



Class in the Corral



**“Sheriff’s Hacienda”
Vacation Bible School**

Pamphlet for the leader of the
Class in the Corral

Class in the Corral

Decorate Your Station

Decoration for this station would be really fun if you actually had the class in a fenced area with the sign above saying "Class in a Corral." Put some hay on the ground or bring in some hay bales for seating.

Pre-class Preparation

Before children arrive, hang up the voting poster for the day. Prepare a blank sheet of paper and tape to be able to cover the area where each age group voted on their opinion of the Bible story. The goal is to let each group decide for themselves and not be influenced by votes from earlier groups. Have pencils or crayons ready for students to work on their worksheets. Prepare any supplies that will be needed for the memory verse game that you plan to use. It would enhance the fun for the students if you plan for some prizes for winners occasionally.

First Activity

When students come in, gather them around the voting charts and introduce the question and the two possible choices. Allow a few minutes of discussion about the Bible story and what it would feel like to be there. Discuss what choices the students would have made. Each child will sign the chart in the section for their age group, selecting what they would have done or what opinion they would have had if they were there when the story happened. (They can also use stickers for voting if you choose.) You can give the finished chart to the VBS leader to show the children how everyone voted and which choice won the most votes for the day. This could be a part of the closing group time to reinforce the Bible story and make it personal.

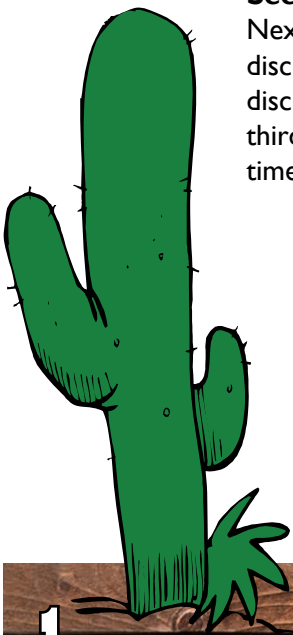
Time to Vote	
Lesson: Mother's Day	
Preschool	
Elementary	
Preteen	

Second Activity

Next, the students will sit down to do their worksheet. Some of the worksheets have provocative discussion possibilities. Be sure to study it before the children arrive and to be open to vibrant discussions while they work on them. When they have completed the worksheet, help them fold it in thirds and tape it to their wrists. They will wear it the rest of the day and can refer to the verse any time. This is a great way to take the lesson home with them!

Third Activity

Review the memory verse, encouraging the children to read it on their wrist bands. Introduce the game, explaining the rules and how to win. Play the game repeatedly so many can have a chance to "win." The goal is to have a lot of fun while memorizing the verse. This activity can fill up the remainder of the class time. Have the students leave the class area cleaned up and ready for the next group to arrive.



Lesson 1: Wanted


Voting

What do you think?

* Matthew should have stayed at his table, doing his job. It was wrong to leave in the middle of his shift.

* Matthew did the right thing to leave his job. He saw a better opportunity and didn't have to think about taking it.

1 Time to Vote




Lesson 1: Matthew's Choice

Matthew should have stayed at his table during his job. It was wrong to leave in the middle of his shift.

Matthew did the right thing to leave his job. He saw a better opportunity and didn't have to think about taking it.

Preschool	
Elementary	
Preteen	



Handouts

Do the puzzles.
Fold the sheet into a wrist band.
Tape it to each child's wrist.

Answers: Circle all except Jesus. Encourage a discussion about the superhero who might be imagined to be sinless since he's not a real person but an imaginary figure. Discuss the fact that Jesus is not imaginary but is real, and His sinlessness is also real. If the superhero was real, he'd sin just like we do even when we do our best to be good all of the time.

Encourage the students to have fun drawing a very bad guy in the wanted poster.

Accept all answers, allowing the students to have fun with the reward and the crime.

Some possible answers: Gave the dog some of my chips, woke me up too early, blew my head off, etc.

Possible rewards: \$1,000,000, 2 packages of chips, a mommy hug, a free pass to get out of doing chores.



Memory Verse Time

As each team member repeats their memory verse correctly, have them choose a space on the Tic-Tac-Toe board and mark it with their team's symbol or sit or stand there. The first team to get Tic-Tac-Toe wins.

To play without a game board, line up three rows of three chairs in the center of your classroom to use as your Tic-Tac-Toe board. If you don't use chairs in your classroom, you can place paper plates or paper on the floor to use as your Tic-Tac-Toe board.



Lesson 2: Jailed


Voting

How did the religious leaders feel when Jesus didn't punish the woman who behaved badly?

- * They felt mad at her! They really wanted to stone her to death.
- * They felt happy for her! They felt sad that she had sinned and were delighted that she got to go free and to get a second chance to make better choices.

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Time to Vote

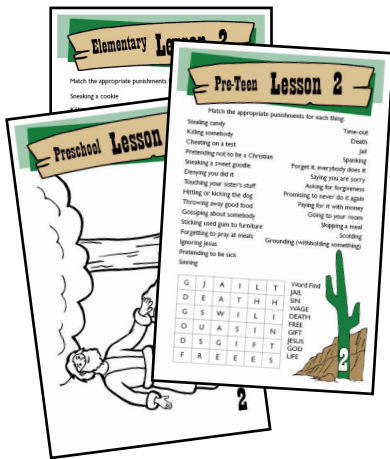


Lesson 2: Religious Leaders' Choice

How did the religious leaders feel when Jesus didn't punish the woman who behaved badly? They felt mad at her! They really wanted to stone her to death.

They felt happy for her! They felt sad that she had sinned and were delighted that she got to go free and get a second chance to make better choices.

Preschool	
Elementary	
Preteen	



Handouts

- Workbook Time:
- Do the puzzles.
- Fold the sheet into a wrist band.
- Tape it to each child's wrist. They will use it in the game.

Answers:
Allow the different punishments to open a discussion and make the lesson more interesting and applicable to present-day life for the students.

Talk about the things we think we can get away with because, "Everybody does it," but that can still be wrong.

Talk about the reasons that parents want children to learn to do the right thing while they are young. It is love that motivates them to reinforce their teaching with punishment if the child isn't learning the important things in life.

G	J	A	I	L	T
D	E	A	T	H	H
G	S	W	I	L	I
O	U	A	S	I	N
D	S	G	I	F	T
F	R	E	E	E	S

Memory Verse Time

The students pair up and try to read the memory verse upside down on their partner's wrist. Next, they cover a word on the wristband and try to read the verse, remembering the covered word. Then they cover several words and repeat. The students repeat the process, covering different words each time. At the end, see who can say the whole verse with all of it covered. You can also write the memory verse on a board. Erase the verse a word at a time, each time asking the children to repeat the verse.



Lesson 3: Bailed


Voting

Who made Jesus die?

- * Pontius Pilate sentenced Him to death. The soldiers carried out the punishment.
- * God asked Him to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus obeyed God and chose to die; nobody made him do it.

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Time to Vote




Lesson 3: Who made Jesus die?

Pontius Pilate sentenced Him to death. The soldiers carried out the punishment.

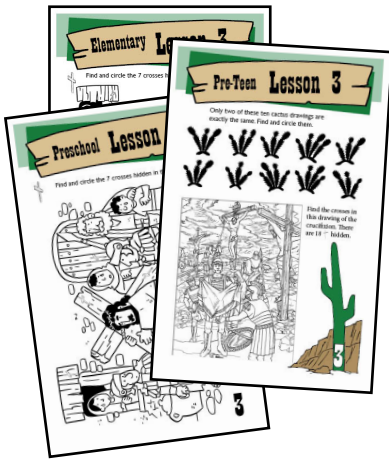
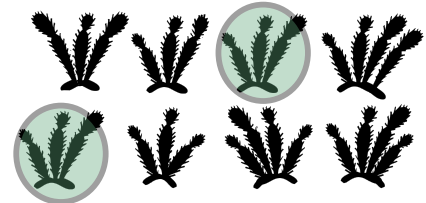
God asked Him to die on the cross to pay for our sins. Jesus obeyed God and chose to die; nobody made Him do it.

Preschool	
Elementary	
Preteen	



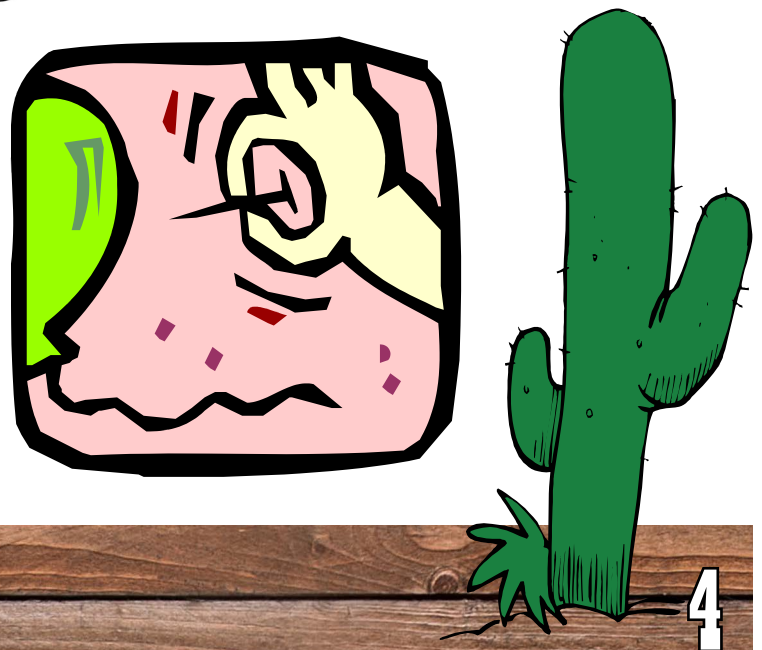
Handouts

Workbook Time:
Do the puzzles.
Fold the sheet into a wrist band.
Tape it to each child's wrist.



Memory Verse Time

Inflate balloons, one balloon for each word of the memory verse. With a permanent marker, write one word of the memory verse on each balloon. Using clear packing tape, place the balloons to the wall in order (if time allows, children can take turns to do this). If you plan to put the balloons up during class, have the children read the verse as you put up the words. After all the balloons are in place, ask for volunteers to take turns popping any balloon (a "push pin" works well), followed by everyone saying the verse together each time a balloon is popped.



Lesson 4: Branded

Voting

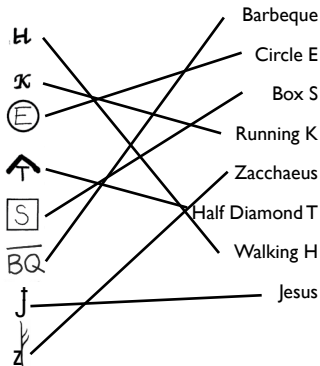
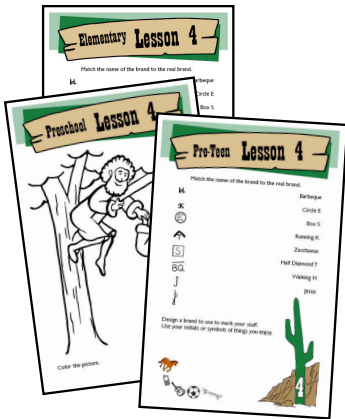
What do you think?

- * It was okay for Zack to climb a tree and just look at Jesus.
- * Zack should have been braver and approached Jesus directly.



Handouts

Workbook Time:
Do the puzzles.
Fold the sheet into a wrist band.
Tape it to each child's wrist.



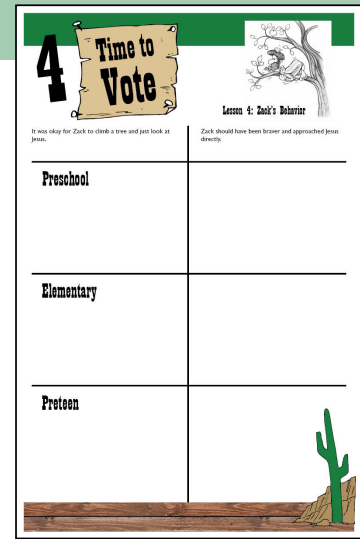
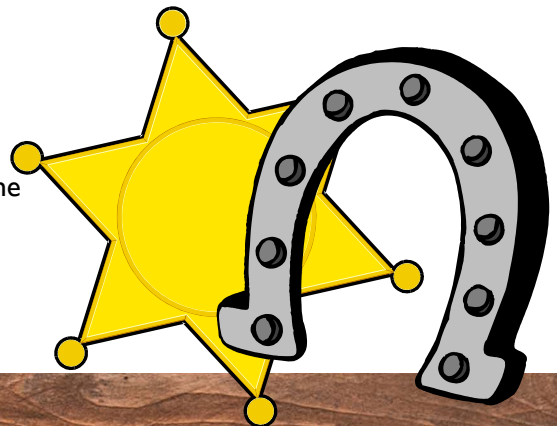
Help the students remember to keep their brand very simple so it can be made with a pipe-cleaner or could be formed with metal if it was a real one.

Extra Activity:

Form a brand out of a pipe cleaner. Remember to attach a handle. Dip the brand into paint, and allow the students to stamp their own brand design onto their student papers. They can take their brand home to mark any possession or book that they'd like (after asking for parental permission).

Memory Verse Time

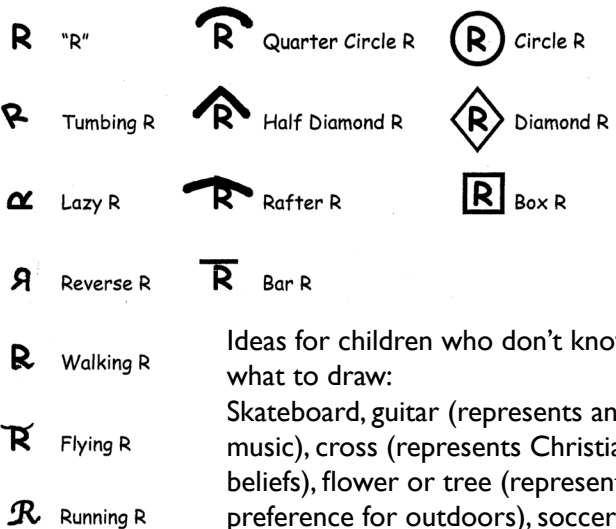
Have the children sit in a circle on the floor. Write the verse on the board or on a piece of paper where the children can see it. Then have the children pass a horseshoe or a sheriff's star to the child next to them. Whoever is holding the horseshoe says the next word of the verse. To make things more difficult, allow the students to toss the horseshoe across the circle to any child to say the next word of the verse.



How to Read a Brand Chart

Rules:

1. Left to Right
2. Top to Bottom
3. Outside to Inside



Ideas for children who don't know what to draw:
Skateboard, guitar (represents any music), cross (represents Christian beliefs), flower or tree (represents preference for outdoors), soccer ball (represents sports).

Lesson 5: Deputized


Voting

Did the disciples understand when Jesus said, "From now on, you will catch men"?

- * The men in the boat did not understand how they were supposed to get people out of the water with their fishing poles.
- * The men in the boat understood that Jesus meant for them to stop fishing and learn how to tell people about how to get saved.

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Time to Vote



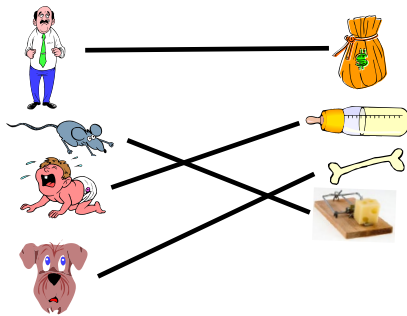
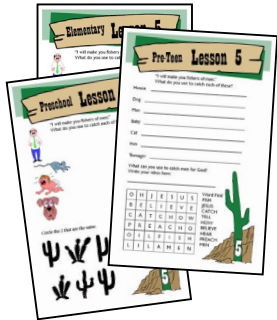
Lesson 5: Disciples' Understanding

The men in the boat did not understand how they were supposed to get people out of the water with their fishing poles.

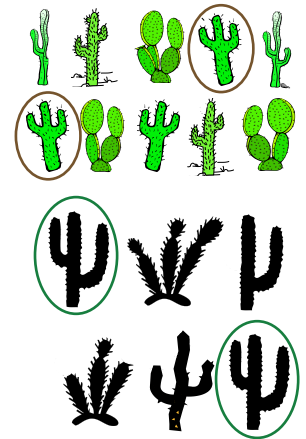
The men in the boat understood that Jesus meant for them to stop fishing and learn how to tell people about how to get saved.

Preschool	
Elementary	
Preteen	

Handouts



O	H	J	E	S	U	S
B	E	L	I	E	V	E
C	A	T	C	H	O	W
P	R	E	A	C	H	O
O	I	L	F	I	S	H
L	I	L	A	M	E	N



Possible Answers:

- Mouse – cheese, peanut butter, trap, cat, cookies
- Dog – bones, dog treat, another dog, leash
- Man – money, cookies, new car, good job, pizza, boat
- Baby – baby bottle, new toy, mommy, daddy, sibling
- Cat – bowl of milk or food, mouse, catnip toy, fish, bird
- Fish – fish hook, worm, fish food, cat, bear, net
- Teenager – another teenager, pizza, music, cellphone, money

Possible Answers:

1. Sharing your testimony
2. Bringing them to church
3. Giving them a tract
4. Inviting them to youth group.
5. Introducing them to someone you trust to share their faith.



Optional Extra Idea:

Prepare a fishing pole from a stick with a clothes pin attached to a string.

Prepare a "fishing hole" by putting a sheet over something.

The students stand behind a line and toss out their fishing line.

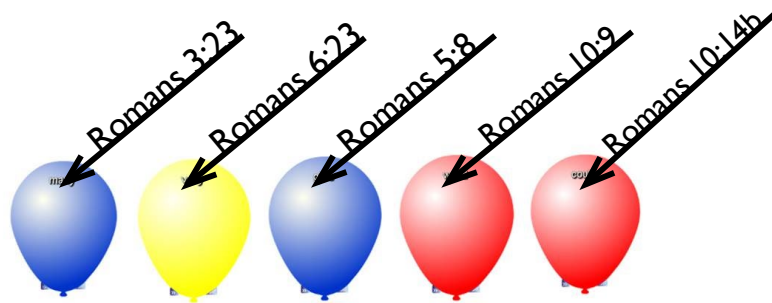
A volunteer hiding behind the sheet attaches a "prize" or candy to the line using the clothes pin and then tugs on the line to indicate it's time to reel in the caught fish. Cards with the words of the memory verse could be "caught" and then placed in the correct order. Fish can have paper clips to be "caught" with a magnet attached to the fishing string.

Memory Verse Time →

Lesson 5: Deputized

Memory Verse Time

Have the children line up back-to-back for a memory verse show-down! They count steps as they walk apart from each other, then turn and face each other and shoot (say the verse). The student who says the verse the fastest is the winner.



Review all the verses from the whole week with a balloon pop review game. Write the Bible reference on the balloon. Separate the students into their teams. Each team sends a student to the balloon that is stuck to the wall and he reads the reference. The team quotes the verse together and the student pops the balloon to see if they quoted it correctly. A slip of paper is on the wall under the balloon with the verse.

