



52 Bible Lessons from the Life of Christ for Ages 6-8

Carol A. Jackson



Published by Standard Publishing, Cincinnati, Ohio. www.standardpub.com Copyright © 1993, 2004 by Standard Publishing. All rights reserved. #15342. Manufactured in East Peoria, IL, USA, July 2010.

15 14 13 12 11 10 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

ISBN-13: 978-0-7847-1328-0 ISBN-10: 0-7847-1328-6

This book is a revision of Jesus and Me (42031).

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	Unit Title	Scripture	Application	Memory Verse
Unit 1	Jesus' Birth Helps Me Worship	Isaiah 9; Micah 5; Luke 1; Matthew 3 (prophecy) Luke 1 (Mary) Luke 2 (Jesus is born) Luke 2 (shepherds)	Worship God because He kept His promise.	Isaiah 25:1 Challenge: Luke 2:20
Unit 2	Jesus Was a Child Just Like Me	Luke 2 (Simeon and Anna) Matthew 2 (wise men) Matthew 2 (to Egypt) Luke 2 (boy Jesus at temple)	Tell about Jesus' childhood.	Luke 2:51, 52 Challenge: Luke 2:40
Unit 3	Jesus Wants Me to Follow Him	Matthew 3 (Jesus' baptism) Matthew 4 (Jesus is tempted) Matthew 4; Mark 1; Luke 5 (fishermen follow) John 1; Luke 6; Mark 2, 3 (the twelve) John 2 (Jesus and God's house)	Use the Bible verse to remember ways to follow Jesus.	Names of twelve apostles Challenge: Ephesians 6:1; Philippians 2:14; Ephesians 4:25; Hebrews 13:16; Luke 10:36, 37; Matthew 6:9
Unit 4	Jesus Teaches Me to Have His Attitude	Matthew 20; Mark 10 (serving) Matthew 4, 5 (overcome evil with good) Matthew 5 (love your enemies) John 13, Luke 22 (washing feet)	Follow Jesus by changing their attitudes to be like His.	Philippians 2:5, 7 Challenge: 1 Thessalonians 5:15
Unit 5	Jesus' Stories Help Me Follow Him	Matthew 7; Luke 6 (wise builder) Luke 10 (good Samaritan) Luke 12 (rich farmer) Matthew 18 (unforgiving servant) Luke 15 (loving father)	Choose to do what Jesus taught in His stories.	Matthew 27:24, 26 Challenge: Matthew 27:24-27
Unit 6	Jesus Helps Me Worship	Matthew 6; Luke 11 (pray) Mark 12; Luke 21 (give) Luke 22; Acts 20 (remember) Matthew 21; Psalm 8 (sing)	Joyfully worship God and Jesus.	Isaiah 12:4, 5 Challenge: Psalm 8:1, 2

	Unit Title	Scripture	Application	Memory Verse
Unit 7	Jesus Helps Me Be a Friend	John 3 (Nicodemus) Luke 7 (sinful woman) Luke 10 (Mary and Martha) Matthew 19; Mark 10; Luke 1 (Jesus and children) Luke 19 (Zacchaeus)	Follow Jesus by being a friend.	3 John 11 Challenge: 2 John 9; 1 Corinthians 11:1
Unit 8	Jesus Helps Me Bring Friends to Him	John 4 (Samaritan woman) Matthew 9; Mark 2; Luke 5 (four friends) Matthew 8; Luke 7 (centurion's servant) Mark 7 (man who can't hear)	Bring friends to Jesus.	John 4:28-30 Challenge: John 4:42
Unit 9	Jesus Helps Me Love My Family	Mark 1; Matthew 8; Luke 4 (Peter's mother-in-law) John 4 (official's son) Luke 7 (widow's son) Matthew 9; Mark 5 (Jairus's daughter)	Follow Jesus by showing love to people in their families.	1 John 3:18 Challenge: 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Philippians 2:14
Unit 10	Jesus' Power Helps Me Worship Him	Matthew 8; Mark 4 (stops storm) Luke 17 (heals lepers) Matthew 14; Mark 6; John 6 (water walk) John 9 (heals blind)	Worship Jesus.	Revelation 15:3 Challenge: Revelation 15:4
Unit 11	Jesus' Miracles Help Me Tell About Him	Mark 5; Luke 8 (Gadarene) Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 9; John 6 (feeds 5,000) John 5 (heals man at pool) John 11 (Lazarus alive)	Tell about Jesus.	Luke 8:38, 39 Challenge: John 20:30, 31
Unit 12	Jesus' Resurrection Is Good News for Me to Tell	Matthew 26, 27; John 18, 19 (crucifixion) Matthew 28; Mark 16 (resurrection) Luke 24 (Emmaus road) John 21 (appears by Lake Galilee) Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; Acts 1 (Jesus' command to go, tell)	Tell Jesus' Good News!	Mark 16:15 Challenge: Matthew 28:18-20

Follow Jesus

There are many books to help you recite the facts of Jesus' life. Knowing what Jesus did and said are prerequisites to being able to follow Him. This course places a strong emphasis on learning.

But knowing what Jesus did and said is an empty end product. The value of knowing what Jesus did and said comes from letting it affect our lives. For example, Jesus' birth is more than a story about shepherds and a star and the first Christmas gifts. Jesus' birth is the fulfillment of a promise made 2,000 years ago. When we look at Jesus' birth as a reason to worship God, we have made a tangible connection between what the Bible says and what we will do about it.

Each unit in this course looks at a specific area of Jesus' life or teaching. In addition to teaching children what Jesus did and said, each unit helps children relate what they learn to their own lives.

What's Unique About Follow Jesus?

• It suggests group projects that help the children carry out the application of the Scriptures.

Each unit has a group project that will be accomplished by the end of the unit. The group will work on the project during each lesson, with the guidance of the adult leaders. Many Bible school curriculums focus on individual applications. But there are also things we can do together to worship, follow, and tell about Jesus. The project time during each lesson is designed to help the children do something in response to Scripture, as a group. The project time is a good opportunity to informally evaluate what the children have learned. But the greatest value is how it helps the children think and reflect on what they know and how that helps them to worship, follow Jesus, and tell about Jesus.

• The learning activities in this course reflect three important ways children learn new information.

Some learn more easily by seeing information. So *Follow Jesus* includes flash cards, matching games, puzzles, worksheets, charts, pictures, posters, wall strips, and ideas for using video cassettes. Some learn more easily by being told information. So the course includes songs, rhythm raps, rhythm instruments, read-aloud items, and ideas for audio cassettes. Some learn more readily by touching things and moving around. So there are games, models to make, dramas, and many projects that take the learner out of the classroom. Most people have a preferred way to learn, but everyone can benefit from using all three styles: seeing, hearing, and doing.

Even adults have preferences toward one of these ways of learning, usually the visual. When teaching, it is easier for teachers to use the way of learning they enjoy the most. But some children will learn more easily in a way that is not the teacher's favorite one to prepare. Our goal is to help every child learn. In each unit, *Follow Jesus* provides for a balance of all three styles of learning. This will help the teacher guide children to reach their potential for worshiping, following Jesus, and telling about Jesus.

Reproducible pages follow the lesson plan sheets in each unit.

Some learning activities involve puzzles, writing, things to make, or games to play. These are printed on the reproducible pages. You may photocopy these for your classroom use.

The materials can be non-consumable, so originals can be filed and reused.

You may also want to keep a copy of the changes you made to tailor the lesson to your children. A simple filing system requires twelve file folders. Label the folders with the names of the twelve units. When you finish a lesson, drop the materials you have used into the file folder for that unit.

• This series of lessons builds on what the children know Jesus did and said.

Knowing Jesus is more than mastering the facts of His earthly life. The lessons guide the children to think about and use that information in a project. Primary age learners relate in concrete ways to Jesus, so the projects are concrete things the learners can do. Each unit focuses on one major application. For example, Unit 1 lessons are about Jesus' birth. The children will learn and/or review what they know about Jesus' birth. Then they will use what they know: They will worship God because of all the promises He kept when Jesus was born. Each unit follows this same pattern. The Bible stories establish what we know Jesus did and said. The unit application works on a way to help the child use that information with a biblical response to Jesus.

How Is Follow Jesus Organized?

Each unit in *Follow Jesus* has a knowledge aim, an attitude aim, and an action aim. These three aims tell what the learners should be able to do by the end of the unit. The goals for each lesson will help the learners reach the unit aims. Every *Follow Jesus* lesson has six learning activities to accomplish the goals for that lesson. Each activity will take approximately ten minutes. The Bible Story and Bible Project may take a little longer. The Bible Search and Bible Verse activity may take a little less time.



Bible Search (5-10 minutes) begins each lesson with an opportunity for the children to dig out some Bible facts. The learners are involved in using the Bible to learn facts from the Bible story.

Bible Story (10-15 minutes) uses a common object either to introduce or help illustrate the story. Often the learners will report what they found in their Bible Search activity. Each story is told from the perspective of one of the characters, and it seeks to illustrate the application of the lesson. The stories have been carefully written to be interesting, detailed, and informative. At the end of the story, the learners will talk about the story in a review activity and in the summary questions.

Bible Verse (5-10 minutes) allows the learner to see, hear, and say or sing the verse repeatedly, in a fun way. It provides an opportunity for children to do the verse when possible.

Bible and Me (10 minutes) helps learners to think about and begin doing the application part of the lesson. This is where learners choose what to do and how they will respond to the facts they have learned about Jesus.

This builds from week to week in a helpful cycle:

- 1. Tell what we will do in this unit and why it is important.
- 2. Compare examples and tell which is and which is not doing the application.
- 3. Plan how and then practice doing the application in the classroom.
- 4. Tell what you did or said when you tried it on your own (report).
 - 5. Do the application in a group project.

Bible Project (10-15 minutes) helps the entire group accomplish the unit action aim. Each week the learners will add to the project so that it can be completed by the end of the unit. Bible Project ideas are explained in detail in the introduction to each unit.

Bible Sharing (10 minutes) allows the children to talk about and answer questions about lesson goals while they share a lesson-related snack. This activity provides closure to the lesson and allows the leaders to evaluate how well the lesson goals were accomplished.

▼ Verse Activity Ideas ▲

This list suggests ideas for helping children memorize, understand, and use or do what Bible verses say. If you feel the activity in a lesson will work well for your children, try one of these ideas. You can see examples of some activities on the pages in parentheses.

Verse Activities According to Learning Goals

To help children memorize verses, use

- audio tapes, to hear the verse and then say key words in pauses (page 65)
- chalkboard, to erase words or phrases each time they say the verse (page 206)
- rap, to say the verse with a helpful rhythm (page 14)
- read-aloud, to say the verse aloud to the group or to themselves (page 116)
- songs, to sing, to play musical chairs (page 95)
- stop watch, to time how fast a child or team can put a verse in order (pages 203, 295)
- wall strips, to put in order, or sort out strips that don't belong (page 17)
- word cards, to put in order on a wall, clothesline, table, cookie sheet (magnetic tape), flannel board or floor (page 221)

To help children understand verses, use

- designated spot in a (circular) path, to decide who will explain the verse each time the group sings or raps the verse while walking on the path (page 180)
- item on string or item to pass around circle, to choose who will tell what the verse means when the timer rings or music stops (pages 122, 150)
- motions, to help show what a verse is saying as they say it (page 44)
- murals, to illustrate the action or content of the verse (page 206, option)
- pictures, to substitute for key words in verse (pages 101, 125)
- worksheets, to mark parts of a verse or answer questions about a verse (page 92)

To help children do what a verse says, use

- board games (page 230)
- spinner games (page 301)
- verse cubes (pages 23, 269)
- mini-dramas (pages 128, 206)
- knocking down two-liter bottles with choices of how to do the verse (page 278)

Games require good questions to ask the children about what they would do to use the verse you are applying. For examples of questions, see pages 168 or 248.

The Night That Jesus Was Born

Traditional "Skip to My Lou"



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Jesus, Jesus Born Today

Traditional "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"



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Use these words for Lesson 3:

Jesus, Jesus born today Lies upon the manger hay. Mary holds the promised One, Jesus, Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus, Jesus born today Lies upon the manger hay.

Jesus' Birth Helps Me Worship

Lessons 1-4



"Lord, you are my God. I honor you and praise you. You have done amazing things. You have always done what you said you would. You have done what you planned long ago" (Isaiah 25:1).

Memory Challenge

"Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them" (Luke 2:20).

1 God Makes a Promise

Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:5-17; Matthew 3:1-4 God's prophets said Jesus would be a son, born in Bethlehem. We worship God because we know He kept this promise.

2 God Sends a Message to Mary

Luke 1:26-56

Mary worshiped God when Gabriel said 1) she would have a son, 2) she would name Him Jesus, and 3) Jesus would be the Son of God. We worship God because He kept His promise that Jesus would come.

3 God Keeps His Promise

Luke 2:1-7

God kept His promises when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. We worship God because He kept His promise.

4 The Shepherds See Jesus

Luke 2:8-20

The angels and shepherds worshiped God when Jesus was born. We worship God because He kept His promise.

By the end of the unit, the leaders and learners will

KNOW details of God's promises and how it came true.

FEEL a sense of awe because God kept His promise.

DO Worship God because He kept His promise.

Unit Value

The story of *Follow Jesus* began hundreds of years before Jesus was born when God's prophets foretold what would happen. In Lesson 1, the children will discover two details of Jesus' birth foretold by Isaiah and Micah. The next three stories of the unit illustrate how God's promises came true.

This unit will help the learners know what worship is, understand why we worship, and prepare a group worship time to share with parents and friends. Mary's song and the shepherds telling what they had seen God do are biblical examples of worship. The Bible verse to memorize gives the children another example of worship. Children who learn to worship will get a head start toward a mature relationship with their Promise-Keeper.

▼ Bible Project ▲

Materials

Provide materials to help children create worship pictures, prayers, and poems or learn worship songs: paper (drawing, shelf, lined, construction) pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils music (CDs or audio cassettes and CD or cassette player or music to sing or play on a keyboard)

A Worship Time

Help children worship God because He kept His promise to send Jesus. Guide them to sing worship songs, pray worship prayers, write worship poems, and draw worship pictures. Plan a worship time that children can lead.

Before the first class session, make a tentative decision about what will be included in the worship time. Then you will be able to give children choices and direct their decisions. It is important to meet with church leaders to schedule a time for the children to share their worship project.

Week 1: Choose worship activity.

Week 2: Assign work spaces for each group; plan worship activity.

Week 3: Complete activities.

Week 4: Practice the worship program.

Worship Activity Ideas

Worship pictures: pictures that illustrate the promise God kept or pictures that illustrate the Bible stories. Captions should describe what God did. (God promised Mary she would have a son. God kept His promise!).

Worship prayers: prayer sentences that worship God for keeping His promise. Use these phrases to complete: Dear God, You are special because... Dear God, Only You can... Dear God, You are great! You...

Illustrated Bible verse: Students can learn Isaiah 25:1 and illustrate it (enlarge pictures from page 30); or recite the verse with motions.

Worship songs: Practice some of the students' favorite praise songs. Put worship words to a familiar tune (see page 32).

Worship poems: Write unrhymed couplets that tell what God said and did, or have children fill in the blanks of this poem.

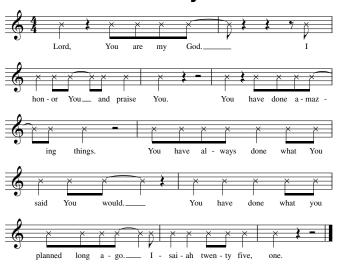
God always does what He says,

Here's what God said He would do:

And God kept that promise too.

Choral speaking: Use a Scripture and divide it into parts. Or say ways God kept promises, and have the entire group say, "God kept His promise," between each sentence.

Verse Rhythm



God Makes a Promise

LESSON

Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:5-17; Matthew 3:1-4

Lesson Goals

- · Name four people who spoke God's message about Jesus' coming.
- · Name one thing each person told about Jesus' coming.
- Begin to memorize Isaiah 25:1.
- Tell what it means to worship God.
- Worship God because He kept His promise.

▼ Bible Search ▲

Two prophets, an angel, and a preacher told people that Jesus was coming. The two prophets spoke about Jesus' coming a long time before Jesus was born. Let's look in our Bibles to find out who told about God's promise to send Jesus.

Small groups will work together to find out about one person who spoke about Jesus' coming. Group children into four teams. Each child will need the card (from page 25) for the person his team is researching. Guide the children to find the Bible book in the table of contents of their Bibles. Locate the page the book begins on, then the big number for the chapter and the small number for the verse. Encourage the children to do as much as possible by themselves. Read each team's verse with them. Help them complete their cards.

Who spoke God's message about Jesus' coming? (Each team can report one: Isaiah, Micah, Gabriel, John the Baptist.) Which one was an angel? (Gabriel) Which one preached in the desert? (John the Baptist) Which two were prophets who spoke for God? (Isaiah, Micah)

▼ Bible Story ▲

This "P" will help us remember the word *promise* in our story. When I hold up this letter during the story, say the word *promise*.

"God Makes a Promise"

Every morning and every night someone must put new incense on the incense table in the temple. It is a special job for a priest like me. Not every priest gets to do this. But I got to! I got to smell the sweet aroma rising upward in worship to God. Then what a scare I got. I saw an angel! Me! Zechariah! I knew God had sent His angels to visit people in the past. But why would God send an angel to visit me?

Well, the story started many, many years ago. When people first chose to sin, God made a <u>promise</u> to send someone to get rid of sin. The prophet Isaiah told people part of this <u>promise</u>. Isaiah said, "God will give a Son to us." Another prophet named Micah spoke another part of the <u>promise</u>. He said God's <u>promise</u> would come from Bethlehem. The story of God's <u>promise</u> continued on the day I took in the incense.

I walked through the courtyard, into the holy place, and over to the incense table. There on the right side of the table, the angel of the Lord stood before me.

Memory Block

"Lord, you are my God. I honor you and praise you. You have done amazing things. You have always done what you said you would. You have done what you planned long ago" (Isaiah 25:1).

Purpose

Name four people who spoke God's message about Jesus' coming.

Materials

Bibles copies of page 25 cut apart pencils

Purpose

Name one thing each person told about Jesus' coming.

Materials

a large "P" printed on a paper or a stuffed "P" pillow My eyes got big. My mouth fell open. The angel must have known I was scared. "Do not be afraid," he said. But my legs were still quivering when he made a <u>promise</u> to me. The angel said, "Your wife, Elizabeth, will give birth to a son. You will name him John." That's impossible, I thought. I added, "How can I know that what you say is true?"

I knew the <u>promises</u> Isaiah and Micah made were true. But the <u>promise</u> from the angel was harder to believe. My wife Elizabeth couldn't have children, and now we were very old. Up till now, I had done everything God commanded. I obeyed the law. Even though we prayed for children, I still had trouble believing what the angel said.

But it was true. Friends and relatives filled our house the week after John was born. Everyone jabbered about how good God had been to us. Even me! God's spirit moved me to praise the Lord. "Let us thank the Lord God of Israel. God has come to help his people...Now you, child, will be called a prophet of the Most High. You will...prepare the people for his coming." Now I was sure God's <u>promise</u> to Isaiah and Micah was about to come true. And, I also knew that my son John would tell people to get ready for the Savior, the <u>promise</u> from God.

Say each of the following riddles and ask, "Who said it?"

- I will send someone to get rid of sin. (God)
- How can I know this is true? (Zechariah)
- Do not be afraid; Elizabeth will have a son. (angel)
- God will give a Son to us. (Isaiah)
- God's promise will come from Bethlehem. (Micah)
- Get ready for the Savior. (John)

(For a harder review, ask what each character said.)

Summary questions: What two prophets spoke God's message about Jesus' coming? (Isaiah, Micah) What promises of God did the prophets make? (God will give a Son to us; He will be from Bethlehem.) Who was the angel who spoke God's message? (Gabriel) What message did Gabriel tell? (Zechariah would have a son, John. John would tell people to get ready for the Savior, the promise from God.)

Purpose

Begin to memorize Isaiah 25:1.

Materials

Bibles copies of page 26 pencils

▼ Bible Verse ▲

Isaiah was God's prophet. He spoke for God many times. Since God always keeps His promises, Isaiah knew God would keep His promise to send Jesus. That's one reason Isaiah wrote our Bible verse. Isaiah worshiped God with the words in Isaiah 25:1.

Each child will find Isaiah 25:1 in a Bible. As the teacher reads the verse aloud from page 26, children can fill in the word *you* every time the teacher pauses. Continue to read and fill in the blanks. While reading the verse the second time, children can point and/or look up each time they say *you*. This helps set a pattern for addressing personal worship directly to God. Then say the verse in rhythm and ask the children to join in the second time. (See the verse rhythm on unit page 12.)

Who wrote this verse? (The prophet Isaiah) To whom is Isaiah talking in this verse? (God) What three things does Isaiah say God has done? (Amazing things, what He said, what He planned)

▼ Bible and Me ▲

We worship God because He always keeps His promises. Some of the children on this page are worshiping God by telling God He is special. Which ones are worshiping? Which ones are not worshiping?

The children will select which song, prayer, poem, and picture worships God. Guide children to cross out the pictures that are not worship. Then use the questions below to help them tell you that "worship is using different ways to tell God how special we know He is."

Which song worships God? How can you tell? Which prayer? Which poem? Which picture? How do you know they worship God? So, what does it mean to worship God? (Tell Him how special He is.)

▼ Bible Project ▲

Before class, make a tentative decision about what will be included in the worship time. Then you will be able to give children choices and direct their decisions. Meet with church leaders to schedule time for the children to share their worship project.

We are learning many ways to worship God. We can sing worship songs, pray worship prayers, write worship poems, and draw worship pictures. Let's plan together a worship time that we can lead. We will be helping other people worship God because He keeps His promises.

Each child will choose one activity in which to participate. As you explain what could be included in the worship time, print the worship activities on a long piece of shelf paper (verse, song, choral speaking, and so on). Each child will sign her name under the activity she chooses. Next week, students will begin working on their activities. Allow students to switch activities next week if necessary.

▼ Bible Sharing ▲

While we eat our snack, let's pretend we have just heard John the Baptist tell about Jesus. (The Bible says John ate locusts and wild honey.) John said, "Get ready! Jesus is coming!" Maybe the people said, "This is wonderful! Let's worship God for giving us this special promise." Maybe someone remembered what Isaiah wrote.

Distribute completed Bible Verse pages. Slowly read the Bible verse together. Then ask children to listen as you prayerfully read the verse again. Close with a prayer that thanks God for sending people to tell His promise to send Jesus. Worship God for keeping His promise.

Purpose

Tell what it means to worship God.

Materials

copies of page 27 pencils or crayons

Purpose

Worship God because He kept His promise.

Materials

shelf paper markers

Purpose

Share how Jesus' birth helps you worship.

Materials

crackers and honey for a snack napkins completed Bible Verse page (page 26)



Guide your kids on a year-long journey through the Bible!

There's nothing more important to teach our children than how to build a relationship with God, and there's no better way to do that than to teach kids the Bible. *Route 52™* is a Bible-based journey that will take kids through the Bible in a year every year from age three to twelve. Using all ten titles, you can schedule a complete two-year cycle for four different age levels.

Throughout the various age levels, kids will learn about God, Jesus, and other men and women of the Old and New Testament. They will examine the history, poetry, prophecy, and the good news of God's Word. Through age-appropriate, hands-on activities that are culturally relevant, kids will investigate God's plan for his creation and how it includes everyone.

Follow Jesus includes 52 Bible lessons that help children ages 6–8

- learn about Jesus and worship Him,
- learn what Jesus did and follow His example, and
- tell others about Jesus' good news.

Check out these application-boosting lesson features:

- Scripturally sound lesson themes
- Culturally relevant, hands-on activities
- Age-appropriate memory verses and memory challenges
- Reproducible life-application take-home pages

Finally, a reproducible Bible study curriculum for all ages! **Route 52™** Bible lessons will help kids learn the Bible and how to apply it to their lives at their own level of spiritual development. **Route 52™** Bible lessons are appropriate for Bible school, children's church, youth group, kids club, or mid-week Bible study programs.

Ages 6-8



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