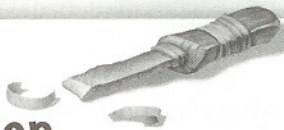


Day 4 Opening Celebration



1. Welcome everyone.

Play the *Celebration Music* CD as kids and adults sign in each day. When you're ready to begin, gather the Tribes.




CD Track 1

Encourage everyone to join in singing "God With Us." (Words and motions are on page 48.) At the end of the song, have everyone give a big group hug and shout: "Welcome to Hometown Nazareth!"

Say: **Welcome to another day at Hometown Nazareth—where Jesus was a kid! I'm excited to visit Mary and do fun things in the Marketplace.**

2. Review yesterday.

Ask everyone to tell you what happened yesterday. They might say that Jesus and his family traveled to a faraway place—fast! No matter where Jesus and his family went, God was with them.


Say: **Yesterday we learned that  Jesus had a home...we do too! Because of Jesus, we'll have a forever home in heaven. Let's sing a song about our heavenly home. This song was yesterday's Bible verse, too.**



CD Track 6

Lead everyone in singing "Big House." (Words and motions are on page 54.)

3. Tell about the day's events.

Say: **Today we'll learn that Jesus and his family went on a special trip to the Temple—which is like a church. Jesus loved God and wanted to be close to God and worship him.  Jesus went to church...we do too!**

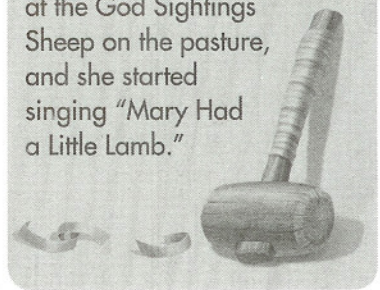
Open the Bible. Today's Bible verse is Psalm 122:1: "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

Notes From Nazareth

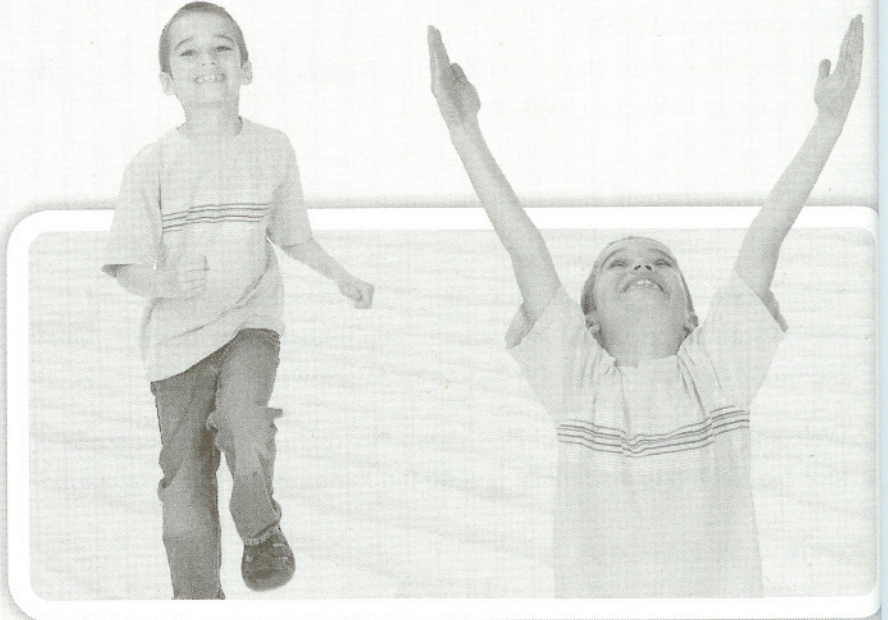
Arrange ahead of time for the Tax Collector to meander through the Celebration area. Have everyone wave to him and say: "See you soon in the Marketplace!" Then remind everyone to tell the Tax Collector about Jesus, God's true Son!

Field Test Findings

The Celebration Leader told everyone about some fun things she'd overheard the day before in Nazareth. One child was in the Wool Shop singing "Baa-baa, black sheep, have you any wool?" Another little girl was looking at the God Sightings Sheep on the pasture, and she started singing "Mary Had a Little Lamb."



Teach Tribe members these actions to help them remember the Bible verse: Have everyone march in place for "Let us go" and then raise their arms in praise as they say "to the house of the Lord."



"Let us go..."

"...to the house of the Lord."

4. Sing "You Are My All in All."

Say: All week long we've been learning that Jesus came from heaven to earth to show us the way to God. Let's sing a song that tells more about why Jesus came to earth. God loves us so much and wants to be close to us. But sin, the bad things we do, keeps us from being close to God. That is why we need Jesus, the perfect Son of God. Let's sing a song of praise to Jesus, who is everything to us.



CD Track 8

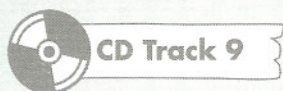
Briefly teach the words and motions to "You Are My All in All." (Words and motions are on page 56.)

5. Ask about God Sightings.

Say: **You are God Sightings to me; I love listening to you sing.** Motion toward the pasture and the flock of God Sightings Sheep. **I could add your names to each one of the God Sightings Sheep in the pasture!** Ask:

? How did you see God in action after you left ancient Nazareth yesterday? Get several responses.

Say: **When you are with your Tribe, you'll all get to share your God Sightings. Our flock of God Sightings Sheep will grow and grow. We'll see how many ways God is active in our lives. God gives us so much. I'm so thankful that he gave us Jesus. Let's sing a song of praise to Jesus—God's true Son—the greatest God Sighting of all.**



Teach the words and motions to "Fairest Lord Jesus." (Words and motions are on page 57.)

6. Head to Hometown Huddles.

Remind everyone of how they've shared their faith throughout the week.

Say: **You get two more days in Hometown Nazareth to tell others here about Jesus, God's true Son. When you meet with your Tribe, you'll hear another mission to accomplish today. Mary is not alone; we believe that Jesus is more than the kid next door—we believe that Jesus is God's Son.**

- ➡ Ask a child to pray.
- ➡ Give announcements, and remind Tribes to work on their cheers.
- ➡ Remind Tribes that when they hear the Shepherd's Bell, they'll know it's time for their trip to Hometown Nazareth.
- ➡ Play the *Celebration Music* CD in the background during Hometown Huddle time.

Notes From Nazareth

"Fairest Lord Jesus" is slow enough that you can call out motions and words before you sing them. It's another beautiful song—a gorgeous hymn of praise to Jesus, who is more than the kid next door; Jesus is the true Son of God.