

Special monthly church theme

If you have a special room in the church set aside for children's ministry, it is great fun to plan teachings based on a different theme each month, and decorate the room accordingly. This is very exciting for the children and really encourages regular attendance! The decorations can be simple, yet striking, and can be left up all month. Here are some ideas with related bible stories:

1. Boat – hang a sheet over a rope that is attached to the walls across a corner of the room, and drape the fabric so that it looks like the side of a boat. Make a mast from a broomstick or pole, and decorate with a “sail” of fabric or paper. Add more decoration as desired. Teachings based on the following bible stories can be prepared, and each story can be told as the teacher stands “inside the boat” with the children seated on the ground outside. Each child could make a sailor hat from paper with his/her name on it to wear during the month's teachings.

Bible stories – The miraculous catch (John 21:1-14); a storm calmed by faith (Mark 4:35-41); a disobedient man thrown overboard (Jonah 1 and 2); a terrible shipwreck (Acts 27:9-44)

2. Castle – use cardboard boxes piled on top of each other across one end of the room to represent a castle. Leave spaces for a window, and a doorway covered with a curtain over it. Each child could make a crown from cardboard covered with foil, to wear each week.

Bible stories – A crazy king calmed by music (1 Samuel 16:14-23); a wise king receives many gifts (1 Kings 3:4-14; 4:29,30; 10:23-25); a beautiful queen risks her life (Ester 2:5,7,17; 3:5,6,13; 4:10-17; 5:1-4; 7:1-6,10); a king who was born among animals (Luke 2:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12)

3. Party – decorate a corner of the room with balloons and party decorations. The children can make a party hat to wear each week.

Bible stories – A holy party (Nehemiah 8:8-12); a miracle in the middle of a party (John 2:1-11); Jesus' kind of party (Luke 14:7-14); the story of a great party (Luke 14:16-24; Matthew 22:1-10)

4. Prison – rearrange the cardboard boxes to appear more like a prison, with a door with only a tiny window and bars. Each child could make paper chains of colored paper strips, each with words written on, such as unable to be with family; unable to bathe; very little food etc, to help them think of life in a prison.

Bible stories – An innocent young man imprisoned (Genesis 39:20 – 41:14); imprisoned in a well for preaching (Jeremiah 37,38); set free from prison by an angel (Acts 12); set free from prison by an earthquake (Acts 16:23...)

Some of you may be feeling overwhelmed after reading about so many big projects – but please remember we developed these over MANY years of teaching children! The important thing is to assess YOUR situation, then pray and decide what would be best to start with in your case. As your ministry grows and changes, as opportunities arise or you recognize the need to revitalize your ministry, then consider trying something different. The Christian walk is never easy, but it is exciting and the Word of God is true and applicable to EVERY situation. “What we sow is what we reap” applies just as much to us as ministers as we invest time and energy into preparations to teach children in new dynamic ways! As we connect with God through the Holy Spirit and the Bible, we find we are ALSO energized and drawn closer to God! Jesus is ALIVE and the Word of God is LIVING truth; as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit the Lord “confirms His Word with signs following” – what could be more fulfilling or exciting than that?!