HANDS-ON BIBLE CURRICULUM | TEACH AS JESUS TAUGHT



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



SAMPLE Lesson



AGE LEVEL: Toddlers & 2s

LESSON: God Cares for Growing

Things

BIBLE POINT: God Makes Things

Grow

✓ OVERVIEW OF HANDS-ON BIBLE CURRICULUM

✓ HOW HANDS-ON BIBLE
CURRICULUM WORKS

✓ SAMPLE LESSON





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:



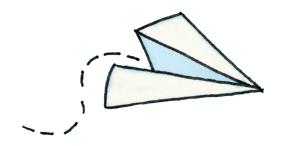
The Jesus Connect

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!



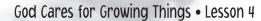
Hands-On Fun at Home

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









Bible Point - God Makes Things Grow

Bible Verse

God makes things grow (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7).

Growing Closer to Jesus

Children will ■ understand that only God makes things grow,

- explore ways that God cares for growing things, and
- give thanks to God for making things grow.

Teacher Enrichment

Bible Basis

■ God cares for growing things.

Psalms 65:4-13; 104:14; 147:8; Matthew 6:25-30 Ancient Israel was a highly agrarian society. Everything depended on crops coming up on time, having enough water, and surviving destruction by pests or disease. Day to day survival depended especially on the rains coming in their season. Often when the Israelites fell into temptation, their behavior involved sacrificing to Canaanite deities who were thought to bring greater fertility.

In modern society, often the closest thing to harvesting crops is a walk through the supermarket produce section. We can fall into the trap of forgetting that all we have comes from God and God alone. Help the

children you teach understand that just as the ground produces crops only because God sends rain, they also grow and are healthy and safe because of God's provision.

Prayer

- Read: Acts 14:15-17.
- According to Paul, what is God's provision of rain and crops evidence of?
- What evidence of God's kindness can you point to in your life? How has he given you a "joyful heart" by providing for your needs?
- Pray: Lord, thank you for your kindness in providing all I need. Help me to always remember it is you who gives me what I need. Help the children I teach learn to be thankful for your provision.

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.

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ONE-POINT LEARNING!

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

BIBLE BACKGROUND

helps teachers grow spiritually, too!



THIS CHART

makes organizing the

lesson and supplies

a breeze!

LEARN THE

BIBLE STORY

in one activity, and

with any or all of the other activities.



Lesson 4

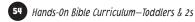
This Lesson at a Glance

What Children Will Do Learning Lab Supplies Classroom Supplies Name tags (p. 8), scissors, marker, Arrival Welcome Time—Receive a tape or safety pins, CD player **Activities** warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb. Direct children to Small bowl of water, sponges, Option 1: Sponge Gardensone or more of the Plant seeds in sponges. scissors, bean seeds, paper cups optional activities until everyone Option 2: Grow Dough—Make Modeling dough ingredients arrives. (p. 55), vinyl place mats wiggly worms and other things that grow. CD player Pick-Up Time—Sing a song as they help clean up the room. **Bible Story** Bible, CD player Bible Song—Sing about the Time God Makes Things Grow-Animal patterns (pp. 36-37), scissors, puffed-corn cereal Interact with sensory items on Storagon the StoryBoard as they hear how God makes things grow from reinforce the Bible Point Psalms 65:9-13; 104:14; 147:8; and Matthew 6:25-30. "The Growing Song"-Sing CD player and march to a happy song. Care and Share—Play a game **Activities** where they share things God cares for. Sun and raindrop patterns Interactive Bible Bulletin (p. 64), scissors, tape, small stick **Board**—Review the Bible Point with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together. CD player **Sing It Out—**Sing and march to a happy song. Paper plates, blue and yellow **Bible Craft**—Sponge-paint hearts to show that God cares for tempera paint, heart-shaped growing things. sponges, newspaper, paint shirts or grocery sacks, scissors Bible Game—Play an exciting Flower, animal, and people patterns (pp. 23, 36-37, 50-51); game, and identify things that paper; tape; scissors grow.

Heart-shaped finger gelatin,

napkins

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



Caring Hearts—Say a prayer

and have a snack.

Closing



COOL SUPPLIES

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

Arrival Activities

■ Welcome Time

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



- Play "God Makes Things Grow" (adapted from 1 Corinthians 3:7) (track 4) from the CD as children are arriving.
- 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 **►**God makes things grow.
- · Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won't be distracted by him during the next activity.



ATTENTION GRABBERS

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

■ Option 1: Sponge Gardens

SUPPLIES: 3-inch square sponge and a paper cup for each child, bean seeds, small bowl of water, scissors

For each child you'll need a 3-inch square sponge and a paper cup with the top cut away so that only the bottom two inches remain.

Set out bean seeds, the paper cups you've prepared, and a small bowl of water. Hand each child a sponge. Show children how to dip their sponges into the bowl of water and then squeeze any excess water back into the bowl. Help children each poke three or four bean seeds into their sponges. As children plant their seeds, ask questions such as "What helps plants grow?" and "Who sends sunshine and water to make plants grow?" Tell children that today they'll learn how God cares for things that grow. Explain that \(\sum_{GOD} \) makes things grow by giving them sunshine and water.

Have children set their sponges in the cut-away paper cups. Assure children that they can take their gardens home later. Point out that if they care for their gardens with water and sunshine, God will make the seeds grow.

■ Option 2: Grow Dough

SUPPLIES: flour, water, cream of tartar, salt, oil, food coloring, measuring spoons, measuring cup, medium-sized pan, wax paper, airtight container, four or five vinyl place mats

Before class, use the following recipe to make soft modeling dough for toddlers. In a medium-sized pan, mix 1 cup flour, 1 cup water, 2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1/4 cup salt, 1 tablespoon oil, and a few drops of food coloring (if desired). Cook over moderate heat, stirring constantly. When mixture forms a soft lump, turn onto wax paper and knead until soft and pliable. Store in an airtight container. (No refrigeration is needed.)

Set four or five vinyl place mats on a table. Place a small handful of modeling dough on each place mat. As toddlers arrive, invite them to use the modeling dough to make things that grow. Demonstrate how to make a caterpillar. Then roll the dough back and forth on the table with your palms to show children how the caterpillar grows.







Lesson 4



Encourage toddlers to make growing caterpillars, worms, and flower stems. Explain that

God makes things grow. Point out that God cares for growing things and that today the children will learn ways that God cares for them.

■ 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" (track 2). Use the *CD* and sing the song to the tune of "Looby Loo."



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.

Everyone here can help. Everyone here can help. Everyone here can help. Let's put it 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.

EACH WEEK.

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

Bible Story Time

■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



Say: Who makes things grow? ►God makes things grow. How do we know that? The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 3. Show children the Bible. The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God and Jesus. Let's sing a song about the Bible. Using the CD, lead children in singing "God's Special Book" (track 3) to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."



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!







Say: The Bible is God's special book. In the Bible, we can read all about how ►God makes things grow. God makes you grow and God makes me grow.

Ask: • What else does God make grow? Pause as children respond.

Say: It's important to learn about the Bible, because the Bible is God's special story. Let's sing a fun song all about the Bible! Lead children in singing "The Bible Is God's Special Book" (track 11) with the CD. Play the song several times, if possible. Lyrics are on page 24.

Say: ►God makes things grow, and we can learn all about how God does that in the Bible. Let's learn more!

■ Bible Story: God Makes Things Grow

SUPPLIES: animal patterns (pp. 36-37), scissors, puffed-corn cereal





Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still securely attached so the children can touch them without danger of pulling

off the items or putting them into their mouths. In addition, photocopy and cut apart the animal patterns from Lesson 2. You'll need an animal picture for each child. Place puffedcorn cereal in the basket on Panel 3, and have extra cereal handy nearby.

Panel 1



Fold the StoryBoard back so children see only Panel 1. Say: Today we'll learn that ►God makes things grow and he cares for them. Who can find the trees on the StoryBoard? Have a child point to the trees. Let's be little trees that grow. Squat down. We're little trees with leaves. Show me your leaves waving in the wind. Hold your arms out and wiggle your fingers. God takes

care of trees. He sends rain and sunshine to help them grow. Can you feel the pretend rain? It feels good! And the sunshine is so warm. Oh! I think we're starting to grow! Stand up slowly as you speak. Taller and taller-we're growing into big trees! Stretch way up. Stand tall and straight like big trees. Pause. Now let's pretend we're leaves fluttering to the ground. Make your arms flutter downward as you sit.

It was fun being make-believe trees. Some trees grow fruit to eat. Let's smell some fruit. Hold the StoryBoard down so children can scratch and sniff the fruit stickers.

Ask: • How does the fruit smell? (Good; sweet; I want to eat it.)

Say: God cares for trees. He sends rain and sun to help them grow. What else grows? Call on children to find the following pictures:

- the grapes and grapevine leaf (Have children touch the leaf.)
- the sunflower (Touch the sunflower.)
- the cat and kittens (Pat the cat and kittens.)

Then point to each picture and lead children in saying: Trees grow. Fruit grows. Grapes grow. Leaves grow. Sunflowers grow. Cats and kittens grow.

God Cares for Growing Things







HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

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





tition is a very important and effective tool for teaching young children. While the StoryBoards may become a little too familiar to the teachers, weekly use allows young children to discover and rediscover the Bible truths.

GREAT TIPS FOR TEACHERS!

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





THOUGHT-

PROVOKING

QUESTIONS

Every week, kids make

discoveries that help

their faith grow.



Lesson 4

God cares for growing things. He helps them grow big and strong. Let's see what else grows.

Panel 2



Hold the StoryBoard on your lap so children see Panels 1 and 2.

Say: I'm a pretend animal on old MacDonald's farm. See if
you can tell who I am. Moo! Moo! Pause for children to say "cow."
Point to the cow. Let's pat the cow and ring her bell. Hold the
StoryBoard down so children can touch the cow and ring the bell.

Cows grow, and God cares for them. God gives cows hay to eat and water to drink. Now what animal am I? Cluck, cluck, cluuck! Pause for children to say "chicken." We can stroke the chicken's feather. Have children touch the feather.

Ask: • How does the feather feel? (Soft; it tickles.)

• Who cares for chickens and helps them grow? (God.)

Say: God cares for chickens. God gives chickens seeds to eat and water to drink. Then chickens can grow. I have pictures of other animals that grow. Hand each child an animal picture. Hold up your picture and tell what animal you have. Help toddlers identify their animal pictures. Then say: Let's sing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." Hold up your animal picture when we say its name.

Lead children in singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" without the *CD*. Sing verses that include the following animals: cow, pig, dog, and cat. Help children hold up their paper animals at the appropriate times.

When you've finished singing, say: \(\rightarrow\) God makes things grow. He cares for plants and animals by giving them rain and sunshine and food. Let's see what else grows.

Panel 3

BIBLE POINT



Fold the StoryBoard so children see only Panel 3.

Ask: • Who's at the dinner table? (A mommy; a daddy; a baby; a cat.)

Say: There's a mommy, a daddy, and a little baby. Oh, look at the kitty. Pat the cat. Nice kitty. Would you like to pet the

kitty, too? Invite children to pat the cat.

Ask: • How does it feel? (Soft; furry.)

Say: The kitty is soft because people take good care of it. God cares for us, too. God cares for people by giving us food. Let's help the family say a thank-you prayer for food. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for our food. Amen.

Ask: • What's the daddy eating? (Corn.)

Say: Let's pretend we're eating corn. Spread on the butter. Make spreading motions. Spread it back and forth. Yum! Shall we sprinkle salt on the corn? Shake, shake. Act as if you're shaking a saltshaker. Now...let's eat the corn! Pretend to bite and chew. Yum! Corn is good, isn't it?

We'll peek in the basket and see what food is in there. Let each child peek in the basket, and then give each child a small handful of puffed-corn cereal to eat. As children eat their cereal, say: **This cereal is made from corn.**

Ask: • How does this kind of corn taste? (Good; crunchy.)







God Cares for Growing Things

Point to the baby in the picture. Say: **Just as God cares for us, we can care for the baby.** Have toddlers "feed" the baby with the *baby bottle* from Sensory Packet 1.



▶ God makes things grow, and he cares for them. One of the best ways God cares for us is by sending his Son, Jesus, to love us. Jesus loves us so much he was willing to die on the cross to take the punishment for the bad things we do. When we believe in Jesus, he'll be our forever friend, and we can live with him someday in heaven. God sent Jesus because he loves us and cares for us. God cares for all things.

Let's sing a song about how God cares for all growing things.

■ "The Growing Song"

SUPPLIES: CD player



Stand in a circle. Using the *CD*, lead the children in singing "The Growing Song" (track 6) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Invite children to march in a circle as you sing. For extra fun, do the actions in parentheses as you march.



God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.) God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.) Heigh-ho, the derry-o,

God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.)

God makes the sun shine high. (Stand on tiptoes with your arms in a circle.) God makes the rain fall low. (Wiggle your fingers as you bend low.) Heigh-ho, the derry-o,

So he can make things grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.)

God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.) God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.) Heigh-ho, the derry-o,

God cares for things that grow. (Squat down; then stand up tall.)

Say: ►God makes things grow, and he cares for growing things.

■BIBLE POINT

Bible Activities

■ Care and Share



Have the garden veggie, fish squirter with no water, and animal finger puppets handy.

Say: We've been learning that ►God makes things



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EACH WEEK'S JESUS CONNECTION

shows that all Bible stories point to Jesus.



Important: Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.



on the CDs help cement kids' learning!





Lesson 4

grow. God makes plants grow, animals grow, and people grow. And you know what else? God cares for and loves all those things that he makes grow. God cares for the plants, and the animals, and the people. We're going to play a game to help us remember that God cares for growing things.

Hand out the above items, one per child. Say that each child will get a turn with one of the items.

Say: I'm going to name some of the things that God cares for. When I name something that you are holding, I want you to stand up and then give your item to someone else who's not holding anything. That way, each of you will get a turn to share the things that God cares for.

God cares for plants, such as vegetables. Pause while the child holding the *garden veggie* stands up and then gives the veggie to someone else.

God cares for all of the plants. He cares for the trees, and grass, and bushes, and flowers, and vegetables, and fruits. God also cares for the animals. God cares for the [name one of the animal puppets]. Pause while that child stands up and then gives the animal puppet to another child.

Great! God cares for the [rename the animal that was just given away]. God also cares for the [name the other *animal puppet*, if different]. Pause while that child stands up and then gives the puppet to another child.

God cares for the fish in the sea. Have the child with the *fish squirter* stand and then give the fish to someone else.

God cares for plants and animals, and he cares for people, too! He cares for every boy and girl in this room, and he cares for every person in this church, and he cares for every person in the world. Let's keep playing to make sure everyone has a turn.

Continue playing until each child gets a turn to hold one of the items. Then collect the items, and have children sit with you on the floor.

Ask: • What is your favorite food to eat? (Apples; hamburgers; french fries.)

- What is your favorite animal? (Dog; cat; horse; frog.)
- Who are your favorite people? (Mommy; Daddy; sister; brother.)
- \bullet Who cares for all of these growing things—plants, animals, and people? $(God\ does!)$

Say: Let's see if Cuddles knows that \triangleright *God makes things grow* and that he cares for the things he makes grow.



■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

SUPPLIES: sun and raindrop patterns (p. 64), scissors, tape, small stick



Before class photocopy the sun and raindrop patterns found at the end of this lesson. Cut out one sun and the raindrops, making sure there's one pattern for each child.



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God Cares for Growing Things

Lead children to the bulletin board. Bring out Cuddles the Lamb holding a

small stick.

Cuddles: (Shyly offering you the stick) Here. This flower is for you. I want to show

how much I like you.

Teacher: Hi, Cuddles. That's very nice. But this doesn't look like a flower, does

it, boys and girls?

Cuddles: I kind of forgot to give it water and sunshine. I didn't care for it very

well

Teacher: Did you know that God cares for things that grow? God cares because

he loves us. Would you like to help us, Cuddles? We're going to add pictures that

show how God cares for growing things.

Cuddles: Yes. I like being a helper!

Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of raindrops or the sun. Help children tape

their pictures to the bulletin board. Each time children place a picture, help them say

"God cares."

Teacher: Sun and rain help things grow. I'm glad that ▶ God makes things grow and

cares about them. That shows he loves us. We love God, too. Let's sing a

song about how God makes things grow.

Put Cuddles out of sight.

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■ Sing It Out

SUPPLIES: CD player



Stand in a circle. Using the *CD*, lead children in singing "The Growing Song" (track 6) to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." The lyrics and motions are on page 59. Invite children to march in a circle as you sing. For extra fun, do the actions in parentheses as you march.

■ Bible Craft

SUPPLIES: scissors, heart-shaped sponges, newspaper, paper plates, blue and yellow tempera paint, paint shirts or grocery sacks

Before class cut four heart-shaped sponges for sponge-painting.

Cover a table with newspaper. Set out two paper plates, one containing a spoonful of blue tempera paint and the other yellow. Place two sponges in each color. Help toddlers put on paint shirts or grocery sacks with holes cut out for their arms and heads.

teacher tips
For less messy spo

For less messy sponge-painting, clip a hinge-style clothespin to each sponge. The clothespins make great handles and help children keep their fingers clean.







Lesson 4



Hand children each a clean paper plate and invite them to sponge-paint hearts on their plates. Point out that yellow is for sunshine and blue is for rain. Explain that God cares for growing things and gives sunshine and rain to help them grow.

When children have finished, let them hold up their pictures for the class to see. Say: Let's play a game to remind us that ▶God makes things grow.

■ Bible Game

SUPPLIES: I flower, animal, or people pattern (pp. 23, 36-37, 50-51) per child; paper; scissors; tape

Before this activity, photocopy the flower, animal, and people patterns from previous lessons. You'll need a pattern for each child. Cut out the patterns, and tape them to separate sheets of paper. Tape the papers with the patterns on them in a circle on the floor.

Tell children to find a picture to stand on. Say: There are pictures of plants, animals, and people on the floor. God makes all these things grow, doesn't he? Let's play a game. When I say "hop," you can hop from picture to picture. When I say "stop," stay where you are. Then you can tell us if you're standing on a plant, an animal, or a person. Ready? Hop...hop...hop...stop!

Go around the circle and have children tell what pictures they're standing on. Continue playing and varying the number of hops. If you have a class of older toddlers, you may want to have them turn around and hop in the other direction.

At the end of the game, say: I'm glad that ► God makes things grow so that we grow big and can hop. Let's hop over to wash our hands.



If you have a large class, form two circles to play the game.









Closing

■ Caring Hearts

SUPPLIES: heart-shaped finger gelatin, napkins

Before class, make and cut finger gelatin into heart shapes.

Have children wash their hands. Then gather everyone at the snack table. Say:

God makes things grow, and he takes care of growing things. God cares for us because he loves us. We can care for each other, too. When I clap my hands, give the friend beside you a little hug to show you care. Be sure each child gives and receives a gentle affirmation. Let's thank God for caring for us. Fold your hands. Pray: Dear God, thank you for caring. And thank you for making things grow. In Jesus' name, amen.

God cares about us. When we care for others, it shows we have love in our hearts. Now let's have a delicious "heart snack."

Hand each child a napkin with a piece of heart-shaped finger gelatin on it. When children finish eating, encourage them to throw their napkins in the wastebasket.

Remind children to take home their sponge gardens (if you did Option 1) and their heart pictures.

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God Cares for Growing Things



Popcorn Rhyme

Have fun repeating the rhyme children learned in Lesson 1. Hop up and down on the words "pop, pop, pop."

Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)

Pour the corn into the pot. (Make pouring motions.)

Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)

Shake and shake until it's hot. (Pretend to shake a pot back and forth.)

Pop, pop, pop! (Hop up and down.)

Lift the lid—what have we got? (Lift a pretend pot lid.)

Pop, pop, pop, pop, POPCORN! (Hop up and down.)



Want even more activity ideas for this lesson? Check out HandsOnBible.com/tips.

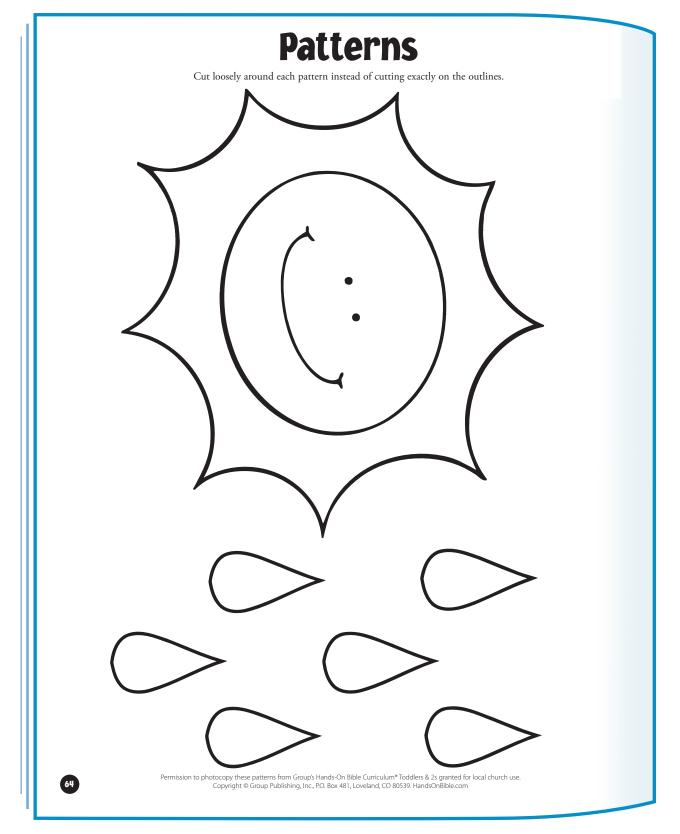
■ Who's That animal?

Have children take turns imitating their favorite animals from the bulletin board. After a child has imitated an animal and the others have guessed the animal, encourage children to point to that animal on the bulletin board. For an added twist, invite children to help you imitate unusual animals such as caterpillars, butterflies, kangaroos, turtles, and elephants.











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