

Jesus at the Temple

Choose Your Character
Lesson 1

Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of the boy Jesus in the temple.
- The children will state that Jesus loved to spend time at the temple.
- The children will say one thing they love to do in church.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:41-52

Scripture Memory Verse

Everyone who heard [Jesus] was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:47

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Going to Temple

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Bible Story: Boy Wonder

Craft: My Father's House

Scripture Memory: Amazing Answers

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.



Special Note to the Lead Teacher

This is the last unit of the two-year cycle for the 1st and 2nd Grade Curriculum. On the last week of this unit, we will have a review in the Core lesson and a review party for the Supplement. Save some of the visuals and crafts that are made during this unit. You can use these to decorate the classroom for the review party.

Let the parents know that the children will be having a review party soon. The children will have the opportunity to come to the party dressed as their favorite Bible character from this unit. They may wish to save some of their crafts that they will be making the next seven weeks to use as props or for part of their costumes.

Jesus at the Temple

Going to Temple

The children will preview today's lesson as they prepare a scene for the Bible Story.

Materials

For each child:

- crayons or markers
- glue stick

For the teacher:

- banner paper, 4'
- brown construction paper, one 9" x 12" piece for every two children
- pencil
- scissors
- decorative items: material scraps, construction paper scraps

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

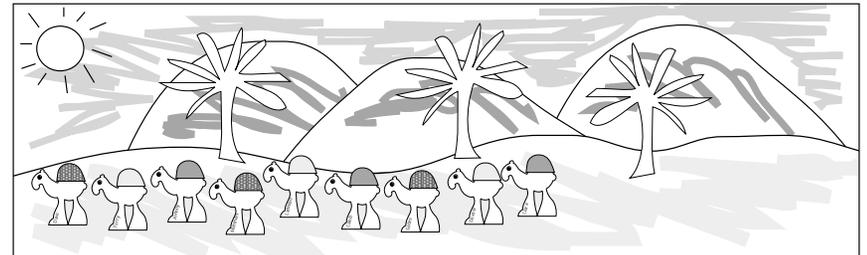
- Using a marker, prepare the banner paper by sketching a simple desert scene. Include a horizon line, sun, hills, palm tree.
- Prepare a camel for each child as follows:
 - Cut out the camel stencil from your copy of Reproducible Page A. Disregard the Jesus and Mary/Joseph figures. These will be used in the Bible Story Center.
 - Fold the brown construction paper in half, making two 6" x 9" pieces of paper.
 - Trace the camel stencil onto the paper aligning the feet with the folded edge of the paper. Cut out the camel and then unfold the paper making two camels. Cut the camels at the feet to separate them.
- Prepare additional scenic items as follows:
 - Cut a yellow construction paper circle for the sun.
 - Cut green construction paper leaves for the palm tree.
 - Using the camel stencil, cut a saddle for each camel's hump from the material scraps.

Instructions

- Greet the children as they arrive. Explain that today's lesson is the first lesson about different people in the Bible that they can learn from. Show the children the banner scene you prepared. Explain that this is how people traveled during Jesus' day.
- Distribute the camels and saddles you prepared, glue sticks and crayons. Have the children glue the saddles onto their camels. Have them draw a face on their camels, and write their names on the camels' legs.
NOTE: Make sure their camels are all facing left and that they decorate the correct sides.
- Starting at the right side of the banner paper, have the children take turns gluing their camels in a row or "caravan." See sample.
- Distribute the decorative items. Have the children glue the sun in the background and leaves of the palm trees you prepared. Have them color in the background scene.
- Give the banner caravan scene to the Bible Story teacher.

Teacher Tips

- Please note that approximately eight camels will fit on a four-foot length of banner paper. Depending on your class size, you may want to layer the camels so that there are two or three slightly overlapping rows; or use additional pieces of banner paper.
- Trace and cut out some camels for children who may come late.



B**S****I****T****B****O****L****R****E****Y**

Jesus at the Temple

Choose Your Character
Lesson 1

Boy Wonder

The children will learn the story of the boy Jesus in the temple.

Materials

For the teacher:

- camel banner from Preclass Activity
- colored markers
- glue or tape
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher
- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out and color the Jesus and Mary/Joseph pictures and the temple from your copies of Reproducible Pages A and B.
NOTE: Disregard the cut and fold lines for the temple door. This will be used in the Craft Center. Disregard the camel as well.
2. Place a small circle of tape on the backs of the figures of the boy Jesus and his parents.
3. Glue the temple to the far right side of the banner so that the scene displays the camels walking away from the temple. See Figure A on the back of this Lesson Card.
4. Display this caravan banner against a wall where the children can see it during the story.
5. Practice presenting the Bible Story with enthusiasm.

Introducing the Bible Story

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Tell the children that today's Bible Story comes from the New Testament book of Luke. Explain that today they will hear some amazing things about Jesus when he was a boy.

- *What do you like to do in your free time?*
- *What is one of your favorite places to go?*
- *Imagine that you are twelve years old. If you could spend three days alone—without your parents—in one place, where would you go and why?*

Tell the children that in today's lesson they are going to learn about something amazing that happened to Jesus when he was twelve years old.

Presenting the Bible Story

Seat the children in a semi-circle around the caravan banner you have displayed. Tell the children to listen carefully as you read from today's Bible Story in Luke 2:41-52. Use the bracketed instructions to help you refer to the banner and the story figures you prepared.

Every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. [Place the figures of Jesus and his parents near the temple on the banner. See Figure B.]

- *Does your family have a special place where you go every year? (Take responses.)*

Explain that every year Jesus' family went to Jerusalem for the Passover which was a special celebration or "holiday" for the Jews. The people traveled a long way to go to Jerusalem for the special feast. Suggest to the children that they have a special place that they visit every year at the holidays the way Jesus' family did for Passover.

After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. [Ask a child to place the figure of Jesus' parents in the middle of the caravan, leaving Jesus at the temple. See Figure C.]

- *Did you ever go with your parents to a very crowded place and then get lost or separated from them? What happened? How did you feel?*

Explain that Jesus' parents were ready to return home after the celebration with the rest of the friends and family—but Jesus was not with them and they did not know it.

Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. [Ask a child to move the figures of Jesus' parents farther to the left, away from the temple.] Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. [Ask a child to move the figures of Jesus' parents all around as if looking for Jesus. Bring them back to the temple and leave them there.]

- *How do you think that Jesus' parents felt during the three days that they were looking for him? (afraid, upset, angry, confused, surprised, worried, etc.)*



Jesus at the Temple

- Where did they finally find Jesus and what was Jesus doing? (in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions) Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."
- Why were the people who heard Jesus amazed? (He had good answers and showed amazing understanding.)
- Have you ever seen a student in school who seemed to know more than the teacher? Have you ever been amazed at how smart another person was? Have you ever heard of a young child being called a "genius"?

Explain that Jesus asked such good questions and had such incredible understanding of the Bible that the grown-ups around him were amazed at him! The people thought he was like a genius when it came to understanding God and the Scriptures. Tell the children that Jesus' parents were also very surprised to find Jesus talking with the adults in the temple with such confidence.

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. [Ask a child to place the Jesus figure and his parents walking away from the temple. See Figure D.]

Share and Tell

Remind the children that Jesus loved to be in his Father's house because God is his Father. As a boy of twelve years old, Jesus loved to listen to the teachers talk about God and the Scripture—and he loved to ask questions!

- Do you love to come to church and listen to your teachers talk about the Bible?
- Do you love to ask questions?
- What do you love most about coming to church?
- Do you think that God wants you to love coming to church?

Ask the children if they know someone that does not love to go to church that you could share this story with? Close with a prayer for the children to love coming to church.

Teacher Tips

- If time permits, allow the children to take turns telling the story in their own words.

Figure A

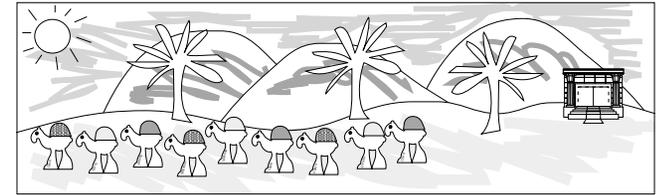


Figure B

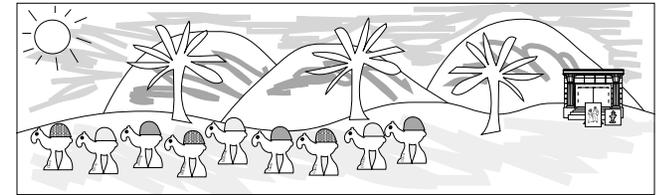


Figure C

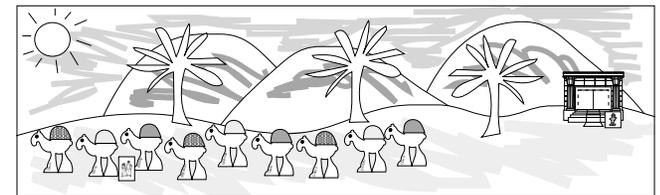
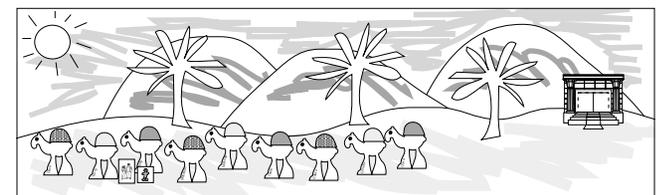


Figure D



C
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Jesus at the Temple

My Father's House

The children will make a craft depicting the events of the Bible Story.

Materials

For each child:

- 1 piece of tan construction paper, 9" x 12"
- glue stick
- scissors
- crayons or markers

For the teacher:

- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page C, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

1. Cut out the temples from the copies of Reproducible Page C. Cut open the doors, and then fold back where indicated. See Figure A.
NOTE: Save the Jesus and the Mary/Joseph pictures for the children to cut out during class.
2. Make a sample of the craft to show the children.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In today's lesson, you are learning about how much Jesus loved spending time at the temple. He called the temple "my Father's house" because that was where he could go to learn more about his Father, God. He would talk with people there about the Scriptures. Do you know what we call God's house today? (The church, the people of God) We are going to make a craft showing Jesus spending time at God's temple. Show the children your sample.*
2. Distribute the temples, construction paper and the glue sticks. Have the children glue the temples to their papers, as shown in Figure B, being careful not to glue the doors to the paper.
3. Distribute the Jesus and the Mary/Joseph pictures and scissors. Have the children cut out the pictures. Have them glue the Jesus picture inside the temple doors. Have them glue Mary and Joseph picture to the side of the temple, as shown in Figure C.

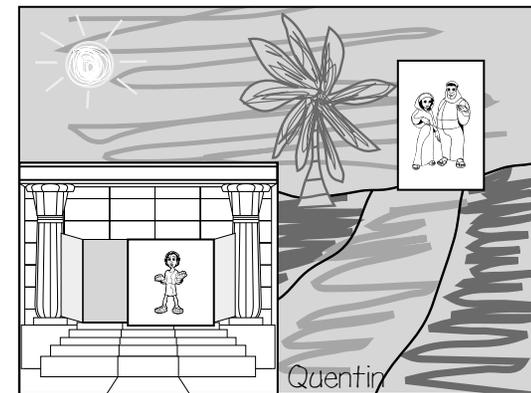
4. Distribute the crayons, and have the children color in the temple and the pictures. Have them color in a hilly landscape and a road where Mary and Joseph are walking. See Figure D.
5. Have the children write their names on their pictures.

Conclusion

Why did Mary and Joseph have to come back to the temple? Do you think Jesus had fun at the temple? Yes, Jesus loved being in his Father's house. Close with a prayer thanking God for giving us the church so we can be like Jesus in our Father's house.

Teacher Tips

- Help the children draw a simple hilly landscape and road as needed.



Jesus at the Temple

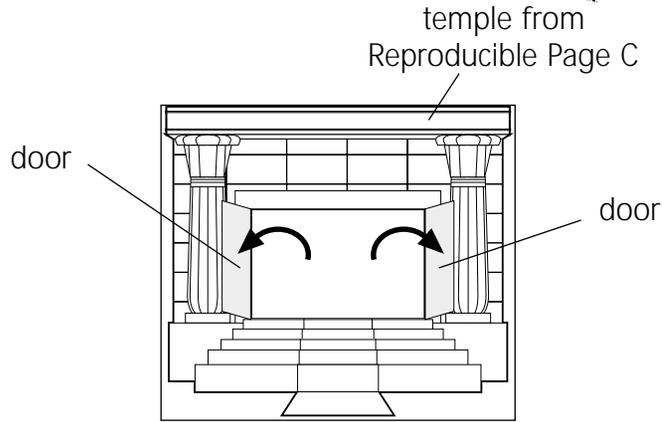


Figure A

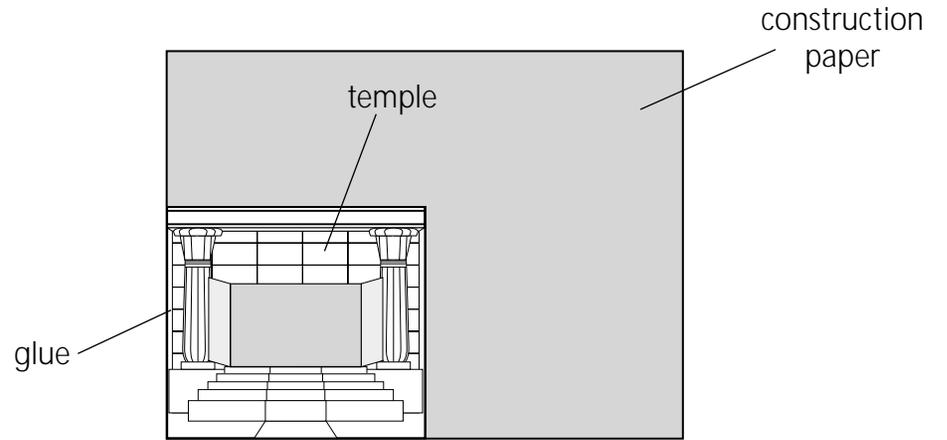


Figure B

Mary and Joseph
picture from
Reproducible Page C

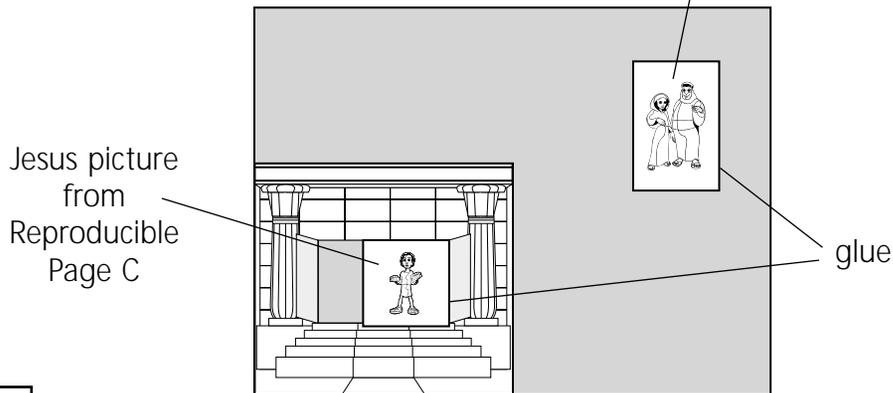


Figure C

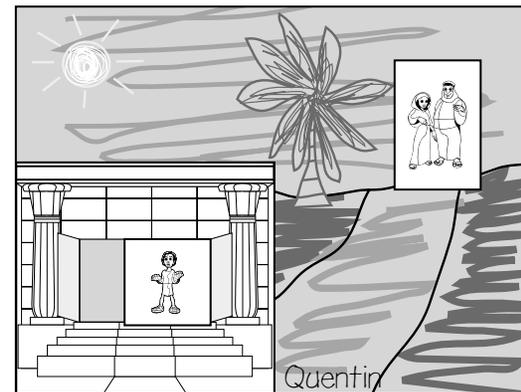


Figure D

Jesus at the Temple

Amazing Answers

The children will learn and memorize today's Scripture Memory Verse in this fun activity.

Scripture Memory Verse

Everyone who heard [Jesus] was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:47

Materials

For the teacher:

- 1 medium-sized plastic ball

Preparation

Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story, you are learning that when Jesus was a boy of twelve years old, he loved to spend time at the temple! After coming to Jerusalem with his family to celebrate the Passover, Jesus stayed at the temple for three days—even after his parents had left the city! Jesus listened to the teachers and asked amazing questions. In your Scripture Memory Verse, you will learn what the people who heard Jesus thought about him.*
2. Show the children the Scripture Memory Verse on the back of this Lesson Card. Read it to the children three times while they follow along. Ask them to say it together with you three more times. Go around in a circle and say the verse together with each child.
3. Ask the children what they think about the fact that Jesus amazed everyone with this understanding. Remind the children that each time they learn a Scripture Memory Verse, they are becoming more and more like Jesus. Jesus had so many of the Scriptures memorized that he always knew the right one to use to help people understand more about God.
4. Tell the children that even at twelve years old, Jesus was an expert in the Scriptures—much the way many young people are experts in sports or in music or other areas today. Explain that

they will review and practice saying today's Scripture Memory Verse using a ball to help them become an expert in saying this verse from memory.

5. Show the children the ball. Tell the children that you are going to roll (or toss) the ball to a child who will repeat after you the words from today's verse. For example: To the first child, roll the ball and say: *Everyone who heard Jesus*. That child repeats after you and returns the ball. Roll it to the next child and say: *was amazed*. Do the same for the phrases "at his understanding" and "and his answers." Finally, roll the ball to a child and say the reference: *Luke 2:47*.
6. Repeat Step 5, using longer phrases, such as: *Everyone who heard Jesus was amazed*. And then: *at his understanding and his answers*. End with the reference. Do this so that each child has a chance to repeat after you.
7. Repeat Step 6, saying the entire verse and reference and then rolling the ball to a child to repeat after you. Do this until each child has a chance.
8. Roll the ball to a child and have him say the verse from memory. Then have the child roll the ball to another child to say the verse from memory. Encourage the children to help each other when they forget a word.

Conclusion

Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that Jesus loved to spend time in God's house, learning and talking about God. Close with a prayer for the children to love learning and talking about God this week.

Teacher Tips

- If the children are seated on the floor, roll the ball to them. If they are seated in chairs in a circle, gently toss or bounce the ball to each one.



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Everyone who heard
[Jesus] was amazed at his
understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:47

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Lesson Objectives

- The children will tell the story of the boy Jesus in the temple.
- The children will state that Jesus loved to spend time at the temple.
- The children will say one thing they love to do in church.

Lesson Text

Luke 2:41-52

Scripture Memory Verse

Everyone who heard [Jesus] was amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Luke 2:47

Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Travelin' Shoes

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Life Application: A Day at the Temple

Game: Great Times

Bible Skills: Look It up in Luke!

NOTE: Allow time for a snack.

1st and 2nd Grades



pre class

ACTIVITY

Travelin' Shoes

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they make sandals to remind them of Jesus' trip to the temple.

Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- 2 pieces of yarn, each 20"

For the teacher:

- masking tape
- single hole punch
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 2 copies for each child (optional – heavy, brown paper)

Preparation

1. Cut two 20" pieces of yarn for each child.
2. Wrap a small piece of masking tape at both ends of each piece of yarn.

3. For each child, cut out the two sandals and one of each text box from the copies of Reproducible Page D. Punch the holes where indicated on the straps of all the sandals.
4. Make a sample of the sandals to show the children.

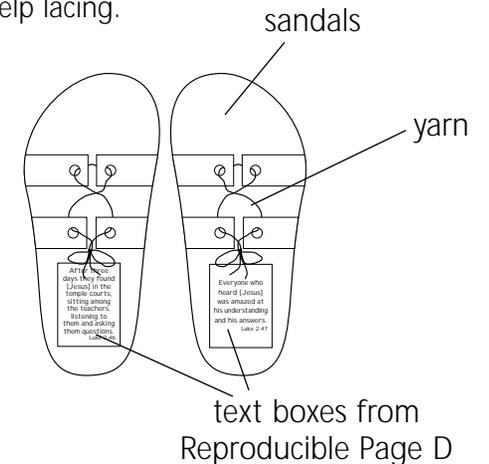
Instructions

1. Greet the children as they arrive. Remind them that they are learning about the boy Jesus at the temple. Show them your sample sandals.
2. Give each child two sandals and two text boxes. Have them turn one sandal over so that it is a sandal for the left foot. Have the children glue one text box to each sandal and then fold up the straps of both sandals.
3. Distribute the yarn. Help the children

lace the yarn through the holes and then tie their sandals.

Teacher Tips

- Some of the children will probably need help lacing.



LIFE APPLICATION

A Day at the Temple

The children will review this week's Bible Story as they think of things that they love to do in church.

Materials

For the teacher:

- large writing surface

Preparation

Practice leading this activity with emphasis and enthusiasm.

Reviewing the Bible Story

Read the passage below as the children listen. Tell them that it is Luke 2:41-52. When you are finished, read it again, pausing before each underlined word to have the children say the missing word.

Every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the Feast, according to the custom. After the Feast was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:41-52, underline added).

- *Why do you think that Jesus wanted to be in the temple for three days? (he wanted to hear about God, talk to God, learn about God)*
- *What did Jesus do? (listened to the teachers, asked questions)*
- *How do you think Jesus felt about spending time in the temple? (loved it)*

Life Application

Tell the children that when Jesus was a boy, he loved to hear and talk about God because God was his Father (and still is!). Explain that Jesus stayed at the temple, which was the place where people came to worship God.

- *What are some different things that you do in church? (hear about God, learn the Bible, pray, make crafts, play games, sing songs, have snacks, talk with friends, ask questions, etc.)*
- *What is one thing that you love to do in church? (Take responses.)*

On the large writing surface, write the words "A Day at the Temple." Tell the children that they are going to plan one day in church. Ask them to think about what they would want to do if they were going to spend an entire day in church. Using their ideas and responses, plan a day's worth of activities. Be creative with their ideas, making sure to keep the focus on God and the Bible.

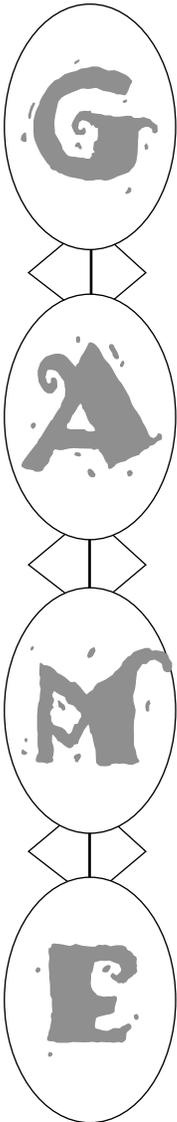
Conclusion

Ask the children how they would feel if they really could spend an entire day at church doing the things they planned. Ask them how it makes them feel to know that Jesus spent three days in the temple—and he loved it! Close with a prayer for the children to love church.

Teacher Tips

- Write the children's ideas on paper and save them for a Jubilee or a special day when the children will be together for an extended period of time.





Great Times

The children will review key ideas from this week's lesson as they play this game.

Materials

For each child:

- marker

For the teacher:

- 1 die (from a pair of dice)
- 1 piece of poster board, 22" x 28"
- 36 pieces of construction paper, 3" x 3"
- 2 different, small, flat objects
- glue stick
- scissors
- markers
- ruler
- score pad and pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page E, 1 copy for the teacher

Preparation

1. Cut out the thirty-six squares of construction paper. Write on these squares six each of the following numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.
2. Cut out the six question squares from your copy of Reproducible Page E.
3. Using the diagram on the back of this Lesson Card, construct a game board using the construction paper squares and the question squares.
4. Practice leading this activity.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *In your Bible Story this week, you learned that when Jesus was twelve years old he loved to spend time at the temple! After coming to Jerusalem with his family to celebrate the Passover, Jesus stayed at the temple for three days—even after his parents had left the city! Jesus listened to the teachers and asked amazing questions. In this game, you will review important ideas from the story and think of things that you love to do in church.*

2. Show the children the game board that you prepared with the numbered squares covering the spaces. Explain that in this game they will have a chance to answer questions and do things that they do in church.
3. Divide the children into two teams, being careful to mix the children who did not hear this week's Bible Story with those who did. Give each team a small, flat object for a game piece.
4. Choose a team and a player to go first. Have the child roll the die. Tell the child to place his team's game piece on any piece of paper on the game board that matches the number he rolled. Have the child remove the piece of paper before placing his game piece to read what is written on the game board underneath. Offer help to the children who have difficulty reading.
5. Tell the child that he may work together with his team to answer the question or do what is described on the game board. If he is successful, his team will earn the number of points on the piece of paper. Keep score for both teams.
6. Have the next team choose a player to roll the die. The game continues until all the numbered squares have been uncovered. NOTE: If a child rolls a number that is no longer on the board, he may roll a second time. If he still does not match a number on the board, game play goes to the next team.
7. After all the numbered squares have been removed, total the points and encourage both teams for participating.

Conclusion

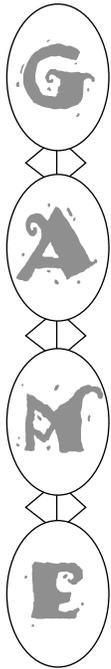
Remind the children that Jesus loved to go to the temple to hear and talk about God. Ask the children how it makes them feel to know that even as a boy Jesus loved to listen to his teachers and ask them questions. Close with a prayer for the children to love being in church as much as Jesus loved being in the temple.

Teacher Tips

- Adapt this game to best suit the needs of your group. For example; if your class is not familiar with a song or activity mentioned in this game, then use one that they do know.



Jesus at the Temple



poster board

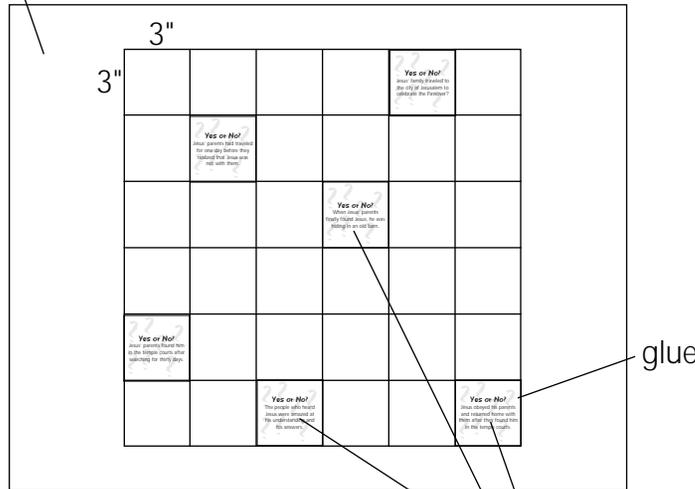


Figure A

questions from
Reproducible Page E

To construct the game board:

1. Draw thirty-six squares (3" x 3") on the poster board, as shown in Figure A.
2. Glue the six question squares (from Reproducible Page E) on six different game board squares. See Figure A.
3. Write each of the following statements six times on six different squares, as shown in Figure B.
 - Give a hug to three people.
 - Tell two people you love them.
 - Sing "Jesus Loves Me" together with another teammate.
 - Tell two people that God loves them.
 - Ask one person from class for their phone number so you can call them this week.
4. Cover all the squares on the game board in random order with the numbered squares you prepared. See Figure C.

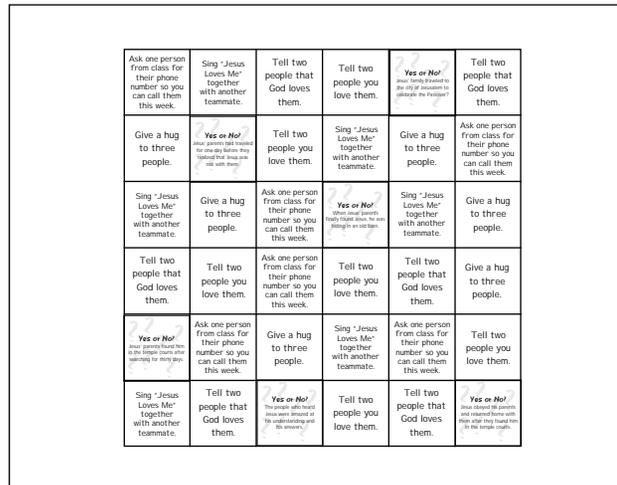
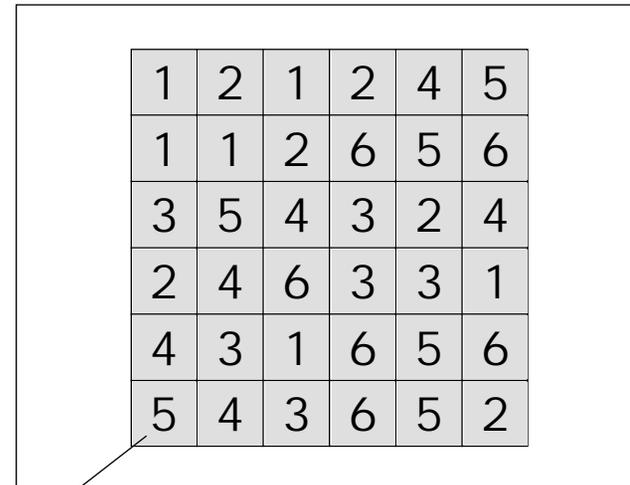


Figure B



numbered construction
paper squares

Figure C





Look It up in Luke!

The children will look up information about the gospel of Luke.

Materials

For each child:

- pencil

Reproducible Pages:

- Page F, 1 copy for each child

Preparation

Complete the activity on your copy of Reproducible Page F.

Instructions

1. Introduce today's activity: *This week your Bible Story came from the New Testament book—or gospel—of Luke. You learned that when Jesus was twelve years old he loved to spend time at the temple hearing and talking about God. Today, disciples come together in church to learn about God. In our activity, we are going to learn about the book of Luke.*
2. Help the children to each find a partner. Make sure that each pair of children has a Bible. Distribute the copies of Reproducible Page F and pencils.
3. Tell the children that on their pages are questions about the book of Luke. Explain that the answers to the questions are in a box at the bottom of the page. Tell them that they must look up the answers in their Bibles and then match them with the corresponding answer in the box.
4. Tell the children to work together to find their answers. When all the children are finished, review their answers using the Answer Key on the back of this Lesson Card.

Variations

This activity can be adapted and used in a number of different ways to best meet the skill level of your group. The following are in order from least to most challenging:

- Do the activity all together as one group. Wait until all the children have found the answers and fill them in together.
- Divide the group in two groups or teams. Let them compete for time and accuracy.
- Let the children compete with a partner for time and accuracy.
- Let the children compete individually for time and accuracy.

NOTE: In the case where the children take a more challenging or competitive option, provide some small prize or reward for all the children to encourage them in their efforts.

Conclusion

Ask the children how difficult they think it would be to write a book about Jesus' life. Explain that Luke is one of four gospels that tell the story of Jesus' life. Encourage them to read the book of Luke at home with a parent or older brother or sister. Close with a prayer thanking God for the Bible.

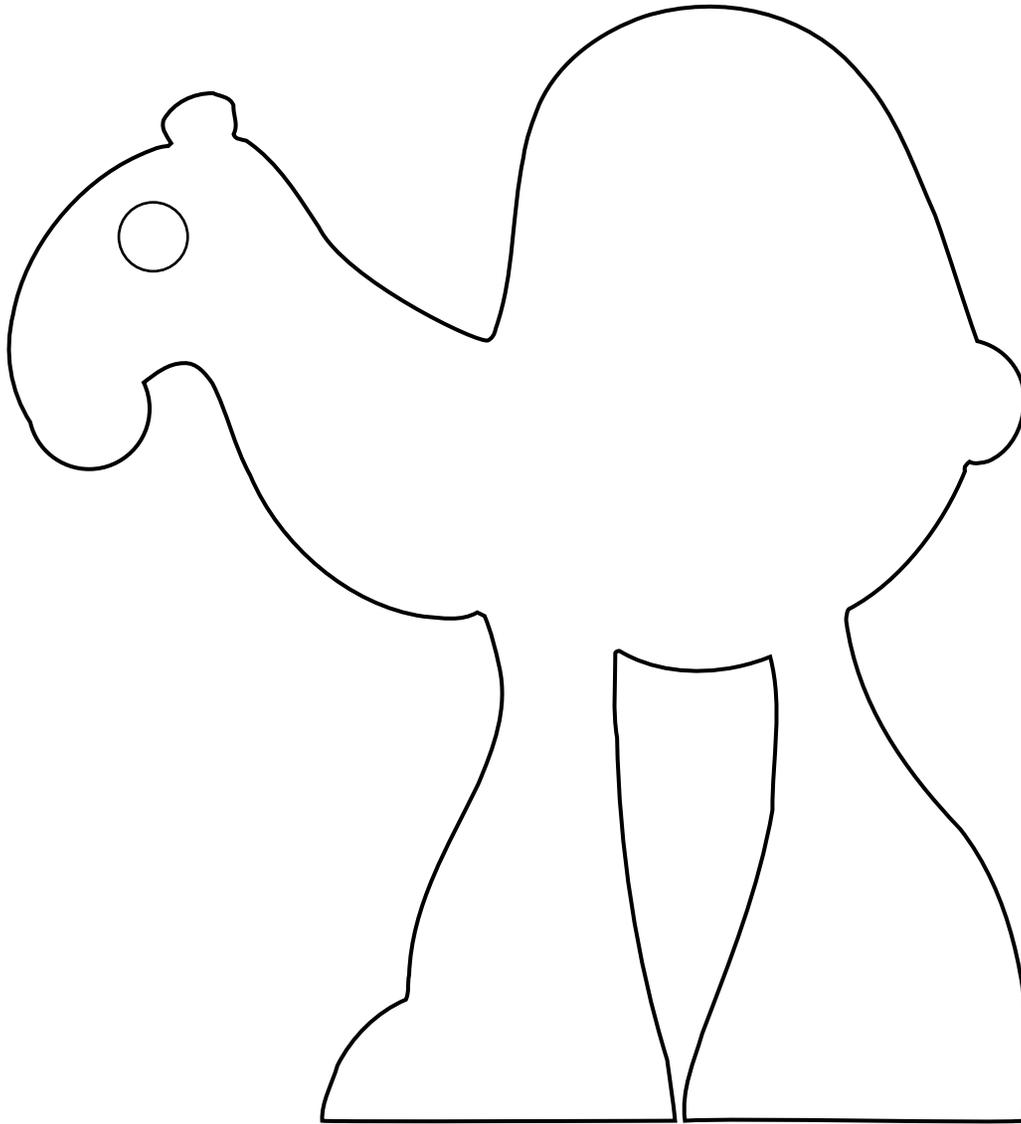
Teacher Tips

- If you offer candy as a prize, make sure to obtain parental permission first.



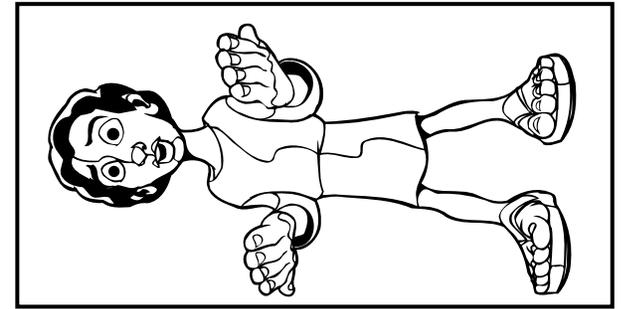
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Core/Preclass 1 copy for the teacher
Core/Bible Story 1 copy for the teacher



camel stencil

Choose Your Character
Lesson 1



Jesus

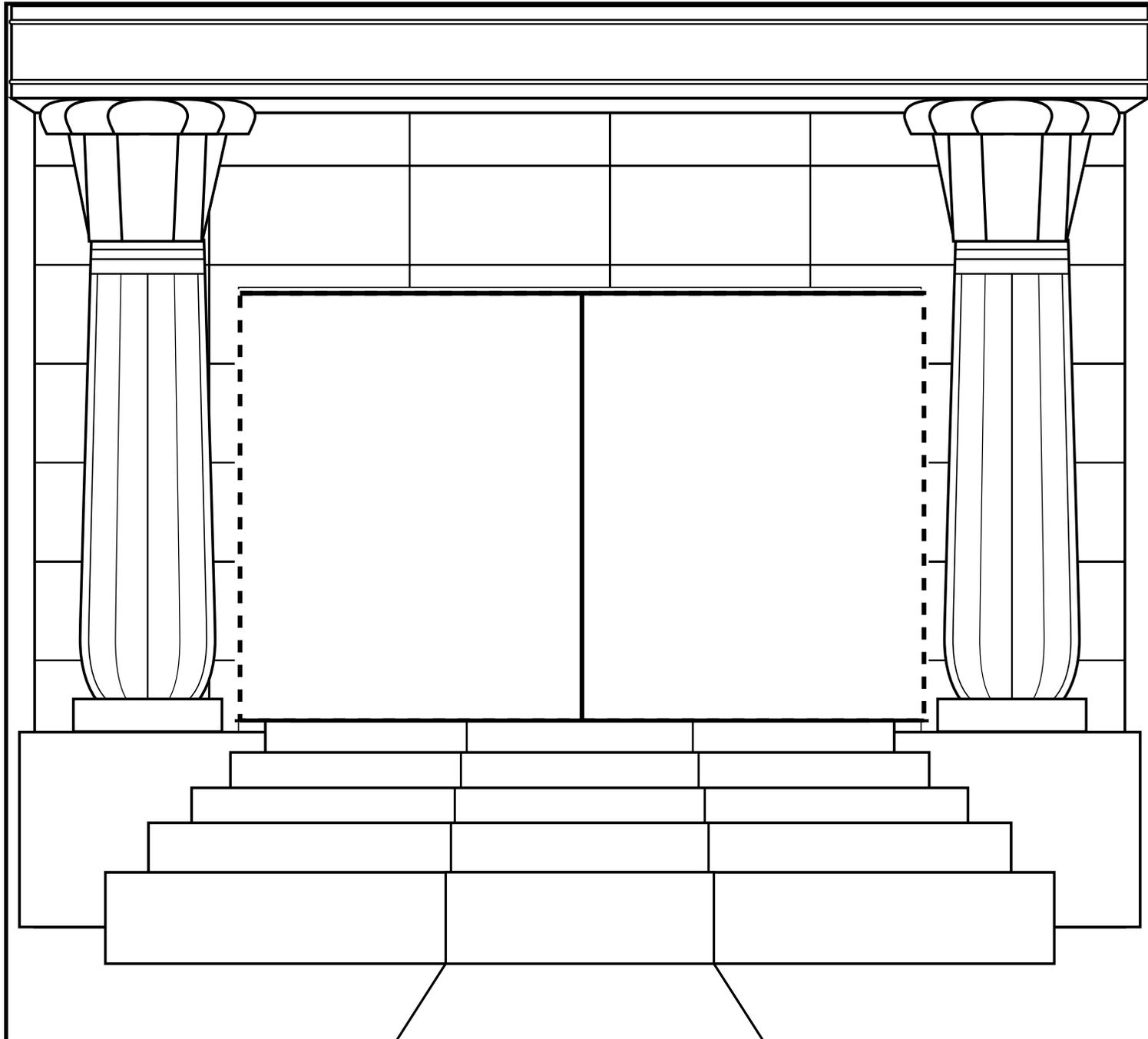


Mary and Joseph



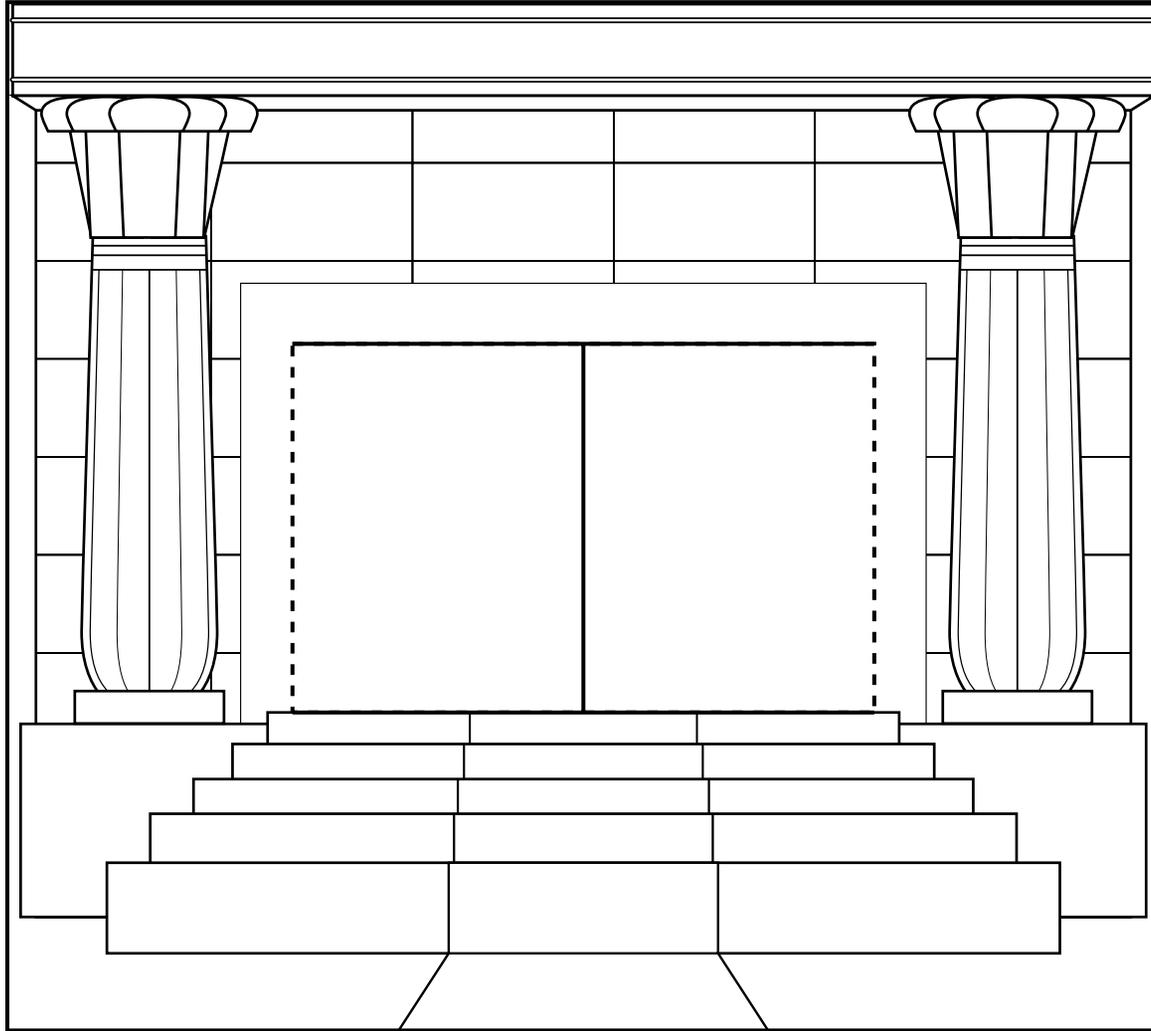
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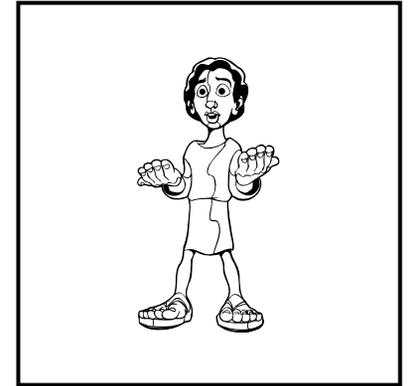
Core/Craft

1 copy for each child



temple

Choose Your Character
Lesson 1



Jesus picture



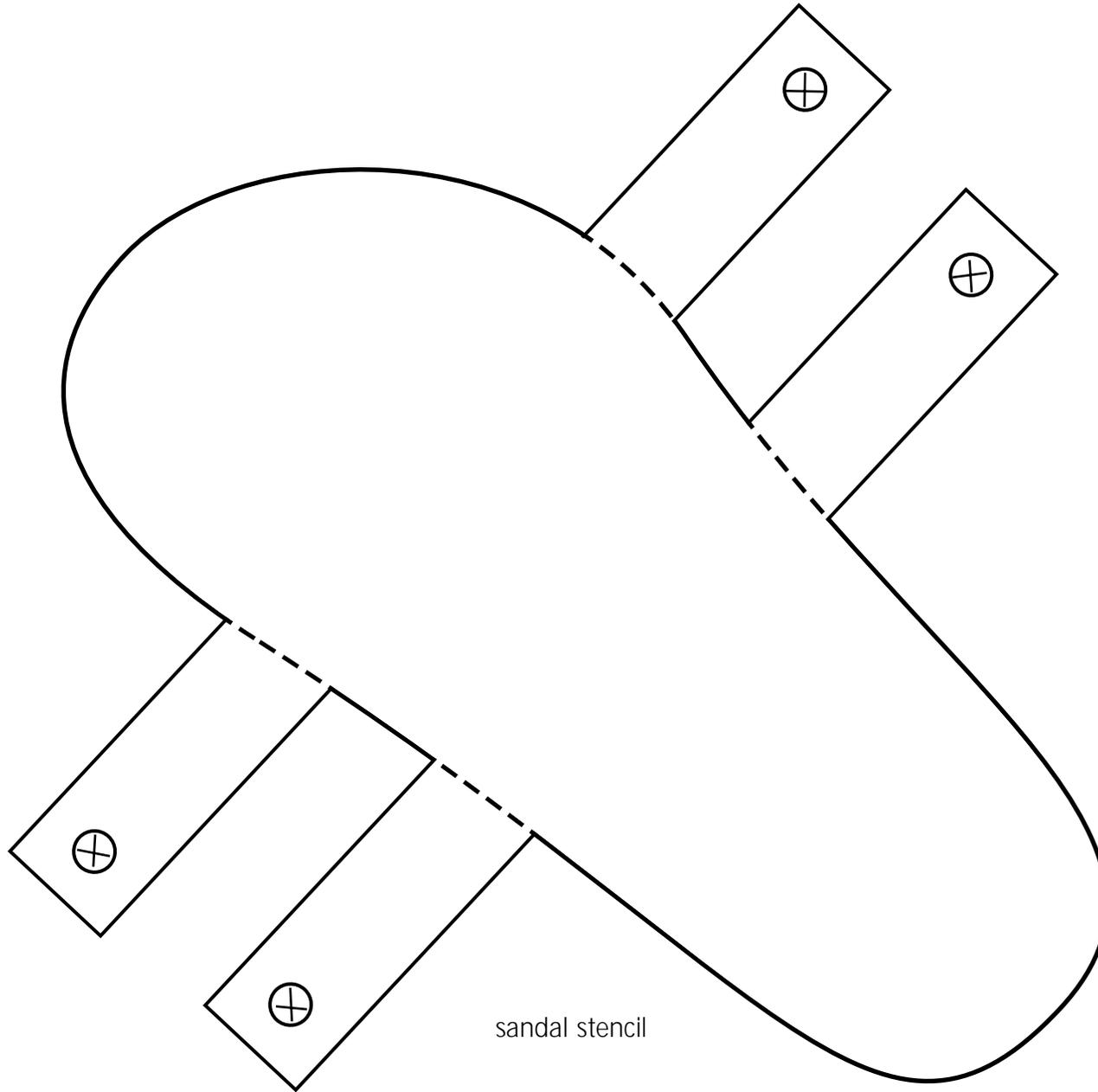
Mary and Joseph picture

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Supplement/Preclass

2 copies for each child (optional - heavy, brown paper)



Choose Your Character Lesson 1

After three days they found [Jesus] in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.
Luke 2:46

Everyone who heard [Jesus] was amazed at his understanding and his answers.
Luke 2:47

text boxes



Supplement/Game

1 copy for the teacher

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Yes or No?

Jesus' family traveled to the city of Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover.

Yes or No?

Jesus' parents had traveled for one day before they realized that Jesus was not with them.

Yes or No?

When Jesus' parents finally found Jesus, he was hiding in an old barn.

Yes or No?

Jesus' parents found him in the temple courts after searching for thirty days.

Yes or No?

The people who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

Yes or No?

Jesus obeyed his parents and returned home with them after they found him in the temple courts.



