

Beginner

Bible Study Guide

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Beginner Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

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Special thanks to . . .

Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner**, of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University, for initial work in planning the GraceLink curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the GraceLink project and seeing it to completion.

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Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when needs are met.
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lip His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

A Letter to Parents

Dear Friends,

The three lessons in this Bible study guide focus on serving others, Jesus' unconditional love, and joyful worship. Activities in the Do and Say section at the end of each lesson teach and reinforce these three important concepts.

We encourage you to study the options and try some of these activities as a part of your family worship. Involve your young child in worship now, and you will foster a love for Jesus and His Word that will last. Sing songs of praise and share meaningful scripture. Read together from books such as *A Child's Steps to Jesus* series for young children.

Make the time—take the time—to worship with your child every day. Years from now you'll be glad you did.

Our prayer is that these lessons will bring joy and peace to you and your child. Let us pray for one another as we work together to lead our little ones to Christ.

**Cordially,
The Editors**

REFERENCES: LUKE 2:21, 39, 40, 51; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 68-83.

Little Jesus, the Happy Helper

Memory Verse:

“[Jesus] was obedient.” LUKE 2:51, NIV.

The Message:

I obey and help others.

Parents:

By the end of this month you can help your child

Know that they can obey as Jesus did.

Feel loving toward family members and pets.

Respond by being obedient to parents and kind to family members and pets.



Jaime is a helper. He cannot mow the lawn for Mommy. But he can give her a glass of water. Little Jesus was a helper too.

Little Jesus
wakes up
happy. *[Yawn, stretch,
smile.]*

He rolls up His
bed. *[Roll up a towel.]*

He kneels to talk
to God. *[Clasp hands
together.]* “Dear God,
thank You for a good
sleep. Please help me
listen today, so that I
may be a happy
helper. Amen.”









This is the town
of Nazareth.

[Point to the town.]

Little Jesus lives in a
little house here. He
is a happy helper at
home.

Some of the people
in town are bad. Some
of the people are sad.

Little Jesus *[Point
to Jesus.]* wants to be
their happy helper too.

Little Jesus says kind
words to everyone.



Little Jesus
learns out-
doors. He learns
about God out here.

He moves the
caterpillar from the
path to keep it safe.
[Point to the caterpillar.]

See the bird's nest?
[Point to the nest.]

Little Jesus does not
touch the eggs.
Mother birds don't
want us to touch
their eggs.

Little Jesus is a
happy helper for all
God's creatures.









Little Jesus
learns at
home. His mother
is His teacher. He
learns about God.
[Point up.] He can say
Bible words. Can you
say Bible words?

Little Jesus is God's
happy helper. He lis-
tens to what God says.
Can you listen and
help today? *[Pray that
God will make your
child His happy helper.]*



Come out to
play!" the
children say.

"Not yet!" Little
Jesus calls. *[Point to
Jesus, then to Mary.]*
"I am helping Mother."
Little Jesus will play
when His work is
done.

"You don't go to
school," the big boys
tease. *[Point to big boys.]*

"My mother is my
teacher," Jesus answers.

Jesus goes to school
at home. *[Show previ-
ous picture.]*









Bang! Bang!
Bang! See
Jesus' hammer. *[Point
to Jesus, then to the
hammer.]* Little Jesus
pounds a nail.

*Scrape, scrape,
scrape.* See father
Joseph's plane. *[Point
to father Joseph, then
to the plane.]* The
plane smooths the
wood. *[Point to the
wood.]* See the wood
curl.

Father Joseph
works hard. Little
Jesus works hard
beside him.



Listen! Listen!
[Hold your hand by one ear.] The
rabbi is blowing on
the horn to call the
people to worship
on the Sabbath day.
*[Point to the rabbi,
then the ram's horn.]*

Listen! Listen!
*[Hold your hand by one
ear.]* Jesus hears. His
mother hears. Father
Joseph hears. *[Point
to each one.]*



Jesus likes
to be at
church.
“Come!”
He says.
“Come
help us
sing and
pray.”





Sing “I’m a Happy Helper” or make up your own song about helping.

Make a card or hand print for a family or church member. Deliver it in person. Pray for that person today.

Encourage your child to feed the family pet. Thank Jesus for pets.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child’s developmental stage and repeat them often.



Pick some wild-flowers or garden flowers and offer them to someone else.

Use fingers and a bright lamp or the sun to make shadow figures. Talk about helping hands.

Trace your child’s helping hands and feet. Write “_____ is a happy helper” on the tracing and put it where your family will see it.

Let your child help you pull weeds or do other work in the yard or garden. Thank your child for being a happy helper.



Praise your child for picking up his or her toys. Have a special place for them.

Help your child practice using his or her lips to say kind words, such as please, thank you, and you're welcome.

Sing the memory verse song while you pick up toys and clothes with your child.

Encourage your child to hold and rock a baby doll. Talk about being helpers when we comfort others.

Scatter some toys or articles. Count and see how quickly your child can place them in a basket. Do it again!

Make smiling faces and frowning faces into a mirror. Smiling faces are helping faces. What are frowning faces? What face does your child have?

Offer your child a small dusting rag and something to dust. Thank him or her for helping.

Let your child help identify and fold his or her freshly laundered clothes.



Lesson 1

Jesus Was Obedient

Capo on 1st fret

D D A D

Je - sus was o - be - di - ent, O - be - di - ent, O - be - di - ent;

D D A A7 D

Je - sus was o - be - di - ent. Luke two, fif - ty - one.

REFERENCES: LUKE 19:1-10; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 552-556.

Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree

Memory Verse:

“God is love.” 1 JOHN 4:8, NIV.

The Message:

Jesus loves me all the time.

Parents:

By the end of this month you can help your child

Know that Jesus loves them all the time.

Feel accepted and loved by God.

Respond by thanking God for His love.



Kip cannot see in the nest. He will climb on the stool. Once a little man climbed high to see Jesus.

Zacchaeus is a
little man.

[Point to Zacchaeus.]

He is not tall. But
Zacchaeus lives in a
big house. *[Point to his
house.]*

“I want Jesus
to come to my house,”
Zacchaeus says. “But
sometimes I am not
good. Maybe Jesus
does not love me.”

Will Jesus go home
with Zacchaeus?









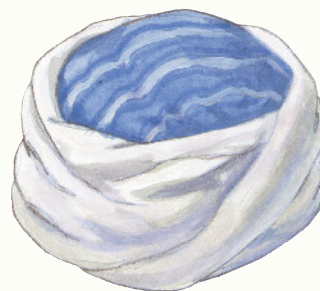
Jesus is coming today,”
Zacchaeus says.

[Point to Zacchaeus.]

“I will go see Him.”

So Zacchaeus puts
on his hat. *[Wrap a
thin towel or scarf
around child’s head.]*

“Goodbye,”
Zacchaeus says. “I’m
going to see Jesus.”
*[Wave goodbye; walk
around the room.]*



Jesus is coming!"
the people
shout.

*[Whisper, finger
to lips.] "See Jesus!"
[Point to Jesus.]*

But Zacchaeus
cannot see Jesus.
*[Shake head; use sad
voice.]* Zacchaeus is
too short.

Zacchaeus stands
on tiptoe. *[Stand on
tiptoe; shade eyes.]*
Zacchaeus still
cannot see.









Climb, Zacchaeus,
climb! *[Lift your
child high in your arms.]*
Climb up in the tree.
Now Zacchaeus is not
too short. See how
high he climbs!

Look, Zacchaeus,
look! What do you
see? *[Point to objects
in the picture and help
the child name them.]*



Walking, walking. *[Child stands on a chair.]*
Jesus is walking by.
Zacchaeus sees Jesus going by. *[Walk beside child's chair.]*

Jesus stops. *[Stop walking.]* Jesus looks up in the tree. *[Look at child.]* “Hello, Zacchaeus in the tree.” *[Touch your child's nose; make your child laugh.]*









Jesus smiles at
Zacchaeus.
[Smile at child.]
Zacchaeus smiles
back.

“Zacchaeus!” Jesus
calls. “Come down!
Come down! I am
going to your
house today.”

*[Help child jump
down.]* Yea for
Zacchaeus! Jesus
loves him all the
time! *[Clap.]*



So Jesus goes
to Zacchaeus's
house. *[Point to
Zacchaeus and Jesus.]*
Because Jesus loves
Zacchaeus all the
time.

Jesus loves you
and me all the time
too! *[Pick up your
child and swing him
or her high.]*





Do & Say

Climb a chair, the stairs, or a small tree while holding your child. Talk about how Zacchaeus climbed the tree to see Jesus.

Go for a walk and look at the trees. Collect leaves from different trees. Put them between newspaper and place them under a weight to press them.

Sing together "Jesus Loves Me." Insert your child's name. Say: God loves us all the time.

Help your child glue some leaves to a card and write "God Loves You" on it. Give the card to a family member or friend. Say together: God loves us all the time.

Find pictures of animals and their homes. Talk about God's love and care for animals. Say: God loves us all the time.

Let your child invite a friend to dinner. Have your child help set the table.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.



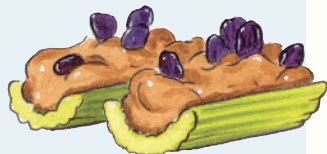
Tell your child to jump for joy as Zacchaeus did when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house. Sing “Zacchaeus Was a Wee Little Man.”

Zacchaeus was a small man. How many small things can you and your child find in the room you are in? Count them together.

Help your child look in a mirror and make the kind of face Zacchaeus had when he heard that Jesus was coming to his house.



Make a leaf rubbing to share with a friend. Sing about Zacchaeus while you work.



Help your child measure something tall and something small. Measure your child’s height. Tall or small?

Visit a friend, just as Jesus visited Zacchaeus.

Let your child help you cut celery into two-inch (5-centimeter) sticks. Fill with peanut butter and put raisins on top. Serve them as a special treat for the rest of the family.

Ask your child, What special food would you want to serve if Jesus were coming to our house? Let your child help prepare and serve it for Sabbath dinner.

Help your child make “binoculars” by taping together two empty toilet paper rolls. Paint or decorate them. Use them to “look up” into trees.

Lesson 2

God Is Love

SUSAN DAVIS (ADAPTED)

SUSAN DAVIS

Chords: C, F, C, C, G7, C, F

Love, God is love; Love, God is love. God loves

The first line of the musical score is in 3/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the bass line is on a bass clef staff. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Chords: F, C, C, Cdim, G, Dm, C

Bob-by* and Da-vid* and Su-sie* be - cause God is love.

The second line of the musical score continues the melody and bass line. The melody includes a diminished chord (Cdim) and a D minor chord (Dm). The lyrics are written below the melody.

*Use the names of children in your class.

REFERENCES: LUKE 19:28-44; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 569-579.

The Great Parade

Memory Verse:

“Sing to the Lord.” PSALM 98:1, NIV.

The Message:

I can sing praises to Jesus.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child

Know that it is good to praise God.

Feel happy for the things God does for us.

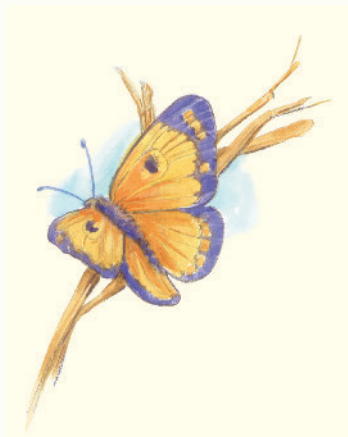
Respond by joining in to sing praise songs in Sabbath School, church, and family worship.

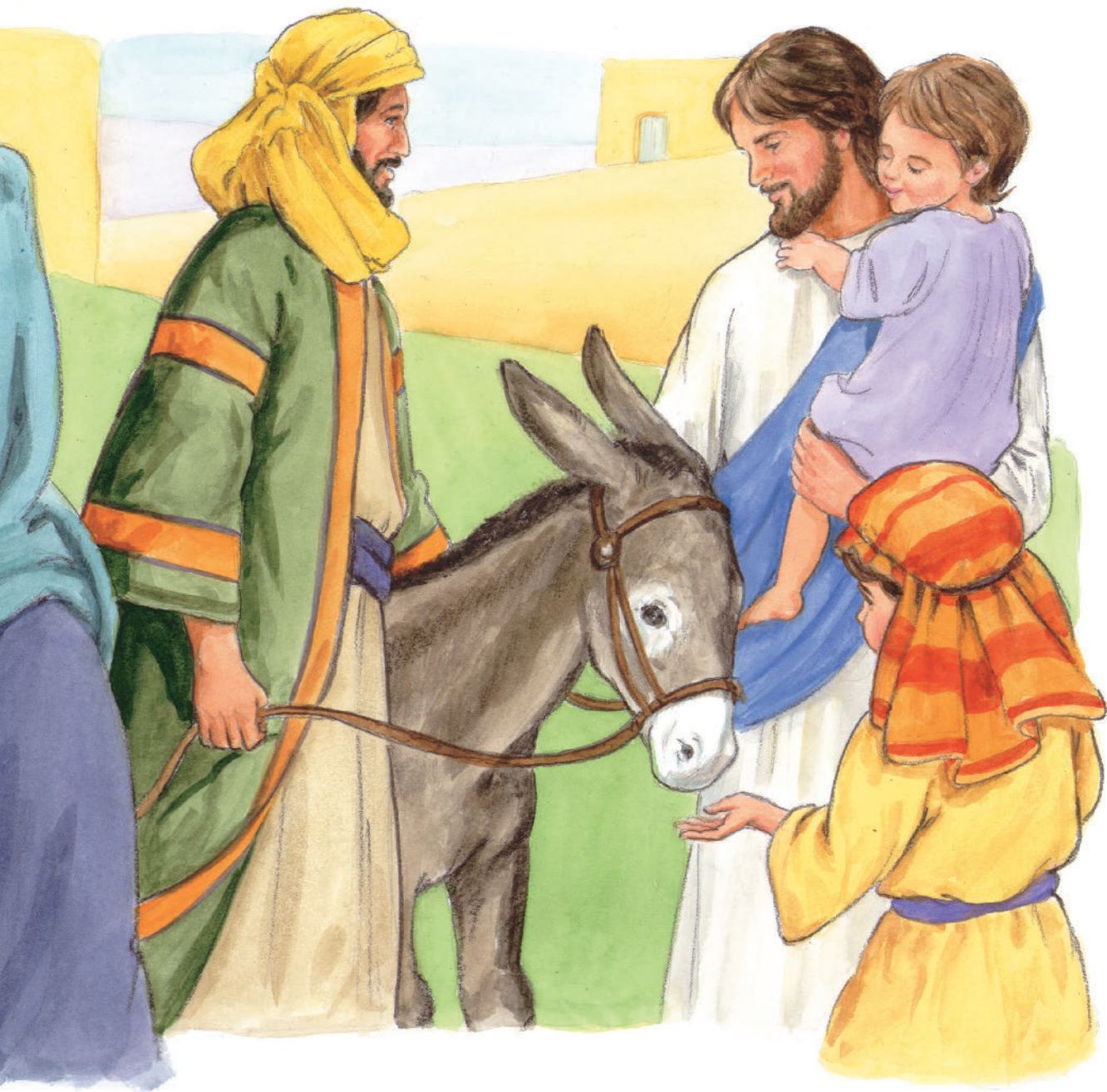


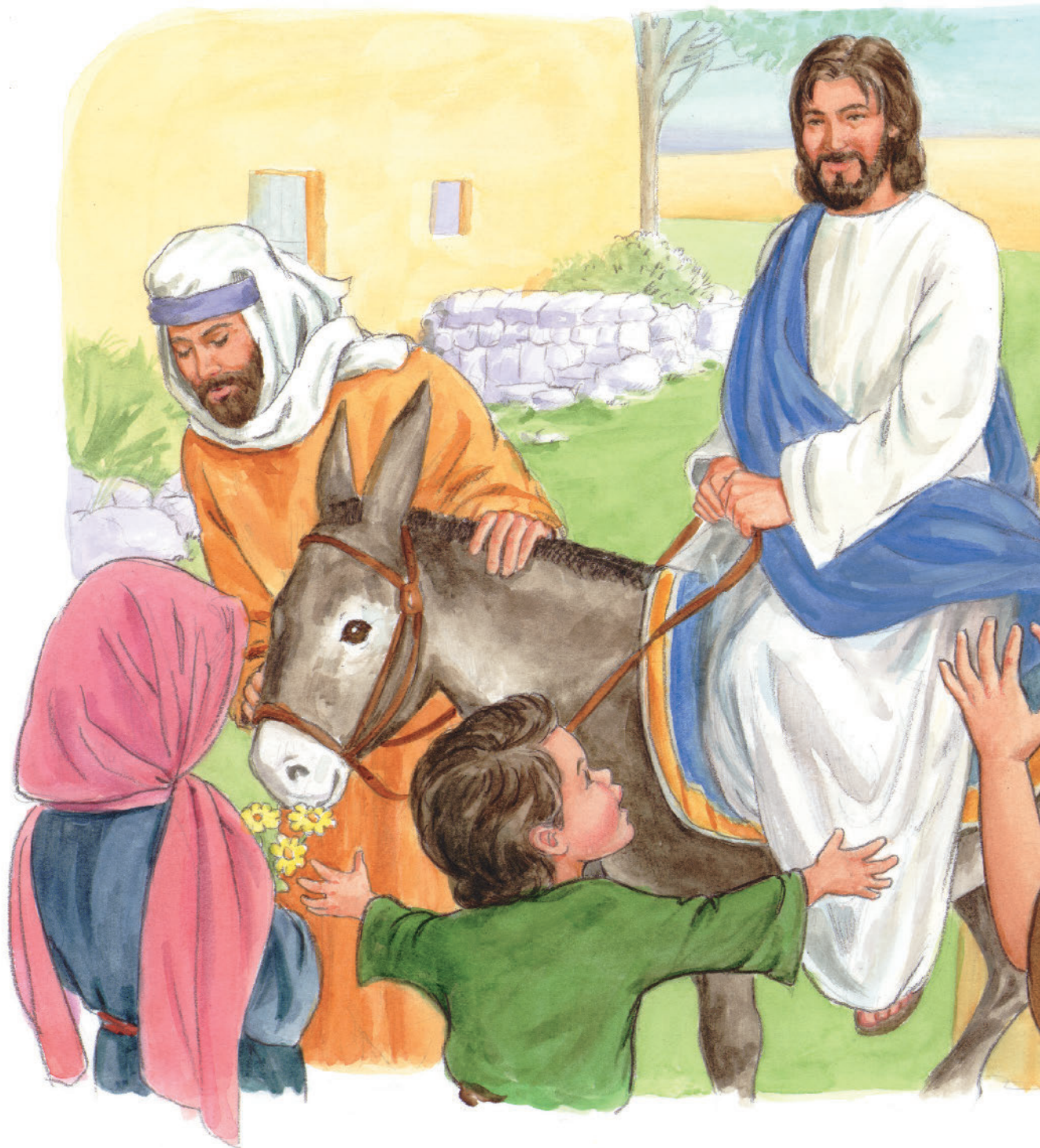
See the children march in the parade. The doggie marches too. Our Bible story is about a parade.

See the donkey.
[Point to the
donkey.] Jesus will
ride on the donkey.
Jesus and the donkey
will ride in a parade.

The boys and girls
want to see Jesus.
[Point to the children.]
They want to see
Jesus in a parade.









See Jesus!" the children shout.

[Point to Jesus.]

"Jesus looks like a king!" Jesus sits straight and tall on the little donkey.

"He could be our king," the adults whisper.

[Give child a cloth to wave or spoons to clap.] Yea for King Jesus! And for the donkey and the parade!



Hosanna!
Son of
King David!”

Hear the people
shout! *[Point to Jesus,
then the people.]* See
the children wave.
[Wave a cloth or scarf.]

The little donkey
walks. *[Point to the
donkey.]* Clip-clop-clip.

The people take
off their coats. *[Point
to the coats.]* The coats
cover the road. Clip-
clop-clip. The donkey
walks on the coats.

What a parade!
[Wave and clap.]









See the palm branches. *[Give child green leaves to wave.]* The children wave palms. "Hosanna!" they shout. "Hosanna to our King!"

The parade is coming closer. Clip-clop-clip.

Jesus is *our* king. We can wave palms too. *[Wave green leaves.]* We can sing praises to Jesus.

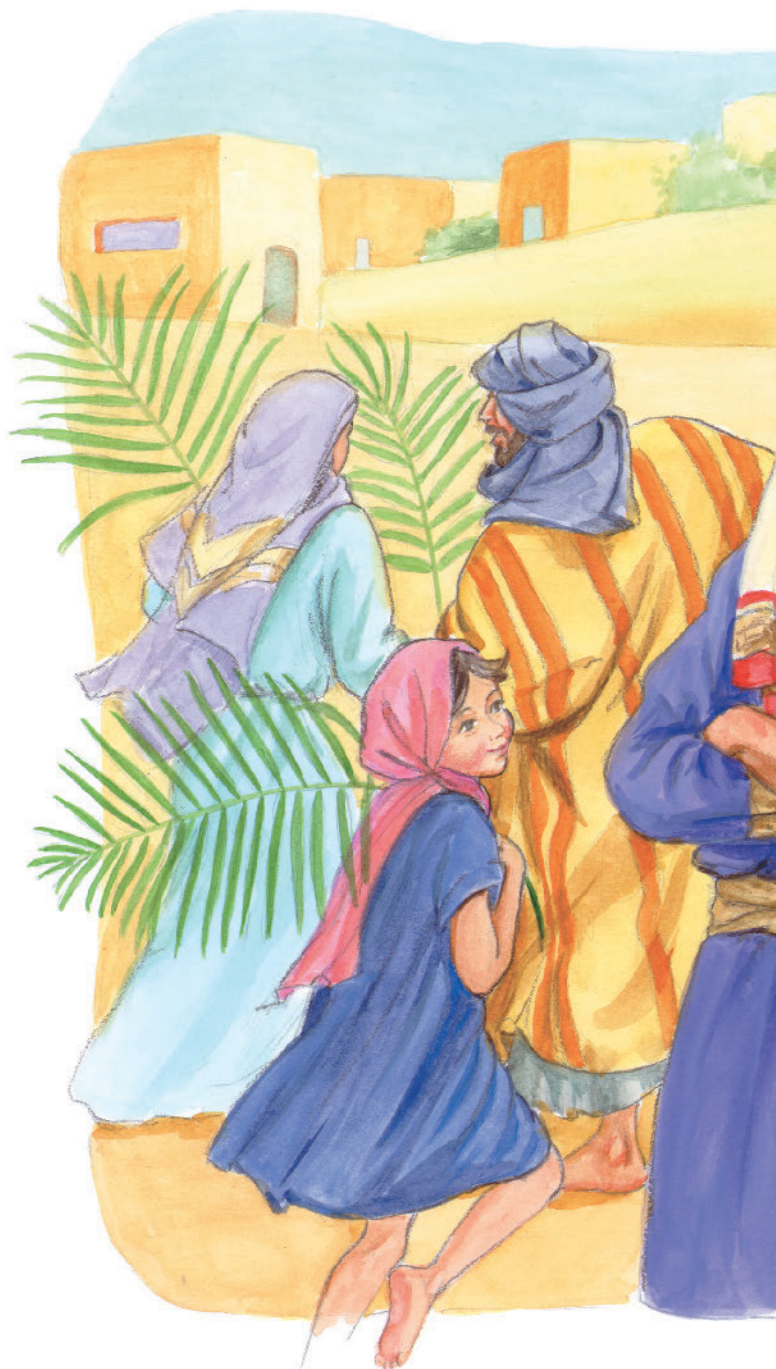


See the angry men. *[Point to the Pharisees.]* Count them: 1-2-3. Three angry men say, “Hush the children!”

But the parade goes on.

“Don’t stop the children or the stones might cry out!” Jesus says.

Clip-clop-clip, the donkey steps on the pretty coats. Yea! *[Wave the cloth.]*









Sh! Jesus, don't cry." See the big tears on Jesus' face. *[Point to Jesus.]* Jesus is sad.

[Softly in a sad voice.] "Oh, great city! Jesus loves your people! Jesus loves your children—all the time! But you do not love Him." *[Use the cloth to dab at your eyes.]* Don't cry, Jesus.



We love You,
Jesus!"

See, Jesus smiles.
[Point to Jesus' smiling
face.]

Clip-clop-clip. The
parade moves again.
The donkey steps on
the pretty coats. The
children shout
"Hosanna!" [Shout.]
The palms wave!
[Wave green leaves.]
What a parade!





Do & Say

Tape record your child's attempt at saying "Praise Him" or singing praises to Jesus. Play it back and listen.

Partially fill a toilet paper roll with rice, beans, lentils, or gravel. Seal each end with waxed paper or other material. Let your child shake the instrument as you sing a praise song to Jesus.

Have a parade. March around your house as you sing praises to Jesus.



Take a walk around your neighborhood and praise Jesus for the things you see. Sing the memory verse song as you walk.

Use your quiet voice to whisper praises into your child's ear. Encourage your child to whisper them to you.

Go outside and use your loud voices to shout praises to Jesus. Teach your child to shout "Hosanna!"

Help your child think of three things for which to praise Jesus. Count them on their fingers. Take turns with your child jumping up as you list the items.



Let your child wave a scarf or strip of cloth while you sing praises to Jesus together.

Gather some leaves or make some with paper. Wave them in praise to Jesus as you sing the memory verse song.

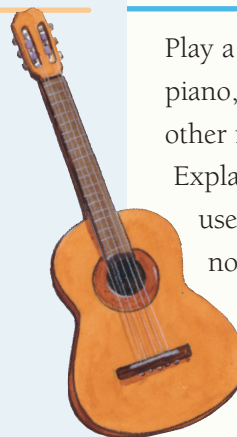
Sing "Praise Him, Praise Him" as you praise Jesus today. Use your hands to clap and praise Jesus as you sing.

Hide some objects around your home. Have a treasure hunt and praise Jesus for each object your child discovers.

Hide a picture of a donkey or a toy stuffed donkey. Help your child find the donkey as Jesus' disciples did.

Make some different animal sounds while your child guesses what animal it is. Finish with a donkey sound. Remind your child that Jesus rode on a donkey.

If possible, take your child to a petting zoo or farm. Ask the caretaker to let your child touch a donkey.



Play a note on a piano, guitar, or other instrument. Explain that we use musical notes to sing praises to Jesus.

Lesson 3

*Sing to the Lord**

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The vocal line contains the lyrics 'Sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord! We' and the bass line contains the lyrics 'praise Him! We praise Him! We sing to Him!'. The second system continues the vocal line with 'praise Him! We praise Him! We sing to Him!' and the bass line continues with 'praise Him! We praise Him! We sing to Him!'. The music is a simplified version of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's Messiah.

Sing to the Lord! Sing to the Lord! We

praise Him! We praise Him! We sing to Him!

*Simplified "Hallelujah Chorus," from Messiah, G. F. Handel; adapted by Janet Sage.

Pray

Pray



(Hands together as if in prayer.)

when you wake in the morning;



(Arms up over head and then down to the sides, stretching.)

Pray



(Hands together.)

at the table, too;



(Hands out in front as if offering something.)

Pray



(Hands together.)

before closing your eyes in sleep;



(Hands together on one side of the face as if forming a pillow.)

Pray



(Hands together.)

in all that you do.



(Arms out wide in front and then to sides in gesture of inclusiveness.)

Lesson 2

I Did Wrong

I did wrong, that's too bad;



(Shake head "no" and frown.)

I'll tell Jesus I am sad.



(Fold hands in prayer.)

He will smile from above



(Smile.)

And forgive in His love.



(Place arms crisscross over heart.)

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Alway

VIRGINIA CASON

VIRGINIA CASON / ARR. BY WAYNE HOOPER

I may not be ver - y tall, But I can love Je - sus best of all! And

when He comes on that hap - py day, Then I'll be with Him al - way!

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Lesson 3

I Have Hands That Clap

S. VANCE

S. VANCE

1. I have hands that clap, clap, clap. I have hands that clap, clap, clap.
 2. I have fin - gers that wig - gle, wig - gle, wig - gle. I have fin - gers that wig - gle, wig - gle, wig - gle.
 3. I have feet that tip - py - tip - py toc, I have feet that tip - py - tip - py toc,
 4. I have knees that bend by my chair, I have knees that bend by my chair,

I have hands that clap, clap, clap. They were made for Je - sus.
 I have fin - gers that wig - gle, wig - gle, wig - gle. They were made by Je - sus.
 I have feet that tip - py - tip - py toe. They were made by Je - sus.
 I have hands that fold in prayer. Now I talk to Je - sus.

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