A Sunday School Teachers Prayer

You have not called us to be perfect
You have called us to be faithful.
You have not called us to be all-knowing
You have called us to believe.
We dedicate ourselves to the call and task of teaching these children and helping them grow in their faith.
Grant us wisdom, patience and joy in our preparation and teaching of your Word.
Amen

RESOURCES & PROGRAMMES:
Get together as leaders and volunteers to catch up and to decide on Resources:

Some resources recommended by the Children’s Ministry Network are:

- Go Teach: www.goteach.org.uk This programme runs from toddlers to confirmation
- Roots: www.rootsontheweb.com This programme is lectionary based, provides access to online materials and accommodates all age groups
- Scripture Union: Runs a programme for Under 5’s and continues up to 11 year olds.

(Back to School Prayer M&M prayer from https://www.childrens-ministry-deals.com/)
TWO NEW RESOURCES:

- Jigsaw: A 3 year programme resource written by the Children’s Ministry team in Down and Dromore Diocese. For more information contact Julie Currie: julie@downanddromore.org
- Diddy Disciples: a worship and story-telling resource for babies, toddlers and young children. They have a Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/diddydisciples/ and free sample resources coming soon so watch this space!

ONLINE RESOURCES to supplement your main programme:

Flame Creative Ministries by Rev Mina Munns has it all – Bible story telling ideas, craft ideas, creative prayer ideas and seasonal ideas – it even has free downloadable templates! http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.ie/

We love the ideas for talks from Barnabas – they are easy to reproduce and really creative: http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/ and http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/

Scripture Union provides an amazing online resource called LightLive that is free and provides endless ideas for different age groups. https://www.scriptureunion.org.uk/lightlive

https://www.daniellesplace.com An example of how great this is: there is an ABC: I believe programme available here that has 26 lesson plans all based on an animal. Each animal explores a story or theme from the Bible. For example: A = Ants (Consider the Ants’, Proverbs 6:6-8)

PROGRAMME PLAN

Draw up a rough sketch of your programme for the whole year. Sketch ideas for special times in the church calendar. Collaborate with the minister so your programme is in line with what’s going on in the wider church. Weekly planning is much easier when this is in place.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Bible Story</th>
<th>Song</th>
<th>Prayer</th>
<th>Game</th>
<th>Craft</th>
<th>Leaders</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept 10th</td>
<td>Back to school with God</td>
<td>Wise man built his house..</td>
<td>How great thou art v.1 (with actions)*</td>
<td>Lego prayers*</td>
<td>Human sculptures*</td>
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<td>Matt 7:24 ff</td>
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<td>Sept 17th</td>
<td>God the Creator</td>
<td>Genesis: ‘It is Good!’</td>
<td>How great thou art v.1 &amp; chorus (actions &amp; streamers)</td>
<td>Lego prayers</td>
<td>Creation Cards*</td>
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<td>Good and bad apples*</td>
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<td>Sept 24th</td>
<td>God is a faithful Gardener</td>
<td>Godly Play Matt 13 1-23</td>
<td>How Great thou art verse 2 &amp; Chorus</td>
<td>Bubbles</td>
<td>Moving TicTacs/seeds with tweezers*</td>
<td>Seed collage</td>
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<td>Oct 1st</td>
<td>Thank you God</td>
<td>Feeding 5000 Action story *</td>
<td>How Great thou art</td>
<td>Bubbles</td>
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<td>Oct 8th</td>
<td>Family Service</td>
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<td>Sing ‘How Great thou art’ in main service</td>
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<td>Harvest</td>
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<td>Oct 15th</td>
<td>I am wonderfully made</td>
<td>Psalm 139 v14</td>
<td>Touch a finger, touch a thumb*</td>
<td>Jelly baby prayers</td>
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<td>Memory verse clothes race</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 22nd</td>
<td>God knows me..</td>
<td>Psalm 139 v 1-5</td>
<td>Touch a finger</td>
<td>Jigsaw prayer</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Memory verse washing line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Good and Bad Apples Creation Story:  [http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/pdfs/9781841018362.pdf pg 20](http://www.barnabasinschools.org.uk/pdfs/9781841018362.pdf pg 20). (see also noisy ideas in no. 3 below!)

* How great thou art Hymn: Actions for verses 1 & 2 (make them up and keep them simple) Make streamers using lollipop sticks and crepe paper for chorus. Children wave and make shapes with them in the air as they sing. ‘Touch a finger, touch a thumb’ by Doug Horley: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxxiKKnDmYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BxxiKKnDmYY)

*Creation Cards: subscribe and get them here: [https://www.daniellesplace.com/](https://www.daniellesplace.com/) Play matching games, colour in, attach to lollipop sticks and take home.

*Human Scultures: See no. 8 in creative ways to appraoch a Bible Story below

*Lego, bubble, button, jigsaw, pipecleaner, and many more prayers available at Flame Creative Ministries Blogspot

*TicTac icebreaker – minute to win it icebreaker games. Find more ideas here: [https://www.playpartyplan.com/minute-to-win-it-games-for-groups/](https://www.playpartyplan.com/minute-to-win-it-games-for-groups/)

God is a faithful Gardener All Age Service ideas using Godly Play: [http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/god-is-a-faithful-gardener/](http://www.barnabasinchurches.org.uk/god-is-a-faithful-gardener/)

* Seed collage craft: there are endless ideas on Pinterest – see the picture in Programme planning using pasta and seeds.


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**The Welcome:**

- **Know children by name**
- **Greet them as they arrive**
- **Remember special dates and events in their lives**
- **Ask them about things they told you in previous weeks**
- **Let them know they were missed** (send a card if they are away or sick)

**Prayer:**

Prayer is an important part of every Sunday Club. Choose an Opening Prayer for the upcoming Season. Here is an example:

In my head,  (hands to head)
In my heart,  (hands to heart)
All around me  (either tip left and then right shoulder so you have made sign of the cross or turn around)
Jesus is here  (hands out, palms upwards)

Choose a memorable Amen that the children can jump to, shout or sign.
Creative ways to approach a Bible Story:

taken from: http://www.barnabasischurches.org.uk/creative-ways-into-a-bible-story/

1. The Briefcase

Decide on who the main character of the story is and then collect together a set of items that he or she would carry around in a briefcase or other appropriate carrier. Let your imagination run free. Pass the case around your group and have each take out one item to prompt curiosity, questions and discussion about the story.

Here is an example: a travel bag with: a map, a telescope, a guide to astronomy, a bag of animal feed, sunglasses, wrapping paper, and so on = the story of the visit the wise men.

Matthew 2:1-12

Another example: a rucksack with: a loaf of bread, some cheese, a note from mum, clean socks, a sheet of music, a slingshot, a picture of a sheep, and so on = David visiting his brothers on the battle front.

1 Samuel 17:12-30

2. The Phone

Focus on the main event in the story and then work out an imaginary conversation with someone who was there, who has phoned you up to tell you about all it. Pick up your mobile and let the group hear only half the conversation, which will contain your responses to and questions about what went on. At the end put down the phone and say: ‘Well, you’ll never guess what happened - or can you?’

For example:

Hi, good to hear from you... All right and what about you? ... What happened? ... How many of them? Ten! ... Where were they from? You don’t say! ... Of course I’ve heard of Jesus... He did what? ... What, all of them? ... Amazing! ... No wonder... How many? ... Just one!? ... Never! ... Who’d have thought it... Jesus said what? ... Bet he’ll never forget that ... You’re going to see him? ... Maybe... I’ll give you a ring if I can make it...

Luke 17:11-19

3. Sounds

As you read the story, make a list of the sounds that you would have heard if you had been eavesdropping from behind a wall or hedge. Invite your group to make these sounds in order, or perhaps you can hand out some instruments and other objects that will make the appropriate sounds.

For example: an explosion, a match being struck, water pouring, rain falling, the banging together of rocks,
leaves blowing, birds singing, fish splashing, animals roaring, footsteps, laughter, dozing

Genesis 1: 1-2:3

4. Colours

As you read your story, think of it as a series of meaningful colours that reflect the moods, emotions and drama of the event. Assemble a collection of differently coloured fabrics and felts, or you could simply ask individuals from your group to create pure colour pictures to contribute to the telling of the story.

For example: grey, red, brown , many colours, light blue, darker blue, very dark blue blood, black, pale yellow, black, white, green and rainbow = Noah and the flood

Genesis 6-9

5. Movements

As you read the Bible story, think of all the movements that it contains. Make a list of these and the activities that go with them to build up a 'verbal version' of the story.

For example: walking, walking carefully, walking downhill, walking nervously, stopping, staggering and stumbling, falling, lying still. A second person walking confidently, hesitating and then running; yet another person walking confidently, hesitating and then running on; finally, a fourth person walking, pulling something along, pausing, thinking, stooping, carrying, knocking at a door, carrying upstairs, sitting, waiting, paying a bill, walking away.

Luke 10:25-37

6. Faces

Most Bible stories can be presented as a series of feelings or moods, which the participants experience in the course of the action. Isolate the key emotions in the story and then use them as a framework through which to tell the story.

For example: excitement, curiosity, annoyance, anger, exhaustion, looking around, being shocked, confused, happy, amazed, questioning, joyful and surprised.

Luke 19:1-10

7. Bracelets

Assemble a collection of differently shaped and coloured beads, which can be threaded on to a string to make a bracelet. As you tell the Bible story give the group time to choose an item to thread on to their bracelets, which for them symbolises that part of the story. Each bracelet story will turn out differently in your group and this can open up further discussion together as to why each person chose that piece for each part of the story.

Try this for the feeding of the 5,000 with symbols for the people, the food and the baskets and so on.

John 6

8. Sculptures
Break the story into sections and ask an individual or a group of individuals to become a sculpture of one particular part of the Bible story, a section at a time. Movement can be added to bring the Bible story to life. String these together as a long tableau that expresses the story you are telling.

There are more details of this technique in our Barnabas idea: Worship Sculpture. And an example of this applied to Psalm 23 go to: Sculpturing the Shepherd Psalm.

9. Shapes

As you read the Bible story, focus on the objects that are in it. Using Plasticene, Playdoh, or FimoTM, invite the group to create some visual aids for the story, adding them to the display one at a time and in order as you tell it.

Try this with Joseph's story which has lots of objects to work with from his dreams and his adventures in Egypt (Genesis 37 and 39-45).

10. Costumes

Assemble a collection of scarves, hats, shawls, coloured sheets, oversize clothes, and so on. This doesn't take too long - raid the back of the wardrobe! - and this resource can be used again and again. Focus on the characters in the story and as you retell it and invite your group in ones or twos to dress up as the different people involved.

Back to School All Age Service Sermon Outline: Stop: Hammer Time!

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