

Christian Living



Christian Living Unit Summary

This unit contains 7 chapters with a total of 31 lessons.

“Christian Living” includes lessons on sin, becoming a Christian, the fruit, gifts and help of the Holy Spirit for Christians, spiritual armor, praise, and prayer.

These lessons provide a clear understanding of what a Christian is, how to become one, and the spiritual tools and protection we are given to help us become the person Jesus wants us to be, as well as enabling us to forgive and bless others.

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Thank you! This unit would not be possible without you.

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Chapter 1: “Christian Living”

In This Chapter . . .

Becoming a Christian

Lesson: Becoming a Christian: Just how do we do that?

Craft: “Becoming a Christian” Game

Indoor Activity: “Becoming a Christian” Hunt

Outdoor Activity: “Becoming a Christian” Hunt

What Sin? Who’s a Sinner!?!?

Lesson: This lesson answers these questions and leads children to know that we all have sinned and need a Savior.

Craft: I Am . . . Frame

Indoor Activity: 10 Commandments Race

Outdoor Activity: FORGIVENESS Hunt

Christian Living

Lesson: This lesson discusses the fruit that is produced as we live out our lives for Christ.

Craft: Prayer Box

Indoor Activity: Which Fruit? Theater

Outdoor Activity: What Do You See?

The Gift of Righteousness

Lesson: As we live out our lives as Christians, we receive help from The Holy Spirit to be a blessing to others and live toward the righteousness we receive from Jesus.

Craft: Pencil Case Prayers

Indoor Activity: Forgiven Frame

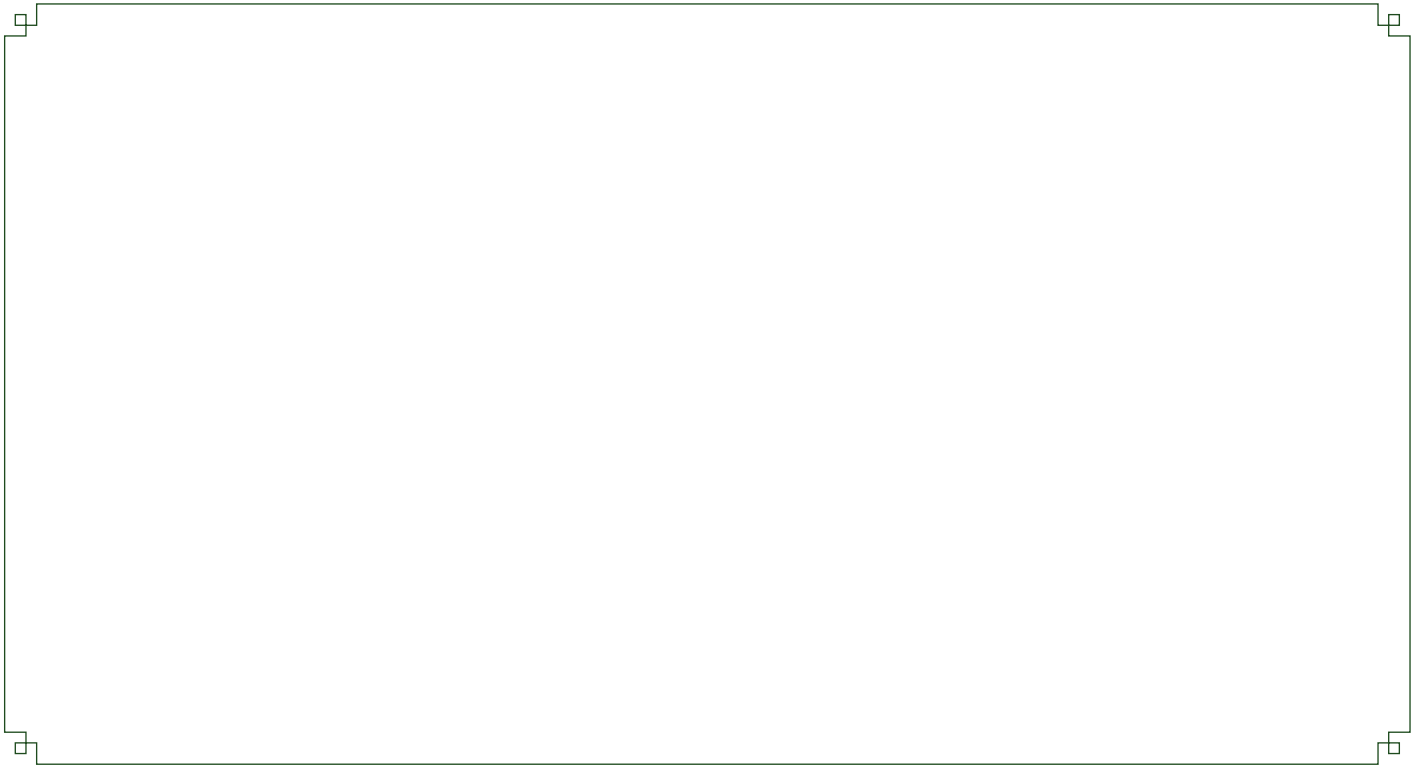
Outdoor Activity: “Thank You” Tree



Devotional Doodles

Devotional Doodles

Draw a picture of what Christian living means to you.



List The Ten Commandments

Exodus 20:3-17

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Find the Words

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V | K | P | W | J | G | O | D | M | J |
| S | L | K | T | E | F | S | D | S | F |
| H | O | L | Y | S | P | I | R | I | T |
| T | V | T | H | U | O | N | T | N | H |
| J | E | J | L | S | U | E | H | N | J |
| U | V | K | S | R | L | J | N | E | I |
| T | M | G | B | B | E | U | M | R | K |
| C | H | R | I | S | T | I | A | N | M |
| M | N | B | F | O | R | G | I | V | E |
| Z | S | Q | M | D | F | N | I | C | R |

Sin
Love
Jesus

Sinner
Christian
Forgive

Bible
God
Holy Spirit

Lesson: Becoming a Christian

Lesson

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What does it mean to be a Christian?

Say:

- The word Christian refers to people who believe in Jesus.

Ask: *Allow time for discussions.*

- What do you think this means?
- What is the first step toward living a Christian life or becoming a Christian?

Say:

- We first need to know about sin.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What can you tell me about sin?
- What do Adam and Eve have to do with sin?

Say:

- Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden.
- Adam and Eve ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil even though God said not to.
- They brought sin into the life of mankind, and the punishment for sin is death.
- We are all born with this sin problem.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Knowing that each of us have this sin problem, what can we do about it?

Say:

- The Bible helps us see that God loves us enough to help us with this sin problem because He wants a relationship with each of us.
- He told His Old Testament prophets to write about a person who would come and take away the sins of the world.
- In the New Testament, we meet that person.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Who is this person?

Say:

- John the Baptist answers this question.

Read: John 1:29 (NIV)

“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What does this verse mean for you and me?

Say:

- The following verse gives us the Gospel, the good news of Christ!

Read: John 3:16 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Say:

- When we believe in Jesus and accept His gift of forgiveness, our sins are not counted against us any longer.
- You and I, like Paul, can confess, “Jesus is my Lord!”

Read: Romans 10:9 (NIV)

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Say:

- Forgiveness, salvation, and the promise of eternal life are the beginning of Christian living.
- Christian living is a relationship with Jesus.
- Spending time in prayer and reading God’s words in the Bible help us really get to know our Lord.
- Waking in the morning and telling Him “good morning” and “I love you” is a great way to begin our day.
- As our relationship grows, our faith and trust in Him grows.
- As our faith and trust build, we truly believe that He always knows what is best for us.
- We will want Him to lead our life.

Final Thought:

Being a Christian and allowing Jesus to be our Lord can be difficult at times. Knowing that we are forgiven and saved from our sins is awesome. Knowing that we have eternal life is the best feeling ever. Asking Jesus to be our Lord is the first step in a very special relationship. Living a life of obedience is a way to tell Him thank you and that we love Him.

Activities: Becoming a Christian

Craft: “Becoming a Christian” Game

Items Needed:

- General: Markers or Crayons
- Per Child: 6 Craft Sticks and An Apron

Instructions:

- Tell the children that they will be making a “Becoming a Christian” game.
- Give each child six craft sticks.
- Using the markers or crayons, the children will write a verse, draw an image, or print words on one side of each craft stick that pertains to becoming a Christian.
- The child’s name will be written on the other side.
- Tell the children that they can play the “Becoming a Christian” game with their family and friends.
- They will play the game by hiding the sticks so others can search for them.
- They may even ask about the meaning of the verse, image, or words.
- This gives you the opportunity to tell them more!



Indoor Activity: “Becoming a Christian” Hunt

Items Needed:

- Sticks from craft: (“Becoming a Christian” Game) or 20 Craft Sticks with verses, images, or words about becoming a Christian on each one (Bible, cross, Jesus, Praying Hands, Prayer, Forgiveness, Empty Grave, Holy Spirit, etc.)

Prior to Class:

- Hide the sticks around the room.

Instructions:

- Tell the children that there are twenty “Becoming a Christian” sticks hidden around the room.
- Have the children look around the room to find the hidden sticks.
- The child who finds the most sticks wins the game.
- Have each child hold up his or her sticks and discuss what is on each stick.

Outdoor Activity: “Becoming a Christian” Hunt

Items Needed:

- Sticks from craft: (“Becoming a Christian Game”) or 20 Craft Sticks with verses, images, or words about becoming a Christian on each one (Bible, cross, Jesus, Praying Hands, Prayer, Forgiveness, Empty Grave, Holy Spirit, etc.)

Prior to Class:

- Hide the sticks around outside.

Instructions:

- Tell the children that there are twenty “Becoming a Christian” sticks hidden outside.
- Have the children search and find the hidden sticks.
- The child who finds the most sticks wins the game.
- Have each child hold up his or her sticks and discuss what is on each stick.

Lesson: What Sin? Who's a Sinner!?!?

Prior to Lesson:

Have the children look up Genesis 2:15-17, 3:6-7, and 3:22 and have the verses ready to read. Have several children each read a few verses.

Lesson

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Have you ever heard “knowing is half the battle?”

Say:

- This means that you have to know about something before it means something.
- Knowing gives us opportunities.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Would you love your favorite food if you never tasted it?
- Does knowing how to read or calculate numbers help you?
- What are some other important things to know?
- Do you think sin could be on our list?
- What is sin?

Say:

- Sin is doing things that are wrong or not doing the right things.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What can you tell me about Adam and Eve's connection to sin?

Say:

- Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden and they didn't know what sin was, but that changed.
- Have Children Read: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:6-7, and 3:22.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What does this story have to do with us?

Say:

- This is when sin entered the world.
- And this affects everyone!

Read: John 3:23 (NIV)

“... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Do you know the punishment for sin?

Say:

- Paul tells us that the punishment (wages) is death.

Read: Romans 6:23 (NIV)

“For the wages of sin is death...”

Say:

- Okay, we know that we are sinners and the punishment for sin is death.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What can we do about it? *Confess our sin.*
- So what does it mean to confess our sin?

Say:

- When we confess our sins, we admit that we have sinned, we are sorry, and we repent or turn away from the sin.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What happens when we confess our sins?

Read: 1 John 1:9 (NIV)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”

Say:

- God has provided a way for us to be forgiven of our sins and saved from the punishment.
- We then become righteous and gain eternal life.

Read: Romans 6:23 (NIV)

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Say:

- Jesus explained why God provided a way to be forgiven of our sin and have eternal life.

Read: John 3:16 (NIV)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Say:

- God has given us this gift because He loves us so much!

Final Thought:

Even though everyone has sinned, God loves us anyway. Because of that love, He sent His Son to take our punishment. Jesus died and took our sins to the cross with Him. By confessing our sins and accepting Jesus' gift of forgiveness, we become righteous and our sins are not counted against us anymore. If you want to talk more about accepting Jesus' gift of forgiveness and eternal life, let me know and we can talk more about it.

Activities: What Sin? Who's a Sinner!?!?

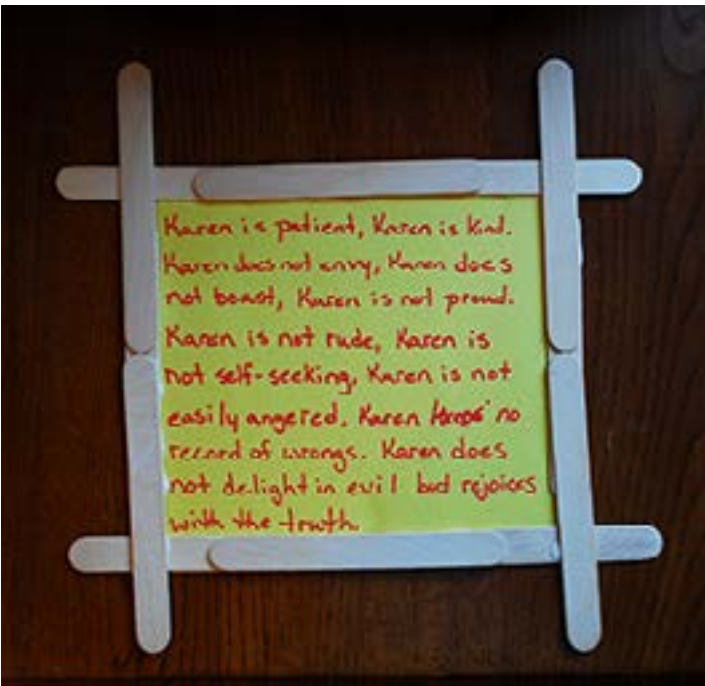
Craft: I Am . . . Frame

Items Needed:

- General: String or Yarn, Glue, and Markers or Colored Pencils
- Per Child: 1 Bible, 1 Sheet of Construction Paper, and Craft Sticks (enough to create a frame around the construction paper)

Instructions:

- Give the children the supplies.
- Tell the children to find 1 Corinthians 13:4.
- The children will write 1 Corinthians 13:4-6 on the construction paper, but will replace the words "love" or "it" with their own names.
- Each child will use the sticks to create a frame for the construction paper and the string to create a way to hang the artwork.
- While they are working, open a discussion about Jesus' commands to love God first and most and to love others as we love ourselves, asking if obeying Jesus' commands is always easy.



Indoor Activity: 10 Commandments Race

Items Needed:

- 2 Bibles and 20 Large Index Cards

Instructions:

- Split the children into two teams.
- Give each team ten cards and a Bible.
- They will find the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:3-17.
- Have each team write one of the Ten Commandments on each card and mix the cards up.
- The teams will swap cards.
- Each team will put the Ten Commandment cards in order according to Exodus 20:2-17.
- The first team to have the commandments in the correct order wins the game.

Variation:

- Have the commandments written on the cards prior to class for younger children or to save time.

Outdoor Activity: FORGIVENESS Hunt

Items Needed:

- Per Team: 1 Paper Lunch Bag

Instructions:

- Divide the children into groups of 2 or 3.
- Give each team a paper bag.
- Have each team find things outside that start with each letter of: GOOD SHEPHERD.
- The group that gets all of their items first wins.
- This game can be played again with different words: SHEEP, HOLY SPIRIT, or JESUS

Variation:

- The game can be timed, and the team with the most items wins the game.



Lesson: Christian Living

Lesson

Say:

- Jesus warns us about wolves in sheep's clothing.

Read: Matthew 7:15 (NIV)

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What does this mean?

Say:

- Jesus is talking about people who pretend to be good, but they are only pretending.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- So, if there are people who look like they are good, but they are not, what did Jesus say to watch for to determine the difference?

Read: Matthew 7:15-18 (NIV)

“Watch out . . . By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What fruit is Jesus talking about?

Say:

- The fruit of the Spirit!

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Can you name the fruit of the Spirit?

Read: Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Can someone's fruit tell you a lot about that person?

Say:

- Jesus is telling us that we need to pay attention to people's actions and attitudes, to watch the fruit.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Whose fruit do we need to pay the most attention to?

Say:

- We need to pay the closest attention to our own fruit.
- We can take care of the fruit in our lives just as we would take care of a fruit tree.
- Bad fruit needs to be picked off fruit trees so the good fruit can get more nutrients.
- The tree can't send any resources to rotten fruit if it has been removed.
- We need to check our lives for bad fruit, the opposite of the Spirit's fruit, and get rid of it.
- When our sinful fruit is removed from our life, the good fruit will receive more of our time, finances, attention, etc.
- A healthy tree needs fresh air, sunshine, water, and good soil to produce great fruit.
- Jesus said that we need to love God first and most and love other people as we love ourselves.

Read: Mark 12:30-31 (NIV)

“‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Say:

- When we obey these commands, we produce fruit of the Spirit.
- Doing things in a Spirit-fruit way is always the best way.

Final Thought:

We can look at other people and see the fruit that they produce, and we learn a lot about those people. The most important person that we need to watch for the fruit is ourselves. When we see bad fruit in our own life, we can get rid of it. We can become better at producing Spirit fruit when we act in a Spirit-fruit way, loving God and others as Jesus commanded.

Activities: Christian Living

Craft: Prayer Box

Items Needed:

- General: 1/4 to 1/2 Yard of Fabric, Bias Tape (fabric store will have this - choose some to match the fabric), Measuring Stick or Tape, Glue, Scissors, and Ribbon (optional)
- Per Child: 1 Empty Cube-Shaped Tissue Box

Instructions:

- Using the supplies, each child will measure the tissue box and measure and cut pieces of the fabric to cover each side of the tissue box.
- The bias tape will be glued over the fabric where the edges meet.
- The boxes will be placed in an area where everyone can see them.
- The children will create “note paper” by cutting the construction paper into different shapes and sizes, making sure that the “note paper” is large enough to write a note.
- The “note paper” will be placed in front of the boxes for prayers to be written on and placed in the box.
- They will write at least one pray for each family member and place it in the box.
- Each day the family can gather and pray for everything in the box.

Variation:

- Construction paper may be used in place of the fabric and bias tape.



Indoor Activity: Which Fruit? Theater

Items Needed:

- General: 1 Bible, 9 Pieces of Yellow Paper, Two Bags, and Pencils or Pens
- Per Child: 1/2 Sheet of Writing Paper

Instructions:

- Divide the children into teams of two.
- Write one fruit of the Spirit on each piece of yellow paper and place the paper in a bag. (See Galatians 5:22-23).
- Each child will write a difficult situation on writing paper and place it in the other bag.
- One team will draw a piece of paper from each bag.
- One team member will read the situation, but not mention the fruit that was chosen.
- He or she will act out a response to the situation that is the opposite of the Spirit fruit that was chosen.
- The second team member will act out a response that **IS** the Spirit fruit that the team chose.
- Other teams will guess which fruit was chosen.
- The team that guesses correctly goes next.

Outdoor Activity: What Do You See?

Items Needed:

- Per Team: 1 Magnifying Glass, 1 Pad of Paper, and 1 Pencil or Pen

Instructions:

- Divide the children into teams of two or three (teams do not need to be even).
- Give each team a magnifying glass.
- Explain that each team will look at things in the outdoors through the magnifying glass.
- Each team will write what they are looking at (for example, a leaf) and what they see looking through the magnifying glass that they did not see without it.
- Bring the teams together and give each team some time to talk about what they wrote on their paper.
- Open a discussion, asking how the Bible can act as a magnifying glass in our life.

Lesson: The Gift of Righteousness

Lesson

Say:

- Sin came into the world with Adam and Eve.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What can you tell me about Adam and Eve?

Say:

- Adam and Eve disobeyed God when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.
- This brought sin into the life of mankind.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Who is affected by this sin? *Everyone*

Say:

- Now every human being is born with this sinful nature and needs help to become righteous.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- How can we become righteous?

Read: Romans 3:22 (NIV)

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.”

Say:

- We receive righteousness through faith in Jesus.
- Faith, or truly believing in Jesus is the very beginning of a Christian Life.
- Believing is the first step of faith that every Christian makes.
- Then we confess with our mouth that our Lord is Jesus.

Read: Romans 10:9 (NIV)

“That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- After we are saved from sin through Jesus and become a Christian, what’s next?

Say:

- We need to pay attention to our fruit.
- When we see that we are producing the opposite of Spiritual fruit we know that we need help.
- We are like a fruit tree that needs an arborist: someone who cares for trees.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- Who can help us produce better fruit? *The Holy Spirit*

Say:

- Jesus knew that we need help, so He prayed to God to send Him.

Read: John 14:16-17 (KJV)

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”

Say:

- The Holy Spirit lives with us to guide us.

Read: John 16:13 (NIV)

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”

Say:

- The Holy Spirit helps us discover and develop our Spiritual gifts and fulfill our special purpose: the reason God created each of us.
- As we read the Bible, pray, and listen to the Holy Spirit, we grow closer to Him and want to be obedient.

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- What are the two most important commands that Jesus gave us?

Read: Mark 12:29-31 (NIV)

“‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: . . . Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

Ask: *Allow time for answers.*

- When we love God first and most and other people as we love ourselves, are we obeying our Lord and producing Spirit fruit?

Final Thought:

We have the best King, Lord, and Savior ever! He loves us more than we are able to understand. We are called to be a Kingdom family who has a King that offers the gift of righteousness. He graciously bestows blessings on us as we obey Him and produce Spirit fruit. Obeying our Lord is also a great way to show Him that we love Him.

Activities: The Gift of Righteousness

Craft: Pencil Case Prayers

Items Needed:

- General: 1 Bible, Markers or Crayons, Scissors, Glue
- Per Child: 1/2 Sheet of Construction Paper and Scrap Construction Paper

Instructions:

- Give each child the supplies.
- Tell the children to fold the paper over 1/3 and then again 1/3 and glue in place.
- They will use the scrap construction paper to glue a piece to cover and enclose the bottom of the pencil case.
- Using the markers or crayons, each child will decorate the case.
- When the cases are complete, the pencils will be placed inside the cases.
- Place all of the cases together and ask each child to pray for the people who touch the case or pencils.
- Pray that the Holy Spirit will help each person who touches the pencils or pencil cases in a way that is special to him or her.
- While they are working, read Acts 19:11-12 and open a discussion about Paul and the handkerchiefs and aprons.



Indoor Activity: Forgiven Frame

Items Needed:

- General: Craft Sticks, String or Yarn, Glue, and Markers or Colored Pencils
- Per Child: 1 Plastic Mirror, 1 Photo, or 1/4 Sheet of Drawing Paper

Instructions:

- Give the children the supplies.
- If you are using the drawing paper, they will draw their portrait on the paper.
- The sticks will be used to create a frame around the mirror, photo, or portrait.
- The string or yarn will be used to create a hanger.
- They will write "SINNER" on the top stick on the frame.
- They will then glue one stick over the "SINNER" stick and write "FORGIVEN" on the new top stick.
- While they are working, open a discussion asking how sinners can be forgiven. Lead them to the fact that we are forgiven when we accept the forgiveness offered through Jesus.

Outdoor Activity: "Thank You" Tree

Items Needed:

- General: Paint, Paint Brushes, A Few Cups of Water (to rinse brushes), Tree, Shovel, and Garden Gloves
- Per Child: 1 Fist-Sized Rock, Apron, and Garden Gloves

Instructions:

- Plant the tree or choose one that is already planted.
- Each child will paint a rock in a way that conveys being thankful for the person or people who told the child about Jesus.
- When the rocks dry, the children will place the rocks around the "thank you" tree.
- Their rocks and the tree will stand as a thank you to everyone who shares Jesus with someone else.