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Beginner

Leader/Teacher Guide

A Sabbath School Resource for Leaders/Teachers of Beginners
Gracelink® Sabbath School Curriculum

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Year A, Fourth Quarter

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We serve *God* when we care for others.

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God brings His love to us.

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WORSHIP

We are thankful for the birth of *Jesus*.

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Lesson Outline

Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
 SERVICE: We serve God when we care for others.					
Lesson 1 October	Jesus Heals a Little Girl	Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56; DA 342-348	3 John 2, ICB	We can care for others.	See pp. 14, 15.
 GRACE: God brings His love to us.					
Lesson 2 November	The Good Shepherd	Luke 15:4-7; COL 186-192; DA 476-484	Luke 15:6, ICB	Jesus cares for you and me.	See pp. 34, 35.
 WORSHIP: We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.					
Lesson 3 December	Baby Jesus Is Born	Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12; DA 43-49, 59-67	Psalms 18:1, NIV	We love Jesus.	See pp. 52, 53.

Bible Study Overview

- **Lesson 1** teaches us that little children can care for others.
- In **Lesson 2** we learn that God brings His love to us.
- **Lesson 3** reminds us of the birth of Jesus and His love for us.

To the leaders/teachers . . .

These guides were developed to:

- **Introduce the lesson on Sabbath.** The child then reviews and applies the principles studied with the help of their parents and Bible study guides during the week. In this way, the lessons learned in Sabbath School become a vital part of the child's growing faith experience. Memory verses, which are also learned in Sabbath School, are reviewed and reinforced during the following week, connected in the child's mind with the interesting activities they have already experienced.
- **Focus the entire Sabbath School time on one message.** These messages each relate to one of the four dynamics of a growing faith experience: grace (God loves me), worship (I love God), community (we love each other), and service (God loves you too).
- **Reach each child in the way he or she learns best.** By following the natural learning cycle on which these outlines were based, you will also connect students with "the message" for the week in a way that will capture each one's attention and imagination.

- **Give children active learning experiences** so they can more readily internalize the truths being presented. These experiences are followed by *debriefing* sessions in which you ask questions that lead the children to reflect on what they experienced, interpret the experience, and apply that information to their lives.
- **Involve the adult Sabbath School staff** in new and flexible ways. A very small Sabbath School can be managed by one adult. A larger Sabbath School can be managed by one leader/teacher with other adult volunteers to facilitate the small group interaction. This gives small group facilitators a maximum involvement with the students and their learning experience while requiring a minimum of preparation on the facilitator's part.

A creative alternative is to enlist leaders/teachers with different personal learning styles to lead different segments of the program.

(Note: The Getting Started section is the time-honored “business” of Sabbath School and may be used at any point during the lesson; however, it is recommended that you begin with Arrival Activities, even while some children are still arriving.)

To use this guide . . .

Try to follow the natural learning cycle outlined, but adapt activities as necessary to make the program work in your particular situation.

About Materials

As you follow the natural learning sequence outlined in each lesson, you may want to adapt activities for use in your particular situation, and this may require a change in the need for materials.

Look ahead at the Program Overview for each month's program so you can be prepared with the materials suggested. Before the quarter begins, obtain regularly used supplies.

Supplies Frequently Used in Beginner Sabbath School

Art Supplies

- aluminum foil
- chenille sticks or pipe cleaners
- cotton balls or polyester fiberfill
- craft sticks or tongue depressors
- crayons, markers, colored pencils
- glitter or glitter glue
- glue or glue sticks
- hole punch
- inked stamp pads (various colors)
- magnetic strips (peel and stick)
- paints—finger paints, tempera
- pencils, pens
- plastic wrap
- pom-poms
- rubber bands
- scissors (blunt-nosed)
- stapler and staples
- tape—cellophane and masking
- toilet paper rolls and/or paper towel rolls (empty)
- yarn, string, thread (several colors of each)

Papers

- butcher or white tablecloth roll
- construction (various colors, including black and brown)
- drawing
- finger paint paper
- newsprint
- poster board
- tagboard, cardstock, or heavy paper
- tissue paper (various colors, including white)
- writing paper

Other

- animals (toy, stuffed, plastic)
- angel (felts or cardboard on sticks)
- artificial foods
- baby bottles
- baby wipes or paper towels
- bags—paper, plastic trash bags, sealable plastic, large and small
- baskets (various sizes)
- bells
- "Bible" books (cardboard or felt)
- blankets—baby/doll-size, regular size
- birthday cake (artificial) with candles, matches
- birthday gifts, inexpensive (optional)
- blindfolds, one for each child
- board books, variety of subjects
- broom (child-size), dust cloths, other cleaning supplies
- bubble solution and blowers
- building blocks, boxes, or Legos
- carpenter tools (play hammer, saw, etc.), child-size
- costumes—angel, Bible-times for children and adults
- crowns
- cups—paper, plastic, Styrofoam
- device that can play music (CD, MP3, streaming, etc.)
- dolls, doll clothes
- felts—angels, animals, children, flowers, Jesus, people, scenery, sun
- flashlight
- mirror (hand mirror)
- nature items (rocks, feathers, shells, bird nests, artificial flowers, and fruit)

- offering container (basket, bowl, etc.)
- paper plates, napkins, cups
- pull toy (optional)
- puzzles, simple wooden or cardboard
- rainbow sticks
- recorded sounds (bird, animal, storm, etc.)
- rhythm or toy musical instruments
- rocking chair, adult and child
- smocks or old shirts to cover children's clothing
- stickers (animal, nature, Jesus, etc.)
- squirt bottle
- things that float

Additional Supplies Needed This Quarter

Lesson 1

- clear contact paper
- cheese cloth or white fabric
- crackers or sliced fruit
- large piece of fabric
- musical instruments
- two sharing items for each child
- board books about medical helpers
- happy/sad face paper plates/posters (optional)
- gauze and adhesive bandages
- sling
- plastic or toy food
- picture of Jesus or white sheet and red sash
- cushions or sheet
- towels
- crepe paper or fabric strips
- artificial flowers in pots
- colored tissue paper
- strip of paper with memory verse (see p. 70)
- Jairus' daughter pattern (see p. 71)
- letter-size envelopes
- adhesive bandage outline (see p. 70)
- heart-shaped card pattern (see p. 72)

Lesson 2

- hand towel or fabric
- hay
- mixing spoons
- mother and baby stuffed animals
- picture or stand-up cutout of Jesus
- sheet
- tissue squares or small pieces of fabric
- walking stick
- toy sheep
- live pet
- nesting dolls or boxes or bowls
- mirror
- adult shepherd costume
- sheep ear and nose pattern (see p. 73)
- fleece
- hand lotion or baby oil
- quiet music and bandages

- pots or plastic bowls
- felt or paper hearts
- lunch-size paper bags
- sheep face pattern (see p. 74)
- pretzel sticks
- round crackers with spread (optional)
- flaked coconut (optional)
- raisins (optional)
- lamb's face pattern (see p. 75)

Lesson 3

- clean straw
- farm animals (stuffed or pictures)
- small white robes (optional)
- soft flannel
- toy stuffed sheep and other animals
- items of different textures (cotton balls, sandpaper, pinecones, etc.)
- baby bottles
- small flashlights
- toy stuffed sheep and other animals
- hand towels or fabric or pillow cases
- soft music
- play coins, money box
- rocking horse
- something to serve as manger
- star sticks or flashlight
- pretty bottle
- robes and crowns (optional)
- decorative box
- felt or paper hearts
- star outline (see p. 76)
- elastic headbands
- animal ears pattern (see p. 77)
- netting
- potpourri
- copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78)
- rectangular crackers (optional)
- pretzel sticks (optional)
- spread for crackers (optional)
- square shredded wheat (optional)
- Jesus' Birth Finger Play (see p. 79)
- medium-sized coin

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
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance

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

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

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

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long
- Cry easily—one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying—crying usually stops when the child's needs are met.
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one minitstep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lisp His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents