



CASTLETOWN

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

WHERE CHRIST IS KING OF KIDS!

A 5 DAY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES

CASTLETOWN

...Where Christ Is King Of Kids

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CASTLETOWN

...Where Christ Is King Of Kids!

GLORIOUS and majestic are his deeds.

To him belongs eternal **PRAISE**.

GREAT are the works of the **LORD**.

Psalm 111



Perhaps it is a knight in shining armor, thundering up on a magnificent charger, wielding a blazing sword. Or maybe it is a mighty castle with banners snapping in the wind. Could it be the image of a lady in a flowing gown and pointy hat, trailing veils behind her? Is it the jester in varicolored costume, the peasant behind his plow? Whatever attracts us to the age of castles and kings, this dim and distant era holds an undeniable fascination for scholars and children alike. Journey back in time to a Renaissance village where Jesus is Lord and God reigns on His Throne! It will be a week of fun and festivity, of faith and freedom.

**CHRIST IS KING!
COME TO THE CASTLE!**



MAKING MERRY!

CASTLETOWN is a Christ centered five day Vacation Bible School. The Renaissance theme captures the imaginations of each participant. Enjoy the company of friends.

CASTLETOWN students spend forty five minutes in each of five Bible Stations on separate days. Costumed **Castletown** leaders treat the young knights and maidens to an assortment of unique Renaissance experiences.

CASTLETOWN features an assortment of fifteen minute daily activities. Gather at **Royal Court Opening**. Dine at **The Medieval Banquet—A Most Honorable Feast** and play with Jester Bumble at **Castletown Festival Games**. Listen to a Chip and Clare Conley adventure *The Legacy of Shadow Castle* told by **The Story Weaver**. Sing praise songs with the **Traveling Troubadours**. Design a personal Christian Coat of Arms at Heraldry College.

CASTLETOWN offers preschool curriculum for a young group named **Shining Hearts**. Students (*ages 4-5*) participate in many of the same activities as older students with a special team of teachers. Suggestions are included for Nursery **Sweet Hearts** to arrange a safe cheerful spot for babies and toddlers of teachers and helpers.



LET'S GET READY!

*There are three types of people represented in Medieval life;
those who fight, those who work and those who pray.*

THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE A GUIDELINE. Be creative! Build an exciting Vacation Bible School using **CASTLETOWN** Bible stories and activities. Teach God's Word from your perspective.

CASTLETOWN IS AN ACTIVITY BASED EVENT FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE SIX STUDENTS. Involve grade 7-12 youth and college students as helpers.

STUDENT GROUPS ARE COLOR CODED. Students become Christ Crusaders in an imaginary Renaissance village. Individual groups display color coded name tags shaped like medieval shields. Students stay in the same group all week.

BIBLE STATION TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECORATE AND PREPARE THEIR AREA. The station is repeated daily to a new group. As age levels change, adjust the teaching activities. A new student group arrives each day. Accompany the assigned group wherever they go. They must have an adult with them.

ACTIVITY TEACHERS SEE ALL STUDENTS EACH DAY. Student groups travel to music, snack or special activity. These daily teachers prepare five separate activities before the week begins.

PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED. Give supply bills to the director or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts for churches, catalog purchases and scrap materials from backyards. Craft projects may be purchased directly through **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** at reasonable prices. Use the church tax exemption number.

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Make as many copies as needed for local church use. Give interested folks our order form, mailing address and toll free number (1-888-CEM-LIFE). Your cooperation allows **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** to continue production of exciting, inspiring, positive Christian programs at a low cost to churches across the nation. Copyright-All Rights Reserved protected.



THE GOOD KNIGHT!



THE LORD IS MY ROCK AND MY FORTRESS!

*Become the Director of a Vacation Bible School event your community will remember for years. Take young students on a Quest to five Renaissance Bible Stations and a variety of Middle Ages based activity stations where they discover Christ is King of Kids. Divided into reasonable tasks, this five day school is easily completed by a dedicated teaching team under the direction of **The Good Knight** (that's you!). The church building will sparkle with the excitement of a unique castle and village set in the heart of the days of kings and their servants.*

CHARACTER AND COSTUME. Become The Good Knight. Have fun dressing in Renaissance clothing. Follow curriculum directions for costuming and wear a long tunic with crest, tights and Robin Hood styled hat or wear the flowing robes of a Renaissance Lady complete with pointed hat and wimple under the chin.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY. This event must be a team effort. Never apologize when asking for help. Trust the staff to carry out their tasks.

PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH. Statements like “*We can’t do it*”, “*We never did it this way*”, “*There is no money*”, or “*No one will teach*” have no place in this program. If the Shining Knight’s attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

PRAY! Pray for the staff, the students and the set up. Take each detail before the Lord and then—Relax!!!



PLAN! Read this workbook and note areas requiring special attention. List details you must handle personally. Meet with the staff.

ADAPT! When it is necessary to adapt **CASTLETOWN** to accommodate your local church, complete those changes during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

SET UP! Give the team adequate time to set up their activity stations. Decorate during the week prior to Vacation Bible School making sure that everything is in place for opening day.

STAFF PRAYER. Plan a five minute session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend appreciate the “upward boost”.

PRESCHOOL PREPARATION. Give the **Shining Heart Preschool** team copies of decorating ideas, teacher information and Bible Station lesson plans designed for older students. Speak to activity teachers to be sure projects are appropriate for this age group. Eliminate complicated or frightening activities. Choose age appropriate craft projects from S&S arts and crafts catalog or create your own projects using local craft store supplies.

PURCHASE OR MAKE THANK YOU GIFTS FOR STAFF MEMBERS. There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back for more next year. Thank them privately and publicly.

CLEAN UP. When **OPEN HOUSE** is over, clean up begins. **CASTLETOWN** is not complete until the church is in perfect order. Encourage staff to remove their props immediately. Stay to help!



DECORATING CASTLETOWN



Design a simple yet colorful Renaissance interior decoration. When students and guests attend CASTLETOWN...WHERE CHRIST IS KING OF KIDS, they should enter a Medieval castle and manor atmosphere filled with flags, banners, pewter, candlelight and knightly accessories.

Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Follow curriculum suggestions or develop your own classic Renaissance style. Teachers in individual activity areas decorate their rooms. Special attention is given to the KING'S CASTLE Opening area.

STEP ONE: Before purchasing props, ask friends, family, church and community members if you can borrow items. Explain the program and ask for additional suggestions. Many attics, basements, old barns and sheds are filled with items that make perfect accessories in every area of Vacation Bible School.

SIGNS: Display large signs outside each activity area. Print memory verses on muslin fabric banners. Use brown paper, black markers to print messages from and about the King throughout all general areas. Consider these messages:

CHRIST IS KING!
 A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD!
 OUR GOD REIGNS!
 I HAVE COME THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE....JESUS
 WHOEVER CALLS UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED!
 CROWN HIM KING OF KINGS!



**CROWN HIM LORD OF LORDS!
IN GOD WE TRUST!**

CARDBOARD FIGURES: Make life sized figures from cardboard or posterboard. Use the patterns included with the curriculum or draw your own. Make transparencies with the church copier and place them on an overhead projector. Project images onto large pieces of cardboard. Trace and color with tempera paint and/or markers. Cut out figures with a utility knife. Find more patterns in children's coloring books. Check out books on the Middle Ages at www.doverpublications.com for inexpensive resources.

PROPS: Find an assortment of simple items to create a castle and village atmosphere. Here are a few suggestions but keep your eyes open for other items available in your local community.

Just about everything was made from wood or stone. Even kitchen and tableware was carved from wood so display wooden bowls, buckets and woven baskets. Stack large rocks and small pebbles in strategic areas. Build small stone walls.

Wooden benches	Lanterns
Wind Chimes	Peacocks
Rag Rugs	Pewter Candle Holders
Pewter Plates/Cups	Old Wooden Tables
Stools	Stacked Wood
Wild Flowers	Old Tools
Old Chests/Trunks	Old Pottery/Crocks
Garlands/Greenery	Bales of Hay

Hang colorful banners and flags in all public areas. These can be purchased or handmade. Some flags can be made from posterboard and trimmed with fringe to keep costs down. Poly plastic Pennants, Plastic Fringe Pennants and Metallic Foil Fringe Curtains are available through ORIENTAL TRADING CO., 800-228-2269 or www.orientaltrading.com.

Make oversized cardboard spray painted golden crosses with gems glued in an attractive fashion. These crosses may be displayed in many areas. It was popular at the time.



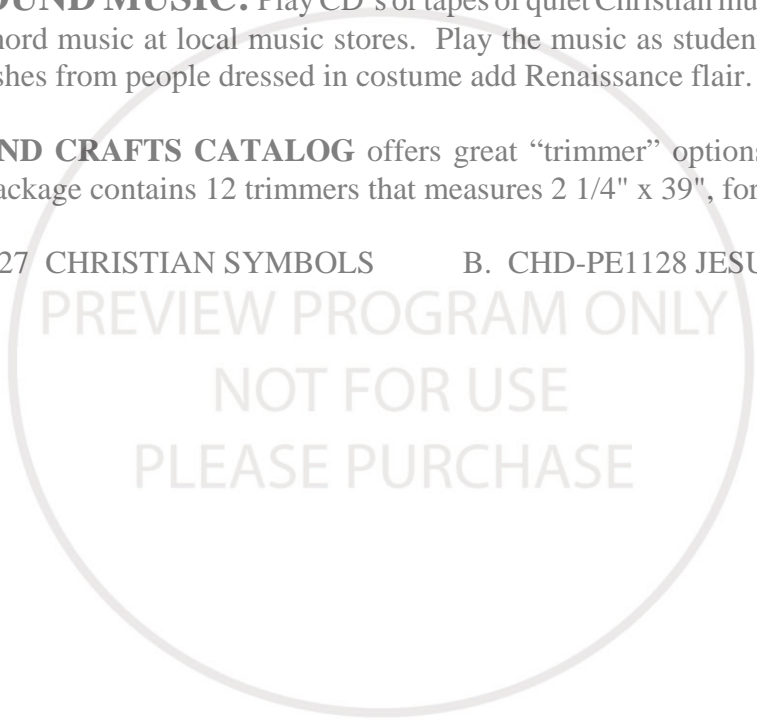
Castle decorations should be simple and colorful. Purchase contact paper resembling stone and cover large flats of cardboard. These flats may then be placed on stage or in activity areas to resemble castle walls. Consider some of the following ideas for the King’s Castle Opening:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Large Throne | Spotlights on the floor |
| Large green plants/trees | Arch covered with lights/greenery |
| Stone backdrop | Banners/Flags |
| Large Crown on Throne | “Christ Is King” Banner |

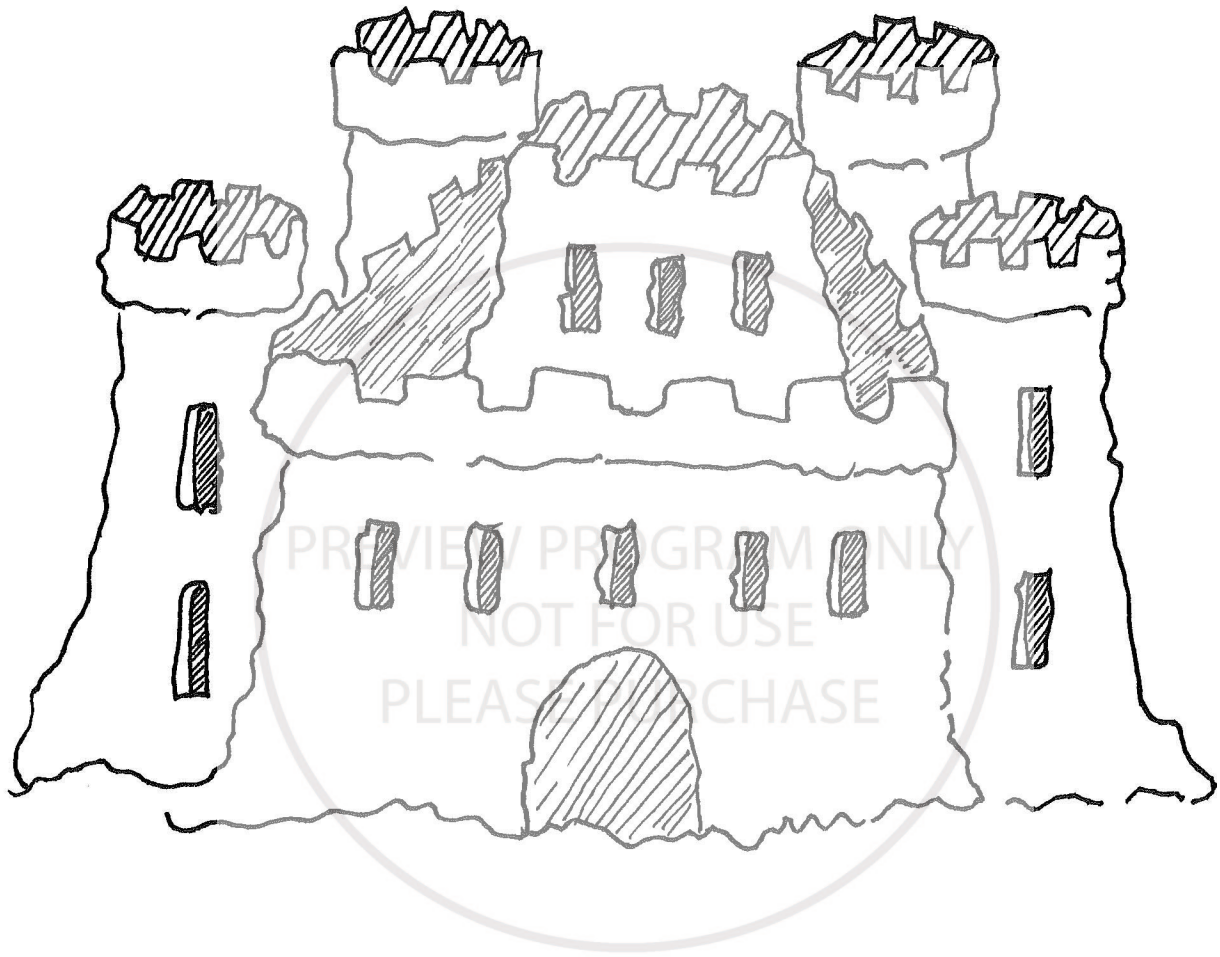
BACKGROUND MUSIC: Play CD’s or tapes of quiet Christian music. Look for music box or harpsichord music at local music stores. Play the music as students arrive and leave. Trumpet flourishes from people dressed in costume add Renaissance flair.

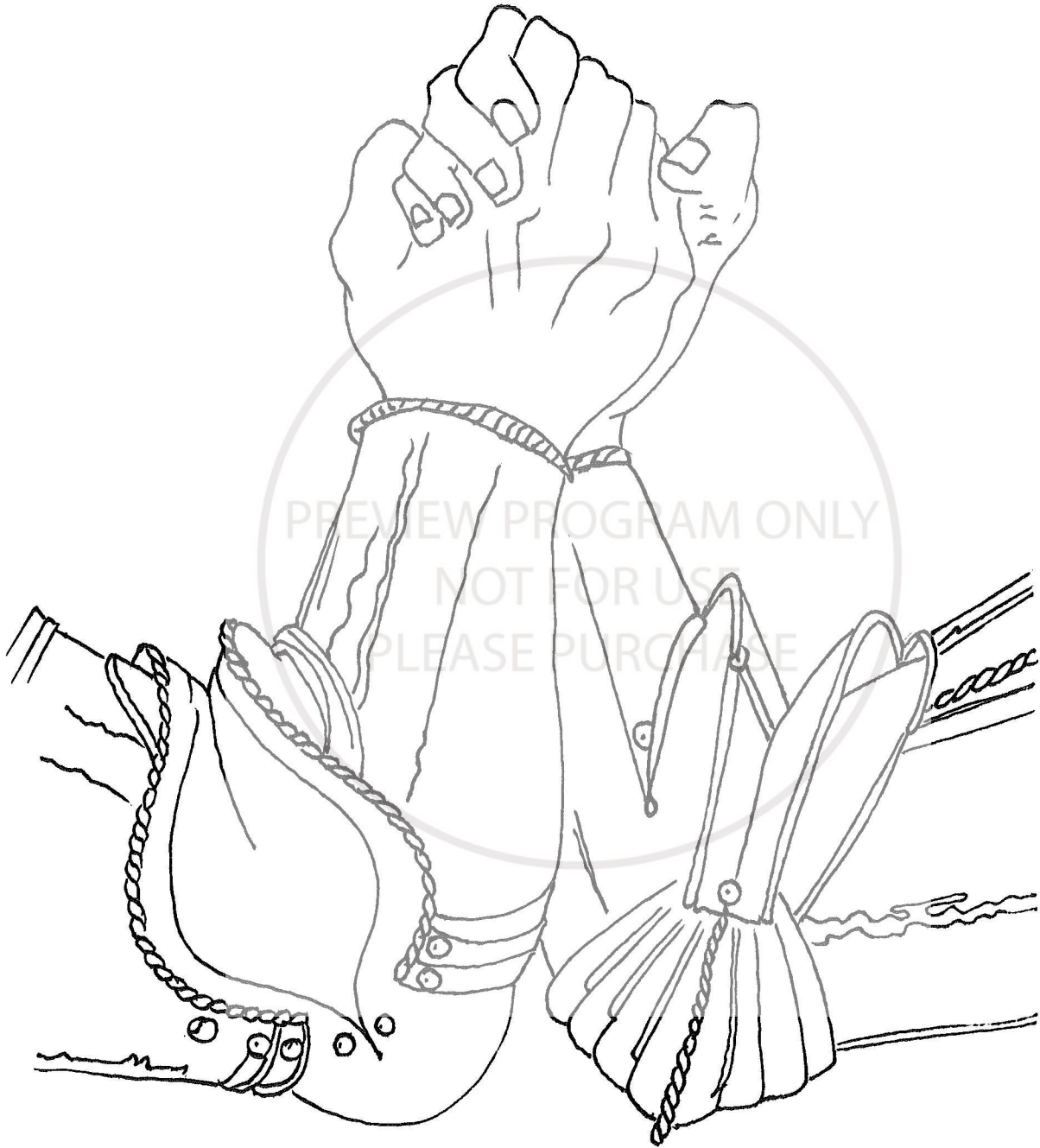
S&S ARTS AND CRAFTS CATALOG offers great “trimmer” options that fit the castle theme. Each package contains 12 trimmers that measures 2 1/4" x 39", for a total of 39 feet.

- A. CHD-PE1127 CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS B. CHD-PE1128 JESUS’ NAMES



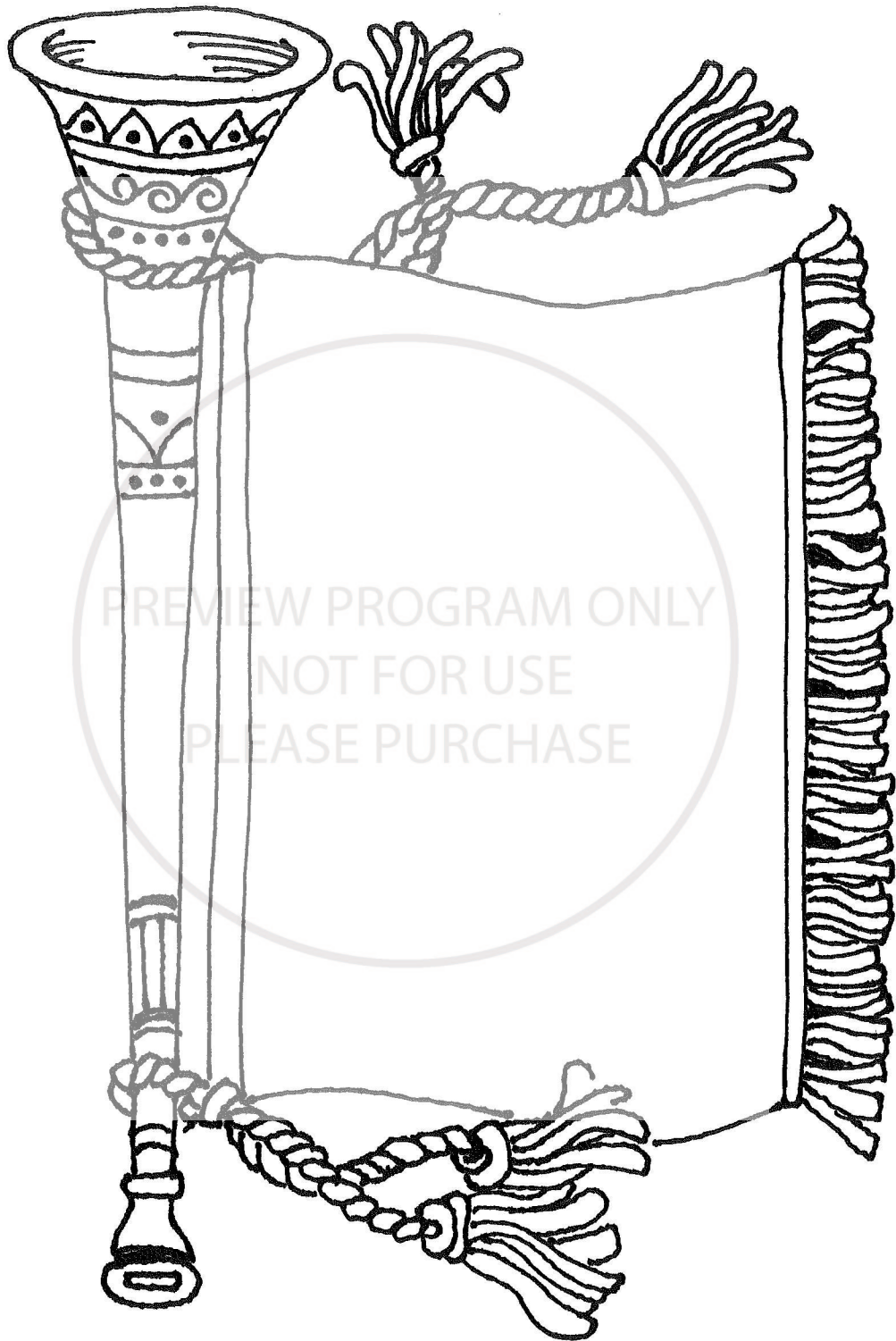




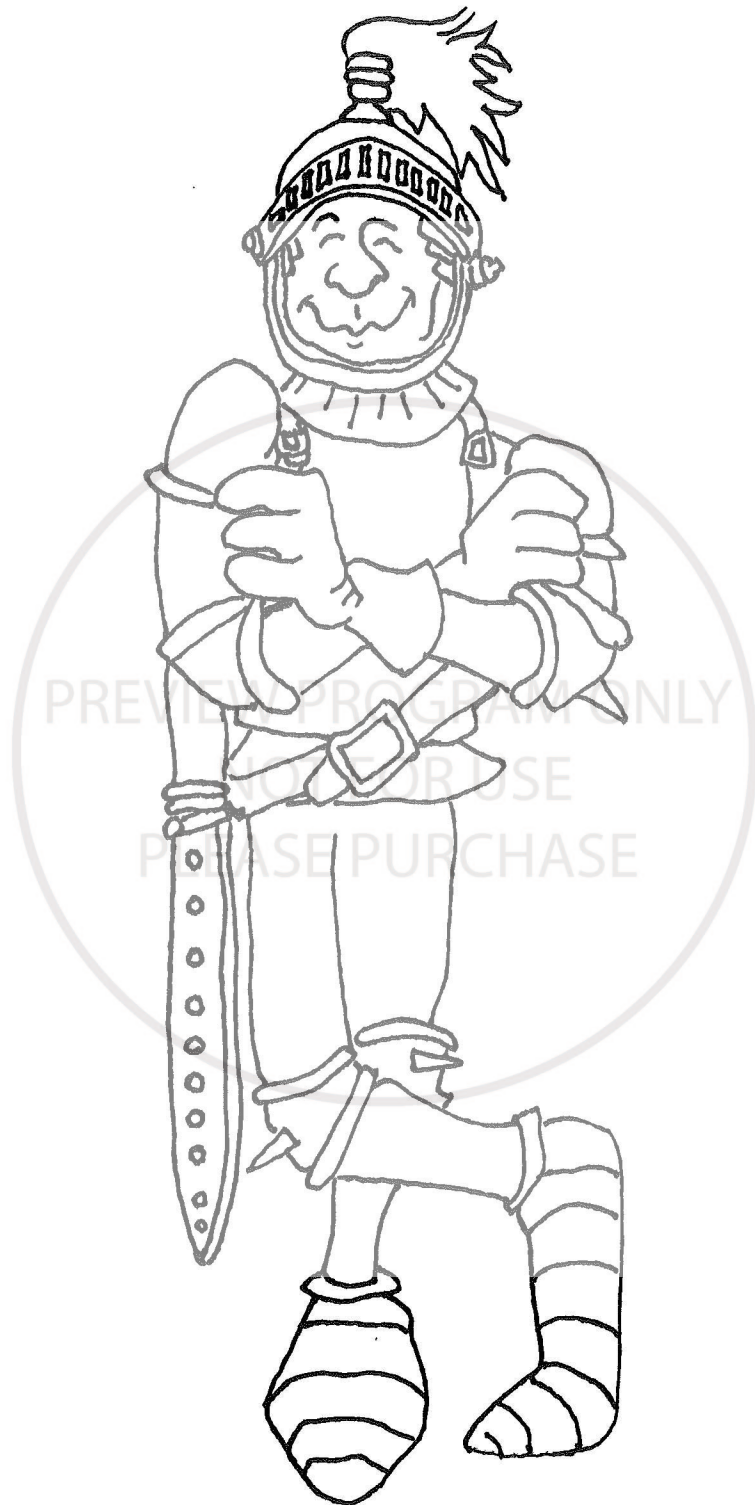


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**USE THIS KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR AS A GRAPHIC MASCOT
ENLARGE IT OR PLACE IT ON STATIONERY
A LIFE SIZED KNIGHT MAY BE MADE FROM CARDBOARD OR PLYWOOD**



S&S arts and crafts catalog offers decorative items at excellent prices. For a free master copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. For your convenience, items may be ordered through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES at 1-88-CEM-LIFE. Here are a few suggestions from the master catalog (Prices may change):

MARDI GRAS FAN-TAG (Drama Smiling Mask with tissue fan in purple, green and yellow)
Printed 2 sides. Size: 25". RMC-PY 282 \$4.99 EACH

FIREPLACE. Easy to assemble. Corrugated cardboard sturdy enough to use year after year.
Size: 38" x 30" x 6". For decorative purposes only! Not fireproof! RMC-PE1013 \$14.99

SPRING DECORATING KIT. All the world's anew. Includes: 8-16" flowers, 3-67" Art Tissue tulips, 3-24" Art Tissue butterflies, fourteen butterfly punch outs, 3/6 1/2" butterfly stringers, 8-16" songbird cutouts and 2-13" flower pot centerpieces. RMC-PY1243 \$59.99 per kit.

BUTTERFLY CUT OUTS: Seven per pack. Size: 5" to 12". Printed 2 sides.
RMC-PY271 \$1.99 per pack.

FLOWER CUT OUTS: Size: 16". Printed 2 sides. Four per pack.
RMC-PY343 \$3.99 per pack.

JOINTED AUTUMN TREE. Printed both sides. Wow! 4 feet tall! Make your own path way or orchard. This one is truly beautiful.
RMA-PY866. \$4.99 EACH.



Oriental Trading Company catalog offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. If you do not have their delightful free catalog, call toll free 1-800-228-2269. Order directly through the company. [Www.orientaltrading.com](http://www.orientaltrading.com). Prices may change.

POLYPLASTIC PENNANTS. Includes 48 12" x 18" pennants per string. 100 ft. \$7.95 EACH
KM-25/1010-NEON KM-25/DP150-MULTICOLOR
KM-25/DP150-E - RED/WHITE/BLUE

PLASTIC FRINGE PENNANTS. 12" X 100-FT. \$7.95 EACH
KM-25/1891 NEON KM-25/1571-RED/WHITE/BLUE
KM-25/1570-MULTICOLOR

METALLIC FOIL FRINGE CURTAINS. Poly bag with header. 72" x 96". \$7.95 EACH
KM-3/158-RAINBOW KM-26/4042-GREEN
KM-26/1759-PURPLE KM-26/1758-BLUE
KM-26/1755-GOLD KM-26/1756-SILVER
KM-26/1757-RED

FELT JESTER HAT. Multicolor with jingle bells. 5 ½" One size fits most.
KM-25/72 \$3.95 EACH

PLASTIC CRUSADER SET. (5 Pieces per set, poly bag with header)
KM-16/119 \$9.95 Set

PLASTIC ADJUSTABLE JEWELLED GOLD CROWN. Poly bag with header. 21 ½" One size fits most. Height 3". KM-25/867 \$2.49 EACH



IN THE KING'S SERVICE

*Staff choice will make or break CASTLETOWN.
Do NOT be satisfied with "any warm body".
Aim for the best people to fill each teaching spot.*

RECRUIT.

Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully—no sugar coating!!!

BULLETIN.

Include a worship folder recruitment insert for two or three Sundays. Give people with specific requests their place immediately. Explain the insert during worship announcement time dressed in Renaissance costume. Give this introductory effort the personal touch. (See Bulletin Insert sample.)



PICK AND CHOOSE.

For vacant positions, call people you know will do a good job. The Lord will honor your attempt to have the best staff possible. Pray about staff choices and if someone says "no", assume there is another person waiting to fill that place. Use young teens, older teens, men, women and senior citizens as staff members.



MEET THE KING'S VOLUNTEERS

PLAN ONE STAFF EVENING TO EXPLAIN
EXACTLY WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED.

Stress 100% attendance so no other meeting will be necessary.

SEAT STAFF ACCORDING TO WORK AREAS.

Distribute lesson plans to each group. Build in "chatter" time
to create excitement as teachers and helpers plan the week.

PREVIEW THE ENTIRE PROGRAM.

The staff needs an overview of all events taking place throughout the church.

BE AVAILABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS,
ASSIGN CLASSROOMS, GIVE INSPIRATION.

Be the person in charge—The Shining Knight!

AFTER THE MEETING,
THE SHINING KNIGHT'S ATTENTION
TURNS TO OTHER AREAS.

Trust the staff to carry out their responsibilities.

THE TELEPHONE IS THE STAFF LIFELINE.

Call the leader of each work area to verify progress.

Ask questions and check on how things are going.



CASTLETOWN

...WHERE CHRIST IS KING OF KIDS!

Come to the Castle! A Renaissance Kingdom where God Reigns.
Vacation Bible School has never been like this!



CASTLETOWN ASSIGNMENTS

Table with 3 columns: Task (e.g., REGISTRATION, ART CREW), Description (e.g., Help students sign in, Make and set up decorations), and Role (e.g., LEAD/HELP, VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS/DISK).

CASTLETOWN BIBLE STATION STAFF

Table with 3 columns: Station (e.g., CHANTICLEER CHAPEL, MASTER KEY ARMORY), Description (e.g., Peter's Quest For Truth, Paul's Quest For Strength), and Role (e.g., LEAD/HELP).

- I HAVE PROPS YOU CAN BORROW! JUST ASK ME!
I WILL DONATE SNACKS. TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED!
I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION. IT WILL BE WORTH IT!
I WILL PRAY FOR THE CASTLETOWN TEAM! I CAN DO IT!

NAME.....TELEPHONE.....

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES: TIME:
NEED MORE DETAILS? SEE THE GOOD KNIGHT!

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
CHRIST, THE KING OF KIDS, NEEDS YOU!
A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD!



GROUPING THE STUDENTS

CASTLETOWN is broadly graded.

The goal when grouping students is to provide a preschool program and five Bible Station groups of equal size.

SWEET HEART NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3): Nursery is separate from the rest of CASTLETOWN. Two choices are apparent when planning nursery: Will we open this for the community? Will we provide a babysitting service for our teaching staff? The choice depends upon whether you want a beehive of activity or a small group.

SHINING HEART PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5): Curriculum ideas give young student free time, short lessons based on older student lesson plans and optional involvement in daily activities.

COLOR CODE FOR EASY IDENTIFICATION.

1. SWEET HEART (BIRTH-AGE 3) NO COLOR NEEDED
2. SHINING HEART PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5): GREEN
3. JOYFUL HEART (KINDERGARTEN): GOLD
4. TRUE HEART (GRADE 1): RED
5. STEADFAST HEART (GRADE 2): WHITE
6. BRAVE HEART (GRADES 3-4): BLUE
7. LION HEART (GRADES 5-6): PURPLE



Overlap ages in any group. If twenty students are in one group and five in another, switch some students regardless of grade. Keep neighborhood friends together for comfort. Visiting cousins appreciate joining their family members in an otherwise unfamiliar situation.

GROUPING OPTION FOR SMALL CHURCHES

With twenty or less students and a few faithful teachers, consider running one CASTLETOWN Bible Station per day with all students in one group. The same teachers present a different station each day in the same teaching area decorated with the collective Renaissance themes. Crafts can be adapted and offered in a separate area. Smaller groups have the luxury of treating students to craft project times carried over from day to day. All students travel to fifteen minute activities together.



REGISTRATION TEAM

This team makes name tags and runs the registration table the first day of CASTLETOWN. The job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day of Vacation Bible School could be delayed as much as thirty minutes.

Mark registration tables with group colors, names and grades of student groups. Students line up at the appropriate table to receive a name tag.

PRE REGISTRATION. A registration card simplifies the first day by having name tags prepared for pre registered students. Register through the church newsletter, bulletin and take home forms. Telephone neighborhood families and visit nearby neighborhoods. Ask for name, grade or age, emergency telephone number and contact person. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address, parent names and specific information needed for the local church.

NAME TAGS give each CASTLETOWN group a name and color identity. Make name tags (*a shield shape works great*) in each group color. To preserve name tags, cover with clear contact paper. Pin tags to students using huge safety pins found in craft stores. Collect tags at day's end and give them to the next Bible Station teacher. Students pick up tags each day at The King's Castle Opening and meet their new teacher at the same time.



HATS are always a hit with elementary students. Consider making each girl a halo with curling ribbon cascading down the back. These are inexpensive and very popular. Use wired Christmas star garland as the base for an easy, sparkling halo.

Boys (**Girls too!**) may wear Robin Hood styled hats. See the easy pattern included.

Gold cardboard crowns may be purchased through Oriental Trading. Add a few acrylic "jewels" to each crown or make group color coded crowns from construction paper and print a message...I SERVE CHRIST THE KING OF KIDS.....(STUDENT NAME).



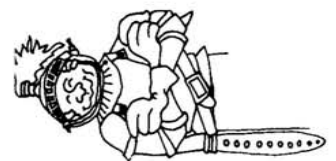
CASTLETOWN

STUDENT GROUPS	9:00-9:15	9:15-9:30	9:30-9:45	9:45-10:00	10:00-10:15	10:15-10:30	10:30-10:45	10:45-11:00	11:00-11:15	11:15-11:30
GREEN SHINING HEART PRESCHOOL ages 4-5	ROYAL COURT OPENING	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	STORY WEAVER	HERALDRY COLLEGE	TRAVELING TROUBADOURS	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	CLOSING
GOLD JOYFUL HEART Kindergarten	ROYAL COURT OPENING	W O R K S H O P	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	TRAVELING TROUBADOURS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	TRAVELING TROUBADOURS	STORY WEAVER	HERALDRY COLLEGE	CLOSING
RED TRUE HEART Grade 1	ROYAL COURT OPENING	TRAVELING TROU- BADOURS	HERALDRY COLLEGE	W O R K S H O P	HERALDRY COLLEGE	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	STORY WEAVER	CLOSING
WHITE STEADFAST HEART Grade 2	ROYAL COURT OPENING	HERALDRY COLLEGE	TRAVELING TROU- BADOURS	STORY WEAVER	W O R K S H O P	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	CLOSING
BLUE BRAVEHEART Grade 3-4	ROYAL COURT OPENING	STORY WEAVER	W O R K S H O P	R K S H O P	HERALDRY COLLEGE	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	HERALDRY COLLEGE	TRAVELING TROU- BADOURS	CLOSING
PURPLE LIONHEART Grade 5-6	ROYAL COURT OPENING	CASTLE FESTIVAL GAMES	STORY WEAVER	MEDIAVAL BANQUET SNACKS	HERALDRY COLLEGE	TRAVELING TROUBADOURS	W O R K S H O P	HERALDRY COLLEGE	O P	CLOSING

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

CASTLETOWN

BIBLE WORKSHOPS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CHAPEL	JOYFUL HEART	TRUE HEART	BRAVE HEART	LION HEART	STEADFAST HEART
TOWER OF POWER	TRUE HEART	JOYFUL HEART	LION HEART	STEADFAST HEART	BRAVE HEART
KING'S TREASURY	STEADFAST HEART	LION HEART	JOYFUL HEART	BRAVE HEART	TRUE HEART
PEASANT COTTAGE	BRAVE HEART	STEADFAST HEART	TRUE HEART	JOYFUL HEART	LION HEART
MASTER KEY ARMORY	LION HEART	BRAVE HEART	STEADFAST HEART	TRUE HEART	JOYFUL HEART



HEAR YE! HEAR YE! ...PUBLICITY

*Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School. Be clear and concise.
People must know WHAT is going on and WHEN it will be occurring.
Assign a specific team of adults to be in charge of publicity.*

CHURCH BULLETIN. Begin advertising for team members. Include reminders in the weekly bulletin until CASTLETOWN begins. Include registration forms.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER. Print quick catchy announcements and include registration forms in the newsletter. For example:

HEAR YE, HEAR YE...Vacation Bible School citizens of CASTLETOWN...Where Christ is King of Kids...are welcome to gather at The King's Castle in the Family Life Center to begin their five day quest to find Jesus, the Savior. All knights and maidens are invited to the Royal Court at 9:00 A.M. on the twenty fifth day of July in the year of our Lord 20.... and should arrange for their carriages to receive them at 11:45 A.M.

**Visit CASTLETOWN, a vibrant Medieval village where God reigns on His throne and His word is honored. Vacation Bible School has never been like this!
THOU SHALT GO IN WITH JOY!**

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS. Greet people coming into church for worship. This is a great reminder that CASTLETOWN is coming. Dress in Renaissance costume.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. Take black and white photographs of people in costume. Send a news release several weeks before CASTLETOWN to insure publication. Invite a reporter and photographer to visit the school while in session. It makes a great feature story!

COLORING CONTEST. Sponsor a coloring contest in the Sunday School. Choose one picture. Award prizes and create excitement for the event.



VISIT THE PULPIT. Wear a Renaissance costume and visit the pastor during announcement time. Give this real flair so the congregation becomes excited about the event. Announce dates, times and ages of students. Or, dress as a flamboyant Town Crier complete with long horn and hanging flag. Shout the announcement “Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Calling all young princes and princesses of the kingdom. Enter a world of Vacation Bible School fun at **CASTLETOWN...Where Christ Is King of Kids!** Join the quest to find life in Jesus and become citizens of Heaven. Gather at the Royal Court to meet the Good Knight!”

LOCAL TELEVISION. Ask a local television station to tape a feature story. This is great publicity and encouragement. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask! Use the local television cable advertizing station to print a few lines about your church event. This is sometimes free or almost always inexpensive.

LOCAL RADIO. Radio stations have air time they are required to dedicate to local events. Send a short announcement to be broadcast several times a day. Christian radio stations announce Vacation Bible School so send information to the closest radio stations.

DENOMINATION NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be pleasantly surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

SIGNS AND POSTERS. These are the most common forms of publicity. Although considered the least effective, placing signs and posters in stores, offices and other well traveled spots brings attention to your program. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

CHURCH SIGN. Place a large, castle shaped sign at the church announcing dates and times. Use the Medieval theme to draw attention to the sign by flying colorful flags and pennants around the area. Light the castle sign at night.

CASTLETOWN
...WHERE CHRIST IS KING OF KIDS!
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
DATES TIME
HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
VILLAGE CHILDREN AGE FOUR-GRADE 6
CORDIALLY INVITED!



PORTRAITS BY RAPHAEL ...PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week of CASTLETOWN. Ask the church photographer to wear a colorful Renaissance costume and enter each activity with enthusiasm.



ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS.

Amateur photographers usually stand at one side to take pictures and should not disrupt events. This is a good way to involve parents and church members who visit each decorated area.

ASSIGN A PHOTOGRAPHY CREW to take pictures for the church. Underwrite the cost of film and developing from Vacation Bible School resources.

35 MM COLOR PRINTS. Take staff and student pictures early in the week. Facial close ups are the most popular shots. Develop film at a fast developing center. Display the pictures at OPEN HOUSE.

DISK PHOTOGRAPHY. Make CD's that can be offered to families after CASTLETOWN. These pictures may also be placed on the church Internet site.

VIDEO. Delegate one person to video tape the events of the week. Some things can be staged for filming but it is more fun to record events as they develop.

SELLING PICTURES. Be prepared to quote a video price. Do you want to cover the cost of the tape or help defray Vacation Bible School costs? Prepare a sign up sheet including the cost. Display 35 mm prints. Show the CD on a computer. Provide sign up sheets along with the cost and size of each print.

DISPLAYING PICTURES. Consider making a large photographic display for viewing during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be placed on a wall or bulletin board and video may be show in the MEDIEVAL BANQUET snack area.



MEDIEVAL STYLE!

...THE VILLAGE GAP



Part of the fun of presenting CASTLETOWN is making the theme come to life with props and costumes. This does not have to be difficult or expensive. Teachers, helpers and activity leaders should dress in costume. Assign a team of seamstresses to make costumes as needed. Follow a few tips and let your imagination run wild.

PATTERNS. Visit your local fabric store to find a variety of Medieval costume patterns for both men and women. Purchase inexpensive materials to make needed apparel.

COSTUME SHOP. Visit a local costume shop where there are appropriate costumes and accessories available for a low rental fee. Ask about the best choices for this theme.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. Borrow costumes from churches, historical societies, Madrigal groups and high schools who may have racks of Medieval costumes available.

RENAISSANCE COSTUME TIPS

Would you rather wear tattered rags or regalia made of silk? In the Middle Ages you had no choice. If you were a peasant, you wore anything you could get. If you were royalty, you wore silk robes and damask gowns. Clothing in the middle ages was rough and scratchy but for the wealthy, smooth and finely sewn. Dress showed a person's class in wealth. Laws were made, keeping shopkeepers' wives from copying the rich dress of merchants' wives. Once a shopkeeper was fined because his wife went to church in a dress that had a train.



Ladies always wore long, loose fitting dresses, set off by a narrow belt. In summer they wore a fine linen under-gown under a sleeveless gown (*called a cyclas—worn by men and women*), open at the sides. The sleeves might have been slashed to show rich lining. The best materials were velvet, damask and silk in brilliant colors and patterns. Around the neck of the gown might have been decorated with embroidery or fur. They wore bells on their clothing to keep away evil spirits. To decorate dresses with rows of tiny buttons or pearls was a sign of wealth.

Veils and wimples (lengths of silk under the chin) were worn as well as wigs but it was fashionable to hide very bit of hair under an amazing headdress. Some of these were very tall or had twin horns and jeweled nets called templets. Another style was a padded ring. One kind of headdress consisted of a pillbox hat called a **coif**. The coif was worn over a chin band or **barbette**. The barbette fastened at the top of the head under the hat. The coif and barbette were usually white. To hold her hair, she used a hairnet called a **crespine**. The crespine was usually a color or made of gold. The tall steeple hat was called a **hennin**. Some think hennin was an insulting term shouted at women who wore these tall hats by others who could not afford them.. It was said that castle doorways were made taller so women wearing them could pass through without losing their hat! Shoes were light pointed slippers but high heeled clogs were worn to keep long skirts out of puddles. The design of a rich person's shoes showed they didn't work. Stockings were striped.

Lawyers, doctors and teachers wore dark gowns right to the ground while younger men preferred a knee-length tunic. The colors scarlet and purple were very popular. Fur and velvet were used as trim on cloaks and even plain every day clothes.

Peasants wore stockings with tunics (men) and women wore long gowns with sleeveless tunics and wimples to cover their hair. They covered this with cloaks and woolen hats and leather boots.

Become Lords and Ladies of the Manor, acting and dressing appropriately. Female names popular at the time were ELEANOR, MATILDA, BLANCHE, ELIZABETH, EMMA, ANN, ISABELLE and HELEN. Names such as LOUIS, PHILIP, HENRY, WILLIAM, CHARLES, ROBERT, JOHN and EDWARD were popular for boys. Engage student imaginations by becoming a Renaissance person. They may encourage friends to attend VBS saying, "You just have to see this!"

MEN: Wear a colorful tunic that goes to the knees or just above the knees. Consider using metallic silver and gold fabric found in most fabric shops. Sew a crest to the front. Tie the tunic at the waist with small ties and add a chain belt. Purchase lightweight chain at the hardware store to hang from the tunic. Matching chains may be hung around each boot. Under the tunic, wear a lightweight turtleneck shirt. If available, wear tights and high black boots. Hats may vary from a headband made from matching tunic fabric to a gold crown to a Robin Hood styled hat with a long feather. Men may wear a large, heavy cross necklace.



KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR: It is difficult to wear a full set of armor even if you can find armor to rent. If desired, have a Knight greet the students each day (or one day).

WOMEN: Wear a long caftan tied at each side. Under the caftan, wear a lightweight, simple long dress in matching or contrasting color. Long skirt and turtleneck shirt under the caftan works too! Sprinkle silver or gold glitter in hair. Keep the glitter in place with hair spray. A tall Medieval cone hat may be worn with sheer material draped around the chin to form the traditional wimple. (*Don't make the hat too high-It will keep tipping over!*) Consider a gold crown trimmed in fur or a garland halo with ribbon trailing down the back. Some women wore very fancy, long dresses. Wear lots of jewelry. Large jeweled crosses are appropriate.

STUDENTS: Consider purchasing or making headpieces for each student. These are worn throughout the week and may be taken home as keepsakes. There are several choices. All students may wear Robin Hood styled hats with feathers tucked into one side. (See Pattern) All students may wear crowns trimmed in fake fur. Boys only may wear Robin Hood hat or crowns. Girls only may wear a homemade cone style cap with ribbon flowing from the top and strap under the chin. Girls only may wear a wire halo wrapped in star garland with curling ribbon in several colors trailing down the back.

JESTER HATS: If team leaders accompany individual groups from activity to activity, consider purchasing felt jester hats from Oriental Trading. Jester Hats are fun for helpers, kitchen teams, registration teams and others to wear.



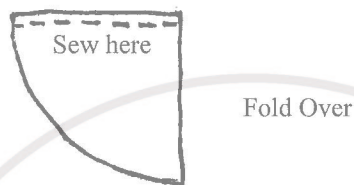
ROBIN HOOD HAT MAKING GUIDE

Use a stiff material for this pattern or it will collapse. Green felt works great!

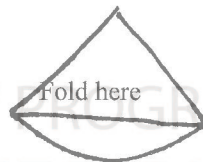
1. Cut a semi circle of material as shown.



2. Fold this in half (right sides together) and sew it up to form a quarter circle.



3. Turn the hat the right way out.



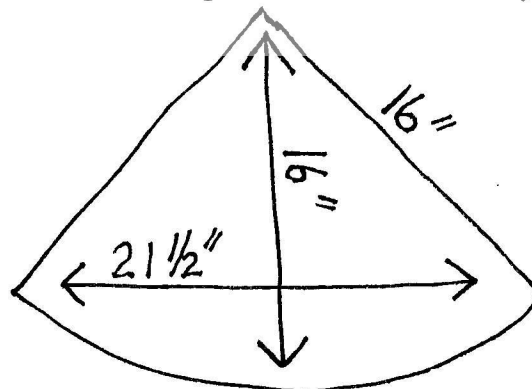
4. Fold up the bottom of the hat at both sides and just tack it in place with a few small stitches.



Decorate this hat with feathers or anything else suitably large and flashy. How about a large Christian pin or button attached to one side?

MEDIEVAL STEEPLE HAT-HENNIN

It takes 12 " of any width fabric and the same of interfacing. Make a pattern and cut one fabric and one of interfacing. Iron on the interfacing and sew up the side seam. Turn the right way out and neaten the hem. For a Medieval flair add a scarf or length of chiffon to the top of the hat. Wimples can be made of chiffon and draped under the chin loosely from edge to edge of the hat.

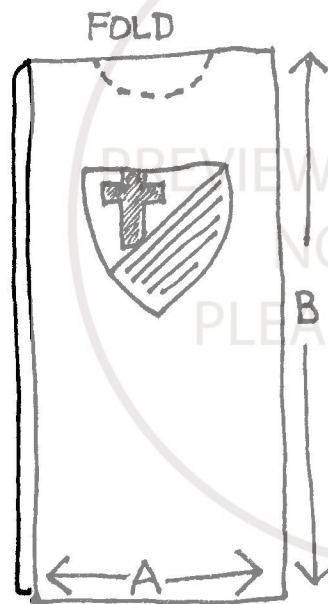


HOW TO MAKE A TABARD

This is perhaps the simplest of costume pieces, consisting of a long rectangle with space for the head. If you are going for the Knight look, a tabard is the white “thingy” with the big red cross on it that they wore over their armor.

Take the following measurements:

- A. Across the chest, armpit to armpit: _____ + 2" = _____
B. Height, shoulder to just below the knee: _____ + 4" = _____. (For Women)
Or to mid thigh: _____ + 4" = _____. (For Men)



You will need a length of fabric twice as long as (B) and as wide as (A).
OR, Twice as wide as (A) and as long as (B).
The goal is to get the two rectangles out of it.

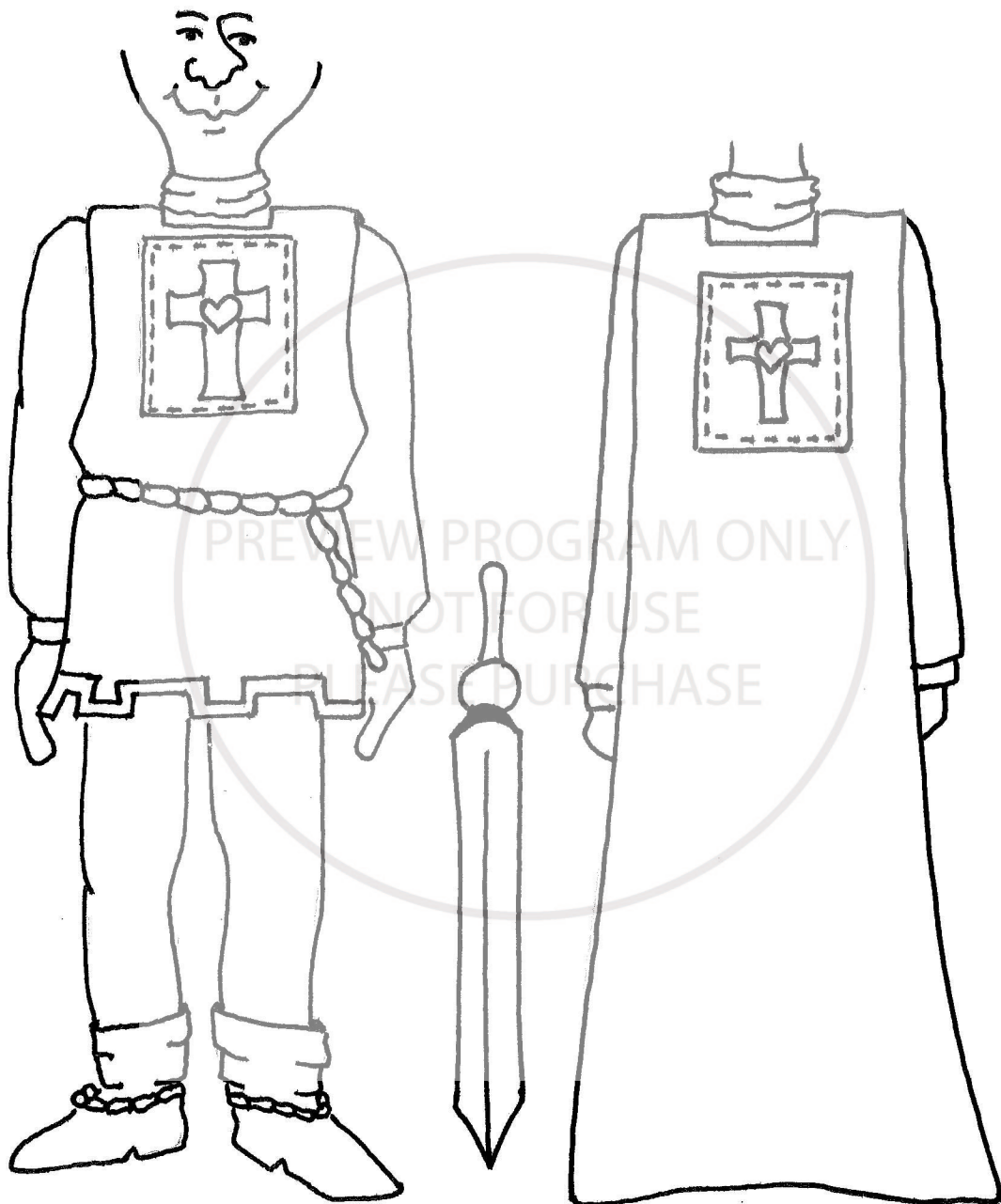
If you are working with the one long piece, fold it in half in the middle and mark the hole for your head. Turn all the raw edges under and hem them.

Cut the hole for your head. Try the tabard on. Enlarge the hole slightly if you need to. When it is the right size, hem it.

You can use fabric paints or applique to decorate the front of the tabard if you wish.

Wear the tabard over a tunic and or/tights, with a belt. In hot weather, men or children can get away with just the belted tabard, kind of like a tank top t-shirt. Women should be careful since there are no side seams. If you want to sew up the side seams instead of leaving them open, be sure the width of the tabard allows you to pull it on over your head and that it doesn't become too narrow to sit down in.





THE ROYAL COURT OPENING



The Royal Court is a daily fifteen minute opening designed to introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. Royal Court skits establish Renaissance characters and prepare the students for daily events.

Begin each Opening with a flourish of trumpets and a procession of costumed lords and ladies of the teaching staff. Everyone parades formally down the aisle, bowing graciously to the crowd making their way to the front. After the parade, they find their seats in with their group.

INTRODUCTION FOR DAY #1: Imagine a majestic castle high upon a hill. Upon it's turrets, colorful banners wave gently in the wind. Within it's walls, spirited stallions parade. Only one knight will be victorious and become the personal champion to the king. Now is the time to begin our magnificent journey into the days of chivalry, into the medieval middle ages to meet Christ, the King of Kids!

GOOD KNIGHT DIRECTOR. The Vacation Bible School Director becomes The Good Knight who directs all Royal Court activities. Dress in costume and maintain a cheerful attitude throughout the week.

DECORATIONS. Design a visual focal point for celebrating Christ, The King of Kids. This is His Throne Room in the Castle so decorate it to reflect His grand presence. Concentrate decorating efforts in the sanctuary or large meeting room. See the section **DECORATING CASTLETOWN** for ideas. Reproduce the following ideas or use your imagination and props at hand to create your own Royal Court.

REPEAT AFTER ME, "GOLD SPRAY PAINT IS MY FRIEND." Old props and cardboard props look terrific under a quick coat of gold spray paint purchased at your local "Stuff Mart". Anything can be placed in the scene and made to look royal with this technique. Add a little glitter for a shimmer.



His Royal Throne: Use the largest chair available as the centerpiece. The chair may be left in its original state if it looks majestic. If not, cover the chair with colorful netting, chiffon or gold fabric. Place it center stage. Everything else will be placed around the chair.

Large plants. Place two large floor plants on either side of the throne. If the plants are garage sale vintage, consider using gold spray paint on the leaves. They may be lit with white twinkle lights if desired.

Floor Screen. Consider making a golden screen to stand behind the throne. It can be made from cardboard or plywood. Make three sections attached together with hinges. Paint each section gold and scatter glitter on the wet paint for a shimmering effect.

Golden Crown and Cross. Every king must have a crown. Make a large gold crown from cardboard. Place a few “jewels” on it and lay it on the seat of the throne. Make a large golden cardboard cross with “jewels” in the center. Trim the crown base in an ostrich boa or fur.

Flags. Hang Gold and White flags at each end of the Royal Court. The flags should be as large as possible. If the flags are gold, use acrylic white paint to add a large white cross in the centers. If white, paint gold crosses in the center. Banners or pennants may be added as desired.

Lighting. Lighting will make The Royal Court come to life. Place small spotlights or small lamps on the floor along the back wall. This soft “up lighting” will make the area look more dramatic. Place two brass floor lamps on either side of the throne—no lamp shades. Block the front of each floor lamp with white or gold cardboard crosses. This will keep the light bulbs from blinding the audience and will cast neat cross shadows. White twinkle lights may be added as desired. Darken the rest of the room so that the focal area is highlighted.

Microphone Stand: Decorate the microphone stand with vining green plants and colorful flowers. Wrap the vine around the stand and attach firmly.

Background Music: Check the local music store to find recordings of medieval styled music. Classical music works well. This could be harpsichord, music box or quiet Christian music. Play softly as people arrive to establish the theme.

Collecting Offering: Use wooden boxes or pottery bowls. Ask two students or teens to hold containers as students enter The Royal Court. Place their money in the containers before they find their seat. Before Vacation bible School, decide where to donate the offering. If a special cause is designated, let families know. There may be worthy ministries the church could support. If a contest between groups or boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to the students.



Chairs Or No Chairs/Standards and Banners: If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, consider allowing student groups to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area with separate signs in group colors. One team leader or student holds a long pole with a large group color heart and the group name as a standard. The heart could be painted on fabric cut out in the shape of a banner. This standard is carried with the group wherever they travel in **CASTLETOWN**.

Synchronize Your Watches: Begin on time even if students and staff are still gathering. Plan to welcome the group, sing a few songs, make announcements, perform one short skit and dismiss. End on time to guarantee groups move to their first activity on time. Direct latecomers to their first activities as they arrive.

IN CHRIST AND THROUGH FAITH IN HIM,
WE MAY APPROACH GOD
WITH FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE.
—EPHESIANS 3:12



THE ROYAL COURT FABLE AS TOLD BY THE KIDS!

Tell this silly, just-for-fun story using no props and no preparation. The group is the action in the story. Assign parts to large and small groups and let them act out their part when you say their specific word in the story. Emphasize each special word and give the groups time to respond. This story can be used during the opening on any day of your choice or at the closing on any day of your choice.

KING ARTHUR.....*TA-TA-TA DAH!* (Trumpet flourish)
QUEEN GUINEVERE.....*KISSY-KISSY!*
SIR WINK-A-LOT.....*WINK-WINK!*
LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT.....*SWISH-SWISH!*
KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE.....*CLOMP-CLOMP!*
THE BOYS IN THE BAND.....*HOO-RAH,HOO-RAH!*

Once upon a time in the medieval land of CASTLETOWN, **KING ARTHUR** and **QUEEN GUINEVERE** invited the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** and the **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** to a formal party in the castle.

It was a beautiful, starry evening as the **BOYS IN THE BAND** arrived in their wagons carrying their instruments. They were so handsome that the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** swooned and fainted when they saw them! The **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** quickly raced to the rescue of the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** as their knightly training had prepared them.

KING ARTHUR entered the brightly lit hall on the arm of his lovely and ever popular **QUEEN GUINEVERE**. They met their guests in their glittering kingly and queenly attire while everyone oohed and aahed.

Soon the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** and the **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** joined **KING ARTHUR** and **QUEEN GUINEVERE** at the party. The crowd swirled to the musical sounds of the **BOYS IN THE BAND**.

At midnight, the castle gates swung open and to the delight of the guests, **SIR WINKALOT**, the star of the evening, entered. **SIR WINKALOT** was a handsome knight who winked at the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT**.



He made all the **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** jealous because no matter how hard they tried, they could not wink. The **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** were better swordsmen and hunters and rescuers of dainty damsels in distress.

QUEEN GUINEVERE and **THE LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** were impressed with the handsome **SIR WINKALOT** and crowded around him trying to be the next damsel to be winked at by their dazzling guest.

KING ARTHUR did not like **SIR WINKALOT** and so he commanded the **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** to wink at all the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT**. They tried but without much success. **THE LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT** kept laughing at them.

Before **KING ARTHUR** knew it, his lovely **QUEEN GUINEVERE** was spinning to the music of the **BOYS IN THE BAND** with **SIR WINKALOT** and seemed to be enjoying the evening immensely.

KING ARTHUR tapped **SIR WINKALOT** on the shoulder and said, "Pardon me **SIR WINKALOT** but my dear **QUEEN GUINEVERE** prefers to dance with me. **KING ARTHUR** danced his lovely queen away with a swish and a dip. **QUEEN GUINEVERE** looked into the loving eyes of her **KING ARTHUR** and floated away with him, so happy that the **LADIES OF THE ROYAL COURT**, the **KNIGHTS OF THE ROUND TABLE** and **THE BOYS IN THE BAND** were present to share her joy filled love. It was so much better than winks.

THE MORAL OF THE STORY: Love and world loves with you, wink and you wink alone!



“WHAT SAYE YE?”

English spoken in the Middle Ages was very different than it is today. Take time during one ROYAL COURT Opening to have fun with Old English. Chances are if you could be transported back in time to England in the Middle Ages, you would be unable to understand much of what was being said. The spellings and pronunciations of many words were not the same as they are now. Some common sayings in the late Middle Ages are expressions we no longer use. Try to figure out the modern meanings to these simple sentences.

(Taken From: THE MIDDLE AGES, Castles, Kings and Knights in Shining Armor by Lorraine Conway, Good Apple Inc., 1987.)

GOOD VICTUALS WERE SERVED.

An excellent meal was prepared.

COME JOIN OUR MERRY COMPANY.

Come and have fun with us.

A COMELY LASS WAS SHE.

She was pretty.

SHE WAS WELL WIMPLED.

She had a very nice cloth (scarf) covering her head and chin.

A READY TONGUE WAS HERS.

She was witty.

HIS MARE FLOUNDERED IN MIRE.

His horse had difficulty walking in the mud.

JOLLY US NOW.

Cheer us up.



WIDE WAS HIS PARISH.

The priest had a big church and many parishioners.

HIS TITHES WERE IN ARREARS.

He didn't keep up with his contributions to the church.

PRAY HEAR ME, TRUE LOVE.

Listen to me, sweetheart.

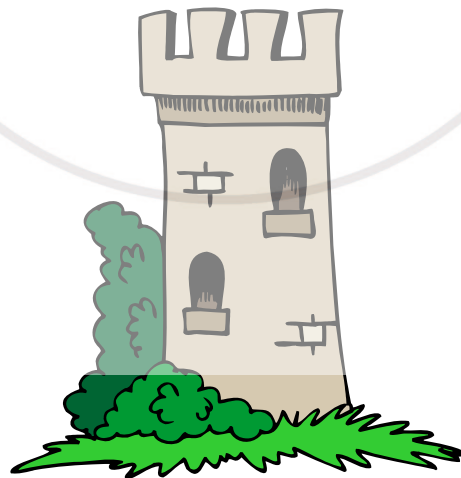
HE HAD GOODS ENOUGH.

He is quite wealthy.

SHE RODE A PALFREY BROWN.

She was on a small horse.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



THE ROYAL COURT SKITS

*Rehearse each skit before Vacation Bible School begins.
Do NOT memorize the parts. Each skit is designed to be short.
Speak loudly and clearly. Dress in costume for your character.*

***One male plays all the parts including Town Crier, The Gardener,
Castle Security Guard, Sir Christian–The Shining Knight and Christ The King.
*Two females play the roles of Lady Clare and Maid Marian.**

MONDAY IN THE ROYAL COURT

TOWN CRIER: *(Loudly and Dramatically...)* Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The King is in His Royal Court. Enter His gates with thanksgiving in your hearts. Enter His courts with praise!

MAID MARIAN: *(Running In from the back of the room...)* Hurry up, Lady Clare! The gates are open. The Royal Court is gathering.

LADY CLARE: *(Following at a slower pace...)* Slow down, Maid Marian. The Town Crier sees you. He will not close the gates before you get there.

MAID MARIAN: *(Out of breath and curtsying in front of the Town Crier...)* I'm here! I'm here! May I see the King? I won't take much time. I just have to see the King.

LADY CLARE: Hush child. Do not be so forward. The King must be very busy this fine day. His kingdom depends upon His eternal presence.

MAID MARIAN: He's present, I'm present. It's a perfect match! Come on, Town Crier, let me into the King's Throne Room.

TOWN CRIER: *(Speaking and crying at the same time...)* Oh, Boo Hoo. I'm sorry. I cannot let you inside. The King is not in His Throne Room.

MAID MARIAN: But you said He was. I distinctly remember you saying, "The King is in His Royal Court." I depend upon you to tell the truth. It's part of the Town Crier Code of Ethics.

LADY CLARE: Maid Marian! I command you to step away and allow this poor creature to cry in peace. It is obvious you will not enjoy an audience with the King today.



TOWN CRIER: (*Crying...*) That's right, dear girl. You will not enjoy an audience with the King today. He is away on Kingdom business.

MAID MARIAN: Oh, stop crying. Maybe you don't understand. I have come all the way from Castletown to meet the King. Pull yourself together! I need your help. Go get Him...or tell me which way he went and I will find Him.

TOWN CRIER: (*Crying...*) You're scaring me. Stop yelling at me. I do the best I can.

LADY CLARE: (*Soothingly...*) I'm sure you do, Town Crier. We do not mean to frighten you. We shall return on the morrow and perhaps we may be permitted to see the King at that time.

MAID MARIAN: No! It is impossible to come on the morrow. I must be in Castletown Manor by the morrow. Let us in! Let us in!

LADY CLARE: (*Secretly Whispering...*) Play along with me. Tell the Town Crier we shall return on the morrow!

MAID MARIAN: (*Winking...*) Oh, I get it. (*Patting the Town Crier's arm...*) Forgive me, dear Crier. Lady Clare has spoken words of common sense to me. We shall return on the morrow. Why don't you take a break and wash your face? That's it. Go over there. Inside that gatekeeper's house. You will feel much better. Trust me.

TOWN CRIER: (*Crying...*) Thank you, dear girl, I shall. Goodbye. Oh, Boo Hoo! (*Exits.*)

LADY CLARE: Come with me. I think I know a back way into the Castle. Hurry, girl. We must be swift and silent.

MAID MARIAN: Why, Lady Clare! I never knew you had such adventure in your soul. You lead and I will follow. Let us consider this an adventuring quest on a fine day at the Castle.

Exit by walking stealthily through the audience



TUESDAY IN THE ROYAL COURT

*Both Lady Clare and Maid Marian enter through the back of the room.
Creep along and sshh each other while sneaking through the castle area.*

LADY CLARE: Sshh! This way. The stone wall over yonder is the hidden entrance to the Royal Court's Throne Room.

MAID MARIAN: *(Out of breath...)* Wait one moment. I need rest. You climbed over that gate so quickly that I almost lost you. How do you know your way around here?

LADY CLARE: I once worked as a Lady In Waiting in the Court. It was a wonderful position. Christ is an amazing King to work for.

MAID MARIAN: Tell me about Him. What is Jesus really like?

LADY CLARE: He is loving and kind. He looks you in the eyes when He speaks and He always smiles. He listens quietly and is very wise.

MAID MARIAN: *(Longingly...)* Oh, I so want to meet Him.

LADY CLARE: You will, dear girl. You will. He enjoys His subjects and is always graciously awaiting their arrival.

THE GARDENER: *(Enter from the Rear, carrying a large rake and shouting...)* Ladies! Stand still! Whatever you do, do not move one inch!

LADY CLARE AND MAID MARIAN: *(Together jump in fear and cling to each other screaming...)* Eek! What? What is it? Is it a mouse?

THE GARDENER: *(Looking on the floor...)* Oh, never mind. It's gone now. You are quite safe. You may move now. All clear!

LADY CLARE: *(Curtsey...)* We are ever so grateful, dear sir.

MAID MARIAN: *(Curtsey...)* Oh, dear Gardener. You have saved our wretched lives. We are deeply in your debt.



THE GARDENER: (*Bowing...*) You are very welcome. I am certain there was a black snake lurking in the shadows but it must have slithered into the brush. There is no danger now. By the way, why are you standing in my garden?

LADY CLARE: Umm...umm...we are just humble women from Castletown Manor who have arrived to tour the great Castle Gardens.

MAID MARIAN: Yes, yes. And we are certainly enjoying the beautiful flowers you have provided for the King.

THE GARDENER: Does the King know you are here? Is He expecting you?

MAID MARIAN: (*Obviously lying...*) Oh yes. He is very happy to have us here. He said to come right in.

THE GARDENER: Well, I have heard that the King is away on Kingdom business but perhaps he returned without my knowledge. If you have invitations to the Royal Court just enter that door on the right. You will find your way.

LADY CLARE: Thank you, gracious sir. Thank you. We shall follow your impeccable instructions. Goodbye. I know you have interesting...uh...

MAID MARIAN: Gardening work...weeding...to do. Do not let us delay you in your tasks.

THE GARDENER: Hmmm, yes. I do have some overdue weeding to do. Farewell ladies. Give my regards to the King. (*Exit through the rear.*)

MAID MARIAN: Whew! That was close. I thought he was going to kick us out before we even got into the castle.

LADY CLARE: Do not stop to chat. We must enter the castle through the door on the right. Hurry before he comes back.

Run together back through the audience.



WEDNESDAY AT THE ROYAL COURT

MAID MARIAN: Hurry, Lady Clare. It is so dark in here that I cannot find my way.

LADY CLARE: Sshh! Will you please quiet your voice? We must not be discovered. Turn right, no left. No..right. I cannot remember. It has been so long since I have been in the castle.

MAID MARIAN: I must rest a bit. I have been wondering about the King. I want to know Him but I am not sure He wants to know me. It is disturbing to think He may not want me in His home. What do you think? Am I wasting my time?

LADY CLARE: *(Smiling...)* No, Maid Marian. I may not remember my way through the castle but I am certain that the King will be pleased that you are searching for Him. He wants us to search for Him with all our hearts.

MAID MARIAN: Sshh! I think I hear footsteps. Quick, hide behind that door!

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: *(Enter from the rear carrying a flash light. Shine the light around the room.)* Hello! Hello! Is anybody in here? I heard someone talking. I know there is SOMEBODY in here. Come out, come out, wherever you are!

LADY CLARE: *(Curtsey.)* Uh...hello! It is a pleasure to make your acquaintance. You must be the Castle Security Guard.

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: *(Saluting...)* Castle Security. Sir Jay at your service. Our motto is "You trip 'em, we whip 'em". No, that's not it. "You patch 'em, we catch 'em." No, no, that's not it. "You see 'em, we tree 'em". That doesn't sound right either.

MAID MARIAN: We get the idea. It is truly satisfying knowing we are being protected by such a big, strong security guy.

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: *(Swelling with pride....Booming voice...)* Well, you better believe it. I heard the castle has been trespassed and there are two women roaming the grounds. *(Confidentially....)* They have possibly entered the very castle itself.

LADY CLARE: You don't say! You wouldn't happen to know what they look like do you? We would be happy to help you search for them.



CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: Why, yes! One is about your height and has your eye color. She has hair about the shade of yours and her gown is very similar to what you are wearing.

MAID MARIAN: (*Interrupting...*) How fascinating! And the other fiendish person? What does she look like?

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: Interesting that you should ask. I think she is about your height. She has the same color hair and her personality is said to be lively. Have you seen anyone like her?

MAID MARIAN: No, no, I can't say that I have. Lively, huh? You may be sure that if we see that dastardly duo of damsels, we shall call you immediately.

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: See that you do. We are all about security in this castle. Nothing is too good for our king. I must be off. See that you take care, ladies. I would hate for you to be captured by our trespassers.

LADY CLARE: We shall be very careful. Oh, by the way. Could you tell us which way we should turn to find the King's Throne Room? We fear we are late for our meeting with Him.

CASTLE SECURITY GUARD: Curious that you should have a meeting with Him. I heard that Christ the King is away from the castle on Kingdom business. Oh well, whatever! Just head down that hall and you will find the Throne Room.

MAID MARIAN: Oh thank you, thank you! I wish you much success.

**CASTLE SECURITY GUARD EXITS THROUGH THE CROWD
WHILE SHINING THE FLASHLIGHT FROM SIDE TO SIDE.**

LADY CLARE: I don't know where they find these people. I must admit I am happy that he did not catch on that we are the "dastardly duo of damsels" he is assigned to catch.

MAID MARIAN: (*Thinking ...*) Hmm, yes. We are getting close now. I feel butterflies in my stomach. Will our quest be successful? Will I meet the King?

LADY CLARE: Follow me, Maid Marion. We must be on our way. Yes, I'm sure the Throne Room is in this direction.

EXIT THROUGH THE CROWD POINTING THE WAY AS YOU TRAVEL.



THURSDAY IN THE ROYAL COURT

LADY CLARE: We are here! I recognize this castle hallway. Just beyond this area is where Jesus, our King reigns. He is waiting for us.

MAID MARIAN: How do you know He is waiting for us? How can you be so certain?

LADY CLARE: He waits for all His children to come to Him. It is what He does best. He wants each of us to come on our own. We must search and find Jesus to make Him Lord of our life.

SIR CHRISTIAN, SHINING KNIGHT: *(Enter from the rear.)* Halt! You may not enter God's Throne Room without permission. Who goes there?

MAID MARIAN: *(Bravely....)* Who are we? I want to know "who are you"? We have come to see Jesus Christ, the King of Castletown. We are on a quest.

SIR CHRISTIAN: I am Sir Christian, the Loving Knight who guards the door to the King. You might say I am the Gatekeeper.

LADY CLARE: Oh, Sir Christian! I remember you. It's me, Lady Clare. I have brought a "newbie" with me to meet the King. Such a pleasure to see you again.

SIR CHRISTIAN: Why, Lady Clare. Where have you been? We have missed you in the Castle. Never has there been such a loyal and true Lady In Waiting.

LADY CLARE: Maid Marian wants to meet King Jesus. Please let us in. We have traveled far. We are so tired.

MAID MARIAN: Yes, we are so tired. Please let us in.

SIR CHRISTIAN: Not so fast. Not everyone can enter through these gates. You may look but you may not enter. See? The throne is beautiful. The Royal Court is reserved for believers.

MAID MARIAN: But I must enter. I have counted on this for a long time. What do I have to do to enter into the King's presence.

LADY CLARE: I am so glad you asked. It is what the King desires. You must be willing to become one of His children.



MAID MARIAN: I am willing! Tell me what to do!

LADY CLARE: Dear Marian, you must admit that you have sinned. Everyone has sinned. It is why the King had to come to Castletown. To rescue us from sin.

MAID MARIAN: I never thought of myself as much of a sinner. I'm really a very nice person.

SIR CHRISTIAN: (*Sternly...*) Then it is not possible for you to enter into the King's presence.

MAID MARIAN: Wait! Wait! Now that I think about it, I am a sinner. I do things that displease God every day. I am sorry I have disappointed Him and separated myself from Him.

LADY CLARE: You are ready for the next step. Believe that Jesus is your King and Savior. Know He died and rose from death for you. That is all you need to know for now.

MAID MARIAN: I believe!

SIR CHRISTIAN: I believe she believes! She is getting close to the King now!

LADY CLARE: One more thing, Marian. You must personally ask Christ to come and live inside of you. He wants to be King of everything you do. Surrender your life to King Jesus and live with Him forever. Talk to Him in prayer. Keep it simple.

MAID MARIAN: (*Praying...*) Dear Christ, My King. I am sorry that I have sinned. I want to come home to You. Forgive me. Come into my heart and life. Change me. Help me be your loyal subject. I want to know You more. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

SIR CHRISTIAN: She's in! She's in! She is a Believer and Christ is her King! (*Gesture with a bow and sweeping arm motion toward the throne...*) Enter into the joy of your Master and King, Jesus of Nazareth. He is waiting for you!

ALL CHARACTERS EXIT QUIETLY.



FRIDAY IN THE ROYAL COURT

MAID MARIAN: (*Joyfully...*) Finally! I am in The King's Throne Room. It is so beautiful...and peaceful...and joyful...and, and, and perfect!

LADY CLARE: I wonder where He is. I was certain He would be waiting for us.

MAID MARIAN: Now that I am a Believer, what next? How do I serve my Lord and King?

LADY CLARE: I am so happy you have asked that question. Simply serve Jesus every day. Continually talk to Him in prayer. Read His Word, The Bible. Gather with other believers to learn more about Christlike living.

MAID MARIAN: There must be a catch. Surely I must do more. How much does it cost? I do not have much money but I could get a night job.

LADY CLARE: Oh no, that is not necessary. The only requirement to become a Christian is to "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart."

MAID MARIAN: Thank you, Lady Clare, for leading me to Christ. I am so grateful.

CHRIST: (Enter from the side. Wear the golden crown which has been on the throne during the week.) Yes, thank you Clare. You have served Your King well.

LADY CLARE: (*Curtsey and Bow.*) Oh, dear King. It is so good to do Your work.

MAID MARIAN: King? You are Jesus? You are Christ the King? But...I don't understand. You look so familiar. I think I have met You before. Where could it have been?

CHRIST: Let me refresh your memory, dear Marian. (*Crying...*) "You're scaring me. Stop yelling at me. I do the best I can!"

MAID MARIAN: The Town Crier! You were the Town Crier? You met us at the gate!

CHRIST: (*Smiling...*) That's not all. (*Shouting...*) "Ladies, stand still. Whatever you do, do not move one inch!"

MAID MARIAN: The Gardener. You are the Castle Gardener who saved us from the dangerous snake! I never suspected!



CHRIST: I was observing your journey, Marian. Remember the Castle Security Guard? That was Me. “You patch ‘em, we catch ‘em”!

MAID MARIAN: I wondered why the guard did not figure out who we are. It was You all the time. I should have guessed!

CHRIST: And Sir Christian, the Shining Knight at the Throne Room door....

MAID MARIAN: It was You, you, you! You have been everything to me. I was so close to You and I never suspected that You were guiding me all the way.

CHRIST: You needed your friend, Lady Clare. She was my faithful servant, leading you to Me. She knew the way and yet allowed you to make your own decision.

LADY CLARE: I help the best I can. I’ll be back with another friend soon.

MAID MARIAN: This has been a wonderful quest. I am delighted to be in the Royal Court. I am so happy to be a believer. I must return to Castletown Manor and tell all my friends I have met the King and they can meet the King too! I will show them the way.

CHRIST: Farewell! I will be waiting for your return. I am always waiting and always watching.

**LADY CLARE AND MAID MARIAN RUN TOWARD THE REAR.
CHRIST WAVES AT THEM AS THEY LEAVE.**

CHRIST: (*Speaking to the audience...*) You may enter into the joy of your Master just like Maid Marian. There is only one thing you must do, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.” Think about it. I am waiting for you.

EXIT QUIETLY



CASTLETOWN CELEBRATION ...OPEN HOUSE

*Students and teachers show off their decorated workshops,
sing songs and display their crafts at OPEN HOUSE.*

*Families wander through CASTLETOWN...Where Christ Is King of Kids,
sampling snacks at the MEDIEVAL FEAST
and photographing this special celebration.*

**All costumed teachers and helpers are responsible
to be in their work area during OPEN HOUSE.**

Choose the time for OPEN HOUSE to get a high percentage of parents, church members and friends to attend. If the week ends on Friday, plan a Friday evening program. (Do not eliminate students' last day of programming to present an OPEN HOUSE if VBS is taking place in the evening.) Some churches present the OPEN HOUSE Celebration on Sunday morning. It may be eliminated, if necessary.

SAMPLE CASTLETOWN CELEBRATION SCHEDULE

- 7:00 P.M. –Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 7:02 P.M. –Director Introduces CASTLETOWN Theme
- 7:07 P.M. –Students Sing
- 7:10 P.M. –Recite Scripture Verses
- 7:11 P.M. –Students Sing
- 7:20 P.M. –Offering
- 7:25 P.M. –Teacher Appreciation
- 7:35 P.M. –Students Sing and Close in Prayer
- 7:40 P.M. –Dismiss Group to Wander through CASTLETOWN
- 8:30 P.M. –Staff Begins Clean Up



THE STORY WEAVER

...GATHER 'ROUND FOR A MYSTERIOUS TALE!

*This fifteen minute segment provides rest time
and a delightful story adventure.*

WHO IS THE STORY WEAVER? This is a unique spot in CASTLETOWN where kids hide away and hear a great five day story adventure in fifteen minute segments. The **Story Weaver** greets each student cheerfully and tells the story for the week with great enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room far from the noise of Vacation Bible School activity.



HOW SHOULD I DECORATE? Place a large, comfortable Story Weaver chair in the middle of the room and surround it with Medieval flags and pennants. See the decorating ideas suggested for CASTLETOWN to make this area sparkle.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? Dress in Renaissance costume. A simple tunic and tabor is appropriate or dress in Medieval gown with tall hat and wimple or halo crown.

WHO HEARS THE STORY? All CASTLETOWN student groups visit fifteen minutes each day. SHINING HEART Preschool is scheduled to visit but if the continuing story does not interest them, substitute other stories. It may be desirable to choose another activity for their group. Five separate stories from the Christian Book Store or private collections are appropriate. Talk with the preschool team before Vacation Bible School .

WHAT STORY SHOULD I TELL? The suggested story is “**The Legacy of Shadow Castle**”, a five part Chip and Clare Conley mystery with complete script and large line drawings available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES, 1-888-CEM-LIFE (236-5433). As in other Conley twin stories, our modern day Christian kids face excitement and mystery...this time at Shadow River’s mysterious museum.



TRAVELING TROUBADOURS

...MUSIC OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM

“Sing aloud unto God our strength; make a joyful noise...” Psalm 81:1

*The **TRAVELING TROUBADOURS** lead a fifteen minute daily music session. Individual student groups sing Christian choruses filled with the hope that God gives all His children. Choose upbeat songs performed in a contemporary style. Lead with enthusiasm and good humor!*



DECORATION. Meet at THE ROYAL COURT Opening. No additional decoration is needed. If using a separate room, use decorating ideas from the curriculum.

MADRIGAL PRAISE SINGERS.

Choose teens and adults to lead songs with microphones and music stands. They become the **PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM** for the week. This appealing contemporary style is enjoyed by all.

COSTUMES. Use the curriculum ideas to dress appropriately. This makes the music team fun and weaves the general Renaissance theme through the music activity. Decorate tambourines, guitars, trumpets, etc. with long, colorful satin ribbons and silk flowers.



MUSIC. Use CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES music suggestions or create your own CASTLETOWN music. Prepare the small groups to sing together for OPEN HOUSE at the end of the week. The music collection suggested comes complete with music book and options of CD's and audio cassettes. These books are excellent, fun and can be used for many other children's ministry efforts!

Call Ellen today:

1-888-CEM-LIFE (236-5433)

GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book One–Younger Kids, 117 Fun, Exciting, Singable Songs for Younger Kids (ages preschool-third grade), compiled by Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO 64141.

He Is The King of Kings, page 1

Ho Ho Hosanna, page 6

He Has Made Me Glad, page 7

O How He Loves You and Me, page 93

+ many more great songs for younger kids!

GREAT BIG PRAISE FOR A GREAT BIG GOD, Book Two–Older Kids, 100 Fun, Exciting, Singable Songs for Older Kids (4th-6th grades), compiled by Tom Fettke and Ken Bible, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO 64141.

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High, page 1

Awesome God, page 2

What A Mighty God We Serve, page 3

Bless that Wonderful Name, page 4

Crown Him King of King of Kings, page 5 (great theme song for CASTLETOWN)

Great and Mighty, page 7

Step By Step, page 8

More Precious Than Silver, page 10

You Are My All In All, page 11

How Majestic Is Your Name, page 14

We Will Glorify The King of Kings, page 19

Servants of the Most High God, page 25

No Other Name, page 26

+ many more great songs!

THE ULTIMATE PRAISE SONGBOOK FOR KIDS, 50 Songs, Hymns and Choruses arranged by Joseph Linn, Lillenas Publishing Company, Kansas City, MO 64141.

He Is the King of Kings, page 2

Mighty God Medley (What A Mighty God We Serve, How Great-How Glorious), page 5

Bless the Name of Jesus, page 10

Before the Rocks Cry Out, page 13

He Is Exalted, page 18

+ many more great songs!



More fun songs for CASTLETOWN—Look for these in children’s chorus books!

His Banner Over Me Is Love
All Hail King Jesus
Love Is A Flag Flown High From the Castle of My Heart
Majesty
Awesome God
Our God Reigns
Victory Change
Shine, Jesus Shine
To Him Who Sits On the Throne



CASTLETOWN FESTIVAL

...MERRIMENT WITH JESTER BUMBLE!

CASTLETOWN FESTIVAL is a daily fifteen minute Medieval tournament game and activity time. Decide what activities your team feels comfortable doing. Use active, fast paced games that encourage running, jumping, laughing and comradeship. Games suggested are actual games played during the Renaissance. Many have become popular in modern times. Others will be new to the students.



THE TOURNAMENT

Imagine a green field on a crystal clear spring day. High on a hill in the distance a white castle rises against the blue sky. In the center of the field, bright sunlight is bouncing off the shields of a hundred knights gathered for the tournament.

Nearby in the galleries noblewomen sitting on wooden benches are busy exchanging castle gossip. They have much to say to each other as they have waited long and anxiously through the winter for this occasion. A soft breeze begins to blow from the south and the veils attached to their steeple hats billow in the wind. On the edges of the field hundreds of townspeople and peasants mill around the ground. The atmosphere is like a carnival. Jugglers, minstrels and dancers entertain and move among the crowd.

Suddenly the blare of a trumpet brings silence. Attention is drawn to the armored knights being lowered into their saddles. A herald shouts their names and recounts their many deeds of valor. The knights face each other at opposite ends of the wooden alleys. Attached to the helmet of one knight a lady's glove dangles. From the top of the other knight's helmet a veil unfolds in the breeze. Another trumpet signals that the joust begins. Horses and riders thunder toward each other with lances and shields at the ready. One knight is unseated and surrenders.

The tournament lasts several days. For experienced knights it is a time of renewed challenge; for others it is a time of receiving knighthood. For the young squires it may be their first mock battle. Tournaments were training grounds for knights. They learned to perform with valor.

(Quoted From: THE MIDDLE AGES: Castles, Kings and Knights in Shining Armor by Lorraine Conway, Good Apple Inc, 1987.)



BECOMING JESTER BUMBLE! Become a court jester named Bumble. Jesters were professional “fools” or jokesters whose job it was to amuse kings, nobles and their families. Originally they were troubadours who sang and told stories of heroic deeds. They wore a suit made half one color and the opposite half another color. On their caps they sewed bells. They also wore long pointed shoes. Some jesters went to extremes to attract attention by shaving half of their heads and half of the opposite side of their beards. In some households the royal jesters became almost part of the family. Many were influential enough to give advice to kings. Dress in colorful, mismatched clothing and wear a court jester hat complete with bells. (See Oriental Trading catalog.) Tell jokes and preside over general hilarity as the groups gather to play games.

DECORATION. Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for running, jumping, ball playing and circle games. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Encircle the area using brightly colored vinyl pennants. (Available in Oriental Trading catalog or at their web site: www.orientaltrading.com).

EQUIPMENT. Collect items needed for individual games before Vacation Bible School. Practice the games and adjust event rules for your group.

REWARDS. Award stickers to winning students and winning teams. At the end of each session, reward everyone, including losing teams. Pieces of soft candy are popular prizes. Gather a variety of soft candies like Hershey kisses, Twizzlers, candy corn or other small treats that will not become lodged in small children’s treats. (*Some children are allergic to peanut based candies..*)



LET THE TOURNAMENT BEGIN....



Use our suggested games or plan favorite traditional games. Purchase a game book for more ideas. Choose games that children of all ages enjoy. Organize game instructions on 3" x 5" cards. Gather equipment for each day. It may be possible to play more than one game so plan accordingly. It is better to over plan in case a particular game falls flat. Don't forget to plan a few rainy day games. You never know if a stray cloud will chase your gang indoors.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

KING OF THE CASTLE

One player is chosen to be King. He/she assumes a position in the center of a circle marked by masking tape. He/she bids defiance to all his foes by shouting: **"I am King of the Castle; Get out, you cowardly rascal."** Other players try to push him/her out of the circle and claim to be king. He/she must protect his right to it, alone. Fair pulls and pushes are allowed but players are not permitted to catch hold of the king's clothes. Penalty for such a foul is to be set aside as a Prisoner of War—Virtual expulsion from the game.

The king may choose an ally who does nothing except watch for penalties and expels players. The ally is a referee. The chance for the king retaining his/her throne for long are not good. The player who dethrones him/her becomes king for the next game.

OPTION: Allow the King to choose three knights who will help protect him/her in the circle. Players must still dethrone the King but must get past the knights to do so. This may make each game last a little longer with a bit of strategy necessary by the players. Divide large groups into several smaller groups who each have a king to dethrone in separate corners.



SQUIRREL TAILS

Players are evenly divided into two or more teams. Each player has a cloth strip slipped through his/her belt or placed in a pocket. At the signal all players rush to a central point where there is a treasure—peanuts or counters of some kind. Players try to get some of this treasure and return with it to their home base.

A player may be taken out of the game by an opponent pulling out the tail. Any treasure in the hand of the player is not valid and must be replaced in the center. Players are safe when home. Players must protect their tails while at the same time they are trying to capture the tails of opponents and pick up some of the treasure. At the end of the game, each peanut or counter counts one point. Each tail counts five points.

STEED IN THE RING

The players form a ring around the steed, holding hands. The steed tries to break through the ring. He/she may rush, lunge or pull to try to break the ring. If he/she escapes, the players take chase! Whoever catches the steed becomes the new steed. It is not fair for the steed to duck under the circle of players.

POISONED CIRCLE

Ten to twelve players form a ring around a circle taped on the floor about five feet in diameter. The object of the game is to keep out of the poisoned circle and to try to pull some of the other players into it. When a player steps in the poisoned circle he is out of the game.

DRAGON TAG

From five to ten players link arms and become the dragon. They try to encircle the other players one or more at a time. When they do, the players caught add themselves to the dragon. This continues until all players are caught. Boundaries are decided before the game begins.

KNIGHT AND STEED RACE

One player is the knight and mounts the back of another player who is the steed. With legs around his waist and arms around his shoulders, the knight rides the steed to the goal. When they reach the goal they exchange positions and race back to the starting line. Students of similar sizes should be paired into teams.



JOUSTING CONTESTS

HAND PUSH: Two players stand flatfooted facing one another, arm's length distance. Arms are extended, palm out. The Players hit palms together, pushing and faking until one player loses his balance.

HAND WRESTLE: Players stand with legs spread wide..a stance similar to that of a swordsman. They grasp right hands and twist, turn and shove with the wrist, trying to throw the ir opponent off balance. As soon as a player moves one foot from position, he/she has lost the joust.

ROOSTER FIGHT: Hands on ankles. Players jostle one another with the shoulder. The point is to make the opponent lose his balance or loosen his hold on his ankles.

ONE LEG JOUST: Players stand on one leg, grasping right hands. The game consists of trying to make the opponent touch the other foot to the ground or touch the ground with is free hand. The free hand may not touch the opponent.

MEDIEVAL GET UP: Two players sit back to back with arms folded. Each tries to get up by pushing against the other. Try the same joust with arms locked.

BROTHERS OF THE "I WILL RISE": Jousts lie flat on their backs, arms folded. At the signal, they rise to a sitting position and then to their feet without help from their arms. If you think this is easy, try it. It is good exercise for the abdominal muscles.

FISH IN THE MOAT

All players but one stand in a line. That person is IT and stands midway between the line where the runners are standing and the finish line. IT shouts, "Fish in the moat, fish in the moat, don't get the notion..you'll swim in the ocean!" After this challenge, all the fish must leave the moat and try to cross the finish line to the ocean without being tagged. Players who are tagged join hands with IT and help catch the other fish in the moat like a net. If the net breaks, players tagged on that turn are released.



PRISONERS IN THE DUNGEON

Players form groups of three. Two of them hold hands and form a dungeon. The other one of the three gets inside between the two so their arms enclose that player. Two other players become the KNIGHT and the DRAGON. The knight chases the dragon. The dragon may save itself by ducking into a dungeon. The player in that dungeon must immediately leave with the knight in pursuit. The fun comes with frequent changes. This is a very lively game. After playing it awhile, have the knight and dragon change places with persons forming the dungeons to give every player a chance to run.

OPTION: You may make each dungeon with three or four players in a circle for larger groups.

CASTLE TAG

The tagger is required to hold one hand on the spot touched when he was tagged when he tags another person. It is just too bad if he was tagged on the heel!

CASTLE WALL BALL

One player bounces a ball (use a large Nerf ball or beach ball) against a wall and calls the name or number of another player. That player tries to catch the ball on rebound before it touches the ground again. If he succeeds he bounces the ball and calls some other player. If the called player fails to make the catch, the bouncer throws the ball again and calls another name.

SECRET TUNNEL RACE

Arrange two concentric circles of players. Players face and hold hands forming a secret tunnel around the circle. One odd player is IT. He walks around the circle and taps the hands of two players. These two players immediately leave their positions, run in opposite directions inside the secret tunnel and try to get to the empty positions first. The tagger races into one of the positions and the player left out becomes IT.

**SHUFFLEBOARD, CHECKERS, HORSESHOE PITCHING,
LAWN BOWLING, MARBLES, JACKS, LAWN DARTS,
LAWN CROQUET, FOX AND GEESE, PITCH PENNY.**





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

MEDIEVAL BANQUET

...A MOST HONORABLE FEAST!



CASTLETOWN students and staff can hardly wait to eat at The Medieval Banquet! Make this fifteen minute snack break an enjoyable treat time. Serve simple medieval foods and enjoy the company of every small group each day.

Hot! Hot! The cook burned herself on the pot. The smell of rotten, seasoned meat fills the castle kitchen. Someone just stabbed into a goose. The cook tastes the meat for poison so the king won't get sick. The job of a medieval cook isn't the easiest in the world.

The warmest place in the lively kitchen was the blazing hearth, a huge fireplace. Sometimes water was channeled straight into the kitchen. Just outside the kitchen door were honey bee hives. Honey was used to sweeten foods and drinks. Larger castles had their own fish ponds, orchards and vineyards.

Food of the Middle Ages was very different from the food of today. In those days, northern Europeans ate cattle and sheep. In the south, fruits, vegetables and herbs were added to the meat. Everyone used olive oil rather than butter.

Meat was very popular and had weird names like Fried Pig's Head. The taste of roasted beef and mutton (lamb), venison (deer) as well as wild birds, poultry and all kinds of game kept people happy. Fish was eaten during Lent (Wednesday, Friday and Saturday). They preserved meat by sprinkling it with salt. This worked, but not very well. When meat rotted, they poured sauce on it and ate it anyway! Other preservation methods included smoking and drying. Fruits and vegetables were pickled. Often meat and fruit was stored together in barrels.



A banquet was often six courses. Food was provided for everyone, not just the rich and famous. Specific banquet rules included table manners and seating. Spoons and knives were favorite utensils. Forks were almost unknown. People ate from **trenchers**, flattened pieces of hard bread used like plates to soak up liquids from the meats.

They had odd habits for serving and choosing food. Animals were made to look alive after cooking! The meat was covered with fur or feathers! Kinds of food eaten depended on wealth. Wealthy families ate many varieties of foods but peasant families didn't get much. Most poor families weren't even allowed to eat white bread. White bread was reserved for kings. Poorer families ate dark breads, oatmeal and mostly pork while the wealthy feasted on rabbit and game.

DECORATION. Create a Medieval Banquet Hall atmosphere. If round tables are available, use them. Decorate each table with large candles, decorative flowers, baskets, wooden bowls and metal lanterns. Cover each table with a richly colored tablecloth. Place banners or tapestries on the walls. Use ideas included with the curriculum and make your **MEDIEVAL BANQUET** a dazzling spot. Draw a gray castle wall to place in one corner or create rounded castle windows from cardboard. A life sized cardboard knight in armor can be placed in one corner.

COSTUMES AND SERVING. Follow the costume suggestions in the curriculum. Wear simple peasant costumes covered with full muslin aprons. Become serving wenches who throw some of the food to the tables. Neatness does **NOT** count. Make snack time loads of fun by entertaining the guests.

MUSIC. Play soft flute, guitar, harpsichord or harp music. If live musicians are available, ask them to play. The musical mood should be quiet in the background of the merry activity.

TABLEWARE. Use wood or metal serving dishes. Consider serving snacks on trenchers. Offer only spoons and knives as utensils. There were no forks in those days. Pottery may be used as well as thick ceramic coffee mugs (no modern designs or clever sayings) for beverages.

MENU. Give the **MEDIEVAL BANQUET** an authentic touch by naming each snack appropriately. Use the simple recipes suggested or search your own cook book for appropriate medieval dishes. It is not necessary to serve an entire lunch. Sample portions of each food are enough to provide a light snack. Have fun with the food and the preparation.

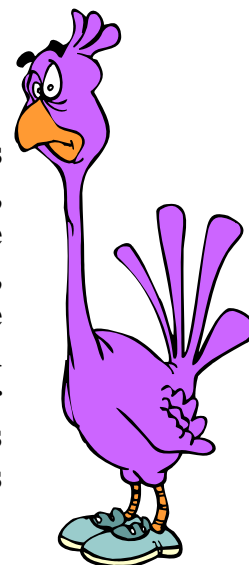


GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE MEDIEVAL BANQUET TEAM

Do not provide alternative “safe” snacks for students who refuse to try unique menu items. Most students are willing to try a “no thank you” helping. Refill when students want more. Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes. Complainers become enthusiastic telling everyone they tried something new. The only exception should be for students with health concerns. Parents should make their desires know before the student arrives.

MEDIEVAL BANQUET SNACK RECIPES

Interpreting recipes from the Middle Ages is fun. Use basic ingredients like cream, butter, cheddar cheese, cottage cheese, olive oil, eggs, oats, oatmeal, wheat flour. Use honey instead of sugar. Meat should be chopped and not ground. Use basic vegetables like potatoes, carrots, turnips, radishes, cabbage, dried beans, peas and onions. Do not use corn or tomatoes. Game meats like venison, pork, bacon, chicken and beef are perfect. Baked or boiled fish may be used. Serve fruit juice or cider. Use old fashioned bread, the hard, crusty type. Pies, tarts, jams and jellies are great. Use herbs in cooking. Use currants, figs, prunes or other dried fruit. Almonds were very popular.



TRENCHERS: Serve as many snacks as possible on medieval styled trenchers. Only the wealthy would eat white bread but you may use it if desired. Also consider dark breads. Flatten each piece of bread with a rolling pin. Make them as flat as possible to resemble a plate.

BEVERAGES: Offer a cold drink each day. Juices, iced tea, punch or other chilled drinks are appropriate. Consider cold apple cider. Keep iced pitchers of water on each table.

FISH AND VEGGIE STICKS

Bake a good quality store brand frozen fish stick. Prepare 1-3 fish sticks for each student. Place the fish sticks on trenchers. Provide a platter filled with sliced carrots, celery, cherry tomatoes, broccoli, cauliflower and other kid friendly favorites. Offer a variety of dips for the fish and vegetables—ketchup, mayonnaise, ranch dip, honey mustard and tartar sauce.



CAPON AND THE POOR DEVIL'S EGGS

Make your favorite chicken salad (Capon) recipe. Keep it simple with kid friendly ingredients. Place a scoop of chicken salad on a trencher. Add one deviled egg to the top of the trencher. Fill wooden bowls with potato chips for each table.

CAPON TRENCHERS WITH PEACH TREE TREATS

Make your favorite egg salad (Capon) recipe. Place one scoop of egg salad on a trencher. Sprinkle shredded cheddar cheese on top. Give each student one helping of canned peach halves with a cherry on top.

CHEESE AND POTATO PEROGIES AND JELLO

Purchase frozen cheese and potato perogies. Provide 1-3 for each student. Prepare them by boiling them in water and then frying in a little bit of butter with onion (optional). Place the perogies on a trencher, sprinkle with shredded cheese and serve with cut vegetables or jello.

PARTRIDGE WINGS WITH SALAD SCRAMBLE

Make lots of mild chicken wings (Partridge). Place 1-2 wings on a trencher. Serve with a small sized portion of tossed salad and potato chips.

OX ROAST WITH FIELD CORN AND PRINCESS PEAS

Slow roast a large quantity of roast beef until it shreds. This must be done in advance using crocks pots and slow cookers. Some seasoning choices include onions, french onion soup mix. Keep it mild and kid friendly. Serve a scoop of ox roast on a trencher. Add hot corn and peas to the trencher or in a separate small dish. Offer potato chips or cut carrots if desired.

DREGS AND PULLED BREAD

Serve your favorite vegetable soup recipe in small bowls. Offer Italian bread pulled apart into jagged pieces and heaped on large platters. Students may dip their bread into the soup or eat it separately. Provide shredded cheddar cheese to top the soup portions.

PIG EARS AND CALF HOOFS

Purchase shaved deli ham (Pig Ears). Heap a cold serving of ham on top of a trencher. Serve with crunchy corn chips (the best calf hoof effect is the Frito-Lay Scoop corn chip).



SWINE PIE

Bake this simple breakfast recipe: In a 9 x 13 pan, mix cubed bread and shredded cheddar cheese. If desired, cubed ham (Swine) or crumbled sausage can be added to the mix. Cover with a mixture of 6 eggs and milk. Top the casserole with shredded cheese and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees about one hour. Timing is everything when serving a large group so...watch your time! Serve one small square on a ceramic plate for each student. Add a side dish of your choice.

MERRY LITTLE TARTS

Bake tarts in muffin pans. Purchase prepared pie crust, cut into small portions and place in the muffin pan. Fill with filling and bake until done. Fillings may include Cherry pie filling, strawberry pie filling, apple pie filling. Top with real whipping cream whipped to a firm peak and serve on a small plate.

APPLE DUMPLINGS

Make your favorite apple dumpling recipe. Encase a small peeled and cored apple sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar in pastry and bake in 350 degree oven. Serve with a dollop of vanilla ice cream and caramel sauce.

GINGERBREAD AND WHIPPED CREAM

Make your favorite gingerbread recipe. Boxed mixes taste delicious. Top with warmed caramel sauce or real whipping cream. Serve warm.

HOMEMADE BREAD/BISCUITS WITH FLAVORED BUTTERS

Bake bread at the church and fill the air with the delicious aroma. Use frozen bread dough to save time. Be generous with servings and be sure the bread is warm when placed on the plate. A delicious alternative is homemade buttermilk biscuits served with flavored butters and honey. Provide plain butter too! Serve bread/biscuits in cloth covered baskets lined with linen napkins.

STRAWBERRY BUTTER: ½ cup fresh strawberries, ½ cup butter at room temperatures, 1 t. confectioners sugar, 1 t. fresh lime juice. Puree berries in blender. Beat butter separately until creamy. Add sugar, lime juice and strawberry puree. Continue beating until the mixture is no longer separated and is well blended.

PEANUT BUTTER AND HONEY BUTTER: ½ cup smooth peanut butter, 1/3 cup honey, ½ cup butter. Blend until smooth in blender. This mixture should be very soft (almost soupy) so that it can be drizzled on the bread. Delicious, but **be aware of children who may have peanut allergies.** Do not serve if there is any question.

SWEET BREADS

Make a variety of date, banana, nut, cranberry and other flavored breads. Use boxed mixes or make homemade versions of these delicious breads. Serve warm with butter and beverage.



PEACH COBBLER

Makes 9 x 13 pan. 1 can crushed pineapple, 1 can peaches and juice, dry yellow cake mix, more peaches, more pineapple, 1/4 cup melted oleo, chopped pecans. Bake 350 degrees, 30-40 minutes until golden. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

PANCAKES, PIGEONS AND FRIED APPLES

Make lots of small pancakes. Fry plenty of tiny link sausages (pigeons). Core and cut large, tart apples into one inch slices. Fry the slices in a pan with a spray cooking oil or the fat from the sausages (depending on how healthy you want the snack) until a fork will pierce them easily. When the items are cooked, arrange them on a warm platter and rush them to the table. Pass a pitcher of maple syrup. Add cold milk and the platter will soon be empty!

PRETIOLA! (PRETZELS)

As early as 610 AD at a monastery somewhere in France or Italy, monks used scraps of dough to represent a child's arms folded in prayer. The three empty holes represented the Trinity. In medieval times merchants traveling to the Frankfurt Fair risked being robbed by bandits. Town people rode out to greet the vendors and offered them pretzels.

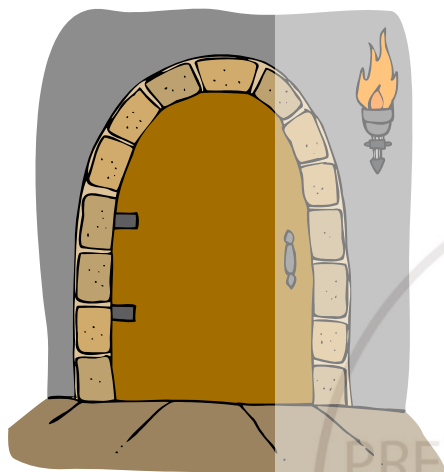
**1 pkg active dry yeast 1/8 C. Warm water 1 1/3 C. Warm water
1/3 C. Brown sugar 5 cups flour**

Dissolve yeast in 1/8 C. Warm water. Stir in 1 1/3 C. Warm water. 1/3 C. Brown sugar and flour. Beat until smooth. Knead dough until smooth and elastic. Heat oven to 475 degrees. In a saucepan, measure 2 T. Baking soda to each cup of water. Place enough to fill saucepan. Boil soda and water. Tear off some dough and roll a pencil shape with your hands. Pick it up by both ends, cross to form rabbit ears, then twist the ends and pull them back to rest on the loop. Place twisted pretzel in water for 15 seconds until pretzel dough is golden or yellow in color. Then remove pretzel from boiling water and place onto salted cookie sheet. Salt top of pretzel with coarse salt. Place cookie sheet with pretzels into oven and bake for 8 to 10 minutes until pretzel is golden brown.



HERALDRY COLLEGE

...A CHRISTIAN COAT OF ARMS!



Students gather at HERALDRY COLLEGE fifteen minutes each day to build a unique Coat of Arms based on what it means to be a Christian. What message do they want to give the world about their personal faith in Jesus? The kids choose picture symbols of what best describes their faith, personality and attributes they want to develop during their lives. The end result is a colorful shield, designed in the ancient tradition of heraldry and appropriate for display.

A QUICK LESSON IN HERALDRY

Heraldry is the study of symbols that are used to represent families, countries and to identify soldiers in war. The shiny armor knights wore over their body did not help them identify someone on their team or fighting someone on the other side. Most noble families had shields called coats of arms. People in the middle class, called peasants, could earn a coat of arms by doing a great deed. Most peasants had coats of arms but they were not given to them by the Heraldry College.

Heralds went to HERALDRY COLLEGE at a very young age and learned how to read and write. They memorized all the coats of arms that were used. They helped in wars by finding the positions of the enemy knights on the battle field. The heralds had a special language for describing shields called **Blazon**.

Today Heraldry has ended in most places but in Great Britain and in Africa they still use coats of arms to show their ancestry. In England, the Heraldry College still chooses who has the right to have a coat of arms like in Medieval Times.

CHARACTER AND COSTUME. Become HAROLD the Heraldry expert who teaches the good news of Jesus to each young herald. The gospel is presented in a non threatening atmosphere. Students are given an opportunity to accept Christ at the end of the week. Follow costume suggestions in the curriculum.



HERALDRY COLLEGE DECORATIONS. The space becomes a medieval classroom and workshop where students build their personal Coat of Arms. Place one or two long tables in the middle of the room with chairs on one side facing the teacher. All craft supplies should be placed on the tables within easy reach of the students.

Display rows of shields on all the walls. Print Christian messages on each shield made from white posterboard. Spray glitter adds to the metallic effect. Make a few shields that are covered entirely in aluminum foil or spray painted silver with no design or message on them. Intersperse these plain shields with the decorated ones. An impressive display is one that shows the shields side by side. Attach to the wall with strong shipping tape or duct tape.

**KING OF KINGS
PRINCE OF PEACE
IN HIS SERVICE
FIND US FAITHFUL**

**WORSHIP HIS MAJESTY
RIDER FAITHFUL AND TRUE
LORD OF THE NATIONS
LIFE BEGINS HERE**

**MIGHTY WARRIOR
KING OF GLORY
JESUS IS OUR KEY
JESUS**

Arrange a display of metal tools in one corner. Bring hammers, anvil, crow bars, metal, nails and other tools that represent metal working.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVE

Each day students visit HERALDRY COLLEGE is a day they learn more about salvation and the gospel message. While students work on their Coat of Arms, gently explain how to become a Christian. Offer an opportunity to accept Christ through prayer at the end of the week.

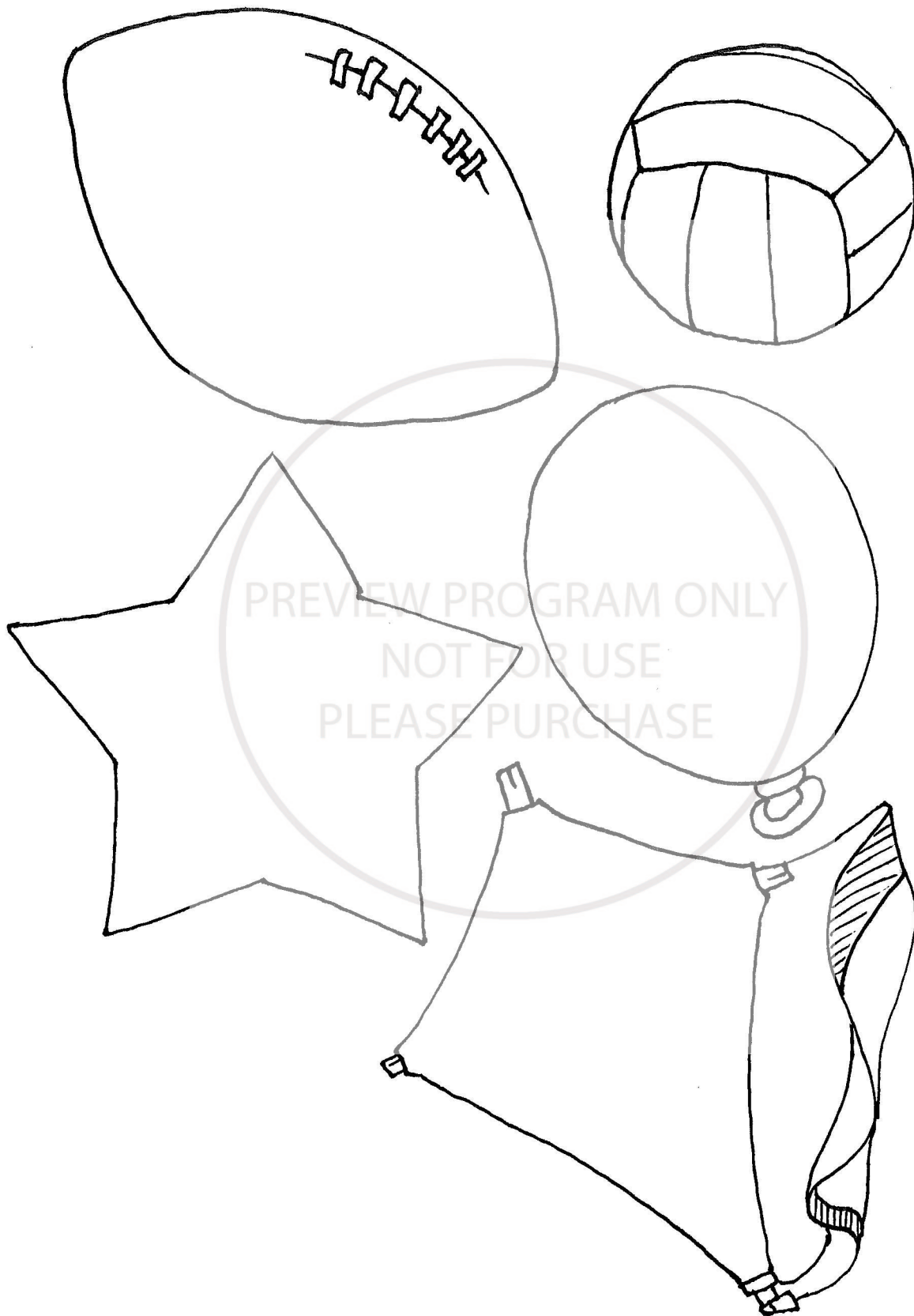
CREATIVE OBJECTIVE

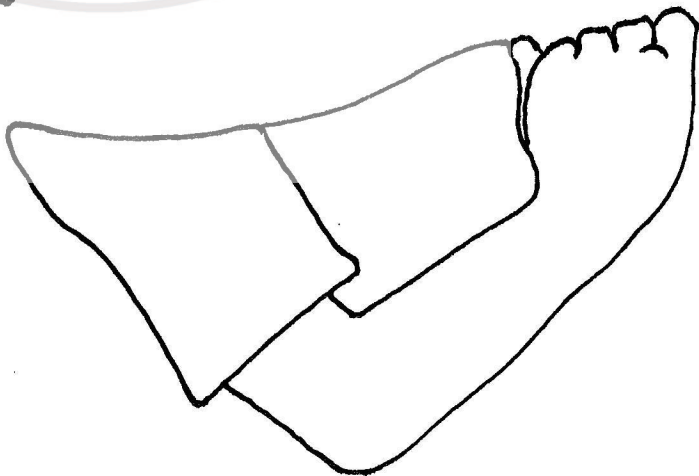
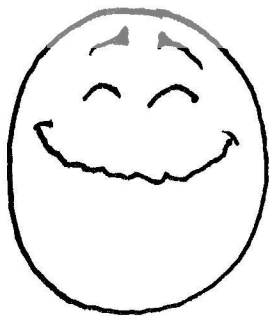
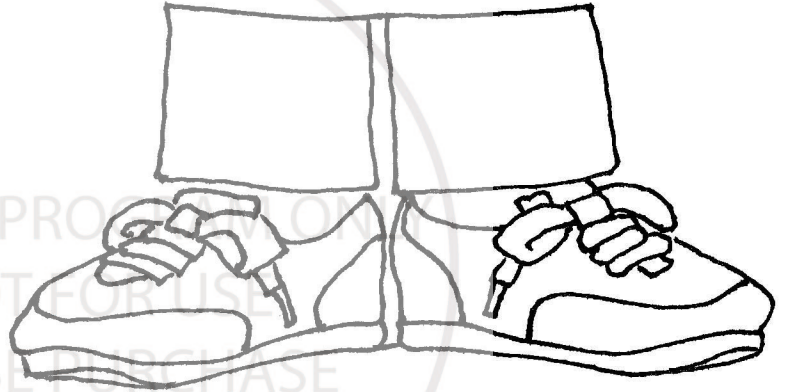
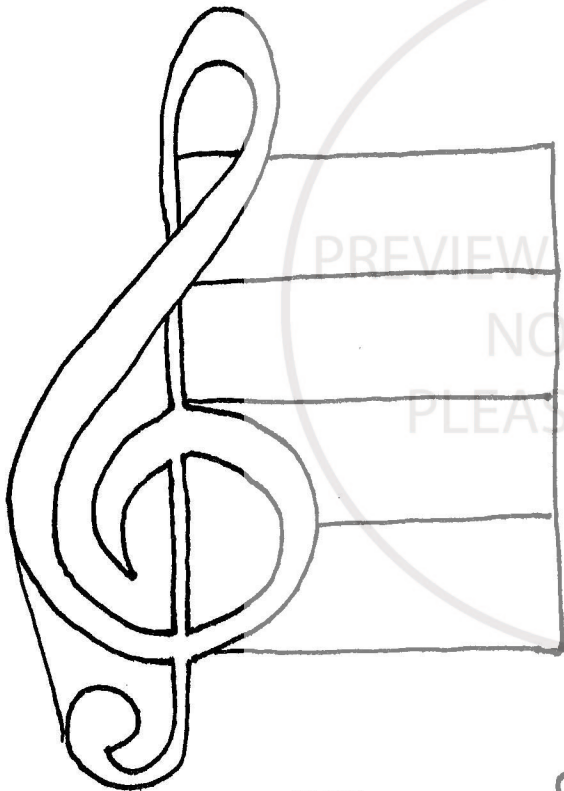
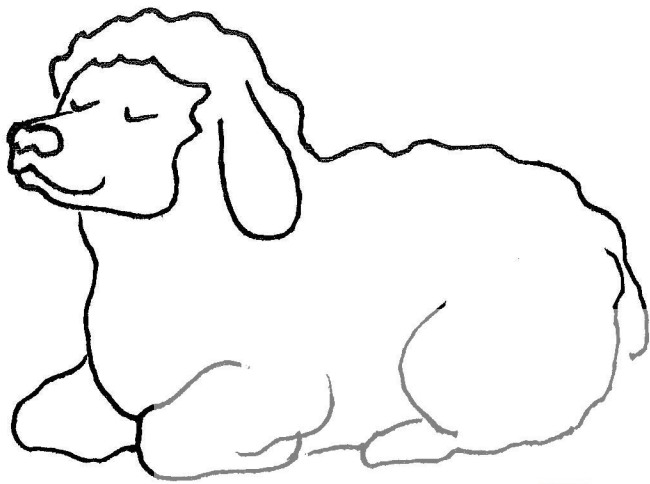
Each student completes a CHRISTIAN COAT OF ARMS, unique to their personality and lifestyle. In order to do this within the fifteen minute activity session, organize materials so that students can work quickly while you speak.

Purchase one piece of white posterboard for each student. Smaller shields may be made by cutting posterboard in half. To save time in class, cut the posterboard HEATER (plain shield) before Vacation Bible School begins. Make a cardboard template, trace the shape with a pencil and cut out.

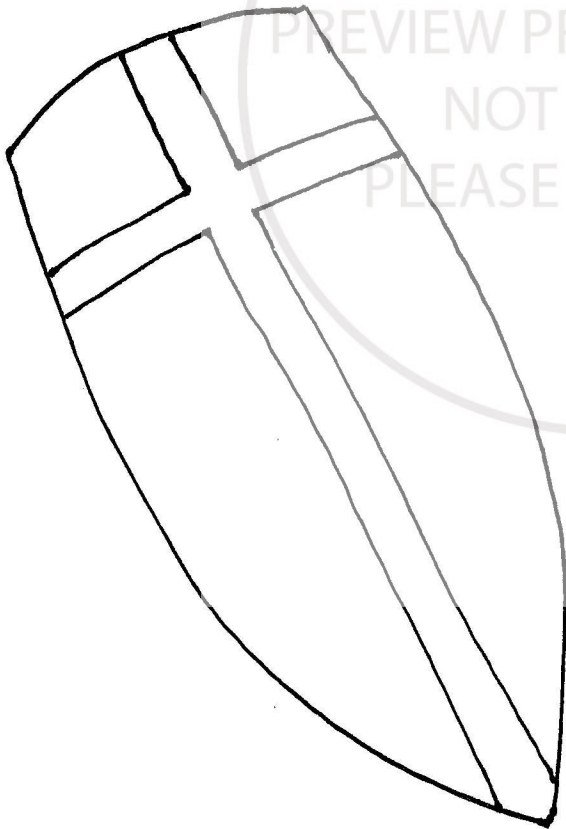
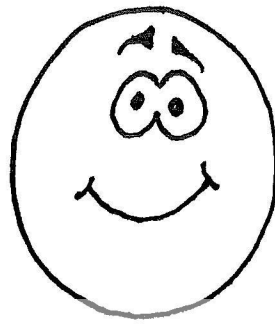
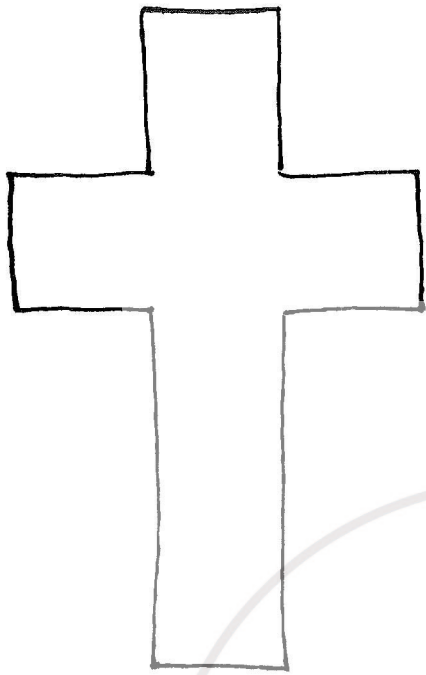
Make a cardboard template for the cross of Jesus. The cross will be the centerpiece of each shield. Trace the cross in pencil on each shield before Vacation Bible School or allow students to trace their own cross from several templates placed on the tables. Students trace and color the centerpiece cross using paint or markers in one solid color. Medieval families chose their identifying colors so let individuals choose their favorite color.



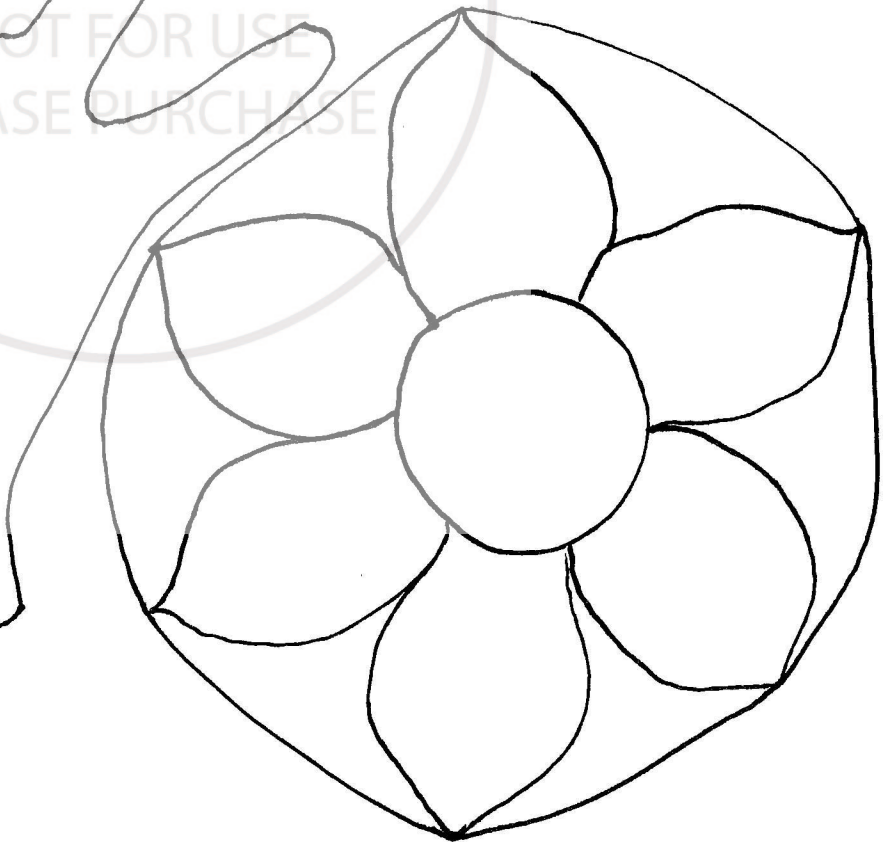
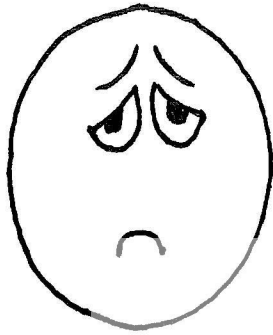




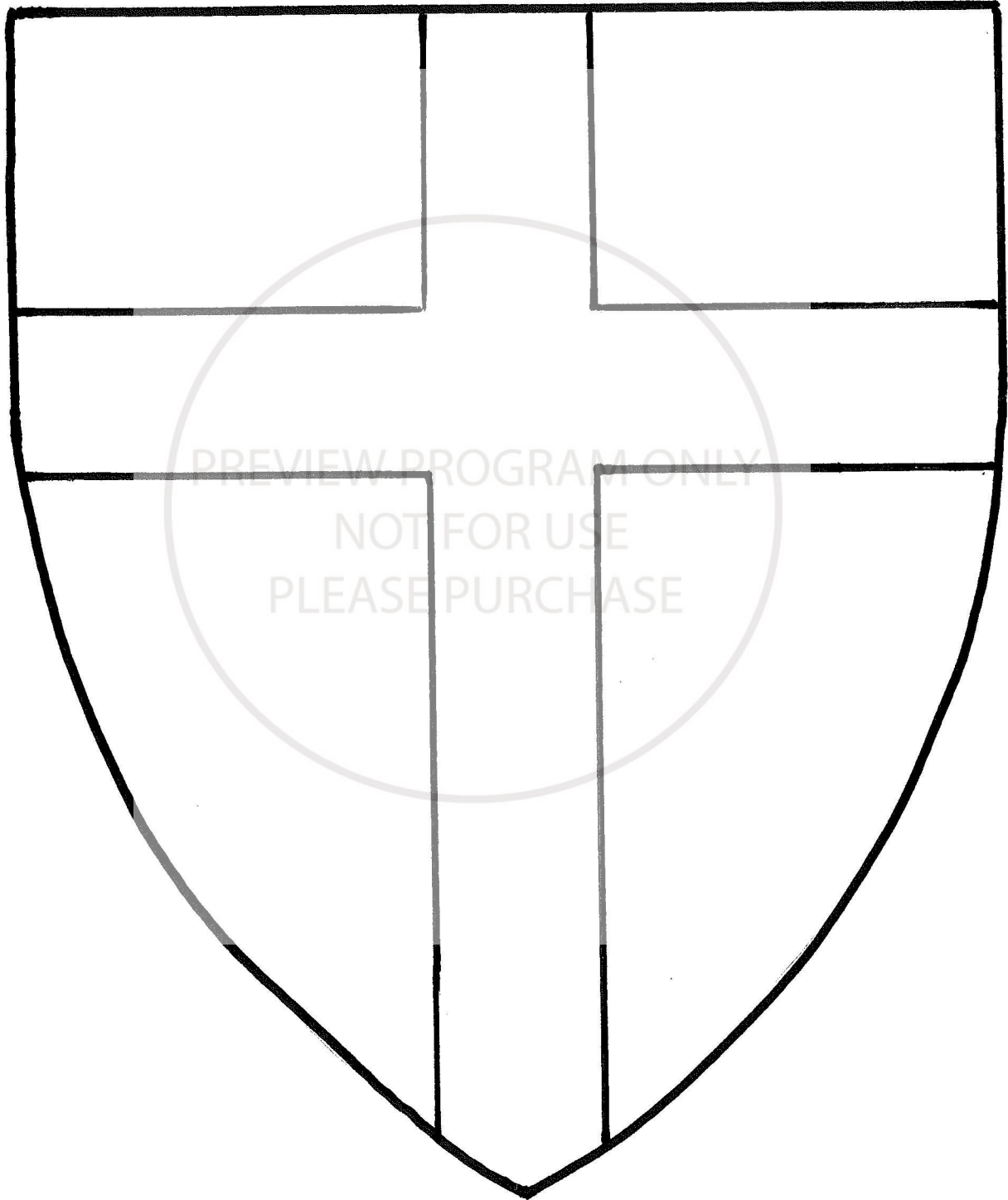
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MONDAY AT HERALDRY COLLEGE

...PEACE AND LOVE

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly. John 10:10b

WELCOME TO HERALDRY COLLEGE! During the Middle Ages, men in armor looked alike, so the coat of arms was used to identify a knight in battle. In a society where few people could read and write, pictures were important. A coat of arms was like a label for instant identification. You wanted to know instantly who was coming toward you, so you could know which side he was on. Coats of arms later became a way of showing membership in the nobility after they lost their meaning in warfare.

As an honorary member of HERALDRY COLLEGE, you are going to design your personal Christian coat of arms. This will identify you as a follower of Christ, the King of Kids! Maybe you do not know much about your King. Maybe you wonder what kind of family the King desires. Listen, learn and create a beautiful Christian coat of arms.

GIVE EACH STUDENT THEIR HEATER. HEATER is the name given to the plain shield. Each day you will add an interesting symbol to your HEATER. At the end of the week, everyone will know more about your faith in Jesus. Real heaters were made of metal. They were painted a plain color called the FIELD and then identifying decorations were added.

COLORING THE CROSS OF CHRIST. Students trace their cross onto the center of the heater using the cardboard template or color the cross that is already traced for them. It is not necessary to color the FIELD. Use a bright color for the cross.

As we talk today, choose a bright color to paint your cross. The cross is the centerpiece of the Christian life. It is also the centerpiece of your coat of arms. Popular colors used for the FIELD were BRIGHT RED, ROYAL BLUE OR SKY BLUE, EMERALD GREEN, ROYAL PURPLE, BLACK, YELLOW OR SILVER.

LET'S TALK! I suppose you are wondering why the Cross of Christ is the centerpiece of the Christian faith. The cross is where all people begin in their journey to heaven. God loved the world so much that he planned for us to live in peace and to love each other. It didn't work out that way. People turned away from God's plan for peace and love and went their own sinful ways. People still do that today. So God, being the loving Creator He is, made a new plan.



Late one night Jesus talked to an important Jewish leader. Nicodemus was an old guy who had been around religious leaders for many years. In fact, he was a pharisee, a member of the Jewish ruling council. Nicodemus was convinced that Jesus was God's Son. He said "No one could perform the miracles you are doing if God were not with him." Jesus told him that no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. Now, this was a very odd thing to say. The old pharisee needed a little explanation. Jesus patiently explained that those who want to know God must accept God's Son. A new life, no matter how old a person is, begins as a little baby. Jesus told Nicodemus that He would die on the cross. "...the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:15, 16 Do you think Nicodemus, the old pharisee, became a Jesus follower? Well, we think that one of the men who requested permission to bury Jesus was none other than...Nicodemus!

And that is why we begin our Christian journey at the cross of Jesus. Each person must understand that Jesus took away your sins and He wants to be the center of your life. He became our Savior. Without Him, we cannot go to heaven.

Asking Jesus to come into your life is the most important decision you will ever make. Your mom cannot make this decision for you. Neither can your dad, grandparents or friends. I cannot choose Jesus for you. You alone are in complete control of this decision. Of course, you want to understand what this decision to become a Christian means. That is what we will learn this week at HERALDRY COLLEGE.

CONCLUSION: Talk about John 3:16. See if the group can memorize the verse while coloring the cross on their shield. Some older students may want to print the words or reference of this "gospel in a nutshell" verse.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON,
THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL NOT PERISH
BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**



TUESDAY AT HERALDRY COLLEGE ...SIN SEEKS TO DESTROY WARRIORS!

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ, Our Lord.
Romans 6:23

WELCOME TO HERALDRY COLLEGE! Here's an interesting fact about the coat of arms. Only the oldest son inherited his family's coat of arms unchanged; his younger brothers usually added a symbol to show who they were. The symbol a younger son added was often a smaller picture placed in the middle of the shield. When a woman married, especially if she had no brothers, her family coat of arms was often added to her husband's arms. Sometimes the arms were QUARTERED, or divided into parts. The man's family coat of arms was in the upper left quarter (as you look at the coat of arms) and lower right, while the woman's family's arms were in the other two quarters. Shields are generally "read" like a book, starting at the upper left, going across and then down.

CHOOSE PICTURES FOR THE UPPER LEFT QUARTER TO COMMUNICATE YOUR CHRISTIAN LIFE TO THE WORLD. Make many copies of the line drawings included with the curriculum so students have lots of choices and may use more than one of any picture. If desired, add your own symbols to the choices. Students may **hand draw** their symbol into the space on the shield. **THIS IS DONE EACH DAY IN A DIFFERENT QUARTER. TELL THEM TO CHOOSE ONE OR TWO PICTURES FOR TODAY AND TO THINK ABOUT ADDITIONS EACH DAY.**

Supplies: COPIES OF PICTURES, SCISSORS, MARKERS OR CRAYONS OR PAINT, WHITE GLUE

LET'S TALK! While you color, cut and glue your symbol for today's upper left quarter, let's think about SIN. Sin is anything that separates a person from God.

God created us in His image. His deepest desire is for us to have peace and love. People disobeyed God and until this very moment, we have gone our own willful way. God could have created humans to be like robots, mindlessly obedient to the master. That is not God's way. He knows that forced love is no love at all. Sometimes our choices hurt us and those around us. God hates sin. He knows that sin takes away God's perfect peace and love.



Jesus told a story about a lost son (Luke 15:11-32). This young man took his inheritance and lived it up in the city. When the money was gone, the young man realized that life with his father on the farm was very good. He had not appreciated his family. He ran home planning to say, “I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.” Before he could speak, his father greeted him with hugs and kisses. He had servants bring new clothing and placed a ring on his finger. Even though his son had sinned against him, this wise father forgave him and welcomed him back into the family.

**The Bible says, For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23
For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life
in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Romans 6:23**

All sin is disobedience to God. Think: “If I think or do this, will God be pleased?” If the answer is “Yes, God will be pleased.” Then do it or think it. If the answer is “No, God will be disappointed in me,” run away from it. Do not allow sin to separate you from the One who loves you most.

Most people deny they have sinful thoughts and deeds. They make up reasons for the way they act and the thoughts they think.

“I didn’t sin. No one heard the words I said.”

“Me, sin? I’ve never done anything bad in my life!”

“Sin? If you think I sin, you should see what my brother did last week!

Believe me, I’m an angel compared to him!”

The entire time we are denying our sinful natures, we are not experiencing God’s perfect plan for us—Peace and love and life.

Just like the lost son, we can have God’s forgiveness for sin. His only requirement? ASK!

CONCLUSION: Say Romans 6:23 together as the group completes their work. If some students did not complete coloring their cross centerpiece, they may continue coloring.

**FOR THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH,
BUT THE GIFT OF GOD IS ETERNAL LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST, OUR
LORD.**



WEDNESDAY AT HERALDRY COLLEGE

JESUS...THE RIDER FAITHFUL AND TRUE

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly.
John 10:10b

WELCOME TO HERALDRY COLLEGE! Here he comes...A shining knight on a beautiful white stallion racing to our rescue! Isn't that how we picture the brave and true knights of the middle ages? There was always a damsel in distress to save. The long ride to the next castle was never too far for a courageous knight. Knights were men who worked long and hard from to become an honored warrior for the king. A young man went through three knighthood stages:

1. **PAGE**, age 7: A page was the first stage of knighthood. He would serve and do easy tasks.
2. **SQUIRE**, age 14: At fourteen the page was promoted to a squire. He trained for battle. He also had higher tasks of serving the king.
3. **ACCOLADE**, age 21: An accolade trained hard to become a knight. He learned to use swords for defense. If an accolade was not successful, he would not become a knight. During the ceremony to become a knight, he took a bath to wash his sins away.

A knight could have been knighted as young as twelve. All knights defended castles and worked for lords or kings. They kneeled before the king where a sword was gently touched to each shoulder. The young man was then permitted to add the honorable title "Sir" to his name.

CHOOSE ANOTHER SYMBOL FROM THE CHOICES IN FRONT OF YOU OR DRAW YOUR OWN SYMBOL TO REPRESENT YOUR CHRISTIAN TESTIMONY. Place the symbol or symbols in the second quarter on the top of your coat of arms. Remember to choose something that describes YOU!

LET'S TALK! John describes seeing Jesus: "...before me was a white horse whose rider is called Faithful and True" Revelation 19:11. Think of Jesus as our Knight in Shining Armor rescuing us from danger. That is exactly what Jesus did when He left heaven to tell the people of earth God's plan for salvation. God cannot stand sin of any kind.



Jesus began His human life in Bethlehem. What a night! This baby was welcomed by angels and shepherds and wise men from a faraway country. He was born to a poor family. He grew up like other Jewish boys. He helped Joseph in the family carpenter business. He told anyone who would listen that God loved them and had a plan for their life. “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly (like they’ve never had it before!)”. Jesus told people how to get to heaven. Some listened, some did not.

Who is this Jesus who gives hope to the nations? He is the man who claims to be God. He proved it by miracles he performed; healing the sick, interrupting nature and raising the dead.

Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6,7 Jesus does not give options for getting to heaven. Being good, becoming the smartest kid in school, doing good deeds...these things are nice but the only way to God is through Jesus.

Jesus said, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8 Alpha was “A” and Omega was “Z” in the Greek alphabet. Jesus was literally saying “I am the beginning and the end!”

After a long walk one day, Jesus questioned His friends. He said, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They said, “Well, some say you are John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others think you are Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” Jesus wanted His friends to understand Him: “But what about you? Who do you say I am?” After living with Jesus, traveling with Him, watching His miracles, Peter knew the answer: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Peter was right. Jesus is our Savior. He came to earth as a humble baby and left the earth our Savior. He rose from the grave to become our Risen Lord.

Now What? If Jesus is really our amazing God, what should we do about that? Is there a right reaction and a wrong reaction to Jesus? Yes. Tomorrow we are going to discover what to do about Jesus.

CONCLUSION: Ask the students to learn today’s scripture verse as they complete placing their symbol on their Coat of Arms.



THURSDAY AT HERALDRY COLLEGE ...CHOOSING CHRIST, THE KING OF KIDS!

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Romans 10:9

WELCOME TO HERALDRY COLLEGE! What a week we are having as we work hard to make our personal Coat of Arms and to discover how to choose Christ, the King of Kids. Here is a basic idea of how medieval shields were designed so that you can create your own in an accurate way. A **BLAZON** represents a family on an estate. When the head of the family died, his eldest son inherited the family arms as well as the estate. The coat of arms represented something permanent, stable and unchanging. Medieval people believed that everything, and every person, had a certain place in the universe.

Pictures on shields were symbols. They were something that represented a quality of the owner to the person who looked at the shield. For instance, a lion or an eagle meant “courage”. The picture was drawn so that everyone knew what it was, but it was not important that it look like a real eagle. **Emblazoning** is the drawing of the actual shield. That is what you are doing. When you have finished your Coat of Arms you should be able to describe yourself to others by describing each symbol.

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE SYMBOLS TO PLACE IN THE THIRD QUARTER OF YOUR SHIELD. This symbol should represent a quality you have that helps you lead others to Jesus. Have fun cutting, coloring and gluing while we talk.

LET’S TALK! The Bible says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20 Choosing Jesus is as easy as agreeing with Him that we need to make a change in how we live. To turn away from all the things that the world says are important and toward Him. If we open the door of our hearts, He will gladly enter and live with us!

Jesus told a story about wise and foolish builders. (Matthew 7:24-27) The wise man built his house on a firm foundation of rock. When the rain came and the winds blew, his house stood firm. The foolish man built his house on sand. As soon as the wind blew and the rain came, his house fell with a great crash. Aha! I get it. Jesus meant that if we are wise, we will build our life on the firm foundation of Jesus. If we are brainless, we forget about Jesus and live it up. Sin seems like fun at the time but there is payment to be made for sin.



God's Word says, "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved." Romans 10:9 Saved from what? Saved from foolishness, a lonely life, sin, and most of all, saved from permanent separation from God. I don't know about you, but I want to spend eternity (forever) in heaven with Jesus!

Here is a simple plan for receiving Christ

ADMIT YOUR NEED! Each of us must admit our sin by saying to God, "I am a sinner."

TURN FROM YOUR SIN! "Repent" is a word which means saying, "I'm sorry" to God.

BELIEVE JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE! God's Word tells us about Jesus and His great sacrifice for us. People who know the Lord have told us the truth about God. Now we must believe the message.

INVITE JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE. It is easy to become a believer in Jesus. Become a Christian by simply asking Jesus to forgive and ask Him to enter your life as Savior and Lord. Age does not make a difference. If you can understand these words, you can accept Jesus as your Savior. Just pray!

Let's Pray: Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe that You died for my sins. I want to turn from my sins. I now invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust You and follow You as Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

If you want this prayer to be the response of your heart for God, join the large crowd of people who have come before you. Stand up and be counted for God. Tell someone that you have become a real Christian today! Follow CHRIST, THE KING OF KIDS!

CONCLUSION: Ask the group to say today's scripture verse several times. Complete the artwork for the day.



FRIDAY AT HERALDRY COLLEGE

...THE QUEST BEGINS!

SCRIPTURE VERSE OF THE DAY

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8,9

WELCOME TO HERALDRY COLLEGE! During our last day together at Heraldry College, it is in our best interest to talk about WEAPONS. Medieval warriors used many kinds of weapons. A knight's favorite weapon was his sword. One kind of sword was called the GREAT SWORD. It was swung with both hands to deliver a powerful blow. The SHINING SWORD had a copper gilt and was probably made for a rich knight.

Other kinds of weapons were battle axes, pole axes, daggers, lances, bow and arrows and crossbows. Weapons were critical for kingdoms. They were extremely important for warriors to protect and conquer other kingdoms.

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE SYMBOLS TO REPRESENT THE KIND OF WEAPON YOU WILL USE TO PROTECT YOURSELF IN YOUR CHRISTIAN QUEST FOR HEAVEN.

LET'S TALK! Christians have weapons too. These are not weapons that kill or hurt people. These weapons protect and serve the believer who is on the quest for heaven. Let's see what some of those weapons are and how they help along the journey.

READ YOUR BIBLE! We cannot know and understand God unless we read His message to us. The Bible is our GREAT SWORD. Swing it with both hands for a powerful blow. Read it every day and think about the words.

TALK TO GOD! Prayer is a powerful weapon. The greatest Christian is one who spends much time on his knees. God waits to hear our voices. Prayer is better than a telephone. The moment you pray, He hears you.

GO TO CHURCH! It is very hard to grow in faith all by yourself. You need the help of good friends who also love the Lord.



LOVE, LOVE, LOVE! We must genuinely care for the people we see every day. Our feelings for them will make them want to know the Lord too!

PREPARE TO MEET GOD. One day Jesus told this story (Luke 13:6-9): A man had a fig tree planted in his garden. He kept waiting for figs to grow. Mmm, figs were delicious and he knew that some fresh, fat figs would be a tasty treat at harvest time. However, nothing happened. Oh, the leaves were green and the trunk was strong but no figs grew! As you can imagine, he was frustrated after three years of waiting. He said to the man who worked for him, taking care of the garden, “Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?”

The professional gardener hated to see the fig tree die so he bargained with the farmer. “Leave it alone for one more year and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.” The gardener knew that with a little special care and preparation, the fig tree just might become all it was meant to be. Jesus does not finish the story. What do you think? Will the fig tree bear fruit after some digging and fertilizer? I have a feeling year four was a banner year filled with healthy, delicious figs!

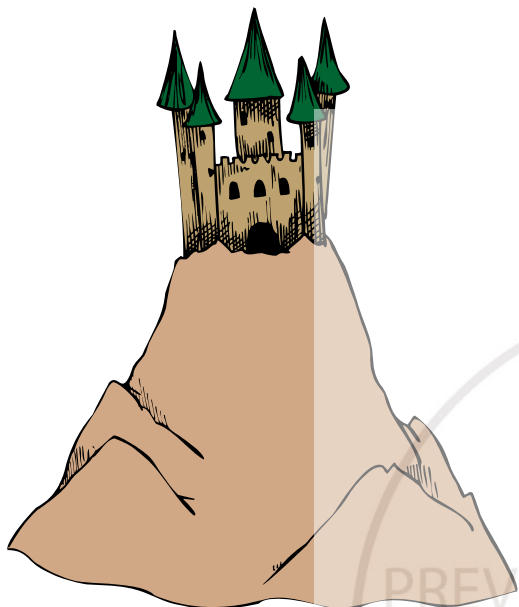
BE PATIENT! Follow His instructions to become a strong Christian. One day we will meet in an out of the way corner of heaven and tell each other the stories of how God loved us so much that He waited just a little longer for us to prepare for heaven!

CONCLUSION: Ask the group to say today’s scripture verse together. Complete each Coat of Arms. If there is time, ask several students in each group to explain their personal shield and how it describes their Christian Quest.

Take the completed shields to the CLOSING PROGRAM. A few students may explain their symbols and the meaning of the Medieval Coats of Arms.



BIBLE STATION TIPS



Each CASTLETOWN Bible Station represents a remarkable location in an imaginary Castle and Manor. Jesus' good news of salvation is joyously proclaimed. Students enjoy a bit of Medieval life trivia, memorize a scripture verse, hear a Bible story and complete a craft. Student groups visit a different station for forty five minutes each day. Bible Station teachers and helpers accompany their group to all activities and serve as extra "hands" in the fifteen minute spots. Have a wonderful time with decorations, costuming and building relationships with each group. Lead your children on a Quest for deeper understanding of what it means to be a servant of...Christ the King of Kids!

BIBLE STATION #1: CHANTICLEER CHAPEL ...PETER'S QUEST FOR TRUTH

Memory Verse: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." John 8:32

Bible Story: Peter and the Rooster

Craft

BIBLE STATION #2: MASTER KEY ARMORY ...PAUL'S QUEST FOR STRENGTH

Memory Verse: "Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

Bible Story: Paul Talks Armor

Craft

BIBLE STATION #3: CASTLE TREASURY ...A RULER'S QUEST FOR TREASURE

Memory Verse: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:21

Bible Story: Rich Guy Makes Big Mistake

Craft



**BIBLE STATION #4: TOWER OF POWER
...A QUEST FOR PRAYER PEOPLE**

Memory Verse: “Call unto Me and I will answer thee....” Jeremiah 33:3

Bible Story: People Pray For Peter

Craft

**BIBLE STATION #5: PEASANT COTTAGE
...THE JESUS QUEST**

Memory Verse: “Serve the Lord with gladness, come into His presence with singing.”

Psalm 100:2

Bible Story: Christ Is King of Kids!

Craft

DECORATE: Follow the decorating suggestions in the lesson plan or fashion decorations to create the specific theme within the Bible Station. Borrow appropriate items from church members, family and friends. Make some of the decorations from construction paper, poster board and cardboard. Use dramatic lighting to make your castle area mysterious and exciting.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Follow the instructions in specific lesson plans. Borrow, rent or make simple costumes.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Teach a scripture verse in each castle area. If a better game, story or activity is available, use it. Shorten the verse to match the age group.

BIBLE STORY: The students must be seated and quiet. Ask questions to encourage active involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may read scripture and participate in discussion.

CRAFT: Choose a craft from our list or create your own project. Reserve one corner to complete a craft keepsake. Divide craft parts into kits. As students take their places, lay everything they need in front of them. Helpers assist young students. Keep projects until Open House. Students not attending Open House may take their completed project home any time.

TIME MANAGEMENT: Students must complete their Bible Station activities in one session. If all suggested activities cannot be completed comfortably within the forty five minutes allotted, choose the most important details and eliminate the rest.



BIBLE STATION CRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

Each CASTLETOWN Bible Station includes time for a craft activity. Choose one craft from the following list to complete with each group. Or, if another appropriate project appeals to any teacher, develop that project. Homemade projects are fun and inexpensive so ask crafty folks in your group to create five separate projects and gather materials for the Bible Station teachers. These suggestions are from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Prices may change. For a current MASTER S&S catalog and/or Christian craft catalog, call 1-800-9232.

NAIL CROSS NECKLACE. Create a permanent symbol of faith with this contemporary cross kit using specially crafted flat sided and flat bottom nails and copper wire. Decorate with assorted metallic paint. Comes complete with nails, wire, non toxic acrylic paint, black cord, brushes and instructions. 2" x 2 ½". **Works great with older kids. Choose a more colorful cross project for younger students.**

CHD-RE291 \$17.99 per pack OF 36. (50 cents per project)

SPARKLING TILE CROSS. Colorfully adorn decorative crosses to hang anywhere. Includes assorted acrylic pieces, glitter, precut cross shapes, non toxic glue, string for hanging and instructions. 5" W x 8" H. **CHD-RE412 \$23.88 per pack of 24. (99 cents per project)**

GLASS LIGHTS CROSS. A true reflection of His love. Hang on a window and let the sun stream through, casting a colorful reflection across the room. Includes precut acetate cross shapes, non toxic glass stain and dimensional paint, cord and instructions. 5" W x 8" H.

CHD-RE417 \$13.99 per pack of 24. (58 cents per project)

BEJEWELED CROSS NECKLACE. Artistry will shine while they make the most important symbol of Christianity into wearable art. Includes precut cardboard crosses, gold/silver foil, plastic gemstones, black cord and non toxic glue. 3 ½" x 2".

CHD-RE371 \$17.99 per pack of 24. (75 cents per project)

HOLY SPIRIT CANDLE CROWNS. The light of the Holy Spirit shines through this copper crown. Make cross designs by punching holes through a copper sheet, then fold into a candle holder. Includes copper sheets, paper fasteners, nails, patterns and instructions. 2 x 5 1/8. Purchase tea candles separately. **CHD-RE304. \$14.88 per pack of 15. (99 cents per project)**



COPPER PUNCH PACK. Impressive copper art is easy to create. Includes copper sheets, white cardboard frames, masking tape, nails, assorted patterns and instructions. 5 ½ x 5 ½.

CHD-RE311 \$19.99 per pack of 40. (50 cents per project)

GOLD N SILVER GLORIES. Enjoy this spectacular embossing activity. Includes gold and silver foil, dowels, non toxic stained glass paints, brushes, cardboard frames, tape, design ideas and instructions. 5 ½".

CHD-RE106 \$15.99 per pack of 53. (30 cents per project)

BIBLE SCHOOL TILE COASTER PACK. Economy sized coaster pack is ideal for Vacation Bible School and youth groups. Complete with tiles, non toxic glue, grout, metal coasters and instructions. 2 7/8" in diameter. Tile shapes may vary.

CHD-TT703XX \$89.99 per pack of 96. (94 cents per project)

NESTED HEART BOXES. These nested chip wood heart boxes are an ideal starting point for so many craft projects. Decorate them with paint, decoupage, stencils, markers and more. When complete, your group members can use them to store special treasures or give as homemade gifts. Heart sizes: 4" x 4" x 1 ½" – 3 ½" x 3 ½" x 1 ¼" and – 4 ½" x 4 ½" x 1 ¾".

CHD-WD 3448 \$1.99 per set of 3. (One box per student is sufficient.)

SHELL CROSS BOXES. Easy to assemble, pre-cut, cross shaped boxes are fun to decorate with assorted shells and metallic gold and copper paint. Great for keeping jewelry, coins and prayers. Comes complete with shells, non toxic paint and glue, brushes, craft board boxes and instructions. 3" x 5" x 5 ½".

CHD-RE279 \$26.99 per pack of 24. (\$1.12 per project)

CHRISTIAN SAND ART STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. Some of the most beautiful stained glass windows in the world can be found in houses of worship. These sand art boards were inspired by such windows. Simply peel off the pre-cut backing to expose adhesive and apply colorful sand. Your group will be awed by the results of this easy to do project. 5" x 7". Sand sold separately.

CHD-SP3952 \$9.99 per pack of 12. \$7.99 per pack, 3+.

Fine terrarium sand in a variety of colors available in the catalog and on the web site.

www.ssw.com

CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS SAND MAGNETS. Simply pull back the paper covering to expose the adhesive and pour sand over the magnet. Pack contains pre-cut magnetic shapes, assorted ultra fine sand and instructions. **CHD-RE385 \$27.00 per pack of 36. (78 cents per project)**



PAPER STAINED GLASS WINDOWS. A brilliant array of colors shine through these popular stained glass windows. So easy to create, so impressive to display. Includes precut construction paper stained glass panels, tissue paper, non toxic glue and instructions. 9" x 12". \$14.99 per pack of 40. (37 cents per project)

CHD-RE217 PEACE ON EARTH DOVE WINDOW
CHD-RE180 THE LORD IS MY LIGHT INSPIRATIONAL WINDOW
CHD-RE334 FISH WINDOW
CHD-RE333 CROSS WINDOW
CHD-RE315 STAINED GLASS WINDOW ASSORTMENTS/ALL DESIGNS

COLOR LITE STAINED GLASS SUN CATCHERS. Light up any room with these beautiful sun catchers. Your group can easily create a stained glass effect by gluing tissue paper over a simulated lead design. Comes complete with heavy vinyl sheets, tissue paper strips, non toxic decoupage and liquid leading, sponges and instructions 6" x 9".

CHD-RE265 \$21.99 per pack of 24. (92 cents per project)

REFLECTIONS IN GOLD MIRROR. Remind children that each and every one of them is a treasure, a gift from God. This is reflected in a mirror adorned with Christian symbols and embossed in gold foil. Pack includes acrylic mirror, gold foil, embossing tool and instructions. Approximately 3" x 4".

CHD-RE401 \$13.88 per pack of 4. (99 cents per project)

CREATE A BANNER. 9" x 10 1/2" banners fit almost anywhere. Includes dowels and yarn for hanging as well as burlap, felt, non toxic glue and instructions.

CHD-GP974 \$24.88 per pack of 25. \$19.99 per pack, 3+. (99 cents per project)

CHOOSE FROM MANY MORE PROJECTS AVAILABLE IN THE S&S ARTS AND CRAFTS CATALOG. FOR EASY ORDERING, CALL CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES AT 1-888-236-5433.

THINK ABOUT HOMEMADE PROJECTS AND LOCAL CRAFT STORE SUPPLIES.



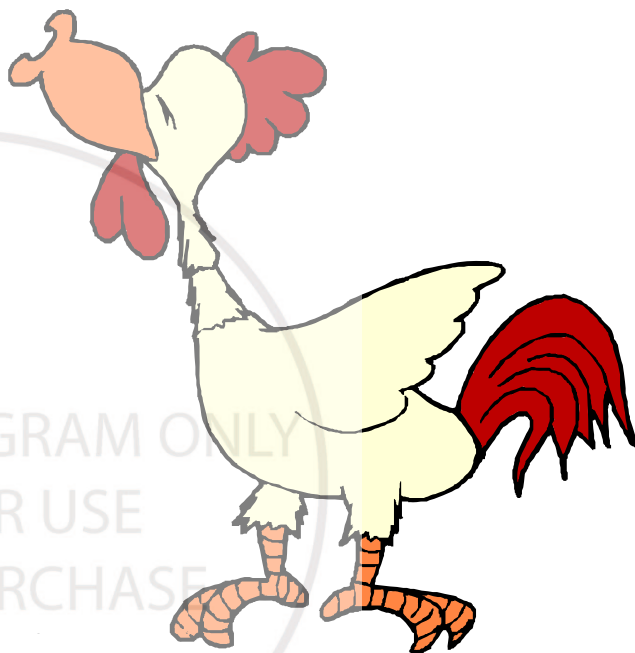
BIBLE STATION #1:

CHANTICLEER CHAPEL

...PETER'S QUEST FOR TRUTH

THEME: This Bible Station's spiritual theme is a reminder that God loves truth. Sin always lurks around the corner and lying is very tempting when your back is against the wall.

Peter had an interesting encounter with a rooster. That crowing rooster reminded him that he did not tell the truth when he denied Jesus three times in one night. **Chanticleer** is a "*Canterbury Tales*" name for rooster and the chapel environment reminds everyone that Peter always wanted to worship His Lord and Savior. His weakness was being afraid when confronted with truth.



DECORATION: Construct a castle chapel. Stack rough stone rocks in corners for a castle feel. Place an altar at one end of the room. Use a large wooden table with typical altar items: one large cross, large candles, open Bible and a brass chalice. Place one or two ceramic roosters on the table. The rooster is the basic artistic theme so bring as many roosters into the area as possible. Each wall should have one large rooster drawn in bright colors. Make a rooster sign for the door. When groups enter the chapel area they should feel peaceful.

Seating: Arrange rows of folding chairs facing the altar. Use only the amount of chairs for the number of students expected. Arrange chairs in straight rows or in a semicircle.

Lighting: Create a worshipful atmosphere by lowering the room lights and hiding smaller lights behind barriers on the floor shining upward along each wall. Light candles on the altar.



Music: Play tapes or CD's of worshipful instrumental music. This may include classical, Gregorian chant, violin, organ, flute, string quartet or classical piano. Give it a formal medieval flair if possible. The music plays quietly through the entire Bible Station time.

Stained Glass Window: Design a homemade stained glass window to display behind the chapel altar. Make an impressive posterboard narrow "window" the entire length of the front wall. Sketch an appropriate design on several pieces of posterboard taped end to end to the desired length. Paint or color bright colors into each section. Use a wide black marker to simulate the leading in a real window. Light the artwork directly from the floor or ceiling. If possible, work a rooster into the stained glass.

Craft Tables: Place one or two long tables along the back wall of the chapel. Place all supplies needed for the project on the tables before the group arrives.

Costume and Character: This is totally up to the participants. You may dress in typical medieval costume as described in the curriculum or dress as monks in simple brown or black robes tied with rope. An old black graduation gown works well to represent the medieval style of dress for leaders of the castle chapel.

WELCOME TO CHANTICLEER CHAPEL!

What exactly is a Chanticleer (SHON-ti-clear)? I bet this is your number one question as you enter our castle chapel. Chanticleer comes from Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. The Chanticleer is a proud, fierce rooster who dominates the barnyard. For the best description of Chanticleer we turn to Chaucer's words.

"For crowing was not his equal in all the land. His voice was merrier than the merry organ in church, and his crowing from his resting place was more trustworthy than a clock. His comb was redder than fine coral and turreted like a castle wall. His bill was black and shone like a jet and his legs and toes were like azure. His nails were whiter than snow and his feathers were like burnished gold."

With all of his splendor and great looks, Chanticleer is also greatly feared and mightily respected by all. He is much more than a pretty face. He uses his great wit, knowledge and cunning to come out on top every time. From his strong build to his vast knowledge to his mind set to always succeed, Chanticleer is a great pattern for us to follow.

What exactly is a Chapel? We have all been to a church where the choir sings and the pastor preaches behind a pulpit. Row upon row of pews hold many people. Most churches have a large organ and a beautiful piano where music flows at just the right times. Sometimes lights are bright and other times the lights are turned down low. The glass windows are large and are works of art. There is often candlelight and we feel a need to be quiet before the Lord. Church is where we honor and worship God.



A chapel is a lot like that except much smaller. A chapel is often a very small room where a few people can go to worship God and pray privately. Sometimes the pastor speaks in a chapel and sometimes people get married in a small chapel. Large churches have chapels as side rooms. Some communities have tiny chapels where people visit any time of the day or night.

In the Middle Ages, a chapel was always part of the castle manor. Of course there were grand cathedrals and monasteries in large cities but the medieval chapel was an intimate place to worship God. Today, I invite you to visit CHANTICLEER CHAPEL. Enjoy!

MEMORY VERSE: Teach today's scripture verse to the group. Place individual words on brightly colored construction paper shaped like rooster feathers. Ask the group to say the verse aloud. Take away one large feather, to say the verse. Repeat until all feathers are removed and the group can say the verse from memory.

**YOU SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH
AND THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE.
JOHN 8:32**

No one likes being lied to because it crushes trust. Peter learned a lot about the important of telling the truth one night long ago. Let's hear his story and learn why lies are dangerous.

BIBLE STORY: PETER AND THE ROOSTER

"Oh what a tragic web we weave, when first we practice to deceive." That folksy saying has been used for generations to explain why telling a lie may seem innocent but the end will be less than perfect. One lie leads to another until we are caught like a fly in a spider web.

Taken from Mark 14 and Luke 22: Peter was a strong, manly man. This burly fisherman left his nets and followed Jesus. He became a trusted friend and one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Sometimes Peter's mouth got him into trouble. Whatever he thought, he had to say.

The night Jesus was arrested was a terrible time. During a last supper together, Peter declared, "Even if everyone else leaves you, I will not." Jesus said, "Don't be so sure, Peter. Tonight before the rooster crows twice you yourself will deny you know me three times." Peter insisted, "Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you." The disciples prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, fell asleep when they were supposed to be on guard and watched helplessly when Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers. Fear took over and the disciples scattered in desperation.



Jesus was taken away to be questioned and beaten. He was given the death sentence that night by people who lied about Him and spit on Him. While all this was going on, Peter followed at a safe distance and was hanging around the courtyard. A servant girl noticed Peter warming himself by the fire. She said, *“You were with the Nazarene, Jesus.”* He denied it: *“I don’t know what you’re talking about.”* He went out on the porch. A rooster crowed.

The girl spotted him again and began telling the people standing around, “He’s one of them.” He denied it again. After awhile, the bystanders mentioned it. *“You’ve got to be one of them. You’ve got ‘Galilean’ written all over you.”* Peter was really frightened now and he swore. *“I never laid eyes on this man you’re talking about.”* Just then the rooster crowed a second time. At the same time, Jesus turned and looked at Peter. Peter remembered how Jesus said, *“Before a rooster crows twice, you’ll deny me three times.”* Peter collapsed in tears. He knew he lied, he knew Jesus was aware of his lie and he had failed his friend in a time of crisis.

CASTLETOWN LESSONS: THE TROUBLE WITH LYING

ASK THESE QUESTIONS: Do you tell lies to get out of trouble or to make yourself look better in a difficult situation? Who is most tempting to lie to? (*Parent, grandparent, brother/sister, teacher, friend*) What does God think about a lie? What is a white lie? Is there anyone here who never, never tells lies?

- 1. LIES GET YOU INTO TROUBLE.** Even though it seems easy, there is always a price to pay for lying. Even if it is hard to tell the truth at the moment, it is best to be honest.
- 2. LIES DO NOT PLEASE GOD.** When we dishonor other people, we disappoint God. Telling a lie says we don’t trust the person to deal with us fairly. God considers dishonesty a sin.
- 3. LIES MAKE YOU FEEL BAD ABOUT YOURSELF.** When we disappoint God, we disappoint ourselves. One lie leads to another and soon we live out the saying: Oh what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.
- 4. LIES BECOMES EASY.** It becomes difficult to know the difference between truth and lie. A good liar must develop an excellent memory to keep the lie alive. Lying is exhausting. It is easier to tell the truth.

INSTEAD OF LYING

Think before you speak.

Do the right thing so that you do not have to lie.

Honor the people in your life with honesty.

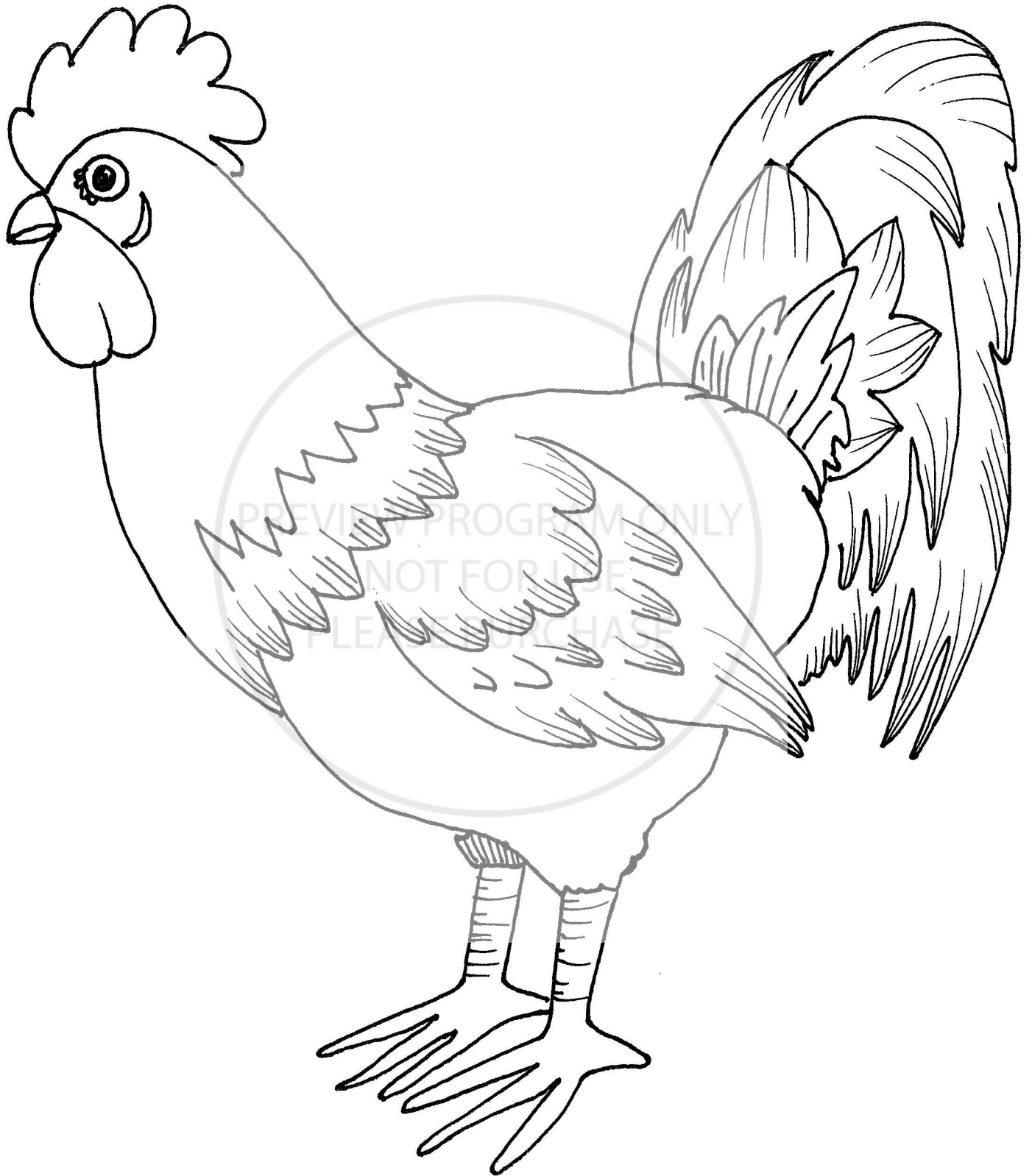
Tell the truth immediately and take the punishment.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

CHANTICLEER CHAPEL CRAFT

Choose a craft from the curriculum list.





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

BIBLE STATION #2:

MASTER KEY ARMORY

...PAUL'S QUEST FOR STRENGTH

SPIRITUAL THEME: *Christian kids receive good news that Christ gives strength and courage to those who love and follow Him. Paul gave an example of the protective gear all believers can wear to protect themselves from everything Satan throws their way.*

DECORATION: This station is a medieval armory. Use tables and tools, chains and anvils to set the mood in this practical workshop. Spray paint cardboard armor pieces with silver paint or cover with aluminum foil for texture.

WALL ARMOR: Hang large pieces of cardboard armor from the walls. Use simple shapes for helmet, sword, breastplate, shield, belt and shoes.

SIGNS: Hang a large silver or aluminum foil cross as a wall centerpiece. Place messages around the cross—**PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD, STAND FIRM AGAINST THE DEVIL, DEFEND YOURSELF, BE READY, GOD IS ON YOUR SIDE.**

LIGHTS: String white twinkle lights along the walls at floor level. Lights may outline the walls at each corner. Place small electric lights on the floor to up light the walls for a dramatic effect.

SILVER CHAINS: Make long chains from aluminum foil and hang them down the walls. Or, use real chains. Hardware stores sell lengths of chains that look terrific anyplace in the room.

MASTER KEYS: Make large cardboard keys and paint them silver. These **MASTER KEYS** may be used to print theme phrases for lesson time. Place the master keys on one wall.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become a working medieval armorer named SPARKS. Sparks may be male or female. *(This is a good workshop for male leaders.)* Wear medieval costumes as suggested in the curriculum. Add silver metallic touches. Leather belts, tool belt and arm bands may be added as desired.



MASTER KEY ARMORY WELCOME: Welcome to MASTER KEY ARMORY. I am Sparks, the armorer in the castle of King Jesus. Successful defense depends on more than the stout castle walls and the courage of warriors. In great castles of the Renaissance era, **armories** produced the armor worn by knights. At first, armor consisted of chain mail. Gradually, armor made of large metal plates covering the entire body was developed. It was extremely expensive and only elite knights could wear it.

In these medieval times many knights ride out to do battle. They make sieges on other castles, headlong charges into fierce battles and defended their own castles against sieges. Knights are not always so good at fighting. Knights must pass long, hard, half boring hours of practice, practice, practice. First they become a page. If they do well they become a squire. If squires are worthy they are dubbed and become knights.

Before a squire is dubbed knight, he prays all night. He prays without sleeping or eating. In the morning he takes a warm bath. Then he puts on a padded vest and hood so his armor does not hurt him. Chain mail armor or plate armor comes next and then he puts on a white tunic to represent peace. The tunic protects his armor from rusting in the rain and sun. He kneels before his king who slaps him with his hand or a sword. The king says, "I dub thee Sir Knight."

The new knight is then given a sword, lance and golden spurs. Each weapon had a meaning. The lance—"As fear of the lance drives back the unarmed, so the knight drives back the enemies of God." The sword—"The two edges of the sword show that the knight serves God and the people." Then the knight is free to roam. He rides off on quests of adventure. He challenges any knight that passes by or does battle for a damsel in need.

A good suit of armor is made to measure. Preparing the knight is no mean feat; after undergarments, the suit of armor is put on in a specific order. Frequently the armorer...that's me... makes last minute alterations. With the development of accurate artillery and the shift from hand to hand combat between knights to encounters between large forces of foot soldiers, the wearing of armor was turned over to ceremonial occasions. The suits are so elaborately decorated that they are works of art in themselves.

Every knight I armor is perfectly protected from the arrows of the Enemy! I want each of you to learn to wear the armor of a Christian Knight. The armor I offer is found in God's Word.

MEMORY VERSE: Print the scripture verse on large silver key shapes made of cardboard. Students learn one word or one phrase at a time as they read it or hear the verse spoken. Shorten the verse to "Put on the full armor of God." Ephesians 6:11 for the youngest students.



ARM WRESTLING: Let's find out how strong you are. I need a couple of strong volunteers to demonstrate their strength. (*Allow as many teams of arm wrestlers to show off their strength as there is time.*) Even though you are very strong, you are not strong enough to fight spiritual battles on your own. You need help!

Paul said all Christians must have God's armor in place to be protected from sin. It is not enough to wear your helmet and forget your sword. Today's verse says the armor is HIS, not yours. He says to put on what He has provided. He will protect you from harm.

PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD,
THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND FIRM
AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL.
EPHESIANS 6:11

BIBLE STORY: PAUL TALKS ARMOR!

Night and day a Roman guard was chained by the wrist to ensure Paul would not escape from prison. No doubt, he explained the good news about Jesus being the Messiah and Savior to every soldier he encountered. They could not escape! What were the soldiers wearing? What type of battle garb was in their minds? Armor! Paul used the Roman soldier's armor to explain protection for spiritual battles. You have to admire his courage and his creativity. Many Roman soldiers became believers because of Paul's testimony.

OPTION: As the story is told, dress one student in a homemade version of Christian armor. Begin with a simple tunic made from a sheet. Use curriculum suggestions or design your own armor. Christian bookstores and catalogs offer plastic armor. Costume stores may have armor to rent. When the student is fully armored, take a picture!

Ephesians 6:10-18 (*Some phrasing from The Message, Eugene Peterson*): Today's Bible story explains what every Christian must do to prepare for spiritual attack from the enemy, Satan. Paul mentioned each piece of armor and showed what it does for defense. God is strong and He wants you to be strong. Take everything the Master has prepared for you, well made weapons of the best materials. Put them to use and you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way.



(Print theme phrases on silver cardboard keys and place on the wall as you explain.)

- 1. BE PREPARED!** The Christian journey is no afternoon game we forget in a couple hours. This battle is for keeps, a life or death fight to the finish against God's great enemy and the Christian's enemy, Satan. You are up against far more than you can handle on your own.
- 2. TAKE ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET!** Grab every weapon God issued so when it's all over but the shouting, you will still be on your feet.
- 3. USE GOD'S WEAPONS!** Truth, righteousness, peace, faith and salvation are more than nice words. Learn how to use them. You will need them throughout your life. Read God's Word and pray. It is the only way to be a winner.
- 4. KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN!** You never know when the enemy will strike. Watch for sin and fight it. Do not be caught sleeping. The enemy attacks when you are lazy.
- 5. WORK AS A TEAM!** Christians must keep each other's spirits' up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

BELT OF TRUTH

Be ready! Let the truth be like a belt around your waist (v.14a)

Wear a metal belt with a chain.

If not available, use a leather belt or sash tied at the waist.

The soldier's belt fit around the waist of his tunic. His sword hung from it and gave him freedom of movement. TRUTH is an important piece of armor for the Christian. Others may guess about what life is but Christians move freely and quickly because they know the truth about God. When wearing the belt of truth, TRUTH is surrounding you. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the TRUTH and the Life. No man comes to the Father but by Me." John 14:6.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

...And let God's justice protect you like armor. (V. 14b)

Cut a cardboard oval shape with a slight scoop at the neck. Cover in foil or spray paint.

Attach twine to the top and bottom at each side of the breastplate and tie it in back.

The Roman soldier's breastplate was a short armor vest. It was designed to deflect sharp points of knives and spears while in the heat of battle. It protected vital organs like heart, lungs and stomach. People might take a quick jab at the Christian's faith in Jesus but his spirit is not fatally wounded. No one can change his mind. A man once accused the great philosopher, Plato, of crimes. He replied, "Well then, I must live in such a way as to prove his accusations are a lie." The only way to meet charges against Christianity is to show how good a Christian can be.



SHOES

Your desire to tell the good news about peace should be like shoes on your feet. (V.15)

Any pair of running shoes will work. If desired, paint wings on the shoes.

Sandals can be used.

The Roman soldier was privileged to wear strong sandals with hobnails. Poor people wore no foot covering and wealthy citizens wore a more elegant sandal or slipper. Sandals were a sign of being equipped and ready to move. The sign of the Christian is that he/she is eager to be on the way to share the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS with others who have not heard it.

If you do not know how to share news about Jesus, now is a good time to learn. Jesus was sent from God as a baby. He grew in grace and spent three years telling everyone about God's love. He died on the cross and was raised from the grave. He is in heaven today and speaks to God for every Christian who needs His help.

SHIELD OF FAITH

Let your faith be like a shield, and you will be able to stop all the flaming arrows of the evil one. (V. 16)

Make a long, cardboard shield and cover in aluminum foil or silver spray paint.

Duct tape a cardboard handle to the back. The shield should be as tall as the students.

The word Paul uses for shield is **not** something small and round. It is the great oblong shield which the heavily armed Roman soldier wore. One of the most dangerous weapons in ancient warfare was the fiery dart. When the dart hit this shield, it sank into the wood and the flame was put out. FAITH can deal with the darts of temptation. FAITH is always complete trust in Christ. Walking close to your Savior, you are safe from temptation.

HELMET OF SALVATION

Let God's saving power be like a helmet....(v.17)

A helmet can be anything from a metal kitchen colander to a metal salad bowl to a gallon milk jug cut into a helmet shape and covered with foil.

The Roman soldier's helmet was made of strong metal. It covered as much of his head, neck and face as possible. Straps laced across the chin to hold it in place for running and fighting. Paul says a Christian's helmet is SALVATION. Salvation is Christ's forgiveness for past sins and strength to win over future sins. No person has ever entered heaven without his helmet of salvation. A helmet protects the head and brain. The thinking part of our bodies is very important to God. We must KNOW God loves us and wants us saved from destruction. Put on the helmet of salvation.



SWORD

...and for a sword use God's message that comes from the Spirit. (V.17b)

Hold a large Bible or a large cardboard sword with GOD'S WORD printed on it. The soldier had several types of swords. He carried a short dagger in his belt. He slung a gladius (short, stabbing sword in a protective scabbard) over his shoulder and held a long javelin in one hand. The Christian's SWORD is the Word of God. It is our weapon of defense against sin and our weapon of attack against the temptations of the world.

THE GREATEST WEAPON OF ALL!

Never stop praying, especially for others. Always pray by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Stay alert and keep praying for God's people. (V.18)

The greatest weapon is invisible. Pray all the time. Remain strong by bringing every problem to your Heavenly Father. There is no problem too large or too small that cannot be handled with prayer. Use this weapon in every battle.

CASTLETOWN LESSONS: NO FEAR!!

The whole armor of God is made to be worn
There is no putting off our armor until we have finished our life.

Resist Satan and he will flee.

There is no armor for the back,
nothing to defend those who turn back in Christian warfare.

Temptations are darts Satan shoots at us.

Faith is our shield and stops the darts of temptation.

Salvation MUST be our helmet.



The Christian armed for battle
only needs the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

It answers unbelief and error during enemy assault.

Prayer fastens all the other parts of our Christian armor.

So...Let's put on our Christian armor and follow Christ!

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

CRAFT: Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own project. An appropriate project from S&S arts and crafts catalog are NAIL CROSSES (while available).

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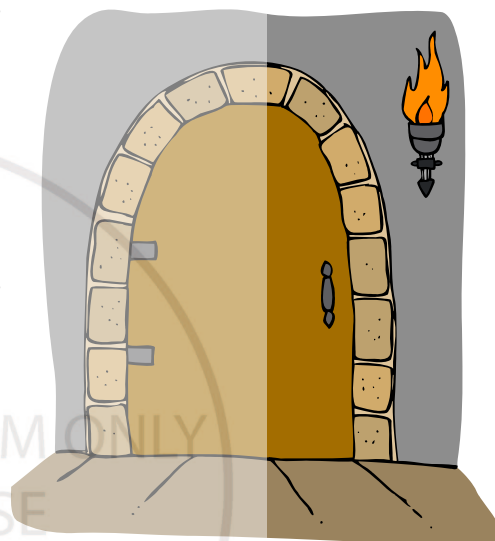


BIBLE STATION #3:

KING'S CASTLE TREASURY

...A RULER'S QUEST FOR TREASURE

SPIRITUAL THEME: *Instead of the grand quest for “stuff”, consider what the King treasures most. It may not be what you think. This Bible Station features the heartfelt treasures of the King. Using Jesus’ experience with the rich, young ruler, students learn to reevaluate their treasures and head for heaven with a “lighter load”.*



DECORATION: Create a castle treasury room. Turn one room into a space filled with valuable treasures. Scatter treasure chests, delightful cases filled with golden crowns, jewelry and coins, chains, richly colored fabrics and items designed to look like grand keepsakes. Look in your attic, closets, basements and garages for beautiful things. Spray paint small rocks gold and stack the golden treasure on a small table. Surround existing windows with cardboard/posterboard painted to look like stone castle windows. Place pewter or silver candlesticks in the window casings. Trim with a colorful rug and suit of armor in one corner.

Banner: Hang a large fabric or poster banner in a prominent spot in the treasury. Print this verse on the banner and surround it with colorful images of flowers. “Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth or rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in or steal!” Matthew 6:20

Seating: Students sit on the floor facing an area filled with chests and costume jewelry tumbling out of wooden and metallic cases.

Lighting: Fill the room with small lamps on the floor hidden by large “treasures” or chests. Electric or real candles/lanterns may be lit in the window casings or on high tables.

Craft Tables: Place one or two long tables along the back wall of the treasury. Place all supplies needed for the project on the tables before the group arrives.



COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Dress in Renaissance clothing as suggested in the curriculum. Become **BLING, CHRIST THE KING'S PERSONAL TREASURER**, a disciplined keeper of the King's most treasured belongings.

WELCOME TO THE KING'S CASTLE TREASURY!

Welcome! I am **BLING**, Christ the King's personal Treasurer. Not many people are permitted to enter this inner room in The King's Castle. As you can see, all the money and treasured keepsakes of the castle manor are kept securely behind these castle walls. You may ask why we do not keep our treasures in the bank. It is because we do not have banks. It is up to each person to keep valuables safe from thieves or destruction. Common folk usually bury their coins and other treasures. If an invading army plunders our manor, they will not find buried treasures. Later, the peasant returns to his secret place and digs up his treasure. Here in the castle we guard the King's Treasure with our lives. He needs these riches to take care of the people who live in the manor. I am the Treasurer in charge of these valuables. Help me account for real treasures that are important to the King.

Ask students to reach into a crystal punch bowl and pull out gold nuggets. Nuggets may be small stones sprayed gold. Print one word on each stone in black marker or black acrylic paint. Cover each nugget with spray gold glitter. Choose from these treasures:

FAITH	HOPE	LOVE	PEACE
GENTLENESS	MEEKNESS	PATIENCE	TRUTH
PRAYER	HONESTY	HONOR	COMPASSION
LOYALTY	HOLINESS	HARD WORK	JESUS
GOD	FREEDOM	ABUNDANT LIFE	HAPPINESS
JOY	SHARING	HEART FOR GOD	PEOPLE
HOLY SPIRIT	SALVATION	GOODNESS	THE CROSS
NEW LIFE	HEAVEN	ETERNAL LIFE	MERCY
TO FORGIVE	TO BE FORGIVEN	TO BE LAST	HELPER

Oh! Did you think the treasures of the King were the beautiful jewels scattered around the treasury? Maybe you thought that stack of coins was the most important treasure. Many people think these gold crowns are the most expensive treasure in the castle. They are wrong. Christ's most important treasures involve **YOU**. **YOU** are His treasure. He wants **YOU** to live a fulfilled life. He made plans for these treasures to be in His kingdom long before you arrived.



MEMORY VERSE: Teach today's scripture verse to the group. Place individual words on gold and silver painted stones. Ask the group to say the verse aloud. Take away one stone. Repeat the words until all stones are removed and the group can say the verse from memory.

**FOR WHERE YOUR TREASURE IS,
THERE YOUR HEART WILL BE ALSO.
MATTHEW 6:21 NIV**

KING'S TREASURY STORY: RICH GUY MAKES BIG MISTAKE!

Luke 18:18-23: Have you ever met a wealthy, important leader like the president or the mayor of our town? What impressed you about him or her? (*Ask students to respond.*) Some wealthy people look down upon those who are not as privileged as they are. Others are kind and you would never guess that they are extremely wealthy. What do you suppose makes the difference between these types of rich people?

Jesus met a wealthy local official one day. The man asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to deserve eternal life?" Jesus listed a few sins as examples: "... no killing, no stealing, no lying, honor your father and mother." The official nodded in agreement. He had known these things since he was a child.

When Jesus heard that, he said, "Then there's only one thing left to do: Sell everything you own and give it away to the poor. You will have riches in heaven. Then come, follow me." This was the last thing the official expected to hear. He was very rich and became terribly sad. He was holding on tight to a lot of "stuff" and was not about to let them go. He walked away from Jesus, refusing to give away his riches.

His face must have given away his thoughts. Jesus looked at his sadness and said, "Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who have it all to enter God's kingdom? I'd say it's easier to thread a camel through a needles' eye than get a rich person into God's kingdom."

The people standing around were shocked. They said to Jesus, "Then who has any chance at all?" Jesus said, "There is no chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you trust God to do it."

Peter was still thinking this through as he said, "We left everything we owned and followed you, didn't we?" Jesus answered, "Yes and you won't regret it. No one who has sacrificed home, spouse, brothers and sisters, parents, children—whatever—will lose out. It will all come back multiplied many times over in your lifetime. And then the bonus of eternal life!"



CASTLETOWN LESSONS: JESUS' TREASURE CHEST

Wow! Jesus certainly knows how to give great treasures. We think treasures are toys that help us have fun. A great DVD player with a library of the latest movies is not the kind of treasure Jesus gives. He gives exceptional gifts like love and peace, joy and security, promises for protection. All this and heaven too!

Ask the group to look at the nuggets they pulled from the crystal punch bowl earlier in the lesson. Look at the treasures that Jesus considers important. Place the nuggets into a chest labeled JESUS' TREASURE CHEST.

1. I WILL NOT BE SELFISH! The ruler was rich and yet he gave nothing away. His real god became comfort. What he really worshiped were his own possessions and his wealth. That is why Jesus told him to give it all away. Many people use their wealth to bring comfort and joy to his fellow man. This man used it for nobody but himself.

2. MY TREASURE IS IN HEAVEN! The whole idea of owning lots of “stuff” is to tie us to this world. We have such a big stake in it that we never want to leave earth and never think of anything else. It is not a sin to have lots of money but it is a danger and a great responsibility.

3. I AM A WINNER WITH JESUS! Jesus promised that no one gives up anything for the kingdom of God without being repaid many times over. Many Christians say this is true.

Someone said to David Livingstone (*the great missionary to Africa*) thinking of how he had lost his wife and ruined his health in Africa, “What sacrifices you have made!” Livingstone answered, “Sacrifices? I never made a sacrifice in all my life.”

CONCLUSION: For the person who walks with Jesus there may be things the world calls hard, but above them all, there is peace which the world cannot give and cannot take away and a joy that no one takes.

This advice may be read from your favorite version of scripture:

Paul gave young Timothy some sound advice when he wrote him a letter. Paul said, “*Tell those rich in this world’s wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they’ll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life.*”

I Timothy 6:18-19 (The Message)

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

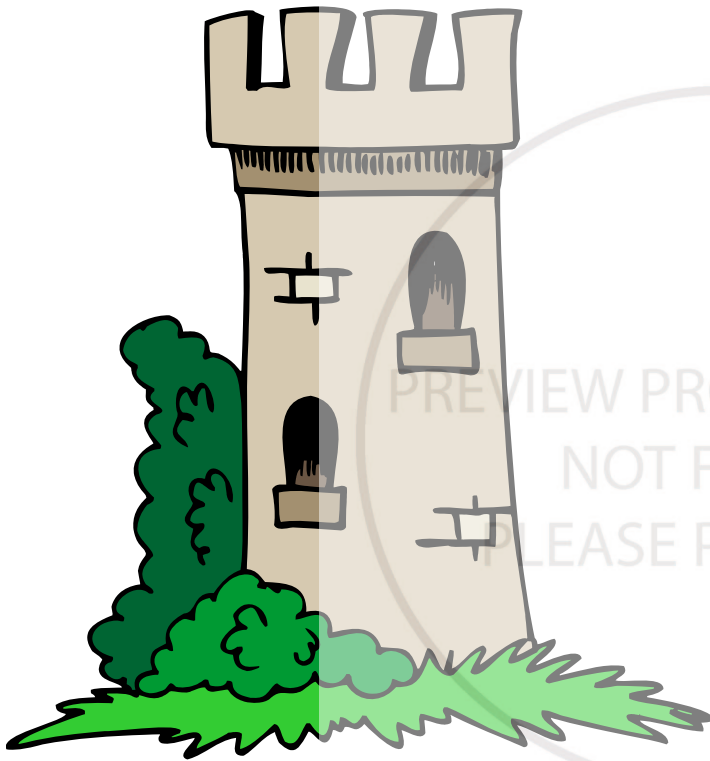
CRAFT: Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own project.



BIBLE STATION #4:

TOWER OF POWER

...A QUEST FOR PRAYER PEOPLE



SPIRITUAL THEME: *Prayer is powerful. Prayer changes things. Prayer is God's way of allowing humans to speak to Him in an intimate way, assuring us He cares and will respond. Today's lesson focuses on the power of prayer with Peter's jail experience and the believers who prayed for him.*

DECORATION: Create a castle tower where the King's people go to pray. To make a tower room, round off the corners with large rolls of brown paper or hang fabric from ceiling to floor in each corner. Frame each window with posterboard painted gray to resemble stone windows. Place wooden benches along the walls. Leave the center area bare. A rug may be placed in the center.

Fill the walls with posters and banners of different shapes and sizes. Make some long and narrow, large, small and trimmed with hanging ribbon. Use the following poster suggestions or print your own messages.

PRAYER—JUST DO IT!
CALL UNTO ME AND I WILL ANSWER THEE.
CALL HOME!
DEAR LORD, HELP ME! QUICK!
CAST ALL YOUR CARE UPON HIM.



**GIVE YOUR BURDENS TO THE LORD
AND HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
GOD IS NEAR.
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.
GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH,
A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.
WHEN IT'S HARDEST TO PRAY, PRAY HARDEST.
PRAY EVERY DAY.
GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME, A SINNER....
COME NEAR TO GOD AND HE WILL COME NEAR TO YOU.
IF YOU BELIEVE,
YOU WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU ASK FOR IN PRAYER.
PRAISE THE LORD ALL YE PEOPLE.
COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE
WITH THANKSGIVING IN YOUR HEARTS.**

Seating: Students sit on the floor or on wooden benches along the walls.

Lighting: Fill the room with small lamps on the floor hidden by rocks, pillows or other objects. This gives the area a quiet, moody atmosphere.

Craft Tables: Place one or two long tables along one wall. Set all craft supplies on the tables before the group arrives. Move the table to the middle of the room at the appropriate time.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Dress in typical Renaissance clothing as suggested in the curriculum. Become Lady Prudence, Prayer Maiden or Sir Peacock, Prayer Warrior. This character is the Keeper of the Tower of Power.

WELCOME TO THE TOWER OF POWER!

Welcome! (*Bowing...*) I am Sir Peacock, Prayer Warrior and Keeper of the Tower of Power. This castle tower is a place of prayer. People of the manor come to seek God's face. Enter into the presence of the King. The Tower does not look much like a throne room but this is where the power of Christ the King begins in the lives of His subjects.

Always remember to pray. Did you know that if it were not for prayer, the pretzel would never have been invented? Let me tell you the story of the pretzel.



Place a large bowl of pretzels in the middle of the group. As you tell the story, allow students to examine the shape of the pretzels and then eat them. An easy pretzel recipe is included with MEDIEVAL BANQUET RECIPES. Make these wonderful treats as a gift for each group.

Long ago a monk was the pastor of a church in Italy. He had a big problem. When the children in his church had classes with the monk, they did not answer questions correctly and they did not know how much God wanted to hear them pray.

The monk rewarded fast learners by giving them a PRETIOLA which means “little gift” in Latin. The little gift was a biscuit shaped like a pair of hands clasped in prayer. Three empty holes represented the Christian Trinity. The children looked forward to their treat and worked very hard memorizing their Bible verses and prayers. Soon the treat’s name was changed to BRACHIOLA, which means “little arms” in Italian.

Travelers took the PRETIOLA over the Alps. BRETZELS became a popular part of the German diet. In medieval times, traveling merchants risked being robbed by bandits. Town people rode out, greeted the vendors and offered them cold drinks and pretzels. In 1861 the first pretzel bakery opened in the United States in Lititz, Pennsylvania. Now PRETIOLA–BRACHIOLA–BRETZEL--Pretzels--are very popular here.

Why did the monk invent pretzels? He wanted to encourage the children of his church to pray! Talking to God is a wonderful privilege; we should do it often. Just think...I talk to God, He hears and answers my prayer. At church, at the dinner table, in bed, at school, in the car...talk to God anytime you want and talk about whatever is on your mind. The next time you eat a pretzel, let it remind you to pray!

MEMORY VERSE: Teach today’s scripture verse to the group. Place individual words on large pretzel shapes made from cardboard. Ask the group to say the verse aloud. Take away one pretzel. Repeat the words until all pretzels are removed and the group can say the verse from memory. Shorten the verse for younger students.

**CALL UNTO ME AND I WILL ANSWER THEE
AND SHOW THEE GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS
THOU KNOWEST NOT.
JEREMIAH 33:3**



TOWER OF POWER: PEOPLE PRAY FOR PETER

Acts 12:1-23: Do you believe God really answers prayer? James, the brother of Jesus, said “we don’t have because we do not ask”. There is great power in prayer. In fact, prayer is the key that unlocks the power of heaven. Let’s see what the earliest believers discovered about prayer power one dark and gloomy night!

King Herod wanted to be popular with Jewish religious leaders so he killed James, the brother of John. The leaders were so pleased that Herod ordered Peter put into prison. The believers missed James and they could not stand the thought of losing Peter too. Each day they met and prayed for his release. Days passed and still Peter remained in that dreary prison. The Christians met at Mary’s home to pray all night.

Meanwhile, Peter was asleep chained to two soldiers. Outside his prison door other soldiers stood guard. During the night, an angel came to the prison. He said, “Get up quickly.” When Peter stood, the chains fell off his hands. The angel told Peter to dress, put on his coat and follow. They walked out of the cell past the sleeping guards. When they came to the great iron gate that led to the city, it swung open before them. As they started up the street, the angel disappeared.

Peter thought he was dreaming but now he knew this was real. He knocked on the gate at Mary’s home where the believers were praying for him. Rhoda, the serving girl, called, “Who is it?” When she heard Peter’s voice, she was so excited that she did not open the gate but ran to tell the people the good news. “Peter is here!” she shouted.

The Christians who had been praying did not believe her! They said, “You are crazy. It must be his angel.” The entire time this argument was going on, Peter was standing outside the gate, knocking. Finally they went to see for themselves. When they opened the gate, there he stood! There was a lot of excitement in Mary’s house that night!

The believers said they believed in prayer, they gathered to pray and they were even going to lose a night’s sleep to pray. Yet when God showed His magnificent power and miraculously released Peter from prison, they didn’t believe it!!!



CASTLETOWN LESSONS: PRAY THE JESUS WAY

Print theme phrases on large, cardboard pretzels. Prayer is powerful. Talking to our Heavenly Father comforts us and changes things. Let's talk about how we can "Pray the Jesus way".

1. THANK GOD. Thank God for what He has done and for everything He will do. People think they are bothering God with constant requests. The only way I disappoint God is by NOT asking. Jesus thanked God all the time. Paul gives us terrific prayer advice:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

2. GET CLOSE TO GOD. Draw near to God in mind, in heart and in spirit. Jesus knew where power comes from and He took quality time to discuss things with God.

Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:8

3. PRAY FOR OTHER BELIEVERS. I pray for my friends who love and serve God. Just think, your prayer power may get your friends out of a jam. Jesus prayed:

My plea is not for the world but for those you have given me because they belong to you. John 17:9

4. TRUST GOD TO ANSWER THE BEST WAY. We think we know the best answers to our prayers but God knows best. Jesus trusted His Heavenly Father to do exactly what was best for Him. I will trust God just like Jesus.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here that they may believe that you sent me. John 11:41

5. PRAY CONSTANTLY. Prayer should be the key of the morning and the lock of the night. Jesus took time to pray as much as possible. He even lost sleep to pray late at night and early in the morning. Pray every time you think of it, just like Jesus.

Pray without ceasing. I Thessalonians 5:17

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

CRAFT: Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own prayer project.



BIBLE STATION #5:

PEASANT COTTAGE

...THE JESUS QUEST

SPIRITUAL THEME: *If ever there was a “knight in shining armor” for all people, it is Jesus Christ the Lord! Jesus is the hope of all nations and all ages. This lesson focuses on God’s wonderful plan to send Jesus to be our Savior. One would think He would come as a king to a castle. Jesus came humbly as a servant. Teach the importance of following Christ’s example: Become a servant.*

DECORATION: This Bible Station is based on Jesus. Design a station that reflects the presence of Christ in a humble way. Turn one room into a rustic peasant cottage. Place a rough wooden table (*outdoor picnic table*) in the middle with benches and stools around it.

Fill the space with wooden objects and old metal accessories. Fill wooden bowls with potatoes, carrots and onions. Scatter candlesticks with old candles (not lit) on benches and small wooden tables. Outdoor gardening tools stand in one corner. A stack of wood rests against one wall with a straw broom. Roll rough woolen blankets at one side or make a rough cot bed. Baskets of all sizes and shapes hang from the ceiling and rest on tables. Fill baskets with yarn, vegetables, rumpled fabric, tools and other simple items. Large cooking pots and pans stacked around a fake fireplace define a small kitchen. Simple rag rugs cover the middle of the room.

Seating: Students sit on the floor or on benches and wooden stools that are part of the cottage.



Lighting: The cottage is very dark. Cover windows with loose burlap to create ragged darkness. Light one candle (*it can be electric*) or tiny lamp. Turn on a few small lights when it is time to complete the craft project.

Craft Tables: Place one table along the wall or use the picnic table in the middle of the room. Place all craft supplies in simple baskets that can be moved to the table at the appropriate time. Students may sit on the floor or stand around the table.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Dress in medieval peasant costume. Simple garments in plain color work best. Use the curriculum suggestions. Become a simple peasant farmer struggling to survive in the difficult middle ages. You know Jesus, the Shining Knight and can inform your visitors intelligently.

MIND YOUR MANORS!

Peasants worked for the lord and the main house or manor. The castle served as the heart of the manorial system. The purpose of the manor was to be a self sufficient community. It often covered hundreds and sometimes thousands of acres. The land was used for farming, pasture for animals, hunting and timber. Included in the system were stables, barns, a bake house, cookhouse and sometimes a windmill. There was also a chapel and rectory nearby.

Peasants were allowed to kill only small animals, such as rabbits. Deer and other species of larger game were reserved for the lord's family and hunting was a way of entertaining as well as necessity. Most farm animals were slaughtered in the fall to provide food for winter.

Peasants were called serfs. They did most of the work on the land in exchange for protection and a right to live on the manor. They were considered property and ranked little above sheep and cattle. Some people called **freemen** rented land for the lord and could leave the manor. Serfs could not. Many serfs spent their entire lives without ever leaving the manor where they were born. The years of their lives were monotonous broken only by war, church holidays, hunting and tournaments.

(Information From: THE MIDDLE AGES, Castles, Kings and Knights in Shining Armor by Lorraine Conway, Gold Apple Inc., 1987.)



WELCOME TO THE PEASANT COTTAGE!

You are welcome to anything in my humble cottage. I farm a piece of land at CASTLETOWN Manor. In exchange for living on his land, the lord of the manor offers me protection from the Vikings. It isn't much and I am a poor peasant but God supplies all my needs according to His riches in glory. If I don't have it, I must not need it. Last year I paid my only penny for a band of traveling men to teach me my letters and numbers. I can't write but I can count up to twenty. I can read fairly well. My father was killed in the peasant revolt after my mother died from the Black Death five years ago. I consider my self fortunate. Really poor people only own a cooking pot and maybe a stool if they are lucky. They sleep with logs for pillows and maybe a blanket.

Breakfast is always bread and water. Share my meal. *(Let students pull off a hunk from a full loaf of brown bread. Add water if desired.)* I must feed my geese some corn and water before I work in the garden. Then there is always spinning, weaving, sewing and carding wool to keep my fingers busy. I have a goodly store of cloth to deliver to the castle. Today I must care for the sheep and work the wheatfields. Tonight I shall treat myself to a supper of fried fish, fried goose eggs, bread and water. I won't have much energy left so after my night time prayers, I shall go to bed. And that is the simple life of a peasant.

But enough about me...Tell me about YOU! From which manor did you arrive? *(Allow students to respond.)* While we have time to talk, I must tell you about the wonderful knights that protect CASTLETOWN Manor.

No doubt you have heard the legends of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. His story is based upon the real Christian monarch, King Alfred, who taught God's law and redemption to his subjects. The code of chivalry protects us by giving our knights a foundation of right living. It is a code based on personal honor, respect to others, self discipline and pride.

A KNIGHT NEVER TAKES UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF AN ENEMY

A KNIGHT NEVER GOES BACK ON HIS WORD.

A KNIGHT ALWAYS TELLS THE TRUTH.

**A KNIGHT IS ALWAYS GENTLE WITH CHILDREN,
THE ELDERLY AND ANIMALS.**

A KNIGHT HELPS PEOPLE IN DISTRESS.

A KNIGHT IS A GOOD WORKER.

A KNIGHT IS CLEAN IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED.

A KNIGHT RESPECTS WOMEN, PARENTS AND THE LAW.

A KNIGHT SERVES HIS KING.

(Print the code on crinkled brown paper and display on one wall.)



While living under the Code of Chivalry, knights promise to keep other knights safe. A knight never seeks to cause harm to another person, he never loses his temper during a competition and he never strikes an opponent who is helpless because a knight has a duty to protect those who cannot protect themselves. A knight is expected to be courageous, just, merciful, generous, faithful, honorable and hopeful.

MEMORY VERSE: Teach today's scripture verse to the group. Place individual words on small pieces of wood. Ask the group to say the verse aloud. Take away one word. Repeat the words until all words are removed and the group can say the verse from memory. Shorten the verse for younger students.

**SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS,
COME INTO HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING.
PSALM 100:2**

PEASANT COTTAGE: CHRIST IS KING OF KIDS

John 13:5-8; 12-15: **How much do you know about Jesus?** Your friends don't know much about Jesus. In fact, they may use his name as a swear word. Your family doesn't talk much about Jesus. It could be that you are learning about Jesus for the very first time this week. After all, how can a prince be born outside a palace? Jesus was born in a barn. How can a teacher have no degree? Jesus was a rabbi. How can a king have no army, a ruler have no place to lay his head? How can a miracle worker be unable to come down from a cross?

How can a king be a servant? When Jesus and His disciples gathered for the Passover, common courtesy was for the host to wash the feet of his guests. At this rented room, no one was really the host. Washing feet was a dirty job. Nobody wanted to do it and certainly no one expected Jesus to wash feet. He did what none of them was prepared to do.

Jesus knew the time had come for him to leave this world and go to His Father. He loved his friends and wanted to show them how much he cared for them one more time. Jesus got up from the supper table, took off his robe and put on an apron. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the feet of his friends, drying them with his apron. When he got to Peter, Peter said, "Master, you wash my feet?"

Jesus answered, "You don't understand now what I'm doing, but it will be clear later." Peter was not happy. He said, "You're not going to wash my feet—ever!" Jesus said, "If I don't wash you, you can't be part of what I'm doing."



Peter loved Jesus so much. He cried out, “Master, not only my feet, then. Wash my hands! Wash my head!” Jesus assured Peter that his feet were all that need washing. After he finished washing everyone’s feet, he put his robe back on and went back to his place at the table. Then he said, “Do you understand what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Master, and that is right because that’s what I am. If I washed your feet, you must now wash each other’s feet. I’ve laid down a pattern for you. What I’ve done, you do. I’m only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not above his master; a worker doesn’t give orders to his boss. If you understand what I’m telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life.”

CASTLETOWN LESSONS:

JUST DO IT!!



When Jesus washed his disciples’ feet, he was doing more than teaching them how to be a house servant. He showed them the heart of the Kingdom of God. The message of the Kingdom is that every follower of Jesus Christ becomes a servant. Jesus showed them that this “Kingdom living” was upside down to the way the world thinks.

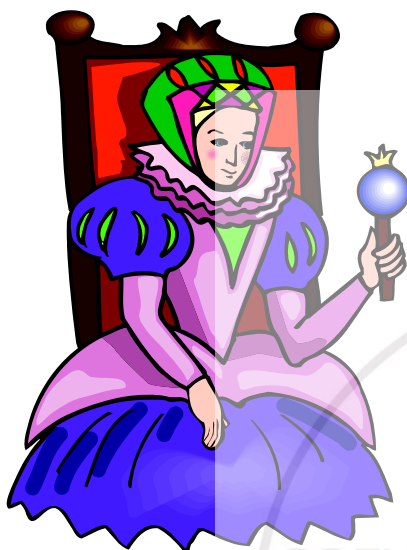
- 1. BE HUMBLE.** Do not make yourself more important than you are to impress others. Be the person God created you to be.
- 2. STRENGTH IS FOUND IN WEAKNESS.** Do not be confident in your own abilities. Depend on God’s strength.
- 3. GAIN LIFE BY LOSING IT.** Stop looking out for yourself. Give yourself to those who need help. Then you will live a happy and blessed life.
- 4. BECOME RICH BY GIVING POSSESSIONS AWAY.** Don’t keep “stuff” and be greedy.
- 5. TO BE GREAT, BECOME A SERVANT.** Do not seek power and fame. Instead, desire to serve others just like Jesus.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

CRAFT: Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own prayer project.



SWEET HEARTS...THE NURSERY



WHO SHOULD COME TO THE SWEET HEARTS NURSERY? Invite youngsters birth through age three who are children of teachers and helpers. It is the decision of each church to open the nursery to the public. **CASTLETOWN** is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers more security.

HOW MANY HELPERS SHOULD WE ASK TO HELP IN THE NURSERY? Ideally, provide one helper per baby in charge of all care for that infant from bottles to changing diapers. If that is not possible, ask one adult and a variety of assistants to watch the children. This staff may change from day to day.

SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES? The nursery is a staff babysitting service but tell a few stories, sing some songs, play tapes and videos, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the children.

SHOULD WE FEED CHILDREN IN THE NURSERY? Ask the parents. They may want to provide snacks from home. If you do feed toddlers, be sure the food is safe and healthful. (WARNING: No popcorn, hot dogs, lollipops or hard candy which could get caught in a tiny throat.)

HOW SHOULD WE DRESS IN THE NURSERY? Wear washable clothing and shoes that are low and comfortable. The key to being happy in the nursery is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

WHAT SHOULD WE BRING TO MAKE THE NURSERY A PLEASANT PLACE? Bring Christian tapes. Play music at a low, non threatening volume. Bring a small fan if days are hot and humid. Place the fan away from children—preferably on a shelf or high table.



SHINING HEARTS...PRESCHOOL

**THIS AREA IS FOR
PRESCHOOL STUDENTS
AGES FOUR THROUGH
PRE-KINDERGARTEN.**

Decide whether to include five year old students in this group or allow them to become part of the kindergarten group.

THEME: SHINING HEARTS kids study the same spiritual themes as older students. Each day's activities emphasize what older students are learning but on a preschool level with a preschool teaching team.



Use the curriculum as a guide providing plenty of time for rest, play and simple crafting. At no time feel pressured to move students to activities if they are tired, crying or upset. Cancel your appearance in favor of free play time if the group needs to rest or calm down.

TEACHERS: There should be one helper for every two-three SHINING HEARTS. Parental help is welcomed and encouraged. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Make each day fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter and sing without being reprimanded. However, run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.

HOME BASE DECORATION: This is where some activity for preschool children takes place. Use ideas from the curriculum for simple castle decorations.

TOWN CRIERS: If a few children continually cry, ask helpers to keep them busy separately in the home base area. Movement around the building may be threatening for some younger students. If one or two children never calm down, it may be necessary to ask a parent to stay with their child or take that child home and try again next year. Accommodate as many young students as possible, but crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.



PLANNING A SHINING HEARTS DAY



*Two hours + is a long time for preschool students. Plan the day around lots of play time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other outdoor toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase small story books from the local Christian book store. Use these books as fill in teaching times. Travel with the students to all areas of **CASTLETOWN** as suggested in the daily schedule. If your students tire easily, omit some activity stops. They do not have to participate in every activity.*

ROYAL COURT OPENING: SHINING HEARTS may participate in the opening if they can sit still for fifteen minutes. This is an opportunity to organize name tags/hats and gather the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to home base for a few simple activities. This avoids chaos and distraction for the older students.

TRAVELING TROUBADOURS: Encourage preschool students to participate in music time. Take the students to the music area and stay with them fifteen minutes each day.

HERALDRY COLLEGE: This is a special daily visit to a workshop where classic family shields are created. Students make a personal shield and hear the gospel story.

MEDIEVAL BANQUET: Take students to the daily fifteen minute snack time. Sit with them. Use this time as a bathroom break complete with hand washing.

THE STORY WEAVER: This is a continuing story time. If your preschool students can sit quietly for fifteen minutes, take them. The suggested story is a Chip and Clare Conley mystery entitled, “**The Legacy of Shadow Castle**”. It is NOT written for their age. An option may be to purchase five short (2-3 minute) stories to tell your group at home base. Perhaps a series of age appropriate videos would work well. You decide!



BIBLE STATIONS: Rather than trying to duplicate Bible Station decorations, take preschool students to one station each day for their Bible time. Tell the Bible Station teacher you will use their room for fifteen minutes when their class is not in session. Use the props available in each area to tell the Bible story. Use copies of each bible Station lesson plan as designed for older students. Activity suggestions may be used or not used at the discretion of your staff. Adapt the materials for your little ones.

CASTLETOWN FESTIVAL GAMES: Take preschool students to the daily fifteen minute game time. There are many games these young students can play. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for your small ones and create your own games.

REST TIME: Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken home base, play a tape of Christian music or listen to a taped story while encouraging quiet activity. Students may rest on large pillows tossed on the floor while a story is told or songs are sung.

CRAFTS: The perfect preschool craft is one which can be completed by the student with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity. Purchase one craft project for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience. S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects for the preschool student. (S&S prices may change.) Local craft stores may have terrific ideas for the younger crafter.

S&S PRESCHOOL CRAFT PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

COLOR SPLASH! BUTTERFLIES. A simple project with breathtaking results. Includes non toxic Color Splash! Liquid watercolor and glue, clothes pins, coffee filters, chenille stems and instructions. **RMC-GP1402 \$12.99 per pack of 30. 43 cents per project.**

PAINT A PASTA MAGNETS. This easy project offers a chance to be creative while developing fine motor skills. Assorted pasta shapes create 3-D appeal. Includes assorted pasta shapes, assorted cardboard shapes, magnetic tape, non toxic fluorescent acrylic paint and glue, paintbrushes and instructions. 3 ½" x 4 ½". **RMC-GP816 \$10.99 per pack of 12. 92 cents per project.**

NEON BOINGERS. They say "I Love You" in their own zany way! Make Boinger pins or magnets. Includes cardboard hearts, wiggly eyes, magnetic tape, pin backs, pompons, chenille stems, non toxic fluorescent acrylic paint and glue, brushes, tracing paper and instructions. 2 ½" x 3 ½". **RMC-GP811. \$20.99 per pack of 60. 35 cents per project.**



EXOTIC BEADED NECKLACES. A treasure chest full of exotic beads to create one of a kind necklaces. Comes complete with assorted beads, wire and instructions.

RMC-GP930. \$16.99 per pack of 30. 57 cents per project.

POMPON NOTE HOLDERS. A craft favorite for many years. Pack includes spring clothes pins, assorted pompoms, wiggly eyes, chenille stems, magnetic tape, non toxic glue and instructions. 3" long.

RMC-GP548 \$13.99 per pack of 25. 56 cents per project.

CRYSTAL CROSS NECKLACE. Custom painted wood crosses are covered with clear crystal glitter for a dazzling effect. Includes crosses, gold braid, glitter, non toxic glue and acrylic paint, brushes and instructions. 3".

RMC-RE83 \$14.99 per pack of 24. 62 cents per project.

WHIMSICAL STAIN-A-FRAMES. Guaranteed to bring a smile. Your group won't help but laugh as they paint these adorable frames with glass stain (sold separately). Made of crystal styrene with raised edges for nearly foolproof success. Pack of 24 includes 2 each of the designs—Bug car, Fish, Jumping Cow, Rooster, Bee, Turtle, Cat and Violin, Bookworm, Teddy and Hearts, Mouse and Balloons, Monkey/leaves, Dancing Cow. **RMC-SG705 \$21.99 per set.**

Water Soluble, Non Toxic Glass Stain Strips. In 4 assorted transparent colors; red, yellow, blue and green. 1/12 ounce each cup.

RMC-SG3814 89 cents each. 79 cents each when buying 12 or more strips.

VARIETY STAIN-A-FRAME PACK. This cheery selection offers an eye pleasing project for just about everyone. A wide range of delightful designs with raised edges for easy painting. Includes non toxic glass stain, brushes and instructions as well as the 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" plastic frames.

RMC-GP314 \$13.99 per pack of 10. \$1.40 per project

MORE EASY SUGGESTIONS....

Four and five year old children love to make cereal necklaces (Cheerios, Fruit Loops or Apple Jacks). Bring enough for lots of snacks along the way. Use yarn or long shoe strings as the necklace foundation.

Make Alphabet Name Plaques with the child's first name. Use cardboard or posterboard as the base. Precut the bases into simple shapes...circle, square, rectangle.

String large beads onto vinyl string for a great necklace.

Purchase white shirts for each student. Let them place their own painted hand prints all over their personal shirt.

Take each student's photograph and place their photo in a handmade frame.



PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

