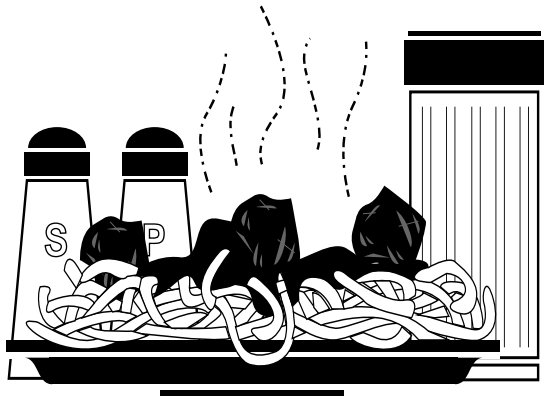


2. BLESSINGS

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Eph. 1:3).



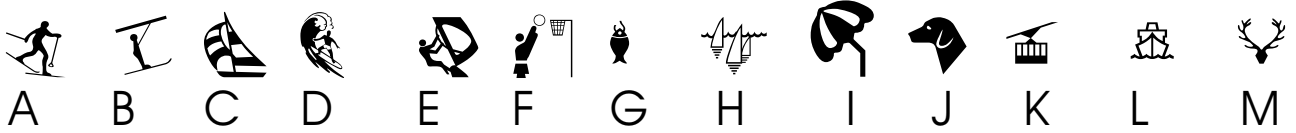
What is a blessing? It is something good given to us by God. There are two types of blessings. God gives everyone blessings such as rain, sun, flowers, trees, food, etc. However, some blessings are just for Christians.

Christians enjoy these blessings:

1. God is our Heavenly Father.
2. We are the adopted brothers and sisters to Christ (Gal. 3:26-4:6).
3. God hears and answers our prayers.
4. We can have Christian fellowship with other Christians.
5. God and other Christians comfort us when sad things happen (2 Cor. 1:3,4).
6. We can have a hope of going to heaven to live forever with God and Jesus.



Christians are disciples of Christ. We try to learn and obey God's commands. God provides spiritual blessings for all faithful Christians. Babies and young children are in a safe condition. They would go to heaven if they died. When they are old enough to understand how to be saved, and make a decision, they must be baptized in order to receive spiritual blessings.



Use the code to learn about our adoption:



SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS



SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS

Cut out the raindrops and put each one beside the scripture which tells about that blessing:

1. 2 Cor. 1:4

5. Col. 1:2

2. Gal. 4:5

6. 1 John 1:7

3. 1 John 2:1

7. Matt. 6:6

4. 1 Peter 1:4



Cut out these rain drops and paste them on the page which says "Showers of Blessings," with the flowers.



Cut out these rain drops and paste them on the page which says "Showers of Blessings," with the flowers.



NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER: The teachers' instructions are printed below to give you an idea of how students can take part in creating a visual aid which will help them learn the message imparted in the lesson. Notice that young children can merely paste the raindrops on the sheet with flowers, whereas the older children may use the one with the Bible references, matching each blessing to the correct passage. All students in a multi-age classroom can work on a similar activity.

Lesson Two: Blessings

OBJECTIVES:

Teach about the meaning of blessings.

Clarify which blessings are for all, and which are for Christians only.

Spiritual blessings are available to Christians.

Emphasize the special blessing of being Christ's adopted brother or sister.

Begin the class by having students take turns reading the lesson. Students who can not read may color the provided page, or begin cutting the rain drops. Select a boy to lead a prayer, and have him write down blessings as each student mentions one. Then let him refer to his notes as he leads the prayer.

Have students quote today's memory verse in unison or individually. If you are having a contest, each student should quote it individually. Provide stickers for the charts, which you should have copied prior to today's class. One sticker is given for being present, which is to encourage those who do not have assistance at home with memory work and Bible reading. In future weeks, allow students to say memory verses from previous weeks if they were absent and want to earn the extra point.

A special activity for today's lesson is preparing a huge chart showing "Showers of Blessings." Start with two or more poster boards or a sheet of butcher paper. If desired, each student may make one, or all may work together. Pre-cut huge drops of rain from blue cover stock. Rain drops may be pointed at the top and round at the bottom. After students read the lesson portion, have them write one blessing on each drop of rain, and paste it on the "Showers of Blessings" sheet. Older children may learn more by being required to write only blessings offered to Christians.

Add to the poster you place in your classroom. Each week write a blessing which corresponds with the lesson. For example: 3. Eternal life, 4. Commandments from God, 5. God's Word (to help us resist the devil), etc.

If you prefer, there is an activity in the student book which provides rain drops for children to cut and paste onto a page labeled "Showers of Blessings." Use the same instructions. You may not have time to do both the poster and the smaller version in class. If you prepare the large poster, you might send home the cut and paste activity, or you may just want to skip it.

Third and fourth graders should paste the raindrops on the page with the six scripture references, matching each reference with the blessing it mentions. 1. God comforts us. 2. We are adopted brothers and sisters to Christ. 3. Jesus is our advocate. 4. God is our father 5. We have fellowship with other Christians. 6. God hears and answers our prayers.

Sing "Showers of Blessings," or "Count Your Blessings," using a hymnal.

The code may be completed in class or sent home as an extra activity. If you use it in class, this would be an excellent time to discuss the meaning of adoption. If anyone in the class has been adopted, the students will know how special it is to become a part of a family. This provides some understanding of the joy when a sinner is converted. The sinner becomes a brother or sister to all Christians everywhere, and is the adopted brother or sister to Christ. **THE CODE** is portions of Gal. 4:4 and 5. "God sent forth his son...that we might receive the adoption of sons."