

# The Hope of Three Trees

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For many, Christmas is a season of hopes and dreams. We hope to visit friends and family. We dream about what Christmas gifts we might receive. We hope to eat our favorite Christmas foods. But Christmas is so much more than that. It's the time when we remember how God poured out His love for us by sending Jesus to be our Savior. He is the reason we can have hope of a life with meaning, purpose, and an eternal future. If we aren't careful, we can become so attached to our earthly hopes and dreams that we forget to trust God's bigger plan and purpose. When our hopes and dreams don't come to fruition, we may feel abandoned by God. The children who attend your *Christmas Party Club*® may have unmet dreams for Christmas or have no hope at all. Through this retelling of the modern "Hope of Three Trees" parable, you can help the children trust God with their hopes and dreams.

## Helpers

Prayer partners for your evangelistic party are a must. Enlist several Christian volunteers to help prepare and distribute invitations, take responsibility for various activities at the party, and give personal attention to the children. These same helpers may join you in follow-up visits to the homes of unchurched families represented at your party.

## Invitations

Invitations will help you build excitement for your party and allow families to plan ahead. Photocopy invitations (*see p. 14 or Resource Download*) on colored paper and fill in the information for the date, time, and location of your party.

## Decorations

If desired, decorate your party space in a similar way children in your community decorate for Christmas. Ideas include Christmas trees, lights, nativity scene, etc.

## Snack Ideas

If desired, provide snacks for your party. You can come up with your own snacks or use the ideas provided.

Depending on the location of your party, you may need to provide snacks that are prepackaged instead of homemade. Check your location's food policies to plan accordingly. Be considerate of common food allergies.

### "Party Punch"

*Ingredients:*

- 6 cups (48 oz) pineapple juice
- 1 cup powdered lemonade mix
- 2 liters of lemon-lime soda

*Directions:* Combine ingredients into a large bowl and stir until the lemonade mix is completely dissolved. Serve over ice.

### "Christmas Tree Cookies"

*Materials:*

- Christmas tree cookie cutter
- Baking sheet
- Frosting supplies

*Ingredients:*

- Sugar cookie dough
- Green frosting
- Red sprinkles

*Directions:* Roll out sugar cookie dough, use Christmas tree cookie cutter, and put cookies on baking sheet. Bake according to the sugar cookie recipe directions. Allow cookies to cool completely before decorating with green frosting and red sprinkles.

*Variation:* Bring frosting, sprinkles, and undecorated cookies to your party. Allow the children to decorate their own cookie as a craft activity before enjoying their snack.



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## Greet Children

Greet children as they arrive. Print their names on name tags (*see p. 15 or Resource Download*). Record names, addresses, ages, and church affiliations for follow-up.

## Arrival Activities

### “Light the Christmas Candle”

Have the children stand in a circle. Pick one child to stand in the middle of the circle as the “candle.” Pick another child to be the “match.” The match’s goal is to “light” the candle by making him smile within ten seconds. Encourage the match to do things like make goofy faces, tell a joke, or do something else creative to make the candle smile, but he is not allowed to touch the candle. The candle’s goal is to stand still without smiling. If the match makes the candle smile, the match wins that round. The candle then rejoins the circle while the match becomes the new candle. If the candle stands still and does not smile, he wins and stays in the middle to face another match. You may want an adult helper to be the first candle to demonstrate. Repeat as time allows.

### “Trees and Woodcutters”

Have the children stand in the middle of the room. Tell them you will shout out different calls that the children need to respond to. The last player to complete the call is out of the game. Explain the following calls to the children:

1. When you call, “Forest,” the children must run to the left side of the room.
2. When you call, “Jerusalem,” the children must run to the right side of the room.
3. When you call, “Manger,” the children must lay on the floor and pretend to sleep.
4. When you call, “Fishing boat,” the children must sit down facing forward in groups of three while pretending to row a fishing boat. If the children cannot find a group of three, they are out.
5. When you call, “Plank,” the children must lay face down on the ground in a “plank” position.
6. When you call, “The woodcutters are coming,” the children must freeze in a tree pose. The children cannot move until you say, “The woodcutters are gone.”

You may want to begin the game with only two calls, then add calls as you play. Give calls randomly throughout the game. The last child(ren) standing wins.

## Interactive Games

### “Trim the Tree”

*Materials:*

- 2 green streamer rolls
- Self-adhesive bows
- Other decorations such as a festive headband, star, stickers, or lights

*Directions:* Divide the children into two teams. Give each team a green streamer roll, bows, and other decorations. Have each team choose who will be the “Christmas tree” for their team. Give the teams five minutes to decorate their Christmas tree. When the time is up, have each team present their tree.

*Variation:* Have the teams compete for the best decorated tree. Choose a teacher or a party helper to choose the winner.

### “Roll-a-Tree”

If desired, play this game during snack time.

*Materials:*

- “Roll-a-Tree” reproducible (*see p. 11 or Resource Download*)
- Circle multi-colored candies
- Bowls for candies
- One die
- Table

*Preparation:* Photocopy enough “Roll-a-Tree” reproducibles for each child at your party. Place the candies in bowls on a table where the children can easily grab a piece.

*Directions:* Have the children sit at a table. Hand out one “Roll-a-Tree” to each child. Allow children to write a number (1-6) in each circle on their tree. Choose a volunteer to roll the die. Every child who has that number gets one piece of candy to cover that number on their tree. Repeat until someone calls out that their tree is decorated. Then the children may eat the candy on their tree.

## Crafts

If desired, choose one of the provided craft ideas or use your own.

### “Hope of Three Trees”

*Materials:*

- “Hope of Three Trees” reproducible parts 1 and 2 (*see Resource Download*)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Decorating supplies such as crayons, markers, coloring pencils, etc.

*Directions:* Photocopy parts 1 and 2 of the “Hope of Three Trees” reproducibles for each child to have both sheets. Let the children color the tree and the pictures of the manger, boat, and cross. Once the children are finished decorating, help them cut on the dotted lines on the tree. Tape part 2 on the back of the tree so that the pictures can be seen through the flaps. Now the children can lift the flaps to see what the three trees became. As you do this craft with the children, talk to them about how they can trust God with their hopes and dreams.

### “Coloring Pages”

*Materials:*

- Coloring Page reproducible (*see Resource Download*)
- Crayons, markers, coloring pencils, etc.

*Directions:* Photocopy enough coloring pages for the children in your party. Use this time to interact with the children, talk about the lesson, and get to know them better.

### “Christmas Tree Crown”

*Materials:*

- “Christmas Tree Crown” reproducible (*see p. 13 or Resource Download*)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Extra paper cut into headband pieces
- Glue or glitter glue
- Decorating supplies such as crayons, markers, coloring pencils, stickers, sequins, etc.

*Directions:* Photocopy the “Christmas Tree Crown” reproducible so each child will have one. Cut out each headband. Allow the children to decorate the tree and headband. When each child is finished decorating, measure the child’s head with the headband and tape in place so that it fits his head. If needed, use extra headband pieces to ensure it fits.

## Songs

Song times supplement teaching and give children an opportunity to worship God. Suggested songs are listed in the lesson overview (*see p. 4*) or you can choose other songs. Sheet music and music tracks are available on the Resource Download.

## Word Up!

### “God’s plan is best!”



Have you ever worked hard to plan for something? Maybe you planned a party or made a plan to win a contest. Do your plans always go the way you want them to? (*Allow response.*) Today, we’re going to explore how God’s plans are best and work out for the best. During our party, anytime a teacher says, “Word Up!” say, “**God’s plan is best!**” Let’s practice. (*Say with children.*)

(*Suggested places to have children repeat this phrase are indicated in the lesson with an asterisk [\*]. You can also have the children shout this fun phrase to focus their attention if they are restless or as you transition between activities during your party.*)

# THE HOPE OF THREE TREES

This page has been designed for you to photocopy and place in your Bible as a ready reference.

| Lesson Outline                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. INTRODUCTION                 | Sam always enjoyed spending Christmas Eve with his grandfather.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| II. PROGRESSION OF EVENTS       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| A. HIT-1                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A long time ago, there were three young trees on a peaceful hill.</li> <li>2. The first tree dreamed of becoming a bed for a king.</li> <li>3. The second tree dreamed of becoming a great sailing ship for a king.</li> <li>4. The third tree wanted to stay on the hill, pointing people back to God.</li> </ol> <p>❖ Do you know why looking at parts of the world, like trees, reminds us of God? [John 3:16a]</p> |
| B. HIT-2                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After many years, the young trees grew up to be tall trees.</li> <li>2. One day a woodcutter came and cut down the first tree.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| C. HIT-3 (Luke 2:6, 7b)         | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instead of being made into a bed, the first tree was made into a feeding box for animals.</li> <li>2. One night, Joseph and Mary visited the stable.</li> <li>3. There was no guest room in Bethlehem, so they stayed in the stable.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                        |
| D. HIT-4 (Luke 2:7-17)          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After the baby was born, Mary wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in the manger.</li> <li>2. Shepherds, who heard about Jesus' birth from an angel, came to visit.</li> <li>3. This little baby Jesus was the Savior who came to save people from sin.</li> </ol> <p>🕯️ Jesus is the Savior God sent for you too. [Romans 3:23a]</p>                                                                          |
|                                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. The first tree realized his dream had come true—he was a bed for the King and Savior of the world.</li> <li>5. Many years later, the woodcutter cut down the second tree and brought him to shipbuilders.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| E. HIT-5 (Luke 5:1-3a)          | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instead of a great ship, the second tree was made into a small fishing boat.</li> <li>2. Poor fishermen took him out to sea to catch fish.</li> <li>3. One morning, Jesus came to them.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| F. HIT-6 (Luke 5:3b, 11)        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jesus borrowed the boat to teach the crowd.</li> <li>2. The fishermen left everything and followed Jesus.</li> <li>3. The second tree realized his dream came true—the greatest King used him to grow His kingdom.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| G. HIT-7                        | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The woodcutter returned to the forest and cut down the third tree.</li> <li>2. They turned the tree into a cross.</li> </ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| H. HIT-8 (Luke 23:26-27, 33-37) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The cross was placed on Jesus.</li> <li>2. He was sad Jesus was nailed to him and mocked.</li> <li>3. Jesus planned to let all of this happen so people could be saved from their sin.</li> </ol> <p>❖ Jesus came to save you from your sin. [Hebrews 9:22b]</p>                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. After Jesus came back to life, the cross reminded people of God and the third tree's dream came true.</li> <li>5. The three trees' dreams came true but not in the way they imagined.</li> </ol> <p>❖ If you believe in Jesus, <b>you can trust God with your hopes and dreams.</b> [Proverbs 16:9]</p>                                                                                                                |
| III. CLIMAX                     | The three trees each became something better than what they dreamed of.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| IV. CONCLUSION                  | <p>Grandpa turned to the last page and said, "When we look at a manger, a fishing boat, and a cross, we can be reminded of the true story of Jesus and His great plan to save people from sin."</p> <p>🕯️ <b>God wants you to believe in Jesus as your Savior.</b> [Acts 16:31]</p> <p><i>Scripture verses in parentheses are background text. Bracketed verses should be quoted or read from God's Word.</i></p>                                                |

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| Lesson Overview         |                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scripture               | Luke 2:6-17; 5:1-3, 11; 23:26-27, 33-37                                                               |
| Memory Verse            | "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) |
| Teaching Objective      | The unsaved child will believe in Jesus as Savior.                                                    |
| Main Teaching           | God wants you to believe in Jesus as your Savior.                                                     |
| Emphasis for Saved      | You can trust God with your hopes and dreams.                                                         |
| Recommended Songs       | "Christmas Bells," "It's Coming," "God Shows His Love for Us" (Romans 5:8)                            |
| Word Up!                | God's plan is best!                                                                                   |
| Suggested Schedule      |                                                                                                       |
| Before Party            | Greet children, complete attendance record, fill out name tags                                        |
| Opening                 | Welcome, prayer, rules, Word Up! teaching                                                             |
| Game or Craft           | Choose two                                                                                            |
| Memory Verse            | Romans 5:8                                                                                            |
| Song                    | Repetition: "Big Tree, Little Tree"                                                                   |
| Bible Lesson/Invitation | Choose one                                                                                            |
| Review Game             | Choose one                                                                                            |
| Game or Craft           | Choose one                                                                                            |
| Snack                   | Choose one                                                                                            |
| Closing                 | Prayer, hand out follow-up materials                                                                  |
| Game                    | Choose one or two to play while waiting for parents                                                   |

# The Hope of Three Trees

## Introduction

Sam always enjoyed spending Christmas Eve with his grandfather. The familiar smells of spices made him feel warm as he walked in the house and saw Grandpa's big smile behind his scruffy beard. He gently held an old book in his wrinkled hands. "Tonight I have a special story I want to share with you," Grandpa said. "It's a story my father shared with me when I was your age." Grandpa motioned for Sam to sit beside him next to the crackling fireplace.

Sam's eyes lit up with excitement. "What's the story about?" he asked.

"This story helped me understand God's plans for me," Grandpa said as he opened the book and showed Sam the first page. "It's a story about three trees that had big dreams."

Grandpa began to read the story.

## Progression of Events



(Show HTT-1.)

A long time ago, there were three young trees growing on a peaceful hill. The first tree said, "When I am fully grown, I want to be a comfortable, beautiful bed fit for a king. Everyone loves laying their tired head on a soft, warm bed at night. Imagine all the dreams the king will have for his kingdom!"

"What a wonderful idea," the second tree said, "but I have a different dream. I want to be a great sailing ship and see the world on the big blue sea. Imagine the marvelous places I will see and the great adventures I will go on!"

"Who do you want to take on your adventures?" the third tree asked.

"I'll take anyone who wants to explore, but I especially hope to take a king. Maybe I can help him grow his kingdom!" the second tree replied happily.

Then it was the third tree's turn to share. But his answer surprised his friends.

The third tree said, "My dream is to stay on this hill. I want to keep growing toward God. When people explore our forest, they'll see me pointing up to God, and they'll remember how amazing He is."



Do you know why looking at parts of the world, like trees, reminds us of God? Because God created the world! He made the trees, the oceans, and the nighttime. Can you name some other things God made? (*Allow response.*) When we explore the world God made, we see that He made it with creativity, love, and care. God also made people—including you. (*Read John 3:16a.*) "The world" is talking about people. God made you and He loves you. You can trust everything God says and does because He is holy (perfect). God knows what is best for you and the world He made. He wants all people to have a relationship with Him now and forever. The more you get to know God, the more you see how the world He made shows us about Him and how amazing He is.

The third tree wanted to stay on the hill because he wanted his life to show how amazing God is. These trees were excited about their dreams. They wanted to grow up soon and see their dreams come true.



(Show HTT-2.)

After many years, the young trees grew up to be beautiful, tall trees. One day a woodcutter came into the forest. Could this be the day one of their dreams would come true?

The woodcutter came to the first tree, raised his axe high, and cut it down. Can you pretend to cut down the tree? (*Do with children.*) The first tree was so excited. "Now my dream will come true!" he thought happily. However, the woodcutter had other plans.



(Show HTT-3.)

He cut the tree into rough planks and made him into a feeding box for animals. How do you think that made the first tree feel? Show me on your faces. (*Do with children.*)

"I wanted to live in a palace and serve a king. But now I live in a dirty stable and feed stinky animals. My dream will never come true," the tree cried.

One night, however, a man and a woman visited the stable.

“I wish I could offer you some place better, Joseph,” the stable owner said as he spread fresh hay and blankets for the woman to lie down on.

“I looked, but there’s no guest room in all of Bethlehem. And my wife, Mary, is having her baby. She needs a place to stay, and we are thankful to be here,” Joseph replied.



(Show HTT-4.)

After the baby was born, Mary wrapped him in swaddling cloths (strips of cloth).

“Baby Jesus can lay here in the manger,” Mary said as she laid Jesus down.

“I’m so glad I can give baby Jesus a place to rest,” the tree thought.

Later, some shepherds ran into the stable. They didn’t know Mary and Joseph. They had come to visit Jesus.

The shepherds told an amazing story. An angel from God appeared to them with a message. God’s Word, the Bible, tells us what the message was. (Read Luke 2:11-12). When they arrived at the stable, it was just as the angel said. The shepherds saw a little baby lying in a manger. Jesus was the Savior God sent for them.



Jesus is the Savior God sent for you too. Why do you need a Savior? Everyone needs a Savior from sin because everyone sins, including you and me. The Bible tells us, (read Romans 3:23a). Sin is anything you think, say, or do that goes against God’s way. You sin when you are selfish, hate

someone, or call someone mean names. You were born knowing how to sin and wanting to go your own way instead of God’s way. He made you to have a relationship with Him now and forever, but your sin keeps you separated from God. After you die, you’ll be separated from God forever. But God wants for you to know Him and live with Him forever. That’s why He sent Jesus.

Jesus was the Savior. The shepherds marveled to see Him lying in a manger. As the first tree listened to the shepherds’ story, he realized that the baby he was holding was greater than any earthly king.

“Tonight, I get to be a bed for the King and Savior of the world. My dream has come true in an even better way,” the tree thought.

More years passed. Meanwhile, the second and third trees were still standing tall on the hill. One day, the woodcutter returned and cut down the second tree. Do you remember what the second tree’s dream was? (Allow response.) He wanted to become a ship! The woodcutter took the tree to the ship builders! The second tree thought his dream would surely come true.



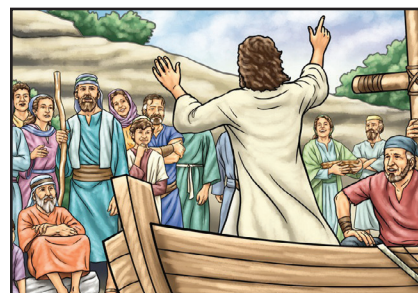
(Show HTT-5.)

But instead of making him into a great, big sailing ship, the builders made him into a small fishing boat. At night, poor fishermen took him out to the sea to catch smelly fish.

“No king will ever want me to take him on adventures. I’m too small for a king to use to build his kingdom. I’ll never be more than a fishing boat,” he cried.

One morning, as the fishermen were cleaning the nets, Jesus came up to them. Jesus was now a grown man. He had been teaching people about God and doing great miracles to show that He was God the Son. The second tree had heard the fishermen talk about Jesus many times while they were fishing, but he had never seen Jesus in person before! A large crowd was behind him. Jesus walked up to the boat and climbed inside.

“What could Jesus want with me?” the tree wondered.



(Show HTT-6.)

Jesus asked to borrow the boat to teach the crowd, and the fishermen agreed. The tree was amazed as he listened to Jesus teach. He spoke like no one the tree had heard before.

That day, the fishermen left everything and followed Jesus. As the tree thought about what happened, he realized that his dream had come true. Jesus is the greatest King, and His kingdom grew when the fishermen followed Him.

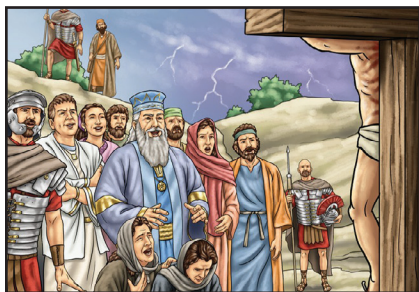
“This was better than any adventure,” the tree declared.



(Show HTT-7.)

Meanwhile, the third tree was still on the hill, living his dream. But one day, the woodcutter came back and cut him down.

“No!” the tree cried inside, “How can I point people to God if I don’t stay on my hill?” The tree’s heart broke as the woodcutter split his wood into planks and made him into a cross. Crosses were used by the Roman government to execute criminals who had done horrible crimes. The third tree felt completely hopeless.



(Show HTT-8.)

Soon, the cross was carried to a busy street in Jerusalem. He was placed on a man who looked weak, tired, and badly beaten. It was Jesus. When the soldiers tried to make Jesus carry the cross, He fell down—it was too heavy for Him. Someone else carried it for Jesus to a hill outside Jerusalem. Soldiers nailed Jesus’ hands and feet to the cross. As Jesus hung on the cross, crowds of people came to look at Him. Some were crying while some angrily mocked Him.

The tree was sad to see people mocking Jesus as He hung there dying. But he heard Jesus say something incredible. (Read Luke 23:34a.)

The tree thought, “He’s asking God to forgive those who are hurting Him! Jesus is no criminal. He doesn’t deserve to die.”

Jesus did have the power to save Himself, but Jesus planned to let all of this happen so people could be saved from their sin.



Jesus came to save you from your sin. Jesus is God the Son. He was alive and active long before the world was made. Before sin came into the world, God had a plan to save you so you could have a friendship with Him forever. (Read Hebrews 9:22b.) Remember, the punishment for sin is to be separated from God. But Jesus bled and died to take your punishment for sin. He did not deserve it because He is perfect, but He willingly did it so you can have your sin forgiven. Jesus was buried, but on the third day He came back to life! He showed Himself to many people whose stories are in the Bible. Jesus is now living in heaven, reigning as King of the world. Anyone who believes in Him will be saved from sin and have a friendship with God forever. **God wants you to believe in Jesus as your Savior.**

Jesus let all of this happen to make a way to save people from sin. After Jesus came back to life, people looked at the cross differently and the third tree’s dream came true.

“The cross used to remind people of suffering and death,” the third tree observed, “but because of what Jesus did, people think of God when they look at me. This is even better than what I dreamed of. I can’t think of a better way to point people back to God.”

Did the three trees’ dreams come true? Yes, but not in the way they had imagined. God had a better plan.\*



If you believe in Jesus, **you can trust God with your hopes and dreams.** Maybe you have big dreams, like the trees did. Maybe you want to become famous or live in a lovely home and have a family. There’s nothing wrong with dreaming about what you want to be when you grow up. Whether those dreams come true or not, **you can trust God with your hopes and dreams.** God’s plans are best\*. (Read Proverbs 16:9.) Your heart is the part of you that thinks, feels, and makes choices. It’s where your dreams and hopes come from. God’s plan for all those who believe in Him is to show others how wonderful He is. Maybe God will use your dreams to do something great for Him. Maybe God has something else planned that you haven’t thought of. Will you choose to trust God with your hopes and dreams? When things don’t turn out the way you expect, will you remember to trust that God is doing more than you can imagine? God’s plan for you is even better than what you could hope for, even if it isn’t what you expected\*.

The three trees had big hopes and dreams for their lives, but God had a greater plan.

## Climax

The three trees each became something better than what they dreamed of.

## Conclusion

As Grandpa turned to the last page he said, “When we look at a manger, a fishing boat, and a cross, we can be reminded of the true story of Jesus and His great plan to save people from sin. He is the Savior God sent to the world for you, Sam. Will you believe in Jesus as your Savior?”

Sam believed Jesus died to save him from his sin. This was a Christmas Eve he would never forget.



Boys and girls, Jesus is the Savior God sent for you. He died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin and came alive again so you can be saved and have a friendship with God forever. **God wants you to believe in Jesus as your Savior.** (Read Acts 16:31.) This verse is saying that anyone who puts their total trust in who Jesus is and what He did to save you will be rescued from sin's punishment! You will no longer be separated from God. Instead, you will be able to know God and live with Him forever. Life with God is better than anything you could ever dream of. Will you believe in Jesus today? Please bow your head and close your eyes. If you would like to believe in Jesus to be saved, please show me by raising your hand. (Allow response.) You may all put your hands down and look up. If you raised your hand, meet me (designate time and location) and we'll explore what the Bible says about being saved from your sin.

## Review Questions

1. What did the trees dream of being one day? (*A bed for a king, a sailing ship for a king, and a tree that stayed on the hill pointing people back to God.*)
2. What did the first tree become? (*A manger.*)
3. How did the first tree's dream come true? (*He was a bed for Jesus, the greatest King.*)
4. Why did Jesus have to come to save you? (*Because I am a sinner.*)
5. What did the second tree become? (*A small fishing boat.*)
6. How did the second tree's dream come true? (*He helped Jesus grow His kingdom when Jesus taught from the boat and the fishermen followed Him.*)
7. What did the third tree become? (*A cross.*)
8. What did Jesus do to save you from sin? (*He bled and died on the cross to take my punishment.*)
9. How did the third tree's dream come true? (*The cross points people back to God by reminding them of what Jesus did to save them.*)
10. How can you know God loves you? (*Answers may vary; the Bible tells me God loves me; God showed His love by sending Jesus to die for me.*)
11. What is God's plan to save people from their sin? (*To believe in Jesus as Savior.*)
12. If you believe in Jesus, how can you trust God with your hopes and dreams? (*Answers will vary; I can know God's plans are best; I can trust God's plan even if it isn't what I expect.*)

## Review Game

### "Dream Match"

#### Materials:

- "Dream Match Cards" reproducible (see p. 16 or Resource Download)
- Hat or bag

**Preparation:** Photocopy four copies of the "Dream Match Cards", cut them out, and place them in a hat or bag. Shake to mix the cards well.

**Instructions:** Divide the children into teams and ask questions, alternating between teams. When a child answers a question correctly, award his team 100 points. The child then has a chance to help his

team earn bonus points by drawing a card. Allow the child to draw two cards. The goal of drawing the cards is to match the trees' dreams to what they became. The bed matches with the manger, the ship matches with the fishing boat, and the tree matches with the cross. The child's team keeps the cards he draws, even if they do not match. Another card that matches may be drawn later. Have a helper on each team keep track of cards and matches. Each match is worth 100 bonus points. Whichever team has the most points at the end wins.

# Guiding a Child to the Savior

## Key Questions

Why did you come to talk with me?  
Why do you need the Lord Jesus Christ?

## The True and Living God

(John 3:16a)

- Who is God?
- What does it mean that God is holy?
- Does God love you?

## Need of Salvation

(Romans 3:23a)

- What is sin?
- Are you a sinner?
- What is God's punishment for sin?

## Way of Salvation

(1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 5a)

- Who is Jesus?
- What did the Lord Jesus do for you?
- Why is Jesus the only one who could die for your sins?
- What happened to Jesus after He died?

## Believe in Jesus

- Let's look in the Bible to see what God says about believing in Jesus. (*Use a condition/ promise verse such as John 1:12, John 3:16, or Acts 16:31 and the terminology used in the verse you choose; e.g., believe in, believe on, receive, etc.*)
- What does God promise He will do?
- What does God say you must do?
- Do you believe in (trust) the Lord Jesus as the only Savior from your sins?

## Suggested Prayer of Response

- Tell God that you have sinned and that you are sorry.
- Tell God you believe in (trust) the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for your sin and rose again.
- Tell God you want to live His way, with His help.

## Assurance

- If you truly believe in the Lord Jesus, what did He just do for you?
- How do you know? (*Read the condition/ promise verse again. Put child's name in it.*)
- The Bible says that Jesus comes into your life when you believe in Him. Jesus will never leave you! (*Read Hebrews 13:5b.*) Where is Jesus now?
- (*Read Hebrews 13:6a.*) Who will help you say NO to sin?
- If you do sin, what should you do? Let's look and see what God's Word says. (*Read and explain 1 John 1:9.*)

## Grow

(2 Peter 3:18)

- **G—Go** to church and Sunday school.
- **R—Read** God's Word and **pray** every day.
- **O—Obey** God! God, the Holy Spirit, lives in you to give you the power to help you do what is right. (*Read Hebrews 13:5b-6a.*)
- **W—Witness** to others, telling them about what the Lord Jesus has done for them.

Before the child leaves, give him or her a tract.  
Encourage him to talk to God right now:

- Thank God for loving you and saving you from sin.
- Thank God for helping you live for Him.

Pray for the child by name.