

Group

Teacher Guide

PRE-K & K (ages 5 & 6)

Fall



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Pre-K & K (ages 5&6)

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®, Pre-K & K, Ages 5 & 6, Fall

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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

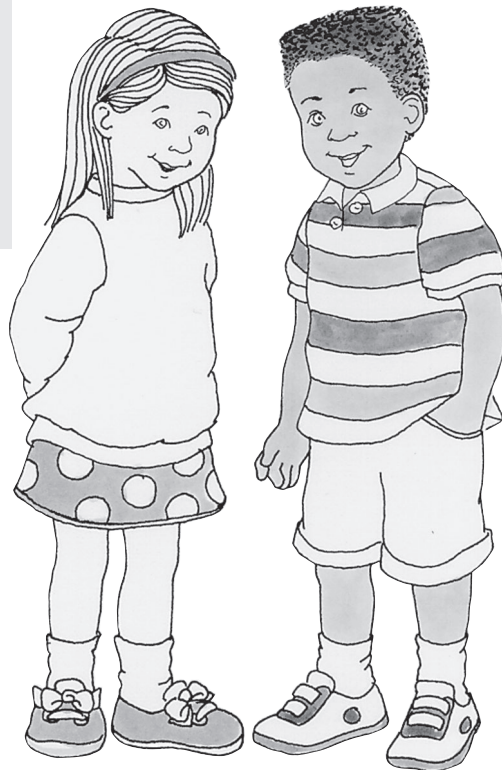
- Learning to share and cooperate.
- Can understand and follow rules.
- Enjoy extensive dramatic play.
- Eager to please teachers and parents.

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 by experiencing new ideas and concepts with their senses—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.

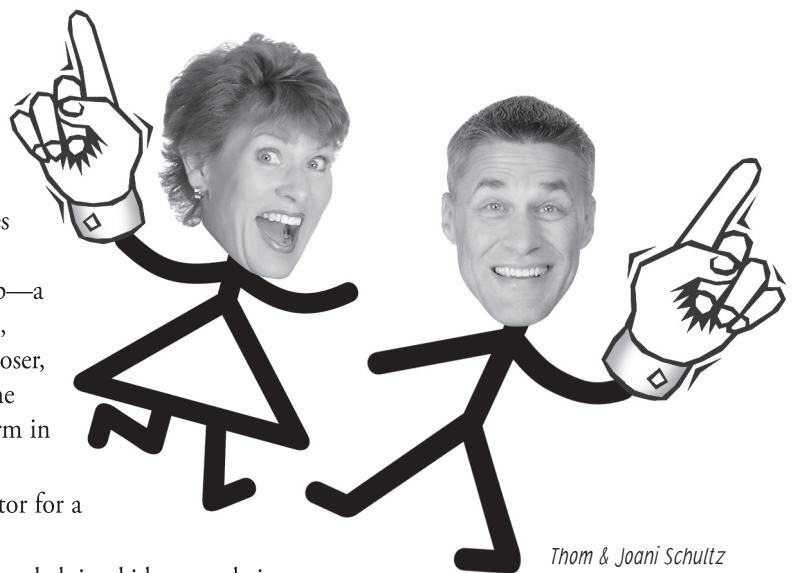
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals,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

Joseph

Joseph encountered many trying and difficult situations in his lifetime. But no matter what Joseph did, God helped him. When his jealous brothers sold him into slavery, God protected him from danger. When he served in Potiphar's house, God helped him swallow his pride and do his best work. When the king of Egypt had an unusual dream, God helped Joseph interpret it. Finally, God helped Joseph with the toughest challenge he'd ever face—forgiving his brothers. With God's help, Joseph forgave his brothers and reunited his family.

The 5- and 6-year-olds in your class know what it's like to encounter new and scary situations. They may have recently started school, and they're worried about making friends. Now that they're "big," they have new jobs to do at home—but they're not quite sure how to get the jobs done. These children used to do things with abandon, but now they're more cautious about their performance. They'll often cry out, "I can't!" because they're afraid of failing. Through these five lessons, your 5- and 6-year-olds will be comforted to learn that God helps them just as he helped Joseph.

Five Lessons on Joseph

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	God helps us get along.	11	Genesis 37:1-36
2	God helps us do our best.	27	Genesis 39:1-6
3	God helps us in hard times.	41	Genesis 39:7-23
4	God helps us help others.	55	Genesis 40:1–41:57
5	God helps us forgive each other.	69	Genesis 42:1–46:34

Time Stretchers

■ *God Helps Me Sing*

Lead children in singing by making up a new song to the tune of "God Is So Good." Start out singing, "God helps me..." and let children complete the line with words like "pray," "sing," "grow," or "learn." Keep singing until children can't think of any more words.

Your song may go something like this:



SING

**God helps me grow.
God helps me grow.
God helps me grow.
He's so good to me.**

■ *Helping Steps*

Have children line up along one wall. Stand near the opposite wall. Say: **I'm going to name some things that God may have helped you do. If I say something God has helped you do, you may take one giant step forward. We'll see who can reach me first.**

Read the following list, pausing after you read each item to let children take their steps.

- You made your bed.
- You listened well.
- You were brave when you were scared.
- You obeyed your parents.
- You helped a friend.

■ *Prayer for Help*

Have children do the motions in parentheses with you as you lead them in this finger play:

When I fight with friends (*hold up fists*),
I pray to God (*fold hands*),
And God helps us get along. (*Hug self.*)

When I do a job (*pretend to hammer a nail*),
I pray to God (*fold hands*),
And God helps me do my best. (*Clap hands and spin around once.*)

When I am afraid (*tremble*),
I pray to God (*fold hands*),
And God helps me to be brave. (*Place hands on hips and push chest out.*)

When my friend is weak (*pretend to pick up an object that's too heavy*),
I pray to God (*fold hands*),
And God helps me help my friend. (*Turn to a child near you, and pretend to pick up the heavy object together.*)

When I get so mad (*make an angry face*),
I pray to God (*fold hands*),
And God helps me to forgive. (*Hold arms outstretched.*)



Bible Point

God helps us get along.

Bible Verse

“He [God] is our help and our shield” (Psalm 33:20b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn with Pockets the Kangaroo to get along with others,
 - hear a story about how Joseph's brothers threw him in a pit, and
 - ask God to help them get along with others.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Joseph's brothers get angry at him.

**Genesis
37:1-36**



Many have heard the story of the coat of many colors. But not all remember the trouble that coat caused. It's interesting that Rebekah's favoritism toward Jacob ravaged her family, the same way that Jacob's display of favoritism toward his son Joseph had equally serious consequences. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph had been born to him in his old age and he was borne by Rachel, Jacob's most-loved wife. Joseph's "bad report" of his brothers only made things worse, fueling Jacob's preference for Joseph and the boy's brothers' negative feelings toward him. The richly ornamented robe further intensified the brothers' feelings. They hated Joseph because he was so clearly their father's favorite.

This robe was designed to stand out from the work clothes the other brothers wore, and it likely relieved Joseph from doing unpleasant tasks that could have soiled it.

The brothers had a chance to rid themselves of Joseph and planned to kill him. But Reuben, for whatever reason, put Joseph in a cistern (probably a dry well) in the desert and planned to rescue him later. The other brothers did what the eldest brother suggested, as younger brothers would be expected to do.

Genesis 37:29 indicates that Reuben was not present when the traders came along. Judah suddenly suggested that the brothers spare Joseph's life. We don't know if this suggestion was prompted by pangs of guilt, the appeal of money, or a desire to punish Joseph even more severely by making a slave of him. Whatever the motive, the decision was made, and Joseph was gone before Reuben returned.






Prayer

- Read Colossians 3:13.
- How has the Lord forgiven you in the past?
- Pray: Dear Lord God, thank you for your forgiveness. Please show me now whom I need to forgive. Help the children in my class understand the depths of your forgiveness for them.

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.	"Heart Name Tags" (p. 23), markers, pins or tape	
Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Hole in One —Try to toss a <i>glow ball</i> into a hole, and learn about a boy who was thrown into a deep hole.	Buckets, boxes, or trash cans	
	Option 2: At Home —Pretend to be members of a family.	Play dishes, toys, other housekeeping items	
	Option 3: In the Pits —Make a large pit with blocks.	Blocks	
	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 —Meet Pockets the Kangaroo, and help her solve a problem.		
	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 —Listen to a story from Genesis 37:1-36, and learn how Joseph's brothers threw him into a pit.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Experiment with special marbles that stick together, and talk about God's desire for people to stick together.	Shoe box	
Closing 	My Baby Sis —Help teach Pockets not to be jealous of her baby sister.	2 small, gift-wrapped boxes	
	God Will Help Us —Pray, and sing a song asking God to help them get along.	CD player	

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

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: "Heart Name Tags" (p. 23), markers, pins or tape

- 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 helps us get along.**
- Give each child a photocopy of a heart name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags and pin or tape them to their clothing. You may want 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.



BIBLE POINT

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 to direct their conversation toward today's lesson. Ask questions such as "How would you feel if you had a special coat?" or "How can you share your supplies with your friends?"

■ Option 1: Hole in One

SUPPLIES: buckets, boxes, or trash cans



Set out several buckets, empty trash cans, or boxes. Have children stand 5 to 10 feet from the containers and take turns tossing the *glow ball* into them. Tell children that today they'll learn about a boy named Joseph who was thrown into a deep hole. If children have trouble sharing the ball, remind them that ► God helps us get along.

■ Option 2: At Home

SUPPLIES: play dishes, toys, other housekeeping items

Set up a housekeeping center with toys, play dishes, and other household items. If your classroom has a housekeeping center, set up this activity in that area.

Have children pretend they're in a family. Encourage them to take turns playing the different roles of parent, grandparent, baby, or older sibling. If children need help getting started, suggest that they pretend about different times of day, such as morning, after school, dinnertime, or bedtime. As they play house, encourage children to work at getting along. Remind them that ► God helps us get along.



The Lesson at a Glance chart gives you a quick overview of the lesson and the supplies you'll need for each activity. Simplify your preparation by choosing which Let's Get Started and For Extra Time activities you'll use. Then gather only the supplies you'll need for those activities and for the main body of the lesson.



BIBLE POINT



BIBLE POINT



BIBLE POINT

Option 3: In the Pits

SUPPLIES: blocks

Explain to children that they'll be hearing a story about a boy who was thrown into a deep hole called a pit. Have children use blocks to build pits around themselves. Invite one child to sit on the floor while other children pile the blocks around him or her.

If you have enough blocks to build several pits, invite children to work in pairs. Assign one partner to be the Builder and the other partner to be the Sitter. Then have them switch roles. As children work at sharing blocks and taking turns sitting in the pits, remind them that **► *God helps us get along.***

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to 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 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 a little encouragement. But after a few weeks, picking up and singing along will become a familiar routine.

If you want to include the names of all the children in the 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.

teacher tips

Singing helps children make a smooth transition to the next activity. Shortly before you start singing, tell children that it's almost time to clean up. If you're uncomfortable with singing, use the CD or ask a volunteer to help you. Children may just listen to the song at first but will soon catch on and sing along.



SING

**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.)

teacher tips

You'll be amazed to discover how much your children have learned as they share the lesson with Pockets. Even children who are shy around adults will open up to Pockets. Children will expect Pockets' regular visits and will be eager to set her straight.

Bible Story Time

Setting the Stage



SUPPLIES: none

Tell children you'll clap a little rhythm to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, children are to stop what they're doing, copy the rhythm you

clapped, and focus on you. Plan to do a couple of clapping rhythms each time so children will have to listen carefully in order to copy what you clapped. Practice this signal a few times. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Have children sit in a circle. Have Pockets the Kangaroo ready nearby, but make sure the children can't see her. Ask the children to tell you about the Let's Get Started activities they chose. Say: **I was watching as you played and worked together. I saw lots of people sharing and getting along. Today we're going to talk about ways we can get along even better, and we'll learn that God helps us get along.**

I've asked a special friend to come visit us today, and we might need to teach her how to get along. She's a little bouncy, but I've asked her to be on her best behavior.

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets out of the children's reach but not out of sight.



Meet Pockets

Pockets: *(Jumping up and down several times)* Ooh! I am so mad!

Teacher: Pockets, is that any way to greet your new friends? You promised to be on your best behavior, remember?

Pockets: Oh, I know. I'm sorry. But I'm so mad! *(Jumps up and down again.)*

Teacher: Well, why don't you say "hello" and introduce yourself; then you can tell me what's wrong.

Pockets: Hello. My name is Pockets, and I'm a kangaroo. *(Jumps once.)* I heard that you were learning about the Bible in this class, so I thought I'd bounce by. *(Jumps again.)* I don't know very much about the Bible, but I'd like to learn. Will you help me? *(Pockets waits for children to respond, and then jumps up and down excitedly.)* They said they'd help me! They said they'd help me!

Teacher: That's great, Pockets. I thought they might. Now, do you want to tell me what you were so mad about?

Pockets: *(Jumping up and down angrily again)* It makes me so mad! My sister gets everything, and I don't get anything!

Teacher: What happened, Pockets?

Pockets: Well, you know that new baby my parents bought at the hospital? Well, last night...

Teacher: Wait a minute, Pockets. Your parents didn't buy the baby at the hospital; they just went there to have the baby.

Pockets: *(Jumping up and down)* You didn't let me finish! Last night my mommy held the baby all the time and wouldn't even hold me.

Teacher: She didn't hold you at all?

Pockets: Well, a little. But she held the baby more.

Teacher: Babies need a lot of help from mommies, Pockets.

Pockets: Yeah...but then those people came over and brought her presents. And I didn't get anything!

Teacher: How'd you feel about that?

Pockets: Awful!

Teacher: Well, Pockets, I'm glad you came today, because we're going to learn how God helps us get along. And our story today tells about how some brothers in the Bible felt when their little brother got a present.

Pockets: They should've been mad!

Teacher: Oh, really? Well, you stick around, and we'll find out what they did.

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teacher tips

Choose a Bible you'll use for this section of the lesson each week. A children's Bible, such as the *My First Hands-On Bible™*, works best. Some children in your class may be learning to read. If children can understand the words in the Bible, they'll have more interest in reading it—and they'll learn more from it.



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

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



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 slips in half, and then stamp the *camel stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Genesis 37:1-36** in the Bible you'll be using. Return the *camel stamp* and the *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I'll choose someone to be the Bible person. The Bible person will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Each of you will get a chance to be the Bible person. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's learn our Bible song. As we sing, I'll pass out surprise cards. Don't look inside your surprise card until the song is over.**

Lead 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.



**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 3x.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the camel 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.

Ask: • [Name], **how did you feel when you discovered the stamp inside your surprise card?** (Happy; excited; surprised; special.)

• **How did the rest of you feel when [name] got the stamped surprise card?** (Sad; I wanted to be the Bible person; mad.)

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 helps us get along.**

Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help everyone in our class get along. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, please help me get along."

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: **God, thank you for the Bible and for all the stories in it. Teach us today that ► you help us get along with others. In Jesus' name, amen.**



■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Bring out a Bible and the *Bible Big Book*®: *Joseph, the Favorite Son*. Have children gather around you and hold up the Bible. Say: **Our Bible story comes from the first book in the Bible, Genesis. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story.**

Show children pages 1-3, and then set the *Bible Big Book* aside and read aloud the following story. Lead children in doing the motions.

Joseph lived with many others.

Joseph had 11 brothers! (*Count on fingers.*)

Brothers Levi, Asher, Dan,

Judah, Gad, and Simeon,

Reuben, Issachar, Benjamin,

Naphtali, and Zebulun.

But Joseph was the favorite son—his father Jacob's #1. (*Hold up one finger.*)

Jacob gave his son a coat.

A brand-new coat—then he could gloat. (*Pretend to hold up a coat.*)

Joseph had more than the others—there were no coats for his brothers.

Joseph's coat was the only one, for Joseph was the favorite son. (*Hug yourself.*)

The other brothers made a fuss. (*Put hands on hips.*)

"Why does he get more than us?"

They began to grumble and pout. (*Make a sour face.*)

"Why did Father leave us out?"

Tell me now what you would do, if there'd been no gift for you.

The boys threw Joseph in a well (*look down*);

then decided they would tell

old Jacob that his son had died.

That would fix young Joseph's pride!



Most of your 5- and 6-year-olds know what it's like to feel jealous of or angry at a sibling. Older children wish they didn't have to share parental attention with younger ones, while younger children yearn for the privileges they see their older siblings getting. At school, children begin to see that the teacher has favorite students—and children aren't sure they're among those favorites. Five- and six-year-olds are beginning to discover that life isn't as fair as they thought it would be. And that discovery leads to jealous and angry feelings. Children need extra help to handle these feelings and to get along with others. This lesson will teach children that God can help them get along with others—whether at home or at school.

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




teacher tips

If children have difficulty identifying feelings as you discuss the story, help them out. Ask questions with choices, such as “Do you think Joseph’s brothers were happy about his gift or were they jealous of him?” or “Do you think you would want a gift, too, if someone else got a gift?” or “Would you be happy if someone got a gift and you didn’t?”



WARNING!

This activity uses magnets. Swallowed magnets can attract each other through opposing intestine walls, causing serious infection or even death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.

**Then a caravan came by.
The boys said, “Hey—why don’t we try
to sell our brother for some cash?
He’ll be gone, so no more clash!** (*Shake your finger no.*)

After you finish the story, say: **Joseph received a very special gift.**

Ask: • **When have you received a special gift?** (For my birthday; for Christmas; yesterday.)

- **How do you think Joseph felt when his father gave him that coat?** (Happy; proud; warm; sorry his brothers didn’t get coats, too.)
- **What do you think Joseph did when he got that coat?** (Thanked his mom and dad; bragged to his brothers about getting a coat.)
- **How do you think Joseph’s brothers felt?** (Jealous; mad; they thought it wasn’t fair.)
- **What can you do if you are feeling upset because someone you know got something special?** (I can tell them; I can pray.)

Say: **When we’re mad because someone else has something and we don’t, that feeling is called jealousy. Joseph’s brothers were jealous of Joseph because he got a new coat. They were mean to Joseph. If we’re jealous of our friends or brothers and sisters, we may feel like being mean to them, too. God doesn’t want us to be jealous and mean. He wants us to be happy for others and to be kind to them. ► God helps us get along with others.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: shoe box



Gather the children in a circle. Place a shoe box in the center near you, and bring out the *magnetic marbles* from the Learning Lab.

Say: **In today’s Bible story about Joseph and his brothers, we learned that Joseph’s brothers were mad at him.**

Ask: • **Why were Joseph’s brothers mad at Joseph?** (He got a special coat but they didn’t; they wanted a present from their father, too.)

Say: **The brothers had bad feelings toward Joseph—what we call jealousy—because he got something they wanted. Their jealous feelings made it hard for them to get along with Joseph. They wanted to hurt him.**

Let’s try a little experiment. Hold up the bag of *magnetic marbles*. **Let’s pretend these marbles are Joseph and his brothers. Let’s see how well they get along.** Have the children take turns tossing the *magnetic marbles* randomly into the empty shoe box. Some of the marbles will gravitate toward one another; a few may remain off to the side by themselves. Every time a marble lands in the box and sticks to another marble, have the children cheer “Hooray!” Every time a marble rolls off on its own, have the children say with you, “Oops, jealousy got in the way!”

Repeat until every child has a turn to toss a marble at least once, and then say: **These are special marbles. They have magnets inside them that help them stick together.**

Ask: • **What happened with the marbles?** (Some of them rolled together; some of them got away from the others.)

- **Why do you think some marbles stuck together?** (Because of what was inside them; because they were special marbles.)
- **Why do you think some marbles didn't stick together?** (Because they were far from the others; because they rolled the other way.)
- **Did Joseph's brothers stick together with Joseph? Tell me about that.** (No, they didn't stick with Joseph; no, they were mean to Joseph.)
- **Why didn't Joseph's brothers stick together with Joseph?** (Because they were mad at him; because they wanted a special coat, too.)

Say: **Our marbles stuck together because they have special magnets inside them. When people get along, they stick together, too. Joseph's brothers didn't get along with Joseph, though, because they were jealous of him. When we have bad feelings toward someone, it makes it harder for us to stick by them, kind of like the way sometimes the marbles stayed together and sometimes they didn't.**

Ask: • **What does God want us to do?** (God wants us to stick together; God wants us to get along.)

Say: **God wants us to get along with other people. ► God helps us get along. Even if we feel alone, God is with us, helping us. Joseph must have felt scared to be alone in the well and sad that his brothers were so mean to him, but he wasn't alone, was he? Our Bible verse from Psalm 33:20b says, ► "He [God] is our help and our shield." Even though Joseph was in the well, God was with him and God protected him.**



Say: **God understands when we have bad feelings like jealousy. But God doesn't want us to treat others unkindly. God wants us to love each other. When you feel jealous, ask God to help you be kind instead of mean. Jesus loves everyone. Jesus even loved the people who hurt him. We need to follow Jesus' example. If we ask him, ► God helps us get along.**

Return the *magnetic marbles* to the Learning Lab for later use.



If you use tables, make sure they're child-sized. Having children work at adult-sized tables can cause spills, messes, and even accidents. If your church doesn't have child-sized furniture, or if you're meeting in a nontraditional space, set up art or manipulative activities on the floor. Trays, shallow boxes, or dish pans can hold the items needed for the lesson.



Closing

■ My Baby Sis

SUPPLIES: 2 small, gift-wrapped boxes

Before this activity, put two small, gift-wrapped boxes in your pocket or behind your back. Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following script. After you finish the script, put Pockets and the gift-wrapped boxes away and out of sight.



Pockets: Wow! I can't believe that those brothers were so mean!

Teacher: Yeah. That's what jealousy can do to people.

Pockets: They should have asked God to help them be nice.

Teacher: We all need God's help to get along sometimes. I know I sometimes need help getting along with my friend [name of an adult friend]. Children, who do you need help getting along with? *(Let the children respond.)* Pockets, who do you need help getting along with?

Pockets: *(Shaking her head)* No one. I'm very friendly. I'm glad I'm not mean and jealous like those brothers.

Teacher: Pockets, what about your baby sister?

Pockets: What about her?

Teacher: Do you think you could use God's help in getting along with your baby sister and in not being jealous of her?

Pockets: *(Thoughtfully)* I guess I need to get used to sharing my mom and dad with my baby sister.

Teacher: Yes, I guess you do. Children, can you remind Pockets of our Bible Point today? ► God helps us get along. And God can help you get along with your baby sister, Pockets. *(To children)* What are some ways Pockets can get along with her baby sister? *(Give children time to share their ideas.)*

Pockets: Thanks, friends. I'll ask God to help me do all those things 'cause ► God helps us get along with others.

Teacher: Hey, Pockets. Here's a present for your baby sister.

Pockets: Thanks! And I won't be jealous. I'll be happy for her.

Teacher: Good for you! And here's a present for you for being such a good big sister.

Pockets: Thanks! *(Hugs the teacher; then takes the presents.)* I'm going to take it home and open it right away. Goodbye, friends!

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■ God Will Help Us

SUPPLIES: CD player



Before class, cut the *shiny ribbons* into 18-inch lengths.

Hold up the *shiny ribbons*. Say: **These ribbons remind me of Joseph's colorful coat. When Joseph got a new coat, his brothers were jealous. They couldn't get along! ► God helps us get along with others. Let's say a prayer together and ask God to help us do that. Think of one person you'd like God to help you get along with. Then I'll say a short prayer. After I say, "Please help me get along with...", we'll go around the circle and each say the name of the person we're thinking of. When you say the name you're thinking of, take a *shiny ribbon*, and then pass the rest to the person next to you.**

Give children a moment to think of a person, and then pray: **Dear God, thank you for helping us get along with others. Please help me get along with...**

Say the name of someone you'd like to get along with, and then take a ribbon. Pass the ribbons around the circle, and let children fill in the names of people they've thought of. If some children don't want to say a name, go to the next child, and offer to come back to them later. When all the children have added a name, close by saying "amen."

Then say: **Before we go, let's sing another song to help us remember to get along with others.**

Lead children in singing "God Will Help Us" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Frère Jacques."



SING

God will help us.
God will help us.
Yes, he will.
Yes, he will.

If we ask for God's help,
He will come and help us.
Yes, he will.
Yes, he will.

(Repeat.)

Say: **Take home your ribbon to remember Joseph's pretty coat. Tell me how God helped you get along with someone when you come back next time. I'll look forward to seeing you next week.**



◀ BIBLE POINT



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: In the Pit



Have children sit on the floor in a circle and cup their hands behind their backs. Give one child the *glow ball*, and have him or her be Joseph. Have Joseph walk around the circle and pretend to place the ball in children's hands. When Joseph does place the ball in someone's hands, that child must chase Joseph back to where the child was sitting.

If Joseph reaches the child's place first, that child becomes the new Joseph. If the child catches Joseph, Joseph must go into the center of the circle and sit in the "pit." Each time a Joseph is caught, he or she must join the others in the pit. Keep playing until everyone is in the pit or as long as time allows.

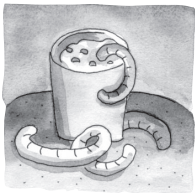
Make to Take: Joseph and His Brothers



Photocopy the "People Pattern" (p. 24), and give each child a pattern and three sheets of paper. Help children fold each sheet of paper into fourths and then trace the pattern and cut out people figures. Each child should have 12 figures. Have children glue the figures to a sheet of construction paper to represent Joseph and his brothers.

Have children snip pieces of the *shiny ribbons* and glue them to Joseph's coat. Then instruct children to draw angry expressions on the brothers' faces.

Treat to Eat: Edible Mud



Tell children that even though there wasn't any water in the pit Joseph was in, the pit was probably full of mud. Then show children the ingredients you've brought, and tell them they're going to make and eat "mud."

- Form three groups: the Graham Cracker Crushers, the Pudding Shakers, and the Gummy Worm Cuppers.
- Have the Graham Cracker Crushers use blocks to crush the crackers in resealable bags.
- Help the Pudding Shakers measure the milk according to the pudding box instructions. Then help the Pudding Shakers pour chocolate pudding mix and milk into a large plastic jar with a lid, and have them shake the jar for two minutes.
- Have the Gummy Worm Cuppers set out paper cups and place a gummy worm in each cup.
- Give each child a spoon and a cup with a gummy worm, and help children cover the worms with pudding and crushed graham crackers. Enjoy!

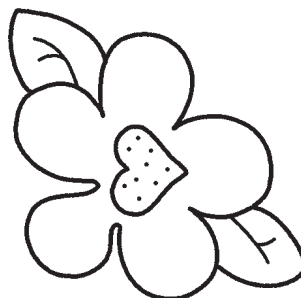
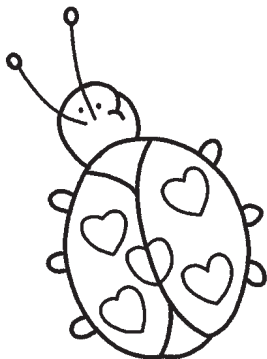
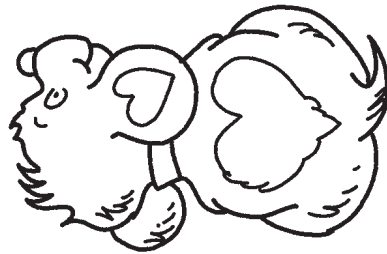


Story Picture: Joseph in a Pit

Give children small pebbles, glue, markers, and a photocopy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Have children color the picture and glue pebbles around the pit. Encourage children to get along as they share supplies. Talk with them about times God has helped them get along with others.

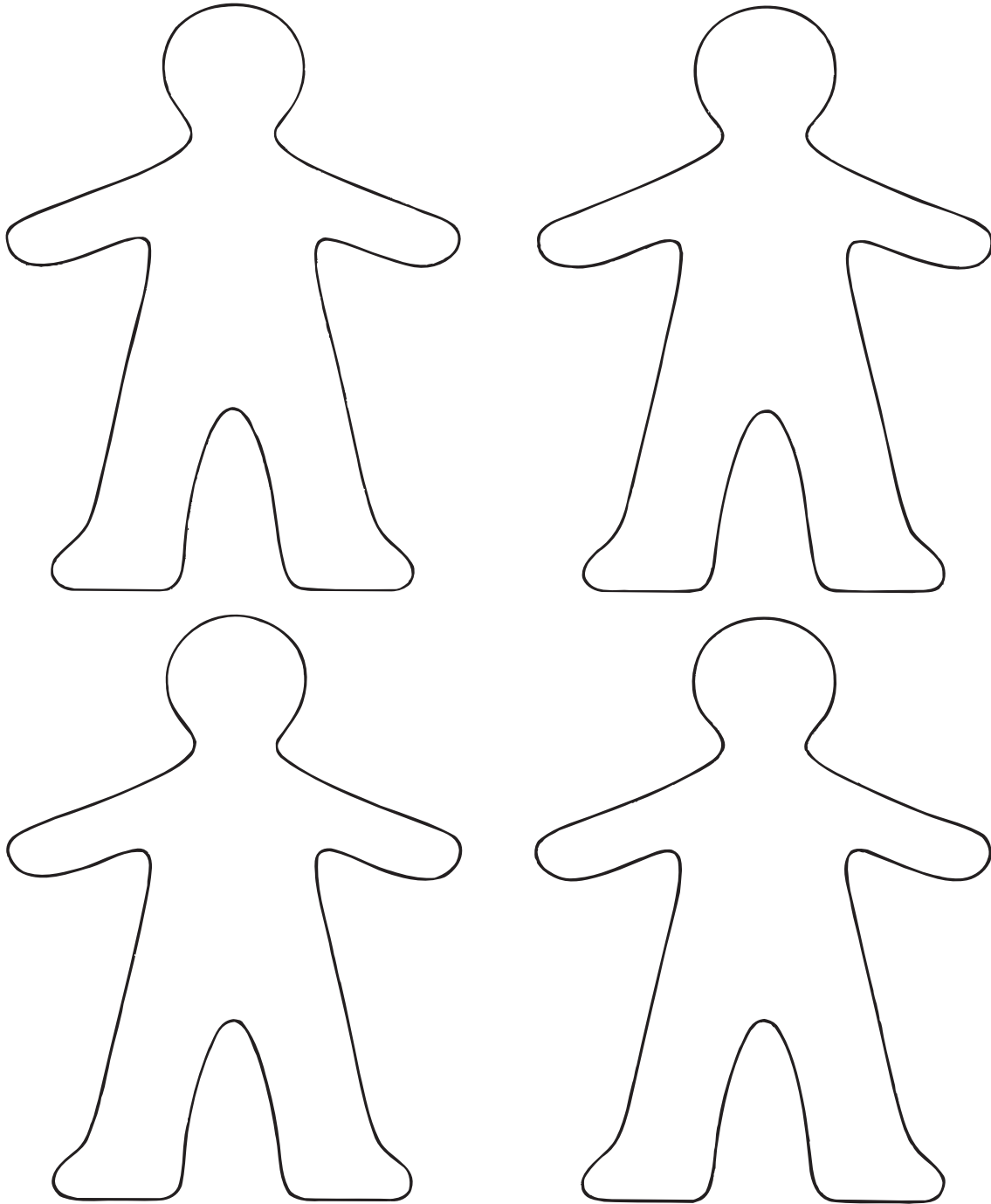
Heart Name Tags

Photocopy this page and cut out the name tags.



People Pattern

Photocopy this page and cut out the people patterns.



Today I learned...

God helps us
get along.

Today your child learned that God helps us get along. Children heard a story about Joseph and his special coat. They talked about times they've felt jealous and learned that God can help them get along.

Verse to Learn

"He [God] is our help and our shield" (Psalm 33:20b).

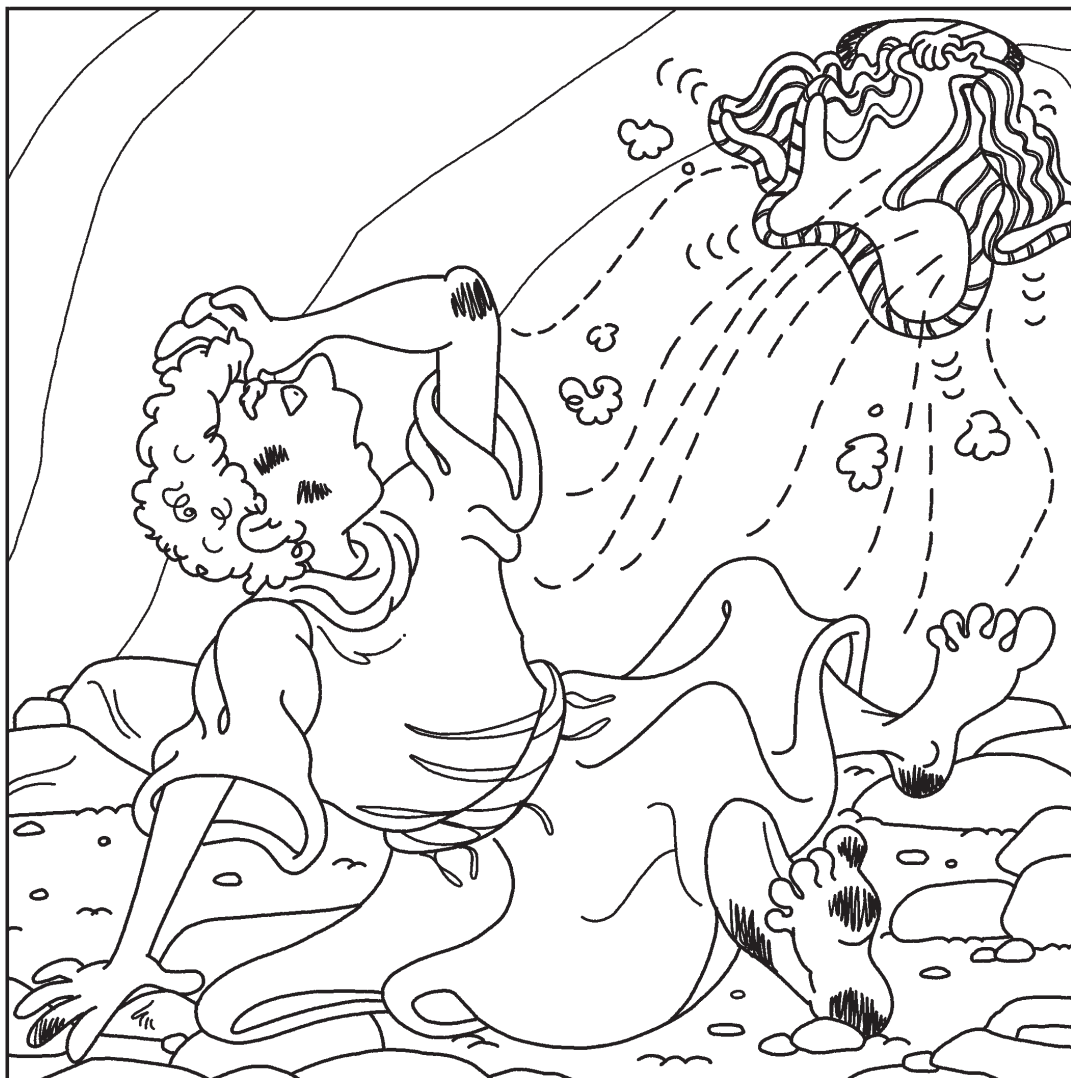
Ask Me...

- How did Joseph feel in his special coat?
- When did someone get a gift and you didn't?
- How do you feel when our family doesn't get along? What can our family do to get along this week?

Family Fun

- Honor a special family member each day this week. Give that person homemade gifts. Let that person choose the menus for the day. At the end of the day, gather the family together and talk about how well everyone did at not being jealous.
- Have a friends-and-family game night. Pop popcorn or make ice-cream sundaes together. Let children choose games to play (no video games!). Enjoy the fun as you all get along together.

Joseph in a Pit (Genesis 37:1-36)





Teacher Guide

PRE-K & K (ages 5 & 6)

Fall

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This quarter your Pre-K & K class will learn these important Bible lessons:

JOSEPH

Genesis 37:1-36	God helps us get along.
Genesis 39:1-6	God helps us do our best.
Genesis 39:7-23	God helps us in hard times.
Genesis 40:1-41:57	God helps us help others.
Genesis 42:1-46:34	God helps us forgive each other.

DAVID AND JONATHAN

1 Samuel 18:1-4	Friends share with each other.
1 Samuel 19:1-6	Friends stick up for each other.
1 Samuel 20:1-40	Friends help each other.
1 Samuel 20:41-42	Friends care for each other even when they're apart.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS

Daniel 6:1-10	God wants us to pray only to him.
Daniel 6:11-15	God wants us to pray no matter what other people say.
Daniel 6:16-23	God wants us to pray when we're in trouble.
Daniel 6:25-27	God wants us to pray and give thanks.

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