

# God's Leaders

## Lesson Objectives

- The children will state that God gives us leaders who meet the needs of the church.
- The children will get to know a leader of your congregation.
- The children will choose a leader to thank this week.

## Lesson Text

Acts 6:1-5

## Scripture Memory Verse

Remember your leaders, imitate their faith.

*Hebrews 13:7*

## Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Thank You-1

Welcome and Singing

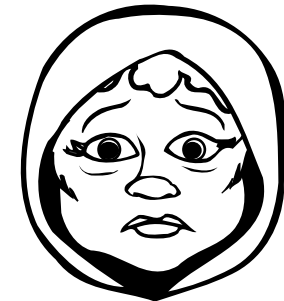
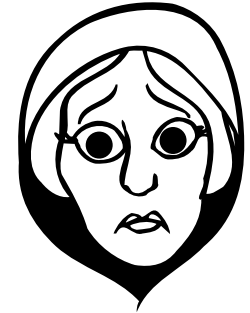
Centers:

Bible Story: God's Leaders

Life Application: Meet a Leader

Craft: Thank You-2

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.





# God's Leaders

## Thank You-1

The children will make gift bags to be used in the craft center.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- a small paper lunch bag
- glue stick
- red marker

*For the teacher:*

- white water-based paint
- foil pan
- paper towels
- bowl and water to rinse hands
- tape
- markers or crayons

### Preparation

1. Prepare a "basket" for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut off the top half of the bag. See Figure A.
  - B. Cut an 8" x 2" strip from the top half of the bag making a handle.
  - C. Tape a handle securely onto each bag. See Figure B.

### Instructions

1. Before the children arrive, set up a paint station as follows:
  - A. Pour a small amount of paint into the foil pan.
  - B. Fill the bowl with water for the children to rinse off their hands.
2. Explain to the children that today they will learn about the leaders that God has given them. *Today you will be making a craft to give to your leaders to thank them for their hard work.*
3. Give each child a basket and have them color in the hearts.

4. Help the children paint their baskets as follows:
  - A. Have each child come to the paint station one at a time.
  - B. Place the basket flat on the work surface.
  - C. Have the child spread apart his fingers, and then gently place his hand into the paint.
  - D. Guide the child's hand onto the side of the basket making a handprint.
5. Have the child rinse off his hand in the bowl and then dry it with a paper towel.
6. Write the child's name on the back of the basket, and then set the basket aside to dry.
7. After the bags have dried, give them to the craft teacher.

### Conclusion

Tell the children that the handprint is to remind them to serve their leaders.

### Teacher Tips

- While the children are waiting to do their handprint have them decorate their baskets with markers or crayons.
- Have another teacher help you with this activity.

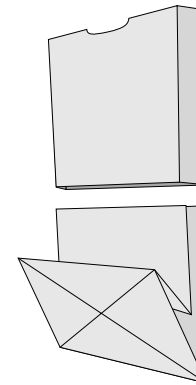


Figure A

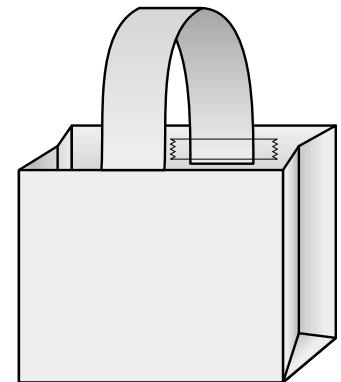


Figure B

# God's Leaders

## God's Leaders

The children will hear that God gives us leaders to meet our needs.

### Lesson Text

Acts 6:1-5

### Materials

*For each child:*

- 1 small paper bag

*For the teacher:*

- grapes or crackers
- 1 pair of gloves
- glue
- markers
- yarn
- fabric (optional)

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page A, 1 copy for the teacher

### Preparation

1. Make the puppets as follows:
  - A. Cut out the faces from the copy of Reproducible Page A.
  - B. Glue each of the widows' faces to a finger on one glove.
  - C. Glue each of the apostles' faces to a finger on the other glove.
  - D. Decorate the faces using yarn for hair.
2. Put several grapes inside half of the paper bags.
3. Fold each paper bag closed so that they all look as if there is something in them.

### Enough Food

*A long time ago in the first church there was a problem. The problem was about food. There was enough food for everyone, but only some people got to eat; while other people were still hungry. The people who did not get food were the Greek widows. How do you think they felt when they saw the other people getting food but they didn't get any? (sad, left out, hungry)*

Give each child a paper bag. Let the children open them and then ask them what is inside their bags. Ask if everyone has something in their bags.

*Now those of you who have empty bags can understand how the Greek widows might have felt. What do you think that the women did?*

Put on the gloves. Tell the children who the characters are as you put on the gloves.

*Long ago, when Jesus went back to heaven to be with God, he asked his friends, Peter, John, James and the other apostles, to be leaders for the people, the church. Everyone in the church shared with each other. If someone needed clothes, they got a shirt, or pants or whatever they needed. If they were hungry, they got food.*

*But not everyone wanted to share. That's why the Greek widows did not get any food.*

Wiggle the "widow" fingers as if they are talking to each other. *We want food. No one is sharing food with us. That's not like Jesus! Jesus wants everyone to be taken care of. Share with us!*

*The widows went to talk to the leaders. Help us! Help us! We are so hungry, we need food to eat! The Apostles decided to choose seven men full of faith and who obeyed God to make sure that everyone got a fair share of the food (Acts 6:1-5). How do you think the widows felt now that the leaders made sure that they were taken care of? (thankful, happy) Move the "widow" fingers as if they are joyful. Have them give hugs to the "apostle" fingers.*

### Conclusion

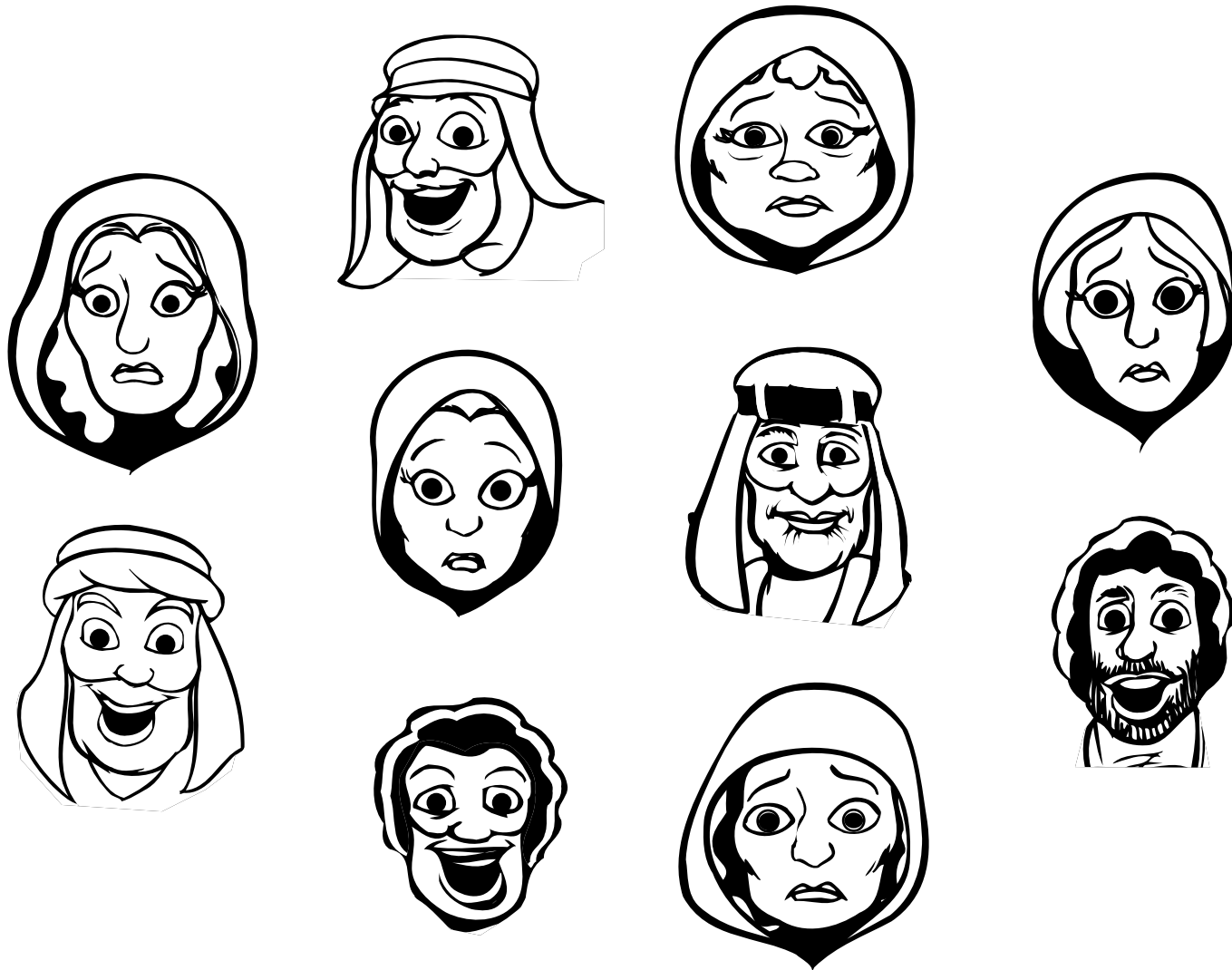
Have the children who have food in their bags, share with those who do not have any food.

Ask the children, *Who helped the widows to have food?* (the leaders) *Who helps us when we have needs?* (the leaders) *Who gives us leaders?* (God)

### Teacher Tips

- **IMPORTANT:** Be sure that none of the children have allergies to any of the snacks you may serve during this activity. Ask the parents at registration if their child has any food intolerance or food allergies.
- Use fabric to make clothes for the widows and apostles.
- Explain in simple terms that a widow is a woman whose husband has died.

# God's Leaders



### Meet a Leader

The children will meet one of the leaders of your congregation and learn that God gives us leaders to meet our needs.

#### Scripture Memory Verse

Remember your leaders, imitate their faith.  
*Hebrews 13:7*

#### Materials

None

#### Preparation

Ask a leader from your congregation to come visit the class. Explain to the leader that the children are learning that the leaders in Acts 6 met the needs of the church. Ask the leader to bring in a few pictures of the things that they do. Ask them to also bring in pictures of their family. Ask the person to be prepared to tell a story about their role and someone that they have helped.

#### Instructions

1. Introduce the leader to the group and tell the children what the person does for the church.
2. Let the person explain their job, tell their story and show their pictures.
3. Let the children ask the leader any questions they might have.

#### Scripture Memory Activity

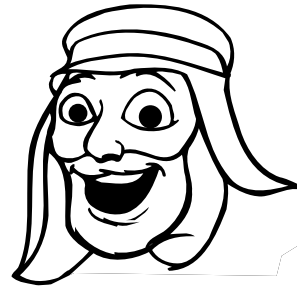
Have the children say the memory verse together for the leader.

#### Conclusion

Choose a child to pray and thank God for the leaders that he gives us. Encourage the children to share with their friends that God gives us people to lead us and to help meet our needs.

#### Teacher Tips

- Help the leader that you choose to think of age-appropriate ways that they can talk about their leadership role. Make sure you tell them how much time they have to speak.



# God's Leaders

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Hebrews 13:7



## God's Leaders

### Thank You-2

The children will learn the spirit of giving by making gift baskets to share with their leaders.

#### Materials

*For each child:*

- baskets from the Preclass Activity
- crayons and markers
- 1 plastic sandwich bag
- glue stick

*For the teacher:*

- tissue paper
- trail mix
- cup
- stickers
- ribbon

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page B, 1 copy for every 3 children



#### Preparation

1. Cut out the "thank you" labels and hearts from the copies of Reproducible Page B.
2. Cut a 10" piece of ribbon for each child.
3. Cut a 10" square of tissue paper for each child

#### Instructions

1. Introduce the craft as follows: *Today we will be making gift baskets to give to our leaders. Help the children to feel excited about making a gift for someone. This will show them just how much we appreciate all that they do for us!*
2. Give each child markers and stickers and the basket from the Preclass Activity. Have them color and place the stickers on their bags.
3. Give each child a tissue paper square to place inside the basket.

4. Help each child prepare a "gift" as follows:
  - A. Using the cup, scoop trail mix to fill the plastic bag while the child holds it open.
  - B. Tie each bag closed with a ribbon.
  - C. Have the child put the sandwich bag into the basket on top of the tissue paper.
5. Have each child color the thank you label and heart, and then glue them onto the basket.
6. Distribute the gift baskets. NOTE: Ask the lead teacher for help with a plan to deliver the thank you baskets. See Teacher Tips for some ideas.

#### Conclusion

Explain to the children ways that leaders help to meet different needs in the church. Give examples of different types of leaders: children's ministry leaders, teachers, song leaders, ministry leaders. Explain how each leader meets different needs.

#### Teacher Tips

- You can make an inexpensive trail mix by combining fish crackers, peanuts, raisins, pretzels and Cheerios, or be creative and come up with your own mix!
- Some ideas for distributing the baskets: (1) make a list of the teachers in some of the others classrooms, and then visit their classrooms during class to distribute the baskets, (2) assign a leader to each child, writing their name on the basket, and then have the parent and child deliver the basket, or (3) let the child and parent decide who to deliver the basket to and when it will be delivered.

# CRAFT

## God's Leaders



Finished Craft







Pre class



### Lesson Objectives

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### Lesson Text

Acts 6:1-5

### Scripture Memory Verse

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### Follow the Leader

This game will serve as an introduction to a discussion on following our leaders. The class plays the first part of the game together.

#### Materials

- a foam ball

#### Preparation

Think of movements that you will use during the game (e.g., pat your head, rub your stomach, put one hand behind your back, etc.)

#### Instructions

1. Explain to the children that today's lesson is about leaders. Talk to the children about how important leaders are to God's kingdom.
2. Have the children stand in a straight line.
3. Lead the children through the classroom performing a series of movements that they are to imitate.

#### Conclusion

Talk with the children about the game: What would have happened if no one had followed the leader? (The game would not have worked.)

Discuss with the children that God gives us leaders in the church to help us. He wants us to follow them.

### Lesson Plan

Greeting and Registration

Preclass Activity: Follow the Leader

Welcome and Singing

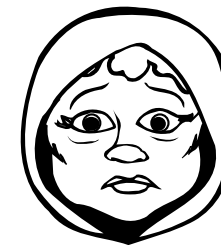
Centers:

Game: The Widow's Needs

Craft: 'Thank You' Award

Life Application: Meet a Leader

NOTE: Be sure to allow sufficient time for a snack.





### The Widow's Needs

The children will play a game that will remind them of the Bible story and to help people who are in need.

#### Materials

*For the teacher:*

- scarf or shawl
- magazines
- scissors
- construction paper
- glue stick



#### Preparation

1. Cut out pictures of food, hats, gloves, coats, shoes, beds, heaters, water, showers or baths.
2. Glue each picture onto a piece of construction paper. NOTE: Make enough for each child to have five different pictures.
3. Before the center begins put the scarf on your head to look like a widow.



#### Instructions

1. *Do you remember the Bible story about the widows who needed the leaders' help because they weren't getting food? Today I am pretending to be a widow and I have some needs.*
2. Give each child five pictures.



3. Using the suggestions given, tell the children of your needs, one at a time.
4. Have the children respond by offering you a picture of what they could give you to help meet your need.

Some suggestions are:

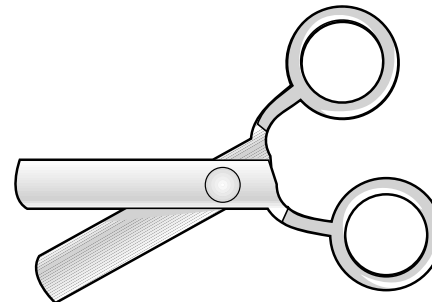
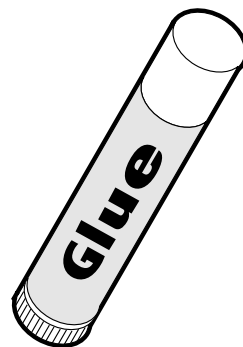
- I am very cold.
- I have not eaten today.
- I don't have a place to live.
- I am very dirty.
- My shoes have holes in them.
- My shirt is ripped.
- I am very tired.
- My pants are ripped.

#### Conclusion

Ask the children what they learned from the game. Even though it was just pretend, did they feel good about giving the widow what she asked for? *Yes, it feels good when we help others. It also makes God happy when we help others.*

#### Teacher Tips

- Ask other questions that may pertain to the culture in your area.





## 'Thank You' Award

The children will make awards to give to leaders to thank them for meeting their needs.

### Materials

*For each child:*

- small paper plate, 5"
- glue stick

*For the teacher:*

- red ribbon, wide
- stars and other stickers for decoration
- scissors
- crayons or markers

*Reproducible Pages:*

- Page C, 1 copy for every 2 children

### Preparation

1. Cut out the "thank you" circles from the copies of Reproducible Page C.
2. Prepare two pieces of ribbon for each child as follows:
  - A. Cut two 6" pieces of ribbon.
  - B. Cut a notch at one end of each ribbon. See Figure A.
3. Make a model of the craft following the instructions.

### Instructions

1. Discuss with the children how important leaders are to the church. God has appointed them to help us; they meet our needs; and they help us to be our best for God. *Today we are going to make awards to give to leaders to say how thankful we are for them.* Show the children your model.
2. Give each child a thank you circle. Have them color in the letters.
3. Give each child a paper plate. Have them glue the thank you circle to the middle of the plate.
4. Give each child two ribbons. Have them glue the ribbons to the plate so that the ribbons hang down from the plate at an angle.
5. Have the children color and decorate the awards with stickers.
6. Help the children write their names on the bottom of the plates.

### Conclusion

Have each child choose a leader to whom they can give an award.

### Teacher Tips

- Let the parent know to whom the award is to be delivered.



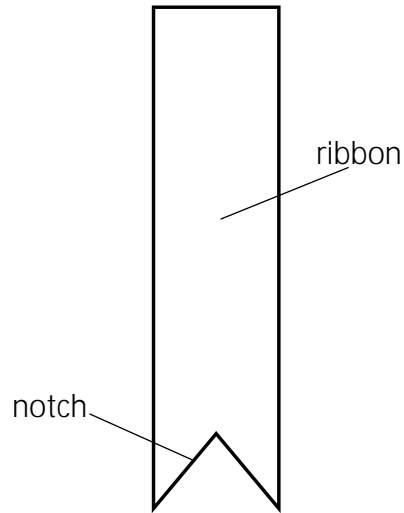


Figure A



Finished Craft

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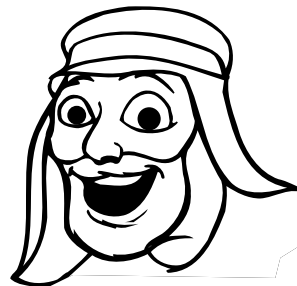
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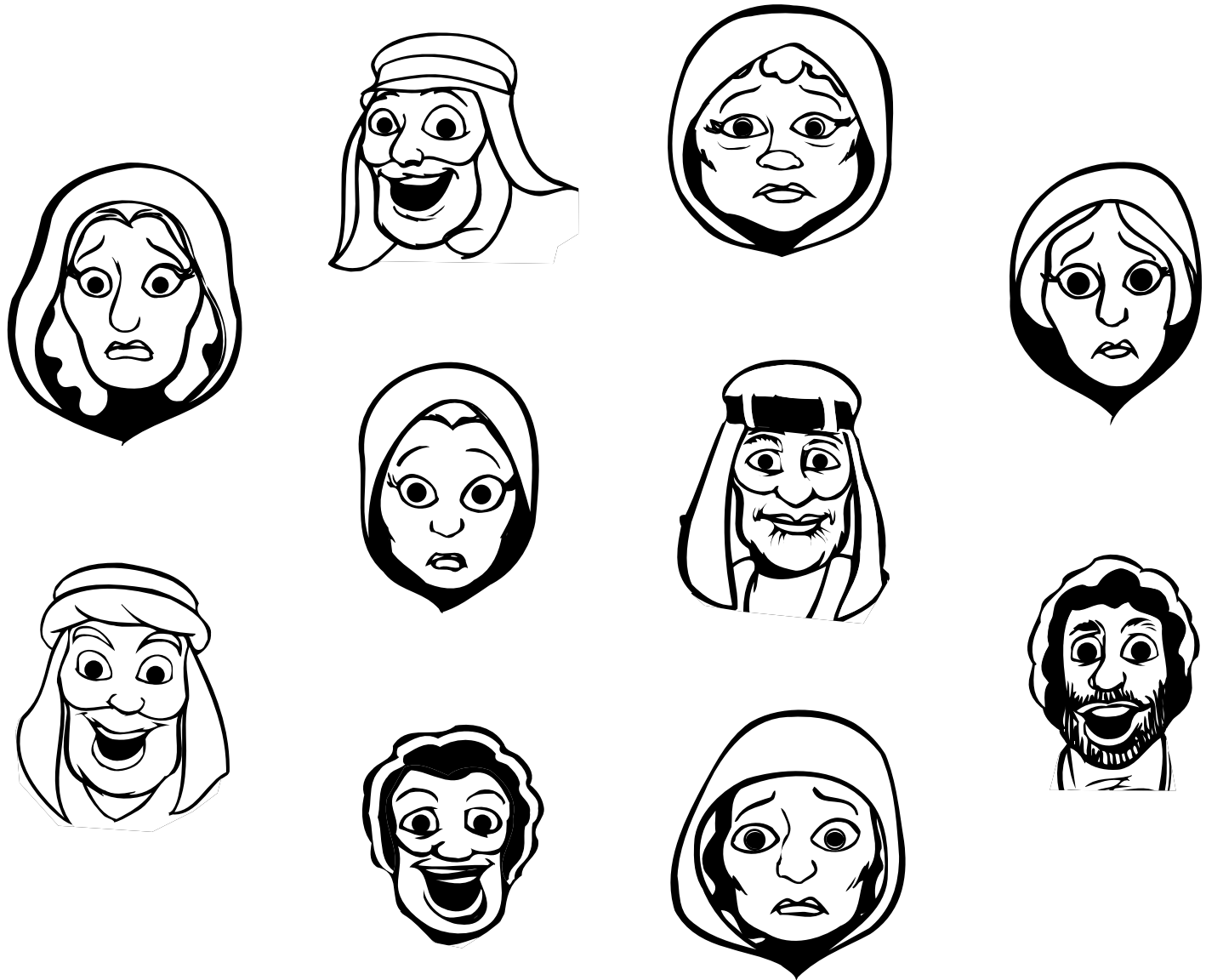
Core/Bible Story

1 copy for the teacher

Read Bible

Page

A



widows' and apostles' faces



Core/Craft

1 copy for every 3 children

**REPRODUCTION**

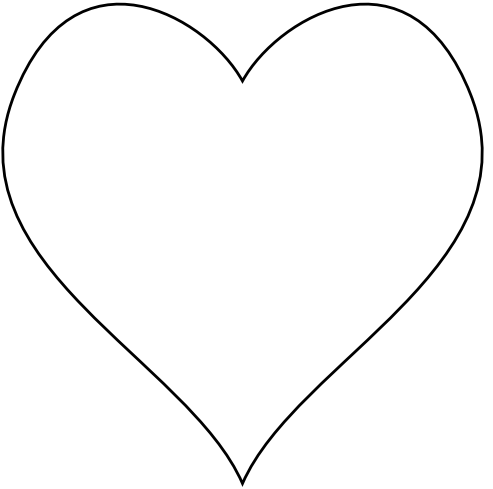
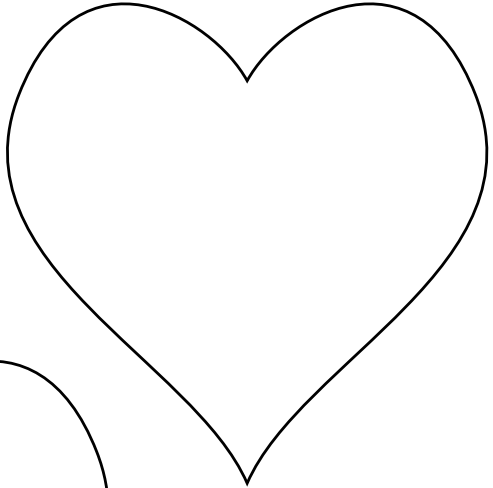
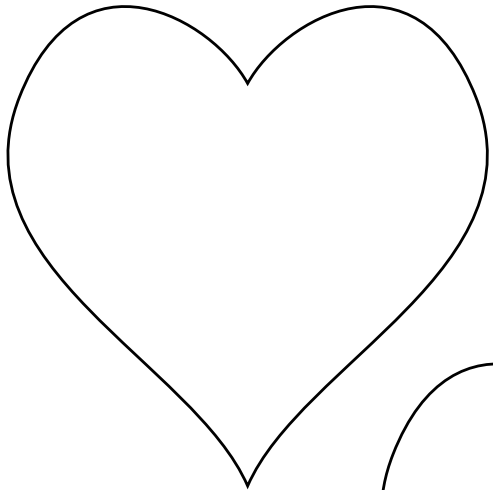
Page

**B**

Thank you  
for being  
my leader!

Thank you  
for being  
my leader!

Thank you  
for being  
my leader!



'thank you' labels and hearts





Supplement/Craft

1 copy for every 2 children

Preparation

Page

C



'thank you' circles

