

ENCOUNTER: DISCOVERING JESUS



Liz Lemon Swindle, *Without Purse or Scrip*

A Kindergarten – Second Grade
Experience for Discovering Jesus



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Please note:

Italics – Directions to do

Bold – Steps/titles to guide you

Regular – Read aloud

Discovering Jesus

Kindergarten, First Grade, and Second Grade

Core Gospel Framework

The core message of the Gospel is called the *kerygma*. The *kerygma* informs the central mission and identity of the Church and the identity of every baptized Christian. The most basic form of the *kerygma* contains five lessons. These five lessons are: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Salvation, and Re-Creation.

- I. Creation: God is love and has created me for relationship with him.
- II. Fall: I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.
- III. Redemption: Jesus restores my relationship with God through His life, death, and resurrection.
- IV. Salvation: Jesus invites me to trust him, to turn from sin and to give my life to Him.
- V. Re-Creation: Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience new life.

Format for each lesson of the Kerygma:

1. Announce each lesson with a visual cue.
2. Read the simple Scripture passage.
3. Guide the children with questions to spark ideas and questions.
4. Engage with a song to process.
5. Lead activity or movement so children can begin to internalize.
6. Pray with the children.

Lesson 1

God is love and has created me for relationship with Him.

1. Announce: *Display a Creation image: such as Image 1a, 1b, or 1c on page 24-25 or one of your own that you really love. Display on a Smart Board, a poster, or a screen/iPad/etc.*



God made everything! God made everything good! What are some of the good things you see in this picture?

Encourage the children to share the good things they see in the picture(s) of nature.

What are good things God made we see outside?

Encourage the children to share the good things they see in nature. If your class was recently outside (recess, etc), encourage them to share good things in nature they just saw.

2. Read [Psalm 139:1, 5, 14]

The Bible says,

“Lord, you know all about me. You are all around me, behind me and in front of me. You hold me safe in your hand. How you made me is amazing and **wonderful.**”

Lesson I

3. Guide

God made everything good. God made you! God gave us so many gifts and talents. God gave me a gift for:

(teaching, cooking, playing soccer / personalize to yourself)

Who can share a talent or gift God gave you?

(music, art, sports, etc – ask children to share)

All the good things come from God. That includes you and me! God made us so good! What is a good thing about you?

(give an example, like “God made me kind” and ask the children for ideas about themselves)

God is love. He loves everyone and He loves you! Who else loves you?

(parents, grandparents, friends, siblings, etc)

God loves us the most of anyone. Isn't that amazing?

4. Engage

We're going to learn a simple prayer song so we can tell God how much we love him.

Lead the children in learning the first verse of “Father I Adore You.” If you don't know the tune, play [this video from YouTube](#) and sing along with the first verse until the children pick up the tune.

Father I adore you
lay my life before you
how I love you!

(repeat two more times)

Lesson 1

5. Lead

God Made game: (can be done outside or in a classroom)

Invite the children to stand up and have space to themselves. Invite the children to repeat after you and do the motions.

Good morning/afternoon, God! *(use your hands to make a mouth trumpet)*
God, thank you for making the dirt under my feet. *(stamp loudly)*
God, thank you for making the sun and sky above me. *(raise hands up high)*
God, thank you for making all of nature. *(arms out to the side)*
God, thank you for making all the good things! *(spin in a circle with arms out)*
Most of all, God, thank you for me! *(bring hands in over your heart)*

Time permitting, you can do this several times, at different speeds, volumes, etc. If you are outside or by a window, add things like “God, thank you for trees... birds... ladybugs... etc.”

6. Pray

Encourage the children to sit comfortably and be calm. Explain:

Boys and girls, we are going to pray together. Prayer means talking and **listening to God. I’ll pray some words out loud, and you can pray along with my words by being good listeners.**

Dear God, you are so awesome! You made the world so good, so beautiful. Best of all, you made all of us! You made us to be good and loving just like you. Dear God, help me to know in my heart how much you love me. Help me remember **how good and special I am. I love you, God! In Jesus’ name, Amen.**

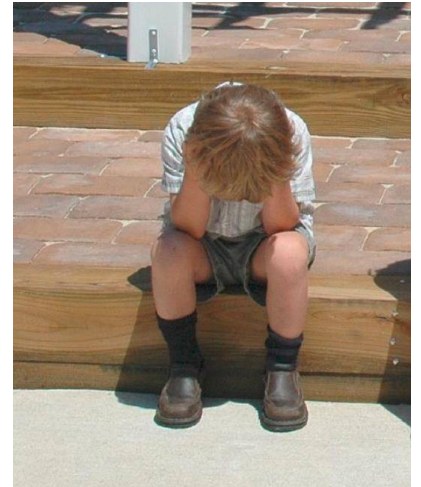
Lesson 11

I have broken my relationship with God by my sin.

1. Announce: *Display a Fall/Sin image, such as Image 2a, 2b, or 2c on page 25-26 or one of your own that you really love. Display on a Smart Board, a poster, or a screen/iPad/etc.*

Sometimes things are sad, or we feel angry, or hurt, or scared. How do think this child is feeling?

*Encourage the children to share the clues that **something isn't** right in the picture(s).*



Remember that all good things come from God. All things that are scary, bad, or hurtful happen because of sin.

Encourage the children to share quick ideas of actions or choices that are scary, bad, or hurtful.

Sin is a thought, a word, or an action that we choose to do even when we **know it's wrong**. **A mistake or accident is not a sin because we didn't do it on purpose**. When we choose to sin, we hurt ourselves, we hurt other people, and we hurt God.

Encourage the children to list simple sins they know – such as lying, calling someone a hurtful name, cheating on homework, etc.

God loves us no matter what, even when we sin. But God wants us to be close to him, and when we sin, we pull away from God. **Then we aren't as close to God anymore**. We need help to get close to God again! Who do you think takes away sins and gets us close to God again?

Jesus! Jesus is God's Son. He loves us so much that He came and took all our sins away.

Lesson 11

2. Read [Isaiah 59:2, 3, 8]

The Bible says,

“Your sins have separated you from God. Your mouth has told lies. They plan to make trouble. Then they carry it out. They don’t know how to live in peace with others. What they do isn’t fair. We aren’t being treated fairly. We haven’t been set free yet.”

3. Guide

When we choose to sin, we cause hurt.

If you choose to call your friend a mean name, how will they feel?

If you choose to lie to your mom or dad, how will they feel?

If you choose to break someone’s toy on purpose, how will they feel?

Share a story about a time you hurt a friend or family member with a sinful choice. For example, “When I was seven, I broke a fancy vase in my house. It was a mistake, and I didn’t do it on purpose. But I was afraid my mom would be angry! So I hid the pieces and didn’t tell her. Then Mom asked me, “What happened to that vase?” I said, “I don’t know.” That was a lie! I did know what happened. I said something that was not true. I sinned. My mom found out I was lying. She was so sad I had lied to her. She wasn’t mad about the broken vase; that was an accident. But she was hurt that I told a lie.

4. Engage

We’re going to learn a simple prayer song so we can remember that Jesus will help us when we sin.

Lead the children in singing “Jesus Remember Me.” If you don’t know the tune, play [this video from YouTube](#) and sing along until the children pick up the tune.

Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom
Jesus, remember me
when you come into your kingdom

(repeat two more times)

Lesson 11

5. Lead

The Bridge Craft Part 1: Each child needs materials and workspace (desk/table).
Step-by-step instructions for this activity are on page 32-33.

Invite the children to settle and get ready to create their project. Distribute materials.

Hold your paper like this. (*landscape/horizontally*)

On this side, draw some people. You can draw a family, one person, or lots of people.

On the other end of the paper, draw God. You can draw whatever makes you think of God.

Who remembers what is a sin? (*children give answers*)

Sin is a choice. When we do something wrong on purpose, it's a sin.

Sin separates us from God.

Carefully rip your paper so that the people are apart from God. (*see diagram*)

Now people are apart from God. This is a big problem!

God still loves all the people. But they don't always know that because they're apart from God.

Who do you think could fix this problem? (*children give answers*)

Jesus will come to save us! That will be wonderful.

Lesson 11

6. Pray

Encourage the children to sit comfortably and be calm and quiet. Explain:

Boys and girls, we are going to pray again. We will have some time of quiet and some words to listen to.

Dear God, I know you love me no matter what. Help me to remember how **good and loving you are. Sometimes I sin. I make choices that hurt others. I'm** so sorry. God, please help me to follow Jesus and not sin.

Now we'll be quiet for a few moments and you can talk to God in your heart.

Give the children a few seconds of silence – about 15-20. It will feel long for them!

Boys and girls, will you repeat the words of this prayer? You can say them out loud after I do.

Dear God, *(children repeat)*

Thank you for being so close to us. *(children repeat)*

Thank you for sending Jesus. *(children repeat)*

Thank you that Jesus shows me your love. *(children repeat)*

Amen. *(children repeat)*

Lesson III

Jesus restores my relationship with God by His life, death, and resurrection.

1. Announce: *Display a Jesus Restores image, such as Image 3a, 3b, or on page 27-28 or one of your own that you really love. Display on a Smart Board, a poster, or a screen/iPad/etc.*



What causes people be apart from God?
Who remembers from our picture craft?

(sin separates people from God)

Who was the person who could bring us back to being close to God?

(Jesus)

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus died on the Cross for our sins. What happy thing happened next?

(He rose!)

Jesus rose from the dead! It was the best day. Do you know day that was?

(Easter)

Because Jesus died and rose from the dead, we can be close friends to God forever!

2. Read [John 3:16]

The Bible says,

"God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will have eternal life."

Lesson III

3. Guide

(Note: If you have a copy of [The Garden, the Curtain, and the Cross](#) by Carl Laferton, this would be a perfect place to read it to the children instead of the Guide discussion.)

Sin is a choice that causes hurt. Sin keeps us apart from God and apart from other people. Sin makes us sad and brings all the bad things.

Jesus never sinned. Can you imagine?! He always did what God the Father asked of him. He always treated everyone with kindness and respect. Jesus always chose love. Jesus never chose sin.

Jesus died on the cross. It really hurt him. His friends were so sad. But something amazing happened! Because Jesus died, all our sins could be taken away! We can be close to God forever!

4. Engage

We're going to learn the next part of our simple prayer song so we can tell God how much we love him.

(to the same tune as "Father I Adore You" from Lesson I)

Jesus I adore you
Lay my life before you
How I love you

(repeat two more times)

Lesson III

5. Lead

The Bridge Craft Part II: Each child needs materials and workspace (desk/table). Step-by-step instructions this activity are on page 34-35.

Invite the children to settle and continue their project.

Because of sin, people and God are separated. We can't get to heaven, we can't love God as much, and we can't love other people as much. This is a problem!

Only Jesus could fix this problem. Jesus is God, but Jesus is also a human person, a man who lived on earth. Jesus is God AND a human, so He can fix the sin problem.

Jesus died on the Cross so we could be close to God again. Let's use the Cross to put things back together.

Students will need glue or glue sticks for this part. Glue sticks are suggested for Kindergarteners and 1st graders.

Kindergarteners and 1st graders are suggested to use pre-cut crosses. (See page 36 for printables.)

2nd graders can make their own crosses from popsicle sticks or pre-cut pieces of cardstock.

Jesus died on the Cross because He loves us. He loves us so much that He **didn't want anyone to be apart from God. To remember Jesus' love, let's add the heart on the Cross.**

Lesson III

6. Pray

Encourage the children to sit comfortably and be calm and quiet. Explain:

Boys and girls, let's pray about this. Will you repeat the words of this prayer?
You can say them out loud after I do.

Dear God, *(children repeat)*

You have made me so good and special. *(children repeat)*

Sometimes I choose to sin and hurt others. *(children repeat)*

I'm sorry. *(children repeat)*

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. *(children repeat)*

Jesus took away my sins on the Cross. *(children repeat)*

Jesus died this way because He loves me. *(children repeat)*

Thank you Jesus! *(children repeat)*

Amen. *(children repeat)*

Lesson IV

Jesus invites me to trust him, to turn from sin and to give my life to God Him.

1. Announce: *Display a Salvation image, such as Image 4a, 4b, or 4c on page 28-29 or one of your own that you really love. Display on a Smart Board, a poster, or a screen/iPad/etc.*

Jesus wants to be our best friend. He wants to be close to you and to me. Jesus wants us all to follow him. When we follow Jesus, we become like him!

2. Read [Mark 10:13, 14]

The Bible says,

“People were bringing children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on them and bless them. But the disciples told them to stop. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me. Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to people like them.”



Lesson IV

3. Guide

Who has a friend they love? How do you and your friend show friendship?

(children respond)

I have a best friend too! Their name is:

(name your best friend, spouse, etc)

We show our friendship by:

(spending time together, helping them, giving a hug, etc)

Jesus loves us so much. Remember, Jesus loves us the most of anyone! He wants to be our friend too. To be a friend of Jesus, we need to learn about Him, spend time with Him, talk to Him, and listen to Him.

Do you have other ideas? How can we be friends of Jesus?

(children respond)

Lesson IV

4. Engage

Lead the children in singing “Open My Eyes.” If you don’t know the tune, learn it from [YouTube here](#) (just the first minute and a half) so you can sing along until the children pick up the tune.

Boys and girls, we are going to learn another prayer song. Listen and sing with me:

Open my eyes Lord
Help me to see your face
Open my eyes Lord
Help me to see

Open my ears Lord
Help me to hear your voice
Open my ears Lord
Help me to hear

Open my heart Lord
Help me to love like you
Open my heart Lord
Help me to love

(repeat)

Lesson IV

5. Lead

Lead the children in *I am a Friend. I am a Friend of Jesus!* activity. Instructions and printables are on page 37-39. Distribute materials for each child.

Boys and girls, we are going to remember how we are friends with others and friends with Jesus.

Can you find where the **paper** says “**Me and My Friends?**”

(Point out for those who aren’t sure.)

In that space, draw a picture of you with some friends.

Can you find where the paper says, “Me and Jesus?”

(Point out if needed.)

In that space, draw a picture of you with Jesus.

Look at the pictures. Can you find the picture of friends talking? Glue it here.

(Indicate the box “We talk together.”)

How do we talk to Jesus? We pray! Can you find the picture of praying? Glue it here. *(Indicate the box “We pray.”)*

Look at the pictures. Can you find the picture of reading a card? Glue it here.

(Indicate the box “We read cards and letters.”)

How do we read words from Jesus? We read the Bible! Where is the picture about reading the Bible? Glue it here.

(Indicate the box that says “We read the Bible.”)

When friends get together, it’s like a party! Can you find the picture of a party? Glue it here. *(Indicate the box “We go to fun parties together.”)*

How do we celebrate our love for Jesus? We go to Mass! Where is the picture of going to Mass? Glue it here. *(Indicate the box that says “We go to Mass.”)*

Sometimes we hurt our friends. Can you find the picture of saying sorry? Glue it here. *(Indicate the box “We say sorry.”)*

When we choose to sin, we hurt Jesus. We say sorry and He forgives us.

(Second grade classes can add, “We go to Confession to tell Jesus we are sorry and will try again. We receive forgiveness from Jesus through the priest.”)

Can you find the picture of being close to Jesus? Glue it here.

(Indicate the box “I say sorry and He forgives.”)

Lesson IV

6. Pray

Encourage the children to sit comfortably and be calm and quiet. Explain:

Boys and girls, let's pray. Please repeat the words after me.

Dear God, *(children repeat)*

Thank you for sending Jesus. *(children repeat)*

I love Jesus so much! *(children repeat)*

Jesus, I ask you to come into my heart. *(children repeat)*

Jesus, I want to be your friend. *(children repeat)*

Jesus, I want to be close to you. *(children repeat)*

Let's take some quiet time. You can talk to Jesus in your own heart. Close your eyes and talk to Jesus in your heart.

Give the children a few seconds of silence – about 15-20. It will feel long for them!

Let's say together "Jesus, I love you!" *(children repeat)*

Let's pray "Jesus I love you!" three times together.

Jesus, I love you.

Jesus I love you.

Jesus, I love you.

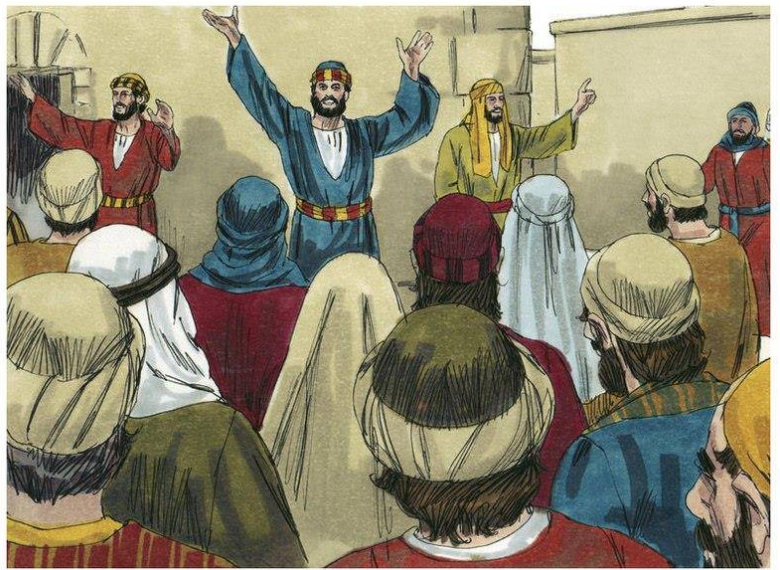
Amen.

Lesson V

Jesus has poured the Holy Spirit into my heart to bring me to new life in His Church and sends His Church on mission so that others can experience new life.

1. Announce: *Display a Re-Creation image, such as Image 5a, 5b, or 5c on page 30-31 or one of your own that you really love. Display on a Smart Board, a poster, or a screen/iPad/etc.*

The news about Jesus is such good news! God made us so good, and even when we sin, Jesus will save us. Jesus loves me and He loves you. Jesus loves every person! Some people are sad. Some **people don't have enough food. Some people don't know** that God made them good. **Some people don't know** Jesus loves them. The Holy Spirit helps us to share the news about Jesus and to help others.



2. Read [John 14:15, 16, 17, 26]

In the Bible, Jesus says,

“If you love me, obey my commands. I will ask the Father, and he will give you another friend to help you and be with you forever. That friend is the Spirit of truth. The Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I said to you.”

Lesson V

3. Guide

When we hear really great news, we tell our friends! Good news can be like **“the Packers won!”** or **“my aunt had a baby!”** or **“I get to go see a funny movie!”**

Who do you like to share good news with?

(children respond)

When I have good news, I like to tell my:

(spouse, family, best friend, etc.)

I tell them so we can be happy together!

Sometimes we tell good news with our words. Sometimes we tell good news with our actions. Sometimes we do both!

(Share a brief story about some good news when you were excited.)

The best news ever is about Jesus. Jesus loves us, He died on the cross for us, He rose from the dead, and He wants to be our friend forever. Jesus told us that He would send the Holy Spirit to help us always.

The Holy Spirit helps us to know what Jesus wants. The Holy Spirit helps us tell about Jesus. And the Holy Spirit helps us to be kind and loving to other people the ways Jesus would.

When you were a little baby (or younger child), you were baptized. The Holy Spirit has been with you since then, helping you to grow close to Jesus and to love others.

(Note: If there are children in your class who are not baptized, assure them that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to all His friends.)

Lesson V

4. Engage

We're going to learn the last part of our simple prayer song so we can tell God how much we love him.

(to the same tune as "Father I Adore You" from Lesson I and "Jesus I Adore You" in Lesson III)

Spirit I adore you
Lay my life before you
How I love you

(repeat twice more)

5. Lead

Jesus' Friends Help game: Suggested to copy the two kinds of signs on two colors of paper for simplicity. Number the children off into two groups.

Give out the yellow "A Friend in Need" signs found on page 40-41 to about half the class.

Give out the green "Jesus and Church Can Help" signs found on page 42-43 to about half the class.

Direct the children to spread out around the room, mixing up the groups.

People who follow Jesus share His love with others. If you have a yellow sign, you are a friend in need. If you have a green sign, you can find a friend who needs help so they can get help from Jesus and the Church.

Direct the children to find the partner who matches their sign. For example, "Some friends don't have food." and "We can share our food." There will be duplicate pairs.

Direct the children to sit with the partner(s) they found. Once everyone has found their partner, exchange signs and play again.

Lesson V

6. Pray

Encourage the children to sit comfortably and be calm and quiet. Explain:

Boys and girls, let's end with a prayer to the Holy Spirit. Please repeat the words after me.

Dear God, *(children repeat)*

Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to all Jesus' friends. *(children repeat)*

I am one of Jesus' friends. *(children repeat)*

Help me to tell others about Jesus. *(children repeat)*

Help me to notice others in need. *(children repeat)*

Help me to show them love and kindness. *(children repeat)*

I love you, Father God. *(children repeat)*

I love your Son Jesus. *(children repeat)*

I love the Holy Spirit. *(children repeat)*

Amen! *(children repeat)*

Image 1a: [Road Forest Season](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 1b: [An Island in the Philippines](#) (Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)



Image 1c: [Garden of Eden](#) (Wikimedia Commons, Public Domain)

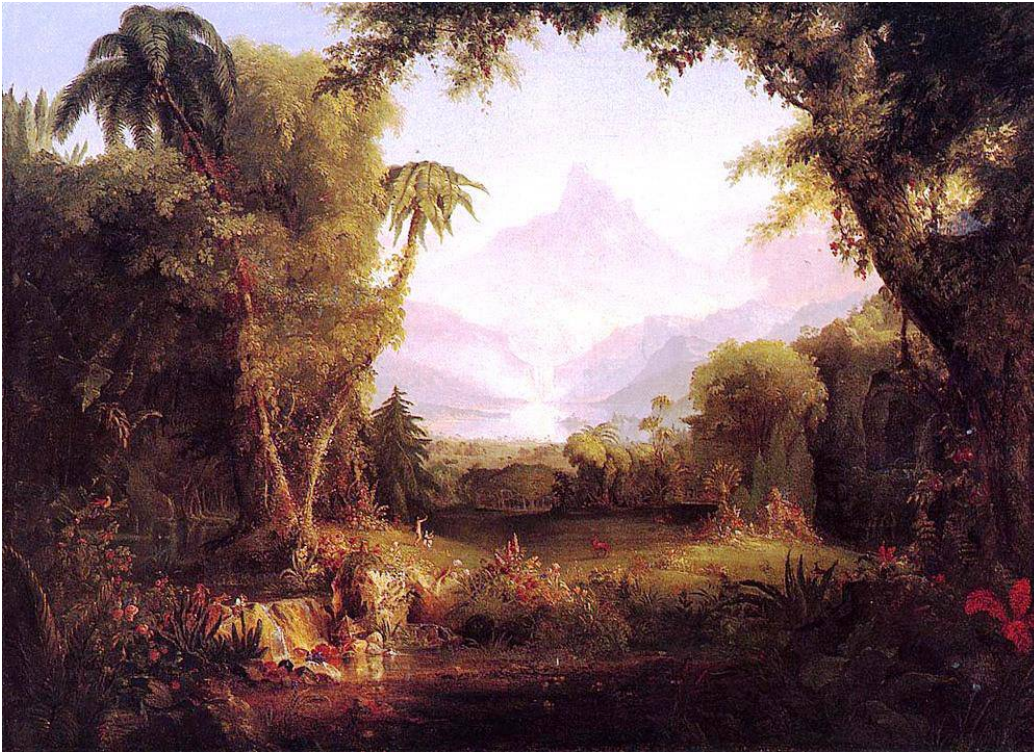


Image 2a: [Sad Child](#) (Morguefile, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 2b: [Crying Child in Park](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 2c: [Yelling Girl Sad](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 3a: [Jesus on Cross](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 3b: [Jesus Christ](#) (Adobe Stock, Standard License)



Image 3c: [Jesus Statue Children](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



Image 4a: [The Prodigal Son](#) (Clark Kelley Price)



Image 4b: [Happy Jesus with Boy](#) (Adobe Stock, Standard License)

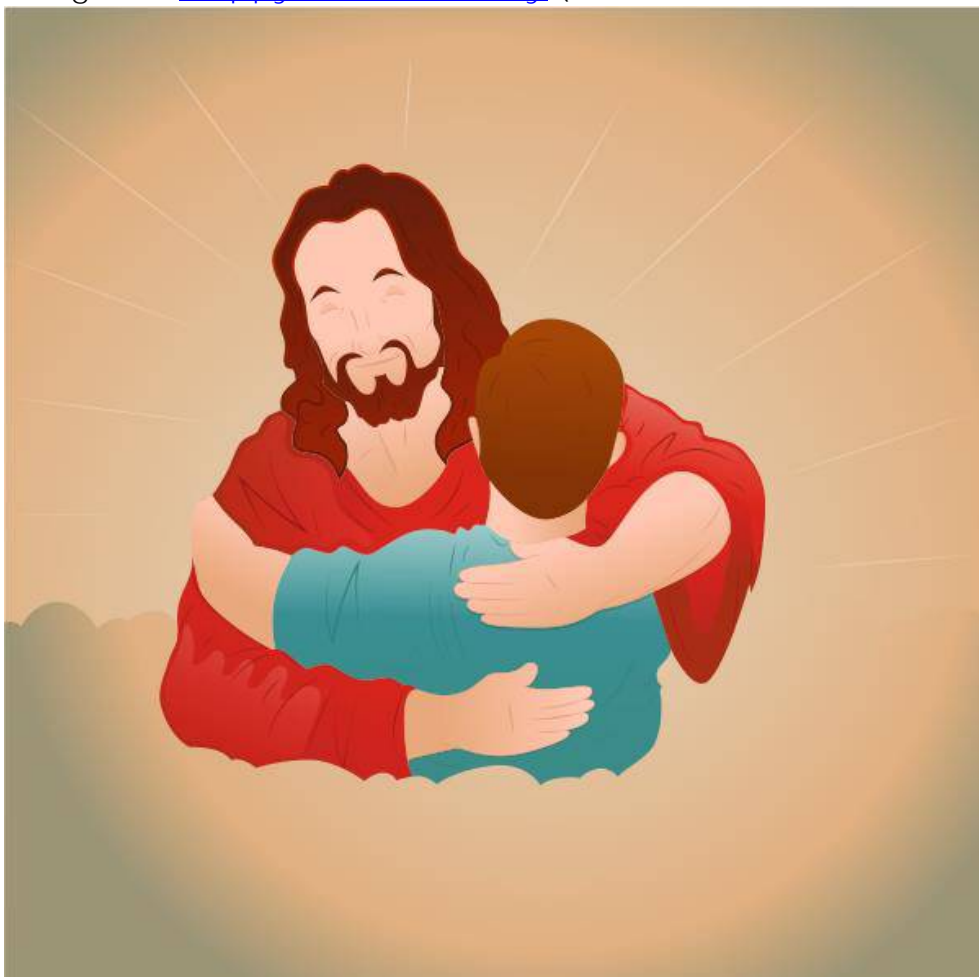


Image 4c: [Faith Stones](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)

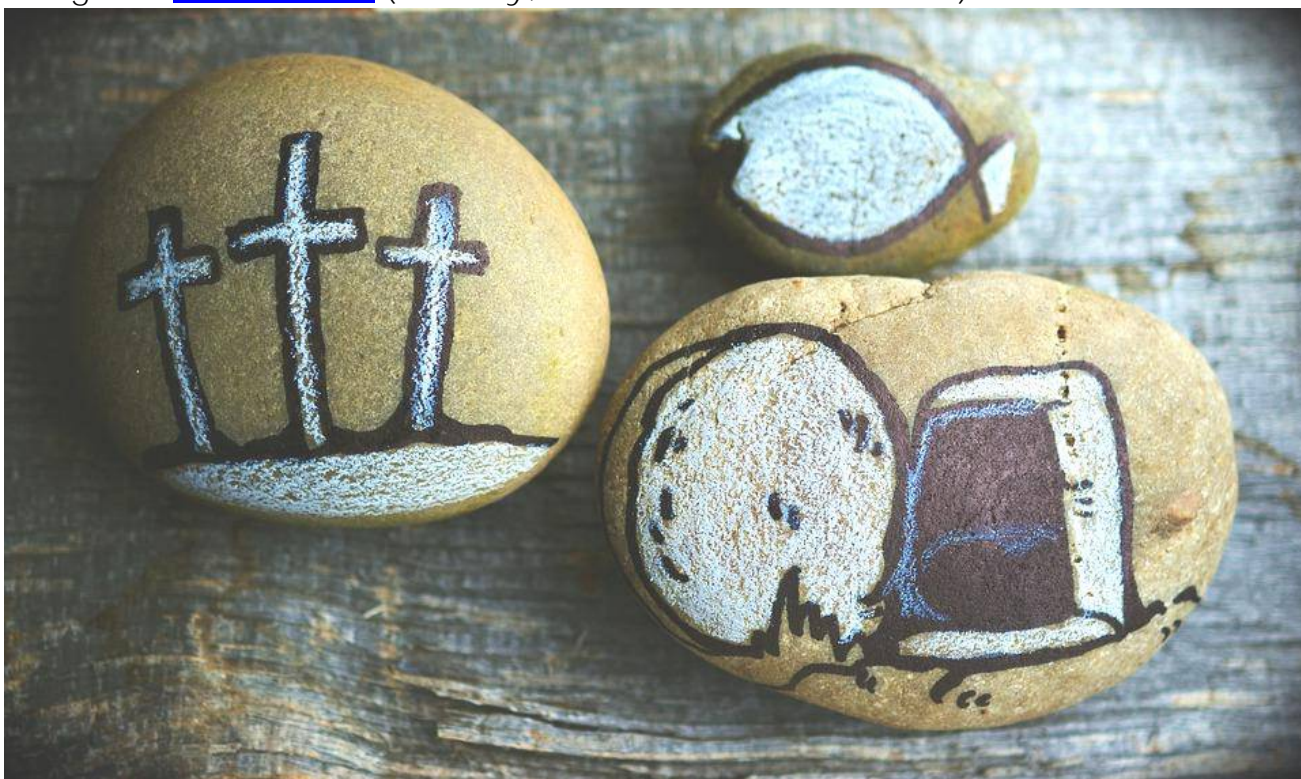


Image 5a: [Pentecost Illustration](#) (Sweet Media Illustrations, CC3 Creative Commons)

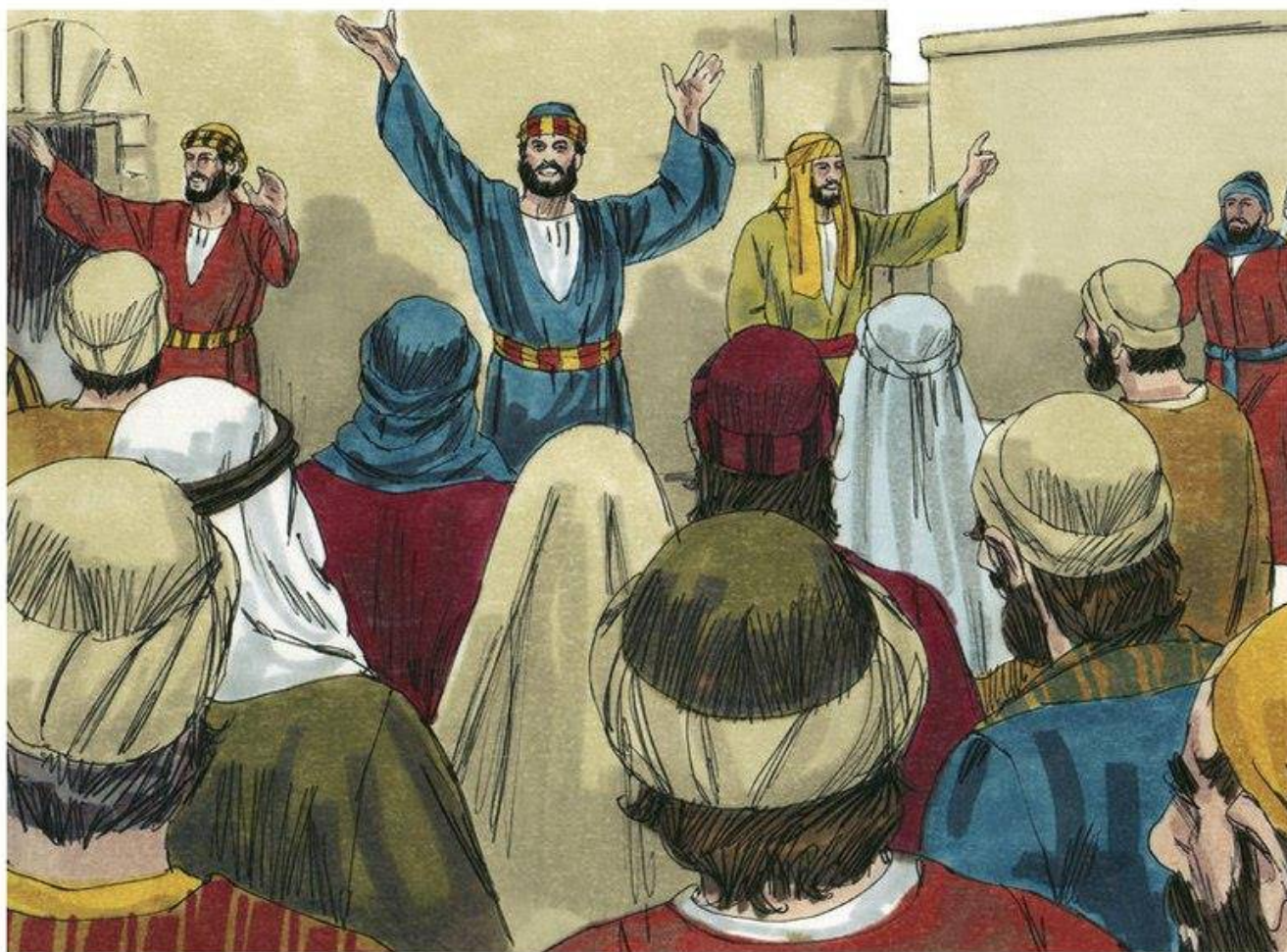
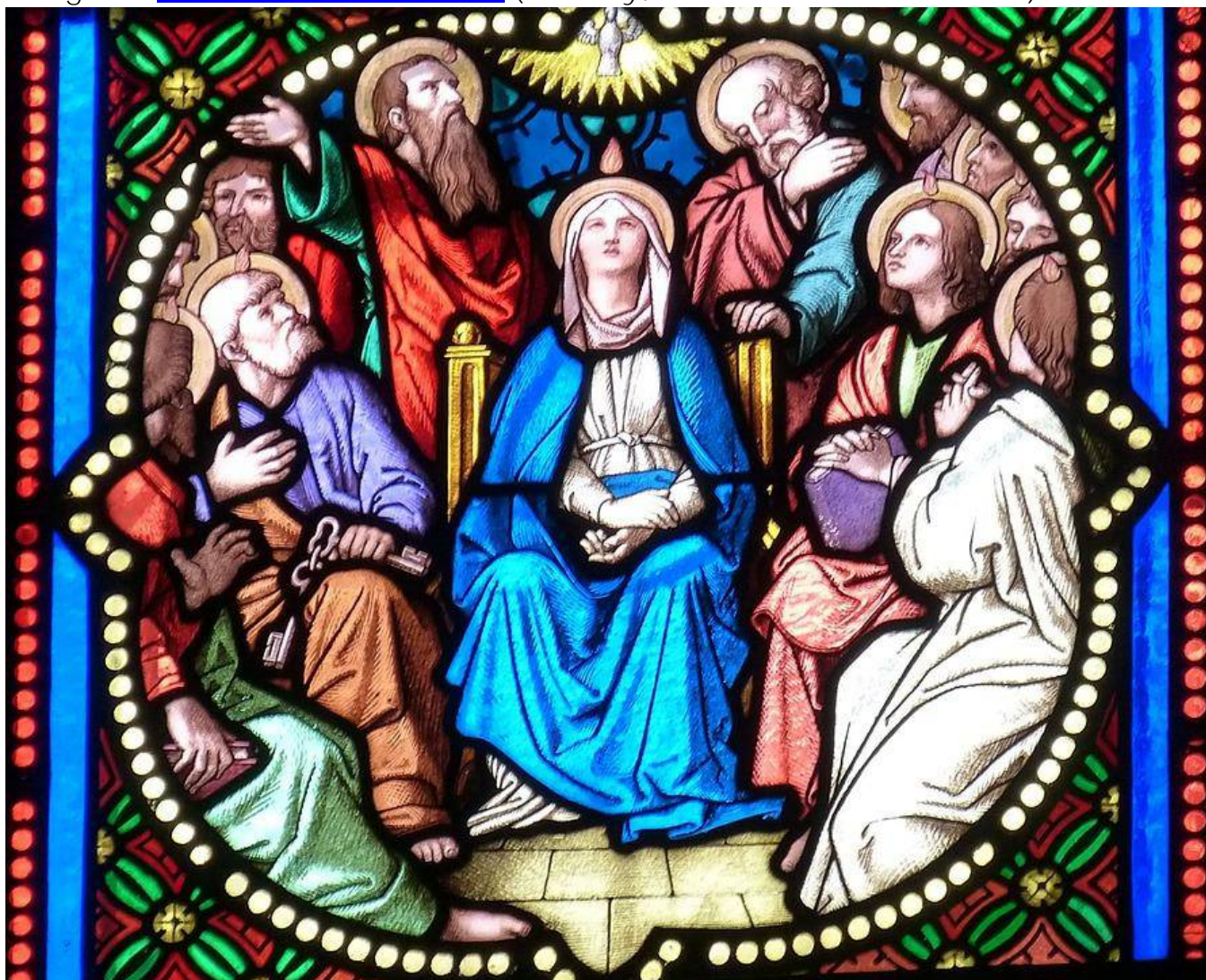


Image 5b: [Pentecost Spirit](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



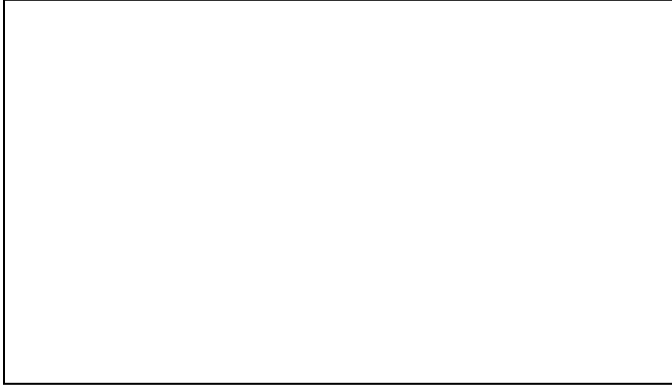
Image 5c: [Pentecost Stained Glass](#) (Pixabay, CCO Creative Commons)



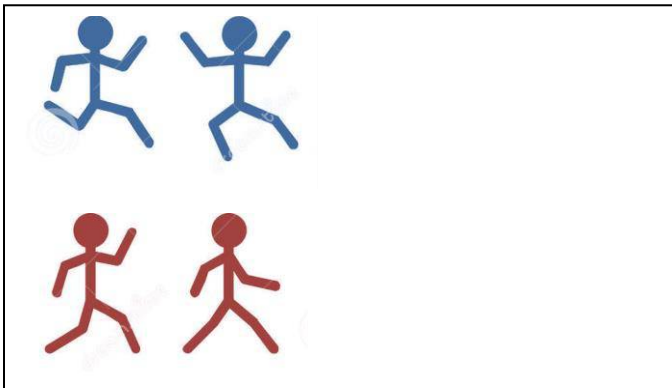
The Bridge Craft Part I

Activity Guide

1. Hold your paper landscape/horizontally.



2. On one end, draw people.



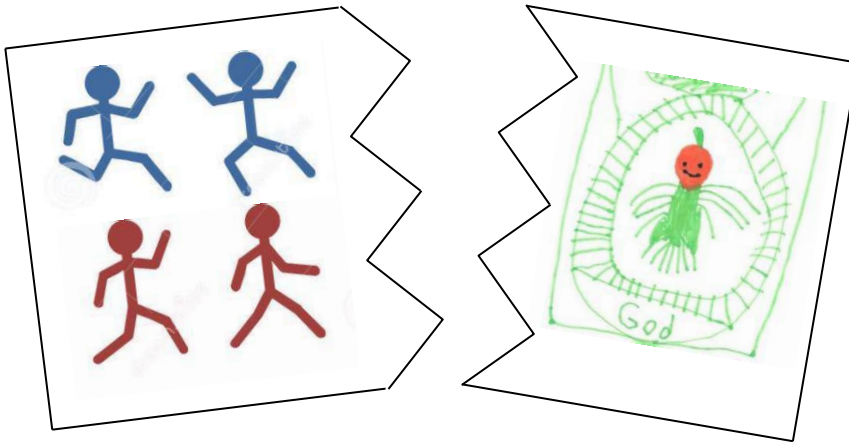
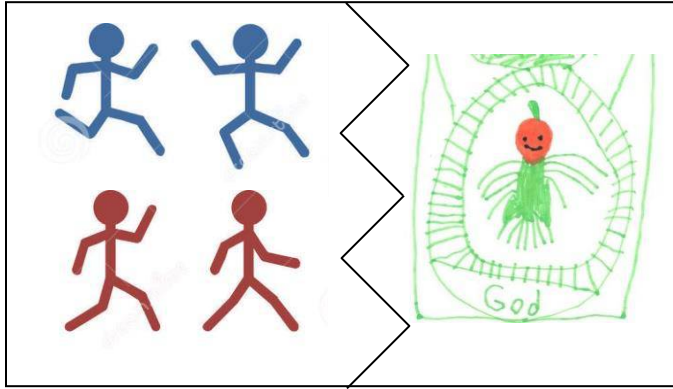
3. On the other end, draw God.



The Bridge Craft Part I

Activity Guide (continued)

4. When people choose to sin, they are separated from God. Tear the paper in half to show the people separated from God.



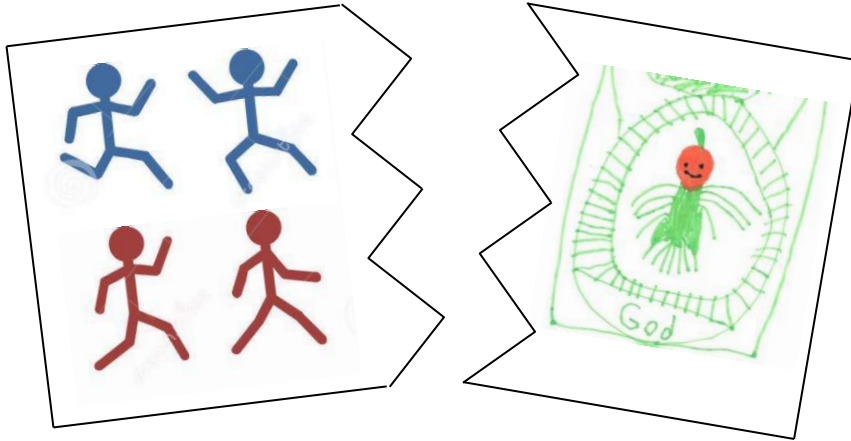
Now things are messed up! People and God are apart. God still loves people, and **some people still love God. It's just harder to feel that love, and we are apart.**

This is a problem! But there is someone **very special who can fix it...** Can you guess who?

The Bridge Craft Part II

Activity Guide

1. Because of sin, people and God are separated. We can't get to heaven, and we can't love God as much, and we can't love other people as much. This is a problem!

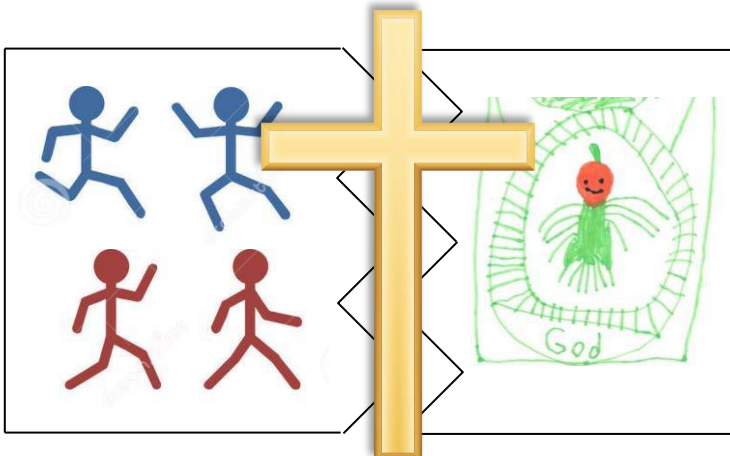


2. Only Jesus could fix this problem. Jesus is God, but Jesus is also a human person, a man who lived on earth. Jesus is God AND a human, so He can fix the sin problem.

Jesus died on the Cross so we could be close to God again. Let's use the Cross to put things back together.

Kindergarteners and 1st graders are suggested to use pre-cut crosses on page 36.

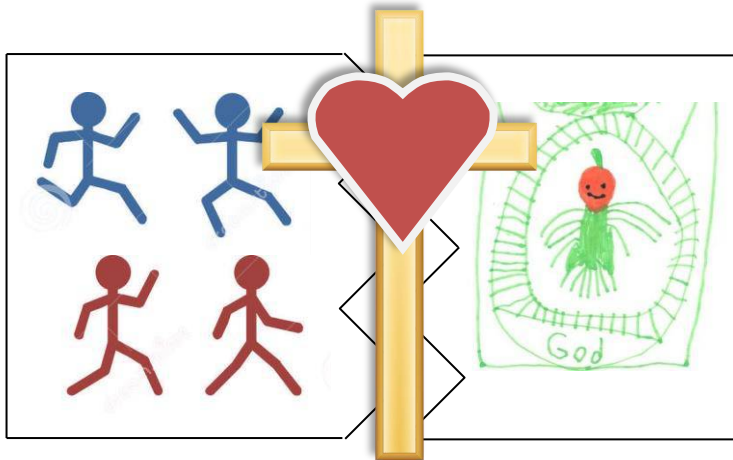
Second graders can make their own crosses from popsicle sticks or pre-cut pieces of cardstock.



The Bridge Craft Part II

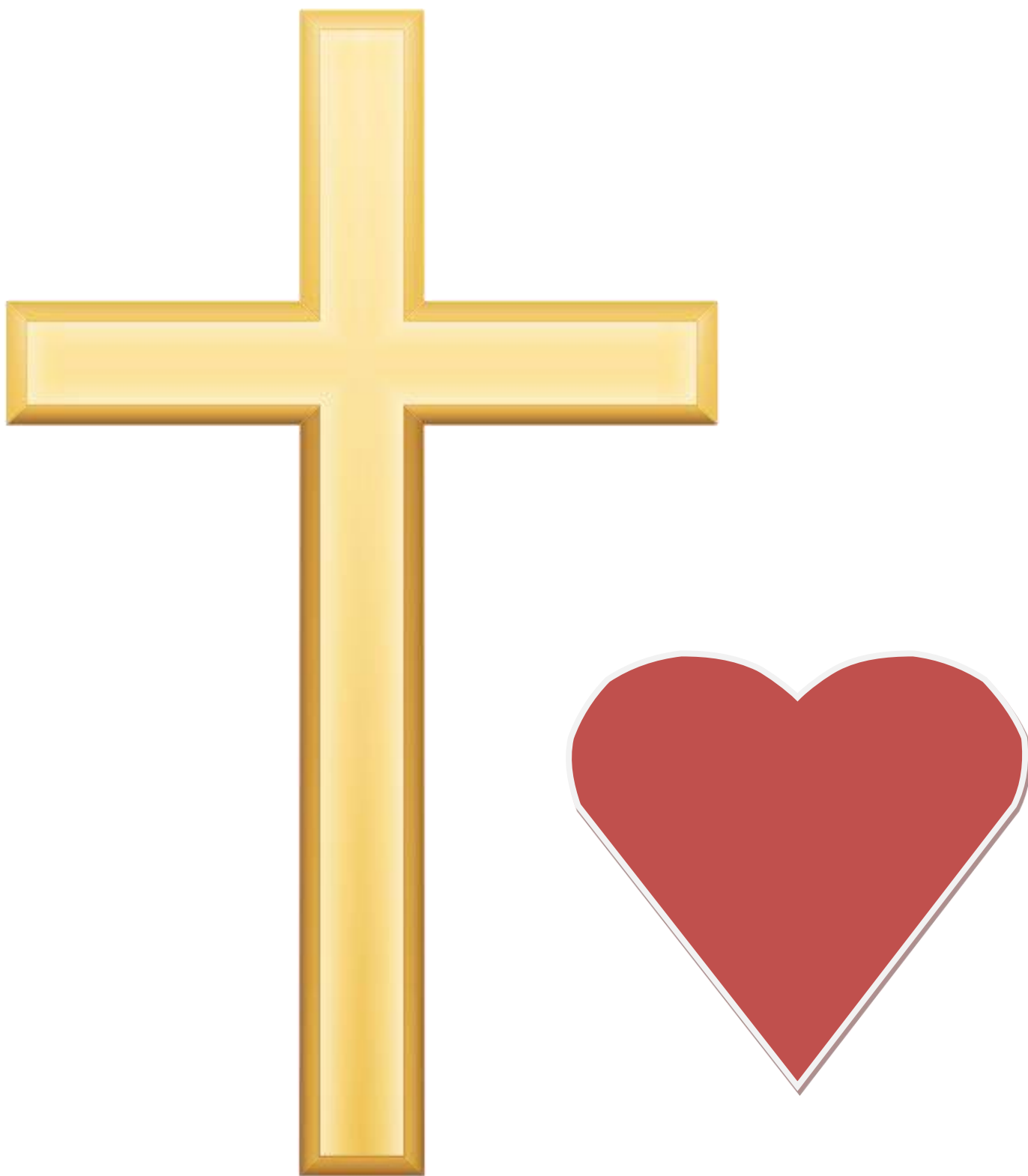
Activity Guide (continued)

3. Jesus died on the Cross because He loves us. He loves us so much that He **didn't** want anyone to be apart from God. To remember Jesus' love, let's add the heart on the Cross.



The Bridge Craft Part II

Printables



I am a Friend. I am a Friend of Jesus!

Activity Guide

Prep:

- Copy handout on page 38, one per child.
- Copy the page of pictures on page 39, one page per child.
- Cut out the picture set for each child (8 pictures in each set)

Materials:

- Handout
- Set of pictures
- Crayons
- Glue stick

Directions:

1. Each child fills in their name.
2. Children draw a picture of themselves and their friends in the top left box.
3. Children draw a picture of themselves and Jesus in the top right box.
4. Children look at the cut-out pictures and determine which go in which boxes.
5. Children glue the pictures in the box that matches the description.

Note: If you'd rather not worry about cutting and gluing, simply use page 39 as a matching page. Children can draw lines that match the behavior of a friend to the behavior of a friend of Jesus.

I am a Friend. I am a Friend of Jesus!

Name: _____

Me and My Friends	Me and Jesus
We talk together.	We pray.
We read cards and letters.	We read the Bible.
We go to fun parties together.	We go to Mass.
We say sorry and forgive.	I say sorry and He forgives.

I am a Friend. I am a Friend of Jesus!

Printables



Jesus' Friends Help
Printables – A Friend in Need

Copy this page onto yellow paper and cut into quarters.

I am hungry.

I don't have a
lot of clothes.

I am sad.

I am lonely.

Jesus' Friends Help

Printables – A Friend in Need

Copy this page onto yellow paper and cut into quarters.

**I don't have a
home.**

**My friend is in
jail.**

**My grandma
is sick.**

**I don't know
about Jesus.**

Jesus' Friends Help

Printables – Jesus and Church Can Help

Copy this page onto green paper and cut into quarters.

I will share my
home.

I will help you
visit your
friend in jail.

I will pray for
your grandma.

I will tell you
about Jesus.

Jesus' Friends Help

Printables – Jesus and Church Can Help

Copy this page onto green paper and cut into quarters.

I will share my
food.

I will donate
clothes.

I will cheer
you up.

I will sit by you
at lunch.



Carl Bloch, *Sermon on the Mount*



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