

Cut on solid black lines. Fold books matchbook stylebook.

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What is an orphan?

What is an orphanage?

What is a monk?

What is a monastery?

Social studies – sociology- Orphans (FIAR Vol. 1, p 88)

Bible verses for copy work-

...look after orphans and widows in their distress... James 1:27b

I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. John 14:18

Orphans are children who have no mother or father to raise them. Many orphans around the world grow up in orphanages, group homes often run by governments or churches. Brainstorm ideas on what your family can do to help orphans. Some ideas to get you started are donate money, donate toys, donate books, make and send cards, put on a puppet show, or sing Christmas carols. Older students may want to research the plight of orphans around the world or from a particular country.

Go-along books about orphans:

Frances Hodgson Burnett's A Little Princess adapted and illustrated by Barbara McClintock

Orphan Train by Verla Kay

A Shepherd's Gift by Mary Calhoun

Nikolai, the Only Bear by Barbara Joose

Social studies-religion-Monks

Giovanni meets two monks during his travels and performs for the Christ Child in a monastery. Monks were men who devoted their lives to serving God. They lived together in a monastery led by an abbot. Monks prayed and attended religious services every day and sometimes sang in church choirs. They each helped with other jobs around the monastery such as copying books by hand, teaching boys to read and write, caring for the farm animals, working in the fields, washing the clothes, or preparing the meals. Monks never married or had children, and they did not own any property of their own.

Parent Resources about monks:

A Medieval Monk by James Barter

Life in a Fifteenth-century Monastery by Anne Boyd

The two Little Brothers Giovanni meets mention their founder, Brother Francis. Saint Francis was born in Assisi and was the son of a rich merchant. Francesco (Francis in Italian) renounced the privileged life into which he was born and devoted himself to a life of poverty. He formed a new order of friars, or monks, who spent their time walking through small mountain communities cheerfully spreading God's Word. Many of the stories about St. Francis revolve around his love for animals and nature. He is known as the patron saint of animals, birds, and Italy.

Go-along books about Saint Francis:

Brother Francis and the Friendly Beasts by Margaret Hodges

Brother Sun, Sister Moon: The Life and Stories of Saint Francis by Margaret Mayo