



Bible Point

Jesus loves us.

Bible Verse

Jesus loves children (adapted from Mark 10:14).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will

- realize that Jesus loves them when they're happy or sad,
- express feelings of joy and sadness, and
- understand that Jesus loves children.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ **Jesus loves us all the time.**

**Mark
10:14-16**



Have you ever seen a newborn baby? A new life—what a miracle! Tiny little toes, tiny fingers wrapped tightly around a parent's finger. What a gift! It seems that Jesus saw little ones that way, too. Innocent, pure, and straightforward—no politics in their actions! Jesus loves children when they're happy or sad, when they're obedient or disobedient, when they're lovable or when they're not so lovable. Help your children know how much Jesus loves them!

Prayer

- Read James 1:16-17.
- In what ways do you see the children you work with as gifts from God?
- How well does your attitude toward children reflect the attitude of Jesus?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for the precious gift of the children in my care. Help me to show my love for them by...

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
Arrival Activities Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Welcome Time —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins	
	Option 1: The Interview —Interview children as they arrive.	Audio recorder	
	Option 2: Glad/Sad Puppets —Make puppets to express emotion.	Paper plates, marker, crayons, transparent tape, craft sticks, crepe paper, scissors	
	Pick-Up Time —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Bible Song —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	Jesus Loves Us —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear a story about Jesus' love from Mark 10:14-16.	Teddy bear, tissues, glad/sad puppets from Option 2, dark crayon	
	The Happy Song —Sing a song about Jesus' love.	CD player	
Bible Activities	Interactive Bible Bulletin Board —Talk about Jesus with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Nature patterns (p. 162), tape, scissors, paper lunch sack	
	Sing It Out —Sing a song about Jesus' love.	CD player	
	Bible Craft —Make "Jesus jewel" bracelets.	Jewel patterns (p. 162), scissors, crayons, transparent tape, yarn, large macaroni noodles, 2 smiley-face stickers per child	
	Bible Game —Play an exciting ball game.	Rubber playground ball	
Closing 	Thank You, Jesus —Say a prayer and have a snack.	Graham cracker bears, milk, paper cups	

*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

SUPPLIES: name tags (p .8), tape or safety pins, marker



- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child's clothing.
- Say: **Today we're going to learn that ► *Jesus loves us.***
- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.

■ Option 1: The Interview

SUPPLIES: audio recorder

You'll need an audio recorder with playback capability. Tell the children you'd like to interview them in the same way that people are asked questions on television.

Ask: • **What's your name?**

- **Who loves you?** (My mommy; my daddy; Jesus; God.)
- **What makes you happy? What makes you sad?** (I'm happy when my dad comes home from work; I'm sad when I get in trouble.)

Tell children they'll hear a story today about someone who loves them when they're happy or sad. Ask if they know who loves them all the time, and remind them that ► *Jesus loves us.* Replay each child's response immediately after the interview. Let the children push the start and stop buttons with your guidance.

■ Option 2: Glad/Sad Puppets

SUPPLIES: paper plates, craft sticks, crepe paper, scissors, crayons, marker, tape

Collect enough paper plates and craft sticks for each child to have one of each. Write each child's name on a paper plate. Cut 3-inch lengths of crepe paper to use as hair.

Set crayons and the paper plates on the table. Tell the children they'll make a happy face on one side of the plate and a sad face on the other. Help the children with their drawings, and ask questions such as "What makes you happy?" "Who loves us no matter how we feel?" and "What makes you sad?" Tell the children that today they'll learn about someone who loves them when they're happy or sad. Remind children that ► *Jesus loves us.*

When everyone has drawn both faces, help children tape a craft stick to each paper plate and add short strips of crepe paper for hair. Let children hold the faces in front of their own faces. Encourage children to let their puppets tell something that makes them feel happy and sad.

teacher tips

If you wish to provide soothing background music as the children arrive, play a CD of your choice. Music helps calm reluctant children and helps them become at ease with new surroundings.

BIBLE POINT



teacher tips

If some children choose not to make puppets, ask an adult volunteer to make a few extra puppets so each child in the room has one. You'll use them during the Bible Story Time.

BIBLE POINT




teacher tips

After pick-up time, accompany the children to the story area. Have the adults in the room join the children in the story area to show the children that this is an important time.

■ Pick-Up Time

SUPPLIES: CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things.” Use the CD (track 2), and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



SING

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things
And put them all away.

Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
Let’s pick up all our things.
It’s time to stop our play.

Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Everyone here can help.
Let’s put it all away.

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



BIBLE POINT ▶



Say: ▶ **Jesus loves us.** How do we know that? **The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God’s special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let’s learn a song about the Bible.** Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing “God’s Special Book” to the tune of “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.”



SING

This is God’s special book.
Yes, it’s God’s book you see!
I learn about all God has done,
And his love for me!

(Repeat.)

Bible!

■ Bible Story: Jesus Loves Us

SUPPLIES: tissues, teddy bear, puppets from Option 2, dark crayon



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them

without the danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at group.com.



Panel 1



Set the dark crayon and tissues beside you. Fold back the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 1, which shows the boy holding the crayons. Say: **We're going to hear a Bible story today about how much ► *Jesus loves us* and about how much Jesus loves children. Once Jesus was teaching lots of mommies and daddies and children about God. Jesus' helpers thought the children bothered Jesus, and they wanted the children to go away. But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." ► *Jesus loves children.***

Have children find and point to the following pictures:

- the boy
- the curtains
- the glass
- a crayon



Say: **Sometimes we do things that make us sad or feel sorry. Can you make a sad face like the boy has in the picture?** Pause for children to respond. **No matter how we feel, ► *Jesus loves us.* It doesn't matter if we're happy or sad. ► *Jesus loves us* all the time. Let's put a big, happy smile on our faces.** Pause. **Good! Now we'll put happy smiles on the StoryBoard.** Have children use the dark crayon to draw smiley faces on the self-adhesive plastic covering.

Use tissues to erase the face after each child draws.

After everyone has had a turn, say: ► ***Jesus loves us* when we're happy or sad. Let's see what makes the little girl in the next picture happy.**

Panel 2



Reveal Panel 2. Whisper: **Shhh. I think the little girl's sleeping, don't you?**

Ask: • **Who loves this little girl when she's sleeping?** (Jesus; her mommy and daddy; God.)

• **Who loves us all the time?** (Jesus; God.)

Whisper: **When I say your name, come touch your favorite thing in the picture.** Help the children point to such things as the cross on the wall, the cheery wallpaper, the blanket, the teddy bear, the smile on the girl's face, and the night light.

Hold up a teddy bear you brought to class. Say: **I'll hand the teddy bear to [child]. You can smile and say, ► "*Jesus loves us.*" Then [child] can hand the teddy bear to someone else.** Help the children say, "Jesus loves us" as the teddy bear is passed. When they've finished, say: **Lots of things make us happy. But I'm happy because ► *Jesus loves us!*** Set the teddy bear out of sight. Hand each child a glad/sad puppet from Option 2.



If you have slightly older toddlers in your class, ask them to find specific-colored items such as the crayons. Identifying colors is a favorite activity with young children and a good skill for them to learn.





BIBLE POINT



Have an adult help children put bandages on the boy's knees and the fabric patch on his shorts. Then have the helper guide the children back to their seats.



BIBLE POINT



Important: Put the StoryBoard and glad/sad puppets away and out of reach of children.

Panel 3



Unfold Panel 3 of the StoryBoard.

Say: **Oh, my! Here's someone who's not very happy. Show me with your puppets how the little boy feels.** Pause while children respond with the glad/sad puppets.

When we're sad, ► Jesus loves us. Jesus wants us to feel better, too.

Ask: • **How can we help the little boy feel happy?** (Help him; put a bandage on him; give him a kiss.)

Try to call on three children who haven't had a turn putting on bandages or the fabric patch in earlier lessons. Hand two children each a bandage and one child the fabric patch. Help them attach the items to the StoryBoard. Put the bandages on loosely, as you'll want to remove them before next week's lesson. Have the children come to the StoryBoard, and encourage them to give the little boy a pat. Lead the children in saying, ► "Jesus loves us. Now you're all better."

Have children hold up the glad/sad puppets.

Ask: • **Who loves us when we're happy or sad?** (Jesus; God; Mommy and Daddy.)

• **Who loves children all the time?** (Jesus; God.)

Say: **I'm happy that ► Jesus loves us. I feel so happy, I want to make music! Let's ring the bell and tell Jesus we're happy.** Have each child ring the bell on the handlebar. Each time the bell rings, lead the class in saying: "Jesus makes me happy."

Can you show me happy fingers and hands? Hold up your hands and wiggle your fingers. **Let's have our hands help us sing a happy song.**

■ The Happy Song

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 10), lead the children in singing and acting out "The Happy Song" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."



I see a bird. (*Flap arms.*)

I see a tree. (*Hold arms out at sides.*)

I see Jesus' love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I'm happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

I see the sun (*make an arm circle over your head*)

As bright as bright can be. (*Hold your arms over your head and wiggle your fingers.*)

I see Jesus' love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I'm happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

I see a flower. (*Spread hands outward from bottom of palms.*)

I see a bee. (*Hold your palms together and zoom them upward.*)

I see Jesus' love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I'm happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Bible Activities

Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: bird, tree, flower, and bee patterns (p. 162); scissors; paper lunch sack; tape



Before class, photocopy the bird, tree, flower, and bee patterns. Cut out the pictures, and place them in a lunch sack. Be sure there's a picture for each child and one for Cuddles.



Bring out Cuddles the Lamb. Cuddles' head is down, and he's snoring. Go through the following script; then put Cuddles out of sight.

Teacher: (Whispering to the children) I think Cuddles might be asleep. Can you help me wake him?

Have children call Cuddles' name.

Cuddles: (Yawning) Hello, everyone! All the work we've been doing on our bulletin board made me sleepy. But I'm so happy!

Teacher: Why are you so happy, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Because we've been learning that ► Jesus loves us. And he even loves lambs, too.

Teacher: That's right, Cuddles. ► Jesus loves us all the time whether we're happy or sad. We're happy because it's time to add to our bulletin board. Would you like to help, Cuddles?

Cuddles: Oh, yes. I'm happy when I help.

Teacher: (To the children) You can reach in this sack and pick a surprise to put on the bulletin board.

Cuddles: Me, too! Me, too! Surprises make me *very* happy!

Let each child and Cuddles choose a picture from the sack. Help children tape the pictures to the bulletin board. Each time a child places a picture, have him or her tell you what the picture is.

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Lead children in saying, "Thank you, God, for Jesus' love." Have children point to the pictures they've placed on the bulletin board.

Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Using the CD (track 10), lead the children in singing and acting out “The Happy Song” to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”



I see a bird. (*Flap arms.*)

I see a tree. (*Hold arms out at sides.*)

I see Jesus’ love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I’m happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

I see the sun (*make an arm circle over your head*)

As bright as bright can be. (*Hold your arms over your head and wiggle your fingers.*)

I see Jesus’ love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I’m happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

I see a flower. (*Spread hands outward from bottom of palms.*)

I see a bee. (*Hold your palms together and zoom them upward.*)

I see Jesus’ love today. (*Hug yourself.*)

I’m happy he loves me. (*Point to yourself.*)

Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: jewel patterns (p. 162), scissors, crayons, tape, yarn, macaroni noodles, 2 smiley-face stickers per child



Before class, photocopy the jewel patterns at the end of this lesson. You may wish to photocopy the patterns onto colored paper. Cut out a jewel for each child. Also remove the *small fuzzy flower* from the Learning Lab.

Gather children at a table, and set out crayons and tape.

Hand each child a length of yarn, a jewel cutout, and six large macaroni noodles. Say: **Today we’re going to make special bracelets to remind us that ► Jesus loves us. Your jewel says those words: Jesus loves us. Can you say that with me? Jesus loves us.**

Encourage children to color their jewels. Help each child tape his or her jewel to the center of the piece of yarn. As the jewels are being attached, have children say, ► “Jesus loves us.”

Show each child how to string three noodles on either side of the paper jewel. Tie the ends of the yarn together so that each child may proudly wear a bracelet.

After all the bracelets are finished, have a fashion show. Clap as each child models his or her bracelet. Say: **We’ve been learning that ► Jesus loves us. When you wear your bracelet, be sure to tell others that Jesus loves them, too. But right now, it’s time for a surprise!**



Wrap the stem of the *fuzzy flower* around your index finger.

Have the flower say: **Hi, friends! Remember me? Fuzz Z. Flower! I'm so glad it's time to see you again. You know, there are lots of different times I have to remember! I have to remember when it's time to eat breakfast, when it's time to play, when it's time to go outside—even when it's time to get ready for bed! And you know something else? Seeing all of you is one of my favorite times! I bet there are lots of times you have to remember, too.**

One thing I never have trouble remembering is that ► Jesus loves us all the time! He never ever stops. It's always time for Jesus to love us. Guess what time it is now? It's time for a sticker!

Give each child two smiley-face stickers, one to stick on each palm. Show children how to spread their fingers out to look like flower petals, with the smiley face in the center, like the *fuzzy flower*. Then have the flower say: **Wow! You look like flowers, just like me! Would you like it to be time to play a little game with me? This game will help us remember that ► Jesus loves us all the time!**

Have the *fuzzy flower* lead children in the following finger play.

I'm a happy flower! (*Wave hands back and forth.*)
Jesus loves me all the time! (*Cross arms over chest.*)
He loves me in the morning (*stretch arms and yawn*),
When the sun begins to shine. (*Raise arms upward.*)

Jesus loves me in the daytime (*raise arms in a circle*),
When I play and have some fun. (*Run in place.*)
Jesus loves me in the nighttime (*fold hands under head as if sleeping*),
When my special day is done. (*Move "sleeping" hands to other side of face.*)

Every morning, every day (*hold up one finger, then two*),
Every evening, every night (*hold up three fingers and then four*),
I know that Jesus loves me (*cross arms over chest*)
All the time and I'm all right. (*Hug self tightly.*)

Close by having the *fuzzy flower* say: ► **Jesus loves us all the time. And now it's time for you to go and have more fun! Bye-bye, friends!**



■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: rubber playground ball

Have the children sit in a circle. Roll a ball to a child and say: **Jesus loves me, and Jesus loves** [name of child you're rolling the ball to]. The child who receives the ball should then roll it to someone else and say, "Jesus loves me, and Jesus loves [name of the child the ball rolled to]." The children may need some help remembering names at first, but they'll be eager for a chance to roll the ball. Continue the game until everyone has had a chance to roll the ball at least once.

Say: **I'm so happy that ► Jesus loves us. We can share a snack and say a prayer to thank God for Jesus' love.**





Closing

■ Thank You, Jesus

SUPPLIES: graham cracker bears, paper cups, milk

Have children clean their hands. Gather the children at the snack table. Say: **Today we learned that ► Jesus loves us when we're happy or sad. I'm so thankful that ► Jesus loves us all the time. For our snack today, we have graham cracker bears. Raise your hand if you have a special teddy bear you love.** Pause for responses. ► **Jesus loves us even more than we love our teddy bears—and that's a lot! Let's thank Jesus for his love. Dear God, thank you for Jesus' love. Amen.** Hand each child a small handful of graham cracker bears and a small paper cup half-filled with milk.

Remind children to wear their bracelets home and to take their glad/sad puppets with them.



For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

■ *Happy Colors*

Set scraps of colorful construction paper in the center of a table. Hand each pair of children a large sheet of paper. Let children help each other tear shapes and tape or glue them to the paper to make a happy design to hang on the wall. Write the following sentence on the partners' pictures: "Jesus loves [child's name] and [child's name]."

■ *Jesus Loves Us Song*

Repeat the Bible song you learned in the previous lessons. Lead the children in singing "Jesus Loves Us," without the *CD*, to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."



SING

Jesus loves us day or night.
 We are precious in his sight.
 Jesus loves us when we're sad.
 Jesus loves us when we're glad.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 He loves us all the time.

Jesus loves us day or night.
 We are precious in his sight.
 Jesus loves us when we're sad.
 Jesus loves us when we're glad.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 Yes, Jesus loves us.
 He loves us all the time.

■ *The Interview*

Replay the interviews you recorded during the Arrival Activities. Talk about the things that make the children happy and sad and how Jesus loves them all the time, no matter how they feel. Have children use their glad/sad puppets to help.

Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

