



Date: _____

Series: God Teaches Me His Way
Summer Year 2, Lesson 14

Small But Wise Creatures

Bible Event: Proverbs 30:24-28, Matthew 18:2-5

Take Home Point: *GOD TEACHES ME – *to do big things for him.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus said, “Unless you become like a little child, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:2)

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God has high expectations for all of us. Even if we're small, God wants us to do big things for him! Even in the Bible, little children had big jobs. When we experience Jesus' love, we can accomplish anything he wants us to do. Kids will take home the point: ***GOD TEACHES ME – *to do big things for him.***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God's word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Traveler: There is a true Bible event that tells us about how small bugs and animals can be smart and do big things. Here's what it says.

First, the story talks about ants. (Show plastic ants.) **Ants are small and weak, but do you know what they do that makes them very smart? They work all summer to save up and store food for the winter.** (Show plastic food.) **They know it will be too cold for them to go out and find food then.**

A beaver (actually a rock badger) (show a stuffed animal beaver) **is an animal that isn't very big, but it knows how to do something very smart. A beaver knows how to build its own house on the edge of the water.** (Show a toy house or a picture of a beaver dam.) **A beaver builds a very safe, strong house to live in.**

Grasshoppers (show a plastic grasshopper) **are small bugs that have no leader to tell them what to do, but they work very well together. They travel together and work together like an army.**

Lizards (show a fake lizard) are small animals that can't move very fast. They are smart, though. They are sneaky enough to live in kings' castles where they can stay safe and warm.

Each of these animals is small and not very strong. But they are smart in a special way. They all know a certain trick that helps them to lead good, smart lives.

You're small, too. Do you know what you can do that is very, very special? (Show a picture of Jesus with a group of children.) Little kids, just like you, can be very good at loving Jesus. Little children are good at being humble. Being humble means that you know you need God to love you and you are willing to love him back. Jesus even said in the Bible, "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Even though you are small, you can be very wise. You can love Jesus with all of your heart. That's a very big, very important job. Remember: ***GOD TEACHES ME – to do big things for him.**



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Grasshopper cookies

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: Give the children slices of apples and talk about the 10,000 plus different nutrients in an apple. An apple is small but is BIG in nutrition! How great is God?

Drama Zone: Have children act out ways they can share God's love with others. Examples are hugging, sharing toys, and praying.

Puppet Zone: Provide animal puppets. Have children act out each animal's special talent.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of "Small But Wise Creatures" from today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #138, "Jesus Blesses the Children," from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

Craft Zone: Have 8½ x 11-inch sheets of paper with the following saying copied in large bold print in the middle of the page: "Ants are small, but do big jobs; I'm small too, and I work for God." Provide red paint for children to make thumbprint ants around the saying. Use black markers to draw in the legs and eyes.

Play Zone: Provide stuffed animals to play with.

Quiet Reading Zone: Set out a book of Bible stories.

Music Zone: "Thank You, Lord, for Making Me" by Vince Barlow from the CD titled *Dance, Shout, Sing*.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Judy is very pleased that she knows about today's Bible story. She knows that little kids just like her can do very important jobs. The most important job is knowing and loving Jesus. That makes Judy very excited. She does love Jesus and she's going to keep loving him!

The large group presenter asks Judy and the kids if they know of any other little kids who have done big jobs. Can they remember any Bible stories where little kids were important?

The large group presenter briefly summarizes these little kids from the Bible:

- The little boy who shared his lunch with 5,000
- Little David who beat big Goliath,
- Small Samuel who heard the Lord's voice,
- The little servant girl who sent Naaman to be healed,

Remember that there are lots of things that little kids can do well, but the most important one is loving Jesus and sharing that love with others. Remember: ***GOD TEACHES ME – to do big things for him.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead, and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- plastic ants (or a picture)
- fake or real food
- stuffed animal beaver (or a picture)
- toy house or picture of a beaver dam
- fake grasshopper (or a picture)
- fake lizard
- picture of Jesus with children

Action Zones:

Snack:

- grasshopper cookies or apples

Craft:

- white paper with saying "Ants are small, but do big jobs; I'm small too, and I work for God" copied in the center
- newspaper to cover tables
- paper towels for cleanup
- black markers
- red paint

Play:

- stuffed animals

Quiet Reading:

- Bible story books
- basket of books

Music:

- song, "Thank You, Lord, for Making Me", by Vince Barlow from the CD titled Dance Shout, Sing (Willow Creek Association, 1998)

Puppet:

- various animal puppets

Felt:

- use felt board Bible characters to act out the story of "Small But Wise Creatures." One resource is *Betty Lukens through the Bible in Felt*, Lesson #138.

Coloring:

- coloring page
- markers and crayons

Closing Worship:

- Judy, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books

**Ants are small,
but do big jobs;
I'm small, too,
and I work for God.**