HANDS-ON BIBLE CURRICULUM | TEACH AS JESUS TAUGHT



What if Jesus taught your kids?
He can...through you!



SAMPLE Lesson



AGE LEVEL: Grades 5 & 6 **LESSON:** Circle of Love

BIBLE POINT: God wants us to love our family members unconditionally.

- **✓ OVERVIEW OF HANDS-ON BIBLE CURRICULUM**
- ✓ HOW HANDS-ON BIBLE
 CURRICULUM WORKS
- **✓ SAMPLE LESSON:**
 - Lesson
 - Handout





The Bible comes alive when you teach as Jesus taught!

Just as Jesus used everyday objects to teach eternal truths, *Hands-On Bible Curriculum* uses fun gizmos that help Sunday school leaders teach.



Why churches love using Hands-On Bible Curriculum:







Learning Labs

Six age levels (Toddler-Grade 6) receive their own Learning Lab, which includes:



Captivating Gizmos

Jesus taught using everyday objects, and you can, too! Gizmos help kids experience God's Word. They stay attentive. Engaged. Involved.



Music and Sound Effects CD

Great music and sound effects are interwoven throughout each lesson!



Easy Teacher Guides

Your volunteers will find everything they need to prepare each lesson in an easy-to-follow, step-by-step teacher guide.

Plus, every lesson includes:



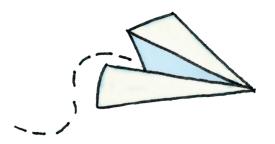
The Jesus Connect

You'll find a Jesus Connection in every lesson! This helps kids make the connection between the Bible story and Jesus, whether you're exploring the Old or New Testament!



Hands-On Fun at Home

Fun, reproducible take-home pages give parents engaging family activities that reinforce the Bible truths their kids are learning in Sunday school.









Circle of Love • Lesson 4

Bible Point - God wants us to love our family members unconditionally.

Bible Verse

"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other" (Romans 12:10).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Students will experience the temptation to give a reward based on a condition,

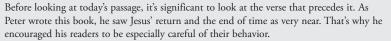
- perform a modern-day version of a parable about forgiveness,
- participate in an activity with unfair conditions, and
- pray with a classmate.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ Circle of Love

1 Peter 4:8-11



What's the central idea of this passage? Above everything else in life, show deep love for each other. The word translated "deep" in this verse carries with it the idea of pushing yourself, straining with intensity, giving all you have to accomplish the task. That certainly

goes beyond the mushy kind of love most often portrayed in our culture today. This kind of love is work! And it's what God wants us to show toward other Christians.

How does love cover "a multitude of sins"? When we truly love one another, we'll forgive each other for our shortcomings—as often as necessary. We'll overlook others' faults. After all, God forgives us again and againshouldn't we offer our Christian brothers and sisters the same forgiveness? And shouldn't we faithfully offer love and hospitality to others who are not yet Christians as well?

What's all this about gifts? God has given each person who believes in him at least one gift—a special ability to do something to help build up the body of believers called the Church. Whatever your gift, God wants you to use it in love to work with other Christians around you.

Prayer

- Read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.
- Do you know what spiritual gifts you might have? If not, ask your pastor how to find out. If you do, reflect on how well you're using those gifts in your life and ministry.
- Pray: Lord, thank you for your love. Help me to show more love to...

Hands-On Bible Curriculum—Grades 5 & 6 47



ONE-POINT LEARNING!

Using repetition, kids *really* learn the one Bible Point each week!

BIBLE **BACKGROUND**

helps teachers grow spiritually, too!





Lesson 4

Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in
- Make photocopies of the "Takin' It Home" handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your students.
- Pray for your students and for God's direction as you teach the lesson.

This Lesson at a Glance **THIS CHART**

makes organizing the lesson and supplies a breeze!

LEARN THE BIBLE STORY

in one activity, and reinforce the Bible Point with any or all of the other activities.

| | - | What Students Will Do | Classroom Supplies | Learning Lab Supplies |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------|
| | Attention Grabber | Who's Gonna Get It?—Select one "family member" to receive a treat. | Doughnuts | |
| | Bible Exploration & Application | Uneven Exchanges—Do something nice for other family members without getting anything in return, and discuss 1 Peter 4:8-11. | Bibles, paper, pens | |
| | | Parable in "F"—Act out a funny version of Luke 15:11- 32, and discuss their need for forgiveness. | Bibles, "Parable in F" handout (p. 56), blindfolds, string | |
| | | Conditional Success —Assign a task to a family member and place a series of conditions on him or her to make success more difficult; then discuss Romans 5:8. | Bibles, bags of candy, newsprint, marker, cups | |
| | Closing | Feather Prayers —Pray for their families using colored feathers. | | |
| | Module Review | Reflection —Review what they've learned over the past four weeks. | Newsprint, marker, tape, CD player, paper, pens | |







COOL SUPPLIES

With Hands-On Bible Curriculum, every lesson includes gizmos, game cards, posters, and other memory aids to reinforce the Bible Point.



When kids arrive, remind them that you'll sound the squeaker when you need their attention and you'll wait for all of them to look at you without talking before you continue.

Before you begin the lesson, ask kids how last week's lesson affected their lives. Use questions such as "How did you use your God-given talents this past week to help your family?" and "How were your family members encouraged by the portraits you made last week?"

Attention Grabber

■ Who's Gonna Get It?

SUPPLIES: doughnuts

Ask each family to select one member to receive a doughnut. Don't give any instructions or ideas on how to choose or reasons to choose a certain person. Let them figure it out themselves.

When each family has decided, give each chosen person a doughnut.

Ask: • How did you decide who to choose? (We did Rock, Paper, Scissors; we asked who was hungriest.)

- If you chose the person for a special reason, what was it? (We chose someone who has a birthday this week; we picked the oldest person in the group.)
- Do the rest of you expect anything from the person you chose? (Yes, that she will share her doughnut with the rest of us; no, he got picked so he gets it all.)

Say: If you expected the person who got the doughnut to give you something in return, you set a condition for him or her to receive the treat. Sometimes we do that with our love. We decide to show love to a family member only if he or she doesn't embarrass us, gives us money, or gives us something else we want. But ► God wants us to love our family members unconditionally. Our Bible verse for today, Romans 12:10, tells us more: ►"Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Today we're going to learn more about how we can do what this verse says.



Remember to have your kids form "families" at the beginning of the lesson. Families should be groups of four (although one or two groups of three or five are fine, if necessary). You may want to allow a couple of minutes for each family to come up with a family name from a favorite book or TV show.

Circle of Love

If you have five or fewer students use the entire class to form one



ATTENTION **GRABBERS**

immediately engage kids and get them ready to learn this week's Bible Point.



Fifth- and sixth-graders are learning to develop socially, but they still tend to spend a lot of time with one best friend. They usually prefer to stick to same-sex friendships but may also begin to explore boyfriend-girlfriend relationships. They thrive on organized games and group activities.







EACH WEEK,

kids experience the Bible story in fun, interactive ways—never the same way twice!

Lesson 4

Bible Insight

Much of Peter's first epistle deals with the concept of hope and joy during suffering. The recipients of Peter's letters were facing persecution as a result of their faith, and Peter sought to encourage them by relating their suffering to the suffering of Christ. Because Christ suffered to redeem them, Peter said, the early Christians could see their own trials as a privilege.

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

allow kids to experience Bible truths in ways they can understand.



Bible Exploration & Application

■ Uneven Exchanges

SUPPLIES: Bibles, paper, pens



Give each person in each family group one of these Learning Lab items: a marble, a colored feather, a neon straw, or a foam marshmallow. Make sure that each member of a family gets a different item. Say: Let's start our discussion about showing love in our families by doing some nice things for each other in our family groups. I'll give each of you a nice task to accomplish depending on which Learning Lab item you're holding.

Assign the following tasks to each family:

- Those holding *marbles*—Give a 30-second shoulder rub to the person holding the *foam marshmallow*.
- Those holding *colored feathers*—Tell the person holding the *foam marshmallow* one quality you really admire about him or her.
- Those holding *neon straws*—Go tell three other people in the room one reason you're proud to have the person with the *foam marshmallow* in your family group.
 - Those holding foam marshmallows—Sit back and drink in the love!

Once kids have their assignments, have them carry out their tasks. After the experience, gather everyone together, and ask:

- What's your reaction to this activity? (It was unfair; it didn't make sense.)
- How did it feel to be the person holding the *foam marshmallow*? (I loved it; it was a little embarrassing.)
 - How did it feel to be one of the other family members? (Annoying; unfair.)
- How did your actions toward the person holding the *foam marshmallow* reflect what real love is all about? (I had to do something nice for that person, but he didn't have to do something for me; I was giving without being selfish about it.)
- Did you feel cheated in this activity? Why or why not? (Yes, I didn't get anything back; no, the person said "thank you," so then it was OK.)
- Should you feel cheated when this kind of situation comes up at home? Why or why not? (No, we're supposed to give without wanting back; I might feel used if no one ever says "thank you.")

Collect the Learning Lab items for later use.

Have family members split up according to their birth seasons. Send all the kids born during the winter (December through February) to the north side of the room. Have kids born in the spring (March through May) go to the east side of the room. Kids born during the summer (June through August) can go to the south side of the room, and gather kids born in the fall (September through November) at the west side of the room.

Say: God wants us to treat our families in a special, loving way—even when they don't love us back in the way we want. Our Bible verse for today, Romans 12:10, tells us to ▶"love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other." Let's look at another portion of the Bible that deals with how to treat others. As you read the verse I'll assign to you, think about how it can help you treat your family members in a loving way—no matter what.





Assign the winter group 1 Peter 4:8, the spring group 1 Peter 4:9, the summer group 1 Peter 4:10, and the fall group 1 Peter 4:11. Provide paper and pens for

Say: Have a volunteer in your group read your verse aloud, and then rewrite the verse in your own words. After that, share your verse with your other family members, and then brainstorm a list of things a fifth- or sixthgrader could do that would demonstrate your verse.

After four or five minutes, have kids return to their families to report their discoveries. Then have families choose their three favorite ideas for demonstrating these verses and select one of these ideas to role-play within their family group. Give them just one or two minutes to prepare, and then have family groups take turns performing their role-plays for the class. Afterward, ask:

- What attitude was best demonstrated in your role-play? (Consideration for others; doing someone a favor without the person asking first.)
- · How can these verses remind us to treat our family members better? (They talk about forgiving others and sharing your home; they mention using our spiritual gifts to help others.)
- · What sometimes prevents you from loving your family without any conditions? (Sometimes they make me mad; my parents play favorites with my
- How can you overcome these obstacles? (By trying not to think about it; by having a cheerful attitude no matter what.)

Say: ►God wants us to love our family members unconditionally, even though it's hard sometimes. God sets the example by loving each of us unconditionally, and he will help us to love our family members in the same way. Now let's look at a Bible story that illustrates that kind of love.

Parable in "F"

SUPPLIES: Bibles, "Parable in F" handout (p. 56), blindfolds, string



Say: Jesus gave us a great example of unconditional love and forgiveness in a parable he told. Let's take a

Within their family groups, have students look up and read Luke 15:11-32 in their Bibles. Then say: Let's have some fun acting out this parable.

Combine families to form three groups. Give each person a copy of the "Parable in F" handout. Have each group choose volunteers to act out the parable; the other members of the group will act as readers or as props. Before kids begin working on how they'll act out the parable, give each group one of these limitations:

- Your group must do the entire skit on your knees.
- Your group must do the entire skit blindfolded. (Provide blindfolds.)
- Your group must do the entire skit with your hands tied behind your back. (Provide string.)

Once each group understands its limitation, allow kids time to work on their presentations. Allow kids to use any Learning Lab items they want as props. After five minutes or so, have each group present its version of the parable to the rest of the class.

Circle of Love

GREAT TIPS FORTEACHERS!

Even people who have never taught before will find tips to make them successful!

you have only one family in your class, assign each family member a Scripture verse, and have students do this portion of the activity individually





If you have only one family in your class, have the entire class perform one skit, and give a different limitation to each person in the family.

KIDS LOVE

to learn with Hands-On Bible Curriculum's unique gizmos!





Lesson 4

After each performance, lead the class in a hearty round of applause for everyone's participation. Collect the Learning Lab items when groups have finished with their skits.

Next, gather everyone together and ask:

- What was hard about acting out this parable? (We couldn't stand up; my hands were tied behind my back.)
- In what way did the prodigal son in the parable set limitations for himself with his family? (He figured they wouldn't forgive him; he wasn't expecting anything from them.)

Say: The prodigal son in our story assumed that his family would not willingly welcome him back upon his return. He may have believed that they would not forgive him for leaving in the first place and for squandering all his money.

Ask: • How are the limitations I put on you for the skits like the limitations you feel when you need forgiveness for something but you don't ask for it? (I feel like I don't deserve forgiveness; I get down on myself.)

- How are you like the prodigal son in this story? (Sometimes I mess up and need forgiveness; sometimes I'm embarrassed to ask for help.)
- How can family members today be like the father in this story? (They can welcome a lost person back to the family; they can celebrate that the person is no longer messing up.)
- How is forgiveness one way of loving unconditionally? (You're giving somebody another chance, the way God does; it's a way to give someone a break even when the person doesn't deserve it.)

The SUS to SUS t

Say: God gave us an example of unconditional love by sending Jesus to die on the cross so we could be forgiven. Sometimes we may forget how personal that truth is. Let's do a little exercise to remind us.

Have kids line up against one wall of the meeting room, and stand facing them. Say the following sentence out loud, naming your students one by one in the appropriate place. After you say a student's name, have him or her cross over and join with you in saying the phrase to the next student. Repeat the sentence until all students have been named and have crossed over to join you.

Say: [Student's name], Jesus loves you so much that he died to forgive your sins.

After everyone has crossed over, say: It's easier for us to show God's love to others when we understand God's love for us. The best way to know God's love is by cultivating a personal relationship with God's Son, Jesus. As our friendship with Jesus becomes more intimate, our ability to reach out to others with the same kind of love increases, too. Fod wants us to love our family members unconditionally, the same way he loves us. Sometimes we may feel like the members of our family don't deserve to be loved, but we can't let that stop us from loving them. God never stops loving us. Let's try to do the same for our families.



If your class is larger than 15, you may want to say several kids' names at once. For example, you might say, "Ryan, Alexa, Matthew, and Emily, Jesus loves you so much that he died to forgive your sins."







Circle of Love

■ Conditional Success

SUPPLIES: Bibles, bags of candy, newsprint, marker, cups



Say: Now let's experience what happens when family members make their love conditional.

Have each family choose a volunteer—preferably someone who hasn't been singled out yet for special treatment within the family. Give each family a bag of candy, and tell them not to eat the candy

yet. On a sheet of newsprint, write these three simple tasks:

- "Untie and retie each family member's shoes."
- "Get some water for family members to drink." (Provide cups.)
- "Tell each family member one quality you like about him or her."

Then say to the volunteers: Your family members are willing to share their treat with you. All you have to do is complete one of these simple taskswhichever one they want you to do. Your family has one minute to decide which task you need to do to get the candy.

While families are deciding, secretly write these additional "conditions" on a sheet of newsprint:

- "You must smile the entire time you do the task."
- "You must refer to each family member as 'sir' or 'ma'am'—whichever is
- "You must kneel in respect anytime you say anything to another person in your family."
- "You must never turn your back to your family; instead, back away from them slowly, bowing as you go.'

When families have decided which task they want their volunteers to do, say: Wait! I have a few more guidelines I'd like the volunteers to follow as they complete their tasks.

Show kids your list of additional conditions, and then say: Remember, you're doing this so you can have some of the candy the rest of your family will be enjoying. It's worth it!

Encourage kids to complete their assigned tasks while following the conditions you outlined. Remind volunteers to follow your conditions, but don't force them to do the tasks if they don't want to. When the tasks are complete, have families share their candy with the volunteers. Then have kids discuss these questions in their families.

- Ask: What did you think of this activity? (It was funny; it was hard because there was so much I had to remember to do.)
- Was this activity fair for everyone? Explain. (No, it wasn't fair to me because I had to do the task; no, because everyone got candy except one person.)
- · How did it feel to try to complete a task and meet all the conditions I set just so you could be treated as an equal in your family? (It was frustrating; it seemed wrong.)
- · How is that like what happens when real family members put conditions **on their love for each other?** (It isn't right; it's a bad deal for the person who's being treated unfairly.)
- · What unspoken rules or conditions do you experience in your family? (You can never talk back to our dad or you'll get it; if you don't do whatever Mom says, you won't get special favors later.)





Most kids in vour class have discovered that it's easy to love a sibling when he or she is sick in bed or asking for advice. But loving is more difficult when that sibling is teasing or has just broken a favorite toy. Help preteens follow God's practice of loving each other "with genuine affection."







Lesson 4

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUESTIONS

Every week, kids make discoveries that help their faith grow.

BIBLE POINT

EACH WEEK'S JESUS CONNECTION

shows that all Bible stories point to Jesus.



EACH WEEK,

kids in Grades 1–6 dive into and experience the Bible.

Group's Hands-On Bible® is packed with activities and experiences that help kids grow all week long! frustrated; it ticks me off.)

• How do you think your family members feel when you put conditions

• How do you feel when your family members make rules for you? (I get

• How do you think your family members feel when you put conditions on your love for them? (Maybe they feel bad, too; my sister doesn't care if I put conditions on her.)

 S_{ay} : Sometimes we love people only when they follow our rules or behave in a certain way. Romans 5:8 explains the way that God loves us.

Form pairs within family groups, and have partners read **Romans 5:8** together. Then have them discuss these questions:

- Why is this Scripture a description of God's unconditional love? (Because it wasn't fair Jesus had to die for us when we were still sinners; because it shows how far God was willing to go for us.)
- How can we show this kind of love for the members of our families? (We can try harder to do things for them just to be nice; we can stick up for them, even if they tick us off sometimes.)

Say: When we set up unspoken or unrealistic rules for our family members to follow, we make it harder to live out God's plan of unconditional love. But ►God wants us to love our family members unconditionally.



Have students keep their Bibles out. Say: We just read in the book of Romans about the extent of Jesus' love for us. But you know, every book in the Bible points to Jesus in some way. The more we know about the Bible, the better we can know Jesus. Let's learn a little more about the Bible right now!

Remind your students that the Bible is divided into the Old and New Testaments and that they can refer to the table of contents to help locate particular books. Have the students look up different books in each section as you call them out at random. Then play "The Books of the Bible Song" (track 16) on the CD.

When finished, return the CD to the Learning Lab.

HANDS-ON BIBLE

Set out sheets of paper and pencils or pens for students to use.

Say: We are learning that it can be challenging to try to love our family members, and each other, unconditionally, but that's God's way of loving. Let's turn to Romans 7 in our *Hands-On Bibles* and work on the "God Loves You!" activity together. I've put out some supplies for you to use.

Have kids design their charts and then fill them in. When they've finished, ask:

- How does Romans 5:8 illustrate God's brand of loving? (It's backward from how the world thinks; it's pretty extreme.)
- What's one way you can offer God's brand of love to a family member this
 week? (I can sacrifice watching my favorite TV show so my little sister can watch her
 program instead; I can volunteer to do the dishes every night this week for my mom.)







Closina

■ Feather Prayers

SUPPLIES: none



Say: Let's take time to pray for our families as we strive to love them unconditionally.

Form new pairs within families. Give one colored feather to each pair. Have kids tell their partners the names of their family members at home. Then have kids take turns praying for God to help them

show unconditional love to each person they named. After the prayer time, have pairs hold up their colored feathers and then blow them into the air. See which pair can keep its colored feather aloft for a full minute. Sound the squeaker to call time. Afterward, say: Think of your families like these colored feathers. When we pray for our families, it's like we lift them up toward God so he can bless them. Praying for our families is one of the best ways to love them unconditionally.

Collect the colored feathers for use in later lessons.

Module Review

■ Reflection

SUPPLIES: newsprint, marker, tape, CD player, paper, pens



Before class, write each of the Bible Points from the last four lessons on a sheet of newsprint, and tape it to the wall.

Say: Over the past four weeks, we have been learning how important families are to God and what God has to say about families in the Bible. Let's review the books of the

Bible now. As I call out to you the names of books from the Old Testament and New Testament, look them up in your own Bibles. Call out different books of the Bible. Play "The Books of the Bible Song" (track 16)

from the CD, and encourage the kids to sing along. Lyrics are at the back of this book. Then form four groups, and distribute paper and pens. Assign each group a different Bible Point from the last four lessons. In each group, have kids talk about one or two things they learned.

Then have groups pray for each other, thanking God for teaching them through the past weeks.

Return the CD to the Learning Lab.



Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.

Photocopy the "Takin' It Home" handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with your kids. Encourage kids and parents to use the handout to spark meaningful discussion on this week's topic.

Circle of Love



GREAT SONGS, DRAMAS, AND MORE

on the CDs help cement kids' learning!

KIDS TAKE HOME THE LEARNING

as they see that Bible truths are for every day.







Parable in F

Feeling footloose and frisky, a featherbrained fellow
Forced his fond father to fork over the farthings.

He flew far to foreign fields
And frittered his fortune feasting fabulously with faithless friends.

Fleeced by his fellows in folly, and facing famine, He found himself a feed-flinger in a filthy farmyard. Fairly famished, he would fain have filled his frame With foraged food from fodder fragments.

"Fooey! My father's flunkies fare far finer!"

The frazzled fugitive forlornly fumbled, frankly facing facts.

Frustrated by failure, and filled with foreboding,

He fled forthwith to his family.

Falling at his father's feet, he forlornly fumbled,

"Father, I've flunked and fruitlessly forfeited family fellowship favor."

The farsighted father, forestalling further flinching,

Frantically flagged the flunkies, "Fetch a fatling from the flock, and fix a feast!"

The fugitive's faultfinding brother frowned
On this fickle forgiveness of former folderol.
But the faithful father figured,
"Filial fidelity is fine, but the fugitive is found!
Let flags be unfurled! Let fanfares flare!"

His father's forgiveness formed the foundation For the former fugitive's future fortitude.

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your family, and work together to create a solution that's

good for everyone involved.

embarrass or hurt you. Then talk about your hurts with

unconditionally even when they do things that



FAMILIES

learn together all week long with weekly take-home pages.

Discussion Starters Something to Think About

Circle of Love, Week 4

stole from a local hardware store. Jim's mother, Joie Holly, made Jim write an apology and ask the store something for him not every parent would do: management to forgive him and not press charges She forced her son, Jim, to take back a tool set he Mesa, California, loved him enough to do The mother of a sixth-grader in Costa with the police.

NO SQUEH

• Why do you think it's important that we love each

• Do you think Jim's mother acted in a loving way

toward him? Why or why not?

forgive Jim. Jim's mother considers her actions to The store's manager was impressed enough with the written explanation that he agreed to be responsible, and ultimately in her son's best

a hard time loving people in your family unconditionally.

*FOR KIDS ONLY: Think about the times that you have

Family Building

Ask God to show you how to love your family members

'Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in

interest

honoring each other."

things you do that might be seen by others as conditional

love. Then for each of those acts, ask your children to

forgive you, and come up with a different game plan for

dealing with unwanted behavior in your kids.

be placing conditions on your love for your kids. List any

*FOR PARENTS ONLY: Make a list of ways you might

unconditionally, and have everyone sign it. Then place

define what it means practically to love each other

"Unconditional Love" agreement between all the

members of your family. Use the agreement to

*FOR THE FAMILY: Work together to create an

place in your home where everyone will see the agreement in the kitchen or some other

(Romans 12:10)

...even though you are I am not ashamed to be associated with you... NOT perfect.

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