

Beginner Bible Teacher

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5

WINTER
December 2020, January, February 2021



Union
Gospel
Press

Beginner Bible Teacher

WINTER QUARTER

December 2020, January, February 2021

Teaching Aids	3
---------------------	---

Preparation of Jesus' Disciples

UNIT I: Getting Started

Dec. 6—John Tells People About Jesus—John 1:15-28.....	5
Dec. 13—Jesus' First Followers—John 1:29-42	9
Dec. 20—God Became a Man (Christmas)—John 1:1-14	13
Dec. 27—Jesus Chooses Two Followers—John 1:43-51.....	17

UNIT II: Getting to Know Jesus

Jan. 3—Jesus' First Miracle—John 2:1-11	21
Jan. 10—Jesus Walks on Water—John 6:15-21	25
Jan. 17—Jesus: The Bread of Life—John 6:25-40	28
Jan. 24—Jesus Explains the Bread of Life—John 6:53-54, 60-71	31

UNIT III: Going Deeper with Jesus

Jan. 31—Jesus: The Light of the World—John 8:12-27.....	34
Feb. 7—Jesus Explains Who He Is—John 8:48-59.....	37
Feb. 14—Jesus Gets Ready to Help Lazarus—John 11:1-16.....	40
Feb. 21—Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary—John 11:17-32.....	43
Feb. 28—Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead—John 11:33-44.....	46

Editor in Chief: Todd Williams

Writer: Elizabeth Ealey

Edited and published quarterly by
**THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF THE
 GOSPEL WORKER SOCIETY
 UNION GOSPEL PRESS DIVISION**

Rev. W. B. Musselman, Founder

Price: \$3.25 per quarter*

\$13.00 per year*

*shipping and handling extra

ISBN 978-1-59843-969-4



**Union
 Gospel
 Press**

This material is part of the "Christian Life Series," copyright © 2020 by Union Gospel Press. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without written permission from Union Gospel Press, except as permitted by United States copyright law. Edited and published quarterly by The Incorporated Trustees of the Gospel Worker Society, Union Gospel Press Division. Mailing address: 2000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44109-5812. Phone: 216-749-2100. www.uniongospelpress.com

Dear Beginner Teacher,

We are given a great privilege and responsibility when we are called to teach children. Proverbs 22:6 exhorts us, “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” This verse outlines our great responsibility. We are charged to teach children so that they will love the Lord their entire lives.

The most important part of teaching children to love Jesus is showing them who He is. Children cannot love someone they do not know. Once they truly know Christ, they will never want to leave Him. This quarter, your students will learn about Jesus’ teachings to His disciples about Himself, with a strong emphasis on His divinity.

In unit I, beginners engage with John 1 by learning about John the Baptist telling people about Jesus. Jesus also calls His first followers in that chapter: Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael. Then for Christmas, the text jumps back to the beginning of John 1 to talk about God becoming man.

Unit II begins in John 2 with Jesus’ first miracle and then studies John 6 at length. Beginners will get to know Jesus as Miracle Worker and Giver of eternal life.

Finally, your students will go deeper with Jesus in unit III. This unit strongly emphasizes Jesus’ identity as God and His saving power. Your students will learn about Jesus as the Light of the World. The three remaining lessons are devoted to an in-depth study of the story of Lazarus.

The gospel is presented several times throughout the quarter, and students should end unit III with a clear picture of who Jesus is and how He saves His people. The application of the last lesson ends by asking the students the same question Jesus asked Martha: “I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?” (John 11:25-26).

Do you believe in Jesus? After thirteen weeks of getting to know the Son of God, that is the fundamental question. Some children will believe consciously. Others will simply internalize the truths. Either way, the lessons this quarter will lead them to the Son of God, who loves them dearly and deeply.

In the joy of Christ our Lord,

Elizabeth Ealey

TEACHING AIDS

Using Structure to Help Kids Thrive

Preschool Sunday school classes bring back fond memories of flannel storyboards and picture books. The fact that young children need visual stimulation is common knowledge. Using visual aids and hands-on activities will help a classroom stay engaged. Yet while important, implementing visual aids in a classroom is not difficult. The bigger challenge is understanding preschoolers' need for a structured classroom.

Young children learn about the world every day. With developing memory and retention skills, preschoolers can only base their expectations for the day on their experience of the few days before. They cannot read, so a written schedule does not help. In the same way, preschoolers can only base their expectations for a Sunday school class on their experience from the week prior.

When children lack routine and expectations, they insert their own "activities" into the classroom. For example, they might decide to have talking time or action time when the teacher is trying to have story time. In their uncertainty and anxiety, they resort to rowdiness.

The lessons of this quarter already supply most of the structure needed for a classroom. If desired, Handwork or Action Time could be moved to an earlier point in the lesson to help disperse the amount of time the children are expected to sit still. Use whatever order works best for the class; the most important thing is to always keep it the same.

Children will remember the general order of class after the first few lessons. However, that leaves the first weeks open to confusion and chaos. To mitigate that initial time period and

assist students throughout the quarter, create a visual schedule and post it on the wall of the classroom.

A visual schedule should include an image to represent each portion of the lesson. Make the images large and easily recognizable. Once the schedule has been posted, do not change it. At the beginning of every class, point to each image and remind the children what to expect during that time.

To represent Beginning Worship and Suggested Songs, use an image of musical instruments or children singing. Below that picture, post an image of praying hands for Prayer Time. (Use the same image for Praying Together.) Represent Telling a Story with an image of an open book. Telling the Lesson should be represented by a picture of the Bible to emphasize that the section is based on Scripture. An image of children at school could represent Showing How to Live. Show Handwork as an image of a table and chairs or something similar, whereas Action Time can be an image of children standing up or moving around.

All beginner-age children need a schedule, but most can handle small deviations if properly prepared for them. However, if a classroom contains children who have anxiety or are on the autism spectrum, structure becomes vital. Do not deviate from the routine at all if any children in the class fall into these categories.

A schedule sometimes seems restrictive to adults, but children find freedom in a schedule. When they know what to expect, beginners are able to focus. This enables them to engage and enjoy the lesson.

A Christmas Song

Patricia Cowles

Patricia Cowles

A Christ - mas song I'll sing, I'll sing,

The first system of music consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody begins with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff provides accompaniment with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1.

And Christ - mas bells I'll ring, I'll ring,

The second system of music continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1.

For Je - sus came, a King, a King,

The third system of music continues the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1.

God's love for all to bring, to bring.

The fourth system of music concludes the melody. The treble staff has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. The bass staff has a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G2, a quarter note F2, a quarter note E2, a quarter note D2, a quarter note C2, and a quarter note B1. The system ends with a double bar line.



John the Baptist preached to Israel that the Messiah, the Saviour, was coming soon.

John Tells People About Jesus

Lesson Text: John 1:15-28

GOLDEN TEXT—“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him” (John 1:18).

Scripture Lesson Text

JOHN 1:15 John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is preferred before me: for he was before me.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, *but* grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

19 And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou?

20 And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ.

21 And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.

22 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself?

23 He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

24 And they which were sent were of the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?

26 John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not;

27 He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose.

28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond Jordan, where John was baptizing.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS

AIM: to teach children how to prepare the way for Jesus, who is God.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, “Prepare ye the way of the Lord” (cf. Isa. 40:3). This was and is the cry of Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Christian leaders today. The Jews waited and prepared for the coming Messiah. Now we wait and prepare for Jesus’ second coming.

How often do we think about Jesus’ return? Typically, around Christmas, we focus on Jesus’ arrival with many festivities and traditions. In modern years, Advent has focused on preparing for Christ’s birth, but traditionally the season was a time of preparation and waiting for Jesus’ return.

This lesson teaches beginners about how John the Baptist prepared the way for the Lord and gives them specific ideas for participating in preparing the way for Jesus. The way we prepare for Christ’s second coming is by recognizing that we are sinful, repenting, confessing Jesus as Lord, and believing He died and rose again, taking away the punishment for our sins. Out of gratitude for our salvation, we should follow God’s laws and share His love. Several specific ideas are discussed in *Showing How to Live*, but feel free to prepare some ideas yourself as well.

Another main lesson point is that Jesus is God Himself. Even adults struggle to understand the dual nature of Christ, and beginner-age children will have even more difficulty. It is important to teach that Jesus is fully human and fully God, but we should not delve too far into the details. Children this age will accept both ideas as true without much difficulty but will not understand a thor-

ough theological explanation.

Thus, this lesson focuses on identifying Jesus as God, begotten of the Father. The Christmas lesson, later in the quarter, will focus on God becoming human through Jesus. Neither lesson will attempt to explain the dual nature of Christ, and both will simply present it as truth.

Getting Ready

For Handwork, you will need construction paper in several different colors (one color should be blue), scissors, markers, and glue sticks. Make small man-shaped cutouts from the construction paper, two per student. Any size will do, but around 4 to 6 inches high would be ideal. Although most cutting can be done in class, it would be wise to cut out the man shapes in advance.

Beginning Worship

Good morning, boys and girls! We can worship God by singing songs and praying. We also worship God by living the way He wants us to. Today, we are going to talk about worshipping God by living for Him. First, we are going to start by singing some songs to Jesus because He is God.

Suggested Songs

- “Hallelujah!” (Crawford)
- “To the Trinity” (Overholtzer)
- “A Christmas Song” (page 4)

Prayer Time

Lord, You looked down and smiled,
Forgave my sins, and made me Your child.
Teach me how to live and love.
Be my Friend from heaven above.

(Teacher, lead in prayer.) God, we want to know You better. Be with us today and help us know You through Your Son, Jesus. We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.