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Class # 1
“Know Why You Believe”
INTRODUCTION WEEK

FORMAT OF CLASS AND LESSON PLAN FOR THIS WEEK AND FOLLOWING WEEKS:

NOTE: Most scriptures appear in the Leader’s Edition, but only appear as the reference in the Student Edition. This is by design, so the student can get to know their Bible.

A) The first week spend time getting to know the students and what school they go to. Ask each one as they go around the room their name and school. They’re Jr. High kids and usually bashful, some might even tell you they don’t know!!

B) Talking at this point is good. After finding out who they are you might want to ask a few questions of each to “break the ice.” The goal in the first meeting is to begin to build some community, introduce them to you, to each other and to the material they will be going through this school year in Sunday School class.

“Good Ice Breaking Questions” that usually work. Have each student tell you:

- 1) Their favorite / worst school subject. Why?**
- 2) Their absolute most favorite spot on earth.**
- 3) Their favorite color.**
- 4) Something we wouldn’t know about them unless they told us (where they were born, their father is an Elvis impersonator, whatever...)**

C) Last year many of the students completed the section of material called “Know What You Believe.” In that class they covered the basics of what Christianity is and what Christians believe.

D) If these students have come through our elementary school program they were introduced to our through the Bible teaching program. We have a teacher based curriculum that brings them through the Bible beginning in the book of Genesis and finishing in the book of Revelation. In Jr. High they cover “Know What and Know Why You Believe.” This year is “Know Why.”

E) YOUTH GROUP. Encourage these students to be part of our Friday night Youth Group, if at all possible come out yourself. Over the next several years we are going to be focusing some of our best energies on “making disciples” of these students.

F) After you’ve heard from the students about their lives, who they are and where they are from. Tell them your story. Tell them your Christian testimony. Tell them about your family. Let them get to know you.

G) Review the schedule for the year with them. Tell them we are trying to help them understand why Christianity is true and that we want them to be able to answer any questions that people ask them. Tell them we will be answering the following questions:

- 1) Why Believe in God anyway and what is God like?**
- 2) How do I know the Bible is God's Word?**
- 3) How do I know Jesus is God's Son?**
- 4) Did the prophecies of the Bible come true? What about future prophecies?**
- 5) Why is Christianity the Only Way?**
- 6) What about Science and the Bible?**
- 7) What about Miracles?**
- 8) What about other religions?**
- 9) What about evil? Did God create it?**
- 10) Did Jesus rise from the dead? (We'll spend a few weeks on this and Easter related topics in the spring.)**
- 11) Tell them we'll have session on where Thanksgiving came from?**
- 12) We'll also have a session on the meaning of Christmas.**
- 13) The last two teaching sessions we will talk about salvation, how to be saved and how to lead somebody to the Lord.**

H) Encourage them to bring Bibles

I) End every session with prayer. Last year we asked everybody to pray for the person to their left and their school. After awhile they figure this out and sit appropriately. At that point you might want them to pray for the person to their right.

J) Please learn the names of these kids and pray for them regularly.

K) Tell them this will be the guiding scripture for their time together this year:

1 Peter 3:15 (New Living Translation)

Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if you are asked about your Christian hope, always be ready to explain it. But you must do this in a gentle and respectful

way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak evil against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ.

If you still have time after you've done all of this in your first session you can discuss the following questions based on the above verse from first Peter:

1. What did Peter instruct his readers to be prepared for? (3:15)
2. How were these readers to give the reason for their hope in Christ? (3:15)
3. Why are believers to keep a clear conscience? (3:16)
4. How prepared are you to explain your hope in Christ?
5. What can you do to be better prepared for discussions about Christ with non-Christian friends?

L) In the weeks to come we will have a handout for each student with definitions and places to fill in the blanks. These sessions will match your notes except that every place that is on their handouts will be framed on your notes with the blank spot they have underlined on your.

EXAMPLE OF WHAT A LESSON WILL LOOK LIKE:

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DEFINITION

(A) The Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man, His creation. The Bible forms one continuous story; the story of humanity in relation to God. From the beginning to the end, the Bible has one great theme; the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

(B) The word Bible is taken from the Greek word 'biblos' simply meaning book. It is 'the' book; there is no other book like it as we shall see. It is the revelation of God and the words and voice of God Himself!

So as you are teaching a lesson their notes will include ONLY the boxed section and will have blanks to fill in where your page has an underline. This is what theirs will look like:

The Bible is God's _____ of Himself to man, His creation. The Bible forms one _____; the story of humanity in relation to God. From the beginning to the end, the Bible has one great theme; the Person and work of _____.

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M) We have loads of resources to help you grow n your own walk and understanding. We'll be passing some of these resources on to you throughout the year.

Let us know if there is anything else we can help you with as you seek to help these students, "Know Why They Believe."

N) After the first of the year we will be promoting camp programs for the kids.

Thanks for your efforts in making disciples out of these young lives. May the Lord richly bless you and give you endurance as you work at this vitally important task!!!

