

Group

Teacher Guide

PRE-K & K (ages 5 & 6)

Spring



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Pre-K & K (ages 5&6)

Teacher Guide • Spring
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Group

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.



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Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6, Spring

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* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 8 with Easter Sunday.

Understanding Your 5- and 6-Year-Olds

Physical Development

- Developing fine motor skills.
- Most can use scissors and color within the lines.
- Developing hand-eye coordination; can copy patterns, handle paste or glue, and tie shoes.

Emotional Development

- Proud of their accomplishments.
- Have their feelings hurt easily.
- Beginning to gain self-confidence.

Social Development

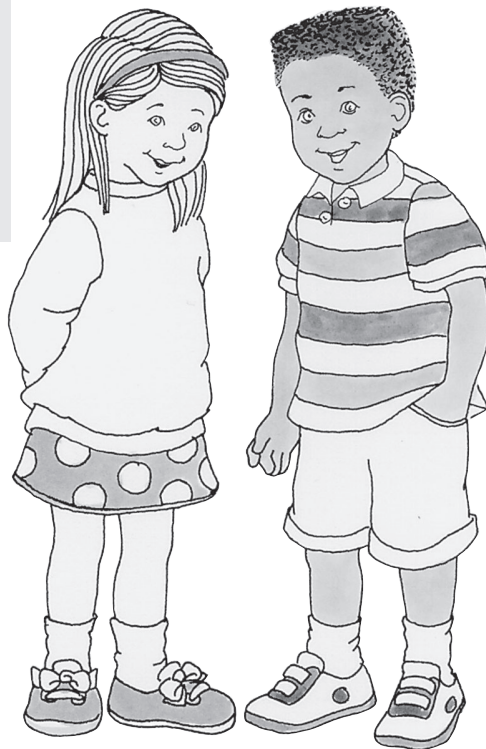
- Learning to share and cooperate.
- Can understand and follow rules.
- Enjoy extensive dramatic play.
- Eager to please teachers and parents.

Mental Development

- Can listen to and create stories.
- Can distinguish between real and pretend.
- Need simple directions—understand one step at a time.

Spiritual Development

- Understand that God made them.
- Trust that God loves them.
- Beginning to develop sense of conscience.



Welcome to the Adventure!

So, you're going to be spending time with 5- and 6-year-olds! These kids have a natural love for God, for you, and for anything that piques their interest. If you've been around them for a while, you know. If you're just starting, you'll find out quickly! Everything is an adventure and fills their minds with wonder. You can be the one who helps them wonder about Jesus. What a blessing for you and for them!

Five- and six-year-olds think very concretely, using what they have experienced, seen, touched, tasted, and smelled. They have been working on mastering their physical movements and love to test their abilities. They wonder about the world that they are discovering. They accept Jesus on a simple basis and want to know who he is and how he works. The love of Jesus will become real to them through the love they experience from you. You will be an example of Jesus that they themselves can touch!

Your children will learn best experiencing new ideas and concepts by touching, tasting, smelling, hearing, and seeing. They will naturally want to ask questions and interact with you, so allow plenty of time for questions. If you encourage them, they will try new things and learn so much. You'll change their lives because you will have opened 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 you and your kids:

- **Do think outside the learning-space box!** Move tables so students can move around freely and work in groups. Use blocks and blankets to create unique spaces.
- **Don't expect them to sit still.** Allow children to move through experiences—touching, manipulating, tasting, smelling, and making noise—all for the glory of God.
- **Do take advantage of teachable moments.** Watch how your children act, and weave what happens into the lesson. Look for ways to bring in tastes, smells, and sounds to your classroom and use them during the lesson.
- **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.** They are anxious to share what they are learning. They will look for you every week.
- **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—

Learning Lab items may include small parts. Not for children under 3 years.

Module Introductions Within each quarter of Hands-On Bible Curriculum, there are three or four 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, taken 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.

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.

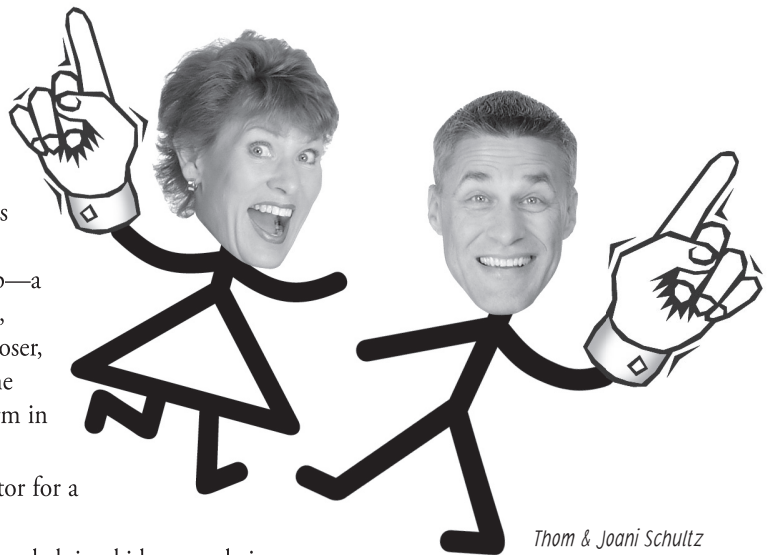
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals,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

God's Calling

Jesus' power over death transformed his disciples and also influenced a new generation of followers. Saul, an influential Pharisee of the first century, persecuted followers of Jesus with what he considered to be a holy zeal. But when a flash of light struck him down on the road to Damascus, Saul found himself blind and at the mercy of the very Christians he'd been persecuting. Through his blindness, Saul's spiritual eyes were opened, and he became a zealous follower of Jesus. His teachings and testimony spread throughout the Mediterranean area, drawing countless numbers to faith in Christ.

The 5- and 6-year-olds in your class love to follow. They'll imitate older siblings, repeat phrases they hear adults use, and parrot lines from favorite books. What better time to teach them to follow the most wonderful leader of all—God! Use the three lessons in this module to help children realize the joy that comes to those of us who choose to follow Jesus.

Three Lessons on God's Calling

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	The Bible Basis
1	God calls us to follow him.	13	Acts 9:1-9
2	God calls us to obey him.	25	Acts 9:10-22
3	God calls us to help others.	39	Acts 9:23-25

Time Stretchers

■ *A Commanding Performance*

Teach children “He’s Alive!” to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.” This song is not on the CD.



SING

**Jesus died to save God’s children,
To save God’s children, save God’s children.
Jesus died to save God’s children,
And now he’s alive!**

**I will choose to follow Jesus,
Follow Jesus, follow Jesus.
I will choose to follow Jesus;
He is alive!**

(Repeat.)

Between verses, call on children to tell ways they can follow Jesus, such as sharing Jesus with others, following what the Bible says, and helping others.

■ *Who’s Calling?*

Form two groups and have them sit on opposite sides of the room. Instruct members of Group 1 to turn around and face the wall. Tap a member of Group 2 on the head, and have him or her say the Bible Point or Bible verse. Then have children in Group 1 turn around and guess who spoke. The child who guesses correctly may choose the next speaker from his or her own group. Continue until several children have had a turn to speak or guess. Explain that Saul heard Jesus’ voice and turned to follow him.

■ *Act It Out!*

Have the children act out Saul’s adventures using puppets or dress-up clothes. Provide a flashlight for the blinding light, a box or laundry basket for Saul’s escape, and a wig or beard for Ananias. Instruct children not to shine the flashlight in anyone’s face or eyes. Remind children that Saul told many people about Jesus.

■ *Listen to the Leader*

Have children stand in a circle with their eyes closed. Call out directions such as “Clap your hands,” “Sing a song,” “Pretend to tap dance,” “Take two steps backward,” “Pat your neighbor on the back,” and “Point to the ceiling.” Tap several children on the head, and allow them to call out fun instructions, too. Then have children open their eyes and tell how it felt to be “blind” and to trust others. Explain that God blinded Saul to teach Saul to follow him.

Story Enhancements

Make Bible stories come alive in your classroom by bringing in Bible costumes, setting out sensory items that fit with the story, or creating exciting bulletin boards. When children learn with their five senses as well as with their hearts and minds, lessons come alive and children remember them. Each week, bring in one or more of the following items to help involve and motivate children in the Bible lessons they'll be learning. The following ideas will help get you started.

■ Lesson 1

- Have the children outline their feet on a light grade of sandpaper and cut out the shape. As children tape the footprints around the room, talk about the sandy road to Damascus and what happened to Saul.
- Turn out the lights and have children use flashlights to illustrate the light flashing around Saul.

■ Lesson 2

- Have children close their eyes and try to identify items by smell. Bring in items such as an orange, a piece of cinnamon-raisin bread, a bottle of perfume, and vanilla extract. Remind children that Saul couldn't see for three days and had to depend on others to take care of him.
- Bring in samples of foods that are similar to what people ate in Bible times. You might include dates, grapes, cheese cubes, and sections of pita bread. Remind children that Saul didn't eat for three days after his experience on the road to Damascus. Explain that after Ananias prayed for Saul, Saul could see again. Then his friends gave him something to eat.



■ Lesson 3

- Bring in a large laundry basket and have children take turns trying to hide themselves within the basket. Explain that after Saul began to tell everybody what he had experienced on the road to Damascus, it made the religious leaders so angry that they wanted to kill him, so Saul was secretly lowered in a large basket through an opening in the city wall so that he could escape and live.
- Bring in books with pictures of ancient walled cities to help children understand what happened to Saul. Point out the great height from which Saul was lowered.
- Listen to the entire story of "Saul's Surprise (entire story)" (track 18) and let the children follow along in the *Bible Big Book: Saul's Surprise*.



Bible Point ▶

God calls us to follow him.

Bible Verse

“I am the resurrection and the life” (John 11:25a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn how Saul changed,
 - understand that God wants us to follow him,
 - tell Pockets how important it is to follow God, and
 - act out ways to follow God.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Saul sees a blinding light.



**Acts
9:1-9**

Saul was a zealous Jew, and he did all he could to oppose the name of Jesus. Saul was traveling to Damascus to arrest Christians when Jesus met him on the road. A light he later described as “brighter than the sun” (Acts 26:13) flashed out of heaven, and Saul dropped to the ground.

When Jesus questioned Saul and told Saul who he was, the truth of all that had happened must have swept through Saul like a flood. In his zeal for God, he had been persecuting those who believed what was true!

Saul of Tarsus was blinded and remained that way as he waited in Damascus for three days. Regarding whether he became Paul after this conversion, the truth is that “Saul” was his Jewish name but “Paul” was the Roman equivalent by which he became better known.










Prayer

- Read 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- How does this passage apply to Saul’s story? to your own story?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for making me a new creation in Christ. Help me to show your love to my students by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout at the end of this lesson to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Butterfly Name Tags” (p. 24), markers, tape or safety pins	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Common Senses —Explore items without seeing them.	Lemons, whole cloves, ice, music box, paper bowls, toy, blindfolds them	
	Option 2: Calling All Voices —Record their voices, and guess who is speaking.	Audio recorder with speakers for playback	
	Option 3: Bright Lights —Make a bright lights drawing.	4x6 index cards, crayons, paper clips	
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Compare a pop-up toy to today’s Bible Story.		
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, CD player, basket or box	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear the account from Acts 9:1-9 of Saul’s experience on the road to Damascus.	Bible, CD player, flashlights	
	Do the Bible Story —Act out ways to show they follow God.		
Closing 	Pockets Follows —Tell Pockets how important it is to follow God.		
	Fun Following —Sing, and then share ways they’ll try to follow God.	CD player	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Butterfly Name Tags” handout (p. 24), markers, tape or safety pins

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- 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 calls us to follow him.**
- Give each child a photocopy of the butterfly name tags. Help children write their names on their name tag and attach them to their clothing. You may wish to cover the name tags with clear adhesive paper so they’ll last for the entire quarter.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



It’s important to say 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.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Why is it important to follow God?” or “Whose voices can you recognize on the phone?”



If a child objects to being blindfolded, have the child simply close his or her eyes for the activity.

Option 1: Common Senses

SUPPLIES: lemons, whole cloves, ice, music box, paper bowls, toy, blindfolds



On a table set out sensory items such as lemons, a bowl of whole cloves, a bowl of ice, Pockets the Kangaroo, and a music box or child’s wind-up toy. Form pairs and blindfold one partner in each pair. Have the sighted children lead their partners in touching, smelling, or listening to the sensory items you’ve set out. Then have partners trade places. Talk about what it’s like to be “blind.” Explain that today children will hear about a man who became blind in order to learn to follow God.



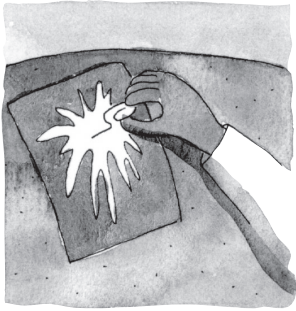
Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you’re done using them so they can be used in future lessons!

Option 2: Calling All Voices

SUPPLIES: audio recording device with speakers for playback

Set out a recorder such as a digital recorder with speakers. Let children record cheerful messages. After several children have had a turn, replay the recordings and have children guess who is speaking. Tell children that in today’s story they’ll hear how a man named Saul heard Jesus’ voice.





■ Option 3: Bright Lights

SUPPLIES: 4x6 index cards, crayons, paper clips

Set out crayons, paper clips, and 4x6 index cards. Show children how to color their index cards with bright colors such as yellow, orange, and red. When children have filled their cards with color, have them scribble heavily over the cards with black crayon. Then have children use straightened paper clips to scrape off the black crayon, revealing the bright colors underneath. Encourage children to draw pictures of bright lights, such as fireworks, the sun, the moon, and the stars. Explain that in today's story they'll hear how a man named Saul was blinded by a bright light from heaven.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

You'll be using this song each week to alert children to start picking up. At first they may need encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will be familiar routine.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: none



Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Gather the children together around a table and say: **In our Bible lesson today we will learn about a man who did some very mean things to the people who followed Jesus. His name was Saul. Whenever Saul heard**

someone talking about God’s Son, he tried to put that person in jail. That’s how much he hated the followers of Jesus. Many people were afraid of Saul. When they saw him, they froze in their tracks, and then popped up and got away as fast as they could. Turn a *jumbo popper* inside out and place it on the table. Hold down the sides, and then let go. (You might want to practice popping the *jumbo poppers* in advance.)

Let the children take turns popping the *jumbo poppers*, and then ask: • **If you had met Saul as you walked down the road, what would you have done?** (I would tell him about Jesus; I’d ask him why he is so mean; I would’ve popped up and run the other way.)

• **What did you like about popping the *jumbo poppers*?** (They popped really high; they made me jump because they bounced so quickly.)

Say: **God did something amazing that caused Saul to suddenly change direction and change from the bad things he was doing and go God’s way instead. Let’s learn how ►God calls us to follow him, too.**

Return the *jumbo poppers* to the Learning Lab.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *footprint stamp* inside one of them. Bookmark **Acts 9:1-9** in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Now it’s time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today’s Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your surprise card until**

the song is over.

Lead the children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



Choose a Bible you’ll use for this section of the lesson each week. A children’s Bible such as the *Hands-On Bible*® in the New Living Translation or an easy-to-understand translation works best. Some of the children in your class may be reading. If children can understand the words in the Bible, they’ll have more interest in reading it—and they’ll learn more from it.



SING

**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the footprints stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible person for today.**

Identify the Bible person, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible person to bring you the Bible. Help the Bible person open the Bible to the marked place and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible person sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible person today. Each week, we’ll have only one special Bible person, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that ►God calls us to follow him.**



Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to teach us to follow him. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, teach me to follow you."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **Dear God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today to follow you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player, flashlights



Have children sit in a circle. Point to the Bible and say: **Our Bible story comes from the book of Acts in the Bible. Today we'll learn about Saul, a man who didn't like Jesus' followers. But God got Saul's attention in an amazing way.** Distribute two or three flashlights around the circle. **When you hear Saul's name in the story, flash your flashlight three times. Then pass it to the person next to you. If you don't have a flashlight, clap your hands when you hear Saul's name.**

Bring out the *Bible Big Book: Saul's Surprise*. Open the book to page 1, and turn the page when you hear the chime on the CD. Dim the lights a little, and play "Blinding Light" (track 14) on the CD. Be sure children pass the flashlights around the circle so everyone has a turn.

When the track is over, turn off the CD player, collect the flashlights, and show children the picture on page 1. Say: **Let's look at the pictures of our Bible story and remember what happened to Saul.**

Ask: • **Whom did Saul want to put in prison? Why?** (Jesus' followers because he didn't like them; Christians because he didn't believe that Jesus was really God's Son.)

Turn the page to show children pages 2 and 3.

Ask: • **What happened to Saul?** (God blinded him; Jesus talked to him; God sent a bright light to get his attention.)

• **What did God want Saul to do?** (Follow him; stop being mean to Jesus' followers.)

• **What did Saul do when Jesus spoke to him?** (Obeyed; did what Jesus said to do; went to Damascus.)

This Bible story is featured in the *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Put the *Bible Big Book* away and out of sight. Say: **God called Saul to stop being mean to Jesus' followers, turn his life around, and follow God. ► God calls us to follow him, too. We are following God when we believe in his Son, Jesus. If we are sorry for our sins and we put our trust in Jesus, we will be friends with Jesus forever. Let's learn what we can do to show we're listening to God's call.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Have children scatter around the room and sit down. Say:
God sent a blinding light to get Saul's attention. In this game, you'll see some funny lights while you're following, too! I'll say a little rhyme and then give a pair of *rainbow glasses* to two people. Those children will put on the glasses, follow me around the room, and copy my actions. The rest of you can copy my motions right where you're sitting. Then my Followers will each give the *rainbow glasses* to someone else and they'll become Followers, too. We'll continue until everyone is following! Ready?

Say the rhyme, and then give a pair of glasses to two children.

God calls us to follow him. (*Point to the sky.*)

He's calling me and you! (*Point to yourself and then the children.*)

When we listen to God's call (*cup your hand to your ear*),

This is what we do! (*Motion for the children to follow you.*)

Lead the two children in walking around the room and patting others on the back. When you return to your original spot, say: **When we follow God, we're kind to others.** Then have each Follower give his or her *rainbow glasses* to another child. Repeat the rhyme and have all four children follow you around the room. This list of motions will get you started in showing children ways to follow God.

- Fold hands in prayer (when we follow God, we talk to him in prayer).
- Whisper "Jesus loves you" to others (when we follow God, we tell others about Jesus).
- Give high fives (when we follow God, we encourage others).
- Pull others to a standing position (when we follow God, we help others).
- Hug yourself (when we follow God, we love God).

When everyone is following you, form a circle. Collect the *rainbow glasses*, and put them away and out of sight.

Ask: • **What was the most fun about following the leader?** (Seeing what you would ask us to do next; joining in to do fun things with the others.)

- **What was it like to wear the *rainbow glasses*?** (Weird; fun; silly.)

Say: **When you wore the *rainbow glasses*, you saw things a little differently! And when you followed with the others, you were doing things together. When we follow God, we act differently, and we do things together.**

Ask: • **How do we show we're following God?** (By being kind; by loving God; by helping others; by telling people about Jesus.)

- **Why does God want us to follow him?** (Because he loves us; because he wants to be in heaven with him; to show that we love him.)

Say: ► ***God calls us to follow him.* Following God is a big, important job! Let's see if Pockets has heard about how important it is to follow God. Will you help me call her? Pockets! Pockets!**



Closing

■ Pockets Follows

SUPPLIES: none

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.



- Pockets:** Hi, everyone! I just learned how to play the greatest game in the whole world!
- Teacher:** Let me guess. Was it Checkers?
- Pockets:** Nope.
- Teacher:** Monopoly?
- Pockets:** Not even close!
- Teacher:** Tag?
- Pockets:** No, siree!
- Teacher:** I give up! What game is it?
- Pockets:** Follow the Leader! Do you know that game?
- Teacher:** Oh, of course! It's lots of fun, too. In fact, we've just been playing a different kind of Follow the Leader. Children, can you tell Pockets what we learned in our game? *(Have children tell the different ways they can show others they're following God.)* You see, Pockets, we've been hearing about a man named Saul. He didn't like Jesus' followers. In fact, he wanted to put them all in prison so they'd stop talking about Jesus.
- Pockets:** Wow! He sounds like a very bad man! Can you children tell me what happened to him? *(Have children tell Pockets what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus.)* So Saul, the bad man who didn't like Jesus' followers, turned his life around and followed Jesus? Wow!
- Teacher:** Saul learned that the most important thing we can do is to follow God. That's still true for us today. ► God calls us to follow him, too.
- Pockets:** That gives me an idea for an even greater game! Instead of regular Follow the Leader, I'm going to play Following God! I'll start by helping my mom and singing a Bible song and learning all about Jesus and...
- Teacher:** Sounds like you've got a lot of following to do!
- Pockets:** I'd better get busy! See you next week!

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Fun Following

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: It sounds like Pockets really learned that **God calls us to follow him**. God gives us instructions for how to follow him in the Bible. And this week we have a new Bible verse. It comes from John 11:25a. Jesus said, **“I am the resurrection and the life.”** We follow God as we believe in

Jesus, who died and rose again for our sins. Let’s learn a song to remind us of God’s call during the week. Teach children “God Calls Us” (track 15) to the tune of “Old MacDonald Had a Farm.” As you sing along with the CD, lead children in marching around the room, follow-the-leader style.



BIBLE VERSE



SING

God calls us to follow him
Every single day!
God calls us to follow him;
He’ll lead us all the way.

Follow God!
He loves you, too!
Do just what he says to do.


God calls us to follow him
Every single day!

God calls us to obey him
Every single day!
God calls us to obey him;
He’ll lead us all the way.

Obey God!
He loves you, too!
Do just what he says to do.

God calls us to obey him
Every single day!

Say: Turn to a friend and tell him or her one way you’ll follow God this week. Pause while children share. Then pray: **Dear God, help us to listen to you and follow you. Teach us how important it is to follow when you call us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the “Today I Learned…” handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week’s topic.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Lively Learning: Blind Faith*



Form two teams and have each team line up in pairs at one end of the room. Place a chair opposite each team at the other end of the room. Have partners stand back to back and link elbows. Instruct the “sighted” children—the ones facing forward—to lead their partners across the room to the chairs. Upon reaching the chair, the other child will become “sighted” and must lead the partner back to the start. Continue until every pair has had a turn. Talk about how it feels to trust the “leader.” Explain that we can trust God to lead us through life.

■ *Make to Take: A Heart to Follow*

Collect old maps and atlases, and laminate them by sandwiching them between sheets of clear contact paper. Cut out a 4-inch heart for each child. Distribute the hearts in class, and explain that because Saul chose to follow God’s call, he traveled all over the world telling people about Jesus. Have each child use a hole punch to make a hole in the top of his or her heart and then string a length of yarn through it to make a necklace. Tell children that when we follow God, he may lead us to exciting places.

■ *Treat to Eat: Following Footprint Crackers*

Have children spread cream cheese on graham crackers and then place raisin “footprints” on the cream cheese (or use frosting and chocolate chips). Have children form pairs, point to the raisins, and tell their partners one way they’ll follow God for each raisin. Children may mention things such as praising God with songs, talking to God, thanking God, obeying parents, doing chores cheerfully, and giving generously.



■ *Story Picture: The Road to Damascus*

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out yellow chalk and crayons or markers. Let the children use the chalk to color the bright light then color the rest of the picture. Remind children of how God called Saul to follow him.

Today I learned...

God calls us
to follow him.

Today your child learned that God calls us to follow him. Children heard how Jesus met Saul on the road to Damascus. They talked about ways they can follow God each day.

Verse to Learn

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25a).

Ask Me...

- What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
- What does God call you to do?
- How can our family follow God this week?

Family Fun

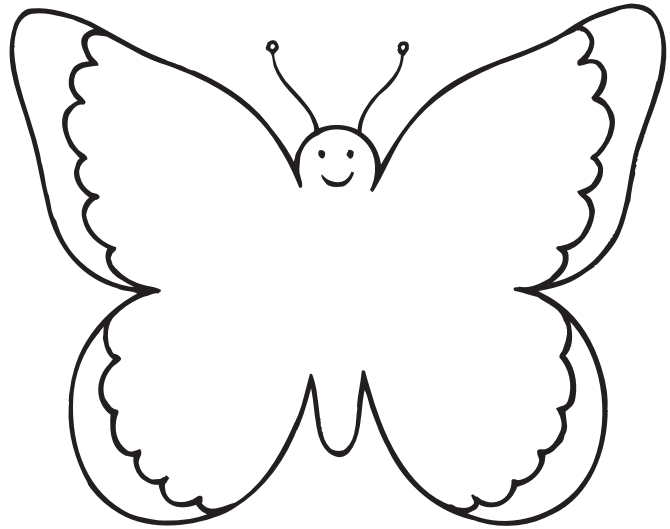
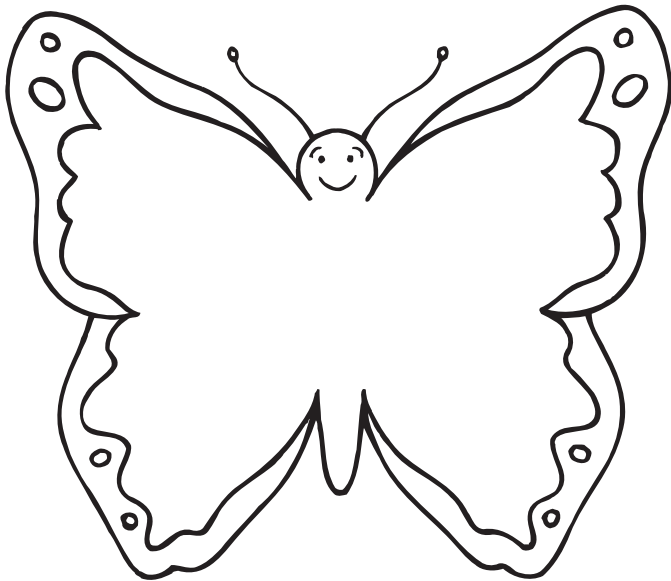
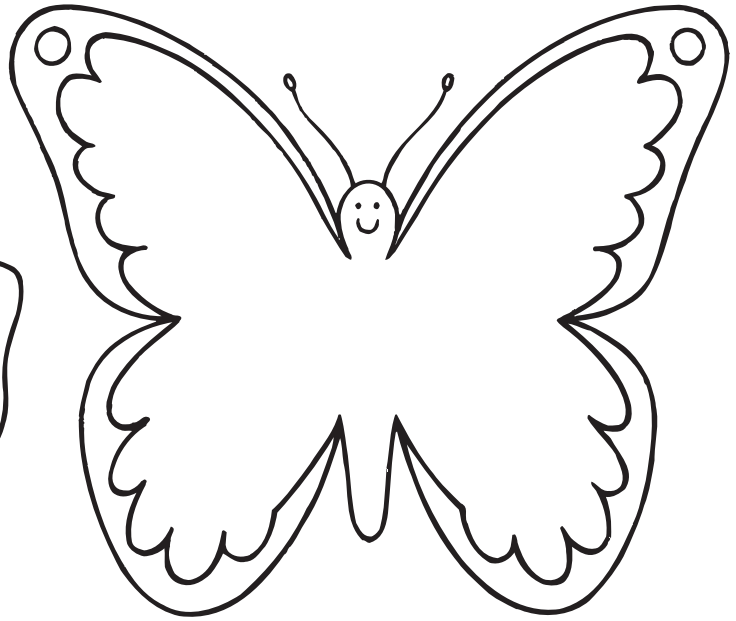
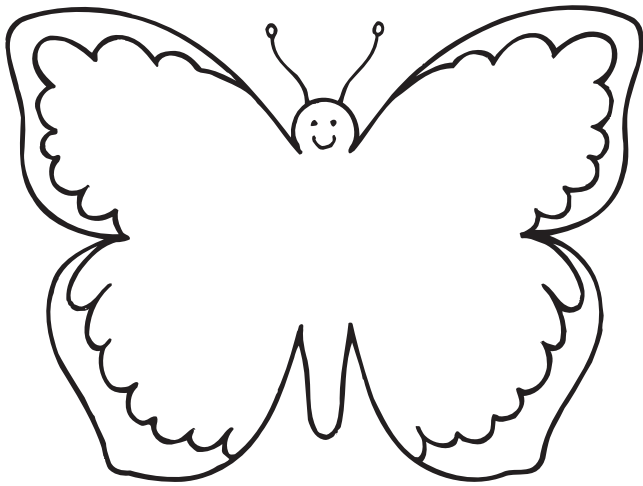
- Play Follow The Leader by doing things that please God such as cheerfully putting toys away, singing a praise song, shouting praises to God or saying a verse together.
- Hide a Bible in your home. Bookmark 1 John 5:3a with the end of a ball of yarn, and then run the yarn all over the house. Give your child the end of the yarn, and have him or her roll the yarn, following it to the Bible. Read the verse and talk about how we can follow God.

The Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9)



Butterfly Name Tags

Photocopy this page and cut out the name tags.





Teacher Guide

PRE-K & K (ages 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 Pre-K & K class will learn these important Bible lessons:

GOD'S CALLING

Acts 9:1-9

God calls us to follow him.

Acts 9:10-22

God calls us to obey him.

Acts 9:23-25

God calls us to help others.

JESUS' LAST DAYS

John 11:1-45

Jesus died and came back to life

Matthew 21:1-11

Jesus died and came back to life.

Matthew 26:17-30, 36-56

Jesus died and came back to life.

Matthew 26:57-75; 27:11-56

Jesus died and came back to life.

* Luke 24:1-12

Jesus died and came back to life.

THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

Acts 9:26-31

God wants us to encourage each other to follow Jesus.

Acts 13:1-5

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Acts 16:11-15

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Acts 18:1-4, 18-28

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

Acts 27:13-44

God wants us to share the good news about Jesus.

* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up Lesson 8 with Easter Sunday.

Also available:

MY FIRST HANDS-ON BIBLE™ FOR PRESCHOOLERS

God's Word comes alive with one-point lessons and interactive activities. It also coordinates with Hands-On Bible Curriculum!



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