

Jesus Is With Us

The disciples lived as Jesus' closest companions for three years. They witnessed his amazing miracles, heard his powerful teaching, and saw lives transformed by his love. We can only imagine the disciples' sadness when Jesus announced that he would soon return to his Father. But Jesus offered this comforting promise: "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20b). Just as he'd welcomed the little children, comforted the lonely Samaritan woman, calmed his frightened disciples, and brought joy to Jairus' family, Jesus promised to be with his followers forever!

Jesus' promise still holds true today. As increasingly independent 5- and 6-year-olds begin to venture outside the comfort zone of a safe and familiar home, they need to know that they can count on Jesus being with them. Some go to school, spend the night at friends' houses, and join sports teams. This newfound freedom can be both exciting and frightening. Children may find themselves feeling lonely, scared, or sad when they're out on their own. You can offer children the comfort of a Savior who promises to be with them always! Use these lessons to help children understand that Jesus will always be with them.

Four Lessons on Jesus Is With Us

Lesson	Bible Point	Page	Bible Basis
10	Jesus is with us all the time.	147	Matthew 18:1-5, 10; 19:13-15
11	Jesus is with us when we're lonely.	161	John 4:4-30, 39
12	Jesus is with us when we're afraid.	173	Matthew 8:23-27
13	Jesus is with us when we're sad.	185	Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Time Stretchers

■ *Jesus Sees Me Always*

Teach children “Jesus Sees You” to the tune of “Frère Jacques.” This song is not on the CD. Form pairs and have partners face each other. Explain that one partner will lead and the other will echo the song and motions.



SING

Jesus sees you (*touch fingertips together to make glasses*),

Jesus sees you (*touch fingertips together to make glasses*)

All the time (*tap wrist*),

All the time. (*Tap wrist.*)

Even when you're ----- (*pantomime action*),

Even when you're ----- (*pantomime action*),

He is there! (*Clap on each word.*)

He is there! (*Clap on each word.*)

Children may fill in the blank with actions such as eating, sleeping, dancing, playing, or smiling.

■ *A Visible Reminder*

Set out cotton swabs and bowls of lemon juice. Distribute sheets of paper, and have children dip cotton swabs into lemon juice. Have them use the swabs like pencils to draw simple pictures. When children have finished, point out that it looks like their drawings aren't there. When the juice is dry, have children hold their papers close to a warm light bulb for a few moments. They'll be delighted to see their invisible pictures suddenly become visible! Explain that even though we don't see Jesus, he's always there.

■ *Buddies*

Form pairs, and give each pair a bandanna or scarf. Use the bandannas to help partners tie their legs together, as if they were going to compete in a three-legged race. Allow pairs to take turns walking, hopping, or tiptoeing around. Explain that Jesus is with us when we play, when we run, and when we sleep. He's like our closest friend!

Remembering God's Word

Each four- or five-week module focuses on a key Bible verse. The key verse for this module is “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20b).

This module's key verse will teach children that Jesus is with them always. Have fun using the following ideas any time during the lessons on “Jesus is with us.”

■ *Cheerleaders*

Show children how to roll up sheets of paper and tape them securely to make megaphones. Form two groups, and have them stand on opposite sides of the room, facing each other. Encourage children to use their megaphones as you lead them in the following verse.

Group 1: I am with you always,

Group 2: I am with you always,

Group 2: Even to the end of the age.

Group 1: Even to the end of the age.

Group 1: Matthew 28:20b.

Group 2: Matthew 28:20b.

Group 2: I am with you always,

Group 1: Even to the very end of the age.

All: Matthew 28:20b.

■ *Circle of Jesus' Love*

Have children sit in a circle on the floor. Walk around the outside of the circle, tapping children's heads, as in the game Duck, Duck, Goose. As you tap each child's head, say a word from the first portion of Matthew 28:20b: **I...am...with...you... always.**

When you say the word *always*, have that child stand up, hold your hand, and skip around the circle with you. Then sit in that child's place, and allow him or her to continue to say the verse and tap other children. After each child has had a turn to skip around the circle with a partner, say: **Jesus is with us just as our partners were when we skipped around the circle.**

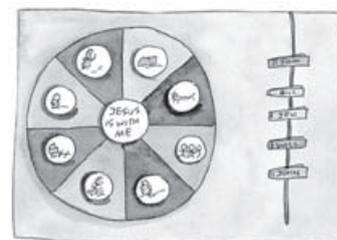
Story Enhancements

Make Bible stories come alive in your classroom by bringing in Bible costumes, setting out sensory items, or creating bulletin boards. When children learn with their five senses as well as with their hearts and minds, lessons come alive and are remembered. Each week bring in one or more items to help involve and motivate children in the Bible lessons they'll be learning. The following ideas will help you get started.

■ *"Jesus Is With Me" Bulletin Board*

Create this fun "Jesus Is With Me" bulletin board in your classroom. Cut a 2-foot circle out of poster board, and divide it into eight sections. Color each section differently, or cut sheets of colored construction paper to fit each section and glue them in place.

Make enlarged photocopies of the "All the Time" handout (p. 145). Cut out the pictures, invite children to color them, and glue them on different sections of the circle.



Then write “Jesus Is With Me” on a smaller circle, and place it in the middle of the large circle. Staple the colorful circle on your bulletin board, leaving the edges free. Let children write their names on clothespins and clip them to a string you’ve attached to your board.

As children come to class each week, encourage them to clip their clothespins to the pictures that tell where they knew that Jesus was with them during the week.

■ **Lesson 10**

- Before class, trace the handprints of several adults. Then allow children to trace their own handprints and compare them to the larger ones. Remind children that even though they may be small, Jesus thinks they’re very important.
- Bring in your school yearbooks from elementary school through high school or college. As children look at the people, explain that Jesus is with us as we grow and change.

■ **Lesson 11**

- Bring in a pitcher of ice-cold water, and let children pour themselves drinks. Talk about how nice the water feels and tastes when we’re very thirsty. Explain that Jesus offered the woman at the well something more refreshing and wonderful than water.
- Set out picture books of Israel and the surrounding areas. As you point out the dry, dusty climate, explain that the woman at the well would be very happy to hear about water that would quench her thirst forever.

■ **Lesson 12**

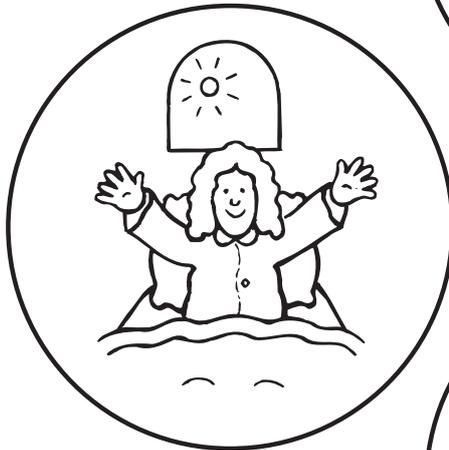
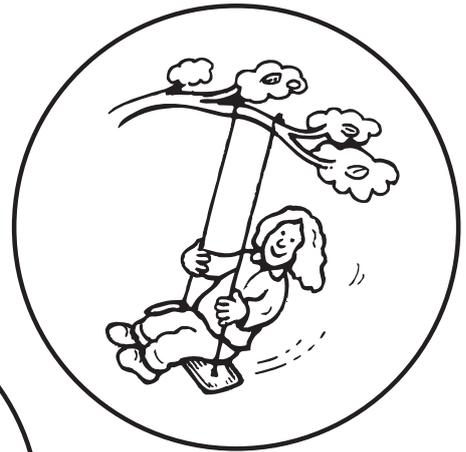
- Bring in a 2-liter soft drink container filled with water, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of vegetable oil, and a few drops of blue food coloring. Slip a plastic toy boat or small piece of wood in the container before closing the lid tightly. Allow children to shake the container to make a storm. Point out that the disciples would be very frightened by the tall waves and wind.
- Fill a dishpan with water, and place it outside. Have two children work together to push and pull the dishpan and make waves. Then instruct them to stop moving the dishpan so the water becomes still. Explain that Jesus calmed the water with just a word.

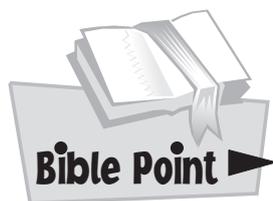
■ **Lesson 13**

- With an audio recorder, record each child laughing. Then play the recordings back and see if children can pick out each other’s laughter.
- Bring in pictures of sad people from magazines and newspapers. Have children think of reasons why the people would be sad. Remind children that Jesus is with us when we’re sad.

All the Time

Make enlarged photocopies of the figures. Allow children to cut out and color the figures.





Bible Point ▶

Jesus is with us all the time.

Bible Verse

“I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20b).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ learn that Jesus is with them all the time,
 ■ discover that Jesus said children were important, and
 ■ remind each other that Jesus is with them throughout the day.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Jesus welcomes the children.

**Matthew 18:1-5,
10; 19:13-15**



The three passages of Scripture we’re looking at today certainly let us know how Jesus felt about children. In our culture today, children generally don’t receive a great deal of respect from adults, and in Jesus’ culture children were even less recognized by adults. So Jesus’ positive outlook toward them was probably a surprise to his disciples. In their eyes, Jesus was far too important to be spending time with children!

Matthew 18:10 is the verse people use to suggest that we all—or at least all children—have our own guardian angel watching over us. But is that really what the verse says? More likely, Jesus was just suggesting that everyone in God’s kingdom is important to him, especially the children.

From Matthew 19:13-15, one could easily attempt to justify childish behavior from adults. However, that’s certainly not what Jesus was suggesting. Instead, he wants us to be like children in their positive qualities of tenderness, innocence, and trustfulness.

God cares about your children, and Jesus demonstrated that care while on earth. Use this session to help your children see how much God loves them.

Prayer

- Read 2 Peter 3:9. What perspective does this verse add to today’s passages?
- How important are your students in your life?
- *Pray:* Lord, thank you for the students in my care. Help them to know how much you love them as I...

Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use. Refer to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies columns to determine what you’ll need.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- 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
Welcome Time	Welcome! —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Heart Name Tags” (p. 158), markers, pins or tape	
Let’s Get Started Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	Option 1: All the Children —Decorate the classroom with paper-chain children.	Crayons, scissors, “All the Children” handout (p. 159)	
	Option 2: Angels Watchin’ Over Me —Make guardian angels.	Newsprint, crayons, tape or stapler	
	Option 3: Copy Cats —Imitate their partners’ actions.		
	Pick Up Our Toys —Sing a song as they pick up toys, and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
Bible Story Time	Setting the Stage —Play a game, and act as guardian angels.	Newspaper	
	Bible Song and Prayer Time —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player	
	Hear and Tell the Bible Story —Travel through a special obstacle course, listen to stories from Matthew 18:1-5, 10; and 19:13-15 to hear how Jesus welcomed children, and sing about Jesus’ faithfulness.	Bible, CD player	
	Do the Bible Story —Create bookmarks to remember that Jesus is always with us.	Ribbon, scissors, markers	
Closing 	Missing Mommy —Help Pockets realize that Jesus is with her all the time.	Ripped T-shirt	
	Open Your Eyes! —Sing a song, and tell where they’ll look for Jesus this week.	CD player	

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

Welcome Time

Welcome!

SUPPLIES: “Heart Name Tags” handout (p. 158), markers, pins or tape

- Kneel down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them about last week’s “Today I Learned...” discussion. Ask questions such as “What hard things did you face this week?” and “How did Jesus help you do the right thing?”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that** ► Jesus is with us all the time.
- Give each child a photocopy of a heart name tag. Help children write their names on their name tags, and pin or tape them to their clothing. You may wish to cover the name tags in clear adhesive paper so that the name tags will last for the entire module.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.



It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point over and over throughout the lesson will help kids remember it and apply it to their lives.



Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “When is Jesus with you?” or “Do you think children are important?”

Option 1: All the Children

SUPPLIES: crayons, scissors, “All the Children” handout (p. 159)

Set out scissors, crayons, and photocopies of the “All the Children” handout. Help children fold the handouts on the dotted lines and cut along the solid lines to make two children holding hands. Allow children to cut out and decorate as many “paper pairs” as they’d like. You may want to have children tape them around the edge of a bulletin board or window. Explain that in today’s story, they’ll learn that Jesus loved children very much! Tell children they’ll discover how ► Jesus is with us all the time.



Option 2: Angels Watchin’ Over Me

SUPPLIES: newsprint, crayons, tape or stapler

Set out crayons and large sheets of newsprint. Have pairs take turns tracing each other as one partner lies on a sheet of newsprint with arms and legs outstretched. Explain that they’re each making a special angel. Help them create wings and a robe by drawing an arc from wrist to waist and between children’s feet (see diagram). Allow children to decorate their angels and tape or staple them to the wall. Explain that God’s angels watch over us all the time. Say that today children will learn that ► Jesus is with us all the time.



■ Option 3: Copy Cats

SUPPLIES: none

Form pairs and have partners face each other. Tell children that the shorter partners will be the Cats and the taller partners will be the Copy Cats. Have the Cats move slowly, doing simple motions, such as putting their arms up, standing on tiptoe, crouching down, or making silly faces. Instruct the Copy Cats to imitate their partners' motions, as if they're looking in a mirror. You may want to play upbeat music to help children think of unique motions. After a minute or so, have partners switch roles. Explain that just as the Copy Cats stayed with their partners, Jesus stays with us all the time. Say that today children will learn that ► Jesus is with us all the time.



When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to the Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

■ Pick Up Our Toys

SUPPLIES: CD player



Lead children in singing "Pick Up Our Toys" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Skip to My Lou." Encourage the children to sing along as they help clean up the room.

If you want to include the names of all the children in your class, sing the song without the CD, and repeat the naming section. If you choose to use the CD, vary the names you use each week.



**We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys.
We will pick up our toys
And put them all away.**

**There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys.
There's [name] picking up toys,
Putting them all away.**

(Repeat.)

Bible Story Time

■ Setting the Stage

SUPPLIES: newspaper



Tell the children you'll clap your hands to get their attention. Explain that when you clap, the children are to stop what they're doing, raise their hands, and focus on you. Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Choose one child to be "It," and have him or her wad up several sheets of newspaper. Then form groups of four, and have each group form a circle around one of its members. Say: **If you're in the middle, you're surrounded by your Guardian Angels. They'll protect you from "It". "It" will have only the time in this timer to tag you with a newspaper ball. But "It" can't tag any Guardian Angels. The Guardian Angels will gently pull you away from "It" and form a wall to keep "It" from tagging you. Are you ready?**

Turn over the *timer*, and begin the game. When time runs out, have groups change roles so a different child is in the middle. Choose a new child to be “It” for each round. After four rounds, gather children and ask:

- **What made it hard for “It” to tag you?** (The Guardian Angels; my friends around me; “It” couldn’t get to me.)
- **What was it like to be in the middle?** (Exciting; I felt safe; I knew nothing could get to me.)
- **What would it be like to always be protected this way?** (Great; fun; weird; I’d always be safe.)

Say: **Our game gave us an idea of what it might be like to have angels protecting us. Did you know that God sends his angels to watch over each of us? He does! Today we’ll learn that ► Jesus is with us all the time. Let’s get ready to hear how important children are to Jesus.**



■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, construction paper, scissors, basket or box, CD player



Before class, make surprise cards for this activity by cutting construction paper into 2x6-inch slips. Prepare a surprise card for each child plus a few extras for visitors. Fold the cards in half, and then stamp the *Jesus and me stamp* inside one of the surprise cards. Bookmark **Matthew 18:1-5, 10; 19:13-15** in the Bible you’ll be using.

Have the children sit in a circle. Say: **Each week when we come to our circle for our Bible story, I’ll choose someone to be the Bible helper. The Bible helper will bring me the Bible marked with our Bible story for that week. Before I choose today’s Bible helper, let’s sing our Bible song. As we sing, I’ll pass out the surprise cards. Don’t look inside your card until the song is over.**

Lead children in singing “Read God’s Book” (track 3) with the *CD* to the tune of “The Muffin Man.” As you sing, pass out the folded surprise cards.



SING

**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

**Now it’s time to read God’s book,
Read God’s book, read God’s book.
Now it’s time to read God’s book.
Let’s hear a Bible story.**

(Repeat.)

After the song, say: **You may look inside your surprise cards. The person who has the Jesus and me figures stamped inside his or her card will be our Bible helper for today.**

Identify the Bible helper, and then have the rest of the children clap for him or her. Ask the Bible helper to bring you the Bible. Assist the Bible helper in opening the Bible to the marked place, and show the children where your story comes from. Then have the Bible helper sit down.

Say: [Name] **was our special Bible helper today. Each week we’ll have only one special Bible helper, but each one of you is a special part of our class! Today we’re all learning that ► Jesus is with us all the time.**



Let's say a special prayer now and ask God to help us learn how Jesus is always there. I'll pass around this basket. When the basket comes to you, put your surprise card in it and say, "God, thank you for letting Jesus be with us."

Pass around the basket or box. When you've collected everyone's surprise card, set the basket aside for use next week, and pick up the Bible. Lead children in this prayer: **God, thank you for the Bible and all the stories in it. Teach us today that Jesus is with us all the time.**



BIBLE POINT ▶

■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



track 20

Before class, set up a comfortable story area in one corner of your room. Then set up a "kid-friendly" obstacle course that leads to the story area. Have children climb over and under tables and chairs. You might want to hang streamers between two tables or chairs to make a low entrance to the story area.

Gather children at the opposite end of the room and say: **I've set up a special story area for us to enjoy today. But to reach the story area, you'll have to go through an obstacle course made just for you! Point out the obstacle course. Even though it's just your size, I'll try the obstacle course, too.** Help children make their way through the course and gather at the story area. Be sure they watch as you struggle through the small spaces and low areas of the course. When you've reached the story area, ask:

- **Why was it easier for you to enter the story area than for me?** (Because we're all small; we could fit under the table and chairs.)

Say: **Because you're children and you're smaller than I am, you had an easier time getting to the story area. Today we'll hear why Jesus' friends needed to be like children.** Point to the Bible and say: **Our story comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible.** Hold up the *Bible Big Book: Jesus Is With Us* and show children page 1. **Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of our Bible story. You can help me tell the story. Every time you hear the word "children," clap your hands three times to show how happy we are that Jesus is with us all the time. Let's practice.** Lead children in clapping their hands three times.

This story took place when Jesus was traveling all over the country, teaching about God's love and power. Jesus' special friends, or disciples, traveled with him wherever he went. One day, the disciples began to argue about who would be the greatest when they got to heaven. Since they'd been traveling with Jesus for so long, each disciple thought he was more important than the other. Finally they asked Jesus, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

Jesus called a little child to stand in front of him. Then Jesus said to his disciples, "I tell you the truth, you must change and become like little children. Otherwise, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The greatest person in the kingdom of heaven is the one who makes himself humble like this child."

Jesus didn't mean that only children can go to heaven! He wanted his



teacher tips

For extra fun, use pillows, blankets, or carpet squares to make your story area more comfortable.



BIBLE POINT ▶

friends to understand that they were being selfish and full of pride. Jesus told them not to be so stuck-up! Instead, he wanted them to be humble and trusting, like little *children*. Just like it was hard for me to enter the story area, it's hard for proud, selfish people to enter God's kingdom.

Jesus also told his friends that *children* are very important. He said, "Be careful. Don't think these little *children* are worth nothing. I tell you that they have angels in heaven who are always with my Father in heaven." You *children* are so important that God sends angels to watch over each one of you!

Later, some parents brought their *children* to Jesus. They wanted God's Son to put his hands on the *children* and pray for them.

Ask: • **What do you think it would be like to have Jesus pray for you?** (Neat because he's God's Son; it would make me feel special!)

Say: **These parents wanted Jesus to bless their *children*. But Jesus' friends told them to go away. They thought Jesus was too busy to bother with *children*. But Jesus said, "Let the little *children* come to me. Don't stop them, because the kingdom of heaven belongs to people who are like these *children*." Again, Jesus reminded his friends that it's important to be like a child. He wanted them to know that *children* are special to him because *children* are loving and full of trust.**

Put the *Bible Big Book* away and out of sight.

Ask: • **What did Jesus say about children?** (That they're important; that other people should trust him like children do; that angels watch over us.)

• **Why did Jesus' friends want to stop the children?** (They thought Jesus didn't care about children; they thought Jesus was too busy.)

• **How does Jesus watch over you?** (He sends angels; he loves me all the time; his angels protect me.)

• **Why is it good to know that Jesus is with you?** (Because I'll never be alone; because I love him; because he takes care of me.)

Say: ► ***Jesus is with us all the time.* He loves you so much that he has angels watch over you night and day. No matter where you go or what you do, Jesus is there! Let's learn a new song about that. We'll listen to it first, and then we'll sing along.** Lead the children in singing "I Am With You Always" (Matthew 28:20b) (track 20) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" with the *CD*.



◀ **BIBLE POINT**



SING

"I am with you always,"
Said Lord Jesus.
While we work,
And while we play,
He is with us.

"I am with you always,"
Said Lord Jesus.
During the night
And during the day,
He is with us.

Thank you Lord,
For being here.
Hallelujah!
Thank you, Lord,
For staying near.
Hallelujah!

Say: **Now we'll make something to remind us that Jesus will never leave us.**

■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: ribbon, scissors, markers



You'll need a 6½-inch length of ⅝-inch wide gold or any fancy ribbon for each child. Before class, cut the plastic *streamers* from the Learning Lab in half, making 5-inch long pieces. You'll need one for each child. Fold each of these in half lengthwise (see illustration), and cut slits about ½-inch apart along the folded edge, making sure not to cut through the outer edges. When you open the strip up, there should be eight or nine slits about ½ inch wide. (These don't need to be exact.)

Say: **We're learning that ► *Jesus is with us all the time.* But sometimes we forget that; we let hard times make us sad. It's kind of like when we fall and rip a hole in our favorite T-shirt. (Poke a few fingers through the holes of your streamer.) We're sad because there's this hole in the fabric.**

Ask: • **What happens when you get a hole in your clothing?** (Someone fixes it.)

• **What did you learn from the Bible story about the way Jesus feels about you?** (Jesus loves children; he loves me all the time; kids are important.)

• **How does Jesus help "fix" your life?** (He gives me parents to take care of me; he sends me angels to watch over me; he gives me friends to help me.)

Say: **We learned that Jesus loves us! He wants to come into our life and be a part of it. Just like someone can fix our favorite shirt, Jesus can enter our lives to fix things when we are sad.** Hold up a piece of gold ribbon, and begin weaving it in and out through the slits.

Jesus is there for us in the hard times and sad times. He is also there during the happy times. Hold up your woven streamer for the children to see.

Ask: • **What happened to my streamer when I wove the pretty ribbon through the holes?** (It filled the holes; it fixed something "broken"; it made something ugly into something pretty.)

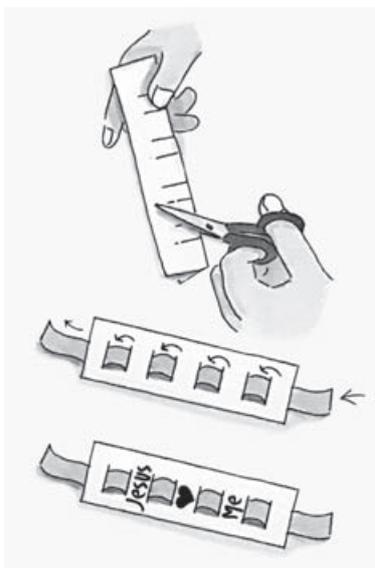
• **How is this like what happens when Jesus enters our lives?** (He wants to fix things; he wants to make our lives better; he wants us to be happy.)

Say: ► ***Jesus is with us all the time!* He fills up the lonely places, watches over us, and makes our lives beautiful. You can make one of these ribbons, too. Then you can use it for a bookmark in your Bible to remind you that Jesus is always with you!**

When the bookmarks are finished, help kids write "Jesus loves me" on the purple sections. See illustration in the margin.



BIBLE POINT ►



BIBLE POINT ►

BIBLE VERSE ►



Say: **Our Bible verse, from Matthew 28:20, tells us that Jesus said ► "I am with you always." That means he's strong for us when we're weak and he can cheer us up when we're sad. Everywhere you go and in everything you do, Jesus will be there for you! He's your loyal friend.**

Ask if any of the children would like to pray aloud and thank Jesus for always being there. Let as many children pray as would like to. If none of the children volunteers, pray: **Thank you, Jesus, for being such a loyal friend to each of us. We know that you would never leave us, and we love you for being with us always. In your name, amen.**

Say: **You know, Pockets looked awfully sad this morning when I saw her. Let's see if we can cheer her up with what we've learned today.**

Closing

■ Missing Mommy

SUPPLIES: *ripped T-shirt*

Bring out Pockets the Kangaroo, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, put Pockets away and out of sight.



(Pockets comes out looking very sad and carrying a ripped T-shirt.)

Teacher: Pockets, what's wrong? Why do you look so unhappy?

Pockets: I'm lower than a kangaroo's tail. My mom went to take care of my aunt, who just had a baby. I really miss my mom! I wish she was home to make me breakfast, tie my hair bows, brush my fur, and kiss me goodnight. I even ripped my favorite T-shirt, and she's not here to fix it. Missing her makes me feel really sad!

Teacher: I know what it's like to miss someone. *(Turning to the class)* Kids, what did we learn today that might help Pockets feel better? *(Allow the children time to respond to the question and retell today's Bible story.)*

That's right! We learned that Jesus wants to come into our lives and fix things. We learned that Jesus is strong when we are weak. That's why we're so excited!

Pockets: *(Perking up)* Say, that does make me feel better. Knowing that Jesus is with me all the time makes me feel better about my mom being gone. In fact, it makes me super happy! 'Cause Jesus can go places with me even where my mom can't go, like kangaroo school, to soccer practice, to Sarah's house...everywhere! Besides, when my mom gets home, I'm sure she can fix my T-shirt so I can wear it again.

Teacher: Pockets, I'm sure glad you came today! You really understand that ► Jesus is with us all the time.

Pockets: Yep, and now I'm so cheerful that I'm going to make my new baby cousin a happy birthday card! 'Bye, everyone.

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Pre-K & K granted for local church use.
Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com



■ Open Your Eyes!

SUPPLIES: CD player



Say: **Pockets' happiness rubbed off on me! I feel like singing! Let's sing a song about all the times and places Jesus is with us. It will remind us that Jesus loves us all the time!** Lead children in singing "Jesus Is Always There" (track 22) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians" with the *CD*.



Jesus loves me in the morning.
Jesus loves me in the noontime.
Jesus loves me in the evening.
He is always there!

Jesus loves me when I'm playing.
Jesus loves me when I'm sleeping.
Jesus loves me when I'm talking.
He is always there!

Jesus loves me in the morning.
Jesus loves me in the noontime.
Jesus loves me in the evening.
He is always there!

Form pairs and say: **Now tell your partner where you'll look for Jesus this week. Maybe it'll be at school, at the playground, at the library, or when you go to bed at night.**

When children have finished sharing, pray: **Dear God, thank you that you send angels to watch over us all the time. And thank you that Jesus is with us, too. Help us remember that he's always there and that we can talk to him whenever we want to. In Jesus' name, amen.**



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



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.

■ Lively Learning: Walk Around the Clock



track 21

Make a circle on the floor with yarn, and divide it into two sections. The circle should be large enough for everyone to stand around. Place a sheet of paper in each section with a picture of the sun on one sheet and the moon and stars on the other. Have children stand outside the circle, and explain that each section is like a clock with pictures showing the different times of day. Tell them to start walking around the clock as soon as they hear the music and then stop where they are as soon as you stop the music.

Play “Walk Around the Clock” (track 21) on the *CD* for a few seconds, and then pause the *CD*.

Have the children look at the picture in front of them, and then call on several children to share what they would be doing at that time of day. Children may say things like “I eat breakfast in the morning,” or “I take a bath before bedtime.” When several children have shared, lead the children in shouting, “Jesus said, ‘I am with you always!’ ” Start the music and play again. You may want to have children hop, skip, walk heel-to-toe, or take giant steps as they move around the circle. Be sure each child has a chance to share at least once.

■ Make to Take: Welcome Bell



Set out jingle bells, a hole punch, scissors, crayons, 6-inch lengths of ribbon, and cardboard or paper tubes. Show children how to punch two holes in the top of their cardboard tubes and two holes in the bottom. Help children tie jingle bells to two lengths of ribbon and tie the ribbons through the holes at the bottom of the tubes. Have each child tie another length of ribbon through the top holes, to make a hanger. Children may decorate the tubes with crayon or bits of wrapping paper. Tell them to hang their welcome bells on doorknobs at home. Remind children that Jesus welcomed the children so he could bless them.

■ Treat to Eat: He’s Always Watching!

Give each child half of a bagel or a whole rice cake. Have each child spread flavored cream cheese on the bagel or rice cake and then place 12 chocolate chips or raisins around the edge to resemble numbers on a clock. Remind children that no matter what time it is, Jesus is with us.

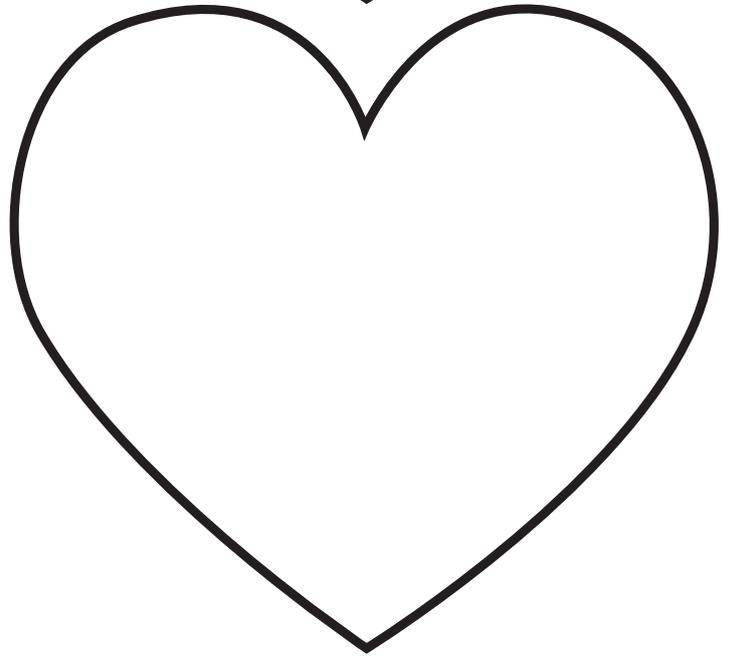
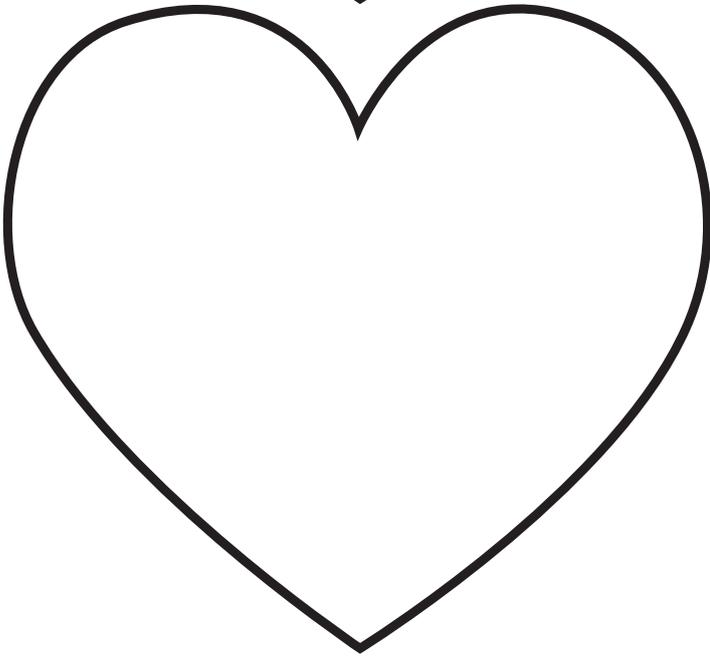
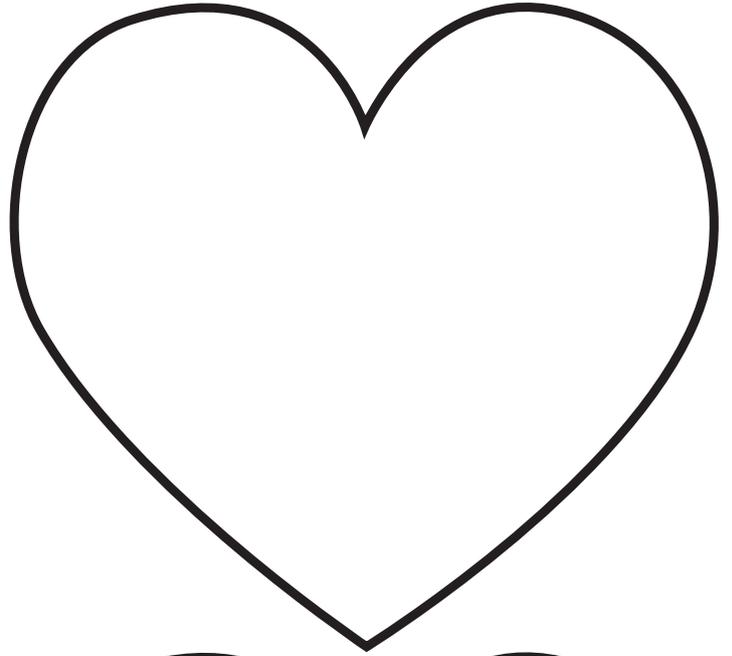
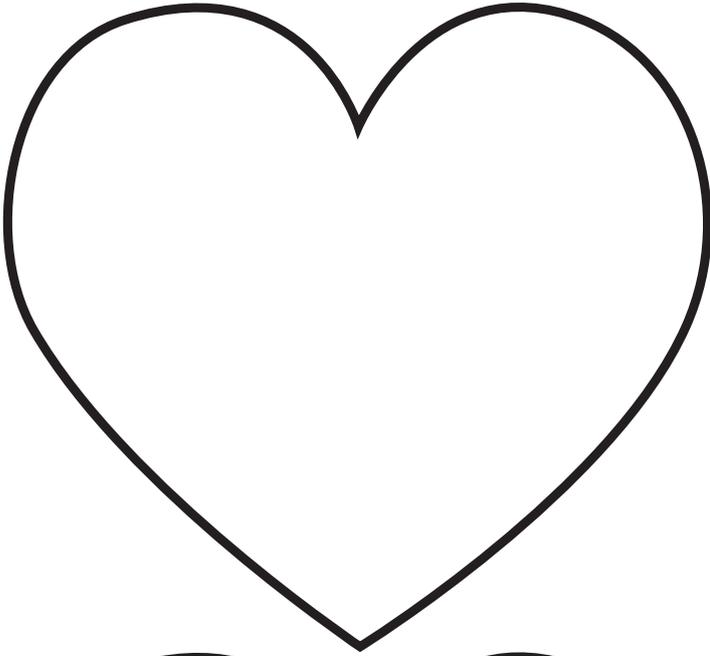


■ Story Picture: Jesus Welcomes the Children



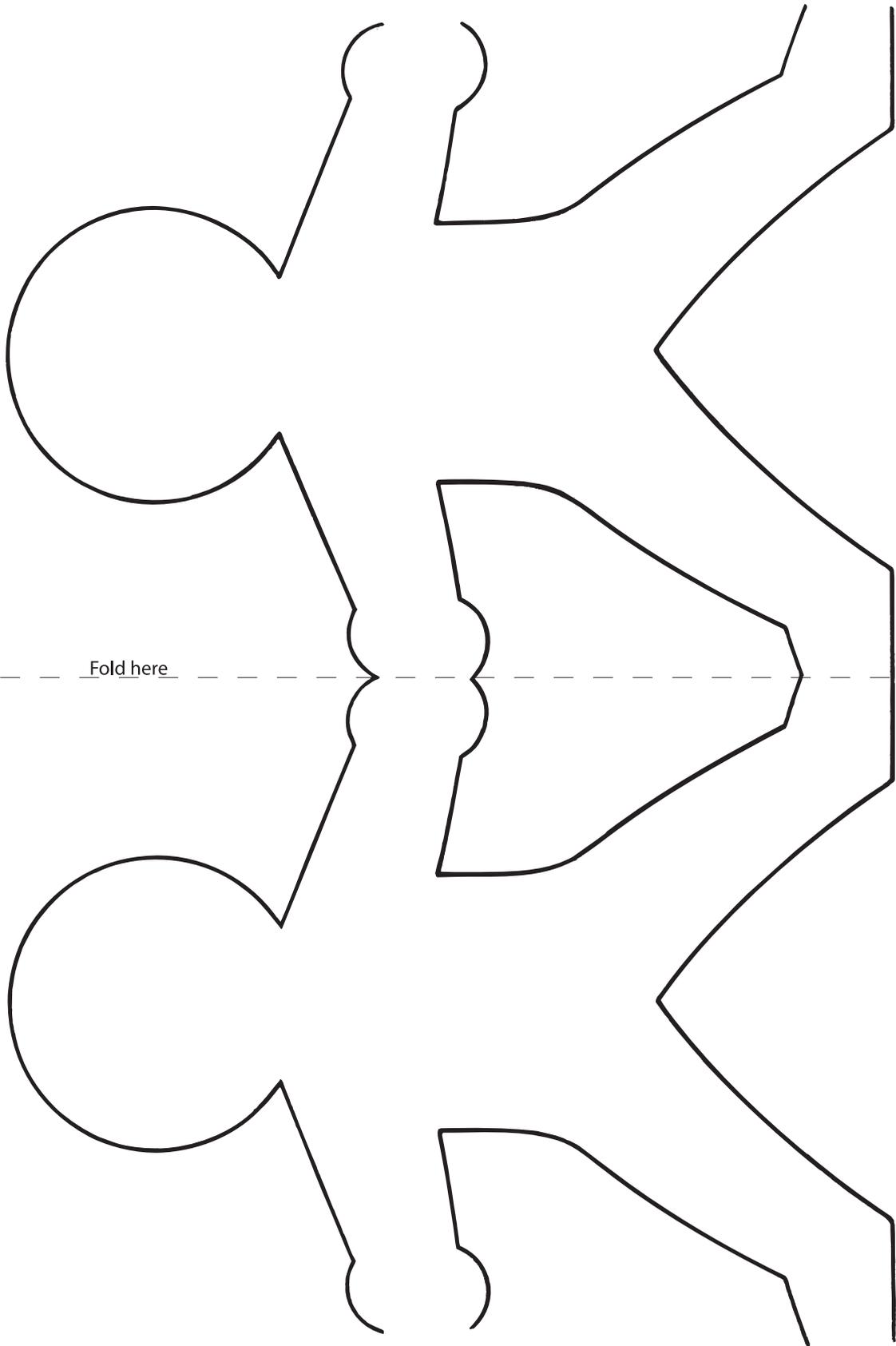
Give each child a photocopy of the “Today I Learned...” handout, and have children color the picture. Then distribute the “All the Children” handout. Have children fold and cut out the figures. Help children tape one hand of each child to the picture of Jesus so the cutouts make a circle over Jesus. Tell children they can be sure that ► Jesus is with us all the time.

Heart Name Tags



All the Children

Photocopy and cut out the figures.



Today I learned...

Today your child learned that Jesus is with us all the time. Children discovered that Jesus said children are very important. They learned that Jesus watches over them, whatever they're doing.

Jesus is with us
all the time.

Verse to Learn

"I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20b).

Ask Me...

- What did Jesus say about children?
- How do you know that Jesus is with you?
- How does our family show that children are important?

Family Fun

- If you have a clock that chimes or cuckoos, thank Jesus for being with you every time the clock chimes. If you don't have a chiming clock, set a kitchen timer to go off every hour one evening. When you hear the bell, thank Jesus for being with you.
- Make a welcome mat for your home. Get a carpet square (free from most carpet stores), and use acrylic paints or shoe polish to write "Welcome" on it. Let the mat be a reminder that Jesus welcomed little children.

Jesus Welcomes the Children (Matthew 18:1-5, 10; 19:13-15)

