

La Gran Promesa

Idea principal: Jesús es mi Dios, mi Salvador prometido.

● Versículo de Memoria
"Y dará a luz un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Jesús, porque él salvará a su pueblo de sus pecados" (Mateo 1:21).

La palabra de la semana
"Promesa" - Cuando una persona se compromete a hacer o no hacer algo, está haciendo una promesa. ¡Cuando Dios hace una promesa, la cumple siempre!

La lección de esta semana se basa en **Lucas 1** and **Mateo 1:18-24**.

Domingo

El momento adecuado!

El rey David reflexionó sobre la letra del salmo. Una sonrisa se dibujó en su rostro. «Espero que el Señor me ayude. Confío en su palabra» (Salmo 130:5, ICB).

Sí, decidió el rey, eso es lo que haré. Esperaré. Sabía que Dios siempre cumple sus promesas.

Esperar algo realmente bueno no es fácil. ¡Esperar un cumpleaños, una cita para jugar con un amigo o incluso un dulce delicioso puede ser difícil! Pero esta espera era aún más difícil. Esta espera era por... ¡Jesús! Dios había prometido enviar a su único Hijo en la mayor misión de rescate de todas. Jesús vendría a salvarnos del pecado.

El rey David había aprendido todo sobre la promesa de Dios de su padre, Jesé. Y Jesé la había aprendido de su padre, Obed. Y Obed la había aprendido de sus padres, Rut y Booz. Ahora el rey David se lo contaría a sus hijos y a la gente de su reino. Juntos esperarían.

El pueblo de Dios esperó...

y esperó... y esperó. Dios envió a otros

reyes y líderes para recordar a la gente que siga siendo paciente. Su Salvador llegaría, cuando llegara el momento oportuno.

¿Cómo podrían las palabras del himno en **Salmo 130:7, 8** haberlos animado? Pasaron muchísimos años. El pueblo de Dios esperó durante mucho tiempo. ¡Finalmente, la espera terminó! Había llegado el momento.

Me pregunto

» ¿Cuándo has esperado mucho tiempo por algo bueno? ¿Qué esperabas?

» ¿Qué te ayudó a tener paciencia mientras esperabas?

● Idea para la oración

Agradece a Jesús por cumplir su promesa de salvarnos.

● Reto misionero

Ora cada día para que Jesús te ayude a ser un buen amigo para los demás. Habla con tu familia sobre cómo es un buen amigo y cómo actúa.

Charla de fe para padres

Comparte alguna ocasión en la que tuviste que esperar una bendición especial de Dios.



Lunes

El ayudante

¡Había llegado el momento! ¡La espera había terminado! Dios estaba listo para enviar a su Hijo a salvar al mundo. Pero primero necesitaría un ayudante, alguien que anunciara a todos que el Hijo de Dios venía.

Este ayudante necesitaría padres que le enseñaran los caminos de Dios. ¿Qué padres escogió Dios? Lee **Lucas 1:5, 6**.

Un día, un ángel se apareció repentinamente al fiel Zacarías mientras trabajaba en el templo.

"No temas, Zacarías", le dijo el ángel con dulzura, "tu esposa Elisabet te dará un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Juan... Él también será lleno del Espíritu Santo" (Lucas 1:13-15). El ángel dijo que Juan prepararía a la gente para encontrarse con el Señor.

¡Zacarías no podía creerlo! Él y su esposa, Isabel, eran muy ancianos; demasiado ancianos para tener hijos. "¿Cómo puedo saber que lo que dices es verdad?", preguntó con duda. "Soy un anciano, y mi esposa también lo es" (Lucas 1:18, ICB).

El ángel le dijo a Zacarías que Isabel tendría el bebé prometido. Pero como Zacarías dudaba, no podría hablar hasta que naciera Juan. Zacarías salió del templo. Abrió la boca para hablar con la gente, pero... ¡nada! No salió ningún sonido. En silencio, Zacarías regresó a casa con su esposa, Elisabet. Reflexionó mucho sobre las palabras del ángel.

Y, efectivamente, Isabel pronto quedó embarazada de su pequeño milagro. Un día, este bebé crecería para convertirse en el ayudante especial de Dios.

¡Él ayudaría a la gente a prepararse para Jesús!

Me pregunto

» ¿Por qué crees que Dios eligió a Zacarías y a Isabel para ser los padres de esta ayuda tan especial?

» ¿Recuerdas a otro matrimonio en la Biblia a quienes Dios les prometió un hijo, a pesar de su avanzada edad? (Abraham y Sara). Zacarías también debería haberlos recordado y no haber dudado de la promesa de Dios.

● Idea para la oración

Agradece a Dios por su promesa y su plan para salvarnos..

● Hazlo

Ve a la naturaleza y guarda silencio, como lo hizo Zacarías. Observa y escucha los pequeños milagros de Dios.

● Versículo de Memoria

Madre del Hijo de Dios

María dio un salto de sorpresa. Ante ella estaba un hermoso y resplandeciente ángel. "¡Salve!", dijo el ángel. "El Señor te ha bendecido y está contigo" (Lucas 1:28, ICB).

El corazón de María se aceleró. ¿Por qué le hablaba este mensajero especial de Dios? Era solo una joven común de Nazaret. ¿Qué significaba todo aquello?

El ángel le dijo: "No temas, María, porque Dios está complacido contigo. ¡Escucha! Quedarás embarazada y darás a luz un hijo, y le pondrás por nombre Jesús... El niño será santo y será llamado Hijo de Dios" (Lucas 1:30-35, ICB).

María apenas podía creerlo. ¡Dios la estaba eligiendo para ser la madre del Salvador prometido del mundo! Entonces el ángel sonrió y le dijo algo más emocionante: "Tu parienta Elizabet es muy anciana. Pero también está embarazada de un hijo" (Lucas 1:36, ICB).

¿Qué dijo el ángel a continuación para ayudar a María a creer? Lee **Lucas 1:37**.

María se asombró de todo lo que el ángel le dijo. Sobre todo, se asombró de que sería la madre de Jesús. Dios estaba cumpliendo lo que siempre había prometido. Su plan para salvar a los pecadores finalmente se estaba haciendo realidad.

"Soy la sierva del Señor", respondió humildemente. "Que se haga en mí lo que dices" (Lucas 1:38, ICB).

Me pregunto

» ¿Por qué Dios necesitaba enviar a Jesús? (Lee tu versículo para memorizar, Mateo 1:21).

Idea para la oración

Agradece a Dios, para Él nada es imposible.

Hazlo

Haz un plan y una promesa para compartir el amor de Dios con alguien hoy. Podrías dejar pasar a alguien en la fila de la tienda o preparar una comida para una mujer embarazada o que acaba de tener un bebé.

Versículo de Memoria





Wednesday

Exciting News

Mary had very exciting news. An angel had just told her she would be the mother of the Son of God, the Savior of the world! Mary couldn't wait to tell someone. And she knew just whom to tell. Mary "got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea" (Luke 1:39, ICB).

Who was she going to visit? Read **Luke 1:40**.

As soon as Mary stepped through the front door, she happily greeted Elizabeth. The moment she spoke, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. The baby inside Elizabeth's round tummy leaped and wriggled with joy. Instantly Elizabeth knew that the Savior of the world was growing inside of Mary!

"God has blessed you more than any other woman," Elizabeth said. "You are the mother of my Lord" (Luke 1:42, 43, ICB).

The two women hugged each other tightly and smiled with joy.

"My soul praises the Lord; my heart is happy because God is my Savior," Mary said to Elizabeth. "God has done what he promised" (Luke 1:46, 55).

Yes! God's plan was happening—Jesus was on the way. Aren't you glad? For "He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

I Wonder

» How do you know that God loves you?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His big plan to save us.

Do

Tell someone the exciting news found in your memory verse. You might tell them in person, on the phone, over video chat, or in a letter/drawing.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Baby John

Babies are such amazing miracles from God. Mary and Elizabeth's babies were miracles too—extra-special miracles. Especially the baby growing inside of Mary. This tiny baby was the Son of God, the Creator of the universe, and the Savior of the world. Wow! What a miracle.

After a nice long visit with Elizabeth, Mary returned home to Nazareth. Soon Elizabeth gave birth to her little miracle boy. Their friends and family were so happy. They wanted to call him Zacharias, just like his daddy.

"No, he shall be called John," Elizabeth said (Luke 1:60).

Their friends disagreed. "But no one in your family has this name!" (Luke 1:61, ICB). They asked Zacharias. What would he like to call his son?

What did Zacharias do? Read **Luke 1:63**.

Suddenly Zacharias could talk again! After months of being silent, Zacharias' voice worked, "and he spoke, praising God" (Luke 1: 64).

Looking down at his precious son, Zacharias said, "Now you, child, . . . will go first before the Lord to prepare the people for his coming. You will make his people know that they will be saved" (Luke 1:76, 77).

What an important job John would have.

I Wonder

» Can you think of any other promises God made and kept in the Bible?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for being the Savior of the world.

Do

Make and decorate a colorful banner together that says, "Jesus has come!"

Memory Verse





Friday

A Message for Joseph

Joseph tossed and turned in his bed. He was so upset. He was supposed to be marrying Mary soon. But he was so confused.

He thought about what Mary had told him. The story seemed impossible! She had told him that an angel had spoken to her. That she was pregnant with the promised Savior, the Son of God! Could he believe her? What should he do?

Finally Joseph fell into a restless sleep. While he slept, God sent an angel to encourage him.

"Joseph, . . . don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit," the angel said (Matthew 1:20, ICB).

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Mary's story was true! God wanted Mary and Joseph to be the parents of the promised Savior of the world.

What did Joseph do? Read **Matthew 1:24**.

Joseph chose to trust God's plan. He knew that God would be with them. God would be their helper as they raised this special baby, Jesus. One day He would save the world from sin and death!

I Wonder

» Do you want to trust in God's plan to save you? If you do, you can invite Him into your heart right now.

Prayer Idea

Thank You, Jesus, for being my God, my promised Savior.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Sing or say your memory verse and think about God's big plan to save you. Place an object in your memory box, to remind you.

For You, Parents

"Christ took upon Himself human nature, a nature inferior to His heavenly nature. Nothing so shows the wonderful condescension of God as this. He so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16)" (Ellen G. White, *Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 246).

Fire! Help!

Crack! An odd noise woke up little Amy late at night. Lifting her head, she smelled something unusual. She decided to take a look.

Peeking out of the door, Amy saw that the television looked like a big ball of fire. The TV was in a wooden cabinet in the living room. On top of the TV cabinet was a big flower vase.

Amy's eyes opened wide in fear as she saw the hot orange flames reaching up to the ceiling. The fire was quickly spreading toward the kitchen and garage.

"Fire!" Amy screamed. "Help! Help!"

But the fire was so hot that no one dared come out of their rooms. Her father, mother, and brother quickly ran to a window at the back of the house and jumped out. But Amy did not run. Quickly, just for a moment, she fell on her knees.

"God, please save us," she prayed.

At that moment the big flower vase sitting above the TV began to wobble. Then . . . crash! Amy watched as the vase of water fell straight onto the fire. The flames instantly died down. They stopped climbing up the ceiling. They stopped racing toward the kitchen and garage. The fire shrunk down until it disappeared completely.

God had heard and answered Amy's prayer.

Sin is a lot like that big fire. It began in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Since then, sin has spread like fire. It has caused pain, sadness, and even death. It is a problem we just can't fix ourselves.

That is why God made a plan to send Jesus to destroy sin and death forever. "For God loved the world so much that he gave His only Son. God gave His son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life" (John 3:16, ICB).

This story is adapted from "Fire! Help!" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright (c) 2022 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.

Fast Fact

In Laos, where Amy is from, they speak Lao. To say "Help! Fire!" Amy would have said, "Suay dae! Fái mài!" Can you say that?



The Jesus Gift Arrives

Big Idea: Jesus is my God, the greatest gift ever.

● **Memory Verse**
"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).

Word of the Week

"Humble" - Humble means thinking less about yourself and more about God and others. People who are humble don't show off. Instead, they point others to God. They say and do things that help others feel loved and valued.

This week's lesson
 is based on **Luke 2:1-7**
 and *The Desire of Ages*,
 pp. 43-49.

Sunday

Time to Go!

Toot, toot, toot, the trumpets blasted. The announcement boomed across cities and towns far and wide. Ruler Caesar Augustus had ordered everyone to go to their family's hometown. Everyone had to go *now*! He wanted to count all the people. And he wasn't asking, "Please, if you don't mind." No, it was an order! A command. If people didn't listen, they would be in big trouble.

So what did all the people do? Read **Luke 2:3**.

Hurry, hurry! Moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers busily packed their bags. Whether their hometown was close by or far away, they must go there—and they must go there now!

There were no cars, motorbikes, trains, or planes. Instead, people had to walk the long, dusty roads or ride a bumpy donkey or horse.

Before they left, many families bowed together to humbly pray. They knew that God promises to "guard you as you come and go" (Psalm 121:8, ICB). They wanted God to be with them and keep them safe on their long journey.

I Wonder

» Do you ever pray for God to protect you when you go on a trip?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to keep your family well and safe today.

Mission Challenge

Look for a way to help someone in your family who helps other people, such as a big brother/sister, parent, or aunt/uncle.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time that God kept you safe on a short or long journey.



Monday

God Is With Us

Joseph looked across at Mary with a smile. Her tummy was big and round. Mary was pregnant with precious Baby Jesus. And He could be born any day now!

Because Mary was about to have her baby, it wouldn't be easy to travel. But they had to go to Bethlehem. They had been ordered to go to their hometown for a "people count," so they needed to go. After packing their bags, Joseph gently lifted Mary onto the donkey's back. With a *clip-clop*, they were on their way.

Where were they going? Read **Luke 2:4**.

Mary and Joseph traveled for many days along hot, dusty paths, and busy roads.

Mary smiled and held her tummy tenderly as she swayed left and right on the donkey's back. They didn't need to worry on this long trip. God was with them. His angels were busy keeping them safe. One day very soon they would be able to say, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). The greatest gift ever given to the world would soon be safely cradled in their arms.

I Wonder

» Do you think that on their journey they made dinner over a fire? Did they look up at all the stars at night? What do you think they said in their prayers to God as they traveled to Bethlehem?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His protection.

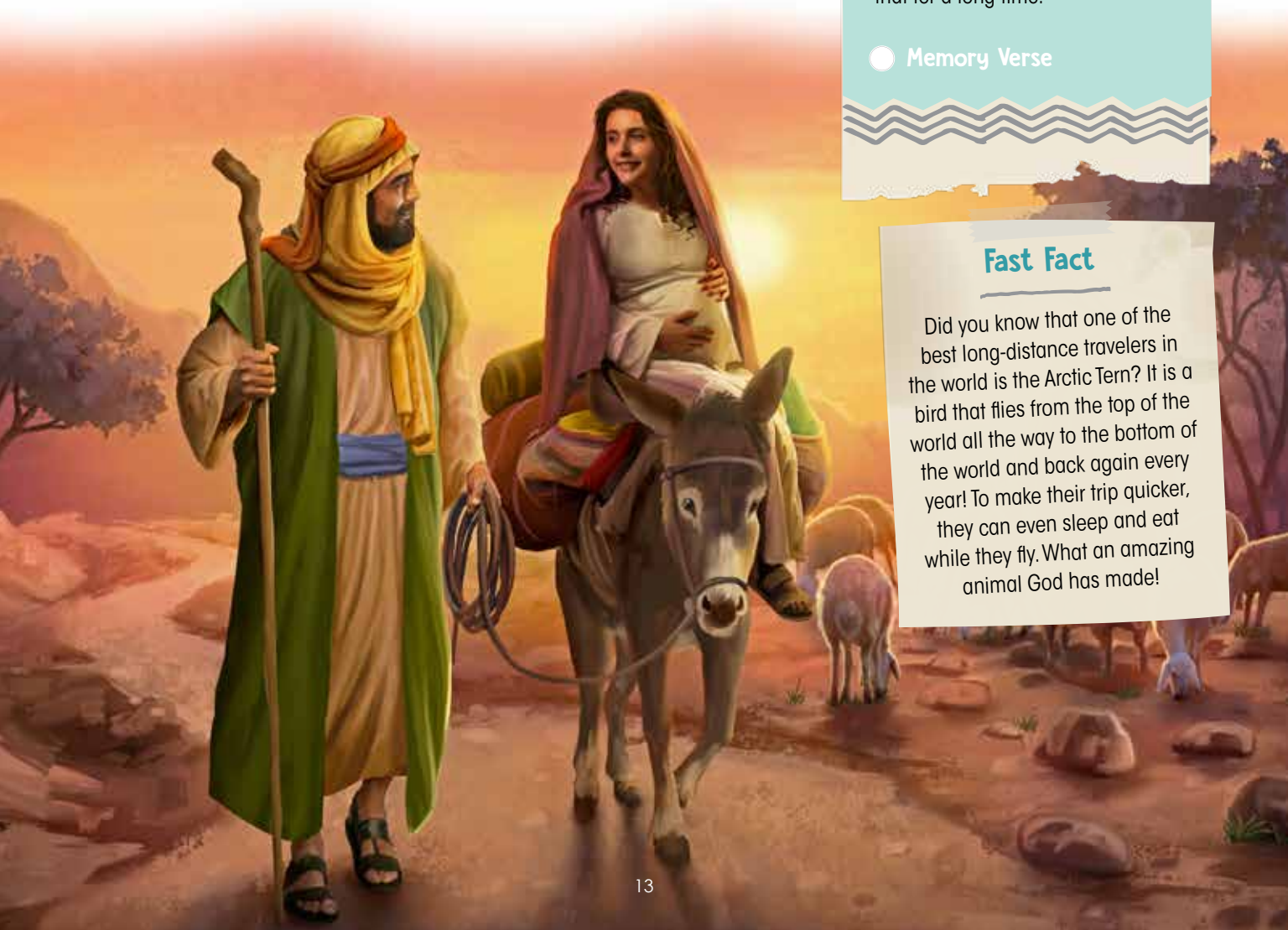
Do

Have a donkey race. Climb onto your mom or dad's back and ask them to crawl quickly across the floor. Talk about how bumpy and uncomfortable it would be to do that for a long time.

Memory Verse

Fast Fact

Did you know that one of the best long-distance travelers in the world is the Arctic Tern? It is a bird that flies from the top of the world all the way to the bottom of the world and back again every year! To make their trip quicker, they can even sleep and eat while they fly. What an amazing animal God has made!





Tuesday

No Room

Joseph smiled and pointed at the city ahead. Finally, after a very long and tiring trip, Mary and Joseph could see Bethlehem.

What was the other name for Bethlehem? Read **Luke 2:4**.

The donkey's slow *clip-clop, clip-clop* became *clippity-cloppity, clippity-cloppity* as Joseph eagerly rushed toward the city.

As they entered the gates, they saw people everywhere! Lots of people had come to be counted, just as they had. Joseph, Mary, and their donkey squeezed past the crowds of visitors. They walked up and down the narrow streets looking for a place to sleep.

Joseph stopped at an inn. *Knock, knock, knock*. As the door creaked open, Joseph asked for a room to stay for the night. The owner shook his head and closed the door. "There were no rooms left in the inn" (Luke 2:7, ICB). Joseph tried the place next door, but there were no empty beds there, either.

With tired, sagging shoulders Joseph and Mary moved from one house to another, looking for a place to sleep. But not a single room could be found anywhere. Oh, dear! What would they do?

If only the people realized that the baby inside of Mary was God's greatest gift to the world. If only they understood how special that unborn baby was. Maybe then they would have made room for Mary, Joseph, and the baby King.

I Wonder

- » How can you make more room for Jesus in your life?
- » Is there something you could do less of so you could have more "Jesus time"?

Prayer Idea

If you would like, take a moment to ask Jesus to live in your heart today.

Do

Plate Challenge: See how much food you can fit on a plate. When we fill our lives up with so much "stuff" (even if it's good for us), we can run out space for Jesus.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Jesus Is Born!

The cows mooed. The sheep baaed. Mary and Joseph looked around the small, humble stable. This place where animals slept would be their room for the night. In all of Bethlehem it was the only room they could find.

Joseph tied up their tired donkey. Then he helped Mary lie down on the prickly hay. It had been such a long, bumpy journey! It was time to rest and sleep.

On this night, in this very place, among these animals, something amazing happened. Baby Jesus was born! "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).

God had given Jesus to the world. This was the greatest, most precious gift *ever*!

Joseph and Mary held Him close. They knew their tiny baby was someone very special. He was "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

Mary and Joseph looked into His beautiful face and smiled. This special baby needed a name. The shining angel had told them, "And you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus. Yes, His name would be Jesus!

I Wonder

» What other names would Jesus have? Read all of **Isaiah 9:6**.

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us Jesus, the greatest gift ever.

Do

What welcome noises might the animals have made? Pointing to each animal in the picture, share their "greeting" with your family.

Memory Verse



Thursday

Amazed Angels

Mary tenderly wrapped Baby Jesus in cloth to keep Him from getting cold. Then she laid Him down to sleep.

What was Baby Jesus' bed? Read **Luke 2:7**.

A king sleeping in a bed like that? Usually kings sleep in fancy royal palaces, on giant silky-soft beds. But not this humble King.

Thousands and thousands of invisible angels looked down at Baby Jesus lying in that manger. They were amazed. They knew Jesus as king of the universe! In heaven Jesus had a shiny throne, with angels singing praise songs to Him day and night. And now He had swapped it for a stable, a manger, and noisy animals.

The Bible says, "He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7, ICB). Wow! What a humble God and Savior He is.

The angels knew their King deserved the very best. But Jesus had given it all away to save the world. He had come down, down, down, to give His life—the greatest gift ever given to the world.

I Wonder

» Why did Jesus give up heaven to be born in a stable?

Prayer Idea

Thank You, Jesus, for being my God, the greatest gift ever.

Do

Sing "Away in a Manger" or other songs you might know about Jesus' birth.

Memory Verse





Friday

The Greatest Treasure

Hidden in a dark attic of a French family home was a colorful little vase. For years it lay unnoticed in an old, dusty shoebox. No one in the family cared about it. In fact, it had been completely forgotten.

The vase had been given as a gift long ago. But no one really liked the gift, so it had been put in a shoebox and stored away in the attic.

One day while the family was cleaning out the attic, the vase was found again.

"H'mm," Father said, "maybe we should see how much this vase is worth."

"Yes, let's find out," answered Mother. With the shoebox under their arm they climbed into the car and drove to ask an expert.

The expert carefully opened the shoebox and gasped. This was a very rare and very precious vase. The vase was eventually sold for \$19 million. That is a very, very large amount of money!

Many years ago, in an old, dusty stable, with noisy animals, lay another treasure. This treasure was worth more than the entire universe. This treasure was Jesus. As He lay in the animal feeding trough, people passed by without caring. No one noticed that the greatest, most valuable treasure ever was right there with them!

Do you want the treasure of Jesus? He is yours if you ask Him into your heart. He will give you love, forgiveness, joy, and a place in heaven with Him forever. Now, that is a treasure worth treasuring.

I Wonder

» Why was the gift of Jesus given to you? Read **John 3:16** together.

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you to treasure Him more than anything else.

Memory Verse



Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the treasure of Jesus. Find something to remind you of His great gift and place it in the memory box as a reminder.

For You, Parents

"The gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. . . . The whole treasury of heaven is open to those [God] seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, . . . He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 57).

Sabbath

The Gift of Baby Jesus

How well do you know the story of Baby Jesus from this week's lesson?
Do you know it well enough to create a drama together as a family?

Characters

- Narrator
- Mary
- Joseph
- Innkeeper

Props

- A donkey (broom)
- Baby Jesus (doll)
- Animals (toys)
- A manger (box or chair)

MISSION CHALLENGE

Show your drama to friends, or record it on a phone and send it to someone to remind them how much Jesus loves them.

Narrator Script

Toot, toot, toot, *the trumpets blasted. The announcement boomed across cities and towns far and wide. Ruler Caesar Augustus was ordering everyone to go to their family's hometown for a people count.*

Joseph and Mary packed their bags. Joseph gently lifted Mary onto their donkey's back. With a clip-clop, they were on their way!

They traveled far, far away. Over hills and along dusty roads. Clip-clop, clip-clop. What a long trip! Finally, Joseph pointed excitedly. Look! It's Bethlehem!

The donkey's slow clip-clop, clip-clop became clippity-cloppity, clippity-cloppity, as Joseph eagerly pulled the donkey with his precious load towards the city.

Joseph, Mary, and their donkey walked up and down the narrow streets of Bethlehem, looking for a place to sleep. Joseph stopped at an inn. Knock, knock, knock. As the door creaked open, Joseph asked for a room to stay for the night. The owner shook his head and closed the door. "There were no rooms left in the inn" (Luke 2:7, ICB). Joseph tried the place next door, but there were no empty beds there, either.

All they could find was an animal stable. They made a bed in the hay and fell fast asleep.

On this night, in this very place, among these animals, something amazing happened. Yes! Baby Jesus was born!

Joseph found a manger for His bed. Mary wrapped the tiny baby King in cloth. Carefully they laid Him in the manger.

Jesus loved us so much that He came to save us. Here in the stable lay the greatest, most precious gift ever given to the world.



Finding Jesus, the Gift

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He wants me to seek Him and find Him.

● Memory Verse

"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Word of the Week

"Seeking" - Seeking is searching for something. Jesus wants us to seek for Him with all our hearts. Some things we can do to spend time with Jesus include praying, reading the Bible, going to Sabbath School, and singing worship songs.

This week's lesson

is based on **Matthew 2:1-12**; **Luke 2:8-38**; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-67.

Sunday

By the Fireside

The flames of the fire flickered yellow and orange. It crackled as smoke rose up into the starry night sky. Huddled around the warm flames sat some men.

Who were these men, and what were they doing? Read **Luke 2:8**.

The grassy fields were their home. During the day they would lead their sheep to crunchy green grass and cool streams. At night they would camp under the stars, still looking after their flocks. No hungry wolves would come near their fluffy sheep!

The shepherds laughed and talked together as they watched the sheep. They may have chatted about the cool breeze, their families back home, and the new little lambs. Perhaps they pointed to the field in the distance filled with long, new grass. Yes, that would be a great place to take the sheep tomorrow.

But as the night grew still and quiet, the men began to talk about their most favorite thing of all—the coming Savior.

When would He come? What would He look like? What would He do? Oh, how they wanted it to be soon!

Bowing their heads together, the shepherds prayed

for the King whose "rule will last forever" and whose "kingdom will never be destroyed" (Daniel 7:14, ICB).

I Wonder

- » What would you have liked/disliked about being a shepherd?
- » Who were the shepherds seeking?

● Prayer Idea

Thank God for putting His love in our hearts so we want to seek Him.

● Do

Build your own pretend campfire, using things from around the house. Sit around it and chat about what excites you the most about Jesus' second coming.



Monday

A Surprise Announcement†

The shepherds looked up at the starry sky as their sheep slept on the soft grass. All was quiet. All was still.

Suddenly a dazzling angel appeared before them. The angel's light was so bright, it made the sky shine all around them. The shepherds jumped back in surprise. Their eyes opened wide, and their knees began to wobble. They were scared!

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people" (Luke 2:10).

The shepherds gasped, amazed. An angel wanted to share good news for the whole world with them—a group of shepherds!

What did the angel say? Read **Luke 2:11**.

The promised Savior had come! The King they had just been talking about was here. They imagined His big, strong muscles, His crown, and His royal palace. Yes! They couldn't wait to bow before their Ruler, the one they thought would save them from the mean Roman soldiers.

The angel said, "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

Well, that's a little strange for a king, isn't it? But the shepherds looked at the beautiful angel and nodded. How special that God had sent them an angel messenger! With seeking hearts they believed the angel's words.

I Wonder

» If the angel hadn't told the shepherds where Baby Jesus was, what might have happened?

Prayer Idea

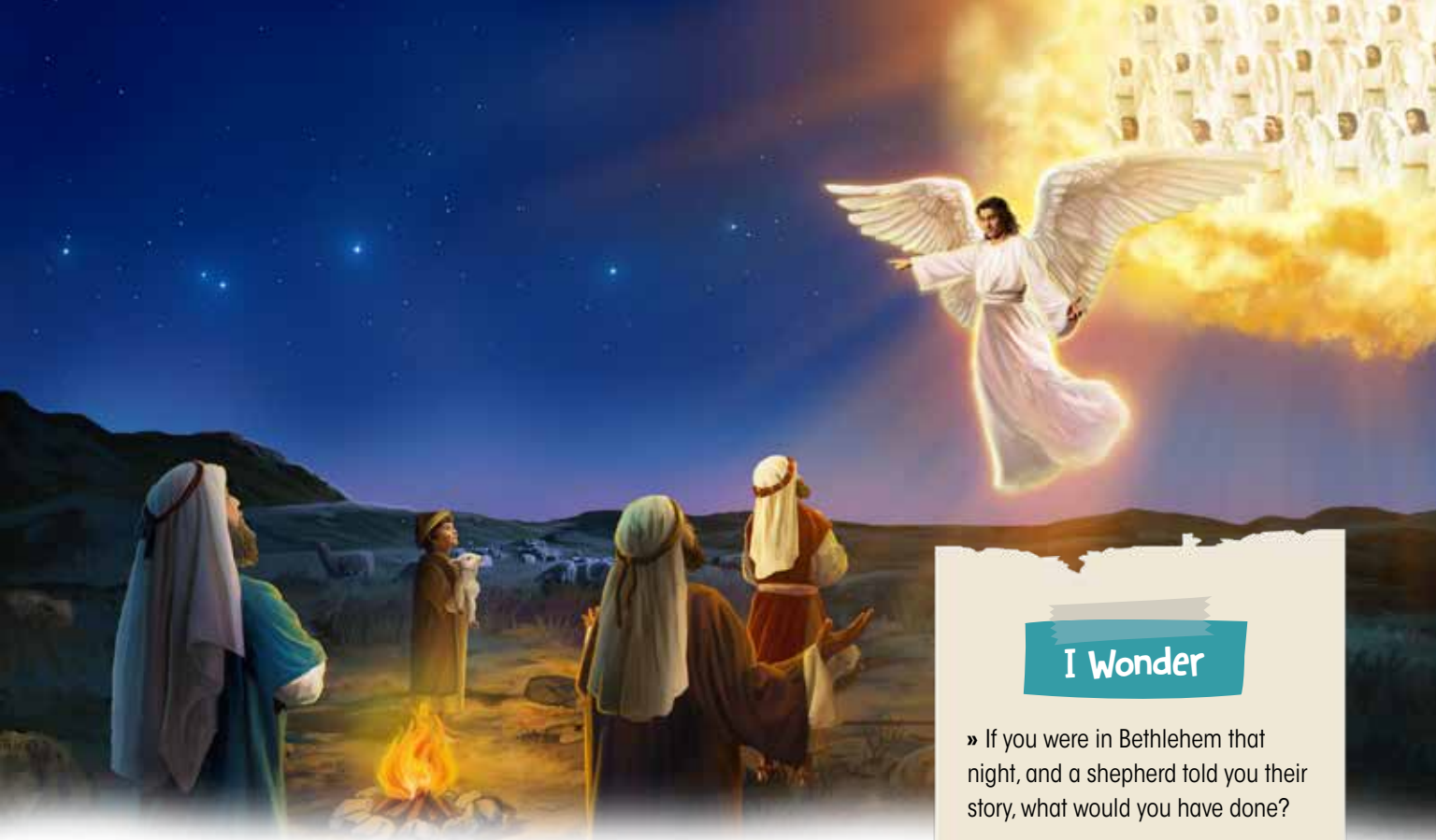
Thank Jesus that His love is for all of us.

Do

Using lights, lamps, and flashlights, make a room very, very bright. Imagine what it might have felt like for the shepherds to see the angels. In a big voice, share the joyful news for all people: "Today your Savior was born. . . . He is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:11, ICB).

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Glory to God!

The shepherds trembled at the angel's words. The promised King had been born!

Then, with a flash, the sky lit up brighter than the sun. Thousands of angels filled the sky with brilliant light! In their loudest and happiest voices, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . . toward men (Luke 2:14).

It was the most beautiful song the shepherds had ever heard. When the song finished, the angels disappeared. The light faded away, and the darkness returned.

The shepherds could hardly breathe, they were so excited! Jumping up, they ran to Bethlehem. Finally, puffing and panting, the shepherds stopped outside a humble stable. Shh! There, with Mary and Joseph, lay tiny Baby Jesus, sleeping peacefully in the manger. Bowing down, the shepherds worshipped Jesus.

They had found their King and Savior!

Then off they raced again, down the streets of Bethlehem. Stopping here, and stopping there, they shared their story everywhere. Angels! A stable! A baby King! What an exciting story it was for them to tell others. "Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:18, ICB).

Somebody else couldn't stop thinking about their story. Who was it? Read **Luke 2:19**.

I Wonder

» If you were in Bethlehem that night, and a shepherd told you their story, what would you have done?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to fill your heart with thankfulness and praise for His great love for sending Jesus to our world as a baby.

Do

Make up a song using the angel's words in Luke 2:14. Your family may like to also look up a choir singing "Glory to God in the Highest" from Handel's *Messiah* and share it with you.

Mission Challenge

Draw a picture of an angel and ask your mom or dad to write the words from Luke 2:14 beside the angel. Give the picture to someone and tell them the story of the angels coming to the shepherds.

Memory Verse



Wednesday

Anna and Simeon

Mary and Joseph held Baby Jesus close as they walked along the stone streets of Jerusalem. Today was a very special day. Today they would take Jesus to the temple. It was time to thank God for the gift of Baby Jesus.

The happy parents smiled as they gave Baby Jesus to the priest to say a prayer of thanks. The priest held the tiny Baby in his arms, but he had no idea he was holding the King of heaven! He said a prayer in front of the altar and handed Jesus back to His mother.

But someone else noticed who Jesus was. It was an old man in the temple named Simeon. Simeon was really close to God. When he saw Baby Jesus cradled in Mary's arms, he instantly knew that *this* baby was the promised King and Savior. He took Jesus in his arms and said a special thank-You prayer.

What did Simeon say? Read **Luke 2:30**.

Old Anna, with her wrinkly skin and gray hair, was also in the temple

Did you know?

Parents today like to thank God for their babies with a baby dedication. Parents bring their baby to church to say thank You. They then say a special prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them teach their child to love and follow God.

that day. Anna loved seeking God with her whole heart. She would pray "day and night," and she "never left the Temple" (Luke 2:37, ICB). As Simeon stood holding Baby Jesus, Anna's face lit up with God's bright joy. She knew this child was special. She just couldn't keep inside her words of praise, thanking God that Jesus, the promised Savior, had come.

I Wonder

- » How did Simeon and Anna know that Jesus was the promised Savior?
- » Have you ever seen a baby dedication? Have you been dedicated. If so, ask your family what it was like.

Prayer Idea

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart so you can know Jesus.

Do

Play a game of hide-and-seek. Choose to be either Anna or Simeon when it's your turn to seek.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Stargazers

Far, far away from Bethlehem lived a group of very wise and good men. They knew a lot about stars—the same stars you can see each night in your sky!

Where were these men from? Read **Matthew 2:1**.

These Wise Men spent their days seeking truth and reading. As they read the Old Testament Scriptures, they discovered that the Savior was coming soon. How exciting!

Then one night (the very night Baby Jesus was born) they looked at the sparkling stars in the night sky and noticed something different. It was an unusual light in the sky. Then the light faded and turned into a beautiful star that moved. How interesting!

They remembered the Old Testament scriptures that said “a star will come” and “a ruler will rise” (Numbers 24:17, ICB). With excitement the Wise Men realized this must be “His star” (Matthew 2:2), God’s special sign that their King and Savior had come, just as God had promised!

Not knowing where it might lead, they decided to follow the star. They

saddled their camels, packed their bags, and filled their sacks with three very precious gifts for their King. No matter how far or how hard the trip might be, they would search for Him! They knew the truth of God’s promise: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

Fast Fact

A constellation is a group of stars that make a shape in the sky—a bit like a dot-to-dot puzzle. Can you see any in your sky at night?

I Wonder

- » Do you know what the light and moving star was?
- » What can the Wise Men teach us about seeking God and His truth?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that the Bible shows us the way to Him.

Do

Sit together under the stars at night and try to find different stars. Your family may like to use an app to learn about the stars you see.

Memory Verse





Friday

The Seeking Wise Men

The Wise Men traveled across the sand, over hills, and through distant lands. Every night they followed the star. They were seeking the promised King!

Finally, after a very long journey, the Wise Men saw Jerusalem up ahead. They watched as the star stopped still, right above the temple. They must be getting close!

Excitedly the men entered the city gates. They began asking people where to find their newborn King. The people looked confused—they didn't know.

They went to the palace of King Herod. *Maybe he would know?* But no, Herod didn't know. In fact, their question made him very jealous. He was the king—he didn't want there to be a new one!

Leaving Jerusalem, the Wise Men didn't know where to go next. But then they saw the special star moving again! This time it led them right to a humble little home in Bethlehem.

What did they see and do next? Read **Matthew 2:11**.

The Wise Men dropped to their knees and worshipped Jesus. They opened their treasure box and pulled out three gifts. They gave Jesus shiny gold, special frankincense, and a sweet-smelling oil called myrrh. These gifts were worth a lot of money! They were special gifts for a king.

The Wise Men were so happy. God's word was true: "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

Parent Faith Talk

Share with your child how you seek Jesus each day, and the ways you "find" Him.

I Wonder

» What can you do to seek and find Jesus each day?

Prayer Idea

Give Jesus a gift of sweet praise today. Think of three things to thank Him for.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the people who were seeking to find Jesus in this week's story. Find something for the memory box that will remind you to seek after Jesus.

For You, Parents

"Ask in faith, wait in faith, receive in faith, rejoice in hope, for everyone that seeketh findeth. Be in earnest in the matter. Seek God with all the heart"
(Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 131).

Bobbie the Wonder Dog

Frank slid the last suitcase into the back of the car. His wife, Elizabeth, climbed into the front seat. With a wag of his tail, their dog Bobbie jumped into the back. It was time to go!

Frank and Elizabeth had decided to make a very long trip across the United States to visit their family. This was a long time ago, in 1923. It was a big journey over mountains, past fields, and through a hot desert.

Finally, after many days of travel, Frank and Elizabeth arrived on the other side of the country. When they stopped for a rest, Bobbie jumped out of the car and began looking and sniffing around.

Suddenly a pack of three dogs ran toward Bobbie and attacked him. Poor Bobbie ran away into the nearby forest.

Back at the car, Frank and Elizabeth waited for Bobbie to return. "Bobbie, time to go," Frank called. But no Bobbie came. They waited a very long time. Eventually they had to leave. They hoped Bobbie would use his sniffing skills to find them at their relative's house not too far away.

Many days passed. It was now time for Frank and Elizabeth to return home. With sad hearts they began their long journey without their dog Bobbie.

Out in the forest, Bobbie was busy searching and seeking to find his owners again.

For days, weeks, and months, Bobbie traveled toward home, alone. He walked through tall fields of prickly grass, a dusty desert, and ice-cold snow. He swam through deep rivers. He loved his family. He would keep seeking them.

Bobbie would not give up.

Finally, after six long months, Bobbie made it back across the country to home! As soon as he saw his family, Bobbie raced up to them and licked their faces. He'd found them!

Jesus wants us to love Him and seek after Him too. He promises, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). We don't have to walk to the other side of the country to seek Jesus. He is right here. But we can get closer to Him by putting Him first in our lives. We can do that by talking to Him every day, reading our Bible, and making good decisions that will lead us closer to Him.



Guiding and Protecting

Big Idea: Jesus is my God who protects me.

Memory Verse

"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

Word of the Week

"Protect" - Protect means to keep someone or something safe from danger. God wants to keep you safe! He has given His angels the very special job of protecting you every day.

This week's lesson

is based on **Luke 2:22-38**; **Matthew 2:19-23**; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 59-67.

Sunday

God's Protection

Mary looked at little Jesus as He played. She couldn't stop thinking about everything that had happened.

She would never forget the angel who had told her that she would give birth to the promised Savior! If she closed her eyes, she could still imagine the angel's face and shining glow.

Her tummy had grown big with Baby Jesus inside. She remembered the long, bumpy donkey ride to Bethlehem and the sad feeling of having no place to stay.

Mary smiled as she remembered the animal stable and then what it was like to hold Baby Jesus for the first time. He was the best gift in the whole world!

She thought about the excited shepherds who told them about an angel choir. Then, of course, there was the moving star, and the Wise Men who followed it. So much had happened!

Mary knew that God had been very busy keeping their little family safe through it all.

Who else had been keeping Jesus safe? Read **Psalm**

91:11. This promise is for you too! Maybe the next time you are scared or worried, you can read or say this verse. Never forget that God's big, strong angels are protecting you, just as they protected Baby Jesus.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time that God and His angels kept you safe from danger or being hurt?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His angels, who are busy protecting you each day.

Mission Challenge

Draw a picture of five people in your community who do jobs to help others. Cut out the pictures. Pray for these people each day this week.



Monday

A Jealous King

King Herod stomped up and down the palace hall with an angry scowl. Where were the Wise Men?

He thought about the day the Wise Men had arrived in Jerusalem. What a surprise it had been. Herod had invited the men to his palace, and they had asked him, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2).

Even now Herod grew angry at the thought of this question. There was only one king in this land, and his name was King Herod! How dare anybody even think that there could be a king other than Herod. No! No baby king would ever take *his* throne!

Herod grinned wickedly as he remembered how he had tricked the Wise Men. Hiding his anger, he had told them, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also" (Matthew 2:8).

King Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus. It was a trap! He wanted to find this baby King and get rid of Him. (Oh, no!)

But now many days had passed, and the Wise Men had not returned. King Herod frowned. Where were they? Surely they had found the baby King by now.

What had happened to the Wise Men? Read **Matthew 2:12**.

I Wonder

» Why do you think God warned the Wise Men not to go back to Herod?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He is wiser and stronger than anyone or anything.

Do

Make a crown. With the help from parents, write Jesus' name on the crown and decorate it together. Display it in your window at home for others to see. Finish by thanking Jesus that He is the only true king.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you believe that God's angels protected you from danger or injury.





Tuesday

A Warning Dream

One night, as Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus fell fast asleep under their warm blankets, something happened. Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel talked to him. The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Herod will start looking for the child to kill Him" (Matthew 2:13, ICB).

Joseph sat up in bed. He quietly looked around the dark room where Mary and little Jesus lay sleeping. This dream was no ordinary dream. No, this was a message from God. God was trying to protect them. He wanted to keep them safe from wicked King Herod.

Joseph woke Mary up. With urgent whispers he explained the dream. As quiet as mice, they collected their things. Then they picked up sleepy Jesus and hurried down the road. They must get far away from evil King Herod.

Fast Fact

Giraffes sleep only for about four minutes at a time and need only about four hours of sleep a day. That's not much sleep at all! You need at least 10 hours of sleep every night.

How would they know when it was safe to return home? Read the last part of **Matthew 2:13**.

God would look after them! They didn't need to worry, because God and His angels would protect them as they traveled. He would keep them safe in a new country. Even in the middle of the night, God was with them, because God "never rests or sleeps" (Psalm 121:4, ICB).

I Wonder

» Do you think Jesus was scared leaving town in such a hurry? Why?

Prayer Idea

Say or sing your memory verse (Psalm 91:11). Thank God for sending His angels to protect you.

Do

How fast can you pack something up? Time how quickly your family can pack up your toys, clothes, or the dishes.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Where Is the Baby King?

Soldiers raced through the town of Bethlehem on their galloping horses. They banged on every door, searching, searching everywhere. King Herod was furious! He had ordered his soldiers to find the baby King. The soldiers looked in every home, searching for Jesus, who would be “two years old and under” (Matthew 2:16).

But Baby Jesus had already left Bethlehem. He was safely on the road with his parents, traveling to faraway Egypt. Isn't it amazing that God knew Herod's evil plan even before he did it? That is because God knew Herod's thoughts. God sees and knows everything.

Jesus wasn't alone on the trip. He had His parents and someone even stronger with Him. Who else was there? Read **Psalms 34:7**.

God was doing everything needed to save Jesus' life so that one day Jesus could grow up to save you!

I Wonder

- » Can you think of something that God knows and that you don't know?
- » How is the verse in today's lesson (Psalm 34:7) like your memory verse?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that because He knows everything, He can keep us safe from danger.

Do

Draw a picture of something on a piece of paper while your family closes their eyes. Fold the picture up and ask each family member to guess what is drawn. We don't know everything, but God does! God knew exactly what you were going to draw even before you drew it.

Memory Verse





Thursday

Home Again!

"Get up!" Joseph heard the angel say in a dream. He had been hiding in Egypt with Mary and little Jesus for a long time. Jesus had grown so much.

The angel kept talking as Joseph listened carefully. "Take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel" (Matthew 2:20). Mary, Joseph, and Jesus could now go home!

The angel told Joseph that King Herod had died. They didn't need to hide anymore.

Once again they packed their bags and loaded the donkey. But this time things were different. There was no need to sneak away quietly in the middle of the night. No, they could travel safely in the daytime under the bright sun.

Along the way God gave Joseph *another* dream. God would guide them and keep them safe. In the dream God told Joseph to go back to the place where Mary and Joseph had once lived. Where was that? Read **Matthew 2:23**.

So that is exactly what they did. Mary and Joseph were so thankful to God for guiding and protecting them. God had sent His angels to look after them wherever they went.

God will always look after you too! "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

I Wonder

» What do you think Jesus might have done as they traveled toward Nazareth? I wonder what He might have seen along the way.

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His protection when you have traveled to other towns or cities.

Do

Draw a simple map from your home to church, and other places you regularly go. Wherever we are, God and His angels guide and protect us.

Memory Verse



Friday

Protectors

Llamas aren't often everyone's favorite animal, but they might be one of your new favorites—because llamas are super special!

Llamas are cousins to the camel. They have the same long neck, but no hump. Their soft, fluffy coat makes them look like a cuddly bedtime toy. And most of the time llamas are quite gentle and calm. Many even like to be petted!

But llamas aren't always cute and cuddly. Do you know what llamas do when they get grumpy at each other? They stick out their tongue. It's true! You might laugh at the thought, but if a llama pokes out its tongue, it's saying, "Don't mess with me! I'm not happy with you." So much llama drama!

But the really cool thing about llamas is how they protect their herd. Their herd might be a flock of sheep, goats, deer, or even chickens. But when a llama decides that an animal is part of his family, he will protect that animal no matter what.

If a fox comes looking for some dinner, watch out! Loving llamas will make a loud warning noise, run toward the fox, chase it, kick it, or spit at it. They never stop watching over and protecting their herd. What caring creatures!

God has adopted us into His family, and He promises to protect and keep us safe from danger too. He even sends His angels day and night to watch over you and "to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

I Wonder

- » Read **Psalm 91:4**. What other animals protect their family?
- » How does it make you feel, knowing God is your protector?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for caring so much about us that He wants to protect us from danger.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the different ways God protected Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in this week's story. Find something for the memory box that reminds you of God's protection.

For You, Parents

"Angels are ever present where they are most needed, with those who have the hardest battle with self to fight, and whose surroundings are the most discouraging"

(Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 440).

Angel Over Her Tent

"Tomorrow night let's pull Mrs. White's tent down while she's sleeping in it," a young man whispered with a grin to his friends.

It was camp meeting. People had come far and wide to hear Mrs. Ellen White speak about Jesus. Everyone was abuzz with excitement. Everyone, that is, except for a bunch of young troublemakers from a nearby town. They thought it was more interesting to throw stones at tents and cause trouble.

The camp guards were very worried. They heard about the troublemakers' plan to pull down Mrs. White's tent. Hurrying down to the police station, they asked if a policeman would come and guard her tent during the night. So that evening a tall, strong policeman arrived, ready to keep Mrs. White and her tent safe.

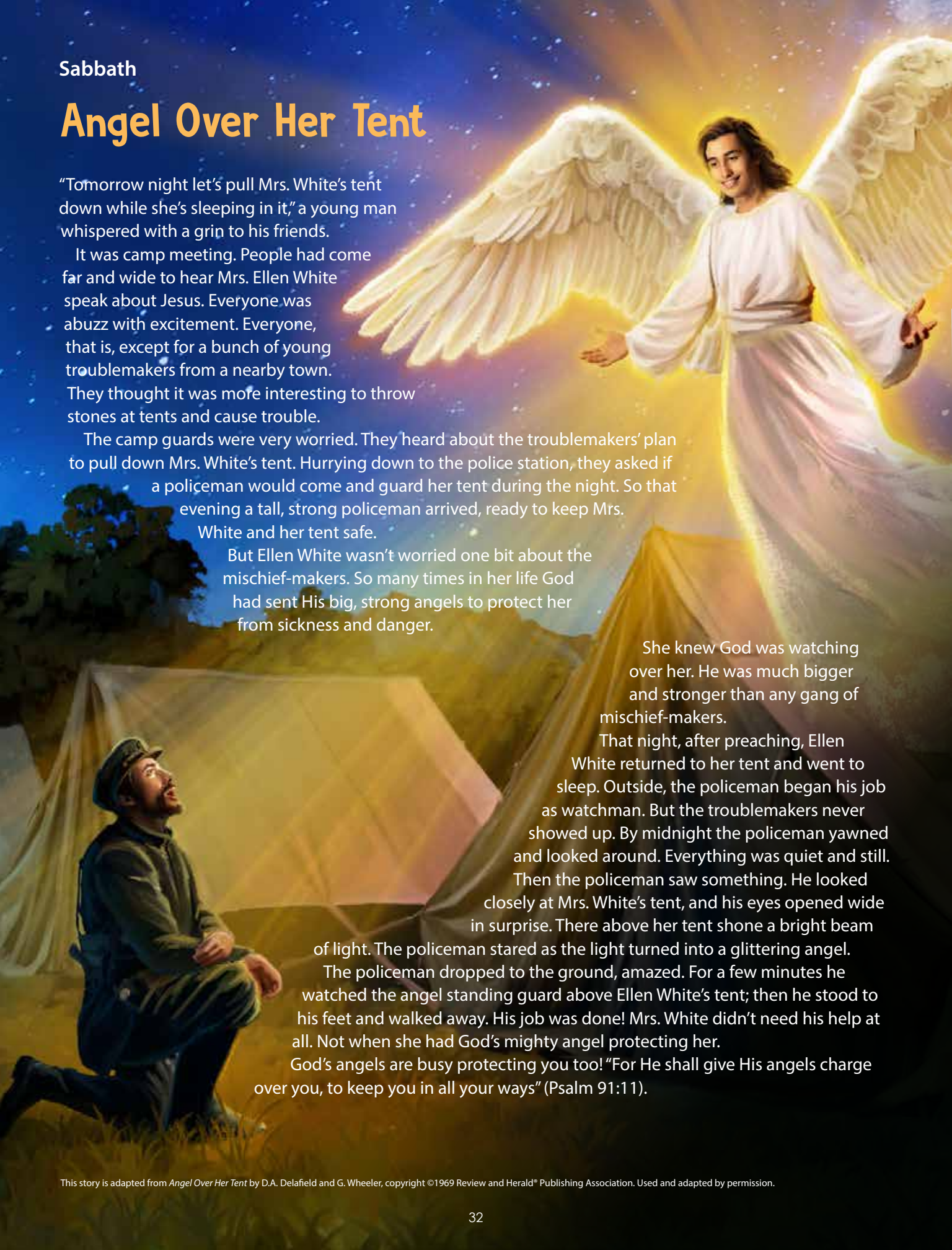
But Ellen White wasn't worried one bit about the mischief-makers. So many times in her life God had sent His big, strong angels to protect her from sickness and danger.

She knew God was watching over her. He was much bigger and stronger than any gang of mischief-makers.

That night, after preaching, Ellen White returned to her tent and went to sleep. Outside, the policeman began his job as watchman. But the troublemakers never showed up. By midnight the policeman yawned and looked around. Everything was quiet and still. Then the policeman saw something. He looked closely at Mrs. White's tent, and his eyes opened wide in surprise. There above her tent shone a bright beam of light. The policeman stared as the light turned into a glittering angel.

The policeman dropped to the ground, amazed. For a few minutes he watched the angel standing guard above Ellen White's tent; then he stood to his feet and walked away. His job was done! Mrs. White didn't need his help at all. Not when she had God's mighty angel protecting her.

God's angels are busy protecting you too! "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).



Grow, Grow, Grow

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He is loving and perfect.

Memory Verse

"Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

Word of the Week

"Grow" - To grow is to get bigger and stronger. When you are a child, your body grows a little taller each day. People can also grow to be more loving and kind. When Jesus lives in your heart, you can grow to be more like Him.

This week's lesson

is based on **Luke 2:41-52** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-83.

Sunday

Home Sweet Home

Little Boy Jesus woke up, stretched, and yawned. He smiled at the sound of rain pitter-pattering outside. It didn't matter if the sun shone bright or dark storm clouds rumbled. Jesus always had God's joy deep in His heart.

He began to hum a song of praise as He climbed out of bed. Happily He straightened His blanket. Then kneeling and bowing His head, Jesus talked to God, His Father and Helper.

Jesus loved being a helper too. He ran to help His mother with breakfast and the chores. Then He happily followed His father, to help him with his work. Jesus had a lot to learn being a _____ son. Read **Matthew 13:55** to fill in the gap.

Bang, bang, bang. Jesus busily nailed a wooden leg onto a chair. He always measured carefully and tried His very best. When it was time to pack up, Jesus carefully put away His tools.

As Jesus walked down the road outside, perhaps He noticed the little lambs jumping playfully in the field. Perhaps He watched the tiny ants hurrying across the dirt path. Nature taught Him so much about God's love and power.

At home Mary would draw Jesus close. She told Jesus stories and other beautiful things from the Scriptures. Jesus just loved to learn about God.

Every day in Nazareth, as Jesus worked, ate, and played, He grew. Yes, young Jesus grew taller and taller. But He was also growing in another way. "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

I Wonder

» If you were a child living back in Nazareth, would you have wanted to have Jesus as your friend? Why?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for His example to us.

Do

What can you do today to be a helper, just as Jesus was? Ask your parent or caregiver for ideas.





Monday

Loving No Matter What

Life wasn't always easy for Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't have much money. They lived in a simple, small home. Every day they had to work hard to pay for their food and clothes.

Perhaps Jesus carried heavy water jars on His little shoulders, swept the floor, and wiped down the table. No job was too boring or hard for Jesus.

Jesus cheerfully helped others. For "the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve" (Mark 10:45, ICB).

Even though Jesus always showed kindness, not everyone was kind to Him. Sometimes the children in Nazareth would do naughty or disobedient things. When they saw Jesus being obedient and honest, they would laugh and call Him names. It annoyed them that Jesus always did what was right.

Other times adults in Nazareth whispered lies about Jesus. They would point at Him and shake their heads. But Jesus loved these people too.

Why had Jesus come to live here on earth? Read **Luke 19:10**.

Jesus never stopped showing everyone God's big love and perfect ways. When others were unkind, Jesus showed kindness. When people lied, Jesus told the truth. When people did the wrong thing, Jesus did what was right.

And so "Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men" (Luke 2:52).

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time someone was unkind to you? What do you think Jesus would have done if the same thing had happened to Him?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He understands our problems and pain, because He experienced it too.

Do

Jesus loved to serve others. Be a server for your family today. Tie a cloth or a kitchen towel around your waist as an apron. You might make up a name for your "café" at home and even decorate it. Have fun asking your family for their "orders" and carry their food carefully to them.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

A Family Trip

Jesus was growing into a young man—He was now 12 years old! And now that He was 12, He could do something special with His family. “His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover” (Luke 2:41). And this year Jesus could go too. Yay!

Off they went, down the road toward Jerusalem. Jesus and His family weren’t the only ones—it seemed as though all of Nazareth was going too. Everyone was on their way to a special feast in the big city of Jerusalem.

The trip would take a few days, but no one seemed to mind. They walked, talked, laughed, and sang together. The fields were full of bright, colorful flowers and sweetly singing birds. Jesus loved being in nature.

As they walked, Joseph may have told Jesus the story of God’s people, and His plan for us. Perhaps they shared with Jesus the great miracles that God had done—right there in their country, long ago.

What does God tell us in the Bible that we should remember? Read **1 Chronicles 16:12**.

Mary and Joseph wanted Jesus to learn and remember God’s goodness. If we remember God’s miracles and blessings, we will grow in faith and wisdom, just as Jesus did.

I Wonder

» What do Bible stories and nature teach you about God?

Prayer Idea

Go around the circle and do a “popcorn” prayer. Take turns saying one thing to God you are thankful for. Move around the circle again and again, thanking God for who He is and what He does for you.

Do

Go for a walk together in nature. Find as many “special” things as you can along the way that God has made. Look carefully at the designs in flowers, plants, and trees.

Memory Verse

Fast fact

Our skin, hair, and nails are always growing—even when we are very old!





Wednesday

In the Temple

Mary, Joseph, and Jesus could finally see Jerusalem.

It was beautiful! They were so happy to come and worship God.

Long ago King David had written a song for travelers to sing when they came to worship God. Like a grand choir, the traveling crowd with Jesus sang joyfully:

"Let's go to the Temple of the Lord.

"Jerusalem, we are standing at your gates.

"Jerusalem is built as a city where friends can come together" (Psalm 122:1-3, ICB).

The Passover celebrations had begun!

What a special time Jesus had. For the first time He saw the temple and for the first time He saw the priests give the sin offering to God. Jesus watched very closely. As He looked at everything that happened in the temple, He realized it was all about Him. He would be the offering, the one who "takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

Jesus found the teachers and Pharisees in the synagogue and sat quietly at their feet. He listened to their words and then began asking questions. He asked deep and difficult questions about the coming Savior.

The teachers and Pharisees looked at Him and were puzzled. Who was this boy? He wasn't one of their students. Where had He learned so much about the Scriptures? He seemed so wise.

If only these teachers and Pharisees had realized that sitting at their feet was God's own Son, the promised Savior! If only they had had open hearts to learn from Jesus.

Parent Faith Talk

Share about a time your child taught you something about what God is like.

I Wonder

» How can we learn from Jesus and grow in His wise ways?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for being so wise.

Mission Challenge

Help your family with a cleanup project for someone else. You may help pick up trash, clean something at church, or help people who live nearby. Remember to show or tell others that God cares for them.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Lost!

After many days of celebrations, people packed their bags. They climbed onto their donkeys and waved goodbye to the beautiful city of Jerusalem. It was time to go home.

What did Jesus do? Read **Luke 2:43**.

Mary and Joseph had been traveling home for a full day when they realized someone special was missing. They looked left. They looked right. *Where was Jesus?*

Surely He couldn't be far away, they thought. He was probably just collecting water for their donkey or playing with the other children. There were many friends and relatives with them on the road back home. *Yes*, they thought, *Jesus must be with them*.

But after some time Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was not with them. Quickly they asked their friends and family if they had seen Jesus. But the people just shook their heads.

After searching and looking for Jesus, they realized that Jesus was not there! Their hearts pounded hard in their chests. They had been so busy walking and talking with their friends on the road home to Nazareth that they hadn't realized that Jesus wasn't with them.

They must find Him—quickly! Turning back toward Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph raced down the road as fast as they could. They prayed desperately for God to keep their Boy safe.

Was Jesus safe? Yes! God was with Him. Jesus had been busy in the Temple, “sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions” (Luke 2:46).

I Wonder

- » Have you ever been lost? What did you do?
- » Have you ever lost something precious? Whom can you ask to help you find it?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for always helping us when we get lost or when we lose something precious.

Do

Hide a favorite toy or book. Make up two clues to help your friend or family member find it. Thank God that He always knows where things and people are and can keep us well and safe.

Memory Verse





Friday

Found!

For three long days Mary and Joseph searched. What a long time! Finally, walking into the temple, they paused as they heard a familiar voice. Look! It was Jesus!

Mary wiped away her tears and ran over to Jesus. “Son,” she cried, “why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you” (Luke 2:48, ICB).

What did Jesus reply? Read **Luke 2:49**.

Jesus had been with His heavenly Father the whole time. He had been growing “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men” (Luke 2:52).

Together Jesus, Mary, and Joseph returned home to Nazareth. Mary thought a lot about everything that happened as they walked. She was so glad that God was teaching her how to look after this very special Boy.

I Wonder

» Why did Jesus stay in the temple for so long?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to give you a searching heart so that you can grow to be like Him.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the word “grow.” Find something for the memory box that reminds you to ask God’s Spirit to help you grow in wisdom, just as Jesus did.

For You, Parents

“If we are Christ’s, our sweetest thoughts will be of Him. We shall love to talk of Him; and as we speak to one another of His love, our hearts will be softened by divine influences. Beholding the beauty of His character, we shall be ‘changed into the same image from glory to glory’ (2 Corinthians 3:18)” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 83).

The Boy Who Grew a Church

Joe was a 10-year-old boy who lived in the Solomon Islands. Joe didn't know about Jesus, but he had one Seventh-day Adventist friend. One day this friend invited him to Pathfinders and church. Joe went, and he absolutely loved it! He kept going back again and again. Then Joe decided he wanted Jesus to live in His heart forever.

Joe started growing—he started becoming more like Jesus. He began to tell his friends at school about Pathfinders and the Bible. His friends wanted to hear more, so Joe invited them to his home so he could share more Bible stories with them.

Joe's friends loved the stories so much that they began inviting their friends to come and listen and learn too. Soon 30 to 40 children were coming to Joe's house every evening. They all wanted to learn more about Jesus.

Little by little Joe's friends also started coming to church each Sabbath. Then something happened that made Joe really, really happy. His mom, cousin, and three friends all decided to be baptized! Wow!

Time passed, and Joe turned 13. Every Sabbath his living room was packed with about 70 people. With the help of the Holy Spirit, Joe grew his own church for Jesus!

Just as Joe did, you can also grow in God's wisdom every day. You can share God's goodness and truth with others so that they can grow too.

This story is adapted from "Little Church Grower" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright © 2019 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.



At the Jordan River

Big Idea: Jesus is my God who forgives me when I say I'm sorry.

● Memory Verse

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
(Matthew 3:2).

Word of the Week

"Sorry" - To be sorry is to feel bad about doing something wrong, and to wish you hadn't done it. To say "I'm sorry" is to apologize for doing wrong. God asks us to be sorry for doing wrong and to ask Him for forgiveness.

This week's lesson

is based on [Luke 3:1-22](#); [John 1:4-34](#); [Matthew 3](#); [Mark 1:1-11](#); and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 109-113.

Sunday

Baby John

Zacharias smiled with pure joy. God had done the impossible! He had given this old priest and his old wife, Elizabeth, a baby.

He asked one of his friends to quickly pass him something to write on. He hadn't been able to talk since the angel had visited him. The angel had promised this miracle baby. But Zacharias had doubted him. He had been silent ever since!

"His name is John," Zacharias wrote (Luke 1:63).

John. Baby John. Just as the angel had instructed. Suddenly Zacharias could speak again! It was another miracle!

Their neighbors were amazed. They told their friends about baby John. And they told the story of the miracle child to their friends. Soon all the people in the towns around them were talking about baby John. "What kind of child will this be?" they wondered (Luke 1:66). They could tell that God was with him.

Zacharias knew! The angel had told him. He said to his son, "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways" (Luke 1:76).

John would help everyone know that they could be saved. "They will be saved by having their sins forgiven" (Luke 1:77, ICB).

What happened to baby John?
Read **Luke 1:80**.

I Wonder

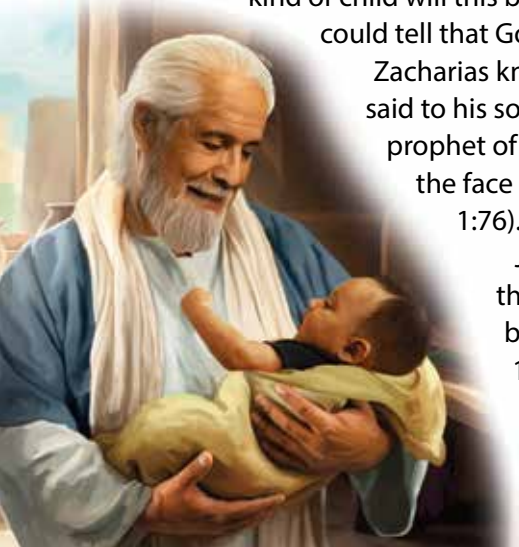
- » Would you like to have visited this miracle baby? What might you have said to this little family?
- » How would John "prepare" people to meet Jesus?
- » How can you prepare your heart for Jesus?

● Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to forgive you and make your heart ready for Him.

● Do

Spend 10 minutes not speaking. You'll have to find creative ways to tell people what you need instead. What did you most want to do when the time was up?



Monday

The Preacher

The dusty road was packed with excited travelers. The priests in long robes and important Jewish teachers came first. Tax collectors hurried along behind them. Fishermen and farmers came next, laughing as they walked. And behind them, families crowded the road—from old grandfather to new baby brother. Everyone was on their way to see the new preacher.

The Bible talks about a voice calling out loudly in the desert, “Prepare the way of the Lord” (Isaiah 40:3). And that’s just where all the people were going—the desert!

John was now a special messenger for God. He was called John the Baptist.

The people all rushed to the desert to hear him speak. What a surprise they got! He didn’t look or act like anyone they had ever seen before.

What did John wear and eat? Read **Matthew 3:4**.

John was different from other preachers, and his message was too. God wanted it that way. It was time for a big change!

The people didn’t need to change their shoes. They didn’t need to change their head scarves. John said, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!” (Matthew 3:2).

Jesus wants to make a big change in your heart too! Why not come to Him today and ask, “Create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10)?

I Wonder

» What would you have said when you heard that John the Baptist was preaching at the river?

» What would you have said when you heard his words from God?

Prayer Idea

Dear Jesus, please “create in me a clean heart, O God” (Psalm 51:10). Amen.

Do

Use your strong voice to share Jesus’ love with someone today. You might tell your friend, teacher, neighbor, or someone at the store: “Jesus loves you.”

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Be Sorry

John the Baptist's voice boomed loud and strong across the desert. "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2).

Everyone in the big crowd by the Jordan River listened quietly. People had traveled from all over the country to see and hear what John the Baptist had to say.

Repent? The kids in the crowd didn't know what that word meant. Their mothers told them quietly that it meant to be sorry. God wants us to be sorry for our sins and tell Him so.

The clever teachers and important Pharisees looked at their feet. Did they need to be sorry?

The rich rulers took a big, deep breath. Did they need to be sorry?

The mothers, fathers, builders, shopkeepers, and farmers all stopped and thought too. Did they need to be sorry?

Who does the Bible say have sinned and need God's forgiveness?

Read **Romans 3:23**.

Yes, we have all done wrong. But God's love and forgiveness are for everyone!

As John spoke, the Holy Spirit began to do something deep inside the people's hearts. They realized how sinful they had been. Right there, in the desert, they asked God to forgive them.

"Lord, you are kind and forgiving. You have great love for those who call to you" (Psalm 86:5, ICB).

I Wonder

- » What might you say to Jesus, right now?
- » What does the Bible tell you that Jesus will say back to you?

Prayer Idea

Say "I'm sorry" to Jesus. Tell Him how sad you feel for something you did wrong today and ask Him to forgive you.

Do

Help your family with the washing of clothes or dishes. Watch how messy things are when they go into the water. Our hearts are like that, messy with sin. When we are sorry and tell Jesus so, He forgives us and makes our hearts sparkly and clean.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

He's Coming!

The people by the Jordan River felt so happy. They were sorry for their sins, and God had forgiven them! John baptized them in the river to show everyone that God had cleansed their hearts and made them new.

But not everyone was happy. The important Jewish rulers in Jerusalem wanted to know what was going on out there in the desert. They sent priests to ask John the Baptist, "Who are you? . . . What do you say about yourself?" (John 1:22).

John told them firmly, "I am not the Christ." But John told them that the Savior would be coming soon! "I am not good enough to untie the strings of his sandals" (John 1:20, 27, ICB).

The Savior was coming soon! John's words quickly spread all through the land. His message spread to the poor people living in the hills, and the fishermen by distant seas.

It even made it to the ears of a humble carpenter in Nazareth. When Jesus heard what John the Baptist had been saying, He put down His tools right away. He gave His mother a big goodbye hug and left Nazareth.

Where was Jesus going? Read **Matthew 3:13**.

The people by the Jordan didn't know it yet, but Jesus was on His way. The carpenter from Nazareth would soon start a new job. It would be a job that God had planned for Jesus to do a long, long time ago. Jesus wasn't just a man from Nazareth; Jesus was God's Son. And Jesus was coming soon!

I Wonder

» What would Jesus' new job from God be?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus, our Savior, that He is coming back soon!

Do

Sing a song about Jesus coming back soon, such as "Soon and Very Soon."

Mission Challenge

Create items (a craft or thank-you notes) for a joint care package or outreach project with the Primary Sabbath School. Bring them next Sabbath (to give at a suitable time).

Memory Verse





Thursday

Jesus at the Jordan

People smiled and talked excitedly by the river. They had said they were sorry for their sins, and God had forgiven them. With clean hearts and happy faces they were baptized.

Arriving at the river, Jesus passed the happy crowds and went straight toward John the Baptist. As soon as John saw Jesus, he realized that Jesus was different from all the other people. Everything about Jesus was pure and good and holy.

Jesus asked John to baptize Him, just as he was baptizing the people. Jesus didn't need to be sorry and ask for forgiveness. His heart was already completely clean. But Jesus wanted to be our example. He wanted to teach us about God's forgiveness and power to make our hearts clean.

John realized that Jesus was the promised Savior, because after Jesus was baptized, something amazing happened. A very bright light poured down from heaven, from God, straight onto Jesus. This was God's chosen Son!

While the light shone, the Holy Spirit also came down and rested on Jesus. What did the Holy Spirit look like? Read **Matthew 3:16**.

Then God's voice spoke from the sky, saying, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

God is very pleased when we are sorry and ask for His forgiveness. He loves you and promises to wash you clean.

I Wonder

» If you were at Jesus' baptism and saw the bright light and the dove and you heard God's voice, what would you have done?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for lighting up our world with His goodness and love.

Do

Have an adult help you look up some pictures of different doves online. Look for the All-White Barbary Dove (or Ring-Necked Doves). You can also look for an Emerald Dove, White-Faced Cuckoo-Dove, Rose-Crowned Fruit Dove, and Turtledove. How special that the Holy Spirit came as a beautiful dove.

Memory Verse



Friday

Nishan and the Mango

Nishan bit his lip and tried not to go red in the face. He felt all mixed up and messy on the inside.

Mother sighed deeply. "I just can't understand it," she said. "There was a big, ripe, juicy mango right here this morning. But now it's gone. Are you sure you don't know anything about it, Nishan?"

He shook his head and quickly looked at the ground. "Can I go out and play now?" he asked quickly. Mother nodded slowly. She looked sad.

Nishan kicked the dirt. He thought about the mango he had taken. It had looked so sweet and good. But now he felt terrible. He had lied to Mother. She had been going to use the mango to make a special treat for Auntie. Nishan thought of his funny, favorite aunt and began to cry.

"Nishan?" Mother said, coming up behind him. "Is there anything bothering you?"

"I'm sorry," Nishan sobbed. "I took the mango and lied about it."

Mother gave him a hug. "I'm sad you would do that, but I forgive you," she said. "Let's stop now and tell Jesus you're sorry too."

"God loves to forgive us," added Mother. "He says, 'I am the One who forgives all your sins. . . I will not remember your sins'" (Isaiah 43:25, ICB). Isn't that good news?

Nishan nodded. He didn't want to feel all messy on the inside. He wanted Jesus to make him feel clean and new. He dried his eyes and prayed, "Dear Jesus, I'm sorry I did wrong. I hurt Mother and Auntie. Please forgive me. Amen." He opened his eyes and smiled.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a story from when you were young when you did the wrong thing and asked for God's forgiveness. Describe the peace that only God gives when we come to Him.

I Wonder

- » When we do something wrong, whom should we say we're sorry to?
- » Does God keep a list of your wrongs after you've said you're sorry? What does today's verse say He does with them?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He loves to forgive us and take away our sins forever.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about God's forgiveness and baptism. Find something for the memory box that reminds you that God will clean away all your sins if you ask.

For You, Parents

"When the Christian takes his baptismal vow, divine help is pledged to him. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit stand ready to work in his behalf. God places at his command the resources of heaven, that he may be an overcomer. His own power is small; but God is omnipotent, and God is his helper" (Ellen G. White in *Review and Herald*, Feb. 18, 1904).

Rock Hunt

Challenge:

Go for a Sabbath afternoon walk and collect some rocks.

Look for:

- **Surprising shapes.** Can you find one that's shaped like something else, such as a heart?
- **Cool colors.** Look closely to find rocks that are slightly different colors or have different colors going through them.
- **Textured rocks.** Look for smooth, scratchy, bumpy, or jagged rocks.



Bring them home and wash them clean in a big tub of water. Put one or two favorites in your Sabbath memory box.

No matter how messy we may be with sin, Jesus can make us clean. His love and forgiveness can make us brand-new!



Tempted in the Desert

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. His words are powerful.

● **Memory Verse**
"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

Word of the Week

"Strength" - Strength is being strong and powerful. With strong muscles you can have the strength you need to lift heavy objects. Strength also means being tough and not moved or pushed around by something. We can have strength inside our hearts—a strength to do what is right no matter what. God's Holy Spirit and His Word can give us that strength.

This week's lesson is based on **Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13**; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 114-131.

Sunday

Strength Inside

Jesus stood on the shore of the Jordan River. His face glowed with God's goodness. He had just been baptized and heard God say, "You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:11).

These words made Jesus so happy! More than anything in the whole world, He loved God and He loved pleasing Him.

Jesus loved reading God's Word and talking to God, His heavenly Father. It made Him strong on the inside. Every day Jesus followed God's Word. Every day Jesus did what was right. The Bible says,

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).

It can be really hard to do what is right. Maybe you sometimes feel so angry you want to hurt someone with your words or actions. Maybe you have greedy or selfish thoughts. You might even want to lie, steal, disobey, or be rude.

But God promises that you can have the same strength Jesus had. You can make good choices too. For "super strength" like this you're going to need help. Who can help you? Read **Philippians 4:13**.

I Wonder

- » What helped Jesus stay strong on the inside?
- » How can you have the strength to do what is right, as Jesus did?

● Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to live in your heart and give you His super strength.

● Do

Have a "strength" challenge. Lie on the ground with your legs out straight. Lift your legs slightly off the ground and count how long you can hold them up in the air. What does strength really mean?

● Mission Challenge

Pray for the people you are focusing on reaching this quarter. Pray that when they receive their gifts that they will know and love Jesus.



Monday

A Peaceful Place

It was time to go. The Holy Spirit spoke to Jesus and told Him to leave the Jordan River and go somewhere else, alone.

Jesus obeyed. Leaving the busy crowds behind, He started walking down a dusty road. It led Him past grassy fields and green rustling trees. On it went, through sandy hills and past rocky mountains.

Finally, after a long journey, Jesus stopped. Where had the Holy Spirit taken Him? Read **Mark 1:12**.

The warm sun shone brightly on His back. It was very hot and very dry here. There were no other travelers or farmers. Just Jesus. The Holy Spirit had led Him to a place that was quiet and peaceful.

Jesus needed to think and pray. He would soon begin a very important and difficult job. He would save all the people in the world from sin and death. As Jesus prayed, He asked God to give Him strength to do everything right.

That's just what God would do! He had given Jesus the Holy Spirit as a helper. And He'd given Jesus His wise words to guide Him too. When Jesus was a young child like you, He memorized lots of verses from Scripture. He knew such verses as "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). God's Word would help Him choose to always do the right thing.

It is really important for us to learn and memorize Bible verses too. They help us become strong, just like Jesus.

I Wonder

- » Can you say two Bible verses you have memorized?
- » Which Bible verse is your favorite?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you learn and remember His words in the Bible.

Do

Go somewhere peaceful in nature, if possible. Be really quiet for one minute. Just look and listen. Say a prayer to God and ask Him to give you strength.

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Rocks and Bread

Rumble, rumble, rumble. Jesus' stomach was empty. Completely empty. He had been praying in the desert for 40 days and 40 nights without any food at all. Jesus was really hungry and very weak.

Suddenly someone appeared right in front of Jesus. Who was it? Read **Matthew 4:1**.

He had come to tempt Jesus to do something wrong.

Scattered across the sand lay hard rocks. These rocks looked a lot like delicious loaves of bread. Yum! Jesus could really do with some fresh bread right now. But even though the rocks looked like bread, they definitely wouldn't *taste* like bread.

Satan pointed to the rocks. "If You are the Son of God," he said to Jesus, "command that these stones become bread" (Matthew 4:3).

Jesus knew Satan was trying to trick Him. He shook His head. No! He would not do a miracle like that. His power was for helping others—not Himself. Instantly Jesus remembered a Bible verse. He turned to Satan and boldly said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4).

Jesus told Satan that food was not as important as God's words. He trusted God would give Him the strength He needed.

Satan frowned. His plan to trick Jesus had failed. He would have to try something else.

I Wonder

- » How can you tell when you are hungry? What does it feel like?
- » Why did Jesus have strength to say no to Satan?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving you food.

Do

Make or share some simple bread/flatbread with your family (or choose a basic food that you eat often). Thank God that His words give our hearts strength, just as bread gives our body strength.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Jump!

Jesus blinked. He was no longer in the hot, sandy desert. No! He was standing at the top of a high building. And not just any building. Satan had taken Jesus to the highest point of God's temple in Jerusalem. As Jesus looked down, He noticed the ground far, far below. If someone fell from this spot, they would really hurt themselves.

Then Satan spoke to Jesus. He said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off" (Matthew 4:6, ICB). Satan wanted Jesus to test God—to do something silly and see if God would send His angels to rescue Him.

What Bible verse did Jesus say to Satan? Read **Matthew 4:7**.

Jesus knew He didn't need to jump off a building to prove God cared about Him. No, He would not do something dangerous just to see if God's angels would save Him.

Once again, Bible words had shown Jesus what was right. God's Holy Spirit and the Bible can give you wisdom and strength too. It says in Psalm 119:11, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You."

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time that God used a memorized Bible verse to encourage or help you in some way.

I Wonder

- » What is the highest building near your home?
- » Can you explain in your own words why Jesus didn't jump?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you say no to Satan's ways, and yes to God's ways.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Worship Me

Whoosh! Satan took Jesus up, up, to the very top of a tall mountain. Wow! What a beautiful view! Jesus could see sparkling cities, marble palaces, bright-green fields, and vineyards full of delicious fruit. Oh, how different it looked from the dry, dusty desert.

Satan looked out at the beautiful world from way up high. He had already tried to tempt Jesus twice. But Jesus had used God's Word to stay strong and say no. But Satan wasn't about to give up.

As Jesus looked at the view too, Satan said, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me" (Matthew 4:9).

What did Jesus say to Satan? Read **Matthew 4:10**.

Jesus knew the Bible so well. He knew that only God should be worshipped. He would bow down only to God. The Holy Spirit had made Jesus strong and wise. Jesus had used the words in the Bible like an invisible sword to fight against Satan's lies.

Satan lost the battle and left. Jesus had won!

With God's strength you can beat Satan's tricks too. His words in the Bible can give you the power you need to say no to what's wrong and yes to what's right.

I Wonder

» How can you stay strong when Satan tempts you to do the wrong thing?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to give you wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong.

Do

Draw a sword on a large piece of cardboard and cut it out. With help, write out your memory verse on your sword to remind you that God's words are powerful.

Memory Verse





Friday

Caring Friends

Finally alone again, Jesus fell to the ground, exhausted. He had just fought, and won, a mighty battle against Satan. Now He couldn't even stand. He lay there hungry, tired, and weak.

As quick as a flash, help was by His side. Who came to help Jesus? Read **Matthew 4:11**.

They had watched the whole battle. Now the angels rushed to help Jesus and give Him strength. Lovingly, they gave Him food to eat and spoke kind words. They reminded Jesus that God loved Him. What caring angel friends!

God was looking after Jesus, and He looks after you too.

Feeling strong again, Jesus left the desert. Satan would try to tempt Him many more times. Life would be hard. But Jesus was determined to do what was right. He would need God's strength and wise words to guide and help Him each day.

I Wonder

- » Imagine being one of the comforting angels. What words would you have said to Jesus?
- » What do you think the angel food tasted like?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His angels that watch over us every day.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about how special the Bible is. Find something to place in the memory box that reminds you that God's words give you strength and wisdom.

For You, Parents

"Build a wall of scriptures around you, and you will see that the world cannot break it down. Commit the Scriptures to memory, and then throw right back upon Satan when he comes with his temptations, 'It is written.' This is the way that our Lord met the temptations of Satan, and resisted them" (Ellen G. White in *Review and Herald*, Apr. 10, 1888).

Super Strength From God

Young Ellen Harmon was not a strong young woman. She was often sick. She couldn't take long walks or carry heavy loads. But God chose Ellen to be a special messenger for Him.

One day while Ellen was praying in her home with others, God gave her a vision. A vision is like an awake dream from God. While Ellen was having the vision, she picked up their family Bible and held it with just one hand. This Bible was very, very large. The people in the room must have wondered, *How can she do this? Surely she cannot hold the Bible for long. It is just too heavy!*

Her mother knew that Ellen couldn't even lift the big, heavy Bible with both hands. She realized that Jesus must be giving her special strength.

The people were amazed. For more than a half hour Ellen held up that heavy Bible in one hand, while God showed her the vision.

Everyone there that day knew that the vision must have been from God.

This miracle also showed everyone that the Bible is very important to God. The words inside are powerful and show us what is right. When the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, God can use the words in the Bible to change us, guide us, and strengthen us against temptation.

The Bible says, "Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You" (Psalm 119:11).



Follow Jesus

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. I will follow Him.

Memory Verse

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

Word of the Week

"Follower" - A follower is someone who follows a leader. They listen to the things their leader says and copy the things their leader does. Jesus wants us to be His followers.

This week's lesson

is taken from **Luke 5:1-11; John 1; Matthew 4:17-25; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 132-143; 244-251.**

Sunday

"Look, the Lamb of God!"

John the Baptist's voice boomed across the Jordan River as he told the crowds some very exciting news. The promised Savior was here, on earth, right now! Jesus had finally come to save the world.

Whispers rippled through the crowd. Eyes looked left and right. Where was this king who would save them? Everyone in the crowd looked very plain and ordinary. They couldn't see a mighty king or powerful ruler anywhere!

John had already baptized this very special Person. And here He was, back from the desert. Who was it? Read the first part of **John 1:29**.

John the Baptist's face lit up with excitement as Jesus walked toward him. He said, "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of the world! This is the One I was talking about" (John 1:29, 30, ICB).

Everyone spun around to see Jesus. And what a surprise they got. There stood a humble-looking man wearing simple-looking clothes.

But as the people looked closer, they noticed Jesus' eyes filled with the deepest love they had ever seen. He seemed so caring and gentle—yet powerful and holy at the same time.

The people were confused. They had been expecting a rich, proud leader who would make people obey him. The people weren't sure they wanted to follow a humble, kind leader like this.

I Wonder

» What kind of leader would be better—a proud, bossy leader or a humble, kind leader?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you to be loving and humble, just as He was on earth.

Mission Challenge

Think of a kind, safe adult in your community who you might make friends with (together with your mom or dad). It might be a bus driver, gardener, or shopkeeper. What little things can you say to brighten their day?

Monday

Following Jesus

The sun shone bright and warm. It was another beautiful day by the Jordan River. John the Baptist stood near the riverbank talking with two of his friends, Andrew and John.

As the three men talked together, John the Baptist suddenly stopped. His eyes grew wide in wonder as Jesus walked past. "Behold the Lamb of God!" he said excitedly. (John 1:36).

Andrew and John looked at Jesus, amazed. Here was the promised Savior! What did they do next? Read **John 1:37**.

Andrew and John were the first followers of Jesus. Silently they walked behind Jesus. They didn't know what to say. They didn't even know what to do—other than follow Him!

Jesus kept walking. His eyes sparkled with joy. He knew Andrew and John were right behind Him.

Then Jesus stopped and turned. With kind words Jesus asked them, "What do you seek?" (John 1:38).

These two men looked at each other and then at Jesus. They wanted to be with Him. They wanted to listen and learn from Him.

"Where are you staying?" they asked.

Jesus smiled. "Come and see." So they did! (John 1:38, 39). And they did! Together the two men went back to the place where Jesus was staying and spent the whole day with Him.

Jesus wants to spend time with you too! He says, "Come." You can come to Him by listening to God's Word in the Bible, and talking to Him in prayer.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you experienced Jesus' love and gentle care.

I Wonder

- » What do you think Jesus might have talked about with John and Andrew that day?
- » How do you spend time with Jesus each day?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you spend time with Him each day.

Do

Play the "mirror game." Stand face-to-face with a partner. Make one person the leader and the other person the follower. The leader needs to move slowly as the follower copies like a "mirror." Watch carefully that the follower follows every movement as best they can.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Time With Jesus

Andrew and John couldn't stop smiling as they sat and talked with Jesus. He was so wonderful and wise. His words were full of beauty and truth.

The day sped by so fast. Finally Andrew and John left the place where Jesus was staying. Their hearts overflowed with joy. They had listened to Jesus' words, and they really wanted to be His followers.

Andrew couldn't wait to tell his brother, Simon, all about Jesus too. Racing down the street, Andrew felt his heart pump hard and fast. Puffing and panting, Andrew finally stood in front of his brother.

"We have found the Messiah," he told Simon excitedly (John 1:41).

Simon didn't waste a second. He wanted to meet Jesus—and he wanted to meet Him now! Together the brothers rushed to find Jesus. Jesus looked kindly at Simon. What did He say? Read **John 1:42**.

How amazing! Jesus already knew Simon's name and his father's name. And now Jesus had a new name for Simon too! He would now be called Peter, which means stone. Jesus wanted Peter to be His follower too.

Jesus knows your name too. He knows all about you, and He can't wait to spend time with you. He says, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me" (John 10:27).

I Wonder

» Why do you think Jesus gave Simon the name Peter, which means stone?

» What can you do today to come close to Jesus and follow Him?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for choosing you to be His follower.

Do

Whom can you share Jesus with today? Phone a friend or family member and tell them that Jesus loves them.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Jesus Sees You

Jesus now had three followers: Andrew, John, and Simon Peter. There would be other followers too—they just didn't know it yet!

With God's joy in His heart, Jesus set off for Galilee. There He found a man named Philip. "Follow me," Jesus said to him with a smile (John 1:43).

Philip nodded his head with a big yes! When you become a follower of Jesus, it's impossible to keep it a secret. Philip rushed to tell his good friend, Nathanael.

In a quiet place, under a shady fig tree, sat Nathanael. He was quietly praying. Suddenly Philip appeared. Excitedly he explained to Nathanael how he had found the promised Messiah. His name was Jesus, from Nazareth.

But Nathanael wasn't so sure. "Come and see," Philip replied with a sparkle in his eye (John 1:46).

Nathanael followed Philip to Jesus. Jesus smiled as soon as He saw Nathanael. "Here is truly a person of Israel. There is nothing false in him," Jesus said (John 1:47, ICB).

Nathanael was shocked. He'd never met Jesus before! "How do You know me?" he asked Jesus.

"Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you," Jesus replied (John 1:48).

Nathanael was amazed! Jesus knew all about his prayers under the fig tree. He must be the Messiah! What did Nathanael say next? Read **John 1:49**.

Philip and Nathanael had joined the group of Jesus' followers. If we study the Bible and pray, God will teach us His truth and show us how to follow Him too.

I Wonder

- » What do you think Jesus knows about you that maybe your parents don't even know?
- » Have you ever told someone about Jesus? What did they say?

Prayer Idea

Say or sing your memory verse. Thank Jesus that He knows us and wants us to follow Him.

Do

Find a quiet place, under a shady tree, as Nathanael did (if possible), to practice your memory verse and pray to God today.

Memory Verse

Thursday

The Following Crowds

Jesus watched the water gently lap the stony shore. He sat by the peaceful lake and sighed. *Ahh, a quiet moment to rest.*

He had spent many days teaching and healing crowds of people. Wherever Jesus went He always seemed to have followers. He was happy that people wanted to listen to His words and follow Him. But He was also thankful for quiet moments to be alone with God.

In nearby towns and villages the news quickly spread. *Jesus is down by the lake. Quick! Tell the others!*

It wasn't long before the quiet shore was busy with fathers, mothers, children, and grandparents who wanted to be close to Jesus. Soon the "people were pressing all around him" (Luke 5:1, ICB).

Fast Fact

Young sunflowers are great followers. Their bright-yellow flower heads move to follow the sun from morning until evening each day. They are a little like the crowds who followed Jesus while He was here on earth.

Jesus had an idea. There were two boats close to the shore, so He climbed into one of them. Whom did the boat belong to? Read the first part of **Luke 5:3**.

Peter pushed the boat off from the shore. "Jesus sat down in the boat and continued to teach the people" (Luke 5:3, ICB). He always made time to be with His followers. He'll always make time for you too.

I Wonder

- » Why didn't Jesus tell the crowds to go away and leave Him alone?
- » If you could have come and listened to Jesus talk, what Bible story would you have wanted Him to tell?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He wants everyone to be His followers.

Do

How many people can you count in the crowd? Where would you have liked to have been?

Memory Verse





Friday

Fishermen

Simon Peter sat in the corner of the boat as Jesus preached. He sighed and hung his head. He had just been fishing all night and had caught nothing. Not one single fish!

Finally, Jesus finished preaching. He turned to Peter and said, “Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish” (Luke 5:4, ICB).

Peter hadn’t caught any fish the whole night. But he chose to listen to Jesus and follow His instructions.

The nets splashed into the deep water and sunk out of sight. Peter began to pull the nets up—but something was wrong! Peter grunted and groaned. No matter how hard he pulled, he couldn’t lift the nets out of the water. They were so heavy they even started to rip.

Peter yelled to his friends in a nearby boat to please come help him. As they pulled the nets up together, the fishermen couldn’t believe their eyes. There were so many flipping, flapping fish!

How heavy were the fish? Read **Luke 5:7**.

Wow! That’s a lot of fish! Jesus wanted Peter to see that God could provide for his needs. Peter could trust Jesus to look after him every moment of every day.

Peter stared at the piles and piles of fish. Jesus had done this just for him! Yes, he could trust Jesus. Amazed and overwhelmed, Peter fell down at Jesus’ feet, knowing that Jesus wasn’t just an ordinary man. Then Jesus said to Peter, “Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men” (Luke 5:10).

After pulling his boat onto the shore, Peter left it there and followed Jesus.

I Wonder

- » What might have happened if Peter hadn’t listened to Jesus and obeyed?
- » What would you have said and done if you had helped Peter bring in the fish that day?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you hear His voice and do what He asks.

Do

Teach your family a song from Sabbath School. You can find all the music on the AIJ website or Sabbath School app.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Read your memory verse. Think about what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Find something for the memory box that reminds you to trust and follow Jesus.

For You, Parents

“Christ invites us, saying, ‘Follow Me.’ But we are never forced to walk in His footsteps. If we do walk in His footsteps, it is the result of deliberate choice. As we see the life and character of Christ, strong desire is awakened to be like Him in character” (Ellen. G. White, *Counsels on Stewardship*, p. 138).

Come to Sabbath School!

Larissa and Rosette laughed together as they ran and played. The two girls from Burundi, in Africa, were neighbors and best friends. Best friends never want a fun day to end! But all too soon Mother's voice was calling Larissa to come inside. It was time for family worship.

Larissa, age 8, looked at Rosette, age 7, and smiled. She said, "Come on! It's time for worship!"

Rosette followed Larissa into the house. The family sang a song about Jesus, then Mother read a Bible story and they all prayed.

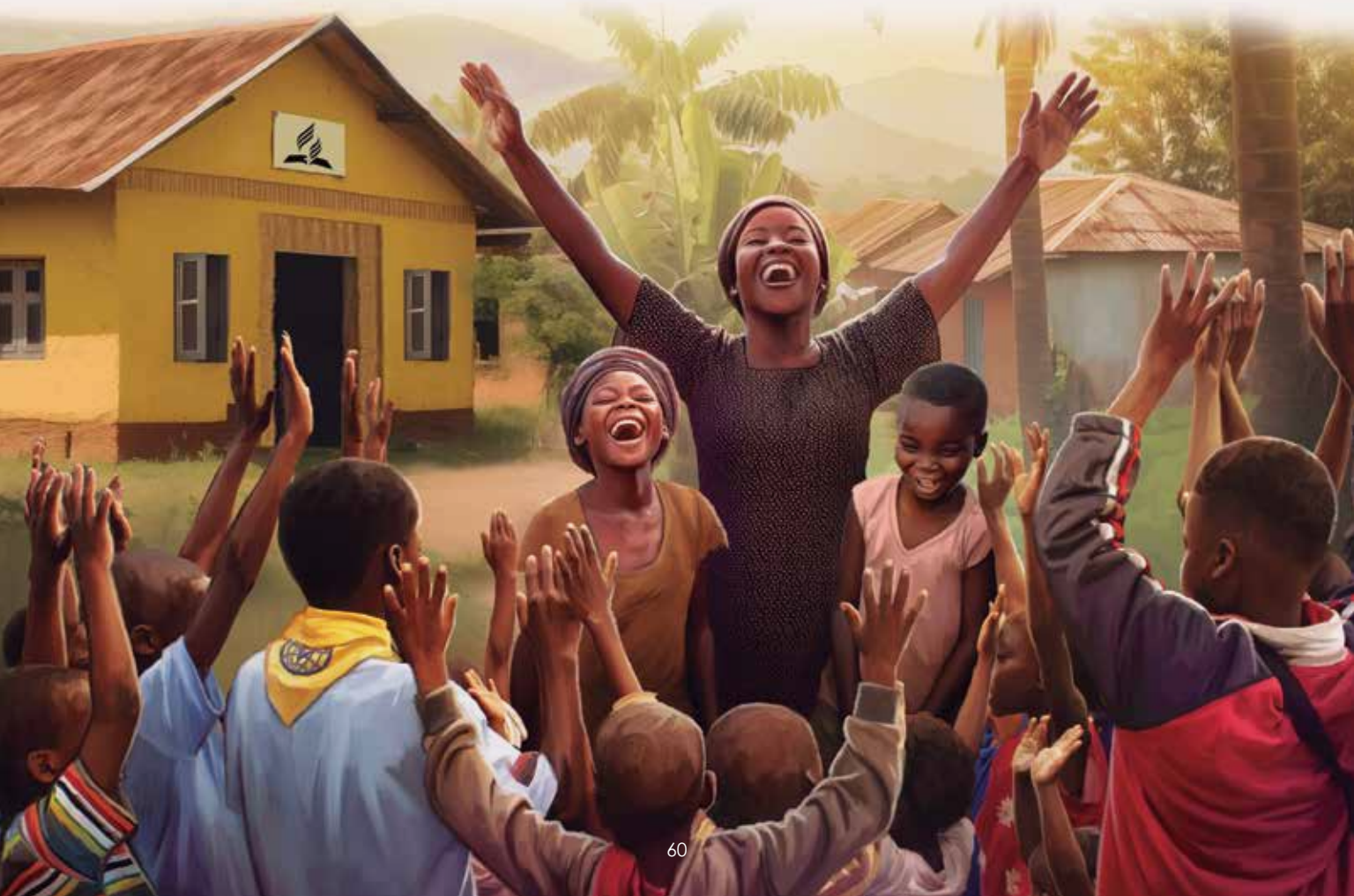
"I liked Larissa's family worship," said Rosette. She wanted to know more about Jesus.

Then Larissa invited her friend Rosette to come with her to Sabbath School. Rosette asked her parents. "I'm so glad they said I could go," said Rosette. "I love Sabbath School! I like the songs we sing and the Bible stories that we hear."

Rosette kept going to Sabbath School with her friend. One day she asked her parents to come with her. At first they didn't want to go, but Rosette kept inviting them. Finally her mother agreed to come with her. Rosette decided to keep praying for her father to come along too.

Jesus loves it when we ask others to come and follow Him. Larissa said it was easy to invite her best friend to become a friend of Jesus'. She hopes other children will ask their friends to come to Sabbath School too. "First, pray for them," she said. "Then invite them. If they say yes, that's great. If they say no, you can keep praying for them and inviting them. One day they'll be glad you asked."

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The Wedding Surprise

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He helps me with any problems.

Memory Verse

"With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Word of the Week

"Provide" - To provide is to give someone something they need. Jesus provides you with so many good things. He has given you a family, a home, food, and, most important, His never-ending love.

This week's lesson

is based on **John 2:1-11** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 144-153.

Sunday

An Invitation

There would be a family wedding in the little town of Cana. How exciting! And Jesus was invited. He wasn't the only one invited. Mary, His mother, would be there too, along with other family and friends.

Who else had been invited? Read **John 2:2**.

Weddings are such a happy time to celebrate the love between a man and a woman. Right from the creation of the world, God asked a man to "leave his father and mother and be united with his wife" (Genesis 2:24, ICB). Marriage is something God created. It is a special forever promise between a man and a woman who love each other.

Jesus and His disciples wanted to be at the wedding to celebrate with the happy couple too. Off they went, down the road toward Cana in Galilee.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever been to a wedding? What did you see? What happened?
- » Why do you think Jesus wanted to go to the wedding?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for the good things He gives us, such as family and friends.

Mission Challenge

Look for someone who seems sad or lonely and give them a smile. Tell them Jesus loves them!

Monday

A Wedding

Happy music filled the air. People chatted and smiled. The wedding was going wonderfully. The bride and groom sat back together, eating delicious food and sipping grape juice. What a celebration!

Their families had come from all over the country to be with them. Jesus and His disciples had come too.

Mary smiled. She was so happy that Jesus had come to the wedding. She hadn't seen Him for so many weeks. She gave Him a big hug hello.

Mary looked into Jesus' face. "He had no special beauty" on the outside, but His words and actions were always pure and lovely (Isaiah 53:2, ICB).

Mary noticed that the disciples watched Jesus closely too. They showed Him great respect and called Him Master. There were others at the wedding who kept glancing over at Jesus too. Excitedly they talked to their friends about the wonderful things they had heard about Him.

But happy, humble Jesus wasn't at the wedding to take the attention away from the bride and groom. He had come to quietly enjoy the wedding party. And to spread God's goodness and happiness wherever He could.

How can we be lovely like Jesus? Read **1 Peter 3:3, 4**.

I Wonder

- » What instruments do you think they might have played at the wedding?
- » What food do you think they ate?
- » Have you ever done something to show God's love in a quiet, gentle way?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to give you a lovely heart like His.

Do

Draw a big heart on paper. Together, with a parent's help, write down the beauty that comes from inside our heart (for example: gentle hands, kind words).

Memory Verse





Tuesday

The Big Problem

Empty. Empty. Empty. The wedding servant shook his head as he peered into another dry, empty pitcher that had once held the sweet grape juice (unfermented wine). *How did this happen? How did the grape juice run out so quickly?*

Inside, the servants could hear the happy music and the laughing, chatting people. The party was nowhere near finished. The bride and groom would be so upset if they knew the grape juice was all gone. The guests would be very disappointed too. *Oh, no!*

The servants frowned and whispered to each other. *How would they find enough grape juice to last the rest of the wedding party?* There were no shops to go to. There was no way to get any more grape juice. But they had so many guests!

Soon Mary heard about their big problem. She knew that she could trust big problems to her even bigger God. What does the Bible say about impossible problems? Read **Matthew 19:26**.

God could provide for their needs.

Looking around the room, Mary saw Jesus talking with His disciple friends. She hurried over and stood in front of Him. In a quiet voice Mary said to Jesus, "They have no wine" (John 2:3).

Mary knew she could go to Jesus for help. You can too! No problem is too big for Him.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you trusted God with a problem, and He provided for you.

I Wonder

- » Can you think of a time someone asked you for help? Share what happened.
- » How has Jesus provided for you this week?
- » Is there any problem you want to tell Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to remind you to talk to Him when you have problems.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

The Miracle

Jesus looked at the worried servants and their empty pitchers. Yes, He would help them! By the door stood six empty water jars made of stone. Jesus turned to the servants and said, "Fill the waterpots with water" (John 2:7).

The servants raced off to do exactly what Jesus had told them.

Glug-glug-glug. Glug-glug-glug. The water splished and splashed into the big heavy jars. One . . . two . . . three . . . four . . . five . . . six jars were filled to the top.

The people at the party were getting thirsty. They had started to ask for their empty cups to be refilled. The servants looked at Jesus, waiting for His next instruction. What did Jesus say to them? Read **John 2:8**.

The servants were confused. But they chose to trust Jesus and obey. Carefully they poured the water into a cup and gave it to the master.

Sip, sip. His eyes opened wide. Then his lips turned up into a smile. This cup was full of the sweetest, freshest, most delicious grape juice he had ever tasted!

The master excitedly called the groom over. "People always serve the best wine first," he said to the groom. "But you have saved the best wine till now" (John 2:10, ICB).

The servants were amazed. They had just seen a miracle with their very own eyes. Jesus had turned water into the most pure grape juice! He had provided just what they needed.

I Wonder

- » What have you sipped or tasted that surprised you?
- » Whom did Jesus help in this story?
- » How do you think the story might have ended if Mary and the servants hadn't taken their problem to Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that "with men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Do

Put some water in a cup. Ask for help from a parent or caregiver to make it surprisingly good. You might add honey or something sweet. Then offer it to another family member and see their delight. Thank Jesus for turning a problem into something good.

Memory Verse





Thursday

Spreading the News

Smiling and laughing, the servants carried their jars of miracle grape juice around to the thirsty guests. Jesus had provided delicious, unfermented wine to fill every single empty cup.

The guests sipped and smiled and slurped some more. What sweet, delicious juice! *Where had this come from?* they wondered. They had never tasted anything like it!

The guests called for the servants and began to ask questions about the grape juice. The servants couldn't hold in their excitement. They told everyone the amazing story of Jesus and His miracle.

Wow! Everyone began to talk about Jesus. His disciple friends began to talk about Him too. This was Jesus' first miracle. The Bible says, "He showed his glory, and his followers believed in him" (John 2:11, ICB). They were so glad they had left everything to follow Him.

Finally, after many days, the wedding party came to an end, and people returned home. But their excitement went with them. Wherever the guests went, they told their friends the story of Jesus and the miracle juice. Their friends told their families, and they told their friends. Soon it seemed as if everyone was talking about Jesus.

Even the priests and leaders became curious when they heard about this humble yet powerful Teacher.

What things does the Bible tell us to talk about? Read **Psalms 145:4-6**.

I Wonder

- » What is your favorite type of juice?
- » Can you think of something amazing Jesus has done in your life that you could share with someone else today?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for all the ways He has provided for your needs.

Do

Pour everyone a cup of juice together. For every sip, share a way that God has helped you or blessed you in some way.

Memory Verse



Friday

Miracle Matches

Mother opened and shut each cupboard door in the kitchen with a loud bang. She couldn't find a single match anywhere to light their stove. It was nearly Sabbath. And it was much too late for a trip to the faraway shops on their island home in Fiji.

Four-year-old John watched his mother closely. Finally he asked, "Can we pray about the matches, Mother?"

Mother was surprised, but answered, "Of course." She knew John believed that no problem was too small for God. She also knew that "with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

John prayed, "Dear Jesus, thank You for Your love. Please help us to have a match so we can have hot milk with our breakfast tomorrow morning. Amen." Mother smiled and gave John a hug.

When John woke up the next morning, he remembered his prayer and began to look around the house. Finally his eye caught sight of a little box stuck between the front door and the screen. John pulled it out and slid it open. His heart leaped with joy. Racing to his mother's bedroom, he waved the little box in the air. "Look, Mother, it's matches! I think God's angel must have brought them during the night."

Inside the box were little white matches with silvery white tips. Mother had never seen matches like those before.

Together they knelt down. They thanked God for hearing their prayer about something as simple as a match, and for answering in such a powerful way. Then with happy hearts they went to the kitchen to light the stove and have warm milk with their breakfast.

This story is adapted from "Mystery of the Matches" by Gina Whalen, *Children's Mission Quarterly*, copyright © 2016 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.

I Wonder

- » How is this story like the water-to-wine miracle in this week's Bible story?
- » What does this miracle show us about Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He is our God who helps us with our problems.

Do

Go for a nature walk. What is the tiniest piece of nature you can find? Isn't it wonderful to know that Jesus cares about all our problems—teeny-tiny ones and big ones?

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about a problem you may have. Find an object or draw a picture to remind you of this problem. Imagine your memory box is a "mailbox to Jesus." Mail your problem to Jesus and say a prayer, asking God to help you.

For You, Parents

"Christ is a 'tried stone.' Those who trust in Him, He never disappoints" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 598).

Setting the Table

It was Sunday morning, and Joanne looked into the empty cupboards with a sigh. They had no food left, and no money to buy any more. Father had left the family and moved away after Mother started going to a Seventh-day Adventist church in the U.S. state of Oregon. "If you choose God, let your God feed you," their father had said. "Let your God clothe you."

Mother didn't have a job, and she cried and prayed in her bedroom that Sunday. When lunchtime came, Joanne's younger sister complained, "I'm hungry." Her older brother sat still, trying to be brave even though he had no way to get them some food.

Then Joanne remembered reading in *Uncle Arthur's Bedtime Stories* about children who were helped by angels when they prayed. "All we have to do is pray!" she said.

Joanne didn't know how to pray, but she started anyway. "Hello, God. We are really hungry. Would You send us something to eat, please?"

The children waited. No food. Hours passed, and dinnertime came. The children grew more hungry. Mother continued praying in the bedroom.

Then Joanne said, "Oh, I know what we did wrong! God doesn't think that we believe Him, because we didn't set the table." Quickly they set the table. Joanne prayed, "Sorry about that, God. Could You please send us some food now? The table is set, and we're ready!"

But nothing came. The children climbed into bed, hungry and disappointed. Early in the morning they woke up even hungrier. The children opened the front door to go to school, but their path was blocked—by a huge box filled with food!

Excitedly the children called Mother to the door. Mother couldn't believe her eyes. God had provided just what they needed! "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

That was the moment that Joanne knew that God lives and that He loves her.

This story is adapted from "Girl Prayed for Angels" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission Quarterly*, copyright © 2021 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.



Food for Thousands

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He gives me all I need.

● **Memory Verse**
*"Give us this day
 our daily bread"*
 (Matthew 6:11).

Word of the Week

"Give" - When we give something, we take something we have and make it someone else's. Jesus loves to give us the things we need, such as food, family, and a warm, safe place to sleep at night.

This week's lesson

is based on **Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-14;** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 364-371.

Sunday

The Lake Race

The disciples were tired—really tired. It had been a big and busy day with lots of crowds. Their eyes were heavy, their legs ached, and their shoulders drooped.

Jesus looked at the disciples with kindness and care. He knew what they needed.

"Come with me," Jesus said to them. "We will go to a quiet place to be alone. There we will get some rest" (Mark 6:31, ICB).

The disciples slowly followed Jesus down to a boat that swayed gently on the rippling waves. They pushed it out into the deep water and climbed in. Where were they going? Read **Mark 6:32**.

Ahh, quiet rest. The boat glided peacefully through the water toward the other side of the lake.

But back on the shore the people noticed Jesus leaving. They weren't ready to say goodbye to Jesus yet! Quickly they made a decision.

The crowds began to run, run, run! They dashed over rocks and sprinted along the sand. With a huff and a puff they raced down the winding dirt path that led around the lake.

The people ran so fast that "they got there before Jesus arrived" (Mark 6:33, ICB).

Finally the boat came to land on the far side of the lake. But Jesus and the disciples realized they weren't alone. The crowds had followed them.

Jesus' eyes glowed with love and care. He could see how much the people wanted to be close to Him. Jesus knew they needed His help.

I Wonder

- » Would you have liked to have raced around the lake to surprise Jesus?
- » How can you search for and follow Jesus each day?

● Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He loves and cares for you too.

● Do

Set up an obstacle course, inside or outside. Have a family member time you to see how long it takes to finish the obstacle course. Do it a few times to try to get faster.



Monday

A Wonderful Day

Jesus looked down from the hill at the big crowd of people. They were all there to see Him.

The crowd looked like a flock of little lost sheep. They didn't have fluffy wool or clip-clopping hooves. But just like sheep, they were looking for a shepherd. The people wanted Jesus to be their shepherd. They wanted Him to guide them and look after them.

Jesus wanted to be their loving shepherd too. So what did Jesus do? Read **Luke 9:11**.

The people leaned in and listened to Jesus' lovely words. His words were so wise and true. Everything Jesus said felt like bright, warm sunshine. The Bible says, "The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple" (Psalm 119:130).

Old grandfathers and little granddaughters sat together and learned from Jesus. His stories about God's love were just what they needed! No one wanted to miss a word.

People also brought their sick friends and family to Jesus. With kindness Jesus lay His hand on them and spoke words with healing power. Instantly they were healed. Shouts of joy echoed across the hills and valleys.

Spending the day with Jesus was so wonderful!

I Wonder

- » What was Jesus giving to the people?
- » If you were there that day, what story would you want Jesus to tell?
- » What would you have asked Jesus to do to help you?

Prayer Idea

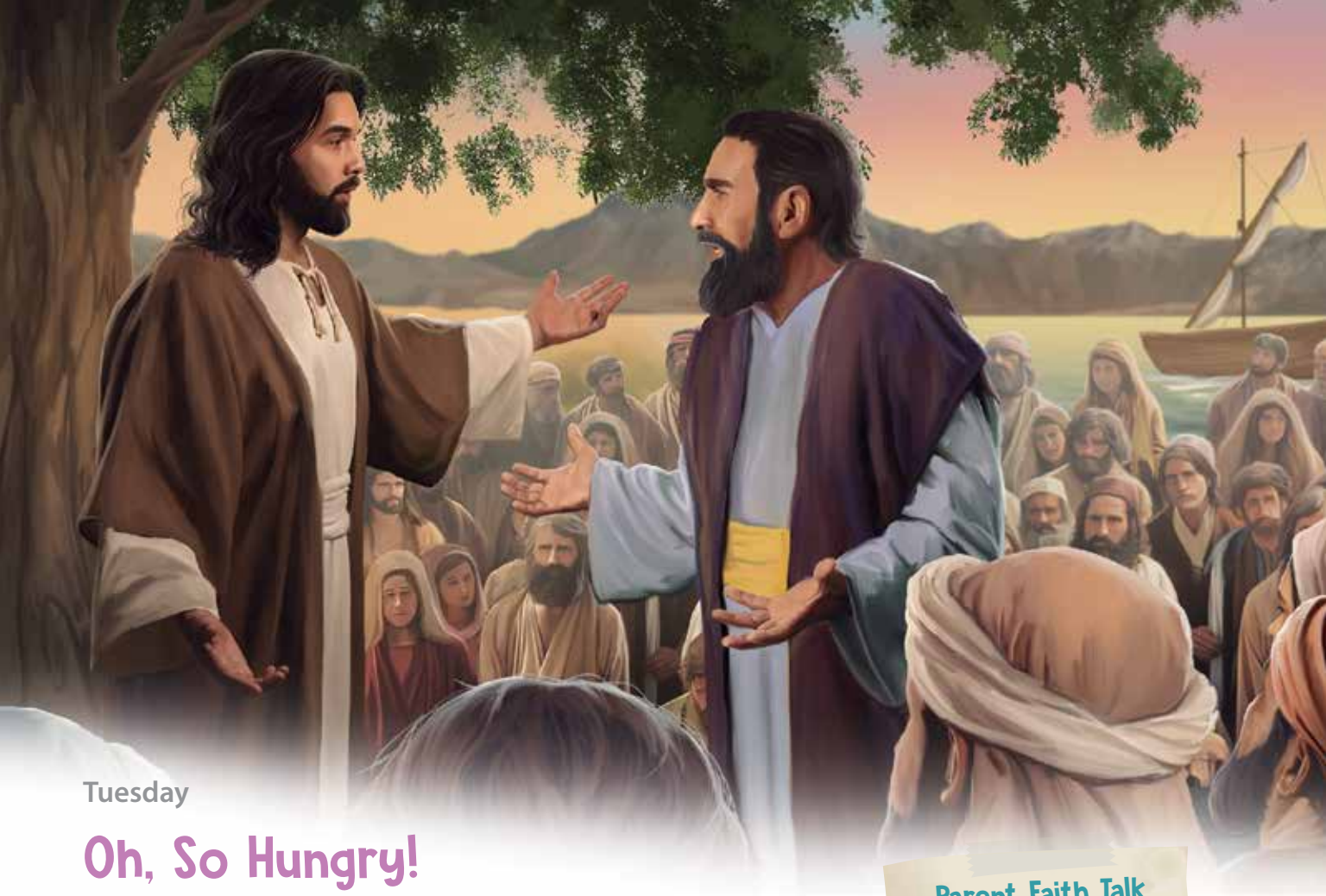
Thank Jesus for His wonderful words in the Bible that teach us and give us strength and wisdom.

Do

Imagine you were in the crowd that day, listening to Jesus. What song would you want to sing to Him? Sing it to Him now.

Memory Verse





Tuesday

Oh, So Hungry!

The sky turned a golden pink as the sun slipped low behind the hill. What a special day it had been with Jesus. He had taught them amazing things! He had healed and helped them. No one wanted the day to end.

But as the afternoon sunlight faded, the people suddenly realized something. They were really, *really* hungry! Their tummies began to rumble. Oh, no, what would they do? They were a long way from home or any towns. And they didn't have any food to quickly munch on. In the rush to find and follow Jesus, the *whole* crowd had forgotten to pack lunch or dinner.

What a big problem! The disciples told Jesus all about it. They said to Him, "Send the people away. They need to go to the farms and towns around here to buy some food to eat" (Mark 6:35, 36, ICB).

Jesus smiled and shook His head. He had a better idea. "You give them something to eat," He said (Mark 6:37).

The disciples frowned. *Feed 5,000 hungry men, plus families?* What did they say to Jesus? Read **Mark 6:37**.

It seemed impossible! But the disciples had forgotten one very important thing. Nothing is too hard for Jesus.

Jesus loves to help us and give us what we need. He tells us in the Bible to ask God for what we need each day. We can say, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11). This was just what the hungry people needed!

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time Jesus gave you something you needed.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever forgotten to take food somewhere? What did you do?
- » How do you know Jesus cares about you?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that no problem is too big for Him.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

The Boy's Basket

The disciples sighed as they looked at the big crowd on the hillside. How were they to feed all these hungry people? There were more than 5,000 people with no food. What a big problem! The disciples were very worried—but Jesus wasn't.

"How many loaves do you have? Go and see," Jesus told the disciples (Mark 6:38).

The disciples rushed off to ask the people. Did the clever teachers and rulers have food? Sorry, no. Did the farmers? Not a crumb. Did the fishermen? No, nothing. The shopkeepers, builders, mothers, and aunts all shook their heads. No one had any food to give.

Then Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, stepped forward with a little boy. What did Andrew say? Read **John 6:9**.

One little boy, in the big, big crowd, had something to share. The disciples peered into the boy's lunch basket. Carefully they counted, one, two, three, four, five little barley loaves. Plus two small fish.

Jesus smiled thankfully at the little boy. The boy's own tummy must have rumbled with hunger too. But he didn't keep his lunch to himself. He gave it to Jesus.

Jesus loves giving us what we need. And He loves for us to be like Him and give too. He promises, "Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. It will be poured into your hands—more than you can hold" (Luke 6:38, ICB).

Everyone watched Jesus as He took the five loaves and fishes in His hands. *What would He do with this little boy's lunch?*

I Wonder

- » Why do you think the little boy had some food?
- » Do you think the boy was happy to give his lunch to Jesus? Why?
- » What do you think Jesus will do next? Why?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus for a heart that is willing to give to others.

Mission Challenge

Plan precooked meals or fresh food baskets for community people who may be in need. With your family, decide on whom the meals will be for, plan the menu, and help cook the food (see the Sabbath Feature for delivery instructions).

Memory Verse



Thursday

The Miracle

Jesus looked down at the five barley loaves and two small fish. He smiled again at the boy who had happily given it to Him. Then looking up to heaven, Jesus prayed. He thanked God for the little basket of food that the boy had shared with Him.

Everyone listened quietly. Then “he divided the bread and gave it to his followers for them to give to the people. Then he divided the two fish among them all” (Mark 6:41, ICB).

Jesus passed the pieces to His disciples, and the disciples passed the pieces out to the crowd. *Some for you, some for you, and some for you too!*

It was then that something amazing began to happen. Something completely unbelievable. The bread and fish kept coming! No matter how much food the disciples handed out, there was always more to share. There was more than they could eat, and more than they could hold in their hands.

Hooray! The disciples laughed, and the crowds smiled. Jesus was feeding thousands of hungry people from just five loaves and two small fish! Happily they all ate their food and talked excitedly about the miracle.

What does God promise us in **Psalms 34:10**?

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Jesus prayed for the food?
- » What do you think everyone learned from this miracle?
- » Can you think of other miracles in the Bible during which God made miracle food?

Prayer Idea

Turn your memory verse (Matthew 6:11) into a thank-You prayer:

“Thank You, Jesus, that You ...”

Do

Using corn kernels, make popcorn. Notice how a small handful of kernels can become something that fills a whole bowl. Eat it together to celebrate how God gives you all you need and more.

Memory Verse





Friday

Extra Food

Mmm, yum! The people happily chomped and chewed the miracle food. Their tummies had been empty, but now they were full.

Then Jesus turned to His disciples. “Gather the pieces of fish and bread that were not eaten. Don’t waste anything” (John 6:12, ICB).

Peter, Andrew, John, and the other disciples began moving through the crowds. They collected all the leftover pieces of fish and bread that hadn’t been eaten. How much did they collect? Read **Mark 6:43**.

Wow! Not only had Jesus fed more than 5,000 hungry tummies, but there were lots of leftovers too! The people had miracle food to take home and give to others. Oh, the stories they would tell their friends and families as they too ate Jesus’ miracle food.

God had truly given the people what they needed and so much more! He will do the same for you. You can trust Him every day, and pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11).

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Jesus gave them more food than what they needed?
- » What do the extra leftovers teach us about Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for giving you the things you need and so much more.

Do

Pretend you are the little boy who shared his lunch with Jesus and was now returning home with leftover miracle food. Greet your family. What would you do and say?

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about this week’s story. Go for a hunt outside for things in nature that grow more and more. Keep an item for your memory box.

For You, Parents

“If we go to the Source of all strength, with our hands of faith outstretched to receive, we shall be sustained in our work, even under the most forbidding circumstances, and shall be enabled to give to others the bread of life” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 371).

A Food Blessing

Isn't it wonderful that Jesus was able to make so many hungry people happy and full?

Now it's your chance to share some surprise food blessings too. This week you have been planning and preparing meals to share with others. Together as a family, deliver the meals today. Who knows, maybe the surprise food will create smiles, joy, and even new friends you can share Jesus with. Share this week's Big Idea with your new friend in the community. How well do you remember this week's lesson?

Here are some quiz questions to test your memory.

1. How many people were hungry?

- A** 50 **B** 5000 **C** 500

2. Who gave their lunch basket to Jesus?

- A** a boy **B** a girl **C** a grandma

3. What did Jesus do just after He prayed?

- A** looked for baskets **B** ate the bread **C** broke the food into pieces

4. How much leftover food was collected after the miracle?

- A** enough for the disciples to eat **B** 12 baskets **C** a boatful

Challenge

These objects from this week's story are hidden on this page. Can you find them?

12 baskets

5 loaves of bread

2 fish



Jesus the Teacher

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He wants to teach me.

● Memory Verse

"More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
(Luke 11:28).

Word of the Week

"Listen" - To listen is to pay attention to sound. When we pay attention to the words someone is saying, we are listening. Jesus asks us to listen to His wise words, and then do what He says.

This week's lesson

is based on **Matthew 5:14-16; Matthew 13:31-34; Luke 6:43-45; Luke 6:46-49; Matthew 6:9-13; and The Desire of Ages, pp. 298-314.**

Sunday

Jesus the Storyteller

The little boy leaned forward and lifted his chin. He sat on his hands and made his body very still. Carefully He listened to Jesus.

A girl beside him squeezed a little closer. She bumped into him, but the boy didn't notice. He kept looking right at Jesus. The Teacher's kind eyes shone as He told another story. One was funny. Another, exciting! One made him look at the pretty trees and flowers around him and sigh with happiness. Even though he was young, he could understand all the stories. Jesus was the best storyteller of all.

Jesus told stories to small groups in small houses. And big groups, under big blue skies. He spoke in temples, from boats, and while He walked along dusty roads.

How often did Jesus tell stories? Read **Matthew 13:34**.

Jesus talked about flitting birds, colorful flowers, and fields of wheat. Boys and girls could look and see these things as they quietly listened. He told stories about naughty sheep, silly builders, and busy farmers. Oh, everyone knew what they were like.

Whether gray-haired and wrinkly or young and wiggly, everyone loved to listen and learn from Jesus. People even traveled from far, far away to hear His wise words.

Jesus is still our best storyteller. If we listen closely, His stories can help us grow closer to Him. The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

I Wonder

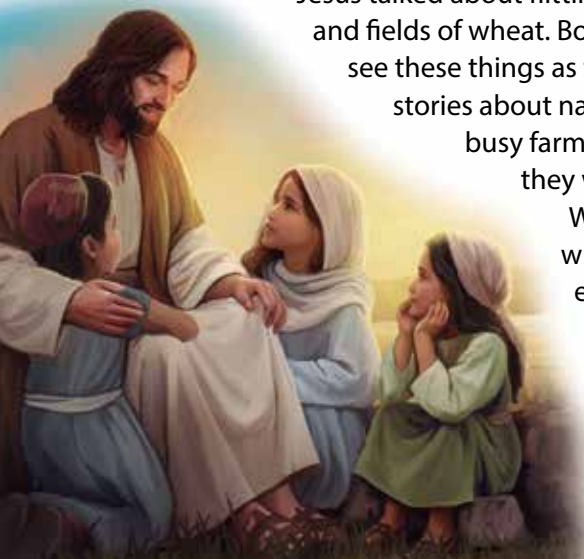
- » How many of Jesus' stories can you name?
- » What story do you think Jesus might be telling the children in this picture?

● Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for all the amazing stories we can read in the Bible.

● Do

Stand in front of your family and retell a favorite Bible story and explain why you love it so much.





Monday

The Bright Lamp

The little flame flickered as it grew bigger and bigger. Its golden glow warmed the room. Carefully the lamp was lifted and placed on a shelf. Now all the family could see each other's smiles. They could find the cooking pot, the needle and thread, and a cozy cushion to sit on.

At night, Jerusalem and other surrounding towns sparkled with hundreds of these little lights. Every family used small pottery lamps to light their home.

One day Jesus sat on the side of a mountain, talking to a big crowd. He reminded them of these night lights. He said, "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden" (Matthew 5:14).

The people listened closely. They thought about their homes and towns that shone in the darkness.

Jesus continued: "People don't hide a light under a bowl" (Matthew 5:15, ICB). People smiled. Some chuckled. What a silly idea! No one would ever light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. Lights were for shining, not hiding!

Jesus added, "They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house" (Matthew 5:15, ICB). What did Jesus say next? Read **Matthew 5:16**.

Everyone nodded. Yes, what a good story! Everyone had a lamp, and everyone could understand. Jesus wants us to speak and do things that show His goodness. We can be like a bright light for all the world to see.

Fast Fact

How long does it take you to spin in a circle seven times? Did you know that light can travel around our whole earth more than six times in one second? Now, that is faster than fast!

I Wonder

- » What type of lights do you have in your house?
- » Why do you think Jesus told the story about an ordinary lamp?
- » How did you shine for Jesus today?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you shine brightly for Him.

Do

With the help of a parent, light a candle and put it under a bowl. Can you see the light? What does Jesus want us to do instead?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

The Tiny Seed That Grew

The sun glistened on the still water. Jesus sat in a boat on the edge of a lake and looked out at the smiling crowd. They sat on the sandy beach, quietly waiting. They were ready to listen to another story.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed," Jesus said loudly, "which a man took and sowed in his field" (Matthew 13:31).

Everyone imagined the teeny, tiny mustard seed. They pictured a farmer popping it in the ground and covering it gently with dirt. *Pat, pat, pat.*

Jesus continued: "That seed is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes a tree, big enough for the wild birds to come and make nests in its branches" (Matthew 13:32, ICB).

The people looked from the lake to the fields. Large mustard plants waved their branches in the breeze. Birds flitted from twig to twig, whistling pretty songs.

Why did Jesus tell them this story? Read **Matthew 13:34**.

Jesus loved using nature to teach them about His love and power. He wanted them to know that He could work a miracle in their hearts too, just like that seed. All they needed was a little bit of trust in Him.

Jesus promised that He can work a miracle inside of you too. He will help you grow stronger and braver every day when He lives in your heart.

I Wonder

- » Do you know where the seeds are found for a pumpkin, strawberry, avocado, and banana?
- » Would you have liked to learn from Jesus? Why?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you trust Him more each day.

Do

Go outside together and plant a seed or look for plants with seeds. Talk together about how God grows in your heart.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

Prickles or Figs?

Everybody knows that plums grow on plum trees, and grapes grow on grapevines. And of course, berries grow on orange trees. No! Berries grow on berry bushes!

Jesus stood at the bottom of a mountain teaching and healing many people. Everyone listened carefully—they didn't want to miss any of His wonderful words. Then Jesus said to them, "Each tree is known by its fruit. People don't gather figs from thornbushes" (Luke 6:44, ICB).

The people must have smiled at the silly thought. Imagine someone searching in a thornbush for figs. Ouch! How spiky and scratchy! The only thing to find in a thornbush is prickles and pain.

Jesus then explained that we are like trees. Of course, we don't have green leaves and branches. But the way we act, and the things we do, are like fruit on a tree.

Without God's Spirit living inside our hearts, we are a lot like a prickly thornbush. We can hurt others and don't grow good fruit. But when the Holy Spirit lives in our hearts, we will grow His beautiful fruit. What type of fruit will we grow? Read **Galatians 5:22, 23**.

The people must have smiled as they ate their fruit the next day. Jesus had taught them a lesson that was so easy to remember! They had listened. They could remember. Now they could ask God to help them do what Jesus said. The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

Parent Faith Talk

Affirm your child for something they have done recently that has shown one of the fruits of the Spirit.

I Wonder

- » If you could be a fruit tree, what would you want to be? Why?
- » Can you say all the fruits of the Spirit? (Galatians 5:22, 23.) What would you like to ask for more of?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus for His Holy Spirit to live in your heart so you can grow and show His fruit.

Do

Jesus told stories so we can remember them. Can you remember the stories from this week's lesson so far? Try telling them to a friend or family member. Look back at the pictures for some clues if you get stuck.

Memory Verse

Thursday

House on the Rock

The excited crowd soon hushed. Shh! Kids stopped giggling. Moms and dads stopped whispering. Everyone looked and listened. Jesus had another story to tell . . .

Dig, dig, dig! A builder was building a house. His shovel dug deep into the dirt. *Thud.* The man had reached a hard, strong rock. Perfect! He would build his house on this rock. First the man built a solid floor. Then he built tall walls, and finally, on went the roof. Done!

A mighty storm rumbled in. The rain came down, and the floods came up. But the man wasn't worried one bit. The flood wouldn't knock his house down, "because the house was built well" (Luke 6:48, ICB). It had been built on a rock.

Then Jesus told His listeners about another builder . . .

Bang, bang, bang. Up went the tall walls and on went the roof. This builder didn't care about digging down to strong rocks. He didn't bother to build a solid floor. He chose some sandy land, then quickly built his house. Done!

Down came the rain and up came the flood. Then with one mighty crash the whole house fell . . . down!

Our lives are like a house, and God is the rock. What does the Bible tell us about God our rock? Read **2 Samuel 22:3**.

When we listen to God's words from the Bible and obey them, we will stay strong through every storm and problem.

I Wonder

» Why do you think the second house fell down?

» How can we stay strong for God, like the house on the rock?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to help you listen and do what He says.

Do

Sing "The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock" together. Try to say your memory verse at the end.

Mission Challenge

Make a card or drawing and have an adult add your favorite memory verse from this quarter. Give it to your new friend.

Memory Verse





Friday

How Do We Pray?

The people sat on the hillside and listened carefully to Jesus. They had smiled at the stories of the crashing house and the mixed-up fruit. They had nodded at the stories about seeds and bright lights. So this was what God's love was like!

Jesus smiled at the people. He really wanted them to come even closer to their loving God. He would teach them how. He would teach them how to pray.

Looking up into the sky, Jesus began a beautiful prayer.

"Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation,

But deliver us from the evil one.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

Amen" (Matthew 6:9-13).

Jesus started by praising God and putting all His trust in Him. Then He asked God for the things they needed, such as food, forgiveness, help, and strength. Jesus finished by praising God.

Jesus wants us to pray like this too. He is our best teacher. He shows and tells us how to be close to God and show His love.

I Wonder

- » Is there anything you would really like to talk to God about today?
- » What did you like about the way Jesus taught the people this week?

Prayer Idea

Do a paper prayer together. Using two pieces of paper, label one page "Thanks" and the other "Ask." Take turns writing words or drawing pictures as a prayer to God on each of these pages.

Do

Listen to "The Lord's Prayer" from the ALJ website several times until you know it by heart.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Look around the house for something that reminds you of Jesus' wonderful and wise words. Place it in your memory box as a reminder of this week's lesson.

For You, Parents

"Prayer unites us one to another and to God. Prayer brings Jesus to our side, and gives new strength and fresh grace to the fainting, perplexed soul" (Ellen G. White, in *Review and Herald*, Oct. 30, 1900).

Listening Ears

Sue and her friends were on a little canoeing adventure together, paddling down a peaceful , enjoying God's creation. They could hear  croaking,  humming, and  slipping into the  to hide.

As the group came around a bend, two beautiful  splashed through the shallow  and disappeared in the tall . Then Sue noticed their twin baby  called fawns standing on the other side. The small animals began  and trembling. Sue and her friends sat still and quiet. From inside the tall  came loud snorts. It was the  parents. It seemed they were saying something very important, because the fawns stopped .

Maybe the mother and father  had said such things as "Don't be afraid; we're right here." Or maybe "Be quiet and hold still." Whatever it was, the baby  listened and obeyed.

When the  had floated past, Sue watched as the mother  came back out of the  and led her babies safely across the .

Jesus wants us to listen and obey His wise words too. He knows what is best for us.

We can trust and follow what He says, because He  us! The Bible says, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!" (Luke 11:28).

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The Man in a Tree

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. His love changes me.

● **Memory Verse**
"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Word of the Week
"Change" - Change means to make something different. You can change clothes by putting on different clothes. Or you might make a different choice to play outside instead of inside—you could change your mind. Jesus can change our selfish, sinful hearts so we can be loving and kind, as He is.

This week's lesson
 is based on **Luke 19:1-10** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 552-556.

Sunday

The Thief

Clink, clink. Zacchaeus slid two coins into the money box with a smile.

Zacchaeus was a "chief tax collector, and he was rich" (Luke 19:2). He had the job of collecting tax money from everyone in Jericho and giving it to the Roman rulers.

Shopkeepers, farmers, and fishermen all lined up in front of Zacchaeus' table. Quietly they waited their turn to pay. But Zacchaeus was sneaky and dishonest. He sat at that table and lied and cheated.

What is commandment number eight of the Ten Commandments? Read **Exodus 20:15**.

Zacchaeus didn't follow God's way of love. This hurt God. Instead, he chose to steal. If a farmer needed to pay one silver coin, Zacchaeus made him pay two. Zacchaeus would drop one coin into the money box. Then, shh . . . when no one was watching, the other coin would disappear into his pocket—all for himself.

The people knew Zacchaeus was a thief. But they couldn't stop him. They would walk away from his table sad and angry. Now their families would go without things they really needed.

When we take things that aren't ours, we hurt the people we steal from. Jesus wants us to always be giving and loving instead. He can change us so that we want to be like that too! Jesus could even help greedy Zacchaeus.

I Wonder

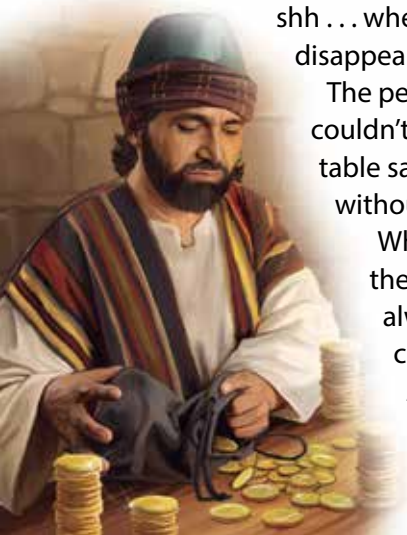
- » Why was it wrong for Zacchaeus to take extra coins for himself?
- » Who was hurt by his cheating and stealing?

● Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you respect others and be honest.

● Do

Our memory verse says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What can you find outside that is brand-new? Can you find a flower that's just opened up, a new green shoot, new snow, or a new ants' nest? Our Creator loves to make things new—even inside our hearts!



Monday

Big News in Jericho

Zacchaeus sat at his tax table in busy Jericho and listened. He didn't listen to the clink, clink of coins. He listened very closely to the buzzing crowds. It seemed everyone in Jericho was talking about Jesus.

Some told stories of His kindness. Others spoke of His wise words. Then there were the amazing stories about His mighty miracles. The more Zacchaeus heard, the more he wanted to meet Jesus.

Zacchaeus wasn't very popular. Tax collectors were not well liked, even when they were honest. But Zacchaeus wasn't honest. He was a cheat and a thief. Would Jesus want to meet him? Read **Luke 15:2**.

One day, as Zacchaeus sat at his table counting coins, he heard a shout. And then another. *Jesus! Jesus was coming!*

Mothers left their cooking. Fathers dropped their tools. Children stopped playing. Together they all raced down the road. "Jesus was going through the city of Jericho" (Luke 19:1, ICB).

When Zacchaeus heard the exciting news, his heart leaped with joy. Jesus, the one he had heard so much about, was right here in Jericho! He knew what he must do. He must meet Jesus!

I Wonder

- » Whom might you tell about kind, wise, mighty Jesus?
- » How does Jesus treat people who sin, such as Zacchaeus? Why do you think that is?
- » Did you know that Matthew, Jesus' disciple friend, was a tax collector?

Prayer Idea

Ask God to make your heart more like His.

Do

Find two magnets and test how strongly they pull together. Jesus is like a magnet, always drawing people to His love—no matter what mistakes they've made.

Memory Verse



Tuesday

Trying to See Jesus

Without a second thought, Zacchaeus scrambled to his feet and ran down the road. He didn't stop to think about his money table. Zacchaeus had only one thought—he must see Jesus.

The big crowd up ahead pushed, shoved, and bumped each other. They squeezed in close, trying to get a glimpse of Jesus as He walked down the road.

Oh, no. Zacchaeus stopped and looked at the crowd. He had a big “little” problem. What was it? Read **Luke 19:3**.

Standing on tiptoe, Zacchaeus tried to peer over the tall shoulders. Holding in his breath, he tried to squeeze between gaps, but it was no use. The big strong wall of people stopped Zacchaeus from getting any closer to Jesus.

Zacchaeus couldn't see Jesus, but God knew He was there and cared for him. The Bible says, “The Lord looks down from heaven. He sees every person” (Psalm 33:13, ICB). Even though Zacchaeus was small and had made so many bad choices, God loved him.

I Wonder

- » Share a time when you were too short to see something. How did it make you feel?
- » What would you have done if you had been Zacchaeus?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He loves us and wants to change us.

Do

Write your memory verse on little notes (with help if needed) and decorate. Leave them with your neighbors (under doors/near mailboxes).

Memory Verse





Wednesday

The Sycamore Tree

The people in the crowd were very tall, but Zacchaeus was very short. His shoulders slumped. It was no use—he could never get past this crowd to see Jesus.

Then a brilliant idea popped into his head. A tree! Yes, he could climb a tree. Then he would be high enough to see over the crowd.

Zacchaeus “ran ahead to a place where he knew Jesus would come” (Luke 19:4. ICB). He grinned as he spotted a large shady sycamore tree on the side of the road. Its branches stretched out over the path. *Yes! That would be perfect.*

What did he do next? Read **Luke 19:4**.

Gripping the low branches with his hands and pressing his feet against the rough tree trunk, Zacchaeus scrambled up, up, up. Then carefully he shuffled out onto a thick branch and waited. His legs dangled, and his eyes peered down the road.

Jesus and the crowd came closer and closer. Soon the people were right underneath the tree. Zacchaeus’ heart pounded. Jesus was right below him! Then something surprising happened. Jesus stopped. Everyone stopped.

Jesus “looked up and saw him.” Jesus’ eyes sparkled with love and care. “Zacchaeus,” Jesus said (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus could barely believe what he was hearing. Jesus knew his name! Jesus cared about him!

I Wonder

- » Why did Jesus stop and look up?
- » Does Jesus know your name, too? How does this make you feel?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He knows your name and loves you.

Do

Climb a small tree with the help of a parent. While you are sitting high, imagine Jesus looking up at Zacchaeus. Practice saying your memory verse.

Mission Challenge

Pray each day for the new friends God has given you. Pray that they will make Jesus their very best friend.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share with your child something that you have done for Jesus that other people might have thought was silly or crazy.

Thursday

Making Things Right

"Zacchaeus, . . . come down, for today I must stay at your house," Jesus said, smiling up into the tree (Luke 19:5).

Zacchaeus looked down. *Was he dreaming? Was Jesus really talking to him?*

It seemed so hard to believe.

Coming down from the tree, Zacchaeus gazed into the loving face of Jesus. He didn't quite know what to say. He didn't deserve this kindness from Jesus.

Jesus knew his name! Jesus loved and cared for him and wanted to visit his house!

The love and forgiveness of Jesus was changing the old lying Zacchaeus. What can Jesus change us into? Read **2 Corinthians 5:17**.

That's just what Zacchaeus was now! Looking up at Jesus, he said, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!" (Luke 19:8, ICB).

Right away, immediately, this new, loving Zacchaeus began to make things right. He didn't want to just give back the money he had taken. He wanted to give the poor people much more money than what he had stolen from them, to say he was sorry for hurting them.

When we let Jesus change us, we will want to make our wrongs right too. We will want to be as loving and generous as He.

I Wonder

- » Can you think of a time you did something wrong? How did you make it right?
- » Is there anything you would like to ask God to forgive you for?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you make any wrongs right with others.

Do

Find six items of the same thing: bottle tops, pencils, toys. Make two piles: a pile for a worker, with two items; a pile for Zacchaeus, with four items. Pretend Zacchaeus took one item. How many would the worker have left? When Jesus changed Zacchaeus, he didn't just give back the one item. He gave back four! How many items would the worker have now?

Memory Verse





Friday

New Zacchaeus

The crowd at the bottom of the sycamore tree grumbled and frowned. *Jesus was talking to cheating, lying Zacchaeus! Worse still, Jesus wanted to go stay at his house!*

The people of Jericho complained out loud. What did they say? Read **Luke 19:7**.

They didn't realize that Jesus loved him anyway. And the love of Jesus had already changed Zacchaeus. He had decided to give away so much money. The tax collector from Jericho wanted to be just like Jesus and show kindness and honesty too.

Jesus looked from loving Zacchaeus to the frowning crowd. With a big smile He said, "he also is a son of Abraham" (Luke 19:9).

Zacchaeus was now a new creation. He belonged to Jesus' big family. No longer a lying, stealing tax collector, Zacchaeus was a child of God. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What a wonderful miracle!

Then Jesus told everyone that this kind of miracle—the miracle of changing people's hearts—was what He had come to do. "The Son of Man came to find lost people and save them" (Luke 19:10, ICB).

I Wonder

- » What might Jesus and Zacchaeus have talked about over lunch at Zacchaeus' house?
- » Who showed more love, the crowd or Zacchaeus? Why?
- » If you had been in the crowd, what would you have said to Jesus? to Zacchaeus?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that He has come to change and save us.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Look around the house for something that is dirty. Clean it and put it in your memory box as a reminder of Zacchaeus and how Jesus' love changes our hearts.

For You, Parents

"Men hate the sinner, while they love the sin. Christ hates the sin, but loves the sinner. This will be the spirit of all who follow Him" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 462).

A Froggy Miracle

A blob of little slimy balls floating in a creek may not look very exciting. But that little blob is far from ordinary, it is the beginning of an amazing miracle. This blob contains hundreds of tiny, slippery eggs. And these eggs will change into frogs!

These little eggs within the blob are called frogspawn. They have a tiny black dot and look a bit like an eyeball! This frogspawn will miraculously change into something that looks, sounds, and acts completely different.

Over time the little dot gets bigger and bigger. It grows a tail. Then after a few weeks, out it pops! The frogspawn is now a tadpole. But it looks more like a fish than a frog. It has a long tail and gills, so it can breathe underwater.

The tadpole wriggles and swims in the water, nibbling on plants. During the next few weeks something else begins to grow—its back legs! Then it grows front legs too. But it is not finished changing yet!

After the tadpole grows legs, its tail begins to shrink away. It grows lungs for breathing and eardrums to hear better.

Then when its amazing change is complete, it hops up and out of the water as a frog. It can now breathe air, jump high, and use its long sticky tongue to catch a quick meal. What an amazing change!

When Jesus lives in your heart, He changes you. Every day He is making you more and more beautiful inside. His love helps you to think differently, speak differently, and act differently than your old self.

The Bible says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). What an amazing miracle!

Frog Jokes

How does a frog feel when it has a broken leg?

Unhoppy.

What did the frog say at the library?

Reddit. Reddit. Reddit.



Jesus' Trip to Capernaum

Big Idea: Jesus is my God. He cares about me.

Memory Verse

"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

Word of the Week

"Caring" - Caring is showing kindness and concern for someone. When you are caring, you look after someone and help them. Caring can be kind words, sharing a toy or some food, using gentle hands, or helping someone with a problem. There are many ways you can be caring, just as Jesus was!

This week's lesson

is based on [Luke 4:31-44](#); [Mark 1:21-39](#); and [The Desire of Ages](#), pp. 236-243, 252-261.

Sunday

Not Welcomed in Nazareth

It was Sabbath, and Jesus had stopped to visit His family and friends in Nazareth. Nazareth was Jesus' hometown—the place He had grown up. Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach them from the Bible scrolls.

Jesus told the people that He was the promised Savior. The people "were amazed at the beautiful words he spoke" (Luke 4:22, ICB). But they didn't think He was the Savior—they thought he was just Joseph's son.

Jesus knew they didn't really believe His words, and He told them so.

The Pharisees were furious! The people were angry too. They grabbed Jesus and pushed Him out of the synagogue. They shoved Him down the streets and out of town and wanted to throw Him off a cliff.

As the crowd dragged Jesus roughly down the road, something amazing suddenly happened. God's angels made Jesus invisible. He turned and walked straight "through the crowd and went on his way" (Luke 4:30, ICB). It was a miracle! God had rescued Jesus from the angry crowd.

Jesus loved the people of Nazareth. But if they didn't want to listen to Him, Jesus would go and do good somewhere else. Where did Jesus go? Read **Luke 4:31**.

I Wonder

- » Whom do you think Jesus might have visited in Nazareth?
- » Why do you think the people in Nazareth got so angry at Jesus?
- » What do you think some people in the crowd might have thought when Jesus disappeared?

Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you listen and believe His words in the Bible.

Do

Draw a picture of an angel on cardboard, using your finger, dipped in water. Watch as it dries and disappears. Thank God for His angels that protect us.



Monday

A Sabbath in Capernaum

The city of Capernaum was so beautiful. It sat right on the shore of the shimmering Sea of Galilee. It was surrounded by green fields, tall palm trees, and bright flowers.

Capernaum was not only beautiful—it was also very busy. Lots of people lived there. One particular Sabbath day the city seemed extra crowded. Exciting news had spread throughout the area—Capernaum had a special Visitor. Jesus had come to town!

People left their things and rushed down the road. Along the way, they stopped to tell others the good news. Jesus was speaking in the synagogue *right now*! Together the desperate crowds squished and squeezed inside the building. They wanted to get as close as possible to the wise and wonderful Teacher.

Jesus loved the Sabbath. He loved reading the Holy Scriptures. And on this beautiful Sabbath day, in this beautiful city, “Jesus taught the people” (Luke 4:31, ICB).

The crowd listened closely. His words warmed their hearts and made them think of heavenly things. Every word Jesus spoke, every look He gave, showed His great love and care.

What else did the people think of His words? Read **Luke 4:32**.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think there were so many people in the synagogue?
- » Do you like going to church on Sabbath? Why?
- » What can you do to listen to Jesus this Sabbath?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that we can listen to His words in the Bible.

Do

Use toys, pegs, or other small objects (as people), and an empty box (as the synagogue), to reenact today’s story. Rush the crowds into the synagogue and take turns to speak the words of Jesus. What might Jesus have said?

Memory Verse

Tuesday

Simon's Sick Mother-in-law

What a delightful Sabbath! The people of Capernaum were filled with joy. They had just heard Jesus speak wonderful and wise words in the synagogue.

It was true that "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

But now the morning service was finished. It was time to say goodbye. Young children skipped down the streets toward their homes. Their parents followed close behind.

Simon Peter's family lived in Capernaum. So he invited Jesus over to his house for the afternoon.

After a short walk, Simon Peter and Jesus stepped inside the house. But something was terribly wrong. As they looked around, there were no happy hellos and no cheery smiles. Instead, Simon's family stood around frowning and whispering words of worry to each other. What was wrong? Read the first part of **Luke 4:38**.

During a fever your body feels hot because it is trying to fight a sickness. The family had tried to cool down Simon Peter's mother-in-law's temperature with wet, cool cloths. They had given her water. But nothing seemed to help. The poor woman lay on her bed, very unwell.

Jesus looked at Simon Peter's very sick mother-in-law. He cared about her, and He cared for her worried family too. He really wanted to help.

I Wonder

- » Have you ever had a fever? What did it feel like?
- » How do you know that Jesus cares about you?

Prayer Idea

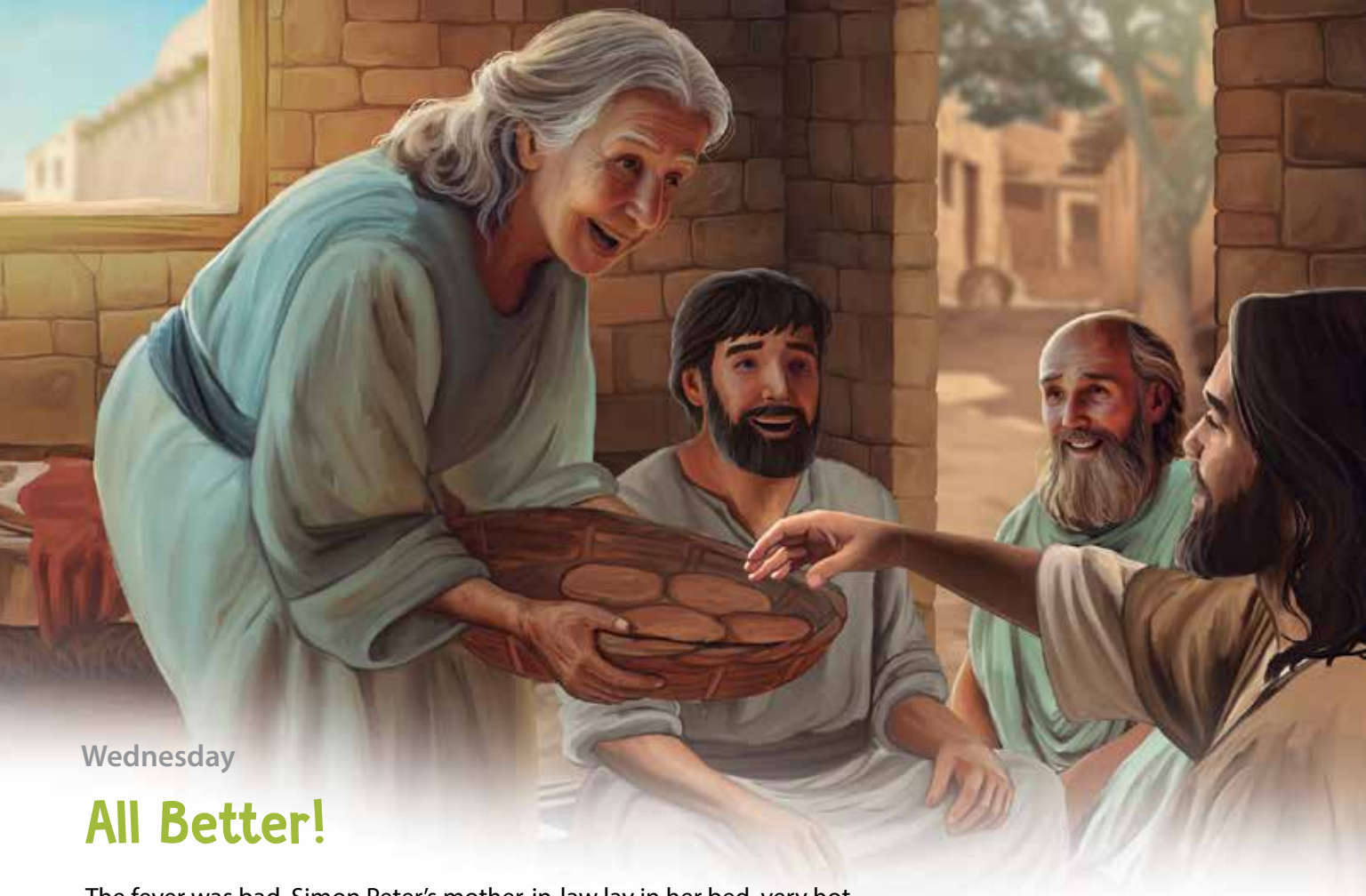
Thank Jesus that He cares about you when you are sick.

Do

Can you think of anyone who is sick at the moment? Plan to do something to show that you care for them, just as Jesus does. You might pick them flowers or send them a cheerful drawing and note.

Memory Verse





Wednesday

All Better!

The fever was bad. Simon Peter's mother-in-law lay in her bed, very hot and very sick. Her family looked at her with worry. Then they looked up into the kind eyes of Jesus. Yes—surely Jesus could make her better! They “asked Jesus to do something to help her” (Luke 4:38, ICB).

What does the Bible tell us to do when we have worries or problems? Read **1 Peter 5:7**.

Jesus walked across the room to stand beside the sick woman. Her eyes were closed; her body was still. Jesus tenderly picked up her hand. With power He told the fever to leave.

Everyone in the room held their breath and watched. Suddenly her eyes fluttered open. She sat up and looked around.

Simon's mother-in-law looked up at the lovely face of Jesus. She smiled a big smile, and Jesus smiled back. She felt so much better! Her body had been made strong and healthy again. What an amazing miracle!

She was so thankful to Jesus. After many smiles and words of thanks, she ran to the kitchen. The sound of clinking cups and clattering pots could be heard. Then Simon's mother-in-law began serving food and drinks for all her guests.

Jesus must have smiled as she handed Him a plate of food. What a lovely way to say thank You to Jesus for His tender care and healing miracle.

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time God heard your prayers and helped you or someone else who was sick.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law?
- » How do you show Jesus you are thankful to Him for what He does for you?
- » What is something you can do today to say thank You to Jesus?

Prayer Idea

Tell Jesus about a problem you might have. Or thank Jesus that no problem or worry is too big for Him.

Memory Verse

Thursday

Evening Blessings

All Sabbath afternoon the people of Capernaum sat together in their homes talking excitedly about one thing: Jesus. They remembered His words and amazing healing miracles.

They all really, really wanted to ask Jesus to heal their sick families too. They knew Jesus was at Simon Peter's house, so "when the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him" (Luke 4:40). Some shuffled slowly to the house, leaning on a walking stick. Others who couldn't walk were carried on stretchers. Little sick children were carried in a parent's arms. They all had one question. *Please, Jesus, can You help and heal us?*

As Jesus looked at the crowd, He saw their pain and noticed their worry. He cared for each one as though they were His own child.

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

"Doing good" is exactly what Jesus did there in Capernaum. Shouts of joy filled the streets as Jesus began to lay His hands on the sick and heal them. How many of the people did Jesus heal? Read **Luke 4:40**.

What a busy night! Hour after hour, people came to be healed. Finally, when it was nearly morning, the last healed person waved goodbye and went home. Jesus sighed happily. He felt tired, but His heart was filled with joy at seeing so many sad faces smiling again.

I Wonder

- » Why didn't Jesus just tell the people to go home to bed?
- » What would you have said or done if Jesus had healed you?

Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus for helping and saving you too.

Do

Sing a praise song to Jesus to thank Him for His mighty power.

Memory Verse





Friday

Daybreak

All night long, shouts of joy and happy praises had echoed down the streets. Jesus had healed so many sick people in Capernaum. But now, shhh . . . the town once again slept peacefully.

At Simon's house someone stirred. It was Jesus. Climbing out of bed, He quietly put on His sandals. Then He slipped out the door and down the street. Where was Jesus going? Read **Mark 1:35**.

Jesus *loved* spending time with God. Talking and listening to His heavenly Father gave Him strength and help. Whenever He could, Jesus would leave the busy cities and find a quiet, peaceful place in the mountains to pray.

Soon the people in Capernaum began to wake up with a yawn and a stretch. When Simon Peter woke up, He noticed that Jesus' bed was empty. *Where had Jesus gone?* He and the disciples began to search for their Teacher.

Finally they found Him praying in the mountains. "Everyone is looking for you!" they said to Jesus (Mark 1:37).

It made Jesus so happy that the people in Capernaum wanted to be with Him again. But He said to the disciples, "We should go somewhere else, to other towns around here. Then I can preach there too" (Mark 1:38, ICB).

The Bible says, "God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good" (Acts 10:38).

Jesus needed to show His goodness to other people in other towns too! So off they went. Jesus continued to teach and heal all throughout the area.

I Wonder

- » Why do you think the disciples knew where to find Jesus so quickly?
- » What caring things did Jesus do for the people in Capernaum?
- » What caring things does Jesus do for you?

Prayer Idea

Find a quiet place to talk to God alone for a little while. Thank Him for His care and power.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the word "caring." Go for a nature walk and find something for the memory box that reminds you that Jesus cares for you.

For You, Parents

"A kind, courteous Christian is the most powerful argument that can be produced in favor of Christianity" (Ellen G. White, *Gospel Workers*, p. 122).

From Dogs to Jesus

Christian and Maribel didn't know what to do. The two missionaries for Jesus had just arrived in the country of Ecuador. But there were no other Adventist Christians in the area. And the people didn't seem interested to learn about Jesus at all.

How could they share Jesus' love with their neighbors, if those neighbors weren't interested?

Christian and Maribel thought and prayed. And then they had a great idea. They would be like Jesus and look for and care for the needs of others.

Christian and Maribel soon discovered that their community had many tail-wagging, sniffing, licking dogs! And these dogs were bored at home every day because their owners had to go to work.

Christian and Maribel began making new friends by walking the dogs every week. They soon had a team of missionaries helping them too.

The dogs and their owners were very thankful for their new caring and helpful Seventh-day Adventist friends. Some dog owners even started to meet up with their new dog-walking friends at the park. Over time some of the dog owners started asking for Bible studies. Then several people gave their hearts to Jesus.

God asks us in Ephesians 4:32 to "be kind and loving to each other" (ICB). We can do that in lots of creative, caring ways.

When you care for others, you will be showing them what Jesus' great love looks like! Who knows—through a small act of kindness you might help someone find and follow Jesus, and make Him their best friend too.

<https://www.adventistmission.org/>

