8 Soaking in His Presence

"Kid's Carrying The Kingdom"

"Be still and know that I am God."
Psalm 46:10

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Keys

- The Father wants us to be filled and full of Him all the time.
- Being still, or "soaking" in God's presence keeps us full.
- Soaking helps us to know the Father in a very close way.
- We become more like Jesus when we soak in God's presence.

Thoughts to Ponder

for the teacher

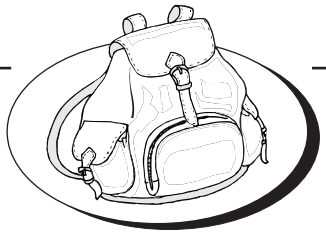
More than anything, the Father's desire is for His children to know Him intimately. He wants us to hear and recognize His voice, and feel His heartbeat. It is in His lap where we can experience God the Creator as a wonderful, kind, and tender-loving Papa. When we are still (or soaking) in His presence, we can continually be refreshed as we fulfill our Royal Mission.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Psalm 46:10	John 10:27	John 15:14	II Corinthians 3:18
I Peter 2:9	I John 3:1		

Backpack Treasure

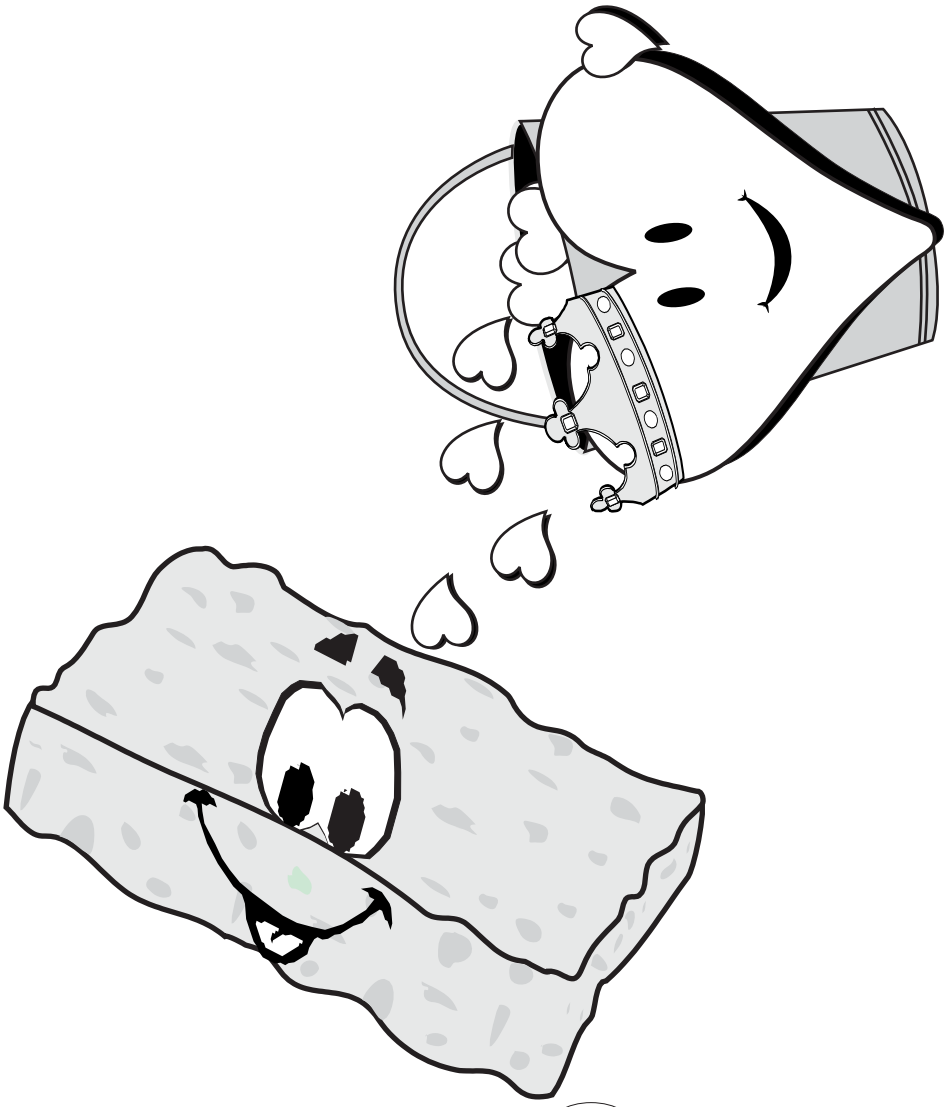
Soak like a sponge



(Have a sponge and bottle of water ready)

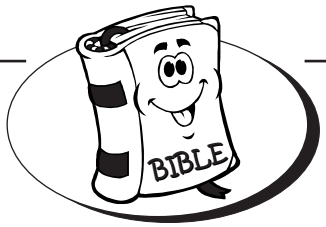
Our hearts are a lot like this sponge. When we don't spend time in Papa's presence, we are dry, and nothing comes out when it is squeezed. When we spend time (or soak) in God's presence, the Father can pour out His love on us, where we can be changed and refreshed.

(Pour a little water on sponge, and place in backpack)



Introduction

Intimacy with God



It is so exciting when we get to go on this journey every day and fulfill our Royal Mission! It is fun to bless and help others, share God's love, pray for people, see miracles happen and bring Heaven to earth. It sure pleases Father God a whole lot! But, there is something that pleases our Papa a whole lot more!

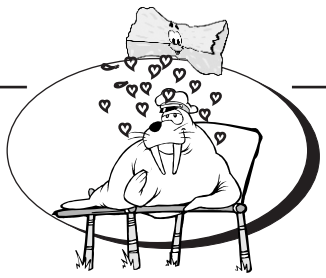
God desires more than anything else a thing called "intimacy."
(Have class repeat).
Intimacy means He wants us to be really close to Him.
(Sit on throne and pretend to "hug" Father God)

He has so much love, goodness, and many gifts for us. One of the best ways we can get to know and enjoy our Father is by doing something called "Soaking in His Presence". What is soaking in His presence, and why is it so important?

That is what we will find out today!

Object Lesson

Be still and know



ITEMS NEEDED:
- "Throne" setup
- Child's and God Heart Buckets
- Chalk or white board and markers
- Pillow
- Bottle of water
- Costumed Jesus character
- Large wooden cross
- Large glasses
- Large fake ears
- Bible
- Child volunteer

PREPARATION:
Bookmark Psalm 46:10 and place Bible in God Heart Bucket and set on throne. Place remaining items on table in front of class.

TEACHING

In Psalm 46:10, God is saying something special from His heart.
(Take Bible out of God heart bucket)
He said, "Be still, and know that I am God".
(Write verse on board)

Let's find out what the Father is saying **(circle "Be")**. What does God want us to be?
- He wants us to be His companion
- He wants us to be His friend. Just like inviting a best friend for a sleep-over (Child takes blanket and pillow)
- He wants us to be a child that likes to sit on His lap and feel His hugs (Jesus character sits on throne and child sits on his lap)

"Be Still" **(circle "Still")** Papa wants us to be in a place of peace, quiet, and rest. He doesn't want us to be in a hurry, or thinking about other things. He wants us to be still so we can be in a place to receive and be filled with His love and presence.
(Take child heart bucket and water bottle. Demonstrate how difficult it is to fill a bucket that is moving about. Then show how easy it is to fill a bucket when it is not moving)
We can soak and receive best when we are still, quiet and resting peacefully.

"Be Still and Know" **(circle "know")** Our Heavenly Father wants us to really know Him, not just to know about Hm. He wants us to know Him like a best friend you see almost every day (have Jesus character and child walk hand in hand).

"Be Still and Know I am" **(circle "I am")** God is saying I am:
- the one who created you
- the one who sent My Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for you (show cross)
- the one who wants to be with you forever and ever

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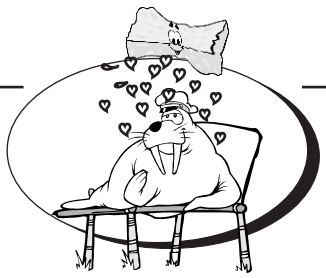
Object Lesson

Be Still and Know



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"Be Still and Know I am God" **(circle "God")** When we soak in God's presence, we get to be with God, the Father, to sit on His lap on the throne.
(Child sits on throne)

We get to be with God's Son, Jesus who made a way to the Father (John 14:6) by dying on the cross.
(Lay wooden cross like a bridge in front of throne and walk on it to the throne)

We get to spend time with God, the Holy Spirit, who helps us become like Jesus.

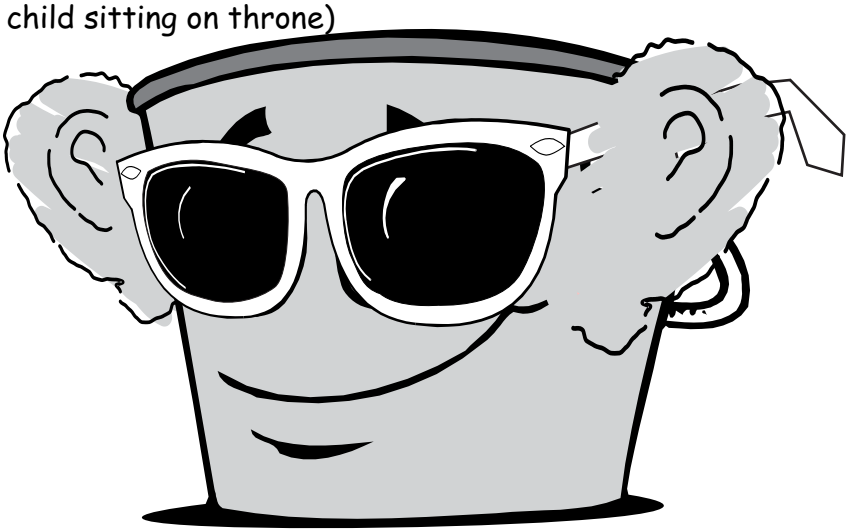
Soaking brings us to a place where we actually see God with our heart.
(Place large glasses over child heart bucket)

It is where we can hear and recognize His voice.
(Place ears on child heart bucket)

We can read and discover in His word, the Bible,
(Show Bible)
that God loves us, and that is so good, but the Father also wants us to hear from Him, every day, just how much He is in love with us.

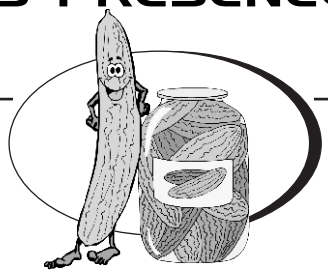
So... let's do both!

(Give Bible to child sitting on throne)



Object Lesson

Pickling in His Presence



ITEMS NEEDED:
- Child Heart Bucket
- Jar of pickles
- Cucumber

PREPARATION:
Place pickle jar and cucumber in child heart bucket, and set on table in front of class.

TEACHING

How many like pickles?
(Show pickle and get feedback from children)
They sure are great!
(Take a bite)

How many like cucumbers?
(Show cucumber)
They are great, too.

What is a pickle?
Pickles are cucumbers that had something special happen to them to make them change.
(Show jar of pickles)
Cucumbers turn into pickles when they soak, and soak, and soak in a special liquid. After awhile, those cucumbers totally change the way they look, and especially the way they taste.
(Take another bite)

Did you know that you and I are just like this cucumber?
The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "…we are being changed into His likeness with increasing glory". We will change and become different when we soak, and soak , and soak in God's presence. God's presence is just like this pickle jar,
(Show jar)
but instead of vinegar, His pickle jar is filled with healing, goodness, joy, and lots of love.

The more we soak, the more we will taste, and look like Jesus!
(Take another bite of pickle)

Object Lesson

A REST STOP ON A JOURNEY

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Dry, hard sponge
- Child heart bucket
- Small bucket with holes in the bottom
- Large bottle of water
- Large bowl to catch water

PREPARATION:
Place all items on table in front of class.

TEACHING

Our Heavenly Father sees us as His sons and daughters (I John 3:1). He sees us as princes and princesses (1 Peter 2:9). We are His friends (John 15:14). He is our Father, our Daddy, our Papa. He's not a mean boss, and He doesn't see us slaves and workers.

He wants us to be filled with His love and His Spirit all the time. Soaking helps us to stay "filled-up". We can become empty BECAUSE:

- Sometimes, we can get weak and tired, and our heart buckets can get empty.
  (Show empty child heart bucket)
- When we don't spend time with Papa, our hearts can even get hard and crusty.
  (Show heart and let several children feel dry sponge)
- A heart like this can give us a bad attitude, and make us cranky. If I squeeze it, nothing comes out.
  (Attempt to squeeze something out of the sponge)
- Even on our journey, as we bring Heaven to earth, we "leak" the Holy Spirit and we can become empty.
  (Pour water into leaky bucket, hold over large bowl)

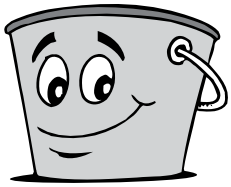
Papa God doesn't want us to be tired, dry, or crusty. He doesn't want us to have an empty heart bucket. He wants to fill us up with Himself.
(Place sponge in child heart bucket and pour in water)

When we are still and soak in His presence, it is like stopping at a rest stop when we are on a trip. It is a place where we can rest, refuel, and get refreshed, so we can continue on our journey.
(Take out sponge and squeeze it)
Our hearts are soaked, refreshed, and full of God's love.
(Place sponge in bucket again and pour more water on it)
Can this heart now give away God's love to others?
(Squeeze sponge over your head, and "sling" water over class... have fun!!)

A Class Act!

Soak and Squeeze

SOAK:



Invite children to come forward and lie, or sit down on floor. Begin to play soft, instrumental worship music (recorded or live). Lead them in thanking Jesus for everything He has done:

- For showing the goodness of the Father
- For dying on the cross for our sins so that we could become one of God's children

Ask Jesus to take you to the Father.
(After a minute, ask the children, "What is Jesus doing? Do you see the Father?")

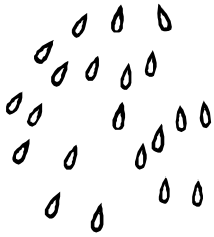
Begin to tell Papa thank you for making you and loving you. Let Him know how much you love Him.
(What is your Papa saying to you?)
Climb up on His lap, let Jesus help you.
(How does it feel?)
Put your arms around Him. Let Him hug you.
(What are you feeling?)
As you are in His lap, listen to what He wants to say.
(What is He saying?)
Whisper in His ear. Tell Him how you feel about Him. Is Papa smiling?

Now just be quiet and still and let your Heavenly Father just pour out His love, joy goodness, and peace. Let Him give you His good gifts.

After awhile, interview the children. Let them share what they heard, saw, and felt. Ask what gifts they received.

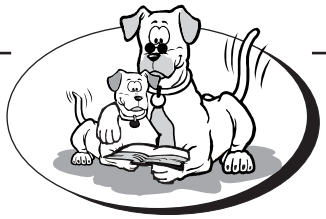
SQUEEZE:

Divide the class into small groups of 3-4. Take out the soaked sponge and squeeze again. Release the children to pray and minister to each other in the small groups. After awhile, ask for testimonies of what God did.



Heaven to Home

What we learned today



Dear Parents:

Our Memory Verse this week:

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Today we discovered:

- **The Father wants us to be filled and full of Him all the time.**
- **Being still, or "soaking" in God's presence keeps us full.**
- **Soaking helps us to know the Father in a very close way.**
- **We become more like Jesus when we soak in God's presence.**

Parent's Points to Ponder:

More than anything, the Father's desire is for His children to know Him intimately. He wants us to hear and recognize His voice, and feel His heartbeat. It is in His presence where we can experience God the Creator as a wonderful, kind, and tender loving Papa. When we are still, or soaking in His presence, we can continually be refreshed, as we fulfill our Royal Mission.

Ask Your Child:

How is "soaking" like a drink of water? (It refreshes us) How do we "leak" the Holy Spirit (When we minister to others). What does Psalm 46:10 mean? (Read and discuss this verse with your child)

Home Activity:

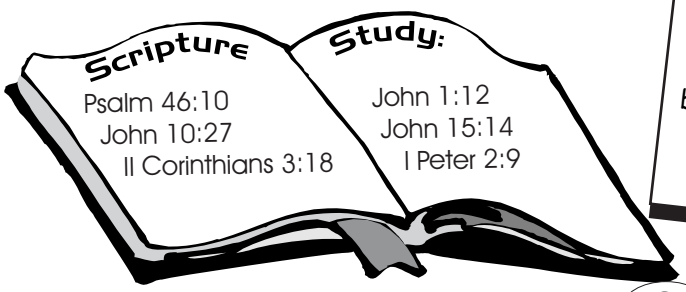
Create a special place in a quiet area of your home that is just for "soaking". Find a soft oversized pillows or bean bag chairs, include a small CD player for playing quiet music. Have a journal and pencil nearby.

Encourage your child to soak daily, and to write down or draw in their journal the things they see, hear and feel from their Papa God. You can also post drawings on "Heaven's Window" bulletin board.

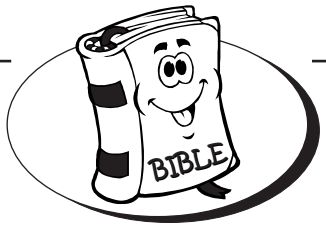
A Parent's Blessing:

(_Your child's name_), I bless your spirit to receive this invitation from your Heavenly Father in Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I bless your spirit in the knowledge that you are so cherished, loved, and celebrated by Papa God. Know that in His desire for intimacy with you, He wants to spend quality, quiet time with you.

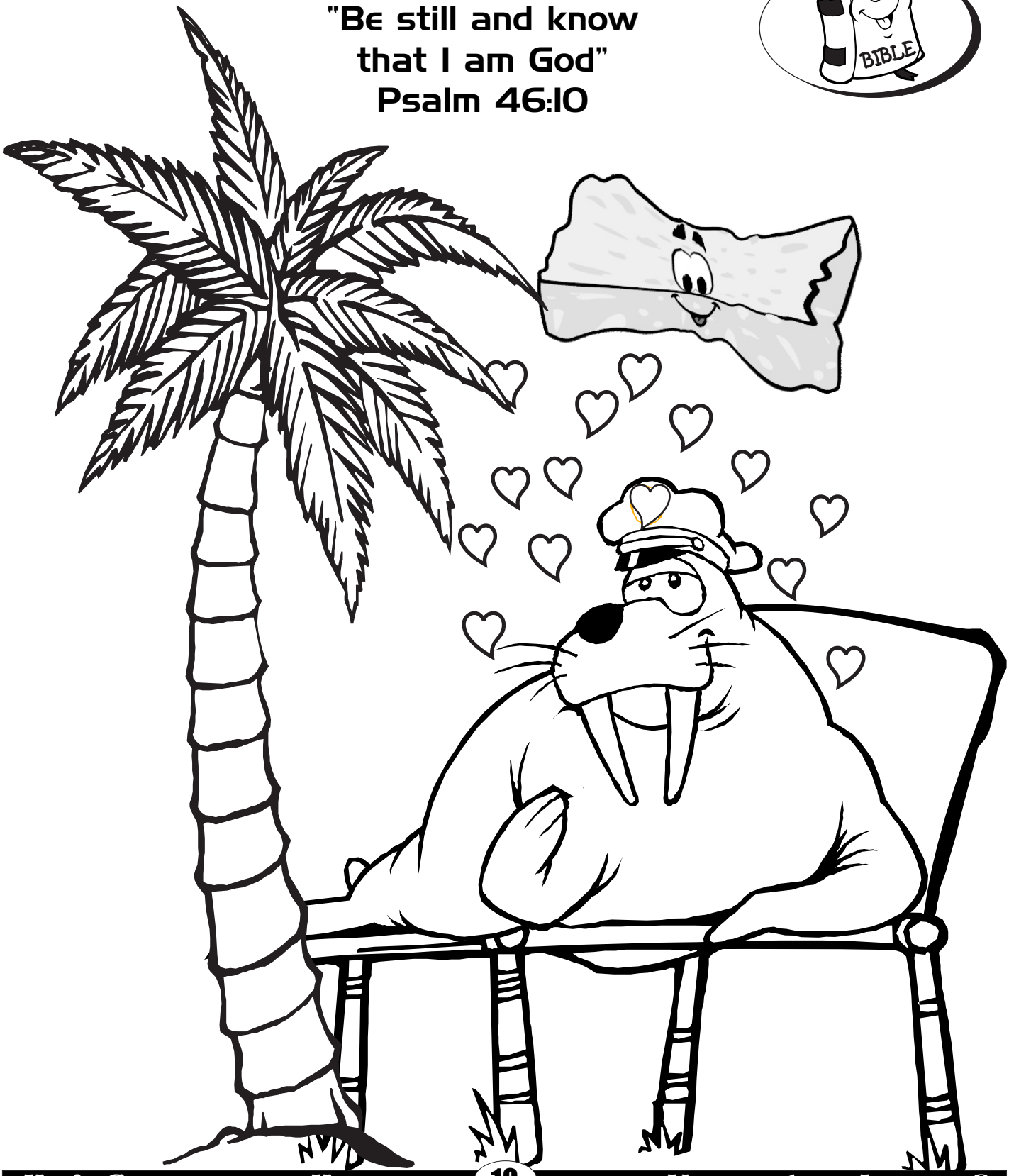
(_Your child's name_), I bless your spirit to desire this time, that in His presence you will soak, marinate, and become more and more like your Heavenly Father. I bless you in His image and likeness. Amen.



Memory Verse
Who's My Daddy

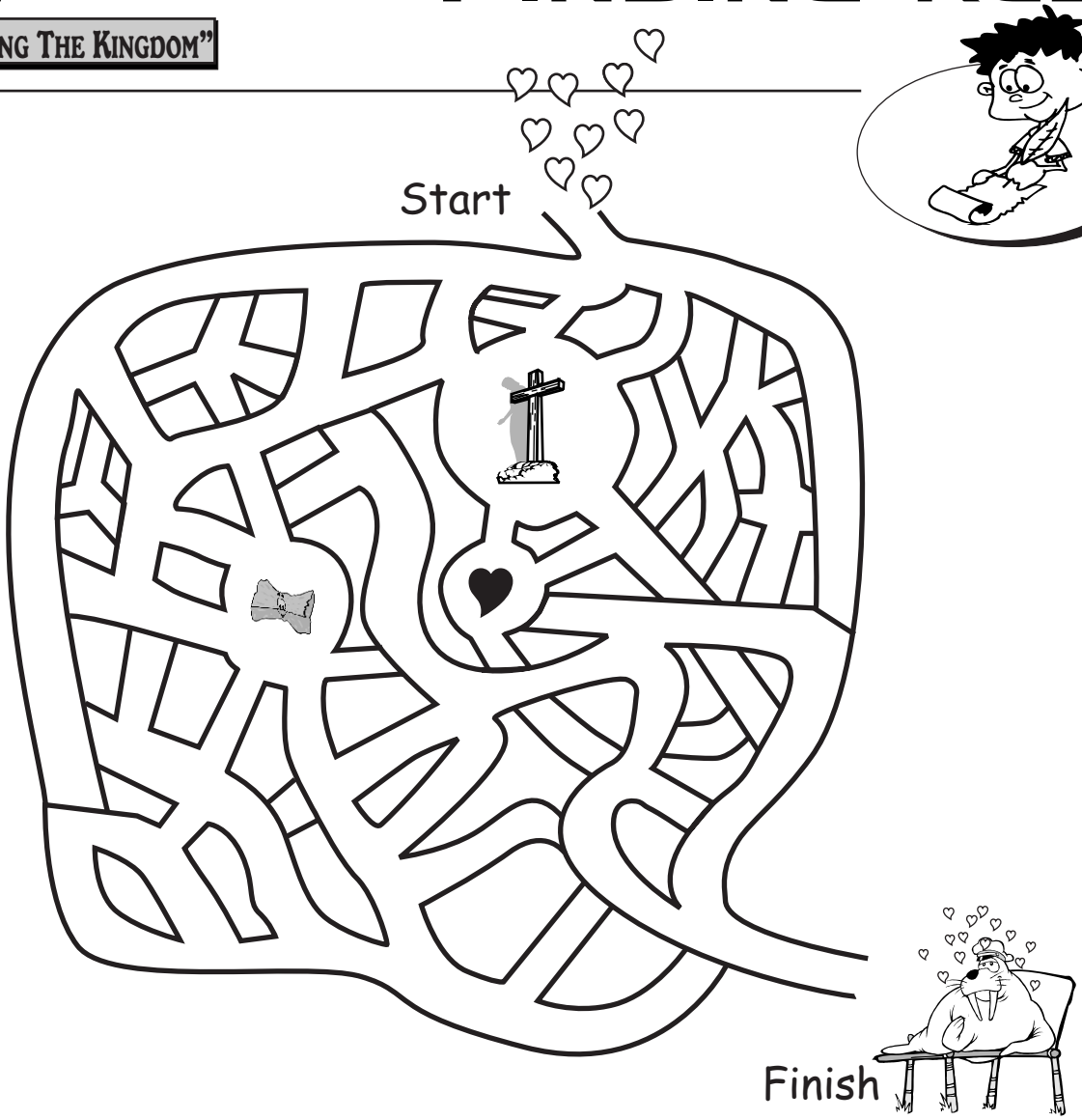


"Be still and know
that I am God"
Psalm 46:10



Activity Page

Finding Rest



When we spend time with God we enjoy His presence. Fill in the blanks below:

This means:

- **We are one of G_____'s children.**
- **We get to S_____ in His presence.**
- **Our F_____ loves to pour out His love on us.**
- **We get F_____ up with His peace and love.**
- **We can H_____ what Papa God wants to tell us.**
- **When we soak in His presence we become like H_____.**
- **When we share God's love we are like a L_____ bucket.**