



Leader's Guide
GLOW JR

MAY-AUG 2024
CHILDREN'S CHURCH CURRICULUM

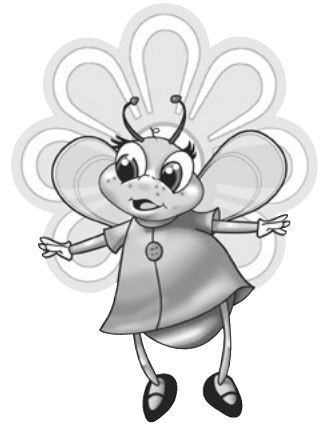


Glow Jr. Leader's Guide

May-August 2024



This Leader's Guide is written to assist you as you train children to develop Christ-like character. The components in this Guide are only suggestions. You are the teacher that your pastor and the Lord entrusted with your class. You know the needs and issues of your students much better than curriculum writers ever could. Please allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you choose which components to use, adapt or leave out entirely.



All Scripture is taken from the King James Bible.

This book is meant to assist in teaching children, and all pages are reproducible for the purpose of aiding the ministries within your local church.

Below is a brief description of the components included with each lesson. The components and schedule incorporate a variety of teaching methods and activities. Some components are essential while others are optional. Tailor the program to suit the needs of your situation.



Let's Get Glowing with a game

These are suggested transition games. Often, students are moving from Sunday school class into Jr. Church while others are just arriving. Having a planned activity will eliminate many behavioral issues that accompany transition times.



Spotlight on Songs, welcome and prayer

Music plays many roles in a worship service. It focuses attention on the Lord. It also gladdens the heart and creates an atmosphere for worship. The songs are suggested to accompany each theme.



Torch Bearer's Tales of missionary heroes

These are stories from seasoned missionaries, past and present. These stories are meant to inspire the students and to show them how faithful our God is, especially to those who serve Him with their lives. They are written to have a 'cliff-hanger' ending each week to encourage students to come back and hear the rest of the story.



Light My Path with a memory verse

Each Christ-like character trait has a corresponding verse. The students will work to memorize one verse per month. Each week will have a suggested memory verse memorization game or activity. Spending several weeks on each verse will enable students to really learn the verse and let it be a lamp unto their feet and a light unto their paths.



Spark Their Interest with a funny skit

The first week of the month, a new Christ-like character trait will be introduced. Each week following will review the character trait and also incorporate how it applies to the traits being taught in the Glow Jr. devotionals. The traits will be introduced through dialogue written in script form. You may perform the skit with two puppets, a puppet and a leader, a special 'guest'* and a leader, or simply between two leaders. Using a variety of techniques is always best.

*Suggestions for 'guest' speakers: Simple props and a funny accent can make these visits a favorite part of any children's service. The goal is for the leader to teach the guest about the character trait, while the 'simpleton' of a guest asks ridiculous questions.

Nate, the Knight—wears a helmet and rides a stick horse

Mrs. Crock-pot—(or was that Crack-pot) an apron and oven mitts

Gary, the Gardner—straw hat, toy rake and pockets full of seeds

Fred, the Fisherman—carries fishing pole and gummy worms

Character Trait Teaching Calendar

Themes for May-June Animals in the Bible

May 5: Endurance June 2: Yearning
May 12: Boldness June 9: Restoration
May 19: Secure June 16: Prepared
May 26: Self-Denial June 23: Materialism
 June 30: Hard-Working

These lesson themes correspond to the weekly themes in the May-June issue of Glow Jr. Devotions for Kids.

Themes for July-August B.A.P.T.I.S.T.S Distinctives

July 7: Biblical Authority Aug 4: Individual Soul Liberty
July 14: Autonomy of the Local Church Aug 11: Separation of Church and State
July 21: Priesthood of the Believer Aug 18: Two Offices
July 28: Two Ordinances Aug 25: Saved Church Membership

These lesson themes correspond to the weekly themes in the July-August issue of Glow Jr. Devotions for Kids.



Build the Fire *in their hearts with Bible lessons*

The goal is to develop Christ-like character based on the absolute truths found in God's Word. Many places try to teach 'character education,' but without a foundation in Biblical standards, their so-called education is changeable and relative to situations. Each Glow Jr. lesson will demonstrate how God built character into His people and how Christ exemplified character during His life on earth. Each lesson will also provide application suggestions to show the students how they can live daily with Christ-like character.



Fan the Flames *and make the lesson memorable*

Each lesson will provide suggested object lessons — using an everyday item to repeat the point of the lesson. Lessons will also include visual aid suggestions — simple props that will grab and hold the attention of your students. Studies have proven that repetition is the key to learning. Studies also prove that when a teacher engages as many of the five senses as possible during teaching, students are more likely to retain the information.



Fire Off the Answers *to the review questions*

A Bible review game is a great way to review the lesson and one more way to reemphasize your main point. Simple instructions will be included for one game each month. We also suggest using materials by Ed Dunlop. They can be ordered on-line by going to www.talesofcastles.com.

At-A-Glance Schedule



Let's Get Glowing

5-10 minutes

These games are for transition time only. Be sure to begin your service on time.



Spotlight on Songs

12-15 minutes

Welcome, recognize visitors, sing, pray. Bring the children's focus to church.



Torch Bearer's Tales

10-12 minutes

Practice these stories in advance and be able to tell the story without reading it.



Light My Path

5-8 minutes

One verse each month, a variety of ideas for memorizing it.



Spark Their Interest

5-8 minutes

Use this funny way to introduce the theme of the day.



Build the Fire

15-18 minutes

This is the main focus. Give it all the time it needs.



Fan the Flames

5-10 minutes

Teach separately, or incorporate into Build the Fire.



Fire Off the Answers

5-15 minutes

Review the lesson. Use the questions included or your own.

Closing and Dismissal

Develop a for Teaching



Heart: *“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”* (Matthew 12:34). From the abundance of the heart a teacher teaches. The most important task you can do when preparing to teach is to maintain your personal walk with the Lord. In order to have a heart for the children, you must have a heart for God. Be a student of God’s Word. Let the children know what God has taught you lately. Pray for each student. The easiest way to endear your students to your heart is to pray for them. Teaching is too great a task to assume that we can do it without God’s help. What an honor and privilege to share God’s Word and influence the character and development of young lives.



Early: *“O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee”* (Psalm 63:1). Proper preparation is essential to every lesson. *Begin preparing early* in the week. Reading through the lesson on Sunday afternoon or Monday will allow you to think on the concepts all week. Many times, I will find personal experiences throughout the week to share with the students. If I did not read my lesson until Saturday evening, I would not be alert to the object lessons that God was sending my way.



Action: *“And thou shalt teach them diligently...when thou sittest...and when thou walkest...and when thou liest down... and when thou risest up”* (Deuteronomy 6:7). Every lesson needs to have a *variety of activities*. The lessons in this book provide a combination of ‘sit and listen’ activities as well as ‘get up and move’ ideas. Students remember more of what they do and see than what they hear. It is important to appeal to as many of the five senses as we are able. Using a variety of visual aids, story-telling techniques, and student involvement activities makes the church hour memorable and enjoyable.

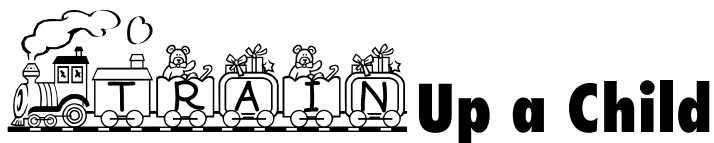


Real: *“And his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable”* (Matthew 13:36). *Make the lesson real* to the lives of the children. Apply the Bible truth to situations that relate to the children. Application of the Bible truth should happen throughout the entire lesson. Many teachers make the mistake of saving the application to one sentence in the last 30 seconds of the class. By that time, many students have stopped listening. Apply the concepts early and continually.

Make yourself real to the students. You may not have the opportunity to get to visit personally with every student. One way that you can help your students feel closer to you is to let them get to know you from the stories you tell. When you share your funny stories, embarrassing moments and social blunders, you become very real to your students. You also become very approachable, an important quality for those who need to be saved, or who need your advice and guidance.



Take: *“But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart”* (Luke 2:19). Give the students something to remember, something to *take home* with them. Hook the lesson concept to something ordinary and common. When students see that object, hear that phrase, or read that word, they should have memories of the Bible lesson. When you give students a memory to take home, it gives them a reason to come back.



Up a Child



Time: You have dedicated your time to teach young children. You want your time to make an impact for the Lord's sake. Nothing is more frustrating than trying to teach a lesson when no one is listening. Learning classroom management techniques takes time, but it is worth the investment. First of all, be on time for class. Better yet, be early, and arrange your supplies. Smooth transitions contribute a great deal to classroom management. Next, take time for little things. Little things make a big difference in the life of a child. Take time to learn their first names, notice a new dress or haircut. Give students a reason to take time each week to come back to your class.



Rules: Rules are essential to establishing good behavior. They explain the expectations to the children. How can a child 'be good' if he does not know what 'be good' means to the person in charge? Classroom rules need to be concise, positive and non-negotiable. A short list of easy-to-remember rules, written in a way that explains the expected behavior is all you need. Good examples are the following: Sit up straight, keep your hands to yourself, listen when the teacher is talking. Often, a long list of 'Don't' rules results in many conversations where slick-talking students plead innocent because, "You never said, 'Don't do that.'"



Acknowledge: Acknowledge good behavior. One way to do this is through behavior award games or prizes. Let the students know that you or your helpers will be watching for students who are following the rules for the entire church service. Students are willing to behave for the simplest of rewards. They will behave for the honor of collecting offering or passing out crayons just as much as they will behave to win \$1 for themselves or 100 points for their team. Acknowledge improvements in behavior, not just perfect behavior. If you notice when that 'bus kid' does a better job this week than last week, chances are that next week will be even better.



Involvement: Invite student involvement in your lessons. Vary the activities. Stand up for a song, sit down for the skit. Encourage all students to participate in sword drills, Bible review games and memory verse practice. Students who are engaged in your program will not have time to come up with one of their own.



Name: When dealing with an unruly student, names are important. Sometimes, an inappropriate behavior can be stopped with a stern look, a raised eyebrow or a finger to your lips. However, there are times when you or your helpers need to confront the issue. Begin by quietly speaking that child's name. In his ear, name the offense that needs to stop. Name the expectation as described in the rules. Name the consequences of not obeying. Give the child time to make a choice. If he chooses to obey, acknowledge the good behavior. If he chooses to continue misbehaving, move him to the back of the room. Often, a clown without an audience is soon silent. If the behavior disrupts the learning of all students, a helper needs to remove the child from the room. Sometimes a walk to the water fountain and a few minutes to calm down are needed to restore self-control.

ENDURANCE

Glow Jr. Devotions: May 5-11



THEME VERSE: Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

CHARACTER FOCUS: The Endurance of an Eagle

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives

Let's Get Glowing

Keep It Up

Toss a balloon into the air. Children work together to keep the balloon in the air. Every five or ten seconds, call out descriptions of the people who may touch the balloon (everyone who is wearing shoelaces, boys wearing red, etc.). Children who do not fit the description remain still, while the other children continue tapping the balloon to keep it in the air. To end the game, call out a description that only applies to you or another adult leader.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Give Me Oil in my Lamp*

Sing *We'll Work Till Jesus Comes*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *The Longer I Serve Him*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 1 – Born Adventurer

"Hey, Algernon, watch this!" ten-year-old Wilfred jumped off the edge of the boat and did a summersault as he disappeared into the cold waters of the River Dee.

"I can do better than that." His older brother laughed when Wilfred's head bobbed out of the water. "I'll do a backwards flip."

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

He stood up and proceeded to do the backwards flip he claimed he could accomplish. Wilfred laughed hysterically as he watched his brother fail miserably.

"That flip looked more like a dying bird." He said through laughter as Algernon resurfaced.

"Oh, I'll do better next time," Algernon said, trying to hide his embarrassment. "It's time to head home anyway. We need to take these birds we shot to Mother for supper."

The two young adventurers sailed back toward their home in Parkgate, Cheshire, England. It was 1875, and Wilfred loved the outdoors and spent as much time as possible outside along the River Dee and the marshes. He and his brother built their own boat, *The Reptile*, and sailed it up and down the coastline. If it weren't for his parents sending him away to school in Wiltshire when he was fourteen, he would have stayed in Parkgate and never left.

Wilfred hated school and the other boys there. They were too tame. What they found fun, Wilfred found dull. The boys would do "daring" feats of courage and sneak out at night, or they might try and play a trick on the teachers. Wilfred was bored with their ideas of fun. He'd spent his whole life living adventures and never thought twice about the dangers. Wilfred had swum against the fierce current of the River Dee just to test his strength. He'd jumped off high cliffs and spent days on end working with the fishermen.

Finally, his parents allowed him to come home, but it wouldn't last long. His father was a preacher as well as a schoolmaster and had accepted a job as a hospital chaplain in London. He'd be working at a hospital located in the largest slum in London.

"Son," his father pulled him aside one day. "It's time you think about your future and what you'll do to make a living. Now, your mother and I are moving to London. You can move with us or stay here; either way, you need a job."

Wilfred came from an upper-class family and had never really taken any thought into what he'd like to do with the rest of his life. He didn't really know what kind of job he'd be good at or what he'd enjoy doing. Finally, Wilfred came up with the idea of becoming a doctor. He traveled to London and attended college there. However, Wilfred spent most of his time playing sports instead of studying for his classes. More often, he would pay someone to give him answers to the tests and cheated his way through his first year of college.

Even though Wilfred's father was a preacher, Wilfred never had a lot of interest in church or the Bible. Growing up, he slept through church services and enjoyed Sundays only because it was a day off school. The gospel message was something he never put much thought into, that is, until one autumn day. That day would change Wilfred's life forever in many, many ways.

 **Light My Path**

WEB OF WORDS

Print each word of a Bible verse on a separate slip of paper. Use pushpins to attach the words in random order to a bulletin board. Tie a piece of yarn to the pushpin on the first word of the verse. (Make sure the yarn is long enough for the following purpose.) After reading through the verse several times in your Bibles, have students take turns wrapping the yarn around the pushpins on the words in the correct order.

Verse for the Month

Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."



Spark Their Interest

Leader: Have you ever known you had a big chore you needed to do but were not sure you were strong enough to finish it?

Guest: That reminds me of my uncle's house. And bugs.

Leader: You had better tell us what happened.

Guest: Well, My auntie had lots of little black bugs in her kitchen. She was going to call the exterminator. Instead, Uncle went out to the barn and mixed up a bunch of ingredients to make an anti-insect repellent.

Leader: "Anti" repellent? Wouldn't that attract insects instead of getting rid of them?

Guest: You have heard this story before! That is just what it did. Every little bug for miles around came to sample Uncle's anti-insect repellent. It took my cousin and me the better part of three days to stomp, swat, and squish those bugs away.

Leader: Well, that was a big job. Were you worried you wouldn't have the strength to finish the job?

Guest: We really didn't get all the bugs. The ones that were the trouble from the start never went away.

Leader: What kind of bugs were they?

Guest: Auntie called them the Endure-Ants.



Build the Fire

Wings as Eagles

When God created the heavens and the earth, He also created many wonderful creatures. God made animals for many different reasons. Some animals were made to do jobs like carrying people and supplies. Some animals were made to create food for people. Some animals make good pets. There are many animals mentioned in the Bible. God wants us to learn lessons by studying these animals. The next several lessons we teach will be based on the lessons that can be learned from animals. This week, we will learn a lesson from the eagle.

How far can an eagle fly without resting? Eagles can easily travel 180 miles without stopping. That means they could start at the north edge of Pennsylvania and travel to the southern border without stopping. Eagles can fly 50 miles per hour, so the trip across Pennsylvania would take about three and a half hours. That takes a lot of endurance. How can an eagle do that?

Eagles conserve energy by gliding in thermal wind currents. They do not flap their wings very often. Instead, they ride the wind. It is the strength of the wind, not the strength of their wings, which gives them such endurance.

Isaiah 40:31 says, "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." Here is a lesson that God wants us to learn from an eagle: how to run the Christian life without getting worn out. Another word for that is endurance. God wants us to have the endurance of an eagle.

Eagles have excellent vision and concentration. To catch their prey, they FOCUS on it with intensity. As Christians, we must keep our focus on God. Often, we lack endurance because we are focusing on ourselves. We think about what we can or cannot do. We concentrate on doing what we want to do. We say to God, "I can do it all by myself!" Think about an eagle. What if it thought, "I can fly all by myself. I don't need any help from the wind. I can just flap my wings harder and harder to get where I want to go." That would be silly. An eagle's endurance comes from using the strength of the wind to carry it. In the same way, our strength comes from God, not ourselves. When we are wrapped up in doing what God wants us to do, His strength will carry us through. Hebrews 12:3 says, "For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Who is this verse talking about when it says, "him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself"? It is talking about Jesus. When we focus not on ourselves but on what Jesus did for us, then we have endurance to keep living for Him.

Eagles are FEARLESS. They are known to attack prey bigger than they are. Eagles know they have the strength and endurance to take down animals much larger than themselves. Eagles are also fearless in the face of storms. In fact, they actually enjoy them! Storms produce strong air currents that take eagles high into the air, where they can rest on the air currents while the storm rages below them. As Christians, we can be fearless about facing our enemy, the devil, because we know that God has already defeated him. We can be fearless to face life's storms because God will carry us

through. (Matthew 19:26; Romans 8:37; 1 John 4:4.)

Eagles FEED on living food. They do not eat dead animals. We must also FEED our Spirit on God's Living Word. Eagles must take time to eat and rest. This is another lesson we must learn. If we are to "run and not be weary; walk, and not faint," then we must also take time for Spiritual food and rest. What do we mean by Spiritual food? The Holy Spirit of God lives inside every Christian. The Spirit does not need meat, potatoes, and vegetables like our physical body. Instead, it needs spiritual food. We provide that food when we read our Bible and study it daily. (See Psalm 119:11; 1 Timothy 2:15.) We need to pray every day (1 Thessalonians 5:17). It feeds our Spirit when we attend church regularly (Hebrews 10:25) and have the right kind of friends (Proverbs 13:20). All of these things add more strands to the rope of our relationship with God. The more strands we add, the stronger the rope, and the easier it is to "wait upon the Lord." And we know that "they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Fan the Flames

1. Bring a spool of thread or thin rope and something heavy to which you can tie the thread. Tell the students, "I am going to move this [object] using this thread." Tie the thread to the object and pull. You may be able to move it a short distance, but the strain will soon break the thread. This represents a Christian who tries to live in their own strength. They may do okay for a short time, but they will eventually break. However, if they learn to wait upon the Lord, to bind themselves to Him through Bible reading (add a thread), prayer (add a thread), church attendance (add a thread), and listening to godly friends and teachers (add a thread), all of those threads will twist together to form a strong rope. Tie the new rope to the object and pull. The new rope has the endurance to pull the object a long distance. This represents a Christian who has learned some lessons from the eagle.

2. Use a rock to illustrate endurance. If you can find one that has been smoothed by water and erosion, that would work best. Can anyone tell me how old this rock is? No, not really. We were not around when it was formed. What if this rock was formed when God created the earth? It probably did not look like this when God created it. Maybe it was part of a bigger rock. Maybe it was part of a mountain. If we could see where it came from, we would see how the rocks look alike. It is all smooth now. Years of water and wind have smoothed the rough edges. This rock has endured much. It has endured time and erosion. As Christians, we will endure much. God will use circumstances to smooth the rough edges of our lives. God wants us to be beautiful examples of The Rock, Jesus Christ.



Fire Off the Answers

1. What are some reasons that God created animals? (jobs, food, pets, lessons)
2. How far can an eagle fly without resting? (180 miles; across Pennsylvania)
3. How does an eagle conserve energy and fly that far? (by riding the air currents)
4. What is one place an eagle can go during a storm? (above it)
5. What are some ways we can feed our spirits? (read the Bible, pray, go to church, listen to godly friends and teachers)

Ants!

This game, Ants!, can be found in Ed Dunlop's book, Mouse on a Mission. A pre-made, full-color version can also be purchased from Master Clubs at www.Masterclubs.org.

Making the Game: Using the pattern pieces on page 72, make 12 jars from white card stock. On the back of the jars write the following limits: 6, 8, 8, 10, 12, 12, 14, 16, 16, 18, 20 and 20. Make 36 green card stock leaves from the leaf patterns (six of each leaf) from pages 73-74. Cut out the leaves. Place the 12 canning jars along the lower edge of the board or table with the limit hidden on the back. Scatter the 36 leaves across the table. The ants should be face down so they cannot be seen.

Write additional review questions here:

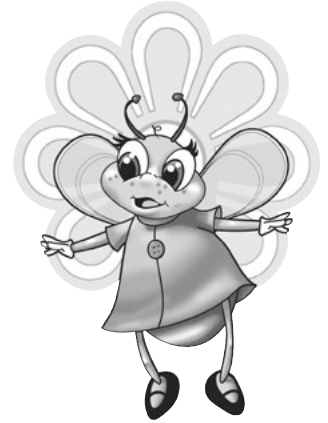
Playing the Game:

"Today, we're playing a game called Ants! Listen carefully to the rules. There are a number of ants hiding under the leaves on the game board. The object of the game is to collect as many ants as possible for your team. At the end of the game, the team with the most ants wins.

When you answer a Bible question correctly, you may come to the table and choose a canning jar in which to collect your ants. Each jar has a capacity number on the back, which is the number of ants you can put in that jar, but you will not know that number until the end of your turn. The capacity of the jars ranges from 6 to 20. Once you have chosen a canning jar, you may then begin searching under the leaves. The ants are hiding under the leaves in groups of one, two, three, four, five or six. You may choose up to five leaves, which will give you somewhere between five and thirty ants. As you know, there is a problem with catching bugs—it is hard to get very many in the jar without letting the others crawl out. If you try to put too many into one jar, you may lose them all! Once you decide to stop catching ants, we will look on the back of the jar in which you were trying to collect your ants. If you stopped under the capacity limit, each ant you caught scores a point for your team. If you stopped right on the limit, each ant scores a point, and you get a 25-point bonus! But if you went over the limit, your ants all escaped, and you score no points at all. Are you ready? Let's go catch some Ants!

BOLDNESS

Glow Jr. Devotionals: May 12-18



THEME VERSE: Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

CHARACTER FOCUS: Boldness of a Lion

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives

Let's Get Glowing

Take a Stand

Begin by having students choose partners — boys with boys and girls with girls. Have students sit with their backs to each other. Instruct students to try standing without pushing on the floor. They can lock arms around their partners and lean their backs into each other. See which team can stand first.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Stand Up and Shout It*

Sing *Put Your Faith in Action*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *I Have Decided*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 2 — A Changed Man

The shrill sound of a newborn baby filled the tiny one-room house. Wilfred cleaned the baby up and handed her to her mother. Once mother and baby seemed to be doing fine, Wilfred grabbed his coat and headed out of the house.

The family lived in a slum: a dirty, filthy, and unsanitary place to live. Trash and sewage lay about the streets rotting. The smell made Wilfred feel sick,

but as a medical student, he was encouraged to work among the 33,000 homeless people living in the slum. The house he'd just left was his last place to visit for the day, and he started making his way back to the hospital. As Wilfred rounded the corner of the street, he saw a large tent set up and people filling it to the brim. Wilfred's curiosity got the best of him, and he went closer to get a better look. A man stood in the front and preached with passion and excitement. The man was D. L. Moody, the famous American evangelist.

The gospel was given, and for the first time in his life, Wilfred actually understood it fully. He walked away from the meeting with Mr. Moody's words in his mind. A short time later, he attended another one of D. L. Moody's meetings. This time, a group of missionaries called The Cambridge Seven was speaking as well. One of the men, C. T. Studd, got up and spoke a message that Wilfred would not soon forget.

“It was only in the past year that I realized that I had never truly given my life over to God. I was living for myself and doing as I pleased, but God had so much more for me to do with my life.”

Wilfred sat in his seat and nodded in agreement. He was mesmerized by what this man was saying. C. T. Studd continued: “I surrendered my life to God, and He's called me to be a missionary in China. God wants your life as well. Will you give it to him?”

Wilfred wanted to give his life to God and do whatever God wanted. He was scared, though. As the invitation began, he felt glued to his seat, but

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

finally, he stood up and gave his life to God. From that day on, Wilfred was a new man.

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 "Who can name all twelve disciples?" Wilfred asked a room full of nine and ten-year-old boys. He'd become a Sunday School teacher, and this was his third Sunday with them.

"Anyone?" he asked again. A hand in the back of the room was raised. "Yes, you."

"Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, Judas, and Bartholomew." The boy said politely and accurately.

"Very good, thank you very much," Wilfred said with a smile.

He sighed to himself. The boys were good and polite. They never caused a ruckus or were disrespectful to him. But they lacked excitement for the Bible and living a Christian life. He wanted to get these boys on fire for God, but instead, they just sat in their seats, not really caring about what Wilfred said.

"I need to come up with some way of getting them involved." Wilfred thought. "I need something that boys like. Something that will get them excited and allow me to become friends with them. I need sports."

 **Light My Path**

Erase the Word

This is a fun game in order to teach the theme verse. After going over the verse a couple of times, separate them into either boys vs. girls or pick teams. Tell everyone to close their eyes have a worker make sure no one's looking. While they're not looking erase certain words of the verse. Afterwards have them all look at the board, point at a word, and ask one person on each side to see who can raise their hands the fastest and give the correct word. Keep going till all the words are filled in. Then repeat the process as necessary till all the words are erased. After that offer 10 bonus points to the first person on either side to stand up and say the whole verse.

Verse for the Month

← *Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*



**Spark Their Interest**

**Leader:** Today's lesson is about having the boldness to stand...

**Guest:** (Jumps up. Starts pulling on others to stand up.)

**Leader:** Hello. Do I even want to know what you are doing?

**Guest:** I am following your directions. I distinctly heard you say that we are to stand.

**Leader:** I am glad you are listening. However, I did not have a chance to finish my sentence. I was going to say, "...stand for righteousness."

**Guest:** Oh. I don't think I know how to do that. Does it look like this? (stands on one foot)

**Leader:** No. Stand on both feet. You have to be bold to stand for righteousness.

**Guest:** (Grabbing his head) You can't have my hair! I don't want to be bald!

**Leader:** I said BOLD, not bald. How about if you and your hair SIT so we can hear the lesson about how to boldly stand?



**Build the Fire**

Bold as a Lion

Lions are known as the king of the beasts. Lions hunt many animals, but no animal hunts a lion. A lion's roar can be heard more than five miles away. They can run as fast as 50 miles per hour and leap more than 35 feet in one pounce. No wonder lions are one of the most respected and feared animals. "Bold as a lion" is a statement used to describe a person who is not afraid: someone who is courageous. The Bible even uses it in Proverbs 28:1, "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion." The Bible gives us several examples of righteous people who displayed boldness.

First, let's look at the boldness of the Apostles. They showed boldness in sharing the Gospel with others. In Acts 5:18, the apostles were thrown into prison for

preaching about Jesus. In verses 19 and 20, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and told them to go preach some more! God did not release them from prison so they could escape. He released them from prison to win more souls to Himself! When Peter and the others were brought before the council, Peter told them, "We ought to obey God rather than men" (v. 29).

We will probably never have to go to jail for telling someone about Jesus. The worst we face is perhaps a little teasing, rejection, or ridicule. Yet, how many of us are unwilling to tell others about Jesus? Do you lack boldness? Is it because you lack righteousness? The Bible says, "The righteous are as bold as a lion." When you are right with God, it is easy to tell others about Him. When you have the right perspective of God's holiness, His glory, and the sacrifice He made for you, then you will want to tell everyone you meet about Him. Be bold in witnessing, just like the apostles.

Our next example of boldness comes in Daniel, chapter three. Here, we will look at some boys who were bold in standing for what was right. As prisoners in Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were supposed to fall down and worship a golden idol Nebuchadnezzar, the king, had set up. At the appointed time, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not bow to and worship the idol. They knew the penalty. They would be thrown into the fiery furnace. When taken to the king and questioned, they answered, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up" (Daniel 3:17-18). What boldness! Even when faced with death, they obeyed God's commands. God rewarded their courage by visiting them in the furnace. When Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fire, he said, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God" (v. 25). We need to be bold enough to stand for what is right. Be ready to say, "I won't do that. I'm a Christian."

Lastly, let's look at Esther, who boldly approached the throne of King Ahasuerus. Esther was the queen, chosen by the king. But even the queen could not enter the king's court without being called. If the king did not hold out his scepter when she entered, she would be put

to death. However, Esther's people, the Jews, were in serious danger. She was the only one who could talk to the king about saving them. Esther risked her life to enter the throne room so she could take her petition to the king.

We serve the King of Kings. He, too, listens to our petitions and requests. But unlike Esther, we can go boldly to His throne. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." God wants us to come to Him and to do it often. When we pray, we can pray with confidence and boldness. God hears our prayers. He is ready to help in our time of need. He is ready to help us be "bold as lions" as we witness and stand for what is right and boldly seek His help through prayer.

### Fan the Flames

1. A hand-held weight. This small weight helps strengthen my arms. Learning to be bold as a Christian is a little bit like lifting weights. You must start by being bold about small things and continue those every day. Start by showing boldness in the way you talk. Keep your conversation clean. Don't take the Lord's name in vain. Be bold enough to tell other people not to take the Lord's name in vain. The more you practice being bold, the easier it becomes because you are growing stronger as a Christian. Soon, you will be bold enough to carry your Bible to school, witness to your friends, and dress in a way that pleases the Lord. Don't be a timid Christian. Build up your spiritual muscles. If you want to make a difference, you have to be a little different. Be bold.

2. A penny. Does anyone have anything to do this week that makes them kind of nervous? This coin has a message on it. I don't think other countries usually do, but in our country, the USA, our coins all have this message on them. Does anyone know what message is on our money? "In God we trust." I know a preacher who picks up every penny he sees because it reminds him that God loves him. It also reminds him that we have a God we can trust. Whenever you see a penny, let it remind you to be bold. You can trust God as you share the Gospel with others and stand for what is right.



### Fire Off the Answers

1. What animal is the king of the beasts? (lion)
2. Who preached boldly to the council in Acts, chapter 5? (Peter and the Apostles)
3. Who boldly stood for right against King Nebuchadnezzar? (Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego)
4. Who boldly approached the throne of King Ahasuerus? (Queen Esther)
5. How should we approach the Throne of Grace? (with boldness)

### Ants!

*This game, Ants!, can be found in Ed Dunlop's book, Mouse on a Mission. A pre-made, full-color version can also be purchased from Master Clubs at [www.Masterclubs.org](http://www.Masterclubs.org).*

**Making the Game:** Using the pattern pieces on page 72, make 12 jars from white card stock. On the back of the jars write the following limits: 6, 8, 8, 10, 12, 12, 14, 16, 16, 18, 20 and 20. Make 36 green card stock leaves from the leaf patterns (six of each leaf) from pages 73-74. Cut out the leaves. Place the 12 canning jars along the lower edge of the board or table with the limit hidden on the back. Scatter the 36 leaves across the table. The ants should be face down so they cannot be seen.

*Write additional review questions here:*

### Playing the Game:

"Today, we're playing a game called Ants! Listen carefully to the rules. There are a number of ants hiding under the leaves on the game board. The object of the game is to collect as many ants as possible for your team. At the end of the game, the team with the most ants wins.

When you answer a Bible question correctly, you may come to the table and choose a canning jar in which to collect your ants. Each jar has a capacity number on the back, which is the number of ants you can put in that jar, but you will not know that number until the end of your turn. The capacity of the jars ranges from 6 to 20. Once you have chosen a canning jar, you may then begin searching under the leaves. The ants are hiding under the leaves in groups of one, two, three, four, five or six. You may choose up to five leaves, which will give you somewhere between five and thirty ants.

As you know, there is a problem with catching bugs—it is hard to get very many in the jar without letting the others crawl out. If you try to put too many into one jar, you may lose them all! Once you decide to stop catching ants, we will look on the back of the jar in which you were trying to collect your ants. If you stopped under the capacity limit, each ant you caught scores a point for your team. If you stopped right on the limit, each ant scores a point, and you get a 25-point bonus! But if you went over the limit, your ants all escaped, and you score no points at all. Are you ready? Let's go catch some Ants!



# SECURE

Glow Jr. Devotionals: May 19-25

**THEME VERSE:** Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

**CHARACTER FOCUS:** Safe as a Sparrow

**MONTHLY GOAL:** Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives



## Let's Get Glowing

### Sleeping Soundly

Place a chair in the front of the room so that the person sitting in it will have his back to the other students. Place a set of keys under the chair. Choose a child to volunteer to be asleep in the chair. Quietly tap another child who will attempt to sneak up and take the keys out from under the chair without the sleeping one hearing him. If he makes it back to his seat, the 'sleeper' has three chances to guess who the "raider" was. If he guesses the right person, that student becomes the "sleeper." If not, the "raider" is revealed, and he continues to be the "sleeper."

## Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *With Christ in the Vessel*

Sing *I'm on the Rock*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *He's Got Whole World in His Hands*

## Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 3 – Bible & Boxing

Wilfred Grenfell swept the floor for the third time that day. He rearranged the equipment once again and, for the second time, made sure the water jug and cups were set up. Today was the first day of the Boys Club, and Wilfred wanted everything to be perfect.

*Wilfred Grenfell  
Living on the Edge*

"Let's see," he murmured as he looked at the clock. "The boys should be arriving any minute."

The boys in Wilfred's Sunday school class seemed disinterested in serving God. They didn't seem too interested in making friends with Wilfred either. So, Wilfred decided to start a boys club and teach the boys sports like boxing and gymnastics. If he gave them something they enjoyed doing, then maybe he could also get them interested in God's Word.

"Ok, guys, gather around," Wilfred called to the handful of boys that showed up. "Let me have your attention for a few moments, and then we'll get started with the gym time." All eyes were on him. "You are all young, strong, and energetic boys, and you're trying to build muscle and strength as you grow up. This is all fine and good, as God wants us to be healthy and treat our bodies right for His glory. But what if I told you there's another body for you to take care of? What might that be?"

The boys looked around at each other, seeing if anyone would answer. One boy opened his mouth as if to answer but quickly closed it. A few boys shrugged their shoulders. No one knew.

"You have a spiritual body as well." Wilfred finally answered. "God wants your spirit and relationship with Him to be strong and healthy, too."

Wilfred closed in a quick prayer and then spent the rest of the evening teaching the boys gymnastics. The boys club was a success, and within one month, over fifty boys attended. Wilfred gained their trust and friendship, and the boys gained an

interest in what Wilfred had to teach them from God's Word.

The club was short-lived, though. The preacher of the church disliked the idea of teaching the boys "brutal" sports like boxing and asked Wilfred to cancel the boys club. Wilfred was sad and discouraged. The club was a success, but it was not to be.

To fill the extra time Wilfred now had, he spent most of his free time walking the streets and spreading the gospel to anyone who would listen. He started another boys club and even brought thirteen of them home with him over summer break. He and the boys spent many happy and adventurous weeks camping in the Parkgate countryside. Wilfred taught them to swim, to fish, and other useful skills. It was a wonderful summer spent investing in thirteen young men.

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"Wilfred, you've graduated medical school and are now a fine doctor." Dr. Treves sat behind a large desk and leaned back in his chair. He was a friend of Wilfred's as well as the doctor that Wilfred learned under while in college. "I know you want to help people know about Jesus Christ and the gospel, as well as help them physically. I have an offer that you might be interested in."

Wilfred sat across the desk from Dr. Treves and leaned forward in anticipation.

"How would you like to be a missionary to the fishermen on the cold and dangerous North Sea?" Dr. Treves paused, then continued. "It's dangerous work, and those fishermen are rough fellows. But the organization, National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, needs a doctor to help the men when they get injured or sick out on the sea. Are you up for the challenge?"

"You bet I am!" Wilfred said with a smile. "This is just what I've been waiting for."

 **Light My Path**

I Bet You Can't. Show the children the memory verse by writing it on the board or projecting it on an overhead or power point. Read the verse together. Challenge the students by saying, "That was pretty good. But I bet you can't read it while..."

Verse for the Month

Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

and then offer silly things to do. "...while standing on one foot; covering your left eye; putting your hands on your head; standing like a chicken; hopping around in a circle." To check that the students know the verse, finish with "...while facing the back of the room."

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: Today, we are going to talk about security.

Guest: (Jumps up) Alright, nobody move. Put your hands behind your head and get to the floor slowly. SLOWLY! No sudden moves.

Leader: What is this? You cannot treat the students as if they are criminals.

Guest: Don't worry. This is a matter of security. It just so happens that I am a member of the Bumbling Barney Security Squad. We meet on the second Tuesday of every week. I am a highly trained professional.

Leader: For one thing, there is only one Tuesday in a week, so how could you meet on the second Tuesday? And for another, we don't need that kind of security for this lesson.

Guest: You mean there's more than one kind of security?

Leader: Of course there is. I do appreciate the fact that you are willing to keep us all safe. But for now, why don't you sit securely in your chair and listen to our Bible lesson?

 **Build the Fire**

Safe as a Sparrow

Sparrows are plain brown birds. They do not have beautiful feathers or do anything special. In fact, they are rather ordinary, and there are plenty of them. In the days of Jesus, merchants sold two sparrows for a coin called a farthing. It took four farthings to be worth a penny. Sparrows never have been considered very valuable. However, God watches over them. He knows everything that happens to them and cares about it. Matthew 10:29-31 says, "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows." You see, you are much more valuable to God than the sparrows. Therefore, if He cares about the sparrows, you know He cares much

more about you. The lesson we will learn from the sparrows is that we are secure in God's love for us.

First, you can be secure in the fact that God sees you; He always knows where you are. Proverbs 5:21 says, "For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord." And Proverbs 15:3 says, "The eyes of the Lord are in every place." Psalm 139 tells us that God knows our "downsitting" and our "uprising." He knows when we are lying down, and He is the compass we need when we are walking (Psalm 139:1-4). There is no place you could go that God would not know about. There is not a situation or circumstance in your life that God does not know about. If there is a thunderstorm, and you are afraid of thunderstorms, God knows about that. He sees you hiding under your blankets. If you have a test in school and are nervous, God knows about that. If your parents have an argument and it makes you worried, God even knows about that. Just as God sees every sparrow as it flies, rests, or falls, God also sees you all the time.

Not only does God see you, He cares for you. When you are scared, nervous, or worried, God wants you to trust Him to care for you. I Peter 5:7 says, "Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you." God cares what happens to you. You are His creation. You are precious to Him. God loves you more than we can ever imagine. He showed us how much He loves us when He sent His only Son to die for our sins. And now, He wants us to rest secure in that love. I John 4:4 says, "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." And God, who is greater than all others, holds you in His hands. John 10:28-29 tells us, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." You see, the God who created you, who keeps His eye on you, and who sent His Son to save you is the same God who holds you in His hand. Do you remember when you were very small? Do you remember what it was like to go to a big, new place? What did you want to do to help you feel safe? You probably wanted to hold your parent's hand. As you held their hand, you knew they were right beside you, guiding you through that big crowd. Maybe you even said, "Carry me!" Now you are older. But you

will still face many new and intimidating circumstances. Just remember that God is right beside you. He wants you to reach up and hold His hand. Let Him guide you through the unknown. Actually, it is even alright to ask God to carry you.

God sees where you are and cares what is happening to you. Not only that, God is ready to supply what you need. Remember those sparrows? Matthew 6:26 tells us, "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" If God cares enough about little birds to make sure they have food, He certainly cares about meeting your needs. Matthew goes on to tell us that God clothes the fields in beautiful flowers and that He will make sure you are clothed, too. Matthew finishes chapter six by reminding us that we do not need to worry about clothes and food. But instead, we are to "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." God loves us and takes care of us. Philippians 4:19 tells us, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

God provides for us because He loves us. The most important thing God ever provided was our salvation. God provided His Son, Jesus Christ, as a perfect sacrifice to die on the cross. His death, burial, and resurrection provide the way for our sins to be forgiven. The Bible tells us that "while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

God, who takes care of the sparrows, wants even more to take care of you. God takes care of you because He loves you. Did you know that we could never earn God's love? God does not check to see if you are smart, rich, pretty, or even obedient before He decides to love you. No. He loves you no matter what we do or don't do. He sees you. He cares for you, and He provides for you. Not because of who we are or what we can do, but because of Who He is and what He has already done. That is the security of God's children.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Bring soap bubbles for this example. Some people only feel secure if they have a lot of money or a good job. Some kids only feel secure if their parents are still married or if they never move from one house to another. It is true that all those things can make us feel better. However, we should not rely on them for security. They are like these bubbles. (Blow some bubbles.) They look good for a while. But eventually, they will pop. They are here for a while, and then they are gone. We need to trust God for our security. He will never leave us, and He is always with us.

2. Show a baby blanket. Many of us have seen children carrying a special blanket around everywhere they go. People call them “security blankets.” Have you ever wondered about that? Children feel secure when they have something to touch, something that reminds them of the safety of home and their parents. In reality, the blanket does nothing to keep the child safe or secure. It is only a reminder. As Christians, we have a home that is safe and secure — Heaven. The Bible is our reminder that God is our security. Cling to it the way a child clings to the blanket.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. How many sparrows could you buy for a farthing? (two)
2. What is more valuable to God? Sparrows or people? (people)
3. Where can God see you? (everywhere)
4. What does God provide for us? (our needs: food and clothing)
5. Do I have to earn God’s love? (no)

Write additional review questions here:

Ants!

This game, Ants!, can be found in Ed Dunlop’s book, Mouse on a Mission. A pre-made, full-color version can also be purchased from Master Clubs at www.Masterclubs.org.

Making the Game: Using the pattern pieces on page 72, make 12 jars from white card stock. On the back of the jars write the following limits: 6, 8, 8, 10, 12, 12, 14, 16, 16, 18, 20 and 20. Make 36 green card stock leaves from the leaf patterns (six of each leaf) from pages 73-74. Cut out the leaves. Place the 12 canning jars along the lower edge of the board or table with the limit hidden on the back. Scatter the 36 leaves across the table. The ants should be face down so they cannot be seen.

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“Today, we’re playing a game called Ants! Listen carefully to the rules. There are a number of ants hiding under the leaves on the game board. The object of the game is to collect as many ants as possible for your team. At the end of the game, the team with the most ants wins.

When you answer a Bible question correctly, you may come to the table and choose a canning jar in which to collect your ants. Each jar has a capacity number on the back, which is the number of ants you can put in that jar, but you will not know that number until the end of your turn. The capacity of the jars ranges from 6 to 20. Once you have chosen a canning jar, you may then begin searching under the leaves. The ants are hiding under the leaves in groups of one, two, three, four, five or six. You may choose up to five leaves, which will give you somewhere between five and thirty ants.

As you know, there is a problem with catching bugs — it is hard to get very many in the jar without letting the others crawl out. If you try to put too many into one jar, you may lose them all! Once you decide to stop catching ants, we will look on the back of the jar in which you were trying to collect your ants. If you stopped under the capacity limit, each ant you caught scores a point for your team. If you stopped right on the limit, each ant scores a point, and you get a 25-point bonus! But if you went over the limit, your ants all escaped, and you score no points at all. Are you ready? Let’s go catch some Ants!

SELF-DENIAL

Glow Jr. Devotionals: May 26-June 1



THEME VERSE: Isaiah 40:31 “But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”

CHARACTER FOCUS: The Ravens say No to Self-Indulgence

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives

Let's Get Glowing

Would You Rather

Start by creating a list of “Would you rather” questions. Simply ask children to stand or stay seated to indicate their choice. For example, “Would you rather have chocolate or vanilla ice cream? Stand for chocolate, stay seated for vanilla.” Questions ideas: Would you rather have a cat or a dog? Sleep on a boat or in a tree? Eat Skittles or M&Ms? Wear red or blue? Play a board game or a video game? Ride in a train or a plane?”

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *The Things I Used to Do*

Sing *O, Be Careful Little Eyes*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *I Surrender All*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 4 – Fishing for Men

The biting wind surrounded Wilfred as he stood on the deck of the Thomas Grey. Icy water splashed against the hull and sprayed upwards towards him. Wilfred Grenfell didn't mind too much, though. He liked the energy and invigoration that the cold brought him. Wilfred was also much too excited about being a missionary doctor to the fishermen on the North Sea to notice the cold. Here he was in the middle of the sea, ready to get to work.

The morning sun glistened on the rough waters as the Thomas Grey neared the fishing boats. It didn't take long for word to spread that a doctor was on board. Anyone needing medical attention would have to wait, though, until the fishing nets were out of the water. The crew of the Thomas Grey quickly got to work putting the nets overboard. Wilfred helped where he could, hauling in the heavy nets and treating the frequent injuries. Once the fishing was over, men and boys from the other boats came aboard for treatment.

“I cut my hand real bad a few months back.” A boy of about fourteen said. “It never really got better and hurts real bad.”

“Well, Lad, let me have a look at it,” Wilfred said, removing the glove from the boy's hand.

The cut was nasty looking, and the hand was greatly infected. It looked as if it had not been bandaged and kept clean. If Wilfred did not treat it quickly, the boy might have lost his whole hand. The boy sat still and let Wilfred work on the infection. The two talked, and Wilfred was able to share the gospel with the lad. Once the hand was bandaged, the lad went back to his boat, and another patient waited for Wilfred. He worked tirelessly for hours and fell into bed, exhausted from a long but exciting day.

Wilfred loved his time on the North Sea. Every morning, he would take off his clothes and take a snow bath right on the deck of the boat. It helped keep his body invigorated and well-circulated. He

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

spent long hours fishing alongside the men and many more hours treating their injuries and sickness. He held Bible studies and talked to the fishermen about what Jesus did for them on the cross.

"If you were to go overboard and drown in the sea, where would you spend eternity?" Wilfred asked an old man.

"I uh...well, I'm guessing I'd go to heaven." The old fisherman stammered. "I've lived a fairly good life, providing for my family and been to church a few times."

"Ahh, so being good is what you're relying on?" Wilfred went on. "The Bible says that all our righteousness and good living is as filthy rags. It's not worth anything. None of us are good enough to get to heaven."

The old fisherman looked concerned. "How are we supposed to get to heaven then?" he asked.

"I'm glad you asked," Wilfred said with a smile. "God sent Jesus Christ to earth to die for all of us. He is the only One who is actually good. He died to take all your sins away. We only need to ask Him to save us, and He will."

"Can I ask Him to save me?" the man asked with sincere eyes.

"Yes, you may. He's just waiting on you." Wilfred said.

The man awkwardly bowed his head and asked Jesus to come into his heart and save him. When he opened his eyes, tears were filling them. Wilfred thanked God for the opportunity to share the gospel with these fishermen.

 **Light My Path**

Divide the verse into phrases. Assign each row one phrase to learn. Point to the rows, one at a time, in the order of the verse. Each row stands to recite their portion of the verse, and then sits down. Continue reciting the verse, increasing the speed of phrasing each time. If time allows, assign rows different phrases and repeat.

Verse for the Month

Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

 **Spark Their Interest**

Guest: I didn't do it. I know you might think I did, but I didn't. I will never admit it. It did not happen. I had nothing to do with anything.

Leader: What are you talking about?

Guest: Today's lesson, of course. If I had peeked in your notes and found out the topic for today, I would be able to tell you that I am an expert in this topic. However, I didn't do it.

Leader: Oh, really. And why don't you tell the boys and girls what our topic is for today? You know, the topic you didn't see.

Guest: Alright. Today's topic could be denial. It is the art of convincing others that you did not do it. Never admit anything! That is denial.

Leader: Your definition of denial is pretty good. But I need to let you know that really is not our topic for today.

Guest: Yes, it is! I saw it with my own eyes! It's right there! (pointing to the lesson book). Oops. I just admitted that I peeked, didn't I?

Leader: Yes, you did. But I already knew that. Anyway, our topic is about self-denial, which has a completely different meaning. Have a seat, and I will explain it to all of you.

 **Build the Fire**

Raven's Food Delivery Service, 1 Kings 17:1-6

"I'll have a cheeseburger, French fries, and a Coke, please. And, can I get that to go?" That might sound like something you would say when ordering a meal. Did you know that God invented fast food and food delivery services long before McDonald's and DoorDash were even a thought? In our lesson today, we will learn how Elijah, a prophet of God, received his meals by special delivery.

Elijah spoke for God, and that did not make King Ahab a happy man. King Ahab liked to get his own way...all the time...no matter what. His wife, Queen Jezebel, was all too happy to help him. Elijah gave Ahab and Jezebel more than one message from God about how their wickedness would be punished. Ahab and Jezebel mocked God and threatened Elijah. 1 Kings

17:1 says, "And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word." In other words, "It isn't going to rain until I say so!"

Immediately, God sent Elijah to the brook Cherith to hide him there. God told Elijah, "You will drink from the brook, and your food will be brought by special delivery." God commanded the ravens to bring bread and meat to Elijah every morning and evening. (Fast food delivery!)

Ravens are large, black birds. They are meat-eating birds, feeding on carrion (dead animals), small animals such as mice, and insects. In general, they will eat anything they can get hold of. Isn't it interesting that God would command these scavenger birds to carry the food for Elijah? Those birds would have to deny themselves the satisfaction of eating the meat and bread so that they could serve it to someone else. Self-denial. That is the lesson we will learn about today.

Self-denial means to restrain personal desires. Another way to think about it is that self-denial is learning to tell yourself "no." "No, you can't have that." Or, "No, you can't do that." King Ahab is an example of the opposite of self-denial. He was self-indulgent. The ravens, on the other hand, had to exercise self-denial each time they carried food to Elijah.

Self-denial is not easy. As a matter of fact, self-indulgence is much more fun. Why would anyone want to tell themselves "no"? Let's look again at 1 Kings 17:4 and 6: "...and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there... And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the morning, and bread and flesh in the evening..."

First, we see that, by denying self, the ravens were serving God. God had given them a command. They had to deny their personal desire to eat the food if they were going to obey God's command. There will be times when what we want to do is not what God wants us to do. When that happens, it is important to do what God commands instead of giving in to self-indulgence. God's commands are given for a reason. Some of those reasons are to keep you safe. Some of the reasons are so that other people will learn about Him and get saved. Some of those reasons are to keep you from sin and its consequences.

Think about a small child. Perhaps his mother says, "Don't touch that. It's hot." Mother has just given a command. Why? To keep the child safe. Will the child deny his desire to reach out and touch it, or will he indulge his desire and get burned? As young children, your parents are there to tell you "no." But as you get older, you will need to decide for yourself whether you will deny or indulge self. God's commands are always better than our plans. Any time your plans do not match God's commands, that is when you need to deny self and obey God. Self-denial is essential in serving God.

Secondly, we see that ravens, by denying self, were serving others. They served Elijah his daily meals. The Bible tells us in Galatians 5:13, "...by love serve one another." It is very difficult to serve others if all you think about is serving self. Jesus also talked about self-denial to His disciples. Luke 9:23 tells us, "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me." As followers of Jesus, it is more important to serve Him and to serve others as He did than to indulge in serving ourselves. Self-indulgence leads to spoiled-rotten, selfish people. Self-denial leads to kind, tender-hearted people who are willing to serve God and others. Self-denial will keep you safe, keep you from sin, and help you serve.

Fan the Flames

1. Play the giggle game. To play the giggle game, name one person as "it." The other students can do anything they want to make this person laugh while staying in their seats. After the person who is "it" laughs, another person takes a turn being "it." Self-denial takes practice. It is always easier to give in than to deny self. The more you deny self, the easier it becomes.

2. Bring several candles that children can hold and one long taper. Light the taper. If possible, turn out the lights for greater effect. Serving others and sharing the Gospel is like spreading light. (Light one of the student's candles.) Did the long candle go out? No. (Have that student light the next candle.) Did any candle go out? No. But is the room brighter? Yes. (Continue until all candles are lit.) Application: When one candle lights another candle, it loses nothing. It gains help in lighting the room. When we serve others and share the Gospel, we lose nothing. Yet we gain helpers in spreading the Light of Christ to the rest of the world.



Fire Off the Answers

1. Who was the prophet that God fed using ravens? (Elijah)
2. What was the name of the self-indulgent king? (King Ahab)
3. What message did Elijah give to King Ahab? (it will not rain until I say so)
4. What does it mean to deny self? (to restrain; to tell yourself "no")
5. When we deny self, who can we better serve? (God and others)

Ants!

This game, Ants!, can be found in Ed Dunlop's book, Mouse on a Mission. A pre-made, full-color version can also be purchased from Master Clubs at www.Masterclubs.org.

Making the Game: Using the pattern pieces on page 72, make 12 jars from white card stock. On the back of the jars write the following limits: 6, 8, 8, 10, 12, 12, 14, 16, 16, 18, 20 and 20. Make 36 green card stock leaves from the leaf patterns (six of each leaf) from pages 73-74. Cut out the leaves. Place the 12 canning jars along the lower edge of the board or table with the limit hidden on the back. Scatter the 36 leaves across the table. The ants should be face down so they cannot be seen.

Write additional review questions here:

Playing the Game:

"Today, we're playing a game called Ants! Listen carefully to the rules. There are a number of ants hiding under the leaves on the game board. The object of the game is to collect as many ants as possible for your team. At the end of the game, the team with the most ants wins.

When you answer a Bible question correctly, you may come to the table and choose a canning jar in which to collect your ants. Each jar has a capacity number on the back, which is the number of ants you can put in that jar, but you will not know that number until the end of your turn. The capacity of the jars ranges from 6 to 20. Once you have chosen a canning jar, you may then begin searching under the leaves. The ants are hiding under the leaves in groups of one, two, three, four, five or six. You may choose up to five leaves, which will give you somewhere between five and thirty ants.

As you know, there is a problem with catching bugs—it is hard to get very many in the jar without letting the others crawl out. If you try to put too many into one jar, you may lose them all! Once you decide to stop catching ants, we will look on the back of the jar in which you were trying to collect your ants. If you stopped under the capacity limit, each ant you caught scores a point for your team. If you stopped right on the limit, each ant scores a point, and you get a 25-point bonus! But if you went over the limit, your ants all escaped, and you score no points at all. Are you ready? Let's go catch some Ants!

YEARNING

Glow Jr. Devotionals: June 2-8

THEME VERSE: Psalm 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

CHARACTER FOCUS: The Hart and the Heart Yearning for Water

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives



Let's Get Glowing

Guess Who

In your mind, choose one of your students as "It." Have all students stand. Begin by saying, "I'm thinking of a student who ____." All students who fit that description, stay standing. All other students will sit down. Continue giving clues until only the person you thought of as "It" remains standing. Clues might sound like this: The person I'm thinking of is a girl...has blond hair...does not wear glasses...is wearing black shoes...has pink on her dress..." Allow "It" to come to the front. Have all students stand and begin again, with the previous "It" giving the clues.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, I've Got Him on my Mind*

Sing *Every Day With Jesus*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *As the Deer*

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 5 – Land of Labrador

Wilfred Grenfell once again stood on the deck of a ship, but this time was not sailing on the North Sea. He was headed across the Atlantic Ocean to Newfoundland and Labrador in North America. He was sent to help the fishermen and their families along the coast with their medical and spiritual needs. The coastal people lived in remote areas and were often desperately poor. Wilfred had no idea what he was about to see.

Icebergs popped up out of the water, and large whales swam past, making huge splashes in the icy water. Wilfred was mesmerized as he stood on the deck watching the beauty before him. They were sailing along the coast of Labrador, heading north. Seagulls flew overhead, and schools of cod fish swam alongside the boat. It was breathtaking.

"I'm glad you know what you're doing!" Wilfred laughed as he patted the pilot on the back. "All these rocks under the water and the icebergs would have been bad news for someone inexperienced like me."

"I'm glad to be of help to you, Mr. Grenfell." The pilot replied. "I know how bad the coastal people need help. Glad to help in any way I can."

The boat reached a harbor and set anchor. Soon, small boats came alongside, bringing the sick and injured. Wilfred treated them with love and did his best to treat their wounds. He was asked to

go see a man on shore who was deathly sick, and Wilfred quickly headed that way.

The house he was brought to was more of a tiny shack than a house. He could smell the stench of unwashed bodies and dirty clothes before he even walked in the door. The one-room house was dark, and it took a moment for Wilfred’s eyes to adjust to the darkness. Inside was a tiny fire that barely warmed the room, a table, and some beds against the back wall. Off to one corner were six children who looked like they had barely eaten anything in days. Their clothes were hanging on them in shreds, and their faces looked as though they’d never taken a bath. This was a Liveyeres family. They lived on the coast all year long instead of moving south during the winter like most people did in Labrador. Liveyeres were tough and rugged people; they had to be to survive winters in this cold and dangerous wilderness.

“He’s over on the bed,” The man who’d brought Wilfred to the house said.

Wilfred had seen a lump of something lying on the bed but didn’t realize it was a human being. The man lay in a heap of dirty blankets and was barely breathing. It only took one look, and Wilfred knew that the man had tuberculosis, a terrible sickness. The man didn’t look like he would live, but Wilfred gave one of the children some medicine to give to their father. It was the only thing Wilfred could do besides pray for the man, and pray he did. Before he left the home, Wilfred gathered the children around and prayed for the family and their father. God was in control, and Wilfred knew that, but he still left the house with a heavy heart. It was difficult seeing those children in such poverty and knowing their father would most likely die. The mother had been out working, trying to get something to feed her children. This was the very reason Wilfred was in Labrador: to help the local people out of poverty, give them medical help, and share the gospel of Jesus with them.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

 **Light My Path**

Use funny voices. Repeat the verse many times, but use a different type of voice each time. Some different voice styles are people — big Daddy voice, sweet Mommy voice, whiny Sister voice, little Baby voice. Animal voices also work well — big lion voice, squeaky mouse voice, and slithery snake. Often, students also think of a style, which just gives more reasons to practice the verse.

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: Boys and Girls, today we will be talking about yearning.

Guest: Yawning? Why would you want us to learn about yawning? (beginning to yawn) Don’t you think that would make everyone sleepy?

Leader: (also yawning) I didn’t say yawning. But now you’ve started me yawning.

Guest: I did not start it. You did. Now I want my bed. And my blankie. And my Mr. Snuggly Bear. I want to go to sleep. Now, I really want my Sunday afternoon nap.

Leader: You can’t go to sleep. We still have to teach the lesson.

Guest: Oh, yeah. The lesson about yawning. Now I remember.

Leader: No, not yawning. But it is definitely about looking forward to something and wanting it very much.

Guest: Like my Sunday afternoon nap?

Leader: Just like that. Why don’t you have a seat, and if I can stop yawning, I’ll tell you all about it.

 **Build the Fire**

The Panting Hart

Several animals of the deer kind are mentioned in the Bible under the names of Fallow-deer, Hart, Hind, and Roe-buck. These animals are all harmless, gentle, timid, and beautiful, noted for their branching horns, the elegance of their form, and their surprisingly swift and graceful motion. The male deer is called a hart, the female a hind. The hart often suffers from thirst in the

dry and sandy countries where it lives, especially when pursued by hunters. It then longs for water and plunges with the greatest eagerness into the cooling stream. David says in Psalm 42, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

As we continue our series of lessons learned from animals, we will focus on the hart, spelled h-a-r-t, and see what it can teach us about the condition of our own heart, spelled h-e-a-r-t. Psalm 42:1 begins with these words: "As the hart panteth after the water brooks..." Let's stop there for a moment and think. What would make an animal so thirsty that it was panting for water? Perhaps it was a very hot day. Maybe it had been a long time since its last drink. What if it had been running for a long time? Perhaps it was being chased by an enemy. All of these things would make an animal thirsty enough to pant.

Psalm 42:1 continues by saying, "...so panteth my soul after thee, O God." Now, what would make a person so thirsty for God that David would describe it as panting? Obviously, we cannot drink the Bible! So what does David mean? One of the first things we need to remember is that God describes Himself as the Living Water (John 4:10; 7:38). And David said that his soul was panting. His spiritual heart was thirsting for some spiritual water. Verse two says, "My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God."

What makes a soul thirsty? First, has it been a while since your last spiritual drink? Are you reading your Bible every day? If not, your heart needs watering! Acts 17:11 describes noble Christians as those who search the Scriptures daily. Psalm 119:10 says, "With my whole heart have I sought thee, O let me not wander from thy commandments." Psalm 119:131 says, "I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." God's Word is important to quench your spiritual thirst. The Bible is not just for Sundays. Read your Bible every day.

Perhaps your soul is thirsty because you have been running for a long time. Some people try to run the Christian race in their own strength. They get so busy doing Christian things that they forget to spend time with Christ. Christian activities should never take the place of your daily quiet time with Jesus. If you are too busy to read your Bible and pray, then you are busier than God ever intended for you to be. It is possible to

be too busy. Choose your activities carefully. Are sports going to interfere with church? Are practices going to take up all of your time? Are extra meetings going to keep you from serving God? You may be choosing to do good things. Helping in the community, learning a new skill, and following a hobby are all wonderful things to do. However, you need to be careful that you do not fill your schedule so full that God is pushed out. If your heart is panting for God because you are running around too much, then it is time to say no to something besides God.

Finally, your heart may be thirsty because you have been running from the enemy. I Peter 5:8 tells us, "...your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Have you ever watched one of those nature shows on television? They quite often show movies of the lion chasing a deer. During the chase, the deer becomes very hot, tired, and thirsty. After escaping from the lion, he is panting for breath and searching for a cool stream where he can refresh himself.

You and I have a lot in common with that deer. The Bible tells us that Satan is our enemy and that he prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Yes, the Devil wants to destroy us! You and I must be on our guard, and when he tries to destroy us, we must run from him as fast as we can go. Sometimes, in our day-to-day struggle to stay alive, we become tired. Like the deer, we want to find a safe place to rest and refresh ourselves. That is why we are here this morning. We have come to this safe and quiet place to be refreshed by the Living Water that comes from God.

Have you tasted the Living Water of Jesus Christ? If you are saved, you have. Does your heart need a spiritual, refreshing drink? Are you panting for God? There are several ways we can "drink in" God and satisfy our thirst. Bible reading pours God into our souls. Prayer can quench your spiritual thirst. And going to church regularly will satisfy a spiritual thirst. Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Bring in a large glass of ice water or a bottle of water. Nothing is as refreshing as a cool drink of water, especially on a hot day or after you have been exercising for a while. Jesus is the Living Water. His Word satisfies and quenches our Spirit. To stay thirsty for the spiritual water of the Word, keep up your spiritual exercises like praying, going to church, and soul-winning. Water always tastes best after a good workout. In the same way, the more we exercise spiritually, the thirstier we are for God's Word.

2. Bring a one-year calendar. On some date in the future, mark a very special occasion. Perhaps it is the first day of vacation or a special trip you have planned. Circle it, highlight it, or do whatever you can to make it obvious that you can't wait for that day to come. You might even have a count-down to that day of "days left until..." When we are looking forward to something special, sometimes we cannot think of anything else. It distracts us from other things. It doesn't even matter if something goes wrong because we just think, "Oh, well. At least I get to do ___ in ___ number of days." God wants us to yearn for Him like that. Do we get excited about our daily time with Him? Do we make church time a special occasion? Does thinking about God ever distract you, even when things are going wrong? Yearn for God like you would yearn for a special event.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. What kind of animal is a hart? (deer)
2. What is the hart (deer) doing in Psalm 42:1? (panting for water)
3. What does David say he is panting for? (the Living God)
4. What is one reason our spiritual heart might be thirsty? (no Bible reading, too busy, chased by the Devil)
5. Who is a roaring lion looking to devour Christians? (the Devil)

Write additional review questions here:

Lightning Strike

This game is from the book, Mouse on a Mission, by Ed Dunlop. Used with permission.

Making the Game

Using the patterns on pages 75-77, duplicate each page eight times for a total of 48 circles. Scatter the circles randomly across a table, or fasten them to a wall or board.

Playing the Game

Select a game spotter (adult) and explain the game to your class: "Today we are playing a game called Lightning Strike! One bolt of lightning can carry as much as 500,000 volts of electricity, so this game could get pretty dangerous. Listen carefully as I explain the rules.

"When I ask a question, wait until you hear the signal, then try to be the first one to stand. If you answer the question correctly when you are called on, you may come to the board and select a circle. I will turn the circle over for you. The number on the back of the circle is the number of points that you score for your team.

"When you are at the board, you may continue selecting circles and scoring points as long as you like. But if you find a lightning bolt, your turn comes to an end, and the points from your turn get fried! If you find a smiling sun, we will double the points of the next circle you turn over. Be sure to stop before you get zapped by lighting!"

As the student selects circles, announce each number, and then announce his points for that turn, giving him the option of stopping or continuing. Once he decides to stop, announce his points to the scorekeeper. These points are permanent; a lightning bolt later in the game does not erase them from the scoreboard.

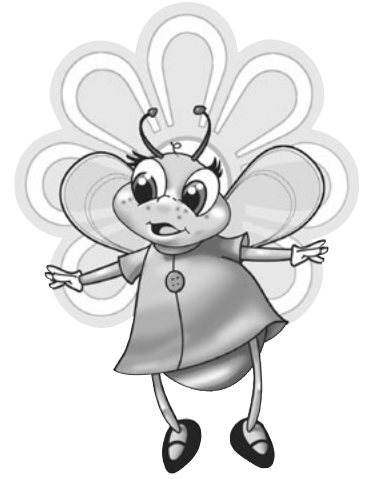
RESTORATION

Glow Jr. Devotionals: June 9-15

THEME VERSE: Psalm 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

CHARACTER FOCUS: The Lost Sheep Restored

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives



Let's Get Glowing

Students form two lines facing a chalkboard/dry erase board. A leader tells the two students at the back of the line a number, a letter, or short word. The student draws that number on the back of the person in front of him. Each student continues to draw what he/she felt onto the back of the student in front of him/her. The person at the front of the line uses chalk or markers to draw on the board a picture of the number or letter that he felt on his back. The fastest, most accurate team gets a point. The leader moves to the back of the line, and the process begins again.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *How Did You Feel?*

Sing *Good News*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Amazing Grace*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 6 – Pomiuk

Wilfred sat in the hospital area of the ship beside the bed of a teenage Eskimo boy named Pomiuk. Despite the boy's pain, he lay smiling and talking cheerfully with Wilfred.

"Would you mind telling me your story?" Wilfred asked the boy. "The story of how you ended with a broken and infected leg with no one to care for you."

Pomiuk adjusted himself on the bed and began. "When I was just a boy, my father died, leaving me and my mother alone. It's a hard life living out here with no one to protect and provide for a family. My mother was desperate for help, and we found ourselves in the home of a man named Kupah, who promised to help us. He took care of my mother but didn't like me too much. He always gave me angry looks and made me do the jobs he didn't want to do. I wished he was a father to me, but he wasn't." Pomiuk's eyes glistened with unshed tears.

"One day, a man from the United States came and said they were having a large fair called the World's Fair and that they needed Eskimos to be a part of it. They promised us lots of money and wealth if we came. They said we'd be rich. Kupah wanted lots of money, so he volunteered the two of us to go. I was scared to leave my mother and home behind and go to a faraway place."

"When we got to the big city called Chicago, there were so many people everywhere. I didn't know that many people were even on the earth. At the Fair, they put us in an exhibit, and people came to look at us. They poked me and made me do tricks with my whip. I just wanted to go home."

Wilfred shifted in his seat as he listened. He

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

felt sorry for the boy and wished people would have been more kind. Pomiuk continued:

“One day, I broke my leg, and no one came to help me. No one took me to a doctor or seemed to care very much, except for one man. He was a preacher named Charles Carpenter. We didn’t know each other’s language, but he came and sat with me day after day. We became friends. Finally, the Fair was over, and they took us back to Newfoundland. But that was still a thousand miles from home, and with a broken leg, it seemed almost impossible to get back. Eventually, I got home, but since my leg was never treated, it only got worse, and I thought I was gonna die.”

Wilfred nodded, “You were about to die when I found you, Pomiuk. God took care of you until I could help you, and He’s helping you get better now.”

Wilfred remembered finding the boy in a dark old tent just a few weeks ago. He was on the verge of death, and Wilfred prayed earnestly that the boy would survive. Now, Pomiuk was lying in the ship’s hospital and looking much better. Within a short time, Pomiuk was saved and became a new creation. Wilfred took a trip to the United States and told Pomiuk’s story to the crowds of people who came to hear him speak. People everywhere loved Pomiuk, and money began to flow in to help Wilfred’s ministry in Newfoundland and Labrador. People were excited to help in any way they could; they gave money and donations and volunteered to come help Wilfred at the hospitals. It was all because of one little boy, Pomiuk.

 **Light My Path**

Act it out. Choose an action or sign to represent words or phrases. Continue saying the verse. Each time, leave out one word, but continue its ‘action’ until you are silently acting out the verse. Repeat the verse one last time using the actions and saying every word.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

 **Spark Their Interest**

Guest: (Walks in wearing eyeglasses on his head but bumping into things slightly as he walks.) Lost! All is lost!

Leader: Good morning. What is lost? Can I help you find it?

Guest: No, no. I’m afraid they are gone forever. I will never see again.

Leader: I am a bit confused. Your words are not making sense.

Guest: Let me explain. I need to wear eyeglasses to read things up close. I took them off to see something far away, and now I can’t find them. And since they help me see, I can’t even look for them. I will never be able to see again. My glasses are lost forever!

Leader: I think I can help you. Your glasses are on top of your head.

Guest: They are?! (Touches glasses) They are!!! How do you suppose they got there? Oh, thank you. You helped me find what was lost. You have restored my sight.

Leader: You’re welcome. And really, that is what today’s lesson is all about. Finding and restoring lost things. You provided a perfect introduction.

Guest: Glad I could be of service!

 **Build the Fire**

The Lost Sheep

I hope you are enjoying our lessons from animals in the Bible. The concept is not a new one. The idea of using animal stories to help tell lessons was used by Jesus, too. As Jesus was preaching to the multitudes, He used this story to make a point:

Matthew 18:11-13 “For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety and nine, and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more of that sheep, than of the ninety and nine which went not astray.”

In this illustration, we are the sheep, and Jesus is the Shepherd. Sheep are timid creatures. They need the protection of man. Without a shepherd, they would stray away and be lost or devoured by other animals. In Psalm 119:176, David says, "I have gone astray like a lost sheep." Isaiah 53:6 says, "All we like sheep have gone astray." The first lesson we need to learn from sheep is that we all need a shepherd.

Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd in John 10:11. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." Jesus came to earth for one purpose: to restore man's relationship with God by giving His life for us. Man was created without sin. His relationship with God was perfect and untainted. Then Adam sinned, and the relationship was broken for all mankind. Sin would forever separate man from God. How could that ever be restored? By the perfect, sinless sacrifice of Jesus. Jesus knew that His reason for coming was to live a sinless life, to take our sin upon Himself, and to die on the cross of Calvary.

Jesus said, "The Son of man is come to save that which is lost." If you have never accepted Christ as your Savior, then you are lost. You are like a sheep without a shepherd. Christ died for your sin, but until you ask Him for forgiveness of your sin, you are still lost. Salvation is when you admit that you are a sinner, believe that Jesus died and rose again to save you, and then call on Him to be your Savior. Only then does He become your Good Shepherd. We all need the Good Shepherd.

The next lesson we need to learn is to follow the Shepherd's voice. Psalm 95:7-8a says, "For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts." John 10:27 says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" Have you ever been in a noisy crowd but still heard your mom or dad call your name? How can you do that? It is because you know the sound of their voice. You have been hearing it your whole life. You'd know that voice anywhere! It doesn't even matter that many other voices are talking at the same time. You always recognize your parents' voices. The same can be true with Jesus. You can recognize His voice above the chatter of peer pressure, your own bad choices, and temptation. In order to do that, though, you must spend enough time communicating with Him to recognize His

voice above all the others. Read your Bible. Listen well during Sunday school and church. Spend time in prayer. Get to know your Shepherd so well that you will always recognize His voice.

One more lesson we need to learn is that the Shepherd will always come to find us. Once we are saved, Jesus will always be our Savior. You are His sheep forever. However, there are times when people wander away from God and His truths. We want to do things our own way. We disobey God's commandments. We think we know a better way than God's way. That kind of thinking will get you lost in the wilderness of sin. You will not be unsaved, but you may not be able to see God's truths clearly anymore. You may not recognize His voice the way you used to. That is when Jesus, the Good Shepherd, comes looking for you. Jesus wants to restore the closeness that you once had with Him. Jesus will always forgive us when we sin. I John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Let's not forget the sacrifice of our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep. Jesus died for our salvation. His blood was the perfect sacrifice. His voice calls us to Him. He brings us back when we stray. He died for us so that we would live for Him. Hebrews 13:20-21 puts it this way: "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ;"

Fan the Flames

1. Bring a bar of soap and a towel. Also, bring wet wipes or hand sanitizer. Tell the students it is time for you to get washed up, but first, you need to wash your hands. Wait a minute! You don't wash your hands before you go wash your hands. That's just crazy. But some people think that before they can become a Christian, they have to clean up their life. That is not what Jesus said. "I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."
2. Bring a sharpened pencil and a pencil sharpener. Begin writing on a piece of paper. Without being obvious, break the lead while you are writing. The pencil cannot write in this condition. We need to sharpen it. We need to restore it. I can do that with my pencil sharpener. We all need to be restored once in a while, and God is always waiting for us to come back to Him with our broken pencils and get them sharpened again. The best thing about our pencils is that no matter how many times we break them, they never grow shorter.

Fire Off the Answers

1. In the Bible, who told the story of the lost sheep? (Jesus)
2. In the story of the lost sheep, what represents Jesus? (the shepherd)
3. What are we compared to? (lost sheep)
4. What did Jesus do for His sheep? (died for them/laid down his life)
5. When we stray, what will Jesus do? (look for us/forgive us)

Lightning Strike

*This game is from the book, *Mouse on a Mission*, by Ed Dunlop. Used with permission.*

Making the Game

Using the patterns on pages 75-77, duplicate each page eight times for a total of 48 circles. Scatter the circles randomly across a table, or fasten them to a wall or board.

Write additional review questions here:

Playing the Game

Select a game spotter (adult) and explain the game to your class: "Today we are playing a game called Lightning Strike! One bolt of lightning can carry as much as 500,000 volts of electricity, so this game could get pretty dangerous. Listen carefully as I explain the rules.

"When I ask a question, wait until you hear the signal, then try to be the first one to stand. If you answer the question correctly when you are called on, you may come to the board and select a circle. I will turn the circle over for you. The number on the back of the circle is the number of points that you score for your team.

"When you are at the board, you may continue selecting circles and scoring points as long as you like. But if you find a lightning bolt, your turn comes to an end, and the points from your turn get fried! If you find a smiling sun, we will double the points of the next circle you turn over. Be sure to stop before you get zapped by lightning!"

As the student selects circles, announce each number, and then announce his points for that turn, giving him the option of stopping or continuing. Once he decides to stop, announce his points to the scorekeeper. These points are permanent; a lightning bolt later in the game does not erase them from the scoreboard.

PREPARED

Glow Jr. Devotionals: June 16-22

THEME VERSE: Psalm 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

CHARACTER FOCUS: Preparing for the future as do the Ants

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives



☀️ Let's Get Glowing

Bible Pairs

Think of famous Bible pairs (Adam and Eve; David and Goliath; Mary and Joseph). Write each name on a card. As students enter, fasten a card on his or her back, without telling the name on the card. Tell them that they must find their Bible Partner by asking "yes" or "no" questions. They may not ask, "Who am I?" They could ask, "Am I a man?" "Am I from the Old Testament?" Once they have figured out their own name, then they will need to find their partner.

🎵 Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing **Amen, Brother, Amen**

Sing **The Wise Man and the Foolish Man**

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing **Lord, Prepare Me**

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

✝️ Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 7 – Helping the Helpless

The wind swept across the coast of Labrador, bringing the fishermen home for the season. They spent many long, tiresome weeks fishing, hoping for a good catch. This was how they would survive and live for the rest of the year. The men would sell their fish to traders and then use that money to live off until the next seal or fishing season. It would be a long, hungry winter if the men didn't catch much fish. This year, though, it was a good catch.

Wilfred Grenfell watched as the men sailed into the harbor of Red Bay and unloaded their catch. He knew they couldn't wait to sell their fish and get home after being gone so long. He watched them as they made their way to the traders to sell. The traders were greedy men who took advantage of the fishermen. They would buy the fish but only give them a small amount of money. The fish was worth much more but if the fishermen tried to sell to someone else for more money, the traders would refuse to do business with them ever again. The tiny bit of money they made would be used to buy overpriced food and supplies from the traders. The fishermen never seemed to make enough money to provide well for their families. Wilfred was going to change all that, and he had an idea.

"Gather around everyone. Come in closer." Wilfred called to the group of fishermen. "Thank you

all for showing up. I have something to talk to you about that will help you all."

The men became silent and listened respectfully to Wilfred. They admired him and were thankful for what he was doing along the coast. Whatever he had to say, they would listen.

"The fish traders have power over you, and as long as you sell fish to them, they will keep that power. If you start a business among yourselves, you can be free from them. You can set up a store and sell food and supplies at good prices; you can also send all your fish to St. John's in Newfoundland and sell it for good money."

The room was silent as the men looked around at each other. It was a bold idea, an idea that could either work wonderfully or backfire terribly. No one seemed to want to say anything first. Wilfred patiently waited; he knew they needed time to think about it. Finally, one man in the back spoke up.

"I have a wife and seven children to feed and clothe. I'm not able to do a very good job of it buying and selling from the traders. Let us town folks think about it, and we'll let you know what we decide the next time you come to town."

Wilfred left Red Bay for a time, and when he returned, the men of the town announced that they liked Wilfred's idea and wanted to start their own business. They all pitched their money together, appointed a storekeeper, set up guidelines for buying and selling, and started the Red Bay Cooperative Society. It worked wonderfully, and the townspeople were able to provide better for their families.

Wilfred Grenfell was able to help the people live better lives by letting God use him. Whether it was by being a doctor and healing physical problems, being an advocate for change along the coast, or, most importantly, being a missionary and spreading the gospel wherever he went, Wilfred let God use his life for good. The life of adventure wasn't over for the missionary yet. One of his biggest and most dangerous adventures was still to come.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

 **Light My Path**

Choose a rhythm action for phrases or the entire verse. Use actions like clapping, stomping, jumping, patting knees, or hopping on one foot. Matthew 7:7 could be learned this way. (Clap) "Ask and it shall be given, (hop) seek and ye shall find, (pat knees) knock and it shall be opened unto you."

 **Spark Their Interest**

Guest: Okay! Who has the flashlight? Does anyone have a first aid kit? Who has the inflatable raft?

Leader: What are you doing now?

Guest: Getting prepared.

Leader: I have got to lock up my lesson plan better!

Guest: If you haven't learned by now, you never will.

Leader: Okay. What did you find out by reading my lesson plan?

Guest: That God wants us to be prepared.

Leader: Yes. Prepared for what?

Guest: You know, floods and famine and natural disasters.

Leader: You did not read the whole lesson, did you?

Guest: Um...no. But I was prepared to!

Leader: Well, if you had, then you would have discovered that is exactly what God wants.

Guest: I don't get it.

Leader: God wants you to be prepared to read His Word, prepared to tell others about Him, and to be prepared for His return.

Guest: So, I don't need the inflatable raft?

Leader: Not nearly as much as you need this lesson.

 **Build the Fire**
The Ants Prepare

Our word for today is "Prepared." When you prepare something, you get it ready before you need it. When your mom prepares a meal, she gets it ready before it is time to eat it. When a Pastor prepares a sermon, he gets it ready before he preaches. When you prepare a project for school, you get it ready before it is due. Being prepared takes planning. Being prepared takes work.

God is not an "Uh-Oh" kind of God. He does things with a plan and a purpose. He prepares. God expects His people to prepare. He even created animals to prepare. God mentions ants in Proverbs chapter six. Verses 6-8 say, "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest." Ants are also mentioned in Proverbs 30:25: "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer." Animals use the spring, summer, and autumn to prepare for winter. What does God want us to prepare for? We can get a clue if we know what God is preparing for us.

In John 14:2, Jesus says, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." So, what is God preparing right now? Heaven! He is preparing Heaven for us. Today, we will look at how we need to prepare ourselves for Heaven.

We need to prepare for Heaven by getting saved. Heaven is the holy, perfect home of God. Because of our sins, we cannot enter Heaven. We cannot be good enough, smart enough, or rich enough to cover up our sins. All sin deserves punishment in hell. As humans, there is nothing we can do that will get ourselves into Heaven. God knows that about humans. He has already prepared The Way. That Way is through Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life. Then, He allowed Himself to be crucified. He took the punishment for our sins. His perfect, sinless blood was the sacrifice for all sin. His death and resurrection made it possible for us to go to Heaven. The Way is prepared. However, each person must choose that Way for themselves. Salvation is a free gift to all, but not all will take the gift. Have you? If you are not prepared to go to Heaven, then you need to be saved today.

Once you are saved, you can begin preparing treasure for Heaven. Matthew 6:20 tells us, "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where thieves do not break through nor steal." Another person said it this way, "When all the things of earth are past, only what's done for Christ will last." So, how do we prepare heavenly treasure? Every time we do something selflessly and without thought of reward, we are preparing a heavenly reward. When we share a drink of water with someone, because it's what Jesus would do, we are preparing heavenly rewards. When we stand up for the Bible at school, we prepare heavenly rewards. Luke 6:35 says, "But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great." How you choose to spend your time on earth will determine the amount of treasure you have prepared for Heaven. If you choose to live for self, to work to become rich and famous, then your reward in Heaven will be small. However, if you choose to live for others, to love them as Jesus would, then God will prepare your reward in Heaven. So, will you choose to live for a few years of earthly treasure or an eternity of God's treasure?

Another way to prepare for Heaven is to be a soul-winner. Just as the ant gathers food for winter, we should be gathering souls for Heaven. Matthew 9:37-38 says, "Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest." God wants every person to accept Christ and go to Heaven. But how can people know about Jesus if no one tells them? Jesus is coming again. When He does, all of the saved will be taken to Heaven. It is our job to tell others about Jesus.

All of us will meet Jesus. Are you prepared? Are you ready for Heaven? Are you saved? Are you laying up treasure in Heaven by living for others? Are you preparing others for Heaven by telling them about Jesus? Let's be prepared for Heaven. Let's prepare to meet Jesus.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Use a model, toy, or picture of a rocket. Traveling by rocket would be a great adventure but a bit scary. Astronauts have to prepare for years to train for space travel. When astronauts leave Earth, they have a destination planned. Most of us won't travel in a rocket, but all of us will leave the Earth when we die. Have you planned your destination? Are you prepared for a trip to Heaven? If you are saved, you are.

2. Use an umbrella, mittens, or other weather-related props, and also a soul-winning Bible or gospel tract. The weather can be unpredictable. It may be sunny and warm one day, rainy and cold the next, and even snowy the day after that. I always carry this with me in my car. I want to be prepared for anything. Since the weather is unpredictable, I want to have the tools I need. Here is something else I carry with me. It is a gospel tract. I want to be prepared to share the story of Jesus with those around me. There is a time each week when I plan to go soul-winning. However, life is unpredictable, and I may find someone who needs Jesus any day and at any place.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. What animal "prepares meat in the summer"? (ants)
2. What should we be preparing for? (Heaven)
3. What is the first step in preparing for Heaven? (getting saved)
4. How do we lay up treasure in Heaven? (live for others, not self)
5. What should we be "gathering" for Heaven? (other souls, be a soul-winner)

Write additional review questions here:

Lightning Strike

This game is from the book, Mouse on a Mission, by Ed Dunlop. Used with permission.

Making the Game

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Playing the Game

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MATERIALISM

Glow Jr. Devotionals: June 23-29



THEME VERSE: Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

CHARACTER FOCUS: Invest in eternal treasure

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives

☀️ Let's Get Glowing

If You Are Wearing . . .

The teacher will begin. Say, “If you are wearing green, stand up and hop three times.” When the children who were wearing green are finished with those instructions, allow them to pick the next color and action to go along with it. Continue playing until all students have had a chance to select a color and action.

🎵 Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *My God is So Big*

Sing *Nothing is Impossible*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *He Owns the Cattle on a Thousand Hills*

✝️ Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 8 – An Icy Grave

It was April in Newfoundland but no flowers or green leaves were seen yet. The ground was still covered in a blanket of snow, and the waters were frozen over in ice. Wilfred was working at St. Anthony when someone ran up and told him he needed to get to Brent Bay as soon as possible. A boy was seriously sick and needed a doctor's help. Wilfred was on his way as quick as possible.

The bitterly cold air bit at his face as he stood on the back of his dog sled as his eight dogs pulled him along the snow. They were good and faithful dogs, and Wilfred

trusted them to get him to Brent Island quickly. It was sixty miles away and would take two days on a dog sled.

“Dear God,” he prayed, “help me to get to the boy quickly. Please keep me safe as well. Amen.”

Riding on the back of the sled was a wonderful time to spend praying to God and enjoying the beauty of God's creation around him. He had to be very careful when crossing a body of frozen water. During the dead of winter, you could walk across miles of frozen bay without worry of it breaking. In the spring, however, the warmer air started the process of melting the ice, and large ice pans would break off and float off toward the ocean. If Wilfred wasn't careful, he'd either end up drowning in the freezing water or he'd end up floating off to sea. Neither of those seemed like a good option, so Wilfred kept his wits about him as he traveled. As for now, he traveled along on dry ground until he came to an area along the coast where the ice was still frozen solid all the way across the bay to a small island.

“Hmm,” thought Wilfred out loud, “if I cross the ice here and get to the island, then I can cross the other side of the island and get to the other shore more quickly. Following the coast is taking a long time, and this would cut miles off my trip.”

He headed the dogs in the direction of the island and left the safety of solid ground behind. The dogs were making good progress when, suddenly, the sled started sinking in the slushing, thawing ice.

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

“Oh, no,” Wilfred gasped. “This is very bad.”

He jumped off the sled and cut the leather that tied the dogs to the sled. They made it safely to an ice pan that was still frozen solid. Wilfred was shivering from the cold. The ice pan was too small, though, and wouldn’t be big enough to hold them for long. Sixty feet away lay a large ice pan, and Wilfred knew they had to get to it. Both he and the dogs swam the icy cold waters until they clambered onto the ice pan.

Wilfred frantically looked around for any sign of help onshore or for a boat on the horizon. He knew they had to get off this ice pan as quickly as possible. If the wind shifted, the ice would be blown off to sea, and Wilfred would surely die. Then again, he might die right here in the middle of the bay from freezing to death. Either way was not how Wilfred pictured dying, and he was going to do his very best to survive.

The clothes Wilfred was wearing were soaking wet, and the cold was soon to give him frostbite. He took the clothes off and wrung the water out as best he could. The night was soon coming, and the temperature would drop even more; Wilfred would need something warmer to keep him alive. He looked at his eight sled dogs plus his pet dog, Jack, and knew he must kill a few of them and use their fur to keep him warm and alive. Wilfred was sad that it had to be done. They were good dogs, and he would miss them, but he must survive the night. “Dear Lord,” he prayed as the sun sank into the horizon. “Please, keep me safe and help someone find me soon. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.”

 **Light My Path**

Write the verse on a large poster. After practicing two or three times, cut the poster apart, with one or two words on each small piece. Select enough students to come hold all of the pieces. Time them to see how long it takes them to stand in a row with the verse in the right order. Let each of those students give their piece to a student in the audience. When all of the pieces have a new holder, time the new group.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”



Spark Their Interest

Guest: Guess what!

Leader: Um, you have decided to sit quietly through the whole Bible lesson?

Guest: Haha. No. I get to go to the mall this week with Grandma! And she almost never says no. I’m gonna get so much stuff!

Leader: I thought I heard your mom say your grandma was taking you shopping to get things you NEED.

Guest: Exactly. I need an RC car, some new Legos, a new video game, and . . .

Leader: It sounds like you are confusing NEED and GREED. You are thinking more about the stuff you will get than about the person you will get it from.

Guest: When you say it like that, I doesn’t sound very nice.

Leader: You are not the only one with the problem of materialism. Have a seat and listen to what the Bible says on the subject.



Build the Fire

Camels

The Bible describes the ancient use of the camel mainly as a beast of burden for desert nomads. Camels have thick coats that protect them from the desert heat, long eyelashes that shade them from the sun, and a split upper lip, which permits them to eat thorny plants and to close their nostrils during sandstorms. Most importantly, they can go without water for prolonged periods of time — at least a week. They can lose up to one-third of their body weight in water and then replenish that loss within ten minutes.

Jesus used a camel in a very memorable figure of speech. A rich young man came to him asking how he could be part of God’s kingdom forever. Knowing that his wealth was his biggest obstacle, Jesus told him to sell everything, give the money to the poor, and become his disciple. The man left, saddened by this answer.

Jesus said to his disciples, “It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God” (Matthew 19:24). Some say the “eye of a needle” was a low city gate that camels had to kneel to get through. Others say that Jesus meant the teeny tiny hole at the end of the needle that only a thin thread could go through. Either way, these

images conjure a picture of an awkward animal, overloaded with wealth, trying to force itself through a small opening. The disciples said this would be impossible, to which Jesus replied, "With God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

Jesus is warning us to beware of being greedy. He wants heavenly things to be more valuable to us than earthly things. Colossians 3:2 says, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." 1 John 2:15 says, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." Matthew 6:19-21 says, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Is Jesus telling us that all Christians should be poor? No, not at all. He is saying that if we allow earthly wealth to become more important than heavenly treasure, then we have a problem. That problem has many names. The Bible calls it covetousness, or greed. A modern term for this problem is materialism. It describes the problem of wanting stuff and money more than wanting God's treasures. Can we really just stop wanting stuff? How do we keep from becoming materialistic?

First, realize that all of your stuff, everything you possess, comes from God. You might ask, "How can that be? God didn't send me my possessions in a HPS (Heavenly Parcel Service) truck!" That's true. But let's think this all the way through. Start with your clothes. You are wearing them. You possess them. How did you get them? Did someone buy them at the store for you? What did they use to buy it? Money? How did they get the money? From their job? Who do you suppose made sure they had a job? God helps His children in many ways. He provides jobs so they can earn money. We use that money to buy clothes, food, toys and to pay for our houses. So I'll ask you again, who gave you your clothes? God did. When you think about it that way, you realize that all your possessions belong to God. He just made it possible for you to have them to use for a while.

Has anyone ever asked you to "keep an eye on that for me" while they went to do something? Maybe they had a drink or snack that you were asked to watch while

they went to the bathroom. You were being a steward. A steward is someone who has been given the responsibility of taking care of someone else's property. Stewardship is a big word that describes how you manage other people's stuff. Since we know that all things belong to God, we are all stewards of the possessions God allows us to have.

Because my possessions belong to God, I will be a good steward of them. Your clothes, toys, tools, furniture, house, books, cars, musical instruments, computers, phones, game systems — all of those things are possessions. God expects you to take care of them. All of those things cost money, probably your parent's money. By taking care of them, you are being a good steward of your parent's money, too. Keep your things clean. Try not to break things. Put things where they belong so they do not get lost or broken. God allows you to have many nice things. Show God how thankful you are by taking good care of your possessions.

Because my possessions belong to God, I will thank Him for all of them. An attitude of gratitude helps us to be content with what we have, instead of wanting more. The first way to remain content is to be thankful for what you already have. The second way to be content is to stop coveting what is not yours. To covet means to want something so bad that you are willing to sin to get it. Most people covet when they spend more time looking at other people's stuff than they spend looking to God. How can you tell if you covet other people's things, if you are covetous? You might say things like: "I wish I had one." "Mom, I really need one like that." "Billy has one, I want one too." "I wish I could live here." "I wish I had your mom and dad." To covet other people's things is sin. God wants us to be content with the things that we have.

Because my possessions belong to God, I will share them with others. Luke 6:38 tells us to "Give, and it shall be given unto you" God gives us many good gifts. He loves us and wants us to have all that we need. But He also wants you to learn to give to others. Giving brings happiness to others and to you. Acts 20:34 says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." You see, one of the best ways to fight the "I want more" attitude of mate-

rialism, is by giving to others. Having more stuff does not bring fulfilment. Sharing what God gave you is extremely rewarding.

Materialism, greed, covetousness. These attitudes come from the selfish desires of wanting more, more, more! To keep from becoming materialistic, remember that all of your possessions belong to God. Because everything you have comes from God, be a good steward of them. Be thankful for all that you have. Be willing to share all that you have.

Fan the Flames

1. Find a variety of things: toys, games, money. Many times, people try to find their joy in the things of this earth. Show examples. Also bring in a broken object. The problem with living for things is that things are temporary. They will break, get used up or be spent. We may get pleasure for a time, but eventually, it all goes away. We must learn to focus on the eternal things, the things of God that will last forever. When we get to Heaven, only those things done for Christ will matter.

2. Ask for someone who is willing to play "Let's make a deal." Offer that person an immediate prize, a small toy, a pack of gum or \$.50. Then, offer to let them trade that prize for something they cannot see, and that they will not get until the end of church. (Make it something good.) No one will see them get the prize, and they will not get any clues about what it will be. Explain how that is like laying up treasure in heaven. We cannot see it and we will not get it immediately. We have to wait for it. Getting treasure on earth seems easier. We know what it looks like. We know how to get it, and we get it right now. But sometimes, getting earthly treasure becomes more important to us than heavenly treasure. Greed, covetousness and materialism keep us from serving God. What we seem to forget is that God's treasure is always better than earthly treasure. Based on that, hopefully, the student will wait to receive the treasure at the end of the lesson.

Write additional review questions here:



Fire Off the Answers

1. What is another word for 'materialism'? (covetousness, greed)
2. Who gives us all of our possessions? (God)
3. What word means to be responsible for someone else's property? (stewardship)
4. What is it called when you want someone else's stuff? (coveting)
- 5 How can you combat covetousness? (thankfulness)

Lightning Strike

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HARD-WORKING

Glow Jr. Devotionals: June 30-July 6

THEME VERSE: Psalm 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

CHARACTER FOCUS: Working Hard as an Ox

MONTHLY GOAL: Students will identify character traits of animals and apply them to their own spiritual lives



☀️ Let's Get Glowing

Mad Libs

This is twist on a commercially printed game. Choose a well-known story, create your own, or find examples on-line. Take out a few key words and replace them with words from your students. Do not read the story until you have all of the new words in place. For example: "Once there was a boy named (name of boy in the room.) He took care of his father's (animals.) His father asked him to take his brothers some (type of food)." Continue through the story of David and Goliath.

🎵 Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *You Can't Get to Heaven*

Sing *I'm Gonna Work and Watch and Pray*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *He's Still Working on Me*

*Wilfred Grenfell
Living on the Edge*

✝️ Torch Bearer's Tales

Chapter 9 – Rescued

Morning light peaked over the ocean as Wilfred opened his eyes. He was surprised that he managed to sleep at all that night. He was still stranded on an ice pan in the middle of the bay, but at least he had survived the night. It had been a long and cold night, and the hours seemed to take forever to go by. Wilfred snuggled as close as he could to the dogs for warmth and pulled the fur of the dogs he'd killed around his shoulders. It was a night he didn't want to repeat.

"Well, old boys," he said as cheerfully as possible to his dogs, "today's a new day that God's given us, so let's make the best of it. And with the daylight, we're more likely to be seen and rescued."

The dogs licked Wilfred's face in agreement. He tried petting them, but his fingers were so frostbitten that they would barely move. Once again, he prayed to God, asking for safety.

Wilfred made a long pole from the dog's bones and tied his shirt to it as a flag. He spent hours waving the flag and trying to get someone's attention. Wilfred grew tired but knew he couldn't stop. Wilfred must get rescued soon; if he didn't, he wouldn't last much longer out here on the ice. Wilfred waved the flag until he thought his arms would fall off. He was growing discouraged when, all of a sudden, he thought he saw something glis-

tening far away on the water. Was it a boat, or was it just the sun glistening on the water? The object was moving closer and closer to where Wilfred was stranded. Finally, it got close enough that he realized it was a boat! He was rescued!

The boat came alongside the ice pan and pulled the freezing Wilfred and his faithful dogs aboard. They wrapped blankets around him and took him back to shore as quick as possible.

“Dear Lord, You are so good to me. Thank You for watching out for me and keeping me safe. Amen.”

Wilfred’s adventure out on the ice was not one he would soon forget. Still, God had more plans for Wilfred and continued to use him greatly to help the people in Labrador and Newfoundland.

While on a trip across the Atlantic Ocean from England to the United States, he met a young lady named Anne. Within a few short weeks, the two were happily married. Anne was a great help to Wilfred’s ministry, and the couple had a few children together.

By 1914, four hospitals and six nursing stations had been established along the coast. Many volunteers came to help. Because of Wilfred Grenfell’s desire and zeal to help the people of Labrador and Newfoundland, many poor families found a better way of life. Most importantly, they found Christ through the example of a faithful doctor who let God have his life. Wilfred Grenfell – an adventurer, a caring doctor, and a faithful missionary.

Verse for the Month

Psalm 42:1 “As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.”

 **Light My Path**

Write the verse on strips of paper or 3x5 cards. Each word gets its own strip. On the front of the paper, write the whole word. On the back, write only the first letter of the word. Let volunteers hold each of the words in the correct order. Practice saying the whole verse. Begin selecting one or two students to turn their papers over so that only the first letter is showing. Continue practicing the verse. Choose some students to turn their backs on the audience so their papers are not visible at all. See if students can recite the verse without seeing any of the words.

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: How many of you ever help around the house?

Guest: Oh, I help every day.

Leader: What kind of jobs do you do?

Guest: Well, when there is sweeping to do, I stay out of the way.

Leader: Err... OK.

Guest: And when there is dusting to do, I stay out of the way.

Leader: Um, don’t you think you would be more helpful if you volunteered to do some of that work?

Guest: No, then I would get my clothes all dirty. That would mean that Mom would have to do laundry, and I would hate to make more work for her.

Leader: Oh, boy. Let’s see what the Bible says about good old-fashioned Hard Work.

 **Build the Fire**

Strong as an Ox

This will be our final lesson about animals in the Bible. Today’s animal is usually quite large. They eat a lot. They need someone to clean up after them. They can even be smelly sometimes. Yet, God tells us they are worth having around because of how much work they can do. I am talking about the ox. Proverbs 14:4 says,

"Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox." I Timothy 5:18 says, "For the Scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward." You see, keeping an ox is a lot of work. If a farmer did not have an ox, his barn would be cleaner. However, the farmer is willing to have a messier barn because he knows that the ox can help get a lot of farming accomplished. How would that farmer feel if the ox made the barn a mess but never did any work?

The verse in I Timothy talks about how much you have to feed an ox. But farmers don't mind when they know that the ox will work hard in return. But how would that farmer feel if the ox just ate and ate but never did any work?

Now, think about your house. Pretend that your parents are the farmers, and you are the oxen. I know you do not live in a barn, but let's apply the lesson from the ox. Your parents know that having children means there will be messes in the house. They know that children eat a lot. They love you, and they really do want to take care of you. But how much better would it be if you worked hard and helped take care of things at home? Is there "much increase by the strength of the children" at your house? I hope so. There is an old saying that claims, "Many hands make light work." So the more children there are at home, the easier each job will be, as long as everyone does their part. Is the "labourer worthy of his reward" of food at your house?

First, let's look at our attitudes about work. Every job, chore, or task we do should be done as if God Himself had asked us to do the job. (See I Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 6:5-7; Colossians 3:17, 22-23). Every task should be done cheerfully as if we were serving God personally. Every time we do a job that helps someone, we are serving God by serving others. There may be times that we think the job we have been asked to do is unfair or unreasonable. Even then, we need to do the job without grumbling or complaining. It is our choice to have a good attitude, regardless of the circumstances.

Next, work with purpose. Plan the work and then work the plan. We need to work quickly and efficiently. We need to do the entire job and do it well. (See II Chronicles 15:7; Psalm 104:23; Proverbs 18:9; Ecclesiastes 9:10). There is satisfaction in doing a job well. Someone once said, "The reward of a job well done, is to have

done it." The Bible makes a similar statement in Proverbs 13:19, "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul." If you do not know how to plan your work, ask for help. People who plan to work, and then make a plan for their work, accomplish much more than those who do not plan.

Lastly, realize that God created work. And He created it before man sinned. In Genesis 2:15, "The Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." God wanted Adam to work in the garden. He wanted Adam to be busy with his hands. In the same way, God wants us to be productive. We are made in God's image. God is not lazy, slothful, or discontent. God wants us to use the bodies He gave us to care for the things He gives us. It is our duty to take care of the houses God allows us to live in. It is our duty to care for the clothes God allows us to own. Duty compels you to help your mom and dad. II Thessalonians 3:10 says, "... If any would not work, neither should he eat." God has given us so much. Our natural response to Him should be to work to take care of it all. Remember that work is a duty. It is not a punishment.

How you respond to work will tell others about you. Do you work with a good attitude? Do you work hard and finish every job? Do you work without grumbling because you know it is your duty? If not, you need to change your work ethic now. The way you work now is an indicator of the way you will work as you get older. Working hard is one way of showing your parents how much you appreciate them. Working hard is not a punishment. It is an expectation. God expects you to work. He gave us the example of the ox to show us how we can each do our part. When you see a job that needs to be done, do it. When you make a mess, clean it up. If you see trash on the floor, throw it away. Be a blessing to your home and your family by learning to work hard.

Fan the Flames

1. Bring a hand-held game device or an iPhone that plays games. It is possible to be occupied and busy without being productive. You and I could spend many hours playing games or watching television. However, when we stop, we have nothing to show for our time. We could, though, spend the same amount of time cleaning our room, mowing the grass, drawing a picture, sewing, building, or doing any other chores or hobbies. When we do that, we have a product at the end of our time. We have been productive. Do not just be occupied. Be productive.

2. Any hand-held tool (hammer, screwdriver, saw) will work for this illustration. This tool is to help accomplish a task. By itself, this tool can do nothing. It needs a hard-working person to hold it and use it. Similarly, we are tools in God's hand. By ourselves, we can do nothing. It takes the skill of the Master Carpenter to make us useful tools. We need to do all we can for God, but we need to remember that we have no reason to be boastful or proud. We are simply tools in God's hands.

Fire Off the Answers

1. What does the ox do for the farmer? (work hard)
2. What does the farmer do for the ox? (feed it, clean up after it)
3. When we work, we need to work as unto _____. (the Lord)
4. We need to work with a purpose and a _____. (plan)
5. Work is not a punishment. It is your _____. (duty)

Write additional review questions here:

Lightning Strike

This game is from the book, Mouse on a Mission, by Ed Dunlop. Used with permission.

Making the Game

Using the patterns on pages 75-77, duplicate each page eight times for a total of 48 circles. Scatter the circles randomly across a table, or fasten them to a wall or board.

Playing the Game

Select a game spotter (adult) and explain the game to your class: "Today we are playing a game called Lightning Strike! One bolt of lightning can carry as much as 500,000 volts of electricity, so this game could get pretty dangerous. Listen carefully as I explain the rules.

"When I ask a question, wait until you hear the signal, then try to be the first one to stand. If you answer the question correctly when you are called on, you may come to the board and select a circle. I will turn the circle over for you. The number on the back of the circle is the number of points that you score for your team.

"When you are at the board, you may continue selecting circles and scoring points as long as you like. But if you find a lightning bolt, your turn comes to an end, and the points from your turn get fried! If you find a smiling sun, we will double the points of the next circle you turn over. Be sure to stop before you get zapped by lightning!"

As the student selects circles, announce each number, and then announce his points for that turn, giving him the option of stopping or continuing. Once he decides to stop, announce his points to the scorekeeper. These points are permanent; a lightning bolt later in the game does not erase them from the scoreboard.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY

Glow Jr. Devotionals: July 7-13



THEME VERSE: II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

CHARACTER FOCUS: The Bible is the final authority for all Christian beliefs

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice

Let's Get Glowing

Keep It Up

Equipment: One beach ball

Instructions: The goal of the game is to keep the beach ball from hitting the floor. All students must remain in their chairs. The leader will throw the ball into the middle of the group of students. Each time a student hits the ball back into the air, the entire group counts the hits. Continue hitting and counting until the ball hits the floor. Begin the game again, challenging the students to achieve a higher number of hits than the game before.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *The B-I-B-L-E*

Sing *Get the New Look from the Old Book*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *I Believe the Bible*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Part One

Robert Raikes knelt beside his father's grave after the funeral. Where would he go now? What would he do with his life? He'd always worked beside his father in the printing shop. But now those days were gone forever.

Robert Raikes and the Beginning of Sunday School

Robert mopped his teary face with a handkerchief and stood to his feet. Leaving the graveyard, Robert walked toward the printing shop that now belonged to him. He and his father had spent the last several years there, working on Gloucester, England's newspaper, the Gloucester Journal. Robert opened the creaky front door of the shop and slowly walked inside. The familiar smell of ink and machinery greeted him. Robert picked up the last copy of the Gloucester Journal published by his father that year, in 1757. "I'll make you proud, Father," he said aloud. "With God's help, I'll keep your Gloucester Journal alive."

The days passed, and Robert worked hard. He made the newspaper larger, improved its layout, and hired new writers. Soon, even more people wanted to read the Gloucester Journal! As the Journal sold more and more copies, its ability to influence others also grew. Robert Raikes had a heart for others. He used his paper to influence others to help those less fortunate.

At that time, England was changing. Factories offered jobs to people who had never worked before. Many families moved from small country villages to live in the big cities so they could work in the factories. The problem was that the cities became crowded. There were not enough places for everyone to live. Many people lived on the streets. Living on the streets was hard. Often, people would break the law by stealing food or getting into fights. The city prisons became overcrowded,

miserable places. On his days off, Robert often visited prisoners in Gloucester. There, he found the castoffs of society living in the most appalling circumstances. Most of them were sick or even dying from overwork. They lived in crowded, filthy spaces with almost no food. Even children were sometimes imprisoned along with the worst criminals. Robert felt sad to see these sick and starving prisoners. But what could one person do to ease the pain of so many? He decided to write about the terrible prisons in his newspaper.

Robert published articles that told of the appalling conditions. In those days, the prisons did not supply food to the imprisoned. Food had to be brought to them by family or friends. Many of the prisoners had no one to bring them food. Robert encouraged the townspeople to send food to those who had none. Robert tried to change the prison system. He was fighting a losing battle. It seemed as if everyone wanted to complain about how bad the situation was, but no one was willing to do anything to change it. Then, an amazing thought began to form in Robert's mind: maybe, since he could not cure the problems in the jails, he could prevent them from becoming so full.

 **Light My Path**

Write the memory verse on six or seven pieces of paper. Gradually make the words smaller each time you write the verse until your writing is tiny. Show the students the first card, the one with the biggest words. Read the verse together. Continue through all of the cards. On the last card, be sure to compliment the students on their good eye sight, to be able to read such small print. Then say the verse without any cards at all. This also works well if using a power point presentation. Gradually shrink the font size, until the students can barely see the words.

Verse for the Month

11 Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: For the next two months we will be covering Baptist distinctives, or why we call ourselves Baptist. The first Baptist distinctive I'd like to talk about is Biblical authority.

Guest: Biblical authority? That doesn't make sense, an authority is an adult who tells you to stop being bad. The Bible is a book. How does it know when I'm being bad? Does it have eyes to see me run into the barn door on my bike? Or ears to hear be break a plate because I was balancing it on my head?

Leader: No, the Bible is a very special book, but it doesn't have eyes or ears. What the Bible does have are God's words, and those words can tell us to be good without seeing or hearing us.

Guest: Wow, so we should listen to the Bible because it's from God, and God is the biggest authority.

Leader: God is our authority. He is our Heavenly Father, and He knows what is best for us.

Guest: Great! When will God tell me?

Leader: Well, right now I'm going to teach a lesson about the Bible, so you could listen to that.

Guest: Okay, sounds like a good idea.

 **Build the Fire**

B: Biblical Authority

Imagine shopping at your favorite supermarket after someone had removed the labels from all of the products. Cans and boxes of different sizes would fill the shelves, but you would not be able to tell what was inside any of them. Soup or peaches? Cereal or potato flakes? Without labels, you would not know what you were getting.

In the same way, names of various churches, such as Baptist, Methodist or Presbyterian, are like labels that show what is inside. A church called "Baptist" should hold all the teachings and practices that have typified Baptist churches throughout history. We call these teachings "Baptist distinctives."

Just as a shopper knows what is in a package he is buying by reading the label, so a person can know what a church teaches by understanding the meaning

behind its name. Maybe you have wondered how a Baptist church differs from a Methodist or Presbyterian church. We will use the letters in the word BAPTISTS to explain Bible teachings held by Baptists that describe our beliefs. These beliefs are not exclusive to Baptists. Many Bible-believing churches hold some of these teaching. Furthermore, some churches teach all of the Baptist distinctives but do not use the name "Baptist." So let's get ready to explore what Baptists believe.

Baptists base their beliefs on what the Bible says. The Bible is the only written authority for Baptist beliefs and practice. If I wanted to become a great football player, I would need some kind of guidebook to teach me. The guidebook would have all of the rules of the game. It would contain practice routines that would make me stronger. It would outline play by play strategies for winning. If I had a question, I would consult the guidebook. If I disagreed with another player about a rule, we would check the guidebook. Whatever the guidebook said, we would accept it as the final authority for the game. In the same way, the Bible is the guidebook for knowing how to become a Christian and live the Christian life (John 20:31).

Baptists accept the Bible as the written record of God's message to people (II Timothy 3:16). God inspired the writers and guided them as they wrote what God wanted people to know. The Bible is the only Book that is God's Word to us. Without the Bible, we would not have an anchor for our beliefs. The Bible teaches us how to be saved, what to believe about God, and how God wants us to behave.

What is the Bible? The Bible is the written Word of God. The Bible is a collection of 66 books, divided into two sections called the Old Testament and New Testament. The Old Testament records the account of how God prepared the people for the coming of Jesus. The New Testament records the life of Jesus on earth and what Jesus taught.

How did we receive the Bible? II Peter 1:21 says, "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." God, through the Holy Spirit, authored the Bible by using men of God, but it is not man-made. God used about 40 different men from all walks of life to author His Word. It took about 1600 years for the entire cannon of Scripture to be recorded. This is one of the ways we

can be assured that the Bible is God's Word. More than 40 men wrote over 1600 years and not one contradiction is found in Scripture. What if I said to you, "I am going to give you my words. In 1600 years from now, around the year 3624, my words will still be remembered and mean the same thing they do today." That would be impossible! But it is not impossible for God. God used human authors to write down all His words just as He wished. We call this teaching inspiration, and the word "inspiration" is the idea that God "breathed" these words to say exactly what He wanted to say. Because the Bible is inspired of God, it is true from beginning to end (Psalm 119:160; I Peter 1:23).

Not only did God inspire His Word, but He also promised to preserve His Word. Read Psalm 12:6-7 and Matthew 24:35. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and much of the New Testament was written in Greek. The original writings have been lost over time. Yet, God miraculously preserves His Word. Down through the centuries, Satan has tried to remove the Bible from the face of the earth. It has been banned, burned and destroyed. Yet the Lord has raised up men with a love for His Word to keep it from harm. God used men to translate the Hebrew and Greek into English. When you hold a King James Bible in your hands, you are holding the Word of God.

In all matters of faith and belief, the Bible is our final authority. It is the inspired and preserved Word of God. The Bible teaches us how to be saved. God reveals Himself to us through His Word so that we know what to believe. God's Word teaches us how Christians ought to behave. The Bible is our guidebook. Everything else that we teach and do comes from this belief: The Bible is the Word of God and it is our final authority.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. What is an authority? It is an accepted source of expert information. Show the children a dictionary and a map. "If I wanted to find out how to spell a word, which would I use? The dictionary. If I wanted to find out how to get to the next town, which would I use? The map. They are the written authority for words and for roads. If I want to find out what God wants me to know, believe and do, what written authority do we have? The Bible. Other books may give you advice or suggestions, but only the Bible is God's Word.

2. A heavy anchor is used to hold ships in place when they are out on the ocean. Let's pretend that a big ocean-liner represents our beliefs. Let's also pretend that the ocean currents and waves represent all the false or changing teachings about God in the world today. What are some of those incorrect teachings?

How can we know what to believe about God? We need an anchor! The Bible is that anchor that keeps us from getting caught up in the currents of wrong teachings.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. What authority do Baptists base their beliefs on? (the Bible)
2. What is the Bible? (God's Word)
3. How many books are in the Bible? (66)
4. How many men did God inspire to write His Word? (about 40)
5. What are the two sections of the Bible called? (Old Testament and New Testament)

Write additional review questions here:

Red, White and Blue

The following game is used with permission from "I Can't Wait Till Sunday Morning!" by Ed Dunlop.

Making the Game

Make 3 copies of pages 78-80. Copy one of each page on red cardstock, one of each page on white cardstock and one of each page on blue cardstock.

Playing the Game

Scatter the 36 stars at random across a table or fastened to a wall. Choose a student to be the Starter for the game. That student will be responsible for the signal for the other students to respond to the questions. The signal can be a bell, piano chord, or the words "Go!" or "Now!" Choose a game Spotter. The Spotter can be a student or an adult worker. The Spotter will be responsible for determining who will answer the Bible review questions. Explain the Bible Review Game rules.

"I will ask a question from today's lesson. If you know the answer, do not say anything out loud! Instead, wait until the Starter gives the signal. Once you hear the signal, jump to your feet, but again, do not say anything. The Spotter will call on the person that jumped to their feet the fastest. If you answer the question correctly, you will come to the front of the room and play Red, White and Blue."

"Today's game is called Red, White and Blue. When you answer a question correctly, you will automatically win 50 points for your team. Next, you will come to the board and choose a star. On the back of your star we will find a number: 100, 200 or 300. But before your team gets the points, you have to guess the number. If you guess correctly, your team gets those points. If you guess wrong, no points. But if your star has Bonus on the back, you receive the number of points that you guessed, whether you said 100, 200 or 300.

"Each player who comes to the board gets to choose three stars, which means that you have three chances to score points for your team. Is the Starter ready? Is the Spotter ready? Are the students ready? Then let's play Red, White and Blue!"

AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

Glow Jr. Devotionals: July 14-20

THEME VERSE: II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

CHARACTER FOCUS: Local churches are governed from within

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice



☀️ Let's Get Glowing

Name Game

Equipment: One beach ball

Instructions: The leader begins by telling the students his or her name. The leader will throw the ball to a student. He or she needs to repeat the leader's name, and then tell the class his or her name. That person will throw the ball back to the leader. The leader continues to throw the ball to other students, one at a time. Each student will name the student who just had the ball, and then tell his or her own name and throw the ball back to the leader.

🎵 Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Everything's All Right in my Father's House*

Sing *I Was Glad When They Said Unto Me*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Lord, Prepare Me*

→
Robert Raikes and the Beginning of Sunday School

✚ Torch Bearer's Tales

Part Two

One evening, Robert Raikes walked down St. Catherine's Street to look for his gardener. Suddenly, he saw a group of ragged children. They looked just as poor and overworked as the prisoners Robert visited. A little boy in a tattered blue shirt swore as he tackled another boy half his size.

"Get your hands offa me!" the little boy yelled as the two of them wrestled on the cobblestones. Soon, a crowd of children gathered around, noisily cheering.

"Hey, stop fighting!" Robert shouted at them as he pulled the boys apart. "Go home, all of you."

As the children walked away, Robert asked the gardener's wife, "Who are these children?"

"Ah, pay no mind to them," she answered. "Everyone calls them the white slaves of England."

"Slaves?" asked Robert.

"They work 12 hours a day or longer in the mills and sweatshops," the woman answered.

"Most of their parents are in prison or dead."

Robert cringed. He knew that if his father had died when he was little, he could have been one of these poor children. "When do they go to school?" he asked.

"School? They don't go to school. They have to work to live," she answered. "And Sundays are the worst. It's their only day off, and they run around like wild animals!"

Robert knew the future was grim for these children who had to work all the time with no hope of an education. Worse yet, with no one to teach them the good news of the Gospel or how to live God's way, they were likely to end up cold, sick, and starving in the dreadful prisons. An idea began to form in Robert's mind, which he shared with his friend, Reverend Thomas Stock.

"Let's start a Sunday school!" said Robert.

"School on Sunday?" asked Thomas. "But the children of our church already attend school."

"But I do not intend to teach the children who already attend school," answered Robert. "I want to teach the boys and girls who work all week in the factories. I am told that the only day they have off is Sunday. I am also told that many of them spend their time making mischief and disrupting church services on Sundays. Why not create a school just for them? We'll teach them to read and write part of the day and teach them the Bible for the rest of the day."

"It's a great idea!" said Thomas.

Robert spent the next few weeks organizing his Sunday school. First, he needed a place to hold class. He visited Sooty Alley, a street where many of the boys were chimney sweeps. There, Robert found Mrs. Meredith. She was willing to let Robert conduct school in her kitchen. She even agreed to help by being the schoolmistress. She had always wanted to teach but did not have the education to do so. Recently, though, Parliament passed the Enabling Act, which made it legal for untrained laymen to teach.

Next, Robert needed to gather the necessary teaching supplies. As a publisher, he was able to create spelling and reading books. The Bible would be used most often, but they also needed some basic instruction materials.

Finally, Robert spent many evenings visiting the homes and streets where these children lived. He endured their filthy clothes and filthy language. He endured the threats of being beaten up. But mostly, Robert encouraged the children to come as they were. He sincerely wanted to help them have a better future by training them in reading, writing, and the Bible.

Verse for the Month

II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

 **Light My Path**

Write out the verse on a dry erase board or overhead projector by using blanks instead of letters. Have students guess the letters that make up the verse. As they guess, fill in the blanks. This could be played as a game, boys vs. girls, with each letter getting points for their team. Or it could be played like Hangman, in which wrong guesses bring the class closer to the 'noose.'

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: Today our class is talking about the autonomy of the local church. Now autonomy is a big word, and you may not know what it means.

Guest: I do, well sort of. Doesn't auto have to do with cars? You're probably gonna talk about the church bus, but I have no idea what a nomy is. Is it a fancy word for the guy that drives the church bus?

Leader: No, it's nothing like that. Autonomy of the local church is a fancy way of saying that our church answers to God and His Bible; that He is our final authority.

Guest: But what about the guy that drives the bus. Does he answer to God too?

Leader: Yes, we all do. We should take our directions from our pastor. He tells us what God wants us to do. And Pastor wants me to teach a lesson on the autonomy of our church, so you should sit down and listen.

Guest: Okay.

Leader: Thank you.

Build the Fire

A: Autonomy of the Local Church

If someone asked you, "What is church," how would you respond? When some people hear or see the word church, they think of a building. But a church is a group of people who love and follow Jesus. A church building is a place where they meet.

In the Bible, Acts chapters 1-2 tell us about how the first church was started. The disciples watched as Jesus went up to heaven. Jesus had told them what they were to do. Jesus had shown by the way He lived how He wanted His followers to live. Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with the disciples to help them know what to do and how to do it. The Holy Spirit would give them the courage to live the way Jesus had taught. The book of Acts tells the story of the first churches. (Read Acts 1:8; 2:41-47.)

Last week, we talked about Biblical Authority, or the fact that the Bible is our final authority for all that we believe. Today, we are going to discuss the authority of the church. Who is in charge of the church? Who makes the decisions about what the lessons will be taught, or which missionaries to support, or how much money to spend on new flowers for the auditorium? Some religious groups have a headquarters that makes all of the decisions. Then they tell each church what to do. The Baptists are not like that. Baptists believe in the Autonomy of the Local Church. The word autonomy means 'self-ruling' or 'self-governing.' Another word to describe it would be 'independent.' It means that the local church is free from all outside control. That means that all human authority for the governing of the local church resides within the local church itself.

Our church is not governed by anyone outside of the church. The congregation decides on or elects the deacons and pastor. When decisions need made, they are presented to the congregation for a vote. The people of our church get to make decisions about what missionaries to support and how much money to send them. We get to decide which Sunday school supplies should be purchased. We decide on church building projects. We decide whether or not we want to have youth activities or Vacation Bible School. No one outside of our church makes us do any of those things. We are self-governing. We have autonomy in our own church.

It is important to remember that Jesus Christ is

the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; Colossians 1:18). Since He is the Head, the absolute authority, He should be trusted to control everything in a church. Neither the leadership of a local church nor the congregation has the right to take the church where they want to go. They have the responsibility to learn where Christ wants the church to go and head in that direction. A church learns what to do by praying for guidance. Then a church must do the work they believe Christ has told it to do.

What work does the Lord want His church to be doing? A simple one-word answer is this: Serving. There are many ways to serve in the Lord's House. However, many Christians only want to serve self. A church full of self-serving members will soon be full of arguing, grumbling, lazy Christians. That kind of church does not bring any glory to God at all! Jesus was our example in serving others. Since He is the Head of the church, then we should each learn to serve as Jesus served. He served God, His Father, and He served others.

We have individual freedom for our church. However, with freedom comes responsibility. We have a responsibility to serve our church and the people in it just as Christ served the church. What are some ways that grown-ups serve in the church? (Teachers, choir members, deacons, greeters, secretaries, song leaders, custodians, nursery workers, bus route workers). Now, what are some ways that you can serve in the church, even as a young person? You can be an attentive student. Did you know that when you listen carefully to the teacher, you are serving? When a teacher prepares and presents a lesson, that is one way to serve. But when you listen to the lesson and then apply that lesson, you are also serving. When a song leader and piano player lead the congregation in a song, they are serving. But when you join in the singing, then you are also serving in the church. When you are faithful to come each week, you are serving God with your attendance. When you give money for the offering that is another way to serve. You also serve your church when you tell others about Christ and invite them to know Him.

Autonomy of the local church means that it is

free to govern itself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Each church decides how it will worship, who the leaders will be, and what the church will do. Each church is responsible to listen for and follow God's will for that church. Christ is the only ruler of a church. He is Lord.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. To illustrate autonomy, or the lack of, ask the students: "For our Bible review game today, should we play Lightning Strike, or Ants? Let's take a vote." Go through the process of voting. When you are ready to announce the winner, stop, look at a piece of paper and announce: "I am sorry, boys and girls. The Headquarters from far-away-from-here sent me this note saying that we will never have games in church again." Now, take time to explain that autonomy of the local church means that decisions are made within the church, not from an outside, far-away headquarters. Each church has the right of self-rule.

2. Use a puppet or a marionette to illustrate outside governance. "When I want this puppet to move, I move it using my arms and hands. If I want the puppet to talk, then I use my mouth and my words. I just move the puppet to go along with my voice. Some churches have a headquarters or council that makes all the decisions for churches in its area. One person may write a sermon and send it to all of the preachers in that area. The preachers are no more than puppets on the hands of a puppeteer. Baptists believe that each pastor knows what is best for the people in his congregation. We believe that God gives the pastor the message He wants His children to hear."

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. What does autonomy mean? (self-governing or self-ruling)
2. Who is the head of the church? (Jesus Christ)
3. Does anyone outside of the church make decisions for the church? (no)
4. What is one word that describes what we should be doing in our church? (serving)
5. Name one way that you can serve in your church as a young person. (answers will vary)

Write additional review questions here:

Red, White and Blue

The following game is used with permission from "I Can't Wait Till Sunday Morning!" by Ed Dunlop.

Making the Game

Make 3 copies of pages 78-80. Copy one of each page on red cardstock, one of each page on white cardstock and one of each page on blue cardstock.

Playing the Game

Scatter the 36 stars at random across a table or fastened to a wall. Choose a student to be the Starter for the game. That student will be responsible for the signal for the other students to respond to the questions. The signal can be a bell, piano chord, or the words "Go!" or "Now!" Choose a game Spotter. The Spotter can be a student or an adult worker. The Spotter will be responsible for determining who will answer the Bible review questions. Explain the Bible Review Game rules.

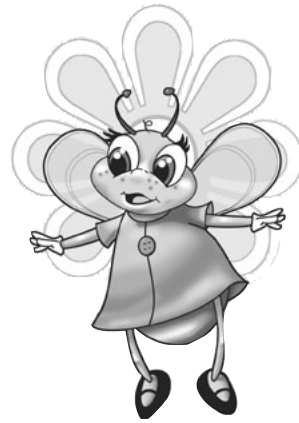
"I will ask a question from today's lesson. If you know the answer, do not say anything out loud! Instead, wait until the Starter gives the signal. Once you hear the signal, jump to your feet, but again, do not say anything. The Spotter will call on the person that jumped to their feet the fastest. If you answer the question correctly, you will come to the front of the room and play Red, White and Blue."

"Today's game is called Red, White and Blue. When you answer a question correctly, you will automatically win 50 points for your team. Next, you will come to the board and choose a star. On the back of your star we will find a number: 100, 200 or 300. But before your team gets the points, you have to guess the number. If you guess correctly, your team gets those points. If you guess wrong, no points. But if your star has Bonus on the back, you receive the number of points that you guessed, whether you said 100, 200 or 300.

"Each player who comes to the board gets to choose three stars, which means that you have three chances to score points for your team. Is the Starter ready? Is the Spotter ready? Are the students ready? Then let's play Red, White and Blue!"

PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

Glow Jr. Devotionals: July 21-27



THEME VERSE: II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

CHARACTER FOCUS: Every believer has personal access to God

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice

Let's Get Glowing

What Comes After

Equipment: One beach ball

Instructions: The leader asks a question that begins, "What comes after . . . ?" Next, throw the ball to a student to answer. Only the student with the ball is allowed to give an answer (no shouting out answers). After the student answers, he or she will throw the ball back to the leader, who will ask another question.

This is a good way to review books of the Bible, "What comes after Psalms?" For young children, reviewing simple concepts such as letters, numbers or days of the week is also effective.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *I Will Enter His Gates*

Sing *When I Get to Heaven*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Behold, What Manner of Love*

→
*Robert Raikes and the Beginning
of Sunday School*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Part Three

Robert Raikes waited expectantly for the children to come to the new school the first Sunday, but only a few boys came.

"Marty, why don't more of the children come to Sunday school?" he asked the little red-haired boy with freckles.

Marty looked down. "Cuz our clothes ain't no good," he answered.

"Now I understand," answered Robert. "Well, you tell your friends that all they need is a clean face and combed hair, okay, Marty?"

Marty smiled, "You're nice."

Robert squatted down beside him. "I'll tell you what, Marty, I think you're nice, too. Here's a penny for coming to class today. If you work very hard and learn your lessons, you'll get a special reward."

"Really?" asked Marty, his sparkling eyes fixed on the candy Robert held in his hand. "I'll do my very best!"

Robert maintained his promise that those who worked hard would be rewarded for their efforts. Besides offering candy and coins, he allowed some of the boys to become monitors for the other learners. Mrs. Meredith, the schoolmistress, trained the older boys, who, in turn, trained the younger. Robert would reward the hard work of the older boys with items such as new shoes and coats.

For the first few years, emphasis was placed on reading and writing. The Bible was used as a textbook for learning but not necessarily for behavioral reform. William Fox, a friend of Robert's, began helping at the Sunday school. It was his idea to start teaching Bible lessons and doctrines.

"Do you really think the children will respond?" asked a frustrated Mrs. Meredith. "These children are so full of mischief and disrespect. It is all I can do to keep order, even when Mr. Raikes does apply the cane."

"Mrs. Meredith," William replied, "The Bible has the power to change the worst of sinners. Believe in its truth and transforming power."

William's prediction became truth. The boys responded. The school became a more orderly and productive place. Robert Raikes decided to even allow girls to begin attending. (They were not allowed before because of the distraction they caused as the boys tried to show off. Even then, they held class in separate rooms.)

It didn't take long until Robert Raikes and Reverend Thomas Stock had 100 children ages 6 to 14 attending their Sunday schools. Even though the children were taught only one day a week, their behavior began to improve. Now they had something to look forward to after working so hard every day.

The city's policemen told Robert that the children weren't stealing and fighting like before. Some of the boys worked at a factory that produced flax and hemp. Their boss, Mr. Church, showed up at Sunday school one Sunday. Mr. Raikes was concerned. He thought that the boys had done something wrong. "Oh, no," replied Mr. Church. "I just wanted to know what you were doing that would change the boys so drastically. In my opinion, you have transformed them from the shape of wolves and tigers to that of men."

Robert was pleased and proud of his boys. He decided it was time to tell the public about Sunday schools. He printed an article in the Gloucester Journal. Robert had seen what a difference the Sunday schools could make in the lives of boys and girls. But how would the rest of England respond? Only time would tell.

Verse for the Month

II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

 **Light My Path**

Write the memory verse on a dry erase board or overhead projector. Read the verse two or three times with the students. Begin erasing or covering words or parts of words. Continue reciting the whole verse until all of the words are no longer visible.

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: The next Baptist distinctive we are going to talk about is the priesthood of the believers.

Guest: Do you have it with you? Where is it?

Leader: Where is what?

Guest: The hood that belongs to the priests, like the really old Bible priests. A hood is like a hat right?

Leader: I don't have a hood with me, just a lesson.

Guest: Oh, I really wanted to try on the priest hood. Are you sure you didn't bring one?

Leader: I'm sure, just a lesson about Christians who have personal access to God.

Guest: So a priesthood is not a hat?

Leader: That's right, and if you will sit down, I will tell you what I really mean.

 **Build the Fire**
P: Priesthood of the Believer

In the Old Testament, priests were special people who represented God to the people, and represented the people to God. God selected Aaron and his descendents to serve as Israel's priest. Aaron, the high priest, wore fine linen robes of white, blue, purple, and scarlet. Pure gold, beaten into fine wires, was woven into the robes. Bells of gold hung along the hem. His outfit was magnificent and every piece symbolized something special and important. (See Leviticus 16 for full details.)

Aaron's sons, and the many priests who succeeded them, did God's work in the first tabernacle, of Holy Place. Aaron and the other high priests also entered the second tabernacle, or the Most Holy Place, on the annual Day of Atonement to apply the blood to the Ark of the Covenant's mercy seat.

When the people of Israel did wrong, the priest helped them ask God for forgiveness. The priest then helped the people know that God had forgiven them. The priest helped the people know how they should live for God. But God did not intend for this priesthood and ritual to be permanent. The furniture, the rituals and even the priesthood were only there to represent the spiritual truth that would be realized in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ came to earth to offer Himself, once for all, for the sins of the world. This sacrifice of the perfect Son of God paid for all humanity's sins for all time. Mark 15:37-38 tell us that when Jesus died on the cross, "the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom." It is referring to the curtain that separated the Holy place from the Holy of Holies. Jesus' death had opened a new and living way to God. Jesus made it possible for every believer to be a priest.

As a priest, you can pray to God for yourself. Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." We no longer need a priest to go to God on our behalf. We can approach God boldly, as His children. We can talk to God and tell Him our worries and our cares. We can ask Him to help us. We can spend time thanking Him and praising Him for His goodness and blessings to us.

As a priest, you can ask for forgiveness from God for yourself. I John 1:9 tells us, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." We do not have to ask another

person to talk to God for us. We do not have to confess our sins to anyone but God. We do not have to sacrifice animals to get forgiveness. Jesus was the perfect sacrifice. His blood paid the price for all sin. We can confess our sins to God. He promises to forgive our sins, and cleanse us from unrighteousness.

As a priest, you can read the Bible for yourself and learn what it means. II Timothy 3:15 says, "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." As a Christian, the Holy Spirit lives inside you. One of His duties is to help you understand what you read in the Bible (I Corinthians 2:10-13). The Spirit teaches you as you read God's Word. You do not need another man to interpret the Bible for you.

Being a priest also brings responsibilities. The Old Testament priests offered animal sacrifices. What sacrifices do Christians offer? I Peter 2:5 says that we should "... offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." What are these spiritual sacrifices? Hebrews 13:15-16 announce, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name... for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Praising God, giving thanks to His name, is a spiritual sacrifice. Doing good works is also a spiritual sacrifice. Jesus Himself went about doing good (Acts 10:38). See also Titus 2:14, Ephesians 2:10, Galatians 6:10, and Acts 9:36. Many scriptures speak of sharing with the needy (Ephesians 4:28, II Corinthians 9:6, Luke 6:38, and Philippians 4:14-15, 18). There is also the sacrifice of the believer's body. Romans 12:1 tells us to "present your bodies a living sacrifice." Although living for God begins in the heart and mind, it becomes a reality through physical actions.

If you born again, God has appointed you as His priest. Priesthood comes with privileges. We can approach God boldly as His children. Priesthood also comes with responsibilities. We are to offer God the sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving, doing good works and submitting our bodies to His service.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Bring a blanket or large paper to hang or have two volunteers hold up at the corners. Choose one person to be God and stand on the back side of the blanket. Choose another person to be the high priest. Give the high priest a stuffed animal and tell him to take it to God on the other side of the blanket. Have God give the high priest a message to deliver to the people. Continue sending the high priest back and forth. This represents the Old Testament relationship of God to His people. Now, take down the blanket. Anyone can talk to God. God can give His message directly to His people. This represents our relationship to God after Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

2. If available, find something written in a different language. Greek or Hebrew would be most appropriate. Show student the writing. Ask if anyone can read and interpret what it says. Now show students the same phrase in English. Have someone read it. It is possible to understand it because that student knows how to read. They understand the language. When we read the Bible, even though the words are in English, it is still difficult to understand sometimes. But as born-again believers, we have God's Holy Spirit in us. He can interpret the spiritual truths of the Bible to our spiritual soul. Priesthood of the believers means that we can read the Bible for ourselves and understand God's message to us.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. Who did God appoint as the first High Priest? (Aaron)
2. What was in the second tabernacle, where only the high priest could enter? (the ark of the covenant/the holy of Holies)
3. What happened to the temple veil when Christ died? (it was torn in two from top to bottom)
4. Why don't we need animal sacrifices anymore? (Jesus was the perfect sacrifice)
5. Name something that we sacrifice now. (praise, thanksgiving, good works, bodies)

Write additional review questions here:

Red, White and Blue

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"I will ask a question from today's lesson. If you know the answer, do not say anything out loud! Instead, wait until the Starter gives the signal. Once you hear the signal, jump to your feet, but again, do not say anything. The Spotter will call on the person that jumped to their feet the fastest. If you answer the question correctly, you will come to the front of the room and play Red, White and Blue."

"Today's game is called Red, White and Blue. When you answer a question correctly, you will automatically win 50 points for your team. Next, you will come to the board and choose a star. On the back of your star we will find a number: 100, 200 or 300. But before your team gets the points, you have to guess the number. If you guess correctly, your team gets those points. If you guess wrong, no points. But if your star has Bonus on the back, you receive the number of points that you guessed, whether you said 100, 200 or 300.

"Each player who comes to the board gets to choose three stars, which means that you have three chances to score points for your team. Is the Starter ready? Is the Spotter ready? Are the students ready? Then let's play Red, White and Blue!"

TWO ORDINANCES

Glow Jr. Devotionals: July 28-August 3



THEME VERSE: II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"

CHARACTER FOCUS: Baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice

Let's Get Glowing

The Obedience Game

Equipment: None

Instructions: This game is played like 'Simon Says.' All students will do everything that the 'Authority' says to do. Any authority in children's lives will work. 'Mother says...', 'Father says...', 'Pastor says...' or 'Teacher says...' all work well. Children will obey the commands to hop on one foot, put your hands on your head, etc., only if the authority says. If the leader gives a command without adding '[authority] says...' the students should not obey that command. If students obey when they are not supposed to, or if they do not obey when they are supposed to, they are out and must sit down.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N*

Sing *Let's Talk About Jesus*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Thank You, Lord*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Part Four

Interest grew once the article about Sunday schools was published in the Gloucester Journal. Robert Raikes

had many prominent men visiting his school for poor ruffians, taught by volunteer laymen. How could anything so unconventional have such outstanding results?

One such visitor was noted preacher John Wesley. During his visit, he witnessed children reading, writing, and studying the Bible. The amazing thing was that these children only received education one day a week: at Sunday school. They also received their education free because Robert Raikes paid for everything they needed. "I think," Wesley said, "these Sunday schools are one of the noblest specimens of charity which have been set on foot in England since William the Conqueror."

One Sunday, Robert and his partner, Thomas Stock, walked up the street to the Sunday school building. Thomas said, "Robert, your father would be proud of what you've done with his newspaper. He'd be proud of your Sunday schools, too, although you know--everyone is calling you 'Bobby Wild Goose and his ragged regiment.'"

Robert laughed. "I've been called worse names than 'Wild Goose,' I think."

Robert looked around at the hundreds of children now attending his Sunday school, and his face grew quite serious. "Thomas, my father died, and his father before him died. One day, we will grow old and die, too. But the world won't die with us. The world marches forth on the feet of little children. I have learned that to change the world, you must reach the children."

Robert Raikes and the Beginning of Sunday School

Thomas patted his friend on the back. "So it seems, Robert. So it seems."

This was the birth of the Sunday School. When Robert Raikes died in 1811, an estimated 400,000 people attended Sunday schools in Great Britain. There were also several hundred Sunday schools in the United States. All emphasized Biblical instruction over reading and writing. However, most taught secular subjects as a means of drawing children and young people to the Word of God. D. L. Moody was one of the outstanding Sunday school workers of the late 1800s. In less than one year, Moody and his assistants organized schools in all 102 counties of Illinois. D. L. Moody had used volunteer church members and their wagons to pick up children and bring them to Sunday school. In the 1960s, Jack Hyles, a Baptist pastor in Indiana, introduced the idea of churches purchasing used school buses to go out and pick up children to be brought in for Sunday school.

Robert Raikes invested his time and money in the lives of children. His efforts impacted the lives of many children in Gloucester. Not only that, his idea for a Sunday school established a pattern that can be seen in our modern Sunday schools as well as our free public school systems. He loved the unlovely. He gave with no thought of reward. When he could not repair the lives of the adults, he decided to build the lives of boys and girls around the truths of the Bible.

Light My Path

Write the verse on inflated balloons that are tacked to a bulletin board, one or two words per balloon. Read the verse through once. Use a pin, and perhaps a student volunteer to pop one balloon. Reread the verse. Continue popping balloons and reciting the verse until all the balloons are popped.

Verse for the Month

II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"



Spark Their Interest

Leader: Today, we will talk about the two ordinances of Baptists.

Guest: Orders? I know what two things Baptists order. They always order fried chicken and biscuits.

Leader: No, not orders like at a restaurant. Ordinances. They are symbols that represent Baptists.

Guest: Oh, right. You must be talking about the pillow that Grandma puts in her pew. That's the symbol that she will sit there every service.

Leader: Fried chicken and pew pillows are not Bible or Baptist ordinances.

Guest: Then I guess I don't know what an ordinance is.

Leader: If you will sit down and listen, then I will teach you about them.



Build the Fire

T: Two Ordinances-Baptism and the Lord's Supper
As we've explore what Baptists believe, we learned that the B in Baptist represented Biblical authority. A represented the Autonomy of the Local Church. P stood for Priesthood of the Believer. The next letter in the word Baptists is T. Our topic for today is Two Ordinances. An ordinance is a ceremony or practice that someone in authority has ordered. Jesus, by His authority, instructed His followers to practice two symbolic ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are symbols (pictures) that have special meaning. They tell others what Christians believe about Jesus.

Why is baptism important? Baptism identifies a person with Jesus Christ. It does not give salvation. It does not wash away sin. Only the blood of Jesus will cleanse you from sin. It is by God's grace that we are saved, through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). Salvation comes first, then baptism. The book of Acts records this pattern often (Acts 2:41; 8:12-13; 15:16; 15:31, 33-34).

How should one be baptized? The example of Jesus' baptism shows that immersion, being put all the way under the water, is the mode of baptism (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; John 3:23). Baptists immerse because that is what the word "baptize" means in the New Testament. In the original Greek, the word is baptizo. It means "to dip, to sink to submerge or to immerse." It was a word used in many everyday contexts for such things as dying cloth by dipping it into dye, or dipping

a cup into the liquid or even of the sinking of ships. Immersion is the truest picture of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When should one be baptized? After salvation. In the New Testament, people were baptized after becoming disciples, after receiving the word about forgiveness of sins, after believing the good news and after believing in the Lord. Baptism follows saving faith. Baptism is for believers.

Is baptism mandatory or optional? The Scripture declares that it is mandatory. Jesus included baptism in the Great Commission. He commanded: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19). The Commission requires us to make disciples of people around the world, to baptize them, and to teach them to obey the Lord's commands.

Another symbolic ordinance is the Lord's Supper. At the first Lord's Supper, during the Passover, Jesus did something that the disciples and all of His followers in the future would always remember. First, Jesus picked up a whole loaf of bread. He then broke it and gave it to the disciples. He prayed. "And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20).

The bread symbolized the Lord's body. Bread was a fitting symbol for the body of Christ. Earlier in His ministry Jesus spoke of Himself as the Bread of Life, Who came down from Heaven to give life to the world (John 6). On the day after the Last Supper — the first communion service — He sacrificed His body to take away the sin of the world. Christ established bread as a visual reminder of the once-for-all sacrifice of His body for sin.

On the night of the first communion service, Christ said: "This cup is the new testament in my blood" (1 Corinthians 11:25). Again, He was speaking symbolically. He did not mean that the cup contained His actual blood. The cup symbolized the blood that He would shed.

In today's churches, we participate in the Lord's Supper together. Another name we sometimes use is communion. Perhaps you have been in a communion service and wondered what it was all about.

Why do we have Communion? Communion, or the

Lord's Supper, is a way for us to remember what Jesus did for us. Communion is when we join together to remember how Jesus sacrificed for us by dying on the cross. Communion is also called the Lord's Supper because we eat together at church just like Jesus did with His disciples the night before He died. Jesus told us we should continue to eat this special meal of bread and wine (or grape juice) to always remember Him. The bread reminds us of Jesus' body, and the juice reminds us of His blood. Jesus gave His body and His blood away when He died for our sins. He did this to take the punishment we all deserve so that we won't have to be punished when we die, but will go to Heaven with Him. 1 Corinthians 11:26 tells us that as often as we eat of the bread and drink the cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

Who participates in Communion? The Lord's Supper is for saved, baptized believers of the church. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we do so as a body of believers, communally. As one, we recognize Jesus' sacrifice and what it means to us. The Lord's Supper is not how you get saved, but it is for those who are saved.

How should we behave during Communion? When we receive communion, we should be very thoughtful. It's not a time to be silly or to talk to other people. It's a time to pray and thank God for His love and for sending His Son Jesus for us. It's a special time of worship and remembering. In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:17-34), he tells the church to make sure they are taking communion in the right way and in a way that is worthy of Him. He encourages them to take a careful look at themselves before they eat and drink (v.28). This call to examine ourselves and bring before God anything we need to confess is an important part of preparing ourselves to receive communion. We are then able to receive Jesus' gifts of bread and juice with thanksgiving, knowing that our sins are forgiven.

The bread and the juice in the Lord's Supper are not really Jesus' body and blood. They are symbols to remind us of what Jesus did for us. They help us remember that Jesus died for the sins of all people. Jesus gave His life so that all who trust in Him as

Lord will be saved. The Lord's Supper does not save a person. Instead, it is a reminder of the sacrifice that was necessary for our salvation. Saved and baptized believers are encouraged to participate in the Lord's Supper as often as your church observes it. The Bible is not specific about when or how often the Lord's Supper is to be observed. However, Jesus made it very clear that, "this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me."

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances that Baptist churches observe. Baptism symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus, and it identifies new believers with Jesus. The Lord's Supper symbolizes the sacrificial death, the body and the blood, of Jesus Christ. We do these ordinances in remembrance of Jesus.

Fan the Flames

1. Use a wedding ring to talk about baptism. During a wedding ceremony, the bride and groom exchange vows and give each other wedding rings. The wedding rings symbolize their marriage to each other. Putting on a wedding ring does not mean you are married. Taking it off does not mean you are un-married. The ring is a symbol that represents the promise that the bride and groom made to each other. It is a visual reminder of the covenant, or vow, that was made at their wedding. In the same way, baptism represents the covenant between God and you that occurred at your salvation. Baptism is not salvation. However, it is a visual reminder to others of the death, burial and resurrection of Christ which took away your sin.

2. Bring pictures of a vacation or special occasion to share with the class. "I enjoy looking at these pictures. They remind me of a special place I visited. It was a once-in-a-lifetime trip. I will probably never get to go there again. But each time I look at the pictures, it is as if I were there once more. Pictures are a good reminder for me." Then explain that the Lord's Supper is a way of remembering the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We were not there for the event. But the bread and juice serve as reminders of what Christ did for us. Each time we take the Lord's Supper, we should remember Christ's work on the cross and our own salvation. We do this to remember Him.

Write additional review questions here:

Making the Game

Make 3 copies of pages 78-80. Copy one of each page on red cardstock, one of each page on white cardstock and one of each page on blue cardstock.



Fire Off the Answers

1. What is an ordinance? (a ceremony or practice)
2. By what method is one to be baptized? (immersion)
3. What does baptism represent? (the death, burial and resurrection of Christ)
4. What two elements are in the Lord's Supper? (bread and juice)
5. What do they each represent? (the body and blood of Jesus)

Red, White and Blue

The following game is used with permission from "I Can't Wait Till Sunday Morning!" by Ed Dunlop.

Playing the Game

Scatter the 36 stars at random across a table or fastened to a wall. Choose a student to be the Starter for the game. That student will be responsible for the signal for the other students to respond to the questions. The signal can be a bell, piano chord, or the words "Go!" or "Now!" Choose a game Spotter. The Spotter can be a student or an adult worker. The Spotter will be responsible for determining who will answer the Bible review questions. Explain the Bible Review Game rules.

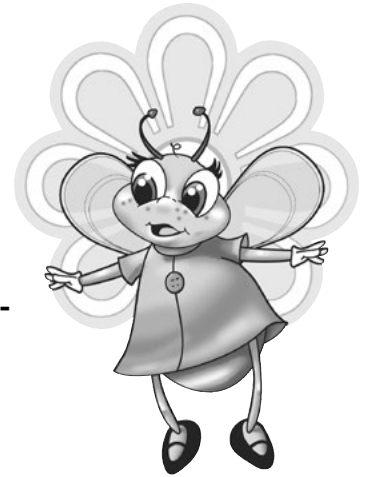
"I will ask a question from today's lesson. If you know the answer, do not say anything out loud! Instead, wait until the Starter gives the signal. Once you hear the signal, jump to your feet, but again, do not say anything. The Spotter will call on the person that jumped to their feet the fastest. If you answer the question correctly, you will come to the front of the room and play Red, White and Blue."

"Today's game is called Red, White and Blue. When you answer a question correctly, you will automatically win 50 points for your team. Next, you will come to the board and choose a star. On the back of your star we will find a number: 100, 200 or 300. But before your team gets the points, you have to guess the number. If you guess correctly, your team gets those points. If you guess wrong, no points. But if your star has Bonus on the back, you receive the number of points that you guessed, whether you said 100, 200 or 300.

"Each player who comes to the board gets to choose three stars, which means that you have three chances to score points for your team. Is the Starter ready? Is the Spotter ready? Are the students ready? Then let's play Red, White and Blue!"

INDIVIDUAL SOUL LIBERTY

Glow Jr. Devotionals: August 4-10



THEME VERSE: II Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

CHARACTER FOCUS: Each person is accountable for himself

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice

Let's Get Glowing

Pattern Play-Back

Equipment: None

Instructions: The leader begins a simple pattern, like 'clap, snap, clap, snap'. Students watch and join the leader when they have figured out the pattern. When the leader thinks all students have that pattern, change the pattern. Make it harder each time. Examples: clap, clap, snap; snap, clap, stomp; stomp, stomp, snap, clap.

Variation: Begin with one action. Students repeat. Add an action. Students repeat both. Add a third. Students repeat. (Imagine the game 'Simon' only the leader gives the pattern.) See how many actions you can do before students can no longer repeat.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *If You're Saved and You Know It*

Sing *Obedience*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *In My Life, Be Glorified*

The Bible School Truck
From *A World of Treasure*
Written By V. Ben Kendrick, a
veteran missionary who went
home to be with the Lord in July
2009.

Torch Bearer's Tales

The green pickup truck slowly came to a stop beneath the blossoming mango tree. A young African boy, followed by several companions, ran swiftly across the village toward the vehicle.

“Hello, Mr. Missionary! May I have a ride in your truck?”

The skinny, poorly-clad youngster stood looking up at the white man whose face was framed in the cab window. A smile covered the missionary's face.

“I'll tell you what I'll do...uh...”

“Kondo,” spoke the lad. “My name is Kondo.”

“Thank you, Kondo. My name is Pastor Winters. I want all of you to listen carefully to what I have to say.”

As the missionary spoke, Kondo and his friends crowded up close to hear every word.

“At the mission station this week, we have something special. It's called Vacation Bible School. If any of you come the entire week without missing one day, I promise you a ride in the truck.”

The children clapped their hands and shouted. Other children playing nearby joined the group to see what was going on.

“You mean any of us can come?” asked Kondo.

“You are all invited,” answered the missionary.

“The promise is for all of you.”

As soon as the truck left the village, Kondo called the children together. “I am inviting all of you to go with me tomorrow to Bible school. We

will leave when the sun is that high over the hill." He pointed to a rise where the sun appeared each morning.

The next day, the little grass-roofed church building was filled with the chatter of voices. Betty Winters was surprised to find her class doubled overnight.

"Good morning," she called in her pleasant voice. "It's nice to see so many new faces."

Kondo felt nervous even though he knew most of the kids in the class. Hesitantly, he raised his hand to get the teacher's attention.

"Yes, what is it?" she asked, looking over at the new boy.

Kondo stood up. He was surprised to find his knees shaking. His high-pitched voice showed his nervousness.

"Mr. Winters invited us to come to Bible school. He stopped in our village yesterday. When I asked him for a ride in his truck, he said he would give a ride to anyone who would attend classes the rest of the week without missing. All but six kids came from my village."

"Oh, wonderful," exclaimed the teacher. "We are so glad you are here. What is your name?"

"My name is Kondo, Mrs. Winters."

"Welcome to all of you," Mrs. Winters said, smiling. "I'm so happy to see you today."

The children were all excited about their new adventure. They talked and laughed all the way back to their village.

Meanwhile, Betty Winters was very happy back on the mission station, too. "Just think, Bud, Kondo brought thirty children with him. He said there were only six others left in the village, and they might come, too, before the week is over."

The young wife's eyes filled with tears as she spoke. "And listen to this! Kondo and eight others accepted the Lord as their Savior after class."

"That's wonderful!" responded Bud. "And to think, before today, we couldn't get anyone from that village to come to church. I'm so glad I stopped yesterday. I remember reading that D. L. Moody had what he called his Sunday school pony. The children who came to Sunday school got a ride on the pony."

Verse for the Month

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

"I'm sure the Lord will bless this effort. That boy, Kondo, is a natural leader among the children."

"He seems to be a real worker, too," added Bud. "I hope I'll have a lot of rides to give on Saturday."

"I hope you do, too," said his wife laughing.

 **Light My Path**

Teach a puppet the verse. Have students tell the verse to a puppet 'visitor.' Each time the children tell the verse, the puppet repeats it back, but incorrectly and silly. For example, "A good game is rather to be frozen than great fishes." Continue teaching the puppet until you feel like the children know the verse. Make sure you finish with everyone saying the verse correctly.

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: Today's topic is about how each person has the right to choose...

Guest: I like choices. Especially if it is a choice between chocolate or vanilla ice cream. Or, maybe a choice between staying in bed all day or playing in the snow.

Leader: The kind of choice we are talking about is more important than ice cream or play time.

Guest: Really? What's more important than that? Oh, I know. You must be talking about the choice between Coca-cola and Pepsi.

Leader: Not at all. The choice I am talking about is the choice that we each must make about God. Will you choose to accept Him or choose to reject Him?

Guest: Oh, I think I need to hear more about this before I can answer. How about if I sit down and listen to the lesson?

Leader: That is a very good choice.

 **Build the Fire**

I: Individual Soul Liberty Lesson

Have you ever invited a friend to come to church with you? Perhaps your friend asked this question, "What makes your church different from other churches?"

Did you know what to say? Do you actually know what makes a Baptist church different from other churches? We have been using the letters in the word BAPTISTS to learn some Baptist distinctives. Let's review what we've learned so far. B represented Biblical Authority. A is for Autonomy of the local church. P is for the Priesthood of the believer. T represents the Two Ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The next letter is I. The letter I is for Individual Soul Liberty.

Individual Soul Liberty is the distinctive belief that every individual, whether a believer or an unbeliever, has the freedom to choose what is right in religious matters. No one should be forced to agree with or deny any doctrine. God has given each person the ability to choose to follow Him. God does not force anyone to become a Christian. However, each person will have to stand before God and give an account of their choices to Him. Romans 14:12 says, "So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." II Corinthians 5:10 says, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Baptists believe that no church has the right to force someone to follow their beliefs.

Baptists teach to convince people of the truth, and to warn them about the eternal consequences of rejecting God. We pray for God to change their hearts and minds. But we do not persecute anyone because of his beliefs.

The apostle Paul preached the gospel clearly and effectively. He spoke truth. He announced the good news. He proclaimed the message of salvation. He spoke boldly, in spite of opposition. He served as a messenger for God. Yet Paul never tried to force his audience to accept the gospel message. He understood that each member of his audience was free to choose for himself, so he tried to convince his listeners of the truth of the gospel.

Acts 17:32-34 tells us that after Paul had presented the gospel to a group, "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him,

and believed." Of the people that listened to Paul, there were three reactions. First, some people mocked. They laughed at him or made fun of him. Another group of people said, "We will hear thee again of this matter." They wanted to think about it a little longer. Maybe they wanted to talk to other people and find out more information. Perhaps they just were not ready to make a decision. Finally, though, some people "clave unto him, and believed." Some of the people wanted to stay close to Paul. They believed on Jesus because of what Paul had taught them.

You will be accountable for what you do with the gospel. What will we do when we have heard the truth of the gospel? Will we mock and make fun of it? Will we say that we need more time? Or will we believe right away? Individual soul liberty means that we each must make the choice for ourselves. Romans 14:11 tells us, "For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." You are at liberty to choose or to reject God. But you will be accountable for your choice.

You will be accountable for what you say. Matthew 12:36 says, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." You have liberty to say any words you want to. However, you will be judged by what you say. With liberty, comes responsibility.

You will be accountable for your deeds and actions. Revelation 20:12 says, "...and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." You have liberty to choose your own actions. However, you will also be held responsible for all you have done.

Individual Soul Liberty means that each person has the opportunity to choose or reject God. No one will be forced to become a Christian or a Baptist. But remember, each person will be held accountable for his or her choice about God. Each person will be accountable for every word they have spoken. And each person will be accountable for every deed they have done. Yes, it is true that you have the liberty to choose, but with that liberty comes great responsibility.

Fan the Flames

1. If you have one, bring a check-book register or accounting ledger. Explain that when a person or a business spends money, they have to write down everything they spend. If they did not do this, they could run out of money without knowing why. The job of an accountant is to keep track of all the money spent by a business. If there is a member of your congregation that is an accountant, consider inviting them to class. In the same way that an accountant keeps track of money, God keeps track of our deeds and actions. We will be required to 'give an account' of those deeds someday.

2. Show a calendar to the class. Pick a day that has already passed. Ask a student, "What did you think about on Monday, ____ ____? What! You don't remember! OK, then, tell me what you said. You can't remember that, either?" Explain that when we give an account for our deeds, God will help us remember, and that nothing will go unnoticed. Now, show the class dates in the future. Remind them that we cannot change what has happened, but we can choose how we will live today and tomorrow.

Fire Off the Answers

1. What does the 'I' stand for in our Baptist distinctive list? (Individual Soul Liberty)
2. What does Individual soul liberty mean? (we each must choose God for ourselves)
3. When Paul preached the Gospel, what were the three reactions? (mocking, more time, believe)
4. What will you be accountable for? (whether you accept or reject God; your words; your actions)
5. Finish this sentence: With liberty comes great _____. (responsibility)

Write additional review questions here:

Hit the Mark

Prepare the Game: This game can be used by laying the game pieces on a table or fastening them to a board or wall. Make two or three copies of the game pieces on pages 81-83. Cut the pieces apart. If you plan to use the game on a table, copy the pieces on card stock or glue the pieces to squares of construction paper. To use the pieces on a board or wall, simply attach the pieces to the board before class and cover them with sticky-note paper.

Playing the Game: Ask a Bible review question. Give the signal (bell, whistle or "GO!"). Students desiring to answer will jump up, but remain quiet. The leader or designated 'spotter' calls on the student who was first to jump up. The student correctly answering the review question immediately earns 50 points for their team, then comes forward to play the game. That student will have three chances to score points for his or her team. The student chooses one of the target cards and guesses the number on the back of that card — 100, 300 or 500. The leader then turns the card over, revealing the number on the back. If the student's guess is correct, he or she receives the points for the team. If the guess is incorrect, no points are given. If the card turned over reveals a bulls-eye, the child automatically receives the number of points guessed, 100, 300 or 500. Each student chooses three targets on a turn, with the possibility of scoring on all three targets.

SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

Glow Jr. Devotionals: August 11-17

THEME VERSE: II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

CHARACTER FOCUS: God's Law has priority over man's law

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice



Let's Get Glowing

Bible Who-Am-I

Equipment: None

Instructions: Begin by saying, "I am thinking of a person who..." Give one vague descriptive clue of the person. Give children an opportunity to guess. Repeat the sentence and the clue, and add another clue. Make each clue more precise than the last. Give children a chance to guess after each new clue. Example: I am thinking of a person who... is a man... from the Old Testament... was a prophet... was running from God... got swallowed by a whale.

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Whose Side Are You Leaning On?*

Sing *King of Kings, Lord of Lords*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *He is Lord*

*The Bible School Truck
From A World of Treasure
Written By V. Ben Kendrick, a
veteran missionary who went
home to be with the Lord in July
2009.*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Part 2

The class buzzed like a bee hive as the children came every day. Not only did Kondo manage to get all but three of the children from his village, but he invited them from other villages as well. By the time Friday arrived, he had personally brought fifty-seven visitors to Vacation Bible School.

On the last day of Bible school, the children were surprised to see Mr. Winters come with his wife.

"I have asked Mr. Winters to read the names of those who earned a ride in the truck and to give you some instructions."

The children responded by clapping their hands. One by one, each child rose to his feet as his name was called.

"That's the last one," Bud said, folding the paper. "There are thirty-three in all."

The students listened carefully as he spoke. "Mrs. Winters tells me that this Bible school was the largest one we've ever had. We especially want to thank Kondo for all the hard work he has done in making this such a good week."

Bud hesitated a moment and then continued. "I am wondering if any of you would object if I gave everyone a ride tomorrow?"

The smiling faces showed approval. The missionary turned to Kondo. "Since you did the most work this week, Kondo, what do you think of my

suggestion?"

"You are very kind, Mr. Winters, to want to do that for all of us." As the lad spoke, the other children clicked their tongues to show their agreement.

"There is something in my heart which I want to say," continued the African boy. "I really don't need a ride in the truck tomorrow. You see, Mr. Winters, I've accepted Jesus as my Savior this week. I've also learned a lot about God's Word. You have done so much for us already, Mr. Winters. You don't have to give us a ride in the truck. You have more important things to do."

When Kondo finished speaking, the children shouted their approval of what he had said. A lump formed in Bud's throat. He realized the class was speaking out as one voice.

"Thank you, Kondo. I know your words come from your heart. However, Mrs. Winters and I really want to do something special for all of you. We want to give each of you a ride in the truck tomorrow, as well as a feast. The rides begin at nine o'clock. How does that sound?"

The response from the class was deafening. Kondo's heart nearly burst to see his friends so happy.

The next day, everyone was on time to begin the rides, and they shouted and squealed with delight. At noon, they all sat in the shade of the giant tree. Each one received a paper plate heaped with chicken, corn, and manioc. The smacking of lips was their tribal way of showing their delight at the good-tasting food.

Kondo sat beside the missionary couple. "This is a good day, Mr. and Mrs. Winters. And it all started with the promise of a ride in that truck over there."

The young African raised his skinny arm and pointed to the green pickup truck parked in the driveway.

"What is your truck's name, Mr. Winters?"

"It doesn't have a name, Kondo," responded the puzzled missionary.

"We give names to things that are special to us," said Kondo. "If your truck does not have a name, may I give it one?"

"Of course," answered the missionary. "What do you want to call it?"

Verse for the Month

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Kondo looked at the truck for a long time and finally smiled. "I know what we can call it." His face showed his excitement as he spoke. "Let's call it the Bible School Truck!"

"From what has happened this week," answered Betty, "it certainly has earned that name."

In the afternoon, the children headed back to their villages. Before leaving, Kondo shook hands with his missionary friends and walked over to the pickup. Bud and Betty stood in silence as they watched him. He patted the green truck on the hood.

"Thank you, Bible School Truck. Thank you for your good work this week. If it were not for you, I wouldn't be here."

The young lad then headed back to his village. In his heart, he was praying for the day when he could introduce his mother and father to his new Friend — Jesus.

 Light My Path

Mirror image

Write the verse backwards, so that you could only read it properly by looking at it through a mirror. (Ensure that the individual letters are written 'the wrong way round'). Get the children to try and read the verse.

 Spark Their Interest

Leader: Today we will be talking about the separation of church and state.

Guest: Was the state fighting with the church?

Leader: I don't think so. Why do you ask?

Guest: Well, when I'm in the car with my cousin Billy, and we start fighting, my grandma will look back with her serious eyes and say, "Don't make me separate you two." It always scares me to death; I don't even know what separation is. Grandma has to use a cane because she doesn't walk very well, but I bet she uses it to separate people.

Leader: I think your grandma sounds wonderful. What she means by separating you and your cousin is if you can't behave while you sit together, you should move away before he gets you into big trouble.

Guest: If being Separated means moving away from something bad, why did you say that the church should be separate from the state? We can't move the church building out of the state. Can we?

Leader: No, the building doesn't move, but the members of the church can stay away from trouble.

Guest: So is the church being bad or the state?

Leader: How about you go sit down and I'll teach the lesson?

Guest: Where should I sit?

Leader: Next to someone who will help you be good, so I don't have to separate you.

Build the Fire

S: Separation of Church and State

When God created people, God made them free to make their own choices. We discussed this last week. It is called Individual Soul Liberty. Baptists believe that each person has the right to worship God as he or she pleases. People also have the choice not to worship God at all. Also, people can choose whether or not they will read the Bible and pray. They can decide whether to accept or reject Christ as Lord and Savior. People, though, must answer to God for the choices they make.

Baptists want everyone to trust in Jesus, but they believe each person must decide for himself or herself whether to believe. We believe that all people should be free to worship as they please. We also believe that government should not make laws that keep people from worshipping as they choose, as long as they do not hurt other people. We believe government has no right to make people pay taxes to support a church or its work.

In some countries, the state (or government) controls the church. In other countries, the church controls the state. Other countries have a state church; that is, one religion is officially recognized and is often supported by government funds and influence. Whenever either the church or the state has power over the other, or when there is an alliance between the two, neither functions as God intended.

God instituted government and God instituted church. God created each for a purpose, but their purposes are not to interfere with the other. In 1 Peter 2:17, God tells us to "Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king." In Matthew 22:21, Jesus responds

to the Pharisees "... then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things which are God's." Jesus explained that both the church and the government had authority and is to be obeyed, but each is separate.

In Acts 5:17-29, we see what we are to do when the laws of government disagree with the laws of God. The apostles had been jailed for preaching Christ. But God delivered them from prison and told them, through His angel, to continue their preaching. The next morning they returned to the temple and resumed teaching the message of the Gospel. They were once again arrested and brought before the council. The high priest asked, "Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name?"

The apostles replied: "We ought to obey God rather than men." The apostles' statement acknowledges the existence of the two realms of authority — God's and man's. It also shows what a believer must do when the state demands that he disobey God: he must obey God rather than man.

Throughout their history, Baptists have had a leading role in advancing the cause of religious liberty. Largely due to the efforts of Baptists and others of similar views, we enjoy religious freedom in the United States. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution tells us that Congress should not pass laws that will keep people from worshipping as they please. Some Baptists in early American history worked hard for this right. They were willing even to be persecuted in order to have the freedom to worship.

Before there was freedom of religion, Roger Williams and John Clarke came to America from England. They organized the first Baptist churches in America. They kept trying to win the right for people to worship as they please. It took them many years, but they never gave up. The settlements in Rhode Island — Providence, Portsmouth, and Newport — became the most democratic communities in the world at that time. The risks these two men took paved the way years later for religious freedom to be included in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the United States.

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Would a Boy Scout Leader try to tell a 4-H group how to conduct a meeting? Would a Band Director try to lead a boys' soccer team? No! Every group and organization has to have leaders. Leadership is important so that the group can fulfill the purpose for which it was created. Problems happen when leadership from one group tries to rule over a different group. That is why early Americans worked so hard to ensure the separation of church and government. Each group has a job, but it is not the job of one to tell the other how to conduct its business.

2. Bring two board games. Ask for a group of volunteers to play board game #1. Ask for another group to play board game #2. Then pull out the directions. Give team #1 the directions for game #2. Give team #2 the directions for game #1. Tell them to set up the board according to the directions they were given. Will it work? Not at all. The same is true for government and church. God's laws and man's laws each have specific purposes. Sometime those laws are similar. They might even have some of the same elements (game pieces). However, they function best when they remain separated and are allowed to govern the areas that they were designed to instruct.

 **Fire Off the Answers**

1. Baptists believe in separation of what two organizations? (church and state)
2. What did Jesus say we should give to Caesar? (that which is Caesar's)
3. How did the apostles respond when the government told them to stop preaching? (we ought to obey God rather than man)
4. What part of our Constitution guarantees religious freedom? (the First Amendment)
5. Name one of the early colonists that fought for freedom of religion? (John Clarke and Roger Williams)

Write additional review questions here:

Hit the Mark

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TWO OFFICES OF THE CHURCH

Glow Jr. Devotionals: August 18-24

THEME VERSE: II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

CHARACTER FOCUS: Honor the offices God assigns

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice



☀️ Let's Get Glowing

Last One Standing

Equipment: None

Instructions: Have all students stand. Begin each sentence with the phrase, "Stay standing only if you..." and then give the criteria. The criteria can be funny or serious. Examples: "Stay standing only if you...brushed your teeth today...hugged your mom today...are wearing blue...have the letter e in your name." Once the child sits down, they remain seated. When only one child is left standing, they win. If time allows, repeat the game.

🎵 Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *Hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord*

Sing *I Will Call Upon the Lord*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *Seek Ye First*

✝️ Torch Bearer's Tales

"This old washer!" Nan impatiently kicked at the motor, which roared into activity, much to her surprise. "Humph, I should have kicked you sooner!"

Wash day! How she hated it. She never knew if the gasoline motor would start or not. The rickety old

washer was temperamental and often sputtered and coughed its way into doubtful service. The old washer, bought from some retiring missionaries, was set on a cement slab under a sprawling mango tree. When not in use, it was covered with an old plastic sheet secured with stones.

As if by magic, the roar produces a ring of shiny black faces, each with a pair of huge black eyes. Today, she saw a new face.

"Hello there," she said. "What is your name?"

Nan bent closer to hear the quiet voice in the din of the machine. "My name is Samuel. I have come to see the big animal that roars. My friends say it washed the white man's clothes!"

"Right," smiled Nan. "Watch now while this animal takes the water out of the clothes."

With that, she started shoving towels through the wringer into the rinse water. Samuel, a boy of about sixteen, clapped his hands. And with a typical, "Eh, eh, eh," he danced up and down.

No doubt, she thought, he remembered how his mother beat the clothes on a rock to get them clean and, with strong hands, wrung the water from them. Samuel watched in wonder as Alphonse, her houseboy, took the basket of clothes and hung them on the line. Nan knew that Samuel's mother would have hung them on a bush to dry.

"Samuel," the missionary's soft voice brought the young fellow back from his reverie. "This machine is washing our clothes nice and clean. Did

"That Cantankerous Old Machine!"

From the compilation of missionary stories by V. Ben Kendrick and Nina Kendrick, missionaries to Africa.

you know that God sent His Son to wash our hearts clean in His blood?"

Immediately, the light went out of Samuel's face, and his eyes became wary. The change was so sudden that Nan was taken off guard. She was totally unprepared for the hostility that suddenly erupted from this quiet, polite boy.

"I didn't come here to hear about the white man's God." He spat the words out. Then, turning, he stalked abruptly away.

The group of children watched silently as Samuel strode along the path to the village. They all enjoyed watching the missionary's washing machine. Samuel had seemed so interested. Yet, when Missionary Mama began talking to him about her God, he suddenly became angry and rude. They all watched him go. No one spoke for several minutes.

Finally, Nan broke the silence. "What did I say that made him so angry?"

Boutangara, the self-appointed spokesman for the group, began, "Don't feel bad, Mama. A few weeks ago, Samuel's mother became very sick. The people in her village finally went to get the nurse from the mission station north of us. Miss Barlow did all she could, and all the Christians prayed, but Samuel's mother died. It wasn't the nurse's fault. They just waited too long before going for her. Samuel thinks our God can't hear. He thinks God doesn't care about him. He even wonders if there is a God. After Samuel's mother died, he came to our village to live with his brother. Today, he came here because he heard the roar of the big animal." Suddenly embarrassed by this long speech, Boutangara slid to the back of the little group.

Nan finished the wash mechanically, then walked across the open space to the back door of her little home. Without turning but knowing full well that the little group had silently followed her, she said quietly, "We'll pray for Samuel. With God's help, we'll make him see that the Lord does care about him." Opening the door, she slipped inside the house. During the intervening weeks, Samuel was never far from Nan's thoughts. The bitterness of one so young had affected her deeply. Together with her husband Peter and five-year-old Judy, she prayed daily for Samuel.

Verse for the Month

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

Light My Path

Write out the verse in code form. On small pieces of paper, distribute one piece of the code to individual students. Work through the verse together, asking students to tell you the correct letter to replace each 'code.' (Suggested codes: Numbers for letters or pictures for letters. Different fonts on your computer can make this an easy job). The verse may look like this: ☺м. ♦♦♦ ✕♦ ☉●✕❖м. Then you would ask the students, "Who has the paper with this symbol, ☺? What letter should we put here?"

Spark Their Interest

Leader: Today I'm going to talk to you about the two offices of our church.

Guest: Wait, I thought there was only one.

Leader: One what?

Guest: One office. You know the place where the secretary sits and answers the telephone, and they have a copier for our coloring sheets?

Leader: I know about our church office, why are you getting upset?

Guest: You said we had two offices, where is the other one? Who sits at the other office? I bet that the copier in that office never breaks down, why does no body know about the other office?

Leader: It's okay, we don't have two church office rooms. I'm talking about the two main jobs that men in our church do. A job is sometimes called an office.

Guest: Oh, that makes much more sense. What are the two jobs?

Leader: I was hoping you would ask. Sit down and I'll tell you.

Build the Fire

T: Two Offices — Pastor and Deacon

As we have studied the structure of the Baptist church, we have learned that the Bible is the final authority for doctrine. We learned that every believer has personal access to God. We learned that the government is to be separate from the church. We know that every individual has the liberty to choose or reject God. Yet, in all this freedom and liberty, there still must be some form of leadership. This leadership comes from the two offices, or positions of authority, described in the Bible for the church. Those two offices are that of the Pastor and that of a Deacon.

The Bible uses three different words to describe the position of pastor. The three words describe the role that the pastor plays within the church. The three words are pastor, elder, and bishop. The word pastor means shepherd. It is used of a man who watches sheep (Luke 2:8). It is used of Jesus Christ as the Good Shepherd (John 10:11), the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20) and the shepherd of our souls (1 Peter 2:25). The shepherd symbolizes tender care, wise guidance and strong protection. A pastor is the shepherd for his congregation.

The word elder means older. It represents one who is spiritually mature and is recognized for leadership. In the Bible, elders were appointed in every local church (Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5). The elders who ruled well, especially those who labored in the Word and doctrine, were to be counted worthy of double honor (1 Timothy 5:17). The term elder is given to the leader who displays a level of maturity in Christ and is an example to his people.

The word bishop means overseer. The bishop watches over the church and gives it guidance and direction. 1 Peter 2:25 calls Jesus Christ the Bishop of our souls. The New Testament bishop administered the work of one local church (Philippians 1:1). Personal integrity and pure motives were required character qualities for an overseer (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 5:2).

The three functions of the pastor, elder and bishop find fulfillment in one office. In Acts 20, the elders (v. 17) were bishops (v. 28) who shepherded/pastured God's people (v. 28). In Titus 1, the elders (v. 5) were bishops (v. 7). Peter instructed the elders to shepherd/pastor and to oversee God's flock (1 Peter 5:1-2).

Your pastor works hard to be an example of what a mature Christian should be. He studies the Scriptures diligently so that he can feed his flock each week with

the meat of God's Word. Your pastor oversees the daily care of your church building and its members and their many needs. Your pastor deserves your respect and support. He is a man of God, called by God, to fill the roles of three different titles — pastor, elder and bishop. He is worthy of your honor.

But a pastor needs help. Most churches have one pastor but several deacons. The office of deacon is one of service to the congregation. 1 Timothy 3:8-13 gives the necessary qualifications for a deacon. The responsibilities of a deacon are derived from the meaning of the word deacon, which means servant or minister.

The qualifications of a deacon include being grave or dignified. A deacon must not be double-tongued — he cannot say one thing to one person and the opposite to another. He must be the husband of one wife, and he must rule his family well. If your dad is a deacon, your behavior is one way that people will know if your dad meets the qualification of a deacon. A deacon's home parallels his ministry in the church. There needs to be a balanced combination of love and discipline and helping people grow. If a man ministers well in his own home, he can be expected to do well in the church.

Deacons may serve in the local church in whatever ways the church deems appropriate. Their ministries may differ from church to church, but all their ministries ought to meet others' needs. Deacons' duties often include calling on people, caring for the widows and needy, helping administer the ordinance of the Lord's Supper, looking after the building, grounds and financial affairs of the church. Deacons serve other church members, but when they do so, they ultimately serve God. Therefore, their ministries must accomplish what God wants and not merely what other people want. A church should prayerfully establish deacon responsibilities, keeping in mind what God wants the church to accomplish.

Fan the Flames

1. Use this lesson as an opportunity for some pastor appreciation. First, make sure that all students know who the pastor is. Some students who never attend 'Big Church' might not be familiar with the pastor. They believe that the bus captain or the Sunday school or Jr. Church teacher is a pastor. Talk about the pastor's family. Introduce his children if possible. You may even want to create a card for each student to sign and give to the pastor.
2. Invite a church deacon to visit your class. Create an interview setting. Give him the questions prior to the visit. Pretend to be a news reporter trying to learn more about your church. Ask questions like, "How did you become a deacon?" "How long will you be a deacon?" "What are some jobs you do as a deacon?"

Fire Off the Answers

1. How many offices or positions of leadership does the Bible describe for the church? (two)
2. What are those two positions? (pastor and deacon)
3. What word for the leader of the church means 'shepherd'? (Pastor)
4. What does the word 'elder' mean? (older, a mature example)
5. What is a deacon's primary purpose? (to serve the people)

Hit the Mark

Prepare the Game: This game can be used by laying the game pieces on a table or fastening them to a board or wall. Make two or three copies of the games pieces on pages 81-83. Cut the pieces apart. If you plan to use the game on a table, copy the pieces on card stock or glue the pieces to squares of construction paper. To use the pieces on a board or wall, simply attach the pieces to the board before class and cover them with sticky-note paper.

Write additional review questions here:

Playing the Game: Ask a Bible review question. Give the signal (bell, whistle or "GO!"). Students desiring to answer will jump up, but remain quiet. The leader or designated 'spotter' calls on the student who was first to jump up. The student correctly answering the review question immediately earns 50 points for their team, then comes forward to play the game. That student will have three chances to score points for his or her team. The student chooses one of the target cards and guesses the number on the back of that card — 100, 300 or 500. The leader then turns the card over, revealing the number on the back. If the student's guess is correct, he or she receives the points for the team. If the guess is incorrect, no points are given. If the card turned over reveals a bulls-eye, the child automatically receives the number of points guessed, 100, 300 or 500. Each student chooses three targets on a turn, with the possibility of scoring on all three targets.

SAVED CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Glow Jr. Devotionals: August 25-31

THEME VERSE: II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

CHARACTER FOCUS: Unity comes from serving one another

MONTHLY GOAL: For students to identify and understand the distinctive Biblical beliefs that Baptists teach and practice



Let's Get Glowing

Adjective Name Game

Equipment: None

Instructions: Each student needs to think of an adjective that describes him/her and begins with the same first letter as the individual's first name. Go around the room and allow each student to tell their creative name. For example: "My name is Creative Claire."

Spotlight on Songs

Welcome and opening prayer

Sing *There's Been a Great Change*

Sing *S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N*

Announcements, recognize visitors, birthdays, offering

Sing *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Torch Bearer's Tales

Part 2

Nan looked around the circle of faces each wash day, hoping to see Samuel's face. Three weeks passed.

On the fourth Monday, pouring rain prevented the usual weekly wash. But when Nan awoke on Tuesday, bright sunlight filtered through the open window, and she could smell wood smoke. Knowing that Alphonse had already started to heat the wash water, she mentally began to fight the battle of the gasoline motor.

As usual, there was not a person to be seen as Nan and Judy went outside. She groaned as she saw the large pile of clothes. Even one extra day added much to the laundry when one lived in the tropics. Within the inner parts of its greasy mechanical brain, the motor decided to cooperate. It clamored deafeningly into instant usefulness.

With the noise, the inevitable circle of awed faces appeared. And off to the side stood the familiar face of Samuel.

Nan went about the business of washing clothes. She pretended not to see Samuel as he inched closer and closer. Nan felt as though she should hold her breath lest the fragile hold be broken. Nevertheless, she chatted as usual with the little group.

When the last pair of socks were put through the wringer, Nan called for Judy, who was playing nearby, and they headed for the back door.

She had gone only a few steps when a voice called, "Please, Mama, may I talk to you?"

She turned to face Samuel and realized he was different from the last time she had seen him. Instead of bitterness in his face, she now saw longing.

"Of course, Samuel. Come over to the house, and we can talk where it is quiet." Breathing a prayer for guidance, Nan invited the now trembling boy into the cool living room. "What did you want to talk to me about, Son?" she asked gently.

Then, almost incoherent words tumbled out.

"That Cantankerous Old Machine!"

From the compilation of missionary stories by V. Ben Kendrick and Nina Kendrick, missionaries to Africa.

After struggling to regain his composure, Samuel could tell her his story. Much of it she had already learned from the other young people, but none of them knew the torment he had gone through since they had last been together.

After he left that day, Samuel had wandered aimlessly for several hours, wondering why he had talked to the missionary lady that way. His mother had loved the God that she did. His heart hurt when he remembered how his mother had wanted him to believe, too. He had only laughed, telling her it was all right for old people to believe like that, but strong young men like himself had no need for such beliefs. He could still see the pain in her kind face. Each time he had come near to seeking help during those weeks, Satan would set up another barrier. Each Monday morning, when he heard the washing machine motor start, he was reminded that the help he needed could be found at the mission station. He longed for relief but feared being called a weakling.

The previous Saturday, he had decided to visit friends in a village about an hour's walk away. All weekend, he sought to forget his troublesome thoughts. He decided to stay until Tuesday morning because a friend offered him a ride back in an old pickup. His friend left him directly in front of the gate leading to the mission compound just as the noisy motor started. It was Tuesday, but he hadn't escaped after all! Like a magnet, the drone of the motor had led him into the yard of the missionary.

Peter had slipped into the room during the recital. He and Nan were now smiling in wonder at God's unerring timing. Step by step, Samuel was shown the plan of salvation. And before they had even finished, he interrupted with the announcement, "I want my heart washed clean in the blood of Jesus, just as the animal washes Mama's clothes clean every week."

They all bowed their heads while Samuel asked the Lord to wash away his sins in Jesus' blood and to become his Savior.

Three happy people agreed when Nan exclaimed, "Just think of that! God can even use a cantankerous old washing machine to bring people to Himself!"

Verse for the Month

II Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

 **Light My Path**

Picture puzzles. Write the words to the verse on pieces of paper, one word on each piece. Choose key words, and on the back of that paper, draw a picture to represent the word. Have students hold the words in order and practice the verse. Choose one student at a time to turn their paper to show the back. Repeat the verse using picture clues. Leave the back of some words blank so that eventually the students will be saying the verse by only using the picture clues.

 **Spark Their Interest**

Leader: The last Baptist distinctive we are going to talk about is saved church membership.

Guest: Oh, that sounds like fun! Is that like having a Sam's card? My grandma has a Sam's card that means that she belongs to their club, so she gets to shop at their BIG store. Do we get a card? Is someone going to ask for it when we come in?

Leader: I'm not handing out a card. That's not the kind of membership I'm talking about.

Guest: Oh, so it's more like a secret club. Do we have to do something special to get in? You said something about being saved, so I'll save somebody. One of the kids might fall down, but I'll be there to catch them and I'll be the hero. Then can I be in your club?

Leader: I don't have a club, but I am a member of this church.

Guest: How did you become a member?

Leader: Well, Baptists believe that only people in God's family should be members of God's church. I am a Christian. I am in God's family, so the church said I could be a member.

Guest: Are there special cards, or secret passwords?

Leader: Well, I bring my Bible and that's my sign that I'm ready to learn about Jesus. I also get to talk with my friends about how great God is, but that's not really a secret. If you're still confused, I have a whole lesson about saved church membership, so you could sit and learn about it.

Guest: Okay. Are you sure there are no cards?

Leader: I'm sure.

Build the Fire

S: Saved Church Membership

We are nearing the end of our study on the Baptist Distinctives. Let's review each of the letters in BAPTISTS and topics we have covered so far. B=Biblical Authority. A=Autonomy of the local church. P=Priesthood of the Believers. T=Two Ordinances-baptism and the Lord's Supper. I=Individual Soul Liberty. S=Separation of Church and State. T=Two offices-pastor and deacon. Today, we will cover the last 'S' in BAPTISTS. This letter S will represent Saved Church Membership.

We have already learned that Jesus is the Head of the church. We learned that a pastor, with the help of the deacons, leads the local church. We know that each local church is autonomous; it is independent in making decisions. And we learned that the church is not to be run by the government. But what we still need to know is, "How can I become a member of my local church?"

You might think that just because you come to church every week, that you are a member of this church. You might think that if your parents are members, then you are, too. Becoming a church member is more than just attending weekly, or calling this your church.

How does a person become a church member? And why is important to be a church member anyway? The Bible makes it clear that every believer should be an active member of a local church. A church is a group of people who have joined together to do what Jesus commanded them to do. They worship, study, help others, and tell people about Jesus. They want all people in the entire world to know about Jesus.

Knowing Jesus as your personal Savior is the first step to becoming a church member. "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved," (Acts 2:47). When we look closely at Acts 2:41 and 47, we see that those who were added to the church had "gladly received the word," and then "were baptized." Only saved, baptized believers were added to the church. The first church at Jerusalem consisted entirely of baptized believers.

When a person asks to become a member of a Baptist church, there are a few things that they will be asked to describe. The person should also be able to explain the basic content of the gospel and how understanding these truths led to his personally trusting Christ for salvation. The person should tell the personal history of how God saved him, the events and circumstances that led to his

acceptance of Christ. He should then tell of his walk with God since God saved him. This should include evidence of Christian growth. Of course, only God knows with certainty who belongs to Him. But we must do our best to maintain a saved church membership.

Why is it so important that church members all be saved? II Corinthians 6:14-16 asks, "...what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God..." It is unscriptural to join believers and unbelievers together in a local church to do the work of God. II Corinthians 6:14 tells us, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers."

When the members of the local church are believers, a unity in Christ exists. "For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body," (I Corinthians 12:13). The local church composed of believers is a unified body. This unity shows in the way the church becomes a family. A unified group will agree on how to reach others. They will agree on how to run the business of the church. When the members of a church are all saved, when they walk in the Spirit and are led by the Spirit, then unity is accomplished.

Every believer has been gifted for a spiritual ministry (I Corinthians 12:7). The primary purpose of these gifts is to minister to one another. God tells us many things to do for one another: love one another, be kindly affectioned one to another, prefer one another, edify one another, serve one another, forgive one another, lie not one to another, confess your faults one to another, and use hospitality one to another.

If everyone in the local church fulfilled the "one another" list, your church would be a powerful testimony of what true Christianity is meant to be. Jesus said it this way, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," (John 13:35).

 **Fan the Flames**

1. Bring several blocks, like Legos or Lincoln Logs, which are all the same. Also bring a few blocks that are different. "If I wanted to build a strong wall or house using these blocks, I could do a pretty good job. But what if I tried to add this different kind of block into the building? Would it work? Not really, the blocks are not compatible. They do not fit well together." When we talk about a local church being made up of like-minded believers, it means that our beliefs about God all fit together. We build a strong church. When we allow someone who is unsaved or who does not follow all of God's instructions, it is like adding a Lincoln Log to a Lego house. It just will not work.

2. Amos 3:3 says, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" A good way to illustrate this is with a three-legged race. Choose pairs of volunteers. Tie their inner legs together or have them put their inner legs into a sack or pillowcase, so that each team must walk on three legs. The team that works together, communicates, and helps one another will most likely be the most successful. The same is true in our churches. When we work together, communicate and help one another, we can accomplish more for the Lord than churches whose brethren do not dwell in unity (Psalm 133:1).

 **Fire Off the Answers**

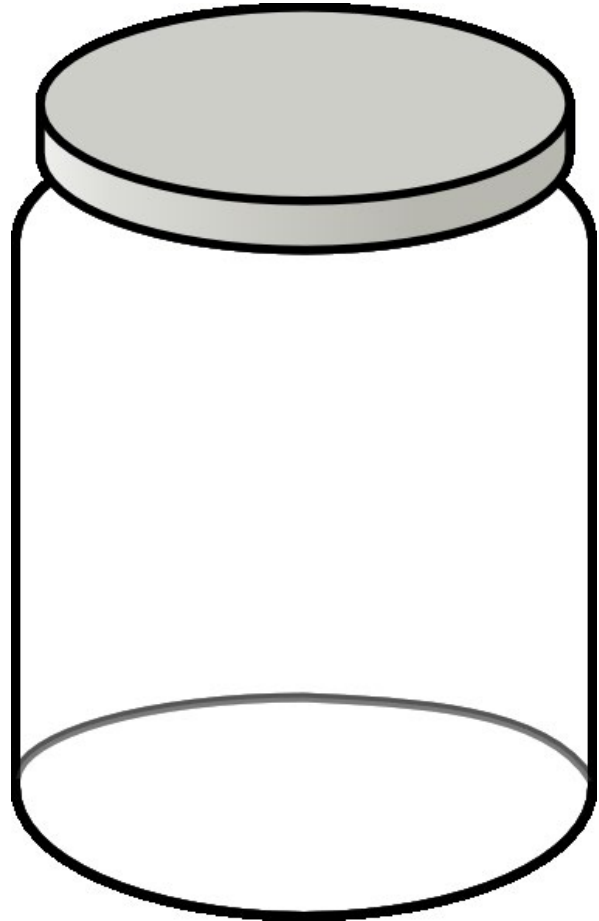
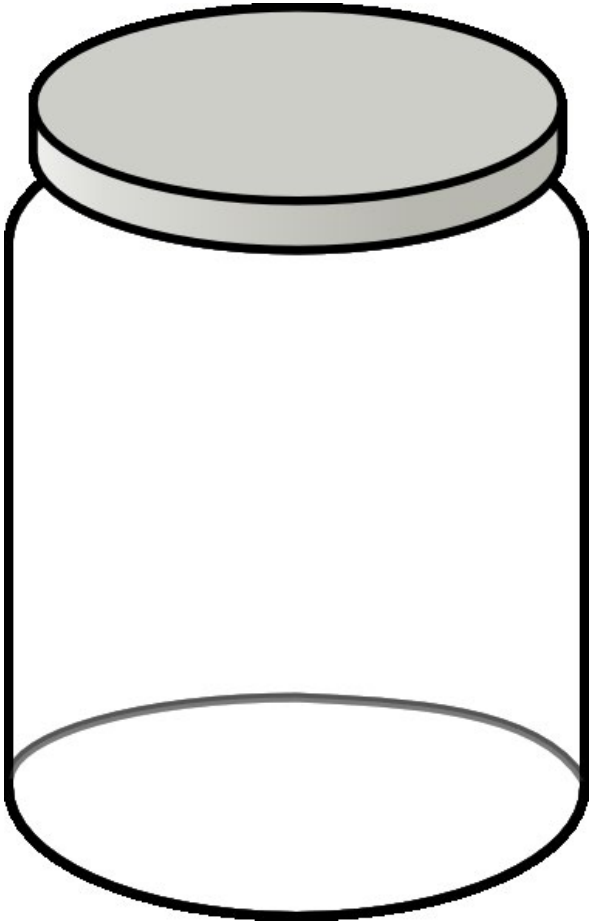
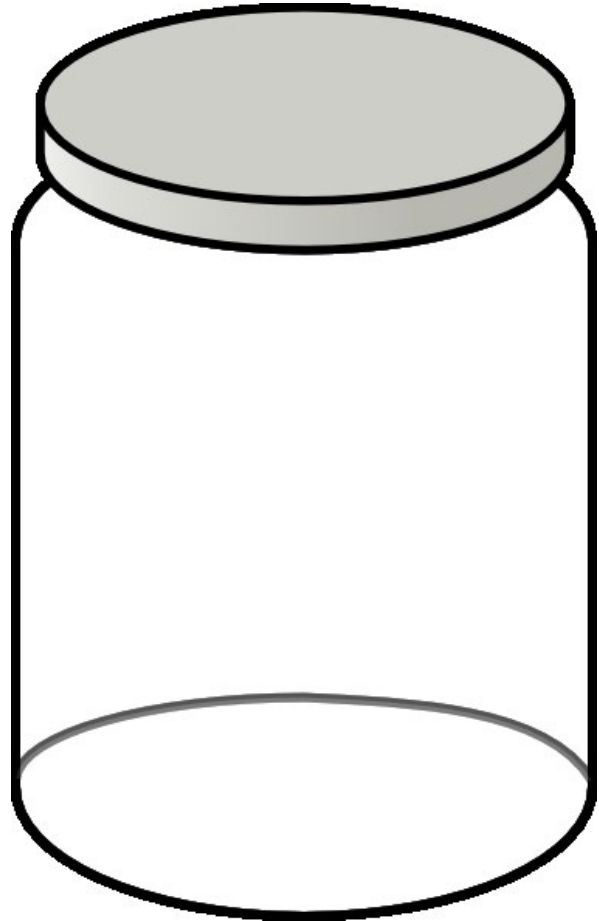
1. What is the first step in becoming a church member? (salvation)
2. Am I a member of a church just because I come here every week? (no)
3. Where was the first local church located, as described in the book of Acts? (Jerusalem)
4. Who were the members of the first church (Acts 2:41, 47)? (saved, baptized believers)
5. For what purpose should we use our spiritual gifts? (for one another)

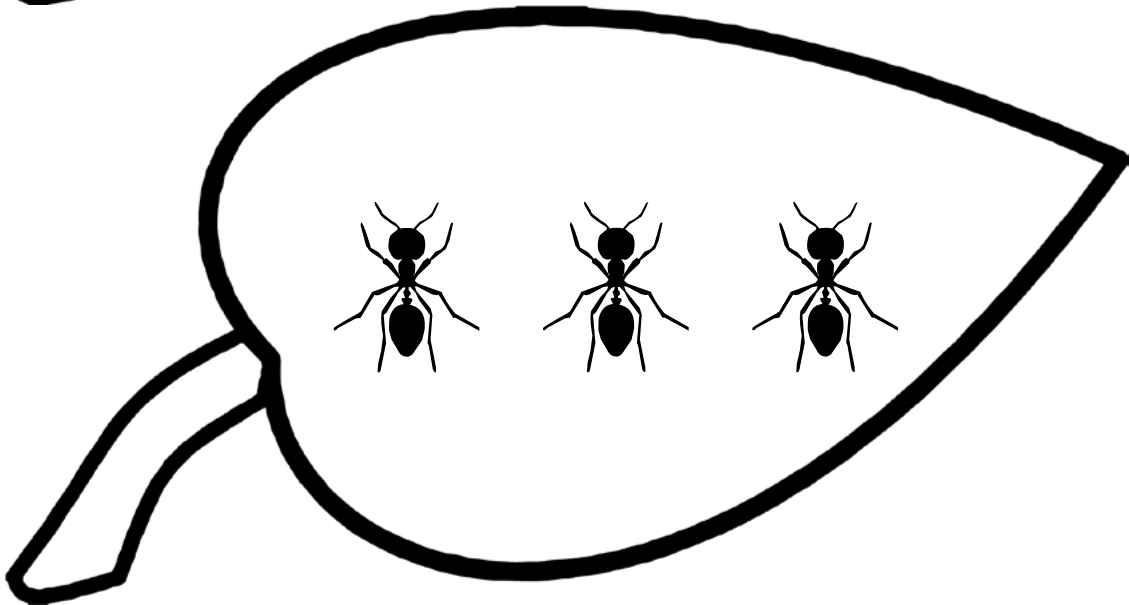
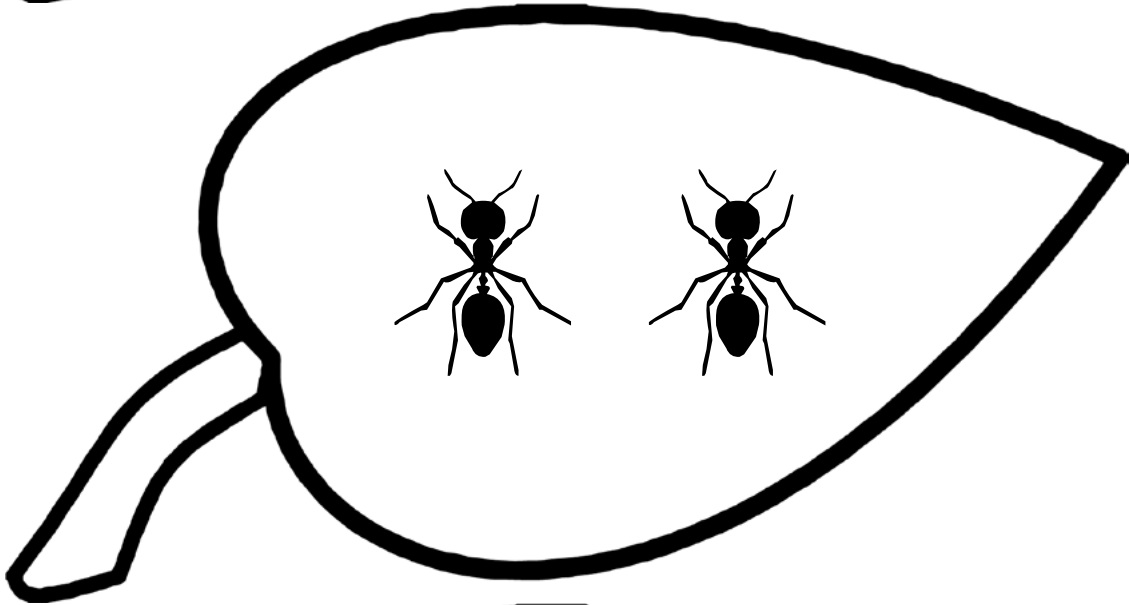
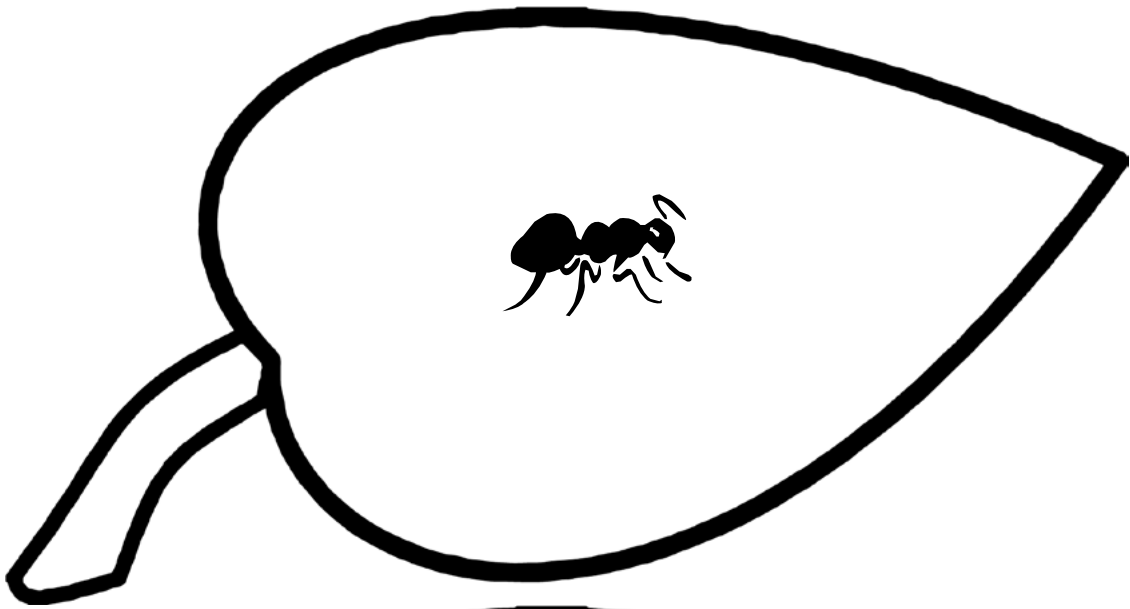
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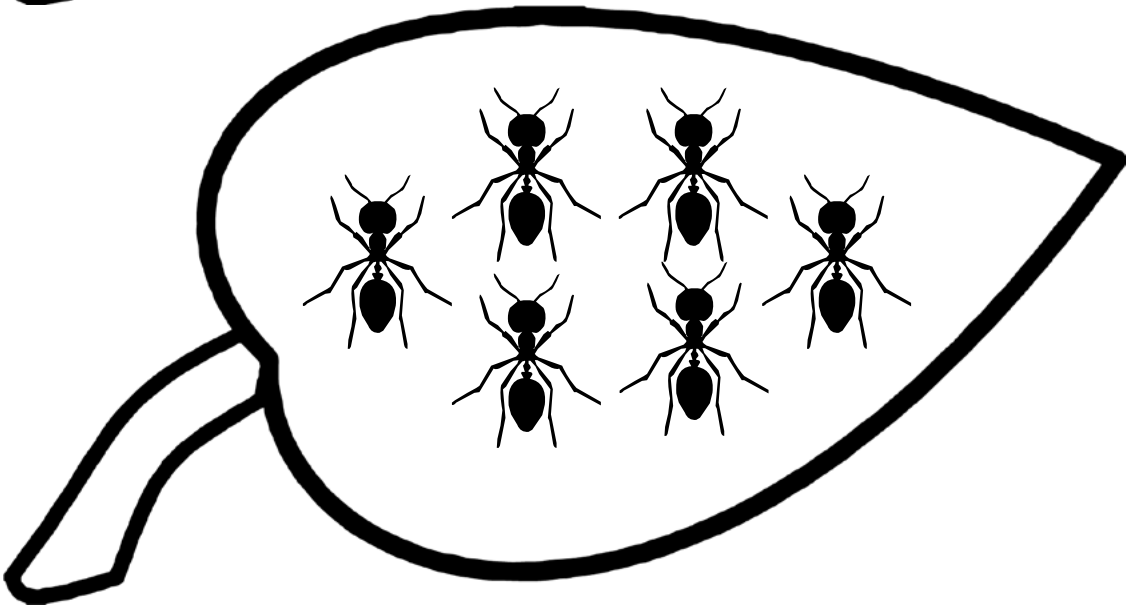
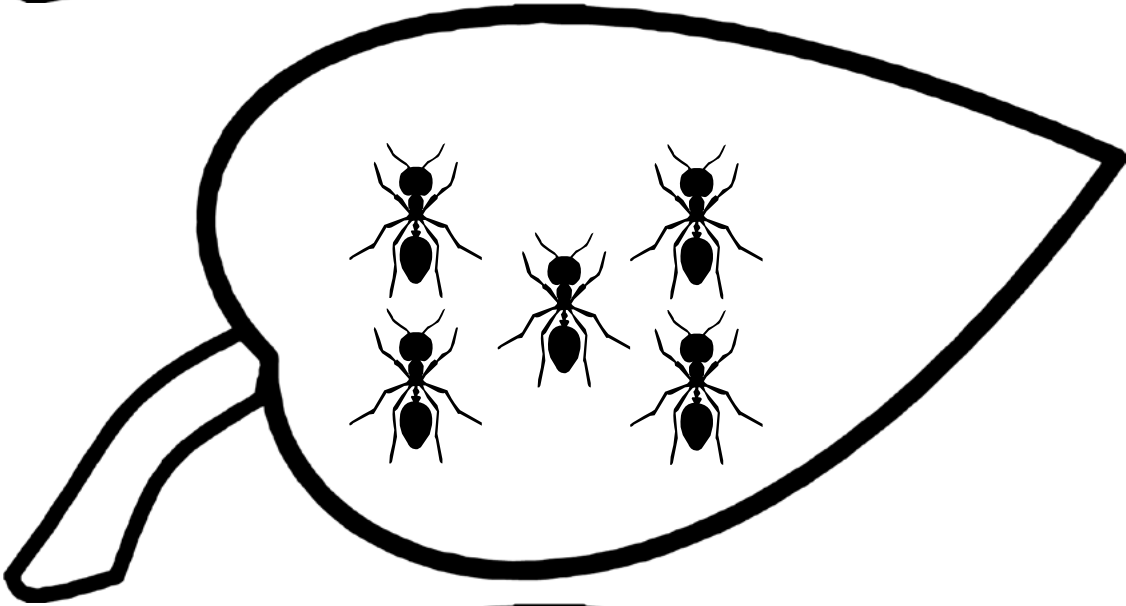
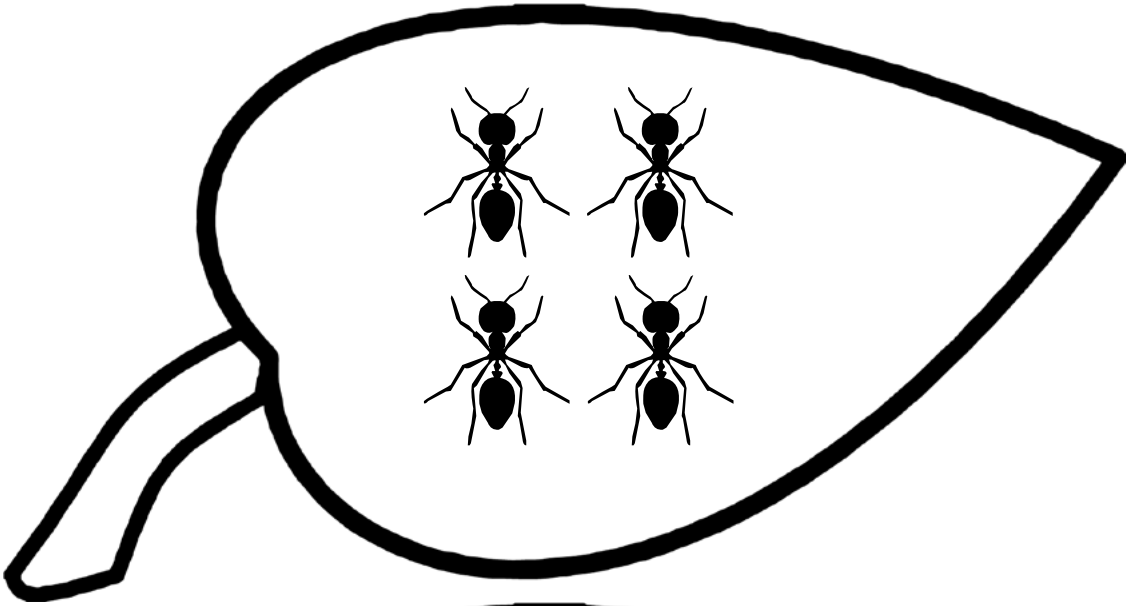
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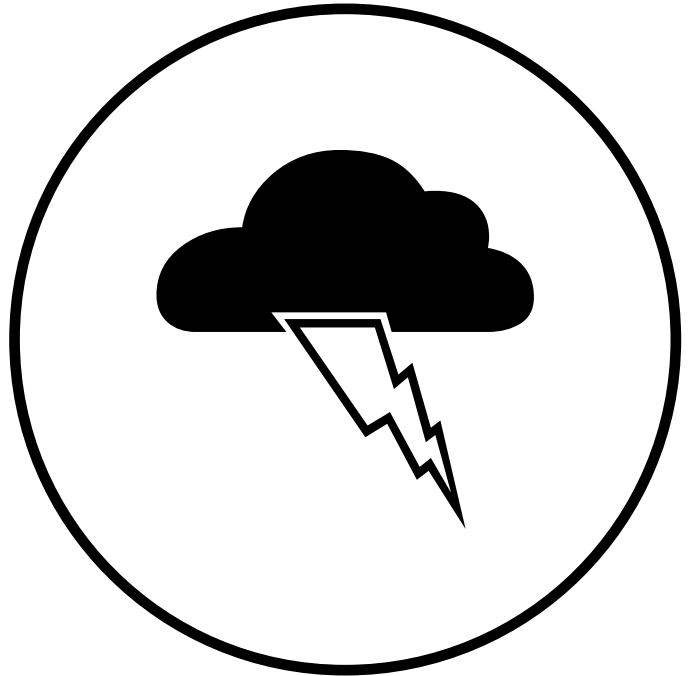
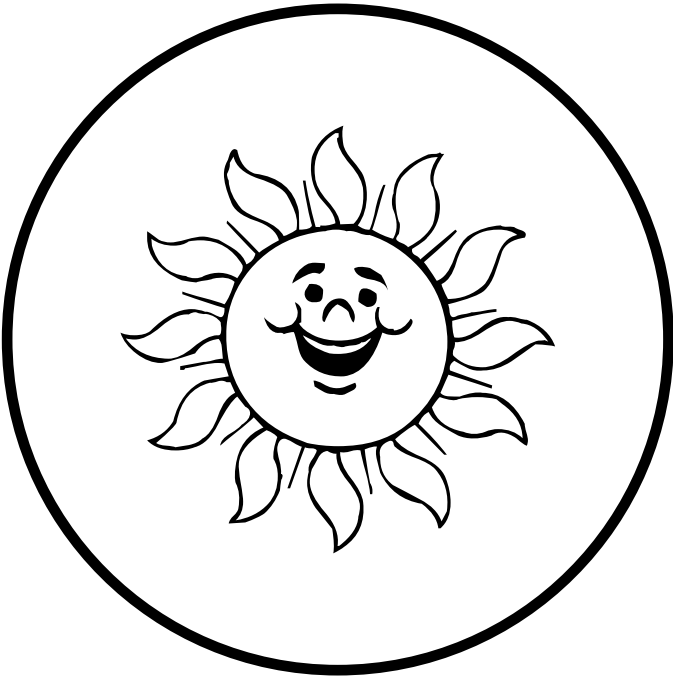
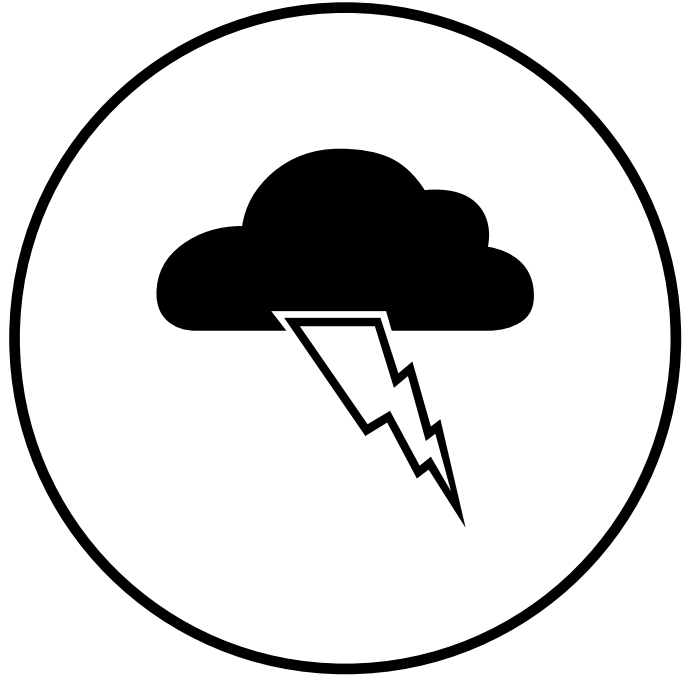
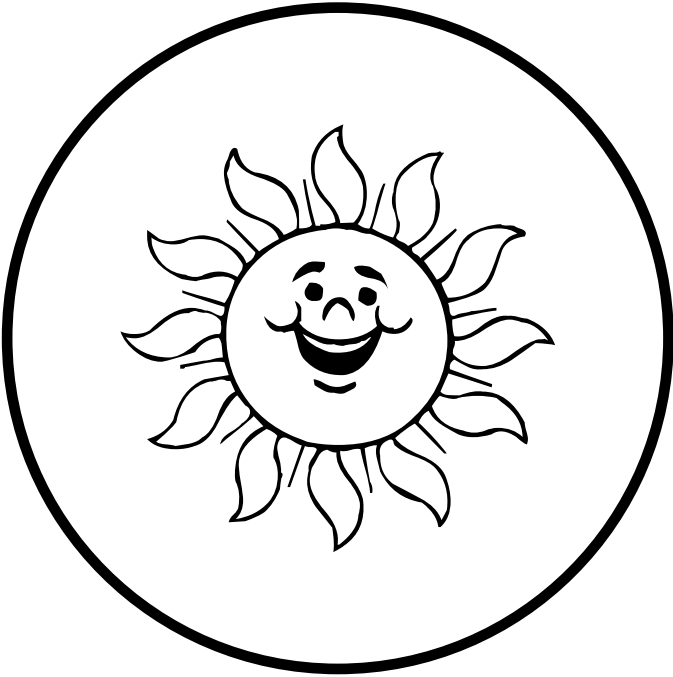
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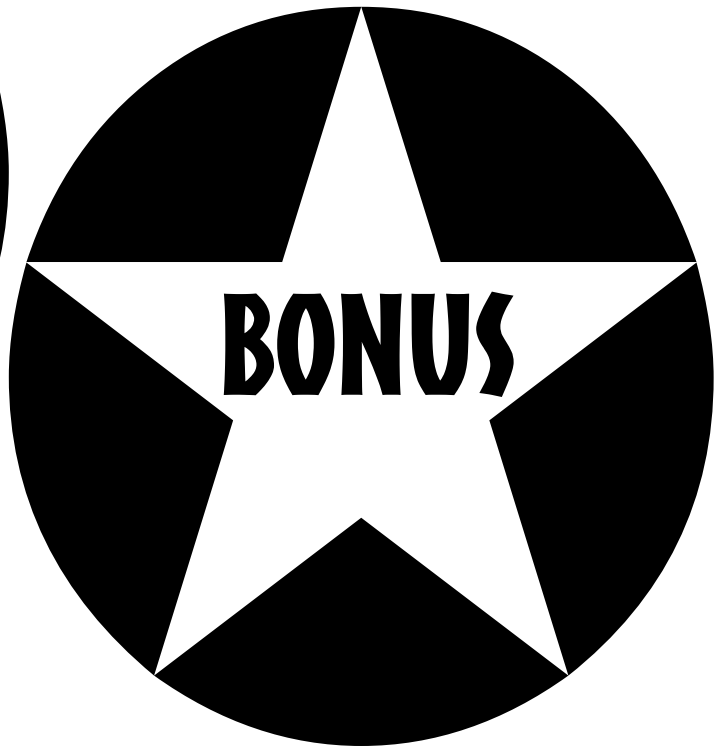
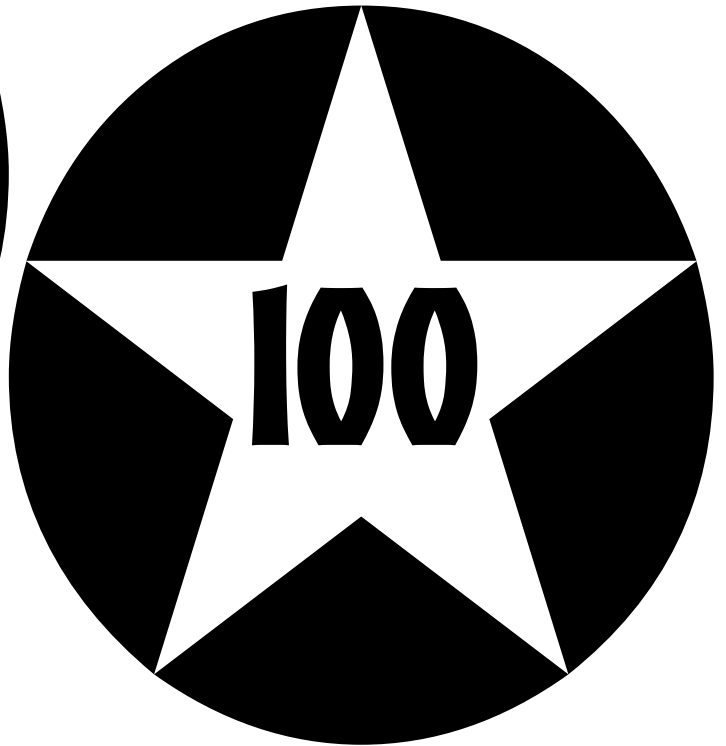
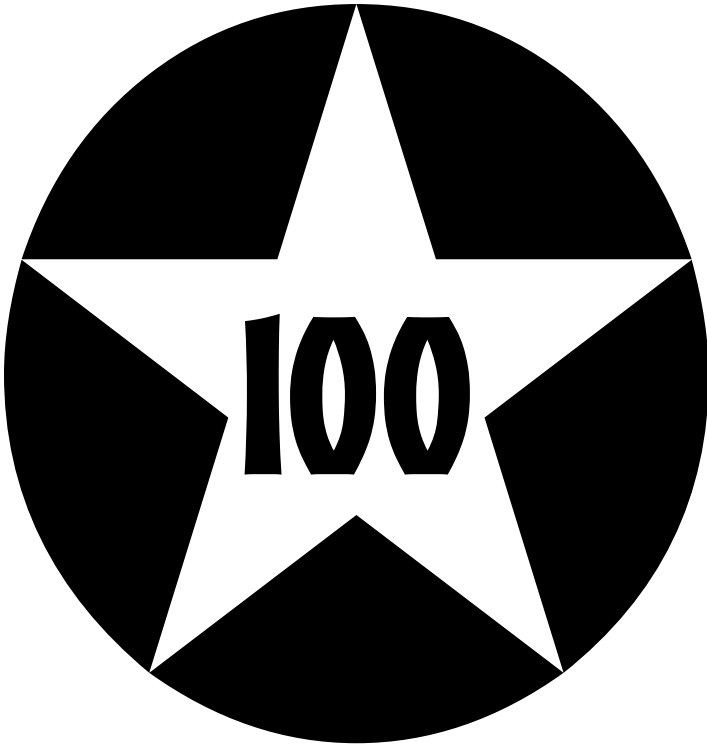


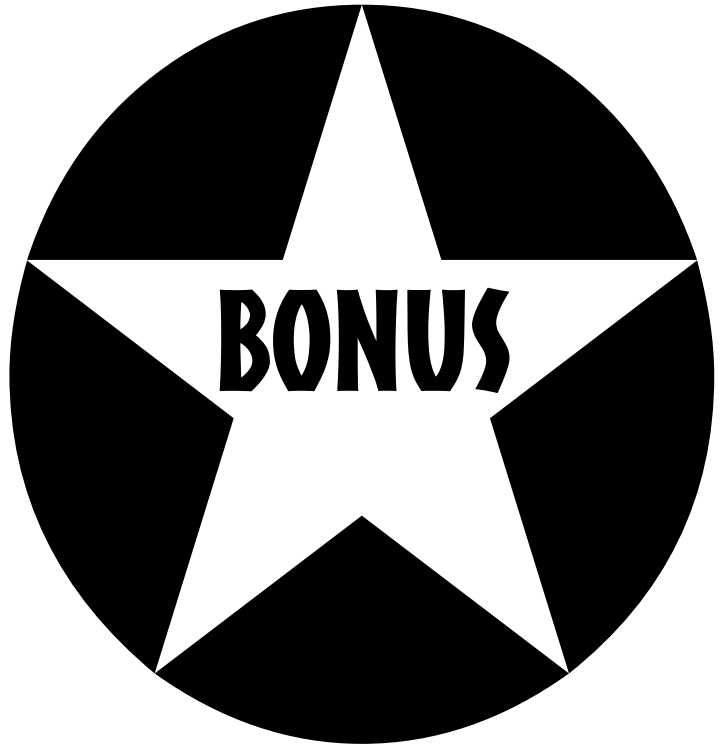
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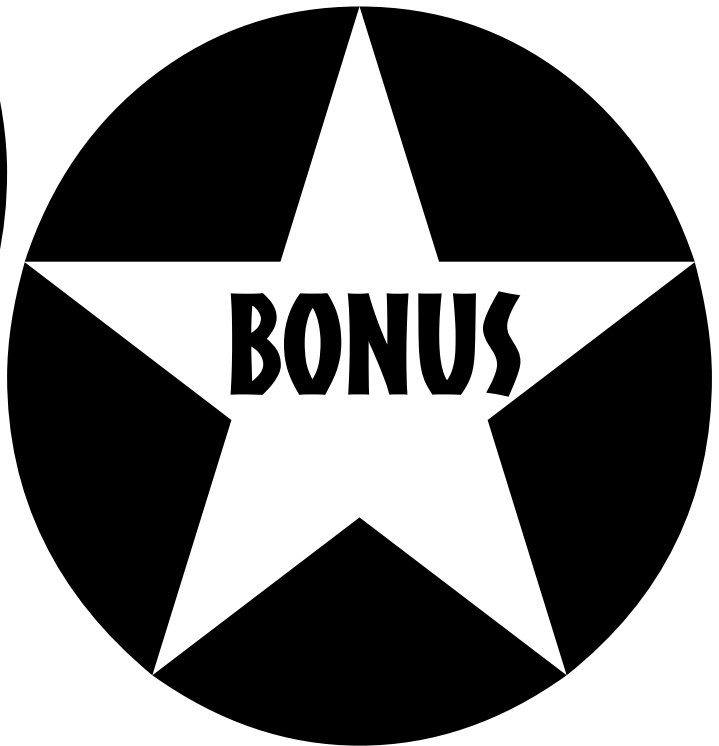
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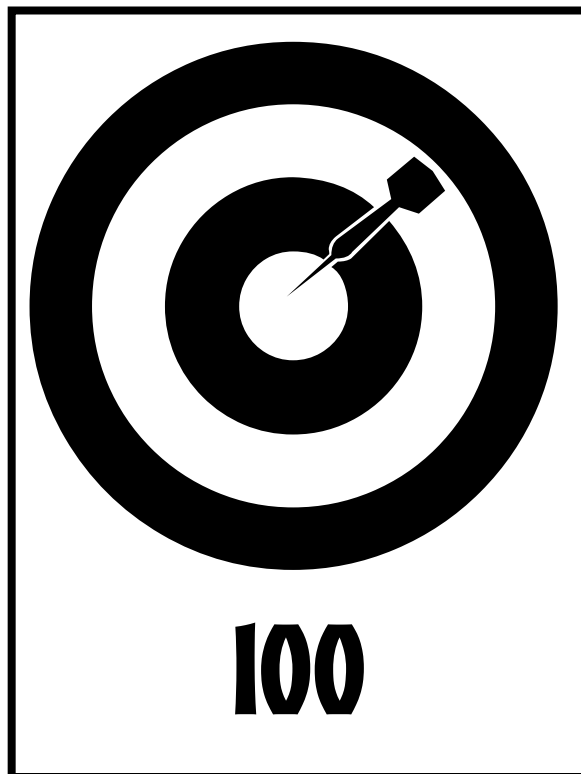
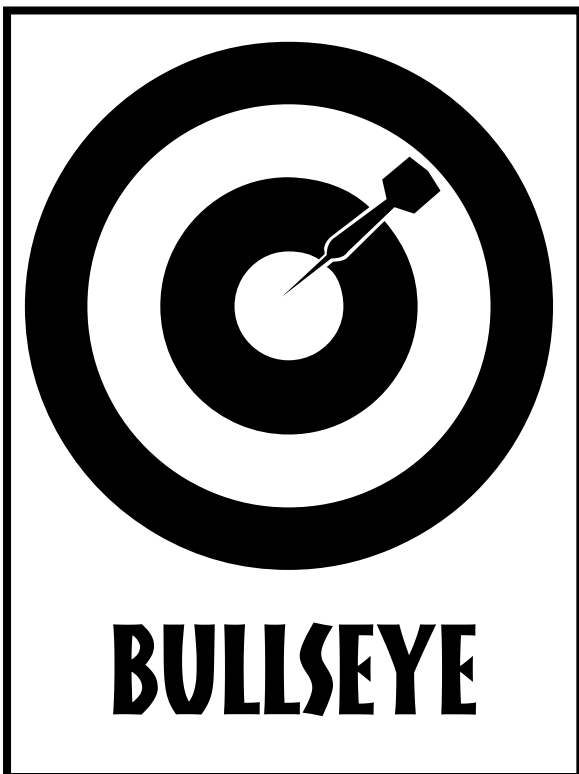
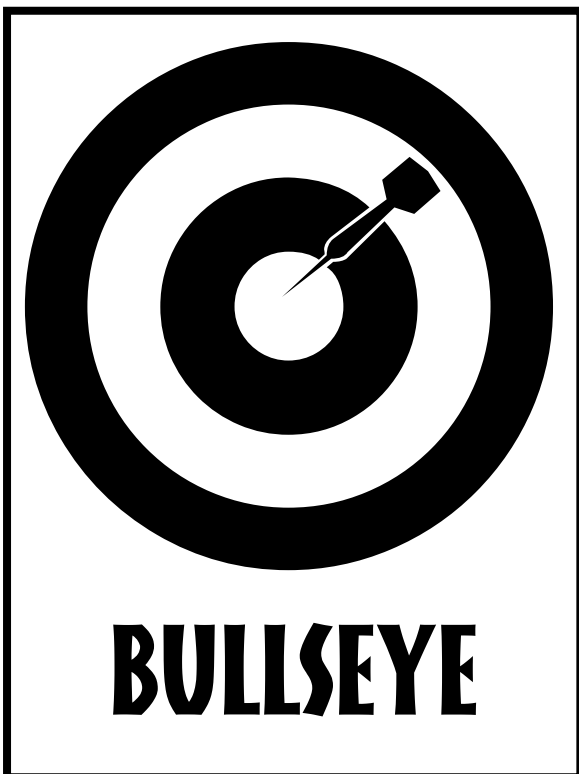
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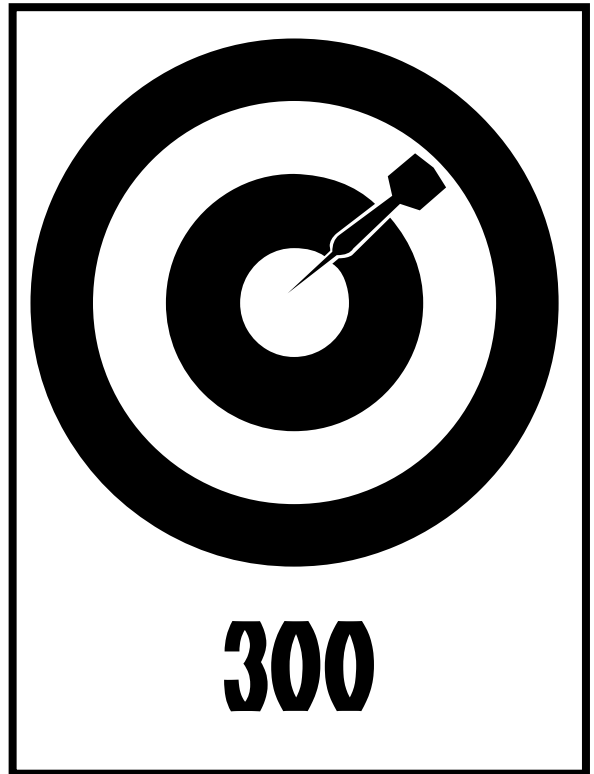
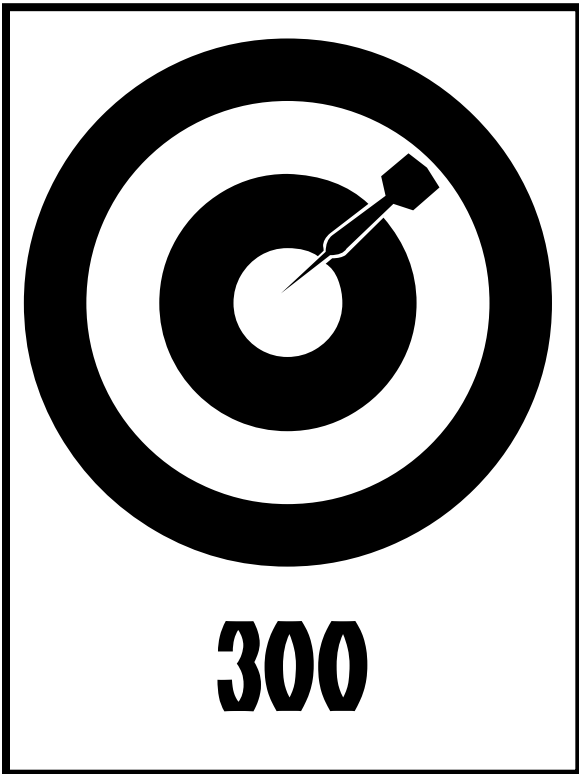
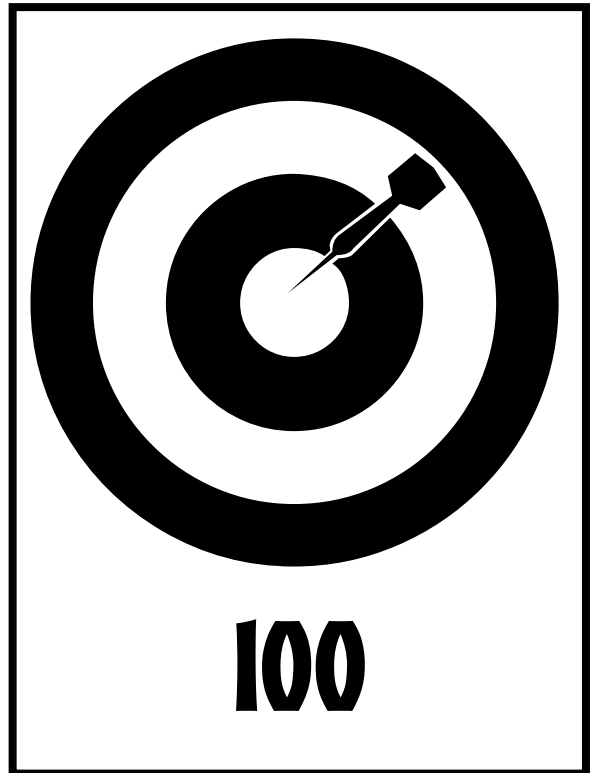
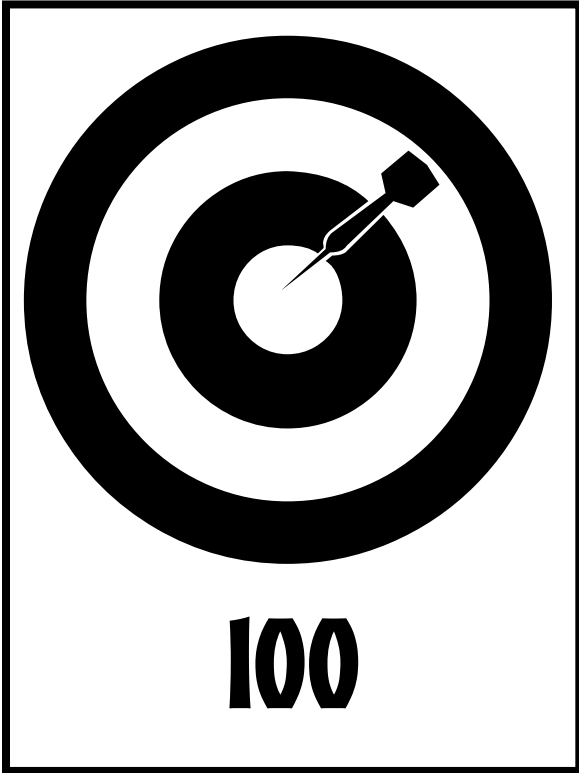
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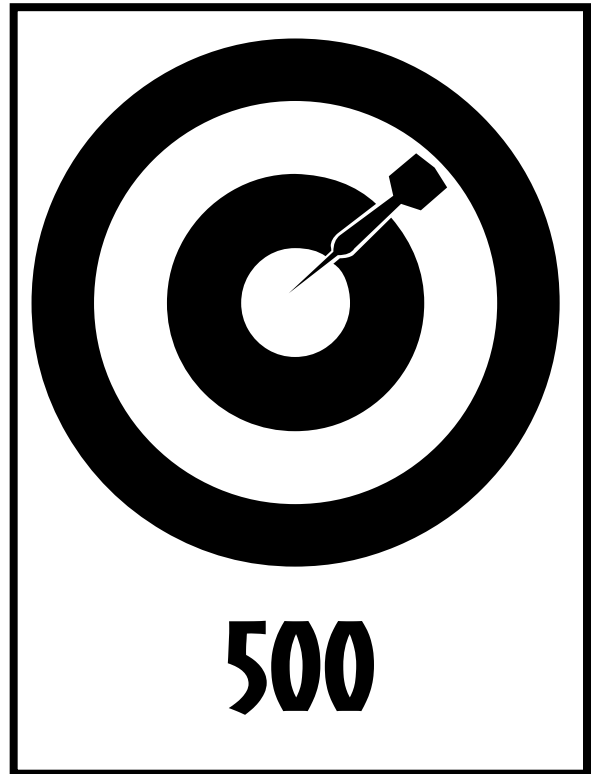
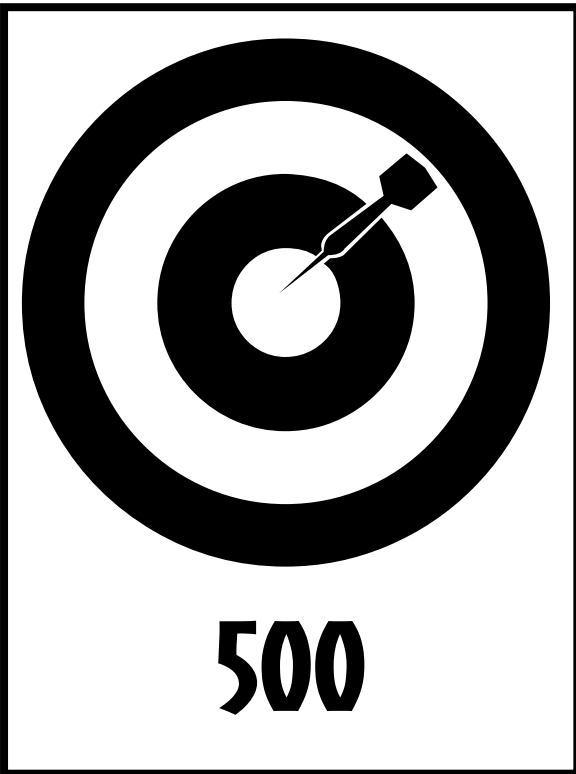
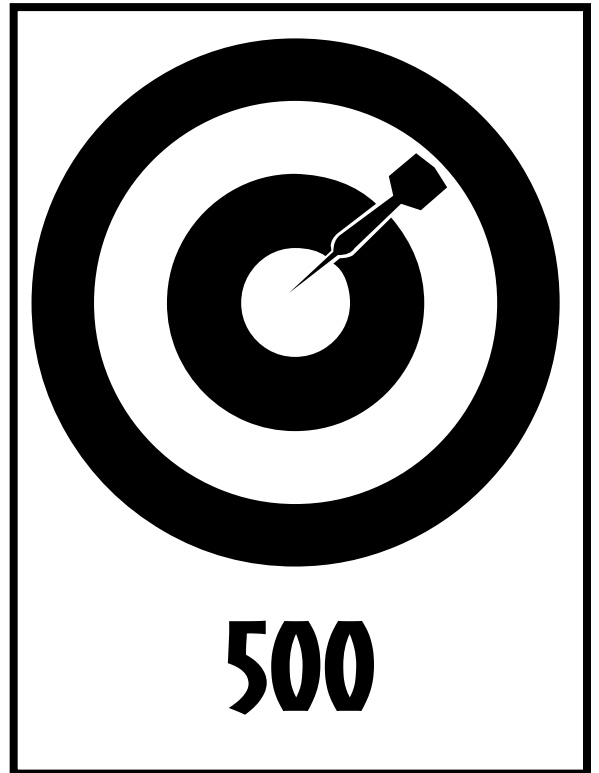
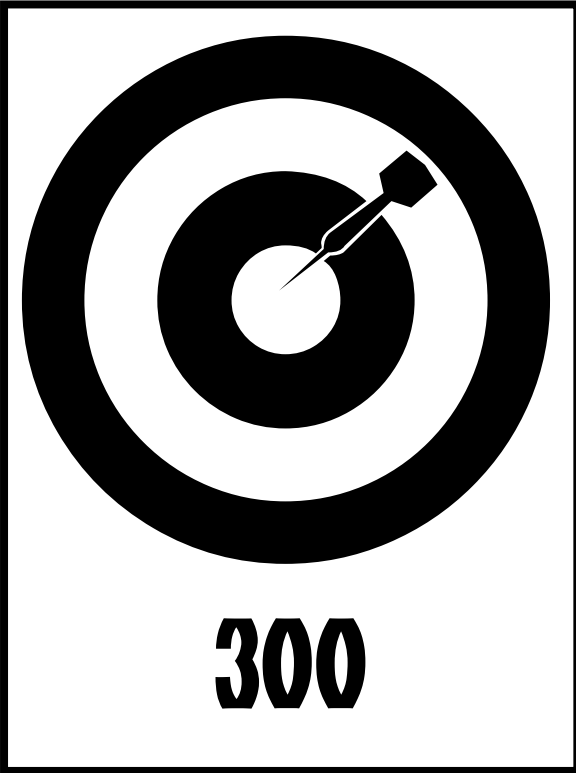












Leading a Child to Christ

Statistics show that 85% of all Christians received Christ between the ages of 4 and 14. As you teach children, remember that they are at an age that is 'ripe unto harvest'. When dealing with C-H-I-L-D-R-E-N, remember these guidelines:

- C** Cover each verse thoroughly and illustrate by using pictures.
- H** Have a sincere love and interest for the child. Treat the child as you would want someone to treat your child.
- I** Inquire of their understanding by asking questions before moving to the next point.
- L** Limit your vocabulary. Use familiar examples and illustrations.
- D** Define everything. Remember a child takes everything literally.
- R** Review the Plan of Salvation before you lead the child in prayer to receive Christ as their Saviour.
- E** Encourage the child to pray aloud with you.
- N** Never leave children without making sure they know what they did and giving them assurance of salvation.

After a child receives Christ as his or her Saviour, the child is to follow the Lord in baptism. No child should be baptized without parental permission. (Acrostic created and used with permission by Dr. Mike Wells, Evangelist, www.wellspublications.com).

The Plan of Salvation

A Admit "I am a sinner."

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God;" Romans 3:23a

"For the wages of sin is death..." Romans 6:23

B Believe "Jesus died and rose again for my sins."

"...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"...how that Christ died for our sins...was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures;" I Corinthians 15:3 & 4

C Call "I must receive Jesus as my Savior"

"...but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23b

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Romans 10:13

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