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An introduction to the *First Steps* syllabus, including hints and tips for running lessons, can be found in the file 'First Steps introduction.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: First Steps* CD-ROM.

A list of all activity materials, including photographs, can be found in the file 'Activity materials.pdf' on the *Teaching Little Ones: First Steps* CD-ROM.

More information about teaching Sunday School to young children can be found in Stephanie Carmichael's book, *Their God is so BIG*, available from Matthias Media. For more details visit www.matthiasmedia.com.au.

God says that he loves us

Bible reference... Psalm 145:17

Lesson aim... To tell the children that God says that he loves us.

Main message... God says that he loves us.

Story card... Print page 48 and colour.

Introduction...

Talk about books. “Do you look at books when you’re at home? Do you have a favourite book? There are lots and lots of books, aren’t there! We’re going to talk about a book today. It’s a special book.” [Show the children a bible] “This is God’s book, the Bible.”

Story....

“There are lots of books,
but the best book is
God’s book, the Bible.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he made us.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he loves us.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he loves us lots and lots.
Thank you God.”

Pray...

“Thank you God for your book, the Bible. Thank you that you love us lots and lots. Amen.”

Activity suggestions...

1. *Book collage*

Before the lesson, print pages 49 and 50 (preferably onto different coloured pages) for each child, and cut out the 'books' on page 49 and the flower book on page 50, and place them in an envelope for each child. Cut out the two other 'books' on page 50 but you keep these until needed in the lesson. You will need a piece of A3, or similar sized, paper for each child. In the lesson, the children paste their 'books' (from the envelope) on their page (the children can use the glue if you wish as it doesn't matter where the books are pasted). Once completed, the teacher pastes the books from page 50 somewhere on each child's page so that they can be clearly seen.

2. *Bag of books*

Use pages 51 and 52 as guidelines. You will need blank A4 paper (could be different coloured sheets if you wish) to cut up into thirds and quarters, following guidelines on pages 51 and 52. Take a few A4 thirds or quarters, fold in the middle and staple them all together (covering the ends of the staples for safety) to make little booklets. Each child will need about three or four little booklets. Print page 47, cut out captions and paste one on a paper bag for each child. In the lesson, the children draw pictures/scribble in their little books. Once completed, the books go into their paper bag.

If you want to lengthen the activity, the children could decorate the paper bag either with stickers or drawing/scribbling on the bag. If they decorate the bag, it might be preferable to paste the caption on after their decoration so that it isn't covered.

3. *Booklet*

Before the lesson, print page 53 for each child and fold horizontally and then vertically to make a booklet. 'There are lots of books' is the front page. In the lesson the children 'colour' the pictures or they can take it home 'as is' (ie. in black and white).

4. *Story card*

Print page 48 for the children to colour in the pictures.

God's book, the Bible,
is the best book.

In God's book, the Bible,
God says that he loves us.

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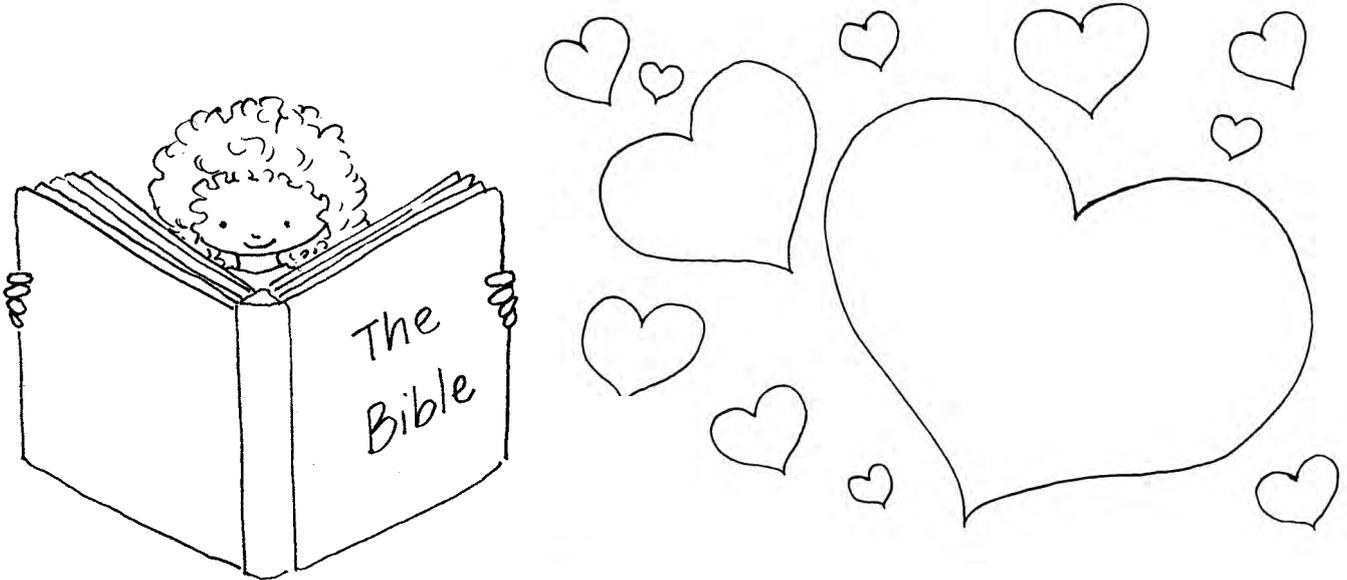
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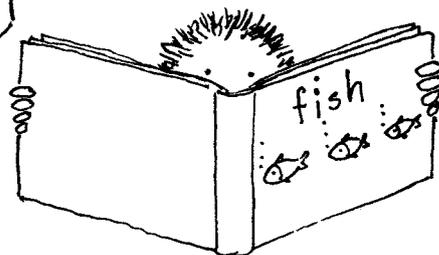
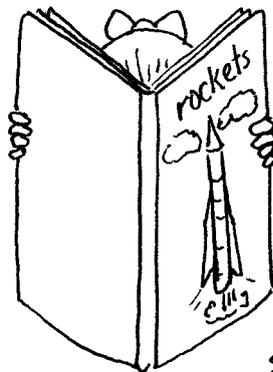
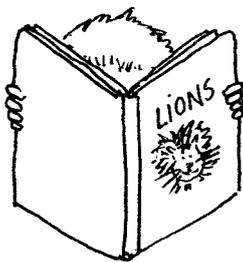
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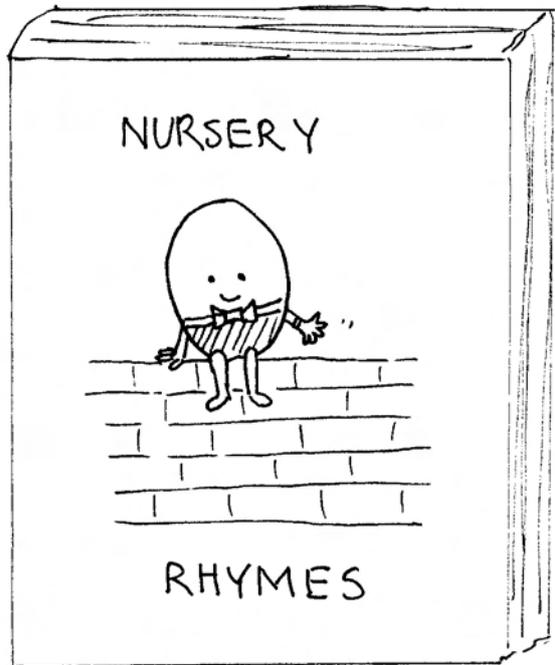
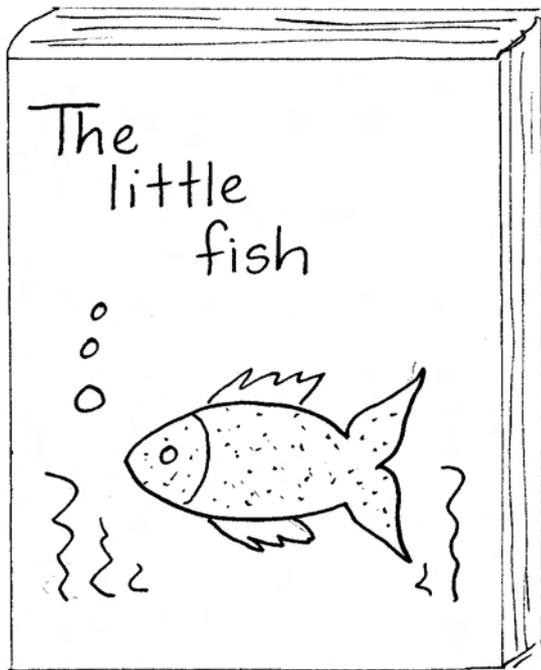
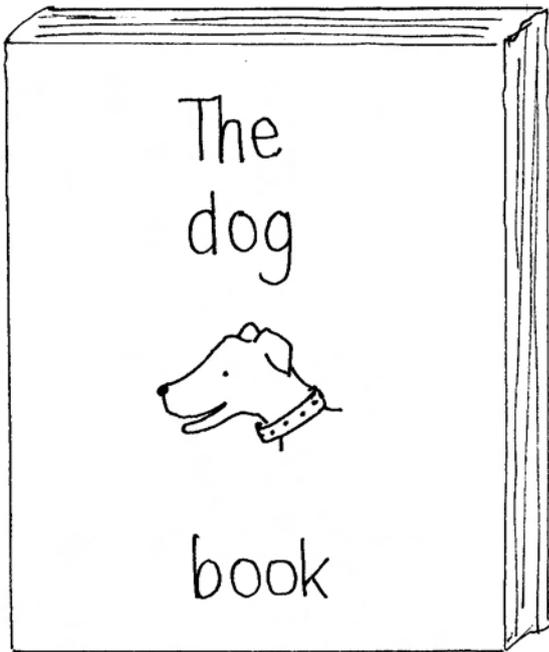
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God says that he loves us.

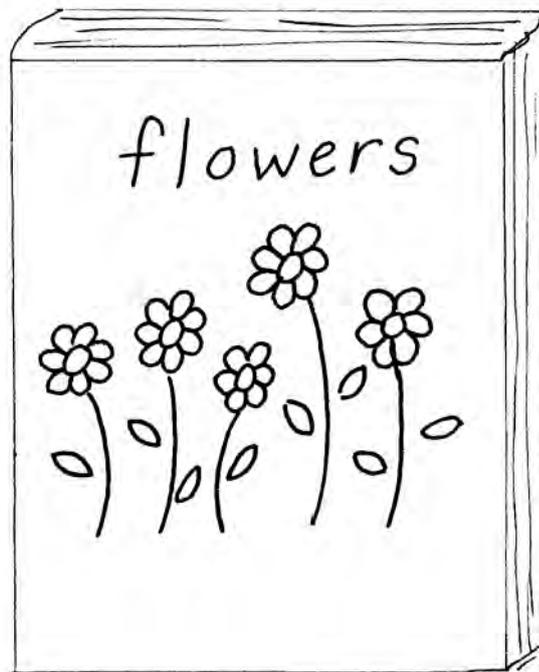
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“There are lots of books,
but the best book is
God’s book, the Bible.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he made us.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he loves us.
In God’s book, the Bible,
God says that he loves us lots and lots.
Thank you God.”



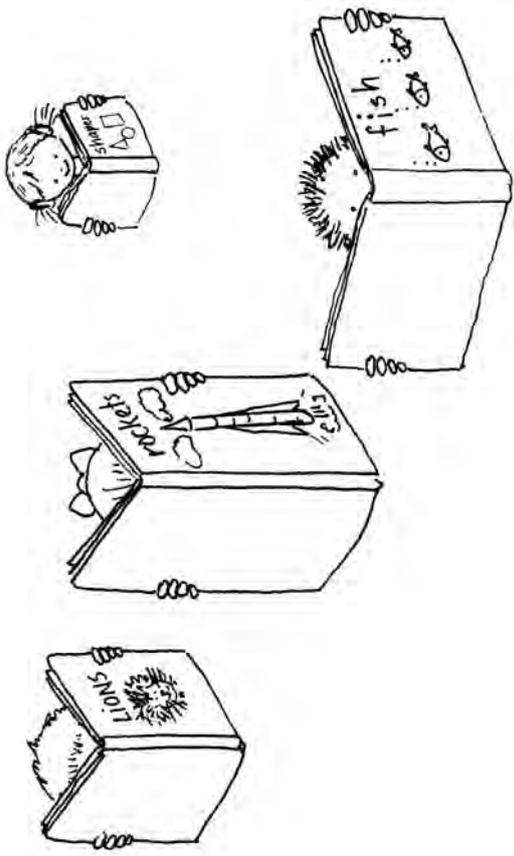




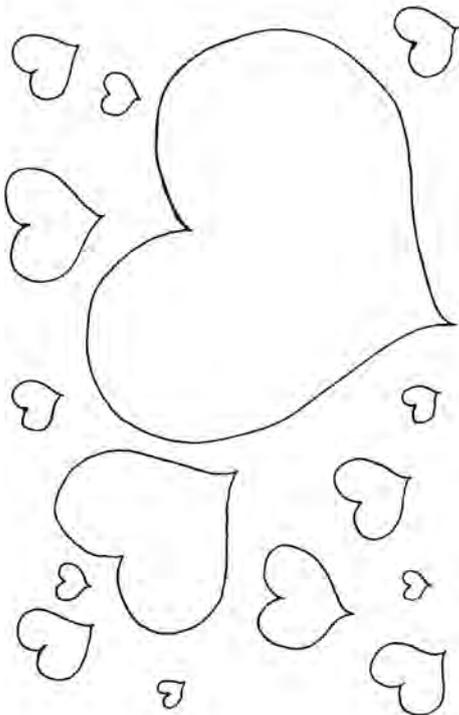
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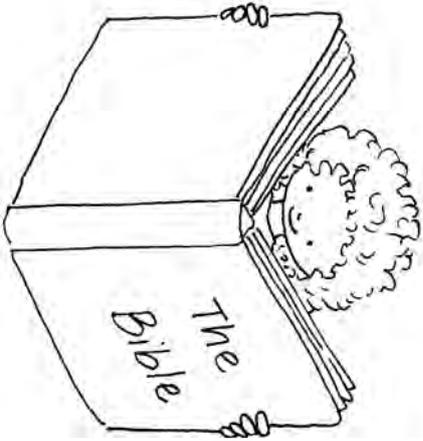
There are lots of books



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The best book is God's book,
the Bible.



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