

Group

Teacher Guide

GRADES 5 & 6

Spring



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Grades 5&6

Teacher Guide • Spring
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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

Learner-to-learner interaction enhances learning and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential

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

Applicable

The aim of Christian education is to equip learners to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Learner-based

Learners understand and retain more when the learning process takes into consideration how they learn best.

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 5 & 6, Spring

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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 6 with the week of Easter.



Welcome to the Adventure!

Whether you're a veteran or a novice teacher, fifth- and sixth-graders are full of surprises! You just can't predict whether they're going to be in their child mode or their adult mode. They've been exposed to more temptations and choices than we were at that age, and they're pretty savvy about the world! You have a major role at this significant development stage for these boys and girls as you help them grow in the most important relationship in their lives—their relationship with Jesus Christ.

These preteens need to discover the “why” behind what they are learning and to develop their emerging high-level thinking skills while still having fun. Using these active, hands-on, and participatory activities that involve you and them, learning can become an adventure. Our master teacher, Jesus, used active learning 2,000 years ago, and it still works today!

Preteens crave action, so we can get them on their feet and moving. They enjoy problem solving, so we can encourage them to think, to ponder, and to imagine. And they love to talk, an opportunity we can offer as we allow them to discuss and work together in pairs or small groups. Preteens want to be engaged in all forms of active learning: simulation games, service projects, experiments, construction projects, purposeful games, field trips, and, of course, the most powerful form of active learning of all—real-life experiences.

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

- **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 could 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 students 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 students.** 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 let the planned curriculum hinder ministry opportunities.** Listen to your students, encourage them, and address their questions.
- **Don't forget—experiential learning is fun and captivating!** 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 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.

"Takin' It Home" Papers These photocopiable pages suggest family activities that will reinforce what your students learned in class.

“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.

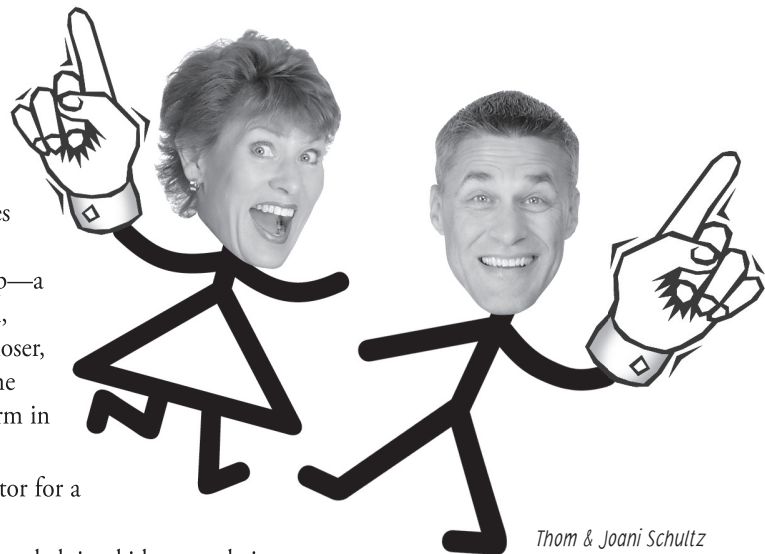
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals, 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

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FIFTH- AND SIXTH-GRADERS

MENTAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Have well-developed critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.
- ◆ Are beginning to question authority figures; prefer to reason things through for themselves.
- ◆ Are interested in how past and present world events affect their lives.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Spend a lot of time with one best friend.
- ◆ Usually prefer to stick to same-sex friendships but may also begin to explore boyfriend-girlfriend relationships.
- ◆ Thrive on organized games and group activities.

EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Frequently get mixed messages about being children or being mature and ready to accept responsibility for choices and actions.
- ◆ Are subject to strong fears about losing parents, being abandoned, being rejected by friends, being victims of violence, or becoming ill.
- ◆ Are strongly influenced by heroes and role models.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Have high energy levels and demand a lot of physical activity.
- ◆ Girls tend to be taller and more physically developed than boys.
- ◆ Boys often find this intimidating and tend to avoid physical contact with girls.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Want everything to be fair.
- ◆ Want to test what they've been taught about God against their own experiences.
- ◆ Are able to make choices about finding God's will and following it.

Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Preteens have heard the story before—perhaps many times. They know that Jesus died and came back to life. But they may not understand the personal significance of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Many students in your class probably have made faith commitments. But a recent survey suggests that pre-adolescents aren't getting a clear message about salvation. Forty-six percent of the Christian preteens surveyed have difficulty accepting salvation as a gift rather than something earned. And a whopping 67 percent of adults have the same difficulty.

Fifth- and sixth-graders are advanced enough to understand intellectually the tremendous sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. But they'll never experience salvation until they can accept the pain of Jesus' sacrifice—and the joy of his resurrection—as a gift given to them. These six lessons will help students discover the life-changing gift Jesus gave on the cross.

Six Lessons on Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	God will help us handle our fears.	13	John 14:1-4, 25-27
2	Jesus deserves our praise and worship.	23	Luke 19:28-40
3	Jesus forgives us.	33	Luke 22:14-20
4	God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong.	43	John 19:6-11
5	We live for Jesus because he died for us.	51	Luke 23:33-49
6	Because Jesus defeated death, we can put our faith in him.	63	Luke 24:1-12

The Signal



During these lessons, your signal to get students back together during activities will be sounding the *hand clacker* found in the Learning Lab. In response to the *hand clacker* sound, students should stop what they're doing and focus on you for their next instructions.

Tell students about this signal before each lesson begins. Explain that it's important to respond to the signal quickly so the class can do as many fun activities as possible.

The Time Stuffer

This module's Time Stuffer is based on "Fascinating Facts on Jesus' Death and Resurrection" (p. 11). Have kids sort fact from fiction in their knowledge of Jesus' death and resurrection—and guide them toward faith in Christ—by having them answer questions on the topic.

Cut up the "Fascinating Facts on Jesus' Death and Resurrection" handout into slips of paper with individual questions, and place the slips in a box. During their free moments, kids can choose slips from the box, answer questions, and then look up the Scripture verses in their own Bibles to find out if they answered correctly. Students should return the slips to the box when they have finished so others might have a chance to select and answer those questions, too.

Since students will work alone for this activity, there won't be any pressure to "get the right answer." Instead, students will enrich their knowledge of the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection by searching the Scriptures.

Remembering the Bible



Every lesson in each module focuses on a key Bible verse that ties in to the lesson's Bible Point. In addition, each lesson points to a related activity in the *Hands-On Bible* to enhance 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, working a *Hands-On Bible* experience into each lesson is another great way for them to remember what they've learned long after class has ended.

Fascinating Facts on Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Photocopy and cut apart these questions. Place slips in a box.

Who tried to get out of his responsibility in Jesus' death by washing his hands? (Matthew 27:24)

What was Jesus' greeting when he first saw his disciples after his resurrection? (John 20:19-20)

What promise did Jesus give his followers before leaving for heaven? (Matthew 28:20b)

What happened to two of Jesus' followers while they were traveling? (Luke 24:13-32)

Why did the soldiers break the legs of the two thieves but not Jesus' legs? (John 19:31-37)

How did the disciples feel when Jesus finally left them to go to heaven? (Luke 24:50-53)

What happened in the whole country for a time before Jesus died? (Matthew 27:45)

Who received a special invitation to meet Jesus after the Resurrection? (Mark 16:1-7)

What task did Jesus give his followers before he left for heaven? (Matthew 28:19)

What did the army officer and soldiers say after Jesus died? (Matthew 27:54)

Who brought 75 pounds of spices to prepare Jesus for burial? (John 19:39-40)

How many people saw Jesus after his resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:3-6)

Did Thomas touch Jesus' wounds in his hands and feet? (John 20:24-28)

What were the disciples doing just after Jesus' resurrection? (John 20:19)

What is so important about Jesus' resurrection? (1 Corinthians 15:17-19)

What happened to the soldiers guarding Jesus' tomb? (Matthew 28:2-4)

What was Peter's big mistake the night of Jesus' trial? (Luke 22:54-62)

Who did the crowd ask to be freed instead of Jesus? (Matthew 27:21)

Did Jesus have a real body after his resurrection? (Luke 24:38-42)

Who first discovered Jesus' resurrection? (Matthew 28:1-7)

Who buried Jesus? (Matthew 27:57-60)



Bible Point

God will help us handle our fears.

Bible Verse

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline”
(2 Timothy 1:7).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Students will

- articulate their fears,
- explore God’s protection and power, and
- be inspired and reminded to allow God to handle their fears.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Facing Fears

**John 14:1-4,
25-27**



This passage begins right after several significant things had happened (John 13:21-38). Jesus and his disciples were eating the Passover meal, and Jesus had revealed that Judas was going to betray him. Following that, Jesus talked about going where the disciples couldn’t follow, and Peter declared that he would lay down his life for Jesus. Then Jesus revealed that Peter would deny him three times before the morning.

No doubt these revelations cast Jesus’ disciples into some turmoil and fear. They had devoted three years of their lives to following him, and now he was talking about betrayal, denial, and leaving them. Jesus’ comforting words that followed must have been welcome indeed!

The first part of Jesus’ comfort was a promise of a permanent dwelling place with God, which would be provided for them at his return. The second part came through his promise of the coming Holy Spirit, whom Jesus called the Advocate—one called alongside, an encourager and guide.

John 14:27 promises something that no one other than God can promise: peace. His peace. Many rulers, politicians, and everyday people are striving for peace today, but few experience any real success. The peace Jesus promises is the peace that comes through a personal relationship with God, and it is based on the confidence we can have that *he* is in control.

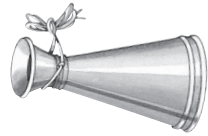





Prayer

- Read Isaiah 26:3.
- To what extent do you experience God’s peace in your life?
- Pray: Lord, help me and my students experience the peace of Jesus in our lives 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 “Takin’ It Home” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your students.
- Pray for your students and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Students Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Attention Grabber	What Are You Afraid Of? —Shout their fears into the <i>mini megaphone</i> .	Bible	
Bible Exploration & Application	The Walk of Death —Act as moving targets while shielded by a bedsheet, and then compare the experience to Psalm 115:9-11 and Psalm 23.	Bibles, masking tape, bedsheet	
	Passing Through —Try to fit through a <i>plastic lei</i> as a group before studying Jude 1:24-25.	Bible	
	Overcomers —Listen to stories of others who trusted God, and then explore John 14:1-4, 25-27.	Bibles, CD player, index cards, pencils	
Closing 	Casting Your Fears —Create reminders of God’s help and faithfulness, and toss their fears away.	Fine-tipped permanent markers, scissors, masking tape, large garbage can	

Welcome

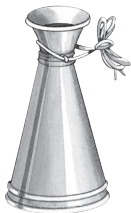


As kids arrive, teach them the signal for the quarter. Tell kids that whenever you sound the *hand clacker*, they’re to stop what they’re doing and look at you without talking. Explain that when you have everyone’s attention, you’ll continue the lesson.

Attention Grabber

■ *What Are You Afraid Of?*

SUPPLIES: Bible



Lead kids to an area where they are as far away as possible from other classes. Have kids form a circle. Say: **Today we're going to talk about fear. Some fear can be very positive. For example, it's a good thing that most of us are afraid of jumping off very high places. This kind of fear protects us from getting hurt. But most fear isn't very helpful. It prevents us from doing what we should. For example, fear of being rejected or made fun of may prevent us from telling others about Jesus.**

We are each going to share one of the negative and paralyzing fears we have by yelling it into the *mini megaphone*. I'll begin; then we'll pass the megaphone around the circle. Try to concentrate on the negative fears that make life difficult for you. For example, you could say something like, "I'm afraid my parents may die," "I'm afraid of getting beat up at school," or "I'm afraid of seeing a snake while I'm hiking."

Begin the activity by yelling one of your fears into the *mini megaphone*. Then pass the megaphone to the person on your right. If time permits, let the *mini megaphone* go around the circle a few times. After everyone has had at least one turn, ask:

- **How did it feel to yell your fear into the megaphone? Explain.** (I liked being able to yell; it was kind of fun.)
- **How do you usually react when you feel afraid?** (I don't say anything at all and just freeze up; I get nervous and talk faster.)
- **How is yelling into the *mini megaphone* similar to or different from the way we handle our fears?** (It's similar because when I'm afraid of something, it's no secret; it's different because I don't like to tell my fears.)
- **What are some good ways to handle fear? bad ways?** (Good ways are asking for help with the problem or taking a deep breath and doing it anyway; bad ways are running away or acting too quickly.)

Have a volunteer read today's key Bible verse, **2 Timothy 1:7**: ► **"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."**

Say: **Everyone faces fear, and we all react to fear in different ways. But that's not how God created us. God has designed us to be confident, loving, and unafraid. Regardless of the emotions we experience when we're afraid, ► *God will help us handle our fears.* We can face them with the power, love, and self-discipline he gives us to handle them.**

Return the *mini megaphone* to the Learning Lab.

teacher tips

If you are unable to get away from other classes, let the other teachers know that your group will be a little noisy for the first few minutes of your meeting.

teacher tips

It's important to repeat the Bible Point just as it's written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.

◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

◀ **BIBLE POINT**




teacher tips

Understanding the emotional development of your fifth- and sixth-graders will go a long way in helping you encourage students to face their fears. Preteens frequently get mixed messages about being children or being mature and ready to accept responsibility for choices and actions. They may be strongly influenced by heroes and role models. And they are subject to strong fears about losing parents, being abandoned, being rejected by friends, being victims of violence, or becoming ill.

HANDS-ON BIBLE

Set out a box of cornstarch, some water, a bowl, and measuring spoons.

Say: **The world we live in is a scary place, but God wants to help us handle our fears. He tells us not to be worried about anything. Let's learn more about how we can do that. Please turn to Philippians 4 in your *Hands-On Bible*, and do the "Don't Worry, Be Happy" activity using the supplies I've provided.**

When students have cleaned off the goo, ask:

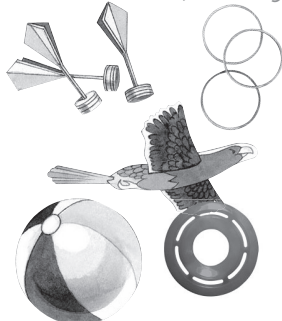
- **How can prayer help you deal with your fears?** (Whenever I get scared, I can call out for help; when I pray, I get peaceful inside.)
- **What is one area of your life you will trust God to handle this week?** (My worries about school; my fear that I'll get beat up in the park if I'm not careful.)



Bible Exploration & Application

■ The Walk of Death

SUPPLIES: Bibles, masking tape, bedsheet



Before the lesson, create a pathway by taping two lines across the middle of the room floor about 3 feet apart. Inflate the *jumbo beach ball*.

Have the kids form groups of four, and have all the groups line up along a wall that is perpendicular to the pathway. Ask one group to be Walkers. The rest of the groups will be the Launchers. Distribute the following gizmos to the Launchers: the *flying flipper*, *sticky darts*, *foam gliders*, *neon bracelets*, and the *jumbo beach ball*.

Say: **Walkers, you are going to walk the length of this path while the Launchers throw or shoot all the items they've been given at you.**

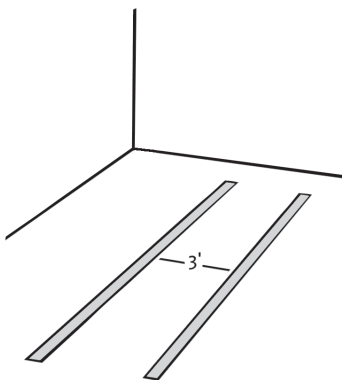
Launchers, you must stay back by the wall. You may launch only the gizmos you've been given, and you need to be careful to avoid hitting other Launchers. You can throw or shoot your items at the Walkers as hard as you want, but you must not throw anything until I say "Go," and you must stop launching things when I say "Stop."

Have the Walkers stand inside the pathway you made.

Ask: • **Launchers, are you ready? Walkers, are you ready?** (Yes; sure; ready!)

• **Walkers, how do you feel right now?** (Scared; nervous; I'm wondering what's going to happen next.)

Hand a Bible to one of the Walkers, and have him or her read **Psalm 115:9-11** aloud to the group. Say: **Whenever we face something that makes us afraid, we need to remember that God is our shield.** Give the Walkers a bedsheet, and help them hold it between themselves and the Launchers. Instruct the Walkers to stay behind the bedsheet at all times. **Launchers, go! Walkers, let's stay behind this sheet and walk the length of this path.**



After the Walkers have traveled the length of the path, say: **Launchers, stop!** Have everyone help pick up the gizmos. Rotate groups so that each group has an opportunity to be Walkers. Then have groups discuss these questions:



• **What was it like to be a Walker? a Launcher?** (It was scary; it was a blast.)

• **Did any of you feel a little afraid even though you had the sheet for protection? Why?** (Yes, because I knew people were throwing things at us on the other side; no, I figured the stuff was lightweight and wouldn't hurt us.)

• **How are the gizmos that were launched like things that make us fearful?** (Sometimes I feel like all my fears are

hitting me at once; they can be overwhelming.)

• **How is the sheet like God's protection?** (It covers us; it keeps us from getting hurt; it keeps us from seeing what's coming against us.)

• **How does knowing Jesus and growing in your relationship with Jesus help you feel protected from fears?** (Jesus promises to be with us no matter what; Jesus helps us work through the fears.)

Say: **Jesus is much stronger than the bedsheet in our activity, and he is always with us. We never have to be afraid. When we face frightening circumstances, Jesus will protect us and help us through. As we remember the one most important thing in life—growing in our relationship with Jesus—we can grow in our trust that he is taking care of us.**

Have a volunteer read **Psalm 23** to the class.

Ask: • **What are some fears you're facing right now?** (I'm not doing well in math class; my parents are getting a divorce.)

• **In what ways does the psalmist assure us that we do not have to face our fears alone?** (He reminds us that Jesus is close by; he tells us that Jesus will protect us with his rod and staff.)

• **How can this psalm help you the next time you're afraid?** (I can remember that Jesus is watching out for me; I can rest even when I'm facing something scary, such as going to the dentist.)

• **How can knowing that Jesus is close beside you help you grow in your relationship with him?** (It makes me trust him more; I feel more thankful to him.)

Say: **Just as the bedsheet protected you during the game, Jesus will protect you from your very real fears. We are not alone. God is always nearby, and he will help us handle our fears.**



Fifth- and sixth-graders face very real fears. In addition to the normal concerns of being accepted and handling peer pressure, kids today are faced with growing threats of violence and unprecedented non-Christian influence. Assure them that God considers them important and will help them handle their fears.



■ Passing Through

SUPPLIES: Bible



Have kids form four groups, and give each group a *plastic lei*. Have groups discuss these questions:

- **Share one fear you have that you haven't faced or dealt with.** (I have a fear of drowning; I am afraid of talking in front of a large crowd.)

- **How does it make you feel to think about that fear?** (I feel bad; I feel anxious; I get jumpy.)

- **What would it take for you to face that fear?** (I would have to just go through it; I would have someone with me to encourage me not to be afraid.)

Say: **The *plastic lei* symbolizes a fear that you haven't been able to face. I want you to work through the fear symbolically by passing through the center of the lei. The catch is that all the members of your group must go through the lei at the same time.**

After kids try to solve the problem for a few seconds, read aloud **Jude 1:24-25**. Say: **Nothing is impossible with God, and ► God will help us handle our fears.**

Ask one group for its lei, and break it apart. Say: ► **God will help you handle your fears.**

After you've broken the lei, direct kids to unravel the plastic until it is long enough for each group to fit through. Then have kids tie the two ends back together, and let each group pass through the enlarged lei together.

Have groups discuss these questions:

- **Has God ever helped you through something in an unexpected way? Explain.** (Yes, I was afraid to try water-skiing, but I did it anyway and had fun; yes, once I got picked on by some older kids, but I managed to get away.)

- **What part does trust in God play in facing our fears?** (We should trust God with our fears; trusting that the Lord is near can help us not to feel so afraid.)

Say: **Sometimes we feel fear because we don't see a way through our circumstances. But just as I showed your group a way through a *plastic lei*, God will always show you a way through your fears. You don't have to be afraid. You can trust that ► God will help you handle your fears.**

Have a volunteer look up and read today's key Bible verse, **2 Timothy 1:7**: ► **"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."** Encourage your students to keep this verse close by and remind themselves of it whenever they struggle with fear.

Gather the used *plastic leis*, and store them in the Learning Lab box for use later in the lesson.

teacher tips

Make sure each group has at least four people in it. If you have fewer than 16 people, have kids form fewer than four groups.

BIBLE POINT ►

teacher tips

You do not necessarily have to break the *plastic lei* into two different pieces. You just need to make sure that the string that holds it together is broken. If a lei doesn't unravel enough for a group to fit through it, simply break the lei in another place, and have kids unravel the lei again.

BIBLE VERSE ►

Overcomers

SUPPLIES: Bibles, CD player, index cards, pencils



Say: **Some of the fears we face are small, and some of the fears are huge. We're going to listen to the stories of a few people your age who had to face small and large fears.**

Play the "Overcomers" segment (track 14) from the CD. Then ask:

- **Which of the kids did you identify with most? Explain.** (The girl who was afraid of the balance beam, because I fell once, too; the kid whose hamsters died, because I know what it's like to lose a pet.)
- **How were the kids able to face the things that scared them?** (Some of them prayed or asked their parents for help; God helped them.)
- **Have you had an experience similar to theirs? Explain.** (Yes, I once had to go to the ER, and I was afraid of them drawing my blood; no, I've never faced anything as scary as what these kids went through.)

Say: **Let's see what the Bible says about trusting God in frightening situations.**

Have kids form groups of three. Hand out index cards and pencils to each student, and have groups discuss the following questions:

- **Read John 14:1-4. How do these verses apply to fear?** (They talk about what'll happen when we die; they have to do with Jesus' death.)
- **How do we know that we can trust God to help us handle our fears?** (Because God said he would; because it's God's nature to help people.)
- **Read John 14:25-27. How do these verses apply to fear?** (God said he'll send us the Holy Spirit to help us with our fears; God said he'll give us peace.)
- **How can we avoid letting our hearts be troubled?** (By thinking about God; by praying; by accepting God's peace.)
- **Does it make sense to trust God in frightening situations? Explain.** (Yes, because if we don't trust God when we're scared, we don't really trust him; no, because we can't see God, so how do we know he's really there?)

Say: **One of the best remedies for fear is trusting in God's love. God loves you so much that he sent his Son to die for you. God says you don't have to be afraid—and he means it. ► God will help you handle your fears. Difficult times will still come and go, but God will definitely help you get through all of them.**

In their groups, have students each share one fear they are struggling with this week and one specific way they are going to trust Jesus with that fear, such as reading the Bible, praying, or asking another Christian for help. On their index cards, have them write their fear and, below it, today's key Bible verse, **2 Timothy 1:7**: ► **"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline."**

Have students exchange index cards and agree to pray for one another this week regarding their fears. Close the activity in prayer, thanking God for giving us a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline to help us overcome even our worst fears.

Bible Insight

The Gospel of John is unique in that it stresses the father/son relationship between Jesus and God the Father. Much of the Gospel testifies to the fact that Jesus is the Son of God, as evidenced by the many references showing Jesus' recognition of and dependence on his Father.





teacher tips

If you have a class of 20 or more, have each student cut off no more than an 8-inch section of the unraveled lei to ensure that there is enough for everyone.

teacher tips

Encourage students to be careful not to smudge the ink on their pieces of plastic.



BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ Casting Your Fears

SUPPLIES: fine-tipped permanent markers, scissors, masking tape, large garbage can



Direct kids back to the unraveled *plastic lei* from the “Passing Through” activity. Have each student cut off a 12- to 18-inch section of an unraveled lei.

Have a volunteer distribute permanent markers to everyone while you tape a line down the center of the room with masking tape.

Say: **On your piece of plastic, write, “Because God loves me, I can...” Finish the sentence with an action you can take regarding a fear you have. For example, you could write, “Because God loves me, I can stop being afraid of my parents splitting up,” or “I can feel confident that I won’t get beat up after school.”**

After kids write their sentences, have students form two teams and face each other on either side of the tape line, about three feet apart. Say: **When I say “go,” cast your fears onto the other team’s side while trying to keep them from tossing theirs on your side. The object is to get as many fears as possible on the other team’s side before time is up. You’ll have one minute. Ready? Go!**

When time is up, place a garbage can on the center of the line and say: **This time, you’ll have 30 seconds to work together to get all the fears tossed into the trash can. Ready? Go!**

After you call time, ask:

- **How was the way you handled your fears in the beginning similar or not similar to the way you handle fears in real life?** (It was not similar because I can’t just throw fears away like that; it was similar because I don’t like to hold on to my fears.)

- **How did you feel when someone else tried to dump their fears on you?** (I was annoyed; I thought it was funny.)

- **How is that like or unlike how you feel when you try to dump your concerns on your friends?** (It was like it because I feel like I’m practically hitting them with my fears; it was unlike it because I don’t share all my fears at once.)

- **What are your thoughts about being able to “dump” your fears on God?** (I’m glad God will help me with my fears; I’m glad God doesn’t mind when I dump on him.)

- **How do we know that God will help us handle our fears?** (Because God wants to help us with everything; because God promises us peace.)

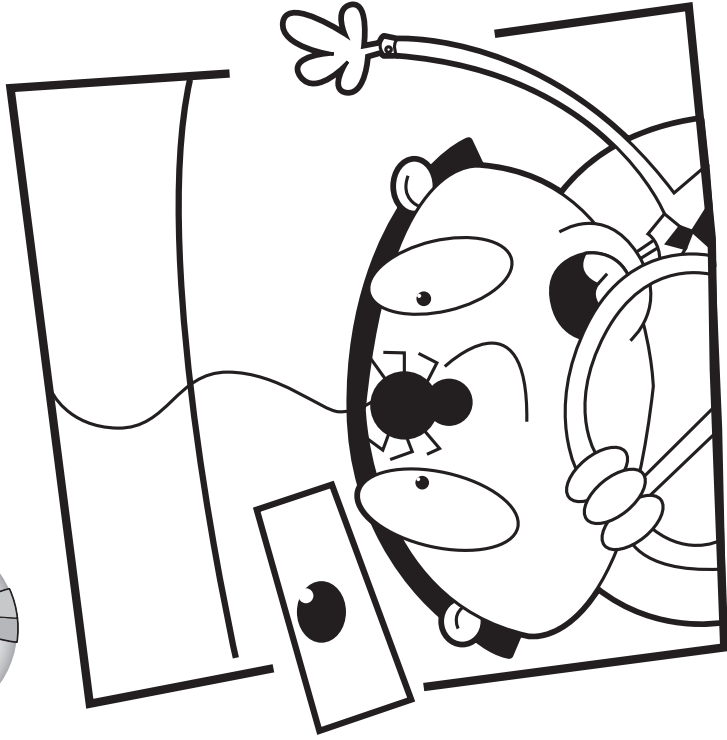
Say: **God is a big God, and no fear is too big for him to handle. If we are willing to cast our fears on God instead of holding on to them ourselves, ► God will help us handle our fears and overcome them.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Takin' It Home" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your kids. Encourage kids and parents to use the handout to spark meaningful discussion on this week's topic.

Facing Fears, Week 1



Something to Think About



We're all afraid of something: the dark... our parents divorcing... monsters in the closet. The list is different for everyone.

For many people, arachnophobia, or fear of spiders, is in the top five. The sight of one slowly moving toward you will send shivers up your spine.

Victor Dorato was driving a pickup truck one morning in 2001 when he noticed a spider crawling up his sleeve. Police didn't say how large the spider was or how fast it was going, but they did report that Dorato swatted at the spider.

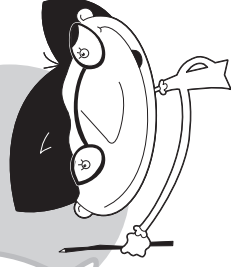
And that's when he lost control of his vehicle. The pickup swerved and rolled over.

Dorato wasn't hurt badly. He was treated for minor injuries at a local hospital and then released. No information was available about the condition of the spider.

Dorato's reaction to the spider endangered his life. A spider bite probably wouldn't have caused any major damage; rolling over in a pickup truck could have killed Dorato and others. Dorato almost died because of his fear of spiders, even though the spider itself was no threat. That's how big his fear was.

God wants to help us handle our fears. How is he helping you handle yours?

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline"
(2 Timothy 1:7).



Discussion Starters



- What are you most afraid of?
- How can God help you face that fear? prepare for it?

Family Building

***FOR KIDS ONLY:** Write out the words of Psalm 121:5-8 on an index card. Keep the card in a place where you will see it every day. Use the card to help you commit the verses to memory.

***FOR PARENTS ONLY:** Be honest with your children about your fears. Help them understand that you, just like everyone else, are frail. Then encourage your kids to see that you are trusting in God to protect you and help you face your fears.

***FOR THE FAMILY:** Pray for God's help concerning the fears you discussed. Commit to helping one another through the fears.





Teacher Guide

GRADES 5 & 6

Spring

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 5th- and 6th-graders will learn these important Bible lessons:

JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

John 14:1-4, 25-27

Luke 19:28-40

Luke 22:14-30

John 19:6-11

Luke 23:33-49

* Luke 24:1-12

God will help us handle our fears.

Jesus deserves our praise and worship.

Jesus forgives us.

God is in control even when things seem to be going wrong.

We live for Jesus because he died for us.

Because Jesus defeated death, we can put our faith in him.

THE WORLD GOD MADE

Genesis 1:1-5, 31

Genesis 1:26-30

James 2:1-9

It's a privilege to live in God's amazing world.

God wants us to take care of his world.

God wants us to treat all people with respect.

BECOMING INDEPENDENT

Luke 19:11-27

John 8:31-36; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

1 Timothy 4:7-16

Scriptures to be determined by students.

God can help us accept responsibility.

In Christ we are free from sin and free to serve.

God wants us to lead by example.

We can celebrate our freedom and responsibilities.

* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 6 with the week of Easter.

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!



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