



# Primary

TEACHER GUIDE

Year A, Quarter 3  
Jesus Is My God







## SABBATH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

### PRIMARY • YEAR A • QUARTER 3

A Teacher Guide for Primary Sabbath School (children ages 7-9)



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# Primary Teacher Guide

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

## QUARTER OVERVIEW

# Jesus Is My God

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## Dear Primary Sabbath School Teacher,

Thank you so much for being willing to teach your group of Primary children this year!

As you pray and plan from this curriculum, may God lead you to know just how to make every Sabbath full of teachable moments that are eternally life-changing for the children.

- The main goal of this curriculum is to help your Primary students **to know and love Jesus and His living Word**, to **grow into His likeness**, and to want to **serve Him** every day.
- In all your interactions, the stories, and the group activities, remember to point the children to **God's living, powerful Word**. As you read the condensed narrative portions each week, be sure to have your Bible nearby to open so the children can read from it. Encourage the children to bring their own Bibles to Sabbath School each week.
- Encourage **parents and caregivers to read the lesson** to the children each day. Also encourage the children to **spend time with Jesus every day** (see ideas for this at the beginning of the *Primary Student Guide*).
- Be **intentional about the culture you foster** in your Sabbath School class, helping all to have a sense of belonging. Notice those who might be on the fringes and involve them.
- Ensure that you always have at least one other **adult helper** in the room with you. They can welcome children who arrive late and assist you as needed.
- This global Sabbath School curriculum is written for hundreds of cultures. You will no doubt find some things that need adjusting and adapting to **meet the needs of the children in front of you**. If your group has very little knowledge, make the lessons simpler. If they know a lot, go deeper still. Look to adapt some of the activities for children with **special needs**. See [www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info) for a training video on nurturing children with special needs. Pray for wisdom about what and how to use this curriculum, while staying true to its goals.
- The **Kindergarten and Primary Bible stories are the same**, so if you belong to a small church with combined Sabbath School classes, select the level that will best suit the knowledge and needs of your children.
- We have provided you with **music** suggestions in the program. You might also like to invite the children to choose songs and lead the singing time. Where possible, choose songs that apply to the weekly theme. If possible, display the words of the songs so that everyone can learn the songs together. Keep in mind the importance of choosing songs that share spiritual truths, as music will linger in our minds for years to come.
- Make an **Offering Chart** at the beginning of each quarter from the template provided on our website. Together with the children, write weekly offering goals at the bottom of the page to encourage children to give to God's work. Each week after the offering has been collected and counted, invite one child to color the new section to indicate the offering goal has been met. Display the Offering Chart in a prominent place in your Sabbath School room.





- You may like to make special mention of **birthdays** by singing a birthday song and giving a small gift to the child. If appropriate in your culture, encourage children to bring a Birthday-Thank Offering for your mission project. Also be sure to acknowledge **visitors** and make them feel welcome in your Sabbath School. You'll find a "Happy Birthday" song and a "Visitor Song" on the Alive in Jesus website.
- Establish a healthy understanding of **prayer**. Model how special it is to talk with God as a friend through your own prayers, encouraging children to pray from their heart with reverence. Kneel for the opening prayer, explaining that this shows God we are humble.
- Encourage children to learn their **weekly memory verse**. You can share various methods of doing memorization with them and point them to the weekly Scripture Song, which will help them to remember the verse. Please also spend a few moments reflecting on the meaning of each memory verse by discussing the questions each week. You may like to play the quarterly **Scripture Song** playlist as the children arrive, as they do their crafts, or as they leave Sabbath School, to reinforce the memory verses each quarter.
- Display the Alive in Jesus quarterly **mural** at the front of your classroom. This is an important visual teaching tool and will bring color and life to your Sabbath School room.
- All resources can be found on the **Alive in Jesus website**, [www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info), including crafts, music, training videos, podcasts, news and updates, and general information about Alive in Jesus.
- The Primary children will look to you as one of the most important adults in their lives, so **make your personal daily abiding with Jesus a priority**. Pray for these children and the precious hour you have together each Sabbath morning.






Jesus said, "I must preach the kingdom of God . . . for this purpose I have been sent" (Luke 4:43). He has called you, and He will equip you, as you teach, nurture, guide, and love the Primary children in your care this year.

**Thank you for being willing to serve in this way! May God lead you as you lead His little children into a loving friendship with Him.**

"The Sabbath school should be one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in **bringing souls to Christ**." "It gives to young and old a **knowledge of God's word**, . . . [and] it awakens in them a **love for its sacred truths**, and a **desire to study them for themselves**; above all, it teaches them to regulate their lives by its holy teachings."

Ellen G. White, *Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, pp. 10, 11.

**LESSON COMPONENTS.** These teaching principles are included in all teacher guides, although not always in a specific order. All activities fall under one or more of these areas, although we've chosen to highlight the most prominent in each lesson.

 <p><b>HOOK</b></p> <p><b>Arouse Curiosity</b> Hooking children into the topic to help make them eager to learn Bible truths.</p>	 <p><b>HEAD</b></p> <p><b>Story Immersion and Exploration</b> Sharing the story and key ideas in a memorable and meaningful way.</p>	 <p><b>HEART</b></p> <p><b>Connection With God</b> Touching the children's hearts and fostering love for God through worship.</p>	 <p><b>HAND</b></p> <p><b>Commitment and Application</b> Applying the learning in life through mission and service.</p>	 <p><b>HOORAY</b></p> <p><b>Learning Celebration</b> Celebrating new insights about God, or their learning from the lesson.</p>
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# Tips for Telling Bible Stories in Sabbath School

*“Teach me what I do not see” (Job 34:32).*

**1. Practice telling the Bible story as you would any other story.** This is the heart of Sabbath School. We want to show children that the Bible is living, powerful, true, and trustworthy, and that God has a special message for them personally in each story. Invest time into how you will communicate this most effectively to the children in your class. Remember:

- Learn the story and be so familiar with it that you can recall the different parts. Don't read it. Memorize an outline, select appropriate visuals according to the age of your audience.
- Change the pitch, tone, and speed as the action unfolds. Use action, enthusiasm, and appropriate gestures.
- Plan your opening sentence to catch the immediate attention of the children.
- Tell the events in a logical sequence. Don't tell unnecessary details (this will confuse and interrupt the story). The younger the audience, the fewer details are needed.
- Finish the story at the peak of interest. Don't speak too quickly, sermonize, summarize, or retell the story—children don't need this.

**2. Pray with the children before you tell a Bible story,** or before you read from the Bible. Ask God to help everyone understand the Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

**3. Sabbath School should be a joyful, memorable place, where children learn about God and grow to love Him.** We should prayerfully consider how to communicate God's sacred stories in clear, meaningful ways. Children should know that the Bible stories are true—not fables. Both the method and the message of communication should clearly support this idea.

**4. Make the Bible story memorable and engaging** by using one or more of the following strategies:

- **Peg people** and props. If possible, purchase some wooden pegs and paint or decorate them as wooden people to be used in some storytelling sections. Over time, you may like to add new people: Jesus, disciples, and other Bible characters. Encourage children to retell the Bible story to each other using these peg people. You may also like to display these in a regular place with other objects (animals, house, ocean—using colored materials or simple boxes) for children to

play with if they arrive early. Move these peg people and objects around on your fabric scene as you tell the story. Children can take turns doing this as you tell the story, and they can then retell the story in their own words. This is an effective method to teach children to recall, internalize, and then share the story with someone else.

- Use the weekly **Program PowerPoint** as you tell the story. Pause to reference the emotions on the faces of the Bible characters, the backgrounds, and the details of the story. These pictures will stay in the minds of the children and help them remember the story.
- **Felts** (younger children). Although felts are an older resource, they're helpful because you can unpack the story as it happens with visuals that will stay in the minds of children. Practice with your felts ahead of time so that you can be clear about the sequence and position of each one.
- **Dramatic storytelling** with objects. Use expression and various objects, sounds, and smells that use our five senses to make the story memorable and clear.
- **Alive in Jesus podcasts.** Invite the children to listen to one or two of the daily narratives of the Sabbath School podcast and then tell, draw, or discuss the remainder of the story in groups or pairs. As the children listen to the story, they may want to draw what they hear (stick people) or write two questions for discussion at the end of the story. Alternatively, each child can draw a small section of the story to string together as a long story scene at the end.

**5. Pray that God will help you to communicate His stories effectively** for the specific age to whom you're speaking. You're dealing with God's Word and eternal implications.

*“Show me Your ways, O Lord;*

*Teach me Your paths.*

*Lead me in Your truth and teach me,*

*For You are the God of my salvation;*














*On You I wait all the day.”*

**Psalm 25:4, 5**

# Craft Resources



## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3

WEEK	CRAFT	SAMPLE	RESOURCES/SUPPLIES
1: Two Birth Announcements	Name Bookmark		Week 1 craft template, scissors, black markers, watercolor paints and water, paintbrushes, hole puncher, laminator, ribbon or string and beads (optional).
2: The Gift of Jesus	Baby Jesus in a Manger		Craft sticks, a piece of cardstock 4-1/3 inches by 3-1/2 inches (11 centimeters by 9 centimeters), craft glue, oval-shaped rocks, black markers, pieces of fabric, rubber bands, straw.
3: Worshipping Baby Jesus	Flying Angel		Week 3 craft template printed on white cardstock, scissors, glue, bamboo skewers, small foam balls, markers, glitter, star stickers.
4: Keeping Baby Jesus Safe	Paper Plate Compass		Week 4 craft template printed on white cardstock, paper plates, markers, split pins.
5: Growing Up in Nazareth	<b>Option 1:</b> Scripture Scroll <b>Option 2:</b> Daddy's Helper		<b>Option 1:</b> Strips of white paper, black tea bags and water, large craft sticks, tape, string. <b>Option 2:</b> Week 5 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, glue.
6: At the Jordan River	Jesus' Baptism		Week 6 craft template printed on white cardstock, scissors, glue, blue cellophane, markers, fish stickers (optional).
7: Victory in the Wilderness	Memory Verse Box		Plain craft boxes, colored paper, scissors, glue, markers, a variety of stickers, blank memory verse cards.
8: Called to Follow Jesus	Fish Miracle		Week 8 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, split pins.
9: No More Grape Juice!	Grape Juice Miracle		Week 9 craft templates, paper cups, scissors, glue, markers, blue and purple paper.
10: Jesus Feeds the Crowds	Jesus Feeds the Crowds		Week 10 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, split pins.
11: Growing Disciples	Handprint Lily		Colored paper, pencils, scissors, tape, green and yellow pipe cleaners/chenille sticks.
12: Zacchaeus	Zacchaeus in a Tree		Week 12 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, craft sticks, tape, cardboard rolls, green tissue paper.
13: Blessings in Capernaum	Peter's Mother-in-Law		Week 13 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, craft knife (adults only).

# Character Cards



Each week, the Primary children will receive one Character Card. These will be kept in a container in the Sabbath School room; they can be used in some activities, and the children will take these home at the end of the quarter.

**ZACHARIAS AND MARY**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"For with God nothing will be impossible."

**LUKE 1:37**

YAOJ WEEK ONE

**BABY JESUS**

**MEMORY VERSE**

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**JOHN 3:16**

YAOJ WEEK TWO

**WISE MEN**

**MEMORY VERSE**

Praise the Lord, O my soul While I live I will praise the Lord: I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**PSALM 146:1, 2**

YAOJ WEEK THREE

**KING HEROD**

**MEMORY VERSE**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

**PSALM 32:8**

YAOJ WEEK FOUR

**YOUNG JESUS**

**MEMORY VERSE**

... but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**2 PETER 3:18**

YAOJ WEEK FIVE

**JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**MEMORY VERSE**

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

**EZEKIEL 36:26**

YAOJ WEEK SIX

**JESUS IS TEMPTED**

**MEMORY VERSE**

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 CORINTHIANS 15:57**

YAOJ WEEK SEVEN

**DISCIPLES ARE CALLED**

**MEMORY VERSE**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

**JOHN 8:12**

YAOJ WEEK EIGHT

**THE WEDDING MIRACLE**

**MEMORY VERSE**

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever: To Him who alone does great wonders.

**PSALM 136:3, 4**

YAOJ WEEK NINE

**FEEDING 5,000**

**MEMORY VERSE**

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger."

**JOHN 6:35**

YAOJ WEEK TEN

**GROWING DISCIPLES**

**MEMORY VERSE**

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

**JOHN 13:35**

YAOJ WEEK ELEVEN

**ZACCHAEUS**

**MEMORY VERSE**

... for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**LUKE 19:10**

YAOJ WEEK TWELVE

**PETER & MOTHER-IN-LAW**

**MEMORY VERSE**

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you.

**NUMBERS 6:24, 25**

YAOJ WEEK THIRTEEN



## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

# Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 **Two Birth Announcements**
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 1

# Two Birth Announcements

**Bible References:** Luke 1; Matthew 1:18-21

### Big Idea

God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.

### Memory Verse

"For with God nothing will be impossible" (Luke 1:37).

### References

*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 31-38, 97-100  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 668-694  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 9-22

### Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 2. The Holy Spirit
- 3. The Father
- 4. The Son
- 7. The Nature of Humanity
- 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 18. The Gift of Prophecy

### Word of the Week

**Surrender:** To surrender is to be willing to give up your own ideas, wants, or possessions. To allow or trust someone else to make decisions for you.

### Lesson Summary

Faithful Zacharias and Elizabeth loved God and were waiting for His promised Savior. An angel appeared to Zacharias and told him his wife would give birth to a son whom they would call John. He would prepare the way for the coming Savior. Zacharias doubted at first, and was unable to speak until the baby was born. But he believed. In Nazareth an angel took exciting news to a young girl named Mary, then in a dream to her betrothed, Joseph. They would have a son, the Savior, Jesus. They surrendered to God's will. God included these people, who loved Him, as part of His great story.

### Learning Goals

The children will:  
**Know** that God is in control of His big story.  
**Feel** they can choose to be part of God's story.  
**Respond** by surrendering their lives to God and be willing to follow His leading.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

The story of God's love for us, recorded in the Bible, is truly amazing. It begins with God, who created people out of love, and for love, granting them freedom and dominion over a glorious world that He created. God invited mankind to be part of the story. And it has been our story ever since.

Sadly, we know what happened next: Adam and Eve chose disobedience and sin. Yet God responded in love, promising to send His own Son to take sin's consequence, to save His people. God again invited people to take His story forward.

Enter Zacharias and Elizabeth. Devoted to God, this faithful couple were waiting for God's promise to be fulfilled. Though Zacharias doubted the angel's message at first, God still included him. God was willing to risk all—yet again—to include those whose hearts were surrendered to Him.

Mary, favored and blessed, was also invited to play a leading role as mother of the Savior. Young, overwhelmed, and unable to fully comprehend the angel's message, she still spoke those incredible words: "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" (Luke 1:38, ICB).

God also wants to include you in His story—one that is still unfolding. May we also be willing to surrender. In offering to Him all that we are and all that we have, we declare our love to God.

As you and the children explore this week's story, be reminded of God's bigger story and how He has risked and given all, that you may be part of it. How will you respond to Him?

# Simple Program Outline



**Big Idea:** God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 1

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the song **“Lord, Please Guide Me”** or worship songs of your choice.
- Activity: Charades

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Alive in Jesus”**
  - **“Lord, Please Guide Me”**
  - **“The Lord’s Prayer”**
- Pray. Invite several children to pray a short prayer welcoming Jesus into our hearts as we learn of His big story today.
- Introduce **quarterly mission project**, **Mission Fast Fact**, and **Offering Chart**. Sing offering song, **“Thank You Jesus”** and collect offering.
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: No talking for two minutes!
- Discussion
- Share the **Big Idea: We can have confidence in God to lead us.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Tug-of-war “surrender”**

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 27: John Prepares the Way**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “Luke 1:37”**
- Mime memory verse.
- **Mission Story:** “A Gift from God”
- **Mission Challenge:** Think about which people in your community serve others. Share your thoughts next Sabbath.
- **Craft:** Name Bookmarks
- **Challenge:** Use the bookmark to share the lesson with others.
- Sing closing song, **“God Be With You.”**
- **Pray:** Thank God for being in control of His story and wanting us to be part of it.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

For charades: Print **Bible characters' names and/or actions on pieces of paper**. Put them into a **container** for the children to pull out and act out while other children try to guess the character.

Source **a piece of paper** and **pencil** for each child and a **timer**.

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display. (Do this every week.)

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the **Program PowerPoint**.

Source **flashlight, broom, blanket** and **pillow, baby doll, paper** (or writing tablet) and **pen**. Also, source **peg people** and **angel, blocks** to use as extra peg people (John's family and friends), **felt set**, if available.

Source long rope tied with ribbon in the middle and floor markers.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 27: John: Prepare the Way** for each child. Fold and glue the two sides together. Source a container, envelope, bag, or key ring for children to store these cards in your Sabbath School room this quarter.

## Craft Materials

Print **week 1 craft template** on **cardstock**. Source: **scissors, black markers, watercolor paints and water, paintbrushes, hole puncher, laminator, ribbon or string and beads** (optional). Make a sample.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Alive in Jesus"
- "Lord, Please Guide Me"
- "The Lord's Prayer"
- "Thank You Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Luke 1:37"
- "I Surrender All" (optional)
- "God Be With You"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Location of Mission Offering and 13 Mission Fast Facts
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 1 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 27: John: Prepare the Way
- Week 1 Craft Template

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Bible characters or actions on slips of paper, container
- "Lord, Please Guide Me" lyrics to display
- Timer
- Small pieces of paper and pencils
- Long rope, ribbon, floor markers for tug-of-war
- Peg people/blocks to use as peg people, flashlight, felt set, broom, blanket and pillow, baby doll, paper (or writing tablet), pen
- Craft materials (see above)



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the song “**Lord, Please Guide Me**” or worship songs of choice quietly in the background.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** Play a game of **charades**, reminding the children they are not allowed to talk, just mime! I wonder what no talking has to do with today’s lesson.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Sing “**Alive in Jesus**” then introduce “**Lord, Please Guide Me.**” Display lyrics and discuss them. Explain that today we’ll think about why we want God to guide us.

**PRAY:** Sing the prayer song, “**The Lord’s Prayer.**” Remind the children that Jesus loves to hear us pray and talk to Him. Invite several children to pray a short prayer welcoming Jesus into our hearts as we learn of His big story today.

**GIVE:** Introduce this quarter’s mission project and offering destination. Explain a little about it. Highlight the location on a world map or globe.

Show the children the Offering Chart you have created to record how much money is collected each week to help others. Have a child collect the offering and sing, “**Thank You Jesus.**”

Pray and ask God to take and use this offering where it’s most needed.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J OBJECT LESSON:** Show the children a **timer** and tell them that for two minutes no one is allowed to talk or make any noise. Provide them with **paper** and **pencils** and tell them they can only use hand signals or write notes to communicate with each other.

Then do a silent task for two minutes: Have children respond to the following question by brainstorming on their papers without talking:

• **What is God’s plan for us?**

**DEBRIEF:** Discuss and debrief:

• **What did it feel like to be unable to talk? In our story today, Zacharias is unable to talk for months, not just two minutes!**

• **How do you think Zacharias felt suddenly not being able to talk? How do you think he felt after he was finally able to talk again?** (Encourage children to think of a range of feelings.)

• **What kind of things would you miss saying if you couldn’t talk?**

**Teaching Point:** In our story today God wanted Zacharias to be part of His big story. Even though Zacharias doubted God at the beginning, he was still faithful and willing to be used by Him.



**READ:** Read **Proverbs 3:5, 6**, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”


**Teaching Point:** When we surrender to God and lean not on our way of thinking but on His way of thinking, He leads us in a path that is part of His big story.

Read the **Big Idea** together from the whiteboard/poster paper or Program PowerPoint: **God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.**

#### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.


#### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **TUG-OF-WAR:** Give a long rope with a ribbon tied in the middle to two children. Create two markers on the floor that are three feet (one meter) in front of each person. Invite them to have a tug-of-war and try to pull the ribbon on the rope to the line closest to them. After one or two turns, ask:

- **What are the two participants showing us through their actions?** (They are the strongest; the most powerful; the best, etc.) Have them try again, but before they begin, whisper into one participant's ear “surrender.” When the battle stops, ask, “What did we just see happen?” Lead discussion toward this important word of the week: surrender.
- **How hard was it for you to surrender the rope war?**
- **Who found it hard to surrender in our story today?**
- **Who found it easier? What helped them surrender?** (Putting all their trust in God.)
- **How easy is it for you to surrender?** (To stop resisting and obey.)

**Teaching Point:** When we surrender to God and obey what He is asking of us, we show our love for Him and get to move His story forward.

#### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Collector Card: John: Prepare the Way**. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the memory verse before placing the card in their storage container/bag.

**Teaching Point:** Mary probably never thought she would have God's Son as her baby. But she was humble and surrendered to God. We may not think we are able to help God with His big story, but He works in our lives when we surrender and obey Him. Nothing is impossible with Him.


Sing the Scripture Song together: “**Luke 1:37.**”

- **What impossible thing might God do through you? What might His plan be for you?**

**Memory Verse Activity:** If time allows, invite the children to say the memory verse to a partner without using their voice, just facing each other and creating gestures. Then, using their voices again, see if they can repeat the memory verse saying one word each until they have completed the memory verse.

- **Who could you share the memory verse with this week?**


**MISSION STORY:** Display your **world map or globe** and identify Georgia, where this week's mission story comes from. Share the **Mission Story**, “A Gift From God,” and discuss the follow-up question.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Zacharias served in the temple. Think which people in your community serve others. Share your thoughts next Sabbath.

# Full Program Outline Continued



## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **CRAFT:** Look your children in the eye and share how each one of them can become part of God's story—both now and into the future. Each person is **unique** and **special**.

In advance, try to find out the **meaning** of each child's **name**. Write their names and the meanings of their names on the back of a piece of cardstock shaped like a **bookmark**. Leave the front blank. Include blank extras for visitors.

Ask the children if they know what their name means. Does anyone remember the meaning of John's name from our story today? Remind them it means "Jehovah (God) is gracious."

• **What does "gracious" mean?** (Courteous, kind, and pleasant, showing God's grace.)

Give each child their **Name Bookmark** and invite them to write their name in big letters on the front. Children may like to punch a hole punch at the top and tie a piece of ribbon, then decorate it as a reminder that God knows each person by name, and He wants each of us to be part of His big story.

When the craft is completed, invite children to close their eyes, and imagine God saying their name. To do this, read **Isaiah 43:1**, "I have called you by your name, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ [insert children's names]; you are Mine."

Explain that as God's special children, He will love us, guide us, lead us, and help us in that special part of His story that He has just for us.

Say the **Big Idea** again: **God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.**

**SING:** Play the song "**Lord, Please Guide Me**" or "**I Surrender All**" in the background as children make their craft. Display the **words** of the song. Ask the children what words in the song are meaningful to them.

  **RESPOND:** • **Who could you share today's Bible story with?**

Challenge the children to use their craft to share the Bible story and its message with one other person in the week ahead. When we share parts of God's story with others, we are also choosing to *be* part of God's story!

Then invite the children to say together, "**I want to be part of God's big story**" and either high-five or shake hands with each other as a gesture of the joy that we have to be in God's special story.

**SING:** Sing "**God Be With You**" as a prayer of blessing for each other.

**PRAY:** Thank God for being in control of His story and wanting us to be part of it! Ask Him to help each one to surrender their lives and wants to Him so that He can use us to prepare others for His soon return.

## Two Birth Announcements

**Big Idea:** God looks for people who love Him to be part of His big story.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

### Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story. You may also like to use the following props: **peg people and angel, blocks** to use as extra peg people (John's family and friends), **flashlight** to shine on angel, **felt set** if available, **broom, blanket and pillow, baby doll, paper (or writing tablet) and pen**. You may like to invite the children to kneel in a prayer posture every time you say "surrender."

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.



## TELL THE STORY

Old Zacharias and Elizabeth closed their eyes and began to pray. They were praying and waiting, waiting and praying. They were waiting for God's promised Savior.

The faithful couple knew they wouldn't have to wait too long. God had given His prophets a message about the future—called a prophecy. God had told Isaiah that a child, God's Son, would be born. God also told Daniel when the promised Savior would come. That time was now! They believed God's prophecies.

► One day, as priest Zacharias was burning incense in the temple, a bright shining angel appeared beside the altar (flashlight on angel). **What did the angel tell him? Read Luke 1:13.** (Your prayers have been heard; your wife will have a son. You will call him John.) John would prepare people for the coming Savior.

Zacharias was so surprised! For a moment he doubted the message. He and Elizabeth were old—too old to have a baby! The angel Gabriel told him that because he had doubted, he wouldn't be able to talk until after the baby was born.

Zacharias believed. His face lit up with joy. God had chosen his family to be God's special helpers! They would be part of God's big story! He would surrender (give up) his doubts, and trust God.

In Nazareth there lived a young woman named Mary. She hummed as she swept the floors (broom). ► Suddenly the room filled with beautiful light (flashlight). Mary was stunned! A dazzling angel, Gabriel, stood before her. "Rejoice, highly-favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" he said (Luke 1:28).

Mary could hardly believe her eyes. What was happening?

"Don't be afraid, Mary," said the angel. He had the best news ever!

**What did he say would happen to her? Read Luke 1:31-33.** (She would have a son, the Savior! And He would be called Jesus.)

"How can this be?" asked Mary (Luke 1:34). She wasn't married to Joseph yet—only engaged. Gabriel told her that the Holy Spirit would cause Mary to become pregnant and that the baby would be called the Son of God. Wow!

Mary stood in awe before the angel. God had chosen her! She would surrender. "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" she said (Luke 1:38, ICB).

When Mary shared the news with Joseph, he was worried. *Could it be true? What would people say—they weren't even married yet!*

Joseph went to bed with worries on his mind (blanket, pillow). As he slept, God sent an angel to him in a dream. **What did the angel say? Read Matthew 1:20, 21.** (Not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife. By the Holy Spirit she would have a son named Jesus. He would save the people from their sins.)

Joseph woke up and believed. He would marry the mother of God's promised Son! He quietly surrendered to God's plan too.

Mary set off to share their happy news with her cousin Elizabeth. The angel Gabriel had said Elizabeth would have a special miracle baby too—in three months!

► After a long trek Mary arrived at Zacharias' home with a cheerful hello. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, she was filled with the Holy Spirit. "God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to," she said (Luke 1:42).

Elizabeth rested a hand on her tummy. "When I heard your voice, the baby inside me jumped with joy" (Luke 1:44, ICB).

Mary and Elizabeth had a wonderful visit together. They were so excited! God loved them. He had chosen them to be an important part of His big story!

A few months later a baby's cry filled that same little home (baby doll). Friends and family celebrated the birth of Elizabeth's newborn son. She called him John. This puzzled their neighbors and relatives. Sons were often named after relatives, but no one in his family was named John.

# Two Birth Announcements Continued



► Zacharias reached for his writing tablet (**paper and pen**). He wrote, “His name is John” (Luke 1:63). Immediately Zacharias could speak! He explained how God Himself had named their little baby John, which means “Jehovah [God] is gracious.” What a miracle! The people were sure God had big plans for this baby. They spread the amazing news everywhere.

God did have very big plans for John! He was to prepare the people's hearts to be clean and ready to accept Jesus.

Luke 1:17 (**hold Bible**) tells us, “He will bring those who are not obeying God back to the right way of thinking. He will make people ready for the coming of the Lord” (ICB).

Elizabeth held her miracle son close. Her prayers had been answered—in such an amazing way! God's promised Savior was on His way. Jesus was coming! ► And Jesus would go on to prepare the way for people everywhere to see a clearer picture of God.

## Discuss:

- **God had a plan for each person in our story. What was God's plan for each person?**

**The Angel:** To tell Zacharias about Elizabeth having a son.

**Zacharias:** To be the father of John; to teach him about God and His plan for him.

**Elizabeth:** To be the mother of John and teach him about God's ways.

**John:** To prepare the way for Jesus—to tell others to get ready for Jesus and repent (say they were sorry) for their sins.

**Joseph:** To be the father of Jesus, God's promised Son.

**Mary:** To be the mother of Jesus.

## Craft

### Name Bookmark

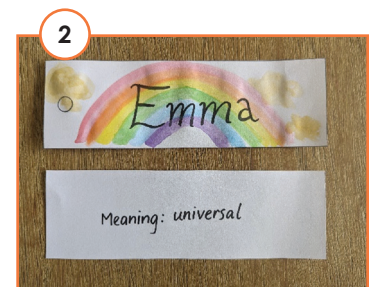
#### What you need:

Week 1 craft template, scissors, black marker, watercolor paints and water, paintbrush, hole puncher, ribbon or string and beads (optional). If you have access to a laminator, you may wish to laminate these bookmarks for the children and give them to them next Sabbath. (1)

#### Instructions:

*Note: An adult will need to research the meaning of each child's name for this craft.*

1. Cut out a bookmark template. Write your name in black marker on the front and the meaning of your name on the back. (2)
2. Use watercolors to decorate the front of your bookmark. Laminate once dry. (2)
3. Using the hole puncher, make a hole in the bookmark and tie a ribbon or string with beads to the bookmark (optional). (3)



# Mission Story **A Gift From God**



**Focus:** God used the gift of a little baby to reach a family.

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**Location:** Help a child locate **Georgia** on your **globe** or **world map**.

When Lana was 2 years old, Father and Mother asked her what she wanted for New Year's. In many countries parents ask children what they want for Christmas. But in Georgia, where Lana lived, children open wrapped gifts on New Year's Day.

"What do you want for New Year's?" Mother asked Lana.

"I want a little brother," Lana said.

Mother was surprised. Lana was the only child in the family. Mother wouldn't mind giving her a little brother. But she didn't think that she was able to have any more children.

Lana didn't get a little brother that New Year's.

When Lana was 3 years old, Mother asked her again what she wanted for New Year's.

"I want a little brother," Lana said.

She asked again when she was 4, but still Lana didn't get a little brother.

When Lana was 9, Mother became pregnant with a little boy. Mother couldn't believe it—it seemed impossible! She hadn't thought that she would be able to have any more children. Immediately she thought that the baby must be a gift from God. She hadn't thought about God in a long time. But God had been thinking of her! He had a very special plan for this baby.

Lana was so excited! "Can we name him Alex?" she asked. Mother agreed.

Mother brought little Alex home from the hospital on Lana's tenth birthday. This was even better than a New Year's gift. She had a little brother!

Seeing the new baby, a neighbor told Mother about a Seventh-day Adventist children's center where the boy could play and learn about God. Mother took him along. She and other mothers studied the Bible while their children played. Slowly Mother fell in love with Jesus and started taking her family to church on Sabbath.

Mother is so happy that Alex was born. Not only did the family gain a son, but it also gained a Father in heaven. Because of Alex, the whole family now knows and loves God.

"Nothing is impossible with God."



## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 **The Gift of Jesus**
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 2

# The Gift of Jesus

**Bible Reference:** Luke 2:1-7

**Big Idea** Jesus is God's precious gift to me.

**Memory Verse** "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

**References**  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43, 44  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 697, 698  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 27-34

**Fundamental Beliefs**  
Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
2. The Father  
3. The Son  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
10. The Experience of Salvation  
18. The Gift of Prophecy

**Word of the Week** **Appreciate:** To appreciate is to be grateful. To understand and accept the special value of a person, an action, or an object.

**Lesson Summary**  
This lesson explores God's amazing love for us, a love so deep that He was willing to send heaven's best—His Son—as a gift for each one of us. A census was announced, and a heavily pregnant Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. There was no room for them to lodge, so they found a humble stable. That night God's Son, Jesus, was born in the stable and laid in a manger. Hallelujah! The greatest gift had arrived!

**Learning Goals**  
The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus is God's most precious gift, given to us.  
**Feel** grateful that God gave Jesus to us.  
**Respond** by accepting God's gift of Jesus.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

What familiar words. How often have we repeated them, but how deeply do we ponder their breadth and depth? God loves us that much. He gave the most precious, best gift imaginable: His one and only Son. All we need to do is believe in Him, know Him, and love Him in response, and we can be assured of eternal life with Him.

Ellen White says, “The gift of Christ reveals the Father’s heart. . . . It declares that while God’s hatred of sin is as strong as death, His love for the sinner is stronger than death. Having undertaken our redemption, He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work. No truth essential to our

salvation is withheld, no miracle of mercy is neglected, no divine agency is left unemployed. Favor is heaped upon favor, gift upon gift. The whole treasury of heaven is open to those He seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, and laid open the resources of infinite power, He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no greater love than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 57).

In our humanity we will never truly comprehend the vastness of this gift. Jesus really is heaven’s “best and greatest” (Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 73).

May you and the children be in awe this week of the amazing Gift God has given us, the best Gift of all, the gift of Jesus.

# Simple Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus is God's precious gift to me.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 2

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include some Christmas hymns.
- Provide materials for children to draw a picture of the best gift they've ever received.

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **"Be Happy"**
  - **"A Priceless Treasure"**
  - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray.
- **"Thank You, Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Share drawings of **best gift** (Early Arrivals activity).
- Discussion
- Compare two wrapped presents: fancy and plain.

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

#### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Doll activity and discussion
- "Gift" envelope search
- Activity: God's Gift
- Respond: Invite children to write/draw something they are thankful to have because Jesus came into the world.
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus is God's precious gift to me.**

#### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 28: Baby Jesus in a Manger**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: "John 3:16"**
- Personalize Memory Verse.
- Option: Memory Verse with actions
- **Nature Lesson:** "Penguin Pebbles" and discussion question
- **Craft:** Baby Jesus
- Commit: Repeat **Big Idea: Jesus is God's precious gift to me.**
- **Mission Challenge:** Ask God to lead you to people who will be open to receiving His wonderful gift—Jesus.
- Sing: **"God Bless You."**
- Pray a circle prayer with personal prayers. Place written thanks in gift box.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Provide **paper** and **pencils** for children to draw a picture of the best gift they've ever received.

Collect drawings/ideas from the Opening Activity and one of your own to share. Prepare two **gifts**: one with special wrapping but an ordinary "gift" (e.g., spoon or tape), and the other with a special gift (determined by you) in a wrinkled paper bag.

Source a **globe/world map**, update **Offering Chart**, prepare Mission Fast Fact.

Write the **Big Idea** on your whiteboard, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Program PowerPoint**.

Collect objects to share the story: **baking tray, pile of sticks, a small block of wood, leaves, round dried beans**, and a 15-inch (38-centimeter) length of **gold crepe paper** or fabric.

Source a **doll**, or if there is a newborn baby in your church, arrange to "borrow" this little one for an object lesson.

Write the following **statements** on strips of **paper**, place inside a large **envelope** labeled "GIFT," and hide it in your room: heaven, being forgiven, feeling happy, feeling peace inside, knowing God loves me, being lonely, no hope in the future, no help with problems, living unforgiven, no heaven. Create two headings: "With God's Gift of Jesus" and "Without God's Gift of Jesus."

Source a **gift box** with a removable lid to put the "With God's Gift of Jesus" statements inside.

Source a small piece of blank **paper** and **markers** for children to write or draw something they want to thank God for because Jesus came into the world. (They will fold and keep till the end of Sabbath School.)

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 28: Baby Jesus: God's Gift to Us** for each child.

Source a colorful **gift box** for folded prayers. Source the "**Gentoo Penguin Picture**" to share during the Mission Story.

## Craft Materials

Source **craft sticks, cardstock, craft glue, oval-shaped rocks, black markers, pieces of fabric, rubber bands, straw**. Source some **Christmas hymns** to play while children are completing their craft.

# What Do I Need?

### Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

#### Music:

- "Be Happy"
- "A Priceless Treasure"
- "Be Still, Be Silent"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- "Silent Night"
- "Away In a Manger"
- Scripture Song: "John 3:16"
- "God Bless You"



*qr.ajj.info\_PA3Music*

- Mission Fast Fact
- Week 2 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 28: Baby Jesus
- Gentoo Penguin Picture

### Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Colored pencils and paper
- Two gifts, one with fancy wrapping and ordinary gift, the other plain wrapping with special gift
- Doll or real baby
- "Gift" envelope with sentences and two headings written on card: "With God's Gift of Jesus" and "Without God's Gift of Jesus"
- Gift box with removable lid
- Baking tray, pile of sticks, a small block of wood, leaves, round dried beans, a 15-inch (40-centimeter) length of gold crepe paper or fabric
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus is God's precious gift to me.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background. Include some Nativity songs.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** Invite the children to draw a picture of the best gift they can remember ever receiving. Tell them that our story today is about the best gift God has given to each of us!

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Invite the children to sing “**Be Happy**” and “**A Priceless Treasure**.”

**PRAY:** Sing, “**Be Still, Be Silent**” before you pray, then invite several children who would like to thank God for something to pray. Then welcome the Holy Spirit into our hearts to help us understand our Bible story today.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you all sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.”

Later, after the money has been counted by an adult, invite a child to color the next section of your **Offering Chart** to show how much has been collected this quarter. Then share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Pray and ask God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J SHARE:** Invite the children who arrived early to share their drawings of the best gift they've ever received. Talk about your own personal best gift (with a drawing). If possible, add to the gift list more, if needed, and have someone write down on separate papers the ideas mentioned.

Then share how God has given a gift that is better than \_\_\_\_\_. It's better than a \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_. (Progressively read out all the gifts mentioned and place them in a pile on top of each other.)

God's gift was small but would become big—and life-changing. THIS gift is better than your biggest wish. It's the best gift ever!

Show two gifts—one beautifully wrapped, and one “wrapped” in a wrinkled paper bag. Invite a person to come and choose which one they'd like to have. Show how the contents don't match the wrapping.

**EXPLAIN:** You'd think that such an important gift would be given in beautiful wrapping and placed in a fancy place. But our true story from the Bible today will show us that surprisingly, this best gift came in a plain, ordinary way. But we should always remember that the *wrapping* is **not** the **gift** (show wrapping and gift). We'll find out more about this gift today and how it makes all the difference in our lives.

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**G SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story. Use props, sing carols within the story.



## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**SHOW:** Hold a **doll** or invite a parent with a newborn **baby** to visit your room. Share how Jesus was as small and helpless as this baby, but He would grow to do something so amazing for us.

• **What was it?** Share the clues in the memory verse, John 3:16. **What happened when God “gave His only son”?**

**DO:** To highlight how big the gift is, have children find a gift “**envelope**” hidden in your room. It will contain sentences. Place an open **gift box** on the floor with a title on the box: “With God’s Gift of Jesus.” On the floor beside the box, place another title: “Without God’s Gift of Jesus.” Then put each statement inside or outside the box. Statements include the following:

**With God’s Gift:** heaven, being forgiven, feeling happy, feeling peace inside, knowing God loves me.

**Without God’s Gift:** being lonely, no hope in the future, no help with problems, living unforgiven, no heaven.

**Teaching Point:** Jesus is the greatest gift we can ever receive. When we accept Him into our lives and believe in Him, everything changes. His love and forgiveness give us hope, peace, happiness, and eternal life.

**SHARE BIG IDEA:** Read the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus is God’s precious gift to me.**

**RESPOND:** Invite children to **write or draw something from this list** (or another one) that they **personally want to thank God for**—something that they now have because Jesus came into the world (His love, His salvation, His gift of peace, kindness, happiness, forgiveness, hope, heaven, etc.). They will fold it and keep it till the end of Sabbath School.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Collector Card 28: Baby Jesus** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and return to the memory verse. Say it together, then sing the **Scripture Song, “John 3:16.”**

Talk about how this is probably the most well-known verse in the Bible, but what does it really mean to you? Ask the children to repeat this verse with the word “me” included throughout (“For God so loved [me] that . . .”). Then ask them to say it again with the word “you” and another name throughout (“For God so loved [you, \_\_\_\_\_], that . . .”).

• **What have you learned about God by saying this verse in these two different ways?**

• **Who do you know that really needs to know the message of this verse this week?**

**Option:** If time allows, teach the children the following actions to the memory verse:

For God (point upward)

so loved (hand over heart)

the world (make circle with hands)

that He (point upward)

gave (stretch out hands, as if giving something)

His only begotten Son, (hold up one finger)

that whoever believes (point to others)

in Him (point upward)

should not perish (shake head)

but have everlasting life (jump for joy)

John 3:16 (palms together, then open hands)

**NATURE LESSON:** Read the **Nature Lesson**, “Penguin Pebbles,” and discuss the question.

# Full Program Outline Continued



## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**CRAFT:** Show the children your completed **Baby Jesus in a Manger craft** and share instructions for making it. Distribute the craft sticks and paper and other supplies needed to complete their crafts.

You may like to play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** or **Christmas hymns** in the background.

**COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus is God's precious gift to me.** Now turn to a partner and say it to them. **"Jesus is God's precious gift to you."**

**MISSION CHALLENGE:** Pray for the people you noticed who serve others in your community. Ask God to lead you to people who will be open to receiving His wonderful gift—Jesus.

• **What in this week's story would you want to share with that person?**

**RESPOND and PRAY:** Invite the children to stand in a circle and bring their pieces of paper that show something they want to thank God for. Place a colorful gift box in the middle of your circle. Share how prayer is like giving a gift back to God—our love, our gratitude, and our desire to serve Him with our actions.

Then invite the children to take turns saying something from their prayer of thanks before placing it in the box or simply silently place their prayer inside the open gift box.

Finish by praying on behalf of the children, thanking God for the incredible gift of Jesus.

**SING:** Sing **"God Bless You."**

## The Gift of Jesus

**Big Idea:** Jesus is God's precious gift to me.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

### Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Collect a **baking tray, pile of sticks, a small block of wood, leaves, round dried beans**, and a 15-inch (38-centimeter) length of **gold crepe paper** or fabric to tell the story.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

### TELL THE STORY

Mary's pregnant tummy grew bigger and bigger. And so did her excitement! God's promised Savior God was growing inside her (**lay gold crepe paper or fabric across a female leader's tummy**), and He would soon be born!

Mary patted her belly in wonder. The angel had told her, "That Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35). God's promised gift would soon arrive, and it would be the very best gift of all.

**Why was God giving this gift? Read John 3:16 (your memory verse).** (Because He loved the world so much.)

One day messengers rushed into town. Trumpets blew (**trumpet noise/action—blow two leaves together**). They had important news from Caesar Augustus, the ruler of Rome. Everyone across the empire was to be counted, and so they were ordered to go to the town their family had come from. They would be put on a tax list.

This was big news for Mary and Joseph! With a lot of other people they would need to leave Nazareth and travel a long way to Bethlehem. (**Pour out round dried beans on a baking tray to represent the crowd. Add the small block of wood as Mary and Joseph's donkey.**) They both came from the family of King David, who had been born there.



► With Joseph's help, Mary climbed on their little donkey and tried to get comfortable. Off they went. *Clip-clop. Bump-bump. Clip-clop. Bump-bump.* It was a tiring, bumpy journey for pregnant Mary.

God had told Micah the prophet that His Son would be born in Bethlehem. They were headed to that very town. It was just as God had said! (Tilt the tray to make them "move" in one direction towards the other end of the tray, marked "Bethlehem.")

► After four or five days of dusty, bumpy travel, they finally arrived in Bethlehem. *Phew!* (Place the sticks in circle for the wall of a town and small houses within. Keep an opening for the "gate.") Joseph and Mary walked wearily through the gates. With a sigh (*sigh*), they joined the crowds of travelers looking for a place to stay. (Gather the "crowd" dried beans inside the town walls.)

(Hold two beans and the "donkey" wood block.) They tried the inn (*shake head*). There was no room in the inn. No room in a cozy home, no room in a rooftop shelter—no room anywhere!

In the town of King David, a baby King was about to be born. He would be the most important King ever, for He is called "Lord of lords and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14). But the people in Bethlehem didn't even know it.

► At last, Mary and Joseph found a place to sleep—a stable. (Identify "stable" with stick surrounds.) A cow moored and a sheep bleated as Joseph opened the creaky door and shone a lantern inside. They quietly made a bed of clean straw among the animals. Then they smiled a tired smile as they finally lay down. They were content, because they trusted God.

► That night, in the quiet of the stable, God's most precious gift was born. What a strange, messy place for the King of kings to arrive in! But Mary and Joseph just looked in wonder at the tiny Baby as they laid Him in a manger. (Place small bean inside "stable" area.) This was God's Son! There were no words to catch their wonder. Mary softly spoke His name: "Jesus." (Drape gold crepe paper/fabric around the "stable.")

Sing a verse of "Silent Night" together.

**What does Jesus' name mean? Read Matthew 1:21 together.** ("He will save His people from their sins.")

The meaning of a name was very important in Bible times. Whenever Jesus' name was spoken, people would know He was their Savior. What a special thought to keep saying out loud.

Jesus would be called by other names, too. Isaiah 7:14 calls Him "Immanuel," which means "God is with us." Jesus was also known as "Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus was just too amazing to have only one name!

► Mary wrapped Jesus gently, cuddled Him, and fed Him. Such a tiny body for God to fit into! But this little baby would do big, BIG things. Jesus would live and die to show the whole world the most beautiful picture of God's love anyone could ever show.

Sing a verse of "Away in a Manger" together. Invite children to use their hands to bring the words to life as they sing.

• **What surprises you in this story?** (That God's Son, the King of kings, was born in a humble stable, surrounded by animals. That He slept in a manger. That the people of Bethlehem didn't welcome Him.)

• **What amazing things would Jesus do when He grew up to be a man?** (Jesus died on the cross for my sins so that I can choose to go to heaven to live with Him forever, healed sick people, performed miracles, preached to many people, spent time with a close circle of friends.)

• **If you had been there in that stable, how might you have shown Baby Jesus what He means to you, knowing He will change your future and give you life forever in heaven?**



# Nature Lesson Penguin Pebbles

**Focus:** The penguin reminds us that God likes to give good gifts.

**Did you know that some animals give gifts to each other? Gentoo penguins are one such animal! (Show picture.) I wonder what they can teach us.**

Gentoo Penguins are large penguins that love to swim super-fast. They are the third-largest species of penguins and can grow up to 27 to 35 inches (70 to 90 centimeters) tall and weigh between 10 to 19 pounds (4.5 and 8.5 kilograms). They live in Antarctica and subantarctic Islands. A Gentoo Penguin has a reddish bill. It also has a black back and head, white belly, and a distinctive white stripe running eye to eye across the top of its head.

Gentoo Penguins do a lot of swimming and are the fastest species of penguins in the world. They can reach speeds of up to 22 miles (36 kilometers) per hour! Gentoo Penguins can also dive down deeply into the ocean when looking for food. They hunt for krill, fish, and squid. Have you ever tried to see how long you can hold your breath when swimming? The Gentoo Penguin can hold its breath and stay underwater for as long as seven minutes! They can make up to 450 dives in a day looking for food.

Something male Gentoo Penguins like to do is give gifts of pebbles! When they are ready to mate, they will search and search along the rocky shoreline, looking for the most beautiful pebble. They like to find the perfect pebble present and give it to their special female penguin. The female Gentoo Penguins use these pebbles to make their nests. So while this gift of pebbles is more for practical reasons, the male still needs to find the perfect pebble to show his female friend he is ready to start a family. If the female penguin accepts the gift, she will add his pebble present to her nest. Following some getting-to-know-you rituals, the male will help the female finish building the nest, ready for the eggs to be laid. His pebble was the perfect present.

**How does this lesson remind you of God and His gift of Jesus?**

<https://oceanwide-expeditions.com/to-do/wildlife/gentoo-penguin>

## Craft

### Baby Jesus in a Manger

**What you need:**

Twelve craft sticks, a piece of cardstock 4-1/3 inches by 3-1/2 inches (11 centimeters by 9 centimeters), craft glue, an oval-shaped rock, a black marker, a piece of fabric, a rubber band, straw, straw.

**Instructions:**

1. Glue two sets of two craft sticks together in an "X" shape. (1)
2. Fold a piece of cardstock in half and glue eight craft sticks side by side, leaving a small gap down the middle where it can bend in a "V" shape. (2)
3. Draw a face on a rock and wrap it in a piece of fabric, using a rubber band around the middle to secure it. (3)
4. Once the glue dries, flip the cardstock with the craft sticks over. Glue along the top edges of the "X" craft sticks and hold in place on the peak of the "V" shaped card. (4)
5. Leave to dry, then flip over the "manger," placing straw and the "Baby Jesus" rock inside. (4)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 **Worshipping Baby Jesus**
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

### Week 3

# Worshipping Baby Jesus

**Bible References:** Luke 2:8-40 and Matthew 2:1-12

**Big Idea** Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.

**Memory Verse** "Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being" (Psalm 146:1, 2).

**References** *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 47-67  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 699-712  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 35-52

**Fundamental Beliefs** Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
4. The Son  
5. The Holy Spirit  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
11. Growing in Christ  
18. The Gift of Prophecy  
21. Stewardship  
25. The Second Coming of Christ

**Word of the Week** **Devoted:** Devoted is being committed, loyal, or attached to someone or something.

**Lesson Summary** This lesson follows the arrival of Jesus and focuses on those who were ready and waiting to give Him praise and worship. Angels visited a group of shepherds who were waiting for the promised Messiah. The heavens filled with praise. They were told where to find Jesus and ran to worship Him, then told others of His arrival. Simeon and Anna lived devoted to God, who had told them they would see the Savior. When they did, they praised and worshiped Him. Wise Men in the East had been studying the Scriptures and learned of the Savior. They followed God's star until they found Him in Bethlehem, where they worshiped Him with gifts. Jesus is still worthy of our praise and worship.

**Learning Goals** The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus is worthy of praise and worship.  
**Feel** that they want to follow Jesus and be devoted to Him.  
**Respond** by praising God and wanting to worship Him.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

It does our souls well to pause and recount all the things God has done for us. Awakening to a new morning, hearing laughter fill our home, or watching clouds roll above rain-kissed fields are all signs of God's love and care. When we praise God, we are acknowledging who He is and all the wonderful things He has done in our lives.

When we see the power of God and His great love for us, we cannot help praising and worshipping Him. This was the experience of the shepherds in the field, Simeon and Anna in the temple, and the Wise Men from the East. These individuals were deeply devoted to God and waited patiently for their Redeemer. They

lived life in a posture of expectancy and worship. God did not disappoint. They were the first people to welcome His Son; the greatest gift the world would ever know. What a reward! Their thanks naturally overflowed into worship and praise.

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created" (Revelation 4:11).

As you and the children explore this week's story, may you be reminded anew of who God is and His mighty works, and know He alone is worthy to be praised.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 3

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive, including **“Books of the Bible”** song.
- Tray of tasty **treats** on display
- Children's praise time with different **instruments**

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“God is So Wonderful”**
  - **“God’s Grace”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You Jesus,”** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Follow the Light
- Discussion
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Discussion: People's attributes when their hearts are full of love
- Source **instruments** to play while singing “Praise Him, Praise Him.”

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 29: Wise Men: Worshipping Jesus**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “Psalm 146:1, 2”**
- **Mission Story:** “Christmas Miracle”
- **Craft:** Flying Angel
- **Mission Challenge:** With your family, think about a family member (grandparent, uncle, cousin) who may need a reminder to go to God for help or peace. Share this with them using a song, letter, or video message.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**
- Sing **“God Bless You.”**
- Pray. Thank Jesus for being our Savior and for showing us how worthy He is of our praise and worship.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Source a variety of **instruments**, and **music** from the AIJ website.

Source a flashlight.

Source a **globe/world map**.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Prepare Mission Fast Fact.

Write the **Big Idea** on your whiteboard, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the **Program PowerPoint**.

Source small **percussion instruments**.

For the Bible story, source: a small toy **sheep**, a **flashlight** and **angel prop**, a toy/cardboard **manger**, toy/Lego figures to represent **Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Simeon, and Anna**; a **bowl of fruit** (berries, bananas, grapes), and a **star prop**.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 29: Wise Men: Worshipping Jesus** for each child

## Craft Materials

Print **week 3 craft template** on **white cardstock** for each child. Source **scissors, glue, bamboo skewers, small foam balls, markers, glitter, star stickers**.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Books of the Bible"
- "God Is So Wonderful"
- "God's Grace"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- "Praise Him, Praise Him"
- Scripture Song: "Psalm 146:1, 2"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "God Bless You"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Week 3 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 29: Wise Men: Worshipping Jesus
- Week 3 Craft Template

## Additional Resources to Source

- Classroom Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Pencils and paper
- Flashlight
- Instruments
- Small toy sheep, a flashlight and angel prop, a toy/cardboard manger, toy/Lego figures representing Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, Simeon, and Anna; a bowl of fruit (berries, bananas, grapes), and a star prop
- Small paper stars
- Craft materials (see above)



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background as children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible”** song, for intermittent reinforcement.

**CONNECT:** Before you begin Sabbath School, have an appropriate eating treat in view for the children, but don't refer to it. If they make reference to it, simply say, “That's not for now,” and redirect their attention.

Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them. Ask them about something good that happened for them this week.

**DO:** Invite the children to try playing the different instruments you have brought as you praise God together. You may like to invite the children to play along with songs from the Alive in Jesus website.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Briefly share some ways God has been good to you this week. Talk about how you're so looking forward to praising God today!

**SING:** Sing **“God Is So Wonderful.”** Between each verse, invite the children to share why God is so wonderful.

Then sing **“God's Grace”** and ask,

- **What words in this song do you love the most?”**

Remind the children that God loves to hear us praise and worship Him. Briefly explain what praise is: You praise something or someone when you share (with some excitement) a quality or something you admire or really love about them.

- **What do you really love about Jesus?**

Praying is another way we praise God. Before you sing your prayer song, share the first three phrases of the lyrics to highlight some other things we can be grateful to God for (He made us, He saved us, He's coming back to take us home), then reverently sing this prayer song: **“Sabbath Song.”**

**PRAY:** In your prayer, praise God for who He is, and thank Him for giving us the Sabbath, so we can come and learn about Him, and for being a God who loves us more than we can imagine.

**GIVE:** Explain that giving is another way we can say “Thank You” to God for all He does for us. Explain that we give our offerings to God for His work both in our area and around the world. We also give our tithe, 10 percent of anything we earn, which is collected by our wider church to pay for our pastors. Encourage the children to bring their own tithe to church from any money or gifts they receive.

Have a child collect the offering as you sing **“Thank You, Jesus.”** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Thank the children for their generous giving. Share this week's **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter's mission project. Pray and ask God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **“Visitor Song.”** Sing **“Happy Birthday”** to a child who has had a birthday this week and ask God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Make the room as dark as possible. Shine a flashlight around the room and challenge children to follow the light. Repeat this several times.


Ask: **Have you ever followed something to find out where it led? How did you feel?** (Curious, excited, adventurous.)

**EXPLAIN:** In our story today, Wise Men were willing to follow what looked like a bright star wherever it led. **I wonder why they would do that?** The answer might be found in our Big Idea.


**READ:** Read the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**



## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today's story. Then creatively share the Bible story. Use props, sing carols within the story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **DISCUSS:** • **What do people do when their hearts are full of love?** (Hug, say nice words, smile, sing, help, give gifts.)  
• **How do you like to show Jesus that you love Him as you worship Him? What might you do with your hands? Your body? Your face? Your mouth? Your eyes?** (One example is to give our offerings as an act of worship God, as the wise men gave gifts to Jesus.)

Invite children to show God their love as they quietly talk to Him in prayer, just as the Wise Men and shepherds quietly talked to God from their hearts. Play quiet instrumental music if desired.


**SING:** Read **Psalm 27:8**, “**Your face, Lord, I will seek.**” Invite the children to praise God with some instruments or percussion and sing a **praise song of choice**. As they sing, invite them to think about what it will be like when Jesus returns, and we can look into God's face and praise Him in heaven.

**TEACHING POINT:** Remind them again of today's **Big Idea: Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**


## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Collector Card 29: Wise Men: Worshipping Jesus** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the memory verse. Then sing the Scripture Song “**Psalm 146:1, 2.**” Ask: **Why do you choose to sing praises to God?**

**MISSION STORY:** Share the **Mission Story**, “**Christmas Miracle,**” and discuss the follow-up question.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** The mother in the story began her friendship with Jesus by beginning a friendship with Sumanta. When we encourage others, we are helping God.

Your Mission Challenge this week: With your family, think about a family member (grandparent, uncle, cousin) who may need some encouragement or help or peace. Think of a creative way to connect with them this week through a song, letter, or video message.

 **CRAFT:** Show the children your completed **Flying Angel craft**. Demonstrate how to make it, then distribute a circle template to each child along with other supplies required to complete their crafts. You may like to play Christmas hymns in the background as they do this.

• **Whom could you share today's story with?**

This week, use your craft to share the story and its message with at least one other person.

**COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together, **Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**

Show the storytelling star.

• **Was the star the shepherds and Wise Men saw actually a star? What was it really?**

**Teaching Point:** It was a whole choir of angels who were bursting to sing a praise song to God.

 **REVIEW MEMORY VERSE AND BIG IDEA:** Say your **memory verse** one last time as a praise song to God: “Praise the Lord, O my soul! While I live, I will praise the Lord; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being” (Psalm 146:1, 2).

Say the **Big Idea** one final time: **Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.**

Invite children who want to say these words to God in worship this week to come forward and take a small **star**. This can be a reminder at home to praise and worship God every day.

**SING and PRAY:** Sing “**God Bless You.**” Then, as you pray, praise God for being so amazing and always worthy of our praise and worship.

# Worshipping Baby Jesus



**Big Idea:** Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story.

**Props:** small **toy sheep** for the shepherds, a **flashlight or angel prop** for the angel appearance, a **toy/cardboard manger** with **toy/Lego figures** of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus, a **doll or figure** to represent Simeon, a **figure** to represent Anna, a **bowl of fruit** (berries, bananas, grapes) for the activity, and a **star prop** to guide the Wise Men.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► Stars dotted the dark night skies over Bethlehem. As Baby Jesus (*show Baby Jesus figure*) breathed His first breath on earth, the people of Bethlehem slept on.

But on the grassy hills outside the town, a group of shepherds were wide awake. They sat around a fire, talking together as they watched over their sheep (*toy sheep*). These humble shepherds were devoted to God. They often talked about the promised Savior and prayed for Him to come.

► Suddenly the dark sky lit up. An angel appeared! (*Shine a flashlight or use an angel prop.*)

The shepherds were surprised and terrified, but the angel spoke gently: "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:10, 11, ICB).

The Savior had come! The angel said, "You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

The sky filled with angels, praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14). (*Hold up "angels" prop.*)

The light faded. The angels and their sweet song disappeared.

**The shepherds were amazed! After so much waiting, hoping, and praying, the Savior had come! What did they do? Let's read Luke 2:15.** (*They hurried to Bethlehem to see what the angel had told them.*)

► Gently they pushed the door of the stable open. There, beside Joseph and Mary, was the Baby! He was wrapped in soft cloth and lying in a manger (*show Mary and Joseph figures and Baby Jesus in the manger*). It was just as the angel had said!

They tiptoed in, dropped to their knees, and bowed low to worship tiny Jesus. Their eyes sparkled with joy, and tears fell from their eyes, for they knew that Baby Jesus was no ordinary baby—He was the promised Messiah. He was worthy of their worship!

Full of excitement, they told Mary and Joseph all about the angel's message and the angel choir. This was Christ, the Lord! Mary's heart filled with joy.

With a last look at Baby Jesus, the shepherds quietly left. As they stepped onto the street, their excitement bubbled over. They couldn't keep quiet any longer! They shared what they had seen and heard with everyone. With songs of praise they spread the good news!

► Little Baby Jesus grew. When He was 40 days old, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple in Jerusalem to dedicate Him to God. Mary held Baby Jesus close. Joseph smiled at their little Baby as they walked through the temple gates.

Simeon, a man who loved God with all his heart, walked quickly to the temple too (*show a figure to represent Simeon*). He had felt the Holy Spirit tell him to get there—now!



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**What had Simeon been promised by God? Read Luke 2:26.** (That he would not die before he saw the Messiah.)

Arriving at the temple, he scanned the temple court. Then he saw Baby Jesus—and instantly he knew! ► Rushing to Mary and Joseph, Simeon took Baby Jesus in his arms and praised God. Here was the Savior! At last—the Messiah had come!

While Simeon praised God, a prophet named Anna entered the temple (bring out a figure to represent Anna). She was 84 years-old and devoted to God. She served Him in the temple day and night. Seeing the Baby, her face lit up. At once she knew He was the Messiah! With tears in her eyes she gave thanks to God and told everyone the good news. All her hopes and dreams had come true!

Direct children's attention to the treat that has been sitting before them since the beginning of Sabbath School.

• **How did it feel seeing the treat but having to wait to receive it?**

Pass it around now. Continue talking as they quietly eat it. Simeon and Anna had to wait for a much longer time to have God's promise fulfilled. On this day they knew the wait was worth it!

Share the **Big Idea** again: (For) **Jesus is worthy of my praise and worship!**

► Meanwhile, in a faraway country, a group of men gazed up at the twinkling stars. These wise, educated men loved to study the stars. They were devoted to learning. They even studied the Bible scrolls. As they studied, they learned about the true God. They read the writings of the prophets which said God was sending a new King and Savior.

The men gasped as they gazed up at the sky. There it was! A bright new, shining star! The brilliant star was really a cluster of shining angels. God told the Wise Men in a dream to follow the star—it would lead them to the new King.

The Wise Men packed up and set off on the long journey, following the star (hold up a star prop). They followed the shining star each night until they arrived in Jerusalem. Here they began to look for the new baby King. They said, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him" (Matthew 2:2).

► But no one was waiting to worship Jesus in Jerusalem. Not King Herod—he sent them on their way. Not the Jewish leaders. Not even the people.

► The star led them on to Bethlehem, directly to the house where Jesus was staying (show Mary, Joseph, Jesus figures, without the manger). With hearts filled with wonder, the Wise Men bowed and worshipped Jesus—the new King (place toy Wise Men near Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus).

**What gifts did the Wise Men bring? Read Matthew 2:11.** (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.)

These gifts had special meanings. Gold showed that Jesus was king. Frankincense, a perfume used in worship, symbolized His role as priest. Myrrh, used in burial, reminded them that Jesus would one day die for His people.

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## TEACHER NOTES

# Mission Story Christmas Miracle



**Focus:** God is worthy of our worship, and He cares for us.

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**Location:** Help a child locate **India** on your **globe** or **world map**.

It was Christmas Day in India. Mother stopped her work to listen closely to the beautiful singing drifting through her window. It seemed to fill her home with joy!

She had been so sad and worried lately. Her 4-year-old son Anurag couldn't walk. He couldn't stand. He couldn't even sit. She had taken him to many doctors and hospitals, but no one could help him.

Mother peered out the window, looking for the source of this sweet sound. Sitting on the grass beside the Ganges River were a group of Christians, happily singing to Jesus. Mother loved the music. She'd never heard anything like it. It made her heart feel hopeful.

Mother wasn't a Christian. She wondered if the Christians might be able to help her son. She scooped him up in her arms and carried him outside.

"Please pray for my son," Mother asked the group. "Pray that he will be able to sit, stand, and walk."

Sumanta, a Seventh-day Adventist missionary in his own country, nodded with a big smile. He had gathered people by the river to worship Jesus on Christmas Day.

"I am nothing. God is everything," he told Mother. "If you know Jesus Christ, your faith will increase, and your faith will save your son."

Mother realized she needed to have faith in this God. She had worshipped many false gods during her lifetime, but she had never worshipped Jesus.

Sumanta prayed for little Anurag. He also invited Mother to join a Bible study group. Three months passed. Mother faithfully studied the Bible every day—she was looking for Jesus. Her new friends in the Bible study group prayed for Anurag.

When six months passed, Mother had exciting news to share. "Anurag can sit up on his own!" Her smile was as bright as the sun. God was answering their prayers.

Mother's faith grew. She decided to give her heart to Jesus and be baptized. There was only one God whom she wanted to worship now: Jesus, the God who was helping her son. He was worthy of her worship.

After Mother was baptized, Anurag kept gaining strength. Now this little boy can sit, stand, and walk! Mother is so happy. She is glad to worship her loving, saving Jesus. He has been so kind to her. "This is one of the greatest miracles," she said.

Discuss:

- **How did God show Mother that He was the one true God, worthy of her worship?**



# Craft

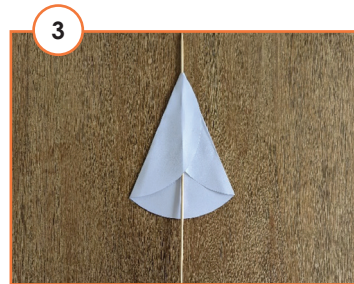
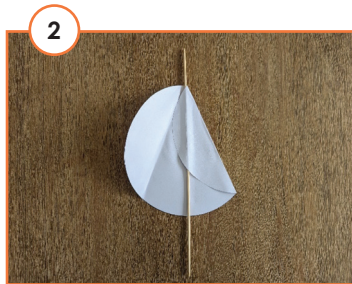
## Flying Angel

### What you need:

Week 3 craft template on white cardstock, scissors, glue, bamboo skewer, small foam ball, marker, glitter, star stickers. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Cut out the shapes then place a bamboo skewer in the center of the circle. (2)
2. Fold each side of the circle over the skewer, one side at a time, and glue into place. (2, 3)
3. Glue the semi-circle to the back of the circle, straight edge up. Draw a face on the foam ball and push onto the top of the skewer. (4)
4. Decorate the angel with stickers and glitter glue and leave it to dry. (5)





## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 **Keeping Baby Jesus Safe**
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

#### Week 4

# Keeping Baby Jesus Safe

**Bible Reference:** Matthew 2:12-18

**Big Idea** God can guide my life.

**Memory Verse** "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye" (Psalm 32:8).

**References** *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 62-67  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 53-62

#### Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

1. The Holy Scriptures
3. The Father
5. The Holy Spirit
7. Nature of Humanity
8. The Great Controversy
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
11. Growing in Christ

#### Word of the Week

**Guidance:** Guidance means to give advice and information, to help do something, or solve a problem or difficulty. Guidance leads and directs us when we need help—like a light would guide someone on a dark path at night. Not all advice is good advice.

#### Lesson Summary

This lesson explores the way God guides the lives of those who are willing to listen to Him. God guided the Wise Men to baby Jesus so they could worship Him and He guided them safely home again. He guided Joseph and Mary to flee King Herod's wrath and anger at finding out there was a baby threatening his reign on the throne, then guided them back home again. Four times God sent an angel messenger to Joseph and each time Joseph listened and obeyed, trusting God's protection and guidance.

#### Learning Goals

The children will:  
**Know** that God can guide their lives.  
**Feel** they can trust God to guide their lives.  
**Respond** by giving their hearts to God and listening to Him and following His ways.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

**Dear Sabbath School Teacher,**

Have you ever taken a road trip to an unfamiliar place, and lost your way? You may slow, stop, and try to get your bearings, but it's still unclear which way to go. If you continue on this path, you may go further in the wrong direction. If you turn around, you will lose time and may still end up lost.

In the journey of life, it can be just as hard to find the right path. But we need not travel alone. God offers to be our guide. He has mapped out a unique purpose for each of us and He invites us to trust in His direction and care.

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

God had amazing plans for Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus. He guided them through threat, culture shock, and change. And His hand was over the Wise Men who had similarly put their whole trust in Him.

He has a wonderful journey mapped out for you too. You can trust Him with the big decisions—where to live, what job to do, how to educate your children—and each smaller one. The Bible says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye" (Psalm 32:8).

As you and the children explore this week's story together, may you learn to trust Him more. He is the only One who will faithfully guide and teach us in the way we should go.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** God can guide my life.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 4

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible”** song for intermittent reinforcement.
- **DO:** Invite the children to do a treasure hunt. Give them a list with some clues that guide them to several places in the room that lead them to some stickers or a star that they can keep.

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Be Kind”**
  - **“God Is So Wonderful”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray. Children can share how God has helped them in the past week.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- **Show:** Items that provide guidance (Compass, Bible etc.)
- **Discuss:** Talk about items, similarities, and use.
- Share the **Big Idea: God can guide my life.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- **Activity:** Blindfolded Guiding—children to lead each other blindfolded
- **Discussion:** Talk about their experiences and trust.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 30: God Guides the Way**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “Psalm 32:8”**
- **Nature Lesson:** “Dogs That Guide”
- Object lesson review
- **Craft:** Paper Plate Compass
- Commit: Repeat Big Idea.
- Sing **“God Bless You.”**
- **Mission Challenge:** Decide on a class plan to give a gratitude gift. Pray for the receivers, and that God will guide. This week, decide on a Bible promise or message to share with them.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Create some simple instructions for a treasure hunt, such as "Look under the third chair near the window" or "Find a picture of a Bible character who is wearing red and look underneath the picture for the next clue." At each clue, add the next clue until the children come to the end of the treasure hunt, where they will find some stickers or a star, which they can keep. Update [Offering Chart](#).

Prepare [Mission Fast Fact](#).

Source the following objects: compass (the craft), Bible, star, flashlight, angel, cardboard stepping stones, guide dog picture, bag to hold the items or cloth to cover them.

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the Program PowerPoint, or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source [Program PowerPoint](#).

Source **blindfolds**, one for each child.

## Tie It All Together

Print [Character Card 30: God Guides the Way](#) for each child.

Create "stepping stones" with one word from the memory verse written on each one.

## Craft Materials

Print [week 4 craft template](#) on cardstock. Source **paper plates, markers, scissors, split pins**. Create a sample.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Books of the Bible"
- "Be Kind"
- "God Is So Wonderful"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Psalm 32:8"
- "God Bless You"



*qr.aij.info\_PA3Music*

- Offering Chart
- Mission Fast Fact
- Week 4 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 30: God Guides the Way

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Play-dough
- Compass, Bible, star, flashlight, angel, cardboard stepping stones, guide dog picture, bag or cloth
- Blindfolds (one for each child)
- Treasure hunt instructions, clues, sticker or star prizes
- Peg people (Wise Men, Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angel), bright star or flashlight
- "Stepping stones" with one memory verse word written on each stone
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** God can guide my life.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible.”**

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them and invite them to come and be part of today’s program.

**DO:** Invite the children to do a treasure hunt. Give them a list with some clues that guide them to several places in the room that lead them to some stickers or a star that they can keep.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Sing **“Be Kind”** together. As you sing, have the children copy your actions. Then sing **“God Is So Wonderful,”** followed by the prayer song, **“Sabbath Song.”**

**PRAY:** **Would anyone like to share how God has helped them in the past week?** (Be prepared to share if no one volunteers.) **Pray** and thank God for always being with us and being willing to help us in big or small ways.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing **“Thank You, Jesus.”** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the **Offering Chart**.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **“Visitor Song.”** Sing **“Happy Birthday”** to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J SHOW/DISCUSS:** Reveal several objects or pictures one at a time from a bag (or from beneath a cloth) that relate to guidance. Objects could include: a compass (the craft), a Bible, a star (last week), flashlight, angel, a few cardboard stepping stones, guide dog picture. Talk about each item as you show it. At the end, bring an adult to join the collection.

Ask:

- **What is similar about all these items?**

**Teaching Point:** All these things guide us in some way. When we use them correctly, they guide us well and they protect us.

**EXPLAIN:** Read the **Big Idea** together: **God can guide my life.** In our story today, God guided the Wise Men, and Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus through trouble. We can trust Him to guide us too.

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today’s story. Then creatively share the Bible story.



## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)


**DO:** Blindfold Guiding: Invite the children to take turns guiding a partner. The guide will lead their partner around the room and back to their seat, giving instructions and helping them along so they are safe.

**DISCUSS:** • **How did it feel to be led around the room without being able to see?**

- **Did you trust your guide? Why?**
- **Who in our story today trusted God to be their guide? How?**
- **Why do you think they made that choice?**
- **We can also choose whether we let God be our Guide. Why would you say yes to trusting Him?**

**Teaching Point:** In our lesson today, God guided Joseph and Mary to take Jesus and flee to Egypt to keep Him safe. They couldn't see the future, but they were willing to listen and let God guide them. Though God might not guide us by dreams, He has given us His Word and the Holy Spirit to guide us.

- **Who else in our story thus far was willing to let God guide them?**

 **SHARE:** Talk about a time in your life where you trusted God to guide you in a big or small decision. Tell the children how this impacted you and the lessons you learned.

**Teaching Point:** We trust people that we know will want the best for us and can help us. God is our very best guide. We can trust and obey His words. Just as He guided Mary and Joseph, and the Wise Men, He will protect and care for us too.

**BIG IDEA:** Repeat the **Big Idea: God can guide my life.**

**PRAY:** Invite one child to pray for your group to ask God to guide each of your lives as you trust Him more as you grow older.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 30: God Guides the Way**. Discuss the picture, then place card in their storage container/bag.


One big way God guides us is through His words in the **Bible**. What a special **privilege it is to have these words to learn from!**

To say the **memory verse**, invite the children to line up in front of the memory verse stepping stones. Each stepping stone will have a word from your memory verse, leading from beginning to end. Have them say each word as they walk along the path. Then sing the **Scripture Song, "Psalm 32:8."**

- **Can you think of something that God has "taught" you?**

**Teaching Point:** God really wants to guide our steps, to show us and teach us the right way to go, just as these stepping stones show us where to go.

**NATURE LESSON:** Read the Nature Lesson, "**Dogs That Guide**" and engage the children in the discussion question.

 **CRAFT:** Show the children your simple **Paper Plate Compass craft** sample. Explain how God is like a compass. He guides us and shows us the right way we should go. This compass we make can remind us that we can trust God to do this. Share instructions for making it. As you make the compass, invite children to share something they'd like God to guide them with. (Are there choices with your friends, at school, or with family that you need help with? Begin this sharing time by sharing something from your life before they share.)

 **SING:** Bring the children back together to sing the closing song, "**God Bless You.**"

Then invite children to **share something they enjoyed today** and **something that's new**. Affirm comments.

# Full Program Outline Continued



## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **God can guide my life.**

**MISSION CHALLENGE:** **As a group, who in our community could we connect with and thank with a gratitude gift?** (People who serve others.) Decide on a plan.

Let's invite **God to lead us** right now in this. This week, pray about these community people and decide on a Bible promise or message to include with the gift.

**PRAY:** Conclude with a final prayer, thanking God for being such a trustworthy Guide, and for giving us the Bible, parents, teachers, and family who can also help to guide us in His ways.

## Keeping Baby Jesus Safe

**Big Idea:** God can guide my life.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

### Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images.

You may like to use the following props: **toy figurines or peg people** to represent the Wise Men, Baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph; a **bright star** or a **flashlight** to guide the Wise Men; a **toy angel, peg person, or flashlight** for the angel's appearance.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

### TELL THE STORY

► King Herod stomped down the halls of his beautiful palace. The visit by the Wise Men from the East had left him in a terrible mood. His robes swirled around him as he began to plot a wicked scheme.

The king had sent the Wise Men happily on their way. He had said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also" (Matthew 2:8). But it was all a lie. Instead of worshipping Baby Jesus, King Herod secretly planned to kill Him!

King Herod was jealous; he wanted power all to himself. The more he thought about it, the angrier he became. He was following Satan's guidance to try to harm Jesus.

► The Wise Men knew nothing of Herod's evil plans. They were full of joy as they packed up their belongings and prepared to leave Bethlehem. They had found the Messiah and worshipped him! Now it was time to begin their long journey home. They planned to stop in Jerusalem and share their wonderful news with King Herod. Then he, and all the Hebrew people, could find Baby Jesus and worship Him too. Or so they thought.



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But God had a different plan. He was watching over those Wise Men, and He knew that stopping in Jerusalem was a very, VERY dangerous idea. He needed to warn them right away! That night, He gave them a dream.

- **What did God tell them to do, and how did they respond? Read Matthew 2:12.** (God warned them not to return to Herod, so they went home a different way.)

The Wise Men were truly wise to trust God. God had guided them to the Bible scrolls, to the stars, and to Jesus. He would guide them safely home.

God could see there was terrible danger ahead for Jesus. King Herod was determined to get rid of the Baby King. But God was watching over Him.

That night, as Joseph slept, God also sent him a dream. **What did he tell him to do? Read Matthew 2:13.** (To take Jesus and Mary and quickly flee to Egypt. They were to stay in Egypt until God told them it was safe to leave again.)

Joseph's eyes opened and he was instantly wide awake. Yes, he was sure of the next steps he must take. ► In a flash he woke Mary, and together they quickly loaded their little donkey. Silently they hurried away into the night, with Jesus held tightly in Mary's arms.

► King Herod sat on his throne, fuming. His servants trembled as he began to rage. The Wise Men had not come back, as promised. He'd been tricked!

The king called for his soldiers. In a fit of rage, he ordered that all baby boys two years old and younger in Bethlehem and the surrounding districts, were to be killed. What a sad day that was.

God guided Joseph, Mary, and Jesus safely to Egypt. Here, they made a happy home. Baby Jesus grew into little Boy Jesus.

One night, when Jesus was about three years old, God gave Joseph a third dream (hold up the angel prop again.) The angel told Joseph it was safe to return to Israel—Herod was no longer on the throne.

► Once more, Joseph and Mary loaded up the donkey. Then taking little Jesus in their arms, they set off for Bethlehem. But Herod's meanest son was now the ruler there. It was not a safe place for Jesus. On the way, God gave Joseph a fourth dream, guiding him to Nazareth instead. What a loving Father, Guide, and Friend.

- In this story, God used angels to guide the Wise Men and Joseph and Mary. **Who/what does God put in your life that can help Him guide you in His ways?** Return to the ideas in the Hook activity: The Bible, friends who love Jesus, adults who love Jesus, prayer.

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## TEACHER NOTES



# Nature Lesson Dogs That Guide

**Focus:** Guide dogs remind us that God wants to lead and direct us and be our faithful guide.

Have you ever seen a special dog called a guide dog? These dogs have been specially trained to help people who are blind or sight impaired to live their lives well. Guide dogs serve their owners by helping them walk around obstacles that are in the way and alerting them to uneven paths and upcoming curbs. A guide dog can also help their human to safely avoid dangers up high, like an overhanging tree branch. Guide dogs are also able to safely help their owner on walks through busy crowds. They can even locate and travel on public transport.

On average, a person with low vision or blindness will have their doggy companion between eight and ten years. During this time a strong friendship is formed—built on companionship but most importantly trust. A person with low vision or who is blind puts their trust in their guide dog to be their eyes and keep them safe through many day-to-day jobs that we take for granted. Imagine that you are unable to see, and you want to take a walk around your neighborhood or to the local park. Think of the roads you need to cross and things that might be in your path that you wouldn't be able to see. It would be a difficult and dangerous walk without a guide.

We have an even greater guide to be our everyday helper and to keep us safe and traveling in the right direction. We have a wonderful God who offers to be our guide.

• **What can you do to make God your guide?**

<https://guidedogs.com.au/>

## Craft

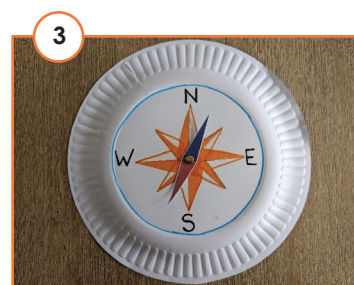
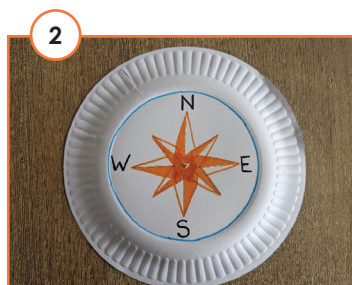
### Paper Plate Compass

**What you need:**

Week 4 craft template printed on cardstock, paper plate, markers, scissors, split pin. (1)

**Instructions:**

1. Use markers to decorate the back of a paper plate like a compass, adding N, E, S, W around the outside. (2)
2. Cut out the compass arrow and attach it to the paper plate with a split pin. (3)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

# Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 **Growing Up in Nazareth**
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 5

# Growing Up in Nazareth

**Bible Reference:** Luke 2:41-52

**Big Idea** Jesus is my example as I grow.

**Memory Verse** "But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen" (2 Peter 3:18).

**References**  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 706-712  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-92  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 63-90

**Fundamental Beliefs**  
Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
1. The Holy Scriptures  
4. The Son  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
11. Growing in Christ  
20. The Sabbath  
22. Christian Behavior  
24. Christ's Ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary

**Word of the Week**  
**Mature:** To mature is to grow up to become responsible and fully developed. People grow to be physically mature, as well as mature in their thinking, feelings, and how they speak and act. Some people mature more quickly than others. We can also say some children are mature for their age.

**Lesson Summary**  
This lesson explores how Jesus grew and matured, learning God's ways from nature, His family, and the Holy Scriptures. He did not learn from the rabbis, taking little notice of their ceremonies and traditions. He chose instead to learn from the Word of God. He always did His best in everything and was the perfect example of how to relate to others, always helping others in any way He could.

**Learning Goals**  
The children will:  
**Know** that they can grow to be like Jesus.  
**Feel** they can learn from Jesus, because He is our example.  
**Respond** by spending time with Jesus and learning more about His ways so that they can become more like Him each day with His help.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

It is a miracle to see a young life grow. Their fresh, tender eyes take in all they see. Their sensitive ears absorb all they hear. And as they develop, we come to see that they are remarkable imitators—so much so that sometimes it's confronting. Their movements, their words, their gestures, and their habits so often mirror those living closest to them.

As we seek to guide those in our care, how wonderful to know that there is Someone to whom we can look to as our example. This Someone, the One "altogether lovely" (Song of Solomon 5:16), can directly shape our children too, as we invite them to be His friend.

As a child, Jesus grew "in the sunlight of His Father's countenance" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 68). In such closeness with God, He grew to imitate Him.

"As a child, Jesus manifested a peculiar loveliness of disposition. His willing hands were ever ready to serve

others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that would never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68, 69).

What an inspiration He is.

First Peter 2:21 tells us that Jesus is our example in all things, and we are to follow in His steps. We should imitate and learn from Him because Jesus alone is the true and perfect example. The secret to this is found in living close to Him. It is His work in and through us.

As you and the children explore the story of Jesus' childhood years, may you be drawn to His example and loveliness, knowing that by spending time close to Him, we all can grow to be more like Him each day.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus is my example as I grow.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 5

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.
- Activity: Picture matching
- Option 1: Together children draw a picture of Jesus as a boy.
- Option 2: Children draw a picture of something they can do now that they couldn't do when younger.

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **"God Is So Wonderful"**
  - **"God Is My Faithful Friend"**
  - **"Be Still, Be Silent"**
- Pray. Invite a child to pray, inviting God to be with the class.
- **"Thank You Jesus,"** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **"Visitor Song"**
- **"Happy Birthday"**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Discussion: Jesus as a boy
- Activity: Object exploration
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus is my example as I grow.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

#### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- **Discussion:** Read Luke 2:52 and discuss how Jesus grew.
- **Activity:** Pray, then read Situation Cards and make choices.
- Read the **Big Idea together: Jesus is my example as I grow.**
- **Activity:** Glitter hand shake
- **Discussion:** When we come close to Jesus, we change to be like Him.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 31: Jesus in the Carpenter's Shop**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: "2 Peter 3:18"**
- **Mission Story:** "The Miracle of Music"
- **Craft:** Scripture Scroll or Daddy's Helper (Optional: Play **"Books of the Bible"** while children complete the craft.)
- **Mission Challenge:** Share some Alive in Jesus music with a friend to help them grow closer to God. Also, keep collecting and creating items for the class gifts for those in the community who serve.
- **Commit:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus is my example as I grow.**
- Sing **"God Bless You."**
- **Pray.** Invite children to draw a star to show they want to commit to growing as Jesus did.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Collect **baby pictures** of Sabbath School leaders for a matching game.

Source **paper, pencils** and **crayons** for children to draw, along with books with pictures of Jesus as a boy.

Source a bag with three items that provide examples of **growth** (i.e., seed, flower, fruit or vegetable, or an insect).

Update **Offering Chart**.

Prepare **Mission Fast Fact**.

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or **print/write out** and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the **Program PowerPoint**.

Print out **Situation Cards**.

Source **glitter**.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 31: Jesus in the Carpenter's Shop** for each child.

## Craft Materials

**Option 1:** Source **long strips of white paper, black tea bags and water, large craft sticks, markers, tape, string**.

**Option 2:** Source **week 5 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, glue**.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "God Is So Wonderful"
- "God Is My Faithful Friend"
- "Be Still, Be Silent"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "2 Peter 3:18"
- "Books of the Bible"
- "God Bless You"



*qr.aij.info\_PA3Music*

- Mission Fast Fact
- Week 5 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 31: Jesus in the Carpenter Shop
- Week 5 Craft Template
- Situation Cards

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Baby pictures of Sabbath School leaders
- Colored pencils and paper, books with pictures of Jesus as a boy
- Bag with three items that demonstrate growth (i.e., seeds)
- Glitter
- Storytelling Props: simple Lego or cardboard house; small toy animals; flowers or twigs; scroll of fabric or sheets of paper for road; peg people or figures to represent Mary, Joseph, and Jesus; cardboard or Lego tent; small toy lamb; peg people or figures to represent rabbis
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus is my example as I grow.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** quietly in the background as children arrive.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them. Show several **baby photos** of Sabbath School leaders and see if the children can guess each one.

**DO:** Invite the children to work together to **draw a large picture of Jesus as a boy**. Offer some **books or the Sabbath School lesson** on which to base their drawing. What kind of clothes would He wear? What expression should be on His face? (This will be used during the rest of Sabbath School.)

**Large group option: While some children draw Jesus as a boy, you may like to invite others to draw** something they couldn't do when they were younger, but something they can do now because they've learned it. It might be learning a musical instrument, a particular sport, or a hobby. Have children share their pictures and talk about how God helps us grow and change in all sorts of ways.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Show the drawing of the Boy Jesus (or their drawing from the large group option) that was created before Sabbath School began. Share how in our lesson today, we want to think about Jesus as a boy and some of the things He did as He grew. Sing **"God Is So Wonderful"** and **"God Is My Faithful Friend."** Jesus also loved to praise His Father in heaven when He was a boy. We can praise Him every day with our voices, words, and actions to show Him we love Him too.

Sing the prayer song, **"Be Still, Be Silent."**

**PRAY:** Invite a child to pray with you, asking God to be with us as we learn about Jesus as a boy.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing **"Thank You, Jesus."** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week's **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week's section of the Offering Chart. Also, continue to encourage and remind the children to pay tithes.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **"Visitor Song."** Sing **"Happy Birthday"** to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J BRAINSTORM:** Tape your **picture of Jesus as a boy** to the wall.

Ask: • **What do we know about what Jesus was like as a boy?** Write responses around the drawn illustration. (If not mentioned, prompt some of the following by whispering an idea and inviting a child to **mime** it: loved to learn from **nature**, loved to **pray**, loved to read God's words in the **Bible** scroll, loved to **depend on God** to obey and make the right choice.)

**DO:** One thing we've written that Jesus loved to do is learn things about God from nature. Let's do this, **just like Jesus**.

Show your **bag** with three things hiding inside. Ask: What are some things in nature that grow?


Pull out one item at a time and discuss how God grows each one.

• **What are the different ways in which we grow?** (Taller, stronger, smarter, more mature, closer to God, our faith grows. For example: "This seed can teach me that just as a seed grows into a tree, God can grow something great from me.")

**BIG IDEA:** Just as Jesus did, we can learn from nature. Share the **Big Idea: Jesus is my example as I grow**.




## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Point to your note with the Boy Jesus and explain that He loved to read God's words in the Bible. We can be like Jesus and learn from God's Word too. We will pray and ask God to help us to learn something new from the Bible today. **Then creatively share the Bible story.**

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**READ:** What did our story tell us about how Jesus grew? Read Luke 2:52 again.

**Teaching Point:** So Jesus grew taller, stronger, wiser, friendlier, and closer to God. Jesus is my example as I grow.

 **MAKE CHOICES:** Point to your **note with the Boy Jesus illustration** and explain that He loved to depend on God to obey and make the right choices. Like Jesus, we can ask God to help us make good choices. Let's pray before we make choices. Offer a prayer for wisdom, then **read the Situation Cards**. Decide on the best choice for each friend.

**Teaching Point:** Good choices can often be the hard choices. Like Jesus, we can depend on God to help us always make the right choice.

**READ:** Read the **Big Idea** together from the whiteboard: **Jesus is my example as I grow.**

**DO:** Discuss: • **How do we grow taller, stronger, wiser, and friendlier like Jesus?** (Pray; learn from God in the Bible and in nature; spend time with God.)

Ask for two volunteers to come to the front of the classroom. Place a small amount of **glitter** on the hand of one child and ask them to shake hands with the other child.

- **What happened to the glitter?** (It rubs off because of close contact.)
- **How is this like us and Jesus?** (When we come close to Jesus through His Word, prayer, and nature, we change to become a little more like Him.)

**Teaching Point:** We can follow the example of Jesus and spend time with God. He will grow good things in our lives and help us to make wise choices.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 31: Jesus in the Carpenter's Shop** to place in their storage container along with their other collector cards.

**Just as Jesus did,** let's share the words that we've memorized this week from the Bible. Our memory verse talks about growing two important things in our lives as we get older: grace and knowledge.

- **What is grace?** (Grace is showing love and kindness to someone when they do the wrong thing, or are unkind, or fail in some way.)
- **What is knowledge?** (Knowledge is what we know and understand about God, who He is, and what He's like.)  
These are such special, important ways to grow!

Invite the children to squat down as low as they can. As they recite the **memory verse** they can "grow" taller and taller until their hands stretch up as high as they can go, and they're on their tiptoes. Repeat several times. Then sing the **Scripture Song** together: "**2 Peter 3:18.**"

**MISSION STORY:** Share the **Mission Story, "The Miracle of Music"** and discuss the follow-up question.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your simple **Scripture Scroll** craft sample. Explain that in Bible times they didn't have books as we do today. The Bible was written down on scrolls instead. Jesus used scrolls like this when He was a boy. He learned many, many words from the Bible scroll from memory. Share the instructions for making the scroll and invite the children to write today's **memory verse** on it. As children are doing this, invite them to share other verses from the Bible they have learned in the past (just as Jesus did), or play the "**Books of the Bible**" song and invite children to sing along. Or children can make a Daddy's Helper craft.

# Full Program Outline Continued



## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

**MISSION CHALLENGE:** We can imagine that, as a boy, Jesus loved to sing.

• **Do you also like to sing?**

This week, **think about how you could use music** to help others grow closer to God. Share some Alive in Jesus music with a friend.

Encourage the children to keep collecting and creating items to contribute to your class gift to thank those who serve others in your community. What might they make this week that could be included? **Collect and create items for your gifts for community members.**

**COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together, **Jesus is my example as I grow.** We want to grow just as Jesus did.

Not only is He our example, but He is with us and will help us if we ask Him.

**SING:** Sing “**God Bless You.**”

**PRAY:** Invite the children to **stand in a circle around their drawn picture of Jesus.** Review each of the notes written there. If children would like to **commit to doing these things in their lives,** invite them to draw a star somewhere around the picture. Then invite the children to participate in a **prayer, asking God to help us all grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus,** our example, and help us to stay close to God—so that He can help us to grow as He did.

## Growing Up in Nazareth

**Big Idea:** Jesus is my example as I grow up.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

### Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week’s story in the **Program PowerPoint.** Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story.

You may like to use the following props: simple **Leg**o or **cardboard house**, **small toy animals, flowers, or twigs**; **scroll of fabric** or **paper** for the road; **peg people** or **figures of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus**; simple **temple made of cardboard** or **Leg**o bricks; **small toy lamb, peg people** or figures representing **rabbis**.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today’s Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

### TELL THE STORY

► A gentle breeze swept over the grassy hills surrounding Nazareth. Sheep bleated softly under the shady trees. Birds chirped happily in the branches above. Tucked away from main roads and surrounded by hills, Nazareth was a quiet, peaceful place for Jesus and His family to call home. The village was small. The homes were simple (**show Leg**o or **cardboard house**).

As Jesus grew, God kept Him close to family and nature.

Jesus loved roaming the hills near His home. (**Display small toy animals, flowers, or twigs.**) The birds, wildflowers, cloud patterns, and tall trees all taught Him about God the Father. Mary encouraged His curious mind and helped Him learn new things.



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**What did we say the Bible says about young Jesus? Read Luke 2:52.** (“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.”)

Jesus grew taller, stronger, wiser, friendlier, and closer to God (show Jesus figure).

- ▶ When Sabbath came, Jesus worshipped in the synagogue (church). (Show the Bible scroll.) He listened and learned from the songs, prayers, and readings from the Bible scrolls. Most of all, He loved to worship His Father God there.
- ▶ Jesus didn't go to school. His mother, Mary, taught Him to read and study the Bible scrolls at home. He did His best, and He learned well, for His true teacher was God.

He learned so well from God and learned so much in the Bible scrolls that when He grew up people were amazed at His knowledge.

- ▶ At home, there were always chores to do. Dishes needed washing, beds needed making, and the floor in Father Joseph's carpenter shop needed sweeping. Jesus saw what was needed, and He did it—without even being asked! Mary and Joseph smiled as they saw Jesus learn to be a willing and happy worker.

The Bible tells us, “People liked Him, and he pleased God” (Luke 2:52, ICB).

**What qualities do you think Jesus had that made Him a great friend?**

The years sped by, and Jesus turned 12. He was so excited. Now He was old enough to travel to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. He happily set off with His family and friends. Everyone was going to Jerusalem! The roads were crowded with travelers singing and chatting as they walked down the road toward Jerusalem (show fabric or paper for the road).

Arriving in Jerusalem, Jesus stopped to look at the temple. (Show simple temple from cardboard or Lego bricks.) Its white stone walls glowed in the sunlight. Jesus was so eager to learn all He could on this trip, and the temple was a good place to start. God had given the temple to His people to teach them about the Messiah.

- ▶ Inside He saw the priests doing their duties. He saw the Passover lamb being sacrificed on the altar (show toy lamb). He understood that these were symbols of what would happen to Him when He grew up. While here in Jerusalem, He came to fully know that He had come to earth to be the Lamb of God and die to take away the sins of the world.
- ▶ In a side room of the temple, rabbis (the teachers) taught their students (show figures of rabbis). Jesus settled at their feet and listened carefully. He asked deep questions about God's Word. Then the rabbis asked Him questions. They were amazed at His wise answers.

When the Passover ended, Mary and Joseph and all their friends began the journey home. The crowd of God's people were like a big family. Old friends chatted together as they walked. Children ran and played together along the way. But Jesus wasn't with them.

As evening came, Mary and Joseph suddenly realized that Jesus was missing! In a panic they hurried back to Jerusalem to look for Him. Finally, three days later, they found Him!

**Where was Jesus? Read Luke 2:46** (He was in the temple!)

- ▶ Mary ran toward Him. She said, “Son, why did you do this to us? Your father and I were very worried about you. We have been looking for you” (Luke 2:48, ICB).

Jesus replied, “Why did you have to look for me? You should have known that I must be where my Father's work is!” (Luke 2:49, ICB). Jesus was gently telling His parents that He really understood that He was God's Son too, and that He knew what He had come to the world to do.

Mary and Joseph looked puzzled. They didn't understand. But Jesus did. He had learned from God. And He went home with His parents to continue to learn from, love, and obey them.

- ▶ Back in Nazareth, Jesus worked alongside Joseph in the carpenter's shop, crafting furniture and tools.

**What does Colossians 3:23 say? Let's read it together.** (“Work the best you can. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for men” [ICB]).

Jesus always worked with joy and care, serving God happily in everything He did. He shared His food with the hungry, His time with the lonely, and kind words with those who were treated badly. Though some teased Him for being “too

# Growing Up in Nazareth Continued



good," Jesus remained gentle and unselfish, drawing people to Him through His example.

Jesus' childhood in Nazareth was filled with love, learning, and growth. Through His life He showed us how to grow in wisdom, kindness, and obedience to God. Jesus is our perfect example as we grow up. He will be with us to help us make good choices every step of the way.

## Mission Story **The Miracle of Music**

**Focus:** I can share my talents to help others grow to be like Jesus.

**Location:** Help a child locate **Colombia** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Moises was only 8 years old when his family moved from Venezuela to Colombia in South America. He noticed right away that many boys acted rowdy and spoke roughly in his new school.

He thought, *If they knew and loved Jesus, they wouldn't act and speak like that.* He wondered how he could introduce them to Jesus. Then he had an idea.

At recess he invited some of the children to read the Bible with him on the playground. Three children agreed, and they gathered around him as he opened his Bible.

After two months the Bible group grew so big that they began to meet during lunchtime on the playground. The children ate as they talked about what they read in the Bible.

But after many months Moises noticed that his classmates were as rowdy as before. He wondered if there might be a better way for his classmates to learn from Jesus and grow to be like Him.

He thought and prayed about it. Then he noticed something. All the children seemed to like music. He also liked music. In fact, he could play the keyboard, guitar, violin, flute, and the ukulele. Moises decided to open a music club. He would teach his classmates how to play music that praised God.

Six children eagerly joined the music club. Moises provided musical instruments so children could practice at school. He even allowed his classmates to take his violin and flute to practice at home.

The club grew and grew. They became known for playing wonderful music. Before long the young musicians were playing at worship services and other school events.

Year after year passed. Moises moved to another school for tenth grade, but the music club kept meeting. After Moises left, the school decided to make music an official subject, and it asked 14-year-old Moises to teach the weekly music class after school.

Moises doesn't receive any money for his work. He teaches music out of the kindness of his heart. He teaches music because he wants children to know Jesus and grow to be like Him. His work is showing results. One boy who used to act rowdy and speak roughly has given his heart to Jesus. He has changed his behavior and has been baptized.

Moises hopes many other children also will get to know and love Jesus.

This story is adapted from "Miracle of Music" by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright © 2024 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.

## Resource

### Situation Cards

**SITUATION 1:**  
Sophia is 10 years old. Moises needed to go out on a short errand and asked Sophia to clean her room, then practice the piano. Sophia quickly rolled her eyes, then decided to turn on the TV. An interesting program came on. What should Sophia do? What would Jesus do? What should we do when we are tempted to disobey? Who can help us make the right choice?

**SITUATION 2:**  
Andrés is walking to school; he wants to arrive early so he has time to play before school starts. As he is walking, he notices a neighbor's kitten missing. He knows it's lost. He knows if he stops to pick it up and take it back home, he won't have time to play before school. What should Andrés do? What would Jesus have done when he was a boy?

**SITUATION 3:**  
Mira's mom asks her to do some jobs. She needs to clean the windows, and then she can play at the park. Mira doesn't like cleaning windows, and really wants to go to the park to play so she greases the windows with oil cleaning, making them slippery. Then she tells her mom she is finished. But Mira does her best! How did Jesus help when He was a boy? Who always with us and can help us always do our best?



# Craft

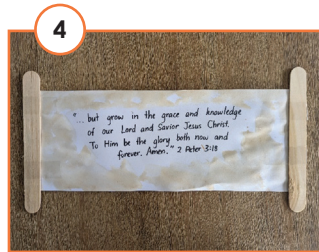
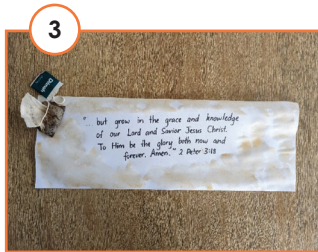
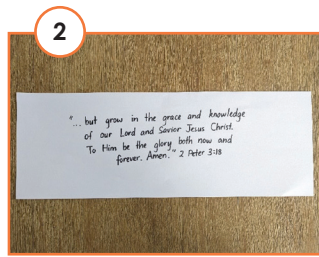
## Option 1: Scroll

### What you need:

A strip of white paper, a black tea bag and water, two large craft sticks, marker, tape, string. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Write out the memory verse on a strip of white paper. (2)
2. Use a damp tea bag to dab around the piece of paper then leave to dry. (3)
3. Tape a craft stick on either side of the strip of paper. (4)
4. Roll the paper around the sticks toward the middle and tie a string around the "scroll." (5)



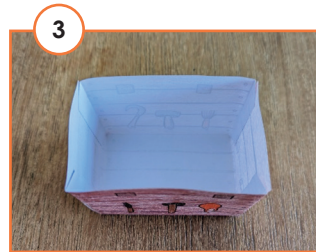
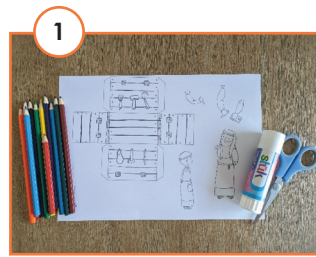
## Option 2: Daddy's Helper

### What you need:

Week 5 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, glue. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Color in the craft template and cut out. (2)
2. Fold the "worktable" along the lines to make a box shape and glue together. (3)
3. Glue the arms to the people by matching the letters. (4)
4. Glue the Boy Jesus and Joseph to the back of the "worktable." (5)





## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 **At the Jordan River**
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

### Week 6

# At the Jordan River

**Bible References:** Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3:1-22; John 1:6-34

**Big Idea** God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.

**Memory Verse** "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

**References**  
*Steps to Christ*, pp.15-24  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 97-113  
*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 197, 198  
*Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, p. 181  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 93-108

**Fundamental Beliefs**  
Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
2. The Trinity  
3. The Father  
4. The Son  
5. The Holy Spirit  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
10. The Experience of Salvation  
15. Baptism  
18. The Gift of Prophecy

**Word of the Week**  
**Repent:** Repent means to be sorry for the wrong things you have done and seek forgiveness for your sins. To repent is to change directions, away from sin and toward God—like making a full U-turn on the road. Once a person has repented, they will live peacefully with God and other people.

**Lesson Summary**  
John the Baptist had a very important work: to prepare people's hearts for the soon coming of Jesus, the promised Messiah. John prepared to teach by spending quiet time with God and His Word in the desert. Then he called all people to repent. The Holy Spirit touched their hearts, and many said they were sorry for their sins and were baptized to show their need for God and His power to forgive. God had forgiven them and given them new, clean hearts. John taught the people to now live out this love with kindness toward others. One day, John saw Jesus and told everyone He was the Messiah, the Lamb of God. Jesus asked to be baptized as our example. The Holy Spirit came down as a dove and God declared that this was His Son, with whom He was well pleased.

**Learning Goals**  
The children will:  
**Know** that God wants to prepare their heart to receive Jesus.  
**Feel** they can let God into their hearts to take away sin.  
**Respond** by repenting and turning away from sin and turning toward God.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Life is noisy, distracting, and sometimes deceiving. It's easy to be swept up in its turmoil. But there are moments that arrest our attention and give us clarity about our true spiritual state. In such times we can feel remorse, regret, shame, or guilt. In essence, we see our need of Jesus. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives.

Repentance is not a pleasant experience. To bring about repentance in a person's life, we read that God "lays heavy burdens upon the conscience of the wrongdoer, and pierces the soul with arrows of conviction" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 104). It is a painful and difficult experience. But it is an important part of the work that Jesus must do to prepare us for our heavenly home (see Matthew 1:21).

John the Baptist was used by the Holy Spirit to bring about such a moment. He was to prepare the people to receive Jesus. Boldly, he appealed, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand" (Matthew 3:2). How do his words sit with you, today?

When our regret leads to repentance, our merciful God is ever ready to take away our sin, guilt and shame, and offer us forgiveness. He grants a clean heart in exchange for our heart of stone. And His Spirit to guide us to live out His laws of love. (Ezekiel 36:26, 27).

Our prayer is that as you prepare this lesson for the children, you ask God to prepare the way for your heart, and the little hearts in your care, to meet Jesus.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 6

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible.”**
- **Activity:** Dove craft

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Child of the King”**
  - **“I Give My Heart to You”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Turn-around game (turning from sin)
- Discussion
- Share the **Big Idea: God prepares hearts to love Jesus.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Write sins on a laminated cutout person and wash them away.**
- Discussion: What it feels like to have our sins washed away. Other things will replace those sins in our lives.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 32: Jesus' Baptism**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “Ezekiel 36:26”**
- **Nature Lesson:** “Taking Baths”
- **Craft:** Jesus' Baptism
- **Mission Challenge:** Use craft to share the story with at least one person and keep as a reminder.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: God prepares hearts to love Jesus**, and sing **“Close to Your Heart.”** Remind children to share the note that was on their chairs when they first arrived.
- Pray: Thank God for preparing our hearts to love Jesus.

# Program Preparation



## Opening and Focus Activities

Prepare messages for chairs: "You are God's loved child."

Source a **dove outline** (one for each child), **scissors, white feathers, glue, hole punch, string**.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Prepare **Mission Fast Fact**.

Source two **pictures** of a boy (one happy, one sad).

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display.

Give each child a dove outline. If possible, print them on **cardstock**. **Source white feathers to glue to the dove outline. Children can make a hole and add ribbon to enable them to hang the dove as a reminder of today's story. During Sabbath School, have someone write a word from the memory verse on the back of each dove, and assemble the doves as a mobile hanging from the ceiling.**

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Program PowerPoint**.

Source **washable markers** and a **cutout person** that is laminated (or place the cutout inside a plastic sheet) for each child.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 32: John Baptizes Jesus** for each child.

Source a stone and a feather.

## Craft Materials

Source **week 6 craft template** printed on **white cardstock, scissors, glue, blue cellophane, markers, fish stickers** (optional).

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Books of the Bible"
- "Child of the King"
- "I Give My Heart to You"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Ezekiel 36:26"
- "Close to Your Heart"



[qr.ajj.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.ajj.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart
- Week 6 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 32: John Baptizes Jesus
- Week 6 Craft Template

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Dove outline, white feathers, hole punch, string, glue
- Two pictures of a boy (one happy, one sad)
- Washable markers, laminated cutout person, or person inside a plastic sheet for each child.
- Stone, feather
- Baby doll wrapped in cloth, rough brown cloth, small jar of honey, unrolled scroll or rolled piece of paper, small staff or rolled-up paper, bowl of water, small toy figurine, white dove prop or picture of a dove, straws, ping-pong balls, wads of paper or other items that can be used as "trash"
- Messages for chairs: "You are God's loved child."
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible.”**

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** Give each child a dove outline. Have them cut out the dove and add white feathers. Make a hole and attach some string to later hang the dove as a reminder of John baptizing Jesus in today’s story and how the Holy Spirit came down on Him as a dove.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Ask someone to read what was on their seat when they arrived in Sabbath School today. (“You are God’s loved child.”)

**SING:** Sing **“Child of the King”** and **“I Give My Heart to You.”** Then sing the prayer song, **“Sabbath Song.”**

**PRAY:** Pray, asking Jesus to help us listen and understand the Bible story today as we learn more about Him.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing **“Thank You, Jesus.”** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **“Visitor Song.”** Sing **“Happy Birthday”** to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Show two pictures of a boy (one happy and one sad). Share how these two pictures remind you of some words in **Psalm 32:1-3, 5**. Repentance can turn sad into happy.

**Turn-around game:** Play a game with the children to demonstrate what repentance means. Have children all face the same direction of the room. Tell them that you will say a number and a way of moving forward in one direction. For example: “Jump 3 steps,” “Move 1 step,” “Slide 5 steps.” When you say, “Turn around,” they need to do a complete **U-turn** and quickly go back to their starting place. Repeat with different moves, and finally a U-turn.

**Teaching Point:** When we **repent from the wrong things** we have done, we also change direction. We tell God we’re sorry for the wrong things we have done, and we ask for forgiveness. We then turn away from our sins.

**READ:** Read the **Big Idea** together: **God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.** (He prepares our U-turns.)

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**SHARE:** Pray, asking God to help the children understand today’s story. Then creatively share the Bible story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** Give each child a washable marker and a cutout person that is laminated or placed inside a plastic sheet. Invite them to write or draw “sins” (such as lying, fighting, being disobedient) on their cutout person. Then let them wash the sin away with water.

**DISCUSS:** • **How did it feel to wash away those sins?**

• **As we repent, what kinds of thoughts or actions will replace the things we used to do?**

• **When John baptized people, it symbolized the washing away of their sins and the start of a new life following God. But Jesus didn’t have any sin. Why did He need to be baptized?** (He was baptized as our example.)

**Teaching Point:** Jesus offers to wash away our sins and give us a new life when we repent and are baptized.



## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 32: John Baptizes Jesus** to place in their storage container.

**OBJECT LESSON:** Show the children a glass of water. Explain how the water represents our hearts, and how we want clean pure hearts. Show some red food dye and how it represents sin in our lives. Add one drop of red food dye at a time, stating different sins each drop might represent (for example: telling a lie, being mean to a friend, taking something that is not yours, etc.). Observe how the water is now red and not clean any more. Ask: **How can we clean our hearts?** (By repenting and choosing not to do those things anymore.)

Add some bleach (representing how Jesus cleans us) and watch as the water turns clean again.

**Teaching Point:** Repentance isn't just about saying "I'm sorry"—it's about turning away from those wrong actions and inviting God to change us from the inside out. God loves to do this because He loves us so much.

Sing the **Scripture Song** together: "**Ezekiel 36:26.**"

**NATURE LESSON:** Share the Nature Lesson, "**The Hippo and the Tortoise,**" and discuss the question in the story.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your **Jesus' Baptism craft** sample. Explain how our craft today reminds us of today's story and how Jesus is our example in everything.

Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** in the background as children make their craft.

Finish with the song "**I Give My Heart to You.**" Invite children to wave their **hearts** in the air as they sing this song.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **Whom could you share today's story with?**

**Challenge the children to use their craft to share the story and its message with at least one other person in the coming week.**


Also, encourage the children to **place their craft in a spot where they will notice it during the week to remind them to turn away from sin and repent**, and turn toward God, who wants to give us a new heart. Remind children that next week you will be collecting the final thank you notes and crafts, or goods, to give as a thank-you gift to those who serve in your community.

 **COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.**

Refer to the picture of Jesus on your classroom mural, and talk about how He is our example, our Savior, and our friend. Give each child a sticky note and invite them to write their name on it and place it around the picture of Jesus if they too would like to give their hearts to Him to show that they belong to Him.

**Teaching Point:** God hopes we will follow Jesus' example by giving our lives to Him and one day being baptized as Jesus was.

Sing "**Close to Your Heart.**"

 **PRAY:** Conclude with a final prayer, thanking God for showing us when we do wrong and forgiving us when we say we're sorry. Thank Him for giving us a new heart and for preparing our hearts to receive Jesus.

When your prayer is finished, invite the children to say, "**Thank You, God, for preparing my heart to receive Jesus!**"



# At the Jordan River

**Big Idea:** God prepares hearts to receive Jesus.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images.

You may like to use the following props: **rough brown cloth, unrolled scroll or rolled piece of paper, rolled-up paper, bowl of water, small toy figurine, white dove prop or picture of a dove, straws, ping-pong ball, wads of paper or other items that can be used as "trash."**

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

The desert was a wild place filled with sandy hills and rocky caves. There were no farms or gardens, people or houses. But there were beautiful sunsets, soaring birds, and chirping insects. It was peaceful and quiet. And it was John's home.

John was Jesus' cousin. God had called John to live in this wilderness. It was the perfect quiet place to prepare him for a very important job.

### Do you know what job God had given John?

He was to be a prophet to prepare the people's hearts to love Jesus. Before his miracle birth, an angel had told John's father Zacharias, "And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God" (Luke 1:16).

Though he likely never met his cousin Jesus while growing up, John learned all about Him. His parents taught him that Jesus was the promised Messiah. When the time was right, John was to tell everyone about Him (**show toy figurine**).

► In the peaceful desert John searched the Bible scrolls (**show rolled-up paper scrolls**). He learned all He could about the promised Messiah. He also had plenty of quiet time to pray and listen to God's voice. He could do God's work only with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Long before John was born, God had told prophet Isaiah about John. **What did he say John would do? Read Isaiah 40:3-5.** (He was to "prepare the way of the Lord.")

**DO:** Divide the children into two teams and give each a rectangular table to work on. Give straws to each team member. Two people on each team will be the "Voice" and all others on the team the "Path Clearers." The goal of the Path Clearers is to blow away all the rubbish on the "path" (which is the table) so the Voice can blow a ping-pong ball smoothly from one end of the table to the other end without it falling off the sides. Before they start, scatter paper or trash on the table. See which team can get their ping-pong ball to the other end first.

**Resources:** two ping-pong balls, straws for each participant, dry lightweight rubbish, two rectangular tables, or other flat surface for the race.

Ask the Path Clearers: **What was your job?**

Isaiah 40:3-5 described John's mission as clearing a path for the Lord, like removing obstacles to make a road smooth. John understood that his calling was to prepare people's hearts to hear, love, and obey Jesus.

• **What obstacles might the people have had in their hearts?** (Pride, selfishness, doubt, greed, jealousy, etc.) They needed the Holy Spirit to show them their need to say they're sorry for their sins and want to change with God's help.

► When the time came, John began preaching by the Jordan River. People rushed there to hear him speak. They were amazed by this man in the desert. He wore clothes made from camel hair (**show rough cloth**) and preached with power. With a mighty voice He cried out to people to change—the Messiah was coming!

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

The people were shocked by his message. Some wondered if he was a prophet, raised from the dead. Others thought he might be the Messiah. John told them, "He who is coming after me is mightier than I!" (Matthew 3:11).



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▶ “Repent,” cried John. That word stuck in many people’s hearts like a sharp arrow in a target. Repent. The Holy Spirit touched their hearts, and many people realized John’s words were true. Their hearts were selfish, proud, and full of sin. They were sinners in need of a Savior.

Many, many people responded to God by saying they were sorry and letting Him take away their sins.

▶ John invited the people who were sorry to step into the river Jordan. There he baptized them.

**What is baptism, and why do people do it?** (Full immersion beneath the water as a public demonstration of commitment to God.)

**Would you like to be baptized one day to choose God for yourself and to let others know that you’ve made this choice?**

When the people were baptized, it showed their need for God and their faith in His power to forgive them. One by one John placed the people under the water as their “old” selves and they came up spiritually “new” and “clean.”

The people were so happy! They were ready for a better life with God. “What should we do?” they asked John (Luke 3:10).

**What did John, who was now called John the Baptist, say? Read Luke 3:11.** (“If you have two shirts, share with the person who does not have one. If you have food, share that too” [ICB]).

He told the tax collectors not to be greedy, the soldiers not to be violent, and the grumblers to be happy with their pay. The people nodded. They had been forgiven by their loving God! They wanted to live kind and good lives.

One day John looked up to see Jesus making His way toward the river. The Holy Spirit showed him that here was the Messiah He had been preaching about. Excitedly he cried out: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

John wanted everyone to notice Jesus! Jesus asked John to baptize Him. John shook his head. Jesus had no sin—how could he, a sinner, baptize Jesus? But Jesus told him, “We should do all things that are right” (Matthew 3:15, ICB). Jesus would be our example. John baptized Jesus while everyone watched.

▶ After His baptism Jesus stepped from the water and prayed. Suddenly God’s brilliant light surrounded Him. The Holy Spirit, in the form of a beautiful white dove, came down and rested on His shoulder.

**Then God spoke from heaven. What did God say? Read Matthew 3:17.** (“This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”) **Invite the children to repeat these words with you in reverence:** Jesus was God’s beloved Son, and God was pleased with His baptism.

Show the message that was on the children’s chairs at the beginning of Sabbath School: “You are God’s loved child.” God loves you too.

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## TEACHER NOTES



# Nature Lesson **The Hippo and the Tortoise**

**Focus:** God's love can change our hearts.

Mzee the tortoise walked slowly to the shade. There he sat down and pulled his legs and head inside his shell. Now the Aldabra tortoise didn't look like a tortoise anymore, but rather a big rock!

Aldabra tortoises are one of the largest tortoises in the world. They also live a long, long time—to about 150 years of age. They are dark gray with a high, curved shell, a very long neck, and short, thick legs.

Mzee the tortoise had a very hard shell on the outside. But he also had a hard heart on the inside. He was 130 years old, and he was grumpy and liked to be on his own. But one day everything changed for Mzee. He met a bouncy, lovable baby hippo named Owen.

Owen had lost his family in the terrible tsunami of 2004. An earthquake had caused huge waves to crash over many countries, hurting animals and people. The little hippo had been rescued and taken to Haller Nature Park, where Mzee lived.

The baby hippo was too small to be put with other hippos, so the keepers put him in Mzee's part of the park. Little Owen played and ran and hid behind Mzee. And then something wonderful happened. Mzee's lonely, hard heart started to soften. He accepted the playful little hippo, and they soon became best friends.

Owen, the young hippo, followed Mzee, the old tortoise, everywhere. They would eat, swim, and even sleep together. They spent so much time together that they also figured out a way to communicate with each other, nibbling and nudging each other.

How special that God could soften a hard-hearted tortoise. His love can change us too.

- **What would it look like at your school (or in your neighborhood) if everyone allowed God to soften their hearts?**

## Craft

### Jesus' Baptism

#### What you need:

Week 6 craft template printed on white cardstock, scissors, glue, blue cellophane, markers, fish stickers (optional). (1)

#### Instructions:

1. Decorate the water section of the printable (under the wavy line) with fish and sea grass. (2)
2. Glue a piece of cellophane over the top and cut out Jesus and John. (3)
3. Fold the pieces along the lines. Make it so the water is standing up, and glue Jesus and John along the base of the card. (4)
4. Show Jesus standing up in the water, then push the underwater picture backward as though He is being baptized. (5)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 **Victory in the Wilderness**
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 7

# Victory in the Wilderness

**Bible References:** Luke 4:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11

**Big Idea** I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.

**Memory Verse** "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

**References**  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 114-131  
*The Story of Redemption*, pp. 198-201  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 109-118

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- |                            |  |                          |
|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Fundamental Beliefs</b> | 1. The Holy Scriptures                         | 4. The Son               |
|                            | 7. Nature of Humanity                          | 8. The Great Controversy |
|                            | 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ | 11. Growing in Christ    |
|                            |  | 22. Christian Behavior   |

**Word of the Week** **Temptation:** Temptation is wanting to do something you know you shouldn't do. Temptation is not sin; sin happens when you choose to follow the temptation. Temptation puts a Christian at risk of losing their closeness with God.

**Lesson Summary** This lesson explores the way Jesus overcame the temptations of Satan in the wilderness. After 40 days with no food or rest, Jesus was at His weakest, and at that time Satan chose to attack his opponent. But Jesus did not rely on His own strength in this battle. He sought His Father in heaven to give Him the power to gain the victory over Satan. Jesus knew Scripture, and He used the Word of God to resist temptation. One, two, three times Satan came to Jesus with temptations in an attempt to discourage and break His firm hold on God. Each time Jesus' weapon against Satan was the Word of God, and He was victorious!

**Learning Goals** The children will:  
**Know** that God can give them victory over sin.  
**Feel** that they can rely on God and on His strength and power.  
**Respond** by spending time with God and storing up His Word in their minds to help them resist temptation.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

We've all been in situations in which we have wanted to do something that we know we shouldn't. It's called temptation—a tug-of-war in the mind. We are faced with a choice—to give in to temptation or to resist it.

Jesus experienced this same battle, and the stakes were so much higher for Him. The salvation of the world, all through the ages, was in His hands. He absolutely understands the difficulties we face when we are tempted. Hebrews 4:15, 16 tells us: For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. He does not just sympathize with us—He empathizes, for He has *been there*. What reassurance!

The Bible also tells us that even though Jesus faced temptations, He was victorious every time. Satan

tempted Jesus when He was at His weakest. Yet Jesus relied not on His own earthly power but on God's Word. Jesus wants us to be victorious using the same strategy and power. God can give us His power through His Living Word.

All of heaven celebrates when we rely on God and His power to resist temptation. Ephesians 6:10 tells us to “be strong in the Lord and in [His] power.”

It is God's power that will defeat the enemy. But we must stay strong in His power. Let's spend time in God's Word every day, reading the Bible and committing scripture to memory. Let's carve out time to both listen and talk to God, and daily seek the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen us against every temptation.

May God help you as you teach the children in your care, so that they may know that Jesus can help them overcome temptation too.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 7

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible.”**
- Option 1: Victory Flags craft
- Option 2: Balloon challenge

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Alive in Jesus”**
  - **“Rest of My Life”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Cling-wrap an adult to demonstrate strength and the effects of sin.
- Discussion on **sin and temptations**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Scripture matching—match a temptation to a Bible verse response.
- Discussion: Why did Jesus use God's Word? We can have victory in the same way.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 33: Jesus in the Wilderness**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “1 Corinthians 15:57”**
- Hammer and nails object lesson
- **Mission Story:** “Tempted to Cheat”
- **Craft:** Memory Verse Box
- **Mission Challenge:** Pray each day next week for the people in the community who are to receive your thank-you gifts today.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.**
- Pray.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Source **cardstock, markers/colored pencils, rulers or dowels, sticky tack, and balloons.**

Source **cling wrap** and **scissors.**

Update **Offering Chart.**

Prepare **Mission Fast Fact.**

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the **Program PowerPoint.**

Source a **Bible**, three pieces of **paper** and write a large number on each: 1, 2, 3; a few **stones.**

Print the **Temptations and Bible Verse Match Ups.**

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Collector Card 33: Jesus in the Wilderness**, one for each child.

Source a **board, nails, hairbrush, spoon, screwdriver, hammer.**

Also source several empty **plastic cups, small ball, box with a lid.**

## Craft Materials

Source a **craft box** for each child to decorate, along with **colored paper, scissors, glue, markers, a variety of stickers, blank memory verse cards.**

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Books of the Bible"
- "Alive in Jesus"
- "Rest of My Life"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "1 Corinthians 15:57"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 7 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 33: Jesus in the Wilderness
- Temptations vs. Bible Match Up Cards

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Cardstock, colored pencils/markers, rulers, sticky tack or dowel, balloons
- Cling wrap
- A wooden board, nails, hammer, screwdriver, spoon, hairbrush
- Plastic cups, small ball, box with a lid
- Three pieces of paper numbered 1, 2, and 3; stones
- Temptations and Bible verse match-up cards



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible.”**

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO: Option 1—** Make **Victory Flags** from cardstock. Children will write Victory on a triangle-shaped card and attach it to a ruler or dowel with sticky tack.

**Option 2—**Today we want to think about staying strong and not giving in. Challenge the children, one at a time, to take turns keeping three balloons in the air at once. Say, “Ready. Set. Go! Stay strong!” See how long the children can keep the balloons in the air.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Offer high-fives or another cultural welcome gesture (bump fists, touch elbows, etc.), as the children enter your Sabbath School room.

**SING:** Sing **“Alive in Jesus”** and **“Rest of My Life.”** Then sing the prayer song, **“Sabbath Song.”**

**PRAY:** Pray together and thank God for everyone who has come today—some may be feeling **brave**, some may be feeling **shy**, and some may be feeling **strong**. Thank God that He loves to see us and welcomes us all.

**GIVE:** Ask one child to collect the offering as you sing **“Thank You, Jesus.”** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact** about this quarter’s mission project. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **“Visitor Song.”** Sing **“Happy Birthday”** to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** Invite an **adult assistant** to stand next to you **with arms by their sides**. Say: “Let’s see how strong they are.” Invite a child to wrap one or two layers of cling wrap around the adult. Ask the adult to break out. Then wrap another layer. Can they break out again? Then wrap the whole box around the person. Bind from their shoulders to their knees. See if the person can break the bind. (They won’t be able to). Finally, use scissors to cut them free, while being careful not to cut their clothing.

(Note: Be sure you do not wrap a child. It must only be demonstrated with an adult volunteer.)

**DISCUSS:** • **How is this cling wrap like sin?** (It slowly ties us up and keeps us from doing what God wants us to do. At first it seems easy to break, so we don’t think we’re in danger, but then it gets stronger and stronger.)

- **How do we get wrapped in sin?** (Satan tempts us and we sometimes give in.)
- **What is temptation?** (The strong wish to do something that’s wrong or unwise.)
- **What kind of things does Satan tempt us to do?**

**READ:** Hold up a Victory Flag (from the Early Arrivals activity).

Share that today, we can know that (point to the **Big Idea**): **I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.** God and His words in the Bible will always help us say no to Satan.

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.



## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**SCRIPTURE MATCHING:** As a class or in small groups, give each group a set of Temptation and Bible Verse Cards. Children will match the temptation to a Bible verse that they could say out loud to help them resist temptation.

- **Why do you think Jesus spoke words from the Bible when He was tempted by Satan?** (God's way is best; God would give Him power to defeat Satan.)

**Teaching Point:** Jesus won the victory over Satan by quoting words from the Bible. Satan also tempts us to disobey God by sinning. He wants to turn us away from God. But when we are feeling tempted, we can follow Jesus' example.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)


 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Collector Card 33: Jesus in the Wilderness**, to place in their storage container/bag.

Show a **board** with several **nails** slightly nailed into it. Invite the children (one at a time) to try to hammer in a nail with the tool you give them. Provide a **hairbrush**, a **spoon**, a **screwdriver**, and finally a **hammer**.

- **Why didn't the first three tools work very well?**

**Teaching Point:** It doesn't make sense to use the wrong tool. It also doesn't make sense to go to the wrong place when we are looking for good, true answers. We can turn to **God and His words in the Bible** to help us **resist temptation**. Distribute the **flags** made before Sabbath School (if done) for children to **wave** in the air as you **say and sing the memory verse: "1 Corinthians 15:57."**

**MISSION STORY:** Share the **Mission Story, "Tempted to Cheat,"** and engage the children in the discussion question.


 **CRAFT:** Place a few empty plastic **cups** together in a group on the floor. Use a small ball to bowl the cups over. Ask children to take turns rolling a ball to knock them over. Next, place all the cups in a **box and close the lid**. Ask the children to now try knocking them over with the ball.


- **How easy was it to knock the cups over in the beginning? What difference did it make when the cups were protected by the box?**


**Teaching Point:** This is similar to how **God and His words in the Bible protect us from temptation**.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your **Memory Verse Box**. Explain how Jesus used the words directly from the Bible to resist and overcome Satan.

Explain that today they'll make their own memory verse box to help them remember Bible verses too. Share instructions for making and decorating the box. Give children some cards with verses ready to decorate and some blank cards they can later write Bible verses on that are meaningful to them. Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** in the background as children make their memory verse box.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Thank the children for contributing to your special gratitude gifts for the people who serve in the community. If appropriate, put the gifts together now (gift bags/buckets) and plan to give them away later today. Include a special note from your Sabbath School. Pray for the people who will receive these gifts. Invite the children to pray each day this week for these people, that they may come to know and love Jesus too.

 **SHARING CIRCLE:** If time allows, invite the children to sit in a circle. Invite children who feel comfortable and are willing to share which Bible verse from their Memory Verse Box is particularly meaningful or helpful to them.

 **REVIEW and COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted. When Jesus was tempted, He won! We too can win when we say no to Satan's temptations. God will help us.**

Invite children to stand and wave the Victory Flags again as they repeat the Big Idea. Remind them that this truth really is worth being joyful about!

**PRAY:** Thank God He has the power to help each of us when we're tempted, and that He is so much more powerful than Satan.



# Victory in the Wilderness

**Big Idea:** I can rely on God and His power to help me when I am tempted.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story. You may like to use the following props: a **Bible**; **three pieces of paper with a large number on each: 1, 2, 3**; a few **stones**.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► Jesus smiled as He walked away from the Jordan River. God had just said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:17). Leaving the river behind, Jesus walked up the rocky path and out into the wilderness. The Holy Spirit led Him to a quiet place in the desert.

Away from the crowds, Jesus spent time alone with His Father, God. During this time, Jesus didn't rest or eat. It was a special time for Jesus. Because He was close to God, His faith grew stronger. He would need this strength to do the work He had come to earth to do.

► After 40 days Jesus' special time with God was over. He was tired, weak, and hungry. Satan had been watching Jesus, trying to find the right moment to tempt Him, and now he saw his chance!

(Show your Number 1 card.) ► Suddenly, Satan appeared beside Jesus. He was pretending to be a shining angel from heaven.

**What did Satan say? Read Matthew 4:3.** ("If you are the Son of God, tell these rocks to become bread" [ICB].) (Show stones.)

Jesus thought about that little word "if." Of course He was God's Son! An angel from heaven would never say "If you are God's Son . . ." How dare Satan tempt Him to doubt that God was His Father!

Jesus didn't explain. And He didn't let Satan trick Him into working a miracle to prove He was God's Son. He would never use His power to work a miracle for Himself—it was meant only to help others. And besides, God could give Him food anytime.

Jesus looked Satan straight in the eye and said (hold up Bible), "It is written in the Scriptures, 'A person does not live only by eating bread. But a person lives by everything the Lord says,' " (Matthew 4:4, ICB).

Jesus had won!

Satan's first temptation hadn't worked, so he tried another one. (Show your Number 2 card.) ► He took Jesus to the very top of the temple in Jerusalem. He said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off" (Matthew 4:6, ICB). Then Satan boldly recited a Bible verse from Psalm 91:11, 12: "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone." Satan was using God's own Word to try to trap Jesus!

Jesus wasn't fooled. He knew He could claim God's promise of protection while doing God's work—that would be faith. But to claim God's promise while doing something silly and dangerous? Never!

(Hold up Bible.) Jesus answered "It has been said, 'You shall not tempt the Lord your God' " (Luke 4:12).

Jesus had won another victory!

Satan tried again. (Show your Number 3 card.) ► He carried Jesus to a very tall mountaintop. Here they could see beautiful cities, sparkling palaces, green fields, and fruit-filled orchards below. Satan spoke smoothly.

**Let's read what he said in Matthew 4:9.** ("If you will bow down and worship me, I will give you all these things" [ICB].)



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### Why do you think Satan asked Jesus to worship Him?

Satan is an evil liar. He knew that if Jesus became dazzled by riches and power, He could not save the world. If He bowed down and worshipped Satan, everyone would be lost forever.

### How should Jesus answer? Why?

Jesus didn't let temptation sidetrack Him from His mission. Even though Jesus knew His life on earth would be filled with sadness and suffering, He chose the hard path to save the sinners He loved so much.

**(Hold up Bible.)** Jesus firmly told the devil, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve' " (Matthew 4:10). And so Satan was forced to leave, angry and defeated.

▶ Jesus slumped to the ground, totally exhausted from the battle with Satan. Instantly angels were by His side. They cared for Jesus and fed Him food. God had sent the angels to remind Jesus of His great love. The rest of the angels filled heaven with their celebrations.

Jesus had won!

### Discuss:

1. What was Satan trying to get Jesus to do?
2. What was wrong with what Satan asked Jesus to do?
3. How did Jesus resist Satan's temptations?
4. How can we resist Satan's temptations?

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## TEACHER NOTES

# Mission Story **Tempted to Cheat**



**Focus:** Jesus can help me be strong and not cheat when tempted

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**Location:** Help a child locate **Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast)** on your **globe** or **world map**.

It all began one morning at breakfast. As Eli-Ann ate her boiled rice with a little sugar on it, Mom said, "Your exams start today, don't they?"

"Yes," Eli-Ann replied. "I've studied hard, but I know that the tests will be hard. The teacher told us that people from the government will be there to make sure nobody cheats."

"Do your best," Mom replied. "Your uncle and I will stay near the school and pray that Jesus will help you to remember all the things you have studied."

"Thank you," Eli-Ann said. "It will make me happy to know you are near. When we get our break between exams, I'll be able to run out and tell you how I'm doing."

Eli-Ann's mother and uncle walked to school with her. When they arrived at the school, Eli-Ann waved goodbye. *Jesus, help me to do my very best for You today*, she prayed silently.

In class the children began their exams. The government inspectors walked around the room making sure the students didn't have any notes with them.

One of the inspectors stopped by Eli-Ann's desk. "You've spelled that word wrong," he whispered to her. Then he began telling her how to spell it correctly.

Eli-Ann looked up at the inspector in surprise. "I won't tell anyone," he said.

"No, thank you, sir," Eli-Ann replied. "I don't want to cheat. By God's grace I would rather fail this exam than cheat!" The examiner frowned and walked on. *I hope he doesn't get mad and fail me*, Eli-Ann thought. *But I know that I did what is right!*

When that exam ended, the teacher let the children go outside for a short break. Eli-Ann ran to where her mother and uncle sat under a large shade tree. "I'm sure glad that one is finished!" Eli-Ann exclaimed.

"Was it really hard?" Mom asked.

"Yes, it was," Eli-Ann admitted. "I misspelled a hard word, and one of the inspectors told me how to spell it correctly. I told him that I'd rather fail than cheat. I don't think he was very happy with me."

"You did the right thing," her uncle said.

"Don't worry, sweetheart," her mother assured her. "God will bless you for being honest."

"I sure hope you're right," Eli-Ann said as she turned to go back inside for the next exam.

A few days later the results arrived, and Eli-Ann had passed. She squealed and clapped her hands. She had not only passed but had earned high marks! God had honored her for her faithfulness!

"I want to thank Jesus for helping me do well," Eli-Ann said. So Eli-Ann and her mom knelt down and prayed.

"Dear Jesus," Mom said, "thank You for helping Eli-Ann do so well. Thank You for helping her do what was right when the inspector tempted her to cheat." Eli-Ann thanked God too for His help during the tests. Then Mom hugged Eli-Ann and whispered, "I'm so proud of you, and I know Jesus is too."

**How did Eli-Ann rely on God's strength when tempted to cheat on the exam?**



# Craft

## Memory Verse Box

### What you need:

Plain craft box, colored paper, scissors, glue, markers, a variety of stickers, blank memory verse cards. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Decorate a plain craft box using colored paper and stickers. (2)
2. Write out some memory verses on blank cards and store them inside. (3)



# Resource

## Temptation and Bible Verse Cards

TELLING A LIE	DISOBEYING YOUR PARENTS	"Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight" (Proverbs 12:22).	"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12).
STEALING	BEING UNKIND TO SOMEONE	"You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15).	"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you" (Ephesians 4:32).
BEING SELFISH	WANTING SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAS	"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).	"He covets greedily all day long, But the righteous gives and does not spare" (Proverbs 21:26).



## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 **Called to Follow Jesus**
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 8

# Called to Follow Jesus

**Bible References:** Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11; John 1:29-51

**Big Idea** Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.

**Memory Verse** "Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life' " (John 8:12).

**References** *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 137-143, 244-251  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 119-125, 169-173

**Fundamental Beliefs** Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
4. The Son  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
11. Growing in Christ

**Word of the Week** **Disciple:** A disciple is a follower or student of a leader or teacher learning from them and copying what they do. Jesus had 12 close disciples when He was on earth. He has many more today.

**Lesson Summary** At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He called 12 men to follow Him, spend time with Him, and learn from Him in order to later teach others the truth about God. After Peter, James, John, and Andrew spent a night of unsuccessful fishing, Jesus told them to cast their fishing nets back into the water, resulting in the biggest catch of their lives. Jesus then gave them a mission to catch people instead of fish.

**Learning Goals** The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus calls them to follow Him.  
**Feel** happy that Jesus loves them and wants to lead their lives.  
**Respond** by accepting His invitation to follow Him and tell others about Him too.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

When Jesus began His ministry on earth and started calling His disciples, He didn't call just the smartest, the best looking, or the strongest. He called ordinary people; people who were willing to give all to follow Him. Discipleship in the life and times of Jesus wasn't just about knowing what the Rabbi knew; it was about being who the Rabbi was. They lived with and watched the Rabbi to become like him.

Jesus calls us to be His disciples too. He loves each of us and knows that when we follow Him, we will live lives full of purpose. Our time with Jesus will change us; we will be more like Him and desire to share His love with those around us.

With Jesus in our hearts, we become a mirror, reflecting His love and grace to others. "His disciples are His representatives among men, and one of the most effective ways of winning souls to Him is in exemplifying His character in our daily life. Our influence upon others depends not so much upon what we say as upon what we are" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 141, 142).

As you and the children explore this week's story together, may you feel loved knowing that our God is calling each one of us to be His disciples too.



# Simple Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 8

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.
- Fishing game

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Amazing”**
  - **“Rest of My Life”** (follow footprints on the floor)
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray. Children will praise God for one thing; teacher will thank God for the children.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection
- **Offering Chart** and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Disciple Hunt**
- Discussion about what disciples are and who can be a disciple
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Collect the Footprints**—look at character traits on each and give personal examples of putting them into action.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 34: Jesus and His Disciples**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “John 8:12”**
- **Nature Lesson:** “Making Waves”
- **Craft:** Fish Miracle
- **Mission Challenge:** This week's Mission Challenge is to share this week's Bible story or Big Idea with someone at school or in your neighborhood you don't usually play with, and invite them to join you for an activity or game.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: Jesus loves me so much that He calls me to follow Him.**
- Pray. Sing the chorus of **“All the time,”** then conclude with prayer.

# Program Preparation



## Opening and Focus Activities

Source paper clips, a string and magnet, and a stick for a fishing game. Write names/places from the past few lessons on slips of paper or fish shapes (e.g., King Herod, John the Baptist, Nazareth, Simeon, Anna, Wise Men, angel, Peter, Philip).

Create footprints from various colors of papers and write the following words on the back: care, forgive, friend, give, good, grateful, happy, honest, kind, love, obey, patient, pray, trust, tell the truth, share, study God's Word. Also source a picture of Jesus and a flashlight. Place the picture of Jesus with the flashlight shining on Him in a spot in the room. Then make a path out of the footprints that lead to the picture of Jesus.

Write the name of each disciple on a piece of paper, then fold and hide them in different places around the Sabbath School room or outside: Simon Peter, Andrew, James (son of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James (son of Alphaeus), Jude, Simon, Judas. To make it more difficult, also add some blank pieces of paper.

Update [Offering Chart](#).

Share the [Mission Fast Fact](#).

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the [Program PowerPoint](#), or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source [Program PowerPoint](#).

Source flashlight, paper strips to make a paper chain (any color), one yellow strip with Jesus' name written on it, fishing net, paper fish, stapler.

Source pencils for footprint activity.

## Tie It All Together

Print [Character Card 34: Jesus and His Disciples](#) for each child.

Write memory verse on slips of paper, one paper for each word. Source a heavy blanket, small flashlight.

## Craft Materials

Source [week 8 craft template](#), colored pencils, scissors, split pins.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

- Music:
  - "Amazing"
  - "Rest of My Life"
  - "Sabbath Song"
  - "Thank You, Jesus"
  - "Visitor Song"
  - "Happy Birthday"
  - "All the Time"
  - Scripture Song: "John 8:12"
  - "I Will Make You Fishers of Men"



*qr.ajj.info\_PA3Music*

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 8 Program PowerPoint
- Week 8 Craft Template
- Character Card 34: Jesus and His Disciples

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Globe or world map
- Offering container
- Slips of paper with names/places written on them, paper clips, sticks, string, magnets
- Footprints cut out of various colors of paper with words written on them, picture of Jesus, flashlight
- Slips of papers with disciples' names on them, one name on each paper
- Memory verse written on slips of paper, one word for each piece of paper, heavy blanket
- Craft materials (see above)
- Paper strips to make a paper chain, "Jesus" written on yellow strip, fishing net, paper fish, stapler

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them. (Don't yet discuss the footprints they see.)

**DO:** Set up a fishing game. Tell the children that you're interested to see if they can **remember some facts about the people they have been learning about**. Write the names of characters or places from the past few lessons on small pieces of paper or fish shapes (e.g., King Herod, John the Baptist, Simeon, Anna, Wise Men, angel, Peter, Philip). Children take turns to fish. When they "catch" a name, they can **tell what they remember** about that person. When you come to the disciples' names, ask what is known about them and put those names aside.

Then ask: **I wonder what these names have to do with fishing, and what fishing has to do with today's lesson?**

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Show your hands, palms up, and invite everyone to follow your hand movements for 20 seconds as you clap your hands together, clap your hands on your legs, shoulders, knees etc. Commend their careful "following." Say: **Today we're going to be talking about what it means to follow. You're already careful followers. I think you're learning lots!**

**SING:** Sing "**Amazing**" and "**Rest of My Life.**" As they sing this song, invite children to follow the footprint paths on the floor towards Jesus (the light source). Then sing the prayer song, "**Sabbath Song.**"

**PRAY:** **Pray** a prayer of praise to God for all His goodness. Invite children who would like to, to praise God for one thing. Finish by praising God for all the children who are at Sabbath School and that they can learn more about what it's like to follow Jesus.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing "**Thank You, Jesus.**" Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week's **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week's section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the "**Visitor Song.**" Sing "**Happy Birthday**" to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Send the children on a **Disciple Hunt** to search the room and find all the pieces of paper that you hid before Sabbath School began. They are to find the names of 12 disciples. Some pieces of paper will be blank to make it harder. Ask:

- **Who are these people?** (Jesus' disciples)

**EXPLAIN:** "What is a disciple?"

**Teaching Point:** A disciple is a follower of a leader. In Jesus' day, many people wanted to be a disciple. They followed a wise, learned person called a rabbi. Only the best students who did very well at school could be a disciple. Everyone else left school and did other jobs. Disciples didn't just want to know what their leader knew; they wanted to be just like their leader.

- **What sort of people did Jesus chose to be His disciples?** (Jesus chose ordinary men, fishermen, a tax collector.)

**Teaching Point:** Jesus looked at their hearts. He didn't just choose the smartest or most clever people to be His disciples. He chose people who loved God and had a heart that was open to following Him.

- **I wonder: Were there disciples only in Bible times, or can Jesus have disciples now too?**

**READ:** Point to the **Big Idea** and read it together: **Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.**



## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)


 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** Being a disciple or a “fisher of men” would mean they would have to follow Jesus carefully. Point out the colored footprint paths the children walked on earlier as they sang. Tell them to quietly go and pick up a footprint, then bring it back to the circle. Play the song “**All the Time**” as they do this. Then invite each child to read what is written on the back of their footprint, and ask each child:

• **How can you show this character trait?** (For example, if the word is “kind,” they would respond by thinking of how they can be kind.) Invite the children to write their names on the footprint in a sentence such as “Dan can be kind,” then tape it to a wall.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Collector Card 34: Jesus and His Disciples** to place in their storage container. Darken your space and shine a light on the card. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the memory verse.

• **Have you ever walked in the dark? How did you feel?** Following Jesus is like walking in light. We feel confident knowing where we’re going.



Sing the **Scripture Song** together: “**John 8:12.**”

**Memory Verse Challenge:** If time allows, engage the children in a memory verse challenge. Write each word of the memory verse on a separate piece of paper and then hide the papers under a heavy blanket. Have the children form a line and give the child at the front of the line a small flashlight. The group’s challenge is to take turns running to the blanket, where they will take turns going under the blanket with their flashlight and looking for the next word of the memory verse. They are to take this next word to the other side of the room to add to the correct order of the memory verse. For large classes, you can make two teams. Can they do it in the time it takes to play the song “All the Time”?


**NATURE LESSON:** Read the Nature Lesson, “**Making Waves.**”

**Teaching Point:** Being a disciple is all about making a difference for Jesus.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your **Fish Miracle craft** sample. Explain and demonstrate the instructions for how to make the craft. Sing “**I Will Make You Fishers of Men**” together, then play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children make the craft.

  **MISSION CHALLENGE:** Jesus first said “**Follow Me**” to His disciples (Matthew 4:19). Later, after they had learned from Him, He said, “**Go . . . and make disciples**” (Matthew 28:19). If you would like to “come” to Him this week and spend time with Him, and then “go” and connect with people around you, come forward and pick up the footprint with your name on it to show you want to follow Him in this way.

Allow time for this. Then challenge the children to share this week’s Bible story or Big Idea with someone at school or in their neighborhood who they don’t usually play with and invite them to play a game or enjoy an activity.

 **REVIEW and COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.** Display the following words as a call and response:

**Teacher:** Who loves you most of all? **Children:** Jesus loves me, and He calls!

**Teacher:** What does Jesus ask you to do? **Children:** Follow Him!

**PRAY:** Sing the chorus of “**All the Time,**” then conclude with a prayer, thanking God for **loving each one of us so much** that He calls us to “come” and follow Him, so we can then “go” to help others want to follow Jesus too.



# Called to Follow Jesus

**Big Idea:** Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. You may like to use the following props: **flashlight, paper strips** to make a paper chain (any color), **one yellow strip with Jesus' name written on it, fishing net, paper fish, stapler**.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► A crowd of people lined the shores of the Jordan River. They listened quietly to the powerful words of John the Baptist. As he preached, Jesus slipped into the crowd.

John looked across the sea of faces. Then he stopped. It was Jesus! "Look, the Lamb of God. He takes away the sins of the world!" he cried. "He is the Son of God" (John 1:29, 34, ICB). (Take a yellow strip of paper with Jesus' name on it and staple it to make a paper chain link as you speak.)

The next day John the Baptist saw Jesus again. A smile lit up his face as he shouted, "Look, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36, ICB).

► Two fishermen, Andrew and John, heard his amazing words. So they followed Jesus.

► Jesus heard their footsteps behind Him. He turned and asked them, "What do you seek?" (John 1:38).

**What did they say to Jesus? Read John 1:38, 39.** (They asked Jesus where He was staying, to which Jesus said, "Come and see." They saw where He was staying and stayed with Him that day.) (Create two more paper links, staple, and add them to the yellow link.)

Imagine the wonderful time those two friends had with Jesus. They knew that Jesus truly was the Messiah and that He loved them very much.

Andrew couldn't wait to tell his brother the good news! He ran to find Simon. "We have found the Messiah!" he cried (John 1:41). Quickly he brought Simon to Jesus. (Create another link and add to the paper chain.)

Jesus welcomed Simon right away and gave him a new name to suit the good things in his character. He would now be called "Peter," which means "stone."

The next day, walking toward Galilee, Jesus saw a man named Philip and said, "Follow Me" (John 1:43). And Philip did. (Create and add another chain link.) But not before running off to call his friend Nathanael to come and meet the Messiah too. (Create and add another chain link.)

► Nathanael had heard John the Baptist's words. But he wasn't sure if Jesus really was the Messiah. He was under a fig tree praying for God to show him, when Philip rushed up and said, "We have found him. He is Jesus, the son of Joseph. He is from Nazareth" (John 1:45, ICB).

The words seemed like a direct answer to his prayer, and yet . . . Nathanael still had doubts. Jesus didn't look like Nathanael thought He should. And he didn't come from an important city—just the small village of Nazareth.

Philip simply said: "Come and see" (John 1:46).

• **What made Nathanael sure that Jesus truly was the Messiah? Read John 1:47-51.** (Jesus knew his heart and his action. He knew Nathanael was an honest man, and he knew what Nathanael had been doing before Jesus had seen him.)

(Show all your chain links on your paper chain). Jesus now had five followers, known as disciples: Philip, Nathanael, Andrew, Peter, and John. There would be more disciples (keep adding links and naming the other disciples: James, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddaeus, Simon, Judas). They would all stay with Jesus (cluster the chain together).



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They would all go where He goes (**move the chain from side to side**). They would all stay together (cluster close), eat together, and walk together. This is what disciples did. They learned every day of the week from their Rabbi. Jesus was their rabbi. **They wanted to be just like Him.**

▶ Time passed. Early one morning four very disappointed men pulled their boats onto the shore of Lake Galilee. Peter, Andrew, John, and his brother, James, had fished all night and caught nothing—not even one tiny fish. Peter felt so very discouraged.

Jesus came walking along the beach with a huge crowd of followers. Seeing Peter's boat, Jesus stepped into it and began to teach the people about God's love and how they could be saved from their sins.

When Jesus had finished teaching, He spoke to Peter. "Take the boat into deep water. If you will put your nets in the water, you will catch some fish" (Luke 5:4, ICB).

Peter looked at Jesus in surprise. "Master, we worked hard all night trying to catch fish, but we caught nothing. But you say to put the nets in the water; so I will" (Luke 5:5, ICB). It made no sense—there people fished only at night—but Peter trusted anyway.

Out in the deep water, Peter threw the nets into the water. ▶ They were instantly full! His eyes bulged in surprise! He and Andrew tried to pull in their net full of wiggling, squiggling fish, but it was way too heavy. It was breaking!

They called out for James and John to row their boat over and help. Together the four fishermen loaded the slippery fish into both boats until they were full. Slowly the disciples rowed to shore.

Peter was amazed—and overwhelmed. Jesus had power to control nature! He bowed before Jesus and said, "Go away from me, Lord. I am a sinful man!" (Luke 5:8, ICB).

- **What did Jesus say? Read Luke 5:10.** ("Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.")

▶ The men "left everything and followed Jesus" (Luke 5:11, ICB).

#### Discuss:

- **What does it mean to be a "fisher of men"—to "catch men"?** (To bring people to Jesus.)

- **Does Jesus call anyone else to be "fishers of men"?** (Yes, we can all be His disciples.)

- **What did Jesus do in our story to show that He would help us follow Him?** (Jesus filled Peter's net with many fish! Jesus gives us all we need. We can trust Him.)

**Teaching Point:** Jesus wants us all to bring others to Him so they can be saved too. We can trust God to help us as we follow Him. Just as He provided the miracle catch for the disciples, He will provide for us (**show your cluster of connected paper chains again**).

Say the **Big Idea** again: **Jesus loves me so much He calls me to follow Him.**

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## TEACHER NOTES



# Nature Lesson Making Waves

**Focus:** We can follow Jesus and spread His love like waves.

One of the best things about the beach is playing in the waves. You can dive into the waves or let them knock you over or try to catch a ride on them. No matter how full of energy you are, you always get tired before the waves do. They never stop rolling.

You can make waves. Just toss a stone into a pond. The stone makes ripples that spread wider and wider in a circle. Ocean waves move the same way these ripples do.

There are other ways you can make waves. Sometimes when we talk about "making waves" we are talking about people instead of water. We say that people are "making waves" when they try to make a difference. Jesus wants us to make a difference. Jesus calls us to follow Him. He then calls us to follow His example and reach out to those around us so they can follow Jesus too. Just like a ripple in a pond, the things you do keep expanding. Your smiles keep spreading. Your helpfulness grows. Your kindness travels in wider circles. Everything you do makes a difference. When Jesus was on earth, He made a difference wherever He went, and He calls us to follow Him and follow His example. When you are kind to others and do nice things, chances are other people will pass that niceness along. Jesus made waves. He showed us how to love those around us. He calls us to follow Him and His example and keep those waves rippling. He asks us to give of ourselves to help others. He'll help us. How many waves are in the ocean? More than you can count. What difference can you make? More than you can imagine.

**What can you do this week to show you follow Jesus and want others to know Jesus' love too?**

This story is adapted from "Making Waves," by RosAnne C. Tetz, *God's Big Idea*, copyright © 2003 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

## Craft

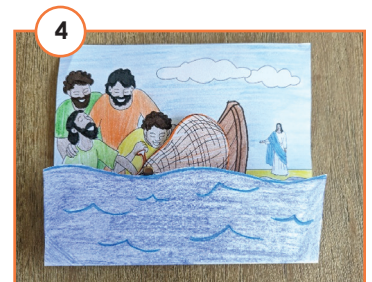
### Fish Miracle

**What you need:**

Week 8 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, split pin. (1)

**Instructions:**

1. Cut out the pieces and fold the page along the dotted line. Color in the picture, as well as the water on the folded section (as shown). (2)
2. Place the empty net over the full net and line up the dots with the background, then poke through a split pin. (3)
3. Move the different nets up and down to show the miracle of the fish. (4, 5)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 **No More Grape Juice!**
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

### Week 9

# No More Grape Juice!

**Bible Reference:** John 2:1-11

#### Big Idea

Jesus loves to surprise me with miracles to grow my faith.

#### Memory Verse

Oh, give thanks to the Lord of lords! For His mercy endures forever: To Him who alone does great wonders" (Psalm 136:3, 4).

#### References

*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 144-153  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 920-923  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 7, pp. 129-133

#### Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 4. The Son
- 5. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- 11. Growing in Christ

#### Word of the Week

**Miracle:** A miracle is an extraordinary event or happening caused by God; something people could never ever do or explain.

#### Lesson Summary

This lesson explores Jesus' first miracle, turning water into wine at a wedding He attended with His disciples. Jesus' mother was also at the wedding. When she learned that the wine was all gone, she told Jesus about the problem. She then told the servants to do whatever Jesus asked of them. Jesus told the servants to fill six large jars with water and then pour some out for the host of the feast. As they poured, the water was turned into wine, and the master claimed it was the best wine of all! Through this miracle, Jesus revealed His glory. He also demonstrated His love for humanity and desire to bring us happiness.

#### Learning Goals

The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus loves to surprise them with good things to grow their faith.  
**Feel** in awe of God's power to perform miracles.  
**Respond** by sharing their faith with others, telling them of the great things God has done.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Lively chatter and vibrant laughter floated through the air. A fresh breeze carried the fragrance of flowers and slow-roasted food. A wedding was always a delightful reprieve from life's burdens. Guests ate and drank and basked in the joy of the happy couple.

Jesus showed His infinite love for people and His desire to bring them abundant life when He chose to perform that first miracle at a wedding in Cana. Although "not yet His time," His heart saw need, and His love responded with more than what they expected. What Jesus did to the water in those jars He would go on to do in people's lives wherever He went—He would make the ordinary, extraordinary. Many who saw or heard of this miracle would grow closer to God and believe with greater conviction.

"And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30, 31).

Whether we observe a miracle or receive one ourselves, Jesus delights in seeing our joy—and our growth toward Him.

As you prepare this week's lesson, may your faith grow as you see Jesus' love expressed in this powerful, tangible way. May the children also see just how much Jesus loves them and wants to grow their faith in Him.





# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 9

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist**.
- Miracles of Jesus Bible Hunt

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Alive in Jesus”**
  - **“I Want to Tell the World”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection, **Offering Chart**, and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Object Lesson: **Water to wine**
- Discussion: What is a miracle? Who can do miracles?
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Object Lesson: **Seeds, flower/fruit/vegetable plants**—the miracle of growth. Jesus can do wonderful things to grow our faith too.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 35: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “Psalm 136:3, 4”**
- **Mission Story:** “The Missionary Barber”
- **Craft:** Grape Juice Miracle
- **Mission Challenge:** Make a new connection with someone around your age, then try talking to them about God.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.**
- Distribute grape juice to children.
- **Pray.**



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Print [Miracles of Jesus Bible Hunt](#) worksheet. Provide **Bibles** and **pencils**.

Source empty **glass**, **red food coloring**, and a **bottle of water**.

Update [Offering Chart](#).

Prepare [Mission Fast Fact](#).

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the [Program PowerPoint](#), or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the [Program PowerPoint](#).

Source a variety of **seeds, fruit, vegetables, plants, and flowers**.

Source a large pottery jar/container.

## Tie It All Together

Print [Character Collector Card 35: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine](#), one for each child.

Source **12 jars** and words of the **memory verse** written on separate slips of paper.

Source a **chair, oversized white shirt, comb, and scissors**.

## Craft Materials

Print the [week 9 craft template](#) for each child, and source **paper cups, scissors, glue, markers, blue and purple paper**.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Alive in Jesus"
- "I Want to Tell the World"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "Psalm 136:3, 4"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 9 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 35: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine
- Week 9 Craft Template
- Miracles of Jesus Bible Hunt worksheet

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Offering container
- Globe or world map
- Bibles and pencils
- Empty glass, red food coloring, bottle of water
- Variety of seeds, flower/fruit/vegetables plants
- Large pottery jar/container
- 12 glass jars, words from memory verse written on slips of paper
- Small cups, grape juice
- Chair, oversized white shirt, comb, scissors
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** Invite the children to complete the **Miracles of Jesus Bible Hunt** worksheet. Children can work individually or in pairs to look up the Bible text, then write down or draw a picture of the miracle that Jesus performed at that time. Talk about how Jesus performed many miracles and that today we are going to learn more about the very first miracle He ever did.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.


**SING:** Sing **“Alive in Jesus”** and **“I Want to Tell the World.”** Then sing the prayer song, **“Sabbath Song.”**

**PRAY:** Invite the children to join in a **group prayer** during which volunteers thank God for some of the wonderful things He has done. Encourage each child who prays to be specific for what He has done for them.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing **“Thank You, Jesus.”** Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the **“Visitor Song.”** Sing **“Happy Birthday”** to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Share with the children how our story today is about Jesus performing His first miracle. I wonder what He will do!

**DO:** Before the lesson, put a few drops of red food coloring into the bottom of an empty glass. Tell the children that you are going to turn water into something else. Pour water from the jug into the empty glass, holding the glass so the children can’t see the food coloring at the bottom of it. As you pour the water in, it will look like the water is turning into grape juice.

**EXPLAIN:** Ask:

- **How did I do this? Did I perform a miracle?** No, I just did a trick.

Explain that a miracle is an extraordinary event caused by God that can’t be explained and is something that a person in their own strength could never do. Talk about how Jesus performed many miracles in the Bible. In 30 seconds, brainstorm together, listing as many miracles as you can that Jesus did.


**READ:** Point to the **Big Idea** and read it together: **Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.**

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.



## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **DO:** Show the children some **seeds**. Pass some around for the children to look at and touch. Notice how small they are. Then show a range of **fruit, vegetables, or flower plants** and discuss how such different plants come from small seeds.

Talk about how even though a seed is small, it has the ability to grow into a big plant. In many ways this is a miracle. Just as Jesus changed “ordinary” water into delicious grape juice, Jesus changes dry little seeds into beautiful fruit, flowers, and trees.

**Teaching Point:** Faith and trust in Jesus also often begin as something small. But as we spend time with Jesus by reading His Word, praying to Him, and learning all we can about His love and truth, it’s like watering seeds, and our faith grows into something big, beautiful, and strong.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)


**MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 35: Jesus Turns Water Into Wine** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture. Invite the children to say the memory verse and sing the Scripture song: **“Psalm 136:3, 4.”**


**Memory Verse Challenge:** Divide the children into two groups and place a set of six jars (one set of jars for each group) on the other side of the room. Inside each jar are different **words from the memory verse**. One at a time, children from each team walk to a jar, take out a word, and walk back to their team to tag the next person to take a different word. When each team has collected all their words, they will arrange them to make their memory verse.


**MISSION STORY:** Share the Mission Story, **“The Missionary Barber,”** and discuss the question with the children.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your completed **Grape Juice Miracle craft** and share instructions.

Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** in the background as children make their craft.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** The Mission Challenge this week is to **make a new connection with someone around your age, then try talking to them about God**. You may try this conversation starter: “I can see God in my life in this way... Have you ever noticed that God is working in your life too?”

 **REVIEW and COMMIT:** Distribute a small **cup** of undiluted grape **juice** to each child. Drink it, then repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.**

 **PRAY:** Before you pray the final prayer, gather your children close to the large jar used in the story. Pray and thank Jesus for making the ordinary into something extraordinary. Ask Him to help every person to share how God is working in their life with someone in the week ahead.



# No More Grape Juice!

**Big Idea:** Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story.

You may like to use the following prop: **large pottery jar/container**.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► Excitement filled the air as busy workers scurried back and forth. There was so much to do. Weddings in Bible times lasted for several days, and they were huge, happy occasions with lots of feasting, music, and singing. Jesus' mother, Mary, was helping with the wedding preparations.

Mary was busy, but sometimes her thoughts were far away. Jesus was coming to the wedding, and she couldn't wait to see Him! What a wonderful time they would have together.

Arriving at the wedding, Jesus quickly scanned the crowds, looking for His mother. Mary noticed a new strength in Jesus' eyes. She also noticed how His disciples looked at Him with reverence, and how they called Him teacher. Mary's faith grew as they told her what they had seen and heard at Jesus' baptism, and how they believed He was the Messiah. Happiness filled Mary's heart—others now knew that her Son was God's Son too.

Then something happened. ► The grape juice ran out before the wedding feast ended. Oh, no! The host and the groom's family would look bad. The party would end. The guests would go home. Whatever could be done?

When Mary heard, she knew exactly what to do. She scurried over to Jesus and spoke quietly.

• **What did she say? Read John 2:3.** ("They have no wine [grape juice].")

"Dear woman, why come to me?" Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come" (John 2:4, ICB). His respectful reply gently reminded Mary that He had come to this world to die for humankind. And that she couldn't expect Him to do anything unless it was God's will.

► Mary was not put off by Jesus' words. She confidently told the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it" (John 2:5). Mary's instruction was filled with faith. She didn't know what Jesus would do; maybe He wouldn't work a miracle, as she might have hoped He would. But faith was growing in her heart, and she trusted Him to solve the problem somehow.

Mary's words rang in Jesus' ears. He saw the need of the people at the wedding, so poor and burdened. He knew the shame for the family if the grape juice ran out. He also wanted to grow the faith of His new disciples.

Jesus saw six large empty stone jars. A smile pulled at the corners of His mouth, and He broke the silence (*show a large pottery jar*).

• **What did Jesus tell the servants to do? Read John 2:7.** (To fill the waterpots with water.)

Without a word, they obeyed.

Then Jesus told the servants to dip a ladle into one of the jars, fill a cup, and take it to the host of the feast. Imagine the servant's surprise! They expected a cup of water but got a cup of purple grape juice instead. It was a miracle!

► Speechless, they took the grape juice to the host. As he drank the fresh grape juice, he was amazed too. It was the sweetest he had ever tasted!

The host didn't know that the grape juice had run out or that Jesus had performed a miracle. Before the host and the groom even knew they had a problem, Jesus had quietly solved it with the very best grape juice ever.

► Jesus chose to use His power to add happiness to a wedding in a small town. That way common people with open hearts would know He loved them very much.



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Jesus is always interested in us and our happiness. He loves to make the ordinary extraordinary, and He loves to surprise us with the very best He can give. He quietly grows our faith and has solutions for our problems in surprising and wonderful ways, and sometimes even solves them before we know we have a problem!

**Discuss:**

- What was surprising in the story?
- Where did you see joy?
- Whose faith grew in this story?
- Who shared their faith in the story?
- How did some good things such as trust and hope grow in this story?

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**TEACHER NOTES**

# Mission Story **The Missionary Barber**



**Focus:** When we share our faith in Jesus, faith grows.

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**Location:** Help a child locate **Eastern Europe** on your **globe** or **world map**.

A humble church member in Eastern Europe wanted to be a missionary, but he did not have the gift of preaching. He was too shy and didn't talk a lot.

So he packed a small suitcase and took a bus to a small, remote village. In the middle of the village he set up a chair and put on a white coat. (Put a chair in front of the room. Put an oversized white shirt on a child and have the child stand by the chair.) Holding out his comb and scissors (have the child hold out comb and scissors), he invited the children to come for a free haircut.

Because the families were poor, the children did not often get nice haircuts. So the children quickly got permission and came running for a haircut. While they sat still for him to cut, the barber told them a Bible story. When they went home, the children had not only their nice haircuts but also Bible stories to tell.

The next day many parents came. The barber gave them free haircuts and told them stories. By serving a need, the humble missionary barber made friends for Jesus. After a while a new church was planted in that village.

**How did the missionary barber share his faith?**

**How did his sharing help the people of the village?**

**Do you think your sharing with others could grow your faith and trust in Jesus? What makes you say that?**



# Craft

## Grape Juice Miracle

### What you need:

Week 9 craft template, two paper cups, scissors, glue, colored marker, blue and purple paper. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Cut out the pieces. Glue the jug onto a paper cup and trace the outline with a colored marker. (2)
2. Color in the handles and glue to the side of the cup along the tabs. Adults will need to cut the jug shape out of the cup. (3)
3. Stick the blue and purple pieces of paper around the outside of the second cup. (4)
4. Place the second cup inside the jug cup and twist around to show the "water" (blue), turn to "wine" (purple). (5, 6)



# Resource

## Miracles of Jesus Bible Hunt

	
John 2:1-11	
Luke 8:1-11	
Mark 1:30, 31	

Matthew 8:23-27	
Matthew 20:30-34	
Luke 22:50, 51	
Matthew 17:24-27	



## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 **Jesus Feeds the Crowds**
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 10

# Jesus Feeds the Crowds

**Bible References:** Matthew 4:13-21; 15:29-39; Mark 6:31-44; 8:1-10; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

**Big Idea** Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.

**Memory Verse** "And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger' " (John 6:35).

**References**  
*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 364-371  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, p. 422  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 8, pp. 41-45

**Fundamental Beliefs** Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
1. The Holy Scriptures                      3. The Father  
4. The Son                                        11. Growing in Christ  
21. Stewardship

**Word of the Week**  
**Spiritual:** Being spiritual has to do with people's thoughts and beliefs about a higher power than themselves—God. Life is about more than what we can see and touch; we have a mind that has been designed to think about God and His big story for us. These thoughts about God, and our need for Him, are spiritual. We also call religious things that are about God spiritual. For example, we can read spiritual books about God, and we can sing spiritual songs.

**Lesson Summary**  
This lesson explores the desire of Jesus to feed us spiritually while also meeting our physical need for food. When 5,000 men, plus women and children, came to Jesus, He had compassion on them. He healed the sick and preached about the kingdom of God. When the people were hungry, Andrew brought Jesus a boy's five loaves and two fish. Jesus multiplied it for the people. Another time, Jesus again performed a miracle by multiplying a small amount of food to meet the hunger of 4,000 men and their families. Jesus demonstrated that God loves everyone and wants to provide for everyone's spiritual and physical needs.

**Learning Goals**  
The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus cares about our physical needs and our spiritual needs.  
**Feel** the need to spend quiet time with Jesus to gain spiritual food.  
**Respond** by sharing what we know of God's love with others, feeding them spiritually, and sharing our food with others in need too.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Ponder this: Jesus simply offered up a prayer of thanks to His heavenly Father, and then fed a crowd of 5,000 men, plus women and children, with just five small barley loaves and two small fish. What an amazing miracle! Jesus supplied their needs in a profound and abundant way. God has also promised to supply our needs—the needs of our body, heart, and soul.

Our Father God cares for our health. He created seeds to grow into an abundance of fruits and vegetables. He sends the sun and rain to help them grow—all for our benefit. There are places and seasons where finding food, or healthy food, is incredibly challenging. Trust in God's care and claim His promises. "And my God shall supply all your need . . ." Each day, regardless of where in the world we live, He supplies us with the food we need. And we can thank Him for this. The Bible says, "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19).

Just as Jesus supernaturally provided food for the crowds, He can also supernaturally supply us with food for our empty or broken hearts through His Word. When we ask the Holy Spirit to lead us, His Word will fill our innermost soul and permeate us. It gives us food—spiritual nourishment and strength to face the challenges of life.

Jesus has always been willing to supply our needs, both body and soul. But the choice is ours to accept His help, just as the disciples did.

As you and the children explore this week's story together, may you feel loved knowing that our God is willing to supply all your physical needs and all your spiritual needs too.



# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 10

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.
- Option 1: Modeling-clay food
- Option 2: Water and coin experiment

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Amazing”**
  - **“When God Speaks”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection
- **Offering Chart** and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity and discussion: Divide bread and discuss what a miracle is.

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Bread tasting activity**—taste different breads and reflect on miracle.
- Discussion: Talk about spiritual needs and how God meets them.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 36: Jesus Feeds the Crowds**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “John 6:35”**
- **Nature Lesson:** “Growwwwl”
- **Craft:** Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- Discussion: What can Jesus multiply?
- **Mission Challenge:** Share a smile or encourage someone in the community with “Jesus loves you.”
- Commit: Repeat **Big Idea: Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.**
- **Pray.**



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Source modeling **clay** for each child.

Source a **food dropper, water,** and **coin** of your choice.

Source a **slice of bread** and **knife**.

Update **Offering Chart**.

Share the **Mission Fast Fact**.

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source **Program PowerPoint**.

Source several types of **bread** (i.e., whole wheat, whole grain, focaccia).

Prepare **12 paper baskets, two paper fish,** and **five paper loaves of bread**.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 36: Jesus Feeds the Crowds** for each child.

## Craft Materials

Source **week 10 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, split pins**.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Alive in Jesus"
- "When God Speaks"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "John 6:35"



*qr.aij.info\_PA3Music*

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 10 Program PowerPoint
- Week 10 Craft Template
- Character Card 36: Jesus Feeds the Crowds

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Offering container
- Globe or world map
- Modeling clay
- Food dropper, water, coin
- Various types of bread (i.e., whole wheat, whole grain, focaccia), knife
- 12 paper baskets, two paper fish, five paper loaves of bread
- Craft materials (see above)

# Full Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO: Option 1**—Ask each child to name a favorite food and tell why they like it. Give each child some **modeling clay** and invite them to make the food they like to eat best. Talk about how it's nice to invite people over to your house and share food together for a meal. Explain that in our story today, a little boy shares his food with Jesus who then performs a miracle and shares it with many, many people.

**Option 2**—Use a food dropper and guess how many drops of water you can fit on a coin of choice. (It will be far more than expected.) After the experiment, say, "It makes me think of the word 'abundant.' " Abundant means having plenty of something—having more than enough. The coin can hold an abundant amount of water. **I wonder what will be in abundance—more than enough—in today's story?**

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Sing "Alive in Jesus" and "When God Speaks." Then sing the prayer song, "Sabbath Song."

**PRAY:** Today is a day to give thanks. Our story will make us want to do this. **Who would like to give thanks to God for something special in your life?** Invite children to share, then pray at the end, thanking God for supplying all of our needs.

**GIVE:** Remind the children that when we give our offering, it shows that we are grateful to God for supplying all that we need—an abundance of goodness. Have a child collect the offering as you sing "Thank You, Jesus." Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week's **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week's section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the "Visitor Song." Sing "Happy Birthday" to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Show the children a **piece of bread**. Ask:

- **What would I do if I wanted to share it?** (Cut or break it into smaller pieces.)

Then cut or break the piece of bread into smaller pieces.

- **Can I share it now?** (Yes.)
- **Do I now have more bread?** (No, just more pieces. It is still just one slice of bread.)
- **Last week we learned what a miracle is. How would you explain this to someone?** An extraordinary event or happening caused by God; something people could never ever do or explain.

**Teaching Point:** In today's story, Jesus made more bread and fish, not just more pieces, to feed thousands of people. This was a miracle: something extraordinary that only God could do.

**READ:** Point to the **Big Idea** and read it together: **Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.**

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.



## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** If possible, show the children an assortment of bread, including whole wheat, whole grain, focaccia, etc. Allow them to smell and taste some of the bread.

- **How does it smell? How does it taste?**
- **Does Jesus love to supply our needs?** (Yes!)

Jesus doesn't just feed us with physical food, though.

- **What other kinds of food does Jesus want to feed us?** (Spiritual.) **What does this mean?** (Our thoughts and beliefs about God, and our need for Him are spiritual).

**Teaching Point:** Through our quiet times with Him—in Sabbath School, church, and Bible class at school—Jesus feeds us spiritual food too. He also knows we can't live a happy Christian life without growing our hearts and minds with Him. This is why we have the Bible. He gives both types of food—food for our body and food for our mind and heart.

**SING:** Sing the song “**Thank You, Jesus**” as a prayer.

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 36: Jesus Feeds the Crowds** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the **memory verse**. Then sing the **Scripture Song: “John 6:35.”**

**NATURE LESSON:** Read the Nature Lesson, “**Growwwwl!**” Engage the children in the discussion question.


**CRAFT:** Show the children the craft sample “**Jesus Feeds the Crowds.**” Explain and demonstrate the instructions for making it and give the children the craft supplies they need.


Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** in the background as children make their craft.

### **DISCUSS:**

- **What do you have that Jesus can multiply?** On the back of their craft, invite the children to draw a quick picture or write a list of things they have that they could give to Jesus to multiply. (For example: music, artistic ability, smiles, cheerful attitude, money, clothes, food, toys.)
- **How can we give these to Jesus so He can multiply them and use them to meet the needs of others?** (Sing songs, make cards for others, be friendly and greet people with a smile. Give money in offerings or give clothes, food, and toys to those in need.)

**Teaching Point:** When you give something to Jesus, you aren't losing it; He will increase it, so you have more to give.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** In this story, Jesus, with His words and with His gift of food, showed He cared about people. This week, show that you, with your words, care for others. **At the store or at an after-school activity, share a smile and tell someone what a good job they are doing. Share the simple statement “Jesus loves you” or “God bless you.”**

 **REVIEW and COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.** Say together joyfully: **Thank You, Jesus!**

 **PRAY:** Jesus blessed the food that day. He also blesses you. Conclude with a prayer of blessing:

“Dear Jesus, Thank You for these children who You created and love so much. You provide every blessing, both big and small—a home full of love, hands to catch when they fall. Food on their table, warm clothes to wear, friends who bring laughter, a family who cares. Please guide their choices, both day and night, feed them with kindness, truth, and light. Help them to trust, to grow, to be strong, to know You are with them their whole life long. In Jesus' name, amen.”



# Jesus Feeds the Crowds

**Big Idea:** Jesus feeds me with His words and with food.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. Prepare the following props to use throughout the story when prompted: **12 paper baskets, two paper fish, five paper loaves of bread.**

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► The disciples dragged their feet. Some sighed. Others yawned. They had been traveling as preachers, and they were so tired.

Jesus saw how weary they were. He longed to be with them—He knew they needed to be with Him too.

• **What did He invite them to do? Read Mark 6:31.** (To rest awhile by themselves in a deserted place.)

Jesus knew about their physical needs: they were tired and hungry. He also knew about their spiritual needs: they needed time with God. He knew just the place where He could meet both needs!

► With a gentle splash they pushed their boat out into the lake and set off across the Sea of Galilee to a lonely, peaceful spot on the other side. As the boat sailed across the water, they spent time together. Jesus encouraged His friends. They rested, they focused on positive things, and they prayed. And after a while, their energy began to return.

Meanwhile, the crowds who had been with Jesus missed Him. Some had seen Him sail away with His friends, and word quickly spread. Eager people hurried around the lake on foot. They ran so quickly that they arrived before Jesus and the disciples!

Many travelers were on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, so they joined the crowd too. Soon 5,000 men had gathered, as well as women and children.

► Jesus felt sorry for the people. They were really hungry to hear His words, because the priests and rulers didn't feed them much spiritual food—just rules and laws instead. So even though He really needed rest, Jesus began to teach the people about God's love.

Jesus spoke of a kind and forgiving God who cared. He shared the Scriptures with the people and taught them how to be saved. He healed the sick. He encouraged the lonely.

The hours quickly passed by as the people listened carefully to Jesus. They had such a wonderful day; they hadn't stopped to eat.

When the sun was low in the western sky, the disciples told Jesus how hungry they were, and that the people must be hungry too. They asked Jesus to send the people away so they could buy food for themselves from the villages.

Jesus replied, "You give them food to eat" (Mark 6:37, ICB).

The disciples looked at Jesus in surprise. They didn't have any food! They said, "We can't buy enough bread to feed all these people! We would all have to work a month to earn enough money to buy that much bread!" (Mark 6:37, ICB).

Jesus smiled. "How many loaves of bread do you have now? Go and see" (Mark 6:38, ICB).

Andrew found a little boy who hadn't eaten his picnic lunch: five little barley loaves and two small fish. (Show a little basket with paper loaves and fish.) He brought it to Jesus. It wasn't much. But Jesus knew exactly what He could do with it!

• **What did Jesus do next? Read Mark 6:41** (He looked to heaven and blessed the food and broke it. He gave it to the disciples who went and gave it to the people.)



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► It was a miracle! The people scratched their heads and blinked their eyes in surprise. *How could thousands of barley loaves come from just five? (Hold up the five paper loaves.)* How could thousands of fish come from just two? *(Hold up the two paper fish.)*

All the men, women, and children in that happy crowd ate and ate until they were full. After the crowd had finished eating, the disciples collected up to 12 big baskets of leftovers! *(Show 12 paper baskets.)*

Another day, Jesus was again teaching a great crowd of people. This time He was on a different side of the Sea of Galilee. The crowd was different too. They were mostly Gentiles—non-Jewish people. They didn't know very much about God.

Full of hope, the crowds brought all their sick and hurting friends and family to Jesus, "and He healed them" (Matthew 15:30). The people were amazed and praised God!

For three whole days Jesus stayed with them, healing, helping, and loving them. By the third day the people's food had run out, and they were hungry. Jesus didn't want to send them away with empty stomachs.

• **What did Jesus do? Read Matthew 15:32-36.** *(He took the seven loaves the disciples gave Him, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to His disciples to give to the people.)*

► Once again Jesus used what they had—a tiny bit of food—and multiplied it to meet a great big need. This time 4,000 men and their families were blessed by God's power.

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## TEACHER NOTES



# Nature Lesson **Growwww!**

**Focus:** Jesus wants to give us food for our bodies and spiritual food for our minds.

Have you ever been sitting in church when your stomach started to growl? Your siblings might find it funny, but for you it is probably embarrassing. The worst part is that you can't control the noise. There is no way to make your stomach growl softer. Your only option is to act as if the noise is coming from the person sitting next to you.

Or you could do the one thing that will stop your stomach from growling: you could eat. Your stomach is growling because it is empty. Your stomach moves all the time—usually, it is busy digesting your food by pushing it and squeezing it. However, when all the food is digested, your stomach keeps moving, even though there is nothing left but air. The rumbly, growly noises are made by your stomach pushing air around.

Look at Psalm 136:25: "He gives food to every living creature. His love continues forever" (ICB). Why do you suppose that verse is there? Because food is important, that's why. The God who created the world, the God who controls history, is the same God who gives us food. God's love is seen in the food we eat every day. That's why this psalm mentions food. And that's why we "say grace" before meals. We thank God for our food. He doesn't want to give us just food for our bodies, though. He also wants to give us spiritual food. Food that will feed our minds about God and our need for Him. We can do this by reading spiritual books about God, including the Bible, singing songs about Jesus, and going to Sabbath School and church. He longs to give us love and encouragement to energize our minds, just as food energizes our bodies! Jesus loves us, and when we spend time with Him, He feeds us with His words from the Bible.

**What can you do this week to feed your mind with spiritual food?**

This story is adapted from "Growwww!" by RosAnne C. Tetz, *God's Big Idea*, copyright © 2003 Review and Herald® Publishing Association. Used and adapted by permission.

## Craft

### Jesus Feeds the Crowds

**What you need:**

Week 10 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, split pin. (1)

**Instructions:**

1. Color in the printables. (2)
2. Cut out Jesus' arm and line up the hole with the background. Push a split pin through to move Jesus' arm as though He is handing out the loaves and fish. (3)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 **Growing Disciples**
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 11

# Growing Disciples

**Bible References:** Matthew 6:9-13, 25-30; Romans 14:17

### Big Idea

Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.

### Memory Verse

"By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

### References

Insights have been drawn from across *The Desire of Ages*.

### Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 4. The Son
- 6. Creation
- 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 22. Christian Behavior

### Word of the Week

**Nurture:** To nurture is to care for, protect, and encourage someone (or a living thing) while they are growing and developing.

### Lesson Summary

This lesson explores the way Jesus interacted with His disciples and the people who came to listen to Him teach. He showed love and compassion and a desire to nurture their faith. He wanted His disciples to share God's love with others, to help grow more disciples. Jesus showed through His actions how He wanted his disciples to interact with others. Through their mission of serving, loving, teaching, and giving, His disciples were asked to show what God's kingdom is like.

### Learning Goals

The children will:

**Know** that as a follower of Jesus, they are one of His disciples.

**Feel** a desire to spend time with God, to learn more about Him so they can grow as His disciples.

**Respond** by sharing what they have learned with others to help others become disciples.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

A simple definition of a disciple of Jesus could be “knowing Jesus, and making Jesus known.” The time we spend with Jesus changes us to be like Him. As He reaches out in love to others, we will reach out. As He saves, we will invest all our efforts in connecting people to our Savior.

“All who are imbued with His Spirit will love as He loved. The very principle that actuated Christ will actuate them in all their dealing one with another. This love is the evidence of their discipleship. ‘By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples,’ said Jesus, ‘if ye have love one to another.’ When men are bound together, not by force or self-interest, but by love, they show the working of an influence that is above every human influence” (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 678).

When we are disciples, we will follow our Master's example of selfless love. With His help and power, our actions and interactions can be characterized by love. This is not something that happens immediately. Jesus nurtured His disciples to grow in love, grace, and mercy. We too, can rely on Jesus to nurture us, even as we seek to nurture the children in our sphere of influence. This affects all our actions and interactions.

As you prepare this week's lesson, may your love for the children overflow, as we are reminded how love for each other is a demonstration of being Jesus' disciples.





# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 11

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play **“The Lord’s Prayer”** and **“Books of the Bible”** song on repeat.
- “Do This, Do That” game

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Alive in Jesus”**
  - **“Missionary, Missionary”**
  - **“The Lord’s Prayer”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection
- **Offering Chart** and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Play Mirror Partners by following the leader in the mirror.
- Discussion: How we can be good examples to others?
- Share the **Big Idea: Jesus loves to surprise me with good things to grow my faith.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Match a nature picture with a Bible reference to explore learning about God through nature.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 37: Jesus Teaching in Nature**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “John 13:35”**
- **Mission Story:** “Bringing Friends to Jesus”
- **Craft:** Handprint Lily
- **Mission Challenge:** Ask an older person to share a special memory from when they were your age. Listen, then share something about God.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.**
- **Pray.**



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Update [Offering Chart](#).

Share the [Mission Fast Fact](#).

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the [Program PowerPoint](#), or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Print [Bible reference cards](#) and [nature object cards](#) for matching game. Use the following prompts for the cards:

- They do not worry, because God feeds them (Matthew 6:26)—Birds
- It doesn't fear drought or sun (Jeremiah 17:7, 8)—Tree
- Hardworking and wise (Proverbs 6:6)—Ant
- They do not worry about what to wear (Matthew 6:28)—Flowers
- They tell of God's work (Psalm 19:1)—Skies
- God knows the exact number (Luke 12:7)—Hairs on our head

## Tie It All Together

Print [Character Collector Card 37: Jesus Teaching in Nature](#), one for each child.

## Craft Materials

Source **colored paper, pencils, scissors, tape, green and yellow pipe cleaners/chenille sticks**.

You may wish to watch the following link to view a demonstration. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EluVJljMBr4>

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "The Lord's Prayer"
- "Books of the Bible"
- "Alive in Jesus"
- "Missionary, Missionary"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- Scripture Song: "John 13:35"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 10 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 37: Jesus Teaching in Nature
- Bible Reference Cards
- Nature Object Cards

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Offering container
- Globe or world map
- Bible reference and nature object cards
- Craft materials (see above)



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play “**The Lord’s Prayer**” and “**Books of the Bible**” songs on repeat before Sabbath School begins.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** When you have a small number of children, play “**Do This, Do That.**” Children are to follow as quickly as possible and do only the actions of the “Do this” instruction and not react to “Do that.” Have another adult stand next to you and mislead them with actions. Point out how we follow **what we see** much more than **what we hear**.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. **Copy my words carefully:** “Welcome, friend to Sabbath School!” (echo). “Where love and joy are guiding rules” (echo). “Let’s stand and sing and smile in joy (echo), to praise our God, each girl and boy!”

**SING:** Sing “**Alive in Jesus**” and “**Missionary, Missionary,**” then listen to the prayer song, “**The Lord’s Prayer,**” with their eyes closed. Think about the words they hear.

**PRAY:** Then pray a prayer of thankfulness that all the children can be in Sabbath School today. Thank Jesus for teaching His disciples, and us, a beautiful prayer that shows us how to pray.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing “**Thank You, Jesus.**” Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Ask the children to form pairs to play **Mirror Partners**. Instruct each pair to stand facing their partner. The aim is for one person to be the leader and the other to be a mirror. Give the leader a list of actions that they can choose from (e.g., lift their arm, place their hand on their head, smile, frown, turn head to the side, jump). Let the “leader” slowly start doing an action and the “mirror” will mimic the action simultaneously, as if the “leader” were looking in a mirror. Practice simple actions slowly to improve. Let the children exchange roles, and ask them to be respectful as they think about the reason for this activity.

**DISCUSS and EXPLAIN:** • **What made the activity easy or difficult?**

- **How did you improve at being a good leader and follower?**
- **Why do we mirror (copy) others so easily?**
- **How can we be good examples for others so that they are inspired to mirror some good things they see in us?**

Share with the children how our story today is about Jesus teaching the disciples. While Jesus had 12 special disciples, other people followed Him too. This meant they had to watch, listen, learn, and choose to want to become like Jesus.

**READ:** **Do you think we can also be disciples?**

To affirm this, point to the **Big Idea** and read it together: **Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.**



## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)


 **DO:** Our story shared how Jesus often used nature to teach important lessons.

### • What lessons from the Bible can you remember that use nature to teach us something important?

Make these titles: **Bible Reference Cards** and **Nature Object Cards**. Give each child either a Bible reference card or a nature object card and have them find the correct match. Then mix up the cards and distribute again for children to match the pairs.

- They do not worry, because God feeds them (Matthew 6:26)—Birds.
- It doesn't fear drought or sun (Jeremiah 17:7,8)—Tree.
- Hardworking and wise (Proverbs 6:6)—Ant.
- They do not worry about what to wear (Matthew 6:28)—Flowers.
- They tell of God's work (Psalms 19:1)—Skies.
- God knows the exact number (Luke 12:7)—Hairs on our heads.


## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 37: Jesus Teaching in Nature** to place in their storage container. Our **memory verse** is another verse that talks about our biggest job as a disciple. Say John 13:35 together, using the following actions:


"By this all (use arms to create an arc in the air)  
will know (point to head)  
that you (point outward)  
are My disciples, (point to self, meaning Jesus)  
if you have love (put both hands over heart)  
for one another" (point to others around the room)  
John 13:35 (open and shut hands like a Bible book).

Form a circle and place hands on each other's shoulders (or create another culturally-appropriate gesture of connection) then sing the **Scripture Song**, "**John 13:35**," together.


**MISSION STORY:** Read the Mission Story, "**Bringing Friends to Jesus**," and engage the children in the discussion questions. This is a wonderful example of modern-day disciples.

 **CRAFT:** Show the children your completed **Handprint Lily craft** and demonstrate how to make it step by step. Distribute materials to complete it. Ask children to share the lesson Jesus taught with a friend, using their lily. They may like to add a tag around the stem that says "Don't worry," and give it to someone who may need it.

Play "**The Lord's Prayer**" song again and then the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as children make their craft.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** With your family present, ask this question to someone older in your community: "**What is a special memory you have of when you were my age?**" Actively listen. Then share a memory of God or something you love about Him.

**REVIEW and COMMIT:** Repeat the **Big Idea** together, **Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.**

 **PRAY:** Before you pray the final prayer, form a circle again. Say the **memory verse** a final time. Then finish by thanking Jesus for teaching us from His Word and helping us to grow more and more like Him each day.



# Growing Disciples

**Big Idea:** Jesus teaches me and nurtures my faith so that I can grow as His disciple.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ▶ click through the images as you tell the story.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

▶ Imagine you are a little Jewish boy growing up in Jesus' day. Like many other young boys, your dream is to one day become a disciple—a follower—of a well-known rabbi. You would choose a rabbi and watch him closely. You would hope that he notices you because you want to become like him.

When Jesus came along, He turned this dream and everyone's ideas upside down! He chose His own disciples. Jesus chose uneducated fishermen, a tax collector, protester, and "ordinary" people.

**Why do you think Jesus chose an unexpected group of disciples?** (He did it to show us that God loves everyone, and everyone can be His disciple.)

Everything about Jesus was different. He didn't dress in rich robes like the other rabbis; He didn't pray long prayers to impress others. Jesus didn't teach His disciples in the same ways as the other rabbis.

▶ Jesus taught the people about a very different kingdom. Kingdoms on earth are all about riches, crowns, palaces, and having lots of land and servants. But God's kingdom is not about riches.

**What is God's kingdom like?** Read **Romans 14:17**. (God's kingdom is righteousness, peace, and joy.)

▶ Jesus didn't just *tell* His disciples about the kingdom of heaven, He showed them. Every day that His disciples were walking, talking, and being with Jesus, they were learning by watching Him and listening to Him. His life was an example. (Jesus' actions matched His words—not like in our opening activity).

**What do you think they learned about Jesus by watching Him?** (They learned how to be kind, loving, generous, caring, and wise.)

### Where did Jesus teach? In a classroom?

Jesus loved to teach out in nature. He knew that people were more open to His teachings when they were surrounded by the beautiful things God created. Their faith would grow as they saw God's power in the growing trees, the lapping waves, or the blooming flowers.

Jesus drew the people's attention to things close by to teach them important truths.

**What lesson did Jesus teach while directing His disciples to look at the birds flying overhead?** Read **Matthew 6:25-27**. (Do not worry; God looks after the birds, and He will look after you, too.)

Then Jesus turned to the beautiful lilies blooming in a field to make another point.

**What did Jesus teach?** Read **Matthew 6:28-30**. (We don't need to worry about our clothes. If God clothes the fields with beautiful flowers, He will clothe us.)

▶ Because the disciples were always with Jesus, they heard His beautiful teachings over and over. The more they heard, the more they understood. Their faith grew.

Fishermen and farmers, moms and children, shepherds and carpenters—all sorts of people came to listen to Jesus. He was the best storyteller!

Most of the people didn't know how to read, so they relied on the priests to read to them from the Bible scrolls each Sabbath. Sometimes they didn't understand what they heard. But they understood Jesus. He made things simple and real.



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Jesus told the people stories and taught powerful lessons based on everyday things. **What are some you remember?**

He talked about sheep and eagles, salt and light, candles and flowers, seeds and grapes, doors and gates—all things that were familiar to them. Each story grew their faith in the God who loved them.

The disciples were always close to Jesus, watching and listening, so they could learn to be like Him. ► One day they listened to Him pray.

They wanted to be able to pray just as Jesus did, so one of them said, “Lord, teach us to pray” (Luke 11:1).

Jesus was very happy to teach them to pray, because He knew that talking to God would help them get to know God as their best friend. It would also allow God to change their hearts to be loving, like His. Prayer is one of the best and most important things a growing disciple can do.

Before Jesus taught them to pray by praying His own beautiful prayer, He reminded them that God loves to hear prayers that are honest and real. He didn't want them to show off, or say the same old lines again and again.

Let's read Jesus' prayer together: **Matthew 6:9-13**. (Invite all the children to look up these verses and read aloud as a whole class.) Then play the song “**The Lord's Prayer**” again, display the lyrics, and invite everyone to sing along.

**Discuss:**

- **Who likes to talk to their friends? What would happen if we stopped talking? Would our friendship be as strong?** Just as we need to talk to our friends to have a strong friendship, we also need to talk to God. We can talk to Him about anything, anytime, anywhere.

**Teaching Point:** Jesus loves to hear us pray to Him anytime and anywhere, because He knows that prayer helps us grow to be stronger disciples.

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**TEACHER NOTES**



# Mission Story Learning From Jesus

**Focus:** People who know Jesus want to make Him known to others.

**Location:** Help a child locate **Korea** on your **globe** or **world map**.

Auntie burst through the door with a smile. It was Sabbath morning in Korea, and she had come to take her nieces and nephew to church. The two girls, 10-year-old Ye-rim and 7-year-old Sion, and their 6-year-old brother, Chea-Hwan, were so excited. They had never been to church before. Their mom didn't know God. Their dad didn't know God. But Auntie did! And she really wanted her family to get to know Him too.

The children went to church and loved it! They learned happy songs, they listened to interesting stories, and they learned to pray to God.

The three children loved church so much that they told their friends about it. Then their friends also wanted to go to church on Sabbath. Before long the three children were bringing eight friends to church every Sabbath.

Auntie didn't have enough room in her car for all of them, so she asked Mom if she could help drive the children in her car too. Mom agreed, and so it was that Mom also started to go to church every Sabbath.

One Sabbath Auntie learned that the children were praying to God on their own at home.

Auntie was so happy! Jesus had been teaching them through His words in the Bible and nurturing them at church. Now they were praying to Him every day.

When Mom saw the children praying, she began to think more about God.

Auntie asked her, "Can we study the Bible together?"

"Yes," Mom said. So Mom and Auntie started studying the Bible together. Then Mom began opening the Bible at home and teaching her children about God. She even helped lead out in the children's activities at church.

Before long Dad changed his mind about God. While he still didn't want to go to church on Sabbath, he was happy that Mom and the children were going. Their life had become a lot happier ever since the children and Mom had started to get to know Jesus.

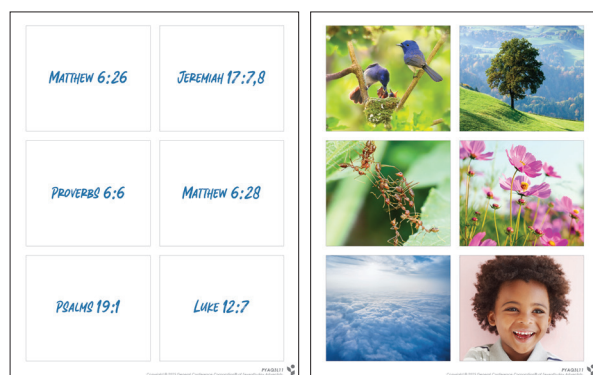
## Discuss:

- **Did the children in this story come to be disciples? How do you know?** (Yes. They wanted to share about Jesus with others and invite them to Sabbath School.)
- **This week, what might you do to show you are a disciple of Jesus?**

This story is adapted from "Getting to Know God," by Andrew McChesney, *Children's Mission*, copyright © 2025 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Used and adapted by permission.

## Resource

### Bible Reference cards and Nature Object cards





# Craft

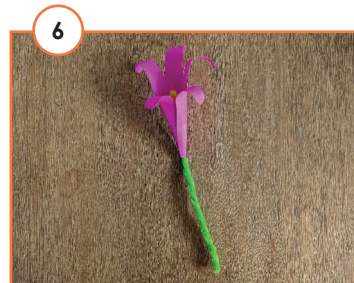
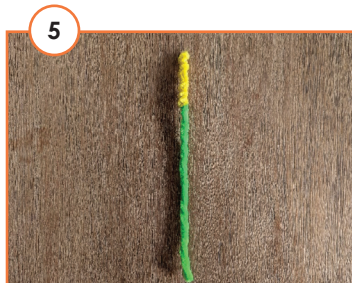
## Handprint Lily

### What you need:

Colored paper, pencil, scissors, tape, green and yellow pipe cleaners/chenille sticks. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Trace around your hand on a piece of colored paper. (2)
2. Cut out the handprint and bend into a cone shape. Tape the lower part of the thumb and little finger together, leaving a small opening at the bottom of the cone. Roll the fingers around a pencil to curl the fingers like petals. (3)
3. Cut a yellow pipe cleaner/chenille stick in half and bend it together with a green one. (4)
4. Wind the rest of the pipe cleaners/chenille sticks around until there are no sharp ends. (5)
5. Slide the pipe cleaner "stem" through the center of the handprint lily. (6)





## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 **Zacchaeus**
- WEEK 13 Blessings in Capernaum

## Week 12

# Zacchaeus

**Bible Reference:** Luke 19:1-10

**Big Idea** Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.

**Memory Verse** "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10).

**References** *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 552-556  
*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 851-853  
*The Bible Story*, vol. 8, pp. 49-52

**Fundamental Beliefs** Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:  
4. The Son  
5. The Holy Spirit  
7. Nature of Humanity  
9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ  
10. The Experience of Salvation  
11. Growing in Christ

**Word of the Week** **Potential:** Potential means possible but not yet happened; the possibility, chance, or promise that something will develop and become real. When we use the word "potential" to describe people, we are talking about who they can become. Often we speak about someone "showing potential," meaning we can see little signs that something good could develop in a person in the future.

**Lesson Summary** The story of Zacchaeus shows that Jesus sees potential in everyone. Zacchaeus, a hated tax collector, cheated people by making them pay more than they should. He was a lonely, unhappy man. But when he heard about Jesus and some of the things He was doing, something stirred in his heart. He believed his life could change if he could just see Jesus. Zacchaeus was short, so he climbed a tree where he could see Jesus pass by. Jesus saw his potential for good and lovingly called him down and told him he would be visiting his house that very day. He called him a child of God and told the crowd that He can come to save the lost.

**Learning Goals** The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus sees their potential for good.  
**Feel** grateful that Jesus wants to save them and change their hearts.  
**Respond** by accepting His love and being willing to let Him come into their hearts.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

Jesus is the ultimate hope giver, heart opener, and soul restorer. Even if little potential is seen by men's eyes, God still grasps hope. Just as He saw potential in a thieving tax collector, He sees the potential in each of us and loves to work in us to give us a full life in Him.

"[Jesus] went forth to His mission, in every moment of His contact with men exerting upon them an influence to bless, a power to transform, such as the world had never witnessed. . . . In His presence souls despised and fallen realized that they still were men, and they longed to prove themselves worthy of His regard. In many a heart that seemed dead to all things holy were awakened new impulses. To many a despairing one there opened the possibility of a new life" (Ellen G. White, *Education*, pp. 78-80).

When each of us gives our life to Jesus, it is like a "seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds, but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches" (Matthew 13:31, 32). Our lives can be filled with goodness, which can then overflow and bless others.

As you and the children explore this week's story together, may you appreciate the great potential Jesus sees in each of us and trust Him to fulfil His amazing plans for us.

# Simple Program Outline



**Big Idea:** Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 12

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible”** song for reinforcement.
- Activity: Tap the bells

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“Child of the King”**
  - **“God Loves You”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection
- **Offering Chart** and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: Using modeling clay/play dough, talk about the potential to create something new.
- Write the **Big Idea** on the whiteboard: **Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- **Paper heart** activity
- **Forgiveness** activity

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 38: Zacchaeus**
- **Memory Verse** and **Scripture Song: “Luke 19:10”**
- **Nature Lesson:** “What’s in a Seed?”
- **Craft:** Zacchaeus in a Tree
- **Mission Challenge:** The Mission Challenge this week is to leave Bible tracts or notes about Jesus in public places.
- **Commit:** Share an affirming message, then repeat the **Big Idea: Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.**
- Pray.

# Program Preparation



## Opening and Focus Activities

Source bells, tape, and a stick or ruler.

Source **modeling clay** or **play-dough**.

Update [Offering Chart](#).

Share the [Mission Fast Fact](#).

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the [Program PowerPoint](#), or print/write out and display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source [Program PowerPoint](#).

Source a **paper heart**, folded up small (or a dry sponge), and a **bowl of water**.

Source **small pieces of paper**, **water-soluble markers** (or diluted food coloring and a cotton swab), a **bowl of water**, and **bleach** (optional).

Source **five coins**, **pretend money**, and a **tree branch**.

Source music to sing "[Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man](#)."

## Tie It All Together

Print [Character Card 38: Zacchaeus in a Tree](#) for each child.

Write a series of **statements** on small pieces of **colored paper**—enough for one per child. Statements can include: "You're a good friend"; "Your thoughtfulness reminds me of Jesus"; "I like your smile"; "You are kind"; "You are friendly"; "You're awesome"; "You are brave"; "You are gentle"; "You are as nice as a birthday cake"; "I see Jesus in you"; "Thanks for helping me," etc.

## Craft Materials

Print [week 12 craft template](#), and source **colored pencils**, **scissors**, **craft sticks**, **tape**, **cardboard rolls**, **green tissue paper**.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

### Music:

- "Books of the Bible"
- "Child of the King"
- "God Loves You"
- "Sabbath Song"
- "Thank You, Jesus"
- "Visitor Song"
- "Happy Birthday"
- "Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man"
- Scripture Song: "Luke 19:10"



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 12 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 38: Zacchaeus in a Tree
- Week 12 Craft Template

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Offering container
- Globe or world map
- Pretend plates, cups, cutlery, food
- Lump of modeling clay or play-dough
- Paper heart (or dry sponge), bowl of water
- Small piece of paper, water-soluble markers (or diluted food coloring and cotton swab), bowl of water, bleach (optional)
- Small pieces of paper with affirming messages
- Five coins, pretend money, tree branch
- Craft materials (see above)



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as you greet the children as they arrive. Include “**Books of the Bible**” song for reinforcement.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them.

**DO:** Tape some bells to a ruler or a long stick and see if the children can jump to touch them. Make the stick just high enough for the children to reach and gradually make it higher to see how high you can hold it for the children to reach it. Talk about the effort it takes to reach higher. Someone in today’s story put everything into reaching and searching for Someone great.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group.

**SING:** Sing “**Child of the King**” and “**God Loves You,**” then sing the prayer song, “**Sabbath Song.**”

**PRAY:** Pray a prayer of praise to God for all His goodness. Invite children to take turns praising God for something. Finish by praising God for all the children at Sabbath School today. May each person come to know that He knows their name and everything about them, and that He loves them so much.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing “**Thank You, Jesus.**” Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week’s **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it’s most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week’s section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song.**” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** Show the children a lump of clay or play-dough. Ask them what they see. Explain that with this lump of clay/play-dough there is **potential** to make something special. Give some to each child and invite them to create something in four minutes.

Explain that our story today is about Jesus seeing the potential for good in a man who had been making wrong choices, I wonder what happens to this man when He realizes Jesus sees His potential and worth?

**READ:** Point to the **Big Idea** and read it together: **Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.**

## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

**SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

**DO:** • **Why did Jesus go to Zacchaeus’ house?** (To show Zacchaeus, and everyone else, how much he loved him and wanted to be part of his changed life and future.)

Show the folded heart that you prepared earlier. Explain that sometimes when people don’t feel loved, their hearts can feel closed up like this. They might feel lonely or not good enough. But when someone believes in us, our hearts open and bloom like a flower. (Place your flower in a tub of water and watch it bloom.) Jesus helped Zacchaeus’ heart to open to Him and grow when He called Zacchaeus by name and ate dinner at his home. Zacchaeus suddenly felt noticed, loved, and sorry for the things he had done to steal from others.



**EXPLAIN and DO:** Zacchaeus had made many wrong choices before he met Jesus. Sometimes we do the same thing. We sin and do things that hurt God and others. We break His Ten Commandments, and this separates us from God and those around us.

Give each child a folded heart and invite them to think about something they are sorry for; something they need God to help them with. Write this on the heart (or simply write "X" because God knows the details). Then invite them to come and place their hearts in the bowl of water to show they are sorry. (Be sure that you, Teacher, do this too.) First, pray a silent prayer, and then a group prayer. **Ask God to forgive you** and that He will help you **make things right**, just as Zacchaeus did.


#### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)



**MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 12: Zacchaeus in a Tree** to place in their storage container. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the **memory verse**. Think of five words that describe what Zacchaeus' story tells us about Jesus. Then sing the **Scripture Song** together: "**Luke 19:10.**"

**MISSION STORY:** Read the Nature Lesson, "**What's in a Seed?**" and engage the children in the discussion questions. A seed fulfills its potential when it grows into a plant.

**CRAFT:** Show the children your **Zacchaeus in a Tree craft** sample. Explain and demonstrate how to make it, then have children make their own.

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as children make their craft.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** **With your family, leave Bible pamphlets (tracts) or notes about Jesus somewhere as you walk or play at the park, or as you talk to others.** Zacchaeus also loved to talk to others about Jesus after his heart was changed.

  **REVIEW and COMMIT:** Sit in a circle. Place small pieces of paper (with an affirming message on each one) in the middle. Invite each person to choose a message to give to the person on their right.

• **How did it make you feel to hear those encouraging words?** (If needed, break into pairs for this activity.)

Share that Jesus was like this. He encouraged others with His words and actions. He wanted everyone to be His friend, and He wants us to be His friends too. Repeat the **Big Idea** together: **Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.** (Point to everyone around you.)

**PRAY:** Conclude with a final prayer, thanking God for loving us and seeing the potential in all of us.

# Zacchaeus



**Big Idea:** Jesus sees potential for good in everyone.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images. You may also wish to source a number of **coins, pretend money** (hidden in room), and a **tree branch**.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

► Money, money, money, lots of money . . . Oh, how Zacchaeus enjoyed making money! He was a Jewish tax collector in the busy city of Jericho. It was his job to collect a certain amount of money from everyone, then pass it on to the Roman government.

► Zacchaeus smiled to himself as he looked at the line of people waiting to pay. Instead of one coin (*show coin*), he charged them two (*show another coin*). Instead of three coins, he charged five (*show five coins*). Some coins for the Romans, some for his pocket; some for the Romans, some for his pocket (*enact this process*).

Zacchaeus became a very rich man. But he was not happy. The people hated him. They knew he was a thief, a cheat, and a liar.

**DO:** Tell the children they are going on a **money hunt**. Tell them that there is pretend money hidden around the room. They are to find it and then come and sit back on their chairs with the money.

**DISCUSS:** Who has the most money? Who has the least money? Do people who have more money have more happiness and joy in their lives?

**Teaching Point:** Zacchaeus loved making money. He loved it more than he loved God. But he wasn't happy. Zacchaeus found that chasing after money instead of following God doesn't bring lasting joy or contentment. When we choose selfish, sinful ways instead of God's ways, we become slaves to those things. God knows we will be much happier when we treasure Him instead of money.

One day news of Jesus reached Jericho. The people chatted excitedly with travelers and traders in the market. And they swapped the stories with each other as they lined up to pay their taxes to Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus listened carefully as the coins clinked together in his money box. He overheard amazing stories about how Jesus gave blind people their sight and lame people strong legs. He heard that Jesus spoke beautiful things about God's kingdom, that He treated poor people with kindness, and that He even had a tax collector as one of His disciples!

Hope began to grow. He wondered if Jesus might see the potential for good in him too!

The Holy Spirit was at work in Zacchaeus, reminding him of what John the Baptist had preached about repenting of sin. He wanted to change, but no one believed he could. His heart softened, and he began to believe that even he could change.

Excited whispers soon swept through the busy market of Jericho. Jesus was in town! Zacchaeus gasped when he heard the news. Jesus, in his own town! He hurried from his tax booth and joined the endless stream of people that surged like a wave toward Jesus.

Elbows knocked elbows. Sandals stepped on toes. Noisily the people pushed and shoved forward. Everyone wanted to see Jesus! Zacchaeus moved with the crowd.

Shorter than most men, Zacchaeus stood on tiptoe and tried desperately to see above the wall of jostling people. He must get to Jesus! But no matter how hard he tried, Zacchaeus couldn't see or squeeze his way through the crowd.



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In desperation, he ran up ahead (run the length of the room). Here, towering higher than any of the men of Jericho, stood a great tree. ▶ Quick as a flash he scrambled up the sycamore tree and out onto a wide-spreading branch that hung over the street (hold branch in front of your face). Perched there, he could finally see Jesus!

Slowly Jesus and the crowd moved closer and closer. Suddenly Jesus stopped and looked up. He looked straight into the eyes of the tax collector with love and understanding.

"Zacchaeus," Jesus said, holding his gaze. Jesus knew his name! How amazing!

• **What did Jesus say next? Let's read Luke 19:5.** (He told Zacchaeus to come down from the tree, as He was going to stay at his house.)

Trembling with excitement, Zacchaeus scrambled down the tree. He was so happy. Jesus knew him, and He still wanted to be with him!

But some in the crowd were very unhappy. They mumbled and complained.

• **What did they say? Read Luke 19:7.** ("Look at the kind of man Jesus stays with. Zacchaeus is a sinner!" [Luke 19:7, ICB].)

▶ They didn't think it was right for Jesus to have anything to do with a thieving man like Zacchaeus. They didn't realize that they too were sinners in need of a Savior.

Zacchaeus bravely faced the crowds. In a clear voice he said to Jesus, "I will give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone, I will pay that person back four times more!" (Luke 19:8, ICB).

Jesus smiled. He knew that Zacchaeus meant every word. **With God's help he would live up to his potential.** Turning to the crowd, Jesus said, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham" (Luke 19:9). Zacchaeus was God's child, and he was saved!

• **What else did Jesus say? Read Luke 19:10.** ("For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost" [Luke 19:10].)

Jesus had come to save sinners! The rabbis, priests, and rulers were sinners, just as Zacchaeus was. There were many others in the crowd who didn't think their own pride, greed, ambition, mean talking, gossiping, or selfishness was a problem either. They didn't know they were lost.

Zacchaeus was the happiest man in Jericho that day, because Jesus noticed him, called him by name, visited him, loved him, and welcomed him into the family of God. The lost sinner was saved!

Sing the song: "**Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man.**" Encourage the children to do the actions.

**Discuss:**

**1. How did the crowd view Zacchaeus?**

**2. What did Jesus see, and how did Jesus show this to Zacchaeus?**

**3. What impact did this have on Zacchaeus?**

**4. What does the Bible say we should do when we have done something wrong?** (Ask for forgiveness and stop doing the wrong thing. This is called repentance, and it means we are turning in a new direction.)



# Nature Lesson What's in a Seed?

**Focus:** Jesus sees our potential.

Show the children an assortment of seeds. Invite the children to touch and compare the different seeds.

Have you ever looked at a seed? Seeds come in all sorts of different shapes and sizes. Maybe you have planted seeds in your yard. Perhaps you have helped your family grow some pretty flowers in your garden. Perhaps you have helped grow a veggie garden in your backyard with tomatoes, pumpkins, or corn. When you look at that tiny seed, it may look pretty ordinary and quite unspectacular. Who would believe it has the potential to grow into something amazing!

Every single seed carries within it all the potential and the promise of what it can become. A big plant is inside this tiny seed. From tall sunflowers to giant trees—from vines climbing and twisting along the trellis holding luscious juicy grapes, to vast fields of grain, swaying gently in the breeze and soaking up the sunshine.

Every single person also has potential. We have the potential to grow and become someone amazing! Try to see and discover the potential in other people and find ways to encourage them to see it too. When we give our hearts to Jesus and let Him change and grow us, we can become more and more like Him. Jesus sees the potential in each of us. He never gives up on us. He believes in us, and He invites us to give our lives to Him and then watch Him make something beautiful in our lives!

## Discuss

- How are seeds like people?
- How does this story remind you of Zacchaeus?
- Jesus sees the potential for good in each one of us and invites us to give our lives to Him and watch what He can do!

# Craft

## Zacchaeus in a Tree

### What you need:

Week 12 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, craft stick, tape, cardboard roll, green tissue paper. (1)

### Instructions:

1. Color and cut out Zacchaeus and tape to a craft stick. (2)
2. Cut slits into a layered strip of green tissue paper. (3)
3. Wind the tissue paper around a cardboard roll and tape into place. (4)
4. Ruffle the tissue paper leaves and put Zacchaeus into the top of the "tree." (5)







## Primary

YEAR A • QUARTER 3

### Jesus Is My God

- WEEK 1 Two Birth Announcements
- WEEK 2 The Gift of Jesus
- WEEK 3 Worshipping Baby Jesus
- WEEK 4 Keeping Baby Jesus Safe
- WEEK 5 Growing Up in Nazareth
- WEEK 6 At the Jordan River
- WEEK 7 Victory in the Wilderness
- WEEK 8 Called to Follow Jesus
- WEEK 9 No More Grape Juice!
- WEEK 10 Jesus Feeds the Crowds
- WEEK 11 Growing Disciples
- WEEK 12 Zacchaeus
- WEEK 13 **Blessings in Capernaum**

### Week 13

# Blessings in Capernaum

**Bible References: Mark 1:29-34 and Luke 4:38-41**

#### Big Idea

When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.

#### Memory Verse

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you" (Numbers 6:24, 25).

#### References

*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 252-261

*The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5, pp. 570, 571

#### Fundamental Beliefs

Some aspects of the following fundamental beliefs are reflected in this lesson:

- 3. The Father
- 4. The Son
- 9. The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ
- 11. Growing in Christ
- 20. The Sabbath

#### Word of the Week

**Blessing:** A blessing is a special favor or gift that improves a person's life, making them happy and content. You can also say a blessing: request God to care for someone.

#### Lesson Summary

Jesus loved to bless others and teach them God's wonderful truths. After teaching in the synagogue one Sabbath, Jesus went to Peter's house, where Peter's mother-in-law was sick. Jesus healed her from her sickness and thus helped and blessed her and her household. Once healed, she immediately got up to serve others. The whole town heard about the healing and came to Jesus to be healed too.

#### Learning Goals

The children will:  
**Know** that Jesus wants to bless their lives.  
**Feel** blessed knowing they are loved by God.  
**Respond** by being a blessing to others too.



# A Quiet Moment . . .

Dear Sabbath School Teacher,

God spoke these powerful words to Abraham: “I will bless you . . . and you shall be a blessing” (Genesis 12:2). When we’ve experienced God’s power in our lives and the ways He helps and blesses us, we want others to know this too. Every blessing given to us by God is not a treasure to be hoarded, but a gift to be shared with another. Every kind word and gentle deed becomes a tender echo of His love—a ripple that reaches far beyond our sight.

When Jesus was on earth, He lived to reflect His Father’s true character, to restore the broken relationship between humankind and heaven, to teach and show God’s wonderful truths. When we know God, we will

want others to be blessed with this same knowledge and connection with Jesus. As He gives to us, He wants us to give to others. When we rise in the morning, we will want to ask God, “How can I be a blessing today? How can I help someone, love someone, encourage someone on Your behalf today, Father?” And as we go about our day, He will show us who needs a special blessing from above. As we do His work, we find that we are blessed more.

May God bless you, and the children you teach, abundantly as you endeavor to be a blessing to each other.





# Simple Program Outline

**Big Idea:** When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.

## Primary, Year A, Quarter 3, Week 13

### EARLY ARRIVALS

- Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as the children arrive. Include **“Books of the Bible”** song for reinforcement.
- Blessings and Prayer Chains

### OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

- Welcome
- Songs
  - **“God’s Love”**
  - **“Be Kind”**
  - **“Sabbath Song”**
- Pray.
- **“Thank You, Jesus,”** offering collection
- **Offering Chart** and **Mission Fast Fact**
- **“Visitor Song”**
- **“Happy Birthday”**

### FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: The gift of blessing is understood as children pass on a stone in a cylinder to show passing on on God’s gifts.
- Blessing Story: Personalize a story about passing on God’s blessings.
- Share **Big Idea: When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.**

### BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)

### UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

- Activity: **Pass the Gift - pass on compliments**
- Discussion: Talk about how to pass on God’s blessings.

### TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)

- **Character Card 39: Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law**
- **Memory Verse and Scripture Song: “Numbers 6:24, 25”**
- **Mission Story:** Taking Out the Trash
- **Craft:** Peter’s Mother-in-Law
- **Mission Challenge:** As a class, discuss some of the mission challenges this quarter and what it was like to do them.
- Commit: Repeat the **Big Idea: When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.**
- **Blessing Prayer:** Numbers 6:24-26 and people to bless written on slips of paper.



# Program Preparation

## Opening and Focus Activities

Source large sign with the word “**BLESSING**” in big letters, **strips of paper, pens/pencils/markers, stapler.**

Source a **wrapped gift box, smooth stone** with “gift” written upon it, enough **cardboard cylinders** for each child to have one.

Update **Offering Chart** and prepare **Mission Fast Fact**.

Write the **Big Idea** on your **whiteboard**, use the **Program PowerPoint**, or write/print it for display.

## Bible Story and Unpack the Story

Source the **Program PowerPoint**.

## Tie It All Together

Print **Character Card 39: Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law** for each child.

Write the following words on separate pieces of paper: Home, Classroom, Church, Playground, and Neighborhood.

## Craft Materials

Print a **week 13 craft template** for each child. Provide **scissors, colored pencils, craft knife** (adults only). Make a sample.

# What Do I Need?

## Source From AIJ Website ([www.aliveinjesus.info](http://www.aliveinjesus.info))

- Music:
  - “Books of the Bible”
  - “God’s Love”
  - “Be Kind”
  - “Sabbath Song”
  - “Thank You, Jesus”
  - “Visitor Song”
  - “Happy Birthday”
  - Scripture Song: “Numbers 6:24, 25”
- Mission Fast Fact
- Offering Chart Template
- Week 13 Program PowerPoint
- Character Card 39: Jesus Heals Peter’s Mother-in-law
- Week 13 Craft Template



[qr.aij.info\\_PA3Music](http://qr.aij.info_PA3Music)

## Additional Resources to Source

- Class Bible
- Offering container
- Globe or world map
- BLESSING sign, strips of paper, stapler, markers/pens
- Wrapped gift box, smooth stone with “gift” written on it, cardboard cylinders
- Craft materials (see above)
- Words written on separate pieces of paper: Home, Classroom, Church, Playground, and Neighborhood.



# Full Program Outline

**Big Idea:** When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.

## EARLY ARRIVALS (10 MINUTES BEFORE SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS)

**LISTEN:** Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** as you greet the children as they arrive. Include “**Books of the Bible**” song for reinforcement.

**CONNECT:** Warmly acknowledge all children by name as they arrive. Share how happy you are to see them. Share that today we want to think about something special. Show the word **BLESSING** in big letters.

• **What do you think this word means?** (The good and special things God put into someone's life, or a gift that improves a person's life, that makes them happy and content.)

**DO:** Invite the children to make a blessing chain by writing blessings from God on strips of **paper**. Staple the strips together, interlocking them with one another to form a chain to hang in the room. These blessings can be celebrated during prayer time.

## OPENING ACTIVITIES (10 MINUTES)

**WELCOME:** Bring the children together and welcome them as a group. Show your word “**BLESSING**” again and invite someone who arrived early to share what it means.

**SING:** Sing “**God's Love**” and “**Be Kind**.” Then sing the prayer song, “**Sabbath Song**.”

**PRAY:** Show the blessing chain (if made). Read aloud the blessings. Encourage children to thank God for one of these blessings, or another they've been thankful for this past week.

**GIVE:** Have a child collect the offering as you sing “**Thank You, Jesus**.” Display your **Offering Chart** and share how much money the class has given so far this quarter. Share this week's **Mission Fast Fact**. Say a short prayer for God to bless and take the offering to where it's most needed. After the offering has been collected and counted by an adult, invite one child to color this week's section of the Offering Chart.

**SING:** Warmly welcome any visitor and sing the “**Visitor Song**.” Sing “**Happy Birthday**” to a child who has had a birthday this week and pray for God to bless them.

## FOCUS ACTIVITIES (5 MINUTES)

**J DO:** Show a wrapped gift box. Explain that a blessing is like a gift that we give to others. It's special when the gift gets passed on.

Show the children a smooth stone with the word “gift” written on it and explain that it represents a gift. Give each child a cardboard cylinder and have them stand in a line, connecting their cylinders to make one long channel.

The children will pass the stone from beginning to end trying to keep it from falling to the ground. (Line the children up from tallest to smallest, then start rolling the rock from the tallest child for momentum.)

**SHARE:** Personalize the following story with names of children or people known to your Sabbath School. As you mention each person, take the stone (“gift”) to that person. “[Jake's] grandma gives him a hug and says, ‘You are special, and God loves you.’ [Jake] feels happy and helps his little sister [Jane] clean up her toys. [Jane] feels loved and draws a picture for her neighbor [Daniel], telling him God cares, and invites him to church. The neighbor [Daniel] smiles and decides to go to church. After church, the neighbor [Daniel] meets a woman [Mary] who taught his son many years ago. He affirms the teacher [Mary]. The teacher [Mary] feels encouraged and decides to pray with a student [Andrew] who is sad.”

• **Did [Jake's] blessing stay with him?** (No, it kept going!)


**READ:** As we learn more about Jesus in today's lesson, we will be reminded of the **Big Idea: When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.**



## BIBLE STORY (15 MINUTES)


 **SHARE:** Pray, then creatively share the Bible story.

## UNPACK THE STORY (5 MINUTES)

 **PASS THE GIFT:** Have children sit in a circle. Let's pass this blessing gift along a little more. Play music while they pass the "gift" around. When the music stops, the child holding the gift will give a blessing (a compliment, a kind word, or a prayer) to someone else. Keep playing until everyone has given and received a blessing.

- **How did it feel to bless and encourage someone?**
- **How did it feel to receive a blessing? Will these blessings happen by themselves?** (No; we need to choose to pass the gift on. God can help us choose to do this.)
- **How might you keep the blessings going this week?**

## TIE IT ALL TOGETHER (20 MINUTES)


 **MEMORY VERSE:** Give each child **Character Card 39: Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law** to place in their storage container/bag. Discuss the picture and ask the children to recite the **memory verse**. Explain that in Bible times people couldn't look at the king's face or eyes. They had to keep their eyes low. No one on earth has ever seen God's face, but one day we will see His face! The Bible tells us that God's face shines upon us, and He gives us His peace.

- **What are your favorite words in this verse?**
- **How does it feel to know that God's face shines on you?**

Sing the **Scripture Song** together: "**Numbers 6:24, 25.**"

 **MISSION STORY:** Read the Mission Story, "**Taking Out the Trash,**" and discuss the questions.


**CRAFT:** Show the children your completed **Peter's Mother-in-Law craft** sample and share instructions for making it. Distribute the craft template to each child. Play the quarterly **Scripture Song playlist** in the background as children make their craft. Encourage those who finish early to **share the story in their own words** with a partner.

 **MISSION CHALLENGE:** As a class, discuss some of the mission challenges from this quarter and what it was like to do them.

- **How have you encouraged or blessed others?**
- **How were you blessed?**

Thank the children for being missionaries in their home, neighborhood, and town.

**REVIEW and COMMIT:** Say the **Big Idea** together a final time: **When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.**

 **PRAY:** Place the gift box in your circle. From inside the box, take out the words (written on separate pieces of paper): Home, Classroom, Church, Playground, and Neighborhood. Challenge the children to continue to bless others in each of these areas, because Jesus needs every one of us to be His active disciples.

Invite children to stand, and bow their heads and pray **Numbers 6:24-26** as a prayer of blessing: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up His [face] upon you, and give you peace."

Then invite each child to say to the person next to them, "May God bless you and keep you."



# Blessings in Capernaum

**Big Idea:** When Jesus blesses my life in wonderful ways, I can pass a blessing on to others.

As you prepare to share this story, please read the student guide for the full, detailed narrative. To maximize engagement, avoid reading the story to the children. See the storytelling suggestions at the front of this publication.

## Storytelling Suggestions

Show the pictures from this week's story in the **Program PowerPoint**. Ask a child to follow your cues and ► click through the images as you tell the story.

**Pray:** Ask God to help everyone understand today's Bible story. By doing this, you will model how important it is to pray to invite God to teach us from His living Word before we read the Bible.

## TELL THE STORY

A gentle breeze blew through the pretty lakeside village of Capernaum. It set the palm trees swaying and cooled the crowds who had gathered in the streets. Families, fishermen, farmers, traders, and travelers all pressed together. Everyone was excited. Jesus was in town!

The people hurried to find the new Teacher. They gathered around Him, eager to listen and learn.

► Sabbath came, and Jesus went to the synagogue, setting an example for us of keeping the Sabbath holy. The people tried to crowd into the synagogue to hear Jesus speak.

• **What did they think of the way Jesus taught? Let's read Mark 1:22.** (He taught with authority and not like the scribes.)

► After the service Jesus quietly slipped away for lunch at Simon Peter's home. Jesus and His disciples had become like family to Peter. Peter gladly welcomed Jesus into his home.

As Jesus strolled into Peter's house, He sat down wearily. But His rest didn't last for long. ► With a worried look on his face, Peter came and told Jesus that his wife's mother was sick with a very high fever. Her body felt hot, as if it were burning up. She was too sick to do anything except lie still in her bed.

Jesus went straight to the sick woman's bedside and gently held her hand. "He stood very close to her and commanded the fever to leave. It left her immediately, and she got up and began serving them" (Luke 4:39, ICB).

At Jesus' command the fever left: no headache, no aching muscles, no hot, burning body. What a wonderful blessing!

► Peter's mother-in-law felt amazing! With a spring in her step and light in her eyes, she headed straight to the kitchen to serve her guests. Jesus had healed her, so she immediately passed the blessing on by doing what she could for others. She happily served her family, Jesus, and the disciples.

News of the miracle spread like wildfire around Capernaum that Sabbath afternoon. Jesus had healed Peter's mother-in-law! The story was told from house to house and around every street corner.

The people's hearts filled with hope—maybe they could be healed too! But they didn't dare come to Jesus on Sabbath, as they were afraid of making the rabbis angry. They thought it a sin to heal on Sabbath. As soon as the sun set, their doors flew open, and the people of Capernaum ran through the streets.

► Everyone headed toward the humble home where Jesus was staying. Limping, leaning on walking sticks, and supported by friends, the people came. "And He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them" (Luke 4:40).

• **What else did Jesus do for some of these faith-filled people? Let's read Luke 4:41.** (He also healed those with demons.)

► Jesus shared His love and God's healing power as He blessed every single person. And as each one was healed, the joy was shared right down the line of people waiting to meet Jesus.

The night was dark and the hour was late when the last person left. Silence finally settled down upon Capernaum. Grateful silence, contented silence, joyful silence. It had been a day like no other.

## Discuss

• **What blessings did you notice in the story?** (The blessing of listening to Jesus speak, the blessing of hospitality of Peter and his family, the blessing of healing.)

# Mission Story Taking Out the Trash



**Focus:** When we love God, we will want to be a blessing to those around us.

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**Location:** Help a child locate **Egypt** on your **globe** or **world map**.

In Cairo, Egypt, there are not many places to put trash. Throughout the city, piles of trash can be seen burning along the side of the road. There is simply too much trash and nowhere to put it.

Day after day the wall surrounding Nile Union Academy, an Adventist high school, became one such rubbish dump for the community. People felt there were no other options to get rid of their rubbish.

But God has special workers around the world, and He uses them in unique ways to His glory. Rony owned a successful company that recycled electronic equipment in Brazil, but he felt that God was calling him to do something bigger.

"I have a passion for helping people, and I'm thankful that God gave me a wife who shares my desire," says Rony. "Three years ago we dedicated our lives to serving others and asked God to send us to a place where we could be a blessing."

God led Rony and his wife to Nile Union Academy and gave them a passion for cleanup! Rony noticed that the campus wall had become the community dump, and he wanted to change that. Since the city workers cleared the area only once every two months, he started his project by going out and cleaning around the wall every day.

Garbage continued to pile up, and people told him that he would never last and should give up this impossible dream. Nonetheless, Rony pressed on. He began working closely with the academy students to educate and employ them to be stewards of the earth. No one wanted to work with the garbage before Rony started his program. But now students are excited to help out!

He has created a special system to teach the students the proper way to recycle or dispose of the trash left along the walls of their school.

Since the beginning of the project, Rony and the student workers have already moved more than 250 tons of garbage! The program has earned the respect of city leaders, who recognized Rony's hard work. Now they send trash pickup three times a week! Rony doesn't want to stop there. His next dream is to build a beautiful community park outside the academy walls. He wants to be a blessing to the community and to bring others to Jesus.

- **How has Rony been a blessing in his community?**
- **How does Rony remind you of our story today?**
- **What does Rony's story teach you about what it takes to bless others?** (It takes time and hard work)



# Craft

## Peter's Mother-in-Law

### What you need:

Week 13 craft template, colored pencils, scissors, craft knife (adults only). (1)

### Instructions:

1. Color and cut out the objects on the craft template. Adults can use a craft knife to cut a slit in the shelf, in the mother-in-law's hands, and across the bed. (Follow the dotted lines.) (2)
2. Fold the scene in thirds, then cut along the two vertical lines on the base. Fold the base underneath to stand it up. (3)
3. Slide the bowl of food into the shelf, and the mother-in-law in the bed. Start your role-play! (4)

