

COLOR ME CHRISTIAN

**by Dale and Liz VonSeggen
Randy Benefield
Dave Privett**

A six-session teaching unit for children in grades 1-6 for use in
• **Children's Church • Vacation Bible School • Kids' Crusades**
• **Mid-Week Children's Programs • Kids' Camps.**



COLOR ME CHRISTIAN

written by Dale and Liz VonSeggen, Randy Benefield, and Dave Privett
translated into Spanish by Veronica Smith

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P.O. Box 5077
Englewood, CO 80155-5077
303-790-1188 • 1-800-569-4537
www.onewaystreet.com

ISBN 1-58302-226-0

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Unit Description	5
Unit Objectives	5
Unit Components	5
Unit Decorations	5

Unit Plans

Session Segment Descriptions	7
1. Group Singing	7
2. Puppet Play	13
3. Pierre The Painter	13
4. Snack With Tasty Truths Character	14
5. Offering and Announcements	14
6. Read-Aloud Story	14
7. Object Lesson	14
8. Bible Lesson	14
9. Scripture Memory Activity	15
10. Prayer and Spiritual Challenge	15
11. Sixty Minutes for Salvation	15
The "Color Me Christian" Worm Pin	16
Possible Craft Activity	16

Session by Session Plans

Session One - Black (Sin)	17
Session Two - Red (Love)	29
Session Three - White (Purity)	41
Session Four - Gold (Heaven)	53
Session Five - Green (Growth)	65
Session Six - "Sixty Minutes For Salvation"	77

Resources

Resources	91
Paper Bag Puppet Patterns	92

INTRODUCTION

Unit Description

This six-session unit is designed for children in grades 1-6, and can be used in children's worship, Vacation Bible School, or other children's meetings. It aims to help children understand the concept of salvation through the use of colors as symbols. As children associate colors with truths about salvation, they are encouraged to accept the gift of salvation and share God's plan of salvation with others.

The first five sessions use a "theme color." Session six provides a summary of the colors and an opportunity for children to personally accept salvation. Session six could be used independently as a salvation service.

Unit Objectives

During this six-session unit, the children will:

- 1) Memorize five Bible verses that explain the meaning of salvation.
- 2) Learn how to share their faith using a color worm pin and salvation scriptures.
- 3) Learn to define "salvation."
- 4) Wear the "key color" to each session.
- 5) Learn and sing songs that teach the lessons represented by the "key colors."

Unit Components

Each session of this Color Me Christian unit is broken down into the following ten segments:

1. Group Singing
2. Puppet Play
3. Pierre The Painter
4. Snack With Tasty Truths Character
5. Offering and Announcements
6. Read-Aloud Story
7. Object Lesson
8. Bible Lesson
9. Scripture Memory Activity
10. Prayer and Spiritual Challenge

Unit Decorations

Since this unit uses "key colors" to symbolize truths about salvation, decorations should emphasize these same five colors.

Black

Red

White

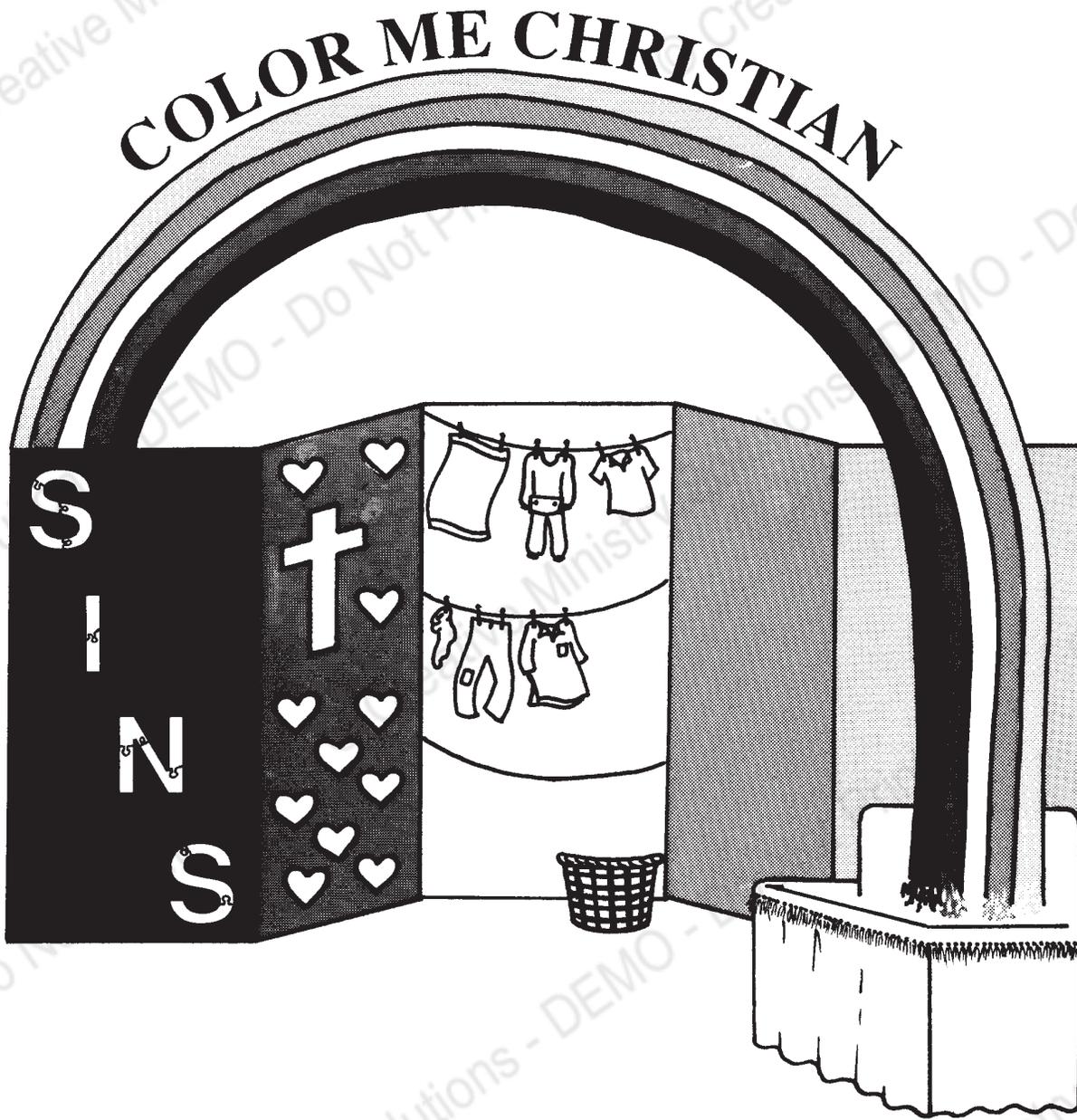
Gold

Green

Introduction

Unit Decorations Continued

We suggest decorating the meeting area with a wall-to-wall rainbow that spans the front of the room and utilizes all five "key colors." Over the rainbow write COLOR ME CHRISTIAN in large letters. Divide the space under the rainbow into five panels of equal width. Color them black, red, white, gold and green - in that order, from left to right. As children progress through each session, decorations, symbols and words will be added to each representative color panel.



UNIT PLANS

Session Segment Descriptions

1. Group Singing

A supplemental CD providing music for the unit is included in the back of this book. There are seven songs appropriate for group singing, puppet performances, or special music during each session. Soundtrack versions of each song are included.

Track #1	Coloring Song	Great puppet song special
Track #2	The Colors of His Love	Theme song for the entire unit
Track #3	Shut De Do	Use with Session One - black
Track #4	S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N	Use with Session Two - red
Track #5	Jesus, He Change de Life	Use with Session Three - white
Track #6	Up and Away Medley	Use with Session Four - gold
Track #7	Bloom Where You're Planted	Use with Session Five - green

Tracks #8-14 are soundtracks of the above songs in the same order. You can use these for group sing-alongs. Because some of these songs are more difficult to learn for group singing, it would be best to use them as puppet performances or listening songs the first time they are introduced. Then, keep repeating the song each session as well as the new song for the next theme. Invite the children to sing along on the choruses or as they learn the music throughout the unit. You can also add some favorite worship songs that the children are familiar with.

Following are the printed lyrics to these songs. The session segments continue on page 13.

"Coloring Song"

Red is the color of the blood that flowed
Down the face of Someone who loved us so
He's the perfect man, He's the Lord's own Son
He's the Lamb of God, He's the only One
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make the love between us flow

Blue is the color of a heart so cold
That will not bend when the story's told
Of the love of God for a sinful race
Of the blood that flowed down Jesus' face
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can keep our hearts from growing cold

Unit Plans

Gold is the color of the morning sun
That shines so freely on everyone
It's the sun above that keeps us warm
It's the Son of love that calms the storm
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can turn our mornings into gold

Brown is the color of the autumn leaves
When the winter comes to the barren trees
There is birth, there is death, there is a plan
And there's just one God and there's just one Man
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make our sins as white as snow

That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can turn our mornings into gold
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can keep our hearts from growing cold
That can give us life, that can make us grow
That can make the love between us flow

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"The Colors of His Love"

Black and red and blue and green and gold
These are colors everybody knows
These colors tell the story of God's plan
To open Heaven's gates to man

Black is the color of our sin
The wrong that will keep our hearts from Him
But through His blood so red
That willingly He shed
That stain became as white again

Blue is the color of the sea
Whose water can baptize one like me
And in the water grave
We show the world we're saved
To walk in newness and believe

Chorus:

The colors of His love, the colors of His love
Together paint a portrait of the One who died for us
The colors of His love, the colors of His love
Each creates a portrait of the Savior's heart

Green is the color that will show
How our new life can bloom and grow
Rooted in His word
A witness to the earth
Of how God's love has changed us so

Gold is the color of the street
In Heaven where one day we will meet
And when we reach our home
These colors will be stones
Gems of red, blue, green and gold
(repeat chorus twice)

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"Shut De Do"

Shut de do, keep out de devil
Shut de do, keep de devil in de night
Shut de do, keep out de devil
Light the candle, everything's all right

Oh, when I was a baby child (*shut de do, keep out de devil*)
Good and bad was just a game (*shut de do, keep de devil in de night*)
Many years and many trials (*shut de do, keep out de devil*)
They proved to me they're not the same (*shut de do, keep de devil in de night*)

Chorus:

Shut de do, (*de do*) keep out de devil (*de devil*)
Shut de do, keep de devil in de night
Shut de do, (*de do*) keep out de devil (*de devil*)
Light the candle, everything's all right
Light the candle, everything's all right

Oh, Satan is an evil charmer (*shut de do, keep out de devil*)
He's hungry for a soul to hurt (*shut de do, keep de devil in de night*)
And without your holy armor (*shut de do, keep out de devil*)
He will eat you for dessert (*shut de do, keep de devil in de night*)
(repeat chorus)

Unit Plans

Say de hey, hey, hey (*shut de do*)
Hey, hey, hey (*shut de do*)
Hey, hey, hey (*you better shut de do*)
Say a prayer, he won't be back no more

My mama used to sing this song
Oh, Papa used to sing it too
Jesus called and took them home
And so I sing this song for you
(*repeat chorus twice*)

Light the candle, everything's all right
Light the candle, everything's all right

Words and Music by Randy Stonehill. © 1983 Stonehillian Music, Word Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N"

Oh, you can't get to Heaven without S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
No, you can't get to Heaven without S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
Shout it out, loud and clear, S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
Sing it out, far and near, S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N

As a gift of His love you receive S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
As a gift of His love you receive S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
Acts 16:31, S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N
Just believe, and receive S-A-L-V-A-T-I-O-N

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"Jesus, He Change de Life"

Mary, Mary, Jesus' friend, had no hope when she began
She was a sinner like you and me, wonder how she end up to be
Then Jesus, He change de life, Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life

Woman of Samaria, went to well to get water
Met a man who asked for a drink, did not know just what to think
Then Jesus, He change de life, Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life

Matthew, Matthew, publican, very rich 'cause he tax man
Taking much that was not fair, but he really did not care
Then Jesus, He change de life, Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life

Peter, Peter, fisherman, catching fish as fast he can
He had temper pretty bad, especially when he get mad
Then Jesus, He change de life, Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life

Everybody now, Jesus, He change de life, Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life
Jesus, He takes the sin and strife, and Jesus, He change de life

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"Up and Away Medley"

I've told all my troubles goodbye
Goodbye to each tear and each sigh
This world where I roam cannot be my home
I'm bound for a land in the sky

I walk and I talk with my Lord
I feast every day on His word
Heaven is near and I can't stay here
Goodbye world, goodbye

Now don't you weep for me when I'm gone
'Cause I won't have to leave here alone
And when I hear that last trumpet sound
My feet won't stay on the ground

Gonna rise with a shout, gonna fly
Gonna ride with my Lord in the sky
Heaven is near and I can't stay here
Goodbye world, goodbye, goodbye
Goodbye world, goodbye, goodbye

I love to think about a paradise, somewhere beyond the blue
A mansion waiting in the distant skies, maybe next door to you
We'll go parading through the distant stars, right down the Milky Way
The planets Jupiter and Neptune and Mars won't even be halfway

Unit Plans

Oh yes I'm movin', movin', movin', movin', movin' up to gloryland
Movin', movin', movin', movin', holdin' to His nail-scarred hand
Don't know when I'm leavin', but I'm ready to go
When I get to Heaven, I'll be welcome I know
Movin', movin', movin', movin', movin' up to gloryland

I made my reservation long ago, the day I gave up sin
And when my mansion's ready this I know, I'm gonna move right in
I have a vision of a happy place where friends and loved ones meet
Right on the corner of God's Avenue and Hallelujah Street

Oh yes I'm movin', movin', movin', movin', movin' up to gloryland
Movin', movin', movin', movin', holdin' to His nail-scarred hand
Don't know when I'm leavin', but I'm ready to go
When I get to Heaven, I'll be welcome I know
Movin', movin', movin', movin', movin' up to glory
All the way to glory, movin' up to gloryland

Just a few more weary days and then, I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end, I'll fly away
I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory, I'll fly away
When I die, hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away
I'll fly away, oh I'll fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away

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"Bloom Where You're Planted"

Bloom where you're planted, show what you're worth
God has His flowers all over the earth
Bloom where you're planted, and if you're sincere
You can get anywhere on earth from here

Bloom where you're planted, and become a part
 Of God's lovely garden, the pride of His heart
 Bloom where you're planted, and if you're sincere
 You can get anywhere on earth from here
 You can get anywhere on earth from here

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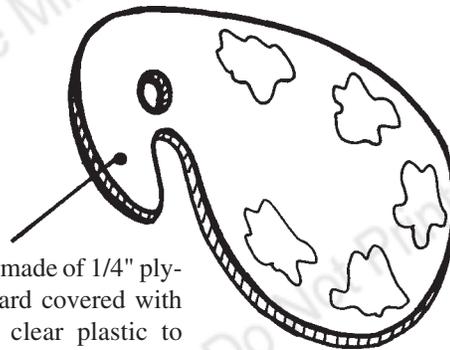
2. Puppet Play

A short one-puppet dialogue with the teacher is included in each session. The puppet may be one you already own, or artwork is included at the end of this book to create a paper bag puppet for each session. Use your imagination as you color the character. Fabric or other materials may be added to make the paper bag puppet more appealing to children. The puppet role should be made as believable and enjoyable as possible.



3. Pierre the Painter

Pierre is a French painter. He should wear a painter's smock (a long white linen coat or full apron, spattered with paint), a beret, and a mustache if possible. Pierre needs a paint palette (see Fig. A), a paintbrush and a sturdy easel that can be handled and turned without tipping. If your Pierre is quite artistic, he may want to paint these himself, in front of the kids. That could work for all but the first session.



Palette should be made of 1/4" plywood or foamboard covered with adhesive-backed clear plastic to keep paint from soaking through.

Fig. A

Accent Hints: French is a very fluid language that flows and can have a melodic quality to it. Your "Pierre" should really get into the character and the accent. Words and phrases should be understated and rather monotone, but still flow. For example: "We could make beeoootiful moozic toogezher!" Loosen up but put a lot of "flair" in your voice. Pronounce "th" as "z". For example: "ZEE sky ees magneefeek! (magnificent). "ZHER, ZHER, don't

Unit Plans

cry!" "Jesus died on ZEE cross!" Pronounce "i" as a "ee" sound. For example: "I know how to do EET!" "What a luvly PEEKCHURE!" Come up with a "tag" phrase that will always get you back into voice, such as "Mon chere' (Mohn sherry!)", or "Beeuooteefull!", or "Voila! (Vwah-la)". Whatever works for you, use it in your routine.

Pronunciation:

Bon jour: Good day, good morning. (Bone Zhure.)

Au revoir: Good bye. (Oh-Vwa.)

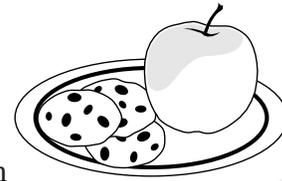
C'est la vie: That's life. (Say la Vee.)

C'est magnifique: That's magnificent! (Say Magneefeek!).

Oui!: Yes! (We!)

4. Snack with Tasty Truths Character

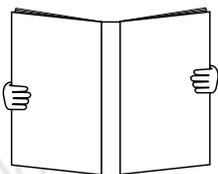
The person who delivers snacks, if male, can be called "Stan, the Tasty Truths Man." If female, call her "Sadie, the Tasty Truths Lady." The snack deliverer should be dressed as an ice cream person or soda jerk - in a red or white vest, white or striped apron, white slacks or skirt, and a soda jerk hat. The "Tasty Truths" person is a friendly, funny, likable character who tells jokes or asks questions with the children. Then he/she tells about the snack for the week and the significance of the snack's color with respect to the week's lesson. The suggested scripts are merely guides. Feel free to use your own creativity to get the desired point across.



5. Offering and Announcements

It is important to plan creatively even for this segment of your weekly services. Since you are stressing COLOR, perhaps you would like to use paint buckets as your offering containers. Each week the buckets could be covered with colored construction paper to correspond with the color of the day.

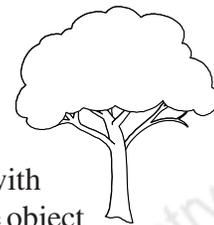
6. Read-Aloud Story



The storyteller should be a good reader who can create voices for story characters conversing with the children. Each story is a modern application of the truth presented in each session. Consider creating a special storyteller character, such as Aunt Sally or Grandpa Saul.

7. Object Lesson

The same object is used in each object lesson - a large tree branch that looks like a small tree. The leader of this lesson decorates the "tree" with various colors and materials to make the segment more interesting. The object lesson leader should be comfortable leading a discussion aimed at helping children self-discover the theme inherent to each session's theme.



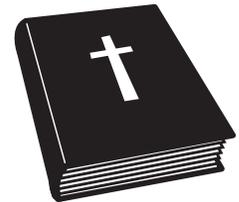
8. Bible Lesson

A story or scripture reference is provided so the leader may further enforce the lesson's main idea. The children's pastor or a devotional study leader can provide the insight necessary to this segment.

9. Scripture Memory Activity

The purpose of all the Bible verses in this unit is twofold:

1. Present the plan of salvation in five simple Bible truths.
2. Teach children to share the way to salvation with others.



In order to encourage children to know the steps of salvation, a small, colorful worm pin should be given to every child who can recite all the scriptures at the end of the unit, and tell the meaning of the color segments on the worm pin. As the children wear the cute little worm, it should give them many opportunities to tell its salvation meaning. The colors and corresponding scriptures are as follows:

BLACK	SIN	ROMANS 3:23
RED	LOVE & JESUS' BLOOD	ROMANS 5:8
WHITE	PURITY & CLEANSING	I JOHN 1:9
GOLD	HEAVEN	JOHN 14:2
GREEN	GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN	II PETER 3:18

10. Prayer and Spiritual Challenge



The program leader presents this segment, concluding the entire session by inviting children to make spiritual decisions during prayer time. It is helpful to have several adults ready for counsel and prayer with children who respond to this opportunity.

11. Session Six: Sixty Minutes for Salvation

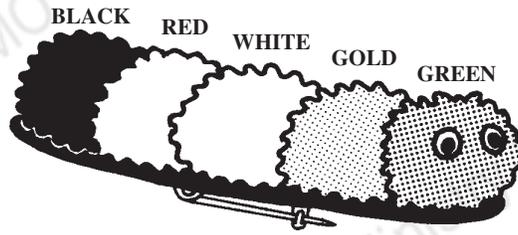
The final session is a review of the five colors of salvation, culminating in an explanation of how to be saved, with an opportunity for the children to respond. This session is presented in a television news show format. There are new characters—reporters Barbara Livingwaters and Dan Rather Wise, Professor VonSmart, special guest magician (to perform object lesson illusion), and a drama skit with Dr. R.U. Growing, a mother, and child. There are also a puppet skit, a puppet song, and an optional puppet song.

Unit Plans

The "Color Me Christian" Worm Pin

Items needed for each worm:

- 1 black pompom
- 1 red pompom
- 1 white pompom
- 1 gold pompom
- 1 green pompom
- 1 black felt piece cut into an oval shape in which all five poms will fit on with a tiny edge sticking out all around
- 1 pin back
- 2 wiggle eyes



DIRECTIONS:

Hot glue the poms on to the piece of black felt body in the above order. Hot glue wiggle eyes to the green pom for the head of the worm. Finally hot glue the felt pom worm to the pin back. The sizes of poms and pinback depends on how big you want your pin worm to be. (I prefer the 3/8" pompoms and a fairly small worm pin.)

Craft Activity (Optional)

This unit uses a short puppet play for each session. Patterns for each puppet are included—ready to be cut, colored and glued onto paper lunch bags.

You may want to photocopy enough copies for all your children. During an activity time the children could make their own paper bag puppet to take home. Be creative with supplies. For example, use cotton balls for the lamb, black felt spots for the puppy, gold or silver trim for the angel, or any other fun materials. Instructions and patterns for making the paper bag puppets can be found at the back of this unit.

SESSION BY SESSION PLANS

Session One - Black (Sin)

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- * Group Singing: "The Colors of His Love" *CD Track #2*
"Shut De Do" *CD Track #3*

- * Puppet Play: "Spot Leaves His Mark"
- * Pierre The Painter: "When Sin Enters the Picture"
- * Snack With Tasty Truths Character: Semi-sweet chocolate chips
- * Offering and Announcements

- * Read-Aloud Story: "Black as Midnight"
- * Object Lesson: "Dead or Alive?"
- * Bible Lesson: Genesis 3:1-24—The sin of Adam and Eve
Leader may relay personal experience related to the scripture.
- * Scripture Memory: *Romans 3:23* "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." NIV
Present the unit challenge for each child to memorize all the Bible verses and connect it to a color for understanding the plan of salvation. Explain that each child who gives all the verses at the end of the unit will earn a "Color Me Christian" Worm Pin.
- * Prayer and Spiritual Challenge: Pharisee and Tax Collector
- * Craft Time (Optional): Spotted Dog Paper Bag Puppet—see pages 16, 93 and 95

PUPPET PLAY

Spot Leaves His Mark

by Randy Benefield



Characters: Spot the Dog (paper bag puppet or dog puppet)
Leader

(Dog puppet enters to talk to unit leader.)

LEADER: Hello, Spot. How are you?

SPOT: Arf, arf, arf. Arf, arf . . .

LEADER: That's good, Spot. I'm glad you're doing okay.

SPOT: Grrrr, arf! Arf, arf, arf, grrr, arf!

LEADER: *(to audience)* Spot wants me to tell you what he's saying. You see, he doesn't speak our language. He can only bark. Isn't that right, Spot?

SPOT: Arf, arf.

LEADER: Now, Spot. I heard some bad news. You, see, I heard you got into some trouble yesterday. Is that true?

SPOT: *(whines and hangs head)*

LEADER: Oh, it is true. So, tell us what you did to get yourself in trouble this time.

SPOT: Arf, arf, grrrr, arf, grrrr. Arf, arf, arf . . .

LEADER: Oh, I see. You were playing outside in the mud, then ran all through the house with your dirty paws. Well, I can see how that would tend to get you in trouble.

SPOT: Arf, grrr, arf. *(whines again and hangs head, then barks two times)*

LEADER: What?

SPOT: Arf, grrr, arf.

LEADER: You didn't! *(to the audience)* He said he jumped up on the bed and ruined a white bedspread. *(back to Spot)* I bet that's why they call you Spot. *(Spot jumps on leader's arm)* Easy boy! Now, is that everything or is there more?

Session One - Black

SPOT: Grrrr, arf, arf, arf, arf. Grrrr, arf, arf, arf . . .

LEADER: You did?! Oh, no! *(to audience)* He also got into the closet and chewed up a brand new pair of shoes. *(to Spot)* Spot, I can't believe you did all that. What made you do all those things?

SPOT: *(shakes head and pants)* Haa, haa, haa, rrrf.

LEADER: You don't know?

SPOT: Arf, arf. Arf, arf, arf . . .

LEADER: *(to audience)* He says he wants to do what's right, but something inside causes him to get into trouble. *(to Spot)* That's strange, Spot. *(to audience and Spot)* It's that way with humans, too.

SPOT: Arf, grrr, arf, arf.

LEADER: You're right. It is hard, Spot. That's because you're just a puppy. But we face the same thing. Sometimes we try to be Christians all by ourselves. We have to learn to look to Jesus for help. He can give us the strength to do what's right. *(to audience)* You see kids, God wants to make us pure and clean, but Satan tries to get us to sin. Today we are talking about the darkness of sin. We are using black to represent sin. When we give our lives to Jesus, He forgives all our sins and makes us pure, but we have to be on guard because Satan will trick us and cause us to sin. Soon, instead of being pure, we look like Spot or like the bedspread he jumped on. White with big black patches of sin. So remember, the next time someone tells you to do something you know is wrong, call on Jesus. He will help you.

SPOT: Arf, arf, arf!

LEADER: *(laughing)* Yes, Spot, that's right. We just ask Jesus, and He will help us!

(both exit)

PIERRE THE PAINTER



Materials: A full-color reproduction of a pastoral or nature painting, no larger than 8 x 11. (You can use a larger painting, as long as you have a transparency large enough to cover it). You can also find pictures at salvage stores or flea markets. The painting should be mounted on a white sheet of posterboard. Cover the painting with a clear transparency sheet. Randomly paint black marks all over the transparency, 'uglifying' it. At the bottom of the transparency, or at the bottom of the poster on another transparency, paint the word SIN upside down. Be sure not to get black on the painting itself. Attach the transparencies with 'magic' clear tape, and make sure you can remove them. See Fig. B.

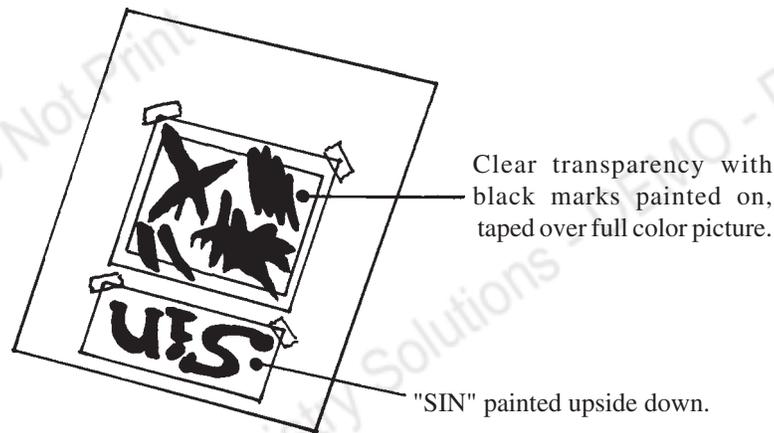


FIG. B

When Sin Enters the Picture

by Dave Privett

(Easel is placed facing Pierre, away from the audience. They should not be able to see what he is painting. Prepare the picture as described in materials section above.)

Bon jour, boys and girls! Zhat eez French, for good morning! Can you say eet with me? Bon jour! One more time, ah know you can do better than zhat! Bon jour! Beeuootiful! Zhat was magneefeek! Allow me to introduce mahself: Ah am Pierre! Pierre zee French painter, and Ah have come to share mah luvly works of art wizz you.

Today boys and girls, you have caught me at a very special time! Ah am adding zee fye-nail touchez to mah latest masterpieeze. A few brushstrokes here and zhere, and eet will be done! Oh, ho ho ho, eet ees a beeuootiful painting. You should have seen mah delight at painting zeez peek-

chure, for eet eez so luvly! Ah luv to paint! And Ah have such a magneefeecent talent for painting. Mah talent has taken me all over zee world, painting beeuootiful pictures! I was even talented as a baby! Why you know, when Ah waz a leetle baby, I would paint zee walls of mah house, zee floor, mah playpen, anything I could paint! Oooo, Mama would get so mad, but after awhile she would sigh and mutter, "C'est la vie!" Zhat means "Oh well, zhat's life" in Engleesh. And as I grew up, Ah would paint and paint, and now Ah am Pierre, zee wonderful, talented painter!

A ha! Ah am feenished! Zee masterpiece eez complete! My magneefeecent ability has come through again! Zee subtle shadings, zee composition, eet eez all perfect! Voila!! Ah must go and get all mah friends and show zhem mah latest work of art! Bon jour, mah little ones, until next time!

(Pierre exits hurriedly. Program Leader comes forward.)

LEADER: My goodness, Pierre has actually finished a work of art right here in front of our eyes! He seemed very excited. It must be quite good. Let's turn it around and see.

(Turn easel to reveal a nice full-color picture that Pierre has painted black marks on. The marks have ruined the beauty of the picture. At the bottom, painted upside-down, is the word "sin.")

Oh, no! It's a work, all right! Pierre has ruined this beautiful painting! And he said it was beautiful. It doesn't look very good now! The black has destroyed all the color of the picture. And what's this funny writing at the bottom?

(Turns painting upside-down.)

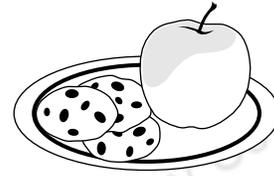
Hey, wait a minute! Do you know what this is? S-I-N. Boys and girls, I think you can see what happens when SIN enters the picture. It turns all the good you have into BAD! Sin has the power to destroy the beauty of God's world and our lives. The apostle Paul knew the power of sin. In Romans 7:18, he wrote "I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out." (*Romans 7:18 NIV*). Pierre really thought he was making something beautiful, but with sin in the picture, it all turned out bad! Boys and girls, the only way to wash sin out of our picture is through Jesus Christ. We learn in the Bible that "... there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death." (*Romans 8:1-2 NIV*).

(Remove transparency, revealing real picture.)

Jesus came and died so that we might be set free from the power of sin. Sin has the power to destroy, but Jesus has the power to set us free and make us whole again.

TASTY TRUTHS SNACK

Snack: *Semi-sweet chocolate chips*



Snack Script

by Liz VonSeggen

Good morning, boys and girls. My name is Stan the Tasty Truths Man/Sadie the Tasty Truths Lady, and I brought a special snack for you today. But first I need to see how good your sense of taste is.

1. Can you name some foods that taste salty?

Possibilities include potato chips, pretzels, Doritos® popcorn, olives, sardines

2. Now how about naming some things that taste sweet?

Possibilities include marshmallows, candy bars, ice cream, soda pop, sweet potatoes, oranges, bananas, watermelon, cherries

3. Do any of you like to eat things that are sour or bitter? Name them.

Possibilities include grapefruit, lemons, pickles, beets, sauerkraut, onions, pineapple, sour cherries

4. Can you think of any foods that are both bitter and sweet?

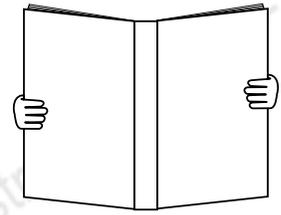
Possibilities include Sweet Tarts®, green apples

Sin is like that, you know. The devil wants you to believe that sin is all sweet, but that is only the first bite. As soon as you have tasted sin, it turns to bitterness in your mouth. Today's snack reminds us of the darkness and bitterness of sin. We have bittersweet chocolate chips for our snack. Of course, at the first taste, the chocolate seems sweet, and the devil tries to make sin sweet, too. The Bible tells us that the pleasures of sin do not last. What does last is the bitterness of our wrongdoing when we sin. The darkness of this chocolate reminds us of the blackness or darkness we experience when we sin and are separated from God the light. Sin entered the world way back in the Garden of Eden, when Adam and Eve were tempted to eat something sweet but it turned to bitterness because of their disobedience. God had told them not to eat from the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. Now, you are not sinning by tasting our snack today, but just remember when you taste the sweet and the bitter flavors together that God wants you to avoid sin and taste only His sweet victory over sin. Next time, we will talk about God's plan for victory over sin.

READ-ALoud STORY

Black as Midnight

by Liz VonSeggen



Jim Douglas and Todd Winters lived right next door to each other and had been good friends ever since they could remember. Both boys liked fishing and playing any kind of sport. Every summer they played soccer together, or raced their bikes up and down their quiet street, or made up all kinds of games to play with the other neighborhood kids. Because they lived so close to each other, they were always together. Either Jim was playing at Todd's house or Todd joined Jim at Jim's house to bake cookies or watch TV.

"You would think these two were identical twins!" laughed Jim's mom.

"I'm just glad they get along so well. It's been great to have you for neighbors," replied Todd's mom as she pulled weeds in her backyard one day. "I don't think anything will ever separate these two."

"You're right. Nothing short of an earthquake! I call 'em the Superglue Twins!" smiled Mrs. Douglas. "Friendships like theirs are so rare. I wonder if they know how lucky they are."

Just as Mrs. Winters reached to pull the last weed in her garden, around the corner of the house came the two boys, laughing and chasing one another right into the garden path. "Hey, Mom, guess what our Sunday school class is gonna do next Saturday!" yelled Todd.

"Going to the zoo?" teased Mrs. Winters. "That's where all you monkeys belong!"

"Nah . . . we're going 'spel . . . spel lacking." Todd tried to explain.

"Huh-uh. Not 'spel-lacking!' The word is 'spe-lunking!'" corrected Jim.

"What in the world is 'spel-laking' or 'spel-lunking' or whatever you call it?" asked Jim's mom.

"It's a fancy word for guys like us that go exploring in caves," Jim quickly explained. And we're going to Cave of the Meadows, about 100 miles from here. I heard it's real neat and pitch black down there too. Ooooh, it's gonna be the best adventure we ever had. Maybe there will be bats down there, and slimy walls and monsters and—"

Todd interrupted when he saw the uncertain expression on his mom's face. "Mr. Walters, our teacher, says it is perfectly safe. Lots of people have explored that cave. Besides he is going to be our guide and take us to a big space underground for a special meeting. Can we go, Mom? Can we?" begged Todd.

"I suppose so, as long as Mr. Walters is in charge. I'm sure you'll both have a great time."

Session One - Black

Early Saturday morning Mr. Walters and the class headed off for the Cave of the Meadows with flashlights, jackets, and good walking shoes. In his hurry to get out of the house in the morning, Jim forgot his flashlight. Todd told him not to worry because they could share his flashlight while exploring the cave. After two hours of driving, the group pulled in at the entrance of the cave and piled out of the station wagon, anxious to begin their exploring for the day.

Mr. Walters explained some safety procedures and cautioned the boys not to wander away from the group once they entered the cave. "There are quite a few tunnels and holes that don't go very far, but can get you easily lost. I've been in the cave many times before and know the path that leads to a large, open area where we are going to end up for a special time of fun together. I'll lead the way and all of you stay close behind me. You can use your flashlights as we move along. We won't be walking or climbing very fast because I want to be sure you don't slip or fall over some of the rough surface."

The boys lined up behind their teacher, with Jim and Todd trailing last in the group. Jim was at the very end of the line because he didn't want anybody behind him pushing him to hurry if he spotted something he wanted to explore a bit further.

Not 50 feet inside the cave the entire gang followed Mr. Walters sharply to the left. They were all moving slowly, inching their way along the wall into the narrow tunnel where Mr. Walters directed. As Jim waited his turn to enter the darkened tunnel, he noticed in the dim light something wet, glistening just ahead of him. He thought he would investigate what it was and then catch up with the group since he knew it would take them a while to get through the narrow passageway on his left. He took three steps toward the glistening object and then realized the light from Todd's flashlight was getting dimmer as he moved on with the group.

"Oh, I don't need any light," he thought. "I'll just feel that wet object with my hands. I bet it's slimy and cold! Maybe it's a trickle from an underground river." As Jim reached for the wet, slimy wall, he realized it must be further away than he thought. He carefully took just three more steps and reached again. There it was, just as he thought. "Oooohh, it's ice cold and really slimy." As Jim rubbed his hand over the wet wall of the cave, the slime stuck to his hand and he quickly rubbed it off on his pants. This was exciting! "Hey, Todd!" Jim shouted. "Wait up. I can't see you guys!"

No answer. "I can catch up to them," thought Jim. "After all Mr. Walters said they would be climbing very slowly. Let's see, how many extra steps did I take?" Jim had been so interested in exploring the slimy wall that he hadn't really paid attention to how far he had gone from the left turn. By now the cave was so black Jim could not even see his hand in front of him. "I'll take four steps and yell again."

What Jim didn't know was that the group had crawled about 20 feet through the narrow tunnel and then climbed down a wall of the cave on a ladder which had been placed in the cave earlier. They were 20 feet ahead of him and 60 feet below him where they could not hear his shouts.

Jim searched for the narrow tunnel by extending both hands along the rough cave wall. It was solid, no hint of a hole or tunnel. "Maybe I went too far," he thought, so he took a couple of steps back to his right. Reaching out into the blackness, Jim again struggled to find a hole. Still not finding any opening, Jim was beginning to panic a little. He had thought it would be fun to explore

in the pitch dark of an underground cave. But how he longed for a faint glimmer of his friend Todd's flashlight. Pausing to take a deep breath and whisper a prayer to God to help him, Jim began again to move slowly back in the direction he thought he should go. As he inched his way along, he clawed the sides of the cave with both hands, searching for the opening and the way to his friends. Suddenly one hand plunged past the wall into an opening. "The tunnel! This is it," he thought excitedly. In the blackness Jim now felt rather uneasy. "What if this is a hole or false tunnel and I get lost down here?" He decided to take two or three careful steps into the passageway and then shout for help again. Maybe someone would hear him this time.

"Todd! Mr. Walters! It's Jim . . . I'm lost! Can you hear me?"

Jim listened. No answer. He took a deep breath and shouted again, this time with all the strength he had. "Todd . . . Todd . . . Mr. Walters . . . JIM IS LOST! HELP! HELP!"

By the time Jim shouted the third time, Todd had realized his friend was no longer with them. Todd asked Mr. Walters if he could go back to look for Jim. Mr. Walters quieted the boys and asked them all to listen carefully. In that silence, all of them heard Jim's last few cries.

Mr. Walters warned all the boys to stay exactly where they were while he and Todd returned to get Jim. Within ten minutes, Mr. Walters and Todd climbed back down the ladder with a happy but embarrassed Jim following them to where the rest of the group sat waiting.

Cheers greeted Jim, and some teasing, too. One of the boys asked Mr. Walters where he found the cave monster and if they should tie him up and drag him along.

Mr. Walters smiled and replied, "I don't think we'll have to worry about losing Jim again. Look!" He pointed to Jim who had grabbed hold of his buddy Todd's shirt.

"I'm not going to let go of the guy with the light this time. Being lost is no fun!"

The boys climbed a little farther, joking and laughing as they explored together. Within 20 minutes, they had arrived at the large open area where Mr. Walters had planned for some time of fun. Instead of playing games, however, their Sunday school teacher announced to them that they had helped him teach the most important lesson they could ever learn.

"What's that?" asked Bill, "Never go spelunking with Jim?"

"No, a serious lesson," explained Mr. Walters. "Just as the blackness of this cave and the disobedience of one of you boys separated friends for a while . . . just so sin through disobedience of each one of us separated us from God. When we go our own selfish way, that brings darkness into our lives. What we need is the light Jesus can give us to show us the right path."

"Here's a light!" shouted Jim, grabbing his friend's hand and flashlight with it, holding it high like a torch. "I'll never forget this day as long as I live. And I'll never forget to stay with the guy who has the light."

"Jesus is the light of the world," Mr. Walters softly remarked.

OBJECT LESSON

Dead or Alive?

by Dave Privett



Object: *a small tree or large branch. Place it in a stand and display it for all the children to see. The "tree" should have no leaves on it.*

Scripture: *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23 NIV)*

"And now boys and girls, I have a wonderful surprise for you. This is a tree. Isn't this great? I brought it inside so we can watch it grow. Before long we should see little buds and leaves on this tree, and—" (Children should see that the tree is dead and bare and could never grow leaves.)

"The tree is dead, you say? Hmmm, well, how can you tell?" (Ask the following questions and allow the children to help you discover that the tree cannot grow because it has been separated from the roots and from the live tree.)

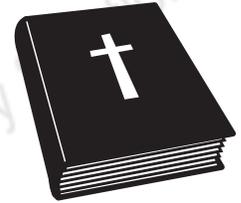
1. What does a tree need to grow leaves?
2. Why does this tree not have any leaves right now?
3. What happens to a tree or branch when it's cut off from the roots or trunk?
4. Why does a tree that is still alive look like it's dead in the winter?
5. How does this tree remind us of sin?

Some boys and girls are a lot like this tree. They've done wrong things like lying or stealing or disobeying their parents, taking God's name in vain, etc. The Bible calls these wrong things SINS, and in our Bible verse for today we learned that the result of doing these wrong things is death. Now, some of you are saying to yourselves, 'Wait a minute. I'm not dead! I am very much alive. How can you say that if I sin, I'll die?' When you sin, it is like separating you from God, just like separating this tree branch from the rest of the tree that's still alive. The branch still looks alive, but it can't grow and will eventually dry up and break very easily.

Any boy or girl who sins breaks away from God and eventually cannot live with Him in Heaven, but will die as a sinner and be separated from God forever. If a girl or boy chooses to accept the free gift of God's eternal life, then he or she can receive eternal life and be joined forever with Jesus in Heaven where he or she will never die."

SCRIPTURE MEMORY ACTIVITY

*Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
NIV*



Before this week's lesson, prepare this activity by cutting out the puzzle pieces from the diagram on the next page. Attach the pieces randomly under the children's chairs, out of sight.

Ask children to look under their chairs for the pieces of paper previously attached there. As children find pieces, they should bring them to the front. The pieces form a puzzle of letters which spell a word.

Challenge the children to put the pieces together and then read the verse as a group. Memorize the verse. Ask the children what the four letters spell (SINS).

Put the letters on the wall in the black panel to remind the children of the verse Romans 3:23. (See diagram, page 6.)

PRAYER AND SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Read the description of the Pharisee and tax collector who both went to pray at the Temple. Luke 18:10-14 (optional: Have children pantomime the actions of the two men.) Then remind the children that all of us have sinned and we need to be sorry for any sins or wrongs we have done. Ask forgiveness with a humble attitude, not a cocky attitude. Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes with a brief silent prayer time for each one to talk to God. Then the leader should pray asking God to forgive wrongs and help children to choose to do right. This prayer time could be an opportunity for the leader to invite children to come forward for special prayer and decisions made for Christ.



Session One - Black

