

Table of Contents

Introduction 5

Part 1: A Look at Myself

What Can I Do? 8

Honor God by doing what he asks.

Green With Envy13

Give thanks for what we have and for what others have.

Frightening Fears18

See that God is bigger than fears. God takes care of us.

What Makes Me Special? 23

Celebrate our uniqueness.

Part 2: A Look at My Relationships

Friends Forever 30

Be a friend by showing God's love.

Being Kind 35

Understand the importance of kindness and practice it.

Learning to Share41

Learn to share our gifts.

Lend a Helping Hand. 46

Reach out to people who are hurting.

Part 3: A Look at My Faith

Who Is God?	52
Learn about God's love, care, and gifts.	
Who Is Jesus?	58
Discover Jesus is with us wherever we go.	
Talking to God	63
Know God hears and answers prayers.	
God's Gift—Forgiveness	70
Know Jesus forgives us and wants us to forgive others.	
Heaven: Home, Sweet Home	75
Talk about our home where we'll live forever with God.	

Introduction

Welcome to a resource filled with exciting, active Bible lessons for preschool children ages 3 to 5. These fun sessions will hold your kids' attention and teach self-esteem-building, friendship-boosting, faith-developing topics.

Eye-Popping Bible Lessons for Preschool offers 13 simple-to-follow lessons that combine lively learning, colorful art projects, and scrumptious snacks.

This book is divided into these three parts:

- **Part 1: A Look at Myself**—Preschoolers are growing and facing new experiences daily. This section covers topics that help young children with fear, responsibility, envy, and self-esteem.
- **Part 2: A Look at My Relationships**—This section helps preschoolers look past themselves to others. Topics include kindness, helping those who are hurting, sharing, and friendship.
- **Part 3: A Look at My Faith**—Preschool children are interested in God, the church, and their developing faith. Faith-building topics include heaven, prayer, God's love, forgiveness, and more about God and his Son, Jesus.

The Bible Lessons

The lessons in *Eye-Popping Bible Lessons for Preschool* contain fast-paced activities for young children with short attention spans. The lessons include the following elements:

- **Introduction**—One or two paragraphs that introduce the lesson's topic.
- **A Powerful Purpose**—A short statement of the lesson's objective. The purpose tells you what your children will learn.
- **A Look at the Lesson**—An outline including activity titles.

• **A Sprinkling of Supplies**—A list of all items you'll need for the lesson. You'll probably want to keep a few general supplies in your room: crayons, paper, paints, newspapers, old shirts for paint aprons, pencils, and tape.

• **The Lesson**—Quick, active, reflective, Scripture-based activities. Lessons start with an opening experience to set the mood for the lesson. Kids experience the topics through active learning, using their senses of hearing, seeing, smelling, tasting, and feeling.

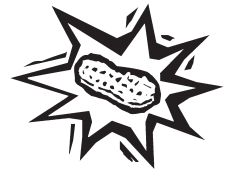
Lessons include participation in Bible passages, action-packed memory verses, action songs to familiar tunes, art projects, games, snacks, and more!

• **Handouts**—All lessons come with handouts. They're easy to use and you have permission to copy them for local church use.

Enjoy *Eye-Popping Bible Lessons for Preschool*. Watch kids develop self-esteem, meet new friends, and grow in their faith. Have fun teaching Bible topics in an active, engaging, and meaningful way!

Allergy Alert!

All the lessons in this book involve food. Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to carefully read food labels, as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.



Choking Hazards!

Be aware that small objects can be choking hazards for younger children. Supervise children as they work with small objects such as raisins, dry cereal and beans, and wiggly eyes.

PART 1:

A Look at Myself

What Can I Do?

A Powerful Purpose

Preschool children will understand why it's important to do our part for God.

A Sprinkling of SUPPLIES

- Bible
- bedsheet
- ribbon
- several colors of yarn
- crayons
- glue
- hole punch
- copies of the handout (p. 12)
- paper plates
- marker
- crayons
- scissors
- poster board
- brads
- resealable sandwich bags
- raisins
- M&M's candies
- pretzels
- large bowl
- napkins
- juice
- cups
- metal spoons
- pan lids

A Look at the Lesson

1. Our Band
2. Do Your Part
3. Partner Pals
4. Being Faithful
5. A Simple Song
6. Time to Do Right
7. Team Tug
8. Helping Each Other
9. Take a Bow
10. Our Part
11. Responsible Snacks

Even small children like to feel *as if they have jobs all their own, or as if they're in charge. Take advantage of children's desire to be in charge, and introduce them—in an enjoyable way—to doing good things. Help them see how they can honor God by doing what pleases him!*

The Lesson

1. Our Band

(You'll need two metal spoons each for half of the children and two pan lids each for the other half.)

Greet children as they enter. Give each child either two spoons or two pan lids.

Once everyone has an "instrument," organize your band. All spoons sit together; all lids sit together. Point to the spoons and let them play their best! Motion them to stop, and then point to the lids and have them play their best. Motion them to stop.

Tell band members you also want them to sing. Have them put their instruments down on the floor, and then practice singing "Hallelu, Hallelu." Assign one half the "Hallelu" part and the other half the "Praise ye the Lord"

part. If you don't know this song, teach kids another praise chorus you know.

After kids know the song, add instruments and make a joyful noise to the Lord. Let children sing the song and play their instruments several times. Young children learn best by repetition—plus, they love to make music! Remind children that they're praising God as they sing and play the instruments.

2. Do Your Part

Gather the instruments, and have kids sit in a circle. Say: **Everyone who sang the "Hallelu" part in the song, raise your hand.** (Pause.) **Now everyone who sang the "Praise ye the Lord" part, raise your hand.** (Pause.) **What would have happened if we reached the "Praise ye the Lord" part and no one sang? Would the song be as much fun? Let's try it and see.**

Sing the song one time through without the "Praise ye the Lord" part. Say: **That wasn't as much fun as before, was it? It was kind of confusing, too. We weren't sure when we were supposed to sing. We needed everyone to do his or her part, to be responsible. Doing what we say we'll do is important. It's like keeping a promise. What happens when you don't keep a promise?**

Listen to answers such as "People get angry; we hurt people."

Say: **God always keeps his promises to us. And he always does what he says he'll do. God wants us to follow through and do what we say we'll do. So if you say that you're going to pick up your toys at home, then it's important to do it!** Ask kids to think of other tasks they need to follow through on doing.

3. Partner Pals

Form pairs by having everyone grab the hand of someone sitting close by. Have one child in each pair close his or her eyes. Have the other child lead his or her partner around the room, making sure the child doesn't run into anything or any other person. Stress that their job is to take care of their partners.

After about a minute, have partners switch roles. Allow about another minute for them to walk around the room together.



TEACHER TIP

If some children don't want to close their eyes, let their partners lead them in walking around the room backward instead.

4. Being Faithful

(You'll need a Bible.)

Say: **Good job taking care of your partners! You did your jobs well.** Gather in a circle again.

Ask:

- **What could have happened if you hadn't led your partner carefully?**
- **Why is it important to be responsible, to do what you're supposed to?**

Say: **You did great! Your partners didn't run into anything; they were safe. You cared for your partners. You did your part. That's what God wants us to do.**

Open your Bible to Proverbs 21:3a, and show children the verse. Read this adaptation of the verse: **"Do what is right and fair!"**

Say: **God is happy when we do what's right.**

Form three groups. Have one group say "Do what." Have another group say "is right." Have the third group say "and fair." Repeat until children memorize the verse. Direct the

kids, having them say it softly and then gradually get louder.

5. A Simple Song

Teach children this song to help them remember the Scripture verse. Sing the song to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell."

Do what's right and fair. (*Point up with right hand.*)

Do what's right and fair. (*Point up with left hand.*)

God is happy when we all (*turn in a circle*)

Do what's right and fair. (*Wave hands in the air.*)

God helps us do what's right. (*Point up with right hand.*)

God helps us do what's fair. (*Point up with left hand.*)

God is happy when we all (*turn in a circle*)

Do what's right and fair. (*Wave hands in the air.*)

Repeat several times until children can sing the song and do the motions themselves.

6. Time to Do Right

(You'll need paper plates, a marker, crayons, scissors, poster board, and brads. Before class, make a clock face for each child by writing the numbers 1 through 12 around the perimeter of a paper plate. Also, cut two simple poster board arrows per child to serve as the clock hands.)

Distribute the plates, and let kids color them. As kids color, go around the room and use a brad to attach the poster board arrows to the center of each plate.

After children finish coloring, gather everyone in a circle on the floor. Have them bring their "clocks." Teach children this simple rhyme:

**God wants us to do right,
Every day and night.**

Have children repeat the rhyme with you several times. Then show kids how to move the arrows on their clocks to point to different numbers. Say: **No matter what time it is, it's always the right time to do right! Let's think of ways to do what's right.**

Let each child spin his or her arrows. Tell the child what time of day the arrows indicate. Then ask everyone to think of a way to do right at that time of day or night. For example, you might say: **Your clock says it's 6 o'clock. That's the time a lot of people eat dinner. How can you do what's right at dinnertime?** Children might answer that they can help set the table, say grace, or eat their vegetables.

Make sure each child gets at least one turn to set the time, and encourage everyone to offer answers. Play several rounds as time allows. Let kids take their clocks home to remind them to do what's right all the time!

7. Team Tug

(You'll need a bedsheet.)

If the weather is nice, play this game outside on a grassy area. If not, play on soft carpet. Inside, ask kids to remove their shoes and play in their socks.

Form two teams. Twist the sheet so it's in the shape of a rope, and play Tug of War. Play at least two or three rounds.

8. Helping Each Other

Ask:

- **What was it like pulling on the sheet?**
- **Why was it hard pulling on the sheet?**

Say: **Just like it was hard to pull against another team, it's also hard to do what's right sometimes. Suppose your mom tells**

you to clean your room, but you want to play. Or, what if you're supposed to help set the table for dinner, but you want to watch TV? It's not always easy to do what we're supposed to do. How can we help each other do what's right?

Listen to answers such as "Pray for each other; help each other; share; don't ask someone to play if you know he's supposed to be helping his mom." Go around the circle and, one at a time, call each child by name to say, "Do what's right."

9. Take a Bow

Say: **I'm so glad that we can help each other do what's right. Let's play a game to celebrate!**

Have children take note of the colors they're wearing.

Say: **When I name a color, anyone wearing that color can take a bow while the rest of us clap our hands and applaud. For example, if I say, "Red!" and Tiffany and Josh are wearing red, they can bow while the rest of us clap for them.**

When everyone understands the rules of the game, call out a color. Keep calling out colors until everyone has had a chance to bow and be applauded. For extra fun, play again by calling out combinations of colors.

Say: **That was fun. Thanks for celebrating that we can help each other do what's right!**

10. Our Part

(You'll need crayons, ribbon, different colors of yarn, glue, and copies of the "Our Part" handout on page 12. Cut out the face on the handout and use a hole punch to punch a hole on the top.)

Give one handout and crayons to each child. Read the words on it: **"Do what is right and fair."** Let children draw their own faces in

the circle and then glue yarn on for hair. Help kids thread ribbon through the hole so they can hang the crafts at home as reminders that even though they're little, they can do what's right.

11. Responsible Snacks

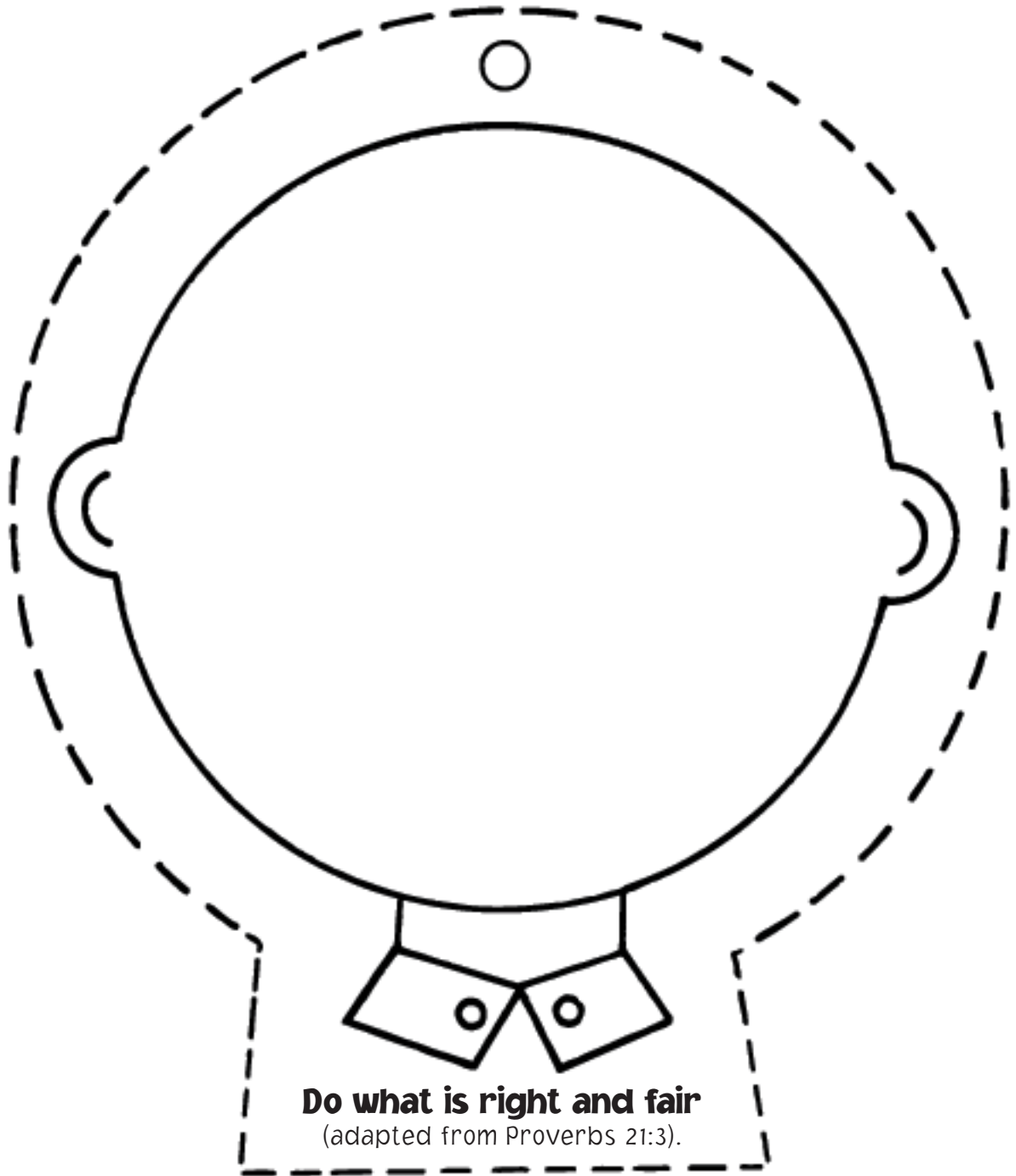
(You'll need a separate plastic sandwich bag filled with one of these items for each of your kids: M&M's candies, raisins, pretzels. You'll also need a large bowl, napkins, juice, a spoon, and cups.)

Give each person a plastic bag filled with an item to make trail mix. Say: **Each of you has a part of our snack. It's your job to put your part in this big bowl.**

Ask each person to put his or her ingredient in the bowl. Say: **If someone didn't do his or her job to add to the snack, would it be as good? We each need to do our job.**

Mix the goodies and serve the trail mix on napkins. Give everyone juice to drink. Close the lesson by praying: **God, help us to do our part. Help us do what's right. Remind us to help our friends do their part, too. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Our Part



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Green With Envy

A Powerful Purpose

Preschool children will learn to be happy with the things they have, not envious of other people's things.

A Sprinkling of SUPPLIES

- Bible
- brownies
- small crackers
- paper
- marker
- pictures of Joseph and his special coat
- crayons
- prepared red gelatin
- small paper plates
- napkins
- table knife
- corn syrup
- food coloring
- measuring cup
- tape
- resealable sandwich bags
- copies of the hand-out (p. 17)

A Look at the Lesson

1. Look at My Snack
2. See How I Feel
3. Envious Faces
4. Family Photos
5. Good for You
6. Song of Thanks
7. Smiling Syrup
8. My Blessings
9. Spy Good Things
10. Love Is Not Envious
11. A Taste of Envy

Envy is a common feeling for all people, all ages. Many adults closely watch for the newest and neatest gadgets and technology, as well as the new items their neighbors buy. Little children play with their toys but want their friends' toys.

Use this lesson to help young children deal with envy. Teach preschoolers to give thanks for what they have.

The Lesson

1. Look at My Snack

(You'll need brownies and small crackers.)

When kids arrive, gather them in a circle and pass out snacks. Half of the class receives a brownie; the other half receives a cracker. Say "A brownie for you, a cracker for you" as you pass them out.

You'll likely hear protests from the cracker receivers, but just bear with them.

2. See How I Feel

(You'll need brownies and small crackers. Use a marker to draw a huge smile on a piece of paper. Draw a huge frown on another piece of paper.)

Hold up the smile paper and ask:

• **How many of you felt like this when I gave you a snack? Why?** Let kids respond with “I love brownies” or “They taste great.”

Hold up the frown paper and ask:

• **How many of you felt like this? Why?** Let them respond with “I like brownies better than crackers” or “The brownie was bigger. I was hungry.”

Give crackers to the children who already received brownies and brownies to the children who already received crackers. Say: **Remember, all good things come from God.**

Tell children that there’s a word to describe our feelings when we want something someone else has. It’s called *envy*. We feel envy when we want others’ things instead of thinking of our own good gifts.

3. Envious Faces

Let everyone practice smiling and frowning. Then say: **I’m going to read some situations. If one makes you happy, show me a big smile. If one makes you feel sad, angry, or full of envy, show me a big frown.**

Read these situations:

- **Your sister just got a brand-new tricycle, and you didn’t get anything.**
- **A friend is eating a juicy red apple; he gives you one, too.**
- **Your baby brother is surrounded by aunts and uncles who are oohing and aahing over him. Nobody notices you.**
- **A next-door neighbor is playing with a brand-new red truck in his brand-new sandbox. He doesn’t ask you to play.**
- **You’re holding your favorite book. You offer to show it to your friend.**
- **Your teacher tells you you’re going to hear a good Bible passage.**

4. Family Photos

(You’ll need pictures from the story about Joseph and his special coat. Use pictures from Sunday school resources or pictures from a children’s Bible or storybook. You’ll also need a Bible.)

Before you start the story, give kids a stretcher break with the following chant. Have kids follow you in doing the actions.

Smile *(stand and smile),*

Frown *(bend your knees and frown),*

Smile *(stand and smile),*

Frown *(bend your knees and frown),*

Now it’s time to sit back down. *(Sit down with the pictures.)*

Tell the story of Joseph, his special coat, and his envious brothers by reading Genesis 37:3-4, 14, 18-28. Let the children use the pictures to help you tell the story. If time permits, tell the story again and let different children move the pictures.

5. Good for You

Say: **Those brothers felt a lot of envy because Joseph’s dad liked him best. Joseph got a bright-colored coat, and his brothers didn’t. Sometimes we feel envy just like Joseph’s brothers when we don’t get what we want.**

Give kids a chance to say things that make them envious. For example, when friends get new toys and they don’t. Then tell them they’re going to change envy into a good feeling. Tell kids you’ll stand up, say some sort of good news, and then sit down. After each bit of good news, kids are to stand up, say “I’m happy for you,” and sit back down. Say:

• **Look! My dad just gave me a brand-new toy.**

• **My grandma is coming to take me to the zoo!**

• **My mom lets me stay up late on Friday nights.**

Add some of the situations that kids previously said made them envious. After each item you say, encourage kids to say "I'm happy for you!"

Say: **Sometimes it isn't easy to be happy for others when they get something we'd like, but that's just what God wants us to do.**

6. Song of Thanks

Say: **Let's sing a song to remind us to be happy with what God has given us. Let's thank God as we sing!** Sing the following song to the tune of "London Bridge." Have children sit in a circle and clap along to the song. Have kids stand up and shout the last line of each verse: "Thank you, God!"

**We give thanks for what we have,
What we have, what we have.
We give thanks for what we have.
Thank you, God!**

**Every good thing comes from God,
Comes from God, comes from God.
Every good thing comes from God.
Thank you, God!**

Repeat the song several times to help children learn the words.

7. Smiling Syrup

(You'll need corn syrup, measuring cup, food coloring, tape, and a resealable plastic bag for each child.)

Distribute the resealable plastic bags. Pour about 1/3 cup of corn syrup into each bag. Let each child pick a color of food coloring.

Then drop a couple of drops of the chosen color into the corn syrup. Seal the bags, and then tape the seals closed. Encourage children to squish their bags until the food coloring and the corn syrup are thoroughly mixed.

Say: **God wants us to be thankful for what we have instead of sad for what we don't have.**

Encourage children to use their fingers to make a frown by tracing lightly on the outside of the bag. Review the Bible passage with children. Ask them how Joseph's brothers felt when Joseph was given his colorful coat. Then remind kids that we can be happy when good things happen to other people. Remind children that God gives us all good things. Have children replace the frown with a smiley face in the syrup as they share something God has given them that makes them happy. Let children take their bags home and share the Bible passage with their families.

8. My Blessings

(For each child, you'll need crayons and a copy of the "My Blessings" handout on page 17.)

Distribute the handouts to the children. Tell them each to draw a picture of a blessing—a favorite toy, pet, or somewhere nice they've been on vacation. When they finish, let them share their pictures with the others.

After each child shares, have everyone else stand up and say "I'm happy for you."

Emphasize that God blesses all of us with gifts. None of us need to envy others.

9. Spy Good Things

Play a game of I Spy with children to help them recognize good things God has given them. You might say, "I spy someone with a pretty red ribbon in her hair." Encourage children to call out the name of the child with the ribbon in her hair, and then as a group say: **"Let's be thankful for what we have!"** Continue playing until you've spied at least one good thing for each child.

10. Love Is Not Envious

Have kids learn this memory verse adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4: **Love is kind and does not envy.** Have kids repeat the verse with you using the motions. Work with them until they can say it by themselves with you just leading the motions.

Love is kind (*draw a smile on your face with both pointer fingers*)

And does not envy. (*Make a frown on your face.*)

11. A Taste of Envy

(You'll need a shallow pan of red gelatin, table knife, small paper plates, and napkins. Prepare the gelatin according to the "Jigglers" recipe on the package.)

Help children each cut a large crescent shape out of the gelatin to place on a paper plate. Have them each hold their crescent shape like a frown as you say: **God doesn't want us to be envious. It makes God sad when we envy others.**

Then have kids each hold their crescent shape like a smile. Say: **God wants us to be happy when others are happy. It makes God happy when we don't envy others. Let's gobble up any envy we may have.**

Encourage kids to gobble up their jiggly smiles.

Serve kids any leftovers.

Close with a prayer: **Thank you, God, for all our blessings. Take envy away, and make us happy for others. In Jesus' name, amen.**