

PREPARE YOUR HEART

When did you realize that Jesus loves you and died for you? Thank him once again for his gift of salvation.

Provide children with easy-to-read Bibles and they will enjoy Bible study more.

Bible Exploration & Award Aims:

Club members will:

- know that Jesus loves them and died to take their punishment for sin.
- have an opportunity to ask Jesus to be their Savior.

Scripture:

Matthew 18:12-14; John 3:16; Romans 5:8

Bible Memory:

Matthew 18:14; extra verse (optional): Romans 5:8

Supplies:

GET READY—tray, 20 items of your choice, bag

1st ACTIVITY AWARD—construction paper, markers, decorating supplies (glitter glue, stickers, ribbons, scissors, yarn, etc.)

BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD—supplies for Focus of your choice (Missing!—simple jigsaw puzzle; Loved—paper hearts); newspaper, plain paper, markers, pillowcase, books (or bricks), tape

BIBLE MEMORY—colored paper, marker, scissors, tape; for each member: Bible Memory Card, Memory Verse Sticker

2nd ACTIVITY AWARD—source of music

GAMES—your choice

PRAYER—for each member: copy of Unit 3 Parent Page (p. 69)

Next Meeting's Preparation:

- Recruit an adult to play Peter.

Jesus Loves Me

GET READY 5-10 MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies. Put 20 items on a tray.

Have club members study the items and then shut their eyes. Remove one item and put it into a bag. Have members open their eyes. The first one to guess the missing item gets to be the next chooser.

How hard was guessing the item?

Sometimes it's hard for people to notice what's missing—even another person. But God keeps track of everything and everyone. We'll learn more about that later.

Open with prayer.

HOLIDAYS ACTIVITY AWARD

20-30 MINUTES



Do Ahead:

Read Holidays award (handbook p. 150). Choose a holiday to focus on for the whole award, or plan to sample a variety of holidays. Gather supplies to do requirement 1, "Learn about a holiday," and requirement 2, "Make a card."

Do requirements 1 and 2 together.

Many holidays—like Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving—tell us about God's love for us. Let's find out about God's love.

BIBLE EXPLORATION & AWARD 15-25 MINUTES



Do Ahead:

Familiarize yourself with Bible award requirement 1 (handbook p. 65) and this Bible Exploration. Gather supplies. Choose and prepare one of the Focus options. If you choose the Loved Focus, write some kind words on a heart for each club member. Have a few extras in case you have guests. Print John 3:16 on the board or easel pad, with a blank line after the word "him." Tape a sign that says "Jesus" to a chair.

Focus (choose 1 option)

Option 1—Missing!

Have club members assemble a jigsaw

puzzle, one they can complete in your time allotment. When club members complain about the missing piece, produce it.

- How important was the missing piece?
- Show how you felt when you saw the piece was missing.
- Show how you felt when you found the piece.

In the Bible, Jesus tells us about something else that was missing—something much, much more important. Let's find out how he feels about that.

Option 2—Loved

Hand out one of the hearts you made to each club member. Let each one read what it says.

- How did you feel when you got this heart?

Let's find out about something much more special that someone has done for us.

Study Scripture

Turn to Matthew 18:12. Help club members find it. Read. Hold up a newspaper. In today's newspaper, a headline might read like this: "One sheep missing—shepherd leaves 99 sheep in search."

- How do you think the shepherd felt about his sheep? (Loved them.)
- How can you tell?

A shepherd leads the sheep to good food and water and protects them from their enemies. A shepherd cares deeply when one is missing.

Let's continue. Read verse 13. Have club members keep their Bibles open. Hold up newspaper.

- How might our next headline read? (Shepherd excited for found sheep.)

Each sheep is important to the shepherd. The Bible says that Jesus is like our Shepherd. Jesus loves each of us. Jesus protects us. Jesus gives us all that we need. Our most important need is to have our sins forgiven.

- What is sin? (Disobeying God, doing bad things, doing what God does not want us to do.)

When you've done something wrong toward someone, do you feel close to the person or do you want to stay away from the person? (Stay away.)

The wrong things we do separate us from God. Choose a volunteer to sit in a chair

beside you. Have him or her hold a pillowcase. Have heavy books nearby. Have the *Jesus* chair at your other side.

- **What are some sins we do—ways we disobey God?** (Lying, calling bad names, getting even, stealing, etc.) As club members name something, have them pick up a book and put it in the pillowcase. Add as many as possible.

No matter how hard we try, we can't be good all the time. We do wrong every day! Pick up the pillowcase. Demonstrate how heavy it is. Set it back down on your volunteer's lap. Ask your volunteer:

- **How does that feel?** Remove the pillowcase, but be ready to put it back on in a few minutes. Have the club member remain in the chair.

- **What happens when we do wrong?** (People get mad, we are punished, etc.)

Because God is right and good, God cannot stand the wrong we do. But God loves us very, very much. So he made a way for us to escape the punishment our sin deserves. Let's read John 3:16 from the board. Explain hard words. After reading it, erase the words "the world" and draw a line. Erase "whoever," add the word "if," and draw a line. **Let's say the verse again, but this time put your name in each of the blank spaces.**

- **Who is the Son that God gave?** (Jesus.)
Read Romans 5:8. Explain that Jesus and Christ are interchangeable names.
- **What did Jesus do?** (Died for us.) Have club members point to themselves.

Jesus never did any wrong thing. Jesus didn't deserve to be punished. Jesus didn't deserve to die. No matter what special thing someone has done for you, it can never be as special as what Jesus has done for you.

Put the pillowcase of books back on the club member's lap. **When someone you know is going to be punished, do you say (wave raised hand), "Punish me instead"? No! You don't want to take someone else's punishment. But that's what Jesus did. God took all the wrong things you do and put them on Jesus.** Take the pillowcase and place it on the *Jesus* chair. **Jesus is called your Savior because he died to save you from being punished for the wrong things you do.**

Because Jesus is God, he is more powerful than death. Jesus came back alive and is now living in heaven.

- **Now that you know he was willing to die for you, how do you think Jesus feels about you?** (Loves me.)

Look back at Matthew 18:14. After

Jesus told about the shepherd being so excited to find the lost sheep, here's what he said. Read.

- **Who's included in "little ones"?** (Me.)
Look at John 3:16 again.
- **When you believe in Jesus what will you have?** (Life forever.)

Apply

Think about how the shepherd felt about his lost sheep. Think about how you feel when you've lost something. That and much more is how God feels about people who wander away from him. God loves you very much. God sent Jesus to invite you back to him.

Turn to Bible Award requirement 1 on page 65. Work through each part. Talk with members individually as they do part 3. If members do not take handbooks home, you may photocopy this page, so they can remember the thing they will pray about.

Have you ever asked Jesus to forgive you for the bad things you've done and make you part of God's family? If you have not, I will pray a prayer that you may silently repeat after me if it says what you want to say. Encourage club members who pray the prayer or who want to know more to talk with you before the end of club. See the Pioneer Clubs catalog or online store at www.shoppioneerclubs.org for salvation and follow-up resources.

Dear Jesus, / I know I have disobeyed you. / I know you love me very much, / so you came to die for me / so that you could forgive me. / Please forgive me now. / Please make me / part of God's family. / Thank you! / Amen.

BIBLE MEMORY 8-10 MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Memorize Matthew 18:14. Gather supplies. Using large letters, print the verse in two- or three-word phrases on strips of paper. Be sure "any of these" and "little ones" are on their own strips. Make two sets, each on a different color. Tape one set to the board or easel pad.

Have club members read the verse together several times.

- **Thinking about this verse, how does God feel about you?** (Loves me.)

Take down the "any of these" and "little ones" strips. **This time say the verse**

and put your name where these strips were. Repeat the verse.

Divide into two groups. Give each a word set. Have groups alternate turning over a strip and reciting the verse. When no strips are left, have each member recite the verse.

Hand out Bible Memory Cards and Memory Verse Stickers.

▼ **Extra verse (optional):** Memorize Romans 5:8.

LET'S PRETEND ACTIVITY AWARD

20-30 MINUTES



Do Ahead:

Read the Let's Pretend Activity Award (handbook p. 91). Gather supplies to do the first two options, "Simon Says" and "Move to the Music" of requirement 1. (Or choose other options.)

Play the games.

GAMES (OPTIONAL)

Choose games from pages 70-71.

SERVICE PROJECT (OPTIONAL)

Befriend the Hungry

For this unit, collect items for a food pantry.

PRAYER 5-10 MINUTES

Do Ahead:

Gather supplies.

We are going to close with silent prayer. Have you asked Jesus to be your Savior? If so, thank Jesus. If not, ask him to help you see your need. Remind club members who want to talk further to see you before they leave.

Give each club member a Unit 3 Parent Page (p. 69).

LEADER REFLECTION

Are there club members who have not responded to God's invitation? Look for opportunities to talk to them individually.