



HELPFUL HIVE

Bee-ing a Blessing

A Vacation Bible School Curriculum
Sponsored by **Midwest Mission**



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WELCOME TO THE HIVE!

This five-session curriculum aims to educate children about the hurts of the world and their role in spreading hope and encouragement right in their community and beyond. The theological underpinning is grounded in a belief that God loves and cares for all, and when people are struggling, our roles as followers of Jesus are to offer them help and compassion. This is not limited to only adults - children are more than capable of stepping in with a kind word or by collecting supplies and aid for those in need.

Midwest Mission exists to spread hope and empowerment for people around the world. They work with trusted partners to meet people's needs in a practical way, bringing hands together to transform resources into humanitarian relief. The four main ways Midwest Mission accomplishes this are through disaster relief, health supplies, education resources, and supporting micro-businesses. You'll find more information about Midwest Mission throughout this curriculum, and you are encouraged to use the resources found on the resources page.

This curriculum was written to work hand in hand with Midwest Mission's work. However, if you are from outside the Midwestern United States or are not yet a partner with Midwest Mission, you could modify this curriculum to highlight other mission opportunities in your area or missions you've supported before, like local food banks, disaster relief drives, or sewing circles.

Included in this curriculum are opening skits, Bible story time, crafts, games, snacks, science station, music time, coloring pages, and closing conversations. You're encouraged to pick and choose which resources work best for you instead of trying to cram all of them into a single morning or evening. You could stretch this curriculum into a whole year of Sunday school lessons, focus on just a few activities for Vacation Bible school, use different activities for a Winter Break or Spring Break camp, or anything else you can dream of!

You are the expert on your church, children, and capabilities. The theme of bees is wildly adaptable, and you might find games, crafts, and snacks that work better in your context. There are sure to be many options for decorations, from inexpensive to elaborate. Make it fun!

There is also something special in making a local connection. Do you have first responders in your community who can come and share how they help hurting people? Teachers who need help with items for their classrooms? A sewing or knitting circle that makes blankets? Invite them to be a part of your VBS, and don't forget about your local conservationists or beekeepers who are likely looking for opportunities to educate the public.

Many churches conclude their VBS week with a special Sunday celebrating all of the fun and learning that has gone on. In order to facilitate a worship service, we've provided liturgical materials to give your pastor a break and help wrap up an awesome VBS week. We encourage you to teach the congregation the music that the kids sing and, if appropriate, utilize a special recorded sermon that shares the same message of love and service that the children will learn at VBS. You can find this sermon on the Midwest Mission YouTube page, and it could be downloaded or streamed, whatever works in your context.

How to make that Sunday even better? Collect items for a Midwest Mission kit (we recommend the Student Kit or Personal Dignity Kit) and have the congregation pack the kits before or after worship!

We hope that this curriculum is a blessing to you, your church's students, and their families. We've loved the opportunity to write the stories and activities that will help your students grow in their love and knowledge of God - or, as we like to call him, the Bee Keeper.

"Bee" blessed,

Pastors Angela Cunigan, Heather Dorr, and Kasey Vogel of the Iowa Annual Conference



THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Bee-Attitude	The Mourning	The Meek	The Hungry	The Merciful	The Peacemakers
Bible Story	Job Refuses to Curse God	Samuel Called by God	Elijah and the Widow	The Paralytic Healed	Tabitha Raised to Life
Scripture	Job 1:13-22	1 Samuel 3:1-10	1 Kings 17:8-16	Mark 2:1-5, 12	Acts 9:36-42
Midwest Mission Spotlight	Disaster Relief	Education	Nutrition	Health	Micro Business
Craft	Bee Hive	Plaque/Finger Painting	Wooden Spoon/Pot Painting	Windsock/ Pins	Keychain/Flowers for pot
Game	Freeze Tag/Caring for the Hive	Flower Hop/Duck, Duck, Goose	Rock, Paper, Scissors/ Obstacle Relay Race	Parachute/Bag Toss	Clothing Race/Blob Tag
Experiment	Tornado Bottle	Sound Waves	Self-Inflating Balloon	Pulleys	Tie-Dye
Takeaway	We're called to care for people in hard seasons —lifting them up in prayer and offering whatever help we can.	Meekness is humble obedience, listening for God's voice and following His lead to make the world better.	Many people are hungry here at home and around the world, and we can step out in faith to make a difference.	When we work together to help others, we can make a huge impact.	God can take things that are broken/dead and bring them back to new life.

THE HIVE RESOURCES

DIGITAL RESOURCES



Midwest Mission
YouTube Page



Midwest Mission
Slideshow



Helpful Hive
Branding Package



Rock, Paper, Scissors
Demonstration



Download The Hive
coloring pages

Visit www.midwestmission.org/vbs to explore our complete library of materials and discover tools to support your VBS planning.

MASTER ITEM LISTS

This is the complete supply list for the entire week of VBS. We recommend reviewing this section before ordering or shopping for materials.

Bible Storytime

- Fancy clothes for Job. This can be a scarf or a hat, something simple to show that he's special.
- Four envelopes or folded pieces of paper to represent letters
- Pillow or blanket for Samuel
- Pillow or blanket for Eli
- A scroll (rolled-up piece of paper) for Elijah to hold
- A few sticks (real or fake)
- A cup for water (water not necessary)
- Two containers to represent flour and oil - they can be the real thing, or two cups or tins, or Tupperware containers, whatever you have on hand
- Three pieces of bread or three make-believe bread toys, each under a napkin or piece of cloth, sat on a table
- Pop-up play tent or a blanket between two chairs/tables for Jesus to sit under
- A blanket large enough for a child to lie down on
- An envelope or folded piece of paper to represent a letter
- A blanket, cushion, or couch for Tabitha to lie down on
- Clothing for the mourners to wear

Crafts

Bee Hive:

- 1 Small plastic bottle per child (8 oz Hug juice bottles that are clean and dry work well)
- Thin rope or thick twine
- Craft glue/hot glue
- Small oval of black craft paper
- Ribbon
- Small felt or wooden bees, Scrapbook stickers also work, but may need some glue

Paper Bee Hive:

- Brown construction paper, but into very wide strips
- Bee stickers
- Solid sheet of blue construction paper as background
- Brown paper to cut a small branch (These can be precut, or let the children cut their own shape)
- Glue

MASTER ITEM LISTS

Encouragement Plaque

- 3 blocks of wood that are 4 inches, 6 inches, and 8 inches long, but the same width and depth
 - (1 to 2 inches so they will stack on each other/Furring strips from hardware store cut to the above lengths or carving blocks are good options)
- Craft Paint in black, white, yellow, and gold
- Fine-tipped permanent markers that are white, black, and gold
- OR if you have someone with a Cricut or cameo machine, cut out the following words in permanent vinyl and have transfer paper to press it on the blocks
 - Your Words Are Like Honey Sweet to the Soul
- Bee-themed decor (ribbon, small bees, small honey dippers)
- Bubble wrap
- Hot glue

Fingerprint Bees:

- White paper plates (not plastic)
- Yellow paint
- Black paint
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- White or blue craft paper cut into hearts (2 hearts per student)

Wooden Spoon Bees:

- Wooden spoons (Look everywhere....these were on an endcap and cheaper in a multipack than individually).
- Black and yellow paint
- Black permanent marker
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Small felt or wooden bees
- Small black zip ties
- Assortment of bee-themed beads (ie, black and yellow)
- Hot glue

Honey Pot:

- Small flower pot
- Honey stirrer
- Small wooden or wool beads
- Permanent Markers
- Bubble wrap
- Yellow, black, gold, and white paint
- Hot glue

MASTER ITEM LISTS

Bee Windsock:

- Large Water bottle (smart water bottles work really well)
- Yellow craft paint
- Large googly eyes
- Black or brown pipe cleaners
- Large wooden hearts painted white or acrylic clear hearts (I found these at Hobby Lobby)
- Yellow Paint
- Black electrical tape
- Black permanent marker
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Hot glue
- Clear packing tape

Bee Encouraging Pins:

- Clothes pins
- Yellow paint
- Black fine point markers
- Small bees
- Hot glue

BEE'd Tassels or Keychains:

- Wood beads of various sizes
- Cording or twine
- Custom wood cutout tag
- Materials for tassel (jute, ribbon, yarn)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Small piece of cardboard.

BEE'd Flowers for Honey Pots:

- Beads
- Flower picks or wooden skewers
- Hot glue
- Foam
- Ribbons
- Any leftover wooden or felt bees left from the week

MASTER ITEM LISTS

Games

- Small to medium-sized balls that bounce
- Sidewalk chalk if you have a concrete place to play
- Several small hula hoops or rings painted in green, blue, red, and yellow evenly.
- Plastic spoons
- Bowls
- Small candy like M&M's or Skittles, or some type of cereal, even lentils or bird feed will work (this is your pollen). Be mindful of allergies
- Blow up beach balls (balls must be light and soft)
- Parachute or round tablecloth
- Small ball pit balls
- Pool Diving Rings or could be drawn with chalk.
- Beanbags in two colors or marked in some way to identify which team they belong to.
- Variety of oversized clothes, shoes, jackets, shirts, pants, scarves, church robes, etc. (Each team needs an equal amount of items)
- Box or suitcase to hold clothes in.

Snacks

(Note: items listed below do not account for substitutions due to allergies. Please consult the full recipes in the Pollination Station section.)

Energy Bites

Yields: 12-15 balls

- 1 cup Old-fashioned rolled oats (use certified gluten-free if needed)
- ½ cup Creamy peanut butter
- ⅓ cup Honey
- ½ cup Ground flaxseed or hemp seeds
- ½ cup Semi-sweet mini chocolate chips
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt

Honey-Glazed Honeycomb Snack Mix

- 6 cups Honeycomb cereal
- 2 cups Mini pretzels (twists or sticks)
- 1 cup Roasted peanuts or cashews
- ½ cup Unsalted butter
- ½ cup Brown sugar (packed)
- 2 tbsp Honey
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- ½ tsp Ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp Salt

MASTER ITEM LISTS

Classic Bee Stingers

Yields: 20 skewers

- 20 Large seedless purple grapes (washed and dried)
- 1 block (8 oz) Sharp yellow cheddar cheese
- 20 Long toothpicks or decorative bamboo skewers
- 2 tbsp Honey (for drizzling)
- Optional: Crushed walnuts or a sprinkle of black pepper for garnish

Honey-Drizzled Cornbread Muffins

Yields: 12 muffins

- 1 cup Yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup All-purpose flour
- ½ cup Granulated sugar (adjust to ¼ cup if you prefer them less sweet)
- 1 tbsp Baking powder
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 cup Whole milk
- 1 large Egg
- ¼ cup Unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- ¼ cup Honey (plus extra for drizzling)

"Busy Bee" Lemon Pudding Cups

Yields: 6–8 mini cups

- 2 cups Whole milk (or heavy cream for a richer mousse)
- 1 package (3.4 oz) Instant lemon pudding mix
- 1 cup Whipped topping (like Cool Whip) or freshly whipped cream
- 12–15 Golden Oreos or vanilla wafers (crushed into crumbs)
- 2 tbsp Honey (for drizzling)
- Optional Decor: Mini yellow chocolate candies (like M&Ms) or "bee" decorations.

Dirt and Worms Cups

Yields: 8-10 servings

- 2 cups Cold milk
- 1 package (3.9 oz) Instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 tbsp Honey (whisked into the pudding for a floral sweetness)
- 1 tub (8 oz) Whipped topping (like Cool Whip), thawed
- 1 package (approx. 14 oz) Chocolate sandwich cookies (Oreos), crushed into "dirt"
- Garnish: Gummy worms (the "grubs"), yellow/black sprinkles, or edible sunflower seeds

MASTER ITEM LISTS

Golden Honey Lemonade:

- 1 cup Freshly squeezed lemon juice (about 6–8 lemons)¹
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Honey (adjust to taste)
- 1 cup Hot water (not boiling)
- 4-5 cups Cold water
- Garnish: Lemon rounds and fresh mint sprigs

Honey-Sweetened Iced Tea:

- 6 Black tea bags (or 2 large family-sized bags)
- 4 cups boiling water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Honey
- 4 cups Cold water
- Optional: A pinch of baking soda (this removes bitterness and keeps the tea clear)

Experiments

Tornado Bottle (supplies per student)

- 1 Clear Plastic Bottle (16 oz or 20 oz water/soda bottles work best).
- Water (Fill bottles about $\frac{3}{4}$ full).
- 1 drop of Liquid Dish Soap (Clear or blue works well).
- 1 tsp of Glitter (Silver or white represents the "storm"; yellow/black represents the bees/pollinators in the garden, or whatever colors you already have).
- Duct Tape or Electrical Tape (To seal the cap permanently).

Seeing Sound Move (supplies per table or 3-5 students)

- 1 Sturdy Bowl
- Plastic Wrap (High-quality, "stretchy" wrap is best).
- 1 Large Rubber Band (To ensure the wrap is drum-tight).
- 1–2 tablespoons of Uncooked Rice or Salt
- 1 Small Metal Tray or Cookie Sheet (To hold near the bowl).
- A Metal Spoon.

Self-Inflating Balloon (supplies per student)

- 1 Empty Plastic Bottle (16 oz water bottle works great).
- 1 Balloon
- Baking Soda (2–3 teaspoons).
- White Vinegar (About $\frac{1}{2}$ cup).
- Small Funnel (Or a piece of paper rolled into a cone).
- Measuring Spoons.

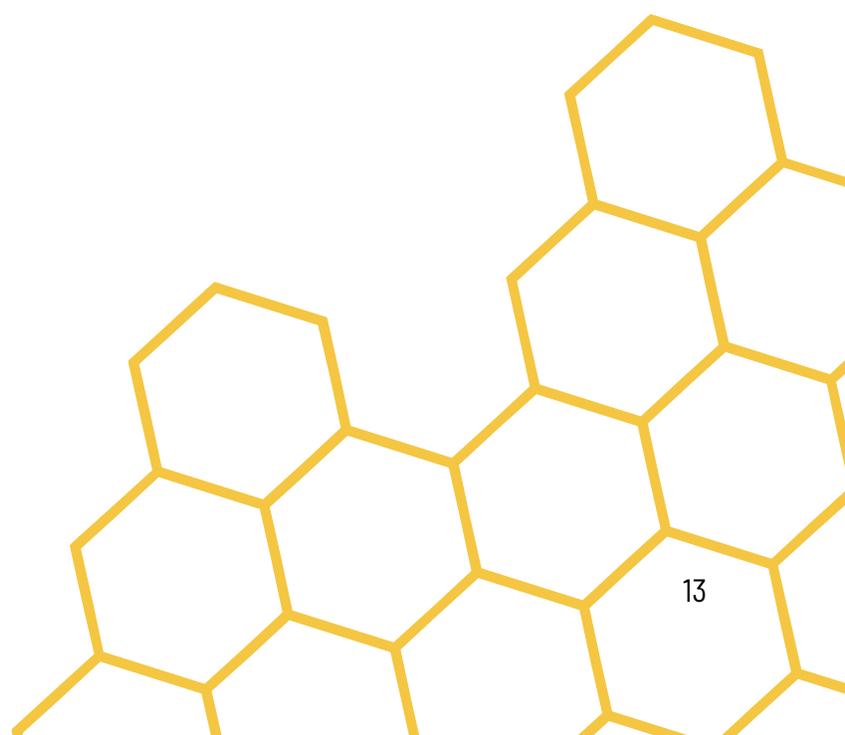
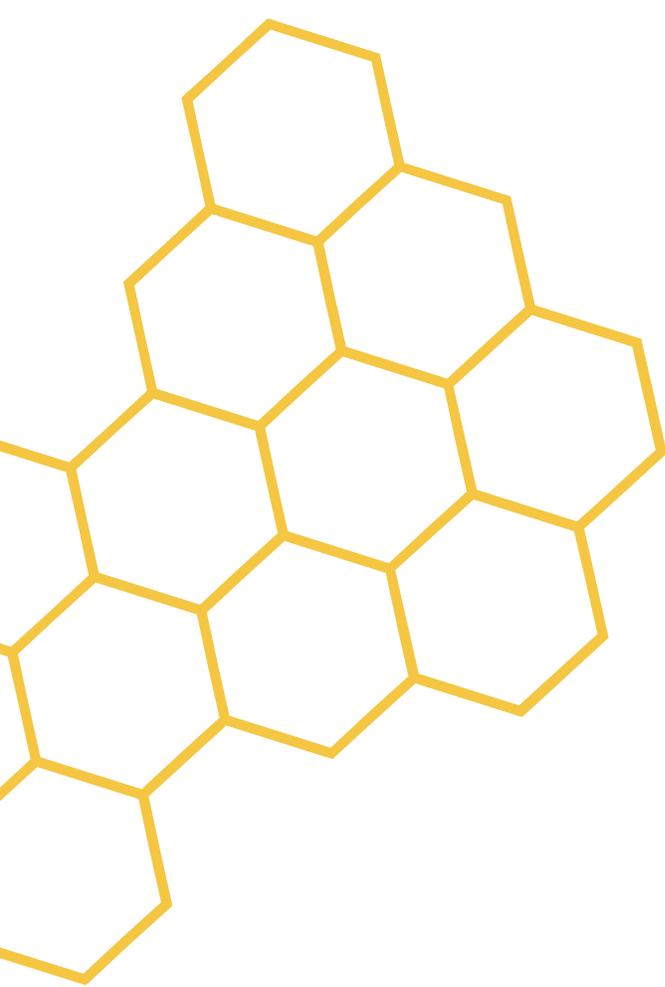
MASTER ITEM LISTS

Pulleys (supplies per group of 2-4, can be used throughout the day)

- 1 Pencil (or a smooth wooden dowel/stick).
- 3 feet of String or Yarn.
- 1 Plastic Grocery Bag
- 1-2 heavy rocks

Tie-Dye (supplies per student)

- 1 White T-Shirt (Pre-washed 100% cotton works best).
- Fabric Dye (Yellow and black for the bee theme could be suggested).
- Rubber Bands.
- Plastic Zip-lock Bags (To take the wet shirt home).
- Gloves and Aprons.
- Water and Squeeze Bottles.



THE HIVE SONGS

The music for the Helpful Hive is familiar tunes with new words!

Listed below are three different “remixed” songs straight from your hymnal! You can use your church’s pianist to accompany the students or find instrumental versions of the hymns on YouTube. If you’re a brave bee, write your own songs based on your church’s favorite songs!

Blessing, Blessing

Tune: Joyful, Joyful (Ode to Joy)
United Methodist Hymnal #89

Blessing, blessing, be a blessing.
Every day, the helpful hive
Goes to those who are distressing
Shares God’s love so they may
thrive

Each of us, we work together
Being loving, being kind
In sunny or stormy weather
No one will be left behind

All are welcome in God’s beehive
Young and old, the rich and poor
God’s love makes us come alive
And welcome all to heaven’s door

God calls each of us to care,
Small and big, we do our part,
Showing God’s love everywhere.
Serving God with joyful hearts.



Be My Bee Keeper

Tune: Be Thou My Vision (SLANE)
United Methodist Hymnal #451

Be my Bee Keeper, O God of
my days
Let my whole life serve in all
special ways.

Learning and playing, at day
and at night,
My wings are ready, O God, to
take flight.

Be my Bee Keeper, O God up
above
Send me into the world to
share your love
Like bees with pollen go from
flower to tree
I spread your goodness to each
human being.

Be my Bee Keeper, O God of us
all
You love each of us and give us
the call.
To be sweet as honey, as
helpful as bees.
To buzz and to work and to
pray on our knees.

O For a Thousand Bees

Tune: O For a Thousand Tongues to
Sing (AZMON) United Methodist
Hymnal #57

O, for a thousand bees to buzz our
great Bee Keeper’s praise.
We lift our wings up high and proud
to fly along God’s ways.

God’s Word is blessing to our ears,
sweet as a honeycomb.
And when that Word reaches our
hearts, we feel that we’re at home.

We set our stingers to the side, so
there is peace for all.
And when the hive all works as one,
then none can slip and fall.

God keeps us close and holds us
tight, all members of one hive.
Working as one to care for all, to
celebrate and thrive.



THE POLLENATION STATION

Leader Guide

Snacks are of utmost importance for children. This is where they fuel their bodies and minds to absorb all the learning each day. Food insecurity is prevalent for children in America, and it is safe to guess that some or many of the children you are serving are facing food scarcity issues at home. Therefore, providing snacks that are nutritious and filling is a way to serve your local children.

Food allergies are also a growing concern for establishments that feed people. We have offered substitutions for common allergens for each recipe. It is important to ask every child/guardian if there are any food allergies before mealtimes, so you are properly prepared.

In today's fast-paced society, many families don't take time to sit down for a meal. Therefore, this is a good time to teach children about gratitude and blessings.

Here is a simple, fun prayer the kids could learn to say this week before each mealtime:

God is good. God is real. Thank You for this sweet meal! Like a bee from flower to tree, send Your love through you and me. Amen!

Mealtimes are perfect for relationship-building moments. This would be a great time to let the kids share what they are learning and how they are feeling.

You can learn a lot about children in these simple moments by just taking time to get curious and ask them open-ended questions.

Here are a few conversation starters:

- What was the "sweetest" or best part of your morning so far?
- What was hard or "stung" a bit today?
- What is one thing you're looking forward to doing when you 'fly' home today?
- What is your 'Super Bee' power? What is one thing you are really, really good at?
- Bees live in big families. Do you have a big family or a small one? Who is the funniest person in your house?



If the kids are shy, try the "Pass the Pollen" game: Use a yellow pom-pom or a crumpled piece of yellow paper. Whoever is holding the "pollen" gets to answer the question, then they "fly" it (toss it gently) to the next person. It turns the conversation into a game and ensures every child gets a turn to speak.

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 1: Energy Bites

Yields: 12-15 balls

Ingredients

- 1 cup Old-fashioned rolled oats (use certified gluten-free if needed)
- ½ cup Creamy peanut butter
- ⅓ cup Honey
- ½ cup Ground flaxseed or hemp seeds
- ½ cup Semi-sweet mini chocolate chips
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt
-



Instructions

- 1.Mix: In a large bowl, stir all ingredients together until thoroughly combined. If the mixture feels too dry, add an extra tablespoon of peanut butter; if it's too sticky, add a tablespoon of oats.⁷
- 2.Chill: Cover the bowl and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. This allows the oats to hydrate, making the mixture much easier to roll.
- 3.Roll: Use a tablespoon or a small cookie scoop to portion the dough.⁸ Roll between your palms into 1-inch balls.
- 4.Store: Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator for up to 1 week or in the freezer for up to 3 months.

Dietary Restrictions Guide:

Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Nut Allergy	Nut Butter	Sunflower seed butter (SunButter) or WowButter (soy-based)
Vegan Diet	Honey	Maple syrup or agave nectar
Gluten Sensitivity	Oats	Ensure the package is labeled "Certified Gluten-Free" (standard oats are often cross-contaminated)
Dairy Allergy	Chocolate Chips	Use dark chocolate chips (70%+) or dairy-free brands like Enjoy Life.
Seed Allergy	Flaxseed	Replace with shredded coconut or extra oats

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 2: Honey-Glazed Honeycomb Snack Mix

Prep time: 10 mins | Bake time: 45 mins

Ingredients

- 6 cups Honeycomb cereal
- 2 cups Mini pretzels (twists or sticks)
- 1 cup Roasted peanuts or cashews
- ½ cup Unsalted butter
- ½ cup Brown sugar (packed)
- 2 tbsp Honey
- 1 tsp Vanilla extract
- ½ tsp Ground cinnamon
- ¼ tsp Salt



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 250°F. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.
2. Mix dry ingredients: In a large bowl, combine cereal, pretzels, and nuts.
3. Make syrup: In a saucepan over medium heat, melt butter, brown sugar, honey, and salt. Stir constantly and let it gently simmer for 2 minutes until smooth.
4. Add flavor: Remove from heat and stir in vanilla and cinnamon.
5. Combine: Pour syrup over the cereal mixture and stir until evenly coated.
6. Bake: Spread onto the baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes, stirring every 15 minutes.
7. Cool: Let cool completely on the pan until crunchy.

Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Gluten	Honeycomb Cereal	Honeycomb is typically made with corn and oats but often contains barley malt. Substitute with Gluten-Free Chex (Honey Nut) or a certified GF corn puff cereal.
Nut Allergy	Peanuts/Nuts	Replace with toasted pepitas (pumpkin seeds), sunflower seeds, or simply add more pretzels and cereal.
Dairy/Vegan	Butter	Use vegan butter sticks or refined coconut oil.
Gluten	Pretzels	Use Certified Gluten-Free pretzels (usually made from potato or cassava flour).
Vegan/Infant	Honey	Use Brown rice syrup or maple syrup.

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 3: Classic Bee Stingers

Yields: 20 skewers



Ingredients

- 20 Large seedless purple grapes (washed and dried)
- 1 block (8 oz) Sharp yellow cheddar cheese
- 20 Long toothpicks or decorative bamboo skewers
- 2 tbsp Honey (for drizzling)
- Optional: Crushed walnuts or a sprinkle of black pepper for garnish

Instructions

1. Prep the Cheese: Cut the cheddar block into 1-inch cubes. Try to keep them uniform so the skewers stand upright easily.
2. Assemble: Slide one grape onto the skewer, followed by one cube of cheese. Position it so the flat bottom of the cheese cube allows the skewer to "stand up" on the serving plate.
3. The "Stinger" Finish: Just before serving, drizzle the honey lightly over the grapes and cheese.
4. Garnish: If using, sprinkle a tiny bit of black pepper or crushed nuts over the honey to help it "pop."

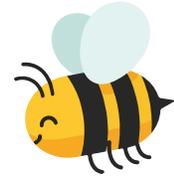
Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Dairy Allergy/Vegan	Cheddar Cheese	Use vegan cheddar style blocks (like Violife) or firm cubes of smoked tofu.
Vegan / Infant	Honey	Drizzle with a balsamic glaze reduction or agave nectar
Preference	Purple Grapes	Use olives for a different color profile.
Nut Allergy	Walnuts	Use toasted sunflower seeds or omit entirely for a crunch-free version.

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 4: Honey-Drizzled Cornbread Muffins

Yields: 12 muffins | Bake time: 15–18 mins



Ingredients

- 1 cup Yellow cornmeal
- 1 cup All-purpose flour
- ½ cup Granulated sugar (adjust to ¼ cup if you prefer them less sweet)
- 1 tbsp Baking powder
- ½ tsp Salt
- 1 cup Whole milk
- 1 large Egg
- ¼ cup Unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled
- ¼ cup Honey (plus extra for drizzling)

Instructions

1. Preheat & Prep: Preheat your oven to 400°F (200°C). Grease a 12-cup muffin tin or line with paper liners.
2. Dry Ingredients: In a large bowl, whisk together the cornmeal, flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt.
3. Wet Ingredients: In a separate bowl, whisk the milk, egg, melted butter, and ¼ cup of honey until well combined.
4. Combine: Pour the wet ingredients into the dry. Stir gently with a spatula just until combined—do not overmix, or the muffins will be tough. A few small lumps are okay.
5. Bake: Scoop the batter into the muffin cups, filling each about ¾ full. Bake for 15 to 18 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean.
6. The Drizzle: While the muffins are still warm, use a toothpick to poke a few small holes in the tops and drizzle generously with extra honey.

Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Gluten Allergy	All-Purpose Flour	Use a 1:1 Gluten-Free Flour Blend (ensure it contains Xanthan Gum).
Dairy Allergy	Milk	Use Unsweetened Almond, Soy, or Oat milk. For a "buttermilk" tang, add 1 tsp of lemon juice to the plant milk
Dairy/Vegan	Butter	Use Melted Coconut Oil or a vegan butter stick
Egg Allergy	Egg	Use a "Flax Egg" (1 tbsp ground flaxseed meal + 3 tbsp water, let sit for 5 mins)
Vegan/Infant	Honey	Use Maple Syrup or Agave Nectar

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 5: "Busy Bee" Lemon Pudding Cups

Yields: 6–8 mini cups



Ingredients

- 2 cups Whole milk (or heavy cream for a richer mousse)
- 1 package (3.4 oz) Instant lemon pudding mix
- 1 cup Whipped topping (like Cool Whip) or freshly whipped cream
- 12–15 Golden Oreos or vanilla wafers (crushed into crumbs)
- 2 tbsp Honey (for drizzling)
- Optional Decor: Mini yellow chocolate candies (like M&Ms) or "bee" decorations.

Instructions

1. Make the Pudding: In a large bowl, whisk together the milk and instant lemon pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let it sit for 5 minutes to firm up.
2. Lighten It Up: Gently fold in half of the whipped topping. This gives the pudding a "mousse-like" texture that holds up better in individual cups.
3. Create the "Hives": * Place 1 tablespoon of crushed golden cookies at the bottom of each mini glass or clear plastic cup.
 - Spoon or pipe the lemon mixture over the crumbs until the cup is $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
 - Add a final dollop of the remaining plain whipped topping to the top (to look like a fluffy cloud).
4. The Honey Garnish: Just before serving, drizzle a little honey over the top in a zig-zag pattern to mimic bee flight paths.
5. Add the "Bees": Place a few yellow candies or a tiny sugar bee on top to complete the look.

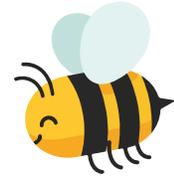
Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Dairy Allergy	Milk	Use Oat milk or Coconut milk. (Note: Instant pudding needs less liquid with plant milks; use 1.5 cups instead of 2)
Artificial Dyes	Pudding Mix	Use a Natural Lemon Curd thickened with cornstarch instead of a boxed mix to avoid Yellow #5
Gluten Allergy	Golden Oreos	Use Gluten-Free Oreos, Vanilla Wafers or crushed gluten-free graham crackers
Dairy Allergy	Whipped Topping	Use Coconut Whipped Cream or chilled coco-whip
Vegan/Infant	Honey	Use Agave nectar or a simple syrup infused with lemon zest

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 6: Dirt and Worms Cups

Yields: 8-10 servings



Ingredients

- 2 cups Cold milk
- 1 package (3.9 oz) Instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1 tbsp Honey (whisked into the pudding for a floral sweetness)
- 1 tub (8 oz) Whipped topping (like Cool Whip), thawed
- 1 package (approx. 14 oz) Chocolate sandwich cookies (Oreos), crushed into "dirt"
- Garnish: Gummy worms (the "grubs"), yellow/black sprinkles, or edible sunflower seeds.

Instructions

1. Prepare the Soil: Place the chocolate cookies in a large zip-top bag and crush them with a rolling pin until they look like fine potting soil.
2. Mix the Mud: In a large bowl, whisk the milk, honey, and instant pudding mix for 2 minutes. Let it stand for 5 minutes to thicken.
3. Lighten the Texture: Fold in the whipped topping until no white streaks remain. This creates a light, "moussey" texture.
4. Assemble:
 - Place a spoonful of cookie "dirt" at the bottom of a clear cup.
 - Add a layer of chocolate-honey pudding.
 - Add a few gummy worms so they are "peeking" out against the side of the glass.
 - Repeat the layers, finishing with a thick layer of cookie "dirt" on top.
5. Bee-ify It: Top with yellow and black sprinkles or a few "edible bees" (see the styling tips below). Chill for at least 1 hour before serving.

Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Dairy Allergy	Milk	Use Oat milk or Cashew milk. Note: Use 1/4 cup less liquid than the box calls for to ensure it sets.
Gluten/Soy	Sandwich Cookies	Use Gluten-Free Oreos.
Gelatin/Vegan	Gummy Worms	Use Aunt Annie's Organic Fruit Peels (cut into strips) or vegan-certified gummy brands like SmartSweets.
Dairy Allergy	Whipped Topping	Use coconut-based or a stabilized dairy-free whipped cream.
Vegan/Infant	Honey	Substitute with Agave nectar or omit; the chocolate pudding is plenty sweet!

THE POLLENATION STATION

Snacks Guide

Option 7: Golden Honey Lemonade

Ingredients

- 1 cup Freshly squeezed lemon juice (about 6–8 lemons)¹
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Honey (adjust to taste)
- 1 cup Hot water (not boiling)
- 4-5 cups Cold water
- Garnish: Lemon rounds and fresh mint sprigs



Instructions

1. Dissolve: In a small pitcher or bowl, whisk together the hot water and honey until the honey is completely dissolved. This creates a "honey simple syrup."
2. Combine: Pour the lemon juice and the honey syrup into a large serving pitcher.
3. Dilute: Add the cold water and stir well.
4. Chill: Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Serve over ice.

Option 8: Honey-Sweetened Iced Tea

Ingredients

- 6 Black tea bags (or 2 large family-sized bags)
- 4 cups Boiling water
- $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cup Honey
- 4 cups Cold water
- Optional: A pinch of baking soda (this removes bitterness and keeps the tea clear)

Instructions

1. Steep: Pour the boiling water over the tea bags. Let steep for 5–7 minutes. If using the baking soda, add it now.
2. Sweeten: Remove and discard the tea bags (don't squeeze them, or the tea will be bitter). While the tea is still hot, stir in the honey until dissolved.
3. Cool: Add the cold water to the pitcher to bring it to room temperature.
4. Serve: Pour over plenty of ice and garnish with a lemon wedge.

Dietary Restriction:	Ingredient to substitute:	Suitable alternative:
Vegan / Infant Safety	Honey	Replace with Agave Nectar or a Simple Syrup (equal parts sugar and water)
Caffeine Sensitivity	Black Tea	Use naturally caffeine-free and herbal or decaf black tea

HELPFUL HIVE

VBS Curriculum



DAY 1: OVERVIEW

Bee-Attitude

- Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted

Key Concepts

- When we notice someone having a hard time, we don't ignore it. We can step in with kindness, help in practical ways, and show them they're not alone
- We can always talk to God, especially when someone needs help

Kids will

- Hear Job's story and how he trusted God during tough times
- Talk about what hardship means and share ways people can feel hurt, sad, or struggle
- Explore how we can respond to hardship by caring, praying, and helping others
 - Midwest Mission's Disaster Relief

Craft Guide

This beehive craft reminds kids that homes need care and protection, helping them connect Job's hardships to ways they can share God's comfort through prayer, kindness, and giving supplies

Materials:

- 1 Small plastic bottle per child (8 oz Hug juice bottles that are clean and dry work well)
- Thin rope or thick twine
- Craft glue/hot glue
- Small oval of black craft paper
- Ribbon
- Small felt or wooden bees, Scrapbook stickers also work, but may need some glue

Game Guide

Option 1: Stuck in Honey (Freeze Tag)

Option 2: Caring for the Hive

Supplies:

- Small to medium sized balls that bounce

Experiment Guide: Tornado Bottle

This tornado bottle shows how disasters can cause loss and sadness, while reminding kids that God brings comfort and we can work together to help people after life's storms.

Supplies Per Kid

- 1 Clear Plastic Bottle (16 oz or 20 oz water/soda bottles work best)
- Water (Fill bottles about 3/4 full)
- 1 drop of Liquid Dish Soap (Clear or blue works well)
- 1 tsp of Glitter (Silver or white represents the "storm"; yellow/black represents the bees/pollinators in the garden or whatever colors you already have)
- Duct Tape or Electrical Tape (To seal the cap permanently)

Additional Resources

- Coloring page of First Responder Bee





DAY 1: WELCOME SCRIPT

Welcome Honeybees to the Helpful Hive! We are just so excited that you are here. We have been buzzing around getting ready for your arrival. This week we are going to visit the Helpful Hive and learn all about the BEE -attitudes, some Bible stories, and ways that we can help with mission projects right here in our church and neighborhood. I am buzzing with anticipation, because I have a feeling this week is going to be pretty Sweet! But before we get too far in let's take a minute and talk to God...or as some of my bumbly friends like to call him, The BeeKeeper.

Prayer

Oh Holy God, we know that you long to take us to the places that are overflowing with milk and honey. We pray that you will be with us this week, and let us have a safe and fun time, exploring the hive. Feed our hearts with the pollen of your plans so that we can grow and spread your love all over our neighborhoods and the world. Amen.

Overview

Today we will be visiting various parts of the Hive. You will travel in groups from one part of the Helpful Hive to another, learning, exploring, playing and gathering lots of God's pollen to germinate in your hearts, just what God has in store for you to do. It looks to be pretty sweet.

Creating Groups:

- You can decide how and when you want to split into groups
- Once they know what their group is, you can ask them to come up with a name for their group
- Encourage Bee-themed team names!
- Have each group share their name
- Write it down and place it where their group sits the next day so they can easily find their places

Learn Theme Song

We are going to teach you a theme song this week. Hopefully, you will catch on but just do your best to follow along.

play the theme song

Bee-attitude of the day

Great singing, everyone! Each day at VBS, we're learning a brand-new Beatitude. Bee-attitudes are ways Jesus teaches us how to live, and when we live His way, He says we are supremely blessed! Today's Beatitude says, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted."

That means when people are sad, hurting, or going through really hard times, Jesus cares and He sends comfort—often through people. When disasters like floods, tornadoes, or earthquakes happen, families can lose their homes, their belongings, and even their sense of safety, and that's where Midwest Mission comes in. Midwest Mission is a group of helpers who collect and send supplies to people after disasters, bringing things families need like cleaning supplies and hygiene kits, but also bringing hope and comfort to those who are mourning.

And here's the amazing part—we get to help too! We can be part of God's mission and show His love to people all around the world, all from right here in the Midwest. Helping others is one way we live out this Beatitude and show Jesus' love in action, and I know someone who can help us learn even more about what it means to comfort others and be part of God's mission. Are you ready to meet them?

Theme Song Tips:

- Choose one of the three Hive songs included in this packet
- You can use your church's pianist to accompany the students, sing A cappella, or use an instrumental version of the hymnal
- Repetition will help the kids learn the song quickly
- Give them time to practice the song

Introducing

Midwest Mission:

- On the resources page, you will find a link to a Midwest Mission slideshow. This might be helpful to show as you introduce the kids to who Midwest Mission is



DAY 1: SKIT SCRIPT

Bee: Starts to make crying sounds.

Leader: (freezes and looks around confused) Do you hear that? (More boohooing) I think I can hear someone crying? Do you hear someone crying? Hello....is someone out there? Hello? Are you ok?

Bee: (Pops out) Oh, there is someone here...I thought I was all alone.

Leader: Are you ok? I thought you would be with the other bees getting ready for all of our guests. (Motion toward the crowd).

Bee: I tried but it just seems like everything is going wrong today. First I woke up late, and then I slipped on honey and everyone laughed at me. Then I found out that my grandpa is really sick. After I visited him, I went back to my home and the rain had caused it to flood. I lost many of my belongings and my room is a big muddy mess. It seems impossible to get it all cleaned up. I feel like this day is just a giant disaster. Then when I found my friends, they were not very nice. They nicknamed me Fumble the Bumble, on account of all the things going wrong for me today. So I just hid over here so I could be by myself.

Leader: That does sound like a really bad day. I am sorry about your grandpa and your home. I am sorry you are feeling so low. I think what you need is a good friend and a new nickname. Something hopeful...something that sums up what God intends for you. I know Blessing! I am going to nickname you Blessing Bee!

Bee: I don't know...I don't feel like much of a blessing. And this day doesn't feel like much of a blessing. My favorite stuffie was washed away, and my bed is covered in muddy water, so I can't even wrap up in my favorite blankie...(Bee starts sobbing again)

Leader: You know you remind me of a story about a man named Job. He was having a really really bad day. He kept getting messages all day about all the things that were falling apart in his life. Then his friends came and they weren't much help either. He felt pretty sad and lonely, but he trusted God.

Bee: Who is God?

Leader: Well, God created all of this! Everything around us. And then we messed up and made a few mistakes...but God loved us and so he sent his son Jesus so that we could grow closer to him. Once I got to know Jesus my life bloomed with blessings. Then he called me to share those blessings with others. You know, scatter it around like pollen.

Bee: So you never have a bad day now?

Leader: Oh no, I still have bad days, and get bad news, but I know that God is taking care of me and that I can trust him. I know that he will comfort me when I am sad. And he has put a special call on my life so that I can help others who may need comfort, like you.

Bee: I want to know more about God and this person named Jesus. Do you think he might call me? I don't have a cell phone. Bees don't carry cellphones, you know, on account of all the honey and the stickiness...so I may miss that call.

Leader: No, silly he doesn't call us on a phone. He calls us in our hearts first to receive his forgiveness and love, then he gives us special gifts and ways to serve him and we answer that call by serving others. We also can talk to him about what is on our hearts through prayer.

Bee: Oh that sounds really amazing.

Leader: Oh it is...God's word is sweet like honey. And his love is for everyone.

Bee: Oh that sounds yummy, I do love honey. But right now, my home is such a mess I am not sure that I have time for God's call on my heart.

Leader: Well, it sounds like you need some help. First I think we should talk to God, then we should go and talk to the Helpful Hive, particularly the Responder Bees. I know just the Bee for the job...their name is (Insert an EMT/First Responder/Firefighter who is a member of your church). They rush in with emergency flood buckets, and other items just for circumstances like yours. They can help you clean up your home.

Bee: We can talk to God right now?

Leader: We can talk to God anytime, and especially when we are having days that are a disaster. Would you like me to pray for you?

Bee: I guess.

Leader: Let's bow our heads and just say what is on our heart. "Jesus, we pray that you will be near to my new friend Blessing Bee. Help them to feel your love and your comfort. They have had a really bad day, but I pray that you will help things turn around so that it can be sweet like honey. Amen."

Bee: I am starting to feel God's comfort already. Thank you.

Leader: I am about to head off into a big day around the hive, I can take you to the Responder bees. Would you like that?

Bee: Oh that would BEEEEEE the Bees Knees.

Leader: (laughs) Let's go. So who else wants to go buzz around the hive and have a sweet day!

Transition to Hive Activities

Wow. What a story.

We just saw that even on days that feel messy, sad, or totally upside down, God sees us and cares about us. When things go wrong, God doesn't buzz away—He comes close. He comforts us, forgives us, and calls us to be part of His plan.

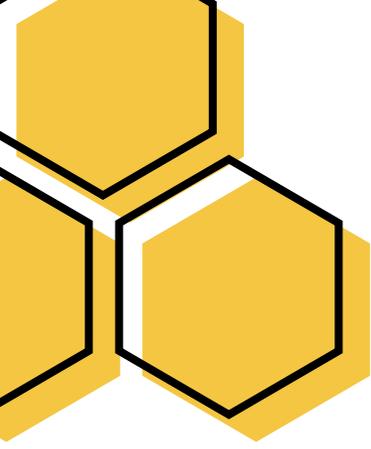
This week at VBS, you're going to learn more about who God is, who Jesus is, and how much you are loved. You're also going to discover that God has made each of you with a purpose—special gifts you can use to help others and spread His love, just like pollen spreading from flower to flower.

You won't do that alone. You'll have Bee Guides to lead you, friends to learn with you, and lots of fun as you move from Hive to Hive. Every place you go today is part of one big adventure God has planned just for you.

In just a moment, we're going to dismiss you by groups. When you hear your group called, find your Bee Guide and get ready to buzz off to your first Hive.

Get ready for a sweet day because God's love is sweeter than honey, and this hive is full of Blessing Bees!





DAY 1: BIBLE STORYTIME

Job 1:13-22 - Job refuses to curse God

Leader's Daily Dose of Nectar

The Book of Job is a very old folktale. The story doesn't give us an idea of when it is set (during the time of Moses, the Judges, David, etc.). The purpose of the book of Job is to have us consider the question: why do bad things happen?

This is a question that people still ask today.

The story is about a man named Job (name rhymes with "robe"), who lives a very happy and easy life. God takes everything away from him, seemingly to test him and see if he will respond by cursing God. Today's Bible story comes from the beginning of the book, when Job finds out that his workers, his livestock, and his children have all died. Instead of being angry at God, Job says that God gave him every blessing and takes it away and he will keep thanking God.

As the story of Job continues, Job's friends show up and tell him that he must have done something wrong for God to punish him like this. Eventually, God appears and tells Job that God's ways are above human's ways.

Today, you'll want to emphasize that when bad things happen, we don't want to blame God or blame the person. Instead, we support our friends going through a hard time and give them a hug or a kind word.

Job 1:13-22

“One day Job’s sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house. A messenger came to Job and said: “The oxen were plowing, and the donkeys were grazing nearby when the Sabeans took them and killed the young men with swords. I alone escaped to tell you.”

While this messenger was speaking, another arrived and said: “A raging fire fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and devoured the young men. I alone escaped to tell you.”

While this messenger was speaking, another arrived and said: “Chaldeans set up three companies, raided the camels and took them, killing the young men with swords. I alone escaped to tell you.”

While this messenger was speaking, another arrived and said: “Your sons and your daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother’s house, when a strong wind came from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It fell upon the young people, and they died. I alone escaped to tell you.”

Job arose, tore his clothes, shaved his head, fell to the ground, and worshipped. He said: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb; naked I will return there. The Lord has given; the Lord has taken; bless the Lord’s name.’

In all this, Job didn’t sin or blame God.”



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Job 1:13-22 - Job refuses to curse God

Materials Needed:

- Fancy clothes for Job. This can be a scarf or a hat, something simple to show that he's special
- Four envelopes or folded pieces of paper to represent letters
- A Bible

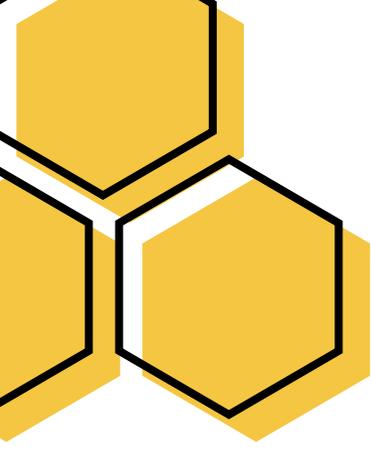
The Story Guide

Welcome to Bible Story Time! Here at this station, we are going to learn about stories in the Bible.

The Bible was written by a whole lot of people a long, long time ago, and in the Bible, there are stories that tell us about God's love for all people, the times when people messed up and made mistakes, and how God was with people even when times were tough.

Today's Bible story is about a really tough time, and it all starts with a guy named Job. Can we get someone to be Job? Job was rich and happy and he lived a perfect life. He also wore fancy clothes. Here we go, let's put this hat/scarf on Job so we can all see that he has money and he wears nice clothes.

One day, Job was just living his life when a messenger - can we get a messenger somewhere? Give them one of the letters and have them run up and hand it to Job - A messenger arrived with horrible news! Job was a farmer, and some bad guys showed up in the field and took all of his horses and oxen away from him. The messenger was the only one who escaped!



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Job 1:13-22 - Job refuses to curse God

And then another messenger showed up. Give them another letter to give to Job. This messenger ran up to Job and said that fire fell from the sky and burned up Job's sheep. The messenger was the only one who escaped.

And then another messenger showed up. Give them another letter to give to Job. This messenger ran up to Job and said that bad guys had come and taken all of Job's camels. The messenger was the only one who escaped.

And then, wouldn't you know it, one more messenger showed up. Give them the last letter to give to Job. This was the very worst news of all. This messenger said that all of Job's children were together, having dinner, when a big wind rose up, the house fell down, and it squished all of Job's children flat.

Whew! That's a lot of bad news! How do you think Job reacted?

What happened next was Job fell to his knees, tore off his fancy clothes, and then prayed to God. He said that he came into this world with nothing and would leave with nothing. But in the meantime, he was going to thank God for everything that he had, even when it was taken away from him.

He didn't get mad. He didn't say mean things about God. He didn't blame God. Instead, he prayed to God and said that he loved God. Really, really bad things happened to Job, but he knew that it wasn't God's fault.

Let's give a big round of applause for all of our helpers today!



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Job 1:13-22 - Job refuses to curse God

Discussion Questions

- Where did you see God in the story?
- Did anything make you sad in the story?
- Do things like this happen today?
- Have you ever had bad things happen to you?
- What did other people do to make you feel better?
- What do you think we should do when bad things happen to people?

(The answer that Job gives is that sometimes bad things just happen. It is our job to try to be helpful like sitting with people, giving them a hug if they need one, sending a nice note, or praying for them.)

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of Job. It makes us sad to think about people who lose things or lose their life in disasters. We pray that you help those who are in need. And help us to be good friends to people who are sad. Help us listen to their stories and do what we can to make them feel better again. Amen.

DAY 1: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Twine Bee Hive

Materials Needed:

- 1 Small plastic bottle per child (8 oz Hug juice bottles that are clean and dry work well)
- Thin rope or thick twine
- Craft glue/hot glue
- Small oval of black craft paper
- Ribbon
- Small felt or wooden bees , Scrapbook stickers also work but may need some glue
- (These can be found on Amazon in bulk).

Instructions

1. Beginning at the bottom of the bottle, place a small dot of hot glue and place end of rope in the glue so it holds to the bottle.
2. Continue to wrap the bottle in rope keeping the rope pressed against itself. If you are using craft glue, you may need to glue all of the rope as you press it to the bottle. If you use hot glue you can place small dots periodically to hold the rope in place.
3. (Younger children may need more assistance or use the alternate craft)
4. When the entire bottle is covered, place a small black oval of black paper on one of the sides near the bottom.
5. Take rope and glue around edge of black craft paper to make the appearance of an opening.
6. Take some ribbon and tie some bows to decorate the top.
7. Glue some small bees on the outside of the hive.



DAY 1: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 2: Paper Bee Hives

Materials Needed:

- Brown construction paper, but into very wide strips
- Bee stickers
- Solid sheet of blue construction paper as background
- Brown paper to cut a small branch (These can be precut or let the children cut their own shape)
- Glue

Instructions

1. Let the children color the sheet of bees and cut them out.
2. Have the children glue their brown paper branch to the blue paper near the top.
3. Roll the yellow paper horizontally around a thick marker, so that the paper is curved.
4. Glue one edge, and then glue the other edge so that it puffs out.
5. Continue adding yellow papers in longer and longer strips to make a hive.
6. When finished, glue paper bees to the hive.

You may also opt to glue the bees you ordered for the older children to the paper hive.



DAY 1: POST CRAFTS CONVERSATION GUIDE

Discussion Questions

- Can anyone tell me where bees live?

Bees can live in a lot of places, but typically, when we think about bees, we picture a beehive. A hive is a bee's home.

In our story today, a lot of bad things were happening at Job's home.

- Can anyone tell me some of the things that Job had to endure?

(If they have been in the story, they might know a few of the things above; if not, you can tell them a few of the things he endured listed above.) These were some pretty bad things. They probably made Job really sad.

Unfortunately, sometimes hard things happen, bad things, such as tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, and when they do, it can make us feel pretty sad. Even if it did not happen to us. But Jesus promises us in the Beatitudes, Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

- What are some ways that God comforts people? Can God use other people to bring us comfort? Many of you are kids. Are there ways that you can bring comfort to others as kids?

Another way that we can help is by sending supplies. At Midwest Mission, they have a list of items that make up a disaster kit. People of all ages, even kids, can collect and deliver them to Midwest Mission. When a disaster happens, Midwest Mission sends these items to people's homes to help them.

Today we made beehives as a reminder that we can bring comfort to others when disasters come to their homes.

DAY 1: GAMES GUIDE

Game 1: Stuck In Honey (Freeze Tag)

1. One person will be chosen as the Bee Keeper
2. One person will be chosen to be the Queen (King) Bee.
3. The rest of the students are worker bees. They will turn around in a designated area and try to avoid getting caught by the Bee Keeper.
4. If they are caught, they have to stand still because they are “Stuck in Honey.”
5. They can only be made free when the Queen Bee tags them again.
6. If the Queen Bee gets tagged, then they are frozen until every helper bee tags them once.

The object of the game is for the Bee Keeper to make all the helper bees stuck in honey. This can be accomplished if the Queen is “Stuck in Honey” after a Worker bee is “Stuck in Honey,” out of reach.

Game 2: Caring for the Hive

Materials Needed:

- Small to medium-sized balls that bounce

1. Have the children stand with their legs shoulder-width apart in a circle. Their feet should be touching the person’s foot next to them.
2. Give a few of the kids a ball and explain that if the ball rolls between their legs, they are out, and the circle gets smaller until only a couple of students are left.
3. Players may not move their feet to stop the ball, but they can try to catch it, as long as their feet remain in place.
4. The game ends when someone wins or the circle is too small to continue.

Optional Twist:

1. Players can’t stop the ball from rolling between their legs, but they can stop the ball from rolling between their neighbor’s legs with either their hands or their feet.

DAY 1: POST GAMES CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Buzz: Disaster Relief

- How did it feel when the ball went through your legs, or you got “Stuck in Honey,” and you were out?
- Was it kind of boring to be out of the game?
- How did it feel when your neighbor could help you?

It might have seemed like the other kids were having more fun when you were stuck on the sidelines or in place. For some of you, the games might have been a good experience. Especially, if you were able to stay in the game because your neighbors were taking good care of you. For others, it might have been frustrating because your neighbor wasn't doing anything to help. So you would just get knocked out of the game.

In our story today, a lot of bad things were happening to Job. He had to feel really frustrated. He couldn't stop bad things from happening, and they were taking him out. But then his friends showed up, and they could have helped him. They could have given him support, a kind word, or just sat with him, but instead, they were not very helpful. They made Job feel even worse.

Our actions make a difference to those around us. When we do nothing, it can make people feel sad, abandoned, left out, and hurt. But when we are willing to help our neighbors, we can make a difference. It can change how long they get to stay in the game.

- What are ways that we can help our neighbors, friends, or even people we have never met who have experienced some really bad things, like tornadoes, earthquakes, hurricanes, or fires?

Another way that we can help is by sending supplies. At Midwest Mission, they have a list of items that make up a disaster kit. People of all ages, even kids, can collect and deliver them to Midwest Mission. When a disaster happens, Midwest Mission sends these items to people's homes to help them and love them.

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT:

Tornado Bottle

Material List:

- 1 Clear Plastic Bottle (16 oz or 20 oz water/soda bottles work best).
- Water (Fill bottles about 3/4 full).
- 1 drop of Liquid Dish Soap (Clear or blue works well).
- 1 tsp of Glitter (Silver or white represents the "storm"; yellow/black represents the bees/pollinators in the garden, or whatever colors you already have).
- Duct Tape or Electrical Tape (To seal the cap permanently).

Instructions

- Fill your plastic bottle about 3/4 of the way with clean water.
- Add glitter
- Add just one drop of dish soap. (Too much soap will make it too bubbly to see the tornado!)
- Tighten the cap. (Have a leader add a piece of tape around the lid to make sure it doesn't leak)
- Hold the bottle by the neck. Give it a circular flick with your wrist (like you're stirring a giant pot of soup) for about 5 seconds, then stop and watch the center!

DAY 1 EXPERIMENT:

Tornado Bottle

Leader Script

Look at your bottle. When you swirl it, you can see a tornado. In our world, sometimes 'storms' happen—like floods, fires, or tornadoes. These things cause people to lose their homes or lose people they love. The Bible says, 'Blessed are those who mourn.' To mourn means to be very, very sad. It's okay to be sad and overwhelmed when destruction occurs

When you spin the bottle in a circular motion, you create a water vortex that looks just like a real tornado. This happens because of centripetal force, which is an inward-facing force that pulls the water toward the center of its circular path. As the water spins, gravity pulls it down through the center, but the spinning motion pushes the water against the sides of the bottle. This creates a hole in the middle (the "eye" of the storm), allowing air to flow up as the water flows down. The glitter acts as "debris," showing you exactly how the air and water move together in a powerful, organized spiral.

The Midwest Mission Connection: Now look at your bottle again. See how the water eventually slows down, and the glitter settles? That's what Midwest Mission does. They don't just watch the storm; they go to work. They send Tornado Kits, Flood and Cleaning Buckets. When someone is mourning because they have lost all their possessions, Midwest Mission shows up with a bucket filled with supplies. Just like bees work together to rebuild a hive if it gets knocked down, we work together as a hive of believers to help rebuild cities after a disaster. When you take this home, let the tornado remind you to pray for people going through 'storms,' and let the glitter remind you that Jesus promises to comfort us.



DAY 1: CLOSING SCRIPT

Welcome back, my little Honeybees!

- Did you have a sweet time today in the Helpful Hive?
- Do a few of you want to call out a few of your favorite parts of the Hive today?
- Can anyone tell me what our BEE - Attitude was today?
- What Bible story did we hear about?

Good job! We learned about Job. He was having a hard time. But he knew God was still in control, and he trusted God's plan even when he didn't understand it.

In a beehive, all the bees work together.

- What are some ways we learned that we can partner with our friends at Midwest Mission to help others going through difficult times, like natural disasters?

That's right, we can make flood buckets. That's a sweet way to spread pollen like hope, and it's something that we can do right here in our local church or at our homes.

Just knowing that we can all BEE a Blessing makes my heart want to sing God's praises. Will you join me in buzzing along to one of our Helpful Hive songs?

Sing one of the hive songs



Great Singing! Well, my little Honeybees, it is time for us to buzz out to our favorite flower petals, but we hope to see you tomorrow at the Helpful Hive so that we can learn a new BEE - Attitude and gather more nectar to be turned into sweet honey. How about we close by talking to the Ultimate Bee-Keeper in prayer?

Prayer

Oh, Holy God, we thank you for such a sweet day. We thank you for all the little honeybees that came today and for this Helpful Hive. We pray that you will help us to see ways to turn the nectar we have gathered here this day into honey that flows in comfort to all the world. Thank you for a sweet day! Amen.

Dismiss

Be sure each student is released to an adult on their registration form.

DAY 2: OVERVIEW

Bee-Attitude

- Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth

Key Concepts

- Listen First: When we stay quiet and listen for God's voice, we can learn what God is calling us to do
- Meek Is Mighty: Being meek means being humble and ready to learn, and God can use humble hearts to do big things

Kids will

- Hear Samuel's story and learn how he listened for God's voice
- Talk about what it means to be meek and why listening and learning matter
- Explore how God can use humble hearts to do big things
- Learn how Midwest Mission's Education Kits help children learn and grow

Craft Guide

Kids will create a craft that reminds them that God knows them by name and calls each of them in a unique way. As they work, they'll talk about listening for God's voice, humbling their hearts, and using the special gifts God has given them to serve others.

Materials:

- 3 blocks of wood that are 4 inches, 6 inches, and 8 inches long but the same width and depth
- Craft Paint in black, white and yellow, and gold
- Fine tipped permanent markers that are white, black and gold
- Bee themed decor (ribbon, small bees, small honey dippers)
- Bubble wrap
- Hot glue

Game Guide

Option 1: Flower HOP or POP

Option 2: Bumble Bumble Bee (Duck, Duck, Goose)

Supplies:

- Sidewalk chalk (if you have a concrete place to play)
- Several small hula hoops or rings painted in green, blue, red, and yellow evenly

Experiment Guide: Seeing Sound Move

Kids will explore how sound and vibrations work through a hands-on experiment, helping them understand how something invisible can still be powerful.

Supplies Per Table: (3-5 kids)

- 1 Sturdy Bowl
- Plastic Wrap (High-quality, "stretchy" wrap is best).
- 1 Large Rubber Band (To ensure the wrap is drum-tight).
- 1-2 tablespoons of Uncooked Rice or Salt
- 1 Small Metal Tray or Cookie Sheet (To hold near the bowl).
- A Metal Spoon

Additional Resources

- Coloring page of Teacher Bee





DAY 2: WELCOME SCRIPT

Welcome back everyone! We are buzzing with excitement at your return. Today we are going to have so much fun at the Hive as we learn how to listen to God's voice and humble ourselves, in order that God can use us to do pretty big things. In a hive it takes tremendous teamwork, and you all look like a pretty good team. Are you ready for another Sweet day at the Helpful Hive? Great! Let's pray.

Prayer

Oh Holy God, help us to hear your voice calling for us. Keep us humble, keep us meek, so that we are open to learning, exploring and finding out all about you. Keep us curious and empathetic to the needs of those around us. In Jesus Name we pray. Amen.

Overview

Remember that we will be visiting various parts of the Hive. You will travel in groups from one part of the Helpful Hive to another, learning, exploring, playing and gathering lots of God's pollen to germinate in your hearts, just what God has in store for you to do.

Sing Theme Song together

Reflection

Questions:

- Can someone tell me what a beatitude is?
- Can someone else tell me what beatitude we learned about yesterday?
- Who's story did we hear yesterday?
- What did we learn from Job?

Tips:

- Invite the kids to get more involved: praying, leading the theme song, etc.

Bee-attitude

Today we are going to learn another one. It is: “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth”. Meek means that we are quiet and we listen to learn and understand. In today’s Bible passage we are going to hear about a boy named Samuel, who was studying and learning about God.

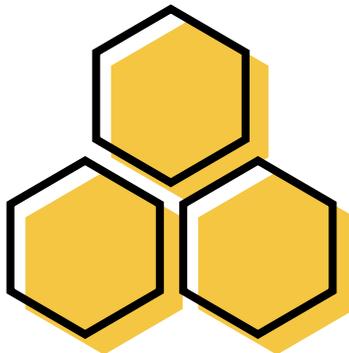
You will learn today why it was important for Samuel to stay meek, learn and listen.

Learning and curiosity are important. Some children don’t have things like notebooks, pencils and other things necessary for school.

- Would it be hard to learn if you didn’t have any school supplies?

At Midwest Mission they are collecting education kits so that students that don’t have school supplies have a way to get supplies that they can use in order to learn. And today, we are going to learn ways that we can help provide those education kits!

But first, let’s welcome back our friend, Blessing Bee!



Midwest Mission

Reflection:

- Can anyone remember what we learned about Midwest Mission yesterday?
- How does Midwest Mission help people?



DAY 2: SKIT SCRIPT

Bee : (Little bee calls out the leaders name frantically and excited)

Leader: Oh, look friends, it's our little friend Blessing Bee! How are you? Did the Relief Bees help out with your home?

Bee: Yes. It's going to take some time, but other bees are working together to help rebuild that part of the hive. They BEE-lieve they will have it restored with teamwork very soon. I still miss a lot of my things, like my favorite stuffie and of course I wish I could curl up in my blankets.

Leader: That is sad, but you will get a new favorite stuffie, and some cuddly new blankets. The team will take care of you and hopefully, before long you start to feel better again.

Bee: Well I decided that maybe I needed more of God in my life. So before I went to sleep I decided to try praying again. I remembered what you said, when you explained that we just tell God whatever is on our heart. I told him that I would really like him to call me. But not on the phone because of the whole sticky honey thing.

Leader: Oh Blessing...you are so silly.

Bee: But then in the night when I was asleep I thought, I heard him calling to me. Except he didn't call me Fumble...he called me Blessing like you do. So I answered him.

Leader: - Oh that's sweet. But it also makes me think of a story from the Bible. There was once a boy named Samuel. His mother brought him to the temple to learn and serve God. He was taught by a man named Eli.

One night when he was asleep he heard Eli calling to him. So he got up and ran to Eli, except it wasn't Eli. Eli told him to go back to sleep. So the boy went back to sleep and then he heard his name called again. So he ran to Eli and again Eli told him, leave me be...I'm not calling for you, go back to sleep. So then the boy heard his name a THIRD time.

This made Eli sit up in bed and do some thinking. He realized that perhaps it was God calling Samuel. So Eli told him If his name was called again, he should say, "Yes, Lord, Your servant is listening."

Bee: Did he hear his name again?

Leader: He sure did. He heard his name called out again and this time, he answered, Yes, Lord, your servant is listening.

Bee: So when God wants to reach us he will keep calling until we realize its him.

Leader: He sure will. When he wants to call us to something he will continue to make that call over and over. He knows that we don't always hear or understand the first time, but he keeps pursuing us until we listen.

Bee: Oh that's good because I would hate to be a stinger and miss God's calling me.

Leader: Don't worry you can't really miss God's call. Especially, if you remain meek. Jesus said, Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. I think it's God's way of saying those that are quiet and listen for the still quiet voice of God will be the ones that do the most to help those on earth. But we have to listen and stay curious, like Samuel.

Bee: I think I want to learn more about God.

Leader: That's a great idea.

Bee: Oh but I don't have any supplies. All my stuff was ruined in the flood and now I don't even have a pollen to write with.

Leader: Well I don't know about pollen but why don't we go and see if we can get an Education Kit and then I will introduce you to our local Teacher Bee. Their name is (Insert a prominent teacher's name from your church). I am sure they will be able to help you.

Why don't you go on ahead to the hive school and I will meet you there as soon as I get our friends started on their Honey Adventures in the Helpful Hive.

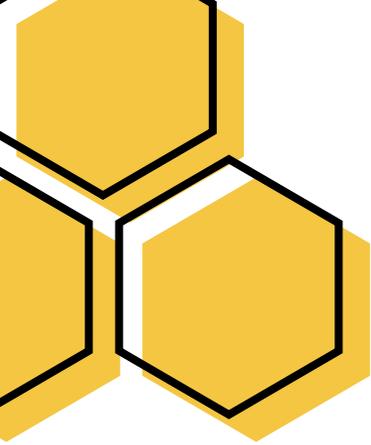
Transition to Hive Activities

Wow, friends! Just like Samuel, Blessing Bee heard God calling and answered with a humble, ready heart. Today, we're going to practice being meek and listening carefully, just like Samuel did.

You'll follow your Bee guide from Hive to Hive, exploring, learning, and collecting God's pollen along the way. Each stop will help you see how listening, learning, and using your gifts can make a big difference.

Now let's get ready to head to our first Hive and start our Honey Adventures in the Helpful Hive!





DAY 2: BIBLE STORYTIME

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (Young Samuel called by God)

Leader's Daily Dose of Nectar

The prophet Samuel plays a pivotal role in the history of Israel. He is best known for anointing King David, recognizing God's call on David's life while David was still a young shepherd. Samuel served as a bridge between the time of the judges and the time of the kings, faithfully listening to God and guiding the people of Israel during a season of great change. Two books of the Bible, 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel, are named after him because of his deep influence on Israel's spiritual direction.

Samuel's story begins with his mother, Hannah, a woman of deep faith who longed for a child but was unable to have one. In her grief, Hannah prayed earnestly to God, promising that if God gave her a son, she would dedicate him to the Lord's service. God answered her prayer, and when Samuel was born and old enough to be weaned, Hannah kept her promise and brought him to live at the Temple. There, Samuel was raised under the care of the priest Eli, learning how to serve God, listen, and grow in wisdom and obedience.

Today's story focuses on Samuel's call—the moment when he first heard God's voice. In the quiet of the night, Samuel mistook God's call for Eli's voice until Eli realized what was happening and taught Samuel how to respond: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." This moment marked the beginning of Samuel's life as a prophet. From that day forward, Samuel listened carefully to God and followed God's direction, becoming a faithful leader whose obedience helped shape the future of Israel and changed the nation forever.

1 Samuel 3:1-10

Now the boy Samuel was serving the Lord under Eli. The Lord's word was rare at that time, and visions weren't widely known. One day Eli, whose eyes had grown so weak he was unable to see, was lying down in his room. God's lamp hadn't gone out yet, and Samuel was lying down in the Lord's temple, where God's chest was.

The Lord called to Samuel. "I'm here," he said.

Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call you," Eli replied. "Go lie down." So he did.

Again the Lord called Samuel, so Samuel got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

"I didn't call, my son," Eli replied. "Go and lie down."

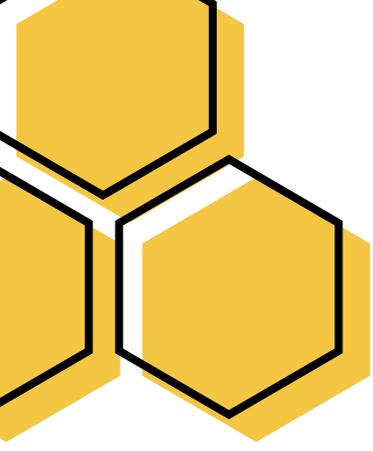
(Now Samuel didn't yet know the Lord, and the Lord's word hadn't yet been revealed to him.)

A third time the Lord called Samuel. He got up, went to Eli, and said, "I'm here. You called me?"

Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, "Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, 'Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down where he'd been.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling just as before, "Samuel, Samuel!"

Samuel said, "Speak. Your servant is listening."



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (Young Samuel called by God)

Materials Needed:

- Pillow or blanket for Samuel
- Pillow or blanket for Eli

The Story Guide

Today's Bible story is about a boy named Samuel. We aren't completely sure how old Samuel was in the story. He wasn't a baby or a toddler, and he was called a child, so he wasn't a teenager yet. In fact, he could have been exactly your age!

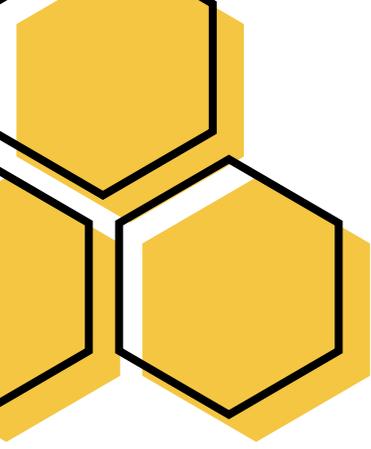
Samuel didn't live with his mom or his dad or any members of his family. He lived at the Temple, where people came to worship God, and from the time he was a little kid, he helped the priests with taking care of the Temple and offering sacrifices to God.

Does anyone want to be Samuel for us today?

Samuel had someone teach him how to take care of the Temple. That man's name was Eli. Eli was really, really, really old! Who's gonna be our Eli?

You can choose the oldest adult in the room to be Eli, with gentle teasing, or have the children give their best impressions of an old person in order to decide.

One night, it was super late, and both Samuel and Eli were sleeping. Give them the pillows or blankets and set them up on opposite sides of the space. You can even have them fake snore or have the rest of the children fake snore with them.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (Young Samuel called by God)

That night, suddenly, Samuel heard a voice saying, “I’m here.” Samuel woke up with a start. Show us how you wake up scared, Samuel. Good! Samuel woke up, and who do you think he thought was speaking to him?

The kids will probably guess “God” - correct them. No, he thought that it was Eli! So Samuel got up and ran and woke up Eli and said, “I’m here, I’m here, what do you need?”

Eli, who liked his sleep, rolled over and grumbled, “It wasn’t me. Now go back to sleep.” So Samuel went back to his bed and fell back asleep.

Encourage everyone to snore again.

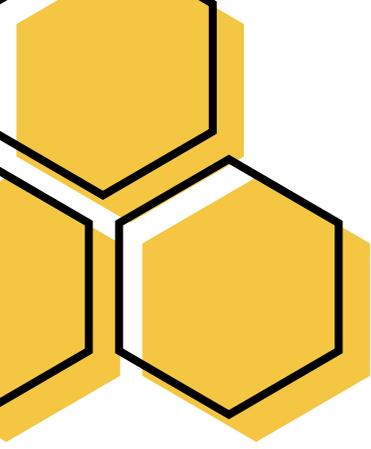
Then Samuel heard the voice again. “I’m here.” Samuel woke up, scared, and raced to Eli again. “I’m here, I’m here, what do you need?”

Eli rolled over to his other side and said, “No, I told you, it wasn’t me. Go back to sleep!” So Samuel went back to his bed and fell back asleep.

Everyone snores again.

And then, a third time, the voice spoke. “I’m here.” Samuel woke up, getting a little frustrated this time. Let’s see your frustrated face, Samuel. He ran to Eli and said, “I’m here, I’m here, what do you need?”

Finally, Eli sat up and thought. Let’s see your thinking face, Eli. And then Eli realized something. Let’s see your face where you understand, Eli. Great! Eli realized who Samuel was hearing. He was hearing God in his dreams.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Samuel 3:1-10 (Young Samuel called by God)

Eli sent Samuel back to bed and he told him what to do this time. Samuel listened to him and crawled back in bed and finally fell asleep.

More snoring.

What did the voice say? Do you guys remember? “I’m here.”

This time, Samuel woke up, but he wasn’t scared. He sat up and said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

Let’s give Samuel and Eli a big round of applause for their help!

Discussion Questions

- Where do you see God in the story?
- Do you think that God is still speaking to people today?
- Have you ever heard God telling you to do something?
- What happened when you listened to that voice?
- Is anyone too young to have God talk to them?

God is speaking to each of us, telling us how we should live and what we should do. When we are quiet, we can pay attention and hear God.

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of Samuel. It is a little scary to think that you would call each of us to listen to you and follow you. But it is exciting too! Help us to be quiet sometimes, so that we can hear your voice and do what you want us to do. Amen.

DAY 2: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Encouragement Plaque

Materials Needed:

- 3 blocks of wood that are 4 inches, 6 inches, and 8 inches long, but the same width and depth (1 to 2 inches so they will stack on each other)
- Craft Paint in black, white, yellow, and gold
- Fine-tipped permanent markers that are white, black, and gold
- Bee-themed decor (ribbon, small bees, small honey dippers)
- Bubble wrap
- Hot glue
- Optional: Cricut or Cameo supplies to make letters/words

Instructions

1. Have the kids take their painted blocks from the day before and stack and glue them. Centering each one on top of the one below it.
2. Write the words with permanent marker: "Your Words...Are Like Honey...Sweet to the Soul"
3. Make sure the words are positioned where you want them before placing them on the blocks. If writing them, perhaps have the students prewrite them in pencil then trace the letters.
4. Use the various bee decor to decorate the blocks. (ie...hot glue bees, ribbons, on the empty spaces, Press the bubble wrap in the gold paint and stamp the wood to make small honeycomb marks.) Each child's will look different and unique to them.



DAY 2: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 2: Fingerprint Bees

Materials Needed:

- White paper plates (not plastic)
- Yellow and Black paint
- Googly eyes
- Pipe cleaners
- White or blue craft paper cut into hearts (2 hearts per student)

Instructions

1. Allow the kids to paint the plates yellow or prepaint them the day before.
2. Have the children dip their thumb in black paint or and make thumbprints across the plate in 2 or 3 rows, creating the stripes on the bee.
3. Glue the hearts on the edge of the plate for wings and the eyes toward the top, tape the pipe cleaners on top for antennas.



DAY 2: POST CRAFTS CONVERSATION GUIDE

Discussion Questions

- In the story of Samuel there is someone that keeps calling out Samuel's name while he sleeps?

He thinks that it is Eli, but finally Eli realizes who is calling Samuel.

- Can anyone tell me who was calling Samuel? What do you think it would be like to hear God calling your name? (Allow the kids to speculate, there are no wrong answers)

It would be pretty sweet to hear God calling our names, right? But did you know that God has called us? First he made us all different and unique, even down to our fingerprints, and he also gave us different talents, and gifts. Things that we are good at and that only we can do. Then he gave us his word. The Bible says that God's word is sweeter than honey. And through his word, he calls us to use our gifts and talents to help others and make a difference.

- So how do we hear his word? (Again allow the kids to speculate).

We have to humble ourselves. When we are humble then we can hear God's word and hear his call. Jesus said Blessed are the meek because they will inherit the earth. When we humble our hearts and hear God's sweet word calling us, we will know what his plan is for us on earth and the way that he wants us to answer. We must humble our heart so that God can teach us, the unique way he made us to serve him and his purpose.

DAY 2: GAMES GUIDE

Game 1: Flower Hop or Pop

Materials Needed:

- Sidewalk chalk if you have a concrete place to play
- Several small hula hoops or rings painted in green, blue, red, and yellow evenly.

1. Beforehand, draw several large flowers in various colors with the sidewalk chalk or spread the hula hoops around if you are on the grass.
2. Have the kids stand at one end of the lot. Their goal is to get to the other end without getting out.
3. Call out a Color and then the word HOP or POP.
4. If you say, Hop then the students will try to hop to a flower of that color in one jump.
5. If you say POP they are to remain where they are.
6. If they jump to the wrong color or when you say pop they have to go back to the beginning or they are out, depending on how you feel your students will remain best focused.
7. If a flower is the right color but not close enough to hop to, the student will have to stay in place until something closer is called.
8. It's important to have a variety of colors scattered all over the field.
9. First one to get from one end of the lot to the other is the winner.

Game 2: Bumble Bumble Bee

1. This is just Duck Duck Goose with a Bee themed name.
2. Set students in a circle. One person gets to be the Queen (King) Bee and they go around saying Bumble...Bumble...Bee...and when they say Bee...
3. They take off running and try to make it around the circle back into the person, whom they tagged's place.

DAY 2: POST GAMES CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Buzz: Education

Today we played a couple of games that required a certain skill.

- Can anyone tell me what that skill is?
- Was it hard to listen?
- What things distract us from listening?
- Why was listening so important in the games today?
- There was no way to get ahead if you weren't listening, was there?

In the story of Samuel there is someone that keeps calling out Samuel's name while he sleeps. He thinks that it is Eli, but finally Eli realizes that it's God that is calling for Samuel.

- What does he tell Samuel to do?

Samuel has to listen so that he can hear God and then he is supposed to answer with certain words.

- Does anyone know what those specific words are?

The words that he is to say are, "Speak, your servant Samuel is listening." Samuel is told to answer by Listening.

- Our Beatitude today is to Blessed are the Meek. Does anyone know how that ties into listening?

Well to be meek means to be humble, to be quiet, to pay attention, and listening is a huge part of that. Samuel was meek because when he realized that God was calling him he was willing to stay humble and meek, which allowed him to listen and learn what God wanted to teach him.

At Midwest Mission they collect kits for kids that are also learning and listening. Samuel learned from Eli, and learned from God. We too need to listen to our teachers and pay attention. These Education kits help students focus and listen so they learn like Samuel did and like you do, and follow God's plan.

DAY 2 EXPERIMENT:

Seeing Sound Move

Material List: (per 3-5 kids)

- 1 Sturdy Bowl
- Plastic Wrap (High-quality, "stretchy" wrap is best).
- 1 Large Rubber Band (To ensure the wrap is drum-tight).
- 1-2 tablespoons of Uncooked Rice or Salt
- 1 Small Metal Tray or Cookie Sheet (To hold near the bowl).
- A Metal Spoon.

Instructions

- Stretch a piece of plastic wrap over the top of your bowl. It needs to be very tight, like a drum head, with no wrinkles.
- Snap a rubber band around the rim to make sure the plastic doesn't slip.
- Sprinkle a small amount of rice or salt on top of the plastic wrap.
- Hold the metal tray close to the bowl (but not touching it!). Hit the tray sharply with the metal spoon.
- Watch what happens to the rice. Try humming or singing a low "Bzzz" sound near the bowl to see if you can make the rice move with just your voice.

DAY 2 EXPERIMENT:

Seeing Sound Move

Leader Script

In our story today, young Samuel was lying down in a quiet place. It was dark and still. Suddenly, he heard a voice calling his name: 'Samuel! Samuel!' He thought it was his teacher Eli, but it was God! Samuel had to be meek—which means he had to be quiet and humble enough to listen.

When you hit the metal tray with the spoon or hum a note, you are creating sound waves that travel through the air. These waves are invisible ripples of energy. When these ripples hit the tightly stretched plastic wrap, they cause the plastic to vibrate just like your eardrum. We can see this invisible energy in action because the vibrations knock the salt or rice grains into the air, making them "dance" across the surface. The louder the sound or the deeper the hum, the more energy is transferred to the plastic, causing the rice to jump even higher.

The Midwest Mission Connection: Sometimes, God whispers to our hearts and tells us that a child far away needs help. Midwest Mission listens to those whispers every day. They know that many children around the world are 'mourning' because they want to go to school but don't even have a pencil or a piece of paper. Midwest Mission works in a 'meek' way, they don't do it for fame; they quietly pack thousands of Student Kits each year. Just like the invisible sound waves move the rice, these kits move a child's life forward. When a child receives a kit from Midwest Mission, they hear God's whisper telling them, you are loved. Bees are also very sensitive to vibrations. They use their antennae to 'feel' the buzz of other bees in the hive. Let's be like the bees and work to quiet our own 'buzzing'—our talking, our electronics, and our busy-ness—so we can feel and listen for others who may need our attention.



DAY 2: CLOSING SCRIPT

Welcome back my little Honeybees! What another sweet day in the Helpful Hive! Do a few of you want to call out a few of your favorite parts of the Hive today?

- Can anyone tell me what our BEE - Attitude was today?
- What Bible story did we hear about?

Sweet Pollen! That is right.

We learned about Samuel. God called his name and he listened and learned in order to know what God's plan was for him.

- In what ways can we be part of the Helpful Hive and BEE a Blessing by helping Midwest Mission?

That's right we can help put together Education Kits so that others can have the resources they need to learn.

Just knowing that we can all BEE a Blessing, makes my heart want to sing God's praises. Will you join me in buzzing along to one of our Helpful Hive songs?

sing theme song



Great Singing! Well my little Honeybees it is time once again for us to buzz out to our favorite flower petals, but we hope to see you again tomorrow at the Helpful Hive so that we can learn a new BEE - Attitude and gather more nectar to be turned into sweet honey. But before we go, let's talk to the Great Bee Keeper.

Prayer

Oh Holy God, wow we had such a sweet day! Thank you for showing us all the ways that we can humble ourselves and learn about your plan. Help us to quiet our hearts in meekness so that we can hear you calling our names. Thank you for a sweet day! Amen.

Dismiss

Be sure each student is released to an adult on their registration form.



DAY 3: OVERVIEW

Bee-Attitude

- Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Key Concepts

- The Bible shows us that God sees people's needs and provides for them, even in hard times.
- God can use his people (us) to share food, give generously, and work together to care for people who don't have enough of what they need

Kids will

- Hear the story of Elijah and the widow and learn about God's provision
- Talk about food insecurity (hunger), and its impact on others
- Explore how we can help those who are hungry
 - Midwest Mission's Blessing Bag meals

Craft Guide

The spoon craft reminds kids of the widow who shared her last bit of food with Elijah and saw God provide, helping them see that when we give generously and trust God, He can use what we share to care for others who are hungry.

Materials:

- Wooden spoons
- Black and yellow paint
- Black permanent marker
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Small felt or wooden bees
- Small black zip ties
- Assortment of bee-themed beads (ie, black and yellow)
- Hot glue

Game Guide

Option 1: Queen Bee (rock, paper, scissors)

Option 2: Pollen to the Hive

Supplies:

- Sidewalk chalk (if you have a concrete place to play)
- Several small hula hoops or rings
- Plastic spoons
- Bowls
- Pollen (M&M's, Skittles, cereal, bird feed, etc.)
- Blow up beach balls

Experiment Guide: Self-Inflating Balloon

This experiment shows how God fills our needs—just like He provided for the widow—while reminding kids that we can help “fill” others by sharing food and supporting meals for people who are hungry.

Supplies Per Kid

- 1 Empty Plastic Bottle (16 oz water bottle works great)
- 1 Balloon
- Baking Soda (2–3 teaspoons)
- White Vinegar (About 1/2 cup)
- Small Funnel (Or a piece of paper rolled into a cone).
- Measuring Spoons

Additional Resources

- Coloring page of Chef Bee





DAY 3: WELCOME SCRIPT

Welcome all my little honeybees. I am so glad to see you at the hive today. We are already on day three! This week is sure going really fast. As always, it is so sweet to have all you little honeybees here today. We are so happy to have you at our hive, gathering pollen and furthering the work at the Helpful Hive. Let's open with prayer.

Prayer

Oh, Holy God, you care for the birds, the flowers, the bees, and all of your beautiful creations. You provide our needs and feed us with good things. Help us to remember that sometimes, you use us, your little honeybees, to do that work. Give us hearts eager to share food with those who do not have food and to care for those who are in need. Bless our day together at the hive and let it pollinate new ideas and new ways that we can serve you. Amen.

Overview

Remember that we will be visiting various parts of the Hive. You will travel in groups from one part of the Helpful Hive to another, learning, exploring, playing, and gathering lots of God's pollen to germinate in your hearts, just what God has in store for you to do.

Reflection

Questions:

- Can someone tell me what a beatitude is?
- Can someone else tell me what beatitude we learned about yesterday?
- Whose story did we hear yesterday?
- What did we learn from Samuel?

Tips:

- Invite the kids to get more involved: praying, leading the theme song, etc.

Sing Theme Song together

Bee-attitude

Great Singing! Each day, we have been learning about a new Beatitude. Remember Beatitudes are supreme blessedness. They were taught to us by Jesus, and when we live following a Beatitude, Jesus says that we are going to be supremely blessed. Well, today's beatitude is blessed are those who hunger...

Lots of people around the world, and right on your street, suffer from hunger and food scarcity. Have you ever been hungry? We all get hungry, don't we? But not everyone has a way to make a snack or even make dinner. They go without food. In today's story, we hear about a woman and her son who were about to eat the last meal they had, but God sent Elijah and a miracle. They were able to eat until the drought in their land ended, and there was food again.

The folks at Midwest Mission collect items for people who are hungry. In fact, you can volunteer to fill Blessing Bags that provide meals to those who are hungry at Midwest Mission. Each Blessing Bag can feed a family of six.

We'll talk more about Blessing Bags later, but first, let's welcome back our friend, Blessing Bee!



Midwest Mission Reflection:

- Can anyone remember what we learned about Midwest Mission yesterday?
- How does Midwest Mission help people?
- What can you do to partner with Midwest Mission to help others?



DAY 3: SKIT SCRIPT

Bee: *Moaning and holding their belly while entering*

Leader: What's wrong, Blessing bee? Are you ok?

Bee: Yeah, I am just a little hungry.

Leader: Well, didn't you eat your breakfast or your lunch?

Bee: Well, I was going to, but then I ran into my neighbor bee. She is a widow and lives with her son. She was trying to collect small bits of honey. She said that since the flood, she does not have much food left.

Leader: Oh no!

Bee: Yeah, so I told her she could have my breakfast and my lunch so that she and her son would have something to eat.

Leader: That is mighty sweet of you.

Bee: Well, I have just been so blessed with the disaster relief bucket and the education kit. I thought maybe I could spread the love like pollen.

Leader: Oh well, you are certainly being very kind. Your story reminds me of a story I heard in the Bible.

Bee: Does the Bible have a story about everything?

Leader: (Laughs) Well, probably not everything, but it is a good guide to understanding more about God and how he wants us to live. And yes, it has a lot of really SWEET stories.

Bee: Well, tell me your story...but speak loud because right now I am a Rumbly Bee...hungry for some honey.

Leader: Alright, well, there was a woman, and she was a widow. This means that her husband had died. She was living all alone with just her son. She was very poor, and she had nearly run out of food, because there was no rain that was falling, no food was growing, and there was not even food to be purchased. When rain doesn't fall, we call that a drought.

So she went out one day to gather sticks so that she could make a fire to cook the last of their food. While she was doing this, Elijah approached her and asked her for some water. She went and got him some water.

Then he asked her for a piece of bread. She said, "But sir, this is all we have left. I am gathering sticks so that I can make us one last meal, and then I believe we will die."

Bee: Die?! Did she make him the bread?

Leader: Slow down, this story has a very good ending. I promise. So he told her to go and make the bread anyway, and that when she was done, she would have enough left for her and her son.

Bee: But did she make him the bread?

Leader: Yes, she did, and it turns out that she didn't run out of flour and oil the entire time the drought went on. God provided her a meal...many meals in fact. She did not run out of food until the drought ended.

Bee: Oh, good. She does sound like my neighbor. But does this mean I am going to have to keep giving up my meals?

Leader: No sweet bee...there are ways right here in the hive in which you can donate money or time and make food packets for those who are hungry. They will serve people. Our honey bees out here are going to learn about it today. Maybe you would like to be a BEE on the Wall and listen.

Bee: Sure, but first I'd love a honey stick.

Leader: I think we can arrange for that. How about I take you to the snack hive, where *insert name of one of your snack leaders*, Bee will get you something to eat. We have a lot of great Chef Bees in our Hive.

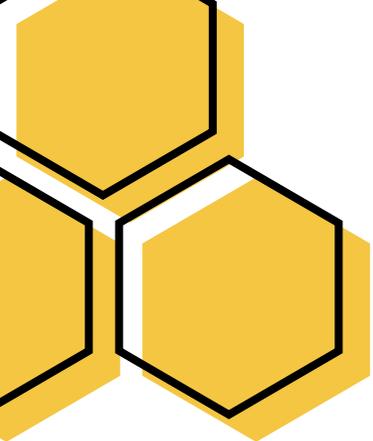
Bee: Oh, that sounds great. I hope it's honey...I do love honey.

Leader: Great, well, wait here, and I will dismiss our friends, and then we will go find you some honey.

Transition to Hive Activities

Alright, Bee guides, take your group and head to your first Hive. Follow your guide, little honeybees; they will take you from Hive to hive as you collect pollen.





DAY 3: BIBLE STORYTIME

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath)

Leader's Daily Dose of Nectar

Today's story comes from 1 Kings 17:8-16 and takes place long after King David, when God's people were divided into two kingdoms: Israel and Judah. Many of the kings during this time chose not to follow God, and they led the people away from Him, too. Because of this, God sent prophets—messengers with an important job—to remind the people to turn back to Him.

One of those prophets was Elijah. Elijah spoke boldly for God, even when it was difficult or dangerous. The king at this time was Ahab, who made many choices that dishonored God. Elijah delivered a hard message: because the people continued to turn away from God, there would be no rain in the land. Without rain, crops could not grow, animals would struggle, and people would not have enough food. A drought like this led to a serious famine, meaning many people were very hungry.

Even during this hard time, God took care of Elijah. First, God provided food for him in surprising ways. Then God sent Elijah to a town called Zarephath, where he met a widow gathering sticks. She and her son were preparing to eat their very last meal. She believed they had nothing left and no hope for more.

But God had a different plan. Through Elijah, God asked the widow to trust Him and share what little she had. This must have felt scary—giving away food when you barely have enough for yourself. Yet she chose to obey. And God kept His promise: her jar of flour never ran empty, and her oil never ran out. Day after day, there was enough.

1 Kings 17:8-16

The Lord's word came to Elijah: Get up and go to Zarephath near Sidon and stay there. I have ordered a widow there to take care of you. Elijah left and went to Zarephath.

As he came to the town gate, he saw a widow collecting sticks. He called out to her, "Please get a little water for me in this cup so I can drink." She went to get some water. He then said to her, "Please get me a piece of bread."

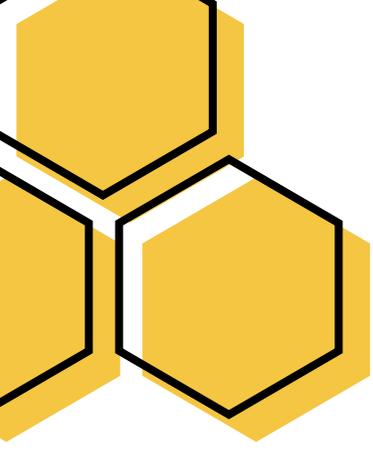
"As surely as the Lord your God lives," she replied, "I don't have any food; only a handful of flour in a jar and a bit of oil in a bottle. Look at me. I'm collecting two sticks so that I can make some food for myself and my son. We'll eat the last of the food and then die."

Elijah said to her, "Don't be afraid! Go and do what you said. Only make a little loaf of bread for me first. Then bring it to me. You can make something for yourself and your son after that.

This is what Israel's God, the Lord, says: The jar of flour won't decrease, and the bottle of oil won't run out until the day the Lord sends rain on the earth."

The widow went and did what Elijah said.

So the widow, Elijah, and the widow's household ate for many days. The jar of flour didn't decrease, nor did the bottle of oil run out, just as the Lord spoke through Elijah.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath)

Materials Needed:

- A scroll (rolled-up piece of paper)
- A few sticks (or representation of sticks)
- A cup for water
- Two containers to represent flour and oil
- Three pieces of bread (or representation of bread)

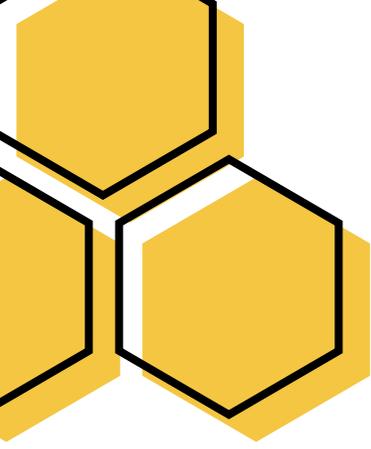
The Story Guide

Hello! Today, our Bible story is about a prophet named Elijah. Remember Samuel yesterday? He heard God calling his name and he grew up to be a prophet for God. That's someone who hears God's voice and tells others the message that God wants them to hear.

The prophet Elijah lived many, many years later, during a time when most people weren't listening to God and weren't doing good things. Can someone be our Elijah today? Give them the scroll.

Elijah listened to God and did what God told him to do. One of the things God told him was that there wasn't going to be rain in the land for a long, long time because the people weren't following God's rules. Do you know what happens when there isn't any rain?

Let the kids answer. If they live in a more rural/farming area, they'll probably figure out that: No rain means nothing can grow, so food starts to become hard to find too. People were hungry and thirsty, including Elijah. Today, we'll see how God took care of Elijah.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath)

God told Elijah to go to a place called Zarephath (Zair - eh - fath) because there was a woman there who would help him. Can we get someone to play that woman? Hand them two sticks. This woman was a widow, which means that her husband had died. She had to take care of herself and her son. Elijah asked the widow for a cup of water. Hand her the water and let her pass it to Elijah. Then he asked her for food.

Now the widow was stuck. Because she didn't have any food! She was gathering wood to make a fire so she could mix her last bit of oil and flour together, make bread, and she knew that would be her very last meal for her and her son. The widow was very sad that she couldn't help Elijah, and she was very sad that she didn't have more food after today. Let's see your sad and hungry face.

But still, the widow took Elijah back to her home, and she mixed her oil and her flour together and baked the bread. Have her pantomime mixing the ingredients. And do you know what happened?

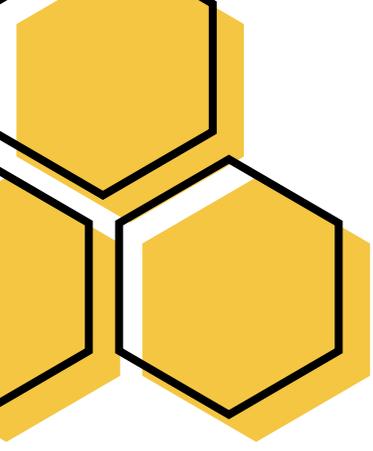
Lift the first cloth covering to reveal the bread

She had enough to make bread that day.

Lift the next cloth covering

And the next.

Lift the last cloth covering



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

1 Kings 17:8-16 (Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath)

And more and more and more and more. The oil and the flour never ran out, even though she only had a little bit!

Elijah and the widow both thanked God for taking care of them and keeping them from being hungry. Can we see your thankful faces?

Thanks so much to you two for helping us tell the story today!

Discussion Questions

- Where did you see God in the story?
- What does it feel like when you're really, really hungry?
- Imagine you are Elijah or the widow - what would it feel like waking up each day not knowing if the food will run out or not?
- How would you feel each day when the flour and oil were still there, and you could eat?
- Who was responsible for them getting food each day?
- Do you ever pray before your meal and remember that God is responsible for YOU getting food each day?

Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of Elijah and the widow. It makes us sad to think about the people in our church and in our neighborhood and around the world who might not know if they'll get food today. We pray that today, each hungry person gets food. Help us remember this story and remember how thankful we are for food each time we eat. Amen.

DAY 3: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Wooden Spoon Bees

Materials Needed:

- Wooden spoons (These were on an endcap and cheaper in a multipack than individually)
- Black and yellow paint
- Black permanent marker
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Small felt or wooden bees
- Small black zip ties
- Assortment of bee-themed beads (ie, black and yellow)
- Hot glue

Instructions

1. Paint the wooden spoons any way they want. (solid, stripes, etc.)
2. If you use two spoons per child, use some small black zip ties to fasten them together.
3. Tie ribbons around them.
4. Add small decor to the spoons, such as bees, beads to the ribbon, honey stirrer.



DAY 3: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Honey Pot Craft

Materials Needed:

- Small flower pot
- Honey stirrer
- Small wooden or wool beads
- Permanent Markers
- Bubble wrap
- Yellow, black, gold, and white paint
- Hot glue

Instructions

1. Paint the flowerpot any way they want.
Students can use bubble wrap dipped in gold and tap it on the pot to make a honeycomb appearance.
2. Once it is dry, students can embellish the honey pot with decorations, such as ribbon, bees, beads, honey stirrer stick.
3. Keep the pots to use for bead flowers that students will make on Friday.



DAY 3: POST CRAFTS CONVERSATION GUIDE

Discussion Questions

In the story of Elijah and the widow, we learn that God sends Elijah to a land that is about to have a huge famine. He asks a woman who is gathering sticks to bring him some water. After this, he asks her for some bread. She tells him that she is out of flour. She has just enough for her and her son to eat one last time. Elijah promises her that she will have enough for her and her son if she makes him some bread. She won't run out until the drought ends. She follows his directions, and their food lasts until the drought is finished.

- Do you think it was scary for the widow to trust Elijah? Why or why not?

There are people all around the world who face food shortages. Some of them live in foreign countries, and some of them might live right on your street. Today's beatitude talks about hunger and thirst. At Midwest Mission, you can make food packets that will be sent out to feed those who are facing hunger.

- What are some other ways you can help those who are hungry?

There are many ways that we can help those who are hungry. Today, we made a craft that reminds us that not everyone has access to food. You can hang it up and remind yourself and your family of the importance of giving to places like food banks, or to care for your neighbors who might be struggling with a food shortage. You can also talk to some of the adults in your home and schedule a time to visit Midwest Mission and make food packs.

DAY 3: GAMES GUIDE

Game 1: Queen Bee (rock, paper, scissors)

Materials Needed:

- Sidewalk chalk if you have a concrete place to play
- Several small hula hoops or rings painted in green, blue, red, and yellow evenly.

1. See Resources Page for set-up demonstration
2. Divide the kids into two teams.
3. Send one team to each end of the line of circles or rectangles that you have drawn.
4. Explain that they will be playing Rock, Paper, Scissors.
5. The students will line up at opposing ends and hop to each other. When they meet, they play rock, paper, scissors. The winner keeps hopping to the next person from the loser's team, and the loser goes to the back of their line
6. If both teams throw the same sign, then they redo it until someone beats the other.
7. Each time you win, you progress forward as fast as you can.
8. First team to get someone from one end of the lot to the other is the winner.

Game 2: Pollen to the Hive

1. Plastic spoons
 2. Bowls
 3. Pollen (M&M's, Skittles, cereal, bird feed, etc.)
 4. Beach balls
1. Split into two teams.
 2. Each team picks one player to start as the worker bee.
 3. The worker bees stand at one end with a spoon and a bowl of "pollen."
 4. When you say Go, they scoop one spoonful of pollen and carefully walk to the bowl at the other end to dump it in.
 5. The rest of the players stand along the sides and gently toss beach balls to try to make the worker bees spill their pollen.
 6. If pollen spills, the worker bee goes back and tries again with a new scoop.
 7. Teammates take turns being the worker bee after each trip, so someone is always ready to go.
 8. The first team to move the set amount of pollen to the other bowl wins

DAY 3: POST GAMES CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Buzz: Health and Hunger

Both the games we played today had some significant challenges.

- What are some of the things that made the game hard?

The games were difficult at times because we didn't always know what was going to happen. We might be on the right path, but other things try to distract us or knock us off course.

In our story today, the people were on the wrong path; they were worshipping false idols, so God sent a drought to get them back on the right path. As the drought continued, grain became scarce, and suddenly, people started to run out of food.

God sent Elijah to take care of a woman who needed food. She was gathering sticks to cook her last meal. But Elijah asked her to give him some bread. He promised that if she did, she would have enough food to eat. She could have been distracted by all the things happening around her, but she chose to focus and trust. She went and did as Elijah asked.

- Can anyone tell me what happened next?

Yes! God took care of her and provided for her because she trusted him. He will provide and care for us as well if we stay focused on him and follow his path of righteousness.

It's important to listen and be sensitive to any students who you think might be experiencing food scarcity. Make sure that your pastor is aware and that someone follows through getting them the necessary resources for food

DAY 3 EXPERIMENT:

Self-Inflating Balloon

Material List: (per kid)

- 1 Empty Plastic Bottle (16 oz water bottle works great)
- 1 Balloon
- Baking Soda (2-3 teaspoons)
- White Vinegar (About 1/2 cup)
- Small Funnel (Or a piece of paper rolled into a cone).
- Measuring Spoons

Instructions

- Use a funnel to pour about 1/2 cup of vinegar into the empty plastic bottle. This represents the oil in the widow's jar.
- Using a dry funnel, put 2-3 teaspoons of baking soda inside the deflated balloon. This represents a handful of flour.
- Carefully stretch the neck of the balloon over the top of the bottle, but do not let the baking soda fall into the vinegar yet! Let the balloon hang to the side.
- When ready, lift the balloon so the baking soda falls into the vinegar.
- Hold onto the neck of the balloon so it doesn't fly off. Watch as the empty balloon suddenly fills up and expands

DAY 3 EXPERIMENT:

Self-Inflating Balloon

Leader Script

In 1 Kings, the widow thought she was down to her last meal. She was hungry and thirsty. But when she obeyed God and shared with Elijah, God did something amazing. Every time she went to get more flour or oil, it was there! She stayed 'filled' because she trusted God. Being 'filled with righteousness' means we keep asking God to fill our hearts with love, and God never runs out of love.

This experiment demonstrates a chemical reaction between the baking soda and the vinegar. When the two substances mix, they react to create a new substance: carbon dioxide gas. Because gas molecules love to spread out and take up as much space as possible, the carbon dioxide gas quickly rises out of the liquid and fills the bottle. Since the balloon is blocking the only exit, the pressure of the expanding gas pushes against the rubber, stretching it out and inflating the balloon. Even though we can't see the gas, we can see the powerful effect it has on the balloon.

Midwest Mission Connection: Many people in our world today are just like the widow; they are hungry and thirsty and don't know when their next meal will come. Midwest Mission hears their cry. Another one of their ministries is packing Rice Meals. These aren't just tiny snacks; they are special meals packed with vitamins and protein. Just like the widow's flour jar stayed full, Midwest Mission sends these meals to areas so that hungry families can be filled and know that God loves them. Bees are also famous for making extra food—honey. They store it up so that everyone in the hive is fed. We can be like the bees by helping organizations like Midwest Mission. When we give a little bit, God can inflate it to help a lot of people.



DAY 3: CLOSING SCRIPT

Welcome back, my little Honeybees! Can you believe that we have already had three days at the Helpful Hive? Time is moving so fast, and there is still so much more honey to be made. Do a few of you want to call out a few of your favorite parts of the Hive today?

- Can anyone tell me what our BEE - Attitude was today?
- What Bible story did we hear about?
- What was the Widow running out of?
- Did she run out?
- Why not?

In a beehive, all the bees work together. What did we learn from the Helpful Hive today?

- What can we do to partner with Midwest Mission?

Yummy! We can make food kits that feed a family of 6. As a church, we can come together to make those Blessing Bag meals!

Let's sing one of our Helpful Hive songs as a word of praise to God who blesses us with good things, like Honey! Will you join me in buzzing along to one of our Helpful Hive songs?



Great Singing! Well, my little Honeybees, as you all know, it is time for us to buzz out to our favorite flower petals, but we hope to see you tomorrow at the Helpful Hive so that we can learn a new BEE - Attitude and gather more nectar to be turned into sweet honey. But before we go, let's thank God for another wonderful day.

Prayer

Oh, Holy God, we thank you for another sweet day. We thank you for the ways that you pour out your goodness like Honey. We thank you for providing food for those who hunger and thirst. We pray that you will make us aware of those who may be in our own community who need food. Give our little honeybees the courage to share with a trusting adult if they know someone who needs food. Thank you again for another sweet day. Amen.

Dismiss

Be sure each student is released to an adult on their registration form.

DAY 4: OVERVIEW

Bee-Attitude

- Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy

Key Concepts

- Mercy means showing love and kindness to someone, even when we don't have to
- When we help provide things like hygiene supplies or a place to rest, we are showing God's mercy in real ways

Kids will

- Hear the story of Jesus healing a paralyzed man
- Talk about friendship and caring for others' health needs
- Explore how we can help those who are lacking health supplies
 - Midwest Mission's health Kits and supplies

Craft Guide

The windsock and pins craft helps kids understand mercy by remembering the friends who carried a paralyzed man to Jesus, showing them that they can be "helpers" too by caring for others' health and needs in practical, loving ways.

Materials:

- Large clear water bottle (Smartwater-style works well)
- Clothespins
- Yellow craft paint
- Black electrical tape
- Black permanent marker (fine point)
- Large googly eyes
- Black or brown pipe cleaners
- Large wooden or clear acrylic hearts
- Small decorative bees
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Clear packing tape
- Hot glue

Game Guide

Option 1: Pollen in the Hive

Option 2: Honeycomb Toss

Supplies:

- Parachute or round tablecloth
- Small ball pit balls
- Pool Diving Rings (or chalk)
- Beanbags (in two colors)

Experiment Guide: Pulleys

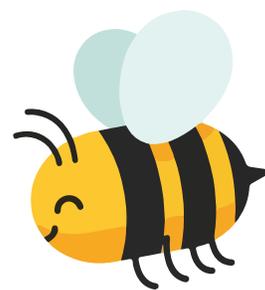
This pulley experiment shows how working together can help lift someone's heavy burden, reminding kids that showing mercy, like the friends who helped the paralyzed man, means helping meet real needs with care and teamwork.

Supplies Per 2-4 Kids

- 1 Pencil (or a smooth wooden dowel/stick).
- 3 feet of String or Yarn.
- 1 Plastic Grocery Bag
- 1-2 heavy rocks

Additional Resources

- Coloring page of Nurse Bee





DAY 4: WELCOME SCRIPT

Welcome to Day four at the Helpful Hive! Are you having as much fun as we are, honeybees? We are just so happy to see your happy faces and the buzzing of excitement in the room. We can't wait to show you around the hive today. We have another fun day planned and are so happy you are here. But before we get too far, why don't we start with prayer? Let's quiet our wings and voices and get ready to pray.

Prayer

Oh, Holy God, we are so excited to be here today. We are so glad that we are learning all the ways that we can take care of our fellow honeybees. We thank you for giving us willing hearts and helping hands. We pray that you will be with us as we begin tonight's trip around the hive. Amen.

Overview

Remember that we will be visiting various parts of the Hive. You will travel in groups from one part of the Helpful Hive to another, learning, exploring, playing, and gathering lots of God's pollen to germinate in your hearts, just what God has in store for you to do.

Sing Theme Song together

Reflection

Questions:

- Can someone tell me what a beatitude is?
- Can someone else tell me what beatitude we learned about yesterday?
- Whose story did we hear yesterday?
- What did we learn from Elijah and the widow?

Tips:

- Invite the kids to get more involved: praying, leading the theme song, etc.

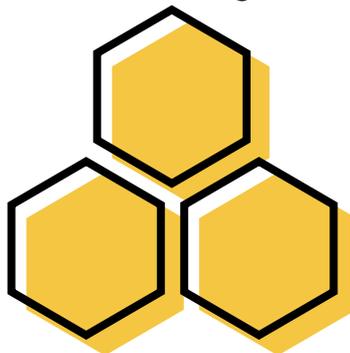
Bee-attitude

Great Singing! So all week we have been learning different beatitudes. I need three volunteers who can tell me each day's Beatitude. (Choose three volunteers and have them come up front and share with the group. If they forget, ask the crowd to give them a helping hand. Good job, honeybees. Everyone, clap your wings or hands together for our amazing helpers.

Tonight we have a new Beatitude. Tonight's beatitude is Blessed are the merciful. Does anyone know what mercy is? (Allow them to make a few guesses). Mercy is when we show someone kindness even when we don't have to. Mercy is important because at some point in time, we are all going to need mercy. Can someone give me an example of when you showed mercy to a friend or received mercy from a friend?

At Midwest Mission, they have lots of ways to show people mercy. They make mats for people to sleep on, collect medical supplies, provide hygiene kits so that people can get cleaned up, and care for people's general health needs. You can help with their work by making the kits at your local church and delivering them to Midwest Mission.

Has anyone seen our little bee friend, Blessing Bee?



Midwest Mission

Reflection:

- Can anyone remember what we learned about Midwest Mission yesterday?
- How does Midwest Mission help people?
- What can you do to partner with Midwest Mission to help others?



DAY 4: SKIT SCRIPT

Leader: I wonder how Blessing Bee is doing?

Bee: *Bee comes out carrying a mat made at Midwest Mission, or if it's a puppet, a small mat made of plastic bags. If neither is an option, any mat will work* I am here! I just woke up from a great nap. It's been such a big week that I needed a little rest. I was given this great mat to sleep on while they are repairing my hive.

Leader: Oh, that looks like the mats at Midwest Mission. They make them out of old grocery sacks.

Bee: Grocery sacks?!?

Leader: Yeah, they work really great to help keep people warm and dry, so they don't have to sleep on the cold ground.

Bee: I am sure glad to have mine so that I didn't have to sleep on the cold floor. It's been a hard week. But the bees in this hive have been so helpful. They have shown me a lot of kindness after my really bad day.

Leader: Oh, I think you find that the bees in this hive are very helpful. They are always willing to help out if you need. They are a merciful bunch of bees.

Bee: What does merciful mean?

Leader: Well merciful means that you show kindness to those around you who are less fortunate, or that you don't have to show mercy to.

Bee: Well, they have shown me a lot of mercy this week. When I lost my hive home, and my old friends were making fun of me, these honeybees were just so sweet. Get it?! SWEET Honeybees!

Leader: Oh, I get it. I am glad that you found a helpful hive and some friends who understand how you are feeling...We all need some mercy in our lives.

Bee: I found some very merciful friends...

Leader: (Cuts bee off midsentence) Oh, that reminds me of...

Bee: *interrupts the leader* Let me guess, a story from the Bible.

Leader: Always. (laughs) It was all this talk about mats and friends.

Bee: Wait, this story has both of those in it?

Leader: Sure does.

Bee: Then I guess you'd better tell it to me.

Leader: There was a man who was paralyzed. That means he couldn't use his arms or his legs. His friends knew that Jesus was nearby. So they took him to see Jesus. But there were so many people gathered around the house that Jesus was in that they couldn't get inside. They were stuck outdoors. So they came up with a plan.

They got up on the roof and cut a hole in it. Once they made a hole, they put him on the mat and lowered him down through the hole to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and told him that his sins were forgiven. Everyone got upset. How could Jesus forgive sins? But then, to prove that he could forgive sins, he healed the man, and the man could walk again. He picked up his mat and walked out.

Bee: He walked out?

Leader: Yes, he was healed because of the mercy of Jesus and the mercy of his friends. There was a lot that could have stopped them: the crowd, the ceiling, or even the challenge of lowering their friend down on a mat. But they persevered and showed him mercy.

Bee: I hope that I can show mercy like that.

Leader: You can...Lots of people choose to show mercy every day. We can show it when we help others. We can show it by giving them dignity or health kits. We can show it by helping others, even if no one else will. I think it's easier to show mercy when we try to imagine how it would feel to be in another person's shoes.

Bee: Don't you mean wings?

Leader: Of course, I do my little Blessing Bee. Today, we are going to be learning a lot about ways to show mercy. Would you like to go and meet one of our nurse bees? They do a lot to show mercy. I know just who to introduce you to, their name is (Insert the name of a nurse in your church) Bee. They are excellent at showing mercy.

Bee: Oh, that would be great, but are you forgetting something?

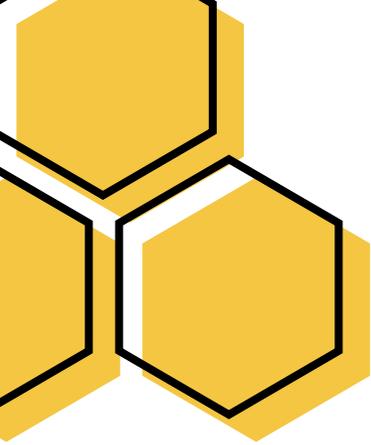
Leader: What?

Bee: All these honeybees. Don't they need to go and collect today's pollen?

Leader: Oh yes, I will dismiss them, and then you and I can go and see the work that the nurse bees are doing.

The Bee guides will take you from Hive to hive as you collect pollen.





DAY 4: BIBLE STORYTIME

Mark 2:1-5, 12 (Jesus healing a paralyzed man)

Leader's Daily Dose of Nectar

This story is one of many moments in the Gospels where Jesus heals someone, showing that His care reaches both the body and the heart. Jesus didn't just teach with words; he showed God's love through actions that changed people's lives.

In this passage, a man who was paralyzed could not get to Jesus on his own. He depended completely on others. That's where his friends come in. They didn't ignore his need or assume someone else would help. They carried him through the streets, pushed through a crowded house, and when they couldn't get inside, they climbed onto the roof, made an opening, and lowered him down to Jesus. Their determination shows active mercy that does something, even when it's inconvenient or difficult.

It's important to notice what the Bible says next: "When Jesus saw their faith..." Not just the man's faith, but the faith of his friends, too. Their teamwork and persistence mattered. They became the bridge between their hurting friend and the healing power of Jesus.

Jesus first forgave the man's sins, showing that spiritual healing is just as important as physical healing. Then He healed the man's body, and the man stood up, picked up his mat, and walked out in front of everyone. The crowd was amazed and praised God.

This connects beautifully to the Beatitude, "Blessed are the merciful." When we help carry someone else's burden, through kindness, support, or meeting practical needs, we are living out the kind of mercy Jesus showed.

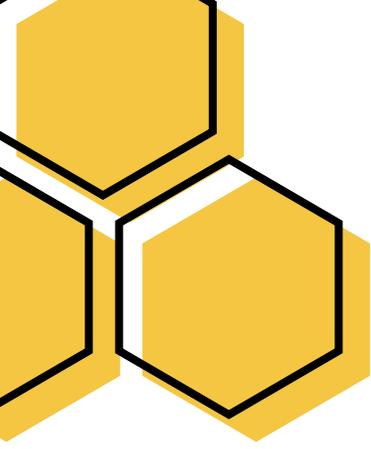
Mark 2:1-5, 12

After a few days, Jesus went back to Capernaum, and people heard that he was at home. So many gathered that there was no longer space, not even near the door.

Jesus was speaking the word to them. Some people arrived, and four of them were bringing to him a man who was paralyzed. They couldn't carry him through the crowd, so they tore off part of the roof above where Jesus was.

When they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralyzed man was lying. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven!"

Jesus raised him up, and right away he picked up his mat and walked out in front of everybody. They were all amazed and praised God, saying, "We've never seen anything like this!"



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Mark 2:1-5, 12 (Jesus healing a paralyzed man)

Materials Needed:

- Pop-up play tent or a blanket between two chairs/tables for Jesus to sit under
- A blanket large enough for a child to lie down on

The Story Guide

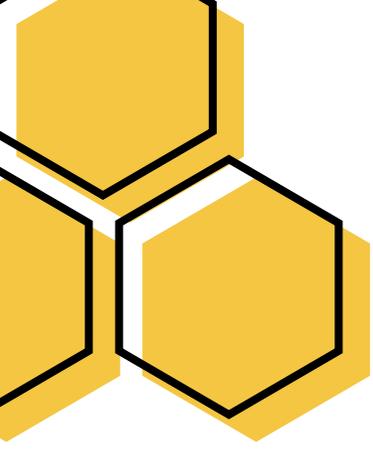
Recruit one child to be Jesus, one to be the paralyzed person, and four other kids to be the friend of the paralyzed person

Today's Bible story begins with Jesus. Jesus was God's son who was born 2,000 years ago, and Jesus showed us God's love and taught us about God's love. We're going to see how Jesus blessed the merciful today.

Let's see, who wants to play Jesus? We're going to have you sit down in this tent, and you've come to the city of Capernaum, and there are a whole lot of people who want to see you. The whole house is crowded. How does Jesus look when he's being squished by a crowd? That looks uncomfortable!

There was someone who wanted to see Jesus because they knew that Jesus could heal them. This person was paralyzed. That means that they couldn't control their arms or legs. Does anyone want to be our paralyzed person? Okay, paralyzed person, I want you to sit down on that blanket over there.

Here's where the problem comes in. The paralyzed person wants to get to Jesus, but they can't move, and there is a huge crowd keeping Jesus in the house.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Mark 2:1-5, 12 (Jesus healing a paralyzed man)

The Story Guide

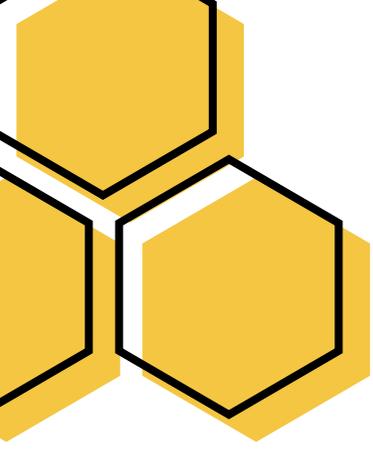
What do you think the answer is? How can the paralyzed person get to Jesus?

Some might say a wheelchair - tell them that there weren't wheelchairs back then! If they suggest that they need help, move on to the next part of the story.

The good news is that the paralyzed person had friends. Let's get some friends for the paralyzed person. The four of you go stand there with the paralyzed person. Each of you grab a corner of the blanket and see if you can lift it up in the air and bring it over to Jesus.

Great job! The person's friends helped them get to Jesus. Even more dramatic than our story, the friends tore open the roof of the house so that they could get to Jesus! And lowered their friend down! When Jesus saw the paralyzed person and their friends, he said that their sins were forgiven. Jesus helped them stand up, and they were able to walk.

Let's give a big round of applause for all of our helpers today!



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Mark 2:1-5, 12 (Jesus healing a paralyzed man)

Discussion Questions

- Where did you see God in the story?
- How do you think the man's friends felt carrying him and climbing onto the roof?
- What are the names of some of your friends?
- What makes someone a good friend?
- Are YOU a good friend?
- Have you ever helped a friend when something was hard for them? What did you do?
- How can you be a helpful friend this week?

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the story of the five friends and Jesus. And we thank you for all of our friends, whom we name silently in our heads. Pause briefly. They are such wonderful friends, and we are thankful to have them. Help us to be better friends so that our friends are even happier. Amen.

DAY 4: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Bee Windsock

Materials Needed:

- Large Water bottle (smart water bottles work really well)
- Yellow craft paint
- Large googly eyes
- Black or brown pipe cleaners
- Large wooden hearts painted white or acrylic clear hearts (I found these at Hobby Lobby)
- Yellow Paint
- Black electrical tape
- Black permanent marker
- Strips of bee-themed fabric
- Hot glue
- Clear packing tape



Instructions

1. Squirt a few drops of yellow paint into the bottle. Close the lid tightly and shake until the inside is coated. Add more paint if needed.
2. Wrap black electrical tape around the bottle to make bee stripes, leaving space near the top for a face.
3. Tape over the lid to secure it (this becomes the bee's stinger)
4. Glue on googly eyes and draw a small mouth with a marker.
5. Glue two pipe cleaners on top for antennae.
6. Hot glue the wooden or acrylic hearts onto the sides as wings.
7. Attach long strips of bee-colored fabric to the bottom with glue or tape to create a windsock "pollen" tail.
8. Add a loop of ribbon or jute at the top so the bee can hang and blow in the wind.

DAY 4: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 2: Bee Encouraging Pins

Materials Needed:

- Clothes pins
- Yellow paint
- Black fine point markers
- Small bees
- Hot glue

Instructions

1. Paint the clothespins yellow.
2. Once dry, glue a small bee to each one.
3. Allow the kids to write words of encouragement, such as Bee Kind, Bee Loving, Bee Nice, " and " Bee Good" on the clips. There are many Bee puns you can utilize.
4. They can then use them to try to clip their neighbors with healing words of encouragement.
5. Just BEE sure the paint is dry.



DAY 4: POST CRAFTS CONVERSATION GUIDE

Discussion Questions

In today's story, we learned a lot about being a good friend and being merciful to others. In the Bible story, a paralyzed man was lowered down through a hole in the roof by 4 of his friends so that Jesus could heal him.

- Are they the sort of friends you would want to have? What made them good friends?

The man's friends were kind and showed him mercy. They didn't have to lower him down, but they did because they loved him and cared about him. Jesus tells us in the Beatitudes, blessed are the merciful.

- What is mercy? What are some ways that we can show mercy?

There are many ways that we can show mercy. At Midwest Mission, they have many kits that are sent out to show people mercy. The people might not be able to ever return the help, but it does not matter because mercy doesn't expect a payback.

Today we made a bee windsock. Did you know that when bees fly around, they move pollen from one plant to another, which helps our veggies grow? This, in turn, helps us as humans to have food.

The streamers on our windsock are like the pollen that the bee is spreading around. It reminds us of two things; can anyone guess what they are?

1. It reminds us of the ropes the men in the story used to lower their friend down to Jesus so he could be healed.
2. It reminds us to be like the bees and spread mercy wherever we go.

One of the ways we can do this is with our secret bee pins. We can try and pin as many people without them knowing this week, and after we are pinned, we can pass them on by pinning them to others, spreading joy and mercy.

DAY 4: GAMES GUIDE

Game 1: Pollen in the Hive

Materials Needed:

- Parachute or round tablecloth
- Small ball pit balls

1. Have students spread out and hold the edges of the parachute.
2. Place several lightweight balls (“pollen”) in the middle.
3. Students gently shake the parachute together to keep the balls on top.

Variations:

1. Divide into teams with different colored balls and try to keep your team’s balls on while bouncing others off.
2. Let students freely bounce and move the balls around as a group.
3. Challenge the group to toss the balls high and catch them back on the parachute.

Game 2: Honeycomb Toss

Materials Needed:

- Pool Diving Rings or circles drawn with chalk
- Beanbags in two colors or marked in some way to identify which team they belong to

1. Set pool rings on the ground in an offset pattern to look like a honeycomb. Make several rows.
2. Divide kids into two teams and have them line up on opposite sides of the honeycomb.
3. Players take turns tossing a beanbag toward the rings.
4. If a beanbag lands fully inside a ring (not touching the edge), that ring now belongs to that team.
5. If the other team lands a beanbag in an already claimed ring, they must pick it up and give it to the next teammate instead of claiming the ring.
6. Teams keep taking turns until one team has used all their beanbags — that team wins.

DAY 4: POST GAMES CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Buzz: Health and Good Friends

Today's games made us really work together as a team. We had to cooperate to try to fill up the honeycomb with our beanbags, and we had to work together to keep the pollen in the hive.

- Was it difficult working together? Why or why not?

Our lesson today is about four men who helped their friend, who was paralyzed, to get to Jesus.

- Can anyone here tell me what they did?

When he got to Jesus, Jesus was able to heal him, and he could pick up his own mat and walk away.

- Would the man have been able to lower himself inside?

No...that's right, he needed his friends. Just like sometimes we need our friends to help us.

Our beatitude reminds us Blessed are the merciful. Mercy is showing someone kindness or helping them when they can't help themselves. It's realizing they need help. One of the ways that we can show Mercy is by offering our hope.

Midwest Mission offers health Kits and medical supplies to people who may not be able to get around without assistance. We can collect these items and make a difference by working together as a team.

DAY 4 EXPERIMENT:

Pulleys

Material List: (per 2-4 kids)

- 1 Pencil (or a smooth wooden dowel/stick).
- 3 feet of String or Yarn.
- 1 Plastic Grocery Bag
- 1-2 heavy rocks

Instructions

- Put your rocks inside the plastic grocery bag to represent a heavy burden.
- Have one student hold a pencil out horizontally at shoulder height, gripping it firmly at both ends. This pencil is the "roof" or the pulley.
- Tie one end of your string to the handles of the plastic bag. Loop the other end of the string over the top of the pencil.
- Grab the loose end of the string. Pull down to watch the bag of rocks go up.
- Take turns being the "support" (the person holding the pencil) and the "merciful friend" (the person pulling the string).

DAY 4 EXPERIMENT:

Pulleys

Leader Script

In Mark 2, the paralyzed man was stuck on his mat. He couldn't get to Jesus on his own. But his friends had mercy on him. They didn't just feel sorry for him; they climbed a roof and worked together to lower him down. They were like the string and the pulley; they were the connection that brought the man to the healing power of Jesus.

This activity demonstrates a simple machine called a pulley. When you loop the string over the pencil, you are changing the direction of the force needed to move the bag of rocks. Instead of lifting the heavy bag straight up against gravity, you are pulling downward. This allows you to use your own body weight to help move the "burden". While a single fixed pencil doesn't reduce the total amount of work, it makes the job much easier by allowing you to pull in a more natural direction. It's a great example of how a little bit of support can help lift a very heavy weight.

Midwest Mission shows mercy in the exact same way. When someone doesn't have ideal living conditions or even a home, it is very hard to stay clean and healthy. Midwest Mission puts together Hygiene Kits to distribute. These are small bags filled with a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, a comb, and a washcloth. It seems simple, but to someone, it is a huge gift that helps them feel loved. Look at the plastic bag you used for your experiment. Midwest Mission volunteers take thousands of bags just like that, cut them into strips, and weave them into sleeping mats. These mats are amazing for someone who is homeless because they are waterproof, they keep bugs away, and they are much softer than sleeping on cold concrete. Just like the friends in the Bible lowered a man on a mat to Jesus, we can help 'lift' someone off the cold ground by saving our plastic bags for these mats. Bees are also famous for working together. One bee can't carry much, but a whole hive can move mountains of honey. Today, as you lift your mercy bag, think about how you can be like bees in a hive. You don't need fancy tools; you just need a heart that is ready to help.



DAY 4: CLOSING SCRIPT

Welcome back, my little Honeybees! We are nearing the end of our week. Only one more day at the Helpful Hive. Do a few of you want to call out a few of your favorite parts of the Hive today?

- Can anyone tell me what our BEE - Attitude was today?
- What Bible story did we hear about?
- What did his friends do to help him?
- What did Jesus do?
- What are some ways that we can partner with Midwest Mission to show mercy?

That is correct, we can make health kits, personal dignity kits, birthing kits, layette kits, and even collect medical items. There are so many ways that we can show mercy to others. It takes a Hive to reach all the needs.

Let's celebrate by singing praises to God. Will you join me in buzzing along to one of our Helpful Hive songs?

Sing a Hive Song

Great Singing! Well, my little Honeybees, it is time for us to buzz out to our favorite flower petals, but we hope to see you tomorrow at the Helpful Hive so that we can learn a new BEE - Attitude and gather more nectar to be turned into sweet honey. How about we close by talking to the Ultimate Bee-Keeper in prayer?



Prayer

Oh Holy God, we thank you for providing us so many ways to show mercy. We pray that as we recognize all the mercy you provide us in our lives, that we will be able to show the same mercy to others. Thank you for a beautiful day full of good things, and for your endless mercy. Amen.

Dismiss

Be sure each student is released to an adult on their registration form.

DAY 5: OVERVIEW

Bee-Attitude

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God

Key Concepts

- A peacemaker is someone who chooses kindness, listens well, and helps solve problems in ways that bring calm instead of conflict.
- Just like Tabitha made clothes for people in need, we can bring dignity, hope, and peace to others by using our skills and gifts to help.

Kids will

- Hear the story of Tabitha's resurrection
- Talk about how God can take things that are broken/dead and bring them back to new life
- Explore how we can help those who lack means to provide for themselves
 - Midwest Mission's sewing machine repair

Craft Guide

The keychain and flower crafts reminds kids of Tabitha's story by creating something beautiful and useful, helping them understand that God brings new life and can use our hands to make things that bless others.

Materials:

- Wood beads of various sizes
- Cording or twine
- Custom wood cutout tag
- Materials for tassel (jute, ribbon, yarn)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Small piece of cardboard.
- Beads
- Flower picks or wooden skewers
- Hot glue
- Foam
- Ribbons
- Any leftover wooden or felt bees left from the week

Game Guide

Option 1: Tabitha's Giving Game

Option 2: Pollen Collector (Blob Tag)

Supplies:

- Variety of oversized clothes and shoes
- 2 Containers for the clothes

Experiment Guide: Tie-Dye

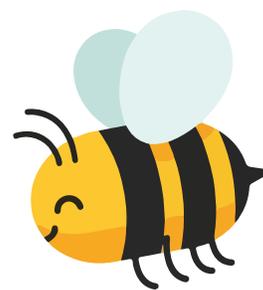
This tie-dye activity shows how, like Tabitha and the work of sewing machines, our hands can be used to create practical, caring gifts that bring peace and help others provide for themselves.

Supplies Per Kid

- 1 White T-Shirt (Pre-washed 100% cotton works best)
- Fabric Dye (Yellow and black for bee theme could be suggested)
- Rubber Bands
- Plastic Zip-lock Bags (To take the wet shirt home)
- Gloves
- An Apron
- Water
- Squeeze Bottles

Additional Resources

- Coloring page of Tailor Bee





DAY 5: WELCOME SCRIPT

Welcome to the start of our last day at the Helpful Hive. We have had such a great week with all of you little Honeybees. Have you had a Sweet week? Have you caught lots of pollen and come up with some ideas you can make a big difference in your neighborhood, community and around the world? Well we are about to get started but first we need to take a moment and talk to God, after all he is the ultimate Bee Keeper.

Prayer

Oh Holy God, thank you for such an amazing week with all of these HoneyBees. We have loved having them here at the Helpful Hive all week. Today we pray that they will leave here feeling like they have had new life breathed into them, full of ideas and plans to continue to be a Helpful Hive. Help them spread your love like pollen until it flows like Honey, through the entire world. Amen.

Sing Theme Song together

Reflection

Questions:

- Can someone recite all of the beatitudes we've learned so far this week?
- Which Beatitude has been your favorite?
- Whose story did we hear yesterday?
- What did we learn from Jesus and the paralyzed man?

Tips:

- It's the last day...HAVE FUN!

Bee-attitude

Great Singing! Every day this week we have learned a new Beatitude. I need 4 honeybees to volunteer to tell me what the Beatitude we learned this week were for each day. Sweet! Now we are going to learn one more Beatitude. There are eight of them in the book of Matthew but we only have had time to learn 5 of them this week. But I would encourage you to go check out a Bible and learn about the other three.

Today's beatitude is Blessed are the peacemakers. What is a peacemaker? That's right, it's a person who brings peace. What are some of the ways that we can make peace? Did you know that you can be a peacemaker by making clothes?

In fact today's story is about a woman named Tabitha that did just that. She made clothing for the poor and the widows in her community. This brought peace and dignity to all those that knew her. She created peace in her community by the way that she was able to help others who didn't have what they needed.

At Midwest Mission, they actually collect sewing machines that might be broken or no longer work. Then they fix these old machines to give to people so that they can make clothing to support their families. So even the things that we might think are broken or useless are helpful in this hive.



Midwest Mission

Reflection:

- Can anyone remember what we learned about Midwest Mission yesterday?
- How does Midwest Mission help people?
- What can you do to partner with Midwest Mission to help others?
- Is there something you want to do to help others like Midwest Mission?



DAY 5: SKIT SCRIPT

Bee: (Comes running in or if a puppet pops out all excited.) Guess what? Guess What?! Guess What!?

Leader: Oh my! What?

Bee: They have finished my honeycomb and I can return home. I am so excited that I get to go back to my old house.

Leader: Oh that is really good news.

Bee: I am so happy to get to go back to my home. I have really enjoyed being at the Helpful Hive but I am ready to get back to my own home.

Leader: Well we will miss you but we are very happy for you.

Bee: This week has been so helpful and encouraging for me. When I came here I was pretty sad, but all of you were my friends and helped me out so much. Now it's my turn to go and help others. I want to live up to my nickname Blessing Bee.

Leader: What are you going to do to be a Blessing Bee?

Bee: I don't know but I want to make sure that I am able to bring peace to my hive. With the flood and the other bees being a bit stingy...I think they could all be blessed by hearing about Jesus.

Leader: So you want to be a peacemaker?

Bee: Yeah I suppose that I do. But first I need to find a way to help the people in my part of the hive replace the things they lost in the flood. Like their belongings, even their clothes.

Leader: Oh that reminds me...

Bee: Of a story....

Leader: Well um...no not at first. I just wanted to give you this. (Hands the bee a new stuffie). I know it's not your original stuffie but I thought that it might become your new favorite.

Bee: Oh thank you.

Leader: I went home and made him on my sewing machine. So he is extra special because he is homemade.

Bee: Well it looks just like my old stuffie. It's almost like you put new life into it.

Leader: Oh now that does make me think of a story.

Bee: I am not surprised.

Leader: It's about a woman named Tabitha. She made clothes for the poor people in her community, particularly the widows who did not have money for clothes. She was a huge blessing to her community. Everyone loved her. She made people feel special and important. I suppose you could say that it brought peace to her community.

However, something really sad happened. She died. Well all her friends were so sad and they asked Peter to come. He arrived and all the people showed him all the beautiful clothes that she had made them. Peter realized how important she was in the community so he went up to her room.

He told everyone to leave and then he prayed. Once he finished praying he told her to get up and to the amazement of everyone she stood up. She was brought back to life.

Bee: Back to life?!!!!

Leader: Yes, she brought peace to her community and through her life, God showed us that he has the power to give new life.

Bee: I hope that he can give new life to my grandpa. My grandpa is very sick.

Leader: I remember you mentioning that. I am sorry to hear that. But something that you need to know is that while God can bring new life, he normally gives us that in Heaven, when we can live with Jesus forever.

Bee: Wait, we get to live with Jesus once we die?

Leader: Yes.

Bee: Well I will be sad but I am glad that my grandpa will be with Jesus.

Leader: But one of the best ways you can carry on your love for him is by sharing love and peace in the world. So what are some ways you can do that?

Bee: Hey maybe I can make new clothes for my neighbors and my community, like Tabitha did in your story.

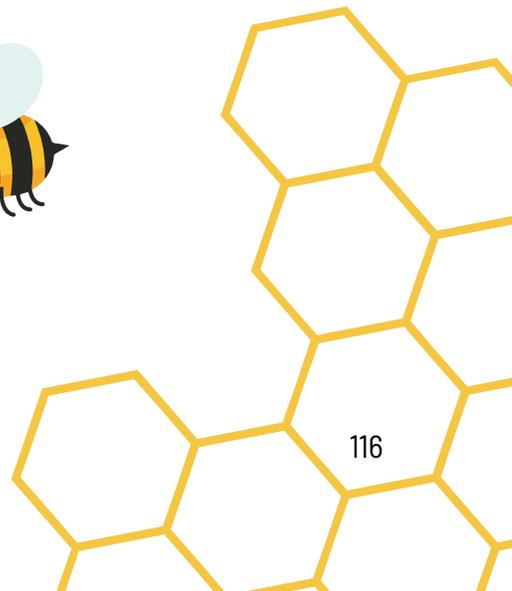
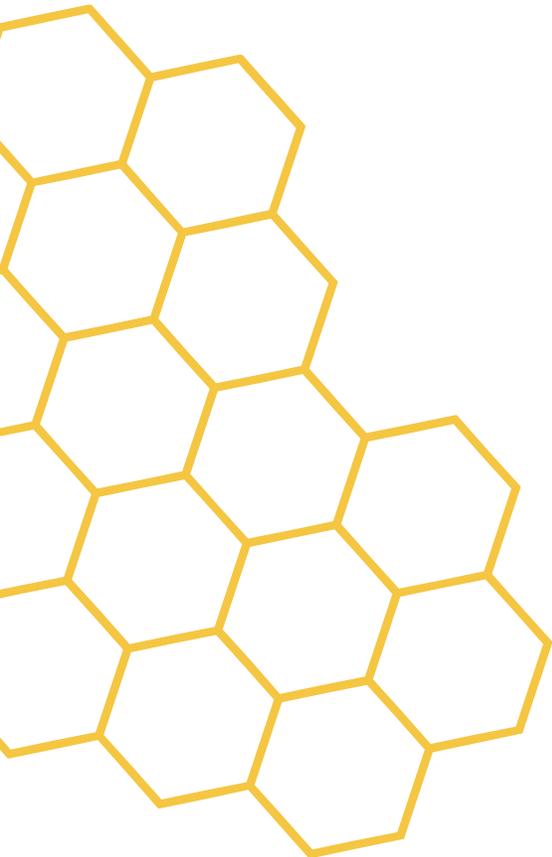
Leader: I think that's a great idea. Why don't we go and see the Sewing Bees? They are some of my favorites. They helped me sew your new stuffie. Maybe they can help you get started. I know just who to introduce you to. Their name is (Insert a name of a quilter or avid seamstress in your church) Bee. They are pretty sweet at their work.

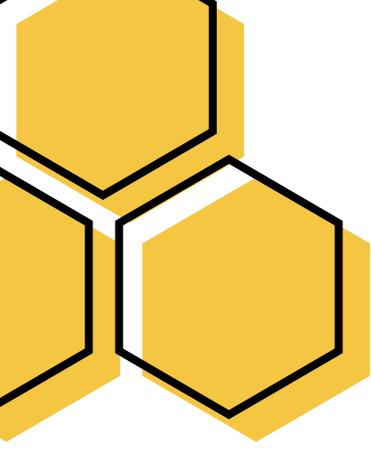
Bee: I will meet you there.

Leader: Sounds good. I am going to get our little Honeybees started on their last day at the Helpful Hive.

Bee guides proceed with your sweet little honeybees and collect lots of pollen so that you can bring honey to this world.

Dismiss each group and send them to their first Hive.





DAY 5: BIBLE STORYTIME

Acts 9:36-42 (Tabitha raised)

Leader's Daily Dose of Nectar

This story from Acts 9:36-42 happens after Jesus' resurrection, when the early church was just beginning to grow. Jesus' followers were traveling, teaching about Him, and caring for new believers. One of those leaders was Peter, one of Jesus' disciples.

In the town of Joppa lived a woman named Tabitha (also called Dorcas). She was known for always doing kind things for others, especially widows who were poor and alone. She made clothes for them, meeting a real need in a loving and practical way. When Tabitha became sick and died, the people she had helped were heartbroken. They showed Peter the clothing she had made, a reminder of how much her life had meant.

Peter prayed, and God performed a miracle: Tabitha came back to life. This showed God's power and helped many people believe in Jesus. It also reminds us that acts of kindness and service matter deeply to God. Tabitha wasn't known for being rich or famous, but for using her hands to help others.

Kids may wonder why God doesn't bring back people they love. You can gently remind them that it's okay to feel sad when someone dies, and that God is close to us in our grief. Tabitha's story is a special miracle that points to the hope we have in Jesus, who promises new life and that one day He will make all things new.

Acts 9:36-42

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas). Her life overflowed with good works and compassionate acts on behalf of those in need.

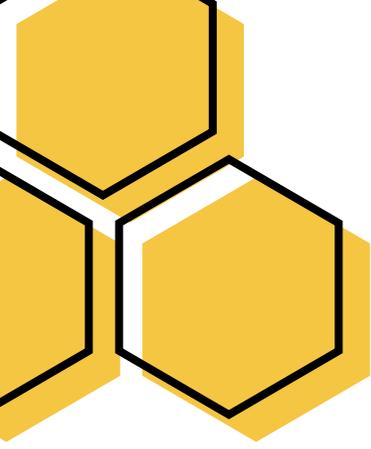
About that time, though, she became so ill that she died. After they washed her body, they laid her in an upstairs room.

Since Lydda was near Joppa, when the disciples heard that Peter was there, they sent two people to Peter. They urged, "Please come right away!" Peter went with them.

Upon his arrival, he was taken to the upstairs room. All the widows stood beside him, crying as they showed the tunics and other clothing Dorcas made when she was alive.

Peter sent everyone out of the room, then knelt and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up!" She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. He gave her his hand and raised her up. Then he called God's holy people, including the widows, and presented her alive to them.

The news spread throughout Joppa, and many put their faith in the Lord.



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Acts 9:36-42 (Tabitha raised)

Materials Needed:

- An envelope or folded piece of paper to represent a letter
- A blanket, cushion, or couch for Tabitha to lie down on
- Clothing for the mourners to wear (scarves, pillowcases, get creative!)

The Story Guide

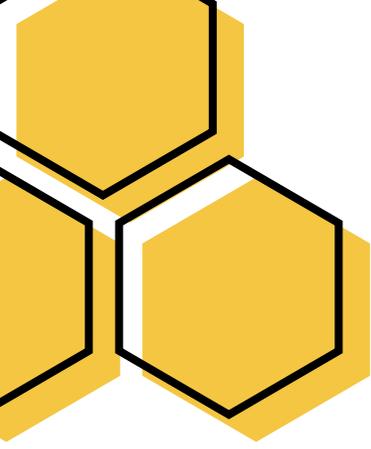
Today's story happens after the time of Jesus. He finished his ministry, he died, and then he came back from the dead. Do you remember what we call the holiday that celebrates his coming back from the dead? Easter!

When Jesus came back again, he told his followers to share the good news of new life with the whole world, and then he went into heaven to be with God. His followers did what he said and told the whole world about Jesus. One of those followers was named Peter. Can we have someone be Peter for us?

Peter, you're going to stand right there. One day, Peter got a letter about the church in Joppa. Here you go, Peter, here's your letter. The letter said that one of the leaders, a woman named Tabitha, had died. Peter was sad when he got that news. Peter, let's see your sad face.

Peter hurried to Joppa. When he got there, he saw Tabitha laid out. We need a Tabitha to lay down here with their eyes closed and arms crossed like this. Perfect! Peter saw Tabitha and he was sad again.

But Tabitha wasn't alone. She was surrounded by the church members in Joppa. Let's get some church members up here to stand around Tabitha



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STORY

Acts 9:36-42 (Tabitha raised)

and be sad. Pick out as many as you have costumes for. Tabitha's friends all cried. Let's hear you cry because you miss Tabitha.

There was something special about the people who were in Joppa. They were all wearing something special. Let's put on some special clothes for each of you. There we go! The people in Joppa were wearing clothes that their friend Tabitha had made for them! She worked hard to make those clothes that would keep them warm and make them look beautiful and handsome. Okay, friends, let's show Peter the special clothes that Tabitha made for you. Peter was so happy to see the clothes that Tabitha had made and so happy to hear about how she'd helped her friends that he went over to Tabitha and said, "Tabitha, get up!" And, even though Tabitha was dead, she got right up! She was alive again! It was a miracle!

Let's give a big round of applause for all of our helpers today!

Discussion Questions

- Where did you see God in this story?
- Has anyone in your life ever died? How did you feel?
- How do you think Tabitha's friends felt when she came back to life?
- Peter performed a miracle. Why do you think Peter did it?

Prayer

Dear God, we thank you for the story of Peter and Tabitha. We want to be like her, and make such a big difference in our community that we would be missed if we were gone. We want to help out our friends and neighbors. We know we can do anything with the power of the Holy Spirit, God. We want to feel your Holy Spirit on us every day and never forget the power of God. Amen.

DAY 5: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 1: Bee Keychain

Materials Needed:

- Wood beads of various sizes
- Cording or twine
- Custom wood cutout tag
- Materials for tassel (jute, ribbon, yarn)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Small piece of cardboard

Instructions

1. Give each student a piece of cord or twine that is much longer than what they will need.
2. Tape the end of it to prevent fraying and make threading easier.
3. String the beads on the cording in the desired pattern until you reach the desired length.
4. Once the beads are threaded, the wood cutout tag can be attached. If there is a hole, tie it to the wooden tag; if not, you may need to hot glue the cord to the tag.
5. Make a tassel using jute ribbon or yarn to attach to the other end by wrapping the tassel around a small piece of cardboard 20 - 25 times. The more you wrap, the fuller it will be.
6. Cut a separate short piece of yarn about 12 inches and lace it through the top loops of the wrapped yarn.
7. Pull the ends tightly and secure a tight knot. The ends of this can be used to secure the tassel to the project.
8. Create a neck by taking another small piece of yarn and wrapping it several times around the loops about an inch down from the top knot and tying it in a knot as well.
9. Cut the loops at the bottom end to remove them from the cardboard.
10. Trim the ends evenly and attach to the project.



DAY 5: CRAFT GUIDE

Option 2: Bead Flowers for Honey Pots

Materials Needed:

- Beads
- Flower picks or wooden skewers
- Hot glue
- Foam
- Ribbons
- Any leftover wooden or felt bees left from the week

Instructions

1. Apply hot glue to one end of the floral pick or skewer and insert it into a bead.
2. Continue adding beads in pattern child chooses with hot glue
3. Repeat the above process until each student has made 3 to 5 flowers.
4. Add ribbons to the base of the flowers.
5. Place foam base inside honey pot made a few days ago.
6. Arrange flowers as desired.
7. Glue little bees to the flowers.



DAY 5: POST CRAFTS CONVERSATION GUIDE

Discussion Questions

Today's story is pretty remarkable. It's about a woman named Tabitha and she is known for sewing clothes for the poor and especially for widows. Her sewing made many repairs not just to clothing but also to their dignity. People did not have to feel ashamed, because now they had clothes that fit, kept them warm, and made their life easier. She brought peace through her sewing to her community.

- Can anyone tell me what a peacemaker is?

A peacemaker is someone that takes a difficult situation and brings to it peace. Anything that is difficult, or scary, or causes someone to struggle, can be healed through peace. It doesn't just have to be wars.

Tabitha, was able to bring peace by making her friend's lives easier, through meeting their needs and clothing them.

But then something very sad happens, Tabitha dies. The entire community is upset. When Peter arrives, he sees all the work that Tabitha has done and he goes and prays, then he tells her to get up. She rises from the dead. God brings her back to life. This miracle is not by accident. Tabitha brought new life and peace to the people through her sewing and God rewarded her with new life, so she could continue to bring peace to the community she served.

Today, we threaded beads and created flowers, which remind us that it's important that we use our hands to bring peace and new life to other people's lives.

At Midwest Mission they repair sewing machines, putting new life into old machines in order that they can be used again to help people clothe themselves and support their families. It brings peace and new life to entire communities. We too can donate things like bicycles, sewing machines and other items to people in order to bring new life to their communities.

DAY 5: GAMES GUIDE

Game 1: Tabitha's Giving Game

Materials Needed:

- Variety of oversized clothes and shoes
- 2 containers for clothes

1. Divide the kids into teams, depending on the number of kids attending this can be a minimum of two teams or as many teams as needed.
2. At one end of the lot have boxes of old oversized clothes. There needs to be one pile of clothing for each team.
3. Have the students line up at the opposite end and on Go they will race to the box put on everything in the box and race back to their team.
4. When they return to their team, they must tag the next person and run back to the box with them.
5. Once at the box, they will take everything off and hand it to the next person who will be putting it on.
6. That person will then run to the other end, tag someone to return with them to the box, and repeat steps 4 and 5 until everyone has gone.
7. The last person in the group will put everything on...run back to the line and the whole line will sit down.

Game 2: Pollen Collector (Blob Tag)

1. Choose one person to be the bee.
2. Everyone else will be pollen.
3. The job of the bee is to collect the pollen.
4. As the bee tags someone, they now join the bee and have to hold onto the bee with one hand and tag someone else with their other hand.
5. The person most recently caught becomes the tagger but everyone who has been tagged must stay together holding hands connected to the tagger.
6. This continues until everyone has been tagged.

DAY 5: POST GAMES CONVERSATION GUIDE

The Buzz: Clothing Others In Peace

Today's game was probably hard to put on all the oversized clothing and run to the other end.

- Why was it so hard to run in the clothes?

That game reminds of Tabitha, who spent all her days sewing and passing out clothes so that people had items that fit and that they could wear. Items that kept them warm, and covered. She saw a need in her community and reached out in peace to meet that need.

The other game we actually joined hands, as we went.

- Did it get easier to catch people with more people holding hands? Why do you suppose it was?

As you were holding hands in that game and working together it made me think about the Beatitudes, Blessed are the peacemakers. When we reach our hands out and hold hands with those around us, it's typically a sign of peace. The more people that were holding hands, the easier the game became. When more of us reach out in peace, then achieving peace becomes easier. We are able to cover more territory and accomplish more.

This week you have been learning how to help at Midwest Mission. Hopefully, you will be able to find ways in your families and at church to continue to reach out peace and do more mission projects to make a greater difference for Jesus.

DAY 5 EXPERIMENT:

Tie-Dye

Material List: (per kid)

- 1 White T-Shirt (Pre-washed 100% cotton works best).
- Fabric Dye (Yellow and black for bee theme could be suggested)
- Rubber Bands
- Plastic Zip-lock Bags (To take the wet shirt home)
- Gloves
- Apron
- Water
- Squeeze Bottles

Instructions

- Pinch the center of your shirt and twist it into a spiral, or accordion-fold it.
- Wrap rubber bands tightly around the shirt. The bands act as a barrier that keeps the dye from reaching certain parts of the fabric.
- Squeeze your dye onto different sections of the bundled shirt.
- Place your shirt in a plastic bag. It needs to sit for at least 6–8 hours (or overnight) for the colors to bond before washing.
- When you wash it out later, you'll see that the colors have all come together to create something beautiful.

DAY 5 EXPERIMENT:

Tie-Dye

Leader Guide

In the book of Acts, Tabitha was a peacemaker. She didn't lead an army; she used a needle and thread. She saw people who were sad and cold, and she made them clothes. She brought peace to their hearts by taking care of their needs. When she died, her friends were so sad that they showed Peter all the shirts and coats she had made for them. Because of her 'peaceful' work, God used Peter to resurrect her back to life!

This experiment is all about how liquids move and how molecules stick together. When you squeeze the dye onto the shirt, it moves through the tiny gaps between the cotton fibers using capillary action, which is the same way water travels from a tree's roots up to its leaves. The rubber bands act as a barrier, squeezing the fabric so tightly that the liquid cannot reach certain areas, creating white patterns. As the shirt sits in the bag, a chemical reaction occurs where the dye molecules form a permanent bond with the cotton fibers. Once the excess is washed away, the colors that have "bonded" stay behind to reveal a beautiful design.

The Midwest Mission Connection: Midwest Mission carries on Tabitha's work today. Did you know they collect and fix Sewing Machines? Many people around the world live in places where there are no stores to buy clothes. Midwest Mission takes donated sewing machines, sometimes the foot-peddle kind that don't even need electricity, and they fix them, so they work like new. They send these machines to people so they can make clothes for their family, start a small business to earn money for food, and teach others how to sew. By sending one machine, Midwest Mission helps a whole village live in peace because they can provide for themselves. Bees are also very peaceful if their hive is safe and everyone is fed. They spend their lives making sure the hive has everything it needs. Today, as you dye your shirt, think about how your hands can be like Tabitha's hands. How can you use what you have to make someone else's life a little more peaceful?



DAY 5: CLOSING SCRIPT

Welcome back my little Honeybees! Can you BEE-lieve that we have had five days at the Helpful Hive!?! I am going to miss you all and the fun that we have had this week. Do a few of you want to call out a few of your favorite parts of the Hive this week? Can anyone tell me what our BEE - Attitude was today? That's right it was Blessed are the peacemakers. Peacemaking is hard work. What Bible story did we hear about? Good job! We learned about Tabitha. She brought peace to her community by meeting people's clothing needs. What did God do when she died? That's right, he helped Peter raise her from the dead.

What are some ways we learned that we can partner with our friends at Midwest Mission to help others take care of their families and their communities? That's right through sewing. I do love a good Sewing Bee. At Midwest Mission, they actually collect sewing machines that might be broken or no longer work. Then they repair those old machines to give to people so that they can make clothing to support their families. So even the things that we might think are broken or dead can be made new in this Helpful Hive.

Oh this SEW makes my heart long to sing. Will you join me in buzzing along to one of our Helpful Hive songs?

Sing one of the Hive Songs



Closing

Great Singing! Well my little Honeybees it is time for us to buzz out to our favorite flower petals, for the last time. We sure hope that you have learned a lot of great ways to BEE a Blessing! Every little honeybee has a special part to play in the Helpful Hive. So be sure to take the sweet Honey you have learned here and spread God's love like pollen in your churches, community and the world. Before we go let's go and talk to the Ultimate Bee Keeper!

Prayer

Oh Holy God, we thank you for such a sweet week. We pray that each Honey Bee here realizes how important they are to you and the Hive. We thank you for all the great ways that we can make a difference. Give us the courage to pursue all that you have called us too. Thank you for a week pouring with your love like honey. Go with each of us as we leave this Hive and go out into the world to spread your love like pollen. Amen.

Dismiss

Be sure each student is released to an adult on their registration form.



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