

**Foundations for Preschoolers Ministry**  
**Preschool Ministry Part One**

**I.) My Story**

**In my classroom...**

**II.) Can Children Be Saved?**

**Jesus' Teaching in Matthew 18**

Jesus uses children as the example of faith

- **Matthew 18:1-2** - The word for "little child" in the Greek is \_\_\_\_\_ which means a little or young child under \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.

- **Matthew 18:3** - Requirement for salvation

The word for converted in the Greek is *strepcho*, which means to \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.

"The door to Heaven is three feet tall." - Unknown

- **Matthew 18:4** - Jesus answers the disciples' initial question, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"
- **Matthew 18:5** - How do you get in the Kingdom of Heaven?

The Greek word for receives means to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

Adults who demonstrate childlike faith and are converted can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven

Little children already have childlike faith and they, too, can be converted and enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

To minister to a \_\_\_\_\_ is to \_\_\_\_\_ . This is a \_\_\_\_\_ .

Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ young children as believers.

- **Matthew 18:6**

- The word for believe in the Greek is \_\_\_\_\_ which means to have faith in or upon and is the same word used in John 3:16 and Acts 16:31

Jesus asserts that little children can \_\_\_\_\_ believe.

- **Matthew 18:10**

Little ones must be treated with \_\_\_\_\_ .

- **Matthew 18:11-13**

The implication is that even a child is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

- **Matthew 18: 14**

The word for perish in the Greek is \_\_\_\_\_ which means to destroy fully and is the same Greek word translated as lost and destroyed

God's \_\_\_\_\_ must be the \_\_\_\_\_ of God's people.

### **Summary of Jesus' Teaching**

- Affirmed young children as believers and taught the seriousness of causing children who believe in Him to sin or stumble.
- Told the disciples to not look down on little children.
- Taught the urgency of reaching the lost child, using himself as a model.
- Declared God's will that not one of these little ones be lost.
- "If you doubt the child's ability to communicate with God, don't doubt God's ability to communicate with the child." – Unknown

### **Personal Testimonies from Christians Saved as Children**

## Perspectives from Theologians and Christian Leaders

“A child of five, if properly instructed, can savingly believe as well as an adult. My conviction is that our converts from among children are among the best we have. I should judge them to have been more numerously genuine than in any other class, more constant, and in the long run, more solid.” – Charles Spurgeon

“You do not know how much infidelity there is in the church today with regard to child conversion. There are but a few who believe that children can become Christians; but thank God there is a bright day coming.” - D. L. Moody

“ The greatest reason for my belief that young children can really understand the vital truth of the Gospel is that I believe in the Holy Spirit’s ministry to communicate the message of salvation and sanctification to them. There is no adult, however intelligent, who can understand the Gospel without the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.” - Francis Schaeffer

## Research Studies

**Children are the most fruitful mission field in the world today.**

### III.) Spiritual Experiences

#### 1. Salvation

Jesus as " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Jesus as " \_\_\_\_\_ "

There is no \_\_\_\_\_ for children.

#### 2. Baptism

Before being baptized, a child should be old enough to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel of Christ. A candidate for baptism should have repented of his sin and placed his faith and trust in Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord.

#### 3. Prayer Requests

#### IV. Understanding Preschoolers

##### General Characteristics of Preschoolers

- Preschoolers are eager \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers like to ask \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschool \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers enjoy \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers have \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers want the \_\_\_\_\_ of adults
- Preschoolers \_\_\_\_\_ real and make-believe
- Preschoolers love \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers understand \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_
- Preschoolers seek \_\_\_\_\_

#### V.) Basis for Preschool Ministry

##### Successful Foundations for Preschool Ministry

- Be \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ God's Love
- \_\_\_\_\_ with Their Interests
- Teach \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep Learning \_\_\_\_\_
- Make Church \_\_\_\_\_

Constantly review your lesson or sermon plans to make sure that you are building on these foundations.

## VI.) Biblical Truths

### Ages 0-4 Biblical Truths

KNOWING		LOVING	LIVING	
<i>Who God Is</i>	<i>What God Has Done</i>	<i>Relationship with God</i>	<i>What God Wants</i>	<i>What You Can Do</i>
God exists.	God created everything.	Prayer is talking to God in Jesus' name.	God wants you to be good, kind, and loving, just like Him and Jesus.	God wants you to go to church.
God loves you.	God created you.	You need to talk to God regularly.	God wants you to see and think good things.	God wants you to obey your parents.
Jesus loves you.	God gave us the Bible.	You need to regularly listen to stories about God and Jesus from the Bible.		God wants you to learn to share your things with others.
God wants to take care of you.	God's Son, Jesus, dies for your sins so you can be with God.			

Source: *Spiritual Growth of Children*, Focus on the Family

## Building Your Preschoolers Ministry Preschool Ministry Part Two

### I.) Schedule

Notes:

- Make your plan
- Review it the week prior
- Arrive early
- Be prepared
- Have an “Order of Service”
- Greet each child and call by name
- Greet each parent and ask about bathroom break
- Review expectations
- Remember attention span

Sample Sunday School Schedule:

9:30	Staff Ready
9:45	Playtime
9:55	Clean-up Time
10:00	Welcome, Lesson Intro, and Review Expectations
10:05	Prayer
10:10	Bible Story/Truth
10:20	Scripture Introduction Activity
10:25	Craft/Coloring
10:30	Snack
10:40	Transition Time

Sample Worship Schedule:

10:45	Transition Time Continues
10:55	Bathroom Break
11:00	Welcome, Lesson Intro, Expectations Review
11:05	Opening Game
11:10	Worship
11:20	Prayer
11:25	Scripture Verse Intro
11:30	Bible Lesson
11:40	Centers
	Snack
	Craft
	Lesson/Scripture Review
12:15	Closing Prayer

### II.) Presenting Your Lesson

Needs of Preschoolers: Physical, Mental, Emotional, Spiritual (Group Activity Charts)

Sample Lesson

Evaluation

- Where the children \_\_\_\_\_ and eager to participate?
- Did the children \_\_\_\_\_ the basics of the story?
- Could the children name basic \_\_\_\_\_ of the story?

### III.) Discipline

Set Reasonable Expectations:

- Be a Good Friend.
- Be Safe.
- Be A Good Listener.

Procedures

- **LOOK.** Make eye contact with the child, put your finger over your mouth to signal quiet, smile and look away.
- **TOUCH.** Put your hand on the child’s shoulder. Touch the hand of the child. Put your arm around the child. Many times a touch can be reassuring and can return the child to the proper behavior.
- **MOVE.** First, move yourself to the most disruptive child. Second, move the child to another seat close to you or simply separate the children that are bothering each other.
- **FINALLY,** if the bad behavior continues, the child should be escorted to the back of the room and further discipline will be administered at the close of the service by the Children’s Pastor.

Establish Consequences:

- 1st Warning - Move their pin
- 2nd Warning - Time out with a helper
- 3rd Warning - Call their parent/guardian

Don’t forget to have good help, make eye contact, touch, and then speak.

### V.) Classroom Set-up

Furniture

Learning Centers

Colors and Decor

### V.) Volunteers

- |                               |                            |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • “Preschool or Nursery Duty” | • Maternity Leave          |
| • Recruitment                 | • New People               |
| • Teenagers                   | • Personal Recommendations |
| • Invite Parents and Family   | • Post Job Openings        |

- Build a Rotation Where Possible
- Be Aware

- Show Appreciation Genuinely and Frequently
- Meet Regularly

#### **VI.) Safety**

- Prayer
- Application and Screening
- Job Descriptions
- Discipline
- Two-Adult Rule and Potty Policy
- Classroom Presence

- Registration
- Secured Hallways
- Snacks
- Toy Checks
- CPR and First Aid Training

#### **VII.) Connecting With Parents**

Social Media

Direct Contact

Special Events

Family Fusion

#### **Conclusion**

Lies of the Enemy