

Introduction
to the
Kingdom Kids
School-Age
Curriculum



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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.

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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 ensure 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 principles 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.

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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:

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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:

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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 twenty-five 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.

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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.

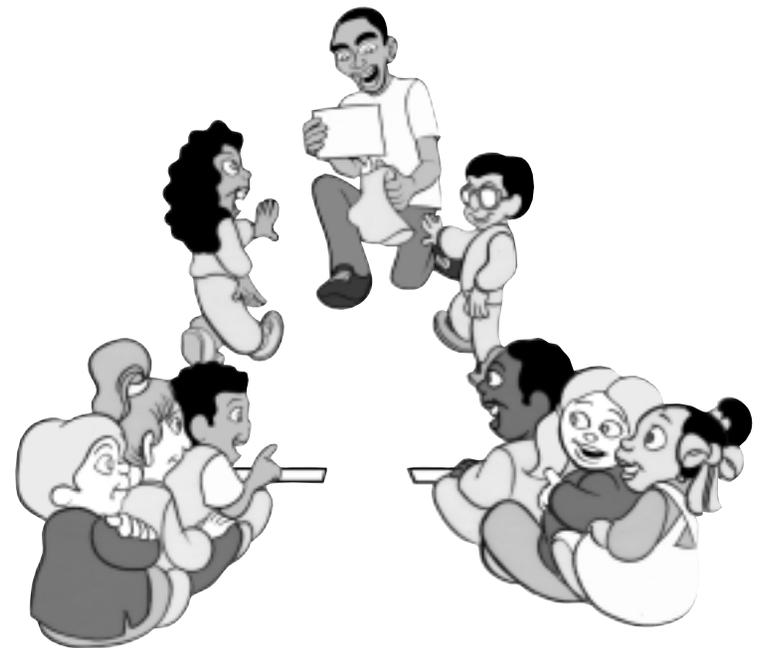
Integration of Sunday and Midweek Lessons

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.



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Understanding the Center Approach

Adapted from Heroes, DPI

Variety is said to be the "spice of life." This applies no less to children than to adults. Activity centers are an exciting way to teach children while giving them variety and change of activity in order to prevent boredom.

The activity center approach is excellent for less experienced teachers because it sets them up for success and makes the number of children manageable. Thus, the children are able to learn in an exciting way with far less behavior problems. Sounds almost too good to be true, doesn't it? Well, believe it; it's true!

Before Going to the Centers

Before the centers begin, the children will arrive at the designated area for registration by age group. After they have been registered, they will be escorted by an adult to a preclass activity area. Children should have several activities to choose from, including at least one provided in the lesson. Children will do their preclass activities until the class is ready to begin.

Dividing into Centers

The way this works is quite simple: Three activity centers are established. Depending on the age of your class and whether it is the core or supplement lesson, these centers may be: Bible Story, Life Application, Craft, Game, Scripture Memory or Bible Skills. A large room works very well since each corner of the room can be designated for a particular center. Each center should be clearly indicated with a large colorful sign.

A teacher is assigned to each center and is responsible to prepare that center's activity. During each class session, he or she will repeat the center's activity for each group of children.

Grouping the Children

After preclass, the Lead Teacher gathers the children together for a welcome, singing and review of the rules. The teacher then counts the number of children and divides by the number of centers. For example, in a class with twenty-four children and three activity centers, there will be three groups of eight children. The Lead Teacher will send a group of children to each of the three activity centers where they will spend twenty to twenty-five minutes and then move to a different center.

In classes where children are in a combined age group, try to divide the small groups by ages. For example, in a combined 1st and 2nd Grades and 3rd and 4th Grades class try to group children of the same age together. This helps the teacher to address their different needs.

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Time in Each Center

Each center is allotted a certain amount of time. The time is determined by dividing the amount of class time into three equal segments. This does not include time spent waiting for the children to arrive or the actual transition of children to their next center. Also allow time at the end for the children to return to the specific area where they will be picked up by their parents. Here are some examples of class schedules:

Class Schedule for Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.

9:30 to 10:20 Preclass activity

10:20 to 10:35 Welcome,
singing, rules review,
division of children into
small groups

10:40 to 11:05 Center #1
11:10 to 11:35 Center #2
11:40 to 12:00 Center #3

12:00 to parent pick up—
Post class activities: preclass
or review of lesson activities

Class Schedule for Midweek Service at 7:30 p.m.

7:00 to 7:40 Preclass activity

7:40 to 7:50 Welcome,
singing, rules review,
division of children into
small groups

7:50 to 8:10 Center #1
8:15 to 8:35 Center #2
8:40 to 9:00 Center #3

9:00 to parent pick up—
Post class activities: preclass
or review of lesson activities

The Lead Teacher gives the center teachers a five-minute “warning” to close out their activity and prepare children to rotate. When it is time to change centers, the children will be asked to quietly form a single line and move with an adult to the next center. For younger children, have them “make a train” to walk to the next center.

Snack: The Fourth Center?

In churches where classes number over thirty children, you may want to create a “fourth” center for snack. In this case, the Lead Teacher divides the entire group into four smaller groups and rotates them through four different centers: three lesson activity centers and a snack center. If this is necessary for your class, you will have to manage your timetable to allow adequate time for all four centers.

Advantages of Centers

Behavior problems are significantly reduced in centers due to the small group setting and the adult-to-child ratio. In large classes, centers help increase children’s safety by ensuring that teachers are focused on one particular group of children at all times. The twenty minute activity periods help children achieve greater focus—avoiding boredom and trouble! Changing groups, seeing different teachers and having new activities at each center is exciting to the children! The result—behavior is much better. Children do not get bored in the activity centers because every minute is filled with something fun to do!

Teachers, regardless of their experience with children, can do an awesome job teaching an activity center. With the help of these lessons, any disciple who can follow directions can lead fun, age-appropriate and engaging activities for any age group.

To be copied to give to teachers

Adapting the Center Approach

Although the curriculum is written for use in centers, it is easily used in a non-center approach. The whole class simply stays together and progresses through the different parts of the lesson as a group, with teachers facilitating and even taking responsibility for different parts.

Certainly, a combination of a traditional classroom approach and a center approach could be used. For example, the Bible story could be taught to the whole group and then students could have centers for the remaining part of the lesson.

There may be some situations in which the center approach as described earlier is difficult to implement. Some examples of such situations and possible solutions are as follows:

Too few children to divide into groups for centers

(solution: Plan a short transition time for the students between activities. For example, after the Bible story, remove the rug or blanket, have the students stand and stretch, and then reorganize them around the workspace where they will do their craft. You can define this area with a table and chairs or with a plastic tablecloth on the floor. At the close of that activity, let the students once again move or, for younger children, march around briefly. Then regroup for the third and final center activity. If done right, children will focus more on "what's next" and less on where they are.)

Teachers who speak only one language in a class situation with children who speak two or more languages

(solution: At least a couple of teachers can plan to trade centers in order to teach a group who speak their language. You would need to group the children by language with this approach. Also, the whole group could be kept together with teachers translating for the students who do not speak the particular teacher's language. Instead of moving from center to center in small groups, they will all stay together. They will simply transition from activity to activity in the same order presented in the curriculum. They can also do stretching or marching to indicate they are switching to another part of the class program.)

Too little space to assign different locations for each center

(solution: At least divide the room in half and have one or two centers in one half and one or two in the other half. Or, as mentioned above, the whole group can be kept together and do all the activities together.)

To be copied to give to teachers

Understanding the First and Second Grader

In Pooh's Grand Adventure "The Search For Christopher Robin," Christopher Robin is faced with a painful reality—tomorrow is his first day of school, and he shall not be able to meet Pooh at their special place under the tree in the hundred-acre wood. They promise each other that they will be friends forever—even when they are apart. And the adventure begins.

Who Are They?

Life for children this age is a grand adventure. School is shaping their world. Fun and play has a new twist—order. Letters become words; pictures tell stories; faces and shapes have patterns, and colors make other colors. Their minds are overflowing with new ideas and what to do with them.

- Key to remember: *order*

Second graders then become masters of order. They read and write with more confidence. They have a new adventure—relationships! They identify, compare, contrast and associate. The order of first grade is now their key to unlocking new and more challenging patterns and puzzles. Not only are they learning relationships of letters and numbers, they are also learning to build their own relationships and make friends.

- Key to remember: *relationships*

Who Is God?

To young first graders, God is good. God is a loving father. He is strong, he is always right, and he knows everything. He is Jesus' father and he loves children. God wrote the Bible and he wants children to obey what it says. God loves to hear them pray. God wants them to obey their parents. God wants everyone to be happy. God is happy when we obey and he is not happy when we don't. Children this age have a firm faith in the goodness of God and are beginning to think about him in relation to themselves.

- Key to remember: *God is good.*

To the second grader whose identity is beginning to be shaped more by friends and others' opinions, God is also becoming relational. They think more in terms of cause and effect and may begin to question God. Children this age are sensitive to what others think, and also to what God thinks of them. They are eager to please. They may be quick to feel as though they have failed and will need lots of encouragement. They need to be reassured of God's love for them.

- Key to remember: *God loves me.*

Who Are You?

You are a teacher, a role model, a friend and a living example of Jesus. Children will see you first as their teacher as you feed their hungry minds and hearts with exciting new ideas and adventures. Do not be concerned if you are not a teacher by profession, for your real "profession" is Christ, and that is all they need. For children who come from homes where one parent is not a disciple, you are an adult role model. How you treat them and others will be the Bible coming to life in ways that they *may not see anywhere else*. For those struggling with adult relationships in school or in the community, you are a friend. And above all, you are Jesus to each of them as you strive to help them see God in ways they will never forget.

- Key to remember: *Be like Jesus.*

What to Remember?

*I un-loving is my nature; it's really quite true!
I've got such imagination. I'll share it with you.
Responsibility is something I need you to teach me.
Singing is fun, and I'll try hard if you lead me.
Teacher I'll give you all that I've got. If you do the same,
then we'll learn a lot!*

*Since I'm older and wiser, you'll see what I mean.
Eager to please; I'm a speed machine!
Channel my energy; I need self control.
Only please be gentle or to despair I may fall.
Never, oh never, give up on your part.
Develop in me a love-for-God heart!*

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First and Second Grades Lesson

First and Second Grade is the third and final cycle of the Kingdom Kids preschool/primary curriculum, *Seeds of Faith*. This cycle features two new activity centers: *Scripture Memory* and *Bible Skills*. These lessons are designed to transition first and second graders from the “fun and games” of preschool and kindergarten into a more skills-oriented approach. Children are sure to enjoy these activities as they develop their abilities to memorize scripture, recognize key words, order books of the Bible as well as pray with others, talk about their feelings and apply Scripture to their lives.

Activity Centers

Every week, children will participate in six different learning centers: three in the core lesson and three in the supplement.

- Core: Bible Story
- Core: Craft
- Core: Scripture Memory
- Supplement: Life Application
- Supplement: Game
- Supplement: Bible Skills

Bible Story and Life Application

Children will participate in a weekly Bible Story that is fun and relevant to their lives as they master key words and concepts. In the supplement lesson, the Bible Story is reviewed and applied in the Life Application center. This activity looks at the Bible Story from a personal perspective and helps children to make real life applications. Both the Bible Story and Life Application lessons are scripted to help ensure that each lesson has age-appropriate language and concepts. Anyone who is prepared can lead an exciting and life-changing class!

Craft

Always a favorite, the craft is a tangible memory of the child’s experience. Children will make crafts that they can share with others at home and at school. With step-by-step instructions and diagrams, the teacher is set up for success. You don’t have to be an art teacher to help the children make a great craft—you just have to be prepared!

Scripture Memory

This new center will help children learn and memorize scripture through games and fun activities. Not only are they learning precious truths from God’s word, but the children are building friendships as they work and play together. Inspired by techniques used by language teachers, this center is designed to help lay a foundation of scripture memory that will last a lifetime.

Game

From musical chairs to fun with blindfolds, children are sure to have a great time playing games that reinforce key concepts and review Bible knowledge. Friendships continue to be deepened through teamwork and healthy competition.

Bible Skills

Based on target academic skills, this new center uses basic reading, writing, ordering and identification to help children get to know their way around the Bible. Ultimately, this activity center has been designed to prepare children for the challenges of more intensive Bible skills in the next cycle of *Generation: Next*.

What’s Next?

Children who successfully complete this two-year cycle will be familiar with the books and general significance of the Old and New Testament. They will have memorized about one hundred scriptures and begun to master skills such as locating Bible verses and using a concordance. These children will not only have vivid memories of Bible stories, but they will also have discussed, prayed about and experienced personal applications of many Bible passages. Ultimately, the children who complete this cycle will be ready to enter the Third and Fourth Grade class, *Generation: Next*, ready to begin a comprehensive survey of Bible history, events and personalities.



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Understanding the Third and Fourth Grader

Stop and think about what you remember from third and fourth grades. School? Friends? Choices? Today's students face pressures that most of us never dreamed of at that young age. Will your class be a safe haven for their hearts? Will you be their hero and friend?

Who Are They?

Life for children this age takes on powerful demands both socially and emotionally. In the United States today, upper elementary students are faced with peer pressures that were common only to high school students just twenty years ago. They are growing physically and emotionally. They are developing a personal sense of independence. Television, radio and computer bombard their minds with adult themes and choices. In spite of all this, they are still children and long for the protection and safety of home and family. They are helpful, open and easy going. They need godly direction, righteous role models and real friends.

- Key to remember: *Independence needs guidance and direction.*

Who Is God?

This age group is learning to make choices, and God is a very important part of those choices. God has thoughts and feelings; he wants to be personally involved in their lives. These students understand cause and effect. They are learning that their decisions have consequences, and are seeing the effects of other people's decisions. They are looking for consistency and safety. God's word now takes on a new dimension; it is becoming the source for making good decisions. This age group desperately wants and needs the goodness, power and protection of God. They are extremely sensitive to right and wrong—especially their own. They have soft consciences that are ready to be fed with God's truth.

- Key to remember: *Our choices make a difference to God. The Bible helps us make good decisions.*

Who Are You?

More than ever before, you are in a position to make lasting impressions. Idealism will soon give way to realism for your students. Your example and integrity will be the background for everything you say. Your life will speak louder than your words. This is an exciting opportunity to inspire, uplift, encourage and prepare their young minds to love God and to live for him! Besides their parents, you are the first line of defense for their souls as they start to grasp the implications of their spirituality. Leave them with memories of God's victories, heroes and miracles that will overshadow the hypocrisy and immorality they see everyday. You, like never before, must be Jesus to them.

- Key to remember: *The impressions you leave will last a lifetime.*

What to Remember?

In about fifteen years, Lord willing, one of your students may be reading these very same words. What will they remember about you? What impression will you leave to influence *their* next generation? How hard will you pray? Will you be prepared to make *the* difference?



To be copied to give to teachers

Third and Fourth Grades Lesson

Third and Fourth Grade begins *Generation: Next* curriculum for older school-age students. This unique and exciting two-year survey of the Bible will offer a solid foundation of Bible history, events and personalities. Unlike the preschool/primary curriculum, the Third and Fourth Grades will devote the first year to discover the Old Testament and the second year to discover the New Testament and God's church today. Students will journey from Genesis to Revelation to God's modern-day movement as they watch God's power and love unfold before their eyes. The Third and Fourth Grades lessons will provide the vital Biblical background for students who will soon begin their search for a personal relationship with God as they enter their preteen years.

Activity Centers

Students will participate in six weekly learning centers: three in the core lesson and three in the supplement.

- Core: Bible Story
- Core: Craft
- Core: Scripture Memory
- Supplement: Life Application
- Supplement: Game
- Supplement: Bible Skills

Bible Story and Life Application

In *Seeds of Faith*, monthly units alternated between Old and New Testament throughout the year. In the Third and Fourth Grades, the units are designed to provide a continuous overview of the Bible: the first year in the Old Testament and the second year in the New Testament. These lessons have been carefully scripted to help you present them in ways that will make lasting impressions. Students will master key words and concepts as well. In the supplement Life Application activity center, you will help students look at the Bible Story from a personal perspective and make real-life applications.

Craft

Students will enjoy a variety of craft activities as they are challenged to consider the importance of following instructions and paying attention. Crafts are the tangible memories of important lessons that students will treasure.

Scripture Memory

In the core lesson, students continue to master and memorize Bible verses in fun and creative ways. Friends are made through teamwork and cooperative learning. This center attempts not only to help students learn the verse by heart, but to take the verse to heart as well.

Game

From game shows to charades, students will have lots of fun learning, reviewing and mastering their Bible knowledge. Many games give students the opportunity to work in teams, building and deepening friendships along the way.

Bible Skills

Students sharpen their Bible skills with activities that include: speed drills, timelines, map reading, using a concordance and more! Leadership skills are encouraged as students offer help to visiting students or to those who may be less familiar with the Bible.

What's Next?

Students who successfully complete this two-year cycle will have a basic knowledge of Bible history, know the order of the books of the Bible, have a grasp of the differences between Old and New Testament, and be able to explain evidences for the inspiration of the Bible. And that is not all. Throughout the two years, students will be challenged personally to think about the consequences of their choices as they develop convictions about sin and personal righteousness. Ultimately, the student who completes this cycle should enter the Preteen Class prepared and motivated to seek a personal relationship with God.

To be copied to give to teachers

Sample Lesson Card

Activity Title and Introduction:
the name of the activity and a brief introduction stating the purpose

Lesson Title:
the name of the lesson

Center Title:
type of activity center

Materials:
For each child: a list of items that each child will need to complete the activity
For the teacher: a list of items that the teacher will need to prepare and complete the activity
Reproducible Pages: a list of the Reproducible Pages to be copied by the teacher prior to the activity. These might be used by the teacher to prepare the activity or by the children to complete the activity.

Preparation:
step-by-step directions which tell the teacher how to prepare for the activity before class

Instructions:
easy-to-follow directions for the teacher to lead the activity

Cautionary Statements:
IMPORTANT - consider safety issues
NOTE - relevant information

Quarter:
quarter of the curriculum

C
R
A
F
T

Sin Enters the World

Vitamin P

The students will create spiritual "vitamins" to be taken and applied to their lives every day for a week. They will learn how to please God by following God's word.

Materials

For each student:

- 1 plain paper cup
- pens or thin felt-tip markers
- unsharpened pencil or pen with cap
- glue or tape
- scissors
- 1 white sticky label, 1" x 3"

Reproducible Pages:

- Page D, 1 copy for each student

Preparation

1. On each student's label, write: "Vitamin P--Read daily as needed."
2. Make a model of the craft to show the students.

Instructions

IMPORTANT: Make sure that the students do not actually eat these pretend vitamins or attempt to put them in their mouths.

1. Introduce the craft by saying: *Today you are going to make some things that will help you to think of ways to please God. We will call the activity "Vitamin P." We can take vitamins every day to stay healthy. These will be like spiritual vitamins. The "P" stands for "Please." If you take and read these every day, they will help you to please God.*
2. Show your model to the students. Unroll one "vitamin" and show them the Bible verse written on it. Explain that you will read this Bible verse and think of how you can obey it today. Help them know that God will be pleased if they follow the Word by obeying it.
3. Distribute the paper cups, copies of Page D, and scissors to the students.
4. Tell the students to cut out the seven Bible verses from their copies of Page D.

Creation
Lesson 5

5. Tell the students to take each Bible verse and roll it up by wrapping it tightly around a pencil. Have them slip the pencil out. See **Figure A**. The rolled-up papers are the "vitamins." Offer assistance to those who have difficulty with this step.

6. Tell the students to place the seven vitamins in the cup or pill container.

7. Distribute the labels to the students and have them place them on the cups. Tell the students to write their names on the cups. See **Figure B**.

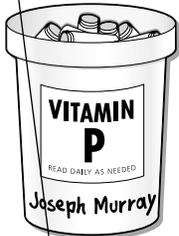
Conclusion

Tell the students to each choose a time in the morning when they will "take their vitamins." Will it be when they first wake up? at breakfast? on the bus?

Close with a prayer for the students to be faithful in following God's word.

Teacher Tips

- Explain "Vitamin P" to parents as the students leave. Encourage parents to ask their children about their daily "vitamin."



GENERATION
3rd and 4th Grades
Creation 1-5-5

Unit Title and Lesson Number:
the name of the unit and the number of the lesson being studied

Conclusion:
a brief summary of the activity and suggestions for closing questions or prayer

Teacher Tips:
useful suggestions about how best to deliver a lesson, where to find a material for a craft or how to have effective communication with a child or parent

Age Group Logo:
identifies the age group

Unit Title and Page Number:
a quick reference for filing purposes that includes Unit name, Unit #-Lesson #-Page #

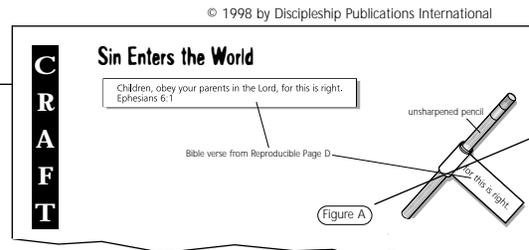


Figure:
a reference to a diagram on the reverse side of the Lesson Card which illustrates one of the step-by-step directions

To be copied to give to teachers

**C
R
A
F
T**

Sin Enters the World

Creation
Lesson 5

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
Ephesians 6:1

Bible verse from Reproducible Page D

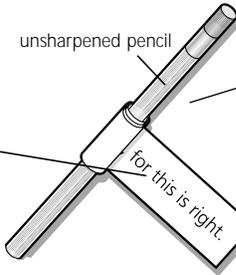


Figure A

Diagram:
an illustration of an activity in progress or a finished work

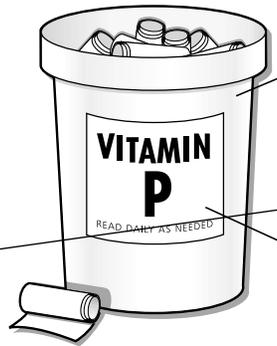
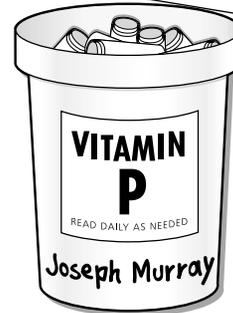


Figure B

label

Figure:
a reference to a diagram which illustrates one of the step-by-step directions



Finished Craft

Call Out:
a reference to a material in a step-by-step diagram

Fall 1

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Creation 1-5-1

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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 or parent.

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 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.

To be copied to give to teachers

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 children's ministry leader or anyone who can get it from the World Wide Web page for the Boston Church (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.

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