

Kindergarten

Bible Study Guide

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Kindergarten Children
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Contents

SERVICE

Jesus sets an example of service for us.

1. A Child Like Me January 7
2. Daddy's Helper January 14
3. Lost and Found January 21
4. Friend to All January 28

GRACE

God has made us part of His family.

5. Let Them Come! February 4
6. Too Short to See February 11
7. Who Is Your Neighbor? February 18
8. Lazarus, Come Out February 25

WORSHIP

We praise Jesus for what He has done for us.

9. A Praise Parade March 4
10. A Special Supper March 11
11. Jesus Loves Me March 18
12. He's Alive! March 25

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are:

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Kindergarten Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church we advocate kindergarten for children ages 3-5. However, the development of children varies from child to child. Therefore, a knowledge of each child is important. Generally, the description below is true of children ages 3-5.

Physical

- Start developing large muscle coordination
- Lack a sure sense of balance
- Are extremely active
- Tire easily, but revive soon after resting
- Lack fine muscle coordination
- Are curious and like to explore their environment
- Learn by exploring

Mental

- Are capable of limited listening and understanding without the help of a visual cue, such as seeing the object being discussed
- Have quick memory
- Memorize things they don't understand

Emotional

- Cry easily
- Are capable of verbalizing emotional responses
- Learn to delay gratification of needs without losing equilibrium
- Experience the full spectrum of negative emotions
- Learn ways to express negative emotions

Social/Relational

- Are self-centered—the world revolves around them
- Play alone in the presence of their friends, rather than playing with their friends
- Like to make friends and be with friends

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs mentioned earlier, kindergarten children need:

- Freedom—to choose and to explore within limits
- Power—to have some autonomy in learning situations
- Limits—safe boundaries that are set by parents and teachers
- Fun—learning through play, enjoying success
- Discipline and training—to provide safety and structure in their lives

Spiritual Needs

Kindergarten children need to know:

- God loves them and cares for them
- How to show respect for God
- God made them, knows them, and values them
- The difference between right and wrong
- How to choose the right with God's help

General Rules

A child's attention span, in minutes, is their age plus one. Thus, an average 3-year-old has a potential attention span of four minutes, provided they are interested in what is happening.

Kindergarten Children:

- Enjoy repetition—provided they don't tire
- Are beginning to reason from simple cause to effect
- Make some generalizations—often incorrectly
- Learn best by active participation
- Have a short attention span—3 to 6 minutes

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

A Letter to Parents

Dear Parents,

In this issue of the *Kindergarten Bible Study Guide* you will find that the lessons are from the life of Jesus. In these lessons the children will be introduced to three major themes—service through following Jesus' example; experiencing God's grace by being part of His family; and worshipping by praising Jesus for what He has done for us.

We believe that kindergarten children are able to understand God's messages in Scripture, so we urge you to sit with your child each day to share the lesson. As part of your family worship, pray for understanding from the Holy Spirit; sing a happy song; read with enthusiasm; and have fun with the Do and Say activities. Use the motions to review the memory verse. This will help your child remember it.

Let your child tell you the story from the pictures or help to read the lesson if he or she is able. Read the story from the Bible at some time during the week. A number of simplified children's versions are available today. Teach by example and word that the Bible is precious and holy.

Take the time—make the time—to involve your young child in worship every day, and you will foster a love for Jesus and His Word that will last. Years from now, you'll be glad you did.

Our prayer is that these lessons will bring joy and peace to you and your child. Let us pray for one another as we work together to lead little ones to Jesus.

Contact us through our Web site at www.gracelink.net.

**With Affection,
The Editors**