

# THE NETWORK

NURTURING EDUCATORS, TRAINING WORKERS, AND  
ORGANIZING RESOURCES FOR THE KINGDOM

CETALK Discussion List: [goodhome@adiis.net](mailto:goodhome@adiis.net)

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## "Training & Dealing with Today's Child" CE Retreat

September

Saturday, October 4, 9:00  
Grinnell First Friends



Parents, SS teachers, youth workers, Grandparents, aunts and uncles, childcare workers - mark your calendars for this workshop on Saturday, Oct 4, 2003, 9:00-2:30. It will be held at Grinnell First Friends, and we'll be learning effective ways of working with today's children.

Our speaker will be Linda Wilkerson, a Christian educator with 25 years of experience, who has been a teacher, and is now principal with the Mt. Pleasant Community Schools. Her helpful perspectives and insights will give you an encouraging look at ways to love and help the children in your sphere of influence.

COST: \$15 per person; 5 people for \$60 (Lunch on your own in Grinnell or bring a sack lunch.) Registration brochures available at your church or the IAYM office. Preregistration deadline Sept. 24, but you may also register at the door.

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## Net Support



Birth of Christ activities: <http://www.kidssunday-school.com/topic/birthofchrist.htm>

Reaching Young Adults: [www.sundayschoolhelp.com/herald/bh052.htm](http://www.sundayschoolhelp.com/herald/bh052.htm)

Where Should Children Worship?

[http://www.childrensministry.com/childrens\\_programming/worship\\_choir/worship.htm](http://www.childrensministry.com/childrens_programming/worship_choir/worship.htm)

Psalm of Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle

<http://akidsheart.com/bible/PsalmsOfThanksp.htm>

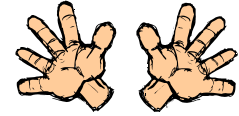
Easy Christmas Craft Ideas

<http://acplace.com/holiday/kidcraft.htm>

Bulletin Board Ideas

<http://www.kidssunday-school.org/preschool/bboard/bboardindex.htm>

## Fun Nights for Outreach



*Scripture: Acts 17:26-28*

*Age Level: 5 to 12*

*Prep Time: 1 hour per night*

*Activity Time: 2 hours*

Encourage your class to invite friends to join in the fun during these themed "Fun Nights." Schedule two or more Fun Nights for each year. Friday nights work best. Publicize each event in advance with fliers, announcements, emails, and ads in your church bulletin. Use these themes.

- **Game Night**—Invite kids to bring their favorite game (board, cards, or activity). In addition, organize several fun active games such as a dress-up relay where kids have to dress up in funny clothing and run an obstacle course. For more fun games, go to [www.cmmag.com](http://www.cmmag.com). Serve homemade caramel corn, apples, caramel dip, and cider.

- **Movie Night**—Choose a full-length kids' movie with a Christian or moral message, plus a few shorter cartoons such as the old Disney classics. Serve cookies and juice for snacks.



## What Are Teenagers Interested In?



If your Sunday school is to have a strong and effective program for teenagers, you must be sure that your program keeps in mind the interests of those kids. Here's what these kids said they wanted to learn:

- How to make and keep friends.
- How to know and love Jesus Christ.
- How to know who God is.
- How to love life more.
- How to discern between right and wrong.
- How to find purpose in life and how to like themselves more.
- How to find the Bible's meaning for their lives and experience God's love and forgiveness.
- How to recognize what's special about them and to develop compassion for others.
- How to make choices and decisions and get advice when they need it.
- How to make a difference in the world, communicate better with their parents and develop leadership skills.

## Ask Better Questions To Be A Better Teacher



Looking for a way to be a better Sunday school teacher? Ask better questions! Remember, there are basically four different types of questions:

**Warm-up questions.** These help students focus on the lesson theme. They identify feelings and situations in the students' lives. (Example: "Why is it so hard for us to wait for answers to our prayers?")

**Information questions.** These are questions that ask for facts and information related to the lesson or subject being studied. (Example: "Why were the Pharisees in this passage upset with Jesus?")

**Clarifying questions.** These questions compare facts from the lesson with facts that the students should already know. (Example: "How does Judas' behavior compare to Peter's behavior after he denied Jesus?")

**Application questions.** These questions help students apply lesson information to their day-to-day lives. (Example: "What would you say to someone who doubted God as Thomas did?")

Another good thing to remember about asking questions: Always try to ask questions that require more than a "yes" or "no" answer.

## OBJECT LESSON ON SIN



(You'll need a moldy piece of bread, a good piece of bread, peanut butter and a few napkins.)

Hi Kids! Man am I hungry. I think I'll make a nice tasty sandwich, that sounds good doesn't it? (Take the good piece of bread and set it on a napkin) Okay here's the first piece of bread. It's a great start to a tasty sandwich! (Take out the moldy piece of bread, make a yucky face) Oh Gross! This piece of bread has mold growing all over it! I'm not going to eat that!" How many of you would eat a sandwich that was made using moldy bread. Even a little bit of mold would ruin a great sandwich.

Sin has the same effect on us. God won't allow anyone with even a little bit of sin into Heaven. The sad news is, the Bible says that all of us have sinned. Romans 3:10 says there is no one righteous, not even one. The Good News is that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus into the world so that our sins can be forgiven. If we ask Jesus to forgive us for the sins we've committed and ask Him to become the Lord of our lives, He will. Then we can get into heaven, because Jesus has paid the price for our sin!



## THANKSGIVING BLESSING MIX



As you mix the following items, explain their meaning. Share in small bags with your church family.  
2 cups Bugles brand corn snacks - shaped as a cornucopia, a horn of plenty.

2 cups pretzels - represent arms folded in thanks and prayer.

1 cup candy corn - Pilgrims were allotted only 5 kernels of corn per day because food was so scarce.

1 cup dried or candy fruits - Thanksgiving is the celebration of the harvest.

1 cup peanuts or sunflower seeds - seeds represent the potential of a bounteous harvest.

In a large bowl mix all ingredients together.



## CHRISTMAS ADVENT CHAIN



Print verses on brightly colored paper and cut into strips. Allow kids to glue each strip together to form a chain. The following suggested Bible verses (24) deal with the birth of Jesus or prophecy about his ministry. Parents can help kids read one verse a day through December.

Luke 1:11-17

Malachi 3:1

Isaiah 9:6-7

Luke 1:26-33

Matthew 1:18-19

Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 1:20-25

Luke 1:39-56

Luke 2:1-7

Luke 2:8-14

Luke 2:15-20

Exodus 13:2

Luke 2:21-24

Matthew 2:1-5

Micah 5:2

Matthew 2:7-12

Luke 2:25-35

Luke 2:36-38

Hosea 11:1

Matthew 2:13-15

Jeremiah 31:15

Matthew 2:16-18

Matthew 2:19-23

Luke 2:39-40



## EASY CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



**Pipe cleaner ornaments:** Take pipe cleaner & thread on tricolor beads so they nest together. They can make a wreath, candy cane or star. For older kids you can have them weave ribbon with holes in it through the pipe cleaner & between each bead.

**Crayon Ornaments:** Using inexpensive crayons hot glue them together in bunches of 5-6, tie a bow around the bunch and then hang them with additional ribbon.

**Clear ball-type ornaments:** Gently stuff them with icicles (tinsel). The eraser end of a pencil worked great to stuff the icicles down the hole. They are beautiful!