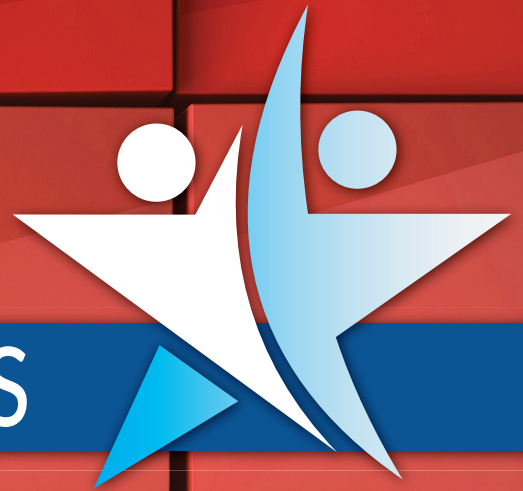


The Children's GOSPEL BOX TRAINING RESOURCES



The Children's **GOSPEL BOX**

TRAINING RESOURCES



August 2018






The Children's Gospel Box Training Resources ©2018
Published by Foursquare Missions Press for The Children's Gospel Box

Learn more about the Children's Gospel Box at cgbox.org.

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Find us on...



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INTRODUCTION

Getting The **WORD** to children of the **WORLD!**

WHO: Foursquare Missions Press, along with the leadership of Dr. Mary Lou Canata, founded the Children's Gospel Box (CG Box) in 2002. Current ministry directors and associates lead a team of volunteers who partner with U.S. and international churches to resource and train children's ministry leaders across the globe.

WHAT: A Children's Gospel Box is a "box" full of children's evangelism and discipleship resources. Each "box" contains enough material to reach out to 150 children. Equally as important as the resources is the training that accompanies every CG Box sent. Over 15,000 children's ministry leaders around the world have been trained and resourced through the ministry of the CG Box.

HOW: The CG Box ministry is supported through donations. By collecting loose change in our coin boxes, children in the United States have sent thousands of boxes to 55 nations. Churches also sponsor boxes, as well as short-term mission teams purchasing them.

WHERE: The 55 nations who have received the CG Box are from Asia, Asian Minor, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, the Caribbean, South America, and Europe.

COST: We approximate that each CG Box costs US \$150.00 for all the materials and shipping costs. A lot of the work is done by volunteers, which has allowed us to keep the cost this low.



WHY: George Barna, a renowned statistician states, “Children’s ministry is one of the primary mission fields of the church today.” And the need for children’s ministry resources is great! The effectiveness of the resources and training has shown that the Children’s Gospel Box is the answer to this need!



The Children's Gospel Box Content Sheet

Before beginning to use the contents of this box, please read this introduction. We believe that through the correct usage of this Gospel Box, God's Word will be planted in the hearts and minds of children who may otherwise not hear the Good News.

1. Literature

The Children's Gospel Box (CG Box) is full of literature to be used to reach children. Some of these include: "The Greatest Promise" tract to go along with the *Jesus Film for Children*, the "Happy Birthday" tract which celebrates the reader's natural and spiritual birthdays, a Tia Linda salvation tract for use in the community or city, and "Living the Christian Life" workbook, which is a six-week follow-up course for ages 8-12.

2. Bible Visual Aids

Children retain 90% of what they see and hear and say and do. So teaching the Bible creatively is imperative. After all, we serve a very creative God! Some of the visual aids included are: an *Evangecube* to share the Gospel message, flannel graph to teach Bible lessons, and the "Cross Story," which uses a plain piece of paper.

3. Puppets

Puppets have been provided to use throughout the neighborhood inviting children to attend events at church, during outreaches to capture kids' attention, and on a regular basis to help teach Bible lessons. Be sure to practice with a puppet beforehand. And if more puppets are needed, both adults and children can make their own puppets.

4. Wordless Gospel Materials

These materials provide an easy, reproducible way for leaders, adults, and children to share the Gospel. As children learn for themselves, they will be able to duplicate the story and share the Good News with their peers. CG Boxes may contain wordless Gospel felt books or printed books, bracelets or keychains, and more!



5. Praise Wands

The straw with ribbons is a “praise wand,” which the kids really enjoy. This is used in the worship time to encourage children to praise the Lord!

6. Tic Tac Toe

The felt square with little pieces is a Tic Tac Toe board. This game is used to play review games in class.

Other possibilities that may be included in the CG Box: *The Jesus Film for Children*, a Bible cloth, etc.



Students retain up to...

10% of what they **HEAR**



30% of what they **SEE**



50% of what they
SEE and **HEAR**



70% of what they
SEE, and **HEAR**, and **SAY**



90% of what they
SEE, and **HEAR**,
and **SAY**, and **DO!**



Gospel Tracts

Why Gospel tracts?

It has been said that nothing costs less, goes further, lasts longer, or says it better than a Gospel tract.

- Tracts can be an evangelistic tool to lead a child to Christ.
- Tracts can be a follow-up tool and a confirmation for a child who has made a decision for Christ.
- Tracts can be a discipleship tool to train children how to lead others to Christ.
- Tracts can be a training guide for children's ministry leaders.
- Tracts can be a teaching tool for someone with limited vocabulary or reading ability.
- Tracts can go home with children and could be read by their parents.



Using a Gospel tract



- First, be familiar with what the tract says.
- Most importantly, PRAY! A person cannot win anyone to Christ; neither can a tract. Only the Holy Spirit can do that. Pray that the Holy Spirit will speak to the recipient's heart so that he/she may understand the message and receive Christ.
- Make eye contact and smile. Genuine smiles are sometimes hard to find, but they can create an opening for using a tract.
- Keep the tracts in good condition. Make sure they are clean and fresh, instead of looking like they've been in a pocket for a few days.



Greatest Promise booklet

Usually this tract is to be used with the Jesus Film for Kids. After the video is shown, separate the children 5 years old and under from the older children. These younger children need to be ministered to on a level appropriate for their age.



Children 6 years and older should be moved into groups of 10 or less. An adult will go through the tract with the children and give an opportunity for the children to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Each child takes his/her copy of the tract home.

(See the included page of "The Jesus Film for Children" for more information.)



Jesus wants children to come to Him!

When children were brought to Jesus so He could put His hands on them and pray, the disciples tried to stop them. Jesus responded, "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Matt. 19:13-14.

10 Guidelines For Leading A Child To Faith In Christ

1. GOD LOVES YOU

- Let the child know that God made him/her. He knows everything about us (Romans 5:8). And he/she is important to God because He wants good things for him/her.
- Nothing will make God stop loving us, not even bad things that we do or good things that we don't do (1 John 4:16 & Romans 8:38-39).

2. ALL OF US ARE SINNERS

- Sin is doing things that God doesn't want us to do and not doing what God wants us to do.
- Help the child understand that he/she is a sinner. We have all sinned (Romans 3:23).
- The punishment for sin is death. So Jesus Christ, who is God's Son, took our punishment for us when He died on the cross & came back to life (Romans 6:23).
- Jesus died on the cross and came back to life to pay for our sins. Jesus lives today!

3. WE CAN BE PART OF GOD'S FAMILY

- Because of what Jesus has done for us, we can join in God's family.
- Use John 1:12 (paraphrased) to help the child understand that we believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son, our Savior, and God gives us the power to become His sons and daughters.



4. YOUR PART IS TO BELIEVE & INVITE

- Help the child understand that he/she needs to tell God he/she believes in Jesus, to confess that he/she has done wrong things, to ask God to forgive him/her, and invite Jesus to be his/her Savior and be in charge of his/her life. This is how we receive God's great gift of salvation (Ephesians 2:8).

5. TALK TO GOD

- Encourage the child to talk to God using his/her own words. If the child cannot find the words, help him/her to say a simple prayer, repeating it phrase by phrase. Remind the child to think carefully about the words he/she is repeating, and to say them as if they are his/her own.

*Dear God, my Creator,
Thank you for loving me. I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is your Son. I believe He took the punishment for my sins when He died on the cross and came alive again. I know I have sinned and done wrong things. I've disobeyed. Please forgive me and take away my guilt and shame. Give me the power to say "YES" to you and "NO" to wrong things. Lord Jesus, please come into my life as my Savior and King. I want to obey You. Help me to follow You, and learn to live for You. Make me part of Your Family. You are my God, and I worship You.*

6. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

- Explain to the child that inviting Christ to be their King and Savior does not mean he/she will be perfect from that moment on. When each person disobeys or does something wrong, that person needs to tell God exactly what they have done, as soon as possible. Explain that God promises in His Word that when we agree with Him that we have done something wrong and tell Him about it, He will forgive us and cleanse us from all sin (1 John 1:9).



- Help the child to decide to know Jesus better every day. God is the One who will give them the power and ability to become like Jesus. To be like Jesus means to have His character of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, which are the Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- To know Jesus better, we should:
 - Talk with God and listen for His voice.
 - Worship and praise God. Tell Him “Thank You.”
 - Read, study and memorize the Bible, beginning with the New Testament.
 - Go to church to learn more about God.
 - Talk with others about Jesus and help them come to know Him.
 - Practice obedience by saying “Yes” to God, and “No” to sin.

7. THERE IS AN ENEMY

- Teach the child that although the devil is a liar who will try and tell him/her that nothing has happened after Jesus became their Savior, God is more powerful than the devil.
- Help the child understand that the devil might try to make him/her feel that he/she hasn't been forgiven and should feel guilty. But the Bible says that when God forgives our sins, He throws them into the deepest part of the sea (Micah 7:19) and doesn't remember them anymore (Hebrews 10:17).

8. SHARE

- Instruct the child to tell at least one other person that he/she believes in Jesus as Savior and wants to serve Him all of his/her life (Romans 10:9-10).



- Help the child understand the Great Commission to tell others the Good News!

9. PRAY

- Pray for the child's special needs, asking God to help the child know Him and learn more about Him every day of their life.
- Continue praying for the child after this moment. Make a note with his/her name and date to serve as a reminder for prayer.

10. FOLLOW-UP

- Offer to have a class or Bible study with the child for follow-up so he/she can learn to walk with Jesus and grow in a relationship with Him.



The "JESUS Film" For Children

This film tells the story of Jesus, as seen through the eyes of children. It follows the lives of Benjamin, Caleb, Sarah, Joel, Leah and Nathan, living in Jerusalem about A.D. 30.

It depicts the stories of the Man from Nazareth who heals the sick and raises the dead.

As they struggle to make sense of it all, they watch Jesus from the crowd, and follow Him to see what this incredible man, who loves children, will do next. They see Him betrayed, wrongly accused, crucified and buried. But, they remember the promise of Jesus and believe they will see Him again. Children of all ages will enjoy this captivating retelling of the true story of Jesus from a child's perspective.

This version edited for children purposely leaves out some of the more difficult scenes from Christ's crucifixion, making it age-appropriate for children.



How To Use The DVD Effectively

The DVD is sixty-two (62) minutes long. Here are some suggestions for its use:

Plan a 2 hour rally or crusade. Show the first part of the movie (pausing around the 37:52 time). Separate children into small groups to introduce what they are about to see in Jesus' persecution, crucifixion, and resurrection. Then allow children to watch the remainder of the movie. Afterwards, return to the same small groups for further discussion and for using the tract (below).

Host a 2 day rally or crusade. Show the first part in one setting and the second part the next day, with follow up groups afterwards.



"The Greatest Promise" Booklet

Preview the DVD with your team and those who will be ministering to the children at the end of the showing. The tract is then given to each child in small groups of ten. The children should follow along as their teacher reads, or they can read in unison. With organization and pre-planning, this can be a very meaningful time in the life of the child.



After seeing the film and reading the tract, it is now time for those who desire to receive Jesus as their Savior to do so. The leader will lead out and ask the children to repeat after the leader. Give the child the Biblical assurance that he/she is now a part of God's family. (See the included page about leading a child to Christ for more information.)

Note: If your group is attended by preschoolers/kindergarteners, it is suggested that plans be made in advance for assigned teachers to take these children in their respective groups, and talk to them by using the tract pictures, etc.



The Cross Story

To prepare

Practice extensively using an 8.5 x 11 inch piece of paper. Recite the story until it flows well, folding and tearing as the story is told.

The “Cross Story” has been provided by Child Evangelism.

Here is the story:

There was a man who loved to tell people about Jesus. In his country, however, people were not allowed to talk about Jesus. This happens in places all over the world today, but people keep telling others about the Good News of Jesus. And that’s what this man did, too. He just wouldn’t quit. So one day, he was put in jail for doing this.

In jail, he began to talk to the guards and other prisoners about Jesus. He was warned by the chief official that he was going to be put to death if he didn’t stop talking about Jesus. But, the official said if the man could show him what a cross looked like, he would not die.

The official gave the man a piece of paper and said, “If you can make a cross out of this paper with only one cut from my sword, then I will believe your God.”

That night, the prisoner prayed and prayed, asking the Lord to show him what do. The man started to fold one corner of the cloth down like this and then folded the other corner down (hold it up). Then he folded it in half one more time the same way (show the audience).

The man went to sleep. In the morning, the official came in with a sword. He said, “Wake up. Show me the cross.” The man held up the folded piece of paper. And the official cut the piece of cloth like this (tear the paper down the middle). And as he picked up pieces & unfolded them, the man found this CROSS (show the cross)!

At this point, read from the Bible the story of the crucifixion and use the cross to talk about “why” Jesus had to die.



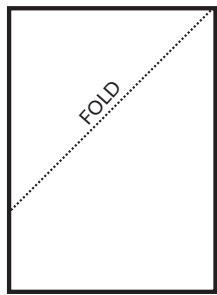
OPTIONAL to use the leftover pieces to spell out:

HELL - How the cross rescued us from punishment

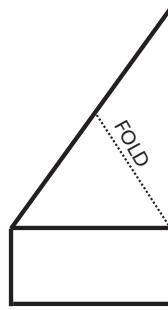
LOVE - How the cross was the greatest example of love in all of history

LIFE - How Jesus came back to life after the cross so we can have a relationship with Him!

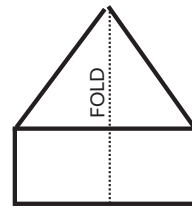
Visual Instructions



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

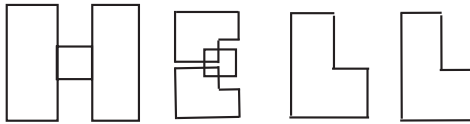


Step 4

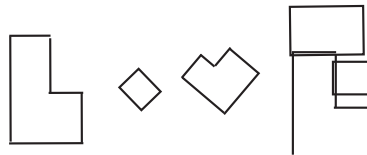


Step 5

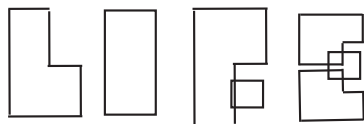
HELL



LOVE



LIFE



Bible Review Games

Kids will pay more attention knowing a review game is coming at the end of the lesson.

These games can be played individually or in teams.

Things to remember:

1. Be fair
2. Be creative
3. Don't play the same game every week
4. Maintain discipline
5. Be enthusiastic
6. Be silly with the kids
7. Review the story with each question
8. Have high, but not unrealistic expectations
9. Award first and second place
10. Quit playing when they are having the most fun. Leave them wanting to play more, instead of playing until they're bored.

Game #1: Box Toss

Decorate a box. Cut a hole in the lid of the box about 6 inches by 4 inches. After a child correctly answers a question, he/she is allowed to throw beanbags or other objects at the opening of the box from a distance of 4 to 5 feet. When one goes in the hole, the individual or the team wins points.

Game #2: Bible Relay

Divide the class into two teams. Have each team form a line, one person behind another. Get two (adult) leaders and give them each a copy of the review questions. The first child in each line is asked a review question by a leader. If he/she answers correctly, that child goes to the end of the line. If the answer is incorrect, that person stays. The first team to have their starting person rotate back to the front of the line wins.

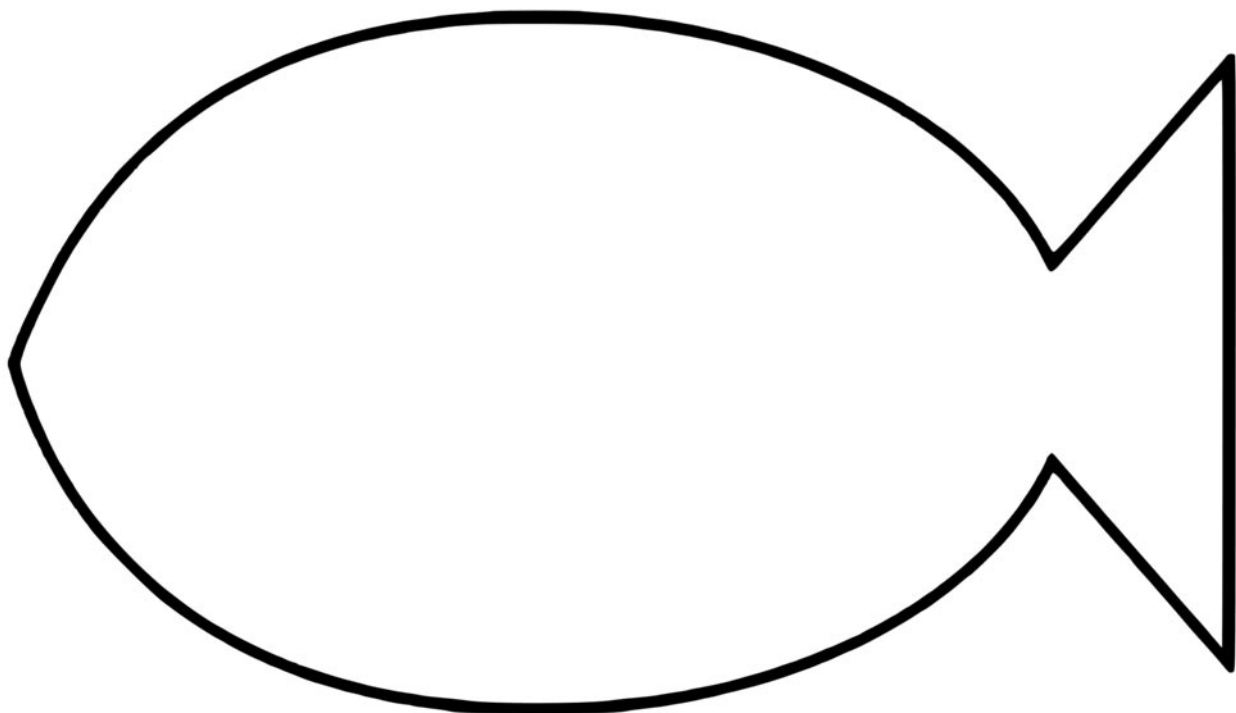


Game #3: Zonk

Cut 10 or 15 pieces of heavy paper, 2 x 5 inches each. On one end, write a number of points (100, 500, 1000). Make some say “take two” or “try again” and a few with the word “ZONK.” When a child answers a review question, he picks a card and follows the directions or gets the points indicated. If he picks one of the ZONK cards, the team loses all of the accumulated points.

Game #4: Go Fish

Using the pattern below, make 10 or 15 “fish” and attach a paper clip on the front of each. Write a number of points on the back of each fish (100, 250, 500, 1000). Make a fishing pole from a stick and a string with a magnet on the end of the string. When a child answers a review question, he can “go fishing” for his team and receive the number of points on the fish he “catches.”



Bible Verse Memorization Games

The goal is to have the children memorize the Word of God. This is best done with repetition. Repeat the verse together at least 3 times before beginning any of these games.

Game #1: Beat the Clock

Write the verse on some material and cut between each word. Mix up the words to the Memory Verse. The children then take turns putting the words in the correct order. The child who does it the fastest wins. After each turn, have the class repeat the verse.

Game #2: What's Missing?

Write the verse on some material and cut between each word. Put the verse up in front of the class. Have all the children close their eyes. Remove one word. The child who first can figure out what word is missing wins! That child is to read the whole verse. Then continue playing until all the words are gone.

Game #3: Clap your Hands

Put the verse up in front of the class. One child turns his back to the verse. The teacher or another child points to one word. All the other children see which word is chosen. The chosen child keeps his back to the board as the children say the verse. When they come to the chosen word, they clap their hands together instead of saying that word. The child wins if he can tell what word was chosen.

Game #4: Hot and cold

A small object is needed. One child goes out of the room. Another child hides the object. The group keeps repeating the verse over and over as the child from outside enters the room and starts to search for the object. When the child is far away from the object, the group repeats softly, and as the child approaches the object, the class says the verse louder. The closer to the object, the louder the class says the verse, never stopping. The further away, the softer the class speaks. (This is a good game to be used when teaching a long verse, so kids can keep saying the whole verse.)



Game #5: Face Off

Two children face each other. One says the first word of the verse, then the other child says the second word. Then back to the first child to say the third word. This goes on until one child cannot go any further or says the verse incorrectly. The winner challenges another person to try to defeat him.

Game #6: Envelope Challenge

Write the verse on two separate papers. Cut each verse apart, in the same way. Put each verse in separate envelopes. Have 2 children come up and give each an envelope. When the teacher tells them to start, they try to put the verse together correctly by laying the words out on the ground or a table. The first one finished is the winner.

Game #7: Hot Potato

Have the children stand in a circle and pass an item (like a potato). When the item comes to a child, he says the word of the verse that is next. At the end of the verse, whoever has the item is out. Play continues, repeating the verse over and over until only one person is left as the winner.



Ideas for Teaching the Bible Creatively

It has been proven that people retain more of what we see and hear and say and do. So we do not want to teach in a way that only allows kids to HEAR – but to experience more. Bible stories can come alive if they are presented in creative ways!

Here are some ideas for ways to teach the Bible creatively, in addition to the visual aids provided:

Idea #1: Art, Art and more Art

Using pictures, draw the story as it is being told. The teacher or an assistant can do the drawing. It does not have to be an amazing masterpiece. Children will just enjoy SEEING something as they hear the story.

Idea #2: Showtime

Using hats or other props, the teacher or an assistant acts out the story, changing hats or coats depending on who is talking. For example, in the story of Adam and Eve, when the story talks about Adam, put on a man's hat. When the story talks about Eve, change to a woman's hat. When it talks about the enemy, put on a green hat or a snake-skin hat. It keeps the children's attention because one person is playing every part of the story. For another option, use a child and allow him to be the one-man show.

Idea #3: Traveling Story

Divide the Bible Story in 5 parts. Begin at the front of your group and teach the first point. Then move around to the right side of the group and teach the second point. Next, move to the back of the group to teach the third point (yes, all the children will turn around to watch!). After that, move to the left side of your group to teach the fourth point. And lastly, return to the front of the group to teach the final point and application.



Idea #4: Props in a Bag

Choose 3 or 4 parts of the story to highlight. Then, work to find a prop to represent each of these parts of the story.

For example, in the story of the fiery furnace, gather a statue (like the one the Hebrew children bowed down to), an instrument of some kind (for the music that cued them to bow), and something like fire (a red cloth, a lighter, or picture of fire). If possible, put the props in a bag. Then, as the story is told, pull out the corresponding prop and have the kids tell you what it is. Then explain how this object tells the story.



Living the Christian Life—Answer Sheet

This book is a six-week follow-up course for children ages 8-12 after they have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. We suggest a designated time and place for a class specifically designed for these new believers. The teacher will have his/her copy completed and teach one lesson each week during the class. Recognition of completion can be planned at the close of six weeks by presenting the class to the church/children's ministry, or with an award given.

Lesson 1

1. Answers may vary
2. "But if we confess our sins to Him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong." 1 John 1:9 (NLT)
3. Disobey - No one - Some - Hate
4. Yes - Yes - No - Yes - Yes
5. Child's name - child's name - child's name
6. Disobedience - wrongdoing - evil
7. Yes
8. Son of God
9. Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said
10. Confess - forgive
11. You - Son - You - You
12. Christ

Lesson 2

1. Be honest at all times - Show kindness to everyone - Honor God in all things - Obey parents - Love others
2. He will forgive us our sins
3. Yes - Yes - Yes
4. X - I should talk to God in prayer every day
5. Satan
6. True - True - False
7. God



8. X - No
9. Memorize the verse
10. "And be sure of this: I am with you always even to the end of the age."
Matthew 28:20b (NLT)

Lesson 3

1. Read the Bible
2. Know God - Learn about Jesus
3. X - I should read my Bible every day — X - The Bible is God's Word
4. God - Sunday school teacher - pastor
5. Lamp - light
6. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away."
Matthew 24:35
"I have hidden Your Word in my heart that I might not sin against you."
Psalm 119:11
"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path."
Psalm 119:105
7. Number of Bibles in child's home
8. Child writes to God about what the Bible means to him/her
9. Child's favorite Bible verse

Lesson 4

1. X - Praying
2. His eyes are on the righteous - His ears open to their prayer
3. Always
4. Anywhere
5. True - False - False - True - True - True
6. Memorize
7. No - Yes - Yes



Lesson 5

1. A place to worship God
A place to sing and praise
A place to learn more about God
2. Forsaking - Ourselves
3. No - Yes - Yes
4. Church
5. Worship - Singing - Offering/Giving - Sharing
Praying - Testifying - Preaching - Learning
6. Bible - Offering
7. Happy
8. Name of the child's church
9. Name of the child's pastor
10. Offering - Singing - Learning - Keeping - Others - Christ

Lesson 6

1. Child's Name
2. Mark 5:19 (NKJV)
3. Yes - No - Yes - Yes
4. Read the Bible each day - Tell others about Jesus -
Live the Christian life before others
5. Inviting them to church - Hand out tracts
6. So they all can know Jesus and be saved
7. Make a list of 3 people who you will talk to about the Lord
8. Know that God loves them
Know that we all have sinned
Know if we confess our sin He is faithful to forgive us
9. Matthew 21:22
John 5:23
John 3:16
Romans 3:23
1 John 1:9
Romans 6:23
10. Review verses already learned
11. Memorize



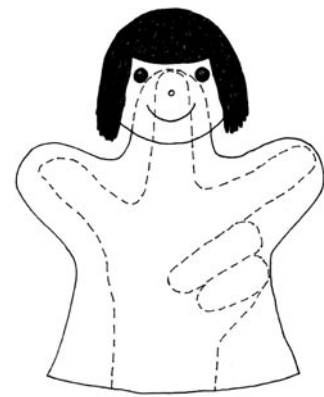
Using Puppets in Teaching Children

Puppets are a very effective teaching visual-aid. When correctly used, they capture the imagination and interest of those listening/watching. Puppets can be used for announcements, songs, games, stories, memorizing, instructions, and just for fun.

NOTE: When teaching about salvation, it is important not to say that the puppet is saved or unsaved. Puppets can teach right and wrong actions and/or Christian character. But their salvation could confuse the children. Puppets are not real – salvation is.

The Gospel Box Puppet

Because the Children's Gospel Box puppet does not have a movable mouth, the movement of the puppet is what will keep it interesting. Moving the puppet slightly will give the illusion that the puppet is speaking.



Here are a few things to think about:

- Remember to look at the class regularly and make sure the puppet is “looking” at them also.
- Keep the puppet moving, as if it's alive. If the arm/hand inside the puppet goes limp, it will look as if the puppet has died.
- When the puppet “talks,” be sure to pay attention.
- A drooping head expresses sadness, and slow movements express depression and/or sleepiness. Directing the head in a side to side motion can express disagreement. The tilt of the head to one side expresses concern or confusion.

The Silent Puppet

Most of the above tips apply to a “silent puppet.” The puppet, however, “speaks” only to the leader, and the leader relates what has been said to the class. For example, the puppet looks at the class and rushes over to the teacher and buries his/her head in the teacher's shoulder. The teacher asks, “What's wrong?” The puppet “whispers” to the teacher that he/she is nervous in front of all these people. The teacher then explains that there is nothing to be afraid of.



Puppet with Moveable Mouth

- Create a voice for your puppet.
- Synchronize the opening of the puppet's mouth with the spoken word. Do not open the mouth all the way with each word. Save the wide mouth openings for exaggerated or loud expressions. The mouth of the puppet can remain slightly open while listening. This can simulate a "smile." Tightly close the mouth to express anger.

With ANY puppet: Practice! Practice! Practice...in front of a mirror if possible!

Here are 2 options for how a puppet could tell the Bible Story.
These are samples with 1 teacher and 1 puppet.

#1: The Story of Jonah (Jonah 1-3)

Puppet: Hi kids! Have you ever gone fishing? Did you catch any fish? Today we're going to learn about a fish that caught a man!

One day, God spoke to a man named Jonah and told him to go to a city called Ninevah to preach a special message. God wanted the people there to know that He was angry because of the bad things they'd been doing.

But Jonah didn't want to go to Ninevah. He tried to run away from God by getting on a ship. The ship sailed away, but God knew where Jonah was. He sent a great big storm to rock the boat until it almost broke apart. Everyone on board felt really, really scared.

Jonah told the others that God had sent the storm to stop him from running away. They asked Jonah what they could do to stop the storm. They didn't want God mad at all of them. So Jonah told them to throw him overboard into the water.

At first, the men didn't want to do that to Jonah. They rowed harder than ever to make it to shore, but they just couldn't get there. The storm just got worse. At last, they prayed to God to forgive them, and they threw Jonah into the water. As soon as they did that, the sea became perfectly calm, and the men all believed in God.

When Jonah landed in the water, a big fish, sent by God, came up and swallowed him. Jonah was scared and prayed to God. After three whole days inside the fish, God



made the fish spit Jonah out right onto the beach!

Jonah was very glad to be out of the fish's belly. He went straight to Ninevah and preached to the people. He told them that they had 40 days to change their minds and do what was right, or God would destroy their city. All the people in that great city believed God and told God that they were sorry. Because Jonah preached and the people believed, the whole city was saved!

Teacher: Wow (insert puppet's name)! That is a great, true story from the Bible! I am so glad that Jonah finally obeyed God. {Now the teacher teaches the application for today...}

#2: The Story of Daniel in the Lion's Den (Daniel 6)

Teacher: Hi kids! Have you ever been really, really hungry? As hungry as a lion, maybe? I have a story about some lions who were very hungry, but they didn't get the dinner they wanted. And maybe my friend (insert puppet's name here) would like to hear it too. Would you like to hear this true story from the Bible?

Puppet: {Shakes head to say yes}

Teacher: In the Old Testament, we find a story of a great prophet named Daniel who lived in Babylon. Daniel loved God and prayed to him several times a day. God had given Daniel the very special job of helping the king, whose name was Darius. Some other men became jealous of Daniel because they wanted that job. Do these sound like nice men?

Puppet: {Shakes head to say no}

Teacher: That's correct. They are not kind at all. In fact, the jealous men went to the king and talked him into making a special law. The law said that for 30 days, no one was allowed to pray to any gods and ask them for things. If they needed something, they were to come ask the king instead. The men said that this law would help people to see how great their king was and how much he could help his people. If anyone broke the law, they would be fed to a group of hungry lions. King Darius knew that Daniel loved his God and prayed to Him everyday, but he wasn't thinking about that when he signed the new law. Then one day, the jealous men caught Daniel praying to God and they ran straight to King Darius to tell him. How do you think he felt?



Puppet: {Hangs head down low to say sad}

Teacher: Yes, he did feel sad. King Darius liked Daniel and didn't want to have to throw him to the lions. He tried all day to find a way to save Daniel, but once a law was made, it had to be obeyed. Sadly, the king told his guards to throw Daniel into the cave full of hungry lions. King Darius said to Daniel, "I know that your God will save you." Then a large stone was rolled over the door to the den. How do you think Daniel might have felt?

Puppet: {Shakes side to side to show nervous}

Teacher: Well that night, the king was very sad. He didn't eat, he didn't listen to music, and he couldn't even sleep. All he could do was think about his friend, Daniel. As soon as there was morning light, Darius ran to the cave. "Daniel, has your God kept you safe?" he asked.

Daniel answered happily. "My God sent an angel to shut the mouths of the hungry lions." He told king Darius he was innocent and would never do anything to hurt the king. King Darius knew this was true. He was very, very happy for Daniel. So the king set Daniel free! Then he had the men who had tricked him thrown to the lions. King Darius announced a new law to the whole kingdom that everyone was to worship the true living God. And how do you think Daniel and the king felt now?

Puppet: {Jumps up and down to show excitement}

Teacher: That's right! God was faithful to rescue Daniel, and they were so happy! {Now the teacher teaches the application for today...}



Wordless Gospel Book and Bracelet

GOLD The gold color reminds us of Heaven. The Bible tells us that Heaven has a street of gold! But the best part about Heaven is that God, who created you and me, lives there. The Bible, God's Word, says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus, God's Son, is in Heaven preparing a place for all who put their trust in Him (John 14:23). God is holy and perfect. He cannot allow anything in Heaven that is less than perfect, so there is one thing that can never be in Heaven. Can you think of what that might be?

DARK It's sin. That's what the dark color reminds us of. Sin is anything we do that does not please God, like lying, cheating, being selfish, disobeying, or hurting others. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). That means everyone – big or little, young or old! No matter where you live or who you are, you have sinned. Everyone is born with a "want" to do wrong. God says that sin must be punished (Romans 6:23) and the punishment for sin is to be separated from God forever in a place of suffering, a place called Hell. But, God has a wonderful plan so that you will not have to be punished for your sins!

RED God sent Jesus Christ, His perfect Son, to be born as a little baby. Jesus lived a perfect life; He never sinned. When He was grown, wicked men nailed Him to a cross. This red color reminds us of the blood of Jesus that He lost on the cross. The Bible says that without the giving of blood, there can be no forgiveness of sin (Hebrews 9:22). So, Jesus Christ willingly died to take the punishment for your sin. Christ died for our sins, was buried, and then rose again on the third day, just like the Bible says (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Now, because of what Jesus has done for us, you can have your sins forgiven.



WHITE

It's like the darkness of sin in our hearts gets washed completely clean, like this color. "Our sins are washed away, and we are made clean because Christ gave His own body..." (Hebrews 10:10). So how can you have a clean heart?

A = Admit to God you are a sinner and want to turn away from those sins. "If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

B = Believe in Jesus Christ, that He is God's perfect Son who died for your sins, was buried, and came back to life.

C = Choose Jesus to be the Lord of your life!

Would you like to do that right now? God has promised to hear, and bring you into His family. Take a moment and talk to God right now. It will change your life forever!

GREEN

The last color stands for things that grow. When you ask God to forgive you and save you, you become His child. Once you are His child, He will never leave you (Hebrews 13:5). And God wants His children to get to know Him better and grow to become more like Him.

These four things will help you grow:

1. Pray (talk to God every day).
2. Read and obey the Bible (to know what He says and then do it).
3. Tell others about Jesus.
4. Go to a Bible-believing church (where you can learn more about Him).

Ask God to help you live a life that pleases Him! Share the Good News of these colors with someone!



Praise Wands

The wands consist of plastic straws with four 12-inch pieces of various colored ribbon. Staple the ribbons inside the top of the straw. If staples are not available, tie the pieces of ribbon together, and then tie the set to the top of the straw/stick securely.

Choose a group of children to stand in front of the other children to help lead the praise time. Give the children up front a praise wand, and if there are enough wands available, the remaining children can receive one too.

It is important to work with the group of children who have been chosen to lead, encouraging them to wave the wands in rhythm with the song and with each other.

Use this opportunity to teach children how to use their mouths to praise, saying statements such as, "Praise the Lord!" or "We praise You, God!"



Tic Tac Toe

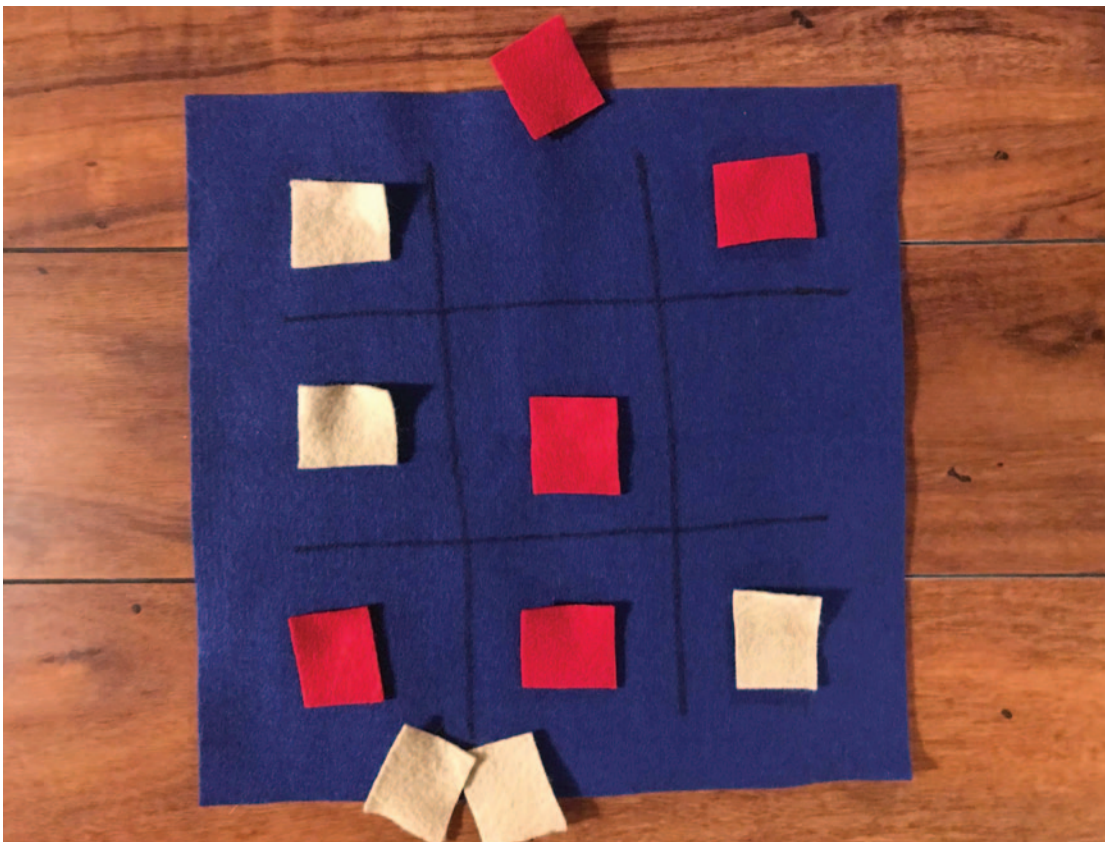
How to Make the Game

Items needed to make a game board:

- One square of felt (9 x 9 or 12 x 12 inches)
- 1.5 inch in diameter felt squares in two different colors (5 squares of each color)
- Permanent marker or electrical tape (to create dividing lines)

Instructions to make a game board:

1. Using the marker/tape, create two lines, evenly spaced, going vertically down the felt square. This should divide the square into three sections.
2. Then, create two more lines, evenly spaced, going horizontally across the felt. This should divide the square into nine sections.



How to Play the Game

Divide the kids into two teams. Give each team a set of colored squares. They will play against each other. Correct answers allow the team to put one of their squares on the game board. As in regular Tic Tac Toe, the one who gets three (3) answers in a row wins (3 across, 3 down, or 3 diagonally). The opposing team should try to block or stop their opponent's 3-in-a-row. This is a way to have fun with the kids!

The game can be used in several ways. Here are a few options:

As a review of the lesson

One team is asked a question relating to the lesson taught. If someone on that team answers the question correctly, they put their colored square on the board. The other team gets the next question, and play continues until one team gets 3 in a row.

As a memory verse review

One team begins and tries to say the verse perfectly in order to place their square on the board. Then it goes back and forth, with many children repeating the verse. Alternatively, the children could be responsible for only saying the NEXT word of the verse correctly, instead of reciting the whole passage.



Lesson Planning Worksheet

- ▷ Begin on Monday for your Sunday teaching.
- ▷ Pray for God's guidance in preparing your lesson.
- ▷ Decide what Scripture or Bible Story will be learned.

#1 - Scripture or Bible Story:

- ▷ Read through the text twice.
- ▷ Read text through a third time, writing out the story line events. These are the actions that take place in the story or the important parts to be taught.

#2 - Story Events

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

#3 - Creative Bible visual aid:

(How to tell the Bible story creatively, for example: flannel graph, puppet, art, motions, props, etc.)

#4 - Memory Verse:

#5 - Memory Verse Game:

#6 - What is the application for the Unserved Child?

#7 - What is the application for the Saved Child?

#8 - What is an activity or illustration to teach/reinforce the application?

#9 - Questions for Review

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

#10 - Practice & prayer!

- ▷ Practice teaching the lesson aloud at least twice USING the visual aids. Make the story come alive, add inflection to your voice, use sound effects, etc. Don't just read the lesson off your sheet!
- ▷ Be a skillful storyteller. Come up with a question or a statement that will capture the child's interest from the very beginning.
- ▷ Most importantly, PRAY FOR THE CHILDREN! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you meditate on the text and as you speak God's Word. Pray for kids' hearts to be open to the application of Scripture.



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