



“CONSIDER *Your* CALL” Younger Children Bible Studies

**1**  
SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** Whom Does God Call?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that God calls any person who loves Him to serve Him.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called John the Baptist

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *Luke 1:5-23; 57-66*

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Teach me your way, O Lord.” *Psalm 27:11*

**2**  
SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** Can God Call Me?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that God can and will call anyone who believes in Him to serve Him.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Lydia

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *Acts 16:8-15, 40*

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Do what is right and good in the Lord’s sight.”  
*Deuteronomy 6:18*

**3**  
SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** How Do I Know God’s Calling?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that when God calls, people do not always realize that it is God.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Samuel

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *1 Samuel 1-11; 3:1-11*

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Even a child is known by his actions.”  
*Proverbs 20:11*

**4**  
SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** I’ve Been Called-Now What?

**PURPOSE:** To help girls and boys understand that when God calls a person, He already has a plan.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Moses

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *Exodus 3-4:17*

**MEMORY VERSE:** “For I know the plans I have for you.”  
*Jeremiah 29:11*

CONSIDER *Your* CALL in Missions through the Alma Hunt Initiatives

# UNIT Preparation

All of these items will be used throughout the unit.

1. Obtain the leaflet **“What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!”** from the Woman's Missionary of Virginia, P.O. Box 8435, Richmond, VA 23226. The leaflet will be referred to throughout the unit and will be used in Session 4.
2. On a large piece of poster board print the words to the chorus of **“Go Tell It on the Mountain.”**
3. Print the unit title (**“On Call”**), the session titles, and each of the four memory verses on separate pieces of construction paper. Display them in a focal area. Plan to use them throughout the unit. Here are some display ideas.
  - Make a windsock mobile. Take a large piece of construction paper and print the unit title on it. Roll the sides together and tape them. On eight long strips of writing paper, print the session titles and the memory verses. Fasten them to the windsock. Display it where the children can see it easily.
  - Cover a large box with construction or shelf paper. Print the unit title on the top and the session titles and memory verses on the sides.
4. Write across a large piece of poster board **“People God Called to Serve Him.”** Use this every session.
5. If you choose not to offer Introductory Activity 3, make a set of instruments.
6. Cover a small box with colored paper. Write one of the numerals from 1 to 6 on each side.
7. Locate Bible pictures of all four Bible persons. Look in children's classroom for picture.
8. Get a beach ball. Print randomly on the ball as many of the following Bible skills activities as you can. On one section print **“I Can Do It!”** The ball will be used for Bible skills throughout the unit. It may also be used anytime as an activity for children who finish early or need something else to do.
  - Name the first three books of the Bible.
  - Find the first book of the Bible. Say its name.
  - Name the four Bible books that tell about Jesus.
  - Find a Bible book that tells about Jesus. Say its name.
  - Find the book in the middle of the Bible. Say its name.
  - Find the books on either side of the book of Psalms. Say the names.
  - Name the three books at the end of the Bible.
  - Find the last book in the Bible. Say the name.
  - Find the Bible book where today's memory verse is found.
  - Name the last book in the Bible.
  - Find the last book in the Old Testament.

# 1 SESSION 1

**SESSION TITLE:** Whom Does God Call?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that God calls any person who loves Him to serve Him.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called John the Baptist

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *Luke 1: 5-23; 57-66*

**MEMORY VERSE:** "Teach me your way, O Lord." *Psalm 27:11*

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## Preparation

### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need the number cube and today's memory-verse card.
2. You will need construction paper, colored markers, scissors, envelopes, and drawing paper. Print today's Bible verse on a large piece of paper.
3. You will need three paper plates and several small jingle bells for tambourines. Two coffee cans and two large spoons for drums and some empty small plastic bottles, rice and large beans for shakers. You will need masking tape for the lids of the drums and the shakers.

### GROUP TIME

1. Read the Bible story. Ask God to help you as you teach the girls and boys about His call. Pray for each child you will teach today.
2. Write each of these questions on pieces of construction paper. What was Zechariah doing in the holy room? What did the angel tell Zechariah? What was the baby's name to be?
3. Place a bookmark at *Luke 1* in your Bible. Practice telling the story a few times.
4. Print the following statements on 3-inch by 5-inch cards:  
    *"Make books on tape for preschoolers."*  
    *"Make a refrigerator magnet for a shut-in."*  
    *"Make tray favors for children in the hospital."*  
    *"Make a "God Loves You" card for a sick friend."*  
    *"Give toys to children in a homeless shelter."*  
    *"Make holiday cookies for a neighbor."*  
Add more if you want. On a small paper bag, print "**What Does God Call Me to Do?**" Place the cards in the bag.
5. Get the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster.
6. Print the memory verse on a piece of paper. Cut it into jigsaw puzzle pieces. Place the pieces under several of the children's chairs.
7. Ask teachers to move at the right moment to the activity tables to greet the children as they arrive.

# BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## CHOICE 1.

You will need craft foam (available in craft stores) or construction paper, colored markers, clear adhesive-backed paper, and large magnets (available at office supply stores). Cut the foam or construction paper into several circles at least three or four inches in diameter.

## CHOICE 2.

You will need the “**What Does God Call Me to Do?**” bag and cards, a large piece of poster board, and a colored marker. On the poster board, draw spaces for the syllables of “*Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*” or another song the children will know. For example:

Line 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Line 6 \_\_\_\_\_

Come up with some suggestions in case the children need help thinking of what to say. For example, “*God calls me to work for Him*” or “*I can do so many things.*” Fit the words to the tune.

## CHOICE 3.

This activity will be more suitable for children who are good readers. You will need an empty cassette tape and a cassette recorder. Make several copies of the Bible story in Group Time for the children to read. You may also choose several other Bible or mission stories that the children may read. You will find stories in “**Virginia Missions**” magazine from the Virginia Baptist Resource Center. Make sure you have enough copies for the children. Try to find a quiet location for the children to record the stories.

Decide on which of the following methods would work best for your group. Be sure to include the whole group in whichever method you choose.

- Several people can read the parts of the characters and one person may read the part of the narrator.
- Children may take turns reading different parts of the story.
- A different child may read each story.
- Help locate the children’s page.

# 1 SESSION 1

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## Introductory Activities

(10-15 minutes)

Greet children as they arrive and point out the three activities. Guide each child to make a choice.

### ACTIVITY 1 - *Toss the Cube!*

Show children the number cube and the memory-verse card. Guide a child to toss the cube and read the number on top. That is the word of the memory verse the child will say. For example, if the child tosses a number four, she will say the word "way." If another child also tosses a four, she, too, will say the word "way."

The children will continue throwing the number cube until all the memory-verse words have been said. At that point, guide the children to say the verse in unison. Continue tossing the number cube and saying the words to the memory verse until time is up. Comment on how well the children are learning about God and the Bible.

### ACTIVITY 2 - *Make a Puzzle*

Show children the supplies you gathered. Tell them that they make one or two of several memory-verse puzzles: a jigsaw puzzle, a missing word puzzle, a monks writing puzzle (all the words run together with no spaces), and a mixed-up word puzzle. Encourage the children to make different puzzles.

The children who choose the jigsaw puzzle will need the construction paper, scissors, markers, and envelopes. The children who choose the other types will need markers and construction paper.

As children work, talk to them about the memory verse and its meaning. Tell them that God is pleased when they learn verses from the Bible.

### ACTIVITY 3 - *Musical Instruments*

Show children the supplies you gathered. Tell them that they will make musical instruments to use throughout the unit.

Guide them to tie the bells to the paper plates for tambourines. Guide them to tape the lid of the coffee cans for drums. Help them put the rice and beans inside the small jars.

When the instruments are complete, guide children to softly hum a song and play the instruments. Tell them that they are serving God through worship.

# 1 SESSION 1

## Group Time

(25-30 minutes)

**Introduce the unit.** Ask the children to share with the group about the activities they have just completed. Tell them that they are already learning about God and how He calls people to serve Him.

Invite a child to read the title of the unit. Say: *We are going to learn how God calls people to do His will. We will hear stories about Bible people that God called to serve Him and we will learn that God still calls people today. We will learn Bible verses that will help us. Today we will learn about a very special person whom God called.*

**Sing.** Say: *When God wants us to serve Him, one of the most important things He wants us to do is to tell others about Jesus and how much He loves people.* Show children the song chart. Ask how many already know the song. If several children know it already, sing it together. If the children do not know it, teach it to them.

Read the words first, then hum the tune. Invite anyone who knows it to sing it with you. Ask the group that made the instruments to show them now. Suggest that the group sing the song using the instruments. Plan to sing the song once or twice in this manner.

Ask, *What is it that God wants us to tell about Jesus?* (That Jesus Christ is born)

**Pray.** Say: *Let's think about how happy we are that Jesus Christ is born. Let's also thank God for loving us the way He does.* Tell the children they may each think of one special thing they want to thank God for and say it in their minds during the prayer. As you pray, pause so the children can think their prayers. Then close the prayer, thanking God for His love.

**Tell the Bible story.** Say: *God wants the people who love Him to serve Him, too. Today we will hear a story about a special person that God called. One thing people have to do is to listen carefully when God calls.* Show children the three questions. Say, *And you will have to listen carefully to today's story so that you will be able to answer these questions when the story is over.* Place the question cards on the floor. Read each one aloud.

Invite a child to open your Bible at the bookmark and read aloud the name of the Bible book. Then tell this Bible story in your own words.

### GOD CALLED JOHN THE BAPTIST

One day a priest named Zechariah went into the most holy place in the temple of the Lord. It was his turn to go there to burn incense as a sign of worship toward God. Zechariah was married and his wife's name was Elizabeth. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth were already old but they did not have any children. They still prayed that God would give them a child.

That day the room was very quiet and Zechariah was the only one there. He was quietly burning the incense and worshiping God.

Suddenly an angel appeared in the room, standing right beside the altar. Zechariah nearly jumped out of his skin! Then he felt very afraid. He did not know who the angel was.

"Don't be afraid, Zechariah," the angel said. "God has heard your prayer for a child. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. He will be a son; you will call him John. He will make you very happy and many people will be glad that he was born.

"John will be a special child. He will be a great man in the sight of God. He is never to drink wine and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit from the minute he is born. He will bring many of the people of Israel back to God. He will prepare the people to meet the Lord."

But Zechariah did not believe the angel.

"How can this be?" Zechariah asked the angel. "I am old, and my wife is old. We cannot have a child."

"I am Gabriel, an angel of God," the angel said to Zechariah. "God sent me to tell you this wonderful news.

But you do not believe me. So until the birth of your son, you will be unable to speak. You will not be able to say one word." Then the Angel Gabriel disappeared.

In the meantime, all the people who had come to worship God that day were standing outside the holy room. They wondered why Zechariah did not come out.

When Zechariah came out of the room, he looked at all the people; yet, he did not say anything. He could not speak. He made signs to them.

"Something happened in there," the people said. "While he was in the holy room, Zechariah must have had a vision."

After several months, Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy just as the angel Gabriel had said she would. She was very happy. So was Zechariah. So were all the relatives and friends and neighbors. Everyone was happy that Elizabeth had a baby. Zechariah was happy but he still could not speak.

When the baby was eight days old, Zechariah and Elizabeth took him to the temple to worship God. That was also when they would give the baby his name.

"The baby should be called Zechariah after his father," the family all agreed.

"No", cried out Elizabeth. "The baby is to be called John."

"John?" all the family looked at each other. "Why John? There is no one in the family called John."

Then everyone turned to Zechariah to see what he wanted to call the baby. Zechariah asked for something to write on. He took the tablet they brought and wrote on it "His name is John." And right away Zechariah could speak again!

The family couldn't believe it! Zechariah had never even talked to Elizabeth after the angel had visited him. But both Zechariah and Elizabeth knew that the baby's name was to be John. Everyone was amazed.

And when everyone all around the countryside heard the news about Baby John, they were amazed too. Everyone who heard the story asked, "What is this child going to be?" They knew that the child was special because God had called him. And that special baby grew up to be John the Baptist.

--Based on *Luke 1: 5-23; 57-66*

**Review the Bible story.** *Say: Isn't that story amazing? God was calling John the Baptist to serve Him before John was even born. John the Baptist was the person who told many people that Jesus would come to save them.*

Read the questions one at a time. Wait for the children to answer. Compliment the children on how well they listened to the story. Show children the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster. Invite a child to write "**John the Baptist**" on the board.

**Bible application.** *Say: God calls the people who love Him to serve Him, too. Let's think of some things boys and girls could do to serve God.*

Show the children the "**What Does God Call Me to Do?**" bag. Explain that in the bag are several cards showing actions children may do to serve God. Invite several children to choose cards and read aloud the tasks.

*Say: Many of the actions you have just read are suggestions from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia. These things are certainly things that children could do, aren't they? All through the unit you will have opportunities to make and do things that will help you serve God when He calls.*

Ask the children if they know the name for the special offering for missions in Virginia. (The Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions.) In the What Can Kids Do brochure, each of the projects of Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia is funded through this offering. Because many people give money to the Alma Hunt Offering, others in this state are helped in the name of Jesus.

**Learn the memory verse.** Guide the children to look under their chairs to find a puzzle piece. Ask the children to place the puzzle pieces on the floor. Invite two children to look at the memory-verse card and then put the puzzle pieces in order. When the puzzle is complete, lead the children to say the verse together. Repeat the activity twice more. Tell the children how important it is to learn God's ways.

**Choose activities.** Present the activity choices to the children. Guide them to move to the tables to begin work.

# 1 SESSION 1

## Bible-Learning Activities

(25-30 minutes)

### ACTIVITY 1 - *Showing Love Magnets*

**Purpose:** Boys and girls will think about and practice a way to answer God's call by serving others.

Show the children the supplies. Tell them that they will make one or more magnets to give to someone who needs to know about God's love. Ask the children to think about some words they could put on the magnets. Here are some options.

- The memory verse; part of the memory verse; another Bible verse
- Short messages such as "God loves you," "God is good," "God cares about you."
- An illustration.

As the children work, ask them to think of people who need the magnets.

### ACTIVITY 2 - *Sing a Song!*

**Purpose:** Boys and girls will think about serving God by writing and singing a song.

Show children the song chart you made. Tell them that they are going to write a song about serving God. They will use the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Guide children to hum the song together.

Ask them to choose and read aloud the cards in the bag. Ask them to think of some other things they could do. Make a list of the suggestions. Then ask the children to choose three or four specific items that they will put in their song.

Guide the children to fit the words to the music. Allow them to take the lead. It doesn't matter if the song is not great. It is what the children learn as they work that makes the activity important.

When the song is finished, sing it quietly together. Compliment the children on how well they worked.

### ACTIVITY 3 - *Read a Story*

**Purpose:** Children will practice telling others about God and His love.

Tell the children that they are going to make a tape that can be given to someone to help him or her know about God. Explain to the children how the recording will proceed. Ask them to think about a person or persons to whom they would like to give the recording.

Distribute the copies of the story or stories. Guide the children to read through the story silently. Then lead them to practice how they will read the story on the tape. Plan to practice at least twice.

Children will sometimes giggle or respond in other ways during a recording. Don't worry about stopping the tape a few times.

Encourage the children as they prepare for and make the tape. Help them know that they are learning to do the things that God wants them to. They are learning to serve Him.

**SESSION TITLE:** Can God Call Me?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that God can and will call anyone who believes in Him to serve Him.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Lydia

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Acts 16:8-15, 40

**MEMORY VERSE:** Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight. *Deuteronomy 6:18*

# Preparation

## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need 17 small cards, seventeen small magnets, two cookie sheets and two Bibles. On each card print one word of the two memory verses. Open one Bible to *Deuteronomy 6:18* and the other to *Psalms 100:2*. Highlight the memory-verse part of both verses. Place the cookie sheets, the cards and the Bibles on a table. Keep the word cards for each verse separate.
2. You will need two paper plates, two craft sticks, and a red and a green marker. Print “STOP!” with the red marker on one plate. Print “GO!” with the green marker on the other plate. Fasten a craft stick to each plate. For the activity, you will make statements about possible actions in the lives of children. The children will hold up the signs to say whether the actions would please God or not. Make statements such as:
 

“Be a good friend”	“Tell a lie”
“Kick my brother”	“Help my mother set the table”
“Don't talk to my friend”	“Steal a candy bar”
“Cheat on a test”	“Share my toys”
“Tell about Jesus”	“Take a friend to church”
3. You will need the “I Can Do It” Bible skills ball and a Bible for each child in your group. The game may be played on a table or on the floor.

## GROUP TIME

1. Read the Bible story. Ask God to help you as you teach the girls and boys about His call. Pray for each child you will teach today.
2. Get the magnet word cards and the cookie sheets used in the activity time.
3. Get a bookmark and place it at *Luke 2* in your Bible.
4. Print the letters L, Y, D, I, A on five half-size pieces of construction paper.
5. Get the “People God Called to Serve Him” poster.
6. Get the “STOP!” and “GO!” paper plates and the statements in the preparation section for activity two.
7. Get the instruments from the last session.

## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CHOICE 1.

Each child will make items to put in a bag. Collect these materials and guide the children to make appropriate choices-craft foam, scissors, glue, tape, colored markers, construction paper, door hanger shapes (paper or foam), heart shapes (paper), a variety of stickers, colored ribbon, lace doilies, small match or jewelry boxes, small gift bags

#### Children can make:

- Bible-verse bookmarks
- Bible-verse door reminders
- Heart cards with a message ("I am praying for you.")
- Message boxes
- An invitation card to your church

Visit a craft store and see what other items could be made for the bags.

### CHOICE 2.

You will need small paper cups, Styrofoam balls, plastic drinking straws, felt-tip markers, fabric scraps, yarn, ribbon, scissors, glue or tape and small cards. In order to help the children make their puppets, you might wish to make a puppet for yourself, following the directions provided.

### CHOICE 3.

Ask one or two church leaders, church members, or youth to meet and talk with the children. If possible, plan to visit the persons away from your teaching room. Otherwise, ask them to come to the room at a certain time. Make a list of questions for the children to ask. You will need to tailor the questions to the specific people they will interview.

#### Here are some suggestions:

- How old were you when God called you?
- Did you hear God talking to you?
- How did you know it was God calling?
- Did call you in a special way, like in a dream?
- Did God tell you what He wanted you to do?
- Did you do it?
- What do you do every day that pleases God?

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# Introductory Activities

(10-15 minutes)

Greet children as they arrive and point out the three activities. Guide each child to make a choice.

## ACTIVITY 1 - *Memory-Verse Magnets*

Show children the cards and the Bibles. Ask a child to read the highlighted part of one verse aloud. Ask another child to read the second verse. Tell children that one of the verses is one they learned in the last session and the other is this session's verse.

Assign the children to two groups. Guide each group to complete a verse. When the verses are complete, guide children to say the verses in unison.

For the second round of play, mix the word cards for both verses together and guide the children to unscramble the verse. Comment on how well the children are learning what God wants them to know.

## ACTIVITY 2 - *Red! Green!*

Greet the children as they arrive at your table. Ask a child to read today's memory verse from the focal wall. Tell the children that today they will be thinking of some things that girls and boys do. Some of them will be good things; some will not.

Assign the children to two groups. Give one the "GO!" sign; the other, the "STOP!" sign. Explain to them that you will make statements; they will decide if it is a "GO!" or a "STOP!" You may want to talk a little about each action. Offer an alternative to the negative actions.

## ACTIVITY 3 - *"I Can Do It!" Bible Skills Ball*

Show the ball and the Bibles to the children. Tell them that one child will roll the ball to another child. When the ball arrives, the child will choose a Bible-skills assignment and follow the directions. That child will then roll the ball to another child. Continue playing in this manner until time is up.

Some of the assignments may be difficult for younger children. Give them help when they need it. Compliment the children on how well they are learning to use the Bible. Tell them that these are skills they will use all their lives.

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# Group Time

(25-30 minutes)

**Introduce the session.** Ask children to tell about some of the things they did in their activity groups. Help them to know that they have all been doing things that are “right and good in the Lord’s sight.”

**Learn the memory verse.** Invite the children to look at the memory verse on the focal wall.

*Say: I have just said part of the memory verse, haven’t I? Let’s play a memory-verse game that some of you played earlier.*

Place the cookie sheet and the magnet word cards in front of the children. Invite two children to put the word cards in order. They may ask for help from the other children. After the verse has been completed, guide the group to say it together.

Now introduce the magnet words cards showing last week’s verse. Invite two groups of two children each to put them together. Repeat the process once or twice. Try to include all the children. Tell the children how well they did and that God is pleased when they learn Bible verses.

**Pray.** Ask children to name several things they want to thank God for. *Say: Let’s thank God right now for His wonderful love for us and for all the things He gives us.* Invite a child to pray. If none volunteer, ask one of your teachers or pray yourself.

**Tell the Bible story.** *Say: We are learning about how God calls people to serve Him aren’t we? Who did we learn about last time?* (John the Baptist) Invite a child to point out “**John the Baptist**” on the poster.

*Say, Today we will learn about a woman who heard God’s call.* Invite a child to open your Bible and say, *Acts*. Show children the letter cards. Tell them that when the story is over, they will be able to put the letters in order and discover another person whom God called. With your open Bible in your lap, tell this story in your own words. Children may wish to locate the Bible passage in their Bibles; take time to do so.

## GOD CALLED LYDIA

Paul was telling all the people about Jesus. He traveled from one country to the next country. The people were glad to hear about Jesus. Sometimes some other people traveled with Paul to help him preach.

One night Paul had a dream. He dreamed that a man in the country of Macedonia was calling him.

“Come to Macedonia and help us,” the man in Paul’s dream said.

Paul thought about the dream. He thought about the man in the dream,

“God wants me to go to Macedonia,” Paul thought. “He is calling me to preach the gospel to the people there.”

Early the next morning Paul and one of his friends began to pack for the trip to Macedonia. They were going to sail to Macedonia on a ship.

Paul and his friend traveled all day and all night. They sailed past some islands on the way. Soon they landed in a city beside the sea called Neapolis. Neapolis was a city in Macedonia. From there the two men traveled by land to a place called Philippi. This was the place where God wanted them to be. So they stayed in Philippi several days.

On the Sabbath day Paul and his friend wanted to worship God. They had heard that there was a place by the river where some people worshiped God. So they went outside the city to find the place of worship beside the river.

When the two men arrived, they found a group of women and some family members already there. The women were there to worship God. So Paul and his friend sat down and began to teach them about Jesus.

The women loved God and they were glad to hear about Him. But they did not often have teachers. So they listened very carefully to Paul and his friend as they talked about Jesus.

One woman was named Lydia. She had a business and a family, too. She was a seller of purple cloth. Purple

cloth was used by important people and on important occasions. Lydia may have been quite rich. But Lydia loved God. She listened very carefully to Paul's teaching. Then Lydia talked to Paul.

"I am a worshiper of the Lord," Lydia told Paul. "I am glad to hear your teaching today."

Paul and Lydia talked for a while. He soon realized that Lydia really was a follower of Jesus. Paul realized that Lydia might be one of the reasons God sent him to Philippi. So he baptized Lydia and her household right there in the river.

Lydia was happy. She knew that God had sent Paul to teach her and to baptize her. She knew that God was calling her to serve Him as a believer.

When the worship time was finished, Lydia invited Paul and his friend to her house.

"If you believe that I am a believer in the Lord, please come and stay at my house."

So Paul and his friend went to Lydia's home.

Lydia continued to worship the Lord and serve Him every day. She still ran her business and her home was often a place where the Christians met. Lydia answered God's call to follow Him. She was always glad that Paul had come to Macedonia to help them.

--Based on Acts 16:8-15, 40

**Review the Bible story.** Put the word cards on the floor. Invite a child to put them in order. Several children may take turns. Each time after the name has been put together, guide children to say, "*God called Lydia to serve Him.*"

**Bible application.** Invite a child to print the name "**Lydia**" on the poster. Divide the group in two. Show children the paper plates. Explain that you will read a statement and the groups will decide if it is a "**STOP**" or "**GO**" statement. Comment on several of the statements. Leave the "*Tell about Jesus*" statement for the last one. Comment to the children that even now they can hear and answer God's call. Ask them to tell you a verse that helps them know what to do. (The memory verse) Lead the children to repeat the verse.

Tell the children that Lydia is also the name of a project in Virginia where people share about Jesus in homes and places outside of the church building. Money from the Alma Hunt Offering for Virginia Missions helps to make the Lydia project possible. Obtain a picture of Alma Hunt either from the Virginia Missions magazine, the 2004 Alma Hunt promotional CD, or the WMUV Website ([www.wmu-va.org](http://www.wmu-va.org)).

**Sing.** Invite a small group of children to stand beside you. Distribute the instruments. Lead the children in singing "**Go Tell it On the Mountain.**" Let different children use the instruments each time you sing the song. Discuss meaning of song.

**Choose activities.** Present the activity choices to the children. Guide them to move to the tables and begin work.

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# Bible-Learning Activities

(25-30 minutes)

## ACTIVITY 1 - *God Loves You Bags*

**Purpose:** Children will think about and practice a way they can share God's love with others.

Give each child a gift bag. Guide them to print on the bag "God Loves You." Show the children the supplies you have collected. Tell them that each of them will make items to place in a gift bag to give to someone they know. Give them their options and guide them to begin making the items.

As the children work, talk to them about how Paul went where God told him to so he could tell others about God. Remind them that God has a plan for their lives already. As they try to do what He wants them to, He will bless them and help other people through them. Children need to know that they can answer God's call to service right now.

As children complete the items, guide them to place them in their gift bags. Compliment the children on how well they are following God's instructions.

## ACTIVITY 2 - *Pop-Up Puppets and Riddles*

**Purpose:** Girls and boys will remember the Bible facts as they make these puppets and riddles.

Children will choose which puppet they will make, Paul, Paul's friend, Lydia, or the other women. Guide children to make the puppets in the following manner.

First, draw a face on the ball. Use yarn for hair and fabric scraps for clothes. Make a hole for the straw in the bottom of the ball. Put the bottom of the straw into the hole. Make a hole in the bottom of the cup. Push the straw through the hole in the cup.

As children work, ask them to tell you about the Bible story. Guide them to think of facts they will use in their riddles. Encourage children to write one or more riddles for their Bible puppets. Guide them to print the riddles on the cards.

As the puppets are finished, invite children to ask the other children their riddles. Suggest that children show their puppets and ask their friends and family members the riddles.

## ACTIVITY 3 - *What Do You Do?*

**Purpose:** Interviewing a church leader, a church member (male or female), or a youth will help children understand how Christians answer God's call in their everyday lives.

Tell children that they will interview one or two persons who will tell them how they answered God's call to service. Ask, Remember our memory verse? Remind the children to look at memory verses in the focal area. Say, We are going to talk to some people who are doing right and good in God's sight. Tell children whom they will visit.

Show children the list of questions. Invite them to take turns reading the questions. Ask them if there is anything else they would like to ask. Add their questions to the list. Give the children pencils and cards to take notes if they want.

Introduce the children to the first visitor. Guide them to ask the questions and record the answers. When the interview is over, talk to the children about how the questions were answered. Repeat with the other visitors.

# 3 SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** How Do I Know God's Calling?

**PURPOSE:** To help children understand that when God calls, people do not always realize that it is God.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Samuel

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *1 Samuel 1-11; 3:1-11*

**MEMORY VERSE:** Even a child is known by his actions. *Proverbs 20:11*

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## Preparation

### INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need Bibles, colored markers, construction paper, and eleven large craft sticks for each child you expect in your group. On the construction paper, print today's Bible verse. Take some extra sticks with you in case they are needed.
2. You will need several small cards, a bag, and a marker. Write on each card a message. Make some of the messages Bible facts and some funny things. Print on the bag, "Can You Hear Me?" Place the cards inside.
3. You will need several sheets of brightly colored adhesive-backed drawing paper, a piece of poster board, and permanent markers.

### GROUP TIME

1. Read the Bible story. Ask God to help you as you teach the girls and boys about His call. Pray for each child you will teach today.
2. Get the "People God Called to Serve Him" poster.
3. If no one is doing the pick-up stick activity, make a set to use during group time.
4. Print the names of the four people in the story on strips of construction paper.
5. Place a bookmark in the Bible at *1 Samuel*.

## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CHOICE 1.

You will need several four-inch circles cut from poster board, safety pins, tape, clear adhesive-backed plastic, and colored markers. Print “L T G” on a piece of paper.

### CHOICE 2.

You will need a large piece of paper such as a tablecloth, colored markers, construction paper, drawing paper, tissue paper, and scissors.

### CHOICE 3.

You will need two large pieces of poster board and colored markers. The litany will follow this pattern:

Words and phrases  
Response line  
Words and phrases  
Response line  
Words and phrases  
Response line.

# 3 SESSION

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## Introductory Activities

(10-15 minutes)

Greet children as they arrive and point out the three activities. Guide each child to make a choice.

### ACTIVITY 1 - *Memory-Verse Magnets*

Ask children to find Proverbs 20:11 in their Bibles. Invite a child to read it aloud. Tell them that they will be using part of the verse. Show them the memory-verse card you made. Show them the craft sticks and markers. Tell them to print one word of the memory verse on each stick.

When the children have completed the sticks, show them how to hold the sticks in your hand and drop them on the table. Guide them to put the sticks in the correct order. Tell them how well they are learning the verses in the Bible.

If a child finishes quickly, he may make a set for the other Bible verses he has learned.

### ACTIVITY 2 - *Can You Hear Me?*

Guide children to sit in a circle on the floor or around the table. Make sure they leave some space between them so they cannot hear what one child whispers to another.

Ask the children what they have been learning about (Listening to God, hearing what God says, doing what God wants, serving God). Tell them that today they will learn about a child who did not even know God was talking to him. Tell the children that today they are going to practice listening.

Point out the “**Can You Hear Me?**” bag. Guide a child to choose a card from the bag. The child will whisper the message on the card to her neighbor on the left. That child will repeat the message in a whisper to the child on his left. The message will go around the circle; the last child in the circle will repeat the message aloud. The message may or may not be the same as when it started. Comment to the children on this fact. Tell them that people have to concentrate when they listen. Comment on the Bible facts as a way of reviewing for the children. Continue in this manner until all messages have been transmitted. Tell the children they have participated well.

### ACTIVITY 3 - *Listening Bumper Stickers*

Ask children what they have been learning about this week (God’s call, listening to God, serving God, doing what is right). Make a list of their answers. Then ask them to shorten the statements on the list to three or four words. For example, “Serve God,” “Listen to God,” “Do What is Right,” “God is Calling You.”

Show children the supplies. Tell them they will make bumper stickers using the statements on the list. As they work, guide them to think about the stories and verses they have been learning. Comment on how well they have participated in the activity.

# 3 SESSION

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## Group Time

(25-30 minutes)

**Sing.** Start singing “Go Tell It On the Mountain” as the children are coming to group time. When everyone is seated, say: “You are learning so well this morning. I watched as you did all your activities and you were working so well and learning so much. Let’s sing our song again and think of how special Jesus is.”

**Introduce the session.** Point to the focal wall. Invite the children to tell you some of the things they have learned so far in the unit. Say: *You are right. We have been talking about how God calls people to serve Him. Today we will learn about a young boy that God called and he didn’t even know it was God! First, let’s look at our memory verse.*

**Learn the memory verse.** Invite two of the children who made the memory-verse pick-up sticks to show the group how to play. Invite other groups of two to play. Repeat the game two or three times. Each time the verse is completed, guide the children to say the memory verse together.

**Tell the Bible story.** Put the name strips on the floor in front of the children. Say, *When I tell the story, I want you to listen carefully so you can tell me who all these people are.* Invite a child to open your Bible at the bookmark and read the name “**1st Samuel**”. Tell the Bible story in your own words. Take time for children to locate Bible story in their Bibles.

### GOD CALLED SAMUEL

Samuel was a young boy. He lived at the temple at Shiloh where he helped Eli, the priest. Samuel lived there because his mother Hannah had taken him there. Samuel was a special boy. A long time earlier, his mother had prayed and prayed for a baby.

“Please, God,” Hannah prayed. “I want a baby so much. If You will give me a son, I will give him back to You to serve You for his whole life.”

Soon after that, God answered Hannah’s prayer and gave her and her husband Elkanah a baby boy. They named the baby Samuel. Hannah took care of Samuel for a long time. Then when Samuel was old enough, she took the young boy to the temple at Shiloh.

“I am Hannah,” she said to Eli the priest. “I am the woman who prayed right here for a son. The Lord answered my prayer. He gave me my son Samuel. When I prayed that time, I promised the Lord I would give the boy back to Him. So here he is now. He can begin to serve God for the rest of his life.”

Samuel did many things for Eli at the temple. Whenever Eli called for Samuel, he went to Eli as quickly as he could.

“Here I am,” Samuel would say to Eli. “You called me.” And Eli would tell Samuel what he wanted him to do.

Samuel and Eli lived there for a while. Eli was getting old, and he could hardly see anything. So Samuel helped him as much as he could.

One night both Eli and Samuel lay down to sleep. Suddenly, Samuel heard his name.

“Samuel.”

Samuel jumped up from his mat and ran to Eli.

“Here I am,” Samuel said to Eli. “You called me.”

“I did not call,” Eli answered. “Go back and lie down.”

The Lord called Samuel again. “Samuel!”

Again Samuel jumped up from his mat and ran to Eli.

“Here I am,” Samuel said to Eli. “You called me.”

“My son, I did not call you,” Eli answered. “Go back and lie down.”

Once again the Lord called Samuel. And once again he jumped up from his mat and ran to Eli.

“Here I am,” Samuel said to Eli. “You called me.”

By this time Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling Samuel. So Eli told Samuel to go back and lie down.

"If He calls you again," Eli said to Samuel, "Say 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening'." So Samuel went back and laid down on his mat.

Then the Lord came and stood by Samuel.

"Samuel! Samuel!" the Lord said.

"Speak," answered Samuel, "for your servant is listening."

Then the Lord gave Samuel a message.

At first Samuel did not know that it was God who was calling him. But Eli the priest helped him understand. Samuel lived his whole life for God. He became a prophet of God and often gave many people in Israel important messages from God.

--Based on 1 Samuel 1-11; 3:1-11

**Pray.** Say: *What a special story. God actually called a young boy to serve Him for the rest of his life. Let's thank God right now for calling Samuel and for calling us, too.* Pray, thanking God for His love and care for people.

**Review the Bible story.** Invite a child to print "**Samuel**" on the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster. Point out the name strips. Point to the names of the Bible people one at a time. Ask the children to tell you who that person was and what he did. Compliment the children on how well they listened.

**Bible application.** Tell the children that they are going to determine if they can tell who is talking to them. Point to the middle of the group. Say: *This side is one team and this side is the other team. When I say go, I want this team (point to a team) to close your eyes and this team (point to the other team) to stand up, go to a person on the other team and whisper in his ear. I want you to say, 'Can you tell who is talking to you?' Then the team will sit down. When I say 'Open', the closed-eyes team will open their eyes. Then I will ask who can tell me who was whispering to them. Then we will switch sides. We'll see how we can recognize our friends' voices. Ready?* Repeat three or four times.

Direct one team to close their eyes and continue to play from there. Help the children see that it is sometimes difficult to tell who is talking to you especially if you have never heard the voice before.

Say: *"Samuel did not know who was calling him, but Eli helped Samuel know. You may not realize that God is asking you to do something special, but God will find a way to help you know what He wants you to do."*

Refer the children to the Youth Insert from the Virginia Missions Magazine (Alma Hunt Emphasis 2004 "On Call.") Tell them that Matthew is a teenager living in Virginia who has heard God's call. Matthew did not hear God's voice with his ears, but felt deep inside him that God was calling him while he worked on repairing houses through Impact Virginia!, which is another ministry that is possible because people give their money to the Alma Hunt Offering.

**Choose activities.** Present the activity choices to the children. Guide them to move to the tables to begin work.

# 3 SESSION

## Bible-Learning Activities

(25-30 minutes)

### ACTIVITY 1 - L T G Button

**Purpose:** : Girls and boys will be reminded that God calls even young children as they make and wear the buttons.

Show children the “L T G” sign. Ask them to try and think what the letters might mean (**Listen To God**). Don’t tell the children what the letters mean yet. Ask them if they think they will remember what they are learning about God calling them to serve Him. Tell them that the buttons will help them remember because the letters mean “**Listen To God.**” Tell them that not only will they remember, but they will be able to help others know about God because people will ask them what the letters mean.

Distribute the supplies. Guide children to print the letters on their buttons. Suggest that they may like to decorate the buttons as well. They could put a memory verse reference, a picture, or some other reminder that will help them. When the buttons are finished, cover them in contact paper first; then fasten the pins on the back. Suggest that children put them on immediately.

As children work, talk to them about what they might say to someone who asks them what the letters mean. Encourage them to tell people about God and not just explain the letters.

### ACTIVITY 2 - Ways God Calls People to Serve Him

**Purpose:** Girls and boys will think about ways God calls people.

Point out the focal wall to the children. Invite them to read the session titles aloud. Talk to them about what they have learned about how God calls people, why He calls people, and who He calls. Ask them to tell a little about each Bible story.

Ask children to make a list of illustrations they can put on the door cover. Keep them on track as they make suggestions. For example, a picture of Samuel in the temple, Lydia listening to Paul beside the river, Baby John, a child listening in church, a child talking to a pastor or teacher, and so on.

Encourage children as they work. Talk about what God calls people to do. Do not emphasize church or denominational jobs over secular jobs. Help children to understand that all Christians are called by God to serve Him in many ways.

### ACTIVITY 3 - “God Calls People” Litany

**Purpose:** Children will think about how and why God calls people and will write a litany to express their feelings.

Tell the children that they will write a litany as a way to express how they feel about God calling them to service. Tell them to think of some things to tell God. For example, God called Samuel, and God will all me, I can serve God, I can help my mother, I can be kind. On one piece of poster board, guide a child to write down all the words and phrases the children offer.

From that list guide girls and boys to compose one phrase that will repeat. For example, “Thank you, God, for calling us to serve.” Write that phrase three or four times on the other poster board. Leave a large space in between each response line to write the words and phrases offered.

Guide children to choose some of the words and phrases on the list or others they may think of. Ask different children to write them on the poster board. Make sure that all children who want to will have a turn.

When the litany is finished, guide children to say it prayerfully together. Thank the children for their hard work. Put the litany on the wall outside your room. Tell children to invite their families to come and see what they have been learning.

# 4

## SESSION

**SESSION TITLE:** I've Been Called-Now What?

**PURPOSE:** To help girls and boys understand that when God calls a person, He already has a plan.

**BIBLE STORY:** God Called Moses

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** *Exodus 3-4:17*

**MEMORY VERSE:** For I know the plans I have for you. *Jeremiah 29:11*

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# Preparation

## INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need four balloons, several small strips of paper, and a marker. Print phrases of all the memory verses from the unit on small strips of paper-*Psalm 100:2; Deuteronomy 6:18; Proverbs 20:11; and Jeremiah 29:11*. Roll the memory-verse strips up. Mix up the memory-verse strips and place several strips in each balloon. Blow up the balloons.
2. You will need construction paper, markers, the **"Number Cube,"** and scissors. Cut out six footprints. Number the footprints from 1 - 6.  
Print the following statements on the footprints, one statement per footprint.
  - Follow God
  - Obey God
  - Help a neighbor
  - Help my family
  - Obey my teacher
  - Listen to GodLaminate or cover them with clear adhesive-backed plastic.
3. Obtain the **"I Can Do It!"** ball and several Bibles.

## GROUP TIME

1. Read the Bible story. Ask God to help you as you teach the girls and boys about His call. Pray for each child you will teach today.
2. Get the **"People God Called to Serve Him"** poster.
3. Place a bookmark in your Bible at *Exodus 3*.
4. Print **"Miracle"** on a piece of construction paper.
5. Get the memory-verse strips from the balloon introductory activity.
6. Get the footprints from the footprint activity.

## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

### CHOICE 1.

You will need a set of cardboard circles, colored markers, yarn, and scissors. Secure the price tag circles that have metal around the edges..

### CHOICE 2.

You will need white paper, white crayons, watercolor paints and paintbrushes, one piece of construction paper cut in four, and a colored marker.

### CHOICE 3.

You will need the leaflet **“What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!”** (See **“Unit Preparation”**), several small bags or envelopes, at least five or six 3 x 5-inch cards for each child you expect in your group, pencils or colored markers.

# 4

## SESSION

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# Introductory Activities

(10-15 minutes)

Greet children as they arrive and point out the three activities. Guide each child to make a choice.

### ACTIVITY 1 - *Balloon Memory Verses*

Fasten the memory-verse balloons to a table in the area where the activity will take place. Children will burst one balloon at a time, remove the memory verse phrases and begin to put them together. Then they will burst another balloon and continue trying to put the verses together. Tell them that these are all the verses they have learned in the unit.

Children will soon notice that one of the verses is not familiar. Tell them it is the verse for today. As they complete the verses, ask them what the verses mean. Tell them that they are learning to do as God tells them to in the Bible.

### ACTIVITY 2 - *Serving God Footprints*

Show children the footsteps and the number cube. Read aloud the categories. Tell the children they will take turns tossing the cube and going to the footprint with that number.

Guide the children to stand in front of the first footprint. One child will toss the number cube and go to the footprint with that number. She will then tell something she could do in that category. Play at least until all the children have had at least one turn.

If children need help thinking of things to do, give them clues. Tell the children that they are pleasing God by thinking of things they can do for Him.

### ACTIVITY 3 - *"I Can Do It!" Bible Skills*

Show the ball and the Bibles to the children. Tell them that one child will roll the ball to another child. When the ball arrives, the child will choose a Bible-skills assignment and follow the directions. That child will then roll the ball to another child. Continue playing in this manner until time is up.

Some of the assignments may be difficult for younger children. Give them help when they need it. Compliment the children on how well they are learning to use the Bible. Tell them that reading the Bible is one way we can learn about God's call to people.

# 4

## SESSION

# Group Time

(25-30 minutes)

**Introduce the session.** Tell the children that this will be the last session of the unit. Invite them to read the first three session titles on the unit display. Say: *You have learned so much, haven't you? Can you tell me some of the things you have learned?* Wait for several responses from the children. Compliment them on how much they have learned.

Say, *Today you will learn something that God does for you. (Read aloud the memory verse for today.) Isn't that special to know that God has a plan for your life? Let's pray right now and thank God for His love and help to us.*

**Pray.** Ask children if they have something special to thank God for. Tell the children you will start the prayer by being quiet and any child may thank God for something. Avoid going around in a circle as some children may feel pressured. When all the children who want to have prayed, close the prayer thanking God for His promise of a good plan for peoples' lives.

**Tell the Bible story.** Say: *You have been learning about how God calls people to do His will. He had a plan for a little baby before He was even born. He called a young boy to help Him. He called a businesswoman with a family. Today you will learn about a man who was very nervous about following God's will, but God helped Him anyway.*

Show children the “**Miracle**” word card. Tell them that in the story God did some miracles to prove to Moses that He would help him. Ask the children to listen carefully to see what the miracles were.

Invite a child to open your Bible at the bookmark and read “**Exodus.**” Allow children time to locate Bible story in their Bibles.

## GOD CALLED MOSES

One day Moses was out in the desert looking after some sheep. He led the flock of sheep to the other side of the desert. He went to a place called Horeb, also called the mountain of God.

Suddenly a bright light appeared in a bush near Moses. Moses almost jumped because he was so surprised. Then he looked carefully at the bush. There was a flame in the middle of the bush. But the bush was not burning up!

“That bush is not burning,” Moses said to himself. “I’m going over there and see what’s going on.”

God saw Moses go closer to the bush.

“Moses! Moses!” God called.

“Here I am,” answered Moses.

“Don’t come any closer,” God said. “Take your shoes off. This ground is holy ground.”

Then God said to Moses, “I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.”

But Moses was not listening to God. He was afraid to look at God; Moses hid his face. But God talked to Moses anyway.

“I have seen how unhappy my people are in Egypt,” God continued. “I am sad when they are unhappy. I want to bring them out of Egypt and lead them to a wonderful land. And, Moses, I want you to help me do it.”

Moses was still afraid.

“Who am I to do this?” Moses asked God. “What if I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘God has sent me to you.’ And they ask me, ‘What is His name?’ ‘What shall I tell them?’”

“I Am Who I Am,” God answered. “Tell them ‘I Am has sent me to you.’” Then God told Moses some more things to say and do. But Moses was still very unsure.

“What if they do not believe me? What if they do not listen to me? What if they say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you.’”

So God said to Moses, “What is that in your hand?”

Moses looked at his hand. “A staff,” he answered.

“Throw it on the ground,” God told him

Suddenly the staff was a snake! Moses was scared so he ran away from the snake.

Then God said, "Take the snake by the tail." So Moses did. As soon as he touched the tail of the snake it turned back into a staff!

"That is so you will believe that the Lord, the God of your fathers, has appeared to you."

Then God said, "Put your hand inside your cloak." So Moses did; when he took his hand out, his hand was all white and diseased.

"Now put it back in your cloak," God said. So Moses put his hand back in his cloak; when he took it out, his hand was fine. Moses was amazed.

God said, "If the people do not believe you, these signs will make them believe."

But Moses still was unhappy with what God wanted Him to do.

"Lord," Moses said, "I have never been able to speak well."

But God said, "I will help you speak. And I will tell you what to say. Now go." But Moses was still not convinced.

"Oh, Lord," Moses said, "please send someone else to do it."

Then God got angry with Moses.

"Your brother, Aaron, will help you. I will tell you what to say and you will tell it to Aaron. I will help both of you speak. Now go. Take your staff with you so you can do miracles."

So even though Moses was nervous, he left to do what God had called him to do.

--Based on *Exodus 3-4:17*

**Review the Bible story.** Hold up the "**Miracle**" sign. Ask the children how many miracles God performed for Moses (three). Ask the children to name the miracles (burning bush, staff into a snake, diseased hand). Ask them why God did the miracles (to prove to Moses that he was God and that He would help Moses). Invite a child to add Moses' name to the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster. Comment on how well the children are learning about God and how He leads people in their lives.

**Learn the memory verse.** Say: *The memory verse for today is a special one. Can someone tell me what it says?* Guide children to repeat the verse a couple of times.

Show children the memory-verse strips from the introductory activity. Invite two or three children to put the four memory verses together. When they are complete, guide the children to say them. Compliment the children on their work.

**Bible application.** Tell the children that you have another story to tell them. Say: *This story is about shoes. Listen carefully to hear what some people did for God.*

## SHOES FOR CHILDREN

Many of the children who live in the country of Liberia live very sad lives. Liberia is a small country in Africa. It is very hot. It is dry in the winter and wet in the rainy season. Many of the children are often hungry. They do not get enough food to eat. Some of the children are sick. And lots of the children do not have any shoes to wear. Their feet get sore.

One day some people at the Virginia Baptist Resource Center (a building where people work) heard about the children. They felt sad.

"We can help those children," the people said. "We can give them shoes." And that is just what they did!

The people started collecting shoes to send to the children. They had shoe teams who tried to see who could collect the most shoes. Finally they had 75 pairs of shoes to send to Liberia. That means that 75 children who had sore feet now had shoes. The children were so happy. The grownups were happy, too. They knew that God wanted them to help other people.

Say: Wasn't that a good story? I know that God was pleased that the grownups wanted to help the children. And we need to remember that children can help others, too, can't they?

Ask the children who did the footprint activity earlier to share with the group. If there is time, ask children to name some things in the different categories on the footprints.

**Sing.** Say, *Let's sing our song together to remind us the best way we can help others is to tell them about Jesus.* Lead the children in singing "**Go Tell It On the Mountain.**" Explain to the children that the phrase "go tell it on the mountain" means "tell it from the mountain."

**Choose activities.** Present the activity choices to the children. Guide them to move to the tables to begin work.

# 4

## SESSION

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# Bible-Learning Activities

(25-30 minutes)

### ACTIVITY 1 - *Reminder Bracelet/Belt/Necklace*

**Purpose:** Participating in this activity will help children remember that God has a plan for them.

Invite a child to point out today's memory verse on the unit display. Guide children to say the verse together.

*Say: This verse tells us something very special. It tells us that God already knows what He wants people to do in their lives. Isn't that amazing? You have heard several stories about Bible people that God called to serve Him. He knew what He wanted them to do, didn't He? That is a wonderful verse for you to remember. And here is how you can do that.*

Show children the supplies. Tell them that they can make necklaces, belts, or bracelets to help remind them of how God cares for people. Suggest they put one word of the memory verse on each circle. Or they could put something they would do for another person on each circle. When they have completed their circles, guide them to tie them together to form a bracelet, a necklace, or a belt.

As the children work, talk with them about how they can act in ways pleasing to God. Comment on how well the children are learning to do what God wants them to do.

*Say: You have made a sharing reminder. You may wear it. You may hang it in your room. You may hang it on a doorknob. You may share it with a friend. And you will always remember that God has a plan for your life.*

### ACTIVITY 2 - *Secret Messages*

**Purpose:** Participating in this activity will remind children about how God has plans for their lives.

Guide children to look at the memory verse for today. Show children the four names on the construction paper. Point to the names, one at a time, and ask them to tell you some of the plans God had for the Bible people. Remind them again that the memory verse says that God has plans for their lives.

Show the children the white paper and the white crayons. Tell them that they will draw on the paper with the white crayons. Then they will paint over the drawing and be able to read the secret message or picture. Ask them to suggest some things they could put on their papers (memory verses, pictures of them praying or reading their Bibles, some ways they could help others). As children work, tell them what a good job they are doing and how well they are learning about God.

### ACTIVITY 3 - *Serving God Coupons*

**Purpose:** Participating in this activity will help children think about how they can serve God by helping others.

Tell the children that today they will each make a set of coupons with ways they can help others away from the church. Remind them that they have been learning about serving God. Guide them to make a list of things they could do. Show them the "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" leaflet and suggest they choose a few items from the lists as well as using some of their own ideas.

Remind the children that another way for them to help is by giving their money. Tell them that money given by children and adults, as well, can be used through the Alma Hunt Offering to share the love of Jesus with others in Virginia and around the world (example: Liberia.)

Help children know that the things they can do for God at their ages are just as important as the things adults do. Compliment them on what good ideas they have. Tell them that they are really listening to God's call and learning how to serve Him.