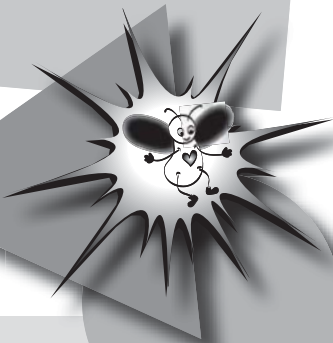


## IN OUR CHURCH

Take a walk through the church at the beginning of class. Notice the activity. Who has gone to class? Who is getting things ready for the worship service? Who is waiting to greet people as they arrive? Look for animals.

# FIND STRENGTH IN THE CROSS



## MATERIALS

- SCRIPTURE DISCOVERY**  
Bible  
scripture cards
- SCRIPTURE STORY**
- GOOD NEWS REMINDER**  
precut tri-fold card for each child  
crayons
- DISCIPLES' GENEROUS RESPONSE**  
offering basket
- CROSS LABYRINTH**  
floor labyrinth from last session
- PRAYER-CROSS MOSAIC**  
cross poster  
church prayer pieces  
tape or glue stick
- SYMBOLS GAME**  
game pieces—set for each child  
envelopes/zipper bags
- CROSS SEWING CARDS**  
cross-shaped poster board cards  
yarn/shoe laces
- CROSS SNACK**  
pretzel sticks  
marshmallows or cheese cubes
- FAMILY CONNECTIONS**  
take-home pages

## Scripture Discovery

Print the words on cross shapes and place in 1 Corinthians for the children to discover.

The message of the cross is the power of God.  
—1 Corinthians 1:18

## Scripture Story

Today's story comes from the Gospel text, John 2:13–22. Begin by talking about what the children saw on their early morning walk. What did they see people doing? Were there any animals? Why not? Would you see animals in the Community of Christ Temple in Independence if you visited there? Why not? As the story (*page 38*) is told, let the children act out the parts. Following the story, talk about the types of things that are good to do at church. (*worship, pray, sing, listen, greet people, go to class*) Why was Jesus upset? What are some things that are not usually good to do at church? (*run, scream, bring pets, hit, be mean*)

## "Sharing Generously"

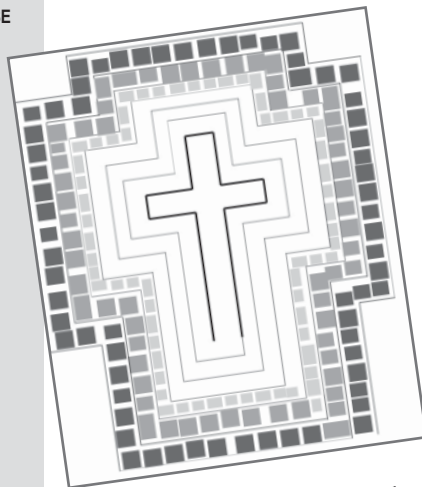
Tune: "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"

God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.  
In faith we give because we care,  
Sharing generously.  
With a nickle here, and a quarter there,  
See our money helping others,  
bringing love to one another.  
God needs me a disciple to be,  
Sharing generously.



## Disciples' Generous Response

Let children place their money in the offering basket as they sing, clap, and dance to the music of the song "Sharing Generously."



## Cross Labyrinth

Let children walk the cross labyrinth created for the last lesson.

## Prayer-Cross Mosaic

Today's prayer pieces can be cut into the shape of a church. Let children stick their prayer paper on the poster with tape or glue stick as they say a prayer for all the hungry people in this world.

Dear God,  
We love you. Help us to find strength in you. Help us to help those who are hungry. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Symbols Game

Repeat today's scripture. Explain that in this scripture Paul—a disciple of Jesus—talks about the symbol of the cross. The empty cross reminds us that Jesus died but rose again in three days. The cross is just one of the many symbols Christians use.

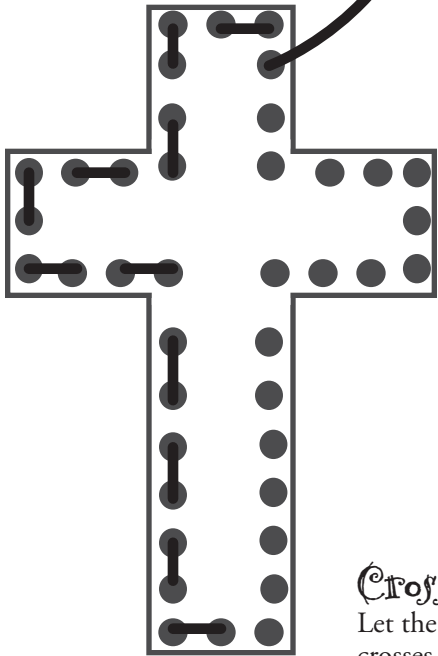
Make two copies of the symbols game for each child. Discuss what each symbol reminds us of, then play a matching game with the cutout squares.




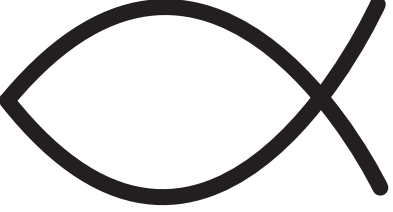


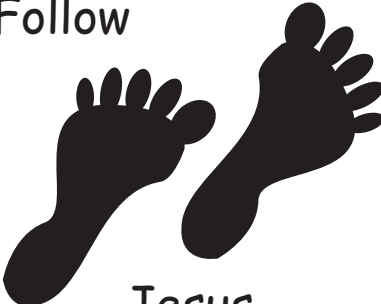

*Mix up symbols then lay them face down on a table. Let children take turns turning them over, two at a time, to find matches. Whenever they make a match, ask the question, "What does this symbol remind you of?"*

Place matching games in an envelope or plastic zipper bag for children to take home.

## Cross Sewing Cards

Cut heavy poster board into cross shapes. Punch holes around the outside edges to create a sewing card. Use shoelaces or yarn with tape around the ends for laces.



 <p>peace</p>	 <p>Jesus is the Light.</p>
 <p>CROSS</p>	<p>I believe</p>  <p>in Jesus.</p>
 <p>pray</p>	 <p>Bible</p>
<p>Follow</p>  <p>Jesus.</p>	 <p>love</p>

## Cross Snack

Let the children create crosses with pretzel sticks and marshmallows or cheese cubes.

## Family Connections

Make copies of the Family Connections (page 38) to send home with each child. Mail a copy to children who missed today's class.

## Commotion in the Temple

by Marge Nelson

When Jesus was on the earth, there was only one temple in Jerusalem. It was the place where people came to worship and pray. They would bring their offerings to God. They would give the best of what they had. They brought animals or grain from their fields. Sometimes they brought money.

One day, just before Passover, Jesus and the disciples went to the temple. There was more noise than usual. The temple was often crowded, with people coming into the open courts to visit and pray. But this was different. Today the temple looked more like the marketplace than a church. There were money changers sitting at tables all around the walls. If you had money, they would tell you it wasn't the right money and change it for you, keeping some of the money for themselves.

If you wanted to give God an animal as an offering, but didn't have one of your own, the money changers would sell you a cow or a sheep or a goat or a dove—at a high price.

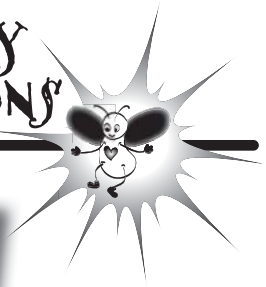
The cows were mooing. The sheep were baa baa-ing, the goats were making bleating noises, and the doves were cooing. (*Let children make animals sounds.*) You could hardly hear yourself talking.

Jesus stood and looked at the scene. He saw the money changers sitting at their tables taking money from people. He saw animals tied up and some in cages waiting to be sold. He saw a few people trying to pray, but they were having trouble with all the noise and commotion.

Then Jesus did something no one had ever seen him do before. He got mad. The next thing anyone knew—there were tables being turned over, money scattering on the floor, birds flying, and animals running everywhere, trying to find the door.

“Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” Jesus yelled above the commotion.

## FAMILY CONNECTIONS



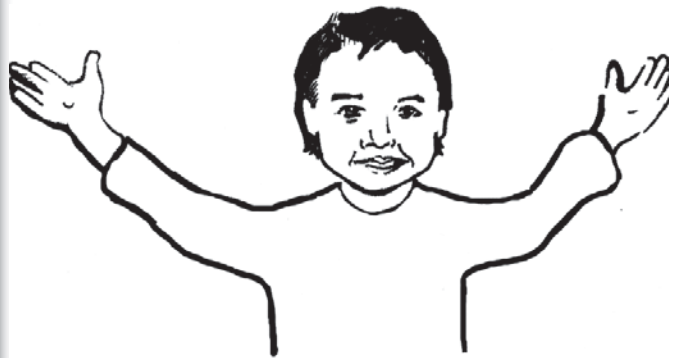
The message of  
the cross is the  
power of God.  
—1 Corinthians 1:18

### My God Is So Big

**My God is so big, so strong and so mighty;  
there's nothing my God cannot do. clap, clap  
(repeat)**

**The mountains are his;  
The rivers are his;  
The stars are God's handiwork,  
too.—ouh, ouh**

**My God is so big, so strong and so mighty;  
there's nothing my God cannot do.**



- **Let's read today's story together.**
- **My Jesus gives me strength.  
Let's sing songs:  
"Jesus Loves Me"  
"My God Is So Big"**
- **Play the Symbols Matching Game with me.**