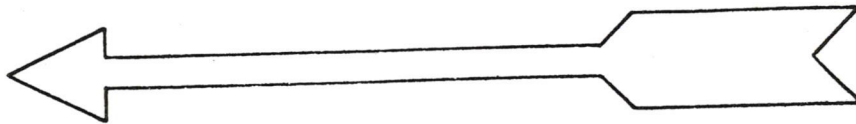


STRAIGHT ARROWS

LEADER'S MANUAL

Royal Rangers
Assemblies of God Men's Department

VOLUME I



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ABOUT THE STRAIGHT ARROW PROGRAM	4-6
Organization	4
Pledge	4
Motto	4
Uniform	4
Advancement Requirements	5
Getting Started	5
Charter Recognition	6
CHARACTERISTICS OF 5- AND 6-YEAR-OLD BOYS	6
FACILITIES	7
PLANNING THE MEETING	7-8
LEADING A CHILD TO THE SAVIOUR	9
VALUE OF A CHILD	9
JANUARY—WE LIKE TO HELP	10-14
Meeting 1	10
Meeting 2	12
Meeting 3	13
Meeting 4	14
FEBRUARY—HAPPY, HAPPY HOME	15-19
Meeting 1	15
Meeting 2	16
Meeting 3	18
Meeting 4	19
MARCH—GOD CARES FOR HIS CREATION	20-25
Meeting 1	21
Meeting 2	22
Meeting 3	23
Meeting 4	24
APRIL—CHILDREN WHO LOVED GOD	26-30
Meeting 1	27
Meeting 2	27
Meeting 3	29
Meeting 4	30
MAY—GOD GIVES US HIS WORD	31-36
Meeting 1	32
Meeting 2	33
Meeting 3	34
Meeting 4	35
JUNE—WE LEARN TO SHARE	37-41
Meeting 1	38
Meeting 2	39
Meeting 3	40
Meeting 4	41
JULY—JESUS DOES MANY WONDERFUL THINGS	42-47
Meeting 1	43
Meeting 2	44
Meeting 3	45
Meeting 4	46
AUGUST—GOD WANTS US TO OBEY	47-51
Meeting 1	47
Meeting 2	48
Meeting 3	49
Meeting 4	51
SEPTEMBER—TALKING TO GOD	52-55
Meeting 1	53
Meeting 2	54
Meeting 3	55
Meeting 4	56
OCTOBER—STORIES JESUS TOLD	58-62
Meeting 1	59
Meeting 2	60
Meeting 3	61
Meeting 4	62
NOVEMBER—WE ARE THANKFUL	63-67
Meeting 1	63
Meeting 2	64
Meeting 3	65
Meeting 4	66
DECEMBER—GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD	67-72
Meeting 1	68
Meeting 2	69
Meeting 3	70
Meeting 4	71
HANDWORK	72-82
Letter Patterns	73-74
Mother's Day Gifts	79
Father's Day Gifts	80
Christmas Gifts	82
SONGS	83

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.)

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

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.

WE LIKE TO HELP AT HOME

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

SHARING

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

MEMORY WORK

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

MIRIAM HELPS HER MOTHER Exodus 2:1-10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Miriam came out from where she was hiding.

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

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

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

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

Mother was very happy. She hurried to the river.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

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

* TO MAKE FINGER PAINTS

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

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

HELPING

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

GOOD-BYE

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

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)

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.

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.

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.

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. Moist- en 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 food 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.

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 MOTHS are colored just like the trees, ground, and

MARCH THIRD MEETING

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

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.

GOD CARES FOR THE BIRDS AND FISH

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

OPENING

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

MUSIC

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

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

MEMORY WORK

Review the memory verses the boys have learned this month.

STORYTIME

HE LIVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Assign duties in cleaning the room.

GOOD-BYE

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

**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 *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.

**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.

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.

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

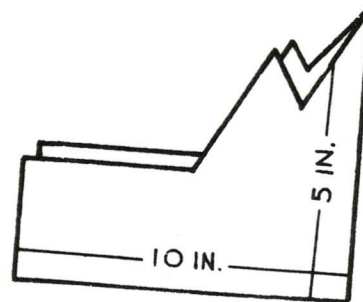
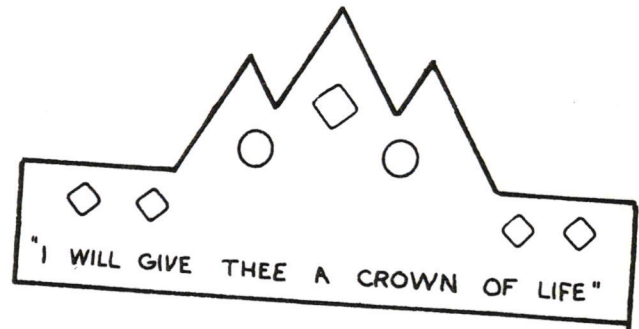
Let the boys cut out crowns you have traced on cardboard. (See sketch for design and sizes.)

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.

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).

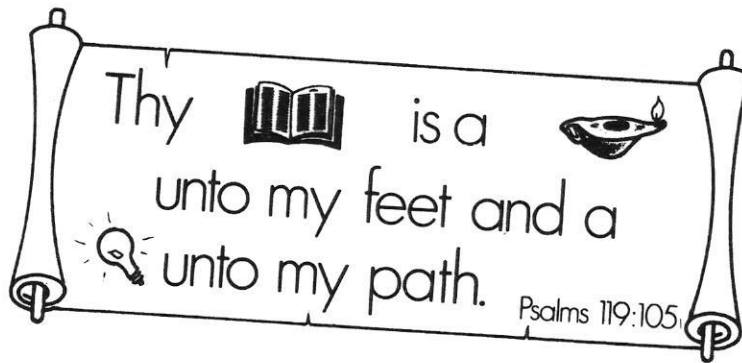
SONGS

"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.



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

$\frac{1}{2}$ cup liquid starch
2 tablespoons cooking oil
1 tablespoon salt
2 tablespoons soap flakes
Add food coloring if desired
1 cup flour
 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 worshipping 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 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. . . ."

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

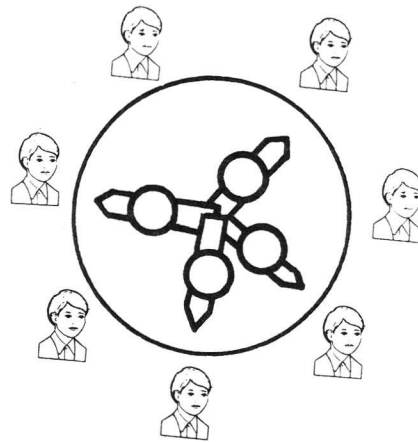
Follow these directions for making a *Sharing Time* for the bulletin board.

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.



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."

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.

JUNE FOURTH MEETING

WE LEARN TO SHARE WITH GOD

FOR THE COMMANDER

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

WELCOME

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

OPENING

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

SHARING

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

MUSIC

Sing "Sermon in Shoes" and other favorites.

MEMORY WORK

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

(Tell the following story using smiling faces.)

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

"What about the part you owe God?" asked Suzie. (Frown on Sam puppet) "Owe God? I worked hard for this money! I dug weeds all morning in Mrs. Jones' yard. This is *my* money!"

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

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

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

"Why one-tenth?"

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

PRAYER TIME

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

STORYTIME

SHE GAVE WHAT SHE HAD Luke 21:1-4

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

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

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

ACTIVITIES

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

HELPING

Use the *Sharing Chart* to assign duties.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer and song.

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.

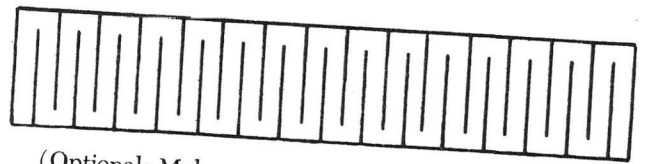
After that, Jesus' helpers left their boats and followed Jesus wherever He went.

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.)



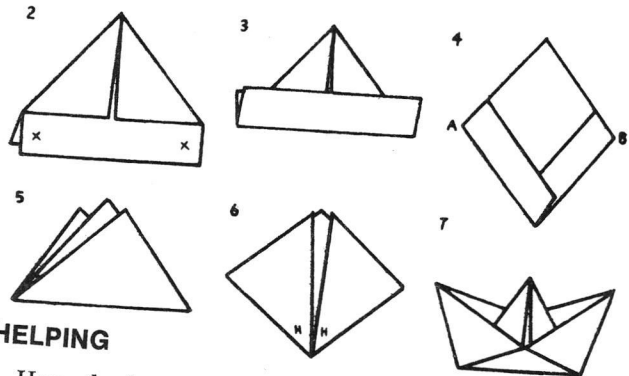
(Optional: Make a paper boat. You will need to practice this a few times. Then lead the boys carefully and slowly, helping them with each step.)

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 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."

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."

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.

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.

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.

"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.

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.

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.

**OCTOBER
THIRD MEETING**

THE TWO HOUSES

FOR THE COMMANDER

For today's story, you will need two sheet-cake pans. In one, place a large rock. Fill the other with 1 to 2 inches of dirt or sand.

Following the pattern shown, (page 38 in handwork packet) construct two paper houses, cutting on solid lines and folding on dotted lines. Place one house on the rock (securing with tape or glue) and place the other house on the sand. Use during Bible story. Bring another rock to use when telling story.

WELCOME

As the boys arrive, let them wander about the room looking at the bulletin board, etc.

OPENING

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

SHARING

Talk about the change in weather—the shorter and colder days. Depending upon the climate in your area, explain how the weather will continue changing. Let the boys express their feelings about the fall season. Help them to appreciate its beauty.

MUSIC

Sing two or three of the boys' favorite songs, reviewing also the songs learned this month. Today's new song will be introduced following the STORYTIME.

MEMORY WORK

Say to the boys, "Two weeks ago we learned that Jesus is our *Good Shepherd*. Last week we learned that He is the *door*. Today we will learn another name that Jesus is called."

Read from your Bible: "The Lord is my *rock* . . . in whom I will trust" (Psalm 18:2).

Continue with, "Why is Jesus called a *shepherd*?" (Because He leads us and cares for us.) "Why is He called the *door*?" (Because He is the way to heaven.) "Why is He called a *rock*?" (Hold up a rock and let the boys look at it.) "A rock is strong. Many things can hit against the rock, but the rock will not break. A rock always stays the same. Summer or winter, hot or cold, the rock always looks the same. A rock is hard to move. Have you ever seen a rock as big as a house? Nothing can push that rock out of the way. A rock protects. High in the mountains, birds build their nests in holes in the rocks. The rocks protect them from the rain and wind."

"Jesus is strong, too. He is always the same. Nothing can move Him away from us. He protects us if we stay close to Him."

Read the verse again. Have the boys repeat it with you.

PRAYER TIME

Thank the Lord for His care and protection. Present your needs.

STORYTIME

THE TWO HOUSES

Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 7:24-27

Many people gathered to hear Jesus teach about God. He told them this story.

"Everyone who hears My words and obeys them is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain poured down, and the rivers flooded over. (Pour water from a pitcher into the cake pan with the rock.) The winds blew hard against the rock. (Blow on house and rock.) But the house did not fall because it was built strong on the rock."

Then Jesus said, "Everyone who hears my words and does *not* obey them is like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain poured down and the rivers flooded. (Pour water onto sand, creating a flood.) The winds blew hard against the house. (Blow on damp house.) And it fell! What a terrible crash that was!"

MUSIC

Teach "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock." You may also want to sing "I Am on the Rock."

ACTIVITIES

Following directions for finger painting, * let the boys create scenes depicting the house on the rock and the house on the sand. Place one or more on your bulletin board. If time permits, give the boys page 38 from the handwork packet to make a house.

*** FINGER PAINTING**

To Make Paint—

Mix ½ cup cornstarch with 3 tablespoons of sugar. Add 2 cups of cold water, and place over a low flame. Stir constantly until the mixture is smooth. To color, blend vegetable coloring to different portions of the mixture.

To Paint—

Spread newspapers over a large table. Dip glossy paper (shelf paper is excellent) into water and let excess water drain off. Place moistened paper onto table with the glossy side up, and smooth away wrinkles. Drip a teaspoon of paint onto the paper. Using your hand, spread paint over the entire surface with a circular movement. If the paint becomes hard, add a little water.

Techniques

1. Use side of the hand for long, sweeping lines.
2. Make fine lines with fingernails or a pencil, fork, etc.
3. Swirl with fingertips for small flowers, berries, etc.
4. Use side of your fist to pat paint for a stippled effect.
5. Pat with your index finger to make bunches of leaves.

To Blend—

Place various colors onto the paper, one below the other, and smooth by lightly passing your hand over them. Do not rub colors into each other.

To finish—

Lift paper by two top corners and place onto newspaper to dry (about 1 hour). If the paper wrinkles, press with a warm iron. To preserve the colors, apply a coat of clear shellac after paper is glued onto article. To clean hands and table, remove paint with a wet sponge.

HELPING

Allow time for cleanup today.

GOOD-BYE

Close with prayer.

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.

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

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)

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.

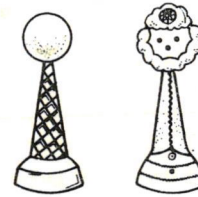
"Tonight, in the town of Bethlehem, a baby was born. He is God's Son. Go and see Him. He is wrapped in a blanket and is lying in a manger."

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.