

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

READY!

Trust and Pray: You play an important role as a teacher in the lives of children. Our prayer and hope is that the Holy Spirit will work through you in the children's lives so they will come to know, love, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. The heart of every lesson we teach is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, presented so children have every opportunity to trust in Him. Trust and pray that the Holy Spirit is already working in the children's lives to bring them to God.

Personalize: Each lesson you teach should be customized to fit your children's needs. How is the Holy Spirit working in the lives of the children already? Teach the lesson for *your* children. Get to know them. Personalize your lesson and applications so they meet the needs of the children where they are.

Model: One of the best ways your children will learn is by watching you. You are the one who will tell and show them how to know, love, and follow Jesus Christ. Let them get to know you before and after club so they can watch your life. Be honest with them and share stories about how God has changed you.

SET!

As with all our curriculum, we seek to help children understand God's big story of redemption portrayed in the Bible. Though the lessons may focus on key biblical characters, we want the children to realize that God is the hero of every story!

In *Good News Club*® (GNC™) there are three main components that together teach the concepts listed at the beginning of each lesson: Bible lesson, memory verse, and *Wonder Time*™. Occasionally a fourth main component, the Gospel Spotlight, is included. The order in which these are taught may vary from week to week but should follow the order they appear in the lesson text and schedule. *Child Evangelism Fellowship*® (CEF®) writers use several different lesson types, choosing the one best suited for each lesson.

Each lesson introduction in this series specifies the type of lesson and the concepts covered in that lesson. These concepts are biblical truths children should walk away from club knowing. Some concepts are taught in the Bible lesson, others in the memory verse, and others in *Wonder Time*. These are the overarching truths for that lesson which go beyond the Gospel truths and saved child teaching included in each club hour. Some Gospel truths are also included in this list because they are taught more in depth.

BIBLE LESSON



Each lesson begins with a reproducible page, which includes the lesson overview, schedule, and Bible lesson outline. Photocopy this page and use it to prepare and take notes on your lesson. Then when you're ready to teach, fold and use it to mark the story in your Bible.

Scripture: Key Bible passage(s) the lesson is drawn from.

Memory Verse: Bible verse taught with the lesson for children to learn and apply.

Teaching Objective: What the children should do as a result of hearing this lesson.

Main Teaching: The main truth of the Bible lesson.

Emphasis for Saved/Unsaved: A key truth from the lesson that relates to the life of the saved or unsaved child.

Word Up!: A shortened version of either the saved or unsaved child teaching that all the children can shout out together. Teach the phrase at the beginning of club. Tell the children that anytime you call out, "Word Up!" they are to shout the phrase back. Call it out when noted in the sidebar or anytime!

Begin preparing your lesson by reading the story from your Bible, paying special attention to the characters, places, time periods, and story facts. Reflect prayerfully as you study God's Word and prepare to teach it. Here are some questions to ask yourself:

How is God the hero of the story?

How does this story fit into God's whole story?

What is God saying to me in this story?

Once you are familiar with the story, read through the lesson, noting the applications marked by symbols. Each symbol indicates the overall direction of an application in relation to the Gospel truths. These Gospel truths are the heart of every lesson you will teach. Sample verses and truths that may be used for the lessons are listed by the symbols below. You will want to personalize these applications for the children you teach.



God's person and His love for the child

- God is the Creator; He made you.
- God is holy (sinless, perfect).
- God loves you.
- The Bible says, "God so loved the world" (John 3:16a).



The child's problem—his condition before God as a sinner

- Sin is anything you think, say, or do that displeases God.
- You were born with a "want to" to do things your own way.
- You sin by (*give examples on an age-appropriate level*).
- The Bible says, "All have sinned" (Romans 3:23a).
- The punishment God gives for sin is death (separation from God forever).



God's solution—forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ

- Jesus is God the Son.
- Jesus never sinned.
- Jesus willingly died on the cross to take your punishment for sin.
- Jesus died and on the third day came back to life (1 Corinthians 15:3-5a).
- Jesus is now in Heaven, ruling over all.



Invitation to trust Christ as Savior

- *Child Evangelism Fellowship* uses five steps when inviting children for counseling regarding salvation. You will note that each invitation includes the following:
 1. Review need and way.
 2. Read and explain condition/promise verse.
 - A condition/promise verse gives a condition that must be met for God to fulfill a certain promise. In John 3:16 the condition is belief in Jesus and the promise is everlasting life.
 3. Bow head, close eyes.
 4. "Show me by..."
 5. "Meet me..."
 - Tell the children when and where they can talk with you during the next activity to learn more about trusting Christ as Savior.



Saved child teaching

- These applications in the lessons with their corresponding verses will help saved children grow in their relationship with the Lord.

Review party: It's time for review! Lesson 6 looks very different from the other lessons. It is designed to review the series in a fun, interactive way. During the review party the children will review what they have learned in Lessons 1-5. Children will be challenged to apply what they have learned to their lives and grow in Jesus Christ.

WONDER TIME™



This is the time for children to get to know their Bibles and the one who wrote it for them. They will learn that the Bible is God's message to them and they can get to know Him by reading His Word. During this time they will learn how to have a Quiet Time with God and will be encouraged to rely on the Holy Spirit to help them understand and to change their hearts.

The following activities are suggested for *Wonder Time*:

- Visuals, songs, or objects may be suggested in the lesson text.
- Introduce the Quiet Time concept.

- Encourage the children to use the *60-Day Wonder Devotional Books*, *Every Day with God* devotional books, and/or “Quiet Time Sheets” throughout the week and to bring them back with them the following week. These resources are available through *CEF Press*®. You may want to provide stickers for completed pages in the devotional books or other incentives to encourage the children to continue with their Quiet Time each week.
- Provide occasional opportunities for children to talk about what they are learning about God in their Quiet Time. This could be done informally in small groups, in one-on-one conversations with the teacher, or as a planned testimony time in the schedule.

Do your best to provide Bibles for children who don’t have one. There are also many free Bible reading apps available which you may point children to. For example Bible.is®, a free app produced by Faith Comes By Hearing®, allows children to both read and listen to the Bible.

MEMORY VERSE



Each lesson series includes verses for the children to memorize. Teaching and reviewing the verses in a variety of ways will help the children to not only memorize but also understand God’s Word and apply it to their lives. The memory verses in this series are taken from the King James Version of the Bible. Teaching for the English Standard Version® (ESV®) is available in the *GNC Resource Pack*. If you are using another version, you may need to adapt the explanations slightly. Memory verses are taught using the IPEAR (Introduction, Presentation, Explanation, Application, Repetition) method.

Songs and song videos for each memory verse are available at cefpress.com.

OTHER HELPS

Sidebars: In the side columns in every lesson is a space just for you! If you have background information that you want to include in that part of the lesson, make a note to yourself. If you have an idea for a fun activity to include in the lesson, jot it down! This will help you personalize the lesson for your children. The sidebars also contain teaching helps and materials needed.

Small Group Time: This is a time for you to get to know your children and encourage them in their relationship with God and each other. We understand that not all clubs can do small group time because of size or time limitations. But we highly encourage you to implement small group time so the children can build trust with leaders and with each other. This will give opportunity for the leaders to hear from all the children. It would be most beneficial if every small group has the same adult leader throughout the series.

During this time ask open-ended questions and give time for the children to think and respond. Questions and activities are provided in each lesson to help children build their relationships with God. One way to encourage learning is to provide notebooks or journals for the children in your small group to write and draw in so they can look back and see what they have talked and prayed about together.

Always include time for prayer. Encourage the children to pray for each other and ask what they would like to talk to God about. This is a great time for you to model prayer for them. They will learn how to pray by watching and listening to you. It may take them several weeks before they feel comfortable praying in small group. Create a safe environment for them to practice praying and always encourage them when they pray.

Songs: Songs and song videos are used throughout the class hour to supplement teaching, help children grow in their understanding of God, and give them an opportunity to worship God. When you introduce a song for the first time, be sure to take time to effectively teach it so children will understand what they sing. The IPEAR method, used for teaching the memory verses, is also an excellent way to teach songs. Visualized songs, a music CD, and a song video DVD are available from *CEF Press*. The CD contains all songs used in the current *Good News Club* year and the DVD contains song videos for all the songs in the series. We also encourage you to teach the books of the Bible using a song. Songs for both the Old and New Testament are available at cefpress.com.

Good News Club Resource Packs: Resource Packs are available at cefpress.com or through your local chapter. Find your local chapter at chapters.cefonline.com. The Starter Resource Pack contains a Timeline, Bible Map, and Books of the Bible Poster and can be used with any lesson series. The Resource Pack for this lesson series includes a Word Up! Booklet, a Visualized Bible Verse Booklet, Resource Booklet, Reproducibles, and other helps.

Demonstration DVDs with a series overview and demonstrations of the lessons and songs are available for purchase through *CEF Press*. This material is also available for free to anyone at cefonline.com/freedemos. Don't miss these excellent resources that will help you become acquainted with the materials and provide valuable teaching helps.

Preschool tips, songs, and activities have been included to help you adapt these lessons for preschoolers.

Since preschoolers do not knowingly commit many of the sins we identify with older children, we must emphasize that God's Word says "all have sinned" (Romans 3:23). All sin is against God, who is holy and pure. Speak of sin as not doing what we are told (James 4:17), lying, being mean to brothers and sisters, wanting our own way, disobeying parents and teachers, and other age-appropriate examples.

When teaching preschoolers, be sure to include plenty of hands-on, interactive activities. Let them touch objects, count, and role play various scenes from the lessons. Children learn through their senses: seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting. Three Rs for preschool learning are rhythm, rhyme, and repetition.

For the invitation to believe in Christ, be aware that preschoolers want to please. They tend to do what you do and say what you tell them to do and say. Be faithful to present the Gospel and expect the Holy Spirit to use it in their hearts, but be sure to carefully counsel them. Use "Guiding a Child to the Savior" (inside front cover) as a guide. Avoid having preschoolers parrot what you say.

GO!

Now you are *ready* and *set* to go teach children! We pray the Holy Spirit will empower you and hearts and lives will be changed for God's glory.

DON'T STOP NOW!

Feedback: We would love to hear about your teaching experience and how the children respond. This will help us improve our curriculum for the future. We are always looking for more interactive ideas! Email us your ideas at LessonFeedback@cefonline.com.

Church Partnerships: Is your church passionate about transforming the lives of children and ministering to your community? CEF shares that passion! We are prepared and eager to help you impact your community for Christ through effective ministry to children in a *Good News Club* and *5-Day Club*®! We offer a proven plan, effective training, and high-quality materials focused on bringing children to Christ, discipling them, and establishing them in a local church. Below are testimonies from churches who have partnered with CEF.

**Testimonies from Pastors
and Church Members**

“If you asked everyone in your church, ‘Do you want to reach people?’ they’re going to say ‘Yes.’ But a lot of times, they don’t know how to; they don’t know how to go about it. This gives us an opportunity, weekly, to reach kids for Christ. We are accomplishing something. We’re not just spinning our wheels, we’re not just a country club here, you know, having church every week. We’re actively involved in reaching kids for Christ, every week.”

—Pastor Cody Boyd, Senior Pastor
Bogey Hills Baptist Church

“Kids do talk to their parents about it and become excited and share their excitement about *Good News Club* with their families and eventually the parents are going back to church. That’s a positive thing, because there have been a number of families that were not going to church that are going to church somewhere now because of that. The most valuable part of the *Good News Club* for us is the relationship with our community. Our web of friendships throughout our community has just grown and grown and grown. I had a mom say to me, ‘We’ve been to your *Good News Club*, we’ve been to your kids’ musicals, I think it’s time we start coming to your church.’”

—Pastor Randy Calhoun, Children’s Pastor
Harvester Church of the Nazarene

“To our amazement, nearly 25 percent of the entire elementary school students are enrolled in our *Good News Club*. We have 163 enrolled and about 140 each week. We have seen over 50 of those children put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. We are reaching families in our community that we could not reach any other way.”

—Pastor Glenn Johnson

“The first time working with *Good News Club*, I was hooked. These children are starving for attention; they are starving for love. I am so thankful we have this partnership with a team of dedicated evangelists.”

—Lorraine Jackson, church member

How to find a local chapter: If you would like to find out how to get involved with CEF in your area, go to chapters.cefonline.com to find your local CEF chapter. Your local chapter can provide teacher training for you and your church and many more opportunities to reach the children in your area. To find out more about *Child Evangelism Fellowship* visit cefonline.com.