



April 7th
The Great Commission
Matthew 28:1-10

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- I Can Share God's Love (Journaling)
- Remember the Verse (Craft)
- Sharing the Good News Today (Journaling)
- Color the Journey (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- I Am Going (Game)
- Wonder Ball (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Paper Cup Megaphone (Craft)
- All Around the World (Art)
- Community of Believers (Game)
- Christianity (Response)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| crayons | globes |
| colored pencils | paper cups |
| markers | chenille stems |
| scissors | picture of Earth |
| pencils | construction paper
(green, blue) |
| single hole punch | open space for
playing |
| cardstock | |
| ribbon | |
| maps | |
| inflatable world
globe | |

Suggested Books

- Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did*
by Mindy MacDonald
- Come with Me* by Holly M. McGhee

Tips for the Leader

- When leading, welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them. When they arrive, ask children to share their favorite animal.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

In today's Bible story, Jesus gathers his eleven disciples around him on a mountaintop in Galilee. Jesus commissions his disciples with the task of forming a community of believers. This community is to embody Jesus' presence in the world to strengthen and guide God's children.

However, some of the disciples express doubt. They are still having trouble grasping the mystery of the Resurrection. While some worship Jesus immediately, others have questions. There are many times in the Gospels when the disciples express doubt or disbelief even though they are devoted to Jesus. So it is natural that we, Jesus' modern disciples, also experience some doubt. Just like the disciples before us, we have to accept a little mystery with our faith. Like them, we must accept that there are some answers we don't have and some things that can't be explained. Jesus knows this is a lot for the disciples to take in, and he promises to be with them always as they spread the gospel.

We call Jesus' instructions to form a community of believers the Great Commission. A commission is a call to something God wants you to do. God commissions all of us to share Jesus with the whole world. We do this in many ways, such as ministry and showing kindness, love, and respect. We are called to go and baptize, teach, and serve others. These were central actions in Jesus' ministry, just as they are central to our calling as followers of Christ. Jesus promises to go with us always, even when we doubt, as we carry out the Great Commission.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, reflect your commission. Is there something specific that you feel God is calling you to do in ministry? Even if you aren't ready to answer that call yet, take some time to think about it. Then journal about it. If you are ready to move forward, write out a plan for answering your call. Do you need to take a class and/or talk to someone at your church? What can you do to prepare to answer your call?

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

I Can Share God's Love – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I Can Share God's Love" (Reproducible 6A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "I Can Share God's Love."

SAY: Jesus sent his disciples out into the world to share God's love.

ASK: How can you share God's love?

- Invite children to write or draw on the page.

Remember the Verse – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, single paper punch, markers or crayons, scissors, ribbon

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Remember the Verse" (Reproducible 6B) onto cardstock for each child.

SAY: Let's make something to help us learn our Bible verse.

WONDER: What do you think it means to be of one heart and one mind?

- Distribute a copy of "Remember the Verse" to each child.
- Direct the children to color the bookmarks. Then have the children cut out the bookmarks.
- Use a paper punch to make a hole at the top of each bookmark for the children to tie a ribbon through.
- Remind the children to keep one bookmark for themselves and to give the other two to friends or family.

Sharing the Good News Today – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Sharing the Good News Today" (Reproducible 6C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Sharing the Good News Today."

ASK: What do you think is the best way to spread the good news of Jesus today?

- Encourage the children to complete the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their answers or ideas.

Color the Journey – All Ages

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Color the Journey" (Reproducible 6D) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Color the Journey."

ASK: What do you think it was like for the disciples on their journey to share God's love?

- Invite the children to complete and color the page.

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a map*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the map inside the Wonder Box.*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This week we are exploring the story of the Great Commission.

ASK: Have you ever been asked to go somewhere unexpected? Where did you go?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "The Great Commission" (pp. 172–173) from the storybook or read Matthew 28:16–20 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us ways to spread your love. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player*

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 6 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Where would you go to spread God's love?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 6F–6G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Read the definition of *share* from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What kinds of things do you like to share?

- Have a child place Mary Magdalene and Mary on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Do you enjoy sharing?
 - Who do you share with?
 - Who shares with you?
 - Why do you think God wants us to share?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the map.
- WONDER:** How does this map remind you of the disciples in today's Bible story?

Experience Wonder

I Am Going – All Ages

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: In the Bible story, Jesus sent his friends out into the world.

WONDER: If you were going on a journey all around the world, what would you take with you?

- Instruct the first child to say, "My name is ____, and I am bringing ____ around the world." The item the child is bringing must start with the same letter as his or her first name. Play the game until everyone has had a turn.

Tip: To make it more challenging, you may have each child remember what the previous child named.

Wonder Ball – All Ages

Supplies: inflatable world globe

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor, about arm's length apart.

SAY: There are so many places in the world to share God's love. We are going to pass the ball around the circle. Wherever your thumb is (*either one*) on the map, we will share God's love to the people in that country by saying, "God loves the people of _____!"

WONDER: If you could go anywhere in the world to share about God, where would you go?

Tip: Read the name of the country to the child and locate it on the globe for all the children to see.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What was the community of believers like? Where do you find a community of believers today?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Jesus and the 12 Dudes Who Did by Mindy MacDonald, Come with Me by Holly M. McGhee, quiet toys and soft items, maps, globes, paper; pens; pencils; crayons; markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to explore the maps and globes.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Paper Cup Megaphone

Supplies: paper cups, chenille stems, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Cut out the bottom of a paper cup for each child. Cut two small slits on one side of each paper cup, about two inches apart.

- Give each child a cup and a chenille stem.
- Show the children how to place a chenille stem in the slits to make a handle.

SAY: We can use our megaphones to tell people how much Jesus loves them.

WONDER: How else could you tell people about Jesus' love?

Early Elementary – All Around the World

Supplies: picture of Earth, construction paper (green, blue), markers (blue, black, green), scissors

SAY: Jesus asks us to spread his love all around the world.

- Show the children the picture of the earth. Have each child draw a circle on paper and decorate the circle to look like the earth.
- Have the children cut four strips of construction paper. Show them how to fold the strips accordion-style and then glue one end of each strip to the earth circle to make it look like it has arms and legs.

SAY: You have an earth that looks like it can walk, run, give hugs, and offer so much love. You can spread Jesus' love to all the earth.

Older Elementary – Community of Believers

Prepare Ahead: Clear a space for playing, or locate an open space at your church that is available for use.

SAY: Today, we learned about how Jesus gave the disciples the task of growing the community of believers. Let's see if we can grow a group of believers in our class.

- Ask for a volunteer to be IT. Have the remaining children move quickly around the room.
- A child will be considered tagged if IT taps him or her on the shoulder and says, "Jesus loves you." That child will join IT by linking arms and helping tag another child.
- Continue until all children have been tagged.

Tip: If linking arms and tapping on the shoulder are not options, let the children simply walk together at an acceptable distance and invite others to join them verbally.

Intergenerational – Christianity

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Christianity" (Reproducible 6E) for participant.

- Give each participant a copy of "Christianity."

SAY: Christianity has changed in many ways over the years. This article tells us about a few of them.

- Invite the participants to read the article and write responses to the questions.

ASK: Was there anything in this article that surprised you?

- Invite the participants to discuss.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: God’s love for everyone is a message worth sharing. It brings joy and happiness to those who believe in God. How does God bring joy and happiness to your life?

- Give the children time to share.

SAY: Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: God, thank you for helping me to share joy and happiness. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: May you always share the good news of Jesus.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 6F–6G) if you have not yet done so already.

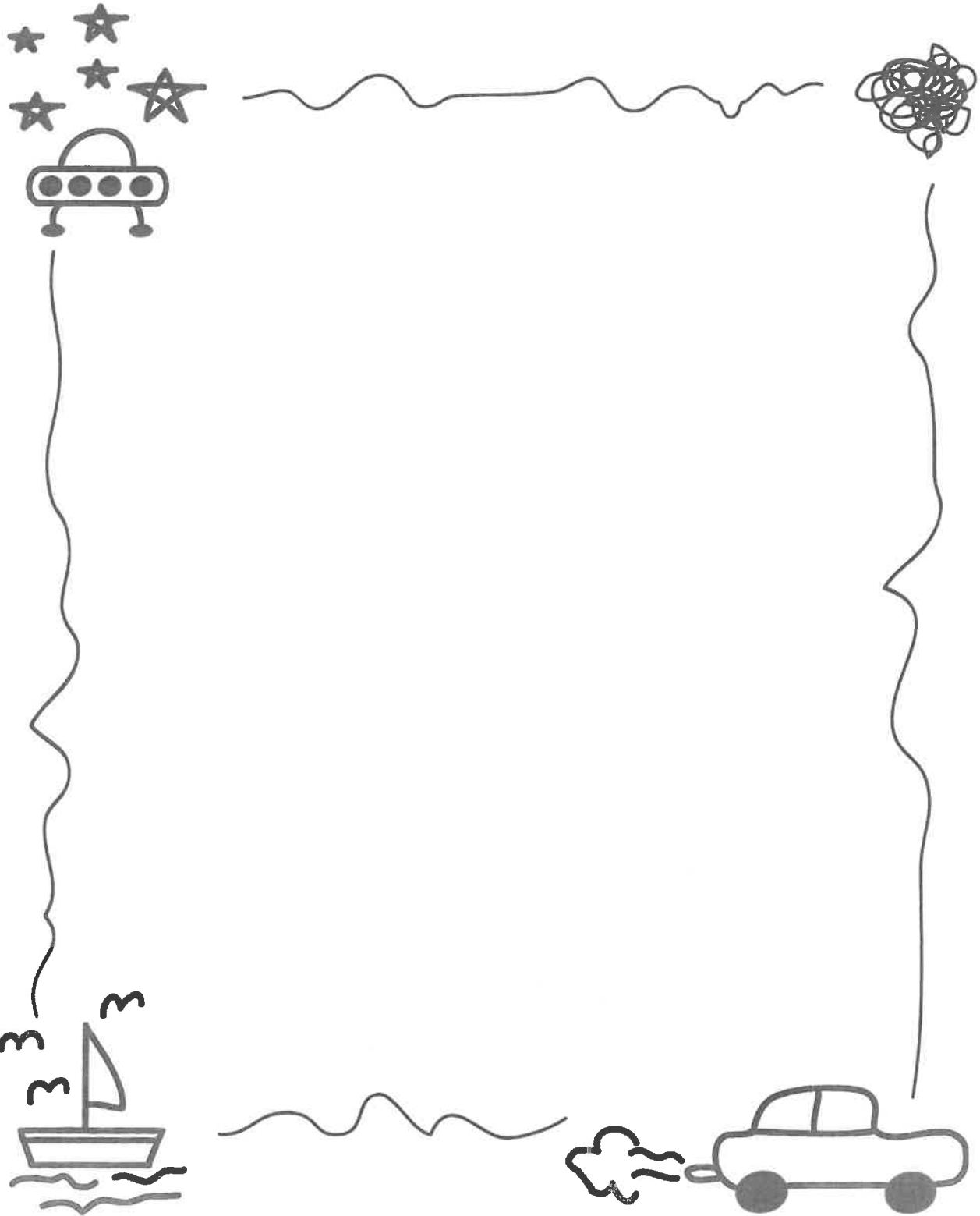
SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

6A

I Can Share God's Love – Journaling

Imagine you can share God's love with others anywhere in the world. Write or draw about where you would go to share God's love and who you would go with. How would you tell people about God's love?



5G

Resurrection – Matthew 28:1-10

The Sabbath day was now over. It was dawn on the first day of the week. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

Suddenly, there was a powerful earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven. The angel went to the tomb. He rolled back the stone and sat on it.

His body shone like lightning. His clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him.

The angel said to the women, "Don't be afraid. I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. But he is not here! He has risen, just as he said he would!"

"Come and see the place where he was lying. Go quickly!" said the angel. "Tell his disciples that the Lord is risen and will meet them in Galilee."

The women hurried away from the tomb. They were afraid, but they were filled with joy. They ran to tell the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and greeted them.

The women were so happy to see Jesus! They came to him, took hold of his feet and worshiped him.

Then Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee. There they will see me."

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story twice together. The first time, read the story with a sad voice. The second time, read the story with a happy and joyful voice!

Wonder: What emotions does Easter make you feel? Why is the story important? Why do we need to remember it?

Do: Be intentional about taking photos of whatever your family chooses to do to celebrate Easter. Create an Easter Joy scrapbook to help you remember the season.

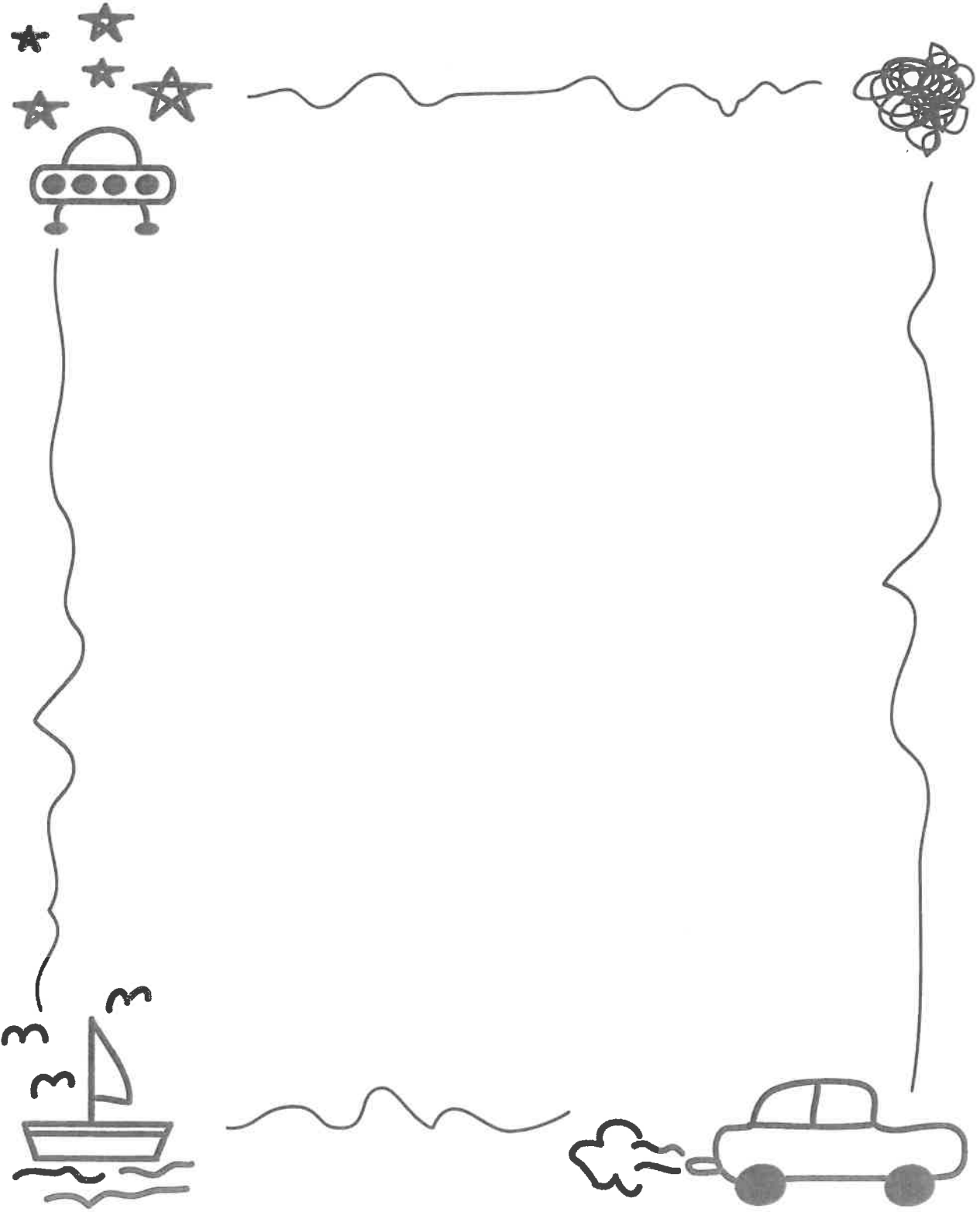
Pray: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the hope and joy we feel. Amen.



6A

I Can Share God's Love – Journaling

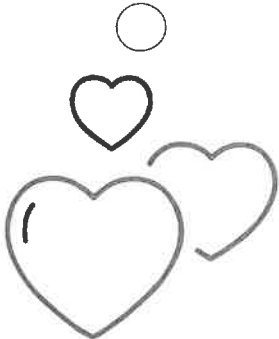

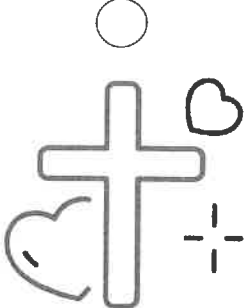
Imagine you can share God's love with others anywhere in the world. Write or draw about where you would go to share God's love and who you would go with. How would you tell people about God's love?



6B

Remember the Verse – Craft

Color and cut out the bookmarks below. Punch a hole at the top, and tie a ribbon through the hole. Keep one bookmark and share the other two with friends.

 <p>Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Mathew 28:19</p>	 <p>Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Mathew 28:19</p>	 <p>Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Mathew 28:19</p>
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6C

Sharing the Good News Today – Journaling

What do you think is the best way to spread the good news of Jesus today? Why? Write or draw about it below.

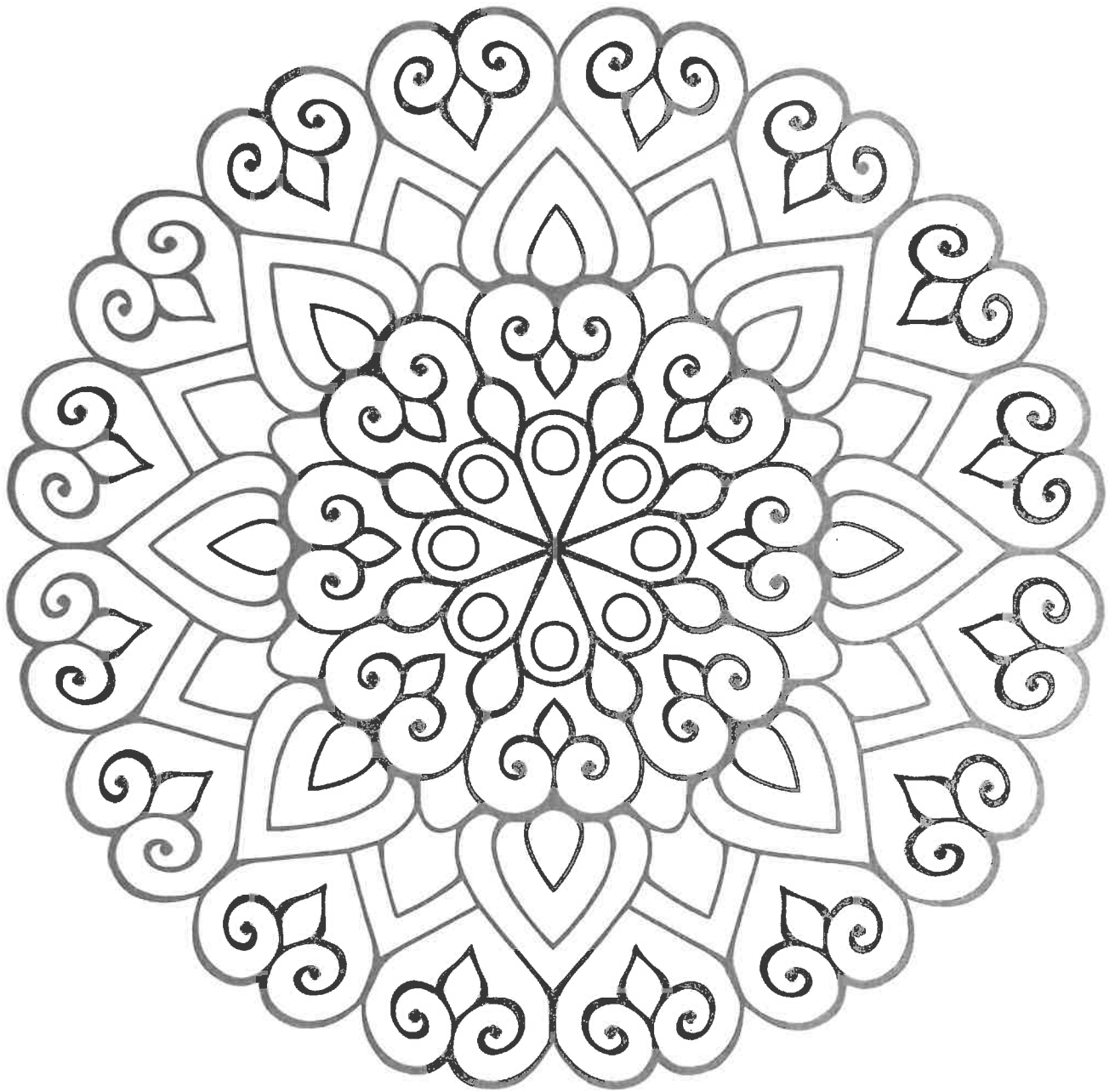
What do you think is the best way to spread the good news of Jesus today? Why?

A large rectangular area for journaling, framed by a decorative border with various patterns and shapes. The border includes vertical dotted lines, circles, and abstract geometric designs. The central area is blank, intended for writing or drawing.

6D

Color the Journey – Coloring

Color the image as you wonder about the journey the disciples took to share God's love. Try to put yourself in the disciples' shoes and think about how they might have felt at different points in their journey.



Christianity – Intergenerational Response

Read the article and respond to the questions below.

Christianity was started more than 2,000 years ago by people who followed Jesus. People who follow Jesus are called Christians. Christianity is the world's largest religion. Christians believe in one God and trust that God is always there. In AD 392, Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire.

Christianity is practiced in many ways around the world. One of the really cool things about our faith is that there are so many ways to worship God and to spread the message of Jesus!

When Jesus' disciples went out into the world, many different Christian traditions spread. Christianity is divided up into different traditions: Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, and other traditions. Although these traditions have some different practices and beliefs, all are followers of Jesus.



What are some of your faith traditions?

What do you believe about Jesus?

6F

Share – Faith Word Coloring Page

To share is to offer God's blessings to others. Think about ways you can share as you color the word.



The Great Commission – Matthew 28:16-20

Mary Magdalene and Mary shared the good news that Jesus was alive with his friends, the disciples. Jesus' friends left to wait for Jesus in Galilee, as he requested.

Jesus joined his friends in Galilee, just as he said he would. Jesus then gave his friends instructions to share the good news about him with all of the world—to teach them, baptize them, to love one another, and to do all that he had taught them to do.

Jesus also promised his friends, "I will be with you always, wherever you go, for all time."



Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of the Great Commission together.

Wonder: How does it feel to know Jesus is always with you, wherever you go?

Do: Jesus was commissioning, or instructing, his friends to do a very big task. Travel wasn't easy in those days, and Jesus knew they could expect serious trouble from people. The promise that he would be with them must have given them some comfort.

Use a calming spiritual practice to remember that Jesus is with you, always. Close your eyes, breathe in and say, "Jesus is by my side." Breathe out and say, "I am not afraid. Amen." Do this several times.

Think of the community you are a part of. As you go through the week, remind yourself that you are included in a community that loves you as God loves you.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for always being with us. Amen.



April 14th
Peter and John
Acts 3:1-10

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Storytelling Puppets (Craft)
- I Can Share Good News (Journaling)
- Comic Strip (Art)
- My Sharing List (Response Activity)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Love Shared (Science)
- Walking, Leaping, Praising (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Go-and-Tell Tag (Game)
- Temp-Changing Slime (Science)
- Paper Chain (Craft)
- What Can You Give? (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

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|-------------------------|--|
| crayons | washable markers |
| colored pencils | large spoon |
| markers | large bowl |
| scissors | measuring cups & spoons |
| pencils | container with lid |
| construction paper | magnifying glasses |
| glue | dolls |
| tape | play doctor kits |
| offering plate | stapler |
| markerboard and markers | slime ingredients (Reproducible Book 7E) |
| two cups of water | |
| paper towels | |

Suggested Books

- God's Love Is a Warm Cookie* by Susan Jones
- Doctor White* by Jane Goodall

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.

Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.

- As you prepare to lead, be sure to include any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

Today's story illustrates the wonders of Jesus and his amazing power to heal. During biblical times, poor people who needed assistance would sit by the gates of the temple and ask for help from people who passed by. People sometimes would give them money, food, or clothes. Jesus instructed people to give to everyone who asked.

In the story, when a man who is crippled sees Peter and John, he immediately asks them for money (or a "gift"). However, Peter tells the man that they have no money for him and instead offers him something better. Peter commands the man to rise up in the name of Jesus and then pulls him up by the hand. The man is healed by the power of Jesus and begins to walk, leap, and praise God. He even joins Peter and John in the temple. People are amazed to see this man who was unable to move on his own for so long, up and moving about freely.

Children also encounter people who need help. They might not always know what to do. We can't always heal everyone, but we can help with a small task or assist one person at a time.

This story includes amazement and surprise, common responses to these kinds of healings. Like many of the stories in this unit, there is great mystery in what happened; they give children the space to wonder about Jesus and his teachings, healings, and ministries.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, be a witness to the love of Christ to people who are sick and shut in. Though we may not be able to heal everyone, we can share the love of Christ with others during times of sickness. Send cards to those in your church or in the wider community who are sick and shut in. Be sure to write a short note in each card to let the person know that she or he is loved, remembered, and prayed for.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

Storytelling Puppets – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, scissors, construction paper, glue or tape

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Storytelling Puppets" (Reproducible 7A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Storytelling Puppets."

SAY: In our Bible story today, Peter and John share something very important with a man in need.

ASK: What are can you share with someone in need?

- Have the children color and cut out the puppets. Let them secure the puppets with tape or glue
- Help children act out a sharing scenario using the puppets.

I Can Share Good News – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I Can Share Good News" (Reproducible 7B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "I Can Share Good News."

SAY: In our Bible story, Peter and John share good news.

ASK: Did you know that you can share good news also? How would you have shared the good news of Jesus with the man at the gate at our Bible story?

- Encourage children to draw their own helping scenarios on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share what they have drawn.

Comic Strip – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, colored pencils or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Comic Strip" (Reproducible 7C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Comic Strip."

ASK: How do you imagine the Bible story?

- Encourage children to draw the events of the Bibles story as they imagine them.

My Sharing List – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Sharing List" (Reproducible 7D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "My Sharing List."

SAY: Stories of sharing teach us how God wants us to treat one another. Let's see if we can think of some ways to share.

- Encourage the children to fill in the page by writing or drawing things they can share in each category.
- Allow willing volunteers to share what they have written.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, offering plate

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the offering plate inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about sharing.

ASK: Have you ever shared something with someone who really needed it?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Peter and John" (pp. 270–271) from the storybook or read Acts 3:1–10 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, teaching us how to share with others. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 7 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of the story did you like best? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 7F–7G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What have you seen people sharing like Peter and John?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Show the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *share* is sharing the good news through witness.

ASK: What did Peter and John share?

- Have a child place Peter and John on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What does sharing mean to you?
 - How do you share with others?
 - Do others share with you? How?
 - How would you share God's love with others?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the offering plate.

SAY: The offering plate reminds us to share what God has given to us.

WONDER: What are some other ways that people at church share?

Experience Wonder

Love Shared – All Ages

Supplies: two cups of water, paper towels, washable markers

- Have each child color a small square on one end of a paper towel sheet.
(Keep the colors within an inch on each end of the paper towel.)

SAY: As we share God’s love with others, they also share God’s love. And soon, there are lots of people who have heard of God’s love.

- Place one end of the paper towel into each cup. Let the children watch as the color spreads.

WONDER: I wonder who the man shared the good news with after he was healed.

Walking, Leaping, Praising – All Ages

Prepare Ahead: Make sure you have some open floor space for playing.

- Invite a child to be IT.
- Ask IT to stand on one side of the room and everyone else to stand on the other side.
- When IT says, “Walking,” children will begin slowing walking toward IT. When IT says, “Leaping,” children will slowly leap toward IT. When IT says, “Praising God,” children will dance in place.
- The first child to reach IT becomes the next IT, and the game starts over.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let’s find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us how we should be in community with one another.

ASK: Where are other verses you like located? Why is important to read different verses in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, God's Love Is a Warm Cookie by Susan Jones, Doctor White by Jane Goodall, quiet toys and soft items, stuffed items and dolls, play doctor kit, materials to make cards for sick people, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to make cards for those who are sick.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Go-and-Tell Tag

- Assign two children to be Peter and John. Have "Peter" and "John" walk slowly throughout the room.
- Have Peter and John tag one child each and quickly run to different corners in the room, and then stay there.
- The tagged children then become Peter and John, and the game continues.
- Tagging continues until all children are spread out in the corners of the room.

SAY: You were all tagged by a friend of Jesus, so you are friends of Jesus too. Friends of Jesus share the good news with others. Look at all the people and places that were touched by the good news! Just like the healing of the man who couldn't walk, the good news spread fast.

WONDER: What good news do you want to share about Jesus?

Early Elementary – Temp-Changing Slime

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, large bowl, measuring cups and spoons, glass or plastic container with a lid, slime ingredients (see Reproducible 7E)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Temp-Changing" Slime (Reproducible 7E). Add the corn starch to the squirt bottles before class.

WONDER: Why do you think heat changes the slime? What happened when you touched the slime? Where have you seen other items that are heat sensitive?

SAY: In the Bible story, the man was healed and was changed. Our slime also changed. As the temperature of the slime changed, the thermochromic materials changed colors. This reaction also happens in mood rings and in some lipsticks and bathtub rubber duckies. There are two main types of thermochromic materials in the pigment, which reflect light and create heat.

WONDER: What does change mean to you? What or where have you seen change?

Older Elementary – Paper Chain

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, colored pencils, stapler

- Give each child a piece of construction paper.
- Invite the children to cut their paper into strips, starting on the short side of the paper. The strips should be twelve inches long and one inch wide.
- Have the children write a prayer for someone else on each strip of paper.
- When the children are done, connect the paper strips together to make a chain. Do this by curving the first strip into a circle (with the words facing out) and stapling it in place. Thread the next strip through the paper circle, curve it into a circle, and staple it in place. Continue linking all the strips into a paper chain.

SAY: Prayer connects us. When we work together, we can find ways to help and heal others.

Tip: Tell the children their prayers will be shared with others. If they want to write a personal prayer, they may take it home instead of adding it to the prayer chain.

- Take some time to pray for those on your prayer chain.

Intergenerational – What Can You Give?

Supplies: markerboard and dry-erase markers

Prepare Ahead: Think about ways you can give when you don't have a lot of money.

SAY: Today, we learned about how Peter and John showed a man the love and power of Jesus without giving money.

ASK: What are some ways we can give and share the love of Jesus with others when we don't have money?

- Let the participants call out responses, and write them on the board.

SAY: It looks like there are many ways to give without money!

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have the children stand in a circle.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: Peter gave what he could to the man at the temple. He didn't have money, but he had healing power through Jesus. Let's talk about how we can share the love of Jesus with others.

- Give the children time to share.

SAY: Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: God, thank you for helping me to share the love of Jesus. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave. Touch each child as you say this blessing:
"May you always share the good news of Jesus."

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

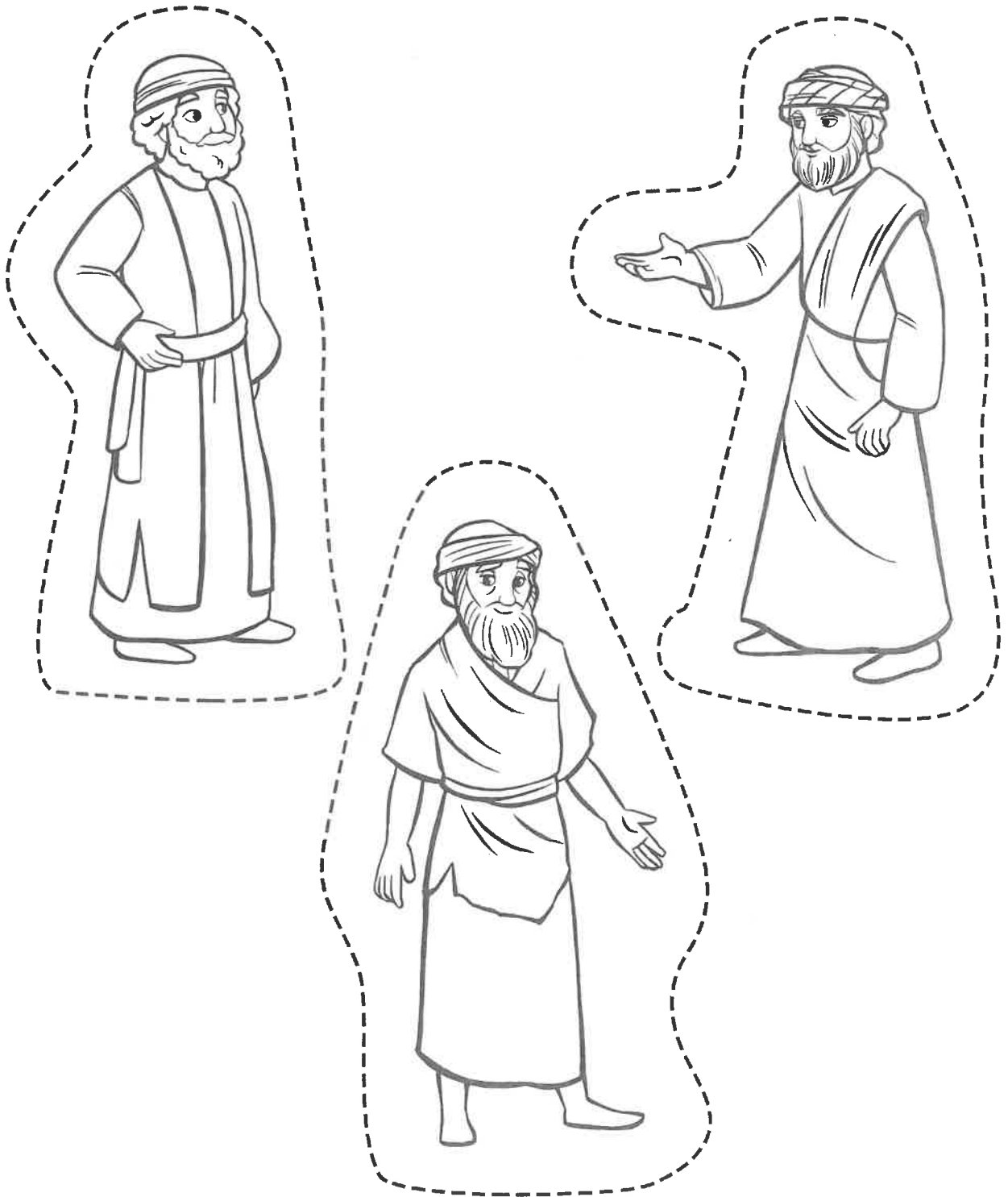
SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 7F–7G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

7A

Storytelling Puppets – Craft

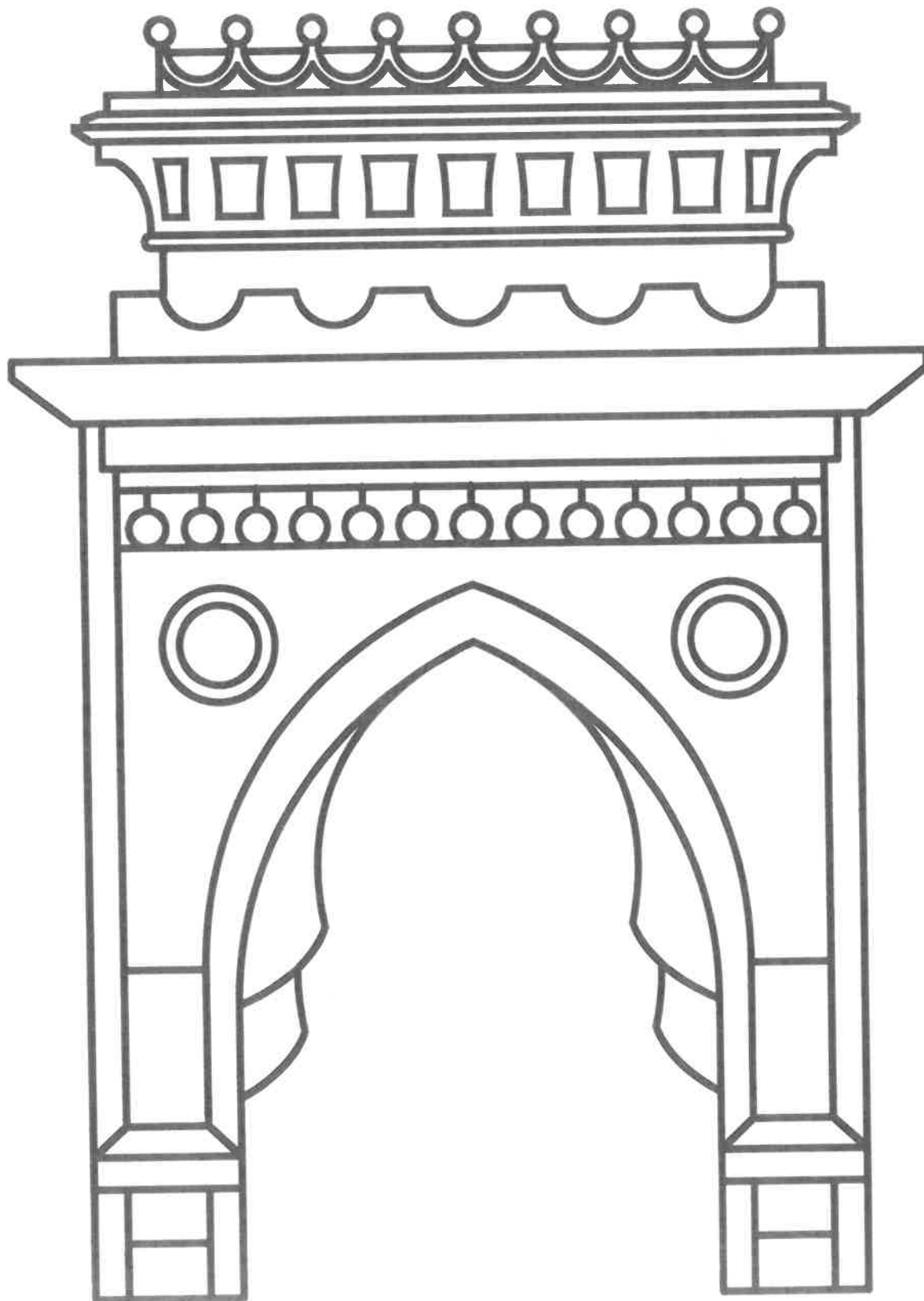
Color and cut out the puppets. Then use the puppets to retell today's Bible story..



7B

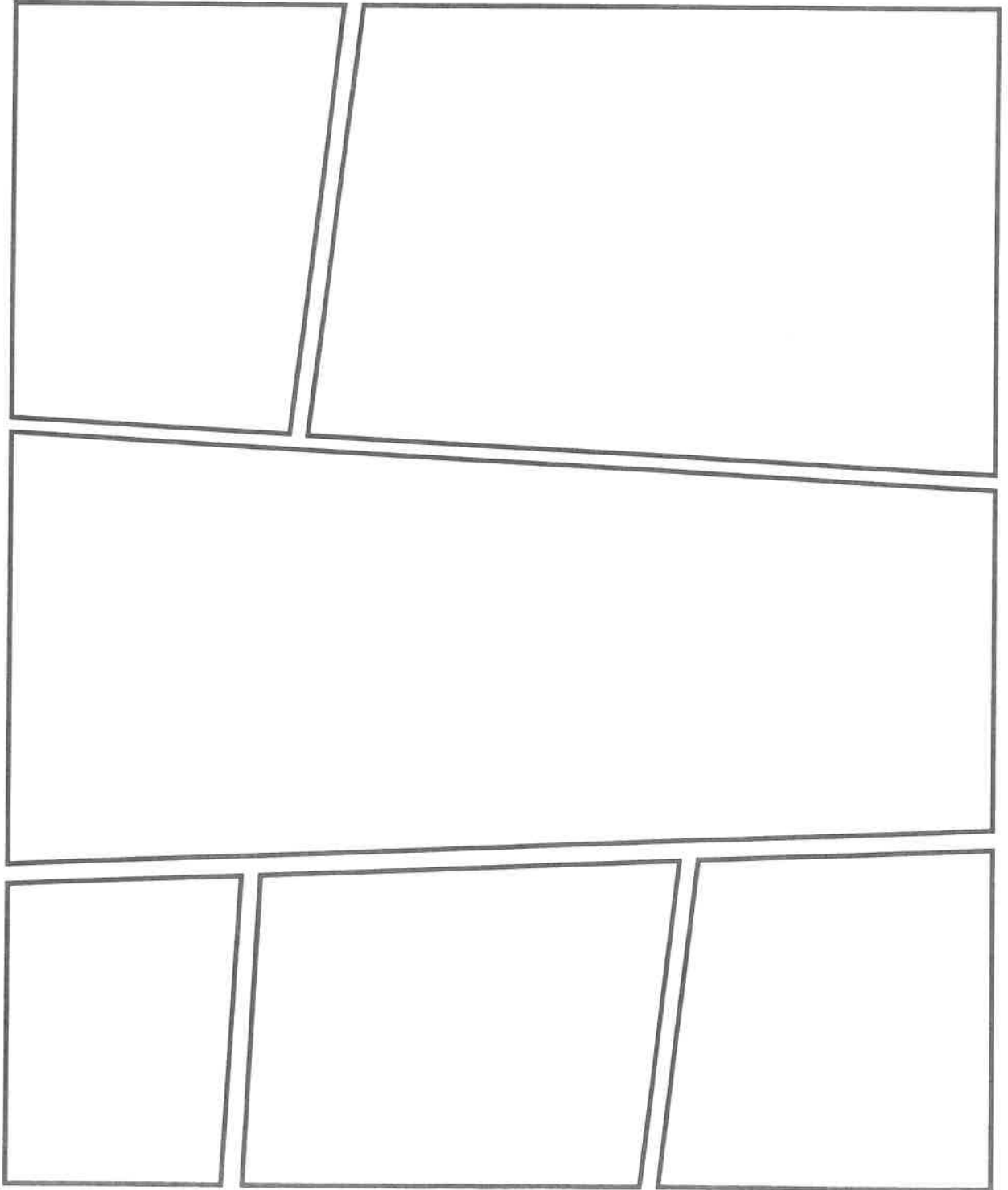
I Can Share Good News – Journaling

Draw a person needing help at the temple gate. Then draw how you would help that person.



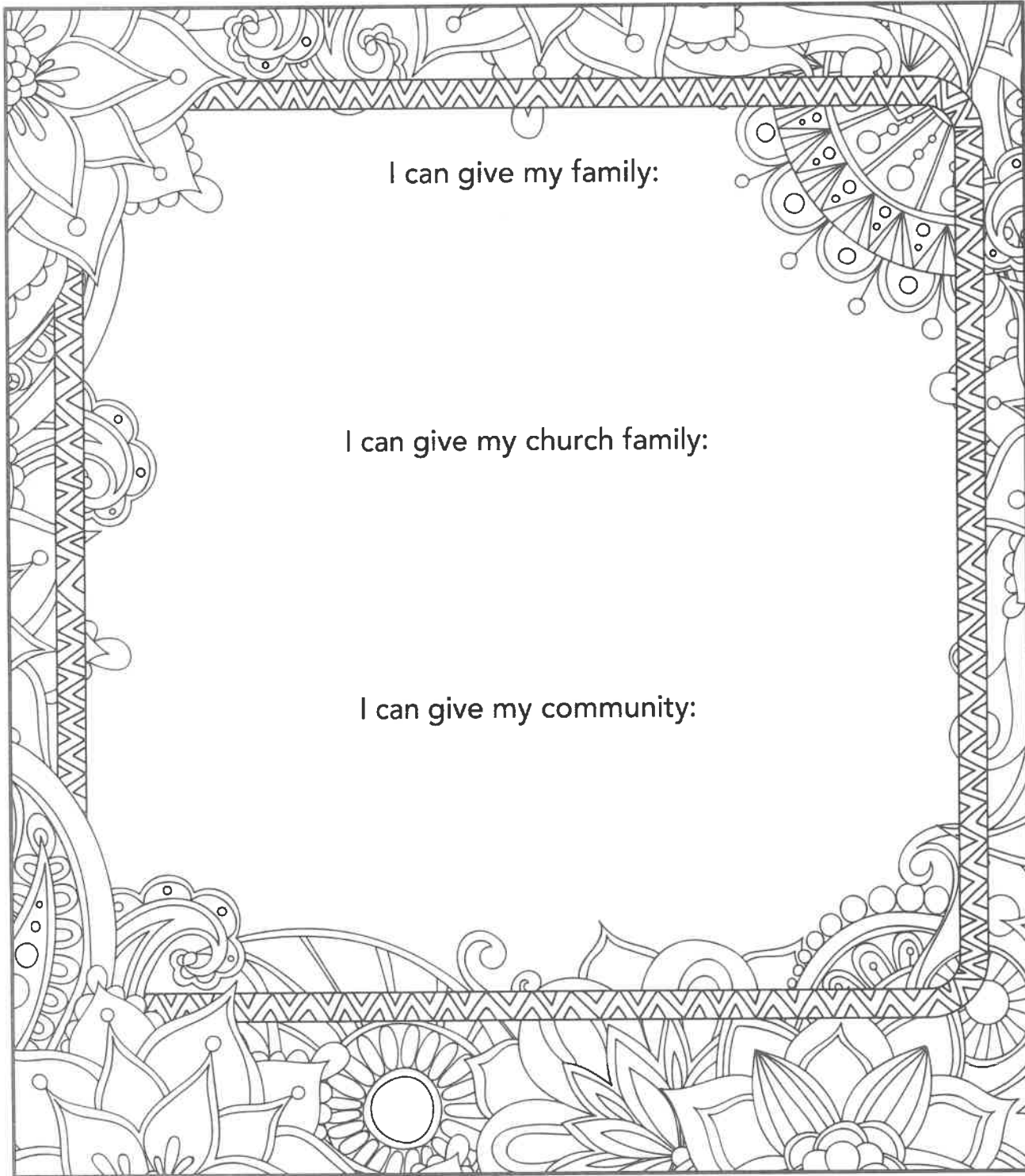
Comic Strip – Art

In today's Bible story, Peter and John help a man at the temple gate. The man asks them for money, but they offer him healing through Jesus instead. Draw how you imagine the story in the comic strip boxes below.



My Sharing List – Response Activity

Fill in each category on the page with what you can share.



I can give my family:

I can give my church family:

I can give my community:

Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John went to the temple to pray. At the temple gate, they saw a man who could not walk. The man was there every day asking people for money because he could not walk and could not work.

The man asked Peter and John for money. Peter said they had no money, but they could give him something better than money. "I can give you Jesus," Peter said. "In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" Peter said.

The man jumped up and was able to walk into the temple for the first time! He was so excited, he couldn't wait to praise Jesus. When the people saw what had happened to him, they were amazed.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of Peter and John together. At the end of the story, jump for joy together to celebrate the man's healing at the temple gate.

Wonder: How else can you share the love of Jesus with others?

Do: In the Bible story, we learn about a man who jumps for joy. He was healed. Can you jump for joy?

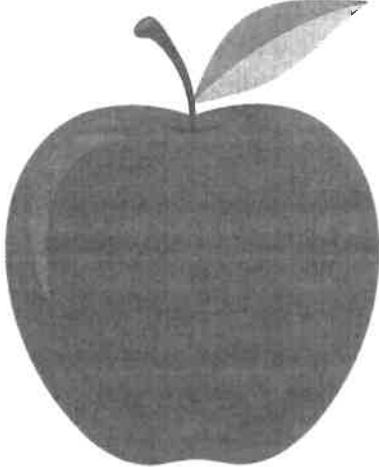



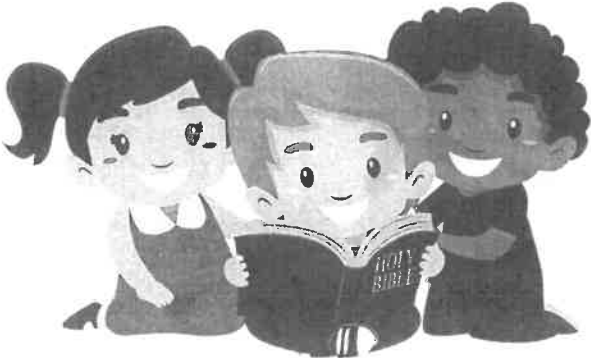
Each day this week, find something that makes you jump for joy. Share with your family something you are happy or joyful about and then jump up and down together.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. Amen.



What Would You Share? – Activity

What would you share with others? Circle the things you would share. Then draw something else you could share in the blank space.

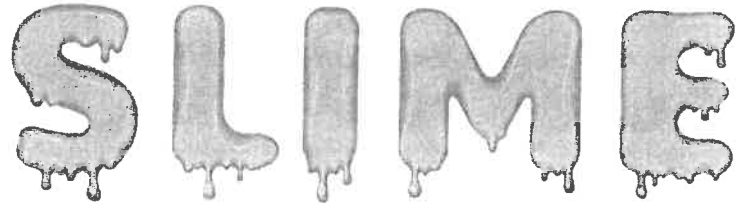
	
	
	

Temp-Changing Slime – Science

Gather the supplies listed below, and follow the directions to make temperature-changing slime.

Thermochromic Slime

- ¼ cup white school glue
- 1 tablespoon water
- Food coloring
- 3 teaspoons thermochromic pigment
- ¼ cup liquid starch

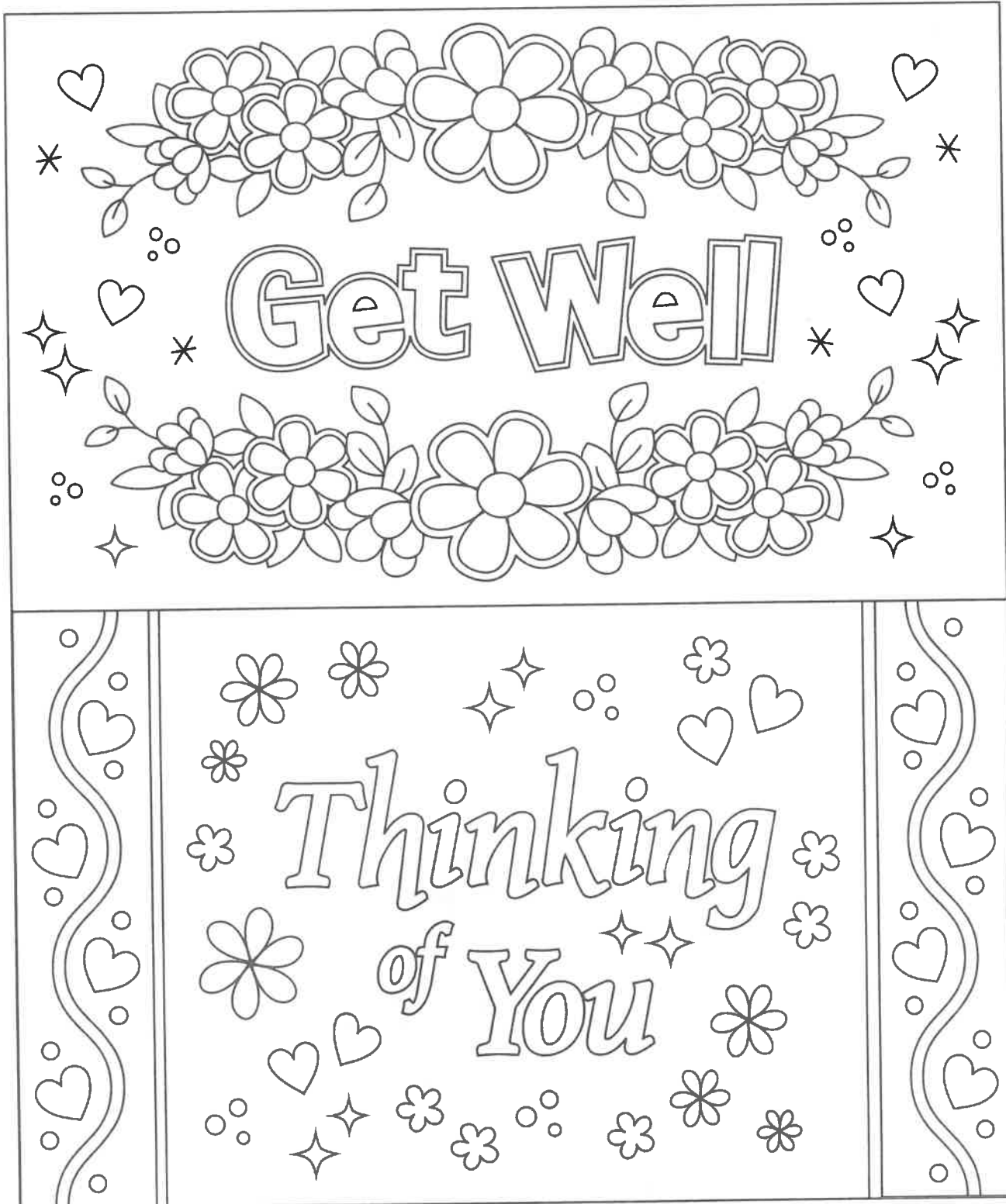


- Pour ¼ cup white school glue into a large bowl.
- Add 1 tablespoon water and stir until combined.
- Add 5 drops of food coloring and mix well.
- Add 3 teaspoons of thermochromic pigment and mix until uniformly distributed.
- Add in 1/8 cup liquid starch and mix until thick and slimy. Then knead the slime with your hands and return to the starch mixture for another mixing. This step is important because it makes sure there's no unmixed glue hiding in the center of your slime ball.
- If slime is still sticky, add additional starch a little at a time. Make sure to knead until it is no longer sticky. Most batches will use the entire ¼ cup liquid starch that is indicated in this slime recipe.
- Store this color-changing slime in a glass or plastic container with a lid for up to one week. If you haven't played with it for a couple days, you might need to add a little additional starch to it (one teaspoon at a time).



Thinking of Others – Craft

Color and cut out the postcards below. Then give them to people you know who are sick and shut in or who could just use a little cheering up.



Peter and John – Acts 3:1-10

Peter and John went to the temple to pray. At the temple gate, they saw a man who could not walk. The man was there every day asking people for money because he could not walk and could not work.

The man asked Peter and John for money. Peter said they had no money, but they could give him something better than money. "I can give you Jesus," Peter said. "In the name of Jesus Christ, get up and walk!" Peter said.

The man jumped up and was able to walk into the temple for the first time! He was so excited, he couldn't wait to praise Jesus. When the people saw what had happened to him, they were amazed.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of Peter and John together. At the end of the story, jump for joy together to celebrate the man's healing at the temple gate.

Wonder: How else can you share the love of Jesus with others?

Do: In the Bible story, we learn about a man who jumps for joy. He was healed. Can you jump for joy?

Each day this week, find something that makes you jump for joy. Share with your family something you are happy or joyful about and then jump up and down together.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us Jesus. Amen.





April 21st
Believers Share
Acts 4:32-3

God community of believers was of one heart and mind. (Acts 4:32a)

Believers Share – Acts 4:32-37

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- What Would You Share? (Activity)
- Find and Share (Activity)
- How Do You Say Share? (Matching Languages)
- I Can Share with Others (Art)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Sharing Circle (Game)
- Super Sharing (Craft)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Fruit Salad (Snack)
- I Can Share (Game)
- Who Has What Is Needed? (Art)
- Sharing Response (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>large bowl</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>napkins</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>various cut-up fruit</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>plastic spoons</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>ball of yarn</i> |
| <i>church directory</i> | <i>butcher paper</i> |
| <i>stickers</i> | <i>various art supplies</i> |
| <i>items to create care kits for those in need</i> | |
| <i>large spoon</i> | |

Suggested Books

- It's Mine!* by Leo Lionni
- How to Share with a Bear* by Eric Pinde

Tips for the Leader

- This session includes a snack. Be sure to check for food allergies ahead of time.
- Choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of reproducible pages that you plan on using.
- Did you know you can purchase full color activity pages that coincide with each session? If purchasing, consider sending the pages home along with the other take-home pages. Purchase at Cokesburykids.com.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

This week's story is from the Book of Acts. It highlights the way the early Christians worked together for the good of everyone in their community. It says they "held everything in common"—rather than saying, "this is mine"—meaning that they shared and looked out for one another. By doing this, they created a community where no one was needy. They even sold their properties and houses to add to the shared wealth of their community. Their shared resources were managed by the apostles, who distributed them to those in need. This was not mandatory, but people who were able did this to share, and to honor God by sharing the resources God had provided. Sharing was a way of showing love and friendship.

As Christians today, we are called to share what we have with those in need. Sharing is hard for kids sometimes. It also can be hard for adults, as we might feel ill-equipped or unable to help those who need the most. We often want to hold close the things we have worked hard for. For many, today's story seems impossible. How could we live in a world where everyone shares all that they have? This might never be possible today, but we can find small and imaginative ways to share.

It is important that we acknowledge and help children see that many people are in need, but that there are ways we can share. This story also lends itself to conversation about the basic needs of all humans and how we assure all of God's people are cared for.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Choose a favorite charity to become involved with. Read about the ministry the charity is involved in. If possible, visit the charity and meet some of the people who have benefited from their resources. Pray for the people each day and discover what gift you have to share. For children, supporting an assisted-living facility is an excellent way for them to learn to share. They can make cards and possibly visit the facility. Put your hands to work as well as your heart.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

What Would You Share? – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "What Would You Share?" (Reproducible 8A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "What Would You Share?"

SAY: Did you know that the early believers shared everything they had?

ASK: What would you be willing to share?

- Invite children to complete the activity on the page.

Find and Share – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, markers or crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Find and Share" (Reproducible 8B) for each child.

ASK: What do you imagine life was like for the earlier believers?

SAY: See if you can find the objects hidden in the picture of the believers.

- Distribute a copy of "Find and Share" to each child.
- Encourage the children to complete the activity.

How Do You Say Share? – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "How Do You Say Share?" (Reproducible 8C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "How Do You Say Share?"

ASK: Did you know that people from cultures all around the world have a word that means share?

- Encourage the children to complete the page by matching the translations.

I Can Share with Others – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I Can Share with Others" (Reproducible 8D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of “I Can Share with Others.”
- Encourage children to draw a picture of themselves sharing with others.

ASK: What did you draw?

- Invite willing participants to share about their drawings.

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, church directory*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the church directory inside the Wonder Box.*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are exploring stories about sharing.

ASK: Why do you think it’s important to share?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Believers Share” (pp. 272–273) from the storybook or read Acts 4:32-37 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us how to share. Amen.

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: *Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player*

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 8 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Would you be able to share everything you have with others? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids’ Book, Bible dress-up clothes (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 8F–8G).*

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What is your favorite part of the story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4)

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Read the definition of share from the Faith Word Poster.

ASK: What kinds of things do you like to share with others?

- Have a child place the widow and child on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Do you enjoy sharing with others?
- What are some things you enjoy sharing?
- How does sharing make you feel?
- Why do you think God wants us to share with others?

- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the church directory.

WONDER: How do the people in this directory remind you of our Faith Word?

Experience Wonder

Sharing Circle – All Ages

Supplies: none

- Have the children sit in a circle.

SAY: We are going to play a sharing game. This is what I want you to say: "I am a believer in Jesus, and I can share _____." I'll start: "I am a believer in Jesus, and I can share my shoes."

- Let every child have a turn and, if time allows, go around the circle again.

WONDER: What kinds of things do you think the early believers shared?

Tip: Sharing categories, such as food, clothes, and toys, may make it easier for younger children to think of something to share.

Super Sharing – All Ages

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, markers, crayons, stickers, tape

SAY: It's important to share. We are going to make super sharing bracelets to remind us of the super power given to us by God to share with others.

- Direct each child to cut a strip of paper to fit her or his wrist.
- Encourage the children to write the Bible verse on their bracelets: "The community of believers was one in heart and mind."
- Let the children decorate their bracelets.
- Help the children secure their bracelets to their arms using tape.

SAY: You are given a super special power to share with all of God's children.

Tip: Younger children will need help with writing the verse. As an alternative, you may consider writing the verse on the strips ahead of time and letting the children decorate around the verse.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (*fifth book*) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (*4*) What is the verse number? (*32*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What do you think it's like when people are one in heart and mind?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, It's Mine! by Leo Lionni, How to Share with a Bear by Eric Pinder, quiet toys and soft items, church directory from the Wonder Box, items to create care kits for those in need (small, nonperishable snacks; bottled water; new socks, hygiene items; etc.)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw the favorite part of today's Bible story.

- Encourage children to create a care kit for someone in need.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – Fruit Salad

Supplies: large bowl and spoon, paper bowls, napkins, plastic spoons, various cut-up fruit

Prepare Ahead: Wash and cut up fruit to divide into individual paper bowls.

- Give each child a bowl of fruit, a napkin, and a plastic spoon.

SAY: The believers of Jesus shared all they had, even their food. We could keep the bowl of fruit we each have or we can share the fruit with our friends by putting it all in this big bowl.

ASK: What do you think the believers of Jesus would have done?

WONDER: Why do you think we should share our fruit with others?

Tip: Check for food allergies ahead of time.

Early Elementary – I Can Share

Supplies: ball of yarn

SAY: Our Bible story is all about being in community and sharing. Being part of a community means that you are connected; that you care and often think about your community and its needs. Let's play a game to remind us that we all can be connected through sharing.

- Have the children form a circle.
- Ask a child to toss the ball of yarn to another child while holding onto part of the yarn and say something he or she can share. Have the next child do the same.
- Continue until all children have had a turn and everyone is connected by the yarn.

Older Elementary – Who Has What Is Needed?

Supplies: butcher paper, art supplies (such as markers, crayons, colored pencils, stickers, pom-poms, glue)

Prepare Ahead: On the butcher paper, draw a large outline of the Christian fish symbol.

- Give one child responsibility for all the supplies.

SAY: (Child) has the supplies we need to do our art project. (Child) can decide who can use what to complete the project.

- Invite the children to color and decorate the fish.

SAY: The Christian fish symbol was something that brought Christians together when others did not like people who followed Jesus. We can create art to remember that we all are part of a special community that can share love.

- Observe how the children share supplies. After a while, remind children of the Bible story and of the importance of sharing.

WONDER: What was this activity like? Was everyone included? Did everyone share?

Intergenerational – Sharing Response

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pens or pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Sharing Response" (Reproducible 8E) for each participant.

SAY: Our Bible story is all about sharing. Let's each write how we would share in the scenarios on the page, and then discuss our responses.

- Give each participant a copy of "Sharing Response."
- Let the participants have time to respond to the prompts.
- Allow willing participants to share their responses and discuss together.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

- Have each child find a partner.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: The believers of Jesus met together to pray, just like we do at church. Look at your partner and repeat this prayer after me: “Thank you, God, for my friend. I will share with my friends. Amen.”

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: May you always share the good news of Jesus.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for allowing us to share the love of Jesus with one another. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids’ Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

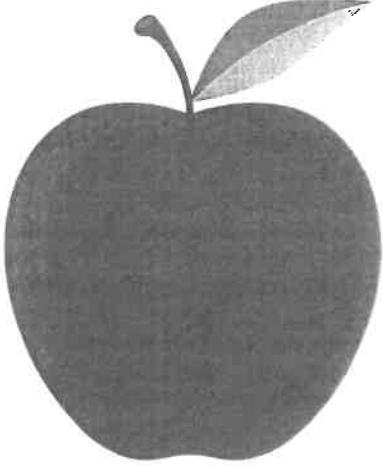

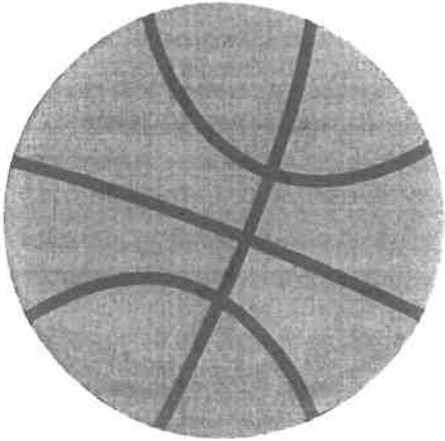

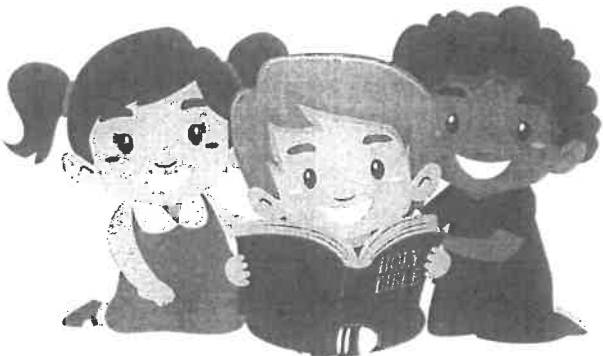
Prepare Ahead: Photocopy “Family Celebration Letter” (p. 128) and the Take Home Pages (Reproducibles 8F–8G) if you have not yet done so already.

SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages with each child.
- Send a copy of the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

What Would You Share? – Activity

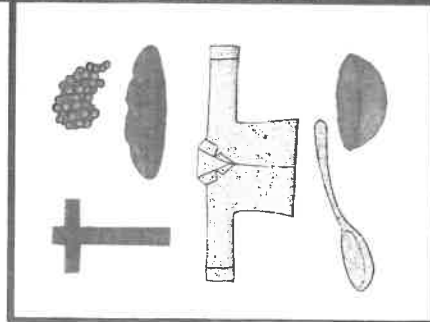
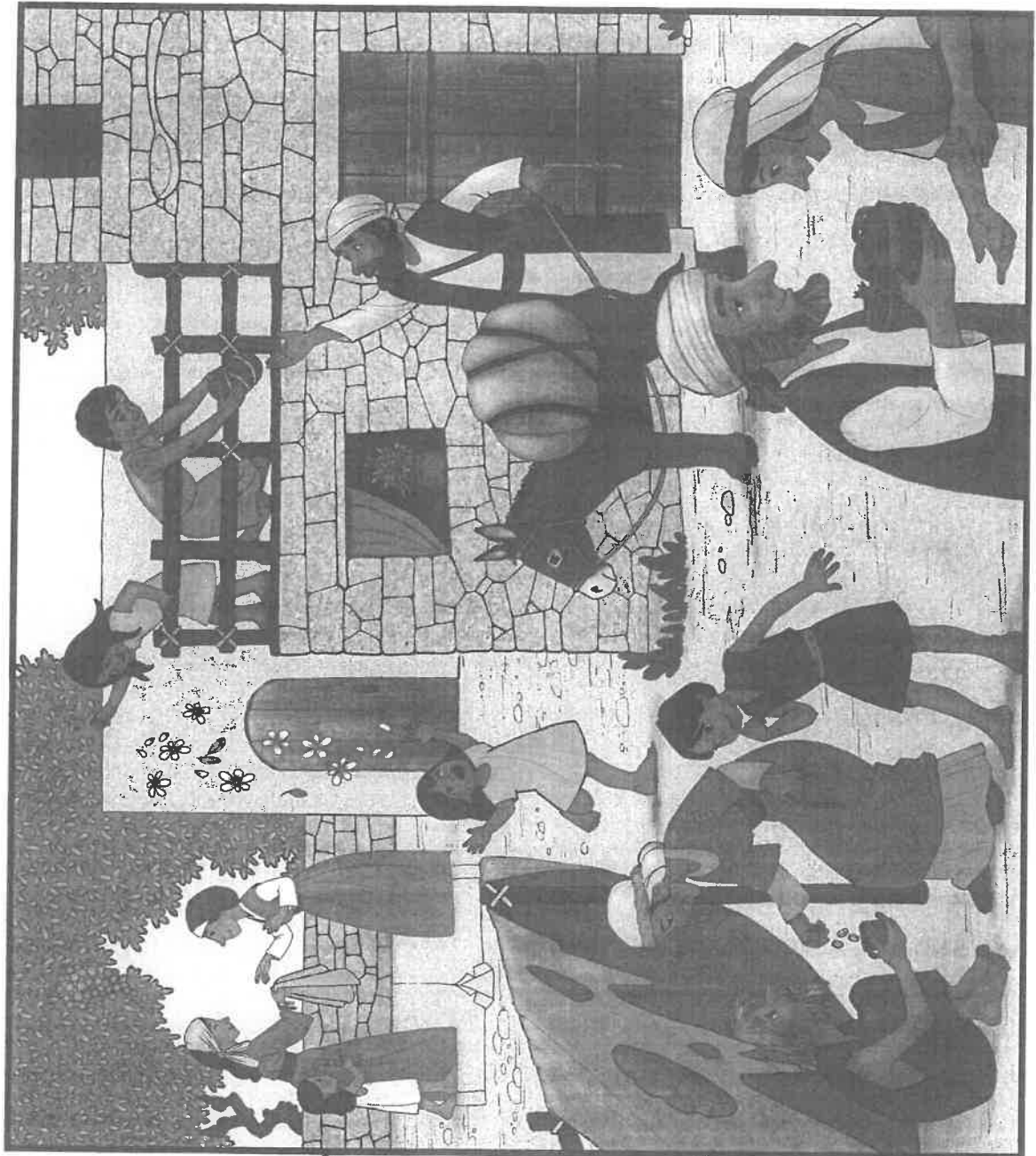
What would you share with others? Circle the things you would share. Then draw something else you could share in the blank space.

8B

Find and Share – Activity

Find the six items hidden in the picture.



8C

How Do You Say Share? – Matching Languages

Below are some translations of the word *share* in different languages. Can you guess which language each word comes from? Draw a line from each translation of the word *share* to the language you think it comes from.

delen

del

share

compartilhar

partager

jaa

condividere

rhannu

compartir

magbahagi

French

Finnish

Danish

Spanish

Dutch

Welsh

Somali

Filipino

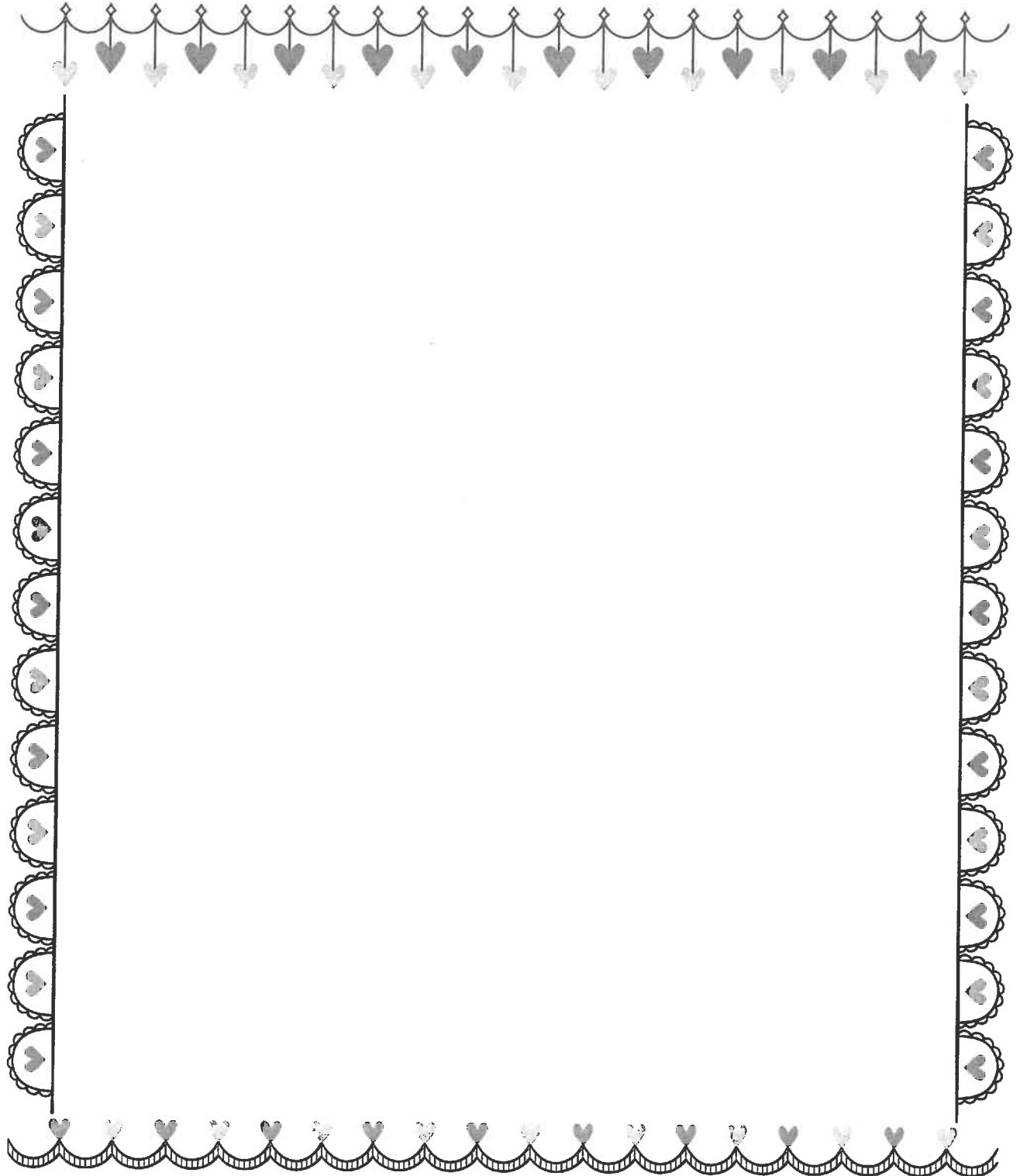
Italian

Portuguese

8D

I Can Share with Others – Drawing

Draw a picture of yourself sharing with a friend.



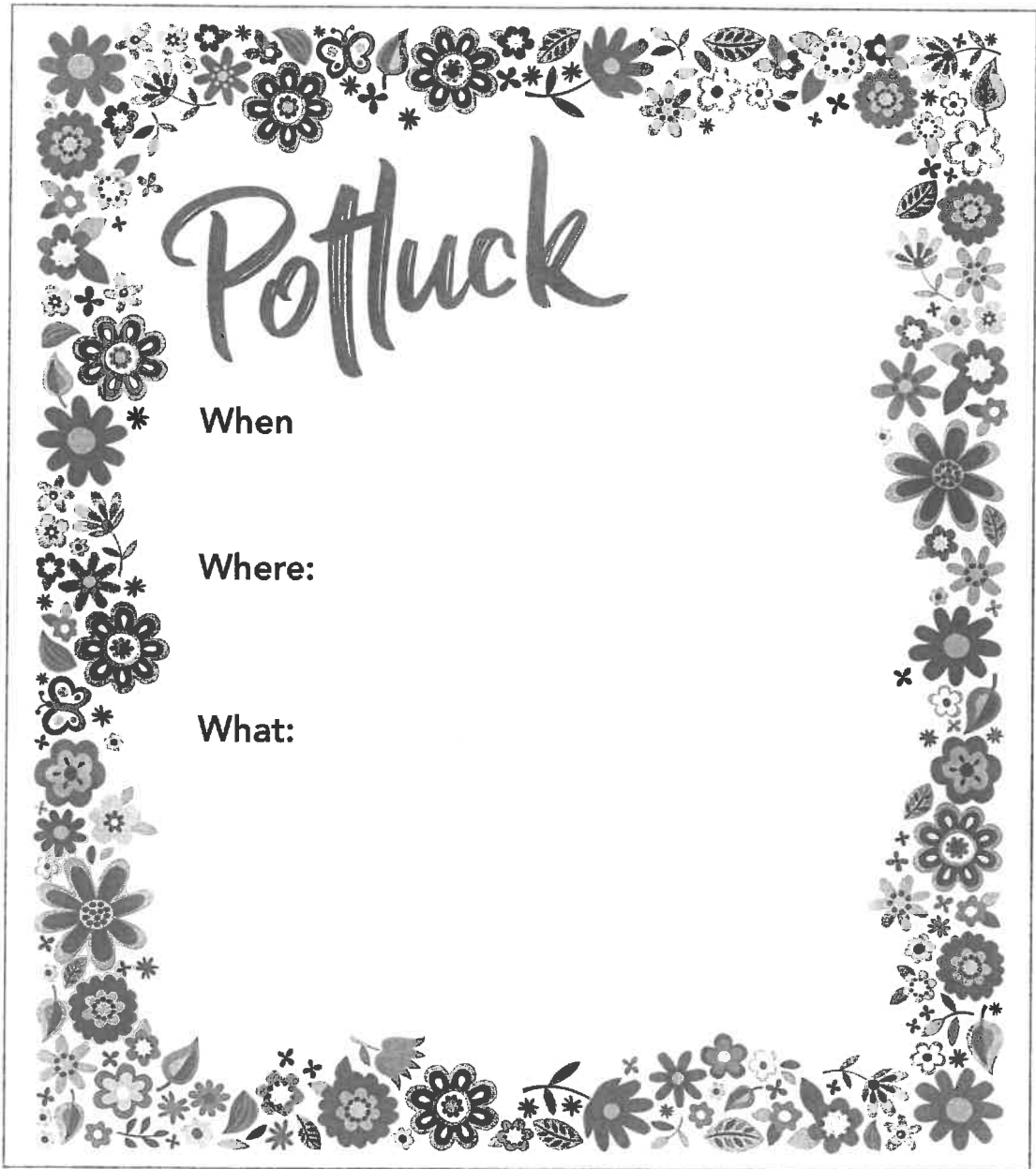
Sharing Response – Intergenerational Activity

Write how you would respond to each scenario on the page. Then discuss with your group.

<p>You notice a neighbor is struggling with carrying their groceries into their home each week.</p> <p>How can you help?</p>	<p>You notice a sick and shut-in neighbor's yard work hasn't been done while they've been sick, but there's a lot to be done.</p> <p>How can you help?</p>
<p>You notice that a friend seems to be eating very small lunches. You ask why they're eating so little and learn it's because they have very little money for food right now .</p> <p>How can you help?</p>	<p>You notice someone who always sits alone at lunchtime.</p> <p>How can you help?</p>

Plan a Potluck – At-Home Activity

Plan a potluck lunch or dinner for your neighborhood, and use the invitation below to invite your neighbors!



8G

Believers Share – Acts 4:32-37

The believers of Jesus formed a community. They wanted to be together and support one another. They shared everything. No one said, "This is mine."

Barnabas was a believer of Jesus and part of the community. Barnabas owned a field, which he sold and gave the money to the community to use as they needed.

People outside the community were observing the way the believers shared everything and how no one needed food or clothes. Modeling the way Jesus wanted people to live brought more people into the community of believers. The community grew larger each day.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of Believers Share together. Bring a shareable snack of your choice to eat as you read the story.

Wonder: How can you share Jesus with others?

Do: The believers of Jesus knew they needed one another to grow in their faith. Sharing what they had and caring for one another kept their faith strong.

Choose a local organization your family would like to support, maybe a food bank or a pet rescue. Choose one item each day from your home to give to the organization. As you place items in a box, remember that by sharing what you have, you are showing people God's love.

Pray for those receiving the gifts.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for teaching us to share. Amen.





April 28th
Choosing the Seven
Acts 6:1-7

The community of believers was one in heart and mind. (Genesis Acts 4:32a)

Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- My Hands Can Help (Journaling)
- Find the Leader (Game)
- Campaign Poster (Art)
- You Choose the Seven (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Helping My Church (Service)
- Choose Seven (Sorting)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- I Choose You (Game)
- The Service of the Seven (Reflection)
- Elected to Serve (Response Activity)
- You Are Chosen (Service/Planning)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| crayons | markerboard
and markers |
| colored pencils | seven each of
several objects
of your choosing |
| markers | plain cloth |
| scissors | fabric markers |
| pencils | fabric scissors
(adult use only) |
| clipboards | one chair |
| stole | music player |
| 2 washbasins | gift bags
(1 per child) |
| plastic table cover | |
| dishwashing soap | |
| toys from the
nursery | |

Suggested Books

- The Rainbow Fish* by Marcus Pfister
- Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome to *Celebrate Wonder*! Whether you are new to this program, or you have been using it for some time, there is much to explore as you embark on a faith journey with children. In this section, you will find tips for particular sessions, and the *Celebrate Wonder* line as a whole.
- This page also provides you with a session outline of activities and supply list.
- Activities that are consistent in each session, such as Gather Together, Share a Story, Wonder with Me, Examine the Bible Verse, and Go in Peace are not included in this outline. Each activity in the outline requires supplies that are not included in your *Celebrate Wonder Kit*.
- As you prepare to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: SHARE

The story begins by describing a conflict between two groups in the early church. The issue involves the case of some widows not receiving enough food during the daily distribution of food. The Twelve call a meeting of all the disciples. The Twelve realize that they need to focus on prayer and proclaiming God's word rather than on serving food, so they ask the community to select seven disciples from among themselves to serve. They specify that the "new disciples" must be wise and filled with the Holy Spirit. This proposal pleases the whole community. The community selects seven people and presents them to the Twelve, who pray for them and lay hands on them. God's word continues to spread, and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increases.

Children may wonder why the disciples needed more help or why they couldn't do it all on their own. We might have this problem too. Sometimes children say, "Don't help me. I can do it by myself!" But sometimes we actually need the help. It's OK to ask for help and to work together to spread God's love.

In the story, the Twelve recognized that their gifts to share with the community were prayer and proclaiming God's word. They needed help from these "new disciples," the Seven, to share their gifts for the distribution of food. This story provides us with an example of how to share our unique gifts in the Body of Christ. It shows that the disciples were paying attention; they wanted to provide more help for the community and then moved forward to organize that work. We all are called to find ways to unite and act in love for one another, each sharing our individual gifts and talents to benefit the larger goals of the faith.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, volunteer to do something to share your gifts with your community through service. Is there a shelter or community service agency where you can help? If you don't have time to volunteer this week, consider spending some time planning a service activity that you would like to do. Write your ideas down, research organizations, and put a date on the calendar for your activity.

Gather Together

Use the following as optional activities for when children are arriving. You may also choose to use these activities elsewhere in the lesson.

My Hands Can Help – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "My Hands Can Help" (Reproducible 9A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "My Hands Can Help."

SAY: Did you know that people in the early church shared everything they had? They used their hands to help others.

ASK: What are some ways we can use our hands to help others?

- Have the children complete the page.
- Allow willing participants to share.

Find the Leader – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, clipboards

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Find the Leader" (Reproducible 9B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Find the Leader."

SAY: You are going to move around the room. Ask a friend if she or he has a leadership quality listed. If your friend says yes, ask her or him to initial that box. Go around to all your friends until your chart is full.

- After the children have collected the initials, gather everyone together.

WONDER: What did you learn about your friends? What makes a good leader?

Campaign Poster – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Campaign Poster" (Reproducible 9C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Campaign Poster."

ASK: What do you think makes you a good leader?

- Encourage children to fill in and decorate the page to make a campaign poster for themselves as leaders.
- Invite willing volunteers to share with the class.

You Choose the Seven – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "You Choose the Seven" (Reproducible 9D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "You Choose the Seven."

SAY: The believers in today's Bible story chose seven people among them to be leaders.

ASK: What do you imagine the seven were like?

- Invite the children to complete the page by drawing faces for the disciples and decorating and coloring their clothes.
- Allow willing participants to respond.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, white cloth, battery-operated candle, a stole

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a white cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 2 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4) to use later in the session. Place the stole inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we have been exploring stories about sharing.

ASK: Have you ever been a leader? What did you do as a leader?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Choosing the Seven" (pp. 274–275) from the storybook or read Acts 6:1-7 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us leaders to help make sure everyone has what they need. Amen

Wonder Time

Share a Story

Supplies: Celebrate Wonder DVD, TV, DVD player

- Invite the children to join you and to sit in a circle on the floor.
- Watch the Session 9 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of believers share is your favorite? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 9F–9G).

- Invite several readers to take turns reading and/or acting out the story, one section at a time.

WONDER: What behavior have you seen in a leader who takes care of the community?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 2 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 8 & 17).

Locate and cut out the Unit 2 story figures (Class Pack—p. 19) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 4).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *share*.

- Show the Unit 2 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *share* is sharing the good news through witness.

ASK: How can you share the good news with others?

- Have a child place the group of seven disciples figure on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What do you think makes a good leader?
 - Why do you think it's important to have good leaders?
 - Who do you look up to as a leader?
 - How can we be good leaders in our daily lives?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the stole.

SAY: A stole is often worn by a pastor who is a leader of a church.

WONDER: What other things can you think of that help us to know who is a leader?

Experience Wonder

Helping My Church – All Ages

Supplies: two washbasins, plastic cover for table, dishwashing soap, towels, toys from the nursery

Prepare Ahead: Fill one basin with water and dishwashing soap. Fill the other basin with clean water. Ask the nursery coordinator for some toys the children could clean.

- Give each child a toy to wash in the basins and dry. Show them how to wash in the soapy water, rinse in the clean water, and dry off with the towel.

SAY: The friends of Jesus, the disciples, needed help with all the tasks they had to do to help people. They had the church pick seven wise and trusted people to help them. We can help at our church too. We can wash toys so the babies in the nursery have clean toys to play with. We help because we love God, our church, and the babies in the nursery.

WONDER: What are some other tasks we can do to help our church?

Choose Seven – All Ages

Supplies: seven each of several different objects (like seven rocks, seven rulers, seven pencils, seven crayons, seven markers, seven rubber bands, seven rings)

Prepare Ahead: Place all the objects in the middle of the table and mix them up.

SAY: The friends of Jesus chose seven people to help them. Seven is an important number in the story. Work together to separate the objects into correct piles.

WONDER: Why do you think they chose seven people instead of two people to help?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 2 Bible verse is Acts 4:32a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Acts in the Old or New Testament? (New). Where is the Book of Acts located in the New Testament? (fifth book) In what chapter of Acts is our verse located? (4) What is the verse number? (32)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 12 & 13).
Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us how believers should be.

ASK: Where are other verses you like located? Why is it important to read different verses in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 2 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 6F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, The Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister, Miss Rumphius by Barbara Cooney, quiet toys and soft items, materials for making stoles: fabric scissors (adult use only), plain cloth precut in the shape of stoles, fabric markers, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 2 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 6F) for each child. Precut cloth into the shape of stoles.

- Assist the children, as needed, as they interact with the items and books provided.
- Encourage children to color the Faith Word Coloring Page or draw a favorite part of today's Bible story.
- Encourage children to make and decorate their own stole.

Tip: All of the supplies/activities suggested for the Peaceful Place are optional.

Wonder More

The following activities are supplemental to the session. Depending on your time, you may choose to skip these activities and go to the "Go in Peace" section.

Preschool – I Choose You

Supplies: one chair, music player

- Have the children stand in a circle. Place the chair in the middle of the circle.
- Choose a child to be IT. Have IT sit in the chair, close his or her eyes, and point his or her arm out toward the circle. IT must keep pointing until you say to stop.
- Start the music. When the music starts, have the children begin walking to their right.
- After a minute or two, stop the music. When the music stops, see who IT is pointing at. IT opens his or her eyes and says to the selected child, "I choose you because ____." IT must come up with something unique or special about that child.
- The selected child then becomes IT.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

Early Elementary – The Service of the Seven

Supplies: paper, pencils, crayons, markers, colored pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, seven special people were chosen to help serve and spread the message of Jesus. Consider seven people in your life who could help you serve and spread the message.

WONDER: Who would you choose? Why?

- Have each child write or draw a picture of seven people who could help her or him serve others.
- Have willing volunteers share.

Older Elementary – Elected to Serve

Supplies: markerboard and dry-erase markers

SAY: We're going to hold an imaginary election of people to serve the community. We will elect seven people, like the community in our Bible story did.

ASK: Who would you elect to serve, and why?

- Allow the children to call out choices and reasons, and write them on the whiteboard. The choices can be people they know or people they don't know but respect and admire.
- If necessary, ask the children to narrow the list down by taking votes on whether to keep certain candidates.
- Keep narrowing the choices down until there are seven.

Intergenerational – You Are Chosen

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils, crayons, colored pencils, or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "You Are Chosen" (Reproducible 9E) for each participant.

- Give each child a copy of "You Are Chosen."

ASK: How do you feel about being a disciple? What important message do you have to share about Jesus?

- Encourage children to write or draw their response on the page.
- Invite willing volunteers to share with the class.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Sharing the Good News Through Witness

Supplies: gift bags (one per child)

- Give each child one of the gift bags.
- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: Helping others is like giving a gift. Hold your gift bags close to your heart. Close your eyes and think of one thing you can do to be a leader in your church. Repeat this prayer after me.

PRAY: Help me, God, to help others because I love them. Amen.

- Bless the children before they leave.

SAY: You are a blessing to God and others.

Family Spiritual Practice

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, Leader Guide—p. 128

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Family Celebration Letter" (p. 128) for each child.

SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 9F–9G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- Send a copy of the Take-Home Pages and the Family Celebration Letter home with each child who has not yet received one.

9A

My Hands Can Help – Journaling

Draw a picture of you doing something helpful in the heart, and color the hands.



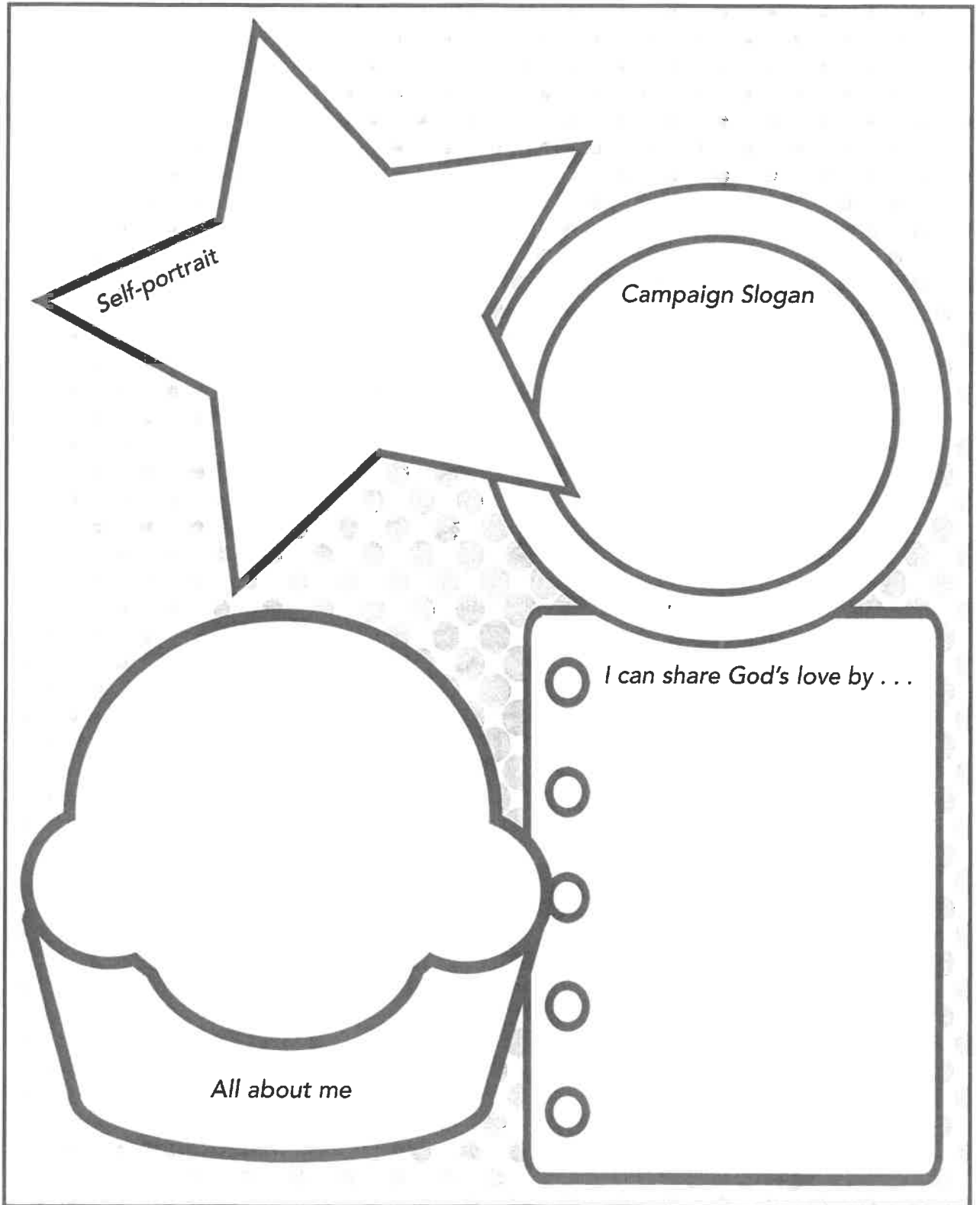
Find the Leader – Game

Follow the instructions from your teacher (Leader Guide p. 85) to use the chart below to play a game about being a leader!

<input type="checkbox"/> I am a good friend.	<input type="checkbox"/> I like to sing songs in church.
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a good listener.	<input type="checkbox"/> I like to read.
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to help clean up.	<input type="checkbox"/> I can share the message of Jesus with others.
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to read Scripture.	<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to be a preacher.
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to pray out loud.	<input type="checkbox"/> I am good at teaching others.
<input type="checkbox"/> I like to play sports.	<input type="checkbox"/> I like to create art.

Campaign Poster – Art

Fill in and color the items to make a campaign poster about why you would make a good leader.



9D

You Choose the Seven – Coloring

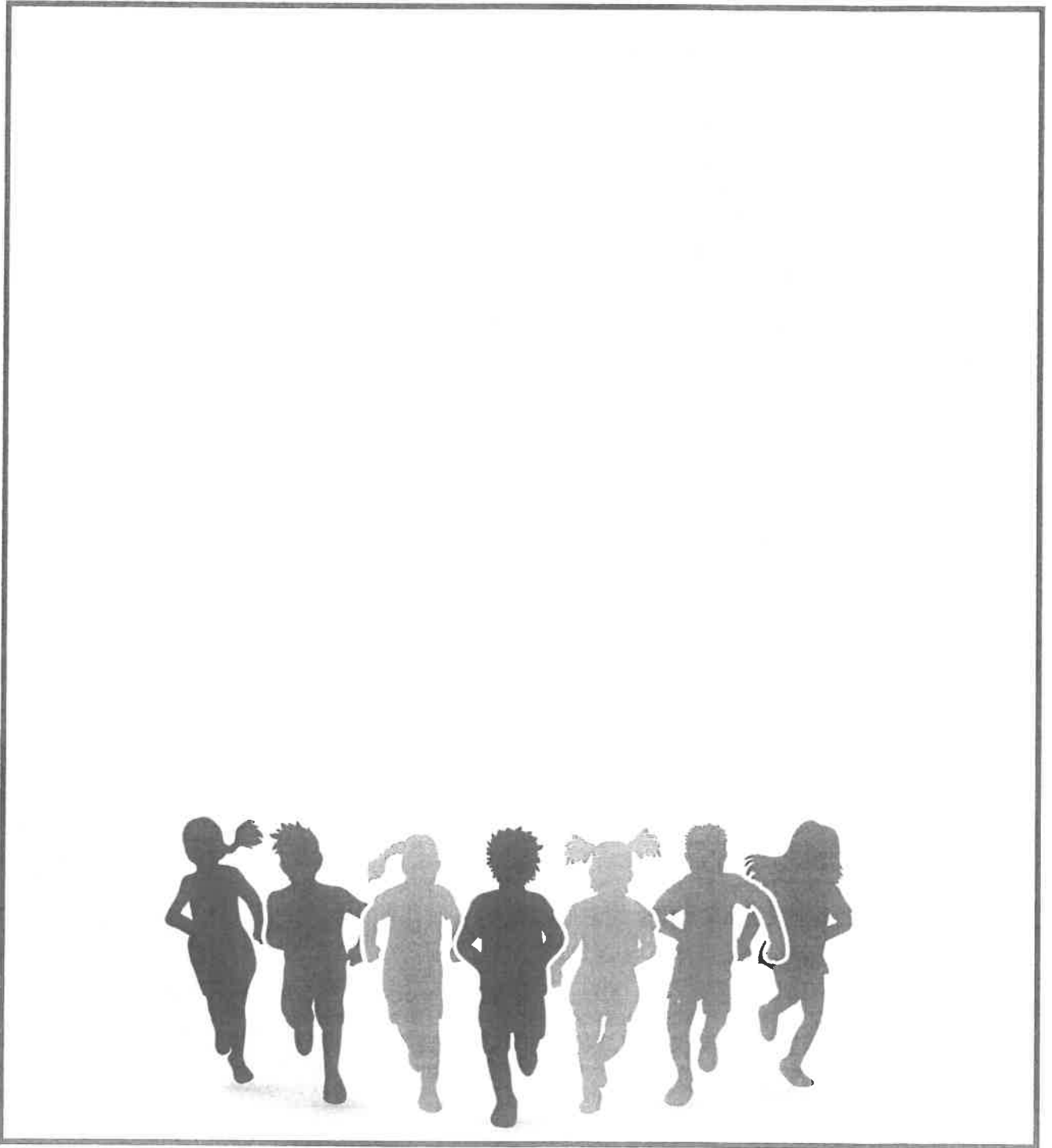
Draw faces for the disciples. Then decorate and color their clothes!



9E

You Are Chosen – Intergenerational Activity

In the Bible story today, seven disciples are chosen to help spread the message of Jesus. You also are chosen to do this important job. You are a disciple too! How do you feel about being a disciple? What important message do you have to share about Jesus? Write or draw about it in the space below.



Make a Care Package – At-Home Activity

Make a care package for pastors and/or other leaders at your church. Use the ideas below, but feel free to customize for your particular church!



Care Package Ideas:

Snacks

Gum or mints

Small toiletries such as hand lotions, hand sanitizer, or hand wipes

Small books

Bookmarks

Puzzle books

Small craft kits suitable for adults

Small notebook

Pens or pencils

Coffee shop or ice cream shop gift cards

Greeting card

Personalized items of your choosing

Choosing the Seven – Acts 6:1-7

As the believers of Jesus grew, many languages were spoken in the communities. Because of the lack of understanding, some people were not getting their share of food.

The disciples decided they needed help to make sure everyone had what they needed. They asked the people to choose seven believers who were wise and good people.

The people selected seven men who were respected by the community and strong in their faith. The disciples prayed for them and sent them to serve. The seven ensured everyone got their fair share. The community of believers continued to grow.



Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of choosing the seven together. Every time you hear the word *seven*, hold up seven fingers.

Wonder: What does it feel like to want something really badly? How can we be aware of other people's wants and needs?

Do: When the seven were chosen for their special task, the disciples laid hands on them and prayed for them. Then they were sent to serve.

Start a new ritual in your family by sharing a blessing. As you leave each morning, assign a different family member each day to lay hands on the heads of each person and say a simple blessing: "May your day be filled with love and service to others," or say a blessing of your choosing.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for helping us learn to take care of one another. Amen.

10A

Sew a Shirt – Craft

Tabitha made clothes for her community. Color and cut out the shirt. Then punch holes and use yarn or string to practice sewing.

