



2020-21 Gopher Buddies Bible Study

The Gopher Buddies curriculum is a three-year Bible study program for ages 4-6 that makes God's Word come alive by using a modular approach to learning. The curriculum has 48 lessons and is divided

into several two and four-lesson modules as well as individual stand-alone lessons. A variety of active teaching methods are used, including puppets, to engage the students each week.

Foundational Truth Lessons



THE BIBLE - The Bible is God's Word

God's Word is True: Children will understand that just as God spoke to Samuel in the night, He speaks to them today through His Word. Children will understand that reading God's Word and doing their Quiet Time daily will help them know what God wants them to do.

God's Word is for Me: Children will learn that God's Word is for all of us—children too. Children will understand salvation and have an opportunity to accept Christ.

I Can Learn From God's Word: Children will know they learn by reading or being taught God's Word. Children will learn that God gives us many people who help us understand His Word.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons of this module.



GOD - God the Creator

God Made All Things: Children will learn that God spoke and created the heavens and earth, everything in the sky, the water, land, and vegetation. The children will also understand that all these things were created on the first four days of creation.

God Creates Living Things: Children will learn that God created birds, fish, and land animals on days five and six of creation. The children will also know that no one else can do the things that God can do.

God Creates Man: Children will understand God created the first man and woman. Children will understand that sin separates them from God and learn how they can have their sin forgiven.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons of this module.



JESUS - Jesus is God's Son

Jesus Goes to His Father's House: Children will understand that Jesus is the Son of God.

Jesus Does Not Sin: Children will learn that Jesus used God's Word to help Him make good choices. The children will understand that Jesus never sinned.

Nicodemus Visits God's Son: Children will understand that Jesus is the Son of God. They will understand how they can get to Heaven and will have an opportunity to receive Christ.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



CHRISTIAN GROWTH - I Choose to be Jesus' Helper

John the Baptist Prepares the Way for Jesus: Children will learn that John the Baptist helped Jesus by telling others about Him.

The Disciples Follow Jesus: Children will understand that just like the disciples, Jesus wants them to follow Him, too. They will learn how they can follow Him.

A Little Boy Helps Jesus: Children will know that they can help Jesus just like the boy who shared his lunch.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



SIN - The Problem of Sin

The First Sin: Children will understand that Adam and Eve's disobedience separated them from God. Children will understand what sin is and that there is a price to pay for sin.

Zacchaeus Turns From Sin: Children will understand that Jesus loved Zacchaeus even though he was a sinner. Children will understand that, like Zacchaeus, Jesus will forgive their sins, too.

Jesus Came to Take Away My Sin: Children will understand that He loves them and paid the price for their sin when He died on the cross. They will understand He arose, lives again, and wants to give them the gift of eternal life.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): Using the Gopher Buddies' Puppets, this lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.



THE CHURCH - I Learn About the Church

The First Church: Children will learn that the church began with a few Christians telling others about Jesus. They will understand that the first Christians met, prayed, shared, and praised God together.

The Church Prays For Peter: Children will understand that while Peter was in prison, the people in the church prayed for him. The children will understand that God answered the prayers of the people of the church.

Dorcas, A Great Helper In the Church: Children will understand that Dorcas helped others in the church by making clothes and doing other kind things for them.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the first three lessons.

Themed Lessons

Parent Night

Moses' Mother Cares For Him: The children will understand that God gave them parents to love and care for them.

Friend Night

A Good Friend: The children will understand that God wants them to help others, just as the Good Samaritan helped the hurt man.



Christmas

The Shepherds Worship Jesus: The children will understand that God loves us so much that He gave us a very special gift—His Son, Jesus. The children will understand that the reason we celebrate Christmas is to celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Easter

Jesus is Alive!: The children will understand that Jesus died for their sins and is alive today.



Character Trait Lessons



Self-Control

Daniel Uses Self-Control: The children will understand that Daniel had self-control when he made choices to please God and follow His rules.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



Honesty

John the Baptist Tells the Truth: The children will understand that God wants them to always tell the truth.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



Forgiveness

Joseph Forgives His Brothers: The children will understand that just like God wanted Joseph to forgive his brothers, they need to forgive those who hurt them.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.



Sharing

The Sisters Who Shared With Jesus: The children will learn that Jesus is happy when they share their things and time.

Module Review Lesson (Puppets): This lesson will reinforce and review the material covered in the previous lesson.

Summer Modules

While most churches choose to run a nine-month program using 36 lessons, there are some who prefer to meet throughout the summer months. For those groups, there are an additional twelve summer series lessons provided in each year's Gopher Buddies Bible study. These lessons are grouped into six two-lesson modules. Because attendance in the summer months may be somewhat irregular, each summer lesson is designed to stand on its own.



Let's Take A Road Trip!

Abraham Moves to a New Home: The children will learn that when God told Abraham to leave his home and move to a new land, Abraham did what God told him to do. The children will begin to understand that they can learn what God wants them to do by reading God's Word, the Bible.

Sweet Dreams, Jacob: The children will learn that Jacob had a special dream where God promised to watch over Jacob wherever he went. The children will begin to understand that like Jacob, God will watch over them wherever they go.



Let's Learn About God's Love

The Lost Sheep: The children will learn that Jesus told a story about a good shepherd who looked for his lost sheep. The children will begin to understand that God is like the shepherd: He loves and cares for each one of us.

The Lost Son: The children will learn that Jesus told a story about a father and his lost son. They will begin to understand that God is like the father in the story: He loves everyone and wants them to come to Him.



Let's Talk to God!

Hannah Prays: The children will learn that Hannah prayed to God when she was very sad, and God heard her prayer and gave her a baby boy. The children will also learn that they can talk to God when they are sad and He will hear their prayer, too.

Nehemiah Prays: The children will learn that Nehemiah prayed to God for help to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. They will learn that like Nehemiah, they can talk to God when they need help, too.



Let's Learn More About Jesus

Jesus Cares about a Sick Woman: The children will learn that a sick woman was healed when she touched Jesus' robe. They will learn that just as Jesus cared about the woman, He cares for them, too.

Jesus Is Alive! The children will learn that Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and came back to life on the third day. They will also learn that one day after Jesus came back to life, He fixed breakfast for His friends.



Let's Learn about God's Help

The Twelve Spies: The children will learn that Moses sent twelve men to see what the new land looked like. They will learn that ten of the men were afraid and did not believe that God would help them in the new land, but Joshua and Caleb told the people not to be afraid because the Lord would help them. The children will begin to understand that God will help them when they are afraid.

Gideon: The children will learn that God helped Gideon's small army win a battle, because Gideon did what God told him to do. The children will learn that God will also help them when they follow Him.



Let's Learn to Help Others

Helping is Important: The children will learn that James and John's mother wanted them to be important, so she asked Jesus to let her sons sit by Him in Heaven. The children will begin to understand that Jesus said that to be important, you must first help others.

Ananias and Barnabas Help Saul: The children will learn how Ananias and Barnabas helped Saul after he became a believer.