

Acts

PRESCHOOL AGE CURRICULUM

written by Nancy Collins

Sample
Lesson

Dear Director,

Children are important to God and you have the privilege of helping children learn more about God and develop a personal relationship with Him.

In this course we will use a variety of methods to accomplish this including music, Bible memorization, story time, games and crafts.

The following suggestions should help you have a successful year. Please read through them prayerfully and carefully. It is not necessary to follow every detail. Use the suggestions and the daily lessons as a springboard for your own ideas.

May God richly bless you and give you good success.

Areas of Responsibility:

Although one person may be responsible for all or many of these areas, it is much easier for the responsibilities to be shared among several people. The division of responsibilities should be determined by the ability and availability of the volunteers. Responsibilities may be assigned for the entire year or rotated on a weekly or quarterly basis.

Having adults present in the classroom helps young children stay focused and in control of themselves. The ideal situation is to have at least 1 adult or responsible teenager for every 5 children.

- **Director** is responsible for coordinating teacher/helpers. The charts on pages 8-11 will help keep track of the teacher/helpers and their assigned responsibilities.

Don't wait to the last minute to prepare for the year, begin well in advance. Read through the following information. Recruit the necessary helpers and schedule a Teacher/Helper meeting. Give a copy of their responsibilities to each volunteer.

Post a copy of the classroom schedule in the classroom.

If possible, recruit several people who are willing to pray on a regular basis for you, your workers and the children.

Prior to the first class meeting, make a follow-up call to each of your helpers to make certain they have everything ready for their area of responsibility.

Parent's Information Form (page 7). When each child is checked in for the first time have the adult checking them in complete the form. Keep these on file in the classroom.

The most important thing to remember: Love the children and enjoy them. Pray for them, your helpers and yourself each week. Let the Lord do the rest!

- **Room Coordinator** is responsible for set up, clean up and decorating the room. Have the room cleaned and decorated before your first class. If space allows, designate areas for the following activities:
 1. Singing, Bible Memorization and Story Time should take place on a carpeted area or no child size chairs so children may have a place to sit. If carpeting is not available, carpet samples (usually 2' x 3') can be obtained from carpeting supply stores at minimal cost. Pieces may be prearranged for the children or the children may pick up their own piece of carpeting from your storage stack and place it where they want to sit.
 2. Decorations may be as simple or as elaborate as your budget allows. Pictures of Bible characters or Christian emblems may be purchased at most Christian Bookstores. You may also choose to decorate bulletin boards with seasonal colors and pictures. Keep themes bright, cheerful and happy. Avoid witches, monsters, etc. during the fall seasons; instead you can focus on Thanksgiving and all God has given us.
 3. A sturdy table and chairs will be needed for craft time and can be used for snack time. Keep craft supplies and snacks out of reach and preferably out of sight until their assigned time.
 4. Game time may be conducted outside if the weather permits. If games must be played inside clear as large an area as possible. Table and chairs can be replaced when game time is completed.

- **Teacher** is responsible for teaching the lesson. One teacher may be assigned for the entire year or rotated on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis.
 1. In preparation for the lesson, read through the scripture passage thoughtfully and prayerfully, asking God to help you understand and apply the scripture to your own life and to provide a clear way to explain the concepts to the children.
 2. Use your Bible when teaching the lesson. Hold your Bible in your hand and begin each lesson reminding the children that what you are teaching them is from God's Word, the Bible.
 3. Familiarize yourself with the story. If possible, tell the story rather than reading the story. If it is necessary to read the story, put your page in your Bible so they will see you reading from your Bible.
 4. Make plenty of eye contact with the children and be enthusiastic about what the Word of God says. The children will catch your excitement for God's Word.

- **Song Leader** is responsible for leading the children in singing. Suggested songs are from the reproducible CD, “Sing-Along Songs for Young Children” which may be purchased from *Joy of Living*. The CD is divided into two categories: Bible songs to be used during “Song Time” and activity songs which can be used during “Game Time.” For those who are unsure of their musical ability, many of the tunes in “Sing-Along Songs for Young Children” are familiar folk songs. Other appropriate songs may be substituted.

It is important to know the songs before trying to sing them with the children. And don’t forget to use motions to accompany the songs. If none are indicated—make them up! Motions will help the children learn the songs more quickly and add fun to singing time. Don’t be afraid to be “silly” and exaggerate the motions, it will help the children loosen up and do the motions. Smile a lot!

Music is a wonderful teaching tool. Select songs to reinforce the truths being taught in the lesson. Young children enjoy repetition and what is familiar. Use the same songs for several weeks and gradually introduce new ones.

Music can serve as an effective tool in classroom management. Certain songs may be used consistently to signal transitions from one activity to another. “When We All Work Together” or “Now It’s Time” would attract the children’s attention and signal that it’s time to put away the toys. It is good to end the singing time with a quiet song (e.g. “Oh, How I love Jesus”). This will prepare the children to sit quietly and listen to the story.

- **Bible Memorization Leader** teaches the memory verse. Bible memorization is VERY important. The scripture tells us to hide His Word in our hearts that we might not sin against Him. The scriptures you help these children memorize will be there, ready for the Holy Spirit to make alive in the hearts of these children throughout their lives.

There are many creative ways to teach a Bible verse. Listed below are a few suggestions:

- Put the verse to music....everyone tends to remember the words to a song.
- Say the verse aloud. Make certain to say the “address” (e.g. John 3:16) before you say the verse and then after it. Then ask the children to repeat after you, saying the verse in phrases.
- Assign each child a phrase or word of the verse. Tell them that when you point to them they are to stand up and say their portion of the verse.

You may decide to keep a chart of who learns the memory verses. You may choose to give a simple reward (i.e. sticker, pencil, balloon) to each child as they successfully learn each verse. We will take several weeks to memorize each verse.

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- **Craft Coordinator** is responsible for obtaining materials for crafts, oversees making the crafts, and is responsible for clean-up of craft projects. Make certain you have the needed items prior to the class. It is also helpful to make a sample to show the children.

Talk to the children about the lesson as you make the crafts. This will reinforce the lesson.

Plan ahead. Look through the upcoming crafts and see if you can purchase needed items in quantity. To cut down on the cost, ask the leader of the adult class to announce to the adults what items will be needed for crafts. Some may have items at home they would like to donate or they may want to purchase the items and donate them. Also, see if the church bulletin will include a request for donated items to be used by your class. You could also check with the Craft Coordinator for the older children and see if they will be using some of the same materials. If so, purchase in quantity and share the cost.

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- **Snack Coordinator** is responsible for preparation, serving and clean-up of snacks. Any simple healthful snack will do. Try to stay away from snacks containing added sugar or red food dye. Many parents are very careful about what their children eat. Check the registration forms to see if there are any dietary restrictions for any of the children. There is a list of suggested snacks on page 12-13.
- **Game Leader** is responsible for teaching and leading games and organized activities and obtaining any necessary equipment. Page 14 contains a list of suggested games/activities for both indoors and outdoors. Children like the familiar. Don't introduce too many new games at once. Discover which activities the children like best and play the same games again and again. At this age it is best to avoid activities that cause the children to compete with each other.
- **Assistants** are responsible for helping control the children during class time. Have the assistants sit with the children. If a child is acting up the assistant could just touch the child and gesture for them to be quiet. If necessary have the child sit with the assistant. If a child still won't behave, as a last resort, have the assistant remove the child from the classroom and take him/her to the parent. When the Bible story teacher is leading the children in prayer, assistants should pray aloud when the children should pray aloud. This will help the children understand how to follow the prayer. Assistants may also listen to memory verses and assist in craft time, snack time, game time, set-up and clean-up.

Suggested schedule:

9:30	Greet children. Allow them to play with playdough, puzzles, blocks or color a picture.
9:45	Opening Prayer/Memory Verse/ Bible Story/Bible Songs
10:15	Snack
10:30	Game time/Organized Activities (see page 14)
10:50	Craft
11:10	Clean-up
11:15	Free play time
11:30	Children picked up

Introduction to Acts

The Bible is God's Word

Lesson Plan Week #1**Date:** _____*Teacher's personal reading: Acts 1:1-11, 2**Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17.*

Classroom helpers should pray aloud with the children when the Bible story teacher leads in prayer.

See page 4 to order Sing-Along CD

Suggested snacks are listed on pages 12 & 13.

Suggested games/activities are listed on page 14.

Craft is on following page.

Memory Verse: *(1 John 4:14) "The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."*

Bible Story: Good (Morning/Afternoon/Evening). My name is _____. Do you know what this is (hold up your Bible)? (Respond to their answers.) This is a very special book. It isn't like any other book there is. It is the Bible, God's Word. In this book we learn about how very much God loves us and all the wonderful things He has done to show us His love. God had special people write down the things He wanted us to know and that is how we got the Bible.

We are going to read many wonderful stories about people who loved and obeyed Jesus. Does anyone know who Jesus is? (Respond to their answers.) Jesus is God's Son. God the Father sent Jesus, His Son, to be the Savior of the world. Do you know what a savior is? (Respond to their answers.) A savior is someone who saves others from something. Jesus saves us from our sins. Sins are the wrong things we do. In the Bible we learn that all of us have done wrong things. Even though we may try very hard to be good, we have all done wrong things at some time. Jesus came from heaven, was born as a little baby, and when He grew up He did many wonderful things, like making sick people well, and blind people see. And do you know what? He is the only person who NEVER did anything wrong! Then He died on the cross to pay the price for all the wrong things we've done, but He didn't stay dead! He is alive! He has gone to heaven and is going to come back again! And now, because of what Jesus has done for us, God the Father will forgive us for all the wrong things we've done.

Is there anyone here who would like God to forgive them for the wrong things they've done? I know I do (raise your hand). (Usually many, if not all, of the children will raise their hand. Lead them in a simple prayer something like this:) Let's bow our heads and pray. Everyone who wants God to forgive them can repeat the words after me. Dear God, (pause) Please forgive me (pause) for the wrong things I've done (pause). I believe Jesus died for me (pause) and that He is alive again. (pause) Thank you. In Jesus name, AMEN.

It's wonderful to have our sins forgiven! Let's sing a song! (Select songs from "Sing-Along CD for Young Children" about God loving us and telling others of God's love)

Craft: (Next page)

Bible Picture

Craft - Week #1 Introduction to Acts

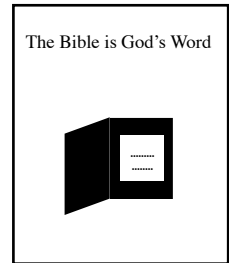
Items needed: Black construction paper scissors
Glue sticks crayons
8 1/2"x11" paper (colored or white) Stickers, glitter glue, etc. (optional)
Copy of scripture & phrase for each child (see below).

Prior to class:

For each child: Cut out 4"x 6" rectangle from black construction paper.
Fold in half to form rectangle 3" wide by 4" tall (Bible Covers)
Cut out scripture verse and header phrase "The Bible is God's Word."

In Class have children:

Glue scripture inside black construction paper "Bible Cover".
This will allow the front to open and close.
Glue "The Bible is God's Word" to top of paper
Glue "back" of Bible cover to paper
Children may color the header words and/or decorate the page with stickers, glitter glue, etc.



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Copy one phrase and one scripture for each child.

The Bible is God's Word.

The Bible is God's Word.

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"The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the World"
- 1 John 4:14

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