

Editorial Manager
Douglas C. Schmidt

Editor
Gail Rohlfing

Designer
Kelly Robinson

Bible Editor
Jim Townsend, Ph.D.

Curriculum Consultant
Rosann Englebretson, Ed.D.

Writers
Kim Cantley, Nancy Hellstrom, Karen M. Schmidt, Nancy B. Sutton

Elementary Teacher's Guide for grades 2-3.
Can also be used for grades 3 & 4 or grades 1-3.
A self-contained teaching program for use with *Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*, *Bible Discoveries*, *Discovery Pack*, and *Friends*.

© 2005 Cook Communications Ministries, 4050 Lee Vance View, Colorado Springs, CO 80918, U.S.A. All rights reserved. Printed in South Korea. Cannot be reproduced without permission.
Visit our web site at www.cookministries.com

**Volume 43
Number 1**

To aid and advance Christian education . . . Cook Communications Ministries is owned by Cook Communications Ministries International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to international Christian education.

Photography: Publisher-owned photos by Darryl Martin/Gené Photography, Brad Armstrong/Armstrong Photography
Cover photos by: Stephen Gardner, Pixel Works Studio; © Digital Vision
Cover Design: Brand Navigation
Creative: Cook Creative Marketing

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise stated, are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House. All rights reserved.

Elementary Teacher's Guide

A successful Sunday school year is about to start—September, October, November 2005!

Get ready for an exciting quarter of learning. Sure, Bible knowledge is foundational to what kids will learn, but children also need to learn to live that knowledge. That's what Bible-in-Life is all about—making the Word come alive in their lives every day! That's discipleship at its best. Have a great quarter, and know that God is using your teaching to change lives forever.

4 Teacher2Teacher Tools to Build and Bless Your Teaching Experience

Lauren Littauer Briggs tackles the art of helping families overwhelmed by constant fatigue. Link to author interview.



5 Dangerous Devotions Kid Devotions that are not for the chicken-hearted!

Turn your youngsters on to the challenge of Bible study.



6 Teaching Tools Teaching Bible-in-Life. As easy as 1, 2, 3, 4!

It's a crime to bore kids. And an even bigger crime for teachers to burn out! With the 4-Step lesson plan, your job becomes a whole lot easier, and children will thrive.

6 Supply List

Unit 25—Choosing and Losing

Unit Value: Humility



9/4	God's Direction	8
	<i>1 Samuel 3:1-20</i>	
9/11	Godly Choices	15
	<i>1 Samuel 8-10</i>	
9/18	Giant-Size Problems	22
	<i>1 Samuel 17</i>	
9/25	Jealousy & Trust	29
	<i>1 Samuel 15; 16; 18:5-19:18</i>	
10/2	Unselfish Friendships	36
	<i>1 Samuel 20</i>	

Unit 26—Royalty and Loyalty

Unit Value: Integrity

- 10/9 Don't Get Even!** 43
1 Samuel 26
- 10/16 When Life Gets Tough** 50
1 Samuel 30:1-20
- 10/23 Give God Credit** 57
1 Samuel 31; 2 Samuel 2:1-7, 11; 5:1—6:19; Psalm 21
- 10/30 Showing Kindness** 64
Action games teach! Today's game uses a giant game board to practice the memory verse.
2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-13



Link to Last Week! This accountability chain stretches week to week, a great reminder to you and your children that Sunday school is making a difference.

Children can get personally involved in giving. Introduce the missions project. See inside back cover.

Unit 27—Wise to Advise

Unit Value: Wisdom

- 11/6 God's Wisdom** 71
1 Kings 3:5-15; 4:29-34
- 11/13 Wisdom for Problems** 78
1 Kings 3:16-28
Puppets give youngsters a voice to express problems and solutions.
- 11/20 The Way to God** 85
1 Kings 5:1—9:9; Hebrews 9; Matthew 27:51
You'll have a perfect opportunity to point your children toward salvation. Be ready. Pray hard. Review how to lead an elementary child to Christ inside the back cover.
- 11/27 Keep Going God's Way** 92
1 Kings 11—12



Click your mouse on www.DavidCCook.com for a 3-minute demonstration of how Bible-in-Life helps you reach every student!

Inside the Back Cover

- **Jesus, My Forever Friend**
Guidance for a child's salvation
- **Missions Project**
- **Coming Up Next Quarter**

Ministering to Families with Special-Needs Children

Show God's love and support to hurting children and their families. Here's how:

NO ONE TEACHES VERY LONG without having to address this issue. What better people to help us help them than the parents themselves?

What Not to Say

- "Call me if you need anything," friends would say. I never called anyone or asked for anything, even though I desperately needed help.
- People told me to accept it, to act like a Christian, to get over it. Words such as these should never be uttered.
- When a friend heard about the psychologist's diagnosis, her comment was, "Well, I don't know why she's so upset. She knew they had problems." She showed no compassion or understanding for what I was going through.

What Parents Should Hear from Us

- "Your son is so loving and precious."
- My friend's words of tenderness were so helpful as she tried to reassure me. She said, "Irene, somehow, someday, God will get us through this." I wasn't sure I believed her. I was terribly angry with God at that point.

What Parents Wish We Understood

- Sometimes I want to talk, but sometimes I don't. Please be understanding when I don't.
- After the car accident that injured my daughter and left her permanently disabled, we became the church tragedy. Many of my friends avoided us because they didn't know what to say. It was friends who treated me as if I hadn't changed who meant the most. They called me on the phone to chat, took me out to lunch, accepted the fact that though I hadn't changed, my life had changed and they loved me anyway.

How We Can Help

- Just being there is enough. No words, nothing to do, just be there.
- One friend volunteered to spend the Sunday school hour teaching disabled children. This was the only break I had from taking care of my child all week.
- How I wish someone would stop by with a café mocha or a big soda and offer to stay with me.
- The greatest gift is down-home friendship. Pray for ways to stay close to the parents and make ways to include that child in normal activities like birthday parties, sleepovers, and trips to the movies. Worse than the disability is the loneliness, the empty calendars, the absence of a circle of friends. Pray that God will make you and your class real friends.



Sunday School Teacher's Prayer

Dear Lord, You know how much I love this precious child. Please give her parents the strength to provide for her care. Show me ways I can help and support the parents and the child. Give me ideas for building friendship and help-ships between my other students and this child. I come to You for my tomorrows, one day at a time. I ask for Your guidance and strength for the days that lie ahead. With a grateful heart, Amen.

Edited from Lauren Littauer Briggs' book, *The Art of Helping—What to Say and Do When Someone Is Hurting*. For a copy of the book, order at www.CookMinistries.com



Devotions—Not for the chicken-hearted!

That's just what *Dangerous Devotions* is all about. Photocopy "He's Your Friend?" and give a copy to each child, or better yet, post a copy to each child's email. The Sunday after the kids get this dangerous devotion, talk about the challenge in "Cross Roads." For example: What exactly did you do? How did the person react? If the person had a mean reaction, what would make you try again?

Dangerous Devotions: He's Your Friend?

Getting Ready

Be honest and real. Talk to God about kids you just don't like. Share why you don't like them and how you treat them.

The Journey

Zacchaeus was not a well-liked man; he was hated by almost everyone. Zacchaeus, as tax collector, charged high rates, and kept money for himself. Because he worked for the Romans, people had to pay him. They gave their money out of fear of punishment . . . and hated Zacchaeus even more.

Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was a friend of tax collectors. Oh, how he needed such a friend. The whole town hated him. Yet money held too tight a grip for him to give up his job. Zacchaeus knew that going out into the crowd could be dangerous.

As Zacchaeus approached the back of the crowd, the crowd bunched together to keep him out. Hot anger rose in his cheeks as he heard the snickers. Not wanting to miss the only one who might accept him, Zacchaeus ran ahead. He climbed a tree to see Jesus, but he was not ready for what happened next.



Jesus stopped, looked up and

said, "Come down from that tree. I must stay at your house today."

The crowd gasped with disapproval. They could not believe that Jesus would choose to be seen with a person like Zacchaeus.

Zacchaeus saw the love and acceptance in Jesus' eyes and immediately became a new person.

Climb Onward

Look up Luke 19:7. Then read verse 10. What do you think is most important to Jesus? What kind of person would be too mean and sinful for Jesus to forgive and love?

Cross Roads

Who is the Zacchaeus at your school, the kid nobody likes—maybe for good reason? Dangerous! Do two things before next Sunday to show that person the kind of acceptance Jesus showed to Zacchaeus.

To order Dangerous Devotions or More Dangerous Devotions go to your local Christian bookstore or order from www.CookMinistries.com

The author is Jackie Perseghetti. She lives in Kettering, Ohio, and she has two children.

Bring the Bible

As Easy As One,



Step 1: Bible Readiness

Surprise! Most kids show up on Sunday more excited about their puppy or Saturday's soccer game than about learning something new from the Bible. Puppies and sports are fun. But so is Sunday school. Puppies and sports are real-life things. Hey, so is what they learn in Sunday school!

This step focuses children on the morning's challenge. A game, skit, poster, or maybe a modern-hero story moves them away from puppy talk and turns them toward today's topic. By the end of Bible Readiness, they're excited about tackling it.

Don't skip this step! It's not fluff or foolishness. It's the step that gets children ready to discover why this Bible story is important to them. At the end of these few minutes, they are ready to participate in learning something new.

You'll Need These Supplies:

- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ *Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*
- ☐ *Bible Discoveries* (student books)
- ☐ *Discovery Pack* (craft books)
- ☐ *Friends* (take-home papers)
- ☐ Beanbags or balls
- ☐ Bible-time clothes
- ☐ Spinner and game markers
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Yarn, glitter, confetti
- ☐ Brass fasteners, paper clips
- ☐ Clear tape, masking tape
- ☐ Glue or glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Colored markers
- ☐ Pencils with erasers
- ☐ Index cards
- ☐ Roll of butcher paper
- ☐ Newsprint pad or chart paper
- ☐ Construction paper, scrap paper
- ☐ Chalkboard or whiteboard
- ☐ CD player
- ☐ Rhythm instruments

Step 2: Bible Story

Lively Bible study! That's what happens here. Children learn new concepts and gain growing understanding of stories they may have heard in first grade.

Spend lots of time preparing Step 2. In class, you can tell the story, present a drama, read the Scriptures, even conduct an in-depth Bible study. Children should never think the Bible section is the dullest part of the lesson. Bring it alive with your expression, actions, and most of all, your own attitude!

But learning facts is not enough. To guarantee that children have learned what the lesson teaches, you'll want to check for understanding. There are lots of ways to do this. Have the children paraphrase the Scripture or compare the passage with others in the Bible. Ask questions that check for answers and also encourage children to use their developing thinking skills. And, when they memorize the Bible, they will be even more ready to "do," not just "know."



Online Is Where It's @

All children are different. Bible-in-Life helps you teach to each student's strongest learning style—and you can do this successfully in one classroom. For a full-color, online demonstration of how this works, log on to www.DavidCock.com and click on Learning Styles Teacher Training. Easy as the click of your mouse!



to Life for Kids

Two, Three, Four



Step 3: Bible Activity Choices

Practice Time—a time to turn the classroom into a laboratory. You'll discover if your children understood what the Bible said. You'll correct misunderstandings and challenge children to think a little deeper. This guide will give you four choices every week. Set up all four as learning centers. Or, if you have a small class, pick several.

In activity-center choices, children test the new information they've learned and discover how it works for them. You set up several choices and each student selects those that best match his or her interest level and learning style.

Demonstrate for the children what they will do at each center. Answer questions. If they are new to centers it will take several weeks for them to get used to them. Stick with it. There is no better way for children to interact with the implications of the Scripture.

Step 4: Bible Response

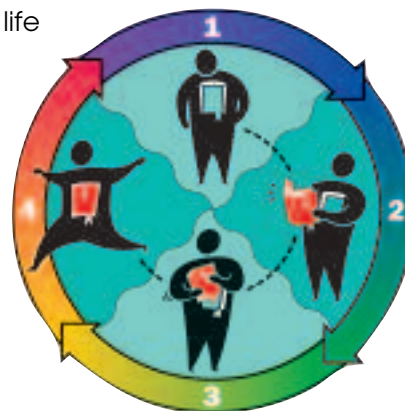
Okay! You got children interested in the topic (Step 1). Then you guided them into the Bible (Step 2). They practiced what they learned (Step 3). Now, students will decide what they will actually do with what they've learned. This part of the lesson is not safe! Living the Christian life, even when you're only eight, is challenging but exciting.

Kids will decide for themselves how they will live for Jesus this week. You can help them, but ultimately they need to personally own their decisions. They are living for Jesus because they choose to, not because they are trying to please you.

You figured it out, didn't you? The biggest part of your Sunday school lesson doesn't happen in your classroom. It happens on Monday and Tuesday, when instead of going along with their friends and doing something wrong, they dare to say, "No, I will follow Jesus."

Natural Learning Cycle

Guess what! You've just been around the Natural Learning Cycle. It's fun! It's simple! It's how we all learn. First, we get interested in the subject (Step 1). Then we learn the facts from the Bible (Step 2). Next, we practice what we've learned (Step 3). Then, and most importantly, we use what we have learned during the week (Step 4). Finally, accountability! We come back to class next week and share how we lived the Christian life (Link to Last Week).



God's Direction

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Lesson Focus: Pay attention to God's direction.

Memory Verse: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. Psalm 32:8

Lesson Path



1 BIBLE READINESS

To connect children's experiences with the Bible story of Samuel paying attention to God's direction, they will talk about their need for direction.

- Butcher paper, marker, beanbags



2 BIBLE STORY

Children will read 1 Samuel 3:1-20: Samuel pays attention to God's direction.

- **Bible Story:** *Bible Discoveries*, pp. 2-3, Bibles, pencils
- **Bible Review:** (optional: blankets or mats)
- **Memory Verse Practice:** No materials needed



3 BIBLE ACTIVITY CHOICES

Children will explore ways to pay attention to God's direction.

- **Scripture Search:** *Bible Discoveries*, pp. 1, 4, Bibles, pencils
- **Bible Study Locks:** *Discovery Pack*, Project A, paper fasteners, Bibles
- **Treasure Hunt:** Index cards, tape, (optional: small treats).



4 BIBLE RESPONSE

Children will apply the Bible story of Samuel paying attention to God's direction by planning ways that they also can pay attention to God's direction this week.

- PraisePac CD and downloadable PDF song sheets (from *Elementary Creative Teaching Aids*), CD player, *Friends*, Lesson 1 and Parent Link



This symbol will appear whenever preparation takes more than five minutes or whenever supplies are needed that are not included on the list of standard materials (on the inside back cover).

Teacher Devotional

Each day we receive directions of some kind: "Stop, go." "Sign at the bottom." "Finish that project today." Directions from bosses, parents, friends, pastors, and others often compete for our attention.

Like Samuel, we can find value in taking time out to listen for God's direction. His direction can come in many ways—prayer, Bible study, the counsel of believers, a message in church, the Holy Spirit's prompting. But listening to God requires that we "tune out" our surroundings and "tune in" during our moments of quiet with God. It can involve making a special effort to eliminate or diminish distractions and interruptions.

Start by meditating on Psalm 32:8—"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go." God promises to direct us.

How are these words a comfort to you?

What are ways you can more carefully pay attention to God's direction this week?

MORE TO KNOW

We believe in the one living and true God. Within this unity there are three persons of one essential nature, power, and eternity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

LESSON 1 FOCUS:

Pay attention to God’s direction.


Bible Review Questions

- ▶ **What did Samuel hear? Who did he think it was?** (Samuel heard a voice call his name; he thought it was Eli.)
- ▶ **How did Samuel show he was eager to pay attention?** (He got up out of bed three times and ran to find out what Eli wanted.)
- ▶ **How did Samuel show that he paid attention when God spoke?** (Samuel listened carefully for God to call him. Then Samuel said that he was God’s servant and that he was listening.)
- ▶ **What kind of direction did God give Samuel about Eli?** (God told Samuel that He would judge Eli’s family because his sons were being bad leaders and Eli didn’t correct them.)
- ▶ **Would Samuel have heard God’s direction if he hadn’t been paying attention?** (No.)

Some children may have questions about God audibly speaking to Samuel. If so, explain that in Bible times, on special occasions, God would appear to someone in some form or speak to someone with words the person could hear. This is not the way God usually speaks to us today. The Bible itself is called the Word of God.

- ▶ **How does God speak to us today? How does He direct us?** (Through the Bible; prayer or His Spirit; other Christians, such as parents, Sunday school teachers, the minister; etc.)
- ▶ **According to the memory verse, what kind of direction does God give us?** (He tells us the way we should go, or how to follow Him and do what’s right.)

Bible Review Activity

 **MATERIALS:** (optional: blankets or mats)

To reinforce Samuel’s willingness to pay attention to God’s direction, let the class reenact the Bible story. Divide the children into pairs. One child in each pair is Samuel and lies on a blanket (or just on the floor). The other child in each pair is Eli and sits off to the side. When you call out, “Samuel!” the children lying down get up and run to their partner, “Eli.” The children playing Eli say that they didn’t call, and the Samuels go back to bed. Do this three times. The fourth time you call out “Samuel!” the children lying down call out, “Speak, Lord. I’m your servant, and I’m listening.”

If time permits, have the kids switch roles and go through the actions again.



Memory Verse Practice

Whisper one or two words of the verse to each child, depending on the size of your class, so that the whole verse is divided up among the children. At your signal, the children start looking for the kids who have the words on either side of theirs. For example, a child assigned “instruct you” will look for the children with “I will” and “and teach.” Once the kids have found the others with neighboring words, they link arms. Soon the kids will form one line in the correct order. Then have the kids say their assigned portion of the verse in order, down the line.

Memory Verse:

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go.

Psalm 32:8

