

Methods for Teaching Preschoolers (3-5)

- A. How Preschoolers learn. Preschoolers' brains are hungry for input from a variety of sources. That's why they love the question "Why" so much. Three to five year olds are:
1. Questioners
 2. Able to focus on only one aspect of a situation at a time.
 3. Sensory learners
 4. Able to do many more things physically than toddlers and twos.
 5. Group learners.
 6. Roaming learners.
- B. What works and what doesn't work for Preschoolers:
1. Do's for Preschoolers:
 - a. Do tell the Bible story with the Bible open at the appropriate passage to reinforce the fact that the stories come from the Bible and are true.
 - b. Do provide activities that allow children to use their large muscle groups.
 - c. Do offer choices of activities-varied learning centers with options that use as many of their senses as possible.
 - d. Do have creative play experiences: role-playing, dramatization, songs, movement, etc.
 - e. Do allow their expanding vocabularies to be stretched through small-group discussions and shared projects.
 - f. Do encourage their natural curiosity by vaulting their questions.
 2. Don'ts for Preschoolers:
 - a. Don't concentrate so much on making the Bible stories entertaining that the children miss the point of the stories.
 - b. Don't expect preschool children to sit quietly for long periods of time.
 - c. Don't have only one activity for all children.
 - d. Don't give preschoolers craft activities where the adult has done most of the work and the children merely do the assembly.
 - e. Don't expect preschool children to be the audience and not the participants.
 - f. Don't be the one to always do all the talking.
 - g. Don't discourage or ignore the constant "whys" you will hear.
- C. Specific Suggestions
1. Tell Bible stories: simple, short, avoid symbolism.
 2. Use repetition.

3. Draw the story using large materials that can be easily seen.
4. Use happenings in the classroom as teaching situations.
 - a. Connect the story to these events.
 - b. Some of these can be planned.
5. Use Bible story books.
6. Pictures should be simple and in their experience.
7. Use the Bible itself.
 - a. Let it be seen as Bible stories are being told.
 - b. Emphasize a high respect for the Bible.
8. Repetition is helpful.