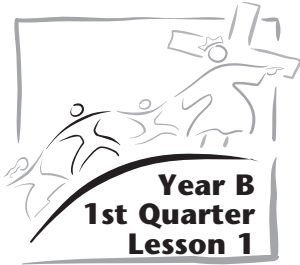


LESSON



Little Jesus, the Happy Helper

SERVICE

God calls us to serve others.

References

Luke 2:21, 39, 40, 51; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-83.

Memory Verse

"[Jesus] was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

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.

The Message



I obey and help others.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Jesus is a young child. He loves His mother and father and makes them happy. He listens to them and obeys them. He learns at His mother's knee. He is kind to everyone—at home, at church, and in the village. He is happy to help others.

This is a lesson about service.

Children are by nature self-centered. They learn the lessons of a servant's heart by example. The same is true for adults. We learn best by following Jesus' example. This lesson focuses on Jesus' life as a little boy. As we look at His life and

choices, we can help our children learn that we are the happiest when we choose to treat others the way He did.

Teacher Enrichment

"The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a little mountain village. . . . Wonderful in its significance is the brief record of His early life. . . . His mind was active and penetrating, with a thoughtfulness and wisdom beyond His years. . . . The powers of mind and body developed gradually, in keeping with the laws of childhood. As a child, Jesus manifested a particular loveliness of disposition. His will-

ONE



ing hands were ever ready to serve others. He manifested a patience that nothing could disturb, and a truthfulness that could never sacrifice integrity. In principle firm as a rock, His life revealed the grace of unselfish courtesy" (*The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68, 69).

Room Organization

This program is designed for a traditional beginner setting. Small group activities may be done on the floor in the center of the circle, or on tables or mats placed around the edge.

Room Decorations

These room decorations will work for the next six months with slight adaptations for

each lesson. At this age, a few large, well-chosen decorations will work best.

Create indoor and outdoor areas by partitioning the room with a large cardboard box or lightweight wood to suggest the wall of a house. For added interest, paint windows and doors and cut them out on three sides so the children can open and shut them. Set a small table and chairs in your "inside" area. Make a small bedroll with blankets or a sleeping bag. Hang a picture on the wall if you wish.

Place a small bench and real or artificial trees and plants "outside" the house. Place small toy tree animals, birds, and fruit on the branches. Place real or artificial leaves under the tree and set some Bible-times toy stuffed animals nearby.

Program Overview

	LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
	Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1	Parent Time	up to 5		
2	Arrival Activities	up to 10	A. <i>Book Basket</i> B. <i>Animal Corner</i> C. <i>Puzzles</i> D. <i>Toolbox</i> E. <i>Kitchen Corner</i> F. <i>Tea Set</i> G. <i>Rocking Chair</i>	books about families helping, or people who help us toy stuffed animals animal, family, or helper puzzles play tools, wood plastic mixing bowls, wooden spoons, etc. pitcher of water, paper cups adult-sized rocking chair
3	Getting Started	up to 10	Welcome Prayer Visitors Offering Birthdays	bells offering container artificial cake, candles, small gift (optional)
4	Experiencing the Story	up to 30	A. <i>Memory Verse</i> B. <i>Good Morning, Father</i> C. <i>Make Your Bed</i> D. <i>Breakfast</i> E. <i>Bible Lesson</i> F. <i>Pets</i> G. <i>Who Comes Running?</i> H. <i>Carpenter Shop</i> I. <i>Memory Verse</i> J. <i>Playing</i> K. <i>Kind Lips</i> L. <i>Little Light</i> M. <i>Sabbath</i> N. <i>Happy Helpers</i> O. <i>Happy Sharers</i> P. <i>Memory Verse</i>	felt or cardboard "Bibles" towels or blankets plastic or paper dishes; plastic cutlery felt or cardboard "Bibles" toy stuffed animal pets felt or toy stuffed animal mother and babies play tools or sticks, workbench or wood riding toy, hobbyhorse, etc. paper or felt lips (see p. 66) bells, rainbow sticks, ribbon sticks, etc. animals from activity F, box or sack basket of toys

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10 Week 1	<i>Toy Basket</i>	paper plates; stapler; scissors; stickers or pictures of toys, clothes, etc.
	Week 2	<i>Helping Hands</i>	washable finger paint, paper, markers, paper plate, soap and water or baby wipes
	Week 3	<i>Kind Lips</i>	reproducible lip outline (see page 66), paper, glue, scissors, markers or crayons
	Week 4	<i>Pinecone Bird Feeders</i>	pinecones, peanut butter, butter knife, birdseed, sealable plastic bags, string
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Happy Faces</i>	small paper plates, yellow crayons or spray paint (optional), black crayons
Snack Center (Optional)			fruit, crackers, pretzels, juice, etc.

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

We finished putting the gardening tools away, and I went in to wash. I started preparing our supper when 3-year-old Jesse came into the house. His hands, face, and mouth were covered with cow manure. "What are you doing?" I asked, grabbing a wet cloth and heading for my young son.

"I will grow, Mommy, I will grow,"

he answered. Realizing that earlier I had told him that the cow manure makes our vegetables taller, I knew what he meant.

How often the messes we clean up are from well-meaning helpers. Our little ones want to be "big" and helpful.

Share how you can help your child grow to be like Jesus.

Week 2

Did Mary ever get upset at Jesus? Did He ever do anything childish that would cause her frustration? Did she ever lose her temper because of Him? I used to wonder where my children got their temper and impatience. After being impatient and raising my voice to my child, I've realized where it came from! I have an imperfect child. I am an imperfect mother. But I'm asking God to help me see my child through His eyes. In His eyes my child is perfect. He can take my children and do for them what I cannot do.

Ellen White says, "Parents, when you have faithfully done your duty, to the extent of your ability, you may then in faith ask the Lord to do that for your children which you cannot do" (*Child Guidance*, p. 256). God can also change us as parents. "Ask Him to temper their dispositions, to make them mild and gentle by His Holy Spirit. He will hear you pray. He will love to answer your prayers" (*Child Guidance*, p. 256).

How do you see your child? In what areas of raising your child do you need God's extra help?

Week 3

My 8-month-old child was sitting in the high chair, watching the food drop to the floor as he released the morsels from his tiny hands. Looks like fun, right? Not for mom to clean up! So I said, "No dropping food," and swatted his hand, causing him to cry. Next meal, same thing, except I had to swat his hand harder. I felt terrible about it, but what else could I do? A few days later I caught him dropping food off his high chair tray, then swatting his own hand while he said, "No!"

Wait a minute! That's not what I was trying to teach him! So I prayed for wisdom. God let me see that he really dropped the food only when he was finished eating and began to play with it. So the solution was to take him out of the high chair as soon as he began to fidget and play. Knowing how to discipline has been one of my greatest struggles and concerns. I want to be firm and consistent but yet not harsh and unloving.

Ellen White tells us, "Mothers, be sure that you properly discipline your children during the first three years of their lives. . . . It is then that the foundation is laid" (*Child Guidance*, p. 194).

What discipline issues are you struggling with? Have you seen any answers to prayer over discipline issues?

Week 4

"The knowledge of God as revealed in His word is the knowledge to be given to our children. From the earliest dawn of reason they should be made familiar with the name and the life of Jesus. Their first lessons should teach them that God is their Father. Their first training should be that of loving obedience. Reverently and tenderly let the word of God be read and repeated to them in portions suited to their comprehension and adapted to awaken their interest" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 460).

Share ways that you can share Scripture even now with your children.

Week 5 (or optional)

"The story of the birth and childhood of Jesus never loses its fragrance and interest, and it should be often repeated to the children and youth. Jesus was ever in sympathy with all phases of the life of childhood and youth. When the mothers brought their children that Jesus might place His hands upon their heads and bless them, the disciples looked with disfavor upon the tired mothers and their little ones, and sternly forbade them to come to Jesus to trouble Him with so unimportant a matter; but Jesus did not look upon them with disapprobation. His compassionate voice was heard saying, 'Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.' He took the children in His arms, and blessed them, and spoke words of encouragement and sympathy to the mothers, and both mothers and children returned to their homes strengthened and blessed by the divine love of the Master. They loved Jesus, and often repeated to others the story of their visit. They told how the disciples had forbidden them, but how the Lord had had compassion upon them" (*The Bible Echo*, Dec. 15, 1892).

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages.

A. Book Basket

Provide a basket of sturdy board books about families, children helping, or people who help us, such as police officers, doctors, nurses, etc.

B. Animal Corner

Provide a variety of toy stuffed animals (some that make noises, if possible) for the children to hold.

C. Puzzles

Provide simple puzzles about animals,

families, or helpers. Create puzzles by cutting pictures out of magazines and mounting them on foam core panels or cardboard. Cut the pictures into two or three parts for toddlers to match.

D. Toolbox

Provide a few pieces of wood and a box of play tools.

E. Kitchen Corner

Provide a toy kitchen set or box of plastic mixing bowls, wooden spoons, etc.

F. Tea Set

Provide a small pitcher of water and paper cups. Encourage the children to pour a cup of water and share it with someone else.

G. Rocking Chair

Have an adult-sized rocking chair available for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3

GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls! I'm so happy to see you today.** Greet each child with a smile, hug, kiss, or handshake as you sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 1).

Good morning, Good morning,
Good morning we say;
We're happy, so happy to see you
today!

—Janet Sage

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **Jesus wants to be with us in our Sabbath School today as we learn more about Him. Let's ask Him to be with us.** Prepare for prayer by singing "Let's Have a Talk With Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 11).

Let's have a talk with Jesus,
Let's close our eyes and say,
"Dear Jesus, please be with us
In Sabbath school today."

—Kathleen Maguire

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You Need:

☐ bells

Say: **Sabbath School is a special place. In Sabbath School we learn about being the kind of boys and girls Jesus wants us to be. Let's ring our bells to tell Jesus how happy we are for Sabbath School.** Distribute bells for the children to ring as you sing "I'm Glad I Came to Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 5).

I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school,
I'm glad I came to Sabbath school
On this bright Sabbath morning.

—Edith Smith Casebeer

Say a simple prayer similar to the following and ask the children to repeat your phrases: **Dear Jesus, thank You for Sabbath and for Sabbath School. Thank You for being with us in Sabbath School. Help us to be more like You. Amen.**

Sing "A Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for ev'rything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

Welcome each visitor individually, then sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.

Won't you come again?

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.

Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering

You Need:

- ☐ pretty bowl or basket or other offering container

Say: **We learn about Jesus in Sabbath School. But some boys and girls don't know about Him. We bring our offering to help other boys**

and girls learn that Jesus loves them, too. Place a pretty basket or bowl (or other container) on the floor and have the children drop their offering into it. Sing "Offering Prayer Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 33).

We have bro't our off'ring on this Sabbath day.

Bless our gift, dear Jesus. May it help someone, we pray.

—Norma June Bell

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E. Birthdays

Say: **Someone here has had a birthday. Do you know who it is? Close your eyes and we'll find out.** Lead the birthday child up front to a special birthday chair while you sing "A Birthday" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 36).

A birthday, a birthday,

O who has had a birthday?

Come sit right here and we will sing,

To wish you happy birthday.

—Mildred Adair

You Need:

- ☐ artificial birthday cake
- ☐ candles or coins
- ☐ matches
- ☐ small gift (optional)

Light the candle(s) or help the child drop the coin(s) into the artificial cake or other container while you sing "Count the Birthday Money" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 37).

Mary* has a birthday, we're so glad.

We will see how many she* has had.

As we count the money (candles) we are told [count]

Yes, the money says (candles say) she's* two* years old.

* Insert name, appropriate pronoun, and age of child.

Light the birthday candle(s) and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,

Happy birthday to you,

Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],

Happy birthday to you.

—Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School. Say a special birthday prayer thanking Jesus for the child.



EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- felt or cardboard Bibles with a picture of Jesus inside

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small felt or cardboard Bibles while you sing "I Open My Bible Carefully" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 28).

I open my Bible carefully and learn of Jesus' love;
I open my Bible carefully and learn of Jesus' love.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Jesus was once a child too, just like you. Our lesson today is about Jesus when He was a little boy. The Bible says Jesus was obedient. That's our memory verse today. Can you say it with me? "[Jesus] was obedient."**

Sing "Jesus Was Obedient" to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Clap on the last three beats of each "obedient."

Jesus was obedient,
Obedient, obedient;
Jesus was obedient.
Luke two: fifty-one.

B. Good Morning, Father

Say: **What's the first thing you do every morning? You wake up! That's the first thing Jesus did every day when He was a boy too. Can you s-t-r-e-t-c-h with me like you've just woken up? And the first thing Jesus did after He woke up every morning was to talk to His heavenly Father.** Sing "Pray" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 231), teaching the children the following motions as you sing.

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.*

—Nancy Stagl-Schippmann

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C. Make Your Bed

You Need:

- ☐ towels or small blankets

Say: **Do you think Jesus left His bed messy all day? No, I don't think so. Jesus probably didn't sleep in a**

bed like you do. He probably slept on the floor on something that He would roll up nicely and put away for the day.

Give each child a towel to roll up while you sing "Helping Song" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 288). Children may stack their rolled-up towels near the bedroll in the indoor part of your classroom scene.

Our little hands can be helping hands,
When there's work to do.
Our little feet can be helping feet,
Running errands too.

—Kathryn B. Myers

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D. Breakfast

Allow response time as you say: **By then Jesus may have heard His mother, Mary, getting breakfast ready. Do you think Jesus just waited for breakfast or do you think He helped His mother? Yes, Jesus was a happy helper.**

Distribute the dishes and cutlery and invite the children to help set the table while you sing "I'm a Little Helper" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 293).

I'm a little helper, a helper, a helper,
O I'm a little helper like Jesus!

—Janet Sage

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You Need:

- ☐ small table (part of the room decoration)
- ☐ plastic or paper plates or bowls and cups
- ☐ cutlery

E. Bible Lesson

Say: **After breakfast it might have been time for Jesus to study the Bible with His mother. Mary taught Jesus many things about the Bible. She taught Jesus that the Bible was God's Word.**

Distribute the small Bibles to the children to look through while you sing "The Bible Is God's Word to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 52).

The Bible is God's Word to me.
The Bible says that God loves me.

—Enid G. Thorson

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You Need:

- ☐ felt or cardboard "Bibles"

F. Pets

You Need:

- ☐ toy stuffed animal pets

Allow response time as you say:

Do you think Jesus had a pet? He might have had a pet, or He might have helped take care of any sheep or goats that His family had.

Do you think Jesus would have teased His animals? Oh, no. Do you think Jesus would have been unkind to the animals? No. Jesus was always kind and gentle with the animals. He would have taken good care of His animals.

How does Jesus want you to treat your pets? He wants you to be kind to them, just as He was kind.

Distribute the toy stuffed animals to the children. Invite them to bring the animals up front while you sing "I Have a (doggy/kitty)" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 283). Leave the animals out for use in Activity N.

I have a doggy.* I have a doggy.*
Jesus gave her to me.
I must take care of her;
Feed, walk, and love her ev'ry day.
—Cynthia Patterson Coston

*kitty

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G. Who Comes Running?

You Need:

- ☐ felt or toy stuffed mother animal and babies

Say: **Have you ever watched baby animals and their mother? What do the animals do when their mother calls? Yes, they come running.**

Distribute felt or toy stuffed baby animals to the children. Put the toy mother animal on the floor or felt board. When you sing, invite the children to bring the baby animals to the mother. If you have access to different kinds of mothers and baby animals, sing several verses of "When a Mother Calls" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 274).

When a mother says, "Bow-wow"*
What comes running? What comes running?

When a mother says "Bow-wow,"*
Little puppy dogs come running.

—Kathryn B. Myers

*Substitute "meow," "quack, quack," etc.

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Say: **When Jesus was a little boy, what do you think He did when His mother called? Yes, He came running. Jesus wants little boys and girls to come running when their parents call.** Take the children across the room. Sing the song again, and have the children run to their parents when their parents call.

When a parent says, "Come here,"
Who comes running? Who comes running?

When a parent says, "Come here,"
Little boys and girls come running.

—Kathryn B. Myers. Adapted.

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H. Carpenter Shop

You Need:

- ☐ play tools or wooden sticks
- ☐ workbench or wood

Say: **Jesus' father was a carpenter. His name was Joseph. Jesus helped Joseph in the carpenter shop. Jesus was a happy helper.**

Distribute play tools to the children. Invite them to come and work on the workbench or wood, or tap their sticks together. Sing to the tune of "Tap, Tap, Tap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 281):

Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
That's how Joseph's hammer goes;
Tap, tap, tap,
Tap, tap, tap,
Jesus helped His dad.

—Janet Sage. Adapted.

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I. Memory Verse

Say: **Jesus always helped when Joseph asked Him to help in the carpenter shop, or when Mary asked Him to help at home. Jesus came running when His parents called. Jesus was obedient. Do you remember our memory verse song? Let's sing it again.**

Sing "Jesus Was Obedient" to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Clap on the last three beats of each "obedient."

Jesus was obedient
Obedient, obedient.
Jesus was obedient.
Luke two: fifty-one.

J. Playing

Say: **When Jesus finished helping His mother and father, He might have gone to play with the other children in Nazareth. Do you think Jesus took turns sharing with the other boys and girls? Yes, I'm sure He did. Taking turns and sharing is another way you can be a happy helper. You help everyone get along when you share.**

Help the children take turns on the riding toy, hobbyhorse, etc., as you sing "We Are Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 280).

We are sharing, we are sharing;
Jesus wants me to share with you.
It was your turn; now it's my turn.
We are happy taking turns.

—Enid G. Thorson

You Need:

- ☐ riding toy, hobbyhorse, etc.

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K. Kind Lips

Say: **Sometimes children say unkind things. They don't use their lips to be helpers. But Jesus always used His lips to say kind things. Let's bring our lips up to the board while we sing.**

Sing "Kind Lips" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 310) as the children bring their lips to the felt board. (See pattern on page 66.)

My little lips will be kind lips,
My little lips will be kind lips,
My little lips will be kind lips,
Saying kind things like dear Jesus.

—Mary E. Schwab. Adapted.

You Need:

- ☐ felt or paper lips (see p. 66)

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L. Little Light

Say: **When Jesus was kind and loving and obedient, He showed other children how to be the boys and girls God wanted them to be. He was being a good example in His neighborhood. We say He was letting His light shine. You can let your light shine too.**

Show the children how to use their index finger to represent a light while you sing "This Little Light of Mine" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 313).

This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine,
I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Shine it 'round the neighborhood.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Shine it 'round the neighborhood.
I'm gonna let it shine.
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

—Unknown

M. Sabbath

You Need:

- ☐ bells,
rainbow
sticks,
ribbon
sticks, etc.

Say: **On Sabbath Jesus went to worship God, just as we do when we come to Sabbath School and church. Sabbath was a happy day for Jesus.**

Distribute bells, rainbow sticks, ribbon sticks, etc., for the children to shake or wave while you sing "Happy Sabbath" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 235).

Sabbath is a happy day,
Happy day, happy day,
Sabbath is a happy day,
I love every Sabbath.

—Margaret Kennedy

N. Happy Helpers

You Need:

- ☐ toy stuffed
animals
- ☐ box or sack

Say: **Jesus isn't a little boy anymore. He lives in heaven now. But it makes Him glad to see boys and girls who are happy helpers, as He was when He was a little boy. Can you be a happy helper? Can you help me put away the toy animals?**

Ask the children to pick up the toy animals and put them into the box or sack while you sing "We Are Happy Helpers" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 296).

We are happy helpers,
Helpers, helpers;
We are happy helpers,
Helping all the day.

—A. Adele Flower. Adapted.

O. Happy Sharers

You Need:

- ☐ basket of
toys

Say: **It makes Jesus happy to see children sharing, too.** Invite half the class to come and select two items from the basket and take one back to another child. Repeat with the other half of the class while you sing "Sharing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 278).

Sharing, sharing,
I have fun and so do you;
Sharing, sharing,
It's a loving thing to do.

—Janet Sage

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P. Memory Verse

Say: **Jesus was obedient when He was a little boy. Do you know why? Because He loved His parents. And He loved God. He wants you to be obedient too.**

Sing an adaptation of the memory verse song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," clapping on the last three

beats each time you sing the word "obedient."

I will be obedient,
obedient, obedient;
I will be obedient
just like Jesus.

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5

MAKE AND TAKE (Optional)

Have the children sit around small tables. Parents or other adults should assist children to do one of the following as you review the lesson story.

Week 1**Toy Basket****You Need:**

- ☐ paper plates
- ☐ stapler
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ stickers or pictures of toys, clothes, etc.

Make baskets by cutting paper plates in half and stapling the halves together along the curved edge. Provide stickers or pictures of toys, clothes, etc., for the children to put into their baskets. Talk

about how helpful children put their things away when they are asked.

Week 3**Kind Lips**

Copy the lips for each child (see page 66). Let the children color them. Cut out the lips and glue them onto a piece of construction paper. Under the lips write "My lips say kind words."

You Need:

- ☐ reproducible lip outline (see page 66)
- ☐ paper
- ☐ glue
- ☐ scissors
- ☐ markers or crayons

Week 2**Helping Hands****You Need:**

- ☐ washable finger paint
- ☐ paper
- ☐ markers
- ☐ paper plate
- ☐ soap and water or baby wipes

Squirt a little finger paint onto a paper plate. Help the children coat the palms of their hands with the paint. Press their hands onto the white paper. (Alternative activity: have the parents trace around the children's hands.) Underneath

the handprints write "Helping Hands for Jesus."

Week 4**Pinecone Bird Feeders**

Tie a string around one end of a pinecone. Cover the pinecone in peanut butter, then roll in birdseed. Place the pinecone in a sealable plastic bag for the children to take home and hang outside for the birds.

You Need:

- ☐ pinecones
- ☐ peanut butter
- ☐ butter knife
- ☐ birdseed
- ☐ sealable plastic bags
- ☐ string

Week 5 (or optional activity)

Happy Faces

You Need:

- ☐ small paper plates
- ☐ yellow crayons
- ☐ black crayons

Supply yellow crayons for the children to color the plates. Have adult helpers use the black crayons to add eyes and a happy-face mouth. At the bottom of the plate write "I'm a happy helper for Jesus."

Snack Center (Optional)

A simple snack such as fruit, crackers, pretzels, or juice can be provided each week.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month's Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Closing

Say: **We want to be like Jesus when He was a little boy. We want to obey and be happy helpers. Let's ask Jesus to help us.**

Close with a short prayer asking Jesus to help the boys and girls obey and be happy helpers. Then sing together "Sabbath School Is Over" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 46).

Our Sabbath school is over,
And we are going now.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.
Goodbye, goodbye,
Be always kind and true.

Notes

STUDENT LESSON

References

Luke 2:21, 39, 40, 51; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 68-83.

Memory Verse

"[Jesus] was obedient" (Luke 2:51, NIV).

The Message

I obey and help others.

Little Jesus the Happy Helper

Jaime is a helper. He can give Mommy a glass of water. Can you help? Little Jesus was a helper, just as you are.

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 are sad. Little Jesus (Point to Jesus.) wants to be their happy helper too. Little Jesus says kind words to everyone.

Little Jesus learns outdoors. 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 listens 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!" 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 previous picture.)

Bang! Bang! Bang! See Jesus' hammer. (Point to Jesus, then to the hammer.) Little Jesus pounds a nail.

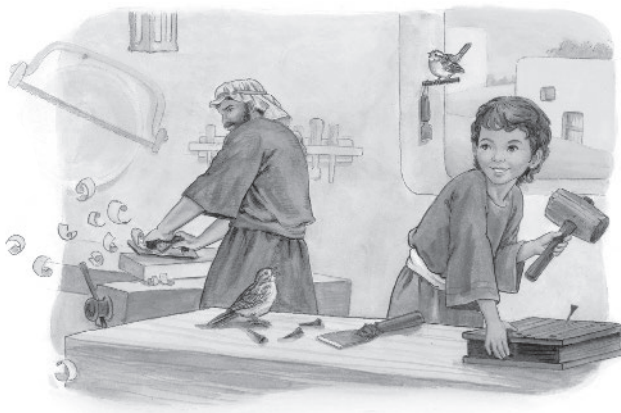
Scrape, scrape, scrape. See father Joseph's plane. (Point to Joseph, then to the plane.) The plane smooths the wood. (Point to the wood.) See the wood curl.

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."



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

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

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

4. Pick some wildflowers or garden flowers and offer them to someone else.

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

6. 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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16. Ask your child to help set the table. Thank Jesus for good food.

17. Encourage your child to carry his or her plate to the sink after meals.

18. Play “Who comes running?” with your child. Make different animal sounds and have your child come running when hearing the sound of your voice.