

Teaching Plan for Preschoolers:

CONNECT 3 **THE POWER OF ONE Sunday School class**

Developed by Debbie Benson, Kindergarten teacher at FBC Marshall, Texas

Purpose: To inspire and encourage teachers of preschoolers to be intentional in their ministry with preschoolers and their families through Sunday School. Preschool leaders will be introduced to the fourth book by David Francis, "Connect 3 the Power of One Sunday School class".

This plan may be used: for training Preschool Sunday School leaders and potential leaders during a local church leader training event. in Regional and state training, to train leaders for state and associational training events.

PREPARATION:

Room Set Up

Create a focal wall by cutting the letters CONNECT 3 in medium blue cardstock. Take a trash to treasure item (a large drink take out box from a local fast food restaurant. When open it looks like a little tool box.) and flatten it back out to use as a pattern. Trace this container on heavy brown paper. Trace over pencil mark with a medium point sharpie to add detail and edging. Cut out and set aside. Use a glue stick and adhere the CONNECT3 letters to the brown paper cut out. If you are going to do this conference more than once, laminate this shape with letters so that it will be re-useable. Place this on your focal wall. Place a table underneath the letters for curriculum and handouts. Additional drink take out boxes, travel cups, coffee house menus, flavored coffees, coffee cups will add interest and contrast to your display table and overall look of the room.

Display the following resources:

Connect 3

Sunday School Curriculum for each of the three age groups
(including Spanish Speaking pieces)

Bible Teaching for Babies Leader Pack

Bible Teaching for 1s & 2s Leader Guide

Bible Teaching for 1s & 2s Leader Pack

Music and More Enhanced CD for Babies. 1s & 2s

Early Bible Steps



Bible Teaching for 3s – Pre-K Leader Guide

Bible Teaching for 3s – Pre-K Leader Pack

Bible & Me Learner Guide

Music & More Enhanced CD for 3s – Pre-K

Bible Teaching for Kindergarten Leader Guide

Bible Teaching for Kindergarten Leader Pack

Kindergarten Connection

Music & More Enhanced CD for Kindergarten



Set up chairs in three groups (semi circles if possible, or what works best for the room you are in. Label one group "Babies – Two's", the second group "Threes – Pre-K and the third group, "Kindergarten." Place a tear sheet with this question written on it "When you hear the word class, what comes to mind?" next to each of the groups.

PREPARE

Read Connect 3: the power of one Sunday School class

For Procedure Step 1: Make 3 signs out of cardstock to label the three groups.

Label one group "Babies – Twos", the second group "Threes – Pre-K and the third group, "Kindergarten." Place a tear sheet by each group with a marker for response to question. Write this phrase on each of the tear sheets, " **What comes to mind when you hear the word class?**"

For Procedure Step 2: No preparation needed.

For Procedure Step 3: Give out Handout #1 Unit Overview and Leader Guides for the age group

For Procedure Step 4: Give out Menu Board 2-A, B, C. Locate information on age grouping, child/teacher ratios, room arrangements, welcoming ideas, planning, preparation, prayer, organization, from each age group's Music & More Enhanced CD or leader guide. Duplicate the answer sheet, MB2-D

For Procedure Step 5: Prepare rectangle shapes with white cardstock. Print the following text on the shapes: Home visits, Post Cards, Telephone Calls, Birthday recognition, Attend events the preschooler is involved in, and Birth of a new baby.

For Procedure Step 6: Provide each group a tear sheet and a marker for writing in their responses.

For Procedure Step 7: No Preparation needed.

For Procedure Step 8: Prepare enough Handout #3 for each one in their group.

For Procedure Step 9: No preparation needed.

For Procedure Step 10: Prepare a Menu Board Tag for each conferee using Handout #4.

Gather

Tear Sheets (for reporting group work)

Coffee shop theme related items

Fast food -take out boxes to hold handouts and or tear sheets

Scissors

Water colors markers

Masking tape

Pencils or pens

CD player and music CDs to play as conferees arrive.

PROCEDURES

I. Introduction

(10 minutes)

Step 1: Welcome

Welcome each conferee as they enter the room. Direct them to find the age group they teach in. Encourage them write a response to the question on the tear sheet located near their group. When it appears that everyone has had a chance to respond, read the question that appears at the top of the tear sheet, "**What comes to mind when you hear the word class?**" Let a member of the group share the responses written. State that it really doesn't matter what name the group goes by, the important thing is that Bible teaching takes place.

Step 2: Introduction

Bible teaching is the foundation of the Sunday School movement. Remember the first Sunday Schools were begun for the purpose of helping poor children learn to read and write. Their textbook was the Bible. The children not only had a life changing experience by learning to read and write, they were able to experience the *life-changing message* through the Bible.

Over the years the Sunday School movement has been tweaked to meet the needs of people. Yet the primary purpose of Sunday School has remained the same – helping boys, girls, men and women connect with God through His Word.

Share that *Connect3 the power of one Sunday School class*, by David Francis is the fourth and final book in the 3D Sunday School series. David Francis shares how each Sunday School class can become intentional in connecting with people on three levels. The three levels are Class, Community, and Commission. After reading this book you should be able to determine at what level your class is functioning in. You will also discover ideas for operating at a higher level. You will also be able to decide whether you want to move to a higher level or stay at the level you are. Remember each level has value that can't be achieved on any other level.

II. Class: Connecting with God's Word

(40 minutes)

Step 3: Class Menu Board

(15 minutes)

Remember your first visit to a coffee shop? As you stood in line and listened to others order did it seem like they were talking in a language all unto their own? "I'd like a sugar free caramel machaisti vente, or make mine a low cal white mocha latte with a shot of espresso." Did it seem like everyone around you knew the "lingo" except you? Just imagine someone coming to your Sunday School class for the first time. Would they understand the "lingo" you speak. Would they feel comfortable coming back another time? Sunday School classes are designed to be open groups. Open groups encourage people to join in at any point and feel comfortable. Preschool Sunday School curriculum is designed with a unit overview that connects each session of the month. Please turn to the Unit Overview page in your age group leader guide. At a glance you can see how each session is individual and yet common ingredients – Bible Truth and Concept Area- is present in each session.

Distribute handout #1, Class-Menu Board. Tell attendees that they will have 15 minutes to look over the unit of study for the current month. Choose week one to focus on as they fill in the information asked for in the handout. Spend time in your group discussing how this translates for this age group. As each group shares be sure to remind them how each session stands alone, but is connected to the other sessions through the Bible Truth and Concept Area.



Step 4: Order up - a class with a "latte" love

(20 minutes)

What makes up your favorite coffee drink? Maybe you prefer decaf, or maybe you enjoy the shot of caramel or a dusting of cinnamon. A preschool class with a "latte" love would include some basic ingredients to make it a favorite for the preschooler and her parents. Invite each group to choose a menu board with ingredient listings. Follow the instructions on your Menu Board for discovering the key ingredients for a class with a "latte" love. You will find ingredients/resources on the table.

Sum up the importance of each of these important basics for a class with a "latte" love.

Committed Caring Teachers

Age appropriate space, equipment and resources

Prepared

Prayer

III. COMMUNITY: Connecting with One Another (30 minutes)

Step 5: Extra Flavors/Add Ins (20 minutes)

Teachers of preschoolers are teachers 24/7. No matter where we are spotted our children view us as "teacher"! This doesn't happen overnight, it develops over a period of time. Through the class experience that takes place and the "extra add-ins" that is part of the Menu Board. Check under your chair for an "extra flavor/add-in". You can read this "extra" card or pass it a friend next to you to read. As the cards are read allow for discussion.

Step 6: Brewing Care Groups (10 minutes)

Care groups can take place in preschool. Teachers become the care group leaders by grouping the preschoolers for ministry. Let's say that your class has 15 preschoolers enrolled with two teachers and one director. The class names are grouped with each leader having five preschoolers of which to minister. Any prospects would be grouped evenly with the enrollment. Let's get to "to brewing" and come up with some opportunities for ministering within the care group. Allow groups about 5 minutes to write ideas on the tear sheet provided. Let each group report their ideas and summarize the many ideas that resulting from brewing. Now were "perking"!



IV. COMMISSION: Connecting to the World (40 minutes)


Step 7: "Commission" (10 minutes)

You may be wondering how COMMISSION-Connecting to the World relates to us who teach in Preschool Ministry. Think about who you have enrolled in Sunday School as well as prospect names. What do you know about the parent, grandparent,

caring adult in this preschoolers' life? Are they regular in their attendance? Have you met them? What needs do they have? (Allow time for them to get a sense of who they minister to.) Your answers to these questions can lead you to create a "Menu Board" that will provide for mission opportunities to take place.

Step 8: "Menu Board – Today's flavor MISSIONAL" (20 minutes)

Ask each conferee to look over Handout #3 COMMISSION- Connecting to the World. With their specific age group in mind, brainstorm ways they can be intentionally missional in their approach to reaching preschool families who do not attend church. Please be prepared to share one specific approach and the steps that will be necessary to be missional. Invite a group that has not spoken first to begin sharing their approach. Encourage the groups to write down these ideas for use in their class/church.



Step 9: Everything on the Menu looks good, so what do I order up?
(10 minutes)

There are more opportunities for missional work than I can do within my class. How can I order more than just one? This is where you will need to realize that even when everything on the menu board looks tasty – it's just not possible to order everything at once and get the most out of it. Pray and seek God's guidance and the wisdom of other teachers in your class as to what to choose first. It may be that you are reminded of preschoolers in your class who are being raised by grandparents. There may be a group of preschoolers in other preschool classes who are also being raised by grandparents. (Here is where you can get more help by working together as a Preschool Team!) This may lead to offering a workshop/seminar that focuses on the needs of grandparents who are parenting grandchildren. To know their specific needs, prepare a survey that asks some basic questions that will focus in on concerns or needs they face. Some sample questions could include:

What is the toughest part of parenting your grandchild?

Is this a short term or long term commitment for you and your grandchild?

What would help you the most as you seek to be both parent and grandparent?

Please share any additional needs or concerns.

The answers to these questions can shed light on other ministry opportunities to follow up on later. From the information gathered from the survey, enlist the help of trained counselors to design a workshop/seminar to address the needs. Organizations (you may want to mention an organization from your region/local area) would be helpful in securing qualified presenters for this topic as well as others relating to families. For further missional opportunity, make it available to the people who live in your town. A great education minister once told me the best way to reach the heart of a family for Christ, is to reach out to them during their time of need.

V: Closing

(5 minutes)

Give each conferee a "Menu Board Tag". Ask the conferees to think back to the preschoolers that they minister to through Sunday School. What are some of their needs? What are some of their families needs? Now think about what we have covered today. On the Menu Board Tag, write out one idea that will help you in being intentional in reaching out to this preschooler and his family. Close with prayer asking for wisdom in ministry with preschoolers at the class level, for opportunities to create the feeling of community in our ministry with preschoolers and their families, and for the wisdom and discernment to take it to the next level and be intentionally missional to better meet the needs of preschoolers and their families at their point of need. May we be the "cup" you use to bring the life changing message of Your Word to boys and girls at their level of understanding? In the sweet name of Jesus, amen.

