

Thank you for stepping into the role of teacher to the future church. We would like to share a few important things with you before you teach one or more of these lessons.

The Sunday School curriculum is committed to:

1. Faithfully teach the entire Bible (Old and New Testament) as one continuous story that points to Jesus.
2. Focus our lessons on who God/Jesus/Holy Spirit is or what he has done, and what our response should be to him.
3. Come alongside teachers from a variety of large or small church settings that are teaching one grade or multiple in their classroom with a clear lesson goal, engaging questions, storytelling ideas, object lessons and crafts.

The single biggest change in this curriculum is our very deliberate effort to clearly identify a lesson goal for each and every Bible lesson. For example, when teaching about Jesus multiplying the loaves and fishes, we can focus on the miracle itself, the sharing attitude of the little boy who gave his lunch to Jesus, or the truth this miracle teaches us about Jesus, our provider. Considering we typically have less than an hour per week to teach our children in Sunday School, we need to ask ourselves, what is the most important goal? That we should share like the little boy? Or that Jesus miraculously provided bread and fish to people in need and Jesus is our ultimate provider today? Yes, we should share, but when we understand that Jesus is our provider, we will want to share what he gives us. We hope you see this careful focus on the lesson goal as a tremendous help as you teach God's word to your students.

Because of our focus to faithfully teach the entire Bible as one continuous story that points to Jesus, we encouraged our lesson authors to first read the Bible chapter(s) and verses where we find the Bible story or application. We want to encourage you as well to first read the highlighted verses from the lesson and seek God's direction to organize your lesson. We do not recommend using the lessons as a script to be read from and or to teach in a straight linear progression. You will likely find more ideas in these lessons than you are able to do. This was deliberate, to give you choices, and provide ideas that will work in a variety of classes (small/large class, single vs mixed grade, etc.). Be sure to look through the resources from the bookstore and website for Bibles, maps, printable posters, timelines, etc.

Most importantly, thank you for teaching our children! You are coming alongside parents and grandparents to lay the groundwork for what our children believe about God and his word. That's a task of monumental importance! May the Lord go before you and guide you as you teach.