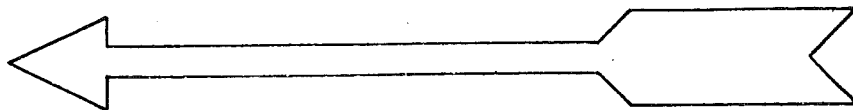


STRAIGHT ARROWS

LEADERS MANUAL

A Two-Year Program

Royal Rangers
Men's Ministries
Assemblies of God



GOSPEL PUBLISHING HOUSE

Springfield, Missouri

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Special thanks to the Missionettes program of Women's Ministries for the use of the materials in the Daisies Sponsor's Manual with minor revisions and adaptations. And to Gwen English, the author.

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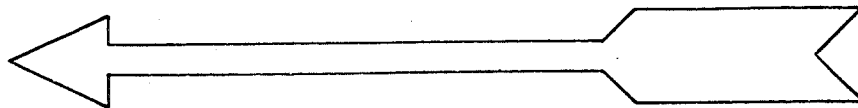
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CONTENTS

ABOUT THE STRAIGHT ARROW PROGRAM	5-7
Organization	5
Pledge	5
Motto	5
Uniform	5
Advancement Requirements	6
Getting Started	6
Charter Recognition	7
CHARACTERISTICS OF 5- AND 6-YEAR-OLD BOYS	7
FACILITIES	8
PLANNING THE MEETING	8
LEADING A CHILD TO THE SAVIOUR	10
VALUE OF A CHILD	10

YEAR ONE

JANUARY—WE LIKE TO HELP	11-16
Meeting 1	12
Meeting 2	13
Meeting 3	14
Meeting 4	15
FEBRUARY—HAPPY, HAPPY HOME	17-21
Meeting 1	17
Meeting 2	18
Meeting 3	20
Meeting 4	21
MARCH—GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATION	22-27
Meeting 1	23
Meeting 2	24
Meeting 3	25
Meeting 4	26
APRIL—CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD	28-32
Meeting 1	29
Meeting 2	29
Meeting 3	31
Meeting 4	32
MAY—GOD GIVES US HIS WORD	33-38
Meeting 1	34
Meeting 2	35
Meeting 3	36
Meeting 4	37
JUNE—WE LEARN TO SHARE	39-43
Meeting 1	40
Meeting 2	41
Meeting 3	42
Meeting 4	43
JULY—JESUS DOES MANY WONDERFUL THINGS	44-48
Meeting 1	45
Meeting 2	46
Meeting 3	47
Meeting 4	48
AUGUST—GOD WANTS US TO OBEY	49-53
Meeting 1	49
Meeting 2	50
Meeting 3	51
Meeting 4	53
SEPTEMBER—TALKING TO GOD	54-59
Meeting 1	55
Meeting 2	56
Meeting 3	57
Meeting 4	58
OCTOBER—STORIES JESUS TOLD	60-64
Meeting 1	61
Meeting 2	62
Meeting 3	63
Meeting 4	64

NOVEMBER—WE ARE THANKFUL	65-69
Meeting 1	65
Meeting 2	66
Meeting 3	67
Meeting 4	68
DECEMBER—GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD	69-74
Meeting 1	70
Meeting 2	71
Meeting 3	72
Meeting 4	73
HANDWORK	75-85
Letter Patterns	75-76
Mother's Day Gifts	81
Father's Day Gifts	82
Christmas Gifts	84
SONGS	85

YEAR TWO

JANUARY—THE CHILD JESUS	87-91
Meeting 1	88
Meeting 2	89
Meeting 3	90
Meeting 4	91
FEBRUARY—SHOWING LOVE	92-96
Meeting 1	93
Meeting 2	94
Meeting 3	95
Meeting 4	96
MARCH—LEARNING ABOUT SALVATION	97-101
First Meeting	98
Second Meeting	99
Third Meeting	100
Fourth Meeting	100
APRIL—BIBLE BE's	102-106
First Meeting	103
Second Meeting	103
Third Meeting	105
Fourth Meeting	106
MAY—STORIES OF THE PROPHETS	107-111
First Meeting	108
Second Meeting	109
Third Meeting	110
Fourth Meeting	110
JUNE—TELLING THE GOOD NEWS	112-116
First Meeting	113
Second Meeting	114
Third Meeting	114
Fourth Meeting	115
JULY—PROMISES FROM GOD'S WORD	117-122
First Meeting	118
Second Meeting	119
Third Meeting	121
Fourth Meeting	122
AUGUST—WHAT IS GOD LIKE?	123-127
First Meeting	124
Second Meeting	125
Third Meeting	126
Fourth Meeting	127
SEPTEMBER—STORIES OF THE APOSTLES	128-132
First Meeting	129
Second Meeting	130
Third Meeting	130
Fourth Meeting	131
OCTOBER—THINGS JESUS TAUGHT	133-137
First Meeting	134
Second Meeting	135
Third Meeting	136
Fourth Meeting	137
NOVEMBER—THANKSGIVING	138-143
First Meeting	139
Second Meeting	140
Third Meeting	141
Fourth Meeting	142
DECEMBER—CHRISTMAS . . . IN THE EYES OF A CHILD	144-149
First Meeting	145
Second Meeting	146
Third Meeting	147
Fourth Meeting	149
HANDWORK	150-166
Easter Gift Basket	162
Christmas Gifts	163
Father's Day Gift	165
Mother's Day Gift	166

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

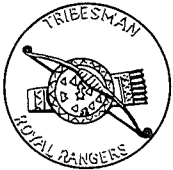
STRAIGHT ARROW BRAVE

- *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 3 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
2. Memorize the Golden Rule.
3. Make an Indian-type necklace and wear it to all Straight Arrow meetings.



STRAIGHT ARROW WARRIOR

- *1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for at least 6 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
2. Memorize John 3:16.
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.)



STRAIGHT ARROW HUNTER

- *1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for 6 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
2. Memorize the Lord's Prayer.
3. Name two famous hunters in the Bible.
4. Bring a friend to the Straight Arrow meeting.



STRAIGHT ARROW SCOUT

- *1. Attend the weekly Straight Arrow meeting regularly for 6 additional months and complete the weekly craft projects.
2. Memorize the Twenty-third Psalm.
3. Give the Straight Arrow motto and explain its meaning.



*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 is to be paid to the national office. If Outpost Councilmen serve more than one group, they pay only one fee.
3. Actual presentation of the charter should be handled through a special program and made as meaningful as possible.

CHARACTERISTICS OF 5- AND 6-YEAR-OLD BOYS

PHYSICAL

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

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

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

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

His voice may tire easily.

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

MENTAL

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

He is curious. He likes to experiment or investigate.

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

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

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

His vocabulary is increasing, but limited.

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

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

He forgets easily.

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

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

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

SOCIAL

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

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

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

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

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

SPIRITUAL

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

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

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

MEETING HIS NEEDS

He needs to know he is loved.
Don't push him beyond his capability.
Express confidence in him.
He learns by your example.

HOW TO LEARN ABOUT BOYS

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

DOS AND DON'TS

DO . . .

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

DON'T . . .

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

FACILITIES

YOUR ROOM

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

SEATING

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

EQUIPMENT

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

PLANNING THE MEETING

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

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

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

Have the boys stand and repeat the pledge together.

SHARING

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

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

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

RECORDS

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

USING THE MATERIALS IN THE MANUAL

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

- * Equipment that is helpful—

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

MUSIC

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

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

MEMORY WORK

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

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

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

GAMES

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

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

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

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

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

Sing prayer songs occasionally with eyes closed.

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

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

Avoid memorized prayers.

STORYTIME

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

When you read to children:

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

After the story:

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

Adapted

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

Service project ideas may include:

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

Use your imagination for other projects.

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

HELPING

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

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

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

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

GOOD-BYE

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

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

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

Dismiss with a simple, brief prayer.

SUPPLIES

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

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

Ask boys to bring Bibles to each meeting.

LEADING A CHILD TO THE SAVIOUR

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

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

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

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

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

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

* *God loves you.* "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16). Repeat this verse with the child's name in place of "the world."

* *You are a sinner.* "For all have sinned . . ." (Romans 3:23). Explain that sin is doing or thinking anything wrong, according to God's Word.

* Jesus died on the cross to take the punishment for your sins. "Christ died for our sins . . ." (1 Corinthians 15:3).

* When you believe that the Lord Jesus did this for you, God forgives your sins, and you become His child, a member of God's family. "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God . . ." (John 1:12).

* When you become God's child, He gives you the gift of eternal life that some day you will live in heaven with Him and with His Son, the Lord Jesus. "The gift of God is eternal life . . ." (Romans 6:23).

It may be helpful to ask the child if he would like to thank the Lord Jesus for dying on the cross and taking the punishment for all his sins. Help him to pray aloud. The prayer may be a very short and simple expression from a sincere and trusting heart.

* When you sin—and members of God's family do—tell God. Ask Him to forgive you for Jesus' sake. "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Adapted

VALUE OF A CHILD

CHRIST WAS A CHILD

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

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

CHRIST MAGNIFIED CHILD LIFE

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

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

He warned against despising them. "Take heed that ye

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

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

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

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

—C. H. Spurgeon

YEAR ONE

JANUARY

THEME—WE LIKE TO HELP

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

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

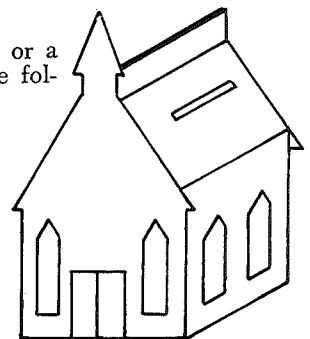
SONGS

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

Our Friends
Those in Need
At Home
Jesus



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

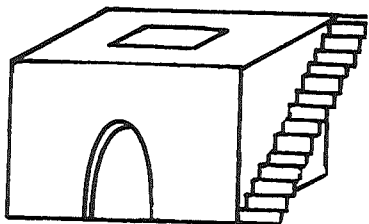
FIRST MEETING

WE LIKE TO HELP OUR FRIENDS

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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



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

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



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

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

Lead the boys in their motto and pledge.

MUSIC

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

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

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

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

FRIENDS HELP A SICK MAN

Mark 2:1-12

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

If there is time tell the following story.

LITTLE BEAVER HELPS A FRIEND

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

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

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

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

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

"What is the matter?" they asked.

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

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

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

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

JANUARY SECOND MEETING

WE LIKE TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

Lead the boys in their motto and pledge.

MUSIC

After singing some favorites, sing again, "Jesus Wants

Me for a Helper." Teach the second verse of "All for Jesus." Sing both verses and chorus.

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:30-37

One day a man was walking along a road all alone. The road was rough and crooked. Suddenly some thieves ran out from behind the mountain. They beat the man and tore off his clothes. Then they took his money and ran

away. The man was left lying on the road half dead. (Put figure of injured man on "road.")

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

JANUARY THIRD MEETING

WE LIKE TO HELP AT HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

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

CHAD HELPS A STRANGER

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

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

The boy smiled. "My name is Johnny."

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

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

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

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

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

MIRIAM HELPS HER MOTHER Exodus 2:1-10

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

One day God sent a little baby brother to live with

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miriam came out from where she was hiding.

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

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

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

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

Mother was very happy. She hurried to the river.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

* TO MAKE FINGER PAINTS

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

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

JANUARY

FOURTH MEETING

WE LIKE TO HELP JESUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

Prior to the meeting today, cut strips of construction paper ½ by 11 inches to use as handles for the baskets the boys will be making.

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

Draw attention to the last caption on the bulletin board, JESUS. Explain that we must also help Jesus. Lead in

prayer that Jesus will show the boys ways they can help Him each day.

STORYTIME

A LITTLE BOY HELPS JESUS

John 6:1-15

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

STEVEN HELPS JESUS

Riding to church on Sunday morning, Steven jingled the money in his pocket happily. Counting the allowance he had saved and the money he had received for his birthday this week, he had almost \$5!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Who could that be," thought Steven.

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELPING

Assign each boy a responsibility in straightening up the room.

GOOD-BYE

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

THEME—HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

PURPOSE

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

To inspire him to enjoy happy times with his family.

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

To teach him about his eternal home in heaven.

MEMORY VERSES

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

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

SONGS

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

“Happy, Happy Home” (See page 83)

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

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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



FIRST MEETING

HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

Emphasize this month's theme at every opportunity and

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

THE FIRST FAMILY Genesis 3 and 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adam worked hard too.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

FEBRUARY SECOND MEETING

HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

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

STORYTIME

A GIFT FROM GOD

1 Samuel 1:1-28

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then Hannah and her husband returned to their home.

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELPING

Assign the boys duties cleaning up their crayons, etc.

GOOD-BYE

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

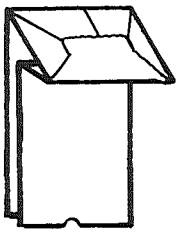
HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

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



WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

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

THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-24

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Then the young man started home.

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

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

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

The father called his servants.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

FEBRUARY FOURTH MEETING

HAPPY, HAPPY HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the two memory verses.

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

WHEN JESUS WENT TO HEAVEN

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

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

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

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

Then the disciples knew that it was Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Bible tells us many wonderful things about heaven:

Jesus is preparing a beautiful home for us in heaven.

No one will become old or die in heaven.

No one will be sad.

There will be no pain or crying.

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

We will be able to see Jesus in heaven. We will sing praises to Him and the Father and worship them. The streets and buildings in heaven are made of gold and jewels.

Heaven will be forever and ever.

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Each boy may put away his crayons.

GOOD-BYE

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

THEME—GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATION

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

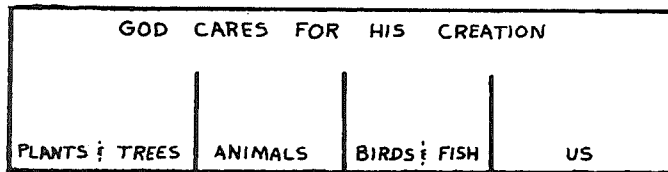
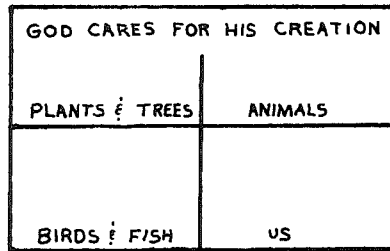
"God . . . created all things" (Ephesians 3:9).
"The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1).

SONGS

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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



**MARCH
FIRST MEETING**

GOD CARES FOR THE PLANTS AND TREES

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

Take several potted plants to your meeting this week.

Color and cut out pages 11, 12, and 13 from handwork packet. Use when teaching "The Wonder Song."

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

WHEN GOD SENT RAIN

1 Kings 18

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

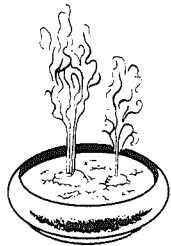
GOOD-BYE

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

MORE ACTIVITIES

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

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



MARCH SECOND MEETING

GOD CARES FOR THE ANIMALS

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

A GAME

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

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

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

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

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

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

STORYTIME

ABOUT ANIMALS

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

If time permits, play this game.

BARNYARD

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

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

MORE ABOUT ANIMALS

HOW GOD HELPS ANIMALS PROTECT THEMSELVES

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

EYES—

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

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

POISON—

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

SPEED—

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

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

TRICKS—

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

HARD TO SEE

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

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

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

ARMOR—

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

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

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

SMELL—

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

CLAWS, HOOVES, NAILS—

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

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

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

HORNS and ANTLERS—

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

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

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

MARCH

THIRD MEETING

GOD CARES FOR THE BIRDS AND FISH

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

Your conversation will be based on the pets displayed

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the memory work from the previous two lessons and teach the last half of Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Say the completed verse together.

PRAYER TIME

Talk to the boys about how empty the world would seem without birds flying through the sky and flitting among the tree branches, and without any fish swimming in the water. Encourage them to listen for the songs of the birds this week and to thank God for all the wonderful things He has given us. Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks. Then pray for any specific needs.

STORYTIME

GOD CARES

Matthew 6:26; Luke 12:6

When Jesus was on earth, many people followed Him to hear Him teach about God. As He sat on the hillside one day, a crowd gathered around Him. In the sky above pretty little birds flew by.

Jesus said to the people, "Look at the birds in the sky. They do not plant seeds or reap them or gather food into barns. God, your Heavenly Father, takes care of them and feeds them."

Another time Jesus said, "Not one little sparrow falls to the ground without my Heavenly Father seeing it and caring."

Every year, shortly before the weather changes from warm to cold, birds leave their homes and fly thousands of miles away to where they will have a warm winter. That is why we don't see many birds in the wintertime. In the spring they make the long trip back home again.

How do the birds know when it is time to leave their homes and fly to the warmer country? Many times they leave their homes when it is still warm and there are still plenty of bugs to eat.

How do they know where to fly and how to get there? Sometimes they fly at night when it is dark and they cannot see. Other times they fly over the ocean where there is no land to guide them.

We know that God tells the birds when it is time to fly and He shows them the way to go. Isn't it wonderful that God cares so much about the little birds that He watches over each one of them?

Sing again "Surely He Will Care for You."

Take a deep breath of air. (Breathe deeply.) Isn't it wonderful to breathe nice fresh air? Without air we could not live. We must take many breaths every minute.

A fish cannot stay alive in air. God has made it different from any other creature. Instead of lungs, a fish has *gills*, which it uses to breathe under *water*. In place of legs and toes a fish has two pair of fins which it uses to swim.

(Matthew 17:24-27) When Jesus was on earth, He used a fish to help Him perform a wonderful miracle. One day Jesus needed some money to pay the taxes. He told his disciple, Peter, to go down to the sea and throw in a fishing line.

"The first fish you catch," He said, "pull up. Open its mouth and look inside."

Peter did what Jesus told him. He walked down to the sea and threw in his fishing line. He waited. Soon he felt a jerk on his line. How excited he was! He began pulling in his line. On the hook was a fish. Peter took the fish off the hook. He looked inside the fish's mouth. There was a piece of money! Peter took the money to Jesus to pay the taxes.

ACTIVITIES

Make a bird mobile using a 1/8-inch or 3/16-inch doweling and nylon thread. Make birds following directions (handwork packet page 17). To make the mobile add as many dowels and strings as needed. Make sure the mobile is *balanced* and all strings are *tied tightly*. You may wish to make more than one mobile or hang birds individually from strings attached to the ceiling or light fixtures. You may also wish to make a fish mobile.

HELPING

Have everyone help clean up the craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and "The Wonder Song."



MARCH FOURTH MEETING

GOD CARES FOR US

FOR THE COMMANDER

On the last section of your bulletin board place a simple brown cross made from construction paper or other material.

WELCOME

As today's lesson is one of a very devotional nature create a quiet atmosphere as the boys enter the classroom.

SHARING

You may begin this part of the lesson today by asking the question, "Why do we celebrate Easter?" Give them all a chance to express their interpretation of Easter. Impress upon them the thought that at Easter we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead. We sometimes have gaily colored Easter eggs, Easter baskets, and new shirts and trousers at Easter time because we are so happy. Easter is a happy time.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the memory verses the boys have learned this month.

STORYTIME

HE LIVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning the room.

GOOD-BYE

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

THEME—CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

- “Suffer the little children to come unto me . . . for of such is the kingdom of God” (Mark 10:14).
- “I will give thee a crown of life” (Revelation 2:10).

SONGS

- “All for Jesus” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
- “Jesus Loves Me” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
- “Only a Boy Named David” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)
- “How Did Moses . . .” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)
- “Wear a Crown” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)
- “Dare to Be a Daniel” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

BULLETIN BOARD

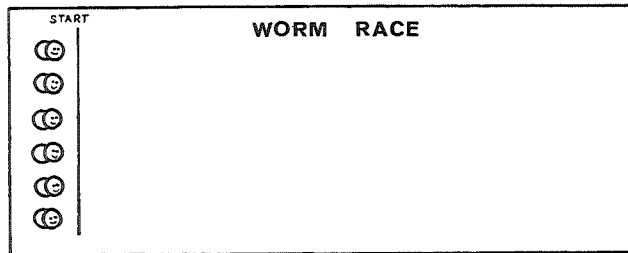
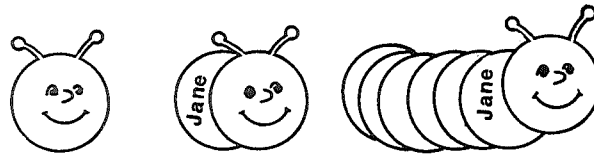
This month use your bulletin board space to feature a contest (worm race) to encourage faithful attendance, giving, etc. The first week of the contest give each boy a head and the first section of a worm, printing his name on the first section as shown. Line the worms up against the *starting line* (a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

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

- Attendance
- Bringing a guest (one section per guest per week)
- Memorizing the Bible verse

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

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



**APRIL
FIRST MEETING**

CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

JESUS AND THE CHILDREN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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



**APRIL
SECOND MEETING**

CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

DAVID HELPS AN ARMY

1 Samuel 17

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

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

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

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

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

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

David's brothers were angry when they heard David say

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Assign each boy duties in cleaning up the supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Sing again "Only a Boy Named David."

**APRIL
THIRD MEETING**

CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Help the boys make crowns following the instructions below.

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

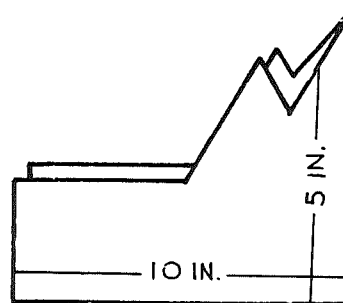
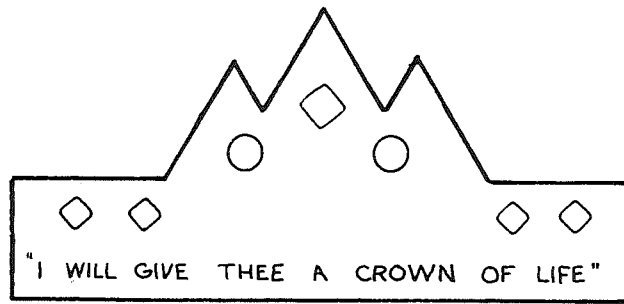
TO MAKE A CROWN

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

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

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

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



HELPING

Ask each boy to help in cleaning up the supplies.

GOOD-BYE

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

CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

REAL MISSIONARIES

(A true story)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

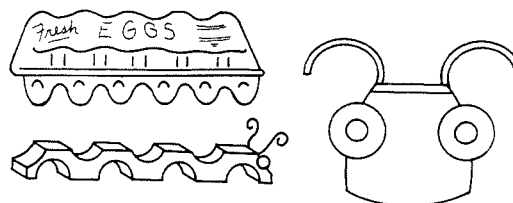
Jadeane and Lynette soon had to leave their friends and many of the things they loved. They traveled far away to a strange land where they did not know anyone. But they were very happy inside. More than anything, they wanted to be good missionaries for God because they loved Him.

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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



HELPING

Assign each boy duties in cleaning up the supplies.

GOOD-BYE

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

THEME—GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

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

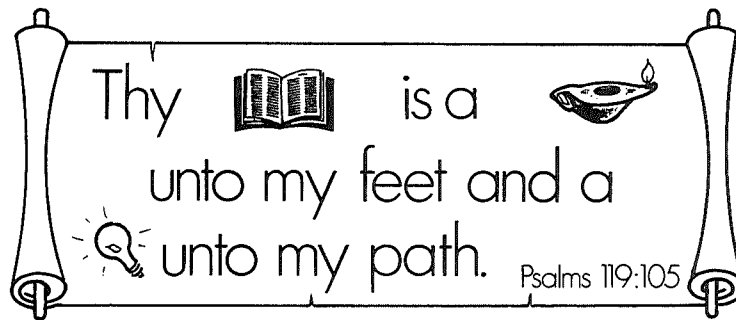
SONGS

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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



FIRST MEETING

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MEMORY WORK

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

MUSIC

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

TABLETS OF STONE Exodus 19; 20; 24; 32-34

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

Ask the boys the following questions:

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

A: His laws.

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

A: God.

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

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

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

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

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

SALT CLAY

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

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

PLAY DOUGH

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

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

MAY

SECOND MEETING

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

THE WORD OF GOD

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

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

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

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

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

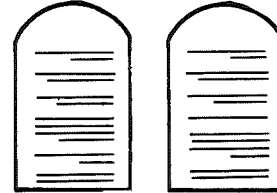
Mothers told the stories to their children, and their children grew up and told them to their children. Some people were afraid that the stories would be forgotten or that they would be changed. Finally Matthew, Mark, and Luke, three of Jesus' disciples wrote their Gospels. (Show Books of Matthew, Mark,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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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



HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

MAY THIRD MEETING

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

Today pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

THE FIRST BIBLES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

MAY

FOURTH MEETING

GOD GIVES US HIS WORD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the two Bible verses so the boys know them.

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

WORDS OF LIFE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

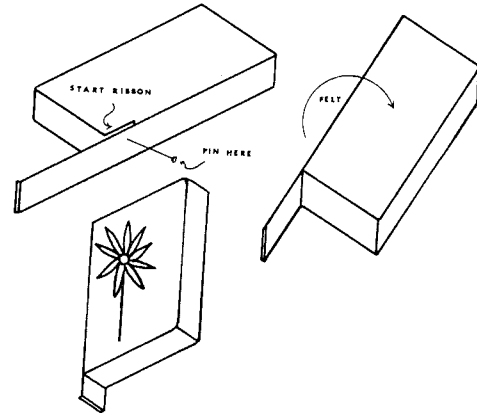
ACTIVITIES

Make soap Bibles following these directions.

Materials needed—

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

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



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

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

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

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

THEME—WE LEARN TO SHARE

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

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

SONGS

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

BULLETIN BOARD

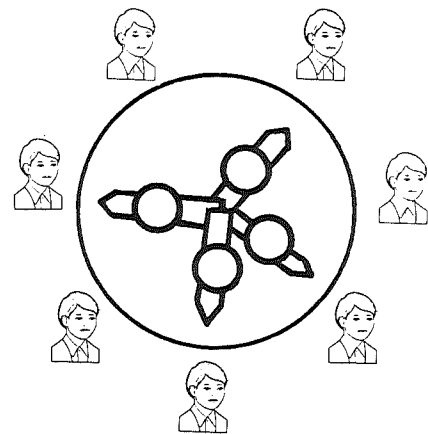
Follow these directions for making a *Sharing Time* for the bulletin board.

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

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

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

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



FIRST MEETING

WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC AND MEMORY WORK

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

OBJECT LESSON

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

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

STORYTIME

WORKING TOGETHER

Ezra and Nehemiah

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

JUNE SECOND MEETING

WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH THE POOR

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

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

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

When they arrived at the ice cream booth, the line

HELPING

Use *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

GOOD-BYE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

THE RICH YOUNG MAN Matthew 19:16-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Use *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a song.

JUNE THIRD MEETING

WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH OUR ENEMIES

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the verse, "Let us do good unto all men" (Galatians 6:10). Explain that this includes our enemies too.

Tell the following story using sad Sam and happy Suzie. (Use voice expression.)

It was recess time at school for Suzie and Sam. "What's the matter, Sam?" asked Suzie. "You are crying."

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

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

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

"What happened?" Suzie asked.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Change Sam's mouth to a smile.)

After school Sam called to Danny.

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

JESUS GAVE HIS LIFE

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Use the *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

JUNE

FOURTH MEETING

WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

Sing "Sermon in Shoes" and other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

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

(Tell the following story using smiling faces.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Why one-tenth?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

SHE GAVE WHAT SHE HAD

Luke 21:1-4

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Use the *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and song.

THEME—JESUS DOES MANY WONDERFUL THINGS

PURPOSE

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

MEMORY VERSES

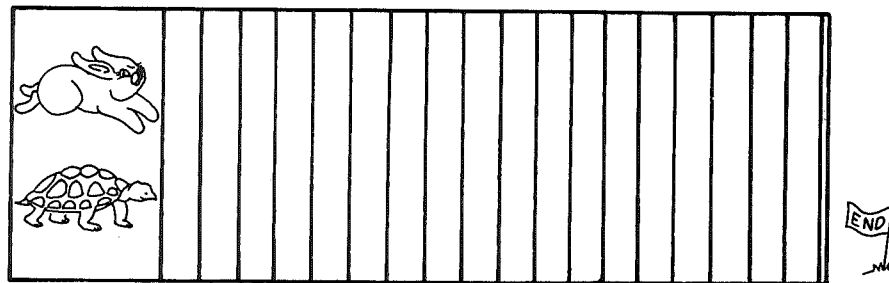
“All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).
 “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).
 “Lo, I am with you always . . .” (Matthew 28:20).

SONGS

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

BULLETIN BOARD

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



STORY

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

**JULY
FIRST MEETING**

JESUS GOES FISHING

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

Tell the boys that when Jesus called some of His helpers He found them casting a net into the sea. Jesus told them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). Explain the meaning of this statement.

Teach the song "Fishers of Men."

MEMORY WORK

Teach the verse, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). Explain that these are the words of Jesus. Who gave Him this power? God, His Father. Even though Jesus was a man while He was on earth, He was still God's Son and He had power to do anything He wanted.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for sending Jesus to earth so He could do many wonderful things and die for our sins. Thank Him for the wonderful things He still does for us today when we ask Him. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

JESUS GOES FISHING

Luke 5:1-11

When Jesus was on earth many years ago, people followed Him wherever He went. They wanted to hear Him preach. Many wanted Him to heal them.

One day Jesus left the city where He had been preaching and walked to the seashore. He saw Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John washing their fishing nets. They were fishermen.

Many people had seen Jesus leave the city and they followed Him. Soon there was a large crowd around Him. Jesus stepped into Peter's boat and moved just a little way from the shore. There He preached to the people gathered on the shore.

After He had finished preaching, Jesus told Simon, "Move out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch of fish."

Simon Peter and Andrew rowed their boat out into the deep water. They put down their nets. This time many fish swam into their nets. The nets were so heavy with fish that Peter and Andrew could not pull them out of the water. They called to their friends in the other boat, James and John, to help them.

The four men pulled on the nets as hard as they could. They had never seen so many fish at one time. Soon both boats were filled with fish—so full they almost sank.

After that, Jesus' helpers left their boats and followed Jesus wherever He went.

MUSIC

Teach the song "Out on the Deep Blue Sea."

ACTIVITIES

Make fishing nets: Fold an 8½- by 11-inch sheet of paper in 1-inch accordion folds. Cut as shown below. Unfold carefully and stretch out to resemble a net. From gray construction paper, cut out fish and place in nets. Staple together four corners of nets. (Page 25 in the handwork packet.)



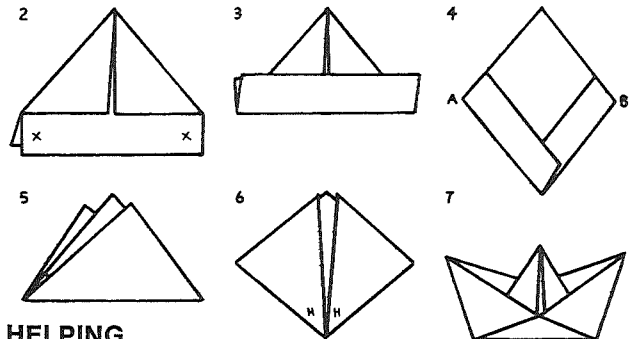
(Optional: Make a paper boat. You will need to practice this a few times. Then lead the boys carefully and slowly, helping them with each step.)

Use white typing paper, 8½ by 11 inches and follow the directions below.

1. Fold paper in half.
2. Fold corners down to center leaving X-----X extending.
3. Fold X---X up on opposite sides.
4. Slip thumbs into No. 3, spread and fold, tucking one flap under the other.
5. Fold on A-----B, bringing points up on opposite side.
6. Slip thumbs into peak inside, spread and fold as in 4.
7. Catch points H-----H between thumb and fingers and open into a boat.

Do "Fisherman Four" Finger Play (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4).

If time permits, pass out page 24 from the handwork packet and let the boys color and put together the hare and tortoise.



HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

JESUS HEALS BLIND EYES

FOR THE COMMANDER

For interest, place several items of beauty about the room: a flower, pictures of beautiful places, items of nature such as rocks and shells, brightly colored objects, etc.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them examine the things you have placed in the room. Talk about the beautiful things they can see.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Talk about the beautiful things God has made for us to see. Encourage the boys to think of other sights they have seen that were beautiful. Tell the boys that some people are blind and cannot see the beautiful things God has made. They do not know what other people look like. They cannot see all the things we enjoy. Have the boys close their eyes and imagine how it would be to be blind.

MUSIC

Teach "Blind Eyes Jesus Made to See." (Explain the meaning of "dumb lips.") Review other new songs and sing favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Tell the boys that Jesus can make blind eyes well so that they can see. Review Matthew 28:18. Explain that even though Jesus is in heaven now, as we pray to Him, He will do the same wonderful things He did while on earth. Learn Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and for ever."

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for the wonderful things He has done and pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

JESUS HEALS BLIND EYES

Mark 10:46-52

(Fill a paper bag with several miscellaneous items. Pass the bag around and ask the boys to reach in and feel the items, trying to guess what they feel. When they guess an item you might ask them, "What color is it?" Of course they cannot tell you.) God gave us eyes so we can see and enjoy all these things. Our eyes tell us many things. (Open Bible.)

Our Bible tells us about a man who was born with eyes that could not see. He was blind. People called him Blind Bartimeus.

Every day Blind Bartimeus (place figure 1, page 26 from handwork packet, on bulletin or visual aid board) sat by the side of the road begging. People passing by gave him money so he could buy food and clothing.

One day when Blind Bartimeus was sitting by the roadside he heard many people passing by. He wondered why there was such a crowd. Someone told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by."

Blind Bartimeus had heard of Jesus. He had heard how Jesus made sick people well and healed blind eyes. "Maybe," thought the blind man, "Jesus will heal me too."

Blind Bartimeus called very loudly, "Jesus, Jesus, have mercy on me!"

The people standing near the blind man tried to make him be quiet. But Blind Bartimeus called even louder, "Jesus! Have mercy on me!"

Jesus heard Bartimeus call. (Place figure 2 on board.) He stopped and asked his helpers to bring the man to Him.

Bartimeus was so excited! He threw off his cloak and went to Jesus. (Place figure 3 on board.) Jesus asked Bartimeus, "What do you want me to do for you?"

"Lord, give me my sight," the blind man answered.

Jesus told him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well."

Instantly Bartimeus could see—for the first time in his life! He saw houses. He saw the beautiful sky. How wonderful everything looked!

Bartimeus followed after Jesus, praising God. (Place figure 4.) All the people praised God too.

MUSIC

Sing "Blind Eyes Jesus Made to See" again.

ACTIVITIES

Have the boys draw a picture of something beautiful God has given us to see. Have each boy show and explain his picture. Pass out page 26 from handwork packet and color and cut out as many figures as time allows. Be sure the boys do Blind Bartimeus (figure 1).

HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a prayer of thankfulness for our eyesight.

JESUS RAISES HIS FRIEND FROM THE DEAD

FOR THE COMMANDER

Cut colored pictures from magazines and mount on construction paper. The pictures for today should show friends eating, playing, working, or talking together. Display in conspicuous places about the room. Using letter patterns on page 74 make the word FRIENDS and also display.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them. Talk about the boys being friends.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Continue your discussion about friends. Emphasize that we are friends. The boys may mention some of their friends and playmates. Tell the boys that friends do kind things for one another. Jesus is our Friend. He loves us and does wonderful things for us.

MUSIC

Learn "I'm So Happy." Review other songs.

MEMORY WORK

Review Matthew 28:18 and Hebrews 13:8. You may have the boys repeat Hebrews 13:8 in "relay"—(Jesus Christ) (the same) (yesterday) (today) (and for ever) (Hebrews 13:8). Point to each boy consecutively to supply his word or phrase. Do this until the verse is said perfectly. Or, after the boys have repeated the verse together two or three times, ask the boys to repeat it in relay. Each boy missing his word or phrase must "drop out." Finalists must repeat the whole verse. The winner(s) should be given a small prize such as candy.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for our friends. Thank Him for being our Friend too.

STORYTIME

JESUS RAISES HIS FRIEND FROM THE DEAD

John 11:1-45

Many years ago in the little town of Bethany near Jerusalem, lived a man named Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. Jesus loved Lazarus and Mary and Martha very much. They were his very good friends. Many times He stopped to visit them when He was traveling to the temple in Jerusalem.

One day Lazarus became very sick. Mary and Martha were worried about their brother. They had seen Jesus heal many sick people. They knew He could heal Lazarus too. They sent a messenger to the place where Jesus was preaching asking Him to come quickly and help their brother. Then they sat beside his bed waiting for Jesus to come. But Jesus did not come. Finally Lazarus died.

Mary and Martha were very sad. They did not understand why Jesus had not come to heal Lazarus.

Soon their neighbors came and helped them wrap Lazarus' body in burial clothes and take him to a burial

cave. They rolled a big stone in front of the door. Then they went back home.

Still Mary and Martha wondered, "Where is Jesus? Why doesn't He come?"

Jesus knew that His friend Lazarus was sick, but He did not go to help him for 2 days. Then He said to His helpers, "Let us go back to Judea. Our friend Lazarus is asleep, and I must awaken him."

The helpers answered, "If he is asleep he must be getting better."

Then Jesus said, "Lazarus is dead."

Four days after Lazarus had died, Jesus arrived at the town where Mary and Martha lived. When they heard Jesus was there, the two women ran to meet Him. Many of their friends followed them. "If you had only come sooner," they cried, "our brother would not have died."

Jesus saw how sad they were. He saw everyone crying. He was sad too.

Lazarus' friends saw that Jesus was sad. Some of them said, "Jesus must have loved Lazarus very much. If He can heal the blind why couldn't He heal His friend?"

Jesus asked the people to take Him to the place where Lazarus was. When they arrived at the burial cave, Jesus said, "Take away the stone from the door."

Martha cried, "No, Jesus! Lazarus has been dead 4 days! By this time his body is beginning to smell."

Jesus answered, "Didn't I tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

When they had taken away the stone Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I know You always hear Me. I am saying this so that the people who are here will believe that You have sent Me."

Then He cried loudly, "Lazarus, come out!"

The people looked at the door of the burial cave. How surprised they were when they saw Lazarus walk out! He was wrapped from head to foot with the burial clothes they had put on him. (Commander: You might demonstrate with a doll wrapped in white strips of cloth. Put regular clothing under the stripping.)

"Take off the burial clothes and let him go," Jesus commanded.

The people saw that Lazarus was alive and all well. Jesus had raised him from the dead! Everyone was very happy.

Lazarus went home with Mary and Martha. Their friends and neighbors said, "Now we believe! Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God!"

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 27 from the handwork packet. Circle the pictures that show true friends.

HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Sing again "I'm So Happy."

THE WIND AND THE WAVES OBEY JESUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Prepare a cork boat as shown in today's activity section. Prepare it in a pan of water and use it as an interest center.

WELCOME

Greet the boys as they arrive and point out the boat on display. Tell them today's story is about Jesus and a boat.

OPENING

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

SHARING

You may ask the boys if they have ever ridden in a boat, letting them share their experiences.

MUSIC

Review songs from this unit. Learn "All the Children Ought to Know." If the version "Everybody Ought to Know" is more familiar, you may use it.

MEMORY WORK

Learn "Lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). Explain that these are the words of Jesus and that they are for us today too. Elaborate on this if you wish. Review other Bible verses from this unit.

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for His love and protection for us. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

THE WIND AND WAVES OBEY JESUS Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

(Show the toy boat in the pan of water. Talk about how calm the water is. Then show what would happen if a big wind blew. Let the boys create a "storm." A strong wind makes the water rough and almost makes the boat tip over.)

Jesus had been teaching the people all day beside the big lake (Sea of Galilee). It was evening and He was very tired. "Let us go over to the other side of the lake," Jesus said to His helpers.

Jesus and His helpers got into a boat. As His helpers rowed out onto the lake, Jesus lay down and went to sleep. Soon the wind began to blow. It grew stronger and stronger. (O-o-o-o.) The waves began to grow bigger and bigger. It was a bad storm.

Jesus' helpers pulled hard on the oars trying to get to the shore. (Explain what an oar is.) They were in the middle of the big lake. The boat began to rock back and forth and the waves splashed over the side filling the

boat with water. They became very afraid. They knew the boat would soon sink! Then they remembered Jesus asleep in the boat. The storm had not awakened Him.

Jesus! Jesus!" they cried. "Wake up! Don't you care if we die in this storm?"

Jesus opened His eyes and looked at His frightened helpers. Then He stood up and said to the wind and waves, "Peace be still."

Suddenly the wind stopped blowing, and the water was still again.

Jesus looked at his helpers. "Why were you afraid?" He asked. "Don't you have any faith?"

The helpers looked at each other and said, "How wonderful Jesus is! Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

ACTIVITIES

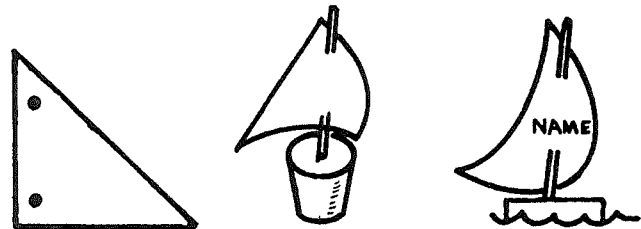
Make cork boats. You may want to place them in a large shallow pan of water and sail them.

Or use pattern given for paper sailboats in lesson 1 of this unit. (Handwork packet, page 28.)

CORK BOAT:

Materials—1 large cork, toothpick (plastic ones are best), one 2-inch square of white paper cut diagonally in two pieces, scissors, pen or pencil, pan of water.

A tape recording of the chorus of "Peace Be Still" would be very effective played softly in the background as the boys work.



HELPING

Have the boys help in cleaning up their craft supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a chorus and prayer.

THEME—GOD WANTS US TO OBEY

PURPOSE

To teach the boys what the Bible says about obedience.
To show them the reward of obedience and punishment of disobedience.
To help them know more clearly whom they are to obey.

MEMORY VERSES

“Obey them that have the rule over you” (Hebrew 13:17).
“If a man love me, he will keep my words” (John 14:23).

SONGS

“Trust and Obey” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)
“I Don’t Want to Be a Jonah” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)
“This Little Light of Mine” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)
“Little Feet Be Careful” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)
“Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

ROOM DECORATIONS

August is vacation time. Create a vacation atmosphere in your room by mounting vacation-type scenes on colorful construction paper and arranging them around the room. (Choose pictures the boys will appreciate.) You may also place vacation-type articles around the room or on a special table (sand bucket, toy fishing pole, beach towel, toy boat, beach ball, etc.).



FIRST MEETING

GOD WANTS US TO OBEY OUR PARENTS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Cut the letters O-B-E-Y from colored construction paper. Make them about 5 inches tall. They will be used during your MUSIC session today.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them walk about and look at your collection of vacation scenes.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Many of the boys have probably already taken their summer vacations. Others are planning to go somewhere. Ask the boys to share their vacation plans or experiences. (Since some boys are not able to take a vacation, try to

include them too. Ask them to tell about another vacation, a short trip, or their experiences around home.)

MUSIC

Hold up the letters O-B-E-Y. Have the boys call out the letters as you place them one by one on the bulletin board. Ask them to sound out the word and guess what it is. What does it mean? Tell them you are going to learn a song about obeying. Teach the chorus of “Trust and Obey.” Sing other favorites, including “Little Feet Be Careful.”

MEMORY WORK

Open your Bible and read Ephesians 6:1, “Children, obey your parents.” Since they learned this verse in the January unit, the boys will already be familiar with it. You may read the rest of the verse, “. . . in the Lord: for this is right.” *Today’s English Version* translates it: “Children, it is your Christian duty to obey your parents, for this is the right thing to do.”

Discuss this situation. When our mothers call us for dinner and we are busy playing, do we wait a few minutes and then come in? Is this obeying? When our parents ask us to do something we don't want to do, do we wait and hope they will forget? When we obey our parents, we are also obeying God, because He has told us in His Word, "Children, obey your parents."

PRAYER TIME

Lead in a prayer of thanks for parents and ask God to help the boys to always obey their parents.

STORYTIME

ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD

Genesis 22:1-18

"Isaac, Isaac, wake up."

Isaac opened his sleepy eyes and looked up in the early morning light.

"Wake up, Son," his father, Abraham, said. "We must hurry and leave. We are going on a journey."

Isaac snuggled in his warm blankets. He did not want to get up yet. It was still so early. He knew he must obey his father. Quickly Isaac climbed out of bed and put on his clothes.

When Isaac went outside, his father was almost ready to go. Packed on their donkey were the things they would need on their journey and a small stack of wood. Isaac wondered where they were going and why they were taking the wood. But he did not ask any questions.

Soon Isaac and his father and two helpers started on their journey. They walked on and on through the desert. At night they stopped and slept under the stars.

After Abraham and Isaac had traveled for 3 days, Abraham stopped and looked up at the mountain ahead of them. "This is the place God has chosen," he said. "Isaac and I are going up on the mountain to offer a sacrifice and pray."

Abraham took the wood from the back of the donkey and gave it to Isaac to carry. Abraham carried a knife and some fire. Then they started up the mountain together.

Isaac looked at the wood he was carrying. He looked at the knife and fire.

"Father," he said, "did you say we are going to offer a sacrifice?"

"Yes, Son."

"I see the wood. I see the knife and the fire. But I do not see the lamb we are going to use for the sacrifice."

Abraham answered, "God will provide the lamb."

Abraham was very quiet as he and Isaac climbed up the mountain. His heart was very sad. He was thinking of the sacrifice he was going to offer. It was his only son Isaac. He loved Isaac very, very much. For many years Abraham and his wife Sarah had wanted a child. Finally, when they were very old, God had given them a baby boy, Isaac. How they loved him! They held him and played with him and watched him grow.

God looked down from heaven and saw Abraham and Sarah with Isaac. He knew they loved Isaac very much. God wondered, "Do they love Isaac more than they love me? I will see."

God called to Abraham, "Abraham!"

"Yes, God, here I am."

"I want you to take your son Isaac to a mountain that I will show you. There you are to offer him as a sacrifice."

Abraham was very sad when he heard God's words. Why would God ask him to sacrifice his only son--the son God had given him? Abraham knew, though, that he must obey. Now he was almost to the place God had chosen.

Sadly Abraham began gathering stones to build the altar. When it was finished, he placed the wood on top. Finally he spoke. "Isaac, my son, I love you very much. God has asked me to do something that is very hard for me to do. He has asked me to offer you as a sacrifice upon the altar."

Isaac looked at his father. He saw the tears in his eyes. Isaac knew his father loved him very much. He knew that his father must obey God. Isaac knew he must obey his father too. By obeying his father he would also be obeying God.

Slowly Abraham began tying Isaac's hands and feet. Sadly he placed him on the altar. Then he picked up the knife and held it above his son.

Suddenly Abraham heard someone call his name. It was the angel of the Lord! "Abraham! Do not kill your son. Now I know that you love God even more than you love Isaac. Untie his hands and feet and let him go."

How happy Abraham was! Quickly he untied his son. Just then Abraham saw a ram caught by his horns in the bushes. Abraham caught the ram and sacrificed it on the altar he had built.

Afterward the angel called to Abraham again, "Because you have obeyed God, He will bless you. Your children and grandchildren and their children will be as many as the stars in the sky and the sand of the sea. Through them, all the nations of the earth will be blessed because you have obeyed God."

Abraham and Isaac were very happy as they walked down the mountain. Isaac was glad his father had obeyed God. He was glad he had obeyed his father. He knew God would always take care of them.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 29 from the handwork packet to color.

HELPING

Each boy should put away his crayons and clean up any scraps of paper.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

AUGUST SECOND MEETING

GOD WANTS US TO OBEY THOSE WHO HAVE THE RULE OVER US

FOR THE COMMANDER

This is vacation time and a time when it is very important to obey laws whether they be for traffic, swim-

ming and boating, or rules set by parents. You may wish to relate to the boys a true incident of what happened when someone did not obey the law. Some of the boys may be able to cite similar examples.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive, making sure to introduce visitors.

SHARING

Again share vacation plans and experiences.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

The song to learn today is about a man who went on a trip and ended up somewhere he did not want to go. He started his trip in a boat going one direction and ended the trip inside a whale going the other direction! Ask the boys who it was. (Have the boys recount briefly the story of Jonah.) Stress that Jonah was swallowed by a whale because he did not obey God. Teach "I Don't Want to Be a Jonah." Sing "Trust and Obey."

MEMORY WORK

Last week the boys learned that God wants them to obey their parents. This week they will learn of someone else He wants them to obey. Open your Bible and read Hebrews 13:17, "Obey them that have the rule over you." Ask who that could be. It could be anyone who is responsible for them or who is taking care of them—the pastor, teachers, baby-sitters, other adults besides their parents. Give each boy a copy of pages 30 from the handwork packet. Lead them in reading the verse together two or three times. Teachers have the rule over them when they are in school. God wants the boys to obey.

PRAYER TIME

Before they begin coloring, ask the boys to bow their heads in prayer as you thank God for their teachers, pastor, and those who help care for them. Pray that they will always obey them.

As the boys color, you may begin telling the following story.

STORYTIME

WHY BENNY CHANGED HIS MIND

"Benny, your father and I are going out tonight," Mrs. Brown told her son one evening. "I have asked Janice Jones our next-door neighbor, to come over and care for you while we are away."

Benny made a face. He didn't want his mother and father to go away. He didn't want someone else to come and care for him. Soon the doorbell rang.

"Benny, will you please answer the door!" called Mother. "It is probably Janice Jones."

Benny walked slowly to the door. He opened it and

looked up to the smiling face of his teenage neighbor, Janice.

"Hello, Benny!" said Janice. "May I come in? Your mother asked me to come over and care for you tonight."

"I guess so," mumbled Benny. He didn't smile at his neighbor or offer her a chair. Instead, he left Janice standing in the middle of the living room while he went to his bedroom and shut the door.

When Mrs. Brown walked into the living room, she was surprised to see Janice still standing. "Where is Benny?" she asked.

"Benny went to his room, Mrs. Brown. Is there anything you would like me to do right now? Shall I fix Benny's dinner?"

"No, Benny has already eaten his dinner. You may sit down and read if you would like. I must talk to Benny, then I will come back and show you around the house."

Benny heard his bedroom door open and looked up into his mother's serious face.

"Benny, why weren't you polite to your baby-sitter?"

"I don't like baby-sitters," pouted Benny.

"Father and I need to go out tonight, and you are too young to stay here by yourself," explained Mrs. Brown. "I will tell Janice what time you are to go to bed. You must obey her."

"Why do I have to obey Janice?" asked Benny. "She isn't my mother!"

Mrs. Brown sat down on the bed beside Benny. She opened Benny's little white Bible. "God's Word tells us to obey those who rule over us! While we are away, we have asked Janice to have the rule over you to take care of you."

Benny sat silently with his head down.

"Benny, do you think Jesus is pleased when you act this way?" Mrs. Brown asked.

"N-n-no."

"Do you want to talk to Him about it and ask Him to help you be nice to Janice and obey her?"

"Well, okay."

Mrs. Brown and Benny knelt together by the bed. When they were through praying, Benny said, "Thank you, Mother. I feel better inside now. I think I will go out and see if Janice needs someone to talk to . . . if that's all right."

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys a clean sheet of paper and have them draw a picture of what they did or would like to do on their vacation. Give them page 30 from the handwork packet. Be sure to point out each word as the verse is read.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

AUGUST

THIRD MEETING

GOD WANTS US TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE LAND

FOR THE COMMANDER

If you wish to use the crosswalk game mentioned in the ACTIVITIES section for today, it will be necessary to make a stoplight ahead of time using the instructions in the same section. Make sure the light works correctly

before trying to use it with the game.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, they may wander about the room and talk quietly.

SHARING

Tell the boys, "Today we are going to talk about laws. Do you know what laws are? Some of our laws were made many years ago. Others are being made now. It takes many, many books to hold all the laws that have been written.

"Laws are made to protect us from people who might hurt us or do harm to us. Can you name some laws?" (The boys might mention laws against killing, stealing, speeding, taking harmful drugs, etc.)

"Policemen protect us from people who break the laws. Policemen are our friends. They are always on the watch day and night to keep us safe. Some policemen watch to make sure that people do not drive too fast or that they stop for red lights. Other policemen keep the traffic moving along our streets. They blow their whistles and tell people when to stop or go. Others help people who have been in accidents. Policemen do many things to protect us." (The boys might want to tell about policemen they know or how a policeman helped them.)

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing some songs about obeying, "Little Feet Be Careful" and "Trust and Obey." Those who obey the laws are letting their light shine for Jesus. Sing "This Little Light of Mine."

MEMORY WORK

When Jesus was on earth, He taught the people to obey the laws of the land. He also said, "If a man love me, he will keep [obey] my words" (John 14:23). If we love Jesus, we will do the things He has taught us in the Bible. (Repeat the verse two or three times with the boys.)

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for those who protect us and ask Him to help us to always obey the laws.

STORYTIME

THE RIGHT ANSWER

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus' enemies did not like the things He taught. They decided the only way to stop Jesus from teaching the people was to trick Him.

One day when Jesus was teaching the people some of His enemies came to Him and said, "Master, we know you always tell the truth. You teach God's way and don't care if the people like what you say or not."

The Pharisees really didn't believe this, but they were trying to flatter Jesus so that they could trick Him. Then they asked, "What do you think? Is it right or wrong to pay our tax money to Caesar?"

Jesus knew that the Jewish people hated to pay the tax money. If He said, "Yes, it is right," the people would be angry and not like Him anymore. Jesus knew that if He said it was wrong to pay taxes His enemies would report Him to the Roman government, and they would punish Him, because the law of the land said the people were to pay taxes. He knew the evil plan His enemies had in their hearts.

"Why do you tempt me?" Jesus asked. "Show me the money."

They brought Him a penny. Jesus looked at the coin. He asked, "Whose picture is on this penny? Whose name is on here?"

"It is Caesar's, the Roman ruler," the men answered. "Then give to Caesar the things that belong to him, and give to God the things that belong to God."

Jesus' enemies were surprised. They thought that they could trick Jesus, but they could not. The people knew that Jesus wanted them to obey the laws of the land.

ACTIVITIES

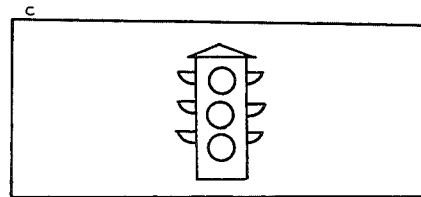
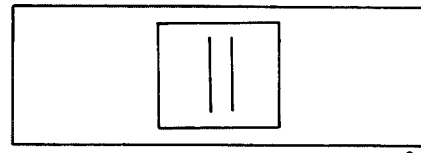
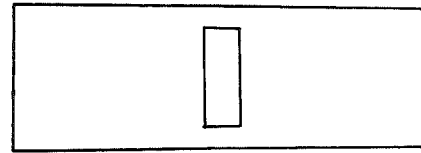
Give each boy a copy of page 31 from the handwork packet. Read the wording and let them color, making the stoplight red, green, and yellow.

Following instructions, make a stoplight. Quiz the boys on what to do for each color: STOP, WAIT, GO. Make a crosswalk (using string along the floor) and play a traffic game by changing the signals as the boys take turns walking across the crosswalk. (When the light turns yellow after they are already in the crosswalk, they should continue walking quickly to the other side.)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING STOPLIGHT

In the center of a sheet of large, heavy paper (approximately 12 by 20 inches) cut a hole 3 by 9 inches. (A) Make two slits 9/4 inches long and 3 inches apart in an 8 1/2- by 11-inch sheet of paper. (B) Glue to back of large heavy paper so that slits line up with hole.

Color circles on enclosed paper red (top), yellow (middle), and green (bottom). Insert paper in slits so that colors show through hole. Cut out traffic signal and three circles. Glue onto front side of heavy paper, making sure that colored circles line up with holes on traffic signal. Move slip back and forth to create "red light," "yellow light," and "green light."



HELPING

Make sure that every boy helps to restore order to the room before leaving.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

**AUGUST
FOURTH MEETING**

GOD WANTS US TO OBEY HIM

FOR THE COMMANDER

For the last lesson in this month have a picnic! If it is convenient you may do this outside somewhere near the church. Otherwise, put down a large picnic tablecloth on your floor and *make believe*. Have simple picnic-type foods: grapes, pickles, celery, carrot sticks, small sandwiches, punch, and cookies.

WELCOME

The boys will be excited about the picnic when they arrive. Ask them to be seated in their regular places while you call the roll, say your pledge, etc.

SHARING

Ask the boys to be seated around the tablecloth. Ask God's blessing on the food and begin serving in the way most convenient for you. Your time of sharing can be unstructured conversation today in a relaxed atmosphere while the boys eat.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing some favorite songs of the boys. You may also sing the songs you have learned this month.

MEMORY WORK

Ask the boys to quote (with your help, possibly) the verse they learned last week about what we will do if we love Jesus. ("Obey them that have the rule over you," Hebrews 13:17.) Ask who else they are to obey.

PRAYER TIME

Ask the boys for prayer requests.

STORYTIME

THREE BRAVE MEN OBEY GOD

Daniel 3:1-30

Many years ago in a land far away lived three men named Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They loved God very much.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were young, they had been captured and taken to this land. God had helped them, though, and now they were rulers over many people.

The king of that land was named Nebuchadnezzar. He did not love God. He was a very proud man.

One day the king decided to make an idol. It was 90 feet tall—as tall as five or six houses stacked on top

of each other! It was covered with gold and stood where people could see it for many miles.

Then the king ordered all the rulers in his kingdom to come and worship the idol. He said, "When you hear the music, everyone must fall down and worship the idol."

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would not worship the king's idol. They remembered that God had said, "Thou shalt not bow down to any graven image."

When the music sounded, all the people fell to their knees before the idol except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Some men saw them standing and hurried to tell King Nebuchadnezzar. The king was very angry. "Bring Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to me!" he shouted.

When they came before the king, he asked them, "Why didn't you bow down before my idol? I will give you one more chance. When the music sounds, you must bow down or I will have you thrown into the fiery furnace!"

Bravely the three men said, "O king, we will not bow down before your idol. We serve the one true God. He is so great that He can deliver us from your fiery furnace."

The king was very angry. He commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter. Then he told his soldiers to tie up the three men and throw them into the fire.

The soldiers tied Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with strong ropes and carried them to the furnace. The fire was so hot that the soldiers were killed by the flames as they threw the men into the furnace.

Nebuchadnezzar was watching. Suddenly his eyes grew wide with surprise. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were walking about in the fire. Their ropes were gone. The king looked closer. "Look!" he cried. "Didn't we throw three men into the fire? There are four men in the furnace now, and the fourth man looks like the Son of God!"

Nebuchadnezzar jumped up and ran to the furnace. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego!" he cried. "Come out at once!"

The three men walked out of the furnace. The fire had not burned them at all. Only the strong ropes that had been tied around them were burned off!

"Surely your God is the only true God," the king cried. "He has taken care of you because you trusted in Him. I will make a new command. Anyone who speaks evil about the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be killed and his house destroyed!" Then the king made the three brave men greater rulers than ever before.

HELPING

Have the boys help you clean up the picnic supplies.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THEME—TALKING TO GOD

PURPOSE

- To teach the boys scriptural instruction on prayer.
- To give the boys confidence in the fact that God hears and answers our prayers.

MEMORY VERSE

- “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation” (Matthew 26:41).
- “Pray one for another” (James 5:16).
- “Ask, and it shall be given you” (Matthew 7:7).

SONGS

- “Always Take Time to Pray” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)
- “Whisper a Prayer” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)
- “Daniel Was a Man of Prayer” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)
- Optional—
- “Little Children Pray” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)
- “I’m Gonna Work” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

CONTEST

The boys will have fun with the “Feed the Elephants” contest this month. It should help to increase attendance, punctuality, etc.

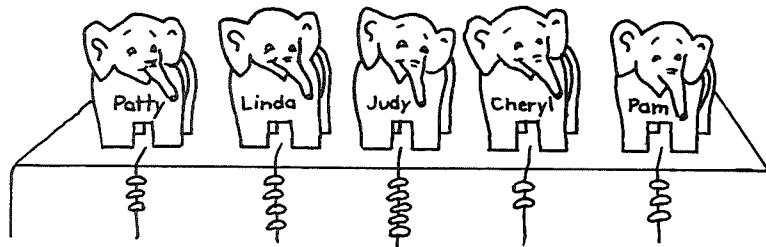
Materials needed:

- large spool
- heavy gray paper
- gray paint
- glue

Instructions:

1. Paint a large empty spool gray.
2. Cut two leg patterns out of gray heavy paper. Cut out one head. (See page 32 in handwork packet for patterns.)
3. Glue the legs onto each end of the spool. Glue the head onto one end. (For a 3-D effect, place $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch thickness of art foam or cardboard between the head and front legs.) Cut out a circle as shown, cutting into it as shown by dotted lines.
4. Write each boy’s name on the front of his elephant. Line up the elephants on the edge of a table or paper-covered box.
5. Staple a string or piece of yarn in front of each elephant and let it hang down over the box or table edge.

Each week the boys’ elephants will get one peanut (in the shell) for each of the following: attendance, punctuality, bringing a visitor (one peanut for each one), learning the Bible verse, etc. Set your own requirements. Tie it to the string as shown. Give the peanuts to the boys at the end of the month. If you wish, award a small prize to the boy with the most peanuts.



SEPTEMBER
FIRST MEETING

TALKING TO GOD—ANYTIME, ANYWHERE

FOR THE COMMANDER

For today's lesson, you will need a toy telephone and an envelope. It would also be nice to have a picture of someone talking on the telephone. Also, you might have a toy mailbox or a picture of a mailbox.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room and look at the decorations and play carefully with the toy telephone.

OPENING

Lead the boys in their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge. If you have made the contest elephants yourself, now is a good time to introduce the contest and feed the elephants their first "meal." (You may want the boys to help make the elephants during your ACTIVITIES time.)

SHARING

The boys will be anxious to talk about school which will be starting soon. Many of them will be entering for the first time and will be filled with excitement and also anxieties. Let them talk openly for a few minutes as you guide their conversation and provide the reassurance needed.

MUSIC

Begin teaching the song "Always Take Time to Pray." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

(Use a flexible doll to act out this little story.)

It was bedtime. Gerry was tired. He had played all afternoon riding his bicycle. After dinner he had helped Mother clear the table. Then he had taken a nice warm bath and put on his soft flannel pj's.

Before climbing into bed Gerry knelt down to pray. "Dear Jesus," he said, "thank You for watching over me today. Thank You for my nice home and Mother and Daddy. Please forgive me for any bad things I did today, and help me to always obey You and be a good boy. Amen."

Then Gerry hopped into bed and before you could count to 10 he was fast asleep.

The next morning Gerry woke up bright and early. It was so quiet. Mother and Daddy were still asleep. Gerry walked into the kitchen. He wished it were later so that Mother would be up to fix breakfast. He could almost smell bacon and eggs as he thought about it. Oh, he was hungry!

Then Gerry saw the cookie jar on the counter. He remembered the good chocolate chip cookies his mother had baked the previous day. Wouldn't some of them taste good now? Gerry pulled over a chair and was climbing up to the counter when suddenly he stopped. Somehow he didn't feel right inside. It seemed as though a little quiet voice was asking, "What did your mother say about taking cookies without asking? Should you be eating cookies before breakfast?"

Gerry knew that he was never to get into the cookie jar

unless he had permission. Sometimes the cookie jar was a *temptation*—something he wanted to do even though he knew it was wrong. It was like part of him wanted to eat the cookies, and part of him was saying, "No, I must obey."

Gerry bowed his head. "Dear Jesus, please help me to obey," he prayed. "Help me to say *no* to temptation.

Then Gerry put the chair back beside the table and slipped quietly to his room. He did not want to be near the cookie jar. It was such a big temptation.

Gerry was still hungry, but he knew that he could wait until breakfast. Inside he was very happy. He was glad that Jesus helped him to say *no* to temptation.

Read from your Bible: "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). Watch could be interpreted *look out*. The boys will know the meaning of temptation from the story. Help them to understand it better by explaining that temptation is wanting to do something that is wrong. When we pray every day, God helps us to say *no* to temptation. Repeat the verse together.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in prayer, asking that God will help them to always say *no* to temptation.

STORYTIME

A MESSAGE FOR BILLY

(Ad lib the following by *playing along* with the boys' reactions.)

Tonight I need to get a message to my friend Billy in (name a nearby town or city). How can I get a message to him? I know! I will write him a letter. Now, let me see . . . I will need a pencil and paper and envelope. (Jot a few lines on the paper and put it in the envelope.)

Oh my, I cannot remember his address. (Laboriously look through your pockets for an address book. Copy address onto envelope.)

Now it is ready to send except for a stamp. (Find a stamp and place it on the envelope.) Finally my letter is ready to be mailed. (Pretend to mail letter.)

Oh! Oh! I just remembered—my friend needs the message tonight! The letter won't get to him for another day. What am I going to do? Telephone him? That is a good idea. (Pick up the receiver of the toy telephone and begin to dial—then stop.)

Oh, I don't know his number! Go through address-book routine again and slowly dial each number as you read it.)

What is that? The telephone is going beep-beep-beep-beep! (Look into receiver.) A busy signal. Oh! I guess I will have to wait. (Hang up receiver and talk with boys a few moments about how you must get the message to your friend Billy. Then dial his number again.)

Good. It is ringing. (Wait.) It is still ringing. (Hang up receiver slowly.) I guess he is not home. I will have to call him later.

Seriously now, explain to the boys that we cannot always talk to our friends when we want to. Sometimes they are away somewhere when we need to talk to them.

We do have a Friend though, who is never away. We can talk to Him whenever we want to. This is God (or His Son Jesus). All we have to do is talk to Him and He hears us.

Usually when we pray, we bow our heads and close our eyes. Why do you think we do this? (Explain that by bowing our heads we show reverence and respect to God. By closing our eyes we shut out all the things around us so that we think only about God. Often we fold our hands also, so that they will be still while we are talking to God.)

We can talk to God many different ways. At night we like to bow on our knees beside our bed while we talk to God. Jesus prayed this way sometimes. We pray while bowing on our knees at church often also. Other times we pray while we are sitting or even lying down. Sometimes we pray standing up. At times we even raise our hands to God while we pray.

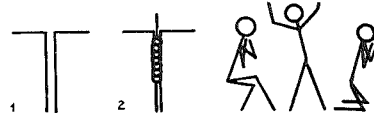
We can talk to God about many different things. God likes to have us praise Him. This means to thank Him and tell Him we love Him. He wants us to pray for others too—for our friends, for those who are sick, for those who do not know Jesus, for our missionaries, for our pastor, for our families. He also hears us when we pray for ourselves and for things we want and need.

When you ask your parents for things, do they always say *yes*? God does not always say *yes* either. He knows many things we do not know. He knows when things we want are not good for us. Sometimes God answers *no* or *not yet*. We know if we love and obey God, He always hears and answers our prayers! Isn't that wonderful!

God loves us very much. We show Him that we love Him too, when we talk to Him in prayer.

ACTIVITIES

Following directions given, let each boy make and decorate a pixie. Show them how they can bend the arms and legs for bowing head and folding hands, kneeling, and raising hands.



Materials needed for each pixie:

1 white foam ball 1½-inch size

3 chenille stems

Take two chenille stems and bend as shown in Figure 1. Take third chenille stem and leaving 1 inch for the neck, continue wrapping chenille stem around and around to form body. Figure 2.

Place the white foam-ball head onto neck. Draw or paint eyes and mouth on white foam-ball head.

You may prefer to have the boys make elephants instead of pixies. Patterns for front and back of elephant may be found on page 32 of the handwork packet.

HELPING

Boys should pick up scraps of chenille or foam before leaving today.

GOOD-BYE

As you close in prayer, the boys may arrange their pixies in praying positions.

SEPTEMBER SECOND MEETING

WATCH AND PRAY

FOR THE COMMANDER

Take to your meeting a shriveled up potato, carrot, etc., to use during your MEMORY WORK period. Also take a box and pretty wrapping paper and ribbon. Prepare two shoulder sashes, one with the word WATCH and the other with PRAY. Sashes may be made of wide ribbon or crepe paper.

WELCOME

Let the boys wander about the room quietly as they arrive.

SHARING

Let the boys share their *first* week of school experiences. Guide them in an open conversation.

OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up contest points and *feed the elephants*.

MUSIC

Ask how many remember the song they learned last week about praying. Sing "Always Take Time to Pray."

When Jesus was on earth, He talked to God His Father very often. Sometimes He woke up very early in the morning and went away by himself to talk to God. Other times He talked to God in the evening. Before Jesus chose His 12 helpers, He stayed awake and prayed all

night long! He knew that He needed God to help Him every day.

When we love Jesus, we want to talk to Him more than just one time a day. We like to bow our heads often and whisper a prayer to Him. Let's learn a song about whispering a prayer. Teach "Whisper a Prayer."

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of love and thanksgiving.

MEMORY WORK

Have the boys repeat the verse they learned last week. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation" (Matthew 26:41).

Take to your meeting an object that is ugly and undesirable, such as a shriveled-up potato. Show it to the boys and comment on how terrible it looks. Let the boys help you put it into a box and wrap the box in beautiful paper. Decorate it with ribbon and a big bow. On the side of the box write the word TEMPTATION. Set it on a table.

Say to the boys, "Doesn't the package look beautiful? Surely something wonderful must be inside! No? This is the way temptation is. It looks so good to us but really it is like a rotten potato inside."

"Let's pretend we don't know what is inside the box. We want the box very much because it is so pretty. However, we were told not to touch the box—to leave it alone. Part of us wants to get the box anyway and part of us says, 'No, leave it alone.'"

"Let's get someone to guard the box." (Choose two volunteers. Place over the shoulders of each a sash—one labeled WATCH and the other PRAY.) Have the boys stand in front of the box to keep the others away.

Now, one by one, let the other boys try to get the box. WATCH and PRAY act as guards. As long as they are standing in front of TEMPTATION, the boys cannot get the box. If they are pushed out of the way TEMPTATION will be easy to get. (You may need to watch that the game does not become rough.)

STORYTIME

WHEN THE ROOSTER CROWED

Mark 14:30-50, 66-72

Jesus knew the time had come that He must die. He called His helpers together for their last meal. After they had eaten, He told them that He would soon die and leave them alone.

The disciple helpers were sad. They did not want Jesus to go away. Peter cried, "Lord, I will never leave you!"

Jesus answered, "Before the rooster crows tonight, you will say three times that you do not know me."

"No! No!" cried Peter. "I will never say that I do not know you even if I have to die with you!"

"That is right!" said the other helpers. "We will never leave you!"

Later that night Jesus took His helpers to a garden to pray. He asked Peter and James and John to stay near Him and watch and pray. While Jesus was praying, Peter and James and John went to sleep. Jesus was sad when He saw them sleeping. "Why couldn't you stay awake and watch?" He asked. "Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation."

Two more times Jesus prayed. Each time His helpers fell asleep again. Finally Jesus woke them up and told them it was time to go.

As they were leaving the garden enemy soldiers came and captured Jesus. His helpers were so frightened they ran away and left Jesus alone with the soldiers.

Peter was frightened, too, but he wanted to stay near Jesus. He followed far behind the soldiers so that no one would see him. He was afraid they would capture him too. Finally someone saw Peter. "Aren't you one of Jesus' helpers?" they asked.

"No! No! I am not!" Peter cried.

Two more people asked Peter the same question. Peter was afraid and answered, "No, I do not even know Jesus!"

Just then a rooster crowed, and Peter remembered what Jesus had told him, "Before the rooster crows, you will say three times that you do not know me."

Peter was very sad. He wished he had stayed awake and prayed with Jesus. Now it was too late. He had not been able to say *no* to temptation. Instead, he had told a lie three times and left Jesus all alone.

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 33 from the handwork packet showing Jesus praying in the Garden. Have the boys color the figure of Jesus and the leaves. The rest of the page should be blank. Then, with brush and black tempera paint, have them lightly paint the entire paper. The colored areas will resist the paint, while the rest will turn black.

HELPING

Leave sufficient time to clean up today. (Spreading newspapers over the table before painting will save much work afterward. Be sure the boys' shirts are covered well with an apron or old shirt.)

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer.

SEPTEMBER THIRD MEETING

PRAY FOR OTHERS

FOR THE COMMANDER

The macaroni shells which will be used in today's ACTIVITIES session should be sprayed before this meeting so that they will be dry. You may use gold or any other color of your choosing. You will also need glue and glitter and several shades of light-colored construction paper.

WELCOME

Welcome the boys warmly as they arrive.

OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up contest points and *feed the elephants*.

SHARING

Continue your conversation about the boys' new ex-

periences at school.

MUSIC

Sing "Always Take Time to Pray" and "Whisper a Prayer."

MEMORY WORK

Impress on the boys the fact that God wants us to pray for not only our own needs but for others' also. Read James 5:16, "Pray one for another." Repeat the verse together.

PRAYER TIME

Talk about the needs of others for which the boys should pray. Have the boys take part in praying individually for these needs. Encourage them to pray at home, also, for the needs of others.

STORYTIME

A DESTROYED CITY

Genesis 18:1 to 19:29

Many years ago in a faraway land lived a man named Lot. Lot and his family lived in a city called Sodom. The people in Sodom were very, very wicked. They did many things that displeased God.

Not far from Sodom near the city of Hebron lived Lot's uncle, Abraham. Abraham loved God very much. He often prayed at an altar built near his tent home.

One day three heavenly visitors came to see Abraham. They looked like men but two of them were really angels. The third man was the Lord! While they rested under a tree, Abraham brought them something to eat and talked with them. When they were ready to leave, Abraham walked with them down the road.

The Lord told Abraham, "I am very displeased with the people who live in the city of Sodom. They are very wicked. I am going to destroy them."

Abraham thought about his nephew Lot. He knew that Lot lived in Sodom. He didn't want Lot to be destroyed. He knew that even though Lot lived in the wicked city, he was still a good man.

"Will you destroy the whole city?" Abraham asked the Lord. "If there are 50 good men in the city, will you change your mind and not destroy it?"

The Lord answered, "If there are 50 good men in the city, I will not destroy Sodom."

Abraham thought. He did not know if there were fifty good men in that wicked city. Then he asked the Lord, "If there are 45 good men, will you save Sodom for 45 men?"

"Yes," answered the Lord, "I will save the city if there are 45 good men. I will not even destroy the city if there are only 40 good men."

Abraham thought again. He did not know if there were even 40 good men in Sodom. "Please do not be angry with me, Lord," Abraham said, "but will you save the city if there are only 30 good men?"

"If I find 30 good men there, I will not destroy the city," the Lord answered.

Abraham knew that Sodom was a very wicked city. He did not know if there were even 30 good men in the whole city. "Will you destroy the city if there are 20 good men there?" he asked the Lord.

"No," answered the Lord. "If there are 20 good men, I will not destroy Sodom."

Abraham was almost afraid to ask any more, but he said, "Lord, please do not be angry with me. I will not ask any more after this, but if there are only 10 good men in Sodom . . . ?"

"I will not destroy the city if there are 10 good men," the Lord answered.

After Abraham and the Lord had finished talking, Abraham went back to his tent home.

When the Lord went to Sodom, He found that Lot was the only good man in the whole city. He knew that He must destroy the wicked city, but He would not destroy Abraham's nephew, Lot. Before the city was destroyed, two angels helped Lot and his family to escape.

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 34 from the handwork packet. Have them color and mount the figure of the boy on light-colored construction paper. Under the figure print the verse, "Pray one for another" (James 5:16). Spray paint macaroni shells and have the boys glue them around the edges of the paper. Spread and sprinkle glitter on wet glue around the praying boy.

HELPING

Ask the boys to clean up the worktable before leaving. The room should look as neat as when they arrived.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and a song.

SEPTEMBER FOURTH MEETING

ASKING GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

As a special treat today, make cookies in the shape of a lion and bring one or two for each boy. If you have time to decorate them, this will be even nicer. Serve them during the ACTIVITIES period.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, greet them warmly, introducing yourself to any newcomers.

OPENING

After reciting their Scripture verse, motto, and pledge, count up points and *feed the elephants*.

SHARING

Ask the boys to share their new school experiences of the past week. Some leading questions, if you need them, are: "What is your teacher's name? What new things have you learned this week? What do you like best about school?"

Listen carefully to the boys' conversation during this time. It will help you to learn much about them and also give you a chance to guide them in their attitudes in practical matters.

MUSIC

Sing "Always Take Time to Pray." (This week's new song will be taught immediately following the Storytime.) Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Say to the boys, "If you are hungry and you want your mother to give you a cookie, what do you do?" (Answer: Ask her.) "If you break a toy and you want your father to fix it for you, what do you do? (Ask him to fix it.) "Wouldn't it be silly if, when you wanted a cookie, you just sat around and thought, I wish I had a cookie, I wish I had a cookie? Then, finally, you would think, 'My mother didn't give me a cookie. I guess she doesn't want me to have one.' And all the time you didn't even ask for a cookie."

God knows all the time what we are thinking before we even ask, but He wants us to ask Him for the things we need. When Jesus was on earth, He taught the people this—(read from your Bible Matthew 7:7) "Ask, and it shall be given you." (Say the verse together.)

"Does God always give us everything we ask for?" Explain to the boys that sometimes He doesn't give us the thing we ask for because He knows it isn't good for us—just as our parents do not give us everything we ask for. We ask our parents for things we need, knowing they will give them to us if they are good for us. God wants us to do the same with Him. (Repeat the verse again.)

PRAYER TIME

Sing "Whisper a Prayer." Talk about things you need to ask God for today. Have the boys take turns leading out in prayer.

STORYTIME

DANIEL IN THE LIONS' DEN

Daniel 6

Many, many years ago in a faraway land lived a man named Daniel. Daniel loved God very much. Every day he knelt down in his upstairs bedroom three times and prayed to God. He thanked God for helping him and asked God for the things he needed.

God made Daniel very wise. Soon Daniel became the ruler over many people. The king liked Daniel very much. He wanted Daniel to be his best helper.

The other rulers saw that the king liked Daniel better than he liked them. They were very jealous. They wanted to make trouble for him.

Every day they watched Daniel carefully. They wanted to catch him doing something wrong. Then they would report him to the king.

Every day the men saw Daniel kneel down three times and pray to God. As hard as they tried, though, they could not find him doing anything wrong.

Finally the men decided to trick Daniel. They went to the king and said, "Oh, King, all the rulers have met together. We have thought of a new law you should make. For the next 30 days, every person must ask only you for the things he needs. Anyone who asks someone else besides you for anything shall be thrown into the lions' den. You should make this law so that it cannot be changed."

The king liked the idea and made a new law. He liked being the most important person in the whole kingdom. He signed the law, and it was announced the next day to all the people.

Daniel heard the new law, but he did not obey it. He knelt down just as always to ask God for the things he needed.

The wicked rulers were watching in Daniel's window. When they saw him praying to God, they hurried to tell the king.

"Oh, King," they cried. "Didn't you make a new rule that if anyone asked someone else besides you for something he would be thrown into the lions' den?"

"Yes," answered the king, "and I cannot change that law."

"Well, that fellow Daniel is not obeying the rule," they said. "He is asking his God for things three times a day!"

When the king heard that, he was very sorry he had made the new law. He did not want Daniel to be killed. All day the king tried to think of some way to save Daniel.

That evening the wicked rulers came to see the king again. They reminded him that the law could not be changed. He must have Daniel put to death.

Sadly the king ordered Daniel to be taken to the lions' den. He told Daniel, "May the God you worship save you from the lions." Then Daniel was thrown in to the hungry lions and a stone was rolled over the top of the den.

The king went back to his palace. He was very unhappy. He would not eat any food or listen to any music. He did not sleep all night long.

Early the next morning the king hurried to the lions' den. He listened. Then he called, "Daniel! Has your God saved you from the lions?"

The king listened again. From deep down in the lions' den he heard Daniel cry, "Oh, King! My God sent His angel. The angel shut the lions' mouths, and they did not hurt me!"

How happy the king was! He called his servant to pull Daniel out. Then he commanded that the wicked rulers be thrown into the lions' den.

The king wrote letters to all the people in his kingdom. He said, "From now on, everyone shall fear Daniel's God. He is the living God. He has delivered Daniel from the lions."

Teach the song "Daniel Was a Man of Prayer."

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy a picture of a lion to color or paint. (Handwork packet, page 35.)

HELPING

The boys should help return the room to good order.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THEME—STORIES JESUS TOLD

PURPOSE

To explore Biblical truths found in familiar stories Jesus told.

MEMORY VERSES

“All we like sheep have gone astray” (Isaiah 53:6).

“The Lord is my rock . . . in whom I will trust” (Psalm 18:2).

SONGS

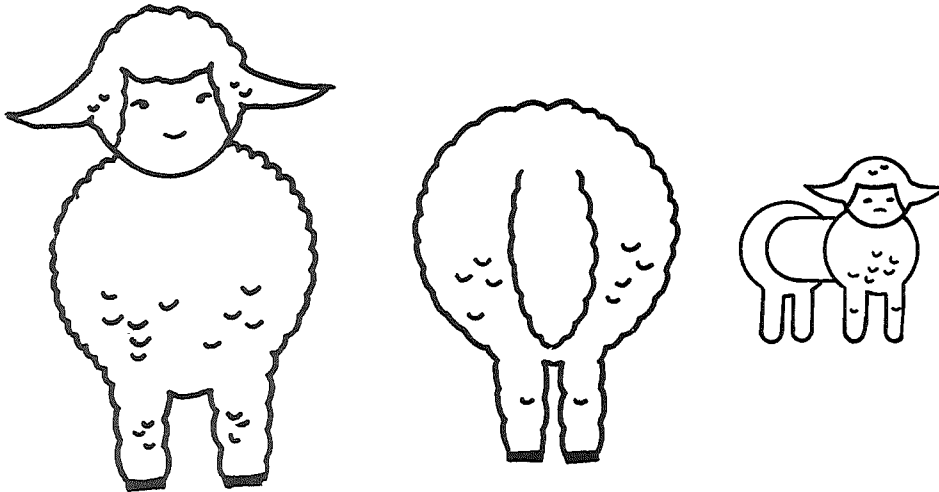
“My Secret” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 4)

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

“The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock” (familiar tune)

“I’m on the Rock” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)

“I’m Going Up, Up, Up” (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)



BULLETIN BOARD

Use the leaf patterns on page 81, cut orange, yellow, and brown leaves. Arrange as a border around the bulletin board. Use letter patterns to cut out the words STORIES JESUS TOLD and center on bulletin board. Page 73.)

**OCTOBER
FIRST MEETING**

THE LOST SHEEP

FOR THE COMMANDER

Explain to the boys that the wool used in clothing comes from sheep. Tell how it is sheared (cut) from the sheep, carded (disentangled), and cleaned so that it can be made into yarn or woven into clothes. If possible, bring to the meeting and display some yarn, woolen cloth, and a woolen sweater or hat. Lamb's wool, which is sold in the drugstore, would make another good display item. (It is used by people with sore feet.)

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander quietly about the room looking at the new room decorations.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Ask the boys if they have noticed the leaves changing color on the trees. Ask what colors they are now. The boys may want to tell about the trees by their homes or on their streets. Explain that God made trees so that their leaves would change color and fall off the trees at this time of year. We call this time *autumn* or *fall*. Point out the leaves on the bulletin board and talk about the beauty of fall leaves.

MUSIC

Sing a few of the boys' favorite songs. Ask the boys if they have ever seen sheep walking in the pasture. Ask what little sheep are called. (Lambs.) Mention that in the Bible we are called sheep and lambs. Jesus is called our Shepherd. (Read Psalm 100:3.) Place the colored picture of the shepherd on the bulletin board. (See page 36 in handwork packet.)

Teach the song about Jesus the Shepherd, called "My Secret."

MEMORY WORK

Sometimes while sheep are feeding in the pasture, one of them wanders away and becomes lost. The shepherd loves and cares for his sheep. When he finds that one sheep is missing, he hunts for the sheep until he finds it. People who do not love Jesus are like the sheep that wander away and become lost. The Bible says, "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus, our Good Shepherd, searches for the lost sheep. He wants to take them to safety. (Repeat the memory verse together.)

PRAYER TIME

Thank Jesus for being the Good Shepherd and caring for us. Tell Him your needs.

STORYTIME

THE LOST SHEEP

Luke 15:1-7; Matthew 18:10-14

There were many shepherds in Palestine when Jesus was there. These shepherds had many sheep. One day Jesus told the people this story.

If a man has 100 sheep and one of them becomes lost, he leaves the other 99 sheep and goes to hunt for the one lost sheep. When he finds the sheep, he takes it in his arms and is very happy.

When the shepherd arrives home, he calls his friends and says, "Come, be happy with me! I have found my sheep that was lost!"

Jesus told the people, "This is how much happiness there is in heaven when one sinner asks God to forgive him and make him a Christian."

How can we keep from becoming lost sheep? Jesus said He is our Shepherd and is leading us. We hear His voice and follow Him. If we cannot hear His voice, maybe we are not paying attention or have wandered too far away to hear Him.

How can we hear Jesus' voice? By listening to God's Word when it is read to us. By listening to the minister preach. By listening to the lesson as it is taught by the Sunday school teacher or commander. Sometimes Jesus speaks quietly to our hearts too. If we are following our Shepherd closely, we will hear Him when He speaks to us.

ACTIVITIES

Have the boys color the picture on page 36 of the handwork packet.

Help the boys make woolly lambs using the following directions.

Materials:

Piece of cotton 2 by 1 inches

1 white pipe cleaner

Use cotton for the body of the sheep. Cut pipe cleaner in half for legs. Twist one piece of pipe cleaner around cotton about three-quarters of an inch from one end to form head and front feet. Twist second piece of pipe cleaner about one quarter of an inch from the opposite end to form tail and back legs. (See sketches.)

If the boys wish to add detail, have them pinch a bit of cotton at each side of the head to form ears (sketched) and roll a little cotton from body between fingers to form a tail.



Let the boys use their lambs to act out the story of the lost lamb.

If there is time, play the following game:

LOST LAMB

As the other boys put their heads and folded arms on the table, closing their eyes, one boy hides his lamb. The other boys then leave their sheep in the pasture (table) and search for the lost lamb. The boy who finds it then hides his lamb for the others to find.

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

Pin the boys' lambs to the bulletin board so that they are following the shepherd. Under each lamb, write a boy's name. Sing "My Secret." Close with prayer.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS

FOR THE COMMANDER

Before today's meeting color and cut out the pictures of Lazarus and the rich man (page 37 in handwork packet). They will be used when telling the Bible story.

WELCOME

Greet the boys warmly as they arrive.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Bring an assortment of dried weeds and flowers to the meeting. Let the boys examine them and name them if possible. Emphasize the beauty of God's wonders.

MUSIC

Draw the boys' attention to the sheep on the bulletin board. Sing "My Secret." Tell the boys that Jesus says in His Word He is the door for the sheep. (Read John 10:9.) Explain that this means we can be saved only by coming to Jesus. Teach "One Door, and Only One."

MEMORY WORK

Review, "All we like sheep have gone astray" (Isaiah 53:6). Remind the boys that Jesus, the Good Shepherd, looks for the sheep to take them to safety.

PRAYER TIME

Now is a good time to ask if all your boys have accepted Jesus into their hearts. If some have not, encourage them to ask Jesus (the Good Shepherd) to forgive their sins and come into their hearts. Lead them in prayer.

STORYTIME

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS Luke 16:19-31

One day Jesus was talking to the people. He told them this story.

(Put picture of Lazarus on bulletin board.) There was once a poor beggar named Lazarus. He was very sick. Terrible sores were all over his body. He had to beg for food from others.

(Place picture of rich man beside Lazarus.) Every day Lazarus lay by the gates of a very rich man. This man wore beautiful, expensive clothes. He ate the best kind of food. He had many servants to do all his work. But the rich man did not want to help poor Lazarus.

Finally Lazarus became so sick that he died. Lazarus loved God, and the angels carried him to heaven. In heaven he was not sick anymore. He did not have to beg.

One day the rich man became sick and died too. His friends were very sad. They buried him in a new cave and mourned for him. The rich man did not love God. The angels did not carry him to heaven like they did Lazarus. Instead, he was taken to hell. There he was in great pain.

The rich man looked up. Far, far away in heaven he saw Lazarus. Lazarus was with Abraham. He looked well and happy.

"Abraham!" cried the rich man. "Send Lazarus to dip

his finger in some water and cool my tongue! I am in pain!"

Abraham answered, "Remember all the good things you had when Lazarus had nothing? Now Lazarus is enjoying it here while you are in pain. Besides, there is a deep hole between us so that no one can cross over from here to you or from where you are to here."

The rich man remembered that he had five brothers who were still alive. He did not want them to go to the place where he was.

"Abraham," he cried again. "Send Lazarus to my father's house and let him warn my five brothers so that they will not come to this place of pain."

Abraham called, "Your brothers can read in God's Word what was written by Moses and the prophets. This will warn them."

"That is not enough," answered the rich man. "But if someone who was dead were to come alive again and go to them, then they would listen and be sorry for their sins."

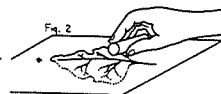
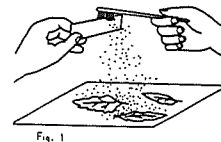
"No," said Abraham. "If they will not pay attention to the words in God's book, they would not pay attention to someone who died and came to life again."

ACTIVITIES

Give the boys page 37 from the handwork packet so they can color and cut out the figures of Lazarus and the rich man. If time allows, use one or more of the following projects.

Spatter Print

Gather some interesting leaves. Press them overnight in a book or magazine. When pressed, place them on white paper. Dip an old toothbrush in some colored paint. Shake the excess off. Slide a cardboard strip about 2 by 5 inches along this toothbrush as in figure 1. This will cause the paint to spatter all around the leaves. When the paint is dry, remove the leaves. You will have a pretty group of plain colored leaves against a spattered background. (Figure 1.)



Blue Print

Place a leaf on blue paper. Put in the strong sun for a day. Remove the leaf and you will have a leaf print.

Leaf Rubbing

Place a leaf, vein side up, on a table. Over this place a thin piece of paper about the weight of newspaper. Crayon over the leaf with the side of a crayon. Be sure to crayon the same direction each time. Move the leaf around and crayon over it until you have patterned paper that can be used for wrapping gifts. (Figure 2.)

HELPING

Make sure there is time to clean up.

GOOD-BYE

Sing again "One Door, and Only One." Ask, "Who is the door?" Close with prayer.

THE TWO HOUSES

FOR THE COMMANDER

For today's story, you will need two sheet-cake pans. In one, place a large rock. Fill the other with 1 to 2 inches of dirt or sand.

Following the pattern shown, (page 38 in handwork packet) construct two paper houses, cutting on solid lines and folding on dotted lines. Place one house on the rock (securing with tape or glue) and place the other house on the sand. Use during Bible story. Bring another rock to use when telling story.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room looking at the bulletin board, etc.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Talk about the change in weather—the shorter and colder days. Depending upon the climate in your area, explain how the weather will continue changing. Let the boys express their feelings about the fall season. Help them to appreciate its beauty.

MUSIC

Sing two or three of the boys' favorite songs, reviewing also the songs learned this month. Today's new song will be introduced following the STORYTIME.

MEMORY WORK

Say to the boys, "Two weeks ago we learned that Jesus is our *Good Shepherd*. Last week we learned that He is the *door*. Today we will learn another name that Jesus is called."

Read from your Bible: "The Lord is my *rock* . . . in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2).

Continue with, "Why is Jesus called a *shepherd*?" (Because He leads us and cares for us.) "Why is He called the *door*?" (Because He is the way to heaven.) "Why is He called a *rock*?" (Hold up a rock and let the boys look at it.) "A rock is strong. Many things can hit against the rock, but the rock will not break. A rock always stays the same. Summer or winter, hot or cold, the rock always looks the same. A rock is hard to move. Have you ever seen a rock as big as a house? Nothing can push that rock out of the way. A rock protects. High in the mountains, birds build their nests in holes in the rocks. The rocks protect them from the rain and wind."

"Jesus is strong, too. He is always the same. Nothing can move Him away from us. He protects us if we stay close to Him."

Read the verse again. Have the boys repeat it with you.

PRAYER TIME

Thank the Lord for His care and protection. Present your needs.

STORYTIME

THE TWO HOUSES

Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:24-27

Many people gathered to hear Jesus teach about God. He told them this story.

"Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain poured down, and the rivers flooded over. (Pour water from a pitcher into the cake pan with the rock.) The winds blew hard against the rock. (Blow on house and rock.) But the house did not fall because it was built strong on the rock."

Then Jesus said, "Everyone who hears my words and does *not* obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain poured down and the rivers flooded. (Pour water onto sand, creating a flood.) The winds blew hard against the house. (Blow on damp house.) And it fell! What a terrible crash that was!"

MUSIC

Teach "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock." You may also want to sing "I Am on the Rock."

ACTIVITIES

Following directions for finger painting, * let the boys create scenes depicting the house on the rock and the house on the sand. Place one or more on your bulletin board. If time permits, give the boys page 38 from the handwork packet to make a house.

* FINGER PAINTING

To Make Paint—

Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup cornstarch with 3 tablespoons of sugar. Add 2 cups of cold water, and place over a low flame. Stir constantly until the mixture is smooth. To color, blend vegetable coloring to different portions of the mixture.

To Paint—

Spread newspapers over a large table. Dip glossy paper (shelf paper is excellent) into water and let excess water drain off. Place moistened paper onto table with the glossy side up, and smooth away wrinkles. Drip a teaspoon of paint onto the paper. Using your hand, spread paint over the entire surface with a circular movement. If the paint becomes hard, add a little water.

Techniques

1. Use side of the hand for long, sweeping lines.
2. Make fine lines with fingernails or a pencil, fork, etc.
3. Swirl with fingertips for small flowers, berries, etc.
4. Use side of your fist to pat paint for a stippled effect.
5. Pat with your index finger to make bunches of leaves.

To Blend—

Place various colors onto the paper, one below the other, and smooth by lightly passing your hand over them. Do not rub colors into each other.

To finish—

Lift paper by two top corners and place onto newspaper to dry (about 1 hour). If the paper wrinkles, press with a warm iron. To preserve the colors, apply a coat of clear shellac after paper is glued onto article. To clean hands and table, remove paint with a wet sponge.

HELPING

Allow time for cleanup today.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THE TEN YOUNG WOMEN

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since this is your last meeting of the month, you may wish to decorate your room accordingly and serve refreshments at the end of the meeting.

For today's lesson cut out the two lamps, one with fire and the other without. See handwork packet, page 39.

WELCOME

Harvest festival decorations will catch the boys' attention as they arrive.

OPENING

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

SHARING

The boys will be excited about their harvest festival party and plans. The topic of conversation should be guided in the area of fall harvest and festival.

MUSIC

Review songs learned this month. Save new song for after STORYTIME.

MEMORY WORK

Show the rock used in last week's lesson. Ask, "Does this remind you of a verse in the Bible?" Help the boys recite the verse learned last week.

PRAYER TIME

Lead in prayer for current needs and thanksgiving for many blessings.

STORYTIME

THE TEN YOUNG WOMEN Matthew 25:1-13

Many years ago, when Jesus was on earth, there were no electric lights like we have now. There were no flashlights, either. There were not even kerosene lanterns like we use when we go camping.

(Show lamp with fire.) People used oil lamps like this to light their way in the dark. As long as there was oil in the lamp, the fire would burn brightly.

One day Jesus told this story to His disciples.

Ten young women were invited to a friend's wedding. They all started out together to meet the wedding party. Since it was night, they took their lamps for light. Five of the girls were wise; they took along extra oil for their lamps. Five of the girls were foolish; they did not take any extra oil.

The girls waited and waited for the wedding party to come so they could go in to the wedding feast. Soon they become tired and fell asleep.

At midnight the girls awoke suddenly. Someone shouted, "Here is the bridegroom! Go out and meet him!"

The girls got up quickly. They began preparing their lamps so that they would be ready to join the wedding party. (Show lamp without fire.) Then foolish five discovered their oil was almost gone.

"What shall we do?" they cried. "Please lend us some of your oil," they said to the five wise girls.

"No. If we lend you ours, we will not have enough for ourselves," the wise girls answered. "Go and buy yourselves some oil."

The five foolish girls hurried to buy more oil. While they were gone, the bridegroom came, the five wise girls went with him to the wedding feast, and the door was closed. No one else could go in.

Later the five foolish girls came back. They saw that the door was shut. "Let us in! Let us in!" they shouted as they pounded on the door.

But the bridegroom would not let them in. They had arrived too late.

Jesus told this story to teach us that we must always be ready for His coming. When Jesus left this earth, He said that some day He would come back again and take all those who obey Him to live in heaven forever. We do not know when Jesus is coming back to earth. We must stay ready all the time by obeying Him every day. Then we will be like the five wise girls who were ready when the bridegroom came.

(Place two lamps on bulletin board.)

MUSIC

Teach, "I'm Going Up, Up, Up."

ACTIVITIES

Follow directions given for soapsuds painting and let the boys fashion jack-o'-lanterns on large heavy paper. If there is time they may color the two lamps on page 39 of the handwork packet.

SOAPSUDS PAINTING

½ cup of dry detergent, or a capful of liquid detergent
2 tablespoons of liquid starch
brown wrapping paper
poster paints or food coloring
an egg beater
a mixing bowl
an old newspaper
a spoon

Beat the detergent and the liquid starch with an egg beater in a mixing bowl. When it is like thick marshmallow frosting, you have beaten it enough. Now you have enough soapsuds for painting three or four pictures.

If you want soapsuds of several different colors, put the mixture into different jars. Then add just a few drops of color to the different jars and stir.

Put down a newspaper to work on.

Dip the colored soapsuds from the jar with your fingers and paint on some brown wrapping paper. If you want a darker color, add more coloring until you get the shade you want.

If the soapsuds thicken too much to paint with easily, add a little more starch when you are painting and beat it into the mixture with a spoon.

When you have finished your picture, let it dry lying flat on the newspaper before you show it.

HELPING

Allow time for cleanup.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

THEME—WE ARE THANKFUL

PURPOSE

To teach the boys to remember to thank God and others.
To impress the boys with the importance of praise.

MEMORY VERSES

"It is a good thing to give thanks . . ." (Psalm 92:1).
"Be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4).

SONGS

"All for Jesus" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
"Oh Be Careful" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 2)
"Hallelujah" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
"The Birds Upon the Treetops" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
"Praise Him, Praise Him" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

BULLETIN BOARD

Using letter patterns (page 73) cut out the words WE ARE THANKFUL and attach them to a background of tan or brown paper. Pin on the pictures selected by the boys during the first meeting.

If it is impossible to have a bulletin board display, paste your scene on a large piece of rolled paper (butcher paper or unprinted newspaper—available from newspaper offices). Tape to wall and roll up after each meeting.



FIRST MEETING

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR GOD'S CARE

FOR THE COMMANDER

If you plan to use the game suggested in the ACTIVITIES section you should bring all of the things needed to play the game. Keep the items out of sight until you are ready for the game. You will also need blunt scissors and old magazines for the boys to use.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room looking at the Thanksgiving decorations you have provided. Decorations in a room are very important to the 5- and 6-year-old boy. They provide warmth and a sense of belonging. Decorations should, if possible, be things the boys can touch or handle.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Ask: "Have you ever cut your finger or stubbed your toe? Did it hurt? How long did it hurt—one day? two days? a week? a month? God made our bodies so that when we hurt them they will get better."

Show the boys a scar or a place where you were hurt. Explain that is all better now. The skin grew back, and it doesn't hurt anymore.

"If we break a glass or cut some paper it will always stay broken or cut unless we can glue it back together. Wouldn't it be terrible if our cuts and sores would never, never get better? God cares for us and helps our bodies to stay well."

The boys will probably want to show their scars, cuts, or bruises. Show interest and express thankfulness to God for making them better. You may wish to pray for recent cuts, scrapes, or sicknesses.

MUSIC

Show the picture of the boy jumping rope (page 40 in the handwork packet). Talk about how nice he looks and what fun he is having. Ask, "What is the matter? He doesn't have any eyes? Why does he need eyes? Oh, so he can see! We will have to give him some eyes." (Draw eyes.) "Does he need anything else?" (Continue until eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and hands are all added.) Express thanks for these things God has given us.

Sing "All for Jesus" and "Oh Be Careful." You may wish to omit verses four and five in the last song and add: "Oh be careful little mouth what you say . . ." and "Oh be careful little feet where you go . . ." Some versions of this song omit the other wording and read, "There's a Father up above, looking down in tender love" through all verses.

PRAYER TIME

Thank God for the wonderful bodies He has given us and for His care.

MEMORY WORK

Read from the Bible, "Be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (Psalm 100:4). Ask the boys to repeat this with you. Make clear the identity of the pronouns *him* and *his*.

STORYTIME

THE FIRST MAN Genesis 1

When God made the first man, Adam, He wanted him to be very happy. God gave Adam eyes so he could see. In the beautiful garden home God made for Adam there were many lovely things. What do you think Adam saw? (Let the boys guess: trees, flowers, animals, birds, grass, etc.) What color were the trees? the flowers? and so on.

God also made many things for Adam to feel. He felt the warmth of the sunshine. Have you ever felt the sun shining on your skin and making it warm? He felt the cool water. He felt the soft grass.

There were many delicious things for Adam to taste too. God made many good things grow in Adam's garden home. He makes many good things grow for us to eat too. What is your favorite taste? (Let the boys each name one.)

As Adam walked about in his beautiful garden home,

he could smell many wonderful things. He could smell the flowers. He could smell the clean, fresh air. He could smell the trees. Have you ever smelled the pine trees in the mountains? He could smell the ripe fruit hanging on the trees.

There were many interesting things for Adam to hear in his garden home. What do you think Adam heard—cars? motors? No. He heard the birds chirping and singing. He heard many animals. (Name some and make their sounds.) He also heard God. Every day God came to Adam's garden home and talked with him.

God loved Adam very much. He loves us very much too. He has made many wonderful things for us to see, smell, taste, hear, and feel.

ACTIVITIES

Give each boy page 40 from his handwork packet. Have him fill in the missing features and color.

"We call *seeing*, *feeling*, *tasting*, *smelling*, and *hearing* our *five senses*. Let's play a game with our five senses!"

1. SEEING. Choose one boy to be "it." He will go to the front of the room and say, "I see something that is . . ." (color, size, and so on). The boy who guesses what he sees becomes "it."

2. FEELING. Blindfold each boy. Pass around several objects, one at a time. (Have some soft, some hard, some round, some square, etc.) After all the boys have felt the object, let them guess what it was. Then pass around the next object.

3. TASTE. Cut several foods into bite-size pieces. With toothpicks, give the blindfolded boys samples, one type at a time. Let them guess, as before, what they are tasting.

4. SMELL. With their blindfolds still on, have the boys smell several objects, one at a time. Let them guess what they have smelled.

5. HEARING. Make several noises for the blindfolded boys. Let them guess what they are hearing. (Turn pages, file fingernails, tear paper, snap fingers, etc.) If there is time, play the following game:

The boys stand and form a circle, with one blindfolded and standing in the center. One tiptoes to the blindfolded child, touches him, and stands still and quiet. "It" says, "Gobble, turkey, gobble," to which the other must answer, "Gobble, gobble." The blindfolded child then tries to guess who the other one is. He may ask three times for the turkey to gobble. After that, succeed or fail, his time is up, and the other child gets a turn to be "it."

Provide old magazines and blunt scissors for the boys and ask them to cut out pictures of things for which they are thankful, pasting them to the bulletin board with the theme WE ARE THANKFUL.

HELPING

Assign duties to each boy to help in cleaning up.

GOOD-BYE

Sing "Oh Be Careful" again. Close with prayer.

NOVEMBER

SECOND MEETING

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR FOOD TO EAT

FOR THE COMMANDER

For interest, you may have several magazine cutouts of food arranged about the room.

If you plan to follow the suggestion in the ACTIVITIES section today, be sure to bring along the items you

will need.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, have them walk around your meeting room looking at the pictures of food arrangements.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Pass around a plate of small candies or cookies. Talk about the foods pictured in the cutouts you have arranged. Encourage the boys to talk about their favorite foods. Mention the fact that in many lands—and even in America—many people do not have enough food to eat. Their stomachs hurt because they are hungry. We should thank God that we have food to eat. Ask the boys if they remember to thank God for their food before they eat.

MUSIC

Sing “Hallelujah” and “The Birds Upon the Treetops.”

MEMORY WORK

Read the verse from your Bible again, “Be thankful unto him, and bless his name” (Psalm 100:4). Ask volunteers to quote the verse.

PRAYER TIME

Explain that you are going to do as the verse says and thank God at this time. Lead the boys in a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

STORYTIME

WHEN GOD SENT MANNA Exodus 16:1-18, 31

Tramp, tramp, tramp! The Israelites walked on and on through the desert. They looked ahead of them. All they could see was desert—dry, bare land. They looked to their right—desert. They looked to their left—desert. There were no trees or gardens anywhere.

The people became sad. They remembered the good food they had eaten when they were slaves in Egypt. They

forgot how mean the king had been to them there. They forgot how hard he had made them work. They forgot how God had set them free from the cruel king. They forgot how He had opened the waters of the sea so that they could walk through on dry land. All they could think about was food.

“We wish we were back in Egypt where we had plenty to eat,” they grumbled. “We are going to die of hunger in this desert.”

Then God said, “I will send you food. I will send bread from heaven like rain. You will have plenty to eat. Then you will know that I love you and am taking care of you.”

The next morning the people looked outside. The ground was covered with little white things. The people picked them up. They tasted them. Yum! They tasted good! “We will call them manna,” they said.

Every morning after that God sent the bread from heaven. Every morning the people gathered it. Sometimes they ate it plain. Sometimes they ground it and baked it into cakes.

The people were not hungry anymore. God was taking care of them.

ACTIVITIES

Place a large tablecloth on the floor. Have the boys pretend they are asleep. (If you have a rug, they might lie down on it.) While their eyes are closed, sprinkle oyster crackers (or small wafers) on the tablecloth. Tell the boys to “wake up.” Let them gather the *pretend manna* and eat it. (You might provide small glasses of Kool-Aid to go with it.)

Give the boys page 41 from their handwork packets and let them color it.

HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to each boy.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a song and prayer of thanksgiving.

NOVEMBER

THIRD MEETING

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

FOR THE COMMANDER

A Thanksgiving centerpiece or decoration that you can make cheaply or bring from home will add warmth and interest to your room.

The boys would enjoy pumpkin pie or cookies after hearing the story about Thanksgiving.

WELCOME

Open a conversation about being thankful as the boys arrive.

SHARING

You might open this time by talking about Thanksgiving Day and asking the boys about their plans for the holiday.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing “Hallelujah” and “The Birds Upon the Treetops.”

MEMORY WORK

Read Psalm 100:4, “Be thankful unto him, and bless his name.” Point to each word as you say it. (Many of the boys will not be able to read.) Have the boys *read* the verse two or three times. Explain that God wants us to praise Him. (Praise means to thank God.) Thanking Him makes Him happy and pleased.

PRAYER TIME

Discuss things for which we can thank God—home, family, clothes, church, etc. During your prayer, thank God for these things. If any of the boys would like to lead out in prayer and thank God for something, this would be good. You may then want to take prayer requests and pray for these.

STORYTIME

THE FIRST THANKSGIVING

Many years ago, people called the Pilgrims came to America. It was a strange and new land to them and much different from the land where they had lived before. There were no houses or roads or stores.

The people began building houses out of logs from trees they cut down in the forest. When they were hungry, they could not go to the store and buy food. There were no stores! The Pilgrims had to get their food by planting seeds in the ground and waiting for them to grow and by killing wild birds and animals. Often they were very hungry and cold.

They were very happy to be in the new land, though. They had not been happy in the land where they had come from because they could not worship God like they wanted to. Now they could build a church and worship God all they wanted.

When the Pilgrims first arrived in America, they planted seeds in the ground. They waited a long time for them to grow. Finally the food was ready to harvest. God had helped the seeds to grow into tall and healthy plants so that the Pilgrims would have enough food to last all year.

How thankful the Pilgrims were! They planned a special day for giving thanks to God. To celebrate they had a big dinner of the food that they found in their new land.

For part of their dinner, the Pilgrim fathers killed fat funny-looking birds that made a "gobble-gobble" noise.

They were the first Thanksgiving Day turkeys. (Hold up picture of turkey from handwork packet, page 43.)

For dessert, the Pilgrim mothers made a pudding out of pumpkins. Those puddings were the first Thanksgiving Day pumpkin "pies." (Hold up picture of pumpkin from handwork packet, page 44.)

The children helped too, by carrying food to the tables outside and turning the roasts that cooked over the open fires.

More than 80 friendly Indians came to the feast. They brought wild turkey and deer meat.

When the feast was ready, all the people sat around the tables like one big family. They sang songs and thanked God for their new land.

ACTIVITIES

Give boys pages 42, 43, and 44 from the handwork packet. They may color pictures of turkeys and/or pumpkin and/or Pilgrims.

HELPING

Assign duties to the boys such as putting away crayons, picking up scraps of paper from the floor, cleaning the table, etc.

GOOD-BYE

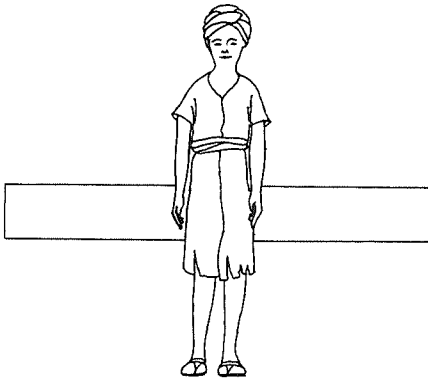
Close with prayer. Wish the boys "Happy Thanksgiving."

NOVEMBER FOURTH MEETING

WE ARE THANKFUL FOR HEALING

FOR THE COMMANDER

Make finger puppets from pattern below. Attach one to each finger. Color and cut out pictures of Jesus and healed man. (Use when telling today's story.) Stand figure of Jesus by cutting a slit in an empty spool of thread and inserting figure. (Refer to handwork packet page 45.)



WELCOME

Welcome the boys as they arrive. Show them where to hang their coats.

SHARING

The boys will be eager to share stories of their Thanksgiving holidays. Help the boys to feel thankful for Thanksgiving dinner, automobiles (used to travel over holidays), Grandma and Grandpa, etc. If any of the boys were underprivileged in any of these areas, be careful not to emphasize that area excessively.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing these songs together, "Praise Him, Praise Him," and "Hallelujah."

MEMORY WORK

Review Psalm 100:4 together. Make sure the meaning of the verse is clear. Teach the boys Psalm 92:1, "It is a good thing to give thanks. . . ."

PRAYER TIME

Explain to the boys that it is now time to give thanks. Lead them in a prayer of thanksgiving. Thank God for the things discussed in your SHARING time. Allow time for prayer requests. Pray for these.

STORYTIME

A MAN SAYS THANK YOU

Luke 17:11-19

(Put fingers up one by one as you count.)

One — two — three — four — five — six — seven — eight — nine — ten men were standing together in a field outside a village. They had a terrible sickness called leprosy. Because of their sickness they could not live at home with their wives or children or go close to any other people. Anyone who came too close to them might catch the sickness too.

Sometimes people would bring food to a certain place for them. After the people left, the sick men could go and get the food and eat it. They often wished that they could someday be with their families and friends again. But leprosy was a sickness from which people never got better.

One day the men heard that Jesus was coming down the road close to the place where they lived. They had heard that Jesus had healed many people from terrible sicknesses and that he had made blind people see and deaf people hear.

The sick men became very excited! (Move fingers about.) "Let's go see Jesus," they said. "Maybe he will help us."

The men could not walk very fast because of their sickness, but they hurried as fast as they could toward the road where Jesus and his friends were walking. (Fingers approach figure of Jesus and stop a distance away.) Being careful not to come near the people, they stood far off and called, "Jesus! Will you please make us well?"

Jesus looked at the men. He felt sorry for them.

"Go see your ministers," He said.

As the men turned to go, they were made well. How happy they were! Now they could go back to the village and live with their wives and children.

The men forgot about Jesus. They began running to the village to tell what had happened to them. Suddenly one of the men stopped running. He had forgotten to thank Jesus. (Take nine puppets off fingers and bring one puppet back to Jesus. Then exchange him for large *sick man* figure and have him go through actions of story.) He turned around and ran back to Jesus and fell on his face before Jesus thanking Him.

"Thank You! Thank You for making me well," he said.

Jesus smiled. He was glad the man remembered to say "Thank You."

ACTIVITIES

Provide paper and crayons and ask the boys to draw pictures of something for which they are thankful. Give them some ideas. Paste them to the paper on which you have printed "We thank God for. . . ." These pictures may be pinned to the bulletin board scene.

If time permits, pass out copies of the picture of the healed man and Jesus. Ask the boys to color the pictures and take them home. (Handwork packet page 45.)

HELPING

Assign duties to the boys: cleaning up crayons, paste, etc.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a prayer that Jesus will help us to remember to be thankful. Discuss circumstances in which we should be thankful. (Example: Thank mother for preparing meals; thank father for providing clothing; etc.) When we are happy inside, we should bow our heads and say, "Thank You."

DECEMBER

THEME—GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

PURPOSE

To instill in the boys' minds the fact that Christmas is Jesus' birthday.
To teach the boys the joy of giving.
To help the boys to be thankful that God sent His Son to earth.

MEMORY VERSE

"God . . . loved us and sent his Son . . ." (1 John 4:10).

SONGS

"Away in a Manger" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)
"For God So Loved the World" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 3)
"Silent Night" (In most hymnals)
"I Was Glad" (*Salvation Songs for Children*, Number 1)

BULLETIN BOARD

Christmas scenes and greenery will make an attractive border for this month's theme. Inside the border place pretty Christmas pictures from magazines or used greeting cards.



DECEMBER FIRST MEETING

GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

FOR THE COMMANDER

Decorate your room to create a Christmas atmosphere. Provide Christmas scents: pine branches or tree, holly, a candle, etc. On a table set an empty stable. The people and animals will be added each week as the story is told. Play Christmas music softly in the background (record or tape) as the boys arrive.

WELCOME

Let the boys move around room to look at decorations.

SHARING

Open conversation by commenting about the Christmas decorations now up in stores, streets, and homes.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Along with your regular songs, begin singing Christmas carols. Be sure to sing "Away in a Manger." If possible sing along with a children's record. Sing "For God So Loved the World."

MEMORY WORK

In large letters, print the memory verse on the blackboard. "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). Read the verse with the boys. Discuss the meaning of the verse—*why* God sent His Son, etc. Repeat it together.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in thanking God for sending His Son. Pray for current requests.

STORYTIME

A BABY IS BORN

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-7

Many, many years ago in a faraway land, there lived a woman named Mary and her husband Joseph. They lived in a town called Nazareth.

One day an angel came to Mary and Joseph. He told them a wonderful secret. He said that God was going to give them a baby boy. The baby boy was to be God's own Son. They would name Him Jesus. God knew that Mary and Joseph would take very good care of Jesus as He grew up.

Mary and Joseph were very happy. They were anxious for the baby to arrive.

One day Joseph came home with a special message from the governor. "We must go to Bethlehem to be counted," he said. "Everyone will go to be counted."

The next day Mary worked very hard packing clothes and preparing food for the long trip. Soon they were ready to go.

All day Mary and Joseph traveled. Mary rode on a little donkey while Joseph walked beside her. At night they stopped and found a place to rest. All the next day they traveled again. They traveled for many days. Many other people traveled on the road with them.

Finally they arrived in Bethlehem. How happy they were to finish the long trip. They were very tired.

Joseph knocked on the door of an inn (hotel). Knock! Knock! Knock! The innkeeper came to the door.

"May we have a room to sleep in?" asked Joseph. "We are very tired. We have traveled a long way."

The innkeeper shook his head. "I'm sorry," he said. "There are many people visiting in Bethlehem now, and I have no more empty rooms." Then the innkeeper looked at Mary and saw how tired she was.

"You can sleep on the soft hay in my stable," he said. "The cows and sheep and donkeys are there, but they will not bother you."

(Put figures of Mary and Joseph in stable.) Mary and Joseph were very glad to have somewhere to rest. The soft hay felt good, and the animals were very friendly.

That night a very wonderful thing happened. God sent His Son to be born in the stable. Mary wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in the soft hay in the manger. (Lay Baby Jesus in manger. Put Mary and Joseph next to manger.)

Mary and Joseph were very happy. They called the baby *Jesus*. How glad they were that God sent Jesus to be their baby.

ACTIVITIES

Instruct the boys to color the picture of Baby Jesus in the manger (page 46 in the handwork packet). For variety they may glue strips of yellow yarn on the picture for hay and a piece of soft cloth for the blanket. Repeat the memory verse together.

The boys may begin to work on their Christmas gifts. See page 82, "Christmas Gifts to Make."

HELPING

Assign each boy a part in cleaning up.

GOOD-BYE

Holding their mangers, the boys might sing "Away in a Manger" again. Encourage the boys to tell parts of the story and, perhaps, act out the part where Mary and Joseph look for a room and find the stable.

Close with a prayer of thankfulness that God sent Jesus to be born on earth.

DECEMBER SECOND MEETING

GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

FOR THE COMMANDER

It would be nice to serve Christmas cookies with punch or Kool-Aid at the conclusion of today's meeting. Perhaps the mothers of your boys would be willing to furnish this special treat.

WELCOME

With Christmas music in the background, greet the boys warmly. They may want to look around the room and examine the manger scene. Talk with them about Jesus being born in the stable.

SHARING

The boys will probably be bursting with the excitement of Christmas. They may talk of "what they want for Christmas." Teach them that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Lead them in the thoughts of what they can give, whether in material gifts or gifts of love and service.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Sing the first verse and chorus of "Silent Night." Repeat "Away in a Manger." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Repeat the verse together: "God . . . loved us and sent

his Son" (1 John 4:10). Ask the boys to relate details of how He sent His Son. Explain that God's Son was His gift to the world.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks for God's gift. Pray for current needs.

STORYTIME

THE ANGELS' SONG Luke 2:8-20

(On a table away from the manger scene, place figures of shepherds and sheep.) On the night that Jesus was born, in a field close to the little town of Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep.

They had to stay by their sheep all during the night so that no wild animals would come and hurt the sheep.

Everything was very quiet. The sheep were all curled up asleep. Some of the shepherds were asleep. Others were sitting by the fire talking quietly and watching the sheep.

Suddenly the whole sky around them became bright. An angel stood beside them. (Put figure of angel beside them.) The shepherds were very frightened.

Then the angel spoke. "Do not be afraid. I bring you wonderful news that will make the whole world happy.

"Tonight, in the town of Bethlehem, a baby was born. He is God's Son. Go and see Him. He is wrapped in a blanket and is lying in a manger."

Suddenly the whole sky was filled with angels. They were all singing, "Glory to God in the highest. Peace on earth for all those pleasing Him."

Suddenly the angels were gone. (Take away angel.)

The shepherds looked at each other in surprise. Then they said, "Come on. Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this wonderful thing that has happened." (Carry shepherd figures to table with manger scene. Have them look about for stable. Then place them in the stable.)

They went to Bethlehem and found the stable where Mary and Joseph were staying. There they saw Baby Jesus sleeping in the soft hay in the manger.

"What a beautiful baby," they said.

After the shepherds left, they told everyone about Baby Jesus. They told them that God had sent His Son to the earth.

The shepherds were very happy. They were glad that God had sent His angels to tell them about His Son.

"Thank You, God," they said. "Thank You for letting us see Him."

ACTIVITIES

If there is time, the boys may make an angel and a lamb. (Handwork packet, page 47.) Instructions are included with patterns.

Continue working on your Christmas decorations and gifts.

HELPING

Assign the boys duties in cleaning up.

GOOD-BYE

Let the boys "playact" the story of the shepherds and angels. Assign different characters to the boys: angels, shepherds, sheep, etc. You might play a record of the song "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" and have the boys act it out with the music.

DECEMBER THIRD MEETING

GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

FOR THE COMMANDER

Since the theme today is gifts, you may want to give an inexpensive gift to each boy. Or ask each one to bring a small gift to be exchanged at the end of the meeting.

Make sure you have everything needed to make the ice-cream-cone wise men.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, have the music to "We Three Kings" playing in the background.

SHARING

Talk about the boys' plans for Christmas. Discuss ways in which they can help their mothers during the holidays.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Repeat the Christmas carols the boys have been learning. You may wish to sing along with a children's Christmas record.

MEMORY WORK

Ask the boys to repeat together the memory verse: "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). By this time they should know the verse quite well.

PRAYER TIME

Lead the boys in a prayer of thanks to God for the many gifts He has given us.

WISE MEN BRING GIFTS Matthew 2:1-12

In a country far from Bethlehem there lived three men who liked to study stars. They knew the names of many stars and where they were in the sky. People called them Wise Men.

One night, as they were looking up into the sky, they saw a new star. It was very bright. They had never seen it before.

The Wise Men were very excited. They said to each other, "The new bright star must mean that a king has been born."

"Let's go find the king," they said.

The Wise Men hurried and packed their clothes and food. They also packed some shiny bottles of perfume and spices. They were called gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They were presents for the new king.

Then the Wise Men climbed onto their camels and began their long, long trip. The Wise Men traveled for many days, weeks, and months across the hot dusty desert following the star. Finally, they arrived in the country where Jesus was born.

The Wise Men rode their camels to the palace where King Herod lived. They asked him, "Where is the new king that was born? We have seen his star in far-off eastern lands. We have come to worship him."

The king did not know that Baby Jesus had been born. He called his men who studied the Bible scrolls.

"The new king is in Bethlehem," they said. "Many years ago the man who wrote the Bible scrolls said that the new king would be born in Bethlehem."

The Wise Men got on their camels. They traveled to Bethlehem. There they found Baby Jesus living in a house with Mary and Joseph, his parents.

How happy they were! They gave the presents to Jesus and worshiped Him.

They were thankful God had shown them the star so that they could see Jesus.

ACTIVITIES

Teach the following rhyme and finger play to the boys:

(Walk finger on arm.)

Wise Men traveled from afar,

(Put hand above eyes and look up.)

Following the eastern star.

(Hold out hands like they have presents in them.)

"Gold, frankincense, and myrrh we bring,

(Box, holding out "presents")

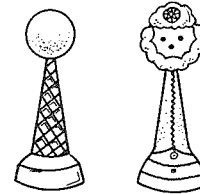
We will give them to the King."

ICE-CREAM-CONE WISE MEN

Needed:

- Ice-cream cone (colored)
- Rickrack or braid trim
- 1-inch styrofoam ball
- Sequins
- Cotton
- Scraps of material (If colored cones are not available, spray paint regular cones.)

With a sharp instrument, make a small hole in the styrofoam ball so that it will fit onto sharp end of cone. Glue. Decorate cones with rickrack or braid and sequins. With scraps make fancy hats and glue to top of ball. Glue on sequins for facial features and cotton for beard. Finish Christmas presents.



HELPING

Assign cleanup duties to the boys.

GOOD-BYE

Say the finger play together again. Ask the boys to retell parts of the story. Play a recording of the song "We Three Kings." The boys may attempt to sing along with the record.

DECEMBER FOURTH MEETING

GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD

FOR THE COMMANDER

Bring an assortment of colored yarn and pencils to use when working on the sewing cards. You may wish to award a candy bar to the boy doing the neatest and best work.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, welcome them warmly. They will each want to tell you what they received for Christmas, where they went, etc.

SHARING

Let the boys share their Christmas experiences.

OPENING

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

MUSIC

Teach the boys "I Was Glad." Sing other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

Have the boys repeat the memory verse together. "God . . . loved us and sent his Son" (1 John 4:10). On an 8½- by 11-inch paper, print (large letters) the memory verse. (Make one for each boy.) Coat the back with the following sticker mixture: two parts white glue, one part vinegar.

Brush on. With glue side up, let dry, weighting the edges of the paper to keep it from curling. When dry, cut the paper into large puzzle pieces. (Make all the puzzles alike.) Give the boys a piece of paper on which puzzle lines have been drawn. Ask the boys to paste the puzzle pieces in the appropriate places.

PRAYER TIME

Explain to the boys that when you meet again it will be next year. Explain how the year ends in December (show them a calendar with 12 months). Talk about the things God has done for the boys during this year. Thank God. Ask Him to help the boys during the next year.

STORYTIME

BABY JESUS GOES TO CHURCH

Luke 2:21-38

One morning Mary woke up very early. She tiptoed quietly around the house so that she would not wake up Baby Jesus.

Soon the Baby opened His eyes and smiled a tiny baby smile. Mary came to His cradle and picked Him up in her arms.

"Today is a very special day," she whispered. "Today we are going to take You to church for the very first time."

Mary fed Baby Jesus. She bathed Him and wrapped Him in clean blankets. She looked at Him and smiled. "You are a very beautiful baby," she whispered.

Then Mary put on a clean dress and brushed her hair until it shone.

Joseph brought the donkey to the door. He helped Mary onto its back. She held the Baby in her arms.

Mary and Joseph were very happy to be going to church with their new baby. As they walked into the church a nice old man with white hair came to meet them.

"My name is Simeon," he said. "I have waited a long time for this day. God told me that someday I would see His Son. May I hold Him?"

Mary put the Baby in Simeon's arms. Simeon prayed, "Thank You, God, for letting me see Your Son."

Simeon told Mary and Joseph that Jesus would grow up to be a great Man. He said that Jesus would help many people. This made Mary and Joseph very glad.

Soon a sweet little old lady came to Mary and Joseph.

"My name is Anna," she said. "I have lived in the church for many years. I help by praying every day. May I see your baby?"

Mary showed Anna the baby. Anna was very happy. She knew that He was God's Son.

"Thank You, God, for letting me see Your Son," she prayed.

Anna told many people about Jesus. She said that He would help many people.

Mary and Joseph gave their offerings. Then they prayed to God and thanked Him for Baby Jesus.

After that Mary and Joseph went home. Their hearts were very happy. God was pleased with Mary and Joseph. He was glad He had sent Jesus to their home.

ACTIVITIES

Pass out page 48 from the handwork packet. Let the boys cut out the church, using the broken lines around the outside edge. Ahead of time, you will need to punch a hole at each dot and cut broken lines at the door. The boys should begin and end yarn lacing at either side of the door. They may poke colorful yarn through the holes with a pencil.

Talk to the boys about the proper behavior in church. Ask the boys for their suggestions first. Include, "Not chewing gum," "Not running in church," "Not throwing down papers outside the church," "Sitting quietly in the

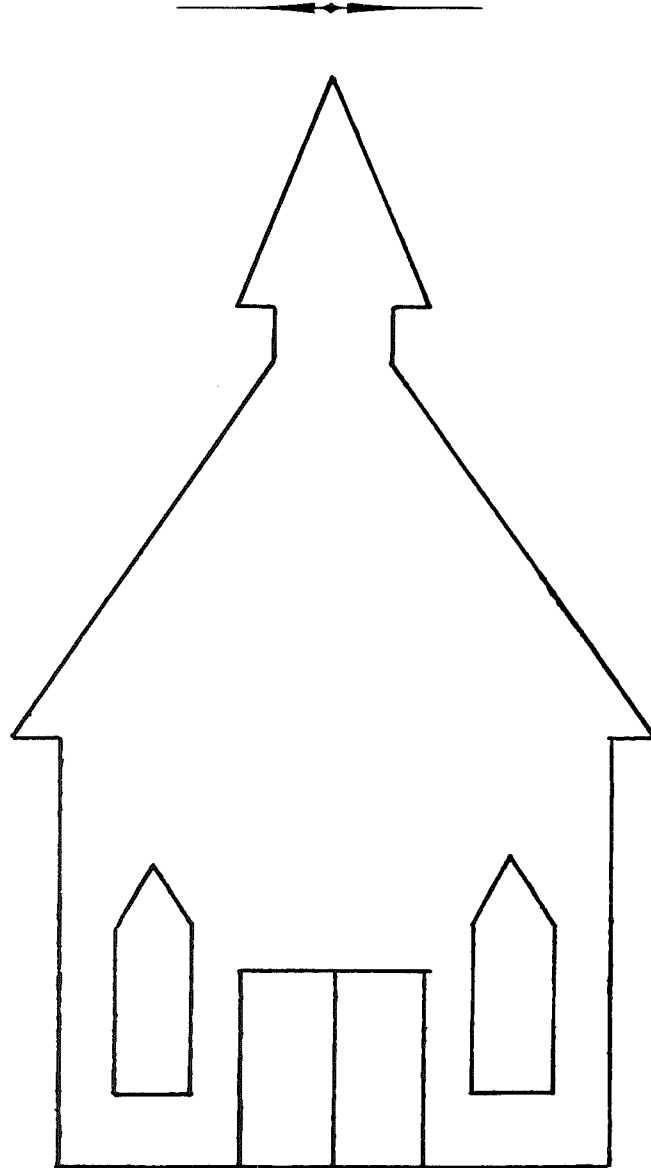
services," "Closing our eyes and praying during prayer time," etc.

HELPING

Make the boys conscious of helping to keep the church clean. Encourage them to pick up papers that have been thrown or dropped on the floor. They may all help in dusting and straightening up your room at this time.

GOOD-BYE

Encourage the boys to be in church at every service if possible. Talk about the days and times of service. Thank God for your church and pastor.



A B C D E F

G H I J K

L M N O P

Q R S T U

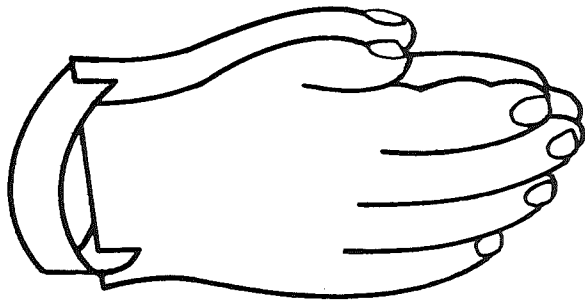
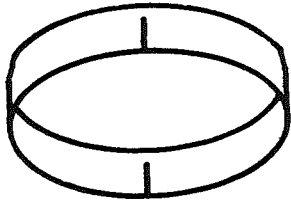
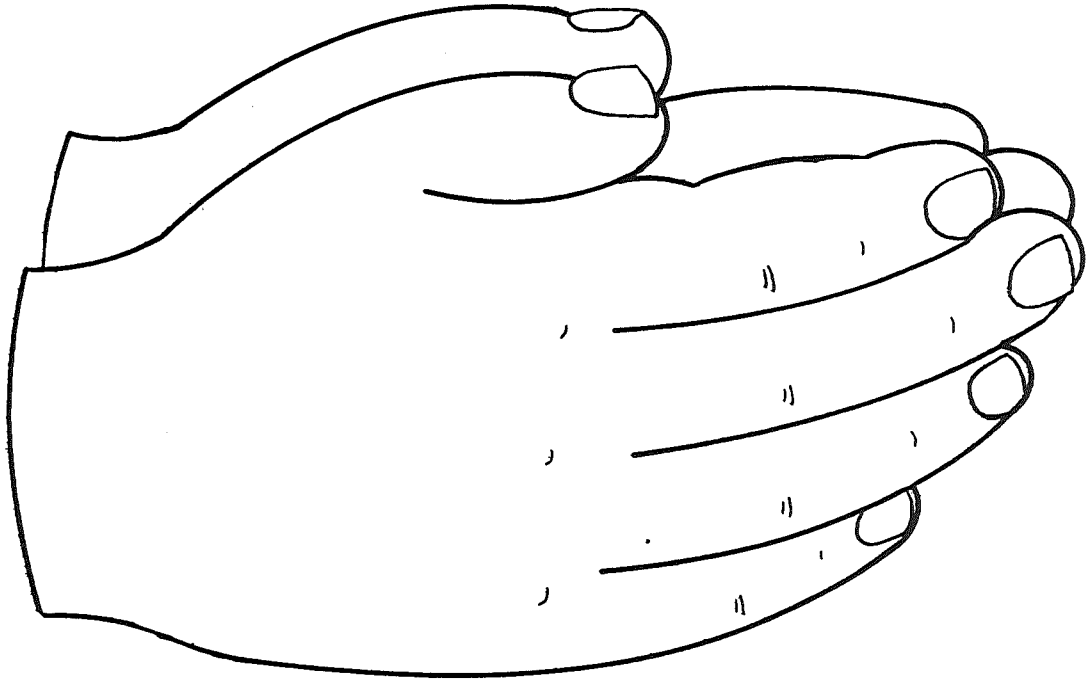
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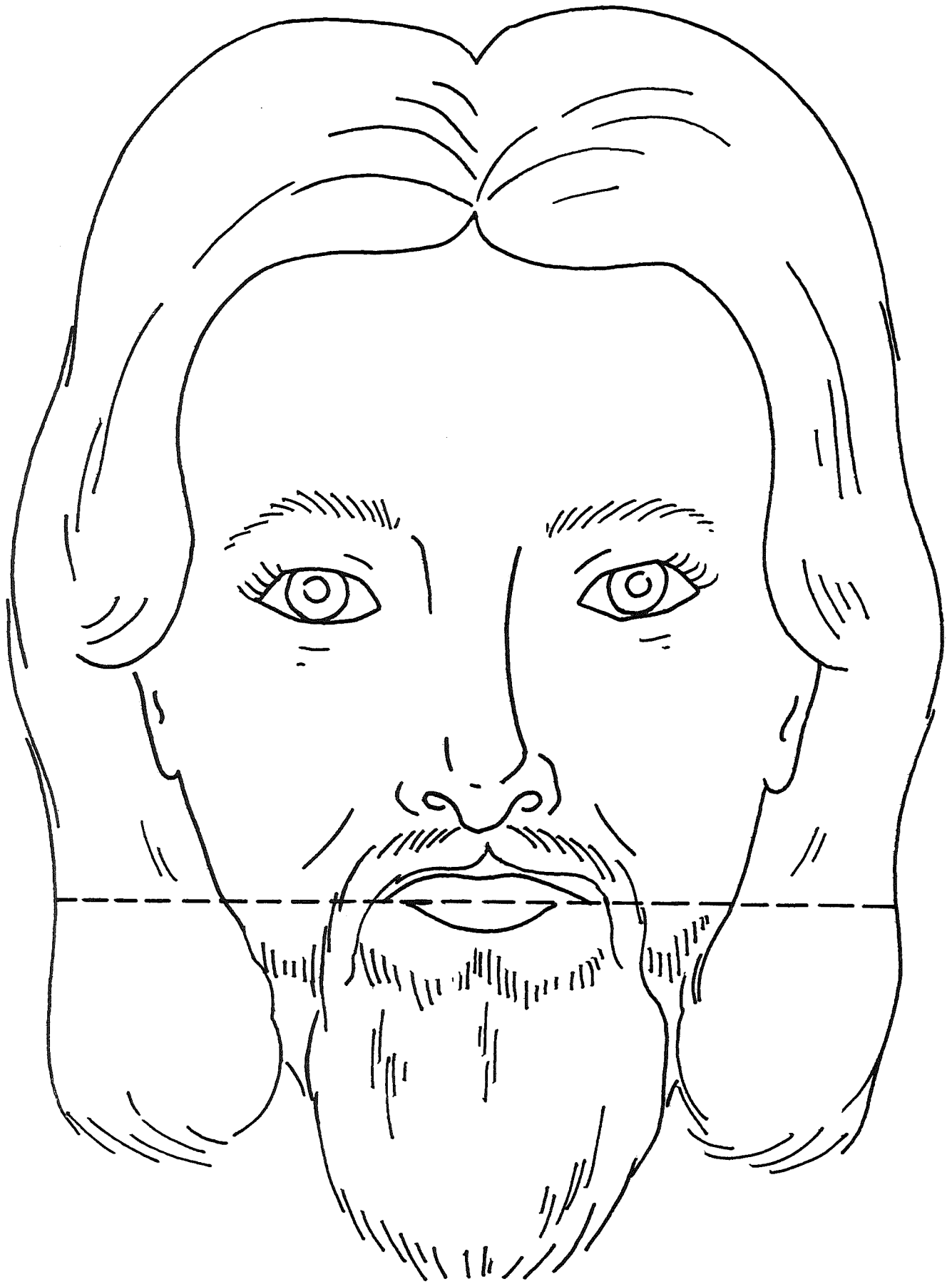
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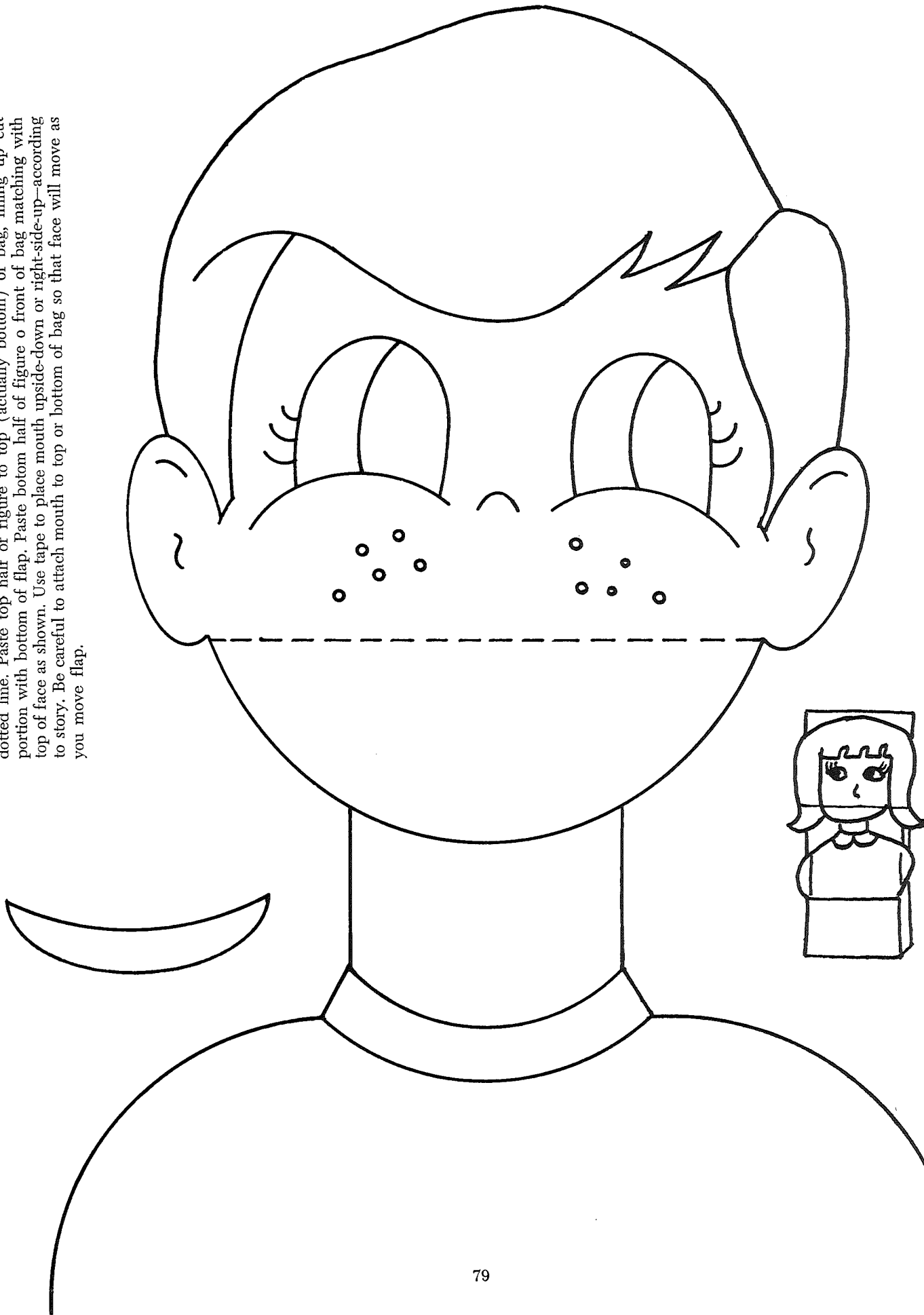
U V W X Y Z





PAPER-BAG PUPPETS

Use the pattern on this page and the next to make the Sam and Suzie puppets to use with the stories during June. Color and cut out mouth and figure. Cut face on dotted line. Paste top half of figure to top (actually bottom) of bag, lining up cut portion with bottom of flap. Paste bottom half of figure on front of bag matching with top of face as shown. Use tape to place mouth upside-down or right-side-up—according to story. Be careful to attach mouth to top or bottom of bag so that face will move as you move flap.

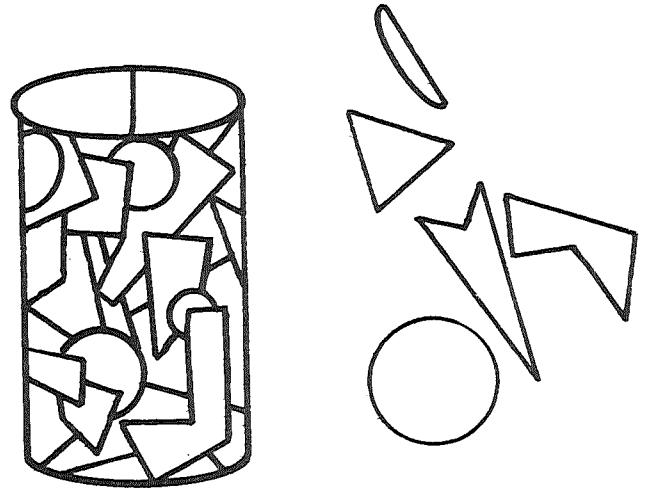


See directions to make Susie puppet on previous page.

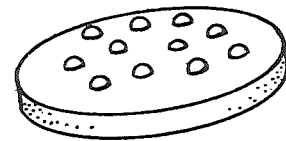


IDEAS FOR MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS

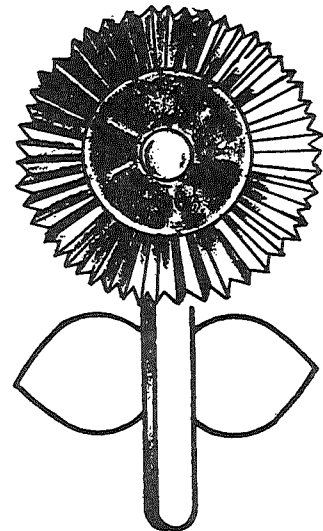
Pencil Holder: Wash a small can thoroughly removing label. Cut colored paper into small pieces, making all kinds of shapes. Glue the pieces of paper to outside of can. Have them overlap. You may wish to put a flower decal here and there.



Hot Pad: Mix plaster of Paris with water and pour into a coffee can or cottage cheese lid. Before the plaster dries, place in it pretty stones or marbles, making sure none of them are above the edge of the lid. (In place of marbles or stones, small tiles may be used. Designs may be formed by use of various colors of tile.)



A Flower for Mom: Paint a popsicle stick green. About two-thirds of the way down, glue two green leaves cut from construction paper. With a yellow thumbtack, attach a muffin cup to the top for a flower.



MOTHER'S DAY PICTURE CARD—Using a Polaroid camera, take a picture of each boy. Give the boys pieces of construction paper and show them how to construct a card, folding it in halves and using picture cutouts, decals, crayons, or spatter paint. On the front, they may print:

Mother, guess who loves you?

Use photo-mounting corner tabs or slits or glue to mount their pictures inside and print: Me!

FATHER'S DAY GIFTS

I-LOVE-YOU GIRAFFE

Materials needed:

1 piece of yellow construction paper 3" x 7"

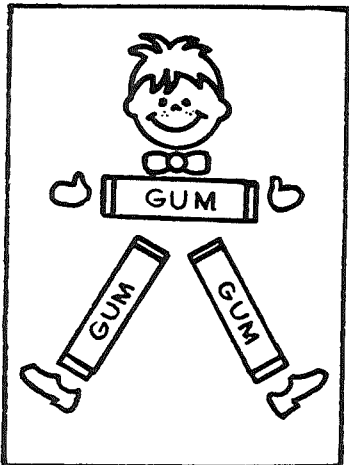
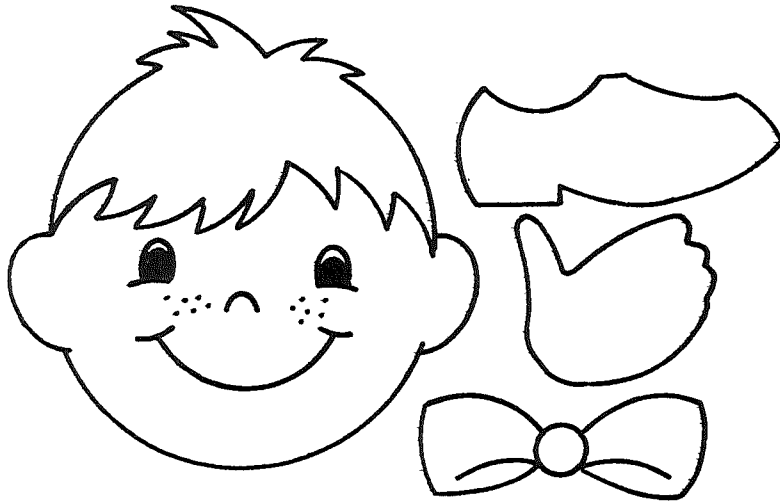
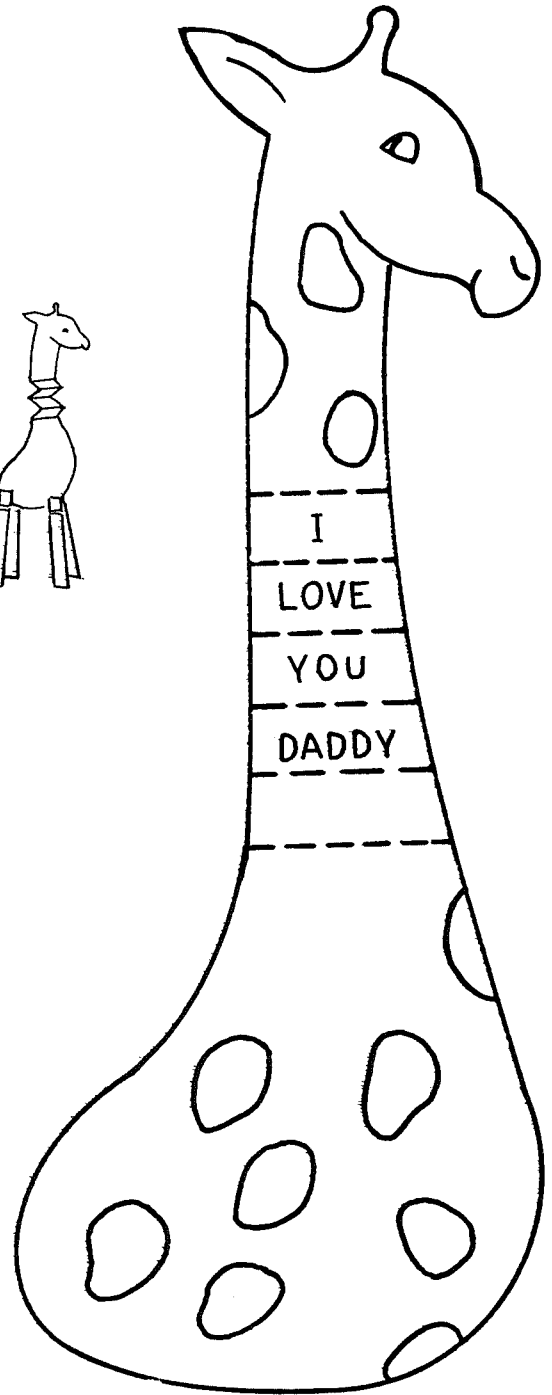
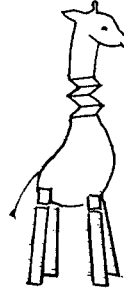
Crayons

1 piece of brown yarn 2" long

Pencil

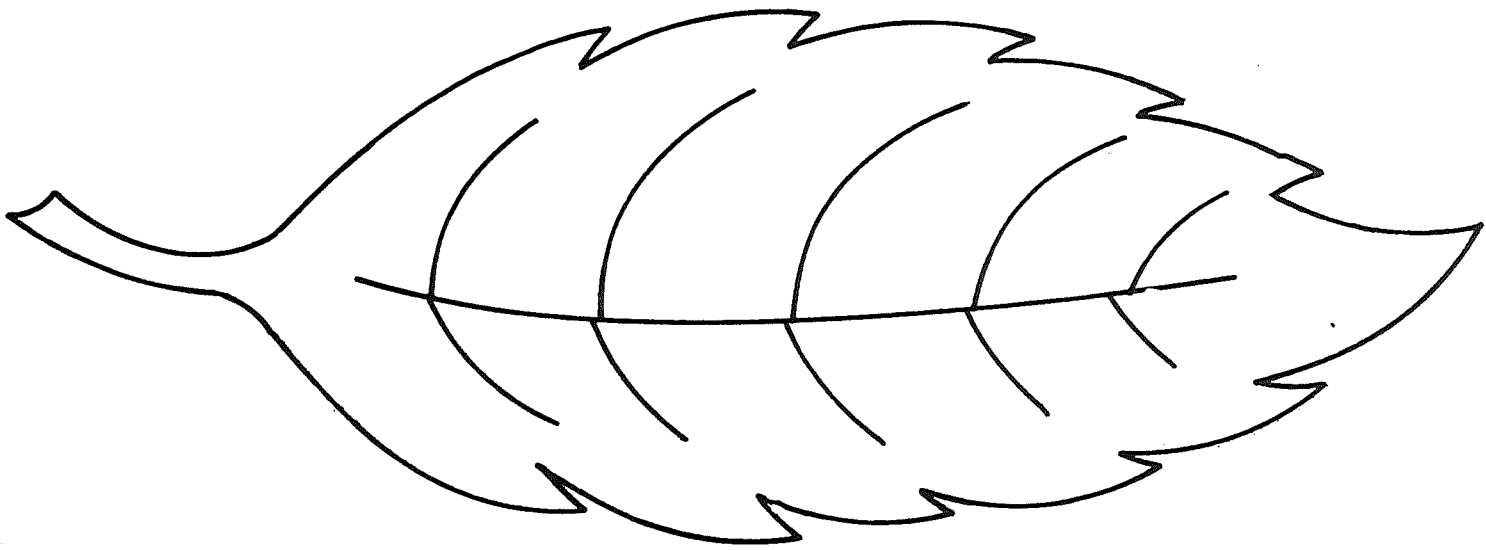
2 spring clothespins

Trace giraffe body on yellow paper and let girls cut it out. Help them fold neck of giraffe accordion style so there will be six $\frac{1}{2}$ " folds. Write verse on neck of giraffe, one word to each fold so verse will be hidden when neck is folded and will appear when neck is stretched out. Let boys color brown spots on giraffe's body. Use yarn for tail. Fasten clothespins to body to make legs. (See sketch.)

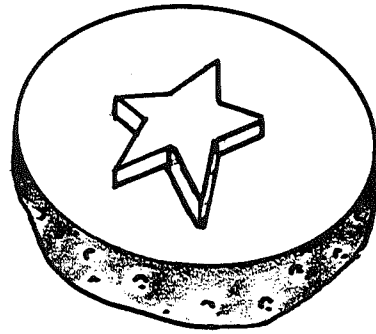


GUM TREAT CARD

Before the meeting cut colored pieces of construction paper to 4" by 6" size. Give each boy three pieces of gum, a face, shoes, hands, and bow tie and let him make a card for Dad. (Use patterns on this page.) Across bottom of card boys might print, I LOVE YOU DAD.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MAKE



GRAPPING PAPER

Materials:

- Plain colored or white butcher or shelf paper
- A large potato
- Poster paints

Ahead of time:

Sponsor will cut a potato in half. Mark a star or other simple picture on the flat side of the halves. (If you want a letter of the alphabet, mark it backward.) Cut away the potato from your design.

In the meeting:

Cover your design with poster paint. Push the potato against the paper to make it print.

You can print the picture as many times as you wish if you cover the potato with paint before each printing.



CHRISTMAS SHADOW BOX

Glue pictures cut from old Christmas greeting cards to the inside bottom of an aluminum pie tin. (Or construct your own scene with cotton and felt or other scraps.) Trim the outer rim with tinsel. (Glue on with a strong glue.) A three-dimension effect can be achieved by using plastic figures to form scene.)



CHRISTMAS PAPER WEIGHT

Saturate in water a religious seal or picture cut from old greeting card. Place against side of small glass jar with top of picture facing bottom of jar and picture facing outside of glass. Fill the jar with plaster of Paris that has been tinted by adding food coloring to the water when mixing. When the plaster is dry, glue a felt circle over it. Turn upside down.



CHRISTMAS CARDS

From old greeting cards, help the boys cut simple Christmas pictures. Cut 8½ x 11 inch construction paper in half. Fold in half again. Paste pictures to front fold. On the inside help the boys print, "From. . ."

Another idea would be to use the potato printing to make a design on the front of card or glue on a picture or design made with scraps of felt.



Happy, Happy Home

A. E. Lind

Anonymous

1. With Je - sus in the fam - i - ly, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,
 2. With Je - sus in the dad - dy's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,
 3. With Je - sus in the moth - er's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,
 4. With Je - sus in the sis - ter's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,
 5. With Je - sus in the broth - er's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,
 6. With Je - sus in the ba - by's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home,

Hap - py, hap - py home. With Je - sus in the fam - i - ly, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home.
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 Hap - py, hap - py home. With Je - sus in the ba - by's heart, Hap - py, hap - py home, Hap - py, hap - py home.

I'LL BE A SUNBEAM

NELLIE TALBOT

E. O. EXCELL

1. Je - sus wants me for a sun - beam, To shine for Him each day; —
 2. I will ask Je - sus to help me To keep my heart from sin; —
 3. I'll be a sun-beam for Je - sus, I can if I but try, —

In ev - ry way try to please Him, At home, at school, at play. —
 Ev - er re - flect - ing His good - ness, And al - ways shine for Him. —
 Serv - ing Him mo - ment by mo - ment, Then live with Him on high. —

CHORUS
 A sun - beam, a sun - beam, Je - sus wants me for a sun-beam; A
 sun - beam, a sun - beam, I'll be a sun-beam for Him. —

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NOTES

YEAR TWO

JANUARY

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."

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.

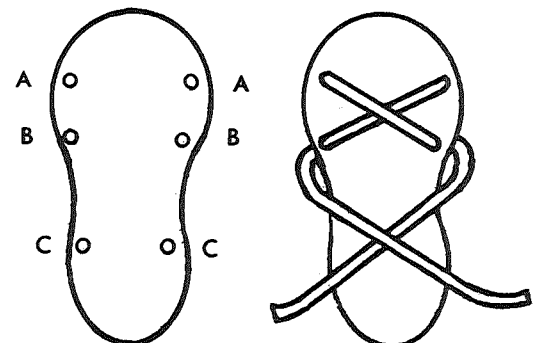
It had been a good day. Jesus was a happy, helpful boy.

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.

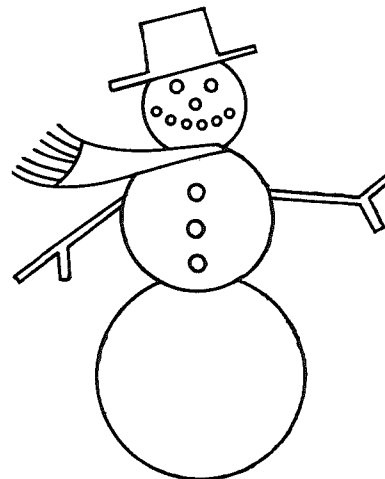
Jesus answered, "It is God's plan for me to be baptized. Baptize me now."

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.

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

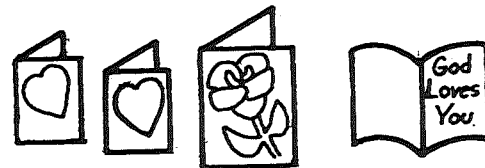
Help the boys make valentines or favors for shut-ins.

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.



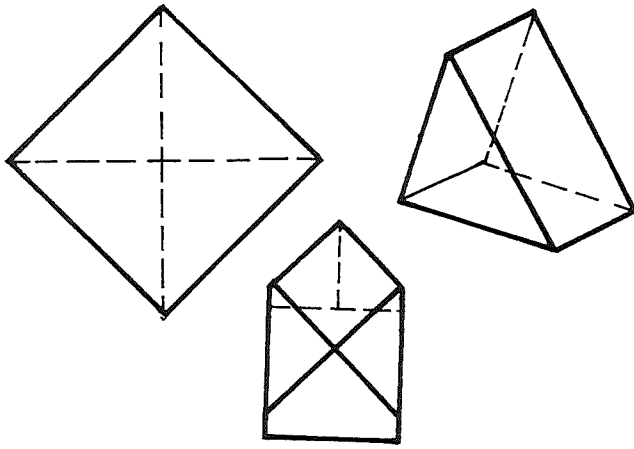
Here is another suggestion for making valentines. Provide a variety of materials for the boys to use—several sizes of red and white paper hearts; red and white bows made of narrow ribbon; paper doilies; gummed stickers of birds, flowers, fruits; cellophane tape; paste and crayons; an assortment of untied 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.

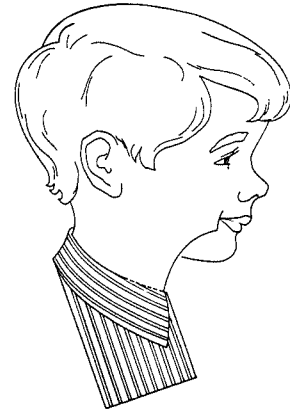
A wonderful thing happened. As fast as food was taken from the baskets it was replaced. Imagine how surprised the disciples and all the people were. No matter how much was passed out there was still some left. Jesus must have been very happy as He saw the people eating. Of course, the people were happy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

"Muuuuth—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.

—Selected

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 1*).

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

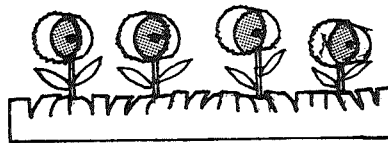
Using the patterns on page 78 prepare a quantity of tulips for the border of your bulletin board. Use several colors of construction paper to make the tulips. For variety, or in place of the tulips, you might make blooms from colored muffin cups. Attach to stems and leaves. (See sketch.)

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

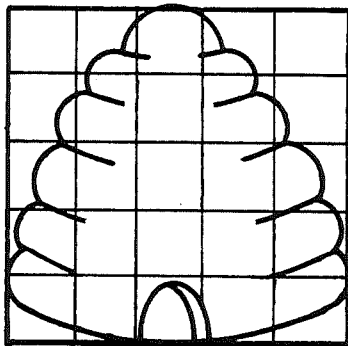
"Be ye kind one to another" (Ephesians 4:32).
"Be strong in the Lord" (Ephesians 6:10).
"Be ye holy; for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:16).
"Be . . . faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

SONGS

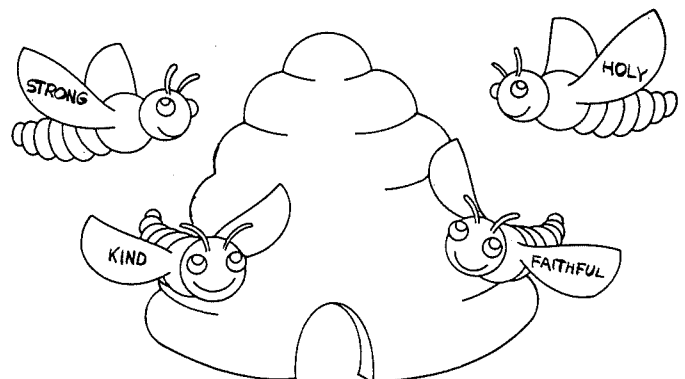
"Little Feet Be Careful" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)
"I'm in the Lord's Army" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Listening All the Time" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"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

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 "spring-time 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.

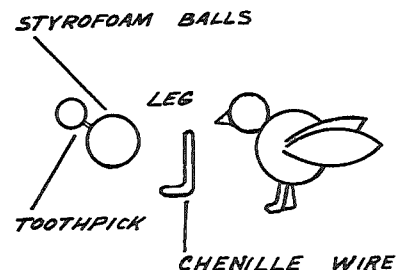
Show a cup washed clean on the outside, but dirty inside; or an apple that is pretty outside, but rotten inside. To be holy we must be clean inside. Discuss ways the boys can be holy. (Remember that holy means good, without sin in our hearts.) Tell the boys that reading God's Word or hearing it taught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

DAHLAGER - MEX
GVENTHER - JAMAICA
KINGSRITER
KENNA

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

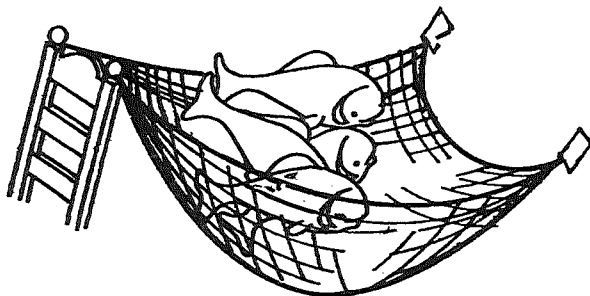
"Fishers of Men" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Knock! Knock! Knock!" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"If You Are Saved" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 3*)
"Little Missionaries" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 2*)
"Jesus Loves Children" (*Salvation Songs for Children, 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.

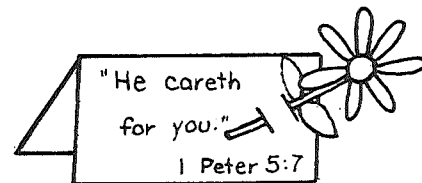
When the people in the temple saw the crippled man walking and jumping, they became very excited. They wondered what had happened to make him well. The man told everyone the good news that Jesus had made him well when Peter prayed.

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.

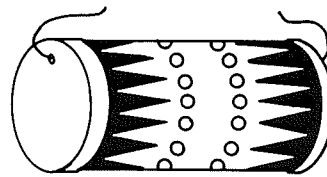
They came to some water and the man stopped his chariot. There Philip baptized him. As Philip came out of the water, God took him away to another place.

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

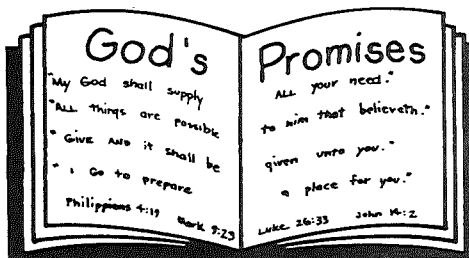
- “My God shall supply all your need” (Philippians 4:19).
- “All things are possible to him that believeth” (Mark 9:23).
- “Give, and it shall be given unto you” (Luke 6:38).
- “I go to prepare a place for you” (John 14:2).

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*)
- “ABCDEFGH” (*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.

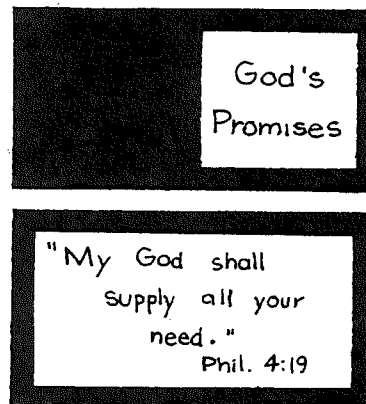
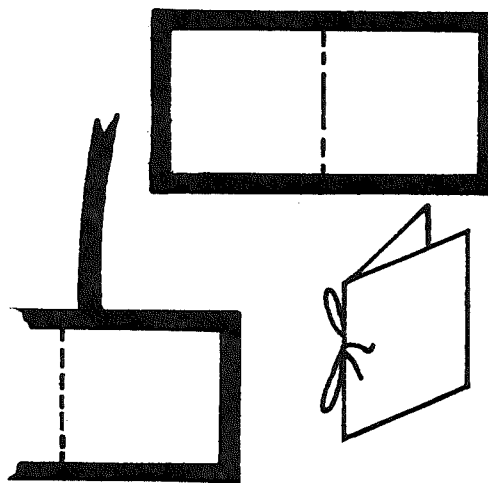
On the inside back cover of the book, staple one end of an 11-inch-long narrow red ribbon as shown. Fold down and use as ribbon Bible marker.

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 boys 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

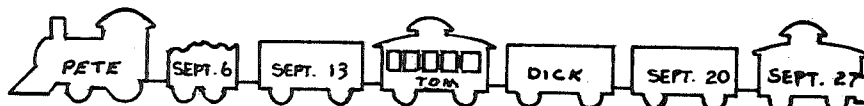
"Sermon in Shoes" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Fishers of Men" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 1*)
"Surely He Will Care for You" (*Salvation Songs for Children, Number 4*)

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.

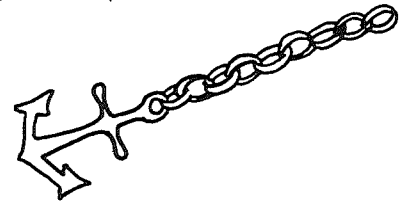
All the people jumped into the water. Some people could swim. Others held on to pieces of the ship. All the people made it safely to shore.

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, 1/2" 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.

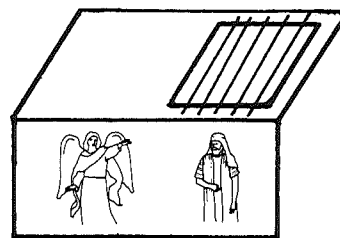
ACTIVITIES

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.

**OCTOBER
SECOND MEETING**

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.

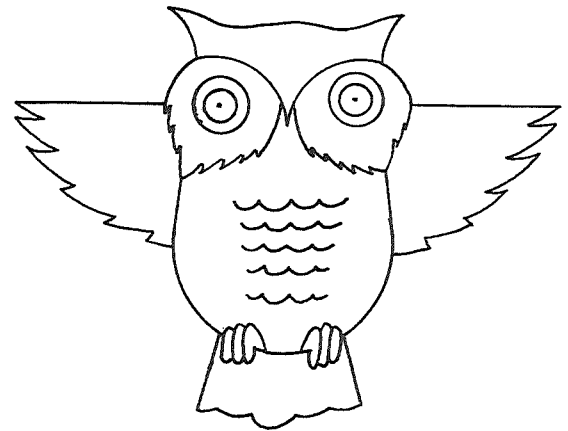
Jesus knew that the men were trying to trick Him. He answered, "This is the greatest and most important commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

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

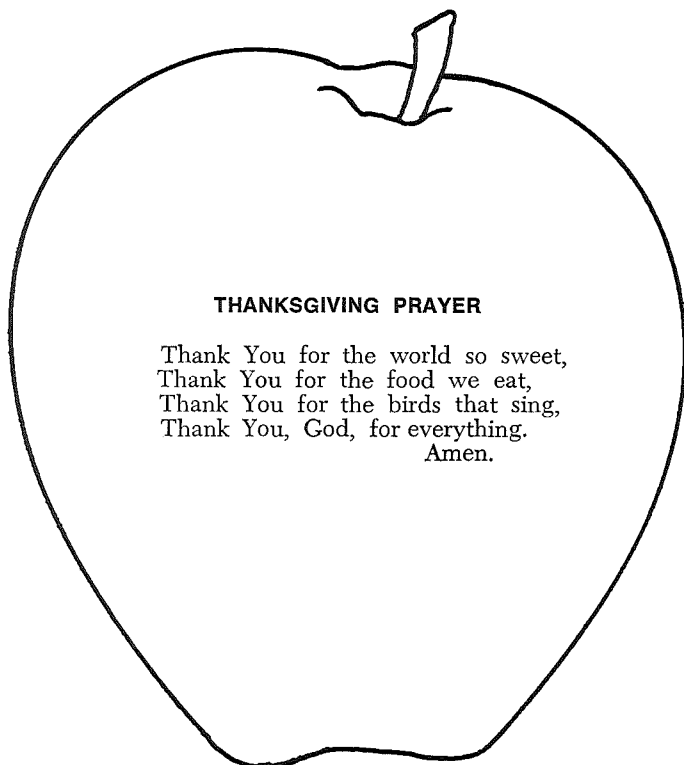
"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1).
"God . . . giveth us . . . all things to enjoy" (1 Timothy 6:17).

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.

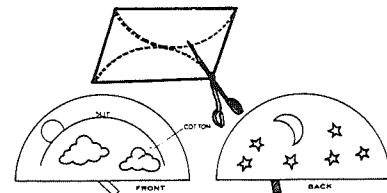
Moses and the people knew that God was leading them. God had put a cloud in the sky that moved ahead of them showing the way. At night, when the sky became dark, the cloud was bright like a fire.

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 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.)

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

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.

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.)

HELPING

Ask each boy to share in clearing the table and straightening up the room.

GOOD-BYE

Close with a Christmas carol and prayer.

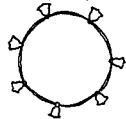
DECEMBER SECOND MEETING

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. . . ."

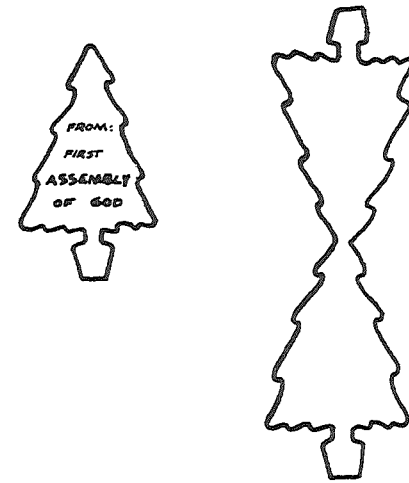
He told Bobby about the angel who came to Mary and Joseph, and about how Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn (hotel), and about the shepherds and Wise Men. It was such fun sharing the good news about Jesus.

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



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.

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.

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."

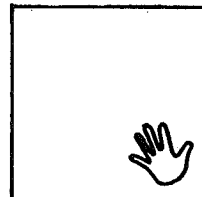
Jack walked slowly to the table. He knelt by the many other gifts. Then he raised his voice and sang, "I have no gift for my dear King; My heart, my life is all I bring."

The people bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord. They said, "Jack has brought the very best gift. He has given himself to Jesus."

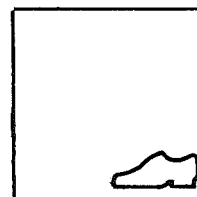
ACTIVITIES

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.

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 hidiers and hidiers 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.

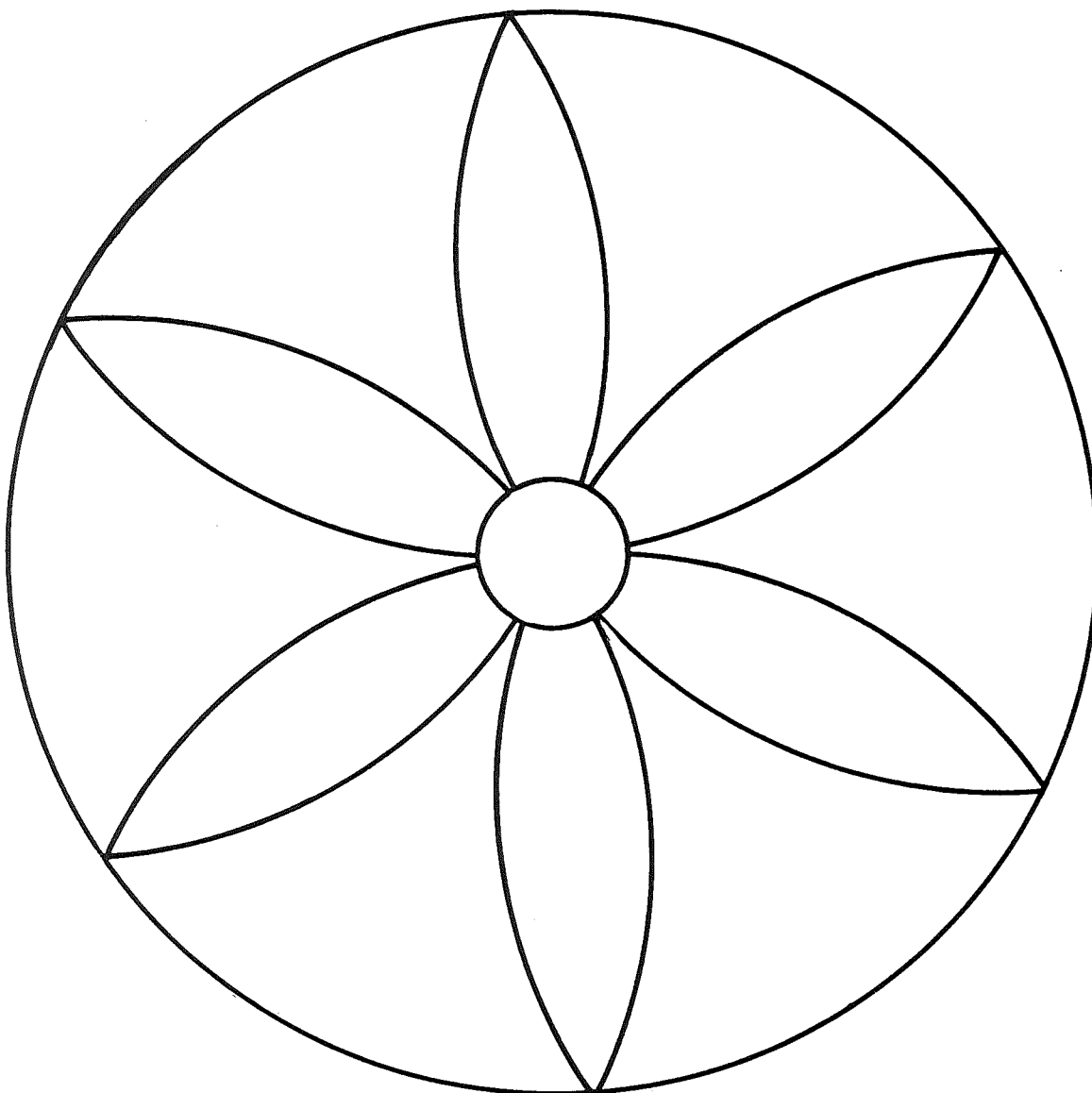
Before you cut the birthday cake, sing "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus" to the familiar tune of "Happy Birthday." The candle will represent birthday candles (no need to blow it out). Serve cake and punch.

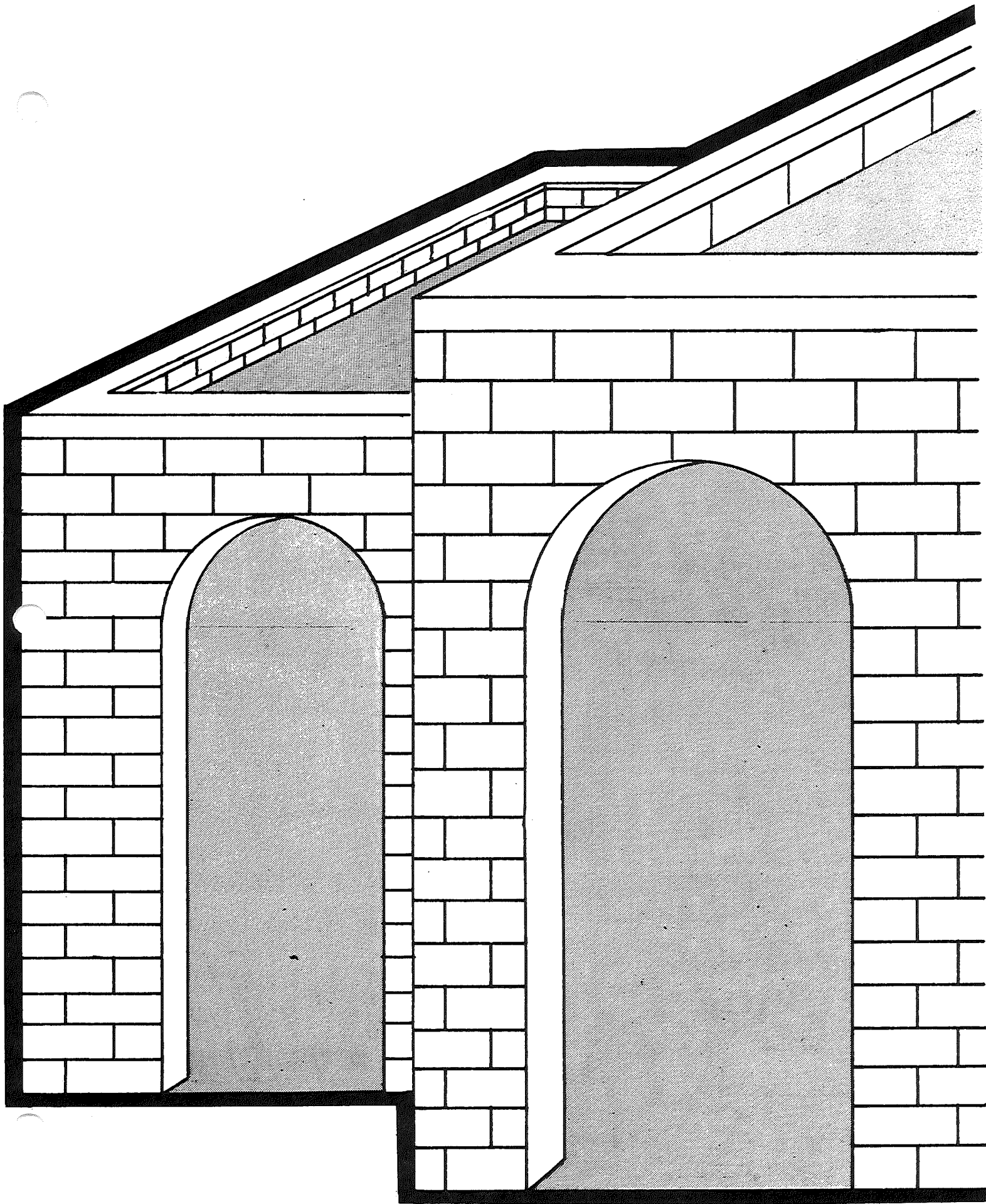
HELPING

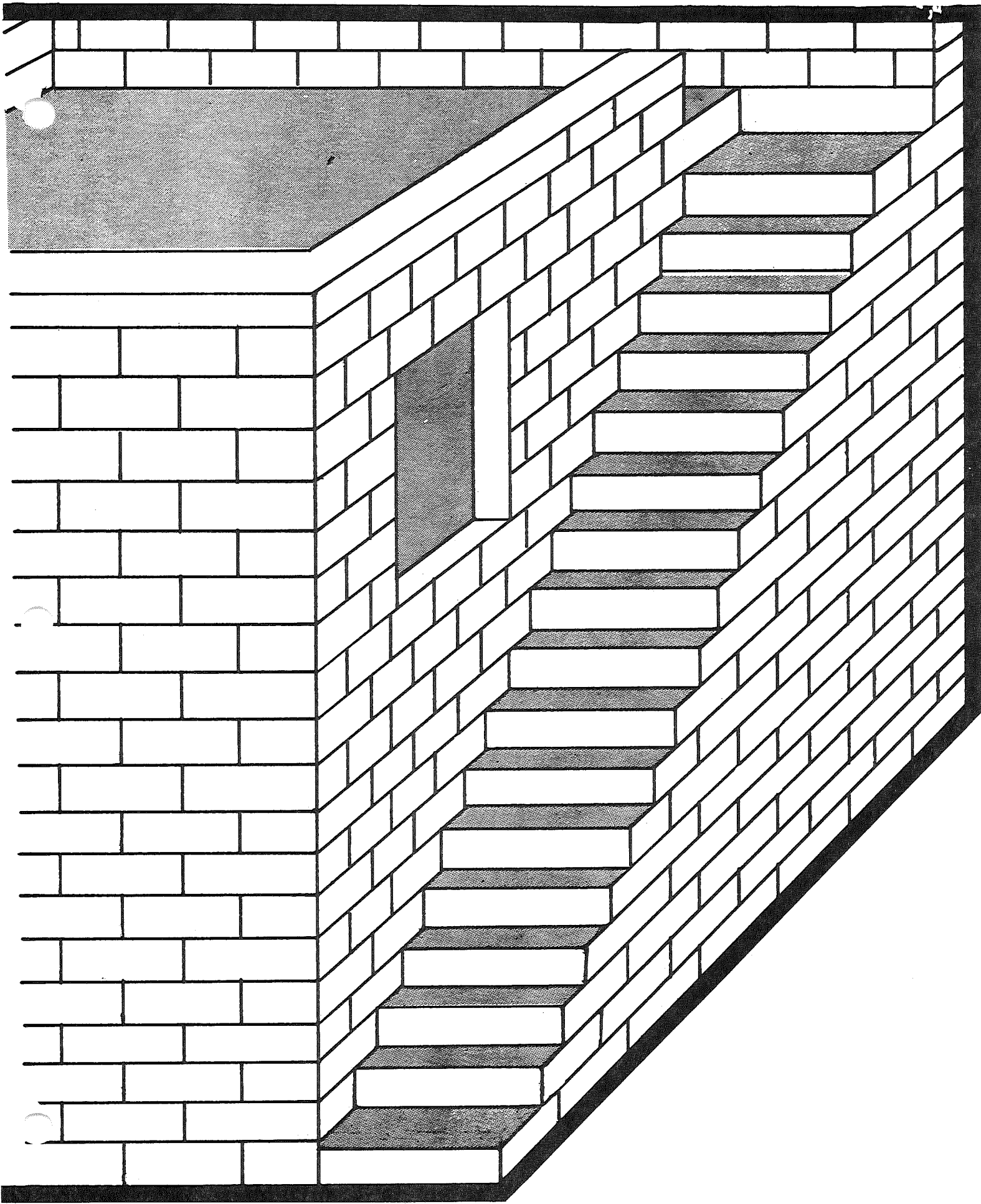
Assign cleanup duties to the boys.

GOOD-BYE

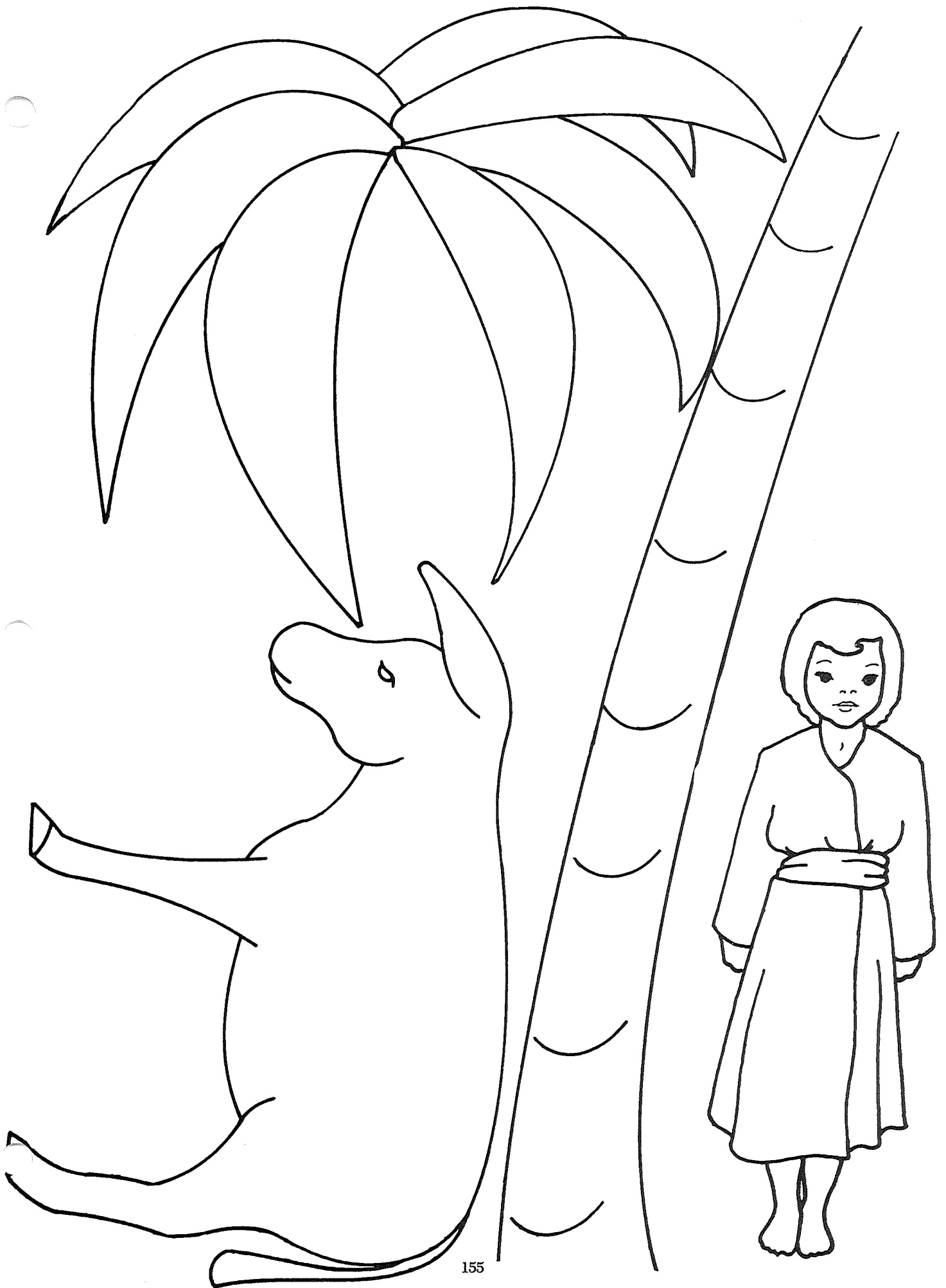
Wish the boys a Merry Christmas. Perhaps you will want to give each boy a small gift at this time.













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.

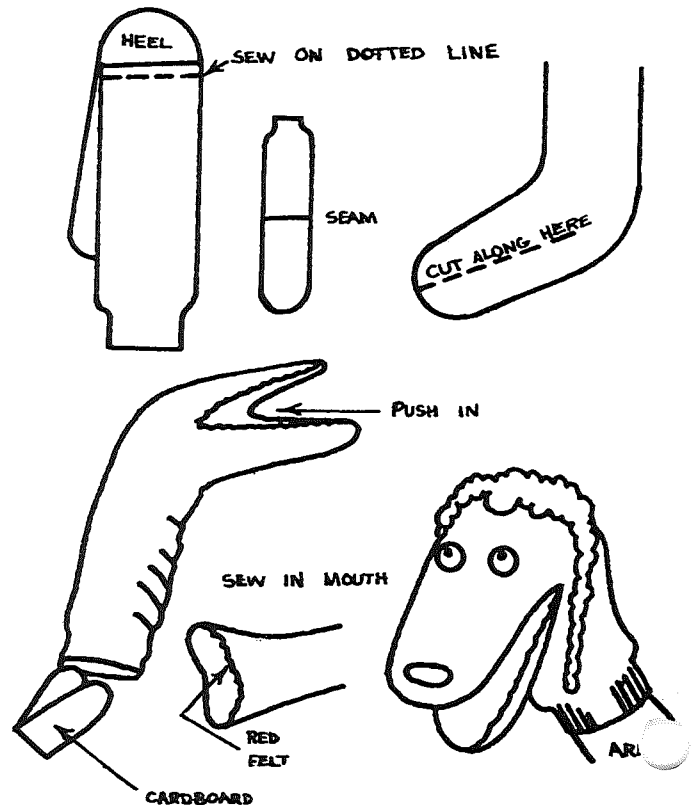
STEP NO. 2: Cut the foot of the sock as shown by the dotted lines.

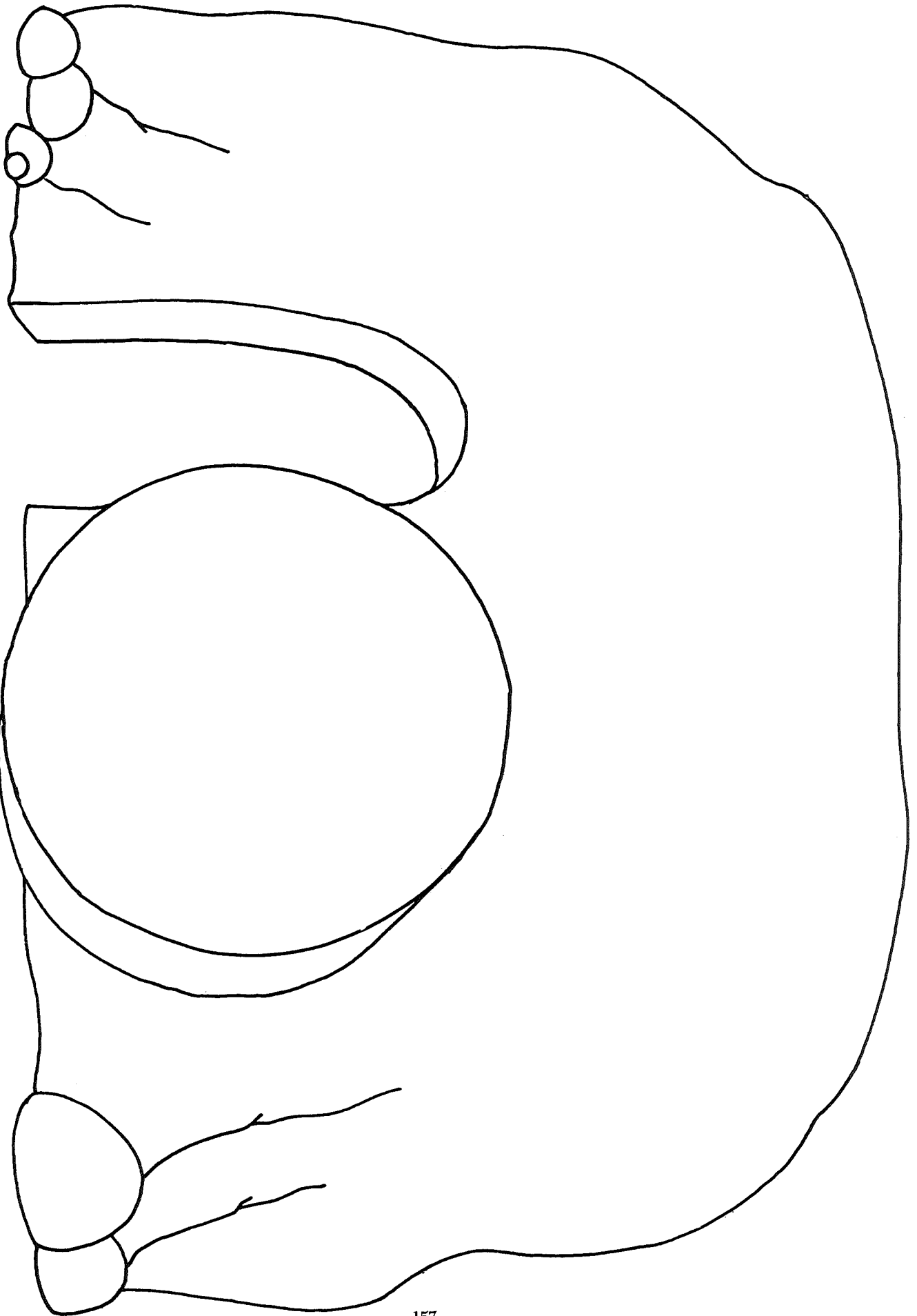
STEP NO. 3: Turn the sock inside out and cut a piece of red material the shape of the mouth opening. Also cut a matching piece from cardboard. Sew the red material to the sock with an overhand stitch or use your sewing machine.

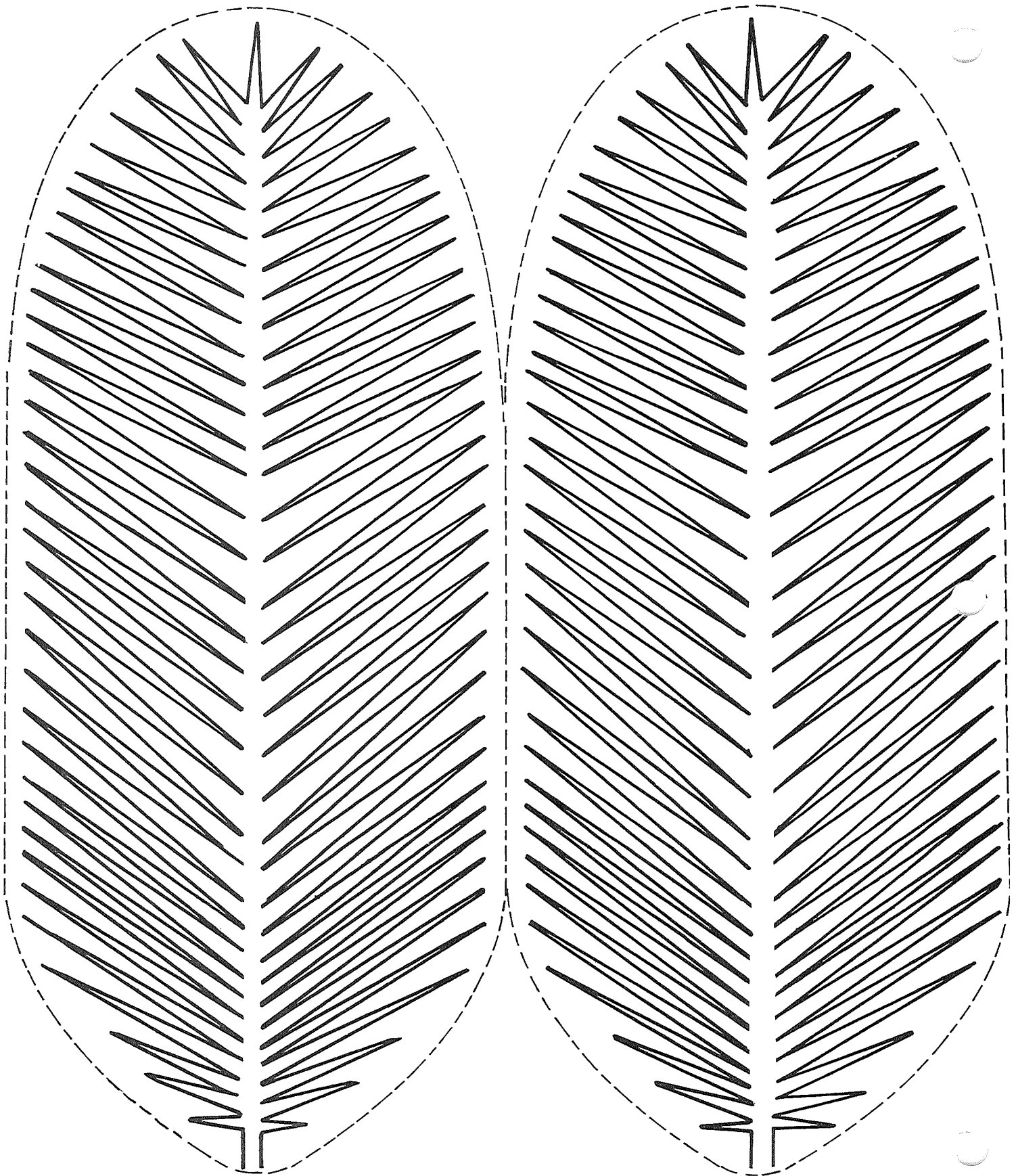
STEP NO. 4: Turn the sock rightside out. Fold the cardboard piece in half and insert in the sock.

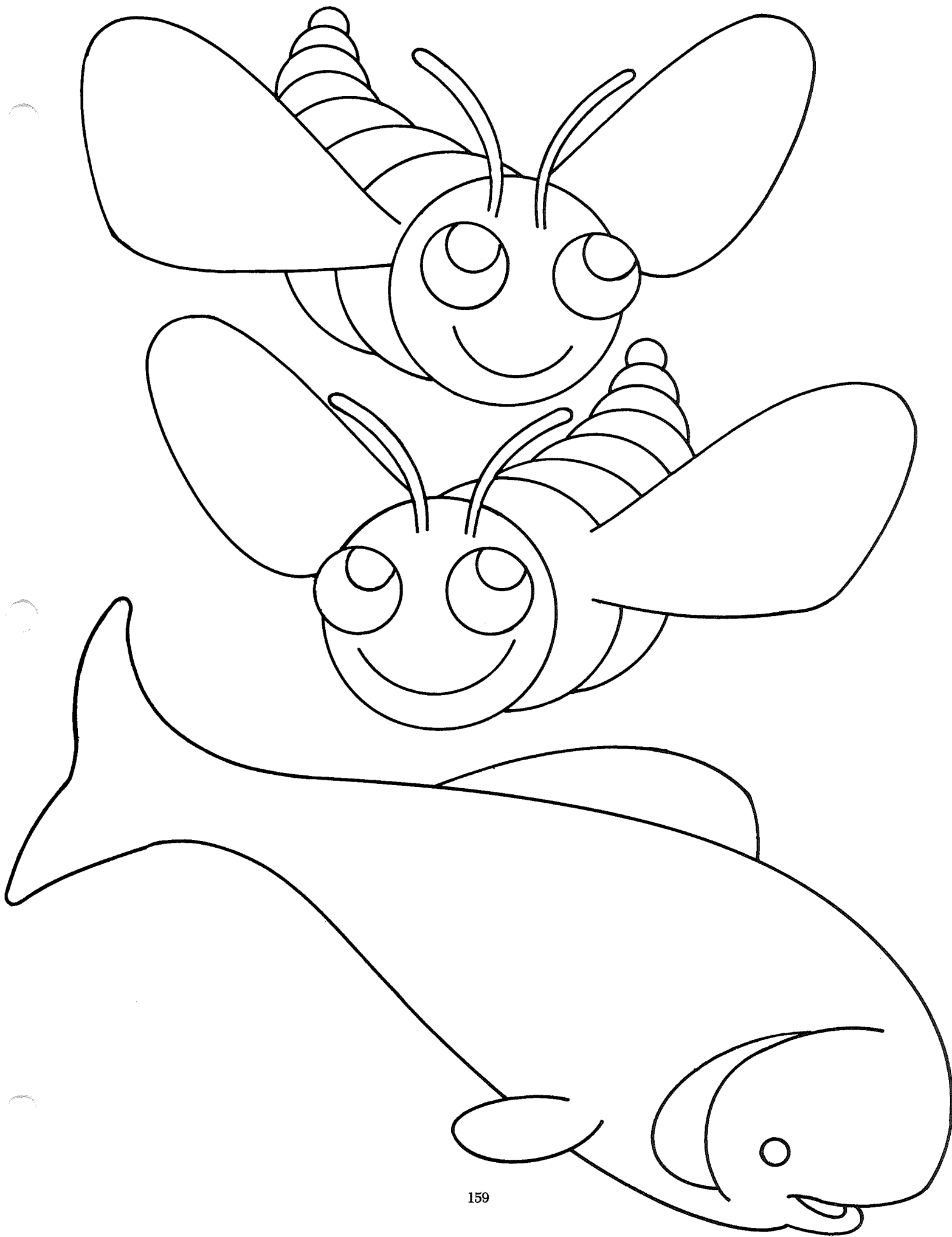
STEP NO. 5: Add features such as button eyes, nose, hair, and so forth.

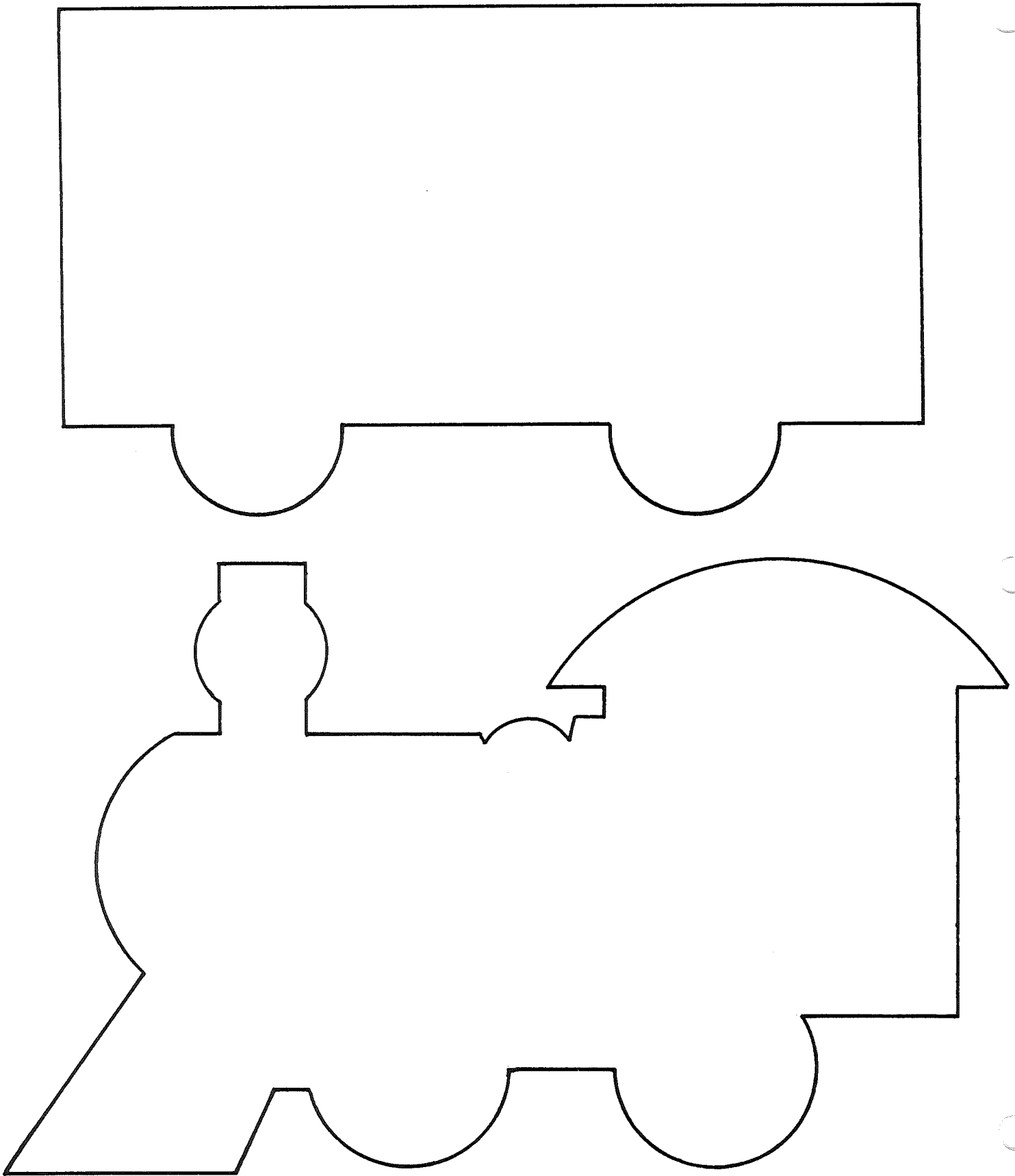
ANIMATION: Most talking puppets are operated by placing the thumb under the bottom cardboard piece and the fingers over the upper piece. Open and close the hand to make the puppet talk. Twisting the hand about will add to the illusion.

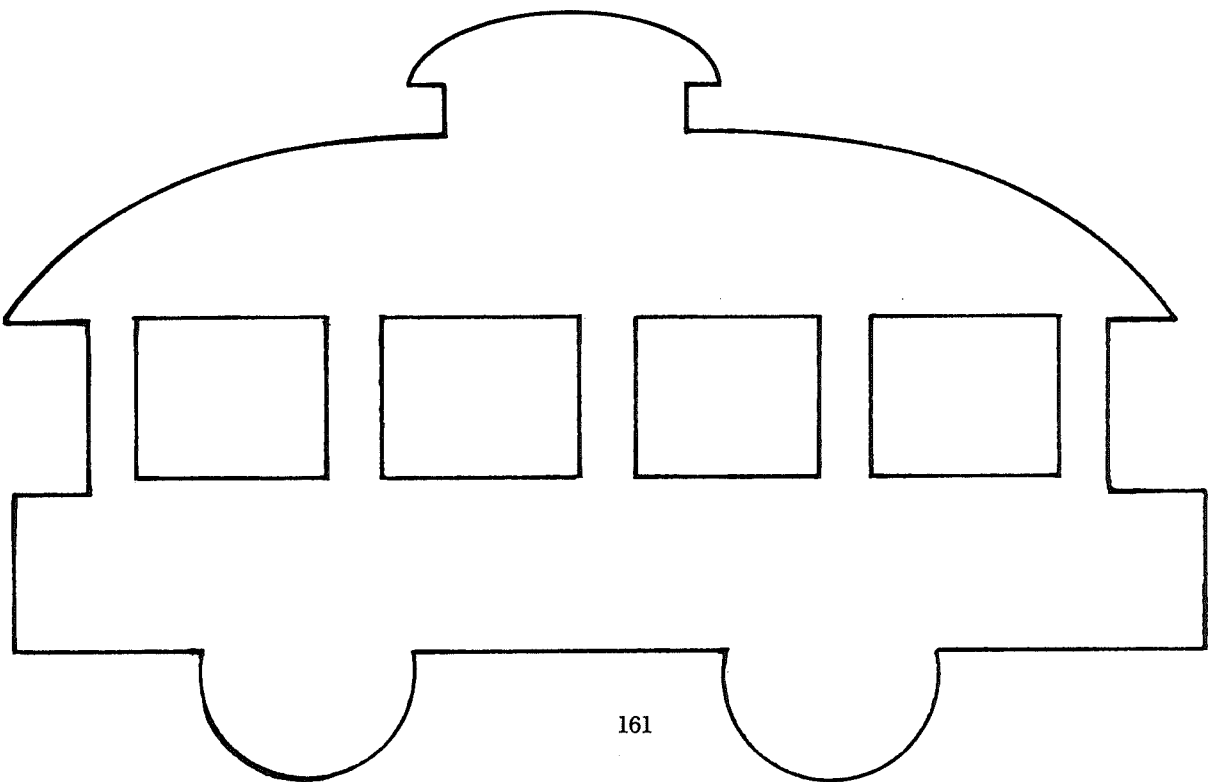
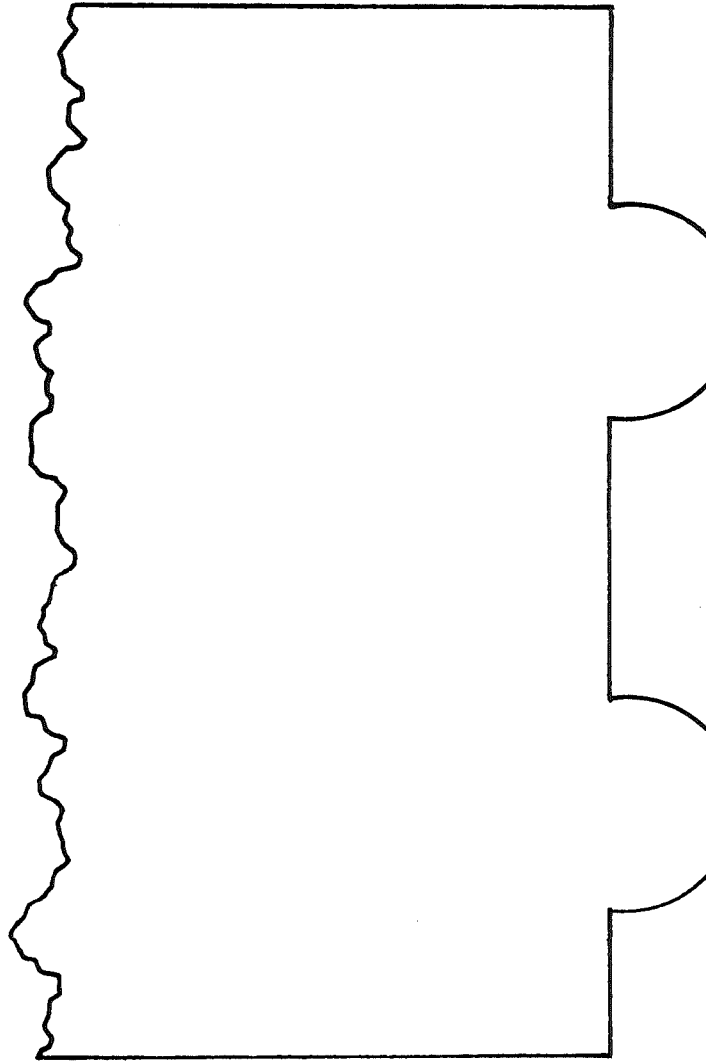
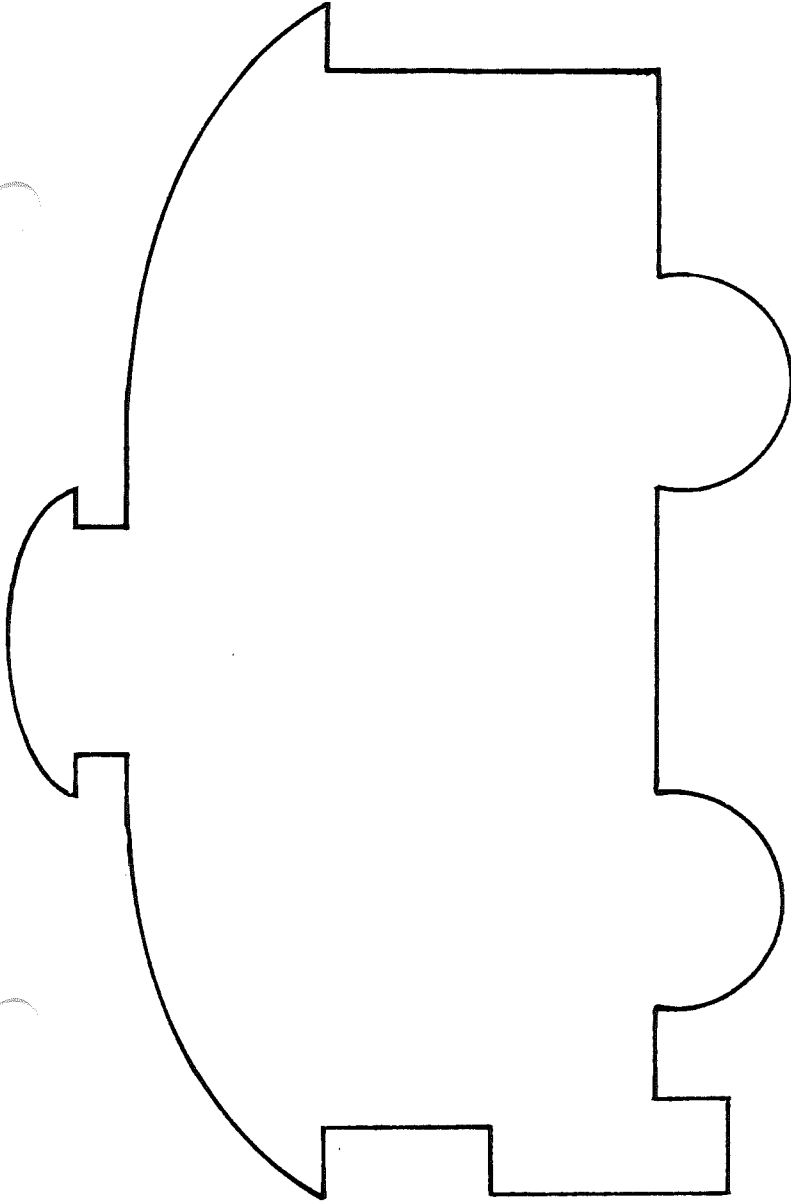


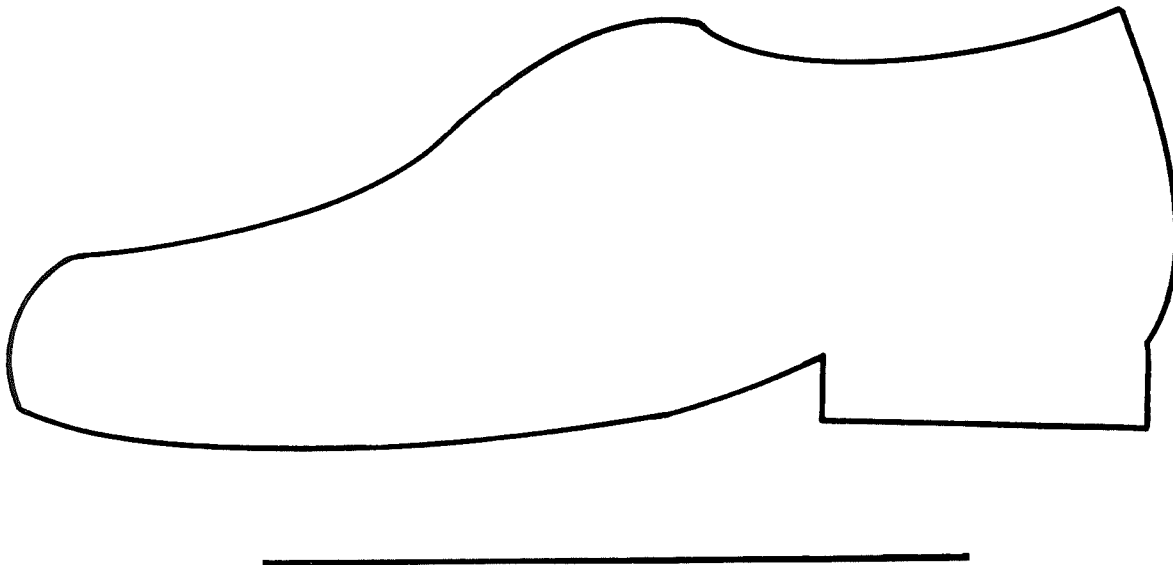












GIFT BASKET

Materials needed:

1 colored paper cup

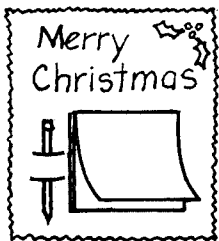
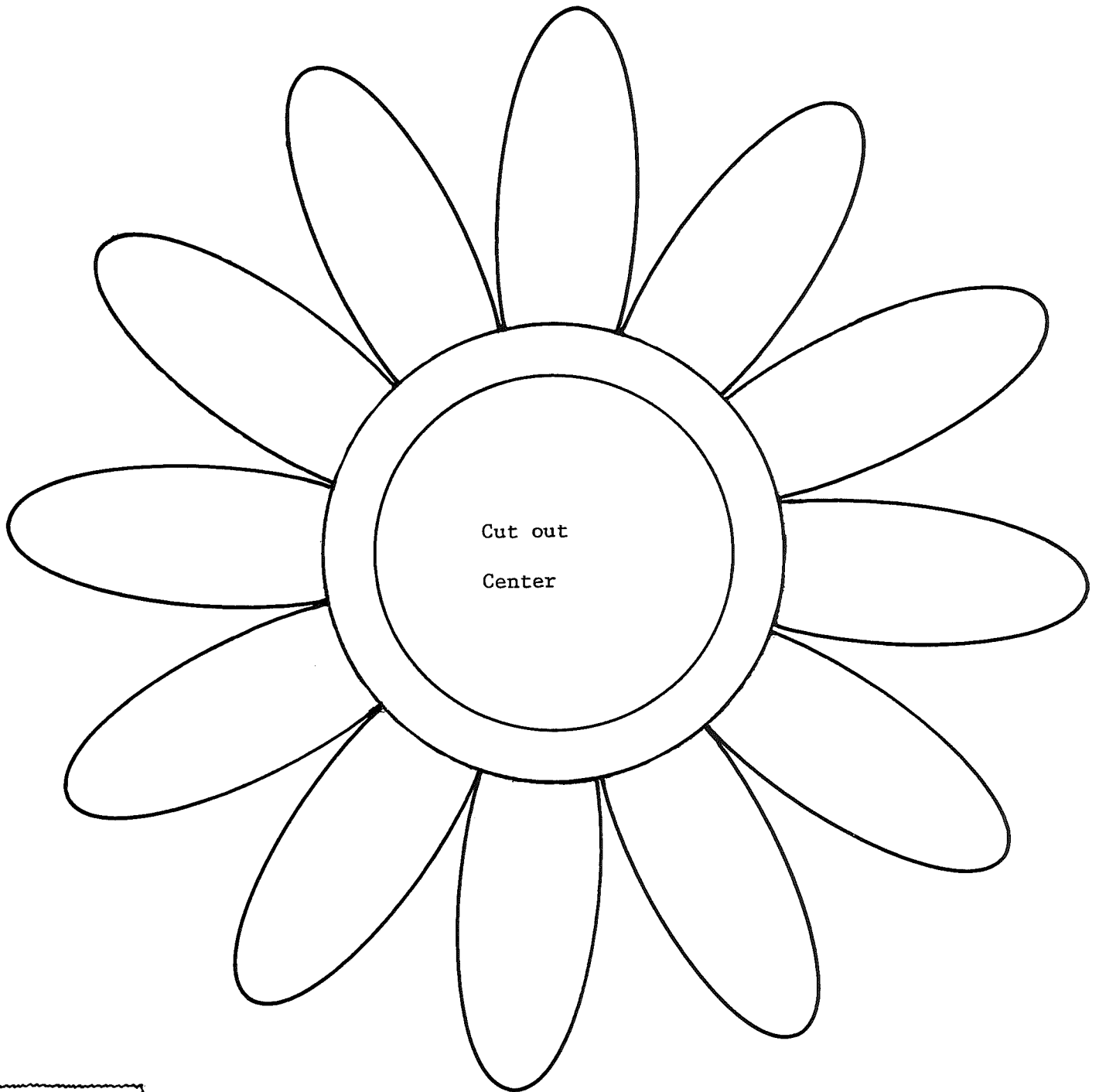
heavy yarn for handle

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.



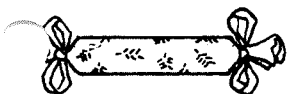


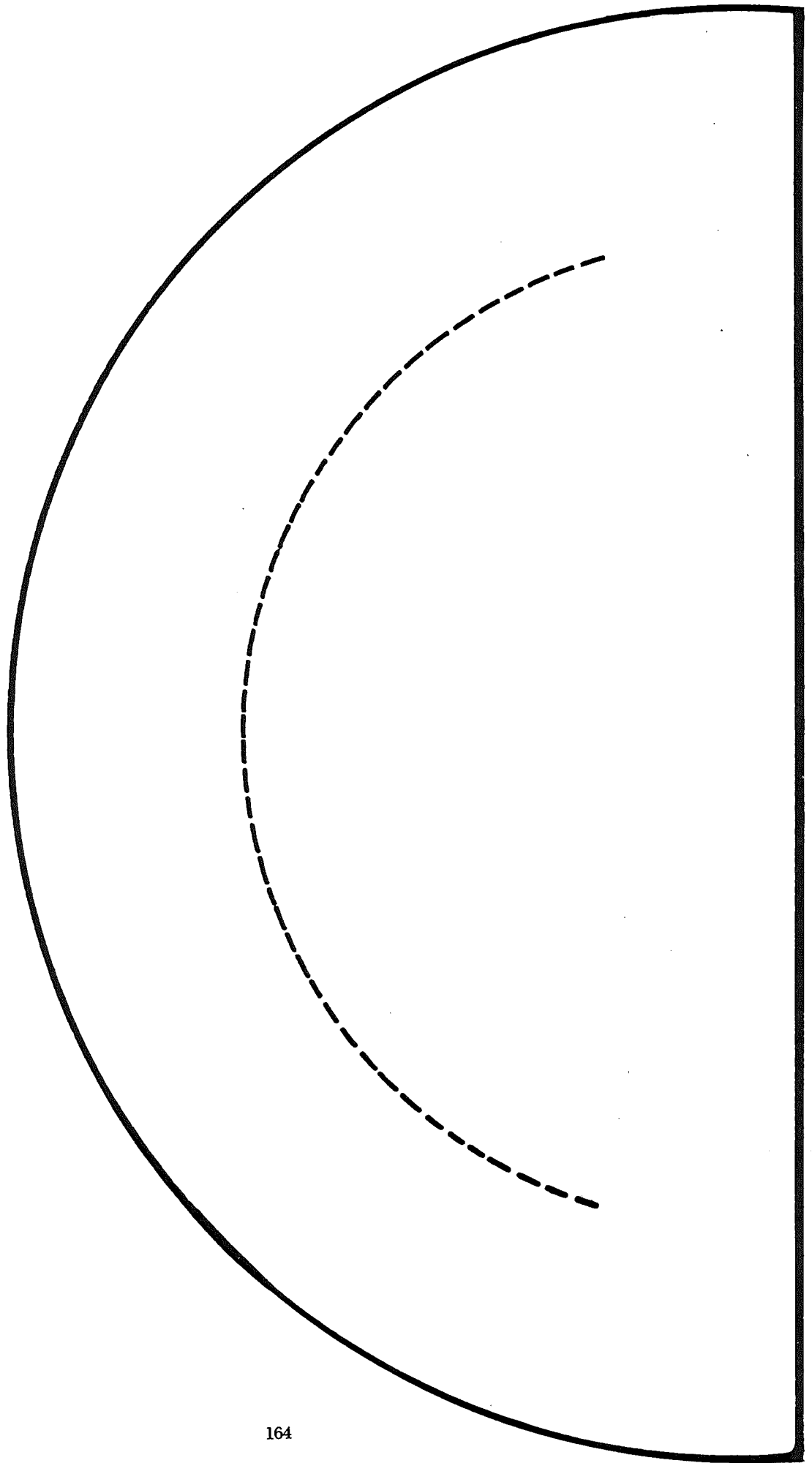
"MERRY CHRISTMAS" NOTE PAD

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

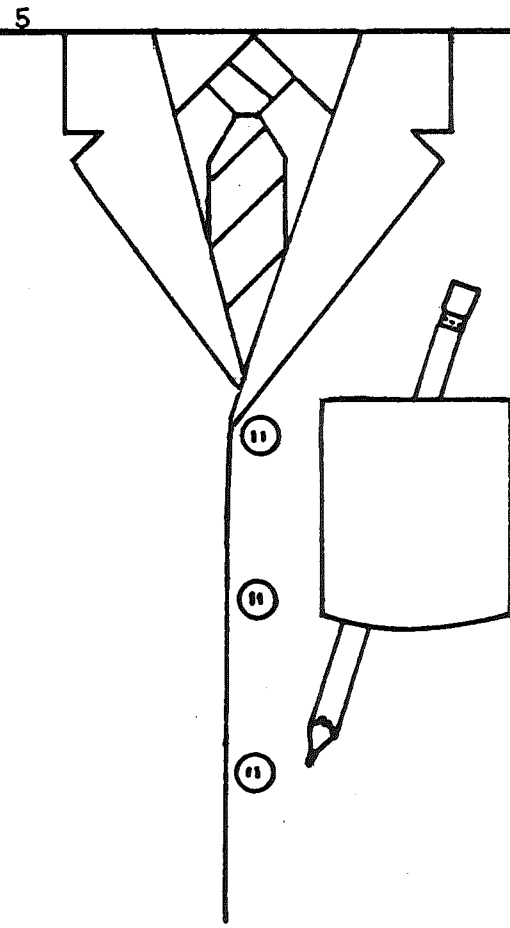
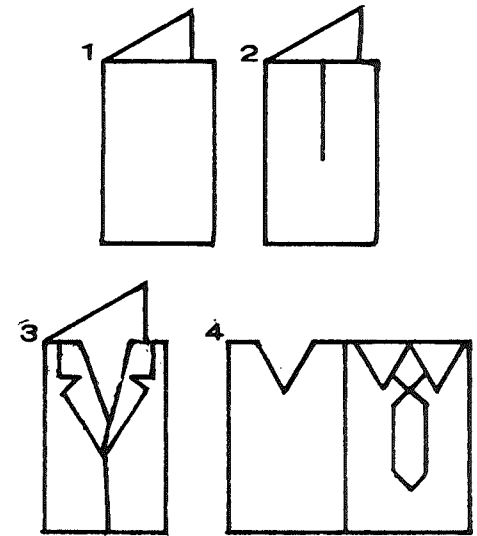
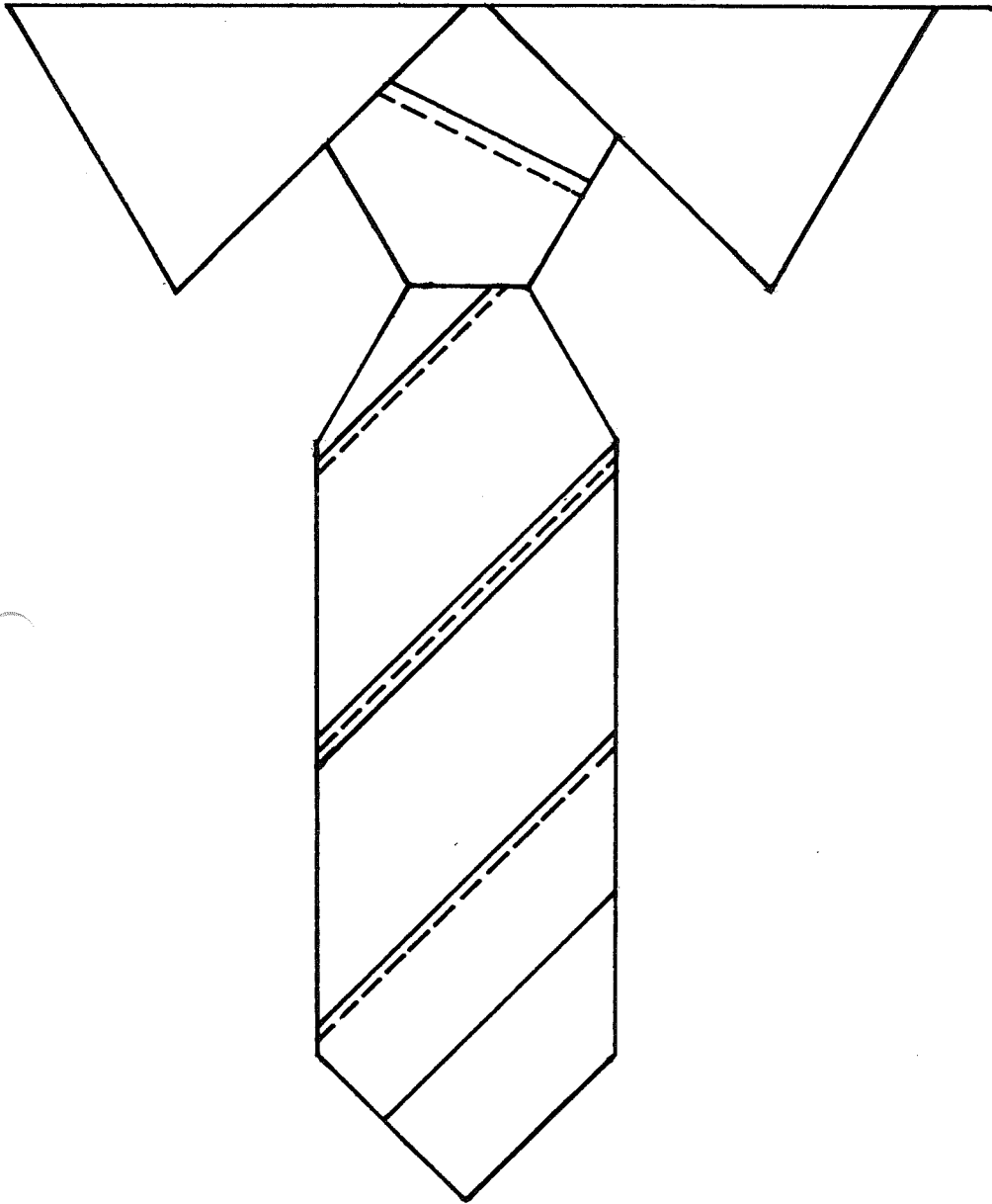
Needed: Cardboard tube (paper towel tube cut in 5-inch lengths), Christmas candy, two 8-inch lengths of ribbon or string, Christmas wrapping paper, card saying: "From the Straight Arrows of(church's name)" (See *Activities* session for December, second meeting.)





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

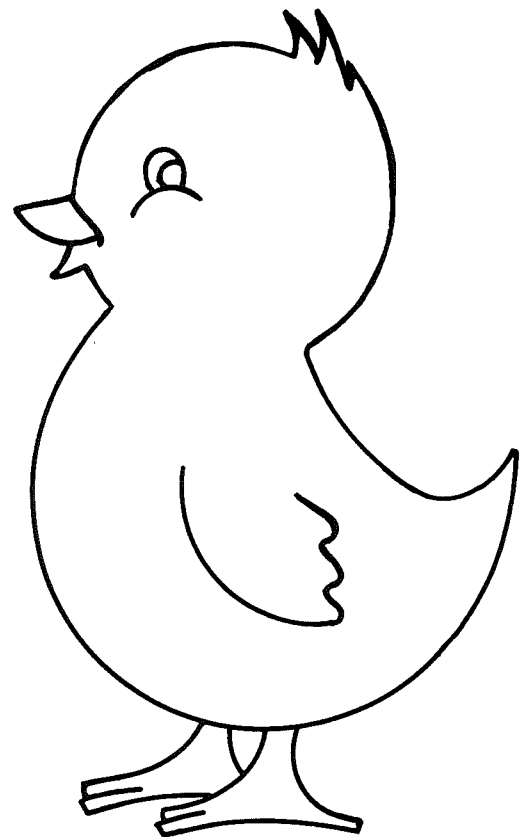
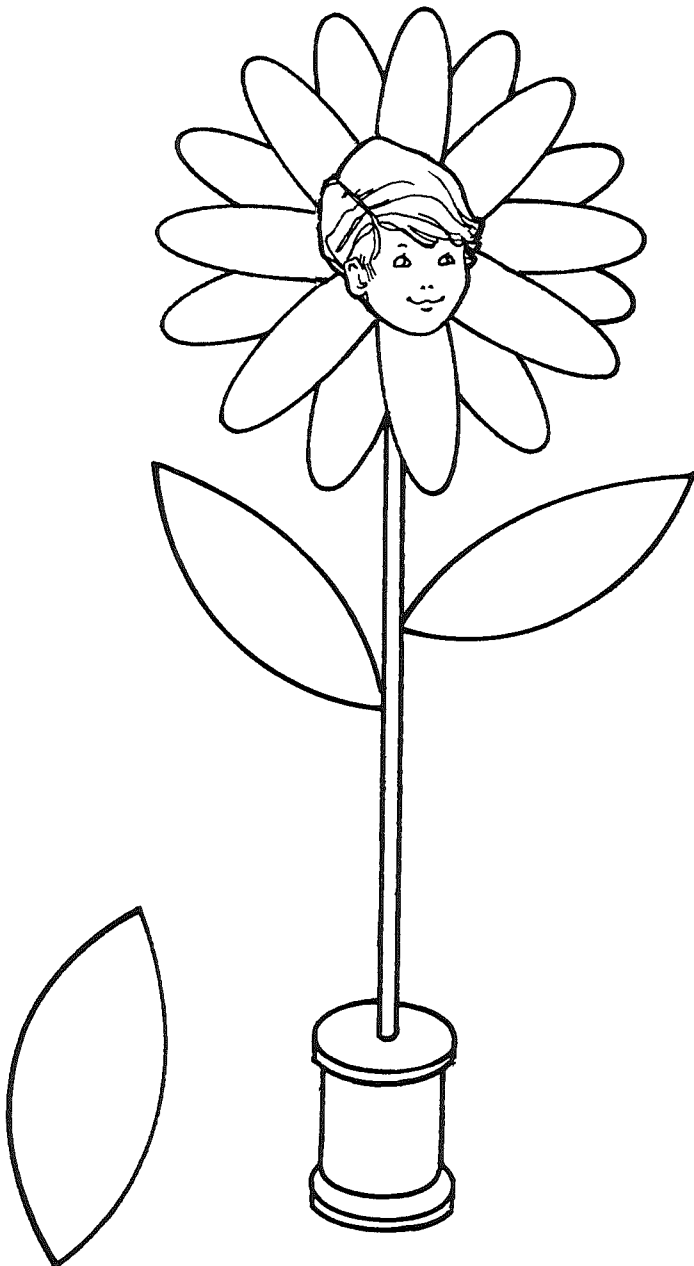
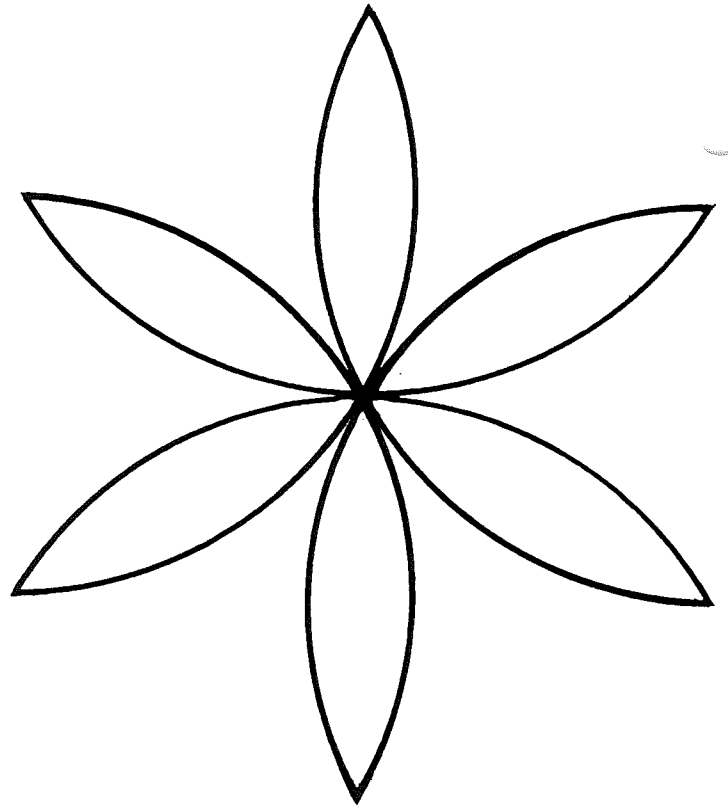


Dad,
You "suit" me
fine. (name)

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.



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