

Group

Teacher Guide

TODDLERS & 2s

Spring



Teach as
Jesus Taught!®



Toddlers & 2s

Teacher Guide • Spring
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Group resources really work!

This Group resource incorporates our R.E.A.L. approach to ministry. It reinforces a growing friendship with Jesus, encourages long-term learning, and results in life transformation, because it's:



Relational

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®, Toddlers & 2s, Spring

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UNDERSTANDING YOUR TODDLERS AND 2s

SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Toddlers and 2s

- play beside but not with other children (parallel play).
- are possessive about toys and are reluctant to share.
- have tantrums when they're frustrated.
- can chew food well.
- can drink from cups and eat with spoons.
- need adult help in socialization.
- imitate adults.
- often say "no" in response to questions.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Toddlers and 2s

- pick up tiny objects.
- turn pages and point to pictures in books.
- put together 3- to 10-piece puzzles.
- build with blocks.
- move with lots of energy but lack coordination.
- pull wheel toys backward and forward.
- run, jump, and climb but aren't always sure of their balance.

COMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT

Toddlers and 2s

- engage in simple dramatic play.
- use 50 to 100 recognizable words.
- put together two or more words to make a sentence.
- constantly ask "What's that?"
- refer to themselves by name.
- can point to and identify parts of the body and pictures of familiar objects.

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Toddlers and 2s

- pray short, simple prayers.
- learn that God made everything.
- learn that the Bible is a book about God and Jesus.
- learn about God as a loving and kind Father.
- sing and talk about God.



Welcome to the Adventure!

The toddlers and 2s are your domain for this year! Whether this is your first year with them or your 30th, you will be blessed! These little ones are just learning about trust and the world around them. You can be the one who helps them trust Jesus and find him in the world they are discovering. What an adventure for you and for them!

Toddlers and 2-year-olds think very concretely. They pay attention for only a minute or two, and then they are off to satisfy their curiosity about something else. They are working on mastering their basic physical movements and are very proud of their accomplishments. They love consistency and repetition. They will listen to the same story about Jesus for weeks. 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 hearing the story over and over again. They will want to touch, taste, smell, hear, and see what you are talking about. If you show them how to do things, they will imitate you. You will change their lives because you 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 children 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 tastes, smells, and sounds into 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 potential problems.

Whenever you see this allergy alert icon, stop and think about allergies your children might have.

Making the Most of Your Hands-On Bible Curriculum®

WARNING:

 This product is not to be used by a child under 3 years of age without adult supervision.

 Adult assembly required.

Module Introductions Within each quarter of Hands-On Bible Curriculum are three modules. Each module has a theme that runs throughout the lessons. The introduction to each module includes an overview of the lessons and a chart listing the Bible Point and Scripture used in each lesson.

Bible Point There's one point that you want your children to take home at the end of your lesson. That's the Bible Point. You'll see it referenced in the margin as well as italicized and underlined in the lesson. We've designed for it to be repeated numerous times during the lesson so no one will miss it.

Bible Verse These words, taken from God's Word, show the biblical basis for the lesson. The Bible verse appears at the beginning of 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.

Parent Pages In each module introduction, there is a photocopiable Parent Page. These pages that you send home with your families will help reinforce the module's theme and encourage learning at home!

“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.

What’s the “one thing”? Many might say it’s Jesus. 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.

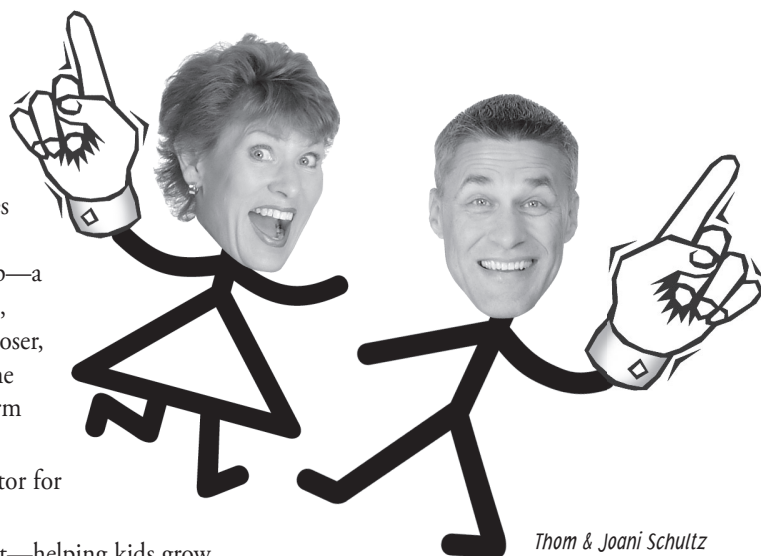
We believe that the church, like Martha, is often distracted by many things. It tends to deprioritize the one thing. Many other well-intentioned things get in the way. Churches and Christians can get sidetracked with an emphasis on rules, political positions, appearances, social action, secondary goals,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

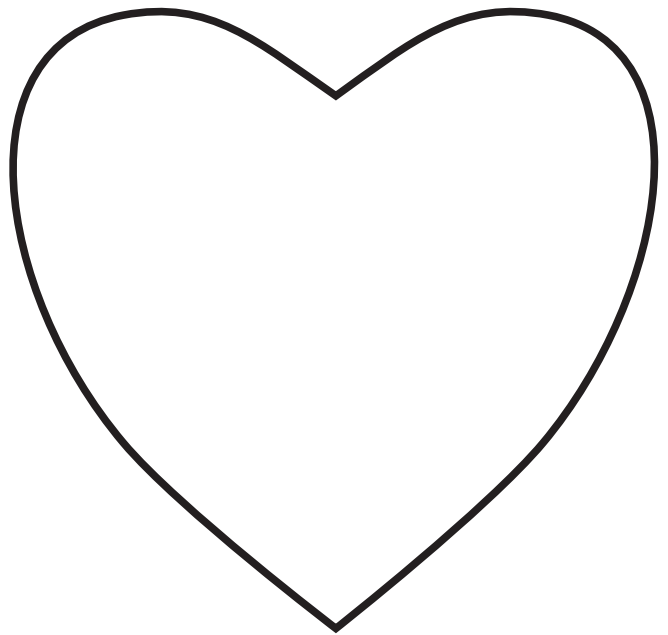
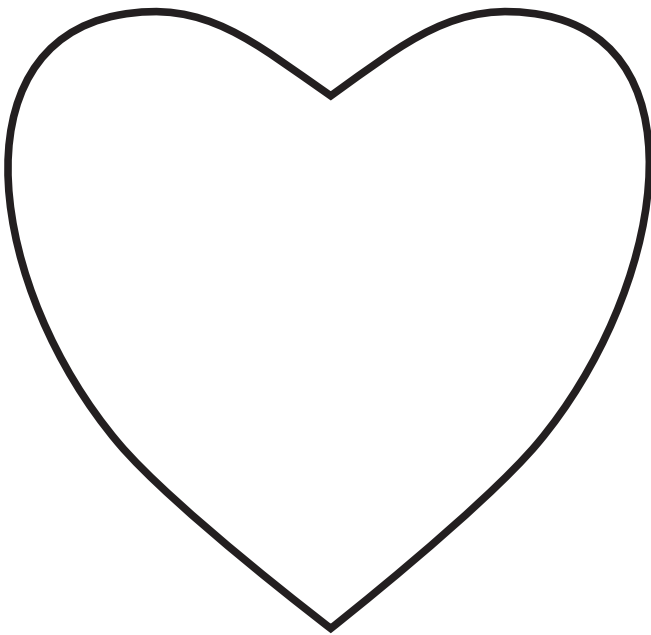
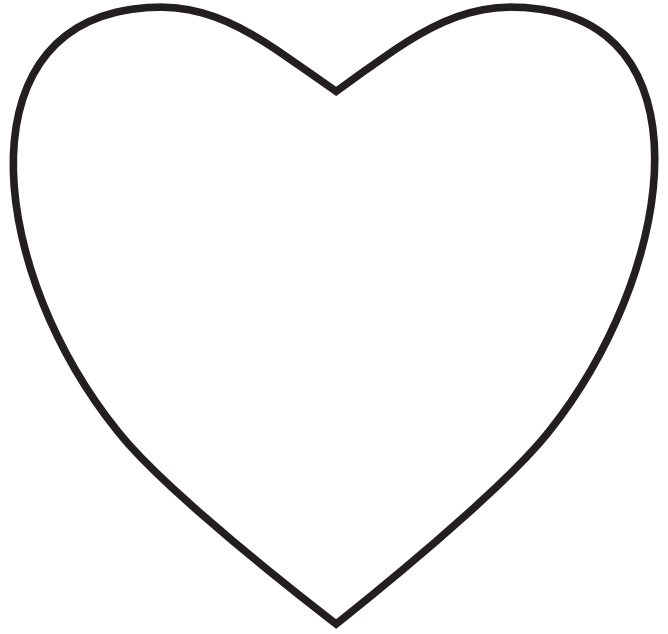
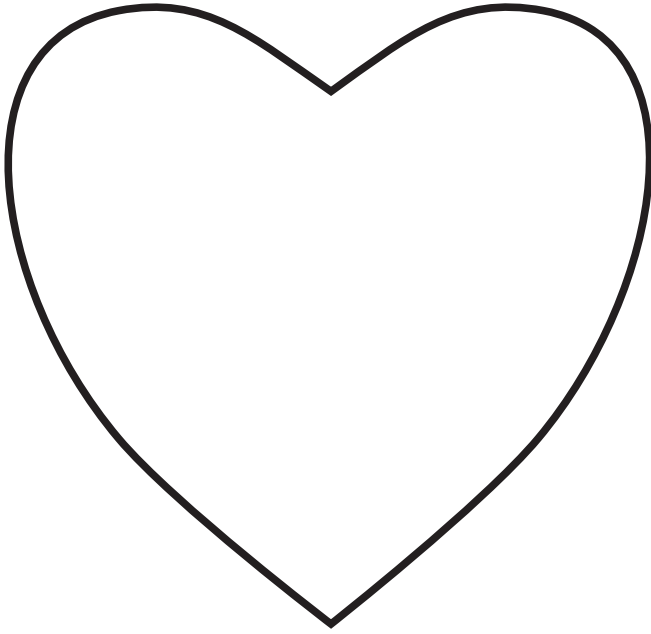
What’s the most important thing your church can do for kids? Help them choose the one thing. And use tools like Hands-On Bible Curriculum to make it a reality.



Thom & Joani Schultz

Name Tag Pattern

Photocopy and cut out the heart name tags.



Jesus Is With Us When We're Scared

Bible Basis: Mark 4:35-41

The miracle described in Mark 4:35-41 dramatically demonstrates Jesus' power. In our human comprehension, the forces of nature are totally uncontrollable. Even with our advanced technology today, we have trouble predicting the weather correctly, and changing it significantly is completely out of the question. By stilling the storm, Jesus demonstrated to his disciples—and to others in the boats who accompanied them—that he was in control even of the weather. They knew they were witnessing a man like no other they had ever seen.

If the disciples made the connection, they must surely have learned from this experience that Jesus could solve any of their problems and take care of all their troubles. Your toddlers won't fully comprehend what it means to control the weather. However, they have already begun to experience some storms in life—times when things don't go the way they'd like.

Through the lessons in this module, help your toddlers begin to understand that God can help them through any troubles they face.

Jesus Is With Us When We're Scared

Lesson	Emphasis	Page
1	Jesus is with us when we're scared of storms.	11
2	Jesus is with us when we're scared of the dark.	23
3	Jesus is with us when we're scared of being alone.	35

Toddlers & 2s

Parent Page

Jesus Is With Us When We're Scared

For the next three weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that Jesus is with us when we're scared. The children will use their five senses to discover that Jesus is always present and ready to protect them.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Dark rooms, unknown places, and booming thunderstorms often seem like scary monsters to young children. The fears are real, and it's important not to shame or discount your toddler's feelings. Recognize and discuss the source of the fear; then offer loving support. Prayer and reassurance that Jesus is with them gives toddlers a sense of security that will banish all their "scary monsters."

Together Time

- Have some "shadow fun" with your toddler. Take a walk on a sunny day and look for your shadows. Point out how shadows stay with you everywhere you go. Explain that Jesus is with us everywhere we go, too, and that we never have to be afraid. As you walk, march in rhythm and repeat the following Scripture: "Do not be afraid...God goes with you" (adapted from Deuteronomy 31:6).
- Make a special night light to add a sense of warmth and comfort to your child's bedroom. Purchase a ready-made night light with a solid-colored plastic cover. Let your child decorate the night light with paint pens and markers. At night, turn on the night light and tell your child to think of Jesus each time he or she looks at the light.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

Jesus Is With Us (adapted from Matthew 28:20b)

(sung to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush")

Jesus is with us (*point upward*);
What a friend is he! (*Give yourself a hug.*)
I don't have to be afraid (*shake your finger*)
'Cuz Jesus is with me! (*Point upward and then at yourself.*)

Jesus is with us (*point upward*);
I'm happy as can be! (*Smile, and then point to your mouth.*)
I don't have to be afraid (*shake your finger*)
'Cuz Jesus is with me! (*Point upward and then at yourself.*)



Bible Point ▶

Jesus Is With Us When We're Scared

Bible Verse

Jesus is with us (adapted from Matthew 28:20b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ realize that Jesus' friends were scared of a storm,
■ learn that Jesus' power stopped the storm, and
■ understand that Jesus is always with them.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ **Jesus is with us when we're scared of storms.**



**Mark
4:35-41**

Jesus' suggestion to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee sounds to us like a simple procedure. However, the boats Jesus' disciples used were small fishing boats. They were not intended for traversing the middle of the lake. Also, the geography surrounding the lake made it susceptible to sudden storms that could turn a calm lake into a violent sea.

Note that Jesus and his followers weren't all in one boat, though that is a common perception. Many lives were at stake when a furious storm arose. However, because many of the disciples were experienced fishermen and expert sailors, one might expect that they would handle things on their own. The fact that they turned to Jesus for help likely meant that they were at the point of pure desperation. They woke Jesus with screams of terror.

When Jesus awoke, he immediately demonstrated that he is in control. There was no hint of worry or concern in his words as he calmed the storm. In the instant the storm ceased, the disciples began to realize more fully who Jesus was. Their terrified response is understandable when we consider God's power and purity in light of our own weakness and imperfection. But the disciples came to learn that no matter how bad a situation seemed, the first thing they needed to do was turn to Jesus.








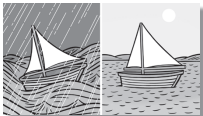

Prayer

- Read Hebrews 13:5-6.
- What are you most afraid of?
- How can you turn that fear over to Jesus?
- Pray: Lord, please forgive me for the times I'm afraid. Help me to trust you more fully. And help me model that trust for the children I teach by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart below.
- 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
<p>Arrival Activities</p> <p>Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.</p>	<p>Welcome Time—Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.</p>	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<p>Option 1: Stormy Seas—Make waves and sail a boat on a make-believe sea.</p>	Large dishpan, water, sponge, plastic tablecloth, rotary eggbeater or wire whisk, paper towels	
	<p>Option 2: Crazy Clouds—Make pictures of fluffy clouds.</p>	Blue or gray construction paper, glue sticks, cotton balls	
	<p>Pick-Up Time—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.</p>	CD player	
<p>Bible Story Time</p>	<p>Bible Song—Sing a song about the Bible.</p>	Bible, CD player	
	<p>Jesus Is With Us When We’re Scared—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the story from Mark 4:35-41 about Jesus calming the storm.</p>	Aluminum foil, scissors, flashlight, CD player, modeling clay	
	<p>Jesus Is With Us—Sing a song, and learn that Jesus is with us.</p>	CD player	
<p>Bible Activities</p>	<p>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board—Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.</p>	Raindrop, Jesus, and child patterns (p. 22); wallpaper or gift wrap; scissors; tape; black and blue construction paper; small umbrella; markers or crayons	
	<p>Sing It Out—Sing a song, and learn that Jesus is with us.</p>	Bible, CD player	
	<p>Bible Craft—Make “rain tubes,” and then listen to the “rain.”</p>	Poster board, scissors, packing tape, bowl, uncooked rice, crayons, aluminum foil, plastic spoons	
	<p>Bible Game—Interact with a picture to play a fun game with their rain tubes.</p>	Rain tubes from Bible Craft	
 <p>Closing</p>	<p>Stormy Pudding—Say a prayer, and have a snack.</p>	Milk, instant pudding mix, large plastic jar and lid, whipped cream, paper cups, plastic spoons	

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

Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “Jesus Is With Us” (adapted from Matthew 28:20b) (track 4) from the CD as children are arriving.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus is with us when we’re scared.**
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.



Always watch children carefully when doing water activities.



If you have older toddlers, show them how to gently stretch the cotton balls before gluing them in place for a more realistic effect.



■ Option 1: Stormy Seas

SUPPLIES: large dishpan, water, plastic tablecloth, sponge or other floating toy, rotary eggbeater or wire whisk, paper towels

Before class, spread a plastic tablecloth on a table in one corner of the room. Set paper towels, a large dishpan partially filled with water, and a rotary eggbeater or wire whisk on the tablecloth. Put the sponge in the dishpan.

As children arrive, invite them to “sail” the “boat” on the “sea” by blowing on it and gently stirring the water. Then have children pretend a storm is coming. Demonstrate how to make waves using the eggbeater or wire whisk, and make sure each child has a chance to make waves. After each child stirs the water, let the water calm before the next child takes a turn. Point out how the waves stop and the water becomes still. Tell the children that they’ll hear a story about a time Jesus’ friends were scared of a storm at sea but that Jesus calmed the sea. Explain that ► Jesus is with us when we’re scared.

Have children dry their hands on the paper towels when they’ve finished sailing the boat.

■ Option 2: Crazy Clouds

SUPPLIES: blue or gray construction paper, glue sticks, cotton balls

Set out cotton balls, glue sticks, and blue or gray construction paper. Help each child glue cotton balls on his or her paper to make fluffy clouds in the sky. As children work, circulate among them and ask questions such as “Have you ever been afraid of a storm?” and “Why do we have clouds and rain?”

Tell the children that today they’ll hear a story about a time there was a storm and Jesus’ friends were scared. Explain that Jesus was with his friends and stopped the storm. Tell children that ► Jesus is with us when we’re scared.




teacher tips
Understanding Your Toddlers and 2s' Social/Emotional Development

Toddlers and 2s...

- play beside—but not with—other children (parallel play).
- are possessive about toys and are reluctant to share.
- have tantrums when they're frustrated.
- can chew food well.
- can drink from cups and eat with spoons.
- need adult help in socialization.
- imitate adults.
- often say “no” in response to questions.


teacher tips

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.


BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

Choose a special Bible to use for this section of the lesson each week. For example, you could use the *Hands-On Bible* (Group Publishing), a big black Bible, a red Bible, or a Bible with gold leaf pages. These special characteristics will make Bible Story Time memorable.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things” (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”


SING

**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.**

**Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.**

**Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.**

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: **Who is with us when we’re scared? ► Jesus is with us when we’re scared. How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s sing a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD*, lead children in singing “God’s Special Book” (track 3) to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”


SING

**This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done
And his love for me!**

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Is With Us When We're Scared

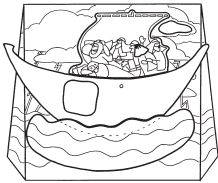
SUPPLIES: aluminum foil, scissors, flashlight, CD player, modeling clay



Before class begins, prepare your StoryBoard by following the assembly instructions provided in the Learning Lab. The purpose of the StoryBoard is to provide an interactive, sensory learning opportunity for your toddlers and 2s. Please attach the sensory items securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

Before this activity, cut a 6-inch square of aluminum foil for each child.

Scene 1



Set the flashlight, the CD player, and the aluminum foil squares behind you. You'll also need the punch-out figure of Jesus and the sheet of acetate from the Learning Lab box. Be sure to have the picture of the frightened disciples showing on the StoryBoard.

Rock the boat/wave combination on the StoryBoard, and say: **Look at this boat rock on the waves! Today, we're going to hear a Bible story about a boat sailing on the sea. And we're going to learn that ► Jesus is with us when we're scared.**

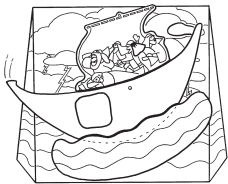
One night Jesus and his friends climbed aboard their boat. It was nighttime, and they were going to sail across the sea. Up and down they sailed in the water. Up and down. Show me how the boat sailed. Lead the children in moving their hands up and down like a sailing boat. **Up and down, up and down over the waves. Now let's make the StoryBoard boat sail up and down on the waves.** Let children each have a turn gently rocking the boat on the StoryBoard. Encourage children to touch the side of the boat. Then ask:

- **What is the boat like?** (Hard; scratchy.)

Say: **The disciples and Jesus were on the boat. Jesus was sleepy. Show me a big yawn.** Pause while children respond. **Jesus decided to take a nap, so he lay down and went to sleep.** Point to the picture of Jesus sleeping on the boat.

But what happened after Jesus fell asleep on the boat? There was a loud noise!

Scene 2



Say: **Listen—could that be thunder?** Play the “Storm Sounds” segment on the CD (track 5). When the thundering sounds end, turn off the CD player. Then ask:

- **What was that sound?** (Thunder; rain; a storm.)

Say: **Oh, my! A big storm came upon the sea.** Slowly say the following action rhyme and do the motions in parentheses. Then encourage children to repeat the rhyme and actions with you.



The thunder said, “Boom!” (Clap.)

The wind said, “Zoom!” (Rub your palms together.)

And the rain said, “Whoosh, whoosh, whoosh!” (Sweep your arms back and forth.)

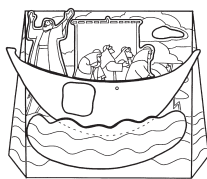
Say: **It was a big storm! We can touch the storm clouds and make the wind blow.** Have children touch the clouds on the StoryBoard and blow on the disciple’s headdress to make it flap “in the wind.” **Let’s make pretend thunder and lightning, too.** Hand each child a square of aluminum foil. Have children hold up their foil squares as you shine the flashlight on the squares to make flashes of “lightning.” Then show children how to gently rattle their foil squares. Tell children to keep rattling their squares as you rattle the sheet of acetate from the Learning Lab box to make sounds like thunder.

The storm was big, and the disciples were scared! They were afraid their boat would tip over and they’d drown. Let’s make the boat rock on the big waves. Let children rock the StoryBoard boat back and forth. Then say: **The disciples were afraid. But we know that ▶ Jesus is with us when we’re scared. The frightened disciples hurried to wake Jesus.** Pat your knees to make running sounds and encourage children to follow.



BIBLE POINT ▶

Scene 3



Rock the StoryBoard back and forth. In a worried voice, say: **The disciples said, “Jesus, Jesus! Please help us. Don’t you care if we drown?” And guess what Jesus did?** Continue rocking the boat. **Jesus stood up in the boat.** Fasten the punch-out figure of Jesus to the StoryBoard. **Jesus talked to the wind and said “Quiet!” Jesus talked to the waves and said, “Be still!” And the wind and the waves became quiet and still.** Stop rocking the boat and return it to a level position.

The disciples were surprised. Rotate the picture of the frightened disciples to reveal the picture of the amazed and happy disciples. **Jesus stopped the storm. The disciples knew that Jesus is powerful. Even the waves and the wind obey Jesus. The disciples learned that ▶ Jesus is with us when we’re scared. Let’s sing a song about how Jesus is with us all the time—even when we’re scared.**



BIBLE POINT ▶

■ Jesus Is With Us

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD, lead children in singing “Jesus Is With Us” (adapted from Matthew 28:20b) to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.” For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



SING

Jesus is with us (point upward);

What a friend is he! (Give yourself a hug.)

I don’t have to be afraid (shake your finger)

’Cuz Jesus is with me! (Point upward and then at yourself.)

teacher tips

Important: When you finish the Bible Story, put the StoryBoard and the sheet of acetate away out of reach of children.

Jesus is with us (*point upward*);
I'm happy as can be! (*Smile, and then point to your mouth.*)
I don't have to be afraid (*shake your finger*)
'Cuz Jesus is with me! (*Point upward and then at yourself.*)



Say: **Jesus is our best friend. He loves us very much. If we love him back, Jesus will be our forever friend and someday we will live with him in heaven.**

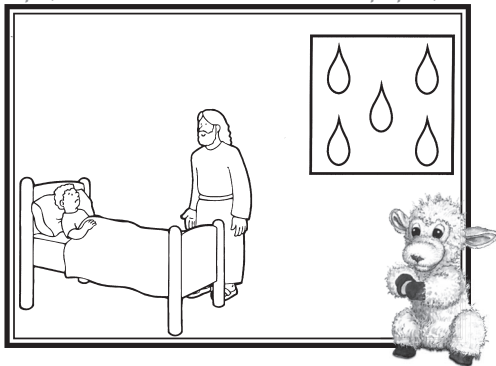
What a wonderful friend to have! Jesus is so powerful that even the weather obeys him. He's always ready to keep us safe. ▶ Jesus is with us when we're scared. Sometimes storms can seem scary. Let's put a pretend storm on our bulletin board.



Bible Activities

■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: raindrop, Jesus, and child patterns (p. 22); wallpaper or gift wrap; scissors; tape; black and blue construction paper; small umbrella; markers or crayons



Before class, cover the bulletin board with patterned wallpaper or gift wrap. Tape an 8½x11-inch sheet of black construction paper to the bulletin board for a window. You may wish to add paper-towel curtains for a nice touch.

Photocopy the patterns of Jesus and of the child in bed. Color the patterns, and cut them out. Tape the picture of the child to the bulletin board.

Keep the picture of Jesus to use during the activity. You'll also need to photocopy the raindrop patterns onto blue construction paper. Cut out a raindrop for each child.

Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a small umbrella in front of his face. Go through the following script, and then put Cuddles and the umbrella away out of sight.

Teacher: Cuddles, is that you under the umbrella? (*No answer*) Yoo-hoo, Cuddles. Peekaboo! (*Cuddles slowly peeks around the edge of the umbrella but still makes no sounds.*) Children, let's say Cuddles' name together. Maybe that will bring him out from under that umbrella. Cuddles!

Cuddles: (*Peeks out from behind the umbrella.*) Did you call me? I'm hiding under this umbrella just in case.

Teacher: Just in case of what, Cuddles?



- Cuddles:** Just in case it rains. I heard thunder a little while ago, and I don't like storms.
- Teacher:** (*Gently setting down the umbrella*) We heard about a thunderstorm in our Bible story, Cuddles. But it's not really going to storm now. You don't need your umbrella.
- Cuddles:** Good, 'cuz sometimes I'm scared of storms and rain.
- Teacher:** Did you know that Jesus' friends were afraid of a storm, too?
- Cuddles:** What happened?
- Teacher:** Boys and girls, can you tell Cuddles who's with us when we're scared? (*Lead children in telling Cuddles the Bible Point.*) Jesus stopped that storm and helped the disciples so they weren't afraid anymore.
- Cuddles:** Wow! That's great! Jesus can do anything, and we don't have to be afraid with Jesus around. I'm not going to be scared of storms anymore.
- Teacher:** Good for you, Cuddles. Now, would you like to help us put pretend raindrops on the bulletin board?
- Cuddles:** Sure! I like being a helper.
- Have Cuddles hand each child a paper raindrop. Help children tape the raindrops to the construction paper window on the bulletin board. Each time a child places a raindrop, help him or her say, "Jesus is with us." Then tape the picture of Jesus beside the picture of the child already on the bulletin board.*
- Teacher:** Sometimes when we hear rain or storms in the night, we may feel scared. But ► Jesus is with us when we're scared. Isn't that wonderful? Let's sing about how Jesus is with us all the time.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player

BIBLE VERSE ►



Open your Bible to **Matthew 28:20b**, and show children where today's Bible verse appears. Explain that the Bible tells us ► **Jesus is with us.**

Using the CD, lead children in singing "Jesus Is With Us" (adapted from Matthew 28:20b) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." For extra fun, do the motions in parentheses.



Jesus is with us (*point upward*);
What a friend is he! (*Give yourself a hug.*)
I don't have to be afraid (*shake your finger*)
'Cuz Jesus is with me! (*Point upward and then at yourself.*)

Jesus is with us (*point upward*);
I'm happy as can be! (*Smile, and then point to your mouth.*)
I don't have to be afraid (*shake your finger*)
'Cuz Jesus is with me! (*Point upward and then at yourself.*)

Say: **Jesus was with the disciples when they were scared by the rainstorm, and ► Jesus is with us when we're scared.** Falling rain makes interesting sounds, doesn't it? We can make a "rain tube" and listen to the pitter-patter sounds of pretend rain.



■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: poster board, scissors, packing tape, bowl, uncooked rice, crayons, aluminum foil, plastic spoons

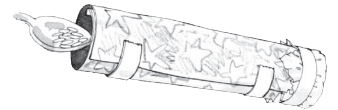
Before class, make paper tubes from poster board and packing tape. Be sure the tubes are about 1 inch wide and 6 inches long. Tape the side seams securely. Make a paper tube for each child and one for yourself. You'll also need to cut two 3-inch aluminum foil squares for each paper tube. Tape a foil square over one end of each tube with packing tape.

Set out a bowl of uncooked rice, crayons, plastic spoons, aluminum foil squares, and packing tape. Hand children the paper tubes, and invite them to color their tubes with crayons. Then have children pour two spoonfuls of rice into their tubes. Help children secure foil squares over the open ends of their tubes, and tape the foil in place using packing tape.

When the "rain tubes" are finished, say: **Slowly tip your rain tubes back and forth. Listen! What do you hear?** As the tubes are tipped back and forth, the sliding rice will sound like gently falling rain. **Can you hear the sounds of pretend rain? Let's play a game with our rain tubes to help us remember that ► Jesus is with us when we're scared.**

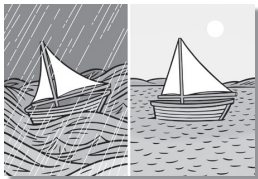


Empty paper-towel or gift-wrap tubes work especially well for this craft project.



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: rain tubes from Bible Craft



Have children stand in a circle holding their rain tubes.

Say: **We can play a fun game with our rain tubes. Follow me!**

Hold up the "Stormy and Sunny" teaching picture from the Learning Lab, and point out that there are two different pictures: One is a picture of a sunny scene and the other is a picture of a dark, stormy scene. Say: **When I point to the stormy picture, tip your rain tube to make it sound like it's raining. When I point to the sunny picture, put your rain tube on the floor and twinkle your fingers to show that it's sunny.**

Point to the pictures several times.

Ask: • **How do you feel when it's sunny outside?** (Happy, because I can play outside; glad.)

• **How do you feel when it's raining outside?** (Scared; happy; I don't like it.)

Say: **We don't have to be afraid of rain or storms because ► Jesus is with us when we're scared!** That makes me happy. Let's be happy raindrops and tiptoe to the snack table for a treat.





Closing

■ Stormy Pudding

SUPPLIES: milk, instant pudding mix, large plastic jar and lid, whipped cream, paper cups, plastic spoons

Have children wash their hands. Gather children at the snack table, and have them put their rain tubes under their chairs.

Ask: • **Who is with us when we're scared?** (Jesus.)

Say: **That's right! ► Jesus is with us when we're scared. Jesus is with us all the time, in the day or night, in sunshine or rain. Let's say a prayer and thank God that Jesus is always with us. Fold your hands.** Pray: **Dear God, thank you that Jesus is with us all the time. In Jesus' name, amen.**

We heard a Bible story about a storm, and we made rain tubes. Now let's gobble up delicious storm clouds. Pour milk and a box of instant pudding mix into a plastic jar. Seal the jar tightly with the lid. Let children take turns shaking the jar for about two minutes, and then pour the pudding into paper cups. Add a small dollop of whipped cream on top of the pudding. Then pass out the stormy pudding cups and plastic spoons.

When children have finished, have them throw their paper cups and spoons in the wastebasket. Remind children to take their rain tubes home. Have them take their cloud pictures home if they chose to do Option 2.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Parent Page" handout (p. 10) for this module, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this module'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.

■ **Rain Recordings**

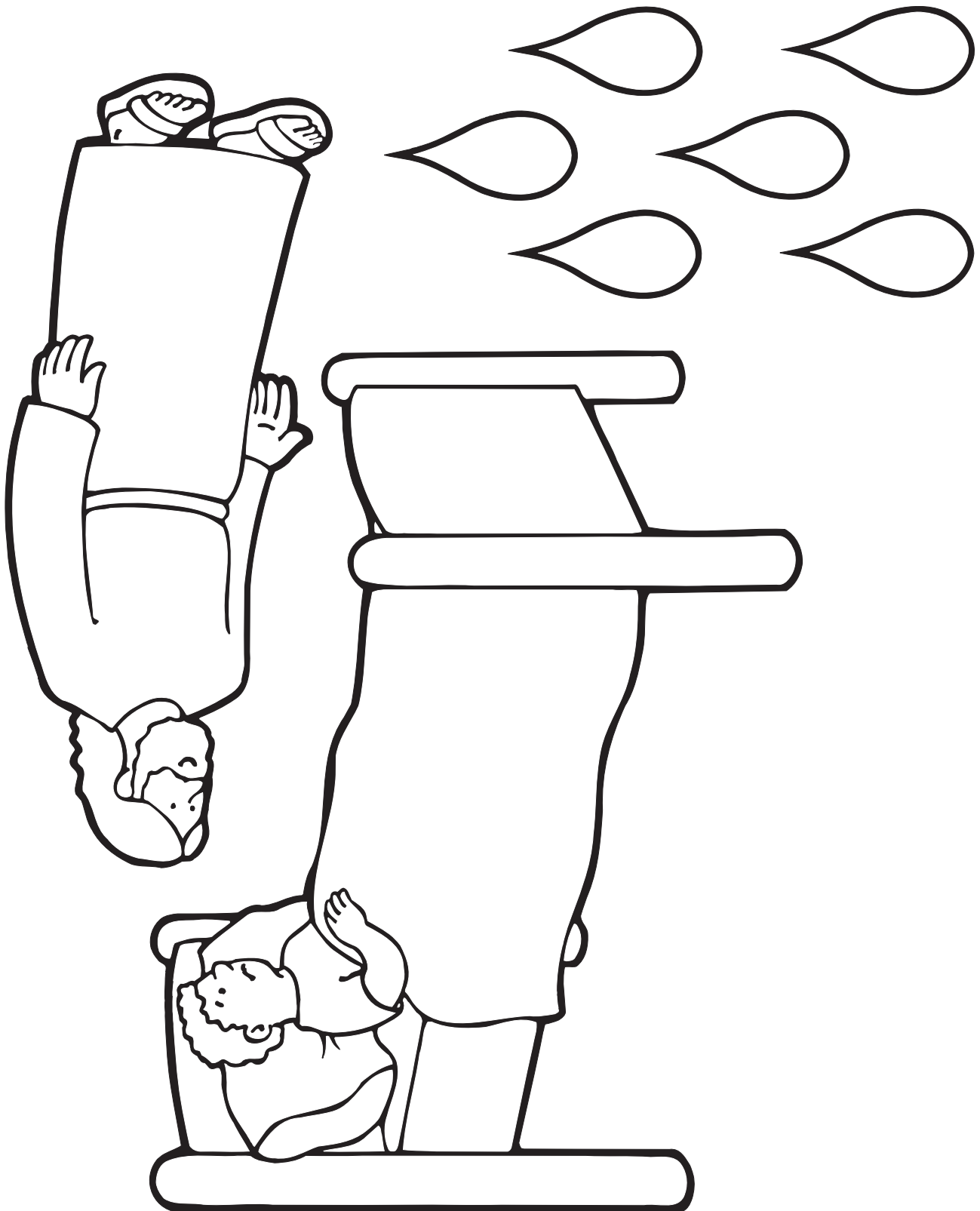
Have some rainy-day fun any time with this activity. Invite children to become “little storm clouds”; then use a recording device to record their stormy sounds. Let children use rain tubes for rain and blow into the microphone to make windy sounds. Let children enjoy listening to a replay of their stormy creation. When the “storm has passed,” turn off the recorder, and lead children in saying, “Be still” or in repeating the Bible Point. Remind children that ► Jesus is with us when we're scared—even during storms.

■ **Sea-Bobbin' Boats**

Let children use modeling dough to make boat shapes. Tape paper triangles to craft sticks to make masts with sails, and push the masts into the dough boats. When the boats are done, have children hold the boats in their hands and rock them back and forth as if they were in a storm on the sea. Retell the Bible story, and tell children that ► Jesus is with us when we're scared. Then have the children hold their boats very still and say, “Be still.” For older toddlers, sing “Jesus Is With Us” (adapted from Matthew 28:20b) without the *CD* and have children “sail” their boats around the room as you sing.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.





Teacher Guide

TODDLERS & 2s

Spring

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

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

This quarter your Toddlers & 2s will learn these important Bible lessons:

MODULE 1

Mark 4:35-41

Jesus is with us when we're scared.

*MODULE 2

Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20

Jesus is alive.

MODULE 3

1 Samuel 17:1-50

God is with us.

* Due to the way Easter falls, we recommend moving the lessons as needed to line up with Easter Sunday. Any of the lessons 4-9 can be used for Easter.

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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