



YUM-YUM

They'll WANT to Come!

Adding KID Appeal to Bible Lessons

by Sharon Ellard

Rocks, pigs, mud, seeds, fish, flowers, bread, fruit, jewelry, coins, water—

Q What do they have in common?

A Jesus used these everyday items to teach about God.

Cookies, flashlights, CDs, dolls, play dough, balls, Band-Aids, bed sheets—

Q What do they have in common?

A Today's children use these items every day. If we teach God's ways with everyday items, children will be reminded of God every day. If we teach God's Word with kids' favorites, God's Word will become a favorite too.

Snacks

Five snacks that teach Bible stories

1 Pudding

Use the back of plastic spoons to "paint" with vanilla pudding on paper plates. Add food coloring to paint a green pasture for marshmallow sheep. With chocolate pudding, paint Mt. Sinai.

2 Fruit

Cut bananas into coins for the parable of the lost coin. Arrange banana slices around a

chocolate kiss to make the flowers in Jesus' parable about Solomon. Cut apples from side to side and look for the star (of seeds) like the Wise Men did.

3 Cheese and crackers

With cookie cutters, cut cheese shapes of the sun, moon, and stars to review Creation. Use plastic knives to cut strips for a cross.

4 Dry cereal

Sprinkle frosted flakes on a table for manna. String a "rainbow" of Fruit Loops.

5 Pretzel sticks

For children three or older, gather sticks like Ruth gathering barley. Arrange pretzels like prison bars for Paul.

Play Dough

Five ways to teach with play dough

1 Cookie cutters

Make lions, angels, cows, etc. Then retell Daniel in the lion's den, Jacob's ladder, or Noah's ark.

2 Pretend

Make a birthday cake, complete with candles. Sing a happy birthday song to Bible babies like Moses, Samuel, or Jesus.

3 Words

Watch for alphabet cookie cutters. Help children cut out the

letters to sight words like: B-i-b-l-e or J-e-s-u-s.

4 Play food

Ask children to list and shape favorite foods. Thank God for the foods. Also shape food from a Bible story, like loaves and fish. Role-play sharing the food.

5 Imprints

Press small lesson-related objects into play dough—seashells, play food, fish cut from place mats. Talk about Jesus at the seashore, the parable of the sower, or Jesus' friends catching fish.

Toys

Four toys that teach

1 Toy people

Dress small toy people in little ponchos cut from felt. Wrap chenille wires around their waists as belts. Let the children move the people to match the action of a Bible story.

2 Novelty toys

Watch for glow-in-the-dark toys to add to a story. Children can search for stars like the Wise Men or follow footprints to Jesus.

3 Animals

Let children move toy animals to act out Abraham's moving to a new home, Creation, or the Christmas story.



Blocks

Build the walls of Jericho or a campfire for shepherds.

Household Items

Four story props to bring from home



Sheets

Gather children around the

edges to make the big waves of the stormy sea. Cover a table with a sheet. Add a big, paper eye on each side and be swallowed by a whale like Jonah.



Towels

Lay two towels end-to-end to make a river for Baby Moses to float down in a basket. Overlap two towels side-by-side for the Red Sea. Pull the towels apart to



Flashlights

Turn out the lights and shine a flashlight on the visuals as angels announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.



Kitchen utensils

Bring a pot and spoon for Jacob to stir his lentil soup or for Sarah to cook for angels.

Questions For Further Study—

- How does teaching with everyday items help children remember Bible lessons during the week?
- List one way to teach a Bible lesson with each of the following everyday items.
 - play dough
 - pretzels
 - towels
 - toy people

This article was adapted from one article in the colorful training booklet called *StepONE, A Guide for Teachers—Early Childhood*, by Sharon Ellard, Early Childhood Consultant in the Sunday School Field Ministries Department. *StepONE* reads like a magazine and trains like a conference. It's a quick, affordable training tool that your early childhood teachers will enjoy reading. *StepONE* will help teachers and parents minister effectively to 2- through 5-year-olds. The complete resource is available from the Gospel Publishing House, order number 02-0286. Call 1-800-641-4310.

