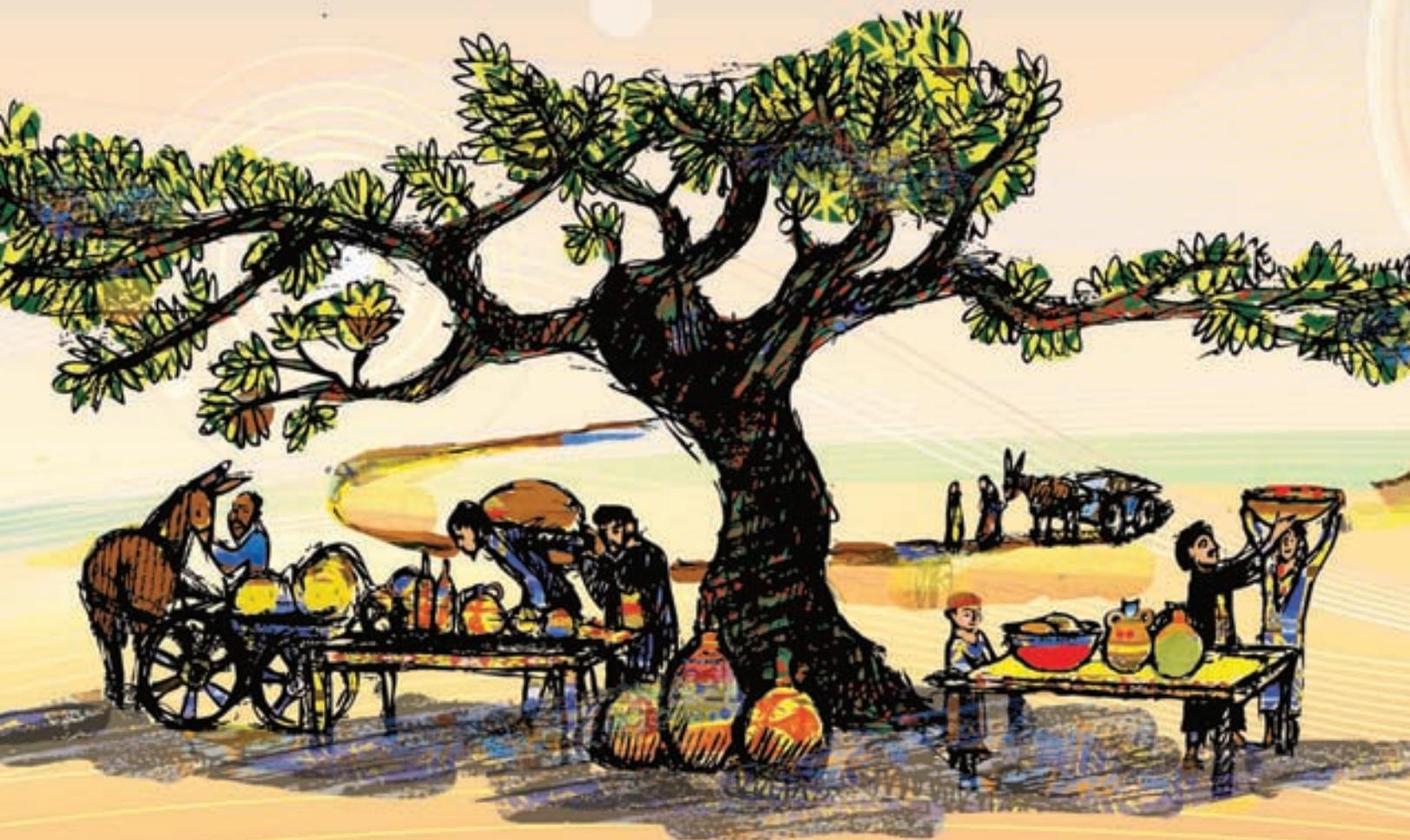


dwell[®]



DIVE

Dear Family,

It's been exhilarating to "Dive" into God's Word while leading your child's class. These next few weeks we'll be using the framework of the Apostles' Creed to guide us in exploring what we believe about God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Christmas: Christmas Victory! Revelation 12 (The Dragon Is Slain) 

Week 1: What Is True Faith? Mark 2:1-12 (Jesus Heals a Man Who Couldn't Walk) 

Week 2: The Story of the Creed. Apostle's Creed and John 20:19-31 (The Apostle's Creed) 

Week 3: God Is . . . Acts 17:16-34 (Paul Preaches About the Unknown God) 

Week 4: A Faithful Provider. Exodus 16; Psalm 8; John 6:35 (God Provides Manna in the Desert) 

Week 5: A Caring Creator. Selections from Genesis 37-50 (Joseph Sees God Bring Good out of Bad) 

Pass it On

Here are some ideas for how you might engage your son or daughter in faith discussion:

- Do you remember when you first learned the Apostles' Creed? Were there some differences in wording from when you learned it? (For example, maybe you learned the version with Jesus coming "to judge the quick and the dead.") Do you know the creed by heart? Encourage your child to memorize the Apostles' Creed by committing to memorize it with him or her.
- Get a scarf or bandana and allow your child to blindfold you and lead you around the house. Now switch. Then talk about trust—what did it feel like to be led by your child? What did he or she do that helped you trust? Was it easy or difficult to trust? Share with your child about your trust in God.
- The Bible uses lots of different metaphors to describe who God is—potter, shepherd, light, alpha and omega, my rock and fortress, deliverer, love, and more. Do you have a favorite? Share it with your son or daughter and ask if he or she has a favorite.
- The Israelites were grateful for the way God provided manna for them in the desert. What are some things in your life for which you are grateful? Make a quick list of five things and share them with your child. Ask if your child has a list he or she would share with you.
- Joseph encountered lots of troubles in his life. But when he looked back, he could see how God was at work to bring good out of bad. Share an example from a time in your life when God brought good out of bad. Did you realize it during the difficult experience? Or was it only afterwards that you could see how God was at work? Share as you feel comfortable.

Sincerely,

P.S. Check out www.NurtureKidsFaith.org for more faith-building ideas for home!



Who Would You Trust?

The teacher in your hardest class always does a day of review before the big tests. But you know you'll miss this week's review because of a doctor's appointment. You need someone to take good notes for you so you'll know what to study for. Who will you ask?

Who Would You Trust?

You're going out of town for a few days and you can't bring your pet lizard, Lucy. You've had Lucy for three years now—you know what to feed her and when, what kind of music she likes to listen to, and where to look if she escapes (she's pretty sneaky). You can't leave her alone with just anyone . . . Who would you trust?

Who Would You Trust?

You got a new game system for your birthday. This weekend your younger cousins are coming over to stay with you and your mom really wants you to keep the game system out so they can use it. But you don't want them to break it, so what do you do?

Who Would You Trust?

At lunch one of your friends asks to borrow your MP3 player for the afternoon. You know if he listens to it in class the teacher could take it away. But he promises to be careful. What do you say?

Who Would You Trust?

You have to share lockers this year, but the school is letting you pick your own partner. You don't want to share with someone creepy who will look through all your stuff or take something of yours. Who would you ask?

Who Would You Trust?

One of your friends said that she invented a new way of making ice-cream. It looks okay, but the color is a little strange. And it doesn't smell like the ice cream you buy at the store . . . Would you eat it?

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Man Who Was Paralyzed

Adapted from Mark 2:1-12

Reader 1: Jesus had been preaching with great authority and healing people from diseases and demons. Word was spreading about him, and people were coming to Jesus from everywhere. When Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home.

Reader 2: I wonder what people there were saying about him.

Reader 1: They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them.

Reader 2: I wonder what he was preaching about.

Reader 1: Some men came, bringing to him a man who was paralyzed, carried by four of them. But they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd.

Reader 2: I wonder if anyone noticed them. Why wouldn't the crowd make room to let them through?

Reader 1: So they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on.

Reader 2: Whoa, I wonder whose idea that was! And how the crowd reacted when they saw sticks and hay start falling from the ceiling. What was the man thinking as his friends hoisted him onto the roof and lowered him down on the mat? I wonder why these men were so determined to get their friend to Jesus.

Reader 1: When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "Son, your sins are forgiven."

Reader 2: I wonder how it felt to hear those words from Jesus.

Reader 1: Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things?"

Reader 2: I wonder if it freaked them out that Jesus could tell what they were thinking.

Reader 1: Then he said, "Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all.

Reader 2: I wonder if the man was surprised, or just happy. I wonder if he had ever walked before. I wonder how the other guys felt, walking out the door with their friend. I wonder what they said about Jesus after this.

Reader 1: This amazed everyone, and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Reader 2: I wonder if the teachers of the law were praising God too.

25 Things You Can Do to Be a Good Friend to People with Disabilities

1. When talking to someone with a disability, look at the person, not at the interpreter or companion.
2. When you invite someone over for a meal, ask if there are any food allergies or foods she doesn't eat.
3. Use person-first language such as "a person with schizophrenia" rather than "a schizophrenic person."
4. Avoid using words/phrases such as "retarded," "wheelchair-bound," "suffers from," "handicapped," "able-bodied," "victim," "defect."
5. Don't lean or hang on someone's wheelchair.
6. When talking to someone in a wheelchair, sit down so that you can talk together at eye level.
7. Don't pet or distract a guide dog.
8. When interacting with someone who has a visual disability, say who you are when you approach and announce when you leave.
9. Be flexible when people in the congregation make additional noise (through off-beat clapping, shouting, the sound of a medical device, or something else).
10. Label the foods you bring for treats, potlucks, or parties, especially when they contain nuts or gluten.
11. Ask before you assist a person and listen carefully to instructions.
12. When talking to someone with an intellectual disability, speak in your normal voice.
13. If you have difficulty understanding someone's speech, ask him to repeat rather than pretend that you understand.
14. Don't refer to peers with disabilities as "kids" or use childlike terms; address them as you would anyone else.
15. Invite someone with disabilities to your house or to come with you on an outing. Find out in advance about the person's preferences and needs.
16. As a way to provide relief to parents, offer to sit with a child with a disability during worship once a month.
17. Explore websites dealing with disability issues such as www.crcna.org/disability, www.rca.org/disabilities, and www.clcnetwork.org/church_services.
18. Sit near people with disabilities during worship or at school.
19. Just say hi.
20. Think of ways to educate the children at your church about ways to interact with people in their lives who have a disability.
21. When leading a person with visual impairments, allow her to hold onto you rather than you holding onto her.
22. Do not gossip about someone who is socially awkward or different.
23. Remember that if someone has challenges with one of his senses, his other senses are usually heightened.
24. _____
25. _____

—Adapted from a poster put together by Lindsay Wieland Capel called "30 Things You Can Do To Be Hospitable to People with Disabilities." The original poster can be found at images.rca.org/docs/discipleship/30WaysToBeHospitable.pdf.

Disability Awareness Litany

Leader: Jesus Christ, friend to all,

People: Give us the grace and the love to stretch out our arms wide and embrace, in your name, all those whom you love, especially those persons with disabilities.

Leader: Jesus Christ, hope of all the nations,

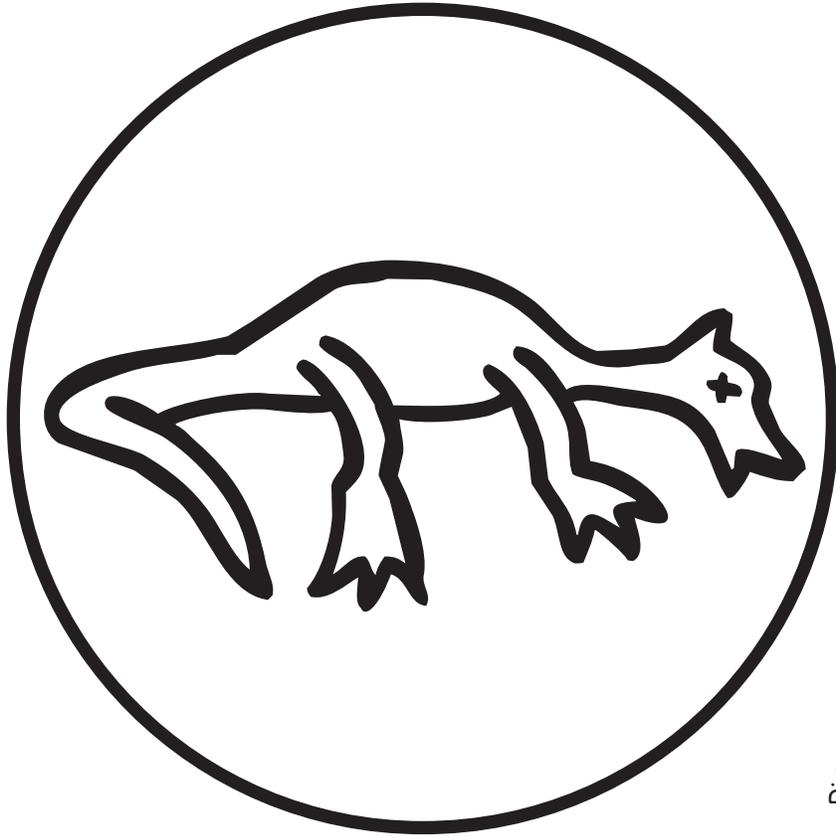
People: Help us to be a church that is welcoming and accepting, and which sees in everyone an expression of you.

Leader: Pour out your Spirit upon us, we pray,

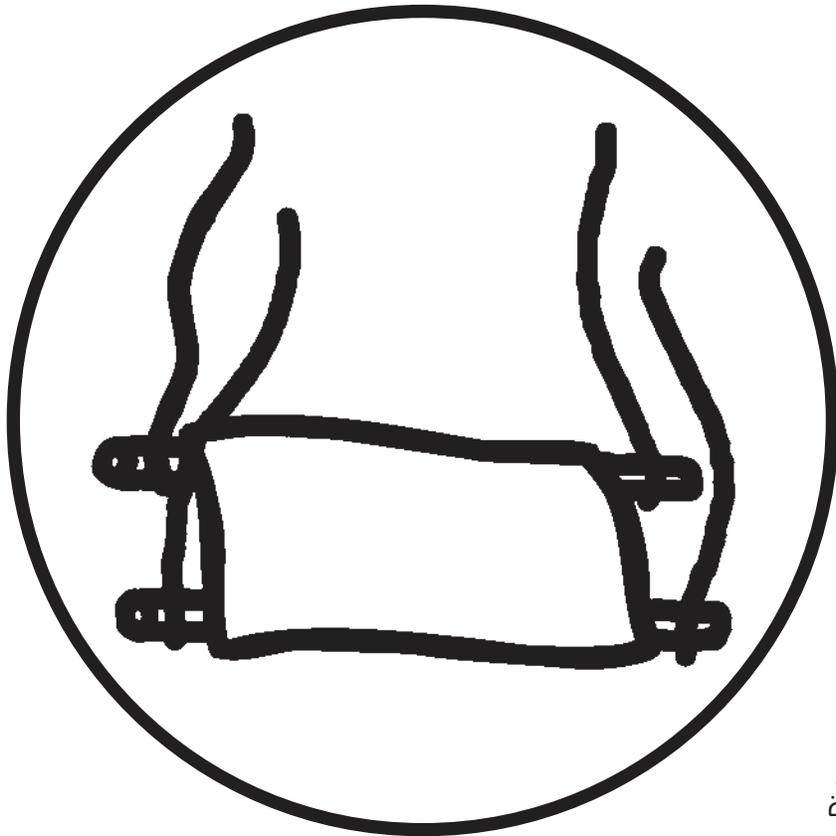
People: That we may recognize and promote the gifts of all people, so that each of us may, in our own ways and with our own abilities, participate in the mission of Jesus Christ.

All: Give us the courage to be lights of welcome in the darkness of exclusion, a voice of gentleness in the wilderness of the unheard, and an outstretched hand of love to those longing for community, that we may welcome in Christ's name all who are sent our way. Amen.

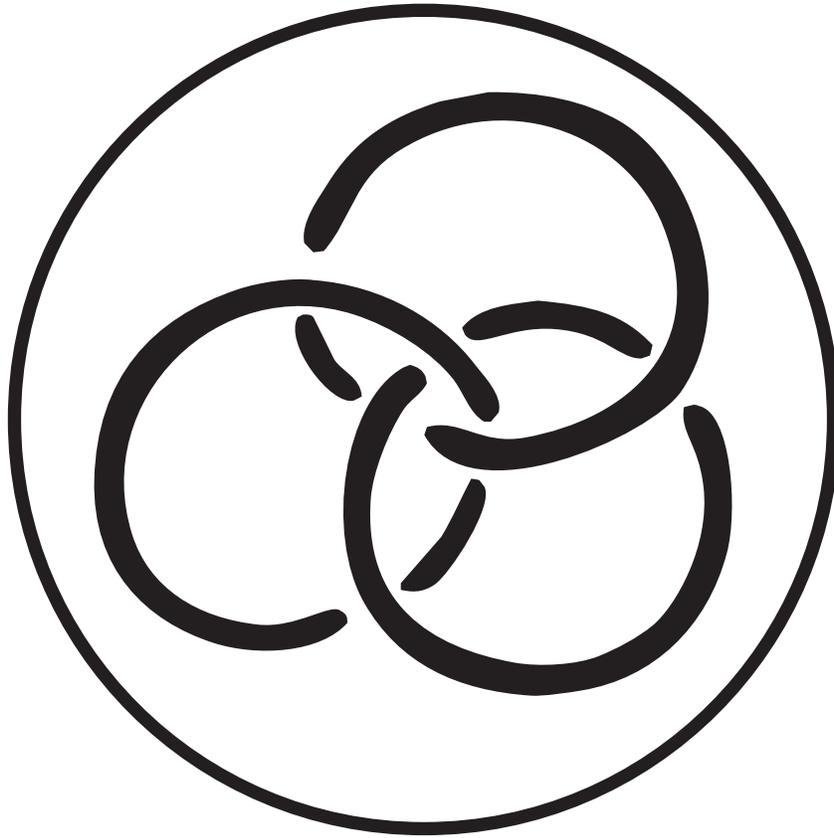
—Copyright 2010. Reformed Church Press. This page may be used for noncommercial church, school, or home use. www.rca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=3712



Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Christmas



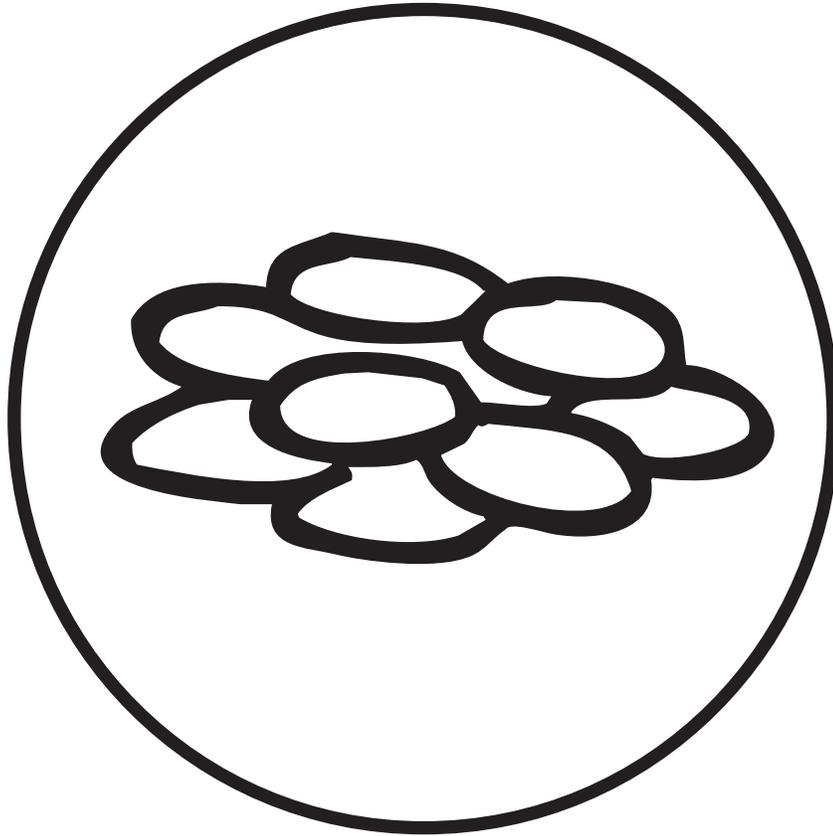
Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 1



Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 2



Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 3



Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 4



Dive
Year 1, Unit 3, Session 5

Paul Explains the God Who Nobody Knows

A Readers' Theater of Acts 17:16-34 from The Message

Narrator: The longer Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, the angrier he got—all those idols! The city was a junkyard of idols. He discussed it with the Jews and other like-minded people at their meeting place. And every day he went out on the streets and talked with anyone who happened along. He got to know some of the Epicurean and Stoic intellectuals pretty well through these conversations. Some of them dismissed him with sarcasm:

Philosopher 1: What an airhead!

Narrator: But others, listening to him go on about Jesus and the resurrection, were intrigued:

Philosopher 2: That's a new slant on the gods. Tell us more.

Narrator: These people got together and asked him to make a public presentation over at the Areopagus, where things were a little quieter. They said,

Philosopher 3: This is a new one to us. We've never heard anything quite like it. Where did you come up with this anyway? Explain it so we can understand.

Narrator: Downtown Athens was a great place for gossip. There were always people hanging around, natives and tourists alike, waiting for the latest tidbit on almost anything. So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them.

Paul: It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I'm here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you're dealing with.

The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn't live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn't take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don't make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near. We live and move in him, can't get away from him!

One of your poets said it well: "We're the God-created." Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn't make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it? God overlooks it as long as you don't know any better—but that time is past. The unknown is now known, and he's calling for a radical life-change. He has set a day when the entire human race will be judged and everything set right. And he has already appointed the judge, confirming him before everyone by raising him from the dead.

Narrator: At the phrase "raising him from the dead," the listeners split: Some laughed at him and walked off making jokes; others said,

Philosopher 4: Let's do this again. We want to hear more.

Narrator: But that was it for the day, and Paul left. There were still others, it turned out, who were convinced then and there, and stuck with Paul.

Scenes from the Wilderness

A series of scenes based on Exodus 16

1. **Moses** was tired. Terribly tired. The people he was leading expected him to know everything and to solve every problem. It wasn't at all like the time when God, the caring Creator, had saved them from the armies of Pharaoh by parting the waters of the Red Sea. That had been an exciting time, a time of celebration and cheering.

2. But now **the people** were beginning to grumble and complain to **Moses**. It wasn't much fun walking through the hot and dry wilderness day after day, having little to eat and drink. They acted like Moses was to blame for all their troubles.

3. **The people** smiled as they remembered the wonderful food of Egypt—fresh fish from the rivers, melons and cucumbers, fresh milk, all kinds of meat. Now they had next to nothing to eat. They were sick and tired of the whole business.

4. **Aaron**, Moses' brother and helper, walked through the camp. No matter where he went, people stopped him and loudly complained, just as they had to Moses. "If only we had died in Egypt," they said. "At least there we had plenty to eat. Now we're starving!"

5. **Aaron** nervously told **Moses** what the people were saying: "Moses, what are we going to do? The people are getting angrier every day. Maybe we were mistaken about the Lord's messages. Maybe the Lord really doesn't care about us. Moses, you've got to do something."

6. **Moses** was upset. There was no way he could feed all the Israelites! But the Lord did not leave Moses alone to face the angry people. **God** told Moses: "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. Tell the Israelites to come before me, because I have heard their grumbling."

7. **Aaron** called all the people together in one place. They were still grumbling and angry.

8. But when they turned to look at the desert, there, in a fantastic cloud of glory, was the Lord! Suddenly **the people** were quiet and uneasy. They realized that it was not Moses whom they were doubting, but the great God who had led them out of Egypt and protected them from Pharaoh. And they were afraid.

9. With great confidence, **Moses** and **Aaron** told the people what the Lord had said: "I have heard your grumbling and complaining. Tonight, before it is dark, you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God." The people listened and trembled.

10. Sure enough, that night the sky was darkened by a cloud of flying quail. They flew so low over the camp that **the people** could easily catch them. How the people feasted! Stomachs were full and everyone was happy.

11. Early the next morning, **the people** looked for the bread the Lord had promised. They found a strange substance sprinkled on the ground. Bending over, they picked it up, tasted it, and said to each other, “What is it?” In their language, “What is it” sounded like “Manna.”

12. **Moses** and **Aaron** smiled and said, “It’s the bread the Lord has given us to eat. From now until you reach the promised land, this food will be here for you. Every day you will have enough to eat.” The people were pleased at this wonderful news.

13. But **Moses** warned them: “Listen to what the Lord commands. Each day you must gather just enough for the people in your tent. No more. Don’t save any for the next day. You must trust the Lord to provide what you need. Also, on the sixth day you must pick up enough manna to last two days. The Lord will not send manna on the seventh day, the day of rest.”

14. Many of **the people** trusted God and did exactly as they had been told. Each morning they gathered as much as they needed for that day. When the sun grew hot, the leftover manna melted away. On the sixth day, the people gathered twice as much as usual, just as the Lord told them to do.

15. But some of **the people** didn’t trust the Lord. “I’ll save some, just in case God forgets to send the manna tomorrow,” they thought. The next morning when these foolish people woke up and looked in their jars for the leftover manna, they found a stinking, rotting mess that was crawling with maggots. GROSS! When Moses found out, he was furious!

16. On the sixth day, when the people were supposed to gather enough for two days, **some people** remembered what had happened to the leftover manna. “God doesn’t really mean we should take twice as much today,” they thought. “It will just spoil anyway. God will surely send more manna on the Sabbath.” When these people left their tents the next day, there was nothing on the ground for them.

17. Then **Moses** was angry with the people who failed to trust God. God said to Moses, “How long will the people refuse to keep my commands and my instructions?”

18. But the great **Creator-God**, the loving heavenly Father, remained faithful to the people. And for all the forty years that the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness, God took care of them by sending just enough manna and quail for everyone.

Story Cue Cards

1 Dad's Favorite

Joseph gets a new coat.

Prop: Colorful beach towel

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act excited about your new coat (the beach towel).

- Put the towel over your shoulders with pride, like it's the greatest thing you've ever seen.
 - Mouth the word "WOW."
 - Pretend to be looking in a mirror and liking what you see.
-

2 Joseph's Big Dream

Joseph dreams of being the boss.

Prop: Pillow or stuffed animal

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like you are falling asleep.

- Yawn and wipe your eyes like you are tired; stretch your arms over your head.
 - Snuggle your head against the pillow or stuffed animal.
 - Close your eyes and smile, as if you are having a very good dream.
-

3 Down Goes The Dreamer

Joseph's brothers throw him into a well, sell him as a slave, and then lie to their father about it.

Props: None

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like you've been thrown into a pit.

- Like a mime, press your hands flat against an imaginary wall.
 - Look up and point; act like you are shouting for help.
 - Slump your shoulders and sit down, looking sad until the storyteller finishes.
-

4 The New Boss

Potiphar puts Joseph in charge of everything in his household.

Props: Kitchen towel

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like a butler.

- Place the towel neatly over your left arm and hold it out in front of you.
 - Stand up very straight and proper.
 - Smile and do a little bow, and then stand tall until the storyteller finishes.
-

5 Wrongly Accused

Joseph refuses to have an affair with Potiphar's wife, so the wife lies about him and Joseph is sent to jail.

Props: Jacket

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act determined, and then run away.

- Hold the jacket over your arm.
 - Cross your arms and shake your head no.
 - Look determined to stand your ground.
 - When the storyteller mentions that Joseph ran out of the house, drop the jacket and run back to your seat.
-

6 Joseph in Jail

God is with Joseph in prison and gives him a managing role there.

Props: Notepad or paper and a pen

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like you are taking notes.

- Hold up your clipboard and pretend to be counting something.
- Jot something down on the paper.

7 The Cupbearer's Break

Joseph interprets the dreams of two of the king's servants and asks that the cupbearer tell Pharaoh about him.

Props: None

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like you are looking to God for advice.

- Hold your arms up, with palms facing up.
 - Look up at the ceiling until the storyteller finishes.
-

8 The King's Big Problem

The king has two dreams that none of his servants can interpret.

Prop: Pillow or stuffed animal

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, pretend to be asleep and having a bad dream.

- Close your eyes and hold the pillow or stuffed animal to your cheek.
 - Furrow your eyebrows, bite your lip, and move your head as though you are tossing and turning.
 - When the storyteller says you woke up, open your eyes and look worried, then pretend to sleep again.
-

9 Seven Years and Seven Years

Joseph tells Pharaoh that God will send seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine.

Props: Piece of fruit or vegetable

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, act like you are explaining the dream.

- Put the fruit or vegetable in your left hand and hold it up, looking at it.
 - Then hold up your empty right hand and look at that.
 - Finally, look straight ahead, still holding your hands up as the storyteller finishes.
-

10 Joseph's Dream Comes True

Joseph becomes second in command, and Pharaoh gives him royal jewelry.

Props: Plastic beads and a toy ring, or any type of jewelry

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, pretend to be a politician.

- Put on all the jewelry and then wave to the pretend crowd.
 - Make the "thumbs up" sign and smile.
 - Continue to wave and smile, looking to your right and to your left as you do.
-

11 God Had a Plan

Joseph becomes second in command, and the Pharaoh gives him royal jewelry.

Props: The jewelry used in previous scene and the beach towel used in first scene.

Actions: When the storyteller points at you, look like you are about to give someone a hug.

- Put on all the jewelry and drape the colorful beach towel over your shoulders.
 - Smile and hold open your arms as though you asking for a hug.
 - When the storyteller says, "God used those same plans for my good," lift your arms and your eyes toward the ceiling until the storyteller finishes.
-

Memory Challenge Cards (NIV)

Make one copy of these Memory Challenge cards for each person in your group. Copy them onto cardstock, then cut them apart to distribute at the end of the appropriate sessions. To help encourage your group to use the cards, consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabineer.

Session 1

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9

Sessions 2-5

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed

Christmas Session

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

—John 3:16

Memory Challenge Cards (NRSV)

Make one copy of these Memory Challenge cards for each person in your group. Copy them onto cardstock, then cut them apart to distribute at the end of the appropriate sessions. To help encourage your group to use the cards, consider punching a hole in each and attaching it to a key ring or small carabineer.

Session 1

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 works, so that no one can boast.

—Ephesians 2:8-9

Sessions 2-5

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

—The Apostles' Creed

Christmas Session

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

—John 3:16

Notes:



dwell®

www.DwellCurriculum.org

Year 1

Unit 1 What Do I Do When Things Fall Apart?

Unit 2 What's the Covenant All About?

Unit 3 Who Is God?

Unit 4 Who Is Jesus?

Unit 5 Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Unit 6 What Is the Church?

Year 2

Unit 1 What Is Being a Christian All About?

Unit 2 What's with All the Rules?

Unit 3 Can't We All Just Get Along?

Unit 4 Who's Number 1?

Unit 5 Does What I Do Make a Difference?

Unit 6 What Do I Say When I Pray?


**FAITH
ALIVE**®
Christian Resources

www.FaithAliveResources.org

RELIGION / Christian Ministry / Youth

ISBN 978-1-59255-652-6



036135