



# Coffee Talk

Conversation Starter Sheet for Preschool 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 preschoolers 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** – Curriculum should help kids **hear** God's Word, **know** God's word and **do** God's Word by learning to apply it to their lives. Are we using curriculum that is 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 (use LifeWay/ Kids catalog (free) to overview if samples not available):

1. LifeWay's Bible Studies for Life:Preschool
2. LifeWay's Explore the Bible:Preschool
3. LifeWay's Gospel Project:Preschool
4. LifeWay's E-Anytime, Anywhere (available online, downloadable)
5. Other publishers that our church might already be using.

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

- Am I reading and meditating on the personal Bible study section of each session?
- Am I asking God what He wants to teach me this week from the Bible lesson?
- Am I teaching from the over-flow of what God is teaching me?
- Am I using the Bible Learning Activity Centers suggestions, which is the way preschoolers learn best?
- Am I 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?

- Am I using the resources in the Leader Pack and on the enhanced CD? What does “enhanced” mean?
- Am I encouraging the Extended Teaching Care volunteers to continue teaching during the Worship Service by using the ETC sheets each week?

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

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

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

- Do I greet each preschooler with a smile and call them by name?
- Do I get on their eye level to speak to them?
- Do I greet the parents when they bring their preschooler to class?
- Do I make a positive comment about the preschooler’s day when parents pick up their child?

**Tea Time Tip** - Teaching begins when the first child enters the room.

- Am I always in the room before the first preschooler arrives?
- Do I have all the supplies and centers ready before the session begins?

**Tea Time Tip** - At the center of teaching preschoolers is the Bible.

- Do I use the Bible during the session, in each center, and in large-group time?
- Do I use the *Read To Me Bible For Kids*? If not, how can we get one?

**Tea Time Tip** - Every child should leave with something in their heart and something in their head, but not necessarily something in their hand.

- Do I agree or disagree?

**Tea Time Tip** - A preschooler with unmet needs will not be ready to learn Bible truths.

- What specific unmet needs could our preschoolers have?
- How can I use teachable moments while meeting these needs?

**GROUP TIME:** Should our class include a large-group time experience? Only classes in Threes, Pre-K and Kindergarten include a large-group time. It is a valuable teaching time for older preschoolers. Refer to next week’s lesson in the Leader Guide.

- Is large-group time mentioned?

- If yes, what is to be included in next week's large-group time? Who will be leading the large-group time? Do we want to rotate this responsibility monthly?

**Tea Time Tip** - Policies and procedures are vital to a preschool ministry in every church.

- Do we have any written ones?
- If not, do we need to establish them?
- What should they include?
- If yes, do existing policies need to be revised?

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

- Sharing space: Who shares the room? Do we share supplies? How can we cooperate and coordinate better with the other teachers that use this space?
- Evaluating space: Let's get on our knees at the door to our classroom and look at the room through the eyes of our preschoolers, on their eye level. Let's be honestly objective. What do I see? What needs to change to offer the best teaching environment for our preschoolers?

**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 preschooler. Thank God for the awesome opportunity to teach preschoolers.

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