

CABIN FEVER



A Deep Woods Encounter
5 Day Vacation Bible School

Close Encounters Ministries



CABIN FEVER

A Deep Woods Encounter

GOALS.....	1-2
FOREST RANGER.....	3-4
CABIN FEVER DECORATION.....	5-10
CHOOSING STAFF FOR CABIN FEVER.....	11-13
GROUPING JESUS SCOUTS.....	14
REGISTRATION TEAM.....	15-16
PUBLICITY.....	17-18
PHOTOGRAPHY.....	19
DRESSING FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS.....	20
THE OPENING–Raccoon Lodge.....	21-22
Raccoon Lodge Skits.....	23-37
OPEN HOUSE.....	38
STORY TELLER–The Nut House.....	39
MUSIC–Hootie Owl Music Nest.....	40-41
GAMES–Squirrely Games and Guests.....	42-45
SNACKS–Haluwasa Cookhouse...Woodland Morsels.....	46-51
SKITS–Wanderland Bible Theater.....	52-78
BIBLE WORKSHOP TIPS.....	79-80
CRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	81-82
BIBLE WORKSHOP #1: The Moose Trap–Off The Beaten Path.....	83-86
BIBLE WORKSHOP #2: Bearly Home–Come In From The Cold.....	87-92
BIBLE WORKSHOP #3: Once In A Blue Loon Cottage–Joy In The Journey.....	93-96
BIBLE WORKSHOP #4: Tree Huggin’ Lumberjack Camp–A Cut Above.....	97-101
BIBLE WORKSHOP #5: Rainy Lake Fishing Cabin–Catch The Spirit.....	102-106
NURSERY–Lucky Ducks.....	107
PRESCHOOL–The Crickets.....	108-111

Cabin Fever!

A Deep Woods Encounter

“It’s Pawsome!”



Whether your preference is snuggling inside a cozy cabin or investigating a bear den, **CABIN FEVER** offers a wealth of opportunities for blending fun and faith in just the right quantities. Refresh, revive and rejuvenate just a short trip from the hectic pace of real life.

CABIN FEVER is a delightful Vacation Bible School nestled in the “pretend” North Woods where woodpeckers, hummingbirds, squirrels and other wildlife co-exist with human residents. Cabins, cottages, bear dens and beaver meadows offer a warm welcome. Jesus Scouts become adventurous followers of Jesus.

CABIN FEVER is a five day Vacation Bible School celebrating the beauty and majesty of the American North Woods. Students learn what it takes to walk with Jesus as their Savior.

CABIN FEVER Jesus Scouts spend forty five minutes in each of five Bible Workshops on separate days. Costumed **Nature Guides** treat them to unique North Woods experiences. Students are confronted by messages about Jesus using the exciting backdrop of woods, animals and simple crafts.

CABIN FEVER features daily fifteen minute activities where students explore delightful outdoor spaces. Gather at **Raccoon Lodge Opening**. Chow down at **Haluwasa (Hallelujah What A Savior) Cookhouse** and visit **Squirrely Games and Guests**. Hear the Conley Twin adventure at **The Nut House**. Sing praise and worship at **Hootie Owl Music Nest**. Enjoy skits at **Wanderland Bible Theater**.

CABIN FEVER presents preschool curriculum ideas for **The Crickets**. Students (Ages 4-5) participate in the same activities as older students with a special team of teachers. Suggestions are included for a Staff Nursery, **Lucky Ducks**.

Heading For The Woods

“I lift up my eyes to the hills....” Psalm 51:7b

*THESE SUGGESTIONS ARE A GUIDELINE.
Build an exciting Vacation Bible School using
CABIN FEVER Bible stories and activities.*



CABIN FEVER IS AN ACTIVITY BASED VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FOR PRESCHOOL THROUGH GRADE SIX STUDENTS. Involve grades 7-12 youth and college students as helpers, team leaders and teachers.

Students become Jesus Scouts exploring an imaginary north woods region. Individual groups display color coded name tags. Students stay in the same group all week.

NATURE GUIDE LEADERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO DECORATE AND PREPARE STATION ACTIVITIES. The workshop is repeated daily to a new group. Adjust teaching activities as needed. A new Jesus Scout group arrives each day. Accompany your assigned group wherever they go.

FIFTEEN MINUTE ACTIVITY TEACHERS SEE ALL STUDENTS EACH DAY. Groups travel for music, snack or special activity. Daily teachers prepare five separate activities before the week begins.

PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED. Give bills to the Director or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts for churches, catalogs and backyard scrap materials. Craft projects from S&S Arts and Crafts catalog may be purchased at reasonable prices.

Check out their web site: www.ssw.com for great projects at great prices!

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Make as many copies as needed for local church use. Give interested folks our order form, mailing address and toll free number 1-888-CEM-LIFE (1-888-236-5433). Your cooperation allows CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES to continue production of exciting, inspiring, positive Christian programs at a low cost to churches across the nation.

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Forest Ranger!

“As a Christian, my job is to take care of the possible and trust God with the impossible.”



*Become the Director of an event that your community will remember for years. Take **Jesus Scouts** to five Deep Woods Bible Workshops. Visit a variety of nature based activities to discover the importance of following Jesus.*

*Divided into reasonable tasks, this five day school is easily completed by a dedicated team of **Nature Guides** under the direction of the **Forest Ranger** (that's you!). Your church will sparkle with the excitement of a unique, fanciful woodland complete with mini cabins, dens, camps and cottages..a green cathedral!*

CHARACTER AND COSTUME. Have fun dressing as a **FOREST RANGER**. Wear hiking boots and socks, dark shorts or denim jeans, white shirt with tie and a ranger hat (if available). Place a few shiny medals on one pocket of the shirt or wear a badge. Wear bright colored suspenders over the shirt. A backpack would also be appropriate. Carry a 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 Forest Ranger'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 **CABIN FEVER** and note areas requiring your personal attention. Meet with the staff six weeks before Vacation Bible School begins.

ADAPT! Complete program adaptations to accommodate your local church during preliminary planning to avoid staff.

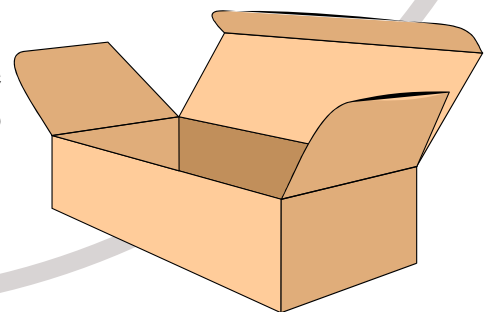
SET UP. Provide adequate set up time. Decorate during the week prior to Vacation Bible School making sure that everything is in place for Day #1.

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

CRICKET PRESCHOOL. Give preschool leaders copies of decorating ideas, teacher information and lesson plans designed for older students. Speak to activity teachers to be sure projects are appropriate for preschool. Eliminate complicated or frightening activities. Choose age appropriate craft projects from the *S&S arts and crafts* catalog or create your own projects using local craft supplies.

PURCHASE OR MAKE STAFF THANK YOU GIFTS. This *God given* team is vital to children’s ministry in your church. 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. **CABIN FEVER** is not complete until the church is in order. Encourage staff to remove their props immediately. Stay to help!



Cabin Fever Decoration

*“The best things you can give children,
next to good habits, are good memories.” –Sydney J. Harris*



Create a simple, colorful nature decor. Students and guests should enter a woodsy environment filled with plants, animals, water and outdoor objects.

Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Follow curriculum suggestions and invent your own classic outdoor style.

*Activity leaders decorate their room. Special decorating attention is given to **RACCOON LODGE** Opening area.*

Before purchasing or renting props, ask friends, family, church and community member if you can borrow items from them. Explain the program and ask if those people have additional suggestions. Many attics, basements, old barns and sheds (not to mention backyards and wooded areas) are filled with items that make perfect accessories in every area of the Vacation Bible School.

Display signs outside each activity area. The signs should state which activity is taking place in that area. Print memory verses on brown paper with burned edges for a rustic look. Scatter slogans or fun sayings across every wall in the church. Some signs may be attached to sticks and placed in the lawn outside the church. Consider some of the following messages:

Treasure Summer in the Deep Woods!
Do you have CABIN FEVER?
Just Outside the World...Where Love says it all.
Come To the Woods...The Journey Starts Here
Fishin' For Jesus

Butterfly Crossing
Squirrel Crossing
Moose Crossing
Hummingbird Crossing
Honeybee Crossing

Moose and Bear Everywhere
Up A Lazy River
Summertime and The Livin' Is Easy
Let's Open A Can of Worms!
Beware of the Skunks!

Enjoy God's Great Outdoors
Trees Have Feelings Too....Don't They?
Hug A Tree...Hug A Friend
Jesus Is The Rock of Ages
No Playing Possum Allowed

Feed The Birds...Jesus Thinks They're Great!
A Little Slice of Heaven in the Deep Woods

Make a variety of life sized cardboard figures. Animals, trees, bushes, waterfalls and woody items are appropriate. Lean cardboard figures against walls. Use patterns included or draw your own. Make transparencies with the church copier and place them on an overhead projector. Project the image onto large pieces of cardboard. Trace, then color with tempera paint and/or markers. Cut out the figures with a utility knife. Find patterns in children's coloring books.

Find an assortment of simple items to create a nature atmosphere. Here are a few suggestions but keep your eyes open for other things available in your community.

Wooden Benches
Rocks

Lanterns
Stacked Wood

Old Tables
Bales of Hay

Baskets
Loose Hay

Corn Stalks **Wild Flowers** **Small Trees** **Garlands/Greenery**
Grape Vines **Old Barrels** **Potted Plants/Flowers**

Add items purchased at local party stores or from catalogs. Anything that fits the theme can be used. Think about stringing green, yellow and orange balloons together to form a long garland. *S&S arts and crafts* catalog and *Oriental Trading Catalog* offer fun theme decorations at reasonable prices. [Www.ssw.com](http://www.ssw.com) and www.orientaltrading.com

Christian messages . Fill areas with scripture verses and symbols. Surround the messages with leaves, twigs and rocks to fit the theme.

Scenes. Freestanding backdrops can be made by cutting an appliance box, painting large objects and zigzagging the box so that it stands alone. Place real items in front of the backdrop for a touch of reality.

Play CD's or audio tapes. Quiet Christian music is nice. Look for outdoor sounds like bird's singing, thunderstorms, water, etc. for that outdoor feel.

Optional Decorations: Think about woodsy details you enjoy seeing in the woods. Use what is available.

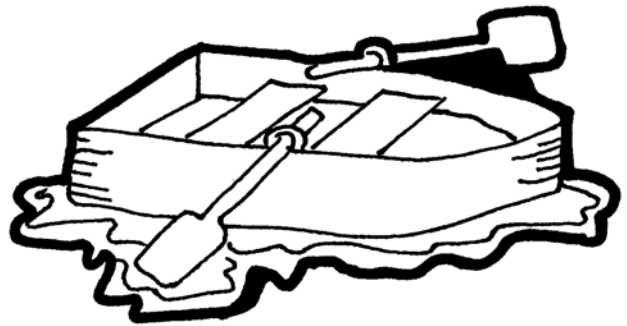
1. **Waterfall.** Make a waterfall by using a small water pump. Cover containers with rocks, silk flowers and greenery to make it look like an outdoor pond. A running stream of water provides background sound.

2. **Pond.** Fill a child's pool with rocks, small plants, turtles and goldfish.

3. **Fake Critters.** Scatter stuffed mice, frogs, bees, bugs, in appropriate areas. Borrow mounted animals from hunters or taxidermists. Protect them in secure areas.

FUN WITH WOODLAND FIGURES

Coloring books, children's books and other resources provide fun background figures. Enlarge each figure using a transparency made on your copier, placed on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.



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4. **Live animals.** Assign a caretaker for each animal. Critters must be chaperoned. Consider: bunnies, mice, snakes, birds, raccoons, ferrets, worms, bugs, beavers, woodchucks, possums, fawn, turtles. Ask for help from a pet shop.

5. **Wall of Woods.** Build a *wooded* area using long carpet tubes (free from the carpet store) as tree trunks, green, orange, brown construction paper leaves, silk greens, wild flowers, weeds, small trees, rocks, twine. Back light the wall using small lights on the floor shining upward.

6. **Pine Boughs.** Cut great amounts of live pine boughs and heap them in corners, along hallways or in other appropriate areas. The fragrance of the woods will fill the church and will look beautiful too!

7. **Artificial Christmas trees.** Instead of decorating the trees, leave them bare and group as many as possible on stage, in corners and hallways for instant woods!

**Decorating ideas for individual Bible Workshops
are described with the lesson plans.**

PLEASE PURCHASE

S&S arts and crafts catalog offers decorative items at excellent prices. For a free copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. Here are a few suggestions from their Master Catalog. Order directly from their web site: www.ssw.com Prices may change

TISSUE FLOWER JUMBO GROUP PACK. Decorate in colorful style. Giant flowers are terrific fun. Plant your own Deep Woods meadow. Includes assorted colors of precut tissue paper, stem wire and instructions. 8 ½" diameter. RMA-GP56 \$44.99 per pack of 84.

JOINTED AUTUMN TREE. Printed both sides. Wow! 4 feet tall! Make your own Deep Woods, orchard or pathway. This one is truly beautiful. RMA-PY866. \$4.99 each.

JOINTED CORN STALK. Printed both sides. Wow! 5 feet tall! RMA-PY854 \$4.99 each.

AUTUMN LEAF CUT OUTS. Printed 2 sides. Size 6". Eighteen per package. RMC-PY1351 \$2.99 per pack.

GIANT TULIPS. Imagine these 64" tall tulips decorating your VBS. Set of 2 tulips, 1 red and 1 yellow, with adjustable stems will become the centerpiece of any display. RMC-PY765 \$17.99 per set of 2.

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

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

BUZZING BEES. Art tissue bees. Yellow honeycomb tissue bee comes with a 36" hanging string. Size: 14" x 18". RMC-PY777 \$11.99 per set of 2.

Oriental Trading Company catalog offers a wide variety of appropriate games and gift items. If you do not have their delightful free catalog, call toll free 1-800-228-2269. Order directly through the company. Check out their web site: www.orientaltrading.com Prices May Change

FISH SHAPED WIND SOCK. 57" Nylon, Multicolored with purple, green, red, yellow, blue stripes. VW-5/562 \$9.95 each.

LEAP FROG POTATO SACK. 24" x 36". Play all of your favorite picnic game with this burlap sack printed with bright green frogs. VW-16/465 \$4.95 each.

FROG JUMPERS WITH WIGGLE EYES. 1 1/4" Plastic, assorted styles and colors (4 dozen per unit) VW-36/1561 \$4.95 Unit.

2" Rubber DUCKY SQUIRTS. VW-39/311 \$4.95 Dozen

6" Vinyl JUMBO FISH SQUIRTS. Very real looking! Assorted colors. VW-39/282 \$9.95 Dozen

3/4"-1 1/4" INSECT STICKERS. Assorted styles. (12 stickers per poly bag with header, 12 bags per unit). VW-9/644 \$1.95 Unit

4 1/2" Satin/velour BEAN BAG FROGS. VW-6/960 \$7.95 Dozen

6" Plastic FROG PENS. VW-9/785 \$5.95 Dozen

14" Inflate FROG BEACH BALLS. Assorted colors. VW-49/175 \$9.95 Dozen

1 1/4" Plastic INSECT RINGS. Each on an adjustable plastic band. Assorted styles. (6 dozen per unit) VW-24/1260 \$3.95 Unit

FROG CATCH GAME. Each set includes 2 8" round adjustable catch paddles and a 3 1/2" bean bag frog. (3 pieces per set, poly bag with header). VW-20/133 \$6.00 Set

12" x 10" LEAP FROG GAME. Scatter the plastic 7 1/2" numbered lily pads in front of the frog, step back and throw the 2" bean bag frogs onto the big frog, let it bounce off and add up the total points. The one with the most points wins. (15 pcs. Per set) VW-12/1656 \$12.95 Set

PLUS! MUCH MORE! LOOK FOR YOURSELF!
Choosing Staff For Cabin Fever

*“Train your child in the way you know you should have gone yourself.”
–C.H. Spurgeon*

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

RECRUIT

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

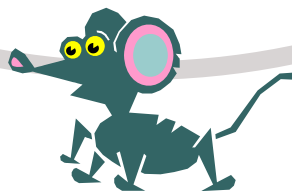
ADVERTISE

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 Deep Woods outfits. Give this introductory effort the personal touch. Leaders do not have to be expert Nature Guides, just willing to learn a few things about the woods.

See Bulletin Insert sample.

PICK AND CHOOSE

For remaining positions, 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 as staff members.



Cabin Fever 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 throughout the church.

Be available to answer questions, assign classrooms, give inspiration.

Be the person in charge—The Forest Ranger!

After the meeting, the Forest Ranger’s attention turns to other areas.

Trust the Nature Guides to carry out their responsibilities.



The telephone is the staff lifeline.

Call the Nature Guide of each area to verify progress. Ask questions and check on how things are going.

CABIN FEVER ...A DEEP WOODS ENCOUNTER

Become a **Nature Guide!** Grab your backpack and join the troops of adventurers. Come into the woods and prepare young **Jesus Scouts** to follow Jesus!



CABIN FEVER ASSIGNMENTS

.....REGISTRATION	Help students sign in	LEAD/HELP
.....ART CREW	Make/Set up decorations	LEAD/HELP
.....HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	Songs of the Wilderness	LEAD/HELP
.....PHOTOGRAPHER		VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS
.....HALUWASA COOKHOUSE	Woodland Morsels	LEAD/HELP
.....SQUIRRELY GAMES AND GUESTS	Recreation	LEAD/HELP
.....THE NUT HOUSE		STORY TELLER
.....WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	As The Worm Squirms	LEAD/HELP
.....THE CRICKETS	Preschool Fun (ages 4-5)	LEAD/HELP
.....LUCKY DUCKS	Staff Nursery Fun (ages Birth-3)	LEAD/HELP

CABIN FEVER BIBLE STAFF

.....THE MOOSE TRAP	Off The Beaten Path...Life Before Jesus	LEAD/HELP
.....BEARLY HOME	A Fork In The Road...Meet Jesus	LEAD/HELP
.....ONCE IN A BLUE LOON	Joy In The Journey...Learn About Jesus	LEAD/HELP
.....LUMBERJACK CAMP	A Cut Above...Grow In Jesus	LEAD/HELP
.....RAINY LAKE FISHING CABIN	Catch The Spirit...Talk To Jesus	LEAD/HELP

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
|I HAVE NATURE/RUSTIC CABIN PROPS! | I WILL LEND THEM! |
|I WILL DONATE SNACKS! | TELL ME WHAT YOU NEED! |
|I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION! | IT WILL BE WORTH IT! |
|I WILL PRAY FOR THE CABIN FEVER TEAM! | I CAN DO IT! |

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

CABIN FEVER DATES TIME

NEED MORE DETAILS? ASK OUR VERY OWN FOREST RANGER!

Hit the trail for the Deep Woods!
Vacation Bible School—There's nothing like it!

CABIN FEVER...A Deep Woods Encounter

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
CRICKETS PRESCHOOL ages 4-5	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	SQUIRRELY GAMES	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	STORY TELLER	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	HOME BASE ACTIVITIES	CLOSING
YELLOW MUD PUPPIES Kindergarten	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	W O R	K S H	O P	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	SQUIRRELY GAMES	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	STORY TELLER	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	CLOSING
RED TURTLE TROOP Grade 1	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	W O R	K S H O P	O P	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	SQUIRRELY GAMES	STORY TELLER	CLOSING
BLUE MOUNTAIN SPROUTS Grade 2	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	STORY TELLER	W O R	K S H O P	O P	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	SQUIRRELY GAMES	CLOSING
ORANGE ONE EYED MINNOWS Grade 3-4	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	STORY TELLER	W O	R K S	H O P	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	SQUIRRELY GAMES	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	CLOSING
PURPLE THE EAGLES Grade 5-6	RACCOON LODGE OPENING	SQUIRRELY GAMES	STORY TELLER	HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACKS	WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER	HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST	W O R	K S H O P	O P	CLOSING

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

BIBLE WORKSHOPS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MOOSE TRAP	MUD PUPPIES	TURTLE TROOP	ONE EYED MINNOWS	THE EAGLES	MOUNTAIN SPROUTS
BEARLY HOME	TURTLE TROOP	MUD PUPPIES	THE EAGLES	MOUNTAIN SPROUTS	ONE EYED MINNOWS
BLUE LOON COTTAGE	MOUNTAIN SPROUTS	THE EAGLES	MUD PUPPIES	ONE EYED MINNOWS	TURTLE TROOP
LUMBERJACK CAMP	ONE EYED MINNOWS	MOUNTAIN SPROUTS	TURTLE TROOP	MUD PUPPIES	THE EAGLES
FISHING CABIN	THE EAGLES	ONE EYED MINNOWS	MOUNTAIN SPROUTS	TURTLE TROOP	MUD PUPPIES

CABIN FEVER



Registration Team

“Children spell love ‘T-I-M-E’”.

–Dr. Anthony P. Witham



*The Registration Team makes name tags and runs the registration table the first day of **CABIN FEVER**. The job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, the first day could be delayed by thirty minutes.*

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

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

NAME TAGS give each group a name and color identity. Make tags in group colors. To preserve name tags, cover with clear contact paper or purchase clear plastic sleeves or badge necklaces. **Make wood tags by cutting 1-2" slices from small trees, drilling one hole through the top and adding vinyl string in group colors.**

Collect tags at day's end and place them on one chair in **Raccoon Lodge Opening** where students can pick them up the next day.

HATS AND SCARVES are always a hit with elementary students. With the theme lending itself to a scout troop theme, consider purchasing baseball caps and scarves for the entire group. Painters caps are available through *S&S arts and crafts* catalog. Print **“I’ve got CABIN FEVER!”** on each cap. The colors of the scarves may match team colors. Scarves may be homemade if desired!

Grouping Jesus Scouts

CABIN FEVER *is broadly graded.*

Provide a preschool program and five Bible Station groups of approximately equal size.

Students become part of a Deep Woods Scout Troop called The Jesus Scouts. They wear group scarves or hats at the discretion of the leaders.

LUCKY DUCKS NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3): Two choices are apparent when planning a nursery: *Will we open this for the community? Will we provide a babysitting service for our teaching staff?* The choice depends upon whether you want to become a beehive of activity or a small group.

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

COLOR CODE STUDENT GROUPS FOR EASY VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

LUCKY DUCKS NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3) NO COLOR

CRICKETS PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5 PRE K) YELLOW

1. MUD PUPPIES /KINDERGARTEN–GREEN

2. TURTLE TROOP/ GRADE ONE–RED

3. MOUNTAIN SPROUTS/GRADE TWO–BLUE

4. ONE EYED MINNOWS/GRADES 3-4–ORANGE

5. THE EAGLES /GRADES 5-6–PURPLE

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

GROUPING IN SMALL CHURCHES

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

CABIN FEVER REGISTRATION FORM

NAME..... AGE/GRADE.....

ADDRESS.....

TELEPHONE.....

PARENT NAMES.....

EMERGENCY CONTACT.....

TELEPHONE.....

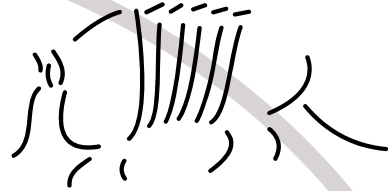
HOME CHURCH.....

ALLERGIES (FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT)
INFORMATION THAT MAY BE HELPFUL FOR LEADERS:



PUBLICITY

*Promotion is vital to Vacation Bible School.
People must know WHAT is going on and
WHEN it will be occurring.*



CHURCH BULLETIN. Advertise for team members.

Include reminders in the weekly bulletin until **CABIN FEVER** begins. Include registration forms.

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

Do you have CABIN FEVER? Enjoy a Deep Woods Encounter with Jesus. Vacation Bible School Kids become Jesus Scouts and journey through the north woods where cottages, cabins, lodges, meadows and trails await. Teachers are experienced Nature Guides! Don't miss one minute of the adventure.

Do you have CABIN FEVER? Come to Vacation Bible School and figure out how to bring your temperature down. A Jesus Scout Troop is waiting for you to join. Don't miss one day of this exciting deep woods adventure.

CABIN FEVER...A DEEP WOODS ENCOUNTER. Plan a trip to Vacation Bible School where cool breezes blow through our North Woods theme. Become a follower of Jesus. Get a free Jesus Scout hat and scarf!

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS. Greet people coming into church for worship. This is a great reminder that **CABIN FEVER...A DEEP WOODS ENCOUNTER** is coming. Dress in costume. Hand out Registration Forms.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. Take black and white photographs of costumed people. Send a news release several weeks before **CABIN FEVER** to insure publication. Invite a reporter and photographer to visit the school. It makes a great feature story!

VISIT THE PULPIT. Visit the pastor during announcement time. Give this real flair so the congregation becomes excited about Vacation Bible School. Announce dates, times and ages of students.

LOCAL TELEVISION. Ask a local television station to tape a feature story. This is great publicity. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask!

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

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

CHURCH SIGN. Place a large sign at the church announcing dates and times. Use the Deep Woods theme to draw attention to the sign by flying banners and lighting the sign at night.

CABIN FEVER!

**...A Deep Woods Encounter
Vacation Bible School**

Dates Time

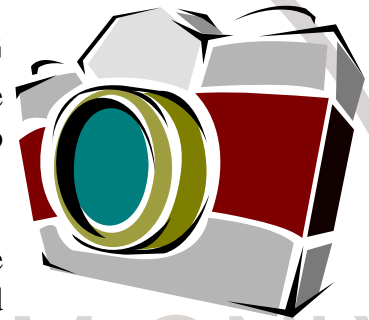
**Come with us on a natural
adventure!**



PHOTOGRAPHY

Pictures are a unique way to remember the work and the rewards of a bright, visual week of CABIN FEVER! Ask the church photographer to wear a colorful backpacking outfit.

ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS. Amateur photographers usually stand at one side and should not disrupt events. This is a good way to involve guests who visit each decorated area.



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

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

SLIDES. Coordinate slides with taped music. Assign the job to someone who is knowledgeable in this type of film making. Be sure all slides are ready for viewing.

VIDEO TAPE. Delegate the task of videotaping the events of the week. Some things can be staged for filming but it is more fun to record as events are taking place.

SELLING PICTURES. Be prepared to quote a video price. Do you want to cover the cost or help defray Vacation Bible School costs? Prepare a sign up sheet including the cost. Display 35MM prints.

DISPLAYING PICTURES. Consider making a large photographic display for viewing during OPEN HOUSE. Prints may be posted on a wall or bulletin board and video may be shown in the **HALUWASA COOKHOUSE** snack area.

Dressing For The Great Outdoors

Part of the fun is bringing the Deep Woods theme to life with props and costumes. This is not difficult or expensive. Teachers, helpers and activity leaders should dress in costume. Follow a few tips and let your Nature Guide imagination run wild.

The same outfits can be worn by male and female Nature Guides. Think rugged outdoors man/woman! Since the summer season is traditionally an outdoor season, wear clothing that reflects a hike in the woods on a warm summer day.

SHIRTS: Wear t-shirts that have an American outdoor design. Screen printed fishing shirts or nature designs look terrific. Natural colors work well. Consider wearing a sleeveless vest over the shirt.

PANTS: Wear shorts or slacks/jeans that could be worn into the woods. Hiking shorts are perfect and often have large pockets on the sides appropriate for carrying woodland items.

HAT: Wear an outdoor hat. This could be a slouchy fishing hat with a brim and a few flies attached or a large brimmed straw hat with silk flowers, baseball caps and visors.

SHOES: The perfect shoes are the sturdy hiking boots worn with heavy socks. If not available, wear substantial tennis shoes with socks. Avoid sandals since they would not be good walking shoes in the woods.

ACCESSORIES: Think about items you may have in your home. Wear a backpack filled with camping gear. Attach a flashlight, canteen, compass and other items to a belt. Seek out a boy scout and borrow equipment for the week. Carry long walking sticks!

JESUS SCOUTS: Students become *Jesus Scouts*. Elementary children enjoy uniform options that cub scouts, brownies, girl scouts and boy scouts wear.

Jesus Scouts can be issued identical T-shirts (in group colors), cap and colorful scarf. Purchase inexpensive shirts at a discount store. Painter's caps are available in *S&S arts and crafts* catalog. Purchase or hand make scarves in group colors.

Pins may be awarded like badges for attendance, bringing friends, etc. Students may come dressed in typical summer clothing—shorts, shirts, tennis shoes.

RACCOON LODGE

...The Opening

RACCOON LODGE is a daily fifteen minute Opening designed to introduce events, pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. The continuing skit helps establish Deep Woods characters and prepares the group for daily events.



FOREST RANGER: The Vacation Bible School Director becomes Leader of the pack who oversees all events. Lead the Opening and maintain a cheerful attitude throughout the week.

DECORATE: Concentrate decorating efforts in the sanctuary. See the section, **Decorating For Cabin Fever** for ideas. Reproduce the following ideas or use your imagination and props at hand to create the Deep Woods Lodge ambiance.

Backdrop: A backdrop is optional. To make one, use cardboard or rolled paper. Draw the front porch of a log cabin with the front door in the middle and windows on either side. This provides the spot to place typical porch furniture and accessories.

Furniture: Position a porch swing, old rocking chairs, benches, foot stools, picnic table or other major pieces on the stage.

Accessories: Think about items that all cabins and cottages contain. If you have some of these things in your attic, basement or garage, pull them out. Old lanterns, large flower pots, watering cans, bucket, gardening tools, wheelbarrow, firewood, gazing ball, garden statuary. Add whatever is available and discover that your **RACCOON LODGE** is a place of wonder and enjoyment.

Sign: Hand print a rustic sign that announces **RACCOON LODGE**. Place it in a prominent place on stage.

Microphone Stand: Decorate the microphone stand with vining green garlands. Wrap the silk vine around the stand and attach firmly with tape.

BACKGROUND MUSIC: check the local music store to find CD's of country music, fiddle music or other relaxing tunes. Find recordings of insect sounds, storms or birds. Play music quietly to establish the theme as people arrive.

OFFERING: Collect money in a unique container. Consider metal or wooden buckets, watering cans or wicker baskets. Ask two students or teen leaders to hold the containers as students enter **RACCOON LODGE** Opening. Students contribute their offering before they find their seat.

Before the week begins, decide where to donate the offering. If a special cause is designated, let families know. There may be ministries the church could support. If a contest between boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to students.

CHAIRS OR NO CHAIRS: If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, allow students to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area with separate signs in group colors. Students enjoy the different look and position. Colorful blankets could be spread to mark the group areas.

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

PLEASE PURCHASE

Raccoon Lodge Skits

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



Daily skits feature **HALLELUJAH HAL**, an inexperienced city person vacationing in the Deep Woods. Eternal optimist “Hal” is short on nature experience but long on faith.

WOODY is an experienced woodsman who has no patience for this bumbling visitor who keeps showing up at Raccoon Lodge. These characters can be played by guys or gals.

COSTUMES

HALLELUJAH HAL: Hal wears an overabundance of hiking accessories. If possible, wear a huge hiker’s backboard complete with sleeping bag, canteen, flashlight, etc. This is in addition to hiking outfit. Shirt, shorts, hiking boots and socks, sunglasses, hat, Bible and camera around the neck. Carry a large, open road map.

WOODY: Woody wears simple summer hiking clothing. Shorts or jeans, plaid shirt, hat, hiking boots and socks. A small backpack may be added as an accessory.

**One or both characters may carry long walking sticks.
These sticks can be made from dowel rods
or thin trees cut for this purpose.**

MONDAY MORNING AT RACCOON LODGE



HAL: (*Coming down the aisle from the back of the room.*) Hellooo! Hellooo! Anybody here? Is ANYBODY here? IS anybody here? Is anybody HERE? Oh, I hope somebody's here. I am so lost.

I can't find my way out of a paper bag. The map says I'm supposed to be on top of Spaghetti Mountain by now. Maybe I am.. Oh Lord, if You ever helped me before, help me now. The only one who knows where I am is You. So, if You're of a mind, please let me in on the secret.

Oh look, a sign! RACCOON LODGE. I'm saved! At last! I'll just rest here for awhile. (*Sit on a rocking chair or bench in an exhausted position.*)

WOODY: (*Coming down the aisle from the back of the room carrying a bucket.*) Whew! It's gonna be a hot one. I'm glad the biggest trees are shading Raccoon Lodge from the worst of the heat. I need a little extra water for the deer. I'm sure glad the tourist season is over. Those silly, city people never get the hang of livin' in the Deep Woods. Personally, I don't have the time of day for 'em. (*Spotting Hal...*) Hey! Who are you? Get off my porch.

HAL: (*Jumping up...*) Who me? Who am I? Wait a minute, I'll think of it. I'm...I'm....well, I can't remember. You're making me nervous. I'm LOST. That's what I am. I need help. And I'm.....hey, never mind who I am. Who are YOU? I don't have any money so don't think you can rob me. And I don't have much food.

WOODY: Oh stop it. I know the likes of you. Let me tell you who you are. You are a city kid who thinks hiking in the woods is easy and you came up here to test yourself against nature. You never really trained for this but...how hard can it be? And now you're lost.

HAL: I will have you know that I am a very experienced hiker. In fact I am well

known in my circle of friends as THE HALLELUJAH HIKER. You can call me “Hal” for short. I have never been lost. However, I was once bewildered for three days. By the way, who are you?

WOODY: Woody’s my name and camping’s my game. I’m the only Deep Woods guide in these parts. You landed at Raccoon Lodge . It’s lucky you did.

HAL: Luck had nothing to do with it. I prayed and the Lord showed me the way to your door. (*Shouting....*) Hallelujah!

WOODY: Tone it down a bit, will ya, kid? You’re gonna scare the squirrels. I hate to tell you this but it’s **me** and not “the Lord” who’s gonna get you turned around. I never took much stock in religious stuff. Did you ever think that if you were so special to God you wouldn’t have gotten lost in the first place?

HAL: Never gave it one moment’s thought, Woody. God ALWAYS knows where I am. As far as He’s concerned I’m never lost. On my end, it’s a little different and my vacations in the Deep Woods sometimes end up with me in a bit of a jam ...or two...or three....

WOODY: ...or four. I’m gonna tell you how to get your tail out of here and then I expect you to skee-daddle! You are interrupting my communing with nature. The last Raccoon Lodge guests have departed for parts unknown and I like being alone. Now, where are you headed.

HAL: (*Cheerfully...*) Glad you asked. My map says I should be at Spaghetti Mountain by now. I always wanted to see Spaghetti Mountain. After all, I’ve sung that song since I was a kid.

WOODY: Song? What song?

HAL: You know, (*singing...*) “On top of Spaghetti, all covered with cheese. I lost my poor meatball, when somebody sneezed. It rolled off the table and onto the floor. The last time I saw it, it rolled out the door.”

WOODY: Stop! I got it. Boy, you *are* a character! Spaghetti Mountain is due north from Raccoon Lodge. If you take that trail, you should be finding your meatball in about an hour.

HAL: Hallelujah! I'm on my way. (*Enthusiastically shaking Woody's hand...*) And I am eternally grateful to you, Woody. You have been God's servant today.

WOODY: Don't wanna be God's servant. Just want to be left alone. So, Hallelujah Hal, this is where we part company. Enjoy Spaghetti Mountain. She's a beaut'!

HAL: I shall, Woody, I shall. Thanks so much for your help. Maybe you'll reconsider being God's servant. I'll leave that up to Him. He'll let you know the direction He wants you to go. Farewell! Hallelujah! (*Walk cheerfully to the back of the room and disappear.*)

WOODY: Hallelujah, my foot. Well, good riddens to 'im.. I thought by moving out here to the Deep Woods I could avoid people like that one. God's servant? Yeah, like He'd use me. Special to God? Never in a million years. Never lost? I'm lost every day of my life. If I never see that Hallelujah Hiker again, it will be too soon. I've got real work to do. Those deer still need a little extra water. (*Pick up bucket and leave the area.*)

PLEASE PURCHASE

TUESDAY AT RACCOON LODGE



WOODY: (*Standing alone in the middle of Raccoon Lodge and stretching...*) Oh what a beautiful morning! And the best thing about it is...I AM ALONE! Completely, utterly, amazingly....ALONE! There is not another human being for miles. The only sound I hear is the exquisite sound of mourning doves and the chattering of chipmunks. Listen to it...silence....mmm....silence.

HAL: (*Out of sight. Calling from a distance....*)

Woody, Woody! Where are you Woody? Woo-ddy! Hey, pal. I'm lost again. Come and help your old buddy. Woody!

WOODY: (*Groaning....*) Oh no. That has to be the Hallelujah Hiker. What a putz! I ought to just leave him where he is. Let the bears have him. Oh, I can't do that. I have to find him. I took the Deep Woods Guide oath: (*Stand at attention and salute while saying....*) "I will never, ever leave a hiker in the woods no matter how dumb and no matter how he/she., insert name here, has disobeyed safety regulations." Insert name here, yeah, I'd like to insert his name but I don't know it. All I know is he is The Hallelujah Hiker.

(*Call out while walking to the back of the room.*) Hal! Hallelujah Hiker! Follow the sound of my voice! It's Woody at Raccoon Lodge! Come on! You can do it.

HAL: (*Entering the room and hugging Woody.*) Woody! Pal! Buddy! Friend for Life! I owe you one. I was a goner. And here you are in the nick of time to save my life. My very life, mind you. I thought I'd be singing in the heavenly choir today. And here you are, my guardian angel. God sure used you today. I told Him to give you another chance. I said you'd be willing to be my friend.

WOODY: (*Leading Hal back to the stage....*) Stop it! I can't take another word...not another syllable...not another sound! Listen! Do you hear it? No, you don't hear it because it was silence. And you wrecked it. All your chattering has given me a headache.

HAL: Would you like me to pray for a healing? I know God would take that headache right out of you. He's done it for me. He's great, friend. He'll help whatever the situation. Just like today. He led you to me and me to you and well, here we are back at Raccoon Lodge.

WOODY: No! Whatever you do, don't pray. Don't speak. Don't even look at me.

HAL: Don't look at you? Why? Forget to wash your face today? I don't care. What's a little dirt between friends?

WOODY: (*Gritting teeth and trying to be patient.*) Hal, you are not necessarily my friend right now. Get it? You have, once again, gotten yourself lost in the Deep Woods. This is serious business, Hal. You could get yourself killed out there. I'm sure you want to go to heaven but I doubt that you want to get up a busload to go today.

HAL: (*Quietly, seriously*) Oh, I get it, Woody. I do understand that I have become a pest of the worst kind. Even though I thought you were willing to help me, you were thinking of me as someone to avoid. I get it, Woody. Just point me out of the woods. I haven't found Spaghetti Mountain, but it doesn't seem important anymore.

WOODY: Wait a minute. Maybe I've been a little harsh. It's just that I don't want to hear stuff about God. And you're just too, well, too....cheerful. Couldn't you meet me half way and stop all the Hallelujah, God talk? Save it for someone who cares.

HAL: Woody, what has happened in your life to make you so unfriendly to the good news about Jesus? I can't believe you don't care. I've never met ANYONE who doesn't care.

WOODY: I'll tell you what. You forget about me and my soul and I'll take you to the top of Spaghetti Mountain. Not only that, I'll sing that crazy song with you from the crest.

(Walking out of the room together.) It only takes an hour to get there. I have no idea how you could have missed it. Let's get a fresh backpack. We'll have lunch. We'll explore. And then you can....GO HOME.

HAL: Ok Woody. It's a deal. I make a mean peanut butter sandwich. Hey, maybe we should take cans of spaghetti with us...you know...kind of in honor of the great mountain itself.

WOODY: Sounds good, Hal. Sounds good.

EXIT

WEDNESDAY AT RACCOON LODGE



Hal and Woody walk into the room together. It is obvious they have been to Spaghetti Mountain and back again. They are tired but glad to be back. A serious discussion takes place at Raccoon Lodge. Speak clearly!

WOODY: Come on, Hal. There's Raccoon Lodge up ahead. We've been to the mountain and now we're home. Take a load off your feet. Relax, good friend, and I'll get us some water.

HAL: Hallelujah! I was beginning to wonder if we'd ever get back. It sure took longer than an hour, Wood-man. An hour to get there, three hours to climb, another hour to eat and take pictures and then another hour to get back. I don't think I'll make it back to the main road today.

WOODY: I don't think so either, pal. That means you'll have to be a guest at Raccoon Lodge for a night or so. That's okay. There are plenty of guest rooms available. The last tourists left a couple days ago.

HAL: Oh, I couldn't impose. I know how you like your privacy. Remember? Silence? Wonderful silence?

WOODY: *(Chuckling...)* Guess I came on kind of strong the other day. I am a loner, no doubt about it. However, I get paid to be a Deep Woods Guide. I take inexperienced people all through these woods. You sure fit the bill. I'm sorry I reacted so strongly. Stay. Really, I won't bite your head off.

HAL: Well.....okay. I'll be out of your way tomorrow morning. I won't even wake you up. I'll just tip toe out as quietly as I can. In the mean time, let's sit on Raccoon Lodge's great porch and talk.

WOODY: (*Sitting down.*) Talk? You mean Jesus talk. Don't start, Hal, don't start.

HAL: (*Sitting down.*) You think I'm going to force you to do something you are not spiritually ready for. I love Jesus. I find it very natural to talk about Him. If you don't, just let me talk. I guarantee you, it won't hurt one little bit.

WOODY: I know all about God. There is nothing you can tell me that is new. God let me down. I don't think God gets a second chance with me. One of the first Bible verses I ever learned was, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding and He will direct thy path.*" Well, I've been down some mighty dark paths and He wasn't there.

HAL: He's always there, Woody. What happened?

WOODY: I had a family once. We lived in the Deep Woods. We went to the little church on the main road. It was a nice life. My little boy loved the woods and he loved Jesus. One day he got lost out behind our cabin. Oh how we looked for that little bugger. I prayed and prayed. I just knew God wouldn't let me down. But He did. We found Jeffy days later...alive but very sick from the cold nights in the woods. He died in the hospital.

HAL: I'm sorry, Woody.

WOODY: Don't be. I dealt with it long ago. It was meant to be and God didn't much care to answer my poor prayers. I drifted off alone after that. I'm happier this way.

HAL: You're happier? How so? Seems like you are 'awful' touchy about God talk, as you call it. You know, you're not the only one to have it tough. My family got lost too. I'm pretty much alone these days. My mom and dad divorced last year and I kind of got lost in the shuffle. Dad has a new wife and mom has a new job.

WOODY: Sorry.

HAL: Yeah. Sorry. Me too. I had a choice. I could get bitter or better. I chose to get better. I know that Jesus is my Savior and I need Him in my life. I like to think I'm a pretty cheerful person. That's why these adventures in the woods mean so much to me. It's a chance to get back to the basics of life. I love reading my Bible and praying under these big trees.

WOODY: I'm not ready, Hal. I'm just not ready. I guess I have gotten bitter and not better.

HAL: Well, let's just agree to be good friends for a day. I think I need a little nap. I'll catch up to you later. If I don't see you in the morning, thanks for everything you did for me. *(Leave the stage.)*

WOODY: Yeah, I need a little time alone too.

Exit to back of room.

THURSDAY AT RACCOON LODGE



HAL: *(Standing alone on stage.)* It's a great day to be heading home. I love the Deep Woods but I like going home too. I have to admit, I'm not much of a woodsman. I can get lost just looking into the woods.

(Calling....) Hey Woody! Where are you? I'm heading home. Thanks for everything!

I wonder where he is. He must have left Raccoon Lodge this morning. I'll write a note before I leave.

(Pretend to write on piece of paper....)

Dear Woody: Thanks for everything.

Hope our God talk didn't bother you too much.

I'll be praying for you.

I'm sure I can find my way back to the main road.

Praise the Lord...Hallelujah Hal

I'll just stick this on the chair and be on my way. *(Looking around, obviously confused....)* I'll head that way. I'm sure that's right. Or maybe, that way. Yep, that looks better. No, this way. The light is just right on the trees. I'm sure I'll make it out of the Deep Woods today. *(Disappear at the back of the room.)*

WOODY: *(Stragglng into Raccoon Lodge, looking exhausted and injured.)* Hal! Hal! Are you here? Where are you?

I hope Hal slept in today. I could use a little help. Who knew there would be a bear trap on the Old Back Trail? My leg is hurtin' for certain.

(Calling....) Hal! Hal!

That city slicker isn't around and I'm up a creek without a paddle. I should have listened to the Ranger last year and sprung for a cell phone. I don't think I can walk out of here on my own.

I did a lot of thinking last night, thanks to Hallelujah Hal. I haven't thought about God in a long time. Those sad days with Jeffy at the hospital were almost more than I could take. I remember how mad I was at God. When Jeffy died, I blamed God and stomped off into the woods.

Last night, walking the Old Back Trail, I finally figured out it wasn't God's fault. In fact, all the bad things that happened to me were lessons that taught me how to live better. After all, I can survive alone in the Deep Woods. Well, mostly I can survive alone. Today I could use a little help. If only Hal was here. Hal! Hal!

I guess he finally figured out how to navigate the Deep Woods. It figures that when I need him the most, he's off on his own, living the life of an expert adventurer. What should I do? What can I do?

(After a few seconds of silence...) Dear God, it's been a long time since I've made connections with You. I've been a nasty bugger but I've been rethinking my actions. I need You today. I've been hurt in the Deep Woods and there is no one to help me. Hal says he's never lost from You so I'm counting on You to find me too. Please, send someone to help me. Please? Are you there, Lord? I need to know if You're there.Amen

Well, I better try to limp to the main road. Maybe a lumberjack or two will be passing.

(Limp to the back of the room and disappear.)

FRIDAY AT RACCOON LODGE

Both actors enter from the back. An injured Woody is hanging onto Hal.



HAL: Come on, Woody. You can make it. Just a few more feet and we'll be back at Raccoon Lodge. Sure is good that I got lost again, isn't it, old pal.

WOODY: I can't believe you got lost again, Hal. Getting back to the main road is a straight shot from Raccoon Lodge. How in the world did you miss the road sign?

HAL: There's a sign? Never saw it. I must have been enjoying God's beautiful day. I remember singing "This is the day that the Lord has made." All of a sudden the path was gone. I tripped over a branch and when I got up I was so turned around that I just kept walking and asking the Lord to help me find my way. And He did! Suddenly there you were in the middle of the stream.

WOODY: Yeah, I thought I could make it through the stream but my leg gave out and down I went. Lucky for me you heard the splash.

HAL: Luck had nothing to do with it, Wood-man. It was God all the way. He found me so that I could find you so that you could find me again....

WOODY: Hal, I know what you mean. Truly I do. Just put me down over there. I need a little rest. That's it....gently, gently....

HAL: There you go. Sit! Enjoy! Let me take a look at that leg.

WOODY: That can wait, Hal. I want to talk to you. I've been thinking about our God talks. I have come to the conclusion that I haven't given God much time to work in my life. I don't know how to start. Where do I begin?

HAL: Hallelujah! You can begin right where you are!

WOODY: But where am I?

HAL: Why, you're at Raccoon Lodge. Sitting next to me. You're at the beginning of a wonderful journey....even better than hiking to the top of Spaghetti Mountain. This journey leads to Heaven.

WOODY: I want to accept Jesus but I don't know how. I've been so cranky and miserable all these years. Maybe He can't use me.

HAL: Use you! Of course He can use you. Woody, He's waiting for you to come to Him. You can do it now. I'll pray with you. It is as easy as saying, "Lord, come into my life. I know I've sinned. I want to change and I want you to help. I want to live for You."

WOODY: My old life is so lonely. I want a new life. I want to be happy. I want to know for sure that I will see Jeffy again. Help me ask Jesus to come into my life. Tell me the words to say!

HAL: Pray with me...(Bow in prayer) "Dear Lord....

WOODY: Dear Lord....I think I can take it from here Hal. Dear Lord, I've been a rotten person for a long time. I want to change. My friend Hal has been telling me about You. I believe You died for me. I humbly ask You to forgive my sins. I'm sorry I hated You for taking Jeffy. Please come into my life and make me Your child. I'll be forever grateful. Amen.

HAL: Hallelujah! It's done! You are headed for Heaven.

WOODY: I'm going to join the chorus...Hallelujah! Whoa...that felt good. I'm a Christian! I'm truly a believer in Jesus. No more long, lonely nights in the Deep Woods. Now, I can talk to Jesus anytime I want.

HAL: Woody...

WOODY: Hallelujah! I am the happiest person on earth....

HAL: Woody....

WOODY: Hallelujah! I'm saved!

HAL: Woody...

WOODY: What?

HAL: Do you think you're sounding like someone we both know?

WOODY: Who? Ohhhhh....I sound a lot like YOU! Now I get it! It's Jesus that makes you so, so, so Hallelujah-Shouting-Happy!

HAL: Yep! I told you God would not give up on you. He is faithful to finish what He begins and He began a great work in you!

WOODY: And to think I thought you were a putz! You have ended up being the best city slicker friend I ever had.

HAL: I might have been lost in the Deep Woods but God knew the direction He wanted me to travel. Raccoon Lodge looks mighty cozy to a weather beaten traveler. Coming home to Jesus is just as cozy. I think it's time we head for the main road. My car is out there and you can direct me to the nearest hospital.

WOODY: Yeah, friend. Now that my soul has been fixed it's time to fix my leg. *(Pointing....)* Go that direction. *(Both actors head to the back of the room.)*

WOODY AND HAL: *(Singing from "The Hallelujah Chorus"....)* "Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah....For the Lord God omni-potent reigneth....Hallelujah, hallelujah."

OPEN HOUSE

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

*Families wander through
CABIN FEVER...A DEEP WOODS ENCOUNTER,
sampling snacks at **HALUWASA COOKHOUSE**
and photographing this special celebration.*

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

Choose the time for **OPEN HOUSE** to get a high percentage of parents, church members and friends to attend. If the week ends on Friday, plan a Friday evening program. Do not eliminate students' last day of programming to present an OPEN HOUSE if Vacation Bible School is taking place in the evening. Some churches present OPEN HOUSE on Sunday morning.

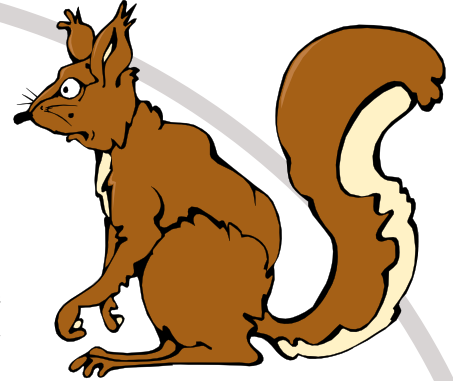
SAMPLE CABIN FEVER OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

- 7:00 P.M. Welcome/Opening Prayer**
- 7:02 P.M. Director 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/Closing Prayer**
- 7:40 P.M. Dismiss group to wander
through the DEEP WOODS!**
- 8:30 P.M. Staff begins clean up**



THE NUT HOUSE

*This 15 minute segment provides rest time and a delightful story adventure where students recline on the floor with pillows listening to a five day story written specifically for **CABIN FEVER**.*



WHAT IS THE NUT HOUSE? This is a unique spot where kids hear a great five day story. The Story Teller becomes a woodsman who tells the story with great enthusiasm. Choose a quiet room far from the noise of Vacation Bible School activity.

HOW SHOULD I DECORATE? Place a comfortable chair in the middle of the room. Surround the chair with quilts, pillows, lanterns, rag rugs, buckets, fishing poles and other camping items. Decorate with squirrel related items. Use what is available from your home or the homes of friends. Display a crude wooden sign:

**THE NUT HOUSE
ALL NUTS WELCOME!
IT'S PAWFECT!**

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR? Old jeans, hiking boots, flannel shirt or plaid cotton shirt, suspenders, slouch hat or straw hat. Dress for woodsy comfort.

WHO HEARS THE STORY? All groups visit fifteen minutes each day. Preschool CRICKETS are scheduled but if the continuing story does not interest them, other stories may be substituted. It may be desirable to choose five separate stories from your local Christian Book Store. Preschool teachers may choose another activity for their group.

WHAT STORY SHOULD I TELL? The suggested story book is **HARRY MOSS**, a five part Conley Twin adventure. Script with line drawings available through CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES. As in other Conley twin stories, our Christian kids face excitement and mystery...this time it is fishing on Shadow River.

HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST



“Sing to the Lord a new song....” Psalm 33:3a

HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST is a 15 minute daily music session. Individual student groups sing Christian praise and worship choruses filled with the joy of the Lord. Choose upbeat songs performed in a contemporary style.

DECORATION. Meet in the area where the **RACCOON LODGE OPENING** occurs. No additional decoration is needed. In a small room, use ideas from **DECORATING CABIN FEVER**. Add a large sign: **HOOTER YOU BELIEVE IN?**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP TEAM. Choose a few teens who stand with microphones and music stands. They become song leaders for the week. This appealing style is contemporary and is enjoyed by children and youth.

MUSIC. Use our song suggestions or create your own slate of songs. Prepare the small groups to sing together for **OPEN HOUSE** at the end of the week. It helps that the groups sing together during each day’s opening and closing celebrations.

ALL THE BEST SONGS FOR KIDS. 230 Praise songs, Choruses, and Children’s Favorites for Preschool Through Preteen. This is one of the best treasuries of praise and worship songs we have seen in a long time. Songs are divided by age group and by topic. Alphabetical and topical indexes provided. Songbook format includes melody, words, piano accompaniment and chord symbols.

All 230 songs are recorded on cassettes and CD’s in a split channel format. It’s so easy to teach with CD’s! Try it—you’ll love it! **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES** offers everything needed to perform these great kid songs! Call for pricing details—1-888-CEM-LIFE.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SONGS FOR CABIN FEVER

Clap Your Hands
Jesus, We Just Want to Thank You
Praise Him, Praise Him
Hush!
God Made Our Wonderful World
If I Were the Wind
What a Wonderful World
All Things Bright and Beautiful
I Often Think of God
Wonder Song
This Is My Prayer
+ Many Other Easy to Teach Songs

EARLY ELEMENTARY SONGS FOR CABIN FEVER

We Were Made to Love the Lord
references to birds, frogs, fish, squirrels, owls, foxes, worms, spiders
–great melody--great for the woods!
Creature Praise
This Is the Day
Praise Him in the Morning
If You Can Sing A Song
A Great Big God
+ Many Other Fun Songs

LATE ELEMENTARY SONGS FOR CABIN FEVER

Sing And Celebrate
Great Big Beautiful World
The New 23rd
It's A Miracle
No Mountain High Enough
The Trees of the Field
I'm Gonna Hide God's Word Inside My Heart
Heart To change the World
Servant of All
Make Me a Servant
There Is a Redeemer
+ Many More Songs Kids Love

**Here are song titles you may have on hand.
Look for these choruses and enjoy the Deep Woods theme.**

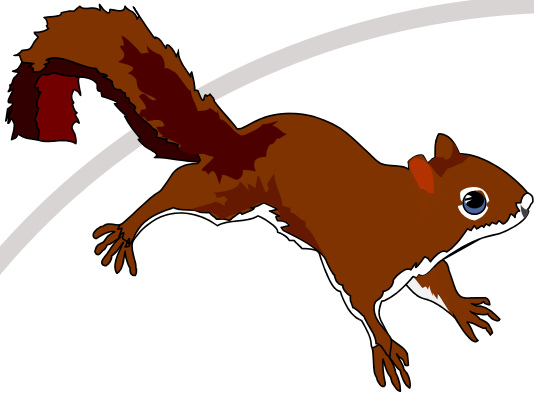
As The Deer
Awesome God
Go, Tell It on the Mountain
I Will Make You Fishers of Men
No Mountain High Enough
Tis A Gift To Be Simple

HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST

Enlarge Hootie Owl by using a transparency made on your copier, placed on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.



SQUIRRELY GAMES AND GUESTS



Decide what 15 minute activities your leadership team feels comfortable doing. Use active, fast paced games that encourage running, jumping, laughing and comradeship. Guests may be invited as available in your local community. A mixture of games and guests may be the effort that makes the week fun!

DECORATION. Choose an indoor or outdoor area large enough for running, jumping, ball playing, relay races and circle games. If outdoors, select a grassy spot away from traffic. Fill the area with colorful flags and brightly colored pennants (*available in Oriental Trading catalog*).

GAMES AND EQUIPMENT. Organize supplies needed for individual games. Choose games that are age appropriate. When Preschool CRICKETS arrive, play gentle games. (*Preschoolers have great attachments to balloons. They will definitely cry if asked to break their balloons during a game.*) Older students love rough and tumble activities. Adjust event rules for your group. Keep a few simple first aid items on hand: Band-Aids, fresh water, ice packs.

REWARDS. Award stickers to winning teams. Pieces of soft candy are popular prizes. Gather a variety of soft candies like Hershey kisses, Twizzlers, candy corn or other small treats that will not become lodged in small children's throats. Be careful when choosing peanut based candies. Some children are allergic to them.

GUESTS. Choose a few community people who visit **SQUIRRELY GAMES AND GUESTS** to share tips on Deep Woods survival, how to build a fire, hiking safety, etc. Communicate specific instructions before the week begins. Greet your guests and stay with them during each fifteen session.

A variety of guests may be invited for all five days or may be used as available for 1, 2, 3, 4 days with games filling in on days when guests are not obtainable.

SQUIRRELY GAMES

Use traditional favorite games. Purchase a game book for more ideas. If you need help planning a game schedule, use some of these favorites.



CAN ON A LOG: Set tin cans up on a log or board about two feet apart. There are two teams, standing in any convenient position on a throwing line. They throw stones at will, each trying to knock over their opponents can. When this happens the successful team gets one point. If a can is knocked over in error by the wrong team, it counts against the thrower. The cans in every case must be set up by a designated leader, and not by

the children; this prevents accidents. You can play this game with soft rubber balls, tennis balls or ping pong balls.

TREES IN THE WOODS: Kids take positions as *trees* anywhere on the playing field but they cannot be behind anything. “It” is blindfolded and tries to move about the area trying to catch one of the players who then becomes “It.” Any person who is in danger of being caught may move one or two steps in any direction. Once a player has moved two steps, he must stand still and hope for the best. The idea of the game is not to use a step until necessary, become once the steps are gone, the player must remain stationary.

STEAL THE BACON: Equipment—one bean bag or soft stuffed animal or tied rag or tied socks (*The preacher’s “holey/holy” socks work great!*). Divide students into two equal teams. The students stand side by side at opposite ends of the playing field. Assign each student on one team a number. Repeat number assignments for the other team using the same numbers. Place the bean bag halfway between the two teams. Tell the students that the bean bag represents the bacon. To begin the game, call out one of the numbers. Students whose numbers are called run toward the bacon. The student who reaches the bacon first grabs it and runs behind his team line to be safe. If the student reaches his team line before being tagged, he wins a point. If not, the other team earns a point. Play until each number has been called.

DODGE BALL: Play your favorite version of this popular game. Use large basketballs/volleyballs/beach balls as the dodge balls.

BLANKET BALL: Equipment: one full sized blanket per group, several balls of varying

sizes per group. This activity involves groups of 6 to 10 students using a blanket to bounce balls. Give each group a blanket. Have the students spread out evenly around the outer edges of the blanket. Place one ball on the blanket and tell the teams to shake the blanket so that the ball goes up in the air. Assign one student to be the ball retriever for each group. Have each group experiment with tossing the ball to different heights without allowing the ball to hit the ground. Then, place several more balls on each blanket and ask the groups to toss the balls into the air. Have them catch as many balls as possible. When all the balls have fallen to the ground, send the retrievers after them. Time the groups to see which group can keep the balls in the air for the longest time.

Another BLANKET BALL game that is fun is placing one ball or bean bag onto one of the group blankets. That group tosses the ball to the other team who must move as a team and catch the ball in their blanket. That group tosses it back to the first team. Award one point for each successful catch.

ANIMAL RELAY: This is a great relay for younger students who compete in a relay pretending to be animals. Divide the students into groups of four or five. Set up the relay course with about 20 feet in between markers. Demonstrate the desired animal movement before allowing students to begin the race. Call out the name of the animal that is to be imitated and show the movement. The first person in each line will race from the starting line to the finish line and back to the starting line as that animal. After each student has been the first animal, assign a new animal to imitate. **CRAB WALK–KANGAROO WALK–ELEPHANT WALK–GORILLA WALK–FROG HOP.**

TRAIN RELAY: Equipment: objects each team runs around. Divide the students into two teams. Ask each team to stand single file behind the starting line. They place their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them. Run through the designated course. Once the team finishes the course, the person in front runs to the back and becomes the caboose. Continue until each person has been in the front. Winning team is seated at finish line first.

BALLOON SMASH: Equipment: string, lots of balloons. Tie one or two inflated balloons to the ankles of each student. When the whistle blows, each player must try to smash the balloon of other players while protecting his own balloons. The player with the last balloon intact is the winner. (Not for younger players.)

LEAP FROG RELAY: Groups line up single file at the starting line. The first player squats down and places both hands on his knees. The second player places both hands on the squatter's back and leaps over the squatter. The third player leaps over the first two players. Continue in this way until the teams reach the finish line. First complete team to leap over the line is the winning team.

SQUIRRELY GUESTS

Introduce community experts who talk to students about life/survival in the Deep Woods. Include local guests who are easily available and willing to spend a day with the groups.



It is a plus if the guest is a Christian and is willing to share their testimony and how their faith in Jesus helps them in the great outdoors. Use our suggestions or find people available in your specific geographical area.

BOY SCOUT LEADERS

MOUNTAIN MAN/WOMAN ACTOR

LIVE WOODLAND ANIMALS

Check with your local SPCA or Zoo

HUNTER/TAXIDERMIST

HOW TO BUILD A CAMPFIRE

HIKING INFORMATION

MOUNTAIN CLIMBER/LUMBERJACK

CANOE EXPERTS

LOG HOME BUILDERS

HALUWASA COOKHOUSE
...Woodland Morsels

Haluwasa means “Hallelujah What A Savior”!

CABIN FEVER students and staff can hardly wait to eat at *Haluwasa Cookhouse!* Make this 15 minute snack break an enjoyable camping treat time. Serve simple camping foods and enjoy the daily company of every small group.



Host a daily visit to a cabin cookhouse where lumberjacks meet to eat a robust meal before heading for the Deep Woods. While not feeding the groups a full meal, make the snacks fun by naming them appropriately for the theme. Use local foods that are kid favorites. Design the menu around a camping theme.

Haluwasa is more than cookies and Kool-Aid!

DECORATION. Create a cabin look. Set tables with red and white checked covers or picnic table covers. Bring real picnic tables with benches into the area. Place old lanterns on the tables with jars of wild flowers.

Scatter live flowers, weeds, tree branches through the room. Decorate walls with crude signs stating: **LUMBERJACK BREAKFAST-Free Today, HALUWASA COOKHOUSE–BEST FOOD IN THE WOODS, GOD LOVES YOU.** Place simple wood furniture in the corners of the area draped with old fashioned quilts, pillows and crocheted doilies. Stack cast iron pots and pans in corners and on tables. Anything that looks like it would fit into a cabin theme will fit here. Check your attic, basement and garage for fun items.

COSTUMES AND SERVING. Follow costume suggestions in the curriculum. Add full aprons for each kitchen worker and server.

1. Greet Haluwasa guests with the sharp ring of a triangle or the sound of a metal spoon on a metal bowl. “Come and get it!” and

give instructions for snack time. Escort them to their seats.

2. Serve food on simple trays or platters.
3. Treat each guest with respect. Listen to them when they speak or ask a question.
4. Serve informally as at an outdoor picnic. Place pitchers of cold drink on each table. Add baskets of popped corn or potato chips or pretzels or a mixture of all these salty snacks. Some days place fresh cut fruit on the tables.
5. Pray before serving the snack. Use a formal childhood prayer that can be repeated in unison or ask a different leader to ask the blessing each day.

MUSIC. Play soft Christian country music. “*Smoky Mountain Fiddlin’*” or another down home style of music works well. The musical mood should be exciting but should not overwhelm conversation.

TABLEWARE. Use paper products. Paper plates, cups, napkins and plastic ware work best. Have fun with bright colors by purchasing a variety of paper products in bright, outdoor picnic colors. Add woodland animal stickers to cups.

MENU. Give HALUWASA COOKHOUSE food an authentic touch by naming each Deep Woods snack. Use our simple recipes or search your cook book for appropriate cabin dishes. It is not necessary to serve a complete lunch. Sample portions are enough to provide a light snack. Have fun with the food and the preparation.

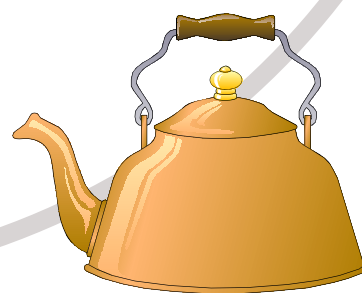
GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE HALUWASA COOKHOUSE TEAM

Do not provide alternative “safe” snacks for students who refuse to try unique menu items. Most students are willing to try a “no thank you” helping.

Refill when students want more.

Do not be held hostage to bad attitudes.

If students refuse to eat what is served, they can eat



*when they get home.
Complainers become enthusiastic,
proud that they tried something new if you hold the line.
The only exception should be for students with health concerns.*

HALUWASA COOKHOUSE SNACK RECIPES

TRAIL MIX

Trail Mix is a wonderful hiking snack. A traditional mix includes light weight, high energy, portable snacks that can be carried in plastic bags. Design your own Trail Mix combining some of the following ingredients:

M&M's Raisins Dried Banana Chips Pretzels Peanuts Apricots
Chocolate Chips Reese's Pieces Any dried fruit mixtures

Package about 1/4 cup of mix in a zip lock bag. Students may take their snack outdoors or eat at the tables.

Caution: If you know of any peanut allergies, omit the items that contain peanuts or peanut butter.

HOMEMADE BREAD/BISCUITS WITH FLAVORED BUTTERS

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

Strawberry Butter: ½ cup fresh strawberries, washed and hulled, ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter (not margarine) at room temperature, 1 teaspoon confectioners sugar, 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice. Puree the strawberries in a blender. In medium bowl beat the butter until creamy with electric mixer on high. Add sugar, lime juice and strawberry puree and continue beating until the mixture is no longer separated and is well blended.

Peanut Butter and Honey Butter: ½ cup smooth peanut butter, 1/3 cup honey, ½ cup butter. Blend until smooth in a blender. This mixture should be very soft (almost soupy) so that it can be drizzled on the bread. Delicious! Once again, beware of peanut allergies!

HOT DOGS WITH BUNS AND JELLO CUBES

Serve a simple camping snack that includes hot dogs with a variety of toppings and brightly colored Jello cubes. Serve with a cold beverage. Potato chips on each table complete the treat. If desired, cut hot dogs in buns in halves for younger students.

CHICKEN NUGGETS

Bake trays of chicken nuggets. Place bowls of dipping sauces on each table. Ranch dressing, honey mustard, ketchup and mustard. Serve with cold drink and fruit.

LUMBERJACK BREAKFAST

Serve pancakes or waffles with plenty of syrup. Add sausage links or bacon and scrambled eggs. Portions may be mini sized. Serve cold milk as a beverage.

FISH STICKS

What better treat for a group in the Deep Woods than the catch of the day! Purchase frozen fish sticks to bake in the church oven. Serve with ketchup and mild tartar sauce or mayonnaise and pickles. Add fruit and potato chips. Serve a cold fruity drink as beverage.

CREEK WATER SOUP

Make large pots of vegetable beef/chicken soup. Add lots of fresh vegetables and noodles. Add cornbread or homemade bread. Serve with a cold beverage.

BEAR DEN CHILI

Make your favorite MILD chili recipe. If several people are donating chili, they can be combined for easier serving. Provide grated cheese as a topping. Add celery and carrot strips and saltine crackers. Serve with a cold beverage.

SQUIRRELLY S'MORES

Serve the traditional camping S'Mores by filling a cookie tray with graham crackers, Hershey chocolate bars and marshmallows. Top with another graham cracker and bake on low until the chocolate and marshmallow is melted or at least "gooshy". Serve with cold milk.

STRAWBERRY FIELDS SHORTCAKE

Make or purchase your favorite shortcake biscuit. Top with fresh or frozen strawberries and whipping cream.. Treat students to real whipping cream rather than Cool whip or the aerosol can creams. Whip the cream and keep cold in the refrigerator. Serve with a cold beverage.

BROWNIES WITH A TWIST

Make your favorite brownie recipe—boxed brownies are great and easy! When the brownies have cooled, spread top with cherry pie filling. Cut into squares. Top with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

RABBIT TREAT CAKE

Make boxed carrot cake and frost with plain frosting. Serve with icy cold milk.

BANANA WAFFLES

Move these homemade treats directly from the freezer to the toaster and serve with syrup or fruit for a fantastic cabin snack. If desired, make the waffles fresh as the groups arrive. Top waffles with sliced bananas, scoop of vanilla ice cream and some caramel sauce.

2 ripe bananas, mashed	4 t. baking powder
4 cups water	2 t. cinnamon
1 cup uncooked quick-cook oatmeal	2 t. nutmeg
4 cups whole wheat flour	Vanilla extract to taste (optional)

In a large bowl, mix the mashed bananas and water. Add remaining ingredients and mix, leaving lumps in the batter. Cook on a waffle iron. Let the waffles cool on wire racks, put them in gallon sized freezer bags and freeze for up to 2 months. Makes 8 waffles. To speed the process for a large group, borrow several waffle irons and form an assembly line. (Warning: Don't overload the electrical outlets in your church kitchen.)

**Here are a few treat ideas that may work for your church.
Choose snacks you know your students and staff will enjoy.**

Jello Salad	Hamburgers	Ice Cream Cones
Potato Salad	Ham/Turkey Sandwiches	Popsicles
Macaroni Salad	Egg Salad Sandwiches	Cupcakes
Cheese and Crackers	Fruit Cups	Watermelon
Baked Beans	Chips/Cheese Curls	Cantaloupe
Grapes	Apple Pie	Deviled Eggs

Design your menu and ask people to volunteer to help in the kitchen and donate snacks or ingredients as needed.

A firm menu must be complete weeks before Vacation Bible School so that donations can be solicited. Write down names and telephone numbers to remind folks when you need their donation. Any supplies not donated must be purchased just before the week begins.

Use these ideas
to spark your own snack imagination!

Just because we're in the woods
doesn't mean we have to stop eating well!

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER
...As The Worm Squirms

This 15 minute activity center is a daily gathering at a simple woodland stage. Each short Bible skit leads the group into a clear understanding of what it means to become a believer in Jesus.

Take students outdoors or decorate a room to look like a wooded area. A small team of teens and adults in Holy Land costume entertain and teach in a humorous and memorable way. The skits begin each session and the narrator ends with spiritual lessons.



PREPARATION: Decorate a staging area to resemble a Holy Land outdoor area. A classroom may be used if there is enough space for the actors and audience. If your church has a shaded outdoor area, consider taking the groups outside for an enjoyable theater retreat.

Place green plants, old wooden benches, towels and pottery, a pitcher and other items that remind the viewers of the Holy Land. Large sheep may be made from cardboard, painted white, covered in cotton batting and propped in the background. Optional backdrops may be painted. Keep decor simple for best results.

Seat students in seats or on the floor in the audience area. Darken the room with lighting focused toward the players. Play soft Christian music as students enter the theater area.

SIGNS: Display fun and funny signs on the walls of the theater area. The signs may be printed on large pieces of cardboard. Use bright colors and trim with glitter. Shine lights up from the floor onto the side walls.

WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER...AS THE WORM SQUIRMS

(This is the main sign. Draw a comical, smiling worm on it.)

The following five signs are the daily skit titles.

ON THE MOUNTAIN

ON THE RUN

ON THE WATER

ON TIME

ON THE ROAD

ACT LIKE A CHRISTIAN!

DON'T SIT ON THE SKUNKS!

KEEP YOUR TEMPER...NO ONE ELSE WANTS IT!

THINK HEBREW

REHEARSAL AND TIMING: Encourage actors to speak loudly and become the character they are portraying. Rehearse before the day of the event, practicing the lines aloud.

ACTOR PREPARATION: Choose a team of teens and adults to portray various characters. **DO NOT MEMORIZE PARTS.** Hold a copy of the skit. Disguise it in a basket or scroll. Mark individual parts with yellow highlighter. If men are not available, give the parts to women. The same people may be used each day in different roles.

If mistakes are made, so what? Be casual and yet aware of the messages being communicated. Each skit is designed to help students understand how important God's Word has always been. Told in a modern, fun style, the students will understand the message.

THEATER SNACKS: Provide a paper cup filled with popcorn for each audience member. It's a nice touch! Since this activity is done in small groups, it is easy to provide a cup as the group enters. Be sure to provide a waste can for paper cups at the end of the activity.

NARRATOR: The narrator is the bridge between audience and characters. He/she is also the leader of **DEEP WOODS BIBLE THEATER**. The Narrator appears in every skit. Dress as a hiker in shorts, t-shirt, hiking boots and socks, hat and backpack. Become the friendly woodsman who encourages students to become Christians because of the exciting message about Jesus in the Bible.

NARRATOR'S LESSONS TO BE LEARNED should be included at appropriate times in each session. Print theme phrases on large paper leaves, paper acorns, paper birds or other shapes attached to the walls of the theater area. If time remains, teach one scripture verse each day to fill in the time.

MONDAY ON THE MOUNTAIN ...WHO IS THIS GUY?

NARRATOR: Welcome to **WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER...AS THE WORM SQUIRMS.** This week will be filled with hilarious, knee slapping, practical lessons from God's Word. At the end of our time together, you will understand more about what it means to be a Christian. When I read the Bible, I feel strong and courageous. I feel humble and grateful. I learn how to live my Christian life better and I learn how to help other people. Here's the word for the day:



**He who has begun a good work in you
will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**

Philippians 1:6

Tell this little story with enthusiasm.

It is a picture of what Jesus did for Planet Earth when He became one of us.

Look...here on the ground. It's an ant carrying a cookie crumb. And look, over there is the gardener. He's mowing the grass today. How nice. It's such a wonderful summer day. *(With alarm)* Wait a minute. The gardener is mowing in this direction! If he keeps coming, he will mow over the ant hill and kill thousands of hard working, innocent ants that struggle so hard to survive. *(Shouting and waving to imaginary gardener...)* Stop! You're going to kill the ants! Oh, he'll never hear me.

I have to warn the ants that disaster is about to hit. *(Shouting...)* Hey! Ants! The lawn mower is coming! Run for your lives! *(Pause)* I mean it. Run! Now! Get out of here. Grab your children and move!

I cannot believe it. They are just walking along like nothing is happening. Can't they hear me? May if I speak in sign language....*(Motion with your hands in any comical gesture.)* They didn't even look at me.

Maybe if I speak real slow they will be able to understand me.

Calling—all-ants—in—this—nest. A—huge—lawn—mower—is—about—to—destroy—your—home. Run—before—you—get—killed!

I know! I'll get down on their level. (*Kneel on the floor and bend over as if speaking into the ant's nest*) Come on guys. You really have to listen to me. Can't you see the sincerity in my eyes? **YOU ARE NOT SAFE. TAKE YOUR FAMILIES AND RUN FOR THE HILLS!** Get it? Hills? Ant hills?

(*Think for a moment.*) There has to be a way to communicate with these ants. Maybe if I write a note they will understand. (*Print the word **RUN** on a piece of paper and hold it over the imaginary ant hill.*) No luck. Not one ant has even looked at the paper.

I'm out of ideas. (*Ask group.*) Do you have any suggestions? There is no way that a human being can communicate with little black ants. There is only one thing to do. Only another ant can warn of disaster. I must become an ant. (*Sadly...*) And that I cannot do.

Do you understand what Jesus did for us? He became human in order to warn us of coming disaster caused by sin. Jesus said, "*Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.*" Jesus left heaven and became fully human and fully God to save us. It was the only way.

Each of us must have a moment in our lives when we meet Jesus personally in order to go to heaven. Once we accept Him as our Savior by praying, He begins to work in us until we become more and more like Him.

Remember, He promises that He will never stop working in our lives. "*He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*" Philippians 1:6 Even if we run away from Him, He will search for us and bring us home to Him. That brings us to our story for today. I think I see a couple of people arriving right now. Let's listen to see what they are fighting about.

MONDAY--ON THE MOUNTAIN... WHO IS THIS GUY?



A Bible skit for two actors, male or female and the narrator taken from Matthew 5. If female actors are used, name them Rebecca (Becky) and Abigail (Abby).

ZEKE: (*Gesturing wildly*) I'm telling you the guy is crazy! Did you ever see anything like him in your life? There he was, sitting on the biggest rock on the mountain spouting foolishness, pure foolishness.

JOSEPH: (*Quiet, thoughtful mood*) Hmm? What did you say Ezekial? Foolishness? Well, yes, I suppose it was.

ZEKE: If I've told you once, I've told you a million times, my friends call me Zeke. And you are Joe—not Joseph. After all, we ARE the new generation. We have to stand up for ourselves.

JOSEPH: I kind of like the name my parents gave me. Joseph...It has a nice ring to it. But if it make you happy—Zeke—you can call me Joe.

ZEKE: It makes me happy, Joe. I'm a very happy person. I heard there was a "pop idol" up on the mountain. I climbed all day to see some guy who doesn't have a clue what it's like to live in the modern era. He said some of the most ridiculous things. Who is this guy, anyway?

JOSEPH: I heard he's a teacher—sent directly from God. There were a lot of people on the mountain. Most of them seemed to like what he said.

ZEKE: Sent from God. Right. What was his name again? I didn't catch it.

JOSEPH: They said he was Jesus from Galilee.

ZEKE: Jesus—from Galilee. Hmph, nothing good ever comes out of Galilee unless it's

a good fish dinner. Let's recap. The first dumb thing he said was that poor people should be happy and he said they were blessed. I don't know about you but I want to be rich, rich, rich!

JOSEPH: Well, actually he said "*Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*" Maybe he was thinking about our proud religious leaders in town who never quite get God's true message. It's only humble people who feel they need God's help to live right. So they're the ones who will be given the kingdom of God. Does that sound right?

ZEKE: No, it does not sound right. One would think you never got a good Jewish education, Joe. You won't have an answer for this one. He said "*Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*" He makes being sad sound like a picnic. That guy is strange.

JOSEPH: Not strange, Zeke. He seemed....wise. Who would guess that blessings belong to the troubled and sad?

ZEKE: Well maybe I'm not the DEEP thinker you are but I can't believe he encouraged that crowd to be meek, to show mercy. It's a dog-eat-dog world you know. First come, first served. Look out for old Number One! He even said it was a GOOD thing to be persecuted. My new philosophy is 'Nobody's going to mess with me'!

NARRATOR: Hi there, guys! I couldn't help overhearing your conversation. It sounds like you are confused about who Jesus is? Can I help?

ZEKE: Talk about strange! Who are you and why are you dressed so weird?

NARRATOR: I'm the Narrator and I noticed you are having a bit of a disagreement. What's the matter with the way I'm dressed?

JOSEPH: I like the way you are dressed. Can you give me the name of the shop in Jerusalem where you bought that outfit? Do you know Jesus... the guy on the mountain? He's been saying some amazing things today.

NARRATOR: I know Jesus! He's God's Son! I can tell you a lot about that guy. I'm a follower of Jesus.

ZEKE: Oh, here we go. I just knew it when I saw the hat. Ok, Narrator, let's hear what you

have to say. I have my donkey double parked and I have to get going.

NARRATOR: I'll hurry. God loved the world so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be born in Bethlehem. Jesus grew up as Mary and Joseph's son in Nazareth. When He was about 30 years old, He began to tour the countryside telling about God's love for all the people of earth. The guy on the mountain is Jesus, God's Son. He is saying some amazing things because He *is* amazing.

JOSEPH: Tell us more.

NARRATOR: Jesus is going to continue to teach and heal and help everyone He meets until one day when He will be crucified on a Roman cross.

ZEKE: Well, that does it. He's a criminal. Only the worst of the worst die at the hands of the Romans...and on a cross! I'm outta here.

NARRATOR: Wait! You don't understand. Jesus is not a criminal. He is teaching us how we should live, how we should pray, how we should treat our enemies and our friends, how God loves and cares for us. He died to save us from our sins. It was God's plan from the day Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden by eating the forbidden fruit.

JOSEPH: I thought so. He's too special to be a criminal or crazy. He IS our Messiah.

ZEKE: Not so fast, Joe. I must have proof.

NARRATOR: Jesus spoke to every man and woman in His Sermon on the Mount of Olives. Jesus said, *"Those who hear my words and do them are like a wise man who built his house upon the rock. When the rain fell, the floods came and the winds blew, the house stood strong. But those who hear my words and do not obey them are like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand. When the rain fell, the floods came and the winds blew, the house fell."* Your proof, Zeke, is that Jesus is here among us.

ZEKE: Surely Jesus is the greatest Teacher of all time if His words are true. But how can we obey His teachings? Love your enemies, pray for those who treat you wrongly, Do good to those who hate you? It sounds impossible.

JOSEPH: My friend, these words sound like the words of God. I think if we search our hearts and find that we love God, we will want to live by Jesus' words. God will help us, Zeke. God will help us.

THE TWO FRIENDS WALK OUT OF THE ROOM ARM IN ARM.

NARRATOR'S LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Those two friends are discovering the identity of Jesus, the Galilean. They were part of the crowd who gathered on the Mount of Olives to hear the new preacher talk about God. In those days, there was no television or radio, no videos or DVD's. When a speaker traveled from town to town, hundreds of people flocked to hear him. It was their entertainment.

Imagine their surprise when the Jews heard that Jesus was God's promised Messiah. He was a man, yes. But He was so much more. He was God who came to visit His creation to share the great message of salvation and heaven. Jesus said, "*I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*" John 10:10 b

**IF TIME REMAINS, MEMORIZE JOHN 10:10B.
CLOSE IN PRAYER.**

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TUESDAY ON THE RUN ...THE WASTEFUL KID



NARRATOR: Today at WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER “*As the Worm Squirms*” we present a peek into the life of a difficult, some say even sinful, kid. Let’s face it. People do not always do what pleases God. Why? It’s a three letter word–S-I-N. What letter is in the middle of sin? **I**. “Sin” is always wanting to please “me”, “I”. Instead of thinking “What will make God happy?” We think “What will make **ME** happy?”

Sin changes us from the inside out. We may begin by innocently thinking, “**I want** to go outside and play.” That leads to, “**I do not want** to clean my bedroom.” Which leads to thinking, “**My mom** is so mean.” Which leads to saying out loud, “**I hate you mom.** You never let **me** do what **I** want to do. You are so mean. **I wish I** was somebody else’s kid!” Bingo–sin just happened. How do we know that? Because the Bible says, “*Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.*” Ephesians 6:1

I think our guest is arriving. Let’s see what’s going on. We may learn something about sin. You never know. Sshhh, here he comes.

...THE WASTEFUL KID

A Bible story told in rhyme. No Holy Land costumes needed. One male actor and the Narrator needed. Story taken from Luke 15:11-32.

THE KID: (*Enter room with mp3 player/ipod, baseball cap on backwards, dressed in “cool” jeans and t-shirt. Ignore the audience and walk in rhythm to music.*)

NARRATOR: Hello! Hello! (*Tap on shoulder...*) Hey, can you turn that thing off? I want to talk to you.

THE KID: Okay, okay. You don’t have to shout. Who are you?

NARRATOR: I'm the Narrator. Who are you?

THE KID: I'm THE KID...and my dad calls me his Prodigal son. At least that's what he used to call me.

NARRATOR: Ohhh, I know you. You're the guy from the Bible. The one who grabbed his dad's cash and made a run for it. What kind of son are you? You should know better. I can't believe you. You are every father's nightmare. Shame on you!

THE KID: Hold on! Wait a minute. Do I get a chance to explain myself?

NARRATOR: I'm sure my friends would like to hear your pathetic explanation.

THE KID: I don't know why I should tell any of you anything. I don't know you. You don't know me. However, it *is* interesting. You can help me tell my story.

NARRATOR: Let's do it! You kids are never going to believe what happened.

Come listen, come listen, come one and come all
To the tale of a boy who had a great fall.
With father and brother, his life was all set,
The farm and the money and life were all his,
He was happy, yes, happy, oh happy, and yet...

THE KID

I wonder what life in the city is like.
Do they dress just like me? Do they ride a sleek bike?
I'm stuck on this farm far away from the light.
I'm stuck here, I'm stuck here, I can't be too bright.

NARRATOR

(And his father said) O son, my dear son, the farm is not bad.
I've given you life, money, health...all I had.
When I die, you will get all that's left, so be glad.
You'll be the big boss, our family Kahuna.
Just share with your brother, and sing a glad tune-a.

THE KID

(And my brother said) I'm oldest, you know. I don't want to boast,
But when the time comes I should get the most.
See? That's what I thought.
That brother of mine
Is waiting for me to leave here. Well, Fine!
Just give me what's due and I'll fly the coop.
There's life in the city that I need to scoop.

NARRATOR

(His father said) Oh son, my dear son, the farm is your home.
Stay here and work here. Don't try to roam.

THE KID

Just give me your money, oh father dear.
I need it right now to fly far from here!

NARRATOR

The father, who loved him, handed over the money.
The son, who was silly, hopped away like a bunny.
Life in the city wasn't quite what he thought.
He bought and he bought and he bought and he bought!

THE KID

And soon, when I dug in my purse for a coin
There were none and my friends ran away.
There's a lesson to "loin".

I now need a job, I need money you see.
I can't live in the city and let me be me.
I need a good job to buy more new clothes.
I want a new outfit, like those and like those.

NARRATOR

No jobs could be found in the big, big, big city.
He tried to be smart and he tried to be witty.
The only job he could find was in a pig pen.
He slopped all the hogs and remembered just when
Life at home was so peaceful on dad's lovely farm.
Where food did abound and he came to no harm.

THE KID

I want to go home, I want my dear dad.
The job in this pig pen makes me mad, makes me sad.
I want to see trees and rivers and such.
The workers at home get much, oh, so much.
If I could just travel to father and brother.
I'd stay there and work there, I'd want no other.

NARRATOR

So the son traveled home, all alone, with his duffle.
He walked with some fear. He walked with a shuffle.

THE KID

I know what to say. I know what to do.
I'll say, "Hello father! So nice to see you."
I'll admit that I **SINNED**.
I'll beg to start over and over with him.
Yes, with him.

NARRATOR

When the son neared the farm, shaded eyes with his arm.
He saw his dear father running fast from the barn.
They hugged and they hugged and they danced in the road.
The father was crying, the son crying too.

THE KID

I tried to confess, all my sins to unload.
But my father had plans of his own to complete.

NARRATOR

He wanted to shout to the world, "My son's sweet!"
(His father said) My son, my dear son, you are home at last.
The time you were gone went slow and not fast.
Come in to the house, take a bath, get a drink.
I need time to blink and to think in a wink.

THE KID

But father, I've sinned against heaven and you.
I've wasted your money and now I feel blue.

NARRATOR

Before he could finish, his dear father said....
Hush, hush now, I tell you.
The servants will give you our best robe of red
Put rings on your fingers and shoes on your toes.
I won't take excuses. I won't hear your "no's"!

THE KID

So a party was planned and my family rejoiced.
They danced and they feasted on platters piled high
With the juiciest juices and a fatted calf's thigh.

NARRATOR

The end of our story now is in sight.
For the family was happy, so happy, that night.

THE KID

Except... for one person, who lurked in the alley.
My brother was mad and kicked his cat, Sally.

NARRATOR

(His brother said) I'm the brother who stayed. I worked long. I worked hard.
Do I get a party, do I get a card?
No, not me. It's not fair!
I want some rejoicing for *me* on the stair.

This brother of mine wasted stuff on wild living.
And now they celebrate with even *more* giving.
It's not fair, it's not fair, it's not fair, I say.
I want a party. I want to play!

THE KID

(My father said) I have heard your sighing, and crying and moaning.
What you don't understand, son, is that you've been growing.
You've had all my wisdom, my love and my stuff.
Your brother ran away, said he'd had enough.
I thought he was dead but now he's alive!

It's right to rejoice for now he's come home.
We'll be here together no longer to roam.
So cheer up that face, join the party inside.
Next week we'll invite your friends from far and from wide.

NARRATOR

And now we've come to the end of our story.
It is told for God's love. It is told for God's glory.

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NARRATOR'S LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

When Jesus told this story, He had a few lessons he want people to learn.

1. JESUS WANTS US TO ADMIT OUR SIN. Isn't it wonderful that when the son decided to come home, he admitted his sin and asked only to be a humble servant at his father's farm? Our first step in meeting Jesus is to realize that we have sinned. God's Word says, "*For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*" Romans 3:23

2. JESUS WANTS US TO ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS. When the son got to the farm, his father never gave him the chance to ask to be a servant. He called for a robe, a symbol of honor. He called for a ring, the symbol of authority and for shoes, a symbol of freedom. The son accepted his father's gifts and returned as a full member of the family. That is what happens to us when we accept Jesus as our Savior.

Abraham Lincoln was once asked how he was going to treat the southern rebels when they had been defeated during the civil War and had returned to the Union of the United States. The questioner expected that Lincoln would take a terrible vengeance but the great president answered, "I will treat them as if they had never been away."

3. JESUS WANTS US TO CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE. The father called for his household to stop work and celebrate his son's return with a feast. God rejoices when each person comes home to Him. This story is often called **The Parable of the Prodigal Son** but it should be called **The Parable of the Loving Father** because it says more about a father's love than a son's sin. God's Word says, "*There is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.*" Luke 15:10

God is always waiting for us to return to Him. The only thing we must do is believe that Jesus is God's Son, our Savior and believe He died and rose again. Talk to God in prayer and the deal is sealed.

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Dear Lord, forgive my sin. I believe You lived and died for me. I want to come home to You. Thank You for being my loving and forgiving Heavenly Father. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

**WEDNESDAY
ON THE WATER
...PETER SINKS TO A NEW LOW!**



NARRATOR: Anybody here like to swim? Are you good at it? I know a guy who went for a swim when he didn't intend to get wet. He is scheduled to be with us today. Before he gets here let me warn you that he is quite a character. He can be very dramatic and for the amount of time he spent with Jesus you would think he could be more diplomatic. Ah well, he's a great guy.

He had a lot of faith in God and yet he slipped up once in awhile. His blustery personality caused trouble but he loved Jesus so much that he would do anything for Him. I hear him coming now. Let's greet him with a loud "Welcome Peter". (*Open the door and greet Peter.*)

PETER: (*Dressed in Holy Land tunic...soaking wet from head to foot...carrying a fishing pole*) Whew! Thanks for letting me in. What a great welcome! I greet you in the name of my Savior, Jesus Christ. That was some storm. Did you see the lightning and hear the thunder?

NARRATOR: (*Hand Peter a large blanket or towel.*) Peter, you are soaking wet. Come in and sit down. I heard the storm but it passed quickly. Dry off and tell us what happened to you!

PETER: Thank you. I guess I am still dripping from what happened to me. You are never going to believe this. I WALKED ON WATER!

NARRATOR: NO!

PETER: YES!

NARRATOR: NO!

PETER: I said YES! I know it sounds ridiculous but I did it. I always wanted to walk on water ever since I saw Jesus do it the first time. I tried again and again but I think I'm too heavy.

NARRATOR: If you walked on water, why are you soaked? Something's fishy.

PETER: Fishy, ha! Fishy...fisherman...get it? No, I guess it's not that funny. It all began yesterday after a long day of feeding five thousand, rowing to Capernaum and leaving Jesus to pray in the mountains. My buddies and I were on the lake. After nightfall a strong wind blew and beat our little fishing boat so heavily that we were sure we were goners! The waves rolled high. We were absolutely exhausted. Just look at my hands. Blisters everywhere!

NARRATOR: I'm sure if Jesus had been there He would have calmed the storm. I recall Him doing that from time to time. Too bad He was on the mountain.

PETER: Funny you should mention that. Jesus must have known how much we needed Him. Before long, when we gave up hope, He came walking across the water just as easily as if it had been a garden path.

NARRATOR: NO!

PETER: YES!

NARRATOR: NO!

PETER: I said YES! Nearer and nearer He came to our little boat.

NARRATOR: Were you afraid?

PETER: Nah! I'm the brave one of the group. My friends were terrified. They bellowed and cried and pointed and hid their eyes. Not me! I don't believe in ghosts. I was a little bewildered. Everybody knows no man can walk on water.

We heard a familiar voice. It sounded like Jesus but we could hardly believe it. Finally I called, "*Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you walking on the water.*" Pretty clever, huh? If He could do it, maybe I could too.

NARRATOR: Did Jesus appreciate your challenging Him to a test?

PETER: He said one word to me, "*Come*". I leaped over the side of the boat. The others looked at me in amazement. Jesus was so powerful.

NARRATOR: But I am looking at a guy who has been swimming. So how did you get from walking on water to swimming under the water.

PETER: The storm was raging all around me. The wind blew so hard that I got scared. Yeah, I know. That's not like me but you should have seen the waves. I looked at the waves and thought, "*What am I doing here?*" Next thing you know I sank like a rock. I caught a glimpse of Jesus, "*Lord, save me!*"

NARRATOR: Wow! This is getting exciting! How many times did you sink before He caught you?

PETER: Not even once. He hurried to me and caught my arm. He said, "*O man of little faith, why did you doubt?*" We both jumped into the boat and the storm ended immediately. The rest of the guys were laughing and slapping me on the back. We all worshiped Him, saying, "*Surely you are the Son of God.*"

It is a night I will never forget. I'm sorry I disappointed Jesus. His words were true. I didn't think...at that moment...that He could keep me on the water in that storm. I doubted Jesus. I will never doubt His power again.

I am getting cold. I need to find some dry clothes. It has been fun meeting you but I'll leave now. Shalom! Peace to you all.

NARRATOR: (*Leading Peter to the door....*) Thank you for coming to us. We will never forget your adventure with Jesus.

NARRATOR'S LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Jesus really cared for Peter and for all the disciples. After all, these were men He chose to carry on the work of God once He could no longer be with them. Were they perfect men? No. They sinned just like we do. They lacked faith at all the wrong times as we saw with Peter but they believed in Him.

1. JESUS ANSWERS THE SIN PROBLEM. He died on the Cross for each of us and rose from the grave to pay for our sin. God's Word says, "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" John 3:16

2. JESUS IS THE ONLY WAY TO HEAVEN. People think there are many ways to heaven. Some folks do good things for poor families or give money to worthy causes. Others go to church every week—some go to church every day! There are smart people who study books to get closer to God. Others live good, honest lives. These things are good but they do not lead anyone to heaven and they won't get you to heaven either. Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father but by Me.*" John 14:6

3. BELIEVE IN JESUS. Since the only way to God is through Jesus, we must believe in Him. Each man, woman, boy or girl must receive Him by personal invitation. Pray and ask Him to forgive your sin and make you His child.

God's Word says, "*Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.*" Revelation 3:20

CLOSE IN PRAYER

**THURSDAY
ON TIME!
MARTHA AND MARY**



NARRATOR: Welcome back to WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER. Today we are going to meet sisters who knew Jesus well. Let's peek in on a conversation these sisters are having to see if we can discover anything new about Jesus.

MARTHA: *(Entering the room in a hurry.)* Mary, hurry up. He's got to be coming down the path soon. I just know He's on His way. Jesus will not disappoint us after all we've done for Him. He's had dinner at our house in Bethany and even slept on our roof more than one hot night.

MARY: *(Looking down the road...)* Martha, It has been much too long since we sent the message that our brother Lazarus was sick. Jesus should have been here by now. I don't think He's coming. After all, Lazarus died already. What can Jesus do now?

MARTHA: I'm not leaving until I see Jesus and His friends coming over that hill. We have seen Him raise the dead, Mary. He can do the same for Lazarus. I just know He can. Let's walk and see if we can see Him coming. *(Mary and Martha Exit the room.)*

NARRATOR: I hope Mary and Martha are not disappointed. If Jesus did not go to Bethany when Lazarus was alive, why would He rush after his death?

MARY: *(Entering the room crying...)* Oh Martha, that was the hardest thing I ever had to do. Placing Lazarus in the cave and watching the great stone rolled over the opening....It still doesn't seem real. I need my big brother. Who will watch over us now?

MARTHA: *(Sadly....)* I can barely speak. Jesus didn't come. He didn't come! It has been four days since our brother died. Even if He comes now it is too late.

MARY: Look! There He is! He's at the edge of the village. Let's go and greet him. He can tell us what delayed His arrival. *(Both sisters exit.)*

NARRATOR: These sisters needed Jesus and He wasn't there. Everything I know about Jesus is opposite of this situation. He is supposed to be there for me and for you. He

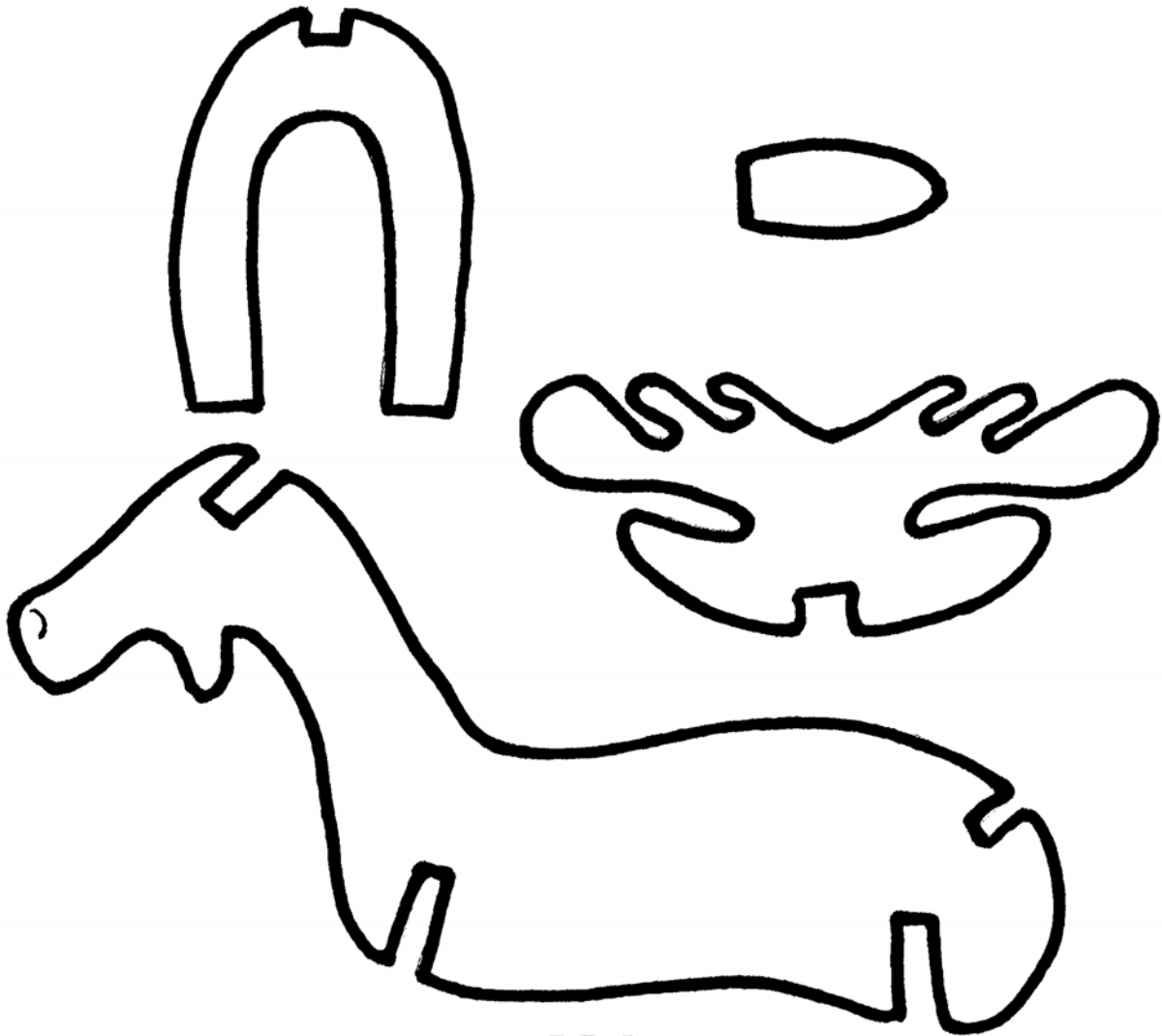
MOOSE FOR THE MOOSE TRAP

Use these moose shapes to decorate your workshop. Enlarge each figure using a transparency made on your copier, placed on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.



THE MOOSE PROJECT

This homemade craft is one option that can be used if volunteers are available to cut 1/8" balsa and 1/4" plywood pieces on scroll saws or ban saws. The pattern size may be used as is or enlarged if desired. Each project contains a total of five pieces placed in zip lock plastic bags for safe keeping. Students sand and glue the pieces together like a puzzle. Painting is not necessary. Another option is to enlarge the pattern to make a moose that stands 4-5' tall at the entrance to the workshop or at Raccoon Lodge Opening.



Make

1-Body (1/4" plywood) 2 legs (1/4" plywood)
1 Tail (1/8" balsa wood) 1 Antler Rack (1/8" balsa wood)

could have come to Bethany before Lazarus died. He could have at least said goodbye. Maybe Jesus just didn't care about this friend.

MARTHA: (*Running back into the room alone, speaking directly to the group.*) You are never going to believe what happened. I cried to Jesus on the hill, "*Lord, if only You had been here, my brother would not have died!*" He smiled at me, "*Your brother will rise again.*"

There is no doubt that Lazarus will rise again in the last day but I had a feeling that is not what He meant. It was all a mystery. Lazarus was dead and Mary and I would be alone in the world. Jesus said, "*I am the resurrection and the life. He that believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live. And those who live and believe in me shall never die.*" And then He asked me, "*Do you believe this?*"

I didn't really understand what Jesus was saying to me but I wanted to understand. I told Him, "*Yes, Lord, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God.*"

MARY: (*Running back into the room, speaking directly to the group.*) Martha told me the Master wanted to see me so I ran to meet Jesus. He was resting along the road. I fell at his feet. I was sobbing, "*Lord, if you had been here my brother would not have died!*"

Just then I saw lots of our friends from Jerusalem surrounding us. They came to comfort us and saw me running to Jesus. They thought I was headed for the grave and followed me. When they saw me crying, they cried too. We were all crying as we stood around Jesus.

He said, "*Where have you laid Lazarus' body?*" We led him to the cave and then Jesus cried! What a sappy, sad group we were.

MARTHA: The Jews from Jerusalem whispered, "*See how much he loved Lazarus! Surely this man who opened blind eyes could have healed Lazarus.*" While they were talking about Him, Jesus ordered some men to roll the stone away from the cave entrance.

I shouted, "*Lord, he has been dead four days. By this time his body is decaying!*" Jesus said, "*Did I not tell you that you would see the glory of God if you believed?*" I didn't argue any more.

MARY: The stone was rolled away and while everyone watched, Jesus lifted his eyes to heaven and prayed, *“Father, I thank you that you have heard me. And I know that you hear me always. I say this so the people who are here may believe you have sent me.”* Then He stared into the dark cave and shouted in a loud voice, *“Lazarus, come out!”*

MARTHA: Oh let me tell them! Lazarus got up and came out of that cave! Jesus told us to take off his burial clothes and let him go. Lazarus went home with us and Jesus came with us too! What a happy day this has been. Our brother is home and Jesus worked a miracle!

THE SISTERS WAVE GOODBYE AND LEAVE THE THEATER AREA.

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NARRATOR'S LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

What can we learn from this story about Mary, Martha, Lazarus and Jesus? When Lazarus was alive and the sisters sent for Jesus to come and heal him, He could have been on time. Once Lazarus died everyone thought, "Too late!" But was Jesus too late? No, He was on time. Jesus always has the right timing in our lives. Even when we think He hasn't heard our prayers, He will answer at just the right time.

God's Word says–

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

Here is a simple plan for receiving Christ as your own Savior:

- 1. ADMIT YOUR NEED.** Each of us must admit our sin by saying to God, *"I am a sinner."*
- 2. BE WILLING TO TURN FROM YOUR SIN.** *"Repent"* is a word which means saying *"I'm sorry"* to God.
- 3. BELIEVE JESUS DIED AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.** God's Word tells us about Jesus and His great sacrifice for us. Now we must believe the message.
- 4. THROUGH PRAYER, INVITE JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE.** It is easy to become a believer. We become Christians by asking Jesus to forgive us and by asking Him to enter our lives as Savior and Lord.

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

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

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD
JESUS FEEDS 5000



This skit requires two actors. 2 males or 2 females or 1 male and 1 female. You choose! The TRAVELERS dress in Holy Land costume. They carry baskets or sling styled bags that show they are traveling. This story is from Matthew 14:13-23; Mark 6:30-46; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15.

NARRATOR: Welcome to WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER. This is our last day together. Today we watch two friends traveling in Israel. They have just seen an amazing thing. At least, they think something special happened. Let's see if they are nearby.

TRAVELER 1: *(Enter room alone)* What a beautiful day! This morning it looked a little like rain but I took the chance to see the Teacher on the Hill anyway. *(Speaking to group)* Have you met Him yet? He was sitting on the hill over there. There were thousands of people listening to Him talk about the kingdom of God.

TRAVELER 2: *(Enter room)* What a beautiful day! I was afraid of rain this morning but it passed and I got to meet the Teacher on the Hill. *(Speaking to the group)* Have you met Him yet?

TRAVELER 1: Excuse me. Did I hear you say you met the Teacher on the Hill?

TRAVELER 2: If you mean Jesus of Nazareth, I did. An amazing thing happened. Now, don't laugh but He made food for thousands out of nothing but.....

TRAVELER 1: Out of nothing but a boy's small lunch of fish and bread. Oh, I'm not laughing. I saw it too. How could He feed so many hungry people?

TRAVELER 2: It must have been a trick. I bet He had baskets of food hidden behind rocks and when we said we were hungry, he pulled it out to amaze us.

TRAVELER 1: Do you think so? I was in the first row and I didn't see anything tricky. I didn't see any baskets of food until after everyone ate.

TRAVELER 2: Well, how else do you explain such a...such a...such amiracle!

TRAVELER 1: A miracle. That's when God breaks into earth's natural laws and does something unbelievable. I say we saw a miracle. A crowd gathered around Jesus and his friends. They tried to get him to rest but Jesus looked at us with love in his eyes. He said, "They are like sheep that have no shepherd."

TRAVELER 2: He sat down and taught us about the kingdom of God. He healed the sick and when evening came no one wanted to leave.

TRAVELER 1: I was afraid I would not find a spot for food or shelter in the desert when I heard his friends say Jesus should send us away so we could buy food in the towns and villages as we walked home. The clouds looked like rain so I turned to go.

TRAVELER 2: Jesus said he wanted to feed us before sending us away. He asked Philip to find bread for all of us. There must have been well over 5000 on that hill. 5000 men plus all the women and children.

TRAVELER 1: Philip shook his head and said if we spent a great deal of money there wouldn't be enough bread for even a tiny bite for each person. It was a problem and no one had an answer. I did not know how far I would have to walk to find Jesus.

TRAVELER 2: One boy remembered his lunch basket. There were five little loaves of barley bread and two small fish. He heard Jesus and the disciples talking and went up to Andrew with his basket. That little guy offered all his food .

TRAVELER 1: Andrew told Jesus who said, "Bring it to me." All the people were divided into small groups of fifty and one hundred. I saw Jesus take the lunch, give thanks and break it into small pieces. He filled one basket for each disciple to pass to the hungry folks.

TRAVELER 2: I gobbled my bread and fish as soon as I got it. Then there was more and then more. I ate so much that I'm still full. I saw the left over food and it filled twelve big baskets.

TRAVELER 1: How wonderful it would be to have a king like Jesus. Just think, anytime we are hungry, we just tell the king and he feeds us.

TRAVELER 2: Come with me. Maybe we can convince Jesus to come home with us. We'll crown Him king. We'll build a palace and you and I can take care of all his friends and followers. (*Exit arm in arm.*)

NARRATOR: Jesus did not allow these people to crown Him their king. He did not come to earth to be a military leader or government leader. He told his disciples to sail to the other side of the lake. When they left, the people went away and Jesus prayed in the mountains, alone.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

NARRATOR'S LESSONS

*We have learned much about Jesus in **WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER**. We met two friends who wondered who Jesus was. We met the prodigal son who wasted his inheritance. We met Peter who walked on water...well, sort of. Then Mary and Martha shared their story about Jesus raising their brother Lazarus from the dead. Today we met two travelers who were part of a miracle. What can we learn from all these adventures?*

1. Jesus is Amazing! Jesus made a big impression on everyone He met. He healed sick people, raised people from the dead and fed hungry folks when no food was available. They must have talked about Him as they walked home from the Mount of Olives or from the temple in Jerusalem.

2. Believe in Jesus! Jesus said He was God's promised Messiah. The Jewish people were searching for their Savior but somehow they missed Him when He actually arrived. The few who believed in Him changed the world.

3. Be a Jesus Follower! Today we can become followers of Jesus. If you prayed for salvation yesterday, you are a brand new Christian. You can pray the prayer today too...or any day! People need to ask Jesus to come into their lives one time and He's there forever. It will change your life. The Bible says... *"For whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:13

4. Become Supernatural! Receiving Jesus means we are born into God's family and the Holy Spirit lives in us like in every Christian. We become children of God through Jesus.

5. Grow in Jesus! Read your Bible everyday. Talk to God in prayer everyday. He loves to hear from you. Tell others about Jesus. Go to a church where Jesus is talked about. Take care of others who cannot care for themselves. These things make God happy and make us a part of God's kingdom.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

Bible Workshop Tips

Each CABIN FEVER Workshop represents a delightful Deep Woods location in America's great woodland. Bible stories teach **Jesus Scouts** how to build their lives on Jesus. Good news about Jesus is joyously proclaimed. Our Scouts enjoy a woodland activity, memorize a scripture verse, hear a Bible story and complete a craft. Each day student groups visit a different workshop for forty five minutes. Accompany your daily group to all activities.



BIBLE WORKSHOP #1: THE MOOSE TRAP
Off The Beaten Path

Before Jesus

Memory Verse: *"There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death."* Proverbs 14:12

Bible Story: Rich, Young and On The Move Matthew 19:16-30

Craft

BIBLE WORKSHOP #2: BEARLY HOME

Come In From the Cold

Meet Jesus

Memory Verse: *"Come to me....and I will give you rest."* Matthew 11:28

Bible Story: A Miracle In A Cottage
Matthew 8:18-22, Luke 9:57.62

Craft

BIBLE WORKSHOP #3: ONCE IN A BLUE LOON COTTAGE

Joy In The Journey

Simply Enjoy Jesus

Memory Verse: *"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord...."* Psalm 95:1a

Bible Story: Kids For Christ
Matthew 19:13-15, Mark 10:13-16

Craft

BIBLE WORKSHOP #4: TREE HUGGIN' LUMBERJACK CAMP

A Cut Above

Grow In Jesus

Memory Verse: *“He is like a tree planted by streams of water...
Whatever he does prospers.”* Psalm 1:3

Bible Story: The Zaccheus Tree Luke 19:1-10

Craft

BIBLE WORKSHOP #5: RAINY LAKE FISHING CABIN

Catch The Spirit

Talk To Jesus

Memory Verse: *“Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.”* Matthew 4:19

Bible Story: Fishermen And Their New Fish Matthew 4:18-22, Mark 1:16.38

Craft

DECORATE: Follow decorating suggestions or create your own cabin. Borrow items from church members, family and friends. Make some items from construction paper, poster board and cardboard. Use lighting to make the area dramatic.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become an enthusiastic Nature Guide. Follow Lesson Plan instructions. Borrow, make or dig into the closet to dress appropriately.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Teach the scripture verse by using a game, story or activity. Shorten the verse to match the age group as necessary.

BIBLE STORY: Tell the story seriously as students sit quietly. Ask questions to encourage involvement. Simplify material for younger students. Older students may read scripture and participate in discussion.

CRAFT: Reserve a corner to create a keepsake. Projects are suggested from S&S arts and crafts catalog. Homemade projects may be desirable. Divide craft parts into kits. As students take their places, place everything they need in front of them. Helpers may assist young students. Change the project if you find something appropriate. Students not attending Open House may take their completed project home any time.

TIME MANAGEMENT: Students complete activities in one session. If suggested activities cannot be completed or if the program has been adapted to shorter time slots, choose the most important details and eliminate the rest.



Craft Recommendations

Each **CABIN FEVER** Bible Workshop includes time for a craft activity. Choose one craft from the following list to

complete with each group at individual workshops. Homemade projects are fun and inexpensive so ask crafty folks to create five separate projects and gather materials for the teachers. Our suggestions are from S&S arts and crafts catalog.

Prices may change. For a current S&S catalog and/or Christian craft catalog, call 1-800-9232 (Free catalog). Order from their web site: www.ssw.com

FISH BOOK KITS. Use your own wiggly eyes, yarn, glitter (also available through S&S) to decorate the fish-shaped book cover. When complete, your kids discuss the meaning and importance of the Christian fish symbol. They use the 10 pages for writing special prayers or favorite Bible passages. Includes precut pages, precut covers and rainbow lacing. 6 3/4" W x 4 3/4" H. RMC-GP1528 \$11.99 per pack of 24. 50 cents per project.

POMPON NOTE HOLDERS. Pack includes spring clothes pins, multicolored pompons, wiggly eyes, chenille stems, magnetic tape, non toxic glue and instructions. Make your own Deep Woods bugs. 3" long. RMC-PG548 \$13.99 per pack of 25. 56 cents per project.

CATCH THE FISH TAIL. Brightly colored fish make excellent wind socks or wall hangings. This fun pack includes kite cord, non toxic glue and paint, glitter, assorted colored bags, tissue paper, brushes and instructions. RMC-GP1363 \$14.99 per pack of 28. 54 cents per project.

PINE TREE PLANTERS. Watch pine trees grow with this kit. Comes with plastic flower pots, potting soil, pine tree seeds, non toxic acrylic paint, brushes and instructions. 2 1/2" diameter. Germinates in 14 days. RMC-GP1018 \$16.99 per pack of 50. 34 cents per project.

BEADED FISH KEY CHAINS. Thread beads onto chenille stems to create individual fish shaped key chains. Includes assorted tri-beads, chenille stems, bead key chains and instructions. 2" x 4". RMC-RE129 \$10.99 per pack of 24. 46 cents per project.

FISH BEADS. These fun, chunky beads are easy to string, fun to wear and come in assorted bright colors. Mix with other beads for a unique look. Approximately 1 1/2" long. 50 pieces per pack. RMC-BE913 \$8.39 per pack.

TISSUE ART CROSS. Includes precut self adhesive crosses, tissue paper strips, string and instructions. RMC-RE426 \$17.99 per pack of 24. 75 cents per project.

SPARKLING TILE CROSS. Colorfully adorn decorative crosses to hang anywhere. Includes assorted acrylic pieces, glitter, precut cross shapes, non toxic glue, string for hanging and

instructions. 5" x 8". RMC-RE312 \$23.99 per pack of 24. \$1.00 per project.

SPROUT ART. The wonders of plant growth revealed. Place one pre-cut sponge in a little water on a 3" or larger jar lid (not included), sprinkle on the mustard seeds and form the growing chamber. Seeds germinate within 7-14 days and the sprouts are even edible! Kids can mark growth on the side of the enclosure. Kit includes assorted sponge shapes, acetate sheets, 3" Clear plastic lids, mustard seeds, masking tape and an instruction guide. RMC-GP1261 \$24.99 per pack of 24. \$1.04 per project.

WOODEN BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES. Decorate these figures with paint, markers, etc., and they become plant pokes or stick puppet characters. 2 1/2" x 10 1/8". RMC-WD3362 \$5.29 per set of 12. 44 cents per project.

NATURE HAND FANS. Create a real stir with these cool hand fans designed to look like frogs, fish, bugs and more. Great to use as puppets. Includes cardboard circles, wooden handles, carbon paper, non-toxic acrylic paint and glue, brushes, patterns and instructions. 8" diameter. RMC-GP858 \$9.99 per pack of 12. 83 cents per project.

MOSAIC SUPER FOAM NAMEPLATE. A great VBS activity that kids make and take the same day! Create mosaic patterns with pre-cut, self-adhesive Super Foam tiles and sheets in assorted colors, pre-cut black posterboard nameplates, pattern suggestions and instructions. Everyone can make a JESUS nameplate for their bedroom. RMC-GP1499 \$24.99 per pack of 24. \$1.04 per project.

FISH NET WINDOW HANGING. Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, "Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men." This is a perfect craft for RAINY LAKE FISHING CABIN. Includes jumbo craft sticks, white nylon netting, multi-cultural people figures, non-toxic glue and broad tip markers, kite cord and instructions. Size: 5 1/2" x 6". RMC-RE437 \$7.99 per pack of 24. 33 cents per project.

BIBLE SCHOOL TILE COASTER PACK. Economy sized coaster pack is ideal for VBS. Complete with tiles, non-toxic glue, grout, metal coasters and instructions. 2 7/8" diameter. Tile shapes may vary. RMC-TT703XX \$93.49 per pack of 96. 97 cents per project.

BIBLE WORKSHOP #1:

THE MOOSE TRAP ...OFF THE BEATEN PATH Before Jesus

SPIRITUAL THEME: Sin is a trap! Everyone we meet seems to have an opinion on how to live a fulfilling life on earth. Not everyone has the correct answer to life's issues. Listening to the right voice is important in the life of every human being. Jesus is the only answer to sin. The Bible says so. Let's begin our journey to heaven by getting...OFF THE BEATEN PATH.

Baby Moose--->



DECORATION: Design a small cabin hideaway in the Deep Woods. Follow our basic decorating ideas but add some things unique to this cabin. Hand print (or use dry twigs): **THE MOOSE TRAP.** Darken the room so that it is lit by one table lamp or electric lantern.

Draw large black shadow moose (use black construction paper or cardboard spray painted black) following the basic pattern supplied. Make as many as necessary to line one, two, three or four walls of the room. This gives an effect that a herd of moose is looking in and observing the activities in THE MOOSE TRAP.

Any item that resembles a moose is appropriate. Signs, antlers, trophy heads, pictures, stuffed moose. Check "moose" web sites on the internet for an amazing array of moose items. Everything from moose yard figures to inflated moose heads are available and...oh so much fun! Print the following signs and scatter them on cabin walls, doors and windows:

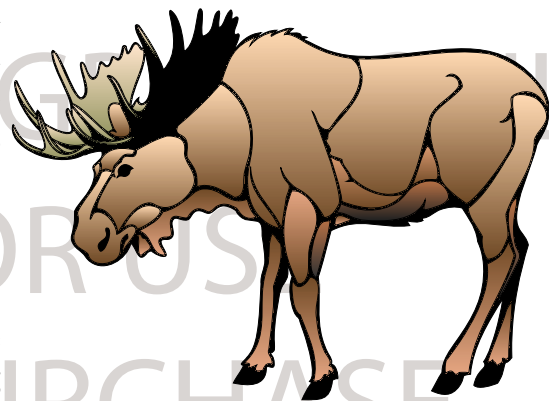
MOOSE ON THE LOOSE!
DON'T MOOSE AROUND
MOOSE AND BEAR EVERYWHERE
MOOSE CROSSING
IT MOOSE-T BE LOVE

MOOSE AND SQUIRREL...GOOD FRIENDS

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become a Deep Woods hermit living away from people and ordinary life. The tone of your character should be that of quiet reflection on whether to believe in Jesus or ignore the message. Dress in mountain clothing using the ideas in the section **DRESSING FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS**.

NATURE GUIDE WELCOME: *If possible, display moose antlers, trophy head, pictures, plush animals or pictures. Use illustrations provided or find your own “moose” art. Rent a nature video and show videos of these beautiful animals in their natural habitat. Have fun teaching the students all you know about moose!*

Moose Information: Welcome to **THE MOOSE TRAP!** Let’s talk moose! Do you know much about that noble animal? It is the world’s largest member of the deer family. The biggest moose live in Alaska but they live in all northern forests in North America, Europe and Russia. Sometimes they are called Elk. They tend to live alone, have a deep call and strong odor.



Moose are goofy looking. The most famous cartoon moose is Bullwinkle from the *Rocky and Bullwinkle* cartoon. Real moose have long legs and a huge body with a drooping nose. They have a beard under their chin (dewlap) and wear a short tail. I’ve seen brown moose and black moose and even a few golden brown beauties. Moose grow to be huge—about 7½’ tall! Males weigh from 1200 to 1600 pounds. Females weigh in at 800 to 1300 pounds. Only the bulls have antlers. In the wild, moose rarely live more than 16 years.

They have a big appetite and eat willow, birch and aspen twigs. A real treat is pond weeds and grasses. They eat everything in sight and it is common to see an entire wooded area “eaten up” to the height of 6 to 8 feet above the ground. Who eats moose? Grizzly bears and wolves think they are a tasty treat!

MEMORY VERSE: Teach the scripture verse by placing words on large cardboard moose antlers. Allow students to touch the words and say the verse.

*There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.
Proverbs 14:12*

People have the notion that they have answers to everything. We humans seem to have opinions on everything. God's Word says that sometimes human wisdom isn't as smart as God's wisdom. In fact, if we're not careful, our ideas can lead to separation from God.

BIBLE STORY: RICH, YOUNG AND ON THE MOVE

Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31: This is one of the best loved Bible stories. People come up with reasons why becoming a Christian is just plain silly. Listen to the words of Jesus to know what pleases Him. We become faithful followers of Jesus by avoiding **traps** that others get into because of their doubts, questions or life changes.

One day a young man ran to Jesus. He was dressed in the latest fashions looking very much like an up and coming young businessman. He kneeled in the dust before Jesus, *"Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"* This young guy was looking for happiness and peace with God. He wanted a list of special rules that would earn him "brownie points" with God. That isn't the way God works!

Jesus said, "Why do you question 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." The rich guy says, *"What in particular should I do?"* Jesus reminds him *Don't murder, don't steal, don't lie, honor your father and mother and love your neighbor as you do yourself."*

The young man replied, "I've done all that. What's left?" Jesus said, *"If you want to give it all you've got, sell your possessions, give everything to the poor. All your wealth will then be in heaven. Then, come follow me."* Jesus was giving this young man the opportunity of a lifetime...following Jesus as one of His disciples. What would the rich, young guy decide?

It was hard to give up his beautiful house, clothes, donkey, gold coins, jewelry and impressive job. It was the last thing the young man expected. He thought there would be some other simple law he could keep to make himself feel better about pleasing God. His face was sad as he walked away. He held on tight to *things* and he couldn't bear to let them go.

As Jesus watched this rich, young man go away, He asked his disciples, "Do you have any

idea how difficult it is for the rich to enter God's kingdom? Let me tell you, it is easier to gallop a camel through a needle's eye than for the rich to enter God's kingdom."

MOOSE TRAP LESSONS:

BEFORE JESUS

1. BEING YOUNG AND RICH ISN'T ALL IT'S CRACKED UP TO BE. Television and music shout that the best thing about life is being young and rich. If you have the newest gadgets, a great job and a beautiful partner, life will be perfect.

2. THE KEY TO KNOWING GOD IS NOT RULES AND REGULATIONS. Our young man claimed to have kept the law. He may have been a good person but he had not kept all the rules and regulations because his attitude toward his fellow men was wrong. In the end he was selfish and that is why Jesus challenged him to sell all and to give to the poor.

3. THE STUFF WE OWN IS NOT WHO WE ARE. The young man was so tied to his *stuff* that nothing less than getting rid of all of it would save him. If you look at the stuff you own as things for your own comfort and convenience, they become a chain that must be broken. **Name some of your "stuff" that would be hard to give up.**

4. GOD LOVED SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE. Finding eternal life is not piling up credit points with God by keeping commandments and observing rules and regulations, it will be through copying God's attitude of love and care. To follow Christ is God's plan for each person on earth.

In the end the young man refused Jesus' challenge because he had great possessions.

His tragedy was that he loved "stuff" more than he loved people and he loved himself more than he loved others. Anyone who puts things before people and self before others must turn their back on Jesus Christ. Don't be trapped by "stuff" like the rich, young man.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

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

BIBLE WORKSHOP #2:

BEARLY HOME ...COME IN FROM THE COLD Meet Jesus

SPIRITUAL THEME: Jesus was a miracle man to crowds of hopeless people. Today's theme explains what happens when we meet Jesus in a special way. He is ready to help us no matter what we are going through.



DECORATION: Turn your space into a cozy bear cottage much like the home of Goldilocks' Three Bear Family. Set up the cottage with lots of items that make the space look like the Bear's Home. Use curriculum ideas and add items unique to this workshop.

Set a table with three bowls amidst a wildflower centerpiece on a country tablecloth. Place three chairs (large, medium, small) in the area. Three pillows stacked in a corner represent the three beds upstairs. Decorate with frilly doilies,

an end table with lamp, floor lamp, family pictures in frames (all bears of course!), braided rug, frilly cottage curtains, fireplace, bookshelf, honey pots, stuffed teddy bears, wicker baskets, a large family Bible on the table, a sign stating LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS and other homey touches to make the **BEARLY HOME** look welcoming, cozy and comfortable.

Place a mailbox outside the door with the family address clearly printed:

*The Bearly Family
333 Deep Woods Lane
Cabin Fever, USA 33333*

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become a Nature Guide (See **Dressing For The Great Outdoors**) trying to visit the absent Bear family. Since the family is not home, invite the group to come in and enjoy their cottage. The scene resembles the famous story, **Goldilocks And The Three Bears**. Reassure visitors that the Bear Family is friendly and will not mind the invasion. Perhaps they are hunting for blueberries or picnicking in the woods.

NATURE GUIDE WELCOME: (*Knock on the closed door.*) Let's see if anyone is at the **BEARLY HOME** today. Hmm, no one seems to answer the door. Hello! Papa Bear! Mama Bear! Baby! Come to the door. We have walked a long way to find your cottage.

Perhaps we should look inside and see if they are home. (*Open the door cautiously while calling.*) No one is home! Let's go in and look around. I'm sure they won't mind. This cottage looks somehow familiar. Let's see. Three Bears, three bowls, three chairs, three pillows...what do you think? Yes, I think we have found the Deep Woods Cottage of that famous Bear family we all know and love. Let's sit in the cottage while they are away.



You're smarter than the average bear although the average bear is pretty smart. I bet you're a real bear when it comes to school grades. My advice is to study those bear necessities in case you spent too much time hibernating last winter. Am I un-bear-able?

Bear Information: Let me tell you about these gigantic creatures. Bears can be found throughout the world. They are generally large animals and walk on their heels like humans. They have a large body, short legs, a stub of a tail, small round ears and forward facing eyes. The real giants are the grizzly bears and polar bears.

Did you know there are 18 types of black bears found in the United States and Canada? Black bears can be black, white, brown, cinnamon and even blue (blue glacier bear). They weigh around 300 pounds but a really big one was killed in Wisconsin that weighed 802 pounds! They will eat nearly anything. They are fond of honey and destroy many beehives. The black bear has claws which are shorter

and more curved than a grizzly bear. This allows it to climb trees. Often mother bears will encourage baby bears to climb a tree while there is danger.

MEMORY VERSE: I don't understand why the Bearlys are not home. I'm sure I told them we were coming. At least we can rest awhile before heading back into the woods. Sit down. Rest. I'm sure they won't mind. Look! Here is the Bearly Family Bible. I wonder what they have been reading. (*Open the Bible to the memory verse.*)

Come to Me...And I will give you rest.

Matthew 11:28

Jesus wants each person to come to Him for salvation. His promise is that we will enjoy rest when we depend upon Him. Let's learn today's verse by saying it together.

BIBLE STORY:

MIRACLE IN A COTTAGE

Matthew 8:14,15: Today's Bible story happens in the middle of stories about a lot of people who want to meet Jesus. Most are very sick. Jesus is their miracle man. He had just come from the synagogue where he healed a man. Then he healed the centurion's servant on the way home. The Bible says that each time Jesus performed a miracle, a little power left him. Miracles cost Jesus physical strength. Jesus was very tired.

Jesus finds himself in front of Peter's house after a busy day with crowds of people. Peter invited the group inside for rest and a delicious dinner. They discover Peter's wife's mother ill with a fever. There were several types of fevers in those days that were miserable. She may have had malaria, which was common. She met Jesus in a wonderful way that day. At Peter's cottage there was no publicity, no crowd to look and be astonished. There was only a simple cottage and a poor woman tossing with a common fever. Even then, Jesus put forth all his power.

Jesus was not one of these people who are at their best in public and at their worst in private. He did not need an admiring audience to be at his best. In a crowd or in a cottage His love and His power were for anyone who needed Him.

No sooner had He healed Peter's mother-in-law than she busied herself in attending to his needs and to the needs of the other guests. She clearly thought of herself as "*saved to serve.*" She could have taken a break and rested while others served her. He had healed her and her one desire was to use her health to be of use and of service to Him and to others.

When you Jesus, you have a choice. You can accept His gift of salvation and then go

your merry way, forgetting how much He loves you or you can serve Him and serve others.

BEARLY HOME LESSONS:

JESUS LOVES BEARS

*Make an oversized story book with cardboard, colorful construction paper, ribbons and glitter. Print **JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE BEARS** on the cover. Place the script inside the covers. Sit in one of the three chairs to read the story.*

I found a story book that Mama Bearly must read to Baby Bearly. Let's see what they have been reading. It looks like a fairy tale or a pretend story but maybe we can learn something that will help us learn more about Jesus.

Long ago Jesus came into the world to meet those who needed help. One winter day Jesus went for a walk. He came upon a cottage in the woods. He knocked and when no one answered, He walked right in. He discovered a delightful cottage home that was owned by the bear family.

At the kitchen table, Jesus found three bowls of porridge. He was very hungry but He noticed there wasn't much food in the little cottage so He didn't take porridge from any of the bowls. Instead, He found a loaf of bread and some honey in His backpack. Placing them beside the bowls, He prayed for the bear family who lived and worked in that home.

Jesus was tired so He walked into the living room where He saw three chairs. The first chair was very large. When He sat in the chair, His feet did not touch the floor. "I think the person who sits in this chair is the father bear in this cottage. He works hard and comes home to find rest". The large chair had wooden arms that kept falling off. Jesus took out His carpenter tools and found just the right nails to fix the chair. "There," said Jesus, "Now Father Bear will have a comfortable place to rest at the end of his day."

Jesus noticed the pink chair in the middle of the room was a bit smaller. He sat in that chair. It was comfortable and soft but He noticed a few stains. "Those look like tear stains. I can wipe away those tears so Mother Bear will feel peace as her little family leaves her side." He had just the right stain remover in His tool kit and soon the comfortable pink chair looked like new.

"Ahh," said Jesus. "This is my favorite chair in the cottage. It is very small. It must

belong to Bear Cub.” He noticed the little chair was very old. Many bear cubs had spent happy hours sitting in it. It was worn and needed a fresh coat of paint. Jesus had just the thing. He found a small paint brush and a brand new jar of shiny red paint. Within a few minutes the little chair looked brand new. Jesus stood back and said, “Many more cubs will listen to stories in that chair.”

Jesus wondered where the Bear family was who lived in the little cottage in the woods. He was very tired by this time so He went upstairs to the bedroom. Lo and behold, sleeping in the beds, were three very large, very tired, hibernating bears! They barely moved as Jesus entered their room.

Jesus leaned over the largest bed and whispered, *“Wake up, Father Bear. I need to speak to you.”* The huge bear opened his eyes and growled in anger. *“Get out of my cottage! I don’t need intruders ruining my long winter’s nap.”* Jesus smiled and explained that He was walking in the forest and came upon the bears’ cottage. *“I mean no harm. I would like to help your little family.”* Father Bear, seeing the kindness in Jesus’ eyes, smiled back, *“Let’s wake the family and see what they think.”*

“Mother Bear, open your eyes. Jesus is here and He wants to meet you. Come now, dear. Let’s get dinner ready for our Guest.” Mother Bear opened her eyes and saw her visitor standing in the corner. *“Oh my,”* she said, *“I must look a mess. I’ve been sleeping all winter!”* She jumped from her cozy bed and invited Jesus to take a little nap while she prepared dinner.”

Jesus closed His eyes and slept comfortably in Mother Bear’s warm bed. When He awoke, He saw a pair of big brown eyes staring at Him nose to nose. *“Hi Mister,”* said the little cub. *“You’re going to eat dinner with Mama and Daddy and me. Are you really Jesus?”*

Jesus smiled, *“Yes, I am. Are you really a bear cub?”* The cub blinked his eyes, *“Yes, I am. You’re not going to hurt us, are you?”* Jesus assured Bear Cub that He only meant to visit a little while and would not hurt the bear family.

Father Bear greeted Jesus happily as the cub led Him to the kitchen. *“Thank You for not disturbing our porridge. It’s all we had left when hibernation began. We will eat it for breakfast tomorrow.”*

Mother Bear said, *“I noticed that You fixed all three chairs in our living room. We*

were afraid they would not last much longer.”

Bear Cub said, “I noticed how much You love us. Thank You for coming to visit our cottage in the woods.”

After a delicious bear dinner of sweet honey, homemade bread and blueberries, Jesus waved goodbye to His new friends. The Bear family knew they would never be the same after meeting Jesus. So, they lived happily ever after.

What can we learn from this story?

It isn't like the original Three Bears story.

What is different?

(Mention obvious differences between the Goldilocks and this one.)

What do we learn about Jesus?

Kind, helpful, loving, patient, attentive to needs

What do we learn about the bears?

Angry, fearful, accepting, open, welcoming

What do we learn about ourselves?

Are we like Jesus or are we like the bears?

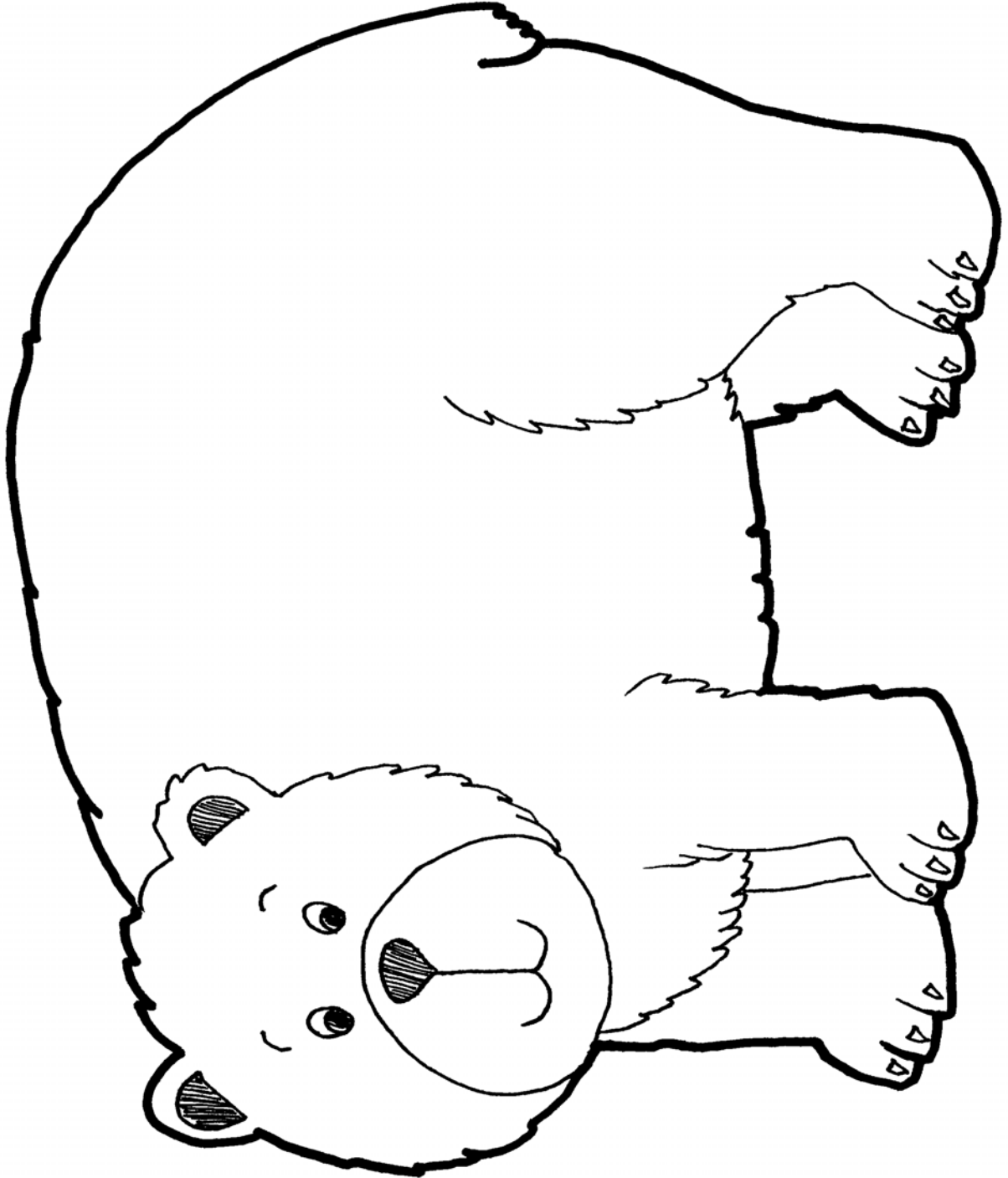
CLOSE IN PRAYER.

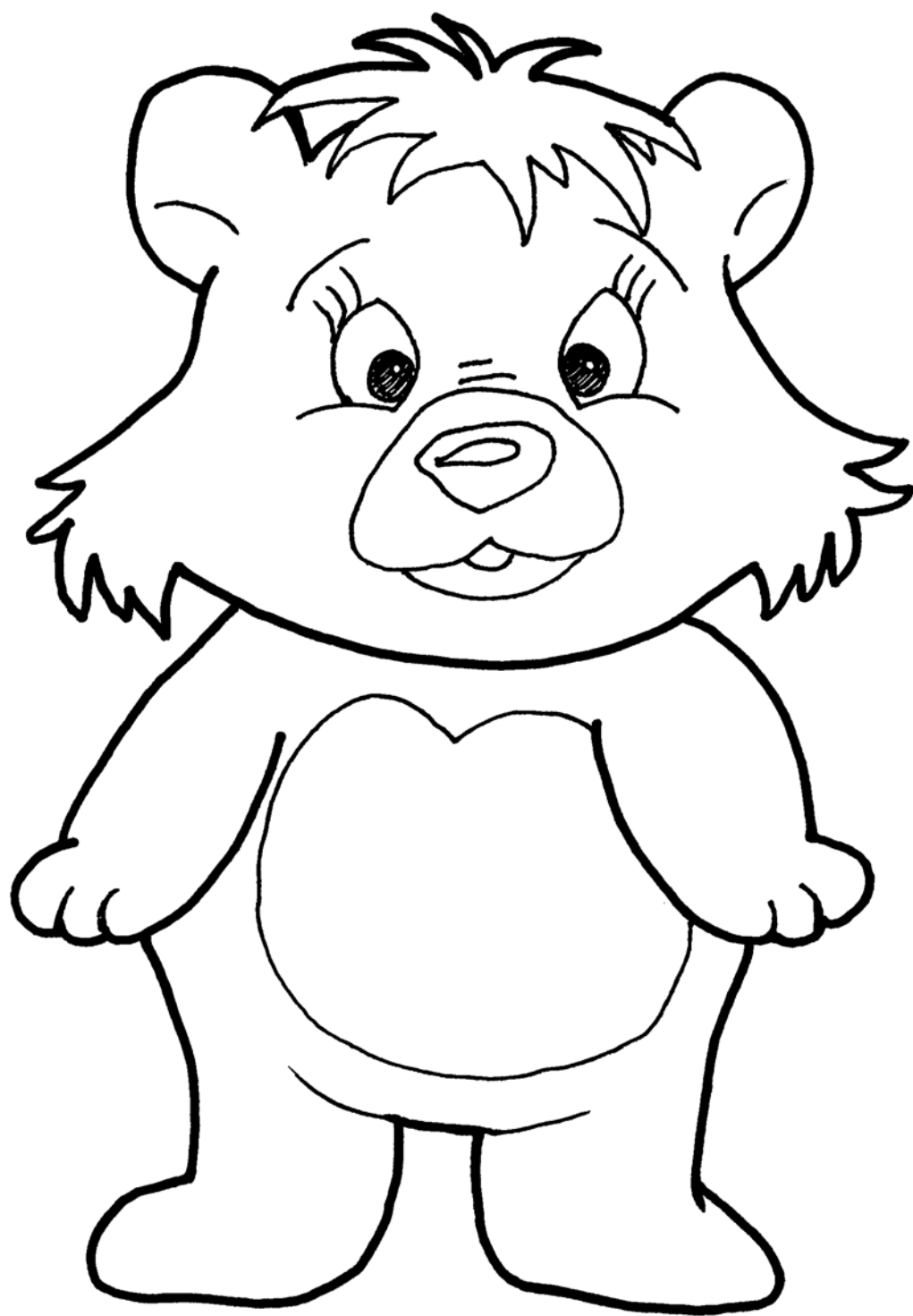
CRAFT: Choose a craft idea from the suggestion list or design your own bear project.

BIBLE WORKSHOP #3:

BEARLY HOME BEARS

Make 3 large bears to stand in the background. Enlarge each figure using a transparency made on your copier, placed on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.





ONCE IN A BLUE LOON COTTAGE

...JOY IN THE JOURNEY

Simply Enjoy Jesus

SPIRITUAL THEME: Sometimes serious life issues block out the pure enjoyment of knowing and learning about Jesus. Take time to fill the lives of each student with pure joy in the journey.

DECORATION: This workshop depicts a simple lakeside cottage. Fill it with cabin paraphernalia. Use items you have on hand or are able to borrow. Loons are lake birds that look a lot like a wild duck. If available, display duck decoys in the cottage area. Lean boat oars and life preservers against one wall. Rope, baskets, rustic furniture and other cabin signs:



ONCE IN A BLUE LOON COTTAGE
'TIS A GIFT TO BE SIMPLE
JOY IS SERVING JESUS
JOY IN THE JOURNEY
SMILE, BE HAPPY!

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Become a Nature Guide teaching this group about the joys of simple living. Maintain a quiet, cheerful attitude. Follow costuming ideas in curriculum.

NATURE GUIDE WELCOME: Welcome to ONCE IN A BLUE LOON COTTAGE! What a joy it is to have you visit our lakeside cottage. A simple lifestyle is an opportunity to test the waters of your imagination and abilities. The Simple Life takes some getting used to especially for city dwellers.



One challenge while living in the Deep Woods is leaving the convenience a city offers. There are no drive through fast food restaurants or chain grocery stores. We buy supplies wisely and limit travel to the city.

Waking up to a crisp breeze, hearing the birds that have been up for hours brings joyful energy for the day. Your basic goals, interests and ambitions have not changed. You are the same person on the outside but inside changes begin to happen.

We never get bored out here. There is always something happening—animals to be fed, cottage repairs and a sunset to enjoy. The smells and sounds of nature are thrilling. Even a coming storm is seen through new eyes. There are never enough hours in the day to see, hear, taste, touch everything nature has in store.

Every season provides special treats for the simple life. Wildlife is always active. Simple living is just about the best lifestyle you can possibly dream about. It is being grateful for the opportunity and delighting in the view.

MEMORY VERSE: The Christian life is a joyful journey. It is a lot like living the simple life in the Deep Woods. Let's learn a scripture verse to remind us of joyful living.

*Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord....
Psalm 95:1a*

BIBLE STORY:

KIDS FOR CHRIST

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16: There is something special about having kids gathered in a room for any activity. I think it is kids' laughter, giggles and the pure joy of living. Jesus loved kids! There is one story that shows how much Jesus appreciated children, even when grown ups weren't so sure their children were important.

As Jesus traveled from town to town, He spoke mostly to adults. On the fringes of the crowds were mothers and their little children. These mothers wanted Jesus to put his hands on their kids and pray for them.

The disciples were serious minded men. Jesus was a busy guy. It was their job to

protect him from bothersome people. They called the mothers aside and said, “*Don’t bother Jesus with your children. He has more important work to do.*”

The moms were so disappointed. After all, they got the kids out of bed and scrubbed them clean. They combed snarls from their hair and walked a long way to see Jesus. They were within sight of Jesus when they were turned away.

Just then, Jesus saw and mothers and their beautiful children. He called the kids to come to Him. I bet there were joyful hugs and shouts and jumping up and down as Jesus touched every child within his reach.

He was disappointed in the disciples. They forgot that children were important. Jesus said to the disciples, “*Let the children alone, don’t prevent them from coming to me. God’s kingdom is made up of people like these.*” Then He touched the kids, laughed with them and prayed over them. Jesus knew that children would joyfully believe him and many times they would lead older people to believe in Him too. Jesus knew children’s hearts were tender.

ONCE IN A BLUE LOON LESSONS: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT
There is joy in serving Jesus! Our lives change when we decide to follow Jesus. Paul wrote a letter to the church in Galatia and explained the difference between unhappy people and happy people who live for God. Let’s take a look!

Serve small slices of fruit as you talk about the Fruit of the Spirit. Arrange mandarin oranges, bananas, grapes, apples, kiwi and other tasty treats attractively on a platter. Serve these as you talk about the positive effects of what God wants His children to be.

Galatians 5:17-21: God doesn’t stop us from doing bad things because He’s a “meany”. God knows what will hurt us and strongly suggests we avoid the bad stuff even if everyone around us is doing these bad things.

Living to get our own way results in many bad things. *Cheap sex, mental and emotional garbage, frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness, trinket gods, magic show religion, paranoid loneliness, cutthroat competition, never satisfied wants, brutal temper, folks who don’t know how to give or accept love, divided homes and divided lives; small minded pursuits, turning everyone into a enemy; uncontrolled addictions and much more!*

(Taken from “The Message”)

Galatians 5:22-23: What happens when we live God’s way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—affection for others, zest for life, peace.

LIST INDIVIDUAL FRUIT NAMES ON HANDMADE BANANAS, APPLES, ORANGES. LET STUDENTS PLACE THEM ON ONE WALL AS EACH ONE IS DISCUSSED.

We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart. We find ourselves in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. (Taken from “The Message”)

CLOSE IN PRAYER.

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

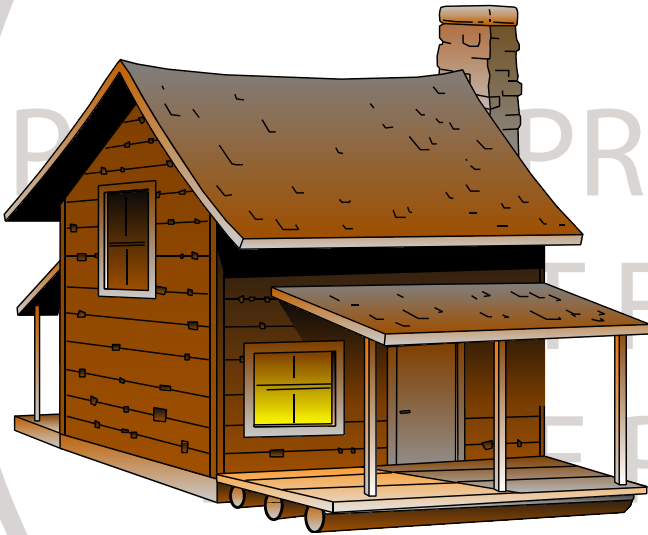
BIBLE WORKSHOP #4:

TREE HUGGIN' LUMBERJACK CAMP

...A CUT ABOVE

Grow In Jesus

SPIRITUAL THEME: Just as trees grow from small seeds, Christians grow from people who begin their life with Jesus knowing a little bit, growing every day in every way. Let's learn how to grow in Jesus!



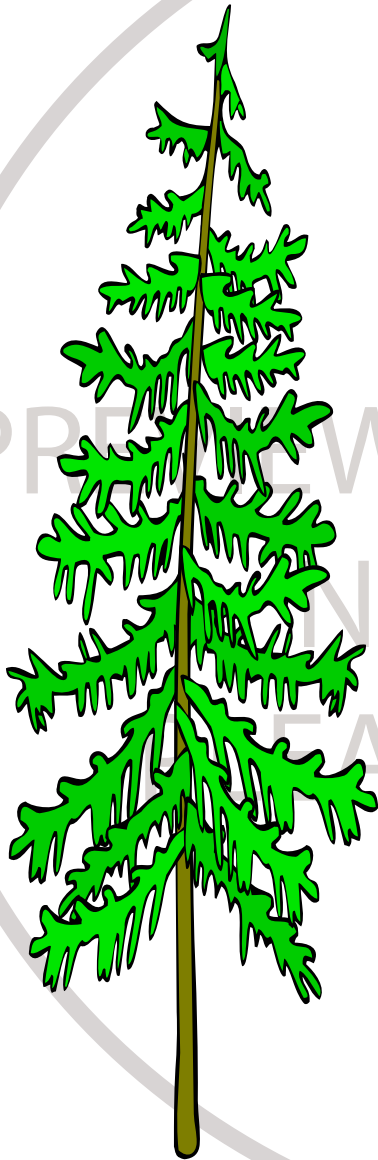
DECORATION: Lumberjacks are big, strong, manly men who live a rustic, rough life in the Deep Woods. This cabin is decorated to reflect that lifestyle. Find items that are worn and rough—large wooden benches and tables, red and white checkered vinyl tablecloths, metal bowls, oversized kitchen utensils, wooden barrels, cast iron frying pans, lanterns.

Hang a clothesline along one wall and pin flannel shirts and long underwear to the line with wooden clothes pins. Old time framed pictures that have seen better days (hung at an angle), braided rugs, quilts, and other outdated items finish the room's theme. Add a large log or stack of logs for the outdoor aroma, saws, axes and old toolboxes.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: This is the workshop that is tailor made for the men of the church. Ask several men to take charge and make this a raucous Paul Bunyan, mountain man, manly man area. What fun for the kids to see the guys taking charge. Dress like lumberjacks with flannel shirt, suspenders, jeans, work boots and cap. Sad to say, the historical reputation of real lumberjacks is less than sterling. For our purposes, become Christian lumberjacks who see God's hand in all creation.

If gals are hosting lumberjack camp, become cooks/caretakers. Dress in flannel, suspenders and jeans. Wear a huge apron during workshop time. *Sorry gals, women in lumberjack camps used to be called "Battle Axes" or "The Ball and Chain".*

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM TREES



1. It's important to have roots.
2. It pay to branch out.
3. Don't pine away over the past.
4. If you really believe in something go out on a limb.
5. Be flexible so you don't break when a harsh wind blows.
6. Be kind—don't wear firs.
7. Grow where you're planted.
8. It's okay to be a late bloomer.
9. Avoid people who want to cut you down.
10. Get all spruced up when you go out into the world.
11. If the party is dangerous, just leaf.
12. You can't hide your true colors.
13. It's more important to be honest than poplar.

LUMBERJACK WELCOME

Welcome to the **TREE HUGGIN' LUMBERJACK CAMP!** Where you are sitting is our Cook Shanty and Bunkhouse. This is the hub of camp life because it also contains the **WANIGAN, DINGLE** and **FILER'S SHOP**. The **DINGLE** (store room) holds staple food items, heavy kettles, chests, firewood and other supplies.

The **COOK SHANTY** and its crew, up before dawn to set table and hustle from scratch, a breakfast of pancakes, salt pork and coffee can make or break a camp. Table talk at the long, oil cloth covered tables is strictly limited to requests for food. Apprentices sweep floors and help the cook bake large loaves of bread and pies for the evening meal. The noon meal is delivered to loggers in the woods on a small sleigh or tote wagon. Cooks even bunk in the shanty so their early rising doesn't disturb the loggers' sleep.

Separate in many camps, the **WANIGAN** serves as the camp store. Lumberjacks buy clothing, shoes, blankets, and tools. Here you find several types of coal oil lamps. The company clerk doubles as bookkeeper, scaler, supplier, postman and storekeeper. Bills are settled at the end of the month or season when wages are paid.

In the other room, the **SAW FILER** or "camp dentist" files and keeps loggers saws in shape for each day's work. Filers usually spend a half hour in filing a saw and file about 20 saws in a day.

The **BUNKHOUSE** usually sleeps 25 men during logging season. It is difficult to keep bedbugs or lice away from mattresses of burlap, hay, straw and wooden branches. Every night, the **DRYING RACK** above and around the stove is used to dry clothes, underwear, socks and pants, creating an obnoxious odor that make sleeping difficult.

OIL LANTERNS light the room at night. Near the bunks is the **DEACON BENCH** where loggers spend free time spinning yarns, listening to fellow fiddlers or concertina players, playing cards or checkers, reading or perhaps smoking a pipe. The **DRY SINK** with pan, soap, roll towel, razor and strop is at one end of the room. A spittoon and a stack of firewood are located near the stove. Loggers sharpen their own axes at the **GRINDING WHEEL** near the stove.

Information from: Paul Bunyan Logging Camp, Eau Claire, WI,
www.paulbunyancamp.org

MEMORY VERSE: Lumberjacks love trees that are planted by rivers of water. Once a tree has been cut, it must be moved downstream to a saw mill. The moving of logs down the river seems easy enough but most of the wood doesn't grow close to the river. Today's verse reminds us of those strong healthy trees. This is about a person who wants to grow with God.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water...

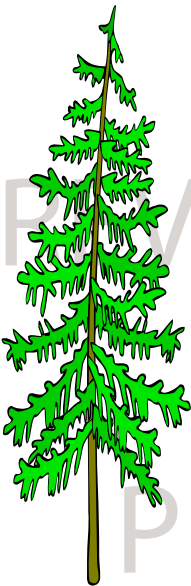
Whatever he does prospers."

Psalm 1:3

BIBLE STORY:

THE ZACCHEUS TREE

Luke 19:1-10: (From "The Message") There is a story in God's Word about a man and a tree. The man was short and the tree was tall. Zaccheus was the head tax guy in Jericho. He was very rich. People did not like tax men in those days so he did not have many friends. Zaccheus wanted desperately to see Jesus so he climbed into a sycamore tree to see over the heads of the crowd. That was pretty clever for a short person. Jesus was a dignified, famous teacher who might not pass this way again. Zaccheus was not about to miss the event.



Surprise of surprise! When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zaccheus, get out of that tree fast. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zaccheus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck and delighted to take Jesus home with him. Others in the crowd were not as pleased. They criticized Jesus for befriending someone they considered to be a sinner. "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

Zaccheus had one of those "aha" moments in life. He considered the words of Jesus and the attitudes of the people and decided a change was in order for his life. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages." What a change! If Zaccheus lived up to his promise, people in Jericho would see the change and recall that Jesus was the reason for his honesty.

Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zaccheus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost."

TREE HUGGIN' LUMBERJACK CAMP LESSONS: HOW TO GROW A CHRISTIAN

*Print each theme phrase on a large green paper leaf and small tree branch.
Attach the leaves to the branch as you teach.*

Accepting Jesus as your Savior is the first step in a wonderful Christian journey. There is so much to do to grow your faith. Let's take a look at a few important growth steps.

READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY. As you get older, your reading skill increases. Start by reading a verse or two each day. Think about what you have read. Every word in the Bible will help you grow stronger in Jesus.

PRAY! Talk to God in prayer every day. He wants us to communicate with Him. It is as easy as talking to a friend. Tell Him what you are thinking and share your problems. Ask for help and thank Him for answered prayer.

TALK ABOUT JESUS. One thing Christians do is share the good news about Jesus with everyone, Tell everyone you meet how exciting it is to be a follower of Jesus.

GO TO CHURCH. The best place to learn about being a Christian is in a church where Christ is preached. Take time to worship and make friends with other Christians.

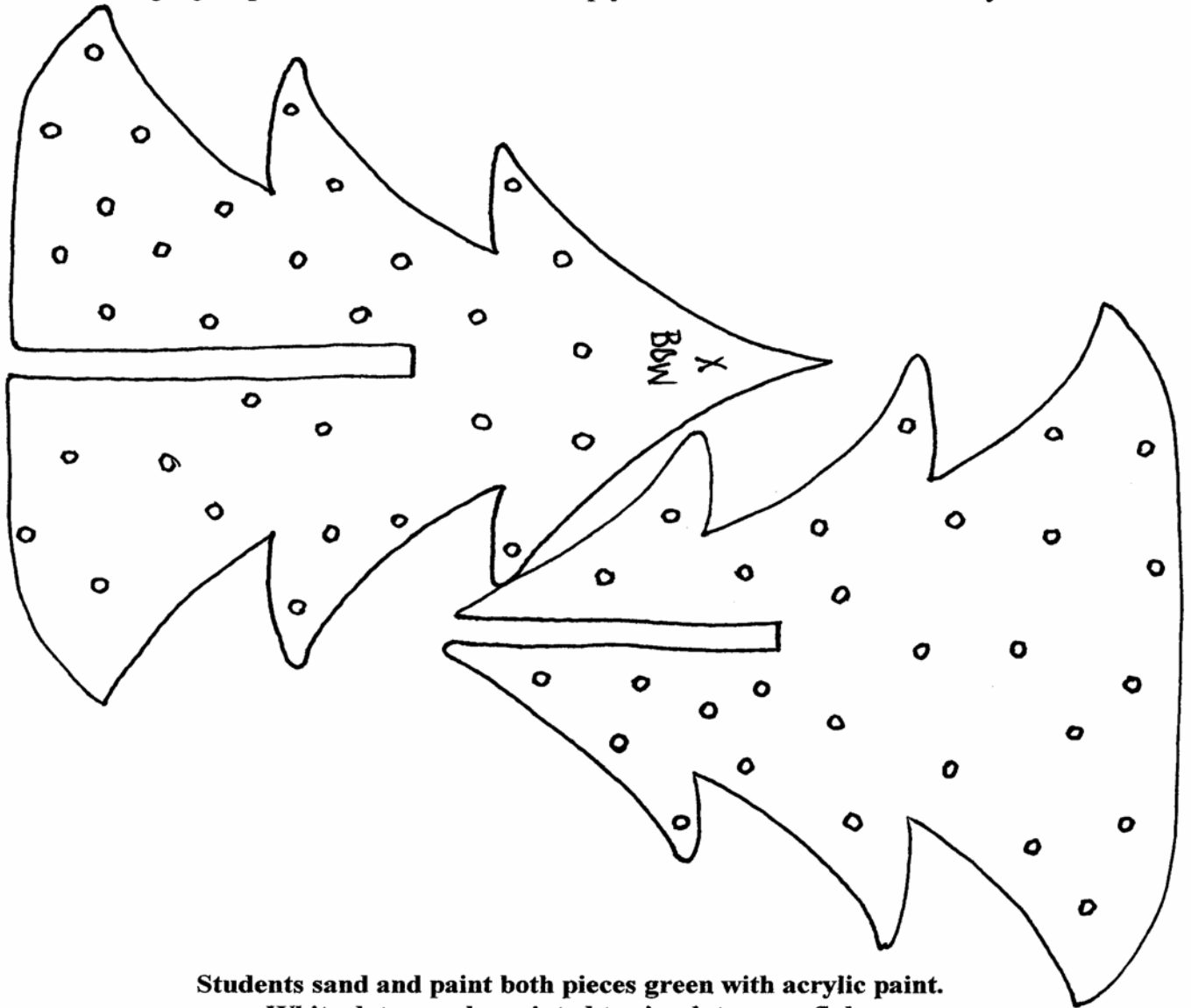
SERVE OTHERS. There will always be people who are in need. Begin now to find folks who need help and do what you can to help them.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

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

WOODLAND STANDING PINE TREE

This craft project is easy to complete. Ask several people who own woodworking tools to cut the project pieces at their homes. 1/4" plywood works best for durability.



Students sand and paint both pieces green with acrylic paint.

White dots may be painted to simulate snow flakes.

Let dry thoroughly. Finish with fixative spray if desired.

Fit two pieces together for a standing tree. Add a small bow to the top of the tree.

BIBLE WORKSHOP #5:

RAINY LAKE FISHING CABIN

...Catch The Spirit

Talk To Jesus



SPIRITUAL THEME: Every new Christian must learn how to communicate with God. Let's discover why prayer is so important. This fun workshop highlights basic facts about prayer for elementary students.

DECORATION: This is a wonderful fishing cabin! Make this an eye popping spot along the week's journey. Use curriculum decorating ideas and add unique fishing items. Use fishing rods (*no hooks*), fishing lures and flies, mounted fish borrowed from a sportsman, can of worms (*of the gummy variety!*), bait and tackle box, creel fishing basket, large nets, small boat, wooden oars, pictures/figurines of fish, small lighthouses. Place a bowl of live goldfish in the cabin. Place fun fishing signs on all the walls.

GONE FISH INN

ANGLER'S INN

FISHING PARTY

FLY FISHING (Place on a flyswatter)

A "REEL" EXPERIENCE!

I LIVE--THEREFORE I FISH

GONE FISHIN'

BE LIKE JESUS-FISH FOR PEOPLE

RAINBOW TROUT-WALLEYE-PERCH-PIKE

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Wear a typical fisherman's outfit of fishing vest, slouch hat with lures attached and hip boots (*if available*). This is an area that can be led by men of the church or women, as desired. Become an eager fisherman sharing the experience.

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM FISHING!



1. There is no such thing as too much equipment.
2. If it feels good, it's fishing.
3. Everyone has a story
about the one that got away.
4. It's good to be at the top of the food chain.
5. Even the best lines get weak
after they've been used a few times.



6. Sometimes you really have to squirm
to get off the hook.
7. Cast everything on Jesus.
8. Take time to smell the fishes.
9. I fish therefore I am.
10. A fishing line has a hook at one end
and an optimist at the other.



11. Fish always start to grow
after they get away.
12. Life is a can of worms.
13. The fishing is always better
on the other side of the lake.
14. Good things come
to those who wade.
15. When the going gets tough,
the tough go fishing.

MEMORY VERSE

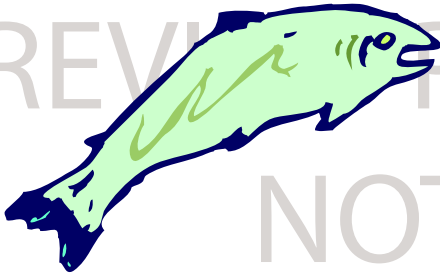
Today's verse is one that Jesus spoke. Fishing was important to people in His country. They understood fishing. Jesus compares catching fish to catching people.

*Come, follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.
Matthew 4:19*

Easy to say—hard to do! Do we really follow Jesus so we can be fishers of men? One way is to start a great prayer life. It doesn't cost money. You don't have to be the right age or have a college education. Prayer is as easy as breathing for someone who wants to know the Lord. When we pray, all other Christian qualities follow.

BIBLE STORY:

FISHERMEN AND THEIR NEW FISH



Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-38: (From "The Message") One day Jesus was walking along the beach of Lake Galilee. He recognized two brothers, Simon and Andrew. They were throwing fishing nets into the lake. It must have been fun to watch. Jesus said, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." An amazing thing happened! Peter and Andrew didn't ask questions, they just put down their nets and followed Him.

Down the beach Jesus, Simon and Andrew discovered another pair of brothers. This time James and John were sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, mending their fishnets. Jesus made the same offer to them, "Come with me. I'll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I'll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass." James and John were just a quick to follow Jesus. They abandoned their boat and their father!

Now five men walked together as friends with a common goal, to please God in every way they could. No doubt, Jesus talked to them about what it meant to leave fishing behind and follow him. He told them he was the promised Messiah. They were to be part of a world wide plan to save people from their sin. Jesus was God's plan. They were going to be the messengers.

With these four friends, Jesus returned to Capernaum in Galilee. He used

synagogues (*Jewish churches*) for meeting places and taught people the truth of God. God's kingdom was his theme. He healed people of their diseases and of the bad things they had done with their lives. All the while, the four friends were watching and learning from their Master. They copied Jesus as he showed how to pray.

At the end of a long day that began with a walk on the beach at Lake Galilee, Jesus must have been very tired. After sleeping only a few hours he got up quietly and left the city. He found a place where he could be alone to talk with his Heavenly Father. Jesus prayed for strength and help to do the great work he had to do. Simon (Peter) found him there in the morning. After all, you cannot be a fisher of men unless you tap into God's power through prayer. Peter, Andrew, James and John were learning how to fish for men and women just as Jesus promised.

RAINY LAKE FISHING CABIN LESSONS: TOP TEN PRAYER COUNTDOWN

*Print the TOP TEN LIST, numbering them
from 10 to 1 on large hand drawn fish.*

*Attach them to the wall or to a fishing pole
and line as you talk about each one.*



10. PRAY WITH THANKFULNESS. Give thanks for what you have already received. *“Thank you,”* is the perfect prayer. Not every prayer must be a request.

9. PRAY ANY TIME.. Certain prayers are appropriate for special occasions but you don't need to wait for a special time to pray.

8. PRAY WITH YOUR FAVORITE WORDS. Whatever words you use, long or short, however your prayer comes out is fine. Prayer doesn't need big words.

7. PRAY FOR PEOPLE. If you know someone who could use help, add them to your prayers. Don't forget to pray for yourself!

6. PRAY IN ANY MOOD. You can be happy, sad, angry, scared or confused when you pray.

5. PRAY ANYWHERE. It can be done in your room or at the kitchen table. It can be done out in your yard, at the park or even at the zoo.

4. SHARE PRAYER.. Prayer doesn't have to be shared. It can be done alone or with a

favorite toy. But prayer is great when done with friends, family or pets.

3. PRAY HOWEVER YOU WANT. There is no right or wrong way to pray.

2. PRAY A LOT. Every week! Every day! Every hour! God's Word says, "*Pray without ceasing.*"

1. PRAYER IS TALKING TO GOD. Prayer can be spoken or silent. It can be a song or a story. It can be a picture or a dance. Anything you share with God becomes prayer communication with Him.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

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

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NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

CATCH OF THE DAY!

Enlarge by using a transparency made on your copier, placed on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.



Lucky Ducks ...The Nursery



WHO SHOULD COME TO THE LUCKY DUCKS NURSERY? CABIN FEVER is not designed for students under four years old who do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. A separate space offers security. Invite youngsters, Birth through Age Three, children of teachers.

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

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

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

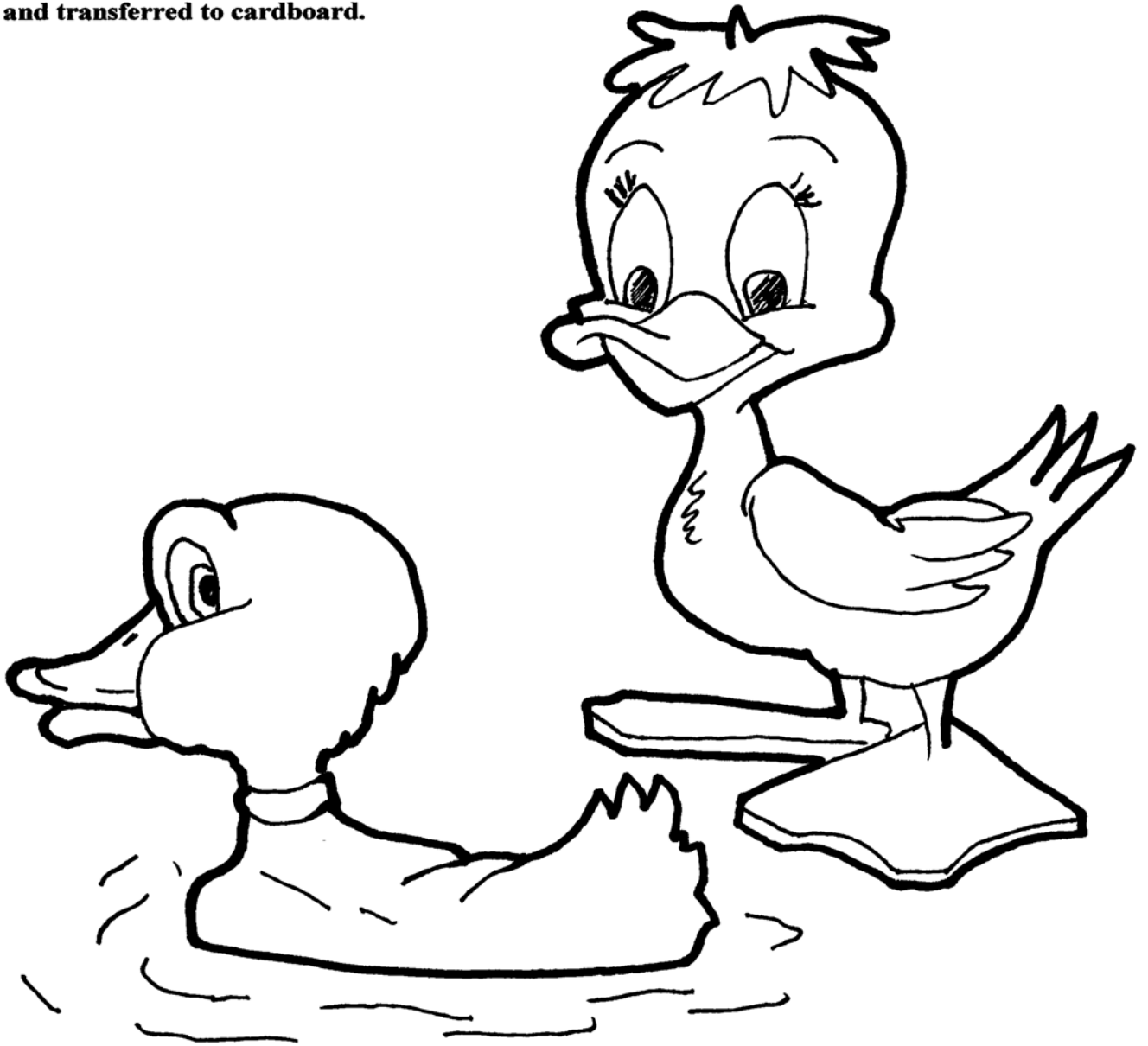
HOW SHOULD WE DRESS IN THE NURSERY? The key to being happy in the nursery is to be comfortable. Theme costuming is not necessary.

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



LUCKY DUCKS

Enlarge each figure using a transparency made on your copier, place on an overhead projector and transferred to cardboard.



THE CRICKETS ...PRESCHOOL



THIS AREA IS FOR STUDENTS AGE FOUR THROUGH PRE-KINDERGARTEN. Decide whether to include five year old students in this group or to allow them to become part of the kindergarten group.

THEME: THE CRICKETS study the same spiritual themes as older students. Each day's activities emphasize what older students are learning but on a preschool level with a preschool teaching team. Adapt the workshop lesson plans as necessary for preschool students.

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

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

HOME BASE DECORATION: Home Base is where activity for preschool children takes place. Use ideas in the curriculum for simple decorations.

CRIERS: Behavior in this age group is unpredictable. Movement around the building may be threatening for younger students. If a few children continually cry, ask helpers to keep them busy at Home Base. If criers never calm down, ask that parent to stay or take the child home and try again next year. We want to accommodate as many students as possible, but crying and tantrums discourage leaders and students. The child may be too young and will do better as time passes.

Planning The Crickets Day



Two hours + is a long time for preschool students. Plan their day around lots of play time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other outdoor toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase small story books from the local Christian book store. Use these books as fill in teaching times. Travel with the students to all areas of CABIN FEVER as suggested in the daily schedule. If your students tire easily, omit some activity stops. They

do not have to participate in every activity.

NATURE WALK: This may be the highlight of each day and should be inserted when a fifteen minute activity is not appropriate. When taking a walk, go with a nature bracelet. Place a band of duct tape (sticky side out) around each child's wrist. As children walk, let them pick up leaves, sticks and flowers and stick them to their bracelet. When you return, discuss the treasures they found. Talk about how our loving God made everything for our enjoyment and to meet our needs.



RACCOON LODGE OPENING: THE CRICKETS may participate in the Opening if they can sit still for fifteen minutes. 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 for a few simple activities. This avoids chaos and distraction for the older students.

HOOTIE OWL MUSIC NEST: Encourage THE CRICKETS to participate in music time. Take students to the music area and stay with them.

WANDERLAND BIBLE THEATER: This is a daily visit to a home style theater. Students see a short skit each day and should be able to enjoy it on their level.

HALUWASA COOKHOUSE: Take THE CRICKETS to the daily fifteen minute snack time. Sit with them. Use this time as a bathroom and hand washing break.

THE NUT HOUSE: If your students can sit quietly for fifteen minutes, take them to the continuing story. The suggested story is a Chip and Clare Conley adventure entitled “*Harry Moss*” told with script and large pictures by a personable Story Teller. **It is NOT written for their age.** An option may be to purchase five short (2-3 minute) stories to tell this group at Home Base. A series of age appropriate videos would work well. You decide!

BIBLE WORKSHOPS: Rather than trying to duplicate Bible Workshop decorations, take THE CRICKETS to one station each day for their bible time. Tell the Bible Workshop teacher you will use their room for fifteen minutes when their class is not in session. Use the props available in each area to tell the Bible story. Use copies of each Bible Workshop lesson plan as designed for older students. Activity suggestions may be used or not used at the discretion of your staff. Simplify each Bible story and memory verse as needed.

SQUIRRELY GAMES AND GUESTS: Take THE CRICKETS to the daily fifteen minute Games and Guests time. There are many games these young students can play. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for your small ones and create your own games.

REST TIME: Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken Home Base, play a tape/CD of Christian music or listen to a taped story while encouraging quiet activity.

CRAFTS: The perfect preschool craft is one which can be completed by the student with a minimum of teacher help. Provide coloring pictures and crayons for slow times. Modeling clay or Play Doh should be available. Stringing large beads is a favorite activity. Purchase one craft project for each day. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience.

S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects for the preschool student. Check their web site for the newest projects available: www.swww.com A current catalog has been inserted in the master copy of CABIN FEVER for the convenience of your staff. Local craft stores may have ideas for projects.

Don't forget that four and five year old children love to make and eat cereal necklaces (Cheerios or Fruit Loops or Apple cereal). Bring enough for lots of snacks along the way! String them on shoe strings or yarn.

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Make Alphabet or Macaroni Name Plates with the child's first name.

String large beads onto vinyl string for a great VBS necklace. (S&S arts and crafts offers terrific large beads.)

Purchase white t-shirts for each student. Let them place their own painted hand prints all over the shirt. (Messy but so much fun!) Or let them use fabric safe markers to paint little pictures or modern art all over their shirt.

Take each student's photograph on one day, have the film developed that day and place their photo in a hand made frame the next day.

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