

The Pharisees Didn't Want Jesus as Their King.

Materials I Need:

Key for symbols:

- This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two-year-olds through kindergarten. Please remember to slow way down for two-year-olds and keep the pace moving for five-year-olds.
- ② This symbol represents ideas that can be used for two- and three-year-olds.
- ④ This symbol represents ideas that are best used for four-year-olds through kindergarten.

Memory Verse:

Matthew 11:28-29: Come to Me...and learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls.

Hook:

- Teacher Tip:** Spend time talking and **listening** to the children. Ask them lots of questions. Have **five or six questions of general interest in mind before starting class.** (There's always the Aim Questions from former lessons to work into a conversation, too!) "Do you have a brother or a sister? Is there a dog or a cat at your house? What sound does their pet make? What does your daddy do at work?" You might be surprised to find that very young children are really interesting little people.
- Teacher Makes the Rules Day:** Make the announcement as the children arrive that you will have some different rules to follow during the morning. Several times during the Hook time, stop and have the children do something silly. Some ideas might be: Everyone jump up and down three times, everyone get under a table, everyone stand with backs against the wall, etc. "In today's Bible Adventure, we'll be learning about the Jewish religious leaders called the Pharisees. They made the Jewish people follow lots of rules. The Pharisees wanted people to follow them and not Jesus."
- Grain Center:** Bring in some samples of heads of grain. In addition, bring things that are made from grain, like flour, dry cereal, bread, crackers, cookies, and tortillas. Let the children taste several of the items you brought. In today's Bible Adventure, some of Jesus' disciples were hungry and ate grain from a field. Which looks better to eat--the grain or the bread made from the grain?
- Memory Verse Review Table:** Provide two hand puppets. Have one child at the table put on both puppets. Prompt the child to have one puppet move his mouth or body while it says the memory verse to the other puppet. Pass the puppets to the next child who repeats the memory verse in the same way. "In today's Bible Adventure, Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He gives rest to bodies and souls when they learn from Him."
- What Is a Sabbath? Center:** Provide the children with different shapes and sizes of foam packing pieces and glue. Tell the children they can build a "Sabbath." After they construct a "Sabbath" with glue and foam pieces, tell them what Sabbath means. Sabbath was a day of rest for the Jewish people. It was a day to stop work so that they could worship and praise God. We stop work on Sunday and go to church. Saturday was a Sabbath day for the Jews, and Sunday is a day of worship and rest for us. Is their created piece of art really a Sabbath? No! The Sabbath was a day of the week to honor God.
- MAT06ECGF1 Picture Activity:** Copy the GF1 picture on cardstock. Let children glue wheat or barley kernels to the stalks in the picture. Use liquid glue and a cotton swab to apply the kernels onto the stalks. It will take awhile to dry. "In today's Bible Adventure, the disciples were hungry and took some grain from a field to eat. Have you ever eaten grain from a field?"

One-Handed Center: "In today's Bible Adventure, we'll learn of a man who had a hand that didn't work right. Let's try to do some of these things at the table using only one of our hands." Have the child hold one hand behind his back while trying to do his tasks. Things that can be included to do one handed: pour water or rice from one container to another, button a large button, stack blocks or Legos, scoop rice or beans with a spoon into a small container, do a puzzle, put on an old pair of pants, shuffle a deck of cards, etc.

Feel It Bag: In separate paper bags, place some sand, wheat kernels, a small Bible, a crown, a Bandaid, and any other items you have that relate to the Bible Adventure. Let children feel in the bag and guess what they feel. Tell them to listen for all of these things to be mentioned in the Bible Adventure. The people in the Bible story walked on sand, ate kernels, Jesus taught in the synagogue, Jesus is King, and He healed a man with a small hand.

Teacher Center: Jesus taught the people in a synagogue. The words that Jesus taught we read in the Bible. Let children take turns being the teacher with others sitting at their pretend desks.

④ **Pin the Crown on Jesus: (Review MAT01ECGF8)** Draw an outline of a person on butcher paper on the wall. Blindfold one child at a time and let him tape a picture of a crown they have colored on Jesus. The Pharisees didn't want to believe that Jesus was King. They acted like they were blind because they would not receive God's light coming from Jesus.



Book:

Presentation Ideas -

Color and show the **MAT06ECGF1**, **MAT06ECGF2**, **MAT06ECGF3**, and **MAT06ECGF4** pictures as you tell the Bible Adventure.

Picture Review on the "Seeking God's Kingdom" Board: (MAT05ECGF7) Review last week's picture of how Jesus was in control of the wind and the waves. Today, Jesus teaches that He is also in control of the Sabbath.

Real Grain Stalks: If you have some grain stalks, show them to the children before the Bible Adventure. Walk around the circle so the children can inspect them closely. Ask the children to listen in the story for when the grain is mentioned. After the story, let the children crumble the chaff and kernels in their hands.

Circle Activity: Show the children how to shake hands using their right hands.

Good morning to (Caleb), *(Point to child.)*

Good morning to you!

Good morning to (Katya), *(Point to child.)*

And how do you do?

Shake hands with the person *(Children shake hands with neighbor.)*

Who's sitting by you.

Shake hands with the person *(Shake hands with other neighbor.)*

On the other side, too.

Remind the children of the rules for good listening in the Bible Adventure circle.

Bible Adventure for 2's & 3's-

(Show the review MAT04ECGF6 picture.) Jesus healed many people who believed what Jesus taught and told others about Him. But there was one group of people who was not happy with Jesus teaching the people about God. They were called Pharisees. They didn't want people to follow Jesus. They wanted people to follow them. They thought they had God's rules for righteousness. They got mad at Jesus when He didn't follow their rules.

God had told the Jews to not work on the Sabbath day. God knew that it would not be good for people to work hard every day of the week. God wanted them to have time to sing together and worship Him.

(Show the MAT06ECGF2 picture.) The Pharisees knew the rule about not working on the Sabbath day. But the Pharisees added their own rules for the Sabbath. They made so many rules that people felt a heavy burden of rules. Everywhere people turned, the Pharisees were watching to see if they were keeping their rules. *(Hold up hand with palm forward.)* The Pharisees would tell the people, "Don't do

this! Don't do that! Stop that!" This was not what God intended for His people. He wanted rest for their bodies and souls, not heavy rules from the Pharisees.

(Show the MAT06ECGF1 picture.) One day, Jesus and His disciples were walking along a path on the Sabbath. The Pharisees were watching Jesus carefully. The grain in the field next to them was tall and ripe. The disciples were hungry. Peter and Matthew and the other disciples broke off the tops of a few grain plants and ate them.

"You can't do that!" said one of the Pharisees who was following them. "Today is the Sabbath day. Picking grain is work, and you can't work on the Sabbath!"

Jesus said, "You are not the boss of the Sabbath. I am the Lord over everything, even the Sabbath. We can pick grain on the Sabbath day because I am in charge of the Sabbath rules." That made the Pharisees very angry at Jesus. They began to talk among themselves about how they could get rid of Jesus. But the Pharisees could not stop Jesus from being Lord of the Sabbath and Lord of every day of the week. He is the King of God's kingdom.

Prayer: Dear God, I don't want to be like the Pharisees. I want to learn from Jesus because He is the Lord over everything. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Bible Adventure for 4's, 5's & K-

(Show the review MAT04ECGF6 picture.) The Pharisees didn't like to hear Jesus' message when He told them, "Repent and follow Me." They wanted to be the leaders. They wanted people to follow them. They thought they had God's rules for righteousness. They got mad at Jesus when He didn't follow their rules.

(Show the MAT06ECGF1 picture.) One day, Jesus and His disciples were walking along a path on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was on Saturday, and the Jewish people did not work on the Sabbath. God had said in the book of Exodus, "Work six days, but don't work on the Sabbath. Set aside one day a week to worship God and rest from your regular work." God knew that it would not be good for people to work every day of the week doing the same hard work. They would not have time to sing together and worship God together. They would get discouraged and tired.

(Show the MAT06ECGF2 picture.) The Pharisees added their own rules for the Sabbath. They made so many rules that people felt a heavy burden of rules. "Don't do this! Don't do that! Stop that! Don't!" Everywhere people turned, the Pharisees were watching to see if they were keeping their rules. This was not what God intended for His people. He wanted rest for their bodies and souls, not heavy rules from self-righteous Pharisees.

(Show the MAT06ECGF1 picture again.) The Pharisees were watching Jesus carefully as He and His disciples walked along the path by the grainfield. The grain was tall and ripe and ready for harvest. "Growl!" went the stomachs of the hungry disciples. It must have been close to lunch time because their bodies were letting them know it was time to eat. So, Peter and Matthew and the other disciples broke off the tops of a few grain plants and rubbed them between their fingers. As the seeds separated from the chaff, they popped the kernels of wheat into their mouths and chewed them up.

"You can't do that!" said one of the Pharisees who was following them. "Today is the Sabbath. Picking grain is work, and you can't work on the Sabbath!" The Pharisees' bad attitudes showed that they did not want to believe that Jesus was the King of heaven.

Jesus was not afraid to tell the truth about who He was to the Pharisees even though they hated Him. Jesus said, "You are not the boss of the Sabbath. I am the Lord over everything, even the Sabbath. We can pick grain on the Sabbath because I am in charge of the Sabbath rules." That made the Pharisees even more angry at Jesus. They wanted to be in charge of the rules.

(Show the MAT06ECGF3 picture.) Jesus and His disciples walked into a Jewish synagogue where God's people went to sing and pray on the Sabbath. Jesus loved His Father and obeyed Him every day of the week. When the Sabbath day came, it was a special time for people to learn about God, much like we do every Sunday here at church. Jesus spent time teaching the people in the synagogue-church.

As Jesus walked into the synagogue, He saw a man. One of the man's hands did not work right; it was a withered, small hand. The Pharisees had a rule that no one could try to make a sick person well on the Sabbath because they said that would be work, and they wouldn't let anyone work on the Sabbath.

The Pharisees wanted to get Jesus in trouble, so they said to Him, "Is it okay to heal this man's hand on the Sabbath?"

Jesus didn't hesitate, even though He knew that the Pharisees wanted to get Him in trouble. He said, "If one of your sheep were to fall into a deep hole on the Sabbath and couldn't get out, you would work to pull it out because a sheep is worth a lot of money to you. A man is more valuable to Me than a sheep, so I will help this man and anyone else on any day of the week. It is good to help people every day."

Jesus said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." When the man obeyed Jesus, his hand became just like his other good hand.

(Show the MAT06ECGF4 picture.) The Pharisees were so angry that they could not stand it any longer. They stomped out of the synagogue to talk among themselves about how they could get rid of Jesus. They would do everything they could to keep Jesus from becoming the King of the Jews--even kill Him.

The Pharisees could not stop Jesus from being Lord of the Sabbath and Lord of every day of the week. He is the King of God's kingdom. He wants us to come to Him and follow Him every day of the week, not just on Saturday or Sunday. Jesus gives rest to our bodies and souls. He gives us "Be Happy" attitudes when we come to Him and learn from Him.

Prayer: Dear God, I don't want to be like the Pharisees who made up their own rules about Your kingdom. I want to learn from Jesus in the Bible so that I can have rest in my soul. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

Aim Questions

Aim Questions for 2's & 3's:

1. **Who was not happy with Jesus teaching the people about God?** *(Pharisees.)*
2. **Who got angry at the disciples for picking grain from a field on Sabbath day?** *(Pharisees.)*
3. **Who is Lord over everything, even the Sabbath day?** *(Jesus.)*

Aim Questions for 4's & 5's:

1. **Why did Jesus eat grain on the Sabbath even though the angry Pharisees were watching?** *(Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath and makes the rules.)*
2. **Who did Jesus heal on the Sabbath that made the Pharisees angry?** *(The man with the withered hand.)*
3. **What happens when we come to Jesus and learn from Him?** *(We have rest for our souls. Say the memory verse.)*



Look:

- Aim Questions:** Write the questions on cards and place them in the circle on the floor. When a child is called, he picks up a question and then makes up a silly rule for the children to do while they are seated in the circle. After the children have done the silly rule, the question can be read. (Stick out tongue, rub feet together, etc.)
- Snack Suggestion:** Serve bread. Whole grain and multigrain breads may have actual seeds in the bread. A discussion of all kinds of grains and seeds can happen while the children are eating.
- Bible Verse:** Write the verse in four segments (one being the reference) on different colors of paper and tape them to a large sheet of paper on the wall. On the opposite wall, have the children gather in four teams. Start with one team saying the first part of the verse, "Come to Me," as you point to it. Repeat with other parts. Switch teams and the parts they are to say. Continue until they know it well.
- Transition Idea:** Reach out to the side and pretend to pick grain and eat it while walking along.
- "Lord of the Sabbath" Booklet: (MAT06ECGF5)** Give each child a GF5 page that has been folded in fourths to make a booklet. Let the children color the pictures and review the Aim Questions as they work. Glue grain kernels to the first page and star stickers and sequins to the Pharisee's fancy clothes.
- "Follow the Lord" Activity Page: (MAT06ECGF6)** Let the children tear off small bits of colored construction paper and glue the bits to the robes of the people who wanted to follow Jesus and those who turned away. Use as many colors as you can find. Sing the memory verse to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle" as the children work.

"Days of the Week" Activity Song (tune: "Ten Little Indians")

How many days are in a week? How many days are in a week?

Name each day so you will know

Seven days in a week.

Sunday (arms up), Monday (arms on head), Tuesday (arms on shoulders), Wednesday (arms on waist), Thursday (arms on knees), Friday (arms on toes), and then comes Saturday (jump up!).

Name each day so you will know

Seven days in a week.

"Going to Church on the Sabbath" Game: Bring an alarm clock or a timer that rings. Have the children sit on the floor facing you. Arrange chairs in another area of the room, one for each child. Let the children lie on the floor and pretend they are asleep. Say, "Let's pretend it's early Saturday morning. It is the Sabbath and we are asleep. When the alarm clock rings, we must get up and get ready to go to church." Set the clock to ring in a few seconds, or make a ringing sound. Encourage the children to follow your actions as you sing the following words to the tune of "Here We Go 'Round the Mulberry Bush."

1) This is the way we get out of bed, we get out of bed; we get out of bed.

This is the way we get out of bed, so early Sabbath morning.

2) This is the way we put on our clothes.

3) This is the way we wash our face.

4) This is the way we brush our teeth.

5) This is the way we eat our food.

Say, "Now we're ready for church!" Walk over to the chairs and sit down. Comment on how the children waited and took turns finding a chair. The memory verse may be recited by everyone while sitting in the chairs.

"He's Got the Whole World"

He's got the whole world, in His hands,

He's got the whole world, in His hands,

He's got the whole world, in His hands,

He's got the whole world in His hands.

2) He's got the wind and the waves...

3) He's got the Sabbath day...

Action Song: (tune: "Mulberry Bush")

This is the way we pick (wash) up clothes, pick up clothes, pick up clothes.

This is the way we pick up clothes on a Monday morning.

Continue with "set the table on a Tuesday morning, dry the dishes on a Wednesday morning, take out garbage on a Thursday morning, make a bed on a Friday morning, stir the cookies on a Saturday morning, go to church on a Sunday morning."

④ **Pharisee--Jesus Follower Chant:** The "Jesus Followers" say the first part of the following statements and the "Pharisees" say the part in italics. Give a teacher leader for each group a copy of the words to say. The teacher whispers it to her group before they chant it together.

Jesus Followers (Walk in place nicely.)

Repent and follow Jesus.

God gave us the rules.

God said, "Work six days, rest on the seventh."

Jesus healed the man's hand.

It is good to help people any day.

Jesus is Lord over everything.

Jesus is King.

Follow Jesus every day.

Pharisees (Stomp in place angrily.)

No way, follow me! (Point to self.)

Listen to my rules.

You can't pick grain to eat on the Sabbath..

You can't help anyone on the Sabbath.

We are mad! (Stomp.)

We're in charge.

No way!

No!

Rules for the Game: Divide children into two teams, each under the guidance of a teacher. Give each a ball and some masking tape and ask them to make up a game to play with it including all the rules. (A game might just be sitting on the floor and passing the ball to the third person on your left. Or the ball has to bounce on the floor once before it gets to the person across from you.) Let each demonstrate their game and share the rules. Talk about the Pharisees making up their own rules for all of life rather than following God's rules. God's rules are always right to follow.

- ④ **Snack Conversation:** Share wheat crackers. In the center of the table place a game box without instructions on how to play it. Talk to the children about possible things to do with it. That sounds just like the Pharisees. They made up their own rules rather than get the right rules from Jesus.

Songs:

- **Matthew 11:28-29, Memory Verse Song** (tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle")
Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew chapter e-le-ven,
Verses 28 and 9.
Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.



Took:

- Pleasing King Jesus All Week! (MAT06ECGF7, MAT06ECGF8, and MAT06ECGF9)** Print the GF7 calendar page on cardstock paper. Let the children color the calendar and GF8 pictures. Give each child a GF9 memory verse sticker to put on the calendar page. Stickers can be made by copying the GF9 page onto 1" x 2 5/8" laser labels. Place the pictures in an envelope and paper clip it to the calendar. Talk about ways the children can work, help, and obey every day of the week. Send the calendars home as a reminder. Glue one of the pictures onto the day of the calendar that the child helps at home. Ask the parents to write by each picture what the child did that day that pleased them and Jesus. Place a magnet strip on the back to hang on the refrigerator.
- Whose Rules Do We Follow? Activity Page: (MAT06ECGF9 and MAT06ECGF10)** As the children color the family learning about Jesus, talk about God's rules that are found in the Bible. (Differentiate between God's rules for every family and individual family rules for bedtime and mealtime that parents decide for their own families.) Let each child put a Bible verse sticker on his or her page. God's rules are not too hard when we have God's power to help us. When the family learns from God in the Bible, God gives strength to follow His rules and rest in our souls.
- Preschool Page for Parents: (MAT06ECPPP)** Send a page home with each child, encouraging parents to reinforce the Bible truths at home. Spend a few minutes before the children go home creatively reviewing the song and memory verse.



Jesus and His disciples picked and ate grain on the Sabbath.



The Pharisees were angry at Jesus and said, "Follow our rules."

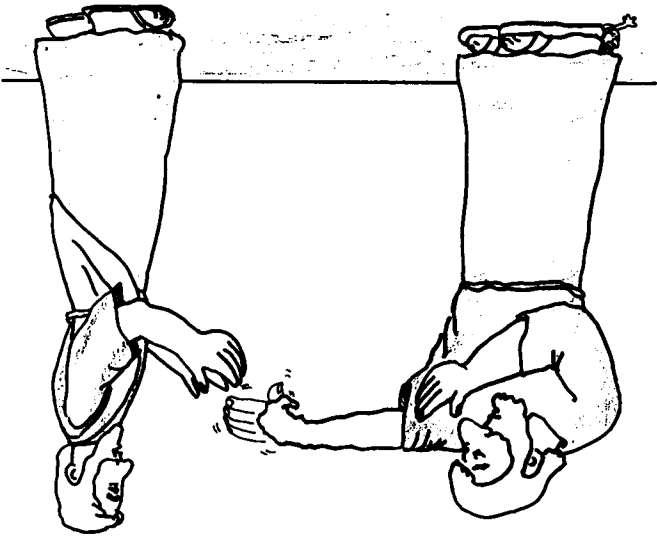


Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath.



The Pharisees were so angry at Jesus that they wanted to get rid of Him.

3. Jesus healed the man with the withered hand on the Sabbath.



2. The Pharisees were angry at Jesus and said, "Follow our rules."



Jesus is Lord over the Sabbath rules.



Matthew 11:28-29, Memory Verse Song
(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle")

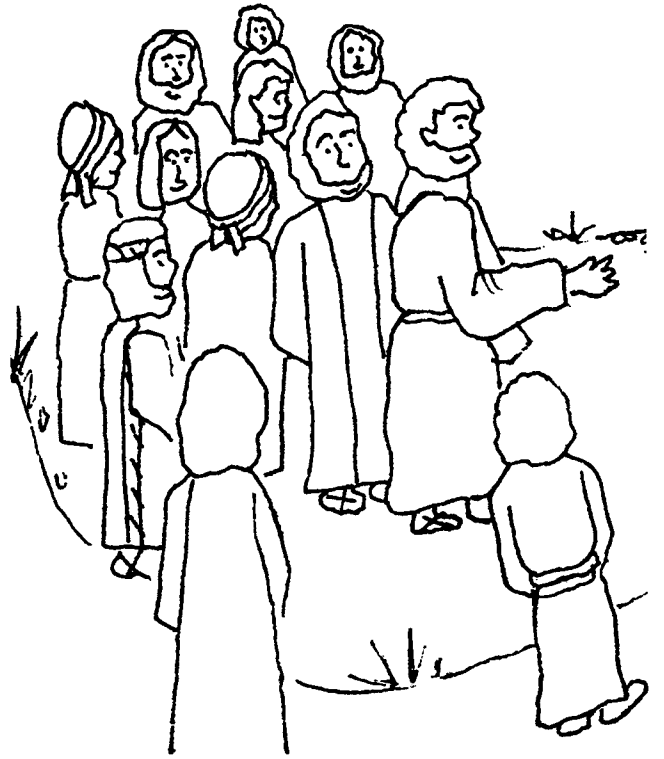
Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew chapter e-le-ven, verses 28 and 9.
Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.

1.

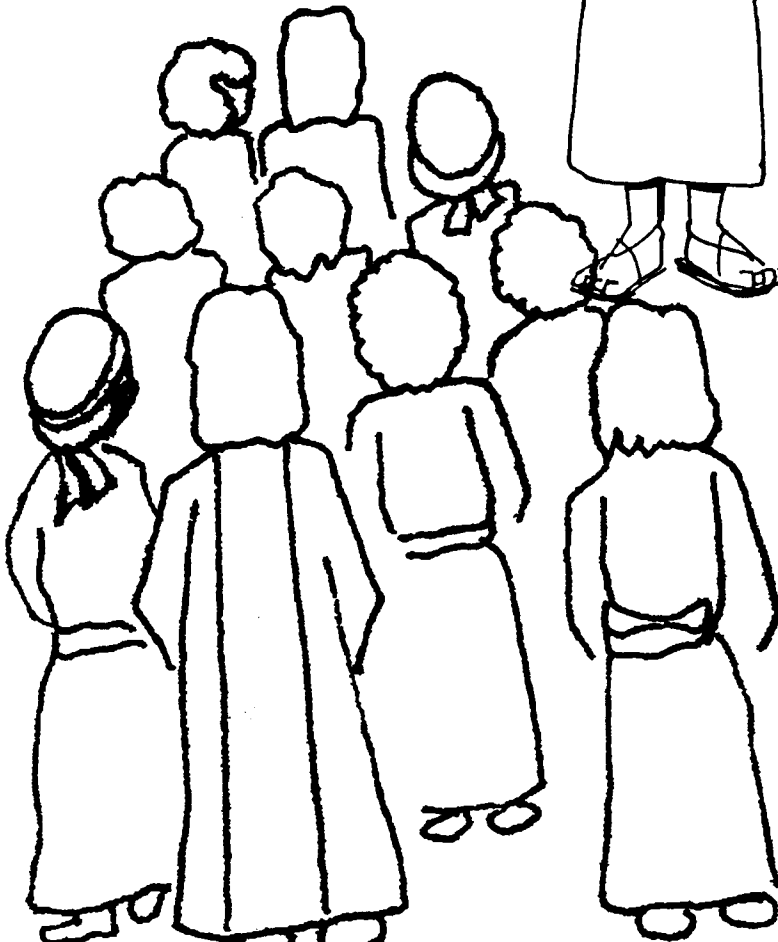
The Pharisees were so angry at Jesus that they wanted to kill him.

4.

**The Pharisees turned
away from Jesus.**



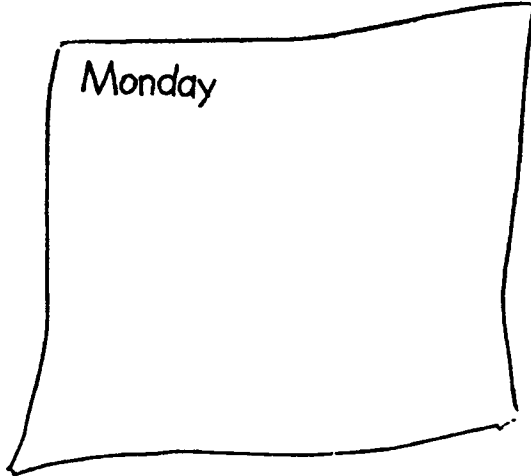
**The disciples
repented
and followed
Jesus.**



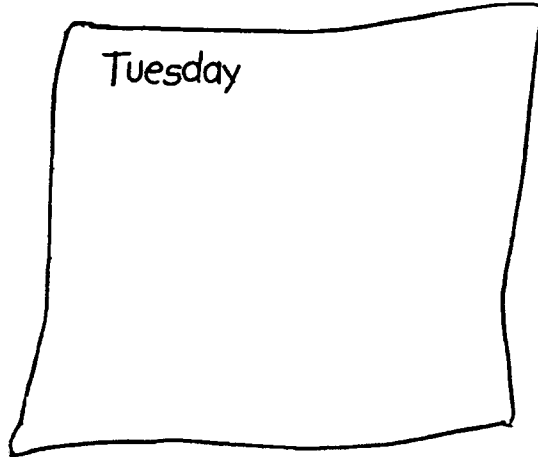
**Come to Me...
and learn from Me...
and you will find
rest for your souls.
Matthew 11:28-29**

Pleasing Jesus Everyday

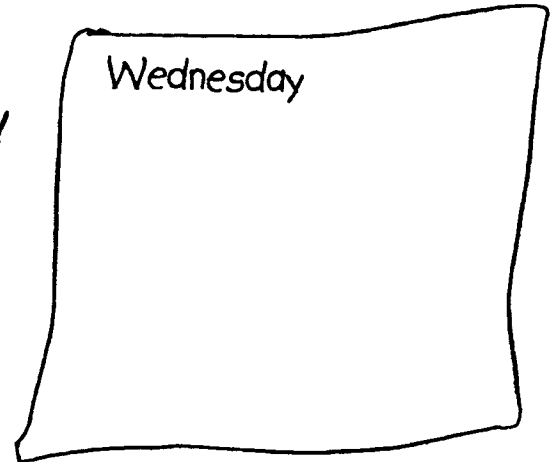
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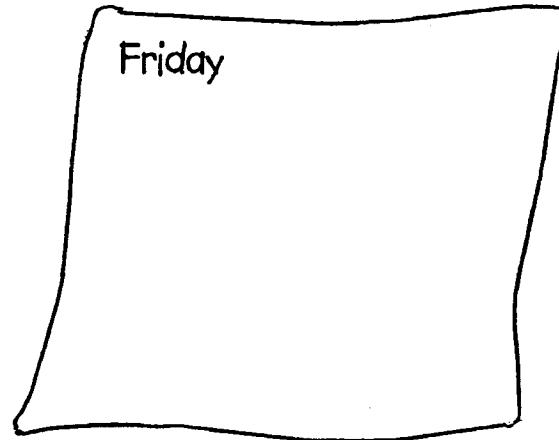
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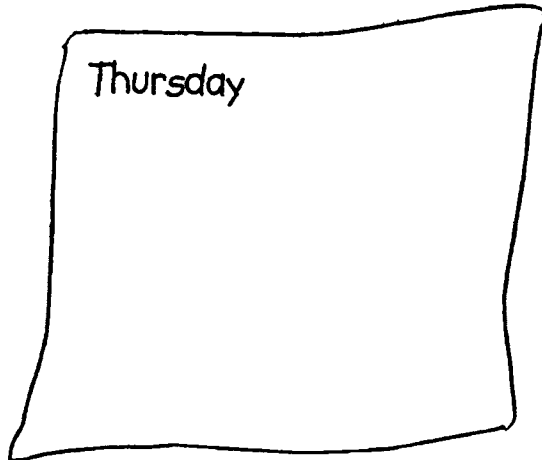
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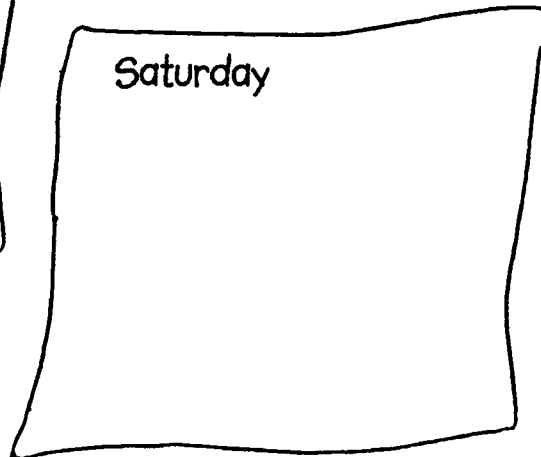
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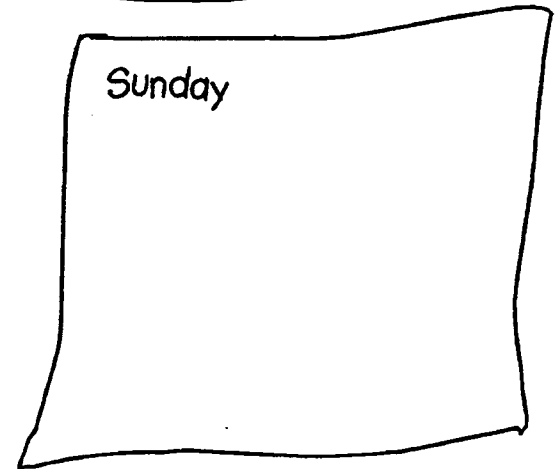
Thursday



Saturday



Sunday

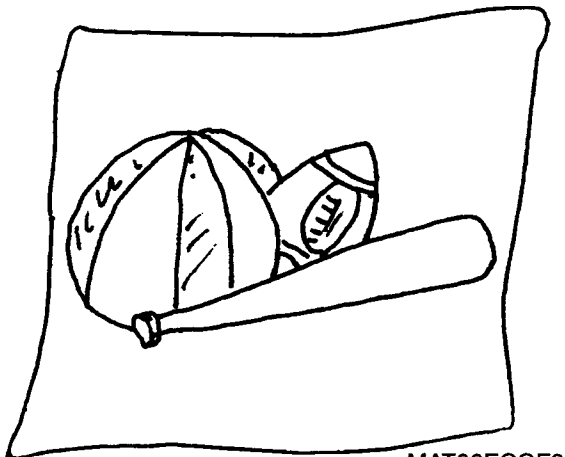
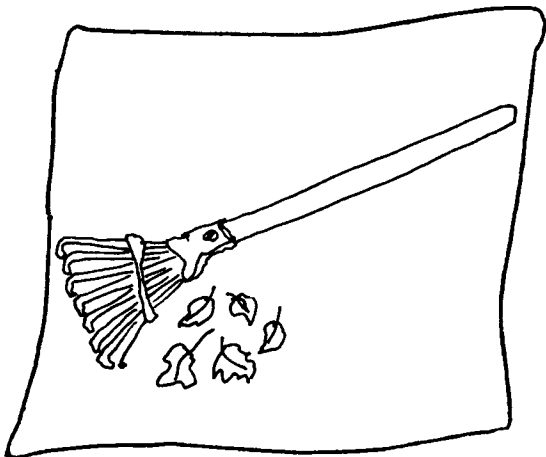
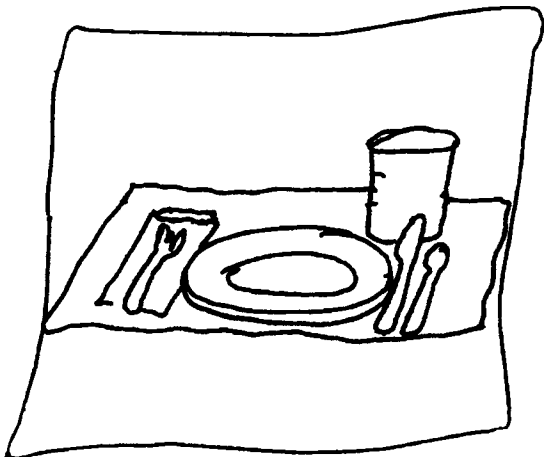
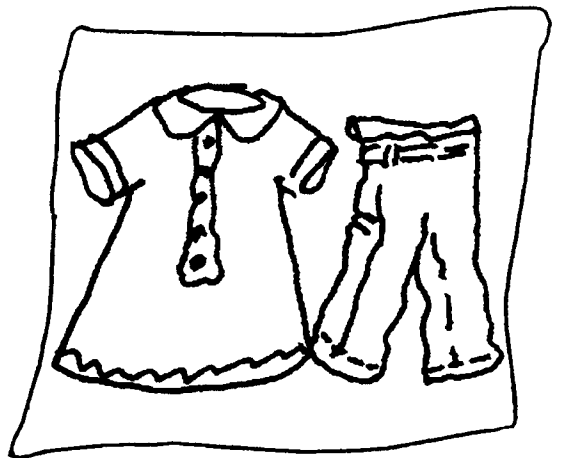
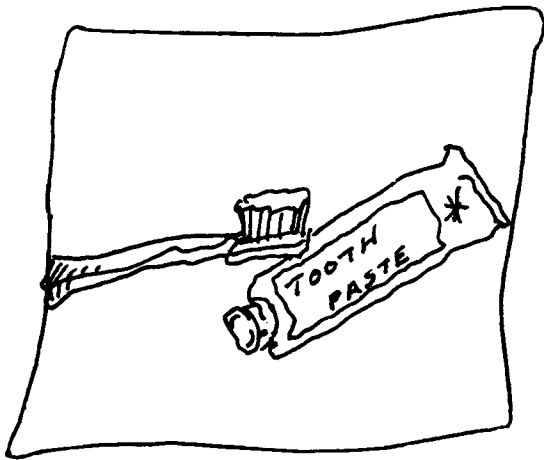
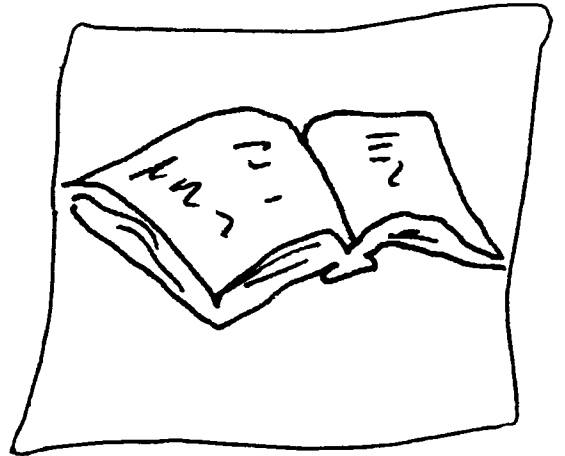
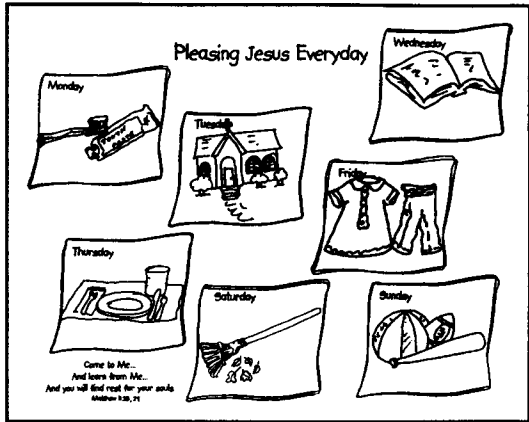


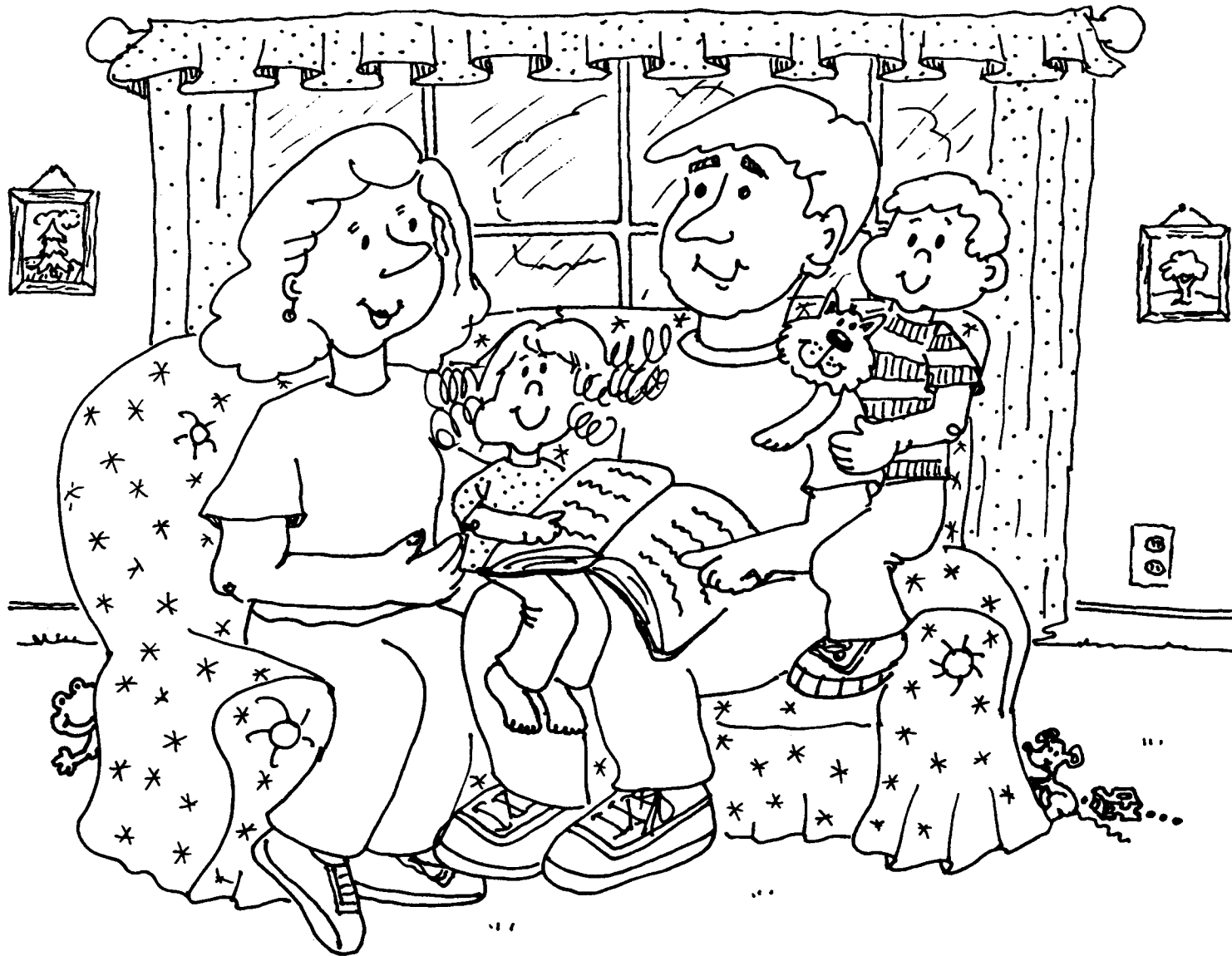
Come to Me...
And learn from Me...
And you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew 11:28, 29

"Pleasing King Jesus All Week"

Pictures for GF7 Calendar
Glue one of these pictures to each day
of the MAT06ECGF7 calendar as the
child completes that activity.

Sample
of
completed
activity
page
➔





God makes the rules for every family to follow.

Come to Me...and learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls. Matthew 11:28-29



This is what I learned today!

The Pharisees were religious leaders who did not want Jesus as their king. They thought they had God's rules for righteousness. The Pharisees wanted people to follow them and their rules. God had told the Jews not to work on the Sabbath. They were to rest and worship God. But the Pharisees added their own rules to the Sabbath. They got angry with the disciples when they picked and ate grain from a field on the Sabbath. The Pharisees called it work. They got even more angry when Jesus told them that He was in charge of the Sabbath rules. They watched Jesus heal a man's hand in the synagogue on the Sabbath. That is when they decided to do everything they could to keep Jesus from becoming the King of the Jews. But Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath and of every other day of the week. He is the King of God's kingdom.

Today's Memory Verse

**Come to Me...and learn from Me...
and you will find rest for your souls.
Matthew 11:28-29**

**Jesus is Lord
over every day
of the week.**



Have fun teaching your preschool child the "Days of the Week" Activity Song (to the tune of "Ten Little Indians").

How many days are in a wee-ek? How many days are in a wee-ek?

Name each day so you will know

Seven days in a week.

Sunday (arms up), Monday (hands on head), Tuesday (hands on shoulders), Wednesday (hands on waist),

Thursday (hands on knees), Friday (hands on toes), and then comes Saturday (jump up!).

Name each day so you will know

Seven days in a week.

Jesus is Lord of every da-ay. Jesus is Lord of every da-ay.

Jesus is Lord of every da-ay.

Seven days in a week.

(Continue singing Sunday, Monday, etc., with hand motions.)

Matthew 11:28-29, Memory Verse Song
(tune: "Twinkle, Twinkle")

**Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.**

**Matthew chapter e-le-ven,
Verses 28 and 9.**

**Come to Me and learn from Me
And you will find rest for your souls.**

* For tunes to songs, ask about the preschool tape.



Jesus is Lord over the Sabbath.
The Pharisees must follow His rules.