

God's Mission for Moses

Theme: Seeds of Promise

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Primary Teacher's Manual

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All Scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Training Ground

by Shannon Wilpitz



This morning my children and I walked to the neighborhood park, as we had done many times before. Today we not only carried our water bottles, but we also carried our Bibles. I had decided to start a devotion series with my children, and they suggested doing it at the park. The devotion and the discussion it sparked were wonderful—one of those moments that as a parent you cherish and as a teacher you revel in because you know, “They got it!”

After the devotion, my children ran off to play. I watched as they met another child who looked to be about nine or ten years old. This little girl was demonstrating to my children her ability to do all kinds of gymnastic moves and exercises. It was obvious by her attire, physique, and skill that she had been practicing these moves for some time. It was also obvious by her young age that she did not acquire this skill on her own; someone had been training and working with her. My children tried to copy her, but they were ill-equipped to do what she was doing. They were untrained and, as a result, painfully uncoordinated.

I thought about how my children did not have a mom who could do pull-ups, flips, or burpees—at least

not without fear of meeting my Maker at some point during the attempt! They did not have a mom who took them to gymnastics practice, introduced them to bodybuilders and power lifters, or practiced the disciplines required to have a body that could do such maneuvers. However, my kids did have a mom who took them to church, introduced them to the body Creator and All-Powerful God, and practiced the disciplines required to have a soul that could maneuver its way through this world to the one beyond. Just as I had observed the little girl on the playground, I realize that others observe my children. I hope it is equally obvious and evident in their attire, attitude, and actions what they give their time to learning, mind to believing, and body to serving—Jesus Christ and His commandments.

As you prepare your heart to teach the lessons and interact with your students, recognize that you are a trainer. Your students will look at you, not just listen to you. They will emulate your actions, not just take your advice. They will embrace your beliefs, so make sure you embrace the Word. “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6). The Lord will help you do it, and you can leave your classroom knowing, “They got it!”

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

1. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com to access the download site.
2. If you are an existing customer, click *sign in* to log in to your account. If you are a new user, click *create an account* to open an account for the site.
3. Hover over the *view cart* menu link and click the *view cart* button.
4. Enter in the Coupon Code box on the screen and click *update cart*. (The file should display on the screen and reflect that the download comes at no charge.)
5. Click *continue* and then *submit order*. You will see a button with the name of the zip file. Click on this button to download the resource.
6. This coupon code will be valid for one year from the date of the first lesson.

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

Seeds of Promise

You have heard of the legend. Now meet the man called Johnny Appleseed! He was a sincere man who lived by the Golden Rule. Carrying seeds in one hand and a Bible in the other, Johnny wandered across the countryside, enduring hardships of a wilderness life as he worked to make his dream of a land full of apple orchards come true.

We will also meet another wilderness wonderer named Moses! With a staff in one hand and faith in God in the other, Moses planted seeds of a spiritual nature as he led God's people through the hardships of their wilderness to the Promised Land.

Room Decoration

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 mountains and sands, greens for grass and trees, and gray for buildings and roads. 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 (TRP) to this wall as a reminder to pray for our missionaries.

Are you running short on time? Find a senior saint, teenager, or parent who wants to help, and ask them to make copies and cut out items for lessons.

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

Wall 1: Time to Sow

Create the appearance of a hilly countryside by using light blue butcher paper for the sky, dark green butcher paper for the back hills, and lighter green butcher paper for the front hills. Use brown butcher paper to create a narrow path coming over a front hill. Using the provided transparencies (TRP), create Johnny Appleseed, and position him as if he is walking along the path with seeds in one hand and a Bible in the other.

3-D Variation

Use actual material (jeans and a shirt) for Johnny Appleseed. Make his sack from burlap, and his hat from painted Styrofoam pieces cut to look like a pot. Put an actual Bible and apple seeds in his hands. Add a tissue paper sun and cotton clouds to the sky. Crinkle the green butcher paper prior to affixing it to the wall to create depth.

Wall 2: Time to Grow

Using the transparencies (TRP), create an apple orchard on the entire wall. Either trace the image onto white butcher paper and color/paint it, or cut the different images out of colored butcher paper.

3-D Variation

Add depth to the trees by crinkling the butcher paper into trunks. Make the branches the same way or use greenery. Hang plastic apples on the limbs. Prop a small ladder against the wall, and set an empty basket at the foot of the ladder.

Wall 3: Time to Harvest

Cover the top two-thirds of the wall with light blue butcher paper and the bottom one-third of the wall with green butcher paper. Use the transparencies (TRP) to create an apple harvest scene.

3-D Variation

Make the trees three dimensional as on wall number two. Use wood planks to simulate a crate of apples. Set a basket of apples on the floor. For the truck, use painted foam rings with aluminum foil centers for tires and cellophane for the windows.

Wall 4: Time to Enjoy

Use the transparencies (TRP) to create an apple market by either tracing the image onto white butcher paper and coloring/painting it or cutting the different images out of colored butcher paper. Color the apples in a variety of colors from red to green to golden.

3-D Variation

Cover the top two-thirds of the wall with light blue butcher and the bottom one-third of the wall with brown butcher paper. Use burlap twine and material or colored construction paper to create party flags that spell "APPLE MARKET." Hang the flag banner between two wood posts. Display real or fake apples and apple products (e.g., apple juice, apple cider, apple cider vinegar, applesauce, apple pies, apple jelly, and apple chips) on shelves and in baskets. Create signs with prices. Option: Make this an area where prizes are displayed which can be earned throughout the quarter.

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

Bulletin Board Ideas

How to Grow in God's Orchard

Refer to this salvation board or poster (TRP) each class period. Discuss how the Word of God is designed to take root in our lives, lead us to salvation, and create in us a fruitful life. Pray with your students to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, and help them grow in the fullness of the Lord after the initial infilling.

"O taste and see that the LORD is good." Psalm 34:8

Have students locate Psalm 34:8 in their Bibles and read it aloud. There is a big difference in someone telling you what an apple tastes like and you tasting it for yourself. That is the way it is with Jesus. Do not just take someone else's word for it—try Jesus for yourself. He is good!

"Keep me as the apple of the eye." Psalm 17:8

Create an apple tree with an apple on it for each student. Add students' names and/or pictures to the apples. Have students locate Psalm 17:8 in their Bibles and read it aloud. Did students know that the popular phrase, "You are the apple of my eye," originated from the Bible? 3D option: Crumple brown and green art paper to create the tree before adding the apples.

Bushels of Thanks

Harvest bushels of thanks! Allow students to write something for which they are thankful on an apple and fill the basket to overflowing with thanks. Consider saving this board for November.

Plant a Seed—Spread the Word

Use this board to emphasize the importance of witnessing and how one person can make an impact upon so many. Make a comparison between how Johnny Appleseed spread apple seeds throughout the land and how we can spread God's Word throughout our schools, neighborhoods, community, and world.

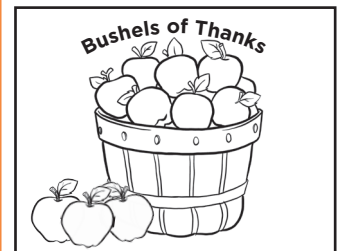
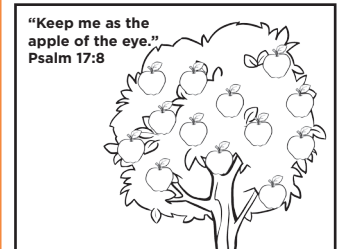
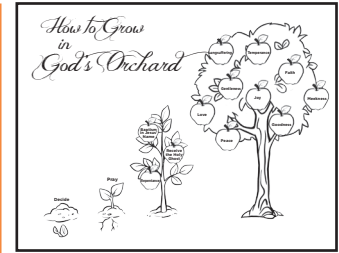
Attendance

Use the attendance chart (TRP) and the supplied attendance stickers (TRP) to track attendance. If you award attendance prizes at the end of the quarter, remain sensitive to students who may be unable to attend class due to circumstances out of their control. Providing opportunities to win prizes for things such as class participation and Christian character may be a way to include all students, regardless of attendance.

Memory Work

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.

At the back of the activity papers pad is the memory work tracker. One page has the unit Bible passages on it, which students may take home. The other page has an apple



tree with thirteen apples on it. Each week after students work on memorizing their unit Bible passages, they will color an apple. Just as an apple tree matures and produces more fruit, studying and memorizing Scriptures helps us mature spiritually and produce more spiritual fruit.

Offering

Offering is being collected in a pot, similar to the kind Johnny Appleseed wore on his head. Consider doing an offering contest. Mark goal levels within the pot, designating different rewards for reaching each level. At the end of the quarter, see how full the pot has become. Allow the entire class to reap the rewards of each goal met.

Volunteers

Drawing names as a way of selecting volunteers can help maintain order and expedite things in your class. This quarter, write students' names on plastic apples. Put the apples in a basket. When a volunteer is needed, simply pull an apple out of the basket.

Theme-Related and Seasonal Ideas

Include a seasonal or theme-related craft, game, or snack in lieu of or in addition to one of the optional activities. There are many websites dedicated to such ideas, specifically for the classroom. Ask others (youth, seniors, parents) to sign up for a week to prepare a snack for the class. Often there are people within your own congregation who would like to help but do not know how they can.

Activity Papers: Engaging Activities

This quarter, the student activity papers will include the memory chart and a Bible passage study sheet located at the back of the pad. All students should leave class with something in their hands, so encourage students to take their activity papers home. The attendance chart will be part of the teachers resource packet.

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.

Home Connection

The Home Connection is a take-home paper designed to reach the parent and strengthen the bond between parent and child, and parent and church. Please send one home with every child, or point out the link at the top of the activity paper on page two. It is available in the TRP for photocopying, or it is available via the URL listed at the top of page two on the activity paper.

Kids in Missions

The *Kids in Missions* newsletter is now in this teacher's manual on page 8. 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 photo. 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