Tips for three-year-olds

- They are learning the concept of a promise from parents or other caregivers; when these promises are given and kept they can help young children learn to trust.

- The rainbow is a concrete image that young children can relate to; it is an image that often shows up in their drawings.

God Loves Us
Genesis 9:8–17

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

A Rainbow Promise
(based on Genesis 9:8–17)

(Encourage children to create the sounds to accompany the story.)

Soon, it started to rain. (pat knees to make dripping sounds) It rained for days and days and days. (pat knees faster) The boat rocked up and down, floating on the water.

Then one day the rain finally stopped, the sun came out, and the water began to dry up off the ground. Soon Noah opened the doors and all the people and animals went outside. “Hooray!” shouted everyone. (raise arms and shout “Hooray!”)

Noah and his family looked up and saw a beautiful rainbow to welcome them. And they heard God say, “I promise that I will always be with you.” From that day on, seeing a rainbow would always remind them of God’s wonderful promise.

Option after the story
Give each child a rainbow sticker to remind them of the rainbow in this week’s story and God’s promise to always be with us.

Respond
Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 6.

- **Story picture** Create a sample picture and be prepared to help children draw in the water and rainbow.

- **Rainbow catcher** Prepare disks ahead of time by gluing together and adding the hanger; show children how to cover the disks with glue using glue sticks and stick on the coloured triangle shapes in whatever way they would like.

- **Mural** Have each child add just one colour to the rainbow shape; instead of paint-filled sponges you might consider just having children create a rainbow from their hand-prints.
Tips for three-year-olds

- They love to be known by name and to know that their names are special.
- They are beginning to recognize the letters that make up their names and enjoy practicing printing their names.

The Blessing of Generations
Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

A Star Promise
(based on Genesis 15:1–6 and 17:1–7, 15–16)

Give each child a glow-in-the-dark star to hold during the story.

A long, long time ago, there was a man named Abram and a woman named Sarai. They were a small family and had no children. One day God said, “Abram, look up at the sky.” Abram looked up and saw hundreds of sparkling stars. (Invite children to wave their stars.)

“Now,” said God, “count the stars if you can.”

“Oh, no,” said Abram. “There are too many stars in the sky. No one can do that.”

“You’re right, Abram,” said God. “Now, I have a surprise for you. You and Sarai are going to have a baby. And you are also going to have lots and lots of grandchildren. There will be so many that you won’t even be able to count them all, just like you can’t count all the stars!” (Invite children to wave their stars again.)

Abram and Sarai waited and waited and one day they had a baby boy. They named him Isaac. (Encourage children to whisper, “Hello, baby Isaac.”) Abram and Sarai were so happy. Every time they looked at their little baby they remembered God’s promises. God said, “I love you and I love all the babies and children and parents and adults in this world.”

Optional activity after the story
Rock the baby Invite children to pretend to rock a baby in their arms. Talk about some things that Abram and Sarai might have done with their baby. Invite those who have younger siblings to say their names and talk about some of the things that they can do for their baby brother or sister.

Respond
Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 12.

- Star names and Plaques Some children may not be able to print their names; invite them to try to make the first letter and help them with the rest of the letters.
- Star jars Make sure children are protected with painting smocks or other covers to keep clothes dry.
Tips for three-year-olds
- They can remember one or two lines of simple chants or songs and enjoy singing these over and over again.
- Their natural enjoyment helps them turn even everyday events into occasions for celebration.
- Small things in nature capture their attention and they are capable of focusing in on the tiniest of pebbles or leaves or puddles as important and wonderful things.

Contemplate God’s Glory
Psalm 19
A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

God Is Amazing!
(based on Psalm 19)

Practice the chant several times. Encourage children to clap hands as they say the words.

A long time ago some people wrote a poem about God’s beautiful world:

Look around and you will see,
God made a world for you and me.
From the ground below to the sky above,
we can see and feel God’s love.”

Chant: God is amazing! God is great!

The sun comes up and shines all day.
God made the sun to shine this way.
We see the moon all through the night,
dancing with the stars so bright.

Chant: God is amazing! God is great!

God made the birds, God made the trees.
God made the flowers and the bees.
Bees give us honey that’s good to eat;
it shows us that God’s love is sweet.

Chant: God is amazing! God is great!

Optional activity after the story
Song “Things That God Made”
(tune: “Frère Jacques” or “Are You Sleeping?”)

Listen now, listen now. (cup ears with hands)

Use your ears, use your ears.
Hear the things that God made.
Listen now, listen now.

Sun streamers
To make this activity simpler, attach the streamers and dowel to the circles ahead of time; invite children to decorate both sides with bright colours; glitter could be an option.

Respond
Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 18.

- Mural Use large crayons; you might have to suggest some things that they can draw.
- Seed pouches If possible, have a few bags with sprouted beans to show the children.

- Sun streamers To make this activity simpler, attach the streamers and dowel to the circles ahead of time; invite children to decorate both sides with bright colours; glitter could be an option.
**Tips for three-year-olds**

- Many children have a favourite story or song that they never tire of hearing.
- They come to rely on consistent and accepting care; we can never tell them too often that they are loved and valued.
- Our behaviour teaches them the ways in which to live in Christian community.

**God’s Wonderful Love**
*(based on Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22)*

Invite children to join in saying the words, “Over and over and over again.” Show them how to roll their hands over and over each other as they say these words. Practice together a few times.

God has helped us to share.
God loves us... **over and over and over again**. *(Roll hands over and over each other.)*

God is good and loves us forever.
God loves us... **over and over and over again**. *(Roll hands over and over each other.)*

God loved people in Bible times and God loves everyone here too.
God loves us... **over and over and over again**. *(Roll hands over and over each other.)*

Thank you, God!

Optional activity after the story

**Song** “Do You Know?” *(tune: “I’m a Little Teapot”)*

Do you know who loves you all the time?  
God loves us all so very much.  
Do you know who loves you rain or shine?  
We know God loves us rain or shine.

**Respond**

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 24.

- **Poster** Have the children just decorate the heart shapes and glue onto the mural without trying to draw arms and legs on them. Sing the song “Do You Know?” while creating this heart poster.
- **Musical instruments** The tambourine and cymbals would be good choices for three-year-olds; staple and tape the tambourines together beforehand; children can decorate with markers while you attach some bells and or streamers.
- **Snack** Help the children by placing a small amount of frosting/icing on their biscuits or cookies and give them wooden craft sticks for spreading this; they can use cake decorations to create happy faces.
God’s Love Is on Our Hearts
Jeremiah 31:31–34
A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

God was worried. The people were not living in loving ways. “They need my love,” thought God. “The people need my help.” So God called Jeremiah to be God’s helper.

“Jeremiah,” called God, “listen carefully. I have a new promise. Please go and tell the people.”

This is what God told Jeremiah to tell the people: “I love my people. I will always be with them. I will be deep in their hearts. They will feel my love.”

Jeremiah listened to God. Then Jeremiah talked to the people. And the people listened. The people heard about God’s love. They felt God’s love in their hearts.

Optional activity after the story

Chant (show the actions as you lead in this chant)

Reach your hands up high.
Spread your hands out wide.
God’s love is everywhere.
Put your hand on your heart.
Feel it beating deep inside.
Feel God’s love deep down and all around.

Dance “Zulu Carol” (p. 32 in Seasons Growing Faith Songbook; #22 on Seasons Growing Faith CD). Dance to the music and then stop and place hands over hearts. Feel God’s love deep inside with every heartbeat.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 30.

- Paper dolls: Tape the cardboard tubes to the backs of the paper dolls to make it easier for them to handle the puppets.
- Heart prints: Use painting smocks and protect floor area; use just two colours of water-based paint, placing each in its own foil tray; children can use one hand for each colour.
- Heart shapes: Use soft play dough, which is easier for small hands to shape.

Please note: There are no Age 3 Supplement lesson plans for March 25 and April 1 as the worship outline included in the Ages 3–5 resource for those weeks is for All Ages.
Love Is a Response to Grace
John 20:19–31
A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Tips for three-year-olds
- They live in the world of imagination and won’t think it’s mysterious that something can exist even though it’s invisible.
- They often have imaginary friends, invisible to others but very real for them.
- Everything is a source of wonder and they will not need lengthy explanations; they may consider it wonderful and only right that Jesus is alive again and visiting his friends.

Peace Be with You
*(based on John 20:19–31)*

Use yarn or tape to mark out a small space and invite children to sit inside this “room” to hear the story. Teach the sung refrain.

When telling the story, indicate when to sing the refrain by holding up the figure of Jesus. Have figure of Thomas nearby.

**Refrain** *(tune: “Frère Jacques” or “Are You Sleeping?”)*
“Peace be with you. Peace be with you. Trust in me. Trust in me. I will always love you. I will always love you.”
Jesus said. Jesus said.

Long ago, Jesus’ friends were in a small room. They were hiding together. They were sad and afraid because Jesus was gone. What should they do? *(pause)* Suddenly, Jesus was there! *(Hold up Jesus figure.)* And Jesus said a special blessing:

**Sing** “Peace be with you…

Jesus’ friends were so happy! Jesus was with them again!

Jesus smiled and said to his friends, “Peace be with you. God gave me a job to do. Now I have a special job for you. Go and love others. God’s Spirit is with you.” *(pause)* Then Jesus was gone.

Later, Thomas came to the room. *(Hold up Thomas figure.)* Thomas was a friend of Jesus, too. Everyone said to Thomas, “We have seen Jesus!” But Thomas didn’t believe them. Thomas wanted to see Jesus for himself. *(pause)* Suddenly Jesus was there again. *(Hold up Jesus figure.)*

And Thomas heard Jesus’ blessing:

**Sing** “Peace be with you…

Thomas looked at Jesus. “Jesus, is it really you?” Jesus looked at Thomas and said, “Yes, Thomas. Here I am. You can see me.”

Then, Jesus said to all the friends, “Go. Tell people about me. Tell them God loves them. Tell everyone!” **Sing** “Peace be with you…

Optional activity after the story

**Song** “Jesus Loves Us” *(tune: “If You’re Happy and You Know It”)*

Jesus loves us and we know it, clap our hands. *(clap, clap)*
Jesus loves us and we know it, clap our hands. *(clap, clap)*

Jesus loves us and we know it, and we really want to show it.耶稣 loves us and we know it, clap our hands. *(clap, clap)*

*(Other verses: stomp our feet…jump up high…shout hurray!)*

Respond
Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 48.

- **Collage** Limit the number of scraps and pieces you offer the children.
- **Puppet** Copy puppet pieces onto heavier paper to make it easier for the children to colour and decorate them.
- **Peace plate** Omit the sewing and instead help them to attach lengths of streamers or other decorations with a stapler.
Tips for three-year-olds
- They love to share news: about themselves, their families, and things that are happening in their lives.
- Their sharing is offered joyfully and they will expect that the hearer will be just as joyful to receive the good news.

Love Means Showing Up
A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

Jesus’ friends were all together. They locked the windows. They locked the doors. They were afraid. (Invite children to pretend to lock windows and doors.)

One friend said, “I miss Jesus. I wish Jesus was here.”

“I miss Jesus, too,” whispered another friend.

Everybody talked about Jesus. They remembered all the things that they had done with Jesus, like eating meals together. (Share the bread.) Jesus’ friends talked and talked while they ate the bread. (pause) Suddenly, Jesus was in the room with them. (Hold up Jesus figure.)

Jesus looked at everyone. Jesus smiled and said, “Peace to you.” (pause) “Look, here I am and I’m hungry!”

Jesus’ friends were so happy to see him again. They laughed. They shared bread and some fish. (Share the juice, fish snack and the rest of the bread.)

Then Jesus said to the friends, “Go out and tell everyone that God loves them. Tell people here. Tell people there. Tell people the good news. Tell people to live in God’s way.” (pause) Then suddenly Jesus was gone again.

Jesus’ friends looked at each other. “Let’s go,” they shouted. And down the stairs they ran. They would tell everyone about God’s love!

Optional activity after the story

Song “Go and Tell” (tune: “This Old Man”)
(Bring a jingle bell to shake as you sing.)
Go and tell, go and tell.
Share good news and ring the bell.
God loves everyone every day.
God loves us in every way.

Respond
Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 54.

- **Crayon rubbings** Tape the letter shape to the table, tape the sheets of paper over the letters, and use large crayons to make it easier for children to do the rubbings.
- **Discs** Pre-draw happy faces on the shapes ahead of time and invite children to just colour the shapes; practice saying just the “Good News!” part of the message as short phrases are easier for three-year-olds to repeat.

- **Bubble prints** Print “Alleluia!” ahead of time on the sheets of paper; use painting smocks; avoid popping the bubbles as this may cause discomfort for very young children.
Love in Truth and Action
John 10:11–18
A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

A Good Shepherd
(based on John 10:11–18)

(Distribute sheep figures and invite children to hold these up when they echo the bolded statements.)

Yes! Yes! Jesus is like a good shepherd.

“Jesus looked after us,” said another friend, “just like a shepherd looks after the sheep.”

Yes! Yes! Jesus is like a good shepherd.

“Jesus is always with us,” said another friend, “just like a shepherd is always with the sheep.”

Yes! Yes! Jesus is like a good shepherd.

“Jesus knows our names,” said a friend, “just like the shepherd knows the sheep’s names.”

Yes! Yes! Jesus is like a good shepherd.

Jesus’ friends felt good deep down inside when they remembered Jesus. “Jesus is our friend,” they said.

Yes! Yes! Jesus is like a good shepherd.

Tips for three-year-olds

- They want to be close to their families, caregivers, and teachers and will follow them trustingly and lovingly; they are just beginning to learn that Jesus is also a loving friend.

- They love to be called by name and to be recognized and affirmed.

- The concept of sheep and shepherds may be unknown to them but they will understand the idea of following through the games and activities.

Optional activity after the story

Invite the children to line up across the room from you. As you say the chant, have them run across the room to join you, one by one. Continue to repeat the song until all children are beside you. If you have a small group, each child can run back and forth several times.

Chant “Little Sheep”
One little, two little, three little sheep,
four little, five little, six little sheep,
seven little, eight little, nine little sheep,
all come running home.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 60.

- Sheep Pre-draw facial features onto the paper circles to glue onto their sheep.

- Shepherd picture Pre-cut green and blue tissue paper for children to use to form the scenery.

- Stained glass Use large crayons and tape the pictures to the table to anchor them while colouring.

April 22, 2018
Tips for three-year-olds

- They enjoy using their imaginations and as they listen to stories they can create images in their minds.
- Some in your group may not have much experience of people from different cultures.
- They have very limited understanding of the wider world; instead of speaking about Ethiopia being in Africa, just refer to it as a place very far away.

God’s Love Grows
(based on John 15:1-8)

Spread a length of blue cloth on the floor to represent a river. Have the scroll and the figures of Philip and the Ethiopian official nearby.

This is Philip (show figure of Philip). Philip liked to tell everyone about Jesus and about God’s love.

One day Philip saw a man riding in a beautiful chariot. This man was an important visitor from a country very far away (show the figure of the Ethiopian official).

As the chariot came closer, Philip noticed that the man was reading from a scroll (hold up the scroll). “Would you like to talk about what you are reading?” asked Philip.

The chariot driver pulled on the reins and the horses stopped. “Yes, I would like to talk with you,” said the man. “I have many questions.”

So Philip climbed into the chariot and they talked together. Philip told him about Jesus and the man said, “Philip, will you baptize me? I want to be a follower of Jesus too.”

“Yes,” said Philip. So they both climbed out of the chariot and walked down to the river. (Invite children to gather beside the length of blue cloth; place the figures of Philip and the Ethiopian official in the “river.”) Philip baptized his new friend and the man felt God’s love all around. He was so happy!

“I’m going to go back to my home now,” said the man. “I want to tell everyone the good news about Jesus.”

Optional activity after the story

Sing “Share Good News” (tune: “This Old Man”)

Share good news. Share good news.
We can always share good news.
God loves me and God loves you.
This is our good news for you.

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 66.

- **Love Bouquet** Children may need help gluing or taping strips to the straw.
- **Mural** Children may require help attaching yarn hair and googly eyes.
**Jesus’ Friends Remember**
*(based on John 15:9–17)*

Give each child a happy face. Practice this response: each time you say, “Did Jesus do this?” the children hold up their happy faces and say, “Oh, yes!”

Jesus’ friends sat together around a table. They were eating together. They were telling stories about Jesus. A new friend said, “Will you tell me about Jesus?” “Sure!” said the other friends. “We’ll tell you now.”

One friend stood up. “Jesus told us about God’s love.” Did Jesus do this? “Oh, yes!”

Another friend stood up. “Jesus said he would always be our friend.” Did Jesus do this? “Oh, yes!”

Another friend said, “Jesus said to love others.” Did Jesus do this? “Oh, yes!”

Another friend called out, “Jesus sent us to do God’s work.” Did Jesus do this? “Oh, yes!”

One by one, all the friends said something about their friend Jesus. Jesus had told them about God’s love. They wanted everyone to be in the circle of God’s love.

*(Invite children to hold up their happy faces one more time and shout together, “Thank you, Jesus!”)*

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**Optional activity after the story**

*(Invite children to say each line after you. Repeat the chant, substituting a child’s name for “us all” in the second line.)*

**Chant**

Jesus says, “I love you,” and calls us all, “dear friend.”

Jesus says, “I love you, “my love will never end.”

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**Respond**

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 72.

- **Friendship necklace** Use large beads; watch carefully to ensure that no beads get placed in the children’s mouths.
- **Friendship poster** No changes needed.
- **Friendship hanger** The figures might be too small for some children to colour so encourage them to colour in the background instead.

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**Tips for Three-year-olds**

- As their worlds expand they are able to remember friends and routines associated with places where they go regularly.
- They are beginning to have different circles of friends: play-school friends, neighbourhood friends, and church friends, and recognize the differences between them. As they mature, friendships become more and more important to them.
- They are learning that some activities only happen in one place with one set of friends.
Tips for three-year-olds

- Some may have experienced the comforting ritual of prayers at home before meals and at bedtime; encourage them to see that they can say thank you to God and ask for God’s help anytime.
- They know that grownups are in charge but they may not yet understand that they can also be leaders.
- Some can be very stubborn (“I’ll do it myself.”) but they are learning to recognize when it is time to ask for help.

Love Leads the Way
Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

A supplemental resource to adapt sessions for groups consisting mostly of three-year-olds.

The Disciples Choose a Leader
(based on Acts 1:15–17, 21–26)

Sit in front of the paper on the wall with a large outline of a room with a set of stairs leading up to it. Before the meeting time, place 11 small paper figures around your meeting space, in places that will be easy for young children to find. Have a roll of tape ready. Keep one paper figure hidden beside you.

Jesus’ friends were having a meeting. They had been so busy telling people about God’s love. Now they wanted to have some quiet time and pray together.

One by one, Jesus’ friends climbed the stairs. (Invite children to find the eleven paper figures, pretend to “walk” them up the stairs, and tape them within the outline of the room.)

Soon the room was full of Jesus’ close friends. They knew Jesus was still with them in a special way. They wanted to tell everyone about Jesus and about God’s love. There were 11 of them (point to the figures as you count from 1 to 11) but it was such a big job.

“We need help,” said Peter. “We need one more person to help us tell everyone about God’s love.”

The people thought and thought. Who should they pick now? They prayed to God to help them. They talked to each other. They prayed to God again.

Finally, they chose Matthias. (Place another figure beside the 11 others.) Matthias was a friend of Jesus. Matthias would be a good helper. Now they had 12 helpers. (Together count all the figures.)

Soon lots and lots of people heard all about Jesus. Soon the church was full of loving people. Jesus’ wonderful work would carry on!

Optional activity after the story

Song “This is the Way”
(tune: “Here We Go ’Round the Mulberry Bush”)
Add actions for each verse, such as hands cupped to mouth, hands together as if praying, tapping toes.

This is the way we talk to God, talk to God, talk to God.
This is the way we talk to God, each and every day.
Other verses: This is the way we pray, dance...

Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 78.

- Community mural Pre-draw some figures for the mural and invite children to colour these in, and draw in scenery such as grass, trees, sun shining.
- Prayer sticks Ask the children if they would like you to add a name (such as parents or siblings) to their decorated sticks.
- Floating prayers Pre-draw the facial features with eyes and smiles; encourage children to colour both sides of their squares.

Please note: There are no Age 3 Supplement lesson plans for May 20, as the worship outline included in the Ages 3–5 resource for those weeks is for All Ages.