



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- “Say thank you” is an instruction with which most three-year-olds will be familiar.
- They are concrete thinkers and will understand thanks in terms of objects and people.

**A Place of Justice and Grace**  
**Deuteronomy**  
**26:1–11**

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

**A Joyful Celebration**

(based on **Deuteronomy 26:1–11**)

*(Encourage children to participate physically in the story.)*

A long, long time ago there were some people who were very sad. The ruler of the land made them work very hard. The people prayed to God for help. God heard their prayers and a leader named Moses helped them get ready to travel to a new country. *(Show Moses figure.)*

Step, step, step – mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles, grandmothers and grandfathers, girls and boys walked with Moses. *(Start walking around the room, inviting children to take turns holding Moses figure and leading the group.)* Clippity-clop, clippety-clop – sheep, goats, cows,

and donkeys walked with Moses. It took a long, long time to get to their new home.

Then one day they finally arrived. The people found new homes, planted their gardens, and cared for their animals. And every year they would bring baskets of fruits and vegetables to a special place to say thank you to God. *(Invite children to gather the vegetables and place them in the basket.)*

When they did this, they would remember the story of how God helped Moses bring them to their new home. Afterwards there would be a big party. Everyone would be invited. It was a wonderful way to say thank you to God.

**Optional activity after the story**

**Activity** Invite participation in the game, helping children to name concrete, tangible items for which to give thanks.

**Respond**

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

**Thank you spinner:** Help children glue their chosen images onto the “spinner” before decorating these.

**Garland:** Prepare garlands ahead of time, with images from resource sheet, for children to decorate.



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- Emotionally they still need familiar and trusted adults nearby for security.
- They are beginning to understand what “promise” means.

**Journey Toward Trust**  
**Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18**

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

**God’s Promise to Abram and Sarai**

(based on **Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18**)

*(Place an adhesive star on the back of each child’s hand and invite them to hold this hand up each time they hear the word “promise.”)*

A long, long, long time ago there lived a man named Abram who was married to Sarai. They had no children, which made them feel very sad. One day God made them a **promise**. God said that they would have a baby.

Abram and Sarai believed God’s **promise**. But sometimes it was hard because they had to wait for a long time.

Then one night Abram heard God speak to him again. God said, “Abram, I haven’t forgotten my **promise**. Look at the sky.” Abram looked up and saw many, many

sparkling stars twinkling in the sky.

God said, “Abram, can you count all those stars?”

“No!” said Abram. “There are way too many stars to count!”

God said, “I **promise** that you and Sarai will have so many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that you won’t be able to count them all either.”

So Abram and Sarai waited a bit more. They were glad to hear that God had not forgotten the **promise**.

One special day God’s **promise** came true and Abram and Sarai had a baby. They named him Isaac. And they knew that God would always love and care for all the babies and children and parents and adults in the world.

**Optional activity after the story**

**Singing game** Teach the song, and begin by standing in the middle of the circle and demonstrating the action, before inviting children to take turns.

**Respond**

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

**Star tubes:** Prepare tubes ahead of time, leaving for the children only the decorating of the construction paper; help them to tape these around the tubes.

**Messages:** Prepare folded squares and glue in picture for children to decorate.



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- They can express joy easily when happy.
- They are learning to recognize the cause of feelings.

**Fed by the Glory  
Psalm 63:1–8**

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

**Sing for Joy**

(based on Psalm 63:1–8)

*(Demonstrate waving the streamers each time you say “Sing for joy” and encourage children to wave their streamers too.)*

God you are so amazing!  
Your love makes me so happy.  
**Sing for joy!**

I can feel your love at nighttime.  
I can feel your love in the day.  
Your love makes me so happy.  
**Sing for joy!**

You never stop loving me.  
Your love makes me so happy.  
**Sing for joy!**

Many years ago there lived someone who loved God very much.

This person would make up songs about God’s love, like this one:

**Optional activity after the story**

Lead the children in the action rhyme on p. 19.

**Respond**

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

**Shakers:** Prepare shakers ahead of time; provide stickers for children to use as decorations.

**Puppets:** Prepare paper plate puppets ahead of time; help children draw happy faces and decorate.



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- They understand the concept of immediate family.
- They are beginning to understand the concepts of sadness and making mistakes.

**A Traitor for Grace  
Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32**

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

**Welcome Home!**

(based on Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32)

*(Place finger puppets on your fingers and move the finger with each character forward as you say their words.)*

One day Jesus told a story...

There was a father who had two sons. The two sons helped their father on the farm.

But one day the younger son said, "I don't like it here! I want to go away."

The father felt very sad. He didn't want his son to go away, but he gave him some money and said goodbye.

The son began to walk. Over the hills he went. Around the mountains he went. Through the rivers he

went. He saw so many new things. He met lots and lots of new people. But soon the son had spent all the money. He had nowhere to sleep. He had no food to eat. The only job he could find was looking after some pigs. He wanted to go home.

So he walked and walked and finally he saw his father's house. And... there was father running to meet him!

The son said, "I'm so sorry I went away."

The father gave the son a big hug. "Welcome home! I am so glad to see you."

The father was so happy to see his son again that he had a big party.

**Optional activity after the story**

Sing the song "God's Love Is for Everyone" on p. 24.

**Respond**

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

**Finger puppets:** Make copies of the story above, so parents can help children recall the story.

**Love baskets:** Staple the paper hearts together instead of lacing them.



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- They are learning to recognize the causes of feelings.
- They will give simple help, like a hug, to one who is upset.

**The Fragrance of Life  
John 12:1-8**

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

**Mary's Surprise**

(based on John 12:1-8)

*(Use toy figures and a small jar of scented oil to tell the story.)*

a special surprise. *(Place another figure and a small jar of oil beside the group of figures.)*

One day Jesus and his friends went to a dinner party. It was in the home of Jesus' friends, Lazarus, Martha, and Mary. Lazarus and the other guests sat beside Jesus. They are talking with each other. Martha served some delicious food that she had cooked. *(Arrange five or six toy figures together.)*

The surprise is in a jar. Mary walks into the room where Jesus is sitting. She kneels down and pours out all of the oil on Jesus' feet. Then she dries his feet with her long hair.

But where is Mary? She is not sitting at the table. She didn't help Martha bring in the food. She was planning

Everyone at the table stops talking and looks. They can smell the wonderful oil.

Judas, one of Jesus' friends, was angry. "What a waste," he said. "We could have sold that oil and used the money to help people."

But Jesus said, "It's OK, Judas. This is Mary's special gift of love to me."

**Optional activity after the story**

Sing the song "I Love Jesus" on p. 30, and play the game.

**Respond**

Use this idea to adapt the Respond activity on page 30.

- ☐ **Clay pot:** Roll the clay into a ball for each child.

NOTE: There are no supplemental materials for April 14 and April 21 as these sessions are designed for all ages.



**Tips for three-year-olds**

- Their language skills are improving and they enjoy sharing news with others.
- They can initiate conversations and relate personal experiences.

**Loves Disruptive Witness Acts 5:27-32**

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

**Telling Jesus' Story**

(based on Acts 5:27-32)

*(Give each child a set of story pictures from resource sheet "Jesus' Story." As you tell the story help them find each numbered picture.)*

*(Picture #3) But there were some people in Jerusalem who didn't like what Jesus was teaching. They sent soldiers to arrest and kill Jesus. It was the saddest day ever.*

Peter and friends had good news to share! They wanted everyone to know. This is the story they told about Jesus.

*(Picture #4) After Jesus had died, his friends buried his body in a cave, and rolled a huge stone in front of the opening.*

*(Picture #1) When Jesus told stories about God's love everyone wanted to listen.*

*(Picture #5) Early Sunday morning some of Jesus' friends went to the cave tomb. The stone had been rolled away!*

*(Picture #2) One day Jesus rode a donkey into the city of Jerusalem. People cheered and spread their coats on the road in front of Jesus. What a happy day it was!*

*(Picture #6) Something amazing had happened. Jesus was alive in a new way! Jesus' friends were so happy!*

**Optional activity after the story**

**Sing** the song "Good News" on p. 52, inviting children to wave their hands when you say "Alleluia."

**Respond**

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 52.

- Painting:** Cover the work space with plastic sheeting and have children wear painting smocks.
- Easter flowers:** Review how seeds grow before doing the activity.

- Good news booklets:** Distribute copies of the story above so families can help children remember the story.



### Tips for three-year-olds

- They enjoy dramatic stories.
- They can imagine scenes in their minds.

#### Turning Point of Transformation

Acts 9:1–6, (7–20)

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

### Saul Learns about Jesus

(based on Acts 9:1–6)

*(Give each child a two-sided puppet and cue them when to hold up the angry face side and when to hold up the*

*happy face side.)*

Long, long ago there lived a man named Saul. Saul did not love Jesus. Saul felt **angry** when he heard people talking about Jesus. One day, when Saul and his friends were travelling to another city, something amazing happened. There was a bright, dazzling light and suddenly Saul couldn't see anything!

But Saul did hear a voice. The voice said, "Saul, why

don't you love me?"

Saul began to shake. "Who are you?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus," answered the voice. "Go to the city, Saul, and I will tell you what to do."

So Saul's friends took his hand and led him to the city. There someone named Ananias came to help Saul. Ananias put his hands on Saul's eyes and prayed for him. Suddenly Saul could see again! Saul was very **happy**.

Ananias and Saul talked about Jesus for a long, long time. Saul wasn't **angry** anymore. Now he felt very **happy**. Saul's life changed. He even decided to change his name to Paul. He went to many places and told people about Jesus and God's love. Paul was very, very **happy**.

#### Optional activity after the story

Have them stomp their feet as if they were angry, as Saul was at the beginning of the story. Then have them move their feet in a happy dance, like Saul might have when he became one of Jesus' friends.

#### Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 58.

- Transformation:** Talk about how caterpillars change into butterflies; make a sample ahead of time.

- Stand-up puppet:** Instead of re-telling the story, talk about ways children can be a friend of Jesus.
- Cup puppet:** Prepare figures and cups ahead of time and make a sample.



### Tips for three-year-olds

- They are love being able to help others.
- They are beginning to understand the concept of sharing.

#### Identity of Resistance

##### Acts 9:36–43

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

## The Story of Tabitha

(based on Acts 9:36–43)

*(Use two toy figures to represent Peter and Tabitha.)*

This is Tabitha. *(Place one figure in front of the children.)* Tabitha loved Jesus. And Tabitha was kind and helpful to everyone. She made clothes for people who needed them. She helped people who were lonely. Everyone loved Tabitha.

When other people saw the way Tabitha showed God's love, they decided to help people too.

One day Tabitha became very, very sick. *(Lay the*

*figure down.)* Everyone cried and cried. Someone went to find Peter, one of Jesus' friends, to see if he could help Tabitha.

Peter hurried to Tabitha's home. *(Place another figure next to the first.)* All of Tabitha's friends were there. They were so sad. They told Peter stories of all the ways Tabitha had helped everyone.

Peter prayed to God. Then Peter moved close to Tabitha and whispered, "Tabitha, get up." And very slowly, Tabitha sat up! *(Stand the figure up.)* Tabitha was well again. Everyone was so happy!

### Optional activity after the story

Help the children play the chanting game on p. 64.

### Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 64.

**Story strip:** Prepare a sample and demonstrate before doing the activity with the children.

**Bouquet:** Prepare several flowers for each child by attaching flower shapes to craft sticks.

**Sewing card:** Draw around each child's hand; help each one to "sew."



### Tips for three-year-olds

- Their worlds are usually fairly small, encompassing immediate family and friends.
- They are beginning to identify and describe things as being the same or different.

### Spirit of Solidarity Acts 11:1–18

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

### Peter's Dream

(based on Acts 11:1–18)

*(Each time you say the words "God's love," invite children to jump into a heart shape in the middle of the group.)*

were all kinds of animals and birds. Big ones and tiny ones; spotted ones and striped ones; creatures that flew and creatures that crawled. The animals and birds were so wonderful and so different. Peter was still learning about **God's love**.

Peter loved Jesus. (Show figure of Peter.) Peter learned many things from Jesus.

When Jesus taught the crowds of people, Peter was learning about **God's love**.

When Jesus healed the sick people, Peter was learning about **God's love**.

When Jesus welcomed the little children, Peter was learning about **God's love**.

One day Peter had a dream. In the dream he saw a great big cloth coming down from the sky. In the cloth

While Peter was wondering about this dream, there was a knock on the door. It was a message from someone called Cornelius. Cornelius was different from Peter. Peter wasn't sure if he wanted to go to Cornelius' house. Then Peter remembered his dream.

"God made me and God made Cornelius," Peter said. "God loves everyone the same."

So Peter went to Cornelius' house and told him all about Jesus. Cornelius and his family became followers of Jesus. Now Cornelius was learning about **God's love**.

### Optional activity after the story

Sing the song, "We're All in God's Family" (p. 94).

### Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 70.

- Heart picture:** Help children choose pictures and glue them on.
- Tambourines:** Prepare the tambourines, leaving the pictures to be coloured and glued on.

- Response centre:** Give children some ideas of what to make.



### Tips for three-year-olds

- They enjoy showing visitors around their home.
- They are beginning to enjoy inviting friends over to play.

### The Power of Listening Acts 16:9–15

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

## Lydia Learns about Jesus

(based on Acts 16:9–15)

*(Arrange a piece of blue fabric as a "river.")*

One day some people gathered beside a river. *(Gather with the children beside the fabric "river.")* The people came to visit each other. They sang songs and said prayers together. Sometimes they shared some food.

One of the women was called Lydia. Lydia sold beautiful purple cloth. Lydia and her friends were praying one day. A man named Paul walked by. Paul stopped and said hello to Lydia and her friends. Then Paul began to tell Lydia and the others about Jesus.

"Jesus loves you very much," said Paul. "Jesus wants to be your friend."

Lydia felt very happy to hear Paul's words. She wanted to be Jesus' friend too. "Please come to my house," said Lydia. "Please come and eat some food and rest for a while."

So Paul and his friends went to stay with Lydia. Paul told many more stories about Jesus. And Lydia became a friend of Jesus too. Other people came to Lydia's house to hear about Jesus. Soon Lydia's house became the place where everyone came each Sunday to sing songs, pray, and tell stories about Jesus.

### Optional activity after the story

Sing the song, "This Is the Way We Welcome" on page 76.

### Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 76.

- Story bag:** Prepare a set of figures for each child by drawing facial features onto several clothes pegs/pins; cut fabric pieces ahead of time.
- Door hanger:** Prepare door hangers for children to decorate.



### Tips for three-year-olds

- They are learning to manage their emotions when they encounter times of stress.
- They are beginning to recognize and appreciate prayer rituals, such as grace before meals or bedtime prayers.

#### Haunting Claim of Freedom Acts 16:16–34

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

## The Story of Paul and Silas

(based on Acts 16:16–34)

*(Use your voice to highlight the different emotions in the story.)*

Paul and Silas were good friends. *(Show story figures of Paul and Silas.)* They travelled to cities and towns together. They told everyone about Jesus.

But some people did not want to listen to Paul and Silas. “Go away!” they shouted.

One day, even though Paul and Silas had done nothing wrong, some guards put them in jail. *(Place the figure of Paul and Silas inside the box.)*

The jail was very dark. Paul and Silas were scared but they knew God was with them. Paul and Silas prayed and sang all through the day and all through the night. One of the songs they sang was...

*(sing “Jesus Loves Me”).*

One night there was a rumbling sound. *(Rumble, rumble, rumble.)* The ground began to shake, harder and harder! It was an earthquake! *(Shake the box.)* Suddenly the locked chains of all the prisoners fell off, and the jail doors flew open.

The jailer thought all the prisoners would run away. He was afraid he would be in big trouble!

But Paul called out to the jailer, “Don’t worry! We are still here!”

“Thank you!” said the jailer. “Now I won’t get into trouble.” The jailer took Paul and Silas home to meet his family. He washed their cuts and bruises and gave them dinner. And Paul and Silas told the jailer and his family stories about Jesus. Everyone prayed together. Everyone sang together. And the whole family became friends of Jesus, too.

### Optional activity after the story

Sing the song, “Tell Good News” on page 82.

### Respond

Use these ideas to adapt the Respond activities on page 82.

- Prayer rocks:** Help children print their names on the cards and tie onto the rocks.
- Story picture:** Show children how to draw stick figures to represent Paul and Silas, and the jailer and his family.

- Song book:** Prepare books ahead of time and invite children to decorate.

NOTE: There is no supplemental material for June 9 as this session is designed for all ages.