

HERE WE COME!

Greet each child by name and mention an article of clothing they are wearing. Mention how nice the child looks this morning. How did you decide what to wear to church? How do you take care of these clothes when you take them off? What do you do when your clothes get dirty? Where do you go when it is time to buy new clothes?

SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

Print each word of the scripture from Philippians on an outline of Jesus' face. "Behave" can also be "Do things" if this is easier to understand.

STORY TALKING

Begin with the song "I Like to Go to Church." (See Moving Music.) Collect items mentioned in the story and bring them out when appropriate. Add verses such as "play a game" or "give to God."

Sharing with Jesus by Marge Nelson

It was Sunday morning. The church was full of people. (Are there lots of people in our church on Sunday morning? Do you sit in the worship service with your family?) In this church on Sunday morning there were so many people it was hard to find a place to sit. Megan found her mother and climbed up on the chair. It was a big chair and Megan's feet didn't touch the floor. (Let the children take turns sitting on a big chair and letting their feet swing.)

Megan liked to go to church. She couldn't read the words in the hymn book, but she liked to sing along. She could bow her head with the prayers. She could put her money in the offering. But Megan didn't understand a lot of what was said. Sometimes the children were called forward to hear a story. Megan really liked that part.

Today it was noisy. Megan couldn't hear much because a baby behind her was crying. Megan opened her backpack and took out a sack of bear-shaped crackers. "Can he have one of these?" she whispered. The mother smiled and nodded and Megan handed the baby a cracker. (Share crackers with the children.) Soon Megan was busy coloring. She had special crayons that stacked together and fit her hand just right. "Those are neat," said a little boy in the row ahead. His mother leaned over and said, "Shhhhhhh."

Megan stood up to get closer. "We have to whisper in church," she hissed. "Then other people can hear stories about God. Would you like to try my crayons?" Soon the two children were working, passing crayons back and forth.

Megan's mother leaned over to put an arm around Megan. "There is a little girl at the end of our row looking at your pop-up book lying on the floor."

Megan glanced at the book and then at the little girl. She edged over and whispered, "Would you like to look at my book? It's a great one!" The little girl nodded and ducked behind her mother's arm. Megan held the book out and the little girl shyly took it. "The best one is the picture in the middle. It's baby Jesus in the manger and it pops right up," said Megan as the little girl began to turn pages.

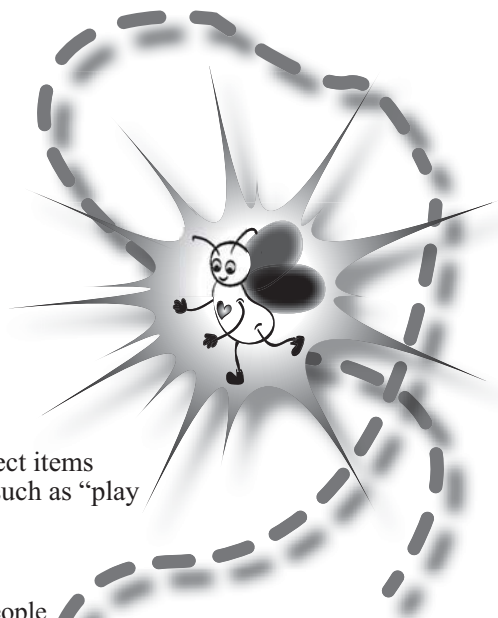
When church was over, people came to talk to Megan. "Thank you for the cracker," said the mother of the baby. "Thanks for letting me play with your crayons," said the little boy. "I liked reading your book," said the little girl. "Thank you for thinking like Jesus," said Megan's mother.

"How did I do that?" asked Megan.

"Jesus wanted his followers to remember what he taught them and do the things he did. Every time you share with someone, you behave like Jesus would."

"Do you mean if Jesus was here he would like to eat crackers and color and read pop-up books?"

"No," Mother laughed. "I imagine Jesus would want to tell us stories like the speaker did today. But Jesus would know you were helping with the children. And he would probably have one of these for all of you." Mother reached over and gave Megan a squeeze. (Hug each child. Say things like: Thanks for being such a quiet listener. Thanks for smiling. Thanks for coming to our class every day. Thanks for hugging me back.)



**THINK
LIKE
JESUS**

One who thinks
like Jesus acts
like Jesus.

**SCRIPTURE
WORDS**

Behave the same way
Jesus did.
—Philippians 2:5 NRSV
adapted

UP AND AT 'EM

Choose an activity that will get the children moving and stretching, such as doing actions with, "The Wiggle Song."

The Wiggle Song

Traditional

1. My thumbs are start - ing to wig - gle, My thumbs are
 2. My thumbs and fin - gers are wig - gling, My thumbs and

start - ing to wig - gle, My thumbs are start - ing to
 fin - gers are wig - gling, My thumbs and fin - gers are

wig - gle A - round, a - round, a - round.
 wig - gling A - round, a - round, a - round.

3. My hand is starting to wiggle . . .
 4. My arms are starting to wiggle . . .
 5. My head is starting to wiggle . . .
 6. Now all of me is a-wiggling . . .

MOVING MUSIC

Sing "I Like to Go to Church" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

I like to go to church.
 I like to go to church
 With all the other girls and boys;
 I like to go to church.

Additional verses:

- I like to sing the songs.
- I like to bow and pray.

LIVE AND LEARN

Acts 9:36–40 tells the story of a woman who heard about Jesus and chose to think and act like he would, by using her gifts to help others.

Wearing Love by Marge Nelson

Our Bible story is about some people who lived long ago when Jesus was here. They didn't go to the store to buy clothes. They didn't have any clothing stores. But they all knew a place they could go. This story is about a special friend of Jesus named Dorcas.

(Bring out a big soft doll and sit her on your lap. As you mention items in the story, remove them from a bag or box. Some of them can be given to the children to hold.) This is Dorcas. Dorcas liked to make clothing. She would take a big piece of cloth, scissors, a needle and thread, and start cutting and sewing. Before you knew it, she would have a finished robe, coat, or tunic. Dorcas couldn't wear all the clothes she made, so she would give them to people who needed them.

(Show dolls dressed in each item or let the children dress the dolls.) Dorcas would make robes, coats, and tunics. Children would wear them. Mommies and daddies would wear them. Rich people and poor people would wear them. Dorcas was glad she could make clothes to share.

One day someone asked Dorcas why she made clothes and gave them to people. Dorcas said it was because of Jesus.

Jesus said it was important to love God and love your neighbor. Dorcas tried to think like Jesus would. She thought and thought. She did love God. She did love her neighbor. But how could she show her love. Suddenly Dorcas had an idea. What do you think she decided to do?

Dorcas decided to make clothes and give them to people. Everyone was glad Dorcas wanted to do that. "But don't you need lots of cloth?" someone asked.

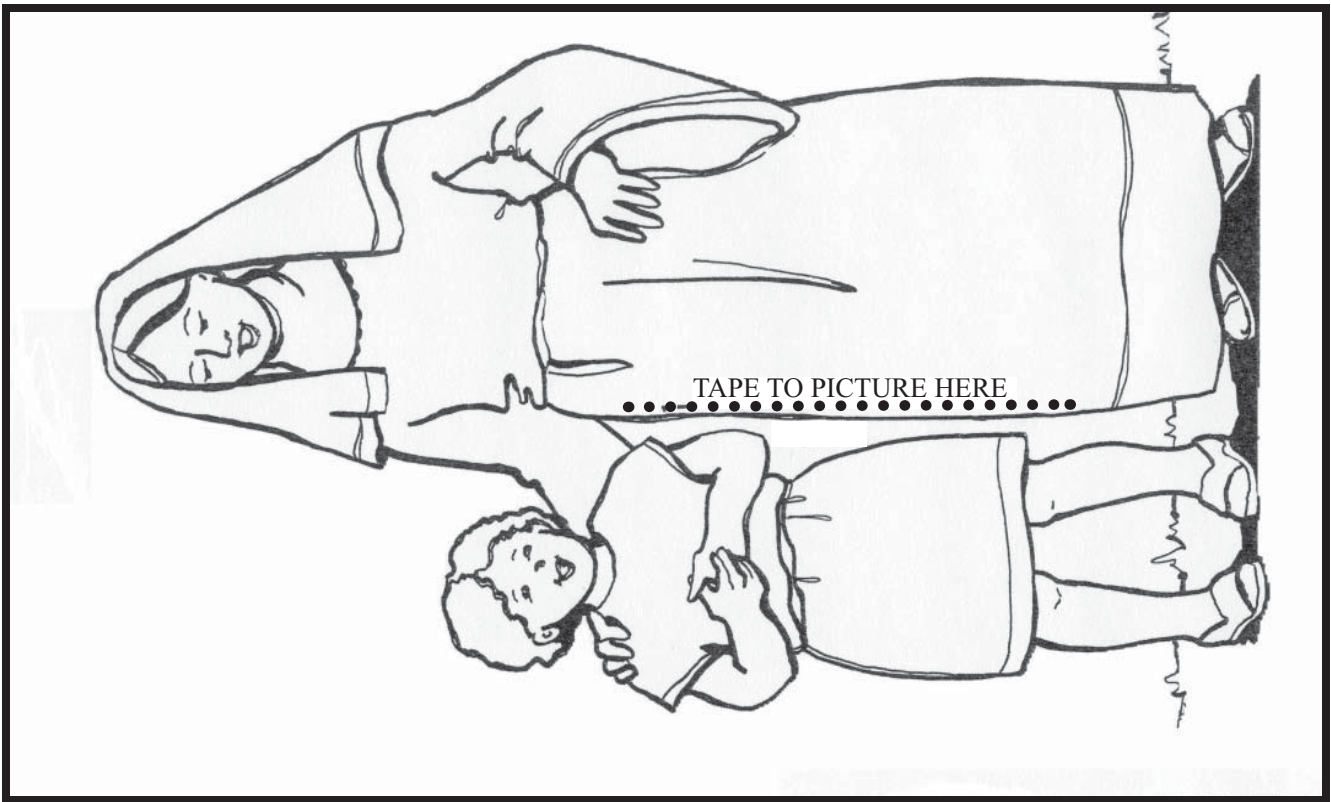
"Yes, I do," answered Dorcas. "But other people share with me too. Sometimes a person brings me extra cloth. Sometimes I get extra thread. Sometimes I even get food."

"You can't make clothes out of food," laughed one of the children.

"True," said Dorcas. "But then I can spend less money on food and more money buying cloth to make new coats and robes."

"I'm glad you love God enough to share with us, Dorcas," said a little boy as he gave her a hug.

"I'm glad too," said Dorcas as she hugged him back. "Love feels good, doesn't it?"



SENSE-ACTIONS

Before class, trim around the two robes on three sides, leaving the pieces together to be folded back to back on the dotted line. Give each child a picture of Dorcas and the child to color. Glue the robes together and let the children color them. To assemble the picture, place the fold along the dotted line in the picture, matching the woman's hand to the robe with the partial hand on it. Check to see if the second picture falls into place when the robe is flipped from that position. When the pictures are aligned, tape along one edge of the dotted line. The robe can then be moved from Dorcas's hand to the child and back.

THERE WE GO

Send the children home with their picture of Dorcas and the child.

