🏡 Tiny Disciples: Home Guide

Simple ways to share big truths with little ones (Ages 0-4)

Dear Parents, teaching faith to toddlers isn't about long lessons; it's about moments, play, and sensory experiences. Here are four weeks of simple ideas to bring Sunday School home.

🗓️ Week 1: January 18

🐑 Jesus is Special (The Lamb of God)

The Big Idea: John the Baptist had a special job: to point to Jesus and say, "Look! He is the special one!"

📖 Read Together

Open your Bible, even if they can't read yet, so they see it's special.

> "John saw Jesus coming. He pointed and said, 'Look! It's Jesus! He is God's Son!'"

🎈 Play & Do

- **The "Point to It" Game:** Toddlers love naming things. Ask them, "Where is the *lamp*?" (They point). "Where is the *dog*?" (They point). Finally, ask, "Where is a picture of Jesus?" or "Where is your heart where Jesus lives?"
- **Follow the Leader:** John followed Jesus. Play a simple game of follow the leader around the living room. Say, "We follow Jesus just like we follow Mommy/Daddy!"

👋 Short Prayer

(Have your child repeat after you)
Dear God, (Dear God)
Thank you for Jesus. (Thank you for Jesus)
Help me follow Him. (Help me follow Him)
Amen. (Amen)

🗓️ Week 2: January 25

🎣 Jesus Calls His Friends (The Disciples)

The Big Idea: Jesus didn't want to be alone. He picked friends to help Him. He picks us to be His friends too!

📖 Read Together

> "Jesus walked by the water. He saw some fishermen. He said, 'Come follow me!

> We have work to do!' And they dropped their nets and went with Jesus."

🎈 Play & Do

- **Fishing for Friends:** If you have a magnetic fishing game, use it! If not, put some toys in a laundry basket (the "boat"). Let your child "rescue" the toys. Tell them, "Jesus wants us to love people, just like we take care of our toys."
- **Team Jesus:** High-five your child and say, "We are on Team Jesus!" Explain that Jesus's friends were a team, just like your family is a team.

👋 Short Prayer

(Have your child repeat after you)
Jesus, (Jesus)
I am your friend. (I am your friend)
I love you. (I love you)
Amen. (Amen)

🗓️ Week 3: February 1

🙂 God Wants Us Happy (The Beatitudes)

The Big Idea: Jesus taught us that being "blessed" means God is hugging your heart, even when you are sad.

📖 Read Together

> "Jesus sat on a hill. He told the people, 'God loves you when you are happy. God loves you when you are sad. God is always with you.'"

🎈 Play & Do

- **Happy Face, Sad Face:** Draw a happy face on one side of a paper plate and a sad face on the other. Ask your child to show you the "Happy" face. Then the "Sad" face. Remind them: "Does Jesus love us when we are happy? YES! Does Jesus love us when we are sad? YES!"
- **The "Ouchie" Kiss:** When your child gets a boo-boo this week, as you kiss it better, whisper, "God is near to us when we hurt." It starts a lifelong connection between comfort and God.

👋 Short Prayer

(Have your child repeat after you)
Dear God, (Dear God)
You are good. (You are good)
When I am happy, (When I am happy)

And when I am sad. (And when I am sad)
Amen. (Amen)

🗓️ Week 4: February 8

🔦 Shine Your Light (Salt and Light)

The Big Idea: Jesus says we are like bright lights. We shouldn't hide! We should shine by being kind.

📖 Read Together

> "Jesus said, 'You are like a light! Don't hide under a bucket. Shine bright so everyone can see God's love!'"

🎈 Play & Do

- **Flashlight Fort:** Build a simple fort with a blanket. Go inside where it's dark. Turn on a flashlight. Ask, "Wow! Is the light bright?" Explain that being kind (sharing toys, giving hugs) is like turning on a flashlight.
- **This Little Light of Mine:** Sing the classic song with the hand motions!
  - *This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!* (Hold up pointer finger)
  - *Hide it under a bushel? NO!* (Cover finger with other hand, then shout NO)
  - *I'm gonna let it shine!*

👏 Short Prayer

(Have your child repeat after you)
Dear Jesus, (Dear Jesus)
Help me shine. (Help me shine)
Help me be kind. (Help me be kind)
Amen. (Amen)