

Preschoolers **CAN** Learn!

And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deut. 6:6-7

What makes preschoolers different from other age groups?

- Shorter attention spans
- Separation anxiety from parents
- Think in literal terms
- Thrive on getting your attention
- They learn in various ways:
 - They need to hear it
 - They need to see it
 - They need to touch it
 - They need to do it

What are some characteristics of preschoolers?

- Fine motor skills begin to improve
- Enjoyment of repetition
- Characterized by their imagination and egocentrism
- Learning to control their emotions
- Learning to behave appropriately
- Learning to recognize colors, shapes, letters, and numbers
- Developing longer attention spans

What are some basic things preschoolers can learn and do?

- Repetition of what they learned
- Application of biblical principles (sharing – loaves and fishes)
- Cooperation and appropriate behavior
- Memorization of Bible verses

How can I effectively teach a lesson to preschoolers?

Get their attention by setting the stage for what you are going to teach.

- Action songs
- Finger plays
- Question/Answer
- Exciting news

Keep them involved in the lesson.

- Visual aids
- Puppets
- Objects
- Question/Answer

Reinforce the lesson.

- Art projects
- Coloring sheets
- Learning game
- Songs
- Finger plays
- Bible verse

What if I have discipline issues?

- Keep the length of each activity age-appropriate – 3-5 minutes.
- Have transitions between activities to keep the children interested.
- Be sure your helpers are informed of their role.
 - Separate children who distract each other
 - Don't wait for you to correct
 - Anticipate problems (potty, hitting, etc.)
- Have consistent communication with parents as necessary.
- Be fair and consistent – don't play favorites.
- Use positive words and gestures.
- Never yell at them or physically harm them.

What resources are available for preparing lessons for preschoolers?

- Search the web – Pinterest, Google, etc.
- Visit your local library.
- Shop Christian book stores.
- Use ordinary objects from your home.

The Candy Cane Story

Visual Aid: Small Christmas tree decorated with lights and wrapped candy canes

Opening

Song Time:

- “Away in a Manger”
- “Silent Night”

Memory Verse:

- John 3:16

Attention Getter:

- “The Candy Cane Poem”
 - Say poem while showing candy cane to children

Lesson

Story Time:

- “J is for Jesus, the Sweetest Story Ever Told” (Crystal Bowman – The Zondervan Corp.)
- Ask questions about the cover – have children discuss what they believe the story is about
- Ask other leading questions – “What do candy canes taste like?” What are candy canes made of?”
- Read the story

Activity

Art:

- “The Candy Cane Poem” Coloring Sheet

Game Time:

- Cut out a large paper Christmas tree and paper candy canes – play “pin the candy cane to the tree” (similar to “pin the tail on the donkey”)

Closing

- Review verse
- Prayer - thank God for sending us his son - Jesus

Snack Time/Transition

- Candy cane shaped cookies and milk or juice