

# Coffee Talk

Conversation Starter Sheet for Children's Bible Study Leaders

## What Should Sunday Morning Look Like?

**Refer to your Leader Guide; check the suggested schedule for this week's session.** Are we following this schedule? Why or why not? Do any adjustments need to be made to our present schedule to better meet the needs of the children in our class?

**Tea Time Tip** – Sunday Schools are built during the week, they only meet on Sunday.

**Tea Time Tip** - To fail to plan is a plan to fail. When can we plan together, choose activities and gather supplies so our plan will not fail?

**Tea Time Tip** – Prevention of unwelcomed behavior is a well-planned session!

**Tea Time Tip** – Good curriculum offers resources that are biblically sound, age-appropriate, easy to use and fun. Are we using the best curriculum to meet our needs? Let's research the following and decide:

- *Bible Teaching for Kids* (closely graded or broadly grades options)
- *The Gospel Project for Kids* (available Fall 2012)
- *E-Anytime, Anywhere* (available online, downloadable)
- Other publishers that our church might be using

**Refer to the Leader Guide again for this week's session. Let's evaluate ourselves.**

- Are we reading and meditating on the personal Bible study section of each lesson?
- Are we asking God what He wants to teach us this week from the Bible lesson?
- Are we teaching from the over-flow of what God is teaching us?
- Are we using the activities which the curriculum suggests? Why or why not?
- Are we doing a good job of preparing our lesson plans to incorporate a variety of age-appropriate activities?
- Are we intentionally trying to connect the family to what we are teaching by using the Take Home Pages each week?
- Are there any leadership articles located in this Leader Guide that can help me be a better teacher?
- Are we using the resources in the Leader Pack and on the enhanced CD? What does "enhanced" mean?

**Tea Time Tip** – We never get a second chance to make a first impression.

- What is the first impression our children and parents have when they enter our room?

**Tea Time Tip** – Use the environment to help manage behavior. Let’s evaluate our space.

- Is the room inviting?
- Is it set up for learning?
- Is the room cluttered?
- Is there adequate space in the room for children to move around?
- What is the temperature in the room?
- What does the room smell like?
- What needs to change to offer the best teaching environment for our children?

**Tea Time Tip** - The teacher is the KEY to learning for the child.

- Do we greet each child with a smile and call them by name?
- Do we greet parents when they bring their children to class?
- Do we make a positive comment about the child’s day when parents pick up their child?

**Tea Time Tip** – Provide male role models in each classroom.

- Do we have men in each classroom that kids can look up to as positive role models?

**Tea Time Tip** - Teaching begins when the first child walks through the door.

- Are we always in the room before the first child arrives?
- If so, do we have some type of learning activity ready for early arrivers to use?
- Do we have all our supplies and centers ready before the session begins?

**Tea Time Tip** - Remind teachers that a child with unmet needs will not be ready to learn Bible truths.

- What specific “unmet needs” could our children have?
- How can we take advantage of teachable moments while meeting these needs?

**Ask yourself these questions about GROUP TIME:**

- Is Group Time a valuable teaching time for your children?
- If yes, what is to be included in next week’s Group Time? Who will be leading group time? Do we want to rotate this responsibility monthly?

**Tea Time Tip** - Always tell the Bible story from your open Bible.

- Do we use the Bible during the session, in each learning activity and in group time?
- Do we use a Bible that kids can understand (such as *The Great Adventure Bible* or *Illustrated Bible for Kids*)? If not, can we get one?

**Tea Time Tip** – Use of space at church is always challenging.

- Sharing space: Who shares our room? Do we share supplies? How can we cooperate and coordinate better with the other teachers?
- Evaluating space: Use the environment to help manage behavior. Is the room cluttered? Are there things hanging on every wall? Hanging from the ceiling? How can we reduce the clutter in an effort to reduce stimulation in a child’s behavior?

**Pray together** and ask God to help you with any specific areas mentioned today that need improvement. Ask His guidance on making every Sunday morning look like the best learning experience for each child. Thank God for the awesome opportunity to teach preschoolers.

**Questions for the Pastor:** Do you visit the children's classes in your church often to allow children to develop a relationship with you? Are you encouraging recruiting and training to help children's teachers be the best they can possibly be? Do you value the children's teachers in your church and often tell them so?