

Group

Teacher Guide

GRADES 1 & 2

Fall



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Grades 1&2

Teacher Guide • Fall

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Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable

The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong

Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—and are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.



Group

Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Grades 1 & 2, Fall

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIRST- AND SECOND-GRADERS

MENTAL DEVELOPMENT

- Are interested in concrete learning experiences such as dramatizations and rhythms.
- Have a limited concept of time and space; are interested in the present but not in the past or future.
- Yearn for competence in developing skills.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Have high energy levels, which demand a lot of physical activity such as jumping and running.
- Are industrious; like to make things and complete projects.
- Are more interested in the finished product than the process.
- Are developing small-muscle coordination; are beginning to write.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Usually prefer to stick to same-sex friendships.
- Thrive on organized games and group activities.
- Want to please teachers but are beginning to recognize their role in relation to their peers.
- Want to win and always be first; have a strong sense of competition with others.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Express feelings with physical action.
- Crave individual attention and affirmation.
- Are self-centered; each child wants to be first.
- Need to feel capable; this is directly related to their self-esteem.
- Want everything to be fair; have a clear-cut sense of justice.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- Understand God's love and God's world through personal experience.
- Don't comprehend the spiritual nature of God; think of God as a giant, a magician, or an invisible man.
- Don't comprehend the Bible's chronology except that the Old Testament came before Jesus and the New Testament talks about Jesus.
- Have a literal and concrete understanding of Bible stories and biblical truths; don't comprehend abstract ideas such as the Trinity.



Welcome to the Adventure!

Now why are you teaching first and second grades? Whether it's because you've done it for as long as you can remember or because you are giving it a try for the first time to fill a need, you'll find first- and second-graders to be endearing kids who unpack their world in concrete terms. They experiment with all of their senses and ask tons of questions. You can make a huge difference in their lives by introducing them to Jesus and helping them grow in their understanding of him. You will be launching them on a life-long journey of knowing, loving, and following their Savior, Jesus.

First- and second-graders think concretely, yet wonder about the world they are discovering. They want to meet Jesus and interact with him in ways that help them understand who he is and how he works. Our master teacher, Jesus, used active learning 2,000 years ago, and it still works today!

Your students will learn best by experiencing new ideas and concepts through a variety of styles. They want to touch, taste, smell, hear, and see what they are learning about. They will naturally want to ask questions and interact with you and their peers, so allow plenty of time for questions and discussion. If you encourage them, they will try new things and learn difficult concepts. You will change their lives as you open their minds and hearts to the most important person in their lives, Jesus.

Here are a few helpful do's and don'ts to make experiential learning work best for your kids:

- **Do think outside the learning-space box!** Move tables so students can move around freely and work in groups. Scope out other areas, such as a foyer, a parking lot, or a fellowship hall, that can be used for activities.
- **Don't turn down the volume!** Recognize the difference between good "learning noise" and a situation needing your attention. Active-learning activities often are fast-paced and noisy.
- **Do take advantage of teachable moments.** An activity that bombs may provide a wonderful opportunity for learning if you ask questions such as "Why didn't this work?" "How is this like what happens in real life?" or "What can we learn from this experience?"
- **Don't show children the contents of the Learning Lab® before they are used in the lessons.** Keep them guessing what's coming next!
- **Do get to know your children.** Be aware of the attitudes they bring with them. They may be dealing with family, school, or relationship issues. Encourage students to share their feelings as they participate in activities.
- **Don't forget—experiential learning is fun and captivating!** Enjoy it! A positive experience learning about God within the safe boundaries of your classroom will lead to more positive experiences with God outside the classroom. What a great way to encourage your students to discover the joy of the Lord firsthand and to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ!



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies your kids may have. Also, be sure to read food labels carefully as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

Making the Most of Your Hands-On Bible Curriculum®

 WARNING:
CHOKING HAZARD—

Small parts. Not for children under 3 years.

Module Introductions Within each quarter of Hands-On Bible Curriculum, there are three modules. Each module has a theme that runs throughout the lessons. The introduction to each module includes an overview of the lessons and a chart listing the Bible Point and Scripture used in each lesson.

Bible Point There's one point that you want your children to take home at the end of your lesson. That's the Bible Point. You'll see it referenced in the margin as well as italicized and underlined in the lesson. We've designed for it to be repeated numerous times during the lesson so no one will miss it.

Bible Verse These words, straight from God's Word, show the biblical basis for the lesson. The Bible verse appears in boldface in the lesson.

Teacher Enrichment This part of the lesson is just for you. If you can, read it early in the week. It includes an explanation of the Bible passage and some suggested ways to pray during the week so you'll be prepared, heart and mind, for your important hour with your children.

This Lesson at a Glance This valuable chart shows you the big picture for your lesson. You can quickly see what supplies you'll need and what needs to be done before you begin. A minute on this page will save you 10 during your lesson!

The Jesus Connection To us, this is the most important thing—making the connection between the story and Jesus, the reason for the story. You'll find a Jesus Connection in every lesson, set apart in a box. We want children to find Jesus every week in your class, so don't miss this part of the lesson.

Hands-On Bible® Connection We want all kids to use their Bibles every week. The *Hands-On Bible* is, in our estimation, the best way to get kids into this important book. It's the Bible that kids not only read but also *do*! In every lesson, you'll find a quick, fun way to get your kids involved in using their Bibles. The tip is in a box that you can't miss.

Teacher Tips You'll find these in the margin throughout the lesson. They're just to give you additional ideas to enhance what you're doing. They vary from alternative ideas for activities to age-level insights.

Take-Home Papers These photocopiable pages that you send home with your families every week will help to reinforce the lesson and encourage learning all week long!

“There is only one thing worth being concerned about.”

—Luke 10:42

What is this one thing? It's the whole reason for this curriculum—

it's the whole reason for Sunday school. It's what we (and you) want your kids to know! Check out what Thom and Joani Schultz (Group's chairman and chief creative officer) have to say about the one thing and what it means in your life.

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus visits the home of Mary and Martha. As Martha worries about preparing dinner and being a busy servant, she gets upset because Mary isn't helping. But Jesus tells her, “There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her.”

Martha was doing good work. In fact, she was serving the Lord. But Jesus made his priority for us clear. He wants to have a loving relationship with us even more than he wants us to serve him.

Many might say Jesus is the one thing. But no, it's a **growing relationship with Jesus**. Martha would have identified serving Jesus as the one thing. But Mary better understood the *real* one thing.

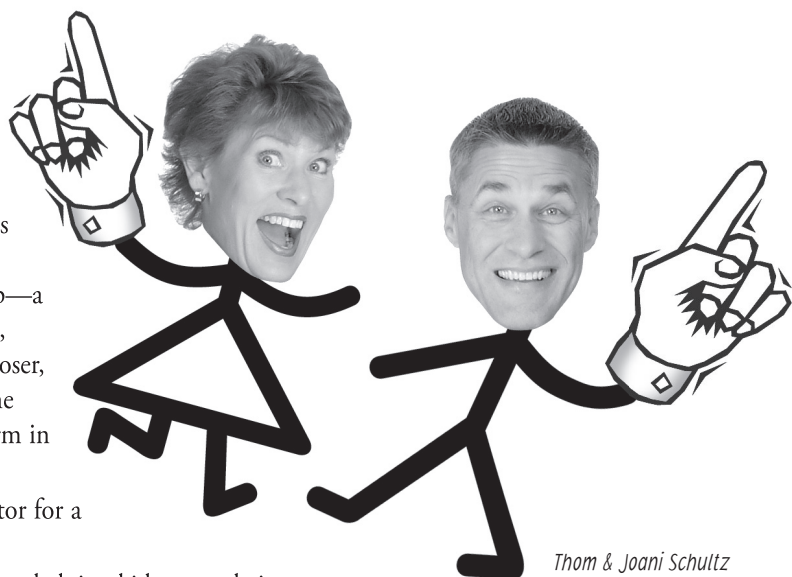
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals, theological disputes, solemnity, rituals, and more. To the spiritually hungry, churches often seem more preoccupied with these distractions than the one thing.

If the church wishes to pursue a growing relationship with Jesus, it will need to rethink and reprioritize its ministry. A one-thing ministry emphasizes relationship. And we believe a relationship with Jesus resembles in many ways a human-to-human relationship—a friendship. The process of attraction, getting acquainted, enjoying one another's company, having fun, growing closer, and forming a bond of love and devotion is a natural one that lends clues to how a one-thing relationship may form in the context of church ministry.

How can we build a church that becomes an incubator for a one-thing relationship, for *real* friendship with Jesus?

That's what Hands-On Bible Curriculum is all about—helping kids grow their friendships with Jesus. As they experience the Scriptures and do the activities, they're building that relationship in a real and relevant way.

What's the most important thing your church can do for kids? Help them choose the one thing. And use tools like Hands-On Bible Curriculum to make it a reality.



Thom & Joani Schultz

Ruth

The story of Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz is a quiet account that almost gets lost between the battle victories of Israel's judges and the exciting emergence of a new monarchy. Ruth is a short, simple book about real people who loved God, honored their duties, and held one another in the highest esteem. They valued the traditions that let people hold on to their dignity even when they were down on their luck. Most of all, Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz were careful to please God as they cared for one another's needs, and they were quick to give glory to God when their needs were met. God rewarded these quiet, sincere followers with an amazing gift: Ruth and Boaz were parents to Obed, the father of Jesse, the root from which Christ, the new branch, grew.

This is just the sort of heartwarming kinship your children need to witness and learn from. Ruth's example can help them develop a strong sense of fellowship so they can form healthy friendships with other Christians. Your children will learn how important it is to be loyal to family and friends. They will develop generosity. They will learn to seek counsel with men and women who follow God. And they will learn the importance of honesty and integrity in daily living. These lessons will help your children live the fulfilling, abundant life that God promises to his people.

Four Lessons on Ruth

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.	13	Ruth 1:1-16
2	God wants us to be generous.	25	Ruth 2:1-23
3	Good advice can help us follow God.	35	Ruth 3:1-15
4	God wants us to keep our promises.	45	Ruth 4:1-15

The Signal



During the lessons on Ruth, your attention-getting signal will be the *plastic rings* in a resealable plastic bag—shake the bag to make a clinking sound. Ask children to respond to the sound by focusing their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you'll have plenty of time for all the fun activities in this lesson.

The Fidget Buster



When your students are too antsy to pay attention to the lesson, play this gleaning game to get the wiggles out.

Put the *linking animals*, *ribbon strips*, and *plastic rings* into an empty shirt box. If you need more items, you can use paper scraps as well. Have the children stand along one wall.

Say: **In biblical times, farmers left some of their grain in the fields for poor people to pick up, or glean. Glean is another word for picking up grain left by the field workers. I'll pretend to be a worker in the fields, gathering the crops. While I'm gathering my crops, I'll leave some grain in the fields for you, the gleaners. When I say "go," your job will be to crawl on your hands and knees and glean as much as you can, as quickly as you can.**

Quickly and carefully fling the items so they're scattered all over the floor. Say: **Ready? Go!**

When everything has been gleaned from the floor, have the children return the items to the box. Say: **Now we can rest from our hard work and enjoy a snack.** Reward the children's hard work with raisins or small pieces of candy. Then return to your lesson.

The Time Stuffer

The Time Stuffer for the four lessons on Ruth is an art project in which children glean their supplies from the room. Stock an area with various art supplies. This is your chance to clean out your classroom cupboards! Set out any other available supplies that could be used in an art project.

Explain to the children that *gleaning* means to pick up grain left by the workers in the field. Then, when the children get to class early or finish a project before others do, encourage them to glean art supplies from those you've set out and create their own unique collages or sculptures.

Digging Into the Bible



Every lesson in each four- or five-week module focuses on a key Bible verse that ties in to the Bible Point of the lesson. In addition, each lesson points to a related activity in the *Hands-On Bible*® to further illustrate your Bible teaching with fun and action. Since kids tend to remember only 10 percent of what they hear but recall 90 percent of what they do, including a *Hands-On Bible* experience with each lesson is one more great way to help kids remember what they've learned long after class has ended.

Remembering God's Word

This module's key Bible verses will help children apply God's ways to their lives. The Bible verse in each lesson will be used to reinforce the Bible Point for the lesson. Help children learn the verse to understand the Bible Point. To find the Bible verse in each lesson, look for the Bible verse icon ► in the margin.

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

Here are more ideas for teaching God's Word that you can use any time during the lessons on Ruth.

■ *Harvesting Goodness*

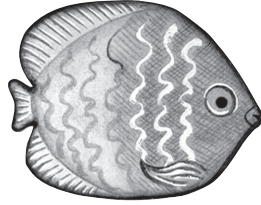
Read Hosea 10:12 aloud. Have the children say the verse with you. Say: **When we do good deeds from our hearts, enjoy being loyal to our family and friends, and learn new things, God will give us his goodness to help us grow to be like Jesus. It's like growing plants: We give them water to grow strong and healthy. God gives us goodness to become strong, healthy Christians. Let's play a fun game to help us remember this Bible verse.** Form teams of four for a relay game. Have the teams line up on one side of the room. Mark a finish line on the opposite side of the room. The first person on each team skips across the room, pretends to dig a hole, skips back, and tags the second person in line. The second person skips across the room, pretends to plant flower seeds, skips back, and tags the third person in line. The third person skips across the room, pretends to water the seeds, skips back, and tags the fourth person in line. The fourth person skips across the room, pretends to pick the flowers, and skips back. When your team has finished, cheer the others on so everyone will finish the harvesting game.

After the game, ask:

- **What kinds of things would God like to plant in you?** (Kindness; love; being nice to people.)

Say: **When we let God plant his goodness in us, we'll grow more beautiful than the most beautiful flower.**

■ *God's Gifts*



You'll need a glass of water, the *squirty fish* from the Learning Lab, and a sunny churchyard or parking lot.

Take the children outside, and have them stand in a line so they can see their shadows in front of them.

Ask: • **What happens to plants when we give them water?** (They grow; they're healthy.)

• **What kinds of goodness do you think God will pour on you?** (Love; friendship; peace; money.)

Say: **The good things that God gives are things that will help us grow—things like love, wisdom, patience, and gentleness. Take a look at the person standing to your right. Think of something God has given that person that will help him or her grow. Each of you will have a chance to fill the *squirty fish* with water and squirt the water on your neighbor's shadow. As you squirt the water, you'll say, "God has poured the gift of _____ on you."**

Have the first child in line squeeze the air out of the *squirty fish*, submerge it in the glass of water, and release it so it fills up with water. Then have the first child squeeze the water onto the next child's shadow and complete the sentence. Stand nearby so the children won't follow the temptation to squirt one another. Have the last child in the line affirm the child at the beginning of the line.

Then say: **God is causing great things to grow in each of you. Soon it will be time to use all these wonderful gifts.** Close by thanking God for pouring goodness on us like water.



Bible Point

God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.

Bible Verse

“This is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- find that being loyal means they can be counted on,
 - discover that loyalty is sticking by someone no matter what, and
 - find out what it means to be a true-blue friend and promise to be that kind of friend.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Ruth stays with Naomi.



Ruth 1:1-16

The book of Ruth begins with a family traveling from Israel to Moab to escape famine, a common act for people in those times when they couldn't find food. However, Israel and Moab were bitter enemies. The Moabites had refused Israel passage through their land during the exodus from Egypt. In addition, Moab was one of Israel's oppressors during the time of the judges, when the events in this story happened.

When her husband and sons died in Moab, Naomi was in a bad situation. In that day, widows were often ignored or mistreated and were nearly always poor. Naomi had no male relatives in Moab to take care of her, so after she heard that the famine in Israel was over, she must have decided her chances were better there.

Naomi was not a young woman, and she was setting out on what was likely a difficult journey through rugged terrain around the southern end of the Dead Sea. She knew that it would be easier for her daughters-in-law if they stayed in their homeland with their families. The chances were good that Orpah and Ruth would be treated as outcasts in Israel.

When Naomi first told her daughters-in-law to return to their families, both refused (Ruth 1-10). When Naomi insisted, however, Orpah agreed to turn back (Ruth 1:11-14). Ruth, on the other hand, persisted, perhaps because she had put her faith in the God of Israel (Ruth 1:16-17; 2:12).

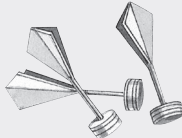
Prayer

- Read Proverbs 18:24 and Ecclesiastes 4:9-12.
- How can you be a good friend to children in your class?
- Dear God, help me be a better example of a friend to children in my class by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Growing Together” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome	Welcome! —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher, and make name tags.	“In the Fields Name Tags” (p. 22), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins	
Attention Grabber	Always Loyal —Discover something they can count on, and see that being loyal means being dependable.		
Bible Exploration & Application	Ruth and Naomi Pillow Pals —Hear the story of Ruth, Naomi, and Orpah from Ruth 1:1-16, and make a craft that reflects loyalty.	Bible, sheets of 8½x11 card stock, hole punch, yarn, scissors, cotton balls, markers, masking tape	
	Spider-Web Tag —Play a game in which they have to stick to each other to avoid being tagged, and learn from Galatians 6:10 that being loyal means being ready to help.	Bible, masking tape	
	True-Blue Friends —Discuss what true-blue friends would do in specific situations, learn from John 15:9, 12 that being loyal means loving others as Jesus does, and promise to be true-blue friends.	Bibles, washable blue markers, “True-Blue” handouts (p. 23), pencils, CD player	
Closing  Live It!	Stick Together —Learn that being loyal means sticking together no matter what, and learn that God wants them to hold fast to him.		

Welcome

SUPPLIES: “In the Fields Name Tags” (p. 22), scissors, markers, tape or safety pins

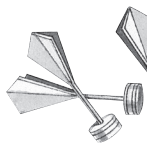


- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.**
- Help children make name tags. Photocopy the “In the Fields Name Tags,” and follow the instructions.
- Tell children that the attention-getting signal you’ll use during this lesson is the bag of *plastic rings*. Ask children to respond to the sound by focusing their attention on you. Rehearse the signal with the children, telling them to respond quickly so you’ll have plenty of time for all the fun activities planned for this lesson.



Attention Grabber

■ Always Loyal



SUPPLIES: tub of water

Show children the *sticky darts*. Hand them to children, and ask:

- **Do you think these darts will float in this tub of water? Try it out.**

Then have a new set of kids take the *sticky darts*, and ask: • **What if we dropped these darts from high up? Do you think they’ll float up, or will they sink? Give it a try.**

Again, have kids swap roles, and ask: • **What if you stuck them to the sides of the tub and then fill it with water, will they stay underwater or will they float back up?**

Let kids test the *sticky darts* in the tub of water. Encourage them to take turns push them under the water. Then say: **You did a great job of testing the darts. I guess it really is true—no matter how we put the *sticky darts* in the tub of water, they’ll always float. We can count on it. Let’s talk about some other things we can count on.** Put the *sticky darts* and tub of water away, and then ask:

- **What are some things in our world that we can count on?** (That the sun will come up; that my parents love me.)



Ask: • **What things about Jesus can you count on?** (That he loves me; that he will come again.)

Say: **Let’s take a moment to thank Jesus that no matter what happens, we can count on him.** Have children fold their hands and bow their heads.

Pray: **Dearest Jesus, thank you so much for always loving me and always being there for me. Amen.**



Moving from all the busyness and pressures of the week to focus on experiencing Bible truths can be difficult, even for children. These active and unusual “Attention Grabber” activities do just that. They will help your kids be ready to experience all you have for them in the lesson.



If the sticky darts do end up sinking or staying underwater, use the opportunity to talk about how we can’t count on some things, but we can always count on God.

BIBLE VERSE ►

Say: **It's so great to know we can always count on God. And it feels wonderful to be around people we can count on.**

Ask: • **Who in your life can you count on?** (My parents; my teachers; my grandparents.)

Say: **God wants us to be people others can count on. Our Bible verse for today tells us ►“This is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God,” (Micah 6:8b). When we do the things in this verse—do what is right by being fair, love mercy by forgiving, and walk humbly with God by putting God first—other people can count on us.**

Today we're going to talk about a woman in the Bible who could be counted on. She was dependable, and she was loyal. That means no matter what happened, people knew that she'd be a good friend. God wants us to be like that, too. ►**God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.**



BIBLE POINT ►

Bible Exploration & Application

■ Ruth and Naomi Pillow Pal

SUPPLIES: Bible, sheets of 8½x11 card stock, hole punch, yarn, scissors, cotton balls, markers, masking tape



Ahead of time, prepare two sheets of card stock for each child. Place one sheet on top of the other. Punch holes approximately every half inch around the sides and about a quarter inch in from the edges. Cut a 4-foot length of yarn for each child.

Set out the supplies, and ask the children to gather around a table. Say: **Today our story is from the book of Ruth. Let's take a look.** Show children where the book of Ruth is in the Bible. **The book of Ruth tells the story of a family. The family had a dad named Elimelech (eh-LEE-meh-leck), a mom named Naomi, and two grown-up sons who lived in Bethlehem long before Jesus was born. I think this family loved each other and probably wanted what any other family wanted. They stuck together and were loyal to each other, like most families.**

But life didn't go the way they expected. These family members had to leave their home in Bethlehem to go to another land, called Moab, because there was a famine in the area around Bethlehem. A famine means they had no food and nothing would grow.

Ask: • **Have you ever had to leave family or friends behind to move to a new place? What was that like?** (Yes, last year we moved here from another state, and it was scary to come here; yes, we moved to a new home during the summer, and I miss my friends; no, I've always lived in the same house.)

• **If you ever moved, did you stay in touch with the family and friends you left behind? Explain.** (Yes, I still visit my cousins on holidays; no, I haven't seen my friends in a long time because we live too far apart now.)

Say: **Sometimes when we move, we have to say goodbye to old friends and make new friends in the new place. The family in our story met new people in Moab. The sons each married a woman from Moab—one named Ruth and one named Orpah. They lived in Moab for quite a few years. But then some sad things happened—the dad died, and that was very sad, but then both the sons died, too. That left only the three women—Naomi, Ruth, and Orpah.**

In those days, women whose husbands had died had a very hard time having enough money to live on. Usually, lots of people ignored them.

Naomi wanted to go back to Bethlehem, the town she came from. At first both Ruth and Orpah, Naomi's daughters-in-law, wanted to be loyal and stick together with Naomi. But then Orpah decided not to go. She did not stay loyal to Naomi. It isn't always easy to be loyal. But Ruth was loyal, so she went with Naomi to Bethlehem. God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends. Loyal friends are people we can count on day or night.

Hand each child two sheets of card stock you prepared before class, and hand out markers to share. Ask children to draw a heart and write their names in their best handwriting on one sheet of card stock. Then hold up a sheet of card stock with the *praying hands rubbing plate* behind it.

Ask: • **What do you see on this card stock?** (Nothing; it's just white.)

Say: **Right now, this sheet of card stock is plain.**

Set the *praying hands rubbing plate* and sheet of card stock on a table, and use a marker to color over the card stock so the praying hands appear. Show the picture to the children.

Say: **The praying hands show because I used a special rubbing plate under the card stock. Sometimes when we're loyal friends, we rub off on each other. That means we start to act more like each other.**

For Ruth, she promised that she would worship the same God Naomi did. That's awesome! When we're loyal friends, we can help our friends get to know God, too.

Let's think of some ways we show others that we are loyal to them. For example, if my parents tell me to do something I really don't want to do but I obey anyway, that shows my loyalty to them. Or if a friend acts mean but I forgive him or her and don't stay mad, that shows loyalty, too. Share a time you were loyal, and use this *praying hands rubbing plate* under your second sheet of card stock as you color all over the card stock.

Pass around the *praying hands rubbing plate*, giving each child a turn to use it. Kids can also use markers to add decorations around the praying hands. As children finish, have them look at the praying hands they made, and then ask:

• **Why is it important to be a loyal friend to others?** (A loyal friend can be trusted; so that others can count on me.)

• **Who is your most loyal friend?** (God; my mom; my dad.)

Say: **God is our most loyal friend, and he wants us to follow his example by being the kind of friend others can trust. God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends. With God's help, we can learn to be loyal to one another. Let's make a craft called a Pillow Pal to give to a friend or family member. It will remind that person that we can be loyal friends day and night.**

1. Give each child a piece of yarn. Ask the children to wrap a piece of masking tape tightly around one end of the yarn to form a makeshift needle.

2. Show them how to sew their sheets of card stock together. Make sure that the blank sides of the sheets are lined up facing each other. Using the taped end, stitch from the back



of the sheet to the front beginning at the top. Leave a section of yarn that is the length of a sheet of card stock for tying the ends together later.

3. Before the children sew together the last few holes, have them insert a handful of cotton balls in between the sheets and then finish sewing. Tie the ends together in a bow.

Say: **Ruth and Naomi were loyal friends, and it showed. Give your Pillow Pal to a friend or to someone in your family to put next to his or her pillow at night. The marks that you added to your Pillow Pal will remind your friend that God is with him or her and that you are a loyal friend, too.**

HANDS-ON BIBLE

Have kids form pairs. If possible, pair nonreaders with readers. Have scissors, tape, and at least two colors of yarn available to the class. Give each child a piece of cardboard that is approximately 10x10 inches.



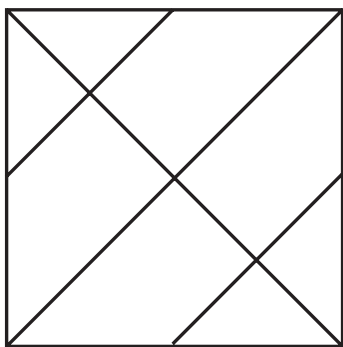
Say: **I'm going to give you an opportunity to show your loyalty and friendship to your partner right now. Open your Hands-On Bible to Ruth 1. Follow the instructions for the "Friendship Bracelet" activity in your Bible. When you've completed the instructions, give your bracelet to your partner.**

Help children find **Ruth 1** in their *Hands-On Bibles*. Explain the instructions for the activity as needed as you work with pairs.

Ask: • **How can we be there for our friends in this class?** (Pray together for one another; give hugs when someone needs them; make everyone feel welcome when they come.)

Say: **Let's put on the bracelets our friends gave us. Every time you look at your bracelet, pray for your partner and the rest of the kids in our class.**

At the end of class, direct children to work with their families through the introduction of the book of Ruth in their *Hands-On Bibles*.



Spider-Web Tag

SUPPLIES: Bible, masking tape

Before class, use masking tape to create a grid on your classroom floor like the one shown in the margin. Make the grid as large as possible with as many lines as possible.

Have the children stand on the masking-tape lines. Choose a volunteer to be the spider. Say: **We're going to play Spider-Web Tag. In this game, everyone must walk on the masking-tape lines—the spider web. If you get tagged by the spider, you must leave the game. If the spider is getting close to one of your classmates, you can reach out, grab your classmate by the hand, and gently pull him or her onto your strand of the web. The spider cannot reach across the web to catch you. As long as you're holding hands, you're safe. However, you can't hold hands for more than five seconds. Ready? Here we go!**

Start the game and play for several minutes or until everyone has been tagged. After the game, ask:

• **What did you think when the spider got closer and closer to you?** (I was scared; I felt like I needed a friend to grab me.)

• **How is someone saving you from the spider by giving you a helping hand an example of loyalty?** (If you're loyal, you reach out to help someone; if you're loyal, you look for ways to help someone.)

• **What would be an example in real life of when a friend gave you a helping hand?** (Helping me clean my room; helping me with homework.)

• **What would have happened if all of you had just thought about yourselves and nobody had grabbed anyone's hand?** (More people would have gotten out of the game; we wouldn't have been loyal to one another.)

Say: **In this game, all of you worked hard to save one another. That's what loyalty is like. Loyalty means that we're always ready to give our friends and our family a helping hand. It means that we try to help them without worrying about what happens to us. Listen to what the Bible says about lending a helping hand to others.** Read **Galatians 6:10** aloud.

Ask: • **Who is someone you should do good to?** (My best friend; my family.)

• **Who are our "Christian brothers and sisters"?** (The people in this class; my Sunday school teacher.)

Say: **The people in our church are our family just as much as the people we live with. ► God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.**

Ask: • **What can you do to be loyal to a friend or someone in your family?** (I can help my little sister when her friends tease her; I can stick up for my friends; I can do nice things for my parents.)

Say: **God is pleased when we're loyal. But it isn't always easy to be loyal. Let's talk more about how we can be loyal to our family and friends.**



Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.



■ True-Blue Friends

SUPPLIES: Bibles, washable blue markers, "True-Blue" handouts (p. 23), pencils, CD player

Before class, photocopy and cut apart the "True-Blue" handout. You'll need one section for each child. Have the children form groups of three. Say: **One way to describe someone who is very loyal is to say he or she is "true-blue."**



To help you know what a true-blue friend is, let's read a passage from the Bible. Open your Bibles to John 15:9 and 12, and follow along as I read. Help any students who are having difficulty finding the passage, and read **John 15:9, 12** aloud.

Ask: • **What does this passage tell us about how Jesus feels about us?** (He loves us; he cares what we do.)

• **How does knowing this about Jesus help you love other people?** (Jesus can be my example; Jesus is in my heart telling me how to love.)

Say: **A true-blue friend loves people the way Jesus loves people. I'm going to read aloud some situations. After each one, discuss with your group members what a true-blue friend would do in that situation.**

Read each of the following situations. After each one, give groups time to decide what a true-blue friend would do. Then have volunteers share their groups' ideas with the rest of the class.

Situation 1—**James and Brad were walking home from school one day. Brad said, "I'm going to float my new boat in the creek this afternoon. I'm not supposed to play by the creek, so I'm going to say that I was playing at your house. If my mom asks you, just tell her I spent the whole afternoon at your house." What should James—as a true-blue friend to Brad—do?**

Situation 2—**Becca was eating cookies, drinking milk, and watching her favorite show. From where she sat, she watched as her dad pulled up to the driveway, stopped the car, got out, and moved two bicycles, a skateboard, a basketball, two jump-ropes, a baseball bat, a ball, a catcher's glove, and a scooter from the driveway so he could drive his car into the garage. What should Becca—as a true-blue friend to her dad—do?**

Situation 3—**From where Sam was sitting, he could see every word on Hannah's spelling test. Sam had just learned in Sunday school that cheating is wrong. Sam knew he shouldn't peek, but spelling was his hardest subject, and his parents had promised him a trip to the ice-cream store if he improved his grades. What should Sam—as a true-blue friend to Hannah and to his family—do?**

After you've talked about each of the situations, say: **Thanks for those great ideas about what a loyal friend would do. Loyal friends are always ready to help their family and friends. But we must first be loyal to God.**

Our Bible verse says, ► **"This is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8b). That means helping our friends do good things that will make God happy. Helping a friend do something that's wrong would not be a loyal act. ► God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends. As we sing our key Bible verse song, we'll make a promise to act like true-blue friends.**

Cue the CD to "Walk Humbly" (Micah 6:8), track 2. Have children write their names on their handout sections. Have them write in names of people they will be "true-blue" to. Have the children color with the washable blue markers on the tip of one finger and put blue fingerprints on the handouts. After you have explained how to create the "True-Blue" friends promise cards, play "Walk Humbly" (Micah 6:8), and encourage the children to sing along. Lyrics can be found at the back of this teacher guide. Have children take their handouts home to remind them to be true-blue friends. Before leaving, have children wash hands or use wet wipes to remove blue ink from fingers.



teacher tips

If you have children with the same names as the ones used in these scenarios, change the names.



Sprinkle blue powdered drink mix or gelatin into a shallow bowl. Pour water into another shallow bowl. Have children wet the tips of their fingers in the bowl of water, dip them in the bowl of powdered drink mix, and put blue fingerprints on their handouts. Provide paper towels for cleanup.

BIBLE VERSE ►



BIBLE POINT ►

Closing

■ Stick Together

SUPPLIES: none



Ask: • **What did you learn today?** (I learned to always be ready to help; I learned to stick by my friends; I learned to be loyal to my family and friends.)

Say: ► **God wants us to be loyal to our family, to our friends, and to him.** Another way to say that we'll be loyal to people is to say that we'll stick with them no matter what. When people stick together, they hold fast to one another. Let's use these sticks to show our commitment to stick together right now. As you press your stick to the sculpture, name one person you will commit to sticking to, no matter what.

Give each child a *Wikki Stix*. If you have more children than *Wikki Stix*, cut the *Wikki Stix* in half. Have children press their *Wikki Stix* together to form a sculpture blob. Pass the sculpture around, and have each child shake it to see how well it sticks together.

Say: **When we all stick together, we're very strong, just like this sculpture. It is hard to hurt us or separate us because loyalty is a strong bond that keeps us together. People who are loyal to each other help each other. Let's stick our Wikki-Stix sculpture to the door. Then when your parents come to pick you up, you can explain that the sculpture reminds us that people who are loyal stick together and that ► God wants us to be loyal to our family, to our friends, and to him.**

Have the class help press the *Wikki-Stix* sculpture onto the door. Then close in prayer, asking God to help your children be loyal to him and to others.

After kids leave, return the *Wikki Stix* to the Learning Lab for future lessons.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Growing Together" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage children and parents to use the handout to plan meaningful activities on this week's topic. Follow up the "Growing Together" activities next week by asking children what their families did together.

In the Fields Name Tags

Photocopy this page, and cut the name tags where indicated.
Have the children decorate them and write their names on the blank lines.



True-Blue

Photocopy and cut apart this handout for use during the “True-Blue Friends” activity.

I promise to be
**a
True-Blue
Friend,**
loyal to my family,
loyal to my friends,
and loyal to my God.

I promise to be
**a
True-Blue
Friend,**
loyal to my family,
loyal to my friends,
and loyal to my God.

I promise to be
**a
True-Blue
Friend,**
loyal to my family,
loyal to my friends,
and loyal to my God.

Growing... Together

Bible Story
Ruth stays with Naomi.
(Ruth 1:1-16)

Ruth 1:
God wants us to be loyal to
our family and friends.

Bible Verse
“This is what he requires of you: to do
what is right, to love mercy, and to walk
humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8b).

In Touch

Today your child learned that loyalty is important. The children practiced being loyal to one another. They learned that being loyal means being ready to lend a helping hand and to be “true-blue.” The children also learned that God is happy when they stick by their family members and friends.

Sweet Loyalty

Thaw a loaf of frozen bread dough, and separate bread dough into balls the size of your child’s fist. Pull each dough ball into a thin circle. Wrap each dough circle around a marshmallow, and pinch the dough together to seal the seams. Place the dough balls in a greased 9x13 pan. Put the pan in a warm place, and let the dough rise until doubled. Brush the dough with melted butter, and sprinkle with cinnamon and sugar. Bake according to package directions until golden. After they have cooled, bite into the sweet treats, and talk about how working together to create a treat is like the way we need to work together showing loyalty to one another.

True Blue

Talk with your child about what it means to be a true-blue friend. Then bake a batch of blueberry muffins with your child. Put the muffins in a basket lined with blue napkins or tissue paper. Design a card on blue paper that says, “We’re your true-blue friends.” Deliver the gift to a friend or family member.



Loyalty Rocks

Collect several smooth fist-sized rocks. Clean and dry them thoroughly. Then paint them with craft paints showing a bright sun and a picture of family and friends. Talk about ways you can be loyal to family and friends through rock-hard times and sunny bright times.

Me and My Shadow

Read the Key Verse, Micah 6:8b, and then turn off the lights except for one table lamp. Direct its light onto a wall. Take turns standing in front of the light so your shadow is cast on the wall. Have fun watching your shadows move. Act out movements that would portray acting justly or showing mercy. Make shadow pictures of different ways of walking. Try to imitate one another’s shadows. Then talk about specific ways of showing loyalty to one another this week.





Teacher Guide

GRADES 1 & 2

Fall

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

JESUS USED EVERYDAY OBJECTS—a mustard seed, a fig tree, a lost coin—to teach his disciples the truths that would change the world. With Hands-On Bible Curriculum, you can teach as Jesus taught, using fun surprises that children can touch, see, and smell to relate eternal truths they won't forget.

This quarter your 1st- and 2nd-graders will learn these important Bible lessons:

RUTH

Ruth 1:1-16

God wants us to be loyal to our family and friends.

Ruth 2:1-23

God wants us to be generous.

Ruth 3:1-15

Good advice can help us follow God.

Ruth 4:1-15

God wants us to keep our promises.

DAVID

1 Samuel 16:1-13

God doesn't judge us by the way we look.

1 Samuel 17:1-51

God can help us do things that seem impossible.

1 Samuel 24:1-22

God helps us be kind, even when people are mean to us.

1 Samuel 25:1-35

God wants us to act wisely.

FRIENDSHIP

1 Samuel 18:1-4

Good friends can depend on each other.

1 Samuel 19:1-7

Good friends are happy for each other.

1 Samuel 20:1-23

Good friends work out problems with each other.

1 Samuel 20:24-42

Good friends comfort each other when they're sad.

2 Samuel 2:1-7; 7:1-16

God wants to be our friend.

Also available:

AWARD-WINNING HANDS-ON BIBLE®

God's Word comes alive with hundreds of fun, interactive activities. It also coordinates with Hands-On Bible Curriculum!





THIS IS A SAMPLE
The number of pages is limited.

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