

WE CAN LOVE GOD!

For the end of this spring quarter, this lesson has been included for your toddlers and two year olds to explore what it means to thank and show love to God.

The basic lesson is included on these four pages. For the Teacher Devotional, Understanding the Bible, reproducibles, and additional activity options, and a bonus EXTRA HOUR, follow the directions listed in the Table of Contents of the teacher book to find the link to "Lesson 14."

LESSON PATH

BIBLE BASIS: John 9:1-41

BIBLE WORDS: "Thank You, God!" (based on Psalm 100:1)

LESSON FOCUS: We can thank and show love to God.

WHERE LEARNING HAPPENS

Exploring What They See

- Table: free-play materials, craft materials (see below)
- Story Rug: materials for Bible Step (see below)
- Books: children's books, photographs of people or nature items
- Blocks: blocks of different sizes, colors, and shapes; people figures
- Toys: a variety of toys appropriate for two year olds

BIBLE STEP

John 9:1-41

- Talk Time: girl hand puppet

Optional

- paper bag, "Praising Penelope Puppet Pattern" reproducible, scissors, markers, glue
- Bible Story Time: Bible
- Bible Story Review: "A Man Born Blind" Stick Puppets reproducible, 2 jumbo craft sticks, scissors, glue

Optional

- markers

SONG TIME

Optional

- puppet used for Talk Time

CRAFT TIME

- copy of the "Eyes and Mud" Fun reproducible page, small paper plates, markers, moldable sand (bought or homemade [recipe on website]), crayons
- copies of the "We Can Love God Together" family page

GOODBYE TIME

See the "Lesson 14" link for bonus EXTRA HOUR activities.

EXPLORING WHAT THEY SEE

Your children will spend time in class moving, exploring, choosing, and playing in the learning environment. While the children are busy exploring and playing, you can gather a small group to hear the Bible story from John 9. You can also walk around the room, visit the children at different activities, and use the Bible story stick puppets to engage children in the Bible Story Review.

This lesson is designed to allow toddlers and two year olds to play independently. This frees you to present the Bible Step, Song Time, and Craft Time either to individuals or to small groups throughout the class time.

Before class, set up one or more of the activity areas suggested. Welcome each child by name and follow check-in procedures (name and security tags, etc.). Involve each child in one of the activities offered.

TABLE

Use the table for free-play activity or the craft. For directions on setting up today's craft activity, "Eyes and Mud" Fun, see page 4 of this insert.

STORY RUG

This is the place to gather children for small-group activities. Invite them to the rug for the Bible Step. This is also a good place for sharing stories or movement and the Song Time activity.

BOOKS

Provide a choice of books and photographs to explore. Ask the children to use their eyes to find specific items that are pictured and then have them point to what they found. **We are happy that God gave us eyes to see pretty pictures.**

BLOCKS

Encourage children to use blocks of different sizes, colors, and shapes to build roads. Set out people figures with the blocks. Moving the figures along roads can help the children understand how Jesus and the man walked to different places in today's Bible story. **God gave us eyes to see where we are going when we walk.**

TOYS

To encourage play, provide a variety of toys appropriate for two year olds. Point to and help the children name the colors on the toys. **I am happy that God gave you eyes to see different colors.**

BIBLE STEP

TALK TIME

MATERIALS:

- girl hand puppet

Optional

- paper bag, "Praising Penelope Puppet Pattern" reproducible, scissors, markers, glue

If you do not have a girl hand puppet, you can make a paper bag puppet before the lesson, using the pattern and instructions provided on the "Lesson 14" link. Interacting with the puppet can help toddlers and twos connect to today's Bible story from John 9.

While the children are busy exploring and playing, you can gather a small group to hear the Bible story. Use this rhyme to capture their attention.

Point to your eyes. (*Point to eyes.*)

Watch and see.

Put your hand in your lap (*Fold hands.*)

As we sit quietly.

Hold the puppet in front of you. **This is my friend Praising Penelope. She is very happy today. She wants to use her eyes to look around our room. Can you show Penelope how you close your eyes?** Encourage children to do so. **Now open your eyes.** Have children do so. **Penelope knows that God made your eyes.**

Use the puppet to play a peekaboo game with the children. Cover the puppet's eyes; then uncover them. Have the puppet say, **Peekaboo! I see ____** (child's name). Play this with each child.

Thank you, Penelope, for visiting us today. It was fun using our eyes to see you! Lay the puppet aside. **Some people can't see, even when their eyes aren't covered. Today we are going to hear how Jesus helped a man who could not see.**

BIBLE STORY TIME

John 9:1-11, 35-38

MATERIALS:

- o Bible

Today's Bible story teaches two year olds that we can thank and show love to God. Open your Bible to John 9.

Our story today is from God's special book—the Bible.

There was a man who couldn't see.

(Hold hands over eyes.)

One day Jesus walked past the man.

(Walk fingers up an arm.)

Jesus wanted to help the man, so Jesus made some mud.

(Pretend to pat mud between fingertips.)

Then Jesus gently put the mud on the man's eyes.

(Touch fingers lightly to closed eyes.)

Jesus told the man to go to a pool *(Walk fingers up arms.)*

and wash his eyes. *(Pretend to wipe eyes.)*

When the mud was gone, the man could see!

(Point to corners of eyes.)

The man knelt down. He thanked and showed love to Jesus.

We can thank and show love to God, too.

(Fold hands.)

Thank You, Jesus, for helping the man.

Thank You, God, for our eyes. In Jesus' name, amen.

Encourage verbal children to say "thank You" or "God."

Repeat the Bible story and let the children do the motions with you.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

- › **Who did Jesus help? (a man who couldn't see)**
- › **What did the man do when he could see? (He showed love to Jesus.)**

Bible Story Review

MATERIALS:

- o "A Man Born Blind" Stick Puppets reproducible, 2 jumbo craft sticks, scissors, glue

Optional

- o markers)

» **Before class,** copy and cut out the stick puppets. Color the puppets, if desired. Glue a craft stick to the back of the Jesus puppet. Fold the man puppet in half and glue a craft stick between the two halves. Allow children to handle the puppets as they help you review the Bible story.

Lay the man puppet in front of you with the eyes-closed side up. **There was a man who couldn't see.** Ask a child to place the Jesus puppet next to the man puppet. **Jesus wanted to help the man, so Jesus made some mud and put it on the man's eyes. When the man washed the mud away, the man could see.** Ask a child to turn the man puppet over to show the man with his eyes open. **The man thanked and showed love to Jesus.**

Repeat the review story, giving each child an opportunity to handle one of the puppets.

SONG TIME

MATERIALS:

- o puppet used in Talk Time

Sing this song and have the children do the actions to reinforce that we can thank and love God. You may want to use the puppet from Talk Time to sing with the group.

(tune: "The Farmer in the Dell")

God made my eyes to see. *(Point to eyes.)*

God made my eyes to see. *(Point to eyes.)*

Thank You, thank You, thank You, God!

God made my eyes to see. *(Point to eyes.)*

Add these verses. Encourage children to thank and show love to God with their whole bodies and all their energy!

God made my hands to clap . . . *(Clap hands.)*

God made my legs to jump . . . *(Jump up and down.)*

CRAFT TIME

"Eyes and Mud" Fun

MATERIALS:

- o copy of the "Eyes and Mud" Fun reproducible page, small paper plates, markers, moldable sand* (bought or homemade [recipe on website]), crayons

» **Before class**, prepare the paper plates and moldable sand, following the instructions on the reproducible page.

The process of doing a craft is one of the ways toddlers and two year olds like to learn. They will discover how moldable sand works by experimenting with it. Give each child a plate and crayons. Let the children scribble-color their plates, especially the eyes. Then give each child a portion of moldable sand. Show how to squeeze and flatten the sand. Then assist children each in placing their piece of sand over the eyes on the plates. Ask, **What happens when your eyes are covered?** (You can't see.) **What happened when the man in our Bible story washed the mud off his eyes?** (He could see.) Have the children remove the sand and uncover the eyes on their plates. **God made our eyes so we can see the world He made. Let's thank God and tell Him that we love Him.** Ask the children to fold their hands. Lead in a simple prayer: **Thank You, God, for making our eyes. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen.** Encourage the children to say "We love You!" and "amen."

GOODBYE TIME

For children who are leaving, tell them individually that you are glad they came. Ask, **Who helped the man who could not see?** (Jesus). Send each child home with a copy of the "We Can Love God Together" family page.

For an EXTRA HOUR of teaching materials, click on the "Lesson 14" link at the website listed in the Table of Contents of this teacher book.

*If making your own moldable sand, use a gluten-free, all-purpose flour mix if there is a child who has a gluten intolerance.