

THE NETWORK

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

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Experience H.O.P.E.

Happy Opportunity to Prepare for Eternity

Kindergarten through 6th graders
Join us for Children's Yearly Meeting
August 4-7

College Avenue Friends Church, Oskaloosa

Explore the life of John Newton and enjoy
praise music, games, crafts, & special activities

\$40 per child

Register through the IAYM Office 641-673-9717
Registration Deadline July 16

Contact Becky Barber for more information.
becbarber@hotmail.com

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SURPRISE!



Build a surprise into each week's SS lesson to keep kids coming back for more. The surprises don't have to be elaborate, and they should not be tied to performance or attendance. Instead, they should just be fun little perks that show your class how much you care about them.

Consider these ideas: • a simple snack, such as cookies or fruit; • small trinkets that tie in to the lesson, such as tiny crosses or stickers; • pictures of the kids taken with an instant camera; • surprise visitors, such as the pastor, the choir director, or parents; and • mini field trips, such as visiting the nursery or holding class in the fellowship hall or kitchen.

With a little imagination, you can build a surprise into each lesson—or at least into every few lessons. Kids will never know what you have in store, and they'll want to come back to find out!

Net Support



100 Ideas for a Fall Family Festival:

http://www.childrensministry.com/childrens_programming/missions_outreach/100ideas.asp

Object Lessons Kids Will Love:

http://www.childrensministry.com/Ideas_for_lessons/devotions/object.asp

Printable Activity Sheets:

http://mssscrafts.com/teachingresources/work_sheets.htm

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Kids Classroom Décor

Gear decor towards kids. Use your imagination and try to think at the child's level. Christian posters, brightly colored "Welcome" signs, freshly painted walls, or creative ceiling decorations. Old sheets can be transformed into banners for the cause of Christ. Whenever possible let the kids help decorate, they will want to show others the cool room that they have helped to create.

Frame your white board/chalk board with an interesting monthly theme. Have an old trunk? Make it a treasure chest, and fill it with Bibles. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Kid's that forget their Bible or don't have one can borrow one from the treasure chest.

A boom box can play their favorite Christian music or illustrate sound effects during stories. Add a microphone and you or the kids turn into a roving reporter. Have fun!



SO YOU'VE BEEN ASKED TO TEACH THE CHILDREN !!??

But you have doubts. You don't know if you're cool enough or young enough? You don't know if you're old enough or wise enough? Your church doesn't have funds for an eye-popping presentation for children's church each week!

It's okay, you don't have to have all those "things" to be effective. Kid's don't need another friend. Children need someone that cares, someone that knows their name, someone they can count on, someone to encourage them, someone to make them feel important. Someone that has a desire to teach them about God.

You don't have to be a comic to be an effective teacher. An object lesson or science experiment will remain with kids much longer than a lot of hoopla. Draw the kids in by helping them become part of the lesson. Include them as often as possible: allow them to act out the Bible stories, draw on the boards, read the Bible passages, ask questions and partake in discussions.

It doesn't matter if you're 21 or 71, kids aren't hung up by age. If you have a desire to teach children about God you're well on your way to becoming an effective teacher. With prayer, a little practice and some planning you can create an environment that will make a difference in children's lives.

So, you want to teach children? Good! God has abundant blessings in store for both you and the children!

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Bible Buddies

Match caring adults with the elementary age children in your church. Adults provide a Bible to the child if they don't have their own. Each Sunday, or during the week, the adult spends 15-30 minutes with the child asking them what they have read in their Bible. Then the adult shares what they have read and learned. The kids get excited about being able to use their Bibles just like the adults and relationships are formed.



The Growth Flower



Instead of an attendance chart, this activity encourages children to attend class, ask their friends to come, helps with behavior & promotes memory work. WOW!

Here's how it works, each child receives a piece of construction paper cut out in the shape of a flower pot. The child writes their name on the flowerpot and tapes the pot to the wall. Each week that the child attends you give them a paper flower that they then attach to their flowerpot. If they have invited a friend that week, they get an additional flower. If the child has good behavior through out the class they receive a paper leaf to attach to their flowers. Children also receive leaves for memory work. Explain to the children that they are cultivating their spiritual lives by attending and participating in class, inviting friends and doing their memory work.

This activity can easily be adapted and used with other themes or seasons. In the fall you may use a tree with colored leaves. Noah and the Ark could be used as a theme with children adding the animals. Be creative and adjust this activity to something your class would enjoy!

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Wall of Prayer



To encourage prayer requests, make a "Wall of Prayer." Hang up a large piece of paper (end rolls from local papers may be free) or you can use butcher block paper. Allow the children to write their prayer requests on the paper after they have shared their requests with the class. It is a faith building visual reminder of the prayers and allows for great follow-up on prayers when they are answered.