



Middle Elementary

LEADER GUIDE

AGES 7-8



Summer 2018

LEARN & SERVE



Scope and Sequence

Fall 2017 – Summer 2018

Fall 2017	Winter 2017–18	Spring 2018	Summer 2018
UNIT 1: Judges and Kings	UNIT 1: A Time Is Coming	UNIT 1: In the Name of the Lord	UNIT 1: Jesus' Teaching
September 3 Hannah Prays	December 3 A Baby Is Coming	March 4 Mary Honors Jesus	June 3 The Lord's Prayer
September 10 God Calls Samuel	December 10 Mary and Joseph	March 11 Bartimaeus Shouts to Jesus	June 10 The Birds of the Air
September 17 Samuel Anoints Saul	December 17 A Baby Is Born	March 18 Jesus Breaks the Bread	June 17 The Golden Rule
September 24 Samuel Anoints David	December 24 The Shepherds' Visit	March 25 People Welcome Jesus	June 24 The Widow's Coins
	December 31 Simeon and Anna		
UNIT 2: From Shepherd to King	UNIT 2: Jesus, the Greatest Prophet	UNIT 2: Go and Tell	UNIT 2: Stories Jesus Told
October 1 David the Musician	January 7 The Visitors From the East	April 1 The Tomb Is Empty	July 1 The Two Houses
October 8 David and Goliath	January 14 A Voice in the Wilderness	April 8 Paul Changes	July 8 The Two Debtors
October 15 David and Jonathan	January 21 Jesus and the Children	April 15 Paul Escapes	July 15 The Mustard Seed and the Yeast
October 22 David and Abigail	January 28 A Boy's Lunch	April 22 The Church Grows	July 22 The Pharisees and the Tax Collector
October 29 David Dances		April 29 Timothy Is Chosen	July 29 The Ten Talents
UNIT 3: The Wise King	UNIT 3: Who Then Is This?	UNIT 3: Change Your Hearts and Lives	UNIT 3: The People Jesus Met
November 5 Solomon Becomes King	February 4 Jesus Walks on Water	May 6 Lydia	August 5 The Man in the Synagogue
November 12 Solomon's Wisdom Proverbs	February 11 The Four Friends	May 13 Paul and Silas	August 12 Mary and Martha
November 19 Solomon Builds the Temple	February 18 Jesus Calms the Storm	May 20 Pentecost	August 19 The Woman at the Well
November 26 Solomon Dedicates the Temple	February 25 Jairus's Daughter	May 27 Shipwrecked	August 26 The Man by the Pool

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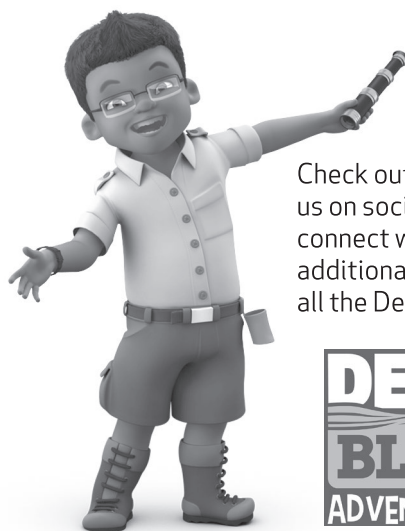
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Check out **deepbluekids.com** and follow us on social media (@deepbluekids) to connect with other leaders, download additional content, and stay up to date on all the Deep Blue News.



**Download the
Deep Blue App
today! It's free.**



Websites are constantly changing. Although the websites recommended in this resource were checked at the time this unit was developed, we recommend that you weekly double-check all sites to verify that they are still live and that they are still suitable for children before doing the activity.

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Using These Resources

Here's how it works:

Leader Guide

Each session plan is divided into four sections:

1. Jump In

These arrival activities help the children think about what they will learn. These activities also can be group-building activities to encourage relationship building.

2. Dive Deeper

This section contains the group activities for hearing, understanding, and experiencing the Bible story.

3. Grow Stronger

These activities encourage the children to relate the Bible story to their own lives. You also will find opportunities in this section for the children to serve others in their own church and community, and to participate in mission projects around the world.

4. Worship

In the Worship section the children will sing, sign, and praise God.

Bible Stories & Stuff

This resource contains 13 leaflets, one for each session. These leaflets include an interactive Bible story and fun activities that connect the children with the rest of the Bible, and a chance for the children to share their own thoughts about characters from the Bible story.

Kids Stuff

This resource also contains 13 activities, one for each session. These simple cut-and-paste types of activities will relate to the Bible message.

Class Stuff

This class resource includes the attendance chart, colorful pictures, posters, maps, games, and bulletin-board ideas for the quarter. These items are designed to enhance the class experience with the stories.

Music

The official Deep Blue Annual Music CD contains 19 new songs that were written specifically for Deep Blue.

The songs for Summer 2018 are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Let's Go Deep Blue Remix | 4. The People Who Knew Jesus |
| 2. Jesus, Teach Me | 5. The Lord's Prayer |
| 3. My Stories for You | |

DVD

The DVD contains:

- 13 episodes that tell the Bible story in 3-D and 2-D animation;
- monthly Bible verse videos that help the children learn the Bible verses;
- 4 music videos with brand-new music written by award-winning musician Dennis Scott;
- a unit Bible quiz to review each quarter's Bible stories with the children.

CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible

Kids will dive deep into God's Word with the CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible. This engaging, interactive Bible offers four-color icons and illustrations throughout, with a wealth of notes, devotionals, Bible trivia, and other interactive elements to capture inquisitive young minds. Plus, the CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible will encourage a thirst for God's timeless message as young readers join three lifelike kids in discovering the Bible and what it means to their lives.



Deep Blue Kids Middle Elementary resources are available in Braille on request.

Contact:
Braille Ministry
c/o Donna Veigel
10810 N. 91st Avenue #96
Peoria, AZ 85345
(623-979-7552)

What Children Need to Know



Ages 7, 8

For Developing Faith Foundations, Children Need:	For Knowing the Bible & Our Faith Traditions, Children Need:	For Relating to God & the Church, Children Need:	For Relating Faith to Daily Living, Children Need:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to plan and carry out both group and individual activities. • to be guided in dealing with classroom situations in ways that reflect Christian values. • to be given responsibility in helping to care for the classroom and the class environment. • to hear stories about and have experiences with persons who are different from them. • to investigate, experiment, and explore. • to develop critical thinking skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to say the Lord's Prayer with others. • to hear a simple explanation of the sacraments. • to read simple verses from the Bible. • to hear more detailed stories from the Bible. • to know the names of the books of the Bible used most frequently in their class, and how to locate them in the Bible. • to hear stories of people who have helped the church come to us. • to use their Bibles at home as well as at church. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to participate in corporate worship. • to establish a personal prayer life, praying on their own at home. • to be with adults who are open to children's questions about God, even if adults say they don't know the answers. • to have the understanding of adults who know that children experience more of God than they can express verbally. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to be encouraged to consider the rights of other children and family members. • to participate in service projects appropriate to their age levels and abilities. • to relate the joys and concerns of daily living to Bible teachings. • to empathize with others and try to address their needs. • to be reminded that God expects us to love everyone, including our enemies. • to learn key Bible verses to think about during the week.

Learn God's Word & Serve One Another in Love

Welcome to **LEARN & SERVE**

We're glad you're here to dive deep with us into God's Word. We'll have adventures, hear exciting Bible stories, and learn how to live as disciples of Jesus through service—just like Jesus taught! Together with Asia, Kat, Edgar, and Caleb, we will travel the world to learn about God and what God is doing all over the world through new friends and adventures!

Why travel around the world?

Deep Blue Kids Learn & Serve teaches the kids in your church and community about God and what it means to be a follower of Jesus through Bible stories and opportunities to serve as disciples in the classroom, the local community, and the world.

Your kids will travel with Asia, Edgar, Kat, and Caleb to Guatemala, where they will meet Carlos and explore his church and community. Together, they will teach each other Bible stories and about what church, Sunday school, and education is like in Guatemala. The kids at your church will have an opportunity to support Pura Vida, an organization that focuses on providing educational opportunities for children in rural villages through scholarships, tutoring, and support of local schools.

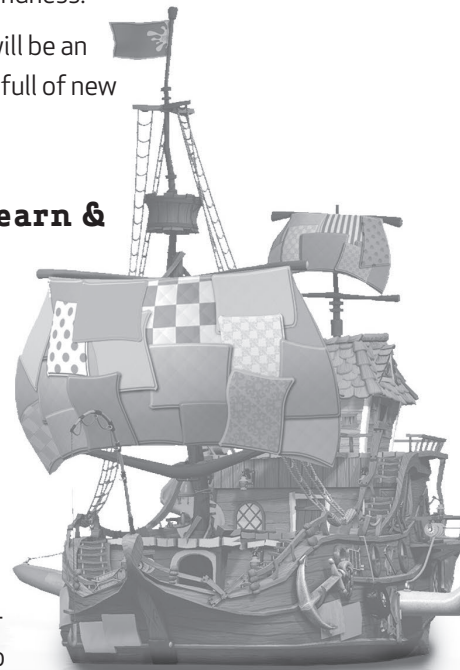
Then your kids will travel with the crew to Kenya. Mercy, a graduate from the ZOE (Zimbabwe Orphans Endeavor) program, will host us in her new home and teach us that God loves all children. Your children will learn about life in Kenya and have an opportunity to support real kids, just like Mercy, through the ZOE organization, now operating in Zimbabwe, Kenya, Rwanda, Malawi, Liberia, India, and Guatemala.

From Kenya, we will all travel to Alaska, where we will meet Aurora, a child who loves God, nature, and church! Aurora shows the crew around her hometown and teaches them some native traditions. In the classroom, your kids will collect money to help families in Alaska get needed food and plant a community garden at a local church.

We will travel from Alaska to Armenia, where we will meet Armen, a student in a special school for kids with different abilities. Armen lives at school, loves chess, is deaf, and is a beekeeper! He teaches the Deep Blue Crew all about God's Spirit of loving kindness.

This year Sunday school will be an around-the-world adventure full of new friends and new encounters with God.

Deep Blue Kids Learn & Serve is a comprehensive Bible study for children, incorporating the pillar stories of the Old and New Testaments. Deep Blue incorporates Bible stories, service learning, science activities, arts and crafts, animated video storytelling, and active games into a lived-faith experience that will help children discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ today!



Supplies

No matter how large your Sunday school class may be, there are some basic supplies you will need to have available almost every Sunday. The ideal situation is to collect the basic supplies you think you will need, and keep them accessible every Sunday. Whether you collect supplies in advance or one session at a time, choose the activities you will use, and provide what will be needed for those activities.

The Basics

- scissors
- markers
- crayons, colored pencils
- pencils, pens
- markers
- construction paper
- drawing paper
- tissue paper
- craft glue, glue sticks
- stapler, staples
- rulers
- paper punches
- clear tape
- masking tape
- rubber bands
- paper clips
- string, yarn
- craft sticks
- modeling clay
- hymnal
- small basket
- mural paper
- paper towels, cleaning supplies
- index cards
- scarves, streamers
- paper cups, plates
- plastic table covers
- Bibles
- simple Bible costumes
- CD player
- television

Beyond the Basics

Once you have chosen the activities in each session that you intend to do, check the specific supplies for each activity.

If something is slightly out of the ordinary (for example, paper-towel tubes), make a wish list of the supplies you will need. Members of your church will be happy to know how they can support the children in the church. Publish the wishlist in the church newsletter or bulletin.

If you have a place to store supplies, encourage the congregation to bring supplies such as old magazines, paper-towel tubes, paper grocery bags, yogurt cups, envelopes, or fabric scraps.

If you do not have a location to store supplies, make a new list each week of the things you will need for the next two or three weeks.



The Lord's Prayer

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

The Bible tells us that one of the things Jesus did was pray, often slipping away alone for this purpose. Jesus modeled for us the importance of prayer. In addition to providing an example of a prayerful life, Jesus specifically taught his followers about prayer. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus began the lesson on prayer by explaining how not to pray. Jesus warned against insincere and showy prayer. In Jesus' time, it was common for people to pray in public in the synagogue. While Jesus was not teaching against public prayer, he issued a reminder that the focus of prayer should be God, not other people. God knows and hears the prayer of your heart.

The Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6; Luke 11) is probably Christianity's most familiar prayer. Compared to most prayers in Jesus' time, the Lord's Prayer is short. While Jesus drew on Jewish prayers when he prayed, his example was unique in its simplicity and brevity. Even in its simplicity, the Lord's Prayer encompasses important aspects of prayer—adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication. We can pray the Lord's Prayer as we were taught it, and can use it as a model prayer.

As you teach your children the Lord's Prayer, use the wording that is used in your church. This is an opportunity to familiarize your children with words they will hear often in worship, which will help them feel included in the service. When you teach this week's lesson, reinforce the idea that there is no right or wrong way to pray. We can talk to God anytime, anywhere, and about anything.

Watch this short video to learn about the free resources available on the Deep Blue Kids website.

You can scan this QR code—go directly to the **Find Out More About Deep Blue** page. Or visit www.deepbluekids.com/qr to discover more.



Bible Story

Matthew 6:5-15

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff:
Prayer Cube
- ☐ Exploration Station:
My Prayer

DIVE DEEPER:

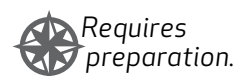
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story:
The Lord's Prayer
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection:
How to Pray
- ☐ Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue Kids:
Traveling Mercies
- ☐ Craft Activity:
Prayer Journal
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Heart to Heart

WORSHIP:

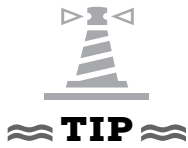
- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.



"Jesus, Teach Me" can be found on the DVD or on the annual music CD.

The official Deep Blue Annual Music CD contains 19 new songs that were written specifically for Deep Blue! Buy one for your Sunday-school room, or one for each child to play at home or in the car!



WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play "Jesus, Teach Me" and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: PRAYER CUBE

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 3-4, glue sticks, scissors

- Distribute Prayer Cube. Let children cut out and assemble the Prayer Cube.

SAY: In the Bible story today, Jesus taught a special way to pray. This prayer cube can also guide you as you pray.

- Encourage children to use the prayer cube when they pray.

EXPLORATION STATION: MY PRAYER

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 12, pencils



Photocopy page 12, one for each child.

SAY: Today we will learn about the Lord's Prayer.

ASK: Do you know the Lord's Prayer?

- Distribute My Prayer.
- Arrange children into groups of two or three.
- Encourage teams to rewrite the Lord's Prayer in their own words.
- Invite willing volunteers to share their work with the group.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 1, then watch video.

ASK: What does this story teach us about prayer? How did Jesus teach us to pray?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 1, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 6:5-15, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), paper, pencils

SAY: The Lord's Prayer is also told in the Gospel of Luke.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Luke 11:1-4.
- Encourage children to compare and contrast both sets of Scripture.

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: Do you have a secret place you like to go? Can you pray there? What do you pray about?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: HOW TO PRAY


Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

ASK: Did you know there is no right way to pray? You can even pray without using words! Let's learn more about different ways to pray.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: How to Pray.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: TRAVELING MERCIES

Supplies: markers, poster paper, tape

 Display poster paper where it is easily seen by the children.

SAY: In the video, Edgar is writing a prayer. He says he is unsure about what to say.

ASK: What do you say when you pray?

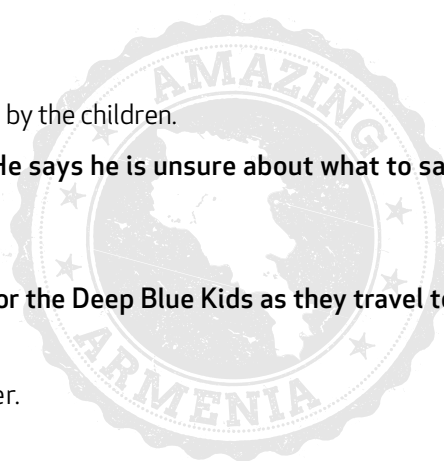
SAY: Let's write a prayer together and pray for the Deep Blue Kids as they travel to their next destination!

- Write the collaborative prayer on the paper.



≈ OPTION ≈

Consider also reading the story from the Deep Blue Bible Storybook. It is a helpful resource to help children hear the Lord's Prayer in more familiar and relatable language.



CRAFT ACTIVITY: PRAYER JOURNAL

Supplies: one-inch binder rings (two per child), colored paper or scrapbook paper, notebook paper, paper punches, pencils

SAY: One way to pray is to write our prayers to God. In the Bible story, Jesus taught us to pray privately. Let's make a journal to record our thoughts and prayers. You can make it your own private journal to talk to God.

- Let children choose the paper to fill their journal and to make the journal cover.
- Align cover paper and notebook paper, then punch two holes on the side of the cover paper.
- Put the cover paper and some notebook paper on the binder rings.
- Allow time for children to write in their journals.
- Encourage them to take home their journals and to write their prayers.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: HEART TO HEART

SAY: Prayer is not meant to be a big speech we give in front of others. Long prayers with long lists do not impress God. God wants to know what is on our hearts. God probably prefers a good heart-to-heart talk.

ASK: What is on your heart?

SAY: Spend some time this week talking to God from your heart. You can journal, talk with God, or draw a picture. You can always tell God what is on your heart.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)




Display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "Jesus, Teach Me" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope or file folder; scissors; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Cut out the Lord's Prayer poster pieces and store in an envelope or file folder.

SAY: Today we will learn the first part of the Lord's Prayer.

- Read the first lines of the prayer.
- Display the poster pieces. Invite a volunteer to place the first piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the first part of the Lord's Prayer together.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will learn another part. At the end of our unit, you will know all of the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for listening to our hearts and our prayers. Help us to remember we can always talk to you. Amen.



≈ OPTION ≈

A sung version of the Lord's Prayer can be found in the Annual Music CD. This is another great way for the children to learn the Lord's Prayer.



Exploration Station: My Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

The Birds of the Air

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

There are so many things in life we can worry about. Will we have enough money to pay our bills? What will happen if we get sick? Will our children grow up healthy, safe, and happy? The list can become endless once we begin to name it.

In Matthew 6:25, we read that Jesus said, "Don't worry about your life, what you'll eat or what you'll drink, or about your body, what you'll wear." Jesus went on to say that just as God provides for the birds and the flowers, God also will provide for us. While these words can be comforting, they are more than that. There is a reason we are not to worry, and that reason is revealed in Matthew 6:33 when Jesus went on to say, "Desire first and foremost God's kingdom and God's righteousness." When we worry, it distracts us from what is important. We are to put God first, not our concerns about physical needs. This is a passage about getting our priorities straight.

Does this mean we no longer need to work or be responsible with our money? If God will provide for us, can we simply relax and do nothing? No. Although God is capable of providing manna from heaven as God did for the Israelites, more often the means of God's provision is through the efforts of those who love God. We are the hearts and hands of God. Yes, we must work and plan to take care of ourselves and our families, but we must first and foremost trust in God. By focusing on God and spending time discovering what it is God wants us to do and be, we just may find that we don't have time to worry.

Adults are not the only ones capable of worrying. Although the focus of their worry may be different from adults, children are capable of finding plenty to worry about. Help your children know that no matter the worries they face, they can trust in God. Remind them that God is always with us. Not only is God with us, but God is taking care of us.

Remember, you are a blessing to the children you teach. Through you, God is providing them the opportunity to learn about the God who loves them, cares for them, and provides for them.

Bible Story

Matthew 6:25-34

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
 - ☐ Kids Stuff:
Flower Worries
 - ☐ Exploration Station:
Worry Wall
- ### DIVE DEEPER:
- ☐ Bible Story Time
 - ☐ Experience the Story:
The Birds of the Air

☐ Look It Up!

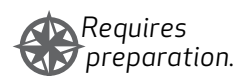
☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Birds
- ☐ Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue
Kids: Lanterns
- ☐ Craft Activity:
Prayer Stones
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Breath Prayer

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires
preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: **Class Stuff**—pp. 16-17, **CD, DVD (optional)**, CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “Jesus, Teach Me” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: FLOWER WORRIES

Supplies: **Kids Stuff**—pp. 5-6, glue sticks, pencils, scissors

SAY: Our Bible story tells us not to worry, but sometimes this is hard. When we feel worried, we can write our worries and give them to God.

- Distribute Flower Worries and let children cut out the flower pieces.
- Direct children to write their worries on the circle. Then assemble and glue the flower together.



EXPLORATION STATION: WORRY WALL

Supplies: Flower Worries flowers (from Kids Stuff), markers, poster paper (large), tape



Write “Worry Wall” at poster-paper top. Display so it is easily accessible to children.

SAY: The Bible story today tells us not to worry. But sometimes that is difficult.

ASK: What kinds of things do you worry about?

SAY: Let’s give our worries to God. We can call this our Worry Wall.

- Encourage children to attach their flower worries to the wall.

SAY: We can always give our worries to God, and pray that God will help us worry a little less.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 2, then watch video.

ASK: What does this story tell us not to do? How is God like the birds? How is God like the flowers?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE BIRDS OF THE AIR

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 4, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 6:25-34, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read aloud the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Bible story today tells about God providing food for the birds.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Job 38:41.

ASK: How does God provide for the birds? How does God provide for you?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: We all have things we might worry about. But the Bible story teaches us to give our worries to God.

ASK: What calms you when you worry?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

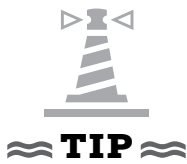
LIFE CONNECTION: BIRDS

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: Today's story teaches us how mother birds care for baby birds, just as God cares for us. Let's learn more about birds.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Birds.






The Mod Podge® will dry clear.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: LANTERNS

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 18, sponge brushes, tea lights (or small battery-powered candles), jars (glass, one per child), Mod Podge®

 Cut or tear tissue paper into pieces. Photocopy p. 18 for each child.

SAY: In the video, there are lanterns on the boat to help the Deep Blue Kids see during a storm. Let's make a lantern together.

- Distribute directions and jars.
- Let children place tissue pieces on the glass.
- Use Mod Podge® and sponge brushes to adhere paper to the jars.
- Let jar dry, then place candle inside.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: PRAYER STONES

Supplies: paint pens, rocks or stones

SAY: When we are worried, we can always talk to God. Let's make a prayer stone you can hold when you feel worried, and it can remind you to talk with God.

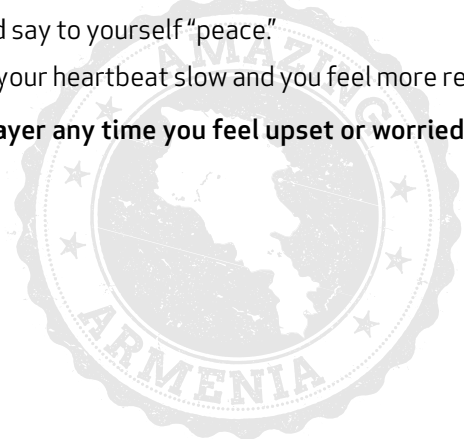
- Distribute rocks and pens.
- Invite children to write or draw on their rocks.
- Encourage them to use the prayer stones at home.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: BREATH PRAYER

SAY: Sometimes we can worry about a lot of things, and sometimes our worry can make it difficult to calm down. But when we pay attention to our breaths, we can slow our heartbeats and feel more calm.

- Encourage children to do the following breath prayer with you:
Breathe in (3-5 seconds) and say to yourself "calm."
Breathe out (3-5 seconds) and say to yourself "peace."
- Repeat this prayer until you feel your heartbeat slow and you feel more relaxed.


SAY: You can practice this breath prayer any time you feel upset or worried.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN


Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “Jesus, Teach Me” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope of poster pieces; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Display on the wall the lighthouse under construction.

SAY: Today we will learn the second part of the Lord’s Prayer.

- Read the second part of the prayer.
- Display the poster pieces. Invite a volunteer to place the second piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the first two parts of the Lord’s Prayer together.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will learn another part. At the end of our unit, you will know all of the Lord’s Prayer.

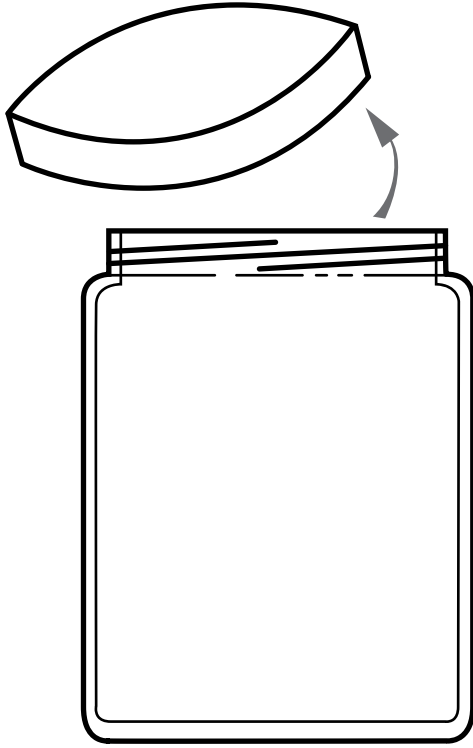
- Invite children to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for listening to our worries. Help us to remember we can always talk to you. Amen.

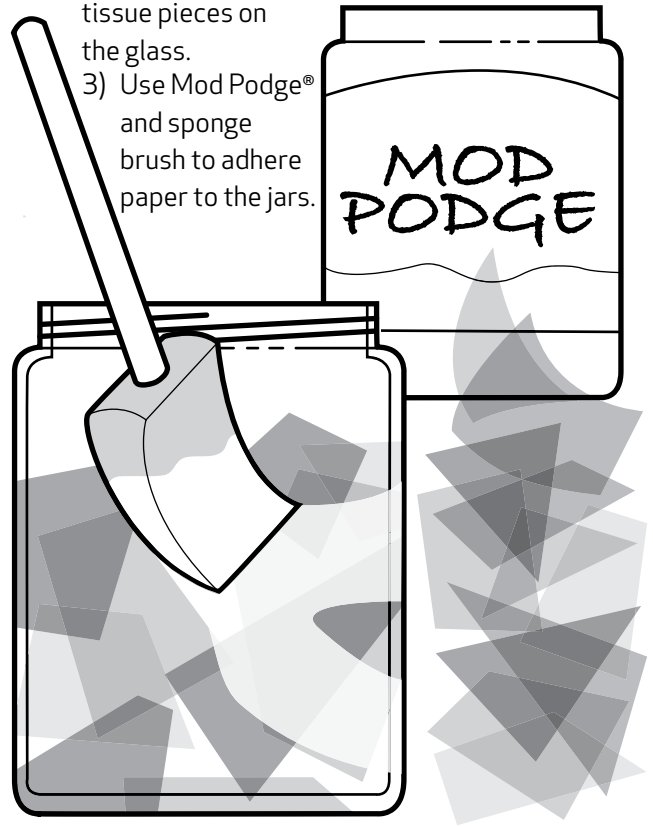


Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Lanterns

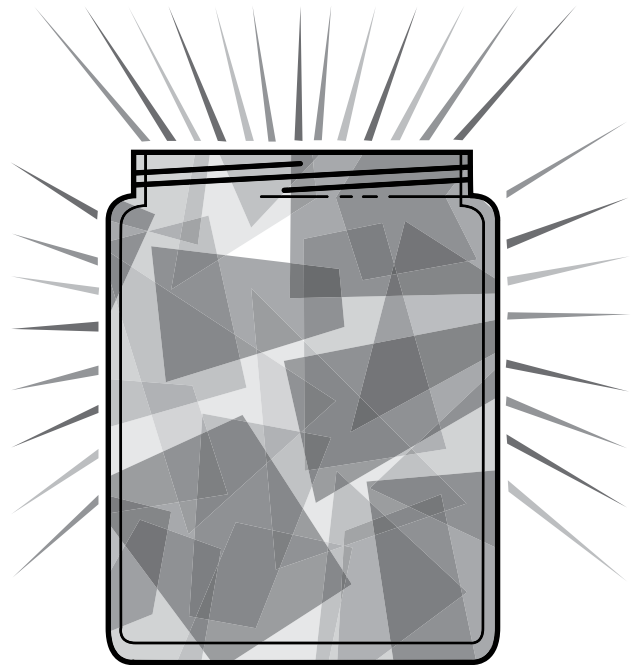
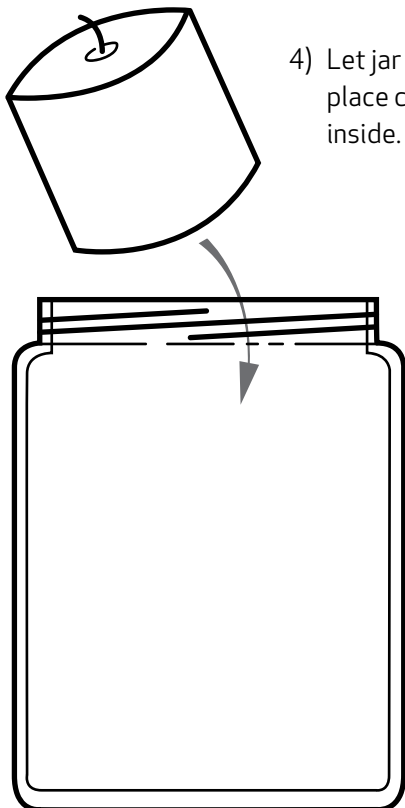
1) Distribute jars.



2) Let children place tissue pieces on the glass.
3) Use Mod Podge® and sponge brush to adhere paper to the jars.



4) Let jar dry, then place candle inside.



The Golden Rule

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

Jesus was raised in the Jewish faith. After the story of his birth, the only story of Jesus' childhood occurred in the temple where he was found listening to and asking questions of the teachers. When Jesus became an adult and began his teaching ministry, he drew from the religious learning of his younger years. We see evidence of this with Jesus' teaching that we refer to as the Golden Rule. About 20 years before Jesus, the rabbi Hillel was challenged by a Gentile to teach him the whole law while he stood on one foot. Hillel replied, "Do not do unto others what you would not have others do to you." Interestingly, similar teachings are found in other faiths as well. When Jesus preached the Golden Rule, he reframed this Jewish teaching in a positive form, "Therefore, you should treat people in the same way that you want people to treat you; this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). One result of Jesus' reframing of the teaching is that it requires action on our part. It is not enough for us not to treat others badly so that we will not be treated badly. No, we must do to others. We must seek out ways to treat others with loving care and compassion, as that is how we would like them to treat us. Living out the Golden Rule requires conscious effort on our part.

The Golden Rule sums up many of Jesus' teachings about how we are to treat one another. "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39). We want to be loved. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus taught that we are to feed the hungry, provide drink for the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, and care for the sick. We would like to be reassured of the care of others when we experience any of those situations. In Matthew 18:21-22, Jesus told Peter that he was to forgive another not seven times, but 77 times. We would like others to forgive us.

The Golden Rule is short and simple enough for children to easily memorize. You can help your children realize how this teaching can apply to their lives. Children know how they would like to be treated. This is a great lesson to reinforce the message that the words we read in the Bible apply to our lives.

Bible Story

Matthew 7:12

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Golden-Rule Book
- ☐ Exploration Station: Class Covenant

DIVE DEEPER:

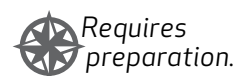
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Golden Rule
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: The Golden Rule
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Kindness Connection
- ☐ Craft Activity: God's Gold Medal
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Self-Compassion

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires
preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: **Class Stuff**—pp. 16-17, **CD, DVD (optional)**, CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “Jesus, Teach Me” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: GOLDEN-RULE BOOK

Supplies: **Kids Stuff**—pp. 7-8, pencils, scissors, staplers

- Distribute Golden-Rule Book. Let children cut out and assemble the book.
- Encourage children to use their book for ideas of how to be kind toward others.

ASK: What are more ways you could be kind to others?



EXPLORATION STATION: CLASS COVENANT

Supplies: crayons or markers, poster paper (large), tape

SAY: Today’s Bible story is about treating others as you want to be treated.

ASK: How do you want to be treated?

- Invite children to think of ways they can be respectful of one another in the classroom.
- On the poster, write a list of class expectations that everyone can abide to, such as listening to others, respecting our friends, and so forth.
- Hang the class covenant in the classroom and use it as a reminder of the ways you want to treat others.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: **DVD**, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 3, then watch video.

ASK: What did Jesus tell us to do? How do we treat others the way we want to be treated? How can we show kindness to others?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE GOLDEN RULE

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 3, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 7:12, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the seven parts and present the story. Let class read for All.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Law of the Prophets refers to the Jewish teachings found in the Old Testament. Let's read one of the laws that is similar to Jesus' words.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Leviticus 19:18.
- What does this law teach us?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Sometimes treating people with kindness can be tough.

ASK: How do you show kindness? What do you do when someone is not kind to you?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: THE GOLDEN RULE

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: The Golden Rule is a part of many other religious traditions and cultures. Let's learn about this important and special rule.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: The Golden Rule.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: KINDNESS CONNECTION

Supplies: ball of yarn

- Invite children to sit in a circle.

SAY: In the video, Indie does not like Speedy playing with her toys. She has to learn how to offer kindness and share.

ASK: What other ways can you show kindness?

- Hold the starting end of the yarn. Continue holding, while you pass the yarn to a child. Invite the child to share a way they can show kindness.
- Then invite the child to hold onto their piece of the yarn and pass the rest to another friend.

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≈ TIP ≈

Be sure you do not pass the yarn to the person sitting directly next to you.

- Continue passing the yarn until everyone has had a chance to share. When you are finished, you should have a web of yarn across the circle.

SAY: Look at all the ways we can show kindness. Kindness connects us to each other and helps spread God's love!

- Carefully rewind yarn.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: GOD'S GOLD MEDAL

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 24, card stock, crayons or markers (yellow, gold), paper punches, scissors, string or yarn, tape



Photocopy God's Gold Medal on card stock, one for each child.

SAY: When you win a gold medal, it typically represents first place. But this gold medal reminds us to put others first. This is God's gold medal.

- Distribute God's Gold Medal.
- Invite children to follow the directions and create the medal.
- Allow them to attach and wear their medals as a reminder to put others first.



SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SELF-COMPASSION

SAY: Today we learned about treating others the way we want to be treated, but we also have to be kind to ourselves.

ASK: What does it mean to be kind to yourself?

SAY: This week, look in the mirror and give yourself a compliment. Say, "I am a loved child of God, and I am important." Remember, God loves you and wants you to love yourself too!

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "Jesus, Teach Me" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope of poster pieces; tape



Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Display on the wall the lighthouse under construction.

SAY: Today we will learn the third part of the Lord's Prayer.

- Read the third part of the prayer.
- Display the poster pieces. Invite a volunteer to place the third piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the three parts of the Lord's Prayer together.

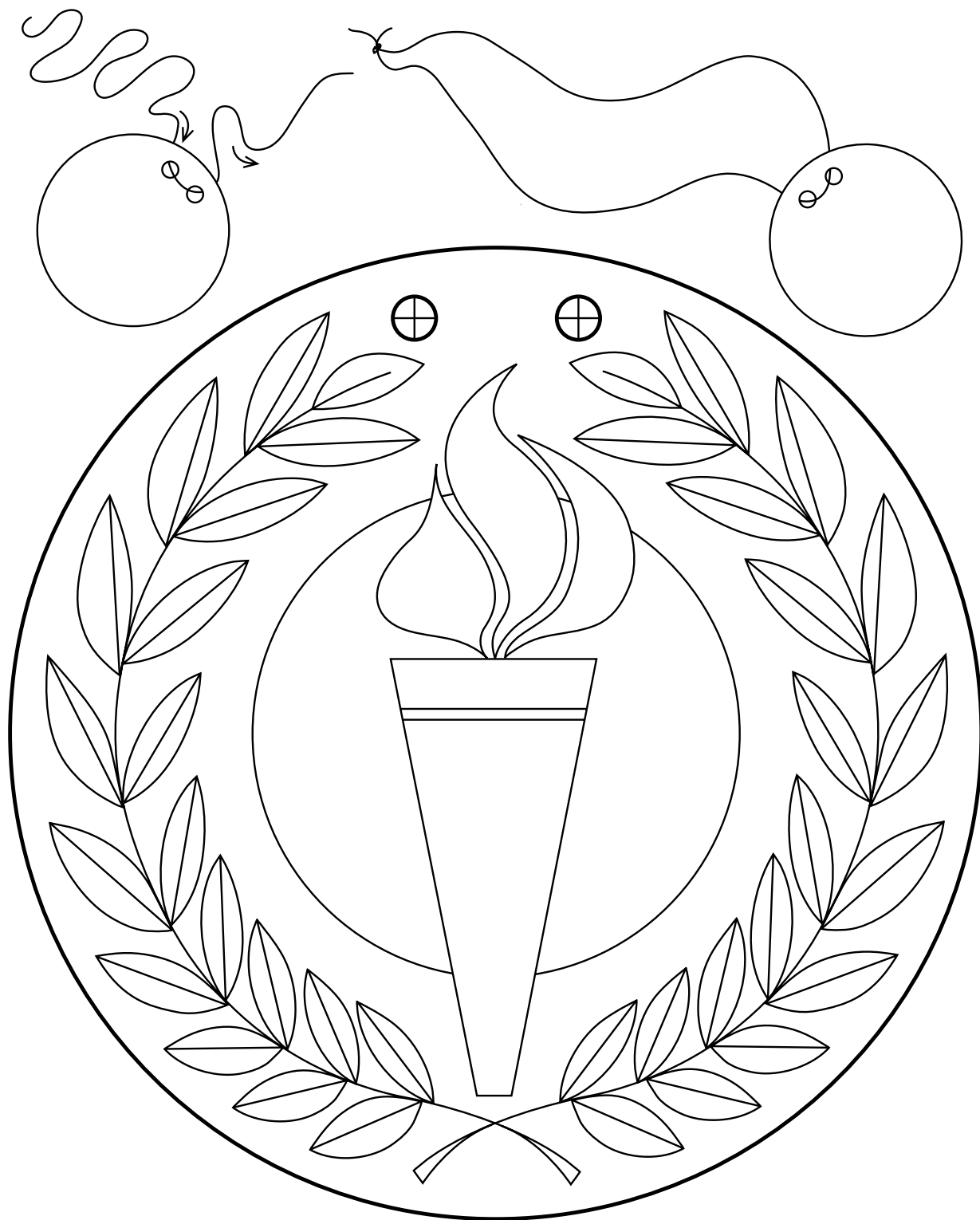
SAY: Great job! Next week we will learn the last part of the prayer. Then we will know all of the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to treat others as they want to be treated. Amen.



Craft Activity: God's Gold Medal



1. Color the medal with yellow and gold crayons or markers.
2. Cut out the medal.
3. Punch out the holes at the top of the medal.
4. String yarn or string through the holes, and tie the ends of the ribbon together.
5. Wear your gold medal.

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The Widow's Coins

Bible Verse

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth. Psalm 86:11

Did You Know?

The church is different from many organizations in the respect that there are no dues to pay in order to belong. There is no entry fee to be submitted before you may enter the building, use the facilities, or participate in the programs. Instead, we each give what we can, offering to God a portion of what we have received. When Jesus talked about the offering of the poor woman who gave all she had (Mark 12:43-44), he affirmed that the attitude of giving is more important than the amount that we give.

There is a temptation to read into Jesus' words about the widow's offering a commentary that the offering of the rich people was not important. However, Jesus never said that. After all, then as now, the church required money to meet expenses. Rather, Jesus was addressing the attitude of giving.

In giving all that she had to live on, the widow demonstrated her trust in God. Obviously, she believed that God would provide a way to meet her needs, so she could make her offering to God.

Children often do not have money of their own, but are dependent on their parents for the money they bring as offering each week. Those children who do receive an allowance may not have very much money to give. The story of the widow's coins has a reassuring message for children. This poor woman gave what she could and Jesus recognized her gift as a generous one. It is the attitude of giving that is important. Help your children to understand that they can give generously, regardless of how much they have to give. Let your children know they have other things to offer besides money.

As you prepare this week's lesson, use it as an opportunity to examine your attitude about giving. As you reflect on this topic, remember that our gifts to God are not only financial. We also give of our time, our talents, our presence, and our witness. Teaching Sunday school is definitely a gift of time, talent, presence, and witness! Thank you for the offering you give each week.

Bible Story

Luke 21:1-4

Anchor Point

Jesus teaches us how
God wants us to live.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff:
Offering Box
- ☐ Exploration Station:
Valuable Coins

DIVE DEEPER:

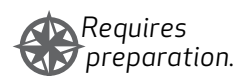
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story:
The Widow's Coins
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection:
Weights and
Measures in the Bible
- ☐ Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue Kids:
Mission Offering Box
- ☐ Craft Activity:
Coin Rubbings
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Giving

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect





JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “Jesus, Teach Me” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: OFFERING BOX

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 9-10, glue sticks, paper slips, pencils, scissors

- Distribute the Offering Box.
- Let children cut out and assemble the offering box.
- Encourage them to draw pictures of the things that are most valuable to them.
- Direct children to glue their pictures in the offering plate.
- Invite volunteers to share.



TIP

Make different kinds of coins available for children to look at as they create their own.



EXPLORATION STATION: VALUABLE COINS

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 30, plastic coins or chips (optional), permanent markers (optional)

ASK: If you could create your own money or currency, what would it look like? What words or pictures would you place on it? How much would it be worth?

- Photocopy and distribute Valuable Coins or plastic coins and markers.
- Direct children to create their own coins. Encourage them to be creative.
- Invite volunteers to share.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 4, then watch video.

ASK: What did the poor widow do? What did Jesus say? How did the rich people respond?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE WIDOW'S COINS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 4, p. 2; bucket; coins

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 21:1-4, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the five parts and present the story. Let class read part for People in the Church.
- As the story is read, drop coins into the bucket.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: This story is also in the Gospel of Mark. Let's read it together.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Mark 12:41-44.
- Compare and contrast the Scripture.

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: What is the most important thing to you? Now imagine having to give that up. What would that be like? What would it feel like?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WEIGHTS AND MEASURES IN THE BIBLE

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Weights and Measures in the Bible.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: MISSION OFFERING BOX

Supplies: box (small), crayons or markers

SAY: We will learn about a new mission project when the Deep Blue Kids arrive at their next destination.

ASK: Where do you think they are going?

SAY: Let's make an offering box. We will use the box to collect money for our next mission project.

- Encourage children to decorate the box.



≈ TIP ≈

Review this unit's Bible stories by playing the trivia game on the Deep Blue Adventure DVD.



≈ TIP ≈

You can find more information about this in the NEW DEEP BLUE KIDS BIBLE DICTIONARY! You can order it online at: www.cokesbury.com. ISBN: 9781501840616.



CRAFT ACTIVITY: COIN RUBBINGS

Supplies: different kinds of coins, crayons, paper, pencils

ASK: Do you think we can make art with coins?

SAY: We can rub them, trace them, or sketch them as an art project.

- Demonstrate how to rub a crayon over a paper-covered coin to create a rubbing.
- Direct children to do a coin rubbing, trace around the coins, or try to draw a coin.
- Encourage them to be creative!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: GIVING

SAY: In the Bible story today, the poor widow gave all that she had.

ASK: What can you give?

SAY: This week, practice giving back. Find ways you can serve others, give money to an important organization or to the church, or give away things you no longer use or need. Just like the widow, you can give too!



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—p. 27, Leader Guide—p. 85, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)




Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 1 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 85 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “Jesus, Teach Me” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 1 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 14 & 19, 27; envelope of poster pieces; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse. Display on the wall the lighthouse under construction.

SAY: Today we will learn the last part of the Lord's Prayer.

- Read the final part of the prayer.
- Invite a child to place the last piece of the lighthouse on the wall.
- Read the Lord's Prayer together.

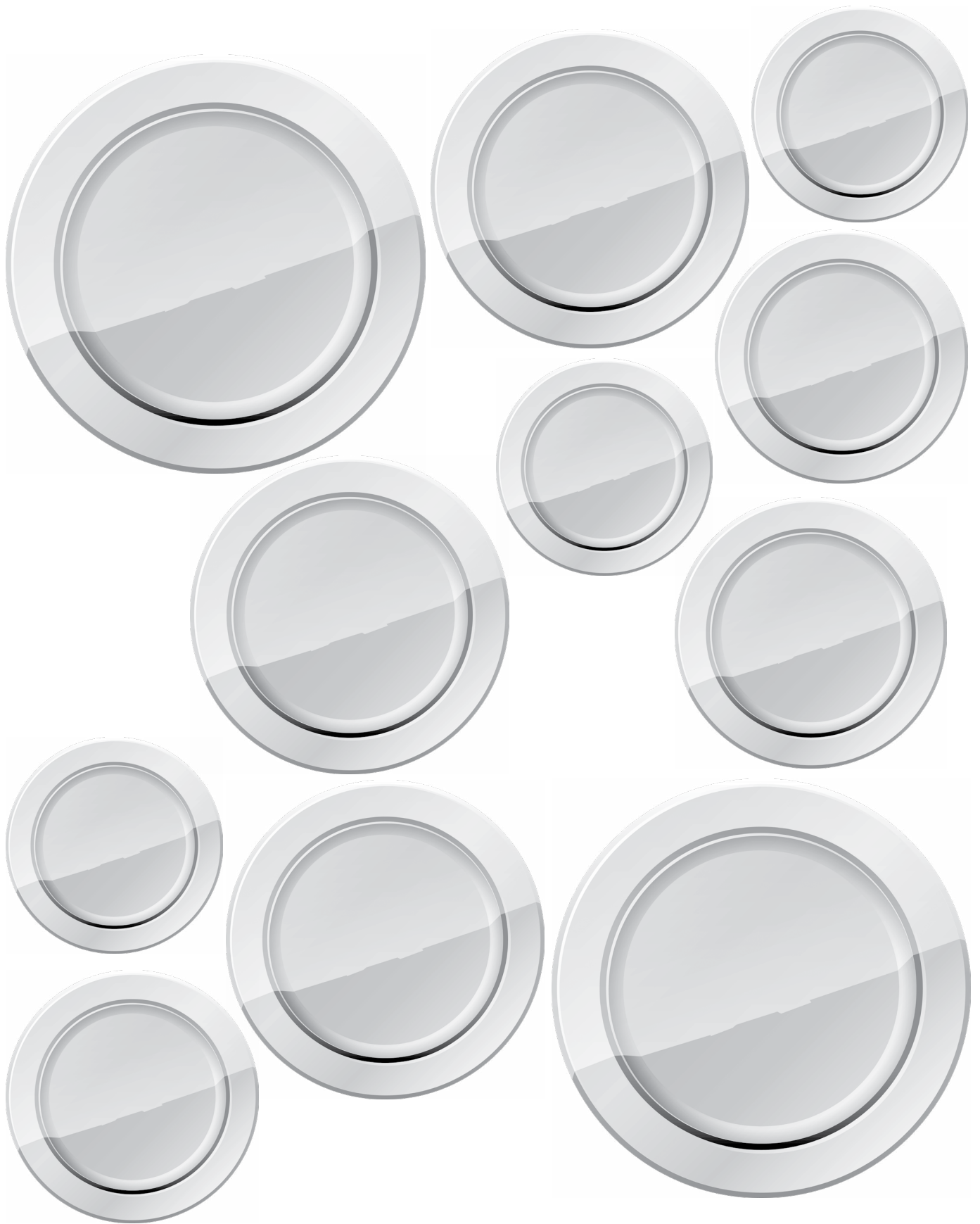
SAY: Great job! You've learned the Lord's Prayer.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to give all we can to you and to others. Amen.



Exploration Station: Valuable Coins



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The Two Houses

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

We begin our look at some of the stories Jesus told with the story of two builders. The parable of the wise and foolish builders is presented in Matthew as part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The story is found in a similar form in the Gospel of Luke. Jesus told of two builders who each built a house. One builder built his house on rock, and the other builder chose to build his house on sand. Then the rains came. Those listening to Jesus' story originally were familiar with the conditions of the wadi, a desert area that is dry in summer and flooded in winter. Houses built on the sand in this area would only last until the heavy rains flooded the area.

The parable Jesus told about the wise and foolish builders illustrates that wisdom is more than knowledge. In the parable, the wise builder built a house upon rock, while the foolish builder built his house on sand. When it rained heavily and floods came, the house on the sand was washed away, while the house on the rock remained. Both builders had certainly encountered sand and rock, and were aware of the properties of each. The wise builder used his knowledge to make a good decision. Wisdom is using what you know to make good decisions.

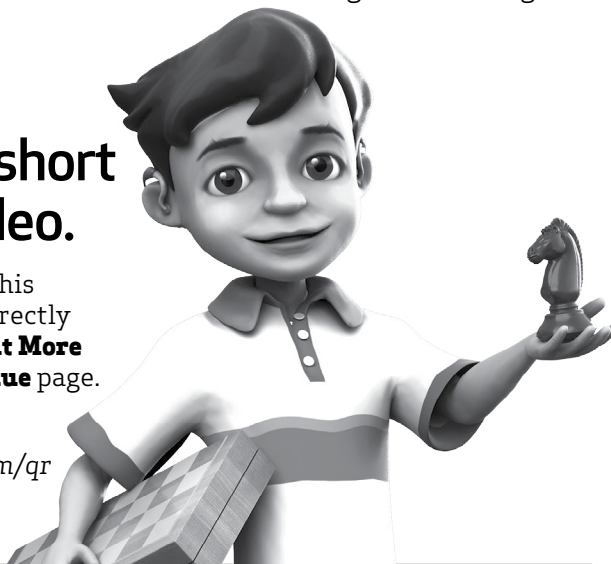
Jesus' explanation of this parable was to compare to the wise builder those who heard his words and followed them. Those who heard Jesus' teachings and ignored them were likened to the foolish builder. Everyone who heard Jesus' teachings had the same knowledge. Each person makes a choice about using that knowledge.

Meet Armen
and learn about
Armenia in this short
introductory video.



You can scan this QR code—go directly to the **Find Out More About Deep Blue** page.

Or visit www.deepbluekids.com/qr to discover more about Armen and Armenia.



Bible Story

Matthew 7:24-27

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Faith-Builders Kit
- ☐ Exploration Station: Building Blocks
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Two Houses

☐ Look It Up!

☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Wise Builder
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Cross
- ☐ Craft Activity: Graham-Cracker House
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Hard Work

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



"My Stories for You" can be found on the DVD or on the Annual Music CD.

The official Deep Blue Annual Music CD contains 19 new songs that were written specifically for Deep Blue! Buy one for your Sunday-school room, or one for each child to play at home or in the car!

You can order online at: www.cokesbury.com. ISBN: 9781630888305.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play "My Stories for You" and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: FAITH-BUILDERS KIT

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 11-14, crayons or markers, pencils, scissors, staplers (optional), tape

- Distribute Faith-Builders Kit.
- Let children cut out the pieces of the tool kit.

ASK: What kinds of tools do you need to build a strong faith?

- Encourage children to write their ideas on the tools, then they can wear the tool belts.

EXPLORATION STATION: BUILDING BLOCKS

Supplies: building blocks

SAY: In the Bible story today, houses were built on two different foundations. The foolish man built a house upon sand. But the wise man built a house upon the rock.

- Invite children to use the building blocks to build a structure.
- Let children spend time creating and playing with the blocks.

ASK: What makes a strong foundation? What is the best way to build a solid structure?

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 5, then watch video.

ASK: On what does a wise man build his house? On what does a foolish man build his house?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TWO HOUSES

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 5, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 7:24-27, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the four parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: A verse in the Book of Proverbs teaches about a wise woman building a house.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Proverbs 14:1.

ASK: How can you build a strong faith?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Our faith needs a strong foundation. A foundation is what holds a structure or building together.

ASK: What helps you have a strong faith? Who helps you to have a strong faith?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WISE BUILDER


Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: The Bible story today teaches us about being a wise builder. Let's learn more about how things are built.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Wise Builder.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN CROSS

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 36, chalk, world map or globe, paint pens, stones or rocks

 Photocopy p. 36 for each child.

SAY: Today we learn the Deep Blue Kids will travel to Armenia.

ASK: Who can find Armenia on the map?

SAY: Armenia was the very first Christian nation. The country has a special cross they use to represent their faith.

- Show children the picture of the Armenian cross.

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≈ OPTION ≈

Let children stack or hold rocks as you tell the story.





≈ TIPS ≈

You also can include candy to embellish the houses.

Be aware of food allergies.

SAY: Oftentimes, Armenians will carve crosses into stones. We are going to draw the cross on a stone. Then we can keep the stone to remember Armenia and the Deep Blue Kids.

- Distribute the Armenian cross, stones, chalk, and paint pens.
- Invite children to draw the cross on a stone.
- Encourage them to take their crosses home.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: GRAHAM-CRACKER HOUSE

Supplies: graham crackers, icing, heavy-duty paper plates (any size), pretzel sticks



Cut some of the graham crackers into triangles (for the house's roof).

- Let children build houses with graham crackers on paper plates. Use the icing as "glue" to hold the crackers together.
- Place the pretzel sticks on the corners or use them to cover the roof.
- Encourage children to be creative!
- Let them eat their houses when they have finished.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: HARD WORK



SAY: Builders are hard workers!

ASK: Was there a time when you worked really hard?

SAY: Having faith in God is also hard work! We have to continually build and work on our faith every day!

ASK: What kinds of things can you do to build up your faith?

SAY: This week, spend some time working on your faith. Say a prayer, talk with God, or do something kind for someone else. While having faith can be hard work, God is always there to be your solid foundation!

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Write Matthew 7:24 on the board (or on posterboard). Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "My Stories for You" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, envelope or file folder, scissors, tape

- Continue to display Matthew 7:24 on the board. Cut out model pieces (Model: Unit 2 Bible Verse) and store in envelope or file folder. Tape or write piece numbers on the backs of model pieces.

SAY: Today we learned how to be wise builders. This unit's Bible verse says, "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock" (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Today we will find the first piece to build our house.

- Display model pieces, including base rectangle. Call on a volunteer to locate the base and place it on the surface.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house on bedrock.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for being our solid foundation and for teaching us to be wise builders. Amen.



≈ TIP ≈

Sing *The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock*:

The wise man built his house upon the Rock (x3)

And the rains came tumbling down.

The rains came down and the floods came up (x3)

But the house on the Rock stood firm.

The foolish man built his house upon the sand (x3)

And the rains came tumbling down.



The rains came down and the floods came up (x3)

And the house on the sand fell flat.

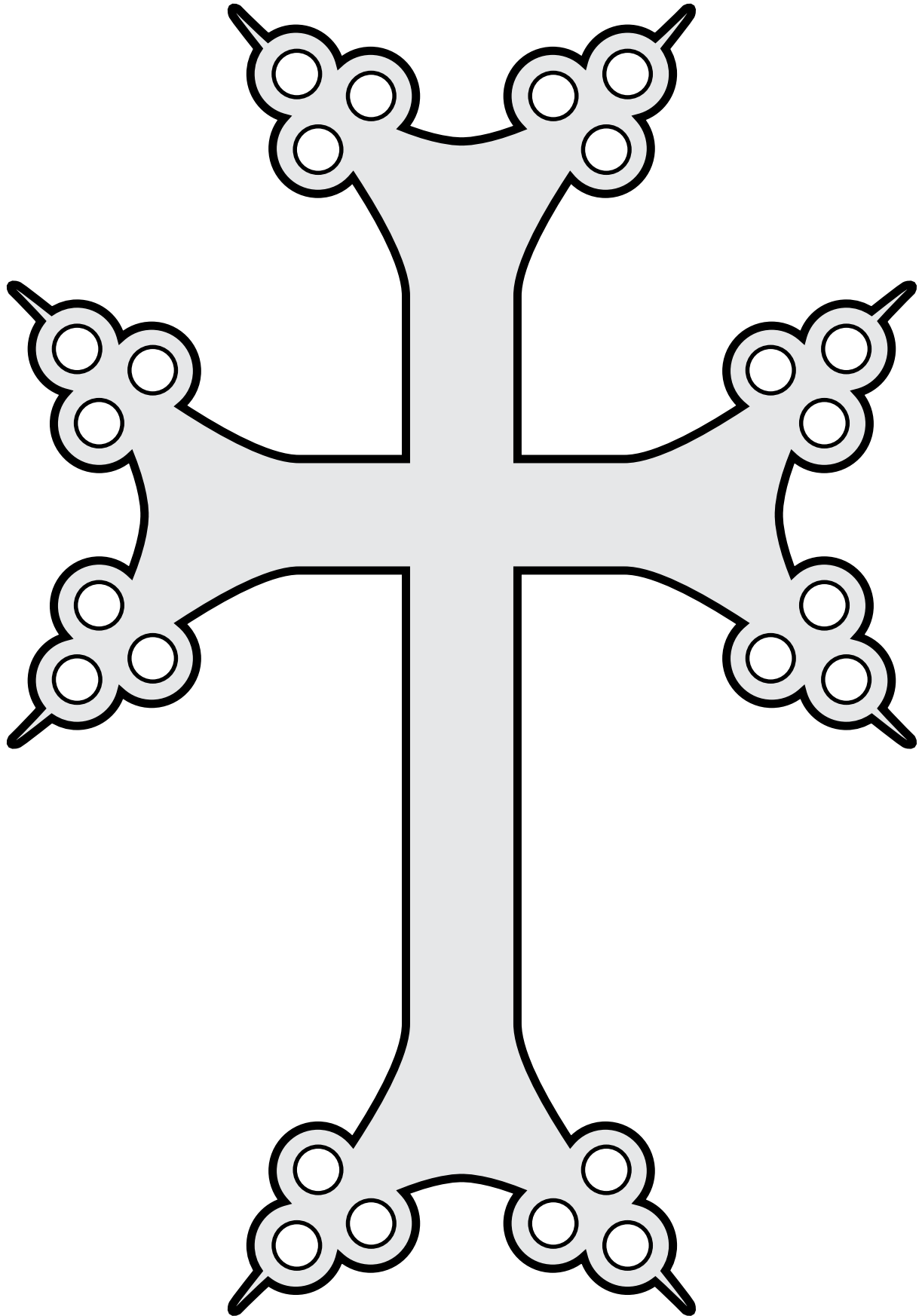
So build your house on the Lord Jesus Christ (x3)

And the blessings will come down.

The blessings come down as your prayers go up (x3)

So build your life on the Lord.

Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Cross



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The Two Debtors

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

Today's Bible story is a short parable Jesus told about two debtors. The men owed different amounts of money; one owed a little money and the other owed a lot. When both men's debts were forgiven, Jesus posed the question of which man would be more grateful. As with many of his stories, Jesus told this parable in order to teach a lesson. The lesson related to this parable is about forgiveness.

It is important to look at the verses that come before this parable in order to understand the context in which Jesus was speaking. Jesus was a guest at the home of a Pharisee named Simon. Jesus had been invited to a banquet at Simon's home. Such occasions were much more public than a dinner party at a private home would be today. The invited guests, including Jesus, were likely reclined on pillows in Simon's home, gathered around a mat that held the food. The presence of uninvited guests gathered around the walls inside the house or in the courtyard, attempting to see who was at the banquet, would not have been uncommon in those days. As Jesus was eating, one of these uninvited guests (*a woman*) approached him. The woman washed Jesus' feet with her tears, used her hair to dry his feet, then anointed his feet with oil she had brought with her. Jesus' host, Simon, grumbled about the woman's actions and about Jesus permitting the woman to wash his feet.

It is in this context that Jesus told the parable of the two debtors. Jesus' question about which debtor would be more grateful is directed at Simon, who hesitantly answered that the one with the greatest forgiven debt would be most grateful. Jesus used this parable to illustrate the power of forgiveness. The woman had experienced the forgiveness of her sins and responded with overwhelming love for Jesus. Simon, on the other hand, hadn't even extended to Jesus the hospitality of washing his feet when he arrived. Simon hadn't experienced the same forgiveness as the woman, not because his sins were less, but because he didn't recognize his need for forgiveness. We know that God forgives our sins. According to this parable, the appropriate response is gratitude.

Bible Story

Luke 7:41-43

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

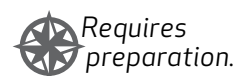
- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff:
Forgiveness Mandala
- ☐ Exploration Station:
Forgive S'more

DIVE DEEPER:

- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story:
The Two Debtors
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection:
Pay It Forward
- ☐ Learn & Serve
with the Deep Blue
Kids: Passport
- ☐ Craft Activity:
Erase Away
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Forgiving Fingers
- WORSHIP:**
- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires
preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: FORGIVENESS MANDALA

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 12-13, colored pencils, crayons or markers, scissors (optional)

SAY: Today we will learn about *forgiveness*.

ASK: What do you think *forgiveness* means?



- Distribute the Forgiveness Mandala.
- Encourage children to color the mandala.
- As they color, invite them to think about *forgiveness*. They can use the prayer on the page to guide them as they color.

EXPLORATION STATION: FORGIVE S'MORE

Supplies: chocolate bars, graham crackers, marshmallows

SAY: The Bible story teaches us about forgiveness.

ASK: What does forgiveness mean?

- Let children make and enjoy s'mores.
- As you are eating, have a conversation about forgiveness.

ASK: Have you ever had to forgive someone? Has someone ever forgiven you? What did it feel like?

SAY: Jesus teaches us that we need to offer forgiveness to others, even when it is difficult.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 6, then watch video.

ASK: What is a lender? Who should we forgive? Who loved the lender more?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TWO DEBTORS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 6, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 7:41-43, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the four parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Gospel of Matthew also tells a story about forgiving debts. Let's read it together.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 18:21-35, then answer the questions.

ASK: What does this story teach us about forgiveness?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: What does forgiveness feel like? What does it feel like to forgive? to be forgiven?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

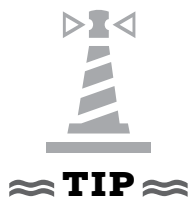
LIFE CONNECTION: PAY IT FORWARD

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: One way we can act as people of forgiveness is to pay it forward. This means to offer kindness to others without expecting anything in return. Let's learn more about it.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Pay It Forward.






Consider using small pencil-top erasers. Demonstrate how erasing has to be done carefully.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: PASSPORT

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 42 (optional), paper, pencils, scissors, world map or globe

 Display the world map or globe.

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids just landed in Armenia!

ASK: Who can find Armenia on the map?

SAY: Let's use our passports to mark our travels.

- Distribute passports or create passports.

ASK: What other places have the Deep Blue Kids visited? (*Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska*)

CRAFT ACTIVITY: ERASE AWAY

Supplies: erasers, paper, pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, the two debtors were forgiven. It's like their debts were completely erased. Let's draw a picture with our erasers to demonstrate God's forgiveness.

- Distribute erasers, paper, and pencils.
- Direct children to shade the entire paper with their pencils. Then have them use the erasers to write words or draw a picture.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: FORGIVING FINGERS

- Invite the children to hold up one hand.

SAY: We can remember how to forgive using our five fingers.

Finger 1 says, "The wrong you have done."

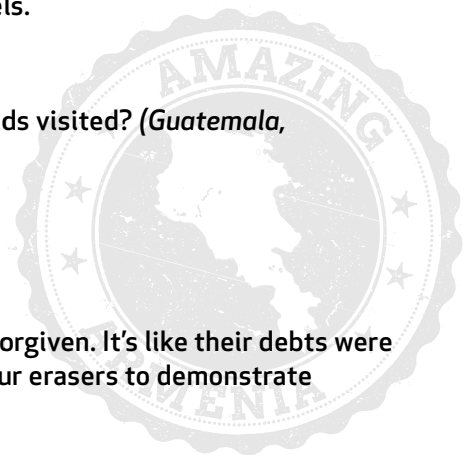
Finger 2 says, "I am sorry I hurt you."

Finger 3 says, "Will you forgive me?"

Finger 4 says, "I won't do it any more."

Finger 5 says, "I apologize."

- Let the children repeat this practice after you.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

- Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.
- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “My Stories for You” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, interactive poster pieces, tape

- Continue to display Matthew 7:24.

SAY: This unit’s Bible verse says, “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock” (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let’s find the second piece to build our house.

- Display the house model foundation and the model pieces. Invite children to find the outline of the house and assemble by folding on dashed lines and taping together. Then place it on the house model foundation.


SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house.

- Invite children to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for teaching us about forgiveness. Help us to be forgiving followers of Jesus. Amen.



Passport



Visa

Departure / Salida

DEEP BLUE PASSPORT

Passport / Passeport / Pasaporte

(DRAW A PICTURE OF YOURSELF)

(FIRST NAME)

(LAST NAME)

(HAIR)


(EYES)

(AGE)

(CHURCH)

9781501843075

Entry / Entrée





www.deepbluekids.com/passport

PASSPORT

DEEP BLUE

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The Mustard Seed and the Yeast

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

As we continue to hear stories that Jesus told, this week we hear two stories about God's kingdom. Jesus often spoke of God's kingdom. Sometimes we imagine the kingdom of God as being a place and time in the future. Jesus spoke of God's kingdom as being present on earth right now. Moreover, Jesus encouraged his followers (that's us) to bring about God's kingdom here on earth. The kingdom of God is present anytime and anywhere God's followers are doing God's work and living as God wants them to live.

Jesus compared God's kingdom to a mustard seed. Mustard seeds are very tiny. Yet when planted, a mustard seed can grow into a large tree-like bush. Some mustard trees are taller than people, yet they start from a seed so small it easily could be lost.

Next, Jesus compared the kingdom of God to yeast. Bakers know the power of yeast. Although yeast is small, it causes bread dough to rise. If left unchecked, the dough will continue to rise and grow many times its original size.

God's kingdom is present all around us. As we learn from the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast, even small things can have a large effect. These parables remind us that God's kingdom is ordinary. God's kingdom is abundant. God's kingdom is surprising. When we follow Jesus' teachings and live the way God wants us to live, great and amazing things can happen. God can turn our efforts into magnificent results. God's kingdom is here and now.

This week, your children will be introduced to a mission project that will last the rest of this quarter. Children will be encouraged to bring offerings over the next several weeks that will support the work of UMCOR Armenia. Children will take home a letter today about the mission project. Supporting mission projects such as UMCOR Armenia is one way we can do God's work and show people what God's kingdom looks like.

Bible Story

Luke 13:18-21

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff:
Growing Tree
- ☐ Exploration Station:
Lavash Bread
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story:
The Mustard Seed and the Yeast
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection:
Mustard
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the
Deep Blue Kids:
Meet Armen
- ☐ Craft Activity:
What Does God's
Kingdom Look Like?
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Rise Up!

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: GROWING TREE

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 17-18, glue sticks, scissors

- Distribute the Growing Tree.
- Let children cut out and assemble the tree and attach leaves.

SAY: The Bible story for today teaches us that God’s love and God’s kingdom are like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a big tree! Sometimes the smallest thing God can use in big ways!

EXPLORATION STATION: LAVASH BREAD

Supplies: Lavash bread

SAY: The Bible story for today also says God’s kingdom is like yeast.

ASK: What is yeast?

SAY: Yeast is an important ingredient in bread. It helps the bread rise. We are going to enjoy some traditional Armenian bread together to remember the Bible story and our travels with the Deep Blue Kids to Armenia.

- Invite children to eat the Lavash bread.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 7, then watch video.

ASK: What did Jesus say God’s kingdom was like?



TIPS

Lavash bread can be found at most grocery stores such as Trader Joe’s.

Lavash bread can be served with things like honey or jam. You might look up traditional Armenian foods to serve with the bread.

Lavash bread does not rise but is connected to the Deep Blue Kids’ travels to Armenia.



EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE MUSTARD SEED AND THE YEAST

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 7, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 13:18-21, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the four parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: The Bible story speaks about yeast and bread. Jesus also says he is the bread of life.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles John 6:35, then answer the questions.

ASK: What did Jesus mean when he said, “I am the bread of life”?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: In today’s Bible story, God used small things to make a BIG difference.

ASK: What small thing can you do to make a difference? How can you spread God’s love?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: MUSTARD

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4


SAY: A mustard seed is an important part of the Bible story.

ASK: Do you like mustard?

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Mustard.

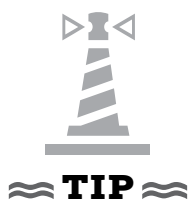
LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: MEET ARMEN

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; Leader Guide—p. 48; world map or globe

 Display Poster: Armenia InfoGraphics, Poster: Armenia Missions, and Poster: Meet Armen.

SAY: Today the Deep Blue Kids met a new friend, Armen, in Armenia.

ASK: Who can find Armenia on the map?



Sometimes we need to make sure everyone is included in our congregations.

Use the Accessibility Audit found on p. 89, to evaluate your church spaces so all can feel welcomed.

SAY: Armen is hearing impaired, which means he has difficulty hearing. He also goes to a special school in Armenia. The school he attends is committed to providing a great, well-rounded education to Armenian children with special needs. Teachers at the Special Schools teach all the typical school subjects such as math, history, science, and literature, with accommodations for kids with hearing loss, vision impairments, and/or intellectual disabilities. But they don't end there. They also provide classes in dance, singing, pottery, painting, computers, beekeeping, and farming. They want to help kids with disabilities thrive in all parts of life. Many of the students come from poor families. They live at the schools during the week while their parents work. Sometimes their parents must travel far away from home to find work. UMCOR Armenia helps make sure the children get good, nutritious food while they are staying at school. The money you raise this month will help UMCOR Armenia provide healthy food for the children at Special Boarding Schools in Armenia.

- Photocopy and distribute the mission letter.
- Encourage children to take home the mission letter and share it with their families.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: WHAT DOES GOD'S KINGDOM LOOK LIKE?



Supplies: colored pencils, crayons or markers, paper, other coloring utensils

SAY: We have been learning about God's kingdom.

ASK: What does *kingdom* mean? What is God's kingdom? What do you think God's kingdom looks like?

- Distribute paper and coloring utensils.
- Encourage children to draw a picture of God's kingdom.
- Invite willing volunteers to share.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: RISE UP!

SAY: In our story, a small amount of yeast helped a large loaf of bread rise. God takes small things and makes a big difference! Sometimes we might get told we are too small. But with God, big things are possible!

ASK: What can you do to make a big difference?

SAY: This week, remember that with God's help, you can rise up and make a big difference. You can share God's love and make God's kingdom possible!

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

- ✠ Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.
- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “My Stories for You” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, 5-6, 8 & 25; glue stick; model pieces; tape

- ✠ Continue to display Poster: Unit 2 Bible Verse. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: This unit’s Bible verse says, “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock” (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let’s find the next piece to build our house.

- Display on the table the model house on its base. Display model pieces. Invite volunteers to locate pieces numbers 1 and 2 (*house front and back*). Glue the pieces to the assembled house and return house model to base.

SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house.

- Invite children to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, you are so big! Help us to remember you are with us and can help us create your Kingdom and share your love. Amen.



Mission Project Letter

Dear Parents or Guardians,

The Deep Blue Kids arrived in Armenia! They landed in Gyumri City where they met Armen, and he is excited to show the crew around his school and teach them about his culture.

During our time with Armen in Armenia, we will learn about the ministry project UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) Armenia is involved in. UMCOR Armenia has many ongoing projects, one of which is a partnership with a group of special schools for socially vulnerable children with developmental delays, speech and hearing impairments, and differing intellectual abilities.

The special needs schools have many students they love and support—they had 86 students in 2014! During the week, these children live at their school and participate in classes, including math, science, dancing, chess, and Armenian. UMCOR programs provide food security and sustainability by giving the schools beehives and cows.

Learn more about UMCOR Armenia here: <https://www.umcor.org/umcor/resources/news-stories/2016/may/0510armeniabeginning>.

During the next several weeks, your family will have an opportunity to support these children and their schools. You can donate online, send a check, or send a donation with your child to contribute to her or his Sunday school offering.

Donations can be made online by credit card at <http://www.umcor.org/Search-for-Projects/Projects/250225>.

To donate by check, please make your check payable to Advance GCFA and the Advance number on the memo line and mail to:

**Advance GCFA #250225
PO Box 9068 GPO
New York, NY 10087-9068**

To donate by phone, please call
1-888-252-6174.



The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

This week, we take a look at the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The intended audience for this parable is described rather than named. "Jesus told this parable to certain people who had convinced themselves that they were righteous and who looked on everyone else with disgust" (Luke 18:9). Jesus was talking about the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a group of religious leaders who studied the religious laws and followed them exactly. Jesus saw beyond their law-abiding exterior to their hearts. The Pharisees failed to take care of people in need and looked down upon people who did not follow the law exactly as they did. The other character in this parable was a tax collector. Jesus often spoke about tax collectors. Tax collectors had to give the Roman Empire a set amount of money; anything collected above that amount was theirs to keep. It was a system designed for corruption. The tax collectors usually collected more than was demanded by Rome. They were seen as traitors and considered unclean.

Jesus' parable reports on the prayers of the Pharisee and the tax collector. People in Jerusalem often went to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood by himself to pray. Pharisees separated themselves from other people in an attempt to maintain their purity. The Pharisee's prayer was focused on himself rather than God. He did not request anything from God, but reported on his own faithfulness. Completely secure in his own righteousness, he even thanked God that he was not like other people. It was as if the Pharisees were praying as a performance, rather than praying to be in relationship with God. The tax collector, in contrast, stood at a distance, feeling unworthy to come farther into the temple. The tax collector did not even feel worthy to look up, but simply bowed his head and made a single request, "God, show mercy to me, a sinner" (v. 13). The contrast between the prayers and attitudes of the two men is striking. Jesus concludes by noting that the tax collector went home "justified." Used here, the term *justified* means "made right with God." This parable reminds us that when we come to God in prayer, the focus is on God, rather than on ourselves.

Bible Story

Luke 18:9-14

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Prayer Cards
- ☐ Exploration Station: Body Prayers

DIVE DEEPER:


- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Yertle the Turtle
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Chess and Checkers
- ☐ Craft Activity: Prayer Beads
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Prayer

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect

 Requires preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: PRAYER CARDS

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 19-20, binder rings, paper punches, scissors

- Distribute Prayer Cards.
- Let children cut out the Prayer Cards.
- Punch a hole in the cards and place them on the rings.
- Encourage children to use their prayer cards during the week.



SAY: There are so many ways to pray. The Bible story today teaches us God loves everyone, and that no one’s prayer is better than anyone else’s.

EXPLORATION STATION: BODY PRAYERS

Supplies: space to move

ASK: Did you know there are several ways to pray? One way to pray is by moving our bodies. Let’s all practice moving our bodies in prayer.

- Invite children to stand up, and lead them in the following spiritual prayer practice:
Plant both feet firmly on the floor. Raise both hands forward, then upward above your head. Look up toward the sky.

SAY: Thank God for creating you.

Bring your arms back down by your sides. Then stretch your arms outward, away from the body, with palms up. Bend your head down and look at the floor.

SAY: Remember Jesus who teaches us how to live.

Wrap your arms around yourself, giving your body a big bear hug.

SAY: Thank the Holy Spirit for being with you.

Bring your hands back down by your sides and stand firm and strong on your own two feet.

SAY: Amen.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 8, then watch video.

ASK: What did the tax collector do? What did the Pharisee do? What did Jesus say?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE PHARISEE AND THE TAX COLLECTOR

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 8, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 18:9-14, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read the story aloud.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: This unit's Bible story is about prayer. Let's explore what the Book of Jeremiah says about prayer.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Jeremiah 29:12.

ASK: Is it important to pray? Why or why not?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

ASK: Our video and Bible story talk about bragging. What does it mean to brag?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: YERTLE THE TURTLE

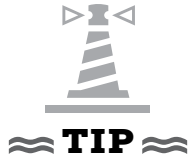
Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: The Bible story Scripture says, "All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those make themselves low will be lifted up" (Luke 18:14).

ASK: What do you think this means?

- Invite children to read Life Connection: *Yertle the Turtle*.





You could put these games out each week as children gather, and invite them to play together.

You can find a chess board and pieces on pp. 90-91.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: CHESS AND CHECKERS

Supplies: Leader Guide—pp. 54, 91; Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; world map or globe

SAY: The Deep Blue Kids are in Armenia!

ASK: Can you find Armenia on the map?

SAY: Popular games in Armenia are checkers and chess. Also, our new friend Armen likes to play chess.

ASK: Have you ever played checkers or chess?

- Photocopy and distribute the checkerboard and playing pieces.
- Encourage children to find a partner and play the game.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: PRAYER BEADS

Supplies: beads, scissors, string

SAY: One way to pray is with beads. Let's make prayer beads to use when we pray.

- Invite children to cut some string.
- String the beads. Leave room for beads to move.
- Tie a knot at the end of the string.

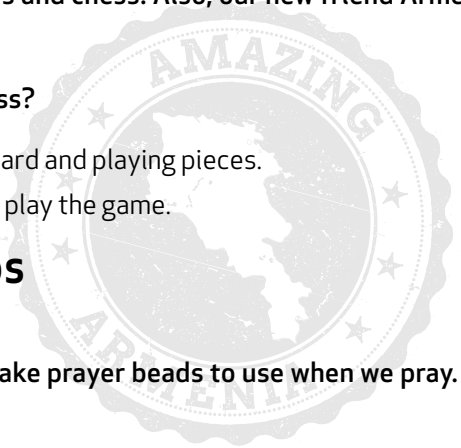
SAY: You can spin, move, or touch your beads as you pray. It is just a simple way to recite your prayers to God.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: PRAYER

SAY: Today we learned about some different ways to pray.

ASK: How do you pray?

SAY: Spend some time this week being in prayer with God. You can try a new way to pray or pray how you are most comfortable. The most important thing is that you spend time reflecting and talking with God.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

- ✠ Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.
- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “My Stories for You” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, 5-6; 8 & 25; glue stick; model pieces; tape

- ✠ Continue to display on the board Matthew 7:24. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: Today’s Bible verse says, “Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock” (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let’s find the next piece to build our house.

- Display on the table the model house on its base. Display model pieces. Invite volunteers to locate pieces numbers 3 and 4 (*house sides*). Glue the pieces to the assembled house and return house model to base.

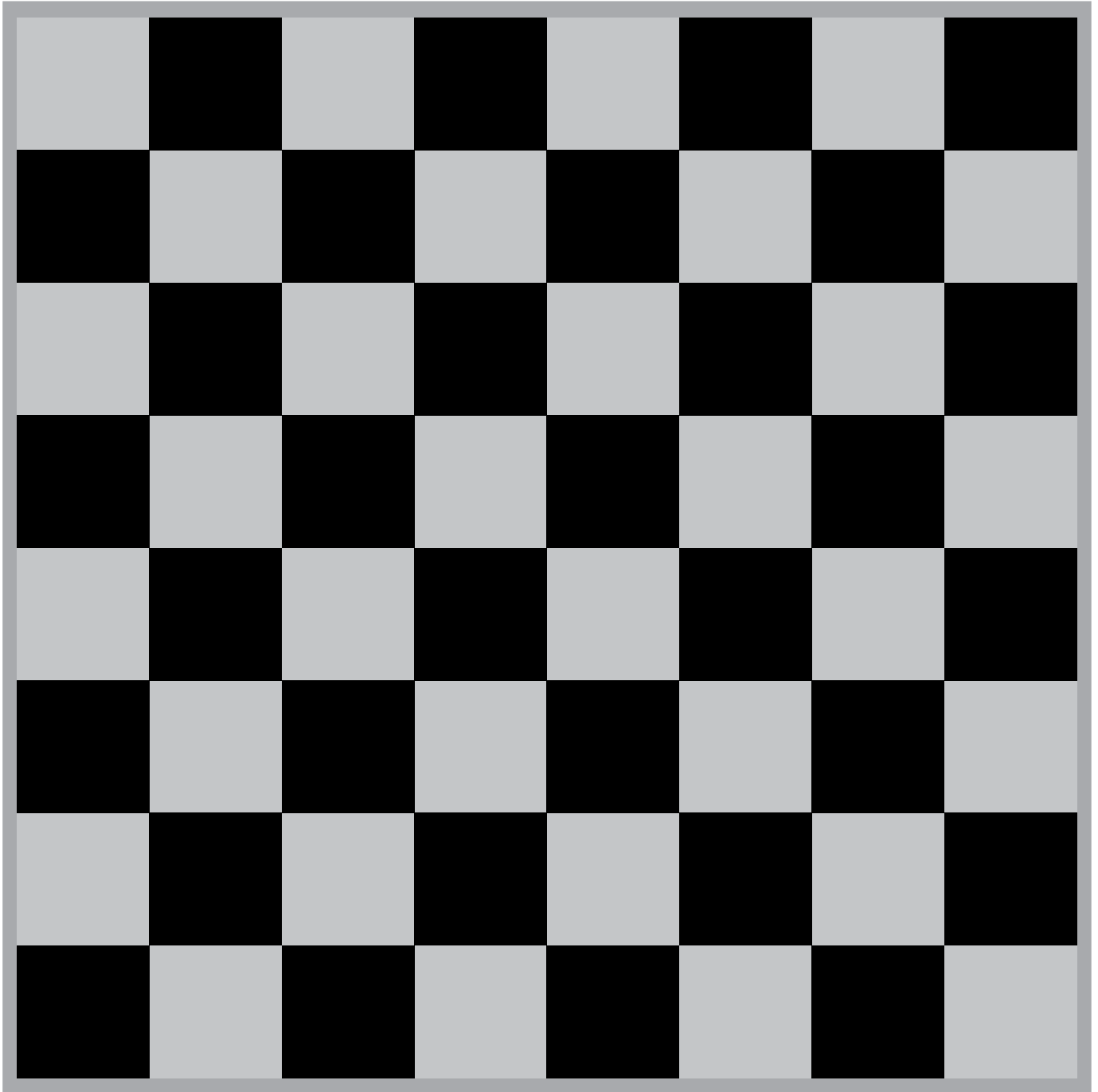
SAY: Great job! Next week we will continue building our house.

- Invite children to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, you are so big! Help us to remember you are with us and can help us create your Kingdom and share your love. Amen.



Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Checkers (pieces are on page 91)



The Ten Talents

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

Jesus told the story of a man who traveled to a distant land to obtain his kingdom. This was a custom that seems unusual to us, but that Jesus' original audience would have been familiar with as it was customary at the time. Before he left, the man called for his servants and gave them each a significant amount of money. Luke wrote that the amount given to each servant was worth four months' wages. This was not a large amount of money for the wealthy man, but would have been a lot of money for each servant. Two of the servants used their money to make more money. These servants were rewarded by being put in charge of cities. The third servant was afraid, so he wrapped the money given him in a scarf. In Jesus' time, while some wealthy people invested their money with bankers, most people did not. Most people buried their money or hid it if they wanted to keep it safe. Therefore, the original hearers of Jesus' story would have thought that hiding the money was a reasonable act. However, in Jesus' story, the servant who hid his money was rebuked and dealt with harshly. His money was taken away and given to the servant who had made a ten-fold gain on his investment.

This story is similar to a story found in the Gospel of Matthew. The title of today's lesson is taken from the Matthew version of the story where the word "talent" has sometimes been used. In biblical times, a talent was a large sum of money. The story in Matthew's Gospel is often interpreted as a lesson in using the gifts given to us for God's kingdom. There are aspects of Luke's story that lend itself to this interpretation as well. We can read this story as a reminder to use the gifts and talents we have, rather than keeping them hidden.

Bible Story

Luke 19:11-26

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Job Chart
- ☐ Exploration Station: Hide the Bible Verse

DIVE DEEPER:

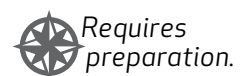
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Ten Talents
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Many Gifts, One Body
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Dance Party
- ☐ Craft Activity: Collaborative Art Project
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Service at Church

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



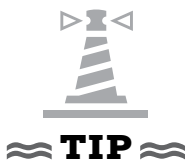
Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: JOB CHART

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 21-22, writing utensils

- Distribute the Job Chart.
- Let children fill in a job they can do to help in the Sunday-school space.
- Encourage children to try to complete helpful tasks in the Sunday-school space. Let them think of how they can help in other places throughout the week.



Use the Trivia questions on the DVD to review this unit’s Bible stories and Bible verse.



EXPLORATION STATION: HIDE THE BIBLE VERSE

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 60, scissors



Photocopy and cut out the puzzle pieces and hide them around the room.

SAY: I have hidden thirteen puzzle pieces around our room. Let’s work together to find them.

- Invite each child to find the puzzle pieces.
- Direct children to work together to put the Bible-verse puzzle together.
- When the Bible-verse puzzle is completed, read the verse together as a class.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 9, then watch video.

ASK: What did the first servant do? the second servant? the third? How did the king respond to the third servant?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TEN TALENTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 9, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 19:11-26, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the five parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Luke 6:34-36.

ASK: What does the word *lend* mean? What does this teach us about giving and helping others?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: The Bible story today is called The Ten Talents. In biblical times, *talents* meant a large sum of money. However, today we also know *talent* to mean a skill one is especially good at.

ASK: What talents do you have? How can you use those talents to share God's love?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: MANY GIFTS, ONE BODY

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: We all have unique talents that make us special. The Bible story reminds us to share those talents with others. But it is also important to use our talents to work together and to share God's love with the world.

ASK: What are ways we can use our many gifts and talents to work together? Is a task easier or harder when you work together?

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Many Gifts, One Body.





Invite a leader in your congregation to come to speak about ways children can serve or help at church.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: DANCE PARTY

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; Deep Blue Annual Music CD; CD player

SAY: In the video, Armen is a great dancer.

ASK: Do you like to dance?

SAY: Let's dance together. Dancing is a great way to move our bodies and to worship God.

- Play music from the Deep Blue Annual Music CD.
- Encourage children to dance together, have fun, and be silly.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT

Supplies: crayons or markers; large poster paper or a large piece of cardboard; colored pencils; recycled materials such as stickers, shells, pompons, and so forth.

- Call for children to look at the supplies provided and to work together to come up with something they can make or create.
- Encourage them to be creative and to be sure to include everyone in the project.
- When children have finished, let them share what they have created.

SAY: Great job working together! God wants us to share our talents with others.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SERVICE AT CHURCH

SAY: We all have talents and gifts that make us special.

ASK: What talents do you have? How can you use your talents to serve at church?

- Offer suggestions of ways children can help out in your congregation.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "My Stories for You" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, 5-6, 8 & 25; glue stick; model pieces; tape



Continue to display on the board Matthew 7:24. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: Let's learn more about God's wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: This unit's Bible verse says, "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock" (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let's find the next piece to build our house.

- Display on the table the model house on its base. Display the final model pieces. Invite volunteers to place pieces numbers 5 and 6 (*roof pieces*). Glue the pieces to the assembled house and return house model to base.

SAY: Great job! We've built a sturdy house on a firm foundation.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us talents. Help us to share our talents with the world and help us to spread your love with others. Amen.



Exploration Station: Hide the Bible Verse

“Everybody
who hears these
words of mine
and puts them
into practice
is like a wise
builder who built
a house
on bedrock.”

(Matthew 7:24)

The Man in the Synagogue

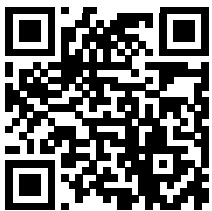
Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

We are exploring some of the people Jesus met. We begin by meeting a man in the synagogue. The man is not named, but is described as having a withered hand. In order to understand the events that occurred when Jesus met this man, we need to have an understanding of Sabbath. In the Jewish tradition, Sabbath was a day of rest. The observance of Sabbath was commanded by God in the commandments given to Moses. Sabbath was also observed and blessed by God at the beginning of Creation when God rested on the seventh day. Sabbath was central to Jewish life. There were certain circumstances that allowed the strict adherence to the Sabbath to be set aside. However, what exactly these circumstances were was a matter of debate among the Jewish leaders.

It was on the Sabbath when Jesus went to the synagogue. The man with the withered hand was also there. Some Pharisees asked Jesus a question, "Does the Law allow a person to heal on the Sabbath?" It might appear as if the Pharisees were curious about Jesus' opinion on the law, but in fact, the Pharisees' question was hostile. They were attempting to trick Jesus. Jesus responded that a person is allowed to do good on the Sabbath. He then asked the man to hold out his hand. Jesus healed the man's hand. Jesus' response and actions made the Pharisees angry. As followers of Jesus, we follow Jesus' example. Few of us have the power to heal as Jesus did. However, we each have the power to do good. We can show love to people all the time, just as Jesus did.



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Bible Story

Matthew 12:9-14

Anchor Point

We can follow Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Service Calendar
- ☐ Exploration Station: First-Aid Kit
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Man in the Synagogue

☐ Look It Up!

☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

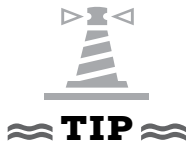
- ☐ Life Connection: Synagogues
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Save the Bees
- ☐ Craft Activity: Handprint Wreath
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Helping Hands

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



"The People Who Knew Jesus" can be found on the DVD or on the Annual Music CD.

The official Deep Blue Annual Music CD contains 19 new songs that were written specifically for Deep Blue! Buy one for your Sunday-school room, or one for each child to play at home or in the car!

You can order online at:
www.cokesbury.com.
ISBN: 9781630888305.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play "The People Who Knew Jesus" and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: SERVICE CALENDAR

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 23-24, writing utensils

- Distribute Service Calendar.
- Let children fill in ways they can serve during the week.
- Make suggestions of things they can do, such as help cook dinner, clean their room, sit with a new friend, and so forth.

SAY: The Bible story today teaches us to help people every day.

EXPLORATION STATION: FIRST-AID KIT

Supplies: First-aid kit or photos of items found in a first-aid kit, crayons or markers, paper

- Show children the first-aid kit items or photos.

ASK: What do we use a first-aid kit for? How can we use these things to help others?

SAY: We can help people in lots of ways.

- Give each child a piece of paper.
- Encourage children to write or draw ways they can help others.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 10, then watch video.

ASK: Can you heal someone on the Sabbath? What did Jesus do for the man with the hurt hand?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE MAN IN THE SYNAGOGUE

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 10, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 12:9-14, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the three parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: In today's Bible story, a miracle was performed on the Sabbath.

- Invite children to use a dictionary to look up the word *Sabbath*.
- Direct them to look up Exodus 20:8-11 in their Deep Blue Kids Bibles.

ASK: What does *Sabbath* mean?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: In the Bible story, Jesus put the needs of the man with the hurt hand above the Jewish laws. He decided it was right to heal the man who needed help. Sometimes it can be hard to do the right thing.

ASK: How do you know when you should help someone? What are ways you can help others?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: SYNAGOGUES

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: In today's Bible story, Jesus was in the synagogue.

ASK: What is a synagogue?

SAY: Let's learn more about synagogues.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Synagogues.



≈ TIP ≈

Use the Deep Blue Bible Dictionary to look up today's word. You can get a copy at:
www.cokesbury.com.
ISBN: 9781501840616.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: SAVE THE BEES

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; Leader Guide—p. 66; pencils



Photocopy Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Save the Bees, one for each child.

SAY: In the video, Armen is working with bees to make honey.

ASK: Have you ever tasted honey?

SAY: Let's learn some facts about bees and honey.

- Distribute Save the Bees.
- Read the bee facts together and encourage children to complete the maze.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: HANDPRINT WREATH

Supplies: crayons or markers, paper, colored pencils and other coloring utensils

- Distribute paper and coloring tools.
- Trace each child's hand onto the paper.
- Let children decorate their handprints. Encourage them to write ways they can help.

ASK: What are ways you can help others?

- Combine the handprints to make a wreath.
- Display the wreath for others to see.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: HELPING HANDS

SAY: John Wesley, the founder of The United Methodist Church, has a saying about doing good and helping others. Let's say it together.

- Invite children to hold out their hands and repeat after you:
Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the ways you can.
In all the places you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can.

SAY: Great job! Remember, we can do good by helping others just as Jesus helped the man with the hurt hand in the story.




≈ OPTION ≈

Photocopy and print copies of the John Wesley saying, and give it to children to take home.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “The People Who Knew Jesus” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope or file folder; scissors; tape

 Display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia. Cut out the Unit 3 Bible Verse Footprints.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in the Bible story today?

- Display poster-piece footprints. Invite a child to locate the figure of The Man at the Synagogue and attach it to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

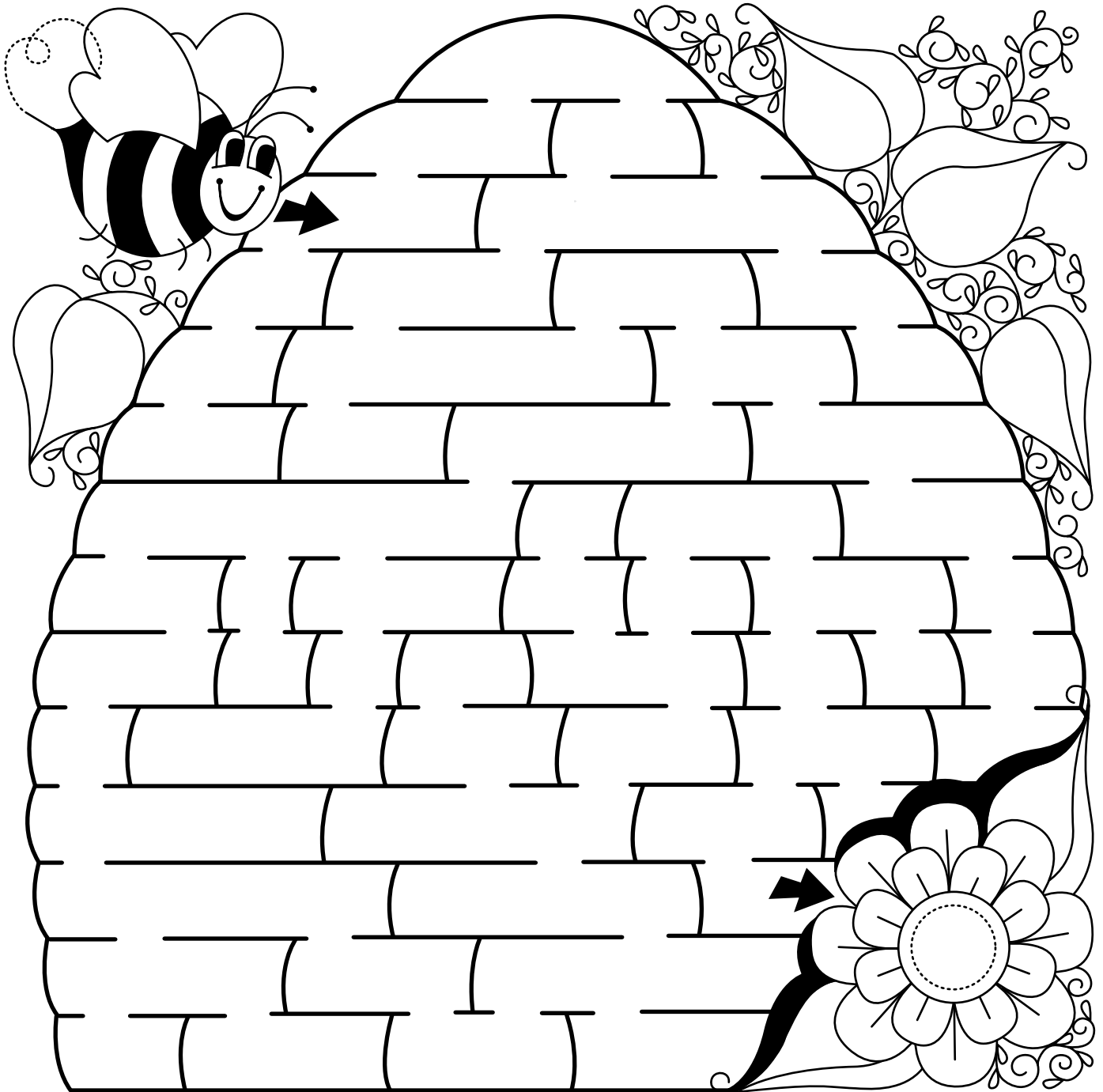
SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus’ example.

ASK: How can you live by Jesus’ example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for the example of Jesus. May we remember to always lend a helping hand and to live our lives according to the teachings of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Save the Bees



BEE FACTS

1. There are three types of bees in the beehive: queen bee, worker bee, and drone bee.
2. Bees fly at 15 to 25 miles per hour.
3. Honeybees are the only type of bee that dies after stinging.
4. Bees are the only insect that produces and provides food for humans.
5. Bees never sleep.
6. A beehive contains 40,000 to 60,000 bees during the spring and summer.
7. The average worker bee only lives for five to six weeks. During this time, the bee produces about $\frac{1}{12}$ of a teaspoon of honey.
8. The queen bee can lay up to 2,500 eggs a day!

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Mary and Martha

Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

This month we are hearing stories of some of the people Jesus met. Today's Bible story tells about a time when Jesus visited the home of two sisters named Martha and Mary. Martha and Mary lived in Bethany, a village just east of Jerusalem. This is not the only time Jesus visited their home. On a subsequent visit to see Mary and Martha, Jesus raised their brother, Lazarus, from the dead.

When Jesus arrived, Martha welcomed him as a guest. At that time, there were societal and cultural rules of hospitality that seem strange to us today. If travelers arrived at your house, you were expected to extend hospitality to them, whether you knew them or not. This hospitality included providing food and a place to sleep. For Martha, the arrival of Jesus and his disciples meant that food needed to be prepared, so she went about the business of getting a meal ready.

The trouble began when Martha noticed that her sister Mary wasn't helping her welcome their guests. Instead, Mary was sitting at Jesus' feet, listening to Jesus teach. To understand the gravity of Martha's complaint, we again must consider the cultural norms of the time. Seated at the feet of a teacher was a place for male disciples. This was not considered a place for women. According to societal rules, Mary should have been helping her sister.

It is clear that Martha expected Jesus to take her side when she complained to him about Mary not helping her. Instead, Jesus gently chided her for being distracted and told her: "Mary has chosen the better part." Jesus' response affirmed the place of women among his followers, a theme repeatedly seen throughout his ministry. Additionally, Jesus emphasized the importance of listening to God's Word. There are many examples in Jesus' teaching that recognize the importance of doing good and helping others. In this story, Jesus reminded Martha that taking time to listen to God is equally important. We also are reminded of the importance of listening to God.

Bible Story

Luke 10:38-42

Anchor Point

We can follow
Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Mary and Martha Puppets
- ☐ Exploration Station: Telephone Game

DIVE DEEPER:

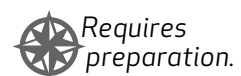
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: Mary and Martha
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Listening
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Food
- ☐ Craft Activity: Listening Mat
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Whole-Body Listening

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: MARY AND MARTHA PUPPETS

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 25-26, craft glue, scissors, wooden craft sticks (two per child)

- Distribute Mary and Martha Puppets and supplies.
- Let children cut out and assemble the puppets.

SAY: We have made puppets of Mary and Martha. Mary and Martha were sisters who welcomed Jesus into their home. Today we will learn more about them in the Bible story.

EXPLORATION STATION: TELEPHONE GAME

- Invite children to gather on the floor and sit in a circle.

SAY: We are going to play a game called “Telephone.” Someone will begin by whispering a phrase or sentence into the ear of the person next to them. Around the circle, we will continue to whisper the phrase or sentence to our neighbors until it reaches the last person in the circle. The last person will say the phrase or sentence out loud so everyone can hear.

- Select someone to go first.
- Invite children to play the game.
- Play the game until everyone has had a chance to go first or as time allows.

ASK: Was it easy or difficult to listen carefully to what your neighbor was saying? What happened as the phrase or sentence was passed around the circle? Why is it important to listen carefully?

SAY: Today’s Bible story will teach us more about careful listening.



≈ OPTION ≈

Invite children to use the puppets during the Bible story.



≈ OPTION ≈

Make it more challenging by creating a rule that the word or phrase only can be whispered once, so players must pay close attention.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 11, then watch video.

ASK: What was Martha doing in the story? What was Mary doing? How did Jesus respond?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: MARY AND MARTHA

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 11, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 10:38-42, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read aloud the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: In today's Bible story, Mary listened to Jesus. Listening is important. In another Bible story found in the Old Testament, Samuel heard a voice but he did not realize it was God speaking to him.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles 1 Samuel 3:1-10, then answer the questions.

ASK: Who was speaking to Samuel? How can we be careful listeners?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Sometimes we might hear people say that God is speaking or that we need to listen for God's voice in our lives.

ASK: What does it mean to listen for God?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: LISTENING

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: Listening can be really hard. But it is important to be a careful listener for others.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Listening.





≈ TIP ≈

Be aware of food allergies.



≈ OPTION ≈

For a sturdier mat, you could laminate or cover the listening mats with contact paper.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN FOOD

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; napkins; string cheese

SAY: In the video, the Deep Blue Kids are trying some Armenian foods.


ASK: What kinds of foods do you think they eat in Armenia?

SAY: One popular food in Armenia is string cheese.

- Distribute cheese and enjoy a snack together.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: LISTENING MAT

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 72, card stock, crayons, markers or colored pencils

 Photocopy Listening Mat on card stock, one for each child.

SAY: We have been talking about listening, just as Mary listened in the story. Let's make a listening mat we can sit on when we are ready to listen.

- Distribute Listening Mat and coloring tools.
- Encourage children to color and decorate the mat.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: WHOLE-BODY LISTENING

ASK: What part of the body do we use to listen?

SAY: Using our ears is how we hear others when we listen.

ASK: But did you know we can use our whole body to show that we are listening?

- Encourage children to do the motions and to repeat the "say" after you:
Point to your eyes.

SAY: Eyes on me when I am listening.

Place your hands in your lap.

SAY: Hands in my lap when I am listening.

Fold your legs underneath you.

SAY: Criss-cross legs when I am listening.

Close your mouth.

SAY: My voice is quiet when I am listening.

Cup your hands around your ears.


SAY: My ears are turned on when I am listening.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN


Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “The People Who Knew Jesus” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse and Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and poster-piece footprints.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in the Bible story today?

- Display poster-piece footprints. Invite a volunteer to locate the figure of Mary and Martha and attach it to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus’ example.

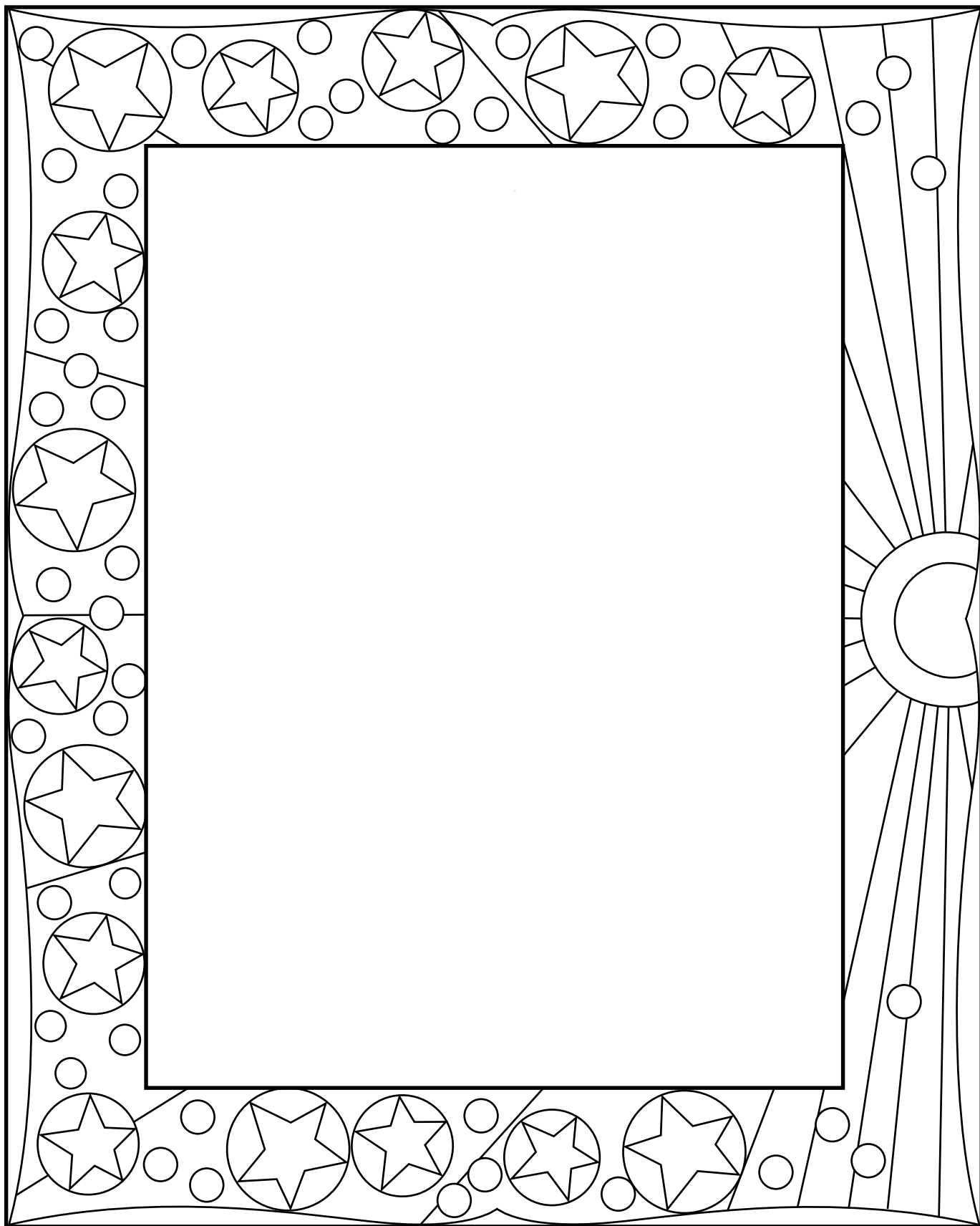
ASK: How can you live by Jesus’ example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us to listen like Mary and thank you for the example of Jesus. May we always live according to his ways. Amen.



Craft Activity: Listening Mat



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The Woman at the Well

Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

In today's Bible story, Jesus, tired and stopping to rest during the hottest part of the day, asked for a drink—a relatively simple request. However, the one of whom he made this request was a Samaritan woman. According to societal conventions in biblical times, there were two reasons Jesus should not have spoken to the Samaritan woman. First of all, a Jewish man did not initiate conversation with an unknown woman. Additionally, Jesus was a Jewish teacher. It was not considered appropriate for a Jewish teacher to speak with a woman in a public place. Secondly, Jews did not initiate conversation with Samaritans.

Samaria was the area of central Palestine located between Judea (in the south) and Galilee (in the north). The tension between the Jews and the Samaritans had a long history. In 722 BC, Assyria attacked Israel and took away many of the Israelites. Some of the Jews who were left behind married women from Assyria and Canaan. Over time, they built their own temple, selected their own priests, and followed their own interpretation of Mosaic Law. To use the terms *Jews* and *Samaritans* is somewhat misleading because the Samaritans had Jewish ancestors. They worshipped the same God. The Samaritan woman knew that the coming of a Messiah had been foretold. The Jews living in Judea in Jesus' day felt the Samaritans were not faithful to the true God of Israel since they did not worship in the temple at Jerusalem. For this reason, Samaritans were not liked or trusted.

Today's Bible story is one that boldly proclaims the inclusiveness of God's love. By choosing to speak to a Samaritan woman, Jesus challenged societal expectations. Jesus did more than have a conversation with the woman; he also offered her "living water." The Samaritan woman, despised and rejected by many, was a worthy recipient of God's grace. Jesus taught through his example and words that God's love is for everyone.

The living water that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman is a symbol for God's love and forgiveness. As you teach today's lesson, help the children to understand that just as water is necessary to keep our bodies healthy, God's love, the "living water," is necessary to keep our spiritual lives healthy. This "living water" is freely available to all and will never run out.

Bible Story

John 4:1-42

Anchor Point

We can follow
Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: A Drop for Your Well
- ☐ Exploration Station: Fill the Bucket

DIVE DEEPER:

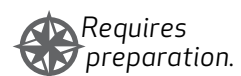
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Woman at the Well
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Water
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Armenian Words
- ☐ Craft Activity: Ice Painting
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Witness

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires
preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: A DROP FOR YOUR WELL

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 27-28, 3 oz. bath cups, glue sticks, pencils, scissors

- Distribute A Drop for Your Well and supplies.
- Encourage children to assemble the well.
- Invite them to write on the water droplet one way they can share God’s love. Then put the water droplet in the well.



SAY: In the Bible story today, Jesus offered living water to a Samaritan woman.

EXPLORATION STATION: FILL THE BUCKET

Supplies: four buckets, paper towels, two large sponges, water



Locate an open area outside to play this game. Fill two buckets with water and place at one end of the area. Place two empty buckets at the other end of the room.

SAY: In today’s Bible story, a woman went to a well to fill her bucket with water. Let’s see if we can fill our buckets in a water-relay game.

- Arrange children into two teams. Place each team in two lines near empty buckets.
- Give each team a sponge.
- Play the game, two teams competing against the other: The first player of each team will run to the end of the room, dip sponge into the bucket of water, and soak up as much water as possible. Then the player with sponge will run back to the starting point and squeeze it out into the empty bucket. The player then will hand the sponge to the next person in line and go to the back of the line. The next team member takes a turn. Continue the relay until one team has filled the empty bucket.



Be prepared to mop up excess water from the floor to prevent accidents. Even better, hold the relay outside.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 12, then watch video.

ASK: Who does the woman meet at the well? What kind of water does Jesus offer the Samaritan woman? What did the woman do after she met Jesus?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 12, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles John 4:1-42, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Call on a volunteer to read the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

SAY: Another place in the Gospel of John speaks about living water. Let's look it up.

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles John 7:38.

ASK: What do you think Jesus means by "living water"?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: Historically, it was not common for Jews and Samaritans to speak to each other. But in our story, Jesus crossed boundaries to share God's love.

ASK: How can you share and show God's love to everyone?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WATER

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: Water is important, and we can't live without it. Let's learn more about water.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Water.





The paint will melt quickly. You may wish to make extra ice paint.



LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: ARMENIAN WORDS

SAY: In the video, the Deep Blue Kids are learning a few Armenian words. Let's learn some together.

- Invite the children to repeat the words after you.

Shun (shoon)—Dog

Barev—Hello

Jur—Water

Merci—Thank you

CRAFT ACTIVITY: ICE PAINTING

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 78, food coloring, ice-cube tray, smocks, table coverings, water, wooden craft sticks



Photocopy Ice Painting, one for each child. Protect the work area. Make the ice paint prior to the lesson.

- Follow the directions to make the ice paint:

Pour water evenly into the ice-cube tray.

Add a few drops of food coloring into ice-cube spaces and mix well. Use as many colors as you prefer.

Place craft sticks into each individual ice cube square.

Let the cubes freeze (several hours or overnight).

Pull on the craft sticks to remove the ice paint from the tray.

SAY: Today we will paint with ice. As the ice melts, color will appear on your page.

- Distribute the ice-painting coloring page.
- Let children paint the picture.

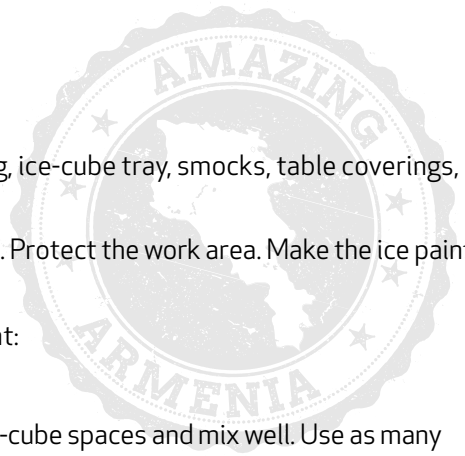
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: WITNESS

ASK: What does the word *witness* mean?

SAY: The Samaritan woman become a witness for her faith. She was empowered by Jesus' message of living water, and shared her faith with her friends and family. She witnessed God's love and shared it with others.

ASK: How can you be a witness of faith and share God's love with others?


SAY: This week, be a witness and share God's love with one person.



WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN


Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song “The People Who Knew Jesus” one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape

 Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and envelope of poster-piece footprints.

SAY: Let’s learn more about God’s wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in our story today?

- Display poster-piece footprints. Invite a volunteer to locate the figure of The Samaritan Woman and attach it to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus’ example.

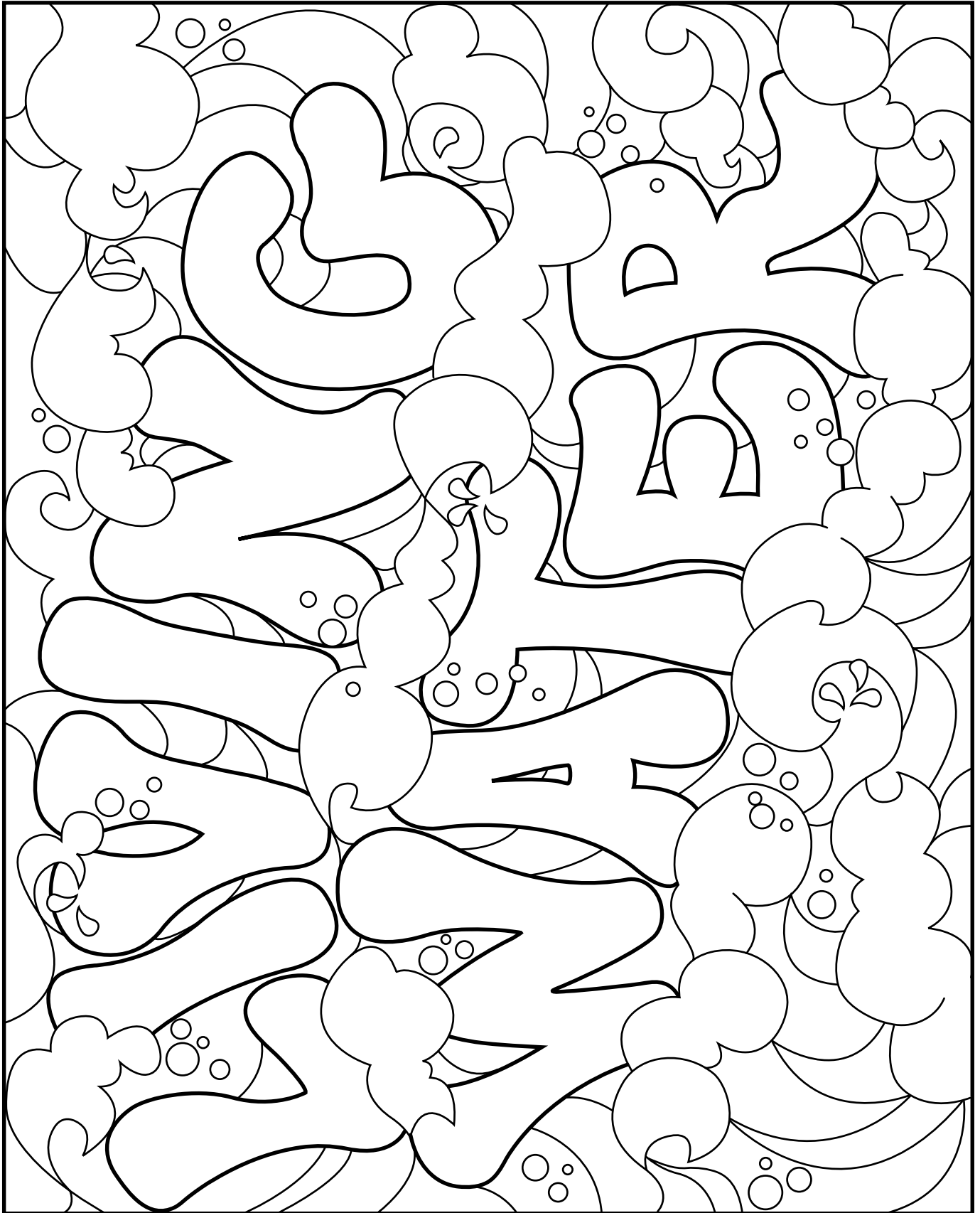
ASK: How can you live by Jesus’ example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they’d like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us live by the example of Jesus, to have faith in what you provide and to share our faith with others. Amen.



Craft Activity: Ice Painting



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The Man by the Pool

Bible Verse

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do. John 13:15

Did You Know?

This month we have been reading stories about people Jesus met. We began the month with a story about a man Jesus healed. In today's Bible story, Jesus met another man whom he healed. As was the case with the man with the withered hand, Jesus cured the man in today's story on a Sabbath.

There was a pool in Jerusalem called Bethesda. At times, the water in the pool would stir, probably the result of an underground spring. People believed that when the water stirred, the first people in the water would be healed. Because of this belief, people in need of healing would wait beside the pool. When the water bubbled, people would push their way to the pool to get in the water first or to put their friends in the water first.

When Jesus walked by the pool, he saw a man who had been sick for 38 years. From the context, it can be inferred that the man was unable to walk; however, the man's particular ailment is not described. When Jesus asked the man if he wanted to get well, the man explained that he had no one to help him into the pool. Every time he tried to make it to the pool, someone else got there first. By the man's response, it is obvious that he did not know who Jesus was and didn't realize Jesus had the power to heal him. In fact, when the Jewish authorities later asked him about what had happened, he described Jesus as "the man who made me well."

After Jesus healed the man, the story took a turn. It changed from a healing story to a conflict story. We discover that the healing took place on the Sabbath. Jewish laws forbidding work on the Sabbath were strict. When the healed man was asked by the Jewish authorities why he was carrying his mat, the reason for the question was that carrying your bed was considered work, and therefore not allowed on the Sabbath. When the Jewish authorities discovered the man had been healed, they immediately became upset because Jesus had healed the man on the Sabbath. The authorities were more concerned with being upset with Jesus for breaking Sabbath law than they were with celebrating that a man who had been sick for 38 years had been healed!

Today is the last Sunday of the mission offering raising money for UMCOR Armenia. Celebrate the good work that will be done because of the children's offerings.

Bible Story

John 5:1-17

Anchor Point

We can follow
Jesus' example.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff:
Get-Well Card
- ☐ Exploration Station:
Bubbles of Fun
- DIVE DEEPER:**
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story:
The Man by the Pool

☐ Look It Up!

☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection:
Ways to Help
- ☐ Learn & Serve with
the Deep Blue Kids:
Missions Around
the World
- ☐ Craft Activity:
Paint with
Pool Noodles
- ☐ Spiritual Practice:
Bubble Prayers

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



*Requires
preparation.*



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “The People Who Knew Jesus” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: GET-WELL CARD

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 29-30, crayons or markers, glue sticks, scissors

- Distribute the Get-Well Card.

SAY: In the Bible story today, a man was sick for a long time.

ASK: Who do you know that is sick?

SAY: Let’s make a card for someone who might need some love and encouragement.

- Encourage children to cut out and decorate the card.
- Let them fold the inserts and place in cards. Tape tabs in place.

EXPLORATION STATION: BUBBLES OF FUN

Supplies: beads (optional), bubbles, chenille stems

- Give children chenille stems.
- Let them bend the chenille stems into shapes to make bubble wands. Remind children to leave part of the stem sticking out to create a handle for dipping.
- Invite children to blow bubbles with their bubble wands.

SAY: In the Bible story, there is a bubbling pool of water.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 13, then watch video.

ASK: Why was the man by the pool? How was the man healed?



≈ TIP ≈

Collect a list of persons in your congregation who might need a get-well card. Share these names with the children.



≈ TIP ≈

For sturdier handles on the bubble wands, string beads on the handle.

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE MAN BY THE POOL

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 13, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles John 5:1-17, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the six parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Matthew 11:28-30.

ASK: What do these verses teach us about our difficulties and burdens?

SAY: It can be difficult to turn to God when things get hard. Remember, God's loving presence is always with you.

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: The man by the pool needed help and Jesus helped him. We all need help sometimes. Maybe you need help doing your math homework or learning how to play an instrument.

ASK: What do you need help with? What does this Scripture teach us about helping others?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: WAYS TO HELP

Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4


ASK: Did you know we can all help?

SAY: Let's come up with ways we can help others.

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Ways to Help.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: MISSIONS AROUND THE WORLD

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 84; Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; colored pencils, crayons, markers, and other coloring tools; star stickers

 Photocopy Missions Around the World, one for each child.

SAY: This is our last Sunday in Armenia.

ASK: What have you learned about Armenia?



≈ OPTION ≈

Encourage children to mark their own location on the map, then draw lines from their location to Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska, and Armenia.



TIP

For further discussion, let children mark their location on the map. Discuss the distance between their home and the locations of the Deep Blue Kids and friends.

- Distribute Missions Around the World.

SAY: We have traveled all over the world with the Deep Blue Kids. Let's mark all the places we have gone.

- Invite children to use the star stickers to mark on the paper Guatemala, Kenya, Alaska, and Armenia. Then let the children color the map.

SAY: It has been so much fun learning about other places around the world.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: PAINT WITH POOL NOODLES

Supplies: washable paint, painting smocks, paint trays, paper, pool noodles, table coverings



Protect the work area. Cut pool noodles into rings about one to two inches thick. Place paint on paint trays.

- Give children several pool-noodle rings.
- Invite children to dip pool-noodle rings into the paint and stamp them on the paper.

SAY: When you stamp your paper, it looks like bubbles. Our pictures can remind us of today's Bible story about the man by the bubbling pool.

- Place pictures somewhere safe to dry.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: BUBBLE PRAYERS

SAY: Today we have been talking about bubbles. While bubbles are a lot of fun, we can also use them to say a prayer.

ASK: What prayers do you have that you might want to give to God?

SAY: This week, spend some time blowing bubbles. When you blow the bubble, imagine you are blowing a prayer to God. Remember, God is always listening to our prayers.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Class Stuff—pp. 10 & 23, Leader Guide—p. 88, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Review the Unit 3 Bible verse American Sign Language, using page 88 as a guide. Photocopy that page for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "The People Who Knew Jesus" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 3 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

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PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 5-6, 8 & 25, 10 & 23, 29; envelope of poster-piece footprints; tape



Continue to display Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia and envelope of poster-piece footprints.

SAY: Let's learn more about God's wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: We are learning about the people Jesus met.

ASK: Who did Jesus meet in the story today?

- Display the final poster-piece footprint. Invite a volunteer to attach the figure of The Man by the Pool to Poster: Unit 3 Bible Verse.

SAY: Jesus met lots of new friends in the Bible. These stories teach us about living by Jesus' example.

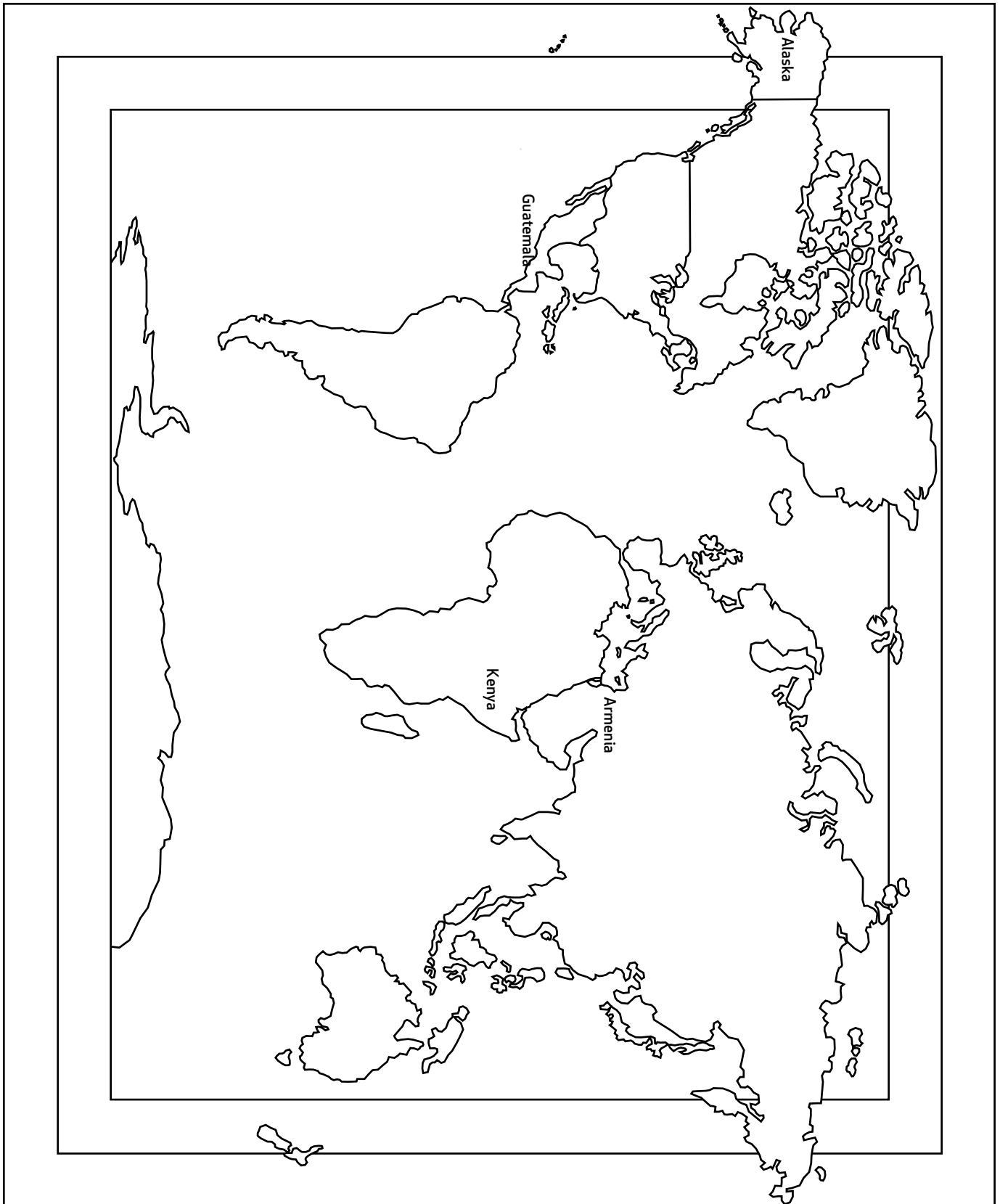
ASK: How can you live by Jesus' example?

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.
- Invite them to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, help us live by the example of Jesus by caring for those who are sick and by loving everyone. Amen.



Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Missions Around the World



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Unit 1—Psalm 86:11

Teach me your way, LORD, so that I can walk in your truth.



Teach

Touch your fingers to your thumb on both hands. Place the hands on either side of your head and then move them forward.



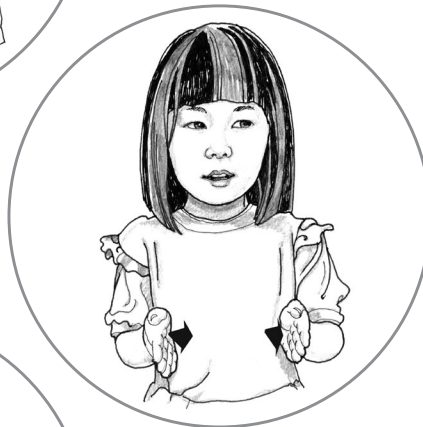
Me

Point to yourself.



Your

Hold up your hand with the palm facing out. Move the palm forward.



Way

Hold both hands parallel about chest high. The palms face each other.



Lord

Make an "L" with the right index finger and thumb. Place the "L" at the left shoulder. and then move the "L" across the body to the right waist.

Unit 2—Matthew 7:24 (Part 1)

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock.



Everybody

Touch your thumb to your chest then circle out from your body with your finger pointed out.



Hears

Point the index finger at your ear.



Mine

Pat your chest with the palm of one hand.



Practice

Hold the right hand in a fist with the fist facing down (top of hand on top), with the thumb sticking out. Bring up the left hand facing sideways (with the thumb tucked and the index finger side near the top) and rub the wrist of the right-hand fist back and forth quickly across the top of the left hand.

Unit 2—Matthew 7:24 (Part 2)

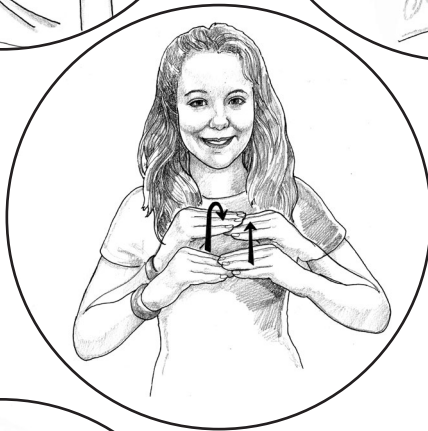
Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock.



Wise

Crook your index finger. Move the finger up and down at the side of your forehead.

Then add the ending for "person." Hold hands parallel with palms facing each other. Move hands down.



Built

Bend your hands, fingers together. Alternate moving your hands up.



House

Touch the fingertips of both hands together in the shape of a roof. Bring the hands apart and down to outline the walls of the imaginary house.



Bedrock

Hold both hands in fists. Hit the back of the hand of one fist on top of the back of the hand of the other fist.

Unit 3—John 13:15

I have given you an example: just as I have done, you also must do.



I (Me)
Point to yourself.



Given
Hold both hands in front of your body, palms up and fingers and thumb touching on each hand. Move your hands up and away from your chest.



You
Point out with your index finger.



Do
Curve both hands with palms out. Move hands back and forth.



Example
Cup your right hand into a "C" shape. Touch the "C" against the palm of your left hand.

Mission Project: Accessibility Audit

GETTING INTO THE CHURCH

- ☐ Signs direct people to accessible entrances. The accessible entrance door is at least 36 inches wide, with a threshold no more than ½-inch high.
- ☐ People in the congregation (*with and without disabilities*) know where the accessible entrances are and can direct visitors to them.
- ☐ At least 1 per 25 parking spaces is designated for people with disabilities.
- ☐ Sidewalks are smooth and flat, and there are curb ramps (*cutouts*).

GETTING AROUND THE CHURCH

- ☐ Elevators provide access to all floors of the building.
- ☐ The restrooms have accessible stalls, or there is an accessible single-stall restroom available.
- ☐ Soap, paper towels, and/or hand dryers are no more than 40 inches from the floor.
- ☐ Drinking fountains are no higher than 36 inches from the floor. Alternately, a water station with paper-cup dispensers is provided.

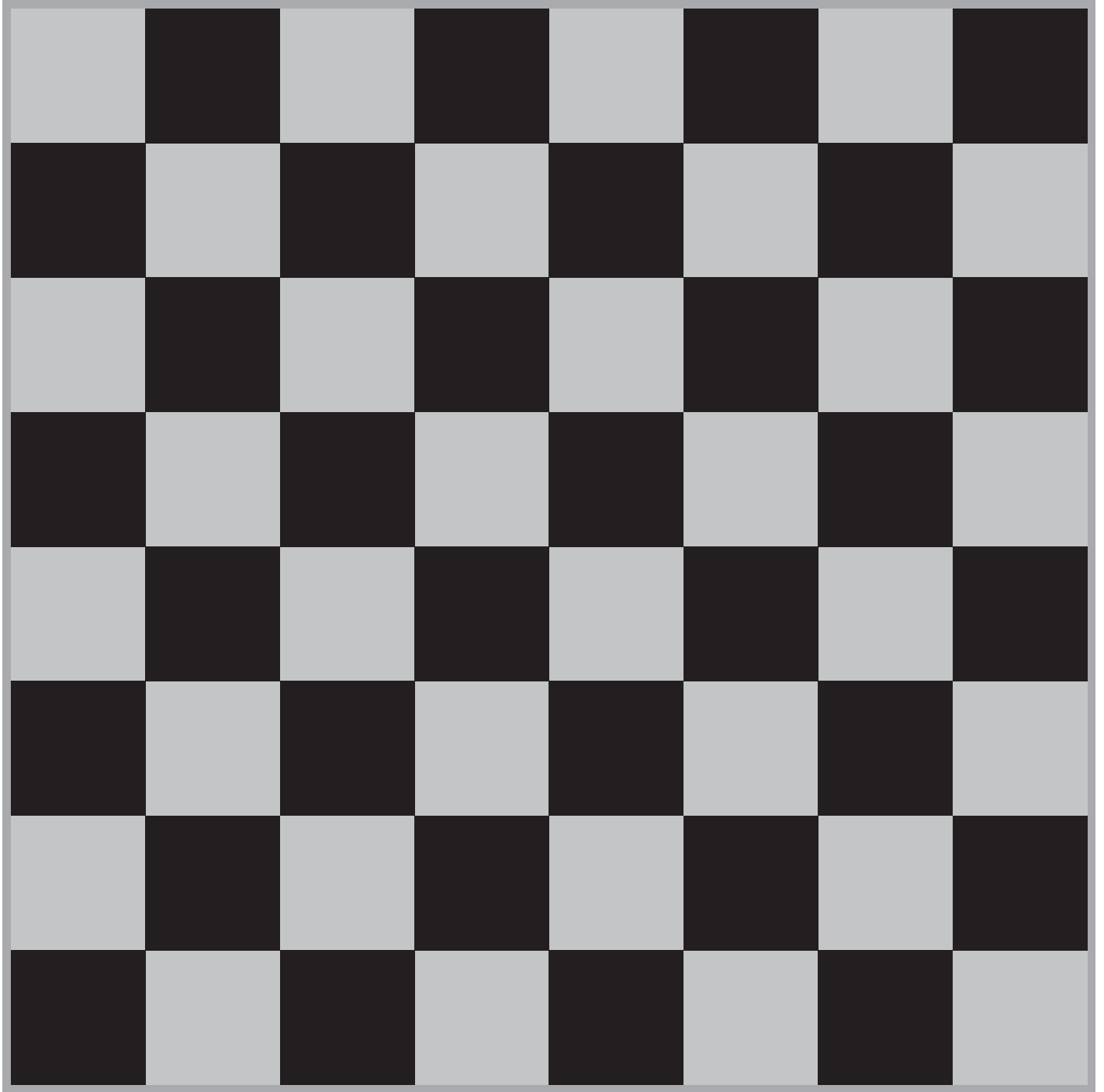
SANCTUARY, CLASSROOMS, AND FELLOWSHIP AREAS

- ☐ There are designated spaces for people using wheelchairs to sit throughout the sanctuary. (*Shorter pews or chairs removed from rows.*)
- ☐ The spaces where the choir sings and people lead worship are accessible with ramps and handrails.
- ☐ The congregation minimizes the use of scented soaps, candles, and cleaning products.
- ☐ Large-print Bibles, bulletins, and hymnals are available. Braille or alternative media is available upon request.
- ☐ Microphones are used in worship or comments are repeated upon request. Assisted listening devices are available. An ASL interpreter is available upon request.
- ☐ Videos and other media are clearly captioned.

ATTITUDES

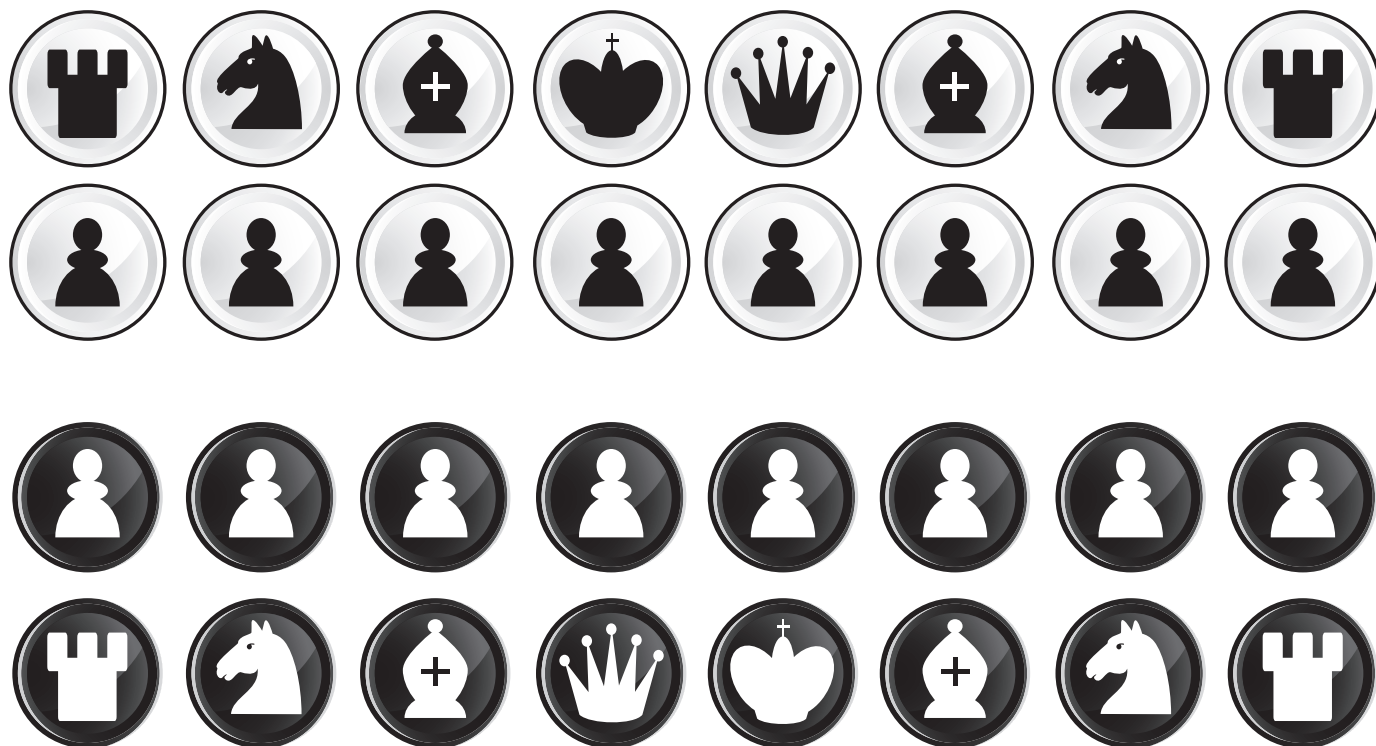
- ☐ Accessibility options are made clear on the church website and signs.
- ☐ Pastors, ushers, and greeters have had training on welcoming people with disabilities.
- ☐ Disruptions are accepted as part of worship.
- ☐ Service animals or guide dogs are permitted within all areas of the church.
- ☐ The worship leaders invite people to rise “in body or in spirit” or uses similar inclusive language.
- ☐ Educational programs are adapted to include people with disabilities.
- ☐ The church celebrates Disability Awareness Sunday.
- ☐ People with disabilities serve in worship and leadership roles.
- ☐ When food is offered, people with dietary restrictions are considered. Gluten-free Communion elements and grape juice are available.
- ☐ Specially trained Buddies are paired with people with disabilities who need one-on-one assistance.

Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Chess Board

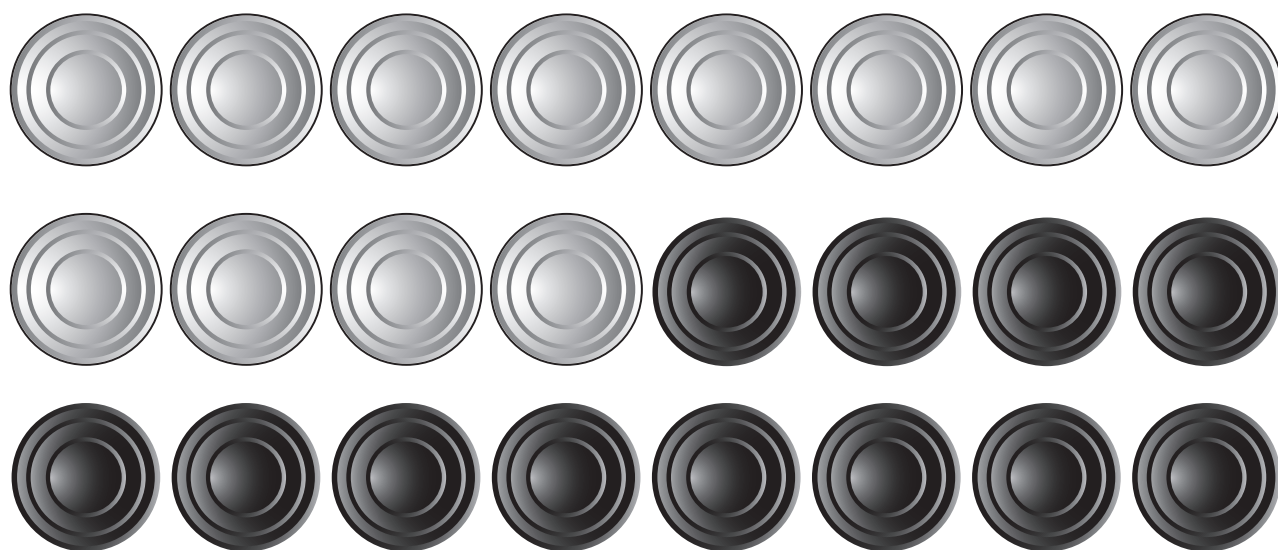


Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Chess Pieces and Checkers Pieces

Chess Pieces



Checkers Pieces (for page 54)



Meet Armen

GEORGIA



Barev! Hello!

**My name is Armen.
Welcome to Armenia!**

I live in Armenia, a country located in West Asia. Armenia was the first country in the world to become a Christian nation.

I love to play chess. In fact, chess is very important in our country. We're taught how to play chess at school.

I'm taught many other things at my school. I am deaf, so I go to a special school. We play chess, dance, grow vegetables, and learn to take care of bees.



I can't wait to tell you all about Armenia!

Let's say a prayer together:

Dear God, thank you for friends all over the world. Help us remember that you love and care for all the people of the earth. Amen.



Birthday Card

Photocopy this birthday card and send it to each child in your class on his or her birthday.

Happy Birthday



from the Deep Blue Crew!

"We Miss You" Card



Welcoming Children with Disabilities

Disabilities are incredibly common. About 8.4 percent of American children under the age of 15 live with some kind of disability. Disabilities affect people of all racial, ethnic, economic, and family backgrounds. Yet despite these widespread effects, it's not uncommon for churches to find themselves unprepared to integrate children with disabilities into their children's ministries. Part of the problem stems from the incredible diversity of disabilities. Intellectual and learning disabilities, visual, hearing, speech or language impairments, emotional disturbances, autism, and traumatic brain injuries—all these disabilities require different strategies for full inclusion. Another part of the problem is the cultural stigma attached to disabilities. Because of the long history of segregating people with disabilities in America, a social stigma lingers and many people are afraid to talk about disability for fear of accidentally offending someone. For churches striving to love and fully include all of God's children, these challenges can feel insurmountable. But there are some guidelines that can help churches wherever they are in their journey to welcome children with disabilities. These suggestions, coupled with love and patience, can help your church become a more welcoming place for everyone!

- Remember that children with disabilities are fully human and loved by God as they are. There is no need for children to receive a physiological cure for them to receive the spiritual healing that comes from being fully incorporated into a loving Christian community. While physiological cures are often desired and life-changing when made possible, not every person with a disability desires or expects a physiological cure. What people do universally desire is love, care, and acceptance as they are.
- It's helpful to speak frankly and simply about a child's disabilities. Pretending disabilities don't exist can communicate that there is something wrong or bad about having a disability. Able-bodied children meeting a classmate with a disability for the first time can benefit from a "Buddy Talk." To prepare for a Buddy Talk, meet with the disabled child's guardian and the child as well, if appropriate. Discuss what would be helpful to share with the other children about the child's disability. Bits of age-appropriate information helps children welcome and show love to their classmates. If the child and guardian feel comfortable, offer to communicate this information with the other children's guardians as well.
- In some cases, it's possible to fully incorporate children with disabilities by modifying the activities in a small way. For example, if a child is unable to sit on the floor, you may choose to have the group sit in chairs for story time. In other cases, it's helpful to assign a Buddy, either another adult or an older child. The child's Buddy is there to help the child participate fully. Buddies should be trained in advance, and if the Buddy is an older child, the Buddy's guardian(s) should be informed and included in any training.
- If a child with a disability is having trouble integrating socially, it's possible to assign a group of children "welcomers," whose job it is to make sure children with disabilities are included in group activities. This role can be very empowering and beneficial for children.



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Comments from Users

Let us know what you think! Your comments will help us write a better curriculum for you and the children you teach. Please send your comments and suggestions to:

Middle Elementary Editor, Children's Department
The United Methodist Publishing House
2222 Rosa L. Parks Blvd.
PO Box 280988
Nashville, TN 37228-0988

Please check the components that you use:

<input type="checkbox"/> Deep Blue DVD	<input type="checkbox"/> Kids Stuff
<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Stories	<input type="checkbox"/> Class Stuff
<input type="checkbox"/> & Stuff	<input type="checkbox"/> Online available components (Leader Guide)
<input type="checkbox"/> Leader Guide	

Use the following scale to rate each of the resources:

N/A = Not Applicable

1 = Never

3 = Most of the Time

2 = Sometimes

4 = All of the Time

Leader Guide

☐ Easy to use.

☐ Children grew to understand the Bible story from the suggested activities.

☐ Too many suggested activities.

Bible Stories & Stuff

☐ Did the children in your group enjoy reading their parts of the Bible stories?

☐ Did the children prefer moving to the Bible story as it was read to them?

Comments about Bible Stories & Stuff:

Kids Stuff

☐ The activities in Kids Stuff were too simple.

☐ The activities in Kids Stuff were too difficult.

Class Stuff

☐ The activities were colorful and engaging for the children.

The Class Stuff activity my children enjoyed most was:

Deep Blue DVD

☐ The Deep Blue DVD helped the children learn each week's Bible story.

☐ The children enjoyed learning, watching, and singing the songs on the Deep Blue DVD.

☐ The Deep Blue DVD was NOT an effective way for my children to learn the Bible stories.

My favorite activity this quarter was: _____

My least favorite activity this quarter was: _____

Overall, I would rate this **Summer 2018**: _____

3 = The best that it could possibly be.

2 = This quarter's curriculum provided SOME good moments for the children's faith development.

1 = Ineffective with the faith development of the children in my church.

Leader's Name: _____

Church: _____

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DEEP BLUE

Vol. 3 • No. 4 • SUMMER 2018

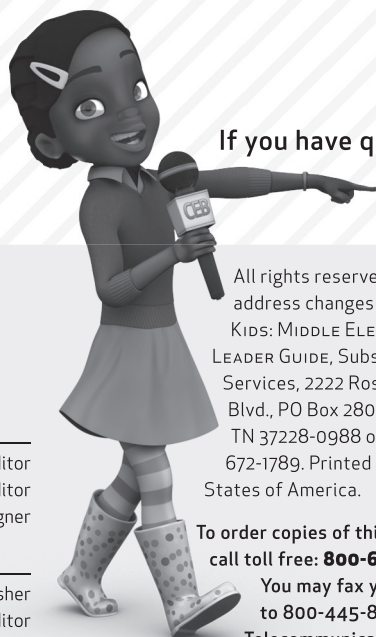
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and Jayden**

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