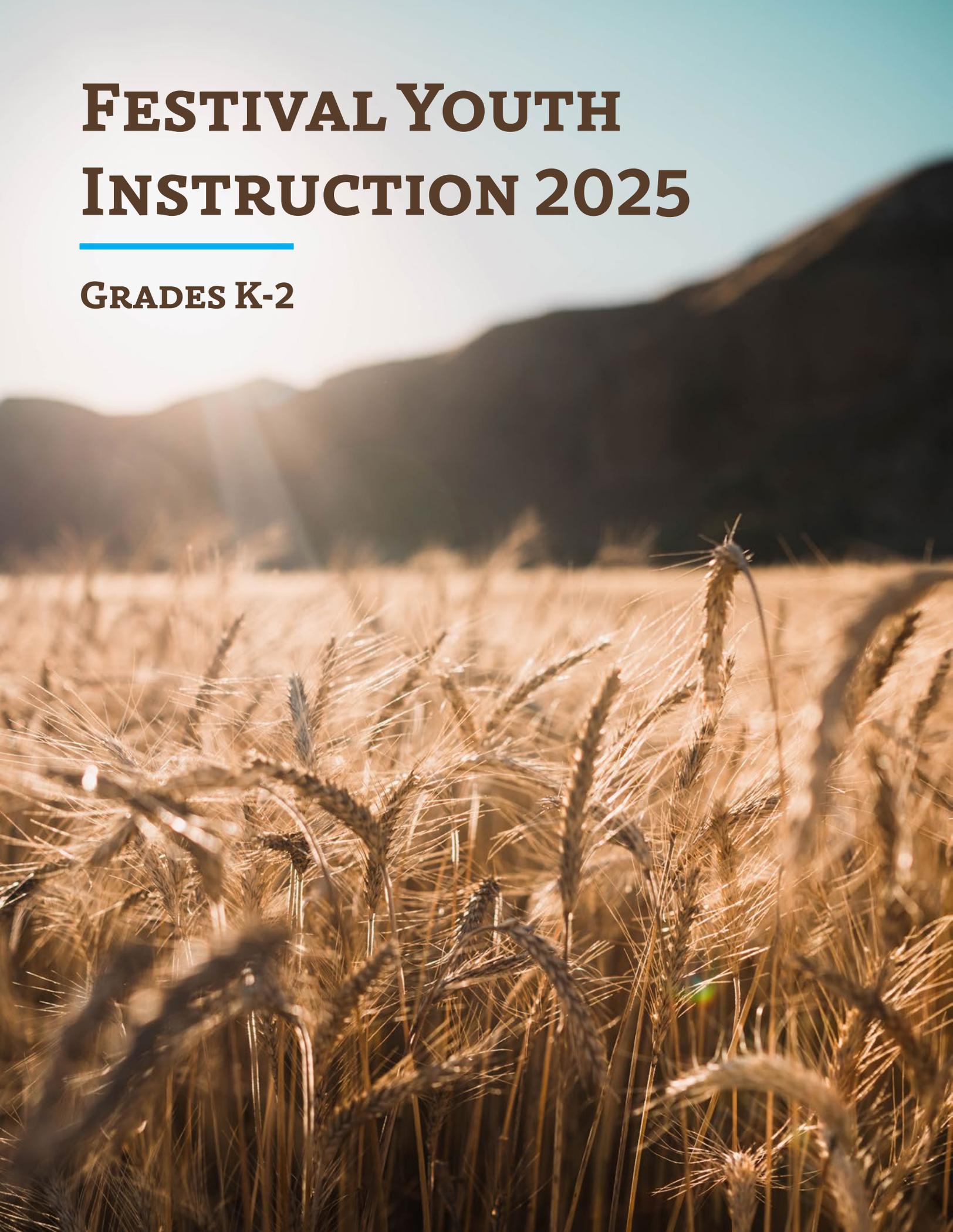


FESTIVAL YOUTH INSTRUCTION 2025

GRADES K-2



LESSON ONE

Dear Teachers,

Thank you for volunteering your time to help our children learn about God and His plan for us. These lessons are written so that someone who has never taught a youth instruction class could easily do so. Those who have taught before may have better ideas for the crafts and coloring pages. If so, please feel free to use those. Please note that you do not have to read word for word on these pages, however, we would ask that you would please keep to the theme and topic of these lesson plans. May you have a wonderful Feast of Tabernacles!

The Education Team

Objective: Students will learn that in this life we are in training—like for a race—to grow in Christ-like character so we may receive the prize of eternal life. **1 Corinthians 9:24-25, “And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.”**

Materials: Examples of racing bib, Greek leaf crown, gym shoes, trophies and/or medals. Small prizes (candy, stickers, etc.), plastic spoons and ping pong balls. Copies of reproducibles (racing bib, trophy and scriptures), crayons or colored pencils and child-safe scissors (or pre-cut items before lesson).

Say: Hello everyone and welcome to the 2025 Feast of Tabernacles. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today! God is so happy that you and your family have come out of the world to celebrate His wonderful Feast of Tabernacles! Welcome everyone. I have brought some objects with me today to help describe something that I think every one of us has participated in during your life. I’m looking for a word.

Teachers: Show students each visual—the bib, a gym shoe and the medal. Allow time for the students to guess. They might say a game, competition or other words. You are looking for the word “RACE.”

Say: Race, that’s right! Has anyone watched the Olympics on television? One is a marathon where individual people run for 26.2 miles! Can you imagine running that far? The record winning time was 2:01:39. Other events at the games are relay races where a group of people, usually four individuals, each run a section of the track and pass a plastic or metal baton to the next participant on their team. The first person to cross the finish line wins! If you have ever participated in or watched a race, it can be extremely exciting! For the Olympic Games, the athletes have trained for many years to become an expert in their sport. And at the end of each event someone is awarded a medal for first, second and third place!

Teachers: You might even be able to find an exciting race video on YouTube that you can show the kids from your computer or smart phone.

RELAY RACE

Say: Let’s all participate in a race!

Teachers: Allow around 5-10 minutes for the race depending on the size of your class. Feel free to let the kids race twice if you think you have the time. Divide kids so they are in two or three lines/groups depending on how much room you have so the kids can have room to participate! Depending on how many kids you have you can decide what kind of “race” you want to do. One idea is that you could get plastic spoons and a ping pong ball and have the kids in a group of three or four. The kids will line up two on one side of the room and two directly on the other side of the room. When you say “go” the first person will race with the ping pong ball on the spoon to the other side of the room and

pass the ping pong ball to the next child. Then that child will race back and pass the ping pong ball to the next person, without dropping it on the ground. If they drop it then they must start over from the beginning. The first group to finish must sit down immediately. Or you could have the kids hop on one foot to the other side of the room. The first person to finish and sit down is the winner. Hand out a sticker, candy or other small prize to the team/individual who finishes first. Feel free to adapt this race to suit your classroom and the group of kids.

Ask: Did you enjoy this race? Why or why not? Did you find any part of the race difficult? Was it too easy? Did you make any mistakes? Did you communicate with one another? Was it hard to work with others to get the timing right to either tag your teammate or pass them the ping pong ball? Were you concerned that you would not finish the race? (Allow time for discussion.)

Ask: Did you feel good about just finishing the race? Would it have been okay not to try or even give up halfway through because you thought you might lose? (Allow time for discussion.)

Say: I think you all did an awesome job, so you all receive a prize for finishing your race today! (Teachers: Hand out the prizes to the rest of the children.)

Ask: Do you think the prize you just received will last forever? (Allow time for discussion.)

Say: That's right, the prizes you won today are just temporary—they are made up of physical materials that can and will eventually decay. The apostle Paul used the example of the Grecian games—much like the Olympics we have today, to show the people of his time that our life is like a race. When an athlete won first place in those games, they did not receive a ribbon or medal—instead they received a "stemma" (Greek word for crown) made from leaves. (Teachers: Show the picture of the Greek leaf crown.)

Say: Paul said the following in **1 Corinthians 9:24-25**, **"And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown."** So, Paul, pointed out that we are to obtain a crown or prize that will not fade away or be destroyed—unlike the temporary leaf crown of the Grecian games. This crown or prize comes from God. It's His ultimate plan for us!

Ask: Can anyone guess what that might be? (Teachers: Allow for discussion. Try to lead the kids to identify that the prize/gift God gives is eternal life.)

Say: That's right! The crown that will not perish is eternal life! That is why we are here keeping God's Feast and all His other Holy Days. They are part of our race to the Kingdom! Let's look more closely at the scripture. **1 Corinthians 9:25** **"And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown."**

Ask: What do you think the word "temperate" means? It's sort of a hard word. It means showing moderation or self-restraint. If you are preparing to run a race would you go crazy and eat all the cookies, chips and sweet tea you could before and during your race?

Say: No of course not. If you filled up on all that food, you would probably throw up during and after the race! A person must pace themselves, eat healthy and drink plenty of fluids, so they don't become dehydrated. Paul is telling us to be responsible and prepared in our own life race. But the Bible even takes this idea one step more in **verse 26**. It states: **"Therefore I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus, I fight: not as one who beats the air."**



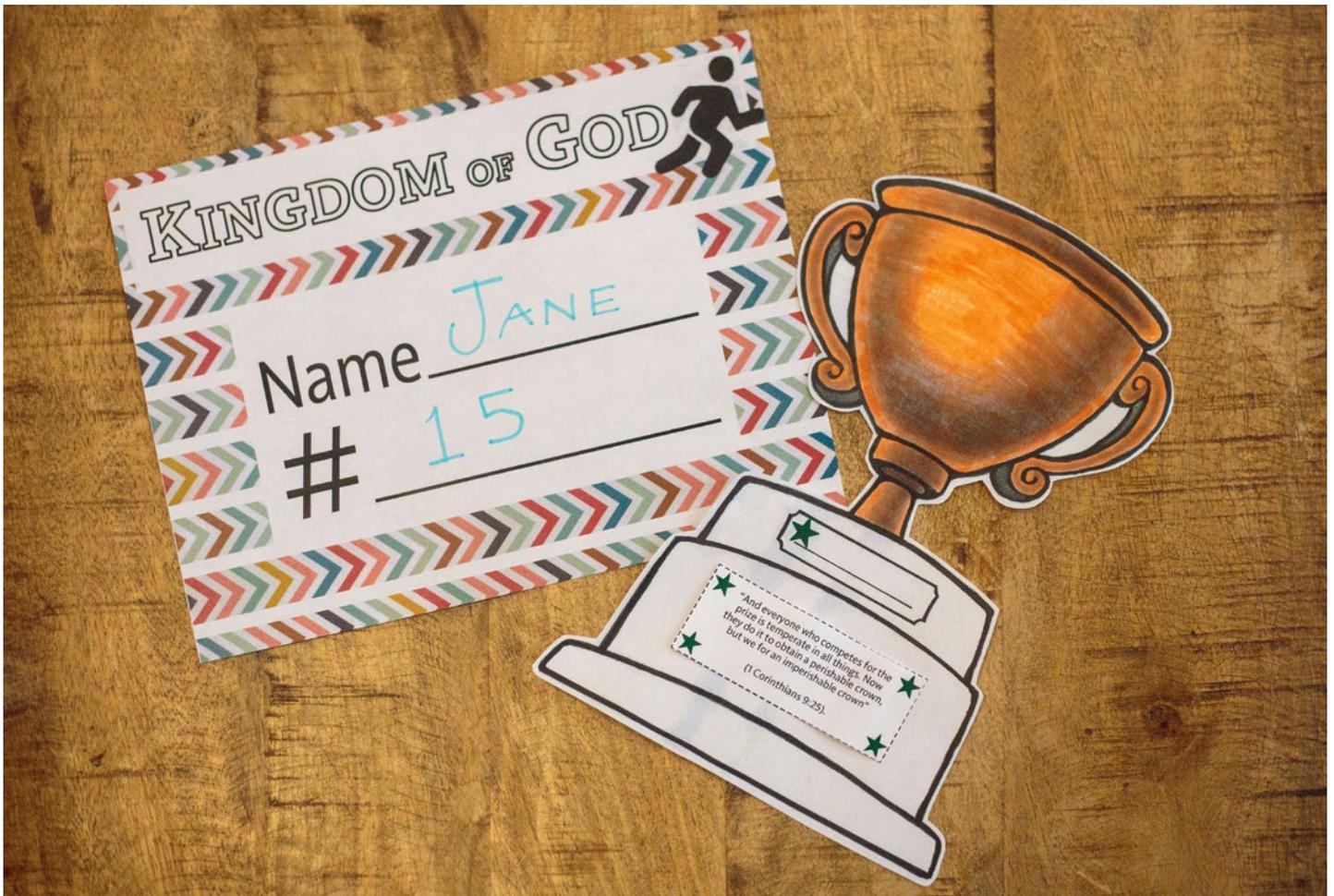
Teachers: Have everyone stand up and discuss with the class the idea of running with uncertainty. You might have them act timid and try to run on their tip toes. You could also ask them to spread out and swing their arms in the air. This will probably be funny. You could even demonstrate too. Really exaggerate running on your tip toes and swinging your arms around.

Ask: Being timid and running a race on your tip toes won't win a race will it? God inspired Paul to teach us that we must be confident in running our race. What helps us to be confident in our life? By studying God's word, obeying His commandments and not quitting our race will help us succeed in our race to God's Kingdom! Let's find out how we should approach our goals and work in life. We will read Ecclesiastes 9:10: **"Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might."**

Say: So, if we want to be successful in life, we must put forth our absolute best effort. If you have homework from school you strive to do good work in order to obtain a good grade. You wouldn't just turn in an incomplete or unfinished assignment. So, like schoolwork, we must work on our relationship with God by keeping His commandments, Holy Days and festivals. We must spend time with Him every day in prayer and studying the Bible. All these things will help us complete our race to the Kingdom. In our next class we will discuss how to successfully participate in our race for eternal life and the things we can do to help us cross the finish line!

CRAFT

Say: Now we are going to create our craft today. We have two that include a racing bib and a trophy. When class is finished, you can take them with you!



KINGDOM OF GOD



Name _____



This page includes 12 Scripture labels for students to color and use with the trophy activity.

 "And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown"

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LESSON TWO

Materials: Colored cardstock or construction paper for signs and markers/crayons/colored pencils. Glue sticks and child-safe scissors (or pre-cut items before lesson). Copies of reproducibles for each child.

Say: Welcome back! We hope you are having a wonderful Feast so far! In our previous class we discussed that we all have been in different types of races or competitions at school or at church picnics. We all like to win a prize, don't we? No one likes to lose or not get a prize. But God says in **1 Corinthians 9:24** that we must run in such a way that we all could receive the prize.

Say: Remember that instead of a foot race, our race is for eternal life in God's Kingdom. What is different between a foot race and our race for the Kingdom is that we do not have to cross the line first, but we must finish the race to receive the prize! We do not have to be the first one across the finish line. God wants all of us to finish! God's desire is to give the ultimate prize of eternal life to everyone who repents, becomes baptized and strives to keep His commandments, Holy Days and festivals. The Bible clearly states this in **Luke 12:32**, **"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."**

Teachers: We have tried to create a way that the kids can participate in a race. The first option is one that you could use if you have the room to have the kids fast walk or run. The second option is one where you could get the kids moving without having a big room and everyone could participate.

"RACE FOR LIFE"

Option 1

Say: We are going to do a race-for-life activity. I will need a few volunteers to be the runners, to be the racetrack obstacles and signs. (Teachers you may have to adjust this activity depending on the size of your class. You could have 1-2 kids be the runners, wearing a runner's bib, then have several kids be the obstacles/roadblocks. Several students can be the solution signs while another child can hold the sign for the Kingdom, etc. You can make your own signs.)

Say: Okay runners, get ready to go! (Teachers: Guide students in the race. Have them follow your directions. You should already have in place all the kids who are assigned to hold a Caution, Stop or Finish sign all along your track race route.) We all start out in life with the day we are born. Each day we grow and learn and process new information. (Teachers: As you read this, have the racer(s) leave the finish line.)

Ask: What type of information do you begin to learn when you are a baby? When you are a toddler? (Teachers: Let kids discuss. Some possible answers are learning to walk, what "no" means, do not touch hot things, just to name a few.)

Say: As you continue to grow older you begin to be taught about God's commandments by your parents.

Teachers: Runners continue to walk fast, and as they approach the first roadblock, call out: "Roadblock #1." That child will turn around with their sign and read the obstacle. If the child is not old enough to read, have someone else read it aloud: "You lie to your parents." Ask, "What should you do?" Have another child read a possible answer card stating, "You apologize and ask them and God for their forgiveness" or "You tell them you didn't lie." Discuss this as a group and let the kids share some of their own experiences if they have any.

Say: "Kids, start racing again!" Things are going well, and you are running fast—then boom! A caution sign pops up.

Teachers: Another kid holds the caution sign and turns it around. Have someone read the following scenario: "Some of your friends at school/church/neighborhood do not like another kid and never include them in any games or get

together. Ask, “What could you do?” Have another kid, with a solution sign raise the sign that says, “You could set a good example and invite him/her to play in a game with you and the other kids” or “You could tell the other kids that we all need to be kind to others—just like Christ was kind to people.” Allow kids to discuss examples of this in their lives.

Say: Begin running again! Life is going well! You receive an award at school.

Teacher: Kids keep running and then another caution sign pops up! This caution sign says, “You are curious about where you fit in God’s plan.” Possible solutions are praying and asking for guidance from God. Talk to your parents or minister or study the Bible. Allow for discussion. Instruct students to keep running.

Next, students will come to sign that says, “You repent of your sins and get baptized.” Instruct them to keep running. Have a clearly marked finish line somewhere in the room. You could have a streamer or some sort of poster that marks the finish line. You could even have a poster that says, “Enter the Kingdom!” After the kids finish the race, have everyone sit back down.

Option 2

Teachers: For this option you will use the same signs and scenarios but think of the game like musical chairs. Instead of choosing some of the kids as runners, while some hold signs or scenarios, each child will participate. You will need to have a table set up with at least six chairs—the same number of chairs as you have of the obstacle/roadblock signs. Put three roadblock/caution signs on the table in front of the seats and then three solution signs in front of three different seats. The caution/roadblock signs could be made on red or yellow construction paper with the descriptions glued on the back. Number the roadblocks 1, 2 and 3. On the same table you should have solution signs on green construction paper numbered 1, 2 and 3 to correspond with the roadblock signs 1, 2 and 3.

Teachers: Once the tables are set up, have the kids sit in each seat at their assigned table. Explain that when you start to play a song on your phone, they need to start walking around the table (kind of like musical chairs) and when the music stops, they need to sit down in a chair. If a child sits in front of a space where the roadblock sign #1 is, then that person needs to read the roadblock and the child who has sat in front of the sign marked solution #1 needs to read possible solutions. Then you can have the discussions with the kids about which solution they think would be the best for them to pick. Once you have discussed this, collect roadblock #1 and solution #1 from the table. Next have the students stand up, start the music again and repeat the process until you have finished roadblocks 2 and 3 and solutions 2 and 3.

Ask: Now that you witnessed this race of life, let’s think about what we observed. As the racers began to run, what did you notice happen? (Allow kids to brainstorm and discuss. Kids may note that roadblocks keep appearing.)

Say: Yes, that is right! Throughout our lives we have difficulties, don’t we? Sometimes we make the wrong decisions and break God’s law. When we break God’s law, it is a sin. Remember **1 John 3:4** states, **“Sin is the transgression of the law.”** You know that in our country, state and even cities we have certain laws protecting us from harm.

Ask: Can you think of a law that you need to obey? (Teachers: Allow discussion.) We have street signals that tell us when we can stop and when we can go when we are driving in our cars. If we don’t obey them, or if we did not have traffic signals, it would cause many accidents, injuries and maybe even traffic jams where cars could not move. Sin, or the breaking of God’s law, hinders our race. It slows us down; it can even prevent us from finishing our race if we are not careful! However, if we admit our sins, repent and strive to overcome them, then God will help us get back up and cross the finish line.

Say: God wants all of us to finish the race! If we were on a track team at school, what do you think you would need to do to be able to complete a running race? (Teachers: Allow discussion. Some possible answers could be practice running every day, do stretches, eat healthy, get enough sleep, wear proper running shoes.) Just like a real foot race, in our spiritual race to God’s Kingdom we need to make sure that we are doing all we can to finish.

Say: Let’s look at the word RACE. We can remember what we need to do if we remember this word. The first letter in RACE is “R” which can remind us that we need to READ and study God’s word—the Holy Bible—every day. This will help

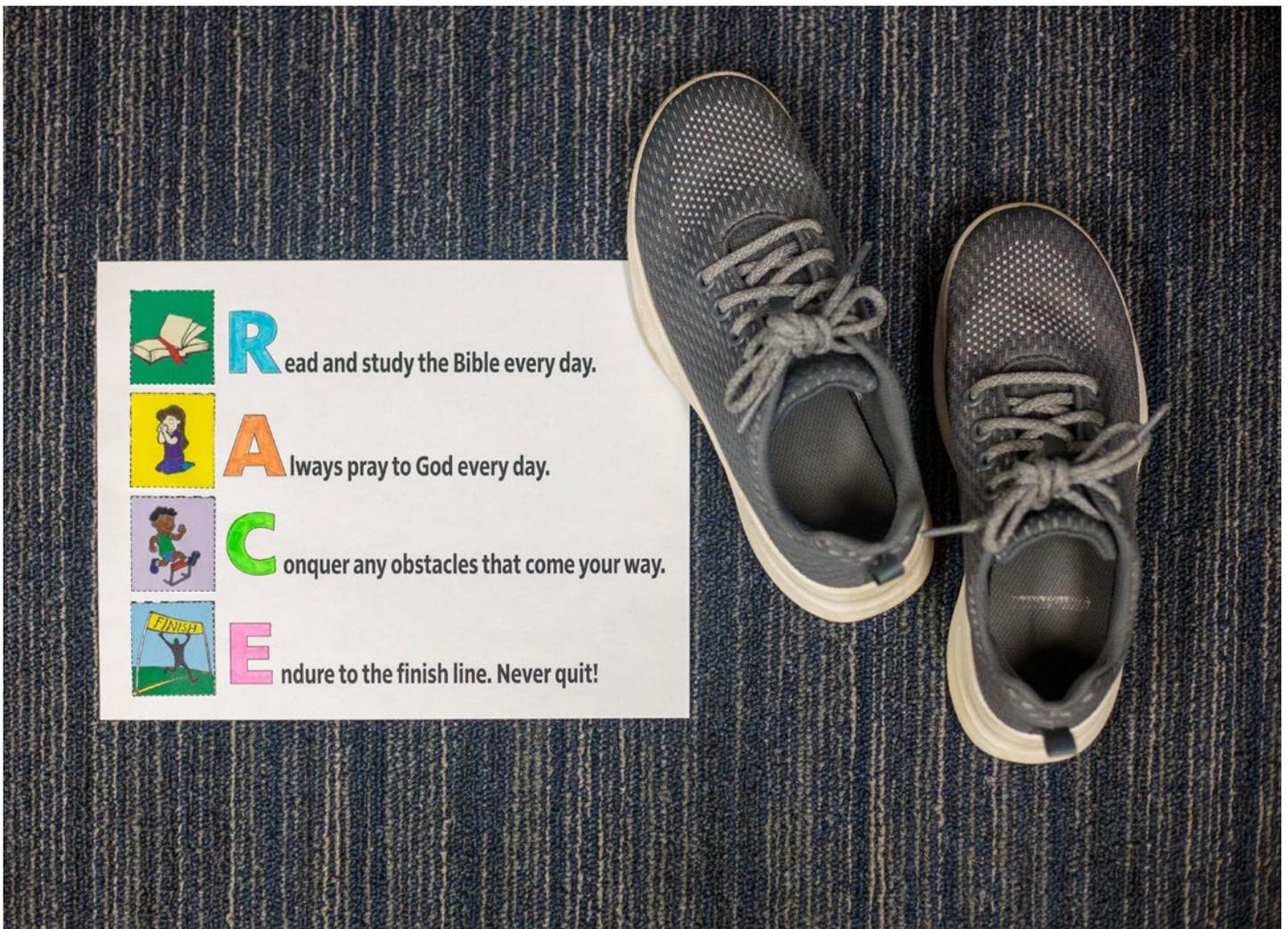
strengthen our minds and resist the wrong influences and obstacles that may get in our way. Next is the letter "A" which can remind us to ALWAYS pray to God for guidance. When you are training, you have to ask your coach to help guide you in how to jump over the hurdles properly. Just like that, you need to ask God for His guidance to make the right decisions. Another letter is "C" which can remind us to CONQUER any obstacles which come your way. Our world is so busy. We have school, piano lessons, homework, clubs, video games, sports and even fears or worries, that we might experience weekly if not daily. Sometimes our life can get so busy that we might forget to stay in contact with God and that makes Him sad. God tells us that we can give Him our burdens, worries or cares because He cares for us! (1 Peter 5:7)

Say: When we come across obstacles or problems in our race, we can take those to God, and He promises to help us conquer them! Finally, the letter "E" can remind us to ENDURE to the finish line. Never give up! Don't quit on God. He wants us to finish. **Hebrews 12:1** states, **"Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."** So, we must never quit obeying God. He wants us all to cross the finish line, not just one person. But we must make effort to follow Him. The apostle Paul tells us in **2 Timothy 4:7**, **"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race."** As the Feast comes to an end and we find ourselves traveling back home, remember what you have learned here and like the apostle Paul, finish your race!

CRAFT

Say: Today we will be creating a craft that you can take home with you. May you enjoy the rest of the Feast of Tabernacles!

Teachers: Pass out the RACE acronym sheet and the sheet with the four small pictures. The kids are to cut out each picture and glue it next to the correct letter in the word RACE. Then the kids can color it.



Read and study the Bible every day.

Always pray to God every day.

Conquer any obstacles that come your way.

Endure to the finish line. Never quit!

This page includes five sets of four pictures for students to color and use with the RACE activity.

