



HOLY CROSS KIDS **HANDBOOK**

FOR VOLUNTEERS



A practical guide for serving well in our
classrooms on Sunday mornings



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01

INTRO TO HOLY CROSS KIDS

THE MISSION OF HOLY CROSS KIDS

The mission for our children is the same mission for anyone in the church:

We desire to *magnify God's glory* by trusting in the gospel and the gift of his grace, to *live as God's people* by pursuing connected and authentic community with others, and to *engage in God's mission* by taking the whole gospel to the lost, last, and the least among us.

We are dedicated to maintaining a safe, loving, and Christ-centered environment for children where we teach the Bible and encourage children as they learn about Jesus.

Reflect on the above mission. What are some practical ways that our ministry to kids can act as an instrument for:

- *Magnifying God's glory?*
- *Living as God's people?*
- *Engaging in God's mission?*

Write your thoughts below

OUR CONVICTIONS

Teaching the Bible

At the heart of our ministry to kids is teaching the Bible and learning about Jesus. Our goal is not *childcare* or producing well-behaved adults, but to trust and embrace Jesus with a personal faith.

A Bible lesson is taught each week in our nursery and preschool rooms, with a key focus on the good news of Jesus. We currently use *The Gospel Project* curriculum in these rooms. Our elementary children learn biblical doctrines anchored in the hope we have in Jesus by using *The New City Catechism*.

Equipping parents

A healthy ministry to kids will always come alongside parents in the discipleship process as well as equip parents with the tools necessary to be their child's primarily spiritual leaders.

Along-the-way discipleship

Discipleship is a combination of classroom instruction as well as healthy adult modeling for how to be a willing and active participant in the body of Christ. Our parents and volunteers express much about what they believe in what they say and what they do.

Consistency & familiarity

When it comes to ministering to children, consistently and familiarity is extremely important. We ask our volunteers to serve regularly as this frequency is beneficial for the kids as well as the volunteer.

Loving & safe environment

This includes the physical classroom space and our volunteers and staff who care for our kids. Our volunteers go through a screening process which includes an application and background check. We also regularly rehearse classroom safety protocols.

OUR COMMITMENTS TO YOU

Our Holy Cross Kids director, along with our pastors and elders, are committed to supporting our volunteers with the resources and prayer they need to thrive.

Here is what can expect from us:

- We commit...to meet with you on Sunday morning before you volunteer and be available if any needs should come up.
- We commit...to have all materials and instructions provided and laid out for easy access.
- We commit...to make available the lesson plan at least a week in advance. The Kids Team Director will email you an easy-to-follow lesson plan.
- We commit...to have each month's schedule sent out at least a month in advance.
- We commit...to be available to help you with any Kids Team needs or questions throughout the week and to offer additional training or shadowing, as desired.
- We commit...to make accessible all classroom safety protocols in each classroom, each week.
- We commit...to model before you as leaders what faithful and joyful service looks like.

We love our children, not because they are the church of tomorrow, but because they are an integral part of the church of today.



Holy Cross **Kids**

02

A HEALTHY VOLUNTEER

MINISTRY MINDSETS

Those who have been impacted by the gospel have countless opportunities both within the church, and outside of it, to pursue acts of service, compassion, and justice—empowered by a passion for the glory of God.

Here are 5 ministry mindsets of a healthy volunteer:

Fueled primarily by a desire to honor Christ

We serve because Jesus serves us and calls us to be like him.

Knows that sometimes the most significant things are the smallest things

A healthy volunteer does not fall into the temptation of serving in ways that seem great, but is faithful even with the overlooked things and with few accolades.

Develops the skill of spotting ministry burdens

God has composed his church in such a way that we would lack nothing when our spiritual gifts are utilized in faith.

Pursues joy in the midst of ministry headaches

You will have ups and downs along the way. Serving can be downright joyless. Pursuing faithfulness in the midst of trials transforms our faith.

Replaces a consumer-driven mentality with a life-together mission out of love mentality

Nothing cripples a ministry as quickly as a mentality that the church exists to manage the personal comfort of its members.

A MINI SELF-ASSESSMENT

How would you assess your current volunteer mindset to “honor Christ” in your service?

- Very untrue of me*
- Somewhat untrue of me*
- Neutral*
- Somewhat true of me*
- Very true of me*

If you listed anything less than “very true of me”, what would it look like to respond in faithfulness to this area?

How would you assess your current volunteer mindset to “serve in small ways”?

- Very untrue of me*
- Somewhat untrue of me*
- Neutral*
- Somewhat true of me*
- Very true of me*

If you listed anything less than “very true of me”, what would it look like to respond in faithfulness to this area?

How would you assess your current volunteer mindset to “spot ministry burdens”?

- Very untrue of me
- Somewhat untrue of me
- Neutral
- Somewhat true of me
- Very true of me

If you listed anything less than “very true of me”, what would it look like to respond in faithfulness to this area?

How would you assess your current volunteer mindset to “pursue joy”?

- Very untrue of me
- Somewhat untrue of me
- Neutral
- Somewhat true of me
- Very true of me

If you listed anything less than “very true of me”, what would it look like to respond in faithfulness to this area?

How would you assess your current volunteer mindset to “replace a consumer-driven mentality”?

- Very untrue of me
- Somewhat untrue of me
- Neutral
- Somewhat true of me
- Very true of me

If you listed anything less than “very true of me”, what would it look like to respond in faithfulness to this area?

EXPECTATIONS OF A HOLY CROSS KIDS VOLUNTEER

Kids Team Volunteers will be expected to...

1. Use Planning Center for accepting, declining, and blocking out dates. If you experience difficulties with Planning Center, please contact the Kids Team Director.
2. Arrive at least 15 minutes early on the Sundays they are serving. Arriving early allows for our classrooms to be hospitable to visitors as well as regular attenders and church members.
3. Respond within ten days to requests to serve for the next month's schedule. When declining a request, Kids Team Volunteers will do their best to offer a different date to serve as a teacher or a back-up substitute.
4. Block out dates into Planning Center as soon as they are able so that they do not get scheduled for dates they know they will be unavailable.
5. Make two attempts to trade dates with another Kids Team Volunteer before calling the Kids Team Director. An up-to-date Kids Team volunteer contact sheet can be found by scanning the code on pg. ().
6. Review and sign the Safety Protocols Agreement each year. Kids Team Volunteers will review and follow the safety sheet information each time they serve.
7. Make sure that children are dismissed only to their parents or guardians.
8. Follow the P.R.E.P. model (next page). We are confident that if you do these four things, your time with the kids will be enjoyable and fruitful.

P.R.E.P.

We recognize that serving with Holy Cross Kids does not always feel natural and easy. However, we are confident that if you P.R.E.P., your time with the kids will be enjoyable and fruitful.

PREPARE

Prepare your hearts to serve God and the families of Holy Cross. This means having an attitude and posture of love and patience towards the kids and the parents with whom you interact. It also means looking over the lesson plan ahead of time, arriving early, and communicating with the Kids Team director, as needed.

REVIEW

Review the lesson plan a few days before Sunday. The more familiar you are with the content and flow, the more comfortable you will feel teaching and serving. Reviewing ahead of time also gives you time to ask the Kids Team Director questions about the lesson should you have any.

ENGAGE

Engage with the children. Instead of letting the time pass, use it as an opportunity to engage kids in the story of who Jesus is and what he has done for us. Don't be afraid to get down on the ground with them and interact on their level. Sing and play along with them as well as focus on the content of the lesson. Don't forget about parents. You are serving them, too. Greet them as they drop off and pick up their kids. Use the tablet in the nursery and preschool to communicate with parents if needed.

PRAY

Pray for God to work. Many kids will come to know Jesus in a deeper way through these times that they spend with you. We want to saturate our time with prayer and the expectation that God is with us in the classroom. Remember the kids by name and pray for them.

- Pray throughout the week as you prepare to serve.
- Pray with the kids after the Bible Story, with special attention to Christ and the gospel, taking requests and praises from the children.
- Thank God for His Word and how He uses it to teach us and love us.
- Pray before snack time.

03

SUNDAY MORNING BASICS

THE NURSERY / TODDLER CLASSROOM

Schedule & Flow:

Mins	Activity
(15 mins early)	Greet kids and families
20 mins	Play and sing
15 mins	Story and song
15 mins	Activity and Snack Bible story
20 mins	Play and clean-up

(See Sample Lesson Plan, page 30)

THE PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM

Schedule & Flow:

Mins	Activity
(15 mins early)	Greet kids and families
20 mins	Free play & conversations (some kids stay in the sanctuary and will join the classroom after the greeting time)
10 mins	Clean up toys, Introduction activity
10 mins	Singing and Activity/Craft
5 mins	Snack
10 mins	Story Review and Activity Take-Home Paper
5 mins	Check-out and Tidy up

(See Sample Lesson Plan, page 32)

THE ELEMENTARY CLASSROOM

Schedule & Flow:

Mins	Activity
(15 mins early)	Greet kids and families Elementary kids attend the first part of the worship service on the weeks they have class. You may sit in the sanctuary and then lead students out during the greeting time of the service. Make sure kids go directly to class and not down the hallway. Shut the classroom door to help with the noise.
5 mins	Greet students
5 mins	Review previous lesson
10 mins	Activity
15 mins	Catechism
3 mins	Prayer
5 mins	Scripture verse or Recitation
5 mins	Reflection or additional activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tidy up• Free time while waiting for parents• One volunteer should meet parents at the door and dismiss only to parents/guardians. The other volunteer should supervise any activity in the classroom.

(See Sample Lesson Plan, page 36)

04

TOOLS & RESOURCES

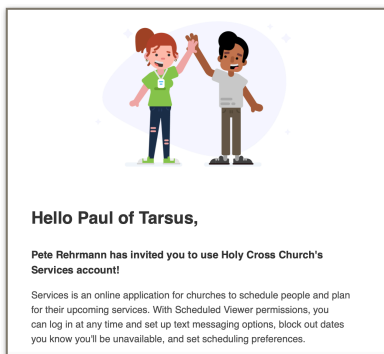
PLANNING CENTER ONLINE

Our church uses an intuitive scheduling system called Planning Center Online to schedule volunteers.

1. Welcome Email

When you sign up to serve with Holy Cross Kids you will receive a **welcome email** from Planning Center Online.

Follow the prompts in the email to login with your email address and setup a password to access your account.



2. Accept or Decline Serve Request

When you have been placed on the schedule to serve, you will receive an email (and text msg) with an option to “accept” or “decline” a request, noting which service and classroom. Please make every effort to respond to this request as soon as possible.

February 5, 2023

Holy Cross Kids Sunday [View plan](#)

Back-ups (Holy Cross Kids)

Service:

02/05 at 9:30A

Accept

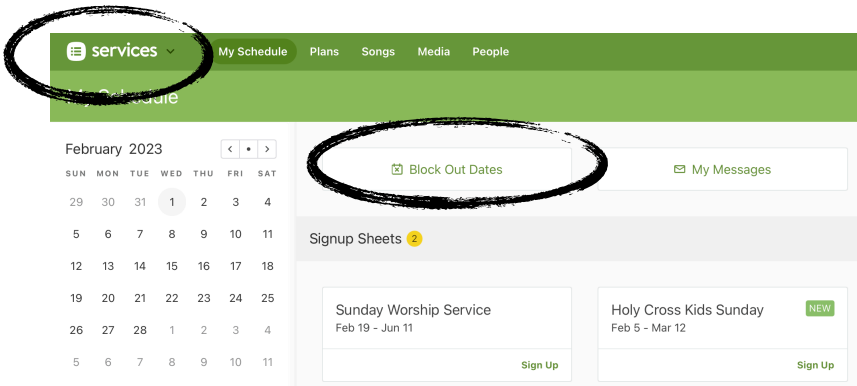
Decline

3. Block-out dates

Our Kids Director will often ask volunteers to go into Planning Center and “block out” dates. This helps to notify the leader when you know you will be out of town or have another conflict, and to not be scheduled on those dates.

To block out dates:

- Step One: Log-in to planning center
- Step Two: Click the “Services” Tab top left
- Step Three: Click the “Block Out Dates” button
- Step Four: Select the days you are unavailable in the pop-up calendar and add descriptions as needed.



4. Download the Planning Center Services App

You may choose to download the Planning Center Services App for the most convenient way to do the following:

- Accept or Decline Volunteer requests.
- Block out days you know you cannot serve.
- View your schedule and upcoming days you are serving.
- Scan the code to the right to download the app.



VOLUNTEER CONTACT LIST

While we hope that you will do everything you can to keep your commitment to serve on a day you are scheduled, we know that sometimes things come up that simply hinder your ability to make it in. When this happens, we ask that you make at least two attempts to find a substitute volunteer (from our Kids Team) before contacting our Kids Director.

In doing so, we hope to encourage a greater shared ownership of our mission, accountability, and support for one another when things don't happen as planned.

What to do if you can't serve on a day you are scheduled:

- **Make at least two attempts** at finding a replacement from the Kids Team list. Consider offering to swap dates with another volunteer. This is an up-to-date list of current Team members, through google sheets. Only current team members will have access to this list. This list can be found by scanning the code below. This link will also be sent to your email. *(Access will be given to your main email address used with Planning Center).*



- **If you were able to find a replacement.** Great job! This helps so much. Please message the Kids Director to notify her of the change.
- **If you cannot find a replacement after two attempts,** contact the Kids Director as soon as possible.

PARENT TEXT ALERT SYSTEM

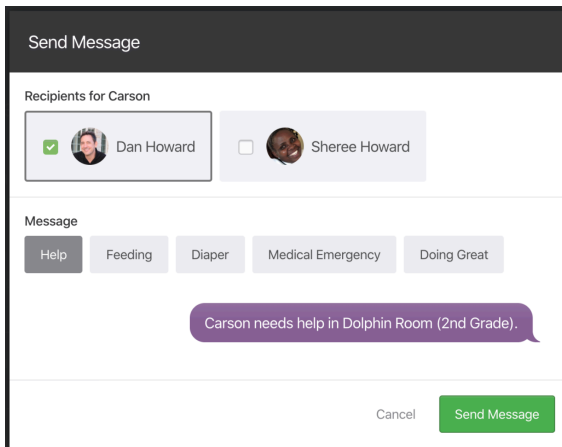
We have begun to utilize a **TEXT ALERT** for parents who are worshipping in the sanctuary. We have a built-in feature for our Holy Cross Kids Check-in that allows us to easily send a message to parents via text.

If there is a situation in one of the classrooms which requires a parent to be present, this text alert system will notify the parent.

How It Works

Texting is only an option once someone is checked in. So, when you need to send a message, go to the roster on the iPad in the classroom. Click on the new message icon next to a child's name.

Select which adult or trusted person in the household you want to text and choose one of the pre-written messages. You'll see a preview message of exactly how it's going to look.

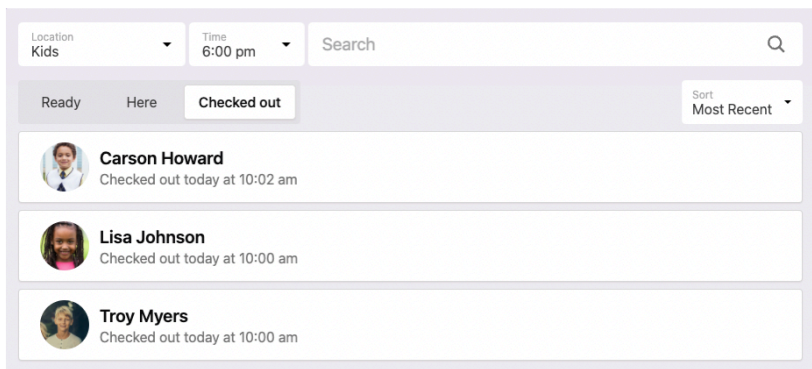


CHECK-OUT SYSTEM

All rostered stations (iPads) in each classroom will show who has been checked-in to that class.

It is important for a volunteer to make sure that each child is checked-out to a parent or guardian.

Your roster station will be defaulted to check-out mode. This means that when you click on the name of a child, you will be able to check them out. The child's name will then be moved to a "checked-out" tab and only remaining children will remain on the roster.



TIME FILLERS

Too much free time can be a management issue on Sunday mornings. Children like fun but often it needs to have parameters and a bit of structure. If you get through the lesson plan and all of the activities and still have time before children are picked up here are some time-fillers to use.

Preschool:

- Father Abraham (with motions) or other classic Sunday school songs
- Button Factory (with motions)
- Going on a Bear Hunt (with motions)
- Five Little Speckled Frogs (with motions)
- Simon Says
- Follow The Leader
- Read a picture book aloud to the children.

Elementary

- I Spy
- Heads Up 7-Up
- Alphabet Game - Choose a category (ex. movies, food, jobs etc.), then take turns naming something from that category while going down the alphabet. For example, if your category is food, one person might say “apples,” the next person “bananas” and so on.
- Charades

SAFETY POLICY

SAFETY POLICY & AGREEMENT

Holy Cross Church seeks to provide a safe and secure environment for the children who attend our Sunday School classes. By implementing the following practices, our goal is to protect the children for Holy Cross from injury, incidents of misconduct or inappropriate behavior while also protecting out staff and volunteers from false accusations.

THINGS TO REMEMBER WHILE VOLUNTEERING

1. Every volunteer must fill out and clear the volunteer application and background check before serving in a classroom. No person will volunteer with our children without one on file.
2. Every volunteer must be at least 15 years old unless accompanied by a parent.
3. Always be sure that every child has a name tag on, meaning they have been checked into our system before parents drop them off in the classroom.
4. Name tags are used to alert you of any allergies. Please read before distributing snack.
5. Two adults are to be in the classroom at all times. At no time will kids be left alone with one adult. If a supply is missing, improvise or skip the craft/activity requiring the missing supplies.
6. If a child needs assistance using the bathroom, leave the door open.
7. Never leave a classroom door open. If a door needs to be opened for any reason, an adult volunteer must be standing at the door the entire time a door is opened.
8. An adult volunteer must stand at the door during drop off and pick up to be sure that the child is released to their parent. Not only is this a safety issue, but also allows our volunteers to greet parents and kids.
9. If you notice a toy is broken or hazardous, remove from children's reach. Discard after class.
10. Children who are observed by a volunteer to be ill including fever, diarrhea, vomiting within the last 48 hours, green or yellow runny nose, eye or skin infection, or any other symptoms of communicable or infections disease, will be separated from other children and the parent or guardian will be contacted to request that the child be picked up for the day.

I acknowledge that I have read the above safety policies, have received a copy for my records, and will abide by them without exception.

Name

Signature

Date

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN
Nursery / Toddler Classroom

Thank you for serving our littlest ones today at Holy Cross. Most of the morning in the nursery will obviously be spent playing with and caring for our babies and toddlers.

If you need to contact a parent for a diaper change or who has a baby who cannot be consoled, you can use the tablet to do so. Please use the tablet at checkout time.

Only parents/guardians can checkout children. Thank you.

Sometimes, depending on the ages and number of children in the nursery, it is possible to gather them for just a few minutes to read the Bible story. Sometimes it is possible to bring the children's Bible over to one or two children at a time and read the baby gems/ toddler story to them as they look at the pictures and as they play or before, during, or after the craft time. We do not expect full attention at this age, but it is great to set the foundation, even for our babies, that church is a place where we learn about Jesus.

Story: *BABY GOSPEL GEMS*

- *The king chose Esther to be his queen.*
- *God used Esther to save His people.*
- *God had a plan for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world and rescue all people.*

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

The king of Persia chose Esther—a Jew, one of God's people—to be his queen. One day, her cousin Mordecai found out bad news—someone wanted to destroy the Jews. He sent a message to Esther, "Ask the king to save our people." Esther wanted to help, but no one could go to the king without being asked first. Esther was afraid, but she went to the king anyway. The king saw Esther and held out his scepter to her. Esther asked the king to a special meal. At the meal, the king said, "I will give you whatever you ask." Esther said, "Please save my people!" The king made a law to keep the Jews safe from their enemies.

- **Worship with Instruments** - Play a song on the DVD or sing a Sunday school song such as Jesus Loves Me or the B-I-B-L-E. Have the toddlers play the instruments as you sing/listen to music. You could also sing the suggested song from the lesson:
- **Sing** the refrain of "I Need Thee Every Hour."
"I need Thee, oh, I need Thee; Ev'ry hour I need Thee; Oh, bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee." SAY The king chose Esther to be his queen. God used Esther to save the Jews. God had a plan for Esther

to rescue His people. God also had a plan for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world and rescue all people

- **Activity:** Find the Crown
Cut out a crown shape from yellow construction paper. Print The king chose Esther to be his queen on the crown. Hide the crown and invite toddlers to search for it. Praise the child who finds it, and then read the gospel gem aloud to the toddlers. Briefly retell the Bible story. SAY The king chose Esther—a Jew, one of God’s people—to be his queen. God had a plan for Esther to save the Jews. God also had a plan for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world and rescue all people.
- **Activity:** Play with Toy Food
Play with the toy food with the babies and toddlers. Be sure to disinfect toys that babies put in their mouths. SAY God used Esther to rescue the Jews. At a special meal for the king, Esther asked the king to save her people from their enemies. God had a plan for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world and rescue all people.
- **Activity:** Play-Doh and/or Bubbles
With supervision, allow the toddlers to play with Play-Doh at the table. Or clear a space in the middle of the room for them to safely pop bubbles. Bubble solution is on the counter.

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Preschool Classroom

Thank you for serving our Holy Cross children today! If you need to contact a parent for a child that cannot be consoled after many minutes or any other reason, you can use the tablet to do so. **Please use the tablet at checkout time. To screen share the video parts of the lesson plan, select “PreK” on the tablet.** Here is this Sunday’s lesson plan:

1. First 20ish minutes allow children to play until after the singing portion is done in the sanctuary as some preschoolers join the class at this point in the morning. Give the children who enter in the transition time a few minutes to play - but also give a two minute reminder when it is time to clean up. Joining the children in cleaning up, singing a clean up song, etc. is helpful.

2. Activity - Point and Move (from older preschool guide pg. 89)
Roll up a sheet of paper lengthwise to resemble a scepter. Instruct preschoolers to stand in a line. Tell the group that when you point the scepter at a child, he should begin to jump. Lower the scepter toward the children, one at a time, until everyone is jumping. Suggest new movements as the game continues. SAY Whenever the king would point his scepter at someone, it was a good thing. Esther needed to ask the king an important question, but his rule was that no one could visit him without permission. Esther was afraid, but her question was too important. We will find out more about Esther in today’s story.

3. Transition to the story
Have the children sit on the mat. Talk about good news and bad news. Give several examples of each such as “Mom is having a new baby,” “My pet goldfish died,” “We’re having pizza for supper,” or “It’s snowing outside.” Ask children to decide whether the news is good or bad. SAY It’s better to hear good news than bad news, isn’t it? In today’s Bible story, Queen Esther’s cousin gave her some very bad news. What would she do? How would she help her people?

4. Tell the story.
Place a bookmark at Esther in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible. SAY The Book of Esther is in the Old Testament part of the Bible. The things we read in the Bible are true and really happened. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Read the story

Some of God’s people were in a land called Persia. Persia was ruled by King Ahasuerus. The king chose Esther to be his queen. Esther was one of God’s people who were called Jews. Esther did not tell the king that she was a Jew. One day, Esther’s cousin Mordecai heard some bad news. Haman,

one of the king's helpers, had a very evil plan to destroy the Jews. Esther wanted to help her people, but the king had a rule: No one can go to the king unless the king asks that person to come first. If anyone broke the rule, the punishment was death. The only way to not be punished was if the king held out his scepter. That meant, "You may live." Esther was afraid. Mordecai reminded Esther that she was a Jew. Maybe Esther had become the queen just for this time—so she could save her people! Esther asked all the Jews to not eat or drink for three days. Then Esther went to the king. He saw Esther and held out his scepter. That meant she would live! "What can I do for you?" the king asked. "I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom."

Esther asked the king and Haman to come to a feast. When they were done eating, the king said, "What can I do for you? I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom." Esther said, "Come to my feast tomorrow." The next day, the king and Haman went to Esther's feast. When they were done eating, the king said, "What can I do for you? I will give you anything—up to half of the kingdom." Esther said, "There is a plan to kill me and my people." "Who made that plan?" the king asked. "This evil man—Haman!" Esther said. The king was angry. He ordered Haman to be taken away. Then the king made a law to keep the Jews safe from their enemies. God's plan was to send the Messiah into the world through Abraham's family. Haman's evil plan could not stop God. God had a plan for Esther to rescue His people. By saving the Jews, God made the way for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world.

Questions To Ask/Review the Story:

- Who remembers some of the names of the people from this Bible story?(Esther, Mordecia, Haman, etc.)
- Who was Esther? (The queen.) Haman? (The king's helper) Mordecai? (Esther's cousin)
- What was the bad news/bad plan that Mordecai learned about Haman? (That Haman wanted to have all the Jews killed.)
- What was the king's rule? (No one could come to the king without the king asking that person to come.)
- What did Esther decide to do? (Go to the king , make a feast for him, and tell him about the plan so she could save her people - God's people.)
- What did the king do when Esther came to him? (He let her live, he listened to what she told him, he punished Haman, and made a law to keep the Jews safe.)
- What can stop God's plan to save His people? (Nothing can ever stop God's plan to rescue His people.)
- Who did God send to rescue His people from their sins? (Jesus)
- *Big Picture Question - Have you ever disobeyed your parents or ever done something that you know you should not have done? How did you feel later about the choice you made? [Allow responses.] Sin makes us feel sad. We have not only disobeyed our parents, but we have disobeyed God. **How should we feel***

when we sin? When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and choose to obey Him.

5. Scripture Verse: This is the first week with this verse, 2 Corinthians 7:10. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Create motions for preschoolers to use as they say the key passage. Use the key passage song video for inspiration. SAY Godly grief is a sad feeling we have when we begin to understand that we have disobeyed God. When we have that feeling, this verse tells us that it is a good thing because it helps us to know that we should ask God to forgive us.

6. Pray - Pray with and for the children. Take requests. Ask about things we can praise God for. Allow any child to pray who wants to.

7. Music with Motions

Please play the Scripture verse song on the tv via the tablet and sing and do the motions with the children.

8. King, Queen, Feast, or Plan (from older Preschool Guide pg. 94)

Demonstrate movements that correspond with each word. Tell children that when you say the word king, they should pretend to put a crown on their heads. When you say the word queen, they should bow or curtsy. When you say the word feast, they should pretend to eat. When you say the word plan, they should rub their hands together. Randomly call out words and lead children to perform the movement. Mix up the words and say them faster and faster as the game progresses. SAY Each one of these words reminds me of today's true story from the Bible. Esther was chosen to be the queen. She prepared a feast for her husband, King Ahasuerus. After the feast, she told the king about an evil plan to destroy her people, the Jews. God's plan for Esther was for her to ask the king to save her people. God also planned for His Son, Jesus, to be part of the Jewish family. God made a way, through Esther, for the Messiah to come into the world many years later.

9. Snack - Pass out Cheerios to all children unless they have an allergy listed. Talk with the children as they eat their snacks.

10. Activity - Song

Sing the song below to the familiar tune of "Bingo." Clap on each syllable of morning, noon, and night: "I can trust the Lord, my God, each and every day. Morning, noon, and night. Morning, noon, and night. Morning, noon, and night. Yes, I can trust the Lord."

11. Coloring Paper from today's lesson

12. Activity - Be a Helper (pg. 95 younger guide)

Encourage preschoolers to help you think of ways that they can be helpers at home or in the classroom. Ideas might include putting away toys, folding laundry, cleaning up a spill, bringing family members something they need, or passing out supplies or snacks during the session. Once you think of an

idea, act it out. Ideas can be acted out by individual preschoolers or the whole group together. Encourage preschoolers to be helpers. SAY Esther was a helper. Even though she was afraid, she went to the king. She could have been punished, but the king held out his scepter. Esther told the king about Haman's evil plan. After hearing Esther's story, the king made a law to keep the Jews safe from their enemies. Esther helped save her people. By saving the Jews, God made the way for His Son, Jesus, to come into the world

13. Story Review

Gather the children back to the mat to review the story via video. Show the Jan. 29 video about Esther.

14. Play Doh - Allow children to play with Play-Doh

With any remaining time children may play until parents arrive or you may play the other songs on the DVDs to sing along with. You can use the Minno app on the tablet to play Seeds for Worship or other kids' worship songs on the tv.

Please use the tablet to checkout the children at pickup time.

Fun preschool games to fill any remaining time if you need something still a bit more organized than free play:

- Going on a Bear Hunt (with motions)
- 5 Green & Speckled Frogs (with motions)
- All Around The Kitchen Cockadoodle doodle doo

Extra songs besides the ones from The Gospel Project or the DVDS to use could be preschool Sunday school songs like Jesus Loves Me or The B-I-B-L-E.

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

Elementary Classroom

Question 13

Thank you for serving our Holy Cross children today! Please introduce yourself to the students and make sure no elementary students are wandering in the foyer. **Students need to be at the tables during class time and not on the couch/beanbags. Please use the tablet to check out children at the end of class. A parent/guardian must pick up their child from the classroom (not a sibling).**

We are using The New City Catechism Curriculum. The complete handbook will be available on the counter if you need to reference it. All supplies/activities will be ready to use on Sunday morning.

Lesson Plan

Previous Recitation Review (5 minutes)

Begin class with a brief prayer asking God to guide and bless the lesson and activities and for hearts to be open as we study God's Word.

Ask if anyone can recite last time's verse (James 2:8) or last time's catechism question/answer. (Q11. What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments? A: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.)

What is a catechism? (Review) (less than 5 minutes)

Ask if anyone remembers what a catechism is or why we use it? (Remind the students that a catechism is simply a way to learn more about what the Bible says on many different things. The way it works is by learning questions and answers and understanding what those questions and answers teach us about God. Christians have been using catechisms for hundreds of years. God has used this way of learning about him and his word to grow, strengthen, and equip his church in different countries around the world. There are several different catechisms, but we are using The New City Catechism in our class. It has 52 questions and answers.)

Introduction To Question 13 and Activity (from pgs 107- 108 10-15 minutes)

There will be a set of cards with charades for volunteers to act out. (Stealing, breaking in, speeding, doing drugs, vandalism, arson) List the crimes on the board as the students guess correctly. Once they have completed this activity, ask them to rank them from most offensive to least offensive. Then ask them where they would place themselves on this list. They will probably be shocked at the suggestion that they should even be on the list and

protest their innocence. Reassure them that you are aware they haven't committed a crime or broken any laws in the eyes of the state, but challenge them to think about where they've broken God's laws, but ask them where they would place themselves if a list is being prepared for God. Erase the rankings and tell the children that before God, everyone is guilty.

Introduce Q13

Q13, "Can anyone keep the law of God perfectly?"

A. Since the fall, no human has been able to keep the law of God perfectly.

Practice the question and answer. Remind them that God gave his law to show his people how to live, but that everyone except Jesus has failed to keep the law of God perfectly.

Tell the children about Evel Knievel. Explain that he was a famous motorcyclist who attempted daredevil stunts. Show them this video of him jumping 133 feet. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywiqmD3j8xc>

Explain that on September 8, 1974, Knievel planned to jump across the Snake River Canyon in a special designed Skycycle. All the spectators were disappointed because he didn't make the jump. He fell short. (Reassure the children that, surprisingly, he wasn't killed and only had minor injuries.) No one was really interested in how far he did get; the reality was that he just couldn't reach the other side. When you are jumping across a canyon, "almost" is not good enough. Help the children understand that this is an illustration of how humanity is before God's law. Every single person fails to reach the stand of God's law.

Teaching Outline (15 minutes - from pgs 108-109)

Ask the children if anyone here has ever received a perfect score on a test. Congratulate those who say they have. Then ask those children if they always get 100 percent on their tests. Explain that it is very unlikely that anyone will consistently achieve 100 percent on every test throughout his or her life. Help them to see that perfection is impossible to live up to.

Read Romans 3:9-20 to the students as they follow along. Introduce the children to Paul's letter to the Romans and explain to them that, at this point in the letter, Paul is helping his readers and listeners understand just how bad the situation is for them. Paul clearly explains to them that everyone, both Jews (God's chosen people) and Gentiles, fail to live up to God's standard as revealed in his law, The Ten Commandments. Paul says everyone is born sinful, and that means no one can keep the law of God perfectly.

Explain to the children that God designed human beings to be able to keep his law perfectly, but when sin entered the world through Adam, everything changed. Adam rejected God's law in favor of living his own way, and every single person who has lived since is tainted by sin that first appeared in Adam. Explain to the children that everybody is separated from God by sin

and that no one is capable of living the perfect righteous life that God demands. Remind that children that God has declared that he will punish those who fail to keep his law.

Paul explains that on one is right with God. Invite the children to look back through the passage and pull out some of the things it says about people. Ask the students to identify the parts of the body that are mentioned in this passage. There is no part of us that isn't affected by sin. Help the children to see that it is both relationships with other people and the relationship with God that are spoiled. Read verse 20 for the children and explain that it means it is not possible to save oneself by the law, but rather, through the law people become aware of their sin.

Ask the children if the classroom is clean or dirty. (Hopefully they say it is pretty clean!) Tell them that although it may be tidy, there might be dust on surfaces that we can't see. Explain that we could take something like a flashlight and shine it on surfaces or in corners and crevices and find dust. Help the children see that the law allows us to see where we have failed to live according to God's perfect way, just as the flashlight can help us see dust where we could not see it without it.

Tell the children that there is some good news thought! Describe how understanding our failure to keep the law helps the beauty of the gospel to shine through. It's like a black piece of velvet that is put behind a diamond to allow the diamond to shine brightly.

Tell the children that there is One who kept God's law perfectly, and that was Jesus. Explain that God intends to punish those who have rejected his rule and broken his law, but Jesus wonderfully, willingly bears God's punishment in order for relationships to be restored between God and man. Remind them that when we come with a repentant heart seeking to trust in Jesus's work to save us from our sin, we can be forgiven. Conclude this teaching time by reviewing Question and Answer 13.

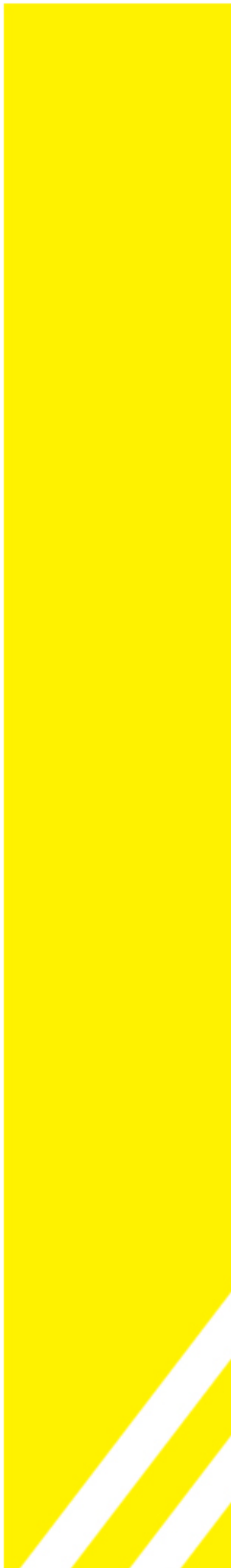
Take prayer requests/pray for the students.

Memory Verse Activity - Romans (5 minutes)

Divide the class into three teams in three lines for a relay race. Have them collect the memory verse words relay race style and then arrange the words in order. The first team to finish wins.

If time remains, review the catechism question and answer by erasing a word or two at a time until the class can say it from memory. You can also review the previous 12 questions and award points to teams who remember the answers.

Students may play foosball, basketball, or connect four at the end of class if time remains or you could do an organized game like Heads Up Seven Up or I Spy.



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