

LEADER GUIDE

PRE-K & K • QUARTER 4



PRE-K & K

QUARTER 4



LEADER GUIDE



Loveland, Colorado
group.com/SimplyLoved

Group
Real. Bold. Love.



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 Pre-K & K—Quarter 4

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Visit our website: group.com/SimplyLoved



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Contents

Welcome to Simply Loved!	4
How It Works.....	5
Our Strategic Approach.....	7
A Faith Foundation for Young Children.....	8
Classroom Transition Song Lyrics.....	9
Supply Closet Inventory.....	10
Unit 1: Wanted: Leader of Israel	
Lesson 1: Israel Needs a Leader.....	11
Lesson 2: Deborah Becomes Israel’s Judge.....	21
Lesson 3: God Talks to Gideon.....	29
Lesson 4: Gideon Leads God’s People.....	39
Unit 2: Road to a King	
Lesson 5: God Provides for Ruth.....	49
Lesson 6: God Answers Hannah’s Prayer.....	59
Lesson 7: God Speaks to Samuel.....	69
Lesson 8: God Gives His People a King.....	79
Unit 3: Follow Jesus	
Lesson 9: Jesus Is Tempted.....	89
Lesson 10: Jesus Washes His Friends’ Feet.....	99
Lesson 11: Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray.....	109
Lesson 12: The Good Samaritan.....	119



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](https://www.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!

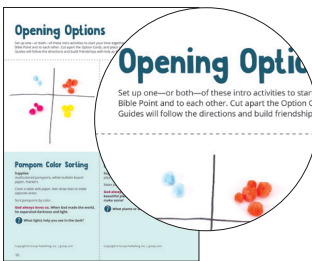
Simple Prep for Leaders

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

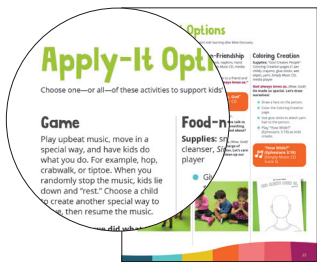
Gather kids to sing and discover the Bible Point. Plus, a Bible Memory Buddy connects the Bible verse to kids' everyday lives.



Bible Discovery

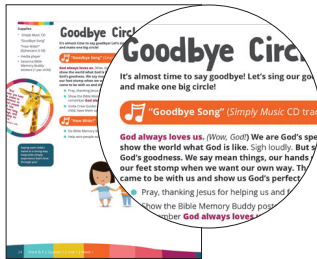
We've given you lots of options, but don't skip this part! It's the "meat" of the lesson where kids experience God's greatest gift in an interactive, hands-on way. There's no time to be bored as kids and Connect Crews follow the Leader through a memorable Bible experience. You'll read directly from the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

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.



Young children are active! They like to move and use their whole bodies to make 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 down into bite-size pieces. Be sure to use the Simply Loved classroom songs to help young kids move from one thing to the next.

Young children feel so many things! Anger, frustration, love, comfort, fear. When 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.

Jesus often used tangible examples to make abstract learning more concrete. So Simply Loved uses everyday preschool items like blocks, backpacks, dolls, and trains!

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-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 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.

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 🎵

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.
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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.
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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.
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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—Quarter 4

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

Program Essentials

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

Art Supplies

- crayons, including multicultural crayons
- chenille wires
- child-safe scissors
- craft sticks
- food stickers
- glitter
- glue sticks
- index cards
- jumbo chenille wires
- paper
- raffia
- smiley face stickers
- washable markers
- watercolor paint and brushes
- yellow and orange tissue paper

Toys & Goodies

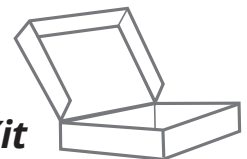
- baby dolls
- bedsheets
- blankets and pillows
- building blocks
- cardboard blocks
- felt
- snack (you choose!)

Odds & Ends

- 2- or 3-ounce paper cups
- adhesive bandages
- cotton balls
- disposable cups
- foam shapes in various sizes and colors
- hand cleanser
- medium-size cardboard boxes
- napkins
- paper crown (optional)
- paper wads
- real or artificial leaves
- tissues
- water
- wet wipes
- whiteboard, markers and eraser or flipchart



* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Israel Needs a Leader

Wanted: Leader of Israel

Judges 2:6-23

Bible Point

God is patient.

Purpose

Are you a patient children’s ministry leader? Are you able to take a breath and repeat yourself for the 10,000th time? How high do your frustrations rise when chaos ensues? Do you keep your cool, even when you’re met with less-than-desirable behavior? Maybe you’ve been tempted to high-tail it out of that classroom and not come back.

God was patient with the Israelites. But he was still frustrated. They had forgotten about God, after all, and were doing everything he had told their ancestors not to do. And yet God didn’t walk away. Instead he sent help—leaders to turn people’s hearts back to God and his perfect ways.

So ask God for an extra dose of his patience today. When the sweet kids in your group aren’t so sweet, remember God’s great love for them. He is with you as you lead and guide kids to love and obey their merciful and loving God.



Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being patient with me and loving me even when I forget to devote my heart to you. Help me as I lead your children today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Crowns With a Twist</i>: jumbo chenille wires <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Card Path</i>: index cards, crayons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Music CD* <input type="checkbox"/> Music Video DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Buddy Video DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Psalm 145:8) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> Music CD* <input type="checkbox"/> blankets and pillows <input type="checkbox"/> Moe Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Judges 2:7, 18-19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i>: no supplies <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food-n-Friendship</i>: snack, napkins, hand cleanser, Music CD*, media player <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coloring Creation</i>: "Israel Needs a Leader" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, small cups of water, Music CD*, media player

* 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.



Crowns With a Twist

Supplies: jumbo chenille wires

Make a crown.

? If you were a king or queen, what would your castle be like?

Sometimes leaders who are called kings or queens wear fancy crowns. Good leaders are patient and kind. **God is patient**, too! Today we'll hear about leaders called *judges* who helped God's people love and obey God.

Card Path

Supplies: index cards, crayons

Decorate cards, then use them to make a path across the table.

? If you could follow a path to a special place, where would you want it to go?

We can follow paths to take us places. In our Bible story today, the people didn't follow God. But God was patient with them and sent them leaders called *judges* to help them. **God is patient** with us, too.

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! I've been waiting all week to see your smiling faces again. I'm so happy to see you. Let's sing our welcome song.

 **"Hello, My Friends"** (*Music CD track 2*)

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 low-five.

Bible Point

Today we'll discover that **God is patient**. Every time you hear the words **"God is patient,"** touch your chin, then move your arm forward like this (demonstrate) and say, **"Thanks, God!"** This motion is a way to say "thank you" in sign language. Let's try that together.

When we're patient, we're willing to wait without getting upset. Let's practice being patient and waiting. Do the following actions together.

- Be patient and wait for me to count to three. Then spin around three times.
- Be patient and wait for me to count to five. Then hold up five fingers and say, "Hey, hey, hooray!"
- Be patient and wait for me to count to 10. Then jump up and down!

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 **"Thanks, God!"**

Supplies

- Bible
- *Music CD*
 - "Hello, My Friends"
- *Music Video DVD*
 - "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video
 - "All That Is Good" music video
- *Buddy Video DVD*
 - Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- media player
- Moe Bible Memory Buddy poster



Thanks, God!

You were patient and waited for me to count. Great job. **God is patient.**
(Thanks, God!) While we wait, we can lean on him. Let's sing about that!



"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" music video



Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

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

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



Moe Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)

Our friend Moe the sloth moves pretty *sloooowly*. He reminds us that **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!)

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- Remind kids that sloths move slowly.
- Have kids slowly stand up, slowly spin in a circle, then slowly sit down.

Moe told us our Bible Memory Verse. Let's say it together now. Don't worry, we'll go nice and slow.



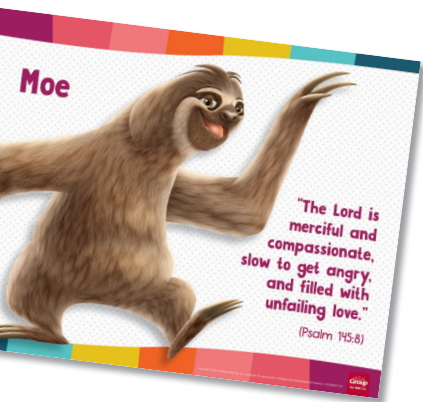
Show the Bible. **The Bible is God's true story of love! Our Bible Memory Verse comes from the Bible. Let's say it together. I'll say a line, and then you repeat after me.**

"The Lord is merciful (*extend one arm*)
and compassionate, (*extend other arm*)
slow to get angry (*slowly move palms down*)
and filled with unfailing love." (*move arms up*)
(Psalm 145:8)

God is filled with love for you! When we say God is merciful, we're remembering that God forgives us when we make wrong choices. God is so good, and **God is patient.** (Thanks, God!) Let's sing about God's goodness.



"All That Is Good" music video



Repeat, repeat! Feel free to do activities more than once. You'll give kids time to catch on and jump in.

Bible Discovery

God is patient. (*Thanks, God!*) Hold up a Bible. **Today our Bible story tells how God's people, the Israelites, really needed a leader. They kept getting into trouble, and they needed someone to remind them to love and obey God.**

- Get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **Who is a leader that helps you love and obey God?** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Leaders show us what to do. I'll be your Leader. Watch and listen to what I do, then you'll join me and do it, too.

Sing to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star."

God is patient; God is kind. (*point up with both hands*)

God will help us every time. (*hold hands over heart*)

God will give us leaders who (*hands on hips*)

Help us love God and be true. (*thumbs-up*)

God is patient; God is kind. (*point up with both hands*)

God will help us every time. (*hold hands over heart*)

Now follow me and sing along. Sing again line by line, inviting everyone to repeat after you.

Thank you for following me, your Leader. I helped you know what to do, and I told you about our wonderful God!

In the Bible, God's people, the Israelites, had a leader named Joshua. Joshua was a good leader, and he helped the people move into a new land that God had promised to give them. Let's move to a new place in our room.

- Have everyone stand up and relocate to a different place in your room.
- Make your new area cozy with blankets to sit on and a few pillows.
- **Hooray! We're here in our new home! It's pretty cozy!**
- Have everyone cheer and shout, "Thanks, God!"

Ahh! We're all settled. God's people were settled into their new land, too. Let's read what life was like for them.


 Read aloud Judges 2:7.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Israel Needs a Leader" Bible Story poster
- blankets and pillows

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!

Not much of a singer? That's okay! Simply say—or rap—the rhyme instead!

 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 Quarter 4 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	Wanted: Leader of Israel God is patient.	Israel Needs a Leader (Judges 2:6-23)
Unit 1/Week 2		Deborah Becomes Israel’s Judge (Judges 4:1-16)
Unit 1/Week 3		God Talks to Gideon (Judges 6)
Unit 1/Week 4		Gideon Leads God’s People (Judges 7)

Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 2/Week 1	Road to a King God knows what we need.	God Provides for Ruth (Ruth 1–4)
Unit 2/Week 2		God Answers Hannah’s Prayer (1 Samuel 1:1–2:11)
Unit 2/Week 3		God Speaks to Samuel (1 Samuel 3:1–4:1)
Unit 2/Week 4		God Gives His People a King (1 Samuel 8–10:25)

Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 3/Week 1	Follow Jesus Jesus shows us how to live.	Jesus Is Tempted (Matthew 4:1-11)
Unit 3/Week 2		Jesus Washes His Friends’ Feet (John 13:1-20)
Unit 3/Week 3		Jesus Teaches Us How to Pray (Matthew 6:5-18)
Unit 3/Week 4		The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)



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