

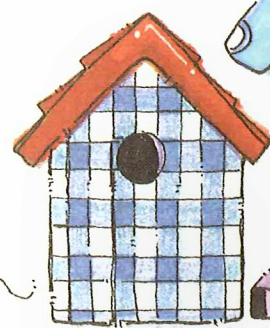
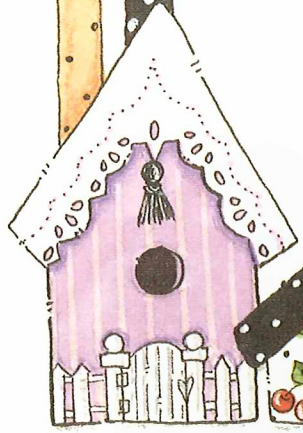
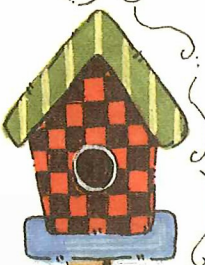
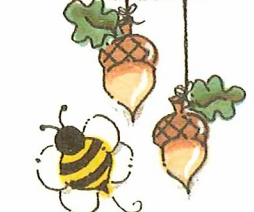
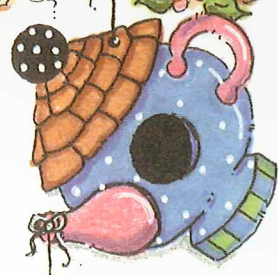
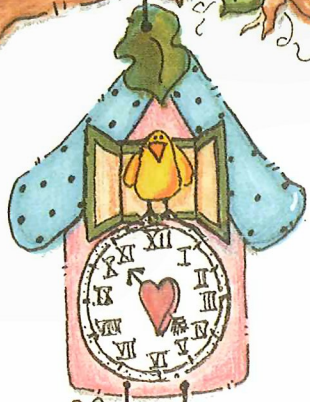


COUNTRY JUNCTION

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
... How Ya Gonna

Keep Em Down On The Farm?

ONE DAY VBS!



Everything I Really Need To Know I Learned On A Farm

(Adapted from PROGRESSIVE FARMER MAGAZINE, Jack Odie.)

Honesty. I learned it is better to point out the lame heifer to a buyer rather than wait for the buyer to find her in the herd, or worse, not find her.

Charity. I learned the importance of giving to those in their hour of need. It could be taking a casserole to someone's home after a funeral or combing the wheat field of a farmer who has been injured.

Life and Death. I've seen calves, lambs, pigs puppies and kittens born, right before my eyes. I also witnessed death and the harshness of nature before I was three years old.

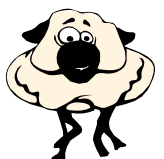
Compassion. I've see my Dad get off his tractor to move a bird's nest out of the way so he could cultivate the field.

Faith. I've watched the planting of tiny seeds and had God's assurance that they would sprout and make a good crop. I've watched a newborn calf struggle to its' feet and understood that fragile animal would grow into a productive cow.

Work Ethic. I remember looking out at a field full of hay bales and wondering if we would ever get them unloaded and hauled into the barn. I came to realize that if you work steadily and stick to it, those bales will slowly disappear from the field.

Patience. I know everything happens according to God's schedule within nature. We can't speed it up or slow it down; we can only work within its constraints.

*Yes, just about everything I know worth knowing
I learned and continue to learn
from farm families and farm life.*



Country Junction

How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down On the Farm?

...VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IN A DAY

Can't prepare a full Vacation Bible School week? Take your summer students age 4-grade 6 on a one day (4 hours+) summer event to learn about family farm life, planting gardens and enjoying rural life. Add a barnful of animals, a friendly farmer, lots of delicious farm food and most of all...Jesus!

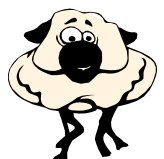
Country Junction brings God's Word to life as students visit two Bible Stations in one day. MOOTOWN MOTEL prepares students to become strong believers. RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY...IN THE HUTCHES underscores sharing the gospel.

Country Junction Gather at the *Moo-tiful Barnyard Opening*. Eat at *Farm Fresh Snack Bar* and play games at *The Funny Farm*. Visit *Hog Heaven* for a Bible skit and "piggy" activities.. Learn about salvation at *The Picket Fence*. Sing at *Barnyard Praise*. Create a special craft project at *Belly Acres*.

Country Junction encourages mouth-watering country foods at appropriate times. Options: *Mustard Seed Breakfast*, *Farm Fresh Snack Bar* and *The Country Church Supper*. Toss in an evening *Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social* and the day is complete.

Country Junction furnishes basic preschool curriculum ideas (ages 4-5). Preschool students are named **TATER TOTS** and participate in large group activities with older students. Home Base (private classroom) is optional for Bible stories, crafting, play and rest.

Country Junction is Christ centered and fun. The theme is a hook upon which to hang a memory and helps students build their firm foundation in Jesus while spreading the good news of salvation to their world.



General Preparation



THE SUGGESTIONS IN THIS WORKBOOK ARE A GUIDELINE. Build an exciting one day event using *Country Junction* stories and activities. Teach God's Word from your creative perspective.

Country Junction INCLUDES PRESCHOOL (AGES 4-5) THROUGH GRADE SIX. Involve grades 7-12 youth and college students as assistants.

STUDENT GROUPS ARE COLOR CODED. Individual groups display brightly colored name tags. Color is an invaluable tool when trying to identify stray students.

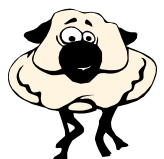
BIBLE STATION TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PREPARE THE ACTIVITIES IN THEIR STATION. Each Bible Station (*Mootown Motel* and *Rabbitat For Haremanity*) is repeated to separate groups during the day. As age levels change, adjust the teaching activities.

ACTIVITY TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO PREPARE SPECIFIC GAMES, FOOD OR ACTIVITY. Use curriculum suggestions to prepare the activities before Vacation Bible School begins.

PURCHASE SUPPLIES AS NEEDED. Give the bill to the director or ask for a check in advance. Look for sales, discounts for churches, catalog purchases and scrap materials from backyards. Use the church tax exemption number when appropriate.

CREATE EXCITEMENT. Have fun and students will catch the enthusiasm. Greet everyone with cheerfulness while moving from place to place.

Copy all pages needed for the local church. Make as many copies of each page as needed for personal use. Do not give this program to any other church or group. Instead, give interested folks our order form or address and telephone number. This allows CLOSE ENCOUNTERS MINISTRIES to continue production of exciting, inspiring, positive Christian programs at a low cost to churches across the nation.



Directing The Director



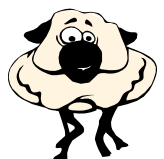
Create a dazzling summer event that matches any Independence Day celebration in the nation! This enjoyable event can change the attitudes of people in your church and community about children's programming. Student groups visit special *Country Junction* areas where they learn how to become strong believers in Jesus. When divided into reasonable sections, this One Day program is completed by people working in cooperation with the director. Sound good? It is!

ENJOY THE DIRECTOR POSITION. Wear comfortable, country clothing. Blue jean overalls and cotton shirt, straw hat and neckerchief turn the best city or suburban director into *Farmer Dell* or *Fanny Farmer*. Take time to pray about the entire program and then enter into the task with a positive attitude. Be assured that the Lord will honor your efforts.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITY. Never apologize when asking for help. Approach *Country Junction* as an exciting team adventure. Trust the staff to carry out their assigned tasks.

PRACTICE A POSITIVE APPROACH. Eliminate negative talk. Statements like "We can't do it", "We never did it this way", "There's no money" or "No one will teach" have no place in this program. If the director's attitude is right, even the grouchiest saint responds cheerfully.

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



PLAN. Read this workbook and mark areas needing special attention. List all details you must handle personally.

ADAPT. It may be necessary to change or eliminate part of *Country Junction* to fit the needs of your local church. Do this during preliminary planning to avoid staff confusion.

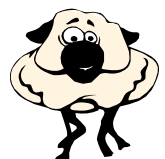
SET UP. Provide adequate time for staff members to prepare for the big day. It may be necessary to decorate during the week prior to the program.

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

PRESCHOOL ASSISTANCE. Read curriculum suggestions for **TATER TOTS**. Adaptations may be necessary for preschool students (ages 4-5). Speak to activity teachers to guarantee that all general activities are age appropriate. Eliminate complicated, frightening or exhausting activities.

PURCHASE OR MAKE *THANK YOU* GIFTS FOR STAFF MEMBERS. There is nothing like appreciation to keep teachers coming back for more next year. Thank the staff privately and publicly. (Ask an artistic person to paint a small rock paper weight with a flower, bird, tree, animal or other farm symbol to present to each teacher and helper.)

CLEAN UP. When the last event of the day is over, clean up begins. *Country Junction* is not complete until the church is in perfect order. Encourage staff to remove their props as soon as possible.



Decorating Country Junction

Keep the decor simple yet exciting. When students and visitors enter Country Junction, they should enter a fun world with interesting people and appropriate props.

Discuss decoration at the beginning of the planning process. Teachers in individual areas decorate their rooms or outdoor areas. Follow curriculum suggestions or invent your own country farm look. Teachers in individual activity areas decorate their rooms. Give special attention to the MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD Opening area.

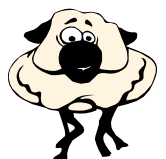


Create the appropriate atmosphere by using items available from church, family and friends. Consider visiting a local farm to get farm related items. Have fun using posterboard, plywood and paper to add accessories. Use large flowers, green plants, animals peeking through the plants to introduce a feeling of whimsy.

STEP ONE: Ask families who live in the country or on farms if you can borrow items from them. Explain the program and see if those people have additional suggestions. Many old barns are filled with old items that make perfect decorations in every area of the school.

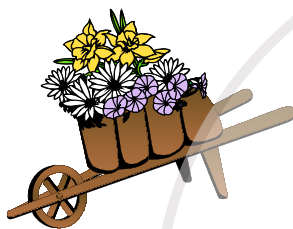
SIGNS: Display large signs outside each station. Print memory verses on large sunflowers. Scatter farm signs through the church. Consider some of the following messages:

**THIS WAY TO THE MILKING PARLOR
WOOD SHED-BRING YOUR OWN SWITCH!
TO THE FISHIN' HOLE
MORNING GLORY MEADOW
CHURCH IN THE WILDWOOD
APPLE ORCHARD-FREE WINDFALLS
BARN RAISING NEXT SATURDAY-BRING YOUR OWN HAMMER
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW...SO..SOW WISELY!
I (HEART) COWS
I (HEART) PIGS
I (HEART) CHICKENS
I (HEART) FARMERS
I (HEART) TRACTORS**



CARDBOARD FIGURES: Fashion life sized cardboard farm animals, people buildings, flowers, fences and tractors from cardboard. Lean them against walls throughout the church. Use the patterns included with the curriculum or draw your own. Make transparencies with the church copier and place them on an overhead projector. Project the image onto large pieces of cardboard. Trace and color with tempera paint and/or markers. Cut out the figures with a utility knife. Find other patterns in children's coloring books.

PROPS: Find a marvelous array of farm items to create a farm atmosphere. Here are a few suggestions but keep your eyes open for items available in your local community.



BALES OF HAY

COUNTRY PICNIC BASKETS

CORN STALKS

WILD FLOWERS

WATER BUCKETS

TREES

OLD TOOLS (PITCH

FORKS, RAKES)

ANTIQUE TRACTOR (PLACE OUTSIDE THE CHURCH)

WAGON WHEELS

ROCK GARDEN

WHITE

PICKET FENCING

ROCKING CHAIRS

RAG RUGS

MILK CANS

SPRINKLING CANS

WHEEL BARROWS

GREEN PLANTS/FLOWERING PLANTS

RED CHECKERED MATERIAL

ROCKS

WOOD STACKS

TREE STUMPS

HAY WAGON

STUFFED FARM ANIMALS/DOGS

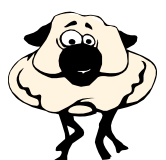
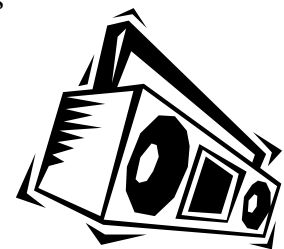
LARGE SCARECROW

FRESH FRUIT IN BASKETS

WICKER BASKETS

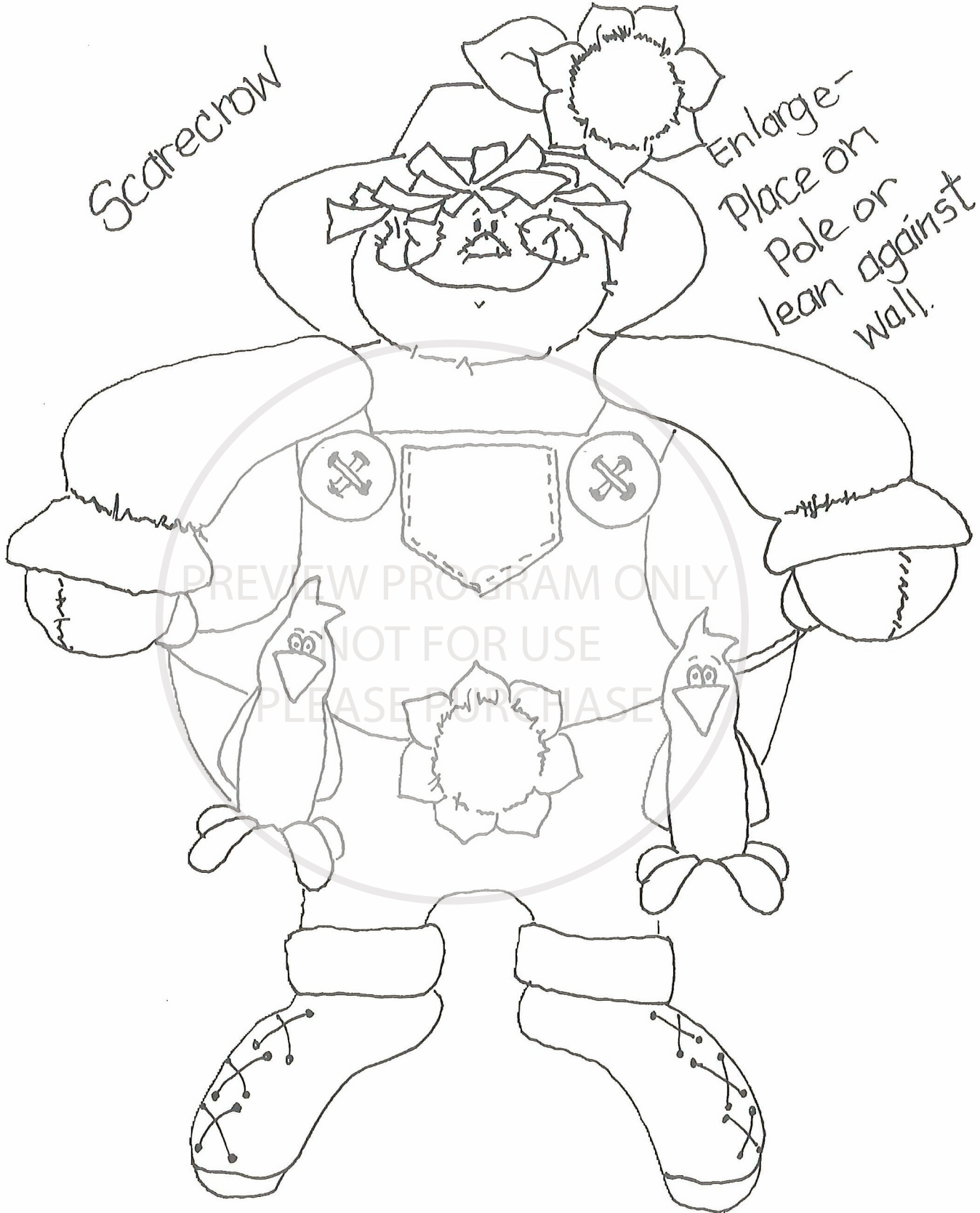
BACKDROPS. Build freestanding backdrops by cutting apart an appliance box, painting large red barns, trees, flowers, animals and other farm items and zigzagging the box so that it stands alone. Place real items in front of the backdrop for a touch of reality.

BACKGROUND MUSIC. Play CD's or tapes of Christian music. Look for CD's of farm sounds available at music stores. Or, make a homemade version of farm sounds by setting up a tape recorder at a real working farm. Play the tape each day as students arrive and leave.



Scarecrow

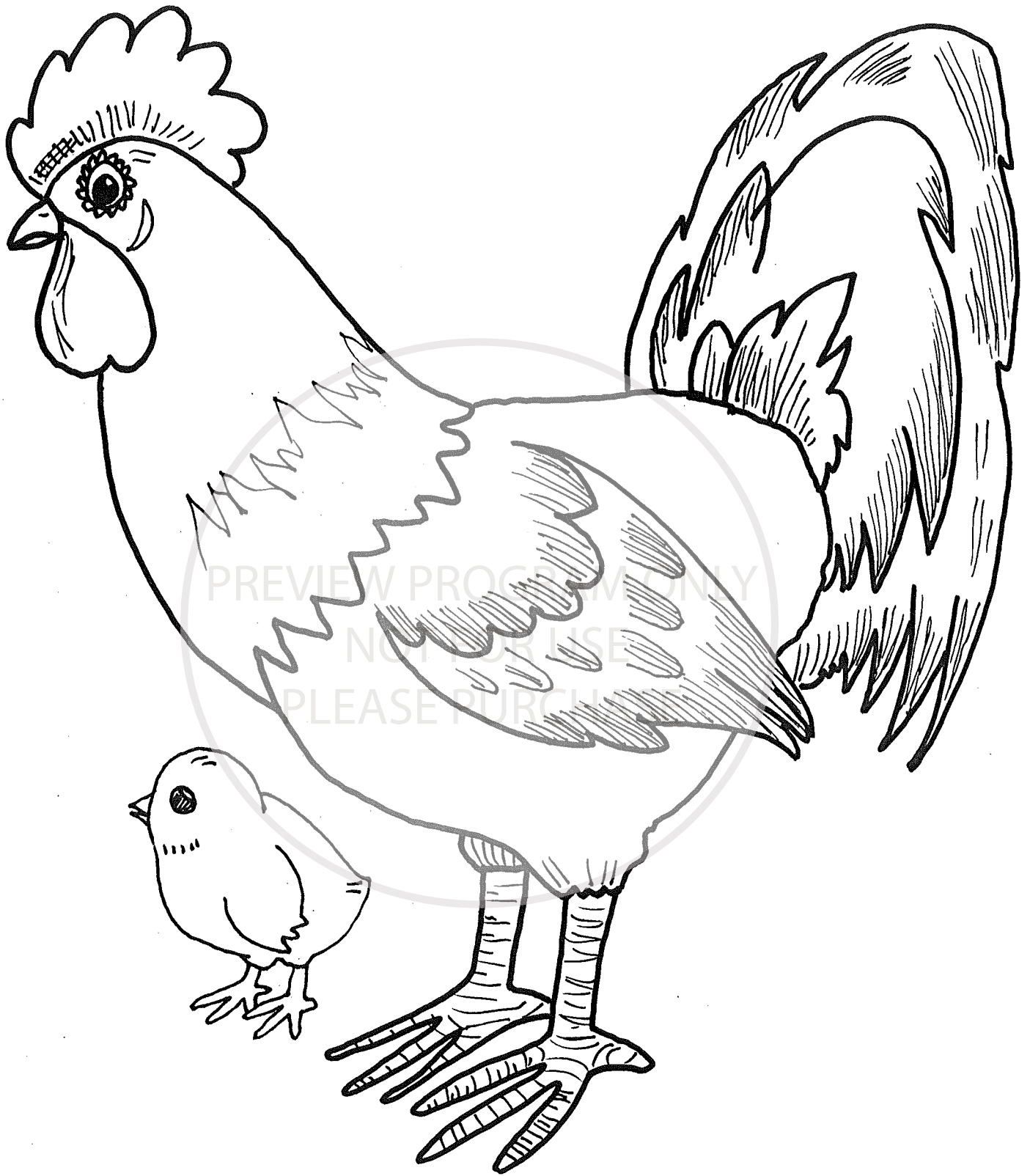
Enlarge-
Place on
Pole or
lean against
Wall.

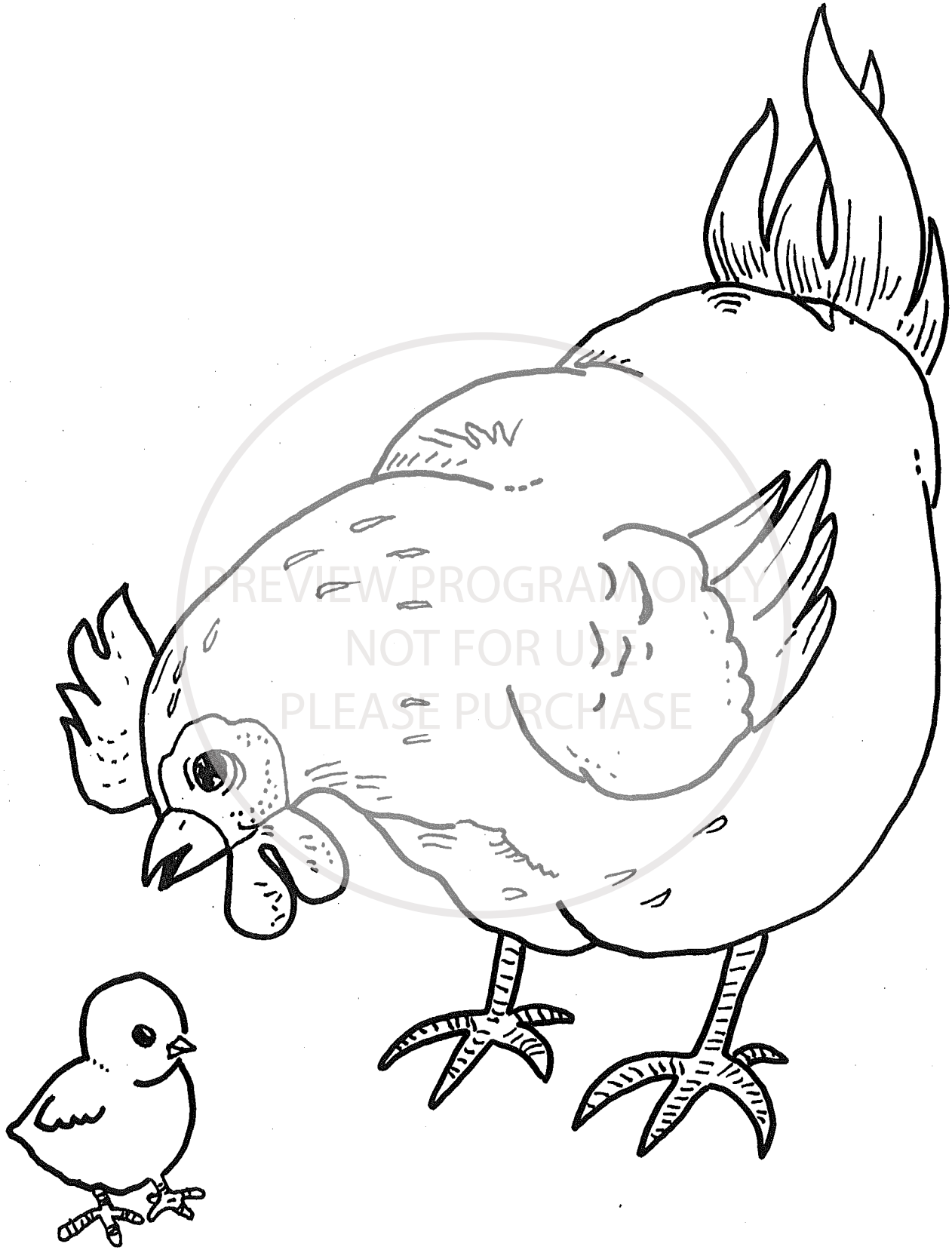


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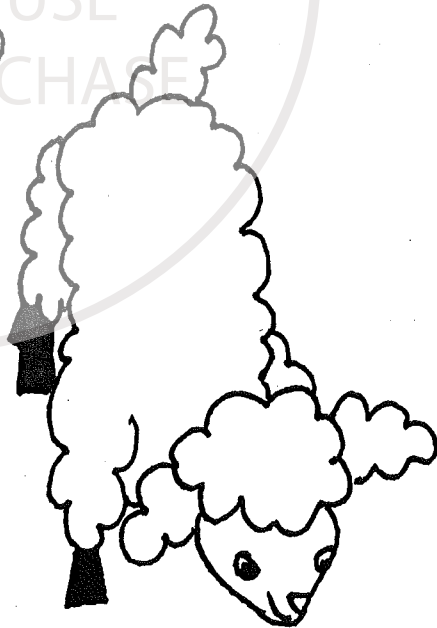
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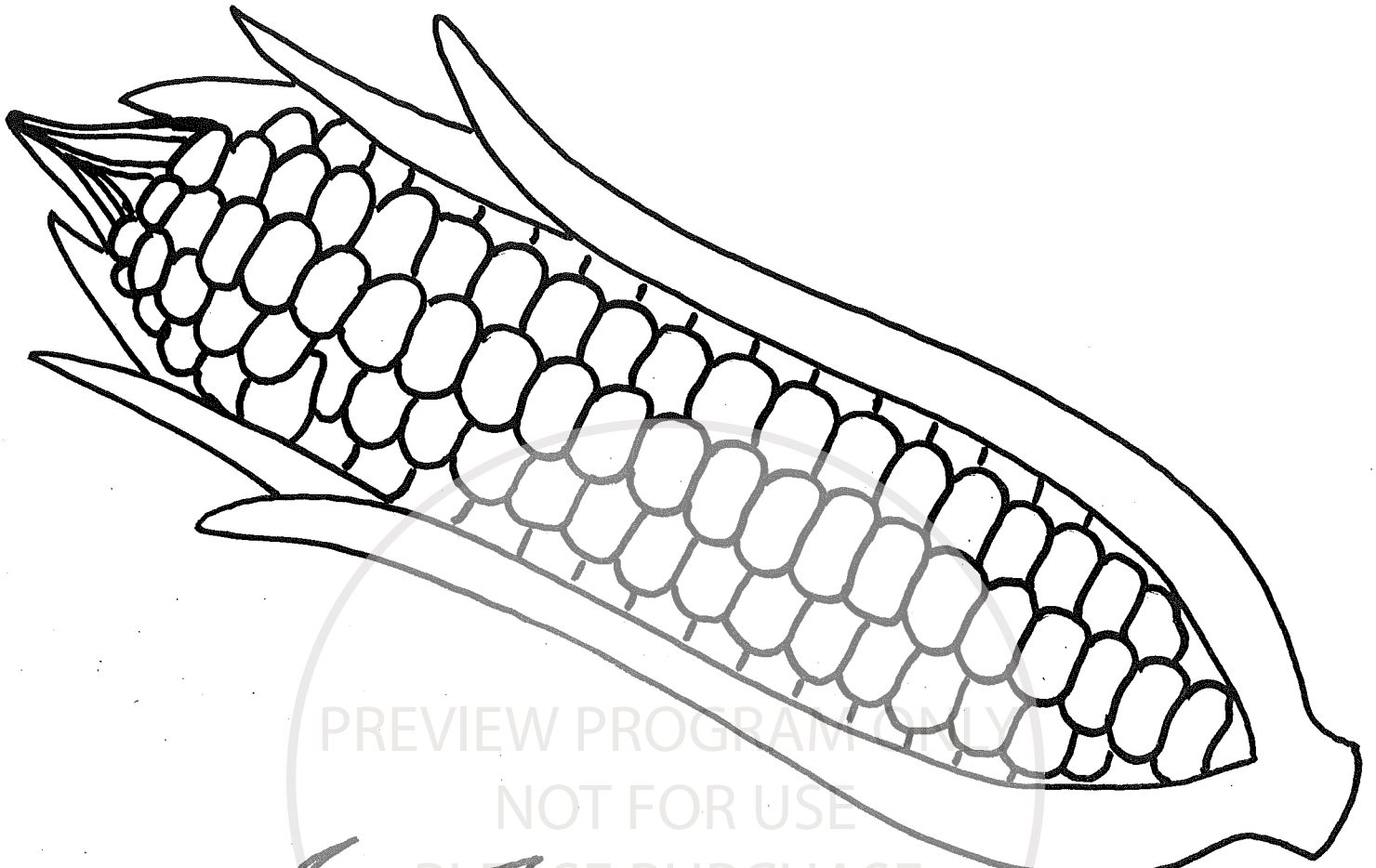






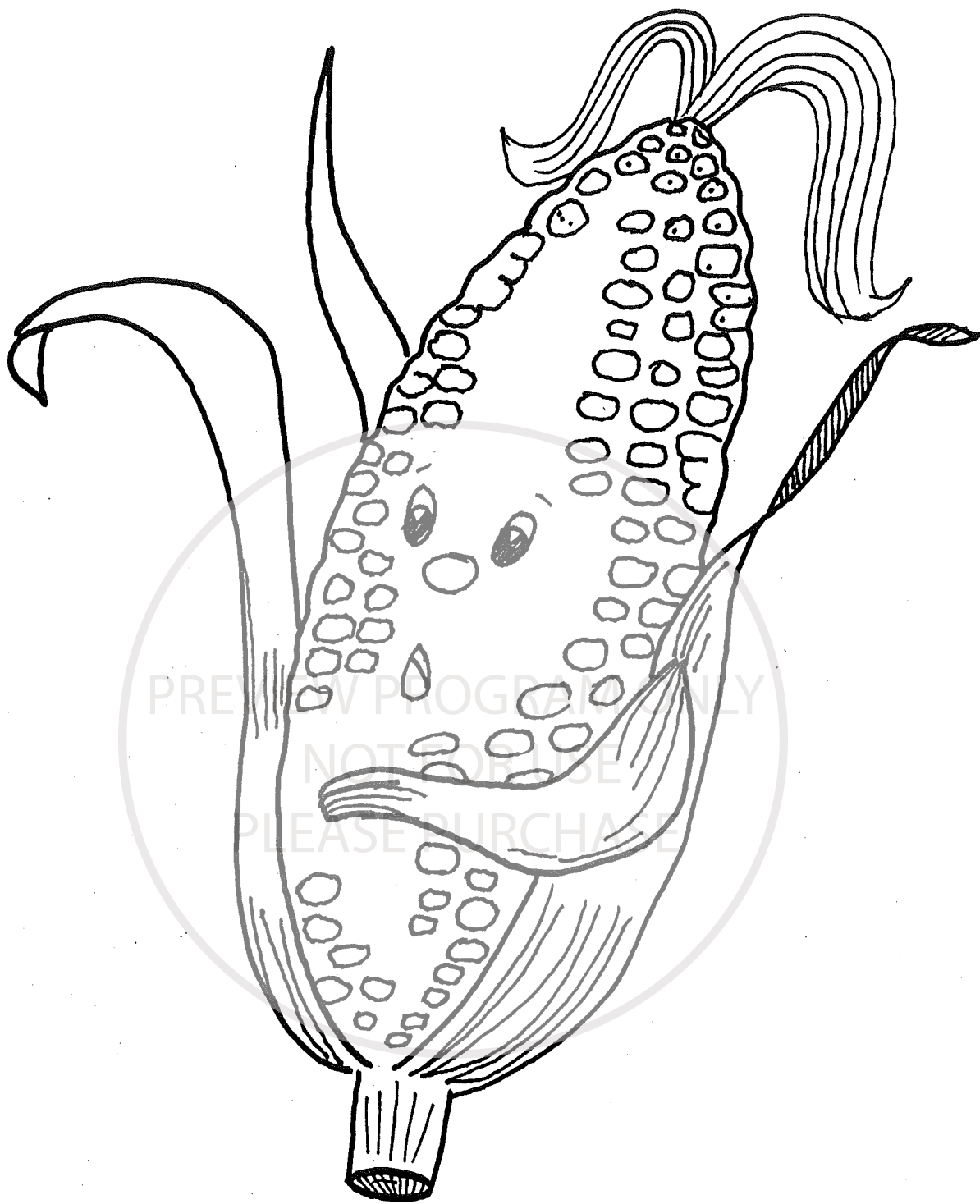
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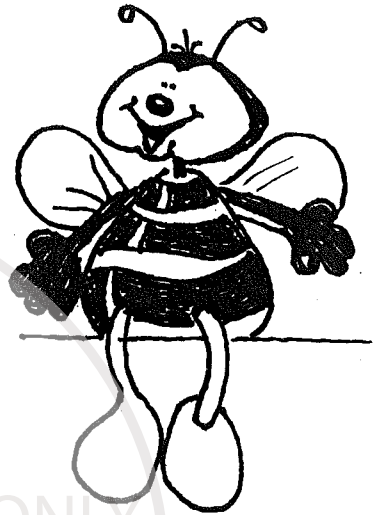


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Make many ears of corn
with or without faces.



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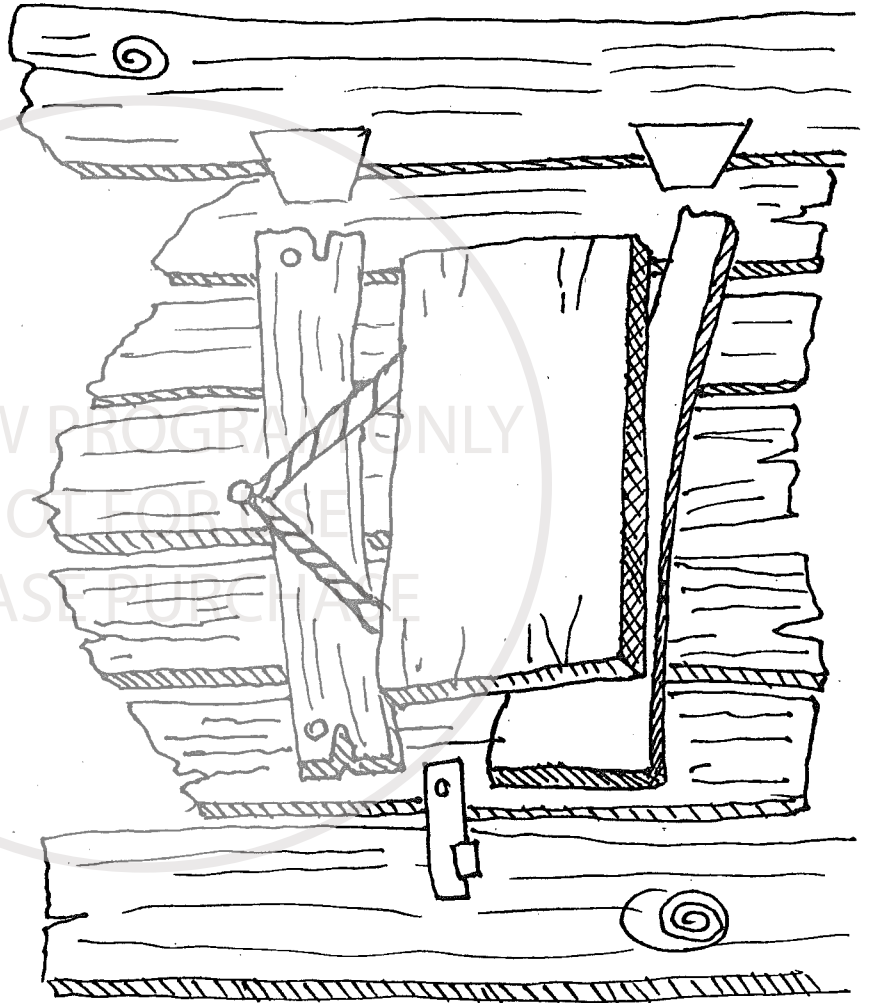
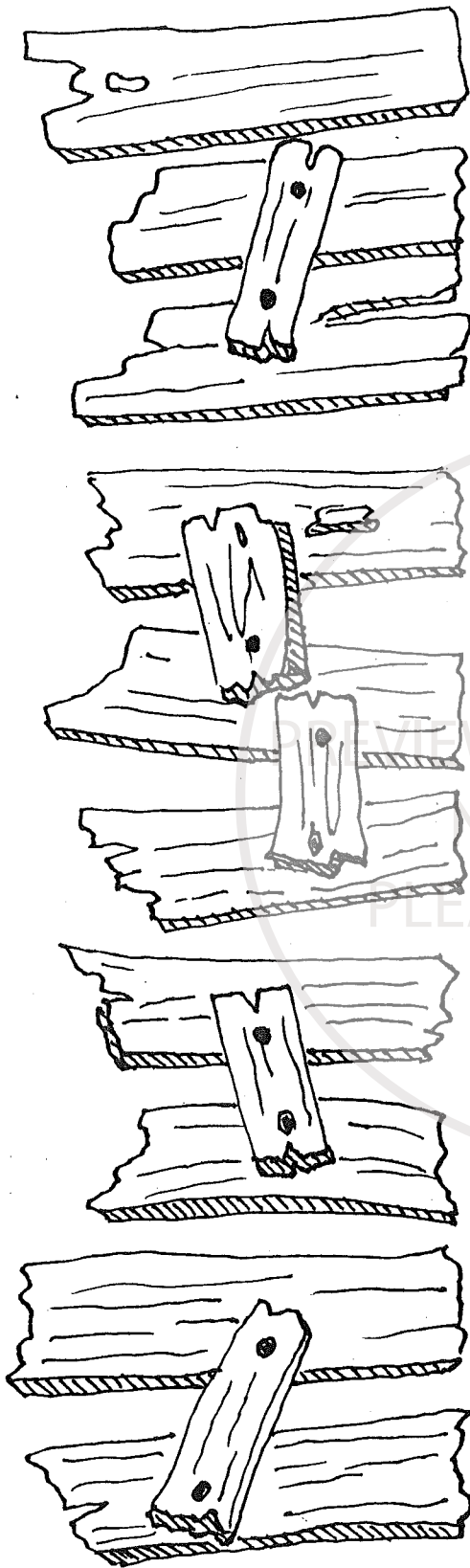


Farm Pumpkins



Enlarge with
or without faces

Just for fun Farm Fences



Copy onto
transparency
to enlarge

S&S arts and crafts catalog offers decorative items at excellent prices.

For a free master copy of their current catalog, call 1-800-243-9232. Items may be ordered through *Close Encounters Ministries* at 1-888-CEM-LIFE.

Here are a few suggestions from the master catalog (Prices may change):

TURTLE STEPPING STONE MOLD. A beautiful project, your kids can cast and paint this exquisite turtle. Place them in the garden or even in the living room as an enchanting conversation piece. Every farm needs a woodsy turtle just for fun. For decorative purposes only. 10 1/4" x 7". RMA-PL703 \$3.99

TISSUE FLOWER JUMBO GROUP PACK. Decorate in colorful style. Giant flowers are terrific fun. Plant your own farm flower garden. Includes assorted colors of precut tissue paper, stem wire and instructions. 8 1/2" diameter. RMA-GP56 \$44.99 per pack of 84. \$40.49 per pack, 6+.

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

AUTUMN HARVEST. Pin or staple these bright harvest images on your bulletin board to brighten your whole room. Up to 22". RMA-PE1220 \$4.99 each set (2 sets include one of basket filled with fruit and nuts and another of a large pumpkin and leaves and nuts.)

SCARECROW DECORATIONS. Set of 6 (2 each of 3 designs) wall decorations add a festive touch to your farm decorating. 12" high, 2 sided. RMA-PY655 \$3.19 per pack.

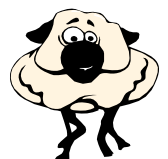
JOINTED CORN STALK. Printed both sides. Wow! 5 feet tall! Buy several for the Countrified Corn Field Bible Station. RMA-PY854 \$4.99 each.

PUMPKIN CUT OUTS. Four per pack printed 2 sides. Size: 16" RMA-PY377 \$2.99 each.

AUTUMN LEAF CUTOUTS. Printed 2 sides. Size: 6". 9 per package. RMA-PY368 \$.99 per pack.

FALL ACTIVITY CUTOUTS. Set of 4 farm and family scenes are the perfect accent to your farm decorating. 16". Printed on both sides. RMA-PY649 \$3.29 per pack.

GIANT TULIPS. Imagine these 64" tall tulips decorating your farm flower garden. Set of 2 tulips, 1 red and one yellow, with adjustable stems. RMA-PY765 \$16.99 per set of 2.



PICKET FENCE. Printed both sides. Size: 3 pieces, 12" x 24 3/4". Can interlock to form one 6' fence. RMA-PY776 \$3.49 per pack

BUMBLEBEE CUTOUTS. Printed both sides. Two per pack. Size: 17" RMA-PY763 \$1.79 per pack.

ART TISSUE BEES. Yellow honeycomb tissue bee comes with a 36" hanging string. Size: 14" x 18". RMA-PY777 \$10.99 per set of 2.

FLOWER GARDEN FAVORITE CUTOUTS. Printed both sides. 4 per pack. RMA-PY764 \$3.19 per pack.

BUZZING BEES AND HIVE. Tissue paper bees are available in 3 sizes. Hang them around the 10" high tissue paper beehive centerpiece.

RMA-PY837 Beehive 10" \$4.19

RMA-PY838 Bee 8" \$3.59

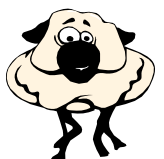
RMA-PY839 Bee 5" \$2.79

RMA-PY840 Bee 2 1/2" \$1.29

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Oriental Trading Company catalog offers a wide variety of appropriate decorations and gift items. If you do not have *their* delightful free catalog, call toll free 1-800-228-2269.

Order directly through the company.



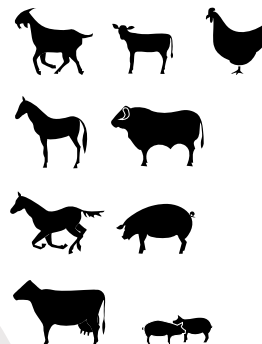
GIVE THE WORLD A PRESENT

Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor in your land. Deuteronomy 15:11

Feed My sheep. John 21:17b

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. John 13:34a

Find a need in your community that fits the farm theme and give your students the knowledge that they are serving the Lord with their Vacation Bible School money. The offering recommendation for *Country Junction* is an international program that has stood the test of time. Churches across the nation participate in HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL in an attempt to end hunger in lands traditionally lacking resources to feed their people.



A Living Gift Market “sells” food and income producing animals like goats, bees, chicks and heifers. The animals go to hungry, rural families working to improve their lives. HPI also provides technical training in care of the animals and in enhancing the environment. The receiving family shares its’ knowledge and the animal’s first offspring with another family. And that family shares. And the next.

Testimonials

Our children get excited every year when it comes time to prepare for the Living Gift Market. They are very proud of the fact that they can do something to make a difference in the world.

–Julie Collins, Parkway Heights United Methodist Church, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

I’ve seen little ones say ‘I want to buy a dollar’s worth of chickens’.

–Joanne Wall, Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Los Alamitos, California

I learned about Heifer Project from a card someone sent me years ago. It talked about passing on the gift. That just gave it wings to me. It absolutely captured my heart.

–Lynne Atherton, The Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, Illinois

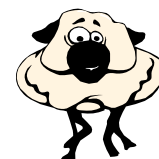
HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

P.O. BOX 8058

LITTLE ROCK, AR 72203

800-422-0474

www.heifer.org



PLAYING ON THE *Country Junction* FARM TEAM

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

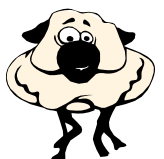


RECRUIT. Be aggressive. Approach people personally with a specific task. Explain the job fully—no sugar coating allowed!!!

BULLETIN. Place an insert for 2-3 Sundays in the worship bulletin. Try to give people with specific requests their place immediately. Explain the insert during the worship announcement time. Give this first recruitment effort the personal touch. (See Bulletin Insert sample.)

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

THE “ONE DAY” BENEFIT. People are more willing to teach and assist because the program is short. Planning takes place months before Vacations Bible School but actual time commitment is packed into one long day.



MEET WITH *Country Junction* FARM TEAM

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.

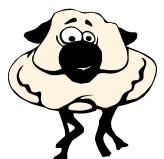
AFTER THE MEETING, THE DIRECTOR'S ATTENTION TURNS TO OTHER AREAS.

Trust the staff to carry out their responsibilities



THE TELEPHONE IS THE STAFF LIFELINE.

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



Country Junction
...How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down On The Farm?



List in order of priority three spots you are willing to fill for this year's One Day Vacation Bible School. That's right! We plan to do more in a few hours than many churches accomplish in five days. It will be fun—we promise!

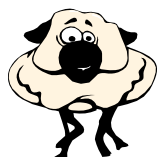
- REGISTRATION Name tag and registration team. (LEAD/HELP)
PHOTOGRAPHER (VIDEO/SNAPSHOTS)
ART CREW I will help make and set up decorations. (LEAD/HELP)
BARNYARD PRAISE! Music (LEAD/PLAY INSTRUMENT)
FARM FRESH SNACK BAR Kitchen team. (LEAD/HELP)
THE FUNNY FARM Games (LEAD/HELP)
HOG HEAVEN Bible Skit (LEAD/HELP)
BELLY ACRES Craft room. (LEAD/HELP)
MOOTOWN MOTEL Bible Station #1 (LEAD/HELP)
RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY Bible Station #2 (LEAD/HELP)
TATER TOTS Preschool staff (ages 4-5) (LEAD/HELP)
HONEY BEE NURSERY Babysit (Birth-age 3) (LEAD/HELP)
I HAVE FARM ITEMS/LIVE ANIMALS YOU CAN BORROW! Ask me!
I WILL DONATE SNACKS! Tell me what you need!
I WILL GIVE A FINANCIAL DONATION. It will be worth it!
I WILL PRAY FOR THE TEAM. It is the most I can do!

DATE:

TIME:

MY NAME-----TELEPHONE:-----

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR FARM DIRECTOR:



Grouping The Students

Country Junction IS BROADLY GRADED.

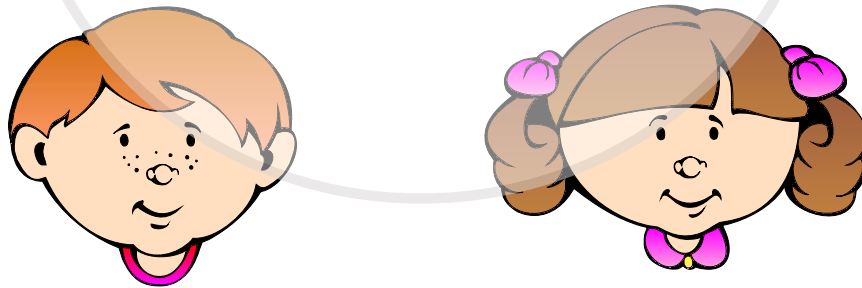
The curriculum is appropriate for age four to grade six.

The goal in grouping students is to provide five student groups of approximately equal size.

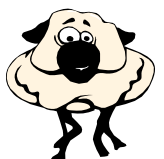
HONEYBEE NURSERY (BIRTH-AGE 3): The nursery is separate from the rest of *Country Junction*. Two choices are apparent when planning nursery classes: Will we open this for the community or will we provide a nursery babysitting service for our teaching staff?

COLOR CODE EACH STUDENT GROUP FOR VISUAL IDENTIFICATION

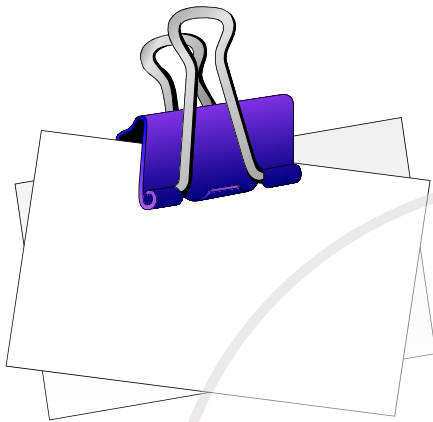
1. TATER TOTS (AGES 4-5): YELLOW
2. LEAP FROGS (KINDERGARTEN): GREEN
3. RED ROOSTERS (GRADES 1-2): RED
4. SASSY CATS (GRADES 3-4): ORANGE
5. OLD FARM DOGS (GRADES 5-6): PURPLE



Overlap ages in any group except **Tater Tots** (ages 4-5).
If twenty students are in one group and five students in another, switch some students regardless of age or grade.
Keep neighborhood friends together for their comfort.
Visiting cousins appreciate joining their family members.



Registration



This team makes name tags and runs Country Junction registration. The job is too big for one person. If there is a tangle at registration, Vacation Bible School could be delayed as much as 30 minutes. Mark registration tables with appropriate colors. List group names and grades of student groups. Students line up at their group table to receive a name tag. As soon as they have completed registration, move them into the MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD Opening already in progress.

PRE REGISTRATION. A registration card simplifies arrival 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 with flyers.

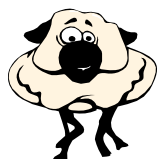
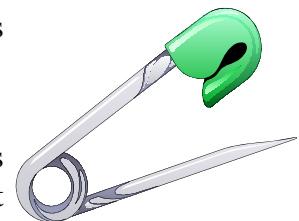
Consider how much information is needed. Ask for name, grade or age, emergency telephone number and contact person. If cards are the basis for church growth, add address, parent names and specific information needed for local church follow-up.

OPTION: In these days of severe food allergies and health problems, consider a line for diet restrictions.

NAME TAGS

Option #1: Make tags in five bright team colors. Pin tags to students using huge safety pins.

Option #2: Purchase inexpensive straw hats and print student names with permanent fabric markers. Oriental Trading Catalog offers a great farmer's hat.





VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Country Junction SCHEDULE

GROUPS	9:30 TO 9:45	9:45 TO 10:15	10:15 TO 10:45	10:45 TO 11:15	11:15 TO 11:45	11:45 TO 12:15	12:15 TO 12:45	12:45 TO 1:15	1:15 TO 1:45	1:45 TO 2:00	
	R E G I S T R A T I O N & O P E N I N G										
PRE SCHOOL TATER TOTS		BELLY ACRES CRAFTS	MOO TOWN MOTEL	FUNNY FARM ----- REST	B A R N Y A R D P R A I S E	F A R M F R E S H S N A C K B A R	HOG HEAVEN THEATER	PICKET FENCE ----- REST	RABBITAT FOR HAREMAN ITY	C O U N T R Y C L O S I N G	
KINDER GARTEN LEAP FROGS		PICKET FENCE	RABBITAT FOR HAREMAN ITY	HOG HEAVEN THEATER			FUNNY FARM	MOO TOWN MOTEL	BELLY ACRES CRAFTS		
GRADES 1 & 2 RED ROOSTERS		RABBITAT FOR HAREMAN ITY	BELLY ACRES CRAFTS	PICKET FENCE			MOO TOWN MOTEL	FUNNY FARM	HOG HEAVEN THEATER		
GRADES 3&4 SASSY CATS		FUNNY FARM	PICKET FENCE	RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY			BELLY ACRES CRAFTS	HOG HEAVEN THEATER	MOO TOWN MOTEL		
GRADES 5&6 OLD FARM DOGS		HOG HEAVEN THEATER	FUNNY FARM	MOO TOWN MOTEL			RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY	BELLY ACRES CRAFTS	PICKET FENCE		

Publicity

Publicity is vital to Vacation Bible School. This is especially true for a One Day event. People must know WHAT is going on and WHEN it will be occurring. Be clear and concise.



CHURCH BULLETIN. Begin advertising for staff members. Include reminders in the weekly bulletin until *Country Junction* begins.

CHURCH NEWSLETTER. Write two articles about *Country Junction*. Include pre registration forms.

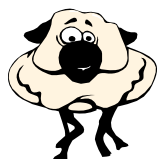
WORSHIP SERVICE GREETERS. Greet people coming into church for worship. Distribute informative flyers and/or registration forms.

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS. Send an article several weeks before *Country Junction* to insure publication. Don't forget to include a telephone number for more information.

COLORING CONTEST. Sponsor a coloring contest in the Sunday School. Choose one picture.

VISIT THE PULPIT. Ask a staff member to visit the pastor during announcement time with *Country Junction* information.

LOCAL TELEVISION. Ask a local television station to film a feature story with *Country Junction* in progress. This is great publicity and encouragement for your people. Do not assume a crew will NOT come. Call and ask! Many towns have television Message Channels. Write the important information on the form and begin the message one to two weeks ahead of the actual event.





LOCAL RADIO. Advertise the event on all local radio stations. Write something short, to the point and humorous. Most stations have some community slots to fill which may not cost anything.

DENOMINATION NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES. Does your denomination have a communication network? Send pictures and an 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. Attach tear off sheets stating basic information.

CHURCH SIGN. Place a large sign at the church. Put farming equipment and flowers and balloons close to the sign. If an old tractor or hay wagon is available, place it in the front area.

PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

**GOT KIDS?
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!**

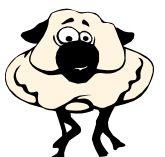
Country Junction

How Ya Gonna Keep 'em Down On the Farm?

DATE:

TIME:

TELEPHONE CALLS. Use last year's Vacation Bible School attendance or Sunday School information. Assign a phone committee to call all families. Give basic information in a cheerful and friendly voice.



Photography

Pictures are a wonderful way to remember the work and the rewards. Assigning a person/team to take pictures is not necessary to the success of this program. Think about using this as a connection for people who would not ordinarily be involved and think about the memory making possibilities.

CHEESE!



ENCOURAGE VISITORS TO BRING CAMERAS. Most amateur photographers stand at one side to take pictures and should not disrupt events.

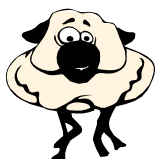
ASSIGN A PHOTOGRAPHY CREW to take pictures for the church. Cost of film and developing are underwritten from Vacation

Bible School resources.

35 MM COLOR PRINTS. Take staff and student pictures. Facial close ups are the most popular shots. Make copies available at a later date.

VIDEO TAPE. Assign someone to videotape the events. Some things can be staged for filming but it is fun to record as events are taking place.

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



The Moo-Tiful Barnyard Opening



MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD is a 15 minute introduction highlighting the day's events. Pray, make announcements, collect offering, spark enthusiasm and sing. Add a short Christian music video or group game. As students are registered and assigned a group, seat them as they enter and incorporate them into the activities as quickly as possible. It should appear that they are joining a party already in progress.

If there are "early bird" students—and there always are—consider starting ahead of time with Christian music videos, crazy games like "Simon Says" and a huge beach ball toss accompanied by music. If an early morning country breakfast has been served, gather the group as quickly as possible to begin the formal portion of the day.

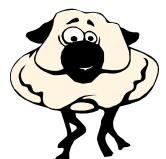
DIRECTOR. Prepare the group for their one day adventure. Lead the group with a sense of fun and yet communicate information as needed. Become a farmer or, if desired, the farmer's wife. Name yourself Farmer Dell or Fannie Farmer. Dress in checkered shirt, denim bib overalls or jeans, hiking boots, red bandana and straw hat. Carry a pitchfork or hay rake or milking bucket.

SPIRITUAL THEME. Tell the group they are going to learn how to become strong believers in Jesus and will learn how to share their faith with friends.

MUSIC. Introduce many of the songs for the day. Let the music team lead this part.

GROUP GAMES. Consider playing a game with the large group. Tape several pieces of paper under seats and award small prizes to the students in those seats. Toss balloons or beach balls in the crowd accompanied by taped music.

DECORATE. Concentrate decorating efforts in the sanctuary or large meeting room. Duplicate the ideas found in *Country Junction Decorating* or use your imagination to complete a farm look.



Backdrop: Draw a red barn on cardboard. Place trees and flowers in front of it. A background painted to resemble fields in the distance looks great too.

Accessories: Props borrowed from church families add to the authenticity of the barnyard. Items can be rusted, dirty, old and dented. Check out garages and barns for items that have that “farm” equipment look.

Fruit of the Spirit Garden: Plant rows of small green plants (real or artificial) and place large seed signs at the end of each row on separate plant stakes:

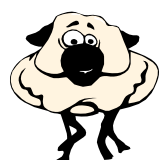
LOVE SEEDS	JOY SEEDS
PEACE SEEDS	PATIENCE SEEDS
KINDNESS SEEDS	GOODNESS SEEDS
FAITHFULNESS SEEDS	GENTLENESS SEEDS
SELF CONTROL SEEDS	

Scarecrow: Form a large scarecrow by stuffing old clothing, garden gloves, old boots and straw hat. Assemble a hand drawn face on a stuffed pillow case, stuff it into the shirt collar. Place the scarecrow in the middle of the garden. (Be careful! Make a cheerful scarecrow—no frightening the children allowed!)

Stuffed Farm Animals: Make or purchase a few stuffed animals to scatter through the barnyard. *Simplicity Patterns* offers a variety of farm animal patterns. Toy stores, discount stores and general merchandise stores have inexpensive animals to make your stage look terrific. A big, old farm dog should be a priority. The kids will love it and the stuffed animal may become the unofficial mascot of the week.

Live Animals: (Now, don't close the book! Keep reading! You can do this.) Consider borrowing a few live animals for display during the opening. If animals are present, station the owners nearby. Never leave live animals alone or with inexperienced handlers. Only tame, gentle animals may be used. Borrow rabbits, chicks, kittens, puppies, caged birds, gerbils, hamsters, hens/roosters (caged only), piglets, lambs. Calves and baby goats may be too rambunctious but could be displayed outdoors. A different live animal may be featured each day in the Moo-Tiful Barnyard.

Apple Tree: Make a large tree from plywood or cardboard. Paint in bright colors. A 3-D effect can be achieved by making the tree in two parts with the cut going vertically down the center. Attach with tape or screws and let it stand alone. Place large red apples on the tree. Fill a basket with real red apples. OR, bring in a huge branch from a real tree.



Miscellaneous Items: Picket fencing, bales of hay, chicken wire, cardboard animals, old boards, lanterns, wagons, rocks and farm tools.

BALLOONS. Think about adding large bunches of brightly colored balloons. Consider the size of the room and purchase the largest balloons possible. Rent a helium tank for the day. Don't waste the balloons. Give them to the students at the end of the day.

BACKGROUND MUSIC. Play quiet Christian music as student enter. Rob Evans, The Donut Man, has a cassette tape available called "The Farmer" from *Integrity Music*. The same group offers a great video called "Barnyard Fun". Check your local Christian bookstore for current availability.

MICROPHONE STAND. Decorate the microphone stand with vining green plants and flowers. Wrap the vine around the stand and attach firmly.

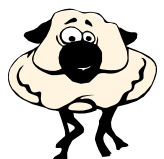
COSTUMES. Check out the local costume shop. There are dairy cow costumes, horse costumes and other farm outfits you may enjoy using. Ask the person dressed in costume to greet the students outside the church each day, waving at cars passing by and shaking hands with people entering the building. Take lots of pictures.

OFFERING: Collect the offering in old milk can lids, metal pie pans, small baskets or straw hats. Ask two students or teen leaders to hold the lids as students enter the Moo-Tiful Opening. Students place their money in the containers before they find their seat. Before Vacation Bible School, decide where the offering will go. If a special cause is designated, let families know. There may be some worthy farm ministries the church would like to support. If a contest between groups or boys vs. girls is desired, communicate this to the students.

CHAIRS OR NO CHAIRS. If meeting in a gymnasium or fellowship hall, consider allowing groups of students to sit on the floor. Mark the seating area for each group with separate picnic baskets and balloons in the group colors. Students will enjoy the different look and position. Colorful picnic tablecloths could be spread under each basket.

SYNCHRONIZE YOUR WATCHES!

Begin on time even if students and staff are still gathering. Plan to welcome the group, sing a few songs, make announcements, perform a short skit and dismiss. End on time to ensure groups moving to their first activity on time.



MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD SKIT

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

(Ask someone offstage to imitate a rooster with a loud COCKA-DOODLE-DOO!)

FARMER: (Stretching, yawning, carrying a rake). Another day here at Country Junction. Looks like it's gonna be a scorcher! I better get this raking done before the sun heats my poor head. Work, work, work. I sure could use some good help.

HIRAM (OR HATTIE) THE HIRED HAND: (Inexperienced, lazy and flippant...enters dressed in neatly pressed non farm clothing with a soft drink can) Yes sirree, it's the farmer's life for me. Smell that fresh (cough, cough) air...hey, who didn't clean up after the cows last night? Feel that strong breeze...hey, I don't feel a breeze. Don't they air condition these barnyards anymore? I love a cold drink in the morning. Mmm, at least *that* tastes good.

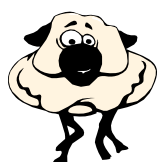
FARMER: (Pointing to imaginary chickens) Did you feed those chickens, Hiram? They're scratchin' at the dirt like they're pretty hungry.

HIRAM: Oh, was I supposed to do that? Nah, they ate yesterday. I threw enough chicken feed to keep them going for another day.

FARMER: Get the bucket, boy. Feed those chickens. You don't get paid to stand around drinking from a soda can when there's work to be done. Get to work! (Exits.)

HIRAM: (To audience) I HATE this place. Everywhere I step there's water or mud or something worse. Country Junction is hot and dirty. The work is disgusting and yet the farmers are so friendly. They're unreal! Nobody can be that cheerful every day. I have to feed chickens and today they told me I have to milk cows! Have you ever done that? I can tell you it's not as easy as it looks. One big cow had the nerve to kick me this morning! Well, I just kicked him right back. Then the farmer was upset with ME! He said the cow was important but I could be replaced.

I found a few cows over in the Low Pasture that look so mangy I'm sure no one will ever miss them. I'm going to sell them to a guy I know who has a truck. Extra money! Just think, I can buy anything I want! CD's, GameBoys, videos, I'm going to have it all!



Sshhh! Here comes the farmer. Don't you dare tell him my plan. Don't worry, I'll do just enough work to keep him off my back...and no animals will be hurt in the making of my summer. Well, maybe just a few. Be quiet. I'll do the talking...and I'll be real nice too.

FARMER: How are your chores coming along, Hiram?

HIRAM: My chores are going swimmingly. And might I add that you are looking splendid in that fine straw hat and sharp denim outfit.

FARMER: Are you feeling okay? Have you been in the sun too long?

HIRAM: I'm just great! (Wink at audience.) Well, I'll be moving along now. I have a few cows to see. (Exit)

FARMER: Well now, isn't that a refreshing change. I think this fella is going to work out great. (Take off hat, look upward) Thanks Lord! You've done great things. I'll take it from here. Good, old Hiram is going to be a great friend. (Exit.)

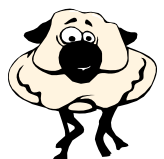
HIRAM: (Enters) Boy, that worked slick. My guy backed his old truck up to the pasture and loaded those mangy old cows quick as a wink. Nobody's going to notice they're missing for a long time. And you should see the money I got for those cows!

FARMER: (Enters) I can't believe it. My favorite cows are missing. They were my pets...Bull Dozer, Steam Roller, Sunshine and the Spook Sisters. Oh my cows, my special cows. I searched everywhere. Oh, my friend, you'll never know my grief at losing those cows. They were like family to me.

HIRAM: Um, um....I'm sorry you lost your cows. But, they were kind of old and scraggly. They probably wouldn't have lasted much longer.

FARMER: Only a true farmer could understand the loss of a special cow. They followed me like puppies. I stayed up all night helping them during calving. I mended their cuts and milked them every morning for years.

HIRAM: Get a grip! They're cows! They give milk. They go to the market and we eat them. We use their hide for wallets.



FARMER: Cows are God's creatures. I am the caretaker. I am standing in God's presence providing food and drink and clothing for my fellow man.

HIRAM: I didn't know.

FARMER: Yes, you DON'T know.

HIRAM: How can I know? I'm just new here. It was me! Me! I stole those mangy old cows. I sold them and got a lot of money too. I hate this farm. I don't want to be here. I don't like the mud, the work and the animals. I want to get away from here. But then, you had to go and be so friendly to me.

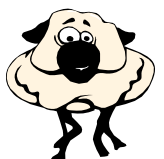
FARMER: It was you? I was kind to you because the Lord was kind to me. When I was a city slicker, the farmer at Country Junction taught me how to be a good farmer. I thought I could help you. How wrong I was.

HIRAM: You won't see me again. I'm leaving for good. No one will see me again! (Runs off stage.)

FARMER: (Shouting....) Hiram, Hiram, come back! You could get hurt back in those woods. I'll try to forgive you. Come back!

I have to find him and find him fast. Let's pray: *Dear Lord, Hiram needs your help and I need your help too. Don't let him get hurt o the farm. Help him to learn a lesson from his dishonesty. Help me find him. Amen.*

I have to look for Hiram. I'll let you know at the closing what happened. I hope you have a good day here at Country Junction. (Exits.).



CLOSING SKIT

Perform this skit at the end of the day. Throughout the day, Hiram should make appearances in the small groups and talk about how he's hiding out from the farmer. The farmer should follow, asking the students if they have seen Hiram.

HIRAM: (Crouching down on stage....) Sshh, don't tell the farmer where I am. I am so ashamed of how I acted. I didn't need a CD player. I thought nobody care about a few mangy old cows. If I could change it, I would. You know, I think I heard that in the old days they got rid of cattle rustlers.

FARMER: (Calling) Hiram, Hiram! Where are you? I've got to talk to you. Come on out!

HIRAM: (Calling from hiding place) He's not he-re! He ran a-way! Go back to the ba-arn!

FARMER: Get out here Hiram. I'm losing my patience with you.

HIRAM: (Calling from hiding place) Are you still mad? Are you going to shoot me for cattle rustling? Am I fired?

FARMER: I'm going to count to three. By then you better be standing in front of me! ONE...

HIRAM: Yeah, ONE day I'll laugh about this.

FARMER: TWO....

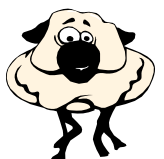
HIRAM: Yeah, TWO reasons to hide. I'm stupid and I'm stupid.

FARMER: HIRAM, I'M COUNTING.....THREE!

HIRAM: Okay, okay, I'm here. But only because I really LIKE you.

FARMER: Where have I heard that before? It's time for you to grow up. You need to hear a few things. Did you know this was a Christian farm? In the time you have worked here, have you heard one person say anything bad to you?

HIRAM: Now that I think of it, no. Not even when I spilled the milk bucket. Not when I ate the last piece of cake at super. Not when I didn't do my job. Nobody even yelled.



FARMER: Didn't you think that was strange? You were lazy, incompetent and had a bad attitude and yet we took you in as one of our own. I thought you could benefit by being with strong Christians who could teach you to grow into a relationship with Jesus and with us.

HIRAM: I want to change. I thought I would be happy if I had nice clothes, money, CD players. But those things just made me miserable. The nicer you were and the more I lied to you, the worse I felt.

FARMER: Jesus can change you, Hiram. He can forgive your sin and make you clean inside.

HIRAM: I'm not good enough to be a Christian. It's too late for me. Just turn me over to the sheriff.

FARMER: I'm not going to do that, Hiram. The sheriff doesn't want you! Jesus doesn't ask that you be "good enough" to come to him. The only requirement is that you believe that He is God's Son sent to save you. He died on a cross and then rose from the grave....for you. Do you get that? For you! You must be willing the change your life and follow Him as your Lord and Savior.

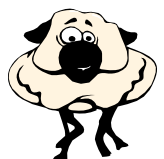
HIRAM: I'll do it. I never knew how much God loves me. I'm so glad I came to Country Junction. This time I really mean it.

FARMER: (Take off hat and look upward....) Dear Lord, I'm bringing Hiram to You. He wants to become one of Your children. Accept Him just as he is...

HIRAM: Yes, Lord. I want to be saved from my sin.

FARMER: Forgive his sin. Make him one of your own children. And help me forgive him for taking my favorite cows. Thanks for Your promises. Amen. Okay, child of God, let's go get some chocolate cake, a big frosty glass of milk and talk about what you're going to do in the barn today.

HIRAM: Oh no, not another animal to milk or feed or clean! I'll never be a farmer you know. I just need some quick summer money. I'm much better at being a city guy. (Exit arm in arm.)



Food Time

Farm Fresh Snack Bar

Every student at Country Junction can hardly wait to eat at the FARM FRESH SNACK BAR! Make this break resemble a bright, happy soda fountain. Serve simple farm fresh foods and enjoy the company of staff and students. Providing one or more meals is a wonderful way to initiate fun and fellowship. Here are several enjoyable options. Choose the meal option that best fits your situation.

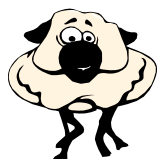
1. Serve breakfast and lunch to students and staff. Add families and congregation for a celebration picnic at the conclusion of the day's activities.
2. Serve lunch to students and staff. Prepare an evening family ice cream social.
3. Serve lunch to students and staff. Serve an evening church family picnic dinner.
4. Serve lunch to students and staff.

CREATING THE FARM FRESH SNACK BAR

Create a snack bar resembling soda fountains of days gone by. Place long tables end to end. Set napkin holders, salt and pepper shakers, glasses filled with colorful straws and paper place mats on the snack bar tables. Small pots of live flowers look terrific on the bar too

Decorate the walls with dairy posters, drawings of cows, barns and other farm related paraphernalia. Obtain GOT MILK posters and bumper stickers. Place at odd angles on the walls. Fly black and white balloons. Here's a great sign: HAVE A CREAMY DAY with a smiling cow!

Students sit on one side of the snack bar facing the servers. If tall stools are available, place them at raised tables. If only a few are available, use them as decoration. If there are many people being served at the same time, consider using long tables with groups seated completely around the tables.



HERE'S AN IDEA! Contact your local DAIRY COUNCIL through the Agricultural Department in your area. These friendly professionals encourage farm life and fresh American foods. Every county has a farm organization and a Farm Princess! There are many free items available. Ask what “freebies” your Farm Bureau offers children. They may have GOT MILK stickers, key chains, pencils, posters, hats, shirts or other items. Ask the Farm/Dairy Princess to visit your VBS and serve snacks one day. (Be sure to serve dairy snacks that day!) She will motivate students to enjoy milk and cheeses that are readily available in your area. The DAIRY BOARD may even send a person dressed as a cow for photo opportunities. (Alert the newspaper photographer for some great publicity!)

COSTUMES AND SERVING: Servers wear GOT MILK t-shirts or aprons. If these are not available through your local DAIRY COUNCIL, make your own. Print GOT MILK in large black block letters on white t-shirts/aprons. Print white baseball caps to finishing the simple outfit with the words, FARM FRESH SNACK BAR...COUNTRY JUNCTION..

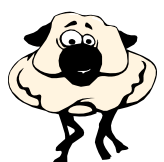
MUSIC: Play Christian music for kids. Light, happy tunes should be played as background for conversations. Look for country music that is appropriate for children.

PLACE MAT ART: Each student receives a plain white place mat each day. Place glass canning jars of crayons on the snack bar. As the students wait to be served, eat and then talk after their snack, allow them to draw farm posters on their mats. The posters should encourage farm life. Display a variety of these mats. It may not be possible to put all of them on a wall but use as many as is feasible. A grand prize could be awarded at the end of the week. (Award blue, green and pink ribbons to the winners just like the County Fair.)

TABLEWARE: Use white paper plates, napkins and plastic ware. Spice up the fun by using small canning jars as drink containers. Macaroni straws may be used. Purchase long pieces of hollow macaroni. Students may sip from the jars and even eat the straw.

MENU: Give FARM FRESH SNACK BAR an authentic touch by naming each snack appropriately. Have fun with the food and the preparation. Use the recipes suggested or search your own farm cook book for appropriate dishes.

SERVING SUGGESTIONS: Prepare the plates in the kitchen. Servers deliver the food on large trays. Seat student groups with a leader. Provide large garbage bins and communicate that student groups are responsible for cleaning their eating area.



GENTLE SUGGESTION TO THE SNACK BAR TEAM

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

MUSTARD SEED BREAKFAST

Choose a simple menu easily offered as students arrive. This is a terrific way to keep early arrivals busy while others are registering. Greet the students cheerfully and check to make sure they have been registered. As soon as they finish eating, move them into the MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD OPENING area.

MENU: Choose a variety of breakfast foods popular with kids. Make the menu simple for quick preparation and quick clean up. Use this list of menu items as a suggestion for your own Mustard Seed Breakfast.

MENU #1:

Scrambled eggs
Sausage or bacon
Toast

MENU #2:

French Toast or Pancakes
Sausage or bacon
Fruit Cup

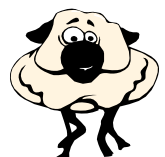
MENU #3:

Cereal
Toast
Fruit

Beverages: Orange Juice, Milk, Hot Chocolate

FARM FRESH LUNCH

Even if no other meal is served, this meal is necessary. Make it a special time of food, fun and fellowship. Serve foods known to be popular with your students and staff. Seat students and leaders in small groups. This provides leadership/organization during the half hour lunch.



MENU: Simple recipes are always best. Much of the food can be donated by church congregation volunteers. Use this list as menu suggestions.

Hot Dogs	Tossed Salad	Cupcakes
Potato Chips	Ham/Turkey/Chicken	Watermelon slices
Jello Salads	Fruit Cups	Cantaloupe/Honey Dew
Hamburgers	Ice Cream Cones	Popsicles
Potato Salad	Sandwiches	Pie/Cake
Macaroni Salad	Relish Tray	

Beverages: Juice/Milk/Soda/Sweetened drinks

COUNTRY CHURCH SUPPER

Publicize this meal to follow the Closing program. Invite student families and the church congregation to participate. After the wonderful events of the day, this is a perfect way to end the celebration.

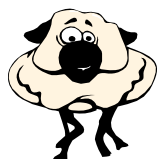
MENU: Plan an informal picnic. Simple, inexpensive meats can be grilled outdoors by a few of the men (just like at home). Ask for pot luck dishes from each family represented. Serve leftovers from Mustard Seed Breakfast and Farm Fresh Lunch.

Hot Dogs/Hamburgers	Tossed Salad	Potato Chips
Potato/Macaroni Salads	Jello Salad	Melons
Baked Beans	Sandwiches	Relish Tray
Lasagne	Vegetable Dishes	Desserts

Beverages: Coffee/Tea/Cold Drink

COUNTRY JUNCTION ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Consider an evening celebration of the event by preparing a beautifully decorated ice cream social. Use the theme of the day as table decoration ideas. Offer homemade or store bought ice cream, homemade cakes and pies and beverages of choice.



FARM FRESH SNACK BAR RECIPES

HOMEMADE BREAD/BISCUITS WITH FLAVORED BUTTERS: Bake bread at the church and fill the air with the delicious aroma. Use frozen bread dough to save time. Be generous with servings. Be sure the bread is warm. A delicious alternative is homemade buttermilk biscuits served with flavored butters. Provide plain butter too!

Strawberry Butter: ½ cup fresh strawberries, washed and hulled, ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter (not margarine) at room temperature, 1 teaspoon confections sugar, 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice. Puree the strawberries in 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.

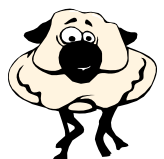
Honey 'n' Spice Butter: ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter (not margarine), at room temperature, 3 tablespoons honey, ¼ teaspoon grated lemon rind, ¼ teaspoon each ground cinnamon and ginger, ⅛ teaspoon ground allspice, 1 teaspoon lemon juice, ⅛ teaspoon salt. Beat butter until creamy in medium bowl with electric mixer on high. Add the honey, lemon rind, cinnamon, ginger and allspice and beat until well combined. Add lemon juice and salt and beat 1 minute until well blended.

GINGERBREAD AND WHIPPED CREAM: Make your favorite gingerbread recipe or use boxed mixes. Serve warm with whipped cream on top. A special treat is “real” whipping cream beaten with a hand mixer and kept chilled in the refrigerator.

PEACH COBLER: Makes 9 x 13 pan. 1 can crushed pineapple, 1 can peaches and juice, dry yellow cake mix, more peaches, more pineapple, ¼ cup melted oleo, chopped pecans. Bake 350 degrees, 30-40 minutes until golden. Serve with vanilla ice cream.

BACON AND EGG CASSEROLE: Makes 9 x 13 pan. 6 slices bread (trim crusts), 1 pkg (8 oz) shredded cheese, 1 lb. Bacon, ½ t. dry mustard, 6 eggs, 2 cups milk, ½ t. salt. Layer bread, cheese and bacon in 9 x 13 dish. Mix eggs, milk, salt, mustard in bowl. Pour over layers. Chill overnight (important!). Bake 325 degrees for 45 minutes. Add other ingredients as desired. (Onion, ham, sausage, peppers).

FUNNEL CAKES: Mix together: 2 cups plain flour, 1 teaspoon baking powder, ½ teaspoon salt, 2 eggs and 1 ½ cups milk. Heat cooking oil in a deep fryer or skillet until very hot. Put batter into a funnel. Be sure to cover the spout with one finger while filling the funnel. Hold the funnel over the hot oil and release some of the batter in circular motions, then crisscross



motions to form one funnel cake. The funnel cake batter will rise and expand, so be really careful about how much batter you use. You will soon get the feel for how much it takes. Cook until the cakes are light brown on both sides, remove from oil and place on paper towels to drain. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve while they are still warm. These are yummy!

FARM MUD: Chocolate pudding with crushed cookies and Cool Whip topping.

COW PIES: Make your favorite chocolate cookie recipe or gob recipe.

MOO SHAKES: Make homemade vanilla, chocolate and strawberry shakes mixing milk, 1 scoop flavored ice cream, fresh fruit in a blender.

FOO FOO DUST AND ICE CREAM: (This special dust is sprinkled on harvested hay to help it ferment into the perfect feed.) Create this edible FOO FOO DUST by crushing sugar cookies and sprinkling it on vanilla ice cream over chocolate sauce.

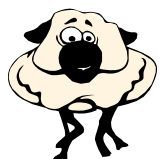
PIGS IN A BLANKET: 1 8 oz. package refrigerated crescent dinner roll dough, 2 T. Dijon mustard with seeds, 1 t. Worcestershire sauce, 8 hot dogs cut into thirds. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. On lightly floured surface, spread out the dough and separate into 8 triangles. In a small cup, combine the mustard and Worcestershire sauce. Using a small spoon, spread 1 t. of the sauce mixture over each triangle. Starting at the point, cut each of the 8 triangles into three smaller triangles, making 24. Place one hot dog piece on the wide end of each dough triangle. Roll up each triangle, starting from the wide end. Place the triangles, point side down, on the baking sheet and press down lightly to seal. Bake for 10 minutes or until puffy and golden brown. Serve immediately. Makes 24.

HAY STACKS: Mix together pretzels, rice and wheat chex cereal, peanuts or mixed nuts and cover in chocolate.

DEVEILED EGGS: Place eggs in a large saucepan covered with cold water. Cook until hard boiled. Cool eggs immediately under cold running water and peel. Slice eggs in half lengthwise and remove yolks. Using a fork, mash the yolks and blend in mayonnaise, paprika, finely chopped dill pickle. Spoon the mixture into the egg white halves. Sprinkle with paprika and parsley. Cover and refrigerate.

ALFALFABIT SOUP: Make your own favorite homemade vegetable soup. Add alphabet pasta. Serve hot with oyster crackers or warm homemade bread/rolls.

FARM PIES: Make a variety of favorite homemade pies. Serve small slices of apple, cherry,



blackberry, blueberry, strawberry, pumpkin pie with ice cream on the side. This will be a popular country treat with everyone young and old.

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM: How lucky is the group who has someone willing to make homemade ice cream! Ask several people to bring their ice cream makers and mix the treat at church. Serve with vanilla wafers.

CORN BREAD: Make your favorite cornbread recipe. Boxed versions are available. Serve warm with butter.

STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE: Make or purchase your favorite shortcake. Top with fresh or frozen strawberries and whipped cream.

FARM FRUIT BUFFET: Place a variety of cut fruits in chilled bowls. Use apple slices, banana slices, peaches, pears, grapes, orange slices, pineapple, strawberries and blueberries. If desired, add a fruit dip. Serve with nuts and crackers.

FARM VEGGIE BUFFET: Place a variety of cut veggies in chilled bowls. Use carrots, celery, cauliflower, tomatoes, and broccoli. Serve with ranch dip, cheese chunks and chips.

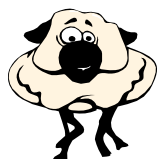
BEVERAGES: Beverages should be cold and delicious. Consider lemonade, orange juice, Kool Aid, milk/chocolate milk, strawberry punch (strawberry kool aid, ginger ale, one strawberry slice on cup lip), iced tea, apple cider/apple juice

Brown Cow: 3 T. chocolate syrup, 2 small scoops vanilla ice cream, 3/4 c. chilled root beer, whipped topping (optional). In a tall glass, stir chocolate syrup with 1 scoop ice cream until smooth. Gradually pour in about 1/2 of the root beer until the glass is half full. Add the remaining scoop of ice cream and fill to the top with root beer. Add whipped topping and serve immediately. Makes one 12 oz. serving.

Incorporate your own favorite down home foods to make the day at FARM FRESH SNACK BAR memorable.

Outline the menu before the day begins and ask church folks for ingredient donations.

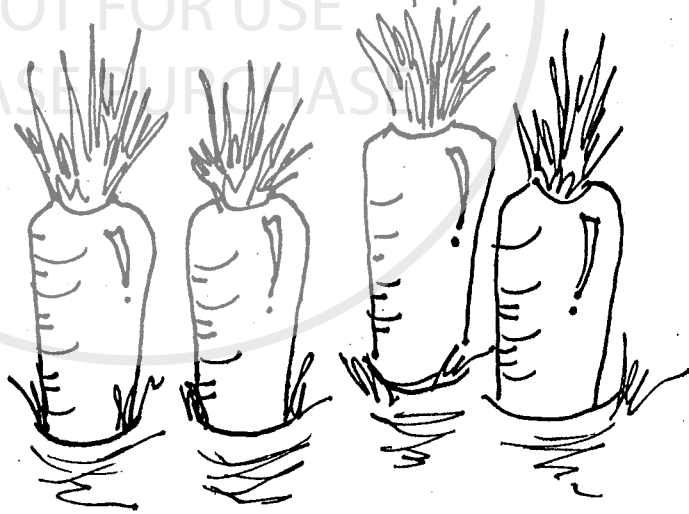
A sign up sheet should include telephone numbers to remind people of when to bring their food to the church.



Have a
Creamy



Day

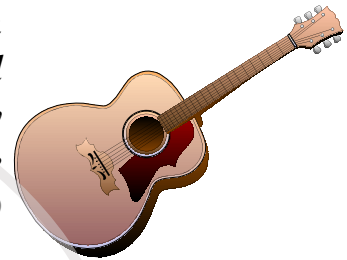


PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

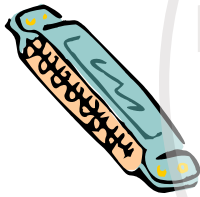
Music

Barnyard Praise

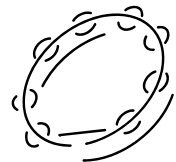
BARNYARD PRAISE is a 30 minute music session held right before lunch and designed for students and staff to meet in a large group. Sing a variety of lively choruses and familiar songs. The one day schedule provides times during MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD Opening, BARNYARD PRAISE, and the Closing.



Choose songs that are easy to learn in a short amount of time. Plan several more songs than you can teach in 30 minutes—just in case the students learn the choruses readily. Keep the session moving along quickly.



DECORATION: No extra decoration is necessary if the large group meets for music in the MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD Opening area.



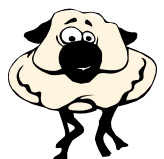
INSTRUMENTS: Piano, guitar, tambourines and electronic keyboard are possibilities if people are available to play them during song time.

MUSIC LEADERS: Assign several teens/adults as music leaders who sing at separate microphones in front of the group. These leaders may or may not play an instrument. The music leaders will encourage volume, quality and communicate the silliness or the praise and worship attitude needed for each song.



MUSIC: Choose simple songs with a basic “Grow In Jesus” theme. Use the suggestions or create your own BARNYARD PRAISE music. Prepare the small groups to sing together for OPEN HOUSE...FAREWELL TO THE FARM.

**Find the chorus “He Owns The Cattle On a Thousand Hills”
in an old chorus book.**



ADAPT A FEW DISNEY MELODIES: Any music store or public library should have collections of Disney songs available.

The Lord Is Good To Me from Disney's movie *Johnny Appleseed*
*The Lord is good to me and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need
the sun and rain and an apple seed, yes, He's been good to me.*

*I owe the Lord so much for everything I see. I'm certain if it warn't for Him
there'd be no apples on this limb, yes, He's been good to me.*

*Oh here am I 'neath a blue, blue sky a doin' as I please,
singin' with my feathered friends, hummin' with the bees.
I wake up every day as happy as can be because I know that with His care
my apple trees they will still be there, Oh the Lord's been good to me.*

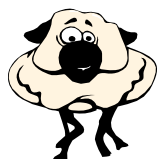
**Change the words to Disney's Lavender Blue (Dilly, Dilly)
from the movie, *So Dear To My Heart*.**

*Jesus loves me, dilly, dilly, Jesus loves me.
If He loves me, dilly, dilly, He must love you.
Who told me so, dilly, dilly, who told me so
The Bible told me so, dilly, dilly, God's Word told me so.*

*If your dilly, dilly heart feels a dilly, dilly way 'n if you'll answer yes.
In a pretty little church on a dilly, dilly day
You'll hear from Him in a dilly, dilly way and—*

*Jesus loves me, dilly, dilly. Jesus loves me.
If you love Him, dilly, dilly, Then He'll be your King!*

THE DONUT MAN, Rob Evans, offers a series of songs from Integrity Music that is a perfect fit to our *Country Junction* theme. **Sing A Long Songbook 3** contains all songs from several cassette tapes including the twelve songs on the cassette tape titled **The Farmer**. There is also a video tape called **Barnyard Fun** which features Christian farm songs. Purchase from your local Christian bookstore or Integrity Music. Songs include: *The Sower, The Mustard Seed, The Fruit of the Spirit, God Makes Things Grow, Aha! Lelujah* and others.



Good Shepherd Jesus, Where'd you find that lamb?
"Way over in the va-al-ley."

The bees and the butterflies were buzzing 'round his eyes
And the poor little thing's cryin' Ma-am-my.

Good Shepherd told me before He went away
Take good care of my ba-a-by.

And He came back to search and the baby came to Him
And the poor little thing was so ha-a-ppy

Good Shepherd Jesus, Where'd you find that lamb?
"Way over in the va-al-ley."

Black Sheep, Black Sheep

Transcribed by:
David Saphra

Black sheep, black sheep, Where'd you leave your lamb? Way o- ver in the
va- al- ley. The bees and the but- ter flies are buz- zing 'round his eyes And the
poor lit- tle thing's cry- in' Ma- am- my My mo- ther told me, Be-
fore she went a- way: "Take good care of my ba- a- a- by." Bu- ut
I went to play And the ba- by ran a- way And the poor lit- tle thing's Cry- in'
Ma- a- my. Black sheep, black sheep Where'd you leave your lamb?
Way o- ver in the va- al- ley!

Recreation- The Funny Farm

...SEND THE KIDS "OUT TO PASTURE"

THE FUNNY FARM is a thirty minute daily recreation activity. Decide what games your team feels most comfortable doing. Use active, fast paced games that encourage running jumping, laughing and comradeship.

GAME AREA: A large indoor/outdoor area is needed to play these simple organized games. If outdoors, choose a grassy spot away from traffic. Protect the area with rows of brightly colored pennants. If indoors, remove furniture so students will not be injured.

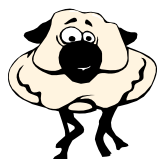
EQUIPMENT: Collect items needed for individual games before Vacation Bible School. Practice the games and adjust event rules for your group.

GAME PREPARATION: Organize a game schedule comfortable for specific age groups. Large muscle games are best. Be sensitive to skills and abilities. Gently encourage at least a minimum of participation. Make adaptations as necessary. It is better to over plan than to have 10-15 minutes with no activity. List game choices and collect the props. Repeat popular games and move quickly to the next event when a game falls flat.

GAMES FOR THE FUNNY FARM

There are many game books available. Use traditional games that are favorites of your local group. If you need help planning a game schedule, use some of these old favorites.

DOUBLE BALL TOSS: *Equipment—Two small balls per group of three students., whistles.* Divide the students into groups of three. The groups stand several feet apart from one another. Tell each group to stand in a triangle with several feet between each player. When the whistle blows, each group begins tossing its two balls clockwise around the triangle. No one may have two balls at the same time. When the whistle blows again, reverse the direction. Each student counts the number of times they catch a ball without dropping it. Tell each group to complete a specific amount of catches within a short period of time.



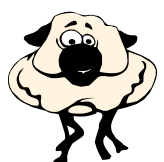
COW'S TAIL: Divide the students into groups of five or six. Tell the students to line up in their groups. Each student places his/her hands on the shoulders of the student in front of him/her. Tell the students that each group is going to be a cow and that cows love to chase their tails. The first student is the cow's head. That student is in charge of "mooing" for the group. The remaining students are the cow's body. The head must lead the rest of the body around toward the tail until the head can tag the tail. Players must keep their hands on the shoulders of the person in front of them at all times. After 1-2 minutes, have the students switch positions and begin again. Repeat until everyone has had the opportunity to be the head and the tail of a very active, mooing cow!

LEAP FROG RELAY: Groups of 5-10 students line up in single file at the starting line. The first player squats down and places both hands on his/her 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 a predetermined finish line. First complete team to leap over the line is the winning team.

MILK CARTON SOCCER: *Equipment needed—several soccer balls, ten empty milk cartons per game, lines to designate the field of play.* Designate a playing area with cones or baskets or lines. Have the teams line up at opposite ends of the playing area. Place the milk cartons in a line midway between the two teams. Players on each team take turns kicking the ball toward the milk cartons. The kicker must stand behind the boundary line. The object is to knock down the milk cartons. When all of the cartons have been knocked down, a designated player places them upright before beginning the next round.

MILK CARTON BOWLING: Set up 10 milk carton bowling "pins" at a distance from the bowlers. Students line up to roll a basketball/volleyball/soccer ball. Assign one student to be the pin setter.

STEAL THE BACON: *Equipment—one bean bag or soft stuffed pig.* 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 beanbag halfway between the two teams. Tell the students that the beanbag represents the bacon. To begin the game, call out one of the numbers. The students whose number is 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, his team receives one point. If not, the other team earns a point. Play until each number has been called at last once.



WATER BUCKET RELAY: A hot summer day, kids and cool water are a great combination. Choose a fun water relay that insures students getting wet (a little bit). Place buckets of water at the starting line. Two teams must compete to see how much water they can place into containers at the other end of the course. Decide what carriers will be used and what containers will hold the water. Suggestions: tablespoons, plastic cups, sandwich bags, hands, holey plastic cups. The best place to play a water relay is in an open area near a water source for easy refills. Time each relay heat. Vary the containers for fun!

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

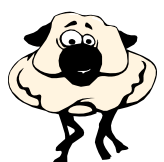
BLANKET BALL: *Equipment—one full sized blanket per group. Several balls of varying sizes per group.* Give each group a blanket. Have all the students spread out around the edges of one blanket and hold onto their edge. Place one ball on the blanket and tell the students to shake the blanket so the ball goes into the air. Assign one student to be the ball retriever. Keep adding balls and see how many the group can successfully toss.

Then, divide the group into two teams. Each team has a blanket. Toss a ball or beanbag from one blanket to the other. Award points to the catching team. *A great spin to the game is tossing water balloons from one blanket to the next. It adds a little excitement (and a lot of screaming!) to the game.*

OBSTACLE COURSE: Designate a clearly marked starting line and finish line. The course should include many different balance, coordination, movement and aerobic skills. Here are a few ideas: Hop through hula hoops, run around large objects a specified number of times, crawl under objects, walk on a straight rope line or low balance beam, dribble a ball from one spot to another, jump rope a given number of times, slide down a slide, throw a frisbee at an object, bounce a tennis ball on a racket, dribble a soccer ball around cones.

Students line up at the starting line. The first student begins moving through the course. After he/she has completed the first or second activity, allow the next student to begin the course. Continue until all students have completed the course. Students who have completed their course sit in an area near the finish line until the rest of their friends have crossed the line.

OR, allow one student at a time to work through the course with the rest of the group acting as audience and cheerleaders. Time each student. Award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place students a small prize or ribbon. Give the remaining participants another type of award.



Belly Acres

...COUNTRY CRAFTING JUST FOR FUN

*Give Country Junction students an opportunity to make a keepsake of their day at Vacation Bible School. Offer a craft project that can be finished in thirty minutes or less. If the craft takes less than thirty minutes to complete, consider offering two separate projects at activity tables. Choose from the variety of suggestions listed here or design your own BELLY ACRES projects. The projects suggested are from S&S arts and crafts catalog. **Prices may change.** To receive your own free copy of the master catalog, call their toll free telephone number, 1-800-243-9232.*

COUNTRY BASKET

Raffia Basket Group Pack. All materials and instructions included to make 24 attractive oval baskets. 4 ½" long. RMB-WE612X \$14.99 per pack of 24. 62 cents per project.

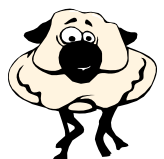
COUNTRY CROSSES

Wooden Wall Crosses. Economical wooden crosses are ideal for painting. Pack contains plywood crosses with hole for hanging and sandpaper. 5" x 8". CHB-WD3154 \$4.99 per pack of 12. 42 cents each.

*Glue buttons to the plain crosses. **Craft Buttons.** New, improved quality. Assorted colors and shapes in a mixed button selection. Size varies. Approximately 400. RMB-BE9800 \$4.99 per pound.*

Glue flower heads to the plain crosses. Cover the cross with small silk or fabric flower heads and an assortment of green leaves. Hot glue works best.

Jumbo Wall Crosses. Wooden clothes pins are transformed into a glowing symbol of Christian faith. Includes wood clothespin halves, non toxic glue and metallic gold and silver paint, brushes, precut cardboard circles and instructions. 8 1/4" x 10 1/4". CHB-RE178 \$14.99 per pack of 12. \$1.25 per project.



COUNTRY CHURCH

Craft Stick Church. Create a traditional wood church complete with a cross at its peak and a magnet on the back. Contains craft sticks, non toxic acrylic paint and glue, brushes, chenille stems, wood shapes, magnetic tape and instructions. 6" x 10". CHB-RE202 \$26.99 per pack of 48. 56 cents per project.

Church Birdhouse. Your group can even create stained glass looking windows with brightly colored tissue paper. Tie the roof on with yarn and the steeple slips easily into the slot cutouts. Includes precut railroad board houses, non toxic glue and markers, tissue strips, yarn and instructions. 4 ½" x 5 ¾" x 4". CHB-GP1471 \$24.99 per pack of 24. \$1.04 per project.

COUNTRY TOYS

Wood Yo-Yo Pack. Make and paint your own yo-yos. Includes wood discs with pre drilled holes, dowels, string, non toxic fluorescent paint and glue, brushes and instructions. 2 ½". CHB-GP106 \$33.99 per pack of 25. \$1.36 per project.

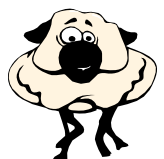
Rainbow Top. Get ready for a color explosion when this top spins. Dowels and wooden discs require only gluing and decorating to complete. Includes wood pieces, brushes, non toxic fluorescent paint and glue and instructions. 2 ½". CHB-GP131 \$36.99 per pack of 50.

COUNTRY PINS

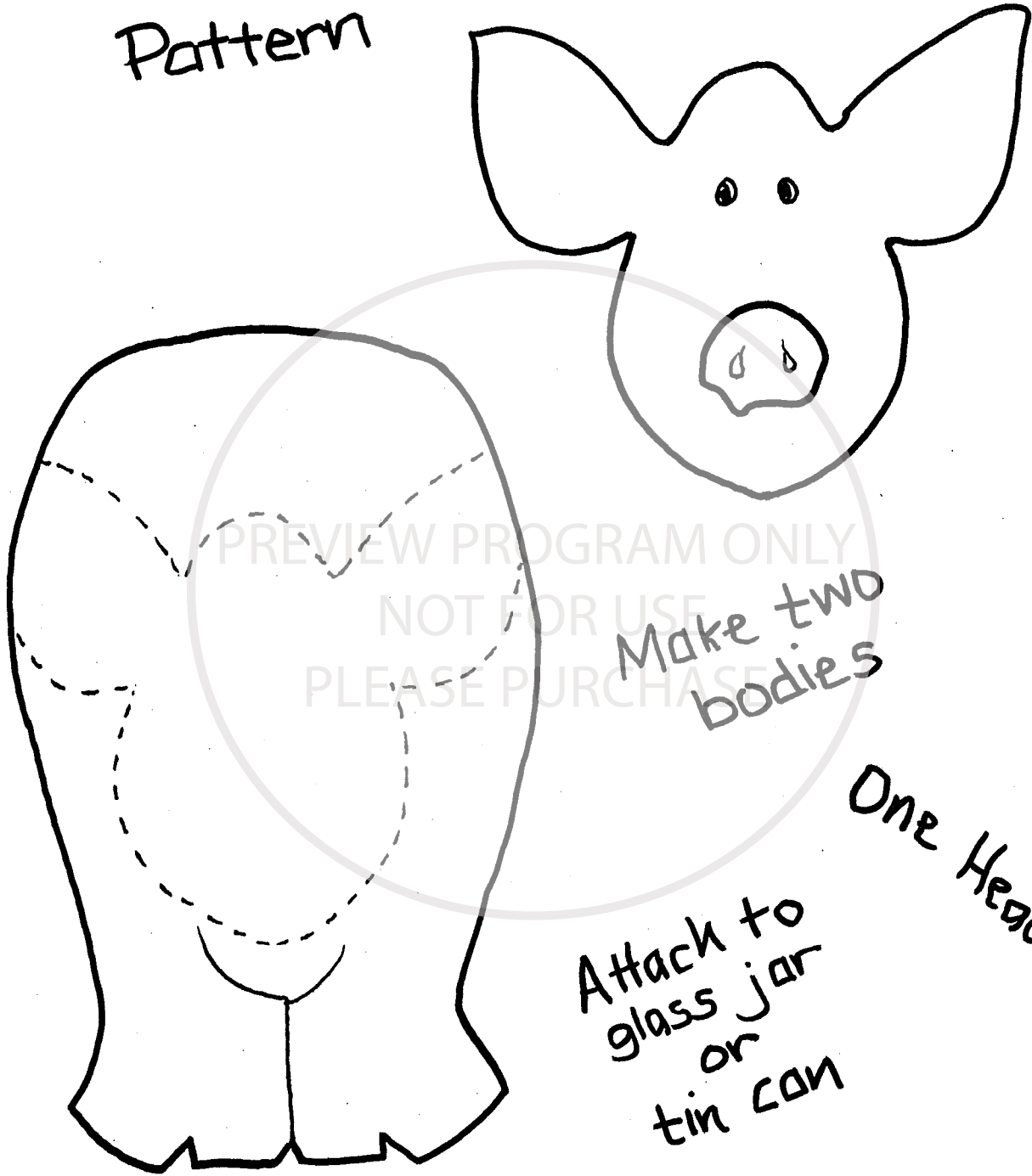
God's Quilt Pins. Just paint the geometric wooden tiles and arrange on the square background. Add a pin back and they are ready to wear. Includes shapes, pin backs, brushes and non toxic paint and glue. Size: 1 ½" x 1 ½". CHB-GP1309 \$15.99 per pack of 24. 67 cents per project.

Butterfly Clothes Pin Clipper. Combine the popular trends of beading and butterflies in one unique activity. Your group will love designing colorful butterfly with mini clothes pin bodies and beaded wings. Finished butterflies can be used as hair accessories, backpack buddies, necklace pendants, paperclips and more. Kit includes wire, mini colored clothes pins, opaque seed beads and instructions. CHB-GP1401 \$18.99 per pack of 50. 38 cents per project.

**THERE MAY BE SOME HOMEMADE PROJECTS
YOUR GROUP CAN COMPLETE EASILY.
LOOK AROUND THE BARN/GARAGE AND DISCOVER CRAFT
PROJECT MATERIALS TO MAKE LOVELY KEEPSAKES.**



Piggy Bank Pattern



Make two
bodies

Attach to
glass jar
or
tin can

One Head

BIBLE STATION #1

MOOTOWN MOTEL

...BOTTLE FEEDERS TO HAYFIELDS



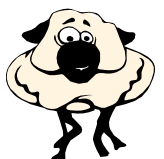
The Country Junction spiritual message in this 30 minute Bible Station is a reminder to grow in Jesus. Just as our bodies grow when we drink milk and eat healthy vegetables, our faith grows as we do the things we know are necessary to stay close to Jesus. Reading the Bible, praying and going to church are crucial actions to our steady Christian growth. The Bible story reinforces this concept by reminding the students of how Jesus grew into a fine young man.

ROOM PREPARATION: The MOOTOWN MOTEL is a place where calves grow into strong cattle at *Country Junction*. The Bible Station should resemble the inside of a barn where cattle stalls are lined up and cows relax and eat.

BARN OBJECTS: Hay, buckets, wheel barrows, wood planking, lanterns, feeding trough, stacked wooden boxes, milk cans.

SIGNS: Here are a few suggested messages to print on the walls of the room. Print the words of today's verse on a separate sign.

**MOOTOWN MOTEL
GOT MILK?
HAVE YOU "HERD" THE NEWS?
HE OWNS THE CATTLE ON A THOUSAND HILLS
...I KNOW THAT HE WILL CARE FOR ME!**

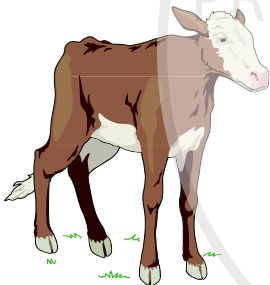


COWS: use the cow pictures scattered throughout this lesson plan as patterns to make life sized cows from cardboard or posterboard. Place the completed cows along the walls of the Bible Station. Place a few cows in the hallway leading to the room.

COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Dress as a farmer. Wear bib overalls, red neckerchief, straw hat and work boots. OR, get t shirts from your local dairy council that read GOT MILK? Become the friendly farmer who wants to tell students everything there is to know about calves and cows and especially about growing in Jesus.

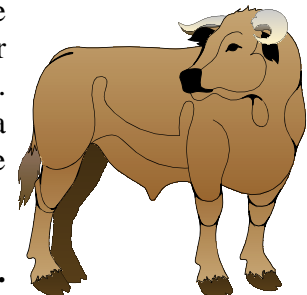
WELCOME: *(Consider exhibiting a live calf or cow if one is available. Because of the large size, conduct the WELCOME time outdoors where the farmer can easily display the animal with hay and milk close by. Only very calm, tame animals should be used and the owner must always be present.)*

Welcome to Mootown Motel! I know this is a strange name for my barn but it is a place of wonder and excitement as my animals come and go every day, mooing and giving milk and calmly plodding back into their private space. We use the Mootown Motel on days when it is too cold for the cows to be in the pasture. They are more comfortable here at night knowing their food is provided and the farmer is nearby. The veterinarian comes here to give medical attention when the cows are sick or need vaccinations. Many calves are born here and begin their life in the comfort of their stall. Outside Mootown Motel is the big, wide world. The cows stroll to the pasture and to the milking parlor. To call the herd of cows to the barn, the farmer and helpers shout, “Come Boss! Come Bissy, Bissy!”

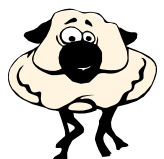


Calves are given special care. The calf receives nourishment twice a day. Milk is the only thing the baby has to grow on for the first two weeks. Each calf is kept in its own pen for ten weeks. Then it is placed in a penned in area with other calves to learn how to interact.

Dairy cows can give as much as five gallons of milk a day! That milk can be used to make cheese, butter or yogurt. Cows also provide manure that enriches the soil. Beef lovers know how good a hamburger or roast beef dinner tastes on Sunday. Feeding milking cows is an art the farmer perfects. The cow must receive the perfect mix of feed to help them produce a lot of milk. If the mix is wrong, they do not produce milk. Cows are 98% water and need water to produce milk.

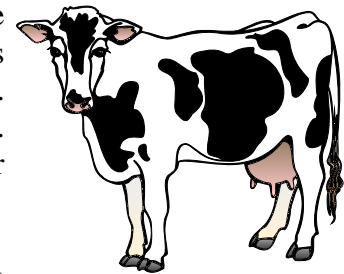


A heifer is a young female cow and the male cow is called a bull.



Heifers are lively and quick. Be careful...a heifer can get away from a farmer very quickly. Herd Bulls protect the herd from harm. Never get too close to a bull! They are aggressive and can attack trespassers.

Cows eat grasses, leaves and crop waste. They are sometimes kept in roomy pens where their farm families make sure they have plenty of food and water. This is known as *zero-grazing* and keeps cows from wandering into trouble or eating precious food crops. Much of the time cows graze in large pastures during good weather. Cows swallow and chew their food twice. They also have four stomachs.



Holstein cows, which are black and white, are the most common cows in America. Hump backed Brahman cows, which are usually gray, are better suited for hot climates. There are many other types of cows: Guernsey–blackish brown, Hereford–reddish brown and white, Short Horn, Durbon, Sharloy, Jersey–brown, Ashshire–brown and white, Black Angus–black, Longhorn. In some countries, cattle are used to pull plows or heavy loads. A cow can have a calf each year. That can add up to a lot of cows!

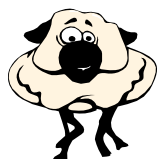
In other countries cows are a sign of wealth. Moving cows to seasonal pasture and water has been a way of life for nomads since early times. Farmers in those lands can sell extra milk, butter, cheese or yogurt to provide a steady income. They sell calves to earn money too. Farmers plant special grasses and trees with leaves cows like to eat.

Let's see how much you know about cows. Take my cow quiz.

1. A group of cows is called a.....
2. Cows, bulls, steers, heifers, calves and oxen are all.....
3. Cows swallow and chew their food.....times.
4. Methane gas for cooking and lighting comes from cow.....
5. Why did the cow jump over the moon?

(Answers: 1. Herd 2. Cattle 3. Two (they are ruminants who chew cud) 4. Manure 5. Who knows? I don't think cows really jump over the moon but it makes a great nursery rhyme!)

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: *Print the scripture verse on the sides of four plastic milk jugs. With a pointer, point to each word in the verse. Students repeat the verse until they can say it as a group. Reward the students with a small piece of chocolate or a brand of candy called "Cow Tails".*



As newborn babes,
desire the pure milk of the word,
that ye may grow by it.

I Peter 2:2

This is an important message from God's Word. When we ask Jesus into our lives, we are like little babies drinking bottles of milk to grow. We must read God's Word, the Bible, in order to learn how to live for Jesus. Learn easy things first and as you grow, you will be ready to learn harder things.

BIBLE STORY: JESUS GREW IN WISDOM

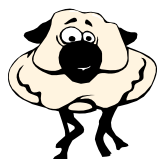
From Luke 2:40-52: Not much is known about the boyhood of Jesus. We know that He grew up in a loving family in Nazareth. He learned the carpenter business from Joseph and He went to synagogue school when He reached the age of twelve. There is only one story in the Bible about Jesus at this time in his life. It is about growing in knowledge and learning about God's Word.

In the synagogue school, Jesus learned how to read and write. He studied the psalms and writings of Moses and the prophets. Like other Jewish boys, Jesus learned scripture verses from memory because no one owned a Bible. Girls were not allowed to go to school. They stayed home with their mothers to learn how to take care of a house and children.

One spring morning a group of Jewish families left Nazareth to travel seventy miles to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. Joseph and Mary went every year. This was the first year they took Jesus. As they traveled, people from other cities and villages joined them. At Jerusalem they met people from every part of the land. Jesus must have been excited to meet such exciting strangers and to see the marvelous sights of the Holy City.

Jesus began to understand that God was his Father and that he must work with God. Each day at the temple he listened to the chief priests and scribes and asked them questions. With every answered question, Jesus learned a little more about god's kingdom. He was not afraid of these important teachers even though he was a young boy.

When the feast was over, the people from Nazareth started home. Mary didn't see Jesus but she thought he was walking with his cousins and friends. Joseph didn't see Jesus but he thought the boy was with Mary. Evening came and Mary and Joseph began to look for him. No one in the traveling group had seen him that day. Now his parents were worried. Where could he be? They returned to Jerusalem to look for him. On the third day they found him.



He was not playing in the streets with young boys or learning to swim. Jesus was at the temple with the wise teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

Mary was angry as only a mother can be. Can you hear her tone of voice as she asks Jesus, “Son, why did you stay here when we were starting for home? Your father and I have been so worried! We have looked everywhere for you.” Oh, oh! Any kid who hears those words knows he’s in BIG trouble.



Jesus calmly answered, “Why did you look for me? Didn’t you know that I would be at my Father’s house?” Mary did not understand. What did Jesus mean? Jesus surprised the teachers at the temple. He asked questions they could not answer.

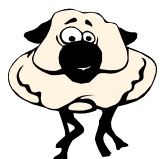
The Bible says that Jesus grew to be a wonderful young man. He could explain the scriptures and pray with his Heavenly Father. By helping Joseph, Jesus learned to be a carpenter. This was good because when Joseph died, Jesus took care of Mary and his younger brothers and sisters. His kind, thoughtful ways won him many friends. Jesus lived in Nazareth until he was about thirty years old.

MOOTOWN MOTEL LESSONS: We don’t grow exactly like cows but let’s take a look at a cow’s life to see how it matures. Then, let’s see how a Christian’s life matures and compares to it.

CALVES: Babies live in separate areas and are bottle fed milk. *When we become Christians, we learn the basics of our faith. We hear Bible stories again and again until they become part of us.*

GATHERING PEN: When calves are introduced to each other, they live side by side in a small pen. This helps them learn how to get along with each other. *Christians meet in Sunday School and keep growing in God’s Word, side by side with good friends.*

PASTURE: Soon it is time for the cows to be turned loose to grow and mature. Pastures are filled with green grass, cool water and shady trees. Dangers also lurk around pasture corners. *Christians begin to take leadership roles in church. Small jobs come at first and then more responsibility to the group. Dangers lurk in the church too. Not every Christian is loving and kind as they grow in their faith. This means we must learn to be patient and kind when it is hard to do so.*

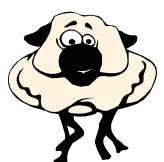
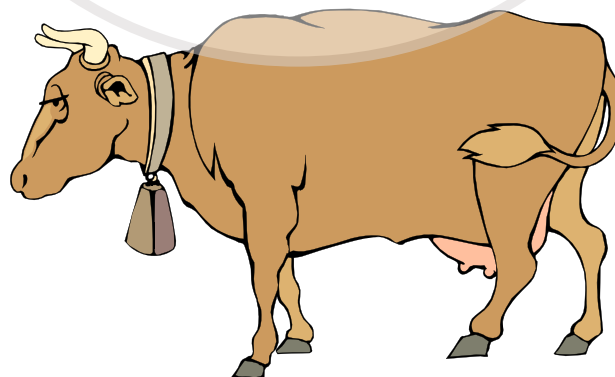


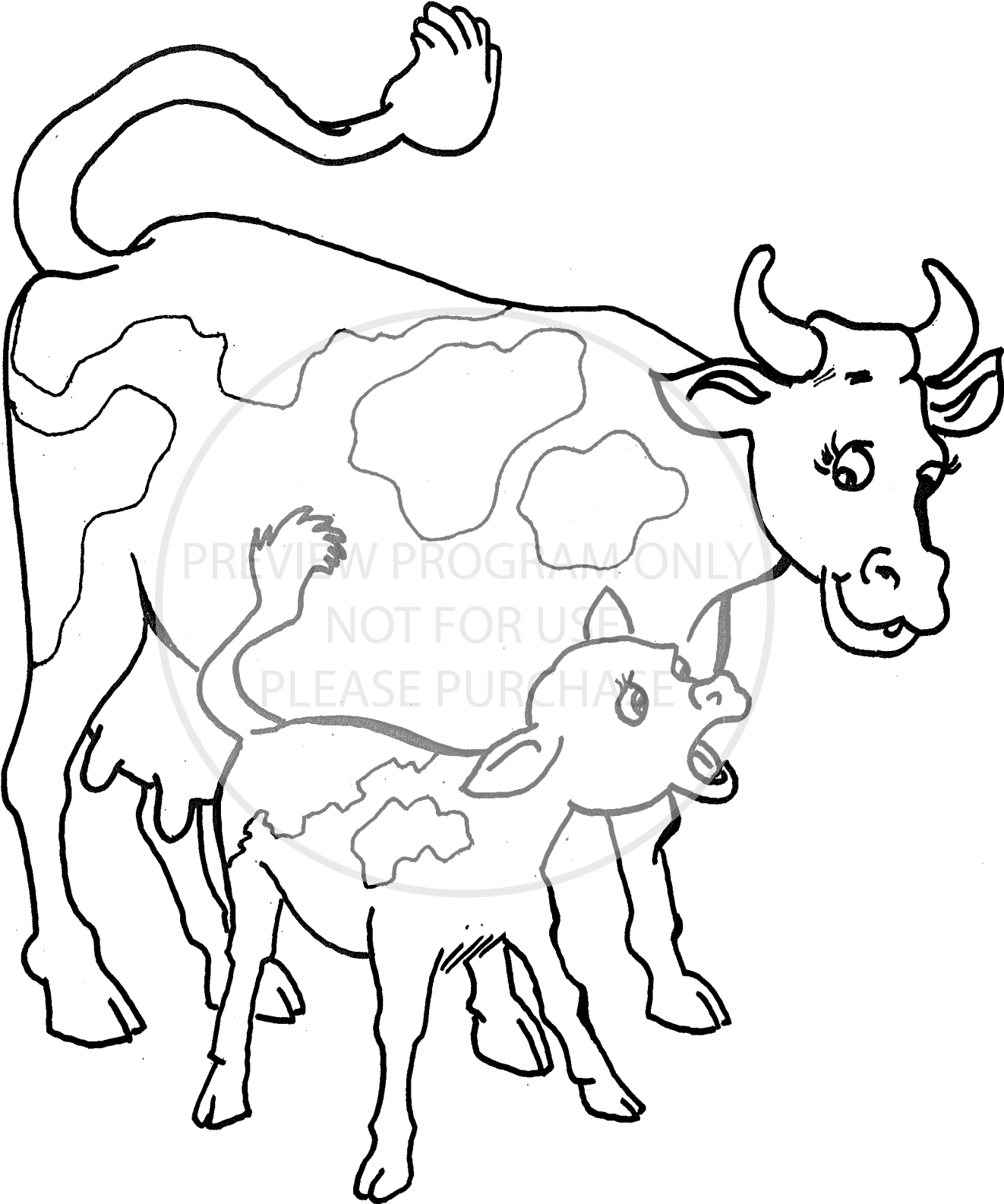
DRY COW LOT: This is a comfortable area where cows go to relax before they freshen (give birth). It is at this time that cows begin to give milk. *It is refreshing for Christians to have a place where they can pray and read God's Word. Find a place like that in your home. Growing in the Lord means taking time to relax with Him.*

MAIN MILKING HERD: Soon the cows join the main milk producers on the farm. They are now ready to produce their own milk to feed the others. *There comes a time in a Christian's life when it is time to tell others what they have learned. Teach others, give time and money study, pray, be faithful, serve others. It is prime time faith.*

CULL YARD: When a cow is nearing the end of life, she is tired and is not producing milk. The farmer culls (removes) her from the main milking herd. Soon she is *put down* as a non producer. Sad, yes, but every life has an ending. *Christians grow tired too. God never lets us go. When older Christians become sick, they still have work to do. As long as breath remains, Christians can pray. No one is too old to learn from God's Word. Until the day a Christian dies, he/she keeps growing in the Lord.*

CLOSE IN PRAYER. Dear Lord, help me grow in You. Wherever I am, whatever I do, never let me forget how much You want me to be part of Your church. Thank You for being my caring Heavenly Father. In Jesus' Name, Amen.





PREVIEW PROGRAM ONLY
NOT FOR USE
PLEASE PURCHASE

BIBLE STATION #2

RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY

...LIFE IN THE HUTCHES

The Country Junction spiritual message in this Bible Station is a reminder that a believer's joyful task is to tell others about Jesus. Use the fun rabbit hutch theme to help students discover how easy it is to share their faith with friends and family.

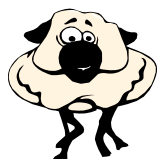


ROOM PREPARATION: This space should resemble an area filled with small rabbit hutches. Fill the area with rabbits of all shapes and sizes. Copy patterns onto transparencies and enlarge them separately onto cardboard, posterboard or newsprint. Paint with bright colors. Not all rabbits have to be white. Consider designing oversized fantasy rabbits in purple, green, pink, yellow and red. Add big, puffy cotton tails. Place stuffed bunnies all over the room.

Hutches: Stack cages one on top of another along one wall. The hutches can be made from cardboard boxes stacked with the openings facing forward. To make the cardboard hutches a little more realistic, attach chicken wire to the openings. Fill each hutch with a layer of straw and a small bowl for rabbit food.

Rabbits: Gather as many toy rabbits as possible to place in the hutches. If none can be borrowed, make stuffed bunnies from fabric store patterns. Copy the curriculum patterns to make paper wall rabbits.

Carrots and Cabbage: Decorate with real bunches of carrots and heads of lettuce and cabbage. Draw carrots and other vegetables to place on the wall.



Signs: Print these messages on the side of carrot drawings and place on the walls of the room. Print the words of today's verse on a separate sign.

**RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY
EVERY BUNNY LOVES JESUS
JESUS LOVES EVERY BUNNY
EAT CHICKEN!
RABBIT HOLE
LIFE IN THE HUTCHES**

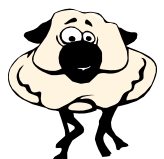
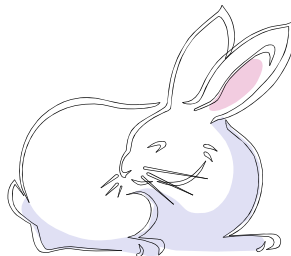
COSTUME AND CHARACTER: Dress as a farmer. Wear bib overalls, red neckerchief, straw hat and work boots. Become the friendly farmer telling students how to share their faith. Just for fun, make or rent a bunny costume. Ask a teen helper to become the Rabbitat mascot. The bunny accompanies student groups to their various activities and assists with the craft project.

WELCOME: (*Consider exhibiting a live bunny—or bunnies. Keep the bunnies safe in a cage with food, water and a little hay. The owner must be present at all times.*)

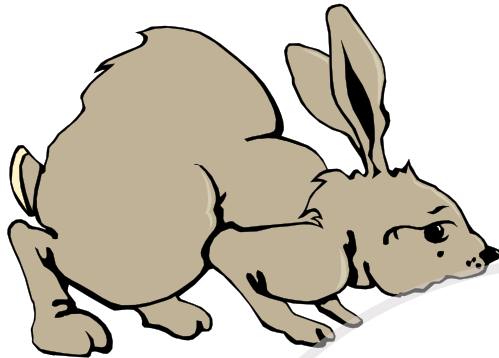
OFFER CARROT STICK SNACKS AT THE STUDENTS FIND THEIR SEATS ON THE FLOOR OF THE BIBLE STATION.

Welcome to Rabbitat For Haremanity! Of course you have heard of the famous house building volunteers called *Habitat for Humanity*. They make homes for people. I make homes for rabbits. My rabbits are the best rabbits in the world. They make great pets because most of them are gentle and can even be house broken like a cat. They are beautiful. Rabbits also make good stew but we won't dwell on that!

I can expect four litters of baby rabbits each year. A litter can include eight to ten babies. That means I can expect as many as 30 babies each year. Rabbits are raised in spacious, shady cages called hutches and the doe (mother rabbit) makes her nest in straw or in a box. Rabbits nibble their food to keep their two front teeth short since those teeth never stop growing! Rabbits don't require a lot of space to grow like the larger animals at *Country Junction*. I can raise them next to the house or even on the back porch! Rabbits eat vegetable waste carrots—lots of carrots. Be careful not to let them escape from their hutches. They head for the vegetable garden every time. Their mothers have impressed upon them the importance of eating their veggies.



Let's see how much you know about rabbits. Take my bunny quiz.



1. A male rabbit is a buck, a female is a doe and a baby rabbit is a.....
2. Rabbits are ready for market at.....months.
3. The longer the ears, the better the rabbit: True or False?
4. Rabbits front teeth never stop growing: True or False?
5. Which rabbit kept sneaking into Mr. McGregor's Garden?

(Answers: 1. Kit 2. Six 3. True, because they help keep the rabbit cool 4. True 5. Peter Rabbit)

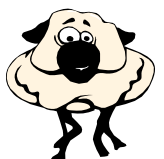
MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Print today's verse on the sides of several large paper bunnies. With a pointer, point to each word in the verse. Students repeat the verse until they can say it as a group. Reward the students with a carrot stick.

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved....
Acts 16:31

This is an important message from God's Word. Believers are assigned the task of telling the good news of Jesus to everyone we meet. What is the good news? Check out today's verse and you will know exactly what to tell everyone you meet.

BIBLE STORY: JAIL HOUSE ROCK

From Acts 16:23-24: The best things rabbits do is multiply! Before I know it, my hutches are filled with nose twitching, long eared baby bunnies who grow up to have baby bunnies of their own. Telling the good news of Jesus is a lot like multiplying bunnies. When we tell others, they tell others and soon there are lots of Christians where only one stood a short time ago. The prophet Isaiah said, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news." Isaiah 52:7





Paul and Silas were mighty missionaries. They told everyone they met about the good news of Jesus. Often their message from heaven got them into trouble. One day they angered townspeople in the city of Philippi who dragged them off to the city prison. Their crime was helping an unhappy slave girl and causing a loss of money to her masters.



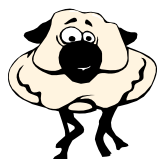
Soon Paul and Silas were sitting in a dark, inner prison with their feet in stocks. They had been beaten so their backs hurt and they didn't know what would happen to them the next day. Did they complain because they had been mistreated? No! Instead they talked to each other about God and His great love. At midnight they prayed and sang praises to God. The other prisoners heard the prayers and the songs. They didn't understand how these two men could be happy after a beating and imprisonment.

Suddenly a great earthquake shook the foundation of the prison. The locked doors swung open. Even the stocks on Paul and Silas' feet came apart. The jailer woke up and saw the prison doors open. He knew the chief officers would kill him if only one man escaped. He thought all the prisoners were gone so he drew his sword to kill himself.

Paul shouted, "Do not hurt yourself! We are all here." The jailer rushed into the prison where he saw all the prisoners, including Paul and Silas. The jailer knew Paul and Silas were not dangerous men. They had to be men of God as he had heard. He fell at their feet, crying, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." Everyone in the prison heard about Jesus Christ, the Savior of men.

The jailer believed and his heart was so full of joy that he took Paul and Silas to his house, washed their wounds and bandaged their backs. He brought food for them and treated them like guests. By morning, Paul and Silas baptized the jailer and his household. Together they rejoiced in the Lord. In the morning, the officials sent word to the jailer, "Let those men go!"

And the rest of the story... Years afterward, Paul wrote a letter to the church in Philippi. That letter is in your Bible. It is called Philippians. Because of the faithfulness of Paul and Silas, many people in that town became believers in Jesus.



RABBITAT FOR HAREMANITY LESSONS: This exciting story about two men who were willing to tell everyone about Jesus is a good lesson for us. Let's take a look at the character of Paul.

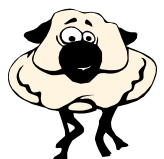
1. Paul could sing hymns when he was locked in the inner prison at midnight. The one thing you can never take away from a Christian is God and the presence of Jesus Christ. With God there is freedom even in a prison and even at midnight there is light.

2. Paul was willing to tell the jailer about salvation even when the jailer had shut the door of the prison on him. There was never a grudge in Paul's nature. He could preach to the very man who had locked him in the stocks.

3. Paul stood bravely for Jesus Christ. Paul was a Roman citizen and he could have gotten the rulers in trouble because they had beaten a Roman citizen. He did not stand brave for his own sake but for the sake of the Christians he was leaving behind in Philippi. He wanted them to have an opportunity to live safely and spread the gospel to all their neighbors and friends.

Paul was quite a guy! He multiplied Christians wherever he went. We can learn a lot about being good witnesses today by hearing the stories of Paul, the first missionary.

CLOSE IN PRAYER. Dear Lord, help us to be believers who tell the good news of Jesus wherever we go. Give us the courage of Paul and Silas. Help us understand the message so that others can "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved." In Jesus' Name, Amen.



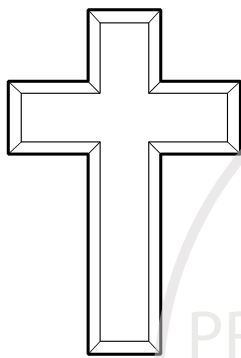




The Picket Fence

...SALVATION STATION

**“By this all men will know you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.” John 13:35**



Visiting THE PICKET FENCE is a wonderful way to present a salvation station that students enjoy and where students learn how to get to heaven. Teach salvation and personal responsibility while students make a picket for a fence that will be built at the end of the day.

PICKET FENCE COSTUME: Dress in denim overalls, gardening gloves and straw hat. Carry a gardening hoe or rake.

PICKET FENCE ROOM DECORATIONS: Transform an empty room into a farm garden surrounded by a white picket fence. Cut individual pickets from poster board. Enlarge the pattern enclosed. Surround the room with white pickets. Place live flowers, silk flowers and greenery in front of the pickets. Position a scarecrow in one corner and honey bees on the walls. Fill wicker baskets with potatoes, beans, apples, etc. Students sit on the floor.

PICKET FENCE SIGNS: Place cheerful, flowery signs on the walls above the fence. Some signs can be looped with twine and hung on the pickets.

PLEASE DON'T EAT THE DAISIES

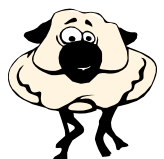
WATERMELON 4 SALE

WORMS HAVE RIGHT OF WAY

LIFE BEGAN IN A GARDEN

GOD LOVES GARDENERS

PICKET FENCE PROJECT: This activity center features the presentation of the plan of salvation. As students learn how to accept Christ, they decorate one picket of a fence that will be displayed later in the day. As the points of salvation are presented, the students add artwork on their personal picket. Provide pencils, markers and crayons.



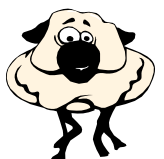
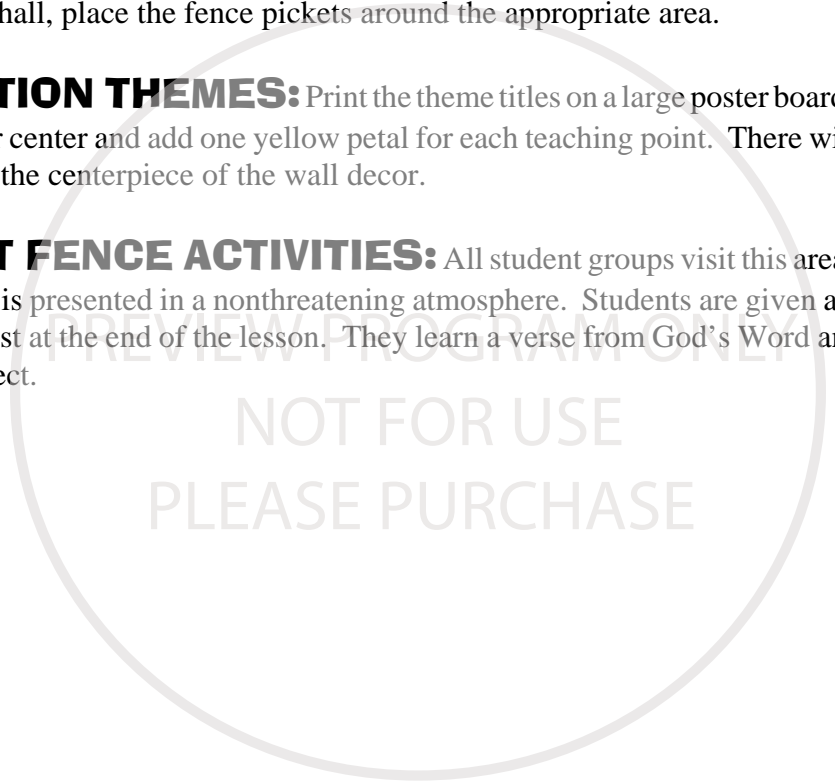
Cut the student pickets before Vacation Bible School begins. Basic pickets should look exactly alike. Each picket should be 2-3' tall but this can vary according to taste and materials available. The easiest material to use is white posterboard.

Follow the directions to add symbols to each picket. Let the students construct their picket using their personal artistic style. The end results will be fun and interesting.

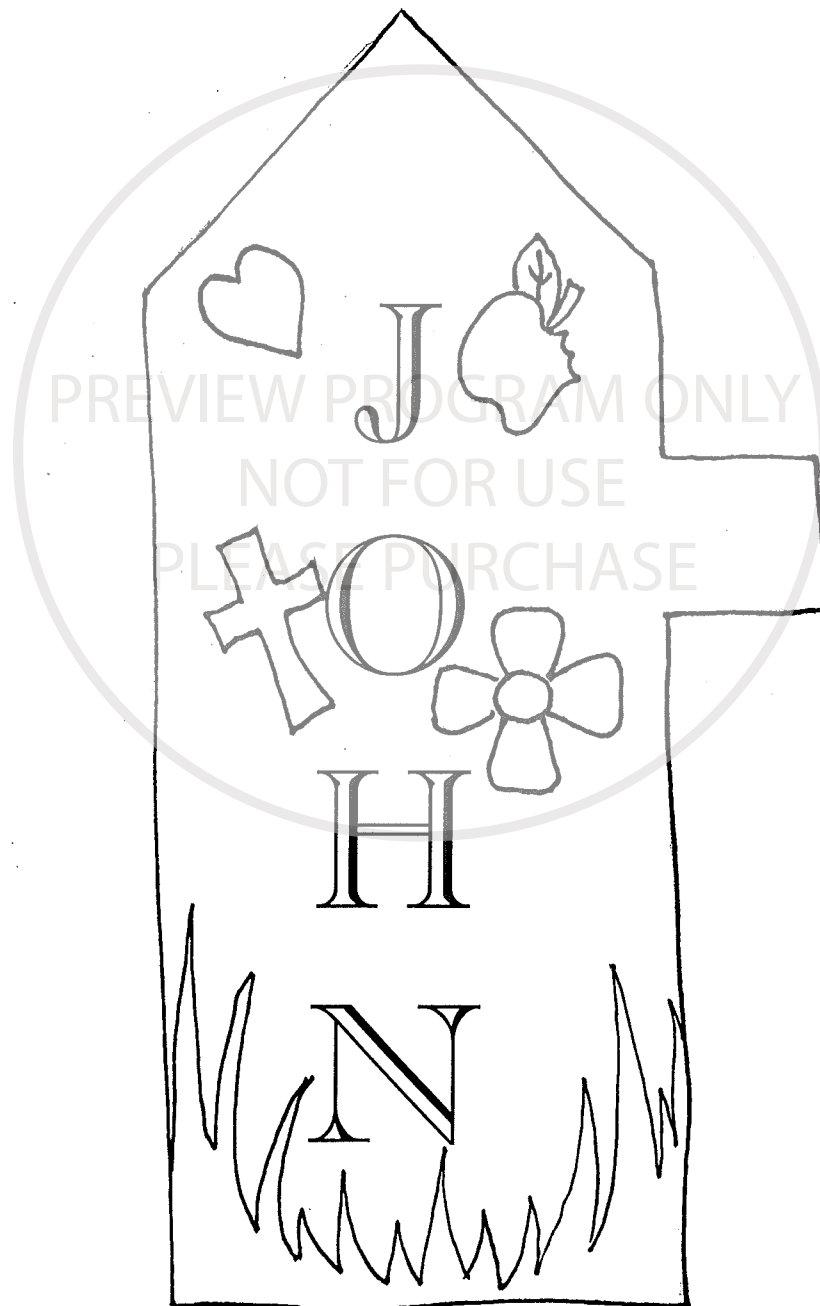
DISPLAYING THE PICKET FENCE: Choose a large area to display the pickets of the entire group. If the closing program is scheduled to meet in the sanctuary or fellowship hall, place the fence pickets around the appropriate area.

SALVATION THEMES: Print the theme titles on a large poster board sunflower. Cut a sunflower center and add one yellow petal for each teaching point. There will be five petals. Use this as the centerpiece of the wall decor.

PICKET FENCE ACTIVITIES: All student groups visit this area for 30 minutes. The gospel is presented in a nonthreatening atmosphere. Students are given an opportunity to accept Christ at the end of the lesson. They learn a verse from God's Word and work on their picket project.



Make one large picket pattern. Using a utility knife, cut out one cardboard or poster board picket for each student before Vacation Bible School begins. The students will decorate their picket with items as instructed each day. At the end of the week, display all pickets together as a complete fence.



Welcome to THE PICKET FENCE. I am the gardener who will teach you about Jesus, the Great Gardener. You will make one picket to a wonderful fence made from the pickets of every student at Country Junction. Let's get going!

Print your first name on your picket.
Make it big enough so that everyone knows who you are!



PEACE AND LOVE IN THE GARDEN: Draw a heart anyplace on the picket to remind you that God's plan for us is peace and love. Life began in a garden. The Lord created Adam and Eve to live in a beautiful place called Eden. A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden and it grew to become four rivers. The trees and shrubs were lush and lovely. God created animals of every size and type to live there.

Peace and love reigned in Eden. The garden was a wonderful place to live. It didn't last long. The serpent tempted Eve to eat fruit from the forbidden *tree of knowledge of good and evil*. Instead of concentrating on all the thing they could have, Adam and Eve focused on the one little fruit God said they could not have. He said they would die if they ate it.

God's Word says:

...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 5:1

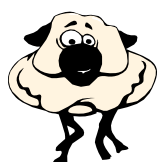
For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Remember that God's perfect plan has always included peace, love and life.



DISOBEYING GOD IN THE GARDEN: While we talk about this, design a piece of fruit for your picket that looks like the most delicious, tempting fruit in the world. The first time a human being disobeyed God it was in a garden. One of the animals, a snake in the grass, was more than an innocent creature. This serpent was Satan in disguise. He slithered into Eve's life by telling her that God had no right to forbid fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After all, maybe God didn't want Adam and Eve to discover the wonders that God possessed. Maybe God was keeping something good from them.

Eve looked at that fruit and thought, "Yeah, I should be the chance to become like God. Look at how that fruit shines in the sun. Mmmmm, one bite couldn't hurt...." and the rest is history! Sin entered the world. All sin is disobeying God.



God's Word says:

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

Most people try to deny they have sinful thoughts and deeds. They make up reasons for the way they act and the thoughts they think. "I didn't sin. No one heard the word I said." "Me, sin? I've never done anything bad in my life!" "Sin? If you think I did, you should see what my brother did last week! Believe me, I'm an angel compared to him!" The entire time we deny our sinful natures, we are not experiencing God's perfect plan for us—peace and love and life.



FRIEND IN THE GARDEN: *Draw your own version of the cross anywhere on your picket.* Adam and Eve hid from God but He found them behind some bushes. They had forgotten that God was their best friend in the garden. He protected them from harm. Even after they disobeyed Him, He helped clothe them. Then they were removed from their beautiful home. God told Adam he would dig for food from the earth. Adam was going to be a farmer but he wouldn't be a good farmer. Food was going to be hard to find. Eve was told she would have pain in childbirth. This was God's punishment for sin in Adam and Eve.

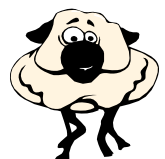
God made a new plan for the people of earth. God sent His Son, Jesus, to be our Savior. Believing in Jesus is the only way to heaven. God's Word says it. Jesus said it often. We must believe it.

People try many ways to get to heaven. Some folks do good things for poor families or give money to worthy causes. Others go to church every week—some go every day! There are smart people who study books to get closer to God. Others live good, honest lives. These things are terrific but they do not lead anyone to heaven and they won't get you to heaven either.

God's Word says:

There is a way that seems right to man
but in the end it leads to death. Proverbs 14:12
But God shows His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8

God provided the only way to heaven and He gives us the choice to believe in Christ or not believe in Christ.





COME TO JESUS IN THE GARDEN: *Draw a flower on your picket. Make your flower have four petals to remind you of each part of God's Salvation plan.*

Here is a simple plan for receiving Christ.

- 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 FOR YOUR AND ROSE FROM THE GRAVE.** God's Word tells us the story of 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 in Jesus. We become Christians by simply asking Jesus to forgive us and by asking Him to enter our lives as Savior and Lord.

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

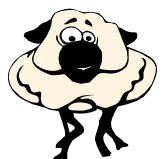
If you want this prayer to be the response of your heart for God, join the large crowd of people who have come before you. Stand up and be counted for God. Tell someone that you have become a real Christian today.

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



GROWING FAITH IN THE GARDEN: *Draw five blades of green grass at the bottom of your picket while we talk about growing in Jesus. When we accept Christ as our Savior and Lord, we begin a journey that leads to eternal life in heaven. The best part is that we do not have to earn salvation. Jesus gave it because He loves us. Remember God's perfect plan for us? He wants us to have peace, love and life. Now, we have God's perfect gift.*



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

Once we become believers, there are five things we do to grow in faith and to learn more about Jesus. *(Print each sentence on green construction paper leaves that surround the petals of the sunflower.)*

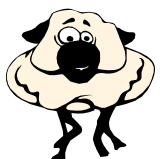
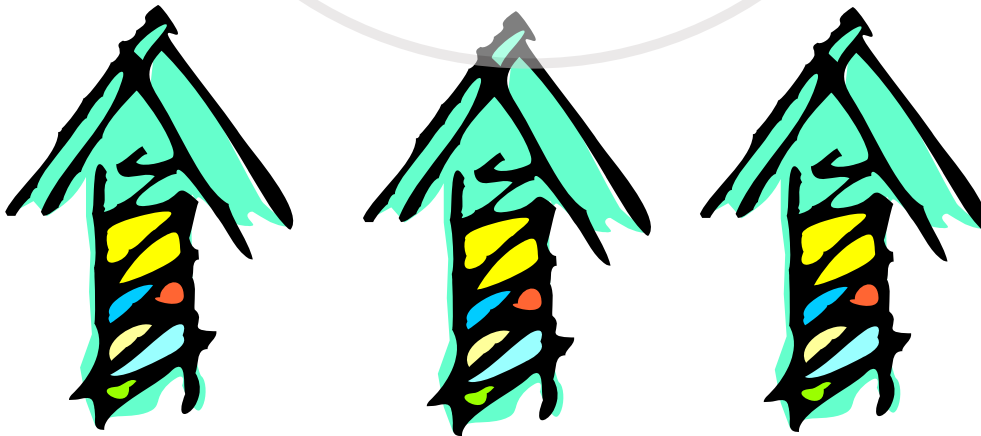
READ YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY! When we grow a garden, we must take care of it every day. We cannot know and understand God unless we read His message to us.

TALK TO GOD IN PRAYER EVERY DAY! God waits everyday for us to speak to Him. Prayer is better than a telephone. God’s line is always open. The moment you pray, He hears you.

TELL OTHERS ABOUT JESUS! When we love the Lord, our first response should be to tell someone else the good news. It is a lot like spreading seed for a garden to grow.

GO TO CHURCH AND LEARN ABOUT JESUS. It is very hard to grow in faith all by yourself. You need the help of good friends who also love the Lord. Find these people at a church near your house.

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



Hog Heaven

...WHERE PIGS LEARN TO FLY

BIBLE THEATER

This 30 minute theater event is a short skit performed by a small team of teens and adults in Holy Land costume. Students are reminded of how important God's Word is to people who search for Him. The Narrator introduces the skit with information and ends the session with lessons learned. Have a wonderful time presenting this Dr. Seuss styled event.



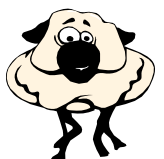
PREPARATION: Decorate a staging area to resemble a Holy Land outdoor area. A classroom may be used if there is enough space for the actors and audience. *This theater performance could be done in a large group if the director wants to change the basic schedule.*

Place green plants, old benches, towels and pottery, a pitcher and parchment type scroll on the stage. If possible, draw a background containing a village in the distance with sheep grazing on green hillsides. Large sheep may be made from cardboard, painted white, covered in cotton batting and propped up in the background.

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

SIGNS: Display fun and funny signs on the walls of the theater area. Use bright colors and trim with glitter. Shine lights up from the floor onto the side walls.

HOG HEAVEN...WHERE PIGS LEARN TO FLY
DON'T BE A SELFISH PIG
PIG OUT ON GOD'S WORD
PIGGLY WIGGLY CHRISTIANS FLY TO HEAVEN



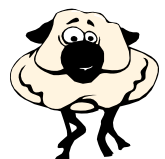
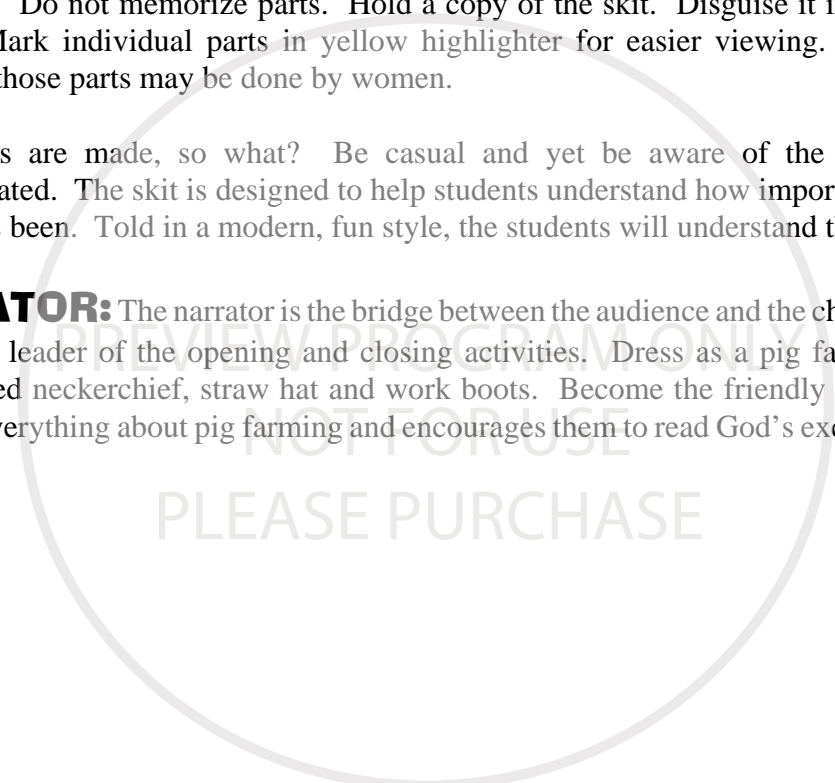
**NEVER TRY TO TEACH A PIG TO SING,
IT SOUNDS AWFUL AND IT ANNOYS THE PIG**

REHEARSAL AND TIMING: Encourage actors to take their time, speak loudly and become the character they are portraying. Rehearse before the day of the event and practice reading the rhyming 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 scroll or in a basket. Mark individual parts in yellow highlighter for easier viewing. If men are not available, those parts may be done by women.

If mistakes are made, so what? Be casual and yet be aware of the messages being communicated. The 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

NARRATOR: The narrator is the bridge between the audience and the characters. He/she is also the leader of the opening and closing activities. Dress as a pig farmer. Wear bib overalls, red neckerchief, straw hat and work boots. Become the friendly farmer who tells students everything about pig farming and encourages them to read God's exciting message in the Bible.



NARRATOR INTRODUCTION

Welcome to HOG HEAVEN! I'd like to say welcome to my pig pen but you might be offended. Actually, pigs are wonderful animals and they are practical too. They eat things people won't and they provide a lot of meat. And oooo, those little piglets are soooo cute! Did you know that pigs love to be scratched? Even though not all people eat pork, pigs are still among the world's most popular animals. Let's see how much you know about pigs. Take my little piggy quiz.

1. Pigs wallow in mud to: a. Make a mess; b. cool off; c. find food
2. What kind of hogs do you see on the highway?
3. Baby pigs can gain over 100 pounds in three months: True or False?
4. A group of pigs born one at a time is called a.....

(Answers: 1. Cool off 2. Road hogs 3. True 4. Litter)

Have fun with this quiz by asking those who got the fewest answers right to Kiss a Pig. This could be a live piglet, stuffed animal or pig drawn on the wall—reproduce the pig in this lesson plan.

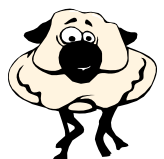
I have an important message from God's Word. Actually when I read God's Word, I'm in Hog Heaven! I learn how to live my Christian life better and I learn how to help other people too. Here's the word for the day:

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

Philippians 1:6

Each of us must have a moment in our lives when we meet Jesus in order to go to heaven. Once we accept Him as our Savior, He begins to work in us until we begin to become more and more like Him. He promises that He will never stop working in our lives. Even if we run away from Him, He will search for us and bring us home to Him.

That brings us to our story. Jesus loved to tell stories. People listened carefully and understood His messages about heaven. This farm story has been called the greatest short story in the world. Listen carefully and see if you agree. This Bible story about a wasteful son and a loving father is from Luke 15:11-32.



THE WASTEFUL SON AND THE LOVING FATHER

*ACTORS: Father, Brother, Son, Narrator. Dress in Holy Land garb.
Take your time, let it rhyme and act out the words on stage.*

NARRATOR: 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....

SON: 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.

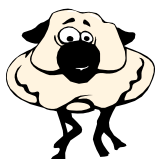
FATHER: Oh son, my dear son, the farm is not bad.
I've given you life, money, health....all I had.
When I die you will get all that's left, so be glad.
You'll be the big boss, our family kahuna.
Just share with your brother, and sing a glad tune-a.

BROTHER: I'm oldest, you know. I don't want to boast.
But when the time comes I should get the most.

SON: 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.

FATHER: Oh, son, my dear son, the farm is your home.
Stay here and work here. Don't try to roam.

SON: Just give me your money, oh father dear.
I need it right now to fly 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 like he thought.
He bought and he bought and he bought and he bought!

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

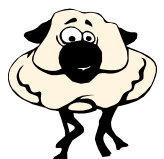
SON: I now need a job, I need money you see.
I can't live in the city and let me be me.
I need a good job to buy more new clothes.
I want a new outfit, like those and like those.

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.

SON: 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.

SON: I know what I'll say. I know what I'll do.
I'll say, "Hello father! So nice to see you".
I'll admit that I sinned.
I'll beg to begin life over again 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.
He tried to confess all his sins, to unload
But the father had plans of his own to complete.
He wanted to shout to the world, 'My son's sweet'!

FATHER: My son, my dear son, you are home at last.
The time you were gone did not go fast.
Come in to the house, take a bath, get a drink.
I need time to blink and to think in a wink.

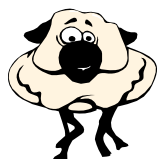
SON: But father, I've sinned against heaven and you.
I've wasted your money and now I feel blue.

NARRATOR: Before he could finish, his dear father said...

FATHER: 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'!

NARRATOR: So a party was planned and the family rejoiced.
They danced and they feasted on platters piled high
With the juiciest juices and a fatted calf's thigh.
The end of our story now is in sight
For the family was happy, so happy, that night.

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

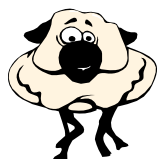


BROTHER: I'm the brother who stayed. I worked long. I worked hard.
Do I get a party, do I get a card?
No, not me. It's not fair!
I want some rejoicing for *me* on the stair.
This brother of mine wasted stuff on wild living.
And now they celebrate with even *more* giving.
It's not fair, it's not fair, it's not fair, I say.
I want a party, I want to play!

FATHER: 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, he 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 wanted the people listening to learn. We can learn the same lessons. (*Print each lesson phrase on pig faces and attach them to the wall as you present each thought.*)

1. **JESUS WANTS US TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN.** Isn't it wonderful that when the son decided to come home, he recognized 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* Say the verse out loud with me.....repeat the scripture.

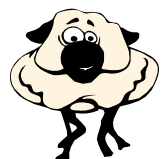
2. **JESUS WANTS US TO ACCEPT GOD'S FORGIVENESS.** When the son got to the farm, his father never gave him the chance to ask to be a servant. He broke in and called for a robe, a symbol of honor. He called for a ring, a symbol of authority and shoes, a symbol of freedom. The son accepted his father's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

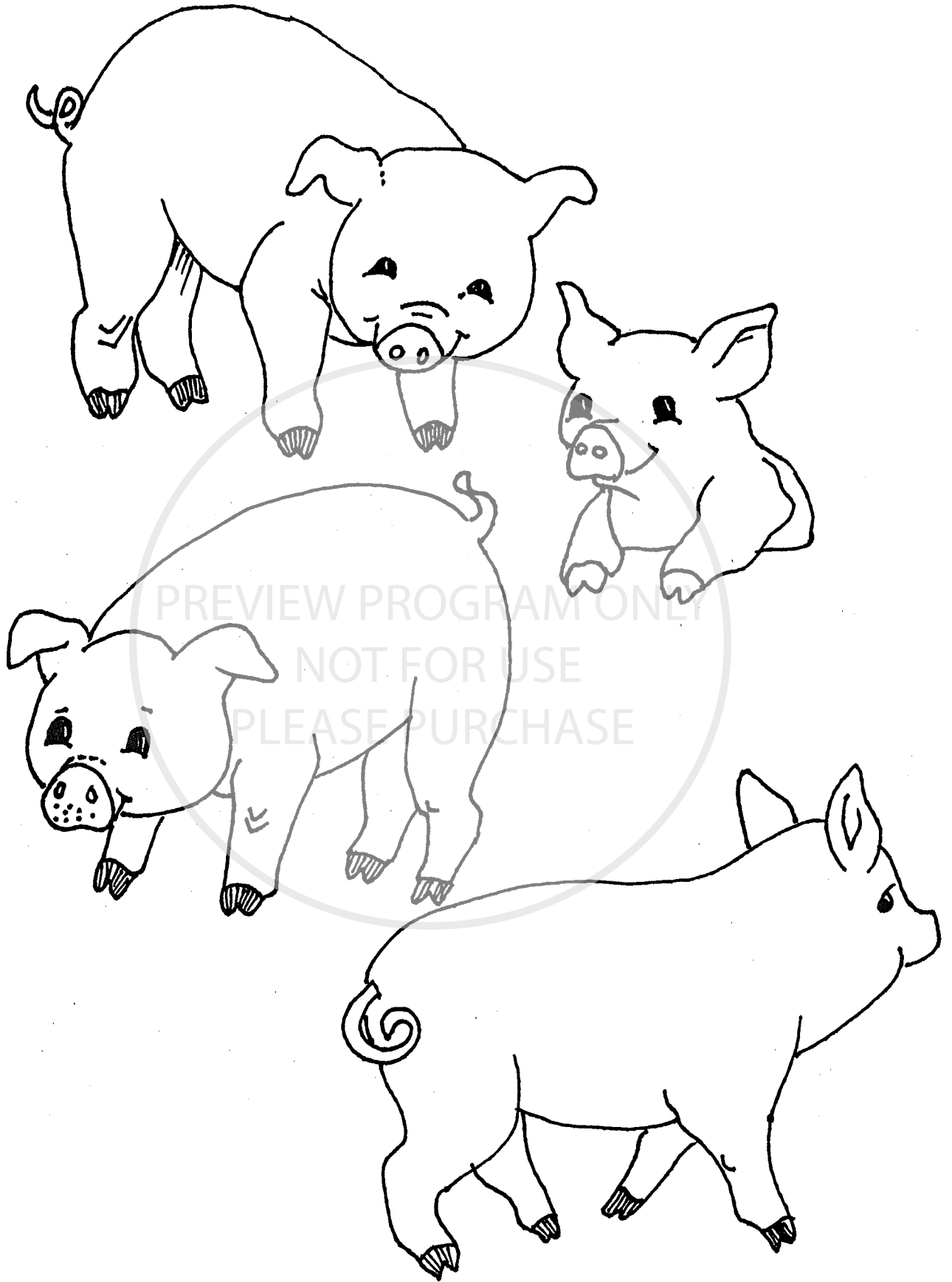
Abraham Lincoln was once asked how he was going to treat the southern rebels when they had been defeated during the Civil War and had returned to the Union of the United States. The questioner expected that Lincoln would take a terrible vengeance but the great president answered, "I will treat them as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

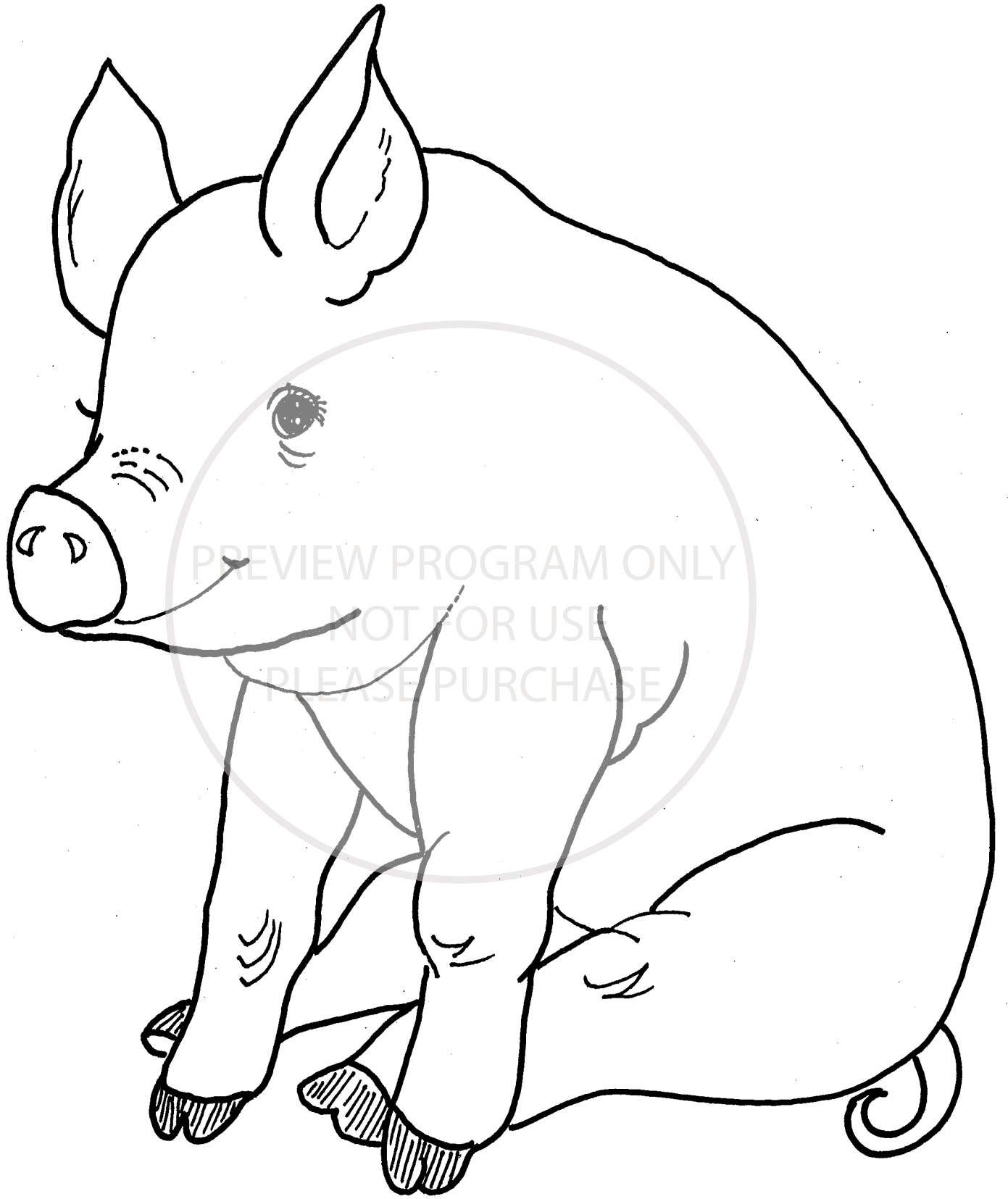
3. **JESUS WANTS US TO CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE.** The father called for his household to stop work and celebrate with a feast. God rejoices when each person accepts His forgiveness and comes home to him. This story is often called The Parable of the Prodigal Son but it should be called The Parable of the Loving Father because it tells us 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*

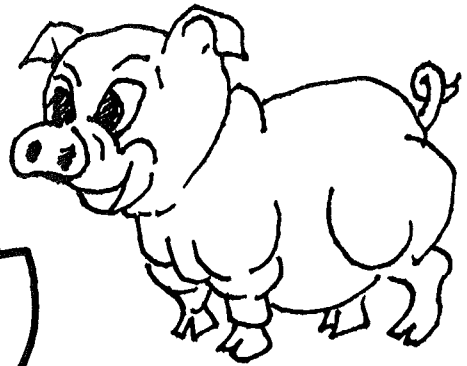
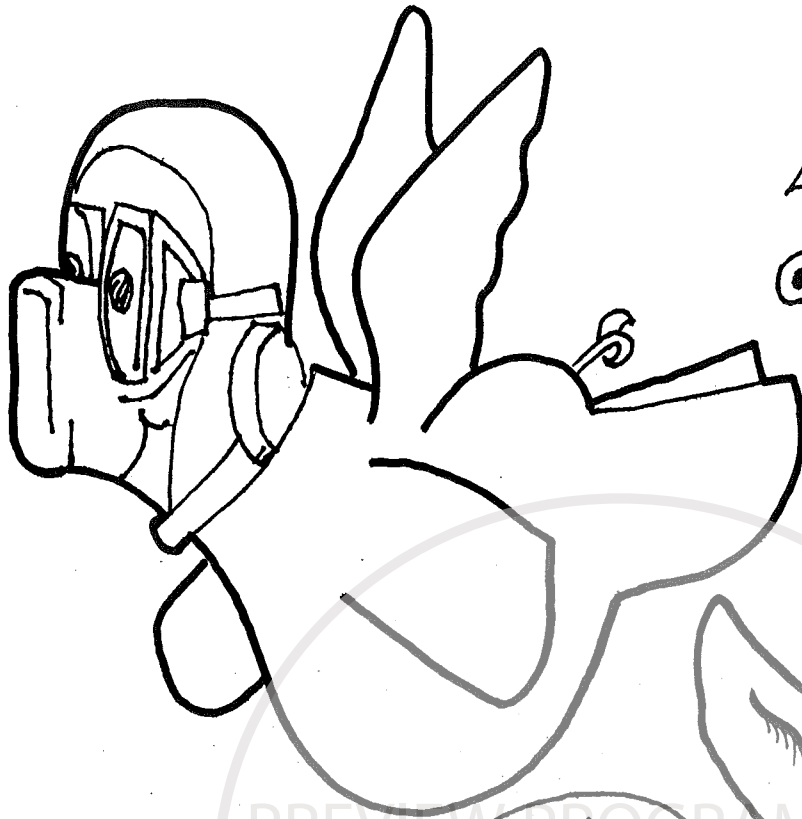
God is always waiting for us to return to Him. It is easy. He says the only qualification is to believe that Jesus is God's Son, our Savior, and believe that He died on the cross and rose from the grave. We talk to God about our decision in prayer and the deal is sealed. You can do this any time, any where.

CLOSE IN PRAYER: Dear Lord, Please 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.









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Honey Bee Nursery



WHO SHOULD COME TO HONEY BEE NURSERY?

Children birth through age three who are children of teachers and helpers are invited to the nursery. It is the decision of each local church to open the nursery to the public or not. The curriculum is not designed for students under four years old. They do not respond well to high activity so loved by older students. This one day event could be exhausting for babies and toddlers and they may be served better by remaining home.

HOW MANY HELPERS SHOULD WE ASK TO BE IN HONEY BEE NURSERY?

Ideally, one helper per baby in charge of care for that infant from bottle to changing diapers. However, gather a faithful crew who will help with the children assigned to the area.

SHOULD WE PLAN ACTIVITIES IN HONEY BEE NURSERY?

The nursery is a babysitting service but tell a few stories, sing some songs, play tapes, give wagon rides and take walks. Decide how much to do by the ages of the toddlers.

SHOULD WE FEED THE CHILDREN IN HONEY BEE NURSERY?

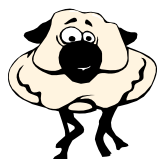
Ask parents involved. They may want to provide snacks from home. If you do feed the toddlers, be sure the food is safe and healthful. (No popcorn, hot dogs, lollipops or hard candy which could be caught in a tiny throat.) Any meals served during the day should include these small children eating with their parent or guardian.

HOW SHOULD WE DRESS IN HONEY BEE NURSERY?

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

WHAT SHOULD WE BRING FROM HOME TO MAKE HONEY BEE NURSERY COMFORTABLE?

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, preferable on a shelf or high table.



Preschool: Tater Tots



This area is for preschool students ages 4-5. Students under the age of three should be part of the HONEY BEE NURSERY if they are children of teachers and assistants.

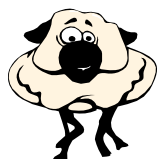
THEME: The TATER TOTS group studies the same spiritual themes as older students. Use the curriculum as a study guide but provide plenty of rest time, play and simple crafting. At no time should you feel pressured to move the students to activities if they are crying or upset. Cancel or shorten your appearance in favor of free play time if the group needs rest.

TEACHERS: There should be one helper for every 2-3 TATER TOTS students. Parental help is welcome. Wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Make the One Day event fun and relaxing. Students should be able to chatter and sing without being reprimanded. However, run away children or rudeness must not be tolerated.

Country Junction Is A One Day Vacation Bible School event with activity stations prepared for large group activities and several stations designed for individual groups.

HOME BASE: Choose one room where preschool stories, crafts, play and rest activity takes place. It is wise to have a separate space for criers and other students who need quiet rest during the day. Two separate ½ hour session (morning and afternoon) are reserved as an optional preschool Home Base time.

CRIERS: This group is unpredictable in behavior. If a few children continually cry, ask helpers to keep them busy separately with play and coloring at the TATER TOTS Home Base. Movement around the building and grounds may be threatening for some younger students. If one or two children never calm down, it may be necessary to ask a parent to stay with their child or to take them home and try again next year. While we want to accommodate as many young students as possible, crying and temper tantrums discourage teachers, helpers and students. The child may be too young and will do better at a later time.



PLANNING A TATER TOTS DAY



4 1/2 hours is a very long day for preschool students. Plan the day around spontaneous rest and free time. Bring beach balls, balloons, bubbles and other outdoor toys to play indoors or outdoors. Purchase small story books from your local Christian bookstore. Use stories as extra teaching times.

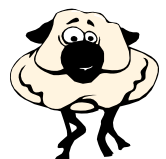
HOME BASE: Some preschool work may be completed in their separate classroom. Prepare Bible stories, crafts, games, rest and free play as optional activities in case students are not able to participate in the same stations as older students.

NATURE WALK: This may be the highlight of the day. It is not a scheduled activity so insert it into times when a planned activity is not appropriate for the preschool group. When taking a walk, go with a nature bracelet. Put 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. Upon return, discuss all the treasures they found. Talk about how our loving God made everything for our enjoyment and to meet our needs.

MOO-TIFUL BARNYARD OPENING: TATER TOTS may participate in the opening if they can sit still for fifteen minutes, sing and respond. This is an opportunity to organize name tags and motivate the group before the day begins. If there are criers, ask a helper to take them to Home Base to color. This avoids chaos and distraction for older students.

BARNYARD PRAISE MUSIC TIME: Encourage preschoolers to participate in music time. Take them to BARNYARD PRAISE and stay with them. If the 30 minute session is too long, take preschoolers to Home Base for free play or coloring time.

HOG HEAVEN...WHERE PIGS LEARN TO FLY BIBLE THEATER: This area consists of a narrator directing opening and closing activities accompanying a skit entitled *The Wasteful Son and The Loving Father*. It is a wonderful way for preschoolers to become involved in a Bible story. Take them and enjoy the experience.



BIBLE STATIONS: Two Bible Stations are presented during the day. Take the group to each station for lessons on growing in the Lord and telling others about Jesus. They may not understand every concept but they will enjoy the decorations and the stories.

FARM FRESH SNACK BAR: Take students to any meals provided. There may be a breakfast, lunch and supper (or any combination of these meals). Sit with the students. Use this time as a bathroom and hand washing break. Everyone in the building eats at the same time so decide if you want to join the older students or eat separately at Home Base.

REST TIME: Allow time for unstructured play and rest. Darken Home Base, play a tape of Christian music or listen to a taped story while encouraging quiet activity. Time is scheduled as options in both morning and afternoon sessions.

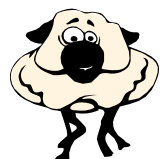
THE PICKET FENCE: This is a featured theme activity where the students decorate one picket to be added to a picket fence created by the entire student body. It is a special spot where the students hear about salvation.

THE FUNNY FARM: Take your students to recreation. There are many games these young children will be able to play. If you feel more comfortable, plan separate recreation for your small ones and create your own games.

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 special craft project to feature as a keepsake. Keep the process simple and everyone will enjoy the experience. S&S arts and crafts catalog offers many projects for the preschool student. (*S&S prices could change.*) Local craft stores may have ideas for projects.

S&S CATALOG RESOURCE CRAFT BOOKS

PRESCHOOL ARTS AND CRAFTS. Foster creativity with easy to do projects that are introduced by original poems. Kids will have fun drawing, cutting, pasting and painting. Play with clay and building materials, kitchen items and outdoor objects. Build excitement around birthdays and holidays. Ages 3-5. Soft cover; 160 pages. SR9-BK1181 \$12.99 each.



THE GIANT ENCYCLOPEDIA of Them Activities for children 2-5. This book offers 48 themes and more than 600 teacher developed activities that resulted from a nationwide contest. The activities are clearly described and required a minimum of preparation. Soft cover, 512 pages. SR9-BK955 \$29.95 each.

MUDWORKS. Basic, enormously useful text invites creative adventure and exploration while offering guidance in some favorite messy activities—bread and glue dough, plaster of paris, and more. Clearly written, easy to use and fun! Soft cover; 150 pages for 3 and up. SR9-BK834 \$14.95 each.

S&S PRESCHOOL CRAFT PROJECT SUGGESTIONS

SQUISH ART. Create squish art by using our special tool. Great fun and so easy to do. Experiment with color mixing and create exotic forms. Includes heavyweight cards, frames, squish art tools, non toxic finger paints and instructions. 5" x 7". SR9-GP231 \$20.99 per pack of 25. 84 cents per project.

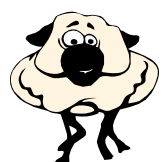
WWJD? SUPER FOAM FRAME. Pack includes assorted precut foam letters, cardboard frames, non toxic paint and glue, glitter and instructions. 5 ½" x 5 ½" . SD9-RE397 \$12.99 per pack of 24.

COLORLITE BUTTERFLY. Your group will enjoy creating these bright decorations by applying bits of jewel toned tissue to precut butterflies. When finished, the translucent butterflies can be hung in a window to catch the sun or anywhere for a splash of color. Pack includes tissue paper strips in assorted brilliant colors, butterflies, jumbo chenille stems, non toxic glue, brushes and instructions. SD9-GP1263 \$18.99 per pack of 36. 53 cents per project.

COLOR ME PLACE MATS. Inspirational mats are easily colored with crayons. For extended use, seal with clear contact paper. Comes with printed place mats, crayons and instructions. 9" x 12". SD9-RE277 \$6.99 per pack of 24.

BIG MOUTH BULL FROGS. This easy, success oriented project is sure to be a hit with even the youngest members of your group. Kit includes tissue, paper plates, party horns, cardboard circles, non toxic glue and crayons and instructions. SD9-GP1317 \$19.99 per pack of 50. 40 cents per project.

SPRINGY SPRINGTIME FLOWERS. Kids paint foam base, twirl pipe cleaners and decorate bobbing flowers. Pack includes foam half balls, chenille stems, sponge sheets, paper flower, green acrylic paint and glue, crayons, instructions. SD9-GP1268 \$17.99 per pack of 24. 75 cents per project.



COUNTRY JUNCTION

...HOW YA' GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM?

EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW

I LEARNED ON A FARM.....1

GOALS.....2

GENERAL PREPARATION.....3

DIRECTING THE DIRECTOR.....4-5

DECORATING COUNTRY JUNCTION.....6-9

GIVE THE WORLD A PRESENT.....10

PLAYING ON THE FARM TEAM.....11

MEET WITH THE FARM TEAM.....12

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