

General Teacher Instructions



IN THE BEGINNING

CREATION AND THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN HISTORY

PREPARATION (During the prior week)

• Sunday Night

- Read through the lesson for the **next** Sunday.
- Pray that God would give you understanding and insights into the lesson and show you how to adapt or improve it for your specific group of children.

• During the Week

- Complete the At Home Journal every day.
- Pray for each child in your class individually.
- Continue to pray for understanding and insight into the lesson.
- Read through the lesson several times during the week and make notes on it.
- Plan what activities you would like to do from the optional activities list at the end of the lesson. Some activities may require the teacher prepare materials ahead of time.

LESSON ROUTINES

• Review

- Journal Review: Ask students to share an important truth that they learned from their journal readings at home that week. Share some of your own insights.
- Previous Lesson Review: Use the visual from the last lesson and ask the Big Question from the last lesson. Students may answer from what they remember from the last lesson, from what they learned doing their journal, or use the verse.
- Big Question Review: Have the students give their answer to the big question from the last lesson.

- **Bible Verse Review:** Review the memory verse from last week as a group. This can be done as a game. For example, the verse can be written on the board with words missing or the group can try to say the verse around the table each person saying one word at a time.

• Lesson Content

All four levels have the same **Big Question** that the students should be able to answer after the lesson. Students at each level will answer the question differently depending on their developmental readiness and cognitive ability. The lessons should not be read verbatim. Teachers at all four levels are encouraged to use their own wording when teaching the lesson, but all the content should be covered.

- **Nursery (Level 1):** There is a visual and nursery concept for every lesson. The nursery concept is what you want the students to learn. Show the picture and teach the short lesson.
- **Early Childhood (Level 2):** Use the visual to introduce the lesson. This is a great time to activate prior knowledge. Ask questions to draw out information that the students might already know about the topic. Introduce the Big Question and read the lesson book. The lesson book is a poem and should be read with a cadence. Read through the entire book once. Once the entire book is read go back and read each page and ask the discussion questions to check for the students' understanding.
- **Lower Elementary (Level 3):** The lesson content at this level is the same as the Upper Elementary and Above content. As such, the content may need to be slightly adapted for younger students. Throughout the lesson are underlined questions. These questions enable the teacher to pull out information from the students that they have already learned and to encourage the students to think more deeply. These questions make the lesson more interactive. The teacher should not be the only one talking. The more the students contribute the better. Teachers should read the Bible passages from a physical Bible. If the students are able, they can help with the reading as well.
- **Upper Elementary and Above (Level 4):** The lesson content at this level is the same as the previous level. Students at this level should be able to contribute significantly by answering the underlined questions embedded in the lesson. The students all should have Bibles in front of them, and students should read the passages.

• Lesson Wrap-Up

- **Overview Questions:** Comprehension questions which can be used to check for basic understanding of the lesson and Bible reading. (Levels 3-4 only)
- **Thought Questions:** Designed to develop reflective thinking skills and stimulate group discussion. Teachers should think through how they would answer these questions beforehand. (Levels 3-4 only)

- **Prayer:** Suggested prayer which reflects the ideas gleaned from the lesson. The teacher can pray as they feel led or have students pray.
- **The Big Question:** Allows students to summarize what they have learned in the lesson and leads into the verse which also provides an answer to the question.
- **Memory:** Each level has something for the students to memorize. Level 1 will memorize a lesson concept, Level 2 a lesson rhyme, and Level 3-4 a Bible verse. The verse may be shortened for Level 3.

• Activities

- Teachers may choose which activities to do with the remaining time. The activities vary between the four levels but include things like a craft, game, coloring sheet, lesson notes, a song, or further discussion activities.
- Activities denoted with a star in the teacher materials are included in the Class Notes handout.
- Activities like the craft and game will need to be prepped beforehand.

