

Actively Engaging Kindergarteners

What an awesome privilege we have been given, what an incredible responsibility we have been trusted with to teach God's children!

May we hold forth His Word, love His children, and be faithful to teaching them as God daily prepares us through the work of His Spirit.

As you have opportunity to live in these last days and make an impact in the lives of the children, my prayer for you is that you would...

"Stand Firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58

My hope is that through this class you will be given ideas and vision for teaching Kindergarten children. My prayer is that you will discover that nothing happens apart from Christ. No lesson, no matter how well planned will succeed apart from bathing that lesson in prayer.

When we begin by first sitting at the Lord's feet we save ourselves a lot of needless frustration and wasted energy.

The Lord has a plan for each thing you do for His Kids. Take time to seek Him first and you'll never be disappointed at the outcome of any kindergartener you teach!

Greeting

The greeting is very important in welcoming and comforting the children. Greet them by their name and with the love of Jesus.

Fellowship Fun/Busy Work - (this creates control of class)

Everyone gets involved in the busy work when they first come into the classroom; this keeps the entire class clam and holds their interest until all the other children arrive to Sunday school.

The children look forward to this each week. Only use at the beginning when children are arriving then put away. Below is what I use. Pray and see what works well for the kids you teach.

1. Stencils, blank paper, Color pencils
2. Wooden & Soft blocks, alphabet blocks
3. Mini Lego's
4. Dinosaurs bag
5. Army men bag
6. Police men bag
7. Fireman bag
8. Flat shape puzzles
9. Coloring Sheets
10. Amazing Bible Mazes
11. Hidden Picture sheets
12. Dot -to-Dot sheets

When time is up, we sing - The Clean Up Song

"This is the way we clean-up our church, clean-up our church, clean-up our church

This is the way we clean-up our church so early Sunday morning." (Tune- Mulberry Bush song)

We sing this over and over until all the children bring their busy work up to the teacher's desk for me to put it all away. And now it's time to start our class routine.

Restroom break (take the whole class if possible)

Pick two line-leaders (one for the boys and one for the girls)

Have kids quietly walk with their hands behind their back. Zip their lips w/a key (pretend), put key in pocket

Catch a bubble before we walk to bathroom-explain

Always take 3 kids or more together. (Don't ever go alone with a child to the restroom) take the whole class if possible

Prayer Time

Ask general prayer request

Salvation of family members, sickness etc,

Seek to encourage the children to pray out loud

Worship Time

If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands, stomp your desk, shout Amen!

Candles -This Little of Mine

Ho- Ho- Ho Hosanna

Pray & Read this is what we do as we *blank to Sunday school. *(Walk, wiggle-like Jell-O, crawl, drive, swim) etc.

Jesus Loves Me- (close worship with a calm song of praise)

- We do a lot of songs with hand motion it's their favorite way to sing
- Pick children to do hand-motion in front of classroom

Use props or hand-made instrument (if possible) to make a joyful noise.

Going over rules of the classroom, before the lesson is taught

They come sit on the floor (rug) to hear the lesson

1. Be kind to one another. (Ephesians 4:32) (Ask them how to be kind)

2. No talking when teacher is telling the Bible story. (Ask them why teacher wants no talking during lesson)

Make no more than (3) consistent rules

Note: When the children in my class get mad at each other I step in and find out the problem.

I then have them say sorry to each other and say I forgive you to each other.

They must shake hands or give each other a hug. 1 John 1:9 (This is a big rule in my class)

Object or Visuals relating to the Bible Story

Using the time before the lesson to show them an object or a picture that will tie into the story

This really grabs their attention and gets them ready to listen. *Always give an alter call after your lesson. (An opportunity for them to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and receive Him in their heart).*

Bible Story

Use Picture Bibles, Flannels graphs, Props, Puppets, Taped sounds etc.

Live drama illustration (use the kids in a skit to reinforce your story)

***Important:** Always read your lesson from the Bible (Put some sticky notes inside your bible)

Use props at the beginning of your lesson to grab their attention. (Here are a few examples)

Wooden Cross-Jesus died for our sins

Flower & birds- God made the flowers & birds in creation

Brown Play-Doh- When Jesus healed the blind man and put mud on his eyes

Rock- Moses when he hit the rock / Jesus is the Rock / Wise man built his house on the rock

Brick- Israelites made bricks in Egypt when they were under bondage

Rain stick- to hear rain when Jesus calmed the storm

Duster on stick-Little Samuel cleans the temple, go around the classroom clean everything

Basket with fish/bread- When Jesus fed the 5,000 with 2 fish 5 loafs of bread

Crown-Jesus is our King or story of King David

Gold coins-The Parable of the lost coins (the women who found it rejoiced)

Cotton balls or Sheep-The lost sheep and the Good shepherd went looking for hm.

Stick puppets-Put your flannel pieces on sticks to tell story

Cloud & fire- Moses followed as God lead His people by day & night

Ring & Robe- The prodigal son

Dress-Tabitha loved people by making (sewing) tunics and garments

Memory Verse

Sing the verse -put it to a familiar tune Sign language

Pantomime -repeat after teacher Use word pictures

Hot/Cold game -Say verse loud (hot) when child get closer to object and soft (cold) when child goes farther away from object

Game Time

Ring or Bean toss

Jesus Bible bingo

Jesus says...

Relay games over under with a ball

Red light-green light

March around the classroom do anything that's fun and uses up their energy.

Activity Coloring sheet/Craft

Pick a helper to pass out activity sheets, crayons and stickers

Have them write their names on paperwork

You can use small food trays for a helper to pass out the crayons; another child can pass out the stickers and another can pass out the coloring sheets. They feel so special when they help.

Treasure box

Give prizes for bringing a Bible to class-they pick a small toy.

Encourage those who did not bring their Bible to church to do so the following week.

Talk to parents about the treasure box and how it works each week. Ask them to buy a small bible.

Reward them for bringing their Bibles to church. I believe it's important for them to bring their bible to church so they learn to treasure God's Word. When they get older it will be automatic.

Snack

Bag it in (snack baggies) for easy distribute

This is another job for the student to be a Jesus helper (to pass out snack)

If parents come early they can take it with them, it's easier in a baggie and you pay less in bulk.

Names on Sticks

Use these to give everyone a turn to be a line leader. (for rest room time)

To come-up and sing during worship and do hand motions.

To be part of the Bible Story or recite the Memory Verse.

Pass out worksheets/color sheets

To pass out snack, or to close in prayer, etc.

This allows everyone in the classroom to have (a helper job). This builds servant-hood in children.

End of class

As they sit at their desk eating their snack, encourage the children to come back and that you look forward to seeing them again next week. *Give them a hug or a high five.*

All children have a very basic need for love, acceptance, and discipline, but especially this young Kindergartener you are teaching has a great need for your love. It is through your love that he then becomes very much aware of the greatest love of all for him- God's love.

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11

"We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19

You can live out God's love. Teaching young children is very demanding and exhausting, and it would be easy to ignore those you find troublesome or who need special attention. But your efforts to reach out to those who are different or who need special care will be seen by all the children you teach. And it is by your example, even more than your words that you will teach.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus.
Acts 4:13

"Be encouraged it is the Lord who qualifies us when we spend time with Him".

Example of Classroom Time Routine:

This is only a sample but I encourage you to make a routine that works for your kids. Kindergarteners love order and routine, they always want to know what's next.

Opening Fellowship Fun/Busy work- 10:10-10:45 (Our Church 2nd service starts @ 10:30)
Restroom time- 10:45-11:00 (kids walk quietly with hands behind their back)
Worship- 11:00-11:15 (with kids participation)
Bible Lesson- 11:15-11:30 (with props the lesson can go longer) attention span is 1 min. per age
Memory Verse- 11:30-11:35
Game- 11:35-11:45 (depends on the game, at times it may take longer)
Activity Sheet or Craft 11:45-11:55 (reinforces the lesson)

(Those who brought their bibles come to the teacher & pick a prize from the treasure box)

Pass out snack basket 11:55-12:00 (Church service ends @ 12:00)
Time to go home- 12:00-12:15 (parents arrival time varies)