

Preschool

Lesson 1
What's Bugging You?
"Prepare"

The Point of the Lesson:

Prepare your hearts and minds to be open to God. The students will learn how to get ready to know God. He has a plan just for them.

The Power of God's Word:

Be prepared for action. 1 Peter 1:13

The Prayer of Each Child:

Our prayer is that each child will understand how they can prepare their hearts to learn about God. As they learn more and more, they will understand that God has a plan for them and the world around them. They will begin to look for ways to prepare their minds to make good decisions that will result in good actions.

The Lesson in a Word:

Be Prepared

Prepare: (Before Service)

Object Lesson: bug catcher/ butterfly net

Craft Supplies: photocopied grasshopper papers, wiggly eyes, pompoms, glue sticks, crayons/markers

Game Materials: bean bag, CD player, music CD (Jana Alayra)

Provide: (10 Minutes)

This is a time when children are checked into a classroom. They are provided with a choice of three to four learning center activities to participate in. Time is allowed at the end of this segment for classroom clean-up.

Promote: (25 Minutes)

This process includes 10 minute story/lesson (3 segments), 10 minute craft, and a 5 minute snack.

Object Lesson

Whenever you go on a hike or camp, you need to prepare. You need to pack up supplies and snacks. Otherwise, you could get stuck somewhere or miss out on seeing something important. (hold up bug catcher) This bug catcher lets me catch and check out some interesting bugs. I can see them up close and find out some new things about them. If I wasn't prepared, I wouldn't be able to catch the bugs. God's Word, the Bible, prepares me to find out more about God too. I can learn a lot about God from the Bible. I don't want to miss out on anything that God has planned for me!

Today we are going to hear about someone who wanted to be prepared. He wanted others to get ready as well so they could learn and understand what God wanted.

Story:

John the Baptist

John the Baptist lived alone out in the desert before he began preaching. He wore clothes made out of camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. When he started preaching, he told people to turn away from their sin because the kingdom of heaven was near. People came from all over to see and listen to John. Some people confessed their sins, and he baptized them in the Jordan River. He explained to the crowd that he only baptized with water, but someday One would come who was more powerful than him. He was talking about Jesus. John was preparing the way for Jesus to come and save them. He wanted the people to prepare their hearts to receive the things that Jesus would tell them. (Source: Matthew 3:1-12)

Memory Verse:

Be prepared for action. 1 Peter 1:13

Practice Point:

Prepare your heart and prepare your mind,
And God's purpose you will find.

Craft:**Grasshoppers**

Materials: Grasshopper papers, Crayons, Wiggly eyes, Pompoms, Glue

Directions: Give each child a grasshopper paper. Let them color the paper and add grass, flowers, sky, etc. Glue on wiggly eyes and a pompom on the antennae.

God made all the bugs in the world! Just like the grasshopper has to prepare before he leaps in the air, we need to prepare our hearts to learn about God.

Snack:

This is a time for a class snack where leaders can reinforce a Bible lesson or encourage a personal application among the kids.

Travel to Large Group: (5 Minutes)**Praise: (10 Minutes)**

This is a time of corporate worship through singing and music. Turn on DVD and play **Sing This** here. Then, plug in your own worship session here.

Process: (30 Minutes)

This segment is designated to reinforce the lesson and teach application with age appropriate props, puppets and video during a large group time. Turn on DVD player and play Picture This, Hear This, and Do This Video here.

Picture This:**John the Baptist**

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Hear This: (5 Minutes)

Be prepared for action. 1 Peter 1:13

Do This: (5 Minutes)

How do I prepare myself? I can come to church and hear about God. I can talk to God anytime in prayer. I can ask Him to forgive the wrong things I do and to help me learn more. When I spend time reading the Bible and coming to church, I am choosing to prepare myself to learn about God. When I learn Bible verses and sing fun worship songs, I am getting ready for God.

Travel back to classroom: (5 Minutes)

Pray: (5 Minutes)

Dear Jesus, I know that You have a plan for the world and even me. I need to be ready to learn more about You. Help me to start making good decisions. Amen

Play: (10 Minutes)

This section includes a circle time activity or classroom game that can be played with 3 to 30 in the classroom.

Game:

What is Special About Me? (Hot Potato)

Materials: bean bag, CD player, music CD

Directions: Have the children sit in a circle. As the music is playing, the children pass around the bean bag. When the music stops, the child who is holding the bean bag can tell everyone something that is special about them (Example: I like bananas, I love to sing, I run fast, I have a friend named Brock, etc.)

God made us all and everyone is different. God made each of us with different things we can do well and things that we like and don't like. He made us all special, just the way He likes us!