

## Introductory Letter to Pre-Kindergarten Sunday School Lessons

Thank you for your willingness to serve in Sunday School! We would like to share a few important things with you before you teach one or more of these lessons.

When the elder body tasked us with creating a new Sunday School curriculum for the Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten grades, we endeavored to cover the Bible stories at a 3 to 6 year-old comprehension level. To reinforce the chronological flow of the Bible for little minds, the stories are arranged by grade level so students will cover Genesis through Revelation in Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten. As stories are repeated in this 3-year span, the following grade level themes are emphasized to encourage continued learning during the timeframe.

Each grade level focuses on a theme:

Preschool – God’s faithfulness in making and keeping promises

Pre-Kindergarten – God’s power and love as he welcomes us into his family

Kindergarten – Character traits of men and women in the Bible

Across all grade levels, among other things, we aim to:

1. Faithfully teach the Bible (both Old and New Testament) as one continuous story that points to Jesus.
2. Come alongside teachers from a variety of large or small church settings that are teaching one grade or multiple grades in their classroom with a clear lesson goal, engaging questions, storytelling ideas, object lessons and crafts.

The Pre-Kindergarten writing team recognizes that each classroom is unique and not every activity will work for your specific group of children. So, we intentionally include more teaching and activity ideas in these lessons than you will have time to complete in one Sunday. This decision gives you an array of choices and provides ideas that will work for a variety of classes. Page one of each lesson is an overview of all the components in the lesson: the scripture passage on which the lesson is built, the lesson goal and key ideas to reinforce as you teach, and the options for activities and crafts.

**Scope and Sequence:** A list of details for all 50 lessons for each grade level is available for Preschool – Kindergarten (this is also available for older grades). This helps show teachers how the grades tie together (especially if you have multiple grade levels in a single Sunday school class).

### Core Components of Pre-Kindergarten Lessons:

1. The biggest change in this curriculum is our effort to identify a **Lesson Goal** for each lesson. For example, when teaching about Jesus multiplying the loaves and fishes, we could 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. With our limited time each Sunday, we are forced to determine what is the most important learning goal we can achieve. What lesson emphasis will best celebrate God’s character and care for his people? We hope our focus on a defined and limited Lesson Goal assists you in effective teaching with the brief time each week allows. The **Lesson Goal** is called out throughout the lesson for teachers to reinforce with the students in repetition. It is also printed on the coloring and take-home pages. If there’s one thing the

student should be able to repeat when asked “What did you learn in Sunday School today...”, it is the Lesson Goal.

2. Another change you will find in these lessons is the use of a new Bible storybook, *One Big Story Bible Storybook*. *It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook* is also listed when the story is included. Some of our favorite features of *One Big Story Bible Storybook* include concise and clear stories, lively and eye-catching illustrations for every story, and Christ connections which remind the reader that the entire Bible points to Jesus. Teachers are strongly encouraged to read the passage from the Bible as part of their preparation for teaching.
3. A Background Information section is included in many lessons and is intended as a resource to assist teachers as the students ask deep questions or react to the lesson. Explanations of terms and particulars of characters’ lives are fleshed out. At times, cultural details that are lost to our twenty-first century consciousness are included for context. This section was not designed to be read aloud to students, but as preparation material for teachers.
4. A Simple Review of the Previous Lesson is included each week. Repetition is key for memory in young minds. It’s helpful to use the poster or storybook illustration used in the previous lesson during this review time. Encourage students to briefly restate the lesson goal, main characters, and a few details if they can.
5. Hand motions are encouraged throughout the 50 Pre-Kindergarten lessons. For four and five-year olds, incorporating physical movement with abstract concepts and new vocabulary turns auditory learning into a multisensory experience. Hand motions make complex ideas more concrete and allow the students to physically "act out" concepts. Hand motions for each Pre-Kindergarten lesson goal are in the content questions section.
6. Songs – Pre-Kindergarten students are capable of learning songs that will stick in their memory for the rest of their lives. We took care to include many songs with scriptural and high-quality lyrics that are engaging and worth remembering. Songs may be purchased as a CD from online retailers or streamed for free on YouTube. Featured most prominently are:
  - Steve Green – *Hide ‘Em in Your Heart* volumes
  - *WeeSing Bible Songs*
  - *Children’s Harp*
  - CityAlight – specifically “Jesus, Strong and Kind”
7. Scripture Memory References – We provide passages for students to learn throughout the year with various support materials – see the designated materials on the Pre-Kindergarten curriculum website for more details.
  - Psalm 86:9-13
  - Psalm 103:8-12

### **Developmental Characteristics of 4- and 5-year-old Children:**

1. Social / Emotional – Pre-Kindergarten aged children are actively learning to share, take turns, and manage complex emotions. They are beginning to learn empathy and how to resolve conflicts and forgive the poor actions of their peers. Because of these growing understandings, they are also beginning to comprehend how their selfishness and sin can hurt God’s heart and how great his love is when he readily forgives us.
2. Fine Motor – Four and five-year-olds are beginning to refine their fine and gross motor skills. Pencil and scissor skills are in their infancy but improving month by month with practice. Attention to detail is starting to be evident for many students in coloring and crafts. Pre-Kindergarteners are growing in their ability to match or copy a “master” example when coloring and crafting. Teachers can promote using object appropriate colors and coloring each separate

detail. Crayons such as “Colors of the World” by Crayola will aid students in imitating the variety of skin tones they will see in the story book and image posters.

3. Language and Vocabulary – Pre-Kindergarteners vocabularies are exploding. They ask a lot of "who," "what," "where," and "why" questions. Their understanding is rapidly expanding but is still very literal in nature. They grasp God's character and his care best when it is compared to the love, protection, and correction they receive from their own parents and other loved authority figures. New vocabulary can and should be introduced regularly but will need to be repeated numerous times throughout the lesson for mastery.

Thank you for teaching our children! You are coming alongside parents, grandparents, and guardians to lay the groundwork for what our children believe about God and his word. This is a task of monumental importance! May the Lord go before you and guide you as you teach.