

# Kindergarten, Quarter D

## Amazing New Testament Heroes 2

### Additional Activities

#### 1. The Good News Spreads

##### **Ethiopian Treat** (10 minutes)

*This snack reminds children that Jesus' message went to Africa.*

**Supplies:** flatbread (any type is fine, you can use prepared pizza crust from a grocery store), honey, juice, cups, napkins, world map or globe

**The man in our Bible passage today came from Ethiopia.**

On the map or globe, find Israel and show how the message of Jesus would have traveled to North Africa through this man.

**There have been Christians in this part of the world since Bible times, and there are many Christians in this country today. People in Ethiopia eat flat bread with their meal and even used it as a scoop for their food or as kind of a plate. They make a stew and serve it on top of the bread.**

Say a blessing, thanking God for spreading the good news to Ethiopia. Set the bread in the middle of the table and let children break off pieces for themselves. Give children some honey to dip their bread in.

##### **Scrolls** (15 minutes)

*This craft activity creates a scroll to remind children of the Bible story.* **Supplies:** muslin fabric cut into a rectangle 14 by 8 inches for each child, two ½ diameter dowels cut into 8 inch lengths for each child, markers, glue

Before class, cut fabric and write "Jesus Loves You" in large letters with permanent marker on each piece. Make a sample scroll to show the children. **The Ethiopian man in the Bible story today was reading from a scroll with God's Word written on it. A scroll is not a book of several papers like we use today but a written book on one paper rolled up.** Show how a scroll works and read the words for them. Pass out fabric and markers to let children decorate their scrolls. When they are finished, help them glue a dowel to each end of the fabric. When the glue has dried, show them how to roll up the scroll.

##### **The Right Path** (15 minutes)

*This demonstration emphasizes keeping on God's path.* **Supplies:** wide colored tape

**Philip was careful to listen to Jesus so he could follow God's directions. The memory verse today said that God would teach us His paths. Let's repeat the memory verse together.** Recite the verse with the children. **I am going to make a path and we'll pretend this is God's path for your life right now.**

**Remember that Jesus is still with us and He can lead us on His path.** Have children help you make a straight line with the tape on the floor. Let children walk on the tape, being careful to stay on the line. While children are walking, remind them that they can know God's path by praying and listening to Bible stories. Television programs and songs on the radio that honor God also help to keep us on God's path. **Now, let's see what happens if we forget to listen to God.** Before each child walks down the tape line, spin them gently a few times to make them a bit dizzy. Give everyone a chance to walk the line. **Spinning around is like forgetting to listen to God. It can be confusing and hard to follow God's path if we forget to listen to Him.**

#### 2. Filled With God's Spirit

##### **Church Family** (15 minutes)

*This snack portrays the early Church as a family gathering.*

**Supplies:** loaf of uncut bread such as a Shepherd's loaf, bread basket, juice, cups and napkins

**Right after Jesus went to heaven, His followers began to meet in each other's homes to worship and pray. They ate meals together and shared everything so that everyone had a place to live, clothes, and food. Let's pretend we are members of a church group from the time of Stephen. This is my house and we are meeting to pray and worship.** Greet children as they come in to the table area, have them greet each other and ask how they are doing. When they are seated ask everyone to join in singing a song everyone knows such as "Jesus Loves Me." **Remember that Stephen and a few others were asked to serve and make sure everyone had a fair share of the food.** Ask a few children to help serve the other students. Pass the cups of juice, then the basket of bread so each person can break off some of the bread.

Remind the children that the early Christians did not have buildings to meet in with all the associated possessions such as hymn books, plastic kid sized chairs, or Disciple Guides as in a modern church. They depended on God and each other for their needs.



### Where Does God Live? (10 minutes)

*This building activity stresses that God is everywhere. Supplies:* building blocks (the larger the better) to make a “church,” pictures from around the world of places of worship (optional)

**We are going to use these blocks to make a church for God.** Distribute blocks among the children so everyone can help build. As they build, remind them that the early Christians did not have any buildings. Talk about places of worship that are used by different groups of believers and show pictures. When the building is done say: **Pretend this is a real building. If we want to find God do we have to come to this building?** Let children respond. **Does God only live in churches?** Let children respond. **Some of the Jewish leaders in our story got confused and thought God only lived in their church, called a temple. They did not like Christians like Stephen worshipping God in their homes or outdoors. They had forgotten that God is everywhere. We don't have to go to any special place to find Him. Where can you pray to God?** Let children respond they can pray in their rooms, out of doors, in the car, or anywhere. **I am so thankful that God is always around me, aren't you? Let's shout to God a great big thank-you.** Join children in shouting “Thank you, God!”

### Listening to God (10-15 minutes)

*This movement-based activity prompts children to think the way that God does.*

**When we listen to God, we should be sure to remember what God has already told us. God loves us and wants us to know about Him and come to Him always. I will tell you some thoughts, and if God might have said them I want you to jump up and shout “Yes!” If God would not say them, sit down and hit the floor and shout “No!”** You can continue with other scenarios if time allows.

- 1) Your friend is in trouble with his parents. You think to yourself, “pray for him or her.” Would God say that? You might instead think to yourself, “Parents are mean all the time. We should sneak away and not talk to them.” Would God say that?
- 2) You are helping with the dishes and you accidentally drop a dish. You think to yourself, “I am so stupid; I'm always doing something wrong. I don't like myself and no one else likes me either.” Would God say that? Or would you say, “Oh, oh! I'm sorry” and ask your mommy to help you clean it up to make sure there is no glass left on the floor. Would God say that?
- 3) You see a boy you don't know who has too much to carry and is having a hard time. You think to yourself, “I don't know him, I will just ignore him.” Would God say that? Or you think to yourself, “He needs help, I'll just ask if he would like me to carry something for him.” Would God say that?

### 3. The Seamstress of Joppa

#### Sewing Food (15 minutes)

*This snack illustrates Tabitha's talents as children “sew” their food. Supplies:* fruit leather, pretzel sticks, water, plates, napkins, cups

Pass out plates and napkins and cups of water. Give each student a square of fruit leather and a several pretzel sticks. Teach them how to stick their pretzels through the fruit leather and go in and out as if they were sewing. **Tabitha gave her time and talent to sew clothes for people who could not afford to buy them. In this way she showed her love for the people and for Jesus.** As the children eat their snack, encourage them to think of ways they can show love for Jesus by helping others.

#### Getting Dressed (20 minutes)

*This craft emphasizes that Tabitha gave her talent to sew clothes. Supplies:* cardstock, scraps of many different kinds of cloth cut into different shapes, glue

Before class, draw the outline of a person on paper and make copies on cardstock, enough for each child in your class. **Tabitha knew that some people in her town did not have money to buy new clothes. They were cold in winter and could not replace old clothes that had worn out. I want you to provide clothes for these paper people.** Pass out the paper, cloth and glue. Encourage the children to be creative in making clothes, mixing the kinds of cloth and colors. They can give their people hats, shoes and gloves and maybe a blanket beside them. **Jesus was very pleased with Tabitha for giving her time and talent.**

#### Love Gifts (20 minutes)

*This craft provides the children a means of donating something. Supplies:* flannel fabric, rice, funnel, pins, needle and thread, notecards or cardstock, markers, stickers

Decide where you will donate the finished bags so you can tell your students. Before class, cut flannel into 6 x 12-inch rectangles and sew two together, leaving a 1-inch opening for the funnel, creating bags. Make enough for the children in your class. Do not turn them right side out. **Let's make rice bags to give to older people who might need to keep warm. You can put these bags in a microwave for a few minutes to heat the rice. They become cozy and warm.** Have children turn the bags right side out. Assist children as they pour the rice through the funnel into the bags. The bags should be about one-third full. Finally, make cards with stickers and markers to attach to the bags. Show the children how you will sew the

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opening closed on one bag. Attach the cards to the bags. If you can, take a picture of the place where you drop off the bags so the children can see where their gifts were sent.

### 4. Praying and Obeying

#### Alphabet Talk (15 minutes)

*This snack reinforces that prayer is communication between God and the children.* **Supplies:** stick and round pretzels, water, plates, cups, napkins

Give each child a generous serving of pretzels. Show the children how can make words by using the pretzels to create letters. Have the children try to spell “God” or “prayer” with their letters. Help them by “drawing” the words on the board or creating your own model on a paper plate that they can imitate. They can try to spell their name or Jesus if there is time. As they eat, emphasize that prayer is talking to God and they can do it all the time.

#### Practicing Obedience (15 minutes)

*This game highlights obedience.* **Supplies:** flashlight

Clear an area in the center of the classroom and have the children stand in a large circle. **This game is about obedience. What does it mean to be obedient?** Let children respond. **Who was obedient to God in the Bible passage today?** Ananias went to find Saul and pray for him.

**You will take turns telling the rest of the class what to do. When the flashlight is on, do what you have been told, when it is off you must stand very still like a statue in the position you were in when the light went off.** Dim the room lights. You may take the first turn. Have the children jump up and down, skip to the center of the circle, twirl, pretend they are flying, etc. Go around the circle and let each child take a turn being the leader.

#### Ever Present (15 minutes)

*This discussion emphasizes that God never leaves us.* **Supplies:** pocket-sized crosses

Sit the children in a circle with you. **Ananias was frightened to go to Saul. Why was he afraid?** Let children respond. **Tell me a time when you were frightened.** Go around the circle and let children tell their stories. As they tell them ask: **Was anyone with you? When something is frightening, does it help to have someone else there?** When everyone who has a story has had a turn, discuss who was with the child and what difference it made. For instance, a parent might be more comforting than a friend. **Ananias went to Saul even though**

**he was afraid he might be arrested. He knew that God was with him and that whatever happened, God would still be there.** Pass out the crosses to each child. Tell them they are a reminder that they can pray to God when they are afraid and God will never leave them. He will help them get through the scary situation.

### 5. Son of Encouragement

#### Towering Help (15 minutes)

*This snack reinforces the idea of building someone up with words.*

**Supplies:** graham crackers (broken into small squares), canned frosting or cream cheese, plates, water, cups, napkins, plastic knives

Pass out plates, napkins, knives and cups of water. Remind children that one way of defining encouragement is to build someone up with your words. Give each child a generous number of crackers and a spoon of frosting on their plate. Let's build a tasty towers of encouragement! Have children make a tower using the small squares of crackers. Use frosting or cream cheese in between layers. Continue until all the ingredients have been used up. As children eat their snack, remind them that their words can build someone up or tear them down. Building up is always the better choice.

#### Encouraging Circle (15 minutes)

*This discussion practices encouragement.* **Supplies:** ball

Have children sit in a circle. Brainstorm with them for a few minutes about words that encourage. Tell them that with practice, anyone can learn to be an encourager like Barnabas. Go around the circle and single out each child by rolling a ball to him or her. Give the child specific encouragement and let the other children join in. Stress that this is a time to build each other up, not tell funny or embarrassing stories about the child. Keep in control, using specific examples such as “Mary helped clean up today” or “she was cheerful when she came into class.” Let the child roll the ball back to you as the rest of the children say, **Good job, [child's name]!** Then roll the ball to another child. Make sure each child gets a turn and is truly encouraged.

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## Who's Happy Now? (15-20 minutes)

*This craft and story activity repeats the Bible story.* **Supplies:** white paper plates, large craft sticks, clear tape, and markers

Pass out paper plates to the children. **I want everyone to make a face on your plates. On one side make a happy face. On the other side make a sad face.** Let children make their faces. Tape the craft stick to the bottom of the plate to make a handle. **When someone is happy in this story, show me the happy faces. When someone is sad or afraid, show me the sad face.**

**Saul used to hurt and arrest believers, but then he met Jesus in a vision. Now Saul is so happy he wants to tell everyone about Jesus!** Happy faces.

**Saul went to Jerusalem, but everyone was afraid of him. They thought he still wanted to hurt them.** Sad faces. **How did Saul feel that nobody believed he had changed?** Sad faces.

**Barnabas always said good things about people. He made them all feel great.** Happy faces. **Barnabas listened to Saul. Barnabas said, "I know you do not want to hurt people anymore, Saul. I know that you believe in Jesus." How did this make Saul feel?** Happy faces. **Barnabas went to the other disciples. He told them, "I, Barnabas know that Saul believes in Jesus now and will not hurt us. I want you to get to know the true Saul. Will you stop being afraid of Saul?" This made Saul feel good.** Happy faces. **Barnabas was brave to stand up for Saul. He did it because he believed Saul. He encouraged the others to see that Saul was a new person because he believed in Jesus. Now, how did everyone feel?** Happy faces.

## 6. A Changed Man

### Bible Food (10 minutes)

*This snack samples some food that Paul might have eaten.* **Supplies:** raisins, dried dates or figs, bread in chunks, cheese, water, plates, napkins, cups

Pass out plates, food, and water. As the children eat, discuss food possibly eaten by Paul. **Paul lived at a time when food was simple. People ate bread, cheese, and fruit much of the time. For a journey, the fruit would be dried in the sun so that it would last a long time. The fruit we are having today would have often been eaten by Paul.**

### Amazing Change (15 minutes)

*This craft emphasizes that God is the author of change.* **Supplies:** construction paper in a light color, tissue paper torn into pieces, glue, markers

Download and print out the Caterpillar/Butterfly pattern found at [DiscipleLand.com/downloads](http://DiscipleLand.com/downloads) (enter the keyword "Savior"). Fold the two outer edges in to the black dots so that the caterpillar is just visible. Hold up a caterpillar picture as you speak.

**God changed Paul once he knew Jesus. God can change people's hearts just as He changes animals in nature. This caterpillar changes into a butterfly.** Open the paper to reveal the butterfly. Pass out folded papers and let children draw a face and antennae on the caterpillars. Then let them unfold the papers and give them the tissue paper to glue onto the wings to make beautiful butterflies. On the two folds of their papers write, "God changes...us too!"

### Athlete Transformation (10 minutes)

*This large group activity helps children transform their classmates.*

**Supplies:** sports jerseys, tennis shoes, sports props (helmets, bats, etc.)

Before class, gather sports gear and clothing for two different sports (football, softball, baseball, volleyball, etc.). Make sure the uniform items are larger in size to fit over the children's clothes. In class, get two volunteers: one boy and one girl. **Today we are going to make [Name] and [Name] into sports stars, but I need your help.** Divide the class by boys and girls. Have the boys dress up the boy volunteer in sports uniform and gear, as the girls dress up the girl volunteer in the other items. **[Name] and [Name] no longer look like they did when they came to class. They've changed. Are they real sports stars now?** Discuss how the volunteers look changed, but they are still the same people. They only look different on the outside. Talk about how real change starts on the inside. They won't really become athletes unless they work hard to develop the athletic potential and character that God gave them. **Only God can make things really change and become something else. When you say "yes" and allow Him to, He can change you!**



## 7. An Important Helper

### Travel Food (10 minutes)

*This snack reminds the children that Timothy traveled with Paul.*

**Supplies:** granola bars in a few flavors, grapes, napkins, cups, water (or small water bottles for each child)

Divide the granola bars into pieces and pass them out along with the other food and napkins. As the children eat, remind them that this is the food we take when we are traveling. Timothy and Paul traveled long distances to visit churches. Ask the children what Paul and Timothy may have taken for food. They might have taken water in animal skins, dried fruit cakes, bread, and cheese.

### Energy Boost (10 minutes)

*This movement-based activity demonstrates how Timothy had strength from God.* **Supplies:** colored string or ribbon, tape, small candies

This activity works best in a hallway or larger space, or even outdoors. Have the children line up as for a race, all facing the same direction. Place string or ribbon at the finish line of the “race course” and at the halfway point. **I want you to pretend that you are the friends of Paul on their long journey. Pretend you have been going for a long time.** Have the children begin to walk toward the first ribbon in a slow trudging walk. **You are getting tired of walking. You are sick of donkeys. You have been seasick on the boats. You would like to go home. Show me how you would walk if you felt like that.** Once children trudge slowly to the first ribbon, have them stop there.

**Timothy must have felt like that sometimes, ready to quit and go home. The Bible says that sometimes he was nervous and scared to go on talking to people about Jesus. He must have been tired. Where did he get his strength and help to keep going?** Let children respond that Jesus or the Holy Spirit would have encouraged him. **Jesus can give you a boost of energy to keep running the race. How are you going to get this energy boost from Jesus?** Explain how we can pray and rest and ask God for extra energy. Encourage children to run the rest of the race when you say so. Reward the children with a small treat at the finish line.

### Stuck Together (15 minutes)

*This paired activity emphasizes that teammates stick together.*

**Supplies:** bandanas or pieces of cloth, one for each pair of students

Set up a course in your classroom that requires children to go under, climb over, and go around tables and chairs. Assign pairs of children to be teammates and give each pair a bandana. **Paul and Timothy had to learn to stick together. Sometimes they had to go through dangers to share the Good News. There were storms at sea, robbers on the roads and other dangers. Sometimes the people in the towns got angry at them for talking about Jesus. Paul and Timothy stuck together and helped each other, and trusted Jesus to help them.**

**This game will remind you that friends stay together even when things get difficult. As you go through this course you both must hold on to the bandana. If you let go, your team has to start over.** Let children go through the course, cheering them to do well.

## 8. A Giving Woman

### Colorful Treats (10 minutes)

*This snack reminds the children that Lydia sold purple cloth.*

**Supplies:** cookies or graham crackers, water, plates, cups, napkins, vanilla frosting, clear bowl, red and blue food coloring, plastic knives

Gather your children and demonstrate mixing colors to make purple frosting. Drop a couple drops of red and blue food colorings into the bowl of vanilla frosting. Mix it until it turns a light purple. Give each child a spoonful to frost a cookie or cracker before eating.

Remind the children that Lydia invited people into her home and was very giving. Ask children to help pass out the tableware and food. Encourage everyone to use good manners as if they were in a friend’s home or if they had company. Ask the children what special things their parents do when company is invited to their home.

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## Purple Fun (15 minutes)

*This painting activity introduces Lydia, who sold purple cloth.*

**Supplies:** paper to paint on, paint brushes, water, red, blue and white paint, paper plates, paper cups, paint smocks, newspaper, paper towels

Cover the work surface with newspapers and provide cups of water to rinse brushes. As you set out supplies for this activity provide each child with paper and a paper plate that has blobs of red paint on one side and blue paint on the other. Let children mix the two colors in various proportions and paint a purple picture. You can also give them blobs of white paint as they work to let them lighten the color. As they paint, tell them that today they will hear about a woman who sold cloth that was purple. Set pictures aside to dry until the end of class.

## Welcome Basket (15 minutes)

*This cut-and-paste activity encourages children to think about cheerful giving.* **Supplies:** brown construction paper, ribbon, glue, magazine pictures of items such as toiletry items, food, flowers, books, towels, and blankets

Draw an outline of a large basket on the construction paper. Let children paste pictures on the paper to complete a gift basket. Help them tie a bow out of the ribbon and glue it to the top of the basket. Remind them that when they give nice things to other people, they are being a cheerful giver for Jesus! **Lydia was a cheerful giver when she offered her home to Paul and his friends.** Display the picture in the classroom for the rest of the quarter.

## 9. An Open Home

### Fruit Tents (10 minutes)

*This snack reminds the children that Priscilla, Aquila and Paul worked together.* **Supplies:** fruit leather, stick pretzels, water, plates, napkins, cups

Gather the children for snack and pass out the food and water. Let children make tents with the fruit leather and pretzels. As they eat, remind them that the three believers worked together making and selling tents so that Paul could stay and preach the Good News about Jesus.

### Many Hands, Light Work (10 minutes)

*This hands-on activity reinforces the concept of teamwork.*

**Supplies:** paper and plastic ware to set tables: plates, cups, napkins silverware

Before class, arrange tables that can be set as for a party. Stack plates, etc. on a separate table. Tell the children you want them to set tables as fast as they can. Brainstorm different ways they could do it. The final solution should be teams—each assigned a different item to set. Have children wash their hands so you can re-use all the tableware. Set the teams up and time them to see which team wins. Emphasize how long it would take for one person to set all that tableware out by him or herself. **Today you are going to hear about two people who did their part to help Paul and were happy to be part of a team.**

### Meet in the Middle (10 minutes)

*This movement activity introduces the fact that God brought His people together to spread the Gospel.*

Clear an open space in the center of your classroom. Divide children into two groups and have them stand at either side of the room. **Today, you will learn about people who lived a long way from each other until God brought them together to serve Him. They worked together to teach about Jesus and serve the growing Church. I want you to come from two places and meet in the middle of the room.** Let the children help you think of a fun handshake for them to do together. Call one child from each group to meet in the middle of the room, shake hands using the fun handshake and say, “Share the news! Jesus, the Son of God, died to save you!” Let each pair of children take a turn to shake hands and tell the Good News to each other.

### Helping Hands and Feet (20 minutes)

*This craft creates a reminder that we are God’s servants.* **Supplies:** cardstock, markers

Trace each child’s hand and foot on a piece of cardstock. On the top of the page write “Welcome Others and Share the Good News.” Write the child’s name on the bottom. Let children decorate their hands and feet. While they are coloring, review how Priscilla and Aquila served the church. Make a list of ways the children can serve. Ask them to choose one way to serve this week and write it on the back of their papers. Encourage children to hang their signs on their bedroom doors at home.

## 10. A Slave Set Free

### Freedom Party (10 minutes)

*This snack reminds children that we are free because of Jesus.*

**Supplies:** cupcakes, canned frosting, sprinkles, water, plates, cups, napkins, plastic knives, confetti, noisemakers, balloons, CD player, fun music

Have the children help you decorate the table with confetti, balloons, and noisemakers. Some children can put the tableware out and pass out water. Give each child a cupcake and a dab a frosting on their plates. Let children frost the cakes and decorate them with sprinkles. Remind the children that they are free from their sins when they believe in Jesus. This is a party to celebrate their freedom from sin and death. Play party music if you have a CD player available.

### Silly Choices (10 minutes)

*This movement-based activity introduces the concept of choice.*

**Supplies:** construction paper cut into 3" x 5" cards of red, green, white, black, blue, and orange

Clear a large space in your classroom, or if the weather permits, take the children outside. **We're going to play a game about choices. To begin with, each of you can choose to be red or green. The reds will be doing one thing and the greens another. After a while, I will come around and give you another choice. You can stay red or green or choose a new color.** Have the children choose red or green and pass out a card of the appropriate color. **I want everyone who is red to begin marching around everyone who is green to begin skipping.** After a few seconds, ask everyone to stop. **Time to make another choice.** Have everyone had back the red or green cards. Now let children choose a different color. Now each color is going to do something different: Red—march; Green—skip; Blue—twirl; Orange—run in place; White—jump; Black—hop on one foot. Let them begin and give lots of encouragement. Repeat the activity so that this time they know which action goes with which color. When everyone is worn out have them sit down, one group at a time, as you call out each color.

**You each did something different depending on the color you chose. Our lives are like that—we make choices and they make a difference in what we do. You are going to hear about a man who had to make important choices today in the Bible story.**

### Broken Chains (20 minutes)

*This craft reminds children that Onesimus was set free.* **Supplies:** construction paper of different colors, tape, glitter pens, sequins, glue, markers, scissors

Before class, cut 1" x 5" strips of various colors of paper. During class, help students make a paper chain using any colors they choose of about ten links each. Use tape to make the chain links, being sure not to overlap each link too far so the next link will fit inside. Glue the chain across a full piece of paper. Give each child a pair of scissors and have them cut one link in the middle of the chain. Write FREE! on the top of the papers. Let the children decorate the papers with squiggles and stars to represent celebration. Remind them that in the Bible passage, Onesimus was happy to be free.

## 11. Faithful Friendship

### Two Together (10 minutes)

*This snack provides a fun way to talk about friends.* **Supplies:** corn chips and cheese dip, apple and orange slices, water, plates, cups, napkins, spoon

Ask helpers to pass out the tableware. Ask two helpers at a time to pass out the companion foods. Let one helper spoon a portion of cheese dip on each plate. Remind the children that Luke stayed with Paul through many dangers. He stayed with Paul like chips and dips are found with each other. Ask the children to name other foods that go together.

### Life Preserver (15 minutes)

*This imagination activity reinforces that Jesus is the only Friend who can save us.* **Supplies:** blue sheet, pool toys such as noodles, swim rings, towel

Spread out a sheet (from *Explore Scripture*) and place pool toys around the outside of the sheet. Put a towel on one end like a bridge. Divide class into two groups, one to jump onto the sheet and one group to stand around the outside. **I want to pretend that the group in the water cannot swim. The water is deep and you need friends to help you stay afloat.** Let children act this out, with the children around the edge throwing in the pool toys to help them stay afloat. **Your friends can help you stay afloat so you don't drown but they cannot get you out of the water. They can encourage you which is very good but they cannot get you out of the water. There is only one way out of the water. This towel is the bridge out of the water. It is like Jesus. You have to go over the bridge to get out of the water, just like you have to believe Jesus to**

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**be saved from your sins.** Let the children come over the towel to you. As they cross, have them say, “Jesus saves.” If children are not ready to say this, hold their hand as they go over the towel. Arrange the sheet and pool toys again and switch the groups. If you have a small class, let all the children get onto the sheet at once and have helpers toss the pool toys to them.

## **Friends Stay Together** (15 minutes)

*This craft reminds children that friends should be faithful.*

**Supplies:** construction paper, finger paint, paper plates, paper towels, water, paint smocks (optional), newspaper

Before class, prepare papers by writing “Friends Stay Together” on the top of each one. Place newspaper on the table. During class, put a thin layer of paint on the paper plate so that a child can place his or her hand in the paint and make a handprint on the paper. Help one child at a time and have helpers standing by with paper towels to clean their hands after they make their prints. Let each child make a print of both hands and place the prints on their paper with the thumbs overlapping.

**Luke stayed with Paul even when he had to go on a ship to Rome. Luke stayed with Paul because he knew Jesus would want him to. You can be a friend who stays with his friends and helps them. Remember that friends stick together!**

## **12. An Eager Worker**

### **Enthusiasm for Snacks** (10 minutes)

*This snack gives children a fun way to discuss enthusiasm.*

**Supplies:** fun snack like small candies, cookies, or graham crackers, a less desirable snack like broccoli, water, plates, napkins, cups

Show the children the two sets of snacks. Ask them if one of the snacks makes them more excited than the other. Express surprise that more children don’t get excited about the broccoli. Let children get their plates and then line up in front of you. Ask them to request one of the two snacks as enthusiastically as they can. Thank them for the request and serve them the snack they choose. As they eat, talk about how God wants them to show the same enthusiasm in all the things they do for Him.

### **Heart for You** (15 minutes)

*This circle activity inspires children’s compassion for each other.*

**Supplies:** construction paper, inspirational stickers

Before class, prepare a small heart for each child in your class. Write the child’s name on it and the words, “Jesus Loves You.” Sign each one and save them to give out later. Make a few extras in case there are visitors.

Sit children down in a circle. Bring out the stickers in a container that can be passed around. **Titus loved Jesus and the other believers. He had a heart for the church at Corinth. That means he cared about them and he encouraged them. We should be enthusiastic to share God’s love with others like Titus. I am going to pass these stickers around the circle. When it is your turn, I want you to take two stickers. Then we will go around the circle and put a sticker on the friend on our right. Tell them “Jesus loves you.” When you receive a sticker, be sure to say “thank you” to your friend who encouraged you. Then we’ll go around and give stickers to the friends on our left.** If there is a new child, you might want to sit next to him or her so that you can give encouragement to that child yourself. When everyone has had a turn, distribute the hearts you made to each child as an encouragement from you.

### **Don’t Give Up** (10 minutes)

*This game demonstrates the quality of endurance.* **Supplies:** plastic eggs, gravel or glass beads, tape

Before class, fill the plastic eggs with gravel or glass beads and securely tape them closed. **Today, you heard about Titus, who kept doing the work God gave him. He was always cheerful and enthusiastic. You are going to race to roll these eggs across the room. It would be easy to get tired and give up. I need children with enthusiasm!**

Mark a starting line and a finishing line. Have the children who volunteer line up and begin the race. Some children may not want to participate and they can enthusiastically cheer others on. As the children race, point out what it means to be enthusiastic as they roll the egg and that they can win only if they never give up. For a greater challenge, tell the children they can’t use their hands to roll the eggs!