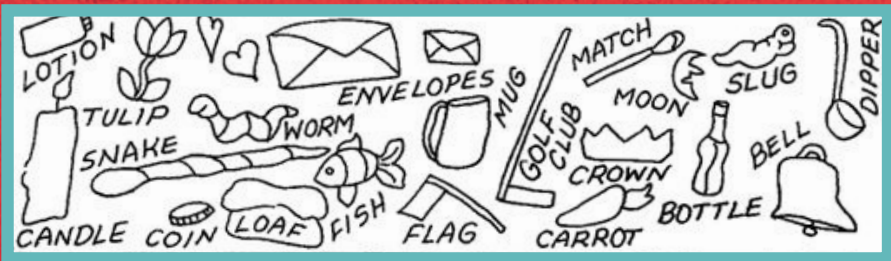
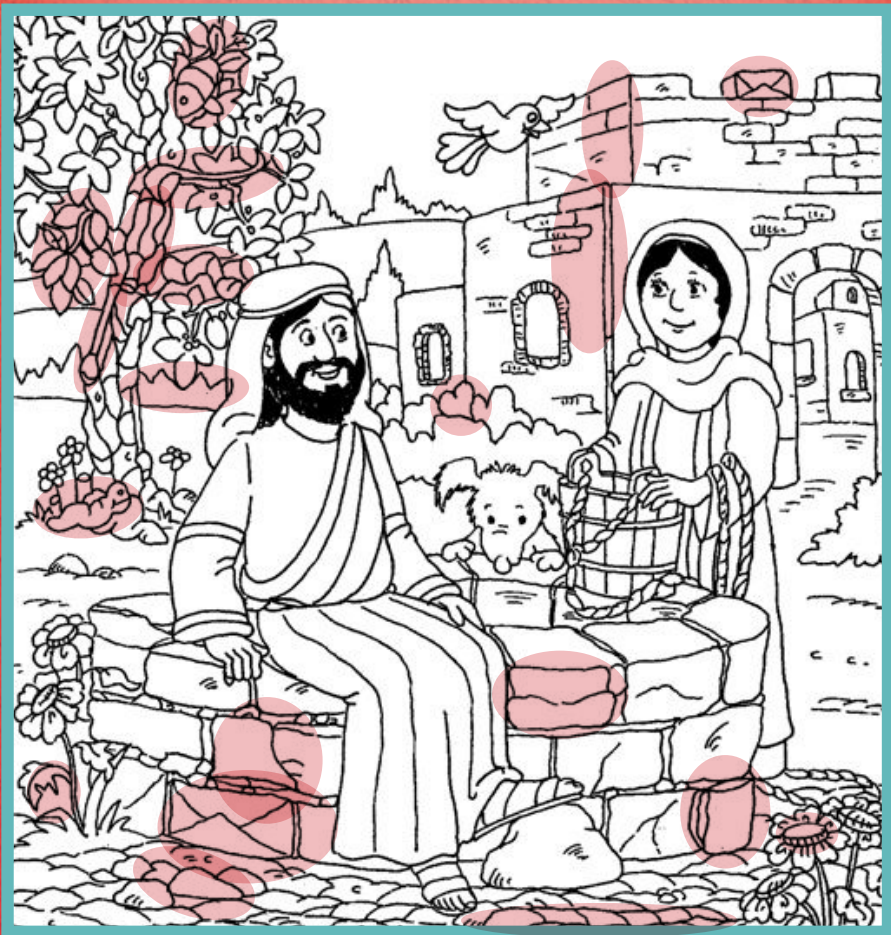


Look Closely!

Can you find all of the hidden items in the picture below?

Jesus shares His good news with a Samaritan woman.



TEACHER NOTES



CHILDREN'S TEACHER GUIDE – LESSON 3



Sending: Helpers Are Chosen



Sending: Helpers are Chosen

Key Verse — Acts 19:20

Suggested Activities:

Discuss the progress of the plants. Ask different questions concerning the changes and the differences between your plants and the children's. Explain the necessities for a plant to grow. If possible, bring in some other plants at various stages of growth. Discuss how each is different and what makes some taller, brighter, and more healthy. Ask how God's children can grow in the church.

Introduction:

Last week, our lesson left off with a village of farmers who were very frustrated with the scientist who taught them how to grow the food which had ended the devastating famine in their village. Because he owned the trees and because the farmers had not kept their promise to help feed others around the world, the scientist had limited their access to the food that was feeding their families. The people had grown selfish. They had forgotten that there were still hundreds of thousands of families outside their village who were starving to death. The scientist had to do something drastic in order to get their attention in time to save the world. He was thrilled when he finally heard a voice from the crowd.

Story: An Orchard Full of Trees

"We will go," said the farmer.

"My family will too," said another.

"Count me in!" said another young man. "I want to help feed others too."

"That's the spirit!" said the scientist. "Soon, you'll be making new friends and saving lives around the world!"

Then the scientist turned to the rest of the crowd and said, "It will be your job to make sure these farmers who are leaving to feed others have what they need for their journey. Remember, it takes the Farmer to go and the Nutrient to grow! We need to be sure they have all of the Super Nutrient Formula they need to cultivate those trees and feed everyone they meet!"

That small group of farmers gathered their seeds and as much of the scientist's Super Nutrient Formula as they could possibly carry and set out on a journey to feed the world. Village by village they followed the scientist's instructions to the letter.

Step 1: *Feed the People*

It didn't matter if they were rich, poor, tall, short, male, female, a different color, or even hard to communicate with because they spoke another language. The farmers offered food from the Super Tree to anyone and everyone who would eat it. The scientist had said the food was to feed all people, so they were obedient and offered it to everyone.

Step 2: *Teach the People to Feed Themselves*

It wasn't enough to just feed them. The farmers had to teach each new village how to farm. Once the Super Tree was planted in the middle of the community, the farmers taught the people how to use the Super Nutrient Formula every day to make the tree grow strong and produce a lot of food for the neighborhood families to survive.

Step 3: *Teach the People to Reach More People*

Once the traveling farmers had taught the local villagers to become farmers for themselves, the entire village became healthy and prosperous. However, the traveling farmers' work was not done. They stayed just a little longer so that they could teach the new farmers how to become traveling farmers as well so that they could also help in the scientist's dream to feed the world.

Little by little and village by village, the Super Trees spread around the world. The traveling farmers fed people and made them into farmers too. Every community was so thankful for the scientist's Super Nutrient Formula that they too sent out traveling farmers to recreate in other villages what they had experienced in their own. Over and over again, more and more starving people survived the famine because one by one, a farmer was willing to carry the nutrient to a dying world.

Conclusion:

Finally, some of the farmers fulfilled their promise and took the seeds and the nutrient and went out to teach others to plant and to grow trees just like the original Super Tree. Best of all, they taught the new farmers to do the same thing so that the scientist's orchard of Super Trees would keep going and growing to the ends of the Earth.

About two-thousand years ago, some members of the early church in Jerusalem were forced out of their local comfort zone and into other communities far from their homes. They took with them the good news of the Gospel of Christ. Everyone they met who would believe on Jesus was saved from spiritual starvation and death in Hell.

As in our story, the villagers who ate the Super Food became farmers, the people who believed on Christ became known as Christians (little Christs). Each new community of Christians gathered together to form a new church. God's Word is the nutrient that helps each church to grow strong just like the Super Trees in our story. Many Christians even followed the pattern set by the men who came to tell them about Christ. These traveling followers of Christ became known as missionaries. In our lesson story, the scientist had servants who were the farmers; they carried the nutrient to a starving world. As a servant of God, a missionary is a Messenger who carries God's Message to a lost and dying world.

As Christians, God has commanded us to do the same as the farmers in our story and the Jews in the Bible. We must plant churches and teach them to plant other churches. This, however, is a big job which needs many helpers no matter the size or age. What are some things you could do to help make other churches? Why not help around your own church to make it grow? How do you treat your church? Do you try to keep it clean? Are you careful with the furniture? Could you pray for the missionaries your church sends? How about raising money for the missionaries? You could even write a missionary a letter to encourage them. Do you like getting presents on your birthday? Why not find out when your missionary's birthday is and have someone help you send them a gift? These are only a few of the things you can do to fulfill God's command to spread the Gospel. Would you pray that God would help show you what you can do?