

GOOD NEWS BEARS CLUB
BIBLE DISCOVERY
"Blessings from God"

Recommended for: All

LESSON AIM: To help the children know that they are is a blessing from God. To understand that God will take care of their needs and bless them.

MEMORY VERSE: *"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* Matthew 6:33

SUPPLIES: Jar pattern traced on folded paper, butcher paper, crayons, markers. Photocopies of finger puppet patterns. Bibles, pencils, paper.



Younger Children:

As each child arrives have them lie down on a large piece of butcher paper. Draw an outline of the child. Write across the top of the paper, "God wants to bless me." Have the child color in the outline of him/herself. Adult assistance may be necessary as the child tries to draw eyes, nose, ears, mouth, etc.

Older Children:

Clear an area in your room for this activity. As each child arrives whisper one color to half the group, another color to the other half. However, one child, someone who has an outgoing personality will get a completely different color. (He or she will be the only one with this color) Turn off the lights and have the two color groups find their teammates by calling out their colors. When you are finished, ask these questions:

- How did you find each other?
- What happened to the person who was the only one with that color?
- Did you keep calling?
- How did you feel?



BIBLE DISCOVERY:

Younger Children:

Read out loud about Elisha in 2 Kings 4:1-7. Use the jar pattern on folded paper. Cut out the jar while you are sharing the story, and at the end, unfold the paper and show them the multiplied jars.

Older Children: Sometimes we go through times in our lives when we feel alone. Perhaps we don't think God hears us or cares. Tell the following story, but have the children put themselves in the situation and to think about how they would feel.

Elisha was visiting a town and a woman, who was the widow of one of his friends, came up to him and asked him for help. Women in certain countries were not allowed to work. If a woman's husband died, she had to beg or ask other people for help. In those countries, women who didn't have husbands were not accepted by other people and they had a hard time getting help.

She still lived in her house, but she owed a lot of money to people. Back then, if you owed money and couldn't pay it, you or your children were sold as slaves to work until the debt was paid. The creditors were coming to get her two sons, which would have been her only hope for support. As her boys got older, they could have found work and helped their mother pay the debt. If the creditors came to take her sons away she would be left with nothing, not even family. She was very desperate.

Elisha asked her, "What do you have in your house? Is there anything you can sell to pay your debt?" The widow explained to him that she didn't even have food, all she had was a little bit of oil in a jar. Olive oil was used for both cooking and fuel. Elisha told her, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors- empty vessels; do not gather just a few." Then he told her to close her front door and have her sons help her pour the oil from her pitcher into the vessels. She did and the oil kept pouring and pouring until she finally ran out of vessels. She couldn't believe the huge amount of oil that was provided. Because of God's blessing, she was able to pay off her debts, keep her sons with her, and have enough money to buy food for her and her family.



ACTIVITY: Younger Children: Create finger puppets. Attached is a pattern for finger puppets. Have the children color the pattern and then help tape them on their fingers. Have the children repeat for you the story using the finger puppets.

Older Children: Provide paper and pencils for each child. List the following verses on a chalk board or poster board. Have a couple of children read the verses aloud.

Romans 8:28 Philippians 4:6,7 Matthew 6:32-34

Have the students write one of the scripture references on the paper and tell how that verse relates to a situation in their own life. Have them take

that paper home and look at it several times as a reminder that God wants to meet their needs and bless them.

SNACK: If you are able, make muffins, or a food that contains oil. Let the kids help. (bread, plain donuts, or crackers)

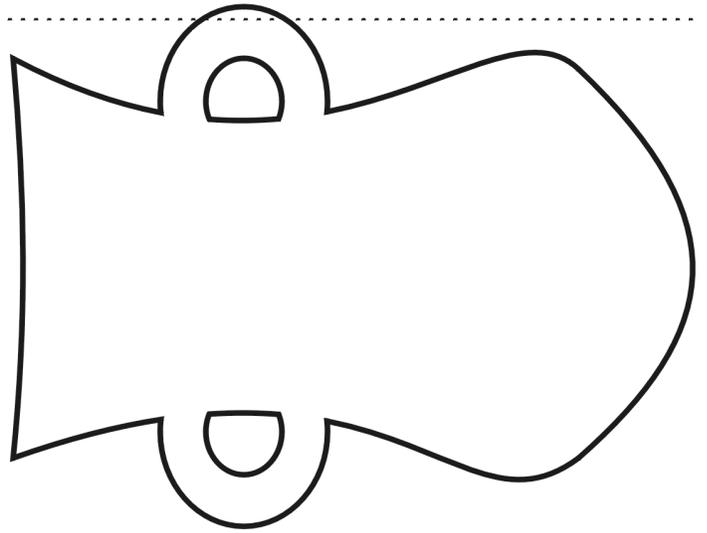
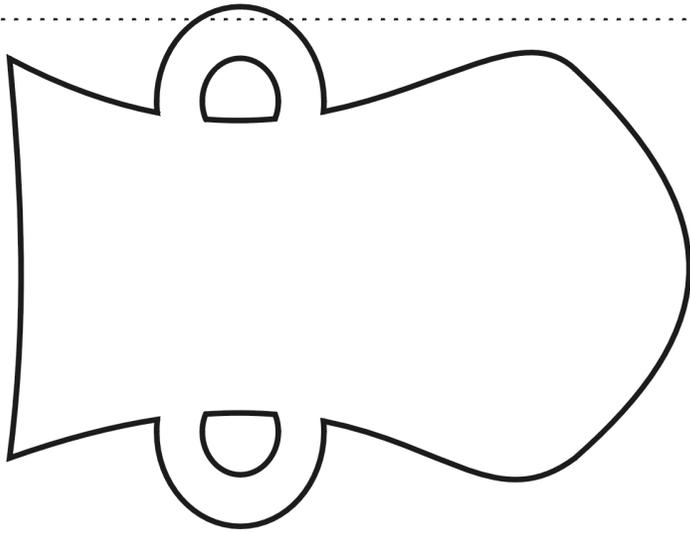


CONCLUSION: Talk about how each child is a blessing from the Lord, and what an important part they are in their family and in God's family. God loves you and cares for you. He knows when you are having hard times. He knows when your parents are having a hard time. Refer to the story read earlier, it shows God does help us. We can receive, from God, blessings bigger than we ever imagined.

Note: Consider the possibility that some children aren't happy with their family life; try to find something positive in their situation. Have an adult come and share their testimony, especially if they came from a hard environment or poor home. Please make sure the adult does not dwell on the negative aspects of their life. A message of comfort and help is what should be portrayed by your speaker.

Jar Pattern

Directions:
Fan-fold this page according to the dotted lines and cut out the jar from the paper like you would a paper doll. Be sure to not cut around the handles they are supposed to overlap the edges.



This pattern is to be used with the lesson, "Blessing from God"
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Elijah and the Widow Finger Puppets

Photocopy this page onto card-stock and pass them out to the children. Have the children color, cut-out and fasten the finger puppets with tape.

