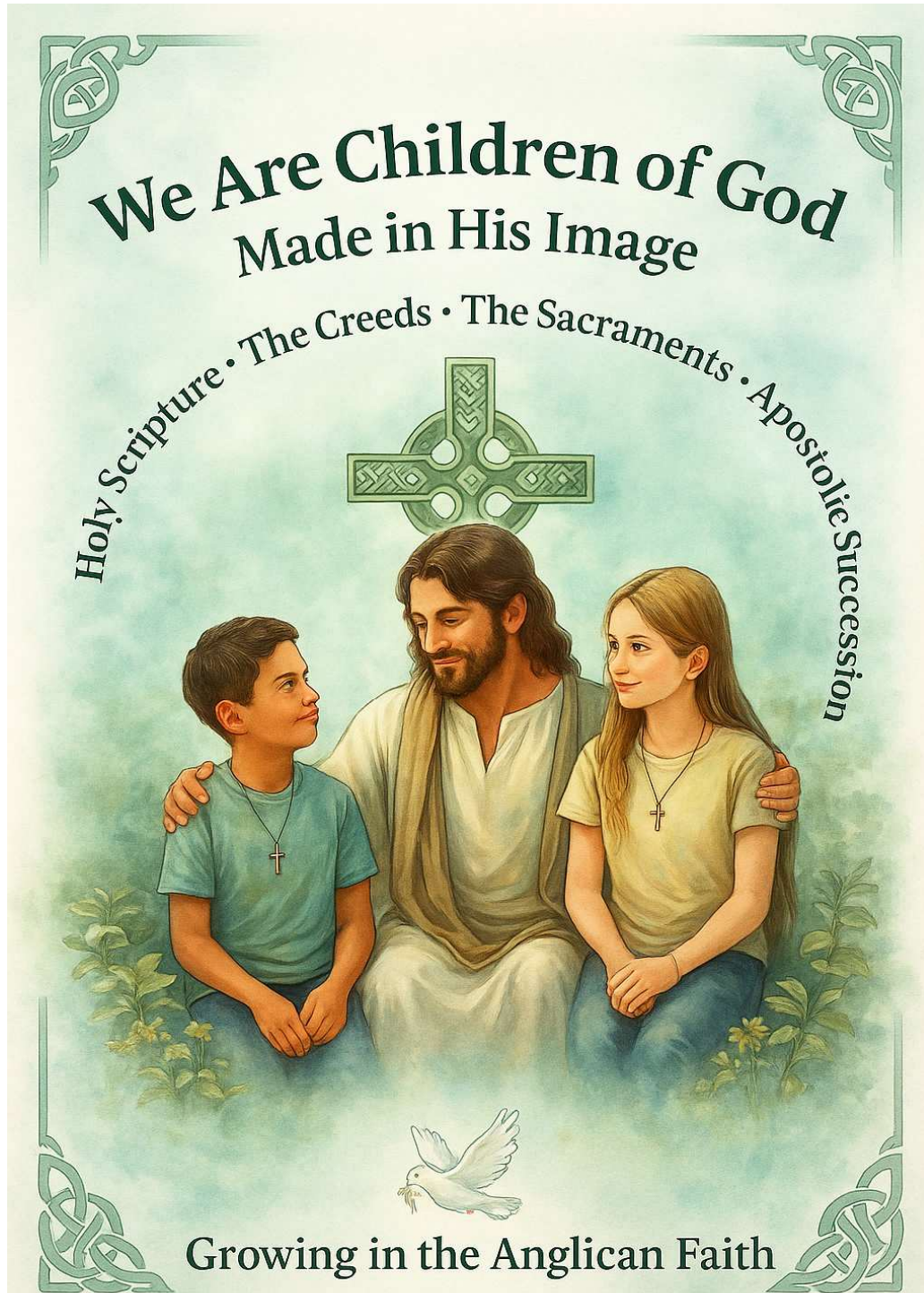




STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL K- 3
5 WEEK LENTEN + PASSION SUNDAY CURRICULUM
TEACHERS' GUIDE

Imprimatur: + William Bower, SSC, Episcopus,
Diocese of the Eastern United States
Anglican Catholic Church

Teachers' Guide

Grades K-3 | **Imprimatur:** + *William Bower, SSC, Episcopus, Diocese of the Eastern United States, Anglican Catholic Church*

This Anglican Epiphany curriculum supports teachers in guiding students in Grades K-3 through the season of Epiphany—a time of light, revelation, and discovery as we reflect on how Jesus Christ is made known to the world.

During Epiphany, students are invited to explore moments when Christ is revealed through His words, actions, miracles, and calling of disciples. This season encourages learners to recognize Jesus as the Light of the world and to consider how His light is revealed in their own lives. This curriculum helps teachers present Scripture with reverence and clarity while fostering thoughtful discussion, prayer, and faithful response.

What's Included:

- Weekly Scripture reading (NKJV)
- Teacher story summary for presenting the lesson
- Discussion questions for Grades K-1 and Grades 2-3
- Weekly memory verse with age adaptations
- Optional crafts with complete instructions

Before teaching the week's lesson, Teachers need to read the Lesson Scripture so that they can tell the story and lead the discussion. Use an NKJV bible or the same bible version used in class.

OPENING ROUTINE

1. ****Pledge of Allegiance****
“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”
2. ****The Lord's Prayer (Anglican Version) ****
Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.
3. ****Opening Prayer (Anglican)****
Dear God, thank You for loving us. Help us learn about Jesus today. Open our hearts and help us grow. Amen

Closing Routine

1. **Have students clean up all projects and put everything away.
2. **Closing Prayer (Anglican)
Included at the end of each lesson.

Student-Teacher Ratio (Recommended)

Kindergarten–1st Grade: 1 adult per 4–5 students

2nd–3rd Grade: 1 adult per 6–8 students

For crafts involving cutting, stapling, rice/eggs, or multiple steps, add one extra helper if possible.

General Teaching Notes for K–1 and 2–3**K–1 (Younger)**

Keep directions one step at a time.

- Use lots of repetition and call-and-response.
- Pre-cut everything possible.
- Shorten the discussion to 1–2 questions.

2–3 (Older)

- Allow children to read short phrases (one sentence) if able.
- Invite them to “help teach” by holding flannel pieces.
- Let them write the theme word (Hope/Peace/Joy/Love) themselves.
- Ask 2–3 discussion questions and allow brief sharing.

Flannel Board / Magnetic Board Guidance (All Weeks)

- Keep pieces in a labeled bag per week.
- Place pieces in the order you will use them.
- Limit to 4–6 pieces to avoid losing time.
- Always place the “Bible” or “scroll” piece first (if you have one) to reinforce that this comes from Scripture.

2–3 (Old)

- Allow children to read short phrases (one sentence) if able.
- Invite them to “help teach” by holding flannel pieces.
- Ask 2–3 discussion questions and allow brief sharing.

Flannel Board / Magnetic Board Guidance (All Weeks)

- Keep pieces in a labeled bag per week.
- Place pieces in the order you will use them.
- Limit to 4–6 pieces to avoid losing time.
- Always place the “Bible” or “scroll” piece first (if you have one) to reinforce that this comes from Scripture.

Epiphany invites us to open our eyes and hearts to see Jesus more clearly. As you teach, guide students to recognize Christ as the Light revealed to the nations and to consider how they are called to reflect His light through faith, obedience, and love.

For questions or support in using this Anglican Lesson Plan, please contact: Linda Simmen — Christian Education & Curriculum Development • stpatricksresources@gmail.com • (321) 480-0927.

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Epiphany Sunday School Teacher Guide

Grades K-3rd | Imprimatur: + *William Bower, SSC, Episcopus, Diocese of the Eastern United States, Anglican Catholic Church*

Teacher Preparation

Before teaching the week's lesson, teachers need to read the Lesson Scripture so that they can tell the story and lead the discussion. Use an NKJV Bible or the same Bible version used in class.

Opening Routine

1. Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

2. The Lord's Prayer (Anglican Version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

3. Opening Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father, we gather today with open hearts and minds to learn about your love and grace, as revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear your word, guide our understanding, and fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in faith and live as your children. Amen.

Closing Routine

1. Have students clean up all projects and put everything away.
2. Closing Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the time we've spent together learning about Your love and grace. Thank you for the lessons we've learned, the stories we've shared, and the friendship we've built today. Help us to carry these lessons with us, and may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Bless each of these students, their families, and our church community. Guide us through the week ahead and help us to live out the teachings of Your Word in all that we do. As we leave this place, may Your peace go with us. Keep us safe, and may we always remember to walk in the light of Your love. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Overview of the Epiphany Season

The Season of Epiphany celebrates the revealing (manifestation) of Jesus Christ to the world. The word *Epiphany* means “to make known” or “to reveal.” During this season, the Church remembers how Jesus is shown to be the Son of God — through the visit of the Magi, His first miracle at Cana, His teachings, healings, and the testimony of John the Baptist.

Epiphany reminds us that the Light of Christ shines for all people. Throughout these weeks, students learn about Jesus’ mission, His divine identity, and how He reveals God’s love through His words and actions.

Liturgical Color of Epiphany

The liturgical color for Epiphany is **Green**, symbolizing:

- Growth in faith
- New life in Christ
- Hope

- Spiritual maturity
- The flourishing of God's people

EPIPHANY - WEEK 1

The Wise Men Follow the Star

Teachers: Begin class with the Opening Routine located at the front of this document.

Theme: Jesus Came for Everyone

Scripture: Matthew 2:1–12 (NKJV)

Key Truth: God led the wise men to Jesus, and Jesus came for all people.

Big Idea: God invites everyone to come to Jesus.

Memory Phrase: "Jesus is for everyone."**Teacher Snapshot**

Difficulty	★☆☆ Easy
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Craft Projects	4
Extended Crafts	2
Bible Skit	Included (Optional)

Teacher Preparation Notes**What to Stress**

- Jesus came for everyone.
- God led the wise men to Jesus.
- The wise men worshiped Jesus with joyful hearts.
- We can worship Jesus too.

What to Avoid

- Avoid complicated explanations about the gifts.
- Avoid spending time debating whether the wise men were kings.
- Keep the focus on joyfully seeking and worshiping Jesus.

Room Setup Ideas

- Hang paper stars around the room.
- Dim the lights slightly during the Bible story, if possible.
- Place the felt or magnetic board where every child can see it.
- Optional: Play soft instrumental Christmas or Epiphany music as children arrive.

Before Sunday

- Read Matthew 2:1–12.
- Pray for each child who will attend your class.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.

- Organize the felt or magnetic board pieces.
- Gather today's craft supplies.
- Review the Interactive Bible Story.

Master Supply List

Teaching Supplies

- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table
- Felt or magnetic board
- Felt pieces:
 - Stable
 - Mary
 - Baby Jesus
 - Three Wise Men
 - Star
 - Camel (optional)
 - Gift boxes

Craft Supplies

- Cardstock
- Construction paper
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Crayons
- Washable markers
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- Tissue paper
- Contact paper
- Star stickers
- Gold paper
- Small paper boxes
- Shoeboxes (Extended Craft)
- Craft sticks

Skit Supplies

- Large paper star
- Three small gift boxes
- Robes or towels
- Head coverings
- Baby doll
- Blanket

Opening Routine**Welcome**

Welcome each child warmly as they arrive.

Encourage children to find a seat and quietly prepare to hear God's Holy Word.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lord's Prayer

Invite everyone to pray together.

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for bringing us together today.

Help us follow You just as the wise men followed the star.

Open our hearts to Your Holy Word and help us learn more about You today.

Thank You for loving everyone.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold your Bible where every child can see it.

Say:

"Today's lesson comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Open your Bible to **Matthew 2:1–12**.

Say:

"Our story today comes from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 2."

Read **Matthew 2:1–2** and **Matthew 2:9–11** directly from the NKJV Bible.

When you finish reading, place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Say:

"Now let's discover how God used a special star to lead the wise men to Jesus."

Interactive Bible Story

The Wise Men Follow the Star

Matthew 2:1–12 (NKJV)

Story Time: 7–8 minutes

Felt/Magnetic Board Pieces

- Bethlehem stable
- Baby Jesus
- Mary
- Three Wise Men
- Bright Star
- Camel (optional)
- Gift boxes (gold, frankincense, myrrh)

Teacher Preparation

Before class:

- Place the stable, Mary, and Baby Jesus on the felt board.
- Keep the Wise Men, star, camel, and gifts beside the board until they are introduced during the story.

The Story

(Hold up the Bible.)

Say:

"Everything we're about to hear comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Smile at the children.

"Have you ever looked up at the night sky and seen lots and lots of stars?"

(Pause.)

Stars are beautiful, aren't they?

Long ago, God placed one very special star in the sky.

This wasn't an ordinary star.

God used this special star to help some very important visitors find someone very special."

(Place the star on the felt board.)

"Far away from Bethlehem lived some very wise men.

The Bible doesn't tell us their names or exactly how many there were, but it does tell us they studied the stars and wanted to understand God's signs.

One night they noticed a bright new star they had never seen before."

(Pause.)

Ask:

"What do you think they did when they saw that special star?"

Allow a few answers.

"They knew this star was different.

They believed God was showing them that a great King had been born.

So they packed everything they needed for a long journey."

(Place the Wise Men on the board.)

"Imagine walking for many, many days.

The sun was warm during the day.

The nights were cool.

Sometimes the roads were dusty.

Sometimes the wind blew gently across the desert.

Their camels carried food, water, and precious gifts."

(Optional: Place camel.)

"Every evening they looked up into the sky.

There was the bright star.

Still shining.

Still leading them."

Move the Wise Men a little closer to Bethlehem.

"The Wise Men trusted God.

Every day they followed the star.

They didn't know exactly where it would lead.

But they believed God would guide them."

Teacher pauses.

Ask:

"Has God ever helped someone know where to go?"

Allow a few answers.

"Finally...

After many days...

The star stopped."

Move the star above the stable.

"It stopped over the place where Jesus was.

Can you imagine how excited the Wise Men were?

They had finally found Him!"

Move the Wise Men to the stable.

"They saw Mary...

And they saw the young child, Jesus."

Point to Mary and Jesus.

"The Bible tells us something very important."

Pause.

"The Wise Men fell down...

and worshiped Jesus."

Kneel or bow your head slightly as you say the word **worshiped**.

"They knew Jesus was no ordinary child.

He was God's promised King."

"The Wise Men opened the treasures they had carefully carried on their long journey."

Place the gift pieces one at a time.

"They gave Jesus gifts of gold...

frankincense...

and myrrh.

These were very valuable gifts.

But the greatest gift they gave was their love and worship."

Teacher pauses.

Ask:

"Can we worship Jesus today?"

Allow children to answer.

"Yes!

We worship Jesus when we pray.

When we sing.

When we come to church.

When we obey God.

When we love others."

"The Bible tells us that God warned the Wise Men in a dream not to return to King Herod.

So they obeyed God.

Instead of going back the same way, they traveled home by a different road."

Move the Wise Men away from Bethlehem in another direction.

"God protected the Wise Men because they listened to Him.

God had guided them to Jesus with a star, and He guided them safely home."

Bringing It Home

Smile and say:

"Today we learned something wonderful.

God didn't just send Jesus for one family...

or one town...

or one country.

God sent Jesus for everyone.

That means Jesus loves you...

He loves me...

and He invites everyone to come to Him."

Lesson Connection

Big Idea: God invites everyone to come to Jesus.

Memory Phrase: *"Jesus is for everyone."*

Craft and Activities

★ Craft 1 – Follow the Star Mobile (*Featured Craft*)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Large cardstock star
- Small cardstock star
- Picture of Mary and Jesus
- Yarn
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Hole punch

Before Class

- Cut out the stars.
- Punch the holes.
- Cut yarn into 10-inch pieces.
- Print or copy the picture of Mary and Jesus.
- Make one sample.

Directions

- Decorate the large star.
- Color the picture of Mary and Jesus.
- Glue the picture to the small star.
- Tie the small star beneath the large star with yarn.
- Add a piece of yarn to the top for hanging.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"God used a special star to lead the wise men to Jesus. Every time you see your star, remember that God still leads us to Jesus today."

Craft 2 – Wise Men Journey Picture

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Blue construction paper
- Brown construction paper

- Wise men cutouts
- Star cutout
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers

Before Class

- Cut the brown desert strips.
- Cut out the wise men and stars.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Glue the brown strip across the bottom of the paper.
- Glue the star near the top.
- Color the wise men.
- Glue the wise men facing the star.
- Draw extra stars in the sky.
- Write **The Wise Men Followed the Star** at the bottom.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"The wise men trusted God and followed the star until it led them to Jesus."

Craft 3 – Gift Box for Jesus

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Small paper box or folded cardstock box
- Paper heart
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Gold paper or stickers

Before Class

- Assemble the boxes.
- Cut one paper heart for each child.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Decorate the outside of the gift box.

- Color the paper heart.
- Write or trace **"My Love for Jesus"** on the heart.
- Place the heart inside the box.
- Close the box and take it home.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"The wise men brought gifts to Jesus. We can give Jesus our love, our prayers, and our obedience."

Craft 4 – Star Suncatcher

Moderate | 20 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Black star frame
- Contact paper
- Yellow, gold, and orange tissue paper
- Yarn
- Child-safe scissors

Before Class

- Cut out the star frames.
- Cut tissue paper into small squares.
- Cut contact paper.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Place the star frame on contact paper.
- Fill the opening with tissue paper.
- Cover with the second piece of contact paper.
- Trim the edges.
- Add yarn for hanging.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"Hang your star in a window and remember that God used a star to lead the wise men to Jesus."

Extended Craft 1 – Bethlehem Diorama

Moderate | 30 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Shoebox

- Construction paper
- Mary and Jesus cutouts
- Wise men cutouts
- Craft sticks
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Before Class

- Prepare the shoebox.
- Cut all figures.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Cover the inside of the box with construction paper.
- Build a simple stable using craft sticks.
- Color and glue Mary and Jesus into the stable.
- Color and glue the wise men near the stable.
- Add the star above the stable.
- Decorate with rocks, grass, or paper scenery.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"The wise men traveled a long way because they wanted to worship Jesus."

Extended Craft 2 – Follow the Star Journey Map

Moderate | 25 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Large sheet of paper
- Wise men cutouts
- Star cutout
- Bethlehem cutout
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick

Before Class

- Draw the journey path.
- Cut all figures.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color the journey path.

- Draw hills, rocks, and palm trees.
- Glue the wise men at the beginning.
- Glue the star above the path.
- Glue Bethlehem at the end.
- Trace the journey with your finger.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"God guided the wise men every step of the way, and He guides us as we follow Jesus."

Optional Bible Skit**The Wise Men Follow the Star**

Time: 7 minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- Wise Man 1
- Wise Man 2
- Wise Man 3
- Mary
- Joseph
- Baby Jesus (doll)
- Star Holder

Simple Props

- Large paper star
- Three small gift boxes
- Robes or towels
- Head coverings
- Doll wrapped in a blanket

Before Class

- Choose children for each part.
- Explain there are no memorized lines.
- Demonstrate where each person stands.

- Practice once before beginning.

The Skit

Narrator

Long ago, God placed a very special star in the sky.

(Star enters.)

Three wise men saw the star.

(Wise Men point upward.)

They knew God was leading them to someone very special.

The wise men packed their gifts and began a long journey.

(Wise Men slowly follow the star.)

Day after day...

Night after night...

They kept following God's star.

Finally...

The star stopped over the place where Jesus was.

(Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus are seated.)

The wise men came close.

They bowed before Jesus.

(All kneel.)

They gave Him gifts of gold...

Gift one.

Frankincense...

Gift two.

Myrrh...

Gift three.

The wise men worshiped Jesus because He is God's Son.

God warned them in a dream not to return to King Herod.

Instead, they traveled home another way.

(Wise Men wave and walk away.)

The End.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

"What helped the wise men find Jesus?"

"What did they do when they found Him?"

Repeat together:

"Jesus is for everyone."

Take-Home Truth

Today we learned that God led the wise men to Jesus.

Jesus came for everyone, and we can worship Him with joyful hearts.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving everyone.

Help us follow You just as the wise men followed the star.

Help us worship You every day with our words, our actions, and our hearts.

Thank You for being our Savior.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher:

Let us bless the Lord.

Children:

Thanks be to God.

Teacher Reflection

Before you leave today, take a moment to thank God for the children He placed in your care.

Ask yourself:

- Did the children hear God's Word?
- Did they understand that Jesus came for everyone?
- Did they leave knowing that they can follow and worship Jesus?

Remember, God often uses simple lessons, caring teachers, and faithful volunteers to plant seeds of faith that grow for a lifetime.

Pray for your class throughout the week and look forward to gathering next Sunday again to continue discovering God's amazing love.

Coloring Page



EPIPHANY - WEEK 2

Jesus as a Boy in the Temple

Theme: Jesus Loved His Father's House

Scripture: Luke 2:41–52 (NKJV)

Key Truth: Jesus loved His Father's House, listened to God's Word, and grew in wisdom.

Big Idea: Jesus showed us that worshiping God and learning His Word are important.

**Memory Phrase: "I must be about My Father's business."
Luke 2:49**

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty	★☆☆ Easy
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Crafts	4
Extended Crafts	2
Bible Skit	Included (Optional)

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

- Jesus loved being in His Father's House.
- Jesus enjoyed listening, learning, and asking questions.
- We grow closer to God when we worship, pray, and study His Word.
- Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph by returning home with them.

What to Avoid

- Avoid making this lesson about Jesus being "lost."
- Avoid making Mary and Joseph appear careless. Families often traveled together in large groups during Passover.

- Keep the focus on Jesus' love for His Heavenly Father and His desire to learn God's Word.

Room Setup Ideas

- Place the Prayer and Scripture Table where everyone can see it.
- Position the felt or magnetic board so every child has a clear view.
- Optional: Display a picture of your church near the front of the room.
- Optional: Play soft instrumental music as children arrive.

Before Sunday

- Read Luke 2:41–52.
- Pray for each child who will attend your class.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Organize the felt or magnetic board pieces.
- Gather today's craft supplies.
- Read through the Bible story aloud before class.

Supply List**Teaching Supplies**

- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table
- Felt or magnetic board

Felt or Magnetic Pieces

- Temple
- Boy Jesus
- Mary
- Joseph
- Three Temple teachers
- Traveling families (optional)

Additional Craft Supplies

- Cardstock
- Construction paper

- White drawing paper
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Crayons
- Washable markers
- Craft sticks
- Tissue paper
- Yarn
- Paper plates
- Cross or star stickers

Optional Skit Supplies

- Robes or towels
- Head coverings
- Bible scroll
- Temple sign

Opening Routine**Welcome**

Welcome each child with a smile.

Invite everyone to find a seat and quietly prepare to hear God's Holy Word.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lord's Prayer

Pray together as a class.

Opening Prayer**Dear Jesus,**

Thank You for bringing us together today.

Help us love Your House just as You did.

Help us listen carefully, learn Your Word, and grow closer to You every day.

Thank You for loving us.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold your Bible where every child can see it.

Say:

"Today's lesson comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Open your Bible to **Luke 2:41–52**.

Read **Luke 2:46–49** directly from the NKJV Bible.

When you finish reading, place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Say:

"Today we're going to learn about a time when Jesus showed how much He loved His Father's House."

Interactive Bible Story

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

- Temple
- Boy Jesus
- Mary
- Joseph
- Three Temple teachers
- Traveling families (optional)

Teacher Preparation

Before class, place the Temple on the felt board. Keep Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the Temple teachers, and the traveling families nearby to add during the story.

The Story

(Hold up the Bible.)

Say:

"Everything we're about to hear comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Smile at the children.

"Every year, Mary and Joseph traveled to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Passover. It was a special time when families came together to worship God.

(Place Mary and Joseph on the board.)

When Jesus was twelve years old, He traveled with them to Jerusalem.

(Place Boy Jesus beside Mary and Joseph.)

Can you imagine what Jerusalem looked like?

There were many people walking through the streets. Families talked and laughed together as they traveled. Children played along the road. People came from many different places to worship God.

(Pause.)

The city was filled with excitement because everyone had come to worship in the Temple.

(Place the Temple on the board.)

After the celebration was over, Mary and Joseph began the trip home. They thought Jesus was traveling with family and friends.

(If using, place the traveling families.)

After traveling for a whole day, they began looking for Him.

They looked among their relatives.

They looked among their friends.

But they could not find Him.

Can you imagine how worried they must have felt?

So they turned around and hurried back to Jerusalem.

Move Mary and Joseph back toward the Temple.

For three days they searched.

Then they found Jesus...

Exactly where you would expect Him to be.

Place Jesus inside the Temple with the teachers.

Jesus was sitting with the teachers in the Temple.

He was listening carefully.

He was asking questions.

He was learning about God's Word.

The teachers were amazed by His understanding and His answers.

(Pause.)

Ask:

"What was Jesus doing in the Temple?"

Allow a few children to answer.

When Mary saw Jesus, she was relieved.

She asked,

'Why have You done this? Your father and I have been searching for You.'

Jesus answered,

'I must be about My Father's business.'

Jesus wasn't being disrespectful.

He wanted Mary and Joseph to understand that His Heavenly Father was God and that being in God's House was very important.

Jesus loved worshiping His Father.

He loved hearing God's Word.

He loved learning.

The Bible tells us something wonderful next.

Jesus returned home with Mary and Joseph.

He obeyed them.

As He grew older, Jesus continued to grow in wisdom, in strength, and in favor with God and with people.

That means Jesus kept learning, kept obeying, and kept growing.

We can do the same!

Every time we come to church...

Every time we pray...

Every time we hear God's Word...

We are growing too."

Bringing It Home

Ask:

"Where can we learn about God today?"

Allow children to answer.

Then say:

"That's right!

We learn about God at church, at home, and whenever we read the Bible.

Just like Jesus loved being in His Father's House, we can love worshiping God and learning His Word."

Let's Talk About Today's Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

Keep the discussion relaxed and encouraging. There are many good answers, and children may remember different parts of today's Bible story. Help them connect what they heard to their own lives.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today's Bible story?

Allow several children to answer.

If children need help, you might ask:

- Where did Jesus go with Mary and Joseph?
- Where did they find Jesus?
- What was Jesus doing in the Temple?
- What did Jesus say about His Father's House?

Think

Why do you think Jesus loved being in His Father's House?

Allow children to share their ideas.

Then explain:

"Jesus loved worshiping His Father, hearing God's Word, and learning more about Him. We can grow closer to God every time we come to church and listen to His Word."

Live It

What is one way you can be more like Jesus this week?

Possible answers:

- Come to church with a happy heart.
- Listen during Sunday School.
- Pray every day.
- Read the Bible with my family.
- Obey my parents.
- Be kind to others.

Transition

Say:

"Jesus loved being in His Father's House. Let's make a craft that reminds us how special God's House is."

Craft & Activity Projects

★ Craft 1 – I Love God's House Picture Frame (Featured Craft)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Cardstock picture frame
- White drawing paper
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Cross or star stickers

Before Class

- Cut the picture frames from cardstock.
- Cut white paper to fit behind each frame.
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Decorate the picture frame with crayons, markers, or stickers.
- Draw your church or your Sunday School classroom on the white paper.
- Glue the drawing behind the frame.
- Write your name on the back.
- Share your picture with the class if you would like.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus loved being in His Father's House. Every time you see your picture frame, remember that church is a special place where we worship God, hear His Word, and grow in faith."

Craft 2 – Temple Scroll

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- White paper
- Two craft sticks
- Glue or tape
- String or yarn
- Crayons or markers

Before Class

- Cut the paper to scroll size.
- Place two craft sticks at each child's seat.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Write or trace the memory phrase:
"I must be about My Father's business."
- Decorate the scroll with simple borders or small crosses.
- Glue or tape one craft stick to the top and one to the bottom.
- Roll the paper around the sticks.
- Tie the scroll with string or yarn.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus loved God's Word. We can keep learning God's Word every day."

Craft 3 – Stained Glass Temple Window

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Black construction paper window frame
- Contact paper
- Colored tissue paper
- Child-safe scissors

Before Class

- Cut window frames.
- Cut tissue paper into small squares.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Place the window frame on contact paper.
- Fill the opening with colorful tissue paper.
- Cover with another piece of contact paper.
- Trim the edges.
- Hold it up to the light.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The Temple was a beautiful place where people came to worship God. Today we worship God in our churches too."

Craft 4 – Growing Like Jesus Flower

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Flower pattern
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- Green construction paper

Before Class

- Copy the flower pattern.
- Cut flower centers if needed.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color the flower.
- On each petal write or draw:
 - Pray
 - Learn
 - Worship
 - Listen
 - Obey
 - Be Kind
- Glue the flower onto green paper.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The Bible tells us that Jesus grew in wisdom and in favor with God and people. We grow too as we follow Him."

Extended Craft 1 – Build the Temple

Moderate | 25 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Craft sticks
- Cardboard
- Glue
- Crayons or markers

Before Class

- Cut cardboard bases.
- Organize craft sticks.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Build simple Temple walls with craft sticks.
- Add a roof if desired.
- Decorate the Temple.
- Place a small paper figure of Jesus inside.
- Share your Temple with the class.

Connect to Today's Lesson

"Jesus loved being in God's House because He loved His Heavenly Father."

Extended Activity 2 – Build the Temple

Moderate | 30 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Wooden blocks
- Cardboard boxes
- Paper columns
- Brown construction paper
- Tape
- Child-safe scissors

Before Class

- Gather building materials.
- Create one simple example.

Directions

- Work together as a class.

- Build the Temple using blocks and cardboard.
- Add columns and doors.
- Place Jesus inside the Temple.
- Invite each child to explain one thing they learned from today's story.
- Take a class photo before taking the Temple apart.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus loved being in God's House. Today we built a Temple to help us remember how important it is to worship and learn about God."

Optional Bible Skit**Jesus as a Boy in the Temple**

Time: Approximately 7 Minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Mary
- Joseph
- Three Temple Teachers
- Travelers (optional)

Simple Props

- Bible
- Robes or towels
- Head coverings
- Temple sign
- Scroll

Before Class

- Choose volunteers.
- Explain there are no memorized lines.
- Walk everyone through where to stand.
- Practice once before class if possible.

The Skit

Narrator

Every year Mary and Joseph traveled to Jerusalem to worship God during the Feast of Passover.

(Mary, Joseph and Jesus walk together.)

When the celebration was over, everyone began traveling home.

(Travelers begin walking.)

Mary and Joseph thought Jesus was traveling with family and friends.

They looked...

and looked...

but they couldn't find Him.

(Mary and Joseph look around.)

They hurried back to Jerusalem.

(Mary and Joseph return.)

Finally they found Jesus...

in the Temple.

(Jesus is sitting with the teachers.)

Jesus was listening.

He was asking questions.

He was learning God's Word.

The teachers were amazed.

Mary asked,

"Jesus, why did You stay here?"

Jesus answered,

"I must be about My Father's business."

Jesus loved His Father's House.

He loved learning God's Word.

Then Jesus returned home with Mary and Joseph and obeyed them.

The End.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

Where did Mary and Joseph find Jesus?

What was Jesus doing?

Repeat together:

Jesus loved His Father's House.

Take-Home Truth

Today we learned that Jesus loved His Father's House.

When we come to church, pray, and learn God's Word, we are growing closer to Him.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for showing us how important it is to worship You and learn Your Word.

Help us love Your House.

Help us listen carefully when we hear the Bible.

Help us grow closer to You every day.

We love You.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher

Let us bless the Lord.

Children

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Take a quiet moment before leaving today.

Ask yourself:

- Did the children hear God's Word?
- Did they understand today's Big Idea?
- Is there a child I can pray for this week?

Thank God for the opportunity to teach His children and ask Him to prepare your heart for next Sunday's lesson.

Coloring Page



EPIPHANY -WEEK 3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Theme: Prepare Your Heart for Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 3:1–17 (NKJV)

Key Truth: John the Baptist prepared people to receive Jesus by calling them to turn to God and pointing them to the Savior.

Big Idea: John's job was to point people to Jesus. We can point others to Jesus by the way we live and by sharing His love.

Memory Phrase: "Prepare the way of the Lord." Matthew 3:3

Teacher Snapshot

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty	★☆☆ Easy
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Crafts	3
Activities	3

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

- John the Baptist prepared people to receive Jesus.
- John always pointed people to Jesus, not to himself.
- Jesus is God's Son and our Savior.
- We can prepare our hearts by loving, trusting, and following Jesus.

What to Avoid

- Avoid spending too much time discussing John's unusual clothing or diet. Mention it only to help children imagine the story.
- Avoid making baptism complicated for this age group. Simply explain that baptism is an outward sign of belonging to Jesus.
- Keep the focus on Jesus as the promised Savior.

Room Setup Ideas

- Place the Prayer and Scripture Table where everyone can see it.
- Position the felt or magnetic board at the front of the room.
- If possible, place blue fabric or paper across the front of the room to represent the Jordan River.
- Optional: Play soft instrumental worship music as children arrive.

Before Sunday

- Read Matthew 3:1–17.
- Pray for each child by name.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Organize today's felt or magnetic board pieces.
- Gather today's craft and activity supplies.
- Read today's Bible story aloud before class.

Supply List

Teaching Supplies

- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table
- Felt or magnetic board

Felt or Magnetic Pieces

- John the Baptist
- Jordan River
- Jesus
- Crowd of people
- Dove
- Clouds
- Trees or wilderness scenery

Additional Craft & Activity Supplies

- Construction paper
- Blue construction paper
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Cotton balls
- Craft sticks
- Brown paper lunch bags
- Yarn
- Paper plates
- Small stones (optional)

Optional Activity Supplies

- Blue fabric (Jordan River)
- Large arrow sign
- Robes or towels
- Head coverings

Opening Routine

Welcome

Welcome each child warmly.

Invite everyone to quietly prepare to hear God's Holy Word.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lord's Prayer

Pray together as a class.

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for bringing us together today.

Help us prepare our hearts to follow You.

Open our ears to hear Your Word and help us grow closer to You every day.

Thank You for loving us.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold up the Bible where everyone can see it.

Say:

"Today's lesson comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Open your Bible to **Matthew 3:1–17**.

Read **Matthew 3:1–3** and **Matthew 3:16–17** directly from the NKJV Bible.

Place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Say:

"Today we'll meet a man named John the Baptist, whose special job was to help people prepare for Jesus."

Interactive Bible Story

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Matthew 3:1–17 (NKJV)

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

- Wilderness background
- Jordan River
- John the Baptist
- Crowd of people
- Jesus
- Dove
- Clouds

Teacher Preparation

Before class:

- Place the wilderness background and Jordan River on the felt board.
- Keep John, Jesus, the crowd, the dove, and the cloud nearby until they are introduced during the story.

The Story

(Hold up the Bible.)

Say:

"Everything we're about to hear comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Smile at the children.

"After Jesus was born and began to grow, God sent a very special messenger.

His name was **John the Baptist**.

(Place John beside the Jordan River.)

John did not live in a busy city.

He lived out in the wilderness.

Can you imagine what it looked like?

There were rocky hills.

Tall grasses moved in the wind.

The sun was bright during the day, and the nights were cool.

Nearby flowed the Jordan River.

(Point to the river.)

John wore simple clothes made from camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist.

He ate simple foods that God provided.

But people didn't come to see John because of his clothes.

They came because God had given him an important message."

(Pause.)

Ask:

"What do you think John's message was?"

Allow a few responses.

"John called out to the people,

'Prepare the way of the Lord!'

He wanted everyone to get their hearts ready because Jesus, God's promised Savior, was coming.

People came from Jerusalem and from all around the countryside to hear John speak."

(Place the crowd.)

"They listened carefully.

Many people were sorry for their sins and wanted to follow God.

John baptized them in the Jordan River as a sign that they wanted to begin a new life of following God."

(Point to the river.)

"One day, someone very special came walking toward John."

(Pause.)

Move Jesus onto the felt board.

"It was Jesus.

John knew exactly who He was.

Jesus had never sinned.

He didn't need to be baptized.

John was surprised when Jesus came to him."

John said,

"I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"

But Jesus answered that this was God's plan.

So John obeyed.

He baptized Jesus in the Jordan River."

Move Jesus into the river.

"As soon as Jesus came up out of the water...

something amazing happened."

(Pause.)

"The heavens opened."

(Place the cloud.)

"The Holy Spirit came down like a dove."

(Place the dove.)

"And a voice from heaven said,

'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'"

(Pause.)

Ask quietly:

"Whose voice do you think that was?"

Allow children to answer.

"Yes...

It was God the Father.

God wanted everyone to know that Jesus is His beloved Son."

"John's job was finished.

He had done exactly what God asked him to do.

He had pointed people to Jesus.

John didn't want people to follow him.

He wanted everyone to follow Jesus."

Bringing It Home

Look around at the children.

Say:

"Today we learned that John helped people prepare for Jesus.

We can prepare our hearts too.

Every time we pray...

Every time we come to church...

Every time we read the Bible...

Every time we obey God...

We are growing closer to Jesus."

Lesson Connection

Big Idea

John pointed people to Jesus.

We can point others to Jesus by the way we live and by sharing His love.

Memory Phrase

"Prepare the way of the Lord."

Matthew 3:3

Let's Talk About Today's Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

Keep the discussion simple and encouraging. Children may remember different parts of today's Bible story. Celebrate their answers and help them discover how John always pointed people to Jesus.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today's Bible story?

Allow several children to answer.

If children need help, you might ask:

- Where did John live?
- What was John telling the people?
- Who came to see John?
- What happened after Jesus was baptized?

Think

Why do you think John wanted everyone to follow Jesus instead of following him?

Allow children to answer.

Then explain:

"John knew that Jesus is God's Son and our Savior. John's job was to help people know and follow Jesus."

Live It

How can you help point people to Jesus this week?

Possible answers:

- Be kind to others.
- Pray every day.
- Invite someone to church.
- Share God's love.
- Tell someone about Jesus.
- Obey God.

Transition

Say:

"John pointed everyone to Jesus. Now let's make something to help us remember today's Bible story."

Craft & Activity Projects

★ Craft 1 – Point the Way Arrow (Featured Craft)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Arrow pattern on cardstock
- Craft stick
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- Star stickers (optional)

Before Class

- Copy and cut out the arrow patterns.
- Print the words:
Prepare the Way of the Lord
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Color the arrow.
- Decorate it with stars or simple designs.
- Glue the arrow onto a craft stick.
- Turn it over and write your name on the back.
- Hold up your arrow and point it toward the cross or Bible in the classroom.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"John pointed people to Jesus. We can point people to Jesus by the way we live and by sharing His love."

Craft 2 – John the Baptist Paper Puppet

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Brown paper lunch bag
- John the Baptist pattern
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- Yarn

Before Class

- Copy and cut out the puppet pieces.
- Cut short pieces of yarn for hair.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color John's face and clothing.
- Glue the face onto the flap of the paper bag.
- Glue the clothing below the flap.
- Add yarn for hair.
- Use the puppet to tell someone today's Bible story.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"John's job was to tell everyone about Jesus. Our words can help others learn about Jesus too."

Craft 3 – Dove of Peace

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- White dove pattern
- Cotton balls
- Glue stick
- Blue construction paper
- Crayons

Before Class

- Copy the dove pattern.
- Cut blue construction paper.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color the dove's beak and eye.
- Glue the dove onto the blue paper.
- Add cotton balls for soft clouds.
- Write:
This is My beloved Son.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The Holy Spirit came down like a dove to show everyone that Jesus is God's beloved Son."

Activity 1 – Follow John

Easy | 10–15 minutes | No cleanup

Materials

- None

Before Class

- Clear a safe space for children to move.

Directions

- Ask the children to stand.
- Explain that they will follow you just as the people followed John.
- Walk around the room while the children follow.
- Stop and point toward the Bible.
- Say together:
"Follow Jesus!"
- Repeat several times using different directions.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"John didn't want people to follow him forever. He wanted everyone to follow Jesus."

Extended Activity 1 – Build the Jordan River

Moderate | 25–30 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Blue fabric or paper
- Blocks
- Stones
- Paper trees
- John and Jesus figures

Before Class

- Gather all building materials.
- Prepare one simple example.

Directions

- Spread the blue fabric across the floor.
- Use blocks and stones to build the riverbanks.
- Add paper trees.
- Place John beside the river.
- Place Jesus in the river.
- Invite children to retell today's Bible story using the scene.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"John prepared the way for Jesus. Today we built the place where that happened."

Extended Activity 2 – Prepare the Path Relay

Easy | 20–25 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Cones or chairs
- Large paper footprints
- Arrow signs
- Bible

Before Class

- Create a simple winding path through the classroom.
- Place the Bible at the finish line.

Directions

- Divide the children into two teams.
- One child at a time follows the footprints.
- At each arrow, stop and say:
"Prepare the way of the Lord!"
- Continue to the Bible.
- Touch the Bible, then return and tag the next teammate.
- After everyone finishes, gather around the Bible and repeat the memory phrase together.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"John prepared the way for Jesus. Every day we can prepare our hearts by following Him."

Optional Bible Skit

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Time: Approximately 7 minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- John the Baptist
- Jesus
- Two or three people from the crowd
- Voice of God (teacher or narrator)

Simple Props

- Robes or towels
- Brown rope or belt
- Bible
- Blue cloth (Jordan River)
- White paper dove
- Large arrow sign reading:
Prepare the Way of the Lord

Before Class

- Choose volunteers.
- Explain there are no memorized lines.
- Walk through each scene once before beginning.
- Encourage children to speak loudly and smile.

The Skit

Narrator

God sent a special messenger named John.

John lived in the wilderness.

He had an important job.

(John walks to the front.)

John said,

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

(Point the arrow toward Jesus.)

People came from everywhere to hear John.

(The crowd gathers.)

John told everyone,

"Get your hearts ready because Jesus is coming."

The people listened.

Then one day...

Jesus came to the Jordan River.

(Jesus walks forward.)

John recognized Him.

John said,

"I should be baptized by You."

But Jesus said,

"This is God's plan."

John baptized Jesus.

(Jesus stands beside the blue cloth.)

Then something wonderful happened.

(Hold up the dove.)

The Holy Spirit came down like a dove.

The teacher says in a strong voice:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Everyone points toward Jesus.

John smiles and says,

"Follow Jesus!"

Everyone repeats:

"Follow Jesus!"

The End.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

- Who did John tell everyone to follow?
- Who said, "This is My beloved Son"?
- How can we point people to Jesus?

Repeat together:

"Prepare the way of the Lord!"

Take-Home Truth

John the Baptist helped people prepare for Jesus.

We can prepare our hearts by loving, trusting, and following Jesus every day.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for sending John to prepare the way for You.

Help us prepare our hearts by praying, worshiping, reading Your Word, and following You every day.

Help us point others to You through our words and our actions.

We love You.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher

Let us bless the Lord.

Children

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Before you leave today, take a quiet moment to thank God for the children He placed in your care.

Reflect on today's lesson.

- Did the children understand that John pointed people to Jesus?
- What part of today's lesson seemed to capture their attention?

- Is there a child you can pray for this week?

Ask God to continue preparing your own heart as you prepare to teach again next Sunday.

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EPIPHANY - Week 4

The Wedding at Cana

Theme: Jesus Cares About Our Everyday Lives

Scripture: John 2:1–11 (NKJV)

Key Truth: Jesus performed His first miracle at a wedding in Cana, showing His love, His power, and His glory.

Big Idea: Jesus cares about the needs of people and has the power to do wonderful things.

Memory Phrase:

"Whatever He says to you, do it." John 2:5

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty	★☆☆ Easy
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Crafts	3
Activities	3

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

Jesus cared about the people at the wedding.

Jesus' first miracle showed His power and glory.

Mary trusted Jesus completely.

The servants obeyed Jesus, even when they did not understand.

We can trust and obey Jesus every day.

What to Avoid

Avoid making the lesson about the wedding feast itself.

Avoid lengthy discussions about wine or wedding customs.

Keep the focus on Jesus, His miracle, and the importance of trusting and obeying Him.

Room Setup Ideas

Cover the Prayer and Scripture Table with a white cloth if available.

Place six empty containers or jars near the felt board to represent the waterpots.

Position the felt or magnetic board where every child can see it.

Optional: Play soft instrumental music as children arrive.

Before Sunday

Read John 2:1–11.

Pray for each child by name.

Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Organize today's felt or magnetic board pieces.

Gather today's craft and activity supplies.

Read today's Bible story aloud before class.

Supply List

Teaching Supplies

NKJV Bible

1928 Book of Common Prayer

Prayer and Scripture Table

Felt or magnetic board

Felt or Magnetic Pieces

Jesus

Mary

Wedding guests

Servants

Six water jars

Wedding table

Additional Craft & Activity Supplies

Cardstock

Construction paper

Blue tissue paper

Crayons

Washable markers

Glue sticks

Child-safe scissors

Craft sticks

Paper cups

Ribbon

Star stickers

Clear plastic cups (optional)

Optional Activity Supplies

Six empty pitchers or containers

Blue fabric

Plastic goblets or cups

Wedding table decorations (optional)

Opening Routine

Welcome

Welcome each child with a smile.

Invite everyone to quietly prepare to hear God's Holy Word.

- Pledge of Allegiance
Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Lord's Prayer
Pray together as a class.
- Opening Prayer
Dear Jesus,
Thank You for bringing us together today.
Help us listen carefully to Your Holy Word.

Teach us to trust You and obey You, just as the servants did at the wedding in Cana.

Help us remember that You care about us every day.

Thank You for loving us.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold your Bible where everyone can see it.

Say:

"Today's lesson comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Open your Bible to John 2:1–11.

Read John 2:1–5 and John 2:9–11 directly from the NKJV Bible.

Place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Say:

"Today we'll learn about the very first miracle Jesus performed and what it teaches us about trusting Him."

Interactive Bible Story

The Wedding at Cana

John 2:1–11 (NKJV)

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

Wedding table

Jesus

Mary

Wedding guests

Servants

Six water jars

Teacher Preparation

Before class:

Place the wedding table on the felt board.

Keep Jesus, Mary, the servants, guests, and water jars nearby until they are introduced during the story.

The Story

(Hold up the Bible.)

Say:

"Everything we're about to hear comes from God's Holy Word, the Bible."

Smile at the children.

"Have you ever been to a wedding?"

(Pause.)

A wedding is a happy celebration where family and friends gather together.

Long ago, Jesus was invited to a wedding in a town called Cana."

(Place Jesus and Mary.)

"Jesus' mother, Mary, was there too.

Many guests came to celebrate with the bride and groom."

(Add the wedding guests.)

"There was laughter.

People talked together.

Everyone was enjoying the celebration.

Then something unexpected happened."

(Pause.)

"The family ran out of wine.

In Bible times, this would have been very embarrassing for the family hosting the wedding."

Mary noticed the problem.

She went to Jesus because she trusted Him.

She didn't tell Jesus what to do.

She simply brought the problem to Him.

Then Mary turned to the servants and said,

'Whatever He says to you, do it.'

(Pause.)

Ask:

"Do you think the servants listened?"

Allow children to answer.

"The servants trusted Jesus.

Nearby were six large stone water jars."

(Add the jars.)

"Jesus said,

'Fill the waterpots with water.'

The servants filled every jar all the way to the top.

Imagine carrying heavy buckets of water over and over until every jar was completely full!

They didn't understand why Jesus asked them to do this...

But they obeyed."

(Pause.)

"Then Jesus said,

'Now take some to the master of the feast.'

The servants obeyed again.

When the master tasted it...

Something amazing had happened.

The water had become wine!

This was Jesus' very first miracle."

(Pause.)

"The master of the feast smiled.

The celebration could continue.

Everyone was amazed."

"The Bible tells us something very important."

(Pause.)

"This miracle showed Jesus' glory.

His disciples believed in Him even more."

Bringing It Home

Look around at the children.

Say:

"Today we learned that Jesus cared about the people at the wedding.

He cared about their problem.

Jesus cares about our lives too.

When we have problems...

When we're happy...

When we're worried...

We can always bring everything to Jesus.

And just like the servants...

We can trust Him and obey Him."

Lesson Connection

Big Idea

Jesus cares about our everyday lives and asks us to trust and obey Him.

Memory Phrase

"Whatever He says to you, do it."

John 2:5

Let's Talk About Today's Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

Keep the discussion positive and encouraging. Help children understand that Jesus cares about our everyday lives and that we can always trust Him. There are many good answers, so celebrate each child's participation.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today's Bible story?

Allow several children to answer.

If children need a little help, you might ask:

Where was Jesus?

Who came to Jesus with a problem?

What did Jesus ask the servants to do?

What was Jesus' first miracle?

Think

Why do you think the servants obeyed Jesus, even though they didn't understand what He was doing?

Allow children to answer.

Then explain:

"Sometimes we may not understand everything God is doing, but we can always trust Him because He loves us and knows what is best."

Live It

How can you trust and obey Jesus this week?

Possible answers:

Pray every day.

Listen to my parents.

Be kind to others.

Tell the truth.

Read my Bible.

Help someone in need.

Transition

Say:

"The servants trusted Jesus and obeyed Him. Let's make something to help us remember today's Bible story."

Craft & Activity Projects**★ Craft 1 – Water Jar Keepsake (*Featured Craft*)**

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Water jar pattern printed on cardstock
- Blue tissue paper
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Silver or gold stickers (optional)

Before Class

- Copy and cut out the water jar patterns.
- Cut blue tissue paper into small squares.
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Color and decorate the outside of the water jar.
- Glue blue tissue paper inside the jar to represent the water.
- Write the memory phrase on the back:
"Whatever He says to you, do it."
- Write your name on the back.
- Share your finished jar with the class.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The servants obeyed Jesus, and He performed a wonderful miracle. We can trust and obey Jesus too."

Craft 2 – Wedding Invitation

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Folded cardstock
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers

- Glue stick

Before Class

- Fold cardstock into invitation cards.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Decorate the front of the invitation.
- Inside write:
Welcome to the Wedding at Cana
- Draw Jesus, Mary, or the wedding celebration.
- Decorate with stickers.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus enjoys being with His people. He was happy to celebrate at the wedding in Cana."

Craft 3 – Obey Jesus Heart

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Large heart pattern
- Red or pink construction paper
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick

Before Class

- Copy and cut heart patterns.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color and decorate the heart.
- Write inside:
I Can Trust Jesus
- Draw one way you can obey Jesus this week.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Mary told the servants, 'Whatever He says to you, do it.' We can choose to obey Jesus every day."

Activity 1 – Carry the Water Relay

Easy | 10–15 minutes | No cleanup

Materials

- Two plastic cups
- Two small buckets or bowls
- Blue pom-poms, paper "water drops," or crumpled blue tissue paper

Before Class

- Set up two relay lanes.
- Place one bucket at each end.

Directions

- Divide the class into two teams.
- Each child carries one "water drop" in a cup across the room.
- Carefully place it into the bucket.
- Return and hand the cup to the next teammate.
- Continue until every child participates.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The servants faithfully carried water because Jesus asked them to. Even simple acts of obedience matter to God."

Extended Activity 1 – Build the Wedding Feast Table

Moderate | 25–30 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Cardboard
- Paper plates
- Plastic cups
- Construction paper food
- Glue
- Crayons

Before Class

- Gather all materials.
- Prepare one simple example.

Directions

- Build a small banquet table using cardboard.
- Add paper plates and cups.
- Create paper bread, fruit, and other simple foods.
- Place Jesus and the wedding guests around the table.

- Invite children to retell the Bible story using the display.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus brought joy to the wedding celebration because He cared about the people there."

Extended Activity 2 – Trust and Obey Path Game

Easy | 20–25 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Large paper footprints
- Arrow signs
- Bible
- Cross

Before Class

- Place the footprints around the classroom in a winding path.
- Put the Bible and cross at the end of the path.

Directions

- Invite children to follow the footprints.
- At each arrow, stop and ask a simple question:
- "What did Mary tell the servants?"
- "What did Jesus ask them to do?"
- "Did the servants obey?"
- Continue until everyone reaches the Bible.
- Finish by saying the memory phrase together.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Following Jesus means trusting Him one step at a time."

Optional Bible Skit

The Wedding at Cana

Time: Approximately 7 minutes

Characters

Narrator

Jesus

Mary

Head Servant

Two or three Servants

Master of the Feast

Wedding Guests (optional)

Simple Props

Six empty pitchers or containers

Blue cloth or blue paper strips (to represent water)

Plastic cups or goblets

Table with white cloth (optional)

Name tag for "Master of the Feast"

Before Class

Choose volunteers for each part.

Explain there are no memorized lines.

Walk everyone through the story before beginning.

Encourage children to speak clearly and smile.

The Skit

Narrator

Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples were invited to a wedding in the town of Cana.

(Jesus, Mary, and guests gather around the table.)

Everyone was celebrating together.

Then something unexpected happened.

The family ran out of wine.

Mary knew Jesus could help.

(Mary walks to Jesus.)

Mary told the servants,

"Whatever He says to you, do it."

The servants listened carefully.

Jesus pointed to six large water jars.

(Servants stand beside the jars.)

Jesus said,

"Fill the waterpots with water."

The servants filled every jar to the top.

(Pretend to pour water.)

Then Jesus said,

"Take some to the master of the feast."

The servants obeyed.

(The Master tastes from a cup.)

He smiled with surprise!

Jesus had turned the water into wine.

Everyone was amazed.

This was Jesus' very first miracle.

His disciples believed in Him even more.

The End.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

What did Mary tell the servants?

Did the servants obey Jesus?

What was Jesus' first miracle?

Repeat together:

"Whatever He says to you, do it."

Take-Home Truth

Jesus cares about the needs of people.

We can trust Him, obey Him, and bring every part of our lives to Him.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for caring about people and showing Your love through Your first miracle.

Help us trust You even when we do not understand everything.

Help us obey You with joyful hearts.

Thank You for loving us every day.

We love You.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher

Let us bless the Lord.

Children

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Take a quiet moment before leaving today.

Reflect on today's lesson.

Did the children understand that Jesus cares about our everyday lives?

Did they remember Mary's words, "Whatever He says to you, do it."?

Which activity helped the children connect with today's Bible story?

Is there a child who may need extra encouragement or prayer this week?

Thank God for the privilege of sharing His Word, and ask Him to continue preparing your heart as you teach His children.

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EPIPHANY - Week 5

The Centurion's Servant

Theme: We Can Trust Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 8:5–13 (NKJV)

Key Truth: The centurion trusted that Jesus had the power to help his servant, even from afar.

Big Idea: We can trust Jesus because His word is powerful and He cares for us.

Memory Phrase: “Only speak a word.” Matthew 8:8

Teacher Snapshot

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty ★☆☆ Easy

Teacher Preparation 20 Minutes

Class Time 35–40 Minutes

Extended Class Up to 60 Minutes

Crafts 3

Activities 3

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

- The centurion cared deeply about his servant.
- The centurion believed Jesus could help.
- He trusted Jesus without needing Jesus to come to his house.
- Jesus was amazed by the centurion's faith.
- Jesus has authority and power.
- We can bring our needs and concerns to Jesus and trust Him.

What to Avoid

- Avoid spending too much time explaining the Roman army or military ranks.
- Avoid making the lesson primarily about illness or healing.
- Avoid suggesting that if we have enough faith, Jesus will always give us exactly what we ask for.
- Keep the focus on trusting Jesus and His authority, just as the centurion did.

Room Setup Ideas

- Place the Prayer and Scripture Table where everyone can see it.
- Position the felt or magnetic board at the front of the room.
- Place a simple paper road across the felt board to represent the road into Capernaum.
- Optional: Place a Roman-style shield near the story area as a visual introduction.

Before Sunday

- Read Matthew 8:5–13.
- Pray for each child who will attend.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Organize the felt or magnetic board pieces.
- Gather craft and activity supplies.
- Read the Interactive Bible Story aloud before class.

Teaching Supplies

- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table
- Felt or magnetic board

Felt or Magnetic Pieces

- Jesus
- Centurion
- Servant
- House
- Disciples
- Road
- People following Jesus

Additional Craft & Activity Supplies

- Cardstock
- Construction paper
- Paper plates
- Craft sticks
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Crayons or washable markers
- Yarn
- Aluminum foil (optional)
- Large paper footprints
- Index cards
- Optional Skit Supplies
- Simple robe for Jesus
- Red cloth or sash for the centurion
- Chair or mat for the servant
- Paper shield

Opening Routine

- Welcome
Welcome each child warmly.
Invite everyone to find a seat and prepare to hear God's Holy Word.
- Pledge of Allegiance
Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Lord's Prayer
Pray together as a class.
- Opening Prayer
Dear Jesus,
Thank You for bringing us together today.
Help us listen carefully to Your Holy Word.
Teach us to trust You, even when we cannot see what You are doing.
Help us remember that You love us and that Your word is powerful.
Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold up the Bible where every child can see it.

Say:

“Today’s lesson comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

Open the Bible to Matthew 8:5–13.

Read Matthew 8:5–10 and 13 directly from the NKJV Bible, or select the verses appropriate for your class’s attention span.

Place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Say:

“Today we’re going to meet a Roman centurion who trusted Jesus so completely that he believed Jesus only needed to speak.”

Interactive Bible Story

The Centurion’s Servant

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

- Jesus
- Centurion
- Servant
- House
- Disciples
- People following Jesus

Teacher Preparation

Place the house and road on the board before class.

Keep Jesus, the centurion, servant, disciples, and crowd nearby until they are introduced.

The Story

Hold up the Bible.

Say:

“Everything we’re about to hear comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

“Jesus had been teaching and helping many people.

One day, Jesus entered a town called Capernaum.”

Place Jesus on the board.

“People were beginning to hear about Jesus.

They knew He taught with authority.

They had heard about the wonderful things He could do.

In Capernaum there lived a man called a centurion.”

Place the centurion on the board.

“A centurion was an officer in the Roman army. He was used to giving instructions and having people listen to him.

But today the centurion had a problem that he could not fix himself.

Someone in his household was very sick.”

Place the servant near the house.

“The centurion cared about his servant.

He knew that Jesus could help.

So he came to Jesus.”

Move the centurion toward Jesus.

“The centurion said,

‘Lord, my servant is lying at home sick and suffering.’

Jesus listened to him.

Jesus cared.

Jesus told the centurion that He would come and heal the servant.”

Pause.

“But then the centurion said something that surprised everyone.”

Move the centurion slightly closer to Jesus.

“He said,

‘Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word...’

The centurion believed Jesus did not even have to come to his house.

He believed Jesus only had to speak.”

Pause.

Ask:

“Did the centurion trust Jesus?”

Allow the children to answer.

“Yes!

He trusted Jesus completely.”

“The centurion understood something about authority.

He told Jesus that when he gave an order to one of his soldiers, the soldier obeyed.

If he said,

‘Go!’

the soldier went.

If he said,

‘Come!’

the soldier came.

The centurion believed Jesus had even greater authority.

He believed Jesus had the power to help his servant simply by speaking.”

Pause.

“Jesus was amazed by the centurion’s faith.”

Point to Jesus.

“Jesus turned to the people following Him and told them that He had not found faith like this in Israel.

Then Jesus said to the centurion,

‘Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.’

The centurion trusted Jesus and went home.”

Move the centurion toward the house.

“And when he returned...

his servant was well.”

Move the servant upright.

“The Bible tells us the servant was healed at that very hour.

Jesus did not have to stand beside him.

Jesus did not have to touch him.

Jesus simply spoke.

And the centurion believed.”

Bringing It Home

Say:

“The centurion had a problem he could not fix.

So what did he do?

He went to Jesus.

And when Jesus spoke, the centurion trusted Him.

Sometimes we have things we cannot fix too.

Maybe we are worried.

Maybe someone we love needs help.

Maybe we are afraid.

Maybe we simply do not know what to do.

We can always bring those things to Jesus in prayer.

We may not always know how Jesus will answer us.

But we can always know something very important:

Jesus loves us, Jesus hears us, and we can trust Him.”

Lesson Connection

Big Idea:

We can trust Jesus because His word is powerful and He cares for us.

Memory Phrase:

“Only speak a word.”

Let’s Talk About Today’s Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

This story provides an opportunity to talk about faith without making faith complicated. For young children, keep it simple:

Faith means trusting Jesus.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today’s Bible story?

If children need help:

Who came to Jesus?

Who needed help?

Did the centurion believe Jesus had to come to his house?

What happened to the servant?

Think

Why was Jesus amazed by the centurion?

Explain simply:

“The centurion trusted Jesus completely. He believed Jesus had the power to help simply by speaking.”

Live It

What can you talk to Jesus about this week?

Allow children to answer freely.

Say:

“We can talk to Jesus about anything because He loves us and hears our prayers.”

Transition

Say:

“The centurion trusted the words of Jesus. Let’s make something that will help us remember that we can trust Jesus too.”

Craft & Activity Projects

★ Craft 1 – Shield of Faith (*Featured Craft*)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Shield pattern on cardstock
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- Construction paper
- Aluminum foil or stickers (optional)
- Craft stick

Before Class

- Copy and cut out one shield for each child.
- Cut construction paper decorations if desired.
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Color and decorate the shield.
- Write across the center:
I CAN TRUST JESUS
- Add a cross to the shield.
- Decorate with paper, stickers, or small pieces of foil.
- Glue a craft stick to the back as a handle.
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

“The centurion was a soldier who understood authority, but he knew Jesus had greater authority. His faith was in Jesus.”

Craft 2 – “Only Speak a Word” Door Hanger

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Cardstock door-hanger pattern
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers
- Yarn (optional)

Before Class

- Copy and cut the door hangers.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Color the door hanger.
- Write or trace:
ONLY SPEAK A WORD
- Add underneath:
I TRUST JESUS
- Decorate with crosses, hearts, or stars.
- Write your name on the back.
- Take it home and hang it on your bedroom door.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The centurion knew Jesus did not have to come into his house. He trusted the word of Jesus."

Craft 3 – Centurion's Helmet

Moderate | 20 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Paper plate
- Cardstock strips
- Crayons or markers
- Glue or tape
- Red construction paper

Before Class

- Cut paper plates in half.
- Cut red paper into strips for the helmet crest.
- Prepare cardstock headbands.
- Make one sample.

Directions

- Color the half paper plate.
- Decorate it like a Roman helmet.
- Glue or tape red paper strips along the top.
- Attach the helmet to a cardstock headband.
- Adjust the band to fit the child.
- Write the child's name inside.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"The centurion was an important Roman soldier, but he knew that Jesus had far greater authority and power."

Activity 1 – Faith Steps

Easy | 10–15 minutes | No cleanup

Materials

- Large paper footprints
- Bible
- Cross

Before Class

- Place the footprints around the room, creating a simple path ending at the Bible and cross.

Directions

- Have the children line up.
- Let them follow the footprints one at a time.
- At each footprint, everyone says:
“I can trust Jesus.”
- At the final footprint, the child touches the Bible.
- Continue until everyone has completed the path.
- Finish by repeating the memory phrase together:
“Only speak a word.”

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Faith means trusting Jesus one step at a time.”

Extended Activity 1 – Centurion Says

Easy | 15–20 minutes | No cleanup

This activity is played much like “Simon Says” and helps children understand the centurion’s explanation of authority.

Materials

- None.

Before Class

- Clear a safe space for movement.

Directions

- Explain that a centurion gave instructions to soldiers.
- The teacher becomes the centurion.
- Children follow only commands beginning with:
“Centurion says...”
- Try simple directions:
- Touch your head.
- Take two steps.

- Turn around.
- Sit down.
- Stand up.
- March in place.
- After several rounds, gather everyone together.

Ask:

“What happened when the centurion gave an order?”

The children obeyed.

Then say:

“The centurion understood authority. He knew Jesus had even greater authority. That is why he trusted Jesus’ word.”

Extended Activity 2 – Bring It to Jesus Prayer Activity

Easy | 20–25 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Paper hearts
- Crayons or markers
- Small basket
- Bible
- Prayer and Scripture Table

Before Class

- Cut several paper hearts.
- Place a basket beside the Bible.

Directions

- Give each child a paper heart.
- Ask children to think of something they would like to talk to Jesus about.
- Younger children may draw a picture.
- Older children may write a word or short prayer.
- Children do not have to share what they wrote.

Invite each child to place the heart in the basket beside the Bible.

Gather around the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Pray together.

Say:

“The centurion brought his concern to Jesus. We can bring our concerns to Jesus too.”

Remind the children:

“We trust Jesus to hear us and to answer according to His loving will.”

Optional Bible Skit

The Centurion Trusts Jesus

Time: Approximately 7 Minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Centurion
- Servant
- Two disciples
- Two soldiers (optional)

Simple Props

Robe for Jesus

Red sash for the centurion

Paper shield

Chair or mat

Simple blanket

Before Class

Choose the characters.

Explain that no lines need to be memorized.

Show everyone where to stand.

Practice the movements once.

The Skit

Narrator

Jesus came into the town of Capernaum.

(Jesus and disciples walk forward.)

A Roman centurion came to Jesus.

(Centurion approaches.)

The centurion was worried about his servant, who was very sick.

(Servant lies on the mat.)

The centurion said,

Centurion:

“Lord, my servant is sick.”

Narrator

Jesus told him He would come and help.

But the centurion trusted Jesus so much that he said:

Centurion:

“Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word.”

Narrator

The centurion explained that he understood authority.

He could tell a soldier:

Centurion:

“Go!”

(A soldier walks away.)

Centurion:

“Come!”

(The soldier returns.)

Narrator

The centurion believed Jesus had even greater authority.

Jesus was amazed by his faith.

Jesus told him:

Jesus:

“Go your way. As you have believed, so let it be done for you.”

Narrator

The centurion went home.

(Centurion walks toward the servant.)

And his servant was well!

(The servant stands.)

The centurion had trusted Jesus.

And Jesus had only needed to speak.

The End

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

“Why was Jesus amazed by the centurion?”

Then repeat together:

“I can trust Jesus.”

Take-Home Truth

The centurion trusted Jesus even when he could not see what Jesus was doing.

We can trust Jesus too.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for loving us and listening when we pray.

Help us trust You like the centurion did.

When we are worried, help us come to You.

When we do not understand, help us remember that You are with us.

Help us listen to Your Word and follow You every day.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher:

Let us bless the Lord.

Children:

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Take a quiet moment before leaving today.

Did the children understand that faith means trusting Jesus?

What part of today's story or activities connected with them most?

Is there a child who needs your prayers this week?

Thank God for each child He brought to your class and ask Him to help the truths they heard today continue to grow in their hearts.

Teacher's Lesson Goal

If the children leave remembering one truth today, let it be:

I can trust Jesus, even when I cannot see what He is doing.

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EPIPHANY – Week 6

Theme - The Parable of the Good Seed

Let God's Word Grow in Your Heart

Scripture - Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 (NKJV)

Key Truth - Jesus taught that God's Word is like a seed. When we listen, receive His Word, and follow Him, it can grow and bear good fruit in our lives.

Big Idea - God plants His Word in our hearts, and we can help it grow by listening, learning, and following Jesus.

Memory Phrase - "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" Matthew 13:9

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty	★☆☆ Easy
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Crafts	3
Activities	3

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

- Jesus often used simple stories called parables to teach important truths.
- The seed represents God's Word.
- The different soils show different ways people can respond to God's Word.
- Good soil receives the seed and allows it to grow.
- We want to listen to God's Word and let it grow in our hearts.
- Growing in faith takes time, just as a seed takes time to grow.

What to Avoid

- Avoid complicated explanations of every detail of the parable.
- Avoid labeling individual children as one particular kind of soil.
- Avoid making children anxious about whether they are “good soil.”
- Keep the emphasis positive: listen, receive, grow, and follow Jesus.

Room Setup Ideas

- Place the Prayer and Scripture Table where everyone can see it.
- Position the felt or magnetic board at the front.
- Display a small pot, soil, and packet of seeds near the Bible.
- If possible, bring a small living plant for children to see.
- Optional: Place four small trays representing the four kinds of ground near the story area.

Before Sunday

- Read Matthew 13:1–9 and 18–23.
- Pray for each child who will attend.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Organize the felt or magnetic board pieces.
- Gather craft and activity supplies.
- Prepare the soil and seeds if using the planting activity.
- Read the Interactive Bible Story aloud before class.

Supply List

- Teaching Supplies
- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table
- Felt or magnetic board
- Small plant or packet of seeds (optional)

Felt or Magnetic Pieces

- Jesus
- Crowd
- Farmer/Sower
- Seeds
- Path
- Birds
- Rocky ground
- Thorns

- Good soil
- Growing plants

Additional Craft & Activity Supplies

- Construction paper
- Cardstock
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Crayons or washable markers
- Craft sticks
- Small paper cups
- Potting soil
- Fast-growing seeds
- Cotton balls or small paper “rocks”
- Brown and green paper
- Yarn
- Paper plates

Optional Skit Supplies

- Small bag or basket
- Large paper seeds
- Paper or fabric birds
- Paper rocks
- Artificial vines or green paper strips
- Green plants or paper flowers

Opening Routine

- Welcome

Welcome each child warmly.

Invite everyone to find a seat and prepare to hear God’s Holy Word.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lord’s Prayer

Pray together as a class.

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for bringing us together today.

Open our ears to hear Your Word.

Open our hearts to receive it.

*Help Your Word grow in us so that we can love You and follow You every day.
Amen.*

Holy Scripture

Hold up the Bible where every child can see it.

Say:

“Today’s lesson comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

Open the Bible to Matthew 13.

Read Matthew 13:3–9 directly from the NKJV Bible.

Place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Hold up a seed if you have one.

Say:

“Jesus used something very small—a seed—to teach us something very important about God’s Word.”

Interactive Bible Story

The Parable of the Good Seed

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

- Jesus
- Crowd
- Farmer
- Seeds
- Path
- Birds
- Rocky ground
- Thorns
- Good soil
- Growing plants

Teacher Preparation

Place Jesus and the crowd to one side of the board.

Prepare four areas for the path, rocky ground, thorny ground, and good soil.

Keep the farmer, seeds, birds, and growing plants nearby.

The Story

Hold up the Bible.

Say:

“Everything we’re about to hear comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

“One day, a large crowd gathered around Jesus.”

Place Jesus and the crowd on the board.

“So many people wanted to hear Him that Jesus got into a boat and sat down while the people stood along the shore.

Jesus began teaching them using a special kind of story called a parable.

A parable is a simple story that teaches us something important about God.”

Pause.

“Jesus told them about a farmer.”

Place the farmer on the board.

“The farmer went out into his field carrying seeds.

Can you pretend to hold a handful of seeds?”

Let the children cup their hands.

“The farmer began scattering the seeds.”

Pretend to scatter seed.

“Some seeds fell beside the road on the hard ground.”

Place several seeds on the path.

“The ground was so hard that the seeds could not sink into the soil.

Then birds flew down...”

Add the birds.

“...and ate the seeds.”

Let the children gently flap their arms like birds.

“The farmer kept walking.

He scattered more seed.”

Pretend to scatter again.

“Some seeds landed on rocky ground.”

Place seeds among the rocks.

“There was a little soil there, so the plants began growing quickly.”

Add a small plant.

“But underneath were lots of rocks.

The plants could not grow deep roots.

When the hot sun came out...”

Have the children make a large circle above their heads for the sun.

“...the little plants dried up.”

Remove or bend the plant.

“The farmer kept going.”

Move the farmer.

“He scattered more seed.

This time, some fell among thorns.”

Place the seeds and thorns.

“The seeds began growing.

But the thorns grew too.

They crowded around the little plants.”

Bring the thorn pieces around them.

“The plants could not grow the way they should.”

Pause.

“But the farmer still had more seed.”

Hold up your hand as though holding seed.

“He scattered it again.

And this time...”

Place seeds on the good soil.

“...the seed landed on good soil.”

Pause.

“The soil was soft.

The seed could sink down into it.

Roots began growing underneath.”

Use your fingers to point downward.

“Then a little green shoot pushed up toward the sunshine.”

Place a small plant.

“It grew...

and grew...”

Replace it with a larger plant if available.

“...until it became a strong, healthy plant that produced much more.”

Add several plants or seeds.

“The seed had found good soil.”

Pause.

“But Jesus wasn’t really giving the people a farming lesson.

He was teaching them about God’s Word.”

Point toward the Bible.

“The seed is like God’s Word.

We hear God’s Word when the Bible is read.

We hear it at church.

We learn it in Sunday School.

And we can hear it when our families read the Bible together.”

Hold up the Bible.

“Sometimes people hear God’s Word but do not listen.

Sometimes they become excited for a little while but quickly forget.

Sometimes other things become so important that there seems to be no room left for God’s Word.

But Jesus tells us about another way.”

Point to the good soil.

“We can listen.

We can learn.

We can remember.

And we can follow Jesus.”

Pause.

“When we receive God’s Word and allow it to grow in our hearts, something begins to happen.

We grow too.

We learn to love God.

We learn to pray.

We learn to forgive.

We learn to be kind.

We learn to follow Jesus.”

Point to the growing plant.

“A tiny seed can grow into something wonderful.

And God’s Word can grow in us throughout our whole lives.”

Bringing It Home

Hold up the Bible again.

Say:

“Every Sunday when you come to Sunday School, we open this Bible.

Why?”

Allow answers.

“Because this is God’s Holy Word.

We don’t just want to hear it and forget it.

We want to listen to it.

Learn it.

Remember it.

And live it.”

Have the children place their hands over their hearts.

Say together:

“Let God’s Word grow in my heart.”

Lesson Connection

Big Idea:

God plants His Word in our hearts, and we can help it grow by listening, learning, and following Jesus.

Memory Phrase:

“He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

Let’s Talk About Today’s Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

This is not a quiz. Children will remember different things, especially if they have heard this parable before. Let them tell you what stood out to them.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today's Bible story?

If children need help:

What did the farmer scatter?

Where did the seeds land?

Which seeds grew best?

What did Jesus say the seed helps us understand?

Think

What does the seed remind us of?

Help children answer:

"God's Word."

Live It

What can you do to help God's Word grow in your heart?

Possible answers:

Listen when the Bible is read.

Come to church.

Pray.

Learn Bible stories.

Remember what Jesus teaches.

Follow Jesus.

Transition

Say:

"Jesus said God's Word is like a seed. Let's use our hands and our imaginations to help us remember what happens when a seed is planted in good soil."

Craft & Activity Projects

Craft 1 – God's Word Grows in Me (*Featured Craft*)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Flowerpot pattern on cardstock
- Green construction paper
- Colored construction paper
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers
- Craft stick

Before Class

- Copy and cut out the flowerpot patterns.
- Cut green stems and several simple flower shapes.
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Color and decorate the flowerpot.
- Write on the pot:
GOD’S WORD GROWS IN ME
- Glue a green stem behind the pot.
- Glue a flower to the top of the stem.
- On the flower petals, write or draw ways we grow with Jesus:
Pray – Listen – Learn – Love – Follow
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Just as a seed grows when it is planted in good soil, God’s Word can grow in our hearts as we listen, learn, and follow Jesus.”

Craft 2 – Four Soils Wheel

Moderate | 20 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Two paper plates
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick
- Child-safe scissors
- Paper fastener/brad
- Small bird, rock, thorn, and plant pictures

Before Class

- Divide the bottom plate into four sections.
- Cut a viewing window in the top plate.
- Prepare the small pictures.
- Make one finished sample.

Directions

- Color the four sections of the bottom plate.
- Add a bird to the hard path.
- Add rocks to the rocky ground.
- Add thorns to the thorny ground.
- Add a healthy plant to the good soil.
- Place the top plate over the bottom plate.

- Attach the plates in the center with a paper fastener.
- Turn the wheel to see each part of Jesus' parable.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Jesus used four kinds of ground to help us understand different ways people can respond to God's Word."

Craft 3 – Good Soil Garden Cup

Easy | 15–20 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Small paper or biodegradable cup
- Potting soil
- Fast-growing seeds
- Craft stick
- Small cardstock label
- Crayons or markers
- Spoon

Before Class

- Put soil into a container children can reach.
- Place seeds in small cups or bowls.
- Cover the work area.
- Prepare one planted sample.

Directions

- Write your name on your cup.
- Spoon soil into the cup.
- Make a small hole in the soil.
- Place the seed into the hole.
- Gently cover the seed with soil.
- Add a small amount of water.
- Decorate a cardstock label.
- Write:
LET GOD'S WORD GROW
- Attach the label to a craft stick and place it in the soil.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

"Take care of your seed at home. As you watch it grow, remember to keep listening to God's Word and growing with Jesus."

Activity 1 – Be the Growing Seed

Easy | 10 minutes | No cleanup

Materials

- None.

Before Class

- Clear a safe area for movement.

Directions

- Tell the children:
- “Let’s pretend we are seeds!”
- Crouch down very small like a seed in the soil.
- Pretend rain is falling.
- Slowly begin to rise.
- Stretch your arms upward like a little plant.
- Grow taller toward the sunshine.
- Spread your arms like leaves.
- Stand tall like a healthy plant.
- Repeat once if the children enjoy it.
- Finish by saying together:
- “Let God’s Word grow in my heart!”

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Plants need good soil, water, and sunshine to grow. We grow in faith as we hear God’s Word, pray, worship, and follow Jesus.”

Extended Activity 1 – Four Soils Discovery

Easy | 20–25 minutes | Medium cleanup

Materials

- Four shallow trays
- Hard cardboard or packed soil
- Rocks
- Soil with paper vines or twigs
- Soft potting soil
- Large dried beans or paper seeds
- Small artificial or paper plant

Before Class

- Prepare four stations:
- Hard Path
- Rocky Ground
- Thorny Ground

- Good Soil

Directions

- Visit each station together.
- Let children gently touch or examine each kind of ground.
- Drop a “seed” onto the hard path.
- Place one among the rocks.
- Place one among the thorns.
- Press one gently into the good soil.
- Ask what might happen to each seed.
- Finish at the good-soil station.
- Place the growing plant there.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Jesus used things people could see and understand to teach them about God. The good soil reminds us to receive His Word and let it grow in our lives.”

Extended Activity 2 – Seed to Fruit Matching Game

Easy | 20 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Prepare matching picture cards showing:
- Seed → Plant
- Bible → Learning
- Prayer → Growing Closer to God
- Helping Hands → Kindness
- Heart → Love
- Cross → Following Jesus

Before Class

- Prepare and mix the matching cards.
- Place them face down or around the room.

Directions

- Let children take turns choosing two cards.
- Help them find the pairs that belong together.
- When a pair is found, briefly talk about the connection.
- Place each completed pair near the Bible.
- Continue until all pairs have been found.
- At the end ask:
- “What helps our faith grow?”
- Let children answer.

Connect to Today's Lesson

Say:

“When God’s Word grows in our hearts, it begins to show in the way we live.”

Optional Bible Skit

The Farmer and the Seeds

Time: Approximately 7 Minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Farmer
- Two Birds
- Sun
- Two Thorns
- Several Growing Plants

Children can play more than one part if the class is small.

Simple Props

- Bag or basket
- Large paper seeds
- Paper bird wings
- Paper rocks
- Green paper strips or vines
- Large paper sun
- Green leaves or flowers

Before Class

- Choose volunteers.
- Place four areas around the room for the four kinds of soil.
- Explain that there are very few spoken lines.
- Practice the movements once.

The Skit

Narrator

One day Jesus told the people a story about a farmer.

(Jesus sits to one side. Farmer enters carrying seeds.)

The farmer went out to scatter seed.

(Farmer pretends to scatter seeds.)

Some seed fell beside the road.

(Place seeds on the first area.)

The ground was hard.

Then the birds came!

(Birds flap over and collect the seeds.)

Some seed fell on rocky ground.

(Place seeds near the rocks.)

The plants began to grow.

(Children begin crouched and rise.)

But their roots could not grow deep.

Then the hot sun came out.

(Sun holds up the sun.)

The little plants dried up.

(Plants slowly crouch down.)

Some seed fell among thorns.

(Scatter seed.)

The plants started growing.

But so did the thorns!

(Thorns gently surround the plants.)

The thorns crowded them.

But some seed fell on...

GOOD SOIL!

(Scatter seed onto the last area.)

The seeds grew roots.

The plants pushed through the ground.

(Children slowly stand.)

They grew taller...

and taller...

and taller!

(Children stretch upward.)

And they produced much fruit.

Narrator

Then Jesus explained that the seed is like...

Pause for the children.

God's Word!

Everyone points toward the Bible.

All Together

"Let God's Word grow in my heart!"

The End

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

What did the farmer scatter?

Which seed grew best?

What does the seed remind us of?

Finish together:

"God's Word grows in me!"

Take-Home Truth

God's Word is like a seed.

When we listen, learn, remember, and follow Jesus, God's Word can grow in our hearts and show in the way we live.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving us Your Holy Word.

Help us listen when the Bible is read.

Help us remember what You teach us.

Plant Your Word deep in our hearts and help our faith grow stronger every day.

Help us show Your love through the way we live.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher:

Let us bless the Lord.

Children:

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Take a quiet moment before leaving today.

Did the children understand that the seed represents God's Word?

What part of today's lesson helped them understand the parable best?

Did you notice a child who may need additional encouragement or prayer?

Thank God for allowing you to plant His Word in the lives of His children.

Remember: you may not always see the growth immediately. Seeds take time.

Trust God to continue the work He has begun.

Teacher's Lesson Goal

If the children leave remembering one truth today, let it be:

God's Word can grow in my heart.

COLORING PAGE



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EPIPHANY – WEEK 7

Jesus Warns About False Prophets

Theme- Jesus Helps Us Know What Is True

Scripture - Matthew 7:15–20 (NKJV)

Key Truth - Jesus warned that not everyone who speaks about God teaches what is true. He told us to look at the “fruit” a person’s life produces.

Big Idea - God’s Word teaches us what is true, and people who truly follow Jesus should show good fruit in the way they live.

Memory Phrase - “By their fruits you will know them.” -Matthew 7:20

Teacher Snapshot

Difficulty	★★☆ Moderate
Teacher Preparation	20 Minutes
Class Time	35–40 Minutes
Extended Class	Up to 60 Minutes
Crafts	3
Activities	3

Teacher Preparation Notes

What to Stress

- Jesus wants us to know and follow what is true.
- God’s Holy Word helps us recognize truth.
- Jesus said a tree is known by the fruit it produces.
- A person following Jesus should increasingly show love, kindness, honesty, obedience, and care for others.
- We should listen carefully to trusted adults who faithfully teach God’s Word.
- Jesus is our Good Shepherd, and we can trust Him.

What to Avoid

- Avoid frightening children with detailed explanations of false prophets.
- Avoid encouraging children to judge or label specific people as “good” or “bad.”
- Avoid suggesting that Christians never make mistakes.
- Keep the focus on God’s truth, God’s Word, and the good fruit that grows from following Jesus.

Room Setup Ideas

- Place the Bible prominently on the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Position the felt or magnetic board where everyone can see it.
- Bring one piece of healthy fruit, such as an apple or orange, as a simple visual.
- Optional: Display a small branch with leaves or a picture of a fruit tree.
- Keep the classroom calm and uncluttered for this quieter teaching lesson.

Before Sunday

- Read Matthew 7:15–20.
- Pray for each child who will attend.
- Prepare the Prayer and Scripture Table.
- Organize the felt or magnetic pieces.
- Gather craft and activity supplies.
- Read the Interactive Bible Story aloud before class.

Supply List

- Teaching Supplies
- NKJV Bible
- 1928 Book of Common Prayer
- Prayer and Scripture Table

Felt or magnetic board

- Piece of fresh fruit or picture of fruit tree
- Felt or Magnetic Pieces
- Jesus
- Crowd
- Healthy tree
- Healthy fruit
- Unhealthy tree
- Bad or damaged fruit
- Bible

- Optional sheep and wolf pieces

Additional Craft & Activity Supplies

- Construction paper
- Cardstock
- Paper plates
- Glue sticks
- Child-safe scissors
- Crayons or washable markers
- Craft sticks
- Green and brown paper
- Fruit cutouts
- Small paper baskets or envelopes
- Yarn
- Index cards
- Optional Skit Supplies
- Bible
- Two simple tree signs
- Paper fruit
- Basket
- Optional sheep ears/headband and wolf ears/headband

Opening Routine

- Welcome

Welcome each child warmly.

Invite everyone to find a seat and prepare to hear God's Holy Word.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead the class in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Lord's Prayer

Pray together as a class.

Opening Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for bringing us together today.

Help us listen carefully to Your Holy Word.

Teach us what is true.

Help us follow You and show Your love through the way we live.

Keep our hearts close to You.

Amen.

Holy Scripture

Hold up the Bible where every child can see it.

Say:

“Today’s lesson comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

Open the Bible to Matthew 7:15–20.

Read the passage directly from the NKJV Bible.

Place the Bible on the Prayer and Scripture Table.

Hold up the piece of fruit, if using.

Say:

“Jesus used trees and fruit—things people saw every day—to teach something very important about knowing what is true.”

Interactive Bible Story**A Tree Is Known by Its Fruit**

Story Time: 7–8 Minutes

Felt or Magnetic Board Pieces

- Jesus
- Crowd
- Healthy tree
- Healthy fruit
- Unhealthy tree
- Bad fruit
- Bible
- Optional sheep and wolf

Teacher Preparation

Place Jesus and the crowd on the board.

Keep the trees, fruit, Bible, and optional sheep/wolf pieces nearby.

The Story**Hold up the Bible.**

Say:

“Everything we are about to hear comes from God’s Holy Word, the Bible.”

“One day Jesus was teaching His disciples and the people who had gathered around Him.”

Place Jesus and the crowd on the board.

“Jesus had been teaching them how God wanted them to live.

He taught them about prayer.

He taught them about loving others.

He taught them about trusting God.

And then Jesus gave them a warning.

He wanted them to understand that not everyone who talks about God is necessarily teaching God’s truth.”

Pause.

“That might sound a little confusing.

So Jesus used something very easy to understand.”

Hold up the healthy tree.

“A tree.”

Place it on the board.

“Imagine that you are walking through an orchard.

The sun is shining.

You can hear the leaves moving gently in the breeze.

You look up and see a beautiful fruit tree.”

Add healthy fruit.

“The branches are filled with good fruit.

Maybe apples.

Maybe figs.

Maybe grapes growing nearby.”

Hold up your real fruit if using.

“If you see an apple growing on a healthy apple tree, you know what kind of tree it is because of its...”

Pause for children.

“Fruit!”

“Yes!

Jesus said:

‘You will know them by their fruits.’

Then Jesus asked something that probably made the people think.”

Point to the good tree.

“Do people gather grapes from thorn bushes?”

Pause.

“No.”

“Do they gather figs from thistles?”

Pause.

“No.”

“Good fruit comes from a healthy tree.”

Now place the unhealthy tree.

“But imagine another tree.”

Add the damaged fruit.

“The branches are weak.

The fruit is rotten.

Would you choose that fruit for your lunch?”

Allow children to answer.

“Probably not!”

Jesus explained:

‘Every good tree bears good fruit.’

Then He explained that a bad tree produces bad fruit.

But Jesus was not really giving a gardening lesson.”

Point toward Jesus.

“He was teaching the people how to recognize those who truly follow God.”

Pause.

“Jesus knew that sometimes people might say things that sound good but are not what God teaches.

How could His followers know what is true?”

Point toward the Bible.

“First, we have God’s Word.”

Place or point to the Bible.

“The Bible teaches us who God is.

It teaches us about Jesus.

It teaches us how God wants us to live.”

Pause.

“And Jesus said we can also look at the fruit a person’s life produces.”

Hold up a paper fruit.

“Not apples or oranges!”

Smile.

“We look at how they live.”

“A person who follows Jesus should begin showing things such as...”

Place fruit pieces as you say them.

“Love.”

“Kindness.”

“Honesty.”

“Patience.”

“Helping others.”

“Obeying God.”

Pause.

“Does that mean Christians never make mistakes?”

Let children answer.

“No.

We all make mistakes.

We all need forgiveness.

But someone who follows Jesus should want to live more and more the way Jesus teaches.”

If using the sheep and wolf pieces, briefly introduce them now.

“Jesus also warned the people that sometimes something can look safe on the outside but be different inside.

That is why we do not decide what is true just because something sounds nice.

We listen to God’s Word.”

Point again to the Bible.

“We learn Scripture.

We pray.

We worship.

And when we are unsure, we can ask trusted parents, priests, teachers, and other faithful Christians who help us understand God's Word."

Pause.

"Jesus gave this warning because He loves His people.

He did not want them to be afraid.

He wanted them to stay close to Him."

Move the crowd closer to Jesus.

"When we stay close to Jesus...

listen to His Word...

pray...

and follow Him...

good fruit begins to grow in our lives too."

Place several healthy fruit pieces around the good tree.

"Our words become kinder.

We learn to forgive.

We tell the truth.

We help others.

We love God.

And other people begin to see something very special."

Pause.

"They begin to see the love of Jesus through us."

Bringing It Home

Hold up the Bible.

Say:

“Sometimes you may hear many different ideas about God.

You do not have to be afraid or figure everything out by yourself.

God has given us His Holy Word.

We have our families.

We have our Church.

And most importantly, we have Jesus.”

Point to Jesus.

“So remember:

Stay close to Jesus.

Listen to God’s Word.

And let your life grow good fruit.”

Lesson Connection

Big Idea:

God’s Word teaches us what is true, and people who truly follow Jesus should show good fruit in the way they live.

Memory Phrase:

“By their fruits you will know them.”

Let’s Talk About Today’s Story

Time: 3–5 Minutes

Teacher Tip

Keep this conversation especially simple. Children do not need to identify “false prophets.” The goal is for them to understand that God’s Word is true and following Jesus should change how we live.

Remember

Can you tell me three things you remember from today’s Bible lesson?

If children need help:

What did Jesus talk about?

What grows on a good tree?

How can we know what God teaches?

What kind of “fruit” can grow in our lives?

Think

What kind of good fruit can people see when we follow Jesus?

Possible answers:

Love

Kindness

Honesty

Helping

Forgiving

Obedying God

Live It

What good fruit would you like Jesus to help grow in you this week?

Allow each child to answer if they wish.

Transition

Say:

“Jesus said that a good tree produces good fruit. Let’s make and do some things that will help us remember what good fruit can look like in our lives.”

Craft & Activity Projects

★ Craft 1 – My Good Fruit Tree (*Featured Craft*)

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Brown tree trunk pattern
- Green construction paper
- Paper fruit shapes
- Glue stick
- Crayons or markers

Before Class

- Cut one tree trunk for each child.
- Cut several paper fruit shapes per child.
- Prepare one finished sample.

Directions

- Glue the tree trunk onto green or white paper.
- Draw or glue branches and leaves.
- Add paper fruit to the tree.
- On each fruit, write or draw one example of good fruit:
- Love
- Kindness
- Honesty
- Helping

- Forgiving
- Obeying
- Write at the bottom:
“By their fruits you will know them.”
- Write your name on the back.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Jesus said a good tree bears good fruit. When we follow Jesus, His love should begin to show in the way we live.”

Craft 2 – Fruit Basket of Truth

Easy | 15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Paper basket pattern
- Paper fruit cutouts
- Crayons or markers
- Glue stick

Before Class

- Copy and cut the basket patterns.
- Prepare six fruit shapes for each child.
- Make one sample.

Directions

- Color and decorate the basket.
- Color the fruit pieces.
- On each fruit write or draw:
 - Pray
 - Bible
 - Worship
 - Love
 - Truth
 - Kindness
- Glue the fruit inside the basket.
- Write:
FOLLOW JESUS
across the basket.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“God’s Word helps us know what is true, and following Jesus produces good things in our lives.”

Craft 3 – God’s Word Is True Bookmark

Easy | 10–15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Cardstock bookmark strips
- Crayons or markers
- Cross stickers
- Yarn
- Hole punch

Before Class

- Cut bookmark strips.
- Punch a hole at the top of each.
- Cut yarn.
- Prepare one sample.

Directions

- Decorate the bookmark.
- Write:
GOD’S WORD IS TRUE
- Add:
Matthew 7:20
- Decorate with a cross, Bible, tree, or fruit.
- Tie yarn through the hole.
- Place the bookmark inside your Bible at home.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“When we want to know what God teaches, we begin with His Holy Word.”

Activity 1 – Good Fruit Sorting Game

Easy | 10–15 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Prepare picture or word cards showing actions such as:
- Helping someone
- Sharing
- Telling the truth
- Praying
- Forgiving
- Being kind
- Hitting
- Lying
- Being mean

- Taking something that is not yours
- Prepare two signs:
- GOOD FRUIT
- NOT GOOD FRUIT

Before Class

- Place the two signs on opposite sides of the room.
- Mix the action cards.

Directions

- Show one card at a time.
- Read or explain the action.
- Children decide whether it shows good fruit.
- Place the card under the correct sign.
- Continue until all cards are sorted.
- Review the “Good Fruit” cards together.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“Following Jesus should show in the choices we make and the way we treat other people.”

Extended Activity 1 – Grow a Good Fruit Tree Together

Easy | 20–25 minutes | Low cleanup

Materials

- Large paper tree taped to a wall
- Paper fruit
- Crayons or markers
- Tape or removable adhesive

Before Class

- Create a large tree trunk and branches.
- Cut several fruit shapes.

Directions

- Give each child one or two pieces of fruit.
- Ask them to draw or write one way they can show Jesus’ love.
- Invite each child to place their fruit on the class tree.
- Continue until the tree is filled.
- Read several examples aloud.
- Leave the tree displayed if possible.

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Say:

“One small act of kindness may not seem like much, but together our lives can show people the love of Jesus.”

Extended Activity 2 – Which Voice Do We Follow?

Easy | 20 minutes | No cleanup

Materials

- Bible
- Several simple statement cards
- Examples:
 - “Jesus tells us to love others.”
 - “It is okay to lie if it helps you.”
 - “We should forgive.”
 - “Being cruel is fine if we are angry.”
 - “God wants us to pray.”
 - “We should tell the truth.”

Before Class

- Prepare the statement cards.
- Place the Bible where everyone can see it.

Directions

- Read one statement.
- If it agrees with what God teaches, children point toward the Bible.
- If it does not, children fold their arms and stay still.
- Briefly explain each answer.
- Continue through all the cards.
- Finish by holding up the Bible.
- Say:
 - “We do not decide what is true just because someone says it. God’s Word helps us know His truth.”

Connect to Today’s Lesson

Repeat together:

“God’s Word is true.”

Optional Bible Skit

The Tree and Its Fruit

Time: Approximately 7 Minutes

Characters

- Narrator
- Jesus
- Good Tree
- Unhealthy Tree

- Three or four pieces of Good Fruit
- Two pieces of Bad Fruit
- Several listeners

Simple Props

- Green leaves
- Brown paper tree signs
- Healthy paper fruit
- Wrinkled or brown paper fruit
- Bible

Before Class

- Choose the characters.
- Give each “tree” a simple sign.
- Give fruit pieces their paper fruit.
- Explain that the narrator does most of the speaking.

The Skit

Narrator

One day Jesus was teaching His followers.

(Jesus stands with listeners.)

Jesus wanted them to know how to recognize people who truly followed God.

Jesus said:

Jesus:

“You will know them by their fruits.”

Narrator

Jesus told them to think about trees.

(Good Tree and Unhealthy Tree stand apart.)

A healthy tree produces...

(Good Fruit children approach.)

Good Fruit:

“Good fruit!”

Narrator

But an unhealthy tree produces...

(Bad Fruit approach.)

Bad Fruit:

“Bad fruit.”

Narrator

Jesus was not really teaching a gardening lesson.

He was teaching about people.

A person who follows Jesus should begin showing good things in the way they live.

One Good Fruit steps forward.

Good Fruit 1:

“Kindness!”

Good Fruit 2:

“Love!”

Good Fruit 3:

“Truth!”

Good Fruit 4:

“Helping others!”

Narrator

And how do we know what Jesus teaches?

Everyone points toward the Bible.

All Together

“God’s Word!”

Narrator

We stay close to Jesus.

We listen to God's Word.

And we ask Him to grow good fruit in our lives.

All Together

"By their fruits you will know them!"

The End

Connect to Today's Lesson

Ask:

What kind of fruit grows on a good tree?

What kind of "fruit" should grow in someone who follows Jesus?

What helps us know God's truth?

Take-Home Truth

Jesus wants us to know what is true.

God's Word guides us, and following Jesus should produce good fruit in the way we live.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank You for giving us Your Holy Word.

Help us know what is true.

Keep us close to You and help us listen carefully to Your teaching.

Grow good fruit in our lives.

Help us be loving, kind, truthful, forgiving, and helpful so others can see Your love through us.

Amen.

Let Us Bless the Lord

Teacher:

Let us bless the Lord.

Children:

Thanks be to God.

Teacher's Reflection

Take a quiet moment before leaving today.

Did the children understand that God's Word helps us know what is true?

Did they understand Jesus' picture of a tree and its fruit?

What part of today's lesson connected with them most?

Is there a child you would like to pray for this week?

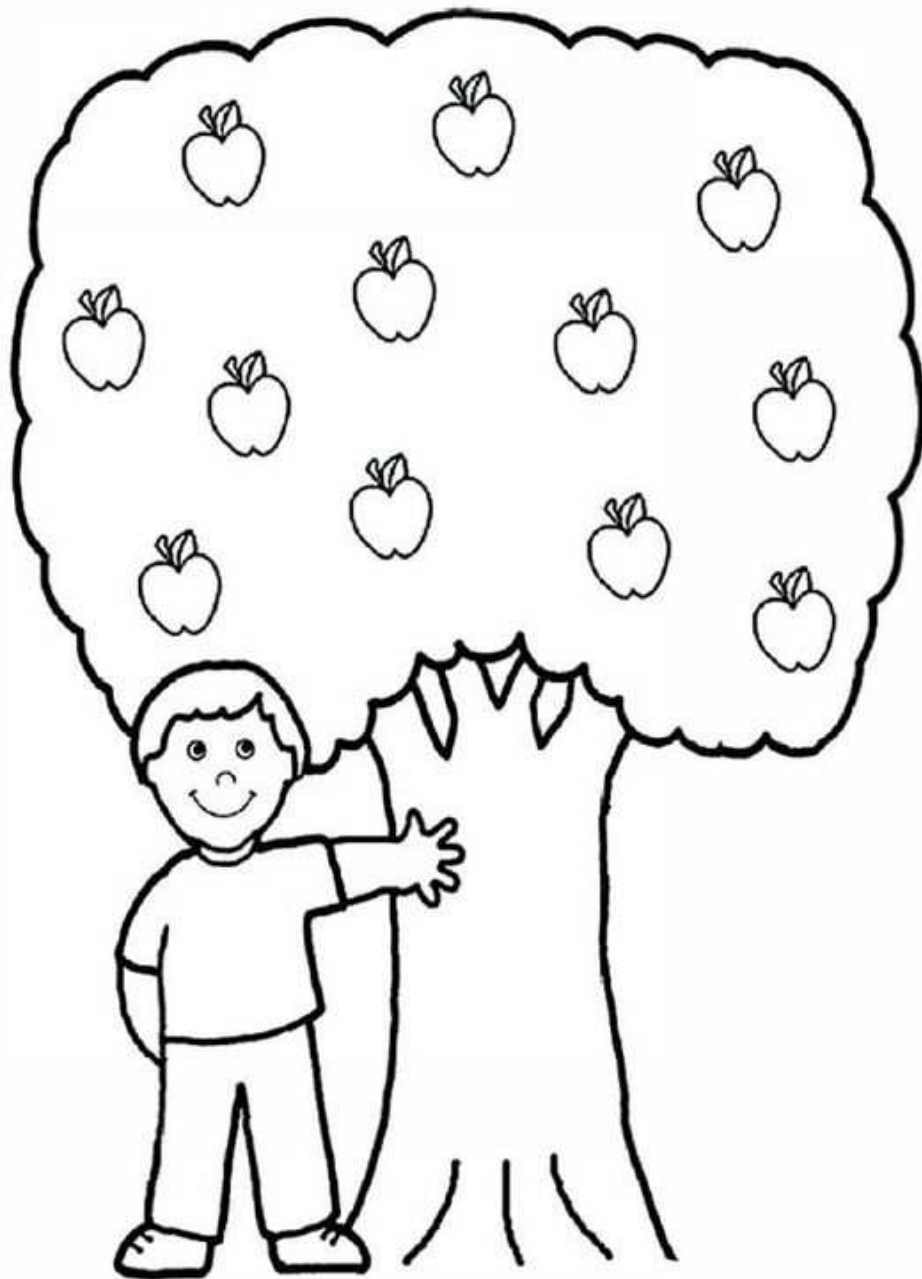
Thank God for allowing you to teach His Word and ask Him to continue growing good fruit in both your students and in you.

Teacher's Lesson Goal

If the children leave remembering one truth today, let it be:

God's Word is true, and following Jesus grows good fruit in my life.

COLORING PAGE



The Tree and Its Fruit