

WELCOME
TO



THE
AMAZING
PRAISE
BAND

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AMAZING PRAISE BAND SAMPLE PAGES

Thank you for taking a moment to review this curriculum. We have included 20 sample pages of this course to give you a basic idea of the materials you will receive on the CD-Rom. **(The first page you will see is a listing of all the files you would get on the course CD.)** Should you decide to order this program, the course disk (or electronic file) that you would receive comes with nearly 300 pages of materials. We're sorry we could not give you the entire program to preview, however because this is entirely reproducible material we could not do that. If you have any questions about content or materials, please call or e-mail.

- These courses are ideal for a Vacation Bible School program although they also work well for a Family Night or even Sunday School classes any time of the year.
- All preschool to grade 6 lessons come in black and white or full color.
- All sample and final course pages are in PDF files. You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read them. If you do not have this already in your computer, you can download it free at www.adobe.com.



- **As you page through the samples, you will notice small red “speaking bubbles” on some pages. Just click on the bubble and a note with added information about that page will drop down. (These notes will not appear on a print out copy of that page.)**
- Remember that although you may see a sample page using the KJV or NIV, there will be an identical one on the disk with the other version as well.
- NOT included in these samples is a wide variety of templates for certificates, bulletin inserts, t-shirt iron-ons, doorknob hanger masters, etc. that are also on the disk.

If you have any questions feel free to e-mail at info@kremerpublications.com or call us direct at 1-800-669-0887.

The following sample pages are included in this file:

Course Overview/Directions/Helps (3 pages)
Grade 1-2 Lesson # 4
Grade 5-6 Lesson # 1
Grade 3-4 Teacher Guide # 1
Teacher Lesson Notes Story #1 (2 pages)
Grades 1-2 Activity Sheet #2
Grade 5-6 Activity Sheet #5
Youth Lesson #1 (2 pages)
Adult Lesson #1 (2 pages)
Grade 3-6 Craft #3
Amazing Praise Band Sheet Music (3 pages)
Opening Devotion #3
Snack Guide



THIS IS A LIST OF THE FILES THAT COME ON THE CD FOR *THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND*

A - READ FIRST

COURSE OVERVIEW - NIV
COURSE OVERVIEW - KJV

B - PRE/K & KINDERGARTEN

1 - TEACHER LESSON NOTES
2 - TEACHER GUIDE - NIV
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
5 - ACTIVITIES - NIV
6 - TEACHER GUIDE - KJV
7 - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
8 - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
9 - ACTIVITIES - KJV
COLOR TEACHING PICTURES

C - GRADES 1 & 2

1 - TEACHER LESSON NOTES
2 - TEACHER GUIDE - NIV
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
5 - ACTIVITIES - NIV
6 - TEACHER GUIDE - KJV
7 - LESSONS B&W - KJV
8 - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
9 - ACTIVITIES - KJV
COLOR TEACHING PICTURES

D - GRADES 3 & 4

1 - TEACHER LESSON NOTES
2 - TEACHER GUIDE - NIV
3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
5 - TEACHER GUIDE - KJV
6 - LESSONS B&W - KJV
7 - LESSONS - COLOR - KJV
8 - ACTIVITIES - KJV

E - GRADES 5 & 6

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3 - LESSONS - B&W - NIV
4 - LESSONS - COLOR - NIV
5 - ACTIVITIES - NIV

6 - TEACHER GUIDE - KJV
7 - LESSONS - B&W - KJV
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9 - ACTIVITIES - KJV

F - YOUTH

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G - ADULT

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3 - LESSONS - NIV
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H - DEVOTIONS

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I - CRAFT IDEAS

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2 - CRAFT TEMPLATES

J - SONGS

1 - AMAZING PRAISE BAND - SHEET MUSIC
2 - COME, PRAISE THE LORD - SHEET MUSIC
3 - PLAYING HIS MUSIC - SHEET MUSIC
AMAZING PRAISE BAND - INSTR. - MP3
AMAZING PRAISE BAND - VOCAL - MP3
COME, PRAISE THE LORD - INSTR. - MP3
COME, PRAISE THE LORD - VOCAL - MP3
PLAYING HIS MUSIC - INSTR. - MP3
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K - SUGGESTIONS

1 - DECORATION IDEAS
2 - SNACK IDEAS
3 - BAND IDEAS
4 - PARADE IDEAS

L - PROMO & FOLLOW-UP

PROMO & FOLLOW-UP

M - WORSHIP SERVICE

1 - WORSHIP SERVICE GUIDE - NIV
2 - WORSHIP SERVICE - NIV
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N - TEMPLATES

1 - ATTENDANCE CHART - B&W
1a - ATTENDANCE CHART - COLOR
2 - POSTER - B&W - (Typeable)
2a - POSTER - COLOR - (Typeable)
3 - CERTIFICATE - B&W - (Typeable)
3a - CERTIFICATE - COLOR - (Typeable)
4 - BANNER DESIGN
5 - BULLETIN INSERT (Typeable)
6 - DOORKNOB HANGER (Typeable)
7 - POSTCARD - (Typeable)
8 - REGISTRATION CARD
9 - T-SHIRT IRON-ON
10 - NAME TAG
11 - SAMPLE MAGNET
12 - MAGNET LOGO



COURSE OVERVIEW/DIRECTIONS/HELPS FOR THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND

Welcome to Kremer Publication's AMAZING PRAISE BAND! This course is intended to meet the four major objectives for Kremer Publications.

VERSATILE

THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND is designed to offer you a Vacation Bible School curriculum which may be used in many different situations. The preschool to grade 6 levels offer daytime VBS courses in a complete program. For those congregations which have a Family VBS program in the evenings, we also have included youth and adult sessions which interlock with the early elementary school course. And, as with all our courses, this curriculum may be used anytime throughout the year as a special curriculum.

FOCUSED

To write a course worthy of its purpose, it must first and foremost offer the Word of God in its truth and purity. With many congregations, VBS is the first contact with many people in the community. For that reason you will notice the stories selected always include the death and resurrection of Jesus. That message must be clearly understood by all our mission prospects.

ENJOYABLE

Every effort is made to make this reproducible series enjoyable for you and your classes. Some NEW items this year include a full color set of lessons, a music songbook, parade ideas, and a web site available to congregations who wish Kremer to set up their web site for a very minimal fee. The songs, crafts, and activities have all been carefully written to coincide with the theme.

USABLE

You use the CD direct from the driver, without any installation necessary. The entire course is on PDF format. You will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader 5.0 (also included on our CD) to read the PDF files, however, this should be easily done.

ABOUT THE COURSE (THIS DISK INCLUDES BOTH KJV AND NIV VERSIONS)

THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND is a five-day VBS course for preschool through grade 6. However, youth and adult lessons are also included that all ages might enjoy the lessons. For enjoyment purposes, we have once again given each level names for their identification: Pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten are the PERCUSSION SECTION, grades 1 & 2 are the BRASS, grades 3 & 4 are the WOODWINDS, grades 5 & 6 are the COLOR GUARD. You may wish to place signs for each group for opening devotions.

THEME

THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND is filled with the joy of music. Throughout the five days, children learn about instruments of the Bible in their opening devotions. Each lesson is built around what it takes to be in a successful marching band. Students learn the hardships, the need for practice, the enjoyment of working together, and finally the joy of that big parade. The theme is based on Psalm 92:1 "It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name." [Note: There is a set of lessons, etc. for NIV and KJV]

THE DEVOTIONS

It is hoped that each day begins with devotions. The pre-written devotions introduce the listeners to interesting Bible instruments. They then lead into the topic for the day. Supplemental transparency pictures in black and white and in color are also provided.

TEACHER GUIDES

With each lesson you will find a full page teacher guide. This will give you the aim and summary of the lesson, along with scheduling and presentation ideas. Answers for the activity sheets and suggestions for further study or fun things to do are also found on the teacher guide.

ACTIVITIES

Teachers should carefully read through the activity prior to class time. Upper grades may need Bibles for some activities.

CRAFTS

It's music time in the craft department. Children spend their week making musical instruments and other fine craft projects. These craft ideas are here to supplement your course with fun art projects. Notice that the same crafts are used for both lower levels and both upper levels. Each craft activity is designed to be easy, inexpensive, and timely. If you wish to do more elaborate crafts, feel free. Some extra craft ideas have been included this year.

SONGS

There are three songs included with THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND - each, of course, centered around the music theme! The "AMAZING PRAISE BAND" theme song will be greatly enjoyed by the children. The included cassette tape has both the sing-along as well as accompaniment only. You DO have permission to reproduce the songs onto cassette for the children. Sale of the music, however, is prohibited. Sheet music is provided on the CD. We thank Tina Smith of Greenfield, Wisconsin for her solo work, and Charles Cushinery of Las Vegas, Nevada for arranging and performing the instrumental music. (If anyone wishes further information on these artists, contact Kremer Publications.)

MUSIC BOOKLET

Since this is music time, we've included a 15 song music booklet which you can reproduce and give to your children. The simple melodies of these Jesus songs will be a great memento for the children to remember VBS.

BAND IDEAS

There is a special section which provides ideas that will turn your VBS into an AMAZING PRAISE BAND!

PARADE IDEAS

One of the novel ideas this year is designing a float for your community parade. Ideas and suggestions from design to parade handouts are given.

SNACK IDEAS

Again we have included a special section loaded with fun "musical" snacks for your children.

PROMOTION AND FOLLOW-UP

You will find the Promotion and Follow-up section most helpful. These two areas are vital for a complete and successful VBS.

CLOSING WORSHIP SERVICE

For those congregations which include a closing worship service, we have one already written. Use it as a suggestion or reproduce as is.

MASTERS

Page through the list of masters and use those you find most helpful. If you wish to use the T-shirt iron-on you may purchase special iron-on paper from any major office supplier.

EXTRA ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



The following items are available for purchase:

POSTERS: Full color posters for the course. Sold in quantities of 5 ea.

DOORKNOB HANGER SHEETS: Since this course is reproducible, you can reproduce your own door knob hangers. We have sheets available that have been die cut for door knob hanging. Sold in 100's.

DOORKNOB HANGER PLASTIC BAGS: Likewise, these bags are die cut for easy hanging on doorknobs. Sold in 100's.

NAME TAGS: This disk contains a template for name tags. Purchase tags and pin holders at Kremer.

REFRIGERATOR MAGNETS: Refrigerator magnets that are printable in full color on your InkJet printer are available at Kremer Publications.

You will NOT need to download the course. Simply install the CD and the course will appear. Simply click on those areas you wish to visit. Remember, you need only produce one copy for your duplicating purposes.

It must be mentioned, that since this course is easily duplicated by anyone who wishes, we understand churches will honor the copyright and agree not to distribute it to other congregations. If you have copyright questions, feel free to call at 1-800-669-887.



MARCHING CAN BE DIFFICULT

Paul and Silas in prison
Acts 16:16-40



Would you like to march in a band? It certainly looks like a lot of fun, doesn't it? You learn exciting songs to play, and get to wear those sharp uniforms. It's also fun to thrill the crowds as you march by. If you ask anyone who has played in a band they will tell you that it is an exciting thing to do. But they will also tell you that there are some times when it's not very much fun at all. Many band members have sore feet and legs from marching long distances. At other times their lips get sore from playing for such a long time. Some band members will also tell you that their uniforms can get mighty warm on hot, steamy summer days. When the marchers finish a parade they are often exhausted and tired. Playing in a marching band can be difficult.

Being a child of Jesus is much like marching in a band. It gives us great joy and happiness, because we love Jesus and we know he loves us too. But we must also be ready to face some hard times as well. We know there will be times when things just won't go as smoothly as we want them to.

Paul and Silas were two followers of Jesus who lived a short time after Jesus went into heaven. They loved Jesus very much and went from city to city teaching the people about Jesus dying on the cross for their sins, and promising to take those who believe in him to heaven.

Once, when Paul and Silas were in the city of Philippi, they met a slave girl who told people's fortunes. Because the devil was in the girl, she could tell people what would happen to them in the future. People paid her owners much money to hear her tell their fortunes.

One day Paul met told the evil spirit to come out of the slave girl. She was happy to be free of the spirit, but her masters were angry. They would no longer get rich from using her. So they had Paul and Silas arrested. The two men were whipped and beaten and thrown into prison. Then they were chained to the walls so they couldn't get away.

What do you think the two men did there? Did they scream and yell with anger? The Bible tells us that Paul and Silas sang Bible songs and prayed while the other prisoners listened.

Suddenly there was a terrible earthquake. The prison walls shook and the doors popped open. Even the chains fell from the hands and feet of the prisoners so they could easily run away. The jailer woke up and was afraid to see what had happened. If his prisoners escaped, he would be put to death.

As the jailer was about to kill himself, Paul shouted, "Don't hurt yourself! We are all here! None of us has run away."

The jailer fell on the floor in front of Paul and Silas and said, "What must I do to get to heaven?"

Paul told him, "Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved – you and your family." And that is what the jailer did. He invited Paul and Silas into his house to teach his family about Jesus.

Soon Paul and Silas were set free. But they would always be in danger. They were put into prison and beaten many more times because they loved Jesus.

Anyone who is a child of God must expect that there will be times of suffering. Perhaps friends will turn away from you because you love Jesus. Perhaps people will make fun of your love for Jesus. You might have to suffer just as Paul and Silas did.

We know that marching in a band can be very difficult. So it is with anyone who loves Jesus. But we also know that Jesus has promised to be with us every step of the way. What a wonderful Savior we have!



FOLLOWING THE DIRECTOR

Jesus walks on the water
Matthew 14:22-35

Do any of you play a musical instrument? What do you like most about playing an instrument? What do you like least? Do you know of anyone who has played in a marching band? Can you tell us about it? Playing in a marching band can be an exciting way to meet new people and to have an opportunity to perform before huge audiences. The sounds and the sights of marching bands can send shivers down the backs of the spectators. Do any of you plan to march in a high school or college marching band? How about a drum and bugle corps?

We all know that for a marching band to be a great band, it needs a leader. It needs someone who knows the score and can teach others how to perform at the peak of their abilities. Parade bands are often led by a drum major. That person tells the band what songs to play and then steps off the beats as they begin. Without the drum major, the band would not know when to begin the song or what song to perform. His or her leadership is vital for the band to work well.

As God's children we need a leader too. We need someone to show us the path we are to take, and give us rules and directions for the trip. We have just such a leader. He lived many years ago, but he is still with us today. Do you know who that might be? Jesus is our director, our drum major. He is with us just as he was with the disciples one very unusual night.

Jesus had just finished feeding a huge crowd of people on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. (Find the Sea of Galilee on a Bible map). The Bible tells us that over 5000 people were there listening to Jesus tell them about heaven. He even fed the entire crowd with just a few fish and some bread. It was a great miracle for the people to see. As Jesus dismissed the crowd, he told his disciples to get into their fishing boats and sail across the Sea. After they left, Jesus went up the hillside to be alone and to pray.

When evening came, the wind began to blow and the waves began to lap up on the sides of the fishing boats. While the disciples were in the middle of the Sea, they saw a strange sight that frightened them. In the distance they could see the form of a man coming toward them. He was walking on top of the water! They were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they cried out.

Jesus could sense their fear. "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid," Jesus said to them.

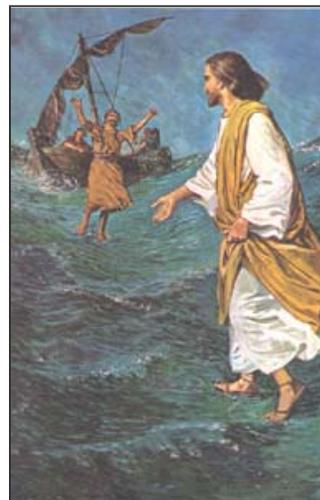
"If it is really you," Peter shouted, "tell me to come to you on the water."

"Come," Jesus replied.

Then Peter climbed out of the boat and began to walk toward Jesus. For a moment it worked, but when he saw a huge wave coming toward him he panicked, and began to sink into the water.

"Lord! Save me!" Peter cried.

Immediately Jesus reached down and caught hold of Peter's hand. "You have such little faith," Jesus told him. "Why did you doubt that you could walk on top of the water?" Jesus taught Peter and the other disciples to focus on him, and to put their faith in him. If we follow that, we need not fear anything either. Jesus has promised us that he would guard and



protect us in any situation we might find ourselves. The Bible even tells us if we have faith the size of a tiny mustard seed, we will be able to move mountains.

When Jesus and Peter climbed back into the boat the wind died down. The disciples were amazed at what they saw. "Truly you are the Son of God," they said. Now they were convinced that Jesus was indeed the one to follow. Jesus would show them the way to heaven.

What a wonderful lesson we can learn from Peter and the other disciples. They needed Jesus to prove to them that he was truly the Son of God. They needed the assurance that they could count on him in every situation.

We can also count on Jesus to be our guide to heaven. Jesus even called himself the "Way". That means that he is the one to follow. He will lead us to heaven. Just as a band needs a director or a drum major to show them the path to follow, so we need Jesus to show us the way. And Jesus has promised to be with us each step of that way. What a loving Savior we have!



TEACHER GUIDE

TODAY'S THEME

Following the Director.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-35

SUMMARY

The disciples learned that Jesus is true God.

APPLICATION

Because Jesus is our God, we will want to follow his words.

GRADE THREE & FOUR LESSON PREFACE

Third and fourth grade children will readily understand that an orchestra cannot play, and that a band cannot march, without a director. The musicians need someone who will give direction and proper timing to their music. In life we also need a director. We need someone to show us the way, someone to keep the beat, someone to guide us along the right path. We know that someone is Jesus! But many of today's children have no idea how much a part Jesus can actually play in our daily lives.

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Today's lesson is built around leadership. Begin by asking the students to help you develop a list of all those in leadership positions. Coaches, CEOs, teachers, politicians, parents, pastors, all are examples. Finally discuss leadership in a marching band. The children will agree that marching bands need directors and drum majors to help lead a successful marching band. Our lesson today will present the truth that we need Jesus to serve as our leader. He shows us the path to take and he guides us in all situations we might encounter.

LESSON NOTES AND APPLICATION

(See *Teacher Lesson Notes*)

PREPARATION TIME

1. Read through the lesson, on the lesson sheet, in the Bible, and in a reliable commentary.
2. You may wish to print out the color picture for this story on your color copier. Use this as a teaching aid for the story.
3. Be prepared with the proper materials for the activity sheet prior to class time.
4. Review the memory passage.
5. Have your cassette player ready for teaching a song today.

SCHEDULE

1. Begin the day with devotion.
2. Since this is the first day, introduce yourself.
3. Be certain to complete the registration cards. These will be necessary for future contact.
4. Remind the children of the Praise Band theme.
5. Tell the story to the children. (You may then read it aloud if you wish.) Until you get to know the abilities of your class, it is perhaps not wise to ask the children to read aloud.
6. Take time to memorize the Scripture Passage. Explain how it relates to today's theme.
7. Work the Activity Sheet.
8. Recess and refreshment break.

9. Singing time.
10. Craft time.
11. Clean up / recap story / close with prayer / dismiss.

A TEACHER'S PRAYER

Dearest Lord God, I come to you today as a humble servant chosen to share your love with these children. Guide my actions that they might be an example of your actions. Guide my words that they may be your words. Let your Spirit kindle a flame of love for you and your word in the hearts of these, your lambs. In the name of Jesus, my Guide, my Mentor and my Master. Amen.

ADDITIONAL IDEAS

- **TEACHING IDEA:** Use a Bible map to find the Sea of Galilee.
- **TEACHING IDEA:** Write a letter as if you were a disciple telling the story of that night.
- **TEACHING IDEA:** Discuss what it means to have great faith. Point out some other people of the Bible that showed a great faith.
- **ART IDEA:** Design a bookmark with the word FAITH.
- **MUSIC IDEA:** Have the children learn the song, "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus."
- **MUSIC IDEA:** Design a drum major uniform.
- **SPEAKER IDEA:** Invite a drum major or band director to come and speak to the children on the importance of leadership in a band.

ACTIVITY SHEET

1. Practice Put to Memory with the class.
2. PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT
 - 1: By this time in Jesus' ministry he had a large following of people.
 - 2: Jesus went off to pray by himself.
 - 3: He came walking on the water to them.
 - 4: They thought Jesus was a ghost.
 - 5: Once again Jesus said, "Fear not". (Can you think of other times when he said that?)
 - 6: Peter wanted to walk on the water just as Jesus was doing.
 - 7: He did fine until he took his focus off Jesus.
 - 8: They admitted that he was their Lord.
3. TAKE NOTE
 - 1: He wanted to make a point about their faith and about his omnipotence.
 - 2: Jesus wants our entire focus all of the time.
 - 3: There is NO other way to heaven-not Mohammed, not angels, not our own spiritual energy or good works.
 - 4: Discuss
4. TRUE OR FALSE: The word is JESUS
5. CROSSWORDS

FOLLOWING THE DIRECTOR



TEACHER LESSON NOTES #1: Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:22-34; Mark 6:45-53; John 6:16-21



BACKGROUND:

As we read the first half of Matthew 14, we note that Jesus had a particularly hard day. The tragic news of the death of John the Baptist certainly weighed heavy on Jesus' heart. In hope of finding some much needed rest, he asked his disciples to find him a secluded place. This was not to be. As the fishing boat left Capernaum and headed toward Bethsaida, crowds of people followed along the shore. More and more people poured out of the nearby towns waiting for Jesus to disembark. Consequently, instead of finding the much needed rest, Jesus and his disciples were met with a huge crowd of people. Thus follows the account of Jesus feeding the 5000.

After the people had eaten and were sent away, Jesus, drained of his physical, emotional and mental strength, "immediately" asks his disciples to head out to sea while he goes up the hillside to be alone. Jesus was in need of speaking with his heavenly Father. Have you ever felt that way?

When Jesus had finished his prayer he was again ready to reveal his divine majesty with renewed strength. What a lesson we can learn on the power and comfort that prayer can afford!

ACCOUNT NOTES:

Matthew 14:22-25: Jesus sent the disciples on their way at "evening" or shortly after sunset. Yet it wasn't until the "fourth watch" (that is between 3 AM and 6 AM) when Jesus finally came out to the disciples. That means the disciples, avid sailors as they were, had been fighting the storm for many hours.

John 6:19 Under normal conditions the trip should have taken only a few hours. But John tells us they had only covered 3 or 3½ miles.

Matthew 14:26 Superstition got the best of the disciples. They began to wonder if Jesus was a ghost or an evil spirit. How often doesn't this happen to us? How often don't we fall prey to worry and anxious thoughts when we should be seeking the Lord.

Matthew 14:27 "Take courage, it is I! Don't be afraid!" What blessed words to hear. These words have brought comfort to young and old for centuries. Parents comfort their children with these same words over and over again. Can you think of other times the Lord said "Don't be afraid"? That's a sign of love. Jesus loves to lend us his comfort. What a blessing we have, and how sad that the unbeliever is missing all of this! Refer to John 20:15,16.

Matthew 14:28 Peter seems to always be the first (and the boldest) to speak! Peter's response to seeing his Savior walking to him on the water flows from a loving and hopeful heart. Notice he asks Jesus to "tell me to come to you" not to "let me try walking on the water, too". His sole wish was to be with Jesus, not to experience a miracle.

Matthew 14:29, 30 It was Jesus' "everlasting arms" that held Peter up for a brief moment. Yet it was also Jesus who allowed Peter to sink when he began to lapse back into doubt. "Lord, I believe (Peter walking on the water). Help my unbelief (Peter sinking beneath the waves)."

Matthew 14:31 When Peter cried out, Jesus helped him AT ONCE. Jesus is always there to help! "You of little faith", Jesus told Peter. This must have made Peter's heart sink. He had just shown tremendous faith to be able to walk on the water. Now he was being told that he still had a long way to go. (His faith was not even the size of that mustard seed!) James 1:6: "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."

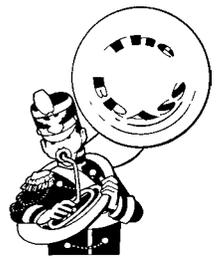
Matthew 14:33 The disciples bowed down to Jesus. They had witnessed two spectacular miracles that day. Truly Jesus was their Lord and Savior. Yet before long their faith would again lapse into disbelief and uncertainty. Our faith often waivers as well, yet we must remember that God would have us trust in him WITH ALL OUR HEARTS!

APPLICATION:

“Because Jesus is our God we will want to follow His Words”

It may be a poor choice of words to call Jesus our “leader”, yet we would do well to admit that we are his “followers”. Perhaps the picture of the Good Shepherd and his sheep would be a good way to portray this to the children, for just as the sheep rely on their shepherd for guidance and protection, so we place our hope in Jesus.

Impress on the children that Jesus’ love and care is always consistent – never changing, never ending. He will always guide us in the right direction. He will never mislead us or deceive us. This kind of certain, consistent, solid hope is something that many children yearn for today. It happens frequently that those who command the child’s trust (parents, friends, public servants, sport’s heroes, music stars) turn out to be worthless individuals. Consequently many of today’s children have had their hearts broken and their faith and trust destroyed many times over. But Jesus will never forsake us! He will always be there to walk with us throughout our lives, right up until the day that he takes us into the “mansion” he has made for us in heaven.



A VERSE TO REMEMBER:
"We have different gifts." Romans 12:6

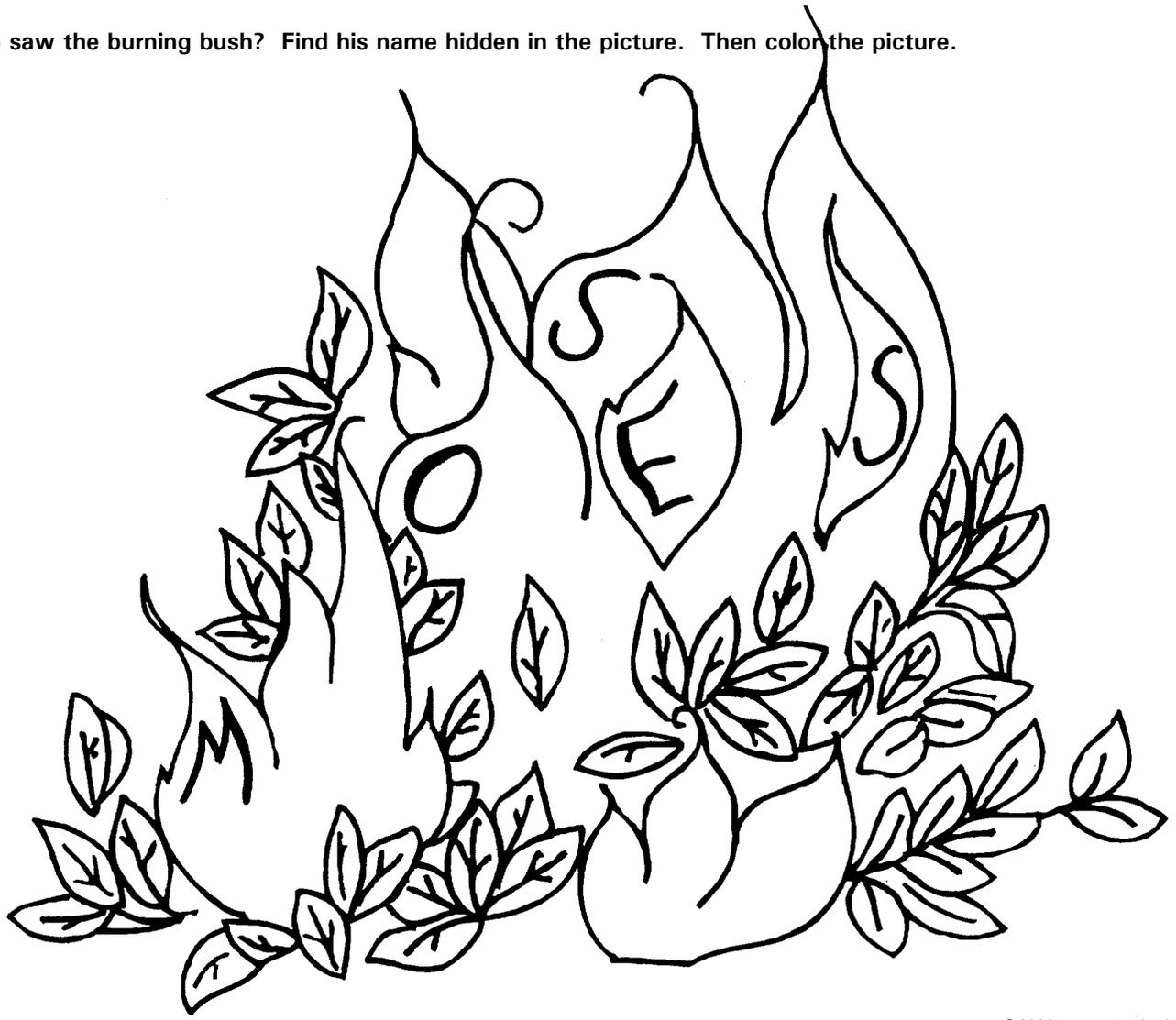
What is Jesus? Write the first letter of each picture in the box. That will tell you the answer.

JESUS IS MY



9 9 9 9 9 9

Who saw the burning bush? Find his name hidden in the picture. Then color the picture.





TO MEMORIZE:

“Through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you.” Acts 13:38

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW JESUS?

Tell whether the statement about Jesus is true or false. If it is false, correct it.

1. Jesus spent much time traveling throughout Palestine.
2. Jesus had his own apartment in which he lived.
3. Only a few people traveled with Jesus at any given time.
4. Jesus saw a funeral procession coming out of the gates of Jerusalem.
5. The boy’s mother and father were crying because of his death.
6. Jesus couldn’t figure out how to bring the young boy back to life.
7. Only God can bring people back to life.

THINK ABOUT IT!

1. Why did so many people travel with Jesus?
2. What did Jesus prove on Easter morning?
3. Does Jesus have the power to raise us also?
4. Who will all rise to eternal life on the last day?
5. Why is it so important for us to tell others about Jesus?

HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED

Write the name of Jesus mentioned in these passages.

N _____
A _____
M _____
E _____
S _____

O _____
F _____

C _____
H _____
R _____
I _____
S _____
T _____

Matthew 2:23
Revelation 3:14
John 1:41
Isaiah 9:6
Luke 2:11

1 Peter 2:25
Revelation 1:17

1 Peter 5:4
Mark 1:24
Song of Solomon 2:1
Isaiah 7:14
Malachi 4:2
John 10:14

YOU FIGURE IT OUT

The New Testament was written in Greek. They always ran their words together! This is similar to what it looks like. Place a “/” between each of the words and tell us what it says.

**FORGODSOLOVEDTHEWORLDTHATHEGAVEHISONEANDONLYSONTHAT
WHOEVERBELIEVESINHIMSHALLNOTPERISHBUTHAVEETERNALLIFE.**

PROJECT:

Draw the open tomb at Easter with the three crosses on a hill in the background.



FOLLOWING THE DIRECTOR

TUNING UP...

Of all the instruments you know, which one do you think is the most maligned, laughed at and joked about? Some might say the clarinet and others might suggest the accordion. What are your thoughts? Most would agree that somewhere in that list you would find the bagpipe! Regarded as one of the funniest and most amusing instruments around, the bagpipe puts up with a lot of jokes.



Q. Why do bagpipers always walk when they play?

A. To get away from the noise.

Q. What's the difference between a bagpipe and an onion?

A. No one cries when you chop up a bagpipe.

Q. What's the range of a bagpipe?

A. Twenty yards, if you have a good arm.

Q. How can you tell if a bagpipe is out of tune?

A. Someone is blowing into it.

Are you ready to learn everything about the bagpipe but you were afraid to ask? Calling a bagpipe a "wind bag" is really a compliment! The bagpipe is an unusual wind instrument that has the capacity to store the air inside of a bag held under the arm. That way the player can breathe whenever he wishes, as long as the bag has sufficient air to produce the sound.

These instruments, usually associated with Scotland, have been around a long time. Known as early as Roman times, these instruments are found today in areas of Asia, North Africa and Europe.

Perhaps the most popular bagpipes are the Scottish Highland style pipes. These were developed sometime between 1500-1800 in the Scottish Highlands. The modern form consists of a blowpipe or mouth pipe into which the air is blown. A second pipe containing 7 holes is held in the two hands and fingered like a simple flute. This "chanter" pipe produces the bagpipe melody. Three more long pipes are attached to the bag and leaned over the shoulder. These are called the "drones". The drones produce the long, low, droning sounds that remain constant throughout the playing.

Did you know that the bagpipe is part of the family of instruments known as aerophones? These instruments produce their sound by vibrating air.

No doubt by now you're ready to rush out and buy that exciting CD featuring 60 minutes of uninterrupted bagpipe music!

Maybe you'll agree now: Q. What's the definition of a quarter tone? A. A bagpiper tuning his drones. Quite honestly though, it is great to hear a full bagpipe band in a parade. The sound can't be confused with any other instrument. It can really be quite thrilling!

One of the most popular songs recorded by a bagpipe band is the famous hymn, “Amazing Grace”. Hearing that sound sends shivers down your spine. They truly capture the text of this beautiful hymn by John Newton.

*Amazing grace – how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.*

*Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.*

And grace will lead me home! One of the greatest blessings God gives to us his children is knowing that we have someone who will lead the way. We have a path already laid out for us. We aren't wandering around in the darkness, bumping into walls and tripping over stones as do the unbelievers. We follow a course that has been carefully plotted by none other than our Savior, our Guide, Jesus Christ.

In today's lesson we will see how Jesus serves as our Guide and our Way. We will see Jesus do something that no one has ever done. Something truly amazing!

LEARNING THE SCORE...



Set the stage for today's account by orally reading Matthew 14:13-21. Answer these questions:

1. What news had Jesus just heard?
2. Instead of privacy, what did Jesus get?
3. Why were the disciples “watching their watches”? (v. 15)
4. What miracle did Jesus perform?
5. Estimate how many people were there with Jesus. (It had to more than how many?)

Read Matthew 14:22-24

1. Jesus and his disciples were on the shore of what lake?
2. Why did Jesus want to be alone?
3. While Jesus was praying, what was happening to the disciples?

Read Matthew 14:25-31

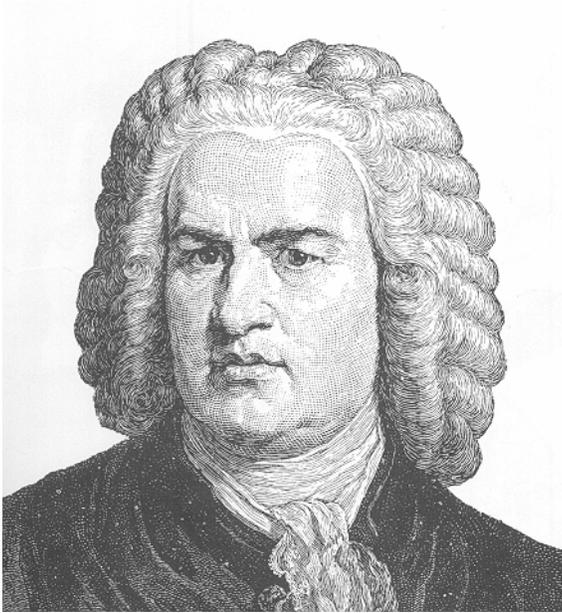
1. How did Jesus reach his disciples?
2. Is there anything unusual about what Jesus did? Why?
3. How did the disciples react?
4. Who did the disciples think Jesus was?
5. What did Jesus immediately assure them?
6. What were Jesus' exact words?
7. What was Peter's wild idea?
8. How did Jesus respond?
9. What did Peter do with his great idea?
10. What did Jesus tell Peter?

Read Matthew 14:32,33

1. What immediately happened when Jesus climbed up into the boat?
2. What was the disciples' reaction?



THE NEED TO FOLLOW



Johann Sebastian Bach(1685-1750)

"Music's only purpose should be for the glory of God and the recreation of the human spirit."

JSB

In the realm of church music, there is no one greater than the father of church music, Johann Sebastian Bach. The volume of work produced by this one man is awesome! It was so huge that after his death, a group of musicians began collecting, organizing and cataloging Bach's cantatas, chorales, masses, oratorios, passions, concertos and solo works (which he wrote for virtually every instrument in the orchestra). The monumental task took them 46 years, and the complete edition filled sixty volumes! (Yet only ten of Bach's original compositions were ever published in his

lifetime.)

But who was this man of unlimited talent and what lay behind his genius? Bach was born into a simple home in Eisenach, Germany, in 1685. The name of Bach was quite familiar in those days, since at that time there were over 50 musicians named Bach.

At nine, the young lad was orphaned, and he had to move in with his older brother. It was while in his brother's home that Johann began his formal music training. Interestingly, at first it was his vocal talent that overshadowed his organ and instrumental abilities. His love for singing would continue throughout his life, as he would serve as cantor in several congregations. However, the story is told that he would secretly stay up late into the night studying his brother's collection of musical scores, gleaning valuable insight into the writing of music. This talent for writing music grew steadily. Bach's temperament was said to be generous, encouraging and kindly, however he could become quite irate with incompetent musicians.

Germany remained the home of Bach for his entire life, working mainly as a church musician. It is said he was one of the greatest followers of fellow German Martin Luther, the great protestant reformer who lived two hundred years prior to Bach.

Bach truly believed that his writing was to the glory of God. Whenever he would sit down to write a new composition, he would frequently place the letters "J.J" at the top of the score. These letters read "Jesu Juva - "Help me Jesus", or "I.N.J. - In Nomine Jesu - "In the name of Jesus". At the end of the manuscript he would initial it with S.D.G. - Soli Deo Gloria - "To God alone be the glory".

This unwavering faith could be seen in scores of his letters that have been restored. Bach read his Bible faithfully, and kept a library exclusively with spiritual books and journals. This love for his Savior is clearly reflected in some of his greatest works, including his immortal "B Minor Mass", "St. Matthew Passion" and "St. John Passion".

Bach's family life was filled with joy as well, including a house filled with 20 children, many of whom became musicians in their own rights. One son, Carl Philipp Emanuel once remarked that everything in the Bach family began with the Word of God.

Toward the end of his life, his eyes grew increasingly weaker, until total blindness enshrouded him by age 65. He died in obscurity in 1750 and was buried in an unmarked grave. His last work was a chorale that he dictated from his bed. The fitting title was "Before Thy Throne I Come".

Bach's productive life and devotion to beautiful music would one day cause the great composer Richard Wagner to remark, "Bach was the most stupendous miracle in all music!"

(For more information about Johann Sebastian Bach read "Spiritual Lives of Great Composers" by Patrick Kavanaugh. Published by Zondervan...ISBN 0-310-20806-8)

Bach is credited with writing many melodies and settings we frequently hear in our best-loved hymns today. One such tune, known as Potsdam, was used for the beautiful hymn “The Lord My Shepherd Is.” The text reveals the thoughts behind the 23rd Psalm:

*The Lord my Shepherd is, I shall be well supplied.
Since He is mine and I am His, what can I want beside?*

*He leads me to the place where heavenly pastures grow,
Where living waters gently pass and full salvation flows.*

What a message for us to remember! One of the greatest blessings God gives to us his children is that of knowing that we have someone to follow. We have a path already laid out for us. We aren't wandering around in the darkness, bumping into walls and tripping over stones as do the unbelievers. We follow a course that has been carefully plotted by none other than our Savior, our Guide, Jesus Christ.

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2. What was the disciples' reaction?

DAY 3

CRAFT: "TAMBOURINE"

THEME: Marching in step with Jesus.



AGE: Grade 3

Grade 4

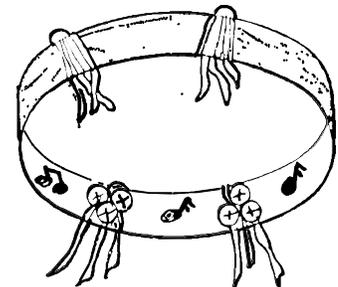
Grade 5

Grade 6



MATERIALS (per child):

- 2 – 22" strips of colored poster board about 1½" wide
- 4 to 18 – jingle bells (quantity depends on choice and cost)
- 4 to 6 – pieces of very narrow ribbon
- 8 to 12 – pieces of 10"x¼" ribbon (varying colors)
- stapler / religious stickers / colored tape / markers



DIRECTIONS:

- Decorate one strip of poster board with markers, stickers, colored tape, etc.
- Glue to second strip for added strength and thickness.
- Staple ends of poster board together to form a circle.
- Attach jingle bells with narrow ribbon. Space bells evenly around instrument. If using 18 bells, attach in clusters.
- Add ¼" ribbon immediately behind each bell for decoration.

THE AMAZING PRAISE BAND



Words and Music by Reynold R. Kremer
Arrangement by Charles Cushinery

Voice

The A - ma - zing Praise Band is com - ing to town. We've got

Piano

5

plen - ty of rhy - thm and plen - ty of sound. There's a mes - sage we bring we've got

5

Pno.

8

some - thing to say, Yes, the A - ma - zing Praise Band is com - ing your way!

1. We play the songs of joy and sal -
2. When - ev - er cares or fears start to
3. We march in step with Je - sus, our

8

Pno.

12



va - tion with mel - o - dies so fresh and so sweet. Prais - ing our Lord with - out hes - i -
both - er, And eve - ry - thing just seems to be wrong, We think of Christ our Friend and our
Sav - ior He is the Guide, the Light and the Word, And we will share this mus - ic for -

12



Pno.

16



ta - tion, As we be - gin that Gos - pel beat! The A -
Bro - ther, And we be - gin a brand new
ev - er; 'Til hea - ven's glo - ry band is

16



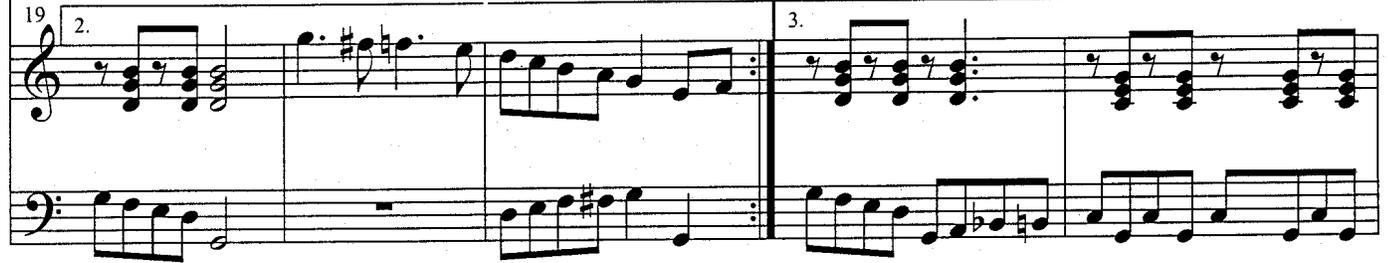
Pno.

19



song. The A - heard! - The A - ma - zing Praise Band is

19



Pno.

24



com - ing to town. We've got plen - ty of rhy - thm and plen - ty of sound. There's a

Pno.

24



27



mes - sage we bring we've got some - thing to say, Yes, the A - ma - zing Praise Band A ma - zing Praise Band A -

Pno.

27



31



ma - zing Praise Band is com - ing your way!

Pno.

31





MARCHING

**“Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble.”
1 Peter 3:8**

Today we have a very exciting musical instrument to learn about. It’s one that all of you might have fun trying to make a sound. It’s called the ram’s horn. (See Devotion Transparency #3). The ram’s horn is the only instrument used by the Hebrew people in the Old Testament that is still heard in Jewish synagogues today. Another name for the ram’s horn is the shofar. The shofar was usually made from the horn of a ram, a sheep, a mountain goat or even an antelope. It was a foot or two long, and often was spiraled just as the ram’s horn grows. In later years shofars were decorated with very fancy workmanship. Some were ornamented with gold and others had silver ornamentation on them. When it was first used it seems that the ram’s horn was not used as a musical instrument, but rather as a way of making an announcement. Sometimes this announcement would be as a way to gather all the people together for a worship service, much like our church bells are used today, or to announce a major church festival. Sometimes it was used as an early warning siren. At other times it was used to assemble the troops and tell them that they were about to attack an enemy.

The word used for ram’s horn is the same as the word used for trumpets in the Bible. Often only the priests were allowed to use the trumpet or ram’s horn. The Bible says that on the day that the world ends, the angels will come blowing trumpets or ram’s horns announcing the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. That will be a great day for all those who believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Our Bible lesson today mentions the ram’s horn. It gives us a vivid idea of how the horn was used. When the horn was blown, all the people had to follow the blast of the horn. It was important for everyone to cooperate in the plan that was designed for these people to follow.

We know how important it is for an orchestra to play in harmony. Without harmony an orchestra would sound terrible! So it is with God’s people. If we learn to live in harmony, we will have happy and joy filled lives. The Bible tells us “Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, live as brothers, be compassionate and humble.” (1 Peter 3:8). That’s the perfect recipe for any orchestra, or for any of God’s people for that matter. We don’t know how well 100 ram’s horns blown at the same time would sound. Maybe they are rather difficult to harmonize. But we do know that in our homes and churches love for one another is very important so we can live quiet and peaceful lives.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, sometimes it seems so difficult to get along with all those around me. Teach me to love everyone and strive to live in harmony with all those you have placed around me. Give me the strength to fight off the devil when he would have me argue and complain about everyone else. Let me follow the example that your Son, Jesus Christ set for me, to love all people. In his name I pray. Amen.



SNACK GUIDE

Story 1: Following the Leader

SAILBOAT SALAD

Cut a peach in half (or use quarter slices of apples). Lay cut side up to resemble a boat. For the sail use a slice of American cheese cut diagonally and thread onto a toothpick. Serve on a pan of blue Jell-O.

COOL WATER SHAKE

Blend 2 cups of milk, 1 small package of blue Jell-O and vanilla ice cream for a creamy shake.

FISH CRACKERS

Serve Goldfish crackers as a midmorning snack.

BANANA BOATS

Using a scissors, cut a slit lengthwise along the banana. Cut away about ½" of peel on either side of slit leaving a 1" swath. Scoop out insides of banana with a teaspoon. (Save the peel to fill later. Fold the banana pieces into Cool Whip and spoon back into the peels. Top with nuts and a cherry.

GALILEE FISHINGBOATS

Cut celery into 4" lengths. Spoon into celery stalks apple-cinnamon or plain cream cheese, or peanut butter. Sprinkle with chopped nuts and drizzle with honey. Press a triangle-shaped nacho chip into the top as a sail.

Story 2: Playing in the Band Takes Talent

STAFF OR SNAKE COOKIES

Use an easy sugar cookie recipe and shape into shepherd's staffs. (You may also use a candy cane cookie cutter). OR shape your cookies into snakes and use chocolate chips for the eyes.

FIRE JELL-O

Make pans of red, yellow and orange Jell-O. Then stir together to make bright fiery colors before it is set. Cut into squares for finger Jell-O.

BURNING BUSH SUNDAE

Fill a cup with strawberry ice cream and top with strawberry topping or red jimmies.