



A Guide to Hybrid Sunday School

Tips and Ideas for Engaging

Toddlers

and Their Families

(Toddler/2)



INTRODUCTION

Children’s ministry has never changed at a faster pace than it is changing right now. But what hasn’t changed—and will never change—is our goal to bring God’s Word to children and families.

This guide is designed to help you use the curriculum you know and trust as your children’s ministry adjusts to another new normal. We’ve provided tips and ideas to help you adapt the lessons for teaching and engaging with families—whether you’re meeting online, meeting in person, sending lessons home, or taking a hybrid approach.

CONTENTS

TEACHING—A HYBRID APPROACH

- Prepare to Teach
 - EXPLORE LIFELINKS
 - FOR EACH QUARTER
 - FOR EACH LESSON
- Teach the Lesson
 - BEFORE THE LESSON STARTS
 - DURING THE LESSON

EQUIPPING FAMILIES

- Help Families Prepare for Virtual Ministry
- Create Activity Packs
- Engage Families at Home



TEACHING—A HYBRID APPROACH

When we use the term “hybrid teaching,” we’re referring to combining virtual tools—tools that enable you to communicate and interact online with students and families—with physical options.

Check out this article on [teaching virtually](#). You’ll find technical suggestions as well as tips to keep your kids engaged online!*

Even when your ministry is ready to return to your church building, some of your families won’t feel comfortable coming back right away. Consider offering—or continuing to offer—an at-home Sunday school option. Providing lessons and resources for children at home is a great way to invest in and connect with the families you serve!

We’re also creating bonus curriculum content (coming soon) that is free to you as a current customer. It will be full of resources to help you engage the children and families you serve.

Prepare to Teach

EXPLORE LIFELINKS

LifeLINKS’s teaching resources are available in print and are also included in the digital bundles. We encourage you to explore *all* the files—especially if you don’t typically order all these resources—and see what works best for your ministry.

LifeLINKS Toddler/2 Resources at a Glance

- *Toddler/2 Teacher’s Guide*
- *Toddler/2 Creative Teaching Aids* (includes photo posters, story cards, story figures, and MP3s of fun songs and an audio version of each week’s story)
- *Starting Steps* take-home paper

LifeLINKS to God

FOR EACH QUARTER

- Decide which portions of a lesson will work best for teaching online. We've provided suggestions below. For this age level you won't be setting up the different learning centers.
- Set a time limit for each lesson. Allow time to socialize before and after the lesson.
- Organize the digital files you will be using.
- Decide how you will get activity packs to families (physical pickup/drop-off, download links, or both).
- Let families know how to access the lessons and the activity packs.

FOR EACH LESSON

- Prepare your heart with prayer, the teacher devotion, and Understanding the Bible sections of the lesson.
- Familiarize yourself with the Lesson Focus and Bible Basis Scripture passage.
- Have the photo poster, a Bible, the story figures, and story card ready to show online.
- Spend time practicing the Bible Story Step so you can tell the story and do the motions without reading the story from your teacher's guide.
- If you are using the Music Time, practice the motions ahead of time.
- Let parents know ahead of time which story figures and story card are needed that week. They will also need a towel to use as a story mat and a Bible.
- Create a special space for your sessions. Make it one that feels welcoming and fun for the children to see. Consider creating a PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation for the lesson. You might get ideas from the sample PowerPoint presentation and guidelines in our bonus curriculum content (coming soon)!

*The Ministry Spark website has many articles and tips that you might find helpful as you reopen your church and navigate the new and exciting world of online resources that you can use to reach your students. This site is not created by 21st Century Christian and, as such, we do not endorse all of the content you may find there.



Teach the Lesson

Your lesson time will be a time when you check in with the children and their families. Then move into a storytelling time, sharing the Bible Step and Bible Review Step. Here are some ideas to create these storytelling sessions.

BEFORE THE LESSON STARTS

- Begin streaming your lesson at least 10 minutes before the scheduled start time so families can join in.
- Show a countdown video or use PowerPoint or Google Slides to display a welcome message.
- Include a slide reminding parents of the materials they need to gather for their child to use during the lesson (story figures, towel for a story mat, etc.).
- Consider playing the unit song MP3 as families gather.
- Greet children and families as they join you on the screen.

DURING THE LESSON

Bible Step

This is the storytelling time! Enjoy sharing and acting out God's Word with these little ones. The Bible story and activities use a variety of posters, actions, and figures to help toddlers see and hear the concepts over and over while connecting to God's story in different ways.

Talk Time

- Show the photo poster by holding up the physical poster or sharing your screen. Or include the photo poster in your PowerPoint or Google Slides presentation.
- If you have sent the photo posters to families, encourage children to point to the objects in the poster as you talk about them.

Bible Story Time

- Be sure to introduce the story by showing where it is found in the Bible.
- Do the actions while you tell the story.
- Remember that toddlers and twos learn by repetition. After telling the story by yourself, invite the children to join you as you tell the story a few more times.

LifeLINKS to God

Bible Review Step

Bible Story Review Time

- Make the Bible Review Step interactive. Encourage parents to set out a towel as a story mat.
- Show the story figures on the screen. Allow time for toddlers to find their own figures and put them on their story mats.
- Invite parents to use the figures and story card to review the Bible story during the week.

Music Time

Act out the motions for the song while playing the audio file. Repeat the song a few times.

Goodbye Time

- Talk about the Bible story and Lesson Focus by using the questions in the Bible Story Time.
- Remind parents to do the *Starting Steps* calendar activities throughout the week. They can also use the story card and figures from Bible Story Review Time.
- Close your storytelling time with a prayer.
- Give a blessing to families for the upcoming week.



EQUIPPING FAMILIES

Help Families Prepare for Virtual Ministry

If you're teaching virtually using Zoom, Facebook Live, prerecorded videos, etc., be sure to let parents know what to expect and what you need from them.

- Where and when can they access the lessons?
- Do they need to be with their children during the lesson?
- How can they keep their child engaged spiritually even if they miss a week?

Create Activity Packs

Activity packs are bundles of resources for children and families that encourage them to interact with the lesson. These packs could also be used for children attending a family worship service.

Here are some resources you might include in the packs:

- A personal note to the child
- Ministry announcements
- Photo posters from Creative Teaching Aids
- Story figures from Creative Teaching Aids (Print these out on heavy stock if you are creating physical packs. If you are sending them digitally, ask parents to print them out on heavy stock and cut them out.)
- Story cards from Creative Teaching Aids
- *Starting Steps*
- Music and Stories MP3 files

Decide when and how you will provide the activity packs to families.

- Once per quarter? Once a month? Every week?
- Will they be physical or a digital download?
- Will families need to pick them up from the church building?
- Can volunteers deliver them in person?
- Are you able to mail them to families?

The logo for "LifeLINKS to God" is set against a teal background with a grid of squares. "Life" is written in a white, cursive font. "LINKS" is in a bold, blue, sans-serif font with a white outline. "to God" is in a white, cursive font, with "to" positioned between "LINKS" and "God".

LifeLINKS to God

These answers will be specific to the needs of your ministry and are likely to change as the needs of your ministry change.



Engage Families at Home

- Invite families to do the activities in the *Starting Steps* calendar throughout the week. These fun activities help engage toddlers and twos all week long, telling the same Bible story while using a variety of play times.
- Send families the MP3 files of fun songs and an audio version of each week's story. Encourage families to use the songs and Bible stories when children are playing or in the car.
- Continue communicating with your families! Text or e-mail parents some quick tips on how to use *Starting Steps* at home.
- Make the most of your digital bundle files. In the Teacher Overview folder, you will find specific resources to share with parents. You can also email families copies of the story figures so they can create their own sets at home.
- Encourage families to find and use a children's Bible that will help their child grow in understanding God's Word. The *God's Story for Me* mini books make great gifts for families too! Here are some children's Bibles we recommend:
 - [*Twenty-First Century Christian Bible Storybook*](#)
 - *God's Story for Me Bible*
 - *The Toddler's Bible*
 - *The Baby Bible Storybook for Boys*
 - *The Baby Bible Storybook for Girls*
- This is a great time to start a daily family devotional. We recommend:
 - [*The Jesus Resolution*](#)
 - [*Living the Jesus Resolution*](#)