

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BIBLICAL KIND

**AN INSPIRING FIVE DAY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**-WALKING BACK TO THE
DAYS OF JESUS**



**BY ELLEN S. BUNNELL
FOR CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES**

Close Encounters of a Biblical Kind

...Walking Back To The Days Of Jesus

The Year was 32 A.D.

The Place was Galilee!



PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
Let's 'Live' Vacation Bible School!

NOT FOR USE



PLEASE PURCHASE

The Year is Now!

The Place is Here!

Return to the days of yester-year! Not just any old 'yester-year' but a year when Jesus walked this earth with 'skin-on'!

Present the good news of Jesus
While having as much fun as humanly possible.



Index

Introduction/Index.....1-2
 Shalom.....3
 Get Ready.....4

The Archaeologist Director.....5-6
 Choosing Staff/Staff Meeting.....7-8
 Recruitment List.....9

Grouping Student Tribes.....10
 Registration Scribes.....11-13
 Bible Time Costumes.....14-17

It Takes A Village~Build With Care.....18-22
 Publicity~Come To The Village.....23-24
 Photography~Get The Big Picture!.....25-26

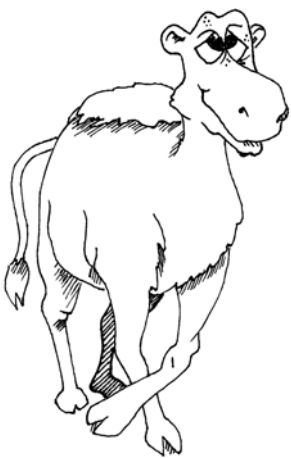
Village Marketplace Opening.....27-40
 Open House~Farewell, Shalom, Farewell!.....41
 The Story Teller.....42

The Music Makers.....43-44
 The Discovery Shop~Mystery And Mayhem.....45-59
 Bethany Home~Visiting Martha.....60-71
 The Village Inn~Milk And Honey Snacks.....72-79

Market Street Shops
 Tips For Teachers.....80-87
 Market Street Shop #1~Build A Basket Shop.....88-91
 Market Street Shop #2~Village Sandals Shop.....92-95
 Market Street Shop #3~J&J Carpenter Shop.....96-99
 Market Street Shop #4~Leah's Lamps And Candles.....100-103
 Market Street Shop #5~Portia's Pottery Shop.....104-107

Miriam's Nursery.....108
 Moses' Preschool.....109-112

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
 NOT FOR USE
 PLEASE PURCHASE





Shalom!

Imagine jumping into a time machine that could transport you to the Holy Land! How did people look? What were their customs? Why were they looking for a messiah?

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind is a delightful five day Vacation Bible School (*Preschool-Grade 6*) located in an ancient Galilean village. People dress in simple costume, invite visitors into their shops and share stories of the young man who grew up in their midst claiming to be God's Son, the promised Messiah.

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind guests enjoy a unique "live-it" theme. They become Jewish villagers experiencing daily village life during the life of Jesus.

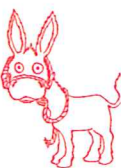
Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind features five Holy Land workshops where students spend one day enjoying Jewish games, stories and crafts. Bible stories are told and scripture is memorized.

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind students visit a variety of fifteen minute daily activities where they learn more about the times of Jesus. They gather at Village Marketplace Opening, eat at the Village Inn, sing with the Music Makers and visit Mary and Martha's Bethany home! Mystery and mayhem ensue at the Discovery Shop.

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind presents curriculum ideas for preschoolers ages 4-5. Little ones participate in the same activities as older students or travel to all activities with a special team of leaders. Suggestions are included for staff child care in Miriam's Nursery.

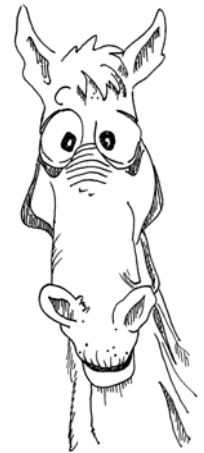
COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

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 (236-5433). 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 Reserve protected.



Get Ready!

*These Suggestions are a guideline.
Create a wonderful week based on
these activities. Add your own ideas too!*



Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind is an activity center based Vacation Bible School for *Preschool through Grade Six* students. Involve Grades 7-12 youth as helpers, team leaders and teachers.

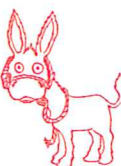
Shop Keepers! Shop Keepers are responsible to decorate their area and prepare their shop activities. Individual shops are repeated daily to a new group and last 45 minutes including craft project.

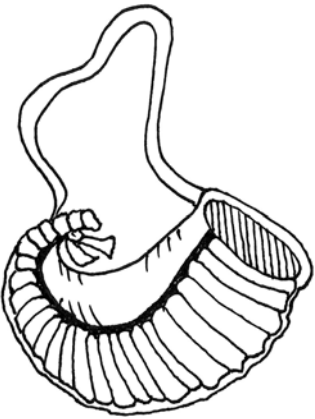
Village People! Fifteen minute daily activities are provided for small groups as they travel for music, snacks, or special activity. Village People leaders prepare five separate activities because all groups visit each day.

Purchase Supplies as needed. Give bills to the Director or ask for an advance check. Look for sales, discounts, catalogs and backyard scrap materials. Craft projects from S&S Arts and Crafts (www.swww.com) may be purchased at reasonable prices.

Create Excitement! Have fun and students will catch your enthusiasm. Greet everyone with a cheerful 'shalom' while moving from place to place.

Shalom! This all purpose word was used for hello, goodbye, peace and various other greetings. Remind students to use this greeting and watch the fun begin.





The Archaeologist Director

What fun you are about to have while guiding enthusiastic time travelers. Become the leader of an event that your community will remember for years.

Divided into reasonable tasks, this five day school is easily completed by a dedicated team of folks guided by The Archaeologist (that's you!). Your church becomes an ancient village filled with pottery, baskets, plants, wooden items and sparkles with the hustle and bustle of inhabitants who loved God with all their hearts.

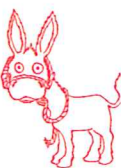
Character and Costume: Have fun dressing as 'The Archaeologist'. Wear an explorer's outfit including helmet, tan shorts and shirt, hiking boots and socks. Add a backpack and long hiking stick.

Delegate Responsibility. This event is a team effort. Never apologize when asking for help. Trust the staff to carry out their tasks. Check in with them occasionally as their supportive leader.

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 Director'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 *Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind* and note areas requiring your personal attention. Meet with the staff six weeks before Vacation Bible School begins. Give each person printed materials that pertain to their shop area and copies of general information as needed. Place printed materials in attractive folders.



Adapt! Complete program adaptations during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

Set Up. Provide adequate set up time. Decorate during the week prior to the event, making sure that everything is in place for the first day.

Staff Prayer. Plan a five minute session one half hour before the day begins. Those who attend appreciate the upward boost.

Moses Preschool. Other than a special team of leaders for preschool children, they may attend the activities older students love. Eliminate complicated or frightening activities. Choose age appropriate craft projects from S&S Arts and Crafts catalog or website (www.ssw.com) or create your own projects.

Staff Appreciation. Purchase or make small thank you gifts for each staff member. There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back. Pray for them sincerely. Thank them privately and publicly.

Clean Up. When Open House is over, clean up begins. The entire event is not complete until the church is in order. Encourage staff to remove their props immediately. Stay to help!

Notes:



Choosing Staff

*"Train your child in the way
you know you should have gone yourself."
~C.H. Spurgeon*

Staff choice will make or break
Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind.
Do NOT be satisfied with "any warm body".
Aim for best people to fill each teaching spot.

Recruit

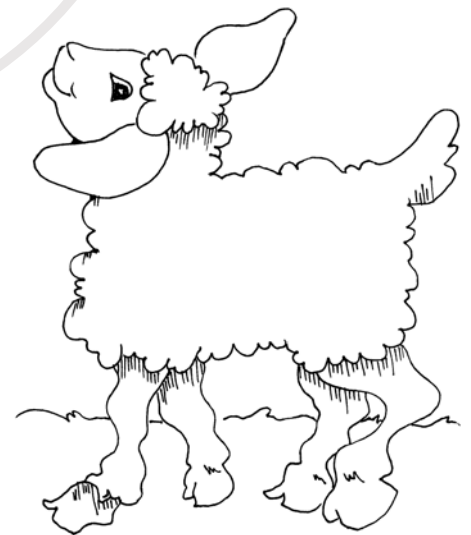
Approach people personally with a specific task.
Explain the job fully. No sugar coating allowed!!

Advertise

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

Pick And Choose

Call people you know will do a good job.
The Lord honors 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.



Staff Meeting

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 in the church.

Answer questions, assign classrooms,
give inspiration.

Be the person in charge ~ The Archaeologist!

After the meeting,

turn your attention to other tasks.

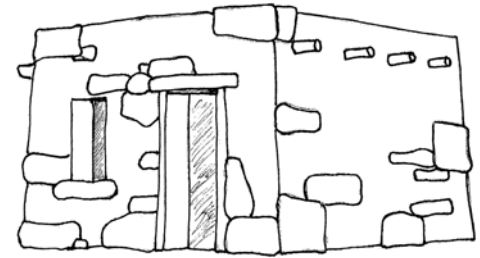
Trust each staff member to carry out their responsibilities.

The telephone is the staff lifeline.

Call the leader of each area to verify progress.
Ask questions and check on how things are going.
Problem solve as needed.



Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind
..Walking Back To The Days Of Jesus



The Year Was 32 A.D. ~ The Place Was Galilee

The Year Is Now ~ The Place Is Here

Grab your sandals and join our time travelers.

Visit The Village Where Jesus Lives!

The Village People

....Registration Scribe	Help Students Sign In	LEAD/HELP
....Art Crew	Decorations	LEAD/HELP
....Photographer		VIDEO/DIGITAL
....Music Makers	Songs Of Israel	LEAD/HELP
....The Village Inn	Milk And Honey Snacks	LEAD/HELP
....The Story Teller	Daily Story Time	
....The Discovery Room	Mystery And Mayhem	LEAD/HELP
....Bethany Home	Visit Martha's Home	LEAD/HELP
....Moses' Preschool	Preschool Fun (Ages 4-5)	LEAD/HELP
....Miriam's Nursery	Child Care (Birth-Age 3)	LEAD/HELP

Market Street Shops

....Build A Basket Shop	<i>The Miracle Maker</i>	LEAD/HELP
....Leah's Lamps	<i>Light of The World</i>	LEAD/HELP
....J&J Carpenter Shop	<i>Come Follow Jesus</i>	LEAD/HELP
....Portia's Pottery Shop	<i>God Takes Care Of Me</i>	LEAD/HELP
....Village Sandals Shop	<i>The Man In Sandals</i>	LEAD/HELP

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
|I Have Props | I WILL LEND THEM! |
|I Will Donate Snacks | TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED! |
|I Will Give a Financial Donation | MORE THAN A WIDOW'S MITE! |
|I Will Pray For the Village Team | I CAN DO IT! |

Name _____ Telephone _____

DATES: _____ TIME: _____
NEED MORE DETAILS? ASK OUR VERY OWN BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST!

Shalom!



Grouping Student Tribes

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind is broadly graded.
Divide students into five groups of equal size.

Miriam's Nursery (Birth- 3)

Two choices are apparent:
Will we open this for the community?
Will we provide child care for our teaching staff?



Moses Pre School (Ages 4-5)

Give preschool children free time and optional involvement in daily activities. Or, include these children as one of the basic five groups.

Tribes

This is a sample grouping with preschool organized separately. Divide your children as desired.

1. Moses' Pre School (Ages 4-5) WHITE
2. Reuben (Kindergarten) GREEN
3. Simeon (Grade 1) BLUE
4. Levi (Grade 2) YELLOW
5. Dan (Grades 3-4) ORANGE
6. Judah (Grades 5-6) PURPLE

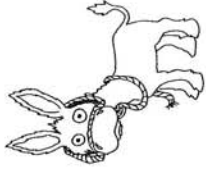
Overlap ages in any group. If twenty students are in one group and five students in another, switch some students regardless of grade. Visiting cousins and neighborhood friends appreciate join familiar faces in an otherwise unfamiliar situation not matter what age.

Option: Small Church Grouping

With twenty or less students and a few faithful teachers, conduct one daily workshop in a common teaching area. Set up crafts in a separate area. Small groups have the luxury of treating students to projects carried over day to day. Students travel to activities together.



Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind ...Walking Back To The Days Of Jesus!

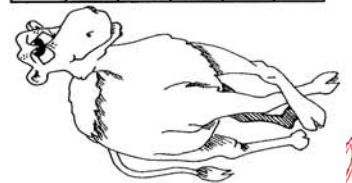


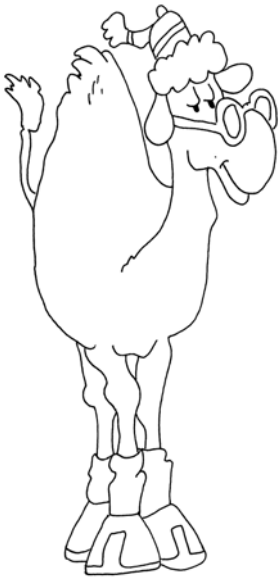
***** Daily Schedule *****

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
MOSES PRESCHOOL ages 4-5	MARKET PLACE OPENING	W O R K S H O P	K S H O P	O P	VILLAGE INN	DISCOVERY SHOP	MUSIC MAKERS	STORY TELLER	BETHANY HOME	CLOSING
TRIBE OF BENJAMIN Kindergarten	MARKET PLACE OPENING	MUSIC MAKERS	BETHANY HOME	W O R K S H O P	VILLAGE INN	O P	VILLAGE INN	DISCOVERY SHOP	STORY TELLER	CLOSING
TRIBE OF SIMEON Grade 1-2	MARKET PLACE OPENING	BETHANY HOME	MUSIC MAKERS	STORY TELLER	W O R K S H O P	K S H O P	O P	VILLAGE INN	DISCOVERY SHOP	CLOSING
TRIBE OF LEVI Grade 3-4	MARKET PLACE OPENING	STORY TELLER	W O R K S H O P	VILLAGE INN	BETHANY HOME	MUSIC MAKERS	DISCOVERY SHOP	BETHANY HOME	MUSIC MAKERS	CLOSING
TRIBE OF JUDAH Grade 5	MARKET PLACE OPENING	DISCOVERY SHOP	STORY TELLER	VILLAGE INN	BETHANY HOME	MUSIC MAKERS	W O R K S H O P	K S H O P	O P	CLOSING

***** Small Group Daily Assignments *****

MARKET STREET SHOPS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BUILD A BASKET SHOP	MOSES PRESCHOOL	TRIBE OF BENJAMIN	TRIBE OF LEVI	TRIBE OF JUDAH	TRIBE OF SIMEON
VILLAGE SANDALS SHOP	TRIBE OF BENJAMIN	MOSES PRESCHOOL	TRIBE OF JUDAH	TRIBE OF SIMEON	TRIBE OF LEVI
J&J CARPENTER SHOP	TRIBE OF SIMEON	TRIBE OF JUDAH	MOSES PRESCHOOL	TRIBE OF LEVI	TRIBE OF BENJAMIN
LEAH'S LAMPS & CANDLES SHOP	TRIBE OF LEVI	TRIBE OF SIMEON	TRIBE OF BENJAMIN	MOSES PRESCHOOL	TRIBE OF JUDAH
PORTIA'S POTTERY SHOP	TRIBE OF JUDAH	TRIBE OF LEVI	TRIBE OF SIMEON	TRIBE OF BENJAMIN	MOSES PRESCHOOL





Registration

...Census Takers

"...Write them on the tablet of your heart."

Proverbs 7:3b

Make name tags and organize registration the first day. This job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day could be delayed thirty minutes.

*Identify individual tables with group colors,
group names and grades.*

Students line up to receive a name tag and hat.

Pre Registration

Registration cards simplify the first day by having name tags and hats prepared. Utilize the church newsletter, bulletin, special mailing and take home forms. Visit nearby neighborhoods.

Record name, grade/age, emergency telephone and emergency contact person, environment or food allergy information. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address and parent names.

Name Tags

Print name tags with corresponding group colors for quick identification. Tags are pinned to shirts or made into necklaces. Since the tags are collected each day and made available for the next day, consider purchasing clear plastic covers. Slide name into the plastic sleeve.

Collect tags at day's end. Give them to the next day's shop leader for that group. Each day students pick up tags and hats at the Opening and meet their new shop leaders at the same time.



OPTION: Cut small pieces of wood and drill a hole near the top. String with twine and print names on the wood. The wood can be cut from small saplings so they are round and rustic.

Student Options

Choose head gear for students to wear that fit the theme and make great keepsakes.

Pith Helmets

Students become amateur archaeologists 'digging' through the little Jewish village. Purchase straw pith helmets for each student and each leader from Oriental Trading. www.orientaltrading.com

Yarmulkas

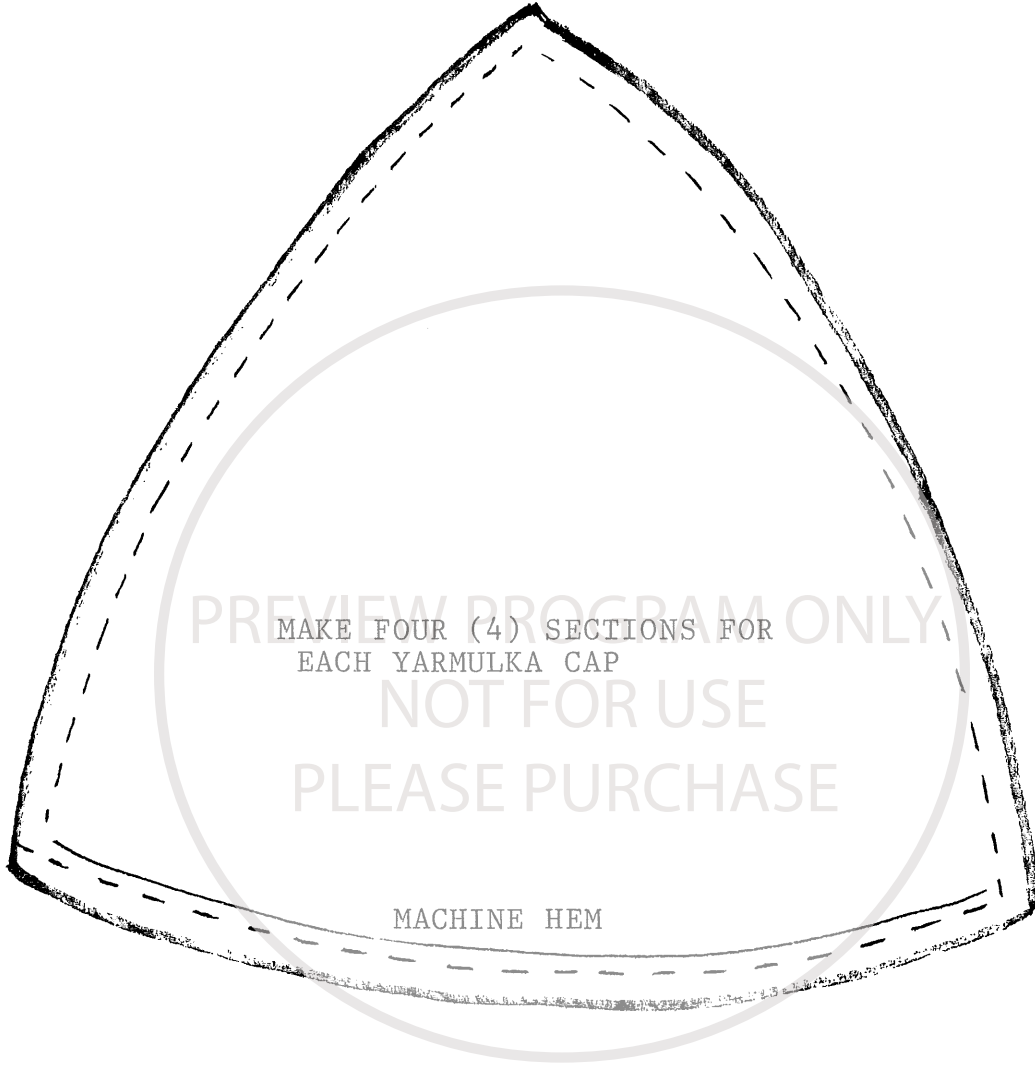
Small Jewish skull caps worn during prayer and religious study by Jewish males. Orthodox Jews wear them all the time. Purchase caps for students from www.yarmulkes.com See our pattern included to make your own yarmulkas.

Since just boys wear these, purchase flower leis for the girls to double over and wear in their hair as flower wreaths.

Notes:



YARMULKA



MAKE ONE YARMULKA FOR EACH MALE PARTICIPANT IN BETHLEHEM BOULEVARD. USE BLACK COTTON. IF DESIRED, DECORATE WITH GOLD SCRIBBLE PAINT.

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind ...Walking Back To The Days Of Jesus

NAME _____ GRADE/AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

PARENTS _____ TELEPHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE _____

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

ALLERGIES (FOOD/ENVIRONMENT):

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind ...Walking Back To The Days Of Jesus

NAME _____ GRADE/AGE _____

ADDRESS _____

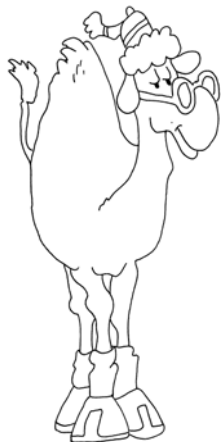
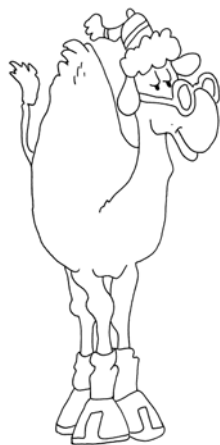
PARENTS _____ TELEPHONE _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE _____

SPECIAL INFORMATION:

ALLERGIES (FOOD/ENVIRONMENT):



Bible Time Costumes



Everyone involved in this Vacation Bible School becomes part of the Jewish Village. Leaders dress in costume as directed by their character assignment. Children also dress in costume. The attire creates a festive mood. The outfit can be as simple as a tie belt, a sheet fitting over head and shoulders, a towel and tie for head covering.

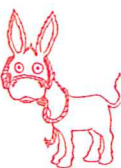
OPTION: students become amateur archaeologists wearing pith helmets. However, it is a lot of fun to dress everyone as if they are citizens of this little village.

Provide a few extra costumes for visitors or children who come unprepared. Do not exclude students who refuse to wear a costume. Some children feel self-conscious about clothing if they fear they will be ridiculed.

PILLOW CASES: Cut a neck hold in the top of the pillow case. Cut up the front to the neck hole. Cut armholes in the sides. This makes a long, vest type costume for small children. Plaid or striped flannel pillow cases are available and work great!

FABRIC: Two wide strips of fabric, one over each shoulder, crossed across the back and front of the child, tied with a sash makes a good costume too. Use striped or colorful fabric.

A square of fabric over the head with a wide ribbon or piece of cloth around the tope of the head makes a headpiece. Make large scrunchies (like girls wear around ponytails) and put them over the square fabric around the head. It holds the fabric on quite well.



BATHROBES: Purchase bathrobes at garage sales and resale shops or borrow robes. Wrap in front and use contrasting fabric for head dresses and sashes to complete the costume.

Participants of the program are responsible for their personal Holy Land costume. Suggest several options and then let them dig through their closets for fabric, caftans, robes, belts and other accessories.

Young Children

Bathrobes, Dad's long shirt belted with rope, scarf, jute or Dad's old tie. Head coverings made of scarves, towels, beads, jewelry or yarn.

Older Children And Teens

Bathrobes, simply made tunics with chain belts, draped sheets tied with scarves or rope, head coverings made of cotton draped over shoulders, headbands tied at one side, necklaces with a jewel or object dangling over forehead. Yarmulka for each boy and young man.

Adults

Consider making costumes from patterns available at the local fabric store. Rent Roman soldier or High Priest robes from a costume shop.

MEN: Clothing for men of the time included a loincloth undergarment made of linen. The coat or tunic was striped or colorful and was a common garment. The coat came down below the knees and usually had tassels hanging at the bottom of it. These coats were worn for work and taken off for sleep. The typical color of the coat was deep blue.



Another important piece of clothing was the cloak which took the place of the suit or overcoat of today. Besides being worn as an overcoat, it was also used for a blanket, a bed, a saddle cloth or a carpet. Poorer people usually only had one garment serving as both a cloak and a coat. It was made of camel hair and had a leather belt.

WOMEN: Clothing for women was similar to men's clothing because they also wore a coat and cloak tied by a belt. However, their clothing was more fitted and refined.

Women also wore ribbons of wool and silk, shawls tied over their shoulders and plaited braids of material as jewelry.

It was common for both men and women to wear a head covering. These were often made by a piece of cloth which was tied at the forehead and the rest of the material fell down over the shoulders. Another head cover was made of many strips of cloth bound around the head similar to a turban.

Common material during Jesus' life was wool, linen or flax. Clothes were bleached and dyed with natural animal or vegetable products. Blue and brown were the most common colors worn and they often striped their garments with white and brown. The Levites (priests) usually wore yellow. There was also some embroidery used for women's clothing and more elaborate dress clothes.

Footwear

Bare feet or summer sandals with leather (vinyl) string that ties up the leg to the knee. Cloth tied around the feet may be used for children and beggar.



Yarmulka

These distinctly Jewish caps are worn by all men and boys. Make one simple cotton cap for each male participant in the program. *Ask a volunteer to make these caps. See the pattern included.*

Colors

Encourage the use of brown, beige, small vertical stripes, light blue and green, ivory and other "back to nature" hues.



It Takes A Village ...Build With Care

When students arrive at *Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind*, they should enter an ancient world created from simple items gathered from the homes and backyards of friends and neighbors.

Focus general decorations in the Opening area. Activity leaders decorate their rooms. Discuss plans and follow directions in the curriculum. Don't be afraid to design your own Holy Land place.

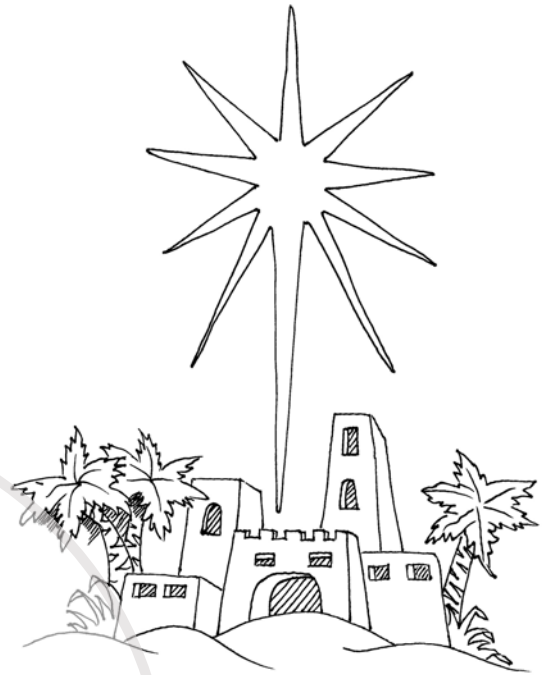
Use items available in catalogs, party stores and attics. Find items made of wood, pottery and natural materials.

Blankets: Drape blankets and sheets to resemble wall or ceiling coverings. Place blankets on the floor with pillows. Insure the safety of visitors by keeping floor coverings away from walking areas.

Pillows: Toss pillows in a variety of sizes and colors into corners. They give an old fashioned eastern atmosphere to a home or shop setting.

Plants: Place a variety of green leafy plants on tables and floors. Artificial Ficus trees, palms and bushes add to the outdoor street environment.

Baskets: Fill large and small wicker baskets with potatoes, yarn, fruits and cloth toys. Place baskets in each shop and home area. Stack empty baskets of all shapes and sizes.



Wood: Many utensils were made from wood. Scatter wooden spoons, bowls and tools. Consider bringing scraps of wood and wood shavings or sawdust to place in corners.

Pottery: Place large crocks, old looking pots and clay flower pots, vases, bowls and cups in appropriate spots.

Palm Trees: Make large reproductions by asking carpet stores for empty carpet tubes. They make great palm tree trunks. Spray them brown with black accent sprays. Make large palm leaves from the strongest paper available (construction or brown wrapping paper). If the paper is not green, spray paint lightly to give a green effect.

Cardboard Animals: Make cardboard life sized animals to place as desired throughout the areas. Camels, horses, donkeys look great. See our patterns or design your own!

Window/Door Framing: See our pattern for a rustic wooden window or door frame. Make from heavy cardboard. Dark lines may be added with black marker as shown. Build the frame by cutting four separate sides sized to the existing window or door. Attach to window/door with duct tape. Or, place a frame on the wall with artwork in the middle. This is a perfect hallway decoration. Make many frames and line the hallway and even bulletin boards with them.

Attic Finds: Ask church friends and family to search their attics, garages and basements for old items that fit the Holy Land theme.

Live Animals: If a gentle horse is available, ask the owner to bring it and stay with the animal. Horseback rides are possible if owners oversee the event carefully.

Cows, calves, sheep, goats, chickens, geese, etc. may be placed in outdoor pens. Only animals that can be trusted with children should be petted. All animal tenders dress as shepherds in Holy Land garb.

It is a wise Director who insists animal owners remain with their personal animals. Do not assign a non-animal savvy teen to lead this spot.



Tents: Some events may be held in tents or under canopies. If the tent is small, arrange students around the outside for the activities connected with the lesson plan. If the tent is large, decorate with Holy Land accessories and have a wonderful time inside the tent.

Row Boat and Oars: If a boat and oars are available, set up one corner near the Village Marketplace to resemble the beach near Lake Galilee.

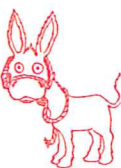
Accessory Options

large rocks
bales of hay (baled and/or loose)
old rag rugs, animal hides
old tools
woolen material
old ladders
water in various containers
small live animals in cages
(rabbits, kittens, puppies, birds, mice, hamsters, gerbils)
musical instruments
wooden tables/chairs
macrame wall hangings
baskets of all shapes and sizes
logs, old fencing

Let There Be Light!

Modern light is bright, neon, electric! In this harsh light, we work and play and worship. In ancient days, lighting was subdued, dark, small and made from natural substances.

Whenever possible, dim or turn off bright lights in classrooms and large meeting areas. Create lighting using a variety of methods in odd places. Lighting may seem like an unimportant detail but it makes a great deal of difference to the authenticity of production.



Electrical Floor Lights: Position small lamps without shades and with low watt bulbs on the floor. Place them discreetly behind large plants, baskets and other props. Instead of real candles, consider electric candles like those used as home Christmas decorations. Ask participants to bring enough lighting for their scene. Use existing wall outlets and extension cords.

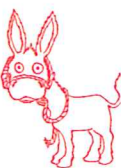
Spotlights: Benefit from existing sanctuary lighting and place spotlights in front of large props like fake palm trees.

Candles: Caution! When using open flame, place candles high in windows out of reach of visitors and children. Fire can be dangerous when participants are wearing costumes and are unaccustomed to flowing robes. Candles are best utilized in the sanctuary where they can be controlled.

Lanterns: If old fashioned lanterns are available, place them outdoors to be viewed as visitors enter the church. Be sure no one will accidentally bump into them.

Whenever a candle or lantern light is used, place a bucket of water nearby. Fire extinguishers should be readily available and within reach of someone who knows how to use them. Whenever possible, use electric lighting to simulate candlelight.

Notes:



Check out many fun decorating items
in catalogs and on web sites
to add to your Holy Land look.

ShinDigZ...Where The World Comes To Party
Catalog and website available

www.ShindigZ.com

800-314-8736

Oriental Trading Company, Inc.
Catalog and web site available

www.orientaltrading.com

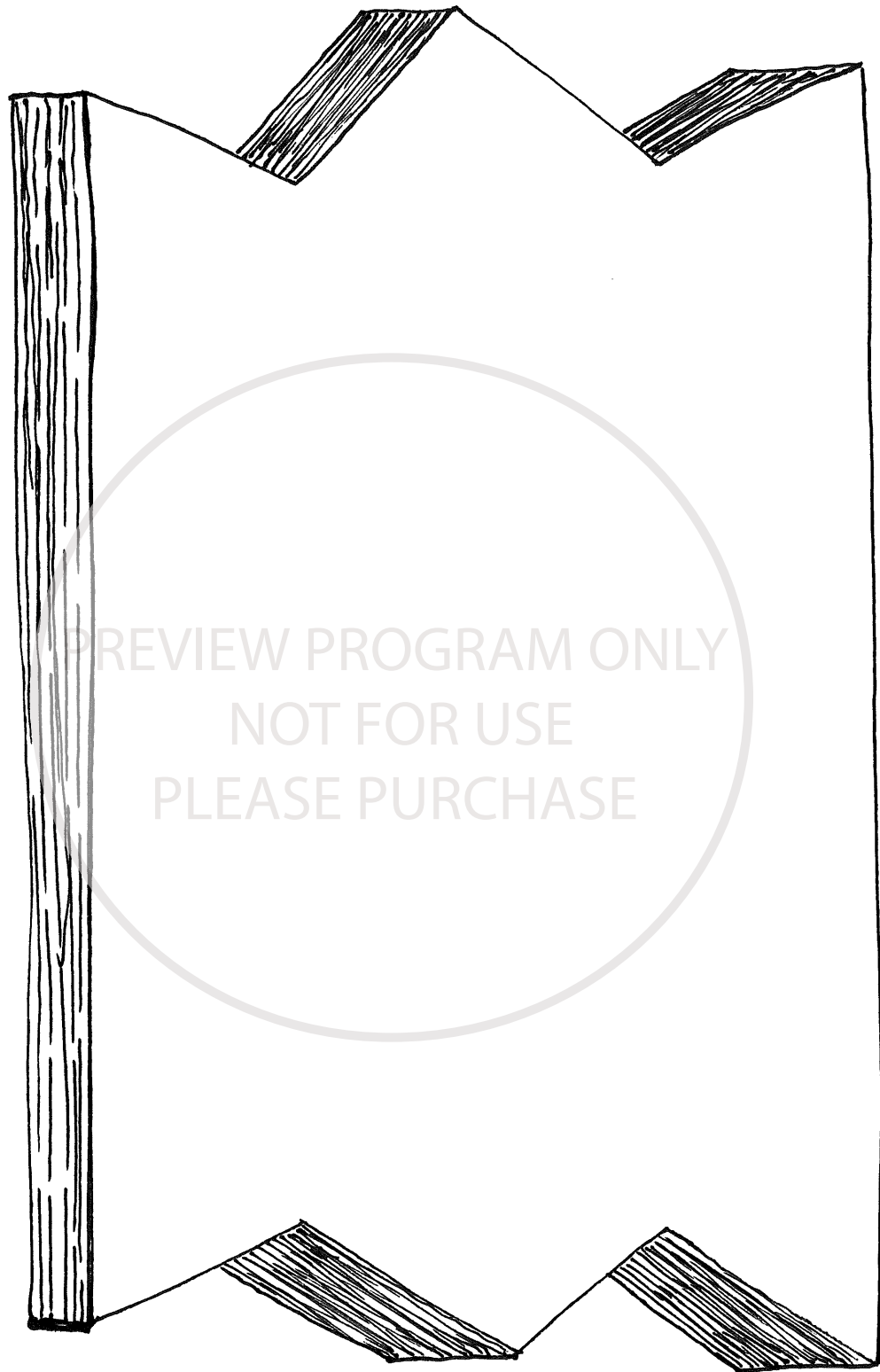
800-228-2269

Search the internet for some of the wonderful
Jewish sites that offer items like menorahs,
yarmulkas, mezuzahs, etc.

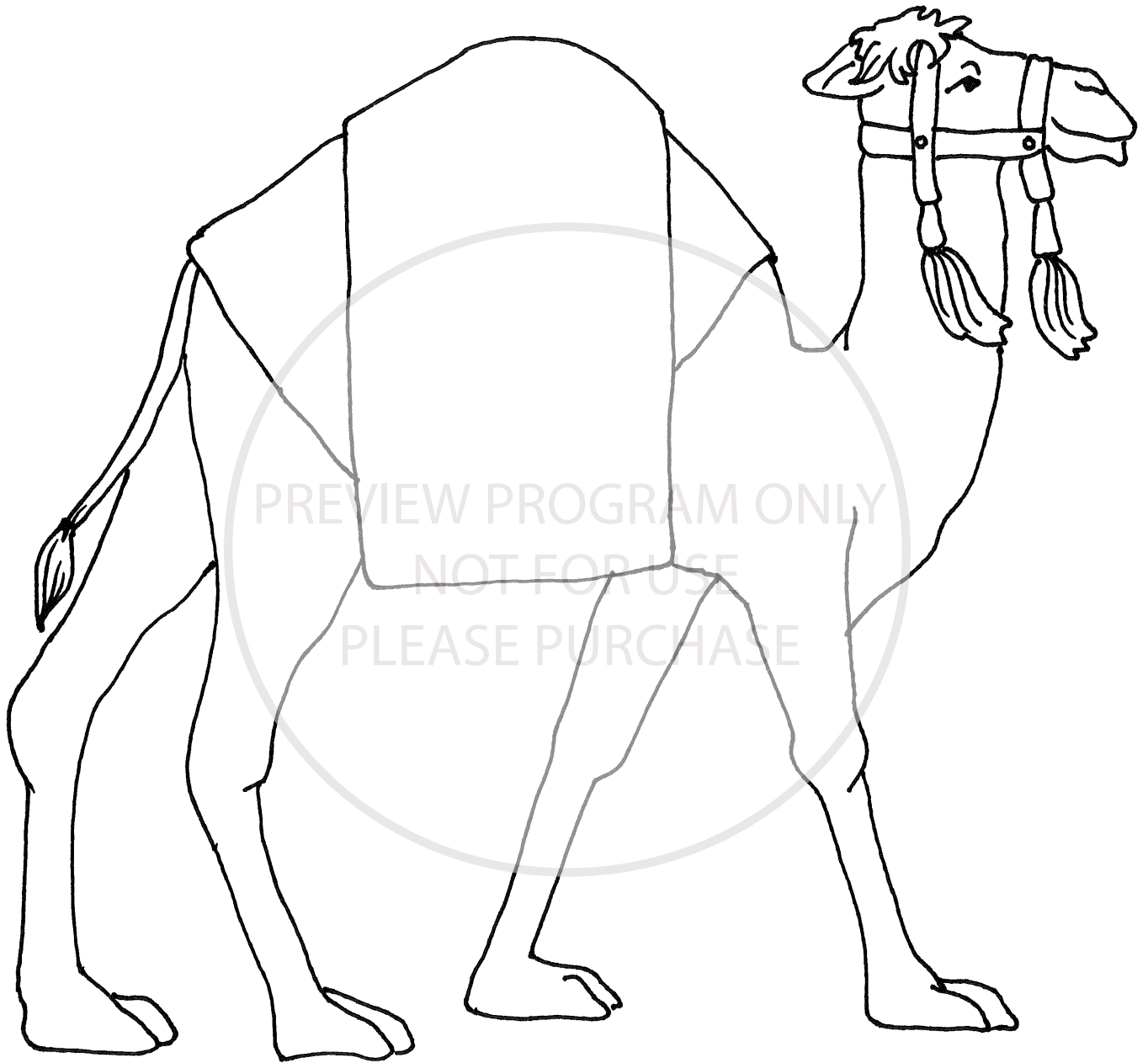




PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NO FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE







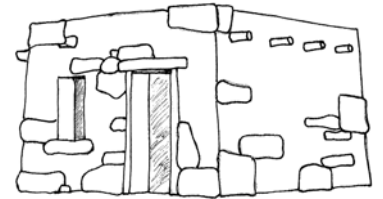
PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

Publicity

...Come To The Village!

“Blessed shall you be when you come in
and blessed shall you be when you go out.”

Deuteronomy 28:6 NIV



Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School.
Be clear and concise.

Church Bulletin: Advertise for leaders. Include reminders in the weekly church bulletin until *Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind* begins. Include registration forms when appropriate.

Church Newsletter: Print quick, catchy announcements and include registration forms in the monthly church newsletter.

Worship Service Greeters: Greet people coming into church. Dress in costume. Place one or more students near the door. Distribute registration forms and basic information. This is a great reminder that this event is coming soon. Be sure to say “Shalom”!

Local Newspaper: Take photographs of people in costume. Send a news release before the week to insure publication. Invite a local news reporter and photographer to visit for a feature story.

Coloring Contest: Sponsor a Sunday School coloring contest. Choose one picture. Display completed pictures. Award prizes to create excitement.

Letters To Kids: Send a letter to potential students. Address it to the child.



Visit The Pulpit: Visit the pastor during announcement time. Give this your best effort so the congregation becomes excited about the event. Wear a costume and give basic information.

Local Television: Ask your local television station to film a feature story. This is great publicity and encouragement for your people. Do not assume a crew will not come. Call and ask! Use the local television cable advertising station to print a few lines about your event. This is free or inexpensive.

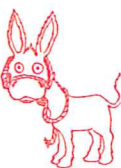
Newspapers and Magazines: Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and a well written article. You may be pleasantly surprised to find your church featured in the next edition.

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

Telephone Calls: Use last year's attendance information. Assign a phone committee to call families. Give basic information in a cheerful and friendly voice.

Church Sign: Place a large sign outside the church announcing dates and times. Use the Holy Land theme to draw attention to the sign.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!
CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BIBLICAL KIND
...WALKING BACK TO THE DAYS OF JESUS
DATE: TIME:
ALL CHILDREN AGE 4-GRADE 6 WELCOME!
SHALOM!



Photography

...Get The Big Picture!

Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week. Ask your church photographer to wear an appropriate Holy Land garment and to enter each activity with enthusiasm.



Encourage Visitors To Bring Cameras

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

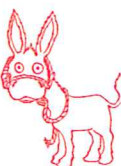
PLEASE PURCHASE

Photography Crew

Assign a small crew to take pictures. Underwrite the cost of film and developing from Vacation bible School resources.

Digital Photography

this technology avoids the cost of film and time for developing. Put the pictures on a website like www.smugmug.com Families can purchase their choices at inexpensive prices on their own time. The church can choose picture to display for the site.



Video

Delegate one person to video all events. Some activities can be staged for filming but it is fine to record events as they develop.

Selling Pictures

Be prepared to quote prices. Do you want to cover the cost or help defray expenses? Prepare a sign up sheet including the cost. Provide sign up sheets along with the cost and size of print.

Display Pictures

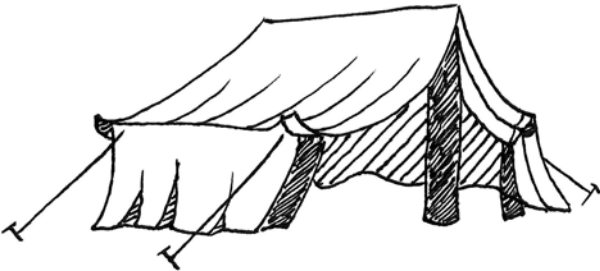
Consider viewing pictures during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be placed on a wall/bulletin board and video may be shown in the snack area.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



Village Marketplace Opening

*"We should live our lives as though
Christ was coming this afternoon."
~ Jimmy Carter*



Introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. VILLAGE MARKETPLACE skits establish the theme, provide humor and present the spiritual themes.

The Archaeologist Director

The Vacation Bible School Director is The Archaeologist. Dress as an explorer with pith helmet and hiking clothes. Prepare the entire group for their Holy Land adventure.

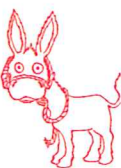
Spiritual Theme

Jesus Is Coming! Everywhere the students travel Jesus has either 'just been there' or 'is coming'! The village people they meet are all excited to be part of the 'Jesus' story and willingly share their personal experiences. The excitement begins at the Village Marketplace.

Decorate

Design a visual focal point for the Holy Land theme. Create your own **Village Marketplace** using supplies available locally. Keep it simple! Choose from the ideas listed in the 'Build A Village' section or use your imagination.

Pitch tents in corners whenever available. Trim them with woven afghan blankets, pillows, banners, flags.



Collect Offering

Consider asking someone to portray an Alms Beggar. Seat the beggar near the center of activity before the Opening begins. He/she is dressed poorly in Holy Land garments and sits on the floor.

Hold a woven basket or pottery bowl. Cry out, "Alms! Alms for the poor!" Everyone drops their offering into the beggar's basket when they arrive.

Daily Skits

Choose people to portray characters in five daily skits. These skits are meant to get each day started with a touch of humor, a continuing adventure and a bit of spiritual wisdom. No memorization necessary.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

Watch The Time

Begin the **Village Marketplace Opening** on time even if students and staff are still gathering. Welcome the group, sing a few songs, make announcements, perform one short skit and dismiss. End on time to allow groups to get to their first activity center promptly.





Village Marketplace Skits

Memorization is not necessary.
Speak clearly. Dress in costume.
Ham it up! Have fun!!!

Monday

Gossip In The Village Marketplace

Famous Crazy Person

ACTORS: Two women dressed in Holy Land garments, carrying containers to fill at the well. They meet at the marketplace to gossip daily village news.

Leah: (*Greeting friend...*) Hannah! Shalom! I was hoping I would see you this fine morning! Isn't it beautiful today?

Hannah: (*Greeting...*) Shalom, Leah! Aren't you a little late? I usually see you at the well at daybreak.

Leah: I woke up later than usual but I was up late last night. Then my pot had a crack in it so I had to go home and replace it. Then...Well, let's just say it has been a bad day. Did you hear the news?

Hannah: That's why I like having you as my friend. You always know the latest village gossip. What's up?

Leah: Well, you're not going to believe this but Jesus is back in town.

Hannah: No! I can't believe it. He is getting so famous these days. Does Mary know he's coming?

Leah: I don't think so. We'll have to let her know. Oh, how she loves her Jesus. She smiles every time we ask about him. That's a proud mother.



Hannah: I'm sure she misses her boy. Jesus lived here his whole life. I think he's living over near Capernaum now. Is he still a carpenter like Joseph, his father.

Leah: Joseph died last year. Poor Mary. Her children are good to her. She is well cared for, I'm sure.

Hannah: Jesus fixed the wooden door frame of my home. I don't know about you, but I do not believe what people are saying.

Leah: Surely no one is believing that gossip about Jesus being our 'Messiah'. What a joke! If Jesus is our promised Messiah and Savior, he certainly wouldn't be fixing people's doors. He looks normal to me.

Hannah: Are his twelve disciples coming with him? There are always so many people following Jesus that I cannot sort out who is who.

Leah: They go everywhere with him. Hey! I've got an idea! Let's take a day to go and find him. Maybe he will talk on the hillside outside the village. What do you say, friend? Are you up for an adventure?

Hannah: I don't know, Leah. I'd like to see him again, for old time's sake but I have a busy day planned. I have to gather wood, fill the water pots and sweep the courtyard.

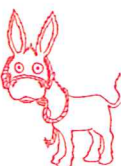
Leah: Hannah, you do that every day. Come on! It will be like when we were little. We'll run around the pathways, pick a few flowers and maybe we'll run into Jesus along the way.

Hannah: They say he's crazy. Even his brothers don't believe a word he says. He talks silly nonsense about being God's Son and about being sent from Heaven.

Leah: Well, that will make it more fun. When is the last time you saw a famous, crazy person claiming to be God?

Hannah: Ok, Leah. I'll go. But just so you know, I have to be back in time to start the fire for evening meal. Crazy person or not, people in my family want food tonight.

EXIT ARM IN ARM





Tuesday
Gossip In The Village Marketplace
Searching For Jesus

Introduction: *Leah and Hannah return from their trip to the countryside to find Jesus, the hometown boy that everyone in the village, including his own brothers, says is crazy.*

Hannah: *(Running....)* Hurry up, Leah! We're late! The sun is almost setting. I can't believe I let you talk me into running around the countryside looking for Jesus.. I did not get back in time to start the evening meal fire.

Leah: *(Running to catch up...)* I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I was so sure we would find Jesus. Everybody told me, "Just look for the crowd and Jesus will be there."

Hannah: Did you see a crowd? I didn't see a crowd. All I saw were a few old sheep tipped over in the ditch and a few kids playing in the field. I saw a broken pot and I found a coin in the dirt. Big deal!

Leah: We picked some pretty flowers!

Hannah: My family can't eat flowers, Leah! I'm in so much trouble. Why do I listen to you?

Leah: Because I'm pretty? Because I'm smart? Because I'm fun to be with? Because...Hannah, you can jump in here any time.

Hannah: ...Because **I'M** crazy!!! You're coming to my house with me to explain where I have been all day.

Leah: I'm not going over there. Your family will yell at me. Just tell them you were searching for truth and Jesus, who claims to be Messiah, is around here somewhere. Look real serious when you say it. They'll believe you.



Hannah: Are you kidding? You really think I can convince them that their scatterbrained Hannah is suddenly searching for truth? My family doesn't even think Jesus should be allowed in the synagogue. If I tell them I'm traipsing around the hills looking for him, they will tell me to go live in the hills until I find him. I have to think of a better excuse.

Leah: Do you want to go walking again tomorrow? I bet we find him tomorrow.

Hannah: Have you lost what little is left of your mind, Leah? I can't do this again tomorrow. I'm still figuring out how to get out of trouble today! You are impossible!

Leah: *(Softly and thoughtfully...)* Jesus. There's something about that name. There's something about him that I need to know. If you won't go with me, I will have to search for Jesus alone. I don't want to go alone. I want a friend to be with me.

Hannah: Do you have any idea what you want to say to Jesus when ...If...you ever find him?

Leah: Maybe I'll ask him if he is really our Savior. I'll know if it's true when I look in his eyes. I have to look in his eyes. Come with me Hannah. Please?

Hannah: Searching for Jesus. I must be a very good friend. Okay, let's take one more day to see if he arrives. You know, if this was last year, we could have just walked over to Mary's house and slipped into the carpenter's shop to talk to him. You couldn't have thought of this last year? What's the big deal about Jesus this year?

Leah: I don't know. I just have this feeling that Jesus is not crazy. What if he is telling the truth? What if he really is our Messiah, the promised Son of God. We need to know the truth.

Hannah: Don't worry, Leah. I'll go with you. We'll find him. We'll search until we find the truth.

EXIT ARM IN ARM





Wednesday
Gossip In The Village Marketplace
Village Stranger

Add one actor (male) dressed in Holy Land garments to the characters of Hannah and Leah.

Hannah: *(Alone on stage, calling....)* Leah! Leah! Where are you? You better show your face, oh former friend. I'm so mad I could spit camel candy!

Leah: *(Tiptoeing onto the stage....)* Hannah! How nice. You got back to the village before me. I hope the walk was pleasant.

Hannah: Pleasant? Pleasant? What would you know about my walk? You left me alone out there. Where did you go?

Leah: Time just slipped away and I forgot you were waiting for me.

Hannah: Did you find Jesus and forget to tell me? Who has been tramping all over hill and dale with you for two days? Who has been your best friend? It's me! I should get to meet Jesus too!

Leah: I didn't find Jesus, Hannah. I found a stranger who met Jesus. Sshh, be nice. Here he comes.

Hannah: What do you mean be nice? I'm nice. You're the one who needs 'nice' lessons!

Stranger: *(Walk slowly down the aisle to the stage.)* Shalom! You must be Hannah. Leah told me you are both interested in meeting Jesus. Maybe I can help.

Hannah: *(Bowing....)* Shalom. Please excuse my anger. I have been walking the countryside for two long days, looking for someone who may not even be here. Leah wants to see if Jesus is Messiah, the Savior God promised our forefathers. Have you seen Him anywhere?



Stranger: I have seen Jesus. I have walked with Jesus. Jesus changed my life. I was born blind but now I see.

Hannah: But...how can that be? No one who has been born blind just starts seeing. Was it magic? Did you hit your head?

Stranger: *(Laughing....)* No magic and I did not hit my head! It was Jesus. The man from Galilee made me see!

(Speak with joy and excitement, like telling a wonderful adventure.)

I was begging on the street when Jesus and his friends walked past. They asked him who sinned, me or my mother and father.

Leah: That was a rather personal question. How rude!

Stranger: Jesus said they asked the wrong question. He said, "You are looking for someone to blame. Instead, look what God can do.

Hannah: That sounds good but God let you be blind all these years. How can this be made right?

Stranger: Jesus said to the men, "I am the Light of the world." Then he spit in the dust, made a clay paste and rubbed it on my eyes. He told me to wash it off in the pool of Siloam. I did it and now I can see!

Hannah: How many fingers do I have? *(Wave two fingers)*

Stranger: Ten. But you are waving two of those fingers in my face!

Leah: What color is my tunic?

Stranger: *(Give appropriate answer.)* That's not all. Pretty soon the whole town was buzzing. Relatives and friends who year after year watched me begging said, "Isn't this the guy who always begged on the corner?" Others said, "Nah, it's not him. It just looks like him." I jumped up and down and shouted, "It's me! It's me!"

Leah: I heard them shouting and then they marched him off to the Pharisees. He told his story because by then Jesus wasn't anywhere



around to help.

Stranger: I figured I was in big trouble when they called my parents in on the deal. Mother and Father didn't know anything but they were sure scared. They just said, "Ask him. He's a grown man."

Leah: What did you say?

Stranger: I said, "I don't know anything more about Jesus. But I know one thing for sure: I was blind and now I see."

I must leave this village. My life is changed. I must find Jesus again to thank Him for this great gift. Shalom.

Hannah and Leah: *(In Unison)* Shalom, Stranger.

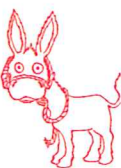
STRANGER EXITS

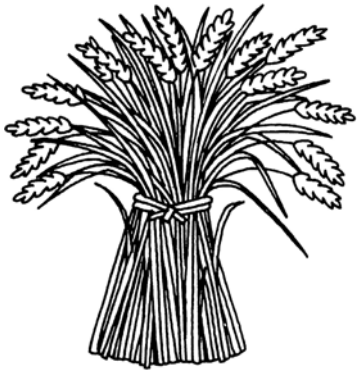
Hannah: I'm sorry I was angry. I see why you needed to talk to the stranger. Leah, do you think Jesus performs miracles like this? Do you think he's our Messiah like people are saying?

Leah: I only know I must keep searching. People are changing in our village and in all the villages around us. I must find Jesus.

Hannah: We will find him, friend, we will find him.

EXIT ARM IN ARM





Thursday
Gossip In The Village
Jumping Up And Down!

Leah: *(Run into the room, bouncing and jumping up and down with joy, spinning in circles with joy....)* I found him! I found him! I found Jesus! Nobody thought I could do it..but I found Jesus!

Hannah: *(Run into the room behind Leah, bouncing and jumping up and down with joy, spinning in circles with joy....)* Joy! Joy! Happy! Happy! Whee! This is really fun! What exactly are we happy about?

Leah: *(Out of breath....)* Where were you, Hannah? I looked everywhere and you just disappeared into thin air.

Hannah: *(Still jumping and spinning and smiling....)* Hiding! I was hiding! Can I stop jumping now?

Leah: Stop!

Hannah: *(Stop and out of breath....)* Oh, thank you. I don't think I could keep the 'Leah Jump' going much longer. Whew! I was hiding from you. There. I said it. I mean now. I meant it then. That's the truth. No more running around looking for Jesus.

Leah: *(Jumping again....)* I found him! I found Jesus!

Hannah: No more getting in trouble at home for neglecting my daily chores. No more heat of the day at the village well.

Leah: *(Jumping....)* I found him!

Hannah: No more ripping my tunic on those sharp rocks by the road.

Leah: *(Jumping....)* Are you listening to me, Hannah? I-found-Jesus!!!

Hannah: *(Stop and look directly at Leah)* You mean you found Jesus?



Leah: (*Jumping....*) Yes! I found Jesus!

Hannah: (*Start jumping with Leah*) You did it! You found Jesus! You searched and you found and you're my best friend in the whole world! (*Shout to the group....*) Leah did it! Leah, my best friend, found Jesus! And I helped! Actually, it was MOSTLY me!

Leah: Do you want to know what Jesus said? Oh, it's so good. Do you want to know?

Hannah: (*Getting serious....*) I must know what Jesus said. What did he say? Did he speak directly to you?

Leah: Yes! He looked directly in my eyes and he said, get this, he said, "Thank you."

Hannah: That's it? All those days on the road? All that searching and moaning and wondering? And you finally find him and he says, "Thank you"? Oh, I'm feeling nauseous. Must be the jumping and the spinning....AND THE DISAPPOINTMENT.

Leah: Don't be disappointed. It was wonderful. Jesus was speaking to hundreds of people at the hillside. I saw Old Micah stumbling along the path. You know how sick he has been. He kept muttering under his breath, "I can be healed. I can be healed." I took him by the arm and marched Old Micah right to the front of the crowd.

Hannah: Nobody stopped you? After all, the men with Jesus are good at keeping crowds away from him. How brave of you.

Leah: I knew if I could just get Old Micah to Jesus, that Jesus would heal him. I put my head down so no one could shake their heads 'no' at me and we walked arm and arm right up to Jesus.

Hannah: And then?

Leah: I bowed, real low, and said, "Shalom, Master. I have brought Old Micah to you. You must remember Old Micah. He has lived here all his life. He thinks you can heal his crippled legs. If we are bothering you, I will walk him home."



Hannah: And then?

Leah: And then Jesus smiled, "Of course I remember Old Micah. Micah, come here. In the name of God, my Father, you are healed. Go and serve God." Old Micah stood on his legs and suddenly began jumping up and down praising God.

Hannah: I have never seen such a thing.

Leah: Now people are even more convinced that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Hannah: And then?

Leah: And then Jesus smiled at me and said, "Thank you". The two most beautiful words in the world. He looked like the carpenter we've always known, but yet...different.

Hannah: "Thank you". What beautiful words.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
EXIT ARM IN ARM.
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE





Friday
Gossip In The Village
Messiah!

Hannah: *(Sitting on the floor, with a basket of potatoes or another type of work in her lap)* I believe that Jesus is the Messiah promised so long ago by our prophets! I am surprised that I believe but I do. You won't believe what I heard today.

Leah: *(Walking by with a large basket...)* Shalom, Hannah. I haven't seen you in awhile. Where have you been?

Hannah: I believe, Leah. I believe.

Leah: And what exactly do you believe?

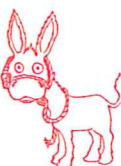
Hannah: I believe that Jesus, the carpenter, is our Messiah. I know it in my heart and soul. I know it because of what I have heard and seen this very day.

Leah: Do you want to jump up and down some more?

Hannah: No, my feet can't take all that joyful jumping. I have a quiet joy now. A deep down peace that says, "It's true."

Leah: What did you hear?

Hannah: I saw Mary, Jesus' mother, at the well this morning. Many of the village women were there. Mary reminded all of us about Jesus' birth. It is beginning to make sense. She said Jesus was sent from God. She was touched by God and told she would be the mother of the Son of God. She talked about shepherds and angels and the stable in Bethlehem. Did you know Joseph, Mary and Jesus were rescued from an evil king by God's warning to run to Egypt? They used gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts from eastern wise men, to live on while they were there.



Leah: I saw something amazing today, Hannah. I saw Jesus raise Lazarus from the dead! It was so unexpected and yet I know Lazarus was dead. And then he was alive!

Hannah: Maybe I *should* try to jump up and down again. I'm already jumping up and down on the inside!

Leah: Jesus....Messiah....Lord....Savior. And I thought he was just a carpenter who fixed doors.

Hannah: For God's Glory....

Leah: What was that?

Hannah: Oh, just something I heard outside the synagogue, something about the Messiah coming to earth for God's Glory.

Leah: I don't understand it but I believe it. Jesus speaks of such strange things. He said in order to be rich I must become poor. He said the meek will inherit the earth. It doesn't make sense but when I listen to Jesus speak, it makes perfect sense.

Hannah: I must tell you, friend, that I am now a follower of Jesus, the Messiah. I don't know what the future holds.

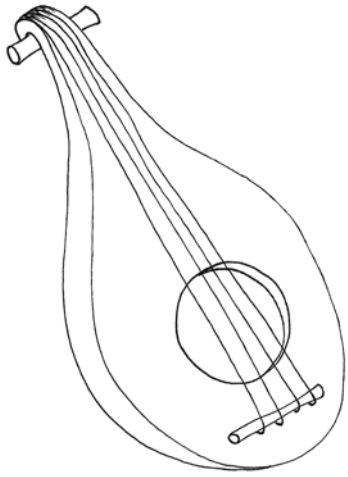
Leah: It might be dangerous. It might be sad. It might mean our lives will change. We will follow Jesus together.

Hannah: Thank you, Leah, for the adventure of a lifetime. Thank you for making me search for Jesus. Thank you for introducing me to the stranger who had been blind. Thank you for coming on this journey with me.

Leah: Let's go together, friend. I think I heard that Jesus is still teaching over on the hillside this afternoon. We can get there if we hurry.

EXIT ARM IN ARM.





Open House

Farewell...Shalom...Farewell!

“A righteous man may have troubles,
But the Lord delivers him from them all.

Psalm 34:19

Students and teachers show off decorated Holy Land workshops, sing songs and display crafts. Families tour *Close Encounters Of A Biblical Kind*, sample VILLAGE INN Snacks and enjoy a summer evening in your local version of a village like Jesus enjoyed.

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

Choose an OPEN HOUSE time so a high percentage of parents and friends can attend. If the week ends Friday, plan a Friday evening program.

If VBS is in the evening, do not eliminate students' last day of programming. Some churches present OPEN HOUSE on Sunday. Eliminate OPEN HOUSE if no common time can be found.

Farewell...Shalom...Farewell Schedule

7:00 P.M.	Welcome and Opening Prayer
7:02 P.M.	The Archaeologist Introduces 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. Close In Prayer
7:40 P.M.	Dismiss group to tour all areas
8:30 P.M.	Staff begins clean up



The Story Teller

This OPTIONAL fifteen minute segment provides rest and a delightful continuing story.

What is The Story Teller? The Story Teller greets small groups cheerfully and tells a continuing daily story with enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room far from the noise. Students hide away and hear a five day story in fifteen minute segments.



What Should I Wear? Dress in Holy Land garments as suggested in the Costume section.

How Should I Decorate? Find a quiet indoor or outdoor spot and seat students on the ground/floor. Create a corner where the Story Teller sits surrounded by large floor pillows, baskets, green plants and other appropriate items. Toss pillows on the floor so students can relax. Blow a gentle fan across the room. Keep the space dimly lit and create a quiet, story telling atmosphere. If a tent is available, pitch it and let everyone crowd inside for story time.

Who Hears The Story? All student groups visit daily. Preschool students are scheduled to visit but if they cannot pay attention, substitute other short story books or another activity. Discuss choices with the preschool team before Vacation Bible School begins.

What Story Should I Tell? Our suggested story is **TOOTHPICK ROAD**, a five part Conley Twin adventure with complete 5 chapter 'tell aloud' story and flip chart line drawings. Order separately from CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES 1-888-236-5433.

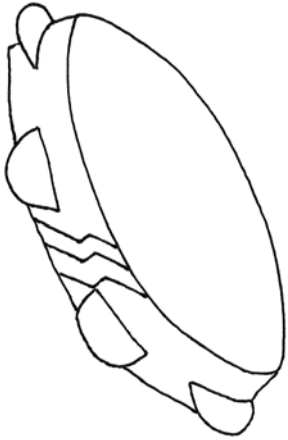
There are Christian DVD's available. Consider showing segments of Bible stories from the Veggie Tale collection. Purchase your choice from any Veggie Tales web site.



The Music Makers

"I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your Name, O Most High."

Psalm 9:2



The Music Makers is a fifteen minute daily music session for small groups. Students sing choruses of your choice. Choose upbeat, easy to sing songs from your music library or songs we suggest. Plan more music than needed in the time limit in case songs are learned quickly.

Decoration

Decorate the music area using the Holy Land theme. Fill the space with items suggested in the **It Takes A Village...Build With Care** section. If a tent is available, move music time to this fun area. Or, find a great outdoor spot where students can sit in a circle on the ground. If music is outdoors, very little decoration is needed.

Add cardboard versions of harps and lyres. Spray paint them gold and add real string to each representation. Hang them around the music area.

Costume

Dress in Holy Land costume as suggested in the Costumes section.

Instruments

Piano, stringed instruments. Students may have fun participating with tambourines and other simple instruments as available.

Music

There is almost no *wrong* music for this program. Choose songs from your personal collection. Or, choose from our suggestions. We offer several song books and tapes or double channel CD's. Call Ellen at 1-888-236-5433 to order music.



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MELODIES

Five choruses based on Psalms charm all ages. We offer the printed music, words only for teaching and a double channel CD with sample voice and accompaniment only. Written and produced by Glory Sound Studios, Winston-Salem, NC under the direction of Jon Miller. Order separately at our website: www.cemlife.com

SING A SONG OF SCRIPTURE, Lillenas Publishing Company

I Will Enter His Gates
Oh How He Loves You and Me
Seek Ye First
The Trees Of the Field
Servant Of All
+ Many More

PICK A PACK OF PRAISE, Lillenas Publishing Company

Abundawonderful Life In Jesus
Let's Talk About Jesus
A Psalm For Singing
Hallelu
In My Father's House

ULTIMATE PRAISE SONGBOOK, Lillenas Publishing Company

He Is the King of Kings
What A Mighty God We Serve
Holy Ground
Bless The Name of Jesus
He Is Exalted

Performance Tips

Use a tambourine for some songs. Students clap and use rhythm instruments as available.

Dance: If you choose to sing "Hava Nagila" let students dance while they sing. Practice for OPEN HOUSE. Students form two large circles, an inner and outer circle, around guest seating. They move in opposite directions with arms over shoulders of students next to them. Take 10 steps in one direction and then take 10 steps in the opposite direction. Because the words are in Hebrew, this will take some practice during the week but they love it and the challenge is exciting.



The Discovery Shop

...Mystery And Mayhem

Mix it up with a variety of Holy Land experiences. Choose from the variety of ideas offered or create your own and NEVER let them know what is coming the next day. Mystery keeps everyone coming back for more.

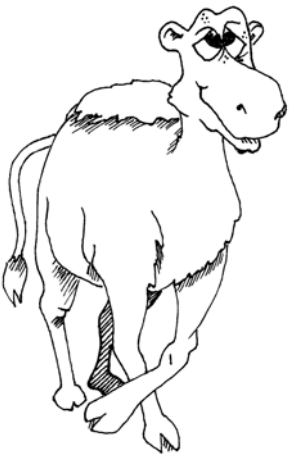
An indoor or outdoor area can be a spot for games one day, skits another day and animals sometime during the week. The space can change from day to day. Depending on what is available in your community, enjoy surprising the gang. Feel free to choose whichever ideas fit your personality as leader and whatever fits your group.

Students visit in small groups for daily fifteen minutes segments. Plan five separate activities. Check out our suggestions! There are activity project suggested but a craft project is not required for each day.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

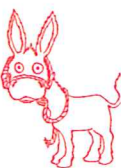
Animal Day

Choose one day when a variety of animals visit. This is like a petting zoo so be sure all animals are gentle, mild. The animal's owner must be in control at all times. Of course, only modern animals are available so use what you have! Make references to Holy Land life.



Bible Dogs: During the days when our village was full of life, dogs had a different role than they do today. We think of dogs as warm, spirited pets or helpers for the disabled. Bible time people did not keep dogs as pets. Some dogs herded sheep. Israelites thought of dogs as unclean. They were scavengers, living off garbage and dead animals. Dogs were one source of diseases and many were wild.

Donkeys: Most people did not own donkeys to carry their heavy loads. It is unlikely Mary and Joseph rode a donkey to Bethlehem unless they rented one for the journey. Wealthy people owned one or more donkeys much like we own cars. Donkeys were a status symbol. It could travel the steep, narrow, rocky roads. Farmers used donkeys to pull wooden plows.



Sheep: Sheep were important. They were a source of food for meat and cheese. Their thick wool and skins were used to make clothing and tents. Sheep were offered as sacrifices to God. Sheep are helpless and unable to find their own food and water if they are wandering around the countryside. They need good shepherds to protect them. An injured sheep was carried on the shepherd's shoulders and lambs were carried inside the shepherd's coat. Jesus is called The Good Shepherd because "the good shepherd gives his life for the sheep".

Goats: Goats are not like sheep. They can be very grouchy. People love goat's milk and cheese. Goat skin was used to make water bottles and goat hair was used for making cloth.

Pigs: Pigs were forbidden food in Israel, considered the most unclean of animals. Israelites were NOT pig farmers. To eat a pig meant the person was in the lowest of positions. When the prodigal son was in trouble in a foreign land, all he had to eat was the food that pigs ate. Now that is low!

Fattened Calf: Israelites were always ready for hospitality. Many homes kept a fattened calf for special events. Meat was hard to come by so killing the fattened calf was a sign of respect.

Pigeons and Turtle Doves: These small birds were offered as sacrifices in the temple. If a family was too poor to buy a calf or goat, they could purchase two pigeons or two turtle doves. This is what Mary offered after Jesus was born. It is our clue that Jesus family was poor.

Horses: Horses were used to pull carriages and carts. They were rare, being expensive and uncomfortable to ride. They did not have modern saddles and stirrups were unheard of.

Camels: This was the typical beast of burden. Camels have wide, plodding feet for walking through the desert sand. They store fat in their hump. They do not have to be fed or watered very often.



Suprise Walk Day Zacchaeus Surprise!



This mini event will be a real memory maker if you choose to do it. Students tend to remember it because of the surprise element and the delightful way of story telling.

Choose one man to portray Zacchaeus, dressed in Holy Land garments, sitting in a real tree outdoors. Take small groups of students on an outdoor walk. As far as they know, that's all they are doing...walking. Talk about the kinds of flowers and trees Jesus may have enjoyed. Come upon Zacchaeus suddenly. He tells his own story from the tree. Teach the song, "Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man". Use the information as desired when speaking to the groups.

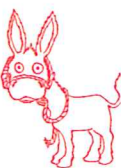
Zacchaeus: (from Luke 19:1-10) Hey! Up here! In the tree! Have you seen the teacher passing by? I tried my best to see over the heads of people who gathered here a few minutes ago. I'm too short so I climbed this sycamore tree for a better view. I wanted to see Jesus really bad. He teaches things we have never heard.

Jesus said to be rich you must become poor. Can you imagine that? I'm the chief tax collector and I know money! I never heard anyone choose to be poor. Maybe He's not talking about money.

A friend of mine was born with a lame leg. Jesus healed him and now he walks around as healthy as anyone I know. After that, Jesus fed 5000 people with just a little bit of bread and a few fish. It's unnatural, I tell you, unnatural!

Everyone watched the road to catch a glimpse of Jesus. What a surprise when Jesus and His group walked right by this tree. Right here! They stopped and Jesus looked up and saw me. I smiled and waved never expecting much more. Then, He spoke to me! Me! He actually spoke to me!!!

He said, "Zacchaeus, come down at once, for today I must stay at your house." My house! I am so excited. I am a wealthy man and my home is beautiful. Not that it does me much good. Everyone hates tax collectors. Well, it is true that I cheat most of the time. I'm just good at money. My bosses don't mind if I collect a little more and put a few shekels in my pocket.



The Pharisees say I am a sinful man and never come to my house...and yes, I have invited them for dinner. I wish I could find a way to get rid of my sins. I even heard one of the Pharisees criticizing Jesus for coming to the house of a tax collector.

But Jesus, the teacher, the healer, is coming to my house for dinner and conversation. What a kind man! He changes my heart. Why, if He asks, I will give half of my goods to the poor. If I have taken more from any man than I should, I will give back four times as much as I took. Yes, that is what I will do. I must get down from this tree pretty soon to oversee the women as they prepare the food.

I can hear Jesus now. He will say to me, "Today salvation is come to your house, for the Son of Man is come to seek and to save those who are lost." I am most fortunate of all men. Jesus looked at me today.

Enjoy the rest of your walk. If you see Jesus, tell him dinner is at the sixth hour before sunset!

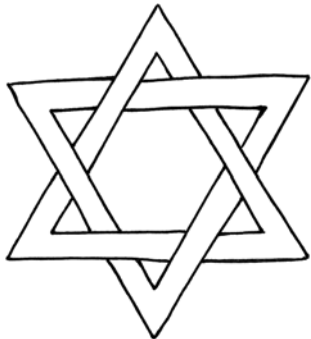
Leave Zacchaeus in the tree for the next group to discover. Walk to another place to teach the chorus "Zacchaeus Was A Wee Little Man", if desired.

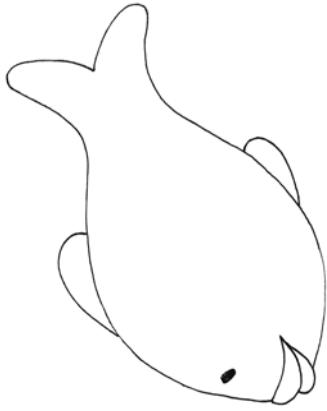
Scribe Day

Portray a scribe (dressed in costume) Teach each small tribe to write Hebrew letters. Use black markers to practice making each letter.

Unfurl white shelf paper and cover one or more walls, attaching it with strong tape. Students stand in one spot to practice their Hebrew letters. Leave the paper on the wall so that each new small tribe just adds their efforts to the existing letters from the previous groups. By the end of the day, the wall should be totally filled with child like efforts of printing the letters.

FYI (For Your Information): Hebrew is written right to left instead of the way we write in English. During Bible times, only a few people could read and write. Scribes were special people who carefully wrote God's Word for others to read. They hand printed it on long scrolls made from parchment—cured, tanned, scraped and prepared exactly as scripture commanded.





Scrolls: The parchment made from the skin of an acceptable animal and was sewn together to form one long scroll. Most Torah scrolls stand about two feet tall and weigh 20-25 pounds, some are huge and heavy but others are doll-sized and light.

Ink: Only black ink is acceptable. The ink must be permanent, not erasable. In ancient times, ink was made by boiling oils, tar and wax and then combined with tree sap and honey. They dried it out, stored it and when needed, it was mixed with a nut juice.

Quill: The scribe writes with a feather pen or reed pen, filling the tip with ink. Metal is forbidden because it is often used to make weapons of death and destruction, which is against the message of the Torah.

Calligraphy: The letters are Assyrian script. The lines must be perfectly straight and even. If the scribe makes even one letter mistake or misses a letter, the entire Torah scroll is not valid. Only letters, no pictures, are permitted.

Scribes: Lots of training and great skill is required. The person must be God fearing and religious. He must not rely on his memory but must faithfully copy the letters from another scroll.

It is written with utmost purity and devotion. It is the custom for the scribe to dip himself in a ritual pool called a Mikvah before beginning his work. He recites a blessing when he begins and before each time he writes name of God.

More Torah Information: A Torah scroll is the holiest book for Jews, made up of the five books Moses wrote, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy.

There are 304,805 letters

Each page has 42 lines

The name of the special Torah scribe is a sofer

A sofer must know more than 4000 Judaic laws before he writes

It takes one year to complete one Torah scroll

Torahs used today are written exactly the same way
as written by Moses 3,300 years ago

Torah is read at least four times a week in synagogues around the world



Hebrew Alphabet

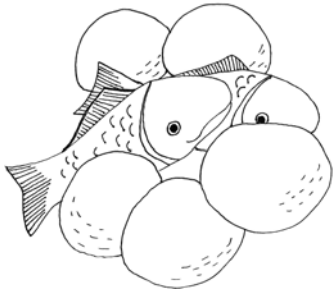
<i>Name</i>	<i>Letter</i>	<i>Sound</i>
Aleph	א	AH or silent
Bet	ב	B
	בּ	V
Gimel	ג	G
Dalet	ד	D
Hey	ה	H
Vav	ו	V
Zayin	ז	Z
Chet	ח	CH
Tet	ט	T
Yod	י	Y
Kaf	כ כּ	K
	כּ	CH
Lamed	ל	L
Mem	מ מּ	M
Nun	נ נּ	N
Samech	ס	S
Ayin	ע	AH or silent
Pey	פּ פּ	P
	פּ	F
Tsade	צ צּ	TS
Qof	ק	K
Resh	ר	R
Shin	שׁ שׂ	S
	שׂ	SH
Tav	ת	T

A Look at the Hebrew Alphabet

Here are the twenty-two Hebrew letters. Their English names are written underneath. Practice writing them with a black fine-line felt-tip marker. Hebrew is written from right to left, unlike English, which is from left to right.



Bethsaida Day (House of The Fisherman)



There is no doubt that fishing was a major occupation of the people of Bethsaida. In fact, it means "House of The Fisherman". Where Jesus lived, the Sea of Galilee was the greatest place to fish for food. There are eighteen kinds of fish that swim there. Even today, tens of tons of sardines are caught each night. People loved to eat all kinds of fish so fishermen were able to make a good living in the market.

Fishing Methods: Several methods have been used for centuries. Some fishermen caught with their bare hands, some used wicker baskets or other kinds of fish traps made of nets or rope, some used spears, arrows or harpoons. The most popular kind of fishing was by net. Don't forget the familiar hook and line. Peter and Andrew were said to be fishing with a line and hook when they caught the fish with the coin in it's mouth. (Matthew 17:27)

Fishing Business: There were lots of rules. When the catch was brought to shore, the fish had to be sorted into clean (*with scales and fins*) and unclean (*without scales and fins—catfish and eel*) fish. Then they were counted for tax payments. Fish had to be sold while they were still fresh and wet.

Sometimes they salted and dried them, packed them in baskets for shops in Jerusalem and Rome. Dried fish from Galilee was considered a delicacy in Rome.

Fishermen: The fishermen 'bossed' all parts of the business. They furnished boats and equipment. They hired and paid their helpers and the tax collector. They mended the nets and counted the fish. They sold their fish and even preserved the dried fish and shipped it. They did their own price bargaining. The fishermen had to be skilled at their trade, knowing the when, where and why of fishing. They had to be patient, not easily discouraged, strong, hard working and love their community. Fishermen had to be good judges of character, smart about the market and good about keeping the law and their *responsibility to God. Is it any wonder that Jesus chose some fishermen to follow Him and become His disciples?*



On The Beach With Peter and Andrew

SKIT: Ask two men/boys to portray Peter and Andrew talking on the beach by the Sea of Galilee. Place a rowboat in the yard or in one corner of the church building. As the skit moves along, one of the characters can pretend to toss a net into the water.

Small groups sit on the grass around the boat. The men talk to each other oblivious of the group listening in on their conversation:

Andrew: Simon, what are you going to do about Jesus? Fishing is pretty good this time of year. Will you leave the nets to follow Him?

Peter: I've been thinking brother Andrew. My wife ways forget about it but I can be a great helper. He needs me. I think I'll put away the nets for a few months.

Andrew: What will father say? It is one thing to believe the man is special and quite another to go out of the fishing business to follow Him. I saw him first and I will never forget the day. I was listening to John preach when Jesus walked by. John shouted, "Behold the Lamb of God!" John said so many wonderful things about Jesus that I just turned around and followed Him.

Peter: Why you stopped fishing and followed Jesus, I will never understand. Why didn't you ask Him who He was before you decided to leave the boats?

Andrew: I felt so unworthy. He has this way about Him; so strong, so wise, so quiet. Yet, when Jesus smiles the whole world brightens. Jesus saw me following and asked, "What are you doing?" I was suddenly scared and all I could think to say was, "Master, where do you live?"

Peter: That's when Jesus talked to you all day?



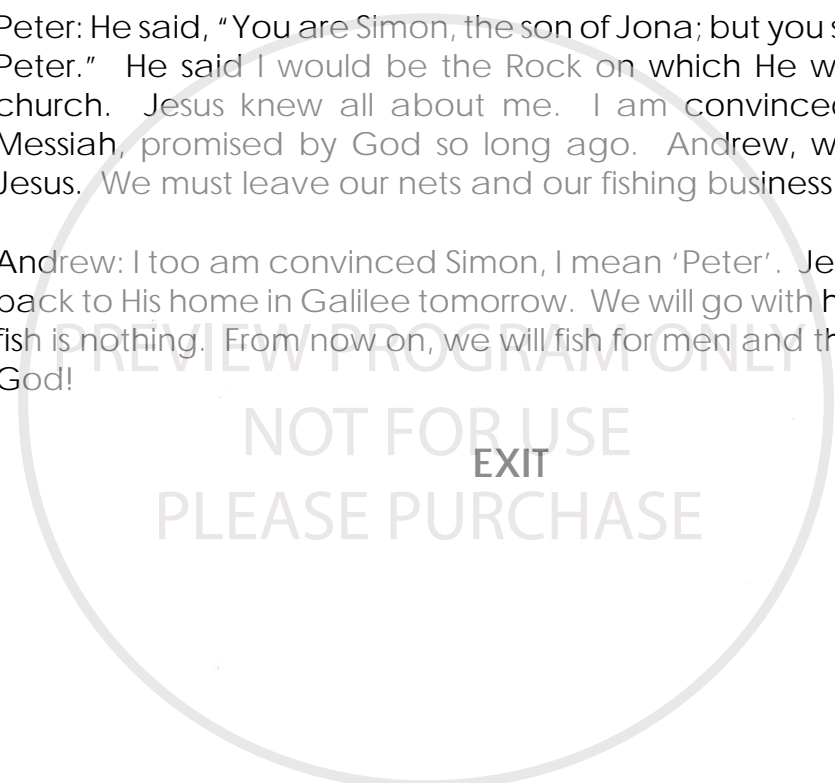
Andrew: Never have I heard a man speak as Jesus did. I got so excited that I ran to find you. You are the first person I wanted to share Jesus with because I knew you would be excited too.

Peter: Now we both believe Jesus is the promised Messiah. He is even greater than John, the Baptizer. We have listened to John and followed him but Jesus is even greater.

Andrew: What did Jesus say when he met you, brother?

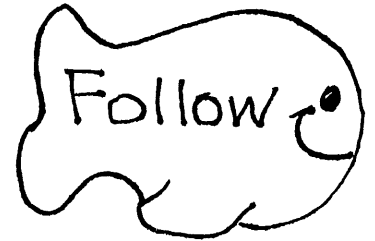
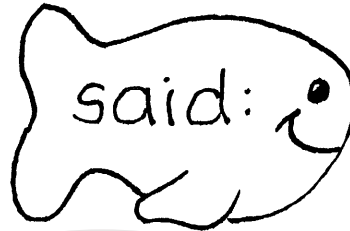
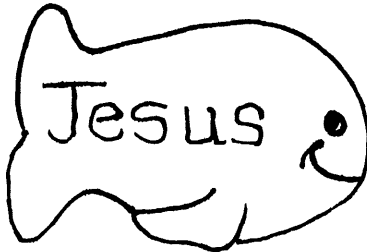
Peter: He said, "You are Simon, the son of Jona; but you shall be called Peter." He said I would be the Rock on which He would build His church. Jesus knew all about me. I am convinced Jesus is our Messiah, promised by God so long ago. Andrew, we must follow Jesus. We must leave our nets and our fishing business.

Andrew: I too am convinced Simon, I mean 'Peter'. Jesus is traveling back to His home in Galilee tomorrow. We will go with him. Fishing for fish is nothing. From now on, we will fish for men and the kingdom of God!

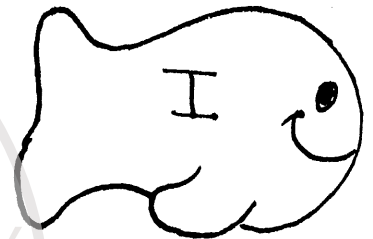


Homemade Fishing Game

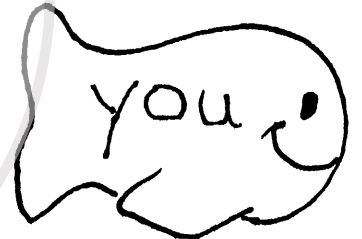
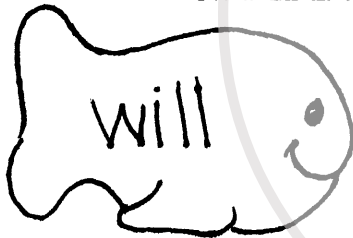
SUPPLIES: Fish verse, one popsicle stick, 6" yarn, magnet strip, staples in each fish nose (be sure they attract to the magnet), one sandwich bag for storage, hot glue gun and glue.



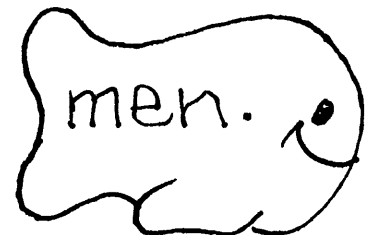
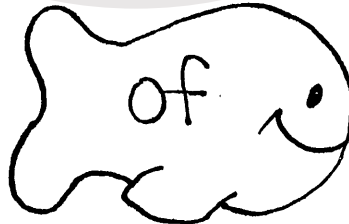
COLOR AND CUT EACH FISH.



STAPLE EACH FISH NOSE WITH ONE STAPLE.



ATTACH YARN TO STICK. HOT GLUE TWO SIDES OF MAGNET BACK TO BACK TO END OF YARN.



PUT EACH WORD IN ORDER.





Dreidel Day

This Hebrew toy is played with by children during the Hanukkah festival. It is a four sided spinning top. Each side of the dreidel shows a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Together the letters form the acronym for Nes Gadol Haya Sham- 'a great miracle happened there'. The name Dreidel come from the word "dreyen" which means "to turn".

The letters also help form the point system for playing the game:

Nun~Nothing

Heh~Half

Gimel~All

Shin~Put

The Dreidel Song

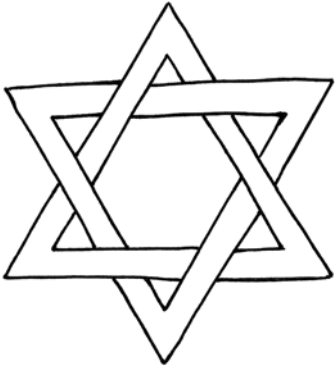
(Words Only~We do not provide the traditional melody)

*I have a little dreidel. I made it out of clay.
When it's dry and ready, then dreidel I shall play.
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, then dreidel I shall play.
It has a lovely body, with legs so short and thin.
When it gets all tired, it drops and then I win!
Dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, with legs so short and thin.
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it drops and then I win!*

*My dreidel's always playful. It loves to dance and spin.
A happy game of dreidel, come play now let's begin.
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it loves to dance and spin.
Oh dreidel, dreidel, dreidel. Come play now let's begin.*

ACTIVITY OPTIONS: Each small tribe visits for fifteen minutes. Decide how to use the time wisely. Students may make their own paper dreidel using our pattern and then play for a few minutes. Or, purchase a dreidel craft they make. Or, purchase wooden dreidels to give as gifts and spend the entire time learning how to play the game and playing it.





Star Of David Day “In God We Trust”

In modern times, the Star of David has become the symbol of Israel. The six pointed star is made of two interlocking triangles is found on mezuzahs, menorahs and the national flag. Even ambulances in Israel bear the sign (in red) of the star of David.

Through the Jewish people’s long and difficult history, we have come to discover that our only hope is to place our trust in God. The six points of the Star of David symbolize God’s rule over the universe in all six directions: north, south, east, west, up and down.

The Hebrew name ‘Magen David’ means ‘Shield of David’ and referred to God. It acknowledges that King David did not win battles by his own might but by the support of God Almighty.

The Star of David has a sad history as well. During the Holocaust, the Nazis forced Jews to wear an identifying yellow star. Actually Jews were forced to wear special badges during the Middle Ages too by both Muslim and Christian authorities and even in Israel under Turkish rule.

So whether it is a blue star waving proudly on a flag, or a gold star adorning a synagogue’s entrance, the Star of David stands as a reminder...In God We Trust!

ACTIVITY OPTIONS: Make a Star of David that students can take home with them. There are several options available on the project page or design your own project featuring this special symbol of Israel.



Game Day

Games Jesus Might Have Played

Play a variety of games one day or any day as desired.
Use our suggestions or make up your own favorite games.
If desired, games can be played each day.



Have you ever wondered what Jesus might have played when he was growing up? It is fun to imagine what these games would look like and the fun Jesus may have had playing with his family and friends! It is hard to know for sure because the Bible doesn't talk about them. We know children and adults did play games like hopscotch and jacks because they have been found by archeologists.

When archeologists looked at the area where Jesus lived they found dice games that might be like the game Yahtzee that we play today. They had toys like whistles, spinning tops, hoops and carved animals on wheels. Toys and games were made from things like ivory, stone, wood and even bones.

Older children and adults played different kinds of board games. There was a game called "Hounds and Jackals" that may have been played like we play checkers or chess. Another game made from limestone looked like the peg game found at Cracker Barrel restaurants. It is played with small blue green Egyptian ceramic like game pieces which were moved around the stone game board.

Athletic competitions, similar to our track and field events were often held. These included foot races, chariot races, boxing, wrestling and hurling discus and javelin. Winners were given a crown of leaves but were held in high honor by their fellow citizens.

Noughts And Crosses

This is our game of Tic-Tac-Toe. Use large erase boards and let two teams play against each other as quickly as possible. Or, if the plastic bean bag version is available, let groups toss the bags from a distance to turn the X's and O's. Or make it more authentic by using rocks as markers and intercross twigs to make the playing board on the ground.



Duck, Duck, Goose

Play this simple, old favorite with the littlest students. Group sits on the floor in a circle. One person is chosen to be the duck, circles the group, taps a goose on the head who chases the duck back to seat.

Forcing The City Gates/Red Rover

This game is also called 'Red Rover' played outdoor by children on playgrounds. The game is played between two lines about thirty feet apart. The game begins when the first team calls, "Red rover, red rover, let (name) come over".

The person called runs to the other lines and attempts to break the line of linked hands. If the person fails to break through the line, he/she joins that side. If successfully, this play chooses one of the two links to return to the opposite team and the game continues.

When one person is left on one side, they must try and break through a link. If they do not succeed, the opposing team wins. Otherwise, they get a player back for their team.

Rag Tag

All players have a rag attached loosely to the belt line of their shorts/pants. The person who is 'it' tries to grab as many rags as possible in a wild game of tag. If desired, once the person gets 3 rags, he/she is declared 'king of rags' and gets to choose the next 'it'. Play until everyone is exhausted and needs a drink of water!

Blind Sheep

All players sit in a circle facing the center. One person is blindfolded and is the blind sheep. The blind sheep should be spun around and then brought to the center of the circle. A bell should be passed around the circle and rung. The blind sheep follows the sound of the bell. The game leader points at the person who should stop the bell. The blind sheep now has to guess who is holding the bell (by pointing). If the person is right, the chosen person become the blind sheep in the next round. If they are wrong, he goes again until he guesses right.



Hot Potato

Everybody stands in a circle. Pass a beanbag around circle to music. When music stops, person holding the potato is out. Pretend it is a very, very HOT POTATO.

Holy Cup Race

This must be played outdoors. Divide the group into two teams. Each team is given a foam cup with a circle of holes punched near the bottom. Teams try to fill separate containers at the end of the course with water taken from a bucket at the starting line. The team with the most water in their container at the end of the time limit wins. Play several times. Be sure to have plenty of foam cups on hand.

Relay Races

Divide the group into two teams. Each team must bounce a ball to the end of the course, turn around and bounce it back. First team to complete the task is the winning team. Any task along the course is fun so make up several: running backwards, hopping on one foot, balancing pots and pans, etc.



The Discovery Shop Activity Project Options

We offer information for simple, quick craft projects you may want to consider. These may be ordered by telephone or at their web sites. Prices may change.

Guildcraft Arts & Crafts
www.GuildcraftInc.com
Toll Free: 1-800-345-5563

S&S Arts & Crafts
www.ssw.com
Toll Free: 1-800-243-9232

Animal Day Project

Baa Baa Hand Sheep: Guildcraft-Kids trace their hand then turn it upside down to make the legs, head and body. Includes white cardboard, construction paper, stuffing, wiggle eyes, magnetic tape and glue. 217-103 24 projects \$15.99

Scribe Day Project

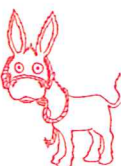
Scrolls: Guildcraft--Write your favorite bible verse on a keepsake scroll. Includes cardboard tubes, parchment paper, paint, brushes, glue stick, markers and ribbon. 10" long
223-064 24 projects \$23.59

Carving Blocks: Guildcraft--Be an apprentice in a stone carving shop. These stone-looking foam blocks are easy to carve. Includes blocks, pattern sheets and carving dowels. 4" x 3" x 1"
326-049 24 projects \$9.39

Dreidel Day Project

Dreidels: Guildcraft--Each kit includes plain wooden dreidels, paint and brushes. 2" 502-493 24 projects \$19.95

Paint A Dreidel: S&S arts and crafts--Paint a wooden dreidel and learn the significance of the Hebrew letters traced onto each side. 2 3/4" x 1" Everything is included! RMK-GP1591 24 projects \$24.99



Oriental Trading Company www.orientaltrading.com also offers dreidels. Check out their website for optional activity projects.

Color your Own Dreidel. Color and assemble your own paper dreidels, then give 'em a spin! Includes 7" wooden dowels. 3 5/8". All craft kit pieces are pre-packaged for individual use. Kits include instructions and extra pieces.

Makes 12 \$4.99 IN-48/4691

THERE ARE MANY FINE JEWISH WEB SITES THAT OFFER COMPLETED DREIDELS. SEARCH 'Dreidel' AND PURCHASE THEM IN BULK SO THAT THE GROUP CAN SPEND THE FULL TIME PLAYING THE GAME.

Bethsaïda Fishing Day

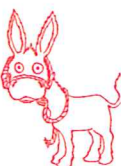
Follow Jesus Fishing Rods: Guildcraft-Includes foam fish (assorted colors), ribbon and wooden dowels. 12" long
518-137 14 projects \$9.89

Fishers of Men Signs: Guildcraft-Includes wooden fish, netting, dowels, Bible verse ("Come follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." Matthew 4:19), ribbon and glue. 6" x 3"
951-736 24 projects \$19.85

Star Of David Project

Star Of David: S&S arts and crafts-Colorful tissue inlay makes this symbol look like mosaic art. Can be hung proudly anywhere and looks very colorful in a window. 6" x 6"
RMK-CE4159 12 projects \$11.89

Leather Star Of David: S&S arts and crafts-Decorate the leather shape with your choice of markers or paint (sold separately). Includes leather shapes, suede lace, beads, design template and instructions.
RMK-LE3109 12 projects \$22.99



Bethany Home

...Visiting Martha



This replica of a famous ancient Jewish Home is open daily for visitors. Small group tribes enjoy the customs and flavor of everyday Jewish life. This is not just any home. This is the home of Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus. Not only are they Jesus' best friends but also central characters in an amazing event.

Decorate The Bethany Home

Fill the space with wicker baskets, pottery, plants and rustic kitchen utensils. Lay a colorful woven rug in the middle and toss pillows around the edges of it. Hang macrame artwork and plant hangers on the walls. Roll bedrolls against one wall.

A low table can be filled with wooden, old look objects. There would have been a cooking fire in the middle. Place long benches along one wall.

It may be possible to pitch a tent on church property where students can enter and visit. The real Bethany home was more permanent than a tent, probably made of stone.

Teaching Jewish Customs

There were many ancient daily customs foreign to modern life. Add these two customs one day or repeat them each day.

Foot Washing: Jews at that time always washed the feet of their guests when they entered the home. Provide a basin of water and a towel. Foot washing is time consuming so you may want to do it only on Monday and perhaps only with two or three students to give everyone the idea of the ceremony.



The wife or a servant usually washed the feet of house guests, although the host might do it for a special guest. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples just before His death to illustrate His servant hood.

Mezuzah: Place a mezuzah on the outside of the door. A mezuzah is a daily reminder and a public announcement of Jewish identify and faith. Mezuzah literally means "doorpost". It refers to a scroll of parchment containing Bible verses on the doorpost. **Make a small container and place rolled up scripture inside it. Attach it to the door.**

The mezuzah recalls the Exodus from Egypt, when the lamb's blood smeared on the doorpost identified the homes God passed over during the plague of the first born.

The little scroll inside the cover contains the Shema prayer from Deuteronomy 6:4-9: (Cut this out and roll it for your mezuzah!)

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

*And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them
when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when
thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

*And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand,
and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.*

And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

Sometimes mezuzahs are placed on the doorposts of each room. Jewish families make it clear that if we want our home to show God's ideals, we must protect it from the outside world. Supervise contents of books, games and videos. In Israel all public buildings (restaurants, offices, hotels) have a mezuzah on every door-except the bathroom.

The back side of the scroll contains the Hebrew name of God, Shaddai. It is another way of saying "Guardian of the Doors of Israel." Shin, the first letter of Shaddai, often appears on the mezuzah case.



ACTIVITY: Each day, as soon as small groups arrive, have them kiss their fingers and touch the mezuzah. Say this blessing as a group:

“Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe.”

Background Information for Bethany Home

Instructions: *This basic information may be helpful if there is time when students arrive or before they leave. Insert bits of information here and there throughout the week.*

The family house was the center of life for people in Israel. People lived outdoors mostly, except for winter. Most homes had a courtyard or garden that was shared with several little houses.

The house was usually a whitewashed square with one door and one window. The inside had only one room, half for people and half for animals. Some houses were even built into caves.

Wealthy folks had a few more rooms set up to catch cool breezes around a central courtyard. Rich or poor, cooking was done in the courtyard and bread was made in a community oven.

The roof was flat and a staircase led up to it. It became a great outdoor room for drying laundry, entertaining friends or sleeping on a hot night. If it rained they could pitch a tent. The roof was the best place to pray and think about God.

Rich families started building light rooms on top and eventually they had two story homes rather than tents.

Floors were dirt pounded flat but some families could afford dry, baked clay floor tiles. Doors were very low and narrow for protection from animals and bad people.

Furniture was simple. The chief object was a wood chest holding clothing and food or precious items. Poor people ate on the chests. Rich people had tables. Most people sat on the floor but there were chairs and stools made from wood and covered with straw seats.



They slept on woven mats piled on top of each other. During the day, they rolled the mats against one wall. They slept in the same clothes they wore during the day. When cold, they wrapped themselves in their cloak or coat. Their pillow was a piece of wood or stone.

Costume And Character

More than any other activity, the Bethany Home requires remaining in character for fifteen minutes. From the moment the tribe enters the door until the final "shalom", you ARE Martha. Some scripts are printed. Add information as necessary to fill time.

Martha is known for her perfection tendencies when Jesus visited. Martha had a servant heart. She received criticism but she did what she could. She continued to fix food while Mary and Lazarus sat and listened to Jesus teach. Martha complained that Mary wasn't helping and Jesus gently reminded her that Mary had chosen the best.

Add Mary and Lazarus as desired. Wear Holy Land costumes. Follow the sample schedule and scripts but do not feel tied to it. Enjoy each group as if they are really coming to visit! Add your creative touch!

Monday

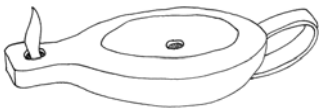
CHARACTER: Martha

Greet the tribe outside the door of Bethany Home. Introduce yourself. Demonstrate foot washing and explain the mezuzah. Seat the group on the floor and complain about your sister Mary who is out running around again while you are stuck with the housework.

Mezuzah: Make a small homemade container from metal, wood or aluminum foil. Roll a copy of The Shema into it. Attach it to the door within reach of small students.

Martha: Shalom! Welcome to my Bethany home. Before you enter, follow the customs of my people.

Foot Washing: The roads are so dusty near Bethany. It is my honor to wash your feet before you enter the house. Please be patient. Hospitality to guests is one of the most important social things we do. A guest is highly honored even if a stranger is passing by. There are inns nearby but most people look for a home to spend the night.



When a stranger knocks on the door, the head of the household almost always lets him in and offers a bed for the night. After all, as the host we remember that someday we might be traveling, tired and cold. We do for others what we want them to do for us.

Mezuzah: We who love God attach a small container of scriptures on our door posts. *(Describe the mezuzah tradition using information in lesson plan.)* Please honor the holy scriptures by touching your lips, touching the mezuzah and touching your lips each day before entering my humble home.

Seat the group on the floor and offer a short tour of the items you have chosen to display. During the time, offer the guests platters of grapes, small pieces of bread, crackers or other light refreshment.

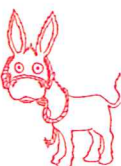
MARTHA'S QUESTION OF THE DAY: We Jews are famous for asking questions. We love questions. Sometimes we don't even care if we discover answers. We ask because answers are interesting and we learn about each other when we ask:

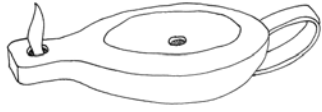
What is your house like? What do you do each day at your house? Is your house big or little? *(Allow students to interact with the questions. The goal is to discover differences between a home in Bethany and a modern home today.)*

Martha: I am sorry that Mary and Lazarus are not here to greet you. My sister and brother enjoy guests. They seem to be quite busy these days. I'm sure you are aware that Jesus is in Bethany. He is a dear friend and we entertain him in our home whenever possible.

You have heard, I'm sure, that Jesus is our promised Messiah. Have you watched Him perform miracles yet? I was personally at the wedding in Cana. My oh my, what a day. He turned plain water into wine! It was an amazing sight to behold.

Wherever Jesus goes, crowds follow. If food preparation gets any harder, I will feel like I am running a village inn. Don't laugh! You try to bake bread for Jesus, twelve grown men who follow Him everywhere, my family, strangers crowding around the windows and door, overflowing in our courtyard and...well...I'm too busy to think about it. Come back tomorrow. Mary and Lazarus will be here.





Tuesday

CHARACTERS: Martha, Mary and Lazarus

Wash the feet of a few students. Each student touches the mezuzah when entering. Offer the group a taste of a treat, a grape or small piece of bread. Introduce Mary and Lazarus.

Talk casually between the siblings about Jesus. Include the group in the conversation. At some point Martha should feel Lazarus' head for fever. He mentions he's been feeling weak and coughs for effect.

Martha: Shalom. I am most pleased to introduce Lazarus, my brother. *(Lazarus bows)* and Mary, my sister. *(Mary bows)* We have a comfortable home in Bethany and we are happy to share it with you. Lazarus, I fear you are coming down with an illness. You feel feverish.

Lazarus: Stop fussing at me, Martha. I will be fine *(cough, cough)* just as soon as I get a bit of rest. I think I have a small cold. Show these fine guests a comfortable time in our home.

MARTHA'S QUESTION OF THE DAY: I told you yesterday that we Jews love to ask questions. I thought of another good question. What happens when you get sick? How do you feel? Who do you tell? What do you do? *(There were basic natural medications but during Martha's time, most people were taken care of at home. Many died that would be saved by doctors in hospitals today.)*

Mary: It's time to talk about something else to make Lazarus feel better. I want to tell you about our friend, Jesus. Martha may have a small treat to serve while we talk.

Martha: Yes, yes. Let good old Martha serve the treat. No one else in this house seems to know how to do it. I am so good at serving that everyone assume I love the work.

Mary: Listen, Jesus was here a few days ago. We had a wonderful time talking about the things of God's kingdom. Jesus told us He is our Messiah! Can you believe it? Jesus is the Savior of our people. He came from God to save us. When you hear His words you will be convinced too!

Lazarus: Jesus is a good friend. He has never let me down. *(Cough)* What a good time we will have when all the disciples and follower of the Master crowd into our home for dinner. We laugh. We talk.



Martha: Are they coming AGAIN? ...And I cook! Do you know how much food all those men eat? I don't think they ever get a good meal until they come here.

Mary: Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is at hand." He makes me think about my own life. Am I following God as I should? Perhaps I should pray harder to become what God wants me to be.

Lazarus: (Cough) I need a cool cloth for my head. I think I shall lie down to rest.

Martha: I am worried about you, Lazarus. You are never ill. Now you have been sick for two days.

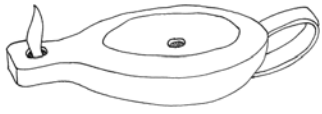
Mary: Do you think Jesus would come if we ask Him? I will send a message to have Him come to pray for our brother. He will help. I have seen Jesus heal other people.

Lazarus: Yes, Mary. Call for Jesus. I need Him. He will know what to do. Please hurry.

Martha: I will enjoy our guests while you rest. (Serve more snack. Talk quietly with the group. Ask names and what country they are from.)

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE





Wednesday

CHARACTER: Martha

Group leaders bring groups to Bethany Home in total silence. Martha is alone inside the home. Wear a long scarf over your head to hide your face. Students knock on the door. Martha weeps quietly and greets them:

Have you heard the news? My dear brother died last night. We shall miss him so much. If only Jesus had come, Lazarus would still be alive.

(Martha tries to be a good hostess. Serve small crackers and reminisce about life in Bethany with Mary and Lazarus and their friend, Jesus.)

It is good to have friends at such a time as this. I cannot believe my brother died. He wasn't sick for very long. I guess that is what surprised us. If we had know he was going to slip away from us, we would have called for the physician much sooner.

MARTHA'S QUESTION OF THE DAY: Even though my eyes are filled with tears, I must ask a question today. Have you ever lost something that is precious to you? What was it? A toy? A pet? A loved one? Even though you are of tender age, I think you may remember how you felt. Share your thoughts with us. How did you feel?

Mary is in deep grief. She went looking for Jesus. She is convinced that if Jesus had arrived, Lazarus would be alive. Jesus is called "The Great Physician". He heals the sick in villages and along path ways. Most of the people Jesus heals don't even know Him like Lazarus does.

I am angry at Jesus. He is our friend and yet he did not come in time. How shall I speak to Him when I see Him next? He seems to know my inmost thoughts. I will not be able to hide my fear and anger from Him.

Mary and I are in danger of losing this home. We have no man to be the head of our home. How will we earn a living. How will we play our bills. Oh Lazarus! Why did you die and leave us in such trouble?

I must not forget my manners. Guests are such a comfort. Let me serve you and see to your comfort for a few minutes. Rest. Prepare yourselves for your day's journey. Lazarus would approve.



I must remember good times in this house. One morning I was preparing the bread for baking when Jesus popped His head inside my doorway. "Martha," he called, "How would you like a few friends for dinner this evening?" That smile of His gets me every time.

"Fine," I say, "...and just how many is 'a few friends' "? I knew Jesus gathered friends like a good fisherman gathers fish into his net.

"Oh, just a few...15? Maybe 20? I know they would enjoy your cooking and I have so much to tell you."

I remember shouting at Him, "Fifteen! Twenty! How much food do you think I have? How much time do you think I have?"

But...I did it. Somehow dinner was on the table just before sunset and if I do say so myself, it was delicious. I wish I could have enjoyed the fellowship instead of cooking, cleaning and readying the house for so many guests. Those good times are about to end. Perhaps you could help me straighten the house just in case village friends decide to come to visit us in our grief.

(Students help and then quietly leave.)

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
Thursday

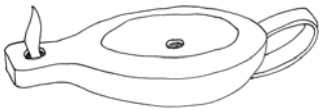
CHARACTERS: Martha and Mary

Guests enter with a sample foot washing and everyone kisses the mezuzah before they find seats on the floor.

Martha is still sad but perking up. She sweeps the floor as she talks to her guests about the dusty roads and terrible heat in Bethany. She may show off some item she purchased at the market and talk about what she will make for Mary and herself for dinner. Serve small paper cups of iced water.

Martha: Shalom! You have returned in our time of sadness. We are honored to have your company. Come and sit. Mary and I will tell you about Bethany and perhaps that will ease our grief.

MARTHA'S QUESTION OF THE DAY: By now you know I love our Jewish tradition of asking questions. Do you have questions to ask me? *(Allow time for questions. If there are no questions, ask your own.)* Let me think of a good question: If you could choose to live during any time on earth, when would it be and where would you live? Why



Mary: I know if Jesus would have come back to Bethany, Lazarus would be alive. I ran as fast as I could yet I could not reach him. He was on a teaching tour and I left messages. So far, He has not arrived. Come and hear of our beloved Bethany. We love our little village. It is the perfect place to live.

Martha: We live two short miles from Jerusalem. That makes Bethany a very busy village. Travelers stop here on their way into Jerusalem to worship in the temple. They are tired and ready to rest from their long journeys.

Mary: Lazarus always enjoyed travelers. I sometimes think he built this house on the main road just he could visit with strangers as they walked through Bethany. He always said, "Come. Rest. My sisters have a fine pot of soup ready to eat. Let us talk." He enjoyed hearing news from far away. I enjoy it too. We have met people from as far north as Galilee and even foreigners who barely speak our language.

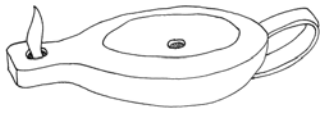
Martha: Have you seen our market place? It is small but wonderful. Sometimes I walk to Jerusalem for special purchases. The items are beautiful there. Brass and copper pots from Turkey. Silks from the Orient. Fruits and vegetables from all over the country. Everything is colorful and in great abundance.

Mary: Let us make your stay more comfortable. Let us share cold water drawn from our Bethany well. It is the best water in the area.

(Pour water into small cups and serve students as much as they want as they chat together.)



Friday



CHARACTERS: Martha, Mary, Lazarus

This is a joyful day in Bethany! Martha meets students at the door and gets them clapping and dancing and jumping up and down! This is the story of Lazarus coming back from the grave.

Martha: Come! Come! Shalom dear friends. Hear the most wonderful news. Our brother who was dead, is alive! Jesus did it! Jesus finally arrived and, well, let me tell you what happened.

MARTHA'S QUESTION OF THE DAY: Today is a joyful day so we should ask a joyful question. How would you feel if you lost something very precious to you, never to see it again? Suddenly you find it! How do you feel? *(Allow students to share things/people that are precious to them and how they would react if it was found again.)*

Mary: Let me tell! Look who is here. It's my brother! And he is precious!

Lazarus: Alive and well! Healthy as ever!

Mary: I sent a message to Jesus saying, "Sir, your good friend is very sick." He sent me a message: "The purpose of his illness is not death, but for the glory of God. I, the Son of God, will receive glory from this situation."

Lazarus: Now see? This is where I went wrong. I thought He meant I was not going to die. Imagine my surprise when I actually...died!

Martha: When Jesus finally decided to come, the disciples were worried that Jewish leaders would kill him. He insisted on coming to us. He said, "Our friend Lazarus has gone to sleep but now I will go and wake him up."

Lazarus: Wow, some sleep! It was more like....I WAS DEAD!

Mary: Martha ran to Jesus and reminded Him if He had been here Lazarus would still be alive. I don't think she was happy with him.

Martha: I was angry. Jesus knew how much we needed him. When he arrived, he assured me Lazarus would come back to life. I had no idea what he meant.

Lazarus: Imagine my surprise when, there I was, just laying around in the tomb, and I heard Jesus call my name. He called, "Lazarus, Come forth!"



It was hard to get up with all the wrappings but I did. I hopped right out of that cave tomb.

Mary: Martha and I were thrilled. Our precious brother was alive. We did not think we would ever see him again. Jesus is truly our Messiah. We believe His life and His message for the kingdom of God.

Martha: At last the claims of Jesus were proven beyond a shadow of a doubt to the mean religious leaders. Some believed in Him and others still tried to hurt him. I didn't care. My brother is back! Lazarus is with us today because of our wonderful friend, Jesus.

Come and celebrate one more time. We have spread a feast before you. Well, maybe more of a tasty snack but it is still a celebration of life!

SERVE: Ice water, bread, fruit

Visit with the students in character until the final "Shalom".

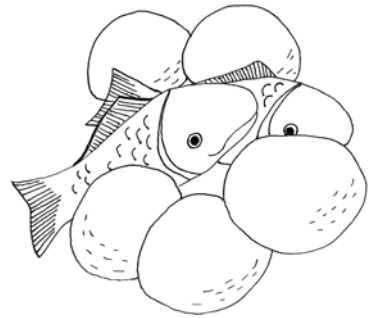
PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE



The Village Inn

Milk And Honey Snacks

“O taste and see that the Lord is good.” Psalm 34:8



Create a memorable Holy Land snack event. Instead of cookies and juice, take your group back in time to hot days when Jesus walked dusty roads and enjoyed foods provided in simple homes and village inns and colorful marketplaces.

Decorate

Decorate The Village Inn using ideas from the “*It Takes A Village...Build With Care*” section. The centerpiece is a long, low table. Consider using church tables without the legs. Surround the table with green plants, pottery, baskets and items to remind people of those days.

Hand Washing: Place an old bench and a community towel close to entrance. Students remove sandals and wash hands before they are seated at the low table. A basin is placed on the bench and guests dip their hands in water before wiping with the simple towel.

Mind Your ‘Eastern’ Manners: Teach the students the correct way to recline at table. They lean on their right elbows and eat with the left hand as Jesus would have done. Do not use the right hand which was considered unclean because it was used for bathroom purposes.

Dishes: Serve food samples on small paper plates or in small baskets. Serve drinks in ceramic cups. Place all dry foods and fruits in baskets or on large platters.

Menu: Place a daily menu on a wall written on brown, wrinkled paper, burned around the edges. Add the cost of a night’s lodging, stable fees, food prices and water cost. The cost should be in drachmas and minas and shekels.



Costume And Character

The Innkeeper is the owner-operator of a thriving business. Welcome dusty travelers to the Inn. Lead them to the basin. Make them comfortable. Show them how to sit at the table. Use the serving time to explain how Jesus would have eaten his meals, prayed, talked with friends, washed feet, etc.

Blessing

“Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Our God, King of the universe,
Who bringeth forth bread from the earth.”

Background Information

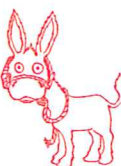
The essential basic food was bread, which was never cut with a knife but instead was broken with one's hands. Poorer people usually ate barley bread and the richer people ate wheat bread. Fish was the common protein and was salted or dried when not eaten fresh.

People usually drank from metal goblets or earthenware mugs. Meal times were not at specific times. Most people ate two meals a day, one very early in the morning and the other meal when work was done in the evening. At noon they ate a light snack and took a nap.

Food served at the evening meal included vegetables, eggs, cheese, bread, butter, wine, nuts and fruit and perhaps chicken or wild fowl would be included. It was rare to have red meat. Only on special occasions were the fatted calf and sacrificial lamb eaten.

Eating utensils were crude. Knives were rare and spoons were hardly ever used. Forks had not been invented. Plates were flat and broad, made of metal or a flat cake of hard bread.

Every village had one community oven everyone could use. Cooking was done in the courtyard in warm weather and indoors on a small clay stove on rainy days. There were no chimneys so the smoke and cooking smells filled the house.



Village Inn Menu Ideas

Discover simple foods in the grocery store that may have been eaten in the days when Jesus lived in Galilee. There are great recipes available online for creative kitchen teams. *Make prepared foods at the church. The aroma draws teachers and children who will hardly be able to wait to get to the Inn.* Many great fruits and vegetables are in season during summer months. Use some of our ideas but have the best time creating your own menu!

Bread! The best part of this theme is smelling home baked bread wafting through the church each day. Make your favorite recipe or purchase loaves of frozen bread dough. Bake it at the church. Break the bread with hands, not knives. Serve plain with honey in small pots for dipping. A little oleo or real butter may be offered as well. Bread can be offered each day or featured one day.

Bread was considered the staff of life. If someone ate bread and drank wine with a person, it was a sign of intimate friendship. Bread was made from wheat, barley, bean, lentil, millet or spelt meal. The grain was ground with a mortar and pestle or taken to a mill. The ground meal or flour was mixed with water. After kneading, the bread was baked in one of four ways: 1. Heated flat rocks 2. Flat clay griddle or saucepan 3. Around a heated earthenware cylinder 4. In a portable fire pot or cooking jar. The bread was round, flat, spherical or heart shaped. It was about 18 inches in diameter and was sometimes punctured with holes.

Condiments: Dip into honey instead of butter whenever possible. Find a honeycomb and show where the honey originates. Most foods other than bread were boiled or stewed in a big pot and seasoned with salt and onions, garlic, mint, dill, cummin, coriander, rue or mustard. Food was sweetened with wild honey or syrup made by boiling down dates and grapes.

Beverages: Serve ice cold water every day. Water was the precious treat everyone drank. Place it in pitchers on the table.

Treat students to fruit juice one or two days. Try apricot juice, grape juice or apple juice. Small cups of cow's milk one day is a reminder of the freshness of God's provision for His people.

Want to try something memorable? Sample goat's milk one day.



Some students balk at trying goat's milk. To make it delicious, chill the milk and give each student just a little in the bottom of a tiny paper bathroom cup. Suggest "Just give it a try". Even the most stubborn students will brag later that they drank goat's milk!

Wouldn't it be fun to borrow a milking goat and let the kids watch as their milk is obtained right from the mother goat?

Every city and village had a water well. The well was a popular place because it was the only source of water. Wells were usually dug just outside the village to keep the dust and crowds of people visiting the well away from homes and business activity. Larger cities needed wells inside the city too. Often a city was built next to a well that had already been dug. The well might have been built years before for watering locks or along a caravan route. The well was a busy place early in the morning and just before sunset. Women came to draw cool water for household chores, cooking and washing. Shepherds also arrived to water their flocks. A woman dropped a pitcher tied to a rope into the water and pulled it up when it was full. A shallow well often had steps going down to the water and the pitcher was dipped by hand.

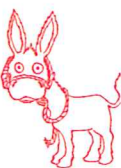
History of Wine: Wine was made from grapes grown in vineyards. Grapes were carried in large baskets to the winepress which looked like a large stone tub. The grapes were emptied into the tub where men trampled on them with bare feet, keeping their balance by hanging onto ropes tied to a wooden crossbeam. The juice from the squeezed grapes was then stored in wineskins or jars.

Fruits And Vegetables: Many fruits and vegetables were popular. Cut in small serving pieces so everyone gets a sample. Choose fruit from day to day or put the fruit into a fun recipe like toppings on vanilla pudding to make it fun.

Some fruit may be served dried. Figs, bananas, apples, dates and apricots work well dried.

Apples Strawberries Blueberries Grapes Watermelon
Cantaloupe Honeydew Celery Raisins Figs Dates
Chick Peas Broccoli Green Beans Tomatoes Olives

Figs: People in Israel loved figs. They wanted fig trees in their yards



because it was a symbol of Israel's wealth and abundance. Figs were eaten fresh from the tree or dried in the sun and pressed into cakes which could be eaten anytime. Travelers were permitted to eat figs from trees that grew along the roads. The cool shade from the large tree is welcome in the hot climate. Fig trees were planted near wells to keep the water cool.

Nuts And Cheese: All kinds of nuts were available. Offer a sampling of nuts on a platter or in wicker baskets. (*CAUTION: Peanut allergies*) Even placed in the shells as decorations, nuts are appropriate.

Cashews Walnuts Peanuts Pecans Almonds Mixed Nuts
Cubed Mild Cheeses—Cheddar, Provalone, String Cheese

Meats: Fish was often served. Purchase fish sticks, bake at the church and serve with bread. Add condiments as desired.

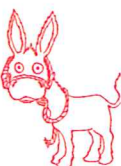
Sweet Breads: Date Bread, Banana Bread, Apple Cake and other sweet breads smell and taste delicious. Make the boxed versions and serve with butter.

Syrian Bread

5-5 ½ Cups all purpose flour (you may use ½ whole wheat)
2 pkg. Active dry yeast 2 C. Milk 3 T. Honey 3 T. Olive Oil 2 t. salt
Makes: 32 Serve: With Honey or Butter

In large mixing bowl, combine 2 C. Of the flour and the yeast. Heat milk, honey, salt and olive oil just until warm, stirring constantly. Add to dry mixture. Beat at low speed with electric mixer for ½ minute, scraping bowl. Beat 2 minutes at high speed. By hand, stir in enough remaining flour to make a moderately stiff dough.

Knead on floured surface until smooth. Place in greased bowl. Turn once. Cover. Let rise until double (40-45 minutes). Punch down. Cover and let rest 10 minutes. Form into balls 1 ½" in diameter. Place on ungreased cookie sheets. Roll each to a 4" circle. Bake at 400 degrees until puffed (7-9 minutes). Cool on cloth covered surface.



Baklava

1 lb. Fillo dough 1 ½ C. Walnuts 1 t. Cinnamon 1 C. Sugar
3/4 lb. Unsalted Butter ½ C. Water 1 C. Honey 1 T. Lemon Juice

Be sure fillo is at room temperature. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
Grease 11 x 18 2 pans (*or smaller if necessary*). Chop nuts and mix with cinnamon and less than 1/4 C. Sugar. SET ASIDE.

Melt butter. Taking 1 fillo sheet at a time, place loosely in pan and brush with butter. Continue for 5-6 sheets. Spread 1/3 of the filling over dough. Use 5-6 more buttered sheets, 1/3 more filling, until all is used. Cut into diamond shaped pieces. First vertical lines every 2" and then diagonal lines.

Bake for 10 minutes at 400 degrees. Reduce oven to 350 degrees and bake for 15 minutes more. Reduce again to 300 degrees and bake for another 15 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, boil together the rest of the sugar, water, honey and lemon juice. Simmer 10 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 10 minutes. Pour hot syrup over the surface of baklava using spoon to spread. Leave uncovered until syrup is absorbed.

If you keep baklava covered and in a cool place, it will last several weeks. Baklava is not a traditional recipe, but is from the Near East and may have been similar to honey cakes that were eaten.

Lentil Soup—Esau's Pottage

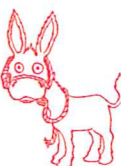
Use the recipe on the back of the lentil package but use chicken broth for the base rather than ham which the Jews could not have eaten. Pork was forbidden. Serve in small cups with broken fresh bread.

Matzo Buttercrunch

Toast matzo to help it stay crisp. Keep a close eye on the buttercrunch as they bake. Remove from oven as soon as they begin to bubble and spread sugar mixture evenly over matzo. Cover baking sheet (foil or parchment) for easy clean up.

6-6" unsalted matzo crackers ½ C. Unsalted butter 1 C. Packed brown sugar
½ C. Semisweet chocolate mini chips, finely chopped

Preheat oven 375 degrees. Arrange matzo in single layer, cutting them to fit. Bake 5 min or until crackers are lightly browned. Reduce temp to 350 degrees. Combine butter, brown sugar in saucepan, bring to boil, stirring often. Cook 3 minutes, stirring constantly. Pour mix over matzo. Bake at 350/10 min. Sprinkle evenly with chocolate. Cool; refrigerate ½ hr. or until chocolate is set. Break into about 36 pieces of any shape and size. Serves 36.



Hummus

2 - 15 oz. Cans chickpeas (drained, save water)
 ½ C. Water from can
 salt 2 large cloves garlic, minced
 1-2 T. Olive Oil ¼ C. Tahini (sesame paste)
 Paprika ⅓ C. Lemon juice
 1 t. ground cumin Parsley (garnish)

Mash chickpeas until smooth. Add garlic, tahini, lemon juice, cumin, and 1/4 cup water. Puree. Season with salt to taste. Add water until mixture is the consistency of a smooth spread. Spread on pite. Drizzle center with olive oil. Sprinkle lightly with paprika and parsley. Serve with pita bread.

Date Cakes

1 C. Pitted dates ½ C. Chopped walnuts
 ¼ to ½ C. Water ¾ C. Chopped almonds
 1 t. cinnamon Honey
 ¼ t. cardamom

In a blender or food processor, grind the dates to a past with the water. Add the spices, walnuts and 1/4 C. Almonds. Mix well. Form into small balls, coat with honey and roll in remaining almonds.

Ambrosia Salad

1 C. Orange Juice 3 medium oranges, peeled and sectioned
 1 can (8 oz) pineapple chunks (undrained)
 ½ C. Seedless red grapes, halved ½ C. Shredded coconut
 ½ C. Chopped pecans

Combine juice, orange sections, pineapple and grapes, stirring gently to blend. Refrigerate until serving time. OPTION: Fold in coconut and pecans just before serving. Serves: 6



Haroset

6 apples - peeled, cored and chopped
1 C. Finely chopped walnuts ½ t. ground cinnamon
1 t. white sugar 3 ½ t. honey 1/3 cup grape juice

Place apples and walnuts in a large bowl. Mix together cinnamon and sugar; sprinkle over the apples. Stir in honey and grape juice. Serve immediately or refrigerate until serving.

Baked Tomato Slices With Cheese

Slice fresh tomatoes into circle shapes. Place on cookie sheet prepared with olive oil. Top each tomato slice with shredded cheese and olive pieces. Bake in warm oven until cheese is melted and browned. Serve one slice per person.

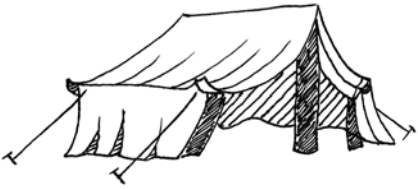
Chicken Stuffing Balls

Purchase Stove Top Stuffing or similar product. Make the stuffing as directed. Use ice cream scoop to make individual small balls with the stuffing. Make an indentation in the top of each stuffing ball and place a chicken nugget in it. Sprinkle top with shredded cheddar cheese. Bake in oven until cheese melts, nugget is hot and edges of stuffing ball are a bit crispy.

The Fatted Calf Celebration

Mini Hamburgers! Celebrate the last day of Vacation Bible School by serving a modern surprise...hamburgers with all the healthy trimmings. Let guests build their own burger on warm buns with tomato, onion, lettuce and condiments. Add a side dish like Tater Tots and ketchup and finish the feast with mini ice cream sundaes.





Market Street Shops Tips For Teachers

Each Market Street Shop represents a Village shop where guests learn about the life and times of Jesus. Small groups enjoy an activity, memorize a scripture verse, hear a Bible story and complete a Holy Land craft. These shops are designed to last 45 minutes including the craft project. If the VBS team decides to have a separate craft time, the shop should last 30 minutes.

Five separate shops are offered. Student groups visit one shop each day. By the end of the week, they have experienced all the shops.

Market Street Shops

Market Street Shop #1:

Build A Basket Shop

Theme: Jesus Is A Miracle Maker

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:3

"Trust in the Lord and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land,
and verily thou shalt be fed."

Bible Story: Twelve Baskets—Jesus Feeds 5000

Craft

Market Street Shop #2:

Village Sandals Shop

Theme: The Man In Sandals

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:23

"The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord;
and he delighteth in his way."

Bible Story: Thunder In The Desert—John Baptizes Jesus

Craft

Market Street Shop #3:

J&J Carpenter Shop

Theme: Come And Follow Jesus

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:5

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him;
and He shall bring it to pass."

Bible Story: My Stuff, Big Camel, Little Needle—Rich Young Man

Craft



Market Street Shop #4:

Leah's Lamps And Candles

Theme: Jesus Is The Light Of The World

Memory Verse: Psalm 27:1

"The Lord is my light and my salvation,
Whom shall I fear?"

Bible Story: Wedding Lamps
Craft

Market Street Shop #5:

Portia's Pottery Shop

Theme: God Takes Care Of Me

Memory Verse: Psalm 37:40

"And the Lord shall help them and deliver them;
...Because they trust in Him."

Bible Story: Elisha, Widow, Pots, Oil!
Craft

Decorate The Market Street Shop

Follow curriculum suggestions or create your own shop design. Borrow Holy Land styled items from friends and relatives. Search your own attic, garage and backyard for the perfect props to give an 'ancient' feel to the space. Make simple items from construction paper, posterboard and cardboard. Create dramatic lighting with floor lights and darkness. Find fun, inexpensive accessories at home and in second hand shops.

Tents

Conduct one or more shops outdoors in a tent. Large tents may fit each small group. Small tents may be used as a backdrop. Use whatever tent is available. To make it look interesting, toss small throw rugs on the tent. Place throw rugs at the entrance and inside the tent.

Tent size depended on the number of people in a family or a person's wealth. Most tents had between one and nine poles. The poles were set in the ground and then tent material was spread over the poles. Leather loops were sewn to the edge of the cloth and long cords were tied to them. These cords were stretched tight and fastened to the ground by iron or wooden pins or pegs.



Costume And Character

Dress in Holy Land costume. Follow curriculum suggestions, borrow, rent or make costumes. Become the Market Street shopkeeper suggested within your lesson plan.

Memory Verse Activity

Teach a scripture verse. If you prefer another version of scripture or another scripture activity, use it. Shorten the memory verse to match the age group.

Bible Story

The Market Street Shop Bible stories involve stories about Jesus plus Old Testament people who served God anticipating the arrival of their Messiah. Seat the guests on the floor. Ask questions. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may participate in discussion.

Craft Projects

Reserve one corner of the room or tent to complete a craft project. Students enjoy taking home a small keepsake. The project must be simple enough to complete in one session.

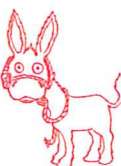
Divide craft parts into kits. Place everything they need in front of them. If younger students need cut and past help, ask parents or helpers to participate.

We suggest many fun projects. Choose from our list. Our craft suggestions may not fit your needs. Adapt the activity if you find another project. This is your workshop. Have fun with crafting.

Decide whether keeping crafts until Open House or taking them home daily works for your event. Communicate the decision so all workshop leaders do the same thing.

Time Management

Small groups complete their Holy Land activities in one session. If suggested activities cannot be completed with the allotted time, choose the most important details and omit the rest.



Craft Suggestions

Give your time travelers the opportunity to make great craft projects that become keepsakes of their CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BIBLICAL KIND Adventure. The project must be completed within the time frame of the workshop unless it has been determined to have craft time a separate activity.

Suggestions are offered from two excellent companies and can be purchased through their catalogs or at their online sites. Prices may change.

S&S Arts and Crafts
1-800-243-9232
www.ssw.com

Guildcraft Arts and Crafts
1-800-345-5563
www.Guildcraftinc.com

Build A Basket Shop Craft Ideas

Choose a project that allows guests to make a small basket. We suggest several options but feel free to design your own keepsake using the basket weaving theme.

S&S Arts and Crafts

Ancient Culture Jute Basket: Every culture has its own basket making traditions. Lead your kids to a deeper appreciation of this ancient art form. 3" GP1412 \$34.99 per pack of 24

Raffia Basket Group Pack: Weave attractive 4 ½" oval baskets. Cardboard bases, multi color raffia, instructions included. WE612X \$26.99 per pack of 24

Guildcraft Arts and Crafts

Basketry Project Pack: Make a basket like in Bible times. Includes reed and pre drilled, wooden bases (3" round). 4" tall. 480-114 \$58.95 per pack of 60



Loaves & Fishes Baskets: Children can color in the fish and loaves and then insert them into the slit in the pre-colored basket. This project will help them remember how one little boy saved the day by sharing his food. Includes pre-colored and pre-slit baskets and ready to color fish and loaves. 10" x 5 5/8". 217-281 \$7.95 per pack of 24
(Perfect for Preschool and Kindergarten groups)

Raffia Baskets: Make your own miniature version of baskets like Egyptians and Jews used to carry goods. Includes natural raffia in assorted colors and pre cut cardboard bases. 2 1/2" x 4 1/2" diameter. 481-183 \$19.89 per pack of 24

Village Sandals Shop Craft Ideas

Choose a leather project. It could be sandal related or it could be another leather styled keepsake.

S&S Arts and Crafts

Wood Sandal Frame Craft Kit: Wooden sandal frame, silk flower, 4 1/2" x 2" with 1 1/4" x 1 3/4" photo space. Paint and brushes included. CE4365 \$12.49 per pack of 12
(We suggest if using this project, to use wood stain for a more ancient look. Students can wear plastic gloves and wipe stain on and off project with soft cloths.)

Follow in My Footsteps Door hanger Craft Kit: Keep them on the narrow path toward righteousness with these fun Super Foam sandal door hangers. Includes assorted foam pieces to put together to make a foot with sandal. 3" x 7" CE4240 \$9.99 per pack of 12

Leather Bracelet Craft Kit: Tiny tiles finish this trendy leather wristband. Adjusts to fit. Includes bracelets, glue, tiles, tablecloth and instructions. GP1887 \$12.09 per pack of 12
(Instead of making a 'sandals' craft, make this easy leather project.)

Leather Look Necklaces: Simply stylish, easy to thread fashion jewelry with clasp closures gives everyone a great look. Includes leather-look pieces and large beads. RMK-GP1977 \$18.59 per pack of 12



Guildcraft Arts and Crafts

Sandy Samaritan Sandals: In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus gives us the greatest commandments-to love God and our neighbor. Kids can learn about these commandments while making this craft. Includes pre printed cardboard feet, sand, cord and glue. 8 ½" x 4".
216-940 \$15.99 per pack of 24

Walk With Jesus Sandal Boxes: Fun to decorate then fill with jewelry, keepsakes, etc. Includes papier mache boxes, paint and brushes. 4" x 2" x 1 ½".
471-683 \$22.85 per pack of 20

Blessed Bracelets: A perfect reminder to share God's blessings! Includes beads that spell 'blessed' and pre-cut leather lacing (assorted colors).
402-453 per pack of 30

J&J Carpenter Shop Craft Ideas

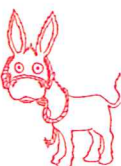
Choose a project that uses wood in some way. The project can be stained or painted. Here are a few suggestions to get you started:

S&S Arts and Crafts

Mezuzah Kit. Easy, fun and personal. This great gift idea offers a wonderful opportunity to share your knowledge of mezuzah, Shema and meaningful prayers. Compartment holds up to 4" parchment paper (not included). Solid pine mezuzah measures 6" x 5/8". Kit includes mezuzah, sandpaper and instructions. Paint/brushes NOT included.
RMK-WD3167 \$4.49 each mezuzah

Wooden Cross Tile Trivet: This tasteful trivet is great for tile and grout but also can be used with decorative papers, photos and other keepsakes with decoupage. Great as a wall hanger, dresser or table decoration. 9" x 6 3/4". Come pre assembled and unfinished.
WD7495 \$12.99 per pack of 6
(tiles, grout, or whatever you decide to fill the space with, sold separately.)

Free Standing Cross Craft Kit: This cross is a perfect reminder of the price Jesus paid for us. He gave his all; we can surely give our best. Pack of 36 includes nails, wire, wooden bases, metallic paint and instructions.
RE464 \$35.99 per pack of 36



Guildcraft Arts and Crafts

Wood Inlay Crosses: 9" x 6 ½" 502-039 \$9.95 per pack of 6

Wood Cross Key Chains: Chunky wood crosses with attached key chains. Pain and brushes included. 2 ½" x 1 ¾" x ½"
500-361 \$19.95 per pack of 24

Menorahs: Menorahs are used to celebrate the holiday of Hanukkah. Includes wooden menorahs with pre drilled holes), paint, brushes and glue. Candles sold separately. 9" x 1 ½" x ¾".
502-479 \$16.99 per pack of 12
540-061 candles (pkg 44) \$1.59

Leah's Lamps And Candles Craft Ideas

This craft should feature some kind of light, either a lantern or candle.

S&S Arts and Crafts

Light My Way Luminary. Just as these luminaries light darkened pathways, God uses the Bible to guide them through troubled times and hard decisions. 2" x 5 1/8". Tea lights NOT included.
RMK-RE304 \$19.99 per pack of 15

Neon Paper Lanterns: Change the mood in an instant! Includes 50% recycled Neon paper, sequins, gold trim, non toxic glue, design ideas and instructions. 8" x 8".
GP851 \$24.99 per pack of 40

Art Sand Candles Craft Kit: Create one of a kind candle holders by layering one color of sand over another. Poke along the sides with a dowel for special effects. Includes glasses, votive candles, dowels, fine sand colors and instructions. Handle with care. 3".
GP487 \$47.99 per pack of 24

Guildcraft Arts and Crafts

Havdalah Candles: In Jewish tradition, families light the Havdalah Candle at the close of each Sabbath. Kit includes beeswax sheets (blue and white) and wick. No molds or heating required. 5 ½" tall.
540-056 \$9.49 per pack of 12



Portia's Pottery Shop Craft Ideas

Students may paint or decorate a small container or vase. Or, paint a figurine. Here are a few ideas:

S&S Arts and Crafts

Dry Hard Self Hardening Clay-25 lbs: Remarkable self hardening clay air dries to a hard finish with no firing, making it perfect for everyone. Clay can be modeled, thrown on a wheel or used in hand building projects. Use any non firing finish; not waterproof unless sealed. Non toxic. Select white, brown or terra cotta buff.

CL182S \$59.99 each

Sculpt-It! Sculpting Material Easy Pack (pack of 150): This air hardening white sculpting material by Sargent Art dries overnight to a durable, hard finish. Sculpt it, mold it, shape it. Can be painted, sanded and drilled when dry and resists crumbling and clothing stains. Non toxic.

CL307 \$46.99 per pack of 150

Guildcraft Arts and Crafts

Spice Boxes: In Jewish tradition, families enjoy the aromas of the Spice Box at the close of each Sabbath. Solid hardwood pots with lids. 2 1/8" x 2 1/8". Paint sold separately. Spices not included.

502-808 \$18.99 per pack of 12

PLEASE PURCHASE

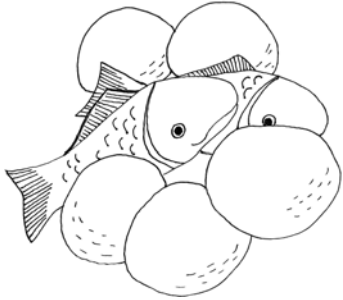


Market Street Shop #1:

Build A Basket Shop

“Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.”

Deuteronomy 28:17



Spiritual Theme:

Jesus Is A Miracle Maker!

Decoration:

Build A Basket Shop

Create a delightful little shop on our Village Market Street where the shopkeeper displays and makes baskets of all sizes and shapes. Gather as many baskets as possible. Stack them in corners, hang them on walls and lean them against tables. This shop can be set up in a room or inside a large tent.

Drape sheets and colorful blankets around the space. Toss large pillows on the floor. Fill some of the baskets with colorful yarn. Add greenery as a touch of outdoor living. Create a middle eastern atmosphere. Add macrame wall hangings, wood utensils, rag rugs, brass candlesticks, pottery and other ancient looking items.

Costume and Character:

Basket Maker/Weaver

The basket maker/weaver was a common business person and hard worker. Choose a common Bible name like Hannah. Once a small group tribe enters the Build A Basket Shop, pretend they have traveled back in time to the days of Jesus. Greet them with “Shalom” and ask them to respond with “Shalom”.

Make references to villagers as you greet the group:

“I’m making baskets for Peter’s wife this week. She has been upset since her Simon became a follower of Jesus. He hasn’t fished in months and she is getting worried that the fishing nets are rotting. So far, the family has enough money to live but I must admit, I am concerned as well. Who knows where this “Jesus” thing will lead. Who ever heard of getting their name changed once they are a grown man? ”



Basket Shop Welcome Activity: The Basket Game

Shalom! Welcome to my humble yet delightful Build A Basket Shop. Here in our ancient village, we enjoy guests. I see you are from another time and place. No matter! Enjoy! Do you know you are visiting our famous Market Street? There are shops of all sizes that offer many kinds of items you cannot live without. I provide the best baskets in Israel. See how beautiful they are? I made every one of them with my own two hands.

When I am not making baskets, I weave fabric to make clothing for everyone in the village. People tell me I save them precious travel time and much denarii because they shop close to home.

Choose three baskets of various sizes. Give small balls or bean bags to one student and encourage that student to toss the ball into one or more of the baskets. As all students try and succeed, give them a tiny treat reward—Goldfish Crackers.

FYI (For Your Information): Baskets were woven using long reeds and papyrus and even palm branch leaves. The leaves were dried and then woven tightly in many shapes. Sometimes pine needles were used. They were made in a variety of shapes and sizes and many had lids to fit perfectly.

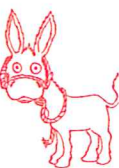
Memory Verse:

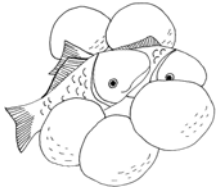
Psalm 37:3

We Jews are good at memorizing God's Word. We say it when we rise in the morning and when we go to bed at night. Let's learn a verse together. Print three phrases on separate paper loaves of bread. Say the phrases together until everyone knows the verse.

“Trust in the Lord and do good;
so shalt thou dwell in the land,
and verily thou shalt be fed.”

Psalm 37:3 KJV





Bible Story:

Twelve Baskets

From Matthew 14: You will never believe the huge basket sale I just completed. Two men came into the shop and purchased twelve huge baskets! Twelve! Can you believe it? They didn't care what they looked like, they just had to be big.

I was curious so I followed them outside the village to the hillside. You know the one, over by the lake. I couldn't believe how many people were there listening to Jesus. He talked about very interesting topics—God, the kingdom of God, more God, and more kingdom of God. Everyone was quite entertained by Him.

Jesus is quite a traveling teacher. He has much wisdom but don't let the Jewish synagogue leaders know I said that. I will deny it! However, I believe Jesus' words are true. It's because I personally saw a true miracle. Jesus made a miracle and I was there.

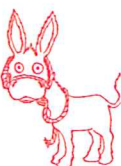
Jesus was sad and tired. His cousin John just died and Jesus tried His best to hide out for awhile. No luck. Someone saw Him and you know how it goes, word got around. Soon people were walking around the lake to where he was. He's such a good guy. He saw them coming and was overwhelmed with pity. He healed their sick.

Toward evening the disciples approached Him. They mentioned everyone was getting hungry and it was time to send them home for supper. Jesus said *(and I laughed)*, "You give them supper."

I had seen those twelve empty baskets. The only food I saw all day was a little boy whose mother had given him five little loaves of bread and two fish. There must have been 5000 people on that hill!

Jesus took over, grabbed the little lunch, lifted His face to Heaven and prayed. Then he broke the food into pieces and gave the bread to the disciples. They started passing out that food to all those hungry people and it just kept coming. Bread and fish and bread and fish and bread and fish. It never ran out!

When all the people, including me, were full and happy, the disciples took my twelve baskets and filled them to the top with the leftovers. Can you imagine that? I tell you it was a plain miracle!



Jesus didn't say much. He insisted that the disciples get in the boat and go on ahead of Him to the other side. Then He dismissed the people and climbed the mountain so he could be by himself and pray. I heard He stayed there alone, late into the night.

What We Learn: **Jesus Surprises Us With Miracles!**

PROPS: One small basket, four paper fish shapes with the lesson themes printed on each one. Look for the basket, hand fish to students and let them drop them in the basket as you talk.

- 1. Jesus used simple items.** I was very excited that my twelve baskets were part of a miracle.
- 2. Jesus caught people's attention!** I was happy to have a wonderful picnic supper on the hillside with my friends.
- 3. Jesus made us think about God.** I was puzzled at how Jesus took that little bit of food and made so much from it. But, what is the lesson? Who is this teacher from Galilee?
- 4. Jesus surprises us!** Perhaps the best lesson we can learn from supper on the hillside is that Jesus surprises us when we least expect it. I was so excited about the food that I completely forgot about all the little miracles Jesus did when He healed our sick villagers. Old, young, rich, poor. It did not seem to matter. He looked with love upon all of us. He is indeed sent from God and is a miracle maker.

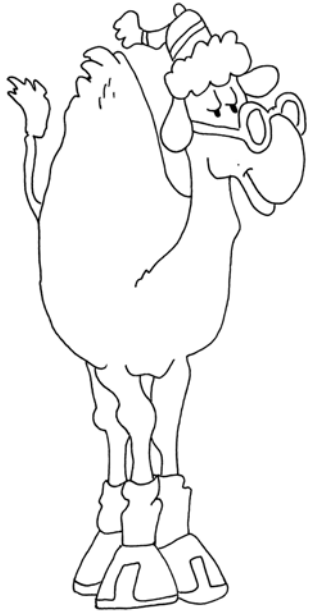
Close In Prayer

Craft

Choose a project from our suggestions or design your own keepsake to remind students of basket making and the story of feeding 5000 people on a hillside.



Market Street Shop #2:



Village Sandals Shop

“After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals.” Mark 1:7

Spiritual Theme:

The Man In Sandals

Decoration:

Sandals Market Street Stall

Use the available space to create a simple market stall where sandals as well as other leather items (Hides, leather bags, beaded leather jewelry) are displayed for purchase. Make this area resemble a marketplace spot where people stop to look and then purchase sandals.

Gather as many sandals as possible and display them neatly on a colorful rug. Place baskets, wood boxes and green plants around the display area. A small canopy or tent may be placed in the room. Hang leather straps, fabrics and other items from the canopy. Stack colorful floor pillows. Use curriculum suggestions to cram your Market Street Stall with interesting ancient style.

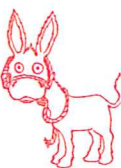
Costume and Character:

Sandal Maker

Become a friendly sandal maker/sales person meeting and greeting customers on Market Street. Wear traditional Holy Land garments and add a touch of leather to the costume. A leather strap necklace with beads and leather bracelets too.

Village Sandals Shops Welcome Activity: Shoe Scramble

Stack everyone's shoes in a mound in the middle of the room. Jumble them while the group is hiding their eyes. Ask the group to stand and turn in a circle three times. When you call 'go', the entire group must find their own shoes, put them on and tag a predetermined point in the room. The winner of the Shoe Scramble wins a small treat.



Memory Verse:

Psalm 37:23

It's wonderful to have sandals that protect our feet while we walk from place to place. The Old Testament speaks of how we should walk in a way that pleases God. Let's learn this verse to remember how to order our steps. *Print the words using the bare foot pattern. Attach the bare feet vertically to the wall as if a person is walking up the wall. Read the words and memorize the verse.*

The steps of a good man
are ordered by the Lord:
and he delighteth in his way.

Psalm 37:23 KJV

Bible Story:

Thunder In The Desert!

From Matthew 3: Shalom! Welcome to my Sandal Stall on Market Street. Our villagers love my stylish sandals. Are you ready to barter for my handmade work? It is worth a lot of shekels but for you...my friends...I will make a deal!

Do you have cousins? *(Let students talk about their cousins and what they mean to them.)* Ah yes, cousins are wonderful friends. They are relatives but because you don't see them as often as your brothers and sisters, you don't fight! I know John and he is a cousin to Jesus.

Did you see Jesus? He just walked down Market Street. He must be doing a little shopping today. You must have seen him when you arrived. No one can miss that man. A crowd gathers everywhere he goes. Word has it that Jesus is in big trouble with our leaders. When he bought his sandals here a little while ago, he seemed to be in a big hurry.

Cousin John, we call him the 'baptizer', has been preaching in the desert country. John is one strange dude. He wears camel hair clothing tied at the waist with a leather strap. That's not all. He eats locusts and wild field honey. Everyone pours out of the cities and villages to get a look at John. They want to hear his message.



John and Jesus were boyhood buddies. They grew up together but John's parents were very old when he was born. Zacharias and Elizabeth were thrilled with their boy and he grew up in a special religious household. John knew he had a job to do and when he grew up, even though he seems weird, he does his job well.

John shouts like thunder in the desert. His message is "Change your life. God's kingdom is here." Most folks don't know what in the world John is talking about but I do, oh yes, I do. Lean in and let me whisper it so I don't get in any trouble.....*(whisper) shhhh, Jesus is our Messiah and John knows it and John is telling everyone to watch Jesus.*

He says, "Prepare for God's arrival! Make the road smooth and straight!" To make his point, he calls upon the villagers to confess their sins. Then he baptizes them with water from the Jordan River and their lives are changed forever. How about that? John is God's messenger. Jesus is God's Message.

I was in the crowd the other day when John was baptizing people. He saw Jesus coming and told us Jesus was about to make big changes and put everything true in its proper place before God. Of course, our leaders hated that and John shouted at them, "Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river?" They were really mad at him.

John said he wasn't worthy to tie the sandals of Jesus and yet Jesus asked John to baptize him. I perked up when he mentioned sandals. Maybe there were some customers in the crowd. John said, "I'm the one who needs to be baptized, not you!" Jesus said to John, "Do it! God's work, putting things right after all this time, is coming together right now and you're part of it."

I watched John baptize Jesus in the Jordan. As soon as he did it the skies opened up and God's Spirit...it looked like a dove....flew down and landed on Jesus. A Voice said, "This is my Son, chosen and marked by My love, delight of my life."



What We Learn:

Who Is The Man In Sandals?

Who is this Man who wears my sandals? His words turn our village upside down. He encourages us to look for God's kingdom. He walks the dusty roads and help the poor and lame. Nothing will ever be the same after we speak His name.

John the baptizer knows God has a new plan for us. His message is important enough for him to thunder in the desert. We worship the one and only true God and creator of the universe. It appears God wants us to hear a new message.

Our prophets were told about the coming Messiah. I wonder if Jesus, the Man in Sandals, is that Messiah. I wonder.

Close In Prayer

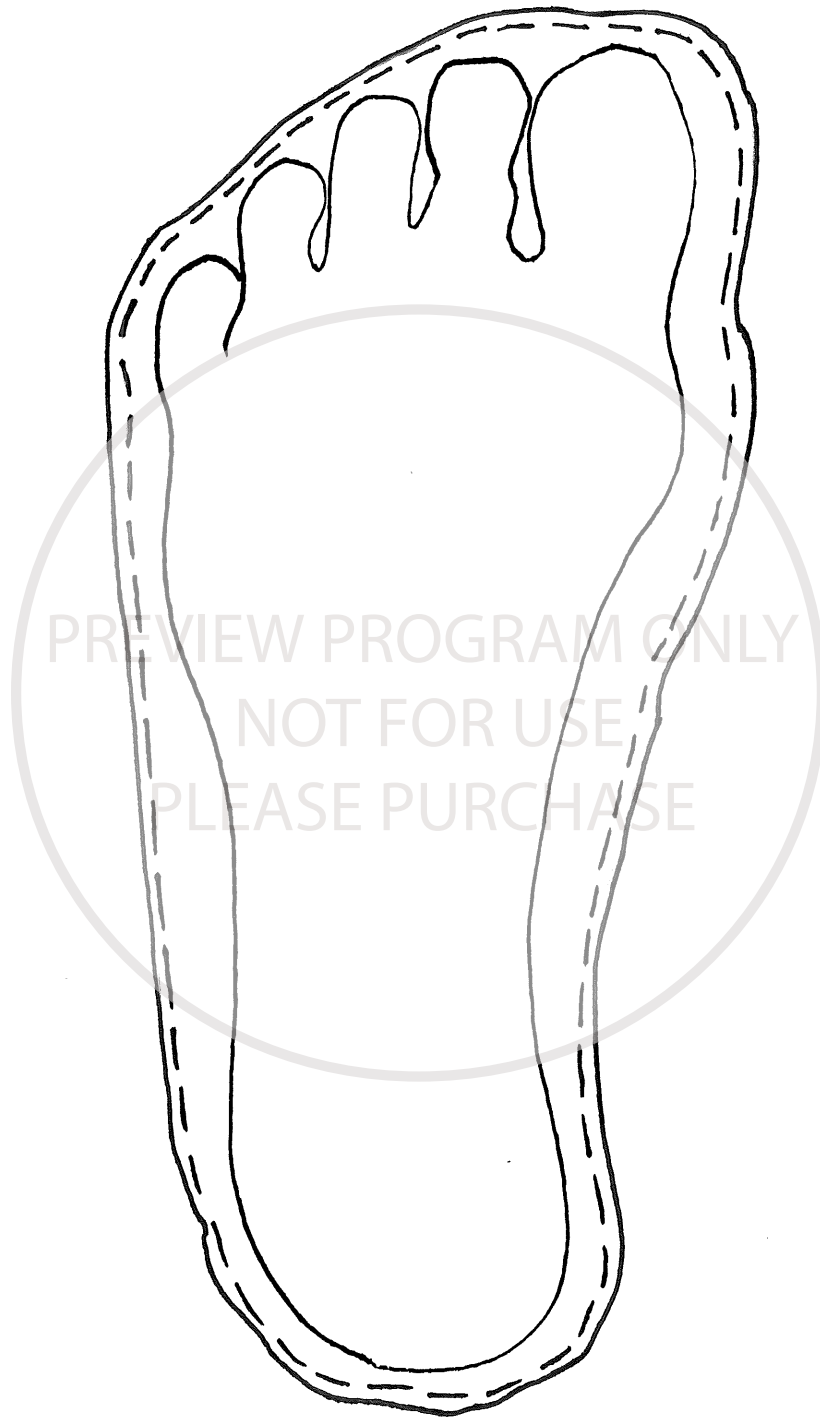
PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY

Craft

Choose a project from our suggestions or design your own keepsake to remind students of sandals and leather work and the Man who wore dusty sandals.

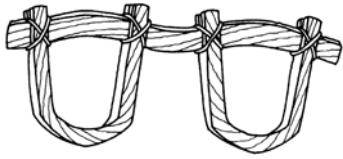
NOT FOR POST
PLEASE PURCHASE





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

Market Street Shop #3:



J&J Carpenter Shop

“Is this not the carpenter’s son?” Matthew 13:55

Spiritual Theme:

Come And Follow Jesus!

Decoration:

Carpenter Shop

Place wood and woodworking tools in the room. It can be messy. Scatter sawdust and wood chips to make the shop look well used. Stack wood in piles and place bunches of limbs there and there. Put large logs in the middle of the room. Students can stand around a table to complete a craft project. Add baskets, pottery, benches, a touch of greenery to make the space feel like the Holy Land. Light dramatically with lights hidden behind objects on the floor.

Costume and Character:

Carpenter

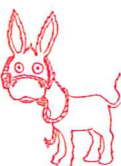
Become an important business owner and worker. Rename yourself, allowing students to call you by your Bible name. Wear a simple tunic with a leather or cloth work belt tied around the middle. Follow costume tips in the curriculum. Once each small tribe enters the Carpenter Shop pretend they are back in Bible times. Make references to villagers you know.

Nicodemus seemed so nervous yesterday. He came into the shop to order his wooden pen nubs and asked if I had seen him on the roof with other night with Jesus. I told him I was sleeping all night. He was relieved but mentioned that Jesus told him some kind of crazy talk about becoming a baby again. I think poor old Nic should have been sleeping the other night as well. He may be losing his mind.

Carpenter Shop Welcome Activity:

Pound That Nail!

Just for fun, place a large log in the middle of the room. Provide an array of hammers and nails. Teach students how to use a nail and hammer and let them hammer their nail anywhere in the log. Leave all the nails in place from each group. Add more nails day to day until it looks like a nail “pin cushion”.



FYI (For Your Information): *Carpenters were known as cutters or workers of wood. They played an important village role. Their work was insisted upon by the Law. They laid roof beams and house staircases. The carpenter made cabinets, plows, oxen yokes. He was in charge of any craft dealing with wood. Many times carpenters were also masons and worked with stone and brick.*

Sycamore was the best, long lasting wood. Cedar was most expensive and olive or cypress was most common. The workshop had to be equipped for all kinds of work. His tools were similar to modern day wood workers: Ax, hatchet, saw, knives, plane, square, clamp, hammer and bronze nails.

Memory Verse:

Psalm 37:5

Commit thy way unto the Lord;
trust also in Him;
and He shall bring it to pass.

Psalm 37:5

I am blessed to earn a good living as a carpenter. Not everyone in the village is poor. I actually know a few rich people. Today's scripture reminds us that whoever we are and no matter whether we are rich or poor, we are called upon to commit our way to the Lord and to trust in God. When we do that, we can be true followers of God and can have eternal life in Heaven!

Print the three phrases of this scripture verse on camel patterns provided. Say the verse with the group until they can say it alone.

Bible Story:

I Love My 'Stuff'

From Matthew 19:16-26: There is a young guy who asks me to make things at his house. Wow, what a house! It's more like a palace. He is rich for being so young. But...he has a good heart. He wants to please God but he sure loves his stuff! He has the best stuff you ever saw. Animals, comfortable furniture, beautiful artwork, dishes, servants....you name it, that guy's got it.



I had to laugh when he had a conversation with Jesus the other day and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?" I always wondered that myself so I listened very carefully.

Jesus smiled and asked His own question, "Why do you ask Me about what's good? God is the One who is good. If you want to enter the life of God, just do what He tells you." That sounds pretty simple, just keep the commandments. I think I could try to do what God tells me but, come to think of it, God hasn't been exactly shouting at me.

The young man asked, "What exactly would God tell me to do?" Yeah, that's the question I would ask Jesus too. Let's get specific.

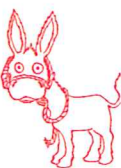
Jesus listed off a bunch of things:

1. Don't murder
2. Don't be unfaithful to your wife
3. Don't steal
4. Don't lie
5. Honor your father and mother
6. Love your neighbor like you love yourself

I think the young man was surprised. He had been concentrating hard and felt he followed those commands. Yet there was still something missing in his life. He said, "I've done all that. What's left?"

Jesus gave him the hardest task of all. He said "You must get rid of your stuff." His stuff! I laughed a little. Did Jesus know how much stuff that guy has? That would be some yard sale. Jesus said, "Go see your possessions; give everything to the poor. All your wealth will then be in heaven. Then come follow me."

That was the last thing the young man expected to hear. If truth be told, the kid probably loved himself a little more than he loved his neighbor, still he felt awful and walked away. He was holding on tight to a lot of things and he couldn't bear to let go.



What We Learn: **Big Camels and Little Needles**

I stood in the middle of that dusty road and watched that rich young man turn himself around in his gold trimmed sandals and his purple satin robe and walk away from Jesus. The biggest invitation in the world was to actually become a disciple, a follower of Jesus of Nazareth and this guy says, "Nope, I love my stuff more and I can't let it go."

As Jesus watched him go, He told His disciples, "Do you have any idea how hard it is for a rich person to enter God's kingdom? Let me tell you, it's easier to walk a camel through a needle's eye than for the rich to enter God's kingdom."

What does that mean? Anybody knows it is impossible for a huge camel to fit through the eye of a tiny needle! It's never going to happen.

The disciples were amazed. They said, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus let them know that by human power, it is impossible but WITH GOD anything is possible...even the salvation of somebody who has everything this world has to offer and doesn't feel the need to come to God.

So we learn that apart from God's great love and mercy, we're all done for. Eternal life is a miracle of God! That's why today's scripture verse is so important:

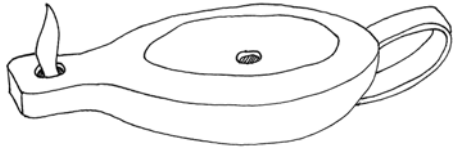
Commit thy way unto the Lord;
trust also in Him;
And He shall bring it to pass."
Psalm 37:5

Close In Prayer Craft

Choose a project from our suggestions or design your own keepsake to remind students of the kinds of carpentry Jesus enjoyed during His life on earth.



Market Street Shop #4:



Leah's Lamps And Candles

"God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."

1 John 1:5

Spiritual Theme: Jesus Is The Light Of The World

"The Light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not comprehend it." John 1:5

Decoration:

Candle Shop

Light the area with soft electric lights, electric candles and lanterns, creating soft lighting. Light a Jewish Menorah—the seven branched lamp stand. When using candles, ultimate care must be taken! Recognize the danger of fire. It is a requirement to have a large bucket of water in the room. Put candles high enough so little ones cannot touch them. It is possible to purchase or borrow electric candles popular for home windows and at holiday times.

Fill the room with wicker baskets, floor pillows, benches, wooden stools and greenery. Print lamp advertisements on the walls using brown bags torn to form rough edges and written in wide black marker.

FYI (For Your Information): Candles were made of wax or tallow with the pith of a rush, known as scirpus, for a wick. They continued to be used for lighting by poor people long after oil had come into general use for wealthier people. Candles were used in funeral processions and in synagogues. Candles in the synagogue were usually in the Menorah. Oil lamps or lanterns were made in many shapes and sizes.

Indoor lamps were hung in chains from the ceiling of the room but mostly stood on a lamp stand. The stand was usually just a plain pedestal with a flat top. Lamps spread the smell of olive oil throughout the whole room. At least one lamp burned day and night so there was always a fire burning in the house.

100



Costume And Character:

Candle Maker

Wear a long flowing robe. Add lots of jewelry since this shop keeper is popular and prosperous. Wear a colorful turban or scarf headband tied at the side of your head. Become Leah, allowing students to call you by your Bible name. Once the tribe enters the shop, pretend they are back in Bible times. Set an ancient mood by bowing to students as they enter. Welcome them as honored guests. Tell stories about villagers you know:

I just saw that revolting tax collector, Zacchaeus, in the market place. I don't want him anywhere near my shop on Market Street. He tried to make me pay extra tax on my humble candle shop. That man will never change.

Candle Shop Welcome Activity: Turn Out The Lights!

Props: One or more large pillar candles—any colors. Matches or lighter.

Turn out lights in the Candle Shop. Make it as dark as possible. If there is a little light, that's okay but the darker the better!

Shalom! Welcome to Leah's Lamps and Candles Shop. I'm Leah and I'm so happy to meet and greet you in my village shop. Look around you. It is so dark in here today. I think we need a little light. Someone grab candles in the middle of the room. Can you see them? Let's make it nice and cozy. ...And there was LIGHT!

OPTION: *Light the candles in the middle on the floor with students sitting in a wide circle around them. BE CAREFUL! This can be a lovely spot with candles of all shapes and sizes glowing while they learn their verse and listen to the Bible Story. (REMINDER: Bucket of water nearby/students sit far from candles.)*

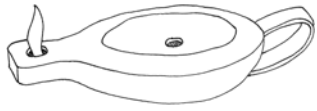
Memory Verse:

Psalm 27:1

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

Psalm 27:1





Bible Story:

Jesus IS The Light Of The World!

John 8:12: Jesus has a way of explaining big issues so I understand. He says, *"I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."* John 8:12 Jesus is the Light of the world? Really? He used to live down the street and is Joseph and Mary's oldest son. How can this be?

My business is bringing light to the world. I know about light! I also know how uncomfortable it is to be in the dark. I think what Jesus means is that He is bringing the best news the world has ever heard, news about the kingdom of God. He's bringing us God's Light! Jesus says He's our Messiah, the promised one of God.

Matthew 25:1-13: I really enjoyed a story Jesus told the other day. He said there were ten young girls who wanted to go to a wedding. We love weddings. Everyone wears their best robes and jewelry!

Five girls were silly and five girls were smart. The silly girls took lamps but did not take fuel to light them. The smart girls carried jars of oil so they could see their way. The bridegroom didn't show up when they expected to see him so they all fell asleep.

In the middle of the night somebody yells "He's here! Go out and greet the groom." They lit their lamps and sure enough, the silly girls didn't have oil. "Share with us", they begged the smart girls. However, the smart girls knew there wasn't enough oil so they told the silly girls to go to town and buy more oil.

They did, but while they were gone, the groom arrived. Everyone was there! The party began and the whole crowd went into the wedding and the door was locked. Guess who showed up late? The silly girls. "Let us in! Let us in!" they cried. "No way," said the groom, "I don't think I know you."

Jesus looked at all of us as if to say, "Do you know what I mean when I tell this story about lamps and silly girls and being ready?" I know what Jesus meant. He said, "So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive."



What We Learn:

Jesus Makes US Light!

I love light and life. You love light and life. No one knows when our world may turn dark or when our life might end. Jesus used the story about silly and smart girls to remind us to live as a follower of Jesus so when it's time to meet God, we are ready!

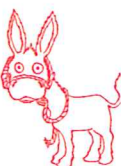
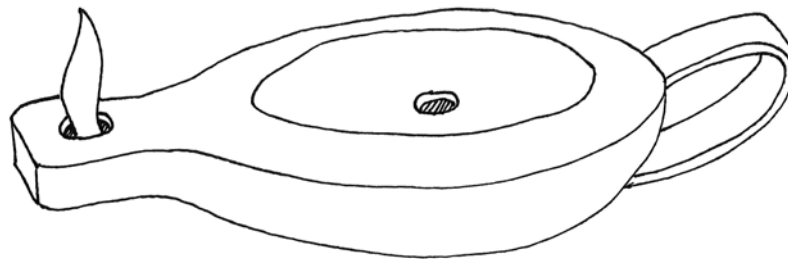
Matthew 5:14-16 (TM): Jesus says, "You are here to be light, bringing out God's colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand-shine! Be generous with your lives. Open up to others Let them see God in you!"

***OPTION:** (Give small candles to each person) Light one small candle. Tell students this represents each of them in the world of unlit candles. One by one, light other small candles until there is a lovely glow. This is how God's love spreads around the world. One by one, people telling people. Count to three. Blow out all candles. This is what the world is like without Jesus! Let's be God's light in the world.*

Blow Out All Candles: Close In Prayer

Craft

Choose a project from our suggestions or design your own keepsake to remind students of Jesus' claim that He is 'the Light of the world'.



Market Street Shop #5:

Portia's Pottery Shop

"I belong to God like you; I too have been formed out of the clay."

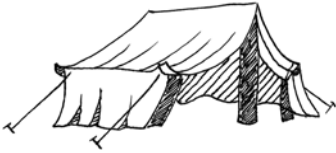
Job 33:6

Spiritual Theme:

God Takes Care Of Me!

Decoration:

Pottery Shop



Stack pots and ceramic vases in large quantity throughout the room or tent. Drape the space with sheets, blankets and throw pillows. Live greenery gives your shop ancient appeal. Wood benches, stools and other objects work well. Print signs on brown bag paper:

Portia's Pottery ~ Prettiest Pots In Palestine! Set up one table for crafting. Students can stand at the table to work.

Costume And Character:

Portia The Potter

The potter is a crafts person and a business success. Wear bright colors and lots of jewelry. Become Portia the Potter and allow students to use your Bible name. Once the small tribal group enters the shop, pretend they are back in Bible times. Refer to people you know in the village:

I was surprised to see Lazarus from Bethany yesterday. He's not looking well. He's been very ill. I can hardly believe that fussy sister of his, Martha, made him come out to pick up her new pots. Have you heard anything about him today?

Pottery Shop Welcome Activity:

Tray Game

Shalom! Welcome to Portia's Pottery Shop. We carry the prettiest pots in Palestine! I have been working so hard throwing pots that I am ready to have a little fun. How about you? Let's play a game!

Fill a tray with dozens of small items. Cover the tray with a towel. When the tray is uncovered, everyone has one minute to memorize all the items on the tray. Cover the tray. Guests must guess as many of the tray items as possible. Let them guess out loud. For every correct guess, give the person tiny treat like a Hershey Kiss. Be generous with rewards.



Memory Verse:

Psalm 37:40

And the Lord shall help them and deliver them;

...Because they trust in Him.

Psalm 37:40

Bible Story:

Elisha, Widow, Pots, Oil!

From II Kings 4:1-7: Let me tell you a story that will amaze you. Maybe you won't believe me...but it is true! Long ago, before I was born or you were born, God had a prophet and good man named Elisha who watched over the people of Israel. There was trouble in the land. Very few people wanted to serve the Lord God.

One day he met a poor widow who had two young sons. Her husband died before he could pay money to a man he owed a great debt. The man was on his way to pick up the two boys to become his slaves. Can you imagine? That man was going to take her precious sons away from her. This was terrible. She was crying and very upset. Elisha said, "I wonder how I can help. Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

"Nothing," she said. "Well, I do have a little oil."

Elisha said, "Here's what you should do. Go up and down the street and collect all the pots and jugs and bowls you can find from your neighbors. Don't just get a few—all you can get. Then come home and lock the door behind you, you and your sons. Pour oil into each container from your little pot. When each is full, set it aside."

PROPS: Prepare a large pot or vase with water you have already collected from smaller pots you also display. Of course, when you pour the water from the large pot into the smaller ones, the water ends with you last small pot. The students can see for themselves what happened to the pots and the widow.

The widow did just what Elisha said. She locked the door behind her and her sons; as the boys brought the containers to her, she filled them. When all the jugs, pots and bowls were full, she said to one of her sons, "Another jug please."



He said, "That's it. There are no more pots." Then the oil stopped. She went and told Elisha, the man of God. He said, "Go sell the oil and make good on your debts. Live, you and your sons, on what is left."

What We Learn: I Am The Potter, You Are The Clay

From Jeremiah 18:1-6: I get it! I get it! God is like me when I am making a pot. I work away at my wheel. Sometimes the pot turns out badly, after all, it is just clay. I don't get upset! I just start over! I use the same clay and to make another pot.

Then it came to me like God speaking. God works on people who love Him just like I work on a pot. He works on us and repairs us when we break. He remolds us to fit His plan. At any moment He may decide to pull up a people or a country and get rid of them. But, God says...if they repent of their wicked lives, I will think twice and start over with them. I might decide to plant a people or country, but if they don't cooperate and won't listen to Me, I will think again and give up on the plans I had for them.

Close In Prayer Craft

Choose a project from our suggestions or design your own keepsake to remind students of the Potter and The Clay!

Make a large quantity of home made Play Doh and allow students to play with it and make small pots or bowls. Small children enjoy working with the clay even more than making any specific project. Provide zip lock plastic bags so students can take their clay home. There are many recipes available online. Choose your favorite!

Colored Play Doh

1 C. Water	1 T. Vegetable Oil
½ C. Salt	1 T. Cream of Tartar
Food Coloring	1 C. Flour
Saucepan	

Combine water, oil, salt, cream of tartar and food coloring in a saucepan and heat until warm. Remove from heat and add flour. Stir, then knead until smooth. The cream of tartar makes this dough last 6 months or longer, so resist the temptation to omit this ingredient if you don't have it on hand. Store this dough in an air tight container or a Ziploc freezer bag.



Ceramic Pots

Buy small pots from a ceramic store and fire them and glaze the inside before the week begins. Students paint with acrylic paint. Spray with a fixative. Provide small pieces of paper for their names or print names on the bottom of the pots in permanent marker.

Salt Dough Ornaments

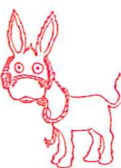
Prepare the ornaments before class. Make the salt dough and have students paint them during class. They hang the ornament with yarn. Use cookie cutters to make the shapes. Press the eraser end of the pencil through the dough to make the hole for hanging.

1 C. Flour ½ C. Salt @ 1/3 C. Water

Mix dry ingredients. Add water a little at a time. Squeeze through hands until smooth. Store in plastic bag until ready to use. Roll with rolling pin to about 1/4" thickness. Bake 225 degrees about 15 minutes on each side. They will be hard and brittle when finished. It is nice to have at least 2 shapes per student. Paint them one solid color and then add detail.

Notes:

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

POTTER BACKGROUND
TEMPERA PAINT ON
CARDBOARD

Miriam's Nursery



Who Should Come?

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BIBLICAL KIND is not designed for students under four years old. They do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers security. Invite youngsters, birth through age three, of teachers and helpers. It is your option to open the nursery to the public.

How Many Helpers?

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.

Should We Plan Activities?

Miriam's Nursery is a babysitting service. Tell a few stories, sing songs, play CD's, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the children.

Should We Feed The Children?

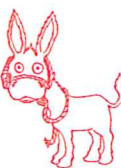
Ask parents. They may want to provide snacks. Be sure the food is safe and healthful. NO POPCORN, HOT DOGS, LOLLIPOPS OR HARD CANDY WHICH CAN BE CAUGHT IN A TINY THROAT.

How Should We Dress?

Wear washable clothing and shoes that are comfortable. The key to being happy is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

What Should We Bring?

Bring Christian CDs and DVD's. Play music at a low, non-threatening volume. Bring a small fan for humid days. Place the fan away from children—preferably on a shelf or high table.



Moses' Preschool

Age 4-Pre-Kindergarten



Include five year old pre-k students
or allow them to become
part of the kindergarten group.

OPTION: If your preschool students are fun loving, active and mature, include them as one of the major groups (tribes) and eliminate the preschool grouping.

It has been a pleasure to discover preschool children adapt to normal activities with very little adjustment.

Essential modification involves simplifying Market Street Shops. Adapt early in the planning phase. Save staffing for other areas while enjoying a fun day with the preschool gang.

Theme

Moses' Preschool students study the same spiritual themes as older students. Use the curriculum as a guide. Provide rest time, play and simple crafting. At no time should you feel pressured to move the students to activities if they are crying or upset. Cancel your appearance in favor of free play time.

Teachers

Staff one helper for every 2-3 preschoolers. Parental help is welcomed. Wear comfortable clothing. 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. Gentle, cheerful 're-direction' usually works quickly.



Home Base

Prepare one room where optional preschool stories, crafts, play and rest take place. Offer this separate space for criers and other young students who need privacy during the day.

Criers

Preschool children are unpredictable. If a few children continually cry, keep them busy separately with play and coloring 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 to take them home and try again next year.

While we want to accommodate as many young students as possible, crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. It could be the child is just too young and will do better at a later time.

Notes:





Planning A Moses' Preschool Day

Two hours + is a long time for preschool students. Plan your day around lots of play time. Bring balls, balloons, bubbles and other toys to play indoors or outdoors.

Purchase small story book from your local Christian bookstore. Use these books as fill in teaching times.

Travel with the students to other areas of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF A BIBLICAL KIND as suggested on the daily schedule.

Village Marketplace Opening

Preschool students participate in the opening if they can sit still, sing and respond. This is an opportunity to organize name tags and gather the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to Home Base to color. This avoids chaos and distraction for the older students

The Music Makers

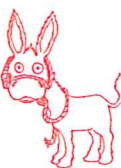
Take preschoolers to the Music Makers and stay with them.

The Discovery Shop

Enjoy a variety of activities in this area that should appeal to the young student. Take them and stay with them each day. Some days will be games and some will be Holy Land theme activities.

The Story Teller

This is a continuing story. If you think your young students would like to hear the story and can sit quietly, take them. However, it is NOT written at their age level. The suggested story is a Conley Twin adventure with large pictures. An option may be to purchase 5 short stories to tell your group or short videos to watch. You decide!



The Village Inn

Take students to snack time. Sit with them. Use this time as a bathroom and hand washing break.

Market Street Shops

Rather than trying to duplicate shop decorations, take students to one shop each day. Tell the teacher you will use the room for 15 minutes when their class is not in session. Use the props in each area to tell stories. If preschoolers are included as one of the five major groups (tribes) they will already be included in the normal daily/weekly schedule.

Bethany Home

This is a very special place all young students should visit. Martha, Mary and Lazarus guide them through the week of their story and also give guided tours of daily living in an ancient home. The children will never forget it!

Rest Time

Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken the room, play Christian music or DVD and encourage quiet activity.

Crafts

The perfect craft is one which can be completed by the young student. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Large beads to string on yarn is a favorite activity. Purchase craft projects for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience.

