

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.

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 and put the key in their pocket. (pretend),

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).*

Memory Verse

Sing the verse -put it to a familiar tune

Sign language

Cube

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 says...

Jesus Bible bingo

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.

Bible Story-the main thing

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 clam 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

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 Activity sheets / Coloring sheets.

They feel so special when they help.

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

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

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

End of class

Encourage the children to come back and that you look forward to seeing them again next time.

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".

Nine Teaching Tips

1. Pray and study God's Word. This is the most important preparation

Acts 6:4 ...we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of God's Word.

Give appropriate hugs, smiles, and kind words.

2. Read through all your lesson and plan well in advance. Become familiar with your lesson, God has given us the awesome privilege of building the foundation of His Word into the lives of these children.

3. Use puppets to reinforce the lesson or use visuals, put memory verse to a song.

4. Think safety of your children-When you first come into your classroom. Look around maybe a desk has a sharp edge or there is a broken chair. Check the floor to see if there are any harmful things such as push pins, candy etc. Maybe your classroom is used for older kids at school or day camp.

5. Count your kids every time you leave your classroom and when you return.

6, Younger preschoolers may not sit during the lesson time. Keep the lesson moving and keep them moving. Involve them and their senses.

7. Use simple words over and over. This age likes repetition, so repeat the Bible verse and songs many times.

8. Use the Bible as you teach the lesson. Use facial expressions in your actions, to show the importance of the scriptures.

9. Have fun teaching should be a joy for you. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks...

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

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	10:15-10:55am (Our Church 2 nd service starts @ 10:30)
Start a coloring sheets or a craft that goes with your lesson. I do one ever other week.	
Restroom time	10:55-11:05 (kids walk quietly with hands behind their back)
Worship-	11:05-11:25 (with kids participation)
Bible Lesson & Memory Verse	1:25-11:40 (with props the lesson can go longer) attention span is 1 min. per age
Activity Sheet	11:40-11:55 (reinforces the lesson)
Prizes	11:55-12noon
(Those who brought their bibles the teacher goes around to them and they pick a prize from the treasure box)	
Snack	is on the sign-out table as the teachers says good-bye
Time to go home-	12:00-12:15 (parents arrival varies) (Church service ends @ 12:00)