

FAITH ROOTS FOR PRE-SCHOOLERS

SAMPLE

by

Willie George

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FOREWORD

I am pleased to offer you this book of pre-school Bible lessons with the full assurance that they will be a blessing to your children. The lessons reveal vital faith principles that your class will be able to apply in daily living.

This volume of seventeen lessons covers the first three fruits of the spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy and peace. In each section, the stories, puppet skits, and object lessons are designed to teach young children the importance of developing these fruits in order to live a victorious Christian life which is pleasing to God.

To get the most from this material, give it plenty of time to soak into your spirit before you share it. Let the Holy Spirit give you additional insight into each story and the best method of presentation.

This curriculum can be a good tool for you to use in teaching your kids spiritual truth, but always keep this simple fact in mind: *If you want the lesson to get inside the children, it must first be inside you, the teacher.*

May God grant you all the wisdom, creativity, and patience you need in your labor of love among His little ones.

Yours for the souls of boys and girls,



Willie George

HOW TO USE THIS MATERIAL

READ THIS: In order to get the full benefit of these lessons, it is imperative for you to read the following instructions.

SCRIPTURE TO STUDY: Earlier in the week, read and meditate on the specific scripture for each lesson. Let the Word sink down into your spirit so that when you teach the lesson, you are ministering the Word from your heart. Don't feel you must read the scripture background to your class — it's for you.

CENTRAL TRUTH: It is better to teach children basic principles than to insist on them learning details. In every segment of the class — stories, Bible lesson, puppet skit, memory verse, etc. — keep in mind the central truth. For example, in Lesson One, it would be better for the children to learn the importance of obeying God's Word than to know all the Ten Commandments.

MEMORY VERSE: There are many ways to present the memory verse, so don't get in a rut. Get the kids excited about the memory verse by being enthusiastic yourself. You will notice that our memory verses are coordinated closely with the central truth. In many cases, we have listed for the memory verse only a portion of the scripture passage. It is better for all the class to know "by Jesus' stripes we were healed," out of I Peter 2:24, than for a few to quote the entire verse, verbatim.

GOD'S ANIMALS: Seventeen colorful, poster-sized animals are included with this material to reinforce the central truth of each lesson. Not only can these be used as an effective tool in communicating the day's theme, but these large posters may be used for exciting classroom decorations.

STORIES: Storytelling is one of the greatest vehicles available in presenting the Gospel. To get the most from your presentation, *know the story*. Don't memorize it, but be familiar enough with it to tell it from the heart in your own words. When these stories become real to you, they will be made real to the children.

OBJECT LESSONS: These object lessons give simple pictures of spiritual laws that will reveal truths to younger children. Don't just read these lessons to your class. Study them, and know the content. Before you present any of these lessons, practice them at home to make sure you get the desired effects from your materials. *Prepare!*

ADDITIONAL

SUPPLEMENTARY LESSONS:

Included in each lesson is an additional story, puppet skit, or simple object lesson for you to use for longer class periods or during the second teaching of the same lesson. (*See Class Schedule.*)

OUTLINES: Each Bible lesson has been outlined so you may use it as a reference while you

FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The material in *Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers* is written without a denominational slant. It teaches the virgin birth; the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ; salvation by grace through faith; the authority of the scriptures; the work of the Holy Spirit; divine healing; and the Church.

As it is written in outline form, it can easily be adapted to most fundamental viewpoints.

teach. It isn't meant to be read to the class as a story. The main points tell the heart of the story. You can add or delete details as you wish.

Familiarize yourself with the Bible story setting. Make sure you understand the basic principles you are teaching. Word the things you teach so that children will be able to understand. Think as a child while you teach. Don't get too deep. Pre-school children readily receive spiritual truth when it is presented with simplicity.

The lesson outlines make room for your individual personality to shine through in each story. Express ideas the way you express yourself best. Don't feel confined to the exact wording of each outline.

Don't get bogged down in details. Knowing the name of each disciple isn't nearly as important as knowing that faith can make a person whole. Teach the details, but zero in on the principles.

Keep in mind the attention spans of the children you are teaching. The Bible lesson presentation should last from five to eight minutes depending on the age group and length of the lesson. This material is ideally suited for two's through five's and six-year-olds who are not in first grade.

VISUAL AIDS: Use visuals! Kids remember more of what they see than what they hear. Reinforce the words you speak with things they can see. Flannelgraph characters for these lessons are supplied in *Covenant Characters*. You'll find a sufficient number of men, women, children, and other things to present every story. Build your own scenes as the story progresses using as many characters as you feel are necessary. But don't limit yourself to flannelgraph characters as the single method of presentation — be versatile. Dress like a Bible character occasionally. Have older kids act out parts. Be imaginative!

FUN-TIME ACTIVITIES: Located on the For Review pages, you will find a special activity which corresponds with the day's Bible lesson. These activities are designed to be a time of intimate interaction between the teachers and each student. Be sure to reinforce your love for each child as you give them personal attention and build their sense of self-esteem.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW: Following each lesson, you will find 10 questions related to the day's Bible story. (*The answers follow each question.*) Use these questions with four's and five's to add incentive for your students to listen closely to every lesson. Pick one child to answer each question. Do not allow the children to respond until you select them. Don't allow a bright pupil to answer all the questions. If one team can't answer the question, give the other team a chance. If you run out of questions before the game ends, you can make up more questions based on the Bible lesson, or have children recite the memory verse. To add more excitement, treat the whole class when all the questions have been answered correctly. The following games can be used with any of the lessons:

REVIEW GAMES MAKE LEARNING FUN

In the actual Master Lesson Book, you'll get instructions for five great games. Because learning will be fun, your class will be more attentive and as a result will retain more of the lesson.

TIC-TAC-TOE

Supplies: Chalkboard and chalk, or large tablet and marker

Draw a tic-tac-toe board on the chalkboard. Choose an "X" team and an "O" team, and select a helper from each team. Ask a question, and pick a child to

answer it. If the answer is correct, have the helper make his team's "X" or "O" mark on the tic-tac-toe board. Continue until all questions are asked.

CROSS THE LINE

Supplies: Tape or string to mark finish line

Choose two teams and a runner for each team. Ask a question, and pick a child to answer it. If the answer is correct, the runner for that team gets to take two giant steps (*baby steps if space is limited*) toward the finish line. The team whose runner crosses the finish line first, wins.

MYSTERY PRIZE

Supplies: A large present, wrapped 8-10 times in different sized boxes and gift wraps, penny candy, balloons, assorted package of candy

Prepare the box this way before class: Put an assortment of penny candy, balloons, and other prizes in a ziplock bag. Put this bag in a small box. Then put this small box into another box. Put this box into another box, and so on, until you have at least 8-10 boxes or wraps. Divide the class into two teams. The first player comes forward and answers a question. If the answer is correct, let that player unwrap the box one time. If the answer is incorrect, ask the question of the other team. Keep score, giving 3 points for every correct answer. The team who unwraps the last box wins the penny candy and balloons, but the teacher should have a bag of candy to distribute to the team that didn't win.

HANG THE DEVIL

Supplies: Chalkboard and chalk, or large tablet and marker

Draw a hangman's gallows on the board. Ask a question, and pick one child to answer it. If the answer is correct, draw a circle for the devil's head on the gallows. Ask another question, and pick another child to answer it. If the answer is correct, draw a body below the head. Continue as above, drawing the right arm, left arm, right leg, left leg, and a frowning face. Once the picture is complete, everybody wins!

QUESTION BOX

Supplies: Paper, pen and a shoe box

Before class write on slips of paper fun instructions for children to do such as: Hug a puppet. Sing a song about Jesus. Jump as high as you can. Say, "Praise the Lord." Hop on one foot. Shake the teacher's hand, etc. Put all slips of paper with instructions into the shoebox and close the lid. Then ask a question, and pick a child to answer it. If the answer is correct, shake the shoebox and let the child draw a slip. Read the instructions and let the child do what the paper says. Continue in this manner until all questions are answered.

COLORING PAGES: All coloring pages are coordinated with the lessons for each day, so the child can take them home. A synopsis of the day's lesson is included on the back of each page for parents to review the lessons at home with the children. The teacher should keep an extra set of pages on hand for occasional visitors to use as well as enough pages for each regular student.

CRAFTS: Each lesson includes craft ideas that you can help the children make. These crafts help to reinforce the Bible lesson and stories that were presented. There are two different crafts, one for two- and three-year-olds and one for four- and five-year-olds. When you prepare these crafts, be sure to cover "Pattern, Lesson Number" and the page numbers before photocopying. You will find craft instructions on one page and the necessary patterns and illustrations on the pages following the instructions.

CLASS SCHEDULE: Think about attention spans as you plan your class schedule. Two sample schedules follow based on a typical 90-minute class period.

| ACTIVITY | TWO'S AND THREE'S | FOURS' AND FIVE'S |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Free Play | 15 Minutes | 8 Minutes |
| Offering | 3 Minutes | 3 Minutes |
| Singing, Announcements | 8 Minutes | 8 Minutes |
| Bible Lesson | 5 Minutes | 8 Minutes |
| God's Animal | 3 Minutes | 3 Minutes |
| Memory Verse | 3 Minutes | 4 Minutes |
| Break (Restroom, Snacks, or Free Play, etc.) | 18 Minutes | 10 Minutes |
| Puppet Skit | 5 Minutes | 5 Minutes |
| Main Supplementary Lesson | 5 Minutes | 5 Minutes |
| Fun-Time Activity/Questions | 10 Minutes | 8 Minutes |
| Review Game/Questions | — | 10 Minutes |
| Coloring Pages | 3 Minutes | 5 Minutes |
| Additional Supplementary Lesson | — | 3 Minutes |
| Craft | 12 Minutes | 10 Minutes |

KEEP THEIR ATTENTION!

We help you keep the class moving by providing puppet skits, object lessons or stories, games, a memory verse, songs, and activities that all focus on a single truth. The theme is repeated over and over until the children know the principle.

If you have a shorter class period, or prefer to teach your pre-schoolers one lesson in two class periods, the following is a suggested guideline for you to use:

| Sunday Morning (Class Period 1) | Time |
|--|---------------|
| Free Play | 25 Minutes |
| Offering | 3-5 Minutes |
| Singing, Announcements | 10 Minutes |
| Bible Lesson | 5-8 Minutes |
| God's Animal | 3-5 Minutes |
| Break (Restroom, Snacks, and/or Free Play, etc.) | 20-25 Minutes |
| Memory Verse | 3-5 Minutes |
| Main Supplementary Lesson | 5 Minutes |
| Craft | 10-15 Minutes |

| Wednesday Night (Class Period 2) | Time |
|--|---------------|
| Free Play | 10-15 Minutes |
| Offering | 3-5 Minutes |
| Singing, Announcements | 10 Minutes |
| Repeat Bible Lesson | 5-8 Minutes |
| Additional Supplementary Lesson | 5 Minutes |
| Break (Restroom, Snacks, and/or Free Play, etc.) | 15-20 Minutes |
| Repeat Memory Verse | 3-5 Minutes |
| Fun-Time Activity | 8-10 Minutes |
| Review Game/Questions | 10 Minutes |
| Coloring Page | 3-5 Minutes |

THE MASTER TEACHER METHOD FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL

Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers is designed to work most effectively with the Master Teacher Method of instruction. This plan specifies that teachers combine the smaller cubicle-type classes to form larger groups with two to three teachers per twenty-five pupils.

The benefits of such a program are many and the institution of the plan is relatively simple. Each class is headed by a Master Teacher (who is experienced and capable) and assisted by one or two others. The Master Teacher assigns lesson parts and oversees the class schedule.

Since the Master Teacher is the most capable, he should teach the Bible lesson and allot the supplementary lesson to an assistant. A third teacher could be responsible for singing and opening exercises. If three teachers each prepare two hours for each class, the children will get the benefit of six hours of study. In the small class with one teacher, children do not get the variety of teacher personality and the benefit of as much preparation time.

GIVE NEW WORKERS HANDS-ON TRAINING

The Master Teacher method is an excellent way to introduce new teachers into children's ministry, as they can step in gradually and observe more experienced workers each week. By using the Master Teacher Method you can allow your helpers to specialize in puppets, flannelgraph, music, or object lessons, and children will benefit from the variety of teachers.

Few teachers can do everything well, and the Master Teacher Method is excellent in allowing teachers to specialize in puppets, flannelgraph, music, or object lessons.

In the Master Teacher's class, distractions are handled by assistants while the teacher remains undisturbed. Children who need counsel can easily be dealt with by the person not teaching at the moment.

This plan is excellent for introducing new teachers in children's ministry. Newcomers are often overcome in having to learn all teaching skills immediately, but not so in the Master Teacher Method. The new teacher can step into teaching gradually and observe more experienced workers each week.

The Master Teacher is always developing new personnel by teaching them by precept and by example. He can always evaluate the progress of his assistants and knows when they are capable of taking more responsibility.

The problem of a teacher's absence is minor in the Master Teacher Method. Should the Master Teacher be absent, an assistant who is familiar with the operation of the class can cover the situation. Should an assistant be gone, the Master Teacher can bring in a parent to help in discipline and order.

Because your Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers curriculum is full of variety, it makes sense to get the most from the material by having more than one person involved in teaching each class.

You may find that the Master Teacher Plan will rejuvenate your Sunday School. It originated with the Lord Jesus as He taught the twelve disciples by precept and example. They learned how to minister by watching Jesus, helping, and hearing His instruction. With their help, the Master was able to instruct multitudes.

Remember these benefits of the Master Teacher Method:

- 1) Built-in teacher-training program
- 2) Variety in classroom
- 3) Counselors on hand in class
- 4) More teacher preparation per class
- 5) Ease in covering teacher absenteeism
- 6) Teacher specialization
- 7) Distractions dealt with by helpers
- 8) Teacher evaluation

VISUAL AIDS

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | Ten Commandments | 32 | Enemy army |
| 2 | Baby Jesus | 34 | Angry mob |
| 3 | Gehazi | 35 | Disciples |
| 4 | Moses | 36 | Soldier |
| 5 | Israelites/crowd | 37 | Jairus' daughter |
| 6 | Manger | 38 | Jesus on the cross |
| 7 | Shunammite on donkey | 39 | Jehoshaphat's praisers |
| 8 | Shunammite's son | 40 | Sons |
| 9 | Shunammite woman | 41 | Serpent |
| 10 | Elisha | 42 | Widow |
| 11 | Joseph | 43 | Jehoshaphat |
| 12 | Mary | 44 | Judah's soldiers |
| 13 | Cloven tongues of fire | 45 | Peter |
| 14 | Mary sitting | 46 | Finger of God |
| 15 | Donkey | 47 | Adam and Eve |
| 16 | Jesus | 48 | Priests |
| 17 | Gabriel | 49 | Adam and Eve with clothes |
| 18 | Sheep | 50 | Jericho |
| 19 | Lazarus in grave clothes | 51 | Joshua |
| 20 | Open tomb | 52 | Table of food |
| 21 | Pots | 53 | Seeing Bartimaeus |
| 22 | Children | 54 | Blind Bartimaeus |
| 24 | Martha | 55 | Jairus |
| 25 | Mary | 56 | Disciples in boat |
| 26 | Angel | 57 | Two women with baby |
| 27 | Shepherd | 58 | Baby Moses in basket |
| 28 | Lazarus | 59 | Solomon |
| 29 | Pilate | 60 | Pharaoh |
| 30 | Dead girl | 61 | Pharaoh's daughter |
| 31 | Mary Magdalene | 62 | Jochebed with baby Moses |

After you have cut the figures out, they can be conveniently stored in an expanding envelope file. Put numbers 1 — 5 in the first pocket, 6 — 10 in the second, etc. The figures you need for each lesson will be neatly kept and easy to find.

MAKE BIBLE STORIES COME ALIVE!

The full-color Covenant Characters add impact to the Bible story and help your class remember important truths. Studies have shown that kids have better recall when they hear and **see**.

love /luv/ n:
warm affection
toward others,
kindness

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Each volume of *Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers* contains seventeen weeks of faith-filled Bible lessons centered around the fruit of the spirit. The lessons not only build godly character through Bible-based principles, but also show children how to develop these characteristics God wants each Christian to have.

Galatians 5:22-23, *"But the fruit of the spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

These lessons are provided to show children how to develop and express the godly character of love as well as demonstrate the reality of God's love for them as individuals. People usually think of developing love toward our brothers and sisters in Christ, yet the most important aspect of love is to develop a love relationship with our Father God. As we love God with all of our hearts, souls, and minds, we will then have the ability to truly love our neighbor as ourselves.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Scripture to Study: | Exodus 19 and 20 |
| Central Truth: | If we love God, we should obey His Word. |
| Memory Verse: | John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments." |
| God's Animal: | The Skunk |
| Supplementary Lesson: | Story — "Barney Banana" |
| Additional Supplementary Lesson: | Puppet Skit — "Darlin' Learns How To Love God" |
| Visual Aids: | Ten Commandments (1), Moses (4), Israelites (5), Jesus (16), Finger of God (46) |

Outline:

- I. God had a special people called the Israelites.
 - A. The Israelites had lived for many years in a land called Egypt, where they were slaves.
 1. Slaves are people who are forced by others to work very hard for no money.
 2. The Egyptians were cruel to the Israelites. Sometimes they would even beat them with whips!
 - B. God did not like the way His people were being treated. He had something much better for them.
 - C. God chose a man named Moses to lead the Israelites away from Egypt.
 1. Moses was not a special person; he was just willing to obey God.
 2. If you are willing to obey God, He will be able to use you, too.

TEACH FROM YOUR HEART!

The lesson framework is written in outline form for two specific reasons: (1) to give a directional flow to follow in meditating the Word for that particular lesson and (2) to provide an organizational reference as you retell the lesson as it comes from your heart.

- D. With Moses as their leader, the Israelites began their long journey to a special land that God had prepared for them.
 - 1. God has a special place for you, too.
 - 2. If you will follow His Word, God can lead you into His will for you.

II. God gave the Israelites an important message.

- A. As the Israelites continued on their long journey, they came to a big mountain called Sinai.
- B. God told Moses to come to the top of the mountain because God had something important to give him.
- C. On the mountain top, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments.
 - 1. The Ten Commandments were rules to help the people know right from wrong.
 - 2. Because Jesus had not yet died, the Israelites had to have these rules as a guide to show them how to live.
 - 3. God used His finger and wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone.
- D. Some of these rules were:
 - 1. Do not worship idols.
 - 2. Honor (obey) your father and mother.
 - 3. Do not steal.
 - 4. Do not tell lies about your neighbor.

III. God has given us a special message, too.

- A. Because Jesus came, we no longer need the Ten Commandments to teach us right from wrong.
 - 1. Unlike the Israelites, we have Jesus living inside our hearts.
 - 2. If we do wrong, our spirits immediately tell us so we can ask forgiveness.
- B. Jesus gave us two rules that are even better than the Ten Commandments. They are:
 - 1. You should love God with all your heart, all your body, and all your mind.
 - 2. You should love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself.

C. If you are always careful to walk in love and follow the two things Jesus said to do, you will automatically keep all of the Ten Commandments.

1. If you love God, you won't worship idols.
2. If you love your neighbor, you won't steal from him or lie to him.

GOD'S ANIMAL THE SKUNK

Hold your nose! We're going to talk about the smelliest animal in all the world — the skunk.

In spite of their awful odor, skunks are very pretty animals with beautiful fur. They are black and have white stripes on their backs. They live in underground holes or inside hollow logs. Skunks usually stay hidden in the daytime, but they come out to eat at night.

Skunks cannot run fast and they cannot fight, so the only protection they have is their smell. The skunk has a small bag in his tail that sprays fluid on its enemies. Most animals get sick when a skunk sprays them because the smell is so bad.

Don't be a spiritual skunk! Disobeying your parents will cause you to put off a bad spiritual smell. You may be very pretty, but the way you act will stink!

The way we obey our mothers and fathers is very important. God expects us to listen to our parents and to do as they say. We should obey them even when we don't want to.

Children who are always disobeying are spiritual stinkers. What they do smells bad to God. God does not like to smell disobedience. It makes you unlovely to others. How can you obey?

Just as the skunk's spray can make other animals sick, sin and disobedience can bring sickness by opening a door to the devil. Some children are continually sick because they never mind their parents. God's Word tells us to obey so it will be well with us.

Don't be a spiritual skunk!

A GREAT ATTENTION-GETTER

Your children will love the colorful, poster-sized, God's Animals done in a cartoon-style. They can be used as a room decoration and an additional supplementary lesson. You'll get a complete set of seventeen in each volume of *Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers*.

BARNEY BANANA

MATERIALS: One large and one small banana, each with a boy's face

Barney Banana was the oldest child in the Banana family. Mama and Papa Banana were very proud of Barney, and justly so, for he was very obedient. He helped keep his four brothers and four sisters from trouble. He very seldom ever got a spanking because he always did exactly what his mama and papa told him. Sometimes, keeping watch over the younger Banana children was difficult since there were eight of them — Becky, Bertha, Beverly, Beth, Billy, Bobby, Barry, and Benny.

Papa Banana worked in a pudding factory just a few miles away from the family tree and was gone from early in the morning until late in the afternoon. Since Mama had to keep the leaves on the family tree looking nice and neat, Barney had to help keep an eye on his brothers and sisters. The children could play in their own tree, but they weren't allowed to get off for any reason.

There was a tree full of monkeys nearby, and Papa Banana warned his children about going near it.

"The monkeys are very fond of little, green bananas," cautioned Papa. "They will peel off your skin and eat you in one bite if you go near their tree!"

REINFORCE THE LESSON WITH STORIES

With themes that reinforce the lesson, the stories can enhance any classroom. Children love stories and by being familiar enough with them, you can tell them from your heart in your own words. When the stories become real to you, they will be made real to the children. Stories are also a great tool in presenting the Gospel.

All the Banana children kept Papa's words in their hearts — that is, all of them but Benny. Benny wasn't convinced that monkeys really ate Bananas. He thought that Papa was just trying to scare him and keep him in the family tree. One afternoon, Benny slipped away from Barney and the other children. Quietly, he scooted down the tree to the jungle floor.

I'm going to visit the monkeys, he thought to himself. They're really not Banana-eaters.

Back in the tree, Barney began washing the Banana children before their supper. Papa was due home soon, and Mama almost had the meal ready.

"Benny is gone!" shouted Barney to his mother. Barney looked throughout the tree and couldn't find Benny anywhere.

"Barney," said Mama Banana, "you must find Benny before the monkeys eat him!"

Barney rushed down the tree and ran as fast as a banana can run toward the tree of the monkeys. He had never seen the tree before, but he knew exactly where to look because he could hear the loud chatter of the monkeys.

As he came closer to the sound, he could see Benny, there in the middle of the monkey tree! Benny was being jerked back and forth by two arguing monkeys, fighting to see which of them would get to eat him.

Barney climbed carefully up the tree. No one noticed him, because all the monkeys were gazing at the two old monkeys who fought over Benny.

Then Barney had an idea. Since he was older and larger than Benny, he knew that the arguing monkeys would prefer him and perhaps drop Benny if they saw him.

Barney jumped up and yelled, "Hey, Monkey!"

The old monkeys were startled at Barney's intrusion into their tree. They dropped Benny and started for his bigger, riper brother. When Benny hit the ground with a 'thud,' he picked himself up and ran home.

The monkeys surrounded Barney in the tree. It looked as though he would be a monkey's meal in place of his brother. The two old monkeys reached for Barney. He quickly jumped to the ground and ran for home, but the bigger, faster monkeys came right behind him. Barney knew of only one thing to do.

He cried out to God, "Father God, help me in Jesus' Name!"

The monkeys came even closer and Barney was exhausted from running so fast. Suddenly, a huge leopard jumped out from the bushes. The terrified monkeys turned and ran to their tree, the leopard chasing them all the way.

Barney praised God for helping him and climbed up on top of his tree. He could hear Benny crying and praying that God would forgive him for disobeying and causing Barney to be eaten. All the Bananas were crying because they thought the monkeys had eaten Barney.

"I'm home!" shouted Barney. "God saved my life."

The Banana family jumped for joy to see Barney safe and alive. Benny learned a valuable lesson that day — it is always best to obey!

PUPPET SKIT

DARLIN' LEARNS HOW TO LOVE GOD

CHARACTERS: Darlin' Duck, Teacher

DARLIN' DUCK: Teacher, you've got to help me! I just don't know what to do!

TEACHER: What's wrong, Darlin'? What do you need me to help you with?

DARLIN' DUCK: I heard a lesson last week about how Jesus said that we are to love God with all of our hearts.

TEACHER: That's right, Darlin', that is one of the two great commandments that Jesus gave us. But what do you need me to help you with?

DARLIN' DUCK: Well, I want to show God that I love Him with all my heart.

TEACHER: I'm sure that God is pleased to hear you say that.

DARLIN' DUCK: But Teacher, you don't understand. I don't know how to show God that I love Him.

TEACHER: Well, Darlin', how do you think you can show God that you love Him?

DARLIN' DUCK: Well, one time I heard about someone who loved God and gave a lot of money to the church, but I'm just a duck. I don't have any money to give.

TEACHER: Darlin', giving money to the church is a good thing to do, but it isn't the way that you show God how much you love Him.

DARLIN' DUCK: It isn't?

TEACHER: No, it isn't. If you really want to show God that you love Him, there is one very important thing that you must do.

DARLIN' DUCK: Oh, I'll do anything, Teacher. I just want God to know that I love Him.

TEACHER: Well, Darlin', you can tell God that you love Him, but the best way to *show* God that you love Him is to obey what He tells you to do.

DARLIN' DUCK: But I've never heard God speak out loud and tell me to do anything.

TEACHER: No, Darlin', that's not what I meant. Sometimes God may speak to us out loud, but that's very rare. But there's one place that we can always find instructions from God — that's in the Bible.

AN ATTENTION-HOLDER

Puppet skits are an exciting way of retelling your Bible lesson and can keep your children zeroed in on the central truth. A colorful, full-bodied puppet is included with each volume of *Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers*.

Puppets help to present the theme of the lessons from a different angle so children will retain what was taught.

DARLIN' DUCK: In the Bible?

TEACHER: That's right. The Bible is called the Word of God because it tells us what God wants us to do in every situation.

DARLIN' DUCK: Oh, I get it. God speaks to us through the Bible.

TEACHER: Yes, that's right. And Jesus said that if we loved Him, we would keep His commandments. That means that we will obey what the Word of God says.

DARLIN' DUCK: You mean, it's like obeying your parents when you obey the Word of God.

TEACHER: That's right, Darlin'. If your mother tells you to clean up your toys and you do it, that shows your mother that you respect her and love her.

DARLIN' DUCK: If I want to show God that I love Him, I will do what He tells me to do in the Bible, like praise Him, treat other people right, and pray.

TEACHER: You're a smart little duck, Darlin'.

DARLIN' DUCK: Thanks a lot, Teacher. Now I know exactly what to do and I'm going to go study the Bible so that I can obey what it says.

FOR REVIEW

Fun-Time Activity:

Have all the kids get together and play Simon Says. Relate this to the story by talking about obedience. As the children do what "Simon" says to do, teach them that we are to do what Jesus said in His Word.

Questions For Review:

1. What is a slave? (SOMEONE WHO WORKS REALLY HARD FOR NO MONEY)
2. Who did God chose to lead His people out of Egypt? (MOSES)
3. What message did God give Moses on Mt. Sinai? (TEN COMMANDMENTS)
4. What were the Ten Commandments written on? (TABLETS OF STONE)
5. What did God use to write the Ten Commandments? (HIS FINGER)
6. Why did God give the people the Ten Commandments? (TO TEACH THEM RIGHT FROM WRONG)
7. Name one of the Ten Commandments (ANY FROM LIST IN OUTLINE)
8. How many rules did Jesus give us? (TWO)
9. Name the first rule Jesus gave. (LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART.)
10. Name the second. (LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.)

LIVING WHAT THEY LEARN

Following the lessons are ten questions related to the day's Bible story. Using them as an incentive for the children to listen closely, you'll be surprised at the way they will grasp biblical truths. When the children learn principles, instead of just facts, they will begin to live what they learn.

CRAFT IDEA FOR TWO'S AND THREE'S

MATERIALS NEEDED: One banana for each child in the class, glue, white construction paper, and crayons (If you prefer, you could substitute bananas cut from yellow construction paper.)

INSTRUCTIONS: A great way to combine refreshment time with craft time is to make Barney Banana come alive. Before class, cut out eyes and mouth for each child (pattern provided).

During class, tell Barney's story. Then, let the children color Barney's eyes and mouth. Help them glue a face on their banana. Let the children hold the banana character as you go over the story again asking questions.

CRAFT IDEA FOR FOUR'S AND FIVE'S

MATERIALS NEEDED: One piece of construction paper per child, one pre-printed "Two Commandments" per child (pattern provided), crayons, and glue

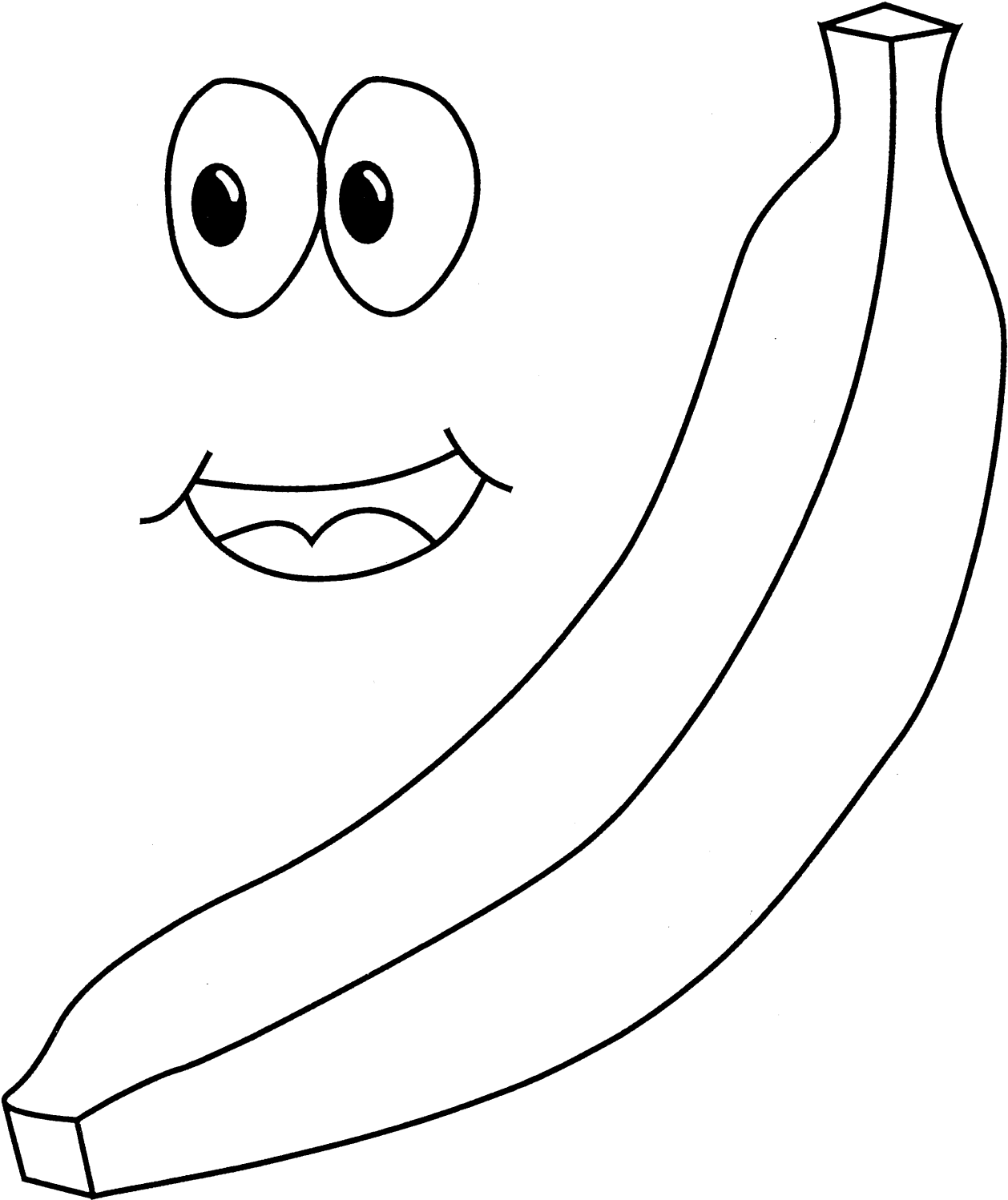
INSTRUCTIONS: Before class, cut out pre-printed "Two Commandments" and box with words. Cut hearts out of the construction paper, making them as large as possible.

During class, let kids color their hearts, then help them glue the commandments near the bottom of the heart. Help them glue, "God's laws are written on my heart" near the top.

HANDS ON

At this age, there is a vital link between what little hands touch and what is retained in their hearts. Each lesson provides an idea for children to learn in the classroom and then also use at home.

PATTERN-Lesson 1, Two's and Three's



God's laws are written on my heart.

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <p>1. Love God</p> | <p>2. Love your neighbor</p> |
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|----------------------------|--|
| <p>1. Love God</p> | <p>2. Love your neighbor</p> |
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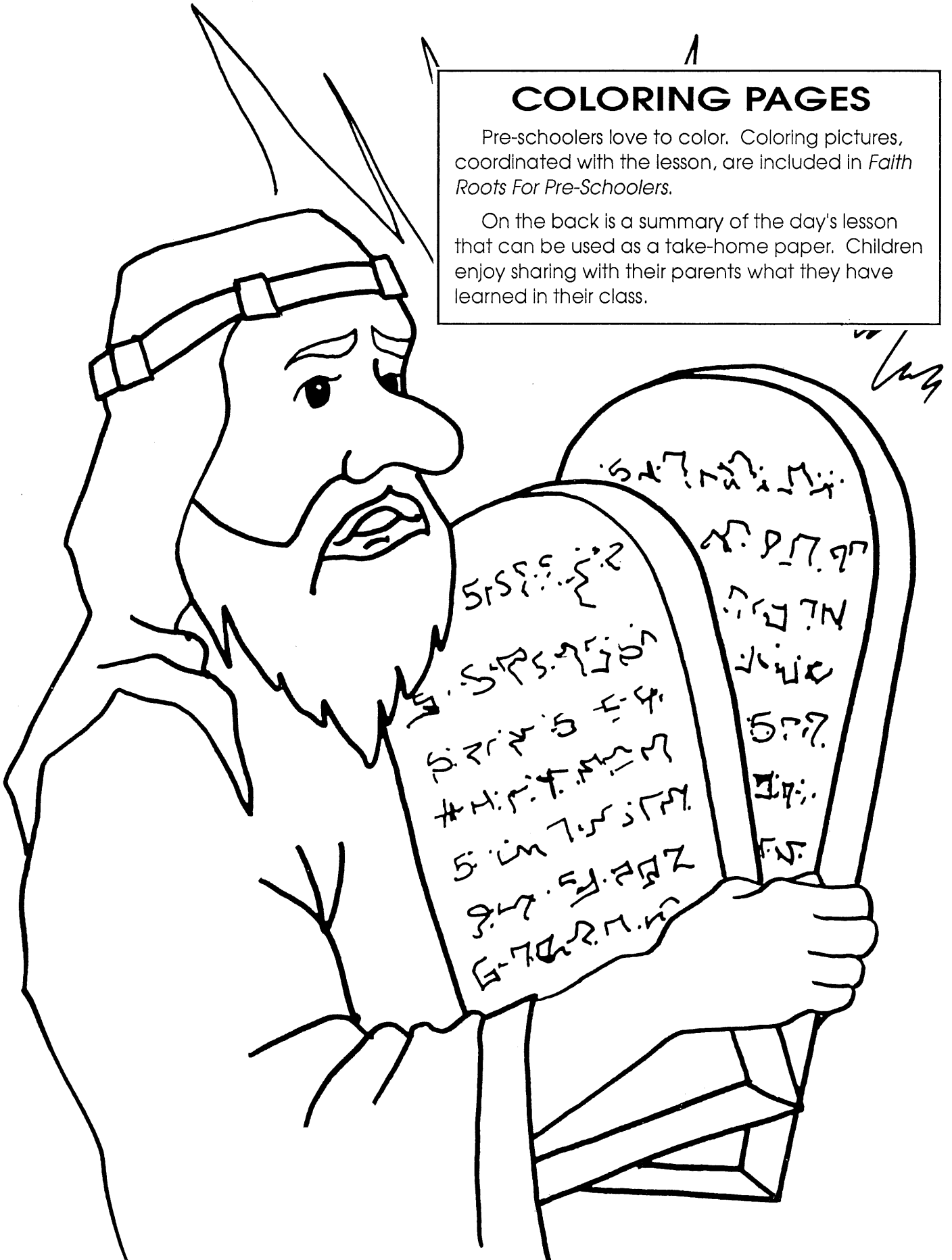
MOSES AND THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

LESSON 1

COLORING PAGES

Pre-schoolers love to color. Coloring pictures, coordinated with the lesson, are included in *Faith Roots For Pre-Schoolers*.

On the back is a summary of the day's lesson that can be used as a take-home paper. Children enjoy sharing with their parents what they have learned in their class.



Scripture Reference: Exodus 19 and 20

Central Truth: If we love God, we should obey His Word.

Today's Memory Verse: John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

Bible Story:

God gave the Israelites an important message. God used His finger and wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone. The Ten Commandments were rules to help the people know right from wrong. Some of these rules were: Do not worship idols. Honor (obey) your father and mother. Do not steal.

Because Jesus lives in our hearts, we no longer need the Ten Commandments to teach us right from wrong. If we do wrong, our spirits immediately tell us so we can ask forgiveness. Jesus gave us two rules that are even better than the Ten Commandments. They are: You should love God with all your heart, all your body, and all your mind. You should love your neighbor just as much as you love yourself. If you are always careful to follow the two things Jesus said to do, you will automatically keep all of the Ten Commandments.

God's Animal: The Skunk

Don't be a spiritual skunk! Disobeying your parents will cause you to be a spiritual stinker. You may be very pretty on the outside, but the way you act will stink to God. Just as a skunk's spray can make other animals sick, sin and disobedience can bring sickness and bad things by opening a door to the devil. God's Word tells us to obey so it will be well with us.

Don't be a spiritual skunk!

