

# Teacher Preparation

## Thank you

First let us begin by thanking you for the hours you are about to spend preparing to teach the children in God's church. You are truly a blessing to the church, the families, and the young lives you will be touching during the Feast. The time you spend may not be noticed by everyone, but it is noticed by those of us who have worked hard to bring you the materials and it is noticed by our Creator.

## Goals of the Lessons:

This year's lessons are focused on Abraham and Sarah and their struggles with learning how to have faith in God. As you teach each lesson, you will focus on noticing faith in action and seeing how things work according to God's timetable.

## How the materials are organized:

There are six lessons contained in this teaching manual. There is a lesson for each day of the Feast excluding the first and last day. Depending on your feast site, you may not be teaching all six days. If that is the case, please revise the lessons as you see fit.

Each lesson provides you with necessary background information as the teacher. Please take time to do your own Bible study before going to the Feast so that you are comfortable with the information and can present it easily without reading it word for word from the manual.

Most children respond best if you tell the story rather than read the story. Pray and ask God to inspire your teaching that you may communicate confidently with the children. You may decide that you need to edit the lesson depending on the age of your children. For example, when talking about circumcision and sacrificing Isaac with 3, 4, and 5 year olds, use discretion. Think about how you will word your story and what you may choose to focus on. For example, you may choose to focus on Abraham and Sarah's name change rather than the circumcision. Remember, the emphasis is on keeping the material appropriate for the age group you are teaching.

Following the Bible story is a section entitled 'Just For Teens.' This section attempts to connect teen issues with the story. Because not all Feast sites have the Infuse program, it is hoped that this section will enable the teens that are at other Feast sites to have some valuable discussions about topics that are important to them. Please use it as you see fit.

Following the 'Just For Teens' section are several craft and activity options. We tried to incorporate a variety of craft and activity ideas to meet the needs of all age groups. Please take into consideration the interests and abilities of the age group you are teaching when choosing your craft or activity. As you prepare your materials, keep track of your receipts. Most Feast Coordinators will reimburse you for your expenses. Please contact your specific Feast Coordinator to discuss if and how they do this.

At the close of each lesson is a Teacher Planner page. This is where you can make notes about what you will do and how you will organize yourself. Also use this page to keep notes

about how different activities work. We will be sending out a feedback sheet after the Feast in order to find out how things worked for you and what things you might like to see improved. Making notes will help you remember the things you would like to give input about.

At the back of your Teacher Planner is a sample of the Activity Book given to each child. If you are using this as a part of your class, it is important to collect them each day. If you are using them for the children to work on during church services, then you might check their booklets at the start of class and give stickers for the pages they have completed. Be sure that the children keep their activity books at the end of the Feast. In most cases, the activity books have been sent to the Feast Coordinator who will bring them to the Feast site. Please let us know if you have any questions about who has the activity books.

Two songs have been burned on a CD and are in the Teacher Planner. The children have copies of the words in their activity books. The two songs are Standing on the Promises and Father Abraham. The CD has children's voices singing along with the songs. You may choose to have someone play these songs on guitar or piano at the Feast. There is accompaniment music at the back of the Teacher Planner. These songs will be the highlight of youth day during the Feast. Be sure to teach these songs to the children each day. You may change the songs if you know of something that is more fitting or that the children already know that coincides with the themes of the lessons. Reinforce with your students that when they sing for the congregation they are worshipping God and serving the congregation.

Lastly, there is a copy of the book entitled Abraham's Big Test. You may use this book as a read aloud, as pictures to help you tell your story, or in any fashion that assists you as a teacher. It might be a nice addition to the last day as you pull everything together.

### Organizing each day:

Begin each day by greeting the children by name. It is important to spend some time each day building a community of learners. Often these children come from different parts of the country and have never met before. Especially on day one, you may want to play some "getting to know you" kinds of games.

Next, establish some ground rules. It is okay for you to tell the children how you expect them to act. Remember, this is a new place for them and it may be overwhelming. By giving them some guidelines of what is expected, you give them the structure they need. Simple rules might include: sitting criss-cross applesauce on the floor (Indian style), raising your hand to talk, using nice words only, and sharing craft materials.

Next, gather the children together for the story. Tell the story with expression and exaggeration. You may decide to draw a picture of the story as you tell, use flannel board, or dramatize it. This helps to keep the children engaged. Ask questions as you go along or ask the children to repeat phrases and names to keep them focused.

After you've told the story, it is a good time to ask questions. You may use the questions at the end of the lesson in the teacher's manual or you may think of your own. See if the students can remember the events of the story in order.

Now you are ready for the craft! Craft time should be very fun! Be sure to model for the students how you want them to use the materials to make the craft. As you work together, try to reinforce the lesson or talk about the main idea. See if you can get them to answer even more questions as you work. It is a good idea to have a few activities or easy toys for the children to play with when they finish their craft. Not all students will finish at the same time and it is good for the children who finish fast to have something constructive to do. When all students are finished, it is important for the children to take part in cleaning up the room. It helps them learn respect for the facilities and responsibility. Enjoy this time together and make it fun.

Meet back together in a circle and recall the important things you did during the lesson. Then use this time to praise children for the positive things you saw in them. Close this time with prayer which reinforces the lesson and thanks God for the children you are teaching.

Practicing the songs will need to be coordinated with the other teachers at your feast site. Talk together about whether you want to do it in the beginning or the end of each day. You may want to practice separately for a couple days and then join together.

**Just remember:**

You are not expected to be an expert on everything. Enjoy the children. Laugh with them and get to know them. Be creative and flexible and use your talents to enhance the lessons. Teaching Sabbath School should be fun and enjoyable. If you need ANYTHING, please contact us and we will help. Use your fellow teachers as a community of learners and help each other with the content and the children.