

Beginner's Church Guide

Notes to Teacher: It's December! As we come to Christmas, the GOOD NEWS is real! Jesus is god, come as a man, here to save us from our sins. He defeated death FOREVER! Hooray!

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:** "Jesus Loves Me". Then review track 6 on Awesome God CD and tracks 10, 11 or 18 on The New Commandment CD.

3. (5 minutes) **Prayer Time:** lead the kids in sharing prayer requests. 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. (2-3 minutes) **Opening Illustration:** (to emphasize the story)

- a. Talk about bedtime and waking-up-time. Ask the children to share when they go to bed and how they get up. Start the lesson time by saying, "Children, do you remember last week's story about Jesus?" Review the last few pages of Part 20 and 21. "Let's listen to our true story from the Bible. Children, today our story begins before the sunrise, early, early in the morning. Let's pretend we're like Mary Magdalene in the story, and we're all trying to sleep. Let's put our heads down on the table for a minute and listen. Listen for when Mary Magdalene gets up..."

5. (10 minutes) **Lesson Time**

- a. Coloring Sheet: Mark 16:14, Luke 24
- b. Big Picture Story Bible: Part 22 "A Brand New Day" Page 383
- c. Talking Points: Jesus always keeps His promises. Jesus is God. He is faithful -- our memory verse this month tells us so! Jesus Christ said, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies"(John 11:25).Jesus Christ is our Savior -- He saves us from the punishment we deserve and opens the door so we can be with God when we die. Wow! Jesus loves us! The Bible tells us the truth -- the true story of how much God loves us. God created us, and then we disobeyed Him. We deserve "huge" punishment. We deserve to be separated from God forever. GOD LOVES US! GOD sent His Son, Jesus, to take our punishment. Now, we know the Gospel -- the good news -- the best news EVER: "While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" Romans 5:8 -- our memory verse.

6. (5-10 minutes) **Moving Time:** Feel free to use any of the CDs in the background. There are coloring sheets and crayons, 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!