

Children are Important - Sunday School

Teacher Book

UNIT  
1



# TIME MACHINE

walk where Jesus walked



**TEACHER BOOK**  
For all ages

# Time Machine



A Vacation Bible School from “Children are Important”

Teacher’s Book

For all ages

Unit 1: Lessons 1-13

Web:

[www.ChildrenAreImportant.com/machine/](http://www.ChildrenAreImportant.com/machine/)

## **THANKS TO THE WHOLE TEAM "CHILDREN ARE IMPORTANT"**

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# INTRODUCTION

**WELCOME** to Time Machine Sunday school! In this new and exciting program, we will go back in time to watch the life of Jesus! Each week, the children will enjoy a fun drama, a game, solving the puzzles in the student books, and collecting a new card for attendance.

The fun dramas are designed for 3 or more actors who go back in time to watch the life of Jesus. The children will love getting to know the characters and counting down as the actors go back in time. But it's not just entertainment. In each drama, the characters learn the same lessons as the students and demonstrate modern applications to the lessons.

In this program, children will follow the life of Jesus and learn about justice in modern society. Loving others and treating others right is something that God cares about very much. Here is just one of many verses about it: "Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow." Isaiah 1:17

Some issues, like human trafficking, are beyond young children's ability to change things right now. However, we can form a child's view of the world, like treating people with dignity regardless of social status, so that they can defend the oppressed as they grow older. There are three sections designed to help teach children about justice. 1. The "justice" section is a modern application based on the main lesson. Example: see all people as God's creation. 2. The homework section allows children to practice what they learn in their daily lives.

Example: write a thank-you note to someone. 3. The biography section teaches the children about various occupations and how they benefit society, like pastor, lawyer, scientist, and policeman. Some of the occupations in this section are seen in a negative light in different countries because of individuals who abuse their positions of power. This is your opportunity to teach children what someone is supposed to do or what Jesus would do in that position. Who knows? Perhaps a student in your class will end up in that occupation as an adult, and they could do right and work for the good of others instead of abusing their power. They could shine a light for Jesus in their communities or in the nation.

Take courage, teachers, because God is with you. He wants to change the world, and there is no better way than to train the next generation! Imagine what could happen in your community as God works on the hearts of your children and helps them to love the people around them indiscriminately. We pray that God blesses you greatly for serving in this important work of teaching children.

The team at Children are Important



# Overview

## 1 Royalty or peasants?

### **Traveling to Bethlehem: Luke 2:1-5**

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

## 2 A great friend

### **Joseph married Mary: Matthew 1:18-25**

James 4:11 “Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it.”

## 3 Royal or humble birth?

### **Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:4-20**

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

## 4 Difficult times

### **Jesus’ family went to Egypt: Matthew 2:13-23**

Ephesians 4:32 “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”

## 5 Jesus the Prodigy

### **Jesus in the temple: Luke 2:41-51**

James 1:19 “My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”

## 6 A great start

### **Baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3:13-17**

Hebrews 13:17 “Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

# 7 Recruiting the Team

**Jesus called the 12 disciples: Matthew 4:18-22, John 1:35-50**

John 8:12 "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"

# 8 Jesus provides

**Water into wine: John 2:1-11**

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

# 9 Love like Jesus

**Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37**

Luke 10:27 He answered, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

# 10 God makes it more than enough

**Feeding the 5000: Matthew 14:13-21**

Matthew 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

# 11 Having faith in God

**Jesus calmed the storm: Luke 8:22-25**

Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

# 12 Who is Jesus?

**Who do you say I am? Matthew 16:13-20**

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

# 13 Jesus Demonstrates Power

**Lazarus: John 11:32-44**

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'"

# HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

## Drama (Part 1)

In each drama, the “justice team” goes back in time to watch part of the life of Jesus, where the team members learn a parallel lesson and apply it to their modern lives. Part of each drama



Leader



Investigator



Agent



Mechanic



Technician

is written for before the main lesson, where they go back in time, and the second half of each drama comes after the main lesson, as the characters come back and apply what they have learned.

The dramas are designed for 3 actors: the leader, the investigator, and the agent. The other two characters, the mechanic and the technician, are optional if you have more volunteers.

## Main lesson

After the opening drama comes the main lesson. The Bible stories are not fully written in the lesson, so please don't forget to read the story from the Bible.

## Drama (Part 2)

After the main lesson, complete the second part of the drama, where the team solves a dilemma with what they learned.

## Justice

Review this short segment along with the main lesson, while solving puzzles in the student books, or while eating a snack.

## Biography

The biography section teaches the children about various occupations and how they benefit society, like pastor, lawyer, scientist, and policeman. Some of the occupations in this section are seen in a negative light in different countries because of individuals who abuse their positions of power. This is your opportunity to teach children what someone is supposed to do or what Jesus would do in that position. Who knows? Perhaps a student in your class will end up in that occupation as an adult, and they could do right and work for the good of others instead of abusing their power. They could shine a light for Jesus in their communities or in the nation.

Make it more fun by playing a little game at the start. Have someone act out the occupation and let the children guess before you tell them.

## Memory verse

Each memory verse applies to the lesson. Consider finding some game or activity to make memorization more fun.

## Student Books

The children will love solving the puzzles in the student books. The word finds and coloring pictures help reinforce each lesson. Discuss the words from the word finds, like value, humility, and justice and ask the students what those words mean to them.

## Questions and answers (older students)

Life in the adult world is complicated. Wouldn't we love it if someone were always there to give us answers to difficult problems? But often there is not, and we must come to our own conclusions as best as we can. The older students are approaching adulthood, too. If all we do in Sunday school is tell them the "right answers" for everything and avoid difficult questions, it leaves them untrained and unable to think things through and find Biblical answers for themselves. This leaves them confused and lost when they encounter these difficult questions and hear only secular answers from college professors and bosses. Instead, use this section to help older students practice critical thinking. Start a discussion among the older students. Do not give them the "correct answer," but gently guide them to come to good conclusions on their own. We have provided some answers for these difficult questions as a guide for the teacher.

## Game

Play a game with the students! Games are very important for children, helping them to develop social skills. Besides, they are fun! This is a great tool to encourage more children to come and hear about Jesus, when all their friends invite them to your fun class.

## Homework assignment

Scripture says that it is no good for us if we hear the Word of God but do not put it into practice (James 1:22-25). Train children to apply the Word of God to their daily lives by doing something with what they learned. Take a few minutes to reward the children who did last week's assignment with a candy or small prize.

## Cards

Use these cards as a reward for attendance. Each one has a fun design on the front and the memory verse on the back.

## Schedule

### Open

- Welcome
- Song

### Drama and lesson

- Drama part 1
- Lesson
- Drama part 2

### Activities

Do the biography and the justice section while doing other activities, such as the student's book or a snack.

- Memory Verse
- Student books
- Questions and answers (older students)
- Game (optional)

### Close

- Assignment
- Assistance cards

# Royalty or peasants?

01



## Traveling to Bethlehem: Luke 2:1-5

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent joins Justice Team and meets the leader and investigator for the first time. Leader briefly describes the role of the Justice Team: to investigate the life of Jesus first-hand by traveling back in time with the time machine and to investigate examples of justice and following Jesus in modern times. Agent will assist Leader and Investigator on the time travel missions. Today's mission is to meet Jesus' parents and the place and society where they lived. Leader signals to Operations Controller (either another actor or an imaginary person off stage) and climbs into time machine with Investigator and Agent. At this point in all the dramas, wiggle the time machine if possible and make sound effects for the time travel part. Teach the main lesson then have these characters return for part 2 of the drama.

### **LESSON**

The young couple traveled down a long, hot, dusty road. The king over their land said everyone must go to their family town to be counted. So, they started on a 5-day trip to the town of their fathers, Bethlehem. There were no cars, busses, airplanes or even bicycles, so they walked. Maybe they had a donkey, but they probably walked. There would have been a lot of people walking.

Joseph and Mary were young people who were engaged to be married. They were not wealthy. Joseph had a job making furniture and Mary was just a young girl. There was nothing about them to make them look special. But both Joseph and Mary were special. Both were decedents of the old king of Israel, David. This is really important because David was a great king and was known as "a man after God's own heart". This meant that both Joseph and Mary were royalty since their forefathers were kings. Either of them or their children could legally become a king! But, at this time, Israel did not have their own king. They were ruled by another king named Caesar, who required them travel to Bethlehem.

This is really cool since the old prophets who spoke for God said a new king called the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This is David's city and they were descendants of David.

So, the stage is set. A couple of royal blood are going to a place where a new, great king would be born. This is no coincidence but something wonderful that God planned.

So, were they royalty or plain people? They were both!

God wants us to be His children too! In fact, this is why God sent Jesus to Earth, to make it possible for us to be sons and daughters of God! Are you a child of God? Can you call God "Daddy?"

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*1 Peter 2:9 "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light."*



## DRAMA (PART 2)

After the lesson, the Leader, Investigator and Agent return in the time machine to the present time. They discuss what they saw: that Mary and Joseph looked ordinary and not at all different from anyone else. It's amazing that they became famous people known throughout history and that God chose them to care for His Son. Agent mentions to the others that he has not been treating everyone well but now realizes that each person he meets has great value in God's eyes.

## JUSTICE

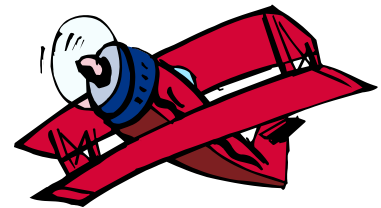
It is easy to think that people in humble situations have less rights or value than others. But all people are God's creation and he values each and every person and gives them a way to become sons and daughters of God through Jesus.

## BIOGRAPHY (FATHER)

A father has a primary responsibility to take care of his family. That means not only helping the mother care for and train the children, but also to find ways to provide for them. He must be alert to the special needs of each child so he and the mother can work to develop those unique skills.

*Responsibilities:* A father must learn to set aside personal preferences and desires and learn to focus his life on what his family needs. Since the mother generally works more directly with the children, the father can help in that regard, and also be aware of how he can help the mother emotionally and physically. The father should come to realize that his employment and life choices affect not only him, but the mother and children.

*Opportunities:* The father has a unique opportunity to propel his family into a rewarding life. In Psalm 127:4-5 *Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.* Terah, Abraham's father, (Genesis 11:31) may had visions of something better for his family in Canaan. He left Ur, the cradle of civilization and got to a place where he built a city. But his son Abraham seemed to have an open mind about traveling even further towards the promised land of Canaan. A father can have a tremendous impact on his future generations.



## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How can I know that I am a child of God? (Guide the children to read the verses John 1:12-13 and give them time to discuss it.)

If I make mistakes, can I lose God's blessing to me? (YES... there are those who have lost everything because their values were wrong, but there are still those who have fought for their blessing!).

What does God want from me? (We all have different gifts of God and abilities, God can use us all in one way or another to show his glory in this world and reach more people for Him. God can also use us outside of our gifts, and sometimes He wants to show his greatness through our weakness. He cares more about a heart prepared and available to do anything he asks.)

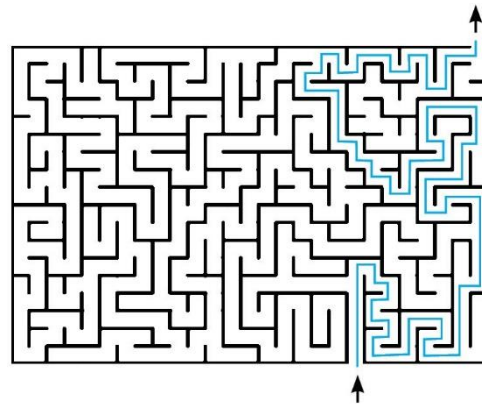
What was the name of the city that Joseph and Mary had to go to? (Bethlehem)

In the days of Joseph and Mary was there a train? (No, there were only carts that were pulled by donkeys or there were horses and camels too.)

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### WORD FIND

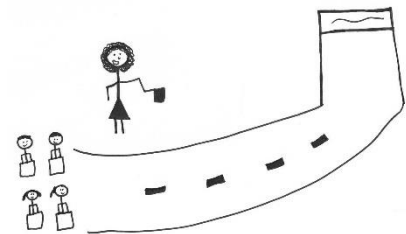
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## GAME

### Sack race

Get some big sacks, like potato sacks or something where the participants hold the sack around their legs and must jump from the starting line to the finish line. Relate it to the Bible story by calling the starting line Galilee and the ending line Bethlehem. If there are a lot of children, chose a few participants to play as a reward for good behavior. You can also divide children into teams and have a relay race.



## HOMWORK

Make a list of 5 ways you are a common person and a list of 5 ways you are royalty because you are in God's family. For example: Nobody in my town knows my name. God knows me and has written my name in his book of life.

# A great friend

02



## Joseph married Mary: Matthew 1:18-25

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent shares a rumor with Investigator that their leader is not good with the mechanics of the time machine. They are now suspicious of the leader as they climb into the time machine to go back in time to see a story from Jesus' life, scared that they will not be able to return to the present time.

### **LESSON**

Joseph had a big problem. He was engaged to a girl named Mary and she was going to have a baby. But everyone knew that only married people were supposed to have babies. Joseph decided to end their engagement quietly so Mary would not be hurt. But then, Joseph had a dream where an angel of God told him that he should not be afraid to marry Mary because the baby was from God. Also, to name the baby Jesus because he would save people from their sins. So, that is what Joseph did.

What a great friend Joseph was to Mary! He believed the best about Mary and stood by her. Have you ever been accused of something bad that you did not do? Or has a rumor been started about you that was not true? Wouldn't it be great to have a friend that would believe you and defend you in these times? It is so easy to be mean on social media or to gossip in the community. There are many false accusations and rumors started and passed around. And these can hurt a person so badly.

You can be a good friend for someone else! Do not accept rumors or gossip about people. Instead, be a true friend. Stand up for people who are being wrongly accused. Do not post negative things about another person online. Never forward a negative post.

This is the kind of friend we have in Jesus. 1 John 2:1 tells us that Jesus is always with God the Father saying good things about us.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*James 4:11 "Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it."*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

After the main lesson, as they are preparing to return to the present time, the time machine breaks down and stops working. The agents don't know what to do, but the leader climbs behind the machine and works on some of the mechanics until it works again. As they return to the present, both agents realize that they need to doubt the rumor about their leader and no longer spread rumors.

### **JUSTICE**

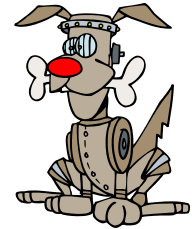
Often, we look for faults in other people. It makes us feel good like maybe we are better. But we all have sinned. Fortunately, God has offered us salvation from our sins. God looks at un-saved people with love and hopes that they will repent. We should see and treat people the way God does.

## BIOGRAPHY (LAWYER)

A lawyer's job is to defend people. If this is your job, it is good to know that God needs lawyers to help protect people. Quite often there are people who mistreat poor and needy people because they can't protect themselves. *Psalms 82:3 Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.*

*Responsibilities:* A lawyer is responsible to know laws, of course, but must also know what kinds of events are passing through the courts in the community. It may be difficult to see the difference between a person oppressing the poor and a poor person trying to take advantage of another person.

*Opportunities:* The training lawyers need puts them in a good position in society to safeguard not only their clients, but the community as well. They become proficient at interacting with all types of people, so they can stand for a cause and effectively communicate Godly opinions. They also see the inner workings of a community and can determine what causes can do the most good.



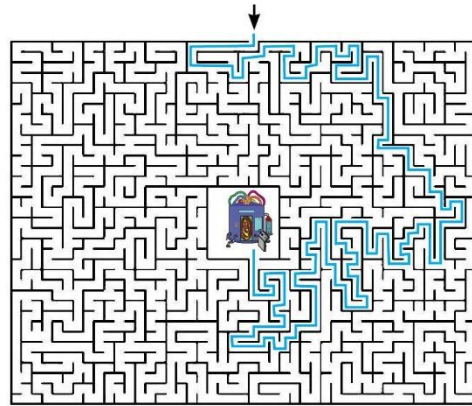
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. If Jesus is my lawyer, can I do what I want and always be right with God? (God forgives us even the worst sins when we ask forgiveness. But Jesus Christ clearly said that we cannot do anything we want and be right with God. While believing in Jesus is the requirement to go to heaven, not good works, when someone believes in Jesus, the Holy Spirit works within to change the heart of the person to produce good fruit. Paul tells us that we work out our salvation with fear and trembling. You cannot save yourself, but we can trust God to save us.)
2. Why are there such bad people?  
Many people do not believe in God and do not believe His word that we will be rewarded for our actions for all eternity. Some people have hard and bitter hearts and reject God and His people. Often, people hurt others because they themselves are hurting inside. For example, someone who likes to hack computers and cause damage may be compensating for feeling insecure by using power against others. God's love for us is great and wonderful and pure, and the world cannot understand or accept it.
3. How can I know if a rumor is the truth? What do I do with the rumor?  
We should never tell rumors, even if they are true or not. The only people who should know bad things about other people are those in a position of authority who need to protect others. As a youth, you can consult with a reliable adult like your dad or mom, a teacher, or a pastor to help you learn discernment.
4. What things did Joseph risk? What benefits did it have in the end?  
Local and temporary reputation, work, home, leadership in the future... Raising the child of God, name in the Bible, reputation for eternity as a righteous man...
5. What happened in Joseph's dream?  
He dreamed of an angel who told him to take Mary as his wife.

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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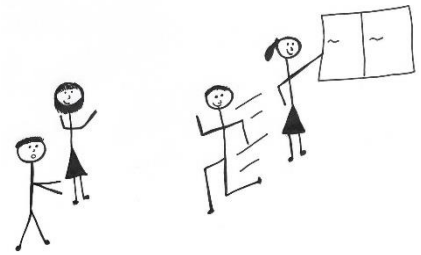
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## GAME

### Relay race

Divide children into teams. Place a wipe-off board or a large sheet of paper on the far side of the room. When you say go, one child from each team runs and writes the first word from the memory verse. The child then runs back with the pen and gives it to the next team member who runs to the paper and writes the next word in the verse and so on. The first team to finish wins.



## HOMWORK

When you hear a rumor about someone this week, openly say it is just a rumor and that we should doubt the rumor and assume the best about that person.

# Royal or humble birth?

03



## Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:4-20

### DRAMA (PART 1)

Leader discusses today's plan with Investigator and Agent. Investigator thinks that because she has more experience, she should go to the stable and see baby Jesus. Leader says it's better for her and Agent to go to wait with the shepherds while Leader goes directly to the manger. Investigator has a bad attitude while they climb into the time machine to go on their mission.

### LESSON

Sheep are not very smart, but they are good to eat, so they must be taken care of. Taking care of sheep is not difficult work. You don't need a college degree or much special training and you won't get paid very much. But you must be brave and very dependable. But the big thing is, since the sheep never take a day off from being sheep, the shepherds never get to take a day off from being shepherds. This would be a very boring job.

Read Luke 2:8-20

God decided the first people He was going to tell about Jesus would be a bunch of just normal people. I think I would have chosen religious leaders or some really famous people, but God chose shepherds instead.

Through His whole life, Jesus chose to spend time with normal, not rich, not famous people.

Why did Jesus do this? Jesus did not come to only save the rich and powerful and famous people. He came to save everyone and to do this, He became a person we could see ourselves having as a friend.

He could have demanded extravagant fine clothes but instead He never had more than He needed. He could have had lots of servants, but instead He was willing to serve others. He could have had a beautiful palace, but instead the Bible says He never even owned a place to rest His head. He could have eaten rich food but instead chose to make wine for someone else's party and feed others. This way, we would not think we needed riches or power to relate to Jesus.

### MEMORY VERSE

*2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."*

### DRAMA (PART 2)

Returning in the time machine from their mission, Investigator and Agent are both excitedly recounting the huge display of singing angels they saw in the sky with the shepherds, while sharing the pictures they took of the event. Leader asks Investigator how she is feeling about her assignment. She concedes that even though she spent a lot of time waiting out in the fields with shepherds, in the end she not only saw all the angels singing, but she followed the shepherds and got to see baby Jesus, too.

### JUSTICE

Just as Jesus did not demand to be honored even though He deserved it, we can be humble, not demanding we be treated like the kings and queens God has made us.

## **BIOGRAPHY (SHEPHERD)**

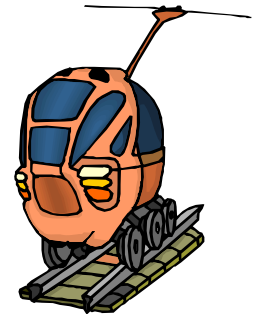
One of the best jobs for new workers is that of shepherd. Both Moses and King David were shepherds, and God sent angels to shepherds to announce the birth of Jesus.

*Responsibilities:* A shepherd must know the desires of the person he/she is working for, such as leading them to good pastures then home again. The shepherd must protect them from animals, from dangerous plants, from harsh weather, and from dangerous terrain. The shepherd must keep track of the sheep in case one gets lost or tangled in a bush or taken by a thief.

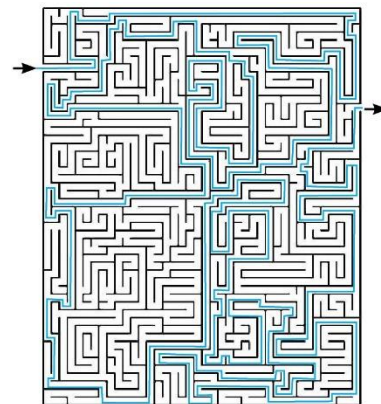
*Opportunities:* As a shepherd, you can learn about the animals and how to care for them better. Good food makes them grow better, protection from danger makes your job easier. And while you are waiting, you can bring material from your Sunday School class and memorize the verses, think about the lessons, and learn how to apply those lessons to your life.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

1. It is important to get along with everyone, right? (Let them discuss the tension of loving your neighbor but putting God first. The Bible says that we should live in peace as much as possible (Romans 12:18), but that we must follow God independently of the decisions of others (John 21 : 22) Discuss specific situations, if they are examples of peace or following God or if there is a way to do both.)
2. What is being humble? (Humility is a virtue, which the human being possesses in recognizing his abilities, qualities and capacities, and taking advantage of them to act for the good of others, without saying so. Humility allows the person to be trustworthy, flexible and adaptable. To the extent that one becomes humble, one strengthens greatness in the hearts of others.)
3. All good people go to heaven, don't they? (NO, God never asked us to be good to enter heaven, but He asked us to give him our hearts).
4. Doesn't God want us to be rich? (Let the children discuss this, then mention that having money is not bad. It is bad when you put it as a priority before God or when you only consider following God as a way to get something. God prefers that we pursue treasures in heaven rather than on this earth (Colossians 3: 2).)
5. If you had visited baby Jesus, what would you have given him? (Allow children to mention their gifts.)



## **PUZZLE ANSWERS**



## GAME

### *Line by line*

Use this game to help the children memorize the verse. Repeat the verse a couple times to get familiar with it. Divide the children into 2 groups by having them count 1, 2, 1, 2, etc. and have all the 1's go to one side and all the 2's go to the other side of the room. The teams then alternate to recite the memory verse, each team taking turns to say a word or phrase from the verse. After reciting it, divide the children into two new groups by counting 1 and 2 again. The new groups alternate to repeat the verse again. After a couple rounds of this, have two volunteers, one from each group, recite the verse together piece by piece like the groups did. Then the volunteers can try to recite the whole verse without looking. Play and practice until everyone memorizes the verse well.



## HOMEWORK

Make a thank you note and give it to someone to honour them for what they do. Think of someone who does not demand honour even though, like Jesus, they deserve more than they get. Example: First responders, street cleaners, garbage collectors, nurses.



# Difficult times

04



## Jesus' family went to Egypt: Matthew 2:13-23

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Investigator tells teammates about a visit with an immigrant family last weekend, how the culture confused her and a few of their comments hurt her feelings. Leader and Agent try to encourage her that it was great to make new friends and help the family feel welcome in the area. Investigator does not want to visit with them again. After that discussion, they begin their mission for the day to go back in time and see little Jesus with his family move to Egypt for a time.

### **LESSON**

Moving to another town or another country is hard and expensive, so you need a really good reason to move. You have to find a new job and find the good stores and where to find water. People even dress and talk differently. It is not comfortable.

Read Mathew 2:13-23

Both of these moves were predicted by the old prophets and both helped show that Jesus was the Messiah. But going back to Israel was a difficult decision! Mary and Joseph and their new family had been rejected and threatened there and they now had a nice life in Egypt. I would have been afraid, and it would have been difficult to trust others there. But an angel of God told them it was safe, so they obeyed.

Mary and Joseph seem to have made a nice new home in Nazareth fitting in to Jewish society again, making friends and finding work.

We can always go where God tells us to go. He prepares places for us with new friends and situations and we can always be sure He is doing what is best for us and will be with us.

We should always try to be nice to people who are new to our area. Become their friend, show them around and realize that though they come with different ways and customs, it is OK.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Back from the mission, they discuss how difficult it was when they followed Jesus' family into the big city in Egypt and how different it was from their hometown. How difficult it must have been! And when they zipped a little forward in time, they watched as Jesus' family returned to their hometown, remembering the rejection and danger that they had experienced as they went to Egypt. Investigator realizes that the immigrant family probably feels the same way that Jesus' family felt in Egypt. Perhaps their hurtful comments were not very unkind in their culture, and she was not in any danger like Jesus was. She decides to try again to become friends with the immigrant family and try to understand their perspective.

## JUSTICE

Sometimes we get rejected by friends or groups. When this happens, it is really hard to forgive. But sometimes we get a chance to repair the relationship or re-join the group. With God's help, we can do this without holding a grudge.

## BIOGRAPHY (TAXI DRIVER)

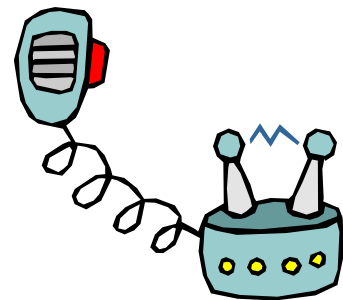
Taxi drivers provide an important service to the community. The taxi driver can develop skills in serving, which Jesus says is the basis for his kingdom.

*Responsibilities:* There is always an organization that taxi drivers belong to or work for. They will set guidelines for pricing, where to start, hours, etc.

*Opportunities:* Taxi drivers always interact with people. Some are poor, some are rich. Some have financial needs; some even have emotional needs. As a driver, you can hone your skills in listening to learn exactly what each person needs, and how you might be able to help within the areas of responsibilities you have.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

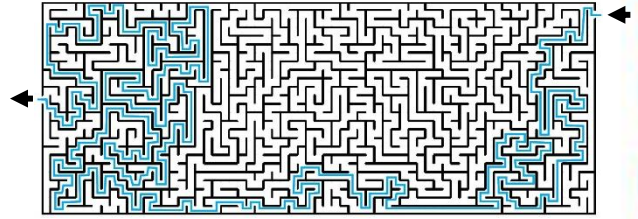
1. Who do I have to listen to? (First to God, then to your authorities here on earth).
2. Share a story where you acted well that influenced your relationship with God and others. (Choosing to act with small decisions that we make every day. Many times it is about overcoming our pride, this helps us have the control to make better and better decisions in the future.)
3. Have you ever forgiven someone for something they did to you? How did you feel? (Let the children say how they felt and remind them that God has called us to forgive.)
4. What do you think was the most difficult for Mary and Joseph to have to leave Egypt for Israel? (Let each child say some point of view)
5. What do you think Joseph's favorite pet would be? (Allow them to share, and you as a teacher can participate, too. Remind them what kind of animals were in that region.)



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### WORD FIND

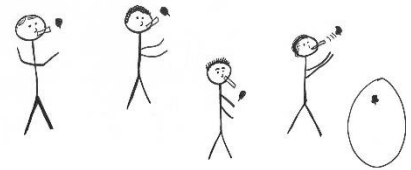
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### GAME

#### Leaf race

Give each child a lightweight leaf from some plant and a drinking straw. Divide the children into teams. Indicate for each team a zone where they must try to get all their leaves. When you signal to start, all players throw their leaves into the air, and they must try to get all their leaves into their zone only by blowing through the straw. The team that manages to get the most leaves into their zone wins. (Perhaps not all the leaves are theirs, if they manage to get some of the opposing teams' leaves into their zone).



### HOMEWORK

Find someone who moved recently and ask them questions until you discover something you have in common with them. What do you both enjoy? Invite them to your church.

# Jesus the Prodigy

05

## Jesus in the temple: Luke 2:41-51



### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent plays with his communication device, changing all the settings on it for fun. As the team is gathering for today's mission, Leader tells everyone to adjust their settings. Agent is not paying attention yet acts like he has everything under control and is ready. When questioned by Leader, Agent gets defensive and listens even less to Leader, talking over him and interrupting. As the machine powers up, they climb in to go back in time to see Jesus as a 12-year-old boy in the temple.

### **LESSON**

It must have been interesting having Jesus for a son!

Read Luke 2:41-51

Imagine their shock and pride when Joseph and Mary found their 12-year-old son Jesus sitting with the religious leaders discussing things of God. His answers to questions were so wise and insightful that the elders were listening to Him. And Jesus also listened to the others, He wanted to hear what they had to say as well.

This says a lot about who Jesus was. He was responsible enough that His parents trusted Him when He was 12 years old. Jesus had shown great faithfulness and responsibility even as a child.

Jesus was confident and bold enough to sit and talk with educated adults but also wise enough to sit and really listen to them as well.

God also works through all His children, including you and me! In fact, young people have a different view of life than adults and God wants to use this. The apostle Paul, in his letter to Timothy said, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." (1 Timothy 4:12)

When you read your Bible, pray and listen to what God is saying to you, He will show you things in the Bible you have never seen before. Some of those things might be just for you and some are for sharing with others. When we are talking with people, it is really nice to talk and listen. In fact, even though it is difficult to listen more than we talk, it is important to do so. And when we talk, if we say only important things that we are sure about, then others will listen.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*James 1:19 "My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry."*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Back from the mission, Leader takes Agent aside to talk with him. The incorrect settings on his device made it impossible for them to track his position to stay together, and the volume settings on his device had made loud noises in the temple area, a huge problem for time traveling agents. They almost failed their mission altogether. Agent accepts that he was wrong and says that he will listen next time.

## JUSTICE

Jesus taught, but He also listened. It is so important to listen to others! We might learn something from listening, and it makes the other person feel good.

## BIOGRAPHY (TEACHER)

Teachers have a very important position. They are used by God to train and guide people. Sometimes we think that teachers that are not Christians are not as good, but God loves all people and he will work with anyone who genuinely cares for the people He loves. Nicodemus recognized that Jesus was a teacher sent from God. (John 3:2)

*Responsibilities:* Teachers are of course under the authority of their employers and managers, and must follow their guidelines. But they should also improve both their teaching skills and knowledge of the subjects that are their responsibility. That includes knowing more about people and how they interact. They also should be aware of how society is changing and adapt their teaching styles to better connect with the students.

*Opportunities:* Teachers should always improve their skills, and they personally benefit from that. They also get to shape lives—their students rely on what they teach to make decisions and build the knowledge base they need to be successful in the future. The teacher also can observe the skills a student has and direct them to pursue that field. A good teacher influences people and their future generations.

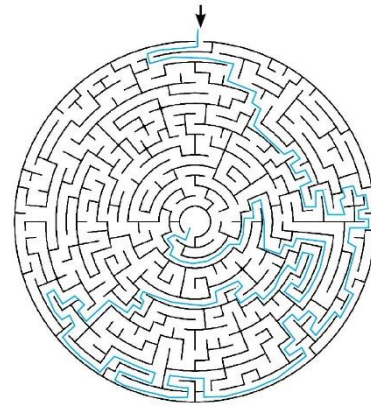
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. How does encouraging others show love? (Ask students for real examples to prove their opinions.)
2. Can you remember a case where you let someone else do what they wanted instead of what you wanted? (It is very difficult for us humans to let others win. Let your students share even old stories where they let someone else do what they wanted. Unfortunately, some people have never let others win. Discuss how terrible it is when we don't allow others to win, and how God wants us to live in peace with everyone forever.)
3. What cases of contempt, rejection, or depreciation have you seen in your class at school? (Promote the discussion between them about different cases they have seen, and how this is not good, and hurts the person who receives it.)
4. What can you do that nobody else can? (Ask the children to tell what things can make other children not, for example: public speaking, jumping high, singing, etc. Remind them that God has given each one special talents.)
5. What would you think if you had seen Jesus as a child discussing things of God? (Listen to the children their answers)

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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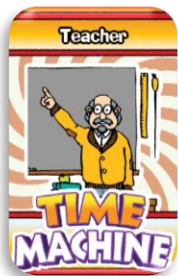
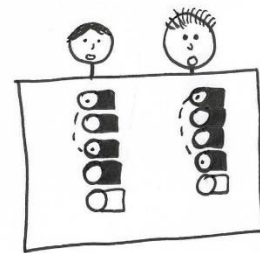
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### GAME

#### Cups

Divide the children into 2 or more teams. Give each team 6 cups in a line: 5 filled with water and 1 at the end empty. Each team also has Styrofoam balls (polystyrene, thermocol, expanded polystyrene, or something very light weight that will float). Place a Styrofoam ball in the first cup filled with water. The child must blow the ball from one cup to the next until he gets it into the empty cup. Then it is the next player's turn. The team to get all their balls into the cup wins.



### HOMework

Practice listening and resaying in your own words what you just heard. First, read out loud a Bible scripture and realizing that God is talking to you in it, restate what He means. Second, listen carefully to a family member and tell them what you heard to find out if you heard what they meant to say.

# A great start

06



## Baptism of Jesus: Matthew 3:13-17

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent is learning a little about the mechanics of the time machine and is learning very quickly. Soon, he has ideas of shortcuts for the start-up process on the machine, claiming they can save time on every mission if they take some shortcuts with the fuel composition and some settings. Today the main mechanic is gone on holiday, and Leader is running the machine, but Agent keeps getting in the way and trying his new tricks. Though frustrated, Leader notes that it seems to work, and they go on their mission.

### **LESSON**

Jesus is now a young man and is getting ready to start His public ministry. He wanted to do things right, so He visited John the Baptist who was recognized as a prophet of God. John was probably the only person who really understood who Jesus was at the time, and Jesus wanted to be baptized by John. A baptism is a public ceremonial washing symbolizing a new beginning for a person.

Read Mathew 3:11-17

What a day! Jesus was confirmed as the Son of God and God said He was happy with Jesus! Wouldn't that be great to hear!

This is an incredible story. Jesus did not need the approval of men, even of prophets like John the Baptist, but Jesus chose to take all the steps. And the results were so dramatic. God Himself publicly confirmed that Jesus was God and was doing God's work.

We also should be willing to take all the steps required. Asking Jesus for salvation, submitting for baptism, getting training, working under your teachers and pastors, and learning from others. God will use all these things in our lives to help the people around us.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Hebrews 13:17 "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Back from their mission, all the team members have messed up hair and dust and dirt all over their clothes. They had been trapped in the past for days, trying to fix a part of the machine that was damaged while going back in time. The shortcuts on the machine had cost them much time and they almost didn't make it back. Exhausted, they are glad to be back and ready to go home and rest.

## JUSTICE

It is tempting to take the easy path sometimes. But it is better to take all the steps and include other people in the process.

## BIOGRAPHY (CHURCH MUSICIAN)

A church musician tries to learn the music, be presentable onstage, and helps to provide a good worship experience for the people in the church. At different times in the Bible, the worship team led worship all day and all night. At another time, the worship team led a battle, and the enemy was defeated by worship alone! (II Chronicles 20:14-25)

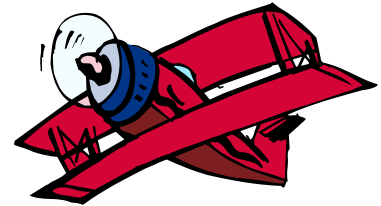
*Responsibilities:* The church musician follows the instructions of the pastor or the worship leader. Being ready on time is very important, with the instrument tuned and clean and/or with your voice warmed up and ready to sing.

*Opportunities:* Developing your skills on your instrument allows you to spend less time worrying about notes and chord changes, and more time thinking about your fellow musicians and the people worshipping. You will not only see whether they are responding well to the music, but also who specifically seems to need prayer; may a heavy heart, maybe distractions, maybe being moved by the Spirit of God.

Your prayer in these situations will make a difference.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What if disobeying God makes me popular or fashionable? (Talk about different situations like this. Help your students recognize that there will be times when they will have to decide between obeying God and being popular).
2. What is the excuse you give to Jesus Christ that does not allow you to obey his voice? Is it perhaps that you have no skills to preach, that you are a woman, that in your family you are the only Christian? (In the Bible you can find characters who gave God an excuse for not obeying him, but remember, no matter our few or no abilities, Jesus Christ does not ask you to be perfect to use your life. He asks for obedience.)
3. How can we please God? (Giving him our heart, obeying Him, and spending time with Him, and loving people).
4. Mention something in which you have been obedient to some authority (God, parents, teacher, etc.)
5. Do you think Jesus is the best example we can have of a life that pleases God and why? (Listen to the children's opinions and mention at the end that it is because he is the son of God who is perfect in everything and without sin.)

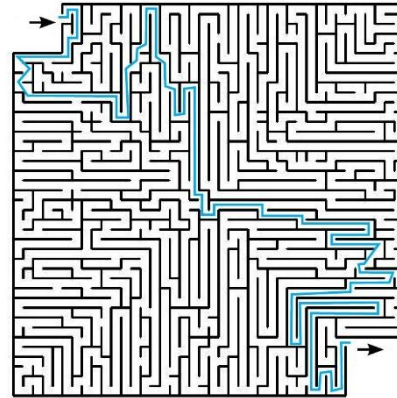




## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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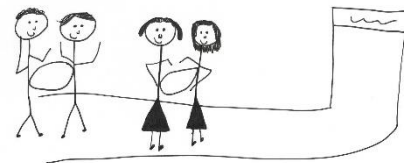


### GAME

#### Here between us

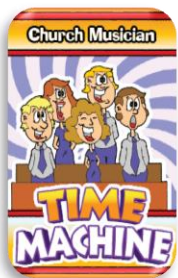
For this game you can use balloons, medium sized balloons, or paper balls.

Scatter the children then have them close their eyes and begin to move, spinning. The first person they touch, hold onto them, and this will be their new game companion. Tip: Make sure that the pairs formed are a similar height. Mark starting and ending lines, give an inflated balloon or ball to each pair. They put the ball at about stomach height, holding it there by pressing against it. Then without using their hands they spin around each other, going to the finish line without dropping the ball or breaking the balloon.



### HOMEWORK

Circle the step you need to take next: Asking Jesus for salvation, submitting for baptism, getting training, working under your teacher and pastor, obeying your parents quickly without delaying, learning from others. Take action on that next step in the following week.



# Recruiting the Team

07



**Jesus called the 12 disciples: Matthew 4:18-22, John 1:35-50**

## **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent wasn't a Christian when he was recruited. Watching the life of Jesus and spending time with the Justice Team is making him want to become a Christian. He decides to wear a hat (a ridiculous-looking hat out of paper) to show that he's following Jesus. He also begins to point out "sins" in his teammates, strange things like the way they walk or sneeze. Leader pulls him aside and learns that Agent intends to follow Jesus but doesn't know how. They prepare and go on the mission for the day.

## **LESSON**

Jesus wanted a small group of people close to Him that He could teach and who could later tell others about what He did while He was on Earth. Jesus simply asked some people to follow Him and they did.

Read Matthew 4:18-22 and John 1:35-50

Mathew was working as a tax collector when he responded to the call of Jesus by following as well.

Jesus called 12 men who responded by following Him. These were not famous, popular, rich, powerful or educated men. They were not particularly loyal or courageous men. Most of them were simple fishermen. None were established religious leaders. But they followed when Jesus asked them to.

Jesus did not demand that they be sinless or pass any test or make any promises. Jesus just asked them to follow and get to know Jesus and see what He did.

All of them except Judas did follow Jesus their whole lives. Then they told other people about the life of Jesus after His death and resurrection. They were so convinced that Jesus is God that they were willing to die for him, and almost all of them did.

This is what Jesus calls all people to do: simply that they follow Jesus and see what He does. It's a call to get to know Jesus and spend time with Him.

Are you part of the group that is following Jesus? Jesus wants you to be part of His group. Isn't that exciting!!!

## **MEMORY VERSE**

*John 8:12 "When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'"*

## **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Back from the mission, they discuss how the disciples were ordinary men and that Jesus did not tell them to change anything about themselves before following Him, except to leave their old life behind. The team leads Agent in a prayer to give his life to Jesus. They then encourage him that Jesus will work on his heart, changing him from the inside out over time.

## JUSTICE

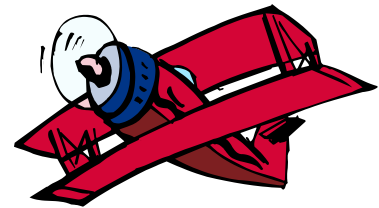
Life is better in groups. Don't worry if someone does not look good enough or cool enough. Even though we are not good enough, Jesus is including us in His group. We can do the same for others.

## BIOGRAPHY (PASTOR)

A pastor's primary job is to take care of his family well. (1 Timothy 3:1-7) Concerning the church he is responsible to continue studying the Bible and other books that train him to be a better pastor, prepare messages, and lead his congregation towards spiritual maturity.

*Responsibilities:* Take care of his family, keep himself untangled from local politics, etc. to have time to devote to his congregation. (2 Timothy 2:4) and keep track of the spiritual growth of his church. God has appointed him/her to the church (Ephesians 4:11-12) and should accept that responsibility.

*Opportunities:* A pastor has the opportunity to train people for different jobs in the church. They can take over different aspects of the church functionality. Just as any plant will grow with in the right scenario, so will a church. Also, he can keep a lookout for people who have been similarly called by God to do other aspects of the ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 talks about apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. A pastor is not the best evangelist, so recognizing one that God has sent to the church can be critical to the growth of the church. A pastor is not the best apostle, so recognizing one and commissioning one to start new churches is another key to growth. And the pastor can also recognize "bad guys" trying to insert themselves where they don't belong. The good shepherd protects his sheep.



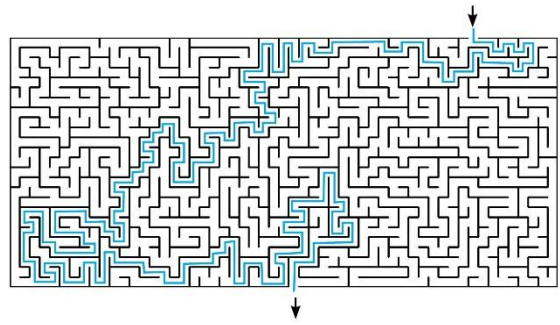
## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Does God like to use strong people or weak people? (In general, God likes to use the weak to show His strength. The more spiritual vanity we have, the less likely it is that God will use us.)
2. Which of the talents you have could you use to serve God? (For some time for your students to discuss and share different talents and skills. Don't let the students laugh at each other or make fun of what is being shared. Try to encourage each student to share.)
3. Is it better to work in a team than alone? (When the children have given their opinion, some may say they are alone, but you can show children that working as a team has benefits such as getting better results, a variety of ideas, they can motivate each other, etc.)
4. Do you think the disciples of Jesus had fun moments or everything was very serious between them? (Tell them that Jesus was their friend and that like us with our friends there was trust. Perhaps they told some jokes or talked about funny things that had happened to them.)
5. Who were the 12 disciples? (Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Mathew, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot.)

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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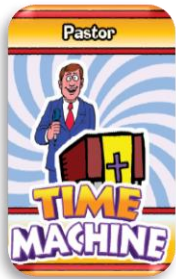
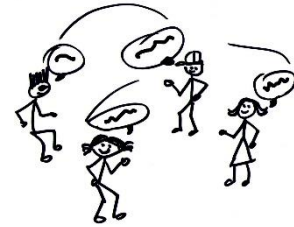
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## GAME

### Ping Pong

One child says the first Word of the verse, the next says the second Word, and so on. Children can play in pairs or in teams.



## HOMework

Invite someone to join your group of Christian friends who are learning more about who Jesus was and all He said and did. One way is to offer them a ride to church.

# Jesus provides

08



## Water into wine: John 2:1-11

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent is still excited that he accepted Jesus Christ last week. He went to church for the first time on Sunday, and everyone invited him back to church next week. Here at the Justice Team headquarters, he talks with the team about what he learned at church: to keep attending church, read the Bible they gave him, and pray to God. Though excited about all these new things, he asks the team if that is all God requires. They decide to go back in time to see what Jesus taught and did.

### **LESSON**

Jesus, Mary and the disciples were at a party and the host hadn't gotten enough supplies. Mary, the mother of Jesus saw the problem and she knew who to call for help. She called on Jesus.

Read John 2:1-11

It is amazing that Mary understood that Jesus could do something about the problem and had faith in Him that He would do something.

How cool is it that the servants obeyed Jesus and filled the jars to the brim, not just nearly full, but they got all the water in that they could! They could have been lazy and only filled the jars half or even three quarters full, but instead they followed the instructions of Jesus as far as they could. Also, that they had the courage to serve this to the head waiter knowing where it came from!

This is how we should follow Jesus. We can expect Him to work in our lives and of those around us. We also need to fully obey as far as we can, not being lazy or holding anything back. And we need to have confidence that what Jesus provides is the best.

Have you ever had a real need, and no one was willing to help? Or had someone help but just do the bare minimum? Or, have you ever had a real need, and someone did much more than what was really needed? That feels so good when someone helps generously like that! That is the way Jesus gives!! In Luke 6:38, Jesus says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." This is how we should be living.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Coming back from the mission, the team excitedly discuss how the jars were full of clear water one moment then wine the next. Agent and the team talk about the servants filling the jars to the brim, and they come to the conclusion that they should not only follow Jesus on Sunday or during prayer time but do their best to give each moment of their lives to God, putting what they learn into practice in the way they treat others and in every decision they make. While they don't always know what that means, everyone on the team commits to

continuing to read the Bible and go to church to learn all they can and learn how to give their entire lives completely to God.

## JUSTICE

God wants to use us to help people. When we are obedient and generous, God uses what we started with and multiplies it into life-changing things.

## BIOGRAPHY (STORE CLERK)

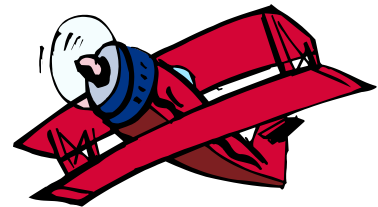
As a store clerk, you may be part of a large crew in a large store, or alone in a small store on the plaza. In either case the store clerk should be alert to the needs of the potential customers and ready to help when needed.

*Responsibilities:* The store clerk must do what the store owner or department manager assigns. It won't always be your favorite position, because the needs of the store are based on what departments are busy, what clerks are available, and what skills and training the clerk might have.

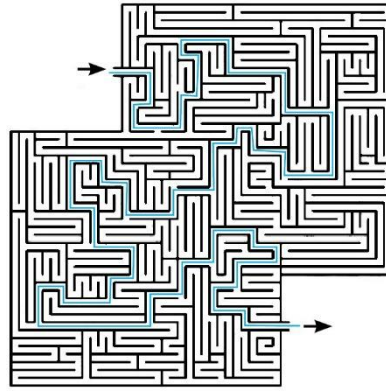
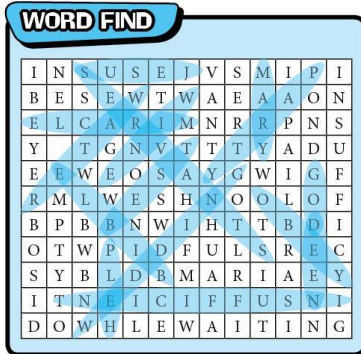
*Opportunities:* There is often some amount of training before or during employment, so, training is good. Also, this is also a service job, and serving is at the heart of God's kingdom, so learning how to serve will help you throughout your life. The job demands you look your best and get enough rest so you can think clearly and talk with the shoppers, and those are valuable things that will always help you, too.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. If God wants to bless us, why does he allow bad things to happen? (We live in a world where there is much sin, and difficult things happen to us all. Also, God cares more about our hearts than our bodies, since our souls and spirits are eternal, and the body is not. God uses pain and circumstances difficult to change our hearts and increase our maturity.)
2. What rules does your society have in which you are responsible for helping those who need it? (Discuss how different cultures around the world have different tacit laws in their societies. There will be many rules understood in each society. Should you give to a beggar? If a woman falls on the street, would people stop to help her? If a child is lost, are people expected to help him?)
3. How many times have you heard that people say, "It's not my problem," and they refuse to help or they simply decide there is no help needed and don't give it? (Discuss with your students the rules of the society in which you live, and when it is right or not to help. For each example, also discuss what you think God expects of us.)
4. If God asked you to sacrifice the most important thing in your life, what would it be? (For many of us, it would be our closest family. But God really wants to be the first thing in our lives, and he will ask us to sacrifice even our closeness with family in order to serve him. Discuss with your students how missionaries feel when they have to leave to his family to serve God in another country.)
5. If you could ask God to supply a specific thing in your life, what would it be? (Let the children say their answers.)



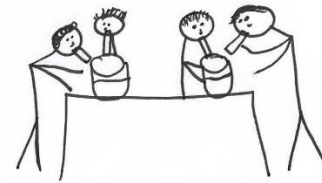
## PUZZLE ANSWERS



## GAME

### Everyone to the bucket

Prepare ahead of time flavored or natural water and drinking straws. Each group will form a tight circle, as close as possible. Put the water container in middle of the group, and the whole group drinks from the container until it is empty. They can drink all together or one at a time. If your groups are larger, have multiple containers for drinking for each team.



## HOMEWORK

Find someone in need and give to them like Jesus gives to us “A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.”

# Love like Jesus

09



## Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37

### **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Agent has been thinking about how to give his whole life to God. At church he learned to love his neighbor as himself. He tells the team how he has been kind to his neighbors this week, everyone except one boy who is his enemy. Their families have always been enemies. Agent thinks he is an exception, that he should love everyone except his enemy. The team disagrees before going back in time to find out.

### **LESSON**

Read Luke 10:25-29

Jesus said the most important rules are to love God and love our neighbor and that all the rest of the rules were covered by these two.

We show our love for God through worship and obeying His commands. But who is our neighbor and how do we show them love?

Read Luke 10:30-37

Samaritans and Jewish people did not like each other for some reason. So, when Jesus used a Samaritan as an example of a neighbor, it would have been hard for the Jews to accept. And in the story, the Samaritan was the “good guy.” Jesus is telling us that all people are our neighbor and we should show them all love and compassion.

The next question is, “How do we show love for them?”. Again, in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the Samaritan man took care of the Jewish man. The Samaritan would have done well to treat the man’s wounds and give him a ride to a hotel. But he did more than that and paid his bills and promised to follow-up later to be sure everything was OK. This is a great example for us, to always be looking for ways to generously and extravagantly be good to those around us! After all, this is what Jesus did for us by coming to Earth and dying for us.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*Luke 10:27 He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and, ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”*

### **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Coming back from the mission, Agent is puzzled. How can he love his enemy? First, it is very difficult to think of being kind to him and second, it is hard to think of what to do. He talks with the team who consider different ways to love his enemy. Leader suggests that he can do one small thing, even if he doesn’t feel like it, and after doing that small thing he may feel better about it. They pray together and ask God to bless his enemy with one fun day. It is small enough for Agent to accept. Then Agent decides simply to say “Hi” the next time he sees his enemy, without expecting any good response. From there, perhaps he can mention the weather or something simple and so on until, with God’s help, they won’t be enemies anymore.



## JUSTICE

What kinds of things do we do because we love ourselves? Buy food, pay bills, solve problems. But Jesus tells us to love others as ourselves. Let's do good things for others.

## BIOGRAPHY (DOCTOR)

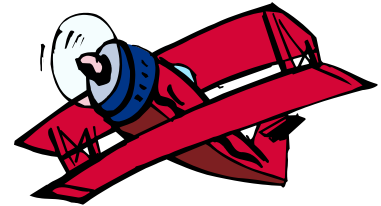
The job of a doctor is to help people. If this is your job, it is good to know that God needs doctors to help heal people. We know that in the Bible, there are many references about the miraculous healing of God's people, but we know that God also helps people get the training they need. Lucas, for example, was a doctor, and probably worked as a doctor even in places where Paul was healing people.

Responsibilities: A doctor has the responsibility to study what he needs to accurately diagnose a disease and decide a course of action. The whole community looks for doctors for the health they need for daily life.

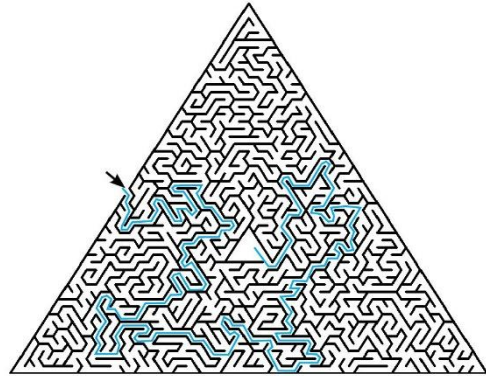
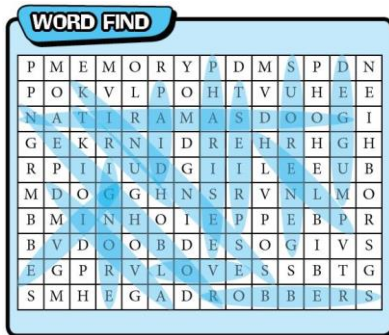
Opportunities: The doctor meets with all kinds of people and the confidence gained in the studies and in being a doctor helps the doctor to advise all people in critical areas of their lives.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. What are your normal excuses for not stopping to help? (Our normal excuses are: money, time, our parents' permission, what others say, or getting into trouble.)
2. Do we have to be friends with everyone? (We must love, be good and friendly to everyone. However, if someone continues to be cruel, we don't have to be his friend or his friend. We must show love to our enemies, but we don't always have to be their friends.)
3. How can you be generous with people? (Listen to the children's responses. You can help them by mentioning how the Samaritan took care of the Jewish man.)
4. Has anyone ever been generous to you? (Let the children give their answer.)
5. What would you have done if you had found the Samaritan? (If the children's response is to help, ask them how.)



## PUZZLE ANSWERS



## GAME

### Guess who

Put a chair for each child, arrange them in a circle, cut out pieces of colored paper and stick them on the back of the chairs. Each color must be repeated at least three times in the chairs. Turn on the music and have the children walk around the chairs. When the music stops, the children must sit down quickly. The teacher should name a color and those who are sitting in a chair with that color should stand and say the memory verse. For example, if the teacher says red, everyone sitting in a chair with a red paper gets up and says the verse together.



## HOMEWORK

This week find a way to help someone in need, but then, do two more generous things for them.

# God makes it more than enough

10

## Feeding the 5000: Matthew 14:13-21



### DRAMA (PART 1)

Investigator mentions to team members how at church she helped a small child write a note for her mom and gave the small child a hug. Investigator says she has always wanted to help but wonders how much she can do. The team encourages her that what she did was important, then they all go back in time for the Bible story.

### LESSON

How much is enough?

Read Matthew 14:15-21

Jesus had a big crowd with Him, and they needed food!! Jesus told the disciples to pass out what little food they had to the large crowd.

Imagine the faith it took for the disciples to pass 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish into a crowd of 5000 people?

There was only enough for everyone to have a crumb and there wouldn't be any left for the disciples. But Jesus did a miracle and there was enough food for everyone and 12 baskets full of food left over!! Everyone was able to eat until they were full and there was food for the disciples for tomorrow.

Jesus could have just made enough food for everyone, but instead He chose to take what the disciples had and multiply it.

We can be like the disciples. When we are willing to give away what little we have, God can do something incredible with it.

This is more than just food or money but our time and effort as well.

### MEMORY VERSE

*Matthew 19:26 "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"*

### DRAMA (PART 2)

Coming back to the present time, Investigator receives a message on her phone from a leader at church. The child's family had just moved to the city and were struggling to find any friends and were feeling very lonely. The child kept telling her parents about her new friend who had been kind to her at church, and they felt good knowing they would not be so lonely in this city. Another person had seen Investigator's kindness and decided to bring their family as well. And even another person said they were encouraged and wanted to follow her example and be kind to others around them. Receiving those messages, Investigator praises God for multiplying her small act of kindness to benefit the child and lots of other people.

## JUSTICE

Some needs are just too big to imagine fulfilling. God does not ask that we meet the whole problem but that we do what we can. He will do the rest.

## BIOGRAPHY (COOK)

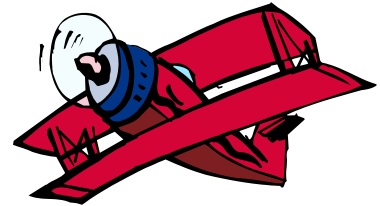
A cook can be great benefit to daily life. For a special event, people often go out to dinner. School lunches play an important part in keeping morale high. Sports teams and the military always try to provide good food to their groups, both for morale and for energy.

*Responsibilities:* The cook always has to work within the guidelines of the owner or manager. Although the cook may be limited in just what can be served and how much it can cost, the cook can study how to do it even better. Cleanliness and appearance are always important for a cook.

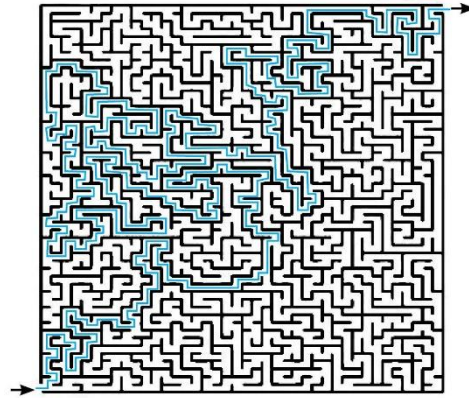
*Opportunities:* The cook always has to stick to the menu and keep the price within budget, but there can be a lot of room for creativity. If it's ok with your boss, a family that orders hotcakes could have creative hotcakes for the kids—butterflies, whales, etc. Cute decorations with vegetables or main dishes could enhance the experience of customers so that they return or even tell their friends. You can study how to do these things and build the business as the cook.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Do you have any testimony where God provided for you? Share it. (Give them time to share together.)
2. Have you seen people who are not Christians and have property, cars, clothes and nothing is missing when you as a Christian are missing those things? (Perhaps you think that it is unfair to depend on God, but you should know that many of these people have no peace in their minds. Sometimes they lack love or joy, they have not forgiven and their only purpose is to make money. They don't realize that earth is temporary and heaven will be so much better than anything on earth.)
3. Why is there not enough food and money for everyone in the world? (Help your students think about the situation. Perhaps because God wanted us to learn to share with each other. Perhaps it is part of the sin that entered the world with Adam.)
4. What is your favorite food? (Listen to the children's responses.)
5. Think of someone who can help you this week say their name and how you would help them.



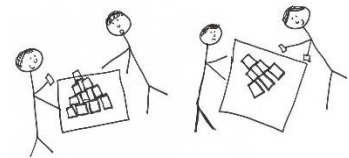
## PUZZLE ANSWERS



## GAME

### Pyramid of Cups

Before starting the game, place the disposable cups on the table (36 cups per team). Form two teams with the same number of members. Both teams will have one minute to build the tallest tower. Once the minute is over, the team with the highest tower is the winner.



## HOMEWORK

Bring an extra packed lunch to school and give it to someone you don't know very well or someone without lunch.

# Having faith in God

1 1



## Jesus calmed the storm: Luke 8:22-25

### DRAMA (PART 1)

Agent tells the team about two bullies that wait on the street and bother everyone that goes by. They especially like to pick on him, and every time he walks down the street, he is afraid. Often, he tries to run, but since they are bigger than him, they catch up to him every time and hurt him. The team is concerned about his situation and say they will pray and think of ways to help. Then they climb into the time machine for their mission.

### LESSON

Have you ever been in a dangerous situation? Have you ever been afraid? The disciples were very scared one day when a huge storm came over their boat on the lake.

Read Luke 8:22-25.

In the middle of the storm, the disciples did not realize who they had among them. With them was Jesus, who had complete authority over the weather and wind and waves. Can you try to hold water in your hand? It's impossible for us, but God is all-powerful.

Like Jesus sleeping in the boat, we can rest and trust in God. It's not because nothing bad will ever happen to us. All the disciples who were in that boat except for one were killed many years later for believing in Jesus. That's pretty bad. But no matter what happens or what situation we are in, we can trust in God and rest because He is always in control, even of the bad things. He can stop any bad situation at any time. If He does not stop a bad situation, we can trust that He is planning to bring something good out of it. And no matter what, God has promised always to be with us. When we are in a storm, we can know that Jesus is with us, just like He was in the boat with the disciples. And when we put our faith in Jesus, we are safe in His hands and will spend eternity with Him in heaven.

After Jesus calmed the storm, the disciples were afraid of Him. When we recognized how huge and powerful our God is and how He loves us so very much, we no longer are afraid of anything else.

### MEMORY VERSE

*Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."*

### DRAMA (PART 2)

Coming back from the mission, the team is astounded at what they saw. Being in the boat with Jesus and the disciples and watching first-hand how the wind and waves obeyed Him greatly increased all their faith. Agent considers the bullies on his street and realizes that they are not nearly as strong as God. The team encourages him that God is with him always. Like Jesus sleeping in the boat, Agent can ignore the bullies and ignore the bad names they call him because God who runs the whole universe loves him. Agent leaves and goes home. Shortly afterward, Leader receives a text from Agent that he ignored the bullies and after a while they simply left him alone.

## JUSTICE

Just like God will never leave nor forsake you who believe in Him, so He will never leave nor forsake others who believe in Him, even if they don't agree with you about everything. Instead of focusing on things we disagree on, let's watch how God is working in other people's lives.

## BIOGRAPHY (MOTHER)

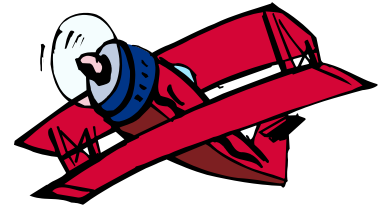
Mothers are the key method God uses to raise children. They teach all aspects of a child's life so that the child can grow and learn and fit into society. When God Himself chose to come to earth as a baby, he didn't assign a special team to raise him—He chose a mother.

*Responsibilities:* Mothers raise the children from newborn until adulthood, and then continue in an advisory capacity. The real challenge comes because life can be peaceful, wartime, moving from one place to another, or through tragedy. No matter what, moms must continue being moms.

*Opportunities:* Moms have a unique relationship with the child or children, learning exactly what kind of person they are raising. That opens the door to different training, different sports, etc. because of the different personalities of the children. You get to propel a child into life itself.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

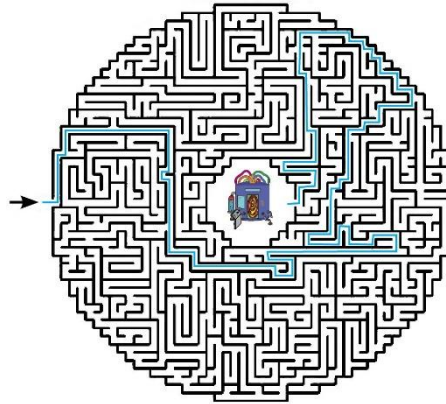
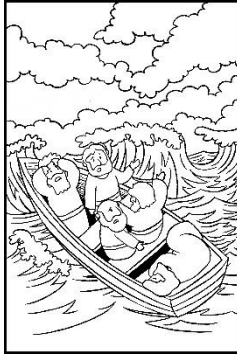
1. Why does God allow bad things to happen to us? (God cares more about our soul and spirit, so many 'bad' things are not actually bad for us but are for our good. It is also good to recognize that we live in a world where there is much sin, and God has given Satan permission to travel the earth. So there is death, wars, earthquakes, disasters, and a lot of people doing bad things, and Christians are affected just like everyone else.)
2. Have you ever been afraid? (Discuss if you have been afraid of a situation, like the disciples were in the storm. Remind children that even in difficult situations God is with them, even if they cannot see it.)
3. When difficult times came, when you were about to quit trying and let go of God, how did you stand firm? (Temptations, difficult moments come into our lives and you need to remember that you are not alone, that you are not self-sufficient to be able to solve everything in your life. The disciples were afraid of the heavy storm, but when Jesus calmed the storm there was peace. Similarly, in your life there may be difficult things, but when Jesus is in your life we know that peace will come.)
4. Which animal scares you? (Listen to each other's comments)
5. What things can you do to practice and develop courage in your heart? (Allow students to consider their own ideas before suggesting answers. Some ideas should be proactive about sharing their faith with people little by little. They can decide ahead of time to accept any opportunity to serve God, even if it's scary. To build a faith that leads to courage, you can spend time reading the Bible, praying, praising God, listening to the testimonies of others, and writing or remembering things that God did in your own lives.)



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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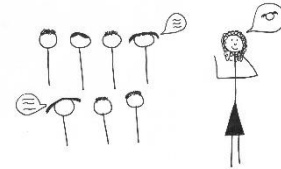
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### GAME

#### Quote the Verse if...

Quote the verse if ... you had breakfast this morning, you bathed last night, you have brown eyes, you like broccoli, you made your bed today, you have a sister, you are dressed in red, etc. This is an easy way to repeat the verse many times to help children memorize it.



### HOMework

Look for someone doing something scary or hard and volunteer to go with them.



# Who is Jesus?

1 2



**Who do you say I am? Matthew 16:13-20**

## **DRAMA (PART 1)**

Investigator is puzzled this week. She met someone who was very kind and humble and who looked very happy but practiced another religion. She is confused because, other than the difference in religion, the person looked like any Christian would. She shares with Leader and Agent her confusion, wondering what makes Christianity different. Leader decides not to try to answer before going on the mission because of the moment that they are time traveling to today. They climb into the machine and go back to watch Jesus and His disciples.

## **LESSON**

The Jewish people had been a powerful people but had been conquered and spread-out and their riches had been stolen. But God had promised that someone would come to help them, that person would be called The Messiah. The Jews naturally expected a strong warrior that would chase the invaders out of their land. But Jesus came as so much more than that. Instead of saving their land and riches, He came to save their hearts!

Read Matthew 16:13-20

People were saying Jesus was a prophet. Jesus asked His friends who they thought He was. Peter replied correctly that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the Living God and deliverer of Israel! Jesus responded that this statement was the rock, the foundation stone of the new church.

Who is Jesus to you? Is He someone from the Bible, maybe a prophet or great teacher? Or is he the Son of God who came to Earth to save you from your sins and give you a rich new life?

John 3:16 says "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Jesus wants us to understand who HE is and believe in Him so He can give you the best thing ever!

## **MEMORY VERSE**

*John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

## **DRAMA (PART 2)**

Back from the mission, Investigator discusses with the team what they just saw. She realizes that the difference between the religions is Jesus, that He is the son of God, that He died for us, and that He alone is the way to heaven and eternity with the true God. She decides to watch for an opportunity to share about Jesus with the person she met recently because, though everything looks good on the outside, he still needs Jesus to be saved.

## **JUSTICE**

John 3:16 says God loved us so much that He GAVE His son for us! Let's follow His example and give what we can to and for others.

## **BIOGRAPHY (SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER)**

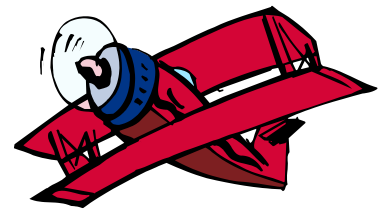
The Sunday School teacher is the person chosen by the pastor or the church administration to help children learn the key information they will need to grow in their faith.

*Responsibilities:* The Sunday School teacher must know or learn how to manage a classroom setting, have teaching and craft materials ready for the students, and coordinate with the other teachers on the staff to ensure smooth operation of the Sunday School.

*Opportunities:* The Sunday School teacher can learn to discern how the students are spiritually and design the teaching styles and/or content to produce growth from there. The teacher can cast visions for the student—help students see what super results can happen in the future by following simple steps today. In some cases, the secular schools do not allow religious teaching in their schools, so the Sunday School teacher can fill in the gaps that can result in the child's education.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

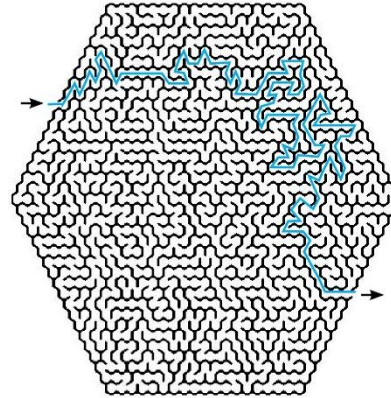
1. How do you want to serve God in the future? (Encourage students to discuss this topic. Remember that God gives different gifts to each one, and the arm of the body of Christ is no better than an eye or visa versa).
2. Where does what you believe about Jesus come from? From tradition, from what a preacher or teacher says, or from your personal experience with God? (Sadly many of the church children say they believe in God, but not because they had a personal experience with Jesus Christ. It is easier to be a Christian in the church, to be spiritual and so on when you are surrounded by people who act the same (tradition). But it is in the street, at work and everywhere we go, in these places that God gives us the greatest lessons of our lives. That is where we get to know Jesus personally.)
3. Personally, what do you believe about Jesus? (The most important thing is that you believe that He is your Savior, that you have knowledge of Him on a personal level and not just in appearances to fit in at church.)
4. Where do you think we can know more about Jesus? (We often think church, but where we can learn the most about Jesus is by reading his Word and having a personal experience with Him. Reading and obedience lead to deeper understanding, which leads to more love for God, which leads to more reading and obedience and so on, like an upward spiral.)
5. If you could ask Jesus something about your life, what would you ask him? (Remember that Jesus knows everything about us. Sometimes we have doubts about our life or why certain things happen. Let the children say their answers. Remind them that God can hear them and can answer their questions in a variety of different ways).



## PUZZLE ANSWERS

### WORD FIND

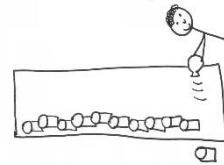
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## GAME

### Tumbler balloon

Before the start of the game a row of 15 plastic cups is placed in a line along the edge of a table. When the clock starts running, the player will have 60 seconds to inflate a balloon use the air from the balloon to knock down all the cups from the table. The balloon can be inflated as many times as necessary to achieve the objective. If any cup is left on the table the player loses and another child gets a turn. You can make two teams (like boys vs. girls) and have one volunteer from each team play at the same time and see who knocks over all their cups the fastest.



## HOMEWORK

Pick a person who needs to know Jesus and give up your time that you would like to be doing something else and pray for them every day. Then buy them a small gift and give it to them. Share about Jesus and invite them to Sunday school.

# Jesus Demonstrates Power

1 3



## Lazarus: John 11:32-44

### DRAMA (PART 1)

Agent shares with the team his very unusual day yesterday. Everything seemed to go wrong, from the food dropping on the floor to spilling juice on his paper to bumping his head... He was going to the store to replace the paper when it started pouring rain and he ran into a nearby store. On the steps, he tripped and his left shoe broke. It seemed like the worst day ever. Right then, his enemy he was talking about several weeks ago entered the same store and broke his right shoe! Agent saw that it was the same type of shoe he had, so he gave his good shoe to the other boy. In astonishment, the other boy accepted the shoe then started asking questions. Eventually, they talked about God. Though Agent didn't know much, he tried his best to tell him about Jesus. After the rain cleared, Agent had no shoes, had a headache, and still needed to buy the paper. But he was very glad on the inside despite everything. The team marveled at the story then went back in time to watch Jesus.

### LESSON

Jesus had some friends Lazarus and his two sisters Mary and Martha. But Lazarus got sick and died. Jesus went to see the family in Bethany where Lazarus was buried in a tomb.

Read John 11:32-44

Both the sisters believed that if Jesus had been there sooner Lazarus would have lived. They had plans for how Jesus should have saved Lazarus, like He had saved many people before. But Jesus had better plans.

Jesus had healed many sick people to show the world that He had authority over sickness, now Jesus was going to show the world that He had authority over death as well!!

Just before the miracle, Martha said the body of Lazarus might stink. She still did not believe. But then, Jesus called out to Lazarus and he came walking out of the tomb!!! What a day to celebrate!

God often works in ways we do not expect. We need to be careful to be open to His work in His way. Just because we saw God do something in our life, doesn't mean He will do the same for someone else. But regardless of what God chooses to do or not to do, we can trust that He has authority over all things and that by believing in Jesus, we will have eternal life.

### MEMORY VERSE

*John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.'"*

### DRAMA (PART 2)

Back from the mission, they discussed how Jesus often works in ways we do not expect, like turning Agent's bad day into an opportunity to share with his enemy. Agent tells them not to call him his enemy anymore because he doesn't think of him like that. Now they are friends.

## JUSTICE

God wants to work through us to help people. Let's be careful to be open to allow God to work however He wants to.

## BIOGRAPHY (GARBAGEMAN)

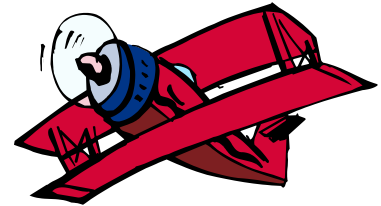
A garbageman works to keep the town clean and free of disease-causing animals. He always has to work with people: the crew he is a part of and the people of the town. The hours can be long and there can be a need for late-night or weekend work.

Responsibilities: The garbageman works for the town or the company the town has hired. It is important to show up on time and have a willingness to go home when the work is done, not when the clock says it's time. He should also treat others of his crew correctly and be amiable with the people in town.

Opportunities: Since the garbageman can meet everyone in town, he has a chance to pray for the needy, cheer up the sad, and encourage the depressed. That includes the members of his crew. He can help an extra amount when there is opportunity and when it does not conflict with the assignments he has.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

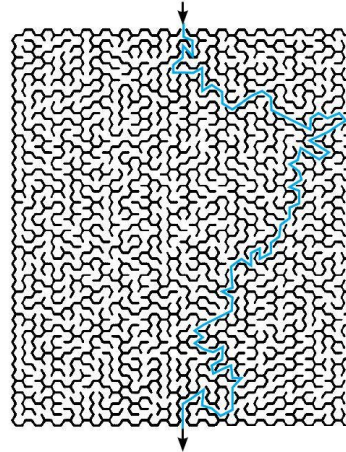
1. Are there things that God CANNOT do? (NO, the Bible says that God is all powerful, can see everything, understand everything, from the beginning of time until today, and the future. All things are possible with God.)
2. Have you ever seen a miracle? (Give your students time to discuss the different miracles they have seen, large or small. Share a personal testimony if you have one. These miracles can be opportunities, someone who opens their hearts, healings, changes in attitude, or God's protection.)
3. Why did God create me? (Talk about the love of God, the options to serve Him, and how God knows everything about you including your gifts, talents, tastes, and temperaments.)
4. What do you think Lazarus looked like after Jesus raised him? (Cheerful, surprised, tired, give different answers and let the children say how they think he felt.)
5. How would you like God to use your life? (Let the children say what they would like, maybe being a preacher, musician, missionary, teacher, etc.)



**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**WORD FIND**

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**GAME**

**Basketball**

Write each word of your memory verse on a piece of paper and make it a ball. Divide the class into teams and make enough for each team to have its own set of "balls" of memory verses. Place a basketball hoop (or bucket or basket) in front of the class. The teams compete to throw their paper balls into the basket from a distance. The first team to finish wins, then they can recite the memory verse with the papers and play again.



**HOMWORK**

Ask God to show you what task you can do to help a neighbour and arrange with your neighbour when a good time is to come and do it.

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