



# Primary Teacher

Spring Quarter, 2018

## *Developing Wholesome Spiritual Relationships*

**Lesson 8  
may be used  
for the  
Easter lesson  
on April 1.**

Unit 1  
**Developing the  
Concept of  
Kindness**

Unit 2  
**Developing the  
Concept of  
Forgiveness**

Unit 3  
**Developing the  
Concept of  
Christian  
Generosity**

**Quarterly Objective:** Learners will list and exhibit concepts involved in developing spiritual relationships which honor God.

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Writer: Lena Case

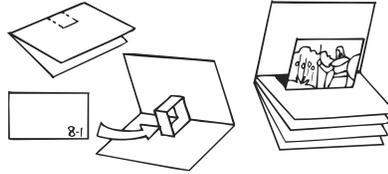
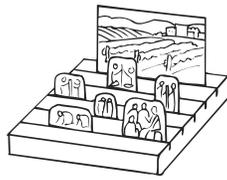
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# Making Lessons STICK



“Can you tell me what this says?” Lauren asked handing her workbook to me. “If I knew what it said, I could work the puzzle,” she added.

The puzzle had individual letters printed on fish shapes scattered randomly over the page. Straight lines connected each fish to all those around it. The instructions said to go in any direction to find letters of the message. I began at the Start arrow and found enough letters to spell one word before losing the trail.

I handed the book back to Lauren with a feeling of defeat—for myself and for her. Why must we hide spiritual growth messages in puzzles, scrambled words and word searches? Class time is too short to devote precious minutes decoding a hidden message. Teach God’s Word clearly the way Jesus did!

Here are instructions found on a worksheet in a magazine. “To discover the why of obedience, find the average of the three numbers by adding them together and dividing the sum by three. Then write the correct letter over each number. Check your answer by reading Colossians 3:20.”

Oh my! I never was good in math.

Leading children to THINK about Bible truths and to make a personal life application is much better. It has meaningful purpose. Filling the short class time with busy seat work accomplishes little to develop a generation of Christians with spiritual strength and beauty.

The challenge of effective teaching intensifies each year. A high-tech world spins children’s minds in fast forward mode as they try to absorb all the skills needed to win in life. Some are left behind, but that must never happen in the Lord’s churches.

Active involvement in the learning process helps children assimilate Bible principles quicker and more permanently. Participation may take the form of role-play for the Bible story action, memory games to learn Bible Insight verses, group interaction to discover meanings or to make life application of the lesson.

Each lesson in this book has suggestions for easy-to-do active learning methods. Some have options for you to choose one which best fits your class. Even with a small class you can plan and use exciting lesson experiences. You will see spiritual growth and increased attendance as children bring friends to share the Bible learning fun.

Make a written schedule for the time allotted for class to allow as much learner involvement as possible. Guide the children to think through spiritual truths to discover God’s message with meaning and purpose for their lives. Discipline yourself to include time for memorization fun, checking or doing learner’s manual activities and making a lesson reminder with the make and take project.

All these teaching tools used together in each class session will give effective results. Then, you need not use fillers that tell you to cross out two letters, circle one, cross out two, circle one. Continue until you have gone through all the letters in the block. Write the circled letters in order on the lines to discover how love and obedience are related.

Young people can think! Just ask, “How are love and obedience related?” They will think about it and discuss it with one another as they share ideas. Try it!

# Let Them Learn!



Positive classroom management empowers your students and you to achieve more during class. Children come from such a variety of backgrounds that a teacher cannot treat them exactly the same and expect good results. Sometimes, a “class clown” and other disruptive children derail the best prepared lesson plan. Understand underlying causes for their behavior, ask God for wisdom in dealing with the problem and keep yourself under the control of the Holy Spirit.

Planning for active involvement in learning experiences actually reduces disruptive incidents. Children become more interested and look forward to what the teacher has for them to enjoy as they learn Bible truths.

Children who come from homes with relationship problems have special needs for generous kindness shared with unconditional love. Address those needs in tactful ways as you conduct the activities related to those themes this quarter.

Withdrawn boys or girls, those unwilling to apply themselves and those who tease each other cause concern as well. They will benefit and grow spiritually with an enthusiastic teacher who shows her excitement about experiencing God in a personal way. God is at work to reach every child in your area. He invites you to join Him and allow Him to work through you to minister to the little children.

To see life-changing learning happen, to see learners who can hardly wait to get to class each week and to see them grow spiritually, teachers must invest themselves, time and effort in the process. They cannot keep on doing what they have been doing and expect to see positive changes.

# Growing a Generation



“What are the bubbles for?” the third- and fourth-graders asked as they came into the room after opening assembly.

“Look at these rocks,” another said picking up a rock from the table in front of him.

Bubbles and rocks? In the classroom? Absolutely. The teacher invited the children to blow bubbles for a minute. He made a point of having them try to catch the bubbles. They talked about how quickly bubbles burst and disappear. Then, he collected the bottles of bubbles and put them away as learners focused attention on the rocks at each place around the table.

“How long did the bubbles last?” the teacher asked. “How long will these rocks last?” After discussing the questions, the teacher guided the children’s thoughts toward temporary pleasures and possessions in contrast to eternal treasures of which Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount. Some things are like bubbles because they last only a short time; others are like rocks because they have lasting value.

Jesus may have called each of us to teach, but we must learn the skills needed to help our pupils apply Bible principles in their lives. The Lord will always enable you to do what He has called you to do.

Get serious in learning how to reach children for Christ. Develop teaching strategies which will help boys and girls learn in your classroom. God will be right by your side to help you.

First of all, be the person you want your learners to become. Your example of daily living habits, your faithfulness to God’s Word and His work, even your personality and facial expression teach them more than the words you tell them. Develop the Christlike way of discipline, courtesy and concern for every child.

Praise and encouragement help children thrive and develop wholesome relationships. A smile on your face

when you see the children come in makes them know you are glad to see them and you are glad for them to be in class. Learners have needs as realistic as adults. Respect each child as an individual with spiritual, mental, emotional, physical and social needs.

The most effective way to help children learn is active involvement. The bubbles and rocks experience touched lives as learners identified things in their own lives which have only temporary value or that are of lasting importance.

Retention of Bible truths escalates when you add sensory methods of teaching. When children do things and talk about what they are learning, they retain a much greater percentage of the lesson. You cannot learn to swim by hearing a lecture, reading a book or watching a demonstration. Only by active involvement—getting into the water and practicing—can you learn to swim. The same principle applies to any subject. Getting involved through doing makes learning happen.

Life application is the goal. Knowing a truth without an emotional or behavioral response does not benefit a life. Concepts in the head without heartfelt actions do not change a person.

Teachable moments offer opportunities to teach concepts in a way that is very meaningful. Switch the focus from teaching the lesson to concern for teaching the learner. What are the current needs in your children’s lives? How can you direct the lesson to meet their needs?

These lessons on kindness, forgiveness and generosity are practical concepts primaries need to learn. Ideas in the lessons provide stimulating ways for involving learners in active participation.

Classes with zing develop young Christians prepared to face life successfully. Boring classes leave boys and girls spiritually malnourished.

Will you make the commitment to the Lord to enthusiastically prepare activities geared to your class and involve learners in discovering Bible truths through them? Become a teacher that makes learning happen.

# Unit 1

Lessons 1-5

## Developing the Concept of Kindness

“Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:32).

### Unit Objective

Learners will apply the concept of kindness in their relationships with others.

Applying the concept of kindness will help learners in their relationships with others.

Boys and girls will know that life is better when respect and thoughtfulness are shown toward others.

Learners will feel happy to share in God’s love with kind words and actions.

Everyone may experience kindness from others and practice compassion in relationships with others.

### This Unit and Your Learners

Kindness expresses a sympathetic, friendly, gentle, tenderhearted and generous nature. Experiencing kindness from others makes clear how pleasant a thing kindness is. Being kind, however, is more important than receiving kindness. To help another with a need, to make him happy, makes one feel stronger, more important and worthwhile.

Some children have a natural temperament for kind words and actions. Their tenderness shows in relationships with others even in how they treat some little animal. Most boys and girls, though, must receive guidance and training to become a kind and gentle person. Like many other positive character qualities, kindness is more caught than taught.

Children need to see kindness modeled daily. The example of living in a kind home environment makes showing kindness a natural thing to do. A home ruled by kindness will have generous loving experiences.

In this unit, you will help learners know how to be kind and find satisfaction in it. Everyone likes a kind person. Children learn thoughtfulness by understanding simple ways to be kind. When they see others happy from being able to help someone, they will want to imitate the pattern.

### Overview of Bible Lessons

**The Apple of God’s Eye**—David’s beautifully worded psalms of praise give us insights into the loving-kindness of God.

**David Plays for Saul**—David’s soothing harp music helped King Saul through episodes of depression. David’s kindness was a part of his character.

**Jonathan Warns David**—Jonathan, King Saul’s son, knew his good friend David would become king of God’s people after Saul. He put David’s well-being first and helped him escape the fury of Saul’s anger. His unselfish kindness encouraged David.

**David Returns Kindness**—In time, after King Saul and Jonathan both died in a battle, David became king of Israel. He searched for and found Jonathan’s son whom he made as one of his own sons. He showed the young man kindness for Jonathan’s sake.

**Sharing Is a Kindness**—A boy who shared his lunch saw Jesus multiply it to feed thousands of hungry people. A small amount given to the Lord can result in tremendous blessings.

### BULLETIN BOARD

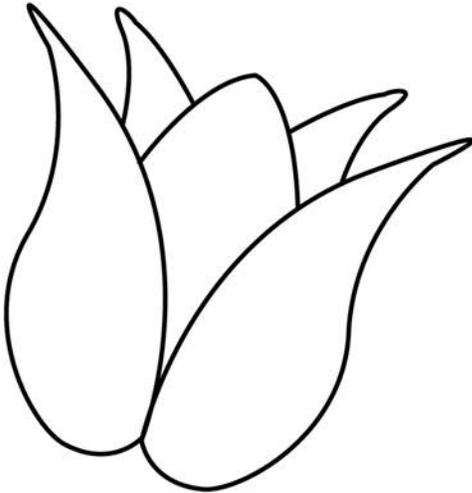
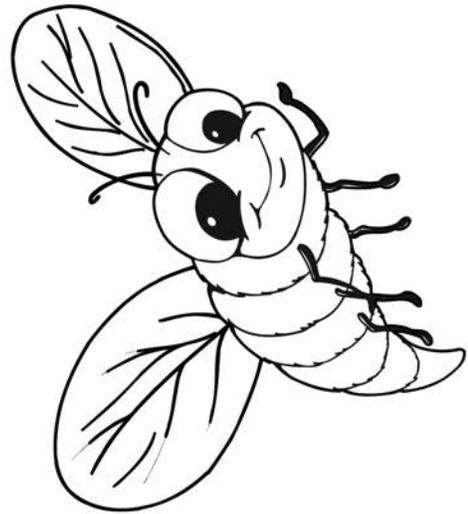
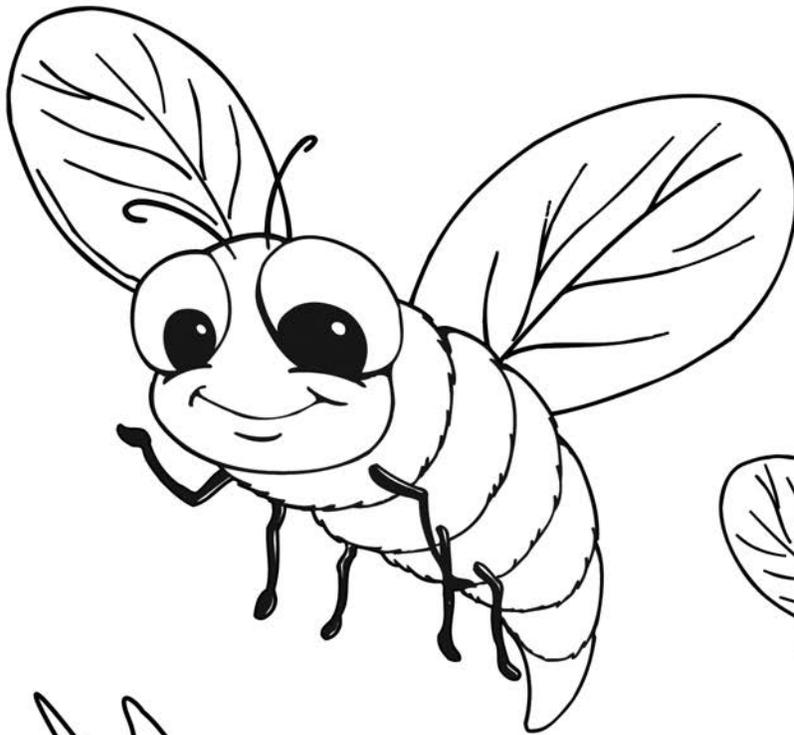


❑ **Materials Needed:** three bees from pattern on Unit 1 Pattern Page, sky blue background, yellow letters

These kind little bees will prompt attention and interest in the theme for this quarter. Make three bees with the patterns on Unit 1 Pattern Page enlarged to the size needed. Color them yellow and black. Cut out. Attach them to a sky blue background with letters cut from yellow paper. Lesson 1 has an idea for using individual bees as behavior incentives for prompting kindness.

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The basis for a better, kinder, more peaceful world is in people who imitate Jesus’ example in daily living.



# The Apple of God's Eye

Lesson  
March 4, 2018

1

Psalms 17:7-9; 36:7; 63:3; 117:2; 119:76

*Psalms of praise for the loving-kindness of God.*



## ◆ Lesson Objective:

Learners will personalize praise for the loving-kindness of God.

## ★ Bible Principle:

God's people should praise Him continually because of His loving-kindness.

## ❖ Bible Insight:

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually be in my mouth."

Psalm 34:1

## ◆ Life Application:

I know God is kind to me and protects me because of His love for me. I will show my appreciation for God's kindness by praising Him and serving Him now.

## Songs of God's Love

Psalms 17:7-9; 36:7; 63:3; 117:2; 119:76

The selected Scripture texts from Psalms all relate to the loving-kindness of our great and mighty God. God's tender consideration and loving care for His people who reverence and praise Him are constant, dependable blessings of daily life. God created us to have fellowship with Him, and it is through praise that we draw close in adoration and worship. Pessimism disappears when we focus on the loving-kindness of the Creator and sustainer of the universe. David, the main author of the Psalms, praised God in words that led others to praise Him.

## KNOW GOD'S WORD

Christians as well as Jews regard the Psalms with special sentiment. David and other writers directed praise to the Lord God of Israel, our Heavenly Father. From references to the Psalms in the historical books of the Old Testament we know the choir sang many of the psalms as part of the Temple worship.

Christians who are hurting find comfort in the Psalms. The joyful child of God finds words to praise Him there. The depressed, struggling family member finds hope and encouragement. The retreating soldier of Christ who yielded to temptation can discover the way back to a loving, patient Jehovah through the Psalms. This magnificent book of literature exalts the Creator through praise for His mighty acts.

The focus of this lesson is praise for God's loving-kindness. Those who place their trust in God can depend on His intervention in unsettling circumstances. The marvelous com-

passion of God protects those who put their trust in Him from any who rise up against them. Hidden "under the shadow of thy wings" is the safest place one could ever be. David requested that God keep him in that cherished position of "apple of the eye."

The loving-kindness of God causes Him to provide generously for all His creatures. How precious it is to serve a God who does far beyond all that we deserve or anticipate! Weak and sin-sick humans can take heart and find help by looking to the safety and defense of God's protecting wings of mercy and loving-kindness.

"Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee" (Psalm 63:3). The title of this psalm states that David composed the poem as he fled through the wilderness of Judah toward the Jordan during the revolt of his son, Absalom.

Rather than give way to hopelessness, complaining and depression, David chose to praise the goodness of God. Praise is the antidote for complaining, and David's example is a most



## Prepare Your Room

- Materials Needed:** colorful posters, banners, bulletin board displays, spring wall decor, Attendance Poster Item 1, marker or crayon, black paper, copy paper, Plasti-Tak, pastel colored paper, wide-tip marker, spring calendar pictures, construction paper

A room that sparkles with colorful interest-catchers invites learning to happen. At this critical point in life for making decisions about spiritual matters, children need to experience lessons they remember forever. That process is much too important to neglect.

Colorful posters, banners and a current bulletin board display all help make a room attractive. Correlate them with the unit theme of kindness for a stronger impact. Change to spring wall decor to reflect God's beautiful world. Here are some ideas for making your own interest spots.

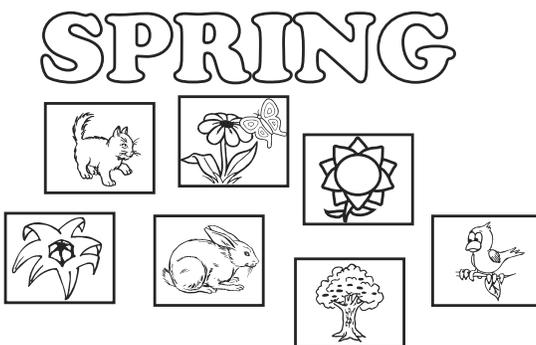
Put the Attendance Poster, Item 1 in visuals, on the door or wall near the door.

Cut 4" black letters for KINDNESS. Mount each letter on a separate 4 1/2" x 6" rectangle of bright copy paper. Arrange on the wall in an irregular pattern using Plasti-Tak for adhesive. (*Never glue anything to the walls or woodwork!*)

God's loving-kindness shows in the dependable world He created with seasons of the year. Spring comes right on time though it varies throughout the world. God is good to give plants that show renewed growth and springtime beauty to refresh us after the dormancy of winter.

Cut large letters for SPRING, one letter per 8 1/2" x 11" sheet of paper, from spring colors. Use a wide-tip marker to outline each letter. Attach letters to a wall area with space under them to display calendar pictures of springtime beauty in God's world. Ask church members to share outdated calendar pictures for the display. Trim away any printed matter. Mount small pictures on construction paper to enhance them.

KINDNESS



A room kept the same month after month loses appeal. Learning God's Word should be a marvelous, joyous celebration of God's goodness and greatness. Your efforts to make the learning atmosphere the best reflects your attitude and commitment to your position. A tangible reward is seeing class members' attendance become more regular with satisfying experiences to help them develop spiritually. Expect to see them invite friends to come for an exciting time of experiencing God's Word.

**Teacher Tip:** Wallpaper suppliers give discontinued sample books to teachers at no cost. Get one to keep with other resources such as construction paper. Other projects this quarter call for using wallpaper.



## VOCABULARY WORDS

kind—courteous, gentle, sympathetic, tenderhearted  
 loving-kindness—tender concern, loving care  
 praise—to extol or honor in words or song, to commend by expressing approval or admiration  
 apple of God's eye—figuratively, a person whom God cherishes

wonderful and admirable pattern for God's people in all eras.

Living in a praise mode like David does not mean to ignore the problem situations and to hope they go away. Instead, it means trusting God's loving-kindness to be with us and seeing His mercy in everyday happenings.

Psalm 117 is the shortest psalm, but it is long enough to direct all nations and people to praise the Lord. "For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise ye the LORD" (Psalm 117:2).

God's continual protection of Israel and His faithfulness to keep His promises remind us of what we might expect from Him today. Generations have passed since the first use of this psalm, but it is as relevant today as then. When we recall God's dealings, we recognize His worthiness to receive praise. His demonstrations of kindness deserve our highest praises.

Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and focuses on the "law" or a synonym for it in all but four of the verses. The psalmist's prayer in verse 76 is "let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant."

Afflictions make us feel the need for comfort. When overwhelmed with adversities, we long for evidence of divine kindness according to the promises of God's Word. Think of experiences in your life which you can share with learners when God's loving-kindness was very real to you. Present-day experiences of His tender care make praising Him more personal.

## EARLY TIME ACTIVITIES

**Materials Needed:** concordances, index cards, pencils, easels from index paper or a manila file folder, pattern on page 3 of learner's manual

Ask learners to record attendance on the attendance poster with a marker upon arrival. Then, have each child cut the

## Lesson Set

**Materials Needed:** Bible, pencil, paper

Creative writing is usually an integral part of schooling and can be meaningful in Bible learning as well. Psalm 136 is a litany-style praise used in worship by Israel. The writer identified a blessing for the leader to read; the response by others after each statement was "for his mercy endureth for ever."

Have learners find the psalm and lead them to read verses 1-9 responsively. You read the first part of each verse with learners reading the repeating words.

Now, have learners alternate saying the words "Praise God." All those who said "praise" are in group *one*; those who said "God" form group *two*, or if you have a large class, add more words to form groups of three or four learners. Use "Praise God's loving-kindness" to form three groups.

Give each child a piece of paper and pencil. Have each group write a responsive recitation of praise following the pattern of Psalm 136. They should choose repeating words of praise and describe God's loving-kindness.

"For His loving-kindness is with us each day" or similar words may be the ending for each praise. Specific praises may name practical ways to praise the Lord.

Offer praise to the everlasting God: *for His loving-kindness is with us each day.*

Exalt His name and praise our God: *for His loving-kindness is with us each day.*

Praise Him for His holy Word: *for His loving-kindness is with us each day.*

Praise Him for springtime beauty in our world: (repeated words).

Praise Him for rain and for sunshine: (repeated words).

Praise Him for eternal life through Jesus our Lord:

. . . for healthy bodies to serve Him:

. . . for a loving church family, the body of Christ.

Children know you are not writing Scripture to add to God's Word. You are following the poetry style of the psalmist in writing praise for God's loving-kindness.

Whoever offers praise glorifies God. David wrote many of the Psalms to praise God's loving-kindness. The Bible story focuses on some of them.

Bible Insight verse for Lesson 1 from page 4 of the learner's manual and glue it to an index card. He should letter his name on the back to identify it later. He can put the card in his Bible to take home. Then, he should place it on the easel made for displaying the Bible verse card.

Show kindness as you welcome arriving learners. Genuine concern for the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well-being of the third- or fourth-graders whose lives you touch means getting involved with them. Your spirit knits with theirs in love. The caring touch, the gentle tone of voice and most of all, the time you invest communicating—listening along with sharing—are rewarding investments of kindness in action.

Logical, understandable experiences help children learn best. Reinforcement through discussion relates experiences to life in such a way that learners apply Bible truths to themselves. They think. The general malaise in Christian education today results more from class session dullness than lack of intellectual capacity. Stimulate thinking that results in learning to change lives.

**Concordance Search**—Provide comprehensive Bible reference books for learners to discover the many verses about praising God. *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible* and *Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible* are good. Try to have at least one concordance for every two learners. It

would be better if each child could use one independently. Ask to borrow one from the pastor or other church members to have enough. The reference pages in the back of most Bibles are not nearly as thorough as needed for this activity.

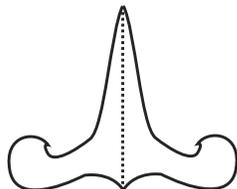
Have each learner find the listing for *praise* by looking alphabetically in the concordance such as finding a word in the dictionary. Explain that one can find Bible verses by finding a key word in the concordance. Read the part of a verse printed beside the reference. It will have only the initial of the key word but will give the reader an idea of how the verse uses the word. Read other references in the list to choose the one wanted.

The searcher then reads the entire verse in the Bible to determine the context or setting for the key word. Praise may appear in a Bible verse without relating to the lesson theme of praise for the loving-kindness of God. (For example, see Philippians 4:8.)

Give each child an index card and pencil. Have him choose one of the verses about praise for the loving-kindness of God and read the entire verse in the Bible to know if it relates to the theme. If it does, have him write the reference at the top of the card and neatly copy the words from the Bible under it.

Cut small easels from index paper or a manila file folder. (Trace a pattern from page 3 of the learner's manual to use. Set the Bible verse cards on the easels as a praise reminder.)

**Psalm 145:2**  
I will praise  
thy name for  
ever and ever.



Guide discussion to help learners relate the praise verses to themselves. What is praise? (*To compliment God by talking or singing of His great love and care.*) What happens when you praise God? What is something in your life that you know came by God's loving-kindness? (*Everything, of course, comes from Him, but ask for specific blessings for which to praise God.*)

Let a volunteer read the first part of Psalm 50:23. Ask these questions and allow for discussion after each: how do we glorify God? How do you think God reacts to our praises? How does a complaining attitude affect praise? Can you grumble and fuss while you praise God? How does praise affect a critical spirit?

Call on each learner to read the verse chosen as his praise for God's kindness.

Psalm 145, titled "David's *Psalm* of praise," makes a beautiful responsive reading. Let a volunteer read aloud the odd numbered verses with the entire group reading the even numbered verses.

## WORSHIP TIME DEVOTIONAL

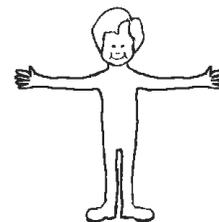
*I Care When You Hurt, 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26*

**Materials Needed:** white marker board or chalkboard, dry-erase markers or chalk

Illustrate the scriptural truth about the body of Christ with a drawing on a dry-erase white marker board or a chalkboard. Learners make a simple cooperative drawing. The first person draws a head; the second adds a body; the third adds arms. Continue the drawing with each learner adding a part to make a complete generic body. With a small class, have learners take turns drawing to complete the body.

Thank the learners for a good drawing and use it to illustrate the principle of 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26.

God used Paul to tell us about the oneness of the body of Christ, His church. (*Draw a circle around the drawing on the board and point to the various parts as you name them.*)



The body has many members. The arms do a wonderful job of reaching things for the hands to pick up. The legs and feet carry the body where you want to go. The toes on each foot help the body stay balanced as you walk or run.

Ears on each side of your head work together to hear sounds around you. Eyes, nose and mouth, every part of the body has a special work to do. God put the body together to work in a marvelous way.

God's purpose was for all the body parts to work together without feeling divided. All of its parts should feel the same concern for each other. When you smash a toe, your whole body feels the pain and may be unable to function if the injury is very severe. If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts share the pain or share the happiness if good comes.

Paul said we, as a church, are the body of Christ. All members of the church are important and have special works to do for the Lord. God wants us to work with one another as the body parts work together.

(*Read 1 Corinthians 12:25, 26 from the Bible.*)

I care when you hurt; you share in the pain when others in our church family suffer.

When something good happens to one of our church family members, we share in the happiness. That is how God planned for the body of Christ to help each other.

## BIBLE STORY

**Materials Needed:** David Puppet figure 1-1, Storyboard figure 1-2, Scripture Poster Item 2, visuals instruction sheet, Styrofoam storyboard, craft stick or paint stirrer or 1" x 8" strip of stiff cardboard, Bible

God is so great He can do anything. David knew God's power because God kept him safe during times of intense danger. Psalm 17 has the title, "A prayer of David." Scholars who study Bible writings believe it was probably written by David when he was persecuted by King Saul. (*Invite a vol-*

unteer to share a summary of David's life when he had to hide to escape death.)

(Hold stick puppet figure 1-1 facing learners.)

David called on God for help and received God's protection. Psalm 17:7-9 is a part of his praise for God's loving-kindness. (Have learners read the verses aloud.)

Being close to God gives a sense of security that nothing on earth can match. (Look at figure 1-1.) The persecution David experienced prompted the beautiful expressions of praise for God's kindness toward him. He had peace because of God's loving care.

(Insert the stick for the puppet in a slot of the Styrofoam storyboard to hold it upright. Place Scripture Poster, Item 2, before the learners. Invite a volunteer to read aloud the words of the Bible verse printed on the poster.)

How precious is the loving-kindness of our God! It is so much greater than we can imagine. We feel encouraged by abiding in Christ, staying under His protecting wings and looking to Him alone for safety and defense in times of trouble.

In Psalm 63:3, David gives his reason for praising the Lord. What was it? (Wait for learners to find the verse and give the answer: "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life.") David was on the run to escape King Saul's vengeful jealousy. God protected him each time when Saul came with an army to capture him. He knew from personal experience how God's loving-kindness was better than anything life had to offer.

The shortest chapter in the Bible is Psalm 117. It is long enough, though, to show there is one supreme object of worship for all men and one duty we all have. (Have learners find it in the Bible.)

Whom does the writer say we should praise? (The Lord.) Who should praise Him? (Everyone. Place figure 1-2 in a storyboard slit in front of figure 1-1.) God alone is worthy of worship. All people in every nation of the world need to hear of the merciful kindness of God and direct their praise to Him.

Why should all people in every nation praise the Lord? (Verse 2.) God is good and deserves more worship and praise than we can give in a lifetime. Our praise pleases God.

(Lead the class to read aloud in unison the words of Psalm 117.)

Now turn to Psalm 119, a large collection of prayers, praises and promises of obedience. This is the longest chapter in the Bible with twenty-two sections of eight verses each. The Law of God is the writer's subject with synonyms for "law" used in the various verses. We do not know who wrote this collection in the book of Psalms, but God inspired whoever it was.

In verse 76, the writer expresses a need for comfort and wants to see proof of divine kindness. He knows God's loving-kindness is always present, but circumstances of affliction or adversity made him want God to fulfill His promises.

(Have someone read the verse aloud.)

How does God show His loving-kindness in times of trouble? (He gives extra strength emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually when we go through adversity.)

"The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy" (Psalm 103:8).

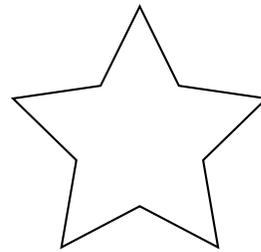
## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

**Materials Needed:** foam, scissors

In what ways have you known God's loving-kindness today? earlier this week? or recently? (Allow time for children to think about the matter and choose something to share in praise.)

God's people should praise Him continually because of His loving-kindness. He is kind and protects us because of His love. We show appreciation for God's kindness by praising Him and serving Him.

Would you like to praise God right now? (Use the pattern below to make a foam star. Enlarge the star pattern to make a 10" star pattern. Lay the pattern over a scrap of 2" thick foam and use sharp scissors to cut out the star. Hold the star before learners.)



God is the star of our praise. What is praise? (Let learners share their ideas for a definition.) Praise is bragging on God to others or directly to Him in prayer. I will toss the foam star to someone. If it comes to you, hold it so that one point is at the top as you describe the loving-kindness of God in praise.

(Gently toss the foam star to an outgoing student whom you feel will readily share a praise. Remind him to turn a point of the star upward to direct praise to God. After sharing a praise, the learner tosses the foam star to another child who repeats the actions.)

You please God when you offer praise to Him for His kindness and loving care. Glorifying God through praise is a priority for His children who love Him and are grateful for His blessings.

## BIBLE INSIGHT

**Materials Needed:** scissors, paper, catalog pages of clocks and watches, glue, Bible

"I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth" (Psalm 34:1).

Provide scissors, a piece of paper for each child and color pages of watches or clocks from catalogs. Have each one cut out a clock or watch and glue it to a piece of paper. Then, have each child copy around it the words of the Bible Insight verse from the Bible, Psalm 34:1. Letter the words of the verse on the board or piece of newsprint if learners have different versions of the Bible.

Form two groups of learners. (A group may be one person.) Direct group one to say the reference and words of the first

part of the Bible Insight verse. Have group *two* respond with words of last part of the verse and repeat the reference at the end. Then, switch the assignment for group *two* to begin the recitation and group *one* to end it.

Invite individuals to say the entire verse and reference alone. Award a hand stamp or sticker to all who can say the words correctly.

## Learner's Manual

**Materials Needed:** pencils, crayons, index paper or tagboard, newsprint, glue sticks, Bible

Follow up your lesson presentation with active learner involvement. The four pages of the learner's manual material for each lesson leads learners to think and use the Bible to find answers. Guide them to discover spiritual truths for themselves so that learning will be more meaningful.

Page 3 has a pattern for making an easel to hold an index card. Provide index paper or tagboard from which to cut them. (*Thin cardboard from consumer products will work as well.*) Trace the pattern to a piece of newsprint for each learner to use for cutting the easel. He will use the easel at home for the entire quarter.

Keep a supply of index cards on hand for making a verse card each week. Each child will cut the memory verse for the lesson from page 4 and glue it to an index card. (*Glue sticks work best so that the paper does not crinkle.*) He will take the card home and set it on the easel to remind himself of the verse learned in class. This will take only a minute or two each week and will make the verse much more meaningful to see it every day.

Read the first two paragraphs of the Bible story page. Let learners take turns reading the praise verses on the scroll.

Praise Him! on the second page of Lesson 1 is a creative writing assignment. Invite learners to choose either of the praise ideas to complete. Allow two minutes for lettering praise words for a miniposter or writing praises in a letter about God.

Praising God is a practical exercise in worship. Learners need practice to experience praise. Say the words of the Bible Insight verse together. Then, give learners time to draw in the space provided. **Ask:** When should you praise God? Let a volunteer share the answer for everyone to write on the line—"At all times."

Have volunteers read the definitions of praise on the lower half of the Bible Insight page. Psalm 148 directs all creation to praise the Lord. Invite learners to form pairs or work individually to read the psalm and write at least twelve things that should praise the Lord. Ask each child to work independently

to answer the question at the bottom of the page. Then, have them share ideas for how things of nature praise the Lord.

The last page for Lesson 1 calls for ways to praise God. If we practice praising Him continually, there must be other ways than singing, praying, going to church for worship and giving tithes and offerings. Wait for learners to think about it and suggest ways they may praise God while going about everyday activities such as chores, homework or attending classes at school. Having good attitudes, practicing honesty, being kind, obeying and honoring those in authority over us are ways to honor God with a life lived in praise. Our words, actions and attitudes can all reflect our praise of God.

One class of third- and fourth-graders had a kite flight fellowship with religious kites to fly over the neighborhood. Because the large message printed on the kites shared the good news about Jesus' love, the children glorified God through their fun.

## Make and Take

**Materials Needed:** pencils, scissors, glue, construction paper

Explain the title of this lesson, The Apple of God's Eye, as representing a person whom God cherishes. God loves all His children. Hearing our praise as we worship Him pleases God.

Hand out the make and take project pages for Lesson 1. Have each learner write the words of the Bible Insight verse on the lines in the apple shape. David pleased God because he chose to obey God's commands. Can Christians today please God so that He cherishes and blesses them as "the apple of God's eye"? God's loving-kindness is unconditional, but we cheat ourselves of blessings when we choose anything other than God's will.

Give scissors, glue and pieces of construction paper for each learner to cut out the apple and make a poster by gluing it to the colored paper.

## Saying Good-bye

**Materials Needed:** take-home papers and children's things

Encourage learners each day to write or tell others a praise for God's loving-kindness. Praise lifts our spirits to soar above the ordinary. As we practice praises, we develop an attitude of genuine gratitude for blessings enjoyed from the hand of God. Children's praises motivate others to recognize God's goodness.