

## Beginner's Church Guide

Notes to teacher: In January, we finished the New Testament in the Big Picture Story Bible. Last week we had an unusual lesson in which we taught the children about the Bible as a whole -- reviewing the stories by going through the Big Picture Story Bible in small chunks. Now, we are jumping back in to our yearly plan of going through the whole Bible with the preschoolers by beginning at the beginning! Continue to use your own God-given creativity to share your love and respect for God and His written Word.

There is a digital camera in the cloth Beginners' Church bag. Please take a picture of your class. I will be meeting with Kari on 2/7 to start making a pictorial directory for the kids' names. Thank you, friends!

Memory Verse: Psalm 118:24 "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

### 1. (5-10 minutes) Welcome

a. 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."

b. 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 Stacey, etc". While they are sharing, fill out the attendance sheet at this time. Remember to sign it and have all volunteers sign it as well.

### 2. (3-5 minutes) Song Time: "This Is the Day" acapella and/or Awesome God CD, Track 12, "Have You Heard?" (lyrics in folder)

3. (5 minutes) Prayer Time: Lead the kids in sharing prayer requests -- the focus today can be on praising God for the wonderful things He has made, since our story is about creation. We have many new 3-year-olds who are completely new to class time and praying as a group. Expect to do a lot of modeling how to pray and encouraging children in sharing what's on their hearts. 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. (1-2 minutes) Opening Illustration:

[Walk over to the light switch.]

Say loudly, "Turn on! Turn off!"

Ask, "Who wants to volunteer to tell the lights to turn on and off?"

[Have a child say the same thing.]

Continue with "Why doesn't that work?"

My words are not that strong. Your words are not that strong.

Let me tell you about Someone whose words are very, very strong!

God is so strong! Nothing is too hard for God. God only has to speak and things happen! He made the whole world and all the stars and the sun and moon by speaking!"

5. (3-5 minutes) Story Time: Take your Bible and the Big Picture Story Bible. Open your Bible to Genesis 1:1 and read it aloud. Show the children the "G" of Genesis, and ask them to help you find the chapter number and verse number (remember their sharp eyesight at this age is an advantage for those little verse numbers. Also, they LOVE finding things they know.). Read the verse again. Some of the 4-year-olds will know this verse because it was our memory verse last year. Say, "These are the very first words in the Bible! Let's listen to this true story of God and His powerful words."

Read Part One in the Big Picture Story Bible. Take time with the pictures.

Talking points:

God is the Creator and Owner of all things. He is in charge!

God's words are powerful! God can make light by just speaking!

God is all-powerful and good.

God delights in what He created.

God talks with humans! He created us for a relationship with Him!

We need God!

Review the memory verse.

5. (5-10 minutes) Moving Time: Feel free to use any of the CDs in the background. There are coloring sheets about creation, blocks, puzzles and the splendid option of games on the floor (never underestimate the value of Duck, Duck, Goose!) Have the children help you push back the chairs and tables. Have Fun!