

BEHAVIOR BASICS



STUFF THAT PARENTS TRY TO TEACH, TOO!

Thorpe, the chipmunk, and Sammie, the puppet, help you teach lessons that every parent wants their children to hear ... and you'll have a blast doing it!

 *Fur-filled Complete Lessons*

 **Children's Church Stuff**.com

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We hope you and the children you minister to enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed preparing it for you!

There are a few hints we can give to help you use the material most effectively:

1. The curriculum is written conversationally to help new teachers get the feel of speaking to children. Experienced teachers love it, too, because they already know how to glean the best from their material and add their own touches!

2. We have included a couple of encouraging notes for your teachers from Miss Pat -- we pray that you and your team is blessed as you work on these lessons and that God's word comes even more alive in you and that it becomes real to the children through you.

3. Story-based! Our curriculum is story-based, meaning much of the lesson theme is centered around the story. No matter where we go, or what age group we speak to, kids like stories! Plain and simple. So, don't leave out the story ... leave out a game or something! That may sound weird, but they really remember the stories and if we tie the truth to a story and they remember the story ... well, you can come to the conclusion yourself!

4. Here are some suggestions on how to use the stories and pictures.

a) Take the pictures and copy them onto transparencies. Kinkos or Office Max can do it if your printer cannot. Then have one of your adult helpers embellish them with dry erase markers while you read the story. This is an unbelievable attention keeper! They can add the sun, clouds, more fish, more dolphins, a boat, you name it ... have fun with it!

b) No transparency machine? Copy the pictures onto card stock or have them copied to poster size and still embellish them with markers or crayons,

c) Have a worker color them while you are reading.

d) Give copies to the children and let them look over the pictures, or color them while you read. You can let take them home and finish them, they just have to move to the next one when you are ready in the story!

e) If you need them for a big audience without a transparency machine, you can go to Kinko's and they will enlarge them onto any size posterboard you would like.

Thank You for trying our curriculum!

Check out our website for more options available:

www.ChildrensChurchStuff.com



5. There are so many activities included -- pre-service activity, memory verse activity, and closing game/activity. These are so easy to adapt to small group situations. Enjoy them, change them, make them your own.

6. There are two puppets used in this series> One puppet can be either a boy or a girl. This character has a strong lisp. Make sure your puppeteers practice reading and re-reading the scripts so it stays true. It is a mischievous cute character they can have fun with. The second is Thorpe, himself, the chipmunk. Thorpe doesn't talk, he squeaks and squeals and doesn't have a moving mouth so it needs to be very animated with movement and antics.

7. You will find a memory verse paper provided to make life one little jot easier for you! Copy on colored paper (just because it's more fun) and hand out to your children!

8. Look ahead to the final lesson. There is a live skit, which is very simple, but you may want to plan ahead. Also, we use a lot of smiley face decorations for that lesson and you can order stuff inexpensively from orientaltrading.com if you do so early enough.

9. Thank you for obeying Psalm 78:48 "We will not hide these truths from our children, but will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD. We will tell of his power and the mighty miracles he did." Thank you ... I pray blessings upon you! Miss Pat

10. If we can help in any way, do not hesitate to e-mail me at ccstuff@sbcglobal.net.

BOOKING INFORMATION:

You can book Miss Pat to come to your church for a crazy and exciting Children's Crusade, Children's Worker Training Session, or just for tea ... she loves tea (unless she's drinking coffee!).



IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY INFORMATION

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or suggestions ...you can e-mail us through our website: www.ChildrensChurchStuff.com. Of course, there is always this option too: Pat Meyers, 428 S. Seminary, Collinsville IL 62234

Personal Information:

Miss Pat has been ministering to children for over 20 years ... she served on the pastoral staff of a growing, thriving church for 10 years. With multiple services, over 300 children on the roster and just under 200 volunteers, her experience is solid. As you read through the lessons you will know without a doubt that this curriculum is written by someone who truly knows children and has spent years in the classroom. For the past two years she has traveled across the country speaking at conferences and in churches encouraging, motivating, and training Children's Workers who touch children in Jesus' name.

Bible Translation:

We used the New International Version in this set of lessons unless otherwise noted.

Copyright information:

This material is copyrighted, but you are hereby granted permission to copy any pages for use by your workers, helpers, and puppeteers. We have found that handing out your originals is a BIG mistake! You may also copy the pictures to hand out to the children to take home, if you like. But, please do not share them with all the churches in your town ... instead, kindly direct them to our website where they can purchase their own copies! Remember: it's www.ChildrensChurchStuff.com

Thank yous!

There are always so many people to thank with a project this size. The list is amazing from family to dear friends to lovely people who donate their time to read and test. The list is long ... I hope you all have as many wonderful people surrounding you as I have surrounding me.





Do not hide the truth

Week 1

TO THE TEACHER

(For your devotion in preparing the lesson.)

This week's memory verse is a great theme verse for children's workers. There is no greater joy than to hear that the truth of a lesson became resident in a child's heart. As you begin this series dealing with the parent relationship ... pray that this truth will take root and spring forth as a mighty tree, bearing much fruit. The parent/child relationship is the biggest force in a child's life. It is absolutely huge, yet most kids get taught one thing: obey your parents (which is a great truth). But they often don't know how to put that into specific practice. That is our goal over the next several weeks. Pray that at the end and in the months ahead, you will see that your "children" are walking in truth.

PRE-SERVICE ACTIVITY

Have a gymnastics video playing while the kids are coming in, just let them visit and visit with them while it is playing, using it only as background.

WORSHIP NUGGET

(Share with the children before worship. Copy the take home paper onto a transparency.)

We are starting on a new series this week. We are going to be talking about some very important relationships, none of which are more important than our relationship with God.

Did you see any of that video that we had playing as you were coming in? Gymnastics is a tough sport, isn't it? It takes a lot of balance and courage. How many of you have ever taken a gymnastics class? Or done gymnastics in P.E. in school? I cannot even imagine how tough it is to balance on something like the balance beam or the rings ...

Life is something like gymnastics, it takes a lot of balance and a lot of courage to handle all of the different relationships we need to handle. And it takes a lot of work, too.

Let's begin by focusing on our most important relationship ... let's worship God right now and let Him know how we feel about Him. Stand up! Let's worship!



OFFERING NUGGET

If we begin talking about our relationship with money, we could talk about that all day. It is a difficult relationship because we want our money to be all about us. But it isn't. It is a gift from God. Actually it is more like a challenge from God. He is challenging us to handle it correctly. You all know that you shouldn't be selfish with anything, and that includes money. So remember when you get your allowance or chore money to set some aside to bring for offering. Let's take up the offering now.

MEMORY VERSE

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the truth.
3 John 4

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

We are using a different sport as an analogy each week during these lessons. Today's sport is gymnastics. And our puppet character is an avid somersaulter. (I'm not sure that is a real word.) So, just to be fun and silly, let's use the somersault for our memory verse activity. This, however, is not good for the girls in dresses. Let the girls be the ones that get the cards from the teammates and decide where it gets hung up.

If you have room to have two teams, it is always more fun because it involves more kids. Have the words of the memory verse copied or written on index cards. Put the last word in giant letters and have one letter per card so the verse reads like this: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the T R U T H. 3 John 4.

Pile the cards on a table on one side of the room and assign a helper to the other side to help the team hang the verses. The first person on the team grabs a card and somersaults to the other side and hands the card to the hanging team then runs back and tags the next person in line. Keep going until all the words are hung up. Have the team read the verse out loud.

I recommend reading it this way, just because it adds a little element of fun and causes it to stick in the memory better: I have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the T-R-U-T-H truth! 3 John 4 (Spell out truth then shout it.)

You can play a couple of times, just have your hanging up crew take down the words and mix them up again and get a different hanging up crew so more kids are working on putting it together. But always encourage class participation as far as where a word goes, if the verse is put together correctly, etc.



BIBLE LESSON

Today we are going to begin with our story. We will have some pop-quiz questions afterwards, so pay attention.

TRANSPARENCY STORY

Copy the pictures onto transparencies. Have one worker color the pictures with dry erase markers as you (or another worker) reads the story. When it is time to switch pictures say "beep" and the helper starts on the next picture. It is better to not use a child as it gets very competitive and sometimes you lose the message in the story if they are struggling with the transparencies and they usually don't like (in my experience) to stop coloring before the picture is done! Of course, adults don't either!

Meet Thorpe ... the Chipmunk

Transparency #1

CRASH! SMASH! BOOM!

"Thorpe! What are you doing?"

"Nothing, Mama."

"Thorpe! I heard crashing! Get your chores done and get back in here."

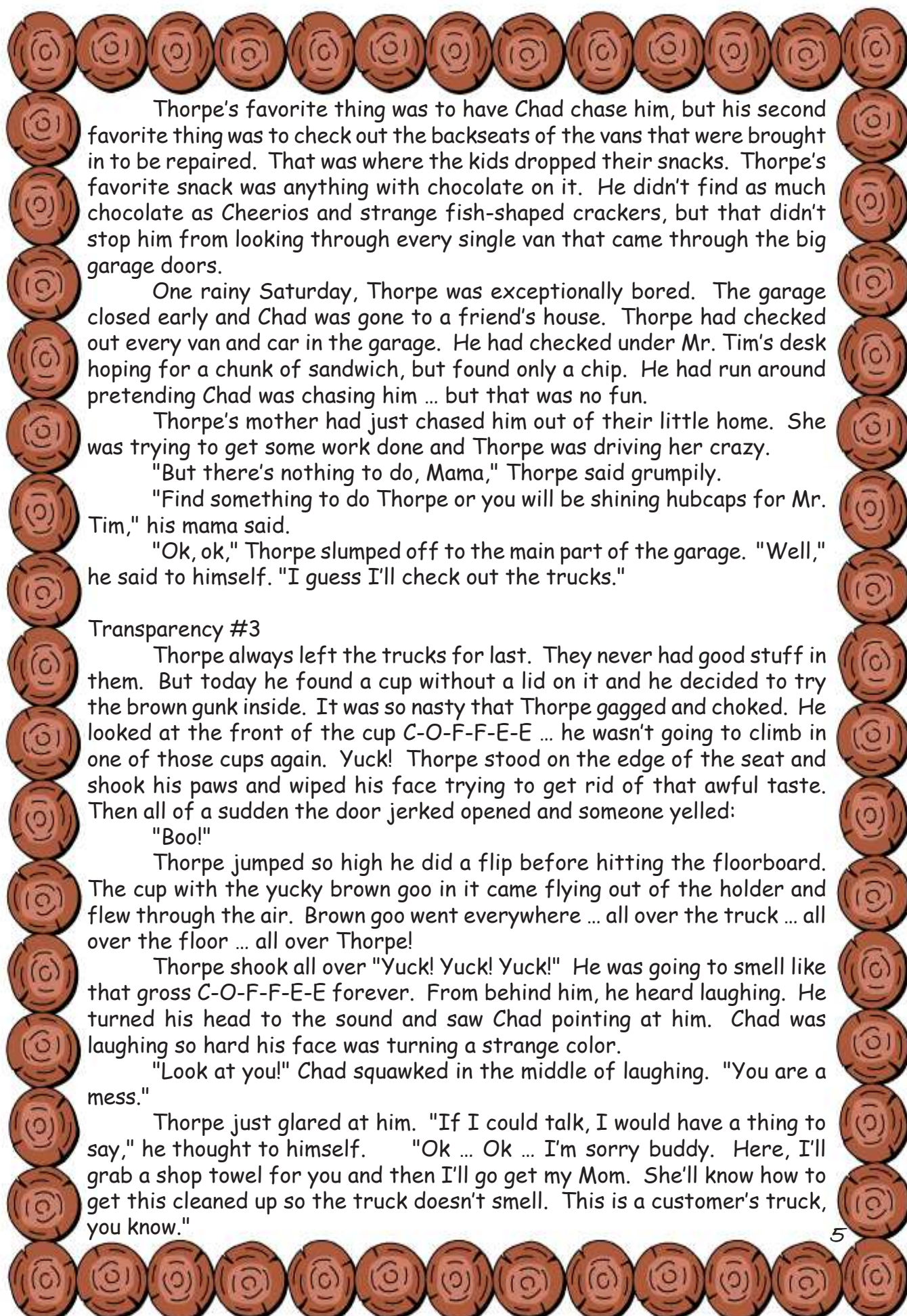
"My chores are done, Mama. I was just practicing my jumps and I slipped. It was only one hubcap ... or twelve."

Thorpe's voice trailed off a little. His Mama wasn't really mad at him. She was just tired of all the crashing around. Thorpe was always trying to jump just a little farther than a chipmunk should. And he was always trying to outdo Riley, his raccoon friend who visited the garage every night.

Thorpe lived with his family in the back of an old auto repair shop. The garage had been owned by the same family for generations. Everyone in town brought their cars and vans and trucks there to get fixed when they were making strange noises, or when they had been in a fender-bender, or when something weird had happened to the paint or seats or floor.

Transparency #2

Thorpe loved living in the garage. Yup, he thought he had just about the best life ever. Riley traveled around and slept in different places each day. And he had to scrounge for food each night. Thorpe and his family had a nice little home in the back of the garage. The owners left food for them and even visited them every now and then. Especially Chad, the boy of the family. He was Thorpe's favorite. Sometimes Chad would chase him ... they would run and run and run ... until both their Mamas would yell. Thorpe knew Chad understood him. He knew Chad was his friend.



Thorpe's favorite thing was to have Chad chase him, but his second favorite thing was to check out the backseats of the vans that were brought in to be repaired. That was where the kids dropped their snacks. Thorpe's favorite snack was anything with chocolate on it. He didn't find as much chocolate as Cheerios and strange fish-shaped crackers, but that didn't stop him from looking through every single van that came through the big garage doors.

One rainy Saturday, Thorpe was exceptionally bored. The garage closed early and Chad was gone to a friend's house. Thorpe had checked out every van and car in the garage. He had checked under Mr. Tim's desk hoping for a chunk of sandwich, but found only a chip. He had run around pretending Chad was chasing him ... but that was no fun.

Thorpe's mother had just chased him out of their little home. She was trying to get some work done and Thorpe was driving her crazy.

"But there's nothing to do, Mama," Thorpe said grumpily.

"Find something to do Thorpe or you will be shining hubcaps for Mr. Tim," his mama said.

"Ok, ok," Thorpe slumped off to the main part of the garage. "Well," he said to himself. "I guess I'll check out the trucks."

Transparency #3

Thorpe always left the trucks for last. They never had good stuff in them. But today he found a cup without a lid on it and he decided to try the brown gunk inside. It was so nasty that Thorpe gagged and choked. He looked at the front of the cup C-O-F-F-E-E ... he wasn't going to climb in one of those cups again. Yuck! Thorpe stood on the edge of the seat and shook his paws and wiped his face trying to get rid of that awful taste. Then all of a sudden the door jerked opened and someone yelled:

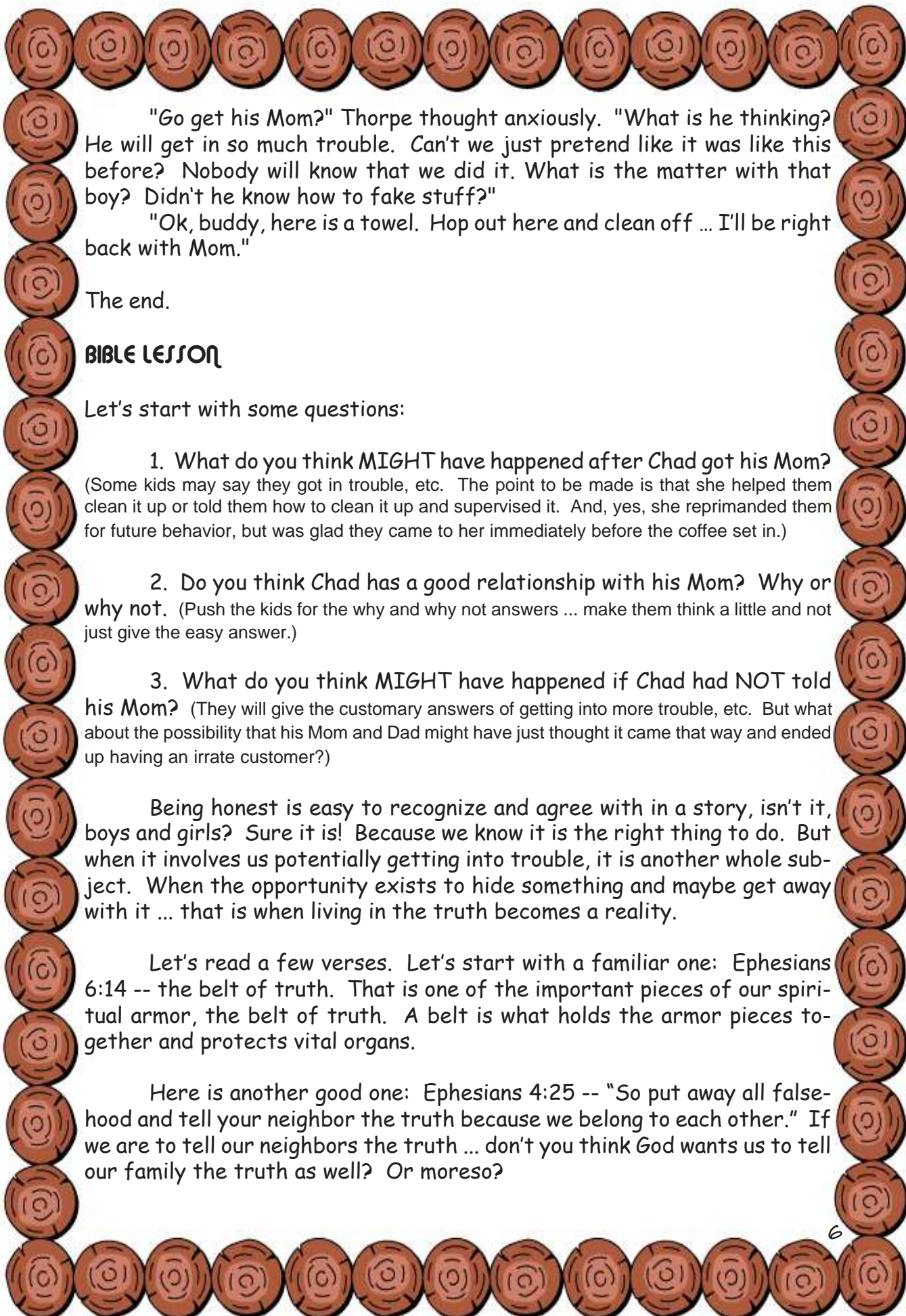
"Boo!"

Thorpe jumped so high he did a flip before hitting the floorboard. The cup with the yucky brown goo in it came flying out of the holder and flew through the air. Brown goo went everywhere ... all over the truck ... all over the floor ... all over Thorpe!

Thorpe shook all over "Yuck! Yuck! Yuck!" He was going to smell like that gross C-O-F-F-E-E forever. From behind him, he heard laughing. He turned his head to the sound and saw Chad pointing at him. Chad was laughing so hard his face was turning a strange color.

"Look at you!" Chad squawked in the middle of laughing. "You are a mess."

Thorpe just glared at him. "If I could talk, I would have a thing to say," he thought to himself. "Ok ... Ok ... I'm sorry buddy. Here, I'll grab a shop towel for you and then I'll go get my Mom. She'll know how to get this cleaned up so the truck doesn't smell. This is a customer's truck, you know."



"Go get his Mom?" Thorpe thought anxiously. "What is he thinking? He will get in so much trouble. Can't we just pretend like it was like this before? Nobody will know that we did it. What is the matter with that boy? Didn't he know how to fake stuff?"

"Ok, buddy, here is a towel. Hop out here and clean off ... I'll be right back with Mom."

The end.

BIBLE LESSON

Let's start with some questions:

1. What do you think **MIGHT** have happened after Chad got his Mom? (Some kids may say they got in trouble, etc. The point to be made is that she helped them clean it up or told them how to clean it up and supervised it. And, yes, she reprimanded them for future behavior, but was glad they came to her immediately before the coffee set in.)

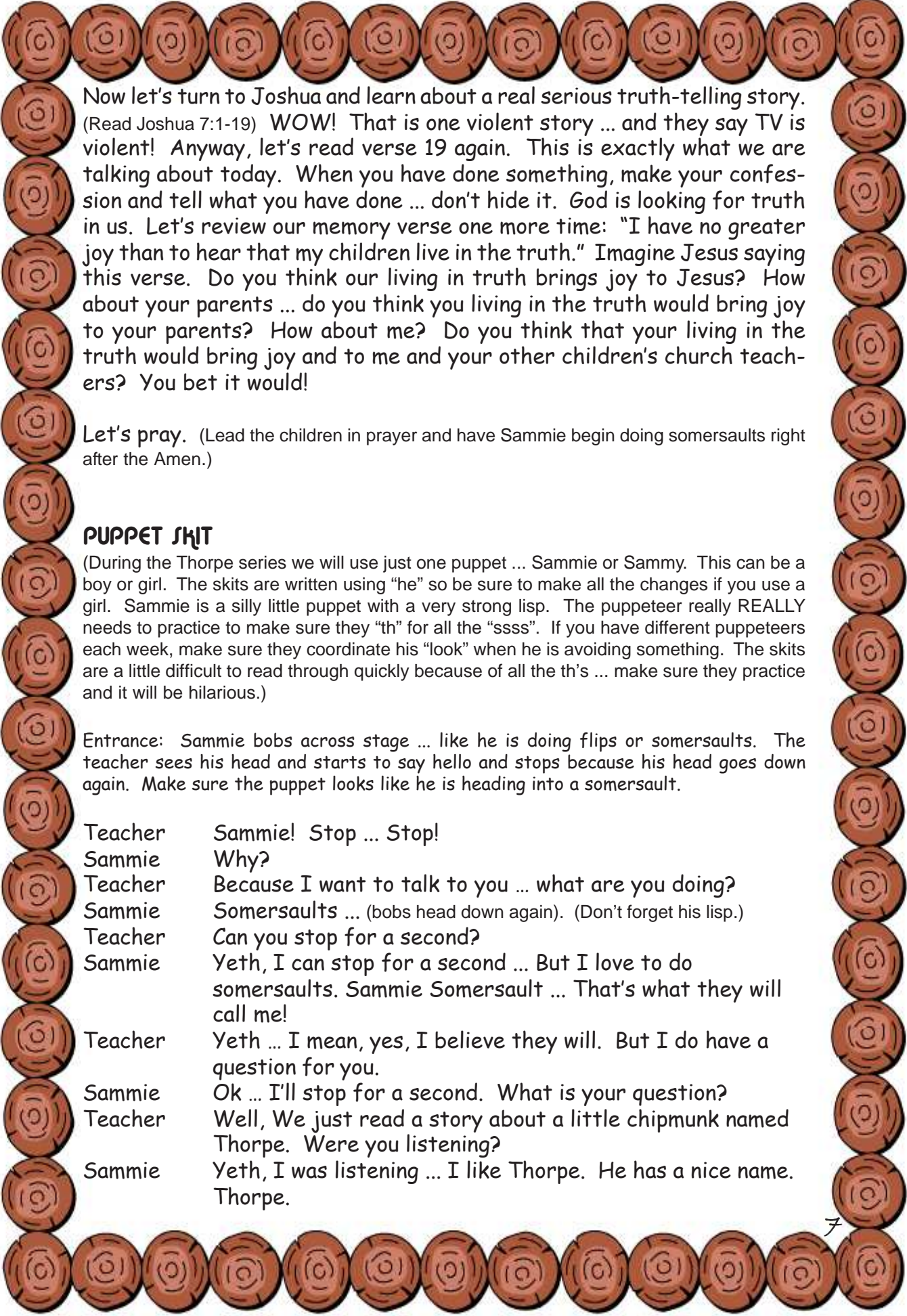
2. Do you think Chad has a good relationship with his Mom? Why or why not. (Push the kids for the why and why not answers ... make them think a little and not just give the easy answer.)

3. What do you think **MIGHT** have happened if Chad had **NOT** told his Mom? (They will give the customary answers of getting into more trouble, etc. But what about the possibility that his Mom and Dad might have just thought it came that way and ended up having an irrate customer?)

Being honest is easy to recognize and agree with in a story, isn't it, boys and girls? Sure it is! Because we know it is the right thing to do. But when it involves us potentially getting into trouble, it is another whole subject. When the opportunity exists to hide something and maybe get away with it ... that is when living in the truth becomes a reality.

Let's read a few verses. Let's start with a familiar one: Ephesians 6:14 -- the belt of truth. That is one of the important pieces of our spiritual armor, the belt of truth. A belt is what holds the armor pieces together and protects vital organs.

Here is another good one: Ephesians 4:25 -- "So put away all falsehood and tell your neighbor the truth because we belong to each other." If we are to tell our neighbors the truth ... don't you think God wants us to tell our family the truth as well? Or moreso?



Now let's turn to Joshua and learn about a real serious truth-telling story. (Read Joshua 7:1-19) WOW! That is one violent story ... and they say TV is violent! Anyway, let's read verse 19 again. This is exactly what we are talking about today. When you have done something, make your confession and tell what you have done ... don't hide it. God is looking for truth in us. Let's review our memory verse one more time: "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children live in the truth." Imagine Jesus saying this verse. Do you think our living in truth brings joy to Jesus? How about your parents ... do you think you living in the truth would bring joy to your parents? How about me? Do you think that your living in the truth would bring joy and to me and your other children's church teachers? You bet it would!

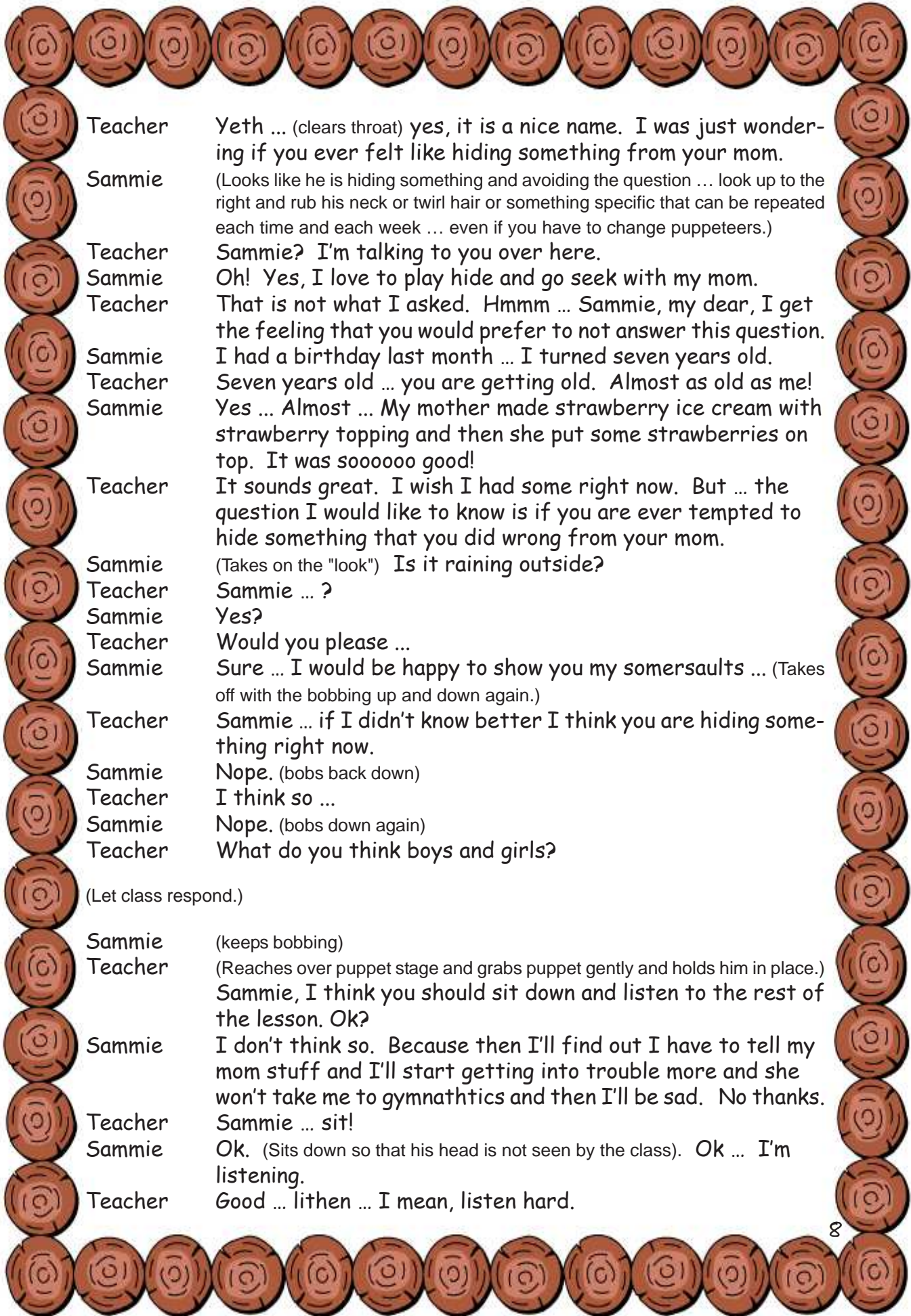
Let's pray. (Lead the children in prayer and have Sammie begin doing somersaults right after the Amen.)

PUPPET SKIT

(During the Thorpe series we will use just one puppet ... Sammie or Sammy. This can be a boy or girl. The skits are written using "he" so be sure to make all the changes if you use a girl. Sammie is a silly little puppet with a very strong lisp. The puppeteer really REALLY needs to practice to make sure they "th" for all the "ssss". If you have different puppeteers each week, make sure they coordinate his "look" when he is avoiding something. The skits are a little difficult to read through quickly because of all the th's ... make sure they practice and it will be hilarious.)

Entrance: Sammie bobs across stage ... like he is doing flips or somersaults. The teacher sees his head and starts to say hello and stops because his head goes down again. Make sure the puppet looks like he is heading into a somersault.

Teacher	Sammie! Stop ... Stop!
Sammie	Why?
Teacher	Because I want to talk to you ... what are you doing?
Sammie	Somersaults ... (bobs head down again). (Don't forget his lisp.)
Teacher	Can you stop for a second?
Sammie	Yeth, I can stop for a second ... But I love to do somersaults. Sammie Somersault ... That's what they will call me!
Teacher	Yeth ... I mean, yes, I believe they will. But I do have a question for you.
Sammie	Ok ... I'll stop for a second. What is your question?
Teacher	Well, We just read a story about a little chipmunk named Thorpe. Were you listening?
Sammie	Yeth, I was listening ... I like Thorpe. He has a nice name. Thorpe.



Teacher Yeth ... (clears throat) yes, it is a nice name. I was just wondering if you ever felt like hiding something from your mom.

Sammie (Looks like he is hiding something and avoiding the question ... look up to the right and rub his neck or twirl hair or something specific that can be repeated each time and each week ... even if you have to change puppeteers.)

Teacher Sammie? I'm talking to you over here.

Sammie Oh! Yes, I love to play hide and go seek with my mom.

Teacher That is not what I asked. Hmmm ... Sammie, my dear, I get the feeling that you would prefer to not answer this question.

Sammie I had a birthday last month ... I turned seven years old.

Teacher Seven years old ... you are getting old. Almost as old as me!

Sammie Yes ... Almost ... My mother made strawberry ice cream with strawberry topping and then she put some strawberries on top. It was soooooo good!

Teacher It sounds great. I wish I had some right now. But ... the question I would like to know is if you are ever tempted to hide something that you did wrong from your mom.

Sammie (Takes on the "look") Is it raining outside?

Teacher Sammie ... ?

Sammie Yes?

Teacher Would you please ...

Sammie Sure ... I would be happy to show you my somersaults ... (Takes off with the bobbing up and down again.)

Teacher Sammie ... if I didn't know better I think you are hiding something right now.

Sammie Nope. (bobs back down)

Teacher I think so ...

Sammie Nope. (bobs down again)

Teacher What do you think boys and girls?

(Let class respond.)

Sammie (keeps bobbing)

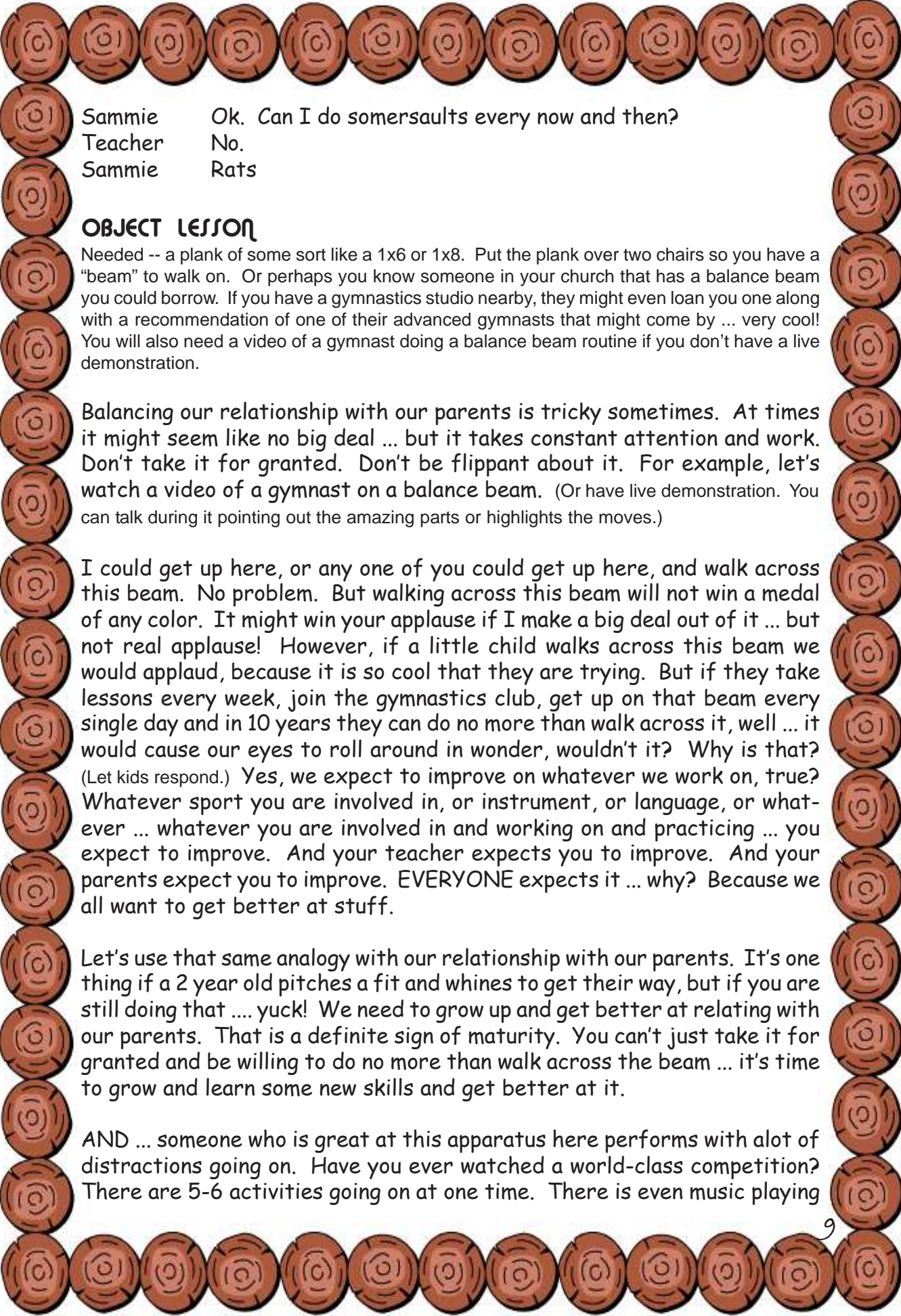
Teacher (Reaches over puppet stage and grabs puppet gently and holds him in place.) Sammie, I think you should sit down and listen to the rest of the lesson. OK?

Sammie I don't think so. Because then I'll find out I have to tell my mom stuff and I'll start getting into trouble more and she won't take me to gymnastics and then I'll be sad. No thanks.

Teacher Sammie ... sit!

Sammie Ok. (Sits down so that his head is not seen by the class). Ok ... I'm listening.

Teacher Good ... lithen ... I mean, listen hard.



Sammie Ok. Can I do somersaults every now and then?
Teacher No.
Sammie Rats

OBJECT LESSON

Needed -- a plank of some sort like a 1x6 or 1x8. Put the plank over two chairs so you have a "beam" to walk on. Or perhaps you know someone in your church that has a balance beam you could borrow. If you have a gymnastics studio nearby, they might even loan you one along with a recommendation of one of their advanced gymnasts that might come by ... very cool! You will also need a video of a gymnast doing a balance beam routine if you don't have a live demonstration.

Balancing our relationship with our parents is tricky sometimes. At times it might seem like no big deal ... but it takes constant attention and work. Don't take it for granted. Don't be flippant about it. For example, let's watch a video of a gymnast on a balance beam. (Or have live demonstration. You can talk during it pointing out the amazing parts or highlights the moves.)

I could get up here, or any one of you could get up here, and walk across this beam. No problem. But walking across this beam will not win a medal of any color. It might win your applause if I make a big deal out of it ... but not real applause! However, if a little child walks across this beam we would applaud, because it is so cool that they are trying. But if they take lessons every week, join the gymnastics club, get up on that beam every single day and in 10 years they can do no more than walk across it, well ... it would cause our eyes to roll around in wonder, wouldn't it? Why is that? (Let kids respond.) Yes, we expect to improve on whatever we work on, true? Whatever sport you are involved in, or instrument, or language, or whatever ... whatever you are involved in and working on and practicing ... you expect to improve. And your teacher expects you to improve. And your parents expect you to improve. EVERYONE expects it ... why? Because we all want to get better at stuff.

Let's use that same analogy with our relationship with our parents. It's one thing if a 2 year old pitches a fit and whines to get their way, but if you are still doing that yuck! We need to grow up and get better at relating with our parents. That is a definite sign of maturity. You can't just take it for granted and be willing to do no more than walk across the beam ... it's time to grow and learn some new skills and get better at it.

AND ... someone who is great at this apparatus here performs with a lot of distractions going on. Have you ever watched a world-class competition? There are 5-6 activities going on at one time. There is even music playing

for the floor exercise competition. But the balance beam person cannot use that as an excuse ... they have to concentrate and perform.

Boys and girls, you cannot use excuses with regards to your relationship with your parents either. No excuses. God expects you to live in truth with them and to grow in your relationship with them and to work on it. Just like a gymnast.

Teacher looks over puppet stage to see if Sammie was listening to the lesson.

Teacher Sammie ... were you listening back there?

Sammie (Stays out of sight.) Yeth.

Teacher Do you think you can work on your relationship with your parents?

Sammie Yeth.

Teacher I'm very glad. Why aren't you coming up here so the boys and girls can see you?

Sammie Uh, no reason.

Teacher Ok ... we'll see you next week then.

Sammie See ya later. (Loud crash from back stage.)

Teacher You might want to watch where you are going there.

Sammie Yeth. Ouch.

Teacher: Well, class, never mind. We'll see if Sammie is okay by next week. Let's see ... what should we do next?

Thorpe pops up from behind puppet stage making squeaking and squealing noises and holding a ziploc bag of snacks between his paws. He will probably need assistance with the bag. Remember Thorpe's mouth doesn't move, so he needs to squeak and squeal and be "interpreted."

Teacher Hey boys and girls! It's Thorpe!

Thorpe (Squeaks and squeals and bounces up and down.)

Teacher You sure are excited. What do you want me to tell the boys and girls for you?

Thorpe (Jumps about a little showing the bag of snacks.)

Teacher You brought us some snacks? That is so nice.

Thorpe (Nods and squeaks.)

Teacher You made them yourself?

Thorpe (Shakes head and then squeaks again.)

Teacher Oh, you just made the bag of snacks yourself. You didn't make each item.

Thorpe (Nods in agreement and then squeaks again.)
 Teacher Let's see what you have here. (List what is contained in it.)
 Thorpe (Squeaks enthusiastically.)
 Teacher There **are** a lot of those little fishy crackers in there.
 Thorpe (Nods.)
 Teacher So, Thorpe, where did you get this stuff to make for us?
 Thorpe (Squeaks and flails arms around a little too dramatically.)
 Teacher Ok. Ok. Calm down. I got it. You've been saving all the stuff you found in the vans for the past couple of months.
 Thorpe (Squeaks again.)
 Teacher Just so you could share with us today?
 Thorpe (Nods "yup")
 Teacher Wow. That's really nice. (Rolls eyes to kids.)
 Thorpe (Squeaks a little "you're welcome.")
 Teacher I hardly know how to say thank you for a snack mix of used treats that is months old. Wow!
 Thorpe (Covers eyes like he's embarrassed by her kindness.)
 Teacher I'll be sure to share it with all the kids. Ok?
 Thorpe (Squeaks "ok.")
 Teacher Thanks so much ... we were just getting ready to play a game.
 Thorpe (Squeaks and claps paws.)
 Teacher You like games, too?
 Thorpe (Jumps around.)
 Teacher Oh, you and Chad are playing together today?
 Thorpe (Nods and squeaks.)
 Teacher Excellent. You have fun and maybe we'll see you next week?
 Thorpe (Squeaks like he is saying absolutely.)
 Teacher Ok, Bye Thorpe. (Waves at Thorpe with the bag of snacks.)
 Thorpe (Doesn't move, just stares at the bag.)
 Teacher Uh, Thorpe? Would you like a little snack before you leave?
 Thorpe (Claps.)
 Teacher Ok, here you go. (Puts a fish cracker between his paws.) Have a great week.
 Thorpe (Squeaks and runs off.)

Have a helper take the snack bag and put treats in dixie cups. Then he/she can hand them to the kids as they complete the game.

GAME/ACTIVITY

Use the balance beam or plank as your activity today and give the kids each a chance to walk across it. Don't let them go across without a spotter ... you cannot be too safe! If you have a lot of kids you can have a gymnastics contest going on in the back of the room, too, letting them show you their cartwheels, etc. Just keep it in control so no one gets hurt.

MEMORY VERSE

I have no greater joy than
to hear that my children live
in the truth.

3 John 4

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