

# Beginner

Leader/Teacher Guide

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

Year B, First Quarter

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A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department

General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®

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Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.

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*Beginner Sabbath School Leader/Teacher Guide* (ISSN 0163-8785) Vol. 35, No. 1, First Quarter 2011. Published four times per year, mailed quarterly spring, summer, fall, and winter by the Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, Maryland 21740, U.S.A. Text copyrighted © 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010 by the General Conference Corporation of Seventh-day Adventists®, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600, U.S.A. Art copyrighted © 2002 by the Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to *Beginner Sabbath School Leader/Teacher Guide*, Review and Herald® Publishing Association, 55 West Oak Ridge Drive, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Periodicals postage paid at Hagerstown, Maryland. Single copy, US\$20.83 plus postage. One year, United States: US\$55.56; Canada and foreign: US\$62.56. Prices subject to change without notice.

Printed in U.S.A.

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### **Special thanks to . . .**

Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner**, of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University, for initial work in planning the Gracelink curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the Gracelink project and seeing it to completion.

# Contents

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## **SERVICE**

*God calls us to serve others.*

1. Little Jesus, the Happy Helper (January) - - - - - 12



## **GRACE**

*Jesus loves me unconditionally.*

2. Zacchaeus Climbs a Tree (February) - - - - - 30






## **WORSHIP**

*Worship makes us joyful every day.*

3. The Great Parade (March) - - - - - 48

# Lesson Outline

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Lesson	Bible Story	References	Memory Verse	Message	Materials
	<b>SERVICE:</b> <i>God calls us to serve others.</i>				
<b>Lesson 1</b> January	The boy Jesus.	Luke 2:21, 39, 40, 51; DA 68-83	Luke 2:51, NIV	I obey and help others.	See p. 14.
	<b>GRACE:</b> <i>Jesus loves me unconditionally.</i>				
<b>Lesson 2</b> February	Zacchaeus climbs a tree.	Luke 19:1-10; DA 552-556	1 John 4:8, NIV	Jesus loves me all the time.	See p. 32.
	<b>WORSHIP:</b> <i>Worship makes us joyful every day.</i>				
<b>Lesson 3</b> March	The triumphal entry.	Luke 19:28-44; DA 569-579	Psalm 98:1, NIV	I can sing praises to Jesus.	See p. 50.

## This Bible study guide is about . . .

- **Lesson 1** teaches us that little children can serve others.
- In **Lesson 2** we learn that Jesus loves us unconditionally.
- **Lesson 3** reminds us that worship makes us joyful.

## To the leader/teacher . . .

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

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As you follow the 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
- tissue paper (various colors, including white)
- writing paper

### Other

- animals (toy, stuffed, plastic)
- angel (felts or cardboard on sticks)
- baby bottles
- baby wipes or paper towels
- bags—paper, plastic trash bags, sealable plastic, large and small
- "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
- cassette or CD player with tapes/CDs
- carpenter tools (play hammer, saw, etc.), child-size
- costumes—angel, Bible-times for children and adults
- crowns
- cups—paper, plastic, Styrofoam
- dolls, doll clothes
- felts—angels, animals, children, flowers, Jesus, people, scenery, sun
- 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

- board books about families and helpers
- animal, family, or helper puzzles
- plastic mixing bowls
- wooden spoons
- pitcher of water
- towels or blankets
- workbench or wood
- riding toy (hobbyhorse, etc.)
- paper or felt lips (see p. 66)
- pinecones
- peanut butter
- birdseed

### Lesson 2

- board books about trees, God's gifts
- hand towels
- blankets
- climbing blocks
- small slide (if available)
- growth chart
- large objects to count
- large cutout coins (see p. 67)
- basket or large purse
- tree used in room decorations
- stepladder (three steps)
- table and chair from room decorations
- Jesus banners
- children of the world felts or pictures
- copies of tree outline (see p. 68)
- pressed leaves

- copies of heart (see p. 69)
- Jesus stickers or pictures of Jesus
- large leaves with distinct veins
- small envelopes
- copies of three-section card (see p. 70)

### Lesson 3

- board books about gifts from God
- block sets of animals
- cardboard house with flaps (see pp. 71-74)
- pictures cut into simple puzzles
- toy stuffed donkey or picture of donkey
- clothing items
- paper palm branches (see p. 75)
- felt suns and moons
- spray water bottle
- drinking straws or wooden dowels
- fabric pieces
- lightweight card stock (file folder thickness)
- empty plastic containers with screw-on lids
- small pebbles or dried grains
- leaf pattern (see p. 75)
- donkey pattern (see p. 76)
- piece of cardboard for each child (inside of cereal box works well)
- paper plates
- thin elastic
- leaves, real or paper

# Basic Needs of Children\*

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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

## **Mental**

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

## **Emotional**

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

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

## **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

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\**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

### **Mental**

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

### **Emotional**

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves

- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when the child's needs are met.
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

### **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