

# Joshua Listens to God

**The Nature of God**  
Lesson 3

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Joshua as the man who honored and listened to God.
- The children will describe ways they can honor and listen to God.
- The children will identify people in their life that they need to listen to.

## Lesson Text

Joshua 5:13-15

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light for my path."

*Psalm 119:105*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Joshua's Path

Welcome and Singing

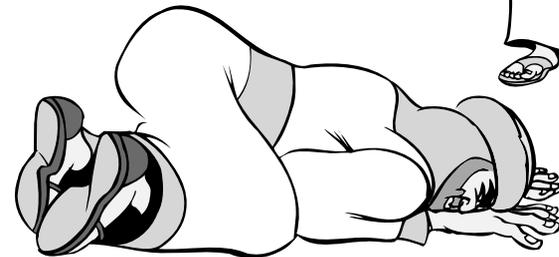
Centers:

Bible Story: Joshua Listens

Life Application: I. D.

Craft: Holy Ground

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.



# Joshua Listens to God

## Joshua's Path

The children will create the scenery for the Bible story.

### Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- scissors
- crayons

For the teacher:

- magazine pictures of things in nature (trees, rivers, animals, plants, etc.)
- 1 large sheet of banner paper or newspaper print

### Preparation

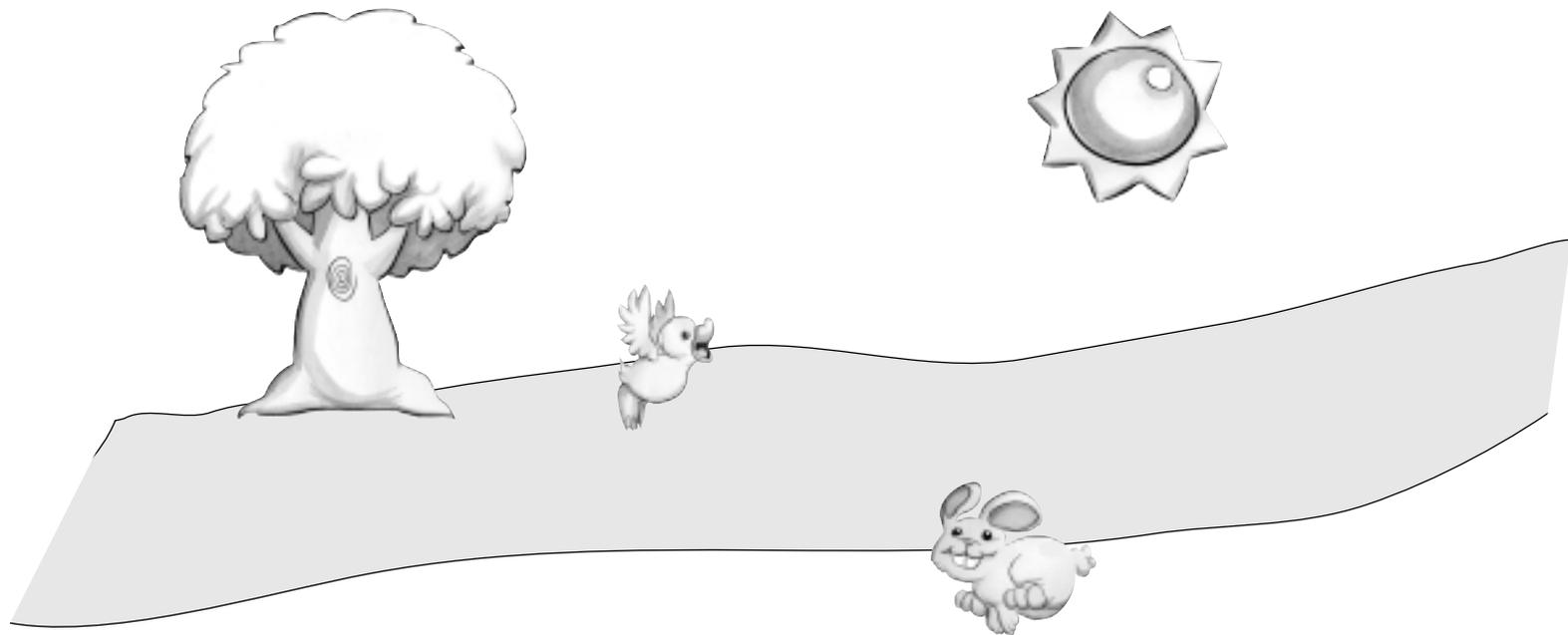
Draw a path down the center of the banner paper.

### Instructions

1. Ask the children, *If you were walking on a country road, what things would you see along the way?*
2. Have the children glue the nature pictures along the path.
3. Have the children color the path, and draw grass and trees on the banner paper.
4. As they create the scene, tell them, *today we're going to learn about Joshua. He listened to God wherever he went. You are going to learn how to be like Joshua and listen to God wherever you go!*

### Conclusion

Talk with the children about day trips or vacations where they have gone to different places (the beach, the playground, an amusement park, etc.).



# Joshua Listens to God

## Joshua Listens

The children will learn about how Joshua honored and listened to God.

### Lesson Text

Joshua 5:13-15

### Materials

For the teacher:

- Bible
- path from the Preclass Activity
- tape
- a soldier-like outfit
- bandannas for the children
- optional: a toy sword

### Preparation

1. Tape the path from the Preclass Activity onto the wall or the floor.
2. Familiarize yourself with the story.

### Instructions

Put bandannas on the children so they can pretend to be travelers as Joshua was.

*Today I am dressed as a commander in the army. I'm going to tell you about a great man named Joshua and another man who was a commander in the Lord's army. Joshua was a great man whom God chose to lead his people. Joshua listened to God and wanted to do everything God told him.*

*The story of Joshua is in the book of the Bible called Joshua. He was such a great leader that God named part of the Bible after him. Do you know any great leaders we have today? (Name some leaders in the church that the children may know (preachers, elders, pre-teen or teen leaders) God chooses leaders to help people learn about him.*

*The Bible says that one day while Joshua was traveling, something amazing happened. Listen while I read from the Bible. Read Joshua 5:13-15: Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our*

*enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come." Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the Lord's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

*What did Joshua see when he looked up? Yes, a man with a sword in his hand. What do you think Joshua thought? He might have been afraid and wondered if he was going to get hurt!*

*Joshua asked the man why he was there and the man said, "I come as a commander in the Lord's army!" Wow! A commander in the Lord's army! What would you do if someone told you that?*

*Listen to what Joshua did. Read Joshua 5:14: "Then Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"*

*What did Joshua do? Right, he bowed down. Show the children how to bow down on your hands and knees with your face down. Does anyone know what reverence means? It means that Joshua respected the man and knew he was an important person. His bowing showed that he wanted to obey what the man said.*

*Joshua wanted to know what message the man had for him from God. What did the commander tell him? He's standing on holy ground! That means that God was right there with Joshua. Joshua knew that God was right there with him, so he took his shoes off as soon as he was told. Taking off his shoes meant that he respected God.*

*Do you think if God asked you to do something you would say, "Wait a minute" or "I'll do it after this TV show?" No! You would do it right away! When your mom or dad tells you to do something, you should do it right away just like Joshua did. God tells us to obey our parents. Who else does God tell us to obey? (our teachers, our grandparents, the leaders in the church)*

### Conclusion

Ask the children the following questions as a review:

Who was Joshua? (He was one of God's great leaders.)

Who did God send to talk to Joshua? (He sent the commander of his army.)



# Joshua Listens to God

What did the commander tell him to do? (He said to take off his shoes.)

Did Joshua listen to the man? (yes, right away).

How did Joshua show God honor? (He bowed before the commander of God's army and obeyed what the man said.)

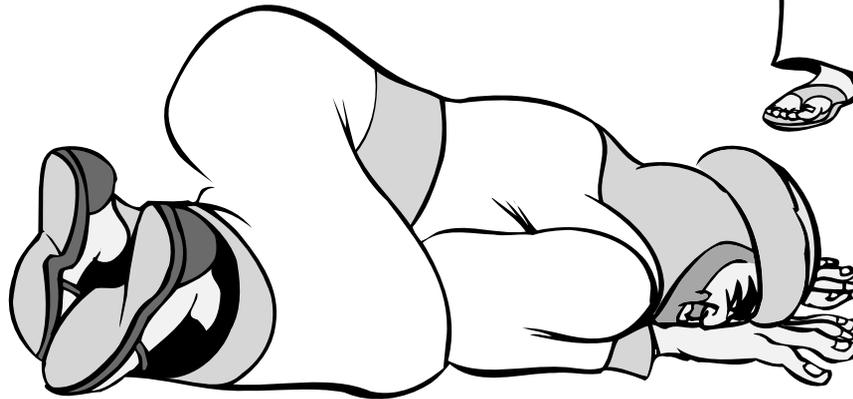
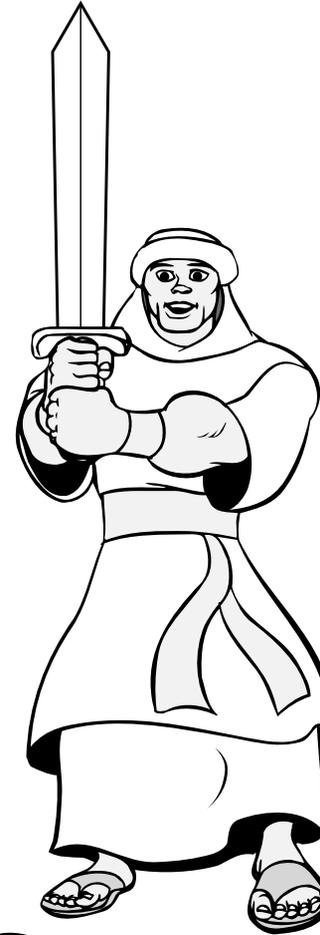
What can we do to show people that we love and respect them? (When we're asked to do something, we should answer and do it right away.)

Why is it hard sometimes to obey right away? (We may not like what we have to do or are busy doing something else.)

How can we honor God? (by obeying God and thanking Him)

## Teacher Tips

If you choose to use a toy sword do not allow the children to play with it.



# Joshua Listens to God

## I.D.

The children will identify people in their life that they need to listen to.

## Scripture Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

*Psalms 119:105*

## Materials

*For the teacher:*

- apron
- tie
- Bible
- optional: fire fighters hat, policeman's hat, doctor's stethoscope, nurse cap, etc. (for character roles)

## Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

## Instructions

1. Choose children to play the roles of the mother (apron), the father (tie), the evangelist (Bible) and any other character roles you have selected.
2. Have the children take turns acting out their roles.
3. Discuss with the children the different roles and their responsibilities.
4. Discuss with the children why it is important to obey each person. (God asks us to, they love us, they keep us safe, to make God happy.)

## Scripture Memory Activity

Have the child playing the evangelist pass the Bible to each child. As a child receives the Bible she should state the memory verse.

## Conclusion

Talk with the children about how happy it makes God when we are obedient. Ask them who they can practice being obedient to that day. Tell them that they can share the Bible story with that person.

Choose a child to pray to thank God for Joshua's example of obedience.

## Teacher Tips

Choose character roles that the children will be familiar with.



# Joshua Listens to God

Life

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"Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a  
light for my path."

Psalm 119:105



# Joshua Listens to God

### Holy Ground

This craft will remind the children of Joshua's encounter with the commander of God's army.

#### Lesson Text

Joshua 5:13-15

#### Materials

For each child:

- glue stick
- decorative materials: glitter, sequins, small squares of tissue paper or wrapping paper
- crayons
- optional: newspaper

For the teacher:

- poster board
- pencil
- marker
- scissors

Reproducible Pages:

- Page A, 1 copy for each child

#### Preparation

1. Cut out the scripture text boxes from the copies of Reproducible Page A.
2. Cut the poster board into 8½" x 11" pieces. Cut one for each child.
3. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.
4. Read through the lesson text to familiarize yourself with the Bible Story.

#### Instructions

1. Show the children the model of the craft. Ask them if they know who had stood on holy ground. *Yes, Joshua. The commander of God's army came to Joshua and told him to take off his shoes because he was standing on holy ground. Joshua was very respectful and did what he was told right away.*

2. Prepare the outline of each child's feet, as shown in Figure A, as follows:
  - A. Give each child a piece of poster board and have them place it in front of them.
  - B. Have each child take off their shoes and stand on the poster board.
  - C. Using a pencil, trace an outline of their feet onto the poster board.
  - D. Have the children step off of the poster board.
  - E. Give the children each a marker and have them trace a darker line over the pencil outline.
3. Give each child a scripture text box to glue on the poster board, below the outline of their feet.
4. Have the children color their poster board.
5. Have the children glue the decorative materials to their poster board. NOTE: Have the children apply glitter inside the feet to make the feet "light up."

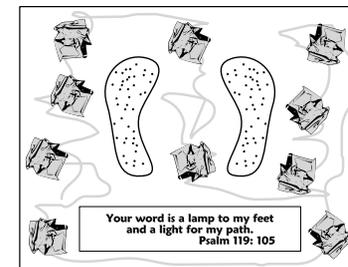
#### Conclusion

As the children are decorating their crafts, discuss the Bible story. Ask the children the following questions:

- Who stood on holy ground? (Joshua)
- What did he have to remove? (his shoes)
- Did he listen? (yes)

#### Teacher Tips

- If you use glitter, first place newspaper on the work area.
- If the children are wearing socks, trace their feet with their socks on.



# CRAFT

## Joshua Listens to God

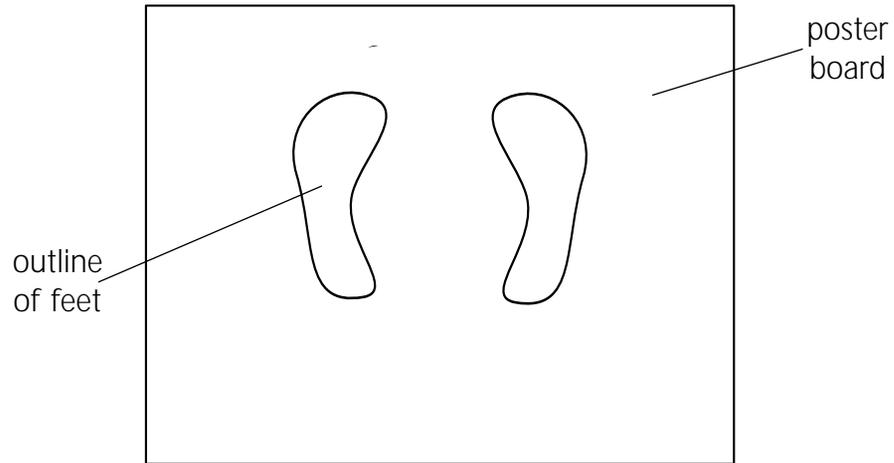
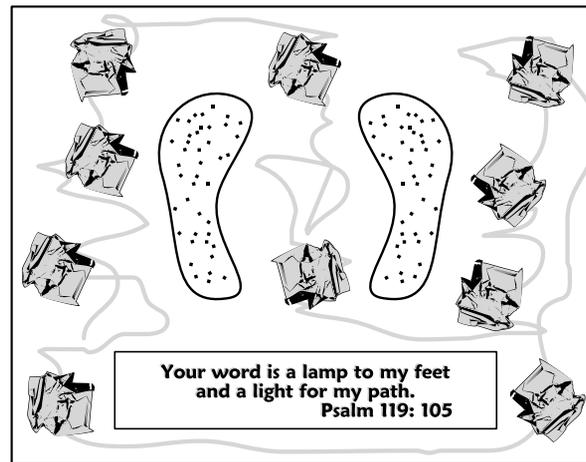


Figure A



Finished Craft



# Joshua Listens to God

## The Nature of God

Lesson 3

### Lesson Objectives

- The children will identify Joshua as the man who honored and listened to God.
- The children will describe ways they can honor and listen to God.
- The children will identify people in their life that they need to listen to.

### Lesson Text

Joshua 5:13-15

### Scripture Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."  
*Psalm 119:105*

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Can Can

Welcome and Singing

Centers:

Game: Ping Pong Game

Craft: The Listening Book

Life Application: I. D.

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.

### Can Can

The children will decorate props to be used during the Game Center.

#### Materials

*For each child:*

- crayons
- decorative things: stickers, markers, glue, scraps of material, etc.

*For the teacher:*

- tape
- 5 large containers or cans (oatmeal, coffee, etc.)
- 5 pieces of construction paper

#### Preparation

Cover each container with construction paper.

#### Instructions

1. If you have a large group, have the children work in groups of two.
2. Give each group a container and have them decorate it.
3. Give the containers to the Game Center teacher.

#### Conclusion

Explain to the children that the containers will be used in a Game.





### Ping Pong Game

The children will practice listening.

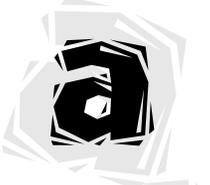
#### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- 5 containers from the Preclass Activity
- 3 ping pong balls
- glue stick
- 5 index cards

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for the teacher



#### Preparation

1. Cut out the action pictures from the copy of Reproducible Page B.
2. Glue each picture to an index card.
3. Put one card in each container.



#### Instructions

1. Set the containers in a row against a wall.
2. Remind the children how Joshua honored God and listened to him. *Who did God send to Joshua?* (the commander of God's army) *Did Joshua listen to that man?* (yes) *Now we are going to practice honoring and listening to God. Does God like it when we obey our parents? Let's pretend that Mom and Dad left notes for you in each of the containers. Toss the ping pong balls into a canister and take out the note. Just as Joshua obeyed what the commander of the army said, we will obey what the note says.*
3. Have the children line up and take turns throwing the ping pong balls into the containers.
4. When the ball goes into a container have the child take out the note and do what the picture illustrates. Help them if they don't understand it.
5. Continue until all of the children have had a turn.

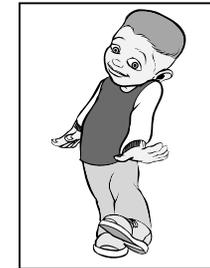


#### Conclusion

Talk to the children about how important it is to listen and honor the people God has put in our lives; our parents, grandparents, teachers, etc.

#### Teacher Tips

Ask one child to stand by the cans and catch any stray balls. Have the children take turns at helping.





### The Listening Book

The children will make books to remind them that they need to listen to God.

#### Materials

*For each child:*

- 2 pieces of construction paper
- glue stick
- crayons

*For the teacher:*

- scissors
- hole punch
- yarn

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page C, 1 copy for the teacher

#### Preparation

1. Cut out the ear stencil from the copy of Reproducible Page C.
2. Put two pieces of construction paper on top of one another, and then fold them in half forming a "book." See Figure A.
3. Trace an "ear" on the front of each book, as shown in Figure B, and then cut it out. NOTE: Be sure not to cut the folded edge of the paper.
4. Write "Joshua obeyed and so will I!" on the outside of each book.
5. Punch two holes along the folded side of the book. See Figure C.
6. Cut two 6" pieces of yarn for each child.
7. Make a model of the book following the instructions.

#### Instructions

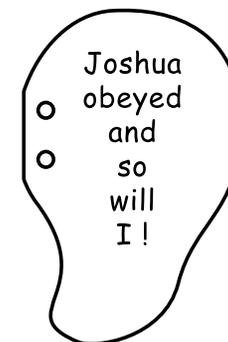
1. Show the children the model of the book that you made. Read the words on the cover and show them the pictures of the people you drew. Explain that you need to obey each of these people.
2. Give each child a book. Have them draw pictures of people that they need to obey on each page of their books.
3. As the children work, ask them who they are drawing. Write their responses underneath their pictures.
4. Give each child two pieces of yarn, and have them thread the yarn through the holes. Tie the yarn into knots for them.
5. If there is time, have them decorate the front and back of their books.

#### Conclusion

Have the children volunteer to show their books to the group. Have them explain who the people are that they need to obey.

#### Teacher Tips

- Draw pictures of your parents, your boss, a firefighter, police officer, evangelist, etc. in your model of the craft.
- Be sure to ask the child's permission before you write underneath their pictures. Some children may not want you to write in their books. If that is the case, don't write in their books.



# Joshua Listens to God **The Nature of God** Lesson 3

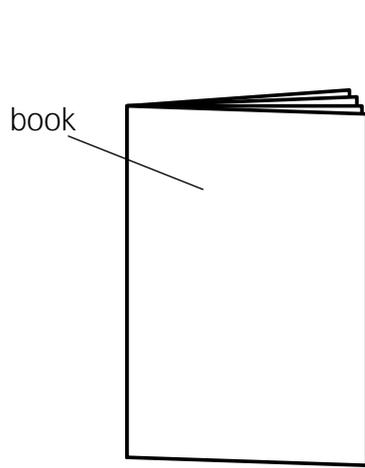


Figure A

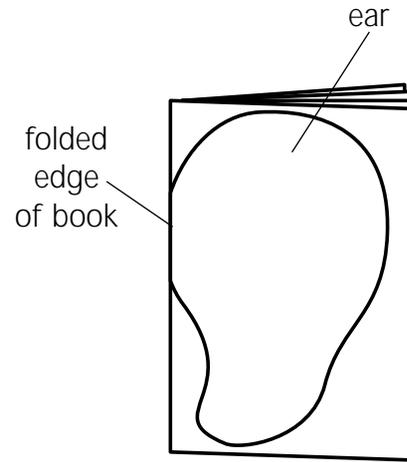


Figure B

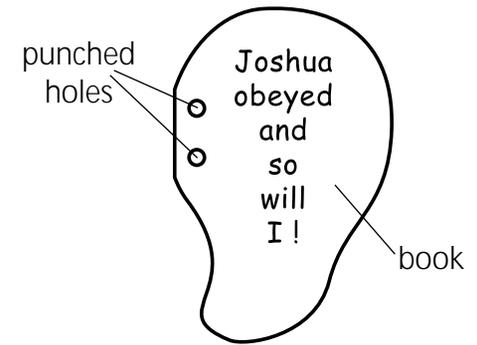


Figure C

# Joshua Listens to God **The Nature of God**

## Lesson 3

### I. D.

The children will identify people in their life that they need to listen to.

#### Scripture Memory Verse

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."

*Psalm 119:105*

#### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- apron
- tie
- Bible
- optional: fire fighters hat, policeman's hat, doctor's stethoscope, nurse cap, etc. (for character roles)

#### Preparation

Familiarize yourself with the activity.

#### Instructions

1. Choose children to play the roles of the mother (apron), the father (tie), the evangelist (Bible) and any other character roles you have selected.
2. Have the children take turns acting out their roles.
3. Discuss with the children the different roles and their responsibilities.
4. Discuss with the children why it is important to obey each person. (God asks us to, they love us, they keep us safe, to make God happy.)

#### Scripture Memory Activity

Have the child playing the evangelist pass the Bible to each child. As a child receives the Bible she should state the memory verse.

#### Conclusion

Talk with the children about how happy it makes God when we are obedient. Ask them who they can practice being obedient to that day. Tell them that they can share the Bible story with that person.

Choose a child to pray to thank God for Joshua's example of obedience.

#### Teacher Tips

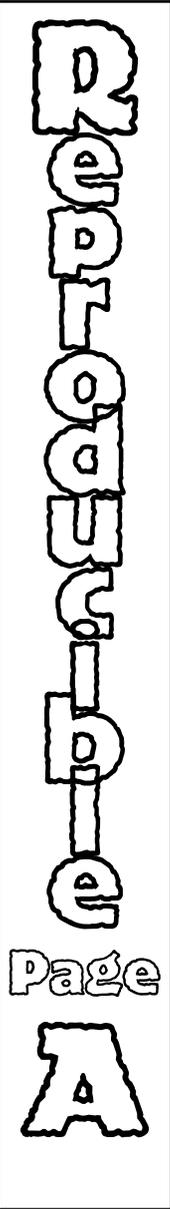
Choose character roles that the children will be familiar with.



“Your word is a lamp  
to my feet and a  
light for my path.”

Psalm 119:105





**Your word is a lamp to my feet  
and a light for my path.  
Psalm 119: 105**

scripture text box



Supplement/Game

1 copy for the teacher

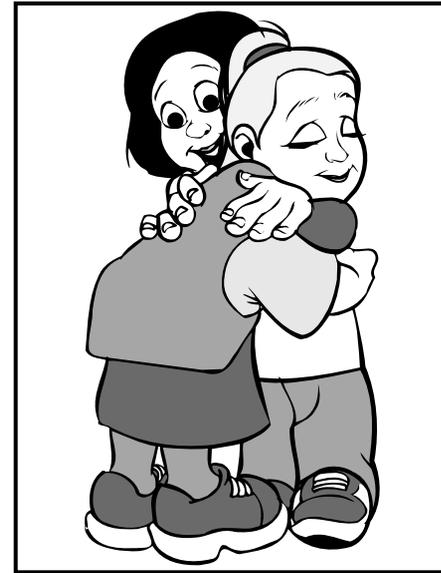
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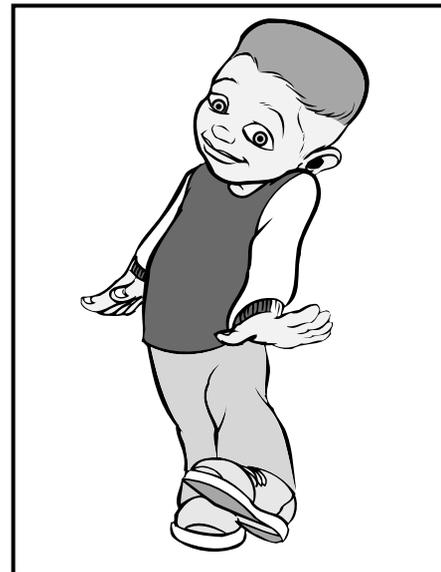
skipping



hugging



touching toes



turning



blowing kisses

