

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 1 • Unit 2 • Week 4

### GOD'S HOUSE

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach respect toward God and His people (the Church) through proper conduct at church services.

**MATERIALS:**

Miscellaneous items (candy, gum, trinkets, books, etc.)

Paper cups

Colored water

Candles and candle holders

Placemats or trays

Paper towels

Ziploc bags

Chalkboard/chalk

Pencils

Crayons

Paper plate or 9-by-12-inch construction paper

Scissors

Glue

Metal brad/fastener

Bean bag

Story: "Ready to Learn?"

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Before class: Hide various items outside and inside the classroom. Place candles in candleholders (make sure they are not very secure) and several very full cups of colored water on a table. To protect the table you may choose to use trays or placemats under the cups. Place chairs or other obstacles in odd places around the room. You may also have people sitting or standing in various places around the room during this exercise. The idea is to show that accidents can happen if we are not careful. Even if accidents don't happen, it will begin a dialogue on what could happen.

Do: Tell the students that outside are hidden treasures. Instruct them that when they get outside they are to run (emphasize run) and find two or three treasures as quickly as they can. After they find their treasures they are to continue to run and help others find their treasures. (Allow approximately two to three minutes.)

After students have found all the hidden treasures outside tell them there are hidden treasures inside the room as well. Again instruct the students to run and find two or three treasures as quickly as possible. After they find their treasures they are to continue to run and help others find their treasures. There may be spills from the cups so have some paper towels ready for clean up.

After all the treasure has been found instruct the students to bring their treasures and sit back down. (It is helpful to have a Ziploc bag in which to put their items so the treasures do not distract the students.)

#### **BIBLE LESSON:**

Ask: What was different about running outside as compared to running inside? [Let students respond—more room, no tables and chairs, easier, fewer people, no spills, no accidents, less chance of running into each other.]

Ask: Why isn't it a good idea to run inside? [Let students respond—too many things in the way, things can get broken, people can get hurt, drinks can get spilled.]

Say: We've learned there is a way to behave at church and a way not to behave at church.

I want you to listen to a story and tell me what the children in the story were doing that they should not have been doing.

Do: Read "Ready to Learn?" (see attached story).

Ask: What was happening in the classroom? [Let students respond—running, jumping off chairs, paper airplanes, Bible knocked on the floor.]

Is it wrong to run? Is it wrong to dance? Is it wrong to throw paper airplanes?

Say: No, it isn't. So why was it inappropriate for the students in this story to run, dance and throw paper airplanes? [Let students answer—they were inside a classroom at church and didn't show respect for God or other's property.]

Ask: Why should we treat God's house with respect? [Let students respond—it is a special place where we can worship God and a place where God's presence is.]

What are some things we can do to show respect in God's house? [Let students respond—take care of property, don't yell or run, be kind and helpful.]

Do: Worksheet "What's Wrong With This Picture?"

Instruct the students to circle the entire inappropriate behavior. Discuss why the behavior is unmannerly and how it affects the teacher or perhaps a speaker in church.

Ask: How do we show God respect and honor? [Let students respond—prayer, obey parents, obey God.]

Say: Yes, that is part of the way we show God respect, but there's more.

Ask: When you go to a wedding, do you dress in shorts or dirty blue jeans? Why not? [Let students respond—it's not nice; you're not supposed to; it might make them feel bad.]

Say: Those are all good answers. One of the main reasons you don't go to a wedding in play clothes or dirty clothes is because it does not show respect for the bride and groom.

Ask: In order to show respect to God how should we dress when we attend church? [Let students respond—nice, dressy, good clothes.]

Say: That's right. One way we show God that we love and respect Him is by dressing in the best we have.

Ask: Could we dance or play in this building if it weren't the Sabbath—if we weren't at church? [Yes.]

Say: We know the Sabbath is special, but is the building special? We use this building for church but at other times it is an (office, school, or whatever your building is used for), so what makes it a church? What is a church? [Let students respond—the people, God's people.]

Say: The Church is not the building. People meet in the building. It is the people that make up the Church in whatever building they happen to meet.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Do: Art Activity - "It's Time for Church Clock"

Instruct the students to color and cut out the clock and the hands. Glue the circle onto a paper plate or a 9-by-12-inch piece of construction paper. Fasten the hands onto the clock with a metal fastener or brad.

Note: Depending on time, class size and the ability of the students you may prefer to cut clock and hands out prior to class and just have the students glue the circle onto a paper plate.

**MUSIC:**

Review the song from week 1: "God Knows About Everything" from the cassette tape *Wonderfully Made*, Integrity Music Just For Kids, 1991.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Psalm 95:6 "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our maker."

Do: Prior to class print the memory verse on the chalkboard and underline each word. Have all the students say the scripture out loud several times together and individually. Then erase the last word and leave the underline. Repeat the scripture together filling in the blank. Continue this process until there are no words left on the chalkboard and see how many students are able to recite the entire verse.

# *family activity*

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach respect toward God and His people (the Church) through proper conduct at church services.

**ASK ME...**

How are we supposed to behave at church?

How are we supposed to dress for church?

Is the Church a building or the people of God?

**FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Set the time on the clock made in today's lesson for when your family leaves for church or for the time church begins.

Create a picture book using drawings or pictures cut out of magazines of what things should or could be done at church by adults and children.

Include the whole family in planning a family fun day or evening inviting another family to your home. Suggest that the children decide the menu, the activities or both.

Instructions: Cut the strip off the bottom of this page. You will see this week's memory verse on the back. After your child has learned the verse, glue the two ends together, forming a link of a paper chain. Each lesson's memory verse will add a new link to their chain of Bible knowledge.

-----cut along dotted line-----

(Teacher's note: please write the memory verse on the back of this page at the bottom.)

## READY TO LEARN?

"Hurry up Julie! We'll be late for Sabbath school," said Richard.

Julie picked up her Bible, slammed the car door and took off running. She was angry. "Don't tell me what to do!" she shouted.

Richard answered, "Okay, fine. You can walk into Sabbath school by yourself." He ran to catch up with Jim and Jason.

Julie was feeling sorry for herself. But then she began to think about some of the things God says in the Bible. "I guess I shouldn't have been angry," she said quietly, looking around to see if anyone had heard.

When Julie came into the Sabbath schoolroom everyone was running around. Mrs. Johnson was late. Jason was standing on the piano bench, knocking a Bible onto the floor. Jim was throwing a paper airplane and two other boys were jumping off the chairs while the girls were dancing around the room.

"This isn't the way to treat the Bible and this isn't the way to act at church," said Julie.

Richard said to his sister, "Who are you to tell Jason what to do? You weren't doing so great yourself earlier in the car."

Julie laughed and said, "You're right. I'm sorry for what I said. I think we would all be happier if we listened and followed what God says in the Bible."

Just at that moment Mrs. Johnson walked into the room. She looked around disappointedly. Jason climbed off the piano bench and picked up the Bible. As the students began to take their seats, Mrs. Johnson asked, "How many of you have something you consider to be very special that belongs just to you? Perhaps it is a special toy, a new bicycle, or a necklace that your grandmother gave you. How would you like it if someone took your new bike, rode it, crashed it and then threw it on the ground? Or how would you feel if your next door neighbor took your very special toy and broke it? Not very happy, I would imagine."

"How do you suppose God felt when He saw all that was going on in this room? What do you suppose God was thinking when He saw the Bible carelessly knocked to the floor? God wants us to have respect for His property as well as other people's property, just as you would want others to respect your things. Do you think that you were showing respect for God? I don't think so either."

The students looked at each other and felt very ashamed. Jason was the first to apologize to Mrs. Johnson. After all the students apologized they assured her it would never happen again. Mrs. Johnson smiled and asked, "Who is ready to learn something from God's Word?"

Julie looked at Richard. Richard looked at Jim and Jason. Then everyone looked at Mrs. Johnson and shouted, "I am!" And you know, everyone really listened.

## IT'S TIME FOR CHURCH CLOCK

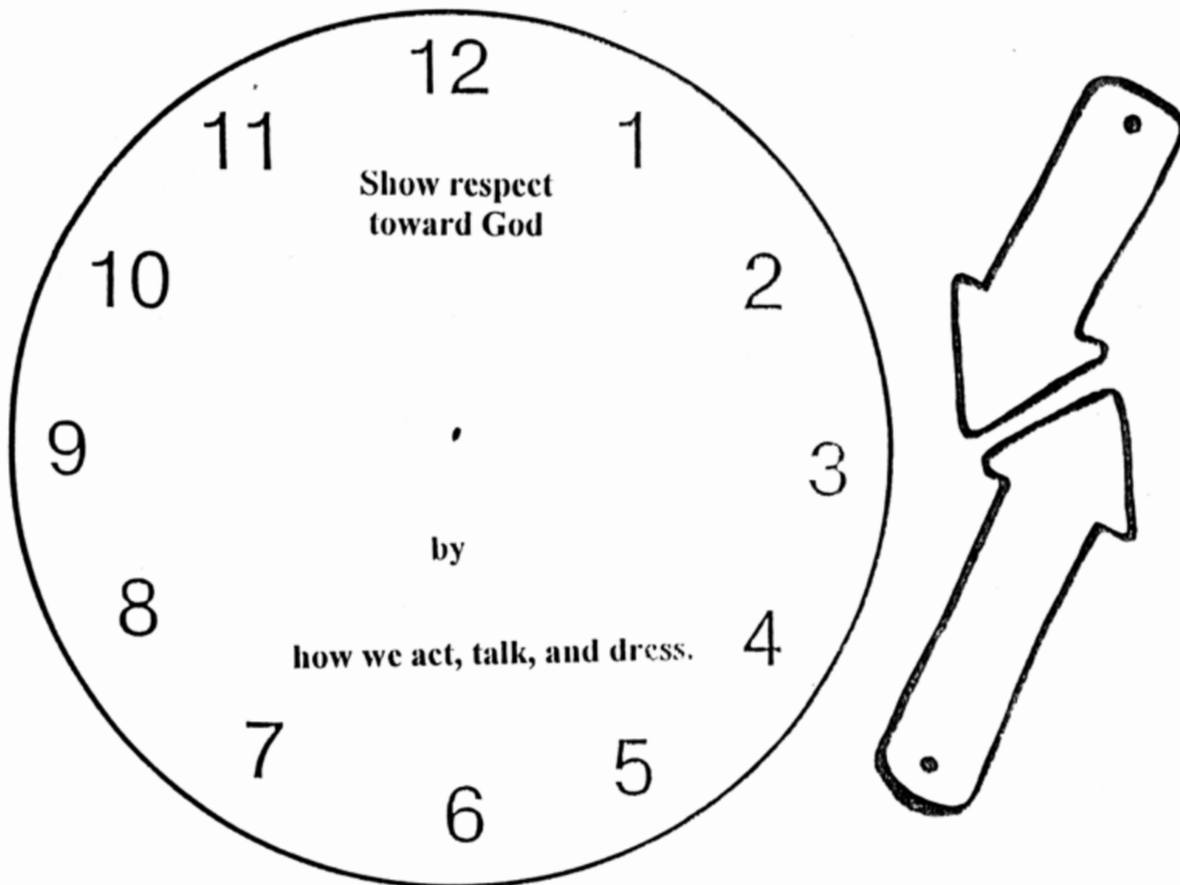
Make a clock to help you remember what time church begins.

### INSTRUCTIONS:

Color and cut out the clock and the hands. Glue the circle onto a paper plate or a 9" x 12" piece of construction paper. Attach the hands onto the clock with a metal fastener. Set the hands to the time church begins.

### REMEMBER:

We show respect toward God by how we act, talk, and dress.



# What's Wrong with This Picture?

Look at the picture below. Circle unmannerly behaviors and color the picture. Discuss why the behavior is unmannerly with your classmates, teacher and parents.

