

On Mission For God

Theme Lesson

PREPARATION

Objective

Students will understand God works through history to advance his purposes.

Outcomes

1. Students will understand that God uses people to spread his message.
2. Students will understand that missionaries are God's messengers.
3. Students will recognize "Key Word" concepts in the story of Paul's first missionary journey.

Directions

1. Copy and cut out the "Footprint Stencil." Trace the footprint on the twelve pieces of brown construction paper. Cut out the footprints. Turn six footprints upside down to simulate right and left footprints.
2. Copy and cut out the twelve "Footprint Messages." Glue one message onto each footprint, alternating left and right footprints.
3. Before class, make a trail using the footprint cutouts, message side down, in numbered order from 1-12.
4. Copy the "Scroll Scripture Verses," cut into two, and roll them each up into a scroll shape. Put one scroll in each of the men's sandals.



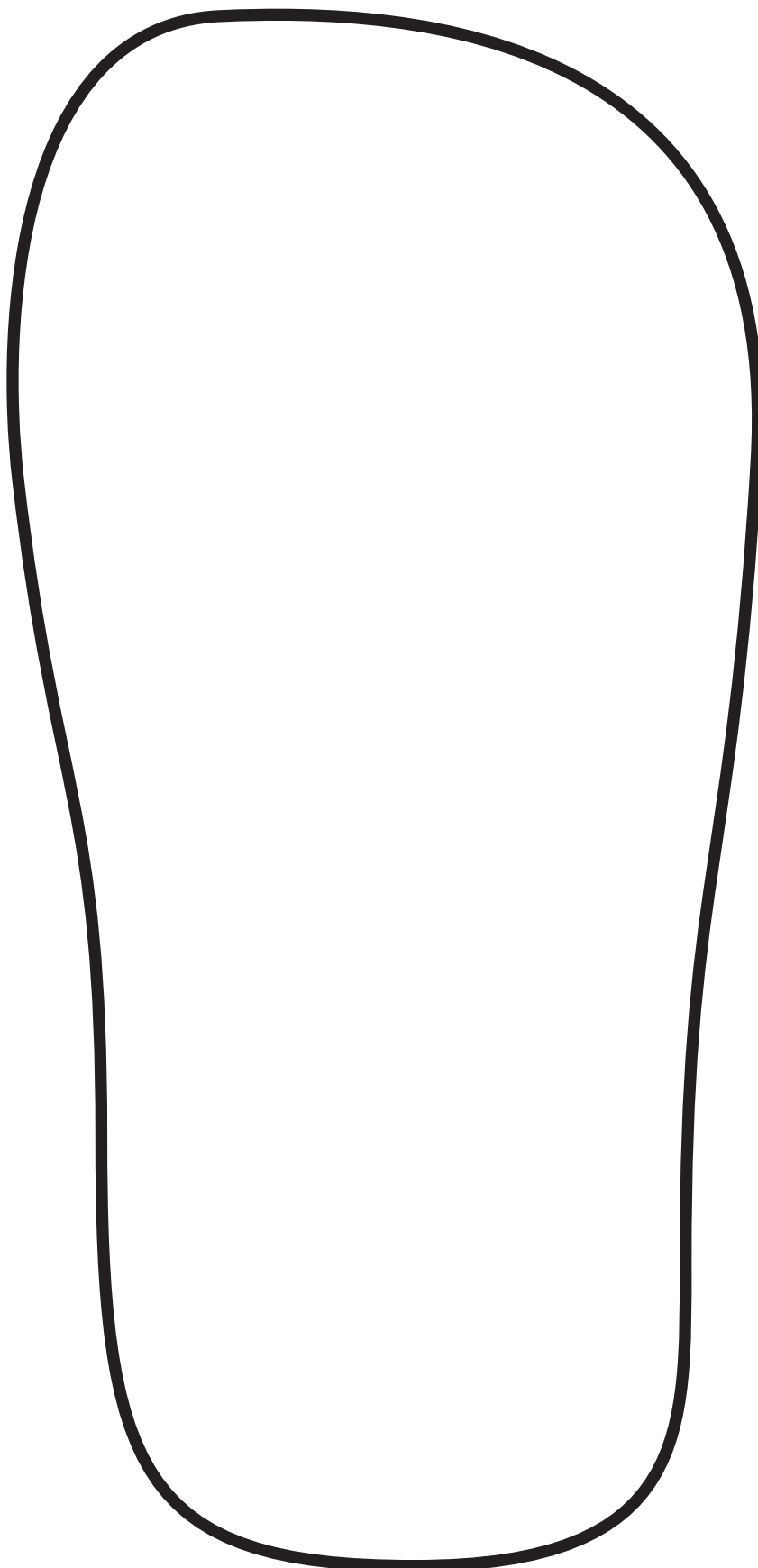
PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 40 min.

Materials

- "Footprint Stencil" (p. 2)
- twelve pieces of 9 x 12-inch, brown construction paper
- "Footprint Messages" (pp. 3-4)
- "Scroll Scripture Verses" (p. 5)
- "Key Word" pictures (Introduction pp. 7-16)
- "Key Word Definitions and Hand Motions" (Introduction pp. 17-21)
- one pair of men's sandals
- globe
- scissors
- glue or glue stick
- pencil or pen

Footprint Stencil



Footprint Messages: Acts 13-14

Footprint #1

The Lord told the church in Antioch to set apart Paul and Barnabas for work that God wanted them to do.

Footprint #2

The church leaders prayed for Paul and Barnabas, placed hands on them, and sent them out.

Footprint #3

God's Spirit guided Paul and Barnabas to the island of Cyprus.

Footprint #4

Paul and Barnabas traveled the whole island!

Footprint #5

One man tried to stop Paul and Barnabas from telling the governor of the island about Jesus. Paul looked straight at the man and told him to stop! Then God made the man go blind. He stumbled and fell down in his blindness. Seeing God's power, the amazed governor believed Paul and Barnabas and accepted Christ as his Savior!

Footprint #6

Paul and Barnabas sailed from Cyprus and traveled on to a place named *Pisidian* (puh-**sihd**-dee-ihn). They spoke about Jesus in a Jewish synagogue (a church). The people told their friends everything they heard. The next week almost the whole town came to hear them! God's Word spread through the whole region.

Footprint Messages, continued

Footprint #7

Hearing of Jesus made many people happy, but it also made some unhappy.

They did not want Jesus to be their Savior. These people got angry and forced Paul and Barnabas to leave!

Footprint #8

Next, Paul and Barnabas traveled to a city named *Iconium* (eye-**koh**-nee-uhm) where they boldly proclaimed the good news about Jesus. But here too, angry people threatened to hurt them and forced them to leave. They traveled on to the city of *Lystra* (**lihs**-truh).

Footprint #9

In *Lystra* (**lihs**-truh), a man who had not been able to walk since the day he had been born heard Paul talking. Paul saw the man and said in a loud voice so everyone could hear, “STAND ON YOUR FEET” but the man did not stand up; he jumped up! The miracle surprised everyone.

People thought Paul and Barnabas were gods to be worshiped! Paul talked fast to stop the people from worshiping him and Barnabas. They did not want to be famous. They wanted God to be famous!

Footprint #10

The angry people from *Iconium* (eye-**koh**-nee-uhm) followed Paul and Barnabas to *Lystra* (**lihs**-truh) where they stirred up trouble. Soon a crowd of angry people dragged Paul outside the city and started throwing rocks at him until they thought he was dead.

Footprint #11

Thankfully, Paul was not dead. He stood up and walked back into the city. The next day he and Barnabas traveled to the city of *Derbe* (**dehr**-bee) where a large number of people believed in Jesus.

Footprint #12

It was time to go home. Paul and Barnabas traveled back through all the cities to which they had visited meeting with all the new churches. When they arrived home, they told the church all that God did through them and about all the new Christians. They were happy to be partners with God in fulfilling his purpose by proclaiming his name.

It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known.

Paul
(Romans 15:20a)

“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in?
And how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard?
And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
And how can they preach unless they are sent?
As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

Paul
(Romans 10:13-15)

TEACHING (CORE)

KEY WORDS

Directions

1. Remind the students that they have been learning “Key Words” that explain God’s purpose and how he moves in history to fulfill this purpose.
2. Show the pictures for “Purpose,” “Proclamation,” “People,” and “People Moving.” Review the hand motions and definitions.
3. Show the picture for “Passport to the World.” Teach the definition and hand motions. Say, *“A passport is a small book that you need when you travel to another country. God gives us permission to go all around the world to tell other people about Jesus.”*

THEME LESSON: ON THE GO FOR GOD

Directions

1. Say, *“Boys and girls, today we will learn about the first missionaries named Paul and Barnabas. They lived a long time ago, more than 2000 years ago, and this is where they began their journey.”* On a globe, locate where you live. Now show the students where Paul and Barnabas began their first journey – Antioch. (Today, Antioch is a coastal town in Turkey, 300 miles north of Jerusalem near the border of Syria.) *“In those days, there were no cars, buses, or airplanes. Paul and Barnabas often walked from place to place to take the good news of Jesus to people who did not know about him.”*
2. *“We are going to follow footprints to find out more about this trip. Do you happen to see any footprints?”* Let the students respond. Then lead the group over to Footprint #1.
3. Say, *“I want you to listen for any ‘Key Words’ you may hear in the lesson. When you recognize a ‘Key Word’ do not say anything, just show me a smile.”* (“Key Words” are noted in bold print.)
4. Pick up Footprint #1 (Acts 13:2), find the message on the back, and read. Say, *“This work involved God’s purpose. What is God’s **purpose**?”* (If students are smiling at you, acknowledge their smiles by smiling back and clue in others who did not catch the word “Purpose.” Allow response. *“As missionaries go places, they make God’s name known. They are **partners** with God!”* Acknowledge the word “partners” or “Partnership” with your students.
5. Move to Footprint #2 (Acts 13:3), find the message on the back, and read. Then add, *“The church in Antioch helped prepare Paul and Barnabas by praying for them. Missionaries need prayer as they leave their family and friends to travel to other places so people can hear about Jesus. When Christian **people move** to other places God’s name goes with them.”*
6. Move to Footprint #3 (Acts 13:4), find the message on the back, and read. Then say, *“God promises to never leave us, no matter where, or how far away we travel. If you went to a jungle in South America, would God be*

Materials

- “Key Word” pictures (Introduction pp. 7-16)
- “Key Word Definitions and Hand Motions” (Introduction pp. 17-21)

Materials

- globe
- twelve brown footprints with “Footprint Messages” on back (pp. 2-4)

with you?” Allow responses. “What if you flew a plane to middle of Alaska, would God be with you?” Allow responses. “Yes, God is always with us, no matter where we travel. God also helps us; he helps us know what to do and where to go.”

7. Move to Footprint #4 (Acts 13:6), find the message on the back, and read. Say, “God wants everyone to hear about him. God told us to go into the entire world. That means we have a **passport** from God to go everywhere.”
8. Move to Footprint #5 (Acts 13:6-12), find the message on the back, and read. Summarize, “As Paul courageously told others about Jesus, God’s **power** helped **people** to believe his words.”
9. Move to Footprint #6 (Acts 13:13-49), find the message on the back, and read.
10. Ask, “How do you think God’s Word spread throughout the whole region? Did Paul and Barnabas tell every person themselves?” Allow response. “You are right. Paul and Barnabas didn’t tell the whole town. **People** who heard the good news **proclaimed** it to their family and friends, those people told more people, and the news spread. Why do you think it was important that both Jews and many other people heard God’s Word?” Allow response. “Yes, Jesus is for all people!”
11. Move to Footprint #7 (Acts 13:49-51), find the message on the back, and read. Explain, “Not everyone who hears about Jesus will like him. Some people do not want to believe the Bible. They may even get mad when people talk about God.”
12. Move to Footprint #8 (Acts 14:1-7), find the message on the back, and read. Ask, “Why do you think some people do not want to hear about Jesus?” Allow responses. “The Bible says some people like sin instead of Jesus. They want to live life their own way, not God’s way.” (See John 3:19.)
13. Move to Footprint #9 (Acts 14:8-18), find the message on the back, and read.
14. Say, “People in Lystra (**lihs-truh**) worshiped many gods. Could these gods hear their prayers?” Allow response. “No, they could not hear. Only God can hear prayers. Did their gods have **power** like the God of Paul and Barnabas?” Allow responses. “No, no one has **power** like God. Paul wanted **people** to stop worshiping dead gods and to begin worshiping the living God.”
15. Move to Footprint #10 (Acts 14:20), find the message on the back, and read. Explain, “Boys and girls, sometimes missionaries face many dangers. Sometimes they give the most precious thing they have, their life, so that others will hear about Jesus. We need to pray for the safety and protection of our missionaries.”
16. Move to Footprint #11 (Acts 14:20-21), find the message on the back, and read. Ask, “What do you think you would do if you were beaten up like Paul? Would you want to go home?” Allow responses. “Who gave Paul strength and courage to go on?” Allow responses. “That is right. God did, and he gives us strength and courage, too.”

17. Move to Footprint #12 (Acts 14:21-28), find the message on the back, and read.

IN CLOSING: PRAYER

Directions

1. Have the students retrace the footprints back to the beginning. Have the students sit in a group.
2. Hold up a pair of men's sandals with two paper scrolls inside. Say, *"Paul and Barnabas wore shoes like sandals. Let's pretend that these are Paul's shoes. God used Paul to write part of the Bible to help us know how to live. Words actually written by Paul have been printed on paper and placed inside the shoes. Let's find out what Paul wrote."*
3. Remove Scroll #1 and read. Ask, *"Boys and girls, what do you think Paul meant when he said this?"* Allow responses. *"Yes, Paul wanted everyone to hear about Jesus. Has everyone heard about Jesus today?"* Allow responses. *"No, today there are still more than one billion people who have not heard about Jesus. That is one out of every six people on earth! Do we need to take God's message to people today?"* Allow responses. *"Yes!"*
4. Remove Scroll #2 and read.
5. Say, *"Missionaries bring the good news of Jesus to people all around the world. Paul and Barnabas were the first missionaries but many others followed their example. In the next few lessons we will be learning about some of these people who were God's messengers."*
6. Lead the students in prayer, thanking God for Paul and Barnabas and for missionaries who followed.

Materials

- two "Scroll Scripture Verses," rolled up and placed in sandals (p. 5)



SONG: GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES

Before the Activity Directions

1. Set up the TV/DVD. Cue the DVD to the “Go and Make Disciples” song. Practice the hand motions.

Directions

1. Say, *“In our last lesson, we learned that Jesus gave his followers a job to do. They were to go all around the world and teach people about Jesus. When people heard about Jesus and believed in him, they began to obey what Jesus said. People that followed Jesus were called ‘disciples.’”*
2. *“If we love and obey Jesus, we can be his disciples, too.”*
3. Play “Go and Make Disciples” on the DVD. Direct students to listen to the words and watch the motions the first time.
4. Direct students to stand. Play the song again. Invite students to sing along and try the motions.



PREPARATION: 2 min.

TEACHING: 3 min.

Materials

- “Go and Make Disciples” song (MS)
- TV/DVD



FINGER PLAY: I CAN, TOO

Before the Activity Directions

1. Set up the TV/DVD. Cue the DVD to the “I Can, Too” finger play. Practice the hand motions.

Directions

1. Say, “*Let’s practice a finger play we learned about obeying God, even though we are not very old or very big yet.*”
2. Play “I Can, Too” on the DVD. Direct students to listen to the words and watch the motions the first time.
3. Direct students to stand. Play the finger play again. Invite students to say the words and try the motions.



PREPARATION: 2 min.

TEACHING: 3 min.

Materials

- “I Can, Too” finger play (AS)
- TV/DVD



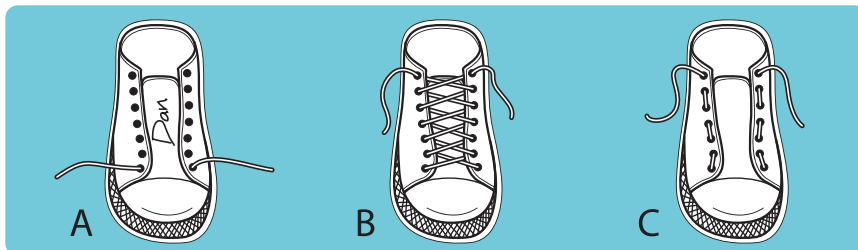
CRAFT: FEET THAT GO

Before the Activity Directions

1. Copy the “Go-er Shoe” page onto white cardstock, one sheet for every two students.
2. Pre-punch holes for each shoe.

Directions

1. Pass out the “Go-er Shoe” sheet, crayons, and markers to each student.
2. Show them how to write their name in large letters going down the tongue of the shoe. Have them color the shoe.
3. Pass out scissors and have the students cut out their shoes.
4. Pass out the red licorice strings or shoelaces. Show students how to thread the licorice string or shoelace down through one hole near the toe, across, and up through the hole on the opposite side. (See A below.)
5. Show them how to pull the licorice or shoelace through so there is an equal amount of string on each side of the shoe.
6. Have students thread laces through remaining holes, using a crisscross pattern. (See B below.)
7. Students can then tie the laces.
8. **Note:** If crisscrossing is too difficult, have students lace straight up each side. (See C below.)



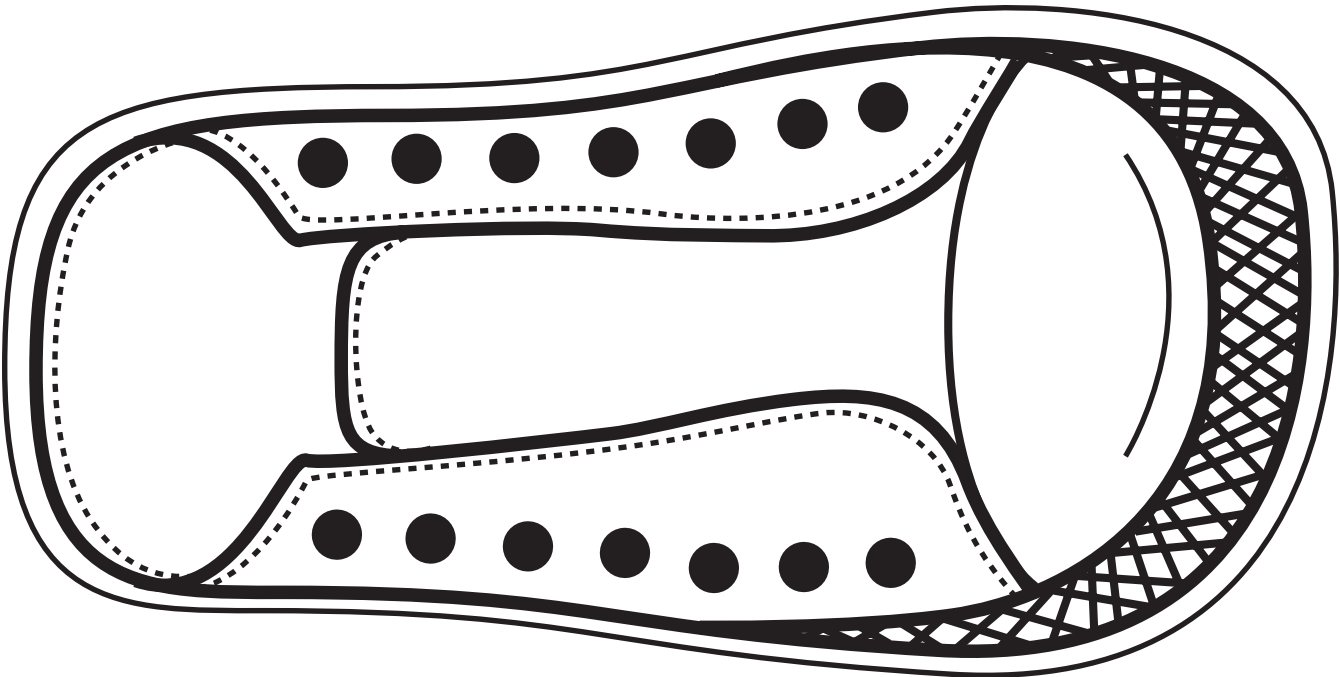
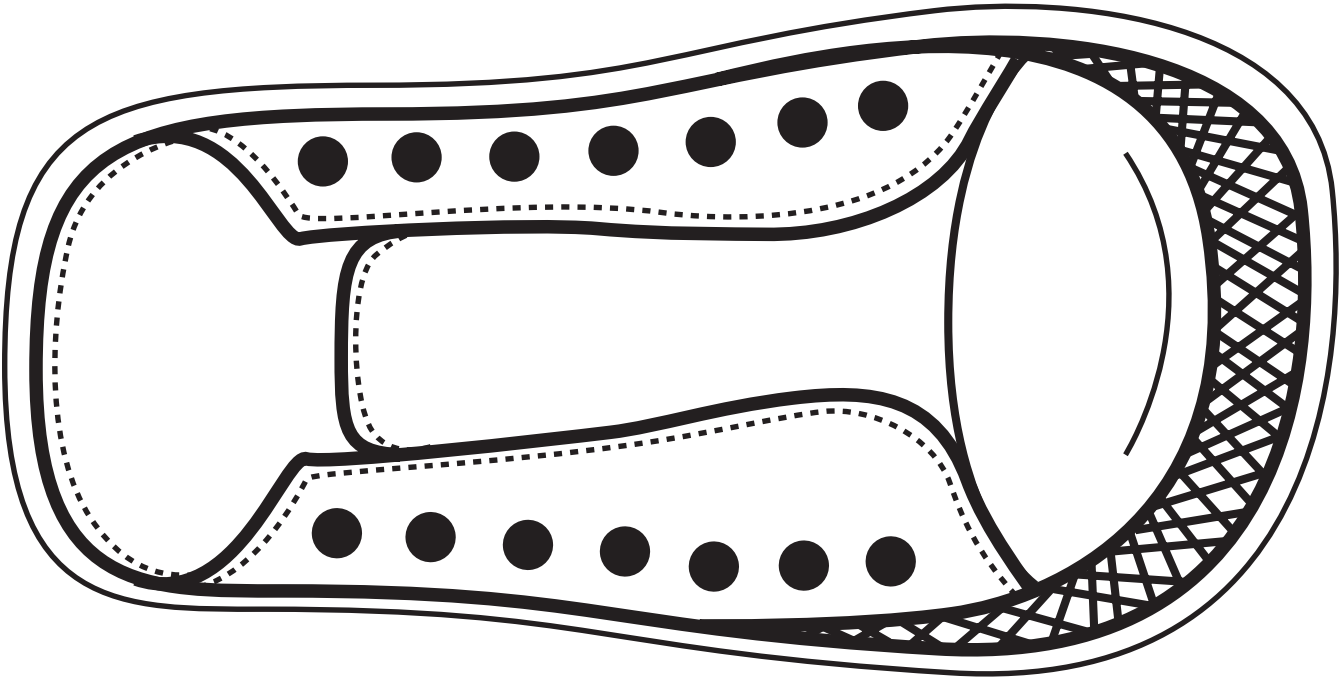
PREPARATION: 15 min.

TEACHING: 20 min.

Materials

- “Go-er Shoe” (p. 12)
- white cardstock
- colored markers
- strings of long, thin red licorice or white shoelaces, one for each student
- hole punch
- scissors

Go-er Shoe





GAME: FOLLOW THE LEADER

Directions

1. Remind students that once they know Jesus, they need to follow him. Sometimes people who follow God go to far away places to tell other people about Jesus. Sometimes we can follow God in our school and neighborhoods.
2. Tell students they will play “Follow the Leader.” Although, most students will be familiar with this game, tell them to listen carefully to the directions you will use.
3. One student will come to the front and be the “leader.” When the music starts, the leader will begin moving and acting in ways that the others must copy. The leader can stay in one place or move around the room.
4. The other students must watch him carefully and do exactly what he does. If the leader claps, the others must clap. If the student begins to skip, the others must follow him and skip.
5. When the music stops, the leader chooses a new person to go up in front and he joins the rest of the group.
6. Change leaders often.



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 15 min.

Materials

- CD or cassette (your choice)
- CD or cassette player



SNACK: FOOT TREAT

Makes six servings (one serving = one lettuce leaf, one pear half, and five mandarin oranges)

Directions

1. Put one lettuce leaf on each plate.
2. Place one pear half in the middle of the lettuce leaf, rounded side up.
3. Drain the mandarin oranges and place them in small bowls for each table.
4. Remind the students that God wants us to go to places in the world where people have never heard about him. In Jesus' day, people used their feet to go. This foot treat reminds us that we can still go to people who do not know Jesus today.
5. Pass out the napkins and the plates with the pear halves. Tell the students that these pears are in the shape of a foot, but they are missing toes.
6. Put bowls of mandarin oranges on each table. Direct students to take five oranges and arrange them at the top of the pear to make toes.



PREPARATION: 10 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- one can of pear halves
- two cans of mandarin oranges
- one head of lettuce
- small bowls
- plastic spoons
- small paper plates
- napkins



PRAYER ACTIVITY: FEET FOR JESUS PRAYER

Before the Activity Directions

1. Use a marker to print Romans 10:15b in the middle of each piece of paper or posterboard. “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.”

Directions

Option 1

1. Lay the butcher paper on the floor. Direct the students to stand around the outside edges of the paper. Read the verse in the middle of the pages. Remind them that God’s messengers have carried the good news of Jesus to many parts of the world, but there are still people who have not heard of Jesus. Explain that God wants to use them to go tell others about Jesus, either close or far away.
2. Have the students remove one of their shoes and put it on the piece of paper near the edge. Pass out pencils and have each student trace around their shoe.
3. Pass out markers and have students trace over the pencil outline and then print their name inside the shape.
4. Collect the markers and pencils have the students put their shoes on. Tell them to sit around the outside of the paper.
5. Have the teacher or helper at each piece of paper lead the group in prayer. Personalize the prayer, by reading the names printed on the paper and then asking God to help the students to obey God when he asks them to go and tell others about Jesus.

Option 2

1. Pass out pencils, markers, scissors, and a piece of 9 x 12-inch colored construction paper to each student.
2. Have the students remove one shoe and place it on the piece of construction paper. Direct them to trace around the shoe using a pencil.
3. Have students use markers to print their names inside the shoe shape. Have them cut out the shoe shape.
4. As students finish, staple their shoe shapes onto the white poster boards around the Romans 10:15b verse.
5. Collect materials and have students put their shoes on. Tell them to sit around the poster boards.
6. Have the teacher or helper at each poster board read the verse in the middle and remind students that God’s messengers carry the good news of Jesus to many parts of the world. Explain that God wants to use them to go tell others about Jesus, either close or far away.
7. Have the teacher and helpers lead their group in prayer. Personalize the prayer, by reading the names on each shoe shape and then asking God to



PREPARATION: 5 min.

TEACHING: 10 min.

Materials

- large piece of white butcher paper or white poster board for every fifteen students you anticipate
- markers
- pencils
- piece of 9 x 12-inch construction paper, any color, for each student (Option 2)
- scissors (Option 2)
- stapler (Option 2)

help students to obey God when he asks them to go and tell others about Jesus.