

**The Best 45 Minutes of your Week**  
**How planning for Sunday school can also be spiritual growth**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday afternoon or evening** (10 minutes)

Evaluation: Things I want to remember from today's lesson (birthdays, special needs, things to try differently next time)

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\_\_\_\_\_ Read the scripture passage(s) for next week's lesson

**Monday or Tuesday** (10 minutes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Read the lesson for the coming Sunday.

**Wednesday or Thursday** (10-15 minutes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Using the pattern on the back, make a plan for Sunday.

**Friday or Saturday** (5 minutes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Look over the plan for Sunday. Make a list of material needed.

<b>Materials I need to find</b>	<b>Materials I need to buy</b>

**Saturday** (5 minutes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Pray for the children/youth in your class. Hey! You can pray every day!

**Sunday** (15 minutes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Arrive at least 15 minutes early. Set up your room in an inviting, attractive way.

When you prepare carefully, you will be relaxed and able to give your full attention to the children and your lesson. You will be more able to listen to God's voice.

Main idea or focus of lesson: \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Activities Planned</b>	<b>Time Needed</b>
1. Introduce the story		
2. Tell the story		
3. Respond to the story		
4. Take the story home		

### **Suggestions for Planning**

- You do not need to use everything in your leader’s guide or do everything in the order suggested. Your guide is literally that—a *guide*.
- If the children enter gradually, always have something for them to do the minute they arrive.
- In both the “Introduction” and the “Response” time, plan at least two options. Even if you only have two or three children, provide choices. Say, “You may colour this page *or* do this puzzle *or* put these story cards in order.” Children with choices are happier children. It also lets children with varying learning styles be engaged in an activity which matches their skills.
- Try a variety of ways to “tell the story”—drama, inviting a guest to dramatize a biblical character, use a video or DVD or puppets. Spend as much time preparing for the “tell the story” part as you do for the “response” time.
- Many teachers mistakenly call “response time” the “craft” time. Response time is simply a way for children to interact with the story and incorporate it into their lives. These activities should relate directly to the story or be times when children can explore how the biblical story relates to their life. For instance, they might explore how it would look to be a good Samaritan in their school yard.
- Children and youth should always have something to carry home with them—a prayer card, a blessing from the teacher, a piece of art work, a suggestion of something to do this week.