



“CONSIDER *Your* CALL” Older 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: “To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.” *1 Peter 2:21*

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, so that it may go well with you.” *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, by whether his conduct is pure and right.” *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,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.” *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.
2. Provide the words to **“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”** (Number 191 in Baptist Hymnal).
3. Cut three sides of the top of a large box. Cover the box with construction or shelf paper, including the top. Leave the three sides open to use the box in different ways. Print the unit title on the top and the session titles and memory verses on the sides. Display the box in the group time area.
4. Write across a large piece of poster board **“People God Called to Serve Him.”** Use this every session.
5. Cover a small box with colored paper. Write one of the numerals from 1 to 6 on each side.
6. Locate Bible pictures of all four Bible persons. Look in children's classroom for picture.
7. 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 Books of Law. Find them in your Bible
 - Name the book that tells about the first church and find it.
 - Name and find the four Bible books that tell about Jesus.
 - Find the Sermon on the Mount.
 - Find and name a book of hymns and a book of wise sayings.
 - Name the books in the division of History.
 - Name the three books at the end of the Bible.
 - Find the last book in the Bible. Say its name.
 - Find the Bible book where today's memory verse is found.
 - Find the Bible book where today's Bible study is found.
 - Find and name 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, even an unborn person.

BIBLE STORY: God Called John the Baptist

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

MEMORY VERSE: "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." *1 Peter 2:21*

Preparation

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need a long length of shelf paper or table covering and colored markers.
2. You will need drawing paper and markers. Write these codes on a piece of paper for the children to use. Plan to make several copies. Number code: A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4, E=5, F=6, G=7, H=8, I=9, J=10, K=11, L=12, M=13, N=14, O=15, P=16, Q=17, R=18, S=19, T=20, U=21, V=22, W=23, X=24, Y=25, Z=26. Vowel symbols code: A=triangle, E=square, I=circle, O=star, U=flower.
3. You will need a large piece of poster board, colored markers, and a cassette recorder, a tape. Print the words of the song on the poster board leaving a space for the following words: follow, Jesus, back, cross, carry.

GROUP TIME

1. Obtain the song chart used in the introductory activities.
2. Make copies of the drama for children to use. If possible, give the drama to the children who will present it before the session begins. Ask one of the teachers to narrate the drama. You will need children to play Zechariah, Angel, Elizabeth, and three or four people for the crowd. Gather these props: match, candle or incense on a small tray, a tablet and a pencil, a baby doll.
3. Get the "People God Called to Serve Him" poster.
4. Get a copy of the leaflet, "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" 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. Place the bag in the unit display box. (These actions were suggested in the "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" From the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.)
5. Make a code puzzle of the memory verse as described in Introductory Activity # 2.
6. 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).

CHOICE **2.**

You will need the “**What Does God Call Me to Do?**” bag and cards, a large piece of poster board, a Baptist Hymnal, and a colored marker.

CHOICE **3.**

You will need several empty cassette tapes and two cassette recorders. If your group is mature, the children will be able to make more than one tape at a time. Suggest that the children read Bible or mission stories. You will find stories in “**Virginia Missions**” magazine from the Virginia Baptist Resource Center (1-800-255-2428). Make sure you have enough copies for several children to use. Try to find a quiet location for the children to record the stories.

1 SESSION 1

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 - *God Calls People Graffiti Wall*

Show the children the supplies. Tell them that they are going to be learning about how God calls people to serve Him. Ask them to think of things God might ask a person to do (Tell others about Him, Be kind to family members, Obey parents and teachers, Respect others). Guide them to write on the graffiti wall a title and several ways to serve God and show Him they are following Jesus.

As children work, talk to them about what they are putting on the graffiti wall. Help them know that when God calls people to serve Him, He wants them to behave in certain ways.

ACTIVITY 2 - *Memory-Verse Code Puzzles*

Show the children the code sheets. Tell them that they may also make up their own code to make memory-verse code puzzles. Encourage the children in the group to make different puzzles.

As children work, talk to them about the meaning of the memory verse. Help the children know that God still calls people to serve Him and follow Jesus. If there is time, the children may trade and solve one another's puzzles.

ACTIVITY 3 - *Song Study*

Show the children the song poster and the hymnbook. Guide them to find the missing words and fill them in. Have them use a different colored marker than the one you used. Tell them the group will use the song chart throughout the unit. If the children know the song, plan to have them make a recording of it to be used in the group time.

Children will need help to understand stanzas 3 and 4.

Consider changing the rhythm of the song, perhaps to a "rap". Consider what will draw a child's attention.

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. Ask the group who made the graffiti wall to show it now. Have several children read the ways God calls people. Tell the girls and boys 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. Show children the song chart. Invite a child to read the words the children filled in. Tell the children that they will be learning more about those words in the unit study.

Ask how many children already know the song. Play the recording the children made earlier. If they did not make a recording, teach them the song. Guide the children to read the words together, then hum the tune. Invite anyone who knows it to sing it with you. Sing the song through at least once.

Pray. Say: *This is a good song to sing as a prayer. Let's sing the first verse softly as if we were praying.*

Present the Bible drama. Say: *We have just heard in the song that God wants people to follow Jesus. He wants the people who follow Jesus to serve Him, too. Here is a story about a special person whom God called to serve Him.*

GOD CALLED JOHN THE BAPTIST

SCENE 1

(Stage setting: A group of people standing stage left. Zechariah walks by the people to stage right. Action with the angel occurs stage right.)

NARRATOR: One day a priest named Zechariah went into the most holy place in the temple of the Lord. *(Zechariah enters from the left.)* It was his turn to burn incense as a sign of worship toward God. *(Zechariah lights incense.)* Zechariah was married and his wife's name was Elizabeth. Both Zechariah and Elizabeth were already old, but they did not have any children. But they still prayed that God would give them a child.

That day the room was very quiet, and Zechariah was the only one there. Suddenly an angel appeared in the room, standing right beside the altar. *(An angel enters from the right. Zechariah does not see him immediately.)* Zechariah nearly jumped out of his skin! *(Zechariah jumps as if afraid.)* He felt very afraid. He did not know who the angel was.

ANGEL: Don't be afraid, Zechariah. God has heard your prayer for a child. Your wife Elizabeth will have a child. He will be a son and you will call him John. He will make you very happy. Many people will be glad that he was born. John 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. John will prepare the people to meet the Lord.

ZECHARIAH: How can this be? I am old, and my wife is old. We cannot have a child.

ANGEL: I am Gabriel, an angel of God. He 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.

NARRATOR: Then the Angel Gabriel disappeared. *(The angel exits quickly.)* 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. *(Group of people murmur to each other. Zechariah moves to where the people are standing.)* When Zechariah came out of the room he looked at all the people but he did not say anything. He could not speak. He made signs to them. *(Zechariah makes signs showing he cannot speak.)*

PERSON ONE: Something happened in there.

PERSON TWO: Zechariah must have had a vision.

NARRATOR: So Zechariah went home to his wife Elizabeth. *(People exit. Elizabeth enters stage right. She greets Zechariah. He makes motions to her.)*

SCENE 2

(Stage setting: Group of people standing stage left.)

NARRATOR: After several months, Elizabeth gave birth to a baby boy just as the angel Gabriel said she would. She was very happy. So was Zechariah. *(Zechariah enters stage right. He still can't talk. He gestures to everyone that the baby is born. Everyone is happy-clapping their hands, hugging each other and 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. *(Everyone leaves the stage. Zechariah and Elizabeth enter from the right. Elizabeth is carrying a baby. The people are standing stage left.)*

NARRATOR: 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.

PERSON ONE: The baby should be called Zechariah after his father. *(People nod to one another in agreement.)*

ELIZABETH: No! The baby is to be called John.

PERSON TWO: John? Why John? There is no one in the family called John. *(Everyone turns to Zechariah to see what he wants to name the baby. Zechariah asks for a tablet and a writing implement. Zechariah writes, "His name is John.")* And right away Zechariah could speak again! The family couldn't believe it! *(Everyone looks unbelievably at one another.)* 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. Can anyone tell us what special thing John the Baptist did for Jesus? (He baptized Him.)*

Show children the "People God Called to Serve Him" poster. Invite a child to write "John the Baptist" on the poster.

Bible application. Say: *God calls the people who love Him to serve Him and live like Jesus. Let's think of some things boys and girls could do to show they are following Jesus.*

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 Women'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*

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. Invite a child to read the memory verse. Show children the code puzzle you made. Ask the children to take turns filling in the missing words. Repeat the verse together two or three times.

Say: *We have another special verse we will use in the unit. Ask the group to find 1 Peter 2:21 in their Bibles. Invite a child to read the verses aloud. Ask: Can someone tell me what these verses are telling us? Say: That's right. These verses tell us something special. They tell us that God has chosen people to follow Jesus and live lives the same as Jesus lived. Let's pray now asking God to help us lead those lives.*

Bible skills. If there is time, play with the "I Can Do It!" ball.

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

Bible-Learning Activities

ACTIVITY 1 - Showing Love Magnets (25-30 minutes)

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 of a child doing something kind.

As the children work, ask them to think of people who would enjoy receiving the magnets. (*This activity was suggested in "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.*)

ACTIVITY 2 - Sing a Song!

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

Tell the children that they are going to write a song about serving God. Guide them to choose a tune they know and hum it together.

Divide the group in two. Assign one group to prepare the song chart by putting lines on the chart for every syllable of the song. For example, if they choose the unit song, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," they will write first line like this:

Assign the second group to begin making a list of things they want to say in the song about serving God. Use the suggestions in the "What Does God Call Me to Do?" bag. Ask the girls and boys 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 to 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 learned and worked.

ACTIVITY 3 - Tape 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.

Children may decide on one or more of the following methods.

- Several people may 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.

Distribute copies of the magazine. Guide the children to choose stories and read them through 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 follow Jesus and live as He lived. (*This activity was suggested in "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" From the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.*)

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, so that it may go well with you."
Deuteronomy 6:18

Preparation

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

1. You will need sheets of paper, markers, and Bibles. On a sheet of paper print the following. Copy the sheet so each child in your group will have one. For the title, print "**People Whom Jesus Called.**" For the assignment, print, Find and read these references in your Bible-*Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 9:9-13; Matthew 19:16-22*. State a special thing you found in each passage.
2. You will need several 3 x 5-inch cards, a marker, and a small bag. On the outside of the bag, write "**Right or Wrong?**" On the cards print the following statements, one to a card:

<i>"Be a good friend"</i>	<i>"Tell a lie"</i>
<i>"Kick my brother"</i>	<i>"Help my mother set the table"</i>
<i>"Don't talk to my friend"</i>	<i>"Steal a candy bar"</i>
<i>"Cheat on a test"</i>	<i>"Share my stuff"</i>
<i>"Tell about Jesus"</i>	<i>"Take a friend to church"</i>
<i>"Tell lies about a kid at school"</i>	

 and other statements, good and bad, that might apply to your group.
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 passage. Ask God to help you as you teach the girls and boys about His call. Pray for each child you will teach today.
2. You will need three cards, several Bibles, three large sheets of drawing or shelf paper for the mural, and colored markers. On the three cards, print the following Bible passages, one to a card: *Acts 16:9-10; Acts 16:11-14; Acts 16:15, 40*.
3. Get the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster.
4. Get the "**Right or Wrong?**" bag from the introductory activity. Place it in the unit display box.
5. Look in a copy of "*Virginia Missions*" magazine for an appropriate mission story.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

CHOICE 1.

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, several magnets, tape and glue.

Children can make:

- Bible-verse bookmarks
- Bible-verse door reminders
- Heart cards with a message (“I am praying for you.”, “God loves 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 grocery-size bags, colored markers, fabric scraps, yarn, ribbon, scissors, glue or tape, writing paper, and Bibles. Cut off a portion of each bag at the top so they will fit comfortably on the shoulders of the children. **OPTION:** use circles 6” in diameter as faces/masks.

CHOICE 3.

Ask one or two church leaders, church members, or youth to meet and talk with the children. If you have a missionary or former missionary in your congregation, plan to invite that person. 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?

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 - *Following Jesus*

As children arrive, give each one a reference sheet and a Bible. Guide them to look up the Bible references, read them, and answer the questions on the paper.

As children work, talk to them about following Jesus today. Discuss how different it may be now than in Bible times.

ACTIVITY 2 - *Right or Wrong Skits*

Greet the children as they arrive at your table. Ask a child to read today's memory verse from the focal display. 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.

Show children the "Right or Wrong?" bag. Tell children that inside are cards with a variety of actions on them. The children will take turns choosing a card from the bag and acting out the action. Tell them that they may choose other children in the group to help them if they need to. As the children perform the skit, the other children will guess what they are doing. When necessary, ask children to think of an alternative action that would be good. Compliment the children on how well they are already learning how to follow Jesus.

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 across the table. 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.

If a child in your group is unfamiliar with the Bible, suggest that he ask another child to help him. Compliment the children on how well they are learning to use the Bible. Tell them that these are skills they will use all their life.

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?* Ask the children to each read the verse silently. Then ask them to name some good things they could do. After each one the children name, say the verse aloud together. Tell the children how well they did and that God is pleased when they learn Bible verses.

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 for which they want to thank God. Say, *Let’s thank God right now for His wonderful love for us and for all the things He gives us.* Encourage one of the children 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. Who did we learn about last time?* (John the Baptist) Invite a child to point out “**John the Baptist**” on the poster.

Tell the children that they will form three small groups to study the Bible passages. Then each group will draw a large picture to illustrate what happened in their part of the Bible study.

Assign the children to three groups. Give each group its assignment and tell them where to sit in the room. Tell them to take several minutes to read their part of the Bible passage. Then they will make their drawings.

When the Bible study and drawings are complete, the children will return to the group and share what they have learned. As the children share, place the pictures together on the wall. Make sure the children understand that even though Lydia’s call may not have been as dramatic as some others, it was still an important event in her life. Tell the children that every call God makes is important.

Bible application. Invite a child to print the name “**Lydia**” on the poster. Say: *Lydia followed Jesus in her everyday life, didn't she? Still today, you can follow Jesus every day at school or church or when you play sports or practice piano or whatever else you are doing. Can anyone tell me a verse that helps her know how to do what Jesus would do?* (use the memory verse.) Lead the children to repeat the verse.

Show the children the “**Right or Wrong?**” bag in the unit display box. Tell them that they will act out some of the statements on the cards in the bag. Suggest that the children who did this during the introductory activity time do the first one or two.

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 from the Virginia Missions magazine, the 2004 Alma Hunt promotional CD, or the WMUV Website (www.wmu-va.org).

Tell mission story. Tell (or read) the mission story to the children. Comment that even as girls and boys they can hear and answer God’s call. Tell them that already they are learning what it means to follow Jesus.

Sing and pray. Invite the children to prayerfully sing the second verse of “**I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.**”

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

Bible-Learning Activities

(25-30 minutes)

ACTIVITY 1 - *Following Jesus Gift 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 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 Jesus' example. Remind them to give the gift bags to people who would enjoy them. (This activity was suggested in "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.)

ACTIVITY 2 - *Masks and Monologues*

Purpose: Girls and boys will remember the Bible facts as they make the masks and monologues.

Children will choose which mask they will make, Paul, Paul's friend, or Lydia. Give a bag to each child and show the other supplies. Guide the children to draw a face on the bag and cut holes for their eyes. They will have to put the bag on to measure where the eyes will go. Glue on yarn for hair.

As children work, ask them to tell you some of the things that happened in the Bible story. As the children complete the masks, guide them to write the monologue from the point of view of the Bible person they chose.

Suggest that children show their masks to their friends and families and share their monologues. Remind them that anytime they tell someone of how marvelous God is, they are following Jesus' example.

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 have answered the call to follow Jesus. Tell children the names of the people they will visit or who will visit your room.

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. (This activity was suggested in "What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!" from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.)

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, by whether his conduct is pure and right."
Proverbs 20:11

Preparation

INTRODUCTORY ACTIVITIES

- 1.** You will need Bibles, colored markers, rubber bands, and 17 craft sticks for each child you expect in your group. Have extra sticks in case some children also want to make a set for the unit verses.
- 2.** You will need several small cards, a marker and the unit display box. Write on each card a message. Make some of the messages Bible facts from the stories and make others funny statements. Place the cards inside the box.
- 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.** Prepare several long strips of paper for the children to write newspaper headlines. Get a marker for each group of two children.

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. Or use real buttons from a craft store. Print "L T G" on a piece of paper.

CHOICE 2.

You will need construction paper (11 inches by 17 inches), colored markers, and clear adhesive-backed plastic.

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

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 Pick-Up Sticks*

Ask children to find Proverbs 20:11 in their Bibles. Invite a child to read it aloud. 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 their hands 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 unit Bible verses, *1 Peter 2:9, 21*.

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 when 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 unit display box. Guide a child to choose a card from the box. 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 and the last child in the circle will repeat the message aloud. The message may or may not be the same as when it started. 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 (Following Jesus, God's call, listening to God, serving God, following Jesus' example). Make a list of their answers. Then ask them to shorten the statements on the list to three or four words, i.e. "Follow Jesus," "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

Group Time

(25-30 minutes)

Sing. Start singing “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus” as the children are coming to group time. When everyone is seated, say: *I watched as you were doing the 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 and the “People God Called to Serve Him” poster. 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 follow Jesus. 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 it together..

Tell the Bible story. Ask the children to pair up. Give each pair a strip of paper and a marker. Tell them that you will tell the Bible passage as a newspaper story and they will listen for facts they can make into headlines (“Hannah's Prayer Answered!” “Baby Boy Born to Hannah and Elkanah!” “Samuel to Serve God Forever!”). Ask children to locate the Bible passage in their Bibles.

GOD CALLED SAMUEL

Samuel was a young boy who lived at the temple of Shiloh where he helped Eli, the priest. Samuel lived there because his mother, Hannah, had taken him there. Several years 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. Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, had a baby boy whom they named Samuel. Hannah took care of Samuel for a long time. Then when Samuel was old enough, she took him 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 and 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.

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. All of a sudden, Samuel heard his name.

“Samuel.” Samuel jumped up from his mat and ran to Eli.

“Here I am,” he 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 lay 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 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. Ask children if they have some ideas for newspaper headlines. Tell them they may look up the Bible passage (1 Samuel 1-11; 3:1-11) to help them remember. Give them a few minutes to decide what they want their headlines to say and write it on their paper strips. Then ask the children to share their headlines with the group. Compliment the children on how well they listened.

Bible application. Tell the children that they are 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 their eyes; this team (point to the other team) will stand up, go to the people on the other team and whisper in their ears. 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 well we can recognize our friends' voices. Ready?*

Direct one team to close their eyes and continue the play from there. Help the children comprehend that knowing who is talking to you is often difficult, especially if you have never heard the voice before. Repeat three or four times.

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 that He is calling you. How might God help you know that He is calling you? Who are some people who may help you know that God is calling you?*

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 - Letter Buttons

Purpose: : As they make and wear the buttons, girls and boys will be reminded that God calls children to His service.

Show children the “L T G” sign. Ask them to guess what the letters might mean (**Listen To God**). Ask them to think of some other letters they might put on buttons that will remind them about God calling them to serve Him. 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. Let children offer a few suggestions of what they might put on their buttons.

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 Placemats

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

Point out the unit display to the children. Invite them to read the session titles aloud. Talk to them about what they have learned about how God calls people and how He wants them to behave. Ask them to tell a little about each Bible story.

Ask children to think of some ways God might call a person today. (Through the Bible, through prayer, through another person like a teacher or a parent) Keep their thoughts on track as they make suggestions. Make a list of the children's suggestions.

Guide each child to look over the list and choose which one he wants to put on his placemat. Tell the children they may draw pictures, print a Bible verse, or both.

Encourage children as they work. Talk about how God still calls people to serve Him. Help children understand that all Christians are called by God to serve Him in many ways.

As children complete their placemats, cover them with clear adhesive-backed plastic or laminate them. Tell children how well they worked today and what good ideas they have.

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. How can I respond when God calls 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 that the boys & girls may offer.

Guide children to choose some of the words and phrases on the list or others they may think of. Lead 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 for that person's life.

BIBLE STORY: God Called Moses

BIBLE PASSAGE: *Exodus 3-4:17*

MEMORY VERSE: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future." *Jeremiah 29:11*

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-1 *Peter 2:21*, *Deuteronomy 6:18*, *Proverbs 20:11*, and *Jeremiah 29:11*. Roll the memory-verse strips up. Mix up the memory-verse strips and place them 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. You will need writing paper, pencils, the "**People God Called to Serve Him**" poster, and the unit display box.

GROUP TIME

1. Read the Bible passage. 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. Make five copies of the story. Highlight the copies as follows. In the first copy highlight **MOSES**. In the second, highlight **BUSH**. In the third, highlight **GOD**. In the fourth, highlight **SNAKE**. And in the fifth copy, highlight **HAND**. Plan to ask five children to help you tell the story.
4. Write these questions on a piece of poster board. **Who was God talking to?** (*Israelites*). **What were the three promises God made?** (*He would listen when they prayed to Him [verse 12]; They would seek Him and find Him [verse 13]; He would find them and bring them back to Him [verse 13]*).
5. Obtain four copies of "**Virginia Missions**" magazine. Check in your church for copies or order them from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia, P.O. Box 8435, Richmond, VA 23226 (1-800-255-2428)

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

CHOICE 1.

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

CHOICE 2.

You will need six or seven (or more) jars with lids, sheets of writing paper, pencils or markers, and gummed labels.

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

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. Provide Bibles for the children to check their work.

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 each of 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 - *Prayer Letter*

Show children the “**People God Called to Serve Him**” poster. Ask them to tell you a little about each story. Point out today’s memory verse on the unit display box. Ask the children to read aloud today’s memory verse. Tell them you think this is a very special verse. Ask them how it makes them feel about God to know that He cares so much for them.

Guide children to write prayer letters to God. Tell them to tell God in the letter exactly how they feel. Encourage the children to read the Bible and pray often. Remind them that God often speaks to a person when he is praying or reading the Bible.

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.

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 for which they wish to thank God. Tell the children you will start the prayer by being quiet and any child may thank God for something. Avoid going around the 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 businesswoman with a family. He called a young boy to help Him. Today you will learn about a man who was very nervous about following God's will, but God promised to help Him anyway.*

I have asked some children to help me. I will read the story and when I look at a specific person, you will say the word highlighted on your paper. Open your Bible to **Exodus 3** and tell this story. Allow learners to locate the 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; he was so surprised. Then he looked carefully at the **bush**. There was a flame right 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 He said,

"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 Him so **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 I want you to do it."

But **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 of his cloak, 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 his **hand** out of his cloak, 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."

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. Ask the children how many miracles God performed for Moses (3). 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 the name Moses to the "**People Called God to Serve Him**" poster. Comment on how well the children are learning about God and how He leads people in their lives.

Remind the children that God leads them to use their talents and their time for Him. Also God leads people to give some of their money. Tell the children that money given by children and adults can be used through the Alma Hunt Offering to share the love of Jesus with others in Virginia and around the world.

Study 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 the children the poster with the questions. Ask them to look up **Jeremiah 29** and read verses **10-14**. Ask them to find answers to the questions on the poster. Guide the children to thank God for such a wonderful promise.

Bible application. Tell the children that God still calls people to serve Him. Assign them to four groups. Give each group a magazine. Guide them to find and read a story about a person God called to serve Him in a particular way. If there is time, guide children to recap their stories in two or three sentences.

Sing. Say: *Let's sing our song together to remind us what God wants us to do.* Lead the children in singing "**I Have Decided to Follow Jesus.**"

Choose activities. Present the activity choices to the children. Guide them to move to their work areas, so they can begin an activity.

4

SESSION

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 several 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 - *Giggle Jars to Give to Sick Church Members and Shut-ins*

Purpose: Participating in this activity will give children a way they can share with others.

Show children the jars and sheets of paper. Tell them that they will write jokes and riddles and put them in jars to make "Giggle Jars" for sick church members and shut-ins.

Guide children to think of several jokes and riddles. Make a list of them. Guide the children to print them neatly on the sheets of paper. Suggest that they use no more than one-half sheet of paper per joke or riddle. They will then place the jokes and riddles in the jars. Suggest that the children make labels to put on their jars.

As the children work, tell them that they have learned so much during the Bible study. Tell them that God is pleased when people do kind things for others. (This activity is suggested in the leaflet **"What Can Kids Do? A Lot!!"** available from the Woman's Missionary Union of Virginia.)

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 following Jesus by 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.

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.