

God with Us

Theme: Things That Fly

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief: Robin Johnston
Associate Editor, Curriculum:
 Lee Ann Alexander
Children's Editor: Melanie Claborn
Toddler Editor: Joni Owens

WRITERS

Chris Anderson, Hannah Schmidt,
 Joni Owens, Barbara Westberg

DESIGN

Layout: Chris Anderson,
 Dennis Fiorini, Elizabeth Loyd

Artist: Kat Moyou

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Join us on our Facebook group. Interact with editors and Sunday school teachers. Post pictures of your class. Brag on what God is doing in your class. You teach with us; now interact with us. Check out our group, "Word Aflame Toddler Teachers Curriculum."



Toddler Teacher's Manual
 Manufactured in U.S.A., December 2016, 1021711
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 ©2016 Pentecostal Publishing House,
 8855 Dunn Road, Hazelwood, MO 63042



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God's Plans

God's plans are frequently surprising, often humbling, and always life-changing. His ways are far above our ways, but that doesn't mean we can't follow His ways. His thoughts are higher than ours, which means His thoughts are to be exalted. We can exalt His thoughts by listening to what He says and then letting His mindset be in us. Learn to think like God; it's as simple as asking, what would Jesus do?

Toddlers do not understand ways and thought processes; they simply act on what they see and hear. Mary and Joseph did not understand

what God was doing, but they submitted to His plans and helped fulfill God's plan to be with us. Toddlers do not understand all the ramifications of the birth of Christ, the role John played, or the disciples Jesus chose. However, you can help them repeat the story of God's plan to be with us. You can help them recall the story of John the Baptist. Finally, you can help them tell others about Jesus. With maturity will come understanding. For now, you have the honor of teaching the basic facts and laying the foundation for a life that will follow and exalt our great God.

Teacher Manual 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.

A Look at the Curriculum

Theme: Things That Fly

Toddlers love spotting things that fly. They get excited over airplanes, helicopters, and balloons. Birds and butterflies capture their attention. And like all children (and most adults), they love spaceships. Their minds cannot grasp the enormity of space or the universe, but they certainly know things fly.

This quarter, decorate three walls to show the variety of things that fly, from spaceships to planes to birds. The fourth wall will be your teaching wall for worship, memory work, and Bible lesson time. Mount your memory work posters and attendance and memory charts here, leaving room for the weekly Bible lesson props and Bible art pictures.

Although you are decorating entire walls, keep most of the items at children's level. A two-year-old will not get excited over something that is seven feet above him. Remember they like to explore and touch, so make sure all your decor items meet toddler safety guidelines: no staples, wires, or small items that fit in the mouth. Do not mount valued items you do not want them to touch or accidentally destroy.

Visit teacher supply stores for ready-made sets of cutouts for space, flying machines, and bird themes. These stores also carry four-foot wide craft paper on rolls that will make covering your walls much easier. These papers come in solids as well as textured, such as clouds, grass, and starry skies. Another easy way to cover a wall is to use plastic tablecloths. Keep in mind, though, that paper and plastic generally require stapling to stay secure. Check your items each week to make sure everything stays secure and no safety hazards exist.

Outer Space

Cover this wall with dark blue paper. Add bright white or silver stars, a moon, and a large spaceship. See the transparencies [\(TRP\)](#) and theme art [📎](#) for art to enlarge onto posterboard. Once the ship is traced and cut out, spray paint it silver with red wing tips, or cover it with silver wrapping paper, adding red paper wing tips and stripes. Create an astronaut and tether him to the spaceship with a rope. Enhance this wall by hanging white or silver stars from the ceiling low enough to get the toddlers' attention but high enough to be out of reach. Cover about a three-foot area out from the wall.



Sky

Cover this wall with light blue paper and add polyfill clouds. Create brightly colored airplanes, helicopters, hot air balloons, and kites to get your toddlers' attention. Fly real kites, model airplanes, and Styrofoam jets and planes from the ceiling.

Home

This wall will represent what toddlers see closer to the ground. Cover the upper part of the wall with sky blue paper and the lower half with rolling hills of grass. On one side of the wall, create a large brown cliff and add an eagle's nest. Of course, eagles' nests are high, but make this one lower for your toddlers to enjoy. The rest of the wall could contain a tree with a bird's nest and various birds and butterflies flying in the sky.

Follow the downloadable Eagle family instructions [📎](#) to create a family of eagles. All you need are white spoons, brown construction paper, and yellow and black paint. Use two wooden spoons painted white for the adult eagles and white plastic spoons for the baby eagles. Place these in the nest.

From the ceiling hang bird and butterfly paper cutouts or purchase more realistic versions from a craft store.

If possible, once your room is completely decorated, test your décor by allowing one or two toddlers to freely explore (before submitting it to an entire class), to see if any safety precautions (like choking hazards or dangerous areas) have been overlooked. As a general rule, if something fits in the hole of a paper-towel tube, it is a choking hazard. Avoid using tacks, pushpins, and straight pins because they are easily swallowed by curious two- and three-year-olds.

For more ideas on room décor, network with toddler teachers from around the world through our Facebook group: *Word Aflame Toddler Curriculum Teachers*. Once your theme is in place, take pictures and share with our Facebook group to inspire others.

Be sure to have signed parental permission if pictures contain children's faces. (See Model Release form [📄](#).)

Door Poster

Mount the door poster (TRP) at children's eye level. If you have a bulletin board outside your classroom, consider taking pictures of the toddlers "flying" some toy airplanes. Passersby will enjoy these pictures.

Offering

Toddlers enjoy putting their offering in fun containers. Instead of just using a bowl, consider using these ideas. You might want to change containers each unit. Always take the offering as the students enter so they do not lose it or play with it.

Borrow or purchase an animated bank. (Check second-hand stores or garage sales.) Toddlers love coin sorters that make whirring noises. The important thing is for them to see and hear something happening when they give. This will encourage them to give.

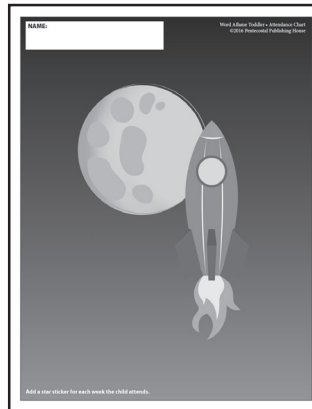
Unit 1: Create your own rocket bank. Thoroughly clean an empty plastic mustard squirt jar (one with a large mouth so you can retrieve the money). If it has a paper label, remove it; otherwise, spray paint it a bright red or silver. Cut a 1" x ¼" slit near the top of the screw-on lid for children to drop in their change. Each week, count down from five, and then fly the rocket to each child to put in his money.

Unit 2: Cut a large slit in the top of a lidded box. Cover the box with polyfill so it resembles a cloud. Cover the lid separately so you can retrieve the money.

Unit 3: Visit a craft store and purchase a bird's nest. Or purchase a birdhouse that can be opened from the top or bottom to retrieve the money. The children will drop their money through the bird hole.

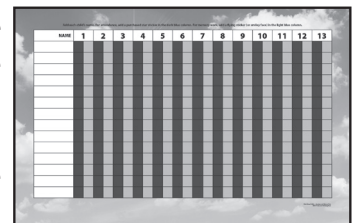
Attendance and Memory Charts

The last two pages of each activity paper offer an attendance and memory chart. An attendance chart [📅](#) and memory chart [📅](#) are also available as individual pages on our website for your convenience to download and print for visitors. If practical, mount these at children's eye level so they can work on them each week. Each week the child attends, he adds a purchased star sticker to the outer space attendance chart.



Each week after memory work, whether you teach the Bible words or the Bible passage, students add a flying sticker (TRP) [📅](#) to the memory chart: a cardinal, blue jay, canary, eagle, airplane, helicopter, or rocket. Two sheets of these stickers are available in the resource packet. Additional stickers can be downloaded from the website, with students using glue sticks to secure them to their paper.

Also included in the resource packet is a large attendance and memory chart (TRP) if you choose to use it. Add each child's name. Each week he attends, he adds a purchased star sticker in the dark blue column for that week. When he practices the Bible words/passage, he adds a flying sticker (TRP) [📅](#) in the light blue column.



Teacher's Manual

Unit 1: God's Plan Fulfilled

Learning Target: Children will repeat God's plan to be with us.

Bible Passage: "Call his name JESUS" (Matthew 1:21).

Bible Words: God came to us.

Unit 2: God Sent a Messenger

Learning Target: Children recall the life of John the Baptist.

Bible Passage: "Hear the word of God" (Luke 11:28).

Bible Words: We listen to God.

Unit 3: Jesus Calls His Disciples

Learning Target: Children will tell how to follow Jesus.

Bible Passage: "Jesus said unto him, Follow me" (Matthew 8:22).

Bible Words: I will follow Jesus.

This curriculum, *God with Us*, is Bible-based and written on a developmentally-appropriate level for children ages two and three. The basic lesson structure is as follows:

Welcome to the Word: Welcome students to the classroom. As students get settled in, take attendance and collect offering. A fun introductory activity engages the children while everyone arrives; then a hands-on activity utilizing the activity paper introduces the lesson topic. This focuses students on the lesson objective, while giving potentially messy activities time to dry before being sent home.

Open the Word: Prayer and worship transition students to one of two Memory Work options. The *Bible Passage* quotes the verse directly from the KJV; the *Bible Words* simplify the passage into an age-appropriate phrase. Because toddlers learn best through repetition, each unit utilizes a set of Memory Work to be learned over a four- to five-week period. Determine which memorization option works best with your teaching method and students' maturity. The *Bible Words* are also a simple take-away thought; repeat it frequently, letting children echo you, so by the end of the session they will take it home and share it with family.

Reveal the Word: Use Snack Break to sit down toddlers and help them focus as you tell the Bible Story. As they wrap up their eating, continue with the lesson.

Do the Word: This life-application section offers many lesson-related activity options to further apply the lesson through playtime. By design, students will think they are playing while they are really learning. Select the activities best fitting your group and setting to illustrate the lesson objective. Since toddlers rarely focus on a task for more than five minutes, prepare several options and expect to move through them quickly. If your classroom space allows, consider offering multiple activities at a time, with a teacher assigned to each activity, and let children rotate after several minutes.

In the lesson, examples of wording you could use when teaching the lesson or songs are in **bold type**. Please let us know how the lessons work for you. Your feedback is influential. Our goal is to help you teach better!

The teacher's manual is available as a downloadable resource in the form of PDF and Word documents. Open the PDF using a reader like Acrobat to study your lesson on the go using your favorite handheld device (like an iPad). The DOC files open using a word processor (like Microsoft Word), allowing you to add to or delete from a lesson and to craft the material to suit your particular interests and needs. Reproduction of these resources is permissible for local church use only, and is intended to help the individual teacher, not to make our curriculum available to multiple classrooms for the price of one manual. Please purchase one manual per teacher.

Do the Word Learning Activities

Because every class is different regarding room space, number and age of students, and length of class time, teachers may select when and how to best utilize the learning activity options designed to teach the lesson objective. Pick and choose what works best for you and your students. Use your imagination and enhance each with the following learning center possibilities.

Role-Play

Encourage children to recreate what they heard during Bible time. Keep a tub handy with biblical clothing as students frequently role-play the Bible lesson. Always keep story props from week to week for review and role-play.

Book Nook

Each lesson offers book ideas to help reinforce the learning objectives. Some are directly related to the Bible lesson and some may be toddler learning books, such as counting or listening. Make the book center a peaceful place for when your students need to slow down and experience some quiet time.

Blocks/Sensory

This is a double-duty area. Fill it with assorted building blocks, such as mega Legos (never the small Legos), wooden and plastic building blocks, cardboard bricks (teacher supply stores), and cardboard boxes.

Several activities this quarter suggest using a sensory table. If one is not available, makeshift methods can be devised, but a sensory table is a recommended piece of furniture for the toddler classroom. When used effectively, it aids in the cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical, and creative development of a child. If a table is not an option, plastic tubs will work.

Art/Writing

This area is the craft area, filled with activity papers, markers, crayons, toddler-safe scissors, and assorted craft supplies. Keep supplies in sealed containers and out of the children's reach until ready to be monitored and used. Lapboards are a nice addition to this area.


Activity Paper

Students complete the second activity of their activity papers.

Music/Movement

Music is an important part of a toddler's life. Provide a supply of musical instruments. These can be found at dollar, discount, and teacher supply stores, as well as online. Homemade instruments can be as simple as boxes or plastic bowls and wooden spoons for drums, metal spoons to clang, metal pot lids as cymbals, Christmas bells, baby rattlers, and cardboard tube trumpets.

REACH

Does your church provide a nursery for children under age two? Download and print out the REACH pages  for those in your church who work with infants (pages 8 and 9).

R *esearch* features findings from studies done on infant and toddler development.

E *nvironment* features dos and don'ts on creating appropriate environments.

A *ttachment* features the importance of providing proper nurturing behaviors.

C *aregiving* features the issues involved in actual care, such as diapering, feeding, and so forth.

H *ome Connection* features ideas to build the relationship between the classroom and the home/family.


Perhaps schedule a quarterly meeting to discuss the REACH material with your staff.

Activity Paper

The activity paper offers an attendance chart and a memory chart, as well as two activities to be used as an integral part of each week's lesson. Order one activity paper per student with a few extra for growth and potential visitors. At the beginning of the quarter, recruit teens to help tear out the pages and then gather by lesson, placing them in thirteen lesson folders for distribution each week. Mount the charts on the wall at toddler height for easy access each week.

On the front page, a fun, hands-on activity will be used at the beginning of each lesson to introduce the topic. The second activity usually consists of coloring and drawing and is used in the Activity Paper option.

Home Connection

On the bottom of the page is a URL address for parents to take advantage of our Home Connection. Review questions, book suggestions, lesson objectives, and memory work are provided for at home discussion. This piece is also available in the resource packet (TRP)  for teachers to copy and send home with the students.

Note: Did you know, after accounting for all maintenance and supply expenses, it costs a church more to make boring gray-scale copies of the activity paper than it does to buy a full-color activity paper? Churches sometimes think they are saving money by buying one activity paper and making copies, but in reality it is costing them more! (Not to mention that copying the activity paper violates copyright laws.) One exception is permission is granted to make copies for visitors only. Plan ahead by ordering extras to allow for class growth and a few visitors, and avoid the need to copy.

Building a Sensory Table

By definition, a *sensory table* is a table that uses a bin or bins that can be filled with “sensory” materials such as water, sand, rice, bubbles, and so forth to enhance a toddler’s learning experience.

While sensory tables can be purchased in most teaching stores, a good handyman can build a budget-conscious sensory table keeping these things in mind:

- **The table top must be at a toddler’s height.** A toddler should not need to stand on anything to interact with a sensory table.
- **The table must be extremely sturdy.** A group of toddlers should be able to put their full weight on the table without risking injury.
- **The sensory tub should be easily removable.** At the completion of a sensory activity, the teacher must be able to empty and sanitize the bins with minimal effort.
- **The tub should be coverable.** Most bins come with a lid. By keeping the area closed when not in use, the mystique of the activity center is increased.



Teacher’s Resource Packet (TRP)

The TRP contains teaching tools, supplements, and visual aids to enhance every lesson. Use the flying theme-related materials as a springboard to decorate your room. Mount the door poster (TRP) at a toddler’s eye level to welcome students to the classroom. Use the Memory Work posters (TRP) to teach the *Bible Passage* and *Bible Words*.

Decide whether you would like to use the attendance and memory poster (TRP) or the individual charts in the back of each activity paper to track attendance and memory work. Flying stickers (TRP) 📎 are provided to use at your discretion.

Some lessons implement downloadable music and sound effects 📎. Use the access code on the TRP cover sheet to download the MP3s onto your smart phone, burn these audio files to a CD, or download them to an iPod or other playback device. Determine your preferred playback method now and prepare the entire quarter’s sound tracks for easy accessibility.

Several standard classroom helps are available through the packet’s access code. Read *Characteristics of a Toddler* 📎 and *Room Environment Check* 📎 to better understand your students and their needs.

Make copies of the *Child Information Form* 📎, asking parents to fill them out at a child’s first drop off. Keep these forms on file. By asking for this information, parents see the teacher taking responsibility, which garners trust. Remember to keep the information pertinent by asking parents to review them at the start of every quarter. When a food allergy or other

potentially harmful condition or situation (like a divorce) becomes known, communicate it to all helpers and make a special note. Disregard of this information violates trust. In this litigation-happy world, maintenance of this file can decrease church liability should a situation arise.

To further reduce church liability, a sign-in sheet 📎 should be maintained at the class entrance. Parents will sign this form every time a child is picked up or dropped off. Streamline this process by printing the names of regular attendees (and any special notes or concerns) prior to making copies. This form ensures that children are clearly signed in and out by a responsible, authorized adult. If a child is not to be released to a person identified on the *Child Information Form*, communicate this with a special note.

For nursery workers, the TRP also includes a *Baby Observation form* 📎. Use this form to communicate to parents of infants diaper changes, meals, and any other significant interaction. By using these forms, parents will sense responsibility in the worker, ultimately resulting in greater trust.

A sheet of postcards (TRP) 📎 is also included for teachers to mail to students. Parents love it when their children receive mail showing how their child is appreciated.

Each quarter also features a *Teacher Training article* (TRP) 📎. Compile the articles into a three-ring binder as a useful resource, especially to train new teachers. Download previous training articles from the website:

pentecostalpublishing.com/t-teacherstraining1.aspx

Click on the *Teacher Training* button. Please contact us if you would like to have a specific topic addressed in the future.