

## Beginner's Church Guide

Notes to teacher: Hello, dear teachers. Thank you for loving our 3 and 4-year-olds by investing this time with them. For the month of September, we will review Isaiah 40:8 with them. They have learned it well over the summer: "The grass **WITHERS**, and the flowers **FALL**, but the Word of our God **STANDS** forever" (emphasis on the words in bold). There is a picture chart on the back of the Beginners' Church binder that shows the verse in pictures. We will also begin a new verse for this next quarter: John 14:23 "If anyone loves Me, he will keep my word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

We are reviewing the Old Testament this week. We spent the whole summer going through it. Take time to familiarize yourself with the picture storybook. You may use the coloring sheets provided as a review also -- having the children color with you as you lay out one picture at a time. The main emphasis is how God has been preparing the world for Jesus' coming. Over and over again, we see how God taught the Israelites about Himself and how they would obey for a short time and then turn away from Him. We are all sinners in desperate need of the Savior! For our September memory verse, I chose John 14:23 because it stood out as a grand theme of God's work throughout scripture (as we think about prophets and kings who loved God and served Him) and a strong reminder for us all that God keeps His promises and gives us Himself! Say to the children: "God is good. God always keeps His promises. God never lies. God sent Jesus. God says that everyone who believes in Jesus will live forever with God in heaven! What great, great news!!!" Have your Bible open on your lap as you teach the children. Remind them that they can learn to read it for themselves and to share with others one day!

### 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:**

using the cd player, play track 18 (John 14:23) on the cd "A New Commandment). Play the entire track -- The CD player is being touchy. You have to let the first track play a few seconds and then skip through the tracks slowly to get to track 18. If it gives you fits, please note it on the attendance sheet."

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. Choose some books -- some silly and some factual -- from among the stack on the piano. Add a Bible to the stack. Lay them out in front of the children. Ask the children to pick out the book that God wrote to tell us about Himself and about how we can live to please Him.

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

- a. Reviewing Part 1 - Part 11, flipping through the pages and letting the children tell you what is happening... Emphasize that God told people to write down His Words so we have the Bible. The Bible has THE TRUE STORY of God and His plan to save us from our sins.
- b. Talking Points: Share with the children II Timothy 3:16 -- "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." Share with them about your love for God's Word and why you read it. Share with them a favorite Bible verse of your own. , "Close with anticipation -- talk with the children about how long everyone has waited and waited for the promised King to come and that next week, we will hear the announcement -- THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE KING TO BE BORN! Hurray!!!"

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!