

Great Miracles of Jesus

Theme: Alpine Express

Table of Contents

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Editorial: Mighty Miracles.....	2
Theme: Alpine Express	3
Kids in Missions	8
A Look at Next Quarter.....	58

Unit 1: Miracles of Healing

<i>Week of</i>	Unit Focus: Children will recall miracles when Jesus healed the sick.
12.04.2016	1 • Jesus Heals the Paralyzed Man
12.11.2016	2 • Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter.....
12.18.2016	3 • Christmas: Jesus Is Born
12.25.2016	4 • Jesus Heals the Ten Lepers.....
01.01.2017	5 • Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Unit 2: Miracles of Supply

<i>Week of</i>	Unit Focus: Children will recall miracles when Jesus supplied a need.
01.08.2017	6 • Jesus' First Miracle
01.15.2017	7 • Jesus Feeds the 5,000
01.22.2017	8 • Jesus Provides Tribute
01.29.2017	9 • Jesus Provides Plenty of Fish

Unit 3: Miracles over Nature

<i>Week of</i>	Unit Focus: Children will recall miracles when Jesus showed His power over nature.
02.05.2017	10 • Jesus Stills the Tempest
02.12.2017	11 • Jesus Walks on Water
02.19.2017	12 • Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead.....

Review

02.26.2017	13 • Great Miracles of Jesus
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Beginner Teacher's Manual

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Mighty Miracles

When I think of miracles, I automatically go to the great miracles of Jesus: turning the water into wine, feeding a five thousand-plus crowd, raising Lazarus from the dead, walking on water, calming the storm—just to name a few. However, in lightning speed my mind jumps to my personal miracles, those I have experienced and not just read about: the miracle of salvation; the miracle of three healthy children (no special issues, just the miracle of birth); the many financial miracles.

My biggest physical miracle was a healing miracle. In 2014 I was diagnosed with stage 4 inoperable and incurable lung cancer. My reaction was, *Lung cancer? I don't smoke. I don't live with smokers. I don't work with smokers. Are you kidding me?* However, the proof was in the CT, MRI, PET scan, and biopsy; I had cancer. I was given two options: chemo to hopefully reach the median of three years, or death in six months. I was only sixty and while the idea of seeing Jesus was great, the idea of death wasn't. How could I leave my husband, children, and grandchildren?

After a long bout of tears and fears, I totally went to Jesus. I say totally because I had been calling on Him during that long bout, but I finally really went to Him, surrendering this thing to His

control. After all, His breath is in my lungs!

If He chooses to heal me in this life, then I win. If He chooses to give me the ultimate healing—life with Him—then I win. How does one argue with a win-win situation? I said no to treatments and yes to His will.

At the time of this material reaching your hands, the diagnosis and surrender is over two years old. I cannot say my cancer is gone; I have had no tests to prove either way. I only know I have no health issues. I am still alive in spite of multiple doctors' hopeless predictions. The great miracle-worker of the Gospels is still doing miracles today!

I pray you can convey the power of these miracles of Jesus to your students. These are not old stories or fairy tales. They are real-life miraculous events that are part of His story! The story is not about the lepers or the wine or Lazarus. It is about the miracle worker, Jesus!

Please share your class miracles on Facebook so we can praise along with you!

Teacher Manual Downloadable Resources

The Beginner Teacher's Manual is available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click *sign in* to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click *create an account* to open an account for the site.
3. Hover over the *view cart* menu link and click the *view cart* button.
4. Enter in the Coupon Code box on the screen and click *update cart*. (The file should display on the screen and reflect that the download comes at no charge.)
5. Click *continue* and then *submit order*. You will see a button with the name of the zip file. Click on this button to download the resource.
6. This coupon code will be valid for one year from the date of the first lesson.

Teacher's Resource Packet Downloadable Resources

To access the reproducible items 📄 from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet. If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to www.pentecostalpublishing.com or calling 866-819-7667.

Theme Development

The Alpine Express

Nothing says winter like the Swiss Alps, which include some of the highest mountains of the entire alpine region, including the famous Matterhorn. Transform your classroom into the majestic world of the Swiss Alps and then ride the Alpine Express to see snow-capped mountains, peaceful rivers, charming villages, and enchanting castles. Don't forget to enjoy some delicious Swiss chocolates along the way!

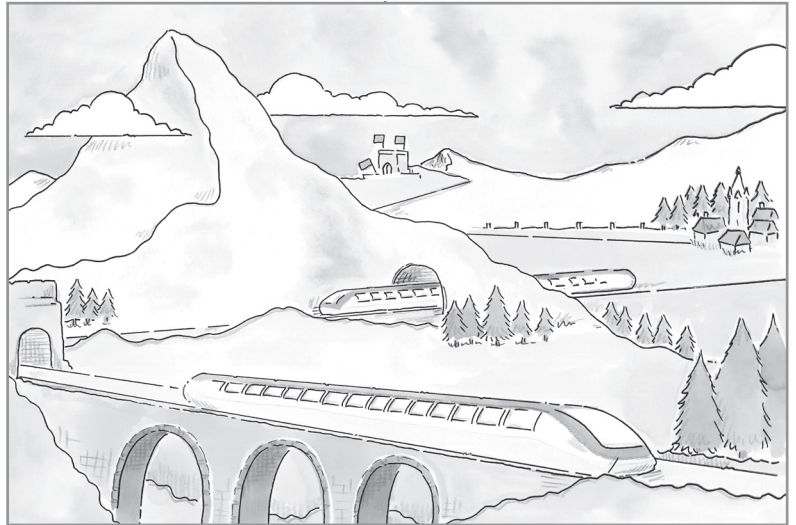
As majestic and marvelous as these mountains are, they pale when compared to the life-changing miracles of Jesus. One can climb a breathtaking mountain, but only Jesus can heal a leper, turn water into wine, or walk on water. While your room may be beautiful, be sure the children focus on the majesty of Jesus and His miracles, which He is still providing today.

The decorating ideas can be used for any classroom, for complete walls or smaller bulletin boards. Use the ideas that work best for your setting. Be sure to visit Pinterest and search "mountain VBS" for ideas. Brainstorm with teachers in other levels to see what ideas they are using for this theme, and then make your room unique for your beginners.

Teaching Wall


Mount the attendance and memory charts (**AP**) at the children's level so they can easily update them each week. If room allows, mount the unit memory posters (**TRP**) and the special memory passage poster (**TRP**). Other options include mounting only the unit memory verse currently being studied rather than all three at one time, or placing a poster on each of the other walls and walking to them when it is time to do Bible memory work. Include the Kids in Missions map (**TRP**) as a reminder to pray for missionaries.

The remaining three walls will focus on the Alps with the help of transparencies (**TRP**) and theme art .



Explaining Our Acronyms and Symbols

(**TRP**) = Teacher's Resource Packet

 = Downloadable resource using code on TRP instruction sheet

(**AP**) = Activity Paper

BP = Bible Point

MV = Memory Verse

KiM = Kids in Missions

SMP = Special Memory Passage

Heads Up!

Check all your lesson title pages now to see what supplies need to be gathered. Plan ahead to know what activities require multiple copies, cutouts, or unusual supplies. Recruit teenagers or seniors to help with drawing, copying, or cutting.

Before the quarter begins, tear apart the activity papers and sort the papers by lesson for easier distribution each week. Order one set per student with a few extras for visitors and growth.

Wall 1

This wall will begin with emphasis on the birth of Jesus, which is covered in lesson 3 and is a key focus at this time of year. Cover the top half of the wall with dark blue paper for the night sky. Cover the bottom half with green paper. Use the transparency (TRP) to create a large stable scene from brown paper featuring animals, Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the manger. Cut a giant star from silver or gold wrapping paper.



Before January 1, change this wall to a playful snow scene. Cover the top with blue paper and add a few polyfill clouds. Cover the bottom with mountains cut from white paper. Use the transparency to create art of children playing in the snow: skiing, sledding, making snow angels, and throwing snowballs. Use cotton or Styrofoam balls for 3-D snowballs. Add some 3-D evergreen trees and a “Hot Cocoa” stand.

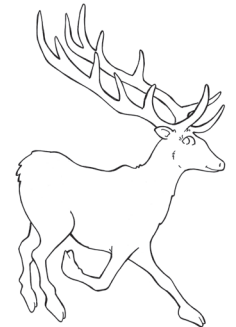


Wall 2

Wall 2 will feature the majestic Alps and the Alpine Express. Cover the top of the wall with blue paper for sky and add some polyfill clouds. Consider using the polyfill to make clouds cover the mountains. Often the peaks can be seen while clouds cover the mountain below the peaks, so cover some peaks and cover some mountains below the peaks.

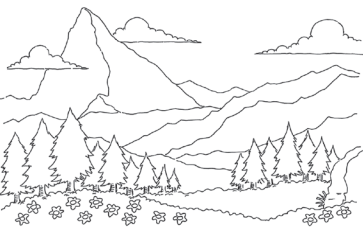
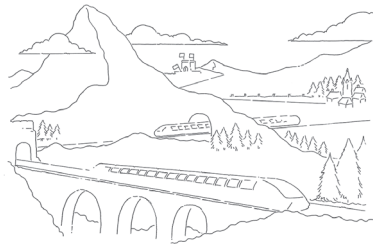
For additional 3-D effect, create a large tunnel U-shape from black paper near the base of the wall. Make this a large focal point of the wall. Surround the opening with foam blocks painted gray or brown. Use the transparency (TRP) to create the Alpine Express coming from the tunnel.

Add triangle evergreen trees, a mountain goat, deer, and fox.



Wall 3

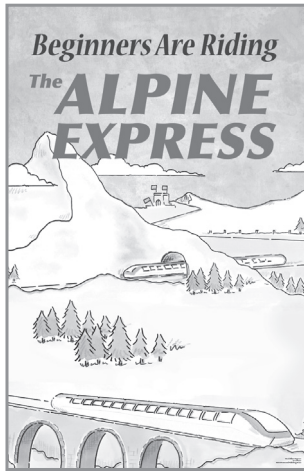
Create the famous giant Matterhorn. Use blue paper for the sky, and create a giant mountain to cover the wall. The bottom third of the mountain could be brown paper with gray or brown rocks (consider making these 3-D). Add polyfill or white paper snow for the rest of the mountain. Mount a Swiss flag on a pole and stake it near the top. Use the hikers master (TRP) to make a boy or girl copy for each child to color and post on the mountain. Consider letting the children move their hikers up the mountain each week they attend.



Bulletin Boards

Any of the wall ideas can be used on a smaller scale for those who must decorate boards and not walls.

If you have a board outside your classroom that passersby can see, highlight your students by taking their pictures and attaching oversize head shots to chenille wire figures. Create a mountain and place the hikers on the mountain.



Door Poster

Mount the door poster (**TRP**) at children's eye level so it welcomes them into the room.

Salvation Poster

Mount the salvation poster (**TRP**) where children can visit it regularly, such as on the inside of your classroom door (assuming you close your door) or on a closet door.

Bible Point

Every week the children learn a short take-home phrase summarizing the lesson objectives. Say the Bible point frequently to help children lock this important life application into their hearts and minds. Choose a signal to use each time you want the children to say the Bible point, such as blowing a train whistle or holding up a small Swiss or Christian flag (see theme art extras) 📌. Note: throughout the manual, you will see the acronym BP, which stands for Bible point.

Truth about God

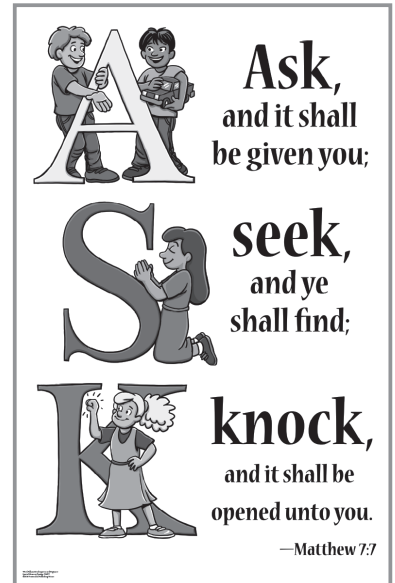
While the Bible is filled with narratives that we teach our children, it is God's story. It is all about Him, not the characters. Each lesson focuses on a truth about God, an attribute or principle that helps define or characterize God. While the children do not memorize this statement, the lesson segments will support it.

Offering

Collect the offering as soon as children enter so they do not lose it or play with it. Consider using a winter stocking cap or an open coal car from a train set as the offering container.

Volunteers


Provide a train ticket (**TRP**) 📌 for each child to write his name on and place in a small box. Each time you need a volunteer, draw a name from the box. If a child does not like performing in front of others, use him in background opportunities, such as distributing supplies.




Attendance and Memory Charts

Tear out the charts from the activity paper sets. On the first Sunday, give each child a chart and let her write her name on the line. Each week she attends, she adds a star to her ticket.

As students practice the unit memory verse each week, each student colors one circle on the map as he rides the Alpine Express.


Activate your faith and buy extra copies to allow for growth in your classroom. Although copyright laws prohibit the copying of this material, one allowance is to make copies for visitors using the master of each chart .

Home Connection

On the bottom of each activity paper is a URL address for parents to take advantage of our Home Connection. Review questions, activities, and memory work are provided for at-home discussion. Be sure to show this to parents when they pick up their children. This piece is also available in the resource packet (**TRP**)  for teachers to copy and send home with students.

Bible Verses

A unit Bible verse is studied each unit. The multi-week study will explain the verse as well as encourage memorization. Mount the posters (**TRP**) on the teaching wall, or place a poster on each of the three decorated walls. Each week, gather students at the appropriate poster to study the verse. An additional Bible lesson verse that connects to the Bible lesson is mentioned and is included in the activity paper.

The special memory passage is Matthew 7:7. Refer to the poster (**TRP**) and SMP ideas . Several lessons include optional activities for teaching this important passage.


Kids in Missions

The focus this quarter is the Pacific region. Their seasons are opposite of North America's, so they are enjoying summer weather. Ideas and information are included on page 8. Mount the map of this region (**TRP**) on the teaching wall as a reminder to pray for our missionaries.

Teacher Training Helps

Our website offers several teacher training articles as well as other items to enhance your teaching experience: a child information form, childhood characteristics, how to build a tree, and how to make sock puppets. A standard supply list details items that should be regularly available.

pentecostalpublishing.com/t-teacherstraining1.aspx

A teacher training article (**TRP**)  is included in the resource packet. This piece is three-hole punched for placement in your personal or classroom resource notebook.

Music

Worship is an important part of each lesson. Several children's CDs are available at www.pentecostalpublishing.com, including Word Aflame's *Kids in Praise* volumes 1 and 2. Many worship CDs include today's choruses that are popular in church and are usually sung by children. Let students help lead worship time by using inflatable mics and musical instruments.

Facebook

Join us on Facebook and share exciting news, ask questions, offer suggestions, and most importantly, post those room décor pics! Your pictures inspire others as well as offer options for turning rooms into WOW! rooms. Search for Word Aflame Beginner Curriculum Teachers.

Note: Before posting pictures of children, be sure to get parental permission. The child information form on our teacher training link offers a place for their approval.

