

Helping Hand - My God - His Plan to Save Me

Requirement

- A. Create a story chart showing the order in which these stories took place:
- * Noah
 - * Abraham
 - * Moses
 - * David
 - * Daniel
- B. Make a diorama, poem, or song about one of the stories above to show someone how to live for God.

Goal of this track

To facilitate the development of a growing and fruitful relationship between the child and Jesus Christ.

Concept Included in This Component

God's love, sin and forgiveness, conversion, obedience.

Objective of this component

Upon completion of the Adventurer requirements the children will:

- Know: the broad outlines of God's plan of salvation and how to experience this gift personally,
- Feel: the assurance of God's love and salvation which produces joyful praise and a strong determination to live for Him, and
- Respond: by accepting Jesus Christ's gift of forgiveness and new life.

Background Information

The Adventurer curriculum seeks to help children build a progressively mature understanding of the joys and responsibilities of being a child of God. Beginning with a recognition of the love and watch-care of God at the Busy Bee level, Adventurers have learned to recognise the presence of evil in the world and in their own lives. They are learning to escape from evil by receiving forgiveness and power through Jesus Christ.

The goal of the Helping Hand requirements is to provide children with a reminder of the beginning steps of salvation and to encourage them to continue in the Christian life even though it is sometimes difficult. The following basic concepts are found in each of the stories.

1. I want to obey God and escape from evil. I recognise the destructiveness of evil and am sorry for my part in it.
2. I can give my life to Jesus, and He will give me a new, clean heart. When I give Him my life He helps me obey him.
3. I do my best to live for Him, and He is always there to forgive and help me when I ask. I love Him because He loves me and has given me eternal life. I want Him to continue to forgive and help me.
4. I am becoming the person He wants me to be. I will be persistent in letting Jesus help me grow up to be just like Him. He promises that I will if I trust and obey Him.

Each of the suggested stories, chosen from the Old Testament, reinforces these concepts in a slightly different way. Some Helping Hands will already have accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour. Others may not have taken this step. These concepts and stories review the beginning steps of salvation and provide instruction and encouragement for the growing Christian.

For example, the Bible tells us that David was "a man after God's own heart." The life of David was clearly a life committed to God, and yet mistakes and sins are also clearly evident in His life. The Helping Hand who studies the life of David will be able to recognise that the Christian life is not one long, easy path of perfection; rather, it is made up of many struggles and difficulties along the way. Despite all of David's shortcomings, God was with him. He blessed him by making Him one of the greatest kings Israel ever knew. God was able to do this because David consistently chose to live his life for the Lord.

Another example of how the Helping Hand stories reinforce the concepts of salvation and living for Jesus may be found in the deliverance from Egypt that God provided to Israel through Moses. The sanctuary services were especially designed to help the Israelites look forward to the time when Jesus Christ would be on earth. The Israelites were commanded to obey the Ten Commandments given at Mt. Sinai. However, God provided a symbol of His forgiveness through the sacrificial service. The sacrifice required for every sin helped the Israelites to remember the seriousness of sin. This sacrifice pointed toward the death of Jesus on the cross to forgive all our sins. The sanctuary and the services surrounding it hold a wealth of knowledge for the Helping Hand who seeks to grow and develop an understanding of how to live for God.

The Bible story chart activities for the Helping Hand, found on the following pages, complete the overview of history provided in the Adventurer curriculum. The events designating the different periods in Old Testament history are:

- * Noah and the Flood;
- * Abraham and Sarah;
- * Moses and the Exodus;
- * David;
- * the Babylonian captivity.

The required art work or creative writing gives children the opportunity to relate to the stories in a more personal way.

Teaching Tips

- Other Bible stories about living for God are:

Jacob (Genesis 25-50)

Moses (Exodus-Deuteronomy)

Miriam (Exodus 2:1-10; 15:20-22; Numbers 12, 21)

Joshua (Joshua [especially chapter 7])

Martha (Luke 10:38-42; John 11:1-46; 12:1-3)

The Manual on pages 145 to 149 has the four pictures for this requirement. We have them in the Activity Book, please check there also.

Norm's Notes

In each class a different part of the world time line is discussed with four or five events from the world's history, mostly focussing on the lives of several individual (though the Sunbeam class talks only of incidents from the life of Christ).

However, in the second part of the requirement there is something additional to do and the wording here gives the clue to the purpose of the stories in the first part of the requirement.

In the **Busy Bee** class the focus should be on "how much Jesus cares for you". This lesson is obvious in the good world God gave us, and how it was spoiled and God's plan of restoration.

The **Sunbeam** class aim is to "show someone the joy of being saved by Jesus". Here in the stories of his life and sacrifice we can see what Jesus did for us and learn the joy of salvation.

The **Builder** class looks at people who have lived since the death of Christ. The second part talks about "how to give one's life to Jesus" The three people listed all gave their lives to Jesus, though maybe in different ways, and this leads to a discussion on how a child today gives their heart to Jesus.

The **Helping Hand** class looks at Old Testament heroes, and many lessons could be drawn from their lives, but the second section talks about "how to live for God". Thus the stories should be looked at from this point of view and discussion can be on how these people can be examples for those living today.

The material here is taken from pages 14, 19 and 142 - 143 of the printed manual.