



May 5th
Peter and Tabitha
Acts 9:36-43

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Peter and Tabitha – Acts 9:36-43

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Sew a Shirt (Craft)
- Ways to Serve (Journaling)
- Peter and Tabitha (Puzzle)
- Hidden Message (Puzzle)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Sharing Shirts (Craft)
- Fabric Guess (Sensory)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Clothes of Love (Art)
- Run and Tell (Game)
- From All Perspectives (Drama)
- Clothing Drive (Mission Activity)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>various types of fabric</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>weaving loom</i> |
| <i>thin-tip markers</i> | <i>large plastic needles</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>plastic mesh</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>clipboards</i> |
| <i>cardstock</i> | <i>brown paper bags</i> |
| <i>hole punch</i> | <i>large plastic bins or cardboard boxes</i> |
| <i>yarn</i> | <i>fabric scissors</i> |
| <i>glue</i> | |
| <i>tape</i> | |
| <i>plain t-shirts</i> | |
| <i>fabric paint or makers</i> | |
| <i>cardboard</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Extra Yarn* by Mac Barnett
- My Name is Sangoel* by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed

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 item of clothing that.
- 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: LOVE

Today's Bible story is about a woman who was widowed named Tabitha. Her Greek name was Dorcas. Tabitha made beautiful clothing for the poorest women in her town, Joppa. In the Bible, women were completely dependent on men for their survival. If a woman's husband died, the woman's life took a drastic turn for the worst. Women were not allowed to own property, so if the husband died, they would be at the mercy of others to be able to live. Tabitha somehow had the resources to sew for others less fortunate.

Unfortunately, Tabitha became very ill and died. When the other disciples heard about Tabitha's death, they sent for Peter. Peter rushed right over and went upstairs where Tabitha's body lay. Many community members were there, crying and showing one another tunics and other clothing Tabitha had made. The presence of the community showed how dedicated Tabitha was to loving and serving others.

Peter asked the people to leave the room, and he knelt down and prayed. Peter then commanded Tabitha to get up, and she opened her eyes and sat up. Her friends were astounded and overjoyed at the same time.

One of the acts of love in this story is praying for one another, as Peter did for Tabitha. Tabitha showed love through service not only with her sewing, but also by performing other "good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need" (verse 36). The community also showed love for Tabitha in their efforts to bring Peter to town to pray for her. Through this story, you can help children to know that the exchange of loving gestures is part of being in the community of believers.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

Who in your community needs love and support? Who do you rely on in hard times? This week, write down the names of those you love. Choose one name each day to lift up to God using the *practice of loving kindness*. Look up "Loving Kindness Meditation" online, and use this practice to hold those you love in your thoughts and prayers

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.

Sew a Shirt – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, crayons, single hole punch, yarn, scissors, tape (optional)

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Sew a Shirt" (Reproducible 10A) on to cardstock for each preschooler. Cut out the shirt and punch the holes out of each shirt.

- Give each preschooler a shirt and some yarn.

SAY: In our Bible story today, we will learn about a woman named Tabitha who made clothes for her community.

ASK: How can you help others?

- Encourage the children to color their shirt.
- Show the children to thread the yarn through the holes around the border of the shirt. Secure the yarn at the end with tape.

Tip: If children have a hard time threading the yarn, make a more solid end by wrapping tape around one end of the yarn.

Ways to Serve – Younger Elementary

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

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Ways to Serve" (Reproducible 10B) for each child.

- Distribute a copy of "Ways to Serve" to each child.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about people in the early church who loved and served others, like Jesus called them to do.

ASK: What are ways that you can serve?

- Encourage children to write and/or draw their ideas on the page.

Peter and Tabitha – Older Elementary

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

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Peter and Tabitha" (Reproducible 10C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Peter and Tabitha."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about the disciple Peter and a woman in the early church named Tabitha.

ASK: What do you think will happen in this story?

- Encourage the children to solve the puzzle and complete the page. Children may look up Acts 9:36-43 to help them.

Hidden Message – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, colored pencils or thin-tipped markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Hidden Message" (Reproducible 10D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Hidden Message."

SAY: In our bible story, Tabitha worked with fabric and made clothing. Let's see if we can find a hidden message in this tapestry (a tapestry is a large, decorative piece of fabric).

- Encourage children to solve the puzzle by coloring in the spaces with dots.
- Invite the children to share the hidden message out loud when they solve it.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, a piece of fabric cut in to the shape of a heart

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the fabric heart inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we will hear stories about how Jesus' followers loved and served others.

ASK: Is it easy or hard to love and serve others?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Peter and Tabitha" (pp. 284–285) from the storybook or read Acts 9:36-43 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for stories of the people who started your church. 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 10 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: Why do you think Peter prayed before he helped Tabitha?

Interactive Bible Story

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

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 10F–10G).

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

WONDER: Who was loving in the Bible story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is love.

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

ASK: Who do you love? Who do you know that is loving?

ASK: One way to show love is by serving others, like Tabitha and Peter.

- Have a child place the "service" flower on Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What kinds of things have you made for others to show them that you love them?
- How do you think the people in Tabitha's community knew that Peter could help her?
- How did Tabitha show love? Peter? the community?

- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the fabric heart.

WONDER: How do you show love to your community?

Experience Wonder

Sharing Shirts – All Ages

Supplies: plain t-shirts of various sizes (one for each child), fabric paint, cardboard, scissors, smocks

Prepare Ahead: Cut cardboard rectangles that will fit inside the T-shirts. Place one of these cardboard pieces inside each t-shirt.

- Give each child a t-shirt and a smock. Ask the children to put on their smock.

WONDER: Why do you think Tabitha made clothing for her community?

- Invite the children to decorate their t-shirts. Encourage them to write or draw something on their shirt that they want to say to their community.

WONDER: What did you write or draw on your shirt? Why?

- Let the shirts dry.

Fabric Guess – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, different types of fabric (such as cotton, silk, wool, denim), brown paper bags, clipboards, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Fabric Guess" (Reproducible 10E) for each child or pair of children. Place one type of fabric in each paper bag.

- Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Give each child or pair a copy of "Fabric Guess."

SAY: Tabitha made clothing for her community. We are going to guess what types of fabrics are inside these bags.

- Pass the first bag to a child next to you. Have the child close his or her eyes, feel the fabric, and guess what type of fabric is in the bag. Pass the bag all the way around the circle.
- Have children record their guess on their paper.
- Pass each bag of fabric around one at a time and have children continue to record their guesses.

SAY: There are many types of fabrics to use to make clothing. There are also many ways we can help our community.

Tip: If guessing the fabrics seems too difficult, pair up children to work together or write a list of the types of fabric to help the children.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

WONDER: What does this Bible verse mean?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Extra Yarn by Mac Barnett, My Name Is Sangoel by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed, quiet toys and soft items, weaving loom, large plastic needles, yarn, plastic mesh, paper, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) 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 the children to draw what they think Tabitha's friends looked like in the story.
- Encourage children to practice weaving or sewing.

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 – Clothes of Love

Supplies: cardstock, fabric cut in shapes of clothes, glue, child-friendly scissors, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Cut out clothes in the shape of dresses, pants, skirts, and shirts from the material.

- Give each child a piece of cardstock.

SAY: Tabitha made beautiful clothes for her friends, and they loved her.

- Have each child draw a person on the cardstock, and have the child glue the clothes on the person.

WONDER: How can you help someone who needs clothes if you can't sew?

Tip: Construction paper can be substituted for the material, and the children can cut out their own pieces of clothing.

Early Elementary – Run and Tell

Supplies: 2 lengths of fabric (each about 6' long)

Prepare Ahead: Clear or locate a space to play.

SAY: In our Bible story, some community members went to tell Peter about Tabitha because they cared about her. Peter came back with them because he cared as well. They all showed love for Tabitha. Let's play a game to remind us of their acts of love.

- Have the children form two teams, and ask each team to form a line.
- Give one child from each team a length of cloth, and send that child to the opposite side of the room from his or her team.
- Whisper a message, such as "Come and show love," to each person holding the cloth.
- Have the children holding the cloth move quickly across the room and whisper the message to the next person in line. Have the child receiving the message grab the other end of the cloth and move back across the room with the first child.
- The second child will repeat the actions of the first. Continue until all members of one team have reached the other side of the room.

Older Elementary – From All Perspectives

- Divide the children evenly into three groups.

ASK: How would this story be different if told from the perspective of Tabitha? Peter? Tabitha's friends?

- Assign each group a different perspective. Instruct each group to come up with a short skit that tells the Bible story from that perspective.
- Give the groups time to plan and practice, then invite groups to share their drama with the other groups.

Tip: If your group is larger, you can split up into more than three groups and let more than one group tell the story from each perspective.

Intergenerational – Clothing Drive

Supplies: large plastic bins or cardboard boxes, paper, markers

SAY: Our Bible story today taught us the importance of caring for our community. Many people in our community are in need of clothes. How can we help them?

- Have participants brainstorm about what items to collect for those in need.
- Work together to create signs for the bins or boxes to collect the items.
- Place the bins in a convenient location in your church and develop a plan for asking for donations.

PRAY: God, help us bless others with these clothing donations. Amen.

- When the bins are full, donate the items locally.

Tip: For suggestions on what to donate/collect, see if your local community service group publishes a donations list.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

- Guide the children through the following spiritual practice.

SAY: There are so many people doing things for others out of love. Name someone you know who does things for others, and we will pray for them. I will start; I pray for teachers. Repeat the following after me.

PRAY: Jesus, thank you for teachers.

- After all the children have mentioned someone, end the prayer with, "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 10F–10G) if you have not yet done so already.

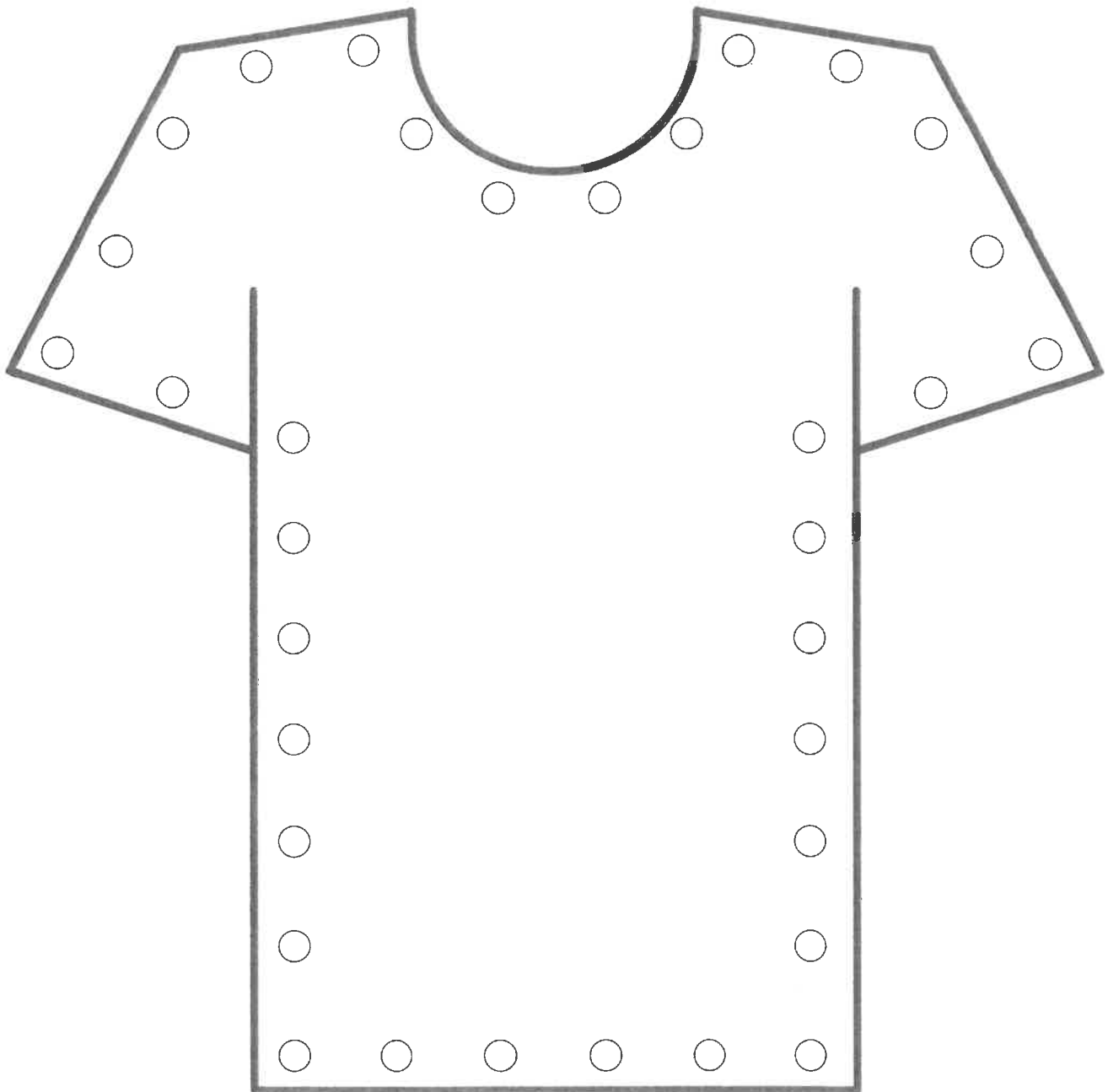
SAY: Let's look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- 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.

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.

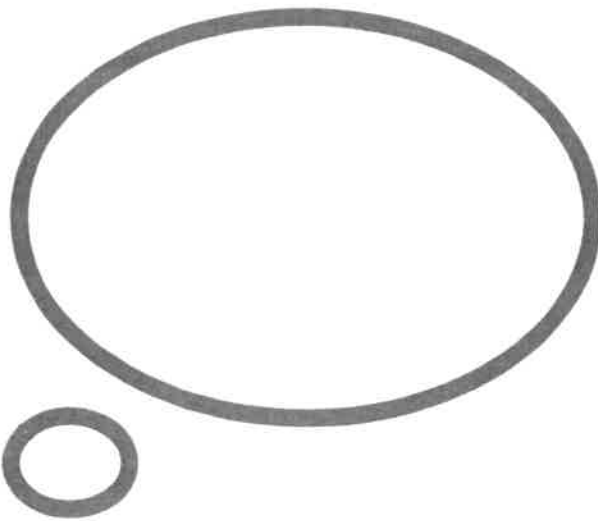
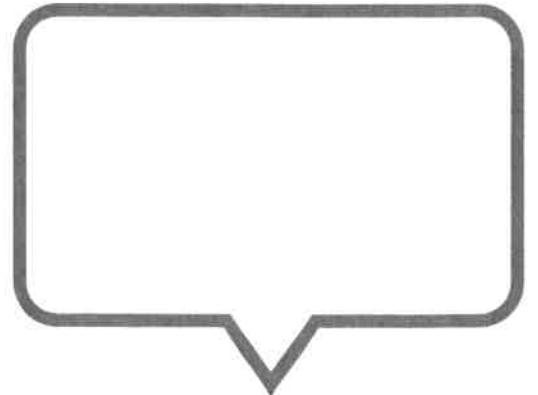
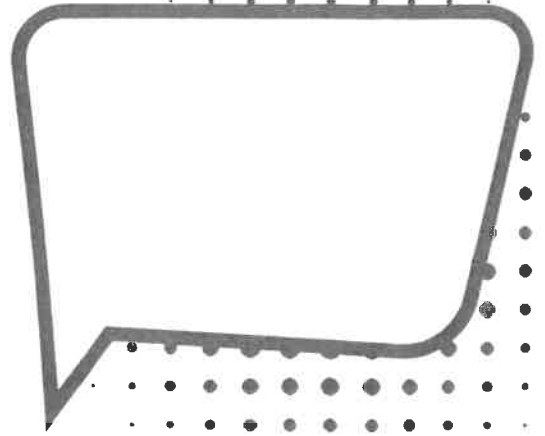
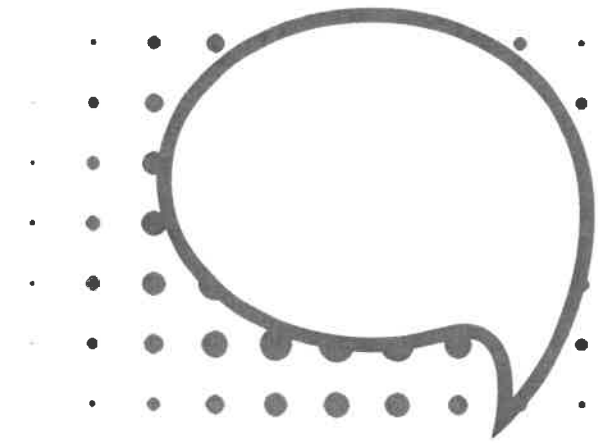


10B

Ways to Serve – Journaling

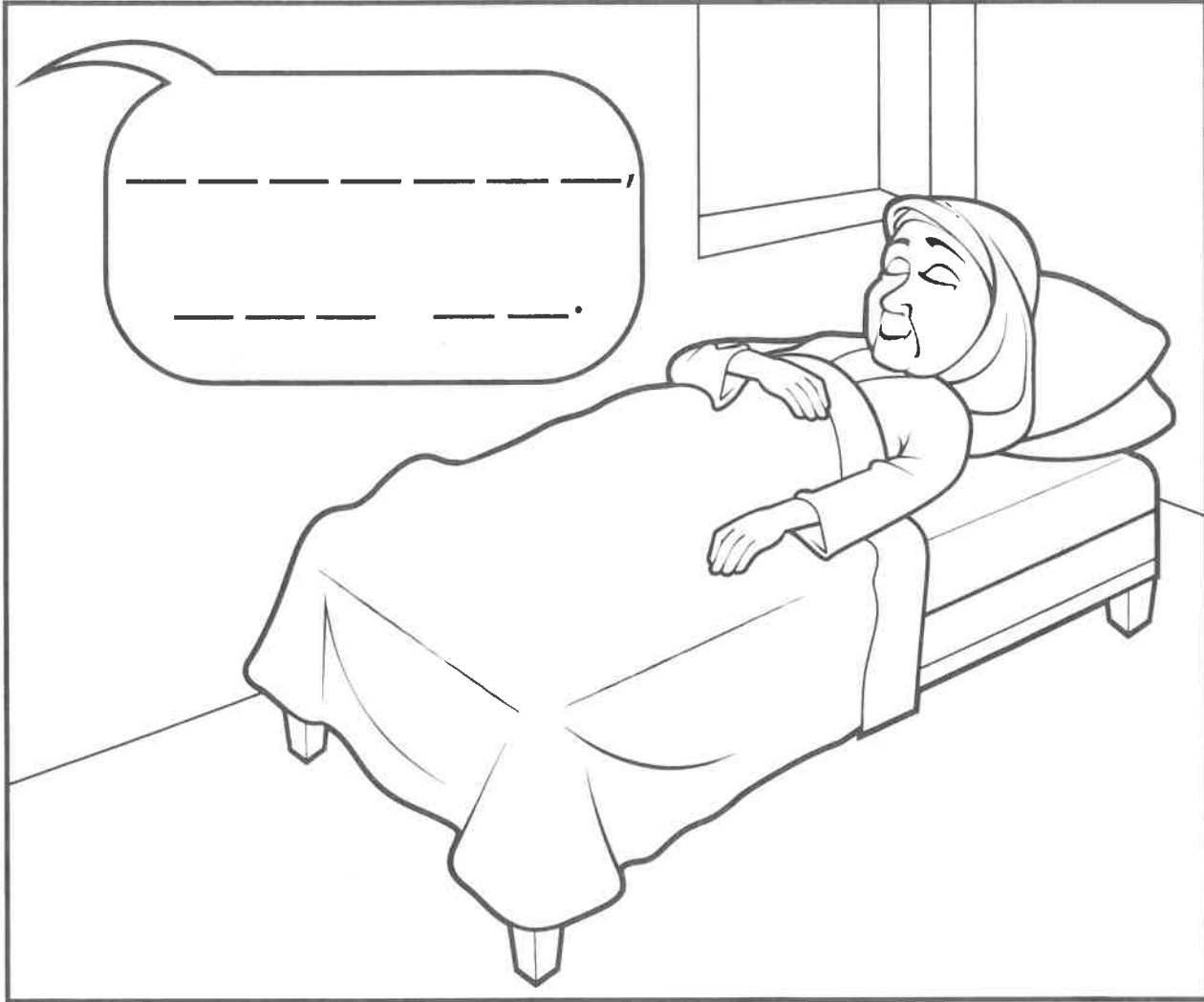
Tabitha and Peter helped their communities. How can you serve?

I CAN SERVE BY...



Peter and Tabitha – Puzzle

Tabitha's friends asked Peter to come heal Tabitha. Solve the puzzle to find out what happened.



A=1 B=2 C=3 D=4 E=5 F=6 G=7 H=8 I=9 J=10
 K=11 L=12 M=13 N=14 O=15 P=16 Q=17 R=18
 S=19 T=20 U=21 V=22 W=23 X=24 Y=25 Z=26

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $15+5=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $49-48=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $10-8=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $3 \times 3 =$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $10+10=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $4 \times 2 =$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $16-15=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $4+3=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $28-23=$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $5 \times 4 =$

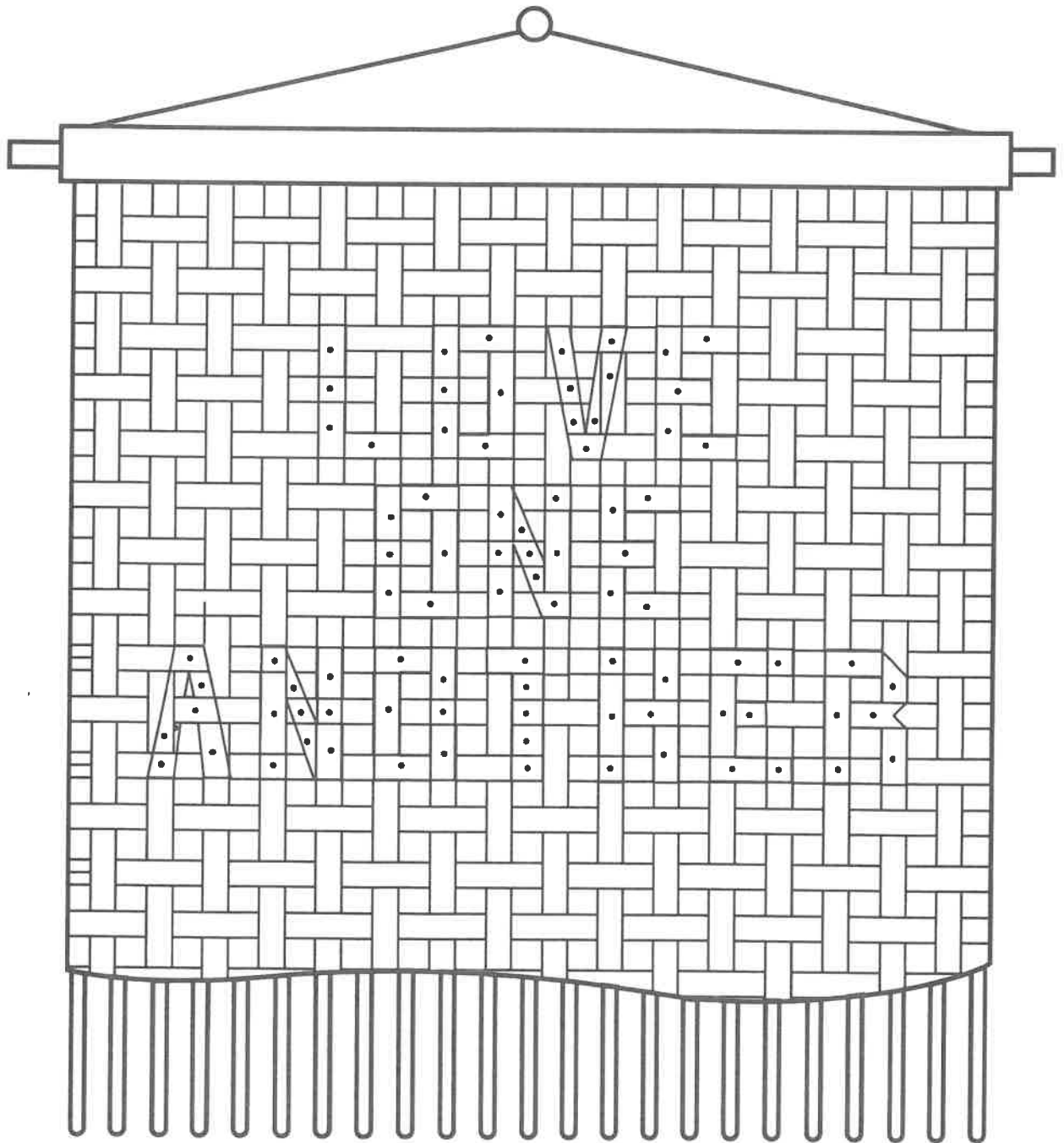
$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $3 \times 7 =$

$$\underline{\quad\quad\quad}$$
 $8+8=$

10D

Hidden Message – Puzzle

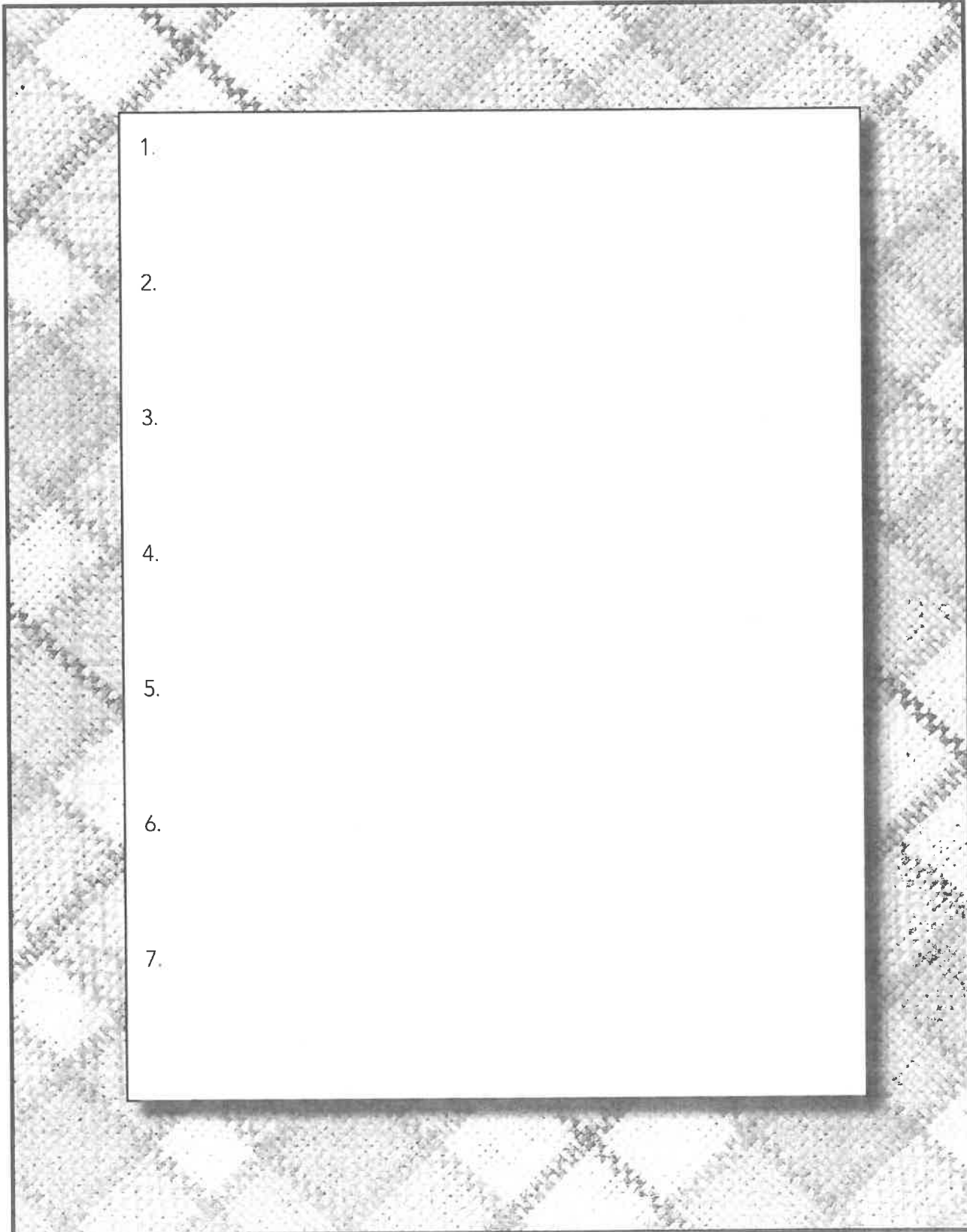
Color the spaces with dots to find the hidden message in the fabric.



10E

Fabric Guess – Sensory Activity

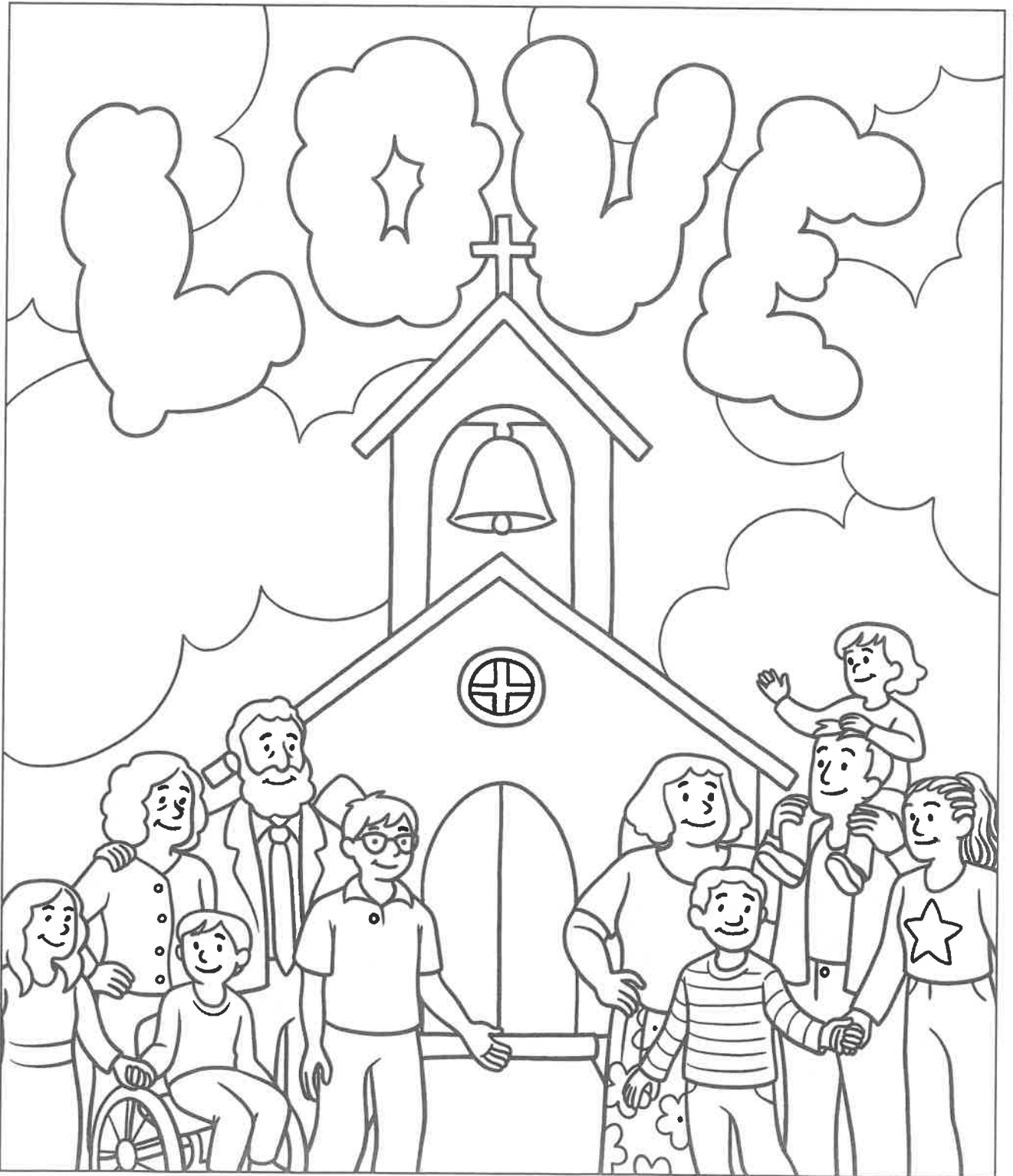
Use this page to help you guess different types of fabric.



10F

Love – Faith Word Coloring Page

Love is a closeness or connection that we feel with God and others. As you color the page, think about those you love.



10G

Peter and Tabitha – Acts 9:36-43

A disciple named Tabitha had become very ill and she had died. Hearing that Peter was nearby, the believers sent two men to get him to help.

The news of Tabitha's healing spread quickly and more people believed in God.

"Peter! Please come with us right away!" We need your help! Please hurry!"

Peter went with the men. When he got there, he was taken to an upstairs room. There were several widows in the room, crying over Tabitha. They showed Peter the clothing Tabitha had made for them and spoke of all the kind things she had done.

Peter sent everyone out of the room, and then he knelt down and prayed. Then Peter said, "Tabitha, get up!"

Tabitha opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. Peter helped her sit up. Peter then called the people, including the widows, and showed them that Tabitha was alive.

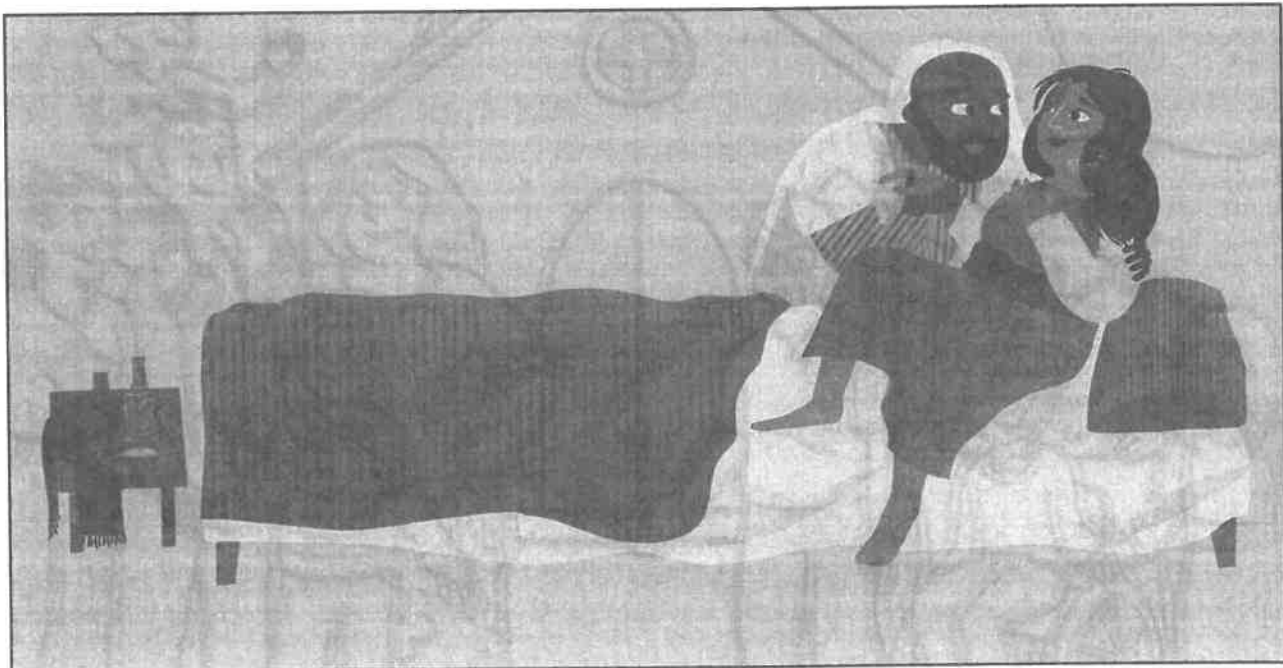
Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story together.

Wonder: What is special about this story? What do you want to remember?

Do: Gather clothing in your house that can be donated and take it to those in need. Consider including special notes that share God's love.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for giving us people in our lives who show us your love. Amen.





May 12th
The Church Grows
Acts 9:26-31

11G

The Church Grows – Acts 9:26-31

After encountering Jesus, Saul went to the city of Jerusalem. He tried to join the other disciples who had followed Jesus, but they were afraid of him because they knew how mean he used to be.

Before he met Jesus, Saul had treated anyone who believed in or followed Jesus poorly. He was not kind to them.

But a man named Barnabas stood up for Saul. He told the disciples how Saul had seen Jesus and how he was now preaching boldly about Jesus.

The disciples started to trust Saul, and they all began to be in ministry together, sharing stories about Jesus and telling others about him.

Saul, who later became known as the apostle Paul, traveled to many places, spreading the good news of Jesus' love and forgiveness to everyone he met.

Because of Paul and the other disciples, the message of Jesus spread around the world.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story together.

Wonder: Is it easy or hard to change your mind? What does love have to do with the Bible story?

Do: Find a globe or look up a world map online. Find different places like Jerusalem, Damascus, and Rome. Imagine what it would have been like to travel between these places on foot or by boat. Discuss what it might have been like for the good news of Jesus to spread beyond these places.

Pray: Dear God, help us continue to spread your love in our neighborhoods and all over the world. Amen.



Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

The Church Grows – Acts 9:26-31

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- My Church and My Friends (Drawing)
- Church Memory Game (Coloring/Game)
- Imperfect People (Reflection)
- Speak for Me (Verbal Activity)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- I See You (Craft)
- In Your Shoes (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Growing Church (Game)
- My Church (Art)
- A Different Way (Storytelling/Drama)
- Church Invitations (Outreach)

Supplies At-a-Glance

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>crayons</i> | <i>toy people</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>dot stickers</i> |
| <i>markers</i> | <i>paper cups</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>washable paint</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>paintbrushes</i> |
| <i>cardstock</i> | <i>various art supplies</i> |
| <i>envelopes</i> | <i>battery-operated votive candles</i> |
| <i>nesting dolls or boxes</i> | <i>different types of shoes</i> |
| <i>tape</i> | <i>interlocking building blocks</i> |
| <i>chenille stems</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Giraffes Can't Dance* by Giles Andreae
- You Will Be My Friend!* by Peter Brown

Tips for the Leader

- As you prepare to lead, organize items you are using from the Class Pack. Make copies of pages you'll need from the Reproducible Kids' Book.
- Part of this session focuses on the growth and life of the church. Be sensitive to any visitors you may have who may not be as familiar with church life.
- Check in with children to see if they can remember this month's Bible verse and Faith Word.
- This month is all about the word love! Think of random acts of kindness and love that you can show to the children in your group throughout the week.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

This week's story takes place after Paul's (Saul's) conversion to Christianity. The text says that Paul tries to join the other disciples when he arrives in Jerusalem, but they doubt Paul's sincerity as a disciple of Jesus. Up until his experience of meeting the Lord on the road to Damascus and his experience of blindness and healing, Paul was an enemy of Christianity and a persecutor of those who practiced the faith.

The disciples do not trust that Paul has changed. Barnabas brings Paul to the apostles and serves as a witness to Paul's conversion story. The courage Barnabas shows in standing up in love for his friend, Paul, makes a large impact on the new church. The Christian leaders could turn on Barnabas because of his support of Paul, but they listen to him and accept his words. The story tells us that following this, there is a time of peace for the church in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria. The church grows in strength and reverence for the Lord, as well as in the number of people. This growth is attributed to the Holy Spirit.

This week's story contains several acts of love. Paul showed love to God by serving God and preaching. Barnabas showed love by speaking up for Paul. The community of believers showed love to Paul by accepting him. You'll want your children to know that love can look like different things in different situations and to understand that they may be called on to love people in their lives in different ways at different times, but all forms of love are valid.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, reflect on the different ways to show love. Journal about the ways you love people in your life. Are there other ways you are called to love? Is there someone you need to stand up for, like Barnabas did? Is there someone like Paul you are called to protect? Is there someone you need to share God's love with, as Paul shared God's love through speaking? Challenge yourself to love in different situations.

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 Church and My Friends – Preschool

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "My Church and My Friends" (Reproducible 11A) for each preschooler.*

- Give each preschooler a copy of "My Church and My Friends."

ASK: Who are your friends at church?

- Encourage the children to draw their church friends.
- Invite children to color the page.

Church Memory Game – Younger Elementary

Supplies: *Reproducible Kids' Book, cardstock, crayons, scissors, envelopes (optional)*

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Church Memory Game" (Reproducible 11B) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Church Memory Game."

SAY: Today we will hear a Bible story about the church growing. Jesus' followers began a church that started out small, and has grown into many churches today.

ASK: Are all churches the same?

- Encourage the children to color the different churches and cut out the cards.
- Invite them to partner up and play a game of memory matching with their cards. Children may take their card game home in an envelope if they wish.

Imperfect People – Older Elementary

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

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy "Imperfect People" (Reproducible 11C) for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of "Imperfect People."

SAY: Our Bible story today is about Saul, who we know as Paul. We will learn how Saul made mistakes, but God still used him anyways.

- Encourage children to respond to the journal prompt on the page.

Speak for Me – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Speak for Me" (Reproducible 11D) for each child.

SAY: In our Bible story, Barnabas speaks up for Saul when people did not believe Saul had changed and would treat them kindly. Sometimes in life, we need someone to speak for us. Let's practice speaking for others by getting to know another person in the room.

- Distribute copies of "Speak for Me" and have the children form pairs.
- Let the children interview one another by using the questions on the page and then writing the answers their partner gives.
- Have each pair take a turn presenting information about each other to the class.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, nesting dolls or boxes

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the nesting dolls or boxes in the Wonder Box.

- Invite the kids to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we are learning about how the early Christians loved one another as they helped the church grow.

ASK: Have you ever had to stand up for someone? Or had someone stand up for you? What did that feel like?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "The Church Grows" (pp. 282–283) from the storybook or read Acts 9:26-31 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for churches all over the world. 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 11 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What was your favorite part of the story? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 11F–11G):

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

WONDER: Who showed love in the Bible story?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

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

- Show the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to read or recite the definition.

ASK: Who do you love outside of your family? Who loves you?

- Have a child place the forgiveness flower on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- Is it sometimes hard to love someone?
 - How do you think Paul felt when the Christian leaders didn't trust him?
 - Why do you think Barnabas spoke up for Paul?
 - Does love change us?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the nesting dolls or boxes.

WONDER: These dolls (or boxes) are all one until you separate them. How are the dolls similar to the way a church grows?

Experience Wonder

I See You – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, markers, crayons, scissors, chenille stems, tape

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "I See You" (Reproducible 11E) for each child.

SAY: We sometimes see people in a certain way. We might think they are mean or unfriendly, but we can see who they really are when we get to know them.

- Distribute copies of "I See You." Invite each child to choose a glasses frame and to color it and cut it out.
- Show how to attach a chenille stem on each side and fit them to the ears.

WONDER: What kinds of people do you see in the world? Is there someone in your life you could see differently?

In Your Shoes – All Ages

Supplies: different types of shoes

- Have the children divide into two teams, and have each team form a line. Place the various types of shoes on the other side of the room, and mix them up.

SAY: We do not always understand why someone acts a certain way. But when we put ourselves in someone else's shoes, we might be able to see who they truly are. To put ourselves in another's shoes means to see things from another perspective.

- Tell the children that the two teams are going to participate in a relay race. The first person on each team will walk quickly to the other side of the room, put on a pair of matching shoes, walk back to her or his team, and take off the shoes.
- The next child will put on the shoes, walk back to the pile of shoes, take off the shoes, put on a different pair of shoes, walk back to her or his team, and take off the shoes.
- Continue until all players have walked in the shoes. The team that completes the task first wins.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What are some situations where you can apply this Bible verse in your everyday life?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andreae, You Will Be My Friend! by Peter Brown, quiet toys and soft items, interlocking building blocks, toy people, paper, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) 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 build different types of churches.

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 – Growing Church

Supplies: package of dot stickers (at least one sheet per child)

SAY: Barnabas loved Paul and Jesus, the Christian leaders loved Barnabas and Jesus, and Paul loved Jesus. The church grew because of all the love they shared! When you tell someone about Jesus, that person wants to tell others. When you treat people like Jesus treats people, that person notices and wants to know more about Jesus. If I share Jesus' love with each of you, then you will share with others and more people will know about Jesus' love.

- Place a dot sticker on each child as you say, "Jesus loves you."
- Give each child a sheet of dot stickers.
- Encourage the children to place a dot sticker on another child while saying, "Jesus loves you."
- Continue until all the dot stickers are gone.

WONDER: How else can you share Jesus' love?

Early Elementary – My Church

Supplies: washable paint, table covering, paper cups, paintbrushes, paper, smocks

Prepare Ahead: Cover the table, and place paints and water into the cups.

- Give each child a piece of paper.

SAY: Paul was welcomed into the church, even though some of the leaders didn't trust him. With Barnabas's help and encouragement, Paul became friends with the leaders and continued to spread God's love and create churches everywhere he went. We have many churches today, and they all look different.

- Have each child paint a picture of the church.

WONDER: Who loves and encourages you?

Older Elementary – A Different Way

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Saul's disagreement with the Greek-speaking Jews in the story got a little out of hand. Let's see if we can come up with different, more loving ways that the situation could have been resolved.

- Divide the children into groups, and have them choose a strong reader to read the Bible story aloud to them.
- Let each group work together to come up with a skit showing a better method of resolving the conflict in the story.
- Allow each group to perform their skit for the class.

SAY: As you can see, there are a lot of ways this situation might have been handled differently.

ASK: What does this mean for us when we are trying to resolve conflicts in our own lives?

Intergenerational – Church Invitations

Supplies: paper, markers, various art supplies

SAY: In our Bible story today, we learned that the church grew because Jesus' followers showed love and forgiveness. One way that we can show love to our neighbors is by inviting them to church!

- Encourage participants to work together to create invitations to your church.
- Make a plan for how you will distribute the invitations or who you will invite.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Creativity Through Service

Supplies: battery-operated votive candles (one for each child)

- Gather the children around the Wonder Table, and light the LED candle.

SAY: Today, we learned about how the church grew. Let's remind ourselves of how the light of Christ spreads and brings us together in loving community.

- Distribute a candle to each child.
- Have the children form a circle.
- Join the circle and start the activity by turning on the candle of the child next to you and saying, "I welcome you to the community of believers with the love of Jesus."
- Have each child repeat your action and words until all the candles are lit.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for giving us communities to love us in so many ways. Amen.

Family Spiritual Practice

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

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

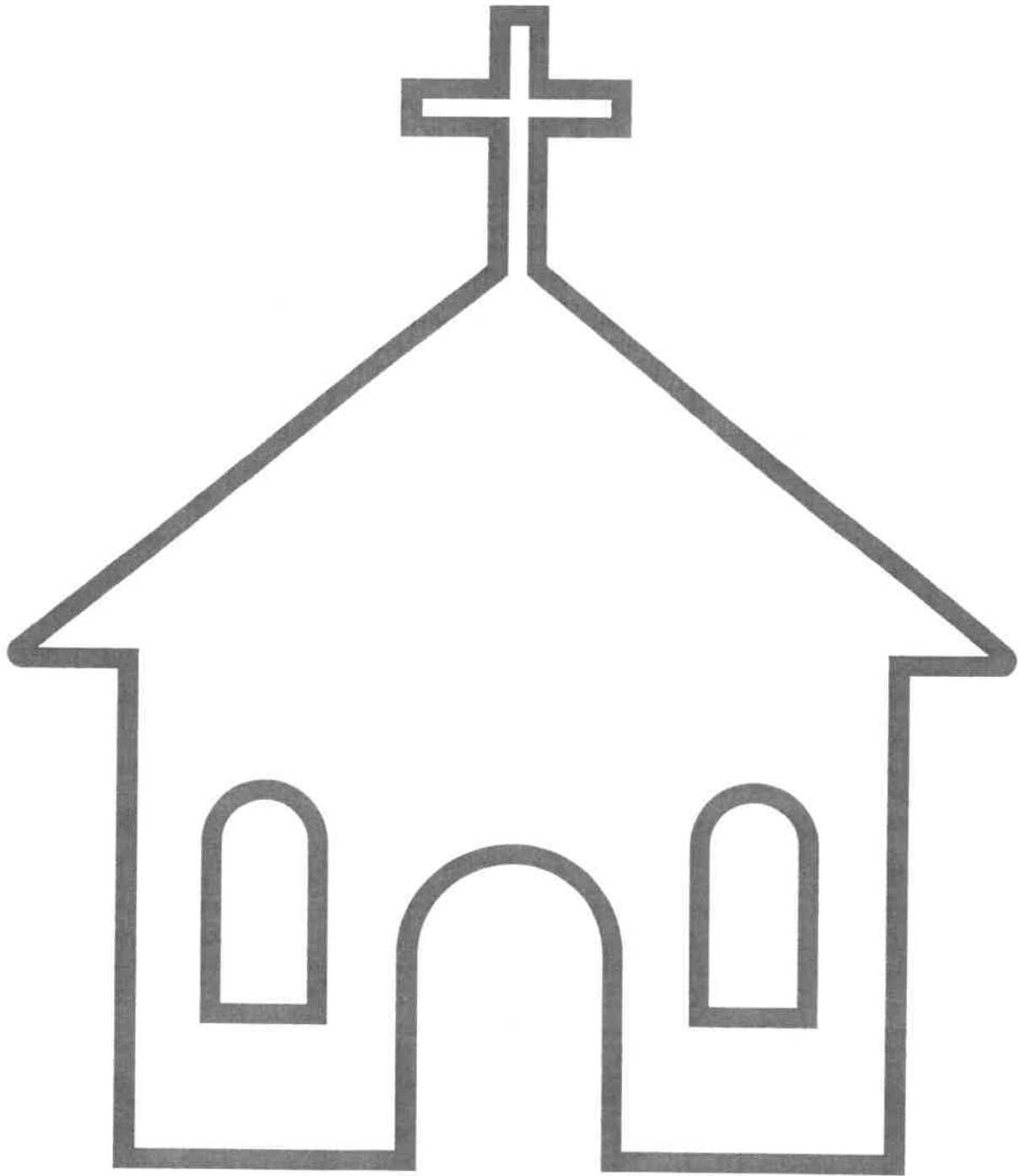
SAY: Let's look at the Take-Home Pages for today (Reproducibles 11F–11G). Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- 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.

11A

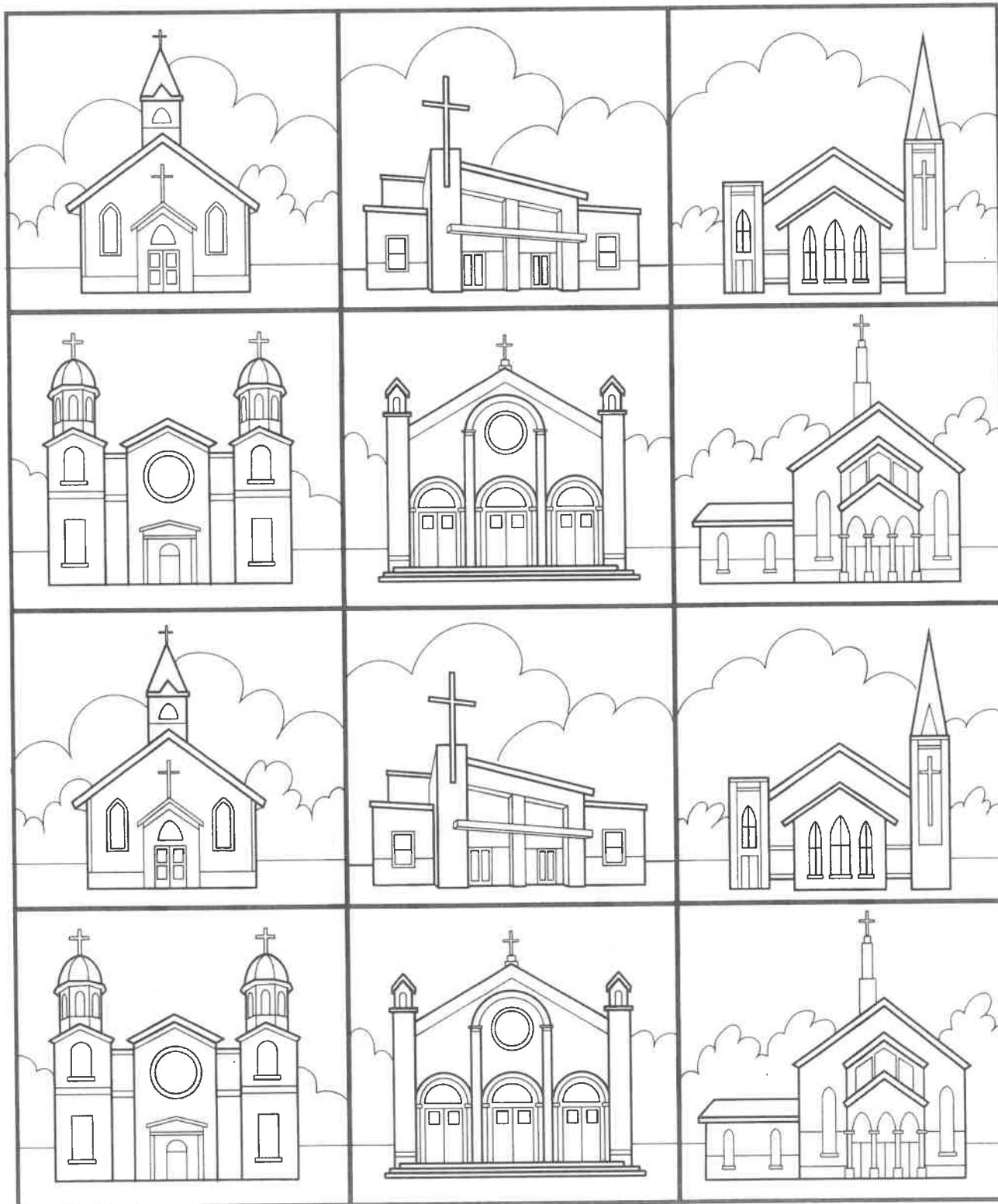
My Church and My Friends – Drawing

Draw your friends at church and color the page.



Church Memory Game – Coloring

Color and cut out the cards. Use the cards to play a memory game in which you match the different churches.



11C

Imperfect People – Reflection


Respond to the journal prompt below.

**Saul was clearly an imperfect person.
Why do you think God uses imperfect
people to serve and do God's work?**

11D

Speak for Me – Verbal Activity

Learn about your partner and record their answers below.



1. What is your name?

2. What school do you attend?

3. What is your favorite subject in school?

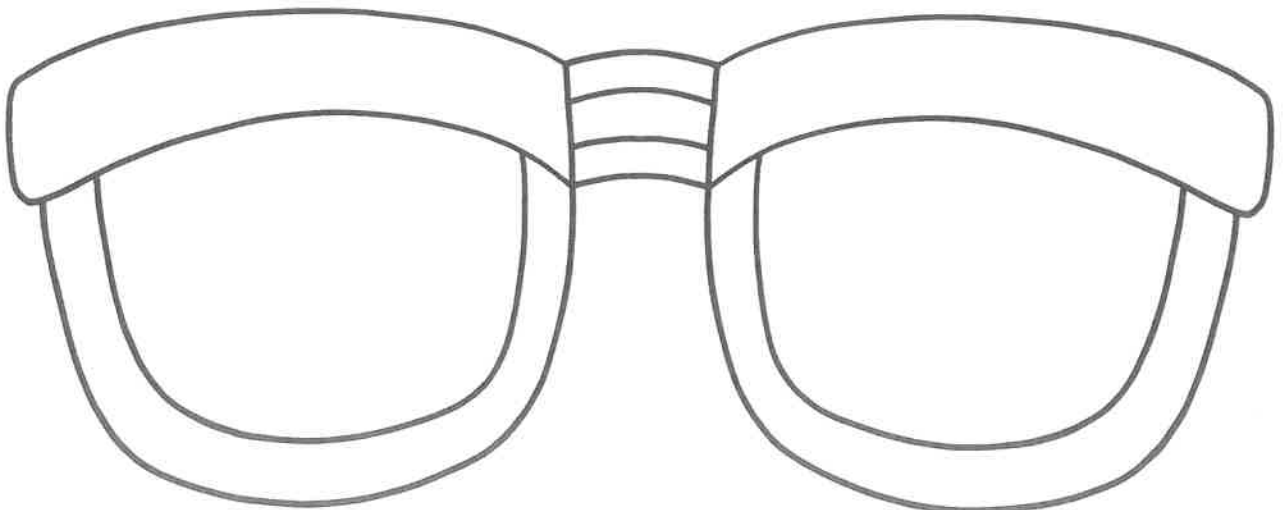
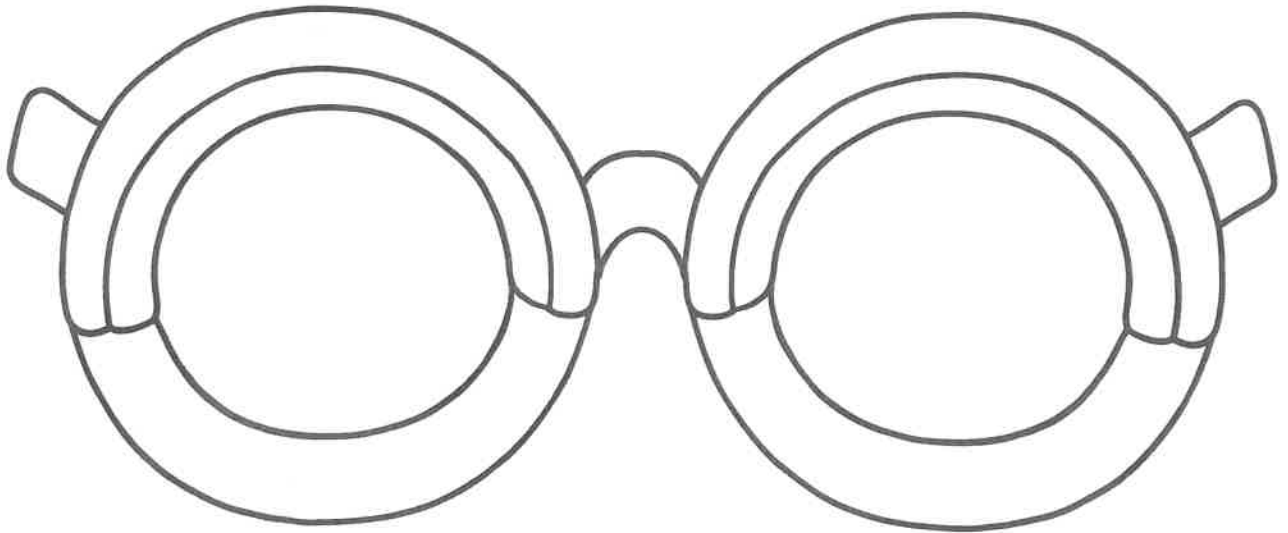
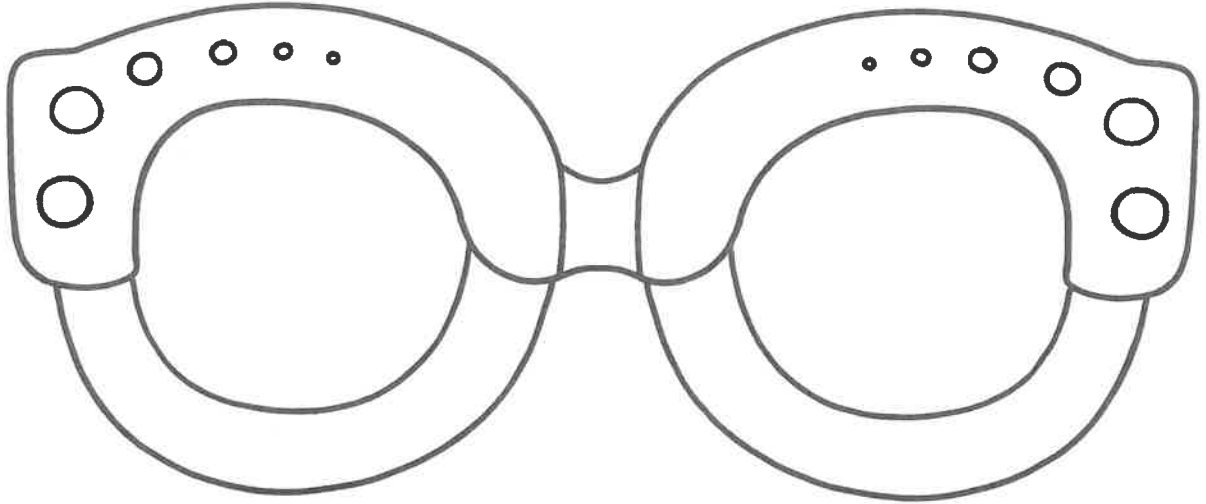
4. What is your favorite school activity or sport?

5. What are your hobbies?

11E

I See You – Craft

Color and cut out the glasses.



11F

Bullying – At-Home Activity

Read the article about bullying and discuss with a family member or trusted adult.

Sometimes we do not treat people in loving and accepting ways. In the Bible story, the people did not want to forgive Paul. He had been a bully, but he had changed. Forgiveness and acceptance can be hard because it takes both sides to work. Let's talk about bullying. What does bullying mean?

Bullying can...

- Hurt feelings;
- Cause people to be afraid or feel unsafe;
- Take away joy and happiness.

What if I am bullied?

- Walk away and remove yourself from the presence of a bully.
- Speak up and tell a trusted adult. (Being bullied should never be kept a secret.)
- Act fast—tell an adult as soon as you are bullied or see someone else being bullied.

Bullying is not the way God wants us to treat others. God wants us to love everyone, even when it's hard. No matter what, God accepts us and forgives us. We are called to follow God in this example and accept and forgive others.





May 19th
Pentecost
Acts 2:1-12

Pentecost – Acts 2:1-12

Jesus' friends, the disciples, were together in a house in Jerusalem. Suddenly, a sound like wind filled the room. The disciples saw flames of fire on top of each of their heads. They were surprised! It was the Holy Spirit—God's Spirit!

People outside heard the noise coming from inside the house. "What is happening?" the people wondered. Peter answered them: "God has sent the Holy Spirit to us." Peter told the people about Jesus and how they could have the Holy Spirit.

The people listened, and some believed.

Family Spiritual Practice

Read the story of Pentecost together. When you hear the word *wind*, dance like the wind. When you hear the word *flame*, dance like a flame.

Wonder: How do you think the Holy Spirit might visit you today?

Do: The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God's love. The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. Hold your hand to your mouth and blow on it. Feel the warmth and the air on your skin. Anytime you need to remember that God is with you, do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for the Holy Spirit. Amen.

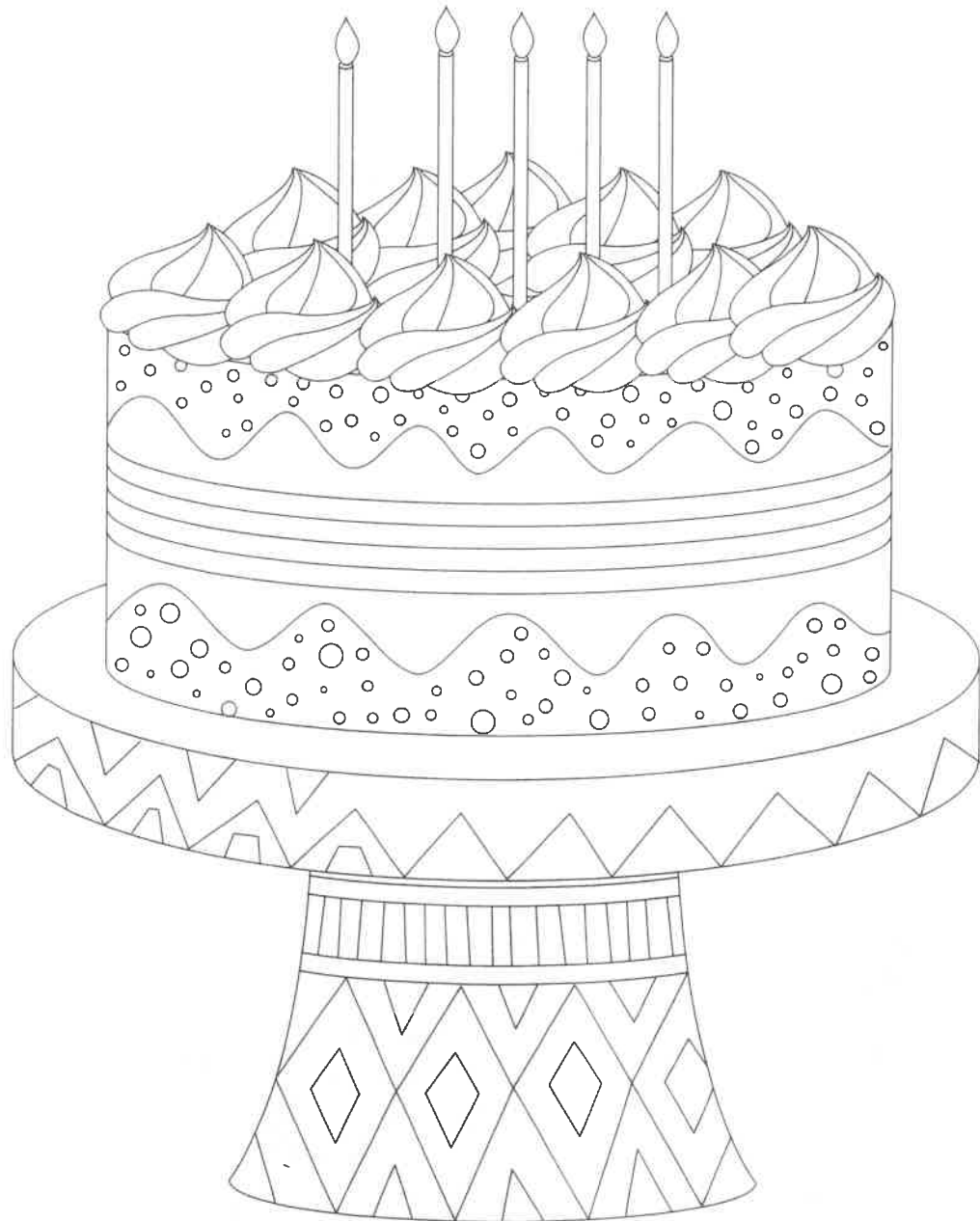


12F

Make a Birthday Cake – At-Home Activity

Bake a birthday cake using a recipe of your choosing to share as a family. Decorate the cake in red. If baking is not an option, color the image of the cake below and hang it in your home as a reminder of Pentecost.

Pentecost



Happy Birthday Church!

Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Pentecost – Acts 2:1-12

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Pentecost Flame (Coloring)
- Many Languages (Matching)
- Special Day (Puzzle)
- Wind and Flame Blow Painting (Art)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Wind and Flame Reverse Tag (Game)
- Experience the Sound (Game)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Birthday Cards (Craft)
- My Words (Language Activity)
- Wind Chimes (Craft)
- Pentecost Collage (Collaborative Art)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| crayons | smocks |
| colored pencils | wind chimes |
| markers | LED tealights
(1 per child) |
| scissors | plastic cups
(1 per child) |
| pencils | yarn |
| straws | beads and bells |
| small canvases
(1 per child) | paper punch |
| food coloring | white construction
paper |
| 4 bowls | red decorating
items such as yarn,
ribbon, etc. |
| 4 water droppers | |
| water | |
| white paper | |
| table coverings | |

Suggested Books

- One Family* by George Shannon
- The Day When God Made Church—A Child's First Book About Pentecost* by Rebekah McLeod Hutto

Tips for the Leader

- Welcome children on their level and let them know you are glad to see them.
- Be sure to choose the activities you would like and prep your supplies ahead of time. Make copies of the reproducible pages 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: LOVE

As Christians today, we celebrate Pentecost as the birthday of the church. Pentecost originated as a Jewish festival, one of three pilgrimage feasts when Jews gathered in Jerusalem. Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift of the Holy Spirit. During this time of waiting in Jerusalem, while the disciples and other followers of Jesus were celebrating Pentecost, the Holy Spirit arrived, sounding like the wind and appearing like fire. In the Bible, fierce wind and fire often are used as symbols of God's presence.

This was a great mystery. Everyone was able to understand and speak in other languages and knew God was working in their lives in mysterious ways. The excitement surrounding the arrival of the Holy Spirit attracted a crowd. Many people were shocked, surprised, and confused. Like many of us, they wondered what all this might mean.

The Spirit empowered all of God's people, not just the disciples, and gave them the courage to continue to spread the good news about Jesus. We may not hear rushing wind or see flames of fire descending on one another, but God's Spirit continues to empower us and give us the courage to do God's work.

The concept of the Holy Spirit is sometimes a difficult one for children and adults to understand. Essentially, the Spirit can be explained as God's presence in our lives. It guides us, comforts us, and strengthens our faith. It is another way that God shows love for us. Remember that it is okay for there to be questions that can't be answered. The main thing you'll want the children to come away with is an understanding that God is with them through the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

As you prepare to teach your children about the Holy Spirit, take a few moments to engage in the following spiritual practice: Sit in a quiet space and light a candle. Close your eyes and listen for what the Spirit is saying to you today. How is the Spirit guiding, comforting, or strengthening you? Consider doing this practice daily during the week leading up to your class.

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.

Pentecost Flame – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Pentecost Flame" (Reproducible 12A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Pentecost Flame."

SAY: Pentecost is sometimes called the birthday of the church.

ASK: What are some things that make birthdays special?

Many Languages – Younger Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Many Languages" (Reproducible 12B) for each child.

SAY: God created so many wonderful languages. Let's explore some of them.

WONDER: What do you think the word *worship* sounds like in other languages?

- Distribute a copy of "Many Languages" to each child.
- Encourage the children to complete the activity.

Special Day – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or colored pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Special Day" (Reproducible 12C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Special Day."

ASK: Why do you think Pentecost is a special day for the church?

- Encourage the children to complete the page.

Wind and Flame Blow Painting – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, straws (one for each child); small canvases (one for each child); paper; red, yellow, blue, and green food coloring; four bowls; at least four droppers; water; white paper; table covering; smocks

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Wind and Flame Blow Painting" (Reproducible 12D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Wind and Flame Blow Painting."

ASK: What do you imagine Pentecost was like?

- Encourage children to complete the activity.

Come Together

Supplies: *Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, red cloth, battery-operated candle, wind chimes*

Prepare Ahead: *Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a red cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the wind chimes inside the Wonder Box.*

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This week we are exploring the story of Pentecost.

ASK: Do you remember why Pentecost is an important day for our church.

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, “Pentecost” (pp. 268–269) from the storybook or read Acts 2:1-41 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us the Holy Spirit. 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 12 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: How would you have reacted when the Holy Spirit arrived?

Interactive Bible Story

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

Prepare Ahead: *Photocopy today’s Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 12F–12G).*

- 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 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

SAY: Today's Faith Word is *love*

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

ASK: Who or what do you love?

- Have a child place the faith flower on the Wonder Story Mat.
 - Where do you see love in today's Bible story?
 - What emotions do you think the disciples felt at Pentecost?
 - How would you have felt?
 - How does the Holy Spirit show us love?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the wind chimes.

WONDER: How do these wind chimes remind you of our Bible story?

Experience Wonder

Wind and Flame Reverse Tag – All Ages

Supplies: LED tea light candle for each child

- Ask for two or three volunteers to be IT. These children will represent the wind and will move around the room in a manner they believe represents a howling wind (movement and noises of their choice are allowed).
- Give each of the remaining children an LED tea light candle. Allow them to hold the candles but not to turn them on. These children must remain still and quiet and wait for a child representing the wind to pass by.
- The children who are holding the candles will attempt to tag those who are representing the wind by tapping them on the shoulder as the wind children move by them. (This is the reverse of a tag game where IT attempts to tag the larger group of children.)
- Once a child with a candle taps a child representing the wind, the child with the candle must ask, "What does it mean?"

- The child representing the wind will then turn on the other child's LED candle and move on being the wind. The child who is holding the candle may join the wind in moving around the room as well, or he or she may choose to remain standing with his or her candle. Continue until all candles are lit.

ASK: How do wind and flame usually interact? What do you think it means that the wind and flame interacted differently in our Bible story and in our game?

Experience the Sound – All Ages

Supplies: none

- Assign each child one of the words in the phrase “change your hearts and lives.” Then have them say their word over and over again at the same time as the other children. Each child may say her or his word as fast or as slow as she or he likes. Eventually, with all of the children saying something different at the same time, but at different paces, the sound should begin to be jumbled and make it difficult for the children to hear any word clearly besides their own. The children will get an idea of what it was like to hear many languages, yet hear only their own clearly.

ASK: What was it like to hear so many sounds at once? What do you think it was like for the people in the Bible story?

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*) Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16).
Read the verse together.

ASK: What do you think it means to everyone like members of your family?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Book 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, The Day When God Made Church—A Child’s First Book About Pentecost by Rebekah McLeod Hutto, One Family by George Shannon, quiet toys and soft items, bubbles, pinwheels, flashlights, glow sticks, dolls with different skin tones, dollhouse

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) 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 take turns playing with the wind and light items and the dolls and dollhouse.

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 – Birthday Cards

Supplies: paper, crayons or markers, a variety of art supplies

SAY: Today, we’re going to make some cards to celebrate the birthday of the church!

- Give each child paper and art supplies.
- Encourage the children to design their own birthday card.
- Display the cards in your classroom.

Early Elementary – My Words

Supplies: paper, pens, pencils, crayons, markers

- Invite each child to come up with her or his very own word, write a definition for the word, and draw a picture of the word.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their word with the group.

WONDER: How did you decide on your word? Was it hard or easy to make up your own word?

Older Elementary – Wind Chimes

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, plastic cups (one for each child), markers, yarn, scissors, beads, bells, paper punch

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Wind Chimes" (Reproducible 12E).

- Distribute supplies, and let each child decorate a cup label (Reproducible 12E) with markers.
- Direct the children to thread beads and bells onto pieces of yarn.
- Have the children punch holes in their cups around the mouth and one hole through the bottom center.
- Invite the children to tie the pieces of yarn with beads and bells through the holes around their cup.
- Have them thread a piece of yarn through the hole in the bottom of their cup and knot it inside the cup to make a hanger.

WONDER: Where will you put your wind chime? What does the wind sound like?

Intergenerational – Pentecost Collage

Supplies: white construction paper; red items such as yarn, material, ribbon; glue

- Give each participant a piece of white construction paper.
- Let the participants glue the red items of their choice on the white construction paper.

SAY: Red is the color of Pentecost because red reminds us of flames. When we see our red picture, we will remember that Jesus came to his friends on Pentecost through the Spirit, so they would know they were not alone. We know that Jesus is always close to us too.

WONDER: When do you feel close to Jesus?

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: Wonder Table

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

WONDER: What is the Holy Spirit?

SAY: The Holy Spirit is like your breath. You can feel it, but you cannot see it. The Holy Spirit is one way we can feel God’s love. This is a wonderful mystery.

- Invite the children to participate as you guide them through the spiritual practice.

SAY: Hold your hand up and blow on it.

Feel the warmth of the air on your skin.

Blow gently on your hand several more times.

SAY: Anytime you need to remember God is with you, you can do this practice. The Holy Spirit is always present and wraps each of you in warmth and love.

PRAY: Holy Spirit, we feel your presence all around. Help us know you are always with us. 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 12F–12G) if you have not yet done so already.

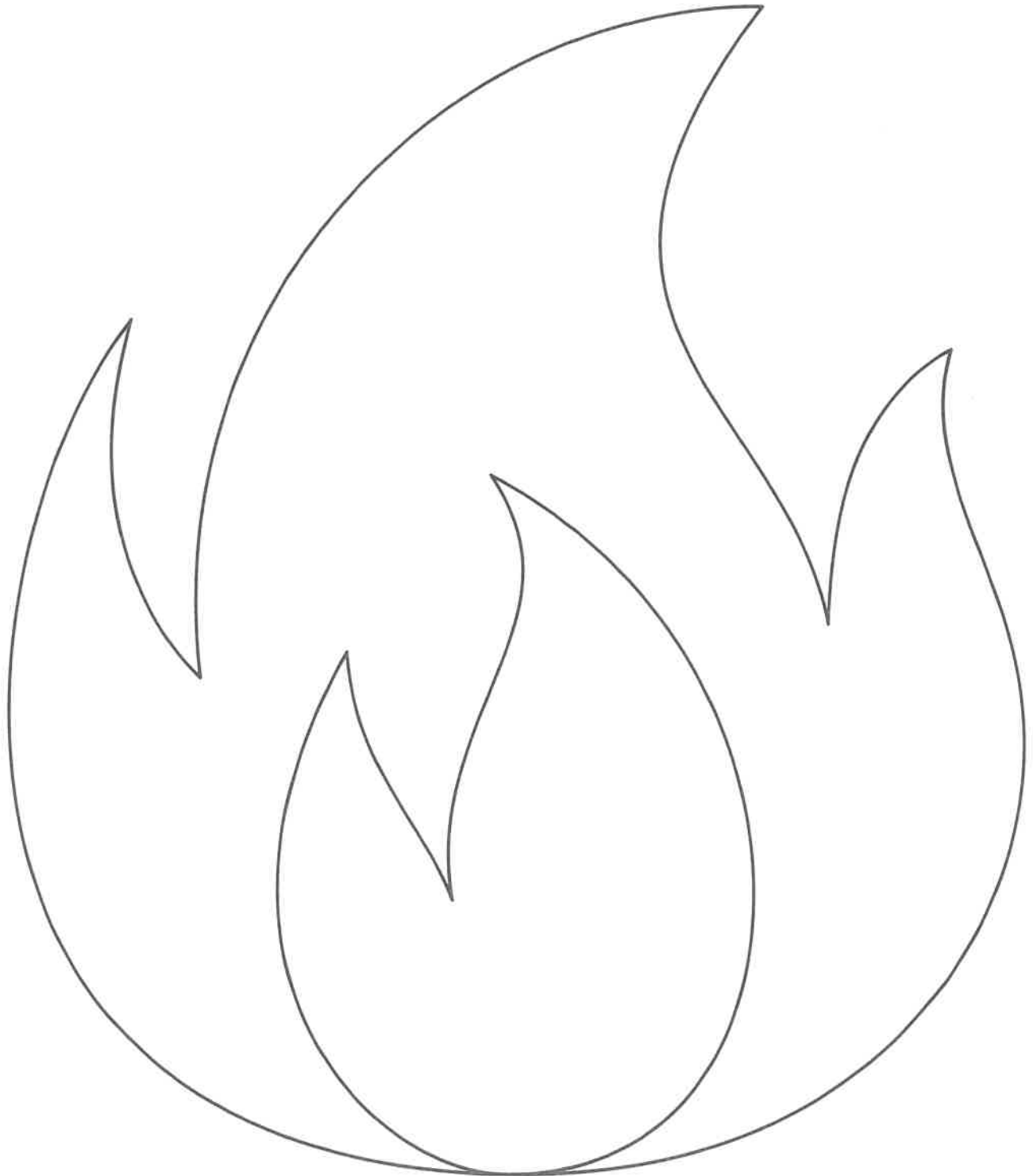
SAY: Let’s look at your Take-Home Pages for today. Ask your family to participate in the Family Spiritual Practice. Encourage your family to help you with the pages.

- 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.

12A

Pentecost Flame – Coloring

Color or paint the flame as you wonder about Pentecost.

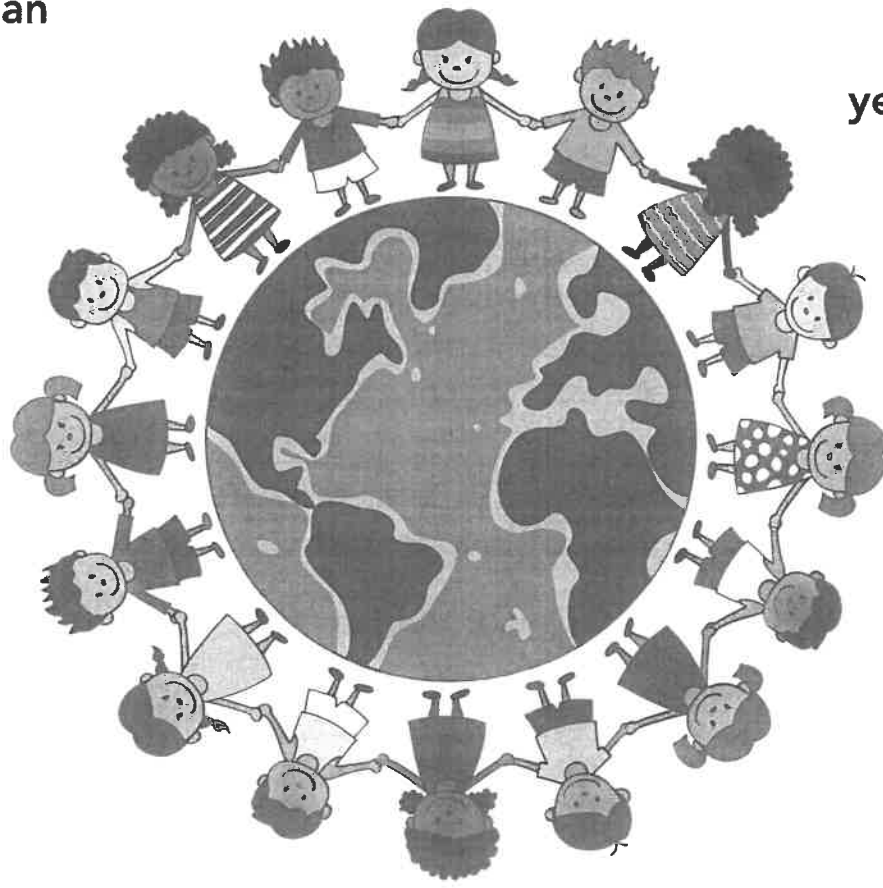


12B

Many Languages – Matching

Match each language to the word for *worship* in that language. Imagine how those gathered at Pentecost felt as they heard all of the languages spoken.

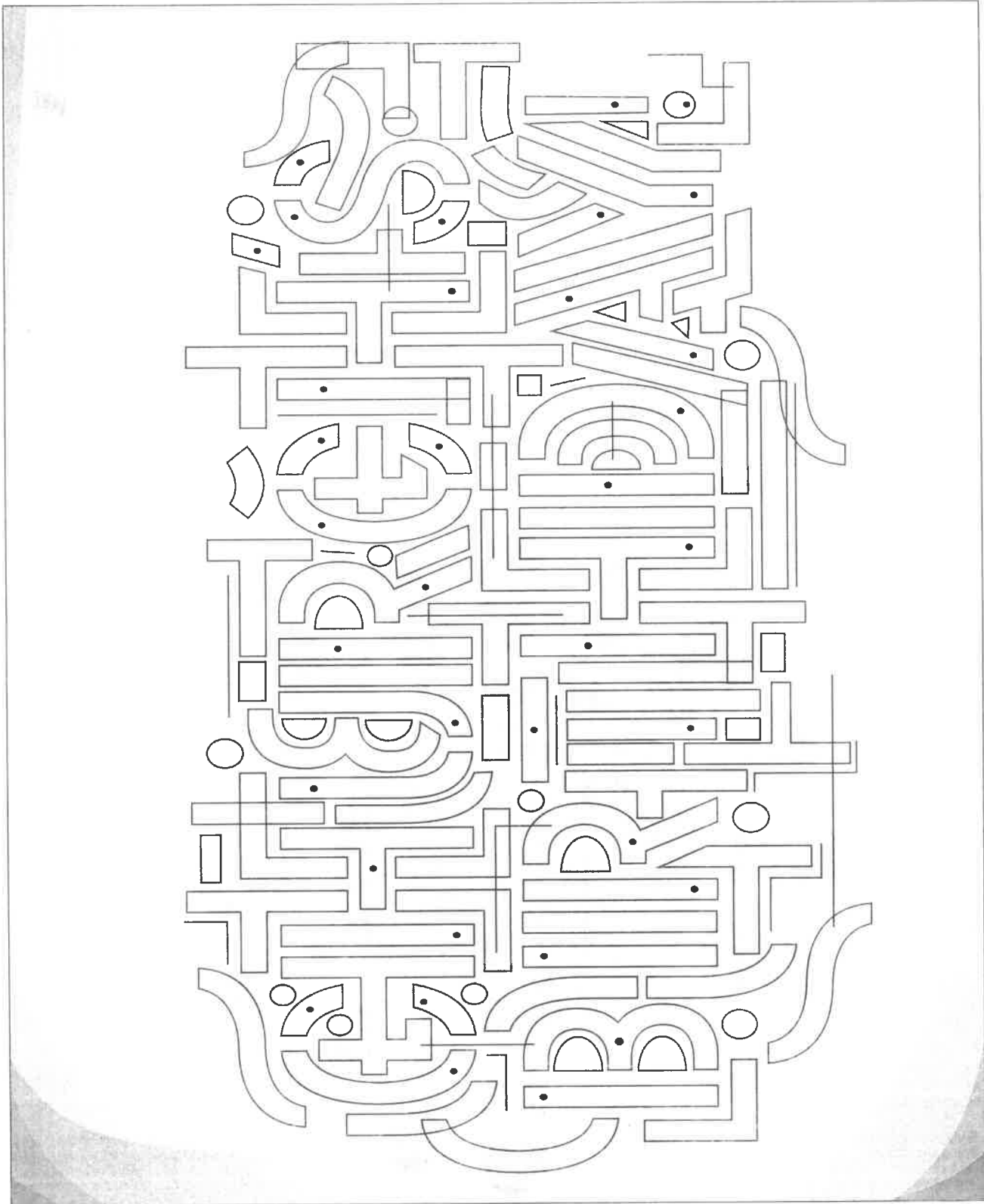
- | | | | |
|----------|---------|--------------|--------------|
| English | Spanish | anbetung | yerkrpagel |
| Latin | French | rendir culto | ibada |
| Greek | German | culte | worship |
| Dutch | Swahili | aanbidden | latreía |
| Armenian | Korean | cultum | yebaehabnida |



12C

Special Day – Puzzle

Color in each shape containing a dot to reveal the reason Pentecost is a special day for the church.



12D

Wind and Flame Blow Painting – Art

Follow your teacher's instructions (Leader Guide pp. 112-113) to create a wind and flame painting.

Practice Painting

Decide if you would like to paint wind, flame, or both in one painting.

Choose the colors you would like, and use the droppers to apply a few drops to your sheet of paper.

You may mix colors to make other colors (such as red and yellow to make orange).

Practice painting by using your straw to blow the colors around on the paper to create an image of wind or an image of flame. (Remember, there is no right or wrong way to paint.)

Your breath controls the movement of the color on the page. You may want to move your head like a writing instrument.

Experiment with controlling your breath. Try blowing the paint fast and then slow.

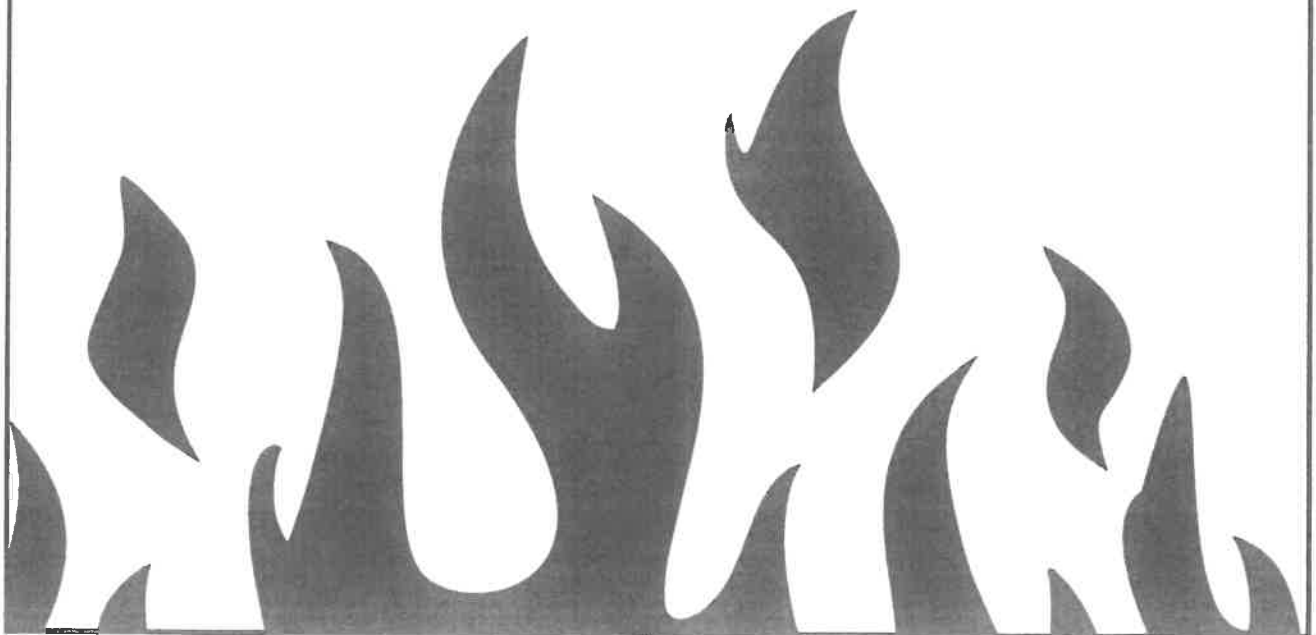
Try a second painting on another sheet of paper, if there is time.

Final Painting

Once you have gotten the hang of painting with the straw, paint on your flat canvas.

Set the canvas aside to dry.

When the paint is dry, take your canvas home to hang on a wall.



12E

Wind Chimes – Craft

Follow your teacher's instructions (Leader Guide p. 117) to make wind chimes as a reminder of the wind at Pentecost.

Happy
Birthday
Church!

Happy
Birthday
Church!



May 26th
Love in Action
Romans 12:9-18

WONDER®

All Ages (3-12)

Spring 2024

13G

Love in Action – Romans 12:9-18

Paul traveled to many places to share God's love. Paul continued to support the churches he visited by writing them letters. One of the churches he wrote to was in Rome.

The letter instructed the church in Rome on how to love, how to care for others, and how to treat everyone as an equal. He wrote, "Love each other like the members of your family." He also told them to "be on fire in the Spirit as you serve the Lord!"

The letters helped the churches stay together without fighting, to accept all people, and to serve the Lord.



Family Spiritual Practice

Read Love in Action together. Every time you say the word *love*, use your hands to form the shape of a heart.

Wonder: How can you show love to others?

Do: Paul was telling the early church members to treat everyone as a member of their family, in love and in service.

Each day ask the members of your family, "How can I help you today?" Without complaining, do as they ask.


Remind yourself that the act you perform for others shows how you love God and God's people.

Say a prayer of thanks to God for being able to help. Amen.

Pray: Dear God, thank you for teaching us to love one another. Amen.

Answer Key

1B Bible Verse - PUZZLE
To help you discover the memory verse for this month.



DO THIS IN
REMEMBRANCE OF ME

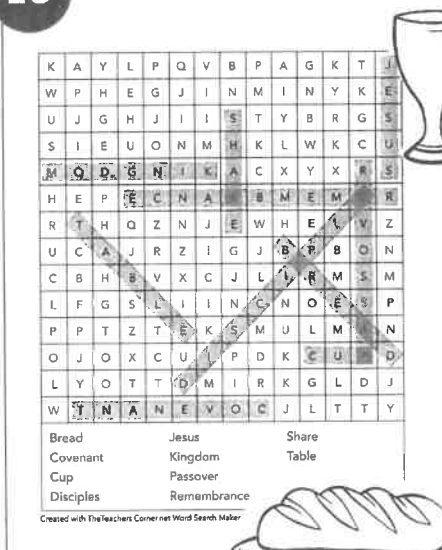
Luke 22:19c

A B C D E F H I M N O R S T

1E

Jesus and the disciples gathered before the Festival of <u>Passover</u> .	Jesus and the disciples were sharing a <u>meal</u> together.
Jesus knew that he would soon be returning to <u>God</u> .	Jesus tied a linen <u>towel</u> around his waist.
Jesus washed the disciples' <u>feet</u> .	<u>Simon Peter</u> did not want Jesus to wash his feet at first.
Jesus said that those who had bathed need only wash their <u>feet</u> .	Jesus told the disciples that he had them an <u>example</u> .

2C Words from the Bible story, Luke 22:14-20.



Bread	Jesus	Share
Covenant	Kingdom	Table
Cup	Passover	
Disciples	Remembrance	

Created with The Teachers Corner.net Word Search Maker

3C Praying in the Garden - Puzzle

Unscramble the words to find an important word. Look up Luke 22:39-46 in your Bible to help you.

YARP P R A Y

USJES J E S U S

NTMUO FO VSEIOL
M O U N T O F O L I V E S

THAREF F A T H E R


OATNTIPETM
T E M P T A T I O N

EB NEDO B E D O N E

LEAGN A N G E L

FINERGUSF
S U F F E R I N G

R E M E M B E R



Season 3 Spring 2024
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Love each other like the members of your family. (Romans 12:10a)

Love in Action – Romans 12:9-18

Prepare to Lead

Activities At-a-Glance

GATHER TOGETHER

- Practice Writing Love (Writing)
- Color and Reflect (Coloring/Reflection)
- Love Word Search (Puzzle)
- Bible Verse Heart (Coloring)

EXPERIENCE WONDER

- Words of Love (Journaling)
- Grow Love (Nature)
- Peaceful Place (Response Activity)

WONDER MORE

- Listen to Your Heart (Game)
- Love Banner (Collaborative Art)
- Love Cookies (Cooking)
- Live Out the Scripture (Discussion)

Supplies At-a-Glance

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <i>crayons and markers</i> | <i>large white paper</i> |
| <i>colored pencils</i> | <i>display supplies</i> |
| <i>pencils</i> | <i>variety of art supplies</i> |
| <i>scissors</i> | <i>stove with oven</i> |
| <i>heart-shaped item</i> | <i>oven mits</i> |
| <i>seasonal flowers</i> | <i>baking sheets</i> |
| <i>gardening gloves and tools</i> | <i>refrigerated sugar cookie dough</i> |
| <i>water</i> | <i>rolling pin</i> |
| <i>masking tape</i> | <i>tube icing</i> |
| <i>large cutout hearts</i> | <i>zip sandwich bags</i> |
| <i>plastic heart cookie cutters</i> | <i>handwashing supplies</i> |
| <i>soft modeling dough</i> | |

Suggested Books

- Love* by Matt de la Peña
- Last Stop on Market Street* by Matt de la Peña

Tips for the Leader

- This page provides you with a session outline of activities and a 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*.
- This session includes a snack. Be sure to check for food allergies ahead of time.
- As you plan to lead, be sure to prepare any items you are using from the Class Pack.

Prepare to Wonder

Faith Word: LOVE

In our Scripture today, Paul explains what love should look like for both the church and others in the community. Paul calls for a sincere love without pretending. He says that we should hate evil and cling to what is good. We should love one another like family and show honor to one another.

He also says we should serve the Lord enthusiastically. We are to find happiness in hope and stand our ground when we are in trouble. Paul encourages devoted prayer and contribution to the needs of others (including hospitality). We must celebrate with those who are happy and cry with those who are sad.

Paul calls on us to bless people who harass us and not curse them, as Jesus taught. We are to treat one another as equals and not think of ourselves as better than anyone else. We are to befriend those who have no status. We are not to seek revenge on those who have wronged us, and we are to show respect for the beliefs of those who believe something different from us. Most importantly, we are to live in peace with everyone. We are called to love.

But love can be hard. It might seem impossible to demonstrate this kind of love. How can we possibly always be loving? This story shows many ways to love. We can't always show perfect love, but we can choose one way we will offer our very best love. Love is not about perfection. Love is a practice. Help children see ways they can practice being a person of love and how to share that love with others.

Spiritual Practice for Adults

This week, pick one way you can show love. You do not have to be perfect at loving; you just have to try. Ask your friends and family to choose one way they can show love and share God's love with the world. Hold one another accountable. At the end of the week, share your experiences with one another.

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.

Practice Writing Love – Preschool

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Practice Writing Love" (Reproducible 13A) for each preschooler.

- Give each preschooler a copy of "Practice Writing Love."

SAY: Love is a very important word to our faith.

ASK: Why do you think love is important to God?

- Encourage the children to complete the activity on the page.

Color and Reflect – Younger Elementary

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

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Color and Reflect" (Reproducible 13B) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Color and Reflect."

SAY: God gave us so many ways to show love. Think about all the different kinds of love in your life as you color the page.

- Encourage children to color the page.

Love Word Search – Older Elementary

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, pencils

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Love Word Search" (Reproducible 13C) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Love Word Search."
- Encourage the children to search for the words on the page.

ASK: What do you imagine our Bible story will teach us based on the words in the word search?

Bible Verse Heart – All Ages

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book, crayons or markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Bible Verse Heart" (Reproducible 13D) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of "Bible Verse Heart."
- Encourage the children to color the page.

SAY: Display your heart picture in your room to remind of what our Bible verse teaches us.

Come Together

Supplies: Class Pack, Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Wonder Box, green cloth, battery-operated candle, a heart-shaped item

Prepare Ahead: Set up a Wonder Table (see p. 3) with a green cloth, battery-operated candle, and a Wonder Box (see p. 3). Display the Unit 3 Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16) and Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21) to use later in the session. Place the heart-shaped item inside the Wonder Box.

- Invite the children to join you in a circle.

SAY: This month we've been learning about the importance of love.

ASK: What reminds you to show love for others?

- We recommend reading stories from the *Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook*. Allow an elementary-age child to read the story, "Love in Action" (pp. 298–299) from the storybook or read Romans 12:9-18 from a CEB Bible.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us to love one another. 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 13 video (Celebrate Wonder DVD).

WONDER: What part of the Bible story was your favorite? Why?

Interactive Bible Story

Supplies: Reproducible Kids' Book

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy today's Take-Home Pages (Reproducibles 13F–13G).

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

WONDER: Who has taught you to love others?

Wonder with Me

Supplies: Class Pack, Wonder Box, scissors

Prepare Ahead: Lay out the Unit 3 Wonder Story Mat (Class Pack—pp. 7 & 18).

Locate and cut out the Unit 3 story figures (Class Pack—p. 3) if you haven't already.

Display the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster (Class Pack—p. 21).

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

- Show the Unit 3 Faith Word Poster and invite the children to wonder about the image.

SAY: The definition of *love* is a closeness and connection that we feel with God and others.

ASK: How do you feel God's love in your life?

- Have a child place the peace flower on the Wonder Story Mat.

WONDER together:

- What does love mean to you?
 - How do you show love?
 - How do others show love to you?
 - Is it always easy to love everyone like family? Why?
 - What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- Open the Wonder Box to reveal the heart-shaped item.

SAY: This heart represents love, which what God asked us to show one another.

WONDER: Why do you think God told us to love one another like members of our families?

Experience Wonder

Words of Love – All Ages

Supplies: CEB Bibles, paper, pencils, crayons

SAY: Today's Bible story tells us many ways to love.

WONDER: How do you want to show love?

- Invite the children to reread Romans 12:9-18.
- Then have the children write or draw one way they want to show love.
- Encourage the children to think about one phrase that might define their understanding of love.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

Grow Love – All Ages

Supplies: seasonal flowers, gardening tools, gardening gloves, water

Prepare Ahead: Ask permission to plant flowers at your church. Locate a place to plant the flowers.

SAY: One way we show love is through service. We are going to plant some flowers. Flowers show the beauty of God's creation and bring joy and love to others.

WONDER: Have you ever planted flowers?

- Take the children outside to plant the flowers.
- Say a blessing over the flowers.

Examine the Bible Verse – Early and Older Elementary

Supplies: CEB Bibles

SAY: Our Unit 3 Bible verse is Romans 12:10a. Let's find it in our Bibles.

ASK: Is Romans in the Old or New Testament? (*New*). Where is the Book of Romans located in the New Testament? (*sixth book*) In what chapter of Romans is our verse located? (*12*) What is the verse number? (*10*)

- Gather the kids around the Bible Verse Poster (Class Pack—pp. 9 & 16). Read the verse together.

SAY: Our Bible verse teaches us an important lesson.

ASK: What other verses can you think of that teach us important lessons? Do you know where they are in our Bibles?

Peaceful Place – Preschool and Early Elementary

Supplies: copies of the Unit 3 Faith Word (Reproducible Kids' Book, 10F), Celebrate Wonder Bible Storybook, Love by Matt de la Peña, Last Stop on Market Street by Matt de la Peña, quiet toys and soft items, plastic heart cookie cutters in different sizes, soft modeling dough, art supplies for making notes of positive affirmation, paper, pencils, crayons, markers

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy the Unit 3 Faith Word Coloring Page (Reproducible 10F) 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.
- Allow the children to use the cookie cutters to make hearts from the soft modeling dough.
- Encourage older children to make positive affirmation notes using the art supplies. Place the notes around your church.

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 – Listen to Your Heart

Supplies: large cutout hearts, masking tape

Prepare Ahead: Scatter the large hearts on the floor around the room, taping them down, at least one heart for each child.

SAY: Our story today tells us there are many ways to love. I am going to say some ways to love and when I do, I want you to move to another heart and say, "I am love."

- Have each child start by standing on one heart.
- You can use these suggestions and ones of your choosing:
 - Be kind to new people.
 - Give to those in need.
 - Live at peace with others.

WONDER: What are ways you can show people God's love?

Early Elementary – Love Banner

Supplies: large white paper, markers, wall display supplies (appropriate for your classroom)

SAY: Let's make a banner for our door to show our church family how much we love them.

- Put the large paper where the children can work on it, and supply markers.
- Invite the children to decorate the banner. Suggestions include hearts, flowers, and the words "We love you."
- Display the banner at your doorway.

Older Elementary – Love Cookies

Supplies: stove with oven, baking sheets, oven mitts, refrigerated sugar cookie dough, rolling pin, heart-shaped cookie cutter, tube icing (in colors of your choosing), zip sandwich bags, handwashing supplies

Prepare Ahead: Secure an area where you can bake.

- Have the children wash their hands.
- Roll out the cookie dough using a rolling pin.
- Use a cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
- Bake according to the package instructions.
- Decorate as desired. Use the tube icing to write love messages on the cookies. Consider these things: Love, Romans 12:9-18, or Hearts.
- Allow the cookies to cool.
- Place the cookies in zip sandwich bags.
- Share the cookies with parents or the general congregation.

Tips: Check for allergies ahead of time. Only adults should use the stove.

Intergenerational – Live Out the Scripture

Supplies: CEB Bibles, Reproducible Kids' Book, scissors, bowl

Prepare Ahead: Photocopy "Live Out the Scripture" (Reproducible 13E), for each participant.

- Give each participant a copy of "Live Out the Scripture."

SAY: Let's see if we can think of ways to live out what the Scriptures tell us to do in each scenario.

- Discuss different ways to live out each scenario listed on the page.

Go in Peace

Spiritual Practice – Exploring Love Through Service

Supplies: Wonder Table

- Gather the children in a circle near the Wonder Table.

SAY: Today's Bible story reminds us of the importance of love.

- Invite the children to make a heart with their hands.
- Have them look through the heart.
- Then have the children repeat after you.

SAY: I see love all around me. Love is in you and love is in me.

- Repeat this practice several times.

SAY: Amen.

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 13F–13G). 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.

CELEBRATE WONDER® Family Celebration Letter

Celebrating the Teachings of the Early Church

The Bible teaches us that members of the early church cared for one another in a variety of ways. The stories of these believers teach us how we should be as Christians both inside the church and out in the community. By studying these stories, we learn what the teachings of Jesus look like in the actions of his followers.

This quarter, help your child learn how to interact with others through the teachings of these Bible stories. Children will learn to remember Jesus and celebrate the Resurrection through exploring traditional Lenten stories. They will learn to share the good news of Jesus through the example of the early Christians, and they will learn about serving the community by making sure that each person has what they need. Encourage children to show love for others through service as the early Christians did, and to know that the Holy Spirit is with them always to comfort and guide them along the way.

Place this chart on your refrigerator, kitchen table, or in an easy-to-access place. Throughout the week, have your child mark or color a space each time they complete an item on the chart. Celebrate your faith together!

<i>I served others.</i>	<i>I shared a meal with others.</i>	<i>I prayed.</i>	<i>I remembered Jesus.</i>	<i>I celebrated the Resurrection.</i>
<i>I shared about Jesus.</i>	<i>I helped someone in need.</i>	<i>I shared.</i>	<i>I was a good leader.</i>	<i>I went to someone who called for me.</i>
<i>I showed love.</i>	<i>I showed love for my church family.</i>	<i>I felt the Holy Spirit.</i>	<i>I did something nice for someone who was sick.</i>	<i>I supported a leader.</i>

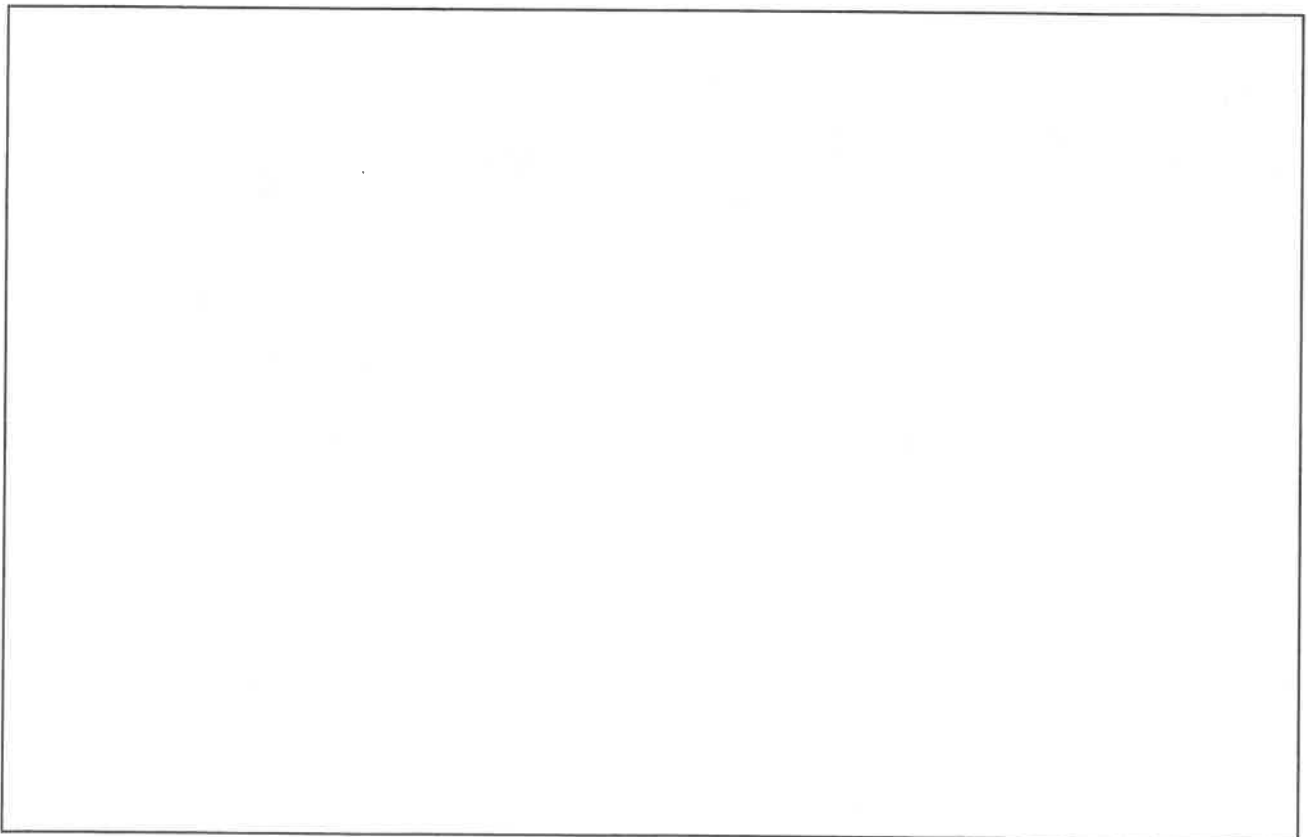
13A

Practice Writing Love – Writing

Trace the word *Love* twice below. Write the word *Love* on your own in the blanks below. Then write or draw who you love in the box.

L O V E

L O V E



13B

Color and Reflect – Coloring

Think about the different kinds of love in your life as you color the heart.



Love Word Search – Puzzle

Search the puzzle for the words from our Bible story in the word bank.

P P F C B C F K W E B L C C H
 L R T N I S K I S R C R O Z C
 P E A C E T U A H X Y F O V S
 H B X Y L E S Y G I H Q G D E
 O I U A E D V A N F A M I L Y
 P R U U C R I G I S U T A T S
 E Q I O Y N U H D S H S P N Y
 E K Q H M X T A N R U G D X P
 W Z J K E C S R E L O H K O P
 W P N U E M W A T O J N T U A
 Y N D P V A X S E I L X O N H
 J W S L L M V S R D C U G H E
 W E X H E G Q U P V B C X F X
 R V C U W Z Y R J M T P N I L
 U L L O J D I P S E G P K F W

Word Bank

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| Love | Harass |
| Pretending | Happy |
| Family | Crying |
| Honor | Equal |
| Enthusiastic | Status |
| Hope | Respect |
| Prayer | Peace |



13D

Bible Verse Heart – Coloring

Decorate or color the heart and Bible verse. Hang it in your room as a reminder of the Bible verse.

Love each other
like the members
of your family.

Romans 12:10a

13E

Live Out the Scripture – Intergenerational Activity

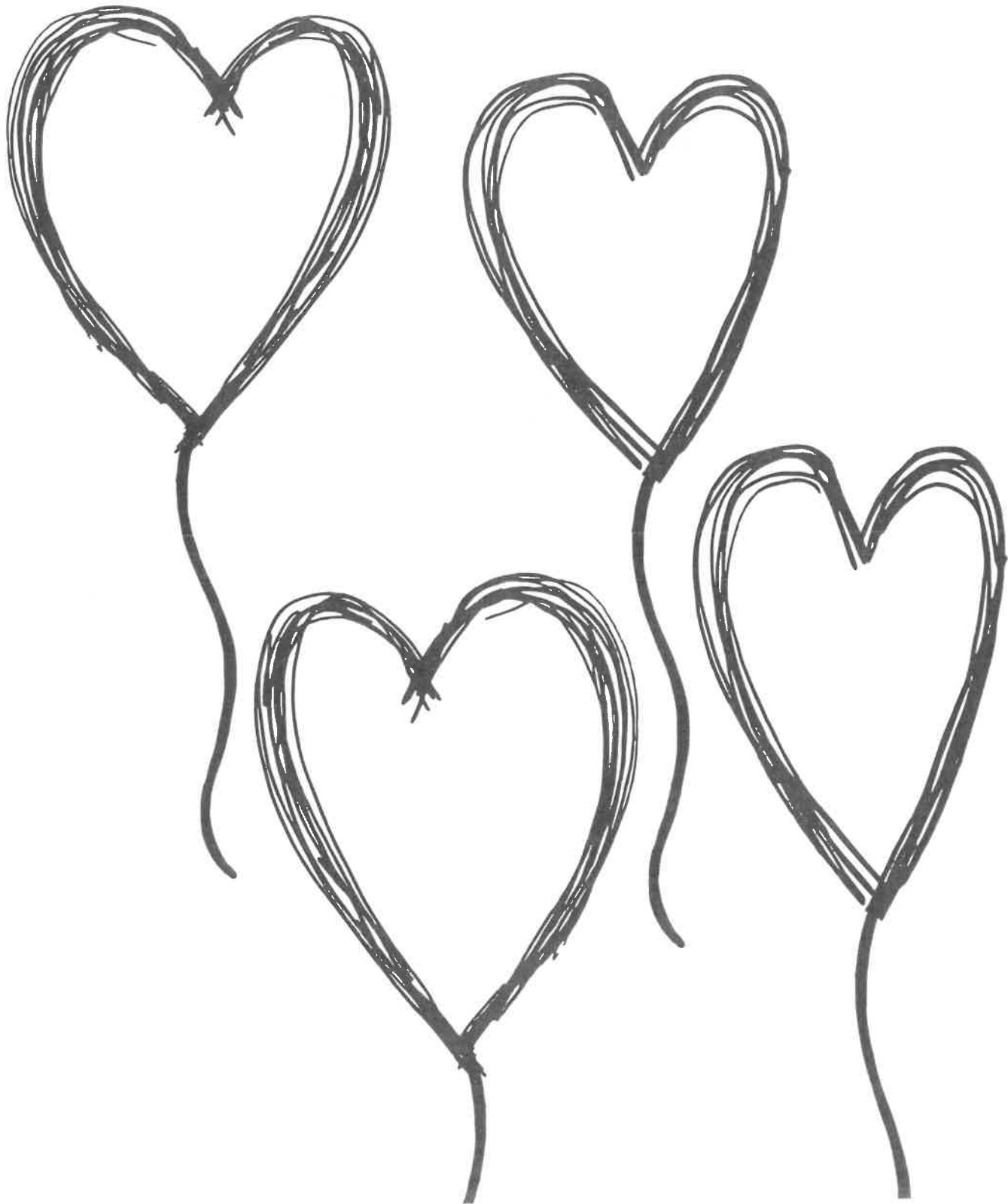
Follow your teacher's instructions (Leader Guide pp. 126-127) for exploring ways to live out the Scripture below.

<p>Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying.</p>	<p>Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at showing honor to each other.</p>
<p>Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home.</p>	<p>Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else.</p>
<p>Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.</p>	<p>If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people.</p>

13F

Showing Love – At-Home Activity

In each heart, write or draw a way that your family shows love. Display this page in your home as a reminder to show love!

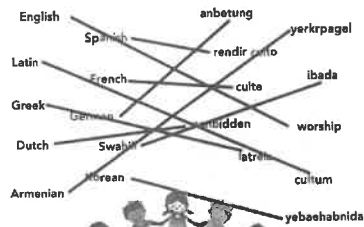


Answer Key

12B

Many Languages – Language Activity

Match each language to the word for worship in that language. Imagine how those gathered at Pentecost felt as they heard all of the languages spoken.



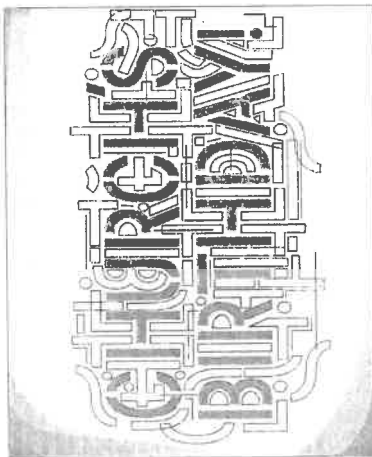
Session 12 Spring 2024
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12C

Special Day – Puzzle

Color in each shape containing a dot to reveal the reason Pentecost is a special day for the church.

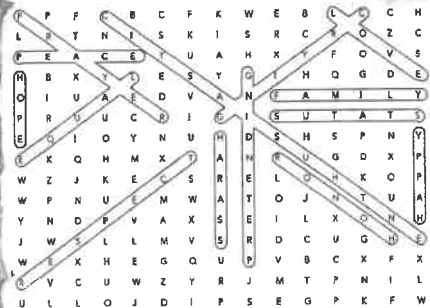


Session 12 Spring 2024
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13C

Search for the words from our Bible story in the word bank.

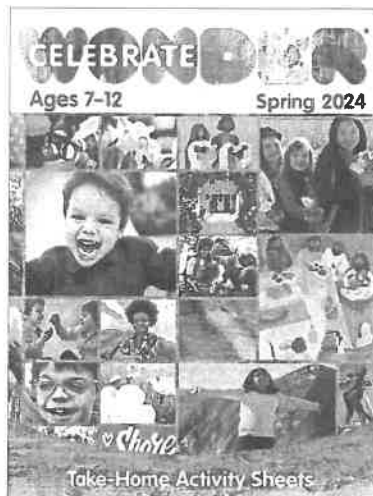


Word Bank

- | | |
|--------------|---------|
| Love | Harass |
| Pretending | Happy |
| Family | Crying |
| Honor | Equal |
| Enthusiastic | Status |
| Hope | Respect |
| Prayer | Peace |



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