

# Teaching Aids

## SESSION 1

### Letter to Families



#### Dear Families,

The season of Advent and Christmas is a special time in the life of our faith community, and it is also a very special time for families. The stories in the Bible provide a refreshing perspective in the midst of the busyness, shopping, and sometimes chaotic pressure of the season. These stories remind us to slow down. Breathe. Honor these precious weeks.

The second part of the quarter is focused on the stories of Jesus. Many of them may be familiar to you. However, this may be the first time your child hears them. Talk about the stories as you travel, at bedtime, and while you play together. Incorporating Bible stories and faith conversation in everyday life is a wonderful way to connect to your child and help build faith.

#### Pray Together!

Go outside at night. Look at the night sky. Whether you are in the city or in the country, things are different at night. What sounds different, looks different, feels different? Be quiet for a moment and breathe deeply. Pray:

*God, thank you for the nighttime that gives us rest and sometimes brings special surprises, like the night when Jesus was born. Silent night, holy night. Thank you for all of the blessings of the night. Amen.*

#### Advent Calendar

This week, your child will bring home an Advent calendar of simple family activities, as well as a “Christmas Favorites” activity page. As you know, children love the anticipation of the season, but waiting is hard. Enjoy these activities as a way to bring the family together.

#### Learn More Together

Throughout the quarter, there may be words or images in the stories that children are not familiar with or things they would like to know more about. Take a few moments together with your child to do an internet search for some of the animals, places, or ideas in the stories. Look for photos and fascinating fun facts. Check books out of the library. Help show your child how Bible stories connect to daily life. Remember that you are your child’s first and most important teacher!



Blessings to you and your family as you worship and learn together.



## SESSION 1

### "Animals and Children" Story Figures

Copy and cut out these story figures to be used for Share the Story. During the story, simply lay them out on the cloth at the specified time.



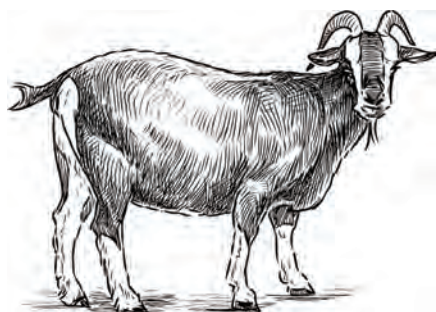
**Wolf**



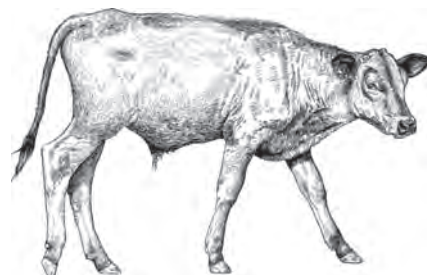
**Lamb**



**Leopard**



**Goat**



**Calf**



**Lion**



**Bear**



**Snake**

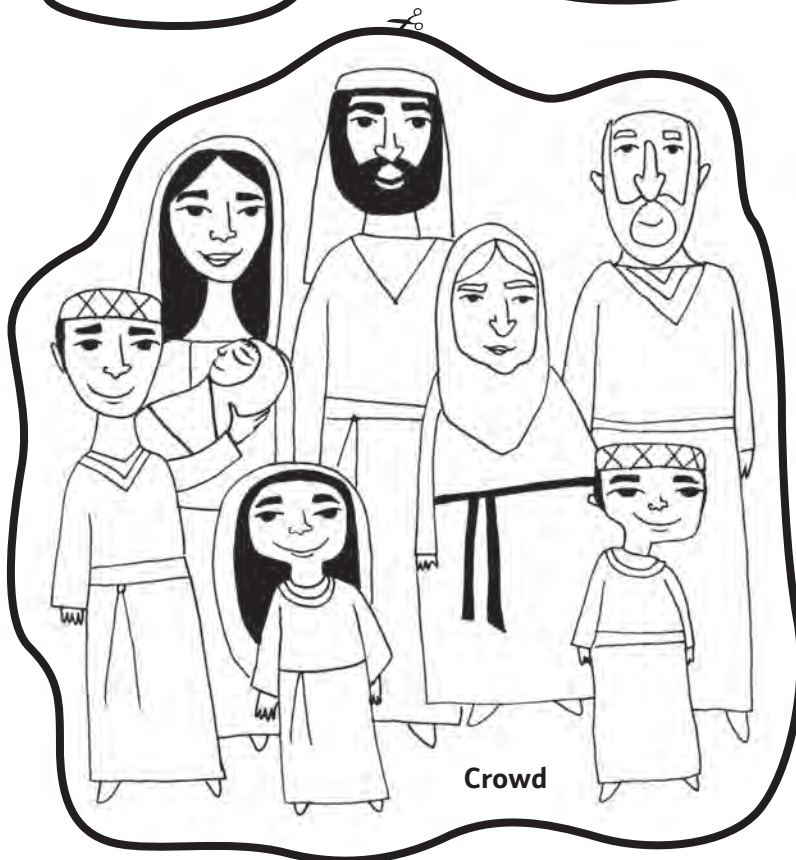
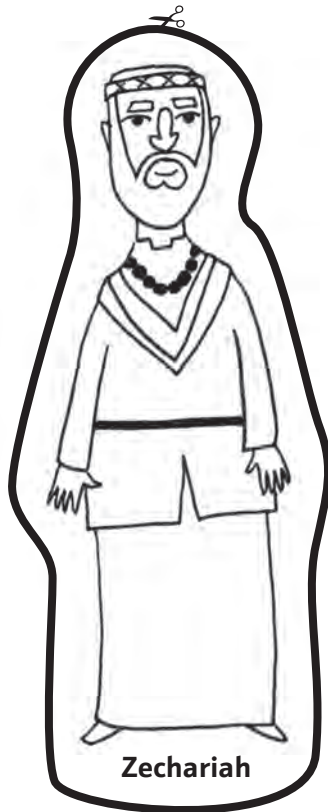


**Children**

## SESSION 2

### Story Figures

Copy and cut out the story figures to use as storytelling props during Share the Story. Tape them to small blocks or upside-down plastic cups so they can stand upright.

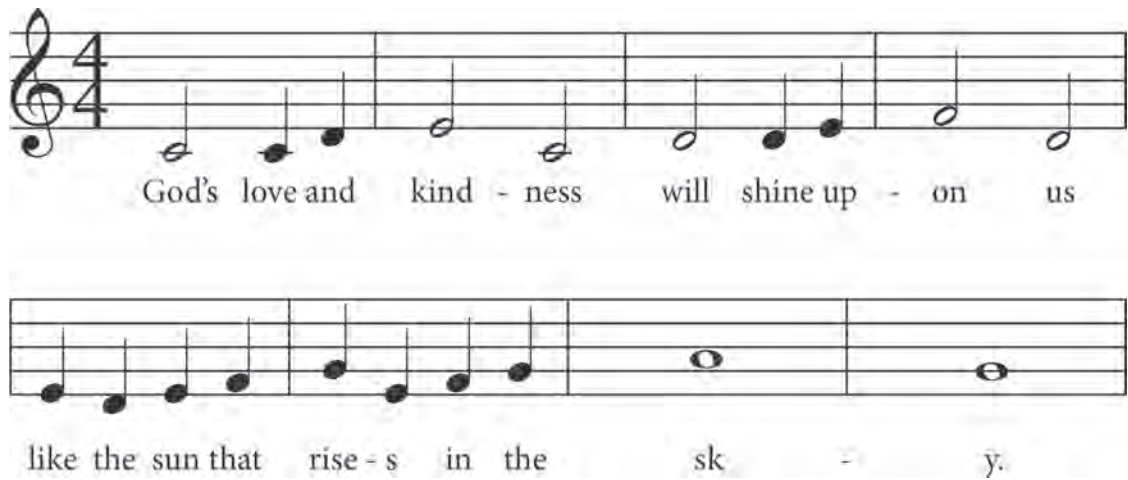


Illustrations by Kate Cosgrove



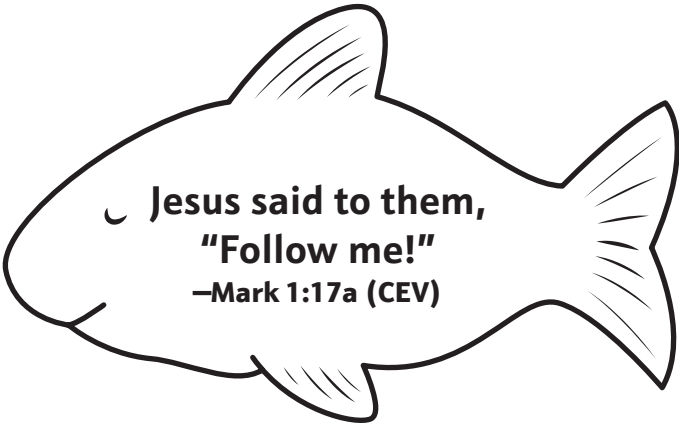
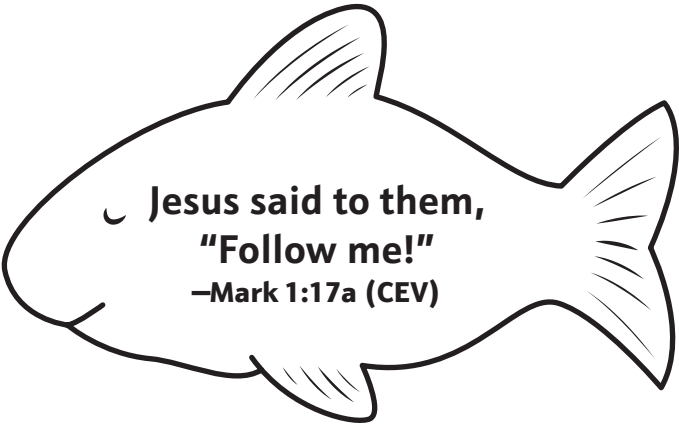
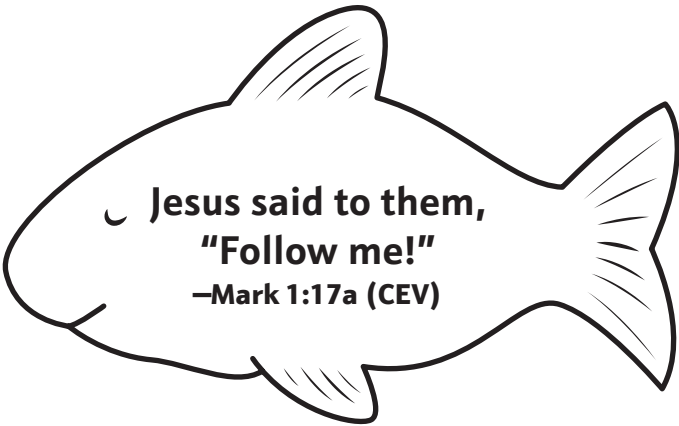
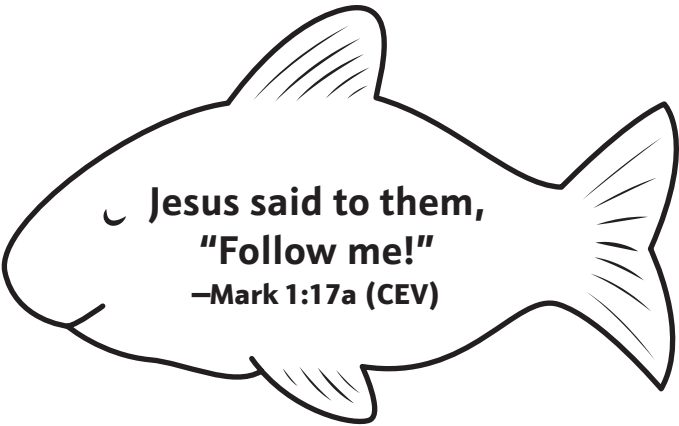
**SESSIONS 3-5**  
**Bible Memory Song**

Sing this song during Learn a Verse in sessions 3-5.



**SESSION 7**  
**Verse Fish**

Copy and cut out the Verse Fish for Responsive Play (Create). Use colorful paper if desired, or have children color the fish. Each child needs at least one fish. *Option:* Use the Verse Fish for the Re-play activity.

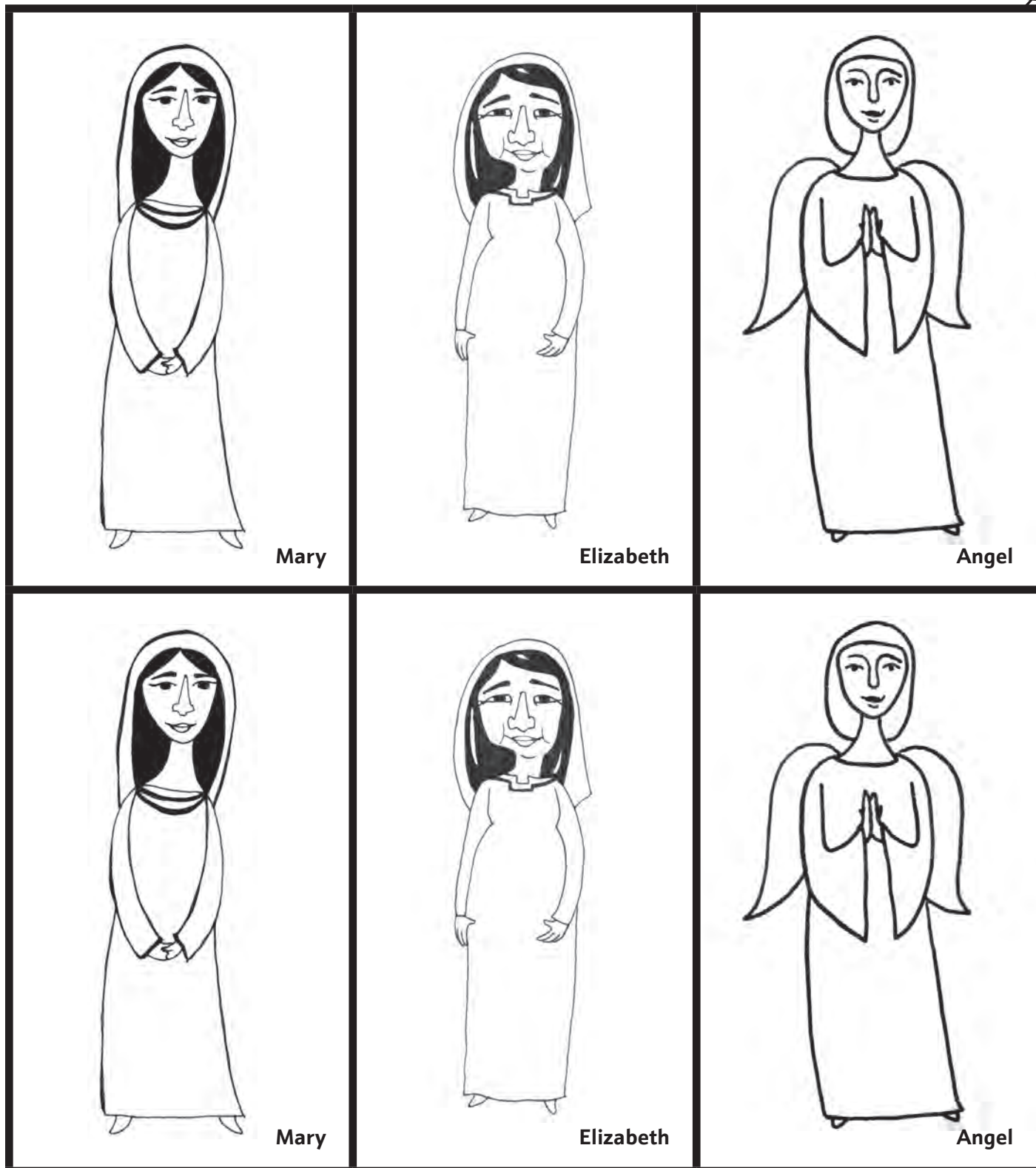


### SESSION 3

#### Story Puppets

**Re-play:** Copy one set of images for each child. Tape each image to the end of a craft stick to make a puppet.

**Responsive Play (Move):** Copy and cut out the Mary and Elizabeth images. Tape each one to a piece of construction paper and post on opposite sides of the room. *Optional:* Enlarge the images so they are easier to see from far away.



## SESSION 4

### "Haystack Cookies" Recipe

#### Ingredients

- 12 oz / 340 g butterscotch chips
- ½ cup / 57 g butter
- 5 oz / 142 g chow mein noodles
- Cookie sheet with waxed paper

#### Instructions

Place butterscotch chips and butter in medium microwaveable bowl. Microwave for 30 seconds. Stir. Then microwave in 15-second intervals, stirring between each interval, until mixture is melted.

Add chow mein noodles and stir gently to coat. Drop mixture by the spoonful onto the cookie sheet. Refrigerate until set.

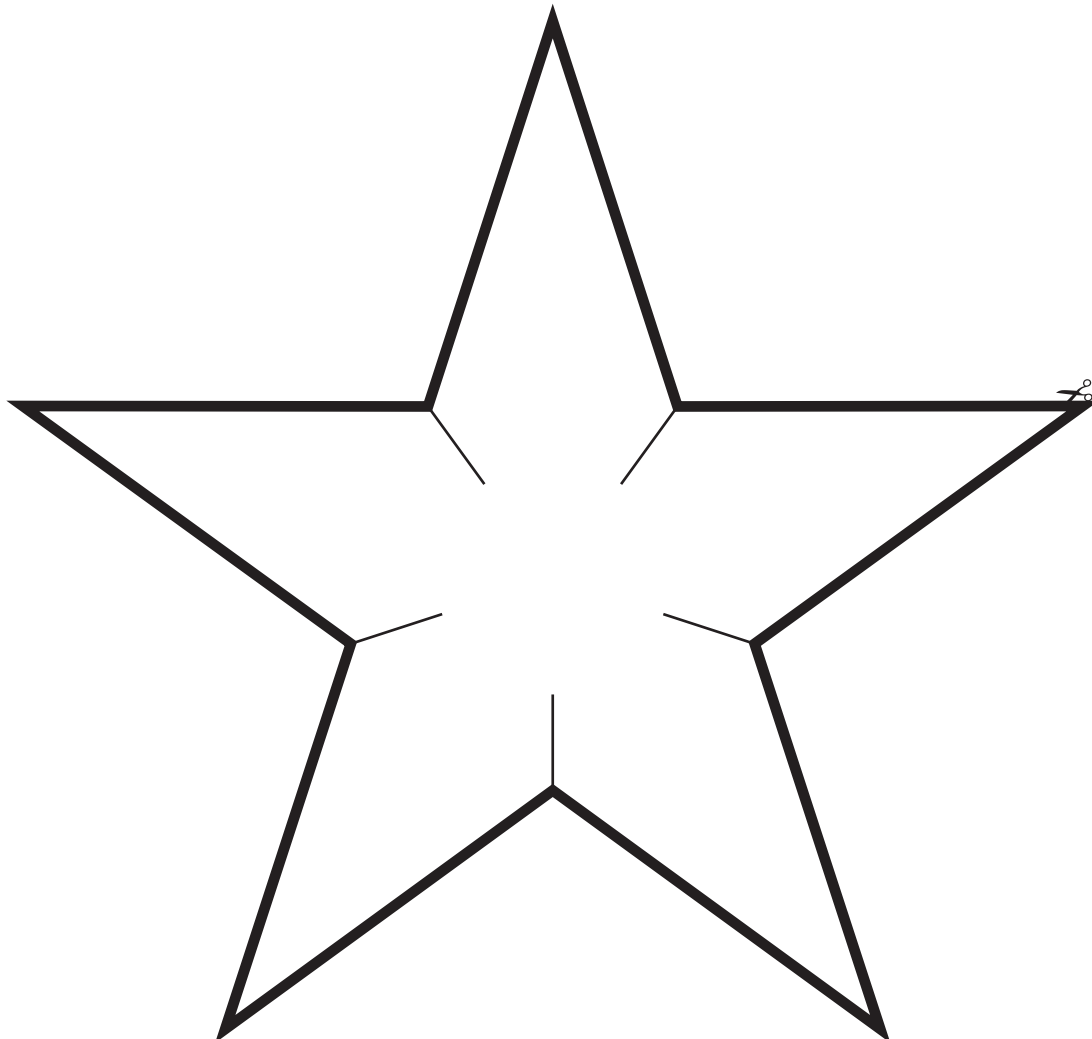


## SESSION 5

### Star Template

**Responsive Play (Create):** Copy and cut out the Star Template. Trace it onto cardboard, then cut out one cardboard star per person. Snip the star as shown, with each snip roughly ½ in / 1.25 cm long.

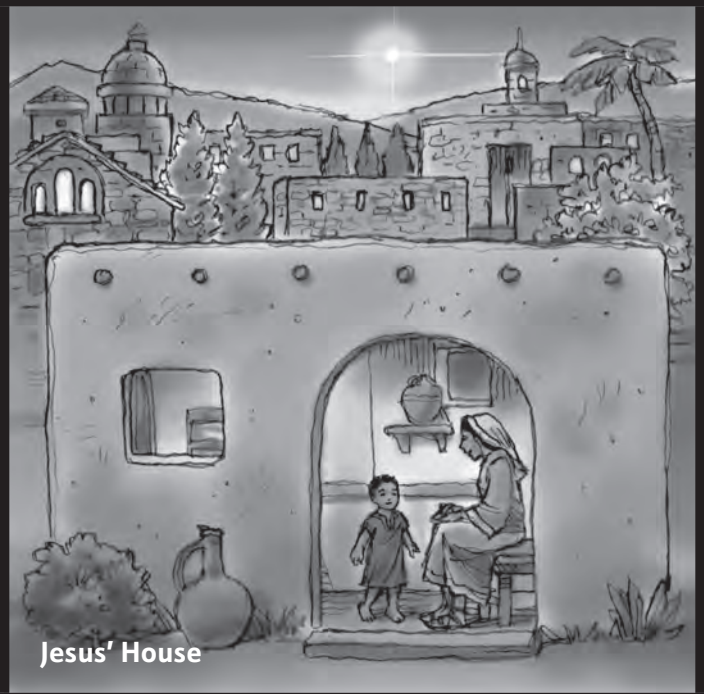
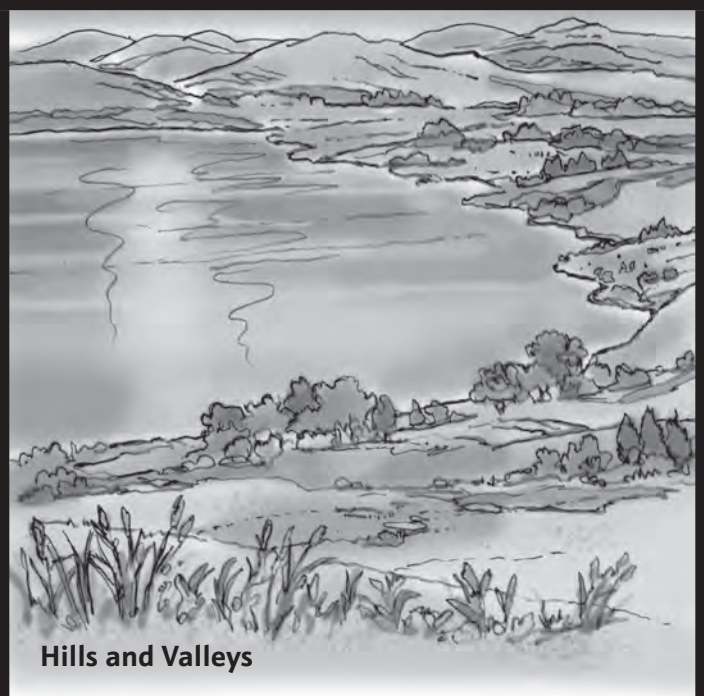
**Responsive Play (Move):** Copy and cut out the Star Template and trace onto construction paper, then cut out one cardboard star per person. *Optional:* Tape each star onto a large craft stick to make a handle.



## SESSION 5

### Re-play Cards

Copy and cut out the cards for Share the Story and Re-play.



Illustrations by Gary Undercuffler



## SESSIONS 6–13

### Using “Follow Jesus” Game for Review

The “Follow Jesus” Game (Teaching Poster) is used to review the Bible stories in sessions 6–13. It is also used as a game in sessions 10, 12, and 13 (see “Follow Jesus” Game Instructions on page 94 in this guide).

Lay the “Follow Jesus” Game on the floor or table where children can easily see it. Lay one of the “Follow Jesus” Story Figures from [www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras](http://www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras) on Begin and then slide it along the path, stopping at each picture and reading the script below while doing the specified motions. Change which story figure you use from week to week. Each session indicates how many pictures to include. When using the story figures as storytelling props, tape them to small blocks or upside-down cups so they can stand upright.

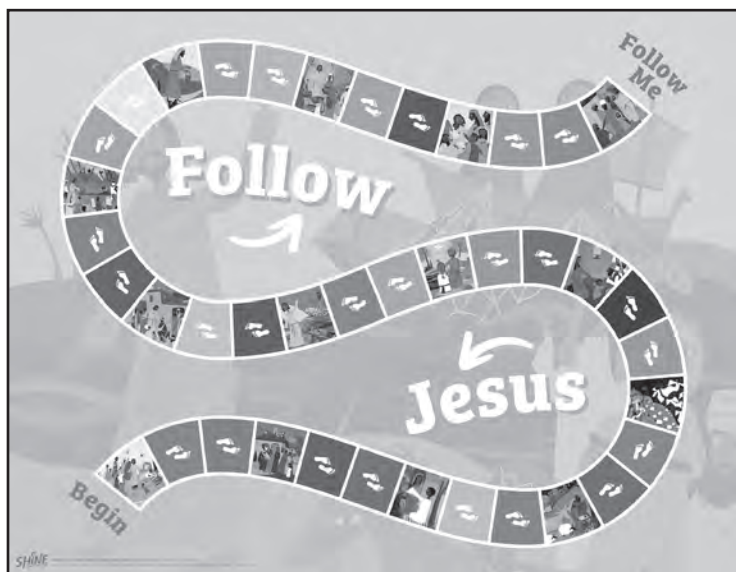
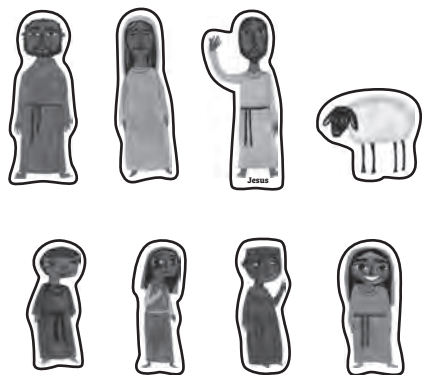
#### Script and Motions

1. Isaiah told of a new leader who would bring peace. Even the animals would live in peace! (*Make animal noises.*)
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth had a special baby named John. (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)
3. Mary sang a song to praise God for Jesus. (*Raise arms overhead in praise.*)
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)
5. The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus. (*Pretend to run.*)
6. The magi gave Jesus special gifts. (*Extend hands forward, palms up, to convey giving.*)
7. Jesus was baptized in the river. (*Make “waves” with your hand.*)
8. Jesus said, “Follow me!” (*Gesture to show “come.”*)
9. Jesus healed people who felt sick. (*Frown and lay your head on hands as if resting.*)
10. Jesus helped a man walk again. (*Lay pointer and middle finger of one hand on the palm of the other hand as if flying down. Then make the two fingers “stand up.”*)
11. Jesus told a story about planting seeds. (*Pretend to scatter seeds.*)
12. Jesus fed many people. (*Pretend to eat.*)
13. Jesus loves children. (*Give yourself a hug.*)
14. Jesus helped Bartimaeus see! (*Point to your eyes.*)

#### Unscripted Option

Children can pat alternating legs on each syllable to simulate walking. Say the chant below together as you slide the story figure slowly along the path. Stop at the picture for the day’s story and say, “Let’s see what Jesus will do now.”

**Follow Jesus, follow Jesus,  
every day and everywhere.**





## SESSION 8

### "Good News!" Strips

Copy and cut out strips for use in Responsive Play (Create). Children can choose one to glue around their cup.

**Good news! God loves you!**

**Good news! God loves me!**

**Good news! Jesus cares for me!**

**Good news! Jesus cares for my friends and family!**

**Good news! Jesus is my friend!**

## SESSION 9

### Mat Verse

Copy and print out a Mat Verse for each child to glue onto a mat during Responsive Play (Create).

**[Jesus said] "Get up, take your mat,  
and go home." –Mark 2:11 (CEB)**

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and go home." –Mark 2:11 (CEB)**

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and go home." –Mark 2:11 (CEB)**

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and go home." –Mark 2:11 (CEB)**

**[Jesus said] "Get up, take your mat,  
and go home." –Mark 2:11 (CEB)**

## SESSION 9

### "Imagine" Reading

Walk to the sanctuary or a large room. Invite everyone to lie down on the floor, be very quiet, and listen. They may want to close their eyes. If possible, provide a towel for each child to lie on. Pause between the lines of the reading:

**Imagine . . .**

**Imagine that this room is completely full  
of people.**

**Imagine that there are people sitting and  
standing everywhere.**

**Imagine that Jesus is talking to everyone—to the  
children and to the grown-ups.**

**Imagine that you came with your friend who  
cannot walk.**

**Imagine cutting a hole in the roof to get your  
friend to Jesus!**

**Imagine Jesus saying, "Take your mat and go."**

**Imagine seeing your friend get up and walk away.**

## SESSION 8

### Location Cards

Copy and cut out the Location Cards for sharing the Bible story. One of these pictures goes on each of the three blankets set out in the room.

# 1

**Simon and  
Andrew's Home**



# 2

**Deserted Place**



# 3

**Town**



Illustrations by Shelley Dieterichs

Illustration by Gary Undercuffler

## SESSION 10

### "Plant and Grow" Game

Copy and cut out the game cards. Read them in the given order once or twice, demonstrating the motions for children to follow. Then try one or more of these variations:

- One at a time, have children choose a card and hold it up. The group can then do the motion(s) together as you read the chant.
- Have children choose cards. Each child demonstrates the motion for the group, and the group guesses which card the child has.
- Spread out the cards faceup. Demonstrate one of the motions and say the chant. Have children guess which card you are demonstrating.

*(Move from place to place pretending to scatter seeds.)*

**Scatter the seed, here and there.**

**Scatter the seed, everywhere!**



*(Pretend to fly around the room like a bird.)*

**Seed on the path, look out below!**

**Seed on the path, a hungry crow!**



**Seed in the rocks, look up so high.**

*(Curl up in a ball like a tiny seed. Look up.)*

**Seed in the rocks, hot sun in the sky.** *(Stand up and form arms in a circle overhead like a sun.)*



*(Curl up in a ball like a tiny seed. Slowly extend arms out to the side and up but remain curled.)*

**Seed in the thorns, trying so hard.**

**Seed in the thorns, you can't get far.**



*(Curl up in a ball like a tiny seed. Slowly unfold and "grow" until you're standing up with arms overhead.)*

**Seed in the good soil, growing so tall.**

**Seed in the good soil, enough food for all!**



Illustrations by Kate Cosgrove



## SESSIONS 10, 12, 13

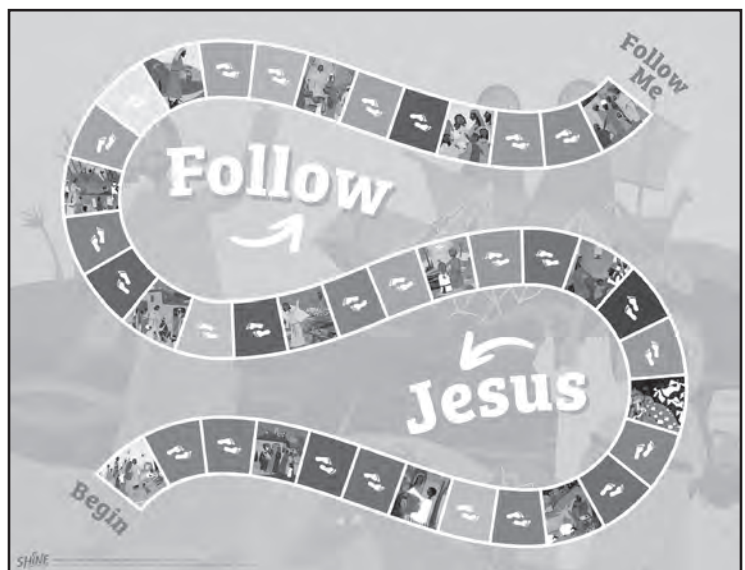
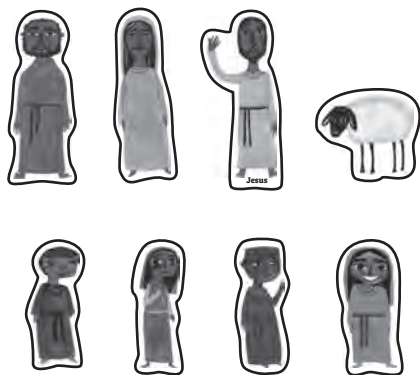
### "Follow Jesus" Game Instructions

#### How to Play

Lay the "Follow Jesus" Game (Teaching Poster) on the table. Cut out the "Follow Jesus" Story Figures from [www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras](http://www.ShineCurriculum.com/Extras), one per player. Attach each one to a small block so they can stand upright. Place the story figures at Begin. On a turn, the child rolls a die and moves the story figure forward that many spaces. If the story figure lands on one of the pictures, read the script and do the motions listed below for that picture. The child then rolls again. (The child can only roll twice in one turn.) Play until everyone reaches the Follow Me space.

#### Script and Motions

1. Isaiah told of a new leader who would bring peace. Even the animals would live in peace! (*Make animal noises.*)
2. Zechariah and Elizabeth had a special baby named John. (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)
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## SESSION 13

### Story Puppets

Copy and cut out one set of images for each child. Attach the images to craft sticks with tape to make puppets for use in Re-play.



Illustrations by Gabhor Utomo