

# Adventures with GOD!

## JESUS IS WITH WHEN I'M HAPPY (B.1.WINTER.3)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 19:13-15
Key Verse	Isaiah 61:10a
Key Concept	Jesus is with me when I'm happy and I am thankful for the joy I feel.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe things that make them joyful</li> <li>2. Give thanks to God for the moments of joy</li> <li>3. Explain that knowing Jesus as their friend and Savior makes them joyful</li> </ol>

### Life Application

It's easy to forget that Jesus is with us when things are going well and we're happy. The children can remember that Jesus is with them in any situation of their life, even in moments of joy. We also have to remember that Jesus deserves our gratitude for the joy we feel. Sometimes we feel gratitude, but don't express it. The children will learn to give thanks to Jesus and other people who deserve our thanks.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure w/God materials	5 minutes
Decoration		5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Activity	Paper plates, paper, glue, scissors, markers, popsicle stick	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustration	10 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustrations	15 minutes
Prayer	Illustration	5 minutes
Craft	Crayons, worksheets	15minutes
Snack		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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## INSTRUCTIONS

**Decoration:** The symbol of the story today is a happy face. Make lots of happy faces and put them on the walls of the classroom. It would also be good to look for images or pictures of people who are happy, or situations that make us happy.

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

**Question examples:** What did you notice in this story? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the story?

**Activity:** Today they will make a happy face puppet. The instructions and patterns are found in the following pages of the lesson. Have the children draw happy faces on round pieces of paper about the size of a paper plate so they can glue it to the plate and color it. They can write on the craft stick the words (I'm Happy).

**Bible Story:** The Bible story today is found in Matthew 19:13-15. Read it and prepare ahead of time to tell the story in words they can understand. You can use the story written on the following pages of the lesson as a creative way to tell it. It's important to understand that Jesus

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was a joyful person. The children who lived during the time of Jesus wanted to be with him. Use visuals if possible to help tell the story.

**Bible Verse:** Read the verse and ask them to think about other words that mean “joy.” Then ask them to share some of their happiest or most joyful moments (maybe it was a birthday party, Christmas, a game they won, etc.) Each time they think of a joyful situation, they can thank God. You can have the children color the picture of the happy child found in the following pages.

**Craft:** Each child can color the next page in their booklet. Give them instructions and give them the materials they need.

## **Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:**

**G: God's Word:** What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

**R: Relationships:** Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O: Outward Action:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## BIBLE STORY

### The day the children came

**John:** Hi, my name is John and I'm a disciple of a various famous man. He has all the fame in the world. I'm learning everything I can from him about friendship, love that is strong and sure, a love that comes from our Heavenly father.

This man is so loved and admired and sometimes he feels tired. But he's never too tired, especially when it comes to doing something for someone in need. This is what the story is about that I'm going to tell you. It's called, "The day the children came."

It was a very hot day and the teacher was sitting under a tree with his eyes closed. We knew he was really tired. We all talked quietly and tried to tiptoe around him. We would have to wake him up when the time came to teach the people.

I realized that there were all sorts of people there waiting: women, children, men, an Ethiopian and his daughter, and many Jewish men with beards. People from all over came to hear the great teacher.

One of the Jewish boys came up to me with his eyes shining. Peter and I looked at each other concerned. "Let the teacher sleep. Tell your children that they shouldn't bother him so he can rest." The children stopped, afraid, but I saw that the teacher smiled at them. Suddenly I heard a strong, loving voice say, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them. Their heavenly father loves them so much!"

**Little Girl:** "Go to the teacher, talk with him." That's what my father said. The man smiled at me and put his hand gently on my head. Suddenly I was telling him everything, and I wasn't nervous or anything. "My name is Myra, I'm from Ethiopia. I'm 8 years old. We came to hear you teach."

The teacher looked at me and touched my cheek. "Myra from Ethiopia, what are you thinking about? Tell me what's on your heart." I answered, "Help me to know how to reach God." The teacher spoke with so much love, "You have chosen the correct way."

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**Boy #1:** I had traveled for many days. My uncle told me, “James, we’ve traveled to listen to a man that everyone is talking about. Tell him where you’re from and that you are 8 years old.”

I told the man what I was thinking. “You are so kind to listen to me. I need someone to listen because I don’t have a father. My father passed away.” The teacher looked at me and said, “Your Heavenly Father loves you so much.”

**Boy #2:** My father took me by the hand and led me to the man. “This is Joel. He’s 9 years old,” he said. “Please help him if it’s possible. We have heard about you from the other Jews. You’re famous everywhere.”

The important man smiled and asked me, “Joel, are you a happy child?” “I don’t have any brothers or sisters,” I said and began to cry. “I almost always feel lonely.” “I know,” replied the man. “It’s difficult to be alone.”

**Juan:** “Those who want to enter the Kingdom of God,” Jesus said in a soft voice, “must become like these children.” And he blessed the children, each one of them. His words were wise and kind.

“I’m the way to the father. You, son, your heavenly father loves you. God is your hope and joy.” He talked with each one. “Joel, everyone who believes in me will be a part of God’s family. You will have many brothers and sisters in God’s family.” All of the group was silent, listening. We had all learned a lesson of love and kindness.

This was a lesson I will never forget. I will never forget the day the children came to Jesus.

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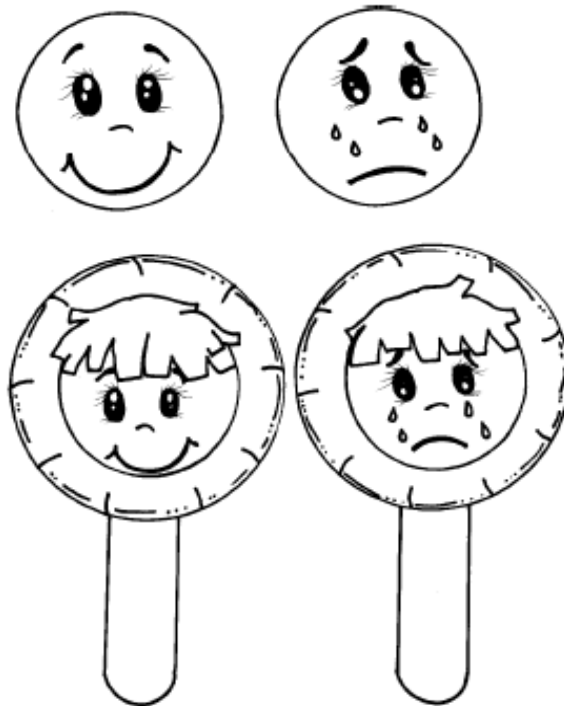
## CRAFT

### Happy and sad face puppets

Materials – Something round to trace, black marker, copy of a happy face, popsicle stick/craft stick, string/yarn, scissors, glue, crayons, paper plate, stapler

Instructions –

1. With something round, trace on white paper and make circles that are 5 inches in diameter.
2. With a black marker draw a face (either happy or sad or one of each)
3. Color the face and cut it out.
4. Glue the face on the back of a paper plate, add string or yarn for hair.
5. Glue a popsicle or craft stick on the back part of the paper plate. Make sure half of it can be held onto below the plate.
6. If you want to make a double sided (happy and sad face) puppet, make two faces. Glue each one on a separate paper plate. Then staple the paper plates together around the edges.



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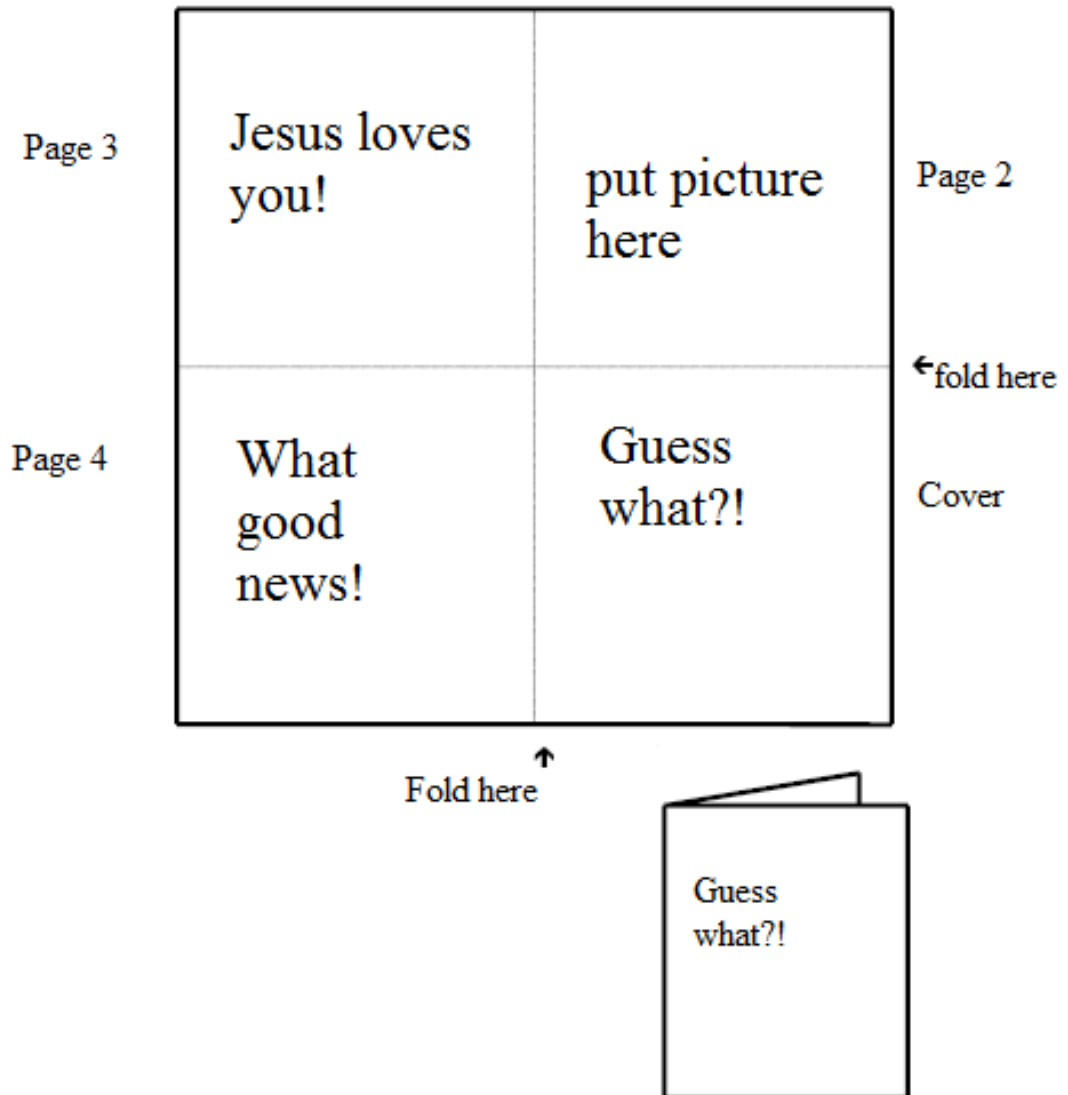
## CRAFT

### Booklet "Guess what?!"

Materials – A white piece of paper, crayons or markers

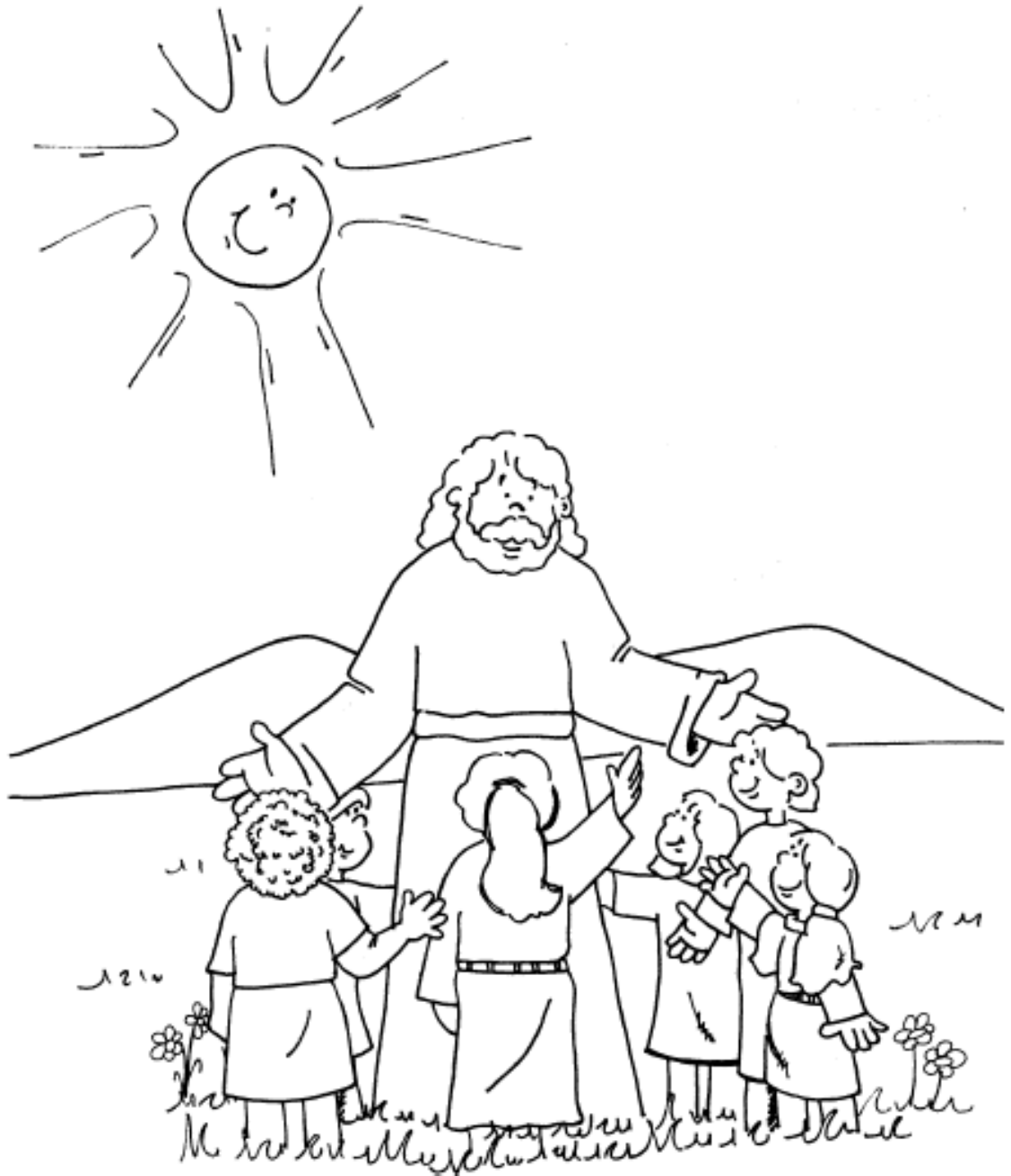
Instructions –

1. Use the model to make a similar booklet for the children.
2. Help them write the words that go on each page. Let them color the pages. Have them draw a picture of themselves on page 2.
3. Fold the paper twice as indicated in the model, to make the booklet.



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PATTERN





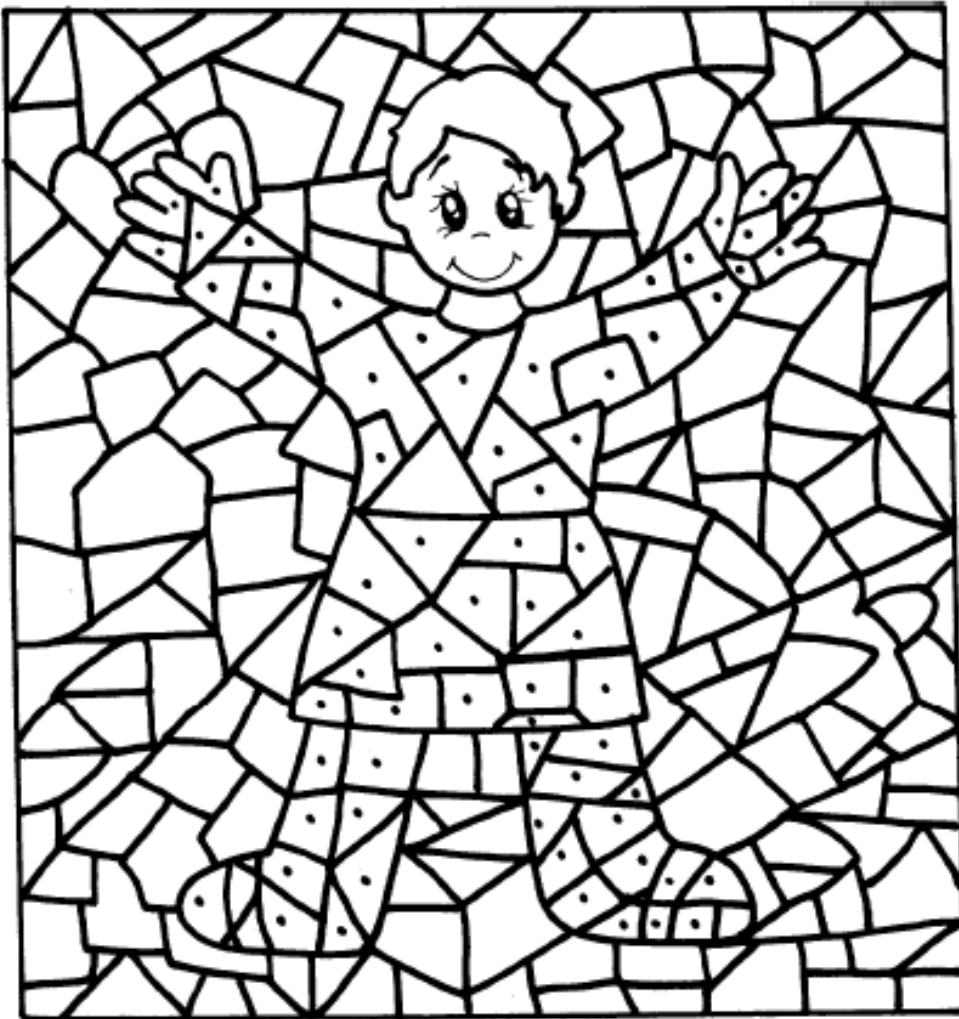
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## WORKSHEET

A very important man came to Jesus. "Please Jesus," said the man. "Come quickly, my son is very sick. You have to help him before he dies."

Jesus answered, "Go to your home. Your son is alive." The man went to his home and found his child well, just as Jesus had said.

Color the sections that have a dot in them to find the happy child that Jesus healed.



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## WORKSHEET

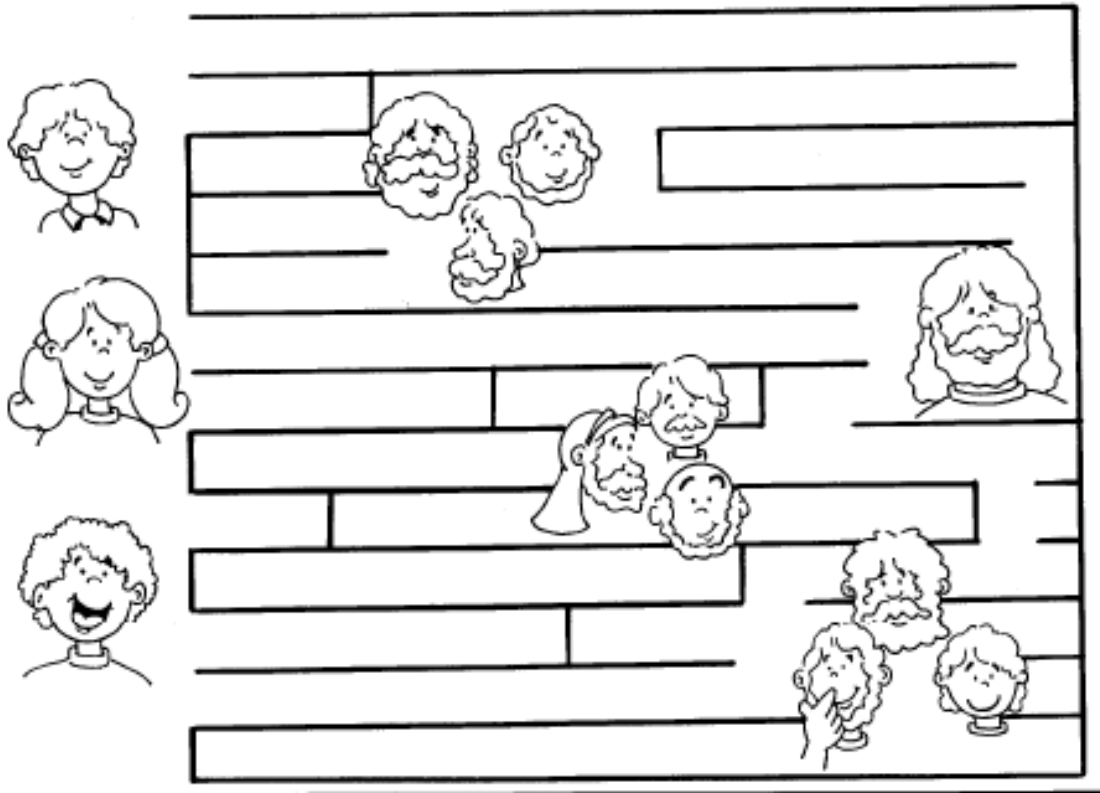
Jesus loves you. Connect the dots to show who wants to be your best friend. Draw your face or the faces of a friend by Jesus' side. Then, you can color the picture and share it with a friend. Tell your friend about Jesus' love.



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## WORKSHEET

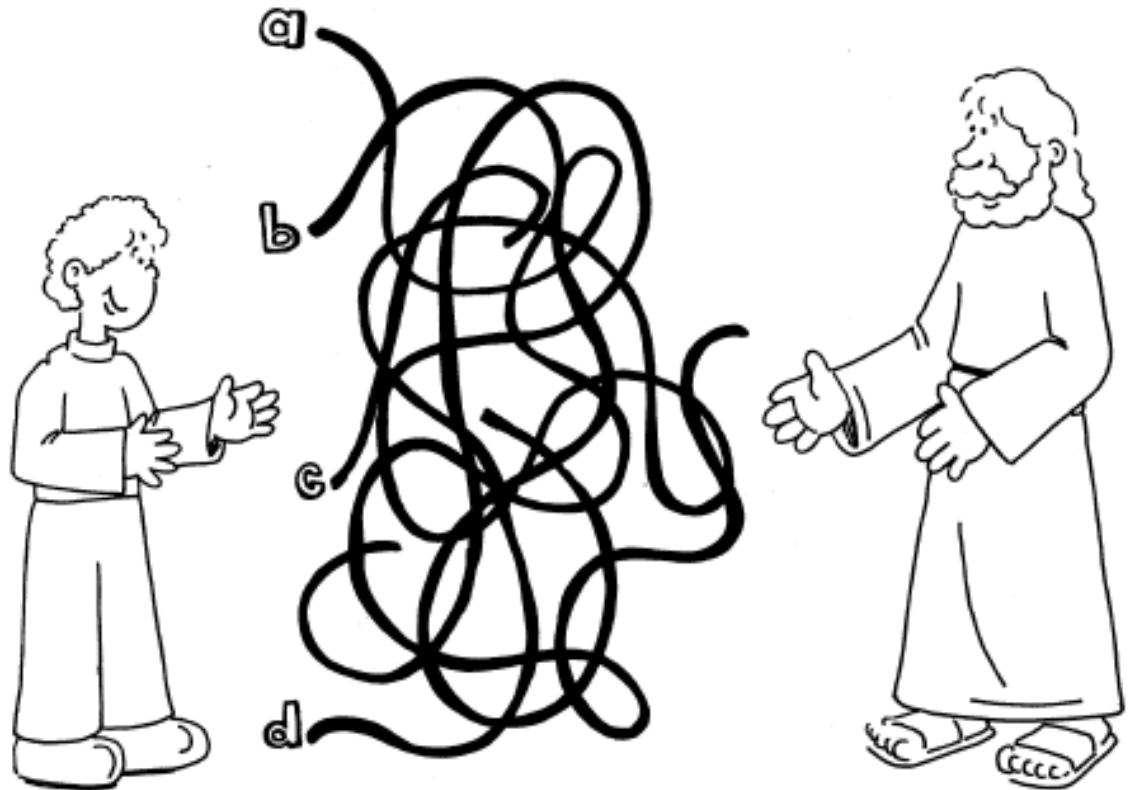
Help the children get to Jesus.



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## WORKSHEET

Which way will take the child to Jesus? Follow the lines. You can use different color crayons to trace the different lines and find out which one gets to Jesus.



**ISAIAH 61:10A**