

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level K • Unit 2 • Week 4

### GOD'S HOUSE

**OBJECTIVE:**

To teach children that behaving properly in church shows respect for God and His people.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Supplies Needed: Set of girl and boy hand puppets or paper/felt dolls with clothes.

This is Faith and John. (Hold up hand puppets or paper/felt dolls dressed in pajamas.) This is their first time to go to church. I need all of you to help me show Faith and John what we do, and how we behave in church. Would you all like to help? (Enthusiastic emphasis appropriate.) Oh, good!

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Say: To find out what Faith and John need to do first, let's go to the Bible and read Exodus 19:14 "Then Moses went down from the mountain to the people and sanctified the people; and they washed their clothes." God had Moses tell the people to wash their clothes because they were going to come before Him. When we go to church, we're going before God, too. God is there, and He observes and is present with us.

When we go before God today, do we still make sure we wear nice, clean clothes?

Say: That is right. Faith and John also need to get dressed in the right kind of clothes for church. Right now they are both wearing their pajamas. Do we wear pajamas to church?

Say: Well then, what should they wear to church?

Do: Lay out two complete sets of boy and girl clothes, one Sabbath wear and one everyday wear.

Ask: Which of these would be appropriate for church?

Say: That's right, the suit and the dress.

Do: Put them on the puppets/dolls.

Say: Now that they are dressed, they drive to the church building with their parents. Once they are at the building, they might see many people. There might be a couple of people standing at the door to greet them. What can they do? [Smile, shake hands, say hello.]

Say: Now Faith and John haven't been to church services before, so they might not know how to behave at church. I think I'll tell them a story first. This story is about when Jesus was here on earth. One day He went to the temple—that would kind of be like us going to church.

Do: Read John 2:14-16 or read from a picture Bible story book.

Say: During Jesus' time the temple was the house of God. When we come to church today, God is with us here.

Ask: What were the people doing in God's house that made Jesus so upset? [Let students respond—they were selling things in God's house.]

Say: That is right. We do not buy and sell in God's house on His Sabbath. Why do you think God does not want us to do these things? [Let students respond.]

Ask: What are some of the things that Faith and John shouldn't do at church? What are things that don't show respect? [Let students respond.]

Say: Good answers. You're a big help to Faith and John [Fill in anything that the students might not have mentioned—running, shouting or playing noisily before or after services; talking or playing with noisy toys during services, not standing during the prayer or song service, etc.]

Ask: Now can you help Faith and John know what kinds of things they should do? What kinds of things show respect for God and His people? [Let students respond.]

Say: Excellent! [Fill in any that they missed—dressing in good clothes, smiling, saying hello, shaking hands or giving hugs before/after services, standing quietly during the prayer and song services, listening to the speaker, playing quietly on the floor or sitting in a chair, etc.]

Say: Wow, you children really know your stuff. Faith and John really appreciate your help. Now they know what to expect when they go to church services. Before we go, we have a fun song to sing to help us remember what we do at church.

**Music:**

Sing to the tune of "This Is the Way We..."

Words

This is the way we go to church, go to church, go to church.  
This is the way we go to church, so early Sabbath morning.

This is the way we sing to God, sing to God, sing to God.  
This is the way we sing to God, so early Sabbath morning.

This is the way we pray to God, pray to God, pray to God.  
This is the way we pray to God, so early Sabbath morning.

This is the way we greet our friends, greet our friends,  
greet our friends.  
This is the way we greet our friends, so early Sabbath morning.

Motions

March around room with smiles

Use hands to imitate song leaders

Bow heads

Shake hands with each other

**LESSON APPLICATION:**

Supplies Needed:

- Copy of doll figure photocopied on stiff paper and cut out in advance
- Crayons, colored pencils or markers
- Yarn (optional for hair)

This lesson used paper dolls—Faith and John—to teach right church behavior. Photocopy the figure on the following page onto stiff paper. Have the children make their own "Faith" or "John" using the accompanying figure. The children will need to add hair, a happy face and Sabbath-type clothes and shoes.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

1 Timothy 3:15 "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..."

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY:**

If time permits, have a discussion about the Sabbath:

Do: Read Deuteronomy 5:12-15 from the NKJV.

Ask: Can anyone tell me what God says we should do on the Sabbath? [Keep it holy, rest.]

Ask: Should we work on the Sabbath? [No.]

Ask How many days did God give us to work? [Six.]

Say: That is right. On the seventh day we rest from all our work, because when God created the earth He rested from all of His work and made the Sabbath day for us. On the Sabbath day we are to do God's work. What are some things we can tell Faith and John they can do on the Sabbath? What do you do on the Sabbath? [Let students give some ideas.]

Do: To help them get started, here are some ideas: read the Bible, go to the park with our parents, have a picnic, take a walk outside, play the Talent Game or a Bible game with our family, listen to relaxing music, read books about God's creation, draw pictures of God's creation for our friends or relatives, play with our friends from church, have a family Bible study/discussion, write/send cards to shut-ins and those who are sick.

Ask: What are some things that Faith and John shouldn't do on the Sabbath? What are some of the things you do *not* do on the Sabbath?

Do: Let students give some ideas. Other ideas to get them thinking: play video games, read books that don't have to do with God or the creation, do our school work, listen to music that is not relaxing, watch television, talk to our school friends about school, play games that don't have to do with God.

# family activity

## **THE POINT:**

To teach children that behaving properly in church shows respect for God and His people.

## **ASK ME...**

Why do we wear nice clothes to church?

What are things that show respect for God and His people?

## **FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Plan a special Sabbath activity for before or after church:

- See how many different types of leaves you can collect and discuss how and why God made them all different.
- Have a picnic. Take a walk outside your home and explore God's creation.
- Play the Talent Game or another Bible game with your family. Try a non-competitive version by assigning point values to each question and setting a score goal for the whole family to achieve together. Agree on a reward or treat for reaching the goal.
- Read books or watch videos about God's creation, such as *The Wonders of God's Creation* video series (four videos, 60 minutes each) and *Journeys to the Edge of Creation*; (two videos, 40 minutes each).
- Make Sabbath cards for friends, relatives or shut-ins. If possible, plan to visit a shut-in to deliver the card in person.

## **MEMORY VERSE:**

1 Timothy 3:15 "I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..."

