

LEADER GUIDE

PRE-K & K • QUARTER 7



PRE-K & K

QUARTER 7



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 Pre-K & K—Quarter 7

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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!

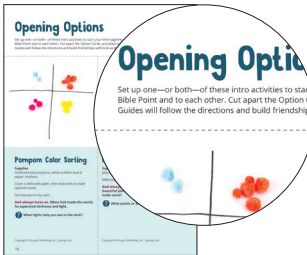
Simple Prep for Leaders

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!



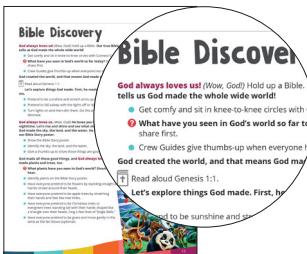
Sing & Play

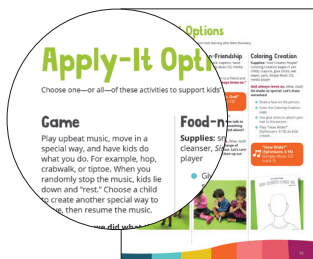
Gather kids to sing and discover the Bible Point. Plus, a Bible Memory Buddy connects the Bible verse to kids' everyday lives.



Bible Discovery

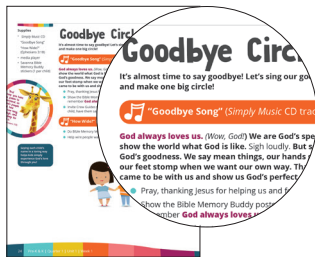
We've given you lots of options, but don't skip this part! It's the "meat" of the lesson where kids experience God's greatest gift in an interactive, hands-on way. There's no time to be bored as kids and Connect Crews follow the Leader through a memorable Bible experience. You'll read directly from the 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...
“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 7

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

- ☐ child-safe scissors
- ☐ construction paper
- ☐ craft sticks
- ☐ crayons, including multicultural crayons
- ☐ dot stickers
- ☐ glitter glue
- ☐ glue
- ☐ glue sticks
- ☐ mini gift bows
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ small felt squares
- ☐ smiley face stickers
- ☐ washable markers

Toys & Goodies

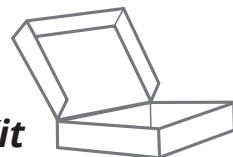
- ☐ baby doll
- ☐ blocks
- ☐ bubble solution with wand
- ☐ fish crackers
- ☐ paper crown
- ☐ parachute or large bedsheet
- ☐ snack
- ☐ sponge or foam balls
- ☐ toy food (optional)

Odds & Ends

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum foil | <input type="checkbox"/> hand cleanser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blankets or large beach towels | <input type="checkbox"/> napkins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bucket | <input type="checkbox"/> painter's tape |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cinnamon or other spices | <input type="checkbox"/> paper towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> clothespins | <input type="checkbox"/> robe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> crepe paper streamers | <input type="checkbox"/> shaving cream |
| <input type="checkbox"/> disposable cups | <input type="checkbox"/> suitcase |
| <input type="checkbox"/> facial tissues | <input type="checkbox"/> step stool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> flashlight | <input type="checkbox"/> sticky notes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> gift boxes or bags | <input type="checkbox"/> water |



* in your **Simply Loved Kit**



Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem

Back Home Again

Nehemiah 1–2:20

Bible Point

God forgives us.

Purpose

"Let's clean up this mess!" Young children hear those words most every day, don't they? Whether it's toys on the living room floor, spaghetti sauce on their faces, or (gulp) marker on a wall, kids are professional mess makers.

We all make a mess sometimes. And yet God specializes in forgiving his children—young and old—and giving us a fresh start. He did it for his people in Jerusalem, and he continues to offer unending love and forgiveness to people today. When we pray and confess our mess-ups, God is always faithful to forgive.

Today you and the kids you lead will hear Nehemiah's firsthand account of prayer, boldness, and forgiveness. As you pray together, let God's love and forgiveness fill your heart and give you the confidence you need to lead his messy children well today.



Prayer

Dear God, I confess that I need your help. Please guide me as I show your children your love and forgiveness this week. In Jesus' name, amen.

Prep

Opening Options	Sing & Play	Bible Discovery & Goodbye Circle	Apply-It Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Option Cards* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Knock a Block</i> : blocks <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Shaving Cream Sculpting</i> : shaving cream, painter's tape, paper towels	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music</i> CD* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Buddy Video</i> DVD* <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Bible Memory Buddy poster* <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark 1 John 1:9)	<input type="checkbox"/> "Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem" Bible Story poster* <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Music</i> CD* <input type="checkbox"/> Cliff Bible Memory Buddy stickers* (1 per child) <input type="checkbox"/> media player <input type="checkbox"/> Bible (bookmark Nehemiah 1:3; 2:3) <input type="checkbox"/> robe	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Game</i> : painter's tape, disposable cups <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Food-n-Friendship</i> : snack, napkins, hand cleanser, <i>Music</i> CD*, media player <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Coloring Creation</i> : "Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem" Coloring Creation pages* (1 per child), crayons, small cups with water, <i>Music</i> 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.



Knock a Block

Supplies: blocks

Line up blocks to make a wall, then take turns knocking it down.

? Tell about a time something broke. What was it? How did it break?

Sometimes we feel sad or frustrated when friends knock down or break something we like. When our friends say they're sorry, let's choose to forgive them and keep playing together! We forgive our friends just like **God forgives us.**



Shaving Cream Sculpting

Supplies: shaving cream, painter's tape, paper towels

Tape a square onto your play surface, then spray some shaving cream inside the square. Smooth out the shaving cream, staying inside the square. Then use your finger to draw things you like to talk with God about.

? Who or what do you pray for?

In our Bible story today, a man named Nehemiah prayed and talked with God. Nehemiah asked God to forgive and help him and his friends. No matter what, we can always talk with God because **God forgives us.**

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 glad you're here today. 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 two thumbs up.

Bible Point

Today's Bible Point makes me feel so happy. I'll tell you what it is! **God forgives us.** That amazing news! So every time you hear the words **"God forgives us,"** fling out your fingers and say, "That's amazing!" Let's try that together. Repeat several times.

Sometimes we make mistakes and our hearts feel sorry and sad. Have everyone place hands over their hearts.

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, "That's amazing!"

Supplies

- Bible
- *Music CD*
 - "Hello, My Friends"
- *Music Video DVD*
 - "You Forgive Me" music video
 - "This Little Light of Mine" music video
- *Buddy Video DVD*
 - Cliff Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)
- media player
- Cliff Bible Memory Buddy poster



That's amazing!

That's why it's so amazing that **God forgives us.** *(That's amazing!)* God's love for us won't ever stop. Let's stand and sing a song about that!



"You Forgive Me" music video



Bible Memory Buddy & Verse

It's time to talk to our friend Buzzly Bee. Hooray! 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.



Cliff Bible Memory Buddy video (Week 1)

Cliff the Marmot reminds us that **God forgives us.** *(That's amazing!)*

- Show the Bible Memory Buddy poster.
- **Marmots are kind of cute! They like to dig tunnels where they can snuggle up and sleep.**
- Have everyone wrap their arms around themselves for a few moments as if they're snuggling up to sleep.
- **Now let's wake up and hear a Bible verse.**



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.**

"But if we confess our sins to him, *(fold hands together in prayer)*
he is faithful and just *(hold one palm up and then the other)*
to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness."
(wipe hands together)
(1 John 1:9)

This verse from the Bible reminds us that **God forgives us.** *(That's amazing!!)* God loves all people so much! That amazing love makes our hearts shine! Let's sing a song about that!



"This Little Light of Mine" music video



Need to shorten the verse a bit for younger friends? Try this! "But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."

Bible Discovery

I'm so glad that God never stops loving us and that **God forgives us.** *(That's amazing!)* Hold up a Bible. **Our Bible story is about a man named Nehemiah. Nehemiah loved and followed God.**

And Nehemiah worked for a powerful king in a place called Persia. But Nehemiah was just a visitor in Persia. His home was in a city called Jerusalem, where God's special people had once lived. Nehemiah missed his home a lot.

- Have everyone get comfy and sit in knee-to-knee circles with Connect Crews.
- **Tell about a time you missed your home.** Invite Crew Guides to share first.
- Crew Guides give thumbs-up when everyone has shared.

Nehemiah had a special job for a powerful king. But he still missed his home. I wonder what that was like for him. Let's talk to him and see. Imagine I'm Nehemiah now! Turn your back, put on the robe, then face kids again.

Well, hello! My name is Nehemiah. What are your names?

- Pause for responses from the whole group.
- Walk among kids, greeting them and giving them a handshake or fist bump as you introduce yourself as Nehemiah.

It's wonderful to see all your friendly faces. Yes, I'm Nehemiah, and I worked for the king of Persia! I was the king's cup-bearer. That means I was in charge of tasting the king's drinks to make sure there was nothing yucky in them. Like this!

- Pretend to hold a goblet.
- Dramatically swirl, sniff, and pretend to drink.
- Then make a happy face.

This drink is good! It's delicious! Now you try. Do what I do!

- Have everyone stand as they're able.
- Pretend to hold a goblet.
- Dramatically swirl, sniff, and pretend to drink.
- Then make a happy face and say, "Yum!"
- Have everyone pretend to smell a bad drink and make a yucky face.

Well done! You are wonderful cup-bearers!

One day while I was working, my brother came and told me some bad news. He had just come from my home in Jerusalem. God's people there were going through a hard time. The news made me feel so sad and worried.

Supplies

- Bible
- "Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem" Bible Story poster
- robe

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!

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

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 7 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	Back Home Again God forgives us.	Nehemiah Returns to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-2:20)
Unit 1/Week 2		God's People Rebuild Jerusalem's Wall (Nehemiah 4:1-23; 6:1-15)
Unit 1/Week 3		Ezra Reads God's Law (Ezra 6:14-22; 7:1-10; Nehemiah 8:1-12)
Unit 1/Week 4		Prophets Talk About a Coming King (Zechariah 9:9-10; Isaiah 9:1-7)
Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 2/Week 1	Immanuel Is Here Jesus is the greatest gift.	John the Baptist Is Born (Luke 1:1-25, 57-80)
Unit 2/Week 2		An Angel Visits Mary (Luke 1:26-56)
Unit 2/Week 3		Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-20)
Unit 2/Week 4		Magi Worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1-12)
Unit/Week	Unit Theme	Lesson Theme
Unit 3/Week 1	Jesus' Friends Jesus is our friend forever.	Jesus Gathers Disciples (John 1:35-51)
Unit 3/Week 2		Jesus' Friends Go With Him to the Garden (Luke 22:31-65)
Unit 3/Week 3		Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20:1-18)
Unit 3/Week 4		Jesus Makes a Beachside Breakfast for His Friends (John 21:1-25)

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