

Flights of Faith

Growing Believers

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Kindergarten Teacher's Manual

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From the Editor

by Shannon Wilpitz



I will never forget the first time I taught Sunday school. I was asked—drafted actually—by my pastor’s wife, and I was terrified! This class of seven bright-eyed students from Kindergarten to third grade was expecting something of me that I had never done before . . . teach the Word of God. I white-knuckled my lesson book for dear life! I wanted so badly to communicate God’s Word, but I felt underqualified and inadequate.

So the teacher became the student. I studied the subject material in both the curriculum book and the Bible. I learned to study Scripture in context—considering the literal meaning, the grammar and sentence structure, the historical and cultural setting, the audience, and the connection with Scriptures throughout the Bible. This not only helped me understand better, which in turn, helped me teach better, but it fostered within me a love for God’s Word, which in turn, fostered within me a love for God’s children. Each week, I could not wait to share with my students what treasures I had unearthed in God’s Word!

Fast forward many years, and this once-reluctant and terrified teacher was now the children’s pastor alongside my husband who had also developed a burden for children and passion for teaching God’s Word. It is amazing how God plants seeds in us and grows them into something

greater than we could have ever imagined. But according to God’s Word, that is exactly how faith works. “God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith” (Romans 12:3). God plants the seed of faith, and we activate it by trusting Him beyond what we can see or do.

Faith can grow in any situation as long as we remain “confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it” (Philippians 1:6). Resist any criticism from the enemy that says you are underqualified and inadequate. As teachers, we have partnered with God to do His great work. He will reveal His Word to us and equip us to share it with others.

This quarter, present our awesome and mighty God in such a way that challenges the limited thinking and low expectations of this world. Jesus said, “With God, all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26). We can rejoice in knowing that our students’ faith will soar to new heights as they witness the limitlessness of God and the power of His name.

Shannon Wilpitz

CUSTOMIZE THE CURRICULUM

The Primary Teacher’s Manual is now available as PDF and DOC documents that can be customized to fit your teaching style, classroom setting, and schedule. Cut and paste, edit material out of or into the lesson, and make it your own using the following instructions.

Downloadable resources for both the teacher’s manual and the teacher’s resource packet (TRP) are available through access codes.

Downloadable Resources

To access the PDF and DOCs of the teacher’s manual online:

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click the *Sign In* icon to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click the *Create an Account* icon to open an account for the site.
3. Enter **25606** in the Search bar to find the appropriate download.
4. Click on the item to access the product detail page.
5. Click the *Add to Cart* button.
6. In the checkout process on the Order Summary page, enter in the Coupon box and click *Update Cart* to apply the coupon.
7. Complete the order process to access the download options. These downloads will be available until October 1, 2016.
8. Once the order is complete, you will see a screen with the item listed and a button with the name of the resource. Click on this button to download the resource.
9. You may also access the download from the *My Account* button and look under the *My History* section to see your orders and find the appropriate download button there to obtain the resource.

Teacher’s Resource Packet Downloadable Resources

To access the reproducible items from the resource packet (TRP), see the resource packet instruction sheet. If you have not purchased a packet, you can do so by going to www.pentecostalpublishing.com or calling 866-819-7667.

Theme Development

Flights of Faith

This quarter, your faith will soar to new heights as you witness history in the making! Take a trip to Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina, where Orville and Wilbur Wright are building a new flying contraption. If it works, the world as we know it will never be the same.

Can you imagine being free from gravity's strong grip? Can you imagine soaring alongside eagles? Can you imagine rising far above the clouds one day? The Wright brothers can, but they need someone to help them complete their work. They need someone who believes the impossible is possible, someone who is willing to do what no one else has ever done before, and someone ready to go wherever the wind takes them. That someone is you! So shake off the weights of this world, ignore the taunts of your enemy, and leave sin behind. Then you will certainly take off by faith and fly!

Classroom Decorations

Based on the size of your room(s) and the number of students typically in attendance, it may be necessary to limit decorations to the walls or bulletin boards to reserve floor space for students and class activities. For this reason, decorations have been divided into two categories: basic and three-dimensional. Please keep in mind that not all 3-D suggestions require a great deal of space. So even if you are mainly interested in basic decorations, there may be something in the 3-D section that would work in your room.

Basics

Basic decorating includes covering each wall in the classroom with white butcher paper and using an overhead projector and transparencies from the resource packet to transfer the desired scenes. Once the drawings have been transferred to the walls, enlist some help and start painting.

One option is to use painter's drop cloths with a thin plastic backing which can be purchased in eight-foot widths. Cover the walls with the drop cloths, place transferred scenes on top, and paint. The drop cloths provide protection from paint seepage. In addition, these are easily folded and stored for later use. If you live in a humid area or teach in a basement, be aware that mold and dampness could form behind the plastic.

Another option which saves time but is more costly is to use colored art paper—blues for skies and seas, browns for trees and sands, greens for grass and trees, and gray for buildings and planes. Some art supply stores have paper with cloud designs already printed on them.

Teaching Wall

This is the wall with the writing board where you teach the Bible lesson. Remember to keep all important items at the students' eye level. Anything higher than the writing board should simply be for show, not for interaction or teaching. Mount the Kids in Missions map to this wall as a reminder to pray for our missionaries.

Teacher Tip

Reduce wall ideas to a bulletin board should shared spaces prohibit the use of entire walls.

Wall 1: Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina

Contrary to popular belief, Wilbur and Orville Wright did not actually launch their Flyer from the city of Kitty Hawk. They launched their first flight four miles south in the Kill Devil Hills area. This area is part of the Outer Banks of North Carolina that separates the Atlantic Ocean from the rest of the state. Though this area is known for its temperate climate and long beachfront, it is also known as the “Graveyard of the Atlantic” due to the tremendous amount of shipwrecks which occur in the treacherous nearby seas. How ironic is it that one form of transportation often met its doom in the same area where a new form of transportation began?

Teacher Tip

You do not need to be Michelangelo to decorate your classroom. Silhouettes are a simple way to create an impression. Let students’ imaginations fill in the blanks.


Using the transparencies, highlight the location where the Wright brothers tested their Flyer. Include the sand dunes, the workshop they lived and worked in during their testing period, and the rough seas in the background. Basic supplies needed include brown, blue, and gray paper and paint.

3-D Variation

Use wood for the buildings, black foam board for silhouettes, crumpled butcher paper for the sand dunes, and cotton batting for clouds.

Wall 2: Flights of Unconquerable Faith

On November 19, 1932, the United States government honored the Wright brothers by erecting a 60-foot granite monument in Kill Devil Hills on the spot where the Wright brothers launched the first motorized flight. The inscription on that monument reads, “In commemoration of the conquest of the air by the brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright. Conceived by genius. Achieved by dauntless resolution and unconquerable faith.” Unconquerable faith! That is what this quarter is about! Use the provided transparency to erect the monument on a sand dune in the middle of your wall. Above the monument, mount the inscription poster (TRP).

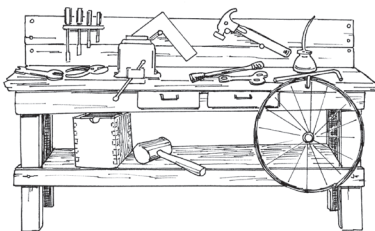
Using the monument template , have students erect a monument to their own flight of faith. Encourage them to dream big dreams for God and write or draw within the monument something that best illustrates where their faith will take them in the kingdom of God. By faith, will they be a missionary, Sunday school teacher, youth minister, or pastor? Will they operate in the gifts of the Spirit? Perhaps, they have faith to become an Apostolic author, mayor, or president. They may aspire to be a business executive who gives generously, creates employment for the community, and positively influences our culture. It could be anything. They can be anything! Mount the students’ monuments along with their pictures around the large monument.

3-D Variation

Use painted Styrofoam or foam board to create the monument.

Wall 3: Wright Brothers’ Bicycle Shop

Before they built airplanes and earned the name the Fathers of Flight, the Wright brothers repaired bicycles. All dreams have to start somewhere. For Wilbur and Orville Wright, the dream started in a bicycle shop surrounded by broken bikes and mismatched machine parts. Use the transparencies to recreate the inside of the workshop where everything started. Hang the Wright Cycle Company sign in one corner. Your classroom may very well



be the place where great things in your students' lives get their start. If we only have faith in God, He can work wonders with the broken and seemingly mismatched things in our lives.

3-D Variation

Use painted Styrofoam to make 3-D shelves. Drape wires over shelves. Use actual bicycle tires against a life-sized bicycle drawing. Transfer the Wright Cycle Company sign onto cardboard or foam board and hang it from the ceiling.

Wall 4: Future Flights of Faith

There was no way the Wright brothers could have imagined where that first twelve-second flight would take mankind—over lands, across seas, and through space! That may be exactly where our students' faith will take them one day. Use the transparencies to show the progression of flight high on the wall. Use the wall space below to show the progression of the students' memory work. (See the Memory Work section for details.)

3-D Variation

Mount or hang toy/model representations for the progression of flight.

Bulletin Board Ideas

I Was Created to Fly!

God designed our bodies to be the dwelling place of His Holy Spirit. It is His Spirit inside of us that will one day lift us out of this world. Use the transparencies to recreate clouds in various sizes and shades of blue and white, and stack them for a monochromatic, layered effect. Cut out a black silhouette of an airplane for the center and overlay the words. Think outside the board and let the clouds extend beyond its edges. Find time each week to review the flight plan of salvation with your students and introduce it to guests.

Flying High with God's Word

Create a bulletin board with two kites, one labeled "Old Testament" and one labeled "New Testament." Attach bows with the books of the Bible on them to the strings of the kites. Consider making the board interactive, allowing students to take turns placing the bows in order.

The Sky Is the Limit with Jesus

Use the transparencies of the hot air balloon and the cloud to make this bulletin board. Consider going online to find a variety of ways to make 3-D hot air balloons. From construction paper to party balloons to paper lanterns, there are many options. Take pictures of the students and put them in the baskets.

Flying by Faith

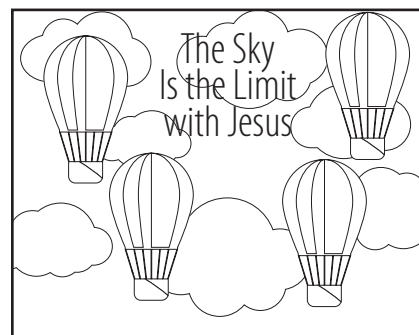
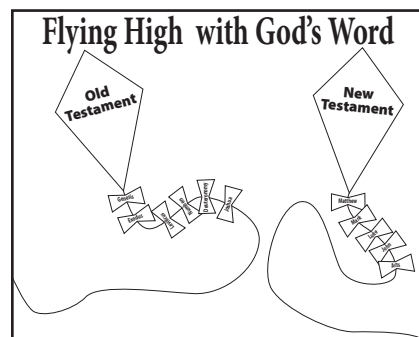
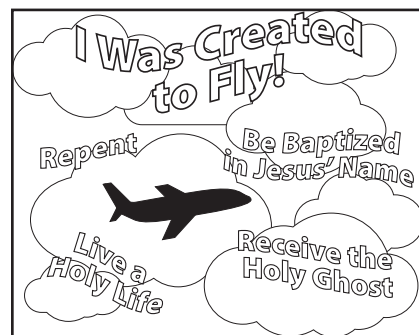
Line a bulletin board with blue paper. Using the transparency, draw a picture of a large, modern airplane. Take pictures of your students and mount their faces in the windows of the airplane. Mount cloud cutouts around the airplane with statements of faith written on them such as "God heals," "God provides," "God protects," "God saves," "God keeps promises," etc.

Jesus Keeps Me Soaring High

Create a 3-D board with a blue background and cotton batting clouds at the very bottom. Make (or let students make) little paper airplanes to staple to the sky above the clouds.

Teacher Tip

For larger classes, rather than purchasing or acquiring all the suggested supplies on your own, ask parents or church members to donate or collect items for the class. Look ahead at what is needed and allow ample time to gather supplies.



Label each airplane with something Jesus gives us that keeps us soaring high above the things of this world such as peace, joy, faith, love, patience, etc.

Memory Work and Attendance

In an effort to help students retain Scripture in their long-term memory and apply it to daily living, students will study and commit to memory a Scripture verse or passage (two or three verses) for each unit. The intent is not only to improve retention but provide understanding of Scripture and how it applies to life today. This is more than memorizing in the moment; this is planting in the heart.


The outside wrapper of the activity papers serves as both the Bible verse tracker and attendance tracker. One page has the unit Bible verses on it which students may take it home. The other page has an airplane which students will color, write their name on, and cut out. Mount the planes on the Future Flights of Faith wall where students can reach them. Each week, students will add a star sticker to the airplane for being present. After students work on memorizing their unit Bible passage, they will get to move their airplane forward.

You may choose to award attendance prizes at the end of the quarter. However, remain sensitive to students who may not be able to attend every class due to family visitation circumstances.

Offering

In keeping with the theme, you may choose to collect offering in a cloud-covered box as described in the Volunteers section of this manual. Consider allowing students to make paper airplanes out of their dollar bills and attempt to fly them into the offering basket.

Volunteers

Drawing names as a way of selecting volunteers can help maintain order and expedite things in your class. Consider purchasing some inexpensive plastic airplanes (from bi-planes to military jets) and have students write their name on one (or assign a name to each one). Put them in a shoebox covered in white paper and with a cloud  glued to the front. When a volunteer is needed, all you do is pull one out of the clouds. As a parting gift in the last class period, you might consider giving each student their individual plane.

Theme-Related and Seasonal Crafts and Activities

If you choose to have snacks in your class, consider seasonal/holiday foods. There are many easy-to-make and easy-to-serve snack and dessert ideas online. Consider asking others (youth, seniors, parents, etc.) to sign up for a week to prepare a snack for the class. Often there are people within our own congregation who would like to help but do not know how they can.

Consider doing theme-related arts, crafts, and/or games. There are many websites dedicated to the history of flight and the Wright brothers specifically. Seasonal craft ideas are also available in abundance online. Choose ones that work best with your students, supplies, and time.

Flight School

Great news! We are offering our students an opportunity to earn their pilot's license (TRP) in class this quarter. To earn their license, students will need to clock at least forty hours

Note: When bringing food into the classroom, ask beforehand if students have any food allergies.

of flight time and pay \$4,000. Not to worry, they can earn \$100 coupons (TRP) and flight hours (TRP) for attendance, memory work, bringing a Bible to class, helping set up and clean up, making good choices, attentive listening, willing participation, bringing guests, etc. You set the rules and how much they earn. An account sheet (TRP) is provided which students may use to keep track of their dollars and hours earned. There is a place on the licenses for the students' photos. Glue down the photos and laminate the licenses before cutting them apart.

Consider purchasing small, flight-related prizes to give along with the pilot's licenses at the end of the quarter. Check www.orientaltrading.com, dollar stores, and Christian bookstores for seasonal and small prizes. Other prize ideas include fast food coupons, candy, and props/posters which will no longer be needed in class.

Activity Papers Practical Stories

This quarter, students will explore Flights of Faith through the eyes of Johnny and Hart Daniels, two children experiencing the strangeness of watching history in the making. They were there for the literal ups and downs as brothers, Wilbur and Orville Wright, worked to create a motorized machine that would enable man to fly. Having faith against all odds, Orville climbed into their invention, laid flat on his belly, and prayed that it would finally work. On December 17, 1903, Johnny and Hart became witnesses to this first flight of faith which covered about 120 feet in twelve airborne seconds. Who knew that in twelve short seconds the many years of planning would finally pay off and the world would change forever?

History is made of moments. Some change our lives, and others change the entire world. These stories help students understand that when we read the Bible we become witnesses of the most important events in world history. However, the most amazing thing is that we can become a part of those events. When we receive the Holy Ghost, everything in God's Word becomes a part of our history. In a matter of seconds, our students' lives can be changed forever!

If time allows, read the stories aloud in class and discuss them. Otherwise, encourage your students to read the stories to their parents and siblings at home to stimulate family discussion.

Costumes and Props

Keep a prop box available with a variety of scarves, sashes, and robes which can be used in multiple Bible lessons. A crown, fake food, play money, baskets, goblets, and tablecloth are good generic props to keep on hand.

Kids in Missions

The *Kids in Missions* newsletter is now on the CD/website as a downloadable resource. The map is still available in the resource packet as a visual aid.

Facebook

Join us on our Facebook group, "Word Aflame Primary Teachers Curriculum." Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Share tips and gather ideas. Post pictures of your class and encourage others by posting what God is doing in your students' lives. We teach together; now we can interact together.



Teacher Training Resources

Visit our website for valuable teacher training resources. These include a child information form that allows you to collect pertinent information on each student, as well as the parent or guardian's permission to take and share the child's picture. You will want this signed form on file if you share pictures on Facebook or any other public site. Go to www.wordaflame.org and click on the "Teacher Training" button.

Characteristics of Primary Students

Eight-Year-Olds

- Active and on the move
- Create excuses with ease
- Overzealous and overconfident
- Love catching adults in mistakes
- Emotionally volatile (dramatic tears)
- Want to be treated as adults
- Easily offended when sensing condescension
- Appreciate a factual but fun teacher
- Short attention span
- Industrious but not attentive to detail
- Frequently create and disband friendships and secret clubs

Nine-Year-Olds

- Self-paced and self-motivated
- Prefer planning and step-by-step instructions
- Enjoy repetitive activities to perfect a skill
- Loyal and committed to friends
- Value teamwork in games and respect rules
- Cooperation and fairness of utmost importance
- Voice decidedly strong opinions about people
- Display annoying physical habits such as tapping fingers/humming/bouncing leg
- Boys are vocal while girls whisper and giggle in groups
- Require constant reassurance and one-on-one assistance to prevent discouragement
- Begin developing moral conscience with acceptance of consequences