

Beginner



Beginner

Bible Study Guide

If you have a QR code reader on your smartphone or computer: load the reader, point your camera at this graphic, and visit our site.



A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Beginner Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

Year A, First Quarter

www.gracelink.net

WORLD SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTOR
GENERAL CONFERENCE ADVISER
CONSULTING EDITOR
ART DIRECTION/DESIGN
DESKTOP TECHNICIAN
ILLUSTRATOR
LINE ART ILLUSTRATOR
CIRCULATION

JIM HOWARD
TED N. C. WILSON
ARTUR STELE
REVIEW AND HERALD DESIGN CENTER
BRUCE FENNER
MARY RUMFORD
MARY BAUSMAN
REBECCA HILDE

A Publication of the Sabbath School/Personal Ministries Department
General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®
12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600, U.S.A.

Scripture quotations marked ICB are from the International Children's Bible®, copyright © 1986, 1988, 1999, 2015 by Tommy Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked NIV are from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc®. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Beginner Bible Study Guide (ISSN 1538-4861). Vol. 48, No. 1, First Quarter 2024. Published four times per year, mailed quarterly spring, summer, fall, and winter for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® by Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687, U.S.A. © 2024 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Beginner Sabbath School Bible Study Guide* may be edited, altered, modified, adapted, translated, reproduced, or published by any person or entity without prior written authorization from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. The division offices of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® are authorized to arrange for translation of the *Beginner Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, under specific guidelines. Copyright of such translations and their publication shall remain with the General Conference. "Seventh-day Adventist," "Adventist," and the flame logo are registered trademarks of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® and may not be used without prior authorization from the General Conference, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904-6600, U.S.A. Art copyrighted © 2002 by Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Beginner Sabbath School Bible Study Guide*, Pacific Press® Publishing Association, P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353. Postage paid in Nampa, Idaho, and additional mailing offices. Single copy, US\$17.99 plus postage. One year, United States: US\$37.28; Canada and foreign: US\$46.28. Prices subject to change without notice.

Printed in U.S.A.

The Writers

Audrey Boyle Andersson—Sweden

Jackie Bishop—California, USA

DeeAnn Bragaw—Colorado, USA

Linda Porter Carlyle—Oregon, USA

May-Ellen Colón—Maryland, USA

Eileen Dahl Vermeer—Ontario, Canada

René Alexenko Evans—Tennessee, USA

Martha Feldbush—United States

Adriana Itin Femopase—Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dorothy Fernandez—Collonges-sous-Salève, France

Edwina Neely—Maryland, USA

Rebecca Gibbs O'Ffill—Maryland, USA

Rob Robinson—California, USA

Janet Rieger—Australia

Contents

GRACE: Grace is God's love for us.

1. God Made My World (January) 7

WORSHIP: We praise God for His loving actions.

2. Noah's Big Boat (February). 25

COMMUNITY: Community means loving one another.

3. Sarah's Baby (March) 43

Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months, use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying (the crying usually stops when needs are met)
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lisp His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

A Letter to Parents

Dear Friends,

In each issue of the *Beginner Bible Study Guide* you will find only three lessons—one for each month of the quarter. This gives your child a better opportunity to learn concepts emphasized throughout the month, and offers more repetition. Children at this age learn best through repetition.

The three lessons in this Bible study guide focus on God's love for us, God's love in action, and loving one another. Activities in the Do & Say section at the end of each lesson teach and reinforce these three important concepts.

Now is the time to help your child start to learn about God's Word, the Bible. Show your child the memory verses in your Bible. Then use the motions to help reinforce the text. Be an example. Let him or her see you reading God's Word every day.

As you share these lessons with your child, take time to pray a short prayer, sing a happy song, read with enthusiasm, and have fun with the Do & Say activities as part of your family worship. Involve your young child in worship now, and you will foster a love for Jesus and His Word that will last.

Make the time—take the time—to worship with your child every day. Years from now you'll be glad you did.

Our prayer is that these lessons will bring joy and peace to you and your child. Let us pray for one another as we work together to lead little ones to Jesus.

**With Affection,
The General Conference
Sabbath School Department**