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Younger Children • Age 7-9 • Teacher Guide

May • June • July • August • 2024



Younger Children • Age 7-9 • Teacher Guide

The *Younger Children Teacher Guide* provides an inspirational Teacher Bible Study followed by suggestions for teacher planning and a step-by-step teaching plan for presenting the lesson. Each Younger Children teacher needs a copy of the *Younger Children Learner Guide* in addition to this *Younger Children Teacher Guide*.

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The Writers' Wall



Diana Anthony is a school teacher from Belize who now resides in Kentucky, USA. She has taught Sunday School for over 20 years and has been writing for CCP since 1992. She works with the counselling, prayer and women's ministries in her church. Diana said: *It is a privilege to have the opportunity to impart the Word of God to young minds, knowing that what they learn as children will foster their intellectual and spiritual development. I view my role as a mentor who could help them to grow up with godly values.*

Dukett Duncan is from Jamaica. At the time of writing, he was a senior at the United Theological College of the West Indies. Dukett is now a pastor. He said: *Writing for this age group was very fulfilling. I came to recognize the hard work which I took for granted as a Sunday School student. Additionally, it has caused me to reflect on the awesome responsibility I was allowed - to influence the spiritual lives of children.*



Sherdene DaCosta is from Jamaica. At the time of writing, she was a student of the University of Technology. Sherdene has been involved in various areas of ministry. She said: *In writing for the younger children, I have gained a better understanding of the ways in which their minds work. This knowledge has helped me to be more efficient in guiding the children in their understanding of God and His Word. I find it rewarding to be able to contribute to the spiritual education of our children.*

Tamarie Rocke is from Belize. At the time of writing, she was a medical student at the University of the West Indies. Tamarie is now a doctor. She taught younger children for over seven years. She said: *Writing for Younger Children has driven me to appreciate how children think. They teach us to look outside ourselves and see life with unscathed hope and optimism. I constantly seek God's guidance in how I can portray the Word to them as concisely and accurately as possible and in a way that they can enjoy.*



Unit 1	Jesus, Friend of All
Unit 2	Jesus, Friend of Sinners
Unit 3	Jesus, Friend of the Rejected
Unit 4	Jesus, Friend of Children
Unit 5	Jesus, Friend of His Apostles

UNIT 1 Jesus, Friend of All

Writer:
Diana Anthony, Belize

Unit Description

The unit will teach that Jesus came to save humankind from sin and to bring all peoples back to relationship with God. Jesus will be a friend to anyone and to everyone who needs His help and wants to have a relationship with Him.

Unit Aim:

For boys and girls to discover that no one is excluded from having Jesus as a friend because Jesus loves everyone equally

Unit Main Truth:

Jesus wants to be a friend to every human being and He welcomes all who seek His forgiveness and friendship.

MAY 5, 2024

Jesus, Friend to His Apostles

Luke 6:12-16; John 15:9-17

“No longer do I call you servants,...I have called you friends.” **John 15:15 NKJV**

Picture: Jesus, Friend to the Apostles

MAY 12, 2024

Jesus, Friend of Children

Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them.” **Mark 10:14b NIV**

Picture: Jesus, Friend of Children

MAY 19, 2024

Jesus, Friend of Sinners

John 8:3-11

Then Jesus said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” **Luke 7:48 NIV**

Picture: Jesus, Friend of Sinners

MAY 26, 2024

Jesus, Friend of the Rejected

Mark 1:40-45

The Son of Man...a friend of tax collectors and sinners. **Luke 7:34 NIV**

Picture: Jesus, Friend of the Rejected

Teacher Bible Study



Personal Lifestyle Question

As a follower of Jesus, how can I show love to Him and my brothers and sisters in Christ?

Choosing and training the disciples was an important part of Jesus' ministry. The men He chose would be the ones to carry forth the Great Commission—discipling, training and teaching for the furtherance of the kingdom. The twelve men would be His closest friends and would be commissioned to share the gospel—Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teaching them (Matt. 28:19). Jesus knew the selection of the disciples would be instrumental in continuing His ministry so He spent the night in prayer before appointing them (Luke 6:12). The following day, He chose twelve men and He named them apostles (Luke 6:13). They spent three years with Him, listening to His teachings and learning about the kingdom of God. Peter, James and John were His three closest apostles. They formed His inner circle. They were privileged to witness the divine power of the Master displayed when He raised Jairus' daughter and when He was transfigured in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus called those 12 men to follow Him and they did. This showed His authority. They joined in His work and became a part of His ministry. The first four apostles Jesus called were fishermen named Peter, Andrew, James and John. Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector for the Roman government. Simon the Zealot, was a politician connected to Jewish opposition party (Zealots) who were plotting to overthrow Roman rule.

Philip was from Bethsaida. He led Nathaniel to Christ. Nathaniel, also known as Bartholomew, was from Cana. Jesus described Him as an Israelite in whom there was no guile. Thomas was sometimes called the doubter, but Jesus did not reject him. The final three were James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddeus, also known as Judas (not Iscariot) and Judas Iscariot, who later betrayed Him.

Personal Lifestyle Application

I pledge, on a daily basis, to live a life that reflects my love for Jesus and others.

May 5, 2024

Unit Title

Jesus, Friend of All

Lesson Title:

**Jesus,
Friend to His
Apostles**

Main Text

Luke 6:12-16;
John 15:9-17

Main Truth

Jesus carefully chose His friends and He expected them to love one another as much as He loved them.

Memory Verse

*"No longer do I call you servants,...I have called you friends.
John 15:15 NKJV*



Plan the Lesson

Lesson Description:

Jesus prayerfully selected 12 of His followers to be His closest friends.

These special friends were to love and obey Him, love each other and fulfil their mission to go out and serve others in Jesus' name.

Aim:

For boys and girls to understand that Jesus loves them and that they can follow His example of being a true friend.

Materials for Memory Verse

- Cartridge paper (enough to cut out 11 fish-shaped designs)

Materials for Small Group 1

- 16 4x8 inch cards
- Markers

Materials for Small Group 2

- A Learner Guide or a copy of the activity on page 7 for each child
- Pencils

Plan for the Large Group

- Turn to page 32 and follow planning steps 1-7.
- Plan to sing, "There were Twelve Disciples" and "Little Children Love Each Other" Write the words of the songs on a chart.
- Prepare to teach the *Memory Verse* using the Fish for a Verse method. Write each word of the verse on a fish shaped cut from construction paper. Decorate a box to use as the fish pond. Make two sets of the fish cards. The students will close their eyes and take out a fish, then open their eyes and arrange the fish in order. They will recite the verse each time they assemble it correctly.
- Plan a creative way to use the *Teaching Picture* to reinforce the lesson.

Plan for the Small Groups

Small Group 1 Odd Man Out Game

- Write the names of the 12 disciples on the cards Add four other Bible names, for example: Isaiah, Joseph, Abraham and Jonah. The objective of the game is to find the odd man which will be the names that are not disciples. If the name picked is the name of a disciple the child will keep the card. If the name picked is not a disciple students will say "Odd Man Out".
- Challenge students to learn the names of the disciples. Teach the song, "There Were Twelve Disciples" (Tune: "Bringing in the Sheaves")

Small Group 2 Characteristics of A True Friend

- Complete the activity, Characteristics of a True Friend, on page 7 of the Learner Guide.
- On Sunday, you will guide the children through the activity. Challenge the children to develop the qualities of a true friend.

Present the Lesson



Step 1—Learning in the Large Group

- ✓ Warmly welcome the children.
- ✓ Pray that the children will be attentive and that they will learn that Jesus loves them and that they can follow His example of being a true friend.
- ✓ Sing “There were Twelve Disciples”.
- ✓ Tell the *Bible Story* enthusiastically.
- ✓ Teach the *Memory Verse* using the Fish For Verse game to help the children to commit the words to memory.
- ✓ Show the *Teaching Picture* and let the children post the picture or use another creative method.
- ✓ Pray, thanking God for His son, Jesus who is a friend to us all. Ask Him to help us to be a true friend to others.

As you teach, seek to help YC:

- ▶ To know that true friends of Jesus obey Him.
- ▶ To be taught to choose their friends carefully.
- ▶ To learn how to be a true friend to others.
- ▶ To cherish their friendship with Jesus.

Step 2—Learning in Small Groups

Small Group 1: Odd Man Out Game

- ☞ Place the cards, with the names down, in random order on the floor or on a table.
- ☞ Divide the class into two teams.
- ☞ Explain that four of the names on the cards are not names of the apostles.
- ☞ The team that finds the most names which are not disciples is the winner. Have the students read the names of the twelve disciples from the cards at the end of the game.

Small Group 2: Characteristics of A True Friend

- ☞ Invite the children to turn to page 7 in their Learner Guide or distribute the copies of the activity.
- ☞ Guide the children through the activity.
- ☞ Ask: Which of these would you say is your strongest quality?
- ☞ Say: Choose the one that is your least developed quality and work on it this week.



Step 3 Personalising the Lesson

- ♥ Ask the *Question of the Week* (LG, page 6) and guide the discussion.
- ♥ Sing “I Am so Glad that Jesus Loves Me”.
- ♥ Close the session with prayer.
- ♥ As you dismiss, encourage the children to be early and to invite a friend to Sunday School.

Teacher Bible Study



Personal Lifestyle Question

How can a mother show love to her children?

The meaning of the term *to bless* is the act of declaring favour or goodness upon others. While Jesus was in the region of Judea, some parents brought their children for Jesus to bless them. The blessing and the laying on of hands is a biblical tradition. Parents wanted Jesus to bless their children because they were aware of the power of the great Teacher and they recognised Jesus as the one whose touch transforms lives. The disciples perceived the children as bothersome and they knew that Jesus was busy. They thought that grown-ups were the only ones to be blessed.

In biblical times, women and children had no standing in the Jewish society; but Jesus transcends all racial and traditional barriers. Jesus values children. He explained to the multitude that to enter the kingdom of God, one must be like a little child—humble and trusting. *“Anyone who does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter the kingdom of God”* (v15). Children are totally dependent on their caregivers. Similarly, God expects us to be totally dependent on Him. As believers, we need to put our complete trust in God and depend on Him with sincere faith.

To enter the kingdom of God, we are required to have simple trust in God. Just as we trust Him for the free gift of salvation by submitting to Him with a childlike faith, so we must develop our faith by continuing to trust Him in every area of our life. Jesus was not too busy for the children. He saw their worth. Children are precious to Jesus. Despite the disciples’ objections, He honoured the parents’ wishes by blessing the children.

Personal Lifestyle Application

I will be a good role model to children so that they will come to know Jesus as their friend.

May 12, 2024

Unit Title

Jesus, Friend
of All

Lesson Title

Jesus,
Friend of
Children

Main Text

Matthew 19:13-15
Mark 10:13-16

Main Truth

Jesus wants to be a
personal friend to
every child.

Memory Verse

*“Let the little
children come to
me and do not
hinder them.”*

Mark 10:14b NIV



Plan the Lesson

Lesson Description:

The lesson depicts Jesus' loving attitude towards children. He blessed them and commended them as examples of faith. If this is Mothers' Day in your country, emphasise the fact that mothers are very important. Ask the children to show love to their mothers today.

Aim:

For boys and girls to identify with Jesus as a friend who will always do what is best for them.

Materials for Small Group 1

- A globe or map
- Oatmeal or other containers
- Construction paper (5 colours)
- Photocopy paper
- markers, glue, scissors

Materials for Small Group 2

- Small boxes
- Coloured paper
- Glitter, glue
- Magazine pictures
- Pencils, crayons

Plan for the Large Group

- Using pictures cut from magazines or printed from the Internet, and a large poster-board, design a Unit Banner which depicts the topics which will be discussed.
- Memorise the **Bible Truth** and study the lesson with the Truth in mind.
- Read the Main Text several times. Get the story facts straight. Read the Teacher Bible Study and answer the **Teacher's Personal Lifestyle Question**. Note the **Personal Lifestyle Application**. Does it reflect your conviction?
- Prepare to tell the **Bible Story**.
- Prepare to teach the **Memory Verse** using the 'Pass the Ball' method. Write the words of the verse on the posterboard and provide a ball. Plan to repeat the verse several times. Pass the ball quickly among the children as they repeat the verse. As the children finish the verse, the person who has the ball in his or her hand should recite the entire verse.
- Plan how you will use the **Teaching Picture**.

Plan for the Small Groups

Small Group 1: Prayer Cannister

- Cut a set of 5 smiley faces, from the construction paper (red, brown, yellow, black and green) for each child.
- Fold a sheet of the plain paper (for each child) in a way that will make it easy to cut 16 squares.
- The children will write the names of different countries on the squares.

Small Group 2: Blessing Box

- Make an example by covering a small box with coloured paper and decorating it with pictures from magazines, glitter and glue.
- Cut strips of paper and write some ways in which God has blessed people.
- Place the blessing strips in the box. Add some blank strips on which to write other blessings.

Present the Lesson



Step 1—Learning in the Large Group

(Before class begins, display the Unit Banner.)

- ✓ Warmly welcome the children. Have them read the Unit Title. Highlight the Lesson Titles.
- ✓ Pray that the children will be attentive and that they will thank Jesus for His love and care for them.
- ✓ Sing “Let All the Children Come to Me” and “Jesus Loves Me This I Know”.
- ✓ Tell the *Bible Story* enthusiastically.
- ✓ Teach the *Memory Verse* using the ‘Pass The Ball’ method to help the children to commit the words to memory.
- ✓ Show the *Teaching Picture*. Ask the children to tell which lesson the picture is trying to depict.
- ✓ Pray for children all over the world.

As you teach, seek to help YC:

- ▶ to know that Jesus wants to be their friend.
- ▶ to know that Jesus will always be loving and fair.
- ▶ to desire to be the kind of friend to others that Jesus is to them.

Step 2—Learning in Small Groups

Small Group 1: Prayer Cannister

- ☺ Explain the purpose of the activity and how to make the cannister.
- ☺ Instruct the children to cover the container with construction paper; glue the smiley faces to the construction paper and write on the top of the can, “Jesus, Friend of Children.” Tell the children to look at the map, choose 16 countries, write the names on the squares and put the names in the cannister.
- ☺ Have each child pick out the name of a country from his or her container and pray for the children in that country.
- ☺ Ask someone to pray that Christians will choose to be missionaries to all the peoples of the world.

Small Group 2: Blessing Box

- ☺ Show your sample. Explain the purpose of the activity and how to make the box.
- ☺ Distribute the materials and allow time for the children to make their blessing box.
- ☺ Give them some extra strips and encourage them to write other blessings during the week and place them in the container.



Step 3 Personalising the Lesson

- ♥ Ask the *Question of the Week* (LG, page 9).
- ♥ Sing “Jesus Loves Me this I Know.”
- ♥ Do the activity, **Find and Circle**, on page 10 of the LG.
- ♥ Close the session with prayer.
- ♥ As you dismiss, remind the children to use their prayer cannister and blessing box during the week.

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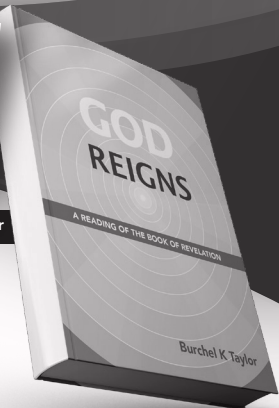


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