

Roots







Roots is a nine month (plus Christmas and Easter lessons) large group/ small group curriculum for Sunday morning and/or Midweek for 1st-5th grade to be used on rotation every three years. A church of any size can or any volunteer base can use this curriculum

Each week, with each lesson, kids will learn and experience WORSHIP, they will be DISCIPLINED as followers of Jesus Christ and, as the lessons build, they will learn and will be deployed to be salt and light as EVANGELISTS in our world.

Lessons are energetic, hands-on, up-to-date with use of video clips, books, science and more! This foundational curriculum takes kids deep into the things of God, and wide into the possibilities of our kids being world-changers.

Our hope and prayers is that by the end of the curriculum, kids will know who God is, they will know how to hear Him, how to pray to Him, and how to love others with the love He provides. They will understand how Free Methodists have a seat at His table and how we can be encouraged by modern Bible heroes. May these kids “know that they know that they know”, may their roots grow deep and wide, standing firm when storms come and may they bear fruit always.

Psalm 1:3 says that a person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither— whatever they do prospers.

HOW TO USE THIS CURRICULUM?

Roots is divided into three sections. Each section is made up of several series' (groups of lessons). There are seven lesson components in each lesson that could be combined in different ways. For example, you can use this BOTH Sunday mornings AND a Wednesday night:



SUNDAY MORNING-60 MINUTES

1. Praise and Worship time (15 min)
2. Bible Verse Activity (10 min)
3. Hook (10 -15 min)
4. Lesson (10-15 min)
5. Prayer Stations (5-10)



WEDNESDAY NIGHT- 60 MINUTES

1. Praise and Worship (15 min)
2. Game Time or Bible Skills and Drills (10 min)
3. Object lesson (15 min)
4. Small Group time (20 min)

Or you could use it just one ministry time



90 MINUTE SCHEDULE

1. Praise and Worship time (15 min)
2. Bible Verse Activity (10 min)
3. Hook (10 -15 min)
4. Lesson (10-15 min)
5. Object lesson (15 min)
6. Prayer Stations (5-10 min)
7. Small Group (15-20)



GRAPHIC FILES

Each lesson includes graphic jpeg files that can be projected on a large screen. Also included are pdf graphics that could be printed and used in teaching. Series and lesson graphics, Memory Verse Graphics and Scripture Graphics are included.

SET-UP OF ROOM/EQUIPMENT

There are various room configurations that would work for this curriculum. Ideally, depending on size of group, the large group time would be in a large room with chairs for the children to sit in (rows of 8-10 with an aisle in the middle). Projection equipment would include a computer connected to projector and screen. A large TV could work as well. Often Youtube video clips and DVD video clips are used in the lessons.

Small group time could be in that same room or smaller classrooms depending on availability and volunteer base.

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

While every teacher has their own way of keeping control of a classroom, here are some ideas that work well...

- At the beginning of each year, review the same basic 5 rules. Review them weekly for a while. Remind children it is a privilege to be in “Kid’s Church” (or whatever you call your time).
- Use a large “candy can” to reward kids for good behavior and right answers occasionally. Fill the can with candy, pencils and small prizes. Never make your rewards predictable. Catch your kids doing good, making right decisions, etc.
- When asking a question that most kids should have the answer to, ask kids to turn and tell their neighbor their answer or whisper tell you their answers. This helps involve all the kids and keeps the pace moving.
- When possible, use a wireless headset. This aids the children hearing you and allows you to speak over the children when they get noisy without you, as the teacher, having to raise your voice.
- Consistently use a way to get their attention, such as “snap once if you can hear me, snap twice if you hear me, snap three times...etc.” The point is to see how quickly kids can get quiet—maybe by 2 snaps! Some teachers clap a rhythm, or raise their hand indicating the class should raise their hand and close their mouths.
- Consider making your oldest grade of children your kid leaders or Kid Crew. Make this a job they apply for, are accepted and keep their job for a year (you can even have shirts made that are kept at church to wear during Kid’s Church). Kids have job responsibilities on rotation, such as running sound, helping to lead worship, set up/take down help, greeters, etc. Train them, expect responsibility and teach them how to lead! This does several things— one, it helps you the teacher. Second, it gives that “too old to be with the little kids” 5th or 6th grader a reason to be there and behaving! Instead of working against you, they are working for you! And that is a great thing!

SPECIAL NEEDS

Because most of the teaching is large group, most kids will be able to function and learn.

- If the child has trouble sitting still, or is on the spectrum, consider having a basket of Legos in the back corner of the room. He/she will still be listening even while they are keeping their hands busy.

- Transitions are hard on some kids so try to keep the same schedule and prep the group by explaining what the order of service is.
- If the child on the spectrum, consider having a teen or adult helper to sit with the child and maybe even take the child on a walk to break up the service. Also, a social schedule can help the child understand what is coming next (google Social Schedule for more information)
- Especially in a large group setting, refrain from calling on a child to read UNLESS you know they can be successful.
- For Bible Verse Memory work, work individually with the child that struggles due to a disability. Maybe have them learn half of the verse or fill in the blank as you quote it to qualify as “learned”
- These children have so much negative attention at school and work so hard to learn, church needs to be a time of success, acceptance and love.
- At the beginning of the year, publish in your bulletin a note to parents requesting they let you know privately if their child has a special need that you should be aware of. Ask the parents what works, how their child is motivated and how situations can be diffused, if need be.

COMPONENTS OF EACH LESSON

1. INTRODUCTION

The first page of each lesson in the Introduction and gives a snapshot of the content of the lesson, a suggested schedule, suggested songs, and a note to the teacher.

2. HOOK

This component will vary between skits, video clips to use as you introduce the lesson and review the prior lesson. It is intended to help you capture the child’s interest and HOOK them in to the lesson.

3. SERMON

This is the main meat of the lesson and will be heavy in Scripture. Experience shows that this larger group time is not the time to take responses and answer questions from children (that comes during the small group time). The sermon should remain fast paced and not drag!

4. OBJECT LESSON OR ACTIVITY

This is a “bonus” section where the teacher spends time driving the main concept home, sometimes hitting the idea from a different angle.

5. SMALL GROUP TIME

This could be used with age level groups, upper elementary/lower elementary, depending on your size and volunteer help. This component provides children a time to discuss and share.



6. BIBLE VERSE REVIEW

There is a new Bible verse or passage with each series. Review games are suggested and can be rotated through. It is important to teach kids to use their Bibles. When introducing a Memory Verse to children, always have them find the verse or passage in their Bibles. Here are some ideas on how to work with kids in using Bibles.

- Ask kids to place their closed Bibles flat on one hand. When you say go, ask kids to find Psalms. Explain that it is almost in the middle of the Bible. When they find it, they yell “got it” one time and stand up! At first, they can find anywhere in Psalms. The key is to not

use the Table of Contents. You can repeat this several times. Explain that if they open to Proverbs or Esther/Job, they are close! Have fun with it. Then as kids get better, they can find a certain chapter. Older kids can find out how many chapters are in Psalms.

- Explain to kids how the Gospels—the books that talk about Jesus on earth—begin the New Testament and are found in the last quarter of the Bible. Go through the same process you did for finding Psalms.
- Explain to kids how Joshua, Judges, Ruth is found around the first quarter of the Bible. Practice finding those books. Again, the goal is to open right to that approximate place in the Bible.
- Then, as you proceed with finding verse in the Bible, you can use this Quarter the Bible method to make it easier and help kids to know their Bibles.

Adapted from Bible Skills and Drills, Lifeway



7. PRAYER TIME/STATIONS: This might be one of the most important components, don't skip it! Each week, a new prayer concept will be introduced and "played with". After several are taught, stations can be introduced. Much like in learning centers in school, kids choose which center to go to, maybe doing several.

Prayer stations are interactive centers set up around the room. 5-6 centers total that periodically change. EVERY Kids Church, kids are reminded of the stations and the process. This is alone, quiet time with the Lord.

They are to go into their "prayer closets" beginning by asking the Holy Spirit what to pray and where to go. Kids are given 5-10 minutes and can go to different prayer centers as led while instrumental music is played quietly (as to not distract but to rather add to the mood). From time to time prayer stations will change but several always remain. Kids like predictability—it is a comfort to them. Kids CAN be silent, they CAN pray and hear from the Lord. We must set the bar high and teach them how to do it!

Constant Stations are Thanksgiving, Praise, Confession, Intercession, Petition as well as a few that change periodically or seasonally. Suggestions will be given throughout the lessons on various stations.



8. HOME CONNECTION: Parent involvement is always our goal and by resourcing our parents, the Deuteronomy 6 principle can be aided! This page can be printed and sent home with children weekly or can be posted on-line, sent via email or posted in sections to social media platforms (which tends to be the most effective).

9. AWARD SYSTEM