A Word to Our Teachers

Wow, summer has flown by and it’s time to start another new school year. If your church promotes with the school year, welcome your new students with open arms. Spend some time getting to know them. Make sure they feel a part of your class. Encourage your returning students to include the newcomers in their discussions.

This is going to be an exciting quarter, so get ready. Ask God to keep your heart sensitive to those students who need to make the decision to follow Christ. Also, ask Him to help you see any student that may need extra prayer. Let your students know that you pray for them and that you are available if they need to talk.

Below is a list of the theme and aims you will be teaching your students this fall.

Theme
- The World God Made

Aims
- To discover and appreciate all that God has made

What are you waiting for? Dig in and share God’s wonderful Word with your students.

The Editorial Staff
September
Making These Lessons Work for You

Scheduling Your Class Time

All these Sunday School lessons are built on the Focus, Discover, Respond model of teaching. We suggest a class schedule somewhat like this:

**FOCUS** (10-20 minutes)

Individual and small-group activities at learning centers.

**DISCOVER** (30-35 minutes)

Large-group Bible story and activities to follow up the Bible story; then small-group table work.

**RESPOND** (10-20 minutes)

Large-group activities, followed by small-group table work, or return to learning centers.

Teacher Helps

Our curriculum is designed to be as easy to teach as possible. We’ve included the following teacher helps to make your preparation and teaching time as quick and effective as possible.

- In one concise box, the “Overview” lists the Scripture to be studied; the Bible Truth; the Life Response Aim; the Key Verse; and the Focus, Discover, and Respond for the week’s lesson.

- The “Materials” box lists every item you’ll need to prepare and bring to class. Materials used in the Enrichment Ideas are not listed with the rest of the lesson’s supplies.

- “Preparing Your Heart to Teach” is a brief devotional to help you apply the truths you’ll be teaching to your own life before you present them to your students.

- The “Enrichment Ideas” in each lesson are special activities and projects that require extra preparation. These options allow you to customize the lesson for your particular group.

These Lessons Can Work for You

This Teaching Guide will help you be effective in teaching your preschoolers. Here are some things to keep in mind as you prepare the lessons.

You should have your preschoolers in a room large enough to allow space for children to be seated in a large group, to work at tables, and to move around for large-muscle activities.

It’s ideal if you can have a teacher or helper for every five or six children. Since much of your teaching is done as you model God’s love and care to young children, you’ll look for opportunities to interact with small groups of children and establish friendships.

One teacher needs to be at each learning center and table activity. However, for other parts of the hour the children can be in a large group, and teachers can rotate leadership. As children arrive, greet them by name, and let them place their offering in your special receptacle. This is a good time to acknowledge special events, particularly birthdays.

Let the children go to learning centers of their choice. (Learning centers are described in an article on page 80 of this Teaching Guide.) Some may want to stay at one center, while others may want to move from activity to activity. Children need this freedom. It’s helpful to have a teacher at each center to engage the children in meaningful conversation.

At the end of Focus, call the children away from their learning centers to form a large group for the Discover activities, followed by work at tables.

Again, call the children together to form a large group for the Respond time. Establish a regular signal for transitions to the large group. You may use a bell, music on CD, or a tune played on a guitar or piano.

Using the Icons:

The icons found along the bottom of this page are designed to be a quick visual cue about what’s coming next in the lesson. Using the icons will both help you prepare for class and quickly find your place in the lesson.

**Icon Key:**

- Teacher Supplied Resource
- Student Activity
- Music
- Visual Teaching Aid
- Puppet
- Prayer
Leading a Child to Christ

The preschool years are a time to lay foundations of Biblical understanding and prepare children for the Holy Spirit to impress upon them the need for personal salvation from sin.

These are the Bible truths preschoolers are able to understand to some degree:

- God is with me wherever I am and whatever I am doing.
- God shows His love to us by His gifts and care.
- God made all things for us to enjoy—our earth and people.
- Jesus is God’s Son, my best friend. I love Jesus.
- Jesus loves all children. He wants them to love Him.
- Jesus died on the cross for our sins, but Jesus came alive again. Now Jesus lives in heaven. He sees me and hears me all the time.
- Jesus can do hard things that no one else can do. He helps me do hard things like obey, share, and give.
- Sin is disobeying God. God will forgive our sins when we trust Jesus to save us from our sins.
- The Bible is God’s Book—a very special book. I want to hear God’s Word and do what God says in His Book.
- Church is where people come to learn more about God. I like to go to church.
- Prayer is talking to God. I can pray any time and any place.

Though many preschoolers will not fully understand the Gospel until they are older, faithful teaching of these principles will prepare your children to someday respond to Jesus as their Saviour and Lord.

Teaching Tools

**Essentials for September**

In addition to this Teaching Guide, you will need the following items:

**2s & 3s Teaching Resources**

Contains visuals for each lesson, including pictures, figures for bulletin boards, Bible story figures, and more. The music for each lesson is also included. Order one per classroom.

**Bible Life Student Guide**

The student guide is designed to reinforce the Bible Truth and life application. The pages can be torn out each week or sent home in book style at the end of the quarter. Order one per child.

**2s & 3s Handwork**

These projects are designed to help your children remember the Bible Truth and apply it to daily life. Many projects include instructions for parents to help them interact with their child and reinforce the Bible story. Order one per child and one for the teacher.

**Pupil Bible Pictures**

Are you using this exciting and child-friendly take-home card? It’s just the right size for preschoolers. Each card contains an easy-reading Bible story and ideas to help parents reinforce the Lesson Aim on the back with a full-color Bible picture on the front. Order one set per child.

**Additional Resources**

**Attendance Stickers**

Stickers to use with the student guides.

**Music**

The music listed in the lessons is included in your Teaching Resources packet or on the quarterly Let’s Sing Motions ‘n Music CD.

**Basic Supplies**

Regularly check your supplies for what you need, including flannelboard, CD player, pencils, paper, glue, tape, scissors, crayons, and colored felt-tip pens. Check Materials Needed in each lesson for additional supplies suggested.

**Church Time® for 2s & 3s**

For a second hour of worship and Bible instruction that is correlated to your Sunday School lesson each week, don’t forget to order your Church Time® packet, which includes a leader’s guide and music CD.
PUPPET PATTERN

Kitty Comes to Sunday School

Materials Needed:
- Small oatmeal box
- Strip of soft white material, fake fur, or lamb’s wool to wrap around sides and cover bottom of oatmeal box
- Feathery scarf for tail (about 12”), fake fur for ears and legs
- Black chenille wires for whiskers
- Kitty’s face cut from heavy cardboard (see the pattern on the next page)
- Crayons or markers to color face
- Basket with a handle or large shoebox to which a handle has been attached

Directions:
1. Glue fur-like material around the oatmeal box and on the bottom.
2. Make four slits in front and back of body for legs.
3. Cut fur-like material for four legs. Roll and glue to make legs. Insert top of leg through each hole and glue in place.
4. Color Kitty’s face. Using razor or sharp scissors, create small holes to slide chenille wires through for whiskers. Glue face on plastic lid of oatmeal container and press in place.
5. Place Kitty in basket lined with a small towel, blanket, or piece of material.

Introducing Kitty
Kittens are familiar animals to most children. This kitty-to-carry is an attention-getter. When children become restless, Kitty reacts with a plaintive meow, which you supply.

Children learn through their senses. They’ll enjoy stroking Kitty’s fur and feeling her whiskers. They’ll also enjoy taking turns carrying Kitty in her basket and choosing the place where she will sleep.

Kitty can also make lessons memorable to the boys and girls as you weave in special emphasis appropriate for each lesson.
PUPPET PATTERN

Pattern for Kitty’s face
OVERVIEW

**Scripture**
- Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 74:16

**Bible Truth**
- God made day and night.

**Life Response Aim**
- To thank God for making day and night.

**Bible Verse**
- “God created the heaven and the earth.”
  - Genesis 1:1, KJV

FOCUS

**Day and Night**

DISCOVER

**God Made Day and Night**

RESPOND

**Thank God for Day and Night**

MATERIALS

**FOCUS**
- Reading Center: Bible, books about day and night, Bible Picture
- Art Center: Paper for mural and yellow and black geometric shapes, tape or glue, yellow and black markers
- Home Living Center: Dolls, beds, nighttime clothes, and other articles

**DISCOVER**
- Bible
- Kitty puppet (see pages 4–5)
- Yellow and black construction paper
- Story Reminder 1 from Handwork

**RESPOND**
- Bible Life Student Guide, pages 3–4; attendance stickers for the inside back cover; yellow crayons
- September Parent Tips and today’s take-home cards from Pupil Bible Pictures

Preparing Your Heart to Teach

Read these Scripture passages throughout the week: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 74:16

- **Visible from Invisible (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3):** God created all things simply by speaking them into existence. What words has God spoken into your life? How have you seen His creative power at work?

- **God’s Light (Gen. 1:3; 2 Cor. 4:6):** God created physical light as well as spiritual light. How has God illuminated your life?
DAY AND NIGHT

To introduce your children to this lesson, use any of the following activity options at learning centers.

READING CENTER
Reading about Day and Night

Make an attractive book display with the Bible in a prominent position and other books about day and night placed around it. Place Bible Picture 1 on the wall or a small stand.

The Bible is our very special book. In the Bible we learn wonderful things about God and all the things He made. On the very first page of the Bible, God tells us that He made day and night.

Here are some other books that tell about the day and night that God made. Let’s look at this book.

Pick a book that best illustrates daytime and nighttime themes. As you talk about the pictures, emphasize the words light, day, dark, and night.

Sing the following words to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”

It’s time to go to sleep.
It’s time to go to sleep.
God is great; He made the night
So we could go to sleep.

It’s time to run and play.
It’s time to run and play.
God is great; He made the day
So we could run and play.

ART CENTER
Illustrating Day and Night

Have a large sheet of white wrapping or mural paper about 3’ long. From yellow and black construction paper, cut out some geometric shapes for children to tape or paste onto the day and night sides of the mural. You may want to let them tear out their own shapes.

Draw a line down the middle of the paper. Label one side “Day” in yellow marker at the top. Label the other side “Night” in black marker.

We’re going to make our own day and night picture on this big piece of paper. Let’s put the sunny yellow shapes on the day side and black shapes on the night side to show that it’s dark outside.

Let the children tape or paste the colored shapes on the appropriate side of the mural. Emphasize light and darkness, day and night, as they do.

As you find appropriate opportunities, pray with the children, thanking God for making day and night.

HOME LIVING CENTER
Saying Good Night

Young children are drawn to an attractive display of dolls, teddy bears, doll beds, buggies, clothes, blankets, and other reminders of home.

Let’s pretend that it’s nighttime. What do we always do at nighttime? Yes, we go to bed. Let’s put the doll babies to bed.

Notice how the children do what they regularly do at home—put pajamas on the dolls, give them bottles, rock them, cover them up. They may even sing to them, say prayers, or tell them a short story. Follow their leading.

Then when they’re ready, invite them to pretend it’s morning and time to get the babies up, dress them, and feed them.

As your conversation with the children makes opportunity, pray.

Thank You, God, for making day when we can play and for making night when we can rest.

ICON KEY:

- TEACHER SUPPLIED RESOURCE
- STUDENT ACTIVITY
- MUSIC
- VISUAL TEACHING AID
- PUPPET
- PRAYER
This week you’ll guide children to understand the Bible Truth through a Bible story, a clapping song, and Story Reminder from Handwork.

PREPARING TO HEAR GOD’S WORD

Introduce a come-join-us signal this first Sunday of the quarter to gain the children’s attention. You may use a tone on a toy instrument, ring a small handbell, or blow a whistle.

Now would be a good time for the children to meet Kitty (page 4), a puppet that will add delight to this quarter’s learning. To call the children to sit with you on the story rug, take Kitty out of her basket and stroke her affectionately. Pretend Kitty is calling the children to sit with her.

Meow! Meow! It’s time to sing and hear a story.

Sing the following song to the tune “The Farmer in the Dell.”

It’s happy, happy time.
It’s happy, happy time.
It’s time for Bible story now.
It’s happy, happy time.

Kitty likes to run and play, but today she wanted to come to Sunday School to see what you boys and girls do here. Would you like to pet Kitty and say hello to her in a quiet voice? Walk around the circle, calling each child by name.

Do you think Kitty would like to hear a song about night and day? That way, she’ll know what we are going to be talking about today.

Sing “It’s Time to Go to Sleep” (from page 7) to the tune “The Farmer in the Dell.”

Place Kitty inside her basket and set her down beside you. Suggest that the children be as quiet as Kitty as they listen to the Bible story.

BIBLE STORY

If you need a shorter version for your younger children, tell the story as found on the take-home card from Pupil Bible Pictures.

It’s time to open our Bibles. Have your Bible open to Genesis 1 as you tell the following story.

Have two pieces of construction paper ready to show: one yellow and the other black.

This paper is dark like nighttime. When I hold it up, we can sing a nighttime song.

Sing the following song to the tune of “London Bridge.”

I’m so glad that God made night,
God made night,
God made night.
I’m so glad that God made night.
Thank You, God.

When I hold up the yellow paper, we can sing a daytime song.

I’m so glad that God made day,
God made day,
God made day.
I’m so glad that God made day.
Thank You, God.

Hold up black paper again and sing the nighttime words.

Let’s shut our eyes tight. It’s all dark, dark, dark. We can’t see anything!
Now, let’s open our eyes. When it’s dark outdoors, can you see very well? No, no, no.
When it’s dark outdoors, can boys and girls go outside to play? No, no, no.

God did not want the world to be dark all the time. Because God can do anything, He said, “Let there be light,” and just like that [snap fingers] there was light.

Hold up the yellow paper and sing the daytime words.

God said the daytime was good. Boys and girls play outdoors when it’s light. But God knew we needed nighttime too.

When it’s light all the time, it’s hard for many little birds to sleep.
When it’s light all the time, it’s hard for boys and girls to go to sleep.
So God made the dark time and called it “night.” God made the light time and called it “day.”

Let’s tell God thank You for day and night.
Sing to the tune of “The Farmer in the Dell.”
Thank You, God, for night:
And thank You, God, for day.
Thank You, thank You, thank You
Are the happy words we say.

**Day and Night Picture**

This is a good time to have children go to tables so they can enjoy their Story Reminders.

Prepare Story Reminder 1 for each child, following directions on page 2 of *Handwork*. Be sure to add a paper-reinforcement ring to make the area stronger where the brass paper-fastener turns.

**Let’s see how you can use your Story Reminder to tell your family the Bible story today.** You see, God gave us some dark time and some light time. He gave some night to rest and sleep, and He gave some day to play and work.

Give each child a completed Story Reminder.

**Let’s see if you can use your Story Reminder to show that God made night and day.** First, pretend it’s nighttime by showing the dark picture.

Check to see that each child has the dark section displayed.

**You can tell your family and friends that the world was dark before God made the light.**

Now turn your picture to the yellow side. The light picture reminds us of daytime.

**You can use this picture all by yourself to show your family that God made day and night.**

The children will want to practice repeating the Bible words as they turn to each part of the picture.

Show the children the back of the Story Reminder and tell them to show this writing to their parents.

Print the children’s names on their Story Reminders and put them in a safe place until time to go home.

**We’re Glad for Day and Night**

**Let’s show how glad we are for daytime and nighttime.** We can clap our hands and sing the “Clapping Song.”

Sing the song twice, once for day and once for night. Encourage the children to join you in walking around the room as you sing it again.

**Enrichment Ideas**

**Creation Look-and-See Box**

Here’s a learning aid that will capture the interest of your children throughout the quarter. Each week you can add features that fit the lesson theme.

**Materials:**
1. Select an adult-size shoebox.
2. Starting 1” from one end of the lid, cut a rectangle 3” x 5 1/2” with a razor blade.
3. Cut a 2” x 1” rectangle opening in the upper center of each end of the box, just below the lip of the lid when placed on the box.
4. Cut a strip of black paper and yellow paper to fit in the box as shown in the diagram.

**Hold up the closed look-and-see box.** Turn it from side to side.

**This is a very special box. What do you think is in it? Can you guess?** Maybe if you look into this little window, you’ll be able to see what’s inside. Let me try first. Look into the hole at the dark end of the box. **Hmm, that’s strange.**

Don’t reveal what you saw or didn’t see. Show curiosity, but not excitement. Let children take turns looking in.

**Why can’t we see anything in this box?** That’s right. It’s all dark inside. And that is how our big world looked long, long ago. It was all dark.

Then God made light. What do you see when you look into the other side of our look-and-see box?

Isn’t it good to see the light?

God made day, and God made night. Let’s thank our great God for day and night. Sing “God’s Lights.”
Now your children will want to do something about what they’ve learned. They’ll enjoy doing the activities in their student guides, singing, and thanking God in prayer.

**GOD MADE DAY**

Give each child a copy of the Bible Life Student Guide open to page 3, or pages 3-4 if you have separated the pages. Review the Bible story by completing page 3. Page 4 reinforces the Life Response Aim.

Give children yellow crayons to show that God made day.

If you are using the attendance stickers, show the children the inside back cover and let each child put an attendance sticker on the page.

Turn to page 4. **We see our friends Debby and Dan. Debby is glad God made day. She and Dan can play with their toys every day. Dan is glad God made the night so he can sleep. Then when day comes again, he’s ready to play.**

Let’s add a pretty red ball to show what Debby and Dan are playing.

Give each child the sticker of a ball from the center page.

Gather the children at the wall display of day and night made in Focus. Sing day and night songs that the children especially enjoyed today. Then conclude by singing together “O Give Thanks.”

**Let’s thank God for making day and night.**

Today send home the September Parent Tips from Pupil Bible Pictures and the appropriate picture card. The Parent Tips article is about spiritual development, specifically in 2 and 3 year olds. Parental involvement in their child’s spiritual development is critical. The take-home piece has been updated to make this involvement easier by giving parents tools to reinforce the Sunday School lesson aim at home.

**ENRICHMENT IDEAS**

**Creation Scrapbook**

Your children will enjoy making a scrapbook to show what God made. This week you’ll make the first two pages. The first will be on black construction paper and the second on yellow. You’ll also need pictures cut from catalogs and magazines that show day and night activities.

**We’re going to start making a big book. We’ll paste pictures on the pages to show what God made. Today we’ll paste some pretty day and night pictures. We can put day pictures on the yellow page and night pictures on the black page.**

Spread the pictures on the table. As the children choose and paste pictures, talk about each one, emphasizing whether it is a day or a night activity.

**Birthday Celebrations**

Establish a special type of birthday celebration for your children. Create a fun, colorful birthday chart that lists their names and birth dates. Show the children their names on their birthdays. Give each one a memento of his or her special day, such as a birthday badge from page 5 of Handwork, a paper leaf with his or her name written on it, or some other special item.

**LINK TO CHURCH TIME®**

**What’s in Store for Your Children?**

**Day and Night**

Your children will enjoy making day and night signs to use to worship God for creating day and night.

**Correlated Church Time®**

In Church Time® your children focus on the same Bible Truth and Life Response Aim that they did in Sunday School.

**SUGGESTED SCHEDULE:**

Transition: 25–30 minutes
Preparing Their Hearts: 15 minutes
Worship and Story Time: 20 minutes
Hands-to-Hearts Activities: 10–15 minutes
Good-bye Time: Until parents arrive