



"BEE" FAITHFUL

**Stewardship Talks for
Toddlers
(Ages 3-4-5)**

UNIT 1. "Bee" Faithful with God's World

UNIT 2. "Bee" Faithful with God's Gifts

UNIT 3. "Bee" Faithful with God's Time

UNIT 4. "Bee" Faithful with God's Love

Dear Teacher / Children's Leader:

These brief lessons are designed to introduce stewardship concepts to very young children. Through the fascinating world of the industrious honeybee, students learn about God's love, and His gifts to us of a beautiful world, precious time, special abilities to serve Him, and the Living Word. The lessons are adaptable to either a series of Sunday School openings or four curriculum units. Most of the materials required can be made by the teacher or purchased from stationery or educational supply stores. (See pages 6-7 for ideas.)

It is expected that a good teacher will change the order of the lesson plan to reflect the learning abilities of the students. Sometimes doing an activity first is the best way to lead into the lesson time; for other students, the activity is the best way to reinforce the verbal teaching.

UNIT 1. "Bee" Faithful with God's World

Introduction

Good morning, children. My name is _____ and I'm going to be visiting with you for a few weeks. While I am here we are going to learn about God's faithful workers, the bees. We want to learn many, many things from the bees, because we want to be faithful workers for God, too. God is happy when we do good things for Him.

Touch & See

Flannel graphs: What food comes from cows? Milk. What food comes from chickens? Eggs. What food comes from bees? Honey. (Show picture of a real honeybee, explain actual size. Show bulletin board "hive" and explain that the bees live there.) The inside of a hive is filled with "honeycombs" which the bees have made, to store food and to raise baby bees. (Show real honeycomb and piece of beeswax or candle.)

Music & Motion

My God is So Big (The Earth is the Lord's)

All We Have

Memory Verse

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it... Ps 24:1

Learning Time

WHY GOD MADE THE BEES. The Bible tells us that God made the whole world and everything in it. He made flowers and trees, rivers and seas, you and me — and He made the bees! Why did God make bees? So we could have honey? No, God has a much more important job for bees to do.

Bees are very important to farmers. There are many flowers and trees which could not grow at all unless the bees came to visit them. Why is this? Because, for example, to grow an apple tree, you need an apple seed — and to grow an apple seed, you need an apple (the fruit surrounds and protects the seed) — and to grow an apple, you need an apple blossom — not just any blossom hanging on a branch, but a blossom which has been dusted with a very special dust (called "pollen") — from some OTHER apple tree!

Bees carry this pollen from flower to flower, from blossom to blossom. When bees are faithful in doing the job God has designed them to do, the land is blessed. If the bees were NOT faithful, one day you would go to the store to buy an apple, but there wouldn't be any. No apples in any stores, anywhere! No oranges! Many pretty flowers would disappear from the fields, if the bees forgot to do their job. There would not be enough clover for the cows to eat. Then we would have no milk to drink.

So you see, bees may be small, but they are important. All living things are important, because they have a part in God's plan. YOU may feel small, but you are important to God.

Review

We want to be faithful — with God's World. The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it...

Psalm 24:1

Touch & See

Seat children with paper towels in laps. Give each child a square of bread with a few drops of honey spooned from the jar that has the comb in it (if some are reluctant, eat some yourself to show it tastes just like normal honey.)

UNIT 2. "Bee" Faithful with God's Gifts

Introduction

Good morning, children. Hello again. Let's learn some more about God's faithful workers, the bees. They can teach us many things. Today we will learn how God has given the bees some special equipment for doing their job.

Touch & See

Use flannel graph outline of a person's head or draw one on marker board. Ask children, "What special equipment has God given you?" Get volunteers to suggest eyes, ears, nose, etc and add them to the face. Mention hands and feet. Show enlarged picture of a bee. "God has given bees special equipment too." Point out antennae, pollen baskets, and holes for beeswax. "God has also given certain bees special talents or abilities." Explain how the Scouting Bee tells the other bees where to find flowers by the special dance it does.

Music & Motion

Flight of the Bumble Bee. Play music and instruct the children to imitate exactly what the Scouting Bee does, while saying, "Buzz-buzz," or "Hum-hum." Have students or aides take turns being the Scouting Bee.

Learning Time

WHAT GOD TEACHES THE BEES. Bees never go to school, but they know how to build a hive, make honey, and work together very well. Each has a special job to do with the special equipment God gives him or her. The queen's job is to lay eggs which will hatch into baby bees. The scout's job is to find the flowers which are full of nectar and ready for the bees. Other bees are builders, adding cells to the hive. Some bees are like nursery workers — they look after the baby bees and feed them.

God gives each one of us some special things we can do for Him. One person has a beautiful smile. One person is strong and can lift big boxes. Another person can sing in a pretty voice. God is pleased when we keep practicing so that we become even better doing things we are good at. You may sing on stage or in a church some day. First you need to learn more about singing, and practice. And as you are growing, you need to stay healthy and well — get enough sleep and eat good food. God's Holy Spirit likes to live in your healthy body. Your body is a gift from God.

Memory Verse

...Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... 1st Corinthians 6:19

Discuss things which are good for the body, and things which are harmful.

Music & Motion

Sing: "Oh be careful little eyes what you see"

Review

We want to be faithful — with God's Gifts.

...Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit... 1st Corinthians 6:19

UNIT 3. "Bee" Faithful with God's Time

Introduction

Good morning, children. Hello again. We have been learning about God's faithful workers, the bees. Look at our beehive. We learned to Be Faithful with God's World. We learned to Be Faithful with God's Gifts. Today the bees will teach us how to Be Faithful with *God's Time*.

Touch & See

Distribute cutouts of flowers or garden pictures, or seed packets. Ask children to name the colors they see.

Music & Motion

Song - All We Have

Form 3 or 4 "teams" by pinning a colored paper flower on each child. Divide room with toilet paper (or streamer) stretched across two chairs. Children stand at one end of room. When leader counts to three and pulls one colored flower from a basket, only kids wearing the matching flowers should race to break thru the paper barrier and then touch the opposite wall. Prizes may be given to the first one through the barrier. Give other teams a turn.

Learning Time

WHY BEES HAVE FAVORITE COLORS. When a young bee goes out for the first time to collect nectar, she remembers the color of that very first flower she visits. After that, she looks for flowers of the same color, and only visits those. That is important because each bee picks up pollen from one flower and drops a little of that pollen at the next flower. So the bees working on apple blossoms don't visit the cherry trees by mistake. Only apple blossom pollen can make the apple tree produce apples. God designed the bees so that each special kind of tree or flower will be dusted with its own special kind of pollen. That way there will be lots of good fruit and beautiful flowers in the next growing season.

Did you have fun "making a beeline?" When the bee's pollen baskets are full, they fly straight back to the hive, saving a lot of time. Time is God's gift to children, too. What should we do with the time God gives us? Should we waste it? No. What are some good ways to be faithful with the gift of Time? One good way to spend time is to come to God's house each Sunday. Come to worship Jesus in church. Come to learn about Jesus in Sunday School. Here's another idea: Take time to pray before you go to sleep at night, and before you eat your food. This shows God that you really do love Him, just as He loves you.

Music & Motion

Make a beeline (game to music — hold one end of streamer at hive; pull streamer to each "flower" and have child hold onto it; after visiting all flowers of one color, make a beeline back to the hive).

Memory Verse

I was glad when they said to me,

"Let us go to the house of the LORD." Psalm 122:1 (teach a motion song)

Review

We want to be faithful — with God's Time.

UNIT 4. "Bee" Faithful with God's Love

Introduction

Good morning, children. This will be our last visit. Thank you for letting me come. Have you been learning how to be faithful? Be faithful with EVERYTHING God has given you? Let's sing that song which thanks God for His many, many gifts to us:

Song - All We Have

Have you been learning a lot about God's faithful workers, the bees? They are wonderful creatures, aren't they? They work very hard, and they do some amazing things.

I'm sorry, boys and girls, but I do have some bad news about bees.

When bees get frightened or angry, they can sting. (Show picture.) Part of their special equipment is the stinger. If they are afraid of you or mad at you, and they push this stinger under your skin, the poison makes it hurt. It can hurt for quite awhile, too.

If you are stung by one bee, the hurt will go away after a day or two. But if you are stung by lots of bees, you will get very, very sick — and you might die. You might need to go to a hospital.

Now you and I don't go near bees very often, but the beekeeper, the person who takes the extra honey from the beehive and brings it to the store to sell, has to be around bees a lot. So the beekeeper has to wear special clothing to protect him or her when taking honey from the hive.

Touch & See

Put on a beekeeper "outfit" or have a helper do so. Act out getting the honey from a modern beekeeper's hive (stacked lidded boxes with several honeycomb screens inside). Ask: "What do you think the bees do when we take some of their honey?" Get children to make noises of angry bees.

Learning Time

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT SIN. Children, do you understand the word, "Sin?" The Bible — which is God's Book — tells us that Sin is what happens when we do something that God doesn't want us to do. When we do something wrong, that is Sin.

Remember how I told you that a bee sting can hurt for some time? The Bible says that Sin hurts too — it has a sting to it. When we say angry words, we may hurt our friends. Then our friends want to stay away from us, and that makes us feel hurt inside, doesn't it — lonely and hurt. And Sin hurts God most of all. He sent His Son Jesus to show how much He loves us. It makes God sad when we sin and hurt other people — remember, those are people that He loves too.

Whenever we hurt someone, we need to tell them that we are sorry. At first, that is a hard thing to do, but Jesus will help us. And Jesus will help us to love everyone, just as He loves us. Saying "I'm sorry" will help the bad feelings and bad thoughts go away sooner. If we don't ask forgiveness, those bad feelings will be like the bee poison under our skin. We will be very unhappy. When we apologize, say we're sorry, our happy feelings can come back, and we can be friends again. That's why Jesus wants us to memorize this verse, "Love one another."

Memory Verse

A new command I give you: Love one another... John 13:34. We want to *be faithful* — with God's Love.

Music & Motion

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Review

Hold hands in a circle. Ask, "Did you learn how God loves the bees? Do you know that God loves you? Will you try to be faithful too?" REVIEW ALL memory verses (if time permits).

"BEE" FAITHFUL: Materials Needed

for the Bulletin Board

Headline: GOD'S FAITHFUL WORKERS: THE BEES above large yellow beehive (old-fashioned kind which looks like an upside-down basket). Also two word strips to add each Sunday (Be Faithful with... and the Scripture verse for the week - see Lesson).

for Touch and See

UNIT 1 - Flannel Graphs: Cow, Milk Carton, Chicken, Eggs, Bee, Honey Jar, Apple, Apple sliced to show seeds, Apple blossom on tree.

Pictures: Closeups of Honey Bee, Honeycomb, Hive.

Objects: Honeycomb (usually available in health food stores), Beeswax, Honey in a Dispenser, Bread in Small Pieces (or Crackers), Napkins or Paper Towels.

UNIT 2 - Bee Costumes (see pattern page). Crown for Queen Bee. Flannel Graphs: Blank Face to add God's gifts of Eyes, Ears, Nose, Mouth; also Hands, Feet.

UNIT 3 - Picture or Flannel Graph: Field with flowers in different colors. Bee Cutouts w/ tape backing, Construction paper Flowers in primary colors w/ tape backing, Streamers (or toilet paper) and Flower Cut Outs.

UNIT 4 - Picture or Flannel Graph: Closeup of Bee's Stinger.

Beekeeper overalls (white /light color; *never* black) hat with net, gloves; Cardboard hive, Coloring pages (p.8.) and water colors or ink pads for making thumbprint bees.

for Music and Motion

If you are not blessed with a song leader or an accompanist, make a short audio-cassette of the melody line for each sing-along song. "Flight of the Bumble Bee" can be borrowed from your local library or music teacher (it's in classical anthologies), or you may substitute other lively music for "bee dances" and "bee games."

Words for Song Posters or Slides

UNIT 1 -	My God is so big, so strong and so mighty: There's nothing that my God can't do! The Earth is the Lord's, and everything in it: There's nothing that my God can't do! All we have belongs to You, / Thank You, God, for all You do!
UNIT 2 -	Oh be careful little eyes, what you see; Oh be careful little eyes, what you see. For the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful little eyes what you see. Oh be careful little ears, what you hear... Oh be careful little hands, what you touch...
UNIT 3 -	(from Memory Verse - Ps. 122:1) "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the House of the Lord.' "
UNIT 4 -	Jesus loves the little children — all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world.

"BEE" FAITHFUL: Background for Teachers

A Little is A Lot in God's Eyes - Most people know that without bees, we wouldn't have any honey. Did you know that if bees did not help clover grow, cows would have no clover to eat? And without cows, where would we get milk? Bees help many plants and trees grow. Without bees, there would be no apples, peaches, pears or oranges. Bees are the only INSECTS to produce food eaten by man. Man also uses beeswax (for candles, lipstick, furniture polish, cement, and certain kinds of paper). Bees are small but important. The largest bee is small compared to the smallest elephant. The tallest man is small compared to God. You may be the littlest person in your family. **But in God's family, each person is important, no matter what size.** Jesus died for you. God loves you!

Bees and colors - whatever is the color of the first flower visited by an individual bee, that is the only color the bee will visit thereafter. God created the flowers to show their brightest color when their nectar and pollen are ready for the bees to collect. When bees are working at gathering nectar and pollen, they fly from flower to flower in no particular pattern. But when their honey stomach and pollen baskets are full, they fly in a straight line back to the hive — the shortest distance. This saves time. **Did you know that God does not want you to waste time? It's a gift from Him.**

Bees work together - some bees build the hive, some feed the Queen, some gather honey, some even act as "air conditioning" fans. The queen bee lives in the very center of the hive, and rarely leaves. If the queen goes outside the hive for some reason, or if she dies, the worker bees become very excited, agitated, and disorganized. **We need Someone at the center of our lives, too.** If Jesus is not in our hearts, we are disturbed and restless — never quite happy. When we know Jesus, and we know that He loves us, we can be peaceful inside — no matter what the weather is like outside.

Bees communicate - when "scouts" find nectar, they must tell the other bees how to find the flowers. They hurry back to the hive (bees can fly up to 12 miles per hour — almost as fast as you can ride your bike!). Then they perform a special dance with special movements which tell the other bees where to go. What if the bee didn't bother to learn the dance very well? The other bees might get lost. What happens when we tell others about Jesus? We keep them from getting lost — from wandering around in life, not knowing that Jesus loves them. Should we try to learn the story of Jesus well? **Should we memorize some Bible verses?** Yes, for that will be very useful when we talk to others about Jesus.

Bees have special equipment - pollen baskets, extra eyes, antennae for smelling, a tubular tongue, holes for beeswax. They use the wax flakes to build the honeycomb, with a six-sided cell for holding baby bees. Each cell, when full, is covered with some more wax as a cap. Bees have two-way stomachs: they suck the nectar in from the flowers, and then they can squirt it out when they get back home — give it to the worker bees for food, or put it in the honeycomb to feed new baby bees. **If God took so much care in designing the honeybee, do you think He made a good design for you and me?** Did He give us special equipment? Do we take good care of our bodies?

Bees in the Bible - Can you name three famous people in the Bible who liked to eat honey? (Samson the strong man, in the Book of Judges, Chapter 14; Jonathan, best friend of David, in the First Book of Samuel, Chapter 14:24-45; and John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus, in the Gospel of Mark, Chapter 1:6). When God wanted to tell His people how beautiful the Promised Land was, He called it "a land flowing with milk and honey." Moses said, "Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey, so that it may go well with you... in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, promised you." (Deuteronomy 6:3). So honey was a real treat to the people who lived in Bible days — it was like ice cream or candy bars are to us today. Do your eyes light up when you get chocolate for dessert? Do you smile when someone says, "Let's go out for ice cream cones"? God says that's how we should act when Dad or Mom says, "it's time to go to Sunday School!" In Psalm 19:9-11 **God says that His commandments are "more precious than gold" and "sweeter than honey from the comb."** Do you think God wants us to read and study His Word? Yes! We should read it or listen to it every day.

Bad news about bees - Bees are very small creatures, so God gave them a way to protect themselves from bigger animals, such as mice, birds, and *bears (which is why you should never wear black near a beehive)*. Most bees have a stinger. It is like a pointed tail, with sharp little thorns on its sides. It is attached to a little sac of poison. When a bee uses its stinger, it is like using a poisoned needle. Bees will not sting you unless you have frightened them or hurt them. When they are scared, bees become angry. The fear and the anger make them sting. Their stingers leave poison behind, which makes a bee sting very painful. When we are angry with each other, we often cause pain, don't we? When we say angry words or make an ugly face, we can hurt our friends. Sometimes the hurt lasts a long time, like the poison in the bee sting. Jesus asks us not to hurt people, but to love them. **When we have hurt someone, what does Jesus want us to do? He wants us to tell that person, "I'm sorry." When we do this, it takes some of the sting away.** It helps the hurt to go away. Then we can be friends again. But best of all, we can be happy knowing that we are obeying Jesus. His love is bigger than all the hurt we can cause others and His love heals all the hurt that others may bring to us.

"BEE" FAITHFUL: Helpful Hints for Lesson Planning

- Review articles on bees in encyclopedias.
- Find closeup pictures of bees in science or nature magazines, or ask your children's librarian to suggest picture books.
- Find beehive art for bulletin boards in the "Spring" season section of your local teachers' supplies store, Christian bookstore or party decor shop.
- When you add each week's word strip and memory verse to the bulletin board, add pictures or graphics with it (e.g. a globe for Unit 1, a wrapped gift for Unit 2, a clock for Unit 3, some hearts and a picture of the Bible for Unit 4).
- Children may act out the bee's flight. Bee makes buzzing sound as he flies, slurping sound as he drinks nectar. Place large cutouts of flowers on walls at child's level, and let him "visit" each one (remember all flowers should be the same color for one bee).
- Make simple bee costumes following **included pattern**. Act out the different tasks of the queen, the nursery bees, the scouts, and the worker bees. For a game to music, label chairs as "flowers" using color cutouts taped on the chair backs. Beginning at the "hive" (on the bulletin board, or a designated person), children take turns visiting "flowers," zigzagging and wrapping paper streamers around the chairs, until leader blows a whistle when they must "make a beeline" back to the hive. Try to get all chairs wrapped before music stops. (P.S.: you may want to have a camera handy for this session!)
- Children may make Bee Bracelets using fuzzy pipe cleaners. Coil black and yellow pipe cleaners together tightly around pencil to make body; use loops of gold or silver for wings. Choose another color for the bracelet, twist together.
- Do "thumbprint bees" on **preprinted coloring sheets included**. Let children dampen thumbs on moist sponge or cloth, press thumb into watercolor paint, then make thumbprint on picture — the thumbprint will be the body of the bee. Help your students add wings, legs, antennae with crayon or marker. Then finish coloring the picture.

BIBLE VERSES - About bees and honey: Exodus 3:8, Deuteronomy 6:3, Psalms 19:9-11, Jeremiah 32:22; Mark 1:6, Isa 7:18, 1st Cor 15:50-57

(Information about bees gathered from: The World Book Encyclopedia, ©1965 Field Enterprises Educational Corporation, Chicago; and Infopedia 2.0, ©1996 Softkey International, Cambridge, MA.)

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The commandments of the LORD are
sweeter than honey from the comb.

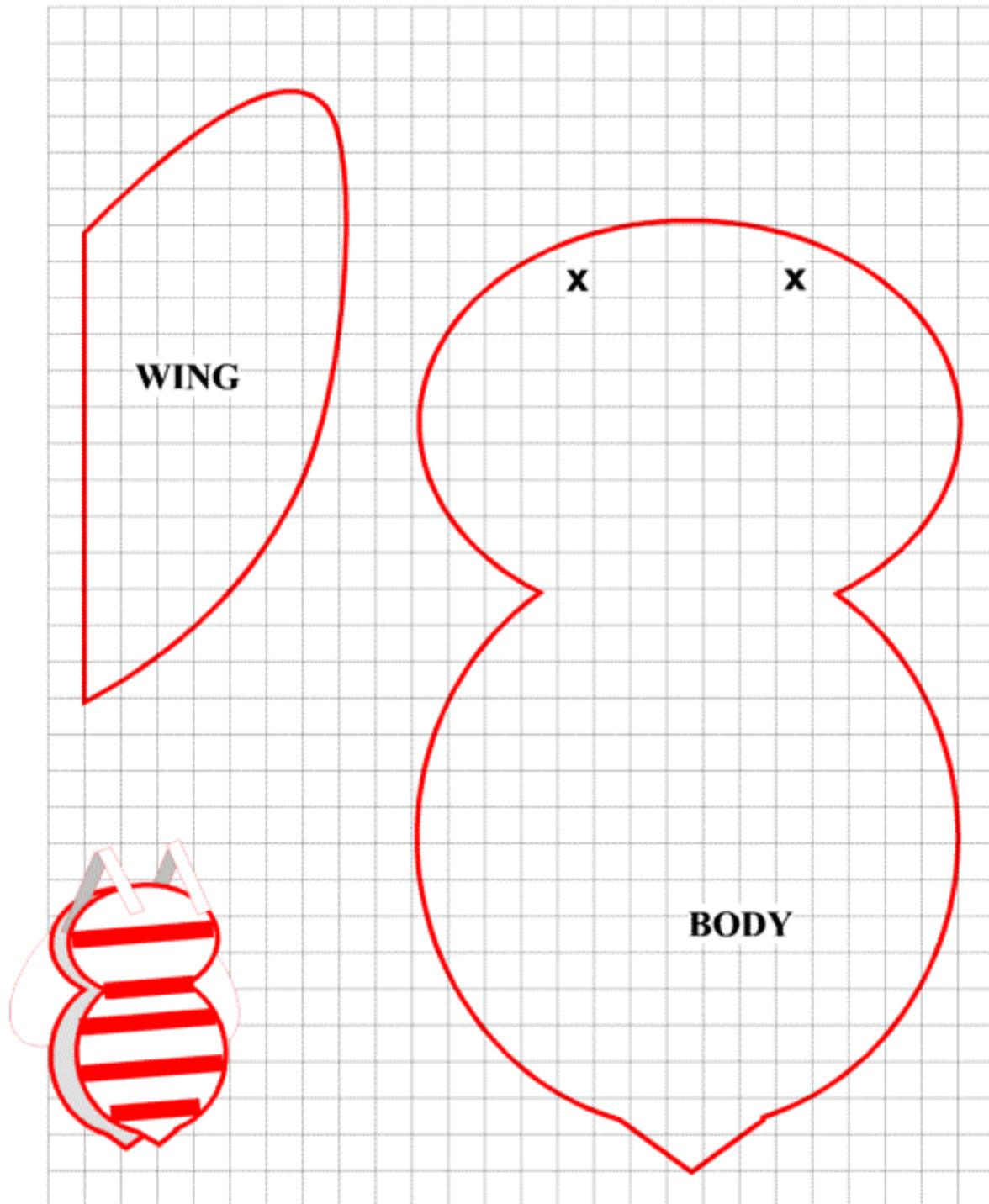
— *Psalm 19:10*



The commandments of the LORD are
sweeter than honey from the comb.

— *Psalm 19:10*

"BEE" Faithful: Costume Pattern



ENLARGE to 22" x 32" (poster size). CUT 2 WINGS FROM white posterboard. CUT 2 BODIES from yellow posterboard. Add black stripes to body with strips of black paper or black marker. Create a sandwich board by attaching shoulder ribbons at "X." Tape wings hanging down from back. Wear with antennae made from pipe cleaners fastened to a head band or knit cap.