

Judges & Ruth

PRESCHOOL AGE CURRICULUM

Revised and Updated from Original Study by
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Sample
Lesson

Dear Teacher,

Children are important to God! As a teacher you have the privilege of helping children learn more about God and develop a personal relationship with Him.

Judges contains exciting stories and illustrations of God's love and care for His children. As we study this course we want to help the children understand:

- that they are important to God and He loves them,
- that God is all powerful and wise, and
- that God will take care of them in every situation.

Isaiah 43:4a & 5a, "*Since you are precious and honored in My sight, and because I love you...Do not be afraid, for I am with you,*" illustrates these truths and should be emphasized each week throughout the course.

Preparation

In preparation for the year, review each lesson plan. Study the scriptures paying particular attention to Isaiah 43:4a & 5a. Ask God to help you understand and apply these scriptures to your own life and to provide you with a clear way to explain the concepts to the children. It isn't necessary to follow every detail of the lesson plan. Use the plan as your guide and as a springboard for your own ideas. Make notes as ideas come to you and begin collecting materials.

Key Verse = Lesson Focus.

As you prepare your weekly lesson use the "Key Verse" to clarify the direction recommended for the story and the activities. Each suggested activity has been designed to reinforce the lesson focus. *Remember: All the activities should conform to the lesson focus to ensure that the children come away with one complete concept each week.*

Music and Fingerplays

Suggested songs are from "Sing-Along Songs for Young Children" which may be purchased from Joy of Living. For those who are unsure of their musical ability, most of the tunes in "Sing-Along Songs for Young Children" are familiar folk songs. Other appropriate songs may be substituted.

It is important to know the songs before trying to sing them with the children. Don't forget to use motions to accompany the songs. If none are indicated—make them up! Motions will help the children learn the songs more quickly and add fun to singing time.

Music can also serve as an effective tool in classroom management. Certain songs may be used consistently to signal transitions from one activity to another. “When We All Work Together” or “Now It’s Time” would attract the children’s attention and signal that it’s time to put away the toys. It is good to end the singing time with a quiet song (e.g. “Oh, How I love Jesus”). This will prepare the children to sit quietly and listen to the story.

Storytime

Remember: The “Key Verse” will clarify the direction recommended for the Bible story. Use imagination in telling the story. Some ideas are included for making the story fun. Feel free to be silly and enthusiastic about the story. The children will catch your excitement for God’s Word.

Application

A young child learns by doing. The suggested Bible application activities are designed to reinforce the lesson focus. Feel free to substitute other appropriate activities.

Crafts

Materials for crafts should be gathered well in advance. A sample of the craft should be made and brought to class for the children to see. Talk about the lesson focus as you work on the craft.

Snack time

Any simple healthy snack will be appropriate. If possible, provide snacks that will give opportunity to discuss the lesson (e.g. swirl cookies to remind us of an archery target when you discuss David and Jonathan).

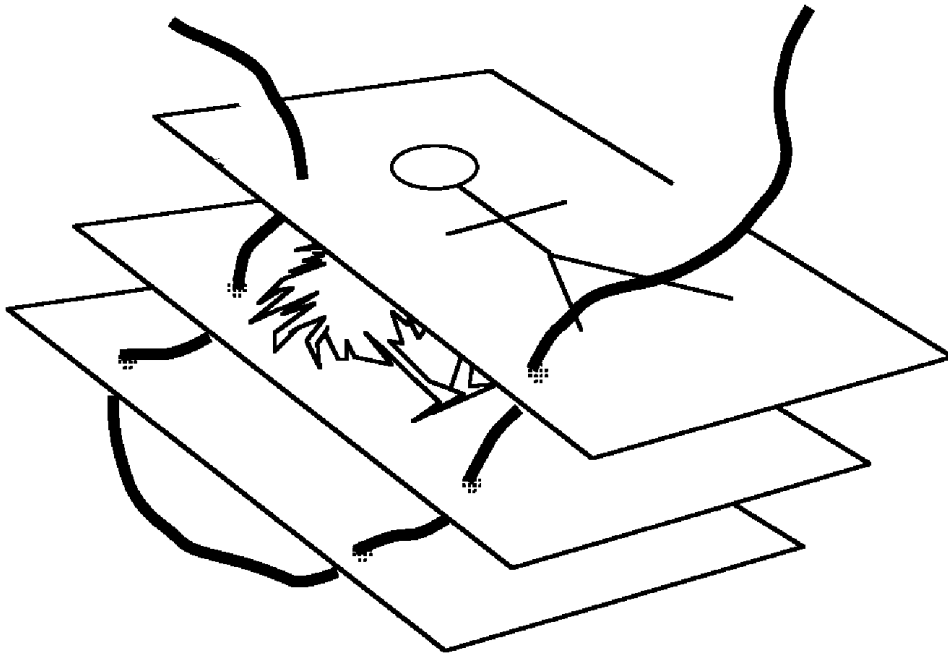
Several simple recipes are included on pages #7 & #8.

Notebooks

The notebooks are designed to reinforce the weekly lesson. The children will take them home on the final day of class. The notebooks will serve as a reminder to the children of the concepts that they learned throughout the year.

Covers can be made of posterboard or other rigid paper cut slightly larger than 8 1/2” x 11”. Use a three-hole paper punch along one of the longer sides. Bind the covers together with ribbon or yarn. Leave additional ribbon or yarn and tie loosely so that completed weekly activity pages can easily be added. (Alternate idea: Three ring binders may be purchased for each child.) Front covers will be decorated on the first day of class. Subsequent pages will be placed in the notebooks by the teacher.

Notebook suggestion:



A suggested schedule is as follows (be sure to coordinate with other classes):

- 9:30 Greet children. Allow them to play with playdough, puzzles, blocks or color a picture.
- 9:50 Music and fingerplay
- 10:00 Storytime and application
- 10:15 Craft
- 10:30 Play outside
- 10:45 Snack time
- 11:00 Notebook Activity
- 11:15 Free time and time to get ready to go home.
- 11:30 Children picked up.

The most important thing to remember: Love the children and enjoy them. Pray for them and for yourself each week. Let the Lord do the rest!

Parent's Information Sheet and Letter.

When each child is checked in for the first time. Give a "Parent's Letter and Information sheet" (following page) to the adult who is dropping off the child. Request that the bottom portion be completed and returned to class at the end of the first day.

Dear Parent,

Welcome! This year our objective is to help the children know:

- that they are important to God and He loves them,
- that God is all powerful and wise, and
- that God will take care of them in every situation.

Our Bible verse for this course will be Isaiah 43:4a & 5a

**“Since you are precious and honored in My sight, and because I love you,...
Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”**

Our weekly Bible story, songs and activities will emphasize this theme.

Each week the children will complete an art activity designed to reinforce the principle taught in the lesson. This activity will be placed in their personal notebook. They will take the notebook home on the final day of class. This notebook will serve as a reminder of all they learned this year.

To help us care for your child, please complete the following form. Detach and return it to us as soon as possible.

Thank you for the privilege of working with your child!

Sincerely,

Please complete and return to your child’s teacher.

Child’s Full Name: _____ Nickname: _____

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: (____) _____ Child’s Birthday: _____

Name(s) of siblings: _____

Special needs or instructions (regarding food intolerances, etc.): _____

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

“Since you are precious and honored
in My sight, and because I love you,...
Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”
-Isaiah 43:4a & 5a

Music Jesus Loves Me
Jesus is My Best Friend
Jesus Loves You

Lesson Focus: Our God Cares for His Own

Use this day to introduce yourselves to the children, introduce them to each other and explain your goals for the class. Play some get acquainted games. Make things as calm, relaxed and reassuring as possible. The younger ones will be especially apprehensive on this first day.

Key Verse: *Isaiah 43:4a, 5a - “Since you are precious and honored in My sight and because I love you,...Do not be afraid, for I am with you.”*

Application Use puppets to gain the attention of the children and help them feel at ease. Let them know that God loves them and you do, too. Assure them that you will take care of them when they come to class, that they’ll have a good time and that mommy **will** come back to pick them up and take them home.

Craft Prior to class: For each child make a picture frame using cardboard. (See Notebook activity below.) At the bottom of each frame write: “Our God Loves and Cares for Me”. In class: Allow the children to decorate the frame by gluing on one of the following: macaroni, fabric scraps, small pieces of yarn, scraps of colored paper, etc. If desired, you may cover the finished creation with shellac or other sealer appropriate for the technique you’ve chosen.

Free Playtime If the weather and facility permit, allow the children to have free playtime outside. Options: Allow the children free time indoors in a designated area, provide various activities to choose from; or, play supervised running and racing games outside.

Snack time Any simple healthy snack is appropriate. Suggestions on pages 7 & 8.

Notebook Activity Decorate notebook covers. Provide stickers for the children to individualize their notebooks. Take the children’s pictures and have prints made to mount onto the cover. (Have 2 prints made of each child: one for the notebook and one for the picture frame.)

Clean-up & Free time Encourage the children to help clean-up and put toys away. After clean-up, while you are waiting for the parents to pick up the children, you may either allow the children free time in the designated area; or, you may have them sit while you read to them or sing with them.