

PRESCHOOL IDEAS

1. The attention span for one who does not read yet is generally very short, so the teacher will need to prepare seven to ten different simple activities for the hour.

2. NEW BIBLE STORY:

- Start by telling a new story (e.g., one from the Lesson). This is an activity which will probably require the most attention from the student.
- Go through the story with the Bible open on your lap. Make it come alive by relating it to what the children already know. Tell it and read it aloud together.
- Add the story to the chart of stories that they already know.
- Next week refer to this story and have them tell it back to you.
- Try to relate the story to their lives.
- Tell parents what you have covered in class so they can reinforce it during the week.

3. **FIRST LESSON:** a Beatitude, a Commandment, the Lord's Prayer, etc.

- Add what you are working on to the chart on the wall.
- Talk about how to use it this week.
- Use it as the bell ringer for this week.
- Assign it to parents to use in their "teachable moments."
- Have the parents write a note to you when they find an opportunity to apply it so you can acknowledge that action in Sunday School, either verbally or on a chart.

4. PLAY THE CASTLE GAME:

- Read about "Stand[ing] porter" (392:24)
- Read the Sentinel article entitled "Guarding the Castle Gate"
- Prepare a cut-out castle door made of construction paper.
- Have good thoughts and bad thoughts written out on slips of paper to let in the castle door or to keep out: learn how to be a better porter.

5. FLASH CARDS

- Use flash cards to learn to read the seven synonyms.
- Start a chart for each one and list the qualities. e.g., Love: compassion, kindness, gentleness, etc.
- Underneath the synonyms and their attributes, list how to use these qualities.

6. PLAY THE SEED GAME:

- Have the children cup their hands out in front of them. Pretend to plant a seed in each child's hands.
- Give one child a good thought and one a weed seed and go around the circle. Talk about what will grow. For instance, if they plant a rose, what will grow? If they plant a weed, what will grow?
- What happens if they plant a hateful thought? A loving thought?

7. SENTINEL ARTICLES:

Collect the articles written for children in the *Sentinel* and use them to create a lesson or a game to teach a concept or story.

8. PRESCHOOL CONCEPTS:

Christian Science concepts from which preschool children can learn:

- opposites
- shepherds
- fisherman
- angel thoughts
- transparency
- spectrum: image
- parables (e.g., the good Samaritan)
- light vs. darkness
- mixed thinking (i.e., good and bad)
- sunny and cloudy thinking

9. TREASURE CHEST:

Make paper cut-outs in the shape of jewels; put a Beatitude on each jewel. When they have learned all eight, give the students a treasure chest to take home with them.

10. TEACHING BY SYMBOLS:

Bring a tote bag each week. Put a special item in it that can be given to children at the end of the hour (a bud or a fully bloomed flower; a seashell; a handful of sand which will enable you to talk about the bit of sand that creates a pearl; a tiny prism; a menorah cut out of paper, etc.).

Use concrete examples to teach spiritual concepts:

- Menorah with seven branches to talk about light and the seven synonyms from Zech. 4:10
- Two flowers: one with a bud and one fully bloomed: talk about the concept of unfoldment and how everything needed is already within the bud