Bonus Activities

All Ages

Enjoy a Healthy Snack: Provide raw veggies and ranch dressing or cut fruit, plates, napkins and water. As children eat their healthy snack, talk about HOPE Church and how they want to help their community. They have plans to have a community garden and food pantry to help people in their community have access to healthy foods.

All Ages

Interview a Minister: Ask one of your ministers to come and talk to your class about how they were called to ministry. Encourage children to ask questions. Alternatively, use the video where I talk about how I became a children's minister and what I love about it. (https://youtu.be/rR_MfQ-pHXU)

All Ages

Play a Game: Gather a basketball hoop and basketball or two trash cans and foam balls and masking tape. Option 1: Play a regular game of basketball with two teams. Option 2: Place two trash cans side by side. Divide the group into two teams. Place a piece of masking tape on the floor for children to stand on. Encourage each person to toss a ball at the trash can and see if they can make their team's goal. At the end, count the number of balls. The team with the most in their goal wins. Make the game easier or harder by moving the masking tape line. To add additional time, encourage children to pass the ball over and under each other through the line to the person to toss the ball.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Rev. Dr. Carrie Jarrell-Tuning felt God's call to leave Mount Zion Baptist Church to start a congregation in her hometown of Roanoke Rapids, NC. She started HOPE Christian Fellowship Church, a place where everyone is welcome, no matter how they dress or where they live. This session focuses on the theme of following God's call.

Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "What is God calling you to do?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Following God's Call."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

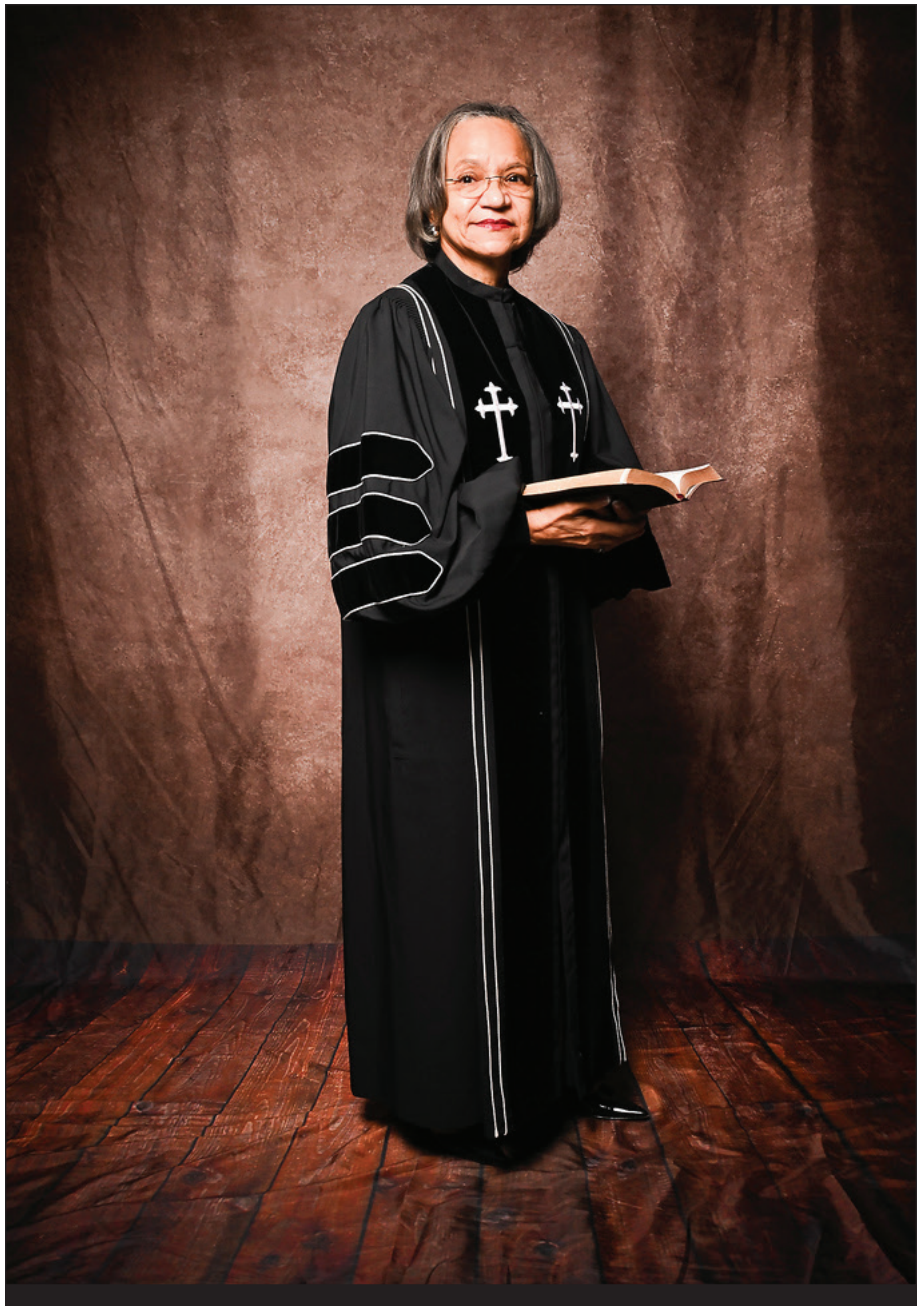
- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Following God's Call

"If you had told me 20 years ago that I was going to be CBF's first Black female church starter, I would have told you that you were crazy," Carrie Jarrell-Tuning said to her congregation. "But now here we are, in Roanoke Rapids, on nine acres of property with our own building. God has a way of working everything out and putting us where God wants us to be. I got my start in Roanoke Rapids. And then, after high school, I enlisted in the Army. I became the first African American female warrant officer in the JAG Corps. I won a lot of awards, and people praised my innovation and efficiency. I was on track. I had made it. But then God stepped in. I felt a calling to preach. I delivered my very first sermon in 1995, and then I went to Divinity School. God sent me to Mount Zion Baptist in Triangle, VA, where I learned what it meant to be a minister. I was happy there. But then, God stepped in again, calling me to start a church in Roanoke Rapids. I wasn't so sure, but then I found CBF. And the rest is history. God has pushed us and grown us and blessed us. We are working in this community, and God is using us in all kinds of ways. I hope you, too, will follow God's calling in your own life. You never know where it will lead!"

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How has Carrie Jarrell-Tuning followed God's call on her life?
- **Ask**: How has God's call changed over the years for Carrie?
- **Ask**: Why do you think God's calling may change over time?
- **Say**: Rev. Dr. Carrie Jarrell-Tuning followed God's call to ministry after being in the military for years. She heard God's call to preach, and she went to seminary so that she could learn. Then, she began work at Mount Zion Baptist Church where she learned through doing ministry. After 21 years, God began calling her to something new. And now she is the pastor of a church in Roanoke Rapids. As we grow and change, sometimes God's call in our lives changes too. It's important to spend time with God and listen to God and pay attention so that you can know what God is calling you to do, too.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for people who listen to your call on their lives. Help us to listen to what you want us to do too. Amen.



Rev. Dr. Carrie Jarrell-Tuning

Rev. Dr. Carrie Jarrell-Tuning felt God's call to leave Mount Zion Baptist Church to start a congregation in her hometown of Roanoke Rapids, NC.

STUDENT HANDOUT
MARCH 29, 2026

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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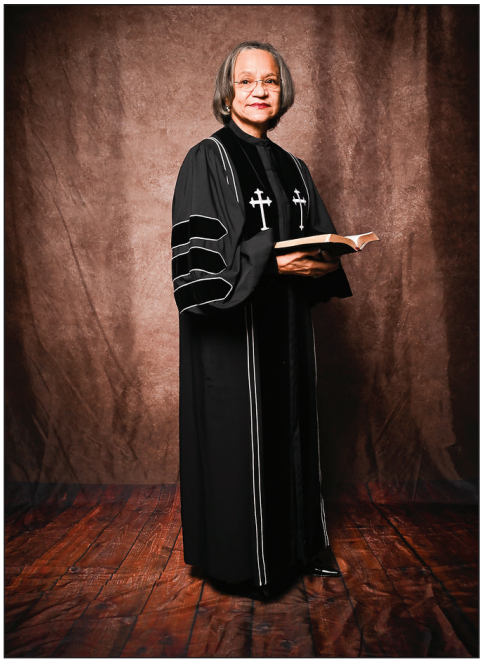

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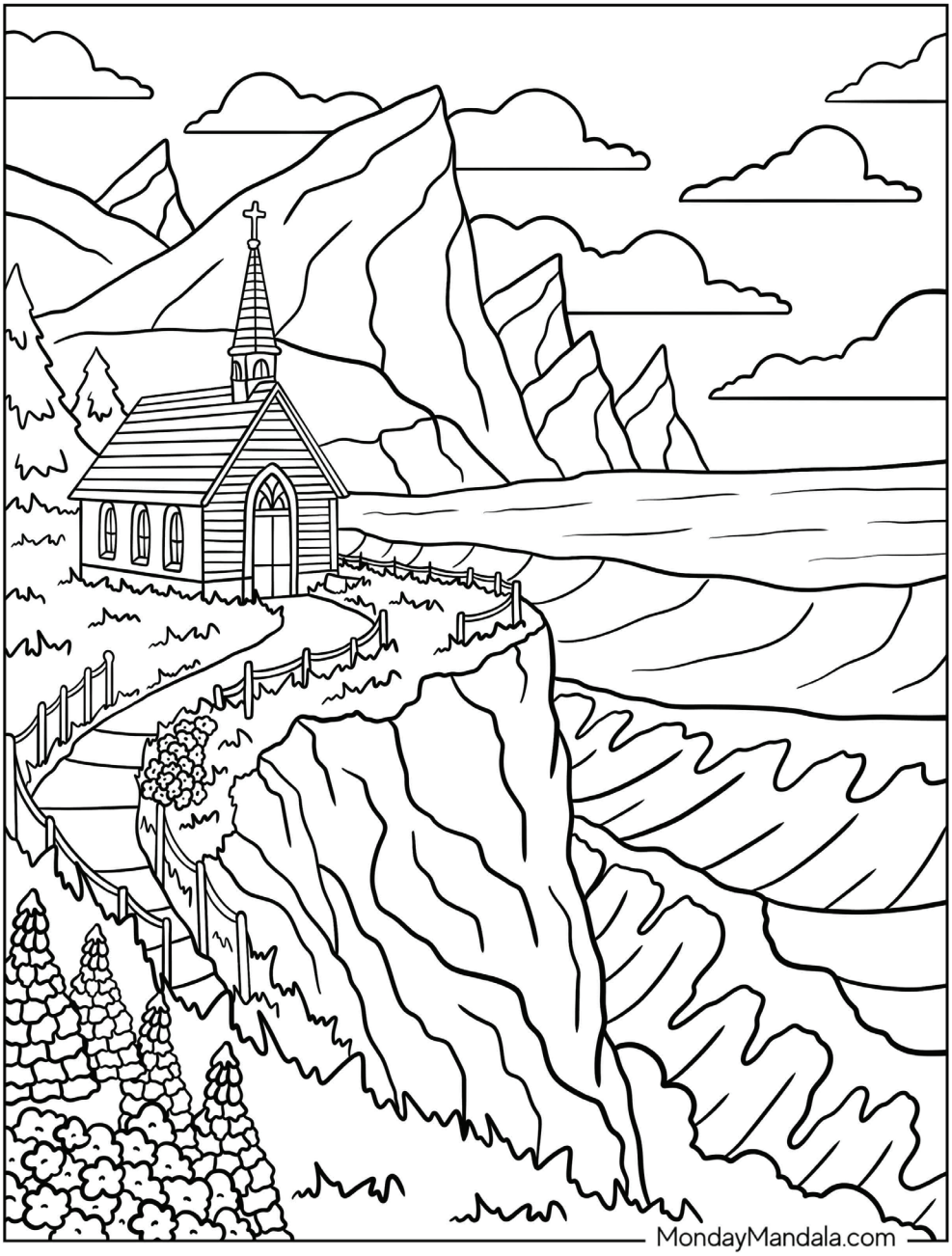
Coloring Page

Churches can be big or small. They may meet in church buildings or movie theaters or people's homes. Color this church and think about the different kinds of churches you have seen.