



Preschool (ages 3&4)

Teacher Guide • Summer
group.com/sunday-school

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, Summer

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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—**

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.

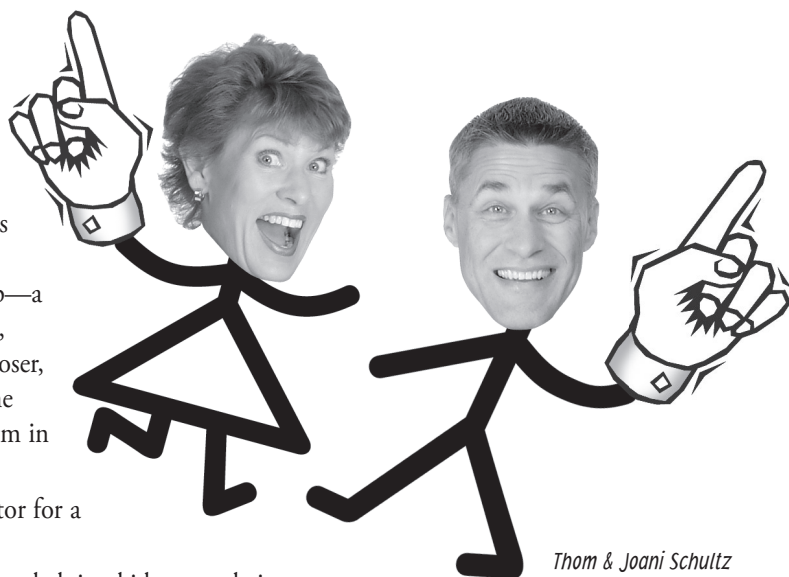
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals,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

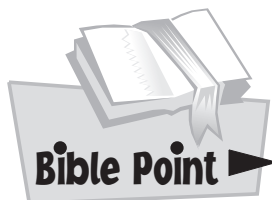
Baby Moses

Long before Moses was born, his people had established a strong presence in Egypt. At first they came just to purchase grain during a long famine, but eventually many Israelites settled in this fertile, prosperous country. Their numbers continued to increase until Pharaoh, the Egyptian ruler, began to fear the burgeoning Israelite population. Thinking that this ethnic group might grow strong enough to side with Egypt's enemies and overthrow the government, Pharaoh forced the Israelites into slavery. When their numbers continued to grow in spite of harsh working conditions, Pharaoh ordered that all Israelite baby boys be thrown into the Nile River. Moses' mother bravely hid her baby boy for three months, and then set him in a basket and floated him down the river, trusting God for his safety.

Baby Moses was too young to realize that he was alone on the river. But for the preschoolers in your class, being left alone is a real fear. Whether they're at home with a baby sitter or lost in a shopping mall, many children are afraid to be separated from their parents. They'll be comforted to hear how God watched over Moses and to learn that God is with them wherever they go—even in scary situations.

Four Lessons on Baby Moses

| Lesson | Bible Point | Page | Bible Basis |
|----------|------------------------------------------|------|------------------|
| 1 | God is always with us. | 11 | Exodus 1:22–2:10 |
| 2 | God is always with us when we're scared. | 25 | Exodus 2:3-6 |
| 3 | God is always with us and our families. | 37 | Exodus 2:7-9 |
| 4 | God is always with us. | 49 | Exodus 2:10 |



Bible Point ▶

God is always with us.

Bible Verse

“The Lord is always with me” (Acts 2:25a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- search for hidden treats,
 - learn how God took care of baby Moses,
 - teach Whiskers that he’s never alone, and
 - learn a song to remind them that God is always with us.



Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God protects baby Moses.

Exodus
1:22–2:10



When we read this passage, we tend to picture Moses’ mother just setting him afloat on the Nile, praying and hoping that someone would find and save him. However, the story that unfolds makes it clear that Moses’ mother intentionally chose the exact place and time in which to surrender Moses. Pharaoh had decreed that any Egyptian who found a Hebrew male baby must throw the baby into the Nile. Only someone of influence with Pharaoh would be able to save a Hebrew baby from death, and Moses’ mother apparently knew where and when someone like that bathed. So Moses’ discovery by Pharaoh’s daughter was no accident; it was part of his mother’s plan as well as God’s! And Moses’ sister’s suggestion that she get a Hebrew woman to take care of the baby was definitely a part of God’s plan, if not a part of Moses’ mother’s plan as well! God was protecting Moses.

God protected Moses from certain death. And God gave Moses both a God-honoring upbringing and a king’s class education in Pharaoh’s court. God was preparing Moses to lead his people out of Egypt.






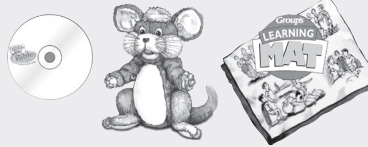
Prayer

- Read Exodus 1:22–2:10.
- When has God protected you? How can you explain God’s protection to your children?
- Pray: Dear God, thank you for taking care of us. Please help me encourage the children to know that you are always with them. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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. | "Basket Name Tags" handout (p. 22), scissors, washable markers, safety pins or tape | |
| Let's Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives. | Option 1: Hidden Pictures —Draw "invisible" pictures, and then watch them become visible. | White crayons, white paper, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, bowls of water | |
| | Option 2: The Baby Sitters Club —Take care of dolls and stuffed animals. | Dolls, stuffed animals, baby bottles, baby blankets | |
| | Option 3: Where Are You? —Search for hidden friends. | | |
| | 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 —Look for a hidden treat, and learn that Moses' mother hid her baby. | Bag of mini-cookies | |
| | Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together. | Bible, CD player |  |
| | Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Hide "cookie babies" as they learn what happened when Moses' mother hid him. | Bible, bag of mini-cookies, napkins, paper plates, wet wipes |  |
| | Do the Bible Story —Learn about Moses' journey down the river and how God was with him. | Large bucket of water, drinking straws, small plastic resealable storage container, CD player |  |
| Closing  | Where's Whiskers? —Teach Whiskers that God is always with us. | CD player |  |
| | Moses' Adventures —Learn a finger play about baby Moses, and thank God for being with us. | | |

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

Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: “Basket Name Tags” handouts (p. 22), scissors, washable markers, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank the child for coming to class today.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► God is always with us.**
- Give each child a photocopy of a basket 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 plastic so they’ll last through the quarter.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

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 any activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “Have you ever hidden from someone?” or “Who watched over you when you were a baby?”

■ Option 1: Hidden Pictures

SUPPLIES: white crayons, white paper, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, bowls of water

Set out white crayons, white paper, watercolor paints, paintbrushes, and bowls of water. Encourage children to draw on the paper with the white crayons. Point out that their pictures are hidden. Then show children how to brush over their pictures with watercolor paint so their hidden pictures can be found. As children work, explain that today they’ll hear about a baby who was hidden and then found.

■ Option 2: The Baby Sitters Club

SUPPLIES: dolls, stuffed animals, baby bottles, baby blankets

Set out dolls, stuffed animals, baby bottles, and baby blankets in a cozy corner or housekeeping center. Have children pretend they’re taking care of the dolls and animals. As children play, explain that in today’s Bible story, God took care of a special baby named Moses. Tell children that just as God was with baby Moses, ► God is always with us.

■ Option 3: Where Are You?

SUPPLIES: none

Choose one child to be the “Seeker.” Have the Seeker cover his or her eyes and slowly count to 10 while the other children hide. Then allow the Seeker to walk around the room, looking for the hidden children. Each time the Seeker finds someone, have



BIBLE POINT



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



While you are bent down greeting the children, look around the classroom from a child’s perspective. Are tables too high? Is it easy to see pictures hanging on the walls? Remember, the classroom is for the children and should be designed around their needs.



BIBLE POINT


teacher tips

Preschoolers often have trouble making transitions between activities. You can help children by consistently using the same signal when it's time to move on to another activity. Whatever you choose, keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

that child join the Seeker in looking for the others. When everyone has been found, choose a new Seeker and play again. As children play, tell them that today they'll learn about a mother who hid her baby boy so he would be safe.

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 Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" with the CD (track 2) 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: bag of mini-cookies

Before class, hide a bag of mini-cookies somewhere in your classroom.

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

Have children sit on the floor.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Looked for my friends; took care of dolls; made a hidden picture.)

Say: **Some of you made hidden pictures. Some of you took care of dolls and animals. And some of you played Hide-and-Seek. You were all learning important things about our Bible story. We're going to hear about a special baby whose mother hid him so he'd be safe. But before we hear that story, let's play a game. I've hidden a special treat for you in our classroom. I didn't want anyone to eat the treats, so they're in a safe place. Let's look for them together.**

Have children walk around the room as they look for the cookies. When they find the bag, form a circle, and ask:

• **Why did I hide the treats?** (So we could have fun looking for them; so no one would eat them; to make them a surprise.)

• **What other special things do people hide?** (Gifts; Easter eggs; surprises; themselves.)

Say: **Today we'll learn about a mommy who hid her baby so mean men wouldn't get him. But the mommy wasn't the only one looking out for the baby—God watched over the baby, too. God watches over us today. In fact, ►*God is always with us.* Let's set our treat aside until later and get ready to hear about a baby named Moses.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



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. 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.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" with the *CD* (track 3) 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 *basket stamp*, and thank him or her for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. As they come up to you to get their hands stamped, take time to show them the Bible and explain to them that the Bible is God's Word for them.

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" with the *CD* (track 4) to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



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



Make sure to return Learning Lab items back to the box when you are finished using them so the items can be used in future lessons.



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, bag of mini-cookies, paper plates, napkins, wet wipes

Ask children to clean their hands with the wet wipes. Form a circle, and give each child five mini-cookies, a paper plate, and a napkin. Have each child set the cookies on the plate next to the napkin.

Open your Bible to **Exodus 1:22–2:10**, and show the passage to your class. Say: **Our story comes from the book of Exodus in the Bible, God's special book. Our Learning Mat shows us pictures of the Bible story.** Open the *Learning Mat: Baby Moses* so children can see the pictures.

Hold up a cookie. Say: **Today we'll hear about a baby who had to hide. Let's pretend our cookies are little babies! Each time you hear me say "baby," hide one of your "cookie babies" inside your napkin.**

Read the following story, pausing after saying the word "baby" to allow children to hide cookies inside their napkins.

Say: **Long ago God's special people, the Israelites, lived in the land of Egypt. There a wicked king named Pharaoh made God's people work very hard. Pharaoh didn't love God and didn't love the Israelites! In fact, when he saw how many Israelites there were, Pharaoh made a terrible law that said the Israelites couldn't keep their baby boys!**

The Israelites didn't want to follow Pharaoh's law. They knew it was wrong. One woman hid her baby boy for three months. But he grew and grew—pretty soon it was hard to hide him any longer!

So his mother took a basket made from grass and covered it with sticky tar so it would float. She bundled up her boy and placed him in the basket. Then she gently set the basket in the river, near the tall grass. Her daughter, Miriam, hid in the grass to see what would happen.

Before long, someone came walking near the river. It was the princess—Pharaoh's own daughter—coming to take a bath in the river! When she saw the basket, the princess sent her servant to get it. When the princess opened the basket and saw what was inside, she was surprised! In fact, she felt sorry for the little baby and decided to keep him for her very own.



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



Suddenly, Miriam stepped out from behind the tall grass. “Do you want me to go get someone to take care of this baby for you?”

“Yes, please,” answered the princess. So Miriam ran and got her mother to take care of him for the princess.

“Take good care of this baby,” the princess said, “and I will pay you. When he is bigger, he will come and live with me in the palace.”

The princess named the boy “Moses.” When Moses got bigger, he lived in the palace just as the princess said.

Look around at the children’s napkins; then say: **Good job hiding your cookie babies. You can take your cookies out and eat them while we talk about our Bible story.**

As children eat the cookies, ask:

- **Why did Moses’ mother have to hide him?** (Because a mean king said she couldn’t keep him; so he would be safe.)
- **Why did Moses’ mother put him in a basket?** (To keep him safe; because he was too big to hide in their house.)
- **Who took care of Moses as he floated down the river?** (His sister; God.)
- **Who found Moses?** (The princess; Pharaoh’s daughter.)

Say: **God was with Moses and his family. God was with Moses’ mother as she made the basket. God was with Miriam as she watched Moses float down the river. ► God is always with us, too. Because he loves us and cares for us, God will never leave us alone.**



■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: large bucket or tub of water, drinking straws, small plastic resealable storage container, CD player



Before class, fill a large bucket or tub with water. You will also need one drinking straw per child, a small plastic resealable storage container, the *springfill* and the *mini-beanbag animal* from the Learning Lab.

Say: **We can be happy and celebrate because ► God is always with us, just as he was with baby Moses in our Bible story today. Let’s play a game now to help us remember that God was with baby Moses and God is with us.** Hold up the *mini-beanbag animal* and the plastic resealable container. **Let’s pretend this animal is like baby Moses and has to float in a basket down a river.** Encourage children to fill the container with some of the *springfill* and then gently place the *mini-beanbag animal* inside the “basket.” Put the lid back on the container. **Let’s put our “baby” on the river.** Ask one or two children to place the container on the water in the tub. Tell them to gently blow on the container through their straws and watch it move along in the water. Play “God Is With Me” (Acts 2:25a) on the CD (track 5), and encourage the children to sing to the baby in the basket. Lyrics are on page 19.

After several minutes, turn off the CD, and ask:

- **How do you think Miriam and Moses’ mother felt when they had to put baby Moses on the water?** (They were scared; they trusted God; they didn’t want anything bad to happen to Moses.)



Be sure to adequately supervise the children while they are near the water.

• **How did you feel watching our baby float on the water?** (It was fun; I wasn't worried; I didn't want the basket to tip over.)

• **How do you know that God is always with you?** (Because the Bible says so; because I know he loves me; because I know he takes care of me.)

Say: **I'm sure that it was scary for Miriam and Moses' mother to put baby Moses on the river; but they trusted God and knew that God was with baby Moses. We can trust God, too, because ► God is always with us.**

Return the items to the Learning Lab for use in future lessons.

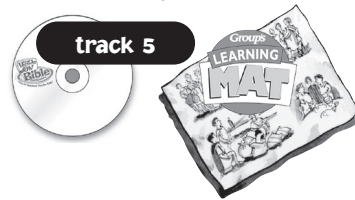


BIBLE POINT ►

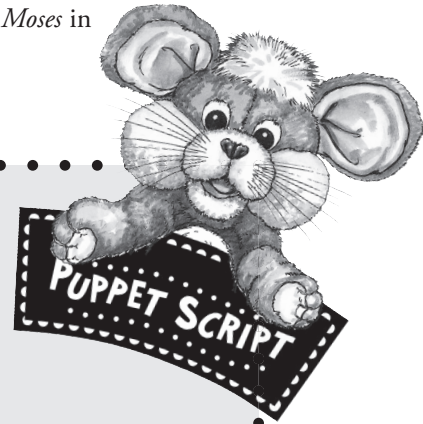
Closing

■ *Where's Whiskers?*

SUPPLIES: CD player



Before class, hide Whiskers somewhere in the room. Make sure children will be able to find him. Set out the *Learning Mat: Baby Moses* in your story area.



Teacher: Has anyone seen Whiskers? Hmm, I wonder if he's hiding. Let's take a minute and look for him. (*Have children walk around the room as they look for Whiskers. When they find him, continue.*) Whiskers, I'm so glad we found you. You were hiding, weren't you?

Whiskers: (*Giggling*) Yes, I wanted to see if you could find me.

Teacher: Today we heard about a baby who was hidden in a basket.

Whiskers: Why was a baby hidden? What kind of basket was he hiding in? Was it a laundry basket?

Teacher: Let's sit down around the *Learning Mat* and tell Whiskers about the baby hiding in a basket. Can someone point to the house where the baby's family lived? (*Call on a child to point to the house.*)

Whiskers: That looks like a nice house. Why couldn't they hide the baby in the house?

Teacher: The baby's cries were too loud. His mother was afraid the king's soldiers would come and take her baby away. The mean king didn't want God's people to have any more babies.

Whiskers: So what did the baby's mother do?

Teacher: Maybe the children can tell you. (*Lead children in retelling the story. Be sure they tell Whiskers how God looked out for Moses and let his own mother take care of him.*)

Whiskers: Wow! That worked out great for Moses and his family!

Teacher: Yes, Whiskers. God was with Moses and his family. Today we learned that
▶ *God is always with us*, too.

Whiskers: That's great! I'm going to go hide in the laundry basket and pretend I'm baby Moses. 'Bye, everyone!

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Say: **Jesus is always with us. He is God. He is with you when you are awake, and when you are asleep. When you ask Jesus to be your forever friend, he promises that he will never leave you. Let's sing a song to help us remember this.**

Lead children in singing “God Is With Me” (Acts 2:25a) to the tune of “Frère Jacques” with the CD (track 5). Encourage them to do the motions as they sing.



God is with me. (Point upward; then point at self.)
God is with me (point upward; then point at self)
All the time (turn around in place),
Rain or shine. (Wiggle fingers; then hold arms in an overhead circle.)
God is always with me. (Point upward; then point at self.)
God is always with me (point upward; then point at self),
And I'm fine (take a bow),
And I'm fine. (Take a bow.)
 (Repeat.)

■ Moses' Adventures

SUPPLIES: none

Say: **The story of baby Moses can remind each of us of our Bible verse:**
 ▶ **“The Lord is always with me” (Acts 2:25a). To help us remember Moses' adventures, let's learn a rhyme.**

Lead children in the following finger play. Repeat the rhyme twice to help children learn it.



Even though your preschoolers are nonreaders, you may want to use this time to point out where the verse can be found in the Bible. This way the children can begin to develop an awareness of God's Word. You may want to use the same Bible, such as Group's *Hands-On Bible*®, each week.



◀ **BIBLE VERSE**

Baby Moses went for a float (*move hands up and down in a wavelike motion*)
In his little basket boat. (*Cup hands together.*)
Down the river, through the grass (*pretend to push aside tall grass*),
Sister Miriam watched him pass. (*Shade eyes with hand.*)

Then the princess heard him cry (*cup hand behind ear*),
And said, “What is that I spy?” (*Point in front of you.*)
It looks like a baby boy. (*Pretend to hold a baby.*)
He will be my pride and joy.” (*Clasp hands together and smile.*)

Miriam knew just what to do. (*Point to head.*)
She said, “I’ll find some help for you.” (*Nod head.*)
So Miriam brought her mother ’round (*beckon, as if calling for someone*),
And baby Moses was safe and sound. (*Pretend to hold and rock a baby.*)



BIBLE POINT ►

Say: **God was with Moses and his family. We know ► *God is always with us,* too. Let’s thank God for being with us. Pray: Dear God, thank you for always being with us—no matter where we go or what we do. Help us trust you to take care of us, just as you took care of baby Moses. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

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



For Extra Time

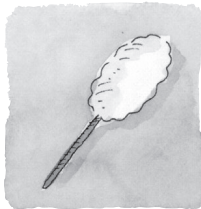
If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ **Lively Learning: Pharaoh Can't Find It!**

Have children clean their hands with wet wipes. Choose one child to be “Pharaoh.” Give each child a cereal square. Instruct each child to hide the cereal square in one hand but to close both fists so Pharaoh won't know where the cereal is. Have the children hop around the room while Pharaoh takes giant steps and tries to tag them. When Pharaoh tags a child, Pharaoh must guess which hand is hiding the cereal. If Pharaoh guesses incorrectly, the child goes free. If Pharaoh guesses correctly, the child becomes the new Pharaoh. As you play the game, remind children how Moses' mother hid him from Pharaoh. (After the game, ask the children to throw away their “used” cereal squares, and give them “fresh” cereal to snack on.)



■ **Make to Take: Cattails**



Set out chenille wire, transparent tape, and cotton batting. Help children tape cotton batting to the end of chenille wire to make cattails. Explain that cattails are tall grasses that grow at the edge of the water. Remind children that Moses' mother hid him in the tall grass. Point out that Miriam also hid in the tall grass along the riverbank. When children finish their cattails, encourage them to “hide” behind them and pretend to be Miriam hiding in the tall grass.

■ **Treat to Eat: Hide the Baby**

Set out paper plates, plastic spoons, vanilla wafer cookies, and a bowl of pudding. Have children clean their hands with wet wipes. Ask each child to put a cookie on a paper plate and then spoon pudding over the cookie to hide it. Remind children that baby Moses' mother hid him to keep him safe. As children eat their snacks, remind them that ► God is always with us.

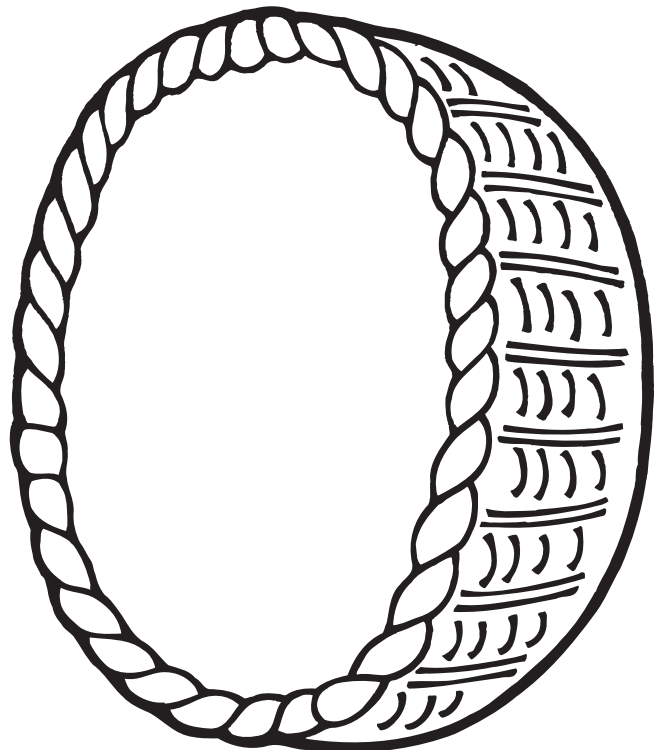
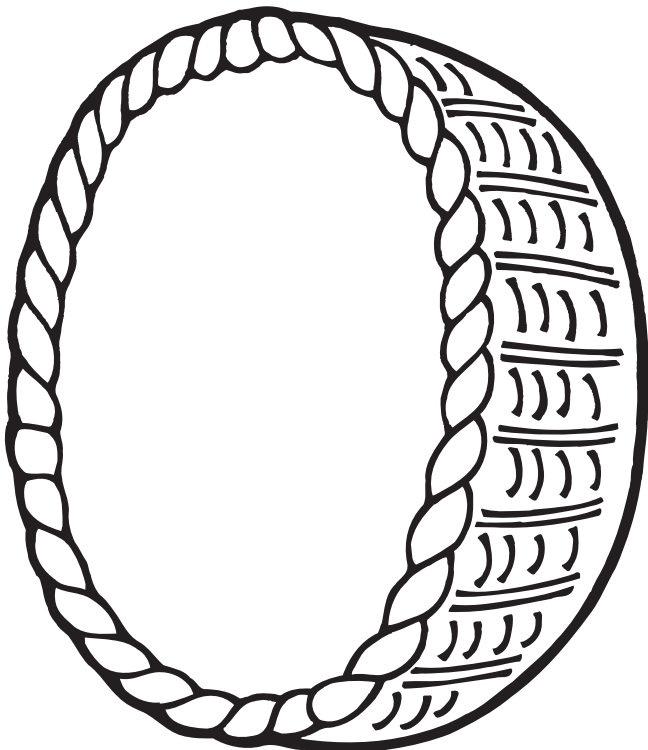
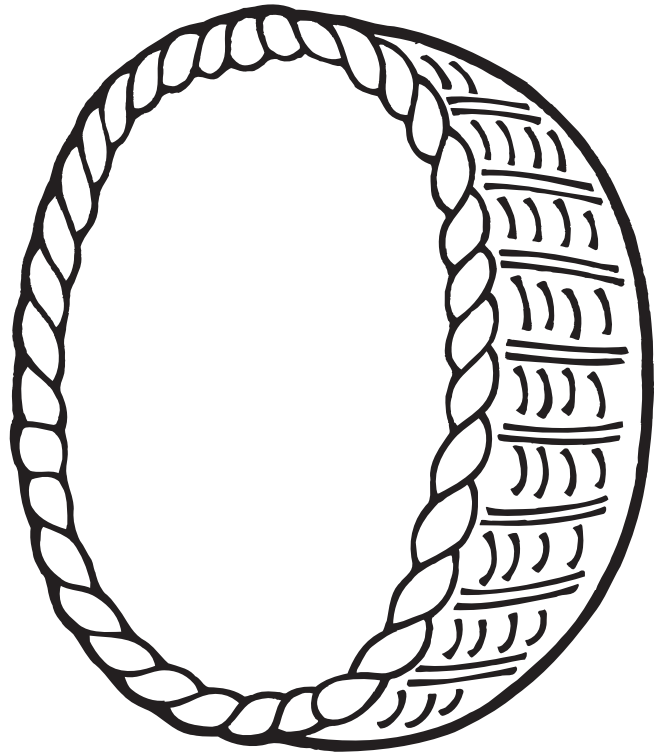
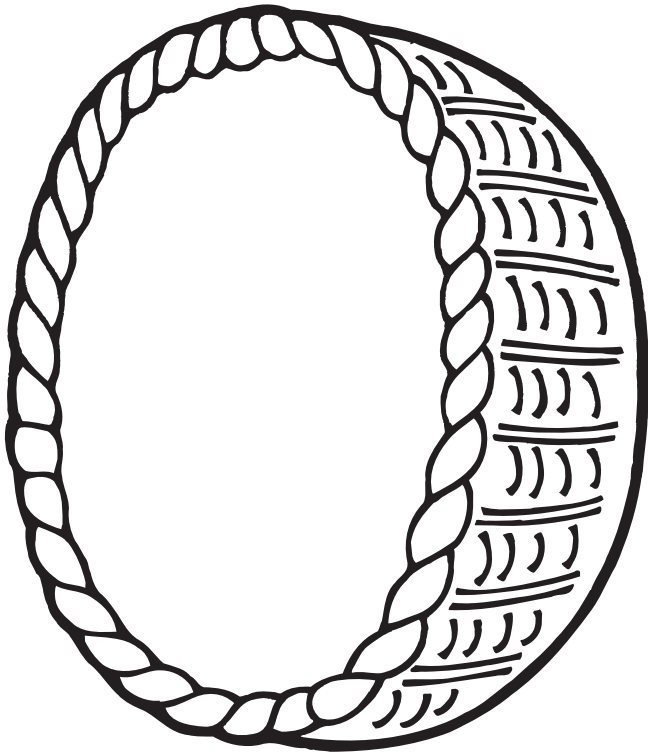


■ **Story Picture: Baby Moses Is Hidden**

Give each child a copy of the “Today I Learned...” handout. Set out squares of soft cloth, and help children glue them over their pictures of baby Moses to hide him. As children color their handouts, remind them that God was with baby Moses and ► God is always with us.

Basket Name Tags

Photocopy and cut out the name tags.



Today I learned...
God is always with us.

Lesson 1
Today children learned that
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US.
Children heard how God
protected baby Moses and his
family. They thanked God for
always being with them.

Help me learn this:

"The Lord is always with me" (Acts 2:25a).

Ask me:

- How did Moses' mother hide baby Moses?
- Who watched over baby Moses in the basket?
- How does God watch over our family?

Family Fun

- Have your child hide somewhere in the house while you close your eyes and count to 20. When you find your child, give him or her a big hug and say, "Even when I can't see you, God is always with you!" Then change roles and hide while your child counts to 10.

Moses' Mother Hides Him (Exodus 1:22-2:10)





Teacher Guide

PRESCHOOL (ages 3 & 4)

Summer

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

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

This quarter your Preschoolers will learn these important Bible lessons:

Baby Moses

| | |
|------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Exodus 1:22–2:10 | God is always with us. |
| Exodus 2:3-6 | God is always with us when we're scared. |
| Exodus 2:7-9 | God is always with us and our families. |
| Exodus 2:10 | God is always with us. |

The Life of Moses

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Exodus 3:1-12 | God loves us and wants us to be his helpers. |
| Exodus 13:17–15:2 | God loves us and can do anything. |
| Exodus 19:3–20:17 | God loves us and gives us rules to keep us safe and happy. |
| Exodus 20:1-11 | God loves us and wants us to love him. |
| Exodus 20:12-17 | God loves us and wants us to love others. |

Esther

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Esther 2:1-18 | God made us special. |
| Esther 4:1-17 | God made us special so we can help. |
| Esther 5:1-8; 7:1-7, 10 | God made us special, and we can do great things. |
| Esther 8:1-17 | God made us special, and he'll take care of us. |

Also available:

MY FIRST HANDS-ON BIBLE™ FOR PRESCHOOLERS

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



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