



Section 5: Worship/Vespers, Mission Study, Bible Study

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“God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but on trees and flowers and clouds and stars.” Martin Luther





Introduction to Worship/Vespers

Worship is an opportunity to come together as a group to create meaningful experiences that help people reflect and act on the word of God. There are as many different ways to worship God as there are worshipers. Worship occurs at Sunday church services, at weekly CGIT vespers, at the Christmas Vesper Service as well as during spontaneous moments when we focus on God.

Planning for Worship/Vespers

CGIT worship services may be linked to the four-fold purpose.

A Worship Service is typically a formal type of worship such as that experienced in the congregational service of worship on Sunday or perhaps when the CGIT Department meets for worship. This type

of worship has a specific order the parts are arranged in order to call people to worship, to hear God's word and to respond to it. Some examples would be: 1) your CGIT group leading the Christmas Vesper Service; 2) the CGIT group planning Sunrise Service for their congregation; 3) a service following the death of a CGIT girl, leader, or someone significant to the members, to celebrate their life; 4) some members of your CGIT group plan and lead a vesper for their department.

A framework for a more formal worship service follows, but a less formal vesper service can be put together relatively easily by the girls. Some suggestions for vespers are:

- Form a circle sitting on the floor, turn out the lights, light a special candle, and ask a question that either the members of the group have formed previously or ask your own questions: Are there times when you wonder if God is real? Do you believe God is feminine or masculine and why? It may be necessary to review the parameters of respect for each person's viewpoint, and encourage each person to participate sincerely and incorporating a way to bring the vesper to a close with prayer.



- Prayer partners. Have the members divide into pairs, turn out the lights and have some quiet instrumental music playing softly. Give them a question to talk about privately with one another. Ask them to really listen to one another, without interrupting each other. This is not a two-way conversation, but a God-like respectful silence. As we learn to hear each other, this deep listening becomes a form of prayer. Some possible questions: When was the happiest time in your life? Who are the people that you would trust with your life? What would you like to change about your life?
- Meditating on a symbol. Have the members bring a picture or symbol of God to share. While sitting in a circle, ask the members to reflect on what the picture or symbol reminds them of or how it makes them feel. Specifically, ask them what it tells them about God.

Informal worship might be planned as a simple closing to a meeting, a time for tying together the theme and the activities of the meeting and offering them to God. One or two people can be asked in advance to do a closing with a reading and a prayer, lead with a thought or quote, or lead the group in a circle prayer. Spontaneous worship arises naturally out of situations, events, stories or activities. It cannot be planned for in advance and happens when people relate Christian values to their own experiences. Deeply emotional experiences such as engaging in a discussion about a personal issue and linking it to the girl's faith or as joyful as spontaneous singing can be a form of worship, strengthening faith and bringing the girls closer to God and each other.

How To Make Worship Come Alive

Since its inception, an important focus of CGIT has been to develop leadership skills. It is important, therefore, that the girls be involved in all aspects of worship. Initially, girls may be encouraged to participate in a single part of the service. As their comfort level increases they can be encouraged to take on the planning and leading of the worship.



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To prepare for worship, it is a good idea to make use of a worship corner or simply to move locations so that everyone recognizes that this is a time for the focus to change. The group may wish to drape a table and use it to display a symbol that relates to the theme. For example: a candle, flowers, photographs, a wheat sheaf, or water.

When planning a worship service the following outline can be used:

Call to Worship an opening which helps to focus thoughts on the theme

Song of Praise a song that relates to and develops the theme

Scripture Reading a passage which relates the theme to the Bible; this could be read responsively

Message a reading, poem, film, meditation, story, readers' theatre, children's' book, newspaper article, play, mime, clowning, slide show or creative dance which illustrates the theme

Prayer a focused conversation with God bringing together the awareness of the theme with expressions

Music a solo, group or instrumental piece which complements the theme

Closing an invitation to the participants to act on the message of the service as they go out into the world.

Suggestions for Call to Worship:

* Quiet now...

Close minds door

On business of the day

And for this brief moment

Clear the way for God.

** Quiet now...

No need for words

Listen...

And be still...

God's voice will direct,

God's spirit fills your soul

*** It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord

And sing praises unto God's name

To show forth God's kindness in the morning

And God's faithfulness every night



Suggestions for Closing:

*Hebrew Benediction – Numbers 6:24-26

May the Lord bless and protect you;

May the Lord's face radiate with joy because of you'

May God be gracious to you, show you favour and

Grant you peace.

** All that we sing with our lips,

May we believe in our hearts

And all that we believe in our hearts,

May we practice in our lives.

*** Go now in peace,

Go now in peace,

May the love of God surround you

Everywhere, everywhere, you may go.

*Be still
and know
that I am
God*
-PSALM 46:10



A Worship Service for Halloween

This could be presented with a Jack-O-Lantern or candles and costumes on your regular meeting night.

All the fun times of the year—Easter, Christmas, and Valentine’s Day come from the Church. Halloween comes from the Church. It’s short for Hallowed Evening. Hallowed means holy, like we say in the Lord’s Prayer, —Hallowed be your name...ll

It used to be called All Hallow’s Eve, the night before All Saints Day or Hallowmas— (sounds like Christmas!) On November 1, Christians remember their friends and relatives. Let us pause and remember our relatives, living and dead, our grandparents, parents, brothers and sisters.

Where do the traditions of Halloween come from? What about the date? It started a long time ago in Europe when Celtic people had a festival at the end of October. It was when they said good-bye to summer, hello to winter, and when they remembered friends and loved ones who had died during the year. They believed their spirits were freed to visit them at this one time of the year. The Church used this date for All Hallow’s Eve.

So why Trick and Treating?

Poor people in Ireland went from house to house on All Hallow’s Eve begging for soul cakes. They were expected to sing before they were given their soul cakes.

Beggars for soul cakes put on each other’s clothes. In the Churches, people put on scary robes, or dressed as angels, skeletons and gargoyles to help scare the evil spirits from their Church so the Church would be safe for the next day’s remembrance of All Saints. People used a turnip, a squash or a pumpkin, which they hollowed out and put a light inside to help them scare the evil spirits away. Through the years they became known as Jack-O-Lanterns. Discuss whether you think culture in North America has exploited these special Christian festivals. Is it used to make money? We find stores full of candy, scary masks, and costumes. Hollywood presents us with all the latest horror, the gorier the better.



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As Christians, we may want to stop for a moment and remember that there is more to Halloween than this. At church we remember the true story of Halloween while we are having fun. Remember that Jesus is the light of the world. He is greater than anything that seems scary on this night. He is with you as your friend and protector in life. We are all Saints because of Him. Happy Halloween!

Closing prayer:

—Let us pray. O God, our Creator, we remember you at this time of year. We thank you for the fun we have at Halloween and we ask you to bless our relatives. Help us to remember those who have gone before us as we remember their love and spirit passed on to us. We thank you for Jesus, our friend and protector. Amen





Fair Trade Vesper

Invite a participant to light the Christ Candle

Reading: They're Different, *Interrobang2, A Bunch of Unanswered Prayers and Unlimited Shouts* by Norman C. Habel

Sing: *Let Me Be Open* by Sheelah Megill and Ron Klusmeier (staff@musiklus.com)

Scripture: The Good Samaritan: *Luke 10:25-37*

Story Time: Dear Diary

I can't sleep even though it is the middle of the night!! Besides, I have a brand new notebook with lots of clean pages (no more erasing all the words and starting over!!!). The man was back today from the Kuapa Kokoo farmer's cooperative with his son Clifford (he is SO cute!!!) He came for the village meeting and to make sure that we are following the guidelines for organic certification. NO MORE SMELLY CHEMICALS!! None of the trees got sick because they taught us how to use all different kinds of farming methods to protect our crops without pesticides. Father says they will pay us extra money at harvest time if we get certified. I can hardly believe that because we were already getting paid so much more than before. And it's not just us – our whole village joined the Co-operative.

Clifford (I think he likes me***) tried to explain how the co-op works while we were walking to the village. He said that the farmer's who join all get paid a —living wagell (enough so that they can support their families) because the co-operative makes sure that they get a guaranteed price for their cocoa beans. He also said that there is a special symbol that goes on all the chocolate bars made from our Fair Trade cocoa, I didn't believe him, but he said that people all over the world buy it because they want people like me to have a better life. They know that the symbol means that slaves and kids like me aren't forced to work the fields. It also tells them that some of the money from selling the cocoa goes back to educate farmers and their families and make the communities better. I know all about that. We have a new school in the village with a brand new blackboard.(They even gave each of us a pencil!) He also said that some people pay extra for our organic cocoa so that they don't have to eat the smelly chemicals we used to use on our crops. THAT I believe. I wouldn't want to eat them either. All I know is that life for me and my family got 2000% better.



When we were in the village, I went to get a drink at the new well (I still can't believe that we can have showers and drinking water all year long!) and some of the village women were talking about working with the Kuapa Kokoo to set up businesses making soap out of cocoa husks. Everyone was very excited about making some extra money for the village, which is growing and lively now! The Co-operative taught us how to grow other things like plants to use for wood, and fruits and nuts that we can eat or sell. It's supposed to help the environment by growing more than one kind of plant (I think Clifford called it biodiversity?), but I like it because we have lots of different foods to eat and the market days in the village are so much fun. There is always music and lots of my friends are there with their families.

I am so happy that my grandfather decided to become involved in Fair Trade. I want to burst when I see my mother and father laughing and joking with each other. We are all so excited that my brother came home from the city. My cousin did not come home though, my uncle said that he died on the other cocoa farm. I really miss him, and I try not to think about it and instead I try to focus on all the good things that are happening. My Dad told me that he thinks that I can go on in my studies because the co-op provides a long term contract so that we will know we will be OK even if we have a bad harvest. I have been studying English and getting better every day. Now I can't decide what I want to be when I grow up. I still think about being a teacher. Father says that I might actually be able to do it because the co-op will give their farmers loans to help improve their lives. I am very excited that I can even dream about it now, but lately I have been thinking of working with the farmer's organization, helping them to communicate with our trade partners in the north. Mother says it's just because I want to be near Clifford, - but she's wrong - I want to know more about the world.

I have to stop writing now. I can't believe I have to get up so early tomorrow. Fair Trade or not, I still have to hurry to sweep and make the palm nut stew before I go to school. Of course, because the harvest is starting I won't be able to stay after school to play soccer like I usually do. I don't mind. The kids get the easy jobs now, and we only work after school. The grown-ups cut down the pods with sharp blades while my cousins and I sit and split open the pods and scrape out the slimy white beans. We talk and giggle while we work - my father calls us a pack of chatty monkeys.

Augustine Gyamfinah, 12 years old Ghana, West Africa



Discussion to follow:

- In what way is your life different than Augustine's and her family?
- In what way is your life like Augustine's and her families?
- Do you get excited about a new pencil?
- Do you worry about chemicals in your environment?
- Do you know any slaves or children/youth forced to work the fields?
- Do you ever think about NOT being able to shower or have a drink of water?
- Are there communities in Canada who do worry about clean drinking water/bathing?

*** If possible, arrange to have a seasonal flower for each participant. Invite them to place their flower in a vase when they have concluded their list of similarities. The bouquet can be used in the Worship Service the following morning.

Sing: ***Bring the Day*** Linnea Good, 1998 from The Good Book

Closing Prayer: —Dear God, help us look at the things that we have in common as human beings. As we celebrate our sameness, let us become more aware of how the things we choose to buy and to value impacts the lives, hopes and dreams of —the other people in our world.



Mission Study



Mission study is the in-depth study of a current issue as it relates to our lives as Christians. The study should incorporate a sense of learning and exploration and culminate in action. The study can be focused upon the entire four-fold purpose or on only one part of the purpose. Mission study is an important component of the CGIT program and the aim is to impact the girls, both individually and as a group. Choose a new study topic each year. Leaders may choose to develop their own study on themes of particular interest to the girls. Use the following format as a guideline:

1. Decide on the theme.
2. Brainstorm questions the girls have about the theme to determine the focus.
3. Decide on how to gather information.
 - guest speakers
 - fieldtrips
 - media resources (movie, television, DVD, CD)
 - discussion groups
 - simulation games
 - book and Biblical research
4. Apply the information in activities
 - discussions
 - debates
 - presentations
 - displays
 - review and answer questions from #2
 - skits
 - journals



5. Select an action project relating to the theme

- host a cultural evening
- volunteer services at an agency
- collect needed supplies/clothing
- make a presentation in Church

Possible themes for study:

- world politics (Africa, China-Tibet, Nicaragua, current events)
- human rights
- environment
- aboriginal issues
- world religions
- feminism
- cults
- medical assistance in dying
- relationships/marriage
- old age
- death and dying
- suicide
- prayer
- prejudice and persecution

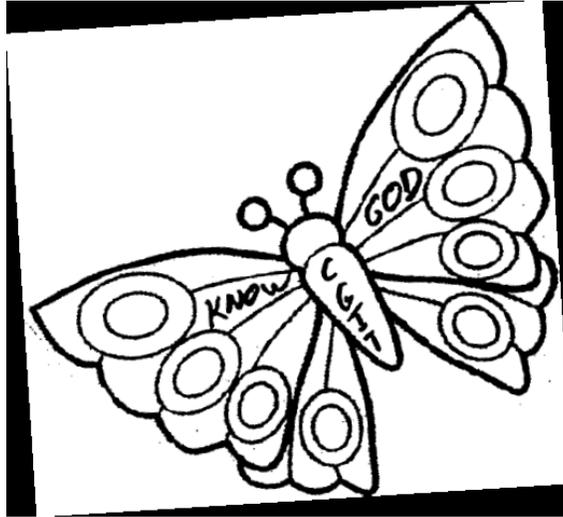
- health issues (drugs, AIDS, STD's)
- poverty - women in poverty, homelessness
- refugees/immigrants
- your church's involvement with a project

Leaders are often concerned about the overlap between school curriculum and mission studies. These can be checked at:

<http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/socialstudies/-programs.aspx>



Introduction to Bible Study



A caterpillar curls up in its little cocoon and goes to sleep.
It looks like it has died.

But out of the cocoon comes a beautiful colourful, graceful butterfly.
Christians for centuries have used the butterfly to remind them that Jesus died and came alive again and we can have new life in Christ.

"The Bible is not only many books. It is a literature. History, poetry, prophecy, philosophy, theology, oratory, humor, sarcasm, irony, music, drama, tragedy, strategy, love tales, war tales, travelogues, laws, jurisprudence, songs, sermons, warnings, prayers, all are here. Was there ever such a literature? The Bible begins with a garden and ends with a city. It starts with a morning followed by a night and ends with a day that shall know no night. It breaks the silence with 'In the beginning' and it hushes the universe to sleep with 'The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.'" John Snider Bible study provides an opportunity to experience the word of God and to gain insights into what the Bible has to say about our lives. Bible Study can be related with the four-fold purpose.

1. Use a published Bible Study.



2. Watch Middy Media for prepared Bible Studies.
3. Create a Bible Study. This is a general format that could be followed:
 - a. Select the passage and the translation to be discussed.
 - b. Read the passage twice.
 - c. Ask questions of the group -- focus on details of what happens.
 - d. Ask questions of the group -- focus on characters' feelings.
 - e. Discuss connections the group could have to the characters.
 - f. Lead the group in a creative response to the story.





Women In The Bible

This program can be used over several evenings at CGIT or pieces could be extracted to be used on their own. There are 188 women mentioned in the Bible, some with no names. There are no names with F, X or Y, but there are 8 names beginning with Z!

Introduction

Discuss with the girls what they think it would have been like to have been alive in biblical times

- at their age they would probably have been married
- women were possessions, treated as a servant to wait on men's needs
- fathers, brothers and husbands decided how they lived, who they married.

There are clues in the Bible that women did not have much importance. The women in Bible stories often did not have names, referred to as someone's wife or "women of..."

Think of places around your community that depict a woman or her presence in your community: Dorothy's Cafe, Virgin Mary in front of the Catholic Church. Have a discussion about women in the community and how they are viewed today.

Consider what you know of the lifestyle and culture of women in biblical times. Either individually or in small groups, choose one woman and learn her circumstances. Make up a small story explaining more about the woman and how she might have felt in the situation.

Consider a present day situation in which you might have similar feelings. What are the similarities? What things haven't changed significantly compared to 2000 years ago? What things are very different? Bring back to the larger group a short description of your discussion and at least one comparison between how the biblical woman's situation or experience is similar to a present day situation. Did your group have any suggestions as to how this could be changed or how as Christians today we could deal with the situation?

Today, discrimination against women still exists. In some cultures male babies are held in much higher esteem than female babies, sometimes female fetuses are aborted.

Certainly, violence against women is overlooked in varying degrees around the world. Who were these many other women? Again, we have women with no names and no identities. Imagine who they might have been - women searching for answers, following the Teacher.

Consider the similarities between the death and resurrection of Jesus and childbirth: the end of pregnancy, the pain of labour and the new life that is delivered. Women have always loved the potential of their children's lives enough to risk their own.



During the crucifixion Jesus shared things in common with women. He was voiceless in judicial proceedings, as women also have been and still sometimes are; and he was powerless to prevent violence, as women often are. What does it mean to you that Jesus chose a feminine metaphor of giving birth to describe our salvation?

Jesus offers forgiveness to each of us. Forgiveness, especially of ourselves is never easy. How is forgiveness practiced in our everyday lives? What about in society, think about the government, criminals. What about men?

These are some of the women in the Bible:

- | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Eve | Salome | The Woman with the Lost Coin |
| Lot's wife | Mary | Tirzah |
| Rachel | Elizabeth | Rhoda |
| Queen of Sheba | Anna | Jemimah |
| Naomi | Susannah | Miriam |
| Aphia | The Poor Widow | Esther |
| Abigail | Mary Magdalene | The Adulterous Woman |
| Sarah | Dorcas | Jedidah |
| Leah | Lydia | Zipporah |
| Deborah | Priscilla | Bathsheba |
| Ruth | Phoebe | Hannah |
| Delilah | Nympha | Tabitha |
| Rebekah | Woman at the Well | Tamar |
| Jochebed | Lois | Samaritan Woman |
| Jezebel | Eunice | |





Flooded Moments



Bible Study based on the song Arky, Arky Frances Quarrington

Purpose To explore times in our lives when we have felt ‘flooded’ or ‘wiped out’. The story of Noah, the flood, the ark, and the dove can help us. CGIT is a safe place for sharing, leaders can hear the personal ‘flooded moments’ of the girls. God’s promise is for us as well as for Noah. This dialogue may allow a powerful religious experience for your group. This takes time.

Required Materials

- a collection of pictures of people experiencing flooded moments. Have two pictures for each person.
 - A Bible
 - Flip chart or blackboard,
 - pencil and paper for each girl
 - quiet contemplative music in background
 - be familiar with song: Arky, Arky.
- Use it prior to this study.

Cover a long table with the pictures. Play appropriate music. Ask girls to choose one pictures that intrigues them and move into a circle. Share with group, writing adjectives on flip chart. Ask the girls to move into a body position and expression that captures the feeling just shared. The body ‘sculpture’ will result in people sitting on the floor, turned out, curled up; generally broken, alienated



and lonely.

Turn off music and read Noah's story. (Genesis 6:11-14, 7:1-5, 11-12, 17-24) After this reading, ask girls to stay in circle. You will be asking questions from the readings about Noah. —If the answer to the question is yes, raise your left finger, if the answer is no, raise your right finger. Include yourself in this part of exercise.

Have there been times in your life when there has been no firm earth to stand on? Times when the bottom has disappeared and you feel you are treading dangerously? Times when you were flooded or overwhelmed? Times when you were swept away on a vast chaotic sea? Times when you felt you were riding the storm out by yourself? Write about such a moment in your life when you were 'flooded'. (--Breaking up with a boyfriend, --not getting invited to something, --being put down by a parent, --having difficulties at school.) Ask girls to share their flooded moments. If your group is large you may wish to break into cluster groups for sharing.

Review Noah's story again. What does the dove represent? (Hope) Ask: —Do you believe that after or with each flood comes a dove with a twig of green hope? Has that been your experience thus far? Perhaps not...Discuss the fact that the dove comes back to Noah the first time without any sign of hope.

But Noah did not give up, he kept faith that it would happen later.

Ask: —Have you ever reached out for help and no one responded, until one day in a gesture of peace and love, someone came to your little bobbing spot and said —I love you? If so, how did it happen? (*Give time for answers.*)

When this happened, did you know that God's promise was real? That the floods were beginning to recede, green showing through, and life starts to be renewed?

Have you ever been a twig of green hope for someone in a flood?
(*This is a very valuable question!*)

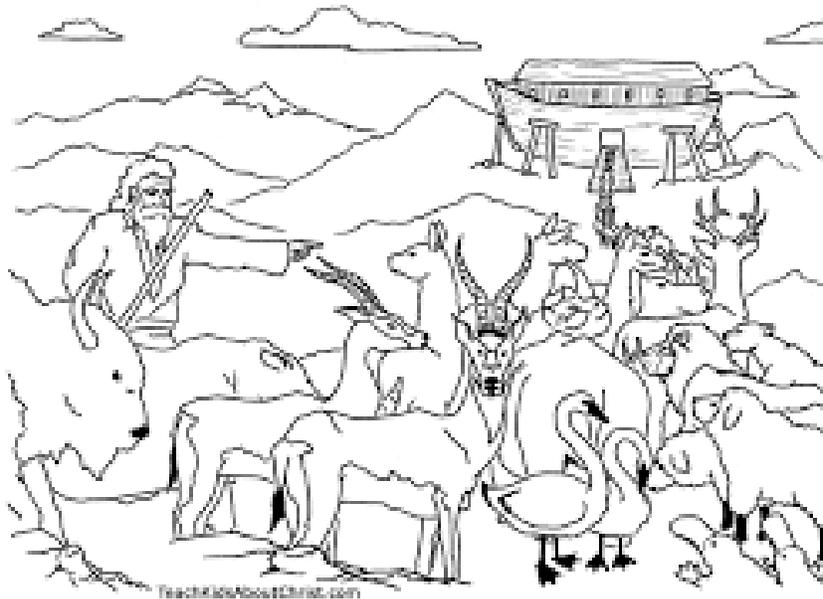
Form a list on paper/blackboard of the kinds of things, concepts and ideas that you would want to take with you to help ride out your flood. Noah had to prepare for his flood, we can prepare for ours (the desire to live, a pet, a locket, love, a faith in God, memories, jokes, friends, fun, poems...)



Ask the group to resume their broken sculpture-spot. Ask one person to play 'the dove' and to 'resculpt' the group from alienation and brokenness to reconciliation and wholeness. (Play uplifting music here. **It is imperative that the dove reposition everyone in order to complete the ritual.** One can assume the dove's sculpture will be some circle-form of touching people.)

As the sculpture occurs, read again Genesis 8:6-12, 20-22. They can now go back to sitting upright. If time remains, consider discussing the connections made between body sculpture moments and the spoken biblical texts.

Sing, using your whole body, 'Arky, Arky'
Conclude with a prayer noting 'doves' in our lives, and our ability to give thanks for them.





Joy Is Like The Rain

Introduction: Life, for all people, is a collage of joy, sorrow, triumphs and tragedies.

Resources: Joy is Like the Rain
4 sketches of Christ (by Willis Wheatley)
Magazines, scissors, glue for collage
When Bad Things Happen to Good People (book by Rabbi Kushner)

This study may be done in 1-2 hours or in two one hour sessions.

Life, for all people, is a collage of joy, sorrow, triumphs and tragedies. When life is full and going smoothly we tend to congratulate ourselves! When it is rough and rocky the responses vary from becoming angry with God to wondering what we did to deserve this – the tragedy is the result of wrong doing of some sort, when disaster strikes it is a consequence of sin. Life, for many, is harsh, irrational, and unfair. In this life we must forget the notion of —fair. Life is not fair.

Ask for examples of this.

But no matter what life throws at us, we are not alone. God is with us. We were never promised a rose garden and good behaviour will not guarantee an easy life. Through good and bad, God's love will surround us, enfold us, and empower us.

We cannot feel or recognize real joy unless we also experience real pain. We have wills of our own and through life's circumstances, tragedies come. It is not God's will that they come, but when it does, it is God's will that we handle it relatively and triumphantly, even in the midst of our tears.

Read verse one of the song: *Joy is Like the Rain*.

-What are some of the downpours we may experience?

-Is it okay to laugh when life is painful?

-Does laughter help us move toward healing?

-What are some of the 'joys' in our life?

-Does laughter help increase our joy?

-What were some of Christ's raindrops? His joys?

Read verse two of *Joy is Like the Rain*, followed by scripture: John 16: 20-24, 33.

-What are mountains we might be asked to climb?

-Is it harder to start climbing the mountain when the tip is covered in grey clouds and not bright sunshine?

-Does our faith in God's love help us cope until we see the sun again? How?



- Can we choose to see the colours as silver or grey?
- When we experience joy, we share it with family and friends, laugh, and do something special. Do these same things help us in our sorrow?
- Can you share a time when this has helped you?

Read verse three of *Joy is Like the Rain*, followed by scripture: Matthew 8: 24-26.

- Give examples of rain and thunder.
- Do we doubt God's presence when life is very stormy?
- The writer describes Christ asleep during the storm, does this mean He doesn't care what is happening?
- Did Christ experience storms?
- How did he cope and respond?
- Do storms in life remind us that we are not alone?
- Do we remember that during times of joy?

Read verse four of *Joy is Like the Rain*, followed by scripture: Matthew 7: 24-27.

- What feelings might we experience when life's little puddles become a flood?
- Describe ways our society copes with joy? Sorrow?
- Are some of life's happenings full of joy and sorrow at the same time?
- What are the rocks we build our lives on?
- What is the sand?

ACTIVITY:

Create a collage of pictures and words that evoke joy and/or sadness?

Would many of the things bring either joy or sorrow?

What could be at the centre of your collage to represent the support your faith gives in times of both sorrow and joy?

CLOSING WORSHIP:

Scripture: Matthew 28: 20b.

—Lo, I am with you always even to the ends of the earth.

Sing: —Joy is Like the Rain or/and

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Prayer: Dear Lord, We thank you for the gifts of love and life. Guide and strengthen us when our lives are confusing and painful. Help us stay focused on Christ that we may continue to grow and become the girls God would have us be. Amen.

Some may choose to add —Footprints, (a poem) in your readings at close of evening.



Giving Thanks

A Bible Study based on THIS IS THE DAY THAT THE LORD HAS MADE

The inspiration for this song came from Psalms 118 which was written as a prayer of thanks for victory.

Materials needed: Newsprint paper

Markers

Bibles

Introduction:

Have you ever awakened in the morning, looked out the window and exclaimed “WHAT A GREAT DAY!” ...?

MIND MAP:

Write the words GREAT DAY in the centre of a piece of newsprint. Take a moment to reflect on the day. What was it that made you say “**What a great day**”?

How did it make you feel? Was there excitement in the air?

As the girls say what makes a great day or how they felt, jot the words down, or have the girls write their words around GREAT DAY. Don't forget that drawings are acceptable.

STUDY OF PSALMS 118:

1. Turn to your Bibles and read Psalms 118 discuss why the writer may have thought —this was the day that the Lord had made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.¶

Read and discuss Psalm 118 in sections, have each girl read 2-3 verses.

Use the material on the background information sheet to help with discussion.

2. How do you give thanks? List on newsprint what you have to be thankful for, and how you show your thanks.

Giving thanks is not something new. People have given thanks since time immemorial. Giving thanks to God is a natural thing to do in good times as well as bad times. Our strength comes from God's grace, not from outside things. Hebrews 13:8 tells us —it is good to receive inner strength from God's grace.¶

3. You may want to refer to one of the Creation stories found in Genesis 1:1-2, 25.

Each day is a day of God's making. we should give thanks for each day—not only for the good things that happen, but for all that life brings.



ACTIVITY:

Using the ideas the girls have provided on the Mind Map and/or the list made on giving thanks, have the girls write a song, prayer, or poem. Depending on the size of your group, work as one group or divide into three groups and write one of each.

WORSHIP:

Use the ideas generated and the song, prayer, and/or poem to develop a closing worship of thanks. Remember to use the song —This Is The Dayll in your worship.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Psalm 118: In verses 1—4 we have a liturgical giving of thanks. In verses 5-14 there is an outpouring of personal thanks. The psalmist is telling what God has done for him. There is a switch again in verse 15. The psalmist brings us back to the shouts that can be heard from the people as they approach the gates. In Verse 19, they demand to be let in and are answered in verse 20—26 by accepting all who come in the name of the Lord. In verse 29 the people are received around the altar.

It is possible in writing this Psalm that the psalmist was trying to picture the rescue of Israel at the Exodus and their eventual journey's end at Mount Zion. but to those who read the gospels we can hear the echoes of it on Palm Sunday, Passion week and Easter Sunday.

Verses 1-4 Timeless love, unconditional love is the theme. When did you feel this unconditional timeless love?

Verses 5-9 Help to those who ask for it. Call upon the Lord at all times. Trust in the Lord. Have you taken time to ask for God's help?

Verses 10-14 Ring of Enemies—like a swarm of bees. How frightening would that be? Even one or two bees causes us to move away, to be free of the attack.

Verse 14 is a quotation from the Victory song at the Red Sea.

(Exodus 15:2a)

Verses 15-18 Song of Victory—giving credit to God for their victory at their deliverance at the Red Sea. When have you given God credit for your victories?



Bible Quizes

Quiz #1

You will need:

One bible for each girl or if pairing up one for each pair.

Pen/pencil and a copy of quiz for each girl/pair.

Search Scripture for the answers



Who named all the animals? Genesis 2: 20

How many Commandments did God give to Moses? Deuteronomy 4:13

Who was the wisest man that ever lived? 2 Chronicles 1:11

Is there more than one God? Mark 12:32 / Isaiah 46:9

Who inspired the Bible? 2 Timothy 3:16

Who was the oldest man who ever lived? Genesis 5:27

Whose father gave him a coat of many colors? Genesis 37:3

When did Jesus receive his name? Luke 2:21

Who was known as The Man of Patience? Job 1: 1--4, Job 42:12--17

Who is the Son of God? Matthew 3:16, 17

Who was thrown into the lions_ den? Daniel 6: 3—22

How old was Noah when the flood began? Genesis 7:6

Who defeated Goliath with a slingshot and a stone? 1 Samuel 17:50

Which disciple was a Doctor? Colossians 4:14

How many disciples were there? Matthew 10:2

Who was the most hairy man of all? Genesis 25:25

Quiz #2

1. What was the first occupation in the Bible?

1) vine dresser 2) shepherd 3) hunter 4) gardener*

2. How old was Jesus when he began his ministry?

1) 25 years 2) 30 years* 3) 30 years 4) 35 years



3. This special lady had a visit from an angel and became the Mother of Jesus.
1) Deborah 2) Mary* 3) Lois 4) Eve
4. Do you know the name of the man who ran away from God, jumped on a boat and then was swallowed by a big fish?
1) Jonah* 2) David 3) Samson 4) Nathan
5. Who was the first man?
1) Noah 2) David 3) Adam* 4) Abraham
6. His brothers sold him into slavery, but later in his life he became a very important man in Egypt?
1) Joseph* 2) Isaac 3) Benjamin 4) Abraham
7. This woman entered a beauty contest and married a King.
1) Mary 2) Eve 3) Esther* 4) Ruth
8. This lady loved her mother-in-law so much she left her country and went with her to another land.
1) Deborah 2) Ruth* 3) Naomi 4) Martha
9. He was so small that he climbed a tree to see Jesus. Then Jesus came to his house!
1) Paul 2) Benjamin 3) David 4) Zaccheus*
10. God gave Noah a sign of the covenant that never again would there be another flood. What was this sign?
1) a burning bush 2) an angel 3) a rainbow* 4) a dove

Quiz #3

Bible Trivia (Answers on the next page)

1. How many books are in the Bible?
2. I was the wife of King Ahab and my name has come to symbolize wickedness.

Who am I?



3. How much money was Judas Iscariot paid for Jesus' betrayal?
4. Who did Jesus raise from the dead?
5. In the New Testament, what do Peter and John have in common?
6. How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus?
7. How many books in the New Testament are considered the gospels?
8. I was a relative of Naomi on her husband's side. Scripture states that I was a man of standing—a kind and good reputation. Who am I?
9. Jesus and John the Baptist baptized each other. What else did they have in common?
10. What did Paul say was the greatest of all?
11. What do Mary and Martha have in common?
12. What does the name Elijah mean?

Answers to Bible Trivia (previous page)

1. How many books are in the Bible?
(There are 66 books in the Protestant Bible, 73 in the Roman Catholic Bible. Martin Luther removed seven books from the Old Testament. There are 27 books in the New Testament.)
2. I was the wife of King Ahab and my name has come to symbolize wickedness. Who am I?
(Jezebel, 1 Kings 16:31)



3. How much money was Judas Iscariot paid for Jesus' betrayal?
(30 pieces of silver, Matthew 26: 14, 15.)
4. Who did Jesus raise from the dead?
(A widow's son—Luke 7:15, Lazarus—John 11: 43, 44;
Jairus' daughter—Mark 5:22-43)
5. In the New Testament, what do Peter and John have in common?
(They are both disciples.)
6. How many times did Peter deny that he knew Jesus?
(Three times—Matthew 26: 69-75 or Mark 14:30)
7. How many books in the New Testament are considered the gospels?
(The first four—Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)
8. I was a relative of Naomi on her husband's side. Scripture states that I was a man of standing—a kind and good reputation. Who am I?
(Boaz—Ruth 2:1, 20)
9. Jesus and John the Baptist baptized each other. What else did they have in common?
(Both had their births foretold by angels. Luke 1: 11-14; 30)
10. What did Paul say was the greatest of all?
(♥ Love—1 Corinthians 13: 13)
11. What do Mary and Martha have in common?
(Lazarus was their brother.)
12. What does the name Elijah mean?
(—My God is the Lord!— Elijah was one of the most famous prophets.)

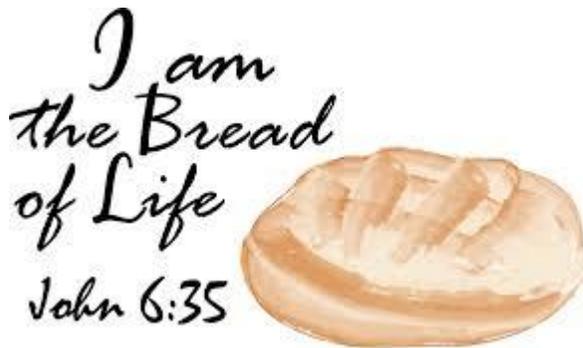
Quiz #4

Anagrams are letters mixed up into different words. See if you can unscramble these words to find foods mentioned in the Bible! See Answers on page 30

ANAGRAM I -- FOOD IN THE BIBLE



Ah! Wet	
Bleary	
Cube Scrum	
Soon in	
Sleek	
Tell sin	
So evil!	
Pagers	
Debra	
In grave	



ANAGRAM II -- ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE answers are on page 30

Iron Cops	
Clouts	
Great drip	
See awl	
Tie torso	
Coin run	



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April claret	
Clean home	
Zeal gel	
Moron cart	
Hey, dog! Run!	
Old pear	
Roman wreck	



Answers to the Anograms on previous two pages

ANAGRAM I -- FOOD IN THE BIBLE

Ah! Wet	Wheat
Bleary	Barley
Cube Scrum	Cucumbers
Soon in	Onions
Sleek	Leeks



**Alberta CGIT Association Leaders Resource Manual
2017 Edition**

Tell sin	Lentils
So evil!	Olives
Pagers	Grapes
Debra	Bread
In grave	Vinegar

ANAGRAM II -- ANIMALS IN THE BIBLE

Iron Cops	Locusts
Clouts	Scorpion
Great drip	Partridge
See awl	Weasel
Tie torso	Tortoise
Coin run	Unicorn
April claret	Caterpillar
Clean home	Chameleon
Zeal gel	Gazelle
Moron cart	Cormorant
Hey, dog! Run!	Greyhound
Old pear	Leopard
Roman wreck	Cancerworm