

Kindergarten

Bible Study Guide

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A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Kindergarten Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

www.gracelink.net

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Contents

COMMUNITY

We treat each other with love.

1. New Friends (October 1-7)*
2. Seven Special Helpers (October 8-14)*
3. Two Men and a Strange Message (October 15-21)*
4. In and Out of Prison (October 22-28)*

SERVICE

We serve by giving to others.

5. Helping Hands (October 29-November 4)*
6. A Blind Man Learns to Lead (November 5-11)*
7. Come to My House (November 12-18)*
8. Prison Praises (November 19-25)*
9. Shipwrecked (November 26-December 2)*

GRACE

God's grace is His gift to us.

10. God's Word (December 3-9)*
11. God's Messengers (December 10-16)*
12. The Best Gift (December 17-23)*
13. Dedicated to God (December 24-30)*
14. He's Coming Again (December 31-January 6)*

*Lesson dates correspond with the GraceLink curriculum's recommended method of presenting the lesson first in Sabbath School and encouraging families to continue their study of the material during the week ahead. (See www.gracelink.net for a thorough discussion.) If your church is not presenting the material first in Sabbath School, but rather reviewing it on Sabbath after it has been introduced at home, talk with your Sabbath School leader about adjusting *Our Little Friend* distribution by one week.

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

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

The Kindergarten Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church we advocate kindergarten for children ages 3-5. However, the development of children varies from child to child. Therefore, a knowledge of each child is important. Generally, the description below is true of children ages 3-5.

Physical

- Start developing large muscle coordination
- Lack a sure sense of balance
- Are extremely active
- Tire easily, but revive soon after resting
- Lack fine muscle coordination
- Are curious and like to explore their environment
- Learn by exploring

Mental

- Are capable of limited listening and understanding without the help of a visual cue, such as seeing the object being discussed
- Have quick memory
- Memorize things they don't understand

Emotional

- Cry easily
- Are capable of verbalizing emotional responses
- Learn to delay gratification of needs without losing equilibrium
- Experience the full spectrum of negative emotions
- Learn ways to express negative emotions

Social/Relational

- Are self-centered—the world revolves around them
- Play alone in the presence of their friends, rather than playing with their friends
- Like to make friends and be with friends

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs mentioned earlier, kindergarten children need:

- Freedom—to choose and to explore within limits
- Power—to have some autonomy in learning situations
- Limits—safe boundaries that are set by parents and teachers
- Fun—learning through play, enjoying success
- Discipline and training—to provide safety and structure in their lives

Spiritual Needs

Kindergarten children need to know:

- God loves them and cares for them
- How to show respect for God
- God made them, knows them, and values them
- The difference between right and wrong
- How to choose the right with God's help

General Rules

A child's attention span, in minutes, is their age plus one. Thus, an average 3-year-old has a potential attention span of four minutes, provided they are interested in what is happening.

Kindergarten Children:

- Enjoy repetition—provided they don't tire
- Are beginning to reason from simple cause to effect
- Make some generalizations—often incorrectly
- Learn best by active participation
- Have a short attention span—3 to 6 minutes

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

A Letter to Parents

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the GraceLink Bible study guides for kindergarten children. These lessons teach three major themes: We love each other; we serve God by giving to others; and God's grace is His gift to us.

We urge you to sit with your child each day to share the lesson and review the memory verse. Let your child "read" the pictures. Use the motions to help your child remember the memory verse. Enjoy the Do and Say activities that are most appropriate for your child. Involve your child in the activities to encourage understanding. And don't forget to read the story from the Bible sometime during the week.

Are kindergarten children able to understand God's messages as they are revealed in Scripture? We think so. We think now is the time to introduce young children to the Bible. A number of simplified children's versions are available today. You might want to begin with one of the colorful children's picture Bibles. Or perhaps your child is ready for a simplified text version such as the *International Children's Bible*.

Whatever version you choose, be there when your child handles it. Teach by example and word that the Bible is precious and holy. Demonstrate reverence and respect.

Help your child grasp the Bible truths that you hold so dear. Teach them by example to be thankful for God's loving gift of Jesus. And encourage them to remember that in God's family we work together and care for each other.

May God richly bless your family as you learn more of His Word together.

**Cordially,
The Editors**