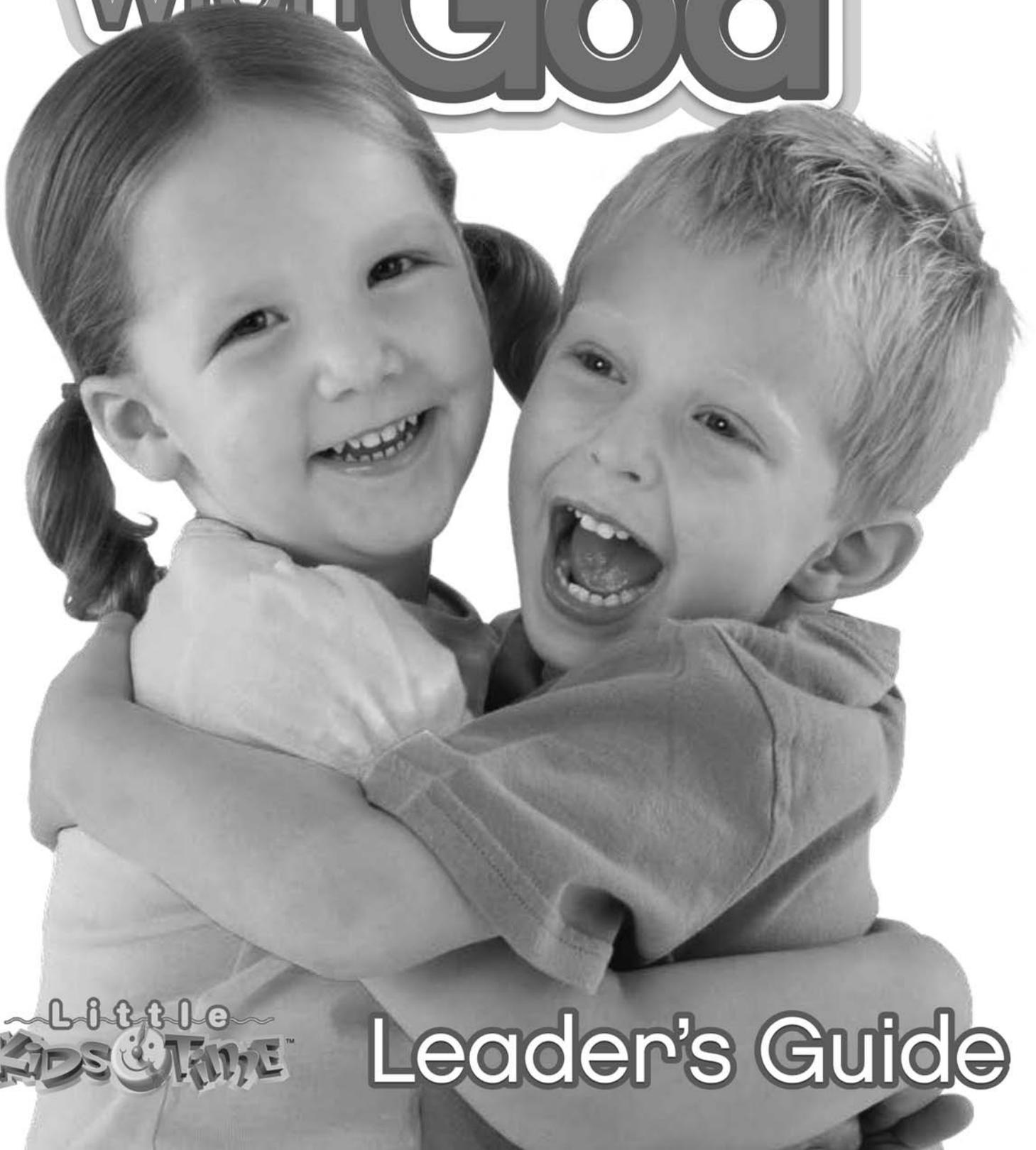


Gospel Light's

Growing with God



Little
KIDS & TIME™

Leader's Guide

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Gospel Light *Little KidsTime* Curriculum

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How to Use *Little KidsTime*

A few children, two leaders or teachers

If you teach with only one other person, follow these simple steps:

1. Read “*Growing with God Overview*” on page 7 to get a clear view of what this course is about.
2. Look at “*Advice & Answers for Schedule Planning*” on pages 9-11. Choose the schedule that best fits your situation and decide which centers to include.
3. Read the tip articles (pp. 21-31) for each center you will lead, taking note of the ways you can make each center an effective learning experience for the children in your class.
4. Decide which person will lead each activity as children move between the centers.
5. Print out lesson resources as needed from CD-ROM. Refer to “*What to Print List*” on CD-ROM.

Lots of children, several teachers, a director or coordinator

If you are the children’s director or coordinator of *Little KidsTime*, follow the above steps and add two more!

6. Pay special attention to “*Getting & Keeping the Very Best Staff*” on pages 12-13. Remember to start recruiting early—several months before *Little KidsTime* begins.
7. Read “*Questions & Answers for a Terrific Program*” on pages 14-15 for tips on how to distribute and store curriculum, special ways to involve parents and more!



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CD-ROM

Lessons ready to e-mail, lesson resources (patterns, game cards and more) and modifiable forms (recruiting flyers, planning page and more).



Growing with God Overview

Welcome to a year's worth of great learning!

Growing with God is designed to help you give preschoolers an increasing awareness and understanding of the reality of God's love and help in their daily lives. Preschoolers' most effective way to learn is through playing! For this reason, we've divided *Growing with God* into Play, Listen and Talk. This format gives each child a chance to actively explore Bible truth in ways appealing to every learning style. As they become fully involved in learning, preschoolers discover ways they can *do* the things they have learned in class. Growing in God's Word comes to have real meaning for them!



Special Features

- Additional lesson resources are available on the CD-ROM. These resources include patterns, pictures, game cards and more. Print out these resources as suggested in lessons. Refer to the "What to Print List" on the CD-ROM.
- Every lesson features three colorful Bible Story pictures as part of the story presentation. The back of one picture contains that lesson's Bible story in both English and Spanish. These pictures give children a visual focus while listening to the story!
- During each class session, preschoolers will participate in several different Play to Learn centers. These active learning experiences help focus children's attention as you relate the day's lesson to their lives. Each activity relates to the session's lesson focus (called "God's Word and Me") and many activities relate to the Bible story as well. Noncompetitive, active games give children a change of pace and a chance to move large muscles. Art activities give children an opportunity to creatively use a variety of art materials. Building, lifting and carrying blocks give children opportunities to develop motor skills and talk about everyday life. Science activities help them explore the wonderful things God has created.
- Each Play to Learn activity is designed to meet the needs and abilities of most preschool children. But to help you address the developmental differences between younger and older preschoolers, each activity center gives both an option For Younger Children and For Older Children. The younger option provides simplification or alternate ideas for younger children in your group. The older option provides challenge and enrichment ideas for kindergartners and other older children.
- The Listen to Learn center helps children connect Bible stories and truths to their lives as children listen to a Bible story, speak God's Word, sing and pray together.
- The Talk to Learn activities suggested on the final page of each lesson give you another way to customize each session to the needs and

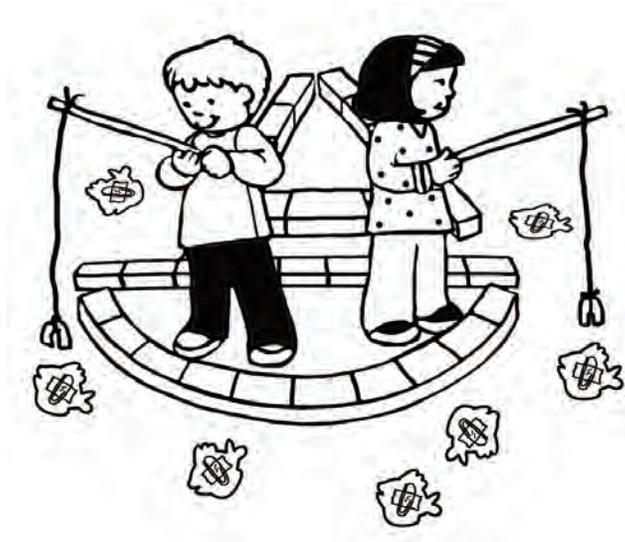


interests of your preschoolers. For both younger and older children, the Bible Story Activity Pages Center uses fun pages from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2*. Kids will color, fold, tape and more to review the Bible story they just heard and then apply its truth to their lives. Conversation suggestions are included on every page so that you know exactly what to say to help them apply those truths! In the Preschool Puzzle Center, preschoolers will enjoy the challenge of puzzles from *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2*. These puzzles (three for each lesson) give young children the opportunity to build a strong foundation of Bible truths and, at the same time, the chance to practice a number of important skills they will need in daily life. The Read-Aloud Story Center features a page for every lesson. The contemporary story and activity page from *The Big Book of Read Aloud Stories #2* relate to that session's lesson focus. These extra resources can be used at any time in the session to provide a change of pace, to extend the session or to allow for transitions at the beginning or end of the session.

- ➔ Because teachers are the heart of any teaching time, *Growing with God* is especially easy for teachers to use. Every lesson opens with a Teacher Challenge to give teachers insight and background in understanding how the lesson's focus applies to their own lives. The Leader's Guide can be printed from the CD-ROM and then copied so that each member of the teaching team can be given a copy of the lesson to which he or she has been assigned. Or you may also e-mail the lessons to your teachers. Each center's page includes the Bible verse (God's Word) and the lesson focus (God's Word and Me) so every member of the team understands the goal of the lesson and how that center ties into achieving the goal.

Prayerful Preparation

When you and your team members are prepared, you're eager and enthusiastic. This makes your children eager to learn, too! As you pray and organize this course to meet the needs of your group, ask God what He wants to do during this time. Invite Him to make you sensitive to ways you can be part of what He wants to accomplish. Although these children are young, you are laying foundations for understanding that will make an eternal difference as they grow with God into wholehearted followers of Jesus Christ!



Advice & Answers for Schedule Planning

How much time is needed for each session?

To answer this question, ask another question: How much time do you need for each session to take? This course is designed to meet the needs of multiple time frames and a wide variety of needs. Selecting from the variety of activities provided in each session gives you freedom to make the session last for however long you will be meeting with your children. See the scheduling options on page 11. These suggestions meet the needs of a majority of programs.

What are unique needs of preschoolers?

As you develop your schedule, consider a few of the unique needs of the children you serve:

- Preschoolers are not able to sit still for long periods of time. Some will not be able to sit still for any period of time! Be prepared to alternate seated activities with activities that allow children to exercise their large muscles (finger play, active games, blocks, playground play, etc.). Restless children are a signal that a change is needed! If children attend a portion of the adult worship service before the session begins, be sure to have large-motor play or an active game at the beginning of the session.
- Preschoolers have no sense of schedules and timetables. Be flexible in your expectations! The length of time for each center may vary widely as young children move freely between the centers as their interests direct. When these activity centers are open-ended, without a set beginning or end, you can provide as many centers as you have teachers or helpers. When each teacher or helper takes responsibility for a center, a child may play the game for a few minutes, move to the Block Center to build awhile and then work on an art activity. This flexibility allows preschoolers to engage in activities that have meaning to them that day!
- For children to be able to move freely between the centers, keep all *Little KidsTime* activity centers in the same room. Create a large graphic sign to identify each center; for instance, a crayon for the Art Center, jumping children for the Active Game Center, blocks for the Construction Center, a doll for the Dramatic Play Center, etc. Children can then easily identify each center. Printable graphics for these signs are also provided on the *Growing with God* CD-ROM packaged in this book.

What activities are found in the Play to Learn part of the session?

- The Active Game Center gives preschoolers a change of pace and a chance to move. All of these games challenge young children physically and mentally but are appropriate for young children, easygoing and noncompetitive.
- The Art Center activities provide a variety of sensory involvement as children enjoy meaningful art experiences. Dozens of fine motor, categorizing and other skills are practiced during this time.
- The Construction Center encourages children to lift, carry and build with blocks and other building materials. The activities in this center give children opportunities to develop motor skills, use their imaginations, care for materials and make decisions.
- The Dramatic Play Center provides children with the opportunity to act out specific examples of loving, sharing, kindness, friendliness, caring and helping. The activities in this center give concrete meaning to these otherwise abstract words.

What makes up the Listen to Learn part of the session?

- The Listen to Learn portion of the session is the place where children interact with God’s Word and Bible truth. All the children come together for this flexible time that actively involves young children in the basic elements of worship: music, God’s Word and prayer. Children listen to and talk about the Bible story; they sing, interact and pray to make Bible truths real in their world of family and friends.
- If your group is mostly younger preschoolers, omit some of the activities to shorten the time. But do be ready and excited to tell the Bible story; you’ll find that even the youngest ones will be engaged!

What makes up the Talk to Learn part of the session?

- Children have played while you have helped them think about Bible truth by your conversation. They have now listened to the Bible story, interacted and responded to Bible truth through review, praise and prayer. Now, it’s time to talk about what the Bible story and verse mean in their everyday lives. But a formal question-and-answer session likely won’t help young children understand what God’s Word means for them! However, when children’s hands are busy, their minds and their hearts seem to be available so that they talk freely and understand easily. With your interested listening, loving guidance and your ability to tie their thoughts to God’s Word, they will talk to learn!
- The Bible Story Activity Pages Center gives children an engaging way to review the Bible story they just heard and then apply its truth to their lives. Conversation suggestions are included on every page so that you know exactly what to say to help them apply those truths! Pages are found in *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2*.
- The Preschool Puzzle Center gives preschoolers time to enjoy the challenge of puzzles from *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2*. These puzzles give you another way to talk about the session’s Bible truth—and they give young children a fun, yet challenging way to practice a number of important skills they need as they grow.
- In the Read-Aloud Story Center, a story picture from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #2* helps each child understand and apply the session’s Bible truth to his or her own life as they hear a contemporary story and complete a color-and-do page.

How do we plan each session?

Each teacher takes responsibility for one or more activities, interacting with each child as he or she visits the activity center—greeting the child at eye level, listening, conversing and using the day’s focus and Bible verse to help children gain more understanding. Helpers and teachers who aren’t leading an activity move freely to help children and teachers.

Once you have chosen the activities for each session, plan who will lead and who will help with each center. You may want to photocopy each of the chosen activities for the teacher or teachers who will lead or you may find it easier and faster to find the lesson on the CD-ROM enclosed in this book and e-mail it to each teacher. This helps to ensure that teachers have plenty of time to do their necessary

Time	Center	Teachers	Helpers
10:45-11:15	Art Center	Joshua	Lee
11:15-11:40	Dramatic Play Center	Leilani	Rollie
11:40-11:55	Active Game Center	Jerry	Jonny
11:55-12:00	Construction Center		
	Snack		
11:15-11:40	Listen to Learn	Genessa	Mike, Valerie
11:40-11:55	Preschool Puzzle Center	Jerry	Jonny

preparation. The Teacher Challenge on the first page of each lesson will help teachers to prepare their hearts and minds in the week before each session.

Also check CD-ROM for additional lesson resources (pictures, patterns, etc.) that may be needed. Refer to the “What to Print List” on the CD-ROM.

Doing this preparation early goes a long way to help you avoid last-minute panic! Planning a month or more in advance will ensure that your teachers are well prepared to serve the children in their care.

For help in staffing and recruiting, complete a planning page on a weekly, monthly or quarterly basis (see samples). These pages can also be taken from the CD-ROM, filled out and e-mailed to your teachers and helpers ahead of time!

What are some schedule options?

Below are some sample schedule options. Adapt these sample schedules to the needs and interests of your church. Add or substitute other centers to meet the needs of your group. You may also wish to include snacks (see recipes on p. 17) and/or supervised outdoor playtime. Once you’ve adapted a schedule option for your group, fill out the form from the CD-ROM, print it and post it in classrooms where sessions will take place. Also, e-mail the schedule to every teacher and helper to quickly get the whole team on the same page!

Schedule Options

Option 1 (60-75 minutes)

- Play to Learn/Talk to Learn***
20-30 minutes
Active Game Center
Art Center
Construction Center
- Snack and/or supervised outdoor play**
25 minutes
- Listen to Learn**
10-15 minutes

* Select from the Active Game Center, Art Center, Construction Center, Dramatic Play Center, Bible Story Activity Pages Center, Preschool Puzzle Center and Read-Along Story Center.

Option 2 (60-90 minutes)

- Adult Worship**
15-20 minutes
- Play to Learn/Talk to Learn***
20-30 minutes
Active Game Center
Art Center
Construction Center
- Listen to Learn**
10-15 minutes
- Snack and/or supervised outdoor play**
25 minutes

* Select from the Active Game Center, Art Center, Construction Center, Dramatic Play Center, Bible Story Activity Pages Center, Preschool Puzzle Center and Read-Along Story Center.

Option 3 (75-90 minutes)

- Play to Learn***
20-30 minutes
Active Game Center
Art Center
Dramatic Play Center
- Snack and/or supervised outdoor play**
25 minutes
- Listen to Learn**
10-15 minutes
- Talk to Learn**
20 minutes
Bible Story Activity Pages Center
Preschool Puzzle Center
Read-Along Story and Activity Center

* Select from the Active Game Center, Art Center, Construction Center and Dramatic Play Center.

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Getting & Keeping the Very Best Staff

One of the most important elements in staffing a successful *Little KidsTime* program is planning how you will recruit and organize your staff. However you do it, keep in mind that the best learning and the most fun take place when there is one teacher or helper for approximately every six children.

The optimum plan for staffing is to have the same teachers in place for six months to one year. Both teachers and children benefit from regular interaction. Long-term consistency creates a wonderful opportunity for spiritual growth in children as they build relationships with caring adults who are faithful in demonstrating God's love.

While it may be easier to recruit teachers to teach one session at a time, such short-term staffing creates other problems. Many churches have found that rotating teachers frequently not only makes learning and growth difficult for children but also creates a heavy workload in administration (distributing curriculum, orienting a constant stream of new teachers, etc.).

Here are some options if long-term commitment is difficult in your situation:

- Ask teachers to teach for three or four months at a time instead of a year.
- Find two teams of teachers and helpers who will each teach for a month. Then plan to rotate the two teams so that they alternate monthly. Over the course of a year, teachers and children become familiar with each other and can benefit from regular interaction.
- If you must rotate teachers more frequently (weekly or biweekly), have regular greeters or leaders who are present every week.

Recruiting Tips

Recruiting teachers and helpers is one of the key tasks to making *Little KidsTime* an effective and fun learning experience for the children of your church and community. Keep the following tips in mind as you seek the volunteers and then match their talents to the tasks to be done:

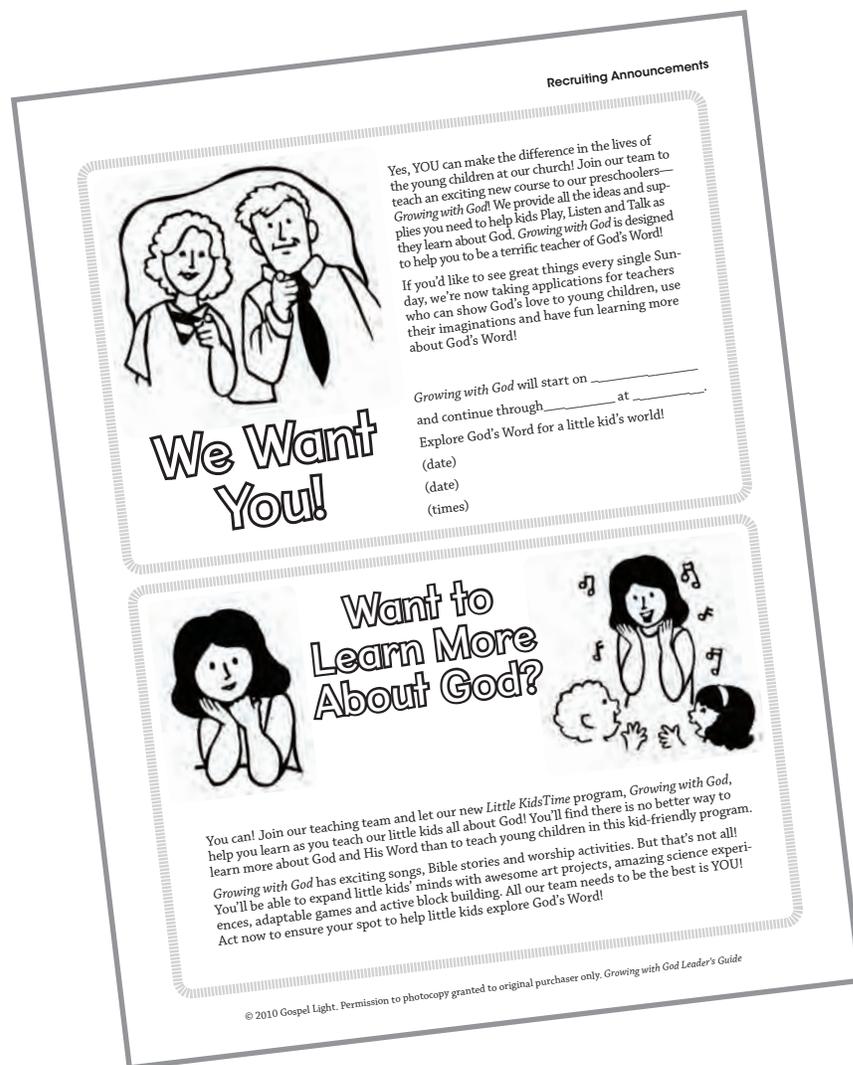
- Pray for guidance in finding the people God wants to serve in this ministry.
- Start early!
- Keep all the leaders of your Sunday School and other children's ministries aware of and praying about staffing needs.
- Write a job description for each *Little KidsTime* staff position. (Check *Preschool Smart Pages* for samples; modifiable sample job descriptions can be found on the *Preschool Smart Pages* CD-ROM.)
- Make a list of potential teachers and helpers. Consider a wide variety of sources for volunteers: church membership list, new members' classes, suggestions from adult teachers or leaders, lists of previous and current teachers and survey forms. Get recommendations from present teachers. Don't overlook singles, senior citizens, youth and collegians. Be sure to follow your church's established procedures for screening volunteers.
- Look for team members with interests and abilities in specific areas. For example, the teaching team for 24 children might consist of two to three adults: One prepares and leads the Listen to Learn time and two others each lead a different activity center during Play to Learn or Talk to Learn. When not actively involved with leading a center, team members act as helpers. The leader of the Listen to Learn time might also lead an activity center.
- Prayerfully prioritize your prospect list. Determine which job description best fits each person's strengths and gifts.

- Personally contact the prospects. Sending an e-mail, a personal letter or a flyer to each prospect is a good first step. Follow up with a phone call to personally answer any questions or to see if the prospect has made a decision.
- Provide new volunteers with all the needed materials, forms, helpful hints and training that will help them to succeed. For all teachers and helpers, you may want to schedule one or more training meetings at which you distribute curriculum, review schedules and procedures, learn the songs together, etc.
- During the volunteer's time of service, make sure the volunteer knows who will be available to answer questions or lend a helping hand. Look for specific actions and services contributed by the volunteer and offer your thanks.
- Plan a thank-you brunch or pizza dinner or lunch for teachers and their families. Even the ones who don't attend will be grateful for your appreciation!

Recruiting Announcements

The teachers and helpers who will be your *Little KidsTime* teachers and helpers will appreciate clear, concise information about the program—and a little added inspiration couldn't hurt! Here are some attention-grabbing recruiting announcements.

Take these announcements from the CD-ROM, available in a modifiable format in either black and white or color.



Questions & Answers for a Terrific Program

What's the best way to distribute and store *Little KidsTime* curriculum?

When you first receive your curriculum, photocopy all the pages or print out the pages from the CD-ROM. Also print the additional lesson resources from the CD-ROM. Place pages in a binder, using dividers to separate the main sections of the book: planning pages, lesson pages, etc.

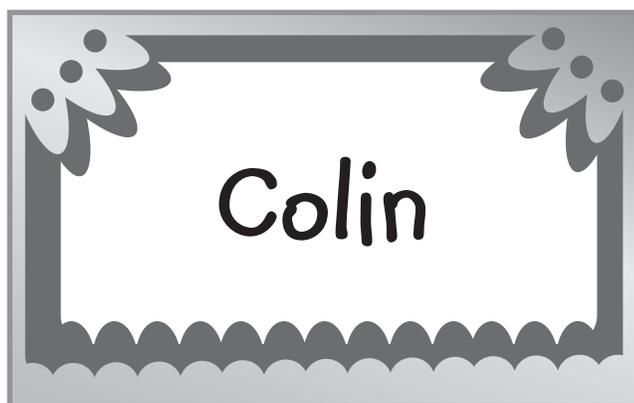
OR

At the beginning of the program, make copies for each person who will be teaching. Then, distribute the appropriate pages to teachers: E-mail pages from the CD-ROM to the appropriate teachers and helpers. Or, if photocopying, distribute the appropriate pages to teachers and helpers at a *Little KidsTime* orientation meeting or mail them to teachers a week or so before their teaching assignments begin. (If pages will be distributed periodically throughout the year, store the photocopied pages in a separate notebook.)

How can we build enthusiasm for *Little KidsTime*?

Children of all ages will respond positively to your efforts to create interest in *Little KidsTime*.

- ➔ Plan theme days such as Fruit Day (everyone is served a specific fruit for a snack), Crazy Hat Day (everyone wears a funny- or silly-looking hat), Color Day (everyone wears clothes of a certain color) or, for Sunday evening or weekday programs, Parent Day (parents and/or grandparents attend *Little KidsTime* with their children or grandchildren).
- ➔ Design a special name tag just for the children who attend *Little KidsTime*. See the CD-ROM for modifiable name tag files in either black and white or color.



- ➔ Decorate T-shirts for *Little KidsTime* participants or teachers to wear.
- ➔ Create a special name or logo for your *Little KidsTime* program. Use it on all publicity, recruiting letters, T-shirts, name tags and classroom signs.

These special attention-getting ideas can be used to kick off the beginning of *Little KidsTime*, as a way to reach out to the community or as “fun-builder” ideas at any time during the year when you feel enthusiasm or attendance are lagging.

How can we make *Little KidsTime* challenging enough for kindergartners?

Throughout *Little KidsTime*, options are suggested in each center for ways to increase the challenge in that activity for older children. If your group is large enough to divide into classes, group older children in a separate class.

- *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2* provides challenging puzzles for kindergartners.
- At the Active Game Center, older children can help to demonstrate games.
- At the Art Center, older children can help younger ones with gluing, cutting, etc.
- During Listen to Learn, invite one or more of the older children to demonstrate motions for younger children to imitate during the Bible story or while singing.



Leading the Young Child Toward Jesus

When we have presented Jesus by both our actions and our words, a foundation is laid for a child to receive Christ as Savior. Every lesson may create an opportunity to talk with a young child who wants to know more about Jesus.

- The young child is easily attracted to Jesus. Jesus is a warm, sympathetic person who obviously likes children, and children readily like Him. These early perceptions prepare the foundation for the child to receive Christ as Savior and to desire to follow His example in godly living.
- While some children at this age level (especially from Christian homes) may indeed pray to become a member of God's family, accepting Jesus as their Savior, expect wide variation in children's readiness for this important step. Allow the Holy Spirit room to work within His own timetable.
- Talk individually with children. Something as important as a child's personal relationship with Jesus Christ can be handled more effectively alone than in a group.
- Ask questions that will help you determine what the child understands. Open-ended what-do-you-think questions give you a chance to hear what's really going on in the child's mind and heart. "What do you like best about Jesus?" will help a child give words to his or her thoughts and feelings about Him.
- Talk simply. Phrases such as "born again" or "Jesus in my heart" are symbolic and far beyond a young child's understanding. Focus on how God makes people a part of His family: **God loves us, but we have done wrong things (sinned). God says sin must be punished. God sent Jesus to take the punishment for the wrong things we have done. We can tell God that we have done wrong and tell Him we are sorry for our sin. We can ask Jesus to be our Savior. Then we become a part of God's family.** Share this information whenever a child seems interested but only for as long as the interest lasts. Lay a good foundation for a lifetime of solid spiritual growth!



Abraham Obeys God

Lesson 9

Bible Story

Genesis 12:1-8

Teacher Challenge

Abraham took his family and left Ur, based only on God's direction and His promise of a land for Abraham and his descendants. The writer of Hebrews points out that Abraham "obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going" (Hebrews 11:8). Once in the Promised Land, he lived like a stranger in a foreign country—he lived in tents. Comfort and security were not his goal—his goal was obedience and a relationship with God.

- ➔ What actions of obedience do you believe God is asking you to take? Is He asking you to seek forgiveness or to make amends for something in the past?
- ➔ Take time to evaluate the way you are obeying God this week. Ask Him to help you make choices that will show more love and obedience to Him.

God calls us to a lifelong spiritual journey in which we are challenged every day to make choices that reflect our love for and obedience to God. Sometimes that means that we must give up some comfort and security. But that is the essence of faith—obeying when all we have is God's promise.

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word and Me
I can choose to love and obey God.

Teacher's Planning

1. Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. For tips on schedule planning, see page 9.
2. Plan who will lead each center, making sure to have one adult for approximately every six children. For staffing tips and ideas, see page 12.



Play to Learn

Lesson 9

Active Game Center: Pack Your Bags!

Collect

Bible, child-sized clothing, travel objects (toiletries, hairbrush, map, etc.), suitcase or backpack.

Prepare

Place clothes and travel objects on one side of an open area. Place suitcase on the other side.

Do

1. Children line up next to clothes and travel objects. One at a time, each child selects one item, walks across the room and packs it in suitcase.
2. Repeat game as time and interest permit, packing and unpacking the suitcase.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God. Abraham and his family packed up everything they owned and moved to a new place. Let's play a game packing a suitcase!**
- ➔ **Preston, you stayed in line waiting for your turn. You know how to obey.**
- ➔ **Julian, have you ever gone on a trip with your family? Where did you go? What did you do to get ready for your trip? We show we love God when we help our family.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We can choose to obey God every day. Obeying God shows that we love God. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to obey You.**

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

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For Younger Children

If you have a large group, provide additional suitcases and items so children don't have to wait long for a turn.

For Older Children

Children pack largest item to smallest. Or, for each round of the game, tell children a specific number of items which they must pack on each turn.

Play to Learn

Lesson 9

Art Center: Feet That Obey

Collect

Bible, construction paper, markers.

Do

1. Help children form pairs and take turns standing on a sheet of construction paper as their partners outline their shoes, one shoe on each sheet of paper. Children decorate their shoe-prints.
2. Children arrange shoe-prints in a path on the floor. Lead children on a pretend trip by walking along the shoe-print path.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God. Abraham and his family packed up everything he owned and walked to a new place. They had to walk for a long, long time. Let's make a shoe-print path.**
- ➔ **Vincent, I saw you pick up the marker Michelle dropped. You chose to help Michelle! Helping is a way to obey God. When we obey God, we show that we love Him!**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." "Lord" is another name for God. We love God and we can choose to obey Him.**
- ➔ **Pray, Dear God, we love You. Please help us to obey You.**

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word and Me
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

Outline children's shoes for them.

For Older Children

Instead of making path on floor, children glue their paper shoes in a path on butcher paper. Print "We Will Obey the Lord" on the top of the butcher paper and display on a classroom wall.

Play to Learn

Lesson 9

Construction Center: Travel Blocks

Collect

Bible, blocks, toy animals and people.

Do

Children use blocks to make a road. Children act out the Bible story using the toy animals and people.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Abraham obeyed God and took his family on a very long trip. Abraham's family had to walk many, many days! Let's build a road for Abraham, his family, and his animals to walk along.**
- ➔ **We need lots of blocks to build our road. Thank you, Kisha, for handing us some blocks. That was a kind thing to do. Being kind is a way to obey God.**
- ➔ **Jenna, how can you help your mother in the morning? Clearing your cereal bowl helps your mother a lot. You are obeying God when you help your mother.**
- ➔ **Ethan, how can you be kind to your sister when you play your computer game? Sharing is a great way to be kind.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Obey the Lord." We obey God because we love Him. Pray, Dear God, we love You and want to obey You.**

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word and Me
I can choose to love and obey God.



For Younger Children

Children play with blocks, toy animals and toy people as they choose.

For Older Children

Provide half sheets of construction paper. Children fold paper in half to make tents.

Play to Learn

Lesson 9

Dramatic Play Center: Camping Trip

Collect

Bible, a toy or small tent, variety of snack ingredients for trail mix (dry cereal, mini marshmallows, raisins, chocolate chips, fish crackers, stick pretzels, etc.), disposable bowls, a snack bag for each child, plastic spoons.

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word and Me
I can choose to love and obey God.

Prepare

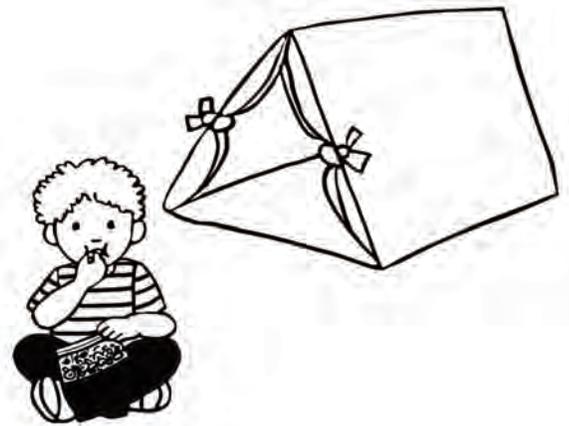
Set up the tent in an open area of your classroom. (Optional: Cover a table with a large bed sheet and fold up one end to make a tent with an open flap.) Place each snack ingredient into one or more bowls. (Check with parents about food allergies and restrictions.)

Do

1. Give each child a snack bag and spoon. Child uses spoon to place desired snack ingredients into bag. Encourage children to count the number of spoonfuls they use. (Note: Limit the number of certain ingredients such as chocolate chips or marshmallows.)
2. After placing ingredients into bags, children hold bags tightly closed and shake them to mix ingredients.
3. Lead children on a "hike" to the tent. When children arrive at the tent, they eat trail mix.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, God told Abraham to move to a new home. Abraham obeyed God. Let's pretend to be going on a hike. We can make a snack to eat when we arrive at camp!**
- ➔ **Ava, have you ever gone camping with your family? What did your family pack to eat? We can help each other pack food for our pretend hike.**
- ➔ **Seth, have you helped pack food for a trip? Eating sandwiches at the park is fun!**



For Younger Children

Limit the number of ingredients. Instead of using spoons to put ingredients into bags, give children small paper cups.

For Older Children

Provide camping equipment (sleeping bag, pillow, backpack, flashlight, etc.) for children to play with when they "arrive" at the tent.

Listen to Learn

Lesson 9

Genesis 12:1-8

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 9 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2* DVD or CD and player, large sheet of paper, marker.

Greet Each Other

Draw a large arrow on the sheet of paper. Children stand at least an arm's length apart. Hold the paper above your head. When the arrow points up, children raise both arms to the sky. When you turn the paper so the arrow points left, children move both their arms in that direction, and so too as you point the arrow right and down. (For younger children, pause before moving the direction of the arrow to give all children the opportunity to catch up. For older children, change the arrow's direction faster each round.) **You did well to follow the arrow's direction! We're going to find out how Abraham followed God's directions.**

God's Word
"Obey the Lord." Deuteronomy 27:10

God's Word and Me
I can choose to love and obey God.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Genesis 12. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 9 pictures.

Who has been on an airplane or a train? A bus or a boat? Listen to hear how a man traveled when God told him to move to a new home.



God had a special plan for a man named Abraham. One day God said to Abraham, "Abraham, I want you to move to a new land. I will show you how to get there."

Abraham told his wife, Sarah, and his nephew Lot, "We are going to **walk** to a new land. God will show us how to get there."

What a busy time! Abraham and Lot had sheep, goats, cows, camels and donkeys. And they had many helpers to take care of all those animals.



The helpers filled water bags with **water** for the animals and people to drink along the way.

Sarah and her helpers packed food for the long trip. Everyone helped **roll** the tents into big bundles.



And then, Abraham, Sarah, Lot and all their helpers and all their animals started out on their long trip to a new land. Step, step, step. Day after day they walked.

Each night they had to carefully unroll their tents and set them up. Then every morning they took down the tents and rolled them up again. It was a big job! But they knew God was taking care of them.



Finally, after many days of **walking**, God told Abraham, "This place will be your new home." Abraham and his helpers put up the tents. They found places for all the animals. Then Abraham thanked God for bringing him and all the people with him safely to the new land. God was glad that Abraham obeyed Him.

Talk About the Story

How did Abraham obey God? (He moved to a new home when God told him to.) **Abraham obeyed God because he loved God. We love God and can choose to obey God, too. One way to obey God is to help others. What can you do to help others today here at church? When you are at home? When you are playing with your friends?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song together about some of the things we get to choose! Lead children in singing "Choosing" (on DVD or track 4 on CD) and doing motions suggested by the song. **Raise your hand if you got to choose what you had for breakfast this morning. Clap your hands if you got to choose what you wore to church today. In our class you got to choose what toys to play with and where to sit in our circle. We can all choose to love and obey God!**

Option: Older children make up motions for "Choosing" and lead other children in doing the motions.

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Deuteronomy 27:10, say verse aloud. **"Lord" is another name for God. Obeying God is one way to show that we love God.** Lead children in saying the verse as a group several times. Then have children form a circle. Lead each child to say one word of the verse in order around the circle. Repeat the verse in this manner several times, making sure each child gets to say a word at least two different times.

Pray to God

Pray, **Thank You, God, for helping us know ways to obey You. Help us choose to be loving and kind. We love You. Thank You for loving us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Ask children to imitate an action (pat head, clap hands, etc.). **When you do what I tell you to do, you are obeying.** Lead children in doing other actions. **Every day there are ways we obey our parents and teachers. We can obey God's Word, the Bible, too. Dear God, thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Please help us to obey You.**

Talk to Learn

Lesson 9

Bible Story Activity Pages Center

Collect

A copy of Activity 9 from *The Big Book of Bible Story Activity Pages #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers; optional—cotton balls, glue.

Do

Lead children to complete pages following the instructions. (Optional: Children glue cotton balls to sheep.) Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages and retell the story.

Preschool Puzzle Center

Collect

Copies of Bible Story Puzzle 9, Bible Verse Puzzle 9 and/or Challenge Puzzle 9 from *The Big Book of Preschool Puzzles #2* for each child; pencils, crayons or markers.

Do

Children complete the puzzles and color pages. Use the conversation suggestions on the pages.

Read-Aloud Story Center

Collect

A copy of Story Picture 9 from *The Big Book of Read-Aloud Stories #2* for yourself and each child, crayons or markers.

Do

Read the story and distribute pictures. Use the conversation suggestions as children complete their pages.

