

HERE WE COME!

Play a game of "Do What I Do" with the children. Include silent actions, repeating phrases, movement, singing, greeting, sharing, or any other activity familiar to the class setting. Talk about how easy or hard it is to imitate someone else. What kinds of things would we do to imitate Jesus?

SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

Print the words of the scripture on heart shapes. Have a larger heart with the verse printed on it for each child to wear.

STORY TALKING

Talk about what it means to be chosen.

- Name a game you play where you have to wait until you are chosen.
- Is it fun to be picked first?
- In your family, how do you choose the one to say the blessing on the food?
- When you play on a slide, how do you decide who gets to go first?
- If you have a pet, who takes care of its needs?
- Have you ever been asked to play with or entertain a little brother or sister?
- Do you feel special when you are chosen?
- If you are chosen by God, what things might God want you to do?

UP AND AT 'EM

Choose an activity that provides for large-muscle movement, like the one used to begin this lesson.

MOVING MUSIC

- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "Jesus Loves Even Me"
- "Tell How You Love Jesus"

Jesus Loves Even Me

Phillip P. Bliss



I am so glad that Je - sus loves me,
Je - sus loves me, Je - sus loves me. I am so glad that
Je - sus loves me, Je - sus loves e - ven me.

GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU

It feels wonderful to know we are chosen by God.

Scripture Words

God loves you and has chosen you.
—1 Thessalonians 1:4
NRSV adapted

LIVE AND LEARN

The scripture text for the day comes from 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10. Incorporate the children into the story as you tell it by asking questions.

Have you ever had someone come to visit, just for a little while, and when they had to leave, you didn't want them to go because you had such a good time talking and listening to their stories?

The people in Thessalonica felt that way. Their city was a busy one, sitting right on the edge of the sea. People traveling from one place to another passed through this town. There were things to buy and things to sell. There were big businesses and small businesses. There was noise and excitement everywhere.

Paul, the missionary, came to Thessalonica and went to the synagogue [church]. Most of the people who worshiped there were Jews, but many Greeks also came to worship God. For three weeks, Paul taught them about God, and also about Jesus. They couldn't get enough of his stories. They wanted to know more and more about Jesus.

Not everyone in the city liked Paul and what he was teaching, and soon he was run out of town. He traveled south to another place where he started a church. But Paul did not forget about his new friends in Thessalonica. In a few months he sent Timothy, a young missionary who traveled with him, to visit and check up on these new Christians.

As much as he would have liked to, there just wasn't time to get everywhere and tell stories and answer questions. So sometimes Paul had to write letters. When we write letters, we sign our name at the end. Paul always started the letter by saying who it was from. Here is part of the letter he wrote to the people at Thessalonica. (Note: Silvanus is another name for Silas.)

From Paul, Silvanus [Sill VAIN us], and Timothy
To the church of the Thessalonians

We thank God for you, friends, and pray for
you often.

We know, brothers and sisters, that God loves
you and has chosen you.

You heard our words and saw our actions as
Christians.

And you became imitators of us and the Lord!

We do what Jesus did, and you do what we did.

I am sure that makes God very happy.

Tell How You Love Jesus

Anonymous

Anonymous

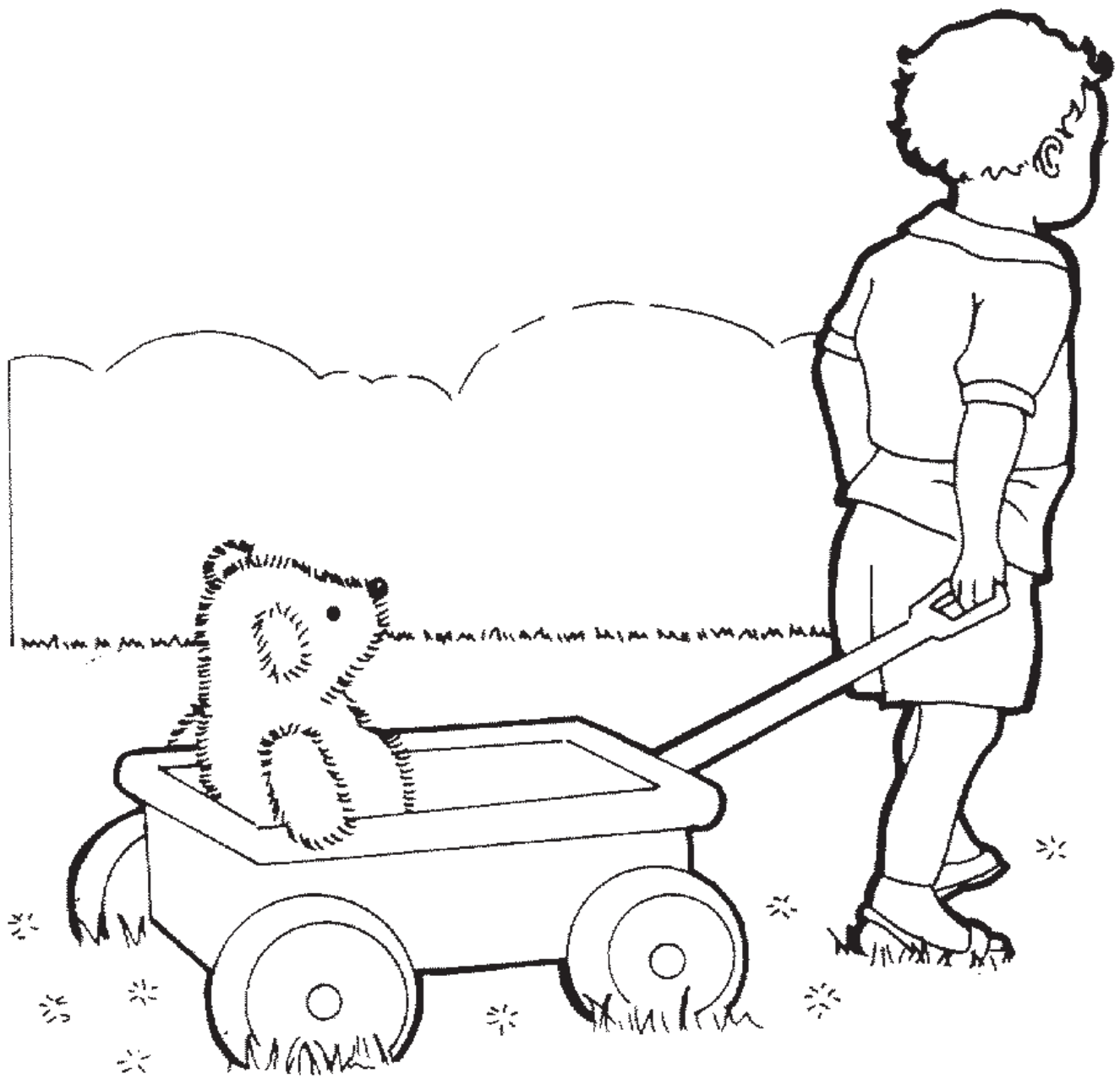
Oh, how I love Je - sus. Oh,
how I love Je - sus. Oh, how I love
Je - sus, Be - cause He first loved me.

SENSE-ATIONS

Give each child a copy of the picture on the following page. The colors have already been chosen. Help the children with the directions. Is it possible to end up with all of their pictures alike?

THERE WE GO

Ask the children to share the scripture message on the heart they are wearing with family and friends.



COLOR THE WAGON RED.

COLOR THE WHEELS YELLOW.

COLOR THE BEAR BROWN.

COLOR THE GRASS GREEN.

COLOR THE SHORTS BLUE.

COLOR THE SHIRT PURPLE.

COLOR THE HAIR ORANGE.

COLOR THE SHOES BLACK.

COLOR THE SKIN THE SAME COLOR AS YOURS.