

TIPS FOR TEACHING PRESCHOOLERS

1. **Play is the context in which young children grow and learn.** Relate the Bible Story or Bottom Line back to the toys that preschoolers are interacting with to help reinforce what they are learning.
2. **Preschoolers thrive off of repetition and consistency.** Repeating the bottom line or memory verse consistently will help preschoolers to retain the information better.
3. **Keep your calls to action or direction simple.** Preschoolers are much more likely to respond to short, simple commands. *(Bonus points if it rhymes!)*
4. **Come prepared and organized.** Check the lesson plans before class and make sure the room is equipped with everything that you need (and that it's cleaned) before beginning. Preschoolers have a short attention span, anything that redirects you- can get them unfocused too!
5. **Set the tone.** Preschoolers will follow your lead. Be excited about the Bible story, worship songs and crafts. Ask open-ended questions throughout the class time and HAVE FUN!
6. **Get to know each child.** We are discipling preschoolers too and you can't disciple someone that you don't know! Figure out their interests, fears, motivations and temperaments. Not only will it make classroom management easier, but you can also teach them in a way that capitalizes on their strengths.
7. **Set realistic expectations.** Patience is key, and every week will look differently. Preschoolers are amazing, but we can't expect them to act like adults. Enjoy the phase that they are in, teach them about Jesus and love them like crazy!
8. **READ.READ. READ.** No matter what age or stage of development preschoolers are in, reading to them is crucial. Not only does it help with language development, cognitive skills, memory, communication, etc., it can also help reinforce what preschoolers learned during the Bible story.