

Teaching FAQS



What's the Schedule?

For some of us, “schedule” is an intimidating word. We’re afraid we won’t be able to get it all done or keep up. But think of the schedule as a series of landmarks that keep you on track. Have no fear! Here is a simple breakdown of what to do when—and a little bit of why!

The **Classroom Schedule** is made up of three simple steps listed below. Adjust the times to add up to the total amount of time you have for your class.



1. Get Thinking (10–15 minutes)—

During this time, one teacher or helper is at the door to welcome kids (even latecomers). Another teacher leads the Get Thinking activity. It’s usually an easy game or interactive idea with a simple discussion starter that introduces kids to the lesson’s Big Idea.

CD-ROM Lesson Extras!

Available for every lesson, these enhancements, puzzles, game cards, etc. are easy to use as a way to add to your activities. One activity helps kids build skill in using and reading the Bible. The second activity introduces the Bible story or Bible verse to your students.



2. Get God's Word (15–25 minutes)—

While one teacher tells the Bible story, another teacher or helper sits with kids, helps them find references in their Bibles, redirects the attention of kids who are having trouble with focus, etc. Use the lesson poster and *What the Bible Is All About Bible Handbook for Kids* at the points where they are listed in the Bible story.



3. Get Talking (25–30 minutes)—

Lead the Whiteboard Time activity, helping students understand the meaning of the Bible verse. Give each student a copy of the lesson’s *Kid Talk Card* and lead students to complete the activity on Side 1. Ask the discussion questions to help your kids understand how the Bible story illustrates the lesson’s Bible verse.

Then invite kids to complete the activity on Side 2 of the *Kid Talk Cards*. This activity and the suggested questions will spark lively discussions about the Big Idea

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and about ways kids can put the lesson's Action Plan into practice. Afterward, take time to pray with your kids, inviting them to share prayer requests and answers.

What's My Job?

You've got curriculum. You know where the class is held. But what exactly is your job?

Teachers

If you are the teacher, come in prepared to lead the session, ready to put into action the ways you have chosen to get across the Big Idea and help kids accomplish the Action Plan for the session. Teaching is more than talking from a book and asking good questions. It involves doing all you can to arrange a warm, open learning environment. And it includes finding creative ways to present the gospel and showing Jesus' love to kids in practical ways they understand!

Before: Pray, pray, pray! Pray for each student by name. Read the lesson and customize it for you and your kids by choosing the activities that are appropriate for your group to do in addition to the Bible story. As you select activities, be aware of the different ways your kids enjoy learning: Game or art? Writing or drawing? Be sure that you have all the necessary supplies ready ahead of time. Page 3 of the *Teacher Guide* has a list of the basic supplies you will need each week. Arrive 10 to 15 minutes early so that you're not rushed when the kids arrive but you're able to focus on them instead of prep work.

During: Engage kids in learning by your enthusiasm and by being sensitive to the needs of your children, especially those with learning or physical disabilities or those who may feel uncomfortable in the group. Use the tools from your curriculum to fulfill the lesson goals. Share personal examples of how God's Word has helped you, and encourage kids to apply the lesson's Bible truths to their own lives.

After: At the end of every lesson, evaluate what went well or poorly and what you can do better. Get to know the children and their families. Learn about their schools, interests, sports, hobbies and needs. Invite new families to church, and encourage their participation in all of your church's activities.

Helpers

If you are a helper, you are far more than just a willing adult. Helpers devote themselves to knowing the kids and to developing an eye for what needs to be done. Be aware of behavior patterns in the kids, and anticipate problems before they arise. Remember, a person who is helping one week will often be a teacher the next.

Before: Pray for your relationship with the teacher and other helpers. Know the basics of the lesson, just in case you're unexpectedly needed as a substitute!

During: Be aware and ready to help the teacher in any way you can see—handing out materials, cleaning up spills, sitting with a kid having a tough time. Never assume your role isn't important or that you're off duty when you don't have a specific task to do. One big (and sometimes unintended!) lesson kids get comes from watching the actions and reactions of Christ-following adults—and they watch all the time!

After: Be available to clean up and reset the room. Pray for the kids during the week, and get to know them and what their daily lives are like. Be interested in their sports, hobbies and needs. Always be alert for the chance to invite new families to church and encourage their participation in all your church's activities.

