

Thank you for stepping into the role of teacher to the future church. As a Sunday School teacher, 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! We would like to share a few important things with you before you begin teaching these lessons. This Sunday School curriculum is committed to: 1) Teach the Bible stories well and teach them as one continuous story that points to Jesus. 2) Focus our lessons on the fact that God is, God was, and God always will be, scripture is real and matters now, and that God and scripture have not changed. 3) Come alongside teachers from a variety of large or small church settings that are teaching one or multiple grades in their classroom with engaging questions, storytelling ideas, object lessons and crafts.

The Bible was used as the basis for the lessons in the 4th-6th Grade. Memory verses and vocabulary are from the King James Version. The committee for the 4th-6th Grade lessons recommends that students and teachers use the International Children's Bible in class, though the lessons will still be valuable if a congregation continues to use the Egermeier's or Hurlbut's Bible story book. Our curriculum writers feel it is important for the students to directly experience God's word instead of reading an author's retelling of the scripture. The International Children's Bible has a third-grade reading level and allows the students to read and understand scripture on their own. The International Children's Bible was created as a true translation of the original Greek and Hebrew texts (not a paraphrase or an adaptation). Each congregation is free to use whichever text they feel will best benefit their students.

We have also identified a lesson goal for each Bible story 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 have only 1 hour per week to teach our children in Sunday School, we need to ask ourselves, what is the most important goal? 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 a tremendous help, as you teach God's word to your students.

You will likely find more ideas in these lessons than you are able to complete in your time constraint. 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.). We would also like our students to practice memorizing scripture together. We have chosen particular passages to incorporate into our lessons. We encourage 4th grade students to memorize the 10 commandments and the Beatitudes, 5th grade students to memorize Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Galatians 5:22-23 (Fruit of the Spirit), and 6th grade students to memorize Isaiah 61:1-

3 and Ephesians 6:10-18 (Whole Armor of God). You will see that we incorporate these scriptures in the application questions in our lessons, reminding the students (and the teachers) to memorize these scriptures.

Be sure to look through the resources from the bookstore and website for Bibles, maps, printable posters and timelines. Finally, and most importantly, thank you for teaching our children! May the Lord go before you and guide you as you teach.