

May 2008
Word Aflame
Sunday
School Ideas
for Frustrated
Teachers!



I was playing the piano, watching a parade march in and out, in and out, out and into the main sanctuary during service. My daughter was at work, and she normally corrals the free radicals that drift in from the projects next door.

Was every other adult receiving a blessing with their eyes closed in prayer, or were they all trying to avoid eye contact with me?

Quick prayer: "Dear Lord, small church, need help, send fast." The troops mobilized and my husband blocked one hallway, the church secretary started to monitor the drawbridge, while I mentally threatened the next child running in or out. This was not the high point of my Sunday school ministry.

- ✦ Deep breath. More deep breaths. Count to ten. Count to one hundred billion.
- ✦ Modify the lesson.
- ✦ Take it outside because the great weather was a factor in the activity level.
- ✦ Clean out the church flowerbed and give everyone an object lesson while they help (see below).
- ✦ Increase number of children-to-teacher ratio as more kids playing outside join us in the fun activities.

- ✦ Inform everyone of "new" rule about coming in and out of church with cute song (see below).
 - ✦ Pray that God will let me see our church through their eyes (see the Lord above).
- Still learning to be a better teacher every week,
Ann Frake, frakefam@bright.net

Preparing the Garden Bed Object Lesson



Kids love to work in the garden. Let them plant flowers for the church. They will bring visitors to see their part in the garden.

Preparing the garden soil is similar to preparing the soil of our hearts.

- ❖ We have to pull out the bad stuff, soften up the soil, plant good things, and get ready for the rain and sunshine.
- ❖ How do we do that at church?
- ❖ We come to Sunday school, just like we visit our garden patch.
- ❖ We leave our toys and scooters at home, and use different tools in our heart garden—like prayer and reading the Bible and memorizing our Scriptures.
- ❖ We listen for directions, so that we know how to plant the good stuff. My flowers won't grow if I bury them too deep or put them in the wrong place. I follow planting directions for the garden, but for my heart garden I follow the Bible. It's easy to understand when my Sunday school teacher explains the lesson.

Shut the Revolving Door Song

(to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell")

Because some children live next to our church, and have no adult supervision, I explain that

- 1) they are welcome inside once my car arrives. I point out my old gray station wagon. Someone might be in the building but children must be closely supervised for their safety and ours.

The next part of the rule is that

- 2) if you leave the church building (without permission) you cannot come back inside the building. I must know who is in the church building to properly supervise. Children coming in and out on a whim can confuse all activities.

Once you're in, you're in, (*we jump in*)
Once you leave, you're gone, (*we jump out*)
We love to come and stay in church, (*pretend to sit*)
But "in-and-out" is wrong. (*jump in and out*)

Have a solution to a tough problem? Let me know about it. And I love to see your classrooms. Send us some jpeg pictures of you and your class!

frakefam@brightnet.com

Mother's Day—Sunday, May 11th

Mother's Day Prayer (can be printed, copied, or modified to fit grandmas or aunts)

Dear Lord,
Thank you for my mom today.
Thank you for her love always.
Thank you for the prayers she prays.
Thank you for her special ways.

Mother's Day Felt Flower Napkin Rings

Supplies:

Felt - green plus two or more colors

Scissors, pencil

Directions:

Cut out two to four dog-bone-shaped pieces (approximately 6 inches long). For younger classes you might cut them out ahead of time. For older classes, let them have leeway on the colors and shapes of the leaves and flowers.





Cut out the leaves from green felt and blossoms from another color or colors. Make a 1-inch slit on the leaves pieces and the blossom pieces (fold in half to cut with scissors). Do not cut slits in the bone-shaped piece.

Slip the green piece onto the bone-shaped piece, then the petals.



Slip the other end of the bone-shaped piece through the green leaves and petals. The bone-shaped piece should form a napkin holder loop.

Slip a rolled-up paper napkin through the loop in the loop. Repeat for two to four napkin rings.



Present with poem and you're done.

Do you build things with balloons?

Let me know and send a jpeg picture: frakefam@bright.net



BAKE SALE MANIA HITS SUNDAY SCHOOL



Youth Camps are coming! Time for fundraisers so that \$ is not an issue for sending kids to camp.

Our classes are decorating donated cakes for a bake sale. This fundraiser has each child's personal time invested, even if they can't come to the sale.



Last month's Hosannas with ribbon sticks.



EASTER PROGRAM PRAISE



Music Recommendations

Debra Hathaway, Children's Editor

Word Aflame Publications

***Kids in Praise* and *Kids in Praise 2* CDs**

Did you know that these two CDs were created specifically to coordinate with your Sunday school curriculum? From Toddler to PreTeen, these CDs can be used to welcome students to class, generate worship, and teach Bible truths, plus the CDs are great for listening in the car and at home. The songs have fresh contemporary lyrics and music that children of all ages (and adults) will enjoy.

Here are a few of the songs provided on the CDs.

- Five Steps (salvation)
- One God
- You Gotta Have the Holy Ghost
- Shout to the Lord with Praise
- I Wanna Please You, Father

Order your CDs from the Pentecostal Publishing House today.



Try some new stuff, get new ideas and make some friends at

<http://www.upci.org/wap/discussions/>

Idea Exchange Forum

Visit our Idea Exchange Forum, a place where you can submit questions and answers, ideas and tidbits online for all to read. It's easy to become a member: simply log on to <http://www.upci.org/wap/discussions> and select Idea Exchange. You will be directed to the forum where you will find postings regarding missions, prayer, discipline, outreach, resources, crafts, and much more.