

PRIMARY PAIRS



Found at Last

“Joseph!” cried Mary, “I can’t find Jesus! Oh, where can He be?”

Everyone in the group was tired from the long journey. They were returning home from the city of Jerusalem where they had gone to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. And now they couldn’t find Jesus!

“Mary, Jesus is twelve years old now, so don’t worry. He’ll be all right. He’s probably just visiting with another group of travelers,” said Joseph.

They searched for Jesus among the other people, but no one had seen Him all day! Soon, Joseph began to be worried too. So he and Mary decided to go back to the city of Jerusalem.

They searched the city for a long time before they finally found Him in the Temple.

“Joseph, there He is!” Mary’s voice was full of relief. “He is sitting in the middle of that group of men. They are the elders of the Temple church!”

Joseph gave a deep sign of relief. The long hours of searching for their missing Son were over. “I am so thankful,” he said. “We searched everywhere on our way back into Jerusalem, and then all this time around the city. I couldn’t think where we would look next.” His voice sounded shaky. He swallowed hard, and then went on. “Let us go and speak with

Him. Why did He stay here in the Temple?"

Together Mary and Joseph hurried toward the group of men. They planned to take Jesus away from the group and start right away on their journey home. Mary wondered what the elders were telling her Son. He looked so young, sitting there with them.

Jesus didn't even look up as they came near. Mary said to Joseph, "He looks so interested in what the elders are saying He doesn't even see us." But as they came closer to the group she realized the truth. Jesus was not only listening to the elders but He was also talking to them and asking questions! And the elders of the Temple were

listening to Him! They were interested in all He said.

Mary went up to Jesus and laid her hand gently on His shoulder. "Son, why have You done this to us? Your father and I have been so worried as we looked for You."

Jesus told Mary and Joseph that He was doing the work of His Father in Heaven. But they did not understand what He meant.

Then it was time for all of them to leave Jerusalem again. This time Jesus went with them. They returned to their home in the city of Nazareth. And for a long time, Mary thought about the words Jesus had said: "I must be doing the work of my Father."

Time to Grow

Find the right answers to the questions and write the correct numbers in the boxes.

1. How old was Jesus in this story?
2. Where did Joseph and Mary find Jesus?
3. Where was the Temple?
4. Whose business was Jesus doing?
5. What were the three ways Jesus grew?

☐ Jerusalem
☐ God's
☐ Wisdom
☐ Stature
☐ Favor
☐ Temple
☐ Twelve

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

A good way to really zero in on this week's lesson might be to help your child stage the events described in the text, using Playmobil or Fisher-Price figures, or some other small dolls. Improvise props such as a road (long strip of brown paper or cloth) and the Temple (made from a shoe box). As you plan a dialogue, help your child to think about what kind of questions and answers were exchanged between Jesus and the Temple elders.

Arrange a special time for your child to put on his presentation for other family members.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:52

MONDAY: Psalm 122:1

TUESDAY: Psalm 26:8

WEDNESDAY: Psalm 27:4

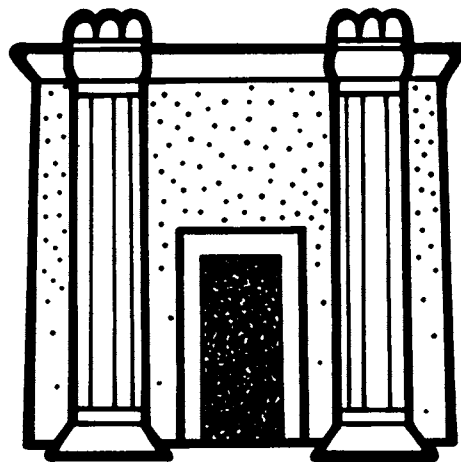
THURSDAY: Psalm 65:4

FRIDAY: John 4:34

SATURDAY: I Peter 2:2

Bible Text

Luke 2:40-52

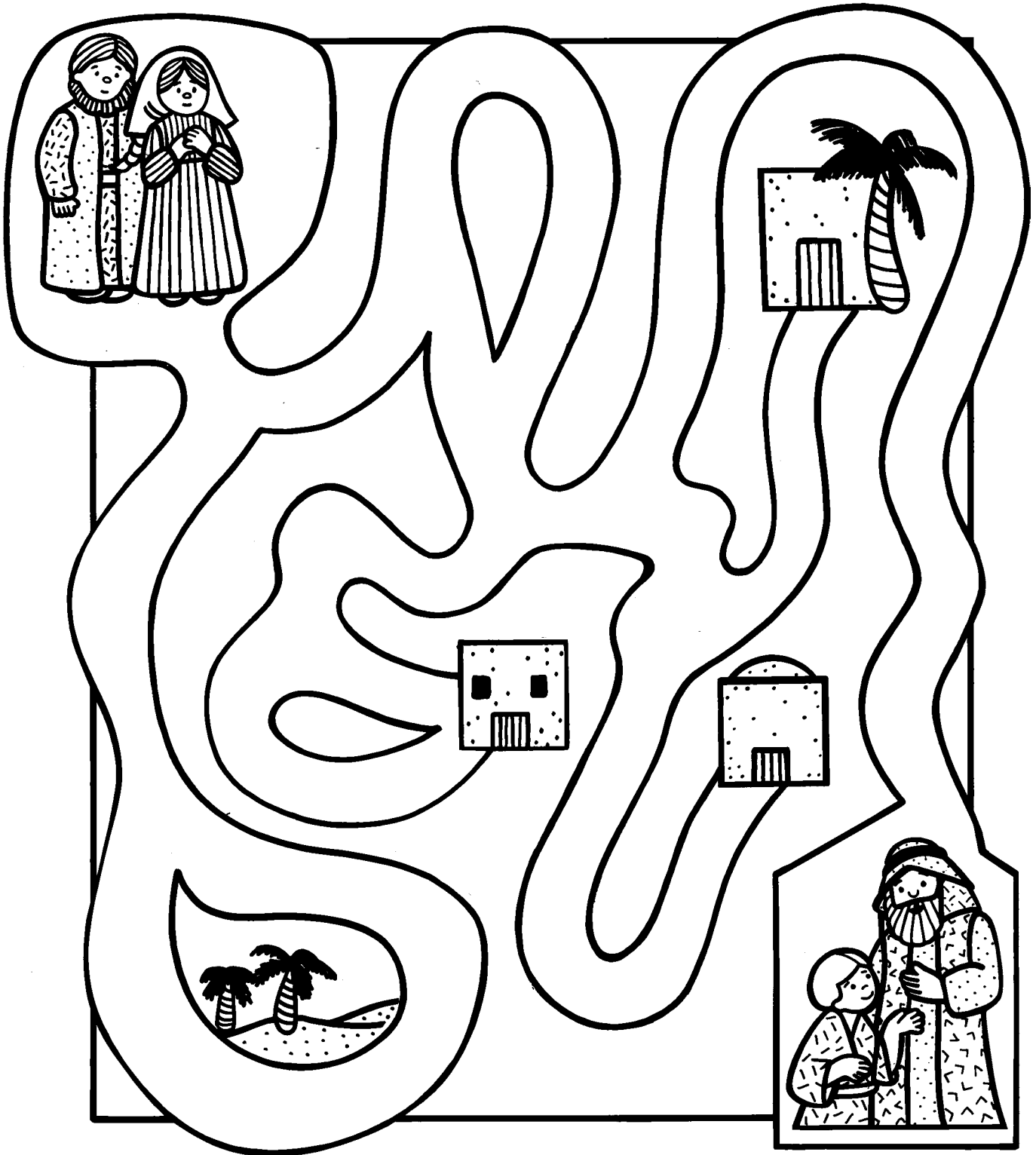


Memory Verse

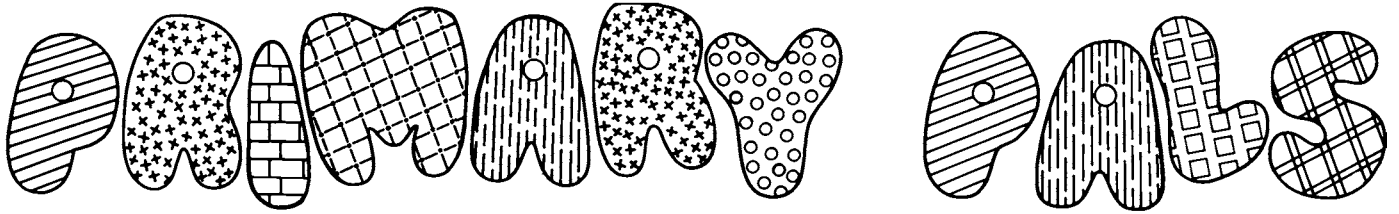
Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour
with God and man. — Luke 2:52

In the Temple

Follow through the maze to help Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple.



Name: _____



I Saw It Happen!

“Look at all the people! Where are they going?” I asked.

Ruth looked at me in surprise. “Haven’t you heard? The man they call John the Baptist is preaching out at the Jordan River again today. I am going there to hear him. Would you like to go with me?”

I really wanted to go and see this man, John. I had heard a lot about him. People said he ate locusts and wild honey, and he didn’t have any fancy clothes. He just dressed in clothing made of camel’s hair!

So that was how it came to be that I went with Ruth to the Jordan River that day. And there I saw something I will never forget.

“Repent!” John the Baptist was telling the people. “Get ready for God’s Kingdom!”

Soon, some of the people in the crowd moved into the water. These were people who wanted to do God’s will and follow Him. They had told God they were sorry for all their sins. John lowered the people, one by one, into the water. When he brought them back out of the water they were very happy because they had been baptized by John.

John told the people about God’s Kingdom but he also told them about Jesus. These people thought that John was a great person. But he said that Jesus was much greater than he was.

Why, he told them that he wasn't even good enough to carry Jesus' shoes!

Suddenly John stopped talking. He looked beyond the crowd of people. A Man walked down to the river, past all the people, and into the water next to John. There was something special about this Man. When He asked John to baptize Him, John said, "Oh, I couldn't do that! Jesus, You are greater than I am. I need to be baptized by You. Why are You asking me to baptize You?"

Again Jesus spoke to John and said, "You must baptize Me now. For it is right that we do all that God says we should do."

I heard a woman say, "This is the

Man named Jesus. He is the One John has been talking about!" Everyone was so excited!

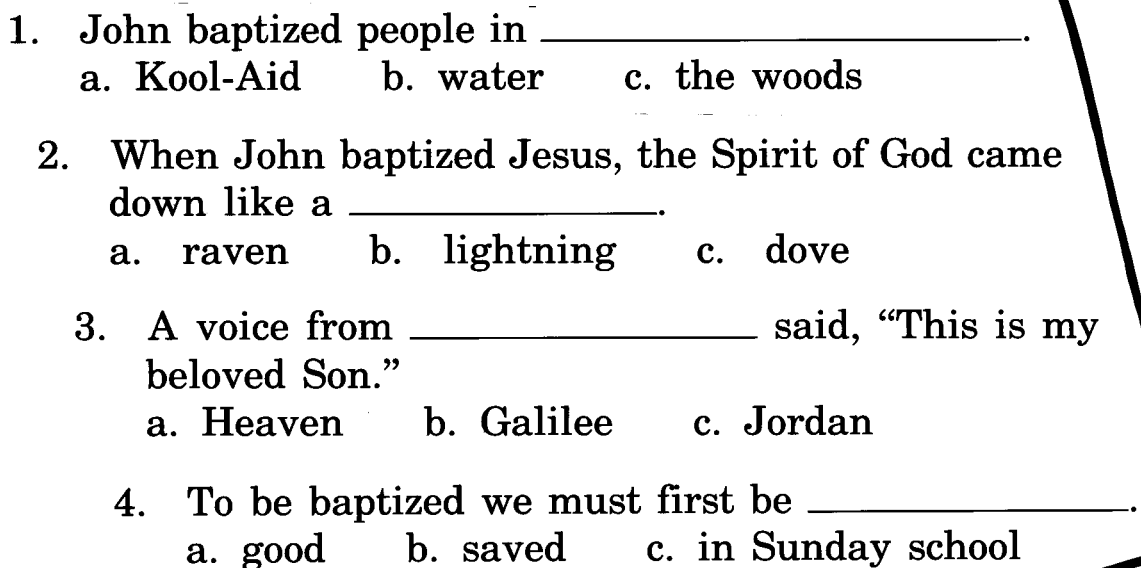
Then John lowered Jesus into the water. When they came up out of the water a wonderful feeling was in the air. Everyone could feel the Spirit of God when a beautiful white dove flew down from the sky and came to rest upon Jesus.

Everything became very quiet. Then from out of Heaven we all heard a Voice, the Voice of God, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

I will never forget that wonderful day, the day I saw John the Baptist baptize God's own Son.

Baptism

Circle the correct answer for each sentence below.

- 
1. John baptized people in _____.
a. Kool-Aid b. water c. the woods
 2. When John baptized Jesus, the Spirit of God came down like a _____.
a. raven b. lightning c. dove
 3. A voice from _____ said, "This is my beloved Son."
a. Heaven b. Galilee c. Jordan
 4. To be baptized we must first be _____.
a. good b. saved c. in Sunday school

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, look ahead to Sunday's lesson by talking about all the things we learn by example. Make a list on a marker board or a large piece of paper, and post the list where it can be easily added to as more suggestions come to mind: tying a shoe, making a bed, setting the table, etc.

Talk about how Jesus set an example for us by His being baptized in water. Look up the word "baptize" in the dictionary and discuss its meaning. Help your child to understand that baptism is one way we tell those around us that we have a new life in Christ.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: John 1:29

MONDAY: Luke 3:16

TUESDAY: Luke 1:76

WEDNESDAY: Isaiah 40:3

THURSDAY: John 1:23

FRIDAY: Mark 1:10,11

SATURDAY: John 1:15



Bible Text

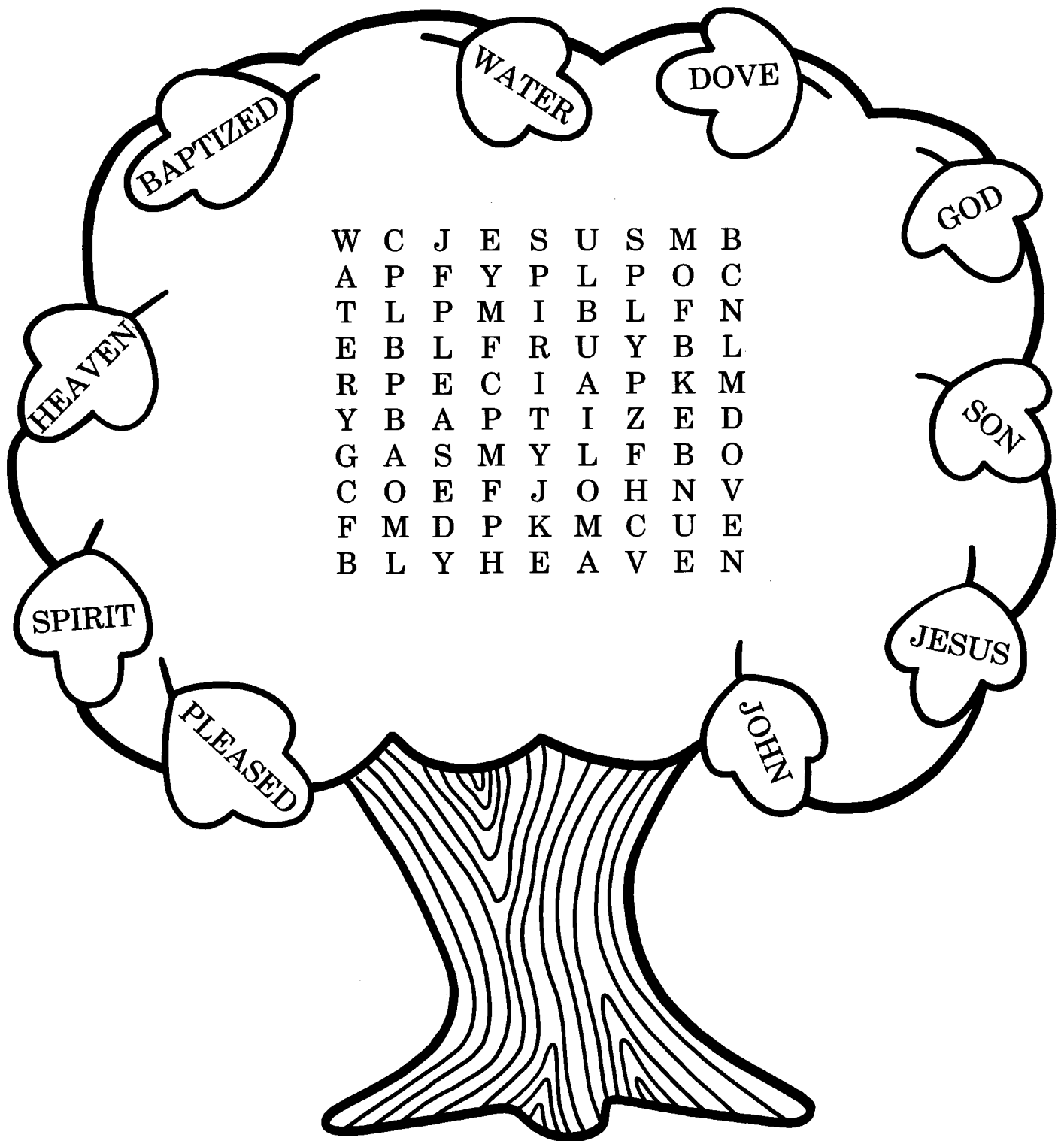
Matthew 3:13-17

Memory Verse

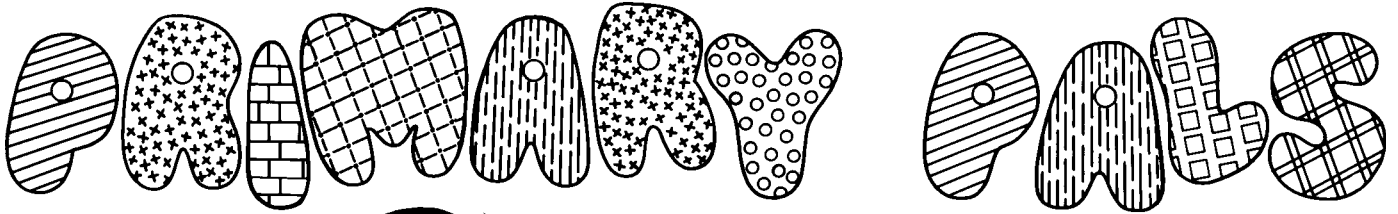
Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away
the sin of the world. — John 1:29

John Baptized Jesus

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle below.



Name: _____



Victory Over the Devil!

Forty days and forty nights is a long time to go without eating any food! That's how long Jesus had been praying in the wilderness. And He hadn't eaten at all!

He had gone to the desert wilderness right after He was baptized by John the Baptist. Now He was very hungry.

When the devil saw this he thought, I will tempt Jesus and make Him do as I say. If I can get Him to obey me I will be better than God.

He went to Jesus and said, "If You are really the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into bread." He thought that if Jesus was hungry enough He would do anything to get some food.

Instead of doing what the devil said, Jesus repeated a verse from the Bible. It says that people do not live just by bread. They need the Word of God also.

The devil wasn't very happy about Jesus' answer. He couldn't argue with it though, because he knew it was true. But he wasn't ready to give up yet. He then took Jesus to a high part of the Temple.

He decided to repeat a verse from the Bible too. "If You are really the Son of God, throw Yourself down to the ground," he told Jesus. "Because it is written in the Bible that God will send His angels to take care of You."

Jesus told him, "The Word of God says you should not tempt the Lord

your God.” He knew that God knew what was best for Him and would take care of Him.

By this time the devil was very unhappy. But he decided to try once more to make Jesus obey him. He took Jesus to the top of a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, “I promise to give all of these to You, Jesus, if You will just fall down and worship me.”

Jesus knew that the devil could not be strong against the Word of God. So, for the third time, He repeated a verse from the Bible to defeat him. “God’s Word says that we should worship

only the Lord God in Heaven and we should serve only Him.”

Then the devil left Jesus, because he knew that he couldn’t be strong when someone repeated God’s Word to him.

After the devil was gone, God sent angels to take care of Jesus.

Do you know what we can learn from this story in the Bible? It is that God loves us and will always care for us. That is why He gave us the Bible, His Word. So, if the devil ever comes to tell you to do something wrong, remember to say what Jesus said. He is our example. You can always win against the devil if you use God’s Word!

Happy or Sad?

Sometimes people feel like doing things that are not right. This feeling is called temptation. There is a circle next to each sentence below. Draw a happy face in the circle if the sentence is about something you should do. Draw a sad face if it is a temptation from Satan.

☐ Love everybody.

☐ Help other people.

☐ Say bad words.

☐ Love something more than God.

☐ Tell things that are not true.

☐ Obey your parents.

☐ Be friendly.

☐ Take things that are not yours.

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Temptations on a child's level are very different from the temptations that come to adults, and yet they are very real. Try to help your child understand that temptations can be overcome. Explain to your child how he can use memory verses from God's Word to help him do right when a suggestion to do wrong is made.

Compare the protection of God's Word to an open umbrella. Tape some words representing temptations (disobey, be unkind, say harsh words, etc.) onto Ping-Pong balls or balls of wadded paper. Allow your child to use the umbrella as a shield while you toss the balls in his direction. Point out that if he is alert and uses the umbrella, you can't hit him. In the same way, God's Word can be a shield.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 4:10

MONDAY: Deuteronomy 8:3

TUESDAY: Psalm 91:11,12

WEDNESDAY: John 4:24

THURSDAY: Mark 1:13

FRIDAY: Luke 4:13

SATURDAY: Deuteronomy 6:16



Bible Text

Matthew 4:1-11

Memory Verse

For it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God,
and him only shalt thou serve. — Matthew 4:10

Listen to Jesus

When Satan tempts people, he doesn't want them to listen to Jesus. Circle the things Jesus would want you to remember when you are tempted. Cross out the things Satan would want you to think.

He shall give his angels charge over thee.

No one will ever know.

Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

Maybe it will be OK.

What will my friends say?

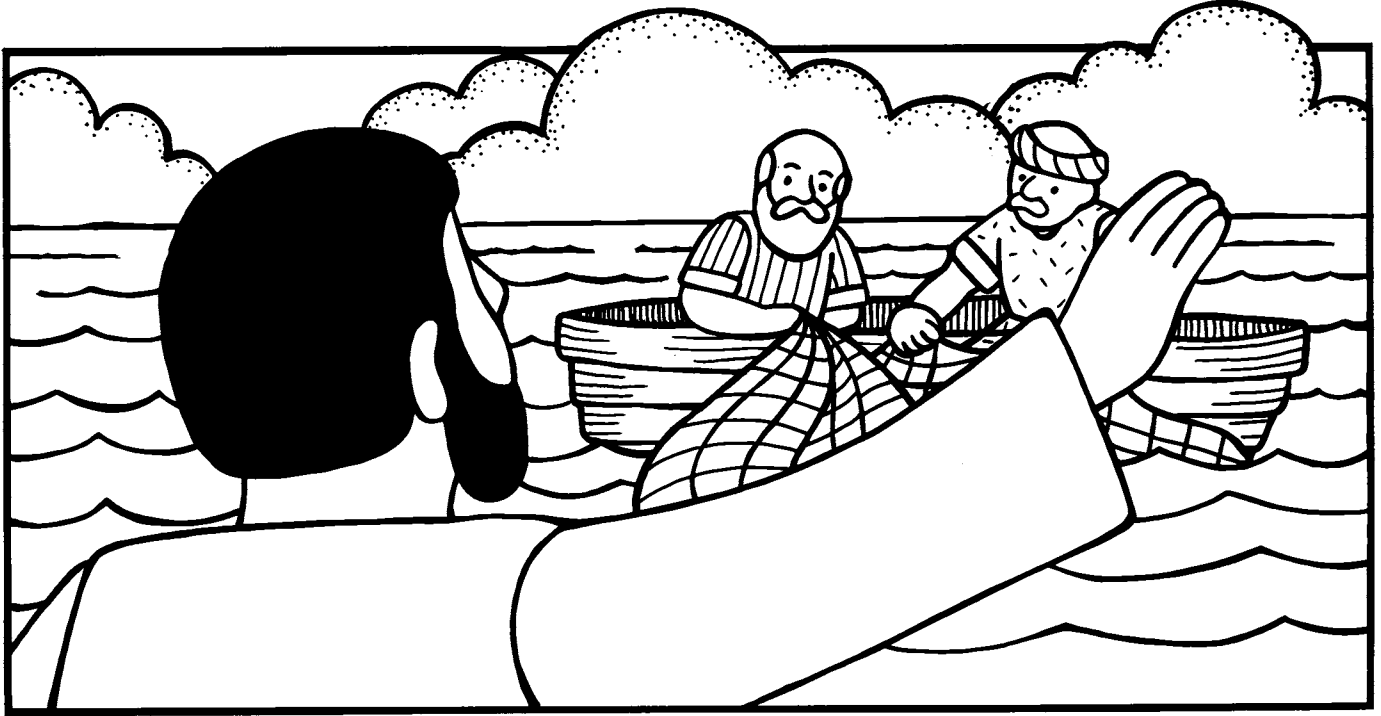
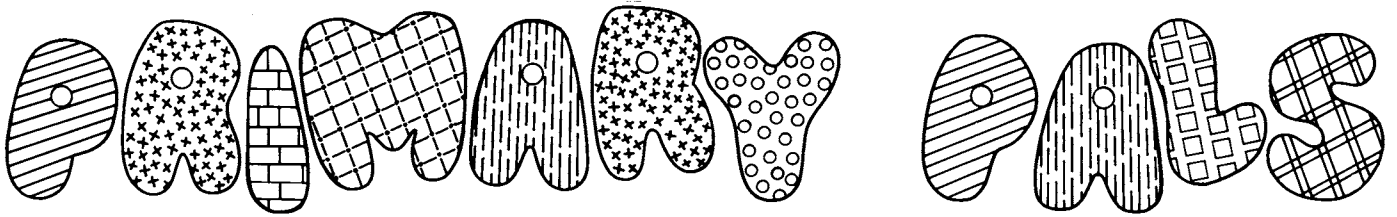
Man shall not live by bread alone.

No one can see me.

Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God.

Get thee hence, Satan!

Name: _____



A New Kind of Fishing

Peter and his brother, Andrew, were getting ready to toss their net into the sea once more. It would be the last net of fish they caught that day. Then they would have to row to shore, put the boat away, and clean the fish. Looking at the net lying at his feet, Peter noticed a hole that had been torn open. He lifted the net and frowned. Well, there's another hole to mend, he thought.

He looked over at Andrew. "Fishing isn't exciting anymore."

Right away Andrew knew what he meant. "It's because of Jesus," he replied. He looked up at his brother. "I've felt the same way. There is something that happens to me when

I'm near Him. It makes me want to forget about the fishing business. It just isn't important now."

With a sigh, Andrew turned back to the net. He told Peter to help him, and together they tossed it into the water.

The boat was rocking gently on the waves when suddenly they heard someone calling their names. Peter turned to Andrew with a puzzled look. Who would be calling to them?

Then he looked toward the shore. "There's Jesus!" shouted Peter. "He is calling us! Come on, Andrew, let's go and see what He wants."

They turned the boat around and went toward the shore. Even before the boat scraped bottom, Peter jumped

out and ran to where Jesus stood. Andrew was close behind him.

When they got to where Jesus was, He told them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." That meant they would not be catching fish anymore. There was a greater job for them to do. He wanted them to be His disciples now. They would be telling other people about God's love. It would be like fishing for people!

That day Peter and Andrew left their boat and nets and became Jesus' disciples.

As they walked with Jesus by the seashore, they came to a boat that belonged to a man named Zebedee. He

and his two sons, James and John, were sitting in their boat mending their fishing nets.

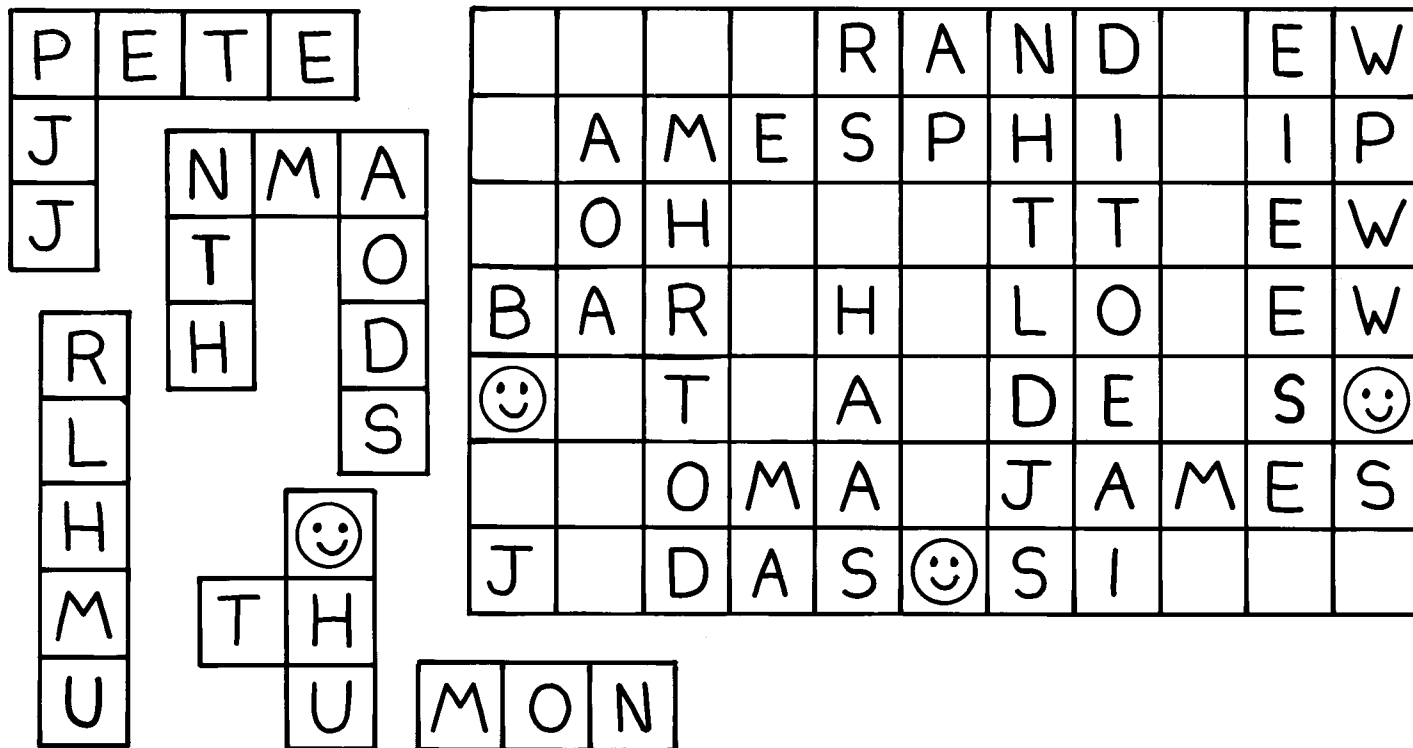
Jesus called to the two sons and told them to follow Him also.

James and John left their boat right away. They knew they wanted to be followers of Jesus. They were happy that Jesus had chosen them to be His helpers.

Jesus chose these four men and also eight others to be His special helpers. They are called the Apostles. Did you know that Jesus wants you to be His helper too? He loves you and has a special plan for you. Wouldn't you like to be a fisher of men and tell others about Jesus?

Choosing Helpers

Using the shapes as clues, write the missing letters into the empty spaces. Then read the names of the men Jesus chose to help Him.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Focus on "choosing" in your time together this week. Make your child aware of little choices he makes each day. By writing a choice on each side of a set of index cards, let him select what clothes to wear, what to eat for breakfast, which book to read. Then talk about some of the things which influence his choices.

Discuss what things might have influenced Jesus' choice of followers. Help your child list some of the things he looks for in a friend or in someone to help him with a project. Does he think Jesus would have looked for some of these same qualities? Relate your discussion to the present time by considering what Jesus might be looking for in His followers today.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 4:19

MONDAY: John 15:16

TUESDAY: John 15:8

WEDNESDAY: John 12:26

THURSDAY: I Corinthians 7:24

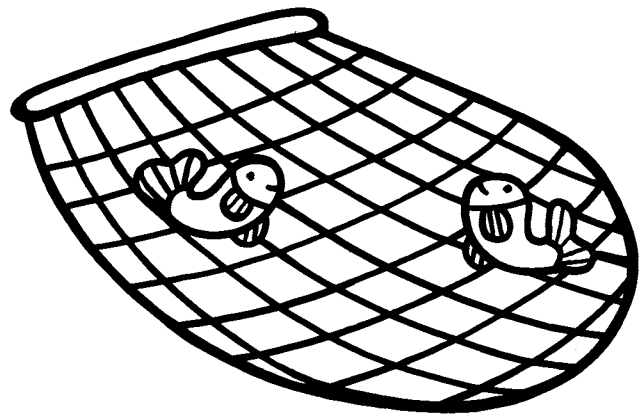
FRIDAY: John 8:12

SATURDAY: I Peter 2:21

Bible Text

Matthew 4:18-22

John 1:35-51



Memory Verse

Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. — Matthew 4:19

Fishers of Men

Find and circle each of the words in the puzzles below.

BOAT
NETS
FISHING
MENDING

B A F I S H I N G
O T O W E R E Y E
A N P N E T S C L
T W H A L E P E N
W M E N D I N G V

JOHN
JAMES
PETER
ANDREW

J A M E S P O P P
C O L A M B S Y E
H B H M O O N S T
N X A N D R E W E
P I C K L E S Y R

MEN
CHOSEN
FOLLOW
APOSTLES

M Y T F O L L O W
E P O T R E L K J
N A P O S T L E S
M O U S E D O G S
C H O S E N C A T

TELL
JESUS
OTHERS
HELPERS

T R F T H O U J T
O T H E R S X E H
R O M L L E V S O
C A R L H A M U S
P H E L P E R S E

Name: _____