



BEGINNERS' BOOK

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“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

CHAPTER 1

DANIEL AND THE LIONS' DEN



CHAPTER 1: DANIEL AND THE LIONS’ DEN

Objective

Students will be introduced to the idea of unity through the story of Daniel. Key points include:

- God is with us always.
- God listens to us when we pray.
- Like Daniel, God wants us to pray regularly.
- Like Daniel, we should trust God even when it is hard.

Introduction

Has anyone ever made fun of you because of something you do or something you believe in? Do you sometimes do what other kids tell you to do because you want to fit in? Being one in Christ means praying to God and following God’s rules; this is just what Daniel and his friends did.

Have you ever been to the zoo? Did you ever see lions in their cages? Did the zoo keepers let you go in with the lions and pet them? Of course not! The lions are fierce and might hurt you. Today, I want to tell you about a story in the Bible about a man named Daniel. Once, he had to spend a whole night in a lions’ den!

Daniel was a great man of faith and prayer. When he had to choose between praying to God and facing death, he chose to be faithful to God. He was protected [kept safe] all night by an angel when he was thrown in a den of lions. Daniel is a great example of how to be faithful and stand up for God. We should be just like Daniel and have great faith in God and be one in in Christ.

LESSON

A long, long time ago, there was a man named Daniel. He lived in a city called Babylon and he was in a position of high authority there. He actually came to Babylon with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. King Darius was the king of Babylon, but Daniel was also a ruler there. King Darius was one of Daniel's best friends.

King Darius respected Daniel. He knew Daniel was a godly man who had served the kings before him. But some of King Darius' men did not like Daniel. They wanted to get rid of him. So they convinced the king to make a law forbidding people to pray to anyone but the king. Anyone who broke this law would be thrown into the lions' den!

Daniel knew about the law, but he continued to pray to God. The men spied on Daniel and then told the king that Daniel had broken the law and must be thrown to the lions' den! The king sadly agreed and Daniel and his three friends were put into the lions' den. "May your God rescue you," said the king. That night, the king could not eat or sleep. He was too worried about Daniel.

Early the next morning, he ran out to the lions' den. "Daniel!" he cried, "has your God been able to rescue you from the hungry lions?" "King Darius," called Daniel, "may you live forever. Yes, my God sent His angel to shut the lions' mouths! They have not hurt me", Daniel said.

Then King Darius had the evil men who made the bad law thrown into the lions' den. And this time, God did not close the lions' mouths.

These three young men were willing to die instead of being unfaithful to God. Daniel and his friends prayed to God and they remained one in Christ.

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

When we are faced with trouble, what should we do? Prayer is one way we can know God. In our lives, we have family and friends to pray with. We should pray with them and become one in Christ. This means, going to church, doing the right thing no matter where we are; we should do the right thing at home, at church, at school, at work and at play. It is better to lose everything else than to lose our integrity. Integrity means doing the right thing all the time. When everything else is gone - money, family, friends, and our homes – we should keep our integrity.

Comprehension Questions:

- a. Was God with Daniel only when things were going well?
- b. How do you think Daniel felt when he heard that if he prayed, he would get punishment?
- c. Do you think Daniel trusted God? Why?
- d. The Bible tells us Daniel prayed regularly. - When should we pray?
- e. What is the main or most important part of this story? Why do you think that?

Memory Verse:

“Don’t ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (CEV)

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

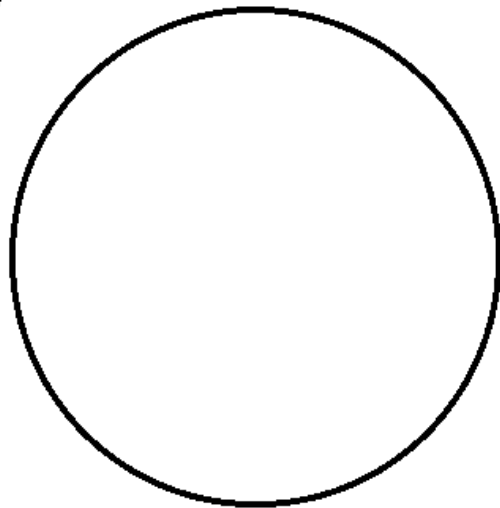
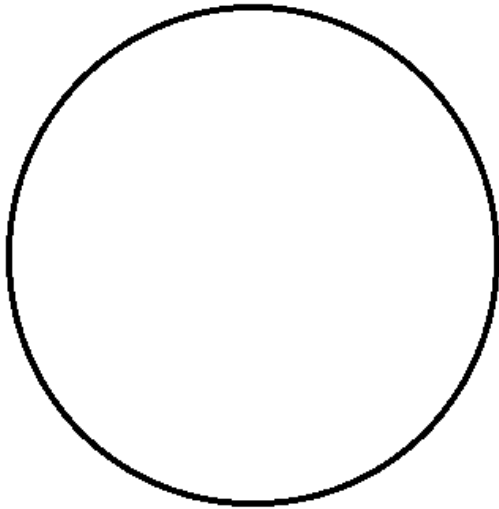
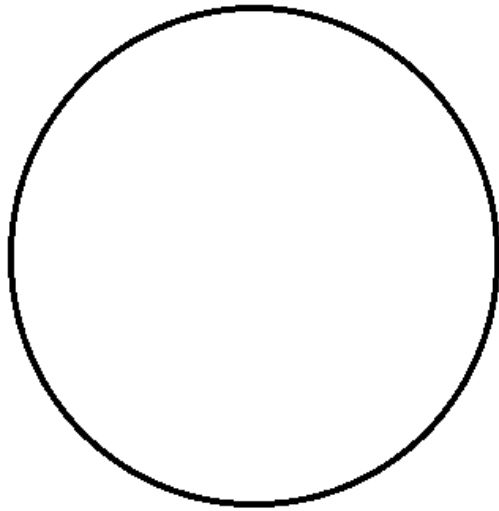
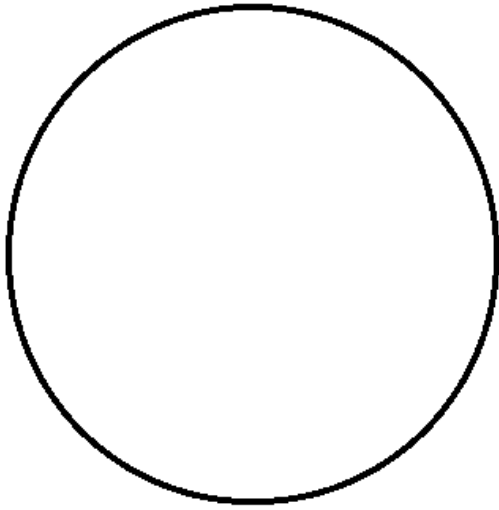


Lion Craft for kids (templates on next two pages)

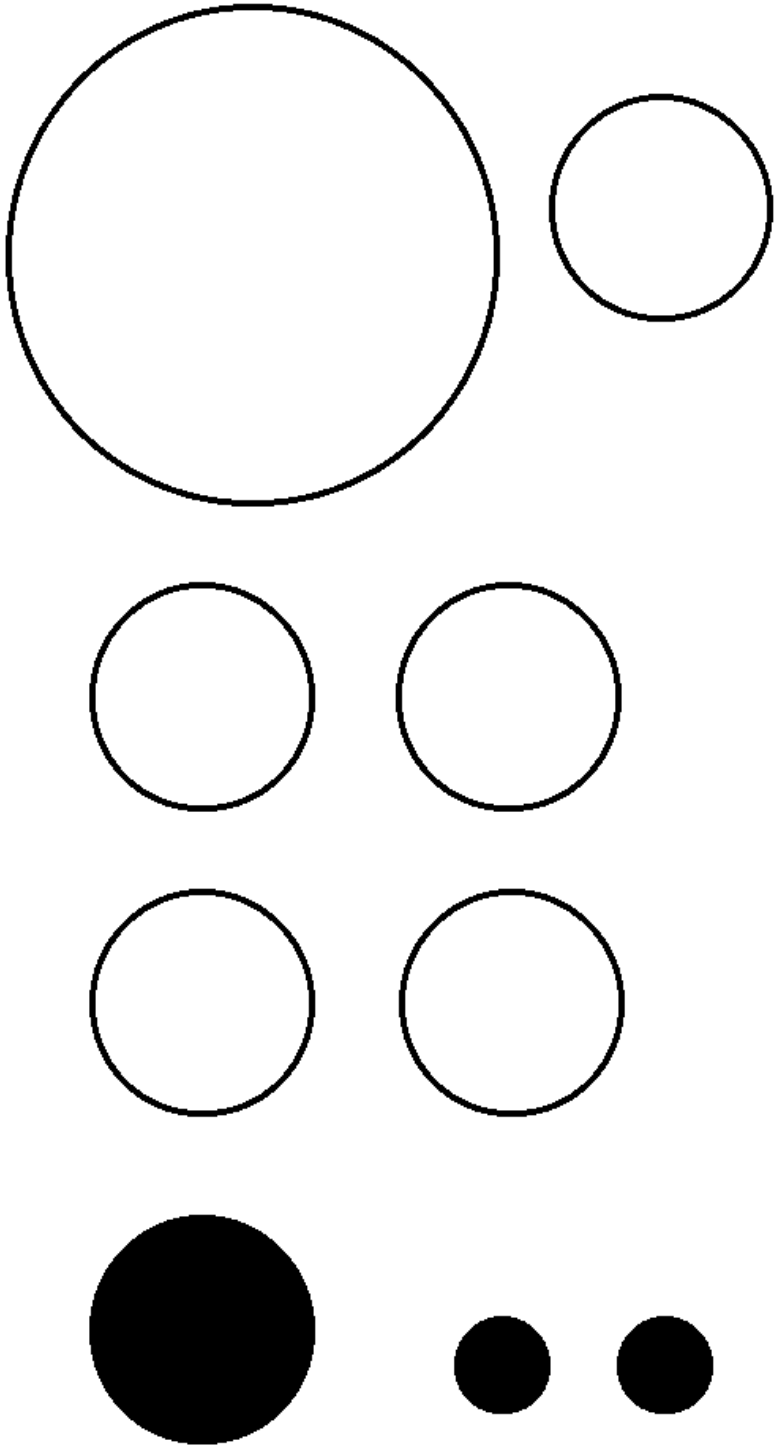
Specific directions may be found here:

http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/mcircle_lion.htm

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



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Additional Lion Craft for kids:

Directions may be found here:

<http://www.daniellesplace.com/html/lioncrafts.html>

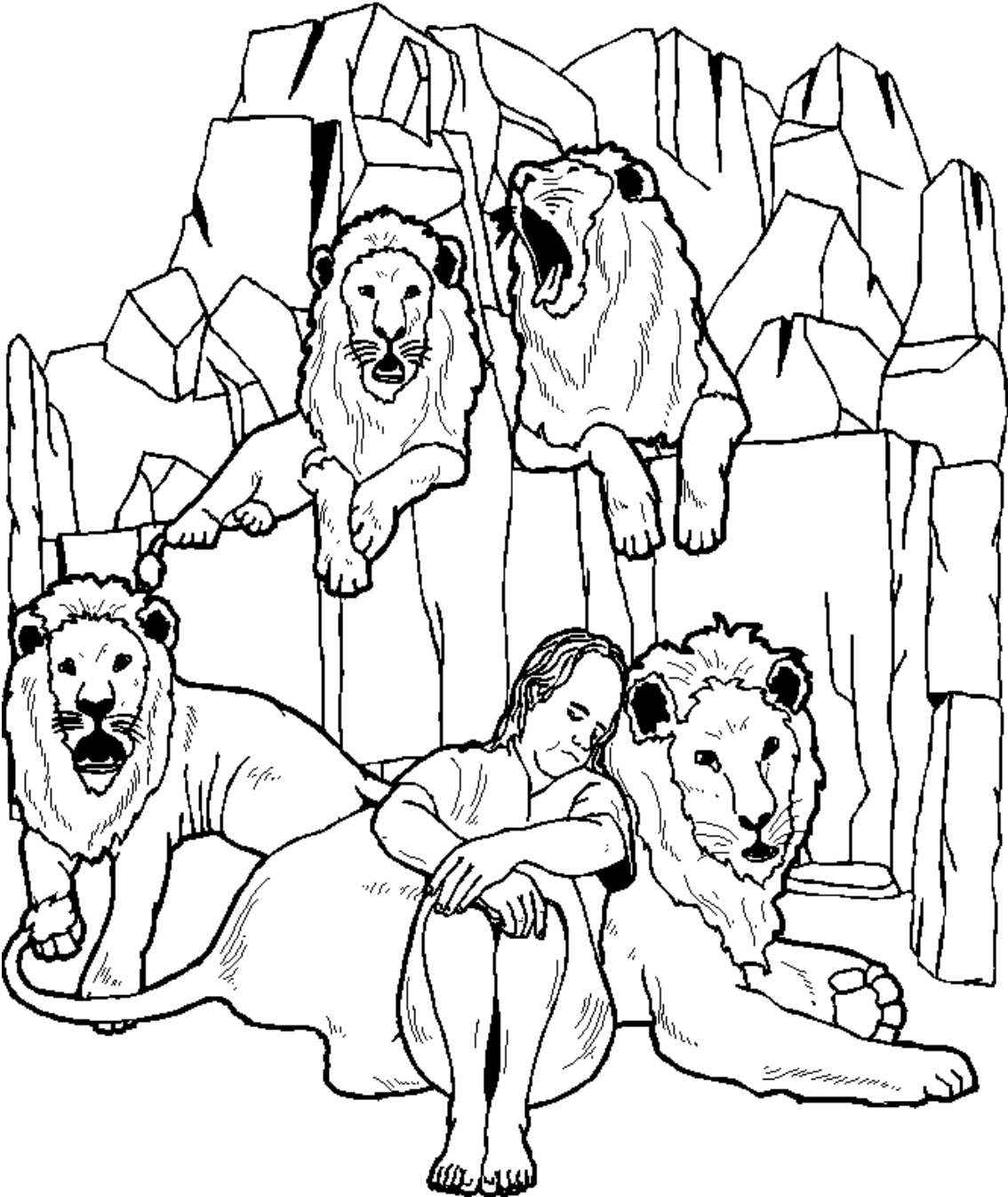
Edible Lion Snack Recipe:

Recipe may be found on this website:

<http://familyfun.go.com/recipes/bagel-critters-686903/>



“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



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Daniel in the Lion’s Den: Movement Game:

Items Needed: (Optional): Stickers or prizes.

How To Play: Have children all stand up. The assistant plays the part of the angel. The teacher plays the part of Daniel. The teacher tells the children they are the lions in the den that Daniel was thrown into. Show them how to make claws and move around and roar like lions. They cannot stand in one place, but have to be moving. When the angel says, "Stop", the lions have to stop making noise and freeze in place, because the angel had the power to shut the lions' mouth. If they get off balance and move, or make noise, they have to sit down. Repeat the game several times until the children are sitting. Everybody gets stickers or prizes at the end.

Song: Daniel and the Lions

To the tune "Joshua fit the Battle of Jericho".

Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, lions' den, lions' den
Daniel was thrown into the lion's den,
Cause he prayed to God alone.

God sent his angel to the lions' den lions' den, lions' den
God sent his angel to the lions' den
And he shut the lions' mouths.

Source: Dltk-kids.com

Daniel chapter 6: Take home sheet

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/t.asp?b=m&t=http://www.dltk-bible.com/jesus/takehome35.gif>

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

CHAPTER 2

JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS



CHAPTER 2: JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Objective: Students will further explore the concept of unity in Christ by learning of the example of Joseph and his brothers.

Scripture: Ephesians 6: 1-4

Lesson:

This is the story about a young man named Joseph. His father's name was Jacob and they lived in Canaan.

Joseph had eleven brothers. Since Joseph was one of the youngest sons, his father spent the most time with him. Jacob had a special robe made for Joseph. It was very beautiful and colorful.

All of Joseph's older brothers saw the robe and it made them very jealous. This means that Joseph's brothers did not like him because they thought their father liked Joseph more than the father liked them.

One day Joseph had a dream. He went to go tell his brothers. He told them: “Last night I had a strange dream. We were tying up bunches of grain out in the field when suddenly my bunch stood up, while all of yours gathered around and bowed to me.” “Then I had another dream that the sun, moon, and eleven stars bowed down to me.”

The brothers were angry after hearing Joseph’s dream. “Who do you think you are?”, the brothers asked. “Do you think that you are better than all of us? Do you think that we would ever bow down to you?” This made the brothers dislike Joseph even more

Meanwhile, Joseph’s father thought carefully about Joseph’s dream.

A few days later Joseph's father asked Joseph to look for his brothers. They were in the fields far away. So Joseph went to find them. When the brothers

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

saw Joseph from far, they made a plan to kill him. But when Joseph's oldest brother Reuben heard this he said, "Let's not kill him, just throw him in a well out here in the field." (He said this because he was secretly planning to come back and rescue [save] Joseph when the other brothers had left.)

So when Joseph came to them, they took off his beautiful robe and they threw him in an empty well. A little while later a group of people came by wanting to sell some things in Egypt. One of the brothers said, "Why don't we sell him to these people, this way we never have to see Joseph again, and that way, we don't have to kill him."

The other brothers liked this idea, so they sold him to the people who were going to Egypt. Unfortunately, Reuben had been working and hadn't seen what had happened. When he returned to the well he noticed that Joseph was gone. He had been sold to an important man named Potiphar, a helper to the Pharaoh of Egypt.

The rest of the brothers took Joseph's beautiful robe and dipped it in animal blood and took it back to their father, Jacob. When the father saw this he cried, "Some animal has killed my son." And he cried for many days, no one was able to make the father feel better.

Later, Pharaoh put Joseph in charge of all the land of Egypt. People came from all countries to buy grain from Joseph, because everyone needed food. Some of those people that came to buy grain were Joseph's brothers. When his brothers came, Joseph knew who they were. The brothers did not know it was Joseph that they saw, because they had not seen Joseph in a very long time.

The brothers all bowed to Joseph because he was an important person; just as he dreamed they would from the beginning.

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

After seeing the brothers a few times, Joseph finally told his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father alive?" But his brothers couldn't answer him because they were afraid. Then Joseph said, "Come here. I am your brother, the one you sold! Do not worry, and do not be angry at yourselves for selling me, because God has put me here to save people from starving."

So his father, his brothers, and their families came to live in Egypt with Joseph, and they had all the food they needed.

This story teaches us many things. Here are some lessons we learned from the story of Joseph: Always trust in the Lord, He has plans for you that are greater than you can possibly imagine. Forgive others if they have done wrong to you. Even though his brothers harmed him, Joseph forgave them. At the end of this story, we see Joseph and his brothers living as though they are one in Christ.

Comprehension Questions:

Have the children answer the following questions:

- Who was the main character of the Bible story today?
- Who was Joseph's father?
- Why did Joseph's brothers not like him?
- How did his brothers know that their father liked Joseph the best? What did the brothers do to show that they did not like Joseph?

Concepts:

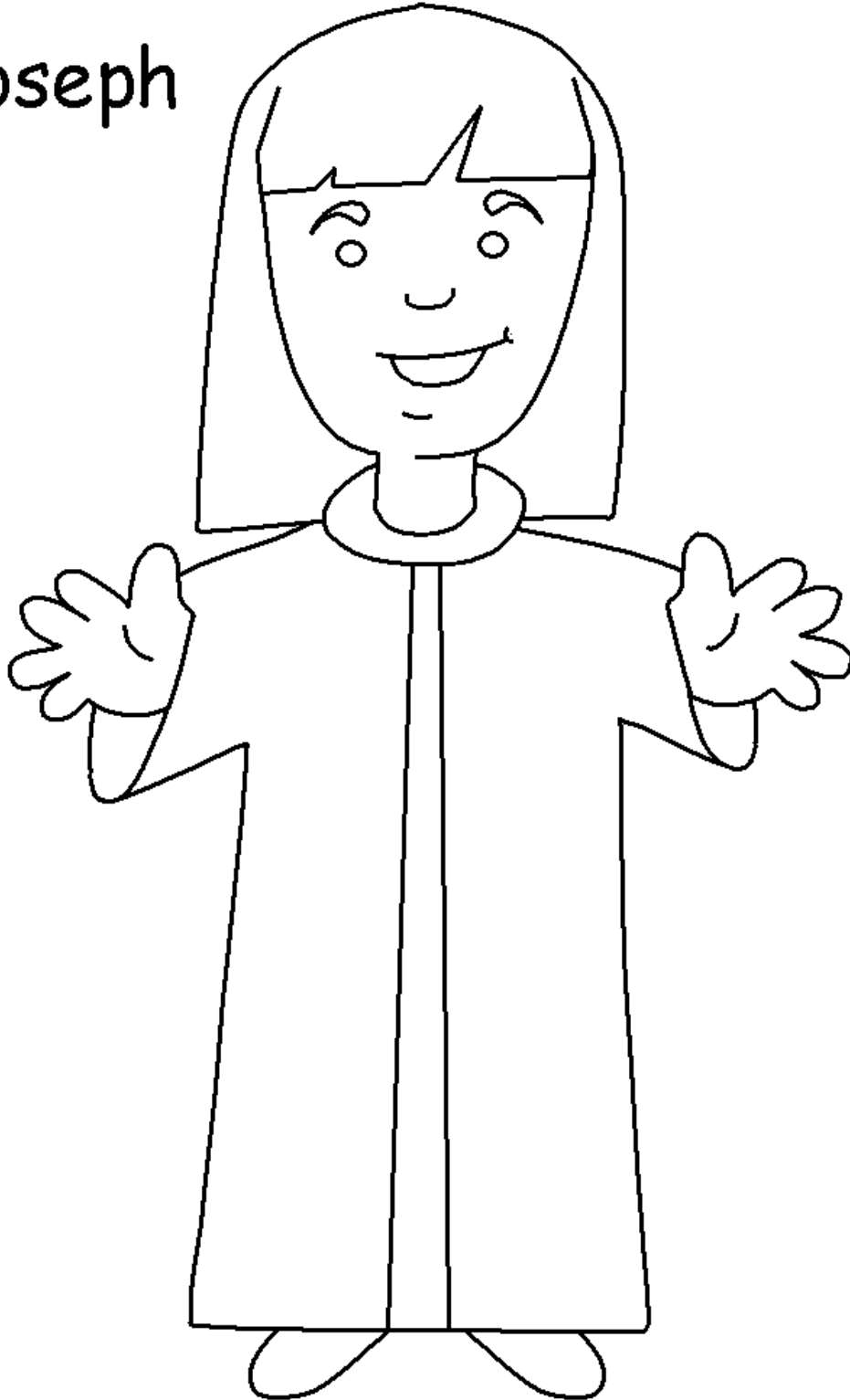
Joseph was very forgiving

Joseph trusted in the Lord

Joseph loved his brothers no matter what they did to him

Joseph did the right thing even when it was hard to do the right thing

Joseph



“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

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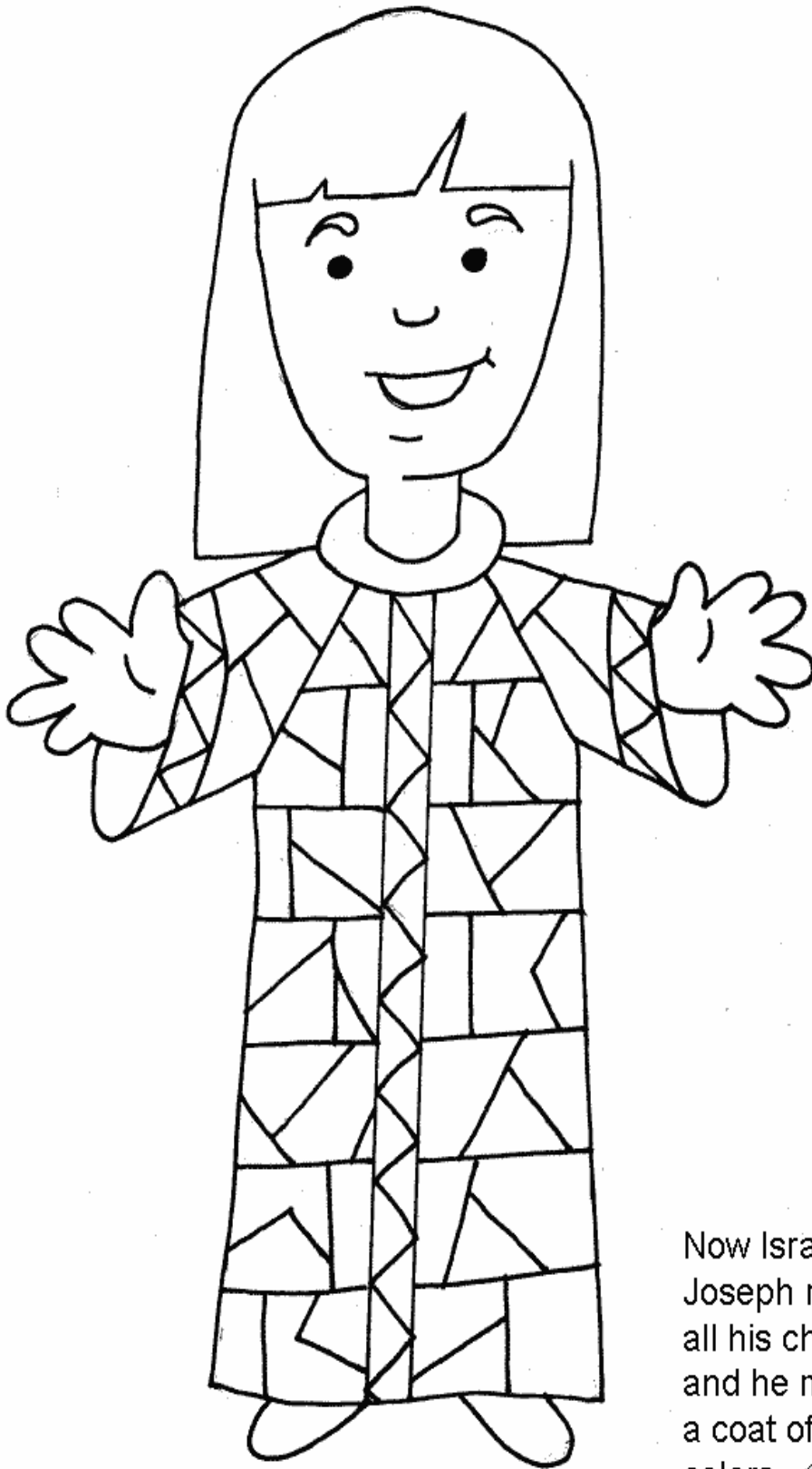
he was

many colors

loved Joseph

Directions: Color each piece a different color. Cut out the colorful patches and glue them onto Joseph's coat. When you are done, you will see the words to Genesis 37:3

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children and he made him a coat of many colors. *from Genesis 37:3*

Snack Recipe:

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

Joseph's Coat of Many Colors Snack

Ingredients:

- Plain or non-decorated gingerbread cookies (or use gingerbread cookie cutters and cut out sugar cookies.)
- 4 pack of writing icing (different colors) red, blue, yellow, green

Directions:

1. Layer the cookies on the table and let the class take turns putting about 4 stripes of each color on each cookie.
2. They loved making their own snacks and especially eating them!

Song:

God Made Families

Some families are big. (spread arms out wide)

Some families are small (bring arms close together)

But God **made** our families (point up in the air) one and all!

Some families are big. (spread arms out wide)

Some families are small (bring arms close together)

But God **loves** our families (cross arms over chest) one and all!

Some families are big. (spread arms out wide)

Some families are small (bring arms close together)

But God **keeps** our families (cup hands in front) one and all!

Joseph and his brothers: Additional activities:

http://www.biblewise.com/images/kids_korner/fun_games/2007/june/be_li ke_joseph.pdf

THIS WEEK I LEARNED...

This week we learned about Joseph and his coat of many colors from *Genesis 37*. We learned that we all have special talents and that its important not to want other's talents; but to be happy with what God gave especially to us.

MEMORY VERSE: “Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a coat of many colors.”
Genesis 37:3

QUESTIONS TO ASK:

What is a talent?

Why didn't Joseph's brothers like him?

What talent did Joseph have? (*interpret dreams*)

FAMILY FUN: Take some time and do a craft as a family this week. Trace each family member's hand, cut out the handprint and in the center write: “My (*family member*) is special because...” (or a parent can write it out for younger children). Then punch a hole in the top and bottom of each hand and tie them together to form a long chain. Hang the chain on the fridge or bedroom wall.

We all have special talents.



“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

CHAPTER 3

ZACCHAEUS



CHAPTER 3: Zacchaeus

Luke 19

Ice-breaker activity:

- 1: Line up the children in a line (in any order)
- 2: Ask everyone to tell their name
- 3: Hang or hold some toy/snack /drawing/ high enough to let them reach for it
- 4: Now line them up by height
- 5: Find out who is the tallest and the shortest in the group
- 6: Reward the tallest and the shortest with a reward
- 7: At last give everyone some snack

Story:

There was a man named Zacchaeus.

Can anyone guess what his name means?

(Children probably won't be able to answer it)

It means pure. It means there is no fault in it. It's holy.

Zacchaeus was a tax collector. Do you know what a tax collector is?

When people worked or made money, they were supposed to pay Zacchaeus a portion of it. But, Zacchaeus wasn't an honest man. He asked people to give him more money than what they were supposed to pay him. He became a rich man. People didn't like him very much.

He used to live in the city of Jericho.

Do you know your city's name?

(Children may answer whatever city they live in. Teacher can mention what's his/her city's name)

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

One day Zacchaeus found out that Jesus was passing through his town. He wanted to see Jesus. A lot of people used to follow him to receive blessing from Jesus or to see Jesus perform miracles like healing the blind man.

Who would like to see Jesus?

If you knew Jesus was coming to your school, would you like to go see Him?

(Let the children answer...)

There was one problem Zacchaeus seeing Jesus.

Can anybody guess?

(Let the children answer...)

Zacchaeus was a short man. He knew that there would be many people traveling with Jesus and he would not be able to see Jesus over the crowd. So, before Jesus came to the town, Zacchaeus climbed up on a ‘sycamore-fig tree’. “When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.”

Can you believe Jesus knew Zacchaeus’s name?

Yes, He knows everyone by name. He even knows your name.

Would you be happy if Jesus came to your house?

What would you do if Jesus came to your house today?

Zacchaeus came down immediately and welcomed Jesus happily at his house.

People standing there weren’t happy to see Jesus was kind to Zacchaeus.

Can anyone tell me why were they not happy?

Do you remember, Zacchaeus was not a nice man? He was greedy. He used to take extra money from people?

That’s why people were not happy. They were not happy because Jesus went to a bad man’s house.

Are we all good all the time?

Do we make mistakes?

Does our parent forgive us when we say sorry?

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

Just like that, Zacchaeus was sorry for what he had done. He realized that he was being bad all this time. He promised Jesus that he'll be good from now on. He'll return everyone's money and also will give four times more than he took from people. Also, he'll share his money with the poor.

Discussion Questions:

- 1: Why did Zacchaeus climb on a tree?
- 2: What did Jesus say to Zacchaeus when He saw him sitting on the tree?
- 3: Why weren't people happy to hear that Jesus will be going to Zacchaeus's house?
- 4: Was Zacchaeus sorry for his mistakes?
- 5: What did Zacchaeus told Jesus that he'll do from onwards?

Wrap up the story:

No matter if we are short or have been bad, once we say sorry to Jesus, He gives us a chance to be a part of His family again. We all belong to the family of Jesus Christ.

Always treat others like they were your brothers and sisters, like you belong to one family.

Ask the children to repeat the Theme verse:

“We are one in Christ” (Galatians 3:28)

Or

We all belong to one family, the family of Jesus.

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



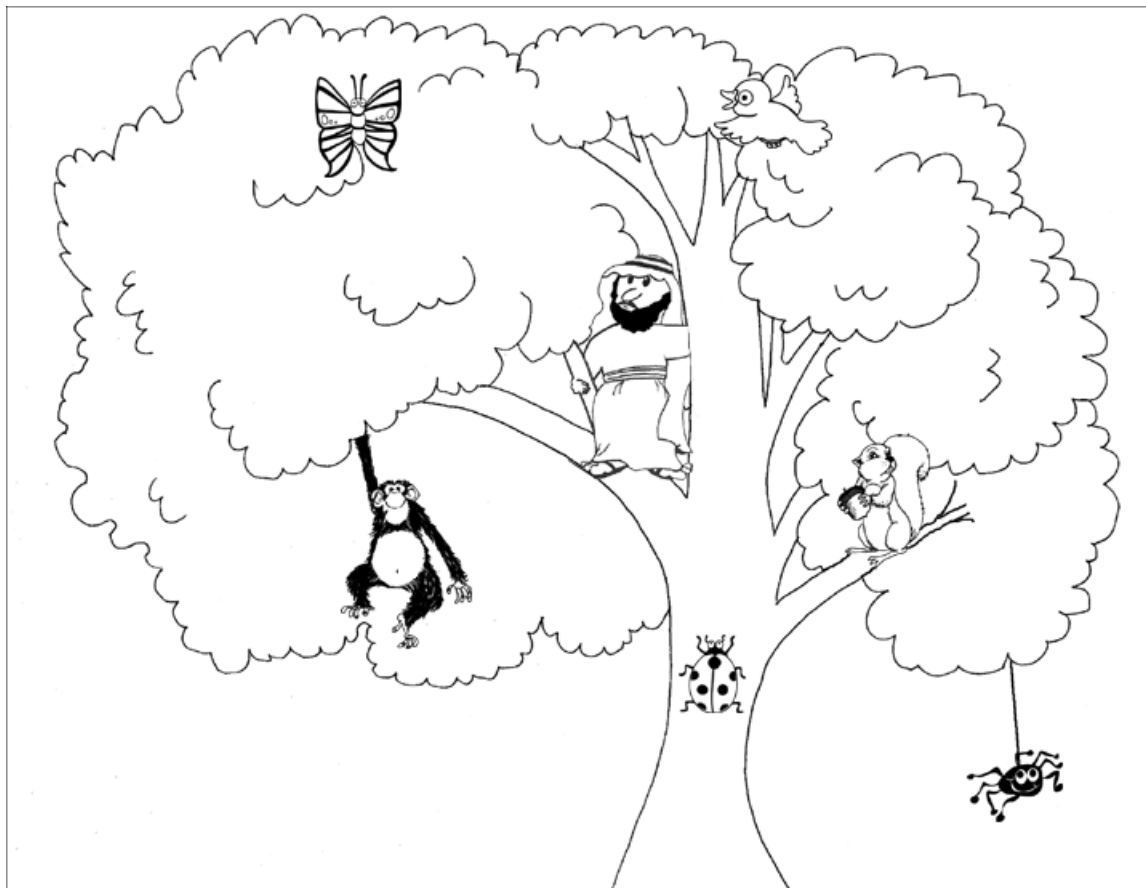
When Jesus passed through Jericho, Zacchaeus, a publican, who was too short to see Him through the crowd, climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus.

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



Jesus was a guest at Zacchaeus' home. Zacchaeus was very happy. He said he would use his wealth to repay his debts and help the unfortunate.

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)



Song:

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, A wee little man was he.

(Using both hands, make it look like you are showing the size of a very small man.)

He climbed up in the sycamore tree, the Savior for to see.

(Using both hands act as though you are climbing up a tree)

And when the Savior passed that way, He looked up in the tree,

(Using your fingers, make it look as though someone is walking.)

And he said, "Zacchaeus, you come down from there;

For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today."

(Start clapping your hands when singing this verse.)

CHAPTER 4

WE ARE MANY PARTS OF ONE BODY



“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

CHAPTER 4: UNITY IN CHRIST

CHAPTER 4: We Are Many Parts of One Body

I Corinthians 12:14-18

Warm-up song:

Have the children stand and sing this song:

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

If you're happy and you know it,

And you really want to show it,

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands.

Then you can go on with i.e.:

If you're happy and you know it, stamp your feet...

If you're happy and you know it, turn around...

If you're happy and you know it, wiggle your hips...

If you're happy and you know it, tap your head...

If you're happy and you know it, touch your nose...

If you're happy and you know it, point your toes...

If you're happy and you know it, shout Hello...

If you're happy and you know it, say Jesus...

Scripture: I Corinthians 12:14-18

“ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”

THE PARABLE OF THE BODY AND ITS PARTS

One day, the different parts of the body felt unhappy with their jobs. Every day, they did the same things. The legs and feet walked, the eyes looked around, the ears heard, the arms and hands caught things... and every other part of the body had a special job to do. They decided not to continue their work and wanted to find out something else to do.

The foot said, "I want to be a hand. I want to have a higher position. I have been down to the ground all my life, doing the walking all the time" The hand said, "I am also tired with what I have been doing. I catch things. I put food in the mouth. I have to do school-work and write letters. I work all the time and I need some rest". The ear asked, "Why am I not an eye? I prefer to see than to hear. I don't hear any longer." All the parts of the body started talking like this. Each of them wanted to change their work and do the work of some other part of the body.

But the hand could not walk, and the leg could not write. The ear tried to see and the eye tried to smell flowers and breathe the fresh air. Not one of them was able to do the work of any other part. Each of them realized that they had an important job to perform, and that they could not live without the work of the other parts. They all returned to their original work and every part was happy with its own work. All of them praised God because He gave each of them a special job to do because they were part of the body.

Activity:

To prepare, write parts of the body on individual slips of paper and hand them out to the children. Start with main parts of the body such as face, arms, left leg, right leg, right foot, left foot, right hand, left hand, right eyes, left eyes,

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

nose, and etc. Once each child is given a piece of paper, instruct them to approach other children and say their body part, like the following:

Hi, I'm head

Hi, I'm mouth

Hi, I'm right eye

Hi, I'm left eye

Hi, I'm right hand

Hi, I'm left hand

Hi, I'm right leg

Hi, I'm left leg

Hi, I'm right foot

And so on...

Separate each child or group them according to their body part (e.g. hands in one group and feet in another).

Assign a job to each one of them. For example,

Legs – walk somewhere

Hands – hold onto something

Nose – something to smell

Mouth – something to eat

Eyes – something to look at (e.g. read a book),

And so on...

Now switch the job (not the body parts), where the feet is now given the eye's task to read. The children would slowly realize that this is not possible.

Explain to the children that one part of the body can't do something it wasn't assigned to do by God, the Creator. . Just like God has assigned each part of the body to do a special job, we are all assigned with a special job. Being one in Christ means that we are part of his body, and Jesus Christ has a special role for us to play as members of his body, the Church.. We have to pray and find out job God has given you to do and do it.

Do you know we are a part of Jesus's body?

Some of us are his hands, his arms, his legs, his eyes, his ears, etc...

“We are one in Christ.” (Galatians 3:28)

