

Ruckus at Recess

By Kay Mathwig

Emma brushed dirt off her knees and hands.

"I'm tired of playing horses," she whined.

"Let's do something else."

"But we all like horses," Kate said. "And the slide and swings are too crowded."

Ariella's eyes lit up. "Hey, I know—I have a library book with flying horses in it. Let's look at it next recess."

After lunch, Ariella showed Kate and Emma her book.

"Oh!" Emma pointed at the horse with wings. "I'd love to ride him. Do you think there ever really were flying horses?"

Ariella squinted at the words. "I'm not sure. This book has a lot of strange names and big words."

She turned to the cover and read the title. "Greek gods . . ."

Kate frowned and flipped through some pages.

"Gods? That's a weird thing to call these funny-looking animals."

Emma pointed again. "Oh! Look at that strong man. He's holding up the whole world!"

Suddenly, someone snatched the book away from them.

Ariella jumped up. "Boyd Webster, give it back!" she ordered.

Boyd grinned and held the book just out of her reach. He showed it to his friend. "Nate, check this out. This page has a flying baby!"

Nate laughed. "He's too young to shoot arrows." He flopped his arms like wings. In a baby voice he said, "Hi, I'm hunting for my bottle and diaper!"

Emma stomped her foot. "How dare you take Ariella's library book. We're telling Miss Parker."



Boyd's smile faded. He tossed the book to Ariella. "It's just a bunch of made-up stuff. You probably even believed it. You think those cartoon gods made you."

Ariella frowned at him. "Of course not. This is just art. We listen better in class than you, and we know about real science."

Emma added, "Yeah, we learned humans started in a soupy ocean a bazillion years ago."

Kate's handed felt clammy. "Help me tell them the truth," she said quietly to God. "I'm scared they'll all laugh at me."

Kate cleared her throat. "Um . . . actually, guys, what we heard about in science class is wrong too."

Everyone stared at her.

Kate took a deep breath and went on. "The one true God made us and our world. He says that in His Book, the Bible. He sent His Son, Jesus, to live on earth and then die for us on the cross. He's the Savior of the world."

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Preparing the Way

Draw a circle around the one word in each number that does not fit with the other words. Write each circled word on the numbered line below that matches it.

1 spider
fly
lamb

2 Jesus
car
plane

3 kitten
away
chick

4 joy
sin
happy

5 Mary
John
Elizabeth

6 baseball
football
behold

7 pencil
him
pen

8 world
pray
sing

"[5] saw 2 coming toward 7, and said, 6,
the 1 of God, who takes 3 the 4
of the 8" (John 1:29)!



MEMORY VERSE

"[John] saw Jesus coming toward him,
and said, Behold, the Lamb of God,
who takes away the sin of the world!"
(John 1:29).

Gospel Caterpillar Magnet

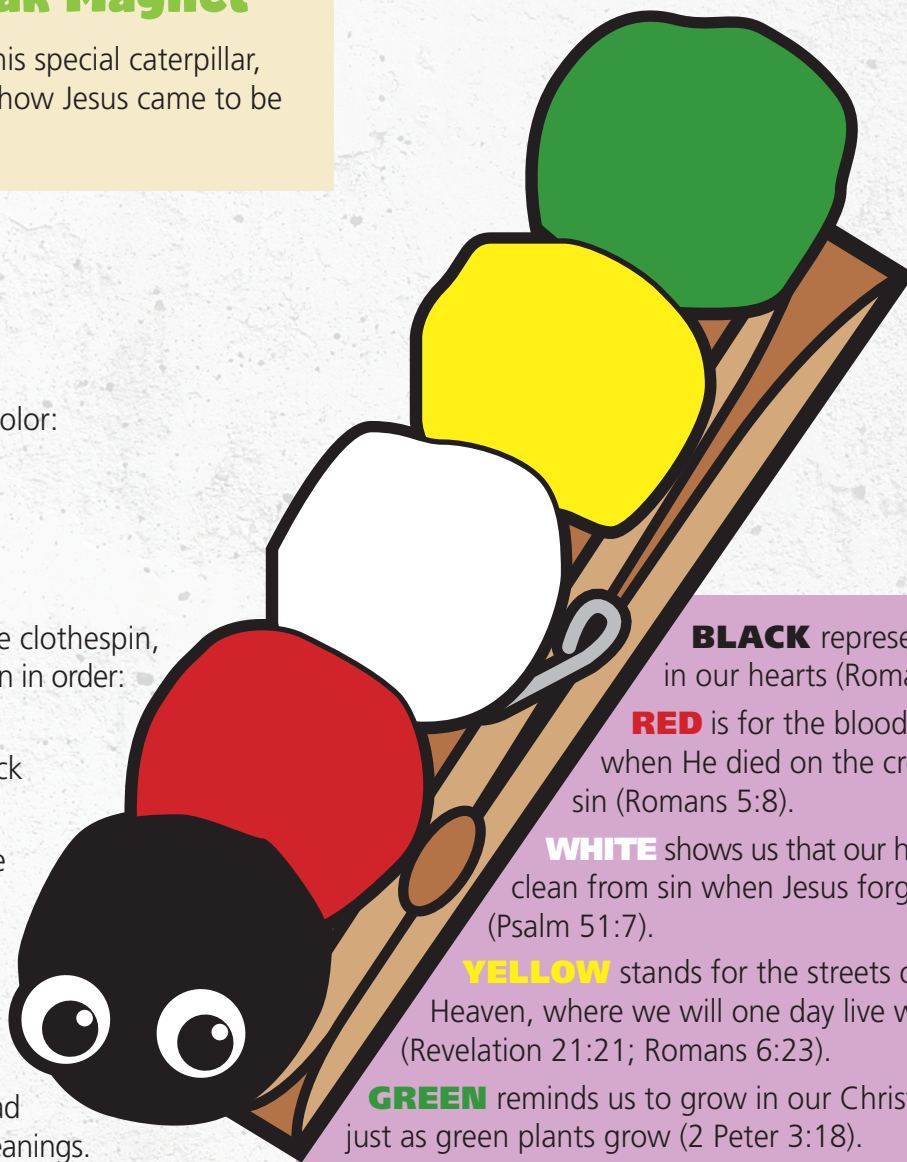
Follow the steps below to make this special caterpillar, then use it to share the gospel of how Jesus came to be the Savior of the world!

Materials

- Clothespin.
- Small magnet.
- Glue.
- 5 small pompoms, one of each color: black, red, white, yellow, green.
- 2 wiggly eyes.

Steps

1. Starting at the closed end of the clothespin, glue the pompoms on the clothespin in order: black, red, white, yellow, green.
2. Glue the wiggly eyes to the black pompom.
3. Glue or stick the magnet on the bottom of the clothespin.
4. Use the caterpillar to tell your friends about Jesus, the Savior of the world! The meaning of each color is listed in the purple box to the right. Be sure to look up and read the Bible verses that go with the meanings.



BLACK represents the sin in our hearts (Romans 3:23).

RED is for the blood Jesus shed when He died on the cross for our sin (Romans 5:8).

WHITE shows us that our hearts are clean from sin when Jesus forgives us (Psalm 51:7).

YELLOW stands for the streets of gold in Heaven, where we will one day live with Jesus (Revelation 21:21; Romans 6:23).

GREEN reminds us to grow in our Christian lives just as green plants grow (2 Peter 3:18).

Measuring Growth

The Primary lesson for this week introduced your child to the beginning of Jesus' ministry on earth, as well as His purpose for coming. The significance of the events around Jesus' baptism affirm His mission and His identity. Remind your child that Jesus wasn't just a good man who taught about right and wrong; Jesus is God's Son Who came to be our Savior and die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin.

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child believes Jesus came to earth to be the Savior of the world.

1. My child understands that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. My child has placed his trust in Jesus as his Savior from sin.
3. My child recognizes the importance of telling others the truth about Who Jesus is and what He has done.



Ruckus at Recess (continued)

Emma rolled her eyes. "Sounds like another fairytale to me."

Kate felt nervous, but she spoke bravely. "I'll bring my Bible tomorrow and read some of it to you. Jesus is special. He does amazing things. No person could have ever made Him up. He has to be God's Son."

"Whatever," Emma shrugged.

Ariella smiled. "Yeah, bring your Bible, Kate. It's more fun reading books than playing horses."

Nate and Boyd were gone. Kate hoped they'd come back tomorrow. Even if they started

teasing her, maybe they'd end up believe in Jesus.

"Thanks, God," she whispered as the bell rang to end recess. ■

Answer the story questions.

1. Why did the children start talking about God?
2. What did Kate know that she didn't learn from science class?
3. What Book tells the truth about Who Jesus is and why He came to earth?



Jesus Identified with Sinners

Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1–17; Luke 1:39–41; John 1:29, 30



God the Father was pleased that Jesus was willing to leave Heaven to be born into our world. Long before Jesus was born, one of God's prophets, Isaiah, wrote about someone who would prepare the Jews for Jesus' coming. But who would it be?

John the Baptist was growing up at the same time as Jesus. When John became a man, he taught people to repent of their sins. He told them that the Messiah, the Savior of the world, would soon come. John was the one Isaiah had written about long ago! But John wondered when he would see the Savior that God had promised to send.

As John was preaching to a great crowd by the Jordan River one day, Jesus came to be baptized. As the Savior sent from God, Jesus would carry the burden of the sins of all the people of the world. Jesus knew it was time to begin doing the work of His Heavenly Father. He wanted to show He was ready to do that work. So He asked John to baptize Him.

John and Jesus went down into the river. When Jesus came up out of the water, the skies opened. The Holy Spirit of God came out from Heaven in the likeness of a dove to rest on Jesus. A voice spoke. "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I Am well pleased," God said from Heaven.

John the Baptist knew then that Jesus was God's Son. He knew that Jesus had come to be the promised Savior. John began to tell people that Jesus was the Son of God. ■