

LIVING  
THE WORD

CARIBBEAN BIBLE LESSONS

Bible

# StartERS

Beginners • Age Birth to 6 • Teacher Guide

January • February • March • April • 2023



**Beginner • Age Birth to 6 • Teacher Guide****UNIT TITLE: WORKING TOGETHER AT CHURCH**

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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.

<b>1. Spend time praying for the children, other teachers and yourself.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>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.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>3. Study the <i>Unit Overview</i> to get a summary of the month's lessons and to grasp the chronological flow and purpose of the Unit.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>4. Pay keen attention to the <i>Unit Central Truth, Teaching Aim and Beginner Needs</i>, which the lessons can meet.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>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.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>6. Learn the songs suggested. Use the <i>CariSing</i> CDs and songbook. List the songs.</b>			
January	February	March	April
<b>7. If you have students under four years old, study the tips on the page titled <i>For Younger Beginners</i>.</b>			
January	February	March	April

## 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.

<b>1. Study the Scripture, Bible Background, Bible story and Bible Thought.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>2. Prepare the story so that you will be able to tell it well. You should not read it to the children.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>3. Colour the <i>Teaching Picture</i> and prepare it for display.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>4. Write the Bible Thought clearly on a strip of paper. Display it with the <i>Teaching Picture</i>.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>5. Learn the songs suggested. Use the <i>CariSing</i> CDs and songbook.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>6. Arrive early. Gather all the materials to be used for the activities you choose. Prepare the Activity Areas before class begins.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□
<b>7. Call or visit the children who were absent last week.</b>			
January □□□□	February □□□□	March □□□□	April □□□□

# Unit Overview

## January: Working Together at Church

### Unit Description:

**UNIT THEME:** CHURCH

The January lessons are designed to help **Beginners** realise that they have abilities that can be utilised to help in church work, especially in taking care of the church building.

### Unit Central Truth:

We please God when we serve and praise Him together.

### Unit Teaching Aim:

**Beginners** will realise that people can serve and praise God together at church.

### Unit Beginner Needs:

- ✗ to know that people should give willingly to the church
- ✗ to know that it is important to keep the church building clean
- ✗ to have opportunities to thank God for their church building

### Lesson Title: Giving Together

Jan. 1  
2023

**Scripture: 1 Chronicles 29:1-10**

**Bible Thought: Give to the LORD with your whole heart.**  
Based on 1 Chronicles 29:9

### Lesson Title: Building Together

Jan. 8  
2023

**Scripture: 1 Kings 5:10-18; 6:1-3, 21-23, 37-38**

**Bible Thought: The people worked very hard.**  
Based on Nehemiah 4:6

### Lesson Title: Serving Together

Jan. 15  
2023

**Scripture: 1 Chronicles 15:16-24**

**Bible Thought: Serve the LORD with gladness.**  
Based on Psalm 100:2

### Lesson Title: Cleaning Together

Jan. 22  
2023

**Scripture: 2 Kings 22:1-6**

**Bible Thought: Give the LORD the best of everything.**  
Based on Numbers 18:29

### Lesson Title: Praising Together

Jan. 29  
2023

**Scripture: 2 Chronicles 5:1-3, 11-14**

**Bible Thought: Praise the LORD at church.**  
Based on Psalm 134:2



**WORKING TOGETHER AT CHURCH—JANUARY 2023**



**SESSION 1:** Bring a toy to class. Encourage the babies to pass the toy around to each other. Say: *When we share, we are doing good. God loves when we share our toys with others. God loves when we give someone else a toy we love a lot.*

**SESSION 2:** Provide clean blocks for the babies to stack and build. Provide a clean blanket or sheet for them to sit. As they build, say the **BIBLE THOUGHT** to them several times.

**SESSION 3:** Tell the Bible story in a simple way, for example: King David wanted all the priests to do a special job for God. The priests were called Levites. Some Levites used different instruments. Other Levites sang. Together, they made beautiful music to God.

**SESSION 4:** Provide soap, water and a small hand towel. Use these to clean the babies' hands. Then, give the babies a small towel and have them mimic cleaning their hands. Say: *When we clean our hands, we are doing a good thing. God loves when we keep His church clean, too.*

**SESSION 5:** Make a shaker for each baby. With the help of your assistant, sing some simple and catchy songs. You can use simple tunes and write your own songs for the babies to learn.



**SESSION 1:** *Art*—Give each child some crayons and a drawing showing persons giving an offering at church. Have them colour the drawing. Say: *One way in which we can give to God is by giving an offering. God loves when we help the church by giving.*

**SESSION 2:** *Block*—Do the **BLOCK ACTIVITY AREA** on page 10 in the *Teacher Guide*. Say: *Many people came together to build God's Temple. A Temple is a big church. God is pleased when we work hard to build His church.*

**Session 3:** *Homeliving*—Provide a small snack like a pack of biscuits and small paper plates. Encourage the children to serve each other the snack. Say: *God is pleased when we serve others. The church helps others by serving those who are in need.*

**Session 4:** *Nature*—Take the children outside. Encourage them to walk around. Ask: *Do you see any litter? If so, please pick it up.* Continue to encourage the children to pick up the litter in the church or the church yard. As they work, say: *One way in which we can help the church is by keeping it clean.* Then, have them wash their hands with soap and water.

**SESSION 5:** *Puzzle*—Get four pictures of people praising God through music. Paste each picture on stiff paper and cut into four irregular shapes. Allow the children to take turns completing the puzzles correctly.

**Unit Title:** WORKING TOGETHER AT CHURCH

**Lesson Title:** GIVING TOGETHER

**Scripture:**  
1 CHRONICLES 29:1-10

**Bible Thought:** Give to the LORD with your whole heart. *Based on 1 Chronicles 29:9*

**Central Truth:** We give willingly at church to show our love for God and to help the church.

**Aim:** **Beginners** will understand that they can give money at church to show they love God and want to help the church.



### BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

King David wanted to build a spectacular Temple for the Lord (1 Chronicles 28). God, however, chose David's son, Solomon, who succeeded him as king, to oversee the building of the Temple (1 Chronicles 29).

David, in a demonstration of good stewardship, sought to set the tone for Solomon's succession and overseeing of the project by: (1) encouraging the people to support Solomon despite his youth and inexperience, and (2) providing some of the resources needed, including things from his personal treasury.

David's concern and personal devotion to the project encouraged the leaders and elders of Israel to act in a similar manner. Hence, they accepted David's challenge to 'consecrate themselves' (v. 5) and gave willingly and generously (vv. 6-8) to the task of building the Temple. Some Bible scholars suggest that this giving of their gifts to God represents an act of consecration to Him. The people of Israel responded with great joy on seeing the example of unity and generosity being demonstrated by their leaders (v. 9).

Church leaders should always be mindful of the important role they play in garnering support for God's work from the people of God. By way of their speech and action, they should endeavour to encourage God's people to give willingly and generously, both of their resources and themselves to the church's mission, according to how God has 'prospered' them. In addition, they should encourage the people to support the leadership chosen to coordinate and guide the work of the church.

#### REFLECTION

David demonstrated that our giving to God should not be limited to our finances. We should also give of ourselves and seek to encourage others to do likewise.

Think of ways in which you can encourage **Beginners** to give willingly and cheerfully to the church, including the Sunday School.



## GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
  - ✠ willingly give their offering at church
  - ✠ know some ways in which the church uses the offering they give
  - ✠ realise that they please God when they give cheerfully
- 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 Give”.
- 4) Learn the song, “I’m Giving”, on page 121 in *CariSing*.
- 5) **Block Activity Area:** Provide a blanket, tape and small cardboard boxes, such as toothpaste, bath soap and tea boxes. Wrap each box in brown paper. Write in bold letters, a letter of the alphabet on each box. Write the words ‘GIVE’ and ‘CHURCH’ in large block letters on a strip of paper.
- 6) **Music Activity Area:** Provide empty, clean, plastic bottles, tape and dried peas or small stones. The children will make shakers. Plan to sing, to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”: *God loves when we give at church, give at church, give at church. God loves when we give at church, we should give at church.*
- 7) **Homeliving Activity Area:** Provide newspaper and play dough. (Make play dough by combining 1 cup flour, 1/4 cup salt, 1 tablespoon cooking oil and food colouring. Mix ingredients with enough water to make a soft, but not sticky, dough).



## TEACH THE LESSON



### **LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS** (About 30 minutes)

As **Beginners** arrive, greet each one by name. Welcome the visitors. Record their names in the register and thank them for coming. Lead them to an **Activity Area**.

#### **BLOCK ACTIVITY AREA**

▶ Spread the blanket and have the children sit. Tape the paper with the words to a surface at the children’s eye level. Lay the blocks on the blanket and demonstrate. Teach the words to the children. Have the children stack the letters on top of each other to spell each word correctly, and then say each word aloud.

▶ Say: *God is pleased when we give our offering at church.*

#### **MUSIC ACTIVITY AREA**

▶ Give each child a bottle and some seeds or stones. Have the children place the stones or seeds in the bottles and cover them. Secure the covers with tape.

▶ Teach the song, “God Loves When We Give at Church”. Encourage the children to shake their bottles to the rhythm of the song as they sing.

## HOMELIVING ACTIVITY AREA

- ▶ Spread the newspaper over the area where the **Beginners** will work. Give each child a piece of play dough.
- ▶ Encourage the children to shape the play dough into a coin. Say: When we give money at church it is called an offering. The ushers in the church collect our offering using an offering plate or bag. By giving our offering, we are helping the church to provide for persons who are in need.

**Clean-up Time:** Let **Beginners** assist in cleaning up the **Activity Areas**. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for **Worship Time**.

## 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, "I'm Giving". Have the children shake the shakers they made, from the **Music Activity Area**, to the rhythm of the song as they sing. Encourage the other children to clap or snap their fingers to the beat.
- † Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT**.
- † As you tell the Bible story, maintain eye contact with the children.

### GIVING TOGETHER

David was the king of Israel. The people of Israel loved to worship God. They did not have a church building, so King David decided to build a Temple. A Temple is a big church.

While King David was getting ready to build the big church, God told him that Solomon should build it. Solomon was David's son.

King David obeyed God. He told all the leaders in his country that God wanted Solomon to build the big church. "He is very young and does not know all that he should do; so we must help him," King David told the leaders.

David loved God very much. He wanted God's big church to be very beautiful. He gave Solomon all the things he needed to build the big church. David also asked the leaders to give things to Solomon to build the big church, too.

When the people saw that King David and all the leaders gave things to Solomon to build God's big church, they praised God. David praised God, too. He said, "Praise the LORD who lives forever!"

We, too, should give willingly at church. God is pleased when we give at church.

Closing Time



**Discuss** the *Teaching Picture*.

**Ask** questions about the story, like: David was king of which country? What is a Temple? Whom did God choose to build the big church?

**Pray**, asking God to help the children to give willingly at church.

**Dismiss** the class and let the children leave in an orderly way.

**Unit Title:** WORKING TOGETHER AT CHURCH

**Lesson Title:** BUILDING TOGETHER

**Scripture:** 1 KINGS 5:10-18;  
6:1-3, 21-23, 37-38

**Bible Thought:** The people worked very hard. *Based on Nehemiah 4:6*

**Central Truth:** Many persons work together to construct a church building.

**Aim:** **Beginners** will realise that many persons work hard, using different skills, to construct a church building.



### BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR TEACHERS

The barter system was very popular during times when monetary exchange could not always be made. In 1 Kings 5:10-18, King Solomon needed lumber (cedar and pine) for building the grand Temple that his father, David, had planned. In his God-given wisdom, Solomon contacted King Hiram of Tyre. In exchange for lumber, Solomon would supply wheat and pressed olive oil to King Hiram and his people. Tyre was a mountainous region and the commodities that Solomon was offering were hard to come by there.

The trade was profitable to both kings because needs were being met and skilled tradesmen from both regions were intermingling and learning from one another as they laboured together. Consequently, Tyre and Israel were at peace with each other (v. 12).

1 Kings 6 describes the building and arrangement of the Temple, including the lavish setting of its main hall, inner sanctuary and altar. It took seven years for the grand Temple to be built. The many hours of labour gives us an indication as to the extremely intricate designs that were done on the building where Israel would worship God.

Solomon used the trading opportunity to encourage a harmonious relationship between Israel and Tyre, thereby garnering the needed support. We, too, should be mindful of our limitations as we seek to do God's work. We should endeavour to garner the support needed from those who can help us, even persons with whom we might find it difficult to work, so that God will be glorified through our actions.

#### REFLECTION

How do you respond to persons with whom you have to work in order to accomplish a task, especially the difficult ones? How can you use your knowledge of Solomon's leadership skills to help you develop the appropriate response?



## GET READY TO TEACH



- 1) As you plan the lesson, seek to help **Beginners** to:
  - ✚ be aware that many persons work hard to construct a church building
  - ✚ understand the need to work hard at any task they have
  - ✚ appreciate and take care of their church facilities
- 2) Complete the tasks listed in the **Unit Preparation** and **Lesson Preparation Checklists** on page 2. Visit or call parents of absent students.
- 3) Collect all the materials needed for the lesson. Colour the *Teaching Picture*, “Building Together”.
- 4) Write the **BIBLE THOUGHT** on stiff paper.
- 5) Arrange the teaching-learning space to allow the children to move freely from one **Activity Area** to another. An assistant should be in each **Activity Area** to help the children.
- 6) **Puzzle Activity Area:** Provide a large picture or drawing of a church. Glue the picture to a sheet of stiff paper. Cut the picture into four large puzzle-shaped pieces.
- 7) **Art Activity Area:** Provide sheets of plain paper, pencils and crayons. The children will draw a picture of themselves working together to build a church.
- 8) **Block Activity Area:** Cut from cardboard, outlines of tools which people use to build, such as, hammers, saws, nails and sheets of board. **Beginners** will mime ways in which they can build a church.



## TEACH THE LESSON



### **LEARNER ACTIVITY AREAS** (About 30 minutes)

As **Beginners** arrive, greet each one by name. Welcome the visitors. Record their names in the register and thank them for coming. Lead them to an **Activity Area**.

#### **PUZZLE ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ On a flat surface, lay the pieces of the puzzle. Encourage **Beginners** to work together to place the puzzle pieces together to complete the picture.
- ▶ Say: God wanted King Solomon to build a big church. You worked together to complete the puzzle just like the people worked together to build God's big church. We must be thankful for the people who built God's church.

#### **ART ACTIVITY AREA**

- ▶ Give each child a sheet of paper, a pencil and some crayons. Have them write “Building Together” at the top of the page.
- ▶ Encourage the children to draw a picture of themselves building God's church together. Say: The Israelite people worked together to build God's big church. When we work together, we please God.

### BLOCK ACTIVITY AREA

► Give each child a ‘tool’. Encourage the children to work together to ‘build’ a church. Then, teach the song, “This Is the Way We Build the Church” to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus”:

This is the way we build the church  
Build the church, build the church.  
This is the way we build the church  
Using our tools.

**Clean-up Time:** Lead the **Beginners** to clean up their **Activity Area**. Thank them for helping. Bring them together for **Worship Time**.

### WORSHIP TOGETHER IN THE LARGE GROUP (About 15 minutes)

- † Display the *Teaching Picture* and **BIBLE THOUGHT** at the children’s eye level.
- † Teach the **BIBLE THOUGHT**. Have the children repeat the **BIBLE THOUGHT** until they can say it from memory.
- † Teach the song, “This Is the Way We Build the Church”, used in the **Block Activity Area**.
- † As you tell the Bible story, maintain eye-contact with the children. Use different tones of voice to keep the children’s interest.

### BUILDING TOGETHER

When King David died, his son, Solomon, became the new king of Israel. God wanted Solomon to build a Temple. A Temple is a big church. God wanted His special people, the Israelites, to worship Him in the new church.

God made King Solomon a very wise man. Solomon knew that he could not build the big church by himself. He also knew that he did not have any wood to build the church.

King Hiram had lots of wood in his country. Solomon asked King Hiram to give him wood to build the church. King Hiram sent King Solomon all the wood he needed for the big church. In return, King Solomon gave King Hiram food for his people.

King Solomon chose the best workers in Israel to cut stones to build the big church. King Hiram also sent workers to help Solomon’s men. The men from both countries worked together to build a beautiful church. Everyone was amazed at how beautiful the new church was.

It took seven years to build the new Temple. God was pleased that the people had worked together to build Him a big, beautiful church.

### Closing Time

**Discuss** the *Teaching Picture*.

**Ask** questions about the story, like: What did God want Solomon to do? What is a Temple? Whom did King Solomon ask to give him wood?

**Say** the closing prayer and let the children leave in an orderly manner.



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