

## ACTIVITIES

Because the activity is usually left to the end of the hour, sometimes the students are keen on this and try to rush through the lesson so they can have more time to spend on the game or activity. So, if you know you can finish the lesson in time, sometimes have the activity at the beginning of the hour.

Play Bible Jeopardy- Create specific questions from the lesson or several lessons. You can make up a poster board with categories like the real jeopardy and create subjects such as: places, things, promises, prophets, kings etc. depending on what the lessons are about. After you create the column headings on the poster board, use post-it notes numbered 100, 200, 300 etc. so that whoever answers the questions correctly can remove the post-it note and get those points. It can also be played without points.

Play Who wants to be a millionaire – Have questions from your story ready. Let the children phone a friend, ask the class, or remove 2 incorrect answers.

Use your activity to have the entire class make a bulletin board. Use space in the hallway or dining room. Sometimes we use a large sheet of paper to make a mural or collage. We have had a drawing after a few weeks to see who gets to take the mural home.

One student's grandfather made a board game. It has 100 spaces. Each space has either a who, what, where, why, how, roll again, true/false or memory treasure printed on it. The student must answer a true/false question correctly to get on the board. Once on the board, they can only move when they have answered the type of question they have landed on correctly. Each time we play, we post the numbered space everyone is on so we can pick up the game next week. Regular attendance makes it quick for getting to 100 where a candy bar awaits each player who completes the board. You could use a paper game board taped on a bulletin board, and post-it notes with names as markers.

Try doing a dance time with music.

Draw murals with large sheets of paper. Everyone works on the same mural. Have a theme of what to draw. Animals for Noah's Ark, butterflies, creation story etc.

Teach the children how to find the books in the bible. Make a game out of it.

Small children like to create with play dough.

Sing and play instruments. We sometimes march around the room following the leader.

Play hot potato. If you have the potato when the music stops, you need to answer a question. The kids like to have the potato and want to answer questions.

They really enjoy playing "snowman" This is really hangman where you guess letters to spell a word from the story, but we draw a snowman instead complete with buttons and arms and hat. One student goes to the board and draws a number of blanks for each letter or word(if doing a phrase). The others each take turns to guess letters. The word or phrase must have been used in the lesson.

The kids like to take turns playing pictictionary. The teacher starts by drawing a picture of something from the story. Whoever guesses correctly gets to draw the next picture. We usually discuss how the picture relates to the days lesson.

This is for smaller grades, line the kids up in a row. Discuss a situation(example: Jimmy hid his brothers favorite baseball card) Say " if this is pleasing to God take 1 giant step forward, if not take 1 baby step backwards. We keep giving scenarios until the students reach the other end of the room.

A good classroom bulletin project is to cut out a large circle for the middle of a sun. Then cut out large rays for the sun. Each student writes words to describe Jesus on the sunray and then we post the sun in a hallway.

Tree of Thanks - Put up a tree trunk complete with branches on a wall in the dining area. Make up lots of construction paper leaves of many colors. Have the kids write blessings from God on several leaves. We invited the entire Sunday School to participate and the tree was a huge success.

For smaller children, trace their hands on construction paper and cut out. Have a sign that says hands to serve God, and put up everyone's handprints.

For smaller children, trace their feet on construction paper and cut out. Have a sign that says feet to follow Jesus, and put up everyone's footprints.

The children really like to make snowflakes and post them up.

Refrigerator Magnet - Trace around frozen orange juice can lids on old Christmas cards. Cut these out and paste on the lid. Glue glitter around the edges and put a magnet strip on the back. These really turn out nice. You could take some home and give some to the shut-ins.

Decorate inexpensive wood crosses( these can be found in many craft departments,even Wal-Mart). You can decorate with crayons, markers, paint, or glitter.

Make candy canes out of pipe cleaners and red and white large triangle shaped beads. These can be used a tree decorations.

Take a photo of each student. These can be used to make tree decorations.

Make Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter, and Christmas cards for the children to give away.

Have the children ask people for their favorite bible verse. One week they ask a family member, the next week a Sunday school student, the next week an older member of the church, etc. Have them print these on recipe cards and keep them.

Read a picture book to the smaller children.

If the kids do worksheets or coloring sheets, post them on the wall for a week before they bring them home. Or you could hang them on the door.

Make get well cards when someone in Sunday school is sick.

Collect food pantry items.

Make secret codes to spell out Bible verses.

Make a paper chain of Bible verses.

Make a bookmark with a Bible verse.

Decorate cookies in the shape of crosses, hearts, etc.

Have a guest speaker come in and talk about altar guild and how to acolyte.

Play charades.

Make puppets on a pencil or candy cane to retell the lesson. Cut out paper Bible characters and skew on the stick.

Have a snack time.

Good craft ideas come from the oriental trading catalogue.

Call out the names of books of the bible. Whoever finds the book ( or chapter/verse) first is the next person who can call out a book, and the rest of the class looks for that book.

Do worksheets together in class as a discussion and review of the story.

Cut 4' wide paper to whatever length you desire. Put it on the floor with markers. Have a theme prepared for the class and a bible verse on the top of the paper. Use markers, crayons, glitter to draw what you direct ( a talent God gave you, fish, etc.) Hang the banner in the dining area for all to enjoy.

Make door hangers.

Decorate little pumpkins in the fall.

Buy each child a kazoo, and kazoo to the song "Jesus Loves Me".

Use floral tape to tape a flower onto a pen. At Christmas use Poinsettias. The children can use these as microphones to practice songs or memory work.

Do a scavenger hunt in the Bible. Example: Look for a story with a donkey, a miracle, Ruth, bad weather, etc.

Have the children write their passages onto business card size pieces of paper or colored tag board. Decorate them and attach magnets to the back to put on the fridge. Bulk groups of magnets (business card size) are available at Office Max.

Introduce the students to your church library.

Show the children the baptismal font. Explain about baptism and ask each child to find out about their own baptism, and share the next week.

Explain the Lords Prayer word by word.

Put the books of the bible on individual note cards. Pass them out and recite the books in order with each student standing up and holding up their note card.

Give out little trinkets for attending class.

Have a Bible Foods Buffet. Students need to look up bible verses to identify the foods.

Almonds - Genesis 43:11

Apricots - With the exception of figs, most abundant fruit of the Holy Land.

Barley - Deuteronomy 8:8

Bread - 1 Samuel 25:18

Butter - Proverbs 30:33

Cucumber - Numbers 11:5,6

Dates - 2 Samuel 6:19

Figs - 1 Samuel 25:18

Grapes - Judges 9:27

Honey - Exodus 3:8

Lamb - Mark 14:12

Pistachios - Genesis 43:11

Haroseth - Traditional Bible dish served at Passover seder(meal) It's made with nuts, Apples, raisins, dates, cinnamon and grape juice.

Puzzle Poster - You can use this idea for the story of Jacob returning Canaan. Draw praying hands on poster board and write "PRAY" "HUMBLY" "THANKFULLY" "PERSISTENTLY" and "GOD'S PROMISES ARE TRUSTWORTHY" on and around the hands. Then take a second poster board of the same size and cut it into puzzle pieces. The pieces are then taped onto the original picture to cover it. On each puzzle piece tape on a candy treat. When a student answers a question from the story correctly, he or she removes a piece of the puzzle with the treat, eventually revealing the praying hands picture underneath.

Ribbon Bookmark – This was used for the story of Isaac and Rebekah. Take 3 colors of ribbon, red, light blue, and white and tie them together at one end. One of the following statements is written on each ribbon:

Ecc. 4:12 "A triple braided cord is not easily broken;" NLT

Joshua 24:15 "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Dear God, Please send me a God-fearing spouse. Amen.

We talked about how a Christian marriage is made up of 3 persons, God, husband and wife. They could braid the ribbons if they chose. You can ask them to keep it as a bookmark in their Bibles and encourage them to pray that God would someday send them a spouse who loves Jesus and thereby the blessings that that comes with.

We like to sing in the lower grades. The following are favorites:

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty

Allelu, Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia, Praise ye the Lord( you stand up and sit down)

Father Abraham had many sons

Deep and Wide

This little light of mine

He's got the whole world in His hands

The wise man built his house upon the rock

The B-I-B-L-E

I am a C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N

Shake a friends hand

Who did swallow Jonah

Here is the church, here is the steeple

I've got the Joy, Joy Joy, Joy Deep in my heart

## BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

### NIV

1	Deuteronomy 4:28	9 <sup>th</sup> word	
2	Mark 5:5	Last word	
3	Genesis 8:11	19 <sup>th</sup> word	
4	Luke 8:6	4 <sup>th</sup> word	
5	Matthew 13:19	30 <sup>th</sup> word	
6	Isaiah 1:30	6 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> words	
7	Proverbs 27:3	What's a burden	
8	Ezekiel 17:3	18 <sup>th</sup> word	
9	Genesis 43:11	3 <sup>rd</sup> from last word	
10	Isaiah 11:1	4 <sup>th</sup> from last word	
11	Song of Solomon 7:5	9 <sup>th</sup> word	
12	Judges 4:19	What did he ask for?	
13	Proverbs 27:25	12 <sup>th</sup> word	
14	Luke 9:58	12 <sup>th</sup> word	

Note: On the question for Luke 9:58, find one and give the location. Also, don't touch it!!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SURVIVAL KIT

**TOOTHPICK** – to remind you to pick out the good qualities in others.

Matthew 7:1 “Do not judge, or you too will be judged;”

**RUBBER BAND** – to remind you to be flexible. Things might not always be the way you want, but it will work out.

Romans 8:28 “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

**BAND AID** – to remind you to heal hurt feelings, yours or someone else’s.

Colossians 3:12-14 “Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.”

**PENCIL** – to remind you to list your blessings everyday.

Ephesians 1:3 “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has Blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.”

**ERASER** – to remind you that everyone makes mistakes.

Matthew 6:14 “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you.”

**CHEWING GUM** – to remind you to stick with it, and you can accomplish anything.

Philippians 4:13 “I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”

**MINT** – to remind you that you are worth a mint.

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

**HERSHEY’S HUG** – to remind you that everyone needs a hug everyday.

1 John 4:7 “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

**TEA BAG** – to remind you to relax daily and go over your list of blessings.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”