

## Beginner's Church Guide

Notes to teacher: It's December! As we come to Christmas, we must see Jesus on the cross. What? Yes, Jesus came to die for our sins! This is a difficult lesson. Please don't skip it. Last week we learned the story of Jesus' raising Lazarus from the dead. Now, we jump to Jesus' praying in the Garden of Gethsemane and move quickly to Jesus' arrest, trial, beating, and the crucifixion. Please read John 11 and 12:1-36 for yourself as background for the story this week. Because the storybook we are using is a "Big Picture" story Bible, it jumps to key events. You must take time to review the last few pages of the preceding story (pp 352-357) with the children and then explain p. 359 where the introductory picture shows Jesus' motioning to his disciples to come with him. Ask the children to point out to you what is happening in the pictures on p.360 and 361 BEFORE you start reading the text. As you read it slowly with the children, take time to encourage the children to tell you what they see in the pictures. All the details in the pictures are helpful. This story ends abruptly with his death. Next week we will talk about his burial and the waiting time before He rose from the dead. We are telling it slowly on purpose. Do take time to review the facts from the Talking Points section with the children throughout the remainder of class time as they color or play. Do say, "We know the end of the story. These people didn't understand what God was doing. Just like Mary and Martha cried when Lazarus was sick and died and Jesus did not come in time to heal him (turn to page 346), Jesus' friends are crying. Tell me, children, what is the end of the story? What happens to Jesus after he dies? That's right! He is resurrected -- brought back to life. He is alive! Next week we'll tell more of the story..."

### 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. Start the lesson time by saying, "Children, do you remember last week's story about Jesus?" Review the the last few pages of Part 19 (pp 352-357). Point out how happy everyone was on p.354-55. Ask the children to make a "happy face," then ask them to make a "sad face." "Children, today our story becomes sad. Let's listen to our true story from the Bible now." Then explain p. 359 where the introductory picture shows Jesus' motioning to his disciples to come with him by saying something like, "Look. Jesus is telling his disciples to come with him. Let's see where he is going. It is night time now in our story." Ask the children to point out to you what is happening in the pictures on p.360 and 361 BEFORE you start reading the text. As you read it slowly with the children, take time to encourage the children to tell you what the see in the pictures.

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

- a. Coloring Sheet: smiley face worksheet
- b. Big Picture Story Bible: Part 20 "Jesus Wears God's Kingly Crown" Page 359
- c. Talking Points: Jesus Christ showed He is in charge by bringing Lazarus back to life. 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 lets the soldiers and the emperor Pilate hurt him. He didn't have to. Jesus chose to suffer so that he could take all our sins on himself and take all our punishment. 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 from last month.

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!