Delivered
God’s Gifts of Grace

Level A
Teacher Guide
Welcome and Wonder 4

Zapato the Puppet 12

Lesson 1 Jesus Welcomes the Children 13
Lesson 2 Jesus Gives the Great Commission 21
Lesson 3 Peter Preaches on Pentecost 31
Lesson 4 Paul Baptizes the Philippian Jailer 41
Lesson 5 Ananias Baptizes Saul 51
Lesson 6 John Tells People to Repent 61
Lesson 7 Jesus Forgives a Woman 71
Lesson 8 Jesus Appears to the Disciples 79
Lesson 9 Jesus Teaches about Forgiveness 87
Lesson 10 Jesus Gives the Lord’s Supper 95
Lesson 11 The Emmaus Disciples See Jesus 103
Lesson 12 Jesus’ Touch Heals 113
Lesson 13 Jesus Teaches about an Unforgiving Servant 121
Lesson 14 Timothy Lives as God’s Child 131

Teacher Resource Pages 141
Welcome and Wonder

Does Baptism need a special kind of holy water to work? Why do babies need to be baptized? They don’t sin, do they? Speaking of sin, do I have to confess every sin to be forgiven? What if I can’t remember them all? Will God still forgive me? What does the Lord’s Supper really do for me? In Delivered: God’s Gifts of Grace, students will find the answers to these questions and more in a national-parks-themed environment as they learn about the gifts God gives us in Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, Confession and Absolution, and the Office of the Keys.

Delivered: God’s Gifts of Grace offers two levels. Level A (this guide) is for children who are nonreaders and young readers—generally preschool through those who have finished grade 1. Level B is designed for students who are independent readers; in most cases, this means students who have finished grades 2–6.

Features of the Teacher Guide

- Easy-to-use, four-step, weekly lesson plans
- Suggestions for snacks and worship
- Reproducible student activity pages for each lesson
- Age-appropriate ways to teach the Bible story and apply it to young lives
- A Bible study for the teacher titled “Preparing the Lesson”
- “Live Loved!” ideas for extending the lesson truths
- Perforated pages to make team teaching or small-group/large-group teaching easier

What You Will Need

- This Teacher Guide
- Items listed on the Materials list in each lesson
- Bibles, catechisms, hymnals, children’s songbooks, an offering basket, and a Director CD or CD of Sunday School songs (optional)
- Scissors, tape, glue, paper, crayons or markers, hole punch, stapler, construction paper, play dough, and other standard classroom supplies
- A story bag or story box
- Zapato the puppet (pattern on page 12) or another puppet (find a selection to purchase online at cph.org)
- Little Ones Sing Praise songbook (CPH)
- Wiggle & Wonder: Bible Story Rhymes and Finger Plays (CPH; optional)
- Sing & Wonder: Song and Activity Book and CD (CPH; optional)
- Color & Wonder: New Testament (CPH; optional)
- Happy Times, a magazine for young children (CPH; optional)
- Songs of God’s Love (CPH; optional)

The Four-Step Lesson Plan

Opening

- Welcomes students and helps them transition to the classroom
- Introduces the lesson theme with an activity that sparks prior knowledge to prepare students for the lesson; consider inviting an adult volunteer to prepare and teach this activity each week.
- Provides an opening ritual; suggested large-group openings are on the Director CD
God Speaks
- Uses clues to introduce the Bible story truth and help apply it to young lives
- Teaches the Bible story in an age-appropriate way
- Reviews the Bible story with questions and a student leaflet activity
- Teaches the Bible Words

We Live
- Applies the Law and Gospel in the text to the students’ lives
- Provides an activity and craft option to help children make connections between the Bible story and God’s work in their lives
- Includes a snack option

Closing
- Suggests a closing song and prayer
- Gives suggestions to help students apply what they learned beyond the classroom

Student Leaflets
There are colorful four-page leaflets, available as a separate purchase, to go with each lesson in this curriculum. The leaflets have the Bible story, a Bible story hidden picture, review activities, family faith talk, and a prayer. They make a great take-home piece for family use.

Director CD
This CD, available for purchase, has many additional resources:
- Opening order
- Opening devotions
- Bible Words
- Snack ideas
- Craft ideas
- “Preparing the Lesson” Bible studies
- Decorating ideas
- Reproducible pages
- Clip art
- Bulletin notes
- Hymn and song recordings
- Arch Book list of stories to go with the lessons
- Closing Program script
- Closing Program PowerPoint slides
Preparing the Lesson

Jesus Welcomes the Children
Matthew 19:13–15; Luke 18:15–17—God wants me to be part of His family.

Key Point
We are all needy because of sin, but Jesus welcomes people of all ages and blesses us with His love and forgiveness.

Law/Gospel
Because of my sin, I am helpless and needy and can do nothing to save myself. Jesus works through the Means of Grace to invite me to come to Him, blessing me with His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

Context
For roughly the first thirty years of His earthly life, Jesus lived much like any other human being of His time and culture, except without sin. Born in Bethlehem and raised in Nazareth, Jesus worked as a carpenter, adopting His earthly father’s trade. Now, it was time for our Lord to adopt His heavenly Father’s trade. In today’s Bible account, we encounter Jesus in the region of Perea, northeast of Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

Following His Baptism in the Jordan River, Jesus began His earthly ministry, teaching about the kingdom of heaven, healing, and working other miracles. It’s no wonder Jesus drew large crowds of people wherever He went. He presented the love of God and salvation as a free gift of God’s grace, rather than as a consequence of our best efforts to keep the Law. He taught about loving, forgiving, and showing mercy to one’s neighbor. He spent time with those the rest of society often rejected: tax collectors, lepers, and prostitutes.

In this lesson’s text, Jesus took time from His demanding schedule to welcome and embrace children. Likely with the best intentions, the disciples rebuked the children. Perhaps they believed Jesus was far too important to trifle with little ones. Maybe they believed children were too limited to grasp His divine teachings. Regardless, our Lord makes clear that the little children are welcome. What’s more, He uses a child’s humility and natural trust to explain key elements of the Christian life.

Commentary
Jesus understood two important truths about little children that the disciples may have missed: (1) they are just as precious in God’s sight as a person of any other age, and (2) they need the salvation that God gives in Christ as much as a person of any other age.

Conceived in sin, all people, regardless of age, are unable to love, trust, or please God or come to Him. Without the forgiveness earned by Christ and given through the work of the Holy Spirit, all human beings would spend eternity in hell. We might assume that the disciples who rebuked the children believed them to be too cognitively or spiritually simple to grasp Jesus’ message. They were correct! However, the same was true for the disciples and everyone else present.

Jesus understood not only that the children needed His salvation but also that—because of the work of the Holy Spirit—they could have it through faith. For this reason, He embraced and touched them.

God’s desire to bring salvation to the little children in Perea extends to children, and people of all ages, even today. For this reason, God has given us His Means of Grace: the Word and Sacraments. The Bible teaches that through the Means of Grace, God draws lost and condemned sinners out of sin, death, and hell and brings them forgiveness and everlasting life in heaven. His Word and Sacraments are His divine and effectual means to bring what Christ earned on the cross to all, even the little children!

To hear an in-depth discussion of this Bible account, visit cph.org/podcast and listen to our Seeds of Faith podcast each week.
Lesson 1

Jesus Welcomes the Children

Welcome and Explore

What you do: Decorate your room as a visitor center in a national park. Place a few potted plants beside a bench. In a nearby tub, add some visors, binoculars, sun hats, Internet pictures of the parks, and toy or pretend cameras. For more decorating ideas, check out the Director CD.

Make copies of Resource Page 1. Cut the page to separate the stamps and park booklet pages. Set out glue sticks and crayons or markers. Option: Use a date stamp to add each week's date.

Opening activities connect something the children know to what they will learn in the lesson. This week, use painter's tape to create roads on a tabletop. In the center of the roads, place a paper plate with an outline of a church. Optionally, set out copies of page 48 in Color & Wonder: New Testament.

Say Welcome to Sunday School, where we're going to learn about many of the wonderful gifts God gives us. We'll also have fun talking about special places called national parks. Let's begin our adventure now by working on the first page of a little booklet about the parks. Each week, you will add a page to it.

Hand out page 1. Point to the Statue of Liberty.

Say This shows a statue of a lady holding a torch. It stands on an island in the water in New York Harbor. It is called the Statue of Liberty. Use a tablet or cell phone to show the children a picture of the Statue of Liberty.

Materials Needed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 Opening</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park décor</td>
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<td>Camera, smartphone, or tablet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Page 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date stamp (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toy cars &amp; trucks</td>
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<td>Painter's tape &amp; paper plate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yarn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Color &amp; Wonder: New Testament (optional)</td>
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<td>Director CD (optional)</td>
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<th>2 God Speaks</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zapato the puppet (Puppet Page)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Story bag</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colored circles (red, yellow, green)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flip-flop, craft stick &amp; decorations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pictures of Baptism font &amp; Communionware</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Leaflet 1</td>
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<td>Director CD (optional)</td>
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<td>Wiggle &amp; Wonder (optional)</td>
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<th>3 We Live</th>
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<tr>
<td>Zapato the puppet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activity Page 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift bags</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper plates &amp; decorating supplies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colored beads or pasta noodles &amp; shoelaces (optional)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grapes, sliced fruit &amp; toothpicks</td>
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<th>4 Closing</th>
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<td>Take-home items</td>
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<td>Director CD (optional)</td>
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For many years, the statue of this lady welcomed people who arrived on big ships to the United States of America. Those travelers, called immigrants, came to make a new home in the United States.

Point to and read the sentence on the booklet that tells about the monument. Give children time to glue on the Lesson 1 stamp. Add child’s name on the back and the date to the front. Then point to the Bible story picture.

**Say** This picture shows children and our Savior, Jesus. In our Bible story, we will learn how Jesus welcomes us to be part of His family.

Read the sentence that tells about the Bible story and let the children color the picture. Then collect the pages. You will add a new page each week to make a park booklet. To make the booklet, punch two holes along the side. Thread a piece of yarn through the holes and tie ends in a bow.

Set out your plate with the church sketch, and invite the children to drive cars and trucks on the pretend roads to get to church or to draw themselves next to Jesus on the coloring page.

At cleanup time, sing or say a cleanup song. Have children pretend they are driving a car as they gather, or sing these words to the tune of “Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush.”

**Sing** This is the way we come to Jesus, come to Jesus, come to Jesus. This is the way we come to Jesus; we are friends of Jesus.

### Beginning in God’s Name

**What you do:** Begin with this opening.

**Sing** “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (*LOSP*, p. 94; Director CD 7) or “Father Welcomes” (*LSB* 605). Invite the children to do actions to go with the lyrics.

**Say** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Encourage the children to join you in saying the Invocation. Tell them *amen* is the special word we say to ask Jesus to hear our prayers the way He has promised to do.

**Offering** Have a child bring the offering basket forward. Sing an offering song. Say the following prayer. Have the children echo you at the asterisks.

**Pray** Dear God,* help us use our ears* to listen to Your Word* and learn about the gifts* You want to give us.* Amen.*

**Celebrate** Birthdays, Baptism birthdays, and special occasions

### 2 God Speaks (20 minutes)

**God’s Grace in the Bible**

**What you do:** Make Zapato the puppet using a flip-flop, a craft stick, and other decorations. (See the puppet pattern on page 12.) Place red, green, and yellow circles in a story bag (a pillowcase or gift bag) to use as traffic lights. Also have pictures of a baptismal font and Communionware (e.g., ahead of time, take pictures on your device of the ones in your church).

**Say** Boys and girls, I want you to meet a friend of mine. He’s not real, but he is still fun. If you are quiet, I think you might hear him coming. Hum a
Lesson 1

little song before introducing Zapato.

Teacher: (Calling) Zapato, oh, Zapato! I hear you singing.

Zapato: You do? Well you know me. I love to sing. (He looks at the children.) Whoa! Who are all these fine friends?

Teacher: These children came to hear a true story about Jesus, our Savior. And I’m going to tell them that story using things in this bag. (Show bag.)

Zapato: Really? What’s in there?

Teacher: If you want to find out, Zapato, you’ll have to step aside and listen.

Zapato: I can do that. I’m good at stepping, you know!

After setting Zapato aside, begin the Bible story. Have a place and way to attach the three circles once you take them out of the story bag.

Say Today’s story really happened. It is a true story about Jesus from God’s Word, the Bible. Show the Bible. Boys and girls, I need your help to tell this story. Will you help me? Accept replies. I also need the things in this story bag. Let’s find out what they are. Take out the three circles.

Ask What do you think of when you see these colored circles together?

Attach the three circles to a whiteboard or paper in this order: red, yellow, and green. Yes, a traffic light. What do the colors mean? Accept answers. For fun, let’s use the lights to help us. Point to the green circle.

Say Stand up and let’s “go.” Let’s pretend we’re walking to see Jesus with our parents and friends. That’s what happened long ago to some children and their moms. Walk in place. Let’s hurry. Pick up the pace. We are so excited to see Jesus. Stop walking and have the children sit in a circle around you. Let’s stop and wait.

The Bible says when the mothers and children got close to Jesus, the disciples made them stop. Point to the red circle. They scolded the moms for bringing the children. But Jesus didn’t stop the moms and children. Instead, He had everyone wait. Point to the yellow circle. Then He said, “Let the little children come to Me (point to the green circle) and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14). Isn’t that exciting? Jesus welcomed the children. Then Jesus laid His hands on the children. This is how He blessed them. Walk around and put your hand on each child’s head.

I wonder . . . what part of the story is about you? Help children see that Jesus loves them and invites them to come to Him. In our Bible story, Jesus loved the little children. Jesus loves you too! He’s never too busy for you. He always has time to help you. He always has time to listen. We don’t see Jesus today, though, so I wonder . . . how does Jesus invite us to come to Him? Accept thoughts. He invites us to come to Him when we hear about Him in the Bible. Show Bible. He also invites us to come to Him through two special gifts God gives us called Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

How many of you have seen a baby baptized in church? Show pictures of a baptismal font. When a baby or child or even an adult is baptized, Jesus is saying, “Come to Me.” How many of you go to the altar with your parents when they go to the Lord’s Supper? Show picture of Communionware. The pastor gives you a blessing to remind you that Jesus invites you to come to Him. Baptism and the Lord’s Supper are the
Means of Grace. They are ways that Jesus gives us His forgiveness and blessings. We will learn more about these gifts in the next weeks.

Sing “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (LOSP, p. 94; Director CD 7) as you return to tables for leaflet work.

Leaflet Review

What you do: Hand out Student Leaflet 1 and crayons or markers. Show the children where to find the Bible story picture. Then check for understanding by asking questions about the Bible story.

Ask  Where is Jesus in this picture? Point to Him.
  Who did not think the mothers should bother Jesus by bringing their children to Him? The disciples
  Who welcomed the children and blessed them? Jesus
  Who welcomes you to be His child and receive His blessings? Jesus welcomes you and blesses you too!

Have the children turn to the Search & Find activity on pages 2 and 3.

Say  This picture is a kind of puzzle called a search and find. Some things are easy to find, like the children and the disciples. Other things are harder to find. Point to the small pictures on the side. These pictures show things that are hidden. By each small picture is a number. The number tells you how many of each picture to find. Be sure to look for another small picture of Jesus’ face hidden somewhere.

Have children work alone or with a partner to find the objects. Give help as needed. For an active review, say or sing “Jesus and the Little Children” (Wiggle & Wonder, p. 116).

Bible Words

[Jesus says,] “Let the little children come to Me.” Matthew 19:14

Say  In the Bible, we read that Jesus told His special friends the disciples to let little children come to Him. Jesus loves children. Let’s learn the words Jesus said.

Say  [Jesus says,] Point up; touch lips.
  “Let the little children come to Me.” Gesture with open arms.
  Option: Have the children stand in a row or semicircle about ten feet from you. Each time you say the Bible Words together, ask the children to take a step closer to you until they finally reach you.

3 We Live (20 minutes)

Use these activities to help the children grow in their understanding of what the Bible story means for their lives. Choose what works best with your class.

God’s Gifts of Grace for Me

What you do: Use Zapato to help talk about God’s grace. You will need a Bible
and individual copies of Activity Page 1. Have Zapato return.

**Teacher:** What did you think of our Bible story, Zapato?

**Zapato:** I’m glad the children got to see Jesus. But I was surprised. I thought the moms and children would each need a ticket to see Jesus. Yesterday, my friends and I went to see the Statue of Liberty, and we needed tickets.

**Teacher:** No one needs a ticket to see Jesus, Zapato. God’s special love invites and welcomes children and adults to become members of His kingdom.

**Zapato:** Then He is even better than the Statue of Liberty. That’s great news! I am going to flip-flop over to my friends and tell them that Bible story.

Set Zapato aside. Give children Activity Page 1 and crayons or markers. Show them how to fold their papers to make a book. Talk about each page.

**Say**  Today’s Faith Word is *welcome*. Point to the letters on your booklet. They say “welcome.” Did Jesus welcome children in today’s Bible story? (Yes, He did.) How did Jesus show love to them? (He blessed them; He laid His hands on them.) The children can color the letters. Then say, *Let’s talk more about Jesus’ special welcome as we read our little book.*

Direct children to focus on the page with the Bible, page 2.

**Ask**  What does this picture show? Yes, it is a Bible. The Bible tells us about God and His love for us. It tells us that even though we think and say and do wrong things called sins, God still wants us to be a part of His family. He sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. And through special ways called the Means of Grace, God welcomes us to be part of His family. He calls us to faith and helps us grow in it. Let’s connect the dots of the cross on this Bible. Let children color the Bible and connect the dots.

Now look at the next page. What is this? It is a church. What happens at church? Listen to the children’s answers. Point out that in the church service, God welcomes sinners of all ages to His family. He blesses them in various ways. And as the Body of Christ, we also welcome one another at church. Let’s color this church. God’s church is for children too!

**Say**  The last page of our little book has a big heart. God has a big love for us. He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus died on the cross for us. Can you find the cross behind the heart? God’s special kind of big love for us is called grace. It is a love He has for us, even though we don’t deserve it. Because of God’s grace, He calls us to faith and helps us grow in it. Write your name in the big heart and color the page. Fold the page into a booklet.

**Craft—Child of God Puppet**

**What you do:** For each child, you will need a sturdy paper gift bag (approximately 10 × 5 × 13 inches with handles) and a 10-inch paper plate (not foam). You will also need glue sticks, crayons or markers, and decorating supplies (e.g., yarn or bows for hair, buttons for eyes).

Children will add to their gift bags each week to make a Child of God puppet, so purchase and prepare extra gift bags for children who may join the class throughout the curriculum. Have children put their names on their puppets. At the end of the craft session each week, collect the puppets so children can add to them the next week.
Today, give each child a paper plate. Set out the crayons and markers and other decorating supplies.

**Say**  Show me a thumbs-up if God wants little children to come to Him. That’s right. Show me a thumbs-up if God wants you and others to be part of His family. Right again. Show me a thumbs-up if God wants to give you His gifts. That’s right. Although we are sinners, our holy God loves us and sent Jesus to pay for our sins on the cross. And He wants to give us gifts. Today you will start making a Child of God puppet. Each week you will add to your puppet as we talk about God’s gifts for you.

Since you are so special, I want you to draw your face on this paper plate. Make your paper-plate face look like you. Then you can add your face to the gift bag to make a puppet that looks like you. When the children finish, help them attach their face to the gift bag. Repeat the Bible Words. Then say them again, having the children insert their own name.

**Say**  [Jesus says,] “Let [name] come to Me.”

Option: Give each child a shoelace and some colored beads or rigatoni noodles to string on it. Also give each of the children a small paper plate or construction paper circle. Print “Jesus loves” on each circle, and have the children add their names. They can draw their faces on the other side or decorate their circles. Punch a hole in the circle and string it on the shoelace; then add more beads or rigatoni. Research how to tie a breakaway knot so children can wear their necklaces, or tell them to hang their necklaces on their doorknobs at home to remind them that Jesus loves them very much.

**4 Closing**  (5 minutes)

**What you do:** Gather the children’s take-home items so they can be easily distributed. Remember to save the craft bags for future use.

**Sing**  “I’m in God’s Family” (S&W, p. 58; Director CD 5) or “Jesus Loves the Little Children” (LOSP, p. 94; Director CD 7)

**Say**  Point to yourself and say, “God wants me to be part of His family.” Demonstrate. Then continue. **Now point to a friend and say, “God wants you to be part of His family too!”** Give each other a high five!

**Pray**  Dear God,* You welcomed children long ago.* You put Your hand on them* and blessed them.* Thank You for welcoming me* and blessing me too.* Amen.*

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “God Is So Good” (LOSP, p. 57).

I am God’s child. I am God’s child.
I am God’s child, and He blesses me!
He gives me gifts. He gives me gifts.
I am God’s child, and He blesses me!

**Live Loved!**

Encourage the children to look for welcome signs wherever they go this week. When they see one, say, “Jesus welcomes me to His family.”

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**Snack**

**The Wheels on a Car Go Round & Round**

Use toothpicks to attach grapes to an apple slice or banana, like wheels on a car. Talk about the roads you take to get to church where you hear about God’s love and receive His gifts.