

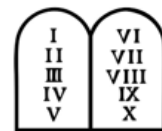
A Plan for Teaching a Sunday School Lesson

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You have JOYFUL work to do as you follow Jesus' command! **Matthew 19:14**
"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Let your joy show as you teach the children about Jesus.



1. **PRAY.** You will be bringing the Word of God to young listeners. You need the guidance of the Holy Spirit, wisdom from God's Word, and the ability to reach the hearts of the children.
2. **STUDY.** Look up the story in the Bible itself and think about the meaning, verse by verse. Look up other Bible passages that teach about the same things. If the story is repeated in another part of the Bible (like another of the Gospels), be sure to compare both. Use a good teacher's guide or other helps if they are available. Helpful teachers' notes for many Old and New Testament stories can be found at www.godshand.clclutheran.org.
3. **PLAN.** You will want to organize your thoughts so that your students will receive the best message and remember what they have learned. After studying the story, ask and answer the following questions:
 - A. **What is the OUTER aim?**
The "outer aim" is the **FACTS** about what happened in the story. For example, "Jesus showed His power as the Son of God when he fed 5,000 people with 5 loaves and 2 fish."
 - B. **What is the INNER aim?**
The "inner aim" is the **MEANING** of the story for each Christian. For example, "Because Jesus has the power to feed 5,000 people, He has the power to take care of all **MY** needs, especially my need for a **SAVIOR** from sin."
 - C. **What is the message of the LAW in this story?**
The **LAW** is what God expects from us, and the punishment that comes from breaking His Law. The Law shows us that we are guilty of sin.
"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Romans 3:23
 - D. **What is the message of the GOSPEL in this story?**
The **GOSPEL** is the good news about what God has given to us in Jesus. By grace He has given us full forgiveness of all our sins and the promise of eternal life. All this is only because of Jesus' death in our place and His resurrection.
"...and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Romans 3:24
 - E. **What does this story teach us about FRUITS of faith?**
Because of God's love to us in Christ, the Christian now wants to live a life that pleases God. What does the story tell us about the life we should now live as God's children? **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5**
 - F. **Be careful** that your lesson focuses on **LAW** and **GOSPEL** first, with the most emphasis on the **GOSPEL**. The biggest mistake that teachers make is when they only teach the children about rules and morals. For example: **"God wants you to be good children. Here is a Bible story that shows you how to be a good child. God loves children who are obedient."** Instead, show the children God's **LAW** – His commandments, our guilt, and the punishment for sin. This prepares a child's heart to hear the **GOSPEL** – God's free gift of forgiveness and life through faith in Jesus. Only the **GOSPEL** brings faith to a child's heart. God's great love because of Jesus will then provide the best reason for the children to show real **FRUITS** of faith in their lives.



4. **TEACH** the class, step-by-step:

(Note that these are suggestions; not every class will follow this exactly in this order)

- A. Open with a prayer and a Christian song for children.
- B. Review the lesson from last week's Sunday school. Ask the students questions about what they learned. Have them recite the memory passages that you gave them last week, and say them aloud together.
- C. Tell a story as an introduction. Use a different Bible story, or an imaginary story that explains the same lesson as your "inner aim" (See above). Tell the children that they will learn the same lesson from today's Bible story.
- D. Tell the Bible story to the children.
 - o You need to know the story well enough that you can TELL it in a good way, including all the details as they are found in the Bible. Speaking to the students directly is much better than just reading the story. Look at each of the children, not just the ones who are paying attention.
 - o You want them to remember the FACTS about what happened (the "OUTER aim," see above).
 - o As you tell the story, ask the children QUESTIONS about things you just said, making sure they know WHO was involved, WHAT happened, etc.
- E. Have the students tell the story back to you. Repeat the beginning of the story, then ask a student "what happened next?" or "what did he say then," etc. Ask WHY questions - "why do you think he did that?" or "why did she say that?" etc. During this review you are trying to teach the children the "INNER aim," see above.

Another way to review the story is to have the students present a play, like in a theater. For example, have one student be Jesus, others be disciples, etc. and help to lead them through the story that way. Ask the WHY questions as you go.
- F. Finish the lesson by asking the students about the FACTS of what happened (the "outer aim"). Then ask them about the MEANING of the story (the "inner aim"). Then tell them what Christians now want to DO because of this good lesson - this will be the FRUITS of faith (the way we ought to live as God's children).
- G. The students can now do a coloring page or a craft, if you have these materials.
- H. Give the students one or more Bible passages to memorize for the next class. Read the passages out loud together and explain the meaning.
- I. End the Sunday school class with a Christian song and a prayer.

WORKSHEET for Preparation

Title of the Bible story and location in the Bible:

What is the OUTER aim?

What is the INNER aim?

What is the LAW in this story?

What is the GOSPEL in this story?

What are the FRUITS of faith that God wants to see in His children after they hear this story?