

Kindergarten

Bible Study Guide



Fourth Quarter
B

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

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Year B, Fourth Quarter

WORLD SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORS
GENERAL CONFERENCE ADVISER
CONSULTING EDITOR
DESIGN
DESKTOP TECHNICIAN
ILLUSTRATOR: SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS
ILLUSTRATOR: DO AND SAY
CIRCULATION

JIM HOWARD, DANIEL EBENEZER
TED N. C. WILSON
ARTUR STELE
REVIEW AND HERALD DESIGN CENTER
BRUCE FENNER
DAN SHARP
KINCHI MARC LATRIQUE
REBECCA HILDE

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

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Kindergarten Bible Study Guide (ISSN 1538-487X), Vol. 49, No. 4, Fourth Quarter 2025. Published for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists® by Pacific Press® Publishing Association, 1350 N. Kings Road, Nampa, ID 83687, U.S.A. Text copyrighted © 2025 by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists®. All rights reserved. No part of the *Kindergarten 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 *Kindergarten 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 © 2003 by Review and Herald® Publishing Association.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Kindergarten Bible Study Guide*, Circulation P.O. Box 5353, Nampa, ID 83653-5353. Periodicals postage paid in Nampa, Idaho, and additional mailing offices. Single copy, US\$13.99 plus postage. One year, United States: US\$41.36; Canada and foreign: US\$51.36. Prices subject to change without notice.

Printed in U.S.A.

The Writers

Audrey Boyle Andersson	Sweden	Donna Meador	Washington
Jackie Bishop	California	Vikki Montgomery	Maryland
DeeAnn Bragaw	Colorado	Rebecca Gibbs O'Fill	Maryland
Linda Porter Carlyle	Oregon	Evelyn Omaña	Venezuela
Helga Eiteneir	Germany	Denise Pereyra	California
René Alexenko Evans	Tennessee	Dawn Reynolds	Maryland
Adriana Itin Femopase	Argentina	Janet Rieger	Australia
René Garrigues-Goodwin	Washington	Judi Rogers	Maryland
Feryl Harris	West Virginia	Denise Ropka-Kasischke	California
Eileen Dahl Vermeer	Canada		

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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 Kindergarten Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church we advocate kindergarten for children ages 3-5. However, the development of children varies from child to child. Therefore, a knowledge of each child is important. Generally, the description below is true of children ages 3-5.

Physical

- Start developing large muscle coordination
- Lack a sure sense of balance
- Are extremely active
- Tire easily, but revive soon after resting
- Lack fine muscle coordination
- Are curious and like to explore their environment
- Learn by exploring

Mental

- Are capable of limited listening and understanding without the help of a visual cue, such as seeing the object being discussed
- Have quick memory
- Memorize things they don't understand

Emotional

- Cry easily
- Are capable of verbalizing emotional responses
- Learn to delay gratification of needs without losing equilibrium
- Experience the full spectrum of negative emotions
- Learn ways to express negative emotions

Social/Relational

- Are self-centered—the world revolves around them
- Play alone in the presence of their friends, rather than playing with their friends
- Like to make friends and be with friends

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs mentioned earlier, kindergarten children need:

- Freedom—to choose and to explore within limits
- Power—to have some autonomy in learning situations
- Limits—safe boundaries that are set by parents and teachers
- Fun—learning through play, enjoying success
- Discipline and training—to provide safety and structure in their lives

Spiritual Needs

Kindergarten children need to know:

- God loves them and cares for them
- How to show respect for God
- God made them, knows them, and values them
- The difference between right and wrong
- How to choose the right with God's help

General Rules

A child's attention span, in minutes, is their age plus one. Thus, an average 3-year-old has a potential attention span of four minutes, provided they are interested in what is happening.

Kindergarten Children:

- Enjoy repetition—provided they don't tire
- Are beginning to reason from simple cause to effect
- Make some generalizations—often incorrectly
- Learn best by active participation
- Have a short attention span—3 to 6 minutes

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