

Winter Issue

TEACHING OBEDIENCE, DISCIPLESHIP, AND AGAPE TO YOUTH

2001

FOR CHURCH, HOME, AND SCHOOL

"TRAIN UP A CHILD"

Second Generation Christians - First Love

By Judi (Tindall) Younger



When we talk to brethren, we hear stories of how they came to know the truth. How old they were, where they were, and how their thirst for knowledge was so compelling (otherwise known as "first love").

With those of us who were raised in the truth, the "moment of truth" is much more subtle, and at times very difficult to distinguish.

I would like to share with you how my parents taught their beliefs and passed along that "first love".

I was around seven years of age when my Dad started a search for "the truth". He started taking us to one church after another on Sundays, but never the same one twice. Then, he heard a radio program by Herbert W. Armstrong and subsequently found the truth about the Seventh Day Sabbath, and it became our way of life. Church for us at that time was reading and studying the Bible on Friday evening, and listening to the broadcast and reading articles from the Plain Truth on Saturday. We were not allowed to "play" from Friday evening until Saturday evening. Now I realize this sounds harsh to many of you, but let me just say - it did me no harm. Gradually, we became educated about Easter, Halloween, Christmas, etc. My older sister and I accepted, without challenge and without question, what our parents were teaching. It all made sense, even to our young minds. Rabbits don't lay eggs, there are not 3 days and 3 nights from Friday to Sunday, and the seventh day is Saturday, not Sunday. At that time there was no local church. A minister would come to town only occasionally.

I remember vividly, in November, 1955, when my parents were baptized. My Mother was within three weeks of delivering my baby sister. A local church was started with services held on Friday evening. Children and adults were all in one room to hear the sermon. We were taught by our Mother how to take notes on the sermon. Of course, the element of respect was one that was taught without fail and adhered to strongly. Most sermons lasted two hours at that time, and we were to sit still and pay attention. We were not allowed to go to the bathroom, play games, color, or

anything. We paid attention. I was taught to write down any questions I might have. Whispering was not allowed.

As the years went by, the church grew and we enjoyed the fellowship of other families, both at church and after church, either at our house or theirs. When I became a teenager, there were many things to do with the church. Sabbath Services, Wednesday Night Bible Study, basketball, softball, socials, skating parties, Holy Days, potlucks. My entire social life was involved with church activities. There was little contact with the "world", except for school and music lessons. When I was 15, we finally were able to attend the Feast of Tabernacles in Big Sandy, Texas. A huge tent, thousands of people, staying in a motel for eight days!!! WOW!!! It was terrific!! I met other young adults and started corresponding. This was also the first time I saw Herbert W. and Garner Ted Armstrong in person.

The foundation for my devotion to God and His servants was FIRM. My parents had taught by example. They taught first and foremost RESPECT. Respect is the key element, the foundation, for love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. (Galatians 6:22 & 23.) RESPECT is the foundation for keeping the TEN COMMANDMENTS and loving God. They taught us about God loving us. They taught

(Continued on page 3)

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Personal Note



We hope you enjoy this month's issue. It's been a very busy time since returning from the Feast, but we are committed to making sure the TODAY Newsletter gets into your hands in a timely manner and hopefully every 3 months. We plan on having at least four issues a year, Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We also plan on putting together a special issue every so often, possible a Feast issue.

In this issue we feature reports and pictures on youth classes at two feast sites, Wagner OK and Lake Texoma OK. It is not too late to send in your report. Include pictures if you wish, and remember to give names of teachers, the feast site location along with other information regarding Youth Day, children's activities, etc.

We have also included in this issue samples of "Children's Bible Activity Sheets" published by Communication Resources. (For more information about these sheets see "The Resource Corner".)

Be sure and read "The Resource Corner", a new addition to TODAY. We are looking forward to hearing from you about any resources you use; and if you would like to include a review of any books, lessons, etc that would be helpful to parents and teachers we would gladly print it in the TODAY in this column. We need your input in making this a success and it gives you an opportunity to share your resources, lessons, crafts, ideas, etc. with others. Any help you can give us in this area would be greatly appreciated. Also, if you know of anyone who would benefit from receiving this newsletter, please send me their name and address and we will add them to our mailing list.

If you would like to become a contributor to the TODAY Newsletter, please send your articles, ideas, and crafts to **Shelby Faith, P.O. Box 183, High Ridge, MO 63049**, or you may email me at : sfaith@stlnet.com.

Please let us know how we can serve you better. What would you like to see in TODAY - more articles, crafts, lessons samples? Help us to make this your newsletter. Send your letters, ideas or comments to me at the above address. Thank you for your continuing interest and support.

Shelby Faith



Letters From Our Readers

"Dear Mrs. Faith, Please keep sending me your TODAY paper. I believe it's an essential way to communicate and connect!! We need each other. Thanks again!"

Love, Pam Chambers, Sherman, TX

OUR NEW CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please send any ideas, suggestions, resources, articles, crafts, contributing materials, letters, comments, etc. regarding TODAY to me at my address: Shelby Faith, P.O. Box 183, High Ridge, MO 63049

with strong discipline. They taught us about truth, honor, self control, honesty. They taught by scripture. They taught us about faith. They taught us how to say "I'm sorry" and mean it - repentance. AND they taught us about answered prayer.

I was baptized when I was 18 years old. It wasn't until six years later that I questioned my baptism. Having listened to many of the brethren, through the years telling of their "first love" experiences, I was questioning just where and when did my "first love" happen. God arranged several rather devastating trials for me, which even took me to another city. That was where I discovered that my "first love" had been with me - part of me all those years. I may have studied and prayed, as a child, because my parents told me to, at first. But God also tells us in His Word to study and pray.

As a child my love for God and Jesus Christ was as great as it is today (II Timothy 3:15). I do, however, understand His love for me much clearer today. (John 10:27-29) (Romans 8:38 & 39). When I married and had children, we taught them the same way, with regard to respect, honor, honesty, truth, self-control and repentance. When we left the Worldwide Church of God in 1979, we didn't attend another church on a regular basis until the fall of 1988. During the ten-year period, we taught our children about the Sabbath, Holy Days, Christmas, Easter, etc., but not until we started attending church again, did they completely understand. Let me add here that during that ten year period, as a family, we were not always "on track" like we should have been, but God was merciful and didn't allow our poor choices to affect the foundation already in place for our children.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to teach children respect... how important it is to teach them how to make right choices, and then to let them make their own choices when they're old enough... how important it is to teach them by example... how important it is to monitor their music (addressed later in this article) ... how important it is to know, really know, their friends.

Children are God's Gift to us, entrusted to our care only for a little while. The hope and joy of all parents who have knowledge of God's true Word is that their children will receive that knowledge and embrace it with all their hearts. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart therefrom." (Proverbs 22:6, John 14:15, Matthew 22:37).

If we "train up a child" (our children) "in the way he should go", (in God's truth) we need to ACTIVELY monitor what movies they see, what they watch on television, what music they listen to, what they see on the internet, what they wear and how they say "Yes Sir" "No Sir" "Yes Ma'am" "No Ma'am", just as we actively monitor what they put in their mouths as babies.

Zig Ziglar authored a book called "Raising Positive Kids in a Negative World". It is written with humor, compassion and a Christian heart. In it there is a story of a young girl who suddenly had some rather notable mood swings. Rather than getting up every morning with a pleasant attitude, she was getting up every morning grumpy, unpleasant, and hateful. Her parents were at their wits end trying to figure out what had happened. Then one morning, one of the parents walked by her room as the new clock

radio she got for her birthday went off, and they heard this awful hard rock music. In their minds they backtracked to the time when their daughter was happy and joyful, and suddenly realized that the ugly attitude started around the same time she got the radio. They took the radio out of her room and returned the old fashioned alarm clock, and within 36 hours their lovely, joyful, happy daughter was back. Studies have been done concerning types of music and the affect it has on the young minds, and we need to pay attention as concerned parents.

Do all children raised "in the church" - "in the truth" always continue as members? NO!! Example: My two sisters (one 2 years older and one 9 1/2 years younger) were raised by the same parents, in the same church as I was. My older sister married a deacon in the Worldwide Church of God, had three children, was married for 17 years, divorced, and hasn't attended any church of any kind since 1979. My baby sister who came into this world with parents attending church, attended only until she was 16, and hasn't set foot in the church again. Why did it stick with me and not my two sisters? Only God knows. God calls those whom He will. I thank Him every day for His calling, for opening my mind and my heart to His Word - His Way. I thank Him every day for opening the mind and hearts of my children, who are both now baptized.

God has definitely worked His miracles in my family and for my family (Romans 8:38).

As far as my two sisters, I still hold fast to the scripture "train up a child in the way that he should go and when he is old he will not depart therefrom." Perhaps when they are older, my prodigal sisters will return, just like the prodigal son. (Luke 15:-32).

God has given each of us freedom of choice. Our choices either take us closer to God, or take us farther away. The same holds true for our children. As our children become adults we, as parents, no longer make decisions for them. They ultimately will have to choose God's way for themselves.

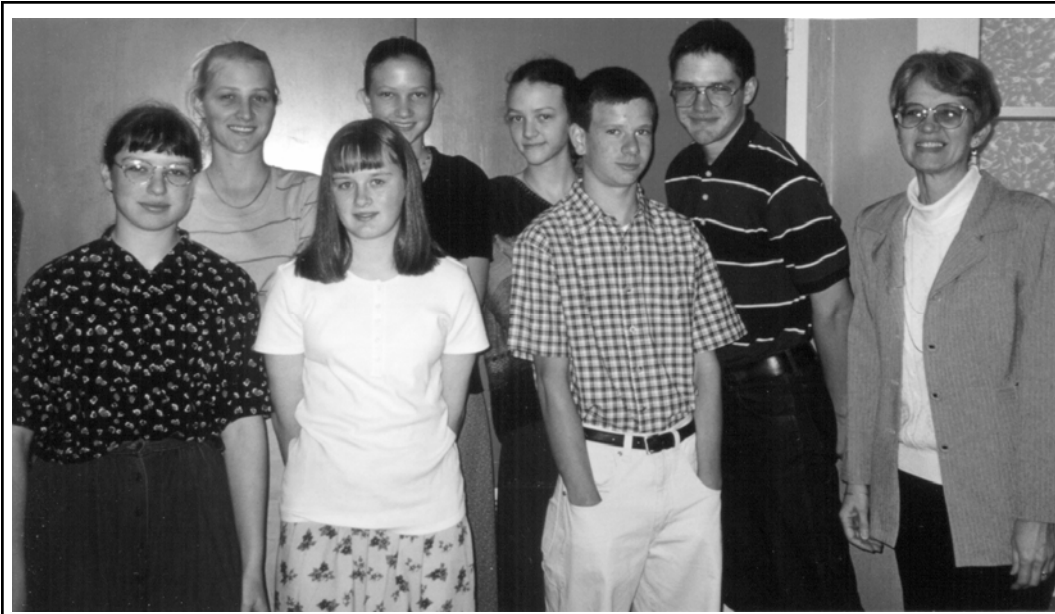
However, if we first teach our children to love God (PRAYER) and teach them how much God loves them (BIBLE STUDY) - we have laid a good foundation. Then as we teach them to RESPECT, to HONOR, to be HONEST, as we teach them about TRUTH, with strong DISCIPLINE, about SELF-CONTROL, about REPENTANCE, about FAITH, as we teach them to learn scripture and about ANSWERED PRAYER, with God's help, we will see yet another generation of Christians with their eyes on the Kingdom and their hearts loving God, patiently waiting for Christ to return. (II Thessalonians 3:5)



FEAST SABBATH SCHOOL REPORTS - 2000

Lake Texoma, OK

At the Lake Texoma Feast there were 26 young people taking part in the youth classes. Pam Chambers was the coordinator for these classes and the theme was "God's Plan Comes Together". There were 3 classes including 10 children ages 4 to 8 taught by Vicki Ryan, 6 children ages 9 to 12 taught by Christi Gonzalez, and 10 teens taught by Pam Chambers. Classes started at 9:30 each morning for 6 days. Class projects included color pages, posters, stuffed animals, little scrolls made out of construction paper and craft sticks (ages 4 to 8); songs/poems, leaves glued to colored paper, Ten Commandments cut out and glued to Moses' tablets, artwork, pop-up book of Solomon's Temple, and making Bible Bookmarks (ages 9 to 12); posters and Time Line, Holy Day scroll, Jigsaw puzzles, displays, handouts, quizzes and scripts (teen class). Teen and children's activities included a Family Fun Park, a tour of an Indian fort, a children's carnival, lake activities, and a fish fry. On Youth Day one teen girl led the service songs, and another girl and her brother gave announcements. (Report by Pam Chambers, 233 Primrose, Sherman, TX 75092)



Lake
Texoma
Teen
Class

Teacher,
Youth
Classes
Coordin-
ator

Pam
Chambers

Lake
Texoma
Youth
Classes
Ages
4 to 12

Teachers:
Christi
Gonzalez
(left side)
Vicki Ryan
(right side)

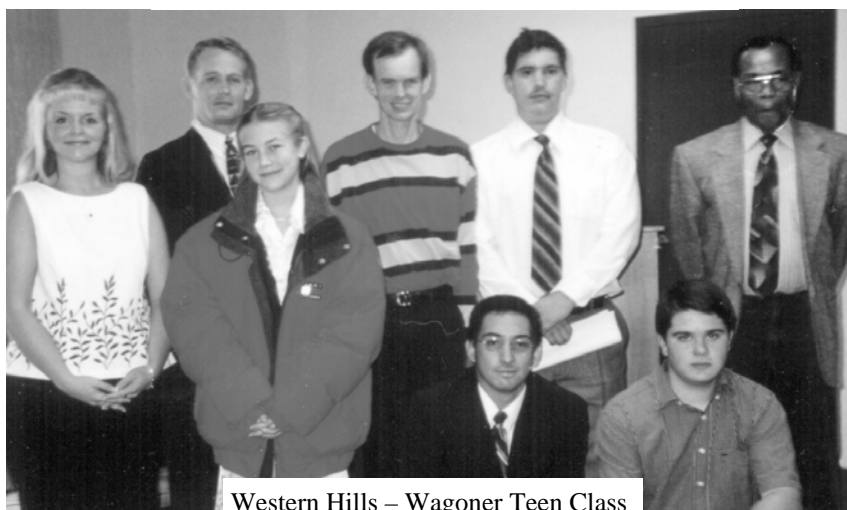


FEAST SABBATH SCHOOL REPORTS - 2000

Western Hills, Wagoner, OK

Nineteen young people attended classes at the Wagoner Feast site. Classes were divided into age groups of 3 to 6 years, 7 to 9, 10 to 12 and the teen class. There were 13 in the younger classes and 6 in the teen class. Margie Marang taught the 3 to 6 years' class, with helpers Dovie Martin, Tina Packard, Kathy Monahan, Rochell Payne and Tammy Gilbert. Sue McCulley and Suzanne Loomis taught the age group 7 to 9 years. Debbie Kramer taught the 10 - 12 years' class, and Steve Mansfield taught the teen class. The theme for this years' Feast classes was "A Reflection of Jesus" (booklets were provided by Church of God, International), and a youth activity booklet was given to each child. Class activities included making paper tents, stuffed animals, felt boards, color pages, crossword puzzles and quizzes, and memory scriptures. One class made incense jars by using small baby food jars with flower stickers around the outside and potpourri placed inside the jar. The classes centered in on the Tabernacle, what was to be placed there, how it was to be used, and the rituals associated with the Tabernacle. Classes learned about the Mercy Seat and the Holy of Holies. Each day time was taken for the children to practice songs to be sung on Youth Day. The younger children sang "If You Love Him" and "A Children's Song of Praise". The teen class sang "Our God Is An Awesome God". (Report and pictures by Shelby Faith, P.O. Box 183, High Ridge, MO 63049)

Teacher: Steve Mansfield (Back Row, 2nd on Left)

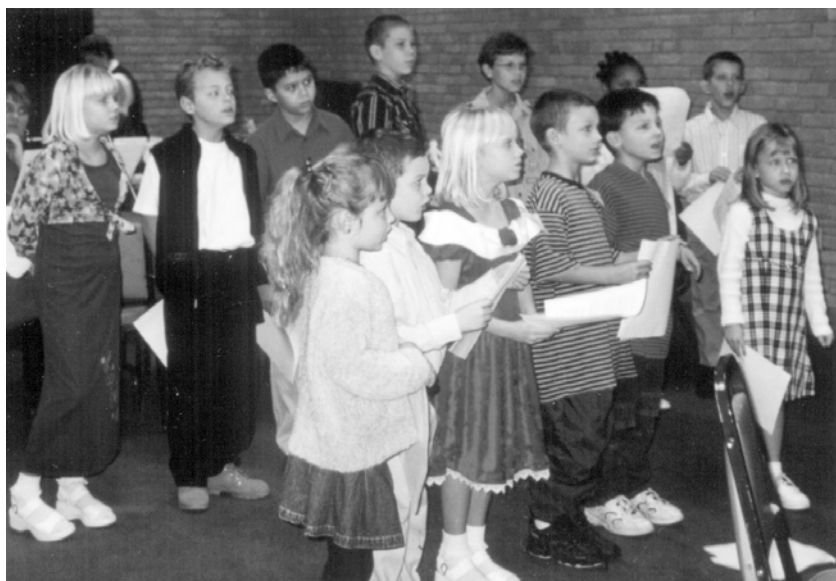


Western Hills – Wagoner Teen Class

Margie Marang



Teacher at Work



Western Hills – Wagoner Youth Classes (Ages 3 – 12 Years)

SAMPLE
Bible Activity Sheets
(Older Children)

Find an ending to
the incomplete words
from the list below

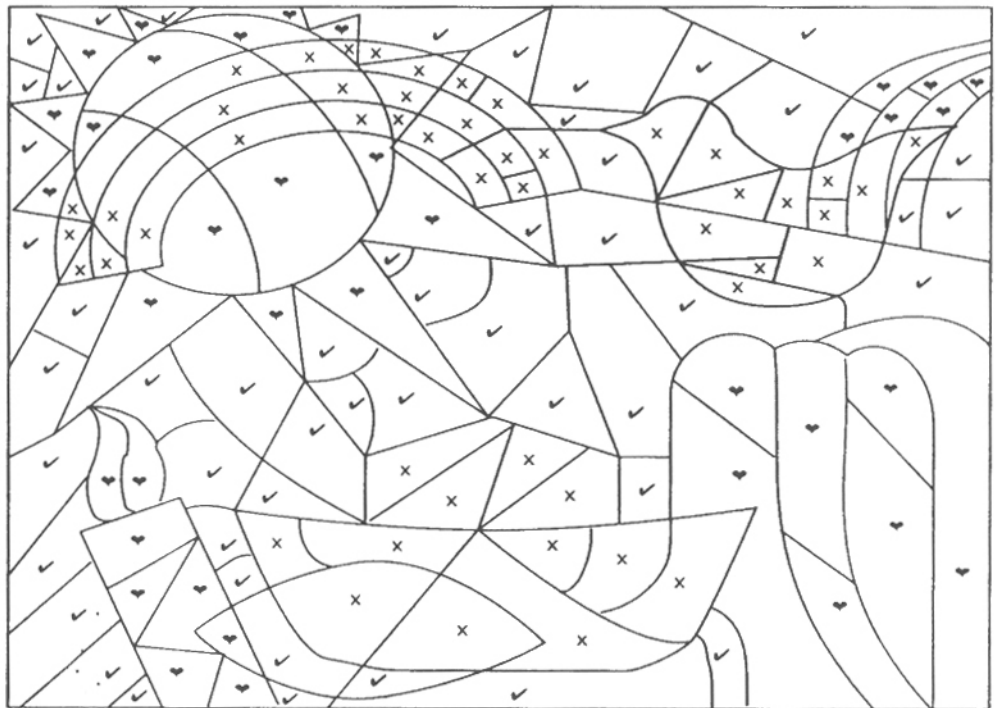
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| -od | -ll | -tures |
| -nt | -ty | -sings |
| -ld | -me | -ety |
| -ly | -tar | -men |
| -ked | -ok | -at |
| -re | -ed | -rth |
| -esh | -anks | -lent |
| -ld | -an | -ped |
| -tant | -tops | -side |
| -ned | -are | |

Color the spaces that have an x.
Find 3 things from the story.

God made a covenant
- a promise -
with Noah. He would
never destroy the earth
again by flood.



God looked at the wor_____ He'd made, and He was very sad
The men and wo_____ on His ea_____ were vio_____ and bad.
However, there was still one man who "wal_____ with God" all his life so
God would sp_____ him and his sons, his daughters-in-law and wife.
Noah was this go_____ man's na_____; God told him what to do.
He and his sons would bui_____ a bo_____ - an ark - a floating zoo!
It to_____ 120 years to build it to God's pl_____, and then they had to
fi_____ it with all crea_____ known to man. When all were safe_____
lodged in_____, God shut the ark's big door. Noah trust_____ God.
Each day - what could lie in sto_____? For for_____ days and nights it
rai_____ - it covered all the ground. The mountain_____ could not
be seen, no living thing be found. God stop_____ the rain and se_____
them out - to start now, fr_____ and new. What was the most impor_____
thing that Noah had to do? He built an al_____ to the Lord and offered
th_____ and praise for the bles_____. God had given him and saf_____
all those days.

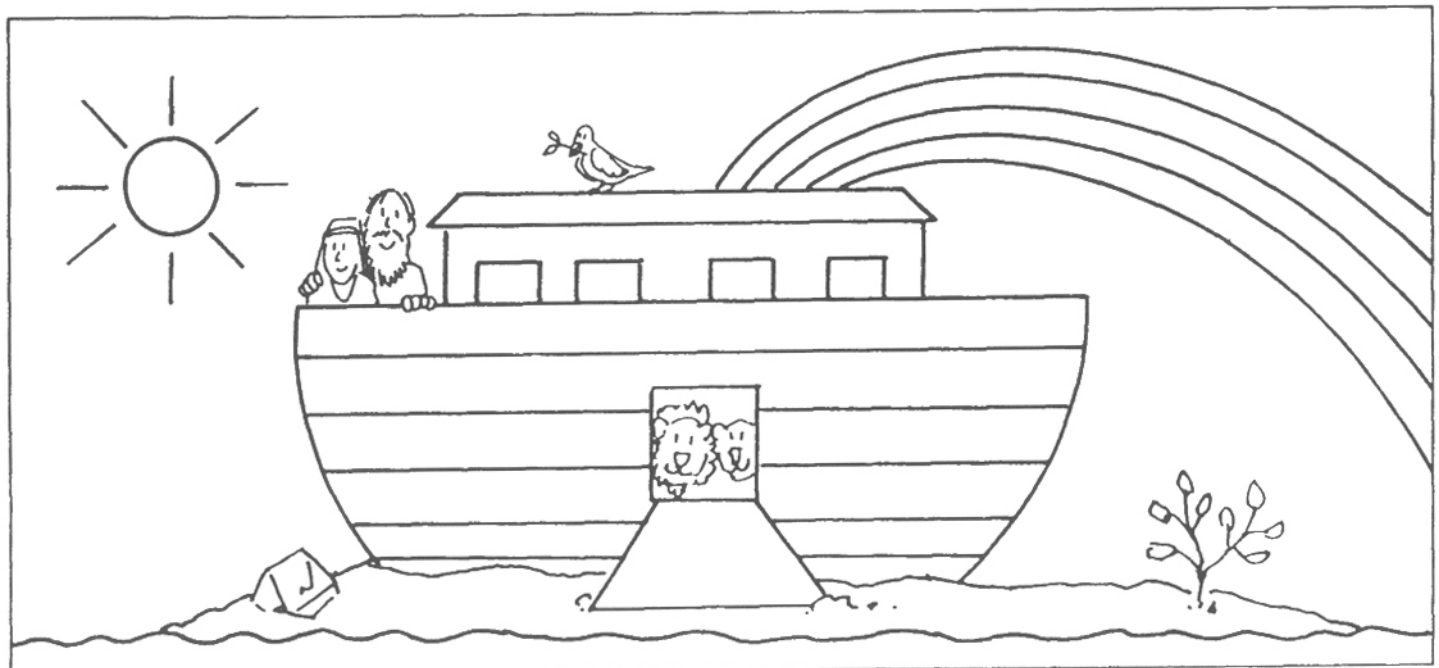
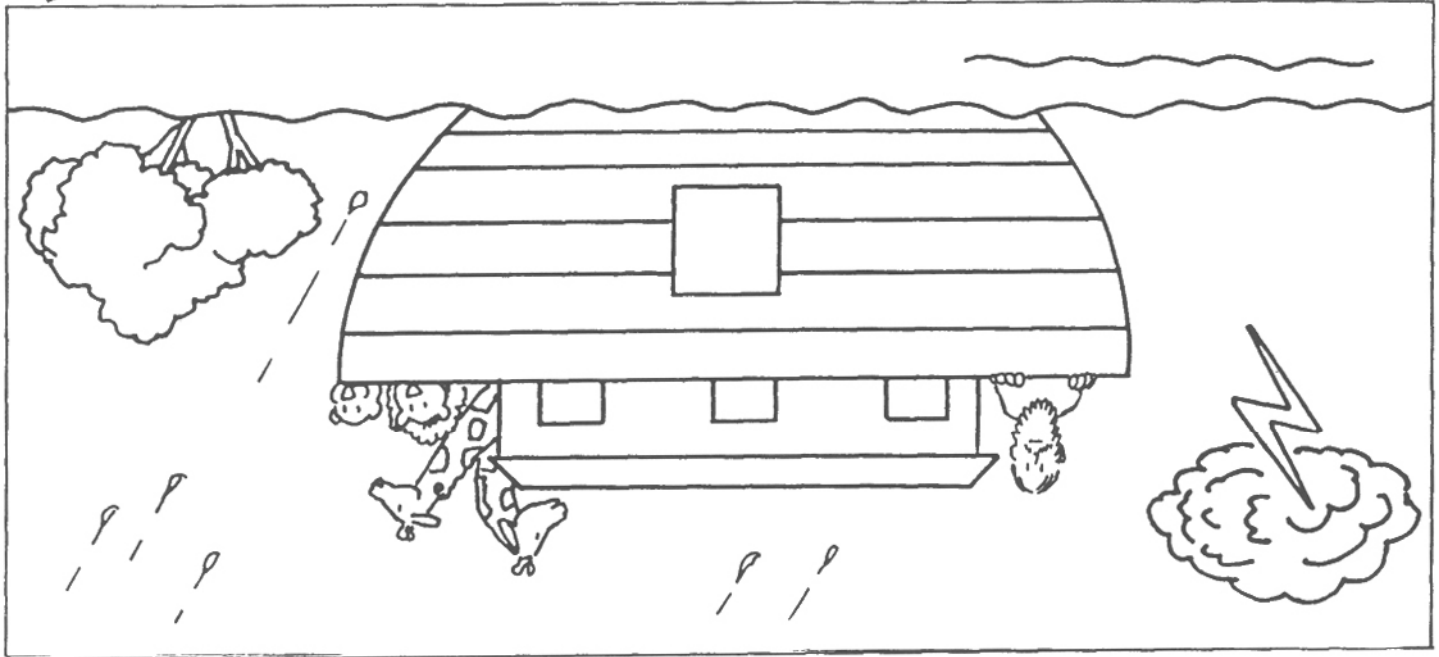


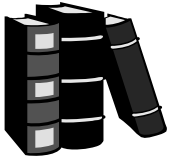
Name _____

SAMPLE
Bible Activity Sheets
(Younger Children)

Noah loved God. God helped Noah, his family
and many animals stay safe.

Circle 10 things different in the bottom picture.





THE RESOURCE CORNER



We are starting a new column in this issue and I need your help. If you have found books, lessons, children's' songs, tapes (video or audio), web sites, crafts, etc. that would be helpful to parents and teachers, please pass them along to me so that I may feature them as a resource for Sabbath school and home use. The following is a list where you may order sample lessons and/or catalogs, some are free of charge:

CHILDREN'S BIBLE ACTIVITY SHEETS.

Published by Communication Resources, Inc., 4150 Belden Village St. (4th Fl.) Canton, Ohio 44718. Phone: 1-800-992-2144

Review: Several lessons are sent out each quarter for a nominal charge. There is a bible lesson and 2 activities for each lesson. Activity sheets include an activity for the younger children and another more complicated activity for the older ones. (Call and ask for a free sample activity lesson.)

YEA SABBATH SCHOOL BOOKS, Published by Christian Education Ministries (CEM), P. O. Box 560, Whitehouse, TX 75791. Phone: 1-903-509-2999. Email: adm@cemnetwork.com.)

WEB SITES WITH LESSONS AND RESOURCES.

Check out the following web sites for available resources, crafts, lessons, etc.:

www.sabbathschoolint.org

Review: This site is maintained by Nancy DeJarnette and features a catalog of teacher's aids, tons of lessons, crafts, coloring books, etc. for all age groups (all can be downloaded or ordered and are offered free of any charge).

www.springvalleyxpns.com

Review: This site offers custom made buttons, magnets, certificates, etc., customized for your Sabbath School program by Marilyn Myers. Click on "Shopping Cart", then "Designs of Faith" to view excellent button designs for memorizing scriptures, bible stories, etc. Items can be ordered individually or quantity priced for all your Sabbath School classes. A nominal fee is charged.

Review: There are Sabbath school books available for youth of all ages. You can order a book for every child in your home or Sabbath school class and there are teacher's guides available for each lesson. There is a nominal charge for each book. Call or write CEM and ask for a sample book of lessons.

SABBATH KEEPING YOUTH (SKY), Catalog of resources and lessons available from Church of God, International, P.O. Box 2525, Tyler TX 75710. Phone: 1-903-825-2525. You may view SKY at www.cgi.org

Review: At this site your youth may chat, ask questions, contribute bible stories, etc. There are lesson plans available at the Parent/Teacher Connection Resources at this site also. (These lessons and materials are free of charge.)

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| <p><i>"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers"</i> Proverbs 17:6</p> | |