





Lesson 1

God Loves Me

Memory Verse:

Lord, you are good. You are forgiving. You are full of love for all who call out to you.
Psalm 86:5 (NirV)

Scripture Verses:

-  Genesis 1, 2
-  Psalm 86:5
-  1 John 4:9-10
-  Hebrews 11:3

Materials Needed:

- Bible
- Seeker Series Issue #1 (one for each child)
- 2 sets of Tangram puzzle pieces (see diagram at the end of this lesson – you may wish to enlarge these pieces for the Lesson Introduction)
- Sticky tack or tape
- Optional: one set of Tangram puzzle pieces for each child to use during the Bible story
- Several sheets of blue and white construction paper
- Several sheets of red construction paper
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Sheets of white paper, poster board or a chalkboard for Scripture verse
- Markers, crayons or chalk
- Lump of clay or play dough (see recipe in Small Group Activity #2)
- Wax paper or plastic mats
- Ball, stuffed toy, or other small, soft object a child can hold
- Pencils or pens

Life Point:

God loves me and wants me to know Him.



This lesson is based on **Seeker Series Issue #1: Quest for Truth**. It is recommended that you read this story before class so that you are familiar with it. Make sure each child has their own copy.

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson, the children will learn:

- God loves me
- God wants to have a relationship with me
- God created the world
- Jesus died for my sins

Teacher Introduction:

In PowerMark Seeker Series issue #1, “Quest for Truth”, the Seekers are looking for the truth concerning man’s origins and life after death. Each Seeker is assigned a religion and placed in a study group to prepare a report on their assigned religion. Captain Mark Chen (PowerMark) is assigned by the International Christian Coalition to meet regularly with the Seekers assigned to Christianity. Beginning with the story of creation and ending with Christ’s ascension, PowerMark presents a brief overview of salvation and eternal life.

In this lesson, the children will learn that God created the earth and all that is in it, and that God loves them and wants to have a relationship with each one of them. You will present the story of creation and the fall of man. The basic concepts of God, sin, salvation, and eternal life will be introduced during this lesson.

Large Group Time

◎ Lesson Introduction

Supplies:

- Bible
- Tangram pieces
- Sticky tack or tape



Triangle



Cat



Rabbit



Boat

Title: Can You Make It?

Purpose: To help the children learn that God made the world and everything in it and everything He made was good.

Object of the Activity: Children attempt to be the first to create the suggested object.

Preparation:

1. Put a piece of sticky tack or tape on the back of each Tangram Piece.
2. Place a Tangram set at each position.
3. Choose 3 to 4 children at least 9 years old.

Activity Instructions:

1. Position volunteers at a chalkboard or wall at the front of the class.
2. Announce an object to be made using the Tangram pieces.
Triangle
Cat
Rabbit
Boat
3. Give the children 1 minute to make the object.
4. If the children are not able to make the suggested object, demonstrate how to make the object by using your Tangram pieces.
5. After attempting the suggested 4 objects, the children may return to their chairs.

Say: **Was it easy or hard to make the shapes I told you to make?** (Allow response.) **Imagine making those shapes without having any pieces. Would that be possible?** (allow responses) **The Bible, the special book that tells us about God, says “we understand that everything was made when God commanded it. That’s why we believe that what we see was not made out of what could be seen (Hebrews 11:3, NIV).” God made visible things like land, sky, animals, birds, and trees from invisible things – in other words, from nothing. He just spoke the words and “POOF!” whatever He said was made. There is no one like God. He is great and powerful.**

The Bible also tells us that God is good (Psalm 119:68; 2 Chronicles 7:3) and that God loves us (1 John 4:8-10; John 3:16). Today we will discover that God made the earth because He wanted a good place for us to live. He used His great power to make a beautiful place and fill it with wonderful creatures. We will also learn that God made man to take care of His creation and to have a special relationship with God.

© Bible Lesson

Supplies:

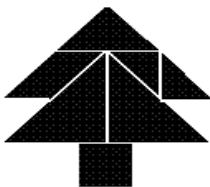
- Bible
- Tangram pieces used in the Lesson Introduction
- Sticky tack or tape



Candle



Mountain



Tree

Title: The Story of Creation (Genesis 1, 2)

Purpose: To teach the children the story of Creation

Preparation: Before class, practice making each of the following shapes using the Tangram pieces – candle, mountain, flower, sun, fish, bird, dog, and man. (Examples are at the end of the lesson.)

Optional Activity: If you have enough sets of Tangram puzzle pieces for each child, you can have the children make each of the shapes with you during the story. (Younger children will need older children or adult helpers to help them create each shape.)

(Hold up your Bible and open it to the book of Genesis.) Say: **The Bible tells us about the creation of the world. It tells us that before God made anything the earth was dark and empty. So on the first day of creation God made light** (make the “candle” using the Tangram pieces). **He said, “Let there be light.” And there was light. He separated the light from darkness and called the light “day” and the darkness “night.”**

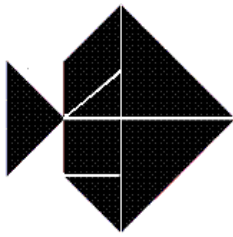
On the second day, God made the atmosphere and sky. The Bible says that God also separated the water under the sky (water in the form of liquid) **from the water above the sky** (water in the form of gas or vapor).

On day three, God made dry land. He caused the waters under the sky to be brought together to form oceans and seas. After creating dry land and forming the oceans, God looked at what He had done and said, “This is good.” (Make the mountain.)

Also on the third day, after there was dry land, God made all kinds of plants. He created the plants to make their own seeds so that new plants could grow from the seeds. He also made the trees bear fruit with seeds in them so that new trees could grow from the seeds. There were grasses, bushes, shrubs, trees and flowers. God looked at all the different kinds of plants and said, “This is good.” (Make the tree.)

On the fourth day God said, “Let there be lights in the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark seasons and days and years. Let these lights give light to the earth.” And so it was that God made the sun, moon and stars. God looked at His new creation and said, “It is good.”

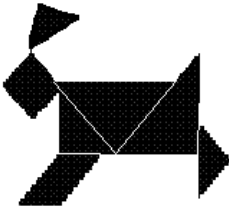
On day five, God made living creatures to fill the waters. He created



Fish



Bird



Dog



Man

fish, shrimp, turtles, coral, whales, dolphins and all other water creatures. (Make the fish as you have children take turns sharing their favorite sea creature.) After filling the waters, God created birds to fly above the land. Great and small, the birds soared through the air. (Make a bird.) God looked at what He had created and said, “It is good.”

On the sixth day, after making living creatures for the sky and the waters, God turned His attention to the land. He said, “Let the land produce living creatures.” God brought into being all the animals that we know: wild animals, farm animals and animals we keep as pets. (As you are making the dog shape, have the children take turns sharing their favorite pet or animal.) God looked at all the different types of animals He had created and He said, “This is good.”

On the same day God said, “Let Us make man in Our image and likeness.” Until now, God hadn’t made any other creature in His image and likeness. The Bible says, “The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Make the man.) Man was the most important of all creation. Because man was special to God, He took extra time in creating him. Instead of just speaking a word to create man, He formed man out of clay from the ground much like a potter uses his hands to make whatever he chooses from a lump of clay. After He made man, He breathed the breath of life into him. God looked at all He had created and said, “It is very good.”

God placed the man in a special garden He made for him and told him he could eat from any tree in the garden but one. That tree was called the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. After man was in the garden, God said “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” So God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man’s ribs. God made a woman from the rib.

God had created out of nothing something that was good. He made a world that was perfect for man and woman, who were created in His image. They could get to know God and enjoy His creation. The earth was just right for all the animals, birds, fish and plants. The living creatures and the plants could multiply and grow in the environment God made for them.

This story is in the Bible to show us that without God there would be nothing. He made all that is seen and unseen. It also shows us how much God loves man. He didn’t just make a little place for man. Instead, He made a place beyond man’s imagination for him to live and know God.

© Object Lesson

Supplies:

- ❑ White, blue and red construction paper
- ❑ Glue or tape
- ❑ Scissors

Title: “Linked Together”

Purpose: To help the children learn that sin broke the relationship between God and man; but God still loves all people and wants to restore the relationship.

Helpers: 5 children

Preparation: Before class, follow these directions to make a paper chain.

1. Take each piece of white paper and cut about eight one-inch strips of paper. Each strip will be a link in the chain.
2. Take the first strip of paper and glue or tape the ends together to form a circle.
3. Take the next strip of paper, put it through the first link and connect the ends together. The two links should now be connected to each other.
4. Continue with the rest of the paper strips, until the chain is the length that you want.
5. Repeat the steps for the blue paper chain.
6. Keep a white strip of paper to use to link white paper chain to the blue chain during the lesson.
7. Cut a strip from red paper the same size as the white and blue strips. Put this aside to use during the lesson as directed.

(Hold up the white paper chain. Have 2 children hold the chain up off the ground.) Say: **Today we have learned that God created the earth, plants, trees, sea creatures, animals, and people. God is all-powerful; nothing is impossible with God. God is also perfect and holy. He has never done anything wrong and He never will. This white paper chain will represent God.**

(Hold up the blue paper chain and have 2 children hold the chain off the ground.) Say: **Of all His creation, only man was made in His image or likeness. We'll let this blue chain represent man. He chose man to have a special relationship with Him. In fact, God would spend time with man in the Garden of Eden. God enjoyed spending time with Adam and Eve.** (Connect the white and blue chains using the spare white strip.) **Adam and Eve loved God and God loved them. Nothing separated man from God. They were close and had a great relationship.**

God gave Adam and Eve only one command that they were to obey. They were told not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Can you imagine only having one rule? Do you think that would be easy or hard to obey? (Allow the children to respond.)

One day, a serpent tempted Eve to eat the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Eve listened to the serpent and took the fruit and ate it. She also gave it to Adam and he ate. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's rule – they sinned against God. (Point to the white paper strip connecting the blue chain to the white chain.) **We'll let this paper strip represent Adam and Eve's disobedience. What do**

you think will happen if I tear (or cut) this paper strip? (Allow responses. Then tear the strip in half allowing the blue and white paper chains to disconnect.)

When Adam and Eve disobeyed, it caused their relationship with God to become disconnected. Adam and Eve were no longer allowed to live in the beautiful Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve's sin separated them from God. Sin also brought pain, sickness, selfishness, hard work, and ultimately death.

God still loved man and wanted to be able to have a close relationship with him once again. But man's sin was in the way. God is perfect and holy. As long as man was sinful, he could not have a relationship with God. However, God had a solution to the problem of sin.

Thousands of years later, God's solution for sin was revealed. He sent His one and only Son, Jesus, to come to earth and die on the cross for our sins. This red strip of paper represents Jesus, God's Son. (Hold up the red strip of paper.) When Jesus died, He took the punishment for our sin. He paid the price for our sin. Through Jesus, our sins can be forgiven and we can be made right with God. Our relationship with God can be reconnected. (Use the red strip to reconnect the blue and white paper chains.) Even still today, God loves each and every one of us and wants us to know Him.

© Bible Verse

Supplies:

- Bible
- Poster board, chalkboard, whiteboard, or multiple sheets of paper

Lord, you are good. You are forgiving. You are full of love for all who call out to you. Psalm 86:5 (NIRV)

Purpose: When the verse is taught using actions or an activity, the children will learn the verse easier and will retain it in their memory longer.

Preparation: Learn the hand motions for the verse. Write the verse on the board or paper. Make sure the words are written large enough so all the children can easily read them. If using sheets of paper, write only one or two words from the verse on each sheet of paper.

Activity Instructions: You will teach the verse using the following hand motions to represent key words in the verse.

- “*Lord*” – point up straight up in the air with one hand
- “*good*” – hold both hands straight out in front of you with both thumbs up
- “*forgiving*” – hands appear to be cleaning themselves to show that whatever was there is no longer there
- “*love*” – cross arms over chest as though giving yourself a hug
- “*call*” – hold hands up to your mouth as though you were “calling” out to someone loudly

(Hold up your Bible.) Say: **The Bible tells us about God and His Son, Jesus. If we want to know more about God, we can read about Him in the Bible. Today, we are going to learn a scripture verse from the Bible. I will read the verse out loud first and then we will learn the verse together.** (Open your Bible and read the verse. After reading it aloud, display the verse and instruct the children to say the verse with you. After saying the verse together a few times, teach the children the hand motions. Say the key word and show them the motion. Then have them do the motion with you while saying the word. After they have learned it, move on to the next word until they have learned all of the motions.)

Say: **Now let's say the verse together while doing the hand motions.** (Lead the children in the verse a few times saying the words and doing the motions. Hide the written words of the verse and have them say the verse with you a few more times.) Say: **You sure have learned the verse well. This scripture verse teaches us about God. He is good** (use "good" motion). **He is forgiving** (use "forgiving" motion), **which means that He is willing to forget all of the wrong things we have done. God is also full of love** (use "love" motion). **It doesn't matter what we have done, God loves us. His love is so big and great that nothing can stop it.**

In your small group time, you will learn more about God's love and how you can know God better. (Close the large group teaching time with prayer. During the closing prayer, summarize the lesson and thank God for His love and forgiveness. After the prayer, dismiss the children to their small group activities.)

Small Group Time

© Small Group Activity #1

Supplies:

- Bible
- Red construction paper (one for each child)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons

Title: "This Is Love"

Purpose: For the children to see ways that God shows His love for us.

Preparation: Cut one heart shape from a piece of red construction paper to use as a sample for this activity.

Say: **Today we learned that God loves us and wants us to know Him. The word "love" is a strong word and can have several different meanings. Love is often illustrated using a heart shape.** (Hold up the red heart shape you made beforehand.) **In just a moment, each of you is going to make a heart shape like this one. On one side, you are going to write and/or draw pictures of a few ways you can show that you love someone.**

There are a lot of different ways that you can show someone you love them. Besides using our "words", what are other ways we can show our love? (Allow responses. Some possible answers: actions, gifts,

spending time, hugs, etc.) **Those are great ways that we can show our love. Let's make the paper hearts now.** (Have the children make the paper hearts following your instructions. You may need to help younger children make their paper hearts.) **On one side of the heart, write and/or draw pictures of ways that you can show someone that you love them.** (When they are finished, you could have some children share what they wrote or drew to show their love.)

(Open your Bible to 1 John 4:9-10.) **The Bible tells us that God loves us and has shown His love to us. As I read this passage of scripture, see if you can discover at least one way that God has shown us His love.** (Read 1 John 4:9-10.) **On the back side of your paper heart, write or draw a picture of the way these scripture verses say that God showed us His love.** (Allow time for the children to draw or write their answer. Their answer should be about how God sent Jesus to die for our sins.) **Sending His only son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins is one of the ways God showed His love for us. What are some other ways God has shown us His love?** (Allow responses. Possible answers: He made a special place for us to live, giving us eternal life, allowing us to go to heaven when we die, answered prayer, etc.)

How can we show God that we love Him? (Allow responses. Possible answers: pray, read the Bible, give Him our hearts, love others, worship, tell others about Him, etc.) **One of the ways we can show God that we love Him is by making an effort to know Him better.**

© Small Group Activity #2

Supplies:

- Modeling clay or play dough (enough for each child to have a 2-3 inch ball)
- Wax paper or plastic mat to place the clay or play dough on (one for each child)
- Bible

➔ **Note:** Save the play dough for use in future lessons.

Purpose: To reinforce the Bible story of creation.

Preparation: Before class, gather the clay or make the play dough using the following recipe.

Play Dough Recipe:

2 cups flour
1 cup salt
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup oil
food coloring if desired

Mix all ingredients, except food coloring in a bowl. When mixing, you can start with a spoon but may find it easier to use your hands. After dough is made, add food coloring and knead into dough.

Give each child a 2-3 in. ball of clay or play dough and a sheet of wax paper or plastic mat. Say: **In our Bible lesson today we learned that God created the earth and all that is in it. In just a moment, we will create some things, too. I will review each day of creation and then you will create something from your clay that represents that day of creation. We find the story of creation in the Bible.** (Hold up your Bible

☞ **Note:** You could have the children take turns reading the passages of scripture from Genesis.

and open to the book of Genesis.)

The very first book in the Bible, Genesis, tells us how God created the earth. I will read the story and pause after each “day” of creation. As I read what was created each day, you will use your clay to create something that would have been created on that day.

Day One: Read Genesis 1:1-5. After reading, allow time for the children to complete their creation. Allow them to choose their own creation without telling them what to make. If they need suggestions, you can offer some of the following possible objects: a globe to represent the earth, a round shape to represent light, etc. As the children are working on their creation, encourage them with positive comments like, “That is a great shape” or “you are very creative”, etc.

Day Two: Read Genesis 1:6-8. After reading, allow time for the children to create their shapes. Possible objects: water, separating the clay into two areas to represent water and the sky, a raindrop, etc.

Day Three: Read Genesis 1:9-13. Possible creations: ground, mountains, oceans, plants, trees, etc.

Day Four: Read Genesis 1:14-19. Possible creations: sun, moon, stars.

Day Five: Read Genesis 1:20-23. Suggested creations: various birds, sea creatures, fish, whales, dolphins, turtles, etc.

Day Six: Read Genesis 1:24-31. Suggested creations: various animals, elephants, giraffes, dogs, cats, cows, horses, reptiles, man, etc.

God made this special place for us because He loves us and wants us to know Him.

© Bible Verse Review

Supplies:

- Bible
- Ball, stuffed toy, or small, soft object.

Lord, you are good. You are forgiving. You are full of love for all who call out to you. Psalm 86:5 (NIRV)

Purpose: To review the Scripture Verse and encourage the children to memorize it.

Have the children sit in a circle. Sit on the ground in the circle with the children. Lead them in saying the verse a few times while doing the hand motions that were taught in the large group time. Say: **You all did a good job saying the verse and doing the motions. Now that we have reviewed the verse, let’s play a game using the words from the verse and this ball** (hold up ball or other soft object). **Here’s how to play:**

- 1. The person holding the ball starts the game by saying the first word of the verse (“Lord”) and then passes the ball to someone else in the circle.**

2. **The person who catches the ball says the next word in the verse and then passes the ball to someone else in the circle. You cannot pass the ball back to the person who passed it to you.**
3. **This continues until the verse is complete, including the verse reference (Psalm 86:5).**

Play the game several times and encourage the children to try to go faster each time (like playing the game “Hot Potato”). For additional challenge, tell the children that if, on your turn, you say the wrong word, you will be out until the next round. Continue playing until only one child is left or the round has lasted more than five minutes.

After the game, ask the following discussion questions and encourage each child to participate in the discussions.

1. **What do you think the word “good” used in this verse means?** (Possible responses: kind, perfect, not evil, thoughtful, etc.)
2. **What does it mean to be forgiving?** (Possible responses: forget what happened, don’t hold offense, act as though it never happened, not to judge, etc.)
3. **What comes to mind when you hear the words “full of love”?** (Answers will vary.)
4. **How do we “call out” to God?** (Possible response: prayer.)

It is important to involve the children in discussion. This helps them in processing their thoughts and expressing them.

© Life Application

Supplies:

- PowerMark Seeker Series #1 “Quest for Truth” books (one for each child)
- Pens or pencils

Purpose: To find ways to apply this lesson to daily living and encourage the children to change their lives in order to live the way God wants them to live.

If the children have not yet read this book, take time to read the book as a group. Here are some ways to read the book together:

- You read the book aloud as the children follow along.
- The children can take turns reading. Each child reads one page.
- You can assign the children to read the parts of particular character(s) (PowerMark, Yaro, Shanti, Amber, Mr. Bala, etc.)
- The children can read the book on their own, quietly.

After the book has been read, ask the following questions. Have the children raise their hand if they want to answer a question. Only one child should answer at a time. Make sure the discussion is not dominated by only one or two children. Encourage all of the children to be involved in the discussion.

Be careful not to approach this time as a test with you, the leader, asking questions and the children giving the correct answer. Instead, spend the time in a conversational manner with the children. Listen to what the

children have to say about the book, especially the Bible portion of the story. By listening you will be able to assess how well they understand the gospel presentation through the Seeker's Series.

1. **What is the Seekers club looking for?** *Truth* (page 3).
2. **Tell me something you know to be the truth.** *Answers will vary.*
3. **Why is it important for us to know the truth?** *Answers will vary. Possible answers: To know the truth will always help us. It will make us smarter and wiser.*
4. **What belief was Beni, Amber, Lu, Shanti and Yaro assigned?** *Christianity.*
5. **What other belief was mentioned in the story?** *Mindfree* (page 5 & 7).
6. **Mr. Bala says, "We are all gods. There is a little bit of God in all of us." Is he right?** *There is only one true God. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).*
7. **What was here before God created the earth?** *Nothing. The earth was formless and empty* (Genesis 1:2).
8. **When God created Adam and Eve He gave them the ability to choose. Why did they choose to believe the serpent?** *They thought they would get something God hadn't given them. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good from evil." (Genesis 3:5)*
9. **What is sin?** *Disobeying God.*
10. **What was the result or consequence of Adam and Eve's sin?** *Shame, fear, pain, hard work, separation from God, had to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden, ultimate death.*
11. **Besides Jesus, is there anyone that has never sinned?** *No. "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23)*
12. **Thousands of years ago, before Jesus came to the earth, God wanted men and women to understand how serious and dangerous sin was so He had them kill an animal, usually a sheep to pay for their sin. That is called a sacrifice. We no longer have to do that because someone came to this earth as the sacrifice for everyone. Who came to earth to be our sacrifice?** *Jesus.*
13. **Why did Jesus come as our sacrifice?** *God loves every person and wanted to make a way for us to have our sin taken away so we can know Him. "God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die but will have eternal life." (John 3:16)*
14. **Why was Jesus able to take our place and be the sacrifice for our sins?** *Because Jesus lived a sinless life on earth.*
15. **What happened after Jesus died on the cross?** *He rose from*

the dead after three days. Forty days later, He returned to heaven and is sitting at the right hand of God, the Father.

If time allows, have the children fill-in-the-blanks on the last page of Seeker Series #1, "Quest for Truth." They can work individually or as a group. Below are the answers:

1. God's very special creation was man and woman.
2. The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals God had made.
3. So sin entered the world because Adam and Eve disobeyed God.
4. God wanted to make a way for man to have a relationship with him once again.
5. God loved the world so much that He gave His one and only Son.
6. God sent His Son Jesus to live on this earth and die on the cross.
7. Say with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord."
8. Jesus rose from the dead after 3 days.
9. Since Jesus lived on this earth, He experienced everything we experience in our lives.
10. If you have a relationship with God, you will spend eternity in heaven with Him when you die.

© Closing Prayer

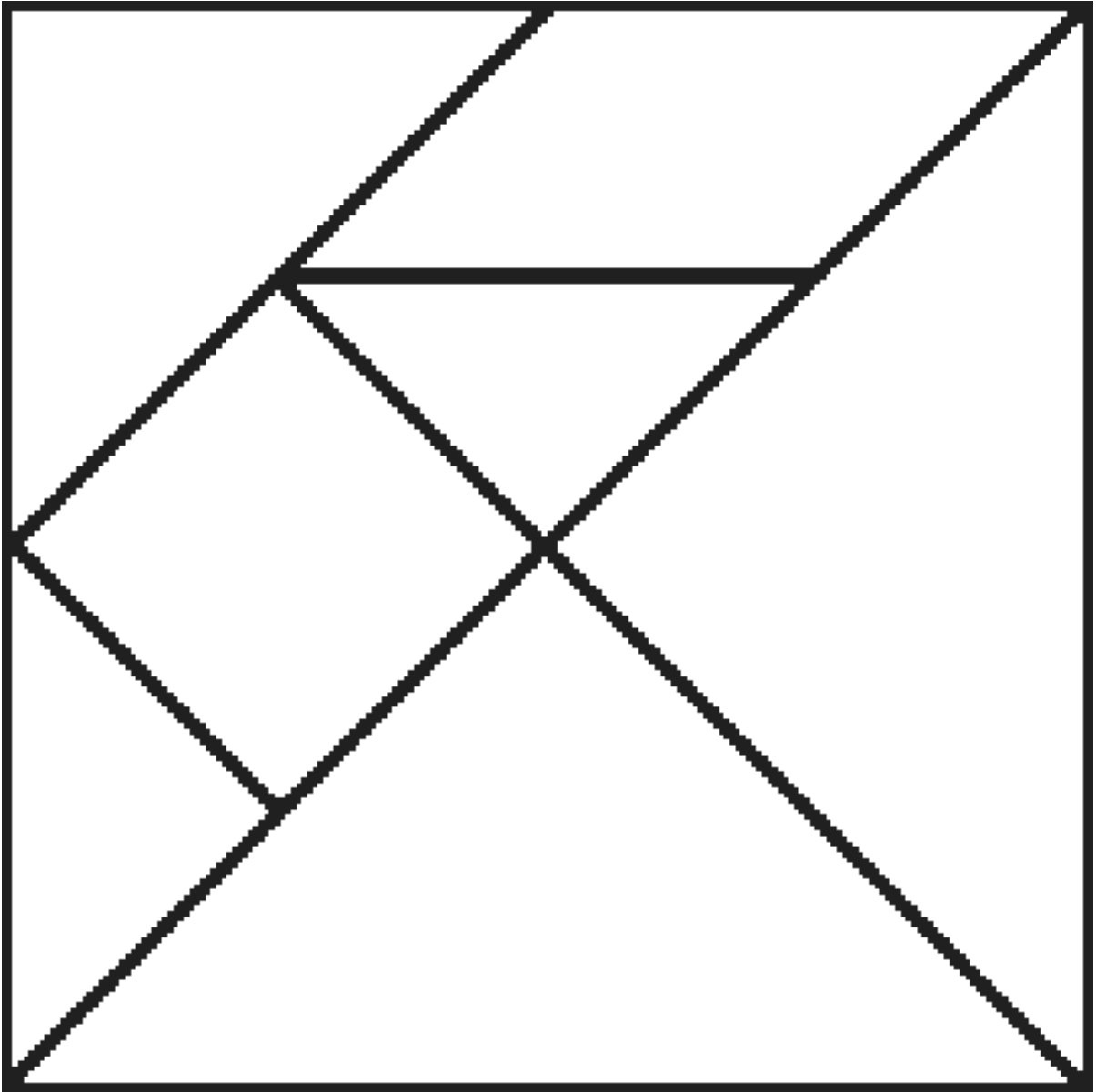
End the small group time in prayer. Instruct the children to bow their heads and close their eyes. Ask if anyone would like to ask Jesus to take away his or her sin. Lead those that respond in a salvation prayer. Break the prayer into small phrases and have the children repeat the prayer after you. Here is a sample prayer of salvation:

**Dear God,
I am sorry for all of my sin.
Please forgive me...
For all of the wrong things...
I have done, said, and thought.
I believe Jesus died on the cross...
So my sins could be taken away...
And He came back to life...
Three days later.
Please come into my life...
And help me love You...
And live like You want me to live.
Thank You for taking my sin away...
And loving me.
In Jesus' name I pray.
Amen.**

In addition to the prayer of salvation, allow time for the children to share prayer requests or praise reports. After they have shared, pray for their needs and praise God for their praise reports. You can also have the children volunteer to pray for each other's needs. As you are praying, summarize what was learned today (God loves us and wants us to know Him better).

Tangram Puzzle Pieces

The tangram is a Chinese puzzle using seven shapes: 2 large triangles, 1 medium triangle and 2 small triangles, 1 square and 1 parallelogram. The object is to form a specific shape using all seven pieces with no overlap.



Make a copy of the tangram pieces for each child.

(Note: Use card stock to make pieces easier for children to handle and to be more durable.)