

Bible Story · Paul Survives a Storm · Acts 27:1-28:31

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children: "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus' love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

Teacher's Devotional

As teachers we know that there is huge value in our job, but at times it is not easy. No matter how easy a curriculum proclaims itself to be, a lot of work and time goes into teaching God's Word! When we're not prepared, children can sense it as soon as they walk through the classroom door. (They seem to have superhuman antennae tuned to find the unprepared teacher!) Immediately, we lose them. 1 Peter 3:15 states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." This is a strong statement, and as teachers we are held to this high standard. We need to be prepared so that we can confidently tell children about Christ's love—even the littlest ones.

Paul may not have been telling children about Jesus' love, but he was ready when the time came to tell a group of jailers and sailors about Christ's love. And once he arrived in Rome, he welcomed all who came to see him, prepared to boldly preach about Jesus Christ.

To show respect to Christ, we should always be prepared to boldly teach Jesus' love to the children in our classrooms. But how? *Prayer* is the key. Spend quiet time with the Lord, asking Him to prepare *your* heart. Read through the Bible story. Find points in the story that really apply to you and your spiritual life. Then, why not try memorizing the weekly memory verse? When kids see you have put the time into memorizing, they know it's important! Then it will become important to them, as well. If we want to *reach* the children by teaching them, then we should be prepared—ready to tell about Jesus and His love. And being prepared must begin through prayer and study that changes our own hearts!

Planning Page

Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them (see pp. 14-18 for schedule tips and pp. 24-25 for guidelines in combining older and younger children). Also plan who will lead each center (for staffing tips see pp. 19-21). Use the reproducible planning sheet (p. 238) to record your plans.

Bible Story Center

Bible Story • Paul Survives a Storm • Acts 27:1—28:31

Camping Fun (Younger Child) • Show a toy boat, small fan and squirt bottle to illustrate the Bible story

Camping Fun (Older Child) • Show flashlight to demonstrate the Daily Truth "Witness for Jesus" and Bible verse

Art Center

Younger Child Option • Make Star Streamers and talk about the meaning of the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, crepe paper in a variety of colors, string, star stickers, tape, scissors, measuring stick; for each child—one large plastic or wooden thread spool

Older Child Option • Make Shining Star Jars and talk about shining like stars when we tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, newspaper, glitter, several shoeboxes, baby food jars, small star stickers, glue in shallow containers, paintbrushes, ribbon, scissors, tea light candles

Game Center

Younger Child Option • Stick stars to a Nighttime Camp Scene while learning the Bible verse

Materials • Bible, Lesson 10 Pattern Page (p. 182), transparency, overhead projector, butcher paper, markers or paint, masking tape, star stickers, animal stickers, blindfold (bandanna, t-shirt, scarf, etc.)

Older Child Option • Play a game like Cakewalk and talk about ways to tell others about Jesus

Materials • Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, construction paper, stop watch or watch with second hand

Coloring/Puzzle Center

Younger Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing coloring page

Materials • Lesson 10 Coloring Page (p. 183) for each child, crayons

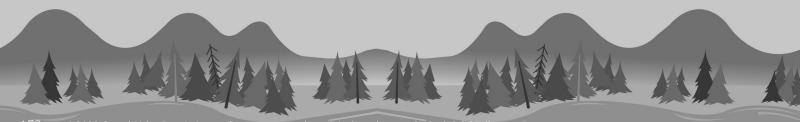
Older Child Option • Review the Bible verse while completing puzzle page

Materials • Lesson 10 Puzzle Page (p. 184) for each child, pencils

Worship Center

For the Younger and Older Child • Participate in large-group activities to review Bible verse and to worship God together

Materials • Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), four cardboard or paper stars, marker, tape, strips of paper, hat or bowl, butcher paper, world map or globe



Bonus Theme Ideas

Bonus Theme Ideas can be used at any time during this session: as an additional activity center, to extend the session for a longer time, or for added theme excitement.

Camp Photo Day

Create lasting memories at Camp Photo Day! Ahead of time, send flyers home inviting families to bring their cameras and smiles for this session of *Rock-Solid Followers*! Set up a "camp photo studio" by (1) painting or drawing a camp scene on a length of butcher paper (use patterns on p. 234-237) or (2) putting up a small tent and other accessories (rolled-up sleeping bag, lantern, etc.) for a 3-D scene. Add a pretend campfire, camping chairs, roasting sticks and marshmallows. Families pose as if camping.

Gone Fishing!

Add blue food coloring to softened cream cheese to make it look like water. Place blue cream cheese into a large bowl. Place fish-shaped crackers in a separate bowl. Give each child four celery sticks, a paper plate and spoon. Children scoop out one or two spoonfuls of blue cream cheese and smooth it into a "lake" in the middle of the plate. Children place a handful of fish crackers on the cream cheese, then use the celery sticks to "catch" fish by scooping them and the cheese out of the "lake."

Post a note alerting parents to the use of food.
Also, check registration forms for possible food allergies.



German Pin the Tail on the Donkey

To help your group learn about children in Germany, play the following game. Children play a game in Germany, called Topfschlagen which means "Hit the Pot" in English. This is Germany's version of "Pin the Tail on the Donkey." Today, we are going to play this game but with camping stickers and prizes. One child is "It" and is blindfolded. Another child from the group puts a camping sticker or prize under a cooking pot and sets it somewhere in the room. The child who is "It" takes a spoon and crawls on the floor, banging the spoon on the floor. Other children may give directions like "hot" or "cold" to help the child find the cooking pot. When child finds the pot, he or she receives the prize. Continue playing, inviting another child to be "It." After everyone has had a turn to be "It," pray for the people and missionaries in Germany.





Introduction

Show toy boat. Where do people ride in boats? (Rivers. Oceans.) What do you think it would be like to be on a boat during a big storm? Invite children to respond. Listen to find out about Paul's stormy trip on a boat.

Tell the Story

Paul and many other people climbed onto a big boat called a ship. They were traveling to a big city called Rome on the other side of a big sea of water. It would take days and days and DAYS to sail across the big sea. The winds blew the ship far out on the sea. Paul and the other people on the ship could not see land anywhere. All they could see was the water around them. And all they could hear was the splish-splash of the little waves hitting against the sides of the big boat.

Then one day, the wind began to blow harder and harder. (Turn on fan. Make wind noises.) The waves splashed higher and higher. The waves rocked the ship up and down and from side to side. (Rock back and forth.) SPLASH! CRASH! (Spray water from squirt bottle.) The waves splashed high in the air and into the ship. The

waves almost knocked the ship over on its side! BIG dark clouds covered the sky. Rain came pouring down. (Pat ground.) It was VERY DARK. No one could see the stars at night or the sun during the day. Everyone on the ship was afraid! They thought they were going to drown! (Turn fan off.) But God sent an angel to Paul. The angel told Paul that God would keep everyone on the ship safe.

Paul cared about the people on the boat. He gathered everyone together. He said, "Don't be afraid. Last night God sent an angel to tell me that God will take care of all of us. Cheer up! Have some food to eat!" Paul trusted God. He said, "I KNOW that God will do what He says He is going to do." The people began to feel hopeful. They were not as scared! Everyone ate some food.

Day after day, the wind kept blowing the ship harder and harder. (Turn on fan. Make wind noise.) Early one morning, the sailors saw land! They got ready to sail to the beach. But the big strong waves pushed the ship into some sand just under the water. CRASH! The ship broke into pieces. It began to sink! So all the people jumped into the water. Some people started swimming. (Pretend to swim.) Other people grabbed pieces of the broken ship and floated. Every person landed on the beach. They were safe on a little island! (Turn fan off.)

God had kept His promise. He had taken care of everyone on the ship. Paul must have been glad to tell the others how God keeps His promises. And the people on the boat must have been glad Paul had shown them God's care and love. But the story doesn't stop there.

Paul was given a house to live in right away! Paul invited lots of people to his house. He wanted to begin telling them about Jesus as soon as he could.

For two years, Paul invited people into his house. He taught them about Jesus. Many, many people heard the good news of Jesus. They became part of God's family, too!

God's Word & Me

Paul was ready to tell everyone he met the good news about Jesus! Even in the giant storm, Paul told people about Jesus' love. We can be ready to tell others about Jesus, too! Pray, Dear Jesus, please help us to be ready to tell everyone we meet about Your love and care. We love You. Amen.

Bible Story Center for older children · acts 27:1-28:31



Collect

Bible, fan, squirt bottle.

Introduction

When have you been in a storm? What happened during the storm? Invite children to respond. Today we're going to learn what happened when Paul and a ship full of people got caught in a great big storm on the sea.

Tell the Story

For over two years, Paul has been a prisoner. But now he was finally on his way to Rome. He was FINALLY going to tell his story to Caesar himself—the mighty Roman ruler! Paul was traveling with some friends, other prisoners and soldiers and Julius, a Roman centurion, was in charge of Paul.

They made several stops along the way. All together, there were 276 crew members and passengers on the ship.

The ship stopped at a town called Fair Havens. The sailors and passengers were glad to go ashore. But every day that they waited in Fair Havens, the chance of facing stormy weather grew worse!

Paul tried to warn Julius and the ship's captain to stay at Fair Havens, but the ship's captain disagreed with Paul. "Fair Havens is not a good place to stay!" he said. "We should go to a town called Phoenix. We'll spend the winter there." Julius listened to the confident captain and told him to set off for Phoenix.

At first the calm sea made it seem as if the captain had been right. A gentle wind blew behind the ship. (Turn fan on low.) But then the gentle winds became great big GUSTS! (Turn fan on high.) The waves grew larger and tossed the ship side-to-side. (Spray water and invite children to rock side to side.) Then ENORMOUS waves began to crash against the wooden ship. The powerful winds blew the ship farther and farther off course. The terrible storm raged as the passengers huddled together in fear. "We're all going to die!" cried the sailors. "Nothing can save us!"

In the middle of all this panic, Paul stood up. "I warned you not to leave Fair Havens," he said. "If you had listened to me, none of this would have happened. BUT-cheer up. I have good news! Keep up your courage, because no one will be hurt in this storm—only the ship will be destroyed." An angel of God had come and told Paul this good news. So Paul was eager to relay that message to the others. Amazing! the sailors may have thought. A promise from God that we won't die?! (Turn off fan.)

Then, at midnight on the fourteenth day of the storm, the sailors discovered that they were sailing in shallow water. They were nearing land! Not knowing if the land ahead was a smooth sandy beach or jagged rocks, the captain ordered his sailors to throw out the anchors. "That should slow us down," he said. "At daybreak we'll be able to see what lies ahead!"

Paul urged everyone on the boat to eat. He assured them again that no one would be hurt in the storm. He prayed over their food and gave thanks to God for all of the people on the ship. Soon they were all eating and feeling hopeful.

When it was fully light, the passengers and sailors looked anxiously out toward the land up ahead. There was a sandy beach! The passengers must have cheered! The captain ordered the sailors to cut the anchors loose and head for shore.

But just when it seemed as though the ship was going to land safely, the front of the ship hit a sandbar. It got stuck. As huge waves crashed against the stranded ship, it began to break apart.

"We'd better kill all the prisoners," said the soldiers. "Otherwise they'll swim to shore and escape." But the centurion Julius kept the soldiers from hurting Paul and the prisoners. God didn't save Paul and the other prisoners from the storm just to let them be killed by the soldiers—He had promised they would all live!

So one by one, everyone from the ship jumped into the cold, wild waves and floated on pieces of the ship if they could not swim. They floated or swam toward the shore and dragged themselves up onto the beach of the island of Malta. The ship was in pieces. The cargo had sunk. But not ONE person had been lost at sea, just as God had promised! Paul's encouraging words not only helped his traveling companions through a difficult time, but they also helped them learn about and trust in the power and care of the one true God! Paul was telling people about Jesus everywhere he went.

When Paul got to Rome, he was allowed to live in a house with a soldier guarding him. Right away, Paul invited the Jewish leaders to come to his house. There were many Jews living in Rome and Paul wanted to begin telling them about the Messiah, Jesus, as quickly as he could!

Paul greeted them politely and said, "Brothers, although I have not done anything against our people or our customs, I was arrested in Jerusalem and handed over to the Romans." And Paul told his story.

For two years, Paul stayed in his own house and welcomed all who came to see him. The Bible says that Paul taught about Jesus "boldy and without hindrance." Many people, both Jews and Gentiles, believed the good news.

Paul's enemies back in Jerusalem had thought that by arresting Paul they were going to stop his preaching, but Paul hadn't been slowed down by arguments, beatings, or even a shipwreck! No matter what happened, Paul was always prepared—always ready to tell others about Jesus!

God's Word & Me

Sometimes we think that teaching others about Jesus is something only missionaries do in faraway lands, but that's not true! We can all be ready to spread the good news about Jesus and help others believe in Him. We can pray for others and tell them what we know about Jesus. Listen to these words that Paul wrote. Read or ask a child to read Philippians 2:15-16 aloud.

- Why are people who tell about Jesus like stars? (Stars give light to help people see. When we tell about Jesus, we help people "see" the best way to live.)
- What are some ways we can shine like stars to help other people come to know Jesus? (Be kind to others. Help others. Talk to people we know about Jesus. Invite them to church. Obey parents.)
- What is the "word of life" this verse talks about? (The good news that we can be saved and have eternal life because of Jesus.)
- What are some ways we can make ourselves ready to tell others about Jesus? (Pray. Read Bible. Attend church. Memorize Bible verses.) Pray with children, asking Jesus to help them to always be ready to tell others the good news in every situation.



Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus' love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

Game Center

for younger children · Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bible, Lesson 10 Pattern Page (p. 182), transparency, overhead projector, butcher paper, markers or paint, masking tape, star stickers, animal stickers, blindfold (bandanna, t-shirt, scarf, etc.).

Prepare

Copy Pattern Page to the transparency. Using an overhead projector, enlarge and project Pattern Page. Trace onto butcher paper. (Optional: Sketch camp scene free-hand onto butcher paper.) Color or paint the Nighttime Camp Picture. Tape scene to wall at children's height. Prepare two pictures if you plan to divide a large group into two.

Do

1. Children line up approximately five feet (1.5 m) from Nighttime Camp Picture. Give each child a star sticker. Blindfold the first child in line. The child walks to the picture and sticks a star on it. The child takes off his

or her blindfold to see where the star landed, and then everyone shouts the Bible verse.

2. Play until every child has taken a turn. If time permits, play a second round using animal stickers.



Talk About

• We're having fun sticking stars onto our Nighttime Camp Picture. Have you ever looked at the stars at night with your mom or dad or grandma or grandpa? What do stars do? (They shine. They give us light. They help us see.)

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children: "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

- Our Bible tells us, "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus." When we show God's love and tell the good news about Jesus, we're like night lights that help people see in the dark. We are shining like stars, helping people know about Jesus' love.
- Let's ask Jesus to help us shine like stars by loving people and telling them about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear Jesus, we love You. Please help us to be like shining stars so people know about Your love! Amen.

For Older Children

Number different areas of the Nighttime Camp Picture. (Tent = 100 points, tree = 200 points, sky = 1,000, etc.) Divide group into two teams. Children play the game in the same way, but each team scores points depending on location of their stickers. Team with the most points wins that round.

Game Center



for older children · Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bible, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, construction paper, stop watch or watch with second hand.

Do

1. Distribute construction paper to children. Ask, **What kinds or categories of people could you talk to about Jesus?** (Parents. Brothers. Sisters. Older neighbors. Younger kids. Grandparents. Grocery store workers.) As children name specific categories, write each on a separate sheet of paper. Compile a list on one sheet for your own reference. Continue until

there is one paper for each child, repeating categories if needed.

2. Play a game like Cakewalk. Lay category papers in a circle on the floor. Play "Spread the Good News" as children move around the circle. After 15 to 20 seconds, stop the music. When



the music stops, each child stands on the paper closest to him or her. Call out a category from your list. Children standing on that paper say something they can tell that person about Jesus. If child needs help thinking of things to tell others, ask the questions in the Talk About section. Repeat game as time permits, calling out a different category for each round.

Talk About

- Who is Jesus? What did He do for all people? Why is that important? What is the most important thing you know about Jesus?
- When did you first learn about Jesus? Who talked to you about Jesus?
- What are some things you could tell others if they asked you about Jesus? (Jesus loves me. Jesus forgives me. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus wants everyone to believe in Him. He wants to be everyone's friend.)
- What are some other ways we can tell people about Jesus? (Show a DVD about Jesus. Answer questions

God's Word

"Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life."
Philippians 2:15-16

For Younger Children: "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus."

God's Word & Me

Every day I can be ready to tell about Jesus and His love.

Missions Focus

What are some things missionaries do to get ready to tell about Jesus?

What are some of the different ways missionaries help people learn about Jesus' love?

What are some countries in the world to which you know missionaries have gone?

about Jesus. Tell what you have learned from reading the Bible or from Sunday School. Give a book about a Bible story. Write a letter about when you chose to believe in Jesus. Invite people to church. Be kind and loving to everyone.) Lead children in prayer, asking Jesus to help them to share the good news with others.

For Younger Children

Place papers on floor in a circle. Draw a stick figure labeled "Jesus" on the paper. Children walk around circle as music plays. When the music stops, child closest to paper labeled "Jesus" says one thing he or she knows about Jesus.

for younger children · Acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

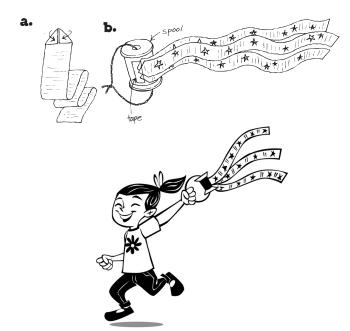
Bible, crepe paper in a variety of colors, string, star stickers, tape, scissors, measuring stick, for each child—one large plastic or wooden thread spool; optional—2-inch (5-cm) cardboard paper tube.

Prepare

Cut crepe paper into 1-yard (.9-m) lengths—three for each child. Cut string into 18-inch (45.5-m) lengths—one for each child.

Do

- 1. Give each child three lengths of crepe paper. Child decorates crepe paper lengths with star stickers as desired. Child folds one end of each streamer into a point (see sketch a).
- 2. Child tapes each streamer point securely onto spool and then threads string through center of spool. (Optional: Use cardboard tube instead of spool.) Help each child tie a knot to secure.
- 3. Child holds string handle to wave spool through the air, moving streamers.



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Talk About

- I see lots of stars on our streamers. Tell me about a time you have looked at the stars. What did you notice about the stars?
- The Bible tells us, "Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus." When we show God's love and tell the good news about Jesus, we're like little lights that show people the way to Jesus. We are shining like stars!
- Let's ask God to help us shine like stars by loving people and telling them about Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to be like shining stars so people know about Your love! In Jesus' name, amen.

For Older Children

Using markers, children write, "Shine like stars" or other verse phrases on their crepe paper streamers.

Collect

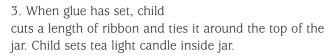
Bible, newspaper, glitter, several shoeboxes, baby food jars, small star stickers, glue in shallow containers, paint-brushes, ribbon, scissors, tea light candles.

Prepare

Cover work area with newspaper. Pour glitter into shoeboxes.

Do

- 1. Give each child a jar. Child places star stickers as desired on outside of jar. Child paints a layer of glue all over outside surface of the jar.
- 2. Child then lays jar on its side in shoebox and rolls jar to cover it in glitter. Child shakes excess glitter off jar over shoebox.



Talk About

- Tell me about a time you have looked at the stars. What did the sky look like? The darker the sky, the better we can see the stars. Why do you think a person who tells about Jesus is like a star? Just like stars help people see, telling people about Jesus helps them "see" the best way to live.
- Philippians 2:15-16 tells us, "Shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life." How can you or a friend hold out the word of life? (Stick up for someone who needs a friend. Say good things instead of making fun of someone. Tell about Jesus.)
- When we show God's love and tell the good news about Jesus, the Bible says we're shining like stars!



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• Let's think of one way we could shine like a star this week. Pray briefly, asking God's help in "shining" by loving others and telling about Jesus.

For Younger Children

Provide dark colored construction paper. Children place star stickers on paper. Cut large star shapes from paper and hang from ceiling.

Worship Center

acts 27:1-28:31

Collect

Bibles, *Rock-Solid Followers* CD-ROM and CD player, song charts (pp. 246-247), four cardboard or paper stars, marker, tape, strips of paper, hat or bowl, butcher paper, world map or globe.

Prepare

Number each star—5, 10, 15 and 20. Tape the stars around the room. Write different actions (jumping jacks, spin around, high-five, touch toes, moo like a cow, etc.) on separate strips of paper. Place the strips in a hat or bowl. On butcher paper, draw lines. (Choose a country to which your church is connected in some way and then draw as many lines needed to spell the country. For example, you would draw eight blanks for the country, Tanzania.) Display world map. (Optional: Print and enlarge map from CD-ROM.)

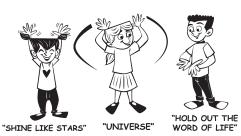
Team Game

As "Spread the Good News" plays, children walk around the room. After 15-20 seconds, stop the song. When the song stops, children race to touch the closest star near them. Pick a strip of paper from the hat. Call out the action. All children perform the action as many times as the number on the star they are touching.

Bible Verse Game

Repeat Philippians 2:15-16 aloud with children. Invite children to suggest motions for each word or phrase of the Bible verse (see sketch). Invite one child to lead each motion at the front of the group. Child leads group in doing the motion as they say the appropriate word or phrase. Chil-

dren lead group in repeating the verse and doing motions several times.



Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "I'm Keepin' My Eyes on Jesus," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.

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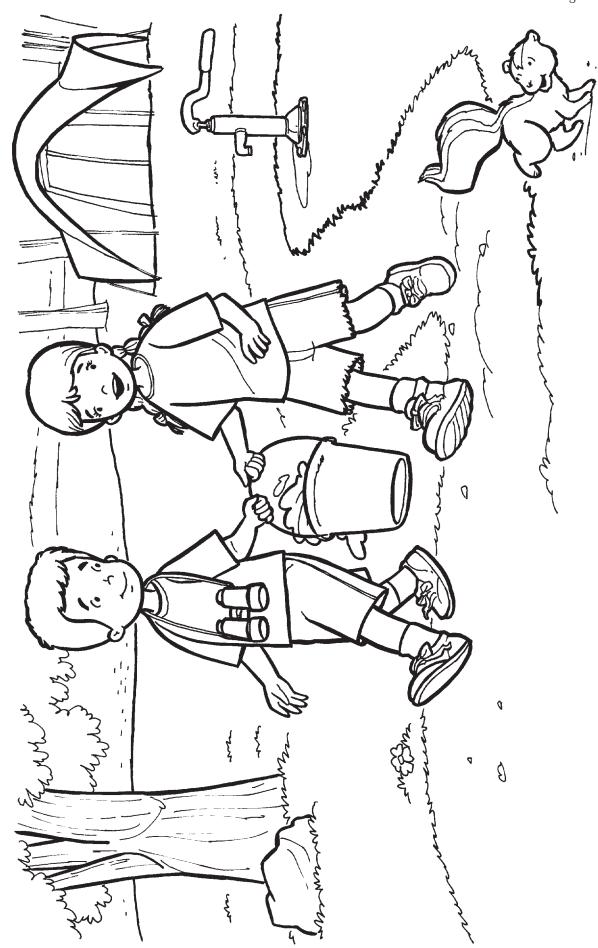
Worldwide Prayer

This week we are going to pray for a specific country. We are going to play a game to find out what country it is. Show prepared butcher paper. Children guess letters to fill in the blanks to spell the country you have chosen. Once children have guessed the correct country, show them where it is located on a world map or globe. Lead children in praying for the people from that that country and the missionaries serving in that country.

Song

You, or another leader, lead children in singing "Spread the Good News," adding motions and/or clapping if desired.





"Shine like stars as you tell the good news of Jesus." (See Philippians 2:15–16.) Who can you show Jesus' love to this week?

Constellation Connection!

Carry down each letter to the next connected star to complete Philippians 2:15-16.

