



PK-K



Spirit & Truth

*Teaching Kids
the Heart of Worship*



Picture Book

*Worship
Party*

Lesson #L1:
What is Worship?

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After church one Sunday morning, Josh Grayfox stomped into his Sunday school classroom. He glanced up and saw his Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Heron. “Why do we have to go to church,” complained Josh. “It’s so boring.”

“Excellent question,” said Mrs. Heron. She turned to the kids in the class. “Does anyone know why we go to church?” she asked.



“Because my parents say so,” answered Chloe Jackrabbit.

“Is it because God loves us?” quietly asked Olivia Porcupine.

Mrs. Heron nodded. “Well, what is special about church?” asked the teacher.

“I don’t know,” whispered Ethan.

Mrs. Heron smiled. “Let’s see if a story can help us out.”

Once upon a time, a group of desert animals was decorating their canyon for a party. Mr. Skunk had saved the other animals from a hungry mountain lion. So, the animals had decided to throw a thank-you party for Mr. Skunk.

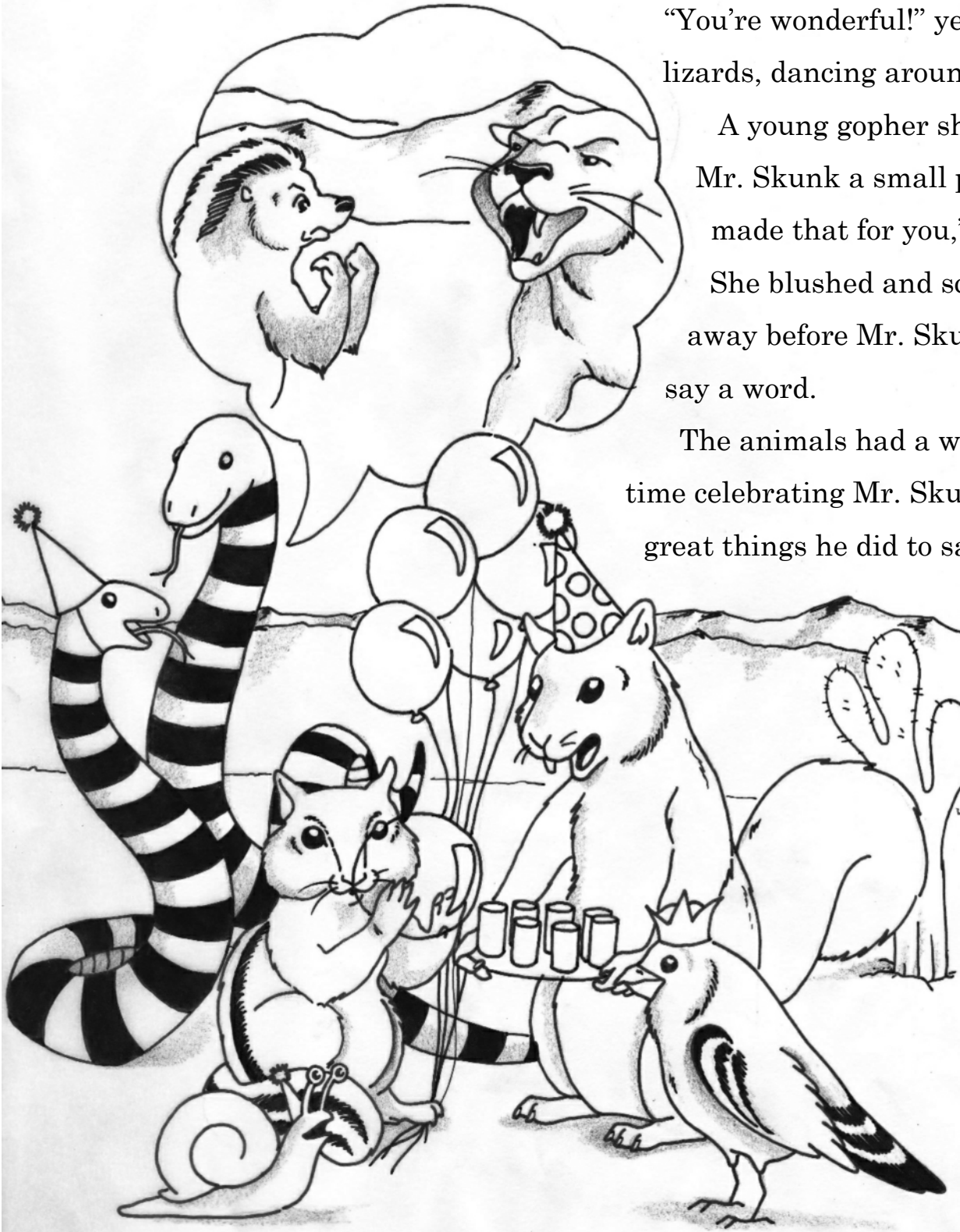
Just then, the crowd let out a big cheer. Mr. Skunk had arrived!

“Thank you, Mr. Skunk, we love you,” sang the animal choir.

“You’re wonderful!” yelled the lizards, dancing around.

A young gopher shyly handed Mr. Skunk a small present. “I made that for you,” she said. She blushed and scurried away before Mr. Skunk could say a word.

The animals had a wonderful time celebrating Mr. Skunk and the great things he did to save them.





Mrs. Heron glanced around at the four students.

"I don't get it," said Josh. "What does that have to do with church?"

"I wish we could have a party every week," said Chloe.

"Is that party like our church service?" asked Olivia, playing with a quill.

"What makes you say that?" asked Mrs. Heron, a twinkle in her eye.

"I don't know, maybe because Jesus saved us like Mr. Skunk saved those animals?" squeaked Olivia.

Mrs. Heron flapped her wings excitedly. "Wonderful thinking! That is exactly right. Our worship service is like a party."

"It's not fun like a party," said Ethan, scratching his side.

“The canyon animals didn’t throw a party for Mr. Skunk just to have fun. Why did they do it?” asked Mrs. Heron.

“To say ‘thank you’ and ‘I love you’ to Mr. Skunk,” said Josh.

“To tell him how wonderful he was,” added Olivia.

Chloe started bouncing. “And to give him presents! I love presents.”

“They also talked about what he did,”
murmured Ethan.



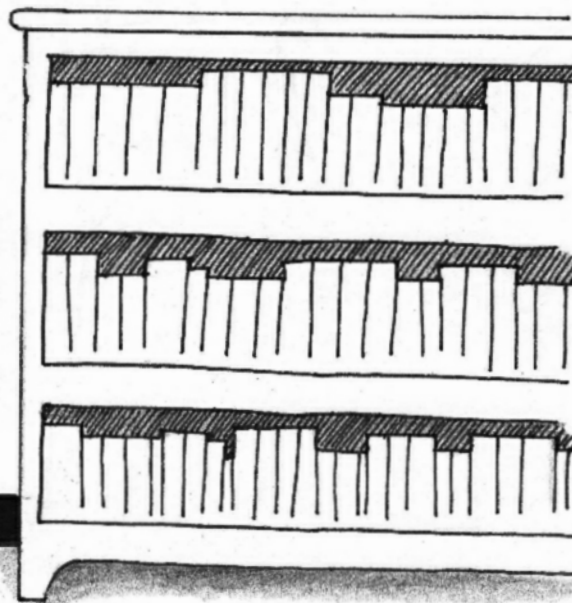
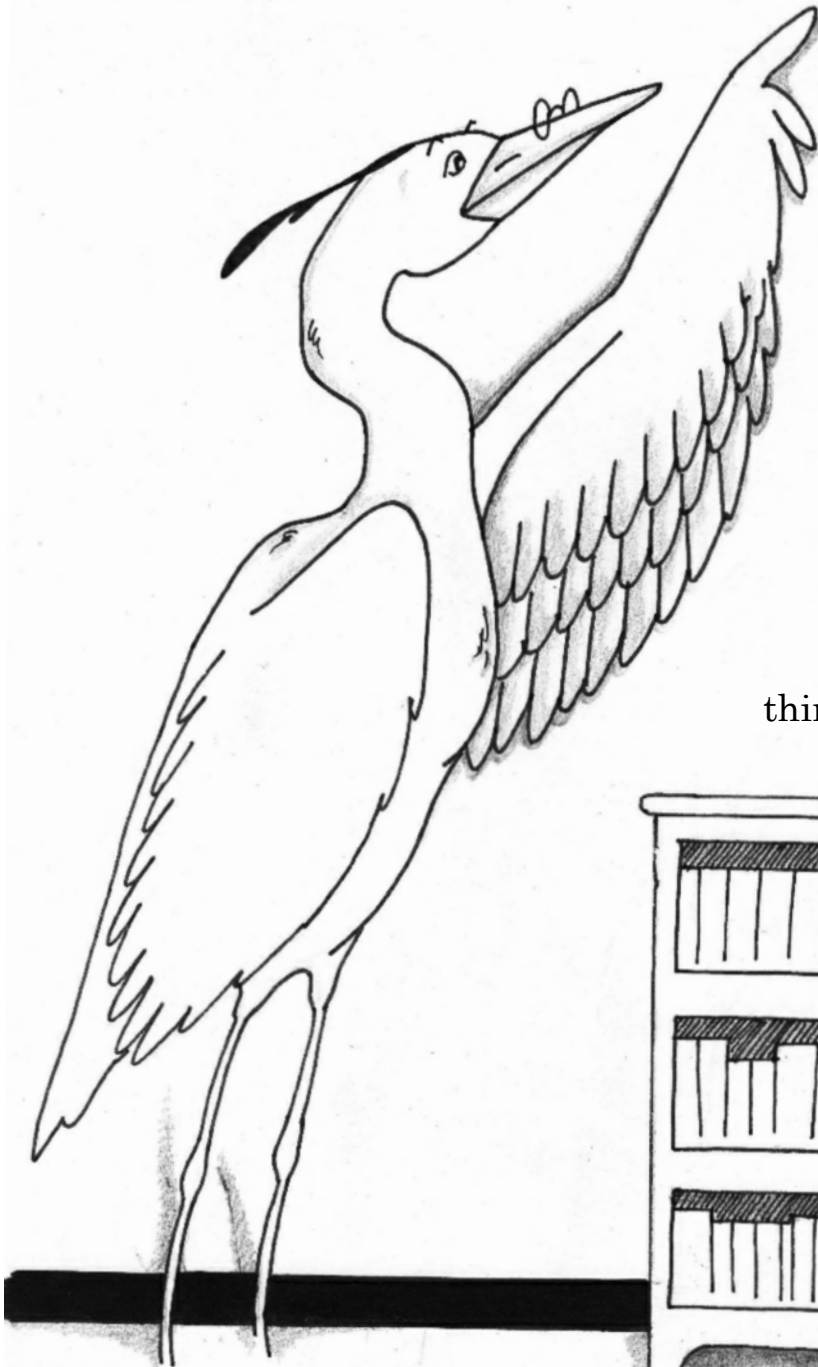
“But, what did Jesus do to save us?” asked Josh.

Mrs. Heron pointed her wing to a cross on the wall.

“He died on the cross,” said Olivia.

“Then he came alive again,” interrupted Ethan.

“Jesus has done a lot of amazing things for us,” agreed Mrs. Heron.





“So, we go to church to learn about Jesus,” said Chloe.

“And to say ‘thank you,’” added Josh.

“And give him presents,” said Olivia, grinning.

“We also tell Jesus how wonderful he is,” said Ethan.

“And just talk or pray to him,” added Chloe.

“But, Mrs. Heron, why does Jesus want me to worship him? And what does church have to do with it?” asked Josh.

Mrs. Heron thought a moment. “Worship is the way that we show Jesus that we love him, just like the party was the way the animals showed their love for Mr. Skunk. Church is where we learn about Jesus and how to worship him. Now, let’s show Jesus our love by making some pictures!”

For the Teacher:

Use these questions to reinforce the important story elements and help the students connect Sunday morning worship to the “thank you” party in the story.

- 1. Josh came into Sunday school mad because he did not want to go to church. Sometimes do you not want to go to church?**
[Answers will vary.]
- 2. Mrs. Heron told the students a story about a thank-you party for Mr. Skunk. What Mr. Skunk do for the animals?** *[He saved them from a hungry mountain lion.]*
- 3. How did the animals show Mr. Skunk their love and thanks?**
[They threw a party, said ‘thank you,’ said how wonderful he was, and gave him presents.]
- 4. Mr. Skunk saved the animals from a hungry mountain lion. What did Jesus do to save us?** *[Jesus died on the cross and rose again.]*
- 5. The animals threw a party for Mr. Skunk. What do we do every week to show Jesus our love and thanks?** *[We worship Jesus in church.]*
- 6. When we worship Jesus in church, we are at a thank-you party! What is one thing you can do to show Jesus your love during the worship service?** *[Answers will vary.]*