

Group

Teacher Guide

PRESCHOOL (ages 3 & 4)

Fall



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Preschool (ages 3&4)

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®, Preschool, Ages 3 & 4, Fall

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Understanding Your 3- and 4-Year-Olds

Physical Development

- Have lots of energy.
- Walk and run with confidence.
- Can draw recognizable shapes.
- Can work simple puzzles.

Emotional Development

- Are generally happy.
- Are influenced by the reactions of other children.
- Are sensitive to the moods and reactions of adults.

Social Development

- Boys usually play with boys, girls with girls.
- Prefer short group experiences.
- Use language in dramatic play.

Mental Development

- Can recall some facts and events.
- Can memorize stories, songs, or finger plays.
- Ask lots of questions.
- Have an attention span of no longer than 10 minutes.



Spiritual Development

- Hear and enjoy Bible stories.
- Recognize their own church.

Welcome to the Adventure!

So, you've signed up for the preschool class! These kids have a natural love for God, for you, and for everything that makes noise. They may have short attention spans, but they are still soaking up everything you show them and tell them. Whether you're a veteran or a novice, you are going to have a fun year! You can be the one who shows them the love of Jesus. What a blessing for you and for them!

Three- and four-year-olds think very concretely. They need to experience, see, touch, taste, and smell what they are learning about. They are experimenting with physical movements and making sounds. They accept much about the world that they are discovering. Jesus is as important to them as he is to you. 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 can touch firsthand!

Your children will learn best by experiencing new things. What they see and experience from you they will transfer to what Jesus is like. What they experience during activities will translate into what they know about the Bible story you are teaching them. You will change their lives as you help open their minds and hearts to the most important person in their lives, Jesus.


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

- **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—
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.

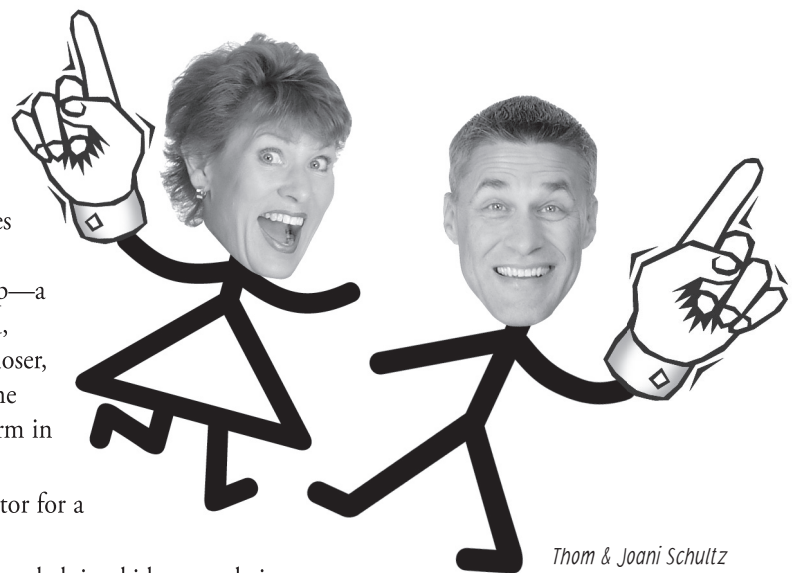
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals,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

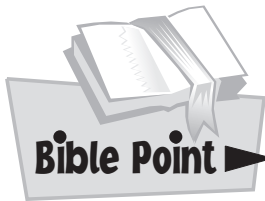
Joseph

Much to his brothers' chagrin, young Joseph was arrogant and secure in his role as father Jacob's favorite son. Because he was the son of Jacob's beloved second wife, Rachel, Joseph received favors his brothers could only dream of. It didn't take long before Joseph's brothers tired of their cocky younger brother and his dreams of grandeur. They quickly devised a plan to rid themselves of Joseph forever. When Joseph's brothers sold him into slavery, they never expected to see him again. They were shocked and surprised when Joseph emerged from his trials as a wise and successful leader. God used Joseph's position of leadership to bring reconciliation to his family as Joseph shared generously with them during a time of famine.

Preschoolers have much to learn from Joseph's life. Sibling rivalry, jealousy, and anger are real emotions for these children. They have difficulty sharing toys, parental attention, and teacher attention. Three- and four-year-olds are just beginning to learn how to get along with others. Use these five lessons to show children in your class that God can help them get along, just as he helped Joseph and his brothers get along.

Five Lessons on Joseph

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
1	God wants us to be happy for others.	11	Genesis 37:1-4
2	God wants us to be kind.	27	Genesis 37:18-30
3	God wants us to tell the truth.	39	Genesis 37:26-35
4	God wants us to share.	53	Genesis 39:2–43:34
5	God wants us to forgive.	67	Genesis 45:1–47:12; 50:14-21



Bible Point

God wants us to be happy for others.

Bible Verse

“Be kind to each other” (Ephesians 4:32a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- hear a story about Joseph’s special coat,
 - learn about feelings of jealousy,
 - talk about times they’ve felt jealous, and
 - teach Whiskers the Mouse how to handle jealous feelings.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Joseph receives a special coat.

**Genesis
37:1-4**



Many have heard the story of the beautiful robe. But not all remember the trouble that robe caused. It’s interesting that in the same way that Rebekah’s favoritism toward Jacob ravaged her family, 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 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 his brothers’ negative feelings toward him. The beautiful robe further intensified the brothers’ feelings. They hated Joseph because he was so clearly their father’s favorite.

The robe stood out from the work clothes the other brothers wore, and it likely relieved Joseph from doing unpleasant tasks that might have soiled it.

The members of this family didn’t love one another as they should have. Joseph, his brothers, and their father all contributed to the rift between Joseph and his brothers. To honor God, we must show love to one another.











Prayer

- Read Ephesians 4:31-32.
- Who in your class are you having trouble loving?
- Pray: Lord, help me to honor you by being kind and tenderhearted to everyone in my class—even the hard-to-love children.

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- 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.	“Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), paper or card stock, scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: Clothes of Many Colors —Practice sharing and caring while trying on a variety of dress-up clothes.	Dress-up clothes	
	Option 2: Colorful Cloth Making —Dye coffee filters to look like Joseph’s colorful coat.	Newspapers, painting shirts, coffee filters, washable water-colors, water, tablespoons, teaspoons, 2 muffin pans	
	Option 3: Rainbow Shirts —Color and decorate their shirt name tags.	Shirt name tags, markers, crayons, glue sticks, yarn scraps, children’s scissors	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Play an I Spy game using colors.	CD player	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hear a story about Joseph’s coat from Genesis 37:1-4.	Bible	
	Do the Bible Story —Create Joseph’s coat, and act out how the people in the story felt.	Brown paper bag, scissors, glue	
Closing 	Brother’s Markers —Teach Whiskers the Mouse not to be jealous.		
	Getting Along —Pray and sing a song about getting along.	CD player	 

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

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Shirt Name Tags” (p. 24), paper or card stock, scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Kneel 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 wants us to be happy for others.
- Give each child a photocopy of a shirt name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags, and pin or tape them to their clothing.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

Write children’s names on the shirt name tags with a permanent marker so the names won’t smear when children color them.

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 “What colors do you like best?” and “What color is your favorite toy?” As you interact with the children, encourage them to share the supplies you’ve set out.

Option 1: Clothes of Many Colors

SUPPLIES: dress-up clothes



Set out the *plastic leis* from the Learning Lab and a variety of colorful dress-up clothes. Encourage children to dress up and pretend to get ready for a special occasion. For example, children could pretend they’re going to school, to a party, or on a picnic.

If you have a mirror in your classroom, have the children look at themselves all dressed up. Be sure to compliment children on their clothing choices! Encourage them to compliment one another and help one another put on the clothes. In this way they will be practicing the Bible Point they will be learning today: ► God wants us to be happy for others. Return the leis to the Learning Lab.

teacher tips

If you choose to do Option 1, provide clothing styles that both boys and girls will enjoy, such as pretty dresses or police costumes. This enables children to choose clothing that’s appropriate for the roles they’re playing.

BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

Station an adult at each activity area and run several activities at once, or lead all children in one activity at a time. If you want to move quickly into the Bible story, choose one activity. If you often have latecomers, plan to use more activities.

Option 2: Colorful Cloth Making

SUPPLIES: newspapers, painting shirts, coffee filters, washable watercolors, water, tablespoons, teaspoons, 2 muffin pans

Spread several layers of newspaper on a table or other work area. If possible, provide painting shirts or aprons for the children. Set out two muffin pans and enough teaspoons and coffee filters for each child. Mix watercolor paints and two tablespoons of water in each muffin-pan cup.

Show the children how to drip the color from the teaspoons onto their coffee filters. Have them continue dripping different colors onto the filters until they are completely


teacher tips

Three- and four-year-olds may still feel anxious about leaving their parents, so your welcoming presence is very important! If children see you smiling at the door each week, they'll soon trust you and look forward to coming to class.

colored. Explain that today they'll hear a Bible story about someone who had a special coat with beautiful colors. Set the filters aside to dry.

■ Option 3: Rainbow Shirts

SUPPLIES: shirt name tags, markers, crayons, yarn scraps, glue sticks, children's scissors

Set out the markers, crayons, yarn scraps, glue sticks, and children's scissors. Let children color their shirt name tags, and then allow them to snip small pieces from the yarn scraps and glue the pieces to their name tags. Encourage children to use lots of different colors.

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

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." 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.


SING

**Come along with me and pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things,
Pick up all our things.
Come along with me and pick up all our things
So our room will be clean.**

(Repeat 2x.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: CD player



Tell the children you'll play a fun marching song to get their attention. Explain that when you play the song, the children are to stop what they're doing and come to you. Practice this signal a few times with "Marching Music" (track 10) on the CD. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do?** (I made a name tag; we played dress up; we made colored circles.)

Say: **Some of you colored your shirt name tags, some of you used paint**


teacher tips

An attention-getting signal will let children know it's time to stop what they're doing and look at you. Each week remind the children about your signal and practice it together. Soon, regaining their attention will become a familiar classroom ritual.

to make colored circles, and some of you tried on different-colored clothes as you played dress up. You didn't all get a chance to do everything, but that's OK. If you colored your shirt name tag, you can be happy for your friends who got to make colored circles or play dress up. It isn't good to become angry because your friend made something or did something you didn't. That is called being jealous. ► God wants us to be happy for others.

Today we're going to hear a story about a boy who had a special colored coat. Let's get ready for that story by looking for colors in our room. What colors do you see?

Let children point out colors they see around the room. Each time a child names a color, ask that child:

- **What do you see that is** [name of color]?

After several children have shared, say: **Now let's play a game about colors. I see someone who's wearing** [name of color]. **Can you guess who it is?**

Let children guess, and then continue the guessing game by picking a different color each time. When you've used up all the colors you see in the children's clothing, say: **Now let's talk about our favorite colors.**

Read the following instructions one at a time. Pause after you read each instruction so children can follow it.

- Say: • **Stand up if your favorite color is red.**
- **Lie down if your favorite color is green.**
 - **Spin around if your favorite color is blue.**
 - **Squat down if your favorite color is purple.**
 - **Jump up and down if your favorite color is pink.**
 - **Raise your hand if you have another favorite color.**

Let children continue their actions for a few moments, and then play the marching song (track 10) to get children's attention and to let them know it's time to sit down. Then ask:

- **Did you all have the same favorite color? Why not?** (Because we all like different colors; because boys and girls don't like the same colors.)
- **Do you think we can all still be friends even though we don't have the same favorite color? Why or why not?** (Yes, because we don't all have to like the same things; no, because my favorite color is the best.)



Say: **Jesus wants us to get along with others, even if they don't have the same favorite things we do. Our Bible verse helps us know what Jesus wants. Ephesians 4:32 in the Bible says, ► "Be kind to each other."**

Say: **Let's sing a song to help us learn the Bible verse.** Lead the children in singing "Be Kind and Loving" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Ten Little Indians."



It's important to say the Bible Point just as it is written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives.





SING

Be kind and loving to each other.
 Be kind and loving to each other.
 Be kind and loving to each other—
Ephesians 4:32.

(Repeat 2x.)

We're going to hear a Bible story now about a boy who had a coat with all of your favorite colors on it. Joseph's father gave him this special coat because Joseph was his favorite son. Let's find out what Joseph's brothers thought about that and if they were all kind to one another.

teacher tips

If the *ink pad* is dry, moisten it with three to five drops of water.

■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

tracks 4 & 5



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. Everyone of you will get a chance to be the Bible person one week. Before I choose today's Bible person, let's learn our Bible song. As we sing, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today. Sometimes it's hard to not be the Bible person, but remember that ► ***God wants us to be happy for others.***

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 I'm so glad for God's book today.
 I'm so glad for the Bible.
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—
 Keep me learnin' all about his way.

Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.
 Let me hear 'bout God's love—
 Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.
 Let's shine the light for all to see.

(Repeat first verse.)

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Stamp the child's hand with the *coat stamp* and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *coat stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for** [name of child who brought the Bible], **and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 5) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."

teacher tips

Be sure to emphasize to children that the story comes from the Bible, God's Word.



I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.
 I'm so glad we're all here today.
 I'm so glad we're together.
 Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—
 Prayin' for each other every day.

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.
 Thank you for everyone who's here.
 Thank you, Lord, for each one.
 Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—
 Thankful for our friends both far and near.

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible



Place the *Learning Mat: Joseph's Journey* on the floor. Have children gather around the mat. Open the Bible to **Genesis 37:1-4**. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of the Bible story.**

Ask: • **Who can find the picture of a boy putting on a special coat?**

Wait for children to point to Joseph on the mat, and then continue: **This boy's name is Joseph, and his special coat is an important part of our story. Every time you hear me say "coat," cross your arms over your chest and say "ooh ah" as if you're seeing beautiful colors on a coat. Let's practice that.**

Say "coat," let children practice their response, and then continue: **Joseph came from a big family.**

Ask: • **How many people are in your family?** (Only two; we have five.)

Let children respond, and then continue: **Joseph had 10 older brothers! That's the same number of fingers you have. Show me your 10 fingers. Every time you hear me say "brothers," hold up 10 fingers so you can remember that Joseph had 10 older brothers! Let's practice that.**

Say "brothers" and let children practice their response. As you tell the story, pause each time you say "coat" or "brothers" to let children respond.

Say: **Joseph and his brothers lived in the land of Canaan. His family had lots of cows and sheep. Canaan was a beautiful land, and there was plenty of water and grass for the animals. Joseph and his brothers helped their father take care of the animals. Each day Joseph and his brothers took the animals out into the fields to run around and eat grass. When they came home from taking care of the animals, they gave their father a report about what happened. Sometimes Joseph gave their father bad reports about his brothers, and this made them mad.**

teacher tips

A special Bible for this section of the lesson each week will make Bible time memorable for the children. For example, you could use the *My First Hands-On Bible™* or a Bible with gold-edged pages.

This Bible story is featured in the *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [gospeltrails.com](http://www.gospeltrails.com).



teacher tips

Read the Bible story, and practice saying it before class. Think about voice changes, gestures and motions, and eye contact.

Ask: • **When have you ever done something that made someone else mad?** (My mom got mad when I jumped on the couch; my brother got mad when I ripped his picture.)

One day, Joseph's father gave Joseph a special coat to show Joseph how much he loved him.

Ask: • **What do you think that special coat looked like?** (I think it had long sleeves; I think it had stripes; it was lots of different colors.)

Let's look at the special coat Joseph is wearing in this picture on our mat.

Ask: • **What colors do you see in his coat?** (Red; purple; black; gold.)

Joseph's coat was a very special gift. Joseph was very excited about it and wore it often. Wearing the coat made Joseph think about how much his father loved him. When Joseph's brothers saw his new coat, they were really mad. They wanted special coats, too. Joseph's brothers grumbled and complained, and they said mean things about Joseph. They didn't like Joseph one bit.

Tell children they may stop responding each time you say "coat" and "brothers." Then ask:

• **Why did Joseph get a fancy coat?** (It was a special gift; his father wanted to show him he loved him.)

• **Why were the brothers upset about the coat?** (They wanted a fancy coat too; they wanted their dad to love them.)

• **How did you feel when a friend, a brother, or a sister got something special, but you didn't?** (I wanted one; I was mad.)

Say: **When we're mad because someone else has something we want, we call that feeling jealousy. Suppose it is your brother's or sister's birthday and they get a really nice toy that you wanted. You might feel angry and upset. That is being jealous. Joseph's brothers were very jealous and mad because Joseph got a special coat. They were mean to Joseph and wished that he weren't in their family. This caused a lot of trouble. God doesn't want us to be mad or jealous. ►*God wants us to be happy for others.***

Say: **We have a special friend who will help us do what God wants. That special friend is Jesus. Jesus knows it's hard sometimes to not feel mad or jealous, but if we pray and ask him to help us, he will! Let's pray now.**

Ask the children to fold their hands and repeat each line after you.

Pray: **Dear Jesus,
Thank you for being my friend.
Please help me not feel jealous.
In your name, amen.**

Return the *Learning Mat* to the Learning Lab.


teacher tips

Identifying feelings from the story helps children remember the story and apply it to their lives. If they are having trouble, ask questions with choices, such as "Do you think the brothers were happy for Joseph or jealous of him?" or "Do you think Joseph was proud to wear his new coat or afraid to let his brothers see it?"


BIBLE POINT

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: brown paper bag, scissors, glue



Before class, cut a large paper bag into a child-sized jacket by cutting a line down the front, a head hole in the top, and two armholes on each side of the bag. You will also need to cut the *rainbow ribbons* from the Learning Lab into small sections for each color (3 to 5 inches each).

Give each child several pieces of the *rainbow ribbons*, and encourage children to glue their pieces of the ribbon to the paper-bag jacket that you cut out before class. Once all the children have glued their ribbon pieces to the jacket, set the jacket aside to dry for a few minutes.

Say: **Look at the beautiful coat we made. I'll bet this coat looks something like Joseph's coat from our story. It's a very pretty coat, isn't it? It would feel very good to wear this coat, wouldn't it?**

Choose one child to wear the coat.

Say: **When someone has something that we really like and we feel mad because we want that special something for ourselves, we call that feeling jealousy. Joseph's brothers were jealous of Joseph's coat.**

But God could have helped them with their feelings, just as God can help us with our feelings. God can help us when we feel jealous. ► God wants us to be happy for others. Let's show our friend that we are happy she [or he] is wearing our beautiful coat!

Encourage children to clap and cheer for the child wearing the coat. Children may even want to give the child a hug or a high five. After a few minutes, ask the child to give the coat to someone else. Encourage children to clap and cheer for the child now wearing the coat. Continue until all the children get a chance to wear the special coat.

Say: **Good job! You were so good at cheering for one another. You showed that you were happy for others!**

Ask: • **Think about a time someone else had something really special that you really liked and wished you had. How did you feel?** (I was mad; I took it; I was sad.)

• **How can you show you're happy for others?** (I can clap for them; I can hug them; I can tell them that I'm happy for them.)

Say: ► **God wants us to be happy for others and God will help us do that. We can ask God to help us when we feel jealous. Let's talk to God about that now.**

Pray: **Dear God, please help us get along with our friends and family and not be jealous of something someone else has. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Say: **Thank you for helping me make Joseph's coat. Our coat can remind us that ► God wants us to be happy for others. Now let's meet a special friend who needs to remember that, too.**

Set aside the "Joseph's coat" for use in Lesson 3.



Most preschoolers have a 5- to 10-minute attention span. The "Do the Bible Story" section lets them jump up and wear out the wiggles without wiggling away from the lesson!




teacher tips

You'll be amazed to discover how much your children have learned as they share the lesson with Whiskers. Children who are shy around adults or other children will identify with Whiskers and open up to him.

You can purchase Whiskers at group.com.

Closing

■ Brother's Markers

SUPPLIES: none

Have children sit in a circle. Say: **Tell me about a birthday party you've been to.**

Let children respond. Then say: **When you go to a birthday party, the special birthday person is the only one who receives presents. It's hard to watch other people being treated special when we feel left out. We have a special visitor today who wants to tell us about a time when he felt jealous. He's a little shy. We'll have to be very quiet so we don't scare him.**

Wait until all the children are sitting quietly. Then bring out Whiskers the Mouse and go through the following script. When you finish, put Whiskers away and out of sight.



(Whiskers peeks out, looks around, and then hides his face.)

Teacher: Whiskers, are you going to come out and meet my friends? *(Whiskers nods his head, peeks out again, and then goes back into hiding.)* What's the matter, Whiskers? *(Whiskers whispers in teacher's ear.)* My friend Whiskers is a little scared. You're all so much bigger than he is, and he's afraid someone might step on him. Let's use our quiet voices to tell Whiskers that we'd like to be his friends.

(Lead the children in reassuring Whiskers. Encourage them to use phrases like "It's OK, Whiskers" or "We want to be your friends." After a few moments, Whiskers pops his head up and looks around.)

Teacher: Are you ready to introduce yourself to your new friends?

Whiskers: *(Nodding his head, sounding shy and a little scared)* Hello, my name is Whiskers. I live in a family with brothers and sisters. Do any of you have brothers and sisters? *(Whiskers waits for children to respond, and then continues with a little more confidence.)*

Yesterday I went to the toy store with my dad and my brother Sammy. Sammy had been saving his money to buy a new set of markers. The box had red, blue, green, yellow, orange, purple, black, and brown markers. My brother was so excited about going home to draw pretty pictures.

When we were ready to pay, Sammy discovered that he didn't have quite enough money to buy the markers. But Dad said, "Since you've been saving your money so carefully, I'll help you buy the markers."

Teacher: That's great, Whiskers. Your father sounds like a very nice mouse. How did you feel about your brother's new markers?

Whiskers: *(In a whining voice)* I wanted new markers! Why does Sammy always get everything? Why can't my dad buy me new markers?

Teacher: Did you save some of your money to buy new markers?

Whiskers: *(Continuing to whine)* No, I spent my money on candy last Saturday. But I really want new markers. It's not fair that my brother gets new markers and I don't. I think I'll take all the caps off Sammy's markers so they dry out. Then he won't have any markers either!

Teacher: Whiskers, did you hear our Bible verse that says to be kind to each other and the Bible story about Joseph and his brothers? God doesn't want us to get mad or be mean. *(To children)* It sounds like Whiskers needs to hear what we've been learning about. Everybody help me tell Whiskers the Bible verse. *(Lead children in saying, "Be kind to each other.")* And let's tell Whiskers the Bible story we learned today. *(Allow children to tell Whiskers that Joseph had a colorful coat and that his brothers were jealous and mean.)*

Whiskers: I know how Joseph's brothers felt. My brother shouldn't be the only one who gets new colored markers.

Teacher: Let's ask your new friends what you should do. Children, do you think Whiskers should take the caps off Sammy's markers? What do you think Whiskers should do? *(Children might respond: Ask his brother if he can use the markers; save his money so he can buy his own markers.)*

Whiskers: Well, I guess you're right. Taking the caps off my brother's markers wouldn't be a very nice thing to do. God wants me to be happy for others, even my brother. I think I'll go ask Sammy to share his colored markers with me. Thanks, friends! Goodbye!

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■ Getting Along

SUPPLIES: CD player



Have children form a circle. Place a *plastic lei* in the middle of the circle. Say: ► ***God wants us to be happy for others. Let's join together and pray and ask God to help us do that.***

Have each child hold the lei with one hand so everyone is "joined together." Wait for the children to bow their heads, and then say a prayer similar to this one: **Dear God, thank you for all our special friends in this class. Help us to be happy instead of jealous when our friends get to do something fun. In Jesus' name, amen.** Put the lei away.

Say: **Before we go home, let's learn another song to help us remember not to be jealous. When you're feeling jealous this week, ask your mom or dad to help you sing this song.**

Lead children in singing with the CD (track 6): "All Get Along" (Lesson 1) to the tune of "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy."



All the children need to participate, so if you have more than six kids, form a second circle using the other lei from the Learning Lab.



I know that God wants us to all get along,
All get along, all get along.

I know that God wants us to all get along,
All get along today.

And we're so happy, so very happy
When all of us are kind to everyone.
And we're so happy, so very happy
When all of us are kind to everyone.

I know that jealousy is not nice—it's wrong.
Not nice—it's wrong. Not nice—it's wrong.
I know that jealousy is not nice—it's wrong.
I'd rather get along!



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 the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



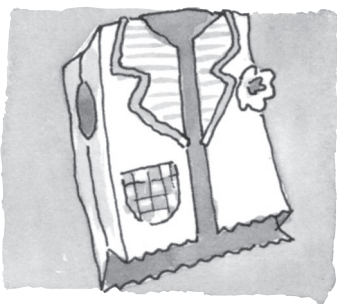
For Extra Time

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

■ Lively Learning: Ballgame

Form two groups. Give one group three or four balls to bat around. Have the other group watch them play for several minutes. Then have the groups switch roles. Talk with the children about how they felt as they played with the balls and how they felt watching others play. Remind them that ► *God wants us to be happy for others.* Then have the groups join together and bat the balls in one big circle.

■ Make to Take: Sack Jackets



Have children create their own special Joseph coats with scissors, paper grocery sacks, and other supplies. Help each child cut a head hole, armholes, and a front opening in a paper sack. Then show children how they can decorate their “sack jackets” with markers, watercolors, tempera paints, yarn, glitter, and other art supplies. As children work, encourage them to get along and share supplies.

■ Treat to Eat: Beautiful Bread



Set out four nonbreakable cups. Pour one-third cup of milk and a drop of red, blue, yellow, or green food coloring into each cup. In another area, set out a napkin or paper towel for each child. Have children wash their hands.

Form pairs, and assign each pair one of the following roles: Bread Bringers, Red Makers, Blue Makers, Yellow Makers, and Green Makers. Station one Bread Bringer at each end of the work area. Give one Bread Bringer a loaf of sliced white bread. Give each of the color-making groups cotton swabs, and station them near their respective cups of colored milk.

Have the first Bread Bringer pass the bread, one slice at a time. Have each color-making group paint a stripe of color on the slice of bread and then pass it to the next group. Have the second Bread Bringer transport the painted slices to the paper towels you’ve set out. When children have made enough painted bread for everyone, have them move to the eating area you’ve set up. If you have access to your church kitchen, place the bread on a cookie sheet and send an adult helper to toast it in the oven. As children eat their bread, praise them for helping one another and remind them that ► *God wants us to be happy for others.*

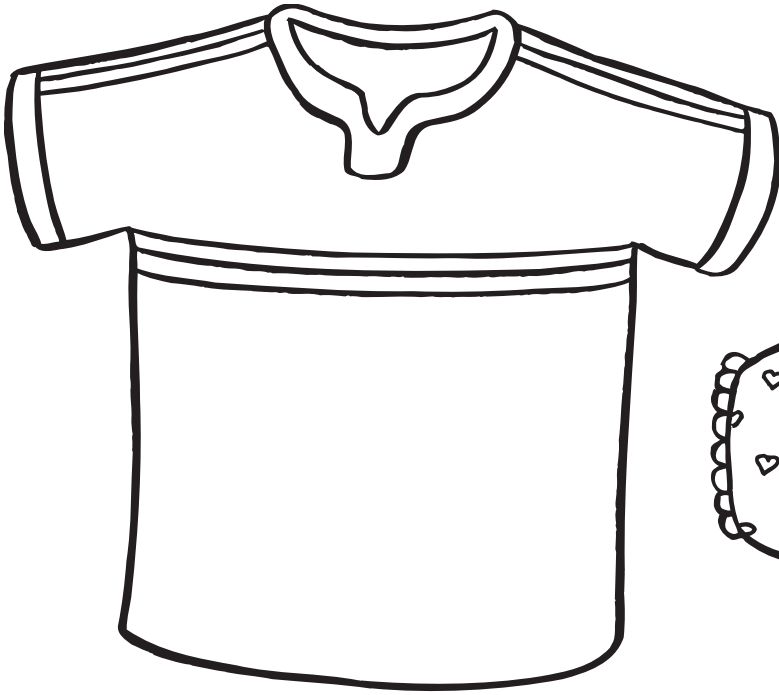


■ Story Picture: Joseph’s Special Coat

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson). Also provide crayons, markers, and small stickers. Have children color their handouts and then decorate their pictures of Joseph’s coat with the stickers. Talk with children about special gifts they’ve received from their families.

Shirt Name Tags

Photocopy and cut out the shirt name tags.



Today I learned...

God wants us to be happy for others.

Help me learn this:

"Be kind to each other"
(Ephesians 4:32a).

Ask me:

- Why did Joseph get a fancy coat?
- Why were the brothers angry?
- What can our family do to get along and not be jealous this week?



Family Fun

- Play with modeling dough as a family. Give one family member a larger piece of modeling dough than the others. Discuss how the children could feel jealous about one person getting more. Then reapportion the modeling dough.
- Ask your child to tell you the story of Joseph's colorful coat. Make a special color collection using the colors your child would like to use for this special project. Fill clear containers with water. Have your child add drops of food coloring to each container to make the colors mentioned. Talk about how to make some colors—mixing blue and yellow to make green, for example. Set the jars where the sun will shine through them.

Lesson 1
Today your child learned that **GOD WANTS US TO BE HAPPY FOR OTHERS.** Children heard about Joseph's special coat (Genesis 37:1-4). They talked about jealousy and discovered ways to be happy for others.

Joseph's Special Coat
(Genesis 37:1-4)





Teacher Guide

PRESCHOOL (ages 3 & 4)

Fall

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

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This quarter your Preschoolers will learn these important Bible lessons:

Joseph

Genesis 37:1-4	God wants us to be happy for others.
Genesis 37:18-30	God wants us to be kind.
Genesis 37:26-35	God wants us to tell the truth.
Genesis 39:2-43:34	God wants us to share.
Genesis 45:1-47:12; 50:14-21	God wants us to forgive.

David and Goliath

1 Samuel 16:11-12; 17:34-37	God helps us do hard things.
1 Samuel 16:16-17:51	God helps us trust him.
1 Samuel 17:1-22	God helps us obey him.
1 Samuel 17:23-51	God helps us be brave.

Daniel and His Friends

Daniel 1:1-3	God watches over us when we're away from home.
Daniel 1:4-21	God watches over us at school.
Daniel 2:1-3, 19	God watches over us when we're scared.
Daniel 3:1-30	God watches over us all the time.

Also available:

MY FIRST HANDS-ON BIBLE™ FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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