

Beginners' Church Guide -- Lesson Outline

Notes to Teacher: Last month we finished the New Testament. In February, we started with The Beginning -- the amazing account of how God spoke the world into existence. This week we're continuing a "big picture" look at the Old Testament. Last week we learned about God's judgement by the Flood and God rescuing Noah and his family. Now, we will be introduced to Abraham and Sarah and how Abraham believed God's promise. Next week we will be flying through Isaac's birth through Joseph's work in Egypt to get ready for the famine God told him was coming.

Our Bible verse is Psalm 118:24. "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." My prayer is that you immediately start humming that simple chorus and remember the core truth presented here: God made today! It is a gift. Do you have to tell children to rejoice in Christmas presents or birthday presents? Do you have to teach children to be excited and glad about gifts? Not usually. Ask God to help you see His gift of today and teach the children the truth.

1. (5-7 min.) Welcome: Have kids sit down and open with a short, simple prayer (i.e. "Dear God, thank You for listening. Thank you that we could come to church today. Help us learn new things about You! In Jesus' name, AMEN.").

Have each child share:

Their name / How old they are / Any other fun or seasonal questions

After each child shares their answers, have the entire class say, "Hi, Stacy (etc.)." (Fill out attendance sheet at this time. **Remember to sign it and have all volunteers sign it** as well.)

2. (3-5 min) SONG TIME: Lead the children in singing "This Is the Day" acapella, if you know this simple chorus. Feel free to use the CD player to play Track 12 on the Awesome God CD ("Have You Heard?"). The lyrics are in the Beginners' Church binder, under the green tab. Pick from the other songs found in that section, as well.

3. (5 min) Prayer time: Lead the kids in sharing prayer requests by starting off with your own simple requests or praises, such as "Now we're going to take time to pray together. It is so good to pray together! I want to thank God for today. I'm so glad He gave us this day to come to church..."

Praise for who God is / Thanks for things / Hurts, needs, etc.

Depending on the size of the group, tell them how many volunteers you can have pray (example: "Today, I need 3 volunteers to pray. Who would like to pray?). If you have more than 3 volunteers, adjust your number to allow more.

You pray to close.

4. (2 minutes) Opening illustration: Choose one of the following,

a) [STARS] Say, "Have you seen the stars in the sky? How many stars are there? Who made the stars? (As you are talking, turn to pp. 80-81 -- a picture of Abraham standing under a starry sky. Feel free to share a favorite memory of looking at the stars.) The Bible tells us that God made the stars and knows each one by name. The Bible also tells us that God never loses one! Today in our true story from the Bible, we will learn about this man (point to the man in the picture) -- his name is Abraham. God chose him to be a special man. God chose him to be the

great, great, great, great...grandfather to Jesus Christ! God promised to bless everyone in the world through Abraham! Wow! Let's listen to find out what God is up to!"

b) [MOVING/PACKING] Show children the small suitcase that is in room and ask them what it is and what they think might be in it. As you open it and show the children the simple items inside (socks, comb, stuffed animal, pants, mirror, toothbrush, framed picture), ask the children what they would want to take with them if they were moving to a new place -- to a new house. Say, "Today, we were going to learn about a man named Abraham. God told Abraham to move to a new place, and God gave Abraham a promise. Let's listen and see what that promise was..."

5. Story Time:

Summary: God calls Abraham out of Ur and promises to bless all peoples of the earth through him

Key Scripture: **Hebrews 11:8-16** and Genesis 12:1-9, 13:14-17, and 15:1-8 (Teachers, chew on these scriptures. Look at what God is up to. His plan is BIG. His plan is complex. His plan is perfect...)

Using "The Big Picture Story Bible," review "Part 3" by showing the pictures.

Read "Part 4" to the children. Discuss the story by emphasizing the points at the end.

Talking Points: God keeps His promises ALWAYS. God promised to bless all peoples of the earth (everyone in the world!). Jesus Christ is our Savior. Jesus Christ is the one God promised to send. Abraham is the great-great-great-(many greats!)grandfather of Jesus. I praise God for His wonderful plan and promise!

6. (5-10 min) PLAY TIME: (Feel free to play the Awesome God CD in the background, start with track 6.) There are coloring sheets and crayons. The children may color or play with the puzzles (on top of the piano) or the plastic blocks (on top of the coatrack on the back wall) until parents come pick their kids up. You may also have the children help you push back the chairs and tables to play one or two games, such as Duck Duck Goose or Red Light, Green Light. They love that!