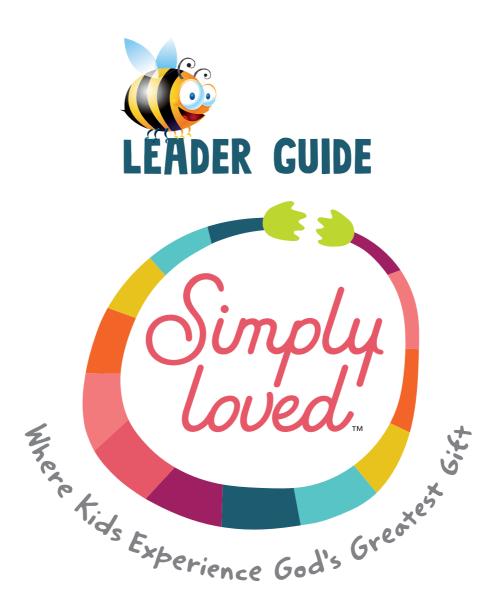
LEADER GUIDE PRE-K & K · HOLIDAY YEAR 3





HOLIDAY YEAR 3







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.



Experiences

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



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Visit our website: group.com/SimplyLoved



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Welcome to Simply Loved!

Welcome to Simply Loved Sunday school—where you and your team simply experience God's love and share it with kids.

"Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us."

(1 John 4:11-12)

With Simply Loved, you, your helpers (we call them Crew Guides), and your kids explore a foundational, Jesus-centered journey through God's story of love. We believe that faith isn't a subject to be mastered; it's a relationship to grow! So every single component of Simply Loved sets the stage for you to more intentionally grow friendship with Jesus and each other. Keep reading to find out what that'll look like in *your* classroom.

Join our Simply Loved Facebook community to learn from children's ministry leaders just like you!

facebook.com/groups/simplylovedteacherslounge

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

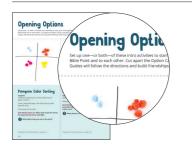
Gather kids to sing and discover the Bible Point. Plus, a Bible Memory Buddy connects the Bible verse to kids' everyday lives.



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. We've intentionally chosen shorter passages for young attention spans.









Apply-It Options

Consider your time frame, and take your pick: a game, a snack, or a Coloring Creation page! Each option applies the Bible Point to everyday kid life, making faith relevant to even young kids.

Goodbye Circle

Wrap up your lesson with a gospel-centered Jesus connection, and remind kids that Jesus is with them wherever they go! 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 Goodbye Circle. 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.		
"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 ea but uses them in innovative ways to introduce 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- conversation starters help teachers share their p 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.		
"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.	

A Faith Foundation for Young Children

As their leader, you get to show young children what loving Jesus looks like! And Simply Loved will help. Simply Loved incorporates these Age-Level Building Blocks to create a wonderful foundation for young children to learn to love and follow Jesus.

ACTIVE Young children are active! They like to move and use their whole bodies to make LEARNING discoveries, so Simply Loved lessons engage young kids in a variety of active, hands-on ways. Young children have short attention spans. Simply Loved lessons are broken SMALI down into bite-size pieces. Be sure to use the Simply Loved classroom songs to help BITES young kids move from one thing to the next. Young children feel so many things! Anger, frustration, love, comfort, fear. When EMOTION you're sharing a Bible story, Simply Loved identifies a key emotion in the story and pauses to ask young children about a time they felt that way. Connecting to emotion cements learning and helps young children know that Jesus understands their feelings and is with them, no matter what. HANDS-ON Jesus often used tangible examples to make abstract learning more concrete. So Simply Loved uses everyday preschool items like blocks, backpacks, dolls, and trains! PLAY It's young children's job to play! So Simply Loved incorporates imagination and play into Bible teaching. Young children learn through repetition, so Simply Loved repeats, repeats, repeats. Each Simply Loved Pre-K & K lesson is centered around one easy-to-REPEAT remember Bible Point that's said over and over. Repetition helps cement Bible truths into young minds and hearts to help them—not just someday, but right now! **Keep it simple.** Young children need to know basic truths about God, so keep it SIMPLICITY simple! Simply Loved keeps memory verses simple and easy to understand, crafts simple so little hands can handle them, and games simple so kids can jump right in and play. We've left snacks up to you, so keep snacks simple and be mindful of allergies. ROUTINE Young children thrive when they know what to expect. So Simply Loved establishes a predictable classroom routine young children can rely on.

> Young children are busy explorers! Sometimes their curiosity can lead to unexpected emergencies. Be sure to supervise your little friends as they work with small objects to prevent choking hazards. And always double check for allergies before serving food. Most times, Simply Loved leaves snack choices up to you; however, if food supplies are listed, note this allergy alert to remind you to use caution when serving your young friends.

 Allergy alert! Check for food allergies or limitations before serving.

Classroom Transition Song Lyrics J

Catchy transition music signals times of welcome, cleanup, prayer, and send-off, and these songs help kids wrap up one activity and move on to the next. These high-quality songs have been professionally produced so leaders don't need to be vocalists. But if you do want to sing along, here are the words!

The Cleanup Song

Doot, doot, doo, doo, doo. Time to clean up. Clean up! Cleanup can be fun!

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh! Clean up! Cleanup can be fun!

Doot, doot, doo, doo, doo. Now our cleanup— Is done! Cleanup can be fun.

Oh, oh, oh, oh, oh! Clean up! Cleanup can be fun!

"The Cleanup Song" by Sam Mizell. © 2020 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No unauthorized use or duplication permitted.

Hello, My Friends

Hello, my friends. *(wave)* Who's here today? *(shrug shoulders)* Let's say hello and play a game! *(wave)*

C'mon, shake a hand. High-five! Spin around. Now say your name!

Jesus loves you, *(hug yourself)* Yes, it's true. *(nod yes)* He loves you, he loves you, He loves you, he loves you! *(point to friends)*

Jesus loves you, *(hug yourself)* Yes, it's true. *(nod yes)* He loves you. He loves you, and you, and you, and you, and you! *(point to friends)*

Hello, my friends. (wave) Who's here today? (shrug shoulders) Let's say hello (wave) and shout hooray! (pump fist in air)

"Hello, My Friends" by Sam Mizell. © 2020 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No unauthorized use or duplication permitted.

God, You Are So Good

God, you are so good. (*extend arms up*) We thank you for our food. (*fold hands together*) You give me what I need. (*hold arms out*) You take good care of me. (*hug yourself*) Amen. (*fold hands together*)

"God, You Are So Good" by Sam Mizell. © 2020 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No unauthorized use or duplication permitted.

Goodbye, My Friends

Goodbye, my friends. (wave one hand) It's time to go. (wave other hand) It's time to make my way back home. (march in place) I know Jesus loves me. (hug yourself) He loves me so, oh! (spread arms wide)

Everywhere I go, (march in place) Jesus loves me. (hug yourself) Everywhere I go, (march in place) He's thinking of me. (point to head) Everywhere I go, (march in place) Jesus loves me. (hug yourself) Everywhere I go. (march in place)

Goodbye, my friends. (wave)

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Supply Closet Inventory

Pre-K & K—Holiday Year 3

Have these items handy for some hands-on fun!

Program Essentials

Bible

- □ Music CD*
- □ Buddy Video DVD*
- □ Music Video DVD*
- □ Bible Story posters*
- Bible Memory Buddy poster*
- Bible Memory Buddy stickers*
- □ Coloring Creation pages*
- media player

Art Supplies

- Crayons, including multicultural crayons
- □ clear tape
- □ craft sticks
- □ glitter glue
- glue sticks
- googly eyes
- □ green stamp pads
- paper heart
- permanent marker

Toys & Goodies

- baby dolls
- ping-pong balls
- □ snack (you choose!)
- toy people

Odds & Ends

- cotton balls
- □ gift bows
- □ gift boxes
- hand cleanser
- □ jingle bells (optional)
- □ large plastic cups
- □ napkins
- small cups
- □ tissues
- wet wipes
- wrapping paper



* in your Simply Loved Kit

Christmas | Week 1

Love Is Born

Jesus Gives Hope John 3:16; Luke 2:1-7

Bible Point

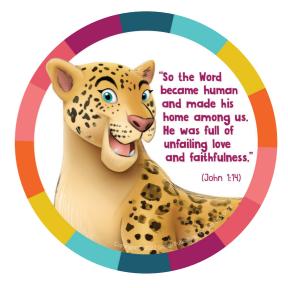
Jesus gives hope.

Purpose

In a season filled with joy, it's ironic that so many of us feel surrounded by hype rather than hope. Gift-giving, expectations, commitments, and even tradition can be overwhelming. The simple celebration of God's gift of love...feels lost.

Read Luke 2:7 and notice that Mary took Jesus' birth in stride. She immediately cared for him as any mother would care for a newborn. No hype. Just the simple act of love in response to God's spectacular act of love.

Kids can get absorbed by the bells and whistles of the Christmas season. Today point out the beauty and simplicity of God's gift to us. Remind them that it all started with love!



Prayer

Dear God, how do I even begin to thank you for the gift of Jesus? Such love—I can't even imagine! May my heart stay focused on you this season. In Jesus' name, amen.

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
 Option Cards* <i>Bow Knows:</i> gift bows, wrapping paper, clear tape <i>Ping-Pong Travelers:</i> ping-pong balls, gift boxes 	 Music CD* Music Video DVD* Buddy Video DVD* Hope Bible Memory Buddy poster* media player Bible (bookmark John 1:14) 	 "Love Is Born" Bible Story poster* Music CD* Hope Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) media player Bible (bookmark John 3:16; Luke 2:6-7) paper heart baby dolls (1 per Crew) 	 <i>Game:</i> paper heart, <i>Music</i> CD, CD player <i>Food-n-Friendship:</i> snack, napkins, hand cleanser, <i>Music</i> CD*, media player <i>Coloring Creation:</i> "Love Is Born" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, tissues, glue sticks, <i>Music</i> CD*, media player

Prep

* 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!





Bow Knows

Supplies: gift bows, wrapping paper, clear tape

Tear different patterns of wrapping paper into 1-inch squares, two per pattern. Attach the squares to the bottoms of bows. Then use the bows to play a matching game by trying to find the matching wrapping paper pieces under the bows.



When you open a present, what do you hope is inside?

You matched colors and patterns under the bows! Each time you turned one over, you hoped to find the right color! Hope is a happy feeling, and **Jesus gives hope.**

Ping-Pong Travelers

Supplies: ping-pong balls, gift boxes

Turn gift boxes on their sides. Stand away from the boxes and roll ping-pong balls into them. Then take a step back and try again!



The ping-pong balls had to travel a long way! Where do you like to travel?

Today you'll hear about the night Jesus was born. His mom and dad had to travel a long way—from one city to another. But when they got there, Jesus was born. Hooray! Jesus gives hope.

Opening

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



"The Cleanup Song" (Music CD track 1)

Help kids transition by cleaning up before sitting with their Connect Crews. A Connect Crew is a smaller group of kids with one Crew Guide.

Sing & Play

Welcome

Hello, friends! I'm so excited! It's almost Christmas! Today we'll have so much fun celebrating Jesus. But first, let's sing our welcome song.



Let's say hello to our Crew Guides. They're our go-to friends who are here to have fun and learn along with us.

• Kids give their Crew Guides a big smile with jazz hands to the sides of their faces.

Bible Point

Today's Bible Point tells us Jesus gives hope. Hope is a happy feeling that everything will be okay. Every time you hear the words "Jesus gives hope," clap quickly like this (demonstrate clapping quickly for a second or two) and say, "Wow! Thank you!"

Hope is such an exciting gift from Jesus! We need to cheer about it. Let's try it together. Repeat the Point and responses a few 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, "Wow! Thank you!"

Jesus is God's gift of hope. Hope helps us when we feel worried or afraid. I'll show you what I mean. Watch and do this with me!

Supplies

- Bible
- Music CD

"Hello, My Friends"

- Music Video DVD
 - "O Come, All Ye Faithful" music video
 - "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" music video
- Buddy Video DVD

Hope Bible Memory Buddy video (Christmas Week 1)

- media player
- Hope Bible Memory Buddy poster



Wow! Thank you!

When we feel worried, (shake head "no") When we are afraid, (shake head "no") Hope means trusting Jesus (point up) Will help things be okay. (pat a friend on the back) Wow! Thank you! (clap quickly)

Hope means we believe that Jesus will take care of things. When Jesus was born, *he* was God's special gift of hope and love. Let's sing and welcome *everyone* to celebrate Jesus!





Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our friend Buzzly Bee. Buzzly will introduce us to a Bible Memory Buddy friend. Let's call for Buzzly. Do what I do!

- Flap hands quickly like a bee.
- Make buzzing sounds.

Hope Bible Memory Buddy video (Christmas Week 1)

Hope the jaguar reminds us that Jesus gives hope. (Wow! Thank you!)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Remind kids that baby jaguars are born with their eyes closed.
- Have kids cover their eyes and "mew" like baby jaguars.

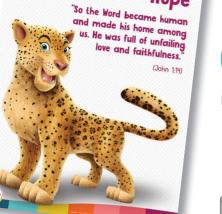
Show the Bible. The Bible is God's true story of love! Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say it together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.

"So the Word became human (sign language for Jesus) and made his home among us. (make roof over head) He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. (put hands on heart one at a time) And we have seen his glory, (circle arms around head) the glory of the Father's one and only Son." (point up) (John 1:14)

This verse is about Jesus! Jesus came from heaven to live as a person like you and me. Jesus gives hope. (Wow! Thank you!)

Hope is a happy feeling that everything will be okay. Jesus brought so much hope and joy that even *angels* sang about it. Let's imagine we're angels as we praise Jesus!

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" music video



Hope

If you have mostly young children, consider shortening the verse as follows: "And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son."

Bible Discovery

Hold up a Bible. Today our Bible story is about a gift of love. It's fun to think about giving gifts to people we love!

- Have everyone get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **What gift would you like to give to someone you love?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

God gave us a gift because he loves us so much. Listen! Can you hear what God's gift is?

Read aloud John 3:16. To help kids guess God's gift of love, emphasize "He gave his one and only Son."

What things did you hear that might be a gift? Invite responses from the whole group, acknowledging kids' answers. (It's okay if they don't say "Jesus.")

Hold up a paper heart. God gave his Son, Jesus, as a gift of love. Jesus gives hope. (Wow! Thank you!) Jesus came from heaven to live on earth—as a person like you and me!

Show the Bible Story poster, and point to the planet Earth on the mobile.

This is our planet, Earth. Jesus, God's special Son, came to live here. Hold up the heart again. This heart will remind us that Jesus was a gift of God's love that came to live here.

- Take the paper heart to a far side of the room and set it in a corner.
- Let's listen to what happened when Jesus was born.

All babies start out in their moms' tummies. God let Jesus grow in the tummy of a woman named Mary. Mary was married to a man named Joseph. While Jesus was still growing in Mary's tummy, the king made a rule that he wanted to count *all* the people in his land. Let's count!

- Invite kids to stand by age. For example, have all the 4-yearolds stand to be counted.
- Lead everyone in counting the children who are standing.
- Include yourself and the Crew Guides.

Well, to get everyone in one place, the king made people go to the cities their families came from. So Joseph and Mary had to travel to a place called Bethlehem. Let's circle up and talk about our travels!

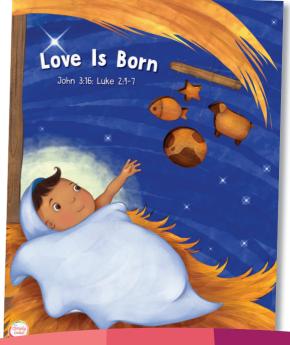
- Have Crews circle up and sit knee-to-knee.
- How have you traveled on a trip? Did you take a car or bus? Did you walk or ride on the back of someone's bike? Talk about that in your Crew.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Love Is Born" Bible Story poster
- paper heart
- baby dolls
 (1 per Crew)

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

Read the verses from the Bible. You're showing kids that God's Word is special. And don't worry; we've kept the verses short for young attention spans.



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

This Pre-K & K Leader Guide provides a step-by-step, simple-to-follow plan for Simply Loved Holiday Year 3 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.

Holiday Bible Discoveries:

Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Christmas Week 1	Jesus gives hope.	Love Is Born (John 3:16; Luke 2:1-7)
Christmas Week 2		Joy to the World! (Romans 5:2; Luke 2:8-20)
Palm Sunday		People Hope Jesus Will Be Their King (Mark 11:1-10; 15:22-41)
Easter		Jesus Appears to His Disciples (John 20:1-10, 19-31)

f Join the Simply Loved Facebook community and learn from children's ministry leaders just like you! **facebook.com/groups/simplylovedteacherslounge**



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