

LEVEL 3, QUARTER B

Additional Activities

Amazing Words

1. Shine!

Popcorn (10 minutes)

This object lesson illustrates how Jesus wanted His disciples to make a difference in the world. **Supplies:** unsalted popcorn, salt, bowls or cups, and napkins

Use this illustration to describe how God wanted His disciples to make a difference in their world. Either bring unsalted popcorn to class or make it with an air popper. Pass it around the room and let every child try a little. Ask for reactions to the taste. Now salt the popcorn, or bring another batch that is already salted. Let children try it. Explain that God wants us to be like salt, to add flavor to a bland world.

Living God's Word (10-20 minutes)

This discussion activity personalizes the eight traits from the Beatitudes. **Supplies:** poster board or newsprint with one Beatitude theme heading per page (humility, mourning, meekness/lowliness, justice/goodness, kindness/mercy, pure hearts, peace, and faithfulness), markers

Put the posters around the room on the floor or walls. Divide your kids into eight groups and assign each group one of the posters. Let the children quietly discuss the Beatitude and any ideas or examples they want to record for that topic. Fill the poster with drawings, poems, thoughts, etc. that illustrate the assigned Beatitude.

Display the posters around the room so everyone can see them clearly. Review the ideas and examples as a group. Some of your discussion questions should include: Which example on this page is your favorite and why? How easy/hard is it to follow this trait in your daily life? If you could ask Jesus a question about this Beatitude, what would you ask? If you had to pick four of these traits as most important in your life, what would they be and why?

We're going to end this activity with quiet reflection moment. Pick one Beatitude we've studied today. Think carefully about how you can apply it to your life. In your quiet time, pray to God for help. Give children time to reflect and say silent prayers.

Salt Challenge (15 minutes)

This game excites children's imaginations about the power of salt.

Supplies: pieces of paper and pencils

Divide students into groups of three-to-four students each. Give each group a piece of paper and a pencil. Invite students to race to see which group can list the most uses for salt. Set a time limit for the game. Offer a small reward to the winning team.

Shine! (10-20 minutes)

This musical activity highlights ways that children can shine for God. **Supplies:** CD and lyrics for "Shine" (by the Newsboys) or "Light of the World" (from Godspell)

Play the song for the children once or twice. Ask them to listen carefully for how the song tells us about ways we can shine our light in the world. Pass out the printed lyrics for reference. Identify the specific examples in the song that came from Matthew 5. Have groups work together to create their own poem or song telling about ways they can shine for God.

2. God's Kingdom

A Circle of Friends (10 minutes)

This prayer activity allows children to share their worries and pray together for each other. **Supplies:** circles of paper for every student in the class, pencils

As children enter the room today, give them one circle paper and a pencil. In order to avoid repeating the direction for every child, write this instruction on the board, "On your circle paper, write down at least one thing you are very worried about right now." Refer the children to the board as they sit down and begin the activity. If a child says he or she is not worried about anything, quietly tell him, **I'm so happy to hear you are trusting God with your fears right now! Why don't you write down something you think someone else in your family might be worried about this week?** When all the children have arrived and completed their circles, have them place the papers facedown in the center of the floor. Stand around the papers, forming a circle and holding hands. Explain that we all have worries, or fears, in our lives. But, God is always ready to help us if we believe and trust in Him. Read Matthew 6:31-34. **Let's take a minute to pray for all these worries today. Just pray quietly in your heart about your own fears and ask God to help your friends with their worries as well.** Close the prayer by thanking God that we can always trust Him to take care of us and for always giving us everything we need.

Sermon on the Mount News (30 minutes)

*This role-playing activity engages children in summarizing the Sermon on the Mount. **Supplies:** notepads and pencils, video camera (optional)*

Work together in small groups to prepare a newspaper or TV news cast dedicated to reporting the main points in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Offer headline news, classifieds, sports, entertainment, or other categories to different pairs of kids. Let pairs design and write their reports. Encourage the children to include why their report is newsworthy and why it makes a difference in our lives today. Share the newspaper reports or present the "live" broadcast. Record the broadcasts on a video camera and play them back to the class.

Note: This activity is a wonderful chance to tap into the strengths of your children. For example, be sure to assign the illustrations to your very creative/artistic students. If you have those who excel in creative writing or expository writing, assign reports to match these strengths. For those who are not afraid of the "spotlight," be sure to give them the verbal reporting chances.

You Hypocrite! (10-15 minutes)

This role-playing activity compares and contrasts godly and hypocritical scenarios.

Before class, create five scenarios that can be used for very short role-playing. Your cards might include the following contrasting themes: secretly mowing your elderly neighbor's yard vs. mowing the yard and then bragging to the neighbor about how you helped him, obviously hoping for a reward (v. 1-2); quietly saying a genuine prayer to God vs. volunteering to pray in your youth group only to show off for others (v. 5-9); showing forgiveness to someone vs. telling a friend to forgive you for something you did to them but holding a grudge against them yourself for something else (v. 14-15); secretly giving part of your allowance to church vs. bragging to your friends about how much money you gave this week (vs. 19-21); praying to God for help with a worry vs. telling a friend not to worry about something but then talking about how worried you are about something yourself (vs. 31-34). Each scenario card should have the two opposing concepts, written one on each side of a card.

Divide the children into pairs or small groups. Give each group a scenario and time to create a very short skit demonstrating one or both of the concepts on the card. (For less time, act out only one scenario per card.) At the end of each skit, evaluate the example by having the other children proclaim, "You are a godly example!" or "You hypocrite!" For each presentation, have a child in the "audience" look through Matthew 6 and read the Bible reference to the skit.

What's Inside (10 minutes)

*This object lesson demonstrates how Jesus knows what is in our hearts. **Supplies:** several canned food items (same size, labels removed), can opener, and permanent marker*

Use a permanent felt tip marker to assign a number to each can. Pass the cans around the room. Let students try to guess what is inside each can by shaking, smelling, rolling, and listening to the cans. After the class has listed several guesses for each number, use the can opener to discover the contents of each can. Were any guesses correct? Why was this activity so difficult? When might it be important to know what was inside each can?

What hides inside people's hearts is even more important than the contents of a can. What is in a person's "heart?" Why is it so important to Jesus? What thoughts, feelings, and attitudes might hide there? How do our hearts affect our behavior?

Jesus came to announce a new kingdom. He invited His people, the Jews, and all of us to join His Kingdom. People had distorted God's rules. Instead of studying and following only laws that focus on outward behavior, Jesus wanted His followers to be good, loving, and kind from the heart.

There Your Heart Is Also (10 minute)

*This discussion activity prompts kids to think about how they spend money. **Supplies:** 100 one-dollar bills (real or play) or 100 pennies*

Invite children to consider their priorities. **What is most important? We can often tell what is important to us by noticing what we think about most, what we spend the most money on, or what we spend the most time doing.** Bring in 100 one-dollar bills or 100 pennies. Ask students to work together to budget the money. How would they spend it? Which of the spending items would gain treasure that lasts forever?

3. One With Authority

“WWJD?” Poster (15-20 minutes)

This craft activity creates posters that remind kids about the question, “WWJD?” **Supplies:** poster paper, markers or crayons, pencils, magazines or newspapers

Give children the supplies and explain that they should create posters showing examples of what Jesus would do in different situations. The children may draw, cut something from a magazine or newspaper, create a cartoon, etc. to show a real-world scene. They should also include a picture and/or words of Jesus showing what He would do in the scene depicted on their posters. Encourage them to take the posters home to hang in their rooms.

Symbolic Rocks (15-20 minutes)

This craft activity gives children a personal reminder of God’s Word. **Supplies:** clean rocks about the size of a child’s hand, paint, paintbrushes, painting smocks, newspaper or other tarp to cover the work area

Gather rocks that are about the size of a child’s hand. Wash them well and dry thoroughly before class. Give each child one rock and spread out the painting supplies. Invite kids to think about Jesus’ Sermon and its solidness. Then, encourage them to paint their rocks with a symbol that will remind them of something they have learned. Give time for the rocks to dry completely. Ask children to find special places for their rocks where they will see them and remember God’s words.

Heaven’s Gate (10 minutes)

This drama acts out the parable of the narrow gate to heaven.

Supplies: desks, tables, chairs, boxes, rope, etc. to create a 3-D maze in your classroom

Using the supplies, create a maze with many large, interlocking paths but only one, very narrow path to get through to the end. Include several “road blocks” or circular paths. For added effect, tape signs to the road blocks that tell a story about a real-life road block that would keep us from heaven (You told a lie! Road blocked!). Give each child a chance to find “the narrow gate” at the end of the maze. While they take turns working through the maze, the other children should sing this song to the tune of “London Bridge.”

Heaven’s gate is small and narrow,
small and narrow, small and narrow
Heaven’s gate is small and narrow,
can you find it?

When all have had a turn through the maze, read Matthew 7:13-14. Briefly explain the metaphor of the narrow gate into heaven.

4. Go In Peace

Jesus Answers John (15 minutes)

This role-playing activity prompts children to explore Jesus’ answers to John’s questions.

Read Luke 7:18-23. Assemble the children as if they are the crowd listening to Jesus. Assign the following roles—lame person, blind, deaf, dead, poor, Jesus, John the Baptist, John’s two disciples, other people in the crowd. Act out the Scripture using words from the Bible passage.

Headlines for Jesus (15-20 minutes)

This writing activity provides children with ideas about how to respond to Jesus. **Supplies:** newspaper headlines, blank paper, pencils, markers

Briefly show the children some headlines from a local newspaper. Discuss the format and wording in headlines (large font, catchy phrases, tells the main idea). Give the children paper to create their own headlines about how they plan to respond to Jesus this week. Some examples might include “Tanner Worships Jesus in Music,” “Kalie Believes and Jesus Answers,” or “Sydni Interviews God.” Encourage the children to personalize their headlines with things they really want to happen during the next week. If time allows, have each child write a short news story about the headline. Post the headlines and stories for all to read!

Brain Train (10-15 minutes)

This Bible exploration reviews the previous lessons while introducing new lesson topics.

Ask the review questions from the previous three lessons as well as others as time allows. Let children work with partners under a time limit for each question. Number the questions and write the Scripture references for each question on the board so kids can look up the answers. When the time is up, stop and share the answers with the entire class. Conclude by giving this week’s questions (without the Scripture references) to see if they already know the answers and to pique their interest.

5. For or Against?

Power Posters (15-20 minutes)

This craft motivates children to focus on God's work. **Supplies:** poster board for each child, markers or crayons, pencils, magazines, glue

Help children draw a straight line vertically down the center of their poster boards. On one side of the line, they should write the title "Things I Can Do." The other side should be titled, "Things Only God Can Do." Challenge kids to draw or locate pictures in the magazines that show examples from both sides of their posters. For example, a wilderness scene could represent God's creation—something only He could do. A picture of a person riding a bike would fit the other side. During the activity, ask thinking questions such as, **When does God let us do our own thing? What happens if we don't allow Him to guide us? What is something only God can do that makes you feel safe?**

Letter to Home (10-15 minutes)

This writing activity prompts children to imagine being present with Jesus.

Tell the children to imagine they are one of Jesus' disciples who just witnessed Jesus heal the demon-possessed man. Ask them to write a short note to their families telling about what they saw and how they felt. Let volunteers share their letters with the class. Be sure to point out unique insights and praise the good work done on each letter.

Cling to God (10 minutes)

This object lesson shows the opposition of God and Satan's kingdoms. **Supplies:** two bar magnets, paper clips, pennies

Invite students to look at the two magnets. Notice that magnets have two poles (positive and negative). Similar poles (positive to positive, negative to negative) repel one another. Opposite poles always attract each other. Demonstrate with the magnets. Imagine that the ends of the poles of each magnet represent two large kingdoms, God's Kingdom and Satan's kingdom. These two kingdoms always war with each other.

Use the paper clips and pennies to show that some people are part of God's family (clinging to the magnet like a paper clip), and some are not (like the pennies). Which kingdom have your students chosen to be a part of? Did they realize it was a choice to make? What will they choose?

6. Parables

Children's Book of Parables (30 minutes)

This craft creates a children's book about the parables from today's Bible passage. **Supplies:** construction paper (all same size), drawing and writing utensils, stapler

Explain that the children have a chance to share God's secrets with younger children. They will each create a special book about Jesus' parables from Matthew 13. Take turns reading Matthew 13 together. Give each child a Bible and ten pieces of construction paper of varied colors. Post the "Truth Cards" with their matching titles for the children to see (as defined in *Exploring Scripture*). Challenge children to create an illustration of each parable, one per page, for their special books. They should write a one or two-sentence summary of the story and the truth and lesson statements on the page. When all eight pages are finished, have them design front and back covers. Staple the finished books together. Encourage the children to take their books home and give them to a younger sibling or relative this week. Ask them to take time to read it and discuss the stories with the child.

Your Hometown (10 minutes)

This discussion provides comfort through prayer in sharing Jesus' words with family and friends.

Read Matthew 13:53-58. The people in Nazareth could not consider Jesus to be anyone other than the carpenter son of Mary and Joseph. They had watched Him grow through childhood and were unable to see Him as the Son of God. Therefore, they could not believe, no matter what miracles Jesus did or what He said. **What things can you do to share God's message with your family and friends? When is this most difficult for you? When is easiest?** Be very aware of children who are from unchurched homes as this may be sensitive for them to discuss. **If Jesus walked in this room right now and granted each of you a miracle to help you share His message with your family or friends, what would you ask Him to do for you?** End the activity in prayer asking God to help children with their "miracle" requests so they may be better able to share His Word with others.

Kingdom Mobiles (15 minutes)

This craft creates mobiles to remind kids of Jesus' parables.

Supplies: recycled items or other items to represent the parables (mustard seed, plastic cross, wheat seeds, yeast packets, treasure box items, netting, etc.), paper, string or yarn, hangers, scissors, glue, markers, magazines

Challenge the children to use the items or pictures to create a mobile representing the truths about Jesus' kingdom. Attach strings to the hanger and glue or tie each item to a different string. As the children work, engage them in thoughtful reflection about the parables with questions such as, **How were the wheat and weeds like good and evil? What does the phrase "faith the size of a mustard seed" mean to you now? What happens to bread when we use yeast in the recipe? How is this like our lives?**

7. Faith Rules!

Making Waves (15 minutes)

This craft activity creates a reminder of Jesus' power. **Supplies:** used clear water bottles, funnels, water, clear oil, blue food coloring, sticker labels, hot glue and glue gun (optional)

This activity works well with 16-oz. bottled water containers. Give each child a water bottle and have everyone fill their bottles halfway with water. Add a few drops of blue food coloring to each bottle, and have children close up their bottles and shake to mix the color. Using funnels, let children fill the rest of their bottles with oil and then close the lids tightly. Optionally, seal the lid of each bottle with hot glue to prevent accidental spills.

Have children decorate labels and write the phrase "Even the wind and waves obey Him!" Place the stickers horizontally on the bottles. Show the children how to tilt their bottles to produce blue "waves."

Special Service to Others (15 minutes)

This craft activity provides a way for children to raise money for your church mission projects. **Supplies:** several cardboard cross stencils, heavy tag-board paper in various colors, scissors, religious stickers or stencils, small beads, yarn, hole puncher, colored pencils

Before class, cut out five (or more) cardboard crosses for the children to use as stencils for their bookmarks. Create your own bookmark as an example. For the activity, place all supplies in a central location. Model tracing the cross stencil on the tag-board paper, then cut it out carefully. Have the children each cut at least five crosses from tag-board colors of their choice. Using the rest of the supplies, decorate the bookmarks. Hole punch the top of each cross and string yarn and beads to "top off" the bookmarks. On one side of the cross, have the children

write their favorite Bible verse.

Optional: Select a Sunday where the children can set up a "bookmark" table to display and sell their products for a small donation to the church missions projects. If you have several missions in your church, describe these projects to the children and have them select their favorite to receive the proceeds. Or, discuss various community mission needs with your class and select one to sponsor with this service project. Be sure to include information on this community mission at the "bookmark" table so those donating can learn more about the project themselves.

Jesus Journal (30 minutes)

This craft activity allows children to record Bible truths that help them learn more about Jesus. **Supplies:** craft foam sheets (cut in half), notebook paper (cut to fit inside foam sheets), glue, markers, felt, religious foam or paper stickers (optional), heavy-duty stapler or hole puncher and yarn

Place all supplies in a central location. The children should select a front and back cover for their journals from the foam sheets. Then, have each child carefully place ten pieces of paper inside the covers and staple along the edge. (You could also hole-punch and tie together with yarn if you prefer a fancier edge.) Encourage kids to personalize the front and back covers of their journals with religious symbols they design and cut from the felt. Glue these to the covers and continue to decorate with markers or other Bible stickers.

When the children are finished creating their own Jesus Journals, explain that this will be their personal record of Bible verses that help them learn more about Jesus. Give the children a few minutes to look through the Bible (or your list of "faith" verses from the "Sending Out Disciples" activity). Encourage them to select a verse that helps them grow stronger in their walk with God and/or a verse that they would like to use when sharing God's Word with others. Encourage kids to write new verses in their Jesus Journal often, until they have filled it with their favorites.

Worldly Fears (15 minutes)

This discussion activity exposes children to stories about fear in the world. **Supplies:** newspaper, magazines, or Internet articles, markers

Before this activity begins, scan the media you have chosen and remove anything inappropriate for your children. You may even want to pre-select several articles. For the activity, divide the class into small groups or partners. Give each group one or two articles to read and discuss on their own. Ask the groups to look for examples of how the articles show fears in the world for them or others. Give each group paper to record the details they discover on fear in the articles. Gather together when everyone is finished and take turns reporting as a whole group. Ask, **Can God really help with these needs? Do you believe He listens to your prayers? What does it mean to have faith that God will help conquer these fears?** Close with prayer. Give children a chance to pray for the fears their groups posted.

8. Inside Out

Comparing Miracles (20 minutes)

This comparison activity encourages children to examine Jesus' miracles more closely. **Supplies:** Bibles, poster board, markers

On two separate pieces of poster board, draw two interlocking circles (like a Venn Diagram). Label the circles on the first chart "Luke 8:26-39" and "Matthew 15:21-28." Label the other chart "Matthew 14:13-21" and "Matthew 15:32-39."

Comparing and contrasting two stories means looking for things that are similar and different. Have a volunteer read the two passages for the first chart. Ask the children to offer ways the two stories are similar. Write these similarities in the overlapping section of the circles. Then share ways the two stories are different. Write these ideas in the corresponding circles for each story. Repeat for the second set of passages. **Why do you think God's word has stories that are so similar, yet different? Why are some of the stories written in two or more places in the Bible? How does it make you feel to read about miracles?**

Give Us Clean Hands (20 minutes)

This music activity explores purity. **Supplies:** printed lyrics and audio of the song "Give Us Clean Hands"

Give each child a copy of the song lyrics. Instruct them to silently read the words as you play the song for them. After playing the song, discuss the meaning of the words. **What do you think the first verse means by making us humble and casting out idols? The chorus says, "Let us not lift our souls to another." How can this happen? How can we seek His face, like it says in the next verse? Why does this song refer to God as the "God of Jacob"?** Spend time discussing these and any other questions necessary to make the meaning of the song come to life for the children in a way they can remember.

Divide the class into three groups. Assign each group one part of the song. Ask kids in each group to create actions for their assigned portion of the song. Give the groups about five minutes to practice their actions. Then, gather the groups. Play the song again and have each group act out its part for the others. Play the song once more and encourage all groups to copy each other's actions this time. Challenge the children to teach this song to a family member during the week.

Heart Cards (10 minutes)

This craft activity allows kids to ask an adult they respect to teach them more about having a clean heart. **Supplies:** 9" x 12" construction paper, scissors, marking utensils, stickers or other decorations

Demonstrate how to fold the construction paper and cut out a large heart. **We've learned about clean hearts today. God's Word helps us know what to do to keep our hearts clean. But God also expects adults to help children learn about Him. Think about an adult in the church that you admire and respect. Use your paper heart to create a card asking that adult to help you learn more about having a clean heart before God.** Encourage kids to choose someone other than a relative. This gives them exposure to their church family in a new, fresh way. Help the children with wording and ideas as needed.

9. The Christ

Trading Questions (15 minutes)

This question-and-answer activity asks children to interact with each other about today's Bible passage. Supplies: Bibles, notecards, pencils

Challenge the children to write two or three questions about today's Bible stories. They should write the question on one side of a notecard and the answer on the back. Encourage them to write "thinking," not "yes/no," questions. Trade cards with a friend and try to answer each other's questions. Keep trading with other friends until time runs out or all questions are traded.

Follow the Leader (5 minutes)

This drawing activity reminds kids to follow Jesus. Supplies: paper and pencils

Give students paper and pencils. Instruct them to place their pencils on their papers and close their eyes. Quickly draw an item on a paper or board. Describe it to students so they can draw it—but they must keep their eyes closed. Give specific instructions, such as "Draw a circle, then a line about one inch below that," etc. When you've finished your description, invite students to open their eyes. Whose drawing looks most like yours? Consider how easy or hard it is to follow Jesus.

Meteorologist (10-15 minutes)

This special guest explains the concepts of prediction.

Invite a Christian meteorologist to your class to talk about predicting the weather. Have him or her explain how weather is predicted, offering signs the children can use to make their own predictions about whether it will rain or be sunny. Ask the guest to predict what you will do this evening. Let the guest respond about how difficult it is to predict nature, let alone what people will do—everyone has free will and can do anything at any time. Ask him or her about Jesus, and talk about how only God could have known the things that Jesus knew before they happened.

Interviews with Followers of Christ (10-15 minutes)

This guessing game inspires children with adults who follow Jesus.

Before class, find several adults or teen leaders that many in the class would know—a former Sunday school teacher, a pastor, coach, parents, and so on—and interview them. You can do a written interview, a tape-recorded interview, or for the most fun a video-taped interview with the person darkened so his or her features cannot be seen. Ask these questions: "How did you become a follower of Christ?" "What does it mean to you to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Jesus?"

"What other advice can you give the children about following Christ?"

As you read or play each interview, see if the children can guess who is being interviewed. As a special treat, arrange for these people to come in to class at the end of this activity for a short question and answer time.

Selfish Desires (15 minutes)

This self-examination identifies selfish desires and ways to turn to God. Supplies: paper and pencils

Give each child a pencil and paper. Have the children fold the paper vertically in half. Help them brainstorm many selfish desires they face in life—new toys, lots of clothes, being popular, best in a sport, win awards, etc. Write each item on the board. On the left side of the paper, have the children quietly write a "Top 10" list of their own selfish desires, using any ideas from the board or something new. On the right side of the paper, have them jot down answers to these questions. **List at least three people you can go to for help in controlling selfish desires. Write a plan you can follow that will help you live for God and resist temptations like selfish desires.** (read the Bible every day, pray, ask parents for help, have devotions, etc.) **Lastly, write a short prayer you can say whenever you feel tempted by selfish desires. Keep this paper with you as a reminder of your "Top 10" selfish desires and the ways you can receive help to live for God instead.**

10. Listen to Him!

Unforgettable Experiences (15-20 minutes)

This storytelling activity motivates children to share their personal stories with the group.

Sit comfortably in a circle together. Explain, **Today we are going to share personal stories about unforgettable experiences in our lives. This might be family memories, funny incidents, or troubling times. It can be whatever story you want to share with us, but you have to have been present when it happened. I'll go first.** Use your own interesting story to set the tone. Encourage children to listen respectfully to each story. Take time after each story to ask them to consider what God was doing during that situation. Close the activity with prayer thanking God for the stories in our lives and that He is always with us to help, to celebrate, or to carry us in whatever ways we need.

Worship Together (15-20 minutes)

This music activity creates a time of praise and worship. Supplies: some form of musical accompaniment (CD player/CDs, piano player/sheet music, guitar player/music, etc.)

Before the lesson, select two or three songs about glory and faith. The songs should reflect your kids' musical interests, but should also be familiar or easy to learn. **There are many ways to worship God. What are some of the ways we have learned so far?** (follow His rules, read the Bible, pray, sing, etc.) **Today we get to worship God with a very special time of singing praises to Him.** Tell the children the name of your first song selection and gauge their familiarity with the words. Play it through at least one time if they are not familiar. Encourage them to begin singing along as soon as they are ready. Continue with the other songs, enjoying this special time of musical praise and inspiration.

11. Who Is Greatest?

Moving for Greatness (15-20 minutes)

This movement-based activity highlights that the world's perspective of greatness is not the same as God's.

Stand the children up before beginning this activity. **I am going to say something and I want you to move to the back wall if it is true about you. It's okay if you don't want to move! No one will say anything about your choice to stand or remain seated. If you are sometimes humble, move to the back wall.** Wait a few seconds. Ask a volunteer by the wall to give one example of how he or she is humble. **What is the opposite of humble?** (Proud.) **Now let's try again. If you are sometimes a caring person, move to the front wall.** Repeat the process asking for a few of those who moved to share examples of how they care about others. **What is the opposite of caring?** (Mean.) **If you are sometimes a forgiving person, move to the back wall again.** Repeat with more personal examples. **What is the opposite of being forgiving?** (Holding a grudge.) **If you are ALWAYS humble, caring, and forgiving, move to the front wall.** (No one should move.) If you do have anyone move, ask for clarification on how he or she is always all these things and gently point out that only God is capable of this perfection. **Only Jesus is perfect—ALWAYS humble, caring, and forgiving. That's what makes Him the greatest person of all!**

Modern Day Parables (15-20 minutes)

This drama activity inspires children to think of Jesus' parables in modern terms.

Divide the class into two or more groups to create modern-day skits of today's parables (The Lost Sheep and The Unmerciful Servant). Ask students to create a scene at school, in the neighborhood, at home, or in the mall. Enjoy watching or videotaping their creativity. Discuss the parables as they are retold.

Great People (5-10 minutes)

This discussion activity asks children to identify and describe great people in their lives.

Discuss the word "greatness" as it relates to people. Ask the children to consider who is greatest in their lives. Have them take turns completing this sentence aloud, "_____ is a great person in my life because _____." Encourage every child to share at least one example. Make sure you share at least one example as well. Close by saying, **Who thinks you are great?** Give them a moment to ponder this question. **We are ALL wonderful and special to the greatest person in the world—Jesus Christ! We must be very special if the greatest person in the world thinks we are wonderful!**

Who is Greatest? (15 minutes)

This craft activity creates a book listing examples and qualities of greatness. Supplies: construction paper, pencils or markers, stapler

Before this activity, cut five pieces of construction paper so that they overlap with each paper extending about one inch lower than the previous paper. Staple the top together to create a booklet. Give one to each child. Write "Who Is Greatest?" on the front page (the shortest page in the book). Below the title write, "Jesus was the greatest person who ever lived." On the flaps for each of the remaining pages, the children should write the sub-titles "Humility," "Caring," "Forgiveness," and "How I Can Be Great." On each of these pages, encourage the children to record their observations of people they know who practice those traits of greatness. They should also include a sentence or two on how Jesus demonstrated that trait in His life. Challenge them to be very specific on the last page as they record goals for how they will achieve greatness. If time allows, let the children illustrate their books. Have them to take their books home as a reminder of their road to greatness for God.

12. The Messiah

Testimony Time (10-20 minutes)

This group activity allows everyone a chance to share their personal testimonies. **Supplies:** paper and pencils

Begin by sharing your own testimony with the children. Be specific on how you came to know God and how you continue to grow and follow His will in your life. Include your favorite Bible verses and what they mean to you. Then, invite the children to take a moment and sketch out a few ideas for their own personal testimonies. Everyone is welcome to share their testimony as you have just done, but only if they choose to do so. Encourage the children to take their notes home and use them in prayer throughout the week.

Party Time (10 minutes)

This craft creates invitations to the review lesson for kids' families and friends. **Supplies:** construction paper, markers

Give each child several pieces of construction paper. Direct everyone to fold their papers in half to make cards. They should decorate the front in any inviting manner they choose as long as it reflects Jesus or God in some way. Inside, they should create an invitation to parents to join them for the review lesson celebration about the amazing words of Jesus Christ. If appropriate, guide the children to carefully plan the party so it includes songs and Scriptures that tell about Jesus' words. Let them choose what food they would like to serve. Remind the children that they will be the hosts of this event.

What Would You Need? (20-25 minutes)

This hands-on activity prompts kids to discover things they might need for a camping trip. **Supplies:** sheets or blankets, large poles to drape sheets over

Divide the children into small groups. Give each group a sheet and two or three poles. Challenge the groups to create their own tents using the supplies. When finished, have the children sit inside their tents. **Pretend you've been in your tent for three days now. What would you need to survive?** (Water and food.) **Oh no! You hear a bear coming, what do you need?** (A weapon or way to escape.) **You realize you are lost in the woods, now what do you need?** (Directions or a compass.) Discuss how God provided everything the Israelites needed when they were wandering in the desert for forty years. Tie this to the festival of the Feast of Tabernacles where the Jews celebrated that God provided everything their ancestors needed during the time in the wilderness.