



**Bible Point** ▶

# God has power to heal us.

## Bible Verse

“He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases” (Psalm 103:3).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will experience what it’s like to have a disability and be freed from it, discover that God heals their minds as well as their bodies, and pray that God will heal people they know.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

**Peter heals a man at the Temple gate.**

**Acts  
3:1-16**



In today’s passage, several different factors regarding faith were in action in Peter and John’s healing of the lame man. When Peter said, “in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene,” he was using the name of one who had recently been nailed to a cross as a criminal. We know that it takes faith for a person to be healed, and Peter may have been testing the man’s faith in Jesus as a condition for being healed. We see in Acts 3:16 that Peter indicates that the man indeed must have had faith in Jesus to heal him. In addition, this miracle appears to be the first miracle performed by one of the apostles after the Holy Spirit had come upon them (see Acts 2).

So it took faith for Peter to make such a statement—faith that God would act in Jesus’ name to heal the man. And on top of all that, the healing was done by God—Peter and John claimed no credit for it but instead used the healing to encourage people to put their faith in Jesus.

### Prayer

- Read John 5:1-14.
- What similarities do you see between this healing by Jesus and the one by Peter and John in today’s passage?
- Pray: God, help my class understand how you can heal all our diseases. Help me to...






## Before the Lesson

Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.

Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.

Pray for your students and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“Church Name Tags” handout (p. 21), scissors, markers, tape	
<b>Attention Grabber</b>	<b>The Great Doctor</b> —Play a game to be healed of various afflictions to learn that Jesus is the great doctor.		
<b>Bible Exploration &amp; Application</b>	<b>Healed by God</b> —Act out the story from Acts 3:1-16 of Peter and John healing the man at the Temple gate.	Bible	
	<b>Puzzling Puzzles</b> —Create puzzles that are hard for a partner to put together, read Psalm 147:3-5, and learn that God has power to heal their hearts and bodies.	Bible, paper, scissors	
	<b>The Cure</b> —Listen to a story, read Psalm 139:13-16, and learn that God knows all about them.	Bible, CD player	
<b>Closing</b> 	<b>Pray for Help</b> —Try to count the hairs on their heads, read Luke 12:7a, and pray for God’s help.	Bible	

## Welcome

**SUPPLIES:** “Church Name Tags” handout (p. 21), scissors, markers, tape

- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God has power to heal us.**
- Photocopy the “Church Name Tags” handout, and cut apart the name tags. Have each child choose a name tag, decorate it with markers or crayons, and write his or her name on the welcome mat. Help the children attach the name tags to their clothing.
- Tell children that you’ll raise your hand to get their attention. They should respond by raising their hands and focusing their attention on you. Rehearse this signal, and encourage the children to respond quickly so you’ll have time for all the fun activities in this lesson.



**BIBLE POINT**

## Attention Grabber

### The Great Doctor

**SUPPLIES:** none



Move the furniture to clear an open area in the room. Explain that in this variation of Tag, some children will have afflictions that will make them easy to tag. But a “great doctor” can heal and protect them.

Choose five volunteers. Put the *handcuffs* on one volunteer’s wrists, and say: **This means you can’t use your arms or hands in this game.** Have one volunteer sit on the floor. Wrap and tie the *Chinese jump-rope* around his or her ankles, and say: **This means you can’t use your legs in this game.** Put the *sailor hat* on the third volunteer so it covers his or her ears, and say: **This means you can’t hear in this game.**

Choose a fourth volunteer, and say: **We’re going to play Freeze Tag, and [child’s name] is “It.” If It tags you, you must freeze exactly where you are.**

Give the fifth volunteer the bag of *smiley rings*. Say: **You’re the great doctor. Everyone in the class will try to get a smiley ring from you without being tagged by It. Whoever gets a smiley ring is protected from It and is healed from whatever was wrong with him or her. If you are frozen by It, the great doctor can come and give you a smiley ring, and then you’ll be unfrozen. The great doctor can’t be frozen.**

Play until everyone has a *smiley ring*. Be ready to unlock the *handcuffs* for the child wearing them when he or she receives a *smiley ring*.

You may want to play the game again with different volunteers once the children have caught on to the rules.



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



Hands-on, experiential activities are designed to help those who learn through movement understand and apply the lesson for today.

After the game, collect the *smiley rings*, *handcuffs*, *Chinese jump-rope*, and *sailor hat*, and return them to the Learning Lab. Gather the children, and ask:

• **Who was the game easier for? Who was it harder for?** (It was easier for the people who could run and hear; it was harder for the person who couldn't use his legs.)

• **What was it like before you got the *smiley ring*? What was it like afterward?** (Before I got the ring, I was scared that I would get caught; after I got the ring, I felt safe.)

• **What is it like in real life when you're sick or hurt?** (It's bad because I can't do the things I want to do; I feel like I want to sleep.)

Say: **Today we're going to talk about being healed. Sometimes people become sick or injured, and they need God's help to get better. ► God has power to heal us, just as the great doctor could give you a *smiley ring* to heal you in our game. In fact, sometimes we call Jesus the great doctor. Let's find out about a man who waited his whole life to be healed.**



### BIBLE POINT

## Bible Exploration & Application

### Healed by God

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

As you read the following story, have the children act out the story of Peter healing the man at the Temple gate.

To form the Temple gate, have two children join both hands and raise them overhead as though they were playing London Bridge. Have another child lie down by the gate and act out the role of the man who couldn't walk. Have two other children play the parts of Peter and John.

If you have fewer than five children, don't have anyone play the part of the gate. If you have more than five children, have several children form Temple gates, and have others play the crowd. Read aloud the story below, pausing to let the children act out what you've read.

Open your Bible to **Acts 3:1-16**, and say: **This story comes from the book of Acts. One day Peter and John went to the Temple for the afternoon prayer service.** Pause. **As they were going inside the Temple, they saw a man lying by the gate called the Beautiful Gate. The man had been unable to walk all his life. Every day people carried him to the gate and left him there to beg for money from the people coming to the Temple. The man saw Peter and John going into the Temple and asked them for money.** Pause. **Peter and John looked straight at him (pause) and said, "Look at us!"**

**The man looked at them.** Pause. **He thought they were going to give him money. But Peter said, "I don't have any silver or gold for you. But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!"** Pause. **Then Peter took the man's right hand (pause) and helped him up.** Pause. **Instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He started walking!** Pause. **Then he started jumping and praising God.** Pause. **All the people recognized him as the man who couldn't walk, and they wondered how he had been made well. They were amazed! All the people came running to see the man who was healed.** Pause.

### Bible Insight

The Temple at Jerusalem referred to in Acts 3:1-16 is called Herod's Temple. The Temple complex was still under construction in the first year of Christ's ministry, A.D. 27, and had been under construction for 46 years. Christ predicted the Temple's destruction, which happened in A.D. 70 when Titus' Roman soldiers conquered Jerusalem. About 6,000 Jews taking refuge in the Temple died when it was burned down.

When Peter saw them, he said, “What is so surprising about this? And why stare at us as though we had made this man walk by our own power or godliness? It wasn’t us; it was God—the same God who sent Jesus to die for our sins. It was faith in Jesus that made this man well. You can see this man. You know that he couldn’t walk, and now he’s healed. Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes.”



Have your class give everyone a round of applause, and then have children sit in a circle. Say: **The man who was healed had been unable to walk his entire life.**

Ask: • **What do you think he thought when Peter told him to stand up?** (I think he believed that God would heal him; I think he was scared to stand up because he was afraid he’d fall down.)

• **If you had been in the crowd and had seen this man healed, what would you have done?** (I would have said thank you to God; I would have asked Peter to heal my grandma; I would have praised God.)

• **Have you ever known people who got better after they’d been sick for a long time? Explain.** (Yes, my brother’s arm was in a cast for a long time, but then his arm healed; no, I don’t know anyone who’s been sick for a long time.)

• **Why was it important that the man believed in Jesus?** (Because his faith helped him get better; because it was Jesus’ power that healed him.)

Say: **The people were amazed when the man started to walk. Peter said it was the man’s faith in Jesus Christ that helped him get well. When we put our faith in Jesus, good things happen! Jesus will live in our hearts and be our best friend, now and forever. Now let’s find out more about how God heals us.**



Young children often don’t understand the difference between minor and serious illnesses, so healing may not be as miraculous an act to them as it would be to an older child or adult. Use today’s Bible story and key Bible verse to teach kids that faith in God and the Holy Spirit is the first step in prayers for healing.

## HANDS-ON BIBLE

Say: **We are learning today that God has power to heal us. In our Bible story, we learned how God was able to work through an ordinary man like Peter to do something really extraordinary. With God’s help, Peter was able to heal a man. Let’s read some more about Peter.**



Have children open their *Hands-On Bibles* to the section called “The Disciples’ Inner Circle,” which is located on the Bible Bios page near **1 Timothy 4**. Read the section together with the children, asking for volunteer readers to take turns. The section gives background information on Simon Peter, James, and John. Then ask:

• **What was Peter’s biggest mistake, according to what we just read?** (He denied that he knew Jesus; he didn’t believe what Jesus had predicted would happen.)

• **Did Jesus forgive Peter? How do we know?** (Yes, he did, because Peter told other people how great Jesus was; yes, because later on Peter could do special things because of Jesus.)



Say: **Peter was an ordinary guy, and he made some silly mistakes, but Jesus forgave him. And later on, Peter was able to work in very special ways to heal people because Jesus gave him special power to do so. It wasn't Peter's own power. It was Jesus' power working in Peter to help others.**

Ask: • **Do you think that with Jesus' help, you could help others, too? Why or why not?** (Yes, I think Jesus could help me be brave and tell others about him; yes, I think that with Jesus' help, I could do special things for my friends, too.)

Have children turn to a friend and share one way they want Jesus to help them help someone else this week. Close in prayer, thanking God for his power to forgive our sins and heal us and then work through us to help others.

### teacher tips

We encourage you to work with the open-ended questions. This helps children discover for themselves the answers that God is placing on their hearts. Each question may mean something different for each individual child. Guiding them through the questions, instead of giving them answers, allows them to apply what they learn to their lives in a unique way.

## Puzzling Puzzles

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, paper, scissors



Have children form pairs and sit down.

Give each student a sheet of paper and scissors. Encourage each child to make a puzzle by cutting the sheet of paper into several random puzzle pieces. Tell children not to make the pieces too small. Give them a few minutes to complete their puzzles, and then raise your hand to get their attention. Wait for children to raise their hands and stop talking. Collect the scissors.

Say: **Trade puzzles with your partner. When I say "go," you'll have a minute to put your partner's puzzle together. Don't talk to your partner while you're working. Ready? Go!**

After a minute, hum into the *kazoo*, and raise your hand to call time and get children's attention. Wait until children raise their hands and stop talking. If some of the puzzles aren't completed, have partners help each other finish. Then ask:

- **Was it hard or easy to put the puzzles back together? Explain.** (Hard because I couldn't figure it out; easy because I'm good at putting puzzles together.)
- **What was your reaction when the person who made the puzzle helped you put it together?** (I was glad my partner helped me; it made it lots easier; I felt relieved, because I couldn't do it by myself.)

Say: **Sometimes when people are sick, we say their bodies are broken, just as your puzzles were broken into pieces. But God has the power to put us back together. He made us, so he knows how to fix us, just as the partner who made the puzzle knew how to put it together. Listen to what the Bible says about God's healing power.**

Read **Psalm 147:3-5**. Say: **Tell your partner about a time you were sick or hurt and what happened to make you better.** Give partners a minute to share.

**The Bible says God is so powerful that he counts all the stars and knows them by name. This same big, wonderful God cares enough to heal us! ► God has power to heal us because God created us and loves us.**



## The Cure

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



Cue the CD to track 7, “The Cure.” Have the children sit in a circle.

Listen to the CD with the children. At the end of the story, turn off the CD player, and ask:

- **What are some things you do to get rid of the hiccups?** (Hold my breath; blow into a paper bag.)
- **What’s silly about this story?** (None of those things really gets rid of the hiccups; nobody has a hiccup space.)

Say: **This story is fun, but it’s not fun to be really sick. When you or someone you love is really sick, you’d probably look for someone to help, just as the person in the story did.**

Ask: • **What happens when you get sick?** (My dad puts me to bed and gives me juice; my mom takes my temperature a lot; I have to take medicine that tastes funny; sometimes I have to go to the doctor.)

- **What’s it like to go to the doctor?** (Scary; OK because my doctor is really nice.)
- **What do parents and doctors tell you to do when you’re sick?** (Stay in bed; drink orange juice; take medicine; don’t go outside.)
- **Can doctors cure everything?** (Usually; no, sometimes people die.)

Say: **Sometimes God uses doctors and nurses and parents to help us get better. Sometimes we don’t understand the things that happen to our bodies—like the hiccups! But God made us and knows all about us. Listen to what the Bible says about how God made us. Read Psalm 134:13-16 aloud. Because God is our creator, ► God has power to heal us.**



Understanding how your first- and second-graders develop spiritually will help you communicate with them effectively about what it means to believe in Jesus Christ and develop a personal friendship with Jesus. They understand God’s love and God’s world through personal experience. They don’t comprehend the spiritual nature of God, but rather, they think of God as a giant, a magician, or an invisible man. They don’t comprehend the Bible’s chronology except that the Old Testament came before Jesus and the New Testament talks about Jesus. They have a literal and concrete understanding of Bible stories and biblical truths. They don’t comprehend abstract ideas such as the Trinity.



## Closing

### Pray for Help

**SUPPLIES:** Bible



Ask: • **What did you learn today?** (I learned that God can heal me; I learned that God is powerful.)

Form pairs, and have partners try to count the number of hairs on each other’s head. After a minute, ask if anyone knows how many hairs his or her partner has. Say: **Listen to**

**what the Bible says about how well God knows us. Read Luke 12:7a.**

**God cares about you and knows everything there is to know about you, including the number of hairs on your head. He is ready to help everyone who asks for help. But our bodies aren’t the only things God can heal. God can heal people who are sad, people whose hearts are broken, and people whose lives are broken by sin. Here is our Bible verse for today, from Psalm 103:3: ► “He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.”**



**God loves us and will forgive us and help us if we ask for his help. We can tell him about everything we need and everything that bothers us. Let's think of people who need God's help right now. We'll ask God to help them.**

Have the children sit in a circle and pass around the bag of *stackable clowns*. Have the children take one *stackable clown* for each person they can think of who needs God's help. Have children put their clowns in the middle of the circle. Ask God to heal the minds and the bodies of the people the children have thought of. Invite the children to pray: "God, you have the power to heal us. Please help [person's name]." Close by saying together, "In Jesus' name, amen."

Return the *stackable clowns* to the Learning Lab for use in later lessons.

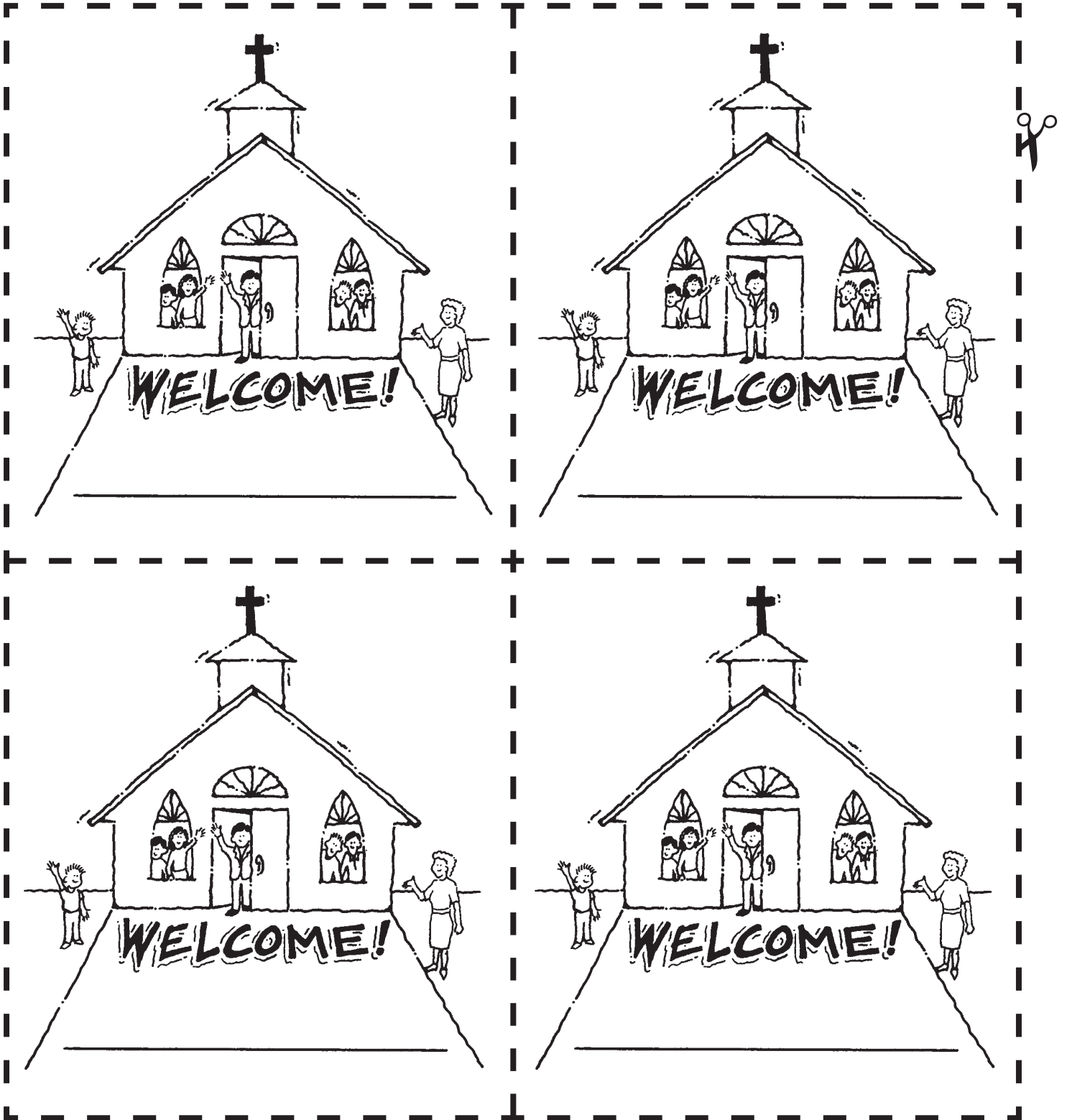


### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

# Church Name Tags

Photocopy this page, and cut apart the name tags. Have children color the name tags and write their names on the welcome mats. Help children attach the name tags to their clothing.



# Growing. Together

## Bible Story

Peter heals a man at the Temple gate. Acts 3:1-16

**Acts Lesson 1:**  
God has power to heal us.

## Bible Verse

"He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases" (Psalm 103:3).

## In Touch

Today your child learned that God has power to heal us. Children learned that God sometimes heals people through miracles. They also learned that God can heal people's minds and hearts. Use these ideas to teach your child to trust God's healing and help.

### Bandage Cards

Make a bandage card to give to a sick friend who needs cheering up. Fold a piece of paper in half to make a card. Attach adhesive bandages in the form of a stick person to the cover. Use a round bandage for the face. Use a marker to draw facial features and clothes on the figure. Write a get-well message on the inside, and be sure to let the person know you're praying for him or her.

### Wellness Prescriptions

Gather a clean, empty jar; paper strips; and pencils. Together with your child, write prescriptions for staying healthy, such as "Eat an apple every day," "Walk around the block five times," and "Pray about your worries." Invite a family member to pull out one strip each morning, and plan a time that day for your family to fill the prescription together.

### Worry Talks

God wants to heal us from worry as well as from sickness. Let your child know that when worries come, you're always available to help. Have your child cut one circle out of green construction paper and one out of red construction paper and then glue the two circles together. Attach a string to the circle, and hang it on the door of your child's room. The green side indicates that all is well. The red side indicates that your child is worried and needs to talk and pray with you. Check the signal often, but don't wait until the signal is turned to the red side before you talk with your child. Ask frequently how things are going.

### Cookie Hospital

Make gingerbread-people cookies with your child. Break them in two after they've cooled. Create a hospital for your broken cookies by laying the pieces of each cookie on a napkin "hospital bed" on your kitchen table or counter. Have your child "heal" the cookies by pasting the pieces together with icing. As you eat the healed cookies, joyfully praise God for taking care of our bodies.