

Beginner Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5

SPRING

March, April, May 2019



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Teaching Aids..... 3

Servants of the Lord

UNIT I: Fearless Servants

Mar. 3—God’s Servant Moses—Num. 16:23-34	5
Mar. 10—God’s Servant David—I Sam. 17:43-51	9
Mar. 17—God’s Servant Hezekiah—II Chron. 32:1-8, 21-23.....	13
Mar. 24—God’s Servant Jeremiah—Jer. 26:1, 4-15.....	17
Mar. 31—God’s Servant Esther—Esther 4:7-17	21

UNIT II: Beloved Servant

Apr. 7—God’s Chosen Servant—Matt. 12:9-21	25
Apr. 14—Jesus Honored as God’s Servant—Matt. 21:1-16.....	28
Apr. 21—God’s Servant Raised to Life (Easter)—Matt. 28:1-10, 16-20	31
Apr. 28—Serving in Jesus’ Power—Acts 4:1-3, 7-20	34

UNIT III: Faithful Servants

May 5—Samuel: Ready to Serve—I Sam. 3:1-10, 19-21	37
May 12—The Three Hebrews: Ready to Die—Dan. 3:13-18, 21-26	40
May 19—Philip: Ready to Give the Gospel—Acts 8:26-40	43
May 26—Paul: Ready to Do God’s Work—Acts 19:1-12.....	46

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Dear Beginner Teacher,

What an exciting quarter of Bible lessons awaits you and your students: “Servants of the Lord.” In the first unit, the focus is people who served God bravely: Moses (when his leadership was challenged), David (when he faced Goliath), Hezekiah (when the Assyrians were right on his doorstep), and Jeremiah (when the people were against him).

The second unit is about the Lord Jesus, whom God called “my servant,” and includes the Easter lesson. One lesson is about Peter and John, who healed a man in Jesus’ name.

The final unit is about faithful servants. The unit starts with Samuel, who served God as a child and continued to do so throughout his life. Three young Hebrew men were ready to die rather than bow to an idol. Philip served by helping the Ethiopian come to faith, and Paul was the great missionary of the New Testament.

What a lineup! You will want to make these servants of the Lord come alive for your students. Those who faithfully trust the Lord are the real super heroes and role models children need.

The bulletin board will be important in helping your students understand what “serve” means, and it will be a resource for reviewing the quarter’s lessons. Make the board special. Use a bright background. Use an appropriate spring border if possible. Then make the word strips described in lesson 1. In addition, find a flannelgraph figure to represent each of the characters in this quarter’s lessons.

An action rhyme in lesson 1 will also help the children understand the meaning of “serve.” Try to use the rhyme sometime during each lesson.

Most lessons give some examples of how children can serve God. Please add other examples that are appropriate for your students.

Lesson 8 includes the plan of salvation, and it is reviewed in lesson 12. Use can easily use the hand method during other lessons as well.

Remember that you need to tailor each lesson to fit your class. The printed lesson is a guide, but it was never meant to be the be-all, end-all in teaching. Only you know your students and the best way to teach them.

You have the privilege of serving God as a Sunday school teacher. And as Oswald J. Smith has said in his wonderful hymn, “There is joy, joy, Joy in serving Jesus, Joy that throbs within my heart; Every moment, every hour, As I draw upon His pow’r, There is joy, joy, Joy that never shall depart.”

A fellow teacher,

Valerie Wilson

TEACHING AIDS

Understanding Your Students

You may have been teaching four- and five-year-olds for years. Or you may be a new teacher with only a few quarters' experience. Regardless of our experience, we all need to step back from time to time and think about the students we teach.

While some facets of a child's development are much the same from decade to decade, other facets change. Having gained exposure to computer programs, smart phones, and other technological devices, we find that young children today seem "smarter" than those of a few years ago.

The better you understand your students, the better you can cater to their unique needs and abilities. We will consider some things that are generally true of today's children. Expect exceptions! Some students will be more advanced; some may lag a bit behind.

Language and Cognitive Skills

A typical beginner child:

- Is able to speak in sentences and carry on a conversation.
- Has an expanding vocabulary and will often surprise you with words he or she can use correctly.
- Can count to ten (or beyond).
- Enjoys singing and rhyming.
- Recognizes many letters and can read some words.
- Is able to follow two-part commands such as: "Please put away the crayons and then go to the story circle."
- Can follow longer stories and can recall story details.
- Understands simple concepts of time.
- Has an active imagination.
- Is curious about the world around him or her; asks why and how.
- Likes to make up words and songs.
- Can act out stories.
- Can play games and use simple programs on computers or tablets.

Hand and Finger Skills

A typical beginner child:

- Draws simple shapes.
- Draws stick figures.
- Prints some letters.
- Colors simple pictures.
- Can pick up and work with smaller items.

Social Skills

A typical beginner child:

- Likes to please the teacher.
- Plays well with other children.
- Shares and takes turns—at least most of the time.
- Is becoming more independent.
- Likes to have friends—even though he or she changes friends frequently.

As you consider this list, think about the ramifications for your teaching. For instance, children learn to recognize words, so use flashcards or word strips from time to time when teaching the golden text.

Let the children help you make up songs to review a Bible story. Use a familiar tune and ask the children to supply the words. The lines may not all rhyme, but that is OK. It is the experience that matters.

Also use story play to review a Bible story. You may need to provide the narration and let the children do the acting.

Use the children as classroom helpers. They want to please you! But keep this characteristic in mind when presenting the plan of salvation. A child may respond only because he or she wants to please you.

Become a student of your students! You will teach more effectively, and you will enjoy the classroom experience even more.

Living for Jesus

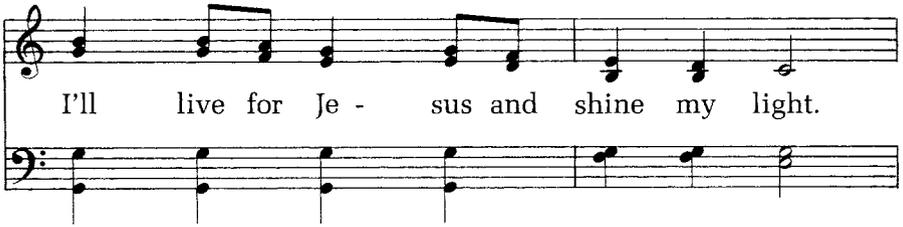
Muriel Larson

Muriel Larson



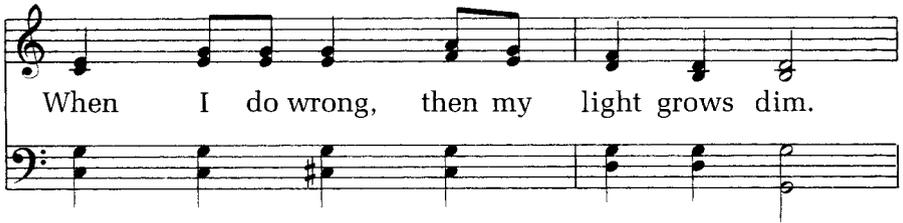
Liv - ing for Je - sus is good and right.

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff in 4/4 time. The treble staff contains a melody of quarter and eighth notes. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.



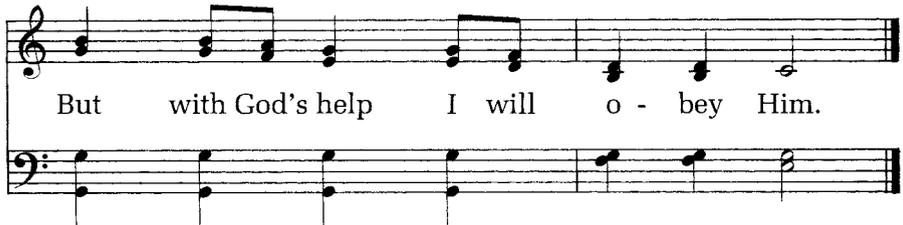
I'll live for Je - sus and shine my light.

The second system of music continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system.



When I do wrong, then my light grows dim.

The third system of music continues the melody and accompaniment.



But with God's help I will o - bey Him.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece with a double bar line at the end of both staves.



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Moses pronounced God's judgment on the disobedient Israelites who had rebelled against God.

God's Servant Moses

Lesson Text:
Numbers 16:23-34

GOLDEN TEXT—"If these men die the common death of all men, . . . then the Lord hath not sent me" (Numbers 16:29).

Scripture Lesson Text

NUMBERS 16:23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the common death of all

men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS

AIM: to begin to understand what “serve” means and to learn how Moses served God even when people were against him.

You are probably very familiar with the biblical account of Moses’ life. Beginning with his survival as a baby all the way to the disobedience that kept him from entering the Promised Land, Moses’ life story is a fascinating one. Take time to read about the role of faith in Moses’ life in Hebrews 11:23–29.

God called Moses His servant (Num. 12:7), and Moses referred to himself as God’s servant (Deut. 3:24).

Ask God to give you wisdom as you introduce the concept of “serve” to your students and as you teach about God’s servant Moses.

Getting Ready

For Beginning Worship, make a large heading for the bulletin board with the words “SERVING GOD.” Print three word strips: (1) To Be Useful; (2) To Be Helpful; (3) To Work For.

For Telling the Lesson, you will need pictures from a Bible story book of Moses in the bulrushes, the burning bush, the crossing of the Red Sea, manna being gathered, and a flannelgraph figure to represent Moses.

For Handwork, make a template to copy on card stock for each child. With the paper in landscape orientation, print the word “SERVE” in large, open block letters. You will need cereal or small pasta and glue sticks. Print today’s golden text on self-stick labels.

Beginning Worship

Welcome to Sunday school today, boys and girls!

During the springtime Sundays, we are going to learn about people who served God.

What does it mean to “serve” some-

one? (Teacher, call on several volunteers. Affirm answers that contain the right idea; then continue.) I have put the words “SERVING GOD” on our bulletin board. Now I am going to put three word strips that help us understand what it means to serve. The first one says, “To Be Useful.” A person who serves does something useful for another person.

To serve also means “To Be Helpful.” (Place second word strip.)

And serve also means “To Work For.” (Place third word strip.) All of the people from the Bible we will learn about worked for God. They obeyed what God wanted them to do; they served Him. As they served God, they were also useful (point to first word strip) and helpful (second word strip).

We will use this rhyme to help us remember what “serve” means.

Serving means useful; I know this is true.

(Nod head yes.)

Serving means helpful; I do something for you.

(Point to self, then to others.)

Serving also means working and showing my love.

(Hold out hands.)

I’ll be a good server and please God above.

(Nod head yes; point up.)

Suggested Songs

“I Want to Serve Jesus” (Lent)

“Living for Jesus” (page 4)

“My Friend” (Marks)

Prayer Time

Dear God, we love You; yes we do.

And we want to serve You too.

Please help us listen carefully

And then obey quite cheerfully. Amen.

(Teacher, lead in prayer.) Dear God, thank You that the Bible teaches us about people who served You. Help us learn that we can serve You too. In Jesus’ name. Amen.