

## MISCELLANEOUS TIPS AND IDEAS

John 21:17 Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

Try to have your pastor give a short opening devotion before Sunday school so the children can learn to know him and be comfortable around him.

During our opening devotion we celebrate birthdays of the week. At the end or beginning of the Sunday school season we celebrate the summer birthdays. When it is the students or teachers birthday, they bring in a coin for every year of their age. We count when they put it in the bank and then we sing a birthday song : We wish a Happy Birthday to your our little friend, and may the heavenly Father his kindest blessings send. At the end of the year we decide where to donate the savings.

It is fun to have the children learn songs and then sing them during a church service.

Have the kids learn a hymn that you regularly sing on Sundays. During the service have your pastor remind the kids that they know the upcoming song. It helps to get the children to actively participate in the service.

Have a spinning wheel at your opening devotion. A student spins the wheel and that gives the point value for the days review questions. The superintendent keeps score and prizes are given at the end of the year.

Send students Birthday, Christmas, Valentine, and Easter cards.

Have the teens adopt a grandparent. They can visit them, send them cards, rake etc.

Have an Easter and Christmas ½ day Bible school with stories, music and crafts. Invite your community.

Become pen pals with Sunday school students from another congregation.

Have a bulletin board with photos of all Sunday school students.

Have the students watch the questioning for the confirmation students.

Have your pastor visit every class once. It is good for teachers and good for pastor to see that we are doing a good job.

Distribute a newsletter 3 times a year. Have an article by each teacher about what you've learned, thank parents for bringing their children and the kids for singing.

Be organized, have a Sunday school schedule for the year. Know the lessons to be taught, schedule teacher's meetings, when you are singing in church and any special Sunday school themes.

Before the first day of Sunday school, send your students a welcome letter.

Try to talk with a parent when the child is picked up or dropped off.

Encourage attendance. Ask about any absences. When absent try to send a letter with the days lesson and worksheets.

Have a Sunday school committee. Include a few teachers, a parent and a sub.

Try to share teaching with another teacher.

Have a substitute teacher list.

Get help in the classroom by asking adults or teens in the congregation.

Explain how Sunday school offerings are used.

Example of where to use your Sunday school offerings:

Send to missionaries overseas, provide for our church services(candles, bulletins), Sunday school materials, improve our property etc.

Have a competition with offerings. Have rain gauges drawn on poster board. The dollar amounts get added and marked by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The kids keep a close watch and bring in their own money, not just what they are given from mom & dad. The competition is self induced and was something unexpected.

Emphasize the church calendar. Many students don't know about the church seasons.

Have a teen bible class during the Sunday school hour. Have teens responsible for filling up bags of candy to give out on Christmas to the small children.

Send your students baptism and confirmation cards.

Have a fall party in October. Bring in treats.

Have a bring your parents day. This could be a Sunday school kickoff day. It is a good time to explain your expectations to parents and students. Introduce teachers, show classrooms and explain class and memory work.

Have a bring a friend to Sunday school day.

Have children dress up as bible characters and do a skit.

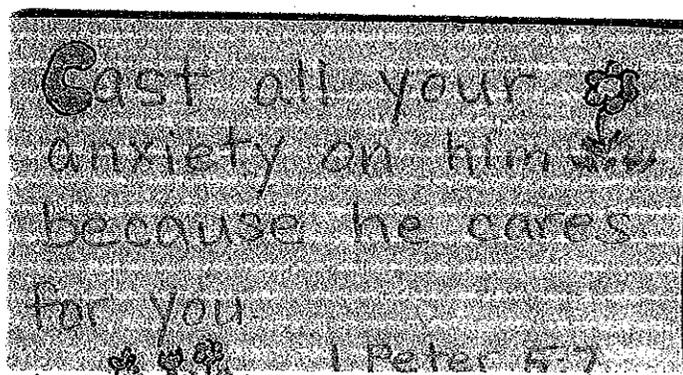
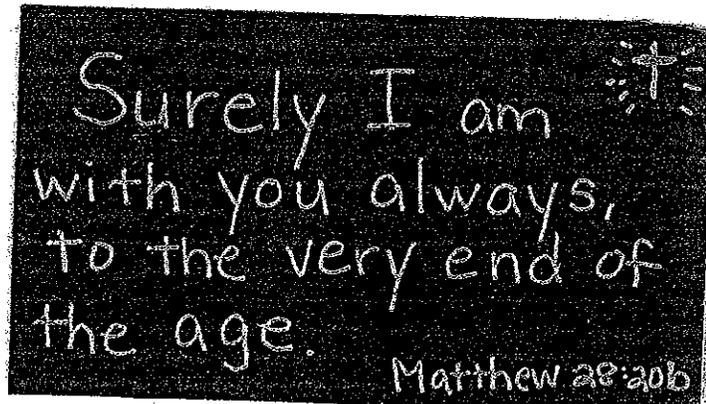
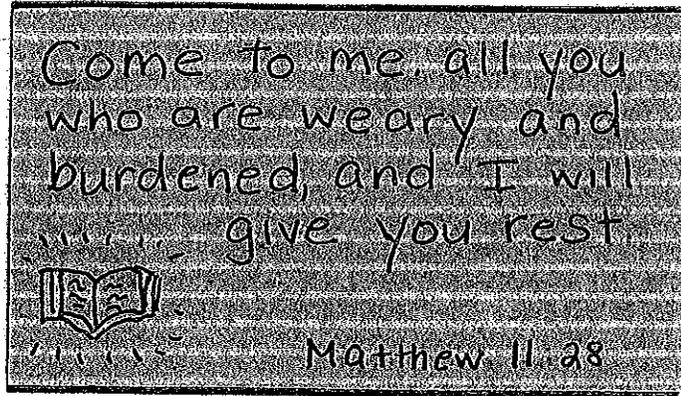
Each spring you could have a knowledge bowl Sunday. You take 8-10 of the years stories and make up 10 questions for each. Some years you could use a baseball type of

the baseball format have popcorn during the game and hot dogs after. The children study for weeks. All questions are given in advance. The idea is to learn, not to stump everyone.

Guidelines for a Sunday school superintendent:

- Runs Sunday school business meeting
- Visit classes and help the teachers
- Keep track of enrollment
- Maintain and order all supplies
- Arrange for singing(practices, accompaniments)
- Coordinate rooms and enrollments.
- Look at the teacher training materials and bring them to the teachers
- Provide substitute teaching
- Organize student registration on Sundays the first few weeks of the school year
- Report Sunday school activities to the congregation
- Prepare the years schedule for Sunday school classes and activities
- Prepare a quarterly Sunday school newsletter

# Business-card Magnets as a craft project



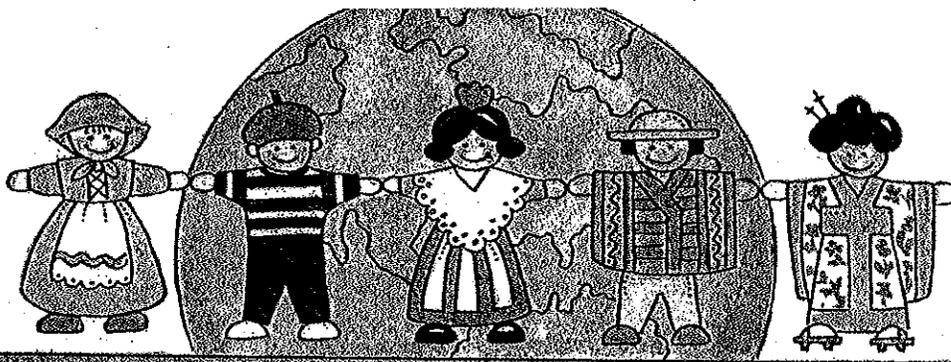
# SCRIPTURE CAKE

Serves 16+ Oven temp. 300° - 2 Hours

Amount	Bible Verse	Actual Ingredient
½ cup.	Judges 5:25 (last item)	
2 cups	Jeremiah 6:20	
2 Tbsp.	I Samuel 14:25	
6	Jeremiah 17:11, <u>separated</u>	
1-1/2 cups	I Kings 4:22	
2 tsp.	Amos 4:5	
To taste	II Chronicles 9:9	
A pinch	Leviticus 2:13	
½ cup	Judges 4:19 (last item)	
2 cups	Numbers 17:8	
2 cups	Nahum 3:12	
2 cups	I Samuel 30:12	

## DIRECTIONS FOR BAKING:

- Cream Judges (first) with Jeremiah. Add 2 Tbsp. I Samuel (first).
- Beat the 6 Jeremiah yolks. Add to creamed mixture.
- Combine I Kings, Amos, II Chronicles, pinch of Leviticus.  
Add alternately with ½ cup Judges (second) to the above creamed mixture.
- Add Nahum, Numbers and I Samuel (second).
- Beat the 6 Jeremiah whites until stiff. Fold into the above.
- Bake two hours in a GREASED tube pan at 300°. Note: If you use dates, watch carefully at end of baking time. They are quite sugary and may tend to burn at edges.
- Serve warm or cold with a dollop of whipped cream. Yummy!!



He's got the whole world in His hands.

Welcome to 5 & 6 Grade Sunday School!

Sept. 10, 2006

Our St. Paul Lutheran Church Mission Statement says that our congregation exists to  
...SHARE the good news of Jesus Christ,  
...ENCOURAGE each other to grow in Christian love and service to the Lord, and  
...TRAIN in God's Word

As part of this congregation, you as a young Christian can carry out that mission too. This year we plan on TRAINING in God's Word through our Bible stories, ENCOURAGING each other through service and joining together in prayer using A.C.T.S., and SHARING Jesus with those around us through our Share Jesus' ♥ activity.

It's very important that you have your folder with you each and every Sunday. It's hard to do the work if you forget to bring your tools! We will again be having memory work. It is a great way to hug the truths of God's word in your heart so you can draw them out anytime you need them. Please be prepared to recite memory work BEFORE each class if at all possible. I would encourage you to pick a partner or two to recite with. That way you can encourage each other to keep going and it's easier to recite as a group.

A typical class will be:

- 9:00 - 9:10 Recite memory work as everyone arrives
- 9:10 - 9:30 Devotion and singing in front of church
- 9:30 - 10:00 Read Bible Story and answer questions in workbook
- 10:00 - 10:12 Practice Share Jesus' ♥, finish memory work if needed
- 10:12 - 10:15 Pray together using A.C.T.S.
- 10:15 Dismissal

My goal is to help you learn more about what Jesus did for you, help you apply God's Word to your life and become comfortable talking to others about Jesus.

I'm looking forward to a year of growing in Jesus!  
Dawn Knoepke

# JESUS LOVES ME



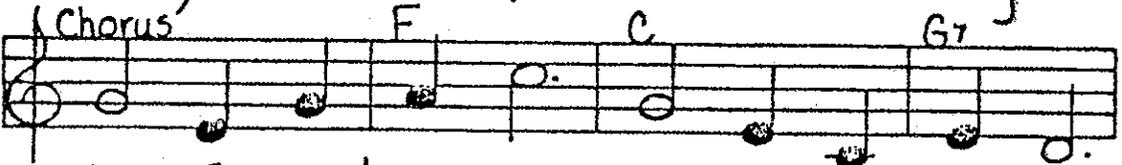
Je-sus loves me, this I know, For the Bi-ble



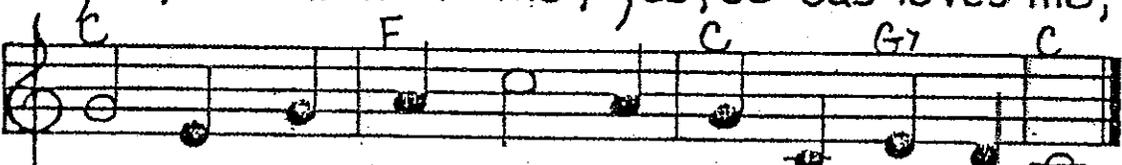
tells me so; Lit-tle ones to Him be-long,



They are weak, but He is strong.



Yes, Je-sus loves me, yes, Je-sus loves me,



Yes, Je-sus loves me, The Bi-ble tells me so.

### Sign language

Jesus loves me this I know  
 For the Bible tells me so  
 Little ones Him belong  
 They weak He strong

Chorus:  
 Jesus loves me (3 times)  
 (see line 1)  
 Yes  
 Bible tells me so  
 (see line 2)

# SHARE JESUS'

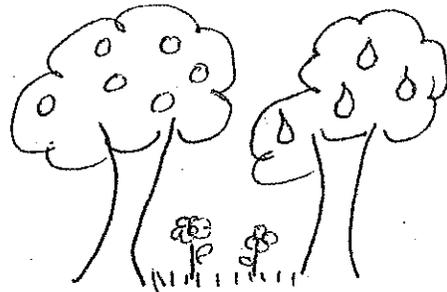
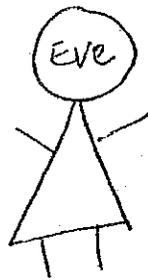
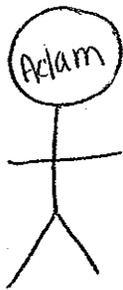
This activity was done to help our students feel more comfortable sharing their faith and talking to others about Jesus. Our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders were asked to use the following sheets to tell one other person the story they learned in Sunday School that week. That person was then asked to sign at the bottom of each sheet as proof and to help the students be accountable.

The first week they started with someone they felt very safe and comfortable with, such as their parent or grandparent. The next week or two they moved on to siblings, good friends, pastor, etc. For several weeks we joined the Adult Bible Class just as they finished their lesson, so that each student could choose someone with whom they were familiar, to share their story. Each week they were encouraged to move a little farther out of their comfort zone, until they eventually talked to someone whose faith they were unsure of, or who they knew was not a Christian. The only rule was that they couldn't talk to the same person twice.

The children seemed to really enjoy this activity and were especially eager to talk to the Adult Bible Class. This actually encouraged our adults as well. In the 3 months we did this, **the students shared Bible stories with 100 people!**

# SHARE JESUS' ♥

Genesis 2:4-25



God gave Adam the blessings of:

life - beautiful home - daily work - intelligence  
giving God glory by keeping his commands  
companionship & helper - wife - marriage

God gives people today those same blessings, but especially  
the blessing of Jesus as our Savior from sin.

***Isn't God AWESOME?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

## Genesis 3

Satan tempted Eve by urging her to look at the fruit,  
listen to his tempting words,  
think about something that God said not to do, then  
act on it by taking the fruit.

Then Adam also disobeyed God, and that's how sin came into the  
world for every human being.

Instead of confessing their sins, Adam blamed Eve and Eve  
blamed the serpent. But God loved them so much that he  
promised to send them a Savior.

To remind them that Satan would be defeated by that Savior, God  
cursed the serpent. To remind Adam and Eve that they were  
sinners, the ground would be cursed and work would be hard and  
painful, and there would be great pain in childbirth.

So that they wouldn't live forever in sin though, God sent them  
out of the Garden of Eden, and sent an Angel with a flaming sword  
to guard the tree of life. God later fulfilled his promise of love  
to Adam and Eve through Jesus.

God shows his great love to people today, in spite of our being  
sinful, by giving Jesus to save us from our sin.

***Isn't God AMAZING?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

Genesis 4:1-16

Cain and Abel were brothers. They both brought an offering to the Lord.  
Abel brought his first fruits with a faith-filled heart.  
Cain went through the motions of bringing an offering,  
but without a heart filled with love for the Lord.

God could see what was in their hearts.  
So when he rejected Cain and his offering, because he didn't have faith,  
Cain was angry at God and jealous of his brother.

God talked to Cain and warned him that sin was crouching at his door.  
Instead of listening to God's Word,  
Cain acted on his sinful thoughts and killed Abel.

When God asked him what he'd done in order to show him his sin,  
Cain did not repent, but instead lied to the Lord.  
So God put a curse on Cain to remind him of his sin for the rest of his life.

Again, instead of repenting of his sin, Cain was worried about what would happen  
to himself, thinking that people would try to kill him.  
Then God put a mark on Cain so no one would kill him.

God gave Cain a longer life so he would have more time to repent of his sin.

God uses the law today, to show us our sin and our need for God's forgiveness.  
He wants us to repent and turn in faith to Jesus, who saves us from our sins.

***Isn't God KINDHEARTED?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

## Genesis 11:1-9

After the flood, God gave Noah and his family the command to increase in number and fill the earth.

Everyone on earth spoke the same language.

Many of the people moved eastward and found a broad plain in Shinar and lived there.

They decided to build a city with a tower out of bricks and tar, which would reach to the heavens.

They did this to make themselves famous and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth.

By doing this they disobeyed God's command and loved themselves more than God.

God saw their sin. Because he didn't want them to think they could oppose God and get away with it, he confused their languages so they couldn't understand each other.

He did this out of love so they would repent of their sin and turn back to Him.

The people were forced to stop building the tower and they scattered over the whole earth, just as he had commanded that they do.

The place was called Babel, because that is where God confused the language of the whole world.

God uses discipline in our lives today because He loves us and wants us to repent of our sins and turn to Jesus for forgiveness.

***Isn't God COMPATIONATE?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

Genesis 13-14:4,11-24

May I share a story with you that I heard in Sunday School?  
It's about Sodom and Gomorrah. Have you ever heard of them?

The Lord and two angels visited Abraham. They reminded Abraham of God's promises and then told him Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed because of the great sin there.

Abraham then asked God 5 times, boldly but humbly, to spare the city for the sake of the righteous people there. The Lord was merciful and promised to spare the city even if only 10 righteous people were found there.

When the angels arrived at Sodom, Lot met them and took them to his home. To protect Lot, his family and guests, God struck the evil people around his house with blindness.

The angels warned Lot to flee and finally took him, his wife and two daughters by the hand and led them out of the city. God was merciful to them because of the prayers of Abraham, and spared their lives. But Lot's wife looked back after being told not to, and turned to a pillar of salt.

God then rained down burning sulfur on the cities and the people and all the vegetation were destroyed. When Abraham awoke and looked toward Sodom, all he could see was dense smoke. Then he knew that not even 10 righteous people had been found in the city.

But God remembered Abraham's prayer and saved Lot's life.

God wants us to pray to him boldly but humbly, just like Abraham did. He promises to hear our prayers for Jesus' sake, and often gives us even more than we ask.

***Isn't God Gracious?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

## Genesis 24

**May I share a story with you that I heard in Sunday School?  
It's about Isaac and Rebekah. Have you ever heard of them?**

Abraham wanted his son, Isaac, to have a God-fearing wife. He asked his servant, Eliezer, to go back to the land where Abraham's relatives lived and find a wife for Isaac there. Abraham trusted that God would guide Eliezer to the wife God had chosen for Isaac.

Eliezer traveled to Nahor with 10 camels, servants and gifts. When he reached the town, he prayed that God would give him success and show him which girl was the right wife for Isaac, by having the girl offer to water his camels when asked for a drink.

Before he had finished praying, Rebekah came to the well. When she was asked for a drink she gave him one and offered to water his camels, just as Eliezer had prayed. He then knew God had answered his prayer.

The next morning Rebekah left with Eliezer, agreeing to become Isaac's wife. As they neared the home of Abraham, they saw Isaac out walking in the field, meditating. When Isaac saw them, he came to them, heard what had all happened, and took Rebekah to his mother's tent. She became his wife and he loved her.

**God wants us to pray to him for a husband or wife who loves the Lord. He wants to give us the special blessings of a marriage where both husband and wife trust in Jesus as their Savior.**

***Isn't God Loving?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

Genesis 28:10/22

May I share a story with you that I heard in Sunday School?  
It's about Jacob leaving home.

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Jacob was the son of Isaac and Rebekah. He had deceived his father and was afraid of his brother, Esau, so he left home to go to his uncle's home in Haran.

Jacob was afraid and felt very alone. On his journey God comforted him in a special way. He appeared to him in a beautiful dream. A stairway from heaven to earth appeared, with angels going up and down the stairway, with God himself at the top.

God told Jacob that he would be with him always and watch over him wherever he went. He also promised that the Savior would come from his family. Jacob was amazed when he woke up. He took the stone he had used as his pillow and set it up as a pillar. He poured oil on it and called the place Bethel, which means house of God.

God promises to always be with us as well. We can be comforted knowing that he keeps his promises, especially his promise of sending Jesus to be our Savior.

***Isn't God RELIABLE?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of person)

# SHARE JESUS'

Genesis 32:1-33:20; 35:1,6-20,27-29

May I share a story with you that I heard in Sunday School? It's about Jacob coming home after living in a different land for 20 years.

Jacob left his uncle's home with his wives, children and flocks, and headed back to his father's home in Canaan. He prepared to meet Esau, his brother, afraid that Esau still wanted to kill him.

On this journey though, Jacob shows that his is a changed man from when he left. Instead of trusting in himself, Jacob prayed to God, with humbleness and persistence, asking God for his help and holding him to the promises he had made to him and his fathers. He showed that he now relied on God to take care of him and his family.

While on the way, God appeared to Jacob as a man, wrestling with him through the night. Jacob was very persistent and would not let him go until he blessed him. God then blessed Jacob and gave him a new name, Israel, which means "He struggles with God."

Jacob witnessed to Esau that God had been gracious to him. He built two altars, thanking God for his promises, for taking care of him, and for his many blessings. God again appeared to Jacob, blessing him and reassuring him that his promises are trustworthy.

God wants us to pray to him with humbleness and persistence. We can hold God to his promises, especially that we will live eternally in heaven one day, because Jesus paid the price for our sins.

***Isn't God DEPENDABLE?***

I shared this with \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of person)

by *Lawrence Knoepke*

## CHRISTMAS STORY CAKE

Did you know that the Christmas Story didn't start with the angels appearing to the shepherds and Jesus being born in Bethlehem? The Christmas story really began a very long time ago in the Garden of Eden when Adam and Eve sinned for the first time and God, in his amazing love for all mankind, promised to send a Savior who would crush the power of sin.

*Genesis 3:15 "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

So to remind us of how sin entered the world and why we need a Savior, we start with **FRUIT**. (Measure 4 cups sliced apples into a bowl.)

The prophets in the Old Testament foretold the coming of the Messiah. Many times in the book of Isaiah, God is referred to as the "Holy One of Israel".

*Isaiah 43:3 "For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior."*

To remind us that Jesus would be perfect and holy in our place, we add **WHITE SUGAR**. (Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. sugar to the apples.)

Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem.

*Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*

Next we'll add a small amount of **CINNAMON** to remind us that God can even use small things in his great plan of salvation. (Add 1 t. cinnamon to the apple mix and stir until coated. Set aside.)

We've heard how on Christmas Eve the angels came to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem and announced wonderful news.

*Luke 2:11 "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."*

We're using an **ANGEL FOOD CAKE** mix to remind us of the angels' good news.

(Pour cake mix into a separate bowl and add remaining ingredients to it as you go along.)

In the Old Testament, oil was used to anoint the head of someone who would be king.

*1 Samuel 16:12b-13 "Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one. So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, And from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power."*

We use **OIL** to remind us that Jesus came to be our king. (Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. oil to cake mix.)

Jesus came into the world to shed his blood for us on the cross and rise again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day. Because of Jesus' work of redemption, we are children of God. For most of us this first occurred when we were baptized. Through baptism we receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

*1 Peter 3:20b-21 "(Noah and his family) were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also... It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."*

We'll add **WATER** to remind us of our baptism and how Jesus blood washed us clean from sin. (Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  c. water to cake mixture.)

Next we'll add a **PINCH OF SALT** to represent the tears of the mothers in Bethlehem whose babies were killed by King Herod.

*Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."*

The gift of eternal life was given to all mankind through Jesus.

*Romans 6:23 "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Next we'll add **EGGS** to represent the new life we have been given because Jesus came to earth. (Add 4 eggs to mixture.)

When the wise men came to see the baby Jesus, they brought gifts.

*Matthew 2:11 "They saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."*

We'll add **VANILLA** to represent the sweet smelling incense and fragrant myrrh.

(Add 1 t. vanilla, mix well. Pour into a greased jelly roll pan, spread evenly. Top with apple mixture. Bake in 350F oven for 25-30 minutes. Remove from oven and cool 10 min.)

Lastly, we'll frost our cake with **STRIPES OF ICING** to remind us of the strips of cloth that the baby Jesus would be wrapped in.

*Luke 2: 76 "She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, Because there was no room for them in the inn."*

Our Christmas Story Cake is made with ordinary ingredients. Basic things like oil, vanilla and water, which, by themselves, aren't anything very special. But when put together in the right way with a special plan, they become something good. In the same way, God used ordinary people like the shepherds and still uses common ordinary people like us, to spread the good news about Jesus. Through His plan of salvation, the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit works in us, changing us to become something extraordinary, His dearly loved children, saved through faith in our most precious Christmas Gift.

*Galatians 3:26 "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."*

*Philippians 3:20 "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body."*

*1John 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"*

**May God give you a blessed Advent and Christmas season!**