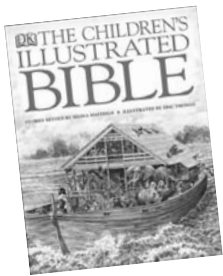


Second Sunday after Christmas



The Children's Illustrated Bible

Hopeful Message

Read Jeremiah 31:7-13. Jeremiah was a prophet who gave hope for a savior who would turn mourning into joy, sadness into happiness. Have kids think of a time their sadness was turned into happiness. Jesus makes this happen!

Have kids fold a sheet of paper in half. On one side, they may draw themselves as unhappy and show the reason why. On the second side, have them draw a joyful resolution to their problem. Even if it did not occur yet, have them draw what would be the happy outcome to their sadness. Have kids share their testimonies of sadness turned into joy, or their desire for a happy answer to a sad problem. Pray for those concerns together as a group.

He Is the Light for the People

Read John 1:4, 5, 9, 12; Ephesians 3:6; and Isaiah 60:1-3. Discuss: Who are the people Jesus brings his light to? Invite kids to name as many of the groups as possible.

The Lord says: Sing with gladness for I am going to gather all my people from the farthest parts of the earth and return to sing on the top of Zion. They will be joyful because of the goodness of the Lord. And I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
—Jeremiah 31:7–13
adapted



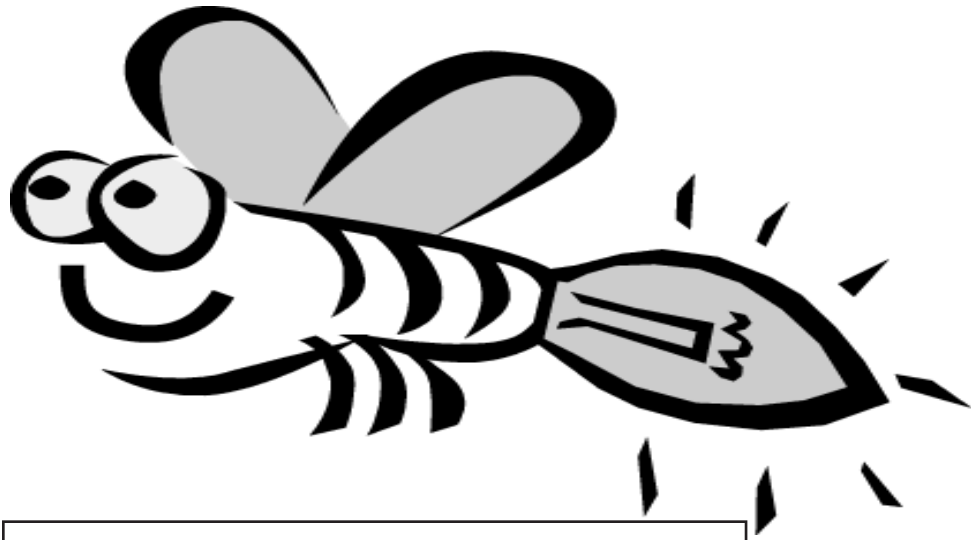
All about Fireflies

Discuss: Have you seen a field full of fireflies (sometimes called lightning bugs)? Have you tried to catch one? Fireflies are fascinating. Each firefly has its own special color of light and pattern of blinking. In a field of many fireflies, a firefly can blink its' taillight of a special color and pattern to attract another firefly in that field. If one answers it by blinking the same pattern back, they get together to make baby fireflies! If you had a flashlight and blinked the same pattern as another firefly, it would fly right up to you.

Fireflies create a light pattern meant for just one other firefly, but Jesus created a light pattern that everyone can repeat and follow. Can you follow Jesus' light pattern? Do you have a light pattern for others to follow too?

Give each kid a small flashlight (or have them bring small ones to class today). Divide kids into two groups. Each group will design its own simple blinking light pattern. Turn down the lights and give each group a turn blinking its pattern toward the other group that repeats it back. The groups may want to create more patterns that become more difficult. Read John 1: 4, 5, 9, 12 again.

In Jesus was life, and that life was the light of people. That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. And to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave them the right to be children of God.
—John 1:4, 5, 9, 12
adapted



In Jesus was life, and that life was the light of people. That light shines in the darkness, yet the darkness did not overcome it. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. And to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave them the right to be children of God.

—*John 1:4, 5, 9, 12 adapted*

Write about how you can be a light for the world.