

Theme: ABCs

Aim: To show that holiness is a righteous attitude reflected in holy behavior.

The “ABC” song is one of the first songs we learn as children. It is with a great sense of pride that we sing it for grandparents, visitors, the doctor, or anyone else who will listen. Even before we know how to put the letters together to form words, phrases, sentences, and term papers, we proudly know the basics—our ABCs.

No matter where one is in his Christian walk, he must learn the basics—the ABCs of holiness. This is not a listing of rules, of dos and don’ts, of thou shalt and thou shalt not commandments. Holiness is godliness, righteous living, consecration, and devotion to God. It comes from the heart, not from our clothing or outward appearances. It is not a means of earning salvation but is a result of salvation. Salvation comes first, followed by holiness. To learn what holiness is, one must learn his ABCs—Attitude, Behavior, and Commitment. Holiness is a righteous **A**ttitude reflected in holy **B**ehavior. It comes with a **C**ommitment to live right before God.

The lessons this quarter focus on these three ABCs, helping your students to understand the whys and wherefores of holiness. They will learn that holiness begins with attitude—the result of salvation. Behavior is all about holy living—controlling our thoughts, tongue, eye, appearance, body, and soul. Commitment is reasonable service, offering our bodies as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God. When the heart is right with God, everything else will fall into place—with clear understanding and deep-set devotion.

Your décor to teach these ABCs may be the easiest decorating you have ever done! The room will be covered in posters—some provided in your packet, some created by you, and many created by your students throughout the quarter. Help your students understand the joy that comes with holy living by making this a fun and creative quarter.

Print on a color printer the mini posters from the resource CD for placement on the three ABC walls. Consider securing each to fluorescent posterboard, leaving a 1-inch frame around each poster. Cut apart the ABC column poster from the resource packet. Mount the other posters provided in the packet on the walls. Mount the *kids in Missions* and missionary map on the teaching wall (writing board).

Take the alphabet poster to a teacher supply store and laminate it so that it can be used throughout the quarter. Or, cover it with clear Con-Tact film. Use dry erase markers and be sure to clean it immediately after class to prevent the color from settling permanently into the film.

A Is for Attitude

Wall 1 focuses on attitude. A giant A is provided in the resource packet; mount this in the center of the wall. Place the Attitude column next to the large A. Scatter the attitude mini posters on the wall around the A.

B Is for Behavior

Mount the large B in the center of wall 2. Place the Behavior column next to it. Scatter the behavior mini posters on the wall.

C Is for Commitment

Mount the large C in the center of wall 3. Place the Commitment column next to it. Scatter the commitment mini posters on the wall.

Door Posters

Two door posters are provided in the resource packet. One welcomes the students to the class. When students leave each Sunday, they will see the inside poster that defines holiness.

Bulletin Boards

If you cannot decorate entire walls in your facility, use the ideas and posters provided to create eye-catching bulletin boards. Cover the boards with glossy paper and use bright colors for any cutouts to complement the posters from the packet. Add bulletin board trim as a finish.

Bible Points

Print out the Bible point mini posters from the resource CD. Each week, place the appropriate poster over the writing board (chalkboard/marker board, usually a focal point for teaching). Point to it whenever you say the Bible point, encouraging the students to say it. The Bible points apply the day’s lesson in a practical way.

Attendance

Mount the brick graffiti wall poster from the resource packet near the door. Each week as students arrive, they sign their names on this poster. Provide colorful markers.

Memory Work

Three Bible passages are studied this quarter to help the students understand holiness: I Peter 1:15-16, 2:9-10, and

Kids in Praise

The *Kids in Praise* CDs contain several worship songs that are applicable to this quarter’s lessons. They may be purchased through www.pentecostalpublishing.com or by calling 866-819-7667.



Note: The Pentecostal Publishing House offers Word Aflame award Bibles at a reasonable price, and they include a special segment sharing our Oneness doctrine. Visit www.pentecostalpublishing.com or call 866-819-7667. Keep extra Bibles on hand for visitors.

Romans 12:1-2. Each Bible passage poster is two-sided, with translations on side 2 to help students better comprehend the passage. Activities are offered each week to help the students understand as well as memorize these important passages. Our students need to be able to quote Scripture and find life application from it. Posters are included in the resource packet. Place the matching poster on the appropriate unit wall.

An optional memory verse, specific to the lesson, is included in the margin of the Bible Story each week.

Special Memory Passage

The SMP for this quarter is Psalm 1. This psalm is a positive statement of blessing to those who follow God. A poster is included in the packet; mount this in a prominent place in your room so your students will see it every week. It is also two-sided. The Psalm also appears in the student paper. An optional activity is offered most weeks to help the students work as a group in memorizing this passage.

Encourage your students to lock the promises of this important psalm in their hearts.

Surprise Sundays

Announce to your students that there will be occasional “Surprise Sundays” throughout the quarter. These will take the place of attendance and memory work contests. Provide prizes of varying values, such as small candy to large candy bars to multi-packs (whatever your budget will allow). Or consider offering a small prize for each category; a student could earn several prizes. Prizes should be awarded according to the value you place on: arriving on time, bringing a Bible, returning completed student papers, quoting a memory verse, and so on. Be sure students understand they will never know when a Surprise Sunday may occur, so they should always be prepared. For students who are bi-weekly attendees (such as those from broken homes), be sure to hold some special Sundays when they are in attendance. Offer the prizes throughout the morning rather than all at one time. Provide zipper bags to hold prizes.

Volunteers

Gather some children’s building blocks. Write one student’s name on one side of the block, one block per child. Place these in a toy bucket and keep it within reach. Whenever a volunteer is

needed, draw out a block and let that child “volunteer.” Stack the used blocks until all the blocks have been drawn, before returning them to the bucket. At the close of class, all blocks return to the bucket.

Remember that not all children will perform in public; some cannot read, and some will simply refuse. Never embarrass a child or put him in a position where he feels forced. Keep Sunday school fun and inviting. When issues arise, calmly deal with them and move on. Draw another child’s name, and use the reluctant volunteer in another form of service later in the day. Everyone can be used somehow, somewhere.

Music

Ask your music director and youth leader to record some of the worship songs your church sings. Preteens do not want to sing juvenile songs but will respond to contemporary music. Work with your youth leader to allow a youth worship team to occasionally visit your class and lead in worship.

Kids in Missions


The missions focus this quarter is Central America and the Caribbean. The newsletter included in your packet offers several ideas for presenting the excitement and flavor of this region to your students. Consider throwing a party at the beginning of the quarter; partner with the other classes and have one big exciting bash. Craft and game ideas are also provided in the newsletter. Do not forget to pray and give throughout the quarter. Teach your students to have a heart for missions.

Poster Possibilities

Throw a pre-quarter poster party for your students. Ask parents to volunteer snacks and supplies. Tell everyone to come in their “grungies” as they will be drawing, marking, painting, and playing. Before the party, ask parents for pictures of their students. Enlarge these on a color copier. If possible, use a photo program on your computer to distort faces and make them fun. Provide art supplies: pencils, markers, paints, brushes (assorted sizes), posterboard (white and colored), fluorescent posterboard, stencils, craft scissors, regular scissors, magazines, glue, and so on. Place drop cloths on the tables and floor if you are using paints. Let students use their imaginations to create posters that will fill the walls as they learn about holiness. Keep in mind that additional posters will be developed throughout the quarter for mounting.

A poster ideas document is available on the resource CD. Print this out to give students ideas of what they can do with their imaginations. Be sure they understand they are not limited to these designs or phrases.

Teacher Tip



Start early to collect prizes for Surprise Sunday and Fun Sunday (lesson 13). Have a bake sale, sell ice cream after church one night, or ask for donations at stores and from the congregation. Be on the look out for inexpensive prizes at dollar stores, garage sales, and thrift stores. Fun-sized candy bars, unique pens and pencils, backpack tags, and gift certificates from fast food restaurants make neat prizes for preteens.

Faith Works

Aim: To have confidence in God and His Word.

Theme Decor: Science Lab

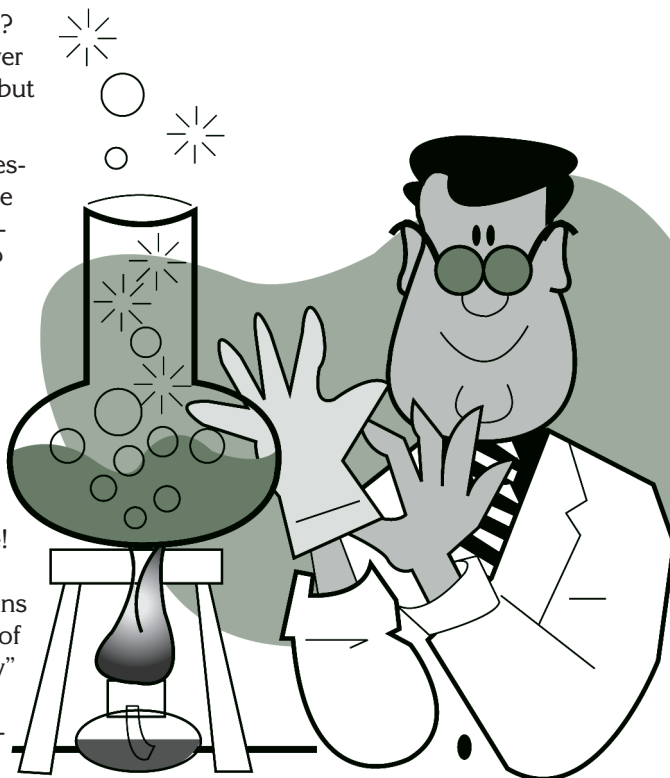
“What is the difference between belief, trust, and faith? How do I activate my faith? Is it simply a case of mind over matter? Say it and it will happen? I’ve told God I believe, but it still doesn’t happen. What am I doing wrong?”

These are questions every believer faces. Faith is necessary in the life of the believer. Without faith it is impossible to please God. So how do we help our students to understand what faith is, how it works, and why God honors it?

We can explore the lives of faith-full men of the Old Testament, men such as Abraham, Moses, and Caleb. Discover how faith pleases, obeys, provides, strengthens, saves, and sustains. Thirteen weeks of faith lessons will help your students to understand “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1, *New International Version*).

And what better technique to teach faith than science! Two supposedly opposite ends of the spectrum come together to form rock-solid understanding of what it means to trust God. The definition of science is “knowledge, as of facts or principles; knowledge gained by systematic study” (www.dictionary.com). Several science experiments will assist you in a systematic study of Old Testament characters and the knowledge of how faith worked in their lives. Your room will be transformed into a science lab full of beakers, books, and Bibles. Check with your Primary teachers to see if they saved any resources from an old spring quarter that featured a science lab. Ask your public schools for donations from their science labs (well-used, scratched, and stained will work fine). Other items of interest in a lab would be test tubes, rubber tubing, hot plates, coils, batteries and wires, funnels, drinking straws, copper wire, rubber gloves, goggles, measuring cups, glass jars, aprons, microscopes, magnifying glasses, and, of course, lots of books and charts.

Teens are usually a good resource for creativity. Involve them in helping to transform your classroom. You will be surprised at how they will transform a cardboard box into a piece of scientific equipment with aluminum foil, rubber tubing, copper wire, black knobs, and a funnel or two. Plan to make your room a WOW science room that will pull the children into active learning as they activate their faith in God.



Unit One: Faith Hopes

Unit Focus: “Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1, *New International Version*).

Faith Exists

Faith Pleases (Enoch)

Faith Gets Back on Track (Hagar)

Faith Sees the Promise (Isaac Is Born)

Faith Obeys (Abraham Offers Isaac)

Unit Two: Faith Trusts

Unit Focus: Faith is trusting for the improbable when there is no evidence to believe it will occur.

Faith Delivers (Ten Plagues)

Faith Provides (Provisions in the Wilderness)

Faith Follows (Joshua Follows Moses)

Unit Three: Faith Persuades

Unit Focus: Faith persuades others to believe.

Faith Stands Firm (Caleb)

Faith Rewards (David Anointed King)

Faith Reveals (Gehazi’s Eyes Opened)

Faith Responds (Fiery Furnace)

Faith Sustains (Review)

The Preteen Student

Preteens are often known as tweeners or middlers, but never call them that! They do not like those terms because it makes them sound like they are stuck in a rut going nowhere. And preteens are definitely going places—their goal in life is to be a teenager! Until then, they are too old for children’s church, too young for youth group, still like playing with childhood toys, desperately trying to be cool like the teens, scared to death that they will do something wrong, and anxious to be of service to others.

Let us explore some of today’s preteen characteristics.

Preteen Girls

Want beauty and glamour

- They like to shop!
- Self-confidence is not strong. Half of girls eight to ten say they are unhappy with their bodies. Forty percent of fourth graders have been on a diet. (“Fifteen Must Know Facts about Today’s Tweens” by Jennifer O’Donnell, www.About.com.)
- Need help fixing themselves up.

You can:

- Offer help with hair tips, clothing tips.
- Host a girls-only night and focus on what they can do, not what they cannot. Have a fashion show; bring in a hairstylist; offer manicure/facial treatments; and simply pamper them! Show the girls how to dress nicely without looking worldly.
- Connect your preteens to teenage girls they admire and look up to, who are strong in faith and holiness.

Want to nurture

- Preteen girls are drawn to young babies/toddlers.

You can:

- Encourage preteens to volunteer to work in the nursery.
- Offer a babysitting course.
- Host a parents-night-out at the church and use the preteen girls for helpers.

Want to shine

- Under pressure to be successful.
- Success strongly influenced by the world’s standards.
- Role models are glamorous.
- Girls are encouraged to do anything guys can do.
- The advertising world hits this age group hard.

You can:

- Help them to find their strong points—not just physically, but in gifts and goals.
- Encourage them to build upon those strengths to find their own success and not to copy or strive for the success of others.
- Ask godly women from different careers to speak to your class. Enlist older teens and young women to mentor and train girls to succeed.

Want intimacy

- Preteen girls may turn to inappropriate peer groups or relationships for love if they do not receive support and affection at home.
- Parental love is important to preteens, but peer pressure may discourage them from openly expressing their love.

You can:

- Work with parents to teach students about purity.

Preteen Boys

Want to build and conquer

- Boys are into building blocks, Legos, Magnetix, and such.
- They enjoy creatures they can assemble (Transformers) and take to war!
- It is all about strength and winning.

You can:

- Point out the attributes of a strong, godly man. Show them being a man is not about being aggressive, a he-man, or “I’m bigger than you.”
- Focus on character building and the behavior of a gentleman.

Want to be brave

- Slow physical developers feel the pain of embarrassment and insecurity.
- Many often revert to being the class clown.
- A bully thinks big is tough (and often is), but he hides insecurity, too.
- Boys want to serve God, but often feel humility and “turning the other cheek” makes them appear cowardly.

You can:

- Encourage them to stand strong in the faith, like Joshua and David.
- Show them how standing for what is right takes more courage than following the crowd.

Want the “gross factor”

- Boys love gross, slime, and gruesome!
- May use shocking phrases and language just to see the response.

You can:

- Use a recipe to create slime and make a spiritual application.
- Involve them in a dirty clean-up project and take pictures to show who got the dirtiest.
- Use fun and laughter as elements to help them belong and bond.
- Lovingly but definitely enforce rules and guidelines. Preteens—boys and girls alike—want parameters, boundaries, and restrictions. They want to know someone cares.

Want adventure

- Boys are into video games.
- They seek heroes—in comic books, video games, TV/movies.
- Preteen boys are competitive. Sports often play an important role in their lives. This may cause embarrassment and pain to those who do not excel at physical activity.

You can:

- Provide opportunities to lead and to follow.
- Preteen boys need heroes in the church. Connect them to teen boys who are strong Christians. Enlist godly men in the church to be mentors—take them on a hike, fishing trip, or camping trip with plenty of supervision.
- Start a Scouting ministry at your church.

Want to be loved

- Boys need to be valued and appreciated.
- They may avoid hugs and special attention in front of people—but they crave special attention in front of people.
- They will eat up recognition and honors, although they are reluctant to show it.

You can:

- Provide a positive role model, such as an older steadfast teen who remembers this age.
- Show them a loving Jesus, a friend who will love them no matter what.
- Find ways to praise every student, both publicly and privately.

Boys and girls alike want to love Jesus.

- They love to serve and want involvement.
- Many are shy and insecure, sometimes clumsy, and easily embarrassed.
- Some probably still sit with or near their parents.
- They are not often at altar call unless with parents in church.
- They love junior camp!

The Preteen Teacher

Statistics show that 43% of Americans come to Christ before the age of thirteen. Statistics also show that if we do not solidify children in the faith by this age, we will lose them as teens. Preteen teachers have a window of opportunity to make it all stick.

Preteen teachers need to lose the mindset that their preteens are isolated and insulated from the world.

Even children who go to church, church school, or home school, with no television in the home, still know what is going on in the world. In addition to prayer and fasting, if we want to reach our preteens and make a difference in their lives, we need to study their culture. Know their world. Explore their tastes. We do not have to like it; we just need to know it. Here are some ideas for learning about tween culture.

Rules for preteen teachers:

- Be real
- Be fun
- Listen

Magazines

- Flip through teen, game, sports, and hero-type magazines in the magazine aisle.
- Check out magazines at the library.

Video games

- Do you know what games kids are playing? Here is a sampling of the ratings for video games (not movies—games).

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Titles rated EC (Early Childhood) have content that may be suitable for ages 3 and older. Contains no material that parents would find inappropriate.

EVERYONE

Titles rated E (Everyone) have content that may be suitable for ages 6 and older. Titles in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy or mild violence and/or infrequent use of mild language.

EVERYONE 10+

Titles rated E10+ (Everyone 10 and older) have content that may be suitable for ages 10 and older. Titles in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy or mild violence, mild language and/or minimal suggestive themes.

TEEN

Titles rated T (Teen) have content that may be suitable for ages 13 and older. Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, and/or infrequent use of strong language.

—www.esrb.org/ratings/ratings_guide.jsp

Advertising

- Internet . . . magazines . . . cereal boxes . . . billboards . . . TV . . . videos and video games
- Tweens spend about \$40 billion of their own money each year on clothing, music, games, comics, spas and hair care, and entertainment.
- The age of the consumer has dropped to an average of eight to ten.

Books/Movies

- Check out the Newbery award list winners for the year to see what books are popular with preteens. You will be amazed at the selections. If you do not want to read the books, read reviews about current book trends so you will know what your students are reading.

Music

- Who is in the music news? For a listing of current trends, check out cpyu.org, the center for parent/youth understanding. This website provides resources to help you “understand culture to impact culture.”
- There is a minimal push for purity in music aimed at preteens, but the “heroes” of popularity often do not uphold it.

Internet/Media

- iPods . . . MP3s . . . cell phones . . . texting . . . IM . . . YouTube . . . Facebook . . . MySpace . . . Twitter
- It is all about staying in touch.
- Preteens do about eight and one-half hours of media per day—in a six and one-half-hour time frame. They multitask.

This is their world—like it or not.

Lighten up!

- Fun is not just a time filler.
- Do something different each week.
- Meet in a different room.
- Take them places.
- Play games.
- Do science experiments.
- Get messy.

Get to know your kids.

- Listen to them—without interruption, without judgment.
- Discuss what interests them.
- Know the cultural interests.
- Be real. They spot insincerity quickly.
- Do not mock them.
- Compliment and praise, but do not flatter.
- Let them be kids.
- Let them be teens.

Sister Do Wrong Sister Do Wright



When was the last time you listened to yourself discipline your students? Do all pay the price if one disobeys? Is a child labeled as a troublemaker and publicly humiliated with piercing words from you?

Discipline, or control, must first be established by clearly stating simple rules to the students, and refreshing them occasionally as gentle reminders. Discipline is not screaming and yelling, but

positive words of instruction, loving guidance, and consistent and fair justice. While the students must be allowed to be children, have fun, and even get wild, they must also know rules establish safe boundaries for their own protection. Be firm, kind, loving, and fair in your reactions to all discipline matters. Eyes are watching, ears are hearing, and hearts are responding to you.