

INTRODUCTION  
TO THE  
KINGDOM KIDS  
PRETEEN  
CURRICULUM



# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Gordon Ferguson**, Chairman, B.S. Music Education, M.A. Bible, Teacher/Elder Boston

**Theresa Ferguson**, B.S. Education, WML<sup>1</sup> Boston

**Larry Wood**, B.A. English and Religion, CML<sup>2</sup> Boston

**Lea Wood**, CML Boston

**Clegg Dyson**, B.A. Speech Communication, CML Boston

**Betty Dyson**, B.S., M.S. Education, CML Boston

**Sheridan Wright**, B.A. History, Elder/Evangelist/CML New York

**Debbie Wright**, B.S. Nursing, M.S. Pediatric Nursing, WML New York

**Joe Farmer**, B.S., M.S. Music Education, CML New York

**Margie Farmer**, B.S., M.S. Education, CML New York

**Joyce Conn**, B.S. Education, CML New York

**Amby Murphy**, B.S., M.Ed., CML Boston

**Katie Hosmer**, B.A., M.S. Early Childhood Education

**Chris Miller**, B.A. Business, J.D.

<sup>1</sup>Women's Ministry Leader

<sup>2</sup>Children's Ministry Leader

## EDITOR IN CHIEF

**Sheila Jones**

B.S. Education, DPI Associate Editor

## MANAGING EDITOR

**Larry Wood**

B.A. English/Religion, CML Boston,  
DPI Managing Editor

## CONTENT EDITORS

**Preschool—Katie Hosmer**, B.A., M.S. Early Childhood Education

**School Age—Amby Murphy**, B.S., M.Ed, CML Boston

**Preteen—Betty Dyson**, B.S., M.S. Education, CML Boston

## COPY EDITORS

**Preschool—Janet O'Donnell**

**School Age—Vickie Boone**

**Preteen—Sharon Dietz**

## WRITING CHURCHES

**2 and 3 Year Old—Atlanta**

Writing Director: Lois Schmitt  
B.S. Education, J.D., CML Atlanta

**1st and 2nd Grade—San Diego**

Writing Director: Jayne Ricker  
CML San Diego

**4 and 5 Year Old—New York**

Writing Director: Joyce Conn  
B.S. Education, CML New York

**3rd and 4th Grade—San Francisco**

Writing Director: John Taliaferro  
B.S. Biology, M.Ed. Elementary Administration  
Elder San Francisco

**Preteen**

New York (Sheridan and Debbie Wright, Joyce Conn)  
Washington DC (Sue Anderson), Orlando (Pat and Cindy Whitaker)  
Chicago (Steve and Tricia Staten), Boston (Clegg and Betty Dyson)  
Los Angeles (Jon and Andra Walsh), Miami (Dan and Mary Allison)  
Philadelphia (Kim Evans), Triangle (Ben and Beth Weast)

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts,  
to all of the many talented people  
who thought, wrote, read, drew, cried, missed sleep  
and totally gave their hearts to this project.  
We cannot name you all, but God knows who you are.  
We could never have done it without you.

## BIBLICAL ACCURACY COMMITTEE

**Gordon Ferguson**, B.S. Music Education, M.A. Biblical Studies, Teacher/Elder Boston

**Tom Jones**, M.A. Biblical Studies, Elder Boston, DPI Editor in Chief

**Theresa Ferguson**, B.S. Education, WML Boston

**Dennis Young**, Evangelist Boston

**Greg Nevil**, M.A. Biblical Studies

**Betty Morehead**, B.S. Education

**Janet Hammonds**, M.S. Early Childhood Development

## AGE-APPROPRIATENESS CONSULTANTS

**Lory Demshare**, B.S. Education, M.Ed. Moderate Special Needs

**Lea Wood**, CML Boston

**Sharman McNally**, B.S. Early Childhood and Special Education

## SCIENTIFIC ACCURACY CONSULTANT

**Richard Newman**, M.S. Geology

### DEDICATED TO BARBARA LLOYD AND BOB RICKER

In the spring of 1995, when the curriculum project began moving from Steve Johnson's idea stage to a reality being pursued, certain truths began to be self-evident: (1) The majority of writing would have to be done on a volunteer basis. (2) Entire age-group segments would need to be written by one church, in order to insure continuity. (3) These churches would need to have an abundance of talented people, strongly committed to the children's ministry. (4) A truly outstanding person or couple would have to head up each of these writing committees.

Certain names of such outstanding people came to the forefront immediately, among whom were Barbara Lloyd of the Atlanta church and Bob and Jayne Ricker of the San Diego church. They were quite zealous about volunteering themselves and their churches for this huge and vital task. Barbara held a B.S. in behavioral science and an M.S. in psychometry and counseling, while Bob had an M.Th. and a Ph.D. in biblical counseling. With much talent and spiritual fervor borne out of a total dedication to our children, they began this special work. Amazingly, both Bob and Barbara now urge us on from heaven, having lost valiant battles with cancer.

To say that Bob and Barbara died well would not convey the beauty of their last days and the love they showered on all who were blessed to be in their presence. They died with Jesus in their hearts and children on their hearts. As we pass on God's dream to our children through this curriculum, may we never forget the lives and love of all who made it possible, of whom Bob and Barbara shine like stars.

– Gordon Ferguson

*The Kingdom Kids Curriculum is also affectionately dedicated to the children of the kingdom. It is their curriculum.*

# WELCOME

Let this be written for a future generation,  
that a people not yet created may praise the Lord.  
PSALM 102:18

Welcome to the Kingdom Kids Curriculum! This psalm has become our theme. To truly make the most of this curriculum, we hope that it will become your theme, too. Remember that children are an important part of God's kingdom. It is our goal that this curriculum, along with your guidance, will teach the children to cherish and to choose God and his kingdom.

## WHO ARE THE KINGDOM KIDS?

Children are as much a part of the body as are adult disciples! They need our hearts, our attention, our convictions, our love, our care and our concern. We must be in the battle for their souls! (*Heroes*, DPI)

Where do we fight this battle? In the classroom, on the playground, at church and on our knees! God has moved powerfully to create a curriculum that will arm us to be victorious in this battle. Children's ministry leaders from many churches have spent countless hours to make sure that these lessons help our children develop a fundamental, vivid and practical knowledge of the scriptures and a personal faith in God. A biblical advisory committee has reviewed each lesson to assure that the material is biblically sound. Many others have added their educational experience and expertise to make these lessons fun and life-changing—not only for the children, but also for you! The Kingdom Kids Curriculum will help *any* disciple teach *any* lesson—regardless of previous experience with children.

This has truly been a kingdom project led by God and accomplished through the amazing effort of hundreds of volunteers. Nothing like this has ever been done before and could only be accomplished in God's kingdom.



The Kingdom Kids two-year curriculum includes both preschool and school-age lessons. *Seeds of Faith* takes the children from preschool through second grade. It introduces them to six exciting and dynamic learning centers: Bible Story, Life Application, Craft, Game, Scripture Memory and Bible Skills. In all lessons, the preclass activity provides a preview of the current lesson and a review of preceding lessons. This curriculum plan will take the children through both the Old and New Testaments with units such as: The Adventures of Moses, Creation, Young Heroes for God, and Obedience. Together with a Parent Letter for each unit, these lessons promise to help children relate biblical concepts to their everyday experiences. *Seeds of Faith* is truly the beginning of our children's spiritual growth.



Where *Seeds of Faith* ends, *Generation Next* picks up. This curriculum begins with the 3rd grade and continues through the preteen years, training each student to make godly choices. Using the Bible, students will explore God's awesome creation, travel through the Red Sea, dig up evidences, cross over to the Promised Land and even peer into the empty tomb. These lessons allow the students to apply important Bible principals to their everyday lives. *Generation Next* takes the seeds planted and waters them such that each student has the foundation to make his or her decision to be a disciple for life.

# TO THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

Welcome to the Kingdom Kids Curriculum! God has used hundreds of talented and committed disciples to work together to produce a curriculum that will make your job easier. But, more important than that, it will give our teachers the resources and training that they need to effectively teach God's word to the next generation. You need to realize that there are some marked differences between the Kingdom Kids Curriculum and others you may have used in the past. Our curriculum is a fully integrated series of lessons for children from ages two through preteen:

*Seeds of Faith*  
Two and Three Year Olds  
Four and Five Year Olds  
First and Second Grades

*Generation Next*  
Third and Fourth Grades  
Preteens

Each age group consists of 104 user-friendly lessons in a cycle that is designed to be taught every two years. The curriculum advisory committee and DPI editors have spent considerable time designing this curriculum for all types of children's ministries. Our vision was to give churches a curriculum that helped children appreciate the fundamental convictions of our movement: the authority of God's word, the mission of the church, the vision of our leadership, and true, Biblical discipleship. Our objective has been to provide a curriculum that is accessible and functional for even the most inexperienced teacher. Finally, we believe the measure of this curriculum's effectiveness is the great memories of church etched on the hearts and minds of the children. We pray that you will find our curriculum vision to be a reality in your children's ministry.

## DELIVERY OF CURRICULUM

The first quarter of curriculum is Fall 1. Follow directions on the "Read Me First" divider page to put your curriculum and dividers together in the box. Each quarter thereafter, for seven more quarters, you will receive a new packet to be placed in one of two boxes (four units of material per box). Then you will give the material to your teachers at the appropriate time. Collect the previous quarter's materials and file them in your box to be used again in seven quarters.

Please note that you should have received two full sets of curriculum for each age group. One set is meant for use and one as a back-up set. The box is for long-term storage of your curriculum. Also note that many of your teachers are in the habit of discarding curriculum at the end of their teaching rotation. You will want to train your teachers to no longer do this. Once your ministry has been through the full two years of materials and lessons, you will come back to this first quarter and begin again.

## WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS CURRICULUM?

There are four important areas to consider about the nature of this curriculum:

- Integrating Sunday and Midweek Lessons
- Care and Storage of the Materials
- Distribution of Introductory Pages, Lesson Cards and Reproducible Pages
- Activity Centers

Please plan a meeting to address these areas with the appropriate ministry and children's ministry leaders.

## INTEGRATING SUNDAY AND MIDWEEK LESSONS

The core and supplement lessons may be taught on Sunday or at midweek, but the core lesson *should always be taught first*. If the core lesson is taught on Sunday, then the supplement should be taught at the following midweek. If the core lesson is taught at midweek, then the supplement should be taught on the following Sunday. Since the core lesson contains the main ideas for the week, it should be taught in the setting where the most children will benefit. The supplement offers an excellent reinforcement to the core lesson, but should only be taught following the core.

Each children's ministry is unique! Plan a meeting with your church-wide children's ministry leaders to make decisions regarding implementation for your children's ministry. Find out how other churches will be using the curriculum. Prepare for an exciting experience as you pray for God to show you the best way to deliver these lessons to his children.

What if a schedule change necessitates missing a midweek service? Our recommendation is that you skip the supplement and stay on schedule.

You will also want to encourage teachers for midweek and Sunday to communicate with each other during the week to coordinate what each class is doing.

## CARE AND STORAGE OF THE MATERIALS

The Kingdom Kids two-year cycle of lessons are reusable. Be careful not to misplace, or accidentally throw away any of the Lesson Cards. Be careful how you handle and store the cards; misuse may cause damage and replacement is costly.

Decide immediately where the curriculum "boxes" will be stored. Assign them to a reliable person for storage and maintenance. Develop a "sign-in/sign-out" system to keep track of the materials. Treat each Lesson Card and Reproducible Page as you would a valuable book—with respect and care. Make sure they are returned promptly to the proper storage location.

## DISTRIBUTION OF INTRODUCTION PAGES, LESSON CARDS AND REPRODUCIBLE PAGES

For the teachers of each age group, make copies of the designated Introduction Pages. These pages are distinguished from other Introduction Pages by this notation at the bottom:

### To be copied to give to teachers

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted

They contain useful information that will help the teachers understand the children and the use of the curriculum. This page (that you are now reading) can be copied and given to other children's ministry leaders in your group, but will not be needed by teachers.

Each lesson consists of a set of Lesson Cards and Reproducible Pages. The Lesson Cards contain the instructions for activities such as Bible Story, Craft, Game, etc. The Reproducible Pages contain materials needed for those activities. Choose reliable teachers who will be responsible for handling the cards and making sure they are returned to you. **Lesson Cards may NOT be copied. Reproducible Pages should always be copied.** *Never* use the Reproducible Page from the box for an activity—use only a copy of the page! Do not feed cardstock through the copier; place it only underneath the cover. At the bottom of each Reproducible Page will be the following notation:

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted

Give your lead teachers all of the material for a full quarter. We have three-hole punched the cards so they can be given to the teachers in binders if you so desire. (Binders are not supplied with the curriculum; you must supply them if you want to use them for your teachers.) The teachers will store and use each lesson as needed; then they will return them to you when the quarter ends. You will return the units to their proper place in the box behind the appropriate Unit Dividers.

REMEMBER: You will need to separate each lesson into Core and Supplement, giving the core lesson cards to the core teacher (whether Sunday or midweek) and the supplement lessons cards to the supplement teacher. The teachers can then distribute the individual center cards to the leaders of each center. At the end of the quarter, all Lesson Cards *must* be returned to you.

## ACTIVITY CENTERS

Lessons for 2 year olds through 4th grade have been designed for use in a "center" setting. An activity center (or station) is a teacher with a small group of children focused on one specific activity. During a class, children will rotate to all of the centers. Each lesson contains a preclass activity followed by three activity centers. Each center lasts from ten to thirty minutes. If you are not currently using centers, we strongly recommend this approach. (Please read the section called *Understanding the Center Approach* in the Introduction Pages for 2 year olds through 4th grade. Preteen classes do not use the center approach.) You will also need to plan time in the class for singing, rules and snack breaks.

### To be copied to give to children's ministry leaders

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted

# TO THE TEACHER

The Kingdom Kids Curriculum is unified in that it is for use in both Sunday and midweek children's classes. Every week the curriculum offers an integrated core and supplement lesson. The core lesson presents a memorable Bible story and activities that are later reviewed and reinforced in the weekly supplement. The supplement, although it follows the core, is not merely "supplemental," but rather, a key element of the lesson content.

Integrated lessons help students achieve their maximum learning potential. Children are challenged to recall, review and retain important Bible truths. They will also be encouraged to follow through with decisions they make to change and grow. Both lessons are designed for ninety-minute sessions. In most lessons, the activities can last up to two hours. Your church will learn how to best adapt the lessons to your children's ministry schedule.

## INTEGRATION OF SUNDAY AND MIDWEEK LESSONS

The core and supplement lessons may be taught on Sunday or midweek, but *the core lesson should always be taught first*. If the core lesson is taught on Sunday, then the supplement lesson should be taught at midweek. If the core lesson is taught at midweek, then the supplement should be taught the following Sunday. To help you decide when to teach these lessons, consider the following: At which service do you have the more consistent location, attendance and size of group? Since the core lesson contains the main ideas for the week, it should be taught in the setting where the most children will benefit. The supplement offers an excellent reinforcement to the core lesson, but again, should only be taught following the core.

## PARENT LETTERS

Parents play the critical role in the spiritual growth of their children. However, experience tells us that many families struggle with helping their children spiritually. The Kingdom Kids Curriculum has been designed with a plan to include parents and extend these lessons into the home. Only with this partnership can the curriculum make a lasting impact on the children.

At the beginning of each unit, a Parent Letter will go home with the children. On one side, parents will find an explanation of the unit being studied, including ideas to reinforce the lessons at home. On the back of the letter, parents will find the Unit at a Glance page. This is an overview of the unit including: unit goals and lesson objectives, weekly scripture memory verses and lesson summaries. These letters, together with your consistent, honest and constructive communication with the parents, will assure that these lessons are truly making a difference.



**To be copied to give to teachers**

# UNDERSTANDING PRETEENS

The most significant thing to appreciate about a preteen is that they no longer see themselves as children. What they want to sing or talk about or do is uniquely preteen. Their frustration and impatience with the stuff of children is conveyed in expressions like: "This is lame," or "I'm bored." Most certainly they do not want to be called or treated like children.

For most preteens, these years are when questioning authority is the norm. Worldliness is increasingly more attractive. They are simultaneously exerting their independence and searching for their own group. Preteens experience both physical and emotional changes. Since these changes occur so quickly, often preteens can exhibit strong feelings and emotions. They can be unsettled, uncertain, awkward, insecure and self-conscious. Although each preteen is unique, there are certain characteristics that apply to all preteens at one time or another. Here is a list of the most common characteristics shared by preteens. They

- have a deep need for group acceptance;
- have a strong sense of "group spirit";
- are independent and strongly individualistic;
- tend to worry and are easily unsettled by difficult circumstances;
- complain when a task is difficult;
- exhibit strong feelings and emotions;
- are competitive;
- investigate, explore and experiment
- are loyal;
- love to have brave, daring heroes;
- are willing to give their best effort when interested;
- have a good sense of humor; like to laugh with others, but not have others laugh at them;
- act like children one minute and demand adult privileges the next;
- enjoy joint projects with the opposite sex;
- can experience both times of spiritual confidence and times of doubt;
- (girls) giggle; (boys) are boisterous.

## SPIRITUAL NEEDS

The preteen years are important years in which spiritual decisions are made which will affect the rest of their lives. Because of this, the preteen ministry is vitally important. Apart from their families, the preteen ministry must serve as their most influential group.

One goal of your ministry should be to use this curriculum to develop spiritual maturity in your preteens. Your role as a teacher is to help these students apply to their own lives key Biblical principles taught in this curriculum: a knowledge of God, Jesus, and the Bible. You will ultimately train them to make godly decisions. Since belonging to a peer group is very important to preteens, helping them develop strong relationships in a spiritual group where they feel loved and accepted is equally important. Woven into this curriculum is an intent to build family, to cultivate love, gratitude and respect in the family. No matter what family situation a preteen comes from, through relationships in the church, God can make a difference in their lives.

During the preteen years, kids need brave, daring heroes. Many lessons in the curriculum focus on the great men and women of the Bible. One goal of this curriculum is to help the preteens love men and women of faith and look to *them* as heroes, rather than the heroes the world has to offer.

Teaching preteens can be challenging since they can act like both young children and like young adults. This age group requires your patience and self control. One way to be victorious is to pray consistently for each of the students by name.

Preteens can express great loyalty. They are willing to take on challenges, to investigate, to ask questions, and to work hard. If you give them your time and, more importantly, your heart, the rewards that come from teaching them will be great.

**To be copied to give to children's ministry leaders and teachers**

© 1998 by Discipleship Publications International • Permission to Photocopy Granted

13

# UNDERSTANDING THE PRETEEN CLASSROOM

Prior to the preteen curriculum, the children learned in a center-based approach. They learned and worked in small groups as they were taught Bible stories, participated in games and made crafts. The preteen curriculum is very different in that it is built on the group or classroom approach and assumes that a preteen leader is teaching at least some part of the curriculum. For many churches, the preteen ministry is the part of the children's ministry where the six-month rotation of teachers is replaced by a set leadership. This was a conscious part of the curriculum writing. It does not matter if your group of preteens is large or small, group interaction is an important part of a preteen's life and is a key to their learning.

## SETTING UP YOUR CLASSROOM

Every church setting is different. In some settings, there may be a large group of preteens. If your group is very large, we suggest dividing into two classes. Ideally, a class of preteens should have no more than twenty members. Another way to meet the specific needs of your preteens is by occasionally sub-dividing the class into one group of girls and one group of boys. This method, although helpful in developing relationships and having open discussions, is not recommended every week.

If you are in a church setting with a very small number of preteens, even two to four, it is important to have a class for these students rather than including them in a "school age" class. They should know that they are important enough to have a class of their own. The lessons can be modified and adapted to teach in a smaller setting. A great goal of a class this size would be to pray for the class to grow and for each preteen to bring a friend!

## GENERATION NEXT LESSONS

Preteens need fun, exciting and attractive learning. All of the *Generation Next* preteen lessons are just that—fun, exciting and attractive. To ensure that these lessons come to life, it is your responsibility to read through them prior to teaching. You should pray, study the scriptures and prepare in advance. Make sure you have everything you will need to effectively teach the lesson, and be sure to get help from your assistant teachers. Assign specific jobs to specific people so all are involved in the teaching process.

When teaching preteens, the manner in which you move from one activity to another can make or break your lesson. Being well prepared and familiar with the materials will help your transition times to go well. The lessons are designed to help you, as each part of the lesson builds on the previous part. Each lesson ends with a weekly challenge. This will help the preteen know how to take what he has learned and to apply it to his life. The preteens need your urging and encouragement to carry out these challenges. They also need your praise and encouragement when they are successful with their weekly challenges and memory scriptures.

**To be copied to give to children's ministry leaders and teachers**

# UNDERSTANDING THE PRETEEN LESSON

## Outline/Glossary

**Unit at a Glance** provides an outline of what will be covered in each unit, which consists of up to eight lessons. On the back of the unit page is the **Parent Letter**. This letter provides the parent with an understanding of what will be expected of their child over the next few weeks. Both of these pages are to be copied to one sheet, front and back, and given to the parents at the beginning of each unit.

A preteen lesson contains both a core and supplement lesson and a reproducible section. The core lesson appears first, followed by the supplement lesson. Included in both lessons are four major sections: **Lesson at a Glance**, **Getting Ready**, **Getting into God's Word** and **Getting It to Others**.

**Lesson at a Glance** offers a quick way for you to get an overview of what the lesson entails and how it relates to the overall unit. **Getting Ready** includes all the preparation necessary to teach a lesson and any activities that occur prior to the start of class. **Getting into God's Word** contains the biblically based lesson and other related activities. **Getting It to Others** involves activities, including a weekly challenge, that help the preteens apply the lesson to their own lives and the lives of others.

Following the core and supplement lesson are **Reproducible Pages**. These pages are to be copied and are referenced in the lessons where they apply. A Reproducible Page might be a scripture memory verse, a story, a chart or worksheet that will be used in a lesson.

NOTE: Your the students will also receive a **Quiet Time Journal** which is designed to complement the lesson each week. Each day they will be given a scripture that is a follow-up to the Sunday and midweek lesson. This will help them to learn to be consistent in their times with God and to apply the principles and facts that they are learning in class.

To help you to better understand what to expect, we will examine each of these lesson components in more detail:

## UNIT AT A GLANCE

**The Unit at a Glance** presents a brief overview of the unit. This information will be a useful reference for the teacher to keep a "big picture" while teaching each lesson within a unit. The following information will appear on the Unit at a Glance Page:

### **Unit Overview**

A brief explanation of the material that will be taught over the course of the unit.

### **Unit Goals**

These goals state the intent of each unit. Each lesson has specific objectives designed to meet the overall unit goals.

### **Unit Contents**

A listing of all the lessons included in the unit. The following information is included in the Unit Contents:

- **Lesson Overview:** A brief explanation of the material that will be taught in each lesson.
- **Scripture Memory Verse:** The Bible verse and reference the students are assigned to memorize for a lesson.

## PARENT LETTER

A letter addressed to the parents explaining the lessons that will be taught in the unit. The following information is included in the **Parent Letter**:

### **Weekly Challenge**

Students will be given an assignment based on the lesson to do outside of class. This can involve sharing their faith, building a relationship with a disciple, or working on specific character changes. The parents will be encouraged to help their child to meet the challenge.

### **Ideas to Try at Home**

A list of helpful suggestions that parents can do with their children to reinforce the lesson theme at home. These may include ideas for devotionals, activities or discussions.

### **Preteen Quiet Time Book**

Parents are reminded about the daily quiet time journal for each preteen that reinforces the topics being taught on Sundays and midweeks in a given week. This is a key part of making what is taught personal. Each quiet time is designed to be completed in ten to fifteen minutes.

## LESSON AT A GLANCE

The **Lesson at a Glance** presents a brief overview of the lesson. This information will be useful for the teacher in determining how to set up the class and focus the lesson. The following information will appear in this section:

### **Lesson Text**

This section lists the scripture references that provide the biblical basis for the lesson.

### **Lesson Objectives**

These objectives state the intent of each lesson. Each objective is obtainable, measurable and meets one of these specific requirements: (1) Bible Knowledge: identification of biblical characters and their roles to expand students' overall Bible knowledge, (2) Preparation to Answer: development of the students' convictions based on the Bible, (3) Love for God: developing a sincere love for God and an understanding of his nature and a desire to be close to him, (4) Character of Jesus: developing a desire to like Jesus and to possess his character, (5) Relationships: developing positive relationships with other preteens and adults.

### **Lesson Plan**

This outlines all the lesson components in order. It is recommended that you not vary the order, as the sections built upon one another.

### **Materials Needed**

This list details all the materials needed for either a Core or Supplement lesson. Each item and quantity needed is listed under one of these three groupings:

- **For each student:** Items needed for every student. These are supplied by the teacher. This may include items for activities such as markers, index cards, etc.
- **For the teacher:** Items needed by the teacher or used by the class as a whole. This may include props, bowls, markers, etc. Included on this list are extra Bibles, globes or maps, dictionaries and concordances.
- **Reproducible Pages:** Pages that will be copied and used in the lesson. This may include worksheets, memory verses, etc.

### **Scripture Memory Verse**

The Bible verse and reference the students are assigned to memorize for the week.

## GETTING READY

The purpose of this section is to prepare first the teacher and then the students for class.

**Getting Ready** includes three sections: **Faithful Instruction**, **Preclass Activity** and **Starting Up**.

### **Faithful Instruction**

This helps the teacher prepare for the lesson by providing helpful scriptures and insights that help set the heart and mind, and by giving useful suggestions to help the class go well.

- **Teacher Focus:** Thoughts, scriptures and questions for reflection regarding the theme of the lesson.
- **Teacher Tips:** Special ideas and tips for better lesson preparation and delivery.

### **Preclass Activity**

The Preclass Activity is an introductory activity for the students as they arrive. This activity is related to the lesson theme and will help prepare the students' hearts and minds for what will be taught later. This is also an encouraging time for students to greet one another, work together and build great relationships. This activity usually has one or more of the following subsections:

- **Materials Used:** Items used in an activity.
- **Preparation:** Steps taken prior to an activity to make it ready.
- **Instructions:** Steps taken during an activity.

### **Starting Up**

This section signals the beginning of class and includes the following activities:

- **Welcome and Singing:** A welcome by the teacher, followed by a brief period of singing one or two encouraging and uplifting songs.
- **Opening Prayer:** A short opening prayer focused on the class, led either by the teacher or one of the students.

- **Victories (Core lesson only):** A discussion time for the students to share victories they have had in completing the weekly challenge from last week's class. This should be a time of great sharing and encouragement as the students discuss their fears and how they faced them to meet the challenge. Also included is direction to discuss how the students are doing in their quiet times.
- **Good News from the Kingdom (Core lesson only):** Reading of "Good News from the Kingdom." The goal is to show the students how vast the kingdom of God is and how many great things are happening today. Information for this section can be found on the World Wide Web page for the Boston Church of Christ ([www.bostoncoc.org](http://www.bostoncoc.org)). Click on "Good News from the Kingdom."
- **Great News (Supplement lesson only):** A time of sharing to allow the students to share special happenings in their lives, their families, school, etc.

## GETTING INTO GOD'S WORD

This is the section reserved for the primary biblical instruction for the class. This section typically includes the following subsections:

### **Story (Core lesson only)**

The students will hear a brief story relating to the theme of the lesson.

### **Scripture Study**

A scripture study of a character or theme. This allows the students to spend time in God's word, studying passages relating to the theme of the lesson.

### **Activity**

A fun and exciting activity, such as a play or game, that reinforces the lesson theme.

## GETTING IT TO OTHERS

This section involves activities, including a weekly challenge, that help the preteens apply the lesson to their own lives, as well as to the lives of others.

### **Memory Scripture**

This activity focuses on a learning a new memory scripture. The students will practice the scripture during this activity with the expectation that they will memorize it for the next week.

### **Weekly Challenge and Snack Time**

If your students bring a snack, allow them to eat it at this time. As they are eating, give them their weekly challenge (an assignment based on the lesson to do outside of class). This can involve sharing their faith, building a relationship with a disciple, or working on specific character changes. Some challenges are relatively easy, while others will test the students' courage and convictions. The expectation is for the students to do their best with each challenge. Some may find the challenges easier than others. However, with the encouragement and advice of parents and teachers, each student should be able to meet the challenge at some level. The goal is to help the students grow in their spirituality, in order to withstand the peer pressure they experience in the world.

### **Conclusion**

This is a brief time to gather materials, clean up and say a prayer to end the time together. The students should feel encouraged and strengthened each time they leave the class.

## REPRODUCIBLE PAGE

Following the core and supplement lesson are the Reproducible Pages. These pages are to be copied and are referenced in the lessons where they apply. A Reproducible Page might be a story, a chart, a worksheet or a verse that is to be used in a lesson. Sometimes these pages are used in conjunction with a specific activity, but also these pages may be given as handouts for the students to take home.

# GENERAL TEACHER TIPS

In all the Kingdom Kids lessons you will find a section entitled Teacher Tips. These tips are useful suggestions that help the teacher to have the best class possible. Teacher tips range from alternate ideas about how best to deliver a lesson to where to find a certain material for a craft, or suggestions on having effective communication with a child.

In writing these lessons it became apparent that there are many tips that apply not to just one specific lesson, but to every lesson. What follows are General Teacher Tips. These are ideas and suggestions that we feel will contribute to the overall success of your teaching.

## *Be Spiritually Focused*

- Read the Lesson Text, the biblical basis for the lesson, preferably several days before class. You may find that this will be a great quiet time idea for you.
- Make sure you have your heart and mind spiritually focused before you teach the children.
- Pray for the children in your class by name, and pray to be exactly what the children need you to be.
- Pray for the visitor's children to love the class and to want to come back—with their parents, of course!

## *Care and Handling of the Lessons*

- Unlike other curriculum, the Kingdom Kids two-year cycle of lessons are reusable. Be careful not to misplace, or accidentally throw away any of the lesson cards.
- Be careful how you handle and store the cards; misuse may cause damage and replacement is costly.
- Do not write on the cards.

## *Be Prepared*

- Always bring your Bible to class and a few extra Bibles for visiting children who might not have one.
- Read the entire lesson prior to class. The lesson specifies all the materials you will need and exactly what you need to prepare ahead of time.
- When teaching a Bible Story or a Scripture Study, make sure to read and practice the story ahead of time so your dialogue sounds genuine. Scripted dialogue always appears in *italic* type.
- Many activities come with step-by-step instructions. Please read these instructions ahead of time and be familiar with the steps. In some cases, as with preclass activities, crafts and Scripture study activities, you may need to help the children with some step or answer some question they have during class. This is not the time to be reading the material for the first time.

## *Cautionary Statements, Notes and Emphasis Within Lessons*

- In some lessons, you will find the word "IMPORTANT" followed by a cautionary statement. These statements are designed to help you think carefully about any possible safety issues related to an activity. If you have a safety concern, seek advice from your children's ministry leader before proceeding with the activity.
- In some lessons you will find the word "NOTE" followed by a statement. These notes are designed to help you quickly see information that might be significant to the lesson or activity.
- Other text within a lesson that requires special emphasis will appear in all caps.

## *Managing Class Time*

- Lessons are designed for ninety-minute sessions. In most lessons, the activities can last up to two hours. Work with your children's ministry leader to learn how to best adapt these lessons to your class.
- Allow sufficient time for clean-up after an activity.
- Allow sufficient time for snack during class.
- Allow time to pray at the end of the class.
- Allow time to review rules and always plan for singing.

## *Follow All Instructions*

- During an activity, follow all the instructions in the order specified. Skipping steps or failing to follow instructions completely may cause an activity to fall short or not work at all, which could set the children up for failure.

## *Make a Model of the Craft*

- (Mostly for 2 years through 4th grade) In the case of craft activities, it is often necessary to make an example of the craft ahead of time, so the children have a model to imitate.

*Copying Reproducible Pages*

- Reproducible Pages are reusable and *must be copied prior to use*. Never cut, color, write on, or in any other way misuse an original Reproducible Page.
- When an activity calls for a number of copies for each child, we suggest making a few extra copies for the teacher, visiting children and as a back-up supply in case of mistakes.
- We also suggest making copies of all Reproducible Pages needed for the entire unit at one time. Making advance copies and storing them with the materials will help minimize costs and effort.

*Materials*

- In the preteen core lessons, "Good News from the Kingdom" is used to inspire the students about God and his kingdom. Please make arrangements to obtain this newsletter every week from your ministry leader or anyone who can get it from the World Wide Web page for the Boston Church ([www.bostoncoc.org](http://www.bostoncoc.org)).
- We suggest a plastic tub to store the sample crafts and visuals in. They are often needed at the ends of the units for review and can also be used in the future to enhance a lesson.
- The item "large writing surface" denotes any large writing surface, such as: a chalkboard in a school, a dry-erase board or chart paper. Always bring the writing utensils appropriate for the writing surface you will use.
- "White glue" refers to the kind of glue commonly used in schools and often referred to as school glue. In most activities where glue is needed, glue sticks are suitable; if not, white glue should be used.

**To be copied to give to teachers**

# SETTING UP A POWERFUL PRETEEN MINISTRY

The preteen years are a time of great change and growth. Developmentally, preteens are “coming into their own.” They are trying to figure out who they are and how they want others to view them. They face peer pressure at school and in their neighborhoods. They are beginning to make their own decisions about things that matter. At the same time the world is increasingly more attractive and inviting. Since preteens have very little experience from which to draw and since parents and other disciples cannot be with them all the time, they must be taught how to make the best choices.

Many adult disciples hold the view that a preteen ministry is a “holding ground” between a children’s ministry and a teen ministry. This view is not true. Many of our churches have a large number of preteens and have had a preteen ministry for a number of years. They have seen the crucial need for a powerful program for the preteens, who will find other outlets for their energies. Many preteens have made their decisions about God, the church and the Bible long before they reach the teen ministry. The preteen ministry is perhaps the ministry that has the most powerful influence in leading preteens to Christ.

In order to make a positive impact on preteens, the preteen ministry should have three primary objectives:

1. to present Jesus, God and the church in a manner that is exciting, inspiring, fun and practical
2. to create an arena in which preteens can build best-friend relationships that will help keep them faithful to God as they grow up together.
3. to help develop faith in God, Jesus and the Bible, and make godly decisions for their lives based on the Bible.

## ***The first objective is to present Jesus, God and the church in a manner that is exciting, inspiring, fun and practical.***

In order to accomplish this, we strongly recommend that classroom space be provided for the preteens, both for Sunday and midweek classes. Logistical challenges or budget issues, like a lack of classroom space or teachers, should not be the deciding factor on whether to provide the preteens with an opportunity to learn. For most preteens, sitting in the adult classes or sitting in on the Sunday sermons is both frustrating and boring. This will become their memory of church. Lessons need to be geared to the preteens’ level in order to be practical for them. They need to see how they can use the Bible in their real-life situations: family, school, neighborhood, sports teams, hobbies and activities. The *Generation Next* curriculum for preteens has been written so that the Bible will be practical to them.

An important element in any preteen ministry is making Jesus a hero in the preteens’ eyes. He must surpass any current sports or entertainment hero that the world holds up to them. To encourage the students to make Jesus their hero, it is important to select preteen ministry leaders and teachers who are fun-loving and can relate well to the preteens. These adult leaders must be spiritually strong and members of the church for no less than six months. These adults need to connect through an understanding and awareness of what is “in” with preteens. An adult may not have this connection when they are first selected to work with this age group, but they must be the kind of disciples who are willing to learn and be taught by the kids as to what is “in” for preteens.

Not every spiritually strong disciple will make a great preteen teacher. For instance, appearance is very important to this age group. An adult does not necessarily have to dress like the preteens do, but a sense of style is very helpful. Preteens are very conscious of weight, dress, personality, etc., as a measure of who they allow to influence them. While to many of us this is “worldly,” to them it is normal. They need to be able to relate to their teachers more so than in younger classes. How we look does matter to the preteens, especially when they are bringing their friends to church with them. Here are some helpful tips that will help preteen leaders and teachers:

- If you are overweight, lose the extra pounds (exercise and get in shape).
- If you have bad breath, freshen it.
- If your hair is greasy, wash it.
- If your clothes are outdated, toss them.
- If your musical knowledge is limited to “The Oldies” or classical, listen to your preteens’ favorite radio stations.

The goal of preteen leaders and teachers is to make the gospel attractive to those they are trying to reach with the love of God.

***The second objective is to create an arena in which preteens can build best-friend relationships that will help keep them faithful to God as they grow up together.***

The preteen ministry must provide opportunities for the students to hang out together. A monthly, church-wide devotional is an excellent opportunity for preteens to get to know other preteens from around the church. For churches with a large number of preteens, monthly devotionals can be conducted by regions or super regions. These devotionals could be held on Saturday mornings or Sunday afternoons. The following is a brief list of devotional ideas:

1. Brief lessons on Jesus and other Bible heroes, such as David, Daniel, Jacob, Esther, Deborah, Ruth, etc. Follow these lessons with small group discussions or activities that relate to the lesson. You can also have a big, group game that teaches unity and good sportsmanship.
2. Brief lessons on loving and helping the poor. These could be followed by planning fund-raisers to help the poor. For example, plan a skating party at a local skating rink. Charge a dollar or two above the admission fee, and donate the extra money to a project for the poor.
3. Lessons in which the group is divided into boys and girls. Have a lesson for the boys entitled "A Man of God" and one for the girls entitled "A Woman of God." Afterward, the boys can play a game related to the lesson, and the girls can learn about hair-styling and clothing from a disciple who is a professional in the field.

Disciples who have lead devotionals for years have found that a twenty-minute lesson works best with the preteens' attention span. The fun activity is very important after the lesson because preteens need to move and interact with each other. Most Bible bookstores offer a great selection of books containing "ice-breaker" activities and great game ideas for preteens. These books are helpful in planning preteen devotionals.

Great activities are essential in helping preteens build enduring friendships. Be careful not to center all your activities around athletics and competition. Some preteens are not athletic and may feel they do not fit in if most of your activities are sports oriented. Variety is a key part of making things fun. Whatever is done needs to be done excellently. Organize! Plan thoroughly! If athletic events are chosen, emphasis needs to be placed on participation and not on competing to win.

A church-wide preteen Olympics is a great activity for spring. Each team should have its own identifying color. The Olympics can promote unity and friendship among the preteens. Preteens can compete by regions and super regions. Indoor games, track and field events, volleyball and basketball are just a few possible areas of competition. You could even include some relay competitions that do not require exceptional athletic ability. Award ribbons and medals to the first-, second- and third-place winners in each competition. Then award a trophy to the team that wins the most points. You can also award groups a ribbon for having the best cheer, the best team spirit and the most creative banner or flag. In fact, make sure that every team wins some award (even if it is "The Brightest Smiles Award") so all preteens go home feeling successful. To ensure that no group is overlooked, have a representative of each group on the judging committee.

Parties are important friendship builders. These can be planned for a Sunday class, a region, or a super region. Here are some ideas: biblical costume parties, Thanksgiving feasts with thank-you devotionals, Christmas parties, monthly birthday parties, bowling parties, picnics and outdoor sports parties.

Many churches offer preteen summer camps lasting from three-to-four days to as long as a week. With an adequate number of adults to serve as counselors and chaperones, camp can be a life-changing experience for a preteen. So much can be accomplished at camp: many brief Bible lessons, messages from guest speakers, discussion groups, sports, swimming, arts and crafts, great fellowship, entertainment, talent shows and more. Camp can be an incredible memory for a preteen. Check with other ministries who have already had experience with conducting camps so you can learn from them. If you only have a few preteens, you might want to "hook them up" with a larger church's camp.

***The third objective is to help develop faith in God, Jesus and the Bible, and make godly decisions for their lives based on the Bible.***

This goal should be woven through the entire preteen ministry. This can be accomplished by asking questions to make the preteens think and then respond. Preteen teachers need to be careful not to just give information from the Bible, but to give the preteens the opportunity to think and reason, using the Bible as the standard. This is particularly true of children who have been around the church for some time.

The preteen ministry should have a close relationship with the teen ministry and the campus ministry. Strong teen and college disciples should be invited to speak to the preteens from time to time. This allows the disciples to share about their lives and how they make decisions based on their faith in God, their relationship with him, and their knowledge of his word. The preteens need the encouragement of seeing and learning from faithful teen disciples. This also meets their need to have heroes. "Relatable" teens and college students are great role models for preteens.

By being personally open, the teacher helps the preteens to understand how adult disciples make godly decisions. The preteen teachers can share about their daily walk with God, their relationships with other brothers and sisters, and their personal involvement in making disciples. They can also share how God has helped them to overcome weaknesses and turn those weaknesses into strengths.

An inspiring preteen ministry is a vital ministry in any church. It should never be optional! This ministry will have a most powerful impact in leading the next generation to Christ. Don't underestimate its influence and significance!

**To be copied to give to teachers**