

Planning Steps: Working With Ages 0-5

Adapted from Pre-School Sunday School Central www.psscentral.com

Knowing how a preschooler thinks makes it that much easier to teach them valuable lessons:

1. **We like to imitate big people.** If you play with the blocks to build a church (zoo, town, forest), we will play with the blocks. If you put actions to songs, we'll put actions to songs. If you remind us to talk softly in your soft voice, we'll talk softly too.

2. **We learn through repetition.** The first times we hear a song, we may just watch. If you repeat the song (verse, game, or story), we will begin to do it too.

3. **We want to please grown-ups.** So tell us when we're being good, and we'll try to be good again. (We also like to know when we're doing **better** than before)

4. **We need to be reminded of the rules.** Every time we break a rule, please remind us of the rule. Remember to tell us what **to do** as well as what not to do.

5. **We need to be both active and quiet.** Sometimes we need to climb and slide. We like to tumble on a mat too. But, if we get too wound up or too tired, we need to sit and listen to music. Or you could read a book to us. Or we could play with play dough.

6. **We like games.** Can you make a game to teach a simple Bible verse? Can you make a game about cleaning the room? Can you make up a game using the play dough?

7. **We get hungry more often than big people.** Snacks help us keep up our energy. Sometimes we forget to ask for drinks, but we need a drink now and then too.

8. **We learn by doing.** You can teach us about God and Jesus and about the Bible, and you can teach us all this **while we play!** Whatever we are playing, you can relate to something God wants us to know. If we learn on the go, we will be **doers** of the Word, not just hearers.

9. **We may forget to thank you.** But Jesus said that whatever you do to the least in His kingdom, **you do to Him.** Jesus promises to reward you, and He will too!

Compliments of Assemblies of God USA

Toddler Supplies Check List *Use Non-Toxic Items!*

Large crayons and thick markers

Sheets of Paper in a variety of colours and sizes

Smocks for days when the craft is messy

Play dough

Bible-theme toys

Bible-theme books, including board or cloth books for toddlers

Home Life toys such as dollhouse or a kitchen

Story-Time Circle (mat)

Snack Center (watch for allergies)

Art Center (tables)

Paintbrushes & Washable Paints

CD of Bible-based Children's Songs

Book of children's games (there is a good selection of Bible-based games)

Child-appropriate Bible (many have prayers and activities included with each story)

RECOMMENDED LESSON/ACTIVITY AGENDA FOR TODDLERS:

- Welcome Activity (coloring, puzzles, etc.) 10 minutes
- Singing Bible Songs (sing a familiar song and teach one new song) 10 minutes
- Bible Story Time (with pictures, actions or watch it on video) 10 minutes
- Snack Time 5 minutes
- Bible Story Activity (usually provided in curriculum) 10 minutes
- Closing Prayer (learn and recite a simple prayer) 5 minutes

TOTAL CLASS TIME: 50 MINUTES

OUR AGENDA:

Bulletin Boards

Toddlers and preschoolers love bulletin boards, especially when they are interactive and lively. Whether you have a bulletin board that is devoted specifically to preschoolers, or simply have a section of the bulletin board geared toward this age group, it can be difficult to incorporate ideas that can keep this age group entertained and occupied, while still teaching them the concepts you want them to understand.

Here are some helpful ideas for your little children:

- Colouring Pages Colouring pages are wonderful for preschoolers, and make a very nice Christian bulletin board.
- Tracing: Preschoolers are learning all kinds of wonderful skills. Tracing activities build fine motor skills and help children learn lessons about the Bible at the same time.
- Connect the Dots: Using connect the dot pictures in your Sunday School bulletin will help preschoolers develop fine motor skills.
- Bible Story Pictures: These pictures are wonderful for telling the Bible's greatest stories. Wordless pictures illustrate the lives of Bible men and women in dramatic, detailed image.

Curriculum for Toddlers can be found in children’s Bible-Themed Activity books or free to download online from thousands of websites by searching “Toddler Sunday School Lessons”. Your only problem will be having too many options!

THREE WAYS OUR CHILDREN’S PROGRAM WILL BE TODDLER-FRIENDLY:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____
