

5 LESSON SESSION

JERRY CAN

A CLASS ON RELIEF WITH WATER



PRESBYTERIAN
GIVING CATALOG

Jerry Can: A Class on Relief with Water

5-lesson sessions

BACKGROUND NOTATION

Introduction

Mission Education for Children

In this day and age, access to information can be overwhelming. The global community has become a reality. Television and the Internet provide us not only with information but also with images of disasters around the world.

Children see and hear about these things, and they want to do something to help. They want to be involved, and many parents want this for their children. The goal of this curriculum is not only to impart information but also to suggest an appropriate response to natural disasters.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) responds to disastrous situations that happen to God's people throughout the world. PC(USA) programs not only respond with immediate aid, but through relationships with partner churches throughout the world; they also transition relief efforts into long-term development. They act on behalf of countless Presbyterians who offer prayers, send money, sponsor projects, and form work teams to assist those in need. In the spirit of educating a whole new generation of people who answer God's call to respond, this curriculum for children is offered.

The Special Offerings office produces the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* to be a connecting point between individuals and the ministry of the PC(USA) through Presbyterian Mission. Items identified in the Catalog represent projects, strategies, and tools deployed by ministries related to Special Offerings. Many congregations and individuals have found the items listed in it to be helpful for understanding the work of the Church and identifying achievable fundraising goals for supporting our shared ministry. You may find the materials to be helpful in other mission engagement opportunities for your congregation, including Vacation Bible School, Sunday School offerings, and alternative gift-giving programs.

Jerry Can, the water-carrying mascot for this program, helps in a world of disasters. He represents one common denominator in all disasters around the world: the need for clean water in order to survive. Jerry Can, as a mascot and as a tool of disaster relief, is a concrete, visual way to represent to children the need for clean water. You can **create your own Jerry Can mascot**:

- » Purchase an inexpensive water carrier. Coleman makes one (model #5620) for around \$12–15. You can also purchase a portable gasoline container for around \$7–9. A plastic foam ball for a head, painted eyes and hair, and a ball cap will transform this carrier into Jerry Can. You can almost see the twinkle in his eyes!
- » We hope you can have some fun with Jerry Can. He was created to be an energetic character. So as you read the stories, give Jerry Can a lot of personality. His poetry is certainly not world-class, but poetry was used to parallel the form of the Psalms.
- » Consider having a “family” of Jerry Cans! Jerry, Jerria, Jae, Jean and many others can join the Jerry Can family. Consider having smaller water containers, too! The Jerry Can character is designed to point toward water programs of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the many programs touched by it.

Teaching appropriate responses of generosity and giving to our children from an early age is integral to establishing a healthy habit and culture of generosity, one in line with God’s command to help the poor, sick, and needy. When using these materials, it is helpful to encourage children to consider how God calls us to help those in need, and that some very helpful ways to support these people are through prayer and giving of gifts.

Setting an achievable and yet challenging goal for your class will help make the effort engaging and exciting, yet memorable and impactful. Keep track of ongoing totals to keep participants engaged, and consider bumping up the goal if community support is strong and the goal is easily achieved. Create a list to track those who are engaged with your fundraising so you can thank them and keep them informed. As you engage your participants and community, consider where the passion and interests lie so your fundraising goals are relatable and achievable. Gifts can be remitted through the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* website: **presbyteriangifts.org**.

When Teaching Children

In an effort to appropriately address the audience your congregation is teaching, it is important to be sensitive to the needs and experiences of those in your classroom. This curriculum is set up with two age ranges: Grades 1–3 and 4–6. Some may find it is better to mix-and-match materials and scripts so that the appropriate materials are given to each class. If you are in a congregation that mixes all ages, keep in mind your audience. Some of the older students may better serve as volunteers, assisting with crafts and games instead of acting as a student participant. Some of the younger students may find the material or activities too challenging and may need a simplified version of the content.

Additionally, children of a younger age are particularly impressionable and may be easily scared by concepts like natural disasters or refugees. Being sensitive to your community’s experiences may change how you present the materials. If you have adult volunteers who have had experiences in natural disasters, it may help to have them tell their stories so that the “doom and gloom” of a natural disaster is not colored by total despair; rather it is told from the angle of one who survived and can provide a lens of hope and life despite disaster and danger. Being aware of your audience and sensitive to its needs is crucial to having a successful class with impact.

Psalms & Science

The book of Psalms is a wondrous piece of literature. The writers of the psalms covered the whole gamut of human emotion, from joy and praise to sorrow, grief, and anger. Through the psalms our encounter with God is as fresh and new today as it was for the ancient writers. Portions of various psalms have been chosen to lift up God’s care and love for God’s people. The blending of the psalms with scientific experiments is meant to show that natural disasters are not caused by God and do not occur as the result of God’s wrath; rather, the forces of nature provide the devastation. In the midst of the pain and brokenness of a disaster, God is the shepherd whose steadfast love is everlasting. By responding to our neighbors, we serve as a tangible reminder to them of God’s care and love.

Map Exercises

Because natural disasters—and our responses to them—reach beyond the borders of our state and country, map study is an important feature. Since we live in an increasingly globalized community, it is important to recognize who our “neighbors” are. As children get a better grasp of the need that arises in our country and around the world, associating that need with various parts of the country and world will be helpful. Be sure to recognize the children’s learning ability when choosing a map (a simpler country map versus detailed international map for the youngest of children) and to check for accuracy before using them (e.g., Russian Federation instead of U.S.S.R.).

Appropriate Response

Children do want to help when they see a need. It is our responsibility as educators to teach them how to respond in appropriate ways.

- » Participation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering is a great place to start. This curriculum acts as a supplement to that extensive educational opportunity. The Jerry Can curriculum presents a monetary response, which is the most helpful for international natural disasters. Not many of us can (or should!) get on a plane to travel around a disaster site. But we can respond through smaller child-led collections and appeals. Encouraging the children to plan or spearhead these appeals allows them to have a hand in leading the response while encouraging participation from community and congregation members.
- » Think about the participation of your children in the worship service. Could they present a Minute for Mission about a particular disaster? Could they present a true children’s sermon, with children filling the role of preacher or educator as they present a Jerry Can appeal to the congregation? Might they plan and lead an entire worship service?
- » Involvement in your local community is a wonderful way to bring forth learning-appropriate responses. Consider asking your congregation’s mission or outreach committee to plan an intergenerational mission project. People across the generations can learn from watching folks model true mission as they participate together. And don’t forget the value of talking together and reflecting on your experiences in mission.

Snacks

This curriculum offers suggestions for snacks for your class, but you are encouraged to be as creative as possible and necessary when using them. **Be extremely aware of any children with allergies in your class** and ask parents about allergies before serving anything. Many parents of children with allergies will be able to share ways to tweak recipes to make them safer for their children, or provide ideas of alternative snacks that may help. If alternative snacks need to be served, try making sure everyone has the same snack so as to not exclude anyone from the experience.

Volunteers

Encourage everyone in your congregation to participate in teaching this class! This will take some planning and sharing of information.

- » Do you have someone in your congregation who loves to cook or bake? Share the recipe(s) you are using and ask them to be responsible for preparing and serving the snacks. Consider having lots of extras made as a fundraiser to help the children raise money to support water-related relief projects.
- » Is there someone who enjoys crafts who could prepare, practice, demonstrate, and lead those activities?
- » Is there someone willing to donate or purchase a jerry can water carrier or design a Jerry Can mascot?
- » Do you know a person who enjoys leading group games?
- » What about a scientist or musician who can help (amateur or not!)?
- » Is there someone who has had experiences in a natural disaster, or has traveled to provide assistance after a natural disaster? Perhaps they can share a short story or experience that identifies the damage but conveys the importance of sending help and showing hope despite disaster.

Each of these elements is an important aspect of the overall learning experience. When a volunteer takes on one task, it not only divides the work but also increases participation and ownership in the total educational ministry of the church. Folks may not be willing to teach for a whole year, but they may be glad to take part in a one- or five-lesson study. It never hurts to ask!

Format

Aware of the time involved in preparing a lesson, it is our hope that the format will be user-friendly. Look through the lesson a few days beforehand to make sure you have the supplies needed for the experiments, crafts, and games. If you don't have time to prepare the lesson until the night before, at least you'll have the supplies on hand.

Take a moment to consider the examples and stories in each lesson as well. Depending on your congregation's ministries, geographic location, or serving opportunities, you may find examples that relate better to your congregation. Consider more recent or localized hurricanes or storms in Lesson 1, for example. You can also visit presbyteriangifts.org/jerrycan for other options we may have developed recently.

Be Prepared: This section alerts you to any preparations you may need to make.

Materials: Here is the list of materials you will need for each of the activities and experiments.

Opening: This time includes an activity for the children to do when they first arrive, as well as a time to sing together. The song suggestions are taken from *The Presbyterian Hymnal*

(1990) and *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* (2013). Song links in this document connect with Hymnary.org, an online music ministry resource that provides music, lyrics, and more for many hymnals.

Learning Together: In this section is the Jerry Can lesson script, along with some suggested arts and crafts activities, games, science experiments, and snacks. These are just suggestions. The creativity of Christian educators and church school teachers is amazing! If you have other ideas that better fit your group of children, feel free to use them. An effort has been made to make all these activities affordable for both large and small churches.

Closing: The lesson closes with a time of prayer and reflection.

Alternative Settings

Vacation Bible School Connection

This 5-lesson program could be used as an additional piece to supplement your pre-written materials.

The Presbyterian Giving Catalog's "Overflowing Generosity" activity can be used as the offering or fundraising part of the VBS curriculum, allowing participants to respond to God through gifts and prayers to a larger cause. Consider using a tent as the location for snack time, to emphasize the displacement caused by emergency or disaster situations where clean water is hard to find. Encourage students to take turns carrying all the water needed to serve their classmates their snack. Then wonder aloud with the students what a full day of water for their family would weigh and how they would get all that water in an emergency.

After School Program Supplements

Use this program in conjunction with a trip to the local water-treatment plant or reservoir.

Visit a local Humane Society or animal shelter, having the workers talk about how they would care for animals during a disaster.

Additional Resources

Presbyterian Giving Catalog (www.presbyteriangifts.org/water)

» Specific gifts that could be good fundraising goals related to water:

- Garden well (\$50/share; \$1,500/well)
- Sand dam (\$500)
- Rainwater catchment system (\$75)
- Water filters (\$50)
- Jerry cans (\$25)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Annual Report – Mission Mosaic (available online or from the PC(USA) Store (www.pcusastore.com)).



Lesson 1:

What is a Disaster?



Lesson 1: What is a Disaster?

Grades 1–3

They are like trees planted by streams of water . . . Psalm 1:3a

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Display a map of the United States (or the world) in your classroom. Place the map in a prominent place where children can see it easily. Locate the area from North Carolina through Central Florida where Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016. Either mark it with a highlighter or a few push pins. You can also locate where you live in relation to that region.
- » If relevant or appropriate, you may opt for a more recent or relevant natural disaster for your community. Look for maps that display those regions and consider finding a volunteer who can share more about your connection to that disaster.
- » Have a Bible storybook with the story of Noah. If the children in your group are not familiar with that story, be prepared to provide a summary for them.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and games for the lesson.
- » Prepare the Jerry Can mascot from a jerry can water container (see page 1 “Background Notation: Introduction” for directions) and place him under or near the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* “Overflowing Generosity” poster.
- » Consider what an appropriate fundraising goal might be for your group. This may be a gift from each participant (regardless of amount); a dollar amount that could be subsidized by parents or other members; filling Jerry Can with coins up to a certain line; etc. See presbyteriangifts.org/water for ideas of water-related fundraising goals.
- » Read over the lesson plan several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Have blue index cards or pieces of construction paper and markers so children can make name tags. They can be attached with masking tape.
- » Make Haystack Cookies, or ask a volunteer to do so. Also get some cups, napkins, and bottles of water or blue juice.

Materials

- » Blue index cards or pieces of construction paper, markers, masking tape (for name tags)
- » Hymnbooks used by your congregation (“We Plow the Fields,” #560 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* or “God of the Sparrow,” #22 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)
- » A map of the world or the United States, and adhesive dots or push pins.
- » Supplies for snack time.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Prepared Jerry Can container (see page 1)
- » *The Presbyterian Giving Catalog's* "Overflowing Generosity" activity kit includes enough stickers for each child who might give to the cause. (The activity kit is free and can be ordered from the PC(USA) Store at (800) 533-4371 or by visiting www.pcusastore.com. The activity kit is item number 12112-17-981.)
- » Photos of flood, hurricane, forest fire, or drought (see page 154) in print, or digitally, if projection is an option in your classroom setting. Alternative photos can be found with a simple Google image search.
- » Bible or Bible storybook
- » Maps (listed above)

ARTS & CRAFTS

Windsock (see page 133 for directions)

- » 12" x 6" pieces of Fun Foam or construction paper in varied colors
- » Jerry Can image (photocopied on card stock and pre-cut)
- » Stapler
- » Hole punch
- » 30" lengths of string, ribbon, or yarn
- » 10" strands of ribbon or crepe paper streamers in various colors
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Scissors

Anemometer (see page 134 for directions)

- » Pencil with eraser
- » Five 3-oz paper cups
- » Two straight plastic soda straws
- » Straight pin
- » Single-hole paper punch
- » Scissors
- » Small stapler

Chalk Drawings (see page 133 for directions)

- » Black construction paper
- » Pastels or colored chalks

GAMES

Balancing Act (see page 143 for directions)

- » Masking tape
- » Chair
- » Ping-pong ball(s)

Rescue Me (see page 143 for directions)

- » Image cards (see page 154)

SNACK

- » Haystack Cookies (see page 139 for recipe), or other snack (be sensitive to any allergies)
- » Napkins
- » Drinking water or blue juice
- » Cups

OPENING

Looking at Maps

As children arrive, invite them to find where they live on the map. Encourage them to find the locations where Hurricane Matthew (2016) hit the hardest. Ask each child to make and put on a nametag.

Singing Together

Sing “We Plow the Fields” or “God of the Sparrow” together. An alternative hymn or favorite song may also be sung.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

Take out Jerry Can and put the container where everyone can see it.]

Removable script can be found on page 87.

“Jerry Can, I’m your man!
But do you know what I am?
Do you know what I’ve seen?
Do you know where I’ve been?”

Hello! My name is Jerry Can and I am a water container—I hold water. Lots of things hold water: a glass, a pitcher, a bottle, even a bathtub. But I am special! I am used to bring water to people around the world whose homes and cities or towns have been hurt or ruined by natural disasters.

They are called *natural* disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. Do you remember reading in the Bible about the story of Noah? [If the children do not know the story, summarize using a Bible storybook.] God made a promise, a covenant, with the earth and its people: “I establish my covenant with you . . . never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen. 9:11) So what’s the problem?

The problem is not something God created. The problem with natural disasters can be *too little* or *too much*. [Show the children the four pictures of flood, hurricane, forest fire, and drought.] Let's look at these photos and see if we can name the natural disaster. Is there *too little* or *too much* in each of these? Which ones are too much water? Which are too much wind? Which are not enough water? There are lots of situations where people might end up with too much or not enough water. Today let's look at hurricanes—times when people might end up with too much water. I want you to imagine you're a tree. Everyone stand up and be a tree! Where are your feet, your roots? [Response: the ground.] Where are your arms, your branches? [Response: in the air or sky.] How do you feed your leaves? [Response: from the ground.] What makes you grow? [Response: sunshine and water.] Are you a happy tree? [Let children respond, then sit down.]

Did you know that there is a book of the Bible that is all poems? The book of Psalms is a series of poems and songs! In Psalm 1:3, the writer compares people who believe in God to trees! Let's listen to a part of this psalm:

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

These are very happy trees—maybe even apple trees or palm trees. The trees are near the water, so they grow and prosper. Doesn't the psalm tell us that this is a good place to be?

Let's imagine that we are sitting on a beach near a group of palm trees. Isn't it fun to stand in the sand with the sun shining on us? The ocean meets the sand and the waves come up and go out. Suddenly, it begins to rain—rain really hard—and the wind begins to blow. The weather person on the radio tells people that a big storm is coming! The children pick up their sand pails and toys while their parents gather up the folding chairs. Folks hurry home. The skies get very dark, the rain pours and the wind blows hard. In North Carolina and down through Florida, all along the beach on the Atlantic Ocean, a hurricane named Matthew did just that. The blowing wind and pouring rain together made Hurricane Matthew come ashore there. The wind blew the trees from side to side; sometimes their branches touched the ground. Imagine what that was like! Let's stand up, spread out a little, and try. Stand with your feet on the floor and raise your arms above your head. Here comes the wind! Move your branches side to side. As you keep moving your arms, pick up one foot. Change feet and try to keep your balance. Do it as fast as you can now. It can be hard to keep your balance, can't it? [Have the children sit down.]

When the trees move their feet, the roots that hold them in the ground begin to move the dirt. The trees begin to lose their balance too. The wind continues to push them. Often they break, or their roots come completely out of the ground. When they come out of the ground, the tree falls on roads, houses, and power lines. This is just what happened with Hurricane Matthew.

The blowing wind and the trees falling on power lines stopped the electrical power. No electricity—wow! What does that mean? What happens when the power goes out? No lights, no microwave, no air conditioning, no TV, no clean water. During big storms, stuff gets into our water—dirt, sand, and palm leaves—and we cannot drink that water. With no electricity, drinking water can't be cleaned like we need it to be.

This isn't what we pictured when we heard the psalm, is it?

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.”

Let’s see what we can do to help. Jerry Can, he’s the man! [Hold up Jerry Can.] People all around the United States send water. How do they do that? With their money, they buy tools like jerry cans that are brought into the towns or cities to help. Many folks will find fresh, clean water waiting for them at shelters, a place where they can go to get away from the storm damage. The water is a special gift. For a long time, people will pay for this gift of water to be sent with their nickels, quarters, and dollars.

In North Carolina and Florida, most of the hurt caused by Hurricane Matthew has been cleaned up now, with new houses built and small trees planted. Now that it is recovering, that area seems to be like a tree planted by streams of water. It took lots of people just like you to remind those folks about God’s love by sending gifts of water, tools, and jerry cans to help them stay healthy and clean up the mess so they could start to build new lives.

We have Jerry Can here and we can be a part of his journey to help people in disasters receive and carry water. [Describe fundraising goal using Jerry Can and/or “Overflowing Generosity” poster and stickers.] The money we raise helps support people who have experienced too much or too little water in their lives. When we give, we will get a sticker saying “I gave, will you?” showing that we know water is so important that we give and share it with people who need it. It will remind you to tell others to give too!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do one or more of the following (or an art activity of your choosing):

- » Make Chalk Drawings
- » Make an Anemometer
- » Make a Windsock

GAMES

Let the children play one or more of the following:

- » Balancing Act
- » Rescue Me

SNACK

Serve the children a snack of bottled water (or blue juice) and Haystack Cookies.

Recall with them where their water or juice comes from and how easy it was to get it this morning. Reflect how hard it would be to find clean water if the tap didn’t work or the fridge was empty. Remark how thankful we can be that we do have water, and recall ways that we can make sure Jerry Can helps others get the water they need.

CLOSING

Gather in the same space you began the class, near Jerry Can and the “Overflowing Generosity” materials. Invite the children to reiterate some of the things they remember from the lesson. Remind them of the goal they have for fundraising so they might help those who have too much or too little water.

Invite the children to participate in the prayer by providing a one-sentence prayer of thanksgiving for things that water does in our world, and praying for those who have too little or too much water.



Grades 4-6

Lesson 1:

What is a Disaster?



Lesson 1: What is a Disaster?

Grades 4-6

They are like trees planted by streams of water . . . —Psalm 1:3a

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Display a map of the world (or the United States) in your classroom. Place the map in a prominent place where children can see it easily. Locate the area from North Carolina through Central Florida where Hurricane Matthew struck in 2016. Mark it with a highlighter or a few push pins. You can also locate where you live in relation to that region.
- » If appropriate, you may opt for a more recent or relevant natural disaster for your community. Look for maps that display those regions and consider finding a volunteer who can share more about your connection to that disaster.
- » Obtain a copy of the latest *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Annual Report* to find locations of recent natural disasters. Or go to www.pcusa.org/pda to get information on current disaster responses.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and games for the lesson.
- » Prepare Jerry Can from a water container (see page 1 “Background Notation: Introduction” for directions) and place him under or near the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* “Overflowing Generosity” poster.
- » Consider what an appropriate fundraising goal might be for your group. This may be a gift from each participant (regardless of amount); a dollar amount that could be subsidized by parents or other members; filling Jerry Can with coins up to a certain line; etc. See presbyteriangifts.org/water for ideas of water-related fundraising goals.
- » Read over the lesson plan several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Have blue index cards or pieces of construction paper and markers so children can make nametags. They can be attached with masking tape.
- » Make Haystack Cookies, or ask a volunteer to do so. Also get some cups, napkins, and bottles of water or blue juice.

Materials

- » Blue index cards or pieces of construction paper, markers, masking tape (for nametags)
- » Hymnbooks used by your congregation (“We Plow the Fields,” #560 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal* or “God of the Sparrow,” #22 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)
- » A map of the world or United States, adhesive dots or push pins.
- » Supplies for snack time.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Prepared Jerry Can container (see page 1)
- » Special Offerings “Overflowing Generosity” activity, includes enough stickers for each child who might give to the cause. (The activity kit is free and can be ordered from the PC(USA) Store at (800) 533-4371 or by visiting pcusastore.com. The activity kit is item number 12112-17-981.)
- » Photos of flood, hurricane, forest fire, or drought (see page 154) in print, or digitally, if projection is an option in your classroom setting.
- » Bible or Bible storybook
- » Maps (listed above)
- » *PDA Annual Report* (listed above) or access to the PDA’s website information on current disasters
- » Newsprint, markers, and tape

SCIENCE

Make a Tornado (see page 147 for directions)

- » 1 clean, empty, 8-oz plastic bottle with lid
- » Water
- » Vinegar
- » Glitter
- » Clear liquid dishwashing detergent

The Calm Storm (see page 147 for directions)

- » 1 large, clear glass or plastic mixing bowl
- » Water
- » Scissors
- » Ground black pepper
- » Large spoon
- » Ruler with hole in center
- » Length of string
- » Paper clip
- » Tape

ARTS & CRAFTS

Anemometer (see page 134 for directions)

- » Pencil with eraser
- » Five 3-oz paper cups
- » Two straight plastic soda straws
- » Straight pin
- » Single-hole paper punch
- » Scissors
- » Small stapler

Chalk Drawings (see page 133 for directions)

- » Black construction paper
- » Pastels or colored chalks

GAMES

Stretch it Out (see page 144 for directions)

Snack

- » Haystack Cookies (see page 139 for recipe) or other snack (be sensitive to any allergies)
- » Napkins
- » Drinking water or blue juice
- » Cups

OPENING

Looking at Maps

As the children arrive, invite them to look at the map and locate places in the world they are familiar with. Ask each child to make a nametag and put it on.

Singing Together

Sing “We Plow the Field,” “God of the Sparrow,” or another familiar song with your group.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Show the children Jerry Can and put the container where everyone can see it. Distribute Bibles to all the participants.]

Removable script can be found on page 91.

“Jerry Can, I’m your man!
But do you know what I am?”

Do you know what I've seen?
Do you know where I've been?"

Hello! My name is Jerry Can, and I am a water container. Sure, lots of things hold water—a glass, a pitcher, a bottle, even a bathtub. But I am special! I am used to bring water to people around the world whose homes and communities have been ruined by natural disasters. They are called natural disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. We are going to learn about how the power of nature can bring disorder to our world.

So what is a disaster? Can you think of something that has happened to you that you would consider a disaster? [Allow time for responses.] What about these:

- » You wake up late, rush out of the house for school, forget your lunch, and the cafeteria is serving only tuna casserole and deviled eggs . . . It's a disaster!
- » It is your job to give the dog a bath. You get him all soaped up, then he escapes. He runs through the house, out the dog door, and down the street . . . It's a disaster!

Let's see if we can define a disaster in another way. Think about a disaster that would affect the lives of people around the world in very harmful ways. What can you think of? [Show the photos of flood, hurricane, forest fire, and drought.] Let's look at these photos for some examples. What disasters do you see? [Allow responses: drought, hurricane, forest fire, flood.] These are called natural disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. Human beings cannot cause these disasters, but they affect us. There have been many natural disasters. Let's identify places on the map where natural disasters have occurred. [Ask volunteers to place colored dots or pins where disasters have happened. Use the most recent *PDA Annual Report* or website information to identify these places. Hurricane Matthew (2016) is particularly notable, though responses are frequently made to natural disasters around our country and world.]

Let's talk about two particular types of natural disasters: tornadoes and hurricanes. What is a tornado? [Allow responses.] It starts with a big thunderstorm with winds blowing from opposite directions. Then there is a strong updraft—air moving upwards—that travels through the storm clouds. When the updraft begins to spin, a tornado has begun to form. When the vortex—everything that is drawn into the center—dips below the bottom of the cloud, a funnel cloud is formed. And if that funnel cloud touches the ground, it's called a tornado. Let's try an experiment [demonstration: Make a Tornado].

These funnel clouds move around, and they often skip around. They may touch down on the ground, destroying everything they touch, then skip to another area. That's why you can see pictures of total destruction right next to areas without any damage. Tornado winds can be as high as 600 mph. The U.S. has the most tornadoes, and they have struck every state. "Tornado Alley" is a name meteorologists—the weather people—have given to the area from Nebraska south through central Texas [help children locate this area on the map]. It's a part of our country where tornadoes occur every year. Tornadoes can definitely be called a disaster!

What is a hurricane? [Allow responses.] It is a large tropical storm with winds of 74 mph or more that spin around a fairly calm center. Most hurricanes in North America occur from June 1

through Nov. 30, a period called “Hurricane Season.” Every continent has hurricanes except one—can you guess? Antarctica! Almost all hurricanes begin over tropical seas. Moist air and heat are the two fuels needed to start and keep these storms going. Let’s see if we can create a hurricane with this experiment. [Demonstration: The Calm Storm.]

Notice how the eye of the hurricane is so calm. This is like our relationship with God, in a way. Psalm 1:3 is a reminder of this. Someone read that passage aloud for us. [Allow student(s) to read Psalm 1:3.]

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

The psalm talks about God’s order for the world: calm and peaceful. When God is the center of our lives, then we prosper and grow. Even when everything is whirling and blowing around us, God will give us peace and we will not wither. But who takes care of the whirling and blowing? People hit by a hurricane or tornado may have their homes destroyed or filled with water. The power of wind will often pull down power lines, and then people have no electricity. How does that impact people? Think of all the things we use electricity for, and let’s make a list. [Allow students to work in pairs before sharing their list to create a large class list.]

Why is Jerry Can so important when the electricity goes out? First of all, where does your water come from? [Allow responses.] If the water is from a river or a lake, how does it get clean enough to drink? And how does the water get pushed from the treatment plant to the tap, toilet, bathtub, or sink? Electrical power plays a huge part in cleaning and delivering our water for drinking and more. Without power, we don’t have clean water.

Jerry Can to the rescue!

Water is one of the first things needed at a shelter for folks who have been put out of their homes by a natural disaster. Water is the source of life. The psalmist talks about the trees planted by streams of water. This is God’s plan to provide what we need to prosper. But if the water is contaminated—filled with dirt, disease, or debris—we certainly won’t prosper. We may even get sick. We will also get sick if we don’t have enough water to drink. Did you know a person can live for weeks without food, but only three or four days without water?

So, Jerry Can, he’s the man! But how does he get to disaster sites? He needs help. You can actually help send him there. How do we do that? How do we help Jerry Can get to the places he needs to go? [Allow responses.] That’s right. That \$1 you are going to spend on a can of soda, or that \$11 you use to get into the movies, can go a long, long way toward sending water, help, and Jerry Can into disaster-stricken areas. God invites us to help heal the damage caused by the whirling and blowing. We can help control that chaos so people can return to a life that is more normal than disastrous.

[Describe the fundraising goal established for your group, or work with the students to identify an achievable goal.] Working together, contributing our own change, through your giving and encouraging others to give, we can help send Jerry Can to places in need around the world, helping people get clean water in places that need it most. When we contribute, we’ll get stickers that say, “I gave, will you?” that remind us of what we contributed toward and will encourage others to join us!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do one or more of the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Make an Anemometer

Allow the children to go outside and experiment with their completed anemometers.

Make Chalk Drawings

GAME

Let the children play:

Stretch it Out

SNACK

Have the drinks for the children in a visible place and ask one child to go and get all the drinks. Reflect with the child how difficult it is for just one person to carry all the drinks for the class, and how having a bucket or pitcher would make it easier. Have a case of water available for students to try lifting and carrying. Consider together how many bottles of water someone uses each day—showering, drinking, flushing, washing, etc. [Allow answers.] It is around 100 gallons—or approximately 750 bottles of water per person *each day*.

As the children eat their snack of Haystack Cookies and bottled water or blue juice, consider what it would take to get enough water during a disaster and recall how we can help Jerry Can bring water to those in need.

CLOSING

Review the lesson and what was learned. Review the impact of disasters and the importance of water in a situation of disaster. Remind the students how they can contribute to the delivery of water to these areas of disaster, and review the established fundraising goal.

PRAY TOGETHER

Ask the children to look again at the locations of disasters marked on the map. As you point to each one, name it and ask the children to pray silently for people there. For each location, ask the children to respond aloud with these words: “Lord in your mercy, bless the people there.” Close with a short summarizing prayer.



Grades 1-3

Lesson 2:

Water



Lesson 2: Water

Grades 1-3

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. —Psalm 23:1

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a map of the United States (or world).
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and the games for the lesson.
- » Also check the materials and directions for the science activity and practice it. Decide if you will demonstrate the activity or gather enough materials for each child to perform the experiment individually or in pairs. Another option is to set out materials and let the children try the experiment as they arrive.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Check to be sure no one in your group has allergies to the snack you are serving.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts.

Materials

Opening

- » Drawing paper and crayons or felt-tipped markers
- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson, or hymnals: "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is" and "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (#171 and #498 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #802 and #486 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and "Overflowing Generosity" fundraising materials
- » Newsprint
- » Markers
- » Map (listed above)
- » Bible(s)

SCIENCE

Water Cleaning Experiment (see page 148 for directions)

- » Water bottle with lid
- » Clean yogurt container
- » Water

- » Potting soil with vermiculite
- » Coffee filter

ARTS & CRAFTS

The Lord is my Shepherd (see page 135 for directions)

- » Waxed paper
- » 12 craft or ice-pop sticks per child
- » Glue
- » Felt – black and white
- » Black fine-line marker
- » Yarn or string

GAMES

Shelter Grab Bag (see Jerry Can lesson script for directions)

- » Paper grocery bag
- » Water bottle
- » Baby blanket
- » Child's toy telephone or cell phone
- » Stuffed animal
- » Toothpaste
- » Hairbrush
- » Other items that you think might be important to take to an emergency shelter

Wolf! Wolf! (see page 144 for directions)

SNACK

Mississippi Mud Cake (see page 140 for recipe)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins
- » Paper plates
- » Plastic forks/spoons

OPENING

Uses for Water

Invite the children to draw pictures of ways we use water.

Singing Together

Sing “The King of Love, My Shepherd Is,” “Child of Blessing, Child of Promise,” or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Removable script can be found on page 97.

Water is a wondrous thing! This is something I can really talk about:

Jerry Can, I’m your man,
That’s simply because
I’m a water can!
Do you know what I’ve seen?
Do you know where I’ve been?

Think about water. Where do you find it? [Possible responses: faucet, bathtub, river, lake, waterfall . . .] You know, we can even find it in church in our worship service! Think about that. Where would you find water at church? [If needed, prompt with: “What do we use for Baptism? Of course, water!”]

What do we need water for? Go on, let’s make a list. [List on newsprint. Also let the children share any pictures they drew at the beginning of class. Possible responses: drinking, cooking, washing clothes, taking baths, brushing teeth, swimming, boating, plants, and gardens.]

Let’s talk about the water we drink. Where does that water come from? It may come from a river or lake, the ocean, a well, or from pipelines that come from a long way off. In the United States, water is usually purified and made clean. It is then put into reservoirs or large tanks. It can also come from a well, a deep hole dug into the ground to get water from a stream that runs under the ground, called an aquifer. So, most of us in the United States and Canada can have pure water to drink whenever we need it. Our friend, Jerry Can, thinks there is nothing better than a good, cold glass of water.

Most of the time, the rain we get is just enough. We get rainfall to keep our gardens growing, to water the trees, to keep the grass green and to fill up the lakes and rivers. Remember when we talked about the book of poems in the Bible, the book of Psalms? Well, there’s a psalm—Psalm 23—that talks about God, our shepherd, who gives us all those things we need. Let’s read verses 1–4 of Psalm 23 [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

God is often called the shepherd, the one who looks after the sheep. If God is the shepherd, then you and I are the sheep. The shepherd looks after the sheep, making sure they have plenty of green grass so they can eat. The shepherd leads them beside still waters to drink. The shepherd protects them from things that could hurt them, and even though the sheep are a lot of work to take care of, the shepherd loves them. God takes care of you and me in the same way!

But sometimes a natural disaster strikes. The rain falls and the rivers and lakes fill up, and the trees and plants get watered, but the rain continues to fall. There is too much water. When it is way too much, it is called a flood. There is water everywhere! The water can make the ground muddy and sometimes things can even wash away. When there is too much water, it can make quite a mess!

One of the worst things about having too much water is that the drinking water can become unsafe to drink. During the biggest of floods, water from your faucet might get dirty or contain germs. Let's do an experiment with dirty water [demonstrate the Water Cleaning Experiment with the help of volunteers.]

Do you really want to drink the water you just tried to clean? I probably wouldn't try it! But the water in a flood could make the drinking water that dirty. And if the water is rising and getting into peoples' homes, then the floors get wet and the furnace stops working and the fridge gets wet and the electricity stops working . . . then what? Well, people need to leave their homes until the water goes away. But where do they go?

Well, neighbors and communities that are being flooded out of their homes often have emergency shelters set up for them at a nearby safe building. Most towns and cities have shelters set up in places like churches, community centers, and conference halls. Emergency shelters are places where people can get out of the water and have a dry place to sleep, eat, and recover.

Think about these people that are leaving their homes to go live in a shelter for a few days. What kind of things would they take with them? What would be the top 5 things that *you* would take? Remember that you are sharing the shelter with many other people, so you probably wouldn't have your own room or even an electrical outlet to use.

Let's do an activity that can help us think of things to take. Your teacher has a bag full of clues; put your hand in the bag and pick out something without looking. Did you have this item on your top 5? [Play Shelter Grab Bag.]

Now, who picked out the water bottle? And who had that on their top 5 list? One of the first things you would need if you were in a flood is water. From our experiment earlier, we know that it is hard to clean the water after a storm or a flood. Our friend, Jerry Can, will come to the rescue! Bottled water can be sent to a disaster site. People will then have clean water to drink, to brush their teeth, to wash their hands and face. By sending Jerry Cans and other water carriers to shelters, we can be helpers of the Good Shepherd from Psalm 23, helping those who have had hard times and have had to leave their homes because of floods.

But sometimes there is a different natural disaster—one where there is not enough water. This is called a drought. After all the flooding, less water might seem like a good thing. But in many countries around the world, there is no rain for months at a time—or even years. The problem that can arise then is not that the water is dirty, but that there is no water of any kind.

There are many problems with a drought. Lakes and rivers can dry up, which makes the fish die. Fish are an important food for many people. Many people also raise crops for food—they plant vegetable gardens or rice, corn, or wheat. With no rain, however, these plants dry up instead of growing. Gardens don't get any water because people and animals drink the little water that is there. And sometimes there isn't even enough water for that.

People and animals really do need water to stay alive. And that's where our friend, Jerry Can, comes in again. Jerry Can to the rescue! Jerry Can can't make water just appear, and he can't make it rain, but he can—well, *we* can—get water to people for drinking and cooking and keeping animals alive.

We can give money to programs and pray for ministries that help people get water. Money we give can help people get water by giving water carriers, like Jerry Can, so families can carry water back from the nearest water source. Even better, they help bring in special people and machines to build deeper wells to get to water that is hiding in deep streams way underground.

In the country of Pakistan (point out Pakistan on a map, if possible)—a country very far away from us—there were farmers who had a drought and had to leave their farms because they had no water to drink, to give their animals, or to make their crops of chickpeas and wheat grow. Money from Presbyterians around the country helped special wells to be built in those dry areas of Pakistan so the farmers could return home and grow crops again. The gifts we give to “One Great Hour of Sharing” and to the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* even helped teachers go to Pakistan to train farmers to fix the wells, if they broke, and dig new ones if needed. Now the people there are able to have water, can fix any problems, and even find more water if another drought happens! It's amazing to think that we—people in our church and in our American community—can hear about needs way over in Pakistan, and feel moved to share what God has given us, so that Jerry Can and his well-building friends can help bring wells and water to people in need! All of us working together can do amazing things! We can act as God asks us to. We can be helpers to God the Shepherd. With our gifts of water—whether that is in the coins we give to Jerry Can, or prayers of joy and thanksgiving to God—we can help people to live and eat!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

The Lord is My Shepherd

Or they could draw pictures of people digging wells, or do another art activity related to the Jerry Can story.

GAME

Wolf! Wolf!

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with:

Mississippi Mud Cake

CLOSING

Review the lesson and what the children learned today. Remind the children of the connection between what Jerry Can can do and the gifts they are able to share. Jerry Can can help get drinking water to places that have too little—or way too much—rainwater, and that makes a world of a difference.

Pray Together

Use the verses of the psalm as a closing prayer. Ask the children to say this line when you pause at the end: “Help us to help the Good Shepherd. Amen.”



Lesson 2:

Water



Grades 4-6

Lesson 2: Water

Grades 4-6

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. —Psalm 23:1

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a map of the United States (or world). Also check the most recent Presbyterian Disaster Assistance website for areas suffering from drought.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities. You will need to take either an instant or digital picture of each child, or one picture of the group. If you take digital pictures, recruit a volunteer to print them before the children make their picture frames.
- » Also check the materials and directions for the science activity and practice it. Decide if you will demonstrate the activity or gather enough materials for each child to perform the experiment individually or in pairs. Another option is to set out materials and let the children try the experiment as they arrive.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Check to be sure no one in your group has allergies to the snack you are serving.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts

Materials

Opening

- » Paper and pencils; camera
- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson or hymnals: "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is" and "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise" (#171 and #498 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #802 and #486 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and "Overflowing Generosity" fundraising materials
- » Newsprint
- » Markers
- » Map (listed above) and any updated Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program information
- » Colored dots or push pins for the map
- » Bible(s)

SCIENCE

How Soil Holds on to Water (see page 149 for directions)

- » 3 plastic foam cups or plastic pots:
 - 1 with a plug of grass or a small plant
 - 1 with bare soil
 - 1 with soil mounded to resemble a hill
- » Disposable aluminum pan or clay saucer
- » Watering can

ARTS & CRAFTS

Picture Frame (see page 136 for directions)

- » Pre-cut 5" x 8" oval picture frame mat (or cut pattern from Fun Foam or heavy paper)
- » Text: "Let God's Hands Hold You While You Walk in God's Footsteps"
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Pre-cut Fun Foam pieces of hands and feet shapes
- » Glue
- » Instant camera or digital camera and printer

SNACK

Mississippi Mud Cake (see page 140 for recipe)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins
- » Paper plates
- » Plastic forks/spoons

OPENING

Things to Take to a Shelter

As the children arrive, ask them to make a list of five things they would take with them if they had to leave home quickly and go to a shelter. Also take pictures of the children one at a time as they arrive using an instant or digital camera (have a volunteer print the digital photos once everyone's photo has been taken).

Singing Together

Sing "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is," "Child of Blessing, Child of Promise," or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hand out Bibles to the children and make sure Jerry Can is on display where all can see him.]
Removable script can be found on page 103.

Jerry Can, I'm your man;
that's simply because
I'm a water can!
Do you know what I've seen?
Do you know where I've been?

Water is a wondrous thing! I can tell you that there is nothing better than a cold drink of water on a hot day! Pure, clean, cold water. We use water for lots of things. Go on, make a list! [Let the children come up and write as many things as possible on a whiteboard, or on newsprint and hang it on a wall.]

Did you remember: the fish bowl? Or surfing or snorkeling? How about flushing the toilet? Or the symbolic way we use water in church: baptism! We use water for baptism in our worship services at church. In Psalm 23:1–4, the writer refers to water. Would one of you read Psalm 23:1–4 for us? [Have a volunteer read while others follow along in their Bibles. [This scripture is from the NRSV, but feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.

Did you notice that the psalmist said, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley . . . ?” This is a reminder that there *will be* times that are hard and bad. And in the bad times, during the storms, we can know that God is with us, and we do not need to fear evil. God is not a fair-weather friend. God is with us in the good times and in the bad. God's love for us is always.

The psalmist also writes, “He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.” God is helping us learn what is righteous, what is good. How we act shows our love for God. So what does righteousness have to do with water?

Personally, I would like to stay beside still waters and continue my nap in the sunshine! But there is work to do. There has been a flood! Can you imagine what a flood is like? After it rains for several days without stopping, the ground can't soak up any more water and the sewers are clogged and the river overflows its banks. And the water still gets higher.

A flood can be like a monster. They cause so many problems. Water gets into peoples' homes and creates a disaster there. As the waters get higher, everything gets wet—and I'm sure we can all imagine things that we don't want under water, especially things in our homes that shouldn't be in water!

If the water gets bad enough, causing electricity to be shut off and furnaces to be water-logged, people end up needing to leave their homes. Sometimes this is called an evacuation. It is hard to have to leave your home, but it may be too dangerous to stay. Imagine that you have to be evacuated; you would need a temporary shelter. What would you take with you? Remember that you would get to take only a few things, so write a list and mark off your top five. [Encourage children to make a list and share their responses: toothbrush and toothpaste, coat, sweater, pajamas, pet with carrier, medicine, blanket, hairbrush, pillow . . . *Keep these lists for Lesson 3*].

How do you think you would feel about having to leave your home to go to a temporary shelter? You wouldn't know how long you would have to stay. Might you be worried? Might you be scared? Or even angry? As children of God, we need to remember the words of the psalm we read: "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me."

The great, good shepherd will take care of the sheep—you and me. The shepherd will be with us in the good times, when we are beside still water, and with us when the floodwaters swirl around us.

So water really is a wondrous thing. God's promise is that God will bring us beside the still waters out of the darkness of disasters in our lives. What a promise! What a God!

Now, we have talked about the whirling waters, but there is also a disaster that has to do with no water. It is called a drought. What is a drought? [Look for definitions from the children. Possible answer: a long time with no rain!] There are places in the world where it is really dry for long periods of time, and for them it is normal, but when it is really, really dry for a really, really long time, and it's not normal, then it is a drought. Right now, there are a few places dealing with droughts or drought-like conditions! Help me find them. [Use the *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* information to identify regions affected by drought and work with the children to identify them on the map with push pins or stickers.]

What happens during a drought? There are many problems with a severe drought. The lakes and rivers dry up. That means that one of the main sources of food for many people—fish—will die. Grass will also dry up, destroying the food for wildlife as well as other animals like cows and goats. People who depend upon gardens or rice fields for their food find that these dry up too. Then the top layers of the soil dry up and begin to blow away. Let's do an experiment that focuses on erosion! [With volunteer help, demonstrate *How Soil Holds On To Water*, or let each child do their own experiment.]

You can see from this experiment that the grassy soil holds the water and continues to feed the grass, which feeds the animals. The other two types of soil are so dry that they cannot hold the water and the water runs off, taking away the topsoil, the part of the soil that plants grow best in.

People in many parts of the world depend upon plants and trees for food. They have a cow or goat to supply milk for their children. In a time of drought, whatever water there is must be used for drinking water for people. Sometimes this means that the animals will not make it through the drought, and then no more milk can be found for the community. Peoples' gardens die, and often

the soil blows away. As we saw in the experiment, even when the rains come, the soil has trouble holding the water. It takes a long time to make new topsoil that can hold water.

How do we solve this problem? This is something that Jerry Can can't solve! Sure, we can send in drinking water, and we should! But what do we do when people need water *all the time*? Where could we find water? Well, our friend, Jerry Can, has a great idea. Sometimes there is water deep underground, water from a stream that runs under the soil and rocks. If we are able to get to that water, we might have a solution to the problems. The solution is to dig a well!

One place that has suffered from drought and lack of food is Mozambique. [Have a student find it on the map in southeastern Africa.] The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique has worked with the PC(USA) to find underground water sources and build wells. The PC(USA) has helped to build wells through the "One Great Hour of Sharing" and *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*—things that you have and can give money toward!

In the district of Manjacaze in Mozambique, the people needed wells to provide clean water. They sent a proposal to the PC(USA) asking for gifts to help build 10 wells. Underground water was found and the drilling companies began their work.

Once they had drilled six wells, people in the villages were taught how to take care of the wells. This creates new jobs for people who will make sure that the wells continue to pump water. It also means that the women and children who have had to walk miles to get water and carry the heavy containers home will spend less time on that job. Mothers will be able to spend more time at home with their children, and older children will be able to help out with other jobs. Walking for miles and carrying water takes a lot of energy that can now be put toward tending gardens and washing clothes and being with children. So, Jerry Can couldn't fix this problem on his own, but when he was sent with his friends who dig the wells and teach the people how to use them, he *did* help!

One other really important thing is that because the water from the wells is clean, it does not carry diseases. Everyone is healthier. This seems to be a good answer to the problem of drought.

When people help other people, it is a reminder of God's love. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil." People can die from lack of water or drought, and their lives can be at risk due to floods and other natural disasters. The Good Shepherd asks us to be helpful—to give water and safe housing as well as to help people find answers to their problems. People around the world need to know that we are God's helpers; people need not fear evil. ". . . for you are with me . . ." (Psalm 23:4). God is with us and we are with each other.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Picture Frame (Or an activity of your choosing)

SNACK

Serve the children a snack of cold water and Mississippi Mud Cake.

Recall with them where their water comes from and how easy it was to get it this morning. Remark how refreshing a glass of cold water can be. Reflect on the cake and how the layers are like layers of dirt by a river. Different types of dirt act (and taste!) differently.

Remark how thankful we can be that we do have cold, clean water, and not worry about the dirt washing out from underneath us. Recall ways that we can make sure Jerry Can helps others get the water they need.

CLOSING

Review the lesson and what the children learned today. Remind the children of the connection between what Jerry Can can do and the gifts they are able to share. Jerry Can can help get drinking water to places that have too little—or way too much—rainwater, and that makes a world of difference.

Ask someone to again point out Manjacaze in southern Mozambique on the map. Ask the children to picture the people who live there and the wells they have dug to get water. Pray the following:

Good Shepherd, we give thanks that you are leading us beside the still waters. Help us to help others who need clean, sparkling water. Amen.



Lesson 3:

Tent



Grades 1-3

Lesson 3: Tent

Grades 1–3

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, he will conceal me under the cover of his tent . . . Psalm 27:5 [NRSV]

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHER

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a U.S. or world map.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and the games for the lesson.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Make (or ask a volunteer to make) Pigs in a Blanket for a snack.
- » Check to be sure that no one in your group has allergies to the snack you are serving.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts

Materials

OPENING

- » Paper and pencils
- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson, or hymnals: "Kum Ba Yah" (#338 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #472 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and "Overflowing Generosity" fundraising materials
- » Newsprint
- » Markers
- » Group list on newsprint from Lesson 2 of things to bring to a shelter

ARTS & CRAFTS

Quilt Hanging (see page 136 for directions)

- » Pre-cut squares of cloth or printed paper, 2" x 2", 12 per child
- » 6.5" x 11" sheets of construction paper
- » Glue
- » Copies of Psalm 27:5
- » Unsharpened pencils
- » Yarn

GAMES

Hide and Seek

Rescue Me (see page 143 for directions)

- » Image Cards (see page *)

SNACK

Pigs in a Blanket (see page 142 for directions)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins, paper plates, recyclable utensils

OPENING

Adding to the List

As children arrive, call their attention to the list they made in Lesson 2 of things to take to a shelter. Ask them to try to think of five more things they might want to take with them. Tell them to write these things down.

Singing Together

Sing “Kum ba Yah” or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Removable script can be found on page 109.

Hello! It’s Jerry Can checking in:

Jerry Can, he’s the man—

A pretty awesome water can.

Sent to places far and wide

Taking water to every side.

Today, I am inside the house looking at the rain and hoping it will stop soon. What do you do on rainy days? Do you find toys or games to play with or do something special like bake cookies? During a storm, you probably feel safe at home, or at after-school care, or at school.

Well, the rain *did* stop and now the sun is out. I am really happy because I have made plans to spend the night in a friend’s backyard tent. I have packed all the things I will need: pillow and sleeping bag, a flashlight, a book of ghost stories and some special treats. I am ready to go!

My friend’s tent is pretty great. It has lots of room, and even if it does rain again, it will stay dry. It is a wonderful shelter—a place to keep me safe and warm. Tents have been around for a long time. In the stories of the Old Testament in the Bible, the Hebrews and other families or tribes of people lived in tents. They would travel from place to place with their animals, and when they were tired, they would put up their tents. A tent would help keep out the blowing sand and the cold. A backyard tent will protect us, too.

Sometimes, even at home, when the wind is blowing really hard, the lightning is flashing, or the power is off and it is very dark, we get scared. This is what the psalm talks about [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high on a rock.

In this psalm, who do you think “he” is? It is God, who is sometimes called “he” in the psalms. Imagine God taking you into God’s own tent. You would no longer be afraid, for you would be safe.

We may think of being in a tent as a fun thing to do, and often it is. But for some people, a large tent can become their home. People often have to leave their homes. This can be caused by a natural disaster—hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, or earthquakes. If their homes are damaged or ruined, people have to find shelter somewhere else.

Big tents are often put up as houses for people. Most often, it is for a short time. In our lesson about water, you named five things you would take with you to a shelter. Do you remember some of those 5 things? Let’s look at your list from the last lesson. Could you name 5 more things? [Suggestions: clothing, a game, playing cards, favorite toy, books, crayons, vitamins . . .]

There will be lots of people in a tent shelter—men and women, babies and children, people of all ages. Most of them would be worried or scared or really sad. Now, this is a place where you could help! What can you think of that would keep the children busy? Remember, there may not be electricity! [Possible answers: organize games, read stories, gather crayons and paper for drawing, bring snacks.] Can you think of ways that you could help with the babies? [Possible answers: babysit, take the child for a walk, help them with a snack, read stories.]

What other things can you think of to do that might make the shelter a happier place? Could you make some decorations for the tables where people would eat their meals? Could your children’s choir come to the shelter and sing? If a pastor or Sunday School talked to the person at the shelter to make the plans, these would all be good things to do!

But why stop there? Why only help when there is a disaster? What if we started doing nice things for anyone we encountered? Here are some things that might be good in your town or city. Your church choir could go to a nursing home and sing. You could make decorations for the tables at the Senior Citizens center. You could go to a child care center during the summer and play with the kids. You could prepare a snack for them.

When we do these kinds of things, we are helping God’s people in a time of trouble. We are helping God’s people when they are worried or scared or really sad. So when we are helping people who are in an emergency shelter with gifts and visits and water—like what Jerry Can brings—we are helping! When we visit people in retirement communities or are nice to people we meet in the store, we are helping! When we are giving to the causes that we are learning about with Jerry Can—giving our coins and doing fundraising to send Jerry Can around the world, we are helping. If Jerry Can can help, so can you!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Quilt Hangings

GAME

Let the children play:

Hide 'n' Seek

Rescue Me

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with:

Pigs in a Blanket

CLOSING

In your gathering, review what you learned today. Review what things we can do to help God's people. Recall your group's commitment to sharing gifts with Jerry Can and his friends, so that the gift of water can be brought to God's people in need all around the world.

Pray Together

Ask the children to sit quietly and think about people who have to live in an emergency shelter after or during a natural disaster. Ask them to think of something to pray for related to that experience. Perhaps it is a prayer of thanksgiving for those who provide food or clothing. Or perhaps it is to ask God to care for those who are scared or hurt. Open the time in prayer yourself with a simple prayer such as, "God, we give thanks for your shelter in our own times of need." Then ask the children to respond by singing,

Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Invite them to offer one-sentence prayers, following each by singing (or at the end, if the group is large).



Grades 4-6

Lesson 3:

Tent



Lesson 3: Tent

Grades 4–6

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble, he will conceal me under the cover of his tent . . . Psalm 27:5 [NRSV]

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHER

Be Prepared

- » On separate index cards, print each of the situations from “Shelter Situations and Solutions” (page 51). Before the children arrive, spread the cards out, face down, on a table. Have the cards available to use for discussion during the lesson.
- » On three separate sheets of newsprint, print the three steps found in the Jerry Can Lesson (below). Also print on newsprint the suggestions listed in “What You Can Do.”
- » Collect the clothing and prepare the bags to play “Pack It Up” (see materials below).
- » Prepare (or ask a volunteer for help) Pigs in a Blanket for a snack. Be sure to have water, cups, and napkins.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today’s gifts

Materials

OPENING

- » Situations on separate 3" x 5" index cards (see above)
- » Copies of the songs for today’s lesson, or hymnals: “Kum Ba Yah” (#338 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #472 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*)

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and “Overflowing Generosity” fundraising materials
- » Bibles
- » Newsprint and markers
- » Three Steps listed in Jerry Can Lesson; copy of diagram (page 49)
- » “Shelter Situations and Solutions” (see the end of lesson; page 51)

GAME

- » Pack It Up (see page 144 for directions)
- » Brown paper grocery bag or suitcase (1 for 4 children)
- » Items of clothing (hat, scarf, sweater, shirt, sweatpants, shoes, etc.) in large sizes

SNACK

Pigs in a Blanket (see page 142 for recipe)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins
- » Paper plates
- » Plastic forks/spoons

OPENING

Shelter Situation Cards

As the children arrive, invite them to go to the table where the Shelter Situation Cards are spread out. Each child should turn over a card, read the situation, and suggest a solution.

Singing Together

Sing “Kum ba Yah” or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hand out Bibles to the children and make sure Jerry Can is on display where all can see him. This scripture is from the NRSV, but feel free to use a translation of your choosing].
Removable script can be found on page 113.

Jerry Can, he’s the man;
A pretty awesome water can.
Sent to places far and wide
Taking water to every side.

EVACUATION! Everyone must evacuate—NOW!

What does that mean, “everyone must evacuate?” When there is a natural disaster, folks often have to leave their homes and go to a safer place. You have probably seen pictures on TV of people being rescued from their homes. Have you seen pictures of people standing on roofs of their houses surrounded by water while rescue workers come in boats to evacuate them? That’s a pretty frightening thing when your street becomes a river and you are sitting on the roof of your house hoping to be rescued!

Where do these folks go? Disaster assistance teams find places where an emergency shelter can be set up, often in school buildings, sometimes in churches. In many countries, these teams will set up large tents as shelters. Tents have been around for a long time. In the Old Testament, the Hebrews and other tribes of people lived in tents. They carried their tent homes with them as they traveled. Tents would be set up every evening for sleeping. The tents were protection from the cold and rain as well as from the blowing sand.

In Psalm 27:5, the writer talks about shelter and the tent. Someone please read this verse to the rest of the group [this scripture is from the NRSV, but feel free to use a translation of your choosing. Have a volunteer read while the rest follow along.]

For he will hide me in his shelter
In the day of trouble;
He will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
He will set me high on a rock.

Who is the psalmist talking about as “he”? It’s God! This verse from Psalm 27 reminds us that God will help us in the day of trouble. God will give us shelter, will conceal us under the cover of his tent. Sometimes God will provide that shelter through other people, like the disaster-relief people who evacuate us from danger and bring us to a safe place.

How would you like to share a room with 200 people? Stand in line to go to the bathroom? No video games! No hair dryers! Do you think there might be a few grumpy people in the shelter? Pretend you are in charge of setting up the shelter. You might have 200 or more men, women, and children in the shelter. It could be chaos, a real mess. People are not only grumpy but also scared and really upset about having to leave their homes. What would you do?

[Divide into three groups and give each group one of the steps below to follow. Have them report back to the larger group so that everyone is aware of all the problems and can help with the solutions. When the group that made the list of rules reports, discuss the Situation Cards and the possible solutions the children came up with. Share the solutions from the sheet.]

STEP 1: What are you going to do with these 200 people? Plan your shelter in a school where there would be a gym, restroom, and showers in the gym. There would also be big spaces in the cafeteria as well as separate classrooms. Make a space plan for feeding, sleeping, and other activities.

STEP 2: What rules do you put in place for the shelter? Make a list!

STEP 3: What things would you need other people to bring? Remember, the folks that have been evacuated have brought nothing or very little with them. You have to feed people and they have to sleep somewhere. What do the children do? What do you need for the babies? Or for the older people? And don’t forget me, Jerry Can! Make a list!

Wow! What a job! It takes lots of people to make it happen. Adults can be trained so that when a disaster happens, they are ready to help. But children can help too! If a disaster happened in your town or city, think about what you could do to help [make a list on newsprint and discuss the responses].

What you can do:

- » Participate in the Jerry Can giving program or another disaster relief project in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*.
- » Prepare “goodie bags.” Purchase or ask for donations of small-size toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and soap, and put them into bags to deliver to a local disaster site or shelter. Decorate the bags.
- » Collect board games and cards for adults and children. Take them to the shelter and offer to play games with other kids.
- » Run errands for those in shelters.

- » Bring food for any animals that may be at the shelter.
- » One way that people can help provide God's shelter in the day of trouble is to set up temporary shelters for folks who have experienced natural disasters. All of us working together can bring the cover of God's tent to others. Through gifts of time and gifts of resources, we, too, can be God's arms, and we can show God's love.

GAME

Let the children do the following (or an art activity of your choosing):

Pack It Up

SNACK

Serve the children a snack of cold water and Pigs in Blanket.

CLOSING

In your gathering, review what you learned today. Review what things we can do to help God's people. Recall your group's commitment to sharing gifts with Jerry Can and his friends, so that the gift of water can be brought to God's people in need all around the world.

Pray Together

Ask the children to sit quietly and think about people who have to live in an emergency shelter after or during a natural disaster. Ask them to think of something to pray for related to that experience. Perhaps it is a prayer of thanksgiving for those who provide food or clothing. Or perhaps it is to ask God to care for those who are scared or hurt. Open the time in prayer yourself with a simple prayer such as, "God, we give thanks for your shelter in our own times of need . . ." Then ask the children to respond by singing,

Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
Someone's praying, Lord, Kum ba yah,
O Lord, Kum ba yah.

Invite them to offer one-sentence prayers, following each by singing (or at the end, if the group is large).

SHELTER SITUATIONS & SOLUTIONS

Situation	Solution
Kevin is 13 and he has been playing his music loudly. People are complaining.	Someone could lend Kevin a pair of headphones.
Mary is 5 and she doesn't like the food at the shelter.	Ask Mary to pick one favorite food and then ask the folks in the kitchen if they could fix it one night.
Children are running wildly around the shelter.	Set up a place for the children to play and ask them to run only outside
Mrs. Smith is allergic to cats, and Samantha brought her cat to the shelter.	Call the local animal shelter to see if they can care for Samantha's cat. Find someone who can take Samantha to visit the cat
The line for the phone is very long and the phone is so very far away. Mrs. Thompson hasn't been able to phone her family in California.	Ask everyone to make their calls no longer than (give minutes) so that everyone can have a chance to call. Or set up a schedule.
Derrick's parents both snore loudly. Derrick is used to the snoring, but his parents are keeping other people awake.	It might be a good idea to ask Derrick's family to sleep in a room where a door can be closed.
The Hughes' baby keeps crying. She won't take her bottle and keeps rubbing her ears.	Suggest that the baby see a doctor for her ears. Help locate a driver for the Hughes.
Folks in town keep bringing things: clothing, pots and pans, blankets, and toys.	Find space for a storage closet. Lots of these things will be needed when people return home.
"Lights Out" in the shelter is 9:30 p.m., but the youth don't want to go to bed that early.	Give the youth flashlights for reading and headphones for listening to music.
Everyone is bored!	Organize activities!



Grades 1-3

Lesson 4:

War



Lesson 4: War

Grades 1–3

He reached down from on high, he took me; . . . He delivered me from my strong enemy . . . —Psalm 18:16-17 (NRSV)

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHER

Be Prepared

- » Have available a map of the world and be able to locate Azerbaijan (in Eurasia, east of Turkey), tiny Rwanda (Central Africa), and the Democratic Republic of Congo (not The Congo or Republic of Congo, just to the west). Have pushpins or dots available.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and the games for the lesson.
- » Invite volunteers to help lead active games and/or the snack activities.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » Review the snack options. Consider the amount of time and volunteer help you will have or need before deciding on one. Also check to be sure whether anyone in your group is allergic to the snack you choose to prepare and serve.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts

Materials

OPENING

- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson, or hymnals: "I've Got Peace Like A River" (#368 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #623 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) and "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace" (#374 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*).

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and "Overflowing Generosity" fundraising materials
- » Bibles

ARTS & CRAFTS

Rwandan Refugee Camp (see page 137 for directions)

- » Draw the camp
- » Individual sheets of paper or a roll of brown craft/shelf paper
- » Colored pencils, crayons, or colored felt-tipped markers

GAMES

Soccer

- » Soccer ball
- » Volunteer to help coordinate

SNACK

Ingredients for snack chosen, plus cups of cold water, napkins, paper plates, utensils

Survival Biscuits (see page 140 for directions)

Ants on a Log (see page 141 for directions)

Tropical Fruit Fizzle (see page 141 for directions)

OPENING

Preparing a Snack

As children arrive, let them work with the volunteer to prepare the snack foods.

Closing Prayer

- » Soccer ball

Singing Together

Sing “I’ve Got Peace Like A River” and/or “Lord, Make Us Servants Of Your Peace” with the group. Alternatively, another hymn or song your group knows may be sung, like “Jesus Loves the Little Children,” or “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Removable script can be found on page 117.

Jerry Can, I’m your man!
Now you know what I am—
A pretty awesome water can.
Now you will know where I’ve been—
Across the ocean and back again!

Hello, it’s Jerry Can again! I’m going to be traveling a little today. I am all packed and ready to go! Lots of jerry cans have been put into a big plane, and we are going to fly across the ocean. It is pretty dark inside this plane. There seem to be lots of blankets inside the plane as well as some surprises! We are going to Azerbaijan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly called Zaire). See if you can find these places on the map of the world. [Point out the places on the map and have a volunteer put push pins or stickers on each.]

We are going to visit refugee camps for children. These camps have been set up for children who may have had to leave their homes and even their countries because of war. They were in danger. Sometimes their homes were destroyed. Sometimes they have no water or food. And sometimes their parents aren't around anymore, and so they need someone to live with.

The plane is about to land in Yevlach, Azerbaijan. I will be taking things to the school in this town. There are about 40 children who go to this school. The children really want to go to school, but they don't have any school supplies, not even a blackboard. So I think they will really happy when they discover the school kits we're bringing! It will be a great surprise!

Let's see what is in one of these kits . . . it looks like there are notebooks and pencils, erasers and crayons, paper and scissors, a ruler. Wow! Do you have some of those things in your desks at school? Why would this be a good surprise? Ahh, and that's the clue! These students have left their homes and schools and weren't able to bring their own paper, pencils, or crayons. So it really will be a treat!

Sometimes children can't talk about what happened to them. But if they can draw a picture, it can help their adult helpers and friends see what is wrong or what makes them scared. Being able to draw a picture, or cut out shapes from construction paper, can help express feelings and make some great artwork for walls that aren't yet decorated! It may seem like a small gift, but it is a wonderful treat for refugee children.

How did I end up on the same trip as these school supplies? Well, it's all through the same mission program. Some people give money to send me and my water-carrying friends to places, while others give money to send school supplies and much more to people in need. Students who are far from home can get supplies. And other people will give money so their families will have heating fuel in the winter, food baskets when they're hungry, and kitchen supplies if they left their pots and pans. It's an amazing program where every single bit of money you share joins with the gifts of many other Presbyterians around the country to help out! Jerry Can and friends to the rescue! Well, maybe not a full rescue, but we will definitely help!

Well, we have left lots of supplies at Yevlach, in Azerbaijan, and I was right, the children were very happy. Our next stop is a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This country used to be called Zaire and it was once a safe place for a group of children who had to leave the country of Rwanda. Here's a story from one of the Rwandan children about life in the refugee camp:

"I am a refugee. I had to leave my homeland in Rwanda because of the wars and fighting. I was separated from my parents and now I am living in Zaire. Twelve children and two tent parents live in each tent.

"When we first got here, we woke up cold and hungry each day. There weren't enough blankets. Our tent mother would get a pail of water to bathe us. We would drip-dry because there were no towels. We didn't have enough clothes. While waiting for breakfast, we were given high-protein survival biscuits. Only the small children and those who were sick got milk.

"Then groups from around the world helped by sending more food, water, blankets, and clothes! They sent balls for us to play with, and games. Some doctors were able to come and vaccinate us from many diseases. We hope to see our families again soon. One day maybe there will be peace and we can return to our homes."

Jerry Can is now getting ready to fly back to America. We have delivered our school supplies to Azerbaijan and several new soccer balls to the camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is pretty dark and quiet in this empty plane. Maybe even a little lonely. I am remembering the words of Psalm 18:16–17, 19 [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

He reached down from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of mighty waters.
He delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;
for they were too mighty for me.
. . . He brought me out into a broad place;
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

These might be verses of a psalm that people like the refugee children could find encouraging. God has delivered God's people from a strong enemy and from those that hated them. It is hard to understand why anyone could hate a group of children, and hate them enough to make them leave their homes and families. When this does happen, God reaches down from on high and takes them. God will put them in the hands of people who will love them. Many people have been God's hands: they are the ones who give things like water, food, and loving care. Others are God's hands by sending money to buy medicine, blankets, and tools like me, Jerry Can. Other hands have given surprises to the children in need—soccer balls and school kits. You know, I think that we all have helped to make these children smile. God may be smiling too. It is a good day!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Draw the Rwandan Refugee Camp

Assemble Gift-of-the-Heart School Kits

GAME

Let the children play soccer with the volunteer leader. Remind them that soccer is a favorite game among children in many parts of the world, including Africa, even among those who find themselves in situations that are as uncomfortable as refugee camps.

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with the snacks they prepared.

CLOSING

Review what you learned today and about the things that people in disasters or emergencies might need. Recall that while Jerry Can is important and brings water, his friends can bring so

much more. When we give our gifts to support Jerry Can, many people give other gifts, like food, school kits, kitchen utensils, and more. What an amazing opportunity to see how our gifts join with many others to make an incredible impact that we, on our own, could never imagine having!

Pray Together

Use the soccer ball for a round robin prayer. Have the children stand in a circle. Remind them that a soccer ball is something many of us take for granted. Tell them that you will pray a sentence prayer of thanks for something, then toss the ball to someone in the circle who has not yet prayed, who will say, "Thank you God." Then that person will pray their own one-sentence thank you prayer and toss it to someone else who has not yet prayed. If someone is uncomfortable with praying out loud, they can simply say, "Thank you God," and toss the ball to someone else. Continue until everyone has prayed. Be sure to remind the children that this is a prayer and not a game.



Grades 4-6

Lesson 4:

War



Lesson 4: War

Grades 4–6

He reached down from on high, he took me; . . . He delivered me from my strong enemy . . .
—*Psalm 18:16–17 (NRSV)*

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a map of the world and be able to locate Kenya, South Sudan, and Ethiopia (Africa). Have pushpins or dots available.
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and the games for the lesson. Ensure you have enough materials to make one Adi Board per pair of children (see page 137 for directions)
- » Invite volunteers to help lead active games and/or the snack activities.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it. Be sure you can trace the route the Lost Boys of Sudan took on the map.
- » Look into refugee settlement ministries or services in your area and look for simple ways you can support or engage with them and the families they support. Write some of these on a piece of newsprint and keep for the end of the Jerry Can Lesson.
- » Review the snack options. Consider the amount of time and volunteer help you will have or need before deciding on one. Also check to be sure no one in your group has allergies to the snack you choose to prepare and serve.
- » Consider ordering The Uprooted Game from the PC(USA) Store at (800) 533-4371 or by visiting www.pcusastore.com. The item number 74340-98-007.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts

Materials

OPENING

- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson, or hymnals: "I've Got Peace Like A River" (#368 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*, or #623 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) and "Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace" (#374 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*).
- » Ingredients and utensils to make a snack

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and "Overflowing Generosity" fundraising materials
- » World map and pins, dots, and/or string to mark the journey of the story discussed
- » Bible

ARTS & CRAFTS

Adi Board (see page 137 for directions)

One set of materials for each pair of children:

- » Egg carton (able to hold 1 dozen eggs)
- » 48 dried beans, small pebbles, small marbles, or buttons
- » Two 3-oz paper cups
- » Masking tape
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Rubber bands

SNACK

Ingredients for snack chosen, plus cups of cold water, napkins, paper plates, utensils

Survival Biscuits (see page 140 for directions)

Ants on a Log (see page 141 for directions)

Tropical Fruit Fizzle (see page 141 for directions)

GAMES

Adi (see page 145 for directions)

- » Adi Boards

The Uprooted Game (optional; see page 63 for ordering information)

OPENING

Preparing a Snack

As children arrive, let them work with the volunteer to prepare the snack foods.

Singing Together

Sing “I’ve Got Peace Like A River” and/or “Lord, Make Us Servants Of Your Peace” with the group. Alternatively, another hymn or song your group knows may be sung, like “Jesus Loves the Little Children” or “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Removable script can be found on page 121.

Jerry Can, I’m your man!
Now you know what I am—
A pretty awesome water can.
Now you will know where I’ve been—
Across the ocean and back again!

We are going today to visit a refugee camp in Kenya. This is the site of Kakuma Camp, a camp that became a home for the Lost Boys of Sudan. This trip is one that Jerry Can made, not because of drought or flood, but because of the refugee crisis that happened out there. Jerry Can was sent by gifts like ours to this part of Africa to make sure that refugees had water when they needed it. He didn't go alone! He went with other things, like school supplies, food, kitchen supplies, and much more—all because of gifts from Presbyterians around the country! But before we get carried away, let me tell you an amazing story about the Lost Boys.

First, let's locate Sudan on a map. [Let a volunteer mark the map.] Now, let's find Ethiopia. [Let a second volunteer mark the map.] Finally, let's locate Kenya. [Let a third volunteer mark the map.] You have now marked the journey that the Lost Boys of Sudan took to find a safe place, a place where they would no longer need to run from danger and trouble.

The boys left Sudan because there was a war. Most of the boys were from the Dinka or Nuer tribes of Southern Sudan. As government troops began war in this area, many of the Sudanese were killed or taken away, and many others ran. A group of boys between the ages of 5 and 18 stayed together on this very long walk.

They walked for two months and almost 1,000 miles before they found a safe place in Ethiopia to stay. Separated from their families, they had entered a strange country. Along this first journey, the boys became friends and learned to take care of each other. They had created a family of their own. They spent about three years in various Ethiopian refugee camps. Now they were no longer tired and sick, but they were still pretty frightened.

Then they had to leave Ethiopia because of that government's soldiers. They ran from the gunfire. They began their trip to Kenya. This meant that they had to walk back through part of South Sudan to reach Kenya. How frightened and lonely they must have felt! But they began to walk together. The sun was hot and there were lots of dangers along the way, like wild animals and treacherous terrain. The only food they had was what they found as they walked along. Some even got really sick from the plants they ate.

Can someone read Psalm 18:16–17, 19 from the Bible for us? [This scripture is from the NRSV but feel free to use a translation of your choosing. Ask a volunteer to read.]

He reached down from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of mighty waters.
He delivered me from my strong enemy,
and from those who hated me;
for they were too mighty for me.
. . . He brought me out into a broad place;
he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

Well, the Lost Boys had experienced many troubles. They were escaping from the bullets and fighting, but they had lots of people who didn't like them. Now they were going to experience something new. They kept walking, and as they walked, other people began to walk with them. Ministers joined their group and gave them support as they finished this last leg of their journey.

When the boys finally arrived in Kenya, there were people waiting for them; very kind people. Jerry Can and his friends had also made it: there was food and water, mats to sleep on, and blankets. After eating and resting, the Kenyans who had welcomed them loaded the boys into

trucks and drove them the last 50 miles to Kakuma Camp. Kakuma was to be their new home. There were houses; no more sleeping out in the open! There was clean water and food to eat. There were doctors and medicine, and even schools!

Best of all, the boys could hear the sound of laughter and talking instead of guns and fighting. They could enjoy the birds singing and not worry about dangerous animals. They could sleep without being afraid. The psalm tells us: “He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.” This broad place, Kakuma Camp, became their home, their safe place.

God did delight in these boys and sent people to help them: pastors who walked through South Sudan with them, and Kenyans who provided a home. Through these people, God reached down from on high, took them, and delivered them from a strong enemy. Today, life is very different for the Lost Boys. The U.S. government brought about 3,600 of these refugees here, and many got jobs or went to college and even became citizens. From 2005 to 2011, there was a period of peace in South Sudan and some were able to go home to find family members and see if they could move home.

The Lost Boys will always remember their walk, although most of their memories are not good ones. But they will also remember those who walked with them. They will remember those at Kakuma Camp who cared for them. And they will remember those in America, and the other countries they moved to, who helped them make new lives in a new country. Through the hands of these people, God has reached down from on high and taken them; God has delivered them from their strong enemies. Many people have, and will, help the Lost Boys of Sudan in their lives. Let’s look at some suggestions of things we might do! [Call the children’s attention to the newsprint you prepared and consider ways to support refugees in your community.]

What you can do:

Be in touch with other churches or refugee settlement agencies and see if any of the Lost Boys of Sudan are in your area. Ask if there are other refugee families who might be willing to share their story with your church. Continue to support items through the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* that are refugee-related, like school supplies, kitchen kits, food baskets, and—of course—jerry cans.

More about the Lost Boys can be found online: <https://www.rescue.org/article/lost-boys-sudan>

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Adi Boards

GAME

Let the children play Adi with a partner using the boards they made together. If you were able to get The Uprooted Refugee board game from the PCUSA Store, children can also play that.

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with the snacks they prepared.

CLOSING

Review what you learned today and about the things that people in disasters or emergencies might need. Recall that, while Jerry Can is important and brings water, his friends can bring so much more. When we give our gifts to support Jerry Can, many others give other gifts, like food, school kits, kitchen utensils, and more. What an amazing opportunity to see how our gifts join with many others to make an incredible impact that we, on our own, could never imagine having!

Prayer Walk

Invite the children to go on a prayer walk outside. Before starting, tell them that they should be quiet, paying attention to the things they see around them. Thank God for the things they see. Pray for people they might encounter or situations that they are reminded of. Consider, also, the long walking journey of the Lost Boys as they walk and pray.



Lesson 5:

Response



Grades 1-3

Lesson 5: Response

Grades 1–3

Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. —Psalm 25:4

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a map of the United States (or world.)
- » Check the list of materials (below), the directions for the arts and crafts activities, and the games for the lesson. Decide if you will do both or just one of the projects.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » If you decide to have the children adopt a church neighbor, as suggested, be sure to speak with the pastor or deacons about the best way to do this. Members of the church staff or leadership councils may have some suggestions of neighbors who would most benefit and appreciate this. Speak with this neighbor in advance, if at all possible.
- » Prepare (or ask a volunteer to prepare) ingredients for the snack.
- » Check to be sure that no one in your group is allergic to the snack you are serving.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today's gifts.

Materials

OPENING

- » Ingredients and utensils to make today's snack (see below)
- » Copies of the songs for today's lesson, or hymnals

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and “Overflowing Generosity” fundraising materials
- » Newsprint
- » Markers

ARTS & CRAFTS

Jerry Can Hats (see page 138 for directions)

- » Painter's cap, sailor hat, or visor
- » Jerry Can Logo copied on card stock (pattern on page 152-153)
- » Adhesive Velcro squares

God's Helper Pins (see page 138 for directions)

- » Patterns for circle and sun (pattern on page 158)
- » Card stock or heavy paper
- » Fabric or printed paper
- » Fusible webbing (optional)
- » Small pin back (used in making pin back buttons)

GAMES

Who's My Neighbor? (see page 146 for directions)

- » Blindfolds (one for each pair of children)

No Hands Allowed(see page 145 for directions)

- » Plastic garbage bags
- » Old newspapers

SNACK

Energy Munch (see page 142 for directions)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins, paper plates, recyclable utensils

OPENING

Making a Snack

As children arrive, let them work with a volunteer to mix up Energy Munch and put it into bags for later in the lesson.

CLOSING

- » Copies of the hymn “Song of Hope” (#432 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*; #765 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) or some other favorite song or hymn to close

Singing Together

Sing one of the songs from earlier in the curriculum that the group enjoyed, or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]
Removable script can be found on page 125.

Jerry Can, I'm your man!
Now you know what I am—
A pretty awesome water can.
Now you know where I've been—
Sent to places far and wide.
Now you know what I've seen—
God's love shining like a beam!

If Jerry Can, so can you!
Let's just see about what to do.
How we can help in the very best way.
How you and Jerry Can can save the day!

Everyone likes to help. I bet that you can help at home. How many of you are helpers at school? Do you help at church? How are you a "helper"? Go ahead; make a list. [Let the children tell ways they are helpers and list it on newsprint.] Let's listen to Psalm 25:4–5:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

What is the writer saying? The psalmist is telling us that we need to know God's ways. We have been taught how God wants us to act: how we treat other people, our neighbors. How do we learn God's ways? Who teaches us? The Bible is one of our teachers. When we read the stories in the Bible, we can learn about how God wants us to act, and that God wants us to respond. Our church school teachers help us to learn God's ways by reading us these stories. Pastors and people in our church also teach us by working with us side-by-side and letting us help.

Our parents also teach us about God's ways. They remind us to say thanks to God for our food at mealtime. When we make mistakes, they teach us how to do things the right way. They show us how to care for others as they care for us. They love us!

God certainly loves us! That is one of the truths that the Psalm talks about when it says, "Lead me in your truth." God loves all God's children. If we are all God's children, then we are all neighbors. You have next-door neighbors, you have church neighbors, and you have world neighbors. By helping our neighbors when they have problems, we are acting the way God wants us to act.

I bet some of you are thinking, "Well, I would like to help! I would like to go and take blankets and water to people who need them. I would like to be there at the disaster to help! Adults get to go and help; why can't I?" These are good things to think, but most of the time, it is not possible to be at a disaster site. Everyone wants to help, but we do not want to cause more problems. Everyone there needs to be fed and have a place to sleep; if we were there, we might create more problems than we can fix. It is a big job just to take care of those who had to leave their homes, let alone the volunteers who come to help.

Think about all the ways to help that we have talked about in the past lessons. These are important things to do, and they are the most helpful! God asks us to love our neighbors, and that's what we are doing. By praying and sending money, blankets, providing crayons and pencils for refugee children, and yes, by sending Jerry Can and his friends to the disaster site, we are doing exactly what God is teaching us! We are learning about God's truth.

We want to help people who are having a hard time. I'll bet there are people in your church who are having a hard time, too. They may not have been in a flood or a hurricane, but maybe they have a husband or wife who has died. Maybe there is someone whose grandchildren live a long way away and they are lonely. Maybe there is someone who no longer can drive and can't get to church. Maybe there is a child in your church whom no one likes and that child really needs a friend.

Could you help or respond to this? Talk with your parents or church school teacher and adopt someone. How do you do this? Pick a person in your church and call them on the phone. Color pictures for that person. With your parents' help, bake some cookies. See that this person has a ride to church or someone to sit with in church. Don't just do it once, either, do it for a whole year.

We are to be God's helpers and we are to love our neighbors. You can start doing that with your church neighbor. I'll bet that you can learn a lot from that person and that person can learn from you, too. Give it a try!

You can also continue raising money for Jerry Can once our lessons are done. Or you can look and see what other friends of Jerry Can you'd like to support. There are so many ways that Jerry Can helps, and so many of his friends that are being sent by Presbyterians to God's amazing work around this country and our world! Check it out: presbyteriangifts.org.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Jerry Can Hats

God's Helper Pins

GAME

Let the children play:

Who's My Neighbor

No Hands Allowed

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with:

Energy Munch

CLOSING

Review some of the things the students learned today. Ask them what they remember from all 5 lessons; what their favorite parts were and what things they might remember. Recall that your group's support and contributions to Jerry Can and his friends are an effective way of being God's helpers in this world, bringing Jerry Can and water—and so much more—to God's people around the world.

Pray Together

To close, read the sections from the Psalms for all five of the lessons (or ask volunteers to read them). Pray the following prayer (or one of your own):

God, our Good Shepherd, we give you thanks for all your love to us. Make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths. Help us to know how to be your helpers. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sing "Song of Hope" (#432 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*; #765 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) or some other favorite song or hymn to close.



Grades 4-6

Lesson 5:

Response



Lesson 5: Response

Grades 4–6

Make me to know our ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. —Psalm 25:4

OPENING NOTATION FOR TEACHERS

Be Prepared

- » Continue to have available a map of the world. Be able to locate Azerbaijan (Europe).
- » Check the list of materials (below) and the directions for the arts and crafts activities and the games for the lesson. Decide if you will do both or just one of the projects.
- » Read over the Jerry Can lesson script several times so you are familiar with it.
- » On newsprint, copy the suggestions under “What You Can Do” so you can refer the children to it during the lesson. Also have on hand the information about the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* and Special Offerings of the Church.
- » Prepare (or ask a volunteer to prepare) the ingredients for the snack. Consider having extra baggies and supplies so that children can distribute the left overs as gifts to others after class.
- » Check to be sure your group does not have allergies to the snack you are serving.
- » Update your fundraising goal marker and prepare to receive today’s gifts

Materials

OPENING

- » Ingredients and utensils to make today’s snack (see below)
- » Copies of the songs for today’s lesson, or hymnals

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson

- » Jerry Can container and “Overflowing Generosity” fundraising materials
- » Newsprint with “What You Can Do” prepared.
- » Information about the Gifts-of-the-Heart kits and Blanket Sunday
- » Markers

ARTS & CRAFTS

Jerry Can Hats (see page 138 for directions)

- » Painter’s cap, sailor hat, or visor
- » Jerry Can Logo copied on card stock (pattern on page *)
- » Adhesive Velcro squares

Door Hangers for Neighbors (see page 139 for directions)

- » Door hanger pattern (see page 159)
- » “Blessing” cut from construction or printed paper
- » Fun Foam or construction paper
- » Pinking shears or design scissors
- » Glue

GAMES

Who’s My Neighbor? (see page 146 for directions)

- » Blindfolds (one for each pair of children)

On The Right Path (see page 146 for directions)

- » Masking tape
- » Blindfolds
- » Small sticky notes

SNACK

Energy Munch (see page 142 for directions)

- » Cups of cold water
- » Napkins, paper plates, recyclable utensils

OPENING

Making a Snack

As children arrive, let them work with a volunteer to mix up Energy Munch and put it into bags for later in the lesson.

CLOSING

- » Copies of the hymn “Song of Hope” (#432 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*; #765 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) or some other favorite song or hymn to close

Singing Together

Sing one of the songs from earlier in the curriculum that the group enjoyed, or another hymn or song your group knows.

LEARNING TOGETHER

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it. Give each child a Bible.]
Removable script can be found on page 129.

Jerry Can, I'm your man!
Now you know what I am—
A pretty awesome water can.
Now you know where I've been—
Sent to places far and wide.
Now you know what I've seen—
God's love shining like a beam!

If Jerry Can, so can you!
Let's just see about what to do.
How we can help in the very best way.
How you and Jerry Can can save the day!

Someone just called Jerry Can and wanted to send a box of sandals to the children in Azerbaijan. [Ask a volunteer to locate Azerbaijan on the world map.] What do you think? Would that be a good idea? Let's just think about it a little bit: What is the weather like in Azerbaijan? Is it cold? Does it snow? Let's also think about what a town would be like if it's been in a war zone for a number of years. Would there be stuff all over, parts of buildings, rubble, pieces of metal and glass? If you had to walk through debris, sharp objects, and possibly snow, what kind of shoes would be best to send? [Possible response: boots.]

Have you ever had to wear a pair of shoes that were too small? Or too big? It's pretty uncomfortable, isn't it? If the box is full of sandals, do you think those would be good to send to Azerbaijan? Perhaps there would be people living nearby who could use the sandals—women and children or a refugee settlement agency where people could use them if they fit correctly. Should the person with the box of sandals send them to Azerbaijan, then? Are there other ways that they could help?

Well, if the person wants to send the shoes to help, that is definitely a good feeling to have. But we need to help in the best way. It would be best to find an organization that works in those places and ask where they know the need to be biggest. Perhaps the box could be sent to another part of Europe or Africa or Central America. Or maybe it would be the best to sell the box of sandals and give the money to the organization so that they can buy brand new, perfectly-sized shoes for the people in the most need. Or maybe they could even give the shoes to a refugee ministry nearby for a family of new refugees who will be arriving to our area soon! So when I talked to the person with the shoes, I had to tell them the truth and say that I couldn't just accept the box of sandals. In Psalm 25:4–5, the psalmist writes:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

The ways of the Lord—acting or responding as God would have us do—are important. People who are having problems do need our help. We should respond to them because they are our

neighbors. They can be our next-door neighbors or they can be our world neighbors. It makes us feel good to help them, but we want to make sure that our help makes them feel good!

Lots of people want to help. I bet that includes some of you. Most of the time, it is not the best thing for children to go to a disaster site. I know, I hear you! Why can't we go? Why can't we help? Only adults get to do anything! Does Jerry Can sound like he's whining? You might be surprised to know that most of the time it is not the best thing for most adults to go to a disaster site.

When disaster teams are put together, they are trained. People are brought together who have all different types of skills. They may be counselors or pastors. They might be doctors or nurses. They might be folks who work in construction or building. The people who have been trained are the ones who are needed first at the disaster site.

That doesn't mean that we can't help! We should help! To learn God's ways, we have to begin helping. You can use your hands to help people across the world who have been hurt by a disaster. The most important thing that you can do is put your hands together and pray for your world neighbors who are victims of disasters and wars. Begin with prayer today! Now, what other things can you do around the world? Well, Jerry Can suggests a few things for us: [Draw attention to the newsprint you prepared with this list.]

What You Can Do:

- » Plan to collect a Jerry Can or Water Offering. Think about planning an offering for water. With the help of your pastor and teachers, tell people about the disaster and the need for water. Take up the offering during the worship service and include a minute for mission to explain the offering.
- » Check the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* for other items that help people in need. You may be surprised to find an item or program you can support that your congregation is passionate about: livestock for communities, peace training for leaders, bicycles for pastors in rural Africa, or bunk beds for children without beds.

You can also help out in your own town or city! Jerry Can suggests:

- » Collect blankets and deliver them to a local shelter for the homeless.
- » Collect seeds for a community garden.
- » Make cards or door hangers for neighbors of the church and residents of local retirement communities.
- » Call a local refugee settlement agency to see what its needs are.
- » With your pastor's help, plan a disaster drill for the church and practice during Sunday School or worship

Once you help out in your own area, you have experience. Doing is a great learning experience. You will begin to know God's ways and follow the paths of God's truth. You will respond in the best way with helpful actions, and those that you help will know that you are acting out of God's love. Give it a try!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Let the children do the following (or an activity of your choosing):

Jerry Can Hats

God's Helper Pins

GAME

Let the children play:

Who's My Neighbor

On the Right Path

SNACK

Serve the children cold water with:

Energy Munch

CLOSING

Review some of the things the students learned today. Ask them what they remember from all five lessons; what their favorite parts were and what things they might remember. Recall that your group's support and contributions to Jerry Can and his friends are an effective way of being God's helpers in this world, bringing Jerry Can and water—and so much more—to God's people around the world.

Pray, Praise, and Planning

Ask for volunteers to read the selections from the Psalms for all five lessons. Look again at the suggestions on the newsprint ("What You Can Do"). If you have decided to do a group project with the children at a later time, decide together which one it will be. Set a date to meet and plan the project.

Pray the following prayer (or one of your own):

God, our Good Shepherd, we give you thanks for all your love to us.

Make us to know your ways, O Lord, and teach us your paths.

Help us to know how to be your helpers. For we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Sing "Song of Hope" (#432 in *The Presbyterian Hymnal*; #765 in *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal*) or some other favorite song or hymn to close.

**LESSON SCRIPTS, ARTS & CRAFTS,
SCIENCE, SNACKS, AND GAMES**



Appendix A

Lesson 1: What is a Disaster?

Grades 1–3

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Take out Jerry Can and put the container where everyone can see it.]

“Jerry Can, I’m your man!

But do you know what I am?

Do you know what I’ve seen?

Do you know where I’ve been?”

Hello! My name is Jerry Can and I am a water container—I hold water. Lots of things hold water: a glass, a pitcher, a bottle, even a bathtub. But I am special! I am used to bring water to people around the world whose homes and cities or towns have been hurt or ruined by natural disasters.

They are called *natural* disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. Do you remember reading in the Bible about the story of Noah? [If the children do not know the story, summarize using a Bible storybook.] God made a promise, a covenant, with the earth and its people: “I establish my covenant with you . . . never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” (Gen. 9:11) So what’s the problem?

The problem is not something God created. The problem with natural disasters can be *too little* or *too much*. [Show the children the four pictures of flood, hurricane, forest fire, and drought.] Let’s look at these photos and see if we can name the natural disaster. Is there *too little* or *too much* in

each of these? Which ones are too much water? Which are too much wind? Which are not enough water? There are lots of situations where people might end up with too much or not enough water. Today let's look at hurricanes—times when people might end up with too much water. I want you to imagine you're a tree. Everyone stand up and be a tree! Where are your feet, your roots? [Response: the ground.] Where are your arms, your branches? [Response: in the air or sky.] How do you feed your leaves? [Response: from the ground.] What makes you grow? [Response: sunshine and water.] Are you a happy tree? [Let children respond, then sit down.]

Did you know that there is a book of the Bible that is all poems? The book of Psalms is a series of poems and songs! In Psalm 1:3, the writer compares people who believe in God to trees! Let's listen to a part of this psalm:

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit
in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.”

These are very happy trees—maybe even apple trees or palm trees. The trees are near the water, so they grow and prosper. Doesn't the psalm tell us that this is a good place to be?

Let's imagine that we are sitting on a beach near a group of palm trees. Isn't it fun to stand in the sand with the sun shining on us? The ocean meets the sand and the waves come up and go out. Suddenly, it begins to rain—rain really hard—and the wind begins to blow. The weather person on the radio tells people that a big storm is coming! The children pick up their sand pails and toys while their parents gather up the folding chairs. Folks hurry home. The skies get very dark, the rain pours and the wind blows hard. In North Carolina and down through Florida, all along the beach on the Atlantic Ocean, a hurricane named Matthew did just that. The blowing wind and

pouring rain together made Hurricane Matthew come ashore there. The wind blew the trees from side to side; sometimes their branches touched the ground. Imagine what that was like! Let's stand up, spread out a little, and try. Stand with your feet on the floor and raise your arms above your head. Here comes the wind! Move your branches side to side. As you keep moving your arms, pick up one foot. Change feet and try to keep your balance. Do it as fast as you can now. It can be hard to keep your balance, can't it? [Have the children sit down.]

When the trees move their feet, the roots that hold them in the ground begin to move the dirt. The trees begin to lose their balance too. The wind continues to push them. Often they break, or their roots come completely out of the ground. When they come out of the ground, the tree falls on roads, houses, and power lines. This is just what happened with Hurricane Matthew.

The blowing wind and the trees falling on power lines stopped the electrical power. No electricity—wow! What does that mean? What happens when the power goes out? No lights, no microwave, no air conditioning, no TV, no clean water. During big storms, stuff gets into our water—dirt, sand, and palm leaves—and we cannot drink that water. With no electricity, drinking water can't be cleaned like we need it to be.

This isn't what we pictured when we heard the psalm, is it?

“They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither.”

Let's see what we can do to help. Jerry Can, he's the man! [Hold up Jerry Can.] People all around the United States send water. How do they do that? With their money, they buy tools like jerry cans that are brought into the towns or cities to help. Many folks will find fresh, clean water

waiting for them at shelters, a place where they can go to get away from the storm damage. The water is a special gift. For a long time, people will pay for this gift of water to be sent with their nickels, quarters, and dollars.

In North Carolina and Florida, most of the hurt caused by Hurricane Matthew has been cleaned up now, with new houses built and small trees planted. Now that it is recovering, that area seems to be like a tree planted by streams of water. It took lots of people just like you to remind those folks about God's love by sending gifts of water, tools, and jerry cans to help them stay healthy and clean up the mess so they could start to build new lives.

We have Jerry Can here and we can be a part of his journey to help people in disasters receive and carry water. [Describe fundraising goal using Jerry Can and/or "Overflowing Generosity" poster and stickers.] The money we raise helps support people who have experienced too much or too little water in their lives. When we give, we will get a sticker saying "I gave, will you?" showing that we know water is so important that we give and share it with people who need it. It will remind you to tell others to give too!

Lesson 1: What is a Disaster?

Grades 4-6

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Show the children Jerry Can and put the container where everyone can see it. Distribute Bibles to all the participants.]

“Jerry Can, I’m your man!

But do you know what I am?

Do you know what I’ve seen?

Do you know where I’ve been?”

Hello! My name is Jerry Can, and I am a water container. Sure, lots of things hold water—a glass, a pitcher, a bottle, even a bathtub. But I am special! I am used to bring water to people around the world whose homes and communities have been ruined by natural disasters. They are called natural disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. We are going to learn about how the power of nature can bring disorder to our world.

So what is a disaster? Can you think of something that has happened to you that you would consider a disaster? [Allow time for responses.] What about these:

- » You wake up late, rush out of the house for school, forget your lunch, and the cafeteria is serving only tuna casserole and deviled eggs . . . It’s a disaster!
- » It is your job to give the dog a bath. You get him all soaped up, then he escapes. He runs through the house, out the dog door, and down the street . . . It’s a disaster!

Let's see if we can define a disaster in another way. Think about a disaster that would affect the lives of people around the world in very harmful ways. What can you think of? [Show the photos of flood, hurricane, forest fire, and drought.] Let's look at these photos for some examples. What disasters do you see? [Allow responses: drought, hurricane, forest fire, flood.] These are called natural disasters because they are caused by the power of nature. Human beings cannot cause these disasters, but they affect us. There have been many natural disasters. Let's identify places on the map where natural disasters have occurred. [Ask volunteers to place colored dots or pins where disasters have happened. Use the most recent *PDA Annual Report* or website information to identify these places. Hurricane Matthew (2016) is particularly notable, though responses are frequently made to natural disasters around our country and world.]

Let's talk about two particular types of natural disasters: tornadoes and hurricanes. What is a tornado? [Allow responses.] It starts with a big thunderstorm with winds blowing from opposite directions. Then there is a strong updraft—air moving upwards—that travels through the storm clouds. When the updraft begins to spin, a tornado has begun to form. When the vortex—everything that is drawn into the center—dips below the bottom of the cloud, a funnel cloud is formed. And if that funnel cloud touches the ground, it's called a tornado. Let's try an experiment [demonstration: Make a Tornado].

These funnel clouds move around, and they often skip around. They may touch down on the ground, destroying everything they touch, then skip to another area. That's why you can see pictures of total destruction right next to areas without any damage. Tornado winds can be as high as 600 mph. The U.S. has the most tornadoes, and they have struck every state. "Tornado Alley"

is a name meteorologists—the weather people—have given to the area from Nebraska south through central Texas [help children locate this area on the map]. It's a part of our country where tornadoes occur every year. Tornadoes can definitely be called a disaster!

What is a hurricane? [Allow responses.] It is a large tropical storm with winds of 74 mph or more that spin around a fairly calm center. Most hurricanes in North America occur from June 1 through Nov. 30, a period called "Hurricane Season." Every continent has hurricanes except one—can you guess? Antarctica! Almost all hurricanes begin over tropical seas. Moist air and heat are the two fuels needed to start and keep these storms going. Let's see if we can create a hurricane with this experiment. [Demonstration: The Calm Storm.]

Notice how the eye of the hurricane is so calm. This is like our relationship with God, in a way. Psalm 1:3 is a reminder of this. Someone read that passage aloud for us. [Allow student(s) to read Psalm 1:3.]

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper."

The psalm talks about God's order for the world: calm and peaceful. When God is the center of our lives, then we prosper and grow. Even when everything is whirling and blowing around us, God will give us peace and we will not wither. But who takes care of the whirling and blowing? People hit by a hurricane or tornado may have their homes destroyed or filled with water. The power of wind will often pull down power lines, and then people have no electricity. How does that impact people? Think of all the things we use electricity for, and let's make a list. [Allow students to work in pairs before sharing their list to create a large class list.]

Why is Jerry Can so important when the electricity goes out? First of all, where does your water come from? [Allow responses.] If the water is from a river or a lake, how does it get clean enough to drink? And how does the water get pushed from the treatment plant to the tap, toilet, bathtub, or sink? Electrical power plays a huge part in cleaning and delivering our water for drinking and more. Without power, we don't have clean water.

Jerry Can to the rescue!

Water is one of the first things needed at a shelter for folks who have been put out of their homes by a natural disaster. Water is the source of life. The psalmist talks about the trees planted by streams of water. This is God's plan to provide what we need to prosper. But if the water is contaminated—filled with dirt, disease, or debris—we certainly won't prosper. We may even get sick. We will also get sick if we don't have enough water to drink. Did you know a person can live for weeks without food, but only three or four days without water?

So, Jerry Can, he's the man! But how does he get to disaster sites? He needs help. You can actually help send him there. How do we do that? How do we help Jerry Can get to the places he needs to go? [Allow responses.] That's right. That \$1 you are going to spend on a can of soda, or that \$11 you use to get into the movies, can go a long, long way toward sending water, help, and Jerry Can into disaster-stricken areas. God invites us to help heal the damage caused by the whirling and blowing. We can help control that chaos so people can return to a life that is more normal than disastrous.

[Describe the fundraising goal established for your group, or work with the students to identify an achievable goal.] Working together, contributing our own change, through your giving and encouraging others to give, we can help send Jerry Can to places in need around the world, helping people get clean water in places that need it most. When we contribute, we'll get stickers that say, "I gave, will you?" that remind us of what we contributed toward and will encourage others to join us!

Lesson 2: Water

Grades 1-3

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Water is a wondrous thing! This is something I can really talk about:

Jerry Can, I'm your man,

That's simply because

I'm a water can!

Do you know what I've seen?

Do you know where I've been?

Think about water. Where do you find it? [Possible responses: faucet, bathtub, river, lake, waterfall . . .] You know, we can even find it in church in our worship service! Think about that. Where would you find water at church? [If needed, prompt with: "What do we use for Baptism? Of course, water!"]

What do we need water for? Go on, let's make a list. [List on newsprint. Also let the children share any pictures they drew at the beginning of class. Possible responses: drinking, cooking, washing clothes, taking baths, brushing teeth, swimming, boating, plants, and gardens.]

Let's talk about the water we drink. Where does that water come from? It may come from a river or lake, the ocean, a well, or from pipelines that come from a long way off. In the United States, water is usually purified and made clean. It is then put into reservoirs or large tanks. It can also come from a well, a deep hole dug into the ground to get water from a stream that runs under the

ground, called an aquifer. So, most of us in the United States and Canada can have pure water to drink whenever we need it. Our friend, Jerry Can, thinks there is nothing better than a good, cold glass of water.

Most of the time, the rain we get is just enough. We get rainfall to keep our gardens growing, to water the trees, to keep the grass green and to fill up the lakes and rivers. Remember when we talked about the book of poems in the Bible, the book of Psalms? Well, there's a psalm—Psalm 23—that talks about God, our shepherd, who gives us all those things we need. Let's read verses 1–4 of Psalm 23 [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

God is often called the shepherd, the one who looks after the sheep. If God is the shepherd, then you and I are the sheep. The shepherd looks after the sheep, making sure they have plenty of green

grass so they can eat. The shepherd leads them beside still waters to drink. The shepherd protects them from things that could hurt them, and even though the sheep are a lot of work to take care of, the shepherd loves them. God takes care of you and me in the same way!

But sometimes a natural disaster strikes. The rain falls and the rivers and lakes fill up, and the trees and plants get watered, but the rain continues to fall. There is too much water. When it is way too much, it is called a flood. There is water everywhere! The water can make the ground muddy and sometimes things can even wash away. When there is too much water, it can make quite a mess!

One of the worst things about having too much water is that the drinking water can become unsafe to drink. During the biggest of floods, water from your faucet might get dirty or contain germs. Let's do an experiment with dirty water [demonstrate the Water Cleaning Experiment with the help of volunteers.]

Do you really want to drink the water you just tried to clean? I probably wouldn't try it! But the water in a flood could make the drinking water that dirty. And if the water is rising and getting into peoples' homes, then the floors get wet and the furnace stops working and the fridge gets wet and the electricity stops working . . . then what? Well, people need to leave their homes until the water goes away. But where do they go?

Well, neighbors and communities that are being flooded out of their homes often have emergency shelters set up for them at a nearby safe building. Most towns and cities have shelters set up in places like churches, community centers, and conference halls. Emergency shelters are places where people can get out of the water and have a dry place to sleep, eat, and recover.

Think about these people that are leaving their homes to go live in a shelter for a few days. What kind of things would they take with them? What would be the top 5 things that you would take? Remember that you are sharing the shelter with many other people, so you probably wouldn't have your own room or even an electrical outlet to use.

Let's do an activity that can help us think of things to take. Your teacher has a bag full of clues; put your hand in the bag and pick out something without looking. Did you have this item on your top 5? [Play Shelter Grab Bag.]

Now, who picked out the water bottle? And who had that on their top 5 list? One of the first things you would need if you were in a flood is water. From our experiment earlier, we know that it is hard to clean the water after a storm or a flood. Our friend, Jerry Can, will come to the rescue! Bottled water can be sent to a disaster site. People will then have clean water to drink, to brush their teeth, to wash their hands and face. By sending Jerry Cans and other water carriers to shelters, we can be helpers of the Good Shepherd from Psalm 23, helping those who have had hard times and have had to leave their homes because of floods.

But sometimes there is a different natural disaster—one where there is not enough water. This is called a drought. After all the flooding, less water might seem like a good thing. But in many countries around the world, there is no rain for months at a time—or even years. The problem that can arise then is not that the water is dirty, but that there is no water of any kind.

There are many problems with a drought. Lakes and rivers can dry up, which makes the fish die. Fish are an important food for many people. Many people also raise crops for food—they plant

vegetable gardens or rice, corn, or wheat. With no rain, however, these plants dry up instead of growing. Gardens don't get any water because people and animals drink the little water that is there. And sometimes there isn't even enough water for that.

People and animals really do need water to stay alive. And that's where our friend, Jerry Can, comes in again. Jerry Can to the rescue! Jerry Can can't make water just appear, and he can't make it rain, but he can—well, we can—get water to people for drinking and cooking and keeping animals alive.

We can give money to programs and pray for ministries that help people get water. Money we give can help people get water by giving water carriers, like Jerry Can, so families can carry water back from the nearest water source. Even better, they help bring in special people and machines to build deeper wells to get to water that is hiding in deep streams way underground.

In the country of Pakistan (point out Pakistan on a map, if possible)—a country very far away from us—there were farmers who had a drought and had to leave their farms because they had no water to drink, to give their animals, or to make their crops of chickpeas and wheat grow. Money from Presbyterians around the country helped special wells to be built in those dry areas of Pakistan so the farmers could return home and grow crops again. The gifts we give to “One Great Hour of Sharing” and to the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* even helped teachers go to Pakistan to train farmers to fix the wells, if they broke, and dig new ones if needed. Now the people there are able to have water, can fix any problems, and even find more water if another drought happens! It's amazing to think that we—people in our church and in our American community—can hear about

needs way over in Pakistan, and feel moved to share what God has given us, so that Jerry Can and his well-building friends can help bring wells and water to people in need! All of us working together can do amazing things! We can act as God asks us to. We can be helpers to God the Shepherd. With our gifts of water—whether that is in the coins we give to Jerry Can, or prayers of joy and thanksgiving to God—we can help people to live and eat!

Lesson 2: Water

Grades 4-6

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hand out Bibles to the children and make sure Jerry Can is on display where all can see him.]

Jerry Can, I'm your man;

that's simply because

I'm a water can!

Do you know what I've seen?

Do you know where I've been?

Water is a wondrous thing! I can tell you that there is nothing better than a cold drink of water on a hot day! Pure, clean, cold water. We use water for lots of things. Go on, make a list! [Let the children come up and write as many things as possible on a whiteboard, or on newsprint and hang it on a wall.]

Did you remember: the fish bowl? Or surfing or snorkeling? How about flushing the toilet? Or the symbolic way we use water in church: baptism! We use water for baptism in our worship services at church. In Psalm 23:1-4, the writer refers to water. Would one of you read Psalm 23:1-4 for us? [Have a volunteer read while others follow along in their Bibles. [This scripture is from the NRSV, but feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;

he leads me beside still waters;

he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths

for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I fear no evil;

for you are with me;

your rod and your staff—

they comfort me.

Did you notice that the psalmist said, “Even though I walk through the darkest valley . . . ?”

This is a reminder that there will be times that are hard and bad. And in the bad times, during the storms, we can know that God is with us, and we do not need to fear evil. God is not a fair-weather friend. God is with us in the good times and in the bad. God's love for us is always.

The psalmist also writes, “He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.” God is helping us learn what is righteous, what is good. How we act shows our love for God. So what does righteousness have to do with water?

Personally, I would like to stay beside still waters and continue my nap in the sunshine! But there is work to do. There has been a flood! Can you imagine what a flood is like? After it rains for several days without stopping, the ground can't soak up any more water and the sewers are clogged and the river overflows its banks. And the water still gets higher.

A flood can be like a monster. They cause so many problems. Water gets into peoples' homes and

creates a disaster there. As the waters get higher, everything gets wet—and I’m sure we can all imagine things that we don’t want under water, especially things in our homes that shouldn’t be in water!

If the water gets bad enough, causing electricity to be shut off and furnaces to be water-logged, people end up needing to leave their homes. Sometimes this is called an evacuation. It is hard to have to leave your home, but it may be too dangerous to stay. Imagine that you have to be evacuated; you would need a temporary shelter. What would you take with you? Remember that you would get to take only a few things, so write a list and mark off your top five. [Encourage children to make a list and share their responses: toothbrush and toothpaste, coat, sweater, pajamas, pet with carrier, medicine, blanket, hairbrush, pillow . . . Keep these lists for Lesson 3].

How do you think you would feel about having to leave your home to go to a temporary shelter? You wouldn’t know how long you would have to stay. Might you be worried? Might you be scared? Or even angry? As children of God, we need to remember the words of the psalm we read: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me.”

The great, good shepherd will take care of the sheep—you and me. The shepherd will be with us in the good times, when we are beside still water, and with us when the floodwaters swirl around us.

So water really is a wondrous thing. God’s promise is that God will bring us beside the still waters out of the darkness of disasters in our lives. What a promise! What a God!

Now, we have talked about the whirling waters, but there is also a disaster that has to do with no water. It is called a drought. What is a drought? [Look for definitions from the children. Possible answer: a long time with no rain!] There are places in the world where it is really dry for

long periods of time, and for them it is normal, but when it is really, really dry for a really, really long time, and it's not normal, then it is a drought. Right now, there are a few places dealing with droughts or drought-like conditions! Help me find them. [Use the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance information to identify regions affected by drought and work with the children to identify them on the map with push pins or stickers.]

What happens during a drought? There are many problems with a severe drought. The lakes and rivers dry up. That means that one of the main sources of food for many people—fish—will die. Grass will also dry up, destroying the food for wildlife as well as other animals like cows and goats. People who depend upon gardens or rice fields for their food find that these dry up too. Then the top layers of the soil dry up and begin to blow away. Let's do an experiment that focuses on erosion! [With volunteer help, demonstrate How Soil Holds On To Water, or let each child do their own experiment.]

You can see from this experiment that the grassy soil holds the water and continues to feed the grass, which feeds the animals. The other two types of soil are so dry that they cannot hold the water and the water runs off, taking away the topsoil, the part of the soil that plants grow best in.

People in many parts of the world depend upon plants and trees for food. They have a cow or goat to supply milk for their children. In a time of drought, whatever water there is must be used for drinking water for people. Sometimes this means that the animals will not make it through the drought, and then no more milk can be found for the community. Peoples' gardens die, and often the soil blows away. As we saw in the experiment, even when the rains come, the soil has trouble holding the water. It takes a long time to make new topsoil that can hold water.

How do we solve this problem? This is something that Jerry Can can't solve! Sure, we can send in drinking water, and we should! But what do we do when people need water *all the time*? Where could we find water? Well, our friend, Jerry Can, has a great idea. Sometimes there is water deep underground, water from a stream that runs under the soil and rocks. If we are able to get to that water, we might have a solution to the problems. The solution is to dig a well!

One place that has suffered from drought and lack of food is Mozambique. [Have a student find it on the map in southeastern Africa.] The Presbyterian Church in Mozambique has worked with the PC(USA) to find underground water sources and build wells. The PC(USA) has helped to build wells through the "One Great Hour of Sharing" and *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*—things that you have and can give money toward!

In the district of Manjacaze in Mozambique, the people needed wells to provide clean water. They sent a proposal to the PC(USA) asking for gifts to help build 10 wells. Underground water was found and the drilling companies began their work.

Once they had drilled six wells, people in the villages were taught how to take care of the wells. This creates new jobs for people who will make sure that the wells continue to pump water. It also means that the women and children who have had to walk miles to get water and carry the heavy containers home will spend less time on that job. Mothers will be able to spend more time at home with their children, and older children will be able to help out with other jobs. Walking for miles and carrying water takes a lot of energy that can now be put toward tending gardens and washing clothes and being with children. So, Jerry Can couldn't fix this problem on his own, but when he was sent with his friends who dig the wells and teach the people how to use them, he did help!

One other really important thing is that because the water from the wells is clean, it does not carry diseases. Everyone is healthier. This seems to be a good answer to the problem of drought.

When people help other people, it is a reminder of God's love. "Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil." People can die from lack of water or drought, and their lives can be at risk due to floods and other natural disasters. The Good Shepherd asks us to be helpful—to give water and safe housing as well as to help people find answers to their problems. People around the world need to know that we are God's helpers; people need not fear evil. ". . . for you are with me . . ." (Psalm 23:4). God is with us and we are with each other.

Lesson 3: Tent

Grades 1–3

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Hello! It's Jerry Can checking in:

Jerry Can, he's the man—

A pretty awesome water can.

Sent to places far and wide

Taking water to every side.

Today, I am inside the house looking at the rain and hoping it will stop soon. What do you do on rainy days? Do you find toys or games to play with or do something special like bake cookies? During a storm, you probably feel safe at home, or at afterschool care, or at school.

Well, the rain did stop and now the sun is out. I am really happy because I have made plans to spend the night in a friend's backyard tent. I have packed all the things I will need: pillow and sleeping bag, a flashlight, a book of ghost stories and some special treats. I am ready to go!

My friend's tent is pretty great. It has lots of room, and even if it does rain again, it will stay dry. It is a wonderful shelter—a place to keep me safe and warm. Tents have been around for a long time. In the stories of the Old Testament in the Bible, the Hebrews and other families or tribes of people lived in tents. They would travel from place to place with their animals, and when they were tired, they would put up their tents. A tent would help keep out the blowing sand and the cold. A backyard tent will protect us, too.

Sometimes, even at home, when the wind is blowing really hard, the lightning is flashing, or the power is off and it is very dark, we get scared. This is what the psalm talks about [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent,
he will set me high on a rock.

In this psalm, who do you think “he” is? It is God, who is sometimes called “he” in the psalms. Imagine God taking you into God’s own tent. You would no longer be afraid, for you would be safe.

We may think of being in a tent as a fun thing to do, and often it is. But for some people, a large tent can become their home. People often have to leave their homes. This can be caused by a natural disaster—hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, forest fires, or earthquakes. If their homes are damaged or ruined, people have to find shelter somewhere else.

Big tents are often put up as houses for people. Most often, it is for a short time. In our lesson about water, you named five things you would take with you to a shelter. Do you remember some of those 5 things? Let’s look at your list from the last lesson. Could you name 5 more things?

[Suggestions: clothing, a game, playing cards, favorite toy, books, crayons, vitamins . . .]

There will be lots of people in a tent shelter—men and women, babies and children, people of all ages. Most of them would be worried or scared or really sad. Now, this is a place where you could help! What can you think of that would keep the children busy? Remember, there may not be

electricity! [Possible answers: organize games, read stories, gather crayons and paper for drawing, bring snacks.] Can you think of ways that you could help with the babies? [Possible answers: babysit, take the child for a walk, help them with a snack, read stories.]

What other things can you think of to do that might make the shelter a happier place? Could you make some decorations for the tables where people would eat their meals? Could your children's choir come to the shelter and sing? If a pastor or Sunday School talked to the person at the shelter to make the plans, these would all be good things to do!

But why stop there? Why only help when there is a disaster? What if we started doing nice things for anyone we encountered? Here are some things that might be good in your town or city. Your church choir could go to a nursing home and sing. You could make decorations for the tables at the Senior Citizens center. You could go to a child care center during the summer and play with the kids. You could prepare a snack for them.

When we do these kinds of things, we are helping God's people in a time of trouble. We are helping God's people when they are worried or scared or really sad. So when we are helping people who are in an emergency shelter with gifts and visits and water—like what Jerry Can brings—we are helping! When we visit people in retirement communities or are nice to people we meet in the store, we are helping! When we are giving to the causes that we are learning about with Jerry Can—giving our coins and doing fundraising to send Jerry Can around the world, we are helping. If Jerry Can can help, so can you!

Lesson 3: Tent

Grades 4–6

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hand out Bibles to the children and make sure Jerry Can is on display where all can see him.]

Jerry Can, he’s the man;

A pretty awesome water can.

Sent to places far and wide

Taking water to every side.

EVACUATION! Everyone must evacuate—**NOW!**

What does that mean, “everyone must evacuate?” When there is a natural disaster, folks often have to leave their homes and go to a safer place. You have probably seen pictures on TV of people being rescued from their homes. Have you seen pictures of people standing on roofs of their houses surrounded by water while rescue workers come in boats to evacuate them? That’s a pretty frightening thing when your street becomes a river and you are sitting on the roof of your house hoping to be rescued!

Where do these folks go? Disaster assistance teams find places where an emergency shelter can be set up, often in school buildings, sometimes in churches. In many countries, these teams will set up large tents as shelters. Tents have been around for a long time. In the Old Testament, the Hebrews and other tribes of people lived in tents. They carried their tent homes with them as they traveled. Tents would be set up every evening for sleeping. The tents were protection from the cold and rain as well as from the blowing sand.

In Psalm 27:5, the writer talks about shelter and the tent. Someone please read this verse to the rest of the group [this scripture is from the NRSV, but feel free to use a translation of your choosing. Have a volunteer read while the rest follow along.]

For he will hide me in his shelter

In the day of trouble;

He will conceal me under the cover of his tent;

He will set me high on a rock.

Who is the psalmist talking about as “he”? It’s God! This verse from Psalm 27 reminds us that God will help us in the day of trouble. God will give us shelter, will conceal us under the cover of his tent. Sometimes God will provide that shelter through other people, like the disaster-relief people who evacuate us from danger and bring us to a safe place.

How would you like to share a room with 200 people? Stand in line to go to the bathroom? No video games! No hair dryers! Do you think there might be a few grumpy people in the shelter? Pretend you are in charge of setting up the shelter. You might have 200 or more men, women, and children in the shelter. It could be chaos, a real mess. People are not only grumpy but also scared and really upset about having to leave their homes. What would you do?

[Divide into three groups and give each group one of the steps below to follow. Have them report back to the larger group so that everyone is aware of all the problems and can help with the solutions. When the group that made the list of rules reports, discuss the Situation Cards and the possible solutions the children came up with. Share the solutions from the sheet.]

STEP 1: What are you going to do with these 200 people? Plan your shelter in a school where there would be a gym, restroom, and showers in the gym. There would also be big spaces in the cafeteria as well as separate classrooms. Make a space plan for feeding, sleeping, and other activities.

STEP 2: What rules do you put in place for the shelter? Make a list!

STEP 3: What things would you need other people to bring? Remember, the folks that have been evacuated have brought nothing or very little with them. You have to feed people and they have to sleep somewhere. What do the children do? What do you need for the babies? Or for the older people? And don't forget me, Jerry Can! Make a list!

Wow! What a job! It takes lots of people to make it happen. Adults can be trained so that when a disaster happens, they are ready to help. But children can help too! If a disaster happened in your town or city, think about what you could do to help [make a list on newsprint and discuss the responses].

What you can do:

- » Participate in the Jerry Can giving program or another disaster relief project in the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog*.
- » Prepare "goodie bags." Purchase or ask for donations of small-size toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and soap, and put them into bags to deliver to a local disaster site or shelter.

Decorate the bags.

- » Collect board games and cards for adults and children. Take them to the shelter and offer to play games with other kids.
- » Run errands for those in shelters.
- » Bring food for any animals that may be at the shelter.

One way that people can help provide God's shelter in the day of trouble is to set up temporary shelters for folks who have experienced natural disasters. All of us working together can bring the cover of God's tent to others. Through gifts of time and gifts of resources, we, too, can be God's arms, and we can show God's love.

Lesson 4: War

Grades 1–3

Jerry Can Lesson

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Jerry Can, I'm your man!

Now you know what I am—

A pretty awesome water can.

Now you will know where I've been—

Across the ocean and back again!

Hello, it's Jerry Can again! I'm going to be traveling a little today. I am all packed and ready to go! Lots of jerry cans have been put into a big plane, and we are going to fly across the ocean. It is pretty dark inside this plane. There seem to be lots of blankets inside the plane as well as some surprises! We are going to Azerbaijan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly called Zaire). See if you can find these places on the map of the world. [Point out the places on the map and have a volunteer put push pins or stickers on each.]

We are going to visit refugee camps for children. These camps have been set up for children who may have had to leave their homes and even their countries because of war. They were in danger. Sometimes their homes were destroyed. Sometimes they have no water or food. And sometimes their parents aren't around anymore, and so they need someone to live with.

The plane is about to land in Yevlach, Azerbaijan. I will be taking things to the school in this town. There are about 40 children who go to this school. The children really want to go to school,

but they don't have any school supplies, not even a blackboard. So I think they will really happy when they discover the school kits we're bringing! It will be a great surprise!

Let's see what is in one of these kits . . . it looks like there are notebooks and pencils, erasers and crayons, paper and scissors, a ruler. Wow! Do you have some of those things in your desks at school? Why would this be a good surprise? Ahh, and that's the clue! These students have left their homes and schools and weren't able to bring their own paper, pencils, or crayons. So it really will be a treat!

Sometimes children can't talk about what happened to them. But if they can draw a picture, it can help their adult helpers and friends see what is wrong or what makes them scared. Being able to draw a picture, or cut out shapes from construction paper, can help express feelings and make some great artwork for walls that aren't yet decorated! It may seem like a small gift, but it is a wonderful treat for refugee children.

How did I end up on the same trip as these school supplies? Well, it's all through the same mission program. Some people give money to send me and my water-carrying friends to places, while others give money to send school supplies and much more to people in need. Students who are far from home can get supplies. And other people will give money so their families will have heating fuel in the winter, food baskets when they're hungry, and kitchen supplies if they left their pots and pans. It's an amazing program where every single bit of money you share joins with the gifts of many other Presbyterians around the country to help out! Jerry Can and friends to the rescue! Well, maybe not a full rescue, but we will definitely help!

Well, we have left lots of supplies at Yevlach, in Azerbaijan, and I was right, the children were very happy. Our next stop is a refugee camp in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This country used to be called Zaire and it was once a safe place for a group of children who had to leave the country of Rwanda. Here's a story from one of the Rwandan children about life in the refugee camp:

“I am a refugee. I had to leave my homeland in Rwanda because of the wars and fighting. I was separated from my parents and now I am living in Zaire. Twelve children and two tent parents live in each tent.

“When we first got here, we woke up cold and hungry each day. There weren't enough blankets. Our tent mother would get a pail of water to bathe us. We would drip-dry because there were no towels. We didn't have enough clothes. While waiting for breakfast, we were given high-protein survival biscuits. Only the small children and those who were sick got milk.

“Then groups from around the world helped by sending more food, water, blankets, and clothes! They sent balls for us to play with, and games. Some doctors were able to come and vaccinate us from many diseases. We hope to see our families again soon. One day maybe there will be peace and we can return to our homes.”

Jerry Can is now getting ready to fly back to America. We have delivered our school supplies to Azerbaijan and several new soccer balls to the camp in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is pretty dark and quiet in this empty plane. Maybe even a little lonely. I am remembering the words of Psalm 18:16–17, 19 [this scripture is from the NRSV but, feel free to use a translation of your choosing].

He reached down from on high, he took me;

he drew me out of mighty waters.

He delivered me from my strong enemy,

and from those who hated me;

for they were too mighty for me.

. . . He brought me out into a broad place;

he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

These might be verses of a psalm that people like the refugee children could find encouraging.

God has delivered God's people from a strong enemy and from those that hated them. It is hard to understand why anyone could hate a group of children, and hate them enough to make them leave their homes and families. When this does happen, God reaches down from on high and takes them. God will put them in the hands of people who will love them. Many people have been God's hands: they are the ones who give things like water, food, and loving care. Others are God's hands by sending money to buy medicine, blankets, and tools like me, Jerry Can. Other hands have given surprises to the children in need—soccer balls and school kits. You know, I think that we all have helped to make these children smile. God may be smiling too. It is a good day!

Lesson 4: War

Grades 4–6

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Jerry Can, I'm your man!

Now you know what I am—

A pretty awesome water can.

Now you will know where I've been—

Across the ocean and back again!

We are going today to visit a refugee camp in Kenya. This is the site of Kakuma Camp, a camp that became a home for the Lost Boys of Sudan. This trip is one that Jerry Can made, not because of drought or flood, but because of the refugee crisis that happened out there. Jerry Can was sent by gifts like ours to this part of Africa to make sure that refugees had water when they needed it. He didn't go alone! He went with other things, like school supplies, food, kitchen supplies, and much more—all because of gifts from Presbyterians around the country! But before we get carried away, let me tell you an amazing story about the Lost Boys.

First, let's locate Sudan on a map. [Let a volunteer mark the map.] Now, let's find Ethiopia.

[Let a second volunteer mark the map.] Finally, let's locate Kenya. [Let a third volunteer mark the map.] You have now marked the journey that the Lost Boys of Sudan took to find a safe place, a place where they would no longer need to run from danger and trouble.

The boys left Sudan because there was a war. Most of the boys were from the Dinka or Nuer tribes of Southern Sudan. As government troops began war in this area, many of the Sudanese were killed or taken away, and many others ran. A group of boys between the ages of 5 and 18 stayed together on this very long walk.

They walked for two months and almost 1,000 miles before they found a safe place in Ethiopia to stay. Separated from their families, they had entered a strange country. Along this first journey, the boys became friends and learned to take care of each other. They had created a family of their own. They spent about three years in various Ethiopian refugee camps. Now they were no longer tired and sick, but they were still pretty frightened.

Then they had to leave Ethiopia because of that government's soldiers. They ran from the gunfire. They began their trip to Kenya. This meant that they had to walk back through part of South Sudan to reach Kenya. How frightened and lonely they must have felt! But they began to walk together. The sun was hot and there were lots of dangers along the way, like wild animals and treacherous terrain. The only food they had was what they found as they walked along. Some even got really sick from the plants they ate.

Can someone read Psalm 18:16–17, 19 from the Bible for us? [This scripture is from the NRSV but feel free to use a translation of your choosing. Ask a volunteer to read.]

He reached down from on high, he took me;

he drew me out of mighty waters.

He delivered me from my strong enemy,

and from those who hated me;

for they were too mighty for me.

. . . He brought me out into a broad place;

he delivered me, because he delighted in me.

Well, the Lost Boys had experienced many troubles. They were escaping from the bullets and fighting, but they had lots of people who didn't like them. Now they were going to experience something new. They kept walking, and as they walked, other people began to walk with them. Ministers joined their group and gave them support as they finished this last leg of their journey.

When the boys finally arrived in Kenya, there were people waiting for them; very kind people. Jerry Can and his friends had also made it: there was food and water, mats to sleep on, and blankets. After eating and resting, the Kenyans who had welcomed them loaded the boys into trucks and drove them the last 50 miles to Kakuma Camp. Kakuma was to be their new home. There were houses; no more sleeping out in the open! There was clean water and food to eat. There were doctors and medicine, and even schools!

Best of all, the boys could hear the sound of laughter and talking instead of guns and fighting. They could enjoy the birds singing and not worry about dangerous animals. They could sleep without being afraid. The psalm tells us: "He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me." This broad place, Kakuma Camp, became their home, their safe place.

God did delight in these boys and sent people to help them: pastors who walked through South Sudan with them, and Kenyans who provided a home. Through these people, God reached down from on high, took them, and delivered them from a strong enemy. Today, life is very different for the Lost Boys. The U.S. government brought about 3,600 of these refugees here, and many got jobs or went to

college and even became citizens. From 2005 to 2011, there was a period of peace in South Sudan and some were able to go home to find family members and see if they could move home.

The Lost Boys will always remember their walk, although most of their memories are not good ones. But they will also remember those who walked with them. They will remember those at Kakuma Camp who cared for them. And they will remember those in America, and the other countries they moved to, who helped them make new lives in a new country. Through the hands of these people, God has reached down from on high and taken them; God has delivered them from their strong enemies. Many people have, and will, help the Lost Boys of Sudan in their lives. Let's look at some suggestions of things we might do! [Call the children's attention to the newsprint you prepared and consider ways to support refugees in your community.]

What you can do:

Be in touch with other churches or refugee settlement agencies and see if any of the Lost Boys of Sudan are in your area. Ask if there are other refugee families who might be willing to share their story with your church. Continue to support items through the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* that are refugee-related, like school supplies, kitchen kits, food baskets, and—of course—jerry cans.

More about the Lost Boys can be found online: <https://www.rescue.org/article/lost-boys-sudan>

Lesson 5: Response

Grades 1–3

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it.]

Jerry Can, I'm your man!

Now you know what I am—

A pretty awesome water can.

Now you know where I've been—

Sent to places far and wide.

Now you know what I've seen—

God's love shining like a beam!

If Jerry Can, so can you!

Let's just see about what to do.

How we can help in the very best way.

How you and Jerry Can can save the day!

Everyone likes to help. I bet that you can help at home. How many of you are helpers at school?

Do you help at church? How are you a "helper"? Go ahead; make a list. [Let the children tell ways

they are helpers and list it on newsprint.] Let's listen to Psalm 25:4–5:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

What is the writer saying? The psalmist is telling us that we need to know God's ways. We have been taught how God wants us to act: how we treat other people, our neighbors. How do we learn God's ways? Who teaches us? The Bible is one of our teachers. When we read the stories in the Bible, we can learn about how God wants us to act, and that God wants us to respond. Our church school teachers help us to learn God's ways by reading us these stories. Pastors and people in our church also teach us by working with us side-by-side and letting us help.

Our parents also teach us about God's ways. They remind us to say thanks to God for our food at mealtime. When we make mistakes, they teach us how to do things the right way. They show us how to care for others as they care for us. They love us!

God certainly loves us! That is one of the truths that the Psalm talks about when it says, "Lead me in your truth." God loves all God's children. If we are all God's children, then we are all neighbors. You have next-door neighbors, you have church neighbors, and you have world neighbors. By helping our neighbors when they have problems, we are acting the way God wants us to act.

I bet some of you are thinking, "Well, I would like to help! I would like to go and take blankets and water to people who need them. I would like to be there at the disaster to help! Adults get to go and help; why can't I?" These are good things to think, but most of the time, it is not possible to be at a disaster site. Everyone wants to help, but we do not want to cause more problems. Everyone

there needs to be fed and have a place to sleep; if we were there, we might create more problems than we can fix. It is a big job just to take care of those who had to leave their homes, let alone the volunteers who come to help.

Think about all the ways to help that we have talked about in the past lessons. These are important things to do, and they are the most helpful! God asks us to love our neighbors, and that's what we are doing. By praying and sending money, blankets, providing crayons and pencils for refugee children, and yes, by sending Jerry Can and his friends to the disaster site, we are doing exactly what God is teaching us! We are learning about God's truth.

We want to help people who are having a hard time. I'll bet there are people in your church who are having a hard time, too. They may not have been in a flood or a hurricane, but maybe they have a husband or wife who has died. Maybe there is someone whose grandchildren live a long way away and they are lonely. Maybe there is someone who no longer can drive and can't get to church. Maybe there is a child in your church whom no one likes and that child really needs a friend.

Could you help or respond to this? Talk with your parents or church school teacher and adopt someone. How do you do this? Pick a person in your church and call them on the phone. Color pictures for that person. With your parents' help, bake some cookies. See that this person has a ride to church or someone to sit with in church. Don't just do it once, either, do it for a whole year.

We are to be God's helpers and we are to love our neighbors. You can start doing that with your church neighbor. I'll bet that you can learn a lot from that person and that person can learn from you, too. Give it a try!

You can also continue raising money for Jerry Can once our lessons are done. Or you can look and see what other friends of Jerry Can you'd like to support. There are so many ways that Jerry Can helps, and so many of his friends that are being sent by Presbyterians to God's amazing work around this country and our world! Check it out: presbyteriangifts.org.

Lesson 5: Response

Grades 4–6

Jerry Can Lesson Script

[Hold the Jerry Can container or put it where the children can see it. Give each child a Bible.]

Jerry Can, I'm your man!

Now you know what I am—

A pretty awesome water can.

Now you know where I've been—

Sent to places far and wide.

Now you know what I've seen—

God's love shining like a beam!

If Jerry Can, so can you!

Let's just see about what to do.

How we can help in the very best way.

How you and Jerry Can can save the day!

Someone just called Jerry Can and wanted to send a box of sandals to the children in Azerbaijan. [Ask a volunteer to locate Azerbaijan on the world map.] What do you think? Would that be a good idea? Let's just think about it a little bit: What is the weather like in Azerbaijan? Is it cold? Does it snow? Let's also think about what a town would be like if it's been in a war zone for a number of years. Would there be stuff all over, parts of buildings, rubble, pieces of metal and glass? If you had to walk through debris, sharp objects, and possibly snow, what kind of shoes would be best to send? [Possible response: boots.]

Have you ever had to wear a pair of shoes that were too small? Or too big? It's pretty uncomfortable, isn't it? If the box is full of sandals, do you think those would be good to send to Azerbaijan?

Perhaps there would be people living nearby who could use the sandals—women and children or a refugee settlement agency where people could use them if they fit correctly. Should the person with the box of sandals send them to Azerbaijan, then? Are there other ways that they could help?

Well, if the person wants to send the shoes to help, that is definitely a good feeling to have. But we need to help in the best way. It would be best to find an organization that works in those places and ask where they know the need to be biggest. Perhaps the box could be sent to another part of Europe or Africa or Central America. Or maybe it would be the best to sell the box of sandals and give the money to the organization so that they can buy brand new, perfectly-sized shoes for the people in the most need. Or maybe they could even give the shoes to a refugee ministry nearby for a family of new refugees who will be arriving to our area soon! So when I talked to the person with the shoes, I had to tell them the truth and say that I couldn't just accept the box of sandals.

In Psalm 25:4–5, the psalmist writes:

Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth, and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all day long.

The ways of the Lord—acting or responding as God would have us do—are important. People who are having problems do need our help. We should respond to them because they are our

neighbors. They can be our next-door neighbors or they can be our world neighbors. It makes us feel good to help them, but we want to make sure that our help makes them feel good!

Lots of people want to help. I bet that includes some of you. Most of the time, it is not the best thing for children to go to a disaster site. I know, I hear you! Why can't we go? Why can't we help? Only adults get to do anything! Does Jerry Can sound like he's whining? You might be surprised to know that most of the time it is not the best thing for most adults to go to a disaster site.

When disaster teams are put together, they are trained. People are brought together who have all different types of skills. They may be counselors or pastors. They might be doctors or nurses. They might be folks who work in construction or building. The people who have been trained are the ones who are needed first at the disaster site.

That doesn't mean that we can't help! We should help! To learn God's ways, we have to begin helping. You can use your hands to help people across the world who have been hurt by a disaster. The most important thing that you can do is put your hands together and pray for your world neighbors who are victims of disasters and wars. Begin with prayer today! Now, what other things can you do around the world? Well, Jerry Can suggests a few things for us: [Draw attention to the newsprint you prepared with this list.]

What You Can Do:

- » Plan to collect a Jerry Can or Water Offering. Think about planning an offering for water.

With the help of your pastor and teachers, tell people about the disaster and the need for water. Take up the offering during the worship service and include a minute for mission to explain the offering.

- » Check the *Presbyterian Giving Catalog* for other items that help people in need. You may be surprised to find an item or program you can support that your congregation is passionate about: livestock for communities, peace training for leaders, bicycles for pastors in rural Africa, or bunk beds for children without beds.

You can also help out in your own town or city! Jerry Can suggests:

- » Collect blankets and deliver them to a local shelter for the homeless.
- » Collect seeds for a community garden.
- » Make cards or door hangers for neighbors of the church and residents of local retirement communities.
- » Call a local refugee settlement agency to see what its needs are.
- » With your pastor's help, plan a disaster drill for the church and practice during Sunday School or worship

Once you help out in your own area, you have experience. Doing is a great learning experience.

You will begin to know God's ways and follow the paths of God's truth. You will respond in the best way with helpful actions, and those that you help will know that you are acting out of God's love.

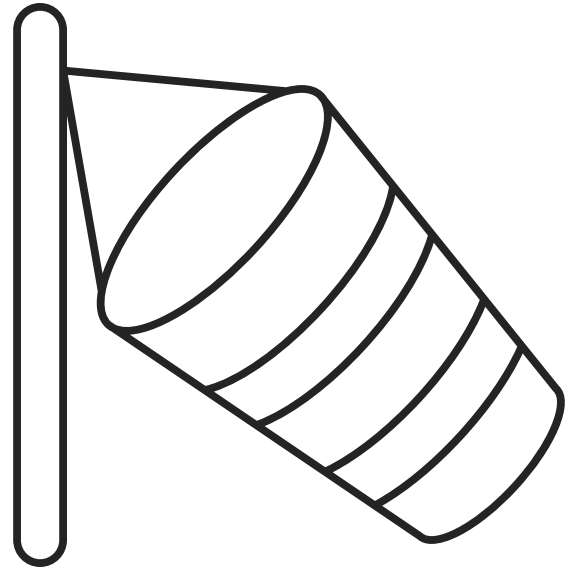
Give it a try!

ARTS & CRAFTS

Windsock

What you need:

- » 12" x 6" pieces of Fun Foam or construction paper in various colors
- » Jerry Can logo (see page 152)
- » Stapler
- » Glue
- » Single-hole paper punch
- » 30" length of string, ribbon, or yarn
- » 10" lengths of ribbon or crepe paper streamers in a variety of colors
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Scissors



What you do:

- » In advance, make one copy for each child of the Jerry Can logo, preferably on card stock, and cut them out.
- » Have the children color the logo with markers.
- » Show them how to attach the logo to the center of the piece of Fun Foam or construction paper using glue or a stapler.
- » Staple the ribbon or crepe paper streamers about one inch apart with the cut edge about two inches from the bottom of the long edge of the Fun Foam or construction paper.
- » Show them how to roll the paper into a tube, overlapping the edges about one inch.
- » Staple the tube at the top and bottom and glue the overlapping edge between the staples.
- » Punch a hole on each side of the windsock, about ½" from the top edge.
- » They can thread yarn or string through holes on each side, bring the two ends together, and knot.

Chalk Drawings

What you need:

- » Sheets of black construction paper for each child.
- » Pastels or colored chalks (note: pastel chalks are expensive but give a very different look to the completed pictures)

What you do:

- » Give each child a sheet of black construction paper.
- » Ask the children to close their eyes as you read Psalm 1:3 aloud. Then ask: “What did you see in your mind when you heard the words of this verse? What kind of trees did you imagine? What was the fruit like? What did you imagine the streams to be like? How big was the stream beside the tree or trees? What do you think it means to prosper?”
- » Have the children illustrate Psalm 1:3. It may help to have it available to re-read, in Bibles around the table, projected on a screen, or posted on the wall.

Other additions:

- » Dipping the chalk in water or in sugar water gives an entirely different effect.
- » Spray the completed picture with hair spray to fix the chalk.

Anemometer

For more detail on this project, visit https://www.sercc.com/education_files/anemometer.pdf

What you need:

For more detail on this project, visit https://www.sercc.com/education_files/anemometer.pdf.

- » Pencil with eraser
- » Five 3-oz disposable cups
- » Two straight plastic soda straws (restaurant style)
- » Straight pin
- » Single-hole paper punch
- » Scissors
- » Small stapler

What you do:

- » Show the children how to punch one hole into each of four of the cups, about a half-inch below the rim.
- » Tell them to take the fifth cup and punch four equally spaced holes about a quarter-inch below the rim. They then punch a hole in the center of the bottom of the cup.
- » Show them how to take one of the four cups and push a soda straw through the hole, then fold the end of the straw and staple it to the side of the cup across from the hole. They repeat this procedure for another one-hole cup and the second straw.
- » Now they slide one cup and straw assembly through the opposite holes in the cup with four holes. They then push another one-hole cup onto the end of the straw just pushed from the four-hole cup. Show them how to bend the straw and staple it to the one-hole cup, making certain that the cup faces in the opposite direction from the first cup.

- » They repeat this procedure using the other cup and straw assembly and the remaining one-hole cup.
- » Show the children how to align the four cups so their open ends face the same direction around the center cup. Then they push the straight pin through the two straws where they intersect.
- » The children then push the eraser end of the pencil through the bottom hole in the center cup and push the pin into the end of the pencil eraser as far as it will go.
- » Have the children take their anemometers outside and hold them up to spin in the wind. They then count the number of revolutions per minute (RPM) and calculate the circumference of the circle made by the rotating cups (in feet). (Next they multiply the RPM by the circumference to find the approximate velocity at which the anemometer spins in feet per minute.

The Lord Is My Shepherd (see pictures and outlines on page 156)

What you need:

- » Waxed paper
- » 12 craft sticks or ice-pop sticks (for each child)
- » Black and white felt
- » Black fine-line felt-tipped marker
- » Yarn or string

What you do:

- » In advance, use a fine-line marker to print “The Lord is my” on one craft stick. This will be the top crosspiece for the fence. On another craft stick, print “Shepherd”. You will need to prepare a set of these top and bottom crosspieces for each child. Also use the pattern to pre-cut the black and white pieces for the lambs.
- » Give each child a length of waxed paper to work on to absorb the glue spills.
- » Show them how to line up 10 craft sticks, flat side down, in a row.
- » They then glue the edges of each individual stick, leaving the outer two edges clean. Set aside to dry.
- » When the glue is dry, children can glue the crosspieces about one inch from the top and bottom edges of the fence.
- » Show the children how to assemble the pieces for the lamb and glue them together. Then they can glue the completed lamb on the fence.
- » Children can tie a piece of yarn or string to the second and ninth sticks to make it hangable.

And more . . .

- » Give children small pieces of white paper and let them draw and cut out their own lambs to glue on the fence. Or give them cotton balls and let them glue these onto a lamp shape to make a lamb.
- » Children can add pompoms and wiggle eyes to the lamb. Bits of dried greenery and/or flowers can be glued on the fence.

Picture Frame

What you need:

- » Pattern for oval picture frame mat (see page 157)
- » Heavy cardboard or poster board for templates
- » Pencils
- » Scissors
- » Instant camera or digital camera and printer
- » Text: “Let God’s Hands Hold You While You Walk In God’s Footsteps”
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Pre-cut foam pieces of hands and feet
- » Glue

What you do:

- » In advance, cut two or three templates for the picture mat and for the hands and feet from poster board or heavy cardboard using the pattern on page 157. On a chalkboard or large sheet of paper, copy the words “Let God’s Hands Hold You While You Walk In God’s Footsteps” and post them where the children can see them.
- » Let each child trace the templates for the mat, the hands, and feet onto Fun Foam or construction paper and cut them out. Have the kids print or write the text around the mat (see pattern for positioning).
- » They then glue the feet and hand cutouts on the mat.
- » As children are working, take an instant photo of each child and give a copy to each to put in their frame. Or take a digital photo of the group and print out enough copies so that each child can have one. Show the children how to position the picture in the frame and secure it from the back with pieces of tape.

And more . . .

- » In advance, print the text on a large sheet of mural paper. Let each child trace his or her foot and hand onto construction paper, cut it out, and glue them onto the mural. Include instant photos of each child, or of the group, or of the church if you like.

Quilt Hanging

What you need:

- » Pre-cut squares of cloth or printed papers, 2" x 2" (12 per child)
- » 6.5" x 11" sheets of construction paper
- » Glue
- » Copies of Psalm 27:5
- » Unsharpened pencils
- » Yarn

What you do:

- » In advance, mark a 1.5" margin at the top of each sheet of paper (6.5" x 11").
- » Use a paper cutter to cut enough 2" x 2" squares of paper so that each child can have 12 (or cut with scissors from fabric). Make photocopies of the verse from Psalm 27.
- » Give each child 12 squares of the fabric or printed paper. Let the children glue the squares on the paper like a patchwork quilt.
- » Give each child a copy of the psalm verse, and show how to glue it over the squares.
- » Help them to roll the 1.5" margin at the top of the paper over an unsharpened pencil and glue in place.
- » Tie a length of yarn or string at each end to form a hanger and glue to the pencil.

Draw the Rwandan Refugee Camp

What you need:

- » Individual sheets of paper or a roll of brown kraft/shelf paper
- » Colored pencils, crayons, or colored felt-tipped markers

What you do:

- » Read the story of the Rwandan children about life in the refugee camp (in the script from Lesson 4)
- » Talk to the children about what the camp might have looked like
- » Provide individual pieces of paper or a roll of paper for a group project
- » With colored pencils, crayons, chalk, or markers, have the children draw the refugee camp.
- » Afterward, talk about the things that we can support, send, or pray for so that their lives might reflect some of the gifts that we share with refugees: jerry cans, medicine, food, clothing, blankets, doctors, soccer balls, toys, school supplies, etc.

Make an Adi Game

What you need:

- » Egg carton (that can hold 1 dozen eggs)
- » 48 dried beans, pebbles, small marbles, or buttons
- » Two 3-oz paper cups
- » Masking tape
- » Felt-tipped markers
- » Rubber band
- » Copy paper

What you do:

- » In advance, make copies of the shape of the top panel of the egg carton on construction paper so the children can create a decorative panel for the game.

- » Show the children how to carefully cut the lid off the egg carton and set it aside. On a flat surface, they then position a 3-oz cup at each end of the carton.
- » Using masking tape, the children then affix the cups to each end of the carton. (The cup will hold the beans.)
- » Have the children cut out a copy of the top panel of the egg carton from construction paper. Let them decorate this panel. Glue it onto the original egg carton top. Replace the top and secure with a rubber band.
- » Children play the game using directions on page 145.

Jerry Can Hats

What you need:

- » Painter's cap, sailor's hat, or visor for each child
- » Jerry Can logo copied on card stock (see pages 152–153)
- » Adhesive Velcro squares

What you do:

- » In advance, make a copy for each child of the Jerry Can logo on card stock or heavier paper and cut it out.
- » Have the children color the logo with markers.
- » Place an adhesive Velcro square on the back side of the logo; place the matching square on the hat or visor

God's Helper Pins

What you need:

- » Patterns for circle and sun (see page 158)
- » Card stock or heavy paper
- » Fabric or printed paper
- » Fusible webbing (optional)
- » Small pin back (used in making pin back buttons)

What you do:

- » In advance, make copies of the pattern for the circle on cardstock or heavier paper.
- » Also cut out two sun patterns for each pin from fabric or printed paper and glue, wrong sides together. (Note: If using fabric, you can bond the two pieces together with fusible web. It is easier to fuse the fabric pieces together first, and then cut out.)
- » Let the children glue the circle in the center of the sunshine.
- » On the back, they may glue a pin back (used in making pin back buttons). Let dry completely.

And more . . .

- » You can also let the children attach adhesive Velcro squares to the back of the sunshine pieces and place the matching squares on a visor or hat.

Door Hanger

What you need:

- » Door hanger pattern (see page 159)
- » “Blessing” cut from construction paper or printed paper
- » Fun Foam or construction paper
- » Pinking shears or design scissors
- » Glue
- » Felt-tipped markers

What you do:

- » In advance, make copies of the pattern, one for each child.
- » In advance, create a blessing panel: text that is either cut out and glued onto the door hanger, or hand-written on the hanger. It would read:

“Dear Neighbor,
We pray that you
might have a
blessed day and
fulfilling week.
With love in Christ,
Your neighbors”

- » Have the children cut out door hangers from Fun Foam or cardstock in bright colors.
- » Let the children copy the blessing panel on printed paper and cut out with pinking shears or design scissors.
- » Then they glue the panel on the hanger. They can cut out several hearts and glue on to decorate.
- » If you are going to deliver these to church neighbors, have the children print the name of your church on the back. If someone is not at home during delivery, your neighbor will then know where it came from.

SNACKS

Note about Snacks

The health and safety of your class participants is of primary concern when snacks are being considered. Be alert to allergies and ask both parents and children before serving food if there are things they cannot eat. Many snacks can be made nut-free. Dairy and gluten allergies may require alternative snack options.

Haystack Cookies (no bake)

What you need:

- » 6-oz package semi-sweet chocolate pieces
- » 6-oz package butterscotch pieces

- » 2 3-oz cans of chow mein noodles
- » ½ cup chopped peanuts or cashews*
- » Double boiler or microwave, and glass bowl
- » Measuring and mixing utensils
- » Waxed paper
- » Refrigerator

What you do:

- » Melt the chocolate and butterscotch pieces in a glass bowl double boiler (glass bowl over boiling water). Remove from heat. (Alternatively, microwave in glass bowl for 1 minute at 50% power; stir.)
- » Quickly stir in the chow mein noodles and nuts until evenly coated.
- » Drop by teaspoon on waxed paper; mounding like haystacks. Chill.
- » Makes 36 cookies.
- » *Nuts may be eliminated or replaced with dried cranberries

Mississippi Mud Cake

What you need:

- » Package brownie mix (including the ingredients listed on the package for preparation)
- » ½ of a 7-oz jar of marshmallow cream
- » 1 can prepared chocolate frosting
- » Measuring and mixing utensils and bowls
- » Oven
- » Spatula

What you do:

- » Prepare the brownie mix according to the package directions
- » Bake and cool.
- » Spread marshmallow cream over the cake.
- » Frost the top with chocolate icing.

Survival Biscuits

What you need:

- » Cornmeal for hands
- » 11" x 20" cookie sheet
- » Measuring and mixing utensils and bowl
- » Oven

What you do:

- » Mix the dry ingredients:
 - ½ cup soy flour
 - ½ cup whole wheat flour
 - ½ teaspoon each of baking soda, baking powder, and salt
- » Cream together separately:
 - ½ cup packed brown sugar
 - ¼ cup granulated sugar
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1 tablespoon lecithin (health food store or online)
 - ½ cup shortening
- » Blend in:
 - 1 egg
 - ½ teaspoon vanilla
- » Add the dry ingredients and stir in:
 - 1 cup combination of pulverized coconut, nuts, and natural wheat bran
 - 1 cup of quick oats (slightly pulverized)
- » Use cornmeal on your hands to flatten the dough on an 11" x 20" cookie sheet.
- » Bake at 325 degrees for 16 minutes.
- » Cool and cut into 32 wafers.

Ants on a Log

What you need:

- » Celery stalks
- » Peanut butter, or another nut butter substitute
- » Raisins

What you do:

- » Spread the peanut butter in the celery stalk, then dot with raisins along the length of the stalk.

Tropical Fruit Fizzle

What you need:

- » 46-oz can fruit punch drink, chilled
- » 3 cups orange juice
- » 28-oz bottle of club soda, chilled
- » Large pitcher
- » Large spoon
- » Cups

What you do:

- » Combine all ingredients in a large pitcher and stir.
- » Makes 24 4-oz servings

Energy Munch

What you need:

- » 2 cups raisins
- » ½ cup peanuts
- » ½ cup cashews
- » ½ cup dried, chopped apricots
- » ½ cup banana chips
- » 1 ½ cup sesame cracker sticks (4.5-oz package)
- » Small-size plastic zip bags
- » Large mixing bowl and spoon

What you do:

- » Combine all the ingredients in a large bowl and mix well.
- » Package in small-size plastic zip bags.

And more . . .

- » If you have children who are allergic to nuts, see if it would be appropriate to do an “Energy Munch Bar” where children pick and choose what to add to their own bags. Children can avoid their own allergens in this case.

Pigs in a Blanket

What you need:

- » One package cocktail franks or link sausages
- » One package frozen crescent rolls or pie crust
- » Oven and cookie sheet
- » Stove and frying pan or electric skillet
- » Kitchen shears

What you do:

- » On stovetop or electric skillet, cook sausages or cocktail franks until just cooked. Allow to cool.
- » Separate crescent rolls or unroll pie crust.
- » Cut pie crust into strips, or cut crescent rolls in half. Wrap a piece of pastry or role around each frank or sausage. Place on a greased cookie sheet. Bake at 400 degrees until golden brown.

GAMES

Balancing Act

What you need:

- » Masking tape
- » Chair
- » Ping-pong ball(s)

What you do:

- » Use masking tape to designate a starting point
- » Have the children form a line behind the starting point. Place a chair 10 feet from the starting point. The children will face the chair.
- » Give the first child a ping-pong ball.
- » The leader will blow a whistle to start. One at a time, have the children place the ball on the back of their hand and walk around the chair and back again.
- » Pass the ball to the next person in line.
- » If the ball falls off, they may pick it up and put it back on. That is the only time they may touch the ball with their hands.
- » The object of the game is for everyone to go around the chair before the whistle is blown again. Allow adequate time for the children to finish.
- » Alternative options: try to beat a “team best”; use multiple balls; try doing it walking backwards.

Rescue Me

What you need:

- » Copies of image cards (page 154)
[Images: umbrella; ladder; oar; life preserver; parachute; camel; rope; bridge]
- » Chairs
- » In advance, make one copy of the images for the game. If you have more than eight children, make additional copies and let this game be more competitive. Cut the images apart.
- » Arrange the chairs in a wide circle. Give each child one of the image cards. The leader will stand in the center of the circle.
- » Say: “We are going to play “Rescue Me”! Each of you has an item that we might need. I will read a statement. Listen carefully and decide just what it is that we need. We will jump up and go to the person who has the item we need, doing the action with the item that will help us.”
 - Help! It’s raining, and I have to walk home from school. Help! (umbrella)
 - Help! My kitten is caught in the tree! Help! (ladder)
 - Help! My canoe is about to go over a waterfall! Help! (oar)
 - Help! This ship is sinking! Help! (life preserver)

- Help! The plane is crashing! Help! (parachute)
- Help! I'm in the desert and I want to get home! Help! (camel)
- Help! I want to get to the top of the cliff! Help! (rope)
- Help! I need to get across the river! Help! (bridge)

Stretch it Out

What you do:

- » Invite the children to stand with their backs flat against the wall. Ask them to stretch out their arms to see who can reach out the furthest while keeping their shoulder blades against the wall.
- » Next, tell them that they need to reach out as far as they can *but* they must have at least one body part touching the wall. See who comes up with a creative solution.
- » Now, tell the children that they need to see who can reach the furthest but this time they can have up to two people working together. One person must be touching the wall with a part of their body, and the other must be touching the first person.
- » Similarly, try with larger and larger groups until the whole class is reaching out, one person touching the wall, and the rest of the class linked to reach far, far away.
- » With the children, reflect on how significant the distance was while they worked alone versus working together. Making the effort to work together can create a huge impact!

Wolf! Wolf!

What you do:

- » Say: Let's play a game where we can understand just how hard it was to be a shepherd in Bible times. One of you will be a very hungry wolf. One of you will be the shepherd whose job is to protect the sheep from the wolf. The rest of you will be the sheep.
- » Select one child to be the shepherd and one child to be the wolf. The rest of the children should line up behind the shepherd. Each child will hold on to the shoulders of the child in front of him or her.
- » Say: The wolf wants the lamb at the end of the line for dinner! When I say "go," the wolf is going to try to catch the lamb at the end of the line. If the wolf is able to grab onto the waist of the lamb, then the lamb is caught. It is up to all of the other sheep and the shepherd to try to protect the lamb without letting go of one another.
- » When the lamb is caught, that child becomes the shepherd and the person remaining at the end of the line becomes the lamb.

Pack it up!

What you need for each set of four children:

- » Brown paper grocery bag or suitcase
- » Items of clothing (hat, scarf, sweater, shirt, sweatpants, shoes) in large sizes

What you do:

- » In advance, pack a brown paper grocery bag or suitcase for each team of four.

- » Divide the children into four-person teams.
- » Give each team one of the bags or suitcases.
- » At the starting signal, the first person on the team will carry the bag to the finish line, open it up, dump out the contents, put on all the clothes, pick up the bag/suitcase, return to the starting line, take off the clothes and put them in the bag for the second person in line.
- » The game will continue until all members of each team have finished.
- » If you have a small class, let them work together against the clock rather than against each other.

Play Adi

What you need:

- » Adi game board for each pair of players (see page 137 for construction directions)
- » Seeds, beans, small marbles, pebbles, or buttons (48 per game board)

What you do:

- » Tell the children that the two cups at each end are called “treasuries.” The treasuries are empty when the game starts. Players sit on opposite sides of the board. Four seeds are placed in every egg cup.
- » The first player picks up four seeds from any cup on their side of the board. Moving counter clockwise, they drop one seed in every cup starting immediately to the right of the cup from which the seeds were taken.
- » If the last seed falls into a cup with seeds in it, the player picks up all the seeds in that cup and continues around the board, dropping one seed in every cup. If the last seed dropped into a cup makes a set of four seeds, the player takes those seeds and puts them in his or her treasury.
- » The turn ends when the player puts a set of four seeds in their treasury, or when a seed is dropped into an empty cup.
- » The other player then picks up all the seeds from any cup on their side of the board and distributes them, one per cup, counter clockwise around the board.
- » Players have to think ahead to prevent groups of three seeds from appearing on the board for the other player to capture. The winner is the player with the most seeds in their treasury at the end of the game.

No Hands Allowed

What you need:

- » Plastic garbage bags
- » Old newspapers

What you do:

- » Have the children stuff the garbage bags with newspapers. Tie them securely. The object of this game is for teams to see how many garbage bags they can carry without using their hands.

- » Set the garbage bags around the room. Divide the children into teams of five or six. If you have a small class, the whole class will be a team. Begin with two children holding both of each other's hands.
- » Say: "Let's see how many garbage bags each team can carry at one time! You have 5 minutes. You have to pick up each bag without using your hands. When you need another person to help, yell 'Help' and another team member can come and join the circle."

Who's My Neighbor

What you need:

- » Blindfold

What you do:

- » Select one person to be "it." "It" is blindfolded and stands in the center. When "it" says, "Go!" all the children switch places. When "it" says, "Freeze!" the children freeze immediately.
- » "It" then points in any direction. The person who is pointed to steps forward to stand in front of "it." "It" says, "Howdy, neighbor." The player standing in front must then say, "Howdy." It can be repeated only once.
- » "It" must guess who is standing in front of them. If guessed correctly, the person guessed becomes "it". If incorrect, the person returns to the circle and the round starts over.

On the Right Path

What you need:

- » Masking tape
- » Blindfolds (one for every two children)
- » Small sticky notes

What you do:

- » In advance, use masking tape to lay out a trail around the center of the room. Make sure the trail is no wider than two feet. Provide turns in the trail that will require careful negotiation.
- » Select one of the children to be the marshal. If this creates an uneven number of children, let two children be marshals and station them on opposite sides of the game space. Divide the remaining children into teams of two.
- » Give each team a blindfold. Have the team members decide who is going to be the Trail walker and who is going to be the Guide. Instead of one person leading the other through the course, one person is going to guide the other person—not with words, but with a gentle touch on the person's right or left shoulder. This will direct the Trail walker in the appropriate direction.
- » A touch on the right shoulder means turn to the right. A touch on the left shoulder means turn to the left. A touch on the center means go straight ahead.
- » The marshal will call out, "Off the path!" if anyone steps outside the trail, and that team will be given a ticket (small sticky note). The team with the fewest tickets wins. When the first player has made it down the right path, have the children switch places.

And more . . .

- » To make it more difficult, don't let the children see the trail before the first partner is blindfolded. When they switch, surprise the newly blindfolded person by having them go down the path the opposite direction.
- » Make turns at varying angles: 90 degrees, 45 degrees, 135 degrees, rounded turns, etc.

SCIENCE

Make a Tornado

What you need (for each tornado):

- » 1 clean, empty 8-oz plastic bottle with lid.
- » Water
- » Vinegar
- » Glitter
- » Clear liquid dishwashing detergent

What you do:

- » Fill each bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water
- » Tell the children to put one teaspoon of vinegar and one teaspoon of dishwashing soap into the bottle. Then have them sprinkle a small amount of glitter into the bottle and close the lid.
- » Tell them to hold the bottle in both hands and shake in a circular motion.
- » Watch a tornado appear!

The Calm Storm

What you need:

- » 1 large, clear glass or plastic mixing bowl
- » Water
- » Scissors
- » Ground black pepper
- » Large spoon
- » Ruler with a hole in the center
- » Length of string
- » Paper clip
- » Tape

What you do:

- » Show the children how to tie one end of the string to the paper clip and thread the other end of the string through the middle of the ruler.

- » Then they rest the ruler with the string and paper clip attached on the bowl and adjust the string until the paper clip is about one inch from the bottom of the bowl. Set aside the ruler, string, and paper clip.
- » Have them fill their bowls about $\frac{3}{4}$ full with water.
- » Tell them to sprinkle ground pepper in the water, making sure to add enough to make it very visible.
- » They then stir the water with the spoon until it is swirling.
- » Now they lower the paper clip into the center of the bowl until the ruler rests on both sides of the bowl.
- » The water should continue to swirl around. But tell them to watch the paper clip; it should move only gently, if at all. Explain that, in the same way, the air inside the eye of the hurricane remains calm while winds swirl around it.

Water Cleaning Experiment

What you need:

- » Water bottle with lid
- » Clean yogurt container
- » Water
- » Potting soil with vermiculite
- » Coffee filter

What you do:

- » Give each child a bottle $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water. Tell them to remove the lid and carefully mix in 2 teaspoons of potting soil and vermiculite mix.
- » Then replace the lid and shake up the mixture.
- » Tell them to look at the water. Explain that this is how water can become dirty after a storm.
- » Give each child an empty, clean yogurt container and a coffee filter. Tell them to place the filter in the container.
- » Show them how to slowly pour the water through the filter, removing it at the end.
- » Look at the water and ask: Would you drink this? Do you think this water is safe to drink? Do you think water after a storm could be like this?

How Soil Holds on to Water

What you need for each child:

- » Plastic foam cups or plastic pots
 - 1 with a plug of grass or small plant
 - 1 with bare soil
 - 1 with soil mounded to resemble a slope or hillside
- » Disposable aluminum pan or clay saucer
- » Watering can

What you do:

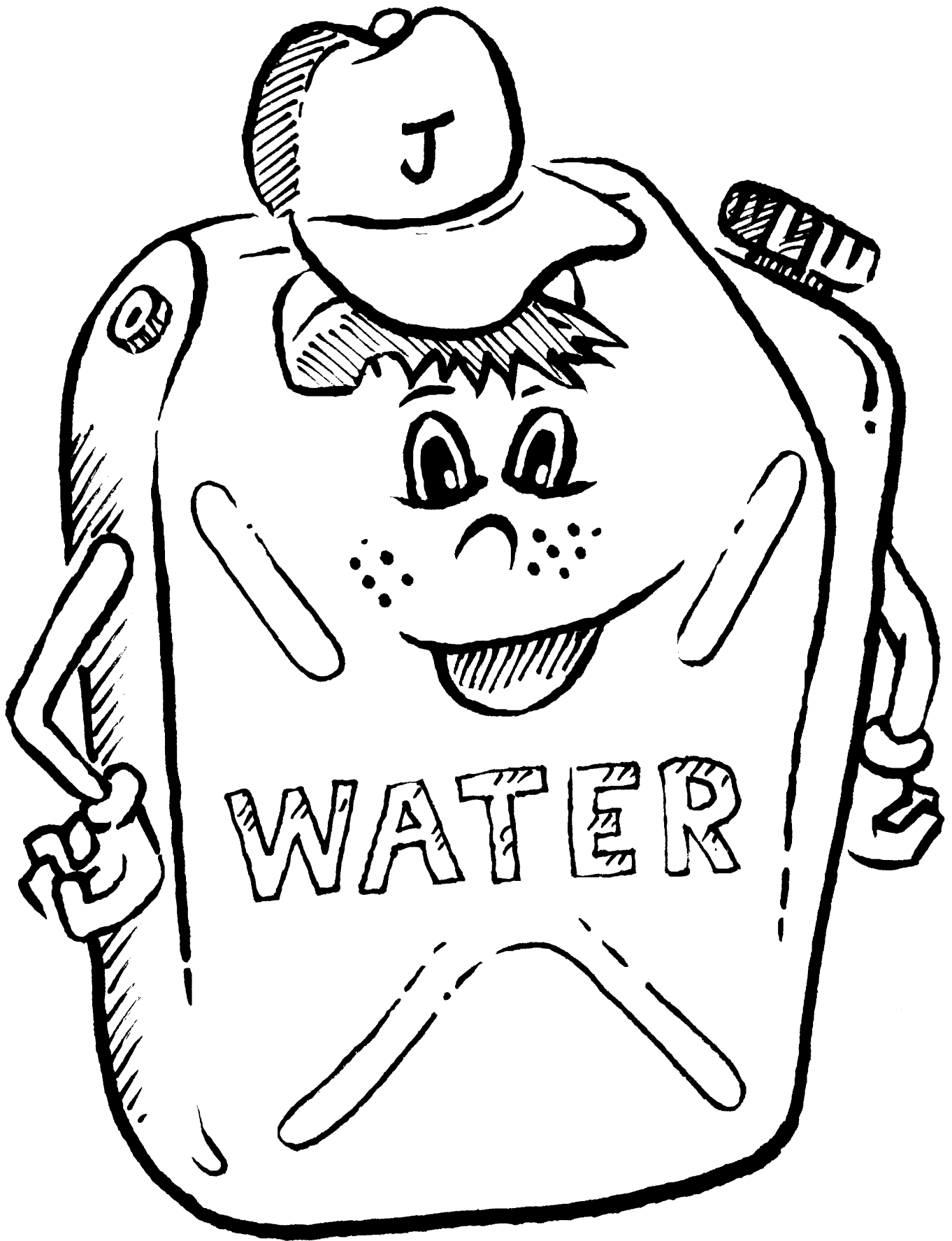
- » Tell the children to place the three pots in the aluminum pan or clay saucer to hold the water.
- » Tell them to water each pot and observe what happens.
- » Ask volunteers to describe what happened when each of the three pots was watered. They should describe something like the following:
 - The water goes right through the bare soil
 - The pot with the slope drains quickly and actually moves the dirt
 - The pot with the grass or plant drains, but much more slowly.
- » Now ask: What do you think this tells us about how soil holds water? What makes soil able to hold more water? Talk about how the grass allows the water to drain more slowly, allowing the plant to absorb the water. On bare soil, there is nothing to hold the water, and sloping ground makes the situation worse.

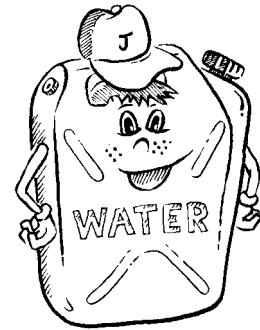
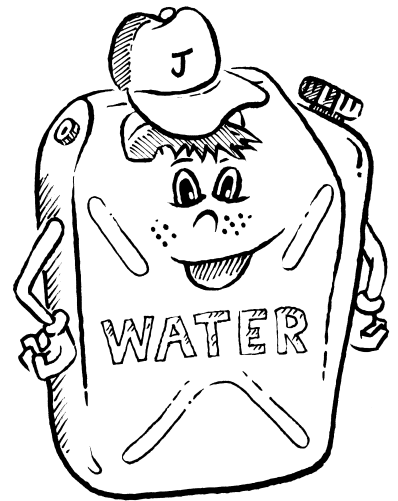


IMAGES & EXAMPLES



Appendix B





Examples of Natural Disaster Images



Example 1: Hurricane (Key West, FL)



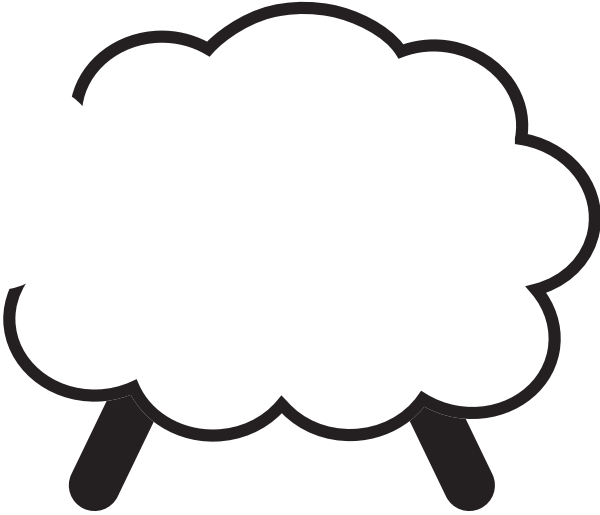
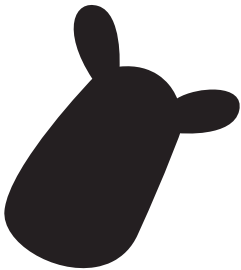
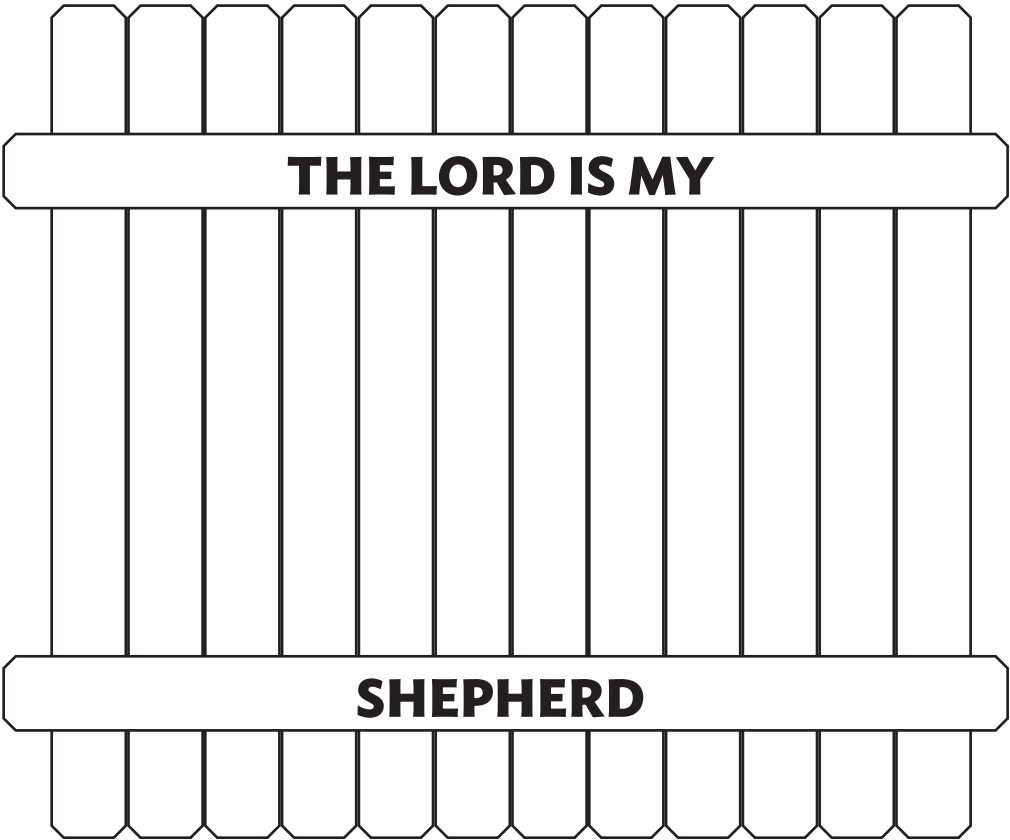
Example 2: Forest Fire

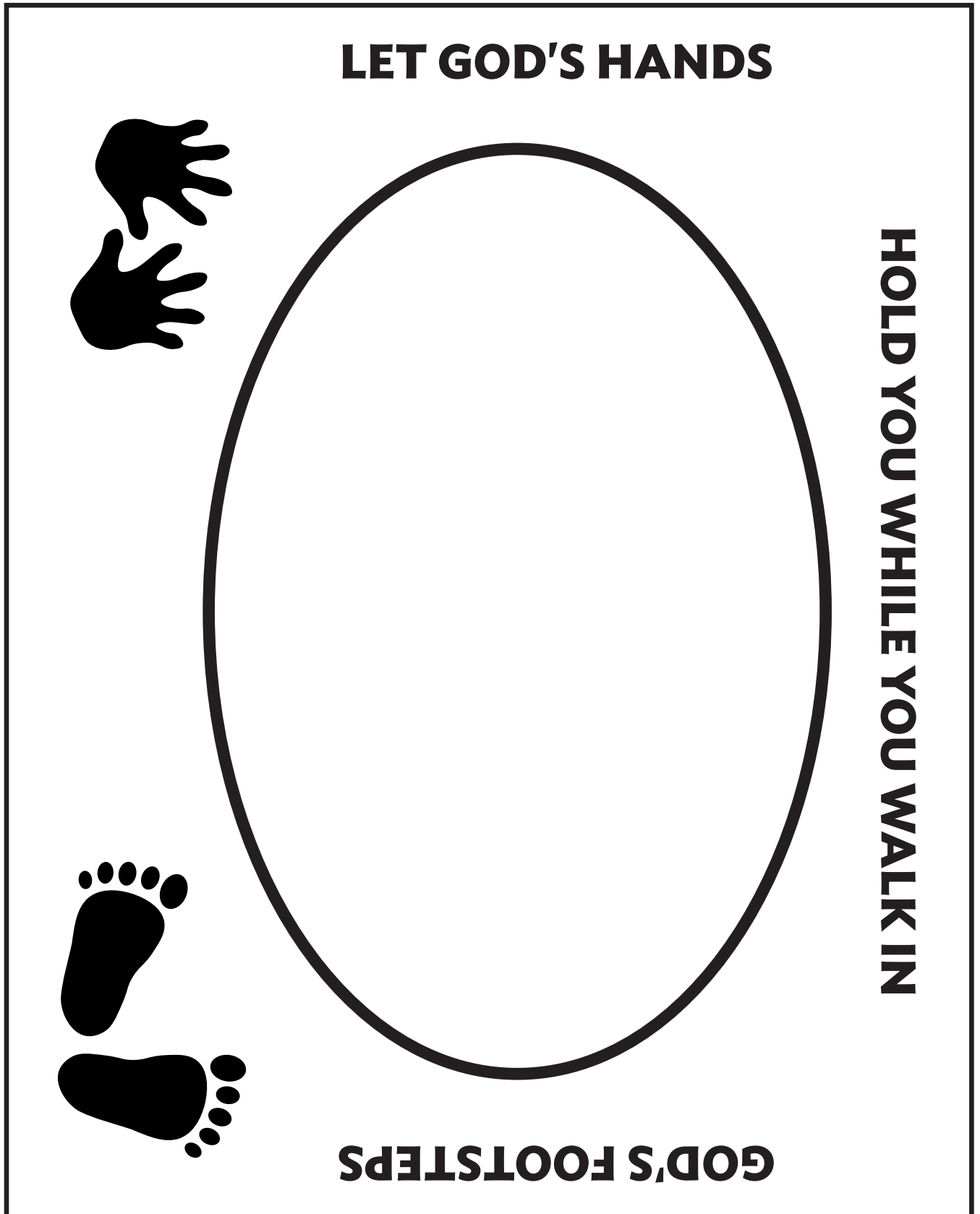


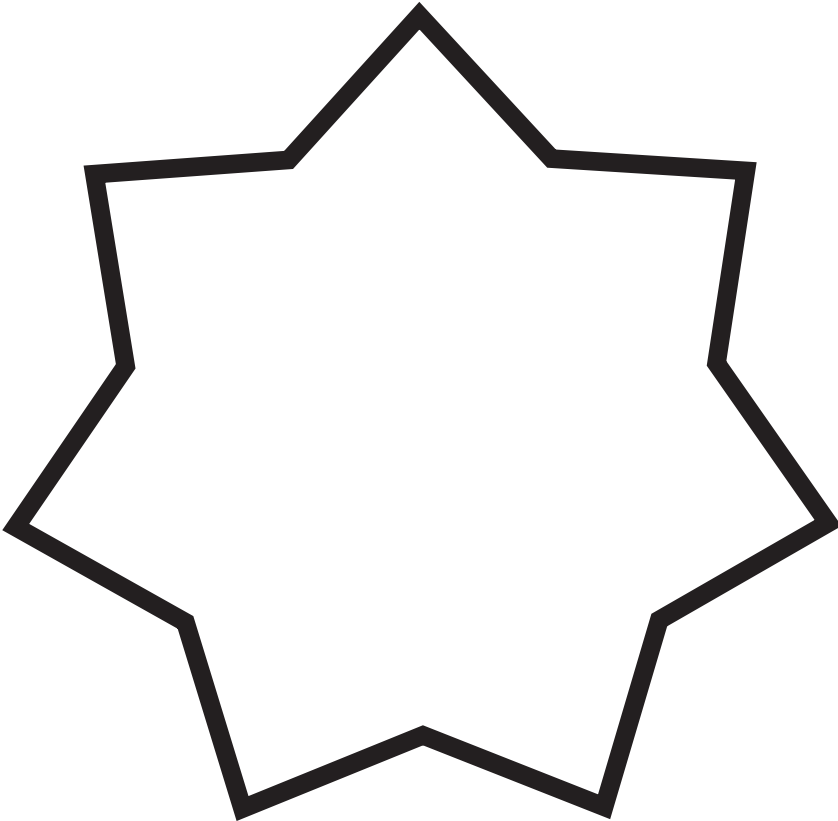
Example 3: Flood (Bangkok, Thailand)



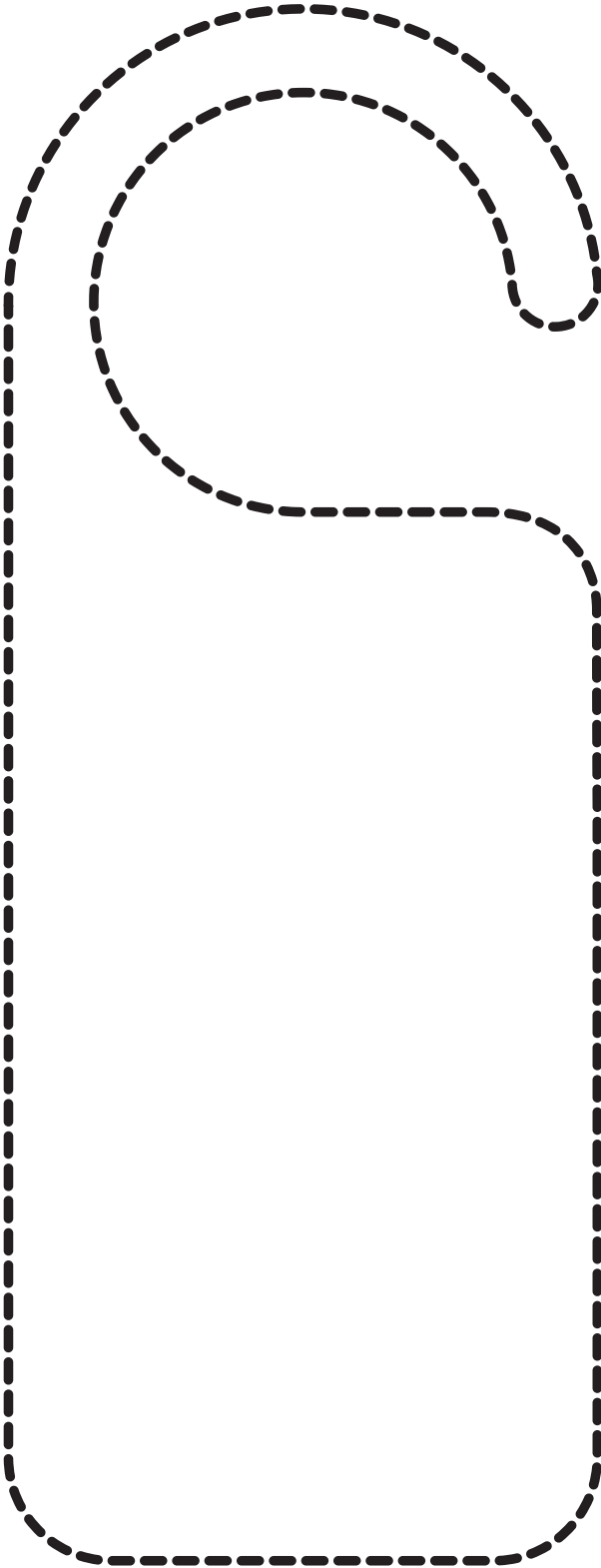
Example 4: Drought (Namibia)

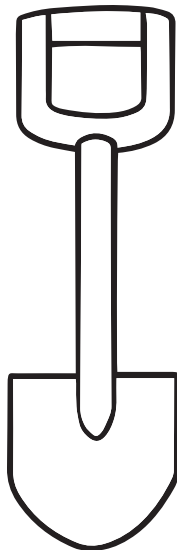
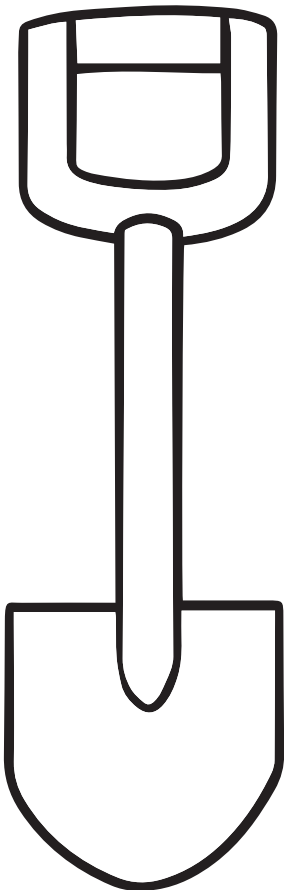
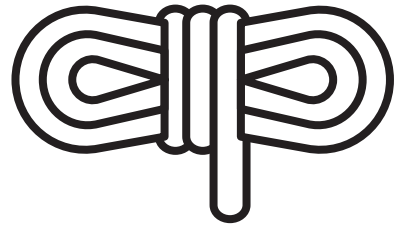
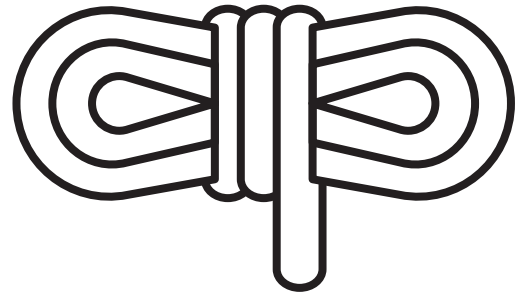
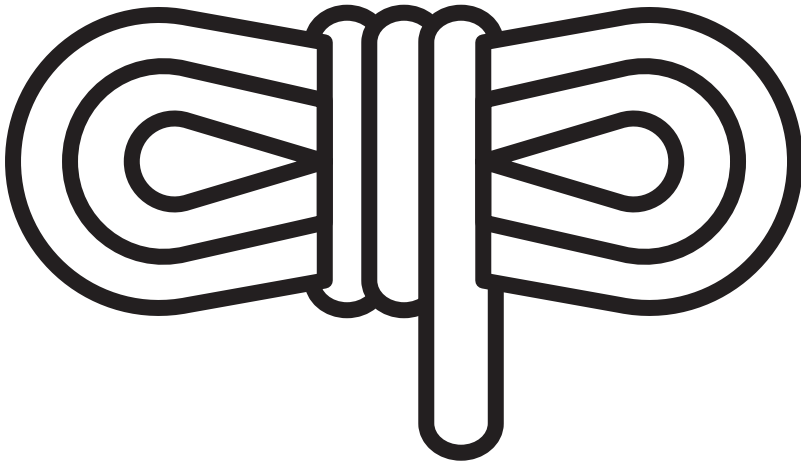


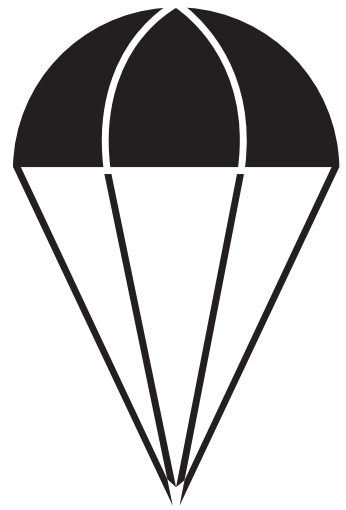
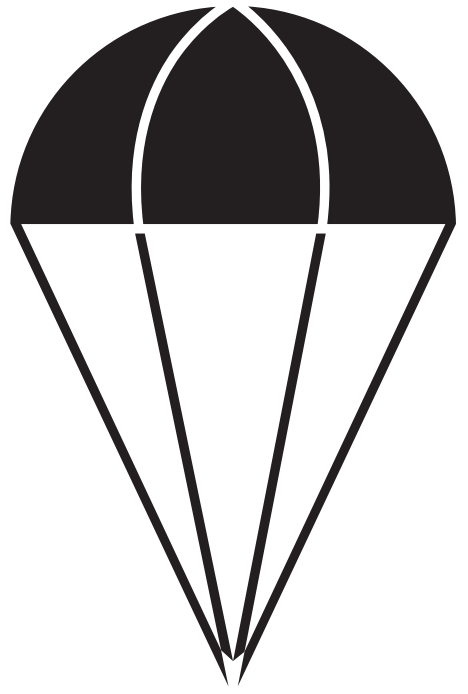
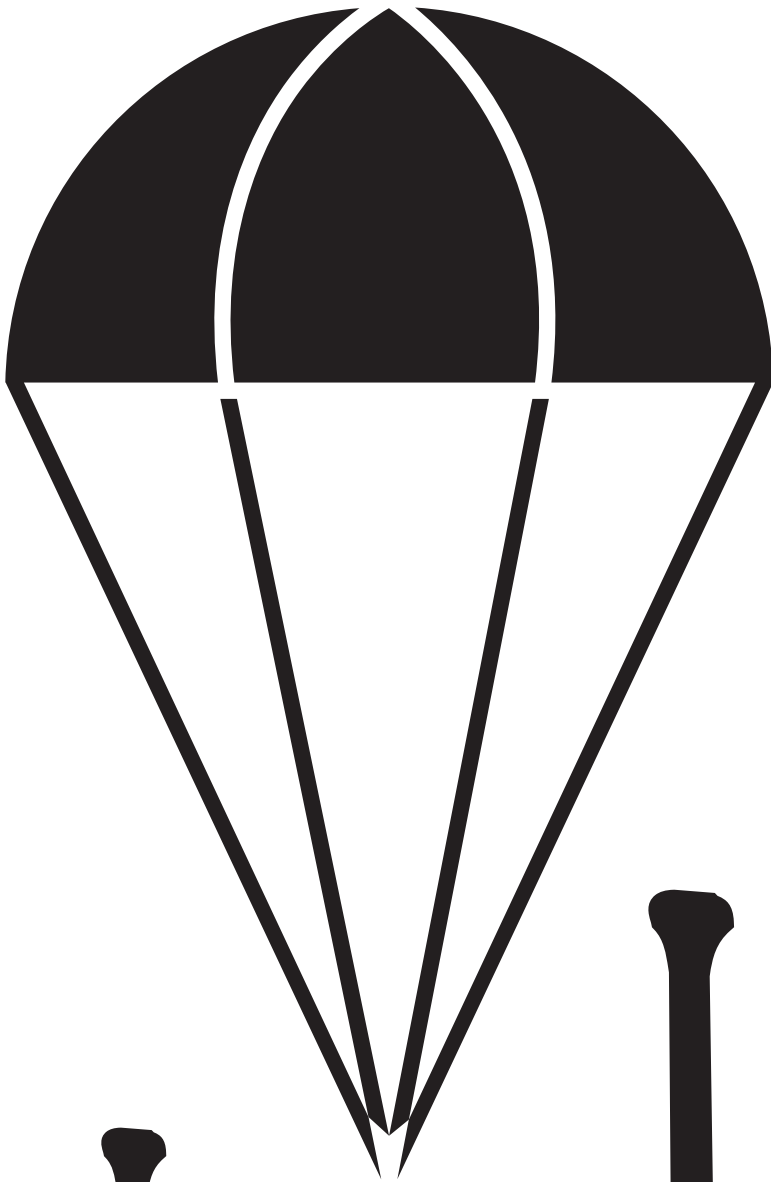


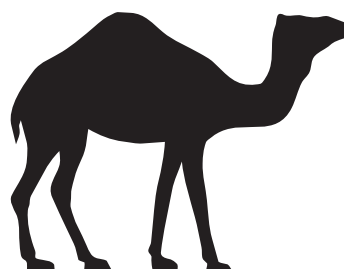
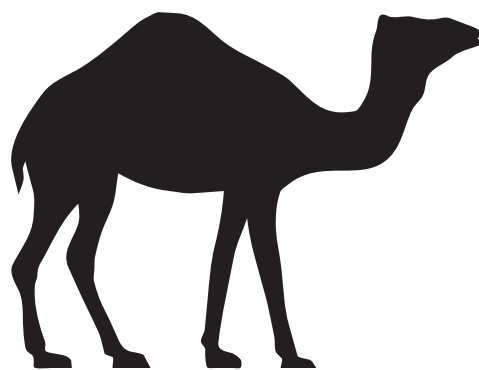
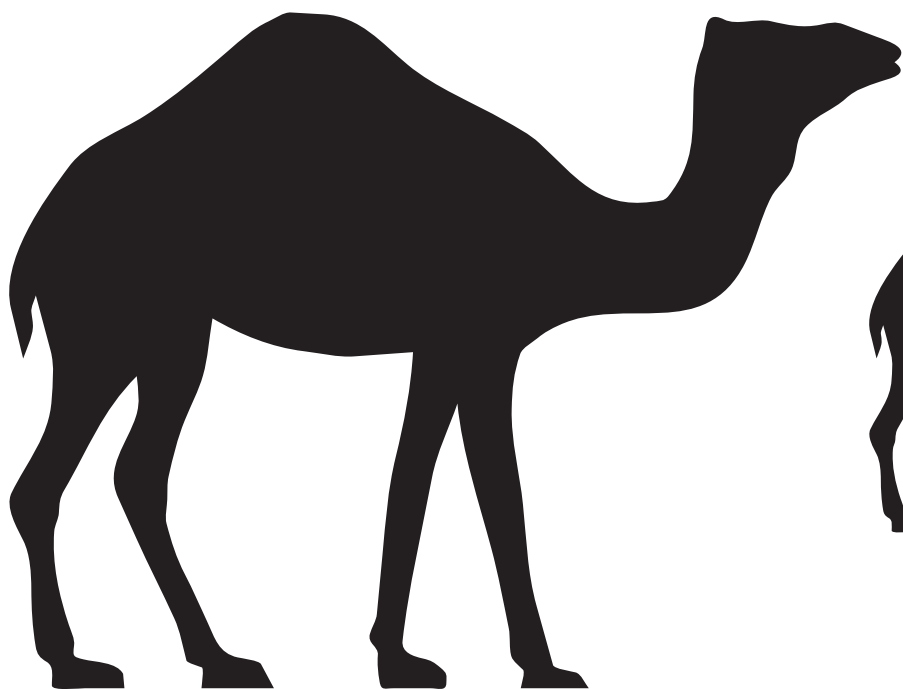


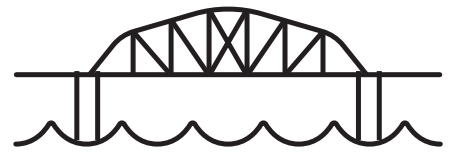
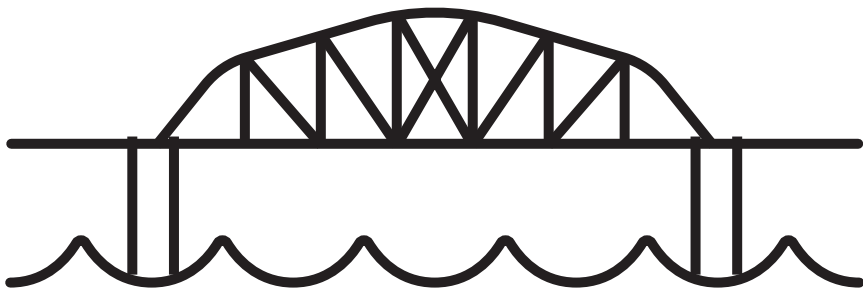
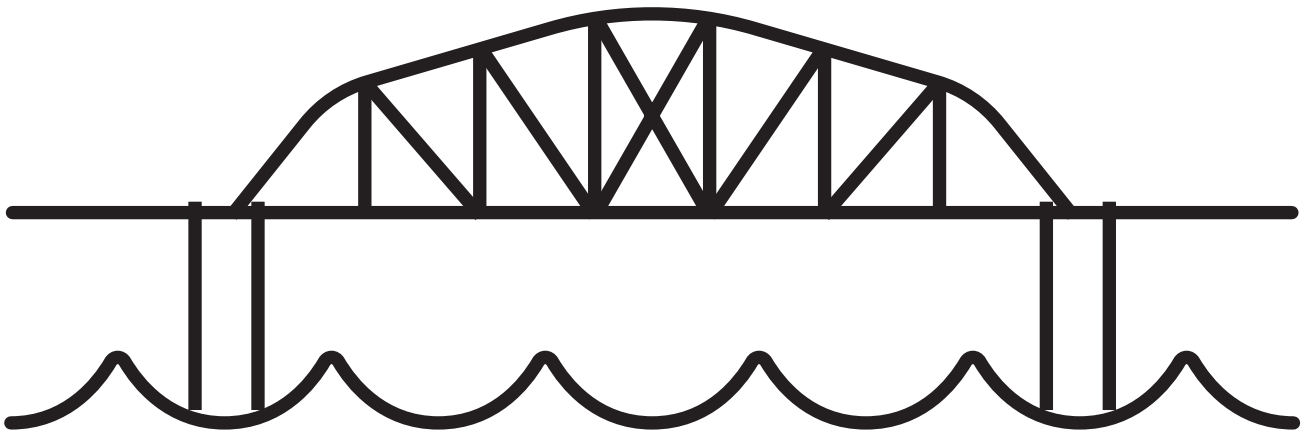
Door Hanger Outline











CREDITS

Anemometer

https://www.sercc.com/education_files/anemometer.pdf

Make a Tornado

<http://eo.ucar.edu/webweather/tornact4.html>

Games: *Balancing Act; Rescue Me!; Wolf! Wolf!; Pack It Up; Who's My Neighbor?; No Hands Allowed Downright Upright and 50 Other Bible Games for Elementary Children.* Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2000.

Song Selections

Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2013.

The Presbyterian Hymnal. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1990.

Hymn links are to Hymnary.org.

Images are taken from common access and clip art resources.

Thanks to the colleagues in ministry and friends of Special Offerings who helped develop, edit, and evaluate this resource, including Vennie Constant, who wrote the original version of this curriculum.

In this day and age, access to information can be overwhelming. The global community has become a reality. Television and the internet provide us not only with information but also with images of disasters around the world.

Children see and hear about these things too, and they want to do something to help. They want to be involved. Many parents also want this for their children. The goal of this curriculum is not only to impart information but also to suggest an appropriate response to natural disasters around the world.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is involved throughout the world in responding to disastrous situations that happen to God's people. The PC(USA)'s programs not only respond with immediate aid, but through relationships with partner churches throughout the world they transition relief efforts into long-term development. They act on behalf of countless Presbyterians who offer prayers, send money, sponsor projects, and form work teams to assist those in need. In the spirit of educating a whole new generation of people who answer God's call to respond, this curriculum for children is offered.

Jerry Can, the water-carrying mascot for this program, helps in a world of disasters. He represents one common denominator in all disasters around the world: the need for clean water in order to survive. Jerry Can, as a mascot and as a tool used in disaster-relief settings, is a concrete, visual way to represent to children the need for clean water.



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