

LIVING
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

Bible

STARTERS

Beginners • Age 4-6 • Teacher Guide

January • February • March • April • 2024



Then go quickly and tell His disciples: 'He has risen from the dead...' – Matthew 28:7a (NIV)

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Unit (Monthly) Preparation Checklist

For the teacher, preparation is key to an effective teaching-learning session. Before each Unit begins, complete each item on the checklist. Insert a check mark or the date in the appropriate column after you have completed the preparation.

1. Spend time praying for the children, other teachers and yourself.

January	February	March	April
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2. Meet with the other teachers of the Beginners before the first Sunday of the month to evaluate the lessons taught during the past month, and to plan for the upcoming month.

January	February	March	April
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3. Study the *Unit Overview* to get a summary of the month's lessons and to grasp the chronological flow and purpose of the Unit.

January	February	March	April
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4. Pay keen attention to the Unit *Central Truth, Teaching Aim and Beginner Needs*, which the lessons can meet.

January	February	March	April
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5. Seek the Lord's leading to choose the appropriate activities you will use to reinforce the lesson. Pray for guidance to use the activities to enhance the lesson. List the activities.

January	February	March	April
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6. Learn the songs suggested. Use the *CariSing* CDs and songbook. List the songs.

January	February	March	April
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7. If you have students under four years old, study the tips on the page titled *For Younger Beginners*.

January	February	March	April
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Lesson (Weekly) Preparation Checklist

Follow these steps each week in order to be ready to teach the Bible Starters effectively. The *Get Ready to Teach* section will point you to this page each week as you prepare.

1. Study the Scripture, Bible Background, Bible story and Bible Thought.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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2. Prepare the story so that you will be able to tell it well. You should not read it to the children.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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3. Colour the *Teaching Picture* and prepare it for display.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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4. Write the Bible Thought clearly on a strip of paper. Display it with the *Teaching Picture*.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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5. Learn the songs suggested. Use the *CariSing* CDs and songbook.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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6. Arrive early. Gather all the materials to be used for the activities you choose. Prepare the Activity Areas before class begins.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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7. Call or visit the children who were absent last week.

January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
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Unit Overview

January: I Can Help Others

Unit Description:

UNIT THEME: OTHERS

The January lessons seek to make **Beginners** aware that they are important to God. They will learn that God is pleased with them when they do acts of kindness such as forgive, pray, share and help others.

Unit Central Truth:

Beginners will learn that they please God when they show kindness to others.

Unit Teaching Aim:

Beginners will become aware that they are important to God and that they please Him when they help others.

Unit Beginner Needs:

- ✂ to know they can do many things to help other
- ✂ to be happy about what they can do
- ✂ to sense that God is pleased when they help others

Lesson Title: I Can Help

Jan. 7
2024

Scripture: 1 Samuel 17:12-22

Bible Thought: Help each other.

Based on Galatians 5:13

Lesson Title: I Can Forgive

Jan. 14
2024

Scripture: 1 Samuel 24

Bible Thought: Forgive persons who are unkind to you.

Based on Matthew 5:44

Lesson Title: I Can Pray for Others

Jan. 21
2024

Scripture: Nehemiah 1–2:8

Bible Thought: Pray for each other.

Based on James 5:16

Lesson Title: I Can Share

Jan. 28
2024

Scripture: John 6:5-13

Bible Thought: Be ready to share.

Based on 1 Timothy 6:18

I CAN HELP OTHERS—JANUARY 2024



SESSION 1: Provide a large picture of a child (or children) helping parents to do a chore in the house. Attach the picture to a place where the babies can see it easily. Point to each person in the picture. Call each by name (Mommy, Daddy, Sister, Brother). Say: These family members are helping each other to do things around the house.

SESSION 2: Spread a clean blanket on the floor. Place the babies on it. Sing softly “Forgive Each Other”, on page 71 in *CariSing*. Rock Anna in your arms while you sing.

SESSION 3: Help the babies to clasp their hands, if possible. Gather the babies close to you with the help of your assistants. Say a short prayer for the babies. In your prayer, ask God to help the babies to grow in Him and to love Him.

SESSION 4: Place child-safe toys on a blanket and in the reach of the babies. Ensure that the toys have been carefully disinfected and dried properly before class time. Play with the babies in small groups with the toys. Mimic the ‘sharing action’ by passing a toy back and forth between two babies. Say: We can share our toys with others. Jesus is happy when we share what we have.



SESSION 1: *PUZZLE*—Use the activity on page 9 to help the children to learn and understand the **BIBLE THOUGHT**. Use this activity to teach them that when they help someone, they are doing the right thing.

SESSION 2: *ART*—Provide strips of calico cloth measuring 7-by-7 inches, puff paint and paint or permanent markers. Give each child a piece of cloth and have them use paint or marker to write the word, **FORGIVE**, on it. Let them decorate it freely. Help the children to understand that it is good when they forgive others who are unkind to them.

SESSION 3: *NATURE*—Let the children draw pictures of themselves praying outdoors. Help them to understand that they can pray to God for others. Tell them that they can pray to God outdoors.

SESSION 4: *BOOK*—Provide two sheets of paper for each child. Instruct the children to fold their paper in half. Encourage them to write and draw in their booklets ways in which they can share with others. Draw a smiley face on their booklet and praise them for their effort. Do not compare one child’s work with another.

Unit Title: I CAN HELP OTHERS

Lesson Title: I CAN HELP

Scripture:

1 SAMUEL 17:12-22

Bible Thought: Help each other.

Based on Galatians 5:13

Central Truth: Little children can help others in many different ways.

Aim:

Beginners will identify ways in which they can help at home.



BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

The Philistines had attacked the Israelites twice and were, once again, preparing to wage war against them. The Israelite army, led by King Saul, was neither as large nor as capable as the Philistinian army. This fact made the soldiers doubtful of their ability to overcome a Philistine attack, particularly since the formidable giant, Goliath, was on the side of their opponents.

Eliab, Abinadab and Shammah, Jesse's three oldest sons, were fighting in Saul's army. Jesse's concern for their well-being was demonstrated by his preparation of a bushel (35 litres) of food to sustain them during the war. He not only considered the welfare of his children, but also that of their commander for whom he also prepared food (v. 18a). Jesse, being well advanced in age, instructed his youngest son, David, to take the food to them.

David, a young boy, was responsible for shepherding his father's flock of sheep. David knew the journey was dangerous but he was confident that God, who kept him, would protect and keep him safe. Upon delivering the food, David got a chance to embrace and to talk to his brothers.

David's willingness to carry out his father's instructions in the midst of obvious danger opened the way for him to become a hero when he defeated the champion of the Philistinian army—the mighty giant, Goliath of Gath. The passage mainly focuses on the war; but it is clear that through David's willingness to help his brothers, he was able to make a great contribution to the welfare of all Israelites.

REFLECTION

David's love for his family was evident in his willingness to help his brothers. How can you help your **Beginners** to understand that they can be of help to their family members in many ways?



GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
 - † understand that children are important to their families
 - † identify things that they can do at home
 - † understand that God is pleased when they help at home
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 2.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “I Can Help”.
- 4) Prepare to teach a song about helping.
- 5) Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on stiff paper.
- 6) **Block Activity Area:** On strips of paper, write household chores that the children can do. Place them in a bag.
- 7) **Book Activity Area:** Make a booklet with pictures of some ways in which the children can help at home pasted on each sheet. Draw a line underneath each picture, on which the children will write what they see in the picture. Provide a pencil for each **Beginner**.
- 8) **Homeliving Activity Area:** On a table, place a broom, a rag, washing soap, a mop and other items used to clean a house.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

As the children enter, greet each of them—for example: Happy New Year, Antoinette. Mark their names and collect the offering.

BLOCK ACTIVITY AREA

▶ Play the ‘Mr Postman’ game. Ask for a volunteer to be the postman. Encourage him or her to walk to another child and say: *Timothy, I have a letter for you.* Allow Timothy to take a strip of paper from the bag and do what the paper says. Encourage him by clapping. After Timothy completes his action, have him play the postman. Allow as many children as time allows to have a turn.

▶ Say: *God loves when we help other people to do things.*

BOOK ACTIVITY AREA

▶ Welcome the children as they enter the area.

▶ Give each child a booklet and a pencil. Instruct the children to look at the pictures and to write what they see. Help those who cannot write well.

▶ Say: *God gave us hands to help to sweep the yard and to make our bed. God wants us to help our family members to keep our home clean.*

HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Greet the children as they come to the area.
- ▶ Point to each item on the table and ask the children what they would use that item to do in their home.
- ▶ Say: David helped his family by taking food to his brothers. How can you help your family with these items?

Clean-up Time: Guide the children as they tidy the class area. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for the story and closing exercise.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

† Display the *Teaching Picture* and **BIBLE THOUGHT** at the children's eye level.

† Teach the song about helping.

† Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT** and, then, encourage the children to say the **THOUGHT** on their own. Praise them for their effort.

† Allow the children to sit comfortably. Tell the children the following story in an interesting way. It is better not to read the story from the guide.

I CAN SHARE

Jesse had eight sons. David was the youngest. David liked to help others. He helped his father, Jesse, at home by taking care of the sheep. He also helped his friend, King Saul. He would play music for him.

Three of Jesse's sons were soldiers in King Saul's army. They had to fight a lot of battles. Jesse loved his sons very much. He was very worried about them. He wanted to know if they were safe.

Jesse called David and said, "I want you to visit your brothers. Take some food for them. Take food for their leader, too. See if they are safe."

David got up early the next morning. He took care of his father's sheep. David left the sheep with a shepherd. He then filled a bag with roasted corn and bread for his brothers. He also filled another bag with cheese for the leader of the army. David travelled to the camp as fast as he could.

When David arrived at the camp, he gave the food to their leader. When David saw his brothers, he ran and greeted them. David's brothers were safe.

David knew that he was helping his family and his friends. He felt very happy that he could help them.

Closing Time

Discuss the *Teaching Picture*.

Ask questions about the story.

Lead the children to pray, giving thanks for their family members. Use your prayer to help them to know that they are not too small to help others.

Thank the children for coming. Encourage them to bring a friend next week.

Unit Title: I CAN HELP OTHERS

Lesson Title: I CAN FORGIVE

Scripture:
1 SAMUEL 24

Bible Thought: Forgive persons who are unkind to you. *Based on Matthew 5:44*

Central Truth: God wants us to forgive people who have wronged us.

Aim: **Beginners** will share incidents for which they must forgive others.



BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

After David's success against the Philistinian army, his popularity increased greatly. King Saul became very jealous of David. He believed that David's renewed popularity was a threat to his kingship. Consequently, Saul sought to eliminate the threat by having David killed. He sent David to lead the troops to attack the Philistines, hoping that David would die in battle. God, however, continued to be with David and gave him success in every battle. As a result, the Israelites' love for David increased.

Realizing that his previous attempts had failed, Saul, having been told where David was, pursued him with three thousand of his best men. Still, Saul was unable to kill David. Instead, God led Saul into David's hands. Although David's men urged him to take his revenge against Saul, he refused to do so. Instead, David chose to forgive all that Saul had done to him.

Upon seeing evidence of how easily David could have killed him, Saul wept, knowing that his life had been spared. He saw that David was more righteous than he was. Saul realised how wrong he was to have wanted to kill David (vv. 10-17).

David could have killed Saul and put an end to his living as a refugee; yet, he maintained high moral standards and relied on God, the righteous Judge, to bring justice. By acknowledging that God is the only true Judge and sparing Saul's life, David's action was not weak, but morally courageous.

REFLECTION

The ability to give and receive forgiveness is an important part of our Christian life. Which basic examples can you use to help your **Beginners** to understand the concept of *forgiveness*?



GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
 - † be willing to forgive others
 - † know that God forgives them
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 2.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “David Forgives Saul”.
- 4) Prepare a song about forgiving each other,
- 5) **Art Activity Area:** Provide paper plates, pencils, markers, yarn and crayons and a hole punch. The children will make wall hangings.
- 6) **Music Activity Area:** Provide empty tins with plastic covers (for example: peanut and Milo tins), small plastic bottles, small stones and smooth 6-inch sticks. Wrap one end of each stick with masking tape to make drum sticks. Be prepared to teach the song, “I Like You”.
- 7) **Puzzle Activity Area:** Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** in large letters on stiff paper. Cut the paper into four irregular shapes.



TEACH THE LESSON



LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS (About 30 minutes)

Be in your **Activity Area** early. Greet the **Beginners** by name. Tell them that you are happy to have them in Sunday School.

ART ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Let the children choose a place to work.
- ▶ Give each child a paper plate, a pencil, crayons and markers. Encourage them to draw a happy face on their plates. Allow them to decorate freely.
- ▶ Punch two holes in the top of each plate. Tie a 10-inch piece of yarn through the holes to form a loop so that the plate can hang.
- ▶ Say: *God is pleased when we forgive others. We should be happy when we forgive others.*

MUSIC ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Give some of the children bottles in which to put small stones to make shakers. Give the other children tins and sticks for drumming. Allow them to decorate their instrument as they wish.
- ▶ Teach the song, “I Like You”. Allow the **Beginners** to beat the drum and shake the shakers to the beat. Say: *When you forgive someone, you are doing what is right. God is pleased when we forgive others.*

PUZZLE ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Place the four puzzle pieces on a flat surface for the children to form the **BIBLE THOUGHT**. Give each child a turn to put the pieces together.
- ▶ As they work, encourage the **Beginners** to repeat the **BIBLE THOUGHT**. Choose four children to stand and hold a puzzle piece each, and in the correct order. Have the children read the **BIBLE THOUGHT** aloud several times.

Clean-up Time: Let the children tidy their **Area**. Praise them for their work. Bring them together for worship time by singing “I Like You”.

WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

- † Display the *Teaching Picture* and **BIBLE THOUGHT** at the children’s eye level.
- † Teach a song about forgiving each other.
- † Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT**.
- † As you introduce the lesson, ask questions like: Has anyone ever tried to hurt you? What did you do? After the children respond, say: Today’s story is about David and King Saul. The story will show us that David was kind to King Saul, even though Saul wanted to do something bad to him.

I CAN FORGIVE

The people of Israel loved David very much. They thought that he was a great fighter. They knew that he was blessed by God. That made King Saul very jealous of David. Saul was so jealous of David that he wanted to hurt him.

One day, David and his men went to hide in a cave. They went far into the cave to hide from Saul. Saul went into the cave, too. He wanted to rest. Soon, Saul fell asleep. He did not know that David and his men were in the cave.

David and his men saw Saul. David’s men said to him, “Let’s kill him!” But David said, “No! It would be wrong to kill him. He is God’s servant.”

David quietly walked over to Saul. He cut off a piece of Saul’s robe. Then, he hurried outside the cave and called out to King Saul.

“King Saul, Look!” David shouted. David showed Saul the piece of his robe. “I could have killed you, but I did not. I do not hate you. Why do you want to kill me?”

Saul looked at his robe. Saul saw that it was cut. He felt ashamed and he cried. Saul said, “David, you showed me love when I was unkind to you. You forgave me. You are a better man than I am. The Lord will bless you greatly.”

Closing Time

Discuss the *Teaching Picture*.

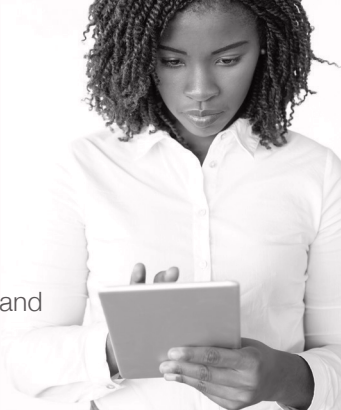
Lead the children to pray, thanking God that they can forgive others.

Remind them to bring a friend to Sunday School next week.

Dismiss them in an orderly manner.

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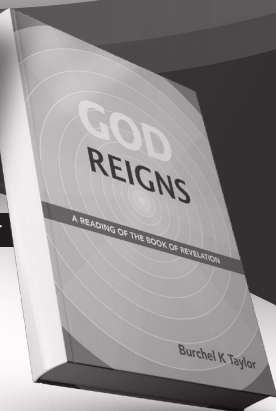
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