

Helping Others Know God

The second book of Kings tells of a troubled time in Israel's history. The strong, faithful, united kingdom built by David and Solomon was divided into the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. In both kingdoms, ungodly kings reigned and enemy armies threatened to invade. People turned to idol worship and left the Temple in a sad state of disrepair. Even so, God still moved in the lives of his people.

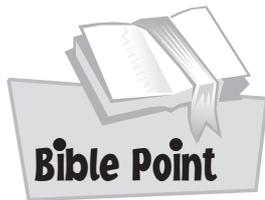
Samaria, the capital of Israel, suffered frequent attacks from the Arameans. Naaman was a commander in the Aramean army who suffered from a terrible skin disease. A captured Israelite girl served in his household and urged Naaman's wife to send Naaman to seek healing from the prophet Elisha. When Naaman was healed, he worshipped God.

In Judah, a young boy named Josiah became king at the tender age of 8. Josiah was a good leader, wise beyond his years, and he led the nation into a time of spiritual revival that lasted throughout his reign. The Temple was restored, God's Word was read, and the people promised once again to obey God.

The preschoolers in your class are excited about their developing faith in God. They know God loves them, takes care of them, and hears their prayers. By sharing these basic truths, they can help others learn about God, just as Josiah and the young servant girl did. These lessons will teach preschoolers special ways to share their faith—with their words and kind actions, by taking care of God's house, and by sharing God's Word.

Four Lessons on Helping Others Know God

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
10	We can help others learn about God with the words we say.	129	2 Kings 5:1-9
11	We can help others learn about God with our kind actions.	143	2 Kings 5:1-14
12	We can help others learn about God by taking care of God's house.	155	2 Kings 22:1-23:3
13	We can help others learn about God by sharing God's Word.	167	2 Kings 22:1-23:3



We can help others learn about God with the words we say.

Bible Verse

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- share good news as they play a game,
 - discover the importance of passing on messages,
 - learn the good news that God loves us, and
 - sing a song about helping others learn about God.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

- A servant girl sends Naaman to visit Elisha, the prophet.



Naaman, a highly respected army commander, had won great victories for his king. But in the prime of life, he was stricken with a serious skin disease. A young Israelite girl, who had been taken captive during an Aramean raid, served in his household. When she found out about Naaman's disease, she told Naaman's wife that the prophet Elisha had the power to heal Naaman. Naaman traveled to Samaria, found Elisha, and reluctantly followed

Elisha's instructions. Naaman was cured because a young girl's courage and concern led her to tell him about a man of God with the power to heal.

Even though the children in your class are much younger than the girl in this story, they can still tell others about God. Young children can help others learn about God by singing "Jesus Loves Me," by showing a craft they made in church, or by pointing out wonderful things God has made. This lesson will help you teach children some fun ways they can begin to tell others what they know about God.

Prayer

- Read 1 Corinthians 2:1-5.
- Is it ever hard for you to share God's love with others?
- How would forgetting "everything except Jesus Christ" and relying "only on the power of the Holy Spirit" help you in those situations?
- Pray: Lord, help me rely solely on your power as I teach my preschoolers and as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	Butterfly name tags from Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Home Service —Find out what kinds of tasks servants do, and hear about the girl who served in Naaman’s home.	Toy food and dishes, dress-up clothes, blankets, pillows	
	Option 2: A Message for Elisha —Carry an important message on horseback to Elisha.	Envelopes, paper, pen, sticks, brooms	
	Option 3: Rhythm Messages —Tap rhythmic messages for others to follow, and hear about messages in the Bible story.		
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Learn where messages come from.	Red construction paper, markers, scissors, sealed party invitation	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear a story about a servant girl who gave an important message to Naaman’s wife.	Bible, envelope from Option 2	
	Do the Bible Story —Play a singing game and tell each other the good news about God’s love.	Bible, CD player	
Closing 	What Did He Say? —Help Whiskers relay a message about God.	Paper, markers	
	We Help Others —Sing a song about helping others learn about God.		

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: butterfly name tags made in Lesson 1, washable markers, scissors, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week's "Today I Learned..." discussion. Use questions such as "Did you tell someone about Jesus?" or "Tell me about when Jesus rose into the air."
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say.**
- Hand out the butterfly name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help children attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren't in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let's Get Started activities you've set up.

Let's Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children's conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "What good news have you received?" or "Where do you go to learn about God?"

■ Option 1: Home Service

SUPPLIES: toy food and dishes, dress-up clothes, blankets, pillows

Set up kitchen and bedroom play areas in your room. Include toy food and dishes, dress-up clothes, blankets, and pillows. Have children take turns showing each other how they'd take care of each room. They might dust the furniture, make the beds, or vacuum the rug in the bedroom. They might wash the dishes, prepare a meal, or mop the floor in the kitchen. As children play, tell them that today's Bible story is about a young girl who was a servant in Naaman's home. Explain that servants help clean up and take care of a home.

■ Option 2: A Message for Elisha

SUPPLIES: envelopes, paper, pen, sticks, brooms

Before class, write "PLEASE HEAL NAAMAN" in large letters on several sheets of paper. Put the messages in unsealed envelopes. Write "To Elisha" on the front of each envelope.

Have children ride stick horses or brooms around the room and deliver the



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.



If your classroom doesn't have toy kitchen appliances, you can make your own from large cardboard boxes. Simply draw on knobs, burners, and handles; then cut out cupboard, oven, and refrigerator doors. Children will fill in additional details with their imaginations.



You'll need a message envelope later in the lesson. If you choose not to do Option 2, prepare a message envelope before doing the "Hear and Tell the Bible Story" activity.

envelopes to each other. Tell children that in today's Bible story, a king sent an important message to the prophet Elisha.

■ Option 3: Rhythm Messages

SUPPLIES: none



Give one child the *tambourine*. Help the child tap out a rhythmic message on the *tambourine*. For example, a child might say, "My name's Amy" and tap the *tambourine* on each word. Other simple messages might include "God loves you," "How are you?" or "I like church." Have the other children clap out the rhythm as they repeat the message. Continue until everyone has had a turn tapping a rhythmic message with the *tambourine*. Tell children that today they'll hear how several people delivered messages about God. Remind them that ► *we can help others learn about God with the words we say.*



BIBLE POINT ►

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: red construction paper, markers, scissors, sealed party invitation



Before class, cut a stop-sign shape out of red construction paper. Write the word "stop" in large letters on the sign. Put a party invitation in an envelope, seal it, and write your address on the front.

Tell the children you'll shake the *clapper* to get their attention. Explain that when you shake it, the children are to stop what they're doing and raise their hands. Practice this signal a few times.

Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to class today?** (Worked in the kitchen; delivered a message on a horse; clapped out rhythms.)

Say: **Some of you learned how servants help take care of homes. If you were a servant, stand up and pretend to sweep the floor; then sit down.** Pause. **Some of you delivered important messages on horseback. If you delivered a message on horseback, stand up and say “neigh”; then sit down.** Pause. **The rest of you clapped out rhythmic messages for each other. Let’s all stand up and repeat a message together. When I count to three, we’ll all say, “We love God.” Let’s clap our hands each time we say a word. Are you ready? One, two three.**

Lead children in clapping as they say, “We love God.” Then have them sit down.
Say: **All of you were learning important things about our Bible story. Today we’re learning that ▶ we can help others learn about God with the words we say. When we said, “We love God” just now, we were using words to pass on an important message. Messages are very important in our story today, too. Let’s talk about some other important messages.**

Show children the stop sign you’ve drawn.

Ask: • **What is this?** (A stop sign.)

• **What do you do when you get this message?** (You stop quickly; the cars stop moving.)

• **What would happen if no one paid attention to this message?** (There’d be a crash; people would go too fast.)

Say: **Some messages are very important. If we don’t pay attention to them, we could get hurt.**

Show children the sealed party invitation.

Ask: • **What is this?** (A letter; something that came in the mail; an envelope.)

• **Have you ever gotten a message in the mail? Who did it come from?** (I got a birthday card from my aunt; my grandpa sent me a letter once.)

• **How did you feel when you got something in the mail?** (Good; special; it was fun.)

Say: **Let’s open this envelope and see what’s inside.**

Invite a child sitting near you to help you open the envelope. Remove the party invitation and hold it up. Ask the children to tell you what it is, and then say: **This is a party invitation. When you get one of these in the mail, it means someone wants you to come to a party. Wouldn’t that be a good message?**

Messages come from many places. Some messages are important news like a stop sign. Other messages tell us that people want us to come to a party to celebrate a birthday. Our story today is about messages. A young girl gave a man a message that changed his whole life. Let’s bring out our Bible and find out what happened.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3, 4

Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we’ll pass around our special Bible. The person who’s holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad for the Bible” with the *CD* (track 3) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp” As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



**I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
I’m so glad for God’s book today.
I’m so glad for the Bible.
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’—
Keep me learnin’ all about his way.**

**Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let me hear ’bout God’s love for me.
Let me hear ’bout God’s love—
Keep me learnin’, learnin’, learnin’.
Let’s shine the light for all to see.**

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who’s holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child’s hand with the *Bible stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children’s hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God’s Word for them.

Say: **I’m thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I’m thankful for everyone in our class today. Let’s thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing “I’m So Glad We’re Together” with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of “Give Me Oil in My Lamp.”



**I’m so glad we’re together.
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’.
I’m so glad we’re all here today.
I’m so glad we’re together.
Keep us prayin’, prayin’, prayin’—
Prayin’ for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
Thank you for everyone who’s here.
Thank you, Lord, for each one.
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, envelope from Option 2



Before class, take out the poster “Naaman’s Wife” from the *Poster Pack*.

Have children gather around you. Show children the picture

of the servant girl. Then open your Bible to **2 Kings 5** and show it to the children. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of 2 Kings in the Bible. Our poster shows us a picture of our Bible story. Today we'll see a picture of a young servant girl. Next week we'll see a picture of someone else in our Bible story. As I tell our story, I'd like you to listen carefully for the word *message*. When you hear that word, make your hands talk, like this.**

Show children how to make their hands “talk” by holding their thumbs underneath their fingers and moving their fingers up and down. After children have practiced for a few moments, tell the following story. Each time you read the word *message*, pause so children can do their actions.

Say: **Naaman was a very important commander in the army. He had won a big war for his king. Naaman had lots of money and a big house with many servants. The servants helped Naaman keep his house clean and served food to Naaman and his wife. Naaman was very strong and brave, but he was also very sad. Naaman was sad because he had a disease that made his skin rough and sore. He wanted to be healed of the disease, but no one knew how to cure him.**

Naaman's wife had a young servant girl from Israel. The servant girl believed in God, and she knew that God sometimes gave messages to prophets. She also knew that God sometimes gave prophets power to heal people. So one day the servant girl gave a message to Naaman's wife. She said, “If only my master, Naaman, would travel to Samaria and see the prophet Elisha. Surely then he would be healed.”

Naaman's wife quickly found Naaman and gave him the message. She said, “The young servant girl says there is a prophet in Samaria who can heal you. You must go and see him.”

Naaman was excited when he heard that message! But Samaria was far away in the country of Israel. Naaman decided he'd better ask the king if he could travel there. So he went to the king and asked if he could go to Samaria to see the prophet. The king agreed and said, “I'll give you a message to take to the king of Israel.”

Hold up one of the message envelopes you prepared for Option 2.

Ask: • **What do you think the king wrote in his message?** (That it was OK for Naaman to go to Israel; that Naaman was a good guy; that Naaman wanted to get healed from his disease.)

Open the envelope and read the note. Say: **When the king of Israel got the message, he didn't know what to do. He couldn't heal Naaman.**

But the prophet Elisha also heard the message that Naaman wanted to be healed. He invited Naaman to come to his home. When Naaman arrived, Elisha healed him, just as the servant girl said he would.

Ask: • **The servant girl shared an important message with Naaman. When have you shared an important message?** (When I told my preschool class about my trip to the zoo; when I invited someone to my birthday party.)

• **What would have happened if the servant girl hadn't shared the news about Elisha?** (Naaman wouldn't have been healed.)

• **The servant girl knew that God had given Elisha the power to heal people. What messages about God do you know?** (God loves us; we can talk to God when we pray; God takes care of us.)

Say: **The servant girl had an important message for Naaman. She told him where he could go to be healed from a disease. She sent him to God's**


BIBLE POINT ▶

prophet, Elisha. We have important messages about God, too. And ▶ *we can help others learn about God with the words we say.* Let's play a game that will help us practice telling others about God.

teacher tips

Children may be so busy telling each other about God's love that they forget to sing the last few lines. That's OK! Let the CD fill in the words as children enjoy sharing God's love.

Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 18

Say: There are many people who don't know about God, just as Naaman didn't know about God's prophet, Elisha. Let's sing a song and pretend we're sharing the news about God's love with people who don't know about God. When the song says, "Tell three friends," run and say,

"God loves you" to three people in our class.

Lead children in singing "Spread the Good News" with the CD (track 18) to the tune of "Old MacDonald." You may want to sing the song once before adding the actions. The song is recorded on the CD twice.


SING

Spread the good news everywhere.
God loves everyone.
Take the good news here and there.
God loves everyone.
Step-step-hop,

Tell three friends
God's love never, ever ends!
Spread the good news everywhere.
God loves everyone.

(Repeat.)

Ask: • **Who would you like to tell about God's love?** (My grandma; my neighbor; my best friend.)

• **What kind of message could you send to that person?** (I could talk to him on the telephone; I'm going to send a card; I could whisper it in her ear.)



Say: It's fun to tell the wonderful message about God's love. We want people everywhere to know that God loves them. He loves people so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to earth to help them. When we share the message about Jesus with others, we give them the chance to know the greatest friend they could ever have. Our message is so important! Open your Bible and show children the Bible verse, **Mark 16:15**, and say: **Let's do what the Bible says and ▶ tell everyone the good news about Jesus. ▶ We can help others learn about God with the words we say.**

BIBLE VERSE ▶

Say: Let's see if we can use our words to help our friend Whiskers learn about God's love.

Closing

■ What Did He Say?

SUPPLIES: paper, markers

Before class, draw an “up” arrow, a large heart, and several stick figures on a sheet of paper. Bring out Whiskers the Mouse and the finished drawing, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



Whiskers: *(Holding the drawing)* Hi, everyone! I heard your Bible story about messages, and I’ve written a very important message on this piece of paper. I’d like to read it to you. Are you ready?

Teacher: Whiskers, you don’t know how to read yet.

Whiskers: Well, I know I don’t know how to read, but I drew pictures on the paper so I could remember the message.

Teacher: That was a very good idea. We’re ready for the message, aren’t we, children?

Whiskers: Let’s see, the first thing I drew was an arrow going up. It was supposed to remind me of someone important. Oh dear! Who could it be? I guess I forgot.

Teacher: Maybe we could help you figure it out. *(Pointing up to the sky)* You say the arrow is pointing up? Children, do you know who Whiskers could have meant when he drew an arrow pointing up?

(Help children arrive at the answer “God.”)

Whiskers: That’s it! The first word in the message is “God!” *(Looking at the paper again)* Oh no! I don’t know what the next picture means either.

Teacher: What did you draw, Whiskers? Maybe we can help you figure out this one, too.

Whiskers: All I drew was a big heart. See how huge this heart is? What could the message mean? God heart...I just don’t know.

Teacher: Children, what could the heart stand for?

(Help children arrive at the answer “loves.”)

Whiskers: Oh, you children are smart. That’s it. The heart was supposed to remind me of love. I need help with the last picture, too. I drew lots of people next. What do you think that means?

Teacher: Let’s see. The first two words are “God loves,” and then you drew lots of people. Children, what do you think Whiskers’ message says?

(Help children arrive at the answer “God loves us” or “God loves people.”)

Whiskers: That’s it! That’s the whole message! “God loves us.” I guess I need to work on my pictures. It took a long time to figure out my message.

Teacher: Whiskers, we had fun figuring out your pictures. And thanks for sharing that important message. God wants us to tell people about his love. ► We can help others learn about God with the words we say—or with pictures like you just did.

Whiskers: ► We can help others learn about God with the words we say. Hmm...I'm going to go show my message to Cousin Joey. Maybe I can use my message to help him learn about God's love. 'Bye, everyone!

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■ We Help Others

SUPPLIES: none



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: Let's sing one more song to remind us that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say. You can do the actions with me as we sing.

Lead children in singing "We Help Others" to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." As you sing, lead children in doing the motions. This song is not on the CD.



With the good words that we say (*make your hands "talk"*)
And our kind actions as we play (*shake hands with a friend*),
We can show God's love each day (*hug self*)
And help others learn about God. (*Point up to heaven.*)

We've come to church to sing and pray. (*Fold hands in prayer.*)
We'll listen to God's Word today (*cup hands around ears*),
Then pass on what we've learned—hooray! (*Pretend to whisper to a friend, and then jump up.*)
We'll help others learn about God. (*Point up to heaven.*)

After the song, pray: **God, we know how important it is to share messages about you. Help us give messages about you to the people we know. We know that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say. In Jesus' name, amen.**



BIBLE POINT ►



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



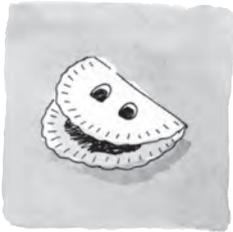
For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Tell the News Game**

Have children sit in a circle. Remind them that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say. Invite one child to say, “God loves you,” in a special voice or with a special action. For example, the child may whisper it, sing it, or turn around in circles while saying it. Then go around the circle and have other children take turns repeating the message with the same voice or action. Then have the next child in the circle say, “God loves you,” using a different voice or action. Continue until everyone’s had a chance to choose a voice or action. Be ready to offer voice or action ideas to children who need help.

■ **Make to Take: Talking Puppets**



Before class, photocopy the “Puppet Eyes” handout on the next page and cut out the eyes. You may want to mount the eyes on stiff paper (old file folders or paper plates work well). You’ll need two eyes for each child in your class.

Give each child two eyes and a paper plate. Help children fold their paper plates in half and tape the eyes to the top. Set out markers or crayons and have children color the inside of their paper plates to look like mouths. (If you have time, children can also color the top and bottom of the paper plates to look like animals or people.)

Show children how to squeeze the paper plates to open and shut their puppet mouths. Encourage them to use their puppets to give each other messages about God’s love. Remind them that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say.

■ **Treat to Eat: Megaphone Snacks**

Cut pieces of pita bread in half. Give each child half of a pita bread circle. Help children open up the bread and spread sweetened cream cheese inside. Then have children roll up their pita bread like megaphones and call out, “God is good” through them. As children enjoy the treat together, encourage them to use their megaphones to call out other things they know about God. Remind them that ► we can help others learn about God with the words we say.

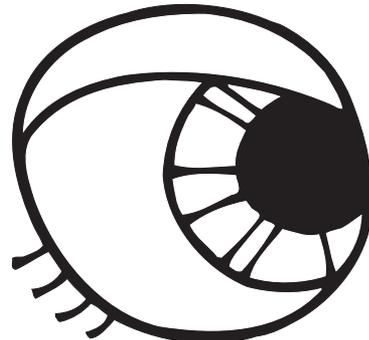
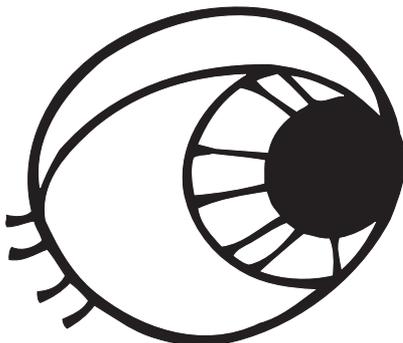
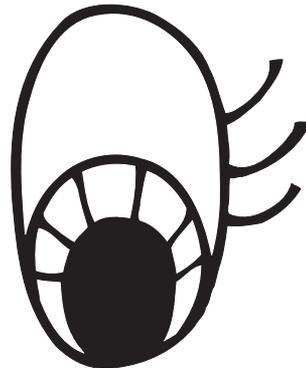
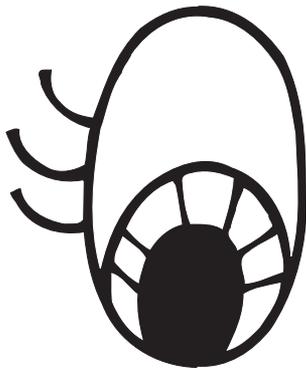
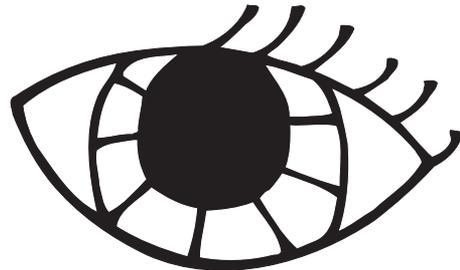
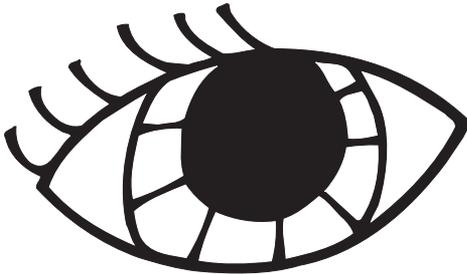
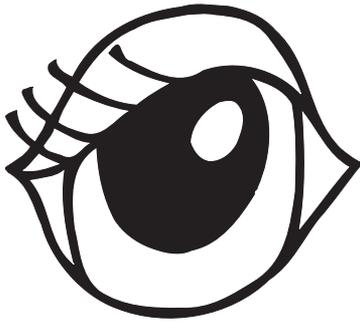


■ **Story Picture: A Servant Girl Tells About Elisha, God’s Prophet**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out crayons or markers, glue, and alphabet pasta or cereal. Have each child glue the alphabet pasta or cereal in the speech bubble above the servant girl, and then color the rest of the picture. As children work, review how the servant girl gave Naaman’s wife an important message. Remind them that ► we can help others learn about God just as the servant girl did.

Puppet Eyes

Photocopy and cut out the eyes. You'll need two eyes for each child in your class.



Today I learned..

We can help others learn about God with the words we say.

Lesson 10 Today your child learned that WE CAN HELP OTHERS LEARN ABOUT GOD WITH THE WORDS WE SAY. Children heard how a servant girl told Naaman about Elisha, God's prophet. They named ways they can tell others about God.

Help me learn this:

Tell everyone the good news about Jesus (adapted from Mark 16:15).

Ask me:

- What did the servant girl tell Naaman?
What can we tell others about God?
Who can our family tell about God this week?

Family Fun

Sing this song with your child to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."

With the good words that we say
And our kind actions as we play,
We can show God's love each day
And help others learn about God.

We've come to church to sing and pray.
We'll listen to God's Word today,
Then pass on what we've learned—hooray!
We'll help others learn about God.



A Servant Girl Tells About Elisha, God's Prophet

(2 Kings 5:1-9)

