."

"Huh?"

"God gave the best gift that was ever given . . . on the very first Christmas. He gave His only Son, Jesus. If you ask Jesus to come into your heart, He can be your Gift too."

"But I want a *real* gift . . . like a doll . . . or . . ." Connie burst into tears.

Karl felt sad. If only Connie and Bobby could have Christmas too.

Suddenly the doorbell rang. "Who could be calling on Christmas Eve?" wondered Karl.

As he opened the door, he was greeted by "MERRY

CHRISTMAS!" Into the room came all the Straight Arrows, led by Commander Brown, who was carrying a real Christmas tree!

Bobby and Connie came running into the room. How surprised they were!

The rest of the evening was just like a dream. After Commander Brown led everyone in singing Christmas carols, he told the Christmas story—how Jesus had come to earth to die for our sins. When Commander Brown asked if anyone would like to ask Jesus to come into his heart, Connie raised her hand. Karl couldn't have been happier!

Later, after everyone had eaten cookies and candy, Commander Brown opened a big sack. Inside were . . . not one . . . but, *two gifts each* for Karl and Connie and Bobby!

"Oh, Commander Brown," cried Karl, "God has really given us Christmas!"

—Adapted

Star—The star that shone over Bethlehem and led the Wise Men to Jesus.

Angel—The angels told the good news that Jesus had been born.

Cane or Staff—Reminds us of the shepherds who were watching their sheep on the hillside when the angels came to tell them the good news.

Bell—Makes a happy sound. Reminds us of "ringing out the good news that Jesus was born."

If there is time, the boys may make one of each decoration. After the decorations are completed, let the boys "hang" them on your tree.

Pass out pages 41 and 42 from the handwork packet. The boys may color the figures or use some as patterns and cut stars and bells from foil.

To make a shepherd's staff use paper drinking straws—preferably red-and-white-striped. Insert a chenille stem (pipe cleaner) into each straw and bend the top into the shape of a shepherd's staff. (It will also resemble a candy cane.)

ACTIVITIES

Call the boys' attention to your Christmas tree. Remark that there are no decorations on it. Ask them to help you decorate the tree using decorations that help us and others think about Jesus.

One by one, show finished samples of the decorations the boys will be making (pages 41 and 42 of the handwork packet). Ask them how each one makes them think of Jesus.

HELPING

Ask each boy to share in clearing the table and straightening up the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a Christmas carol and prayer.

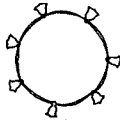
DECEMBER SECOND MEETING

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Today you will need a set of *gospel bells* for each boy. Directions: Cut red ribbon or felt into 8-inch strips. Sew the ends together to form circles. Sew on dime-store jingle bells at 1-inch intervals. Use as *instruments* for each boy as you sing "Gospel Bells."

To make the *gospel bells* more quickly, cut 12-inch strips of thick yarn. Tie three bells in the center at 1-inch intervals. Tie the ends of the yarn to a bow.



WELCOME

Play Christmas music softly as the boys arrive.

SHARING

Call attention to the tree the boys decorated last week. Ask them what the stars remind them of. Ask what the bells remind them of; the angels; the staffs.

The last two items should introduce a discussion of the story of the shepherds (Luke 2:8-20). Encourage the boys to relate the events of the story. (Make sure you are familiar with the sequence and events of the story.)

Emphasize these facts: The *angels shared the good news of Jesus' birth with the shepherds*. After the

shepherds had seen Jesus, they told the good news everywhere.

We will share the good news too. *What is the good news?* (Review John 3:16. The boys should know it already.) God loved the world so much, He gave a wonderful gift—His only Son. Jesus came to earth to die for our sins so that everyone who believes in Him will live forever in heaven.

With *whom can we share the good news?* (Guide the boys in their answers.) We can share with the people we see every day by telling them about Jesus, and with people far away by giving our money in church so someone can go and tell them about Jesus.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Today we are going to learn a song about sharing the good news. Distribute the gospel bells, giving the boys a few moments to practice ringing them. Teach the song "Gospel Bells." (Tell the boys that the tune is the same as "Jingle Bells." Let them ring the bells throughout the song.) Sing other Christmas favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Ask: "Where was Jesus born?" You will probably get the answer, *manger* or *stable*. Then ask: "What was the name of the town?" Do not be disappointed if the boys do not remember the name *Bethlehem*. Review last week's verse: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem" (Matthew 2:1).

Give each boy page 43 from the handwork packet. Point out the words of the memory verse and repeat them together several times. Sing "Little Baby Jesus."

PRAYER TIME

Thank God again for sending His Son. Ask Him to help you to share the good news with others.

STORYTIME

JOEY SHARES THE GOOD NEWS

"What are you going to do on Christmas?" Joey asked his new neighbor, Bobby.

"We are going to open our presents and have a big turkey dinner," Bobby answered excitedly. "What are you going to do?"

"We are going to open presents, too!" cried Joey. "Then, before we eat dinner, my father always reads from the Bible the story of Jesus coming to earth as a baby. After that, we all sing Christmas carols and thank God for sending His Son to die for our sins."

Bobby's eyes were wide. "I have never heard that story. Who is Jesus?" he asked.

Joey was surprised that Bobby did not know about Jesus. He thought everyone knew who Jesus was. Joey began, "Many years ago in a land far, far away. . ."

He told Bobby about the angel who came to Mary and Joseph, and about how Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn (hotel), and about the shepherds and Wise Men. It was such fun sharing the good news about Jesus.

The next Sunday, Joey took Bobby with him to Sunday school. Bobby liked church. He learned that Jesus could be his very own Saviour by asking Him to forgive his sins and come into his life.

Now Bobby too shares the good news about Jesus with everyone he knows.

ACTIVITIES

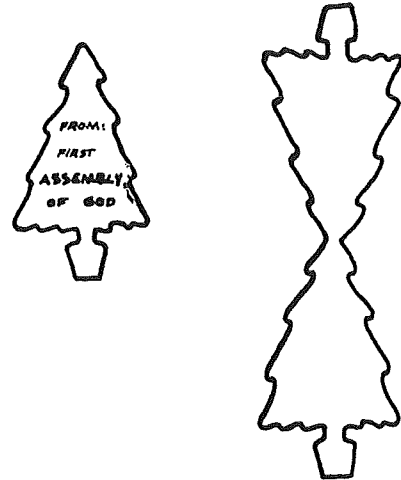
Give the boys page 44 from the handwork packet. Use the tree pattern to make two trees from green construction paper. Tape them together at the top. The boys may

DECEMBER THIRD MEETING

JESUS, I LOVE YOU

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need two pieces of soft absorbent cloth for each boy. If possible, select two different colors. The one, to be used as a gift for mother, should be cut 12-inches square and pinked around the edges. The one for father should be cut 10 by 18 inches and also pinked around the edges. In addition each boy will need a shoe made from felt using the pattern on page 84. Have a supply of pretty wrapping paper on hand to wrap the gifts. See *Activities* section for more details.



want to paste brown construction paper over the trunk of the tree and the pot.

Let them use their imagination in decorating the "top" tree using foil stars, sequins, etc. On the "inside" tree attach a small gift such as an emery board, an inexpensive pen, a hankie, a Christmas tract, etc.

Print neatly: From the Straight Arrows of (church's name).....

Make the tree favors for a local rest home or as small gifts for a hospital children's ward. Or, you may prefer to make Christmas candy rolls, if they can be distributed in your local hospital. You will need tubes from paper towels, aluminum foil, etc. Cut in 5-inch lengths. Fill with candy. Wrap in Christmas paper, making sure the paper is long enough to twist the ends. Tie each end with colored yarn or ribbon. To one end tie a card saying: "From the Straight Arrows of (church's name)" Make plans early to visit, to sing Christmas carols, and distribute your gifts. (Be sure to plan in advance with the hospital or home!) This is one way of sharing the good news.

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning up.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

FOR THE COMMANDER

WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive. Have Christmas music playing softly. Perhaps you will want to have the words: "Jesus, I Love You," written in large letters on the blackboard or bulletin board, so the boys will notice it immediately.

SHARING

Since Christmas is very near now, the boys will be bursting with excitement anticipating the gifts they will receive. Let them talk of this as you begin your sharing time. Then move the conversation to the Wise Men who brought gifts to Jesus. (Story background: Matthew 2. Know the story well.) Guide the boys in relating the events of the story, emphasizing the fact that the Wise Men were showing their love for Jesus by bringing gifts.

Discuss ways we can show our love for Jesus. They may include our attitude toward His house (church), helping to keep it clean, giving our money, being friendly to visitors, praying, obeying His Word, etc.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing favorite carols. Close with "Little Baby Jesus."

MEMORY WORK

Explain that God sent Jesus to the world because He loves us so much. He loved us before we loved Him. (Read 1 John 4:19: "We love him, because he first loved us.") Repeat the verse with the boys, pointing first to yourself, then to God, and then to yourself again. Sing "Jesus Loves Me" and "I Love Him" if the boys are familiar with the chorus.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of worship telling God that you love Him.

STORYTIME

THE BEST GIFT

The snow was falling softly. The people were very happy because it was Christmas—the birthday of Jesus.

Everyone was hurrying to the little church. The church was very bright from the many candles. That night the people were bringing their best gifts to the Lord Jesus.

Jack walked very slowly. He was trying to think of something to give Jesus. But Jack did not even have a penny.

Inside the church, the people laid their gifts on the large table. The rich people brought food, silver, and jewels. The poor people brought a few cents or small bags of barley or corn. Last of all came Jack.

"What will he give?" the people whispered. "He has nothing in his hands."

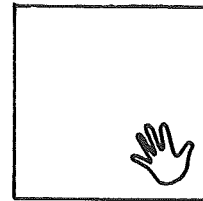
Jack walked slowly to the table. He knelt by the many other gifts. Then he raised his voice and sang, "I have no gift for my dear King; My heart, my life is all I bring."

The people bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord. They said, "Jack has brought the very best gift. He has given himself to Jesus."

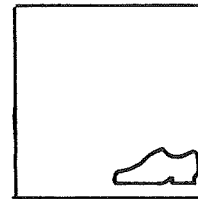
ACTIVITIES

Today the boys will show their love for their mothers and fathers by making Christmas gifts for them.

FOR MOM: Pink around the edges of a 12-inch square of soft absorbent cloth. On felt of a contrasting color, trace a handprint of each boy. Let each boy cut out his handprint and glue or "sew" it on a corner of the cloth. Help each boy print (copy) a note in which he promises to empty the trash for(amount of time)..... Remind him this is a promise that must be kept. Attach the note to the cloth. (A little furniture polish sprayed on each cloth will give it a nice finish.)



FOR DAD: Pink around the edges of a 10-by 18-inch piece of soft absorbent cloth. Give each boy a felt "shoe" cut from the pattern on page 84. Let him glue or sew it to one end of the cloth. Help each boy print (copy) a note in which he promises to shine his father's shoes every Saturday for(amount of time)..... Attach the note to the cloth. Let the boys wrap their gifts in pretty paper.



GOOD-BYE

Close with the lively song, "Gospel Bells." Tell the boys that next week you will be having a birthday party! Let them guess who the birthday party is for. Since Christmas is Jesus' birthday, the party will be for Jesus!

Perhaps you will want to have the boys bring presents to the party to be given to someone less fortunate. (At this kind of party the boys should not bring presents to exchange among themselves.)

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties.

**DECEMBER
FOURTH MEETING**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

You will need to make some bells and stars ahead of time to use with the games suggested in the *Activities* section. (See page 42 of the handwork packet for patterns.) However, if you have a supply of different types of bells you may wish to use them instead of those made from construction paper.

WELCOME

Decorate your meeting room as for a birthday party. On the wall have a December calendar. Place a birthday cake on a table (away from where the boys are sitting, if possible) with one large candle burning next to it. On the blackboard or bulletin board print the words **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**.

SHARING

Talk about birthdays. The boys will want to share things about their own birthdays, such as when they are, parties they have had, etc. Talk about Jesus as a child, growing up in a little town and helping his father, who was a carpenter. Ask the boys if they think Jesus ever had a birthday party.

What can we give Jesus for His birthday? Since He is in heaven, there is no way we can wrap a present and give it to Him. There *is* a way we can give Jesus a present, though. Read Matthew 25:40: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these . . . ye have done it unto me." Explain that this verse means when we do something kind to someone, *it is just as though we are doing it for Jesus!* Ask the boys to think of all the wonderful presents we can give Jesus by helping those around us every day of the year!

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing some favorite Christmas carols. Finish with a slow, quiet carol like "Silent Night."

MEMORY WORK

Review the two verses learned by the boys this month.

PRAYER TIME

Lead in a prayer of worship, thanking Jesus for coming to earth and dying for our sins.

STORYTIME

A REAL CELEBRATION

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed. . . ." John sang happily as he skipped home from his friend's house.

Christmas is such a wonderful time of year—bright lights, Christmas carols, fancy trees! People seem so happy at Christmastime!

John thought of the presents under the big Christmas tree at home. He could hardly wait to open them. What could be inside? Maybe a truck and a set of blocks and a new shirt.

As John turned the corner next to his home, he noticed the little gray house across the street. There wasn't much special about it. Just that it was the only house on the block that wasn't decorated for Christmas.

A little, elderly lady, Mrs. Brown, lived there all alone. John didn't see her very often. But when he did see her, Mrs. Brown always seemed very sad. John wondered if Mrs. Brown would be happy on Christmas.

When John arrived home, he asked his mother, "Does Mrs. Brown have any children?"

"Why no dear?" John's mother answered. "She had a little girl once, but she died many years ago. Mr. Brown died last year. Now Mrs. Brown lives all alone."

John looked sad. "Poor Mrs. Brown! What will she do for Christmas? Who will give her presents?"

"I don't know, John," answered Mother. "I don't think Mrs. Brown has many friends. No one ever comes to see her."

John thought. Then his eyes began to sparkle. "Mother!" he cried, "why don't we invite Mrs. Brown to *our* house for Christmas? We could give her presents! What do you think Mrs. Brown would like?"

"John, that is a wonderful idea! We'll ask her today."

Mrs. Brown was very surprised when John and his mother asked her to come to their house for Christmas. She tried to hide the happy tears that fell down her wrinkled face.

"Me? You want *me* to come to your house for Christmas?"

"Oh yes, Mrs. Brown!" said John. "Will you? Will you please?"

"Well . . . uh . . . I guess I can. I would like that very much."

The next few days were very happy ones for John. He had so many plans and it was such fun helping Mother buy presents for Mrs. Brown—a new handkerchief, an apron, and a Bible. John even used some money he had saved to help buy the presents.

One day John's mother said, "John, do you know that you are giving Jesus a wonderful present for His birthday?"

"I am?" John was surprised. "What is it?"

"Being kind to Mrs. Brown. Jesus once said that whenever we help someone who needs us, it is just as though we are helping Him. When you bought those presents for Mrs. Brown, it was just as if you were buying presents for Jesus!"

"Oh how wonderful!" cried John. "Now we are really celebrating Jesus' birthday!"

ACTIVITIES

FINDING THE BELLS

Cut bells from construction paper. Let half of the children leave the room while the other half hide the bells. Having hidden the bells, these children will watch while the others come back and find the bells. Applaud for the one who finds the most. Repeat the game, letting finders become hiders and hiders become finders.

MUSICAL STARS

Stars of various sizes may be pinned on the walls at different heights or placed on the floor, chairs, etc. Begin with as many stars as children. While the music plays, the children skip around the room. When the music stops, each child finds a star to stand by. As the music starts

again, remove one star. The child who is left without a star when the music stops finds a chair, for he is out of the game. Continue, until all the stars have been taken away. Follow this game with a quiet game or let the children sing some Christmas songs.

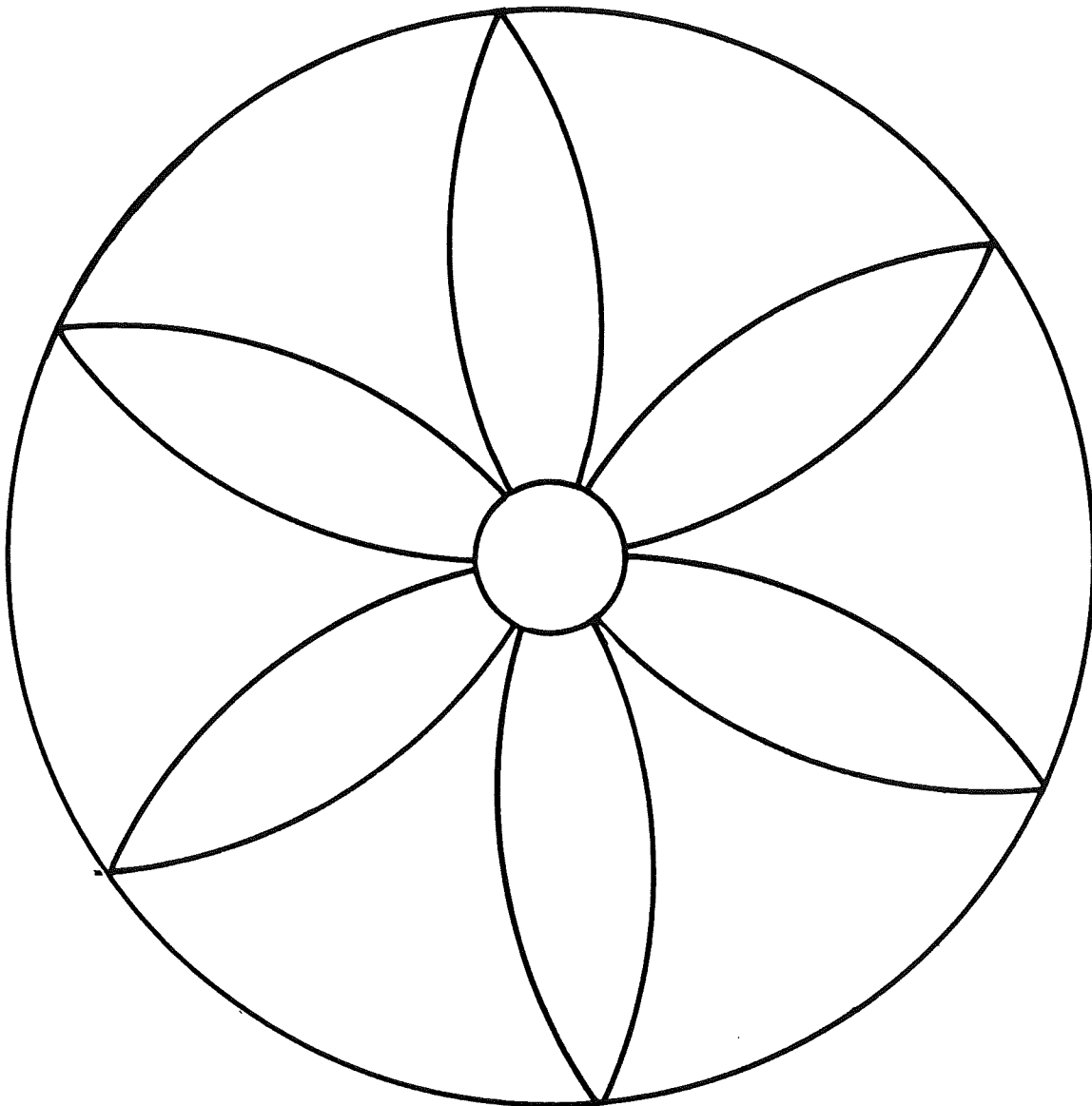
Before you cut the birthday cake, sing "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus" to the familiar tune of "Happy Birthday." The candle will represent birthday candles (no need to blow it out). Serve cake and punch.

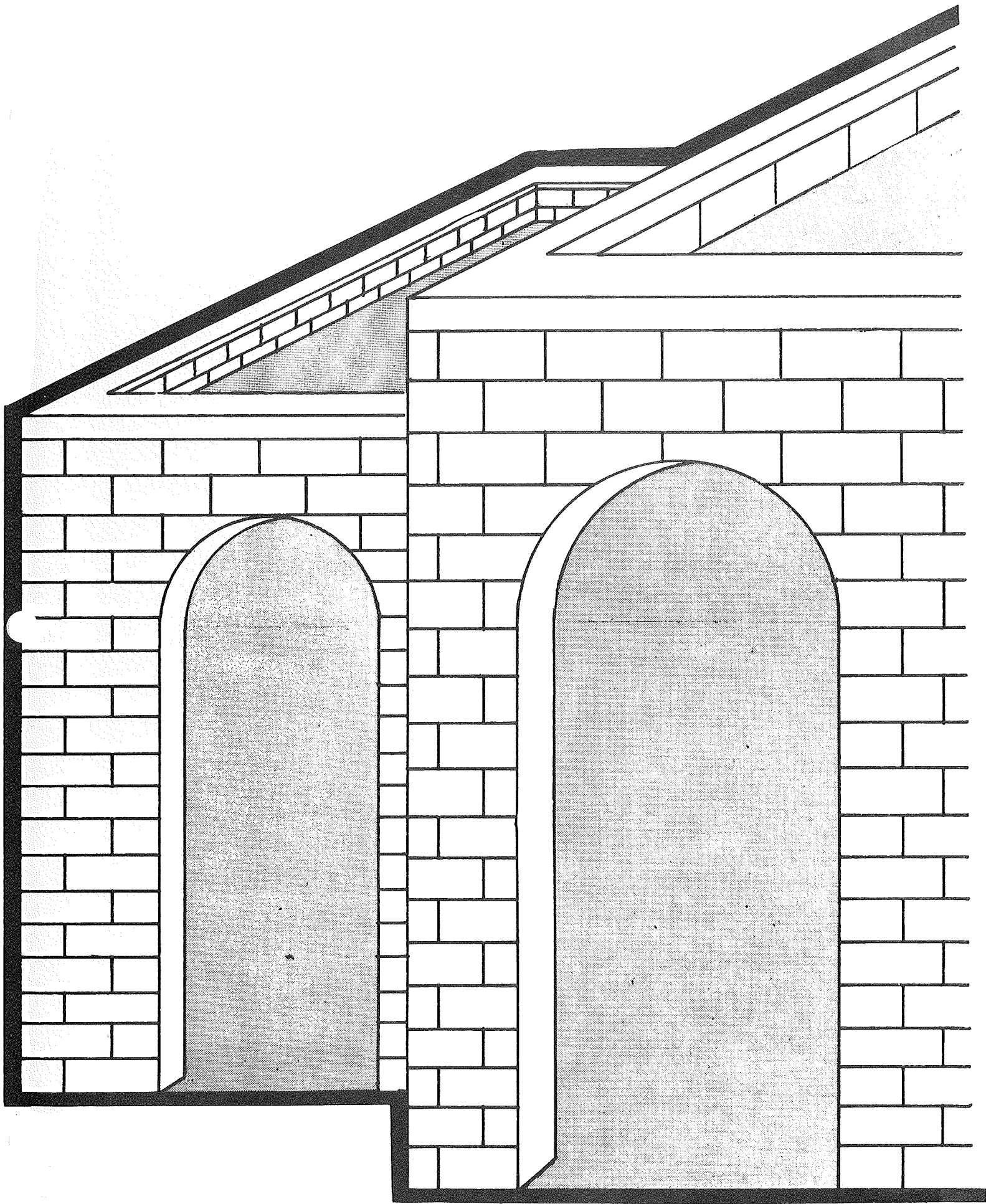
HELPING

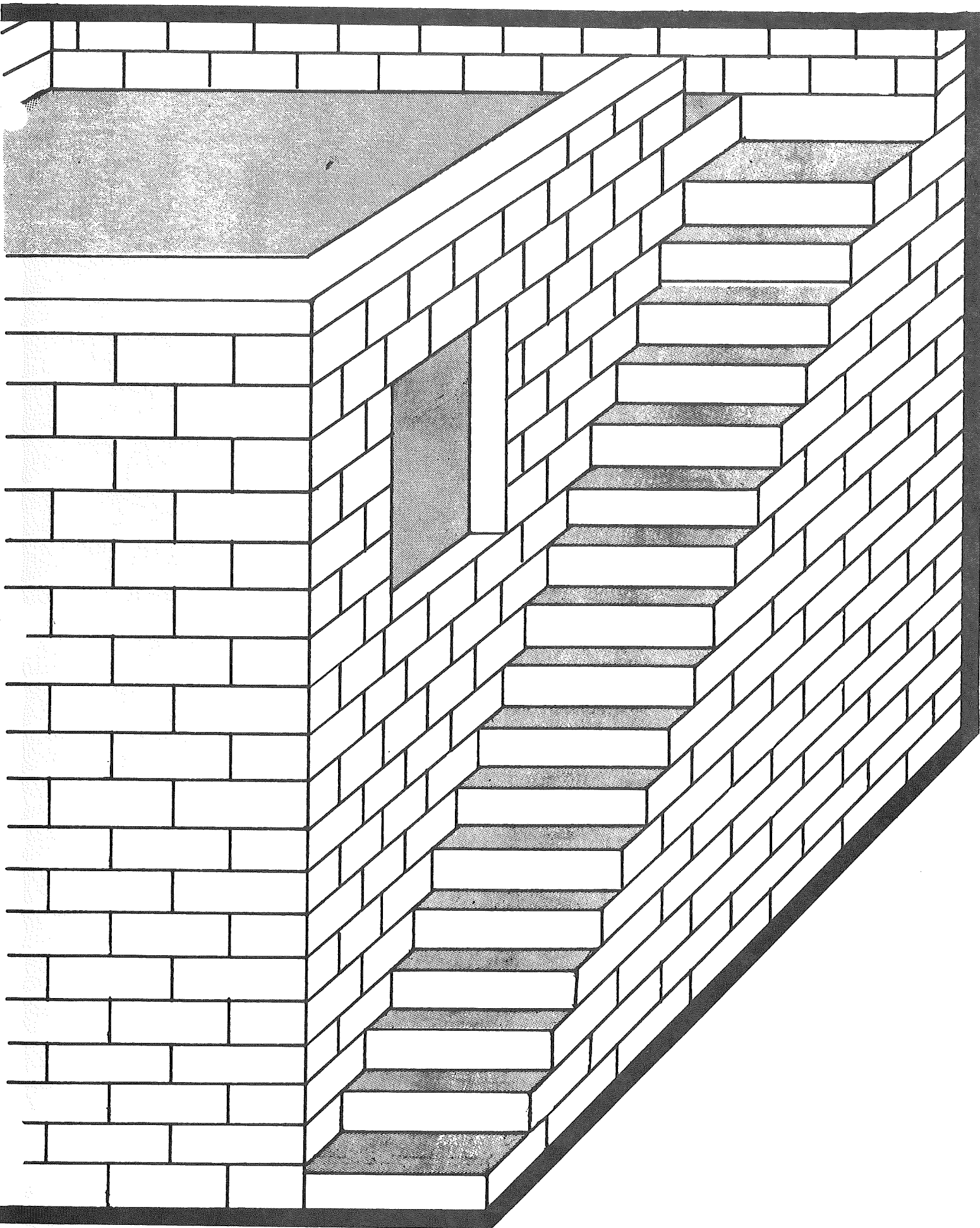
Assign cleanup duties to the boys.

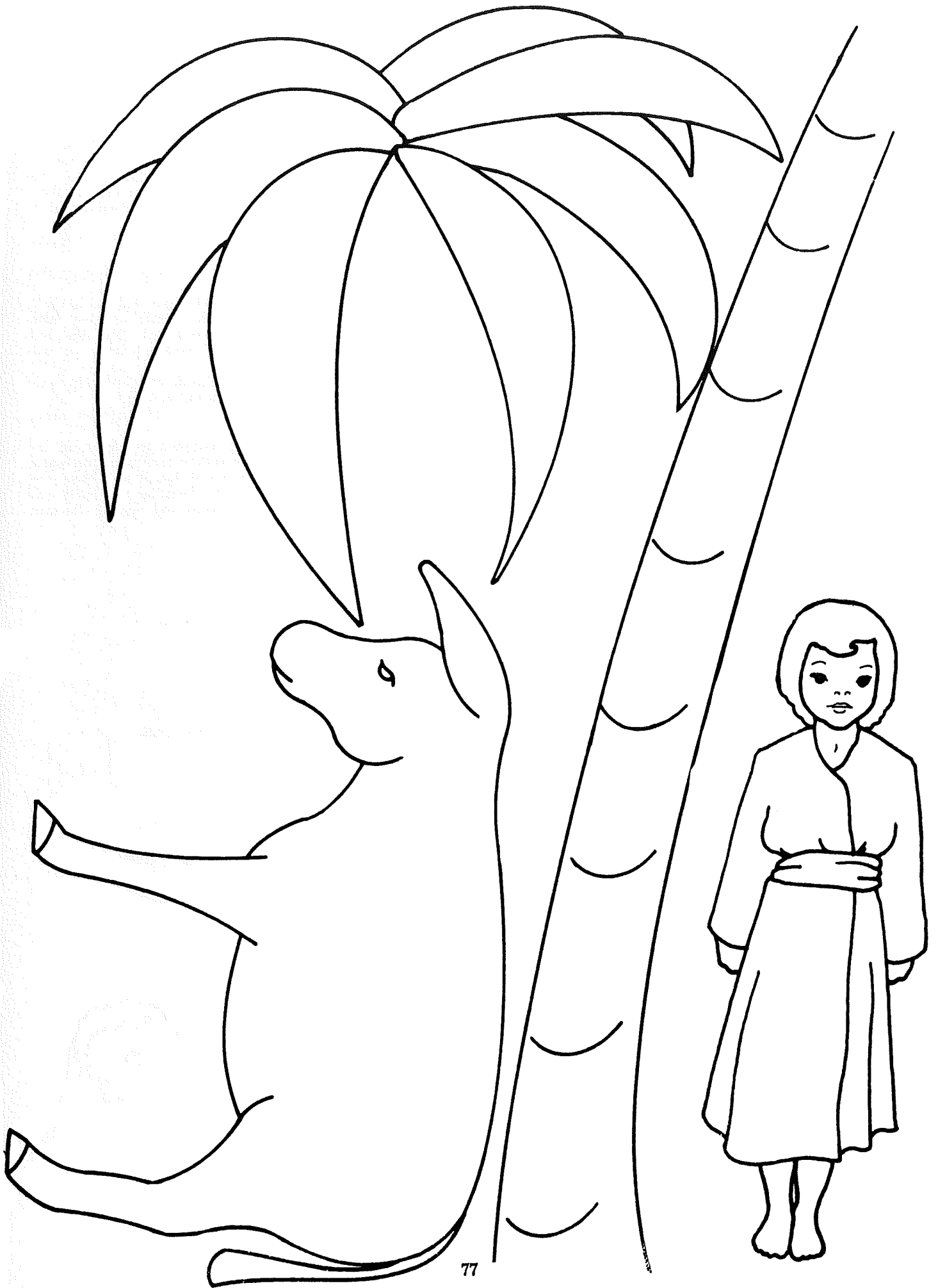
GOOD-BYE

Wish the boys a Merry Christmas. Perhaps you will want to give each boy a small gift at this time.











ARM PUPPETS

In making these puppets keep in mind that ample room must be left over and under the mouthpiece for the fingers to operate freely to obtain the maximum facial expressions. Do not use staples, pins, or other sharp objects to hold pieces together since they are apt to cut the hand or fingers. Make the puppets large enough so they can be easily slipped on and off by the child or adult using them.

STEP NO. 1: Tuck the heel of the sock to make a straight tubular piece.

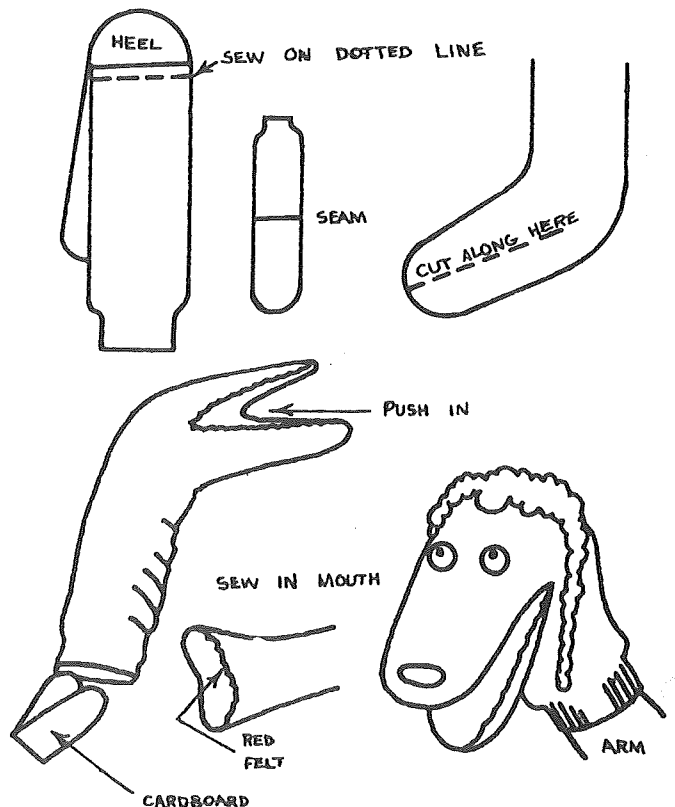
STEP NO. 2: Cut the foot of the sock as shown by the dotted lines.

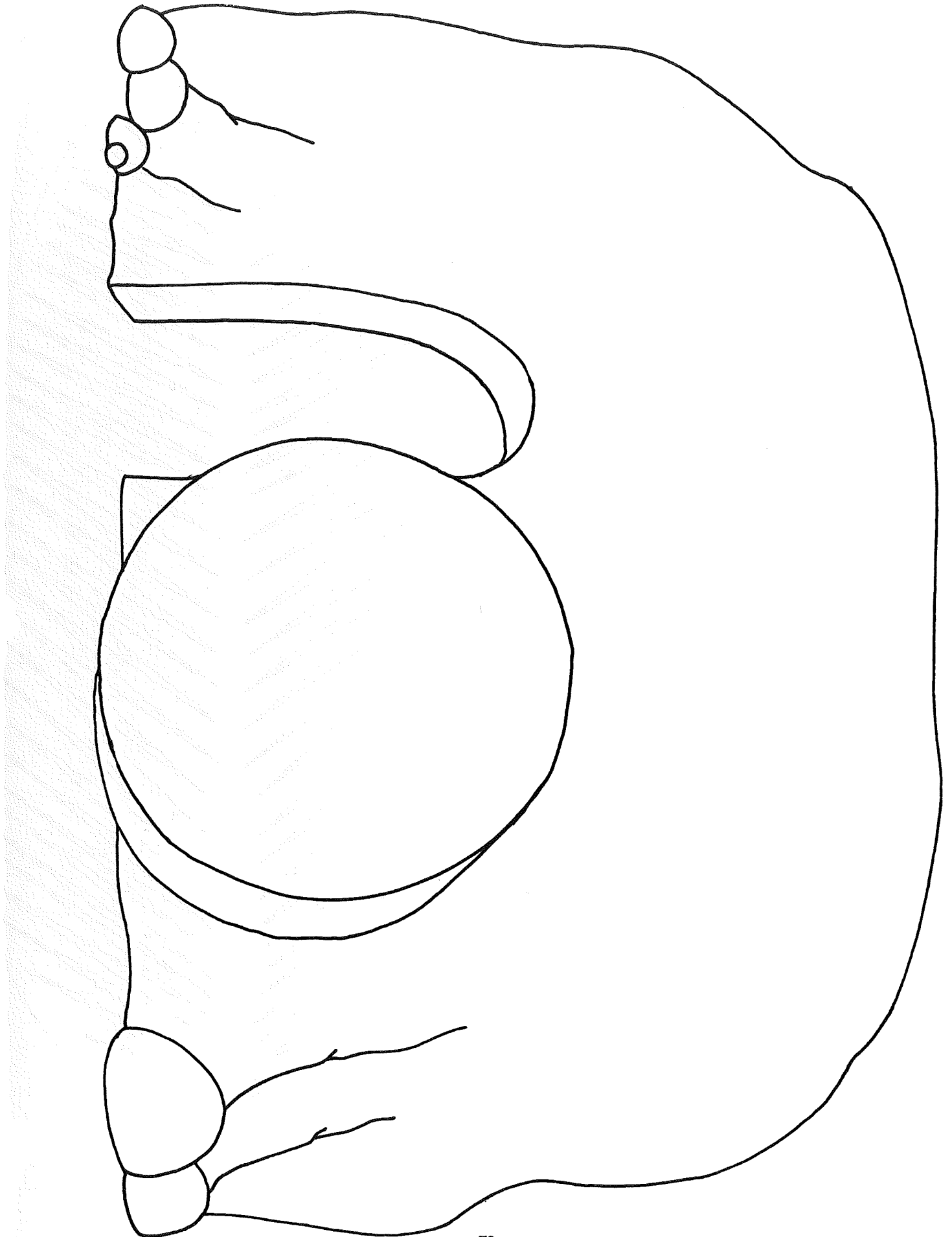
STEP NO. 3: Turn the sock inside out and cut a piece of red material the shape of the mouth opening. Also cut a matching piece from cardboard. Sew the red material to the sock with an overhand stitch or use your sewing machine.

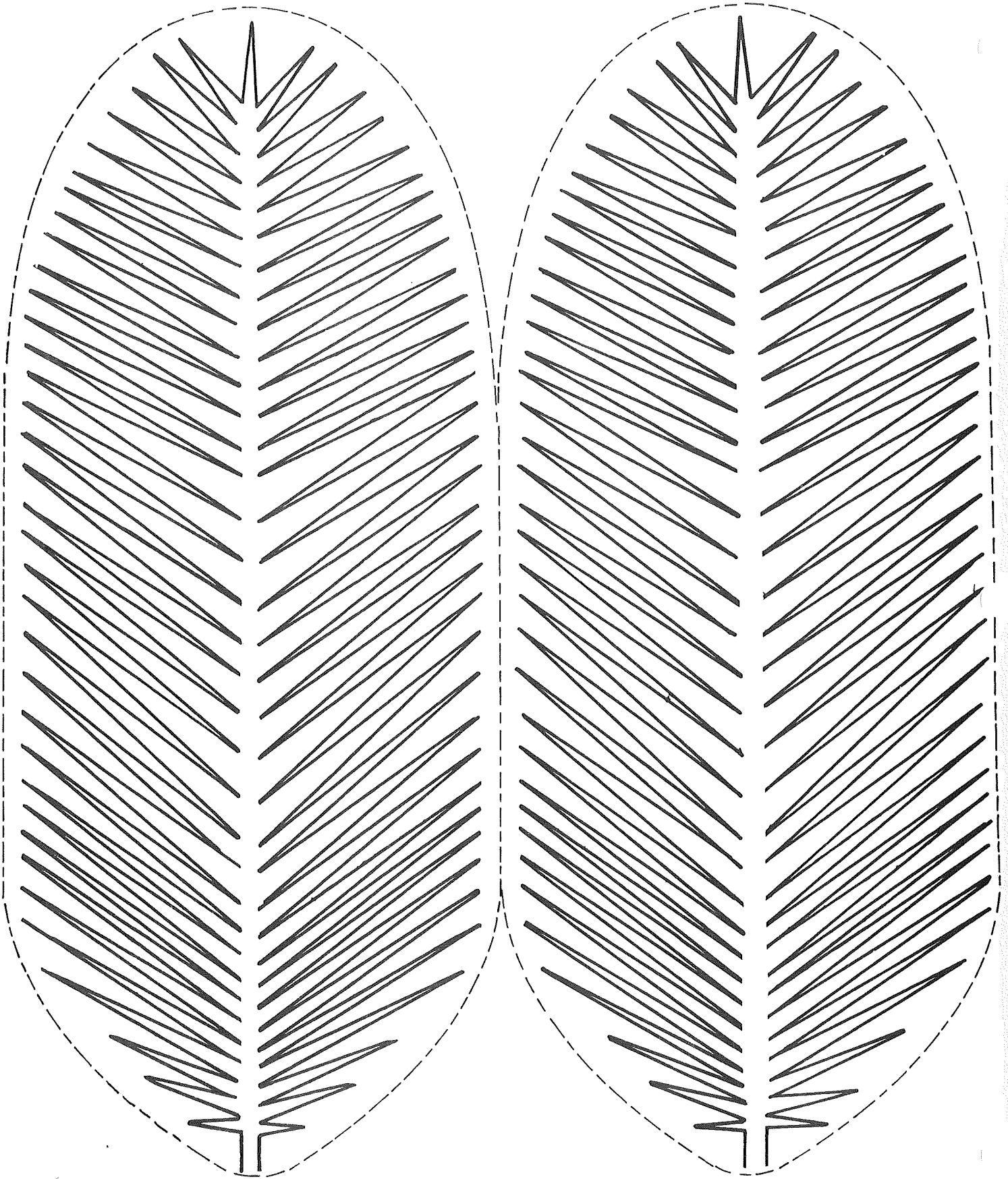
STEP NO. 4: Turn the sock rightside out. Fold the cardboard piece in half and insert in the sock.

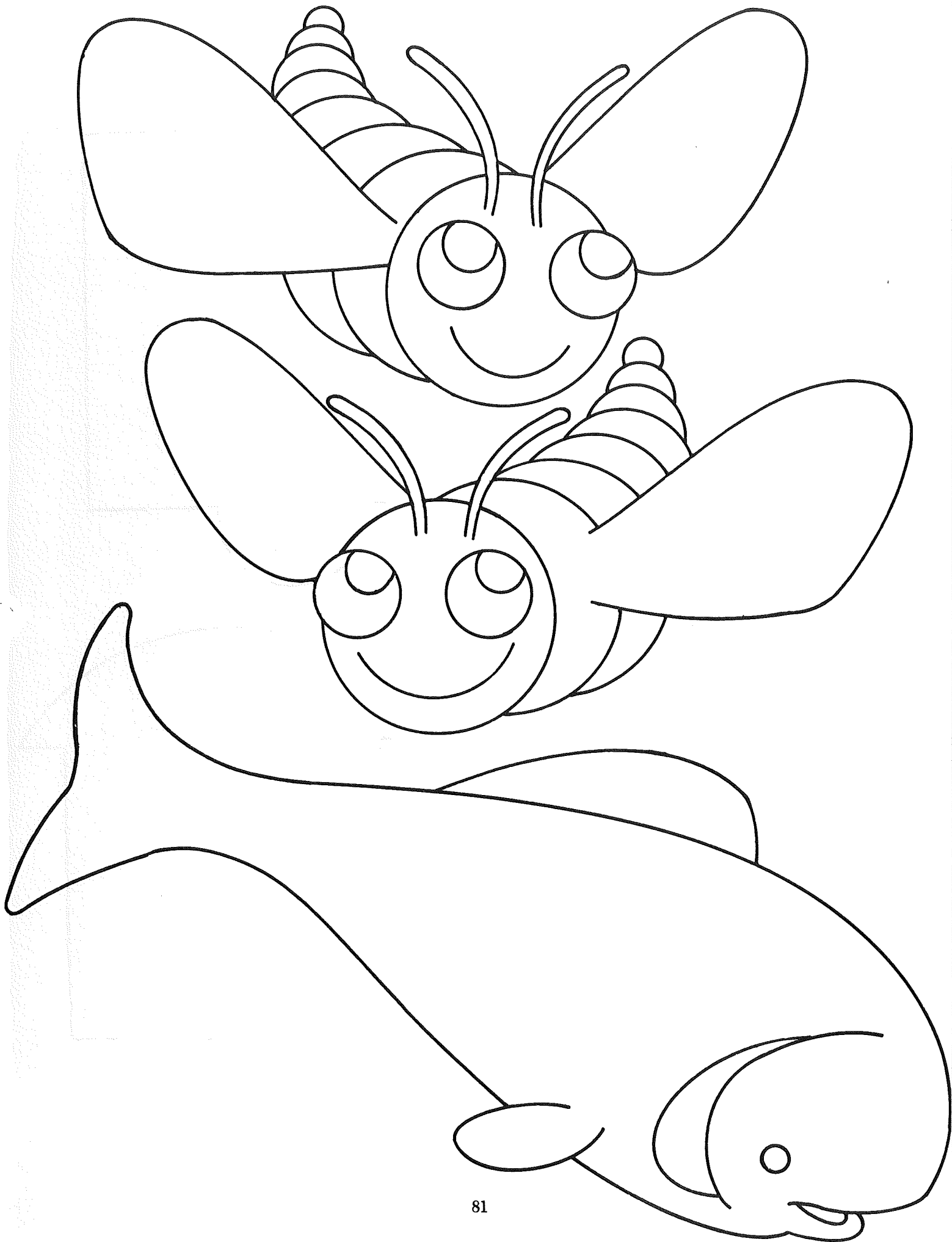
STEP NO. 5: Add features such as button eyes, nose, hair, and so forth.

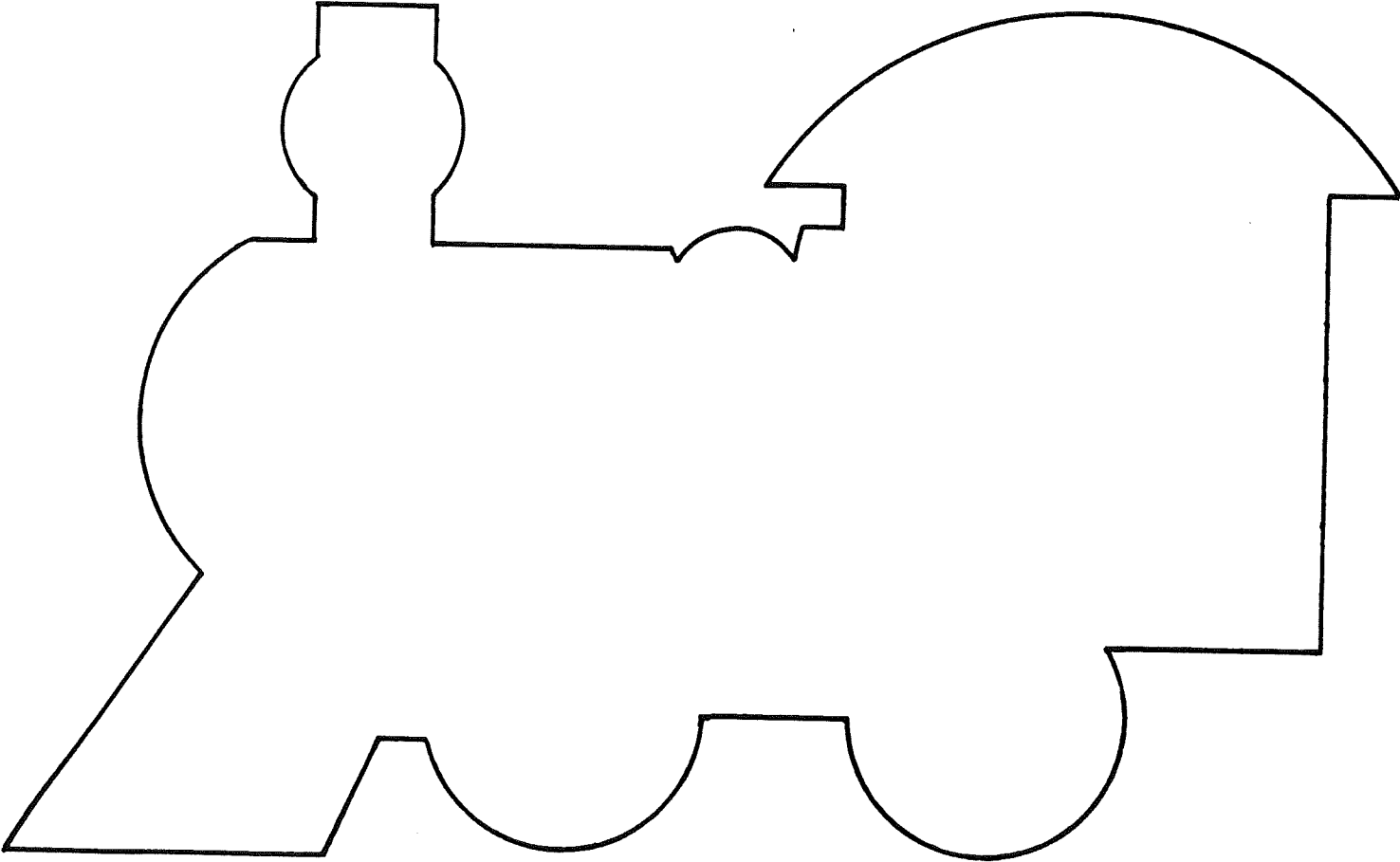
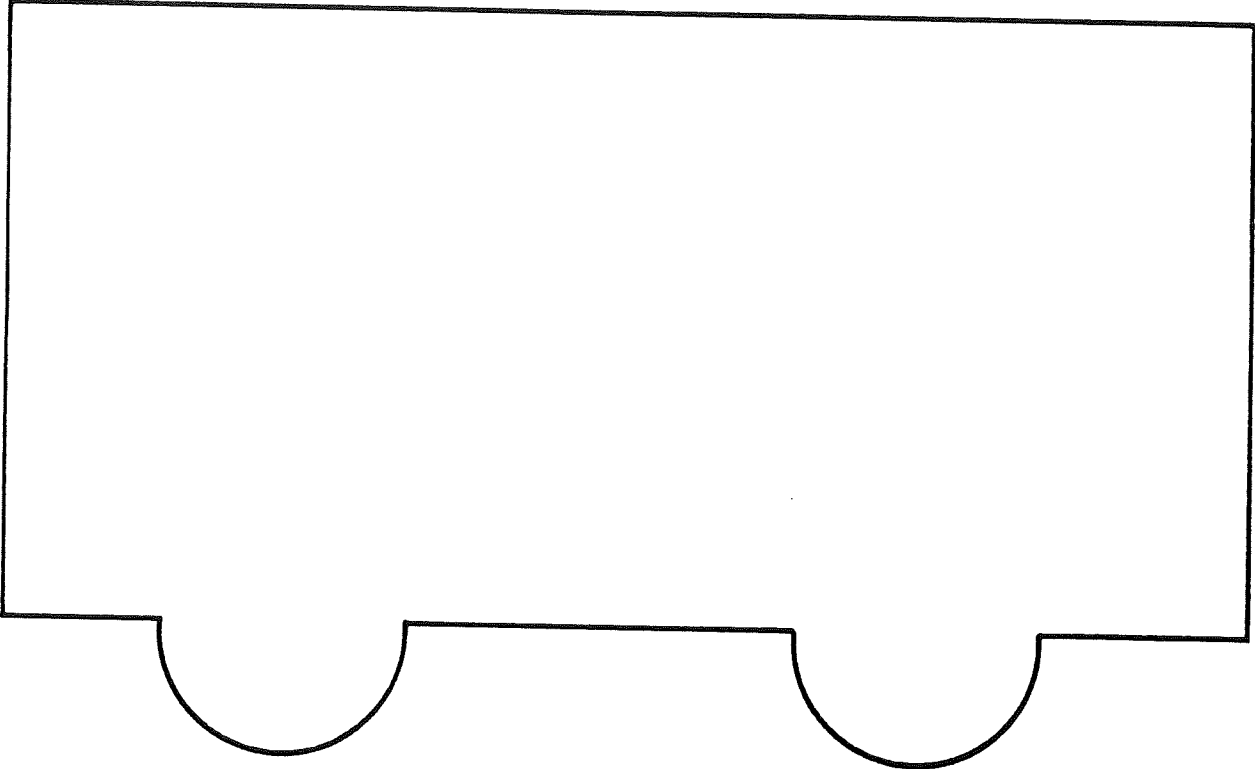
ANIMATION: Most talking puppets are operated by placing the thumb under the bottom cardboard piece and the fingers over the upper piece. Open and close the hand to make the puppet talk. Twisting the hand will give a variety of facial expressions and moving the arm about will add to the illusion.

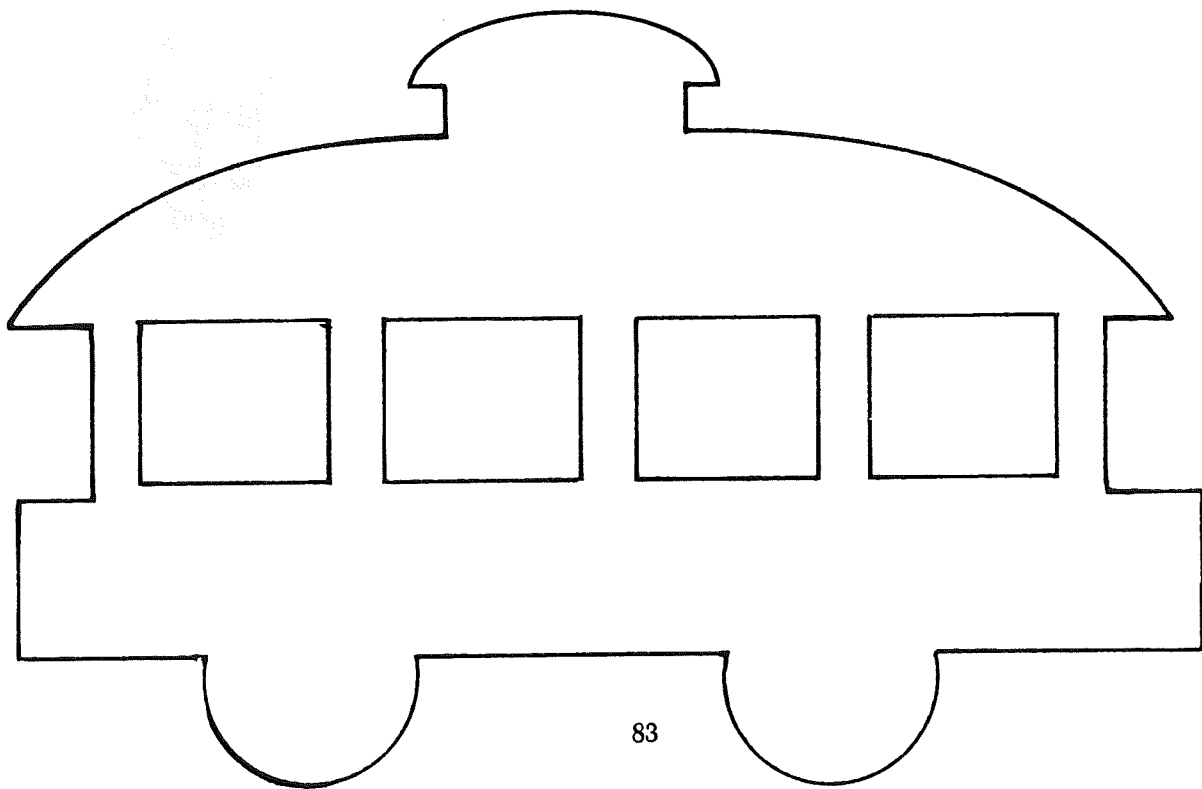
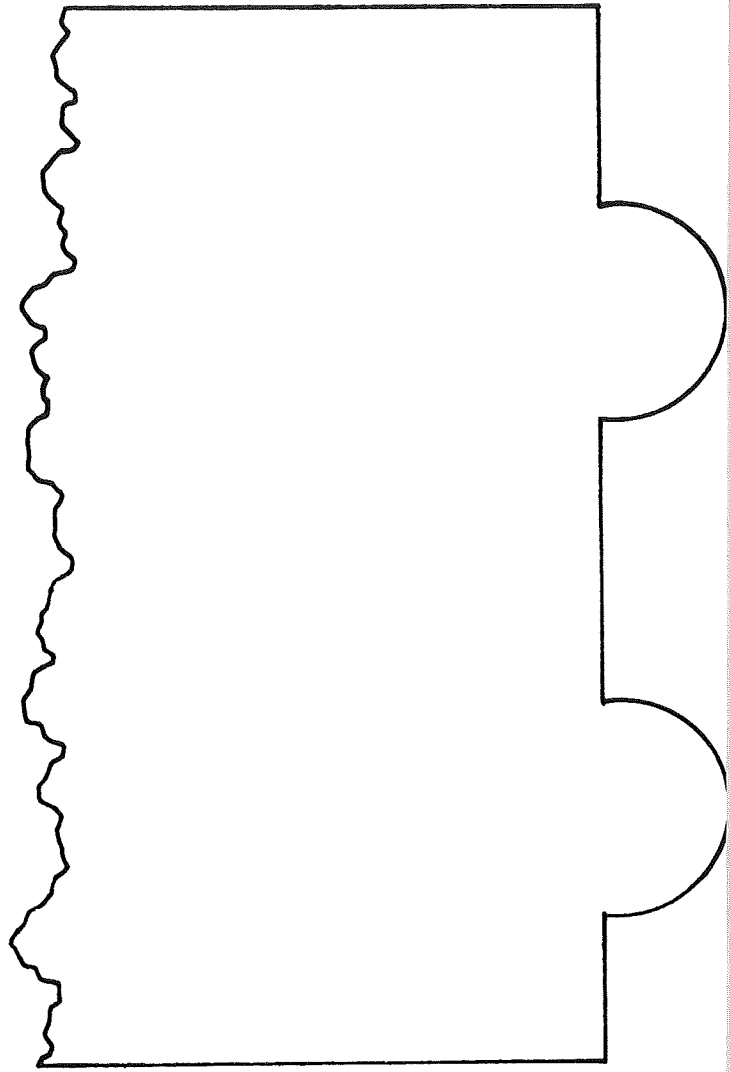
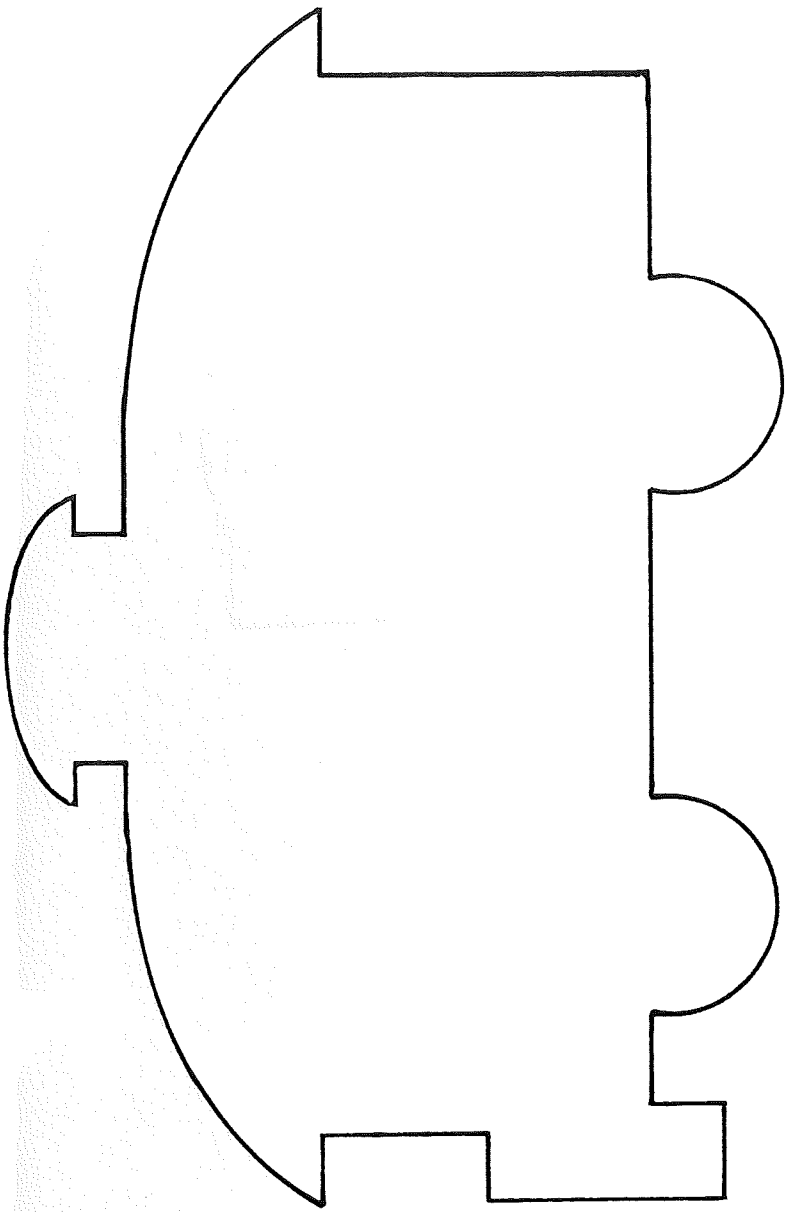


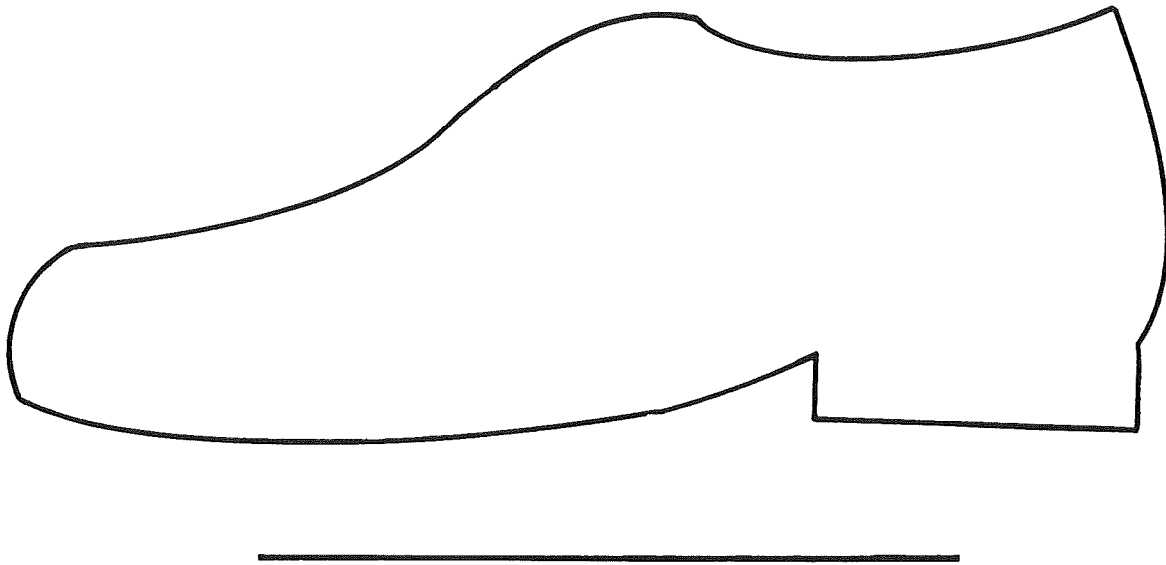












GIFT BASKET

Materials needed:

1 colored paper cup

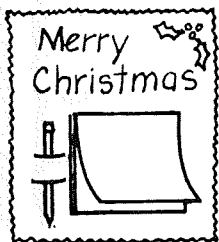
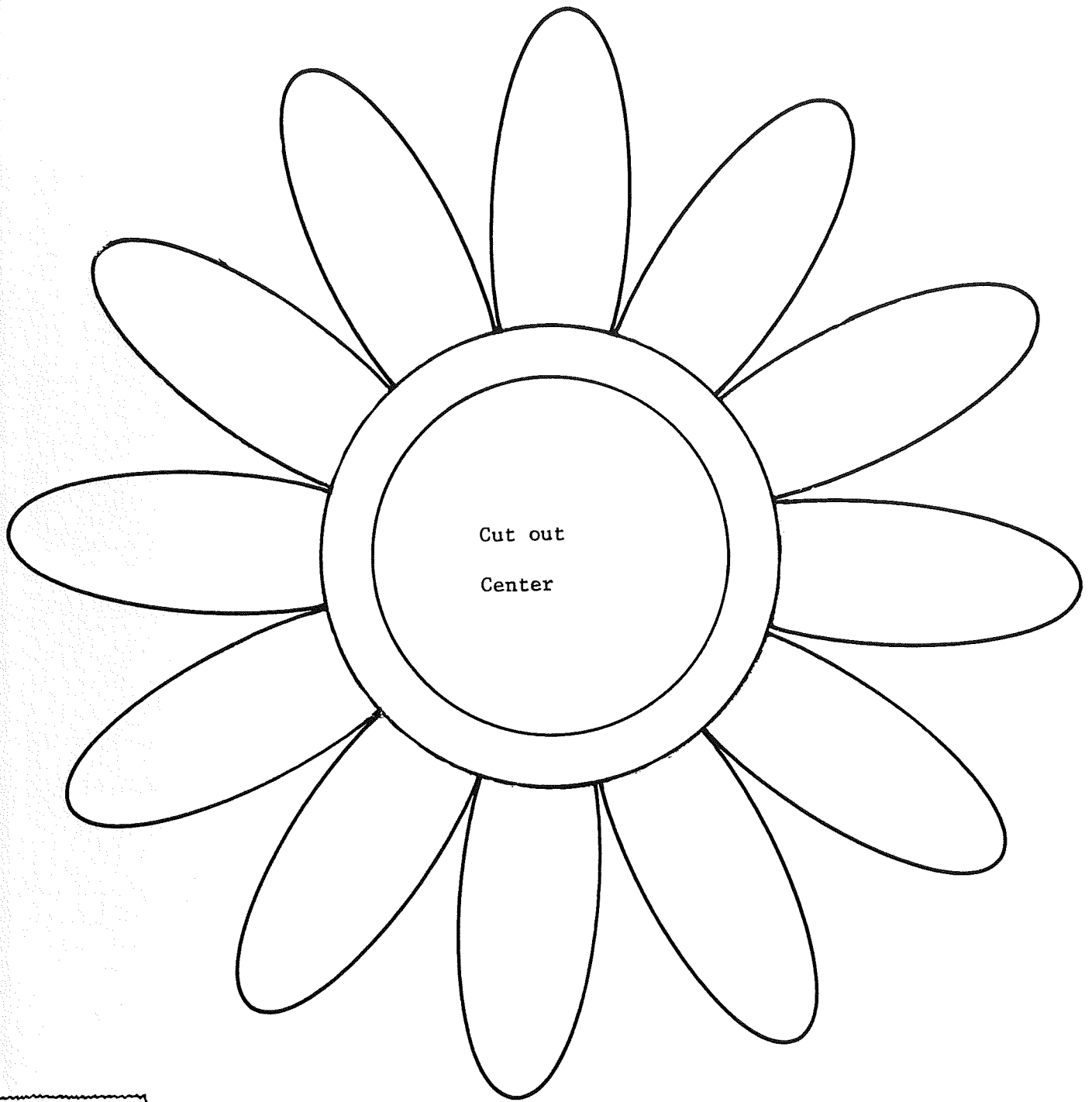
heavy yarn for handle

Scripture verse and/or decal,
picture seal

suckers or wrapped candy

Punch holes on opposite sides of the cup just below the top rim. Insert colored yarn through the holes and tie to form handle. If you wish, you may give the boys a typed Scripture verse or picture seals or decals to paste on outside of cup. Fill cup with suckers or wrapped candy. This would make an excellent gift item for a hospital children's ward.



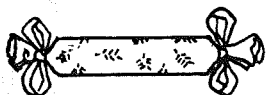


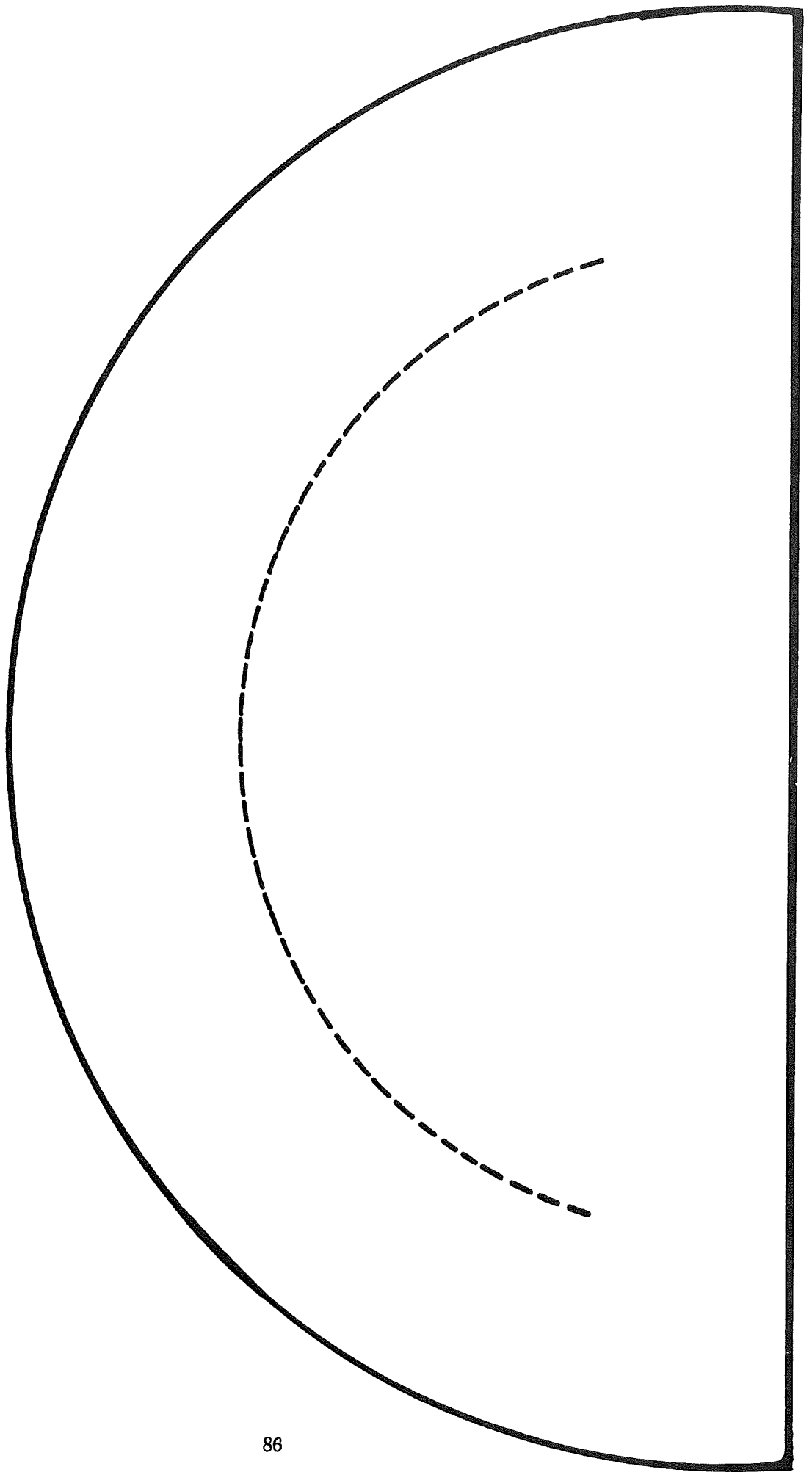
"MERRY CHRISTMAS" NOTE PAD

Give each boy a half-sheet of construction paper. Help him glue rickrack around the edges. On the top, have him copy the words *Merry Christmas*. On the bottom have him glue a small pad of paper and cut a double slit and insert a small pencil. This note pad will be handy to keep by the telephone.

HOSPITAL CHILDREN'S WARD FAVORS

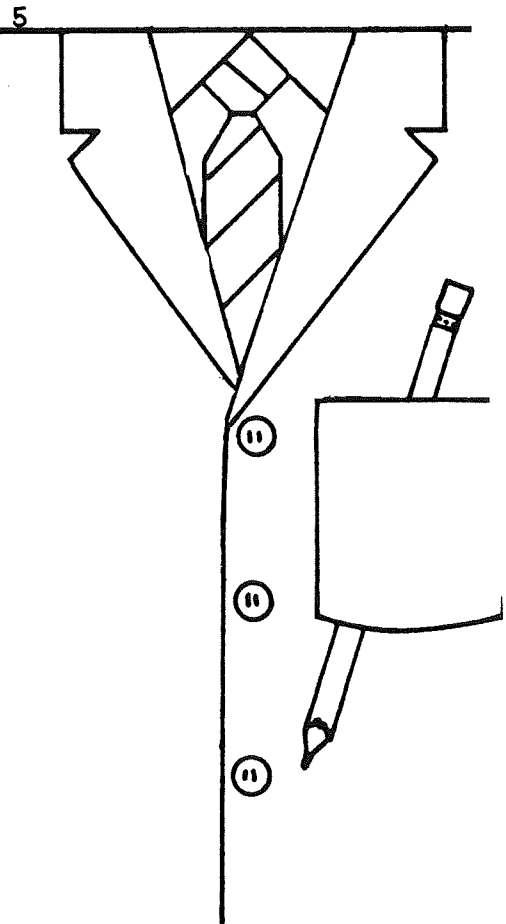
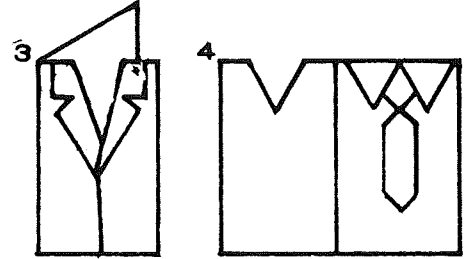
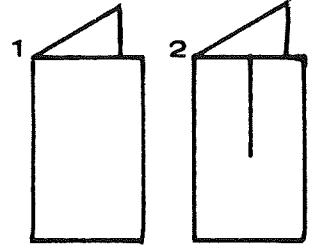
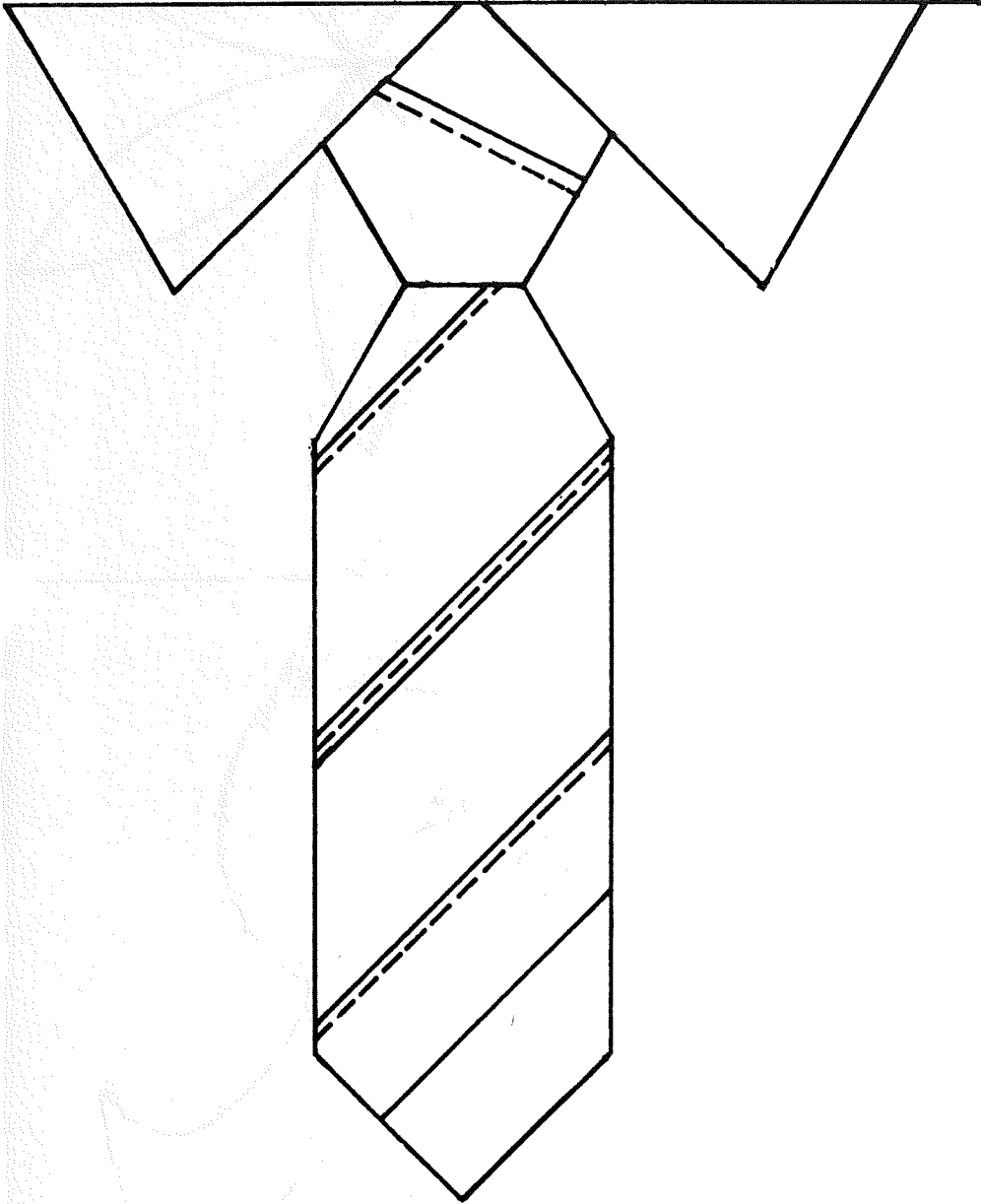
Needed: Cardboard tube (paper towel tube cut in 5-inch lengths), Christmas candy, two 8-inch lengths of ribbon or string, Christmas wrapping paper, card saying: "From the Straight Arrows of(church's name)" (See *Activities* session for December, second meeting.)





A GIFT FOR DAD

Each boy will need a sheet of regular size construction paper. Fold in half (1). Slit down the front for about 4" (2) and fold back lapels (3). Decorate to look like a suit jacket. (Glue on real buttons or draw dark buttons.) Tape or glue sides of a paper pocket in place or draw pocket and cut slits for pencil (5). Tape a pencil in the pocket. On the inside back of the card, attach a note pad or staple several half sheets of typing paper in place. On the top sheet draw a shirt and tie. Decorate tie. At the bottom of the note pad write the greeting shown and sign name(6). 6



Dad,
You "suit" me
fine. (name)

A GIFT FOR MOM

From white paper cut two daisies using pattern at the right. Paste together, staggering the petals. In the center of the daisy paste the head of a little boy. (May be cut from a greeting card or catalog.) Or, you may wish to use Polaroid pictures of your boys.

Cut two leaves from green construction paper using pattern below. Glue daisy and leaves to a 6" green chenille stem as shown. Paint a large empty spool. Cover hole with small piece of clay. Insert chenille stem in clay and hole for a stand.

