Group

Teacher Guide

TODDLERS & 2s

Summer

Teach as Jesus Taught!®

Toddlers & 2s

Teacher Guide • Summer

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Group

Group resources really work!

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

Relational
Person-to-person interaction enhances spiritual growth and builds Christian friendships.

Experiential
What we experience through action and discussion sticks with us up to 9 times longer than what we simply hear or read.

Applicable
The aim of ministry is to equip people to be both hearers and doers of God's Word.

Lifelong
Experiences transform the heart, moving faith beyond the walls of church and into everyday life for years to come.

We know you care about kids...

We do, too!

That's why we attempt to ensure that all crafts, toys, and gizmos meet or exceed national safety standards—*and* are produced by manufacturers that don't use child labor or abuse their labor force. You can order Group resources knowing that in addition to caring for *your* kids, you're also caring for children elsewhere.

Let's keep kids safe!

We strive to provide products that are mechanically reliable and hold together during normal, intended usage. Items are also checked for flammability, and both paint and surface coatings are checked for heavy metals—including lead.

You can help your children stay safe by seeing that toys and gizmos are used as designed, for the purposes designed, and that any broken pieces are disposed of promptly and properly. We value your feedback. If you become aware of a problem affecting the safety of any of our products, please inform us immediately.

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Hands-On Bible Curriculum®, Toddlers & 2s, Summer

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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."

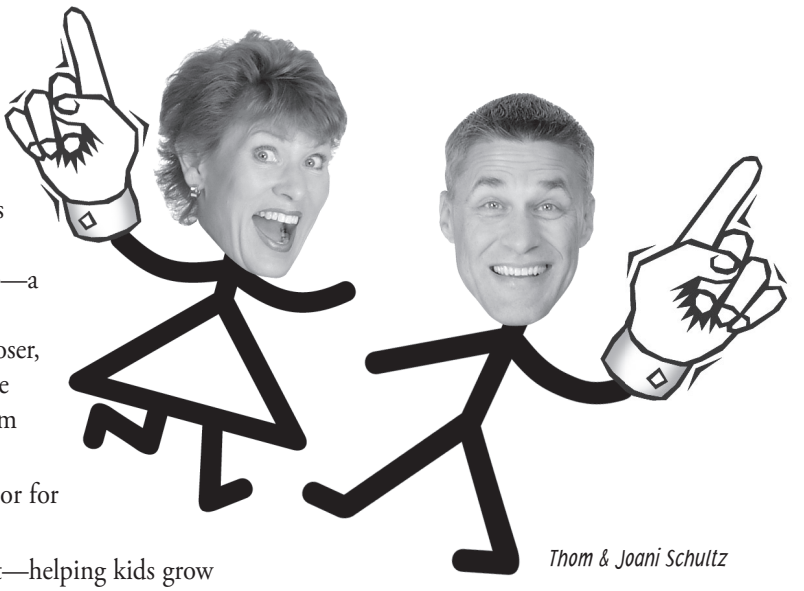
Martha was doing good work. In fact, she was serving the Lord. But Jesus made his priority for us clear. He wants to have a loving relationship with us even more than he wants us to serve him.

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?



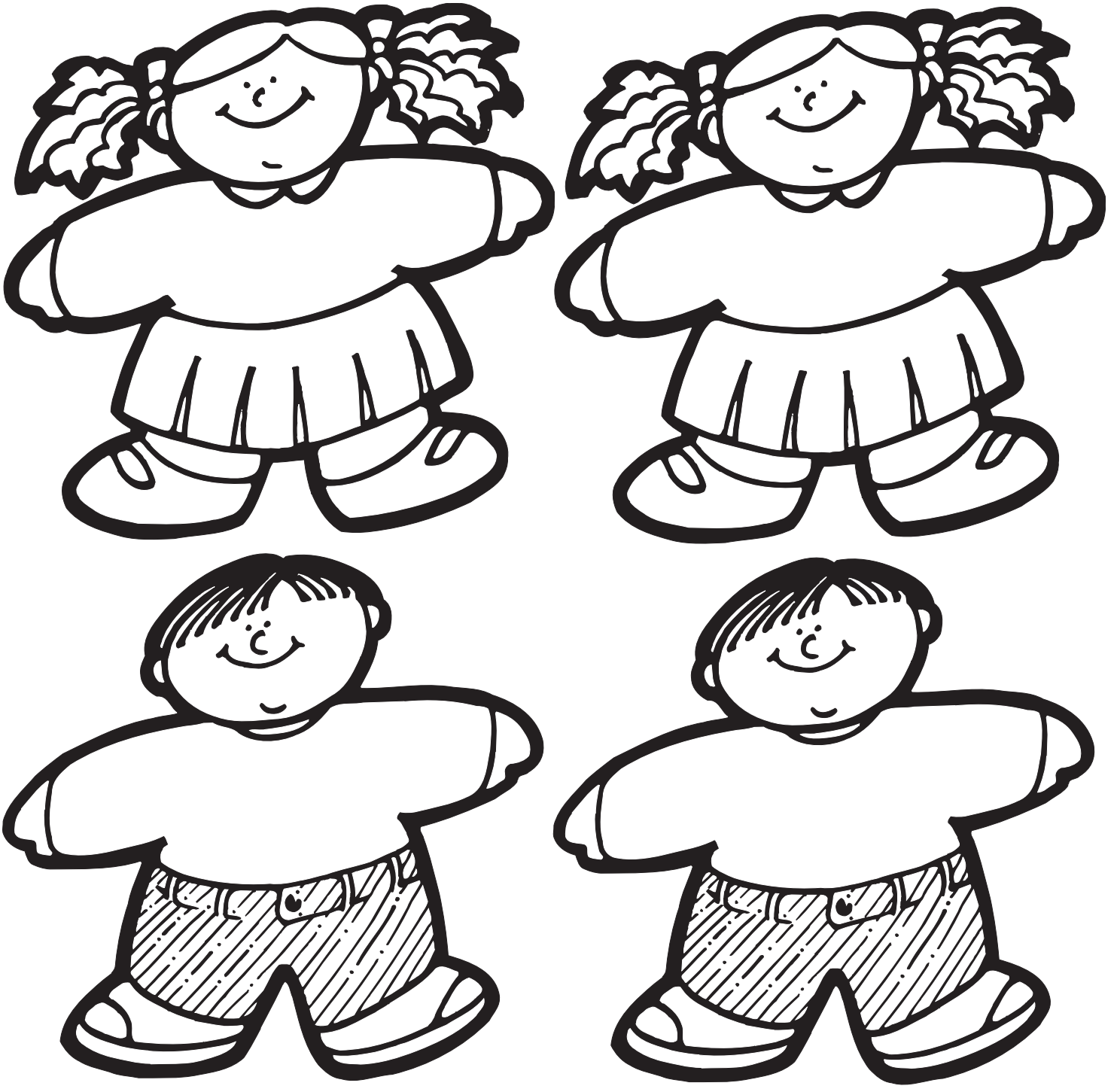
Thom & Joani Schultz

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.

Name Tag Pattern

Photocopy and cut out the children name tags.



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God Watches Over Us

Bible Basis: Psalm 121

This unit's passage begins with a contrast. It was common for people in Old Testament times to look to the hills for help—that's where altars to the current gods of the day were often located. But notice that the psalmist looks beyond the hills—to the Lord, the one who made not only the hills, but all the earth and the heavens as well.

Psalm 121 goes on to describe in beautiful poetic language many of the ways God watches over us—protecting us even when we sleep because he never sleeps. Your toddlers aren't ready to tackle why bad things still happen to Christians in our imperfect world, but they can begin to grasp the general principle that God takes care of us all the time and wherever we are because he loves us so much!

God Watches Over Us

Lesson	Emphasis	Page
1	God watches over us all the time.	11
2	God watches over us wherever we are.	23
3	God watches over us because he loves us.	35
4	I'm happy that God watches over us.	47

Parent Page

God Watches Over Us

For the next four weeks, the toddlers and 2s class will be learning that God watches over us. The children will use all five senses to discover that no matter where they are or what they're doing, God is protecting them. Use this Parent Page to help reinforce the point that God watches over us.

Tips for Ts and 2s

Toddlers feel anxious and insecure in unfamiliar situations such as visiting the doctor, staying with a new baby sitter, and going to sleep in a dark bedroom. It's important to reassure young children that they'll always be surrounded by people who will protect and care for them. Encourage your toddler to "watch over" a special stuffed animal or doll, and then explain to your child that because God watches over us all the time, we never have to be afraid.

Together Time

- Decorate a batch of whimsical "watching eyes" cookies. Let your toddler help spread icing on small, round cookies or crackers, and then place colorful gumdrops in the centers. As you make the treats, remind your child that God is always watching over us.
- Hide several of your child's favorite toys around one room in the house, and then let your child go on a "toy safari." When all the toys have been found, let your child have a turn hiding them for you to find. Tell your child that God never has to hunt for us because he watches over us all the time.
- Sing this song from class with your toddler:

Who Is Watching Over Us?

(sung to the tune of "London Bridge")

Who is watching over us? *(Cup your hands around your eyes.)*
Night and day *(play peekaboo)*,
Sleep or play? *(Clap twice.)*
Who is watching over us? *(Cup your hands around your eyes.)*
God is watching! *(Point and look upward.)*

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Bible Point God watches over us.

Bible Verse

God is watching over us (adapted from Psalm 121:5a).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will
- learn that God sees them,
- realize that their watchful God never sleeps, and
- know that God protects them.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

God watches over us all the time.

Psalm 121

Isn't it great that the God who watches over us never sleeps? This psalm reminds us of the story of Elijah and the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18). In that story, Elijah taunts the false prophets when their god doesn't respond to them. After the prophets of Baal give up, Elijah prays to God and he responds immediately.

Toddlers want what they want when they want it (kind of like some adults!). That creates struggles for parents, but it's no problem for God, because he is always watching over us. Help your toddlers begin to understand that God will always be there when they need him and turn to him for help.

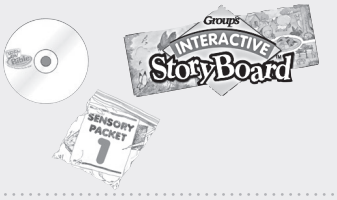
Prayer

- Read 1 Kings 18:18-39.
- What does this story contribute to your understanding of how God watches over us?
- When have you needed a special work of God in your life? How has he responded?
- Pray: Dear God, help the children in my care to begin to understand that you're always watching over them, even when they…

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 on the next page.
- 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
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	**Welcome Time—**Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	Option 1: Shiny Sun, Sleepy Moon—Paint sun-and-moon plates, and learn that God watches over them day and night.	Paper plates, large potato, knife, 3 plastic forks, yellow tempera paint, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, pie tin, black construction paper, newspaper, tape, craft sticks, scissors	
	Option 2: Hide 'n' Shine—Take turns being Hiders and Shiners in this fun game.	Several large boxes or blanket and table, flashlights	
	Pick-Up Time—Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	**Bible Song—**Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	God Watches Over Us—Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard, and learn from Psalm 121 that God watches over us.	CD player	
	Who Is Watching Over Us?—Sing a song and learn who watches over them.	Sun-and-moon plates from Option 1, CD player	
Bible Activities	**Interactive Bible Bulletin Board—**Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Children, sun, star, and moon patterns (p. 22); scissors; tape; blue and black construction paper	
	Sing It Out—Sing a song and learn who watches over them.	Sun-and-moon plates from Option 1, CD player	
	Bible Craft—Decorate "fuzzy" friends to place on their pillows.	Yellow craft felt, tacky craft glue, scissors, black construction paper, black markers	
	Bible Game—Play a fun game with a poster and their fuzzy friends from the Bible Craft.	Fuzzy friends from Bible Craft	
Closing	**Watchful Eyes—**Say a prayer, and have a snack.	Sugar cookies, whipped topping, bowl, round cereal, napkins	

*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 "God Is Watching Over Us" (adapted from Psalm 121:5a) (track 11) 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 ►*God watches over us.***
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.

Option 1: Shiny Sun, Sleepy Moon

SUPPLIES: *paper plates, large potato, knife (for teacher use only), 3 plastic forks, yellow tempera paint, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, pie tin, black construction paper, newspaper, tape, craft sticks, scissors*

Before class, cut a large potato in half crosswise so that the two cut ends are round. Then cut one of the halves lengthwise to make two crescent "moons." The other potato half will be a round "sun." Stick a plastic fork firmly into the back of each potato piece as a handle. You'll also need a 5-inch square of black construction paper for each child.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out paper plates, tongue depressors or craft sticks, tape, the potato sun and moons, and a pie tin containing yellow tempera paint.

Help children put on paint shirts or paper grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out. Invite children to make "shiny suns and sleepy moons" on the paper plates. Demonstrate how to lightly dip the sun potato in the paint, and then stamp sun shapes on the front of the paper plates. Show children how to stamp moons on the squares of black construction paper. Then tape the squares on the back of the plates. Tape tongue depressors or craft sticks to the bottom of the plates for handles.

As children work, make comments such as ►"*God watches over us* day and night" and "God never sleeps—he's always watching over us."

If you choose not to do this activity, make enough plates for every child before class. The plates will be needed during the "Who Is Watching Over Us?" activity.

Option 2: Hide 'n' Shine

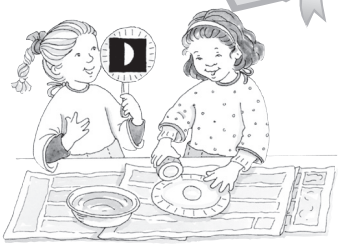
SUPPLIES: *several large boxes or blanket and table, flashlights*

Before class, cover a table with a blanket or provide two or three boxes large enough for children to hide in. Set out several flashlights. Let children take turns being Hiders and Shiners. Have the Hiders hide under the table or in the boxes. Let the Shiners use flashlights to find the children who are hiding. As they play, ask questions such as "Can God see us even when we're hiding?" and "Who watches over us day and night?" Tell children today they'll learn that ►*God watches over us* all the time.

teacher tips

Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.

◄BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

The Lesson at a Glance chart gives you a quick overview of the lesson and lists the supplies you'll need for each activity. Most of the supplies are items you may already have in your home or classroom. Simplify your preparation by choosing which Arrival Activities and For Extra Time activities (found at the end of the lesson) you'll use.

◄BIBLE POINT

◄BIBLE POINT

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."

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*

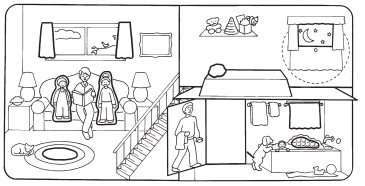
Say: **Who watches over us? ►*God watches over us!* How do we know that? The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's learn a song about the Bible.** Using the *CD,* lead children in singing "God's Special Book" (track 3) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

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: God Watches Over Us

SUPPLIES: CD player



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.

Scene 1

Place the StoryBoard on the floor so that it resembles a little house. Remove the stands from the punch-out figures of the children, and lay the figures and stands behind the StoryBoard. Be sure the window wheel in Scene 2 shows that it's daytime. Place the CD player beside you.

Say: **Today we'll learn that ►*God watches over us.* Here are two children.** Hold up the figures of the boy and girl. **This is Mary, and this is Paul. You can tell them "hello."** Pass the figures, and encourage each child to say, "Hello, Mary" or "Hello, Paul."

Then say: **Mary and Paul live in this nice house. Let's see who else lives in the house.** "Walk" the figures into the living room and attach the figures to the sofa. **Here's Mother. She likes to sit in the cozy living room and read. Let's touch the curtains and the soft rug on the floor.** Let children touch the curtains and rug.

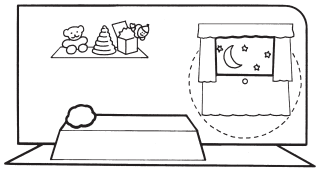
Ask: • **How does the rug feel?** (Soft; warm; nice.)

• **What color are the pretty curtains?** (Red.)

Say: **Mother likes to read Bible stories to Mary and Paul. Let's listen to the story Mother is reading.** Play "Psalm 121, Part 1" (track 4); then stop the CD player.

Say: **Isn't that wonderful? ►*God watches over us* and keeps us safe. Mary and Paul look happy because they know that God watches over us all the time. Let's see what's upstairs in Mary and Paul's house.**

Scene 2



Place the stands on the figures of the children, and place them in the bedroom. Say: **Look at the pretty bedroom. What do you see in the room?** Pause for children to respond. **This looks like a nice, soft bed. Let's touch the fluffy pillow.** Let children take turns touching the pillow. **Look out the window. Is it daytime or nighttime?** Lead children in saying it's daytime. Then say: **►*God watches over us* in the daytime. And ►*God watches over us* all night, too. Let's pretend it's nighttime.** Turn the window wheel to the moon and stars. Let each child have a turn rotating the window wheel from nighttime to daytime and then back to nighttime.

teacher tips

Safety is essential when working with young children. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission suggests craft supplies and toys should be no smaller than a 50-cent piece (to avoid choking). Make sure electrical outlets are covered, electrical cords are hidden, and all chemicals are out of reach of the children.

◄BIBLE POINT

teacher tips

If you have very young children in your class, let them simply find and touch the StoryBoard pictures and sensory items. Repeat the Bible Point often, and reinforce learning with hugs and smiles.

◄BIBLE POINT

◄BIBLE POINT

Understanding Your Toddlers and 2s' Physical Development

Toddlers and 2s:

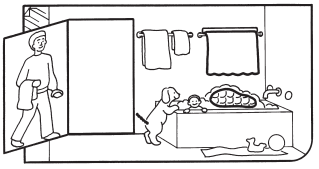
- pick up tiny objects.
- turn pages and point to pictures in books.
- put together 3- to 10-piece puzzles.
- build with blocks.
- move with lots of energy but lack coordination.
- pull wheel toys backward and forward.
- run, jump, and climb but aren't always sure of their balance.

Show me a sleepy yawn. Lead children in a big yawn. **Oh, you look so sleepy. Let's pretend we're going to bed. First, we'll say our prayers. Fold your hands.** Pause. **Dear God, thank you for watching over us. Amen. Now we can listen to more of the mother's Bible story. Listen carefully.** Play "Psalm 121, Part 2" (track 5); then stop the CD player.

God never sleeps because he watches us all night. But we can sleep. Let's pretend we're sleeping. Have children lie on the floor with their eyes closed and pretend to snore softly. While their eyes are closed, rotate the window wheel to daytime. Then say: **It's daytime! Time to get up and stretch.** Have children stand and stretch, and then have them sit down.

That was fun! I'm glad that God watches us day and night! Let's look at the rest of the StoryBoard house.

Scene 3



"Walk" the figures of the children down the stairs, and place them in front of the bathtub. Say: **Look! The baby is having a bubble bath. We can watch over the baby and help give the baby a bath.** Remove the terry cloth square, and let children take turns "washing" the baby and touching the bubbles.

Ask: • **Who else is watching over the baby?** Wag the puppy's tail from behind the StoryBoard.

Say: **The puppy is watching! Let's pat the puppy and say, "Good dog."** Let children pat the puppy and touch its tail. Encourage children to say, "Good dog."

Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.

Mary and Paul and the puppy are watching over the baby. Who else is watching over the baby? Open the door to reveal the picture of a daddy. **Daddy is watching, too. He wants to be sure the baby is safe. *God* makes sure we're safe, too. Let's sing a song to remind us that ►*God watches over us* all the time.**

■ *Who Is Watching Over Us?*

SUPPLIES: *CD player, sun-and-moon plates from Option 1*

Distribute the sun-and-moon plates from Option 1, and gather children in a circle. Using the *CD*, lead children in singing "Who Is Watching Over Us?" (track 6) to the tune of "London Bridge." Encourage children to do the motions in parentheses.

Who is watching over us? *(Wave your paper plate.)*
Night and day *(flash the moon side of your plate and then the sun)*,
Sleep or play? *(Gently tap the floor with your paper plate.)*
Who is watching over us? *(Wave your paper plate.)*
God is watching! *(Wave your paper plate.)*
(Repeat.)

Say: **I'm glad that ►*God watches over us* even when we're sleeping!** Put your finger to your lips and whisper: **And speaking of sleeping, I think Cuddles is asleep over by the bulletin board. Let's tiptoe over and see if Cuddles is**

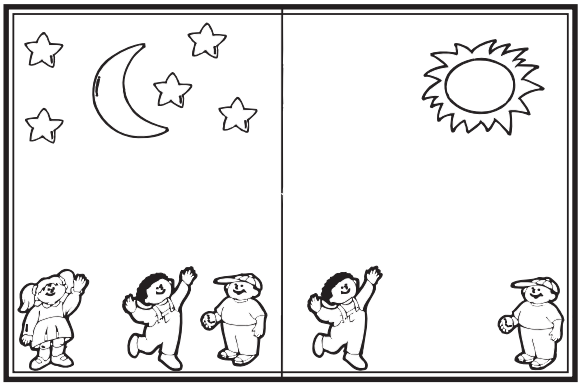
ready to hear about how ►*God watches over us.* Have children place their sun-and-moon plates against a wall to use later in the lesson.

◄**BIBLE POINT**

Bible Activities

■ *Interactive Bible Bulletin Board*

SUPPLIES: *children, sun, star, and moon patterns (p. 22); scissors; tape; blue and black construction paper*



Before class, make one photocopy each of the sun and moon patterns. Cut out the patterns. Also photocopy enough of the children and star patterns so that each child may have one. Cover the left half of the bulletin board with black construction paper and the right half with blue. The patterns added to the bulletin board today will be removed in a later lesson, so using removable tape is suggested.

teacher tips

If you meet in a rented facility or in a multipurpose room, consider purchasing a bulletin board on wheels or a board that is small enough to carry. Your efforts will provide opportunities for learning as well as familiar decorations for your kids!

Be sure Cuddles the Lamb is "sleeping" near the bulletin board. Go through the following puppet script, and then put Cuddles away and out of sight of the children.

Teacher: *(Whispering while placing Cuddles gently on your hand)* Let's quietly call Cuddles' name and wake him up, shall we? Cuddles…Cuddles, please wake up.

Cuddles: *(Stretching)* Oh! I didn't know I was asleep! What are you all doing? Were you napping, too?

Teacher: We weren't asleep, Cuddles. We were watching *you* sleep. And we know someone else who was watching you sleep, too! Children, can you tell Cuddles who watches over us while we're asleep? *(Lead children in telling Cuddles that ►God watches over us when we're asleep.)*

Cuddles: But who watches me when God takes a nap?

Teacher: God never sleeps, Cuddles!

Cuddles: Never sleeps! He must be *very* tired by now!

Teacher: God doesn't sleep because he wants to see us every moment to be sure we're all right. God watches us day and night.

Cuddles: *(Giggling and hiding behind your back)* Does God see me even when I hide?

Teacher: *(Laugh and bring Cuddles from behind your back.)* Yes, even when you hide. ►*God watches over us* all the time, Cuddles. Would you like to help us make a bulletin board to show that ►*God watches over us?*

Cuddles: Yes! That sounds like fun!

Have Cuddles hand each child a star, sun, moon, or child cutout. Help children place the moon and stars on the black half of the bulletin board, the sun on the blue half, and the paper children on both sides of the board. Each time a child places a cutout, lead him or her in saying the Bible Point.

Teacher: We've been learning that ►*God watches over us.* We know that God watches over us in the daytime. And we also know that God never sleeps so that he can watch us all night, too. Isn't that wonderful? I'm so happy that God sees us all the time. Let's sing a happy song about how ►*God watches over us* day and night.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: *sun-and-moon plates from Option 1, CD player*

Using the *CD,* lead children in singing "Who Is Watching Over Us?" (track 6) to the tune of "London Bridge." For extra fun, have children use their sun-and-moon plates from Option 1 to do the motions in parentheses.

Who is watching over us? *(Wave your paper plate.)*
Night and day *(flash the moon side of your plate and then the sun)***,**
Sleep or play? *(Gently tap the floor with your paper plate.)*
Who is watching over us? *(Wave your paper plate.)*
God is watching! *(Wave your paper plate.)*
(Repeat.)

Say: **Make a big sun if you know that God watches us in the daytime.** Lead children in making large circles over their heads with their arms. **Good! Now pretend to sleep if you know that God watches us at night.** Lay your head on your hands and pretend to sleep. Then say: **Day and night, God watches over and protects us. Let's make fuzzy, fun friends to help us remember that ►*God watches over us* all the time.**

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: *yellow craft felt, tacky craft glue, scissors, black construction paper, black markers*

Before class, cut a 6-inch circle from yellow craft felt for each child. Cut a pair of black construction paper "eyes" for each child.

Set out tacky craft glue, black markers, and the paper eyes. Hand each child a felt circle. Help children glue pairs of paper eyes to one side of their circles and then draw smiley mouths using black markers. Then on the other side of their circles, have children draw "sleepy eyes" and smiley mouths.

When everyone has finished, say: **When the sun is out and we're wide awake, ►*God watches over us.* Here's the sunshiny sun.** Show the open-eyed side of a felt circle. **And at night when we're asleep, God watches us. Here's the sleepy moon.** Show the closed-eyed side of a circle.

◄BIBLE POINT

God watches over us and takes care of us night and day. That's because God loves us. God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to be our forever friend. If we believe in Jesus, he will live in our hearts and always be with us, when we're awake and when we're sleeping. And Jesus will be with us night and day, too!

Now let's use our fuzzy friends to play a fun game.

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: *fuzzy friends from Bible Craft*

Stand in a circle and have the children hold their fuzzy friends from the craft activity.

Ask: • **What are some things you do during the day?** (Play; eat; hug my mommy.)

• **What are some things you do at night?** (Sleep; dream; brush my teeth.)

Hold up the *"Day and Night" poster*. Point to the daytime side and ask children to identify what they see in the picture (sun, mountains, and so on). Then point to the nighttime side and do the same.

Say: **Let's play a game to remind us that ►*God watches over us.* God tells us in his special book, the Bible, that he is watching us all the time! If I point to the daytime side of this picture, hold up the sun side of your fuzzy friend. If I point to the nighttime side of this picture, hold up the moon side.**

◄BIBLE POINT

Alternate pointing to sides of the poster. If you have older toddlers, allow them to be the pointers for a few rounds.

After several rounds, point to the daytime side of the picture and ask children to share things they do during the day. After each suggestion, encourage the children to toss their fuzzy friends in the air and shout: ►*God watches over us!* Repeat with the nighttime side of the poster.

◄BIBLE POINT

Say: **That was so much fun! I'm glad that ►*God watches over us* all the time, aren't you? When you go home, you can put your fuzzy friends on your pillows. But right now, put your fuzzy friends on your shoulder and we'll tiptoe to the snack table for a special treat!**

◄BIBLE POINT

Closing

■ Watchful Eyes

See page 5.

SUPPLIES: *sugar cookies, whipped topping, bowl, round cereal, napkins*

Select any cereal that is round and colorful to use as "eyes." You'll also need a sugar cookie for each child.

After children wash their hands, ask:

• **Who watches over us?** (God.)

Say: **We've been learning that ►*God watches over us.* And we know that God never sleeps because he's busy making sure we're all right. That's very special. We can say a special prayer and thank God for watching over us. Let's fold our hands.** Lead children in the following prayer. Encourage children to repeat each line of the prayer after you, like an echo.

Dear loving God,
(Echo) Dear loving God,
We're here to say
(Echo) We're here to say
Thanks for watching us
(Echo) Thanks for watching us
Night and day.
(Echo) Night and day.
In Jesus' name, amen.
(Echo) In Jesus' name, amen.

Say: **Now let's make special snacks to enjoy.** Hand each child a sugar cookie on a napkin. Set out a small bowl of whipped topping and the colorful, round cereal. Show children how to dip one end of the cereal in whipped topping and then attach the "watchful eyes" to their cookies. As children enjoy their snacks, remind them that God is always watching over us.

When children have finished, have them toss their napkins in the wastebasket. Remind children to take their sun-and-moon plates and fuzzy friends home.

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.

Eye-Spy Kids

While the children cover their eyes, hide the fuzzy friends from the Bible Craft around the room. Then challenge the children to look carefully for the fuzzy friends. Tell each child to pick up only one fuzzy friend. After the fuzzy friends have all been found, remind children that God doesn't have to hunt for us because he's watching over us all the time. If there's time, hide the fuzzy friends again. If you have older toddlers, let them take turns hiding the fuzzy friends.

Daytime, Nighttime, Anytime

Play another version of the Bible Game you enjoyed earlier. Instead of using the fuzzy friends, let children act out the words *daytime, nighttime,* and *anytime.* When you say "nighttime," have children lie on the floor and pretend to snooze. When you say "daytime," have them jump up. And when you say "anytime," have children clap and shout, ►*"God watches over us!"*

Patterns

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

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Teacher Guide

TODDLERS & 2s

Summer

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

MODULE 1

Psalm 121	God Watches Over Us.

MODULE 2

Exodus 13:17–15:2	God Is Strong.

MODULE 3

1 Samuel 1:1–2:11, 18-19; 3:1-19	We Can Talk to God.

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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