

Objective: Each child will begin to understand that Jesus watches over him everywhere he goes.

Bible Memory Verse: 1 John 4:14

Supplies

ARRIVAL ACTIVITY

- Red yarn
- Poster board (optional)
- Prepared *Visuals 2A*
- Stickers, tape

HOME LIVING CENTER

- Dolls, doll bed, blanket
- Dishes, dress-up clothes, toy phone

ART CENTER

- 4 ½-inch cardboard tubes or paper towel tubes cut in half
- Crayons or markers
- Stickers, glue, tape

BIBLE STORY

- Visuals 2B*
- Folded 6-inch construction paper square
- Prepared *Visuals 2C or 2D*
- Activity Sheet 2A*
- Construction paper triangles cut from 6-inch squares
- Crayons, tape

CRAFT

- Activity Sheets 2B and 2C*
- Safety scissors, markers
- Stapler, tape

Planning Tips

Before the lesson, trace several hearts from the Small Heart Pattern from *Visuals 2A*. Prepare a heart poster for the Art Center and collect two 4½-inch cardboard tubes for each child. Bring a variety of stickers. Cut several six-inch construction paper squares for the Bible story and *Activity Sheet 2A*. Prepare a cardboard heart using the Large Heart Pattern from *Visuals 2A*. Read through this meeting for additional preparation tips. Place a check next to each activity you plan to include in your lesson, so you can see at a glance what supplies will be needed.

Arrival Activity (5-10 minutes)

Before the meeting, form a large red yarn heart on a poster, bulletin board, or wall at the children's eye level. Inside the heart, place the Large Heart Pattern (with Jesus in the center) from *Visual 2A*. Print JESUS LOVES ME above the picture. Print each child's name on a red construction paper heart traced from the Small Heart Pattern from *Visuals 2A* (one heart for each child). Greet each child as he arrives. Say, [Larry], **this week you will place a heart with your name on the heart poster to help you remember that Jesus watches over you no matter where you are.** Let the child choose a sticker to put on his heart and tape the heart around the yarn border on the bulletin board or poster.



Hint

Actively listen to how each child responds to your words. Look the child in the eye as you talk. Use praise and encouragement generously.

Learning Centers (15-20 minutes)

HOME LIVING CENTER

Bring dolls, a doll bed, a blanket, dishes, dress-up clothes, and a telephone. As the children play, guide their conversation to talk about ways mommies and daddies watch over their children. Say, **Jesus watches over us every day, too. Jesus loves and cares for us.**

ART CENTER

Before this lesson, cut an 8-inch length of yarn for each child. Print each child's name on a small red heart traced from the Small Heart Pattern (one heart for each child). Punch two holes in the top of each heart. Bring macaroni or cereal loops, a hole punch, tape, and scissors. Give each child a prepared length of yarn, a small paper heart with her name on it, and some macaroni. Let the child string the macaroni and heart onto the yarn to form a bracelet. Say, **Your bracelet will help you remember that Jesus loves you.**

Circle Time (10-20 minutes)

PRAYER TIME

As the children gather, encourage them to share their learning center experiences. Pray, asking God to help the children learn more about Jesus' loving care for them.

SONG TIME

Let volunteers share their learning center experiences. Sing JESUS LOVES ME, THIS I KNOW and JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN.

Bible Story (10-15 minutes)

LISTEN TO THE BIBLE STORY

Use the Jesus Cares for a Servant visual from *Visuals 2B*. Before the meeting, cut a 6-inch construction paper square, fold it to form a triangle, and tape the edges. Place the triangle over one of the pictures and tape it along the broken line. Fold the triangle down to reveal the top picture. Then fold it up to show the bottom part when indicated. Do this action rhyme:

I open my Bible (hold hands open like book),
And listen to God (hold hands to ear).



Bible Background

Matthew 8:5 says that Jesus entered Capernaum. This town served as Jesus' headquarters during a large portion of His public ministry. It was a fishing village built on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee. Capernaum hosted a Roman garrison that maintained peace in the region. Major highways crisscrossed at Capernaum, making it militarily strategic. Because of its fishing and trading industries, the city was something of a melting pot of Greek, Roman, and Jewish cultures.

He tells me what I should do (point up).
 I know that He loves me (hug self with arms);
 He hears when I pray (hold hands folded in prayer),
 And all of His stories are true (nod head “yes”).

I also know that Jesus loves me (point up, then hug self)
 And watches over me every day
 (shade eyes and look side to side).
 I like my Bible (hold hands open like book);
 It’s special to me – (fold hands over heart)
 Like a friend I see every day (point to eyes).

So, now I’ll be quiet
 (put finger to lips and sit down, if standing),
 My hands will be still (fold hands).
 I’ll hear what God has to say
 (hold one hand to ear, pointing up).

JESUS CARES FOR A SERVANT

After Jesus left heaven and was born on earth, He grew up to do many wonderful miracles to show us that He was the Son of God. He also showed us how much He loves and cares for us.

Once, after Jesus had been teaching people about God, He went to a city called Capernaum. An army captain came to talk with Him (show the top picture of the visual).

“Oh, Jesus, please come to my house,” pleaded the captain. “My servant is very sick, and I know You can make him well again.”

Jesus said, “Yes, I will come and make him well.” Of course, Jesus would go because Jesus is kind and good.

Then the army captain changed his mind. He knew Jesus could make the servant well **WITHOUT EVEN GOING TO HIS HOUSE**. He believed that Jesus could make the servant better without seeing or touching him. He believed Jesus could make the servant well by just saying for him to be well.

So the army captain said to Jesus, “You are so wonderful, Jesus. If you will only say, ‘Be well,’ I know my servant will be better.”

Jesus was amazed. This man truly believed in Him. “I haven’t seen anyone who has believed in Me more!” Jesus told the people.

Jesus kindly told the army captain, “Go home now. Your servant is better!” (Fold the paper triangle up to reveal the bottom picture.)



The Salvation Message for Preschoolers

If a child comes to you and says, “I would like Jesus to forgive my sins,” be aware that the Holy Spirit may be tugging at that child’s heart. It is not the time to give the child a test to see if he knows what he’s doing; it is time to lead him in a simple prayer of invitation. But it’s best not to ask the children, either as a group or individually, “Would you like to become God’s child?” Let the initiative come from them. Otherwise, some children may only be following the lead of their peers.

Jesus was far away from the army captain's house and the sick servant. But Jesus watched over that sick servant and cared for him even though the servant was far away. When Jesus said, "Your servant will be well," the servant jumped up out of bed. He was well! He could walk. He could jump. He could run. When the army captain arrived home, he was not surprised when he found his servant happy and well. Jesus is the wonderful Son of God who watches over us. When we play, Jesus watches over us. When we are at church, Jesus watches over us. When we are far away from home, Jesus watches over us. When we are sick, lonely, or afraid, Jesus watches over us. Jesus loves us very much!

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Ask the boys and girls to pretend they are the servant whom Jesus made well. Have them do the things the servant could now do. Say, **Because Jesus made the servant better, he could clap his hands** (have the children clap). **Because Jesus made the servant better, he could jump up and down** (have the children jump up and down). **And because Jesus made the servant better, he could run** (have the children run in place). Let the children suggest and do other things the servant could now do. Then sing JESUS LOVES ME.

Bible Memory Verse (5 minutes)

1 John 4:14 — *"The Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."* (KJV)

"The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world." (NIV)

Before the meeting, cut out the Bible Words Heart Puzzle from *Visuals 2C* (KJV) or *2D* (NIV). Glue the puzzle on a piece of cardboard and cut it into two pieces. Divide your children into two groups. Select one person from each group to hold each puzzle piece. One child will hold the left half of the heart, and his group will say, "The Father sent (has sent) the (His) Son." The other group will say, "to be the Saviour (Savior) of the world," as they fit the two puzzle pieces together. Say, **Because of Jesus' love for us, we can love others.**

Bible Learning Activities (20-25 minutes)

BIBLE ACTIVITY

Before the meeting, cut a 6-inch square piece of construction paper in half to form two triangles. Cut one triangle for each child, plus a few extras for visitors. Hand out a paper triangle, tape, crayons,

Key Verse:

1 John 4:14

"The father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world." (KJV)

"The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world." (NIV)

and *Activity Sheet 2A* to each child. He will probably recognize the page as the one used during the Bible Story. Show the children how they can place the triangle over one of the pictures and tape it along the broken line. Help the children flip the triangle so they can tell the Bible story at home in two parts, just like you did today. Let the children color the bottom picture. Read the directions and the Bible lesson statements to them.

BIBLE CRAFT

Each child will make a heart booklet. Give each child *Activity Sheets 2B and 2C*. Also provide safety scissors, a stapler, and tape. Read aloud the sentences on each page. Help the children cut out the hearts, cutting on the thick solid lines. Staple the tops of the heart pages together, taping the back of the staples to prevent scratching. Make sure each child's name is on his craft. Say, **Jesus watches over us because He loves us so much.**

BIBLE GAME

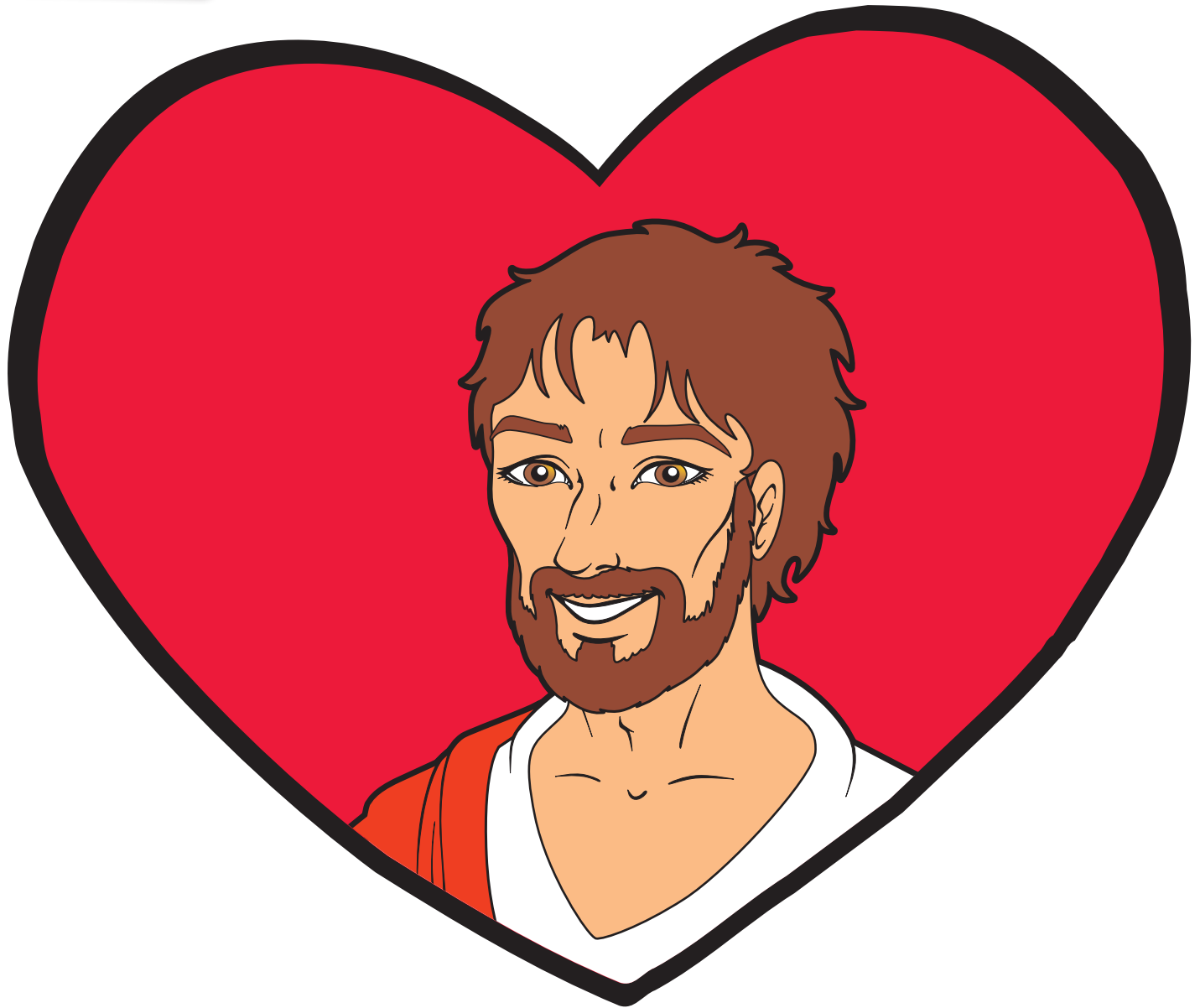
Play this game with the alteration of having children wiggle in one place. Tell them they cannot run around the room, but have to stay in one area. Turn facing away from the children and call "green light." The children may then start wiggling and continue to wiggle until you call out "red light." As you say "red light," turn around quickly and try to visually catch any children who might still be moving. The children who are caught may continue to stay in the game and try again or may join you in trying to catch others.

SNACK

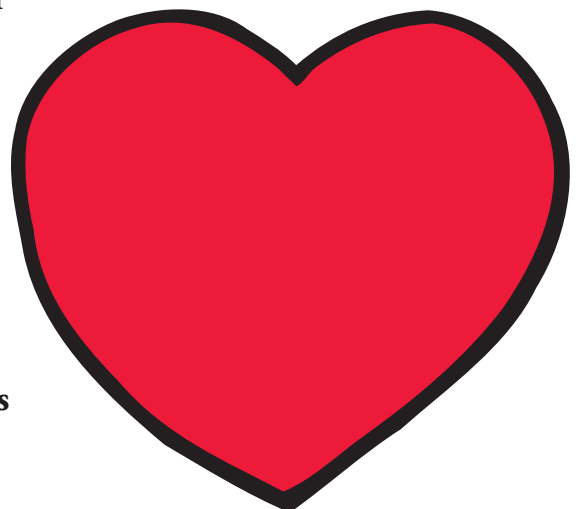
Bring twisted pretzels. Also serve water. Give each child a napkin into which you will place some pretzels. Say, **These pretzels look like hearts. They remind us that Jesus loves us. Jesus watches over us because He loves us.** For each pretzel they eat, have the children think of one place where Jesus is watching over them (*at home, in bed, at school, on a playground, on vacation, at church, at Sunday school, etc.*).

Closing Prayer (5-10 minutes)

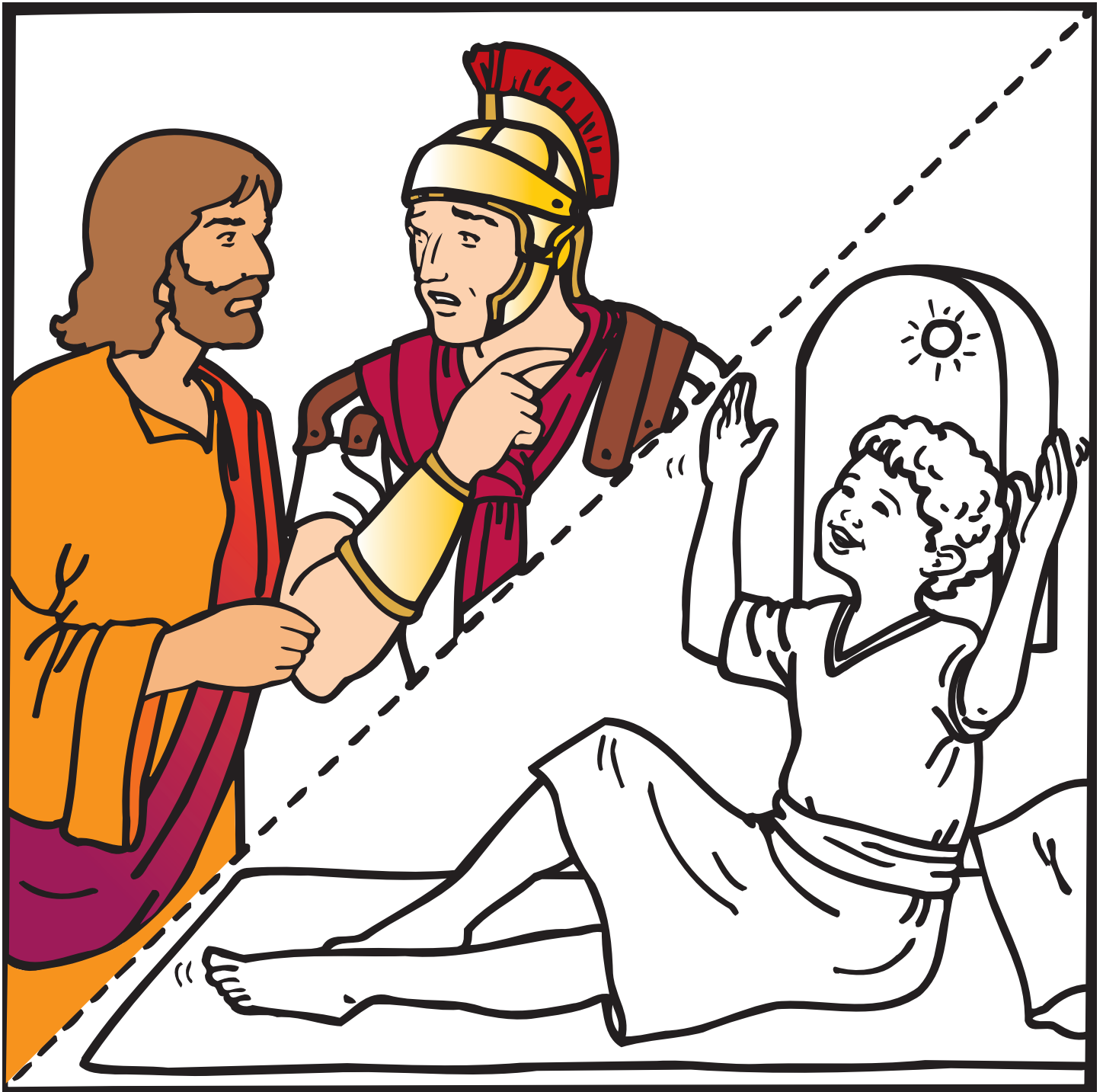
Sing JESUS LOVES THE LITTLE CHILDREN. Thank Jesus for watching over children every day, everywhere. Hand out today's craft and the completed activity sheets to each child.



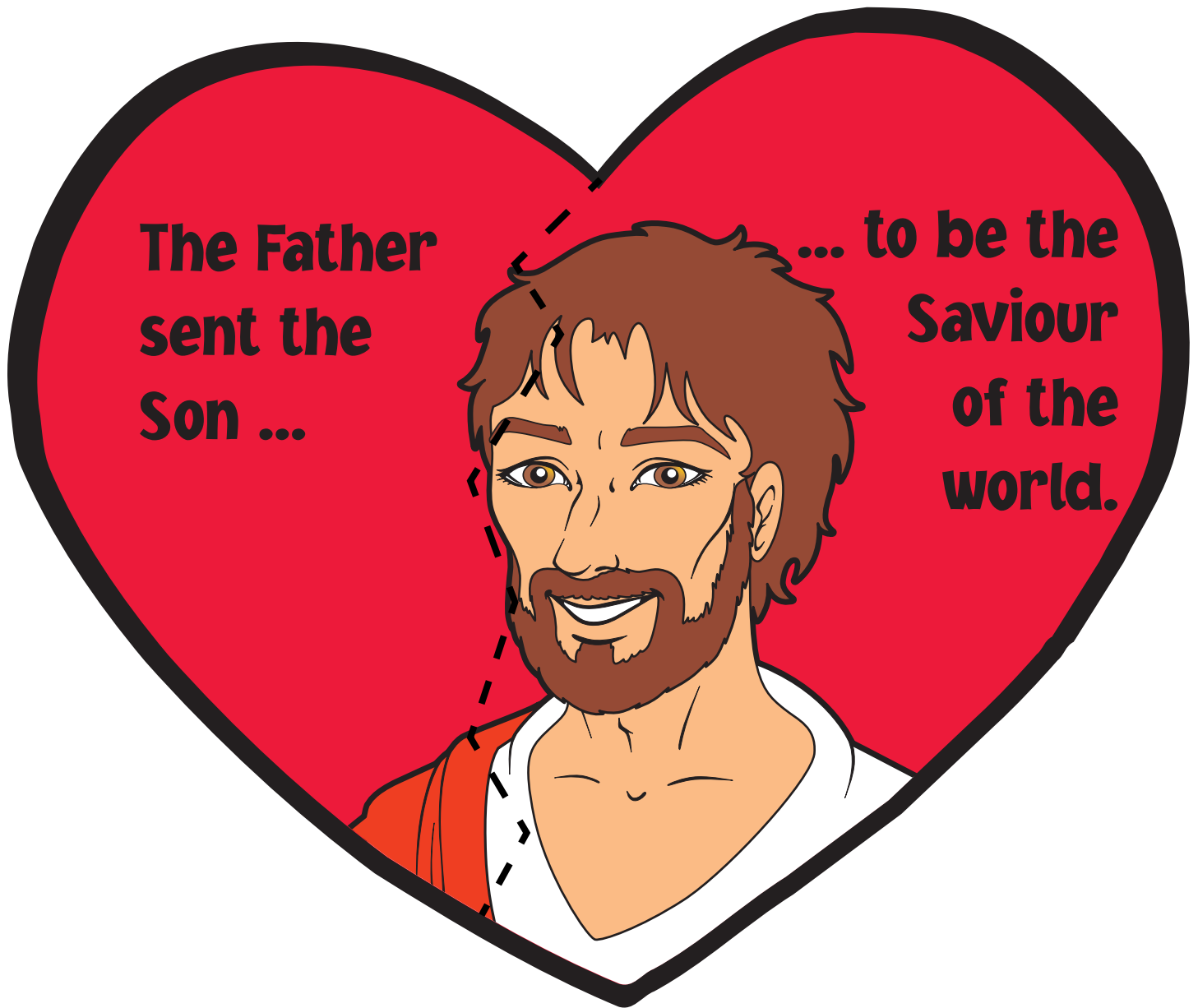
Large Heart Pattern



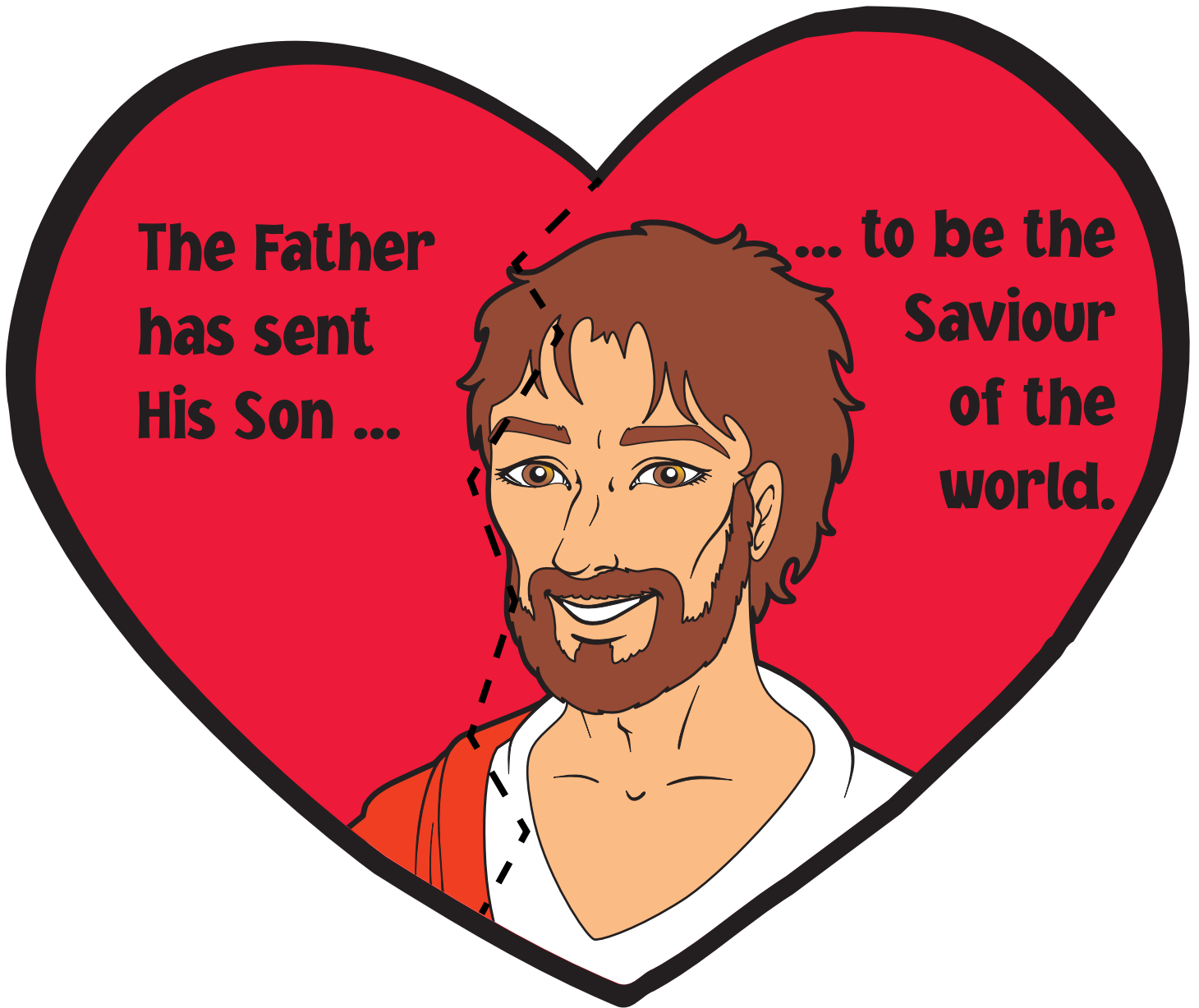
Small Heart Patterns



Jesus Cares for a Servant



Bible Words Heart Puzzle (KJV)



Bible Words Heart Puzzle (NIV)

Name _____



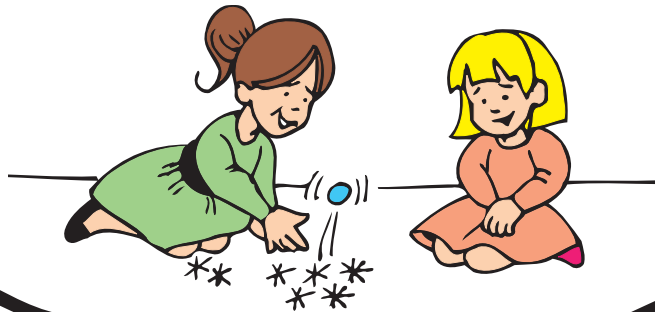
Jesus Watched Over a Sick Boy

Jesus was far away from the army captain's house where a servant boy was very sick. But when Jesus said, "Be well!" the servant boy was made well (Matthew 8:5-11, 13; Luke 7:1-10). Color the bottom picture. Tape the long end of a triangular piece of paper so the tape is on

the broken line. Use the paper to cover the bottom picture as you listen to the first part of the story. Fold the triangular paper up to cover the top picture as you hear about the boy who was made well.

Name _____

Jesus watches
over me when I play,



1

and when I sleep,
and all the time.



Name _____

Jesus was kind;



3

Jesus is kind to me.

