

Preschool Ideas

SAMPLE: PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN OUTLINE

NEW STORY: To introduce (about 7-10 minutes)

FIRST LESSON: Beatitudes, Ten Commandments (5-6 minutes)

INTRODUCTION OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CONCEPT: (6 minutes)

BIBLE HISTORY: (6 minutes)

RETELL STORY OR SHARE HEALINGS FROM THE WEEK: (5 minutes)

ACTIVITIES:

HOMEWORK:

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1. The attention span for one who does not read yet is generally very short, so the teacher will need to prepare seven to ten different simple activities for the hour.

2. NEW BIBLE STORY:

- Start by telling a new story (e.g., one from the Lesson). This is an activity which will probably require the most attention from the student.
- Go through the story with the Bible open on your lap. Make it come alive by relating it to what the children already know. Tell it and read it aloud together.
- Add the story to the chart of stories that they already know.
- Next week refer to this story and have them tell it back to you.
- Try to relate the story to their lives.
- Tell parents what you have covered in class so they can reinforce it during the week.

3. **FIRST LESSON:** a Beatitude, a Commandment, the Lord's Prayer, etc.

- Add what you are working on to the chart on the wall.
- Talk about how to use it this week.
- Use it as the bell ringer for this week.
- Assign it to parents to use in their "teachable moments."
- Have the parents write a note to you when they find an opportunity to apply it so you can acknowledge that action in Sunday School, either verbally or on a chart.

4. PLAY THE CASTLE GAME:

- Read about "Stand[ing] porter" (392:24)
- Read the Sentinel article entitled "Guarding the Castle Gate"
- Prepare a cut-out castle door made of construction paper.
- Have good thoughts and bad thoughts written out on slips of paper to let in the castle door or to keep out: learn how to be a better porter.

5. FLASH CARDS

- Use flash cards to learn to read the seven synonyms.
- Start a chart for each one and list the qualities. e.g., Love: compassion, kindness, gentleness, etc.
- Underneath the synonyms and their attributes, list how to use these qualities.

6. PLAY THE SEED GAME:

- Have the children cup their hands out in front of them. Pretend to plant a seed in each child's hands.
- Give one child a good thought and one a weed seed and go around the circle. Talk about what will grow. For instance, if they plant a rose, what will grow? If they plant a weed, what will grow?
- What happens if they plant a hateful thought? A loving thought?

7. SENTINEL ARTICLES:

Collect the articles written for children in the *Sentinel* and use them to create a lesson or a game to teach a concept or story.

8. PRESCHOOL CONCEPTS:

Christian Science concepts from which preschool children can learn:

- opposites
- shepherds
- fisherman
- angel thoughts
- transparency
- spectrum: image
- parables (e.g., the good Samaritan)
- light vs. darkness
- mixed thinking (i.e., good and bad)
- sunny and cloudy thinking

9. TREASURE CHEST:

Make paper cut-outs in the shape of jewels; put a Beatitude on each jewel. When they have learned all eight, give the students a treasure chest to take home with them.

10. TEACHING BY SYMBOLS:

Bring a tote bag each week. Put a special item in it that can be given to children at the end of the hour (a bud or a fully bloomed flower; a seashell; a handful of sand which will enable you to talk about the bit of sand that creates a pearl; a tiny prism; a menorah cut out of paper, etc.).

Use concrete examples to teach spiritual concepts:

- Menorah with seven branches to talk about light and the seven synonyms from Zech. 4:10
- Two flowers: one with a bud and one fully bloomed: talk about the concept of unfoldment and how everything needed is already within the bud

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- Picture showing optical illusions: what we see isn't always true
- Make a book out of construction paper at home for each child to put Commandments, Beatitudes, healings
- Bring two different colored transparent papers, one blue and one yellow, and talk about how seeing through one influences how we see the other
- Christmas cards sometimes have beautiful illustrations of Bible stories, like the three kings, the baby and mother, etc.
- Tools: talk about how *Science and Health* and the Bible are our tools to understand God; how they teach us what to say "no" to and what to say "yes" to in our thought
- Bring a road map: talk about how *Science and Health* and the Bible are our road maps for life

11. Find ethical situations that little children might find themselves in and talk about what is right and what is wrong and how biblical laws tell us what to do.

12. Memorize a short verse each week from the Bible or *Science and Health*. Use it as a bell ringer. Put it on a tiny heart cut out of construction paper to take home at the end of the class. Each child has learned it by heart.

13. Play the fishing game, which can be adapted to a lot of learning activities.

- A U-shaped magnet on a string is a wonderful teaching tool for a class of 2-4 year olds. It can be used to work on the Commandments, synonyms for God and the many names for Christ Jesus. Drawings made of the Ten Commandments can be used by cutting them into separate squares and attaching a paper clip to each. For the synonyms, the names can be written on cut shapes of attractive wrapping paper or any paper also with paper clips attached. Each child is given a turn to go fishing for the idea. Sit in a circle around the fish, which are placed on the floor. The child that is fishing stands up and holds the string with the magnet at the end and catches one Commandment, or synonym; take the catch and the magnet and tell them what was caught. This can progress to asking the children to fish for a certain Commandment or synonym.

- A variation on the fishing game – pin the name on the book:

Ask a child to fish for *Science and Health* or for the book written by Mary Baker Eddy or for the Bible or the book in which we find the story of Jesus, David, Moses, etc. The fishing game is very effective, and post-its can be used with the name for the books on them. Give a child the paper with the name "Bible" and ask him to pin the name on the book that has the story of Jonah and the whale (or any variety of questions mentioned above or variations thereof) and the same for *Science and Health* and the *Christian Science Hymnal*.

14. Timeline Matchup:

Use two timelines with drawings from the Reading Room and cut them out. These drawings are of different Bible characters: Abraham, Moses, Nehemiah, David, etc. Spread the uncut chart out open on the table and give each child a picture from the cut-up chart to match with the pictures on this one. Have one child go up at a time and see if the child can name the character he is placing on the chart. After the chart is complete, observe where the characters stand in relation to each other. A larger blown-up version of the timeline could also be placed on the class wall to put cut-out Bible characters from stories that are becoming familiar to the students.

15. Parables retold by shared illustrating:

Take, for example, the house built upon a rock vs. the house built upon the sand. Start with a large blank sheet of paper. Hand a crayon or a marker to the child who is asked to draw. Tell the child to draw a nice solid foundation that we can build a house upon. To the next child, "Please build (draw) a house on that good foundation." After that child finishes, tell another, "Please make a terrible storm." Do the same for the house built upon the sand. Talk about what will happen to each of these houses in the storm, and then draw the final picture and talk about Jesus' message in this parable.

The following week, this can be followed up by bringing in a little paper cup and some playdough. Take a bit of playdough and tell the students they are going to share in building a foundation of Truth. Ask each one for a good idea and as they add a good idea, they get a tiny bit of playdough to put down on the foundation in the center of the table. The next child adds an idea and more clay goes down until everyone has a turn. Then take the cup (the house) and set it tightly on top of the foundation.

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Give each child a chance to be the storm and blow the house over. No one can. Then take away the foundation and put the house (cup) on the table and give each child a chance to be a storm. The cup just flies!

16. BIBLE STORIES ILLUSTRATED:

For example, with Elijah and the prophets of Baal, brown felt "sticks" and 12 gray felt "stones" can help with the story. Each child helps build up the altar and then builds it with the 12 stones around it. They help pour imaginary water on the altar for Elijah.

A felt board is sometimes helpful to tell Bible stories. These can be found in Christian Book Stores.

17. SYNONYM FOCUS (SEE FIGURE 1):

Tape a piece of butcher paper or any other large piece of paper onto the table. In the center of the table, draw a circle with one of the names for God in it. Draw from the center with a line to where each child sits, make a short series of tiny dots or circles to the child. Hand one marker to the child when a question is asked of them. The question might have something to do with a synonym or a quality. She draws a line from where she is to the first dot. Whoever draws a line through all the dots wins.

18. FILE BOX:

Purchase small plastic file boxes, one for each child and use paints to put each child's name on top. Put weekly assignments in the file box, such as verses with which to become familiar. Parents can also make notes of cooperative, loving, or other Christlike behavior. The children love to carry these back and forth to Sunday School and parents know to check inside for any homework assignments.

19. PASSPORT:

This is filled with statements from the Bible about one's identity as God's image and likeness, beloved child, etc. Set up a train with the chairs and go on a pretend trip. Act as a border guard and come onto the train to check everyone's passport. Address the passengers: "It says here that you are made in God's image and likeness. Is that true?" Go through every statement with each child. When they have answered affirmatively to all the questions, they can get off the train.

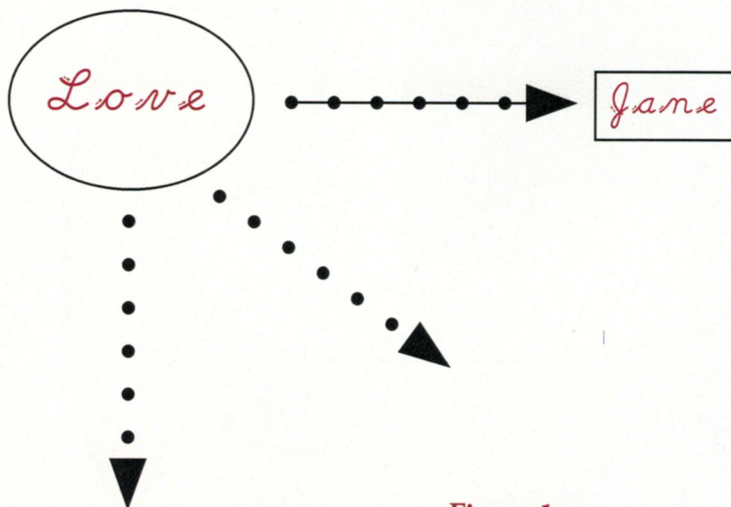
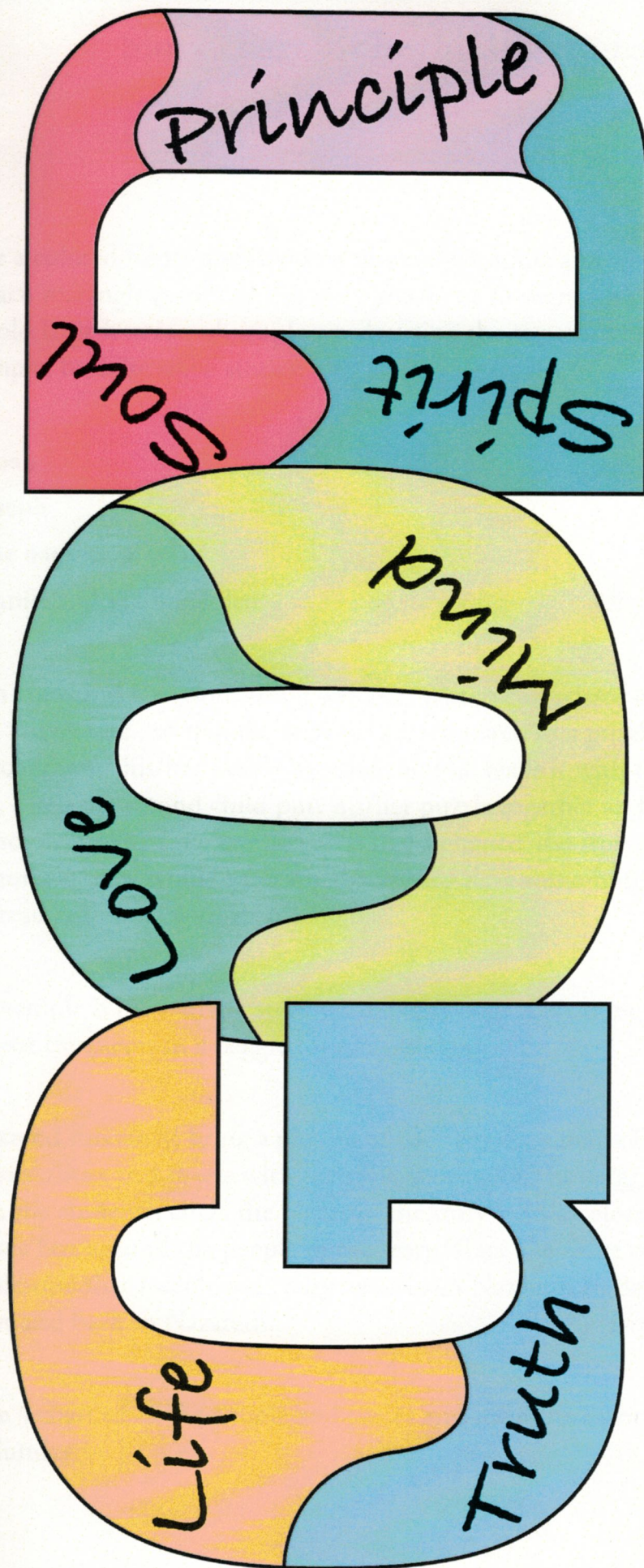


Figure 1



7 Synonym Puzzle for Preschool – 3rd Grade

Cut out in puzzle form. Let each child put together and read.

Story chart for beginning readers

Take a colored folder and divide it down the middle and across the page. In each rectangle print out the story you want to share with your students in bold large letters and simple words, using the sequence of the story. For example, here are some stories:

- Noah
- Joseph
- The nativity of Jesus
- Daniel and the lion's den

Then cut out the sections using different patterns of scissor cuts, like zig-zags, curves, etc., so that the sections are separated in a puzzle form. The first child puts his/her puzzle together, and he reads it with the teacher's help. Then the second child puts his/her puzzle together and reads it aloud and so on. By the time everyone has had a chance, the story is practically memorized, new words are learned and they have something to take home and read and share with their parents.

An example is the nativity story on the next page. Cut along the dark lines and put the pieces in a baggie for each student.

To extend this story, bring a picture of the Temple, a map of Palestine in Jesus' times and sheets with the story written out in paragraphs on it. With the students, circle the places in the story with a colored marker. Draw a box around the people in the story. Trace the route on the map of Palestine that Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to Bethlehem to Egypt and back to Nazareth.

Make a chart of all the people and places and review the story the following Sunday.

Mary and Joseph are engaged to be married.

The wise men ask King Herod where the new king of the Jews is born.

Angel Gabriel tells Mary that Jesus will be born.

The wise men give the baby gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Joseph and Mary walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

The angels tell the shepherds to go worship the baby Jesus.

Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem.

King Herod tries to kill the baby Jesus by killing all the boy babies in Bethlehem.

Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to be named.

The angels tell Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt to protect the baby Jesus.

Mary and Joseph and Jesus return to Nazareth and bring up the child.