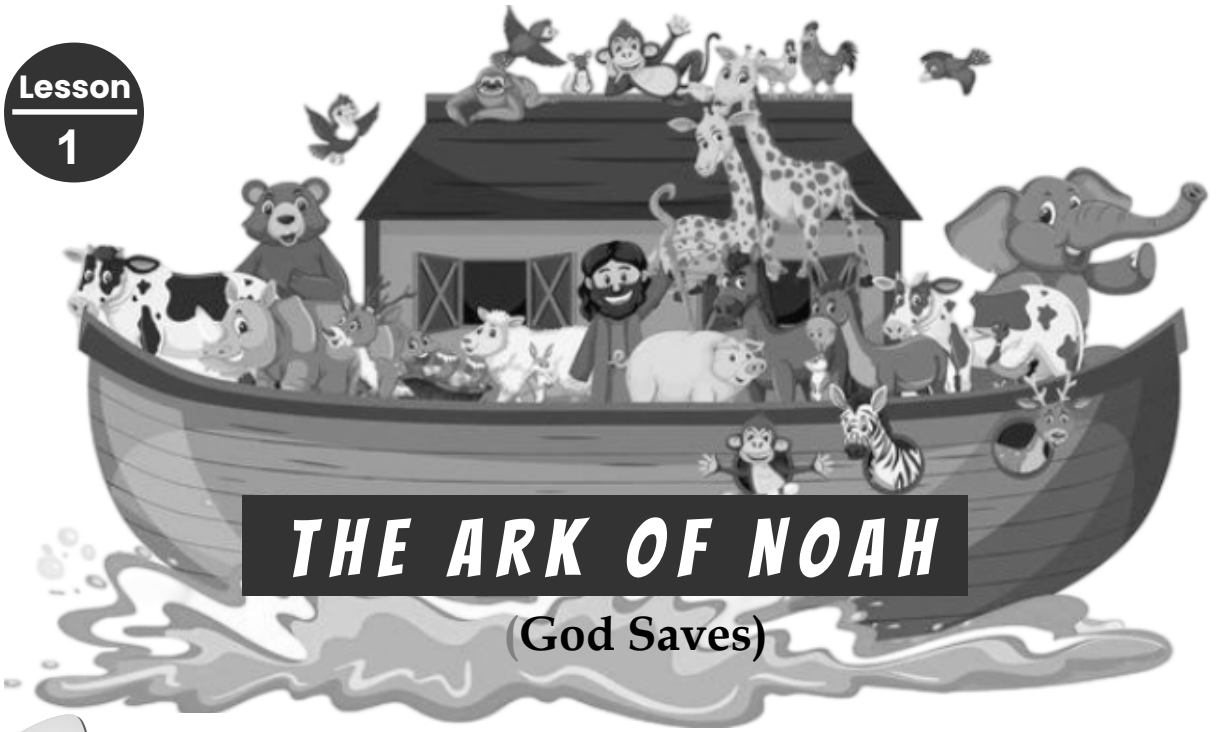
CHILDREN'S WORKBOOK (AGE 3-8)

Lesson
1



THE ARK OF NOAH

(God Saves)

Bible Passage:
Genesis : 6 - 9

It had been a year since their last visit to Grandmother's house, and Sam and Sarah could hardly contain their excitement. The long vacation was finally here, and they had been eagerly waiting for this moment. The thought of spending a few days at their grandmother's house filled them with joy. They loved everything about it, her fascinating stories, her delicious meals and desserts, the playful adventures with their childhood friends in the village, and the final day experience near the river under the tree. At last, the moment they had been waiting for had arrived; they were finally on their way to their grandmother's house. The siblings imagined all the wonderful things waiting for them in grandmother's house. As they neared the house, Grandmother was already at the gate, waving enthusiastically. "Welcome back, my dears!" she exclaimed, pulling them into a big hug. "I've missed you both so much!"

"We missed you too, Grandma!" Sarah smiled.

Once they entered grandmother's house the house smelled of freshly cooked

samosas, reminding Sam and Sarah of Grandma's love.

After unpacking, they felt tired from their long journey.

"Grandma, can we rest for a while?" Sam asked, yawning.

"Of course, my dear. Go and take a nap. You'll feel better afterward," Grandmother replied, pointing them to their rooms.

The siblings climbed into their beds, feeling the comfort of being at Granny's house.

It wasn't long before they both fell asleep.

As they slept, the sky darkened, and a heavy rain began to fall.

After a while, Grandmother woke them up for church.

Sam grumbled, "But it's raining heavily!"

"Rain or no rain, we're going to church!" Grandmother's cheerful voice rang out from the kitchen.

"Get ready! There's black coffee in the kitchen, and we leave in half an hour!"

"But it's raining heavily. We will get wet and soaked," Sam said.

"That's why we have umbrellas," Grandmother replied.

"Getting a little wet doesn't do any harm to anyone," she said as she left for the kitchen.

Grudgingly, Sam started to get ready for church.

The rain continued during church and on the way home.

At home, Grandmother's phone rang, Sam saw 11 missed calls from their mother. "Grandma, Mama is calling you," he said, running to her room.

"Don't run like that in the house," she said sternly.

"Sorry, Grandma. There were so many missed calls; I thought there must be an emergency."

Grandmother answered the phone.

The children tried to listen, but the heavy rain made it hard to hear. They noticed Grandmother's face change to a look of concern.

"Don't worry, dear," she said into the phone. "I'll take good care of them." She hung up, and the kids wondered what their mother had said. Grandmother explained that the news was warning of heavy rain in the next few days. Buses and trains were canceled, so their mother wouldn't be able to pick them up this week.

The kids were so happy and excited to hear that their vacation was extended.

The rain kept falling, and soon the news said there was flooding. Some parts of the house started leaking a little, but overall, it was safe. Still, Sam and Sarah couldn't play outside.

"Grandma, is it really flooding? I don't see any flooding around our house," Sam asked.

"That's because we live on a small hill, and the water flows down, so it doesn't collect here. But yes, it is flooding. I called your friend Renu's house. The water in her yard is up to their ankles. If the rain keeps falling like this, it will be dangerous for them to stay there. I've invited them to come and stay with us until the flooding is over."

"Yay!" said Sarah, all excited – Renu was her best friend.

Grandmother also called Sam's friend Rahul and his family.

"Rahul!" Sam's face lit up. Rahul was his best friend. Now both children were happy to be with their best friends.

The children asked, "Are they bringing their pets, Rocky and Dambo?"

"Of course! How could they leave their pets behind in a flood?" Grandmother smiled. "They'll bring them along too!"

The children couldn't wait to play with the pets.

Grandmother also invited Aunty Komal to come over.

“Oh, that means we’ll have tasty ladoos!” the children exclaimed happily.

Aunty Komal lived with her two children, Sona and Sanjay. She made the most delicious ladoos, which everyone loved.

Soon, the three families arrived at Grandmother’s house. The water around their homes had risen up to knee level. They had to move their belongings to the tops of their beds and cupboards before leaving. And it wasn’t just the families who came; their pets did too! Renu’s cat - Dambo, Rahul’s dog – Rocky, Sanjay’s pet parrot; and even Aunty Komal’s goats joined the group! The house was filled with the sounds of barking, meowing, bleating, and chirping.

Now it was evening time. Candles were lit and placed in different parts of the house. The kids were looking forward to dinner, but they would only be allowed to eat after family prayer. Grandmother’s rule stayed strong even in the roughest of weather!

By 6pm, Grandmother called everyone to her room. Her room was small and when 10 people crammed in, it became even smaller! Only Grandmother sat on the bed. Sanjay, Aunty Komal’s three-year-old son, sat on Grandmother’s lap, and the rest of them sat on the floor in a circle. Grandmother led the prayers. Sam and Sarah were surprised that neither Renu nor Rahul were familiar with the Creed of the church.

And then it was story time. Every day during the evening prayer time, Grandmother would tell them a story. So, after the prayers, Grandmother began her story.

“Today, I’ll tell you about Noah’s Ark.”

Most of them knew the story of the flooding and how God saved Noah and his family. But since Sanjay didn’t seem to know it, Grandmother said the story once again.

She began the story, “you all know there was heavy rain during the time of Noah. But before the rain started, God had told Noah to build an Ark, a large boat from the wood of the gopher tree. He told Noah to warn people that heavy flooding was coming; and that if they all got into the boat in time, they would not lose everything. While Noah was building the Ark, lots of people came and made fun of him, saying it won’t flood and that he was an old and crazy man. But Noah just kept doing what God had told him to do. He kept warning them that one day flooding and destruction would come. He told them that before that happens they should come into the Ark, but no one would listen to him. And destruction did come one day!

Noah took his family (his wife and his three sons and their wives) and went inside the Ark. God brought a pair of all kinds of animals, one male and one female inside the boat too. But most people refused to come inside the Ark. Soon it started to rain just like Noah had said. It rained for 40 days and nights straight. “It’s been raining here for just three days and look at the flooding! Imagine rain for 40 days.”

Yes, it’s very scary, “But why did God kill all the people?” Renu asked.

Grandmother’s face grew serious. “God didn’t kill them, dear. He gave them many chances to be saved, but they refused to listen. They chose their own destruction.”

“Long time ago, when I was young, there was a similar flooding. At that time, we didn’t have TV or radio. So, the government authorities went around in a vehicle with a loudspeaker and told people to evacuate; to leave their houses and go to a safer place. But there was a family who didn’t believe what the government said. They didn’t come to the rescue center. And sadly, later we came to know that the whole family was swept away in the flood.”

“How sad,” Renu said softly.

“It must have been a little like this, right Grandma!? So many people; so little space; lots of animals and raining outside!” Sam asked.

“Yes, indeed! This is like a small Ark,” laughed Grandmother.

“Once the rain stopped,” she continued, “the flood waters slowly came down and finally they were able to come out of the Ark after they came out they made an altar and gave thanks to God for saving them.

“But what does this story mean for us today?” Sarah asked.

“Good question,” Grandmother said. “It’s very simple to understand. The world is so full of evil. God has told through the Sacred Scriptures that destruction is going to come to this world. And God has made an ‘Ark’ just like ‘Noah’s Ark’ that is ‘God’s Holy Church.’ Those who accept what God says in His Holy Scriptures and come into the Ark (the church), will be safe.

Today, many people may laugh at us for going to church and telling them not to do wrong things, like lying, stealing, disobeying parents, gossiping, or doing things with friends that God doesn’t like. But one day, they will understand the cost of doing these wrong things and ignoring God’s Word, just like the people in Noah’s time.

In Noah’s time, people disobeyed God and lived however they wanted. Because they didn’t listen to God’s words, they lost their lives. In the same way, if we ignore God’s Word and continue doing wrong things, we will face struggles and difficulties. But if we listen to God, go to church, and obey His Word, we can save our spiritual lives in this evil world, just like Noah and his family were saved in the Ark.”

“So if we go to church and obey God’s Word, does that mean nothing bad will ever happen to us?” Sarah asked Grandmother.

“No, my dear, everyone will face difficulties in their lives, but there is something different for those who are following Christ. He promises to be with us as we go through those hard times. We will never be alone, God will help us. And He will guide us through the Bishops and Priests that he has given to us,” Grandmother explained to them.

Sam’s eyes widened. “So the priests and bishops are like Noah, telling people

to come into the Ark before it's too late!"

"Exactly! And if we follow their spiritual guidance, we will be safe." Grandmother said.

Grandmother, "let's finish with the Lord's Prayer."

Everyone stood, faced the altar, raised their hands, and said the Lord's Prayer together. Even little Sanjay tried to join in. At the end, they drew the sign of the cross.

Then after dinner all the kids went to their beds and said the "Jesus Prayer" three times. Grandmother had taught Sam and Sarah this simple prayer last year when they had come to visit. They helped their friends to say this prayer too.

'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,

have mercy on me, a sinner.'

And after saying the prayer they all slept peacefully.

1. Pray together as a family
2. Go to church regularly and pray to God.
3. Listen to the priest and bishop and obey God's Word, just like Noah obeyed God."

Questions:

1. Who told Noah to build the ark?

   (a) His friends, (b) God, (c) The Animals

2. What did Noah do after the flood?

   (a) Stayed in the ark forever, (b) Left the Ark and thanked God,

   (c) Went back to his old home

3. Did Noah obey God and build the ark?

   - Yes / No

Memory Verse:

But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the cattle that were with him in the ark - Genesis 8:1

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank you for providing a way for me to be part of the church. I believe that when I am part of the church I will be safe from the evil in the world. Help me to listen to and obey my priest and my bishop. - Amen

Craft

Making a paper boat

Items Needed:

— 1 Plain white paper for each child

— Colors or markers

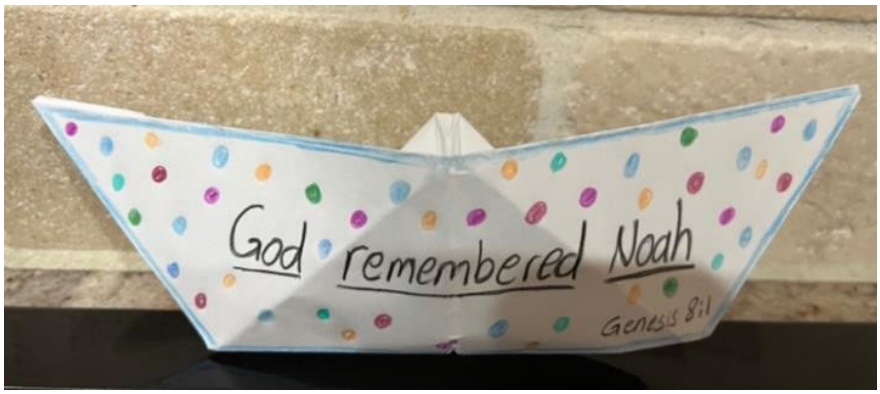
Instructions

— Fold the paper into the shape of a boat (see instructions below).

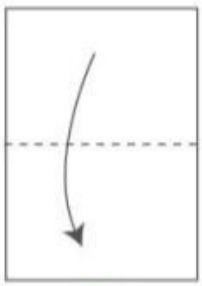
— Write 'God remembered Noah' on one side of the boat.

— On the other side write your name (as if it is the name of the boat).

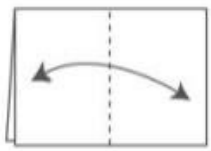
— Colour and decorate your boats.



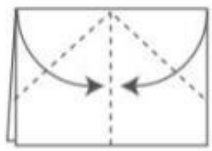
How to Make the Boat (Ark)



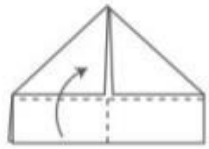
1.
Take a rectangular paper
and fold in half



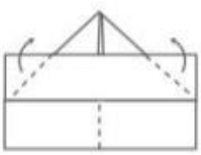
2.
Fold in half and unfold
(just so you'll have a center mark)



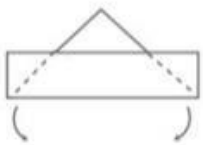
3.
Fold two top corners
to the center



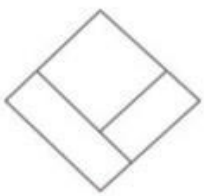
4.
Fold top strip upwards



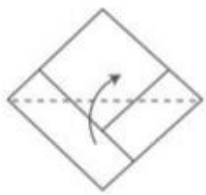
5.
Fold corners back. Turn over.



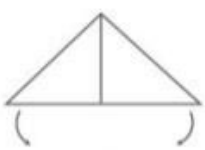
6.
Fold strip upwards.
Hold bottom corners and
push together...



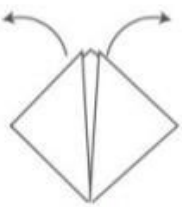
7.
...making a flat square



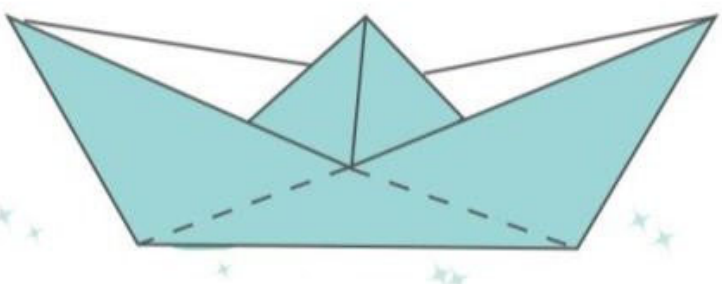
8.
Fold top flap upwards.
Turn over.
Repeat on other side.



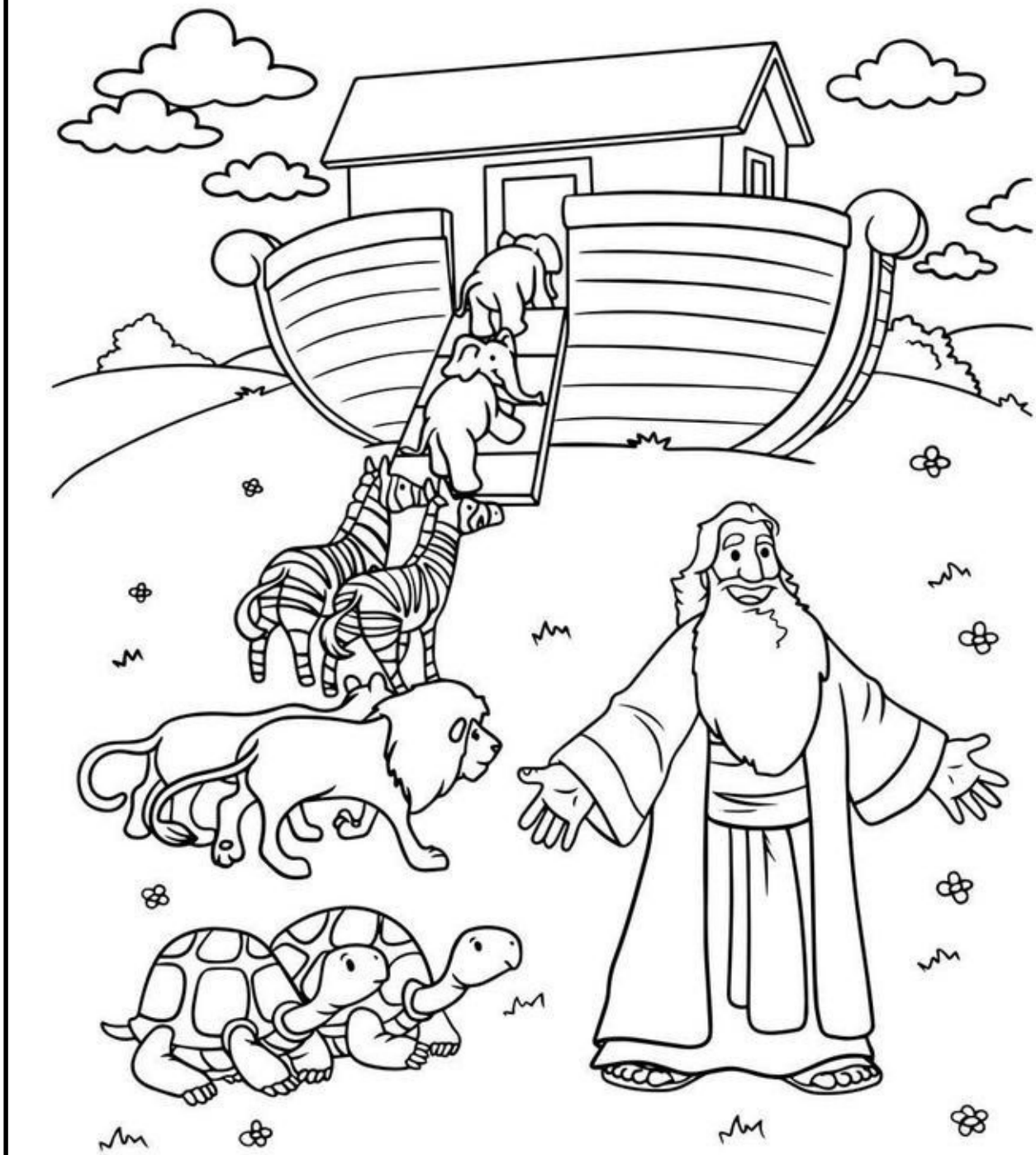
9.
Hold bottom corners and
push together



10.
Grap upper corners and pull apart .
Watch as the boat s cabin pops up.



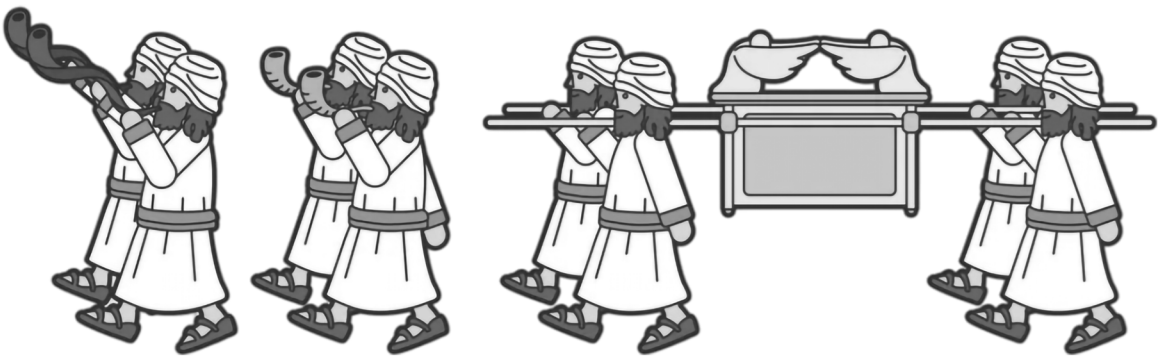
Colour Me:



Lesson 2

THE ARK IN MY HOME

(God is Saving)



Bible Passage:
2 Samuel 6: 10 - 12

It had been three days since Sam and Sarah had come to Grandmother's house. They were having so much fun with their friends that they hadn't even noticed how quickly time was passing.

The first sunny day after nearly a week of rain had finally arrived, and all the kids were outside, enjoying the fresh air. Some of the younger ones splashed happily in puddles in Grandmother's yard, while others crafted paper boats and competed to see whose boat could float the longest in the largest puddle nearby.

Staying in 'Grandmother's Ark' for the past four days had been exciting, but it wasn't without its challenges. The small house was filled with families and pets, making it a lively yet chaotic place.

"Time for lunch, everyone," Aunty Komal called out. Since Grandmother's small dining table couldn't seat everyone, the kids ate first while the mothers and Grandmother ate afterward. Mealtimes were lively, with everyone's favorite dishes being prepared as the mothers took turns cooking.

“Wash your hands first,” Grandmother said, coming in with a freshly prepared pot of dal. Her rules were strict, no exceptions.

“These animals are lucky. They don’t have to wash their hands,” Sam said, looking down at Rocky and getting ready to pet him.

“Sam, don’t get your hands dirty again,” Grandmother warned him. All the bad memories of last year’s food poisoning episode flooded Sam’s mind.

“And they don’t even have to brush their teeth!” Sarah added.

“Alright, enough talking. Pray and eat your food now,” Renu’s mother said, bringing the rice.

Just then, Grandmother’s phone rang. Sam thought it must be their mother. Grandmother went into the next room to answer the call. She returned a few minutes later, looking happy.

“What did Amma say?” Sarah asked.

“Well, it wasn’t your Amma, dear. It was our church priest, Father Matthew,” Grandmother said, beaming. “He was thanking everyone for praying. The good news is that the church building is safe, though it was slightly flooded. God heard all our prayers! However, the church still needs to be cleaned and prepared before we can gather there again.”

“That’s wonderful news!” Sarah said, relieved.

“Yes, it is!” Grandmother agreed. “Father Matthew also asked us to have a special thanksgiving prayer.”

“So, are we all going to church?” Renu asked curiously.

“No, dear. We will have church here,” Grandmother replied.

“Church at our home?” Sam asked, surprised. He had never thought of that before.

“Yes, dear. Our homes are extensions of the church,” Grandmother explained. So, we’ll have a special Thanksgiving prayer right here.” Father Matthew also

gave us some important instructions, Grandmother continued. “He asked every family to set up a home Altar that is a small space dedicated to prayer and thanksgiving to God. Just like Noah built an altar to thank God when he stepped off the ark, we’ll do the same here!”

“A home altar? How do we make one?” Rahul asked curiously.

“Father Matthew explained everything,” Grandmother said. “We need to find a place in the house where we can set up a table. On it, we’ll place the Bible, a cross, candles, Prayer rope, Holy water, and anything else that reminds us of the presence God. It will be a place where we can gather to pray together as a family.”

“So, who’s ready to help me set things up for the prayer?” Grandmother asked. “We’ll set up a ‘prayer altar’ like the one in church, but on a smaller scale.”

All hands shot up. “Me! Me! Me!” everyone shouted. Even Sanjay wanted to help.

They chose the best place in the house to set up the prayer altar. Grandmother always said, “Give the best to God.” Now, anyone who entered the house could see the prayer altar. The children divided the duties among themselves. The girls swept, mopped, and cleaned the floor where the altar was to be placed. The boys took a table and cleaned it thoroughly; they placed candles on candle holders.

Rahul’s mother, who was skilled at stitching, turned a beautiful red cloth into a tablecloth. The altar table, now covered with the new cloth, looked perfect.

Sarah placed the Bible on a small wooden stand and then her prayer rope, which Grandmother had taught her to make last year (she had faithfully used it ever since) And Sam placed the cross at the center of the table and he put the candles too on the table (he had forgotten to bring his prayer rope for vacation!)

“Perfect!” Grandmother said, admiring their work. Everyone stood around, gazing at the prayer altar in awe, gratitude, and joy.

"At 6 p.m., their usual prayer time, everyone gathered around the Altar. Instead of sitting in a circle as they usually did. They all stood facing the Altar. Next the candles were lit and the prayer time begin. Praying at the Altar gave the prayer time a whole different special feeling. It felt very special. Grandmother led the prayers, and the children read the special scripture passages sent by the priest for the thanksgiving prayer."

This time, when they recited the Creed, Renu, Rahul, and Sona also said it perfectly, without hesitation. It seemed the saying 'practice makes perfect' was true!

Then it was time for Grandmother's story.

"Today, I am going to tell you the story of Obed Edom," she began.

"Long time ago, when God's people, travelled from place to place, they used to carry what is called the Ark of the Covenant."

"Was it big like Noah's Ark?" Rahul asked.

"No, no, no ... laughed Grandmother. This 'Ark' was smaller. It was not a boat meant to carry people; rather it was a small rectangular box structure which God had asked Moses to make. It was about the size of that table, said Grandmother, pointing to the altar table."

"Why was it called the, 'Ark of Covenant?'" asked Renu curiously.

"A covenant means a promise; and it was God's promise to be with His people," Grandmother replied. "Wherever the people went, they would carry this, 'Ark of the Covenant,' with them."

Sort of like the altar table, right?" Sam asked.

"Yes, Dear, exactly! 'The Ark of the Covenant,' just like our altar table, was to remind people of God's promises and His presence with them." Many years later, after Moses' time, this 'Ark of God' got lost, because the people of God did not care about it much. And they suffered greatly because of that. Then the great King David, found out where it was and wanted to bring the Ark of

God to Jerusalem, the great city he had built."

"He made grand preparations to bring the 'Ark of God' back. But in the meanwhile King David wanted to keep it somewhere safe. Till he made all the arrangements for the 'Ark of God' to be brought back. He found a person named Obed-Edom who was willing to keep the 'Ark of God' in his house and take care of it."

"And you know what? In the three months the Ark of God remained in his house, God blessed Obed Edom and his whole family!"

"David the great King heard about this and was so happy and knew that he had to bring the 'Ark of God' back to Jerusalem and keep it inside a special place, so that all of God's people could be blessed. And he did so!"

"Ah, so that is why we should have a prayer altar in our house!" Renu said, looking at her mother. "If God blessed Obed Edom's house because he kept 'God's Ark' safe for three months, imagine how much God will bless us if we keep the prayer altar always in our house!" she told her mother.

"Yes, we will surely set it up, as soon as we return to our house," her mother reassured her.

"Can we have one in our house too, Amma?" Sanjay asked his mother Komal. She wanted to say, 'yes.' But she said we will wait to hear from your father and ask him before we do that. (Komal's husband worked in the city and because of the flooding they had not been able to call him for the last three days.)

"Komal, don't worry; your husband will be safe. For the past three days during our evening prayer, we have prayed for your husband," said Grandmother.

Pointing to the lit candle on the altar table she said, "Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Just like this candle brings us light even in the darkest of night, Jesus is our light, our guide, our hope, even when things look so dark." "Have faith in Him..."

Suddenly grandmother's sentence was interrupted by Komal's phone ringing.

Komal jumped up and went to the next room where she had kept her phone. One could hear her excitedly talking; it sounded like she was almost crying. After a few minutes, she came into the room. Her face smiling and wiping her tears. It was her husband who had called.

"He is fine! He's fine! Just like you said Grandmother, he's fine," she hugged Grandmother. Sona and Sanjay jumped up and ran to their mother! Their joy was uncontainable.

He and those who worked with him in the construction company were moved to a safer location. And since electricity had not been there for the past 3 days, his phone charge was gone and he couldn't call. Today he somehow charged his phone and called her.

Then Sanjay, who was just three years old, did something surprising. He picked up a storybook about Jesus, which belonged to Sam. He held it close to his chest, hugged the book and then kissed the picture of Jesus that was on the cover of the book. This was his way of thanking Jesus for hearing their prayers and keeping his father safe.

After a few minutes of commotion, joy and celebration, Grandmother stood up.

Then they all stood up and said the special thanksgiving prayer together which the priest had sent to them. Then, with hands raised, they together said the Lord's Prayer. Sanjay by now, knew most of the Lord's Prayer by heart, and he exactly knew how and when to draw the sign of the cross.

As they folded up the mats on which they sat, blew out the candles and kept their prayer books and Bibles on the prayer altar, Rahul asked his mother, "can we stay here one more day?"

He wanted to go to his home; but also wanted to hear Grandmother's next story! And sure enough, Grandmother's special story was reserved for the next day.

Applications:

1. Remember that your home is a 'little church' and an extension of God's house.

2. Create a home altar with the help of your family, and pray there together with them every day.

Questions:

1. Whose house was blessed because the Ark of God was there?
   (a) Noah, (b) Obed-Edom, (c) David

2. What does the home altar remind us of?
   (a) God's presence, (b) A place to eat, (c) A storage box

3. Can we pray with our family at the home altar?
   (Yes / No)

Memory Verse:

Then Noah built an altar to the Lord. - Genesis 8:20

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank you that I can have a special place in my home to pray. Whenever I see it I will remember that you are with me and that you love me. Help me to arrange and keep it well. Amen †

Craft

Prayer Altar Memory Game

Items Needed:

— One 'Memory Game' print out
— Colours or colour pencils
— Scissors
— 1 envelope or paper clip

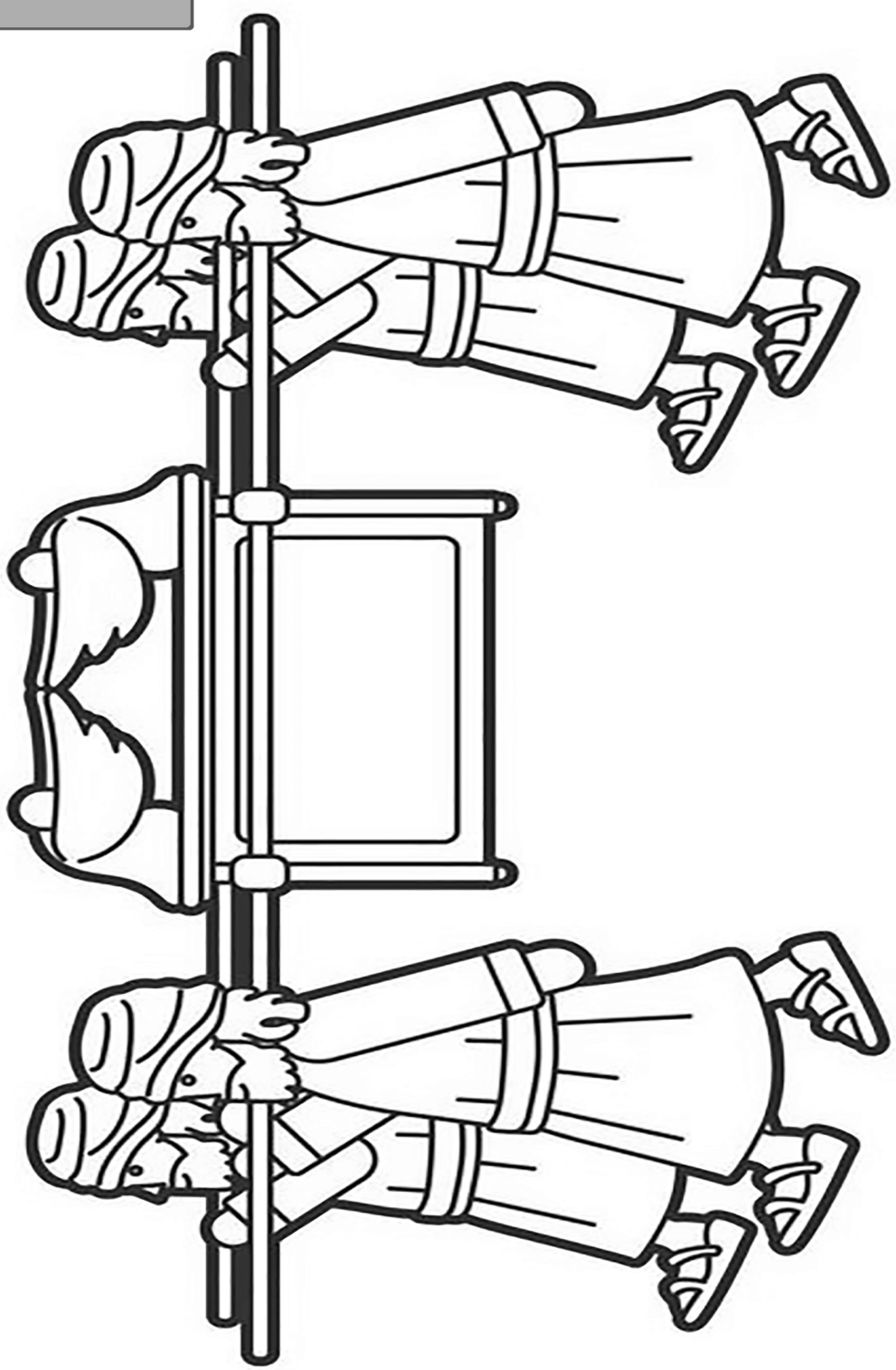
Instructions

— Colour the pictures on your print out
— Cut the pieces apart very carefully
— Keep the pieces in a small envelope and write your name on it or use a paper clip so you can clip the pieces together.

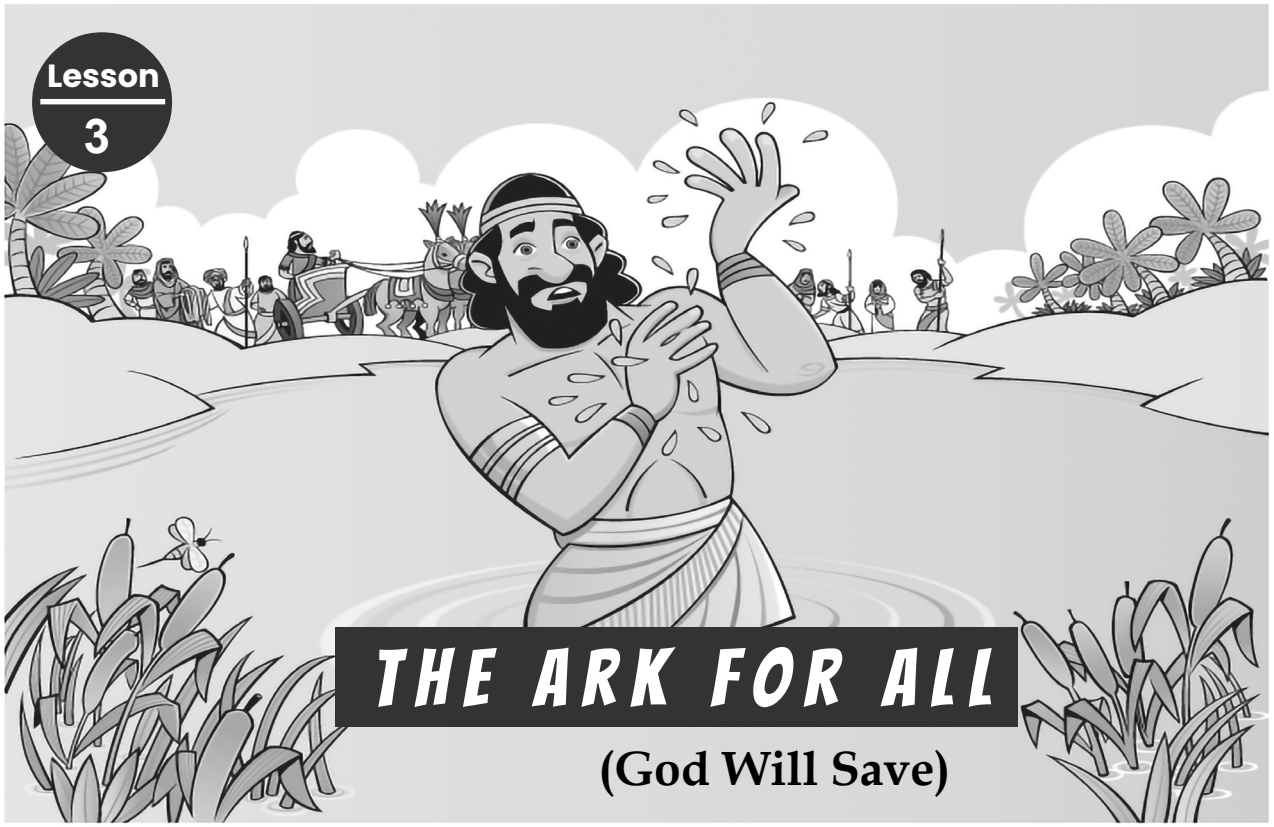
How to Play the Memory Game

— Mix up the cards and place them face down on the table.
— The first player turns over 2 cards, if they match he/she gets to keep them and gets to take another turn.
— If the cards DO NOT match the player turns them back over and the next player takes a turn.
— Players watch carefully and try to remember where the cards are.
— When all the cards have been matched, the game is over.
— Each player counts their pairs and the player with the most pairs wins.

Colour Me:



Lesson 3



THE ARK FOR ALL

(God Will Save)

Bible Passage:

2 Kings 5 :1 - 19

It was Saturday morning. The next day after church Sam and Sarah would return home with their mother. Their vacation was coming to an end. They were a little sad but also happy it had been a very special holiday.

Their vacations never ended without one of Grandmother's special stories. Each year, she would take them to the riverbank, sit under the big peepal tree, and tell them one last story. Sam and Sarah were looking forward to it.

The past few days had been a whirlwind of activity. First, the floods came. Then the neighbours came (with their animals), and finally, the sun came! Once the floodwaters receded, just like in the days of Noah, everyone offered the thanksgiving prayer together - the four families united in gratitude.

But unlike the story of Noah, the neighbourhood houses were filled with mud, muck, and dirt. They all needed to be cleaned and washed. So, the kids decided to band together and help. They cleaned, wiped, arranged, and rearranged. For two days, the children worked hard. First, they helped in Renu's house, then in Rahul's, and finally in Aunty Komal's house.

Sam especially took the lead in this. He carried more heavy items than he ever had in his life. The chairs, beds, and tables he carried made his hands and legs ache. Yet, they kept at it until everything was done. Sam and Sarah's mother, who heard all this news, was so happy and proud of her children.

The most satisfying part was setting up the prayer altars in Renu and Rahul homes.

Because of all the work Sam felt little body pain and he was like "My hands and legs are aching, Grandma," complained Sam, rubbing his legs.

"I'm very proud of you, Dear," Grandmother said, smiling. "The aches and pains will soon vanish, but one day, God will reward you for the good work you have done."

Sam was holding Grandmother's hand as they walked towards the tree near the river.

The mud on the road was still wet, and pools of water were scattered here and there as they walked toward the riverbank. A group of people were trying to move a fallen tree off the road. Some houses were visibly damaged, roof tiles were missing, parts of compound walls had collapsed, and animal sheds were destroyed.

Finally, they reached the riverbank. Thankfully, the peepal tree remained intact not a single branch had fallen!

"Okay, children, let's sit down," Grandmother said. Sarah joined Sam as they sat down facing her.

“Do you remember what we learned here last year?” Grandmother asked.

Sam tried to think. It had something to do with the water, he slightly remembered.

“Reflection,” Sarah answered quickly.

She went on to explain how Grandmother had asked them to look into the clear river water and see their own reflections. Grandmother had told them three ways they could ‘reflect’ Jesus in their lives.

“What reflection, Didi?” asked Sam.

“What I mean by reflection is that when people see us, they should see the characteristics of Jesus in our lives. It’s sort of like how the water reflects your face,” Sarah explained.

“Oh yes, now I remember!” Sam said. “And then you showed us the prayer rope! (which I forgot to bring this time).”

“But the water is so muddy! You can’t see anyone’s reflection in it!” exclaimed Sarah.

“True,” Grandmother said. “Mud and sand have been carried into the river. The flood left the waters muddied, and it will take time for them to become clear again.

“But this reminds me of the story of a man in the Bible who was asked to take a bath in muddy water.”

“I’ve never heard of that story,” Sarah said.

“Me neither!” Sam added. “Please tell us, Grandma.”

And so, Grandmother began to tell the story…

“Naaman was a rich and influential man,” Grandmother started, “I know it’s a strange name, but he was a powerful army general. However, he had a secret that only his wife and the people in his household knew about. He had a dreaded sickness called leprosy.”

Sam's eyes widened in shock. "Oh no! Did he die from it?"

"No, Dear," Grandmother reassured him with a gentle smile. "You don't die from leprosy. Today, there are very good medicines that can cure it completely. But back in those days, leprosy was seen as a terrible disease, and people avoided those who had it. In fact, if someone had leprosy, they were sent away from the village or society. Families abandoned their loved ones, and communities rejected those who had this sickness. It was truly heart-breaking."

Sarah frowned. "That's really awful."

"Yes, it was. And Naaman, being such a proud man, feared losing his power, position, and influence if others discovered his illness. So, he desperately searched for a cure. He was willing to do anything to be healed."

"In Naaman's household, there was a little girl who worked as a servant. She had been taken captive from her homeland, but despite her situation, she never left her faith in God. When she learned about her master's illness, she told her master's wife about a prophet of God in her homeland a man named Elisha. She was confident that if Naaman went to Elisha, he could be healed."

"That's so brave of her," Sarah said, her voice full of admiration.

"Indeed, it was," Grandmother agreed. "Naaman listened to her advice and decided to find the prophet. Naaman traveled with his servants. They took many gifts with them. After traveling a long way they finally arrived at the Prophet Elisha's house. But instead of coming out to greet this important man, Elisha sent a messenger with a simple message, 'Go and wash in the River Jordan seven times.'"

Sam tilted his head in confusion. "That's it? No prayer or medicine?"

"Exactly!" Grandmother said with a laugh. "Naaman was furious. The River Jordan was muddy, and he felt the rivers in his land were much cleaner.

He almost refused, but his servants convinced him to obey. And guess what happened when he dipped himself in the river the first time.

Sam asked, “Was he healed?”

“No, Sam,” Grandmother said. “Elisha had told Naaman to dip in the river seven times.”

“So he needed to dip six more times and then he would be cured?” Sam asked Grandmother.

“Yes, Dear, that’s right. When he dipped himself the seventh time a miracle happened!! His skin became as clean and soft as the skin of a baby.”

“Wow!” Sam exclaimed, his face lighting up with excitement. “That’s amazing!”

“It was a true miracle,” Grandmother continued. “Naaman was overjoyed and returned to thank Elisha. But do you know whom he should have really thanked?”

“God, of course!” Sarah said confidently.

“Yes, God and one more person,” Grandmother hinted with a knowing smile.

“The little girl!” Sarah and Sam shouted together.

“Exactly!” Grandmother said proudly. “She could have stayed silent, but she chose to speak up. Because of her faith and courage, Naaman not only found healing but also came to know the one true God.”

“So, children,” Grandmother asked, “what can we learn from this story?”

“Don’t be proud and stubborn like Naaman,” Sam said.

“And always obey, even if what God asks seems strange,” Sarah added.

“Good answers,” Grandmother said, nodding. “But the most important lesson is to be like that little girl. Her simple act of faith changed Naaman’s

life forever. Even if you feel small or unimportant, you can still point others to God."

Inspired, Sam said, "Maybe I can invite Sona to church tomorrow. She prayed with us for her dad's safety, and she seemed really interested."

"That's a wonderful idea," Sarah said. "But make sure to ask Aunt Komal first."

Sam dashed off toward Sona's house, while Grandmother and Sarah walked home together. Seeing Grandmother's glowing smile, Sarah asked, "You seem really happy, Grandmother."

"Yes, Dear," Grandmother said. "God is answering our prayers. Aunty Komal used to go to church when she was younger but stopped after marriage. Recently, she shared her struggles how her husband's drinking had made life very hard. But now, God has already answered one of her prayers by keeping him safe. I believe He will answer her other prayer too."

"What's that prayer?" Sarah asked.

"That her husband would stop drinking and turn his life around," Grandmother said.

"I'll pray for him too," Sarah promised.

The next morning, everyone was busy getting ready for church. The church had been cleaned, wiped, and neatly arranged for the day. As Grandmother, Sam, and Sarah came down the hill, they were soon joined by Renu and her family, along with Rahul and his family.

But the biggest surprise awaited them on the way. Standing ready to join the group were Sona and Sanjay! But that wasn't all; right behind them stood Aunty Komal. Her face shone with joy, and she radiated happiness.

As she walked up to Grandmother, Aunty Komal clasped her hands tightly, her face was filled with joy. And she said "Grandmother, I have something to share with you."

“Yesterday evening, Sam came to invite Sona to church. He spoke so sweetly and reminded me that you all had been praying for my husband. He even told me not to lose hope because God hears our prayers. I didn’t know what to say. Then, something amazing happened!”

Aunty Komal paused, her eyes welling up with emotion. “Yesterday evening, my husband called. He told me something incredible - he said he hasn’t been able to drink at all for the past few days! He felt as though some unseen power was stopping him from touching alcohol. Then, he told me he’s coming home next week to see the children and me. And guess what else he told me?”

“What did he tell you?” Grandmother asked with curiosity.

“He told me that when he comes home next week, he wants to take all of us to the church! Can you believe it? I couldn’t stop crying with happiness.”

Grandmother couldn’t contain her joy. She hugged Komal tightly and said, “That is wonderful news! Dear, God is truly good! He is truly working in your family’s life, and He has answered your prayers.”

Aunty Komal nodded, tears of gratitude streaming down her face. “Grandmother, He hasn’t just answered mine - He’s answered all of our prayers. Even Sam’s!”

She reached out to stroke Sam’s head lovingly. “Thank you, Sam, for your prayers and for inviting Sona. Please come home after church and help us set up a prayer altar.”

Sam beamed with pride and joy.

Aunty Komal said, “thank God for all He’s done. From now on, our family will also be a part of the church.”

The children erupted with joy. “Yeah!” shouted Renu, Rahul, Sam, and Sona together. Sarah, unable to contain her excitement, picked up little Sanjay

in her arms and twirled him around like a spinning top, both laughing happily.

The group continued their journey to church, their hearts brimming with joy and gratitude. Grandmother walked with Komal by her side, both quietly thanking God for the beautiful way He had brought their families closer to Him.

Applications:

1. Tell your friends about God.
2. Be brave like the little girl.

Questions:

1. What was Naaman's problem?

   (a) He was sick with leprosy (b) He was hungry

   (c) He didn't have any friends

2. How many times did Naaman dip in the Jordan River to be healed?

   a) Five times, (b) Seven times, (c) Ten times

3. Did the young girl share about God even though she was far from her home?

   (Yes / No)

Memory Verse:

Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. - Matthew 5:16.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus please help me to point others to You. Even though I sometimes feel shy, scared, small and unimportant I believe that You can use me to bring others to You, just like the little servant girl in the story did. - Amen †

Bringing Others to My Church' craft

Items Needed:

- 1 plain paper (white or colored)
- 1 envelope
- Glue
- Markers or colours
- 4 popsicle sticks (if popsicle sticks are not available - cut light brown or tan paper in the shape of popsicle sticks)

Instructions

- Glue the envelope onto the plain paper (the flap should be open at the top)
- Colour the surrounding of the church (be creative)
  - A cross on top of the church
  - Windows and a door on the church
  - Sun, clouds and birds in the sky
  - Grass, flowers, trees around the church

- Think of 4 people who do not come to church
  - Draw each person on one of the Popsicle sticks, you can also write their names on the back of the stick.
  - Pray that God will help you to point those people to God and that they would come to church.
  - Put the popsicle sticks in the church.

Colour Me:

THE ARK OF SAINT NINO

(God Saved)

Saint Nino

Saint Nino and the grapevine cross : Nino, a 16-year-old girl from Cappadocia, was born into a devout Christian family. Her father, Zabulon, was a Roman general who later became a monk, and her mother, Sosana, dedicated her life to serving in the church. From a young age, Nino was taught to love God with all her heart. Her family prioritized daily prayer and attended all the church services, making their family prayer time the Ark of their faith.

One day, while praying, Nino felt a deep calling from God. Although she didn't fully understand what it meant, she knew that God wanted her to share His love with others. She prayed for strength and guidance, asking God to show her the path. In that moment of prayer, Nino had a remarkable vision. The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to her, holding a cross made of vines. With a gentle smile, Mary placed the cross into Nino's hands and said, "Go to the land of Georgia and share the love of my Son, Jesus. Do not be afraid, for God will be with you."

When Nino woke up, she felt an undeniable call in her heart. Although the cross had not physically remained in her hands, she knew that she had been given a mission. Filled with courage and faith, Nino decided to follow God's command without hesitation. Before embarking on her journey, she created a cross of her own, just like the one Mary had shown her. Using grapevine branches and her own hair, she carefully tied them together, forming a simple but meaningful cross. She knew that this cross would serve as her guide

and strength in the days to come.

Nino began her long journey to the land of Georgia with only the cross she had made and a heart full of courage. When she arrived in Georgia, she found that the people had never heard of Jesus. They worshipped idols and didn't know the peace of knowing the true God. But Nino didn't give up. She was determined to share God's love with them.

Every day, she prayed at a special place where she kept the cross she made, asking God for strength and guidance. One day, Nino encountered a family whose young child was very ill. The family had tried everything to heal the child, but nothing worked. Nino prayed over the child and asked Jesus to heal him. To everyone's amazement, the child was healed! The family was so amazed by the miracle that they began to believe in the one true God. News of this miracle spread quickly, and more people came to Nino, eager to learn about the God she served.

But Nino's mission was just beginning. News of her miracles reached the royal family, and Queen Nana, the wife of King Mirian III, who had been very sick, asked Nino to pray for her. Nino agreed, and the royal family welcomed her to the palace.

When Nino arrived at the palace, she knelt beside Queen Nana, who had been suffering from an illness for a long time. Despite many attempts to heal her, nothing had worked. Nino prayed with great faith, trusting that God would heal the queen. Miraculously, Queen Nana was healed! She was so moved by this miracle that she gave her heart to Jesus and invited Nino to teach her more about Christ.

But King Mirian III, who was still a follower of idols, was not pleased with his wife's newfound faith. He threatened to divorce Queen Nana if she did not renounce Christianity. Despite his opposition, Queen Nana continued to follow Jesus, and her faith grew stronger.

King Mirian, however, wasn't easily convinced. One day, while hunting in the forest, he became lost and was struck blind by a great darkness. He tried to

pray to his idols for help, but there was only silence. In that moment, he remembered Nino and her unwavering faith in God. Desperate, he called out to her God for help.

In that instant, a bright light appeared, guiding him safely out of the forest. Overwhelmed by the miracle, King Mirian renounced his idols and accepted Jesus Christ as his Lord. He was baptized, and soon after, the entire kingdom followed his lead. In 326, King Mirian declared Christianity the state religion of Iberia, making it the second Christian kingdom in the world after Armenia.

Conclusion:

Saint Nino's mission brought the people of Georgia into the 'Ark' of faith. Through her courage, love for God, the miracles God performed through her prayers, she helped an entire nation find safety and peace in the arms of Jesus Christ. Her legacy reminds us that with God's help, we too can bring others into the Ark, showing them the way to salvation and eternal life.

1. Obey God's call.
2. Share God's love with others.
3. Always have faith in God.

Questions:

1. Who appeared to Nino in a vision?

   (a) An angel (b) The Blessed Virgin Mary, (c) A king

2. What happened when Nino prayed for the sick child?

   (a) The child got healed (b) The child stayed sick (c) The child left the house

3. Nino shared God's love with the people of _____.

Memory Verse:

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. - Matthew 5:14.

PRAYER

Dear Jesus, Thank you for the inspiring story of Saint Nino, who followed Your call with courage and love. Just like she carried the cross and spread Your message to others, help me to share Your love with those around me. - Amen

St. Nino Paper Doll

Items Needed:

- 1 print out of St. Nino
- Colours or colour pencils
- Cello tape

Instructions

- Colour the picture of St. Nino
- Cut out the top part of the craft along the line
- Fold the craft and tape the back together, so it is a cylinder shape.