

soft answer turneth away wrath.

Proverbs 15:1

Boys and girls, today we are going to begin learning some verses from the Bible that will help us know how to obey God.

Hold your Bible so the children can see it.

The Bible is God's Word — it is His "love letter" to His people. God speaks to us in the Bible. In the Bible He tells us what He wants us to know and what He wants us to do. God loves us so much that He has given us His Word so that we can know Him and so that we can obey Him. The Bible is a precious book, and we want to learn the wonderful things God has told us in His Word.

Listen as I read a verse from the Bible.

Read Psalm 119:11: *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."*

To hide God's Word in our heart means to memorize it, and that is what we are going to do. We are going to memorize a Bible verse for each letter of the alphabet. We will learn a verse that begins with the letter "A," a verse that begins with the letter "B," and continue until we have learned a verse for every letter. When we finish, we will have 26 Bible verses hidden in our hearts!

Is there anyone who can already say the ABCs?

Let two or three children say the alphabet, and then let the group say it together.

That was super! I am excited that you already know the ABCs. It will be so much fun to learn a Bible verse to go with each of the letters.

Today we are going to learn a verse that begins with the first letter of the alphabet.

Hold up the flashcard with the letter "A."

What letter is this? Yes, this is the letter "A." Now listen closely as I say our verse that begins with "A."

"A" — *A soft answer turneth away wrath*
(Proverbs 15:1).

Will you say this verse with me?

Remember to say the letter and then the verse.

Now let's all stand up and march around the room saying our verse for "A."

Repetition is a key to memorization. March the children around the room saying the verse. Be sure that you say it clearly so that the children hear you. Even if they do not say all of the words, hearing you will teach it to them. March the children back to their chairs. Look around as if you hear something.

Do you hear someone calling my name? Please be very quiet — I think I hear something! I know who it is. It is two very special friends that I want you to meet.

Tell the children where these friends live (in a drawer, a shoebox house, etc.).

My friends will not come out of their house and visit with us until everyone is very quiet. They are afraid of loud noises. When they come out, be sure to speak softly so that you don't frighten them. Also, be sure to smile so that they will know that you like them. Boys and girls, these are my friends, Missy and Bill.

MISSY: Hello, boys and girls.

BILL: Hello, boys and girls.

Let the children respond.

Missy and Bill, I am going to ask each one of the boys and girls to tell you his or her name so that you can get to know them better.

Let each child say his/her name.

Missy and Bill have been learning the same Bible verses that you are learning. They want to help you to understand what the Bible means when it says, "*A soft answer turneth away wrath,*" *Proverbs 15:1*. What do you think a soft answer means?

Let the children answer. If no one thinks of "sweet" and "kind" suggest these.

The verse says, "*A soft answer turneth away wrath.*" What do you think wrath means?

MISSY: Oh I know! Wrath means anger, or being mad.

That is right, Missy. The Bible teaches us that when someone is mean and unkind to us, we should give a soft, sweet answer. It will turn away, or stop, an argument.

I have a story to tell you about how Missy learned what this verse means. She had just learned this verse and she knew that God's Word was teaching her that when someone tried to start an argument, she should say something kind and try to stop the argument. She had prayed that she would remember to give a soft, sweet answer when anyone said something mean to her.

Janet was visiting Missy, and they were playing with Missy's dolls. Janet said, "Let's put the dolls in the bath tub and give them a bath." Missy said, "Oh no, I am not supposed to put these dolls in water. We had better not do that." Janet became angry. "Missy," she said, "I'm going home if you won't give the dolls a bath! I'm just not going to be your friend any more!"

Before Missy learned this verse she would have said, "Well, you just go home. I don't want to be your friend either." But Missy remembered, "A soft answer turneth away wrath." Then she said

to Janet, "I'm sorry. I want you to be my friend, but I must not disobey my mother."

Janet was just turning to walk out the door, but when she heard Missy speak so sweetly she turned around and smiled. "Oh Missy, I'm sorry. You are my best friend. Come on, let's play some more."

See what can happen when we give a soft, sweet answer? Missy obeyed God and gave a kind answer to her friend, and it stopped the argument.

Put Missy to your ear and pretend she is "whispering" to you.

Missy has a good idea. She wants all of the girls to stand and say the "A" verse with her.

After the girls recite the verse, let Bill "whisper" to you.

Now Bill wants the boys to stand and say it with him.

Let's all stand and say Proverbs 15:1 together.

Missy and Bill, thank you for visiting us today.

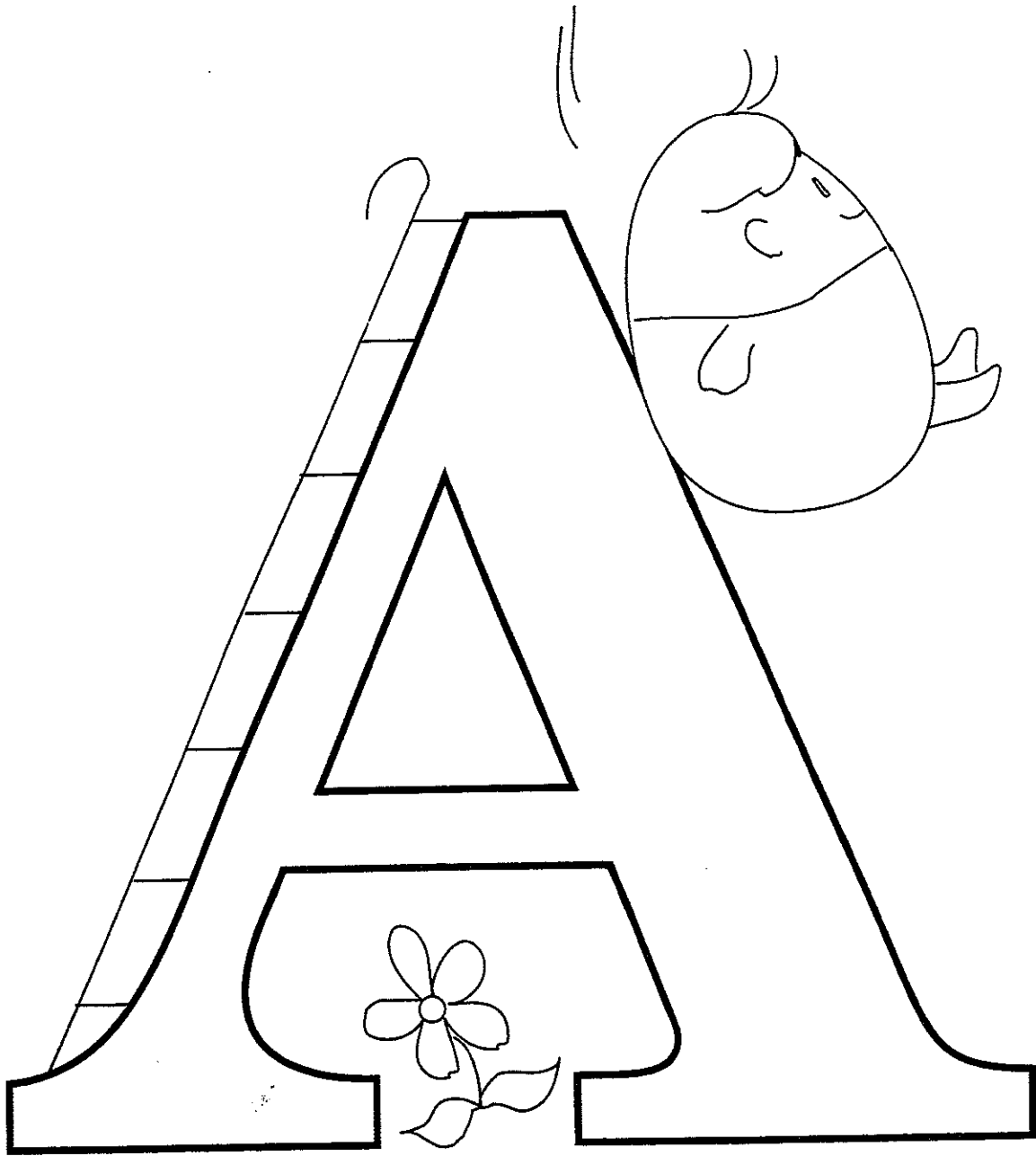
MISSY: Good-bye, boys and girls. Remember to ask the Lord to help you to give a soft answer when you are playing with your friends this week. We love you.

After you have put the puppets away, have a prayer time. Encourage each child to ask the Lord to help him/her to give a soft answer. You may need to tell the children what to say, but the important thing is for them to learn to ask the Lord to help them put His Word into practice in their lives.

NOTE TO TEACHER: If there is time, you may want to play the following game.

We are going to play a "pretend" game. We are going to pretend that I am one of your friends and that I am being mean to you. Then see if you can think of a soft, sweet answer to give.

Example: "That's my doll! You can't play with it!" If the children do not think of an answer, give them a suggestion. "I'm sorry. I should have asked you first."



A soft answer turneth away wrath.

Proverbs 15:1

Purpose

The purpose of these lessons is to teach children certain key foundational verses relating to the Christian life that will help them to live in obedience to Christ Jesus. Psalm 119:11 is the theme of this memory program:

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

Wisdom may be defined as KNOWING what God wants me to know and DOING what God wants me to do. Through the Bible verses that have been selected, we pray that children will learn what God wants them to KNOW. The stories are designed to help children understand how to DO what God wants them to do — how to translate knowledge into their everyday experiences.

The ultimate purpose of this book is to help covenant children develop a biblical approach to life and to teach them how to glorify God.

These stories are written for children ages four to seven. At this point in their development the children are probably familiar with the ABCs. They are usually excited about learning the alphabet. We are seeking to capitalize on this interest by using the ABCs as a methodical guide in teaching Scripture verses. We believe that this will help children to learn by association with familiar things.

(Permission is given to make copies of the alphabet illustrations for the children to color)