

Leader's Guide for Episode 5

Joy's Bon-Hovis and the Creation Crew!





Leader's Guide for Jovis Bon-Hovis and the Creation Crew

Welcome to the fun-filled world of Jovis Bon-Hovis and the Creation Crew!

We are so happy you have decided to share the good times with us! We created this DVD and teaching series to plant and nurture the seeds of a relationship with God that children can relate to, using fun, comedy, drama, songs, and arts and crafts to reveal God's truth and goodness to kids in relevant scenarios they can make sense of.

Within these programs you will find a treasure trove of helpful teaching, especially created to enable children to connect with the Christian faith and understand it in the context of their everyday lives.



Inside this guide you will find a range of fun and helpful activities, engaging questions, and leader's notes to help you and your kids get the most out of the time you spend with Jovis Bon-Hovis and the Creation Crew!

These resources are geared for children 3-7 years old, but you may feel they are suitable for older children, too.

Fun and faith, hand in hand!

SHORTER OR LONGER SESSIONS:

We've created these lessons to be flexible and easy to use, with minimal preparation required. Just check the 'Preparation' section in advance, and you'll find delivering these sessions straightforward and enjoyable, with all the hard work done for you!

Each guide will contain various elements which will amount to well over 90 minutes worth of material, allowing you to select and tailor your sessions to fit your time slot, teaching preferences, and group requirements.

Apart from the DVD, which will take up about half an hour of group time, all of the elements of this study guide can be expanded and contracted, and used or discarded as required.



EPISODE 5: Count Your Blessings!

THEME: Mr. Bon-Hovis is disgruntled and dissatisfied with what he has.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. We should be grateful for what we have, and give thanks for the blessings God has poured out on us.
2. We should learn to look at the positive and consider how God shows his love, and not spend time grumbling about what we haven't got, what we want or what we think is 'not good enough'!
3. We should be careful not to think we're more important than everybody else, or even worse, that God isn't good enough.
4. Grumbling and complaining pushes God away.

PREPARATION:

For Arty Crafty Time you will need one cardboard tube for each child, such as those found inside a roll of bathroom tissue, marker pens, some stiff card, and scissors. For a longer session bring glue, glitter, paints, and/colored paper for decoration.

TOP TIP Drawing the outline on the tube will be hard for younger ones. Of course you can help them alongside Mr. Bon-Hovis, but you may find it simpler to draw out the lines in advance ready for the children to cut!

For the bonus activity you will need one or several twigs or small branches, enough that can be joined together at the base to create two or three extremities for each child to attach a cut-out hand onto, to look a little like the leaves of a tree. You will also need some yarn or ribbon, some colored card, tape or twine if you have more than one twig you need to join, as well as colored pens or paint, sparkles and decorations if required. You will need a sturdy vase or pot, weighty enough to support the twigs straight and upright.

SECTIONS/ELEMENTS FOR THIS EPISODE:

- DVD VIEWING
- GUIDED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- OPEN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
- ARTY CRAFTY TIME ACTIVITY
- SONG TIME ACTIVITY
- SCRIPTURE TIME SHARED STUDY
- COLORING FROM STORY TIME
- BONUS ACTIVITY: TREE OF THANKSGIVING
- GAME-TIME ACTIVITY





TOP TIP Today's show is all about counting your blessings. Why don't you have a big moan and complain session about something before the DVD starts, and really bring the teaching to life by sharing Jovis' problems?

DVD VIEWING

Introduction to today's show: Tell the children that for some reason Jovis Bon-Hovis just doesn't seem happy and content today. He's having some kind of problem with just about everything he does! Ask them to watch the DVD closely and see if they can spot some of Jovis' problems. Explain that you will be pausing the DVD to have a chat about what you've watched.

Play the DVD until 10:41, just as the 'Story Time' writing appears on the screen.

GUIDED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Ask the children some questions about what they've just seen. Don't try to solve all Mr. Bon-Hovis' problems at this point. Try using these questions as well as some of your own.

- What was wrong with Jovis Bon-Hovis bed?
- What did Booky Worm have to say about it?
- Who was right?
- What was wrong with the floor? Was it a real problem?
- What went wrong with fixing the tiny, fiddly little thingy?
- Why wasn't he doing his drawing properly?
- What did he say about the Creation Crew kids?
- What did he say about Monkey? Was it right?

Talk about what you've just watched, and allow the children to share what they feel they've just seen. Keep the learning outcomes in mind, but only as a loose guide at this point.

TOP TIP Try fidgeting in your chair and complain that it's uncomfortable, take a drink and moan about the taste, complain that the décor in the room is just not up to standard. See if the kids spot what you're doing!

Play the DVD until 18:44, when the stars appear at the end of the song.

Story Time

Teacher's notes: In this story we can clearly see what happens when our own sense of self-worth and 'deserving' cloud our ability to be grateful for what we do have. In the story, Monkey Doo, in his pride, ends up pushing his friends away. In exactly the same way, our pride pushes God away. Ingratitude amounts to a rejection of God and an unwillingness to fellowship with Him on His terms.





GUIDED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is Monkey Doo doing which is similar to what Jovis Bon-Hovis was doing?
- What kind of trousers did he think he should have? Why?
- What kind of leaf did he want? Why?
- Why did he want a big house?
- Why did he put a big fence up?
- What did the fence do?
- How did he get his friends back?
- What was the song about?
- What does 'count your blessings' mean?
- Why should we give thanks?
- Why should we 'Praise Jesus'?



Play the DVD until the end.

OPEN DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The open discussion after watching the DVD is a great opportunity to share more generally about what we've learned and what we can take away with us. Allow your questions and conversations to be a little freer and less focussed on the content of the show.

- Can you think of things you complain about?
- What can we do instead of grumbling and complaining?
- Can you think of the name of your best friend; how do you think they would feel if you always complained about them and made them feel they weren't good enough for you?
- How do you think it makes God feel if we complain about Him?
- How would your best friend feel if you always said thank you and told them what a good friend you thought they were?
- How does God feel when we give Him thanks and praise?

TOP TIP Take turns going around the group sharing something each child is grateful for. See how long you can keep going round, and count them up! Count your blessings!

ARTY CRAFTY TIME ACTIVITY

TOP TIP Not shown in the show, but gluing your pen-holder to a square of card will add some stability!



Explain to the children that some people might complain that they perhaps don't have enough money to go and buy a pen holder, or that theirs is broken or the wrong color. But we're not going to be like that! Not only are we going to use a simple card tube and be thankful for it, we're going to have much more fun making it than anybody who just went out and bought one! So let's count our blessings and thank God for what we DO have!

Recycling and reusing are great ways to show God that we appreciate what he has given us.

Arty crafty time starts at 22:05 if you want to follow along with Jovis on screen!

SONG TIME ACTIVITY



Select the song from the DVD menu and play.

Following the leader (you!) as they do the actions is great fun for the kids. Just play the song and read along below, doing the actions as they are written. Ask the kids to copy you! Don't worry about looking silly! Kids just love to dance and move about. They will just think it's great fun and will respond much better if you lead with energy.

Why not consider practicing the song over a few sessions and doing a performance at the front of your church?

Younger children can follow the dancing; older children may enjoy following the words on-screen and singing along.

TOP TIP This song is a dance track without many lyrics, why not get the children up to the front to take turns leading a dance they make up? Just enjoy a boogie time with this one, turn it up nice and loud!

Here are the lyrics so you can face the group:

Count your blessings 1-2-3-4!
1-2-3-4 count your blessings!
Count your blessings 1-2-3-4!
Count your blessings 1-2-3-4!

Celebrate and dance for Jesus,
Give thanks and praise to Jesus!

Celebrate and dance for Jesus,
Give thanks and praise to Jesus!
Aaaah,
Celebrate with Jesus!
Yeah!
1234!





SCRIPTURE TIME SHARED STUDY

Remind the children that Mr. Bon-Hovis opened his Bible up, and suggest it might be exciting to see just what Mr. Bon-Hovis saw!

TOP TIP When you pick up your Bible, lift it up high and say, 'Thank you, Lord, for this Bible. I LOVE IT!'

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

- ¹⁶ Rejoice always,
¹⁷ pray continually,
¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.



EXTRA REFERENCES FOR LONGER STUDY:

Psalm 107:1

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Explanation for little ones: God is being good to us even when we don't notice, that's who He is. He never stops loving us, and never stops being good to us.

Psalm 7:17

"I will give to the Lord the thanks due to his righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High."

Explanation for little ones: Because we know that God is good and lovely, it's a great reason to sing songs to Him and say thank you to Him!

Scripture Time Questions for discussion:

- Why do we say 'thank you' to God?
- Why do we sing songs to God?
- Why don't we grumble and moan to God?
- In what ways is God kind to us?
- How long will God love us?
- When will God stop loving us?
- When will God stop being kind to us?
- Does God really give us things? What kinds of things?





COLORING FROM STORY TIME

Color the Story Time illustrations found at the back of this guide. Print off the illustrations from your resource pack and do some coloring! Remind the kids how important the friends were compared with all the silly gold. Try to show them how important friendship with God is, and that we shouldn't push him away like Monkey Doo did with his friends!

Why not join Jovis Bon-Hovis on Facebook? Share your kids' work and fellowship with other teachers and leaders?



BONUS ACTIVITY: TREE OF THANKSGIVING

We're going to lift up our hands to the Lord in thanksgiving and praise!

Assemble the twigs together and tie at the base, placing in the vase or pot for stability. Get all the children in together to paint the whole tree a lovely bright color, maybe even silver or gold!

Get each child to draw the outline of their hands on colored card and cut them out. They can make as many as they like if they'll fit on your tree. Ask them to write on their hands something they are thankful for, and then tie the hands onto the branches of the tree using yarn or ribbon.

For a longer session, decorate the hands more lavishly, and/or cut out more hands, more things you are thankful for.

The more hands there are on your Tree of Thanksgiving, the better it will look.

TOP TIP Encourage the children that their thanksgiving and praise is worth something. Take the tree to the front of your church, and get the congregation to add their own hands of praise to the tree! Make sure you leave some spare branches...





GAME-TIME ACTIVITY: WINKSGIVING!

A wholesome kids' variation on the classic wink murder game. Everybody wants a blessing!

One child will play Moses, and the others will be the people of Israel. Everybody wants to be blessed by Moses, and when Moses winks at them, they are blessed!

Select a child to be Moses by tapping him/her on the shoulder without anybody else knowing. Moses must then bless the children one by one, without the others seeing. He is very busy, and can't manage everybody at the same time!

When a child is blessed, they must put their hands in the air and sing and dance to the Lord!



The last child to be blessed gets to be Moses next time!

(Numbers 6:23-27 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the people of Israel: you shall say to them, The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. "So shall they put my name upon the people of Israel, and I will bless them.")

TOP TIP Try it two ways, standing in a circle or moving around the room. See what works best!

In conclusion:

We should **appreciate** what God gives us and **not grumble and complain** all the time!

Pray together to finish:

Dear Lord, we all want to say 'thank you' today, and tell you that we appreciate you, who you are, what you give us, and what you've done for us. We pray that you will help us to always be grateful and thankful, Lord, and never to think that what you give us isn't good enough. Amen.

We would really enjoy seeing your photos and videos of your groups at work. Why not follow Jovis Bon-Hovis on Facebook? You'll find lots more regular games and activities to share with your kids, and it's a great place to join together with other Christian teachers, caretakers, parents, and leaders who are raising children in the Christian faith.
<http://www.facebook.com/jovis.bonhovis> or search Facebook for Jovis Bon-Hovis.











