

APPENDIX

IDEAS TO ORGANIZE YOUR CLASSROOM

**FOR PRESCHOOLERS
AGES 4 – 5 YEARS**

APPENDIX

Purpose: *To plan activities that role-model and reinforce the Word and Love of God so children will see, hear, believe, understand and choose to live as children of God.*

ROOM SET-UP

The areas to be used in your room set up could include, tables and chairs, a circle area, and space for free choice centers. Improvise as needed. Use gym, outdoor space or areas in room for large muscle and movement activities. A brief description of suggestions for the use of the areas follows.

Tables and Chairs: to sit and do Follow-up Activities such as arts and crafts that reinforce the lesson; to have snacks; play with table toys/board games; hear Bible stories; have conversations; sing songs; musical instruments; finger plays; review of day's activities, etc.

Circle: (for doing activities seated or standing in a circle – could place masking tape on floor in shape of circle) to sing songs; do finger plays; introduction of day's activities; Foundation Curriculum story lesson; conversations; praise and worship; Bible verse; circle games; dance; music and movement; introduce scripture on word wall; play musical instruments, etc.

Free Choice Center ideas [see Free Choice Centers]

Large Muscle Play: (in gym or outdoors–climbing, running, active activities) also use the outdoor area for nature walks, etc. Always assure adequate adult supervision. If indoor gym is not available for large muscle play, you could plan movement activities within areas of room.

FREE CHOICE CENTERS

- **Word Wall:** children practice reading by placing the [teacher drawn] pictures and words in order from a Bible scripture related to the lesson, *such as* scripture from “What Did God Say” Follow up Activity.
- **Easel:** children write and draw with chalk and dry-erase markers.
- **Blocks:** [define the boundaries of the area, i.e. with masking tape; a shelf that holds the blocks could also be used as a boundary]
- **Board game:** for two to four children [think of ways to relate the children’s play to what you want the children to learn]
- **Manipulative toys:** [such as puppets, legos, small plastic animals, etc. can be used with the block play or separately]
- **Puzzles**
- **Books** children’s Bible, and other books [relate to lesson]
- **Coloring/ Drawing/ Cutting / Gluing** [relate to lesson]
- **Dramatic Play/ Dress up and pretend play:** Housekeeping area with props such as mirror, clothing, child sized kitchen set, etc.

POSITIVE GUIDANCE

- ❖ As much as possible reinforce the behaviors you want to see repeated. For example, if four children are present and three are not paying attention, say to the one paying attention, “I like how (child’s name) is sitting so nice and listening.” (The children want to hear that they are doing the right thing, so as each one sits correctly, let them know you like how they are sitting and listening also.)

Sample Daily Schedule

[For Children's Church/ Part Day School Settings] *Adjust times to fit your schedule.*

15 MINUTES	ARRIVAL/FREE PLAY
15 MINUTES	LARGE MUSCLE PLAY (IN GYM OR OUTDOORS- CLIMBING, RUNNING, ACTIVE ACTIVITIES)
10 MINUTES	TOILETING/HANDWASHING
15 MINUTES	PRAYER/SNACK/CLEAN-UP
20 MINUTES	CIRCLE: SONGS/REVIEW OF DAY'S ACTIVITIES/ SONG/STORY LESSON/ CONVERSATIONS OF THANKS GIVING/PRAISE & WORSHIP/BIBLE SCRIPTURE
20 MINUTES	TRANSITION TO TABLES/ EXPLAIN CRAFT/ FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES [ARTS AND CRAFTS]
10 MINUTES	FREE PLAY/ PARENT PICK-UP

CHILDREN'S ARRIVAL/FREEPLAY

(Have some toys and games available for children to play freely when they enter the room. See free choice centers for ideas)

Teachers greet children and parents and briefly tell parents at least one of the objectives for their child to learn that day. [See Objectives for each story lesson on the STUDENT PROGRESS RECORD] (Example: Your child will be learning about CREATION, to understand that God is their heavenly Father.)

- 1) Teacher to guide child to choose someone to play with in a free play area until all children have arrived.

TRANSITION

- ❖ Use Transition Songs to move children from one area to another. For example, to transition the children from Arrival/Free Play to Large Muscle, begin by announcing to the children that they have 5 more minutes until clean up, [then as time passes] announce 3 more minutes, and the 1 minute notice. [By telling the children of the time left to play, you can avoid children not being ready to finish their play because they have had notice.] **When time is up, you can begin to sing the Clean up Song. Before clean up or as the children are putting toys away, let them know where you want them to go next, i.e. when you finish putting away your toys, quietly line up at the door. [See SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN in this Appendix] Modify the songs as needed to suit your transition or your theme, i.e.**
 - ❖ Clean up, clean up!
 - ❖ We clean up messes everywhere!
 - ❖ Clean up, clean up!
 - ❖ We all pitch in and do our share!

CIRCLE

[These are simply suggestions of how to do circle. Be creative!]

- Sing songs to transition children to circle time. After children are in the circle area, you could begin with an introduction song. [See SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN]
- Tell the children about the day's activities they will do. [*Ex. Today we are going to hear a story about how God, your heavenly Father made everything... and when we go to the tables you can make a ... and...*]
- Transition to the story with an expressive song/rhyme.

[See SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN]

- Read the Foundation Curriculum Story Lesson.
- Initiate conversations about the Story Lesson as it relates to the children's personal lives. [Encourage children to talk about things in their lives they are thankful to Father for.] Then encourage children to praise Father and thank Him and Jesus.
- Praise and Worship! Dance! Play musical instruments, etc.
- Bible Scripture on Word Wall: Post the words from a bible verse related to Story Lesson. Read the scripture to children. Then scramble the words so the children can place words in order.
- Sing a Song for children to go to Tables for Follow-up Activity.

[See SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN]

Arts and Crafts: To reinforce each story book lesson, follow-up activities are included with each of the six Foundation Curriculum Story Book Lessons. You could creatively plan your own craft, art or game activity that helps each child to understand the lesson objectives. *[As children finish activities before others, let them choose which free choice center they would like to quietly play in.]*

CLEAN UP

As each child finishes, they are reminded to clean up and place their art/craft in the area designated by the teacher. Children can play in Free Choice Centers until all children finish with their follow-up activity. *[See free choice centers] [Use clean up song as needed.] [Transition to Bathroom/Hand washing.] [Clean off tables for snack.]*

RESTROOM/TRANSITION TO SNACK

After hand washing remind children to walk back to tables and be seated for snack. *[Select helpers to help set table for snack, such as, to put out napkins and cups]*

PRAYER/SNACK/CLEAN-UP

Encourage children to pray and thank [heavenly] Father for our food. Let all children who choose to pray *pray*, so that children learn to thank Father for all things. Eat with children and talk with them about topics of interest to them, such as, what they made for art, their families, their pets, the Story Book Lesson, etc.

FREEPLAY/PARENT PICK-UP After children finish snack, they can choose to play in the Free Choice Centers until their parents arrive. Give each parent a "Parent Letter" and a copy of the Story Book Lesson text and selected Follow up activities to reinforce objectives at home with their child/ren. Discuss with parents child progress.

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

I fell in love with Father.
And this is what He said.
Every day, talk to Me.
Before you go to bed!

I pray and talk to Father.
He said that He would keep.
Everything safe for me
When I go to sleep!

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

(Sing to the tune of Mary had a little lamb.)

I choose God cause God loves me.

God loves me.

God loves me.

I choose God cause God loves me.

God loves me all day long.

With God's love I choose to sing.

Choose to sing.

Choose to sing.

With God's love I choose to sing.

I sing a happy song.

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

(Sing to the tune of I am Special)

Extend your hands up and say: Thank you Jesus! Thank you Jesus!

Point to yourself and say: God forgave me! God forgave me!

Point upwards: You took my sins upon you!

You took my sins upon you!

Point to yourself and say: Now I'm free! Now I'm free!

(Sing to the tune of London Bridge is Falling down)

Holy Spirit helps me love, helps me love, helps me love.

Holy Spirit helps me love, Because I obey Je-sus!

Let's sing a song about love.

Point to yourself and say: I have love inside of me.

Now hold your hands up and say: It's growing BIG just like a tree.

Point to yourself and say: When I show love, it grows in me.

Point to yourself and say: Yes, I have love inside of me.

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

Song to lead Children into Worship

[Sung to Tune of Yes, Jesus Loves Me!]

**Jesus loves me; He's with me now.
He'll never leave me. No way! No How!**

[Repeat these two lines twice]

**Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me. So I will worship now! Alleluia!**

I will practice all day, all night.
I will practice to do things right.
I will practice with all my might.
Holy Spirit helps me do things right!

**Bad thought, Bad thought,
I say No!
Bad thought, Bad thought,
Go! Go! Go!
Good thoughts, Good thoughts,
I say Come!
Thank You Jesus! It is done!**

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

This is what I can do!
Jesus said that you can too!
This is what I can do!
It's his gift to me and you!

[to the tune of the Barney Song]

**I love you.
You love me.
We are in God's family.
I love you just like Jesus told me too.
Raise your hand and shout, I DO!
I DO**

[Sung to tune of B. I. N. G. O]

I have a friend who loves me BIG,
and Jesus is His name.
He told me to love others BIG,
to love them just the same.

J. E. S. U. S,
J. E. S. U. S,
J. E. S. U. S,

and Jesus is His name!

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

Eyes look up!

Eyes look down!

Eyes can search until you find!

Colors, Colors, all around!

Eyes find red. *[Look around and find something red]*

Eyes find blue. *[Look around and find something blue]*

Eyes find green. *[Look around and find something green]*

And yellow too. *[Look around and find something yellow]*

Raise your right hand to the sky.

Now raise your left hand way up high.

Put your hands together.

Good! You've made a pact.

Now gently place them in your lap.

And LISTEN,

as I read to you,

how your Father loves *you* true!

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

I CHOSE JESUS *[Make up and do the motions to the rhyme as you say the words]*

I Chose Jesus – Today He is mine!
I Chose Jesus – I will thank Him all the time!
I Chose Jesus – I'm Father's Child, it's true!
I Chose Jesus – He teaches me what to do!
I Chose Jesus – Because He loves me so!
I Chose Jesus – Soon everyone will know!
I Chose Jesus – Holy Spirit lives in me!
I Chose Jesus – And everyone will see!

I RECEIVED HOLY SPIRIT *[Make up and do the motions to the rhyme as you say the words]*

I received Holy Spirit. God's gift to me was free.
I received Holy Spirit. And now He lives in me.
I received Holy Spirit. Jesus is my bread.
I received Holy Spirit. And now I'm Spirit led.

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

JESUS IS MY SUPER HERO!

Jesus is my Super Hero! He's always there for me!

Jesus is my Super Hero! He died and made me free!

Jesus is my Super Hero! He rose up from the grave!

Jesus is my Super Hero! He's the only one that saves!

YES, MY FATHER LOVES ME!

Yes, my Father loves me! He doesn't tell me why.

He whispers and He tells me, I'm the apple of His eye!

I love Him! Yes, I love Him! And I will tell Him so!

I love You, my Father! I'll shout for all to know!

[SHOUT] **I LOVE YOU FATHER!**

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

Jesus My Friend

(To the Tune of The Other Day I met a Bear)

(Adult says line first. Children repeat line after adult. Then adult and children say line together. See cues)*

- ❖ The other day **(adult)*
- ❖ The other day **(adult and children)*
- ❖ I met a friend **(adult)*
- ❖ I met a friend **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He is my friend **(adult)*
- ❖ He is my friend **(adult and children)*
- ❖ Through thick and thin **(adult)*
- ❖ Through thick and thin **(adult and children)*
- ❖ The other day I met a friend. He is my friend through thick and thin. **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He's with me now **(adult)*
- ❖ He's with me now **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He's in my heart **(adult)*
- ❖ He's in my heart **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He showed me love **(adult)*
- ❖ He showed me love **(adult and children)*
- ❖ Right from the start **(adult)*
- ❖ Right from the start **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He's with me now. He's in my heart. He showed me love right from the start. **(adult and children)*
- ❖ Jesus His name **(adult)*
- ❖ Jesus His name **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He is my friend **(adult)*
- ❖ He is my friend **(adult and children)*
- ❖ He's with me now **(adult)*
- ❖ He's with me now **(adult and children)*
- ❖ Right to the end **(adult)*
- ❖ Right to the end **(adult and children)*
- ❖ Jesus His name. He is my friend. He's with me now right to the end. **(adult and children)*

SONGS TO SING WITH CHILDREN

GRACE

*(Teach this Grace song to children to pray to God everyday
and whenever they are having a hard time)*

Sing to tune of Old McDonald had a Farm

I need Your Grace Right now Father

Will you help me please?

I Thank You for Your Grace Right now

It was all I need.

Friend's Classroom Rules

Helping Hands

Walking Feet

Listening Ears

Soft Voices

