# LEADER GUIDE ELEMENTARY • QUARTER 5





### LEADER GUIDE







#### 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.



#### Leader Guide Elementary—Quarter 5

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### How It Works



#### **Simple Volunteer Roles**

You'll need the following volunteers:

**Leader:** (That's you!) The one person in each teaching space who has looked over the lesson and will direct all activities. The glance-able, structured lessons in this guide allow leaders to spend more time interacting with kids and less time glued to scripts.

**Crew Guide:** A helper who simply shows up and participates with kids. Crew Guides don't need to be Bible experts—simply people who love Jesus and kids!

#### A Simple, Flexible Lesson!

#### **Simple Prep for Leaders**

Prepare your heart and pray for the kids before each lesson. Plus, check off supplies as you gather them!



#### **Opening Options**

Choose from two opening activities—both introduce the day's Bible Point. Each unit creatively uses the same supplies all four weeks. That means you'll need to gather Opening Options supplies only once a month! If you'd like, set up these Opening Options as activity stations in your room. Simply cut apart the cards you'll find in each lesson and place one at each station to guide activity and conversation. Or, do one or both activities with all kids together. You choose!



#### Sing & Play

Gather kids to sing and discover the Bible Point. Plus, a Bible Memory Buddy connects the Bible verse to kids' everyday lives.



#### **Bible Discovery**

We've given you lots of options, but don't skip this part! It's the "meat" of the lesson where kids experience God's greatest gift in an interactive, hands-on way. There's no time to be bored as kids and Connect Crews follow the Leader through a memorable Bible experience. You'll read directly from the Bible throughout the Bible Discovery, so be sure to mark your place ahead of time and choose a kid-friendly translation to read from.





#### **Apply-It Options**

Consider your time frame, and take your pick: a game or an activity that lets kids practice Bible skills! Each option applies the Bible Point to everyday kid life.



#### **Friendship Finale**

Wrap up your lesson with a gospel-centered Jesus connection, and equip kids to continue faith conversations at home! Plus, affirm kids by name as you give each child a Bible Memory Buddy sticker at the end of each lesson.

#### A Simple, Flexible Format!

#### **Age-Graded Classrooms**

It's simple! You'll need one prepared leader and at least one helper (we call helpers Crew Guides) for each teaching space. We recommend having a media player handy in each space for music and each week's Bible Memory Buddy video.

#### Age-Graded Classrooms With a Multi-Age Opening

It's simple! Lead the Sing & Play section with all ages together. Set up a media player in your gathering area so that when you're all together, you can sing along with music videos, introduce the Bible Point, and meet the Bible Memory Buddy! Then, disperse to age-graded classrooms for Bible Discovery, Apply-It Options, and the Friendship Finale. You'll need one prepared leader and at least one helper (we call helpers Crew Guides) for each teaching space.

#### One (big or small) Room With Multi-Age Kids

It's simple! You'll need one prepared leader plus at least one helper (we call helpers Crew Guides). Ideally, you'll have one Crew Guide for every five to eight kids, but it can work with your church's volunteer-to-children ratios. We recommend having a media player handy for music and each week's Bible Memory Buddy video.



### Our Strategic Approach

There are "whys" behind every lesson component, and we want to share them with you! Here are the guiding principles behind the creation of Simply Loved Sunday school curriculum.

You may have heard	But we've found	That's why
"lt's hard to recruit volunteers."	When volunteers need less prep time, have fun, and feel like they're making a difference, they'll make serving a priority.	Simply Loved volunteer roles are important, but easy!
"Kids need to be entertained."	Kids need to be noticed and loved.	Simply Loved lessons are designed to help you listen to kids and get to know them.
"You need a lot of supplies."	You need only a few supplies used in creative ways.	Simply Loved incorporates minimal supplies each unit but uses them in innovative ways to introduce and apply the day's lesson.
"We need helpers— any warm body will do."	Helpers don't just assist. Even though they don't need to prep, they serve an important relational purpose and make a big difference in kids' lives.	Simply Loved helpers have a name and an elevated role: they're "Crew Guides"! They participate along with the kids, play a meaningful role in lessons, and make a difference by building friendships with kids.
"Kids are rarely able to remember Scripture."	Creating a visual and emotional connection to Scripture dramatically helps kids remember and understand why the Bible matters in their everyday lives.	Simply Loved incorporates kid-friendly videos featuring Bible Memory Buddies (animals God created) to help them understand Bible truths and trigger Scripture memory. And Bible Memory Buddies help discoveries stick! (wink, wink)
"Teachers are Bible experts."	Teachers are channels of friendship who help children understand and experience Jesus' love.	Simply Loved uses human relationships to communicate God's love in a tangible way. Built-in conversation starters help teachers share their personal stories and their own friendship with Jesus.
"Covering a lot of information is intimidating."	Reaching children is simple when you focus on one Bible Point.	Simply Loved repeats key Bible Points in different ways so truths sink deep. And it combines the repetition of a Bible Point with an auditory and physical response that will stick with kids long after your lesson ends.
"Success requires getting through the whole lesson."	You'll clearly communicate the key Bible Point no matter how far you get.	With Simply Loved, a palette of Bible-Point-supporting options gives you the freedom to choose what works for your kids and your time frame. So no matter how much of the lesson you complete, the Truth from God's Word shines through.
"Kids'll get bored if you repeat something they've heard before."	Kids appreciate routine and repetition when it's done in a fun way.	Simply Loved's scope and sequence intentionally repeats the Bible verse and Point for four weeks. This strategically cements Bible learning no matter how often kids attend.

# Helping Elementary Kids Become Rooted in Faith

As their Leader, you get to show elementary-age children what loving Jesus looks like! And Simply Loved will help. Simply Loved incorporates the following Age-Level Teaching Tips to create a rich environment where elementary kids grow a lasting friendship with Jesus.

#### **Go Deeper**

As kids get older, we may be tempted to throw more Bible stories and Bible information at them. But elementary kids don't need more things to learn; they need to dig deeper into the truths they've been introduced to. That's why Simply Loved explores one Bible Point for four weeks and why open-ended questions meet kids right where they are—no matter their grade or prior knowledge of the Bible.

#### Make It Fun

You know, we often differentiate between "fun" and the "meat" of our lessons. We think that if we incorporate a game or free play, then we're making time for fun. But with Simply Loved, Bible discoveries are as fun as game time, and prayers are as fun as videos!

#### Keep It Simple

Kids benefit from messages that are short, sweet, and relevant to their everyday lives. That's why Simply Loved Bible lessons center around one short, simple, memorable Bible Point. Repetition cements learning, so repeating Bible truths helps kids remember them when they need it the most.

#### **Build Friendships**

Friendship matters to elementary kids. So Simply Loved builds friendships by allowing time for kids to talk and get to know each other. Plus, Simply Loved encourages you to break up into smaller groups called Connect Crews. That way each child is seen and known, and when a question is asked, everyone has a chance to talk and share.

#### **Be Authentic**

In order to build real friendships with kids, you need to let them see leaders as real people. That's why, when asking a question, Simply Loved encourages Leaders and Crew Guides to share from their own lives first and model the answer. When *you* go first, you're honestly telling kids about your own struggles and experiences—and even hard-to-reach kids will follow your lead.

#### **Connect to Emotion**

God has wired us with emotions, and the Bible is filled with stories of real people who experienced fear, sadness, joy, doubt, fatigue, and confusion. That's why Simply Loved identifies and evokes key emotions each week. Connecting to emotion cements learning and helps elementary kids know that Jesus understands their feelings and is with them, no matter what.

#### Point Out Kids' Purpose

Kids don't need to wait until they're grown up to fulfill God's purpose for their lives; they can do it right now! That's why Simply Loved intentionally incorporates time each week for Leaders to affirm and encourage kids as they grow closer to Jesus.

## Supply Closet Inventory

#### **Elementary—Quarter 5**

Have these items handy for some hands-on fun this quarter!

Prog	gram Essentials	Toy	ys & Goodies	Inc. Oil U
	Bibles		balloons	No. of the last of
	Music Video DVD*		crepe paper rolls	"I look mounted
	Buddy Video DVD*		Legos	my help there
	Bible Story posters*		masking tape	Lo
	Bible Memory Buddy posters*		play dough	(P
	Bible Memory Buddy stickers*		pool noodles	Capriller
	Take-It-Home Flyers*			A 0 101 God
	media player	Odd	s & Ends	
	g!*		aluminum foil	rubber bands
_	Supplies		baking soda	scenic nature photos
	chenille wires		bath towel	small cups
	child-safe scissors		chairs (optional)	small plastic bottles of water
	construction paper		clear cups	spoons
	craft foam sheets		coffee filters	sticky notes
	crayons, including multicultural crayons		dish soap	string
	index cards		drinking straws	timer
	paintbrushes		masking tape	toothpicks
	paper		paper clips	vinegar
	pencils and pens		paper lunch bags	water
	permanent markers		plastic wrap	wet wipes
	rulers		p p	
	scrap paper			
	stapler			
	tissue paper			
	washable markers			
	watercolor paints			
	yarn or a wool blanket			



\* in your **Simply Loved Kit** 

### Take-It-Home Flyer Tips

Follow these steps to get Take-It Home Flyers off the ground effectively so they'll cruise on a direct flight home.

- 1. Follow your Simply Loved Leader Guide. The end of each elementary lesson is strategically written to incorporate these flyers.
- 2. Read the first page to your whole group of kids first. This is meant to be a quiet prayer time that intentionally connects kids to their friend Jesus.
- 3. Next, ask the "Talk Starter" question aloud, and give time for kids to discuss and pray in Connect Crews.
- 4. THEN, *and only then*, distribute Take-It-Home Flyers to kids. If you choose to forgo this strategic order, prepare to have papers whizzing by your head before you're ready for them.
- 5. Be sure to point out the challenge on the top of the folding instructions page. That'll *really* motivate kids to make sure this page gets home.
- 6. Be sure to give each helper a copy, too—not to fold for themselves, but so kids can reference the instructions once folding begins.

### Prepare for takeoff!

Help your ministry to families really take off with these specially crafted Take-It-Home Flyers. After reading each Jesus-centered flyer and talking with their Connect Crews, kids will follow the directions and fold these flyers into 3-D masterpieces!

Once home, they'll transport meaningful opportunities for Jesus-centered family fun.

Cool questions help family members tell stories about their own friendship with Jesus! Kids and families will love these practical ways to live out faith at home.



After kids make Bible discoveries at church, families can explore more about each lesson's Bible content at home.

## Samuel Anoints David as King

Bible Point

God helps us...and sees our hearts.

#### **Purpose**

We live in a culture obsessed with appearance. From our fitness level to our clothing and hairstyle choices, it can seem like we're constantly under the microscope, with our value being determined by whether we look good enough on the outside.

But that's not how God determines value. When it came time to select a new king, God helped Samuel find the right person. God didn't choose the person who looked the strongest, most attractive, and kingliest. God preferred the shepherd boy whose heart was focused on him.

This is good news for kids, too. Even in elementary school, there's pressure to dress right and look cool. This lesson will help kids look beyond outward appearances and see what's really important to God—our hearts!

#### **God Helps David**

1 Samuel 16:1-13



#### **Prayer**

God, I praise you for making the kids in my group just the way they are. Help me see past kids' appearance and behavior to who they truly are inside. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Friendship Finale	Apply-It Options
☐ Option Cards* ☐ Disappearing Paper Clip: paper clips, clear cups, water ☐ Pool Noodle Precision: pool noodles, tape, marbles	□ countdown video* □ Music Video DVD* □ Buddy Video DVD* □ Klymer Bible Memory Buddy poster* □ media player □ Bible (bookmark Psalm 121:1-2)	□ "Samuel Anoints David as King" Bible Story poster* □ Klymer Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) □ Take-It-Home Flyers* (Unit 1, Week 1) (1 per child) □ Bible (bookmark 1 Samuel 16:1-13)	☐ Explore More: Bibles, paper, art supplies ☐ Game: no supplies

<sup>\*</sup> in your **Simply Loved Kit** 



## Opening Options

Set up one—or both—of these intro activities to start your time together. Each activity connects kids to the Bible Point and to each other. Cut apart these Option Cards, and place one by each activity you choose. Crew Guides will follow the directions and build friendships with kids as they make discoveries together!



### Disappearing Paper Clip

Supplies: paper clips, clear cups, water

Bend paper clips into heart shapes. Set a cup of water on top of the heart shape. Look at the cup from above, and see the heart. Look from the side, and the heart disappears! Experiment with different angles and amounts of water.



What's something about you that people might not know just by looking at you?

Just like the paper clip hearts, there are things about us that people can't see until they look from the right angle. But **God helps us.** God can help us truly see people's hearts. Our hearts are never hidden from him!



### **Pool Noodle Precision**

Supplies: pool noodles, tape, marbles

Put a long piece of tape on the floor. Hold a pool noodle above it, then drop a marble down the hole in the pool noodle. Try to aim the pool noodle so the marble lands on the tape line and rolls along it.



Tell about a time someone showed you how to do something.

Your pool noodle directed or showed the marble where to go. In our Bible story today, we'll see how God directed the prophet Samuel and helped him find the right king. And we'll see how God helps us, too!

# Opening

Now's a great time for Opening Options. Choose one—or both—to introduce today's Bible discoveries.



countdown video (1 minute)

Help kids transition, clean up the activities, and sit with Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a small group of kids with one Crew Guide.

# Sing & Play

Welcome, everyone! It's so sweet to be here with you today. In fact, let's celebrate how sweet it is to trust in Jesus!



'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" music video

Today we'll discover a Bible story about a guy named Samuel who needed God's help to know what to do. God showed him how valuable our hearts are! God helped Samuel, and God helps us, too.

#### **Bible Point**

God helps us. That's our Bible Point. So every time you hear the words "God helps us," put one fist onto your other palm (demonstrate) and say, "Stand strong!" Let's try that together.

- Put one fist onto your other palm.
- Say, "Stand strong!"
- Repeat several times.

Repetition cements learning, so be sure to say today's Bible Point A LOT. Have fun with it! Kids will love listening for it and responding with "Stand strong!"

Yeah! We can stand strong knowing that God will help us. God is almighty. That means he has power over everything. God is King of the whole world, and he has the power to help us when we're in need. Let's praise God and ask for his help.



"Come, Thou Almighty King" music video

#### **Supplies**

- Bible
- media player
- Music Video DVD

"'Tis So Sweet to Trust in lesus" music video

"Come. Thou Almighty King" music video

"Our God" music video

- Buddy Video DVD Klymer Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- Klymer Bible Memory **Buddy** poster



#### **Bible Memory Buddy & Verse**

**Let's meet our Bible Memory Buddy. It's Klymer the snow leopard!** Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.

Klymer stays warm in the cold mountains. Have everyone shiver as if it's cold outside. Which part on the *inside* of his body do you think plays a bigger role in keeping Klymer warm? Let's find out with a This-or-That Challenge! You'll hear two options for what keeps Klymer warm. It's up to you to decide which is true—this fact or that!

- Which keeps Klymer warm: his lungs or his kidneys?
- Have everyone hold their breath to vote for *this* (lungs) or curl up like a kidney bean to vote for *that* (kidneys).
- Make a drumroll sound by patting your thighs or the floor.
- Dramatically give the answer: It's his lungs!
- Watch the Bible Memory Buddy video.



#### Klymer Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)



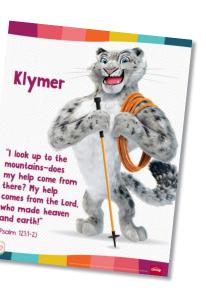
Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true story of love! It's a big book, but it's filled with lots of little books. Let's say the verse together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat it after me.

"I look up to the mountains— (shield hand over eyes and look up) does my help come from there? (shrug shoulders)
My help comes from the Lord, (point up with hands)
who made heaven and earth!" (circle arms up and around head)
(Psalm 121:1-2)

**God helps us.** (Stand strong!) **God's come through for his people so many** times—and that includes you and me. Let's praise our God with another song!



"Our God" music video



# Bible Discovery

#### **Circle Up & Connect**

Let's circle up and spend a little time simply getting to know each other in smaller groups called Connect Crews.

- Form Connect Crews with one helper—or Crew Guide—per group.
- Invite kids to sit in knee-to-knee circles with their Connect Crews.
- Have kids give their Crew Guides fist bumps.
- Have everyone take turns saying their names and answering this question.
   Crew Guides go first.
- **②** Who is someone who leads you? What do you like about that person?

#### **Experience the Bible Story**

We all have leaders in our lives—our parents, teachers, coaches, or even a president! Today's Bible story is all about picking a leader for the country of Israel. Israel didn't have presidents or elections—Israel had kings. God chose the first king of Israel, and he was going to choose the next king, too.

Let's think about what might make a good king. Maybe someone with a really loud voice. Let's hear your loudest voices. Pause.

Or maybe someone who can stretch and reach really high. Who can reach really high? Pause.

Oh, I know! I'd want a king who can show big, strong muscles. Let's see those muscles! Pause.

**What characteristics do you think make for a good king?** Invite responses from the whole group.

Wow! From the looks of it, we have a lot of excellent royal candidates here in our room today. Now let's look in the Bible to see what Samuel expected for a king...and what God was looking for!

Read aloud 1 Samuel 16:1.

Saul was Israel's first king. But his heart had turned away from God. So God decided to choose a new king to lead his people.

Let's imagine that we're joining Samuel on his journey to find the new king. Got your coat? Pause as everyone pretends to put on a coat. Got the flask of oil? We'll use that to anoint the new king. In the Bible, putting a little oil on someone's head showed that the person had a special job to do for God. Have everyone tuck an imaginary container of oil into a pocket.

#### **Supplies**

- Bible
- "Samuel Anoints
   David as King" Bible
   Story poster

We call helpers Crew Guides. If you lead a small class, you can be the Crew Guide. Simply circle up with the kids. If you have helpers, form smaller groups so each child can be known—and so kids can befriend your helpers, too!

Repeat answers so everyone can hear. As kids name qualities, keep everyone engaged by having them try to show those qualities.

# Keep your Sundays simple-and your kids delighted-with Simply Loved.

This Elementary Leader Guide provides a step-by-step, simple-to-follow plan for Simply Loved Quarter 5 lessons. Featuring memorable, hands-on, friendship-focused activities, each lesson easily adapts to your unique Sunday school format while guiding kids on a foundational, Jesus-centered journey through God's story of love.

#### This quarter's Bible discoveries:

Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 1/Week 1		Samuel Anoints David as King (1 Samuel 16:1-13)
		Focus: God helps usand sees our hearts.  God Helps David Defeat Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
Unit 1/Week 2		Focus: God helps usand can do amazing things through us.
Unit 1/Maak 3		Jonathan Helps David (1 Samuel 18:1-16; 20:1-42)
OTHE 17 WEEK 5		Focus: God helps usthrough faithful friends.
Unit 1/Week 4		Abigail Brings Peace (1 Samuel 25)
Offic 17 Week 4		Focus: God helps usand gives us self-control.
Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 2/Week 1	2/Mook 1	Jesus Helps a Roman Officer (Matthew 8:5-13)
Offit 2/Week 1		Focus: Jesus cares about usand he's in charge.
Unit 2/Week 2	Jesus Helps People in Need	Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind (John 9)
		Focus: Jesus cares about usbecause he's God's Son.
Unit 2/Week 3		Jesus Helps 10 Men With Leprosy (Luke 17:11-19)
		Focus: Jesus cares about usso we thank him.
Unit 2/Week 4		<b>Jesus Feeds People</b> (John 6:1-14)  Focus: Jesus cares about usso we trust he'll provide for us.
Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 3/Week 1		God Makes Promises to David (2 Samuel 5:1-5; 7:8-29)
Offic 3/ Week 1		Focus: God is greatand there is no one like him.
Unit 3/Week 2		Solomon Asks for Wisdom (1 Kings 3:1-15)
		Focus: God is greatso we depend on him.
Unit 3/Week 3	God's Good Kings	Jehoshaphat Asks God for Help (2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 20:1-30)
		Focus: God is greatand deserves our praise.
		Huldah Gives King Josiah a Message From God
Unit 3/Week 4		(2 Kings 22:1–23:23)
		Focus: God is greatso we obey him.

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