

Introduction

So you are preparing to direct a children's church program for preschoolers. Congratulations! The preschoolers who walk into your rooms are blessed that someone cares enough about them to invest their time in curriculum programming and scheduling, and well, you know all that it involves. **Kidz Blitz** is pullin' for you, which is why we created the **Kiddie Blitz** brand for preschool-focused church products.

PICNIC, by Kiddie Blitz, not only has preschoolers in mind but the wonderful women and men who volunteer their time to work with them. **PICNIC** is structured to offer a predictable lesson sequence because these little ones rely on predictability. And as the director, we can't always rely on volunteers to prepare early, so a predictable lesson sequence also makes for easy planning for class leaders.

Content: Offers simple truths about God every preschooler should know.

Theme: The Picnic theme encourages learning and playing in an atmosphere that small kids can relate to. The leader carries a kite in the air when starting the day's lesson and reminds kids that God is with them even though they can't see Him, like the wind that blows a kite through the sky. John 3:8.

Segments: Each lesson includes several segments which can be used for large group or small groups without rewriting.

ROOM DÉCOR: Room décor can be as simple as a couple of trees or as elaborate as a wall-to-wall nature and park theme. Seating is not necessary. Enhance the theme with blankets or checkered tablecloths spread out across the floor. If you prefer to use seating, we suggest picnic benches. Hang kites from the ceiling. Caution: do not allow strings to dangle or hang down. Attach cloud adhesives to the ceiling or high on walls.

We suggest these **online resources** for large décor items:

www.CreativeForKids.com (Woodland theme adhesive wall decor)

www.Amazon.com (Ore Intl. Kids' Indoor/Outdoor Picnic table)

www.BizChair.com (Kids Park Bench, red, P257 by UltraPlay)

www.bedbathandbeyond.com (Folding Picnic Table with Seats, \$79.99)

www.qualitytoys.com (Adult Bee Costume #356, \$97.00)

WHAT YOU WILL NEED: Each class will need the following items:

1. Picnic basket
2. Enough plastic fruit or Fruit Cards (provided) to allow one for each child
3. Fruit Loop Game spinner (1 provided)
4. Brown blanket, sheet, fabric roll or brown craft paper for ant tunnel
5. Benny the Ant (printed and mounted)
6. Zzzeke the Bee (1 provided)
7. Winston Squirrel (1 provided)
8. Music player for Fruit Loop Game
9. Craft Supplies

PROPS: Suggested retail options for class props.

1. Picnic Baskets: Metro Picnic Basket comes in 7 different colors (Bed, Bath, and Beyond \$29.99)
2. Checkered Table Covers: Red and White Checkered Banquet Roll 100 feet (Oriental Trading IN-3/741 \$17.99)
3. Pretend fruit: www.AmazingProduce.com, Toys R Us stores, Wal-Mart stores

PICNIC BASKET KIT: Everything needed for the lesson will be in the class picnic basket each week. The class leader will take out the prop needed for each segment. The props in the picnic basket include: The Object Lesson, The Fruit Loop Game, Winston Squirrel, and Snack

LESSON THEME: An introductory sentence or 2 telling the teacher the purpose of the lesson.

MEMORY VERSE: An age appropriate memory verse is used throughout each 4 week series. The memory verse will be introduced to the kids at the Ant Meeting small group segment in the ant tunnel. The Object Connection reemphasizes the verse.

THE NUGGET: The Nugget is the point of the lesson in a simple phrase for easy memorization. It is repeated often and is in almost every segment. One Nugget is used throughout each 4-week series. Tell the kids the Nugget before they hear the Bible Story.

BENNY the Ant: A printed **Benny the Ant** image is included in your packet. Use wood glue to mount the image to a paint stick. Each class needs a Benny for the Little Ants segment below. To make more Benny signs, use the file on your **PICNIC** graphics CD.

LITTLE ANTS: This segment transitions kids from small group to large group for the Bible Story. If large group/small group programming is not used, then this segment transitions kids from playtime to story time. Give an ant **headband** (instructions below) to each child and say, "**Benny the Ant** wants to show us something. Please line up like ants and do what Benny does." Carry the Benny the Ant sign and tell them to follow you and Benny as you zig-zag around the room to the spot where they will sit for the Bible Story.

Suggestions for ways to act like an ant:

- Wiggle your antennas when you talk
- Crawl on the floor in a line
- Use digging hands to dig a tunnel
- During clean-up time, carry a toy on your back

ANTENNA HEADBAND DIRECTIONS: Use black metal headbands available at most craft stores and 18" black craft pipe cleaners. Each headband requires 1 metal headband and 1 pipe cleaner.

1. Take an uncut pipe cleaner and bend it at the center around the center of the headband.
2. Criss-crossing the pipe cleaner as you wrap, wrap it 3 times around the headband.
3. Aim the long ends straight up.
4. Bend the long ends into a circular swirl.

BIBLE STORY: The Bible Story can be told in large group with a puppet stage or small group setting where the leader will hold the puppet and sit on the floor. Begin by introducing **Zzzeke the Bee** (puppet), saying, "Hi, Zzzeke. I'm so glad to see you." Zzzeke is a nice Bee who is often sad because he is misunderstood. He doesn't want to sting anyone or scare little children. He just wants to find a

perfect flower to make perfect honey. He tells the Bible Story in first-person because he was there and saw the whole thing. He usually ends his story with, “Bee-lieve in Jesus”. (ZZZeke could be the puppet provided or an adult in a bee costume. See “online resources” in this introduction for costume suggestion.)

ANT MEETING: Prepare by placing a large wadded brown blanket (or brown sheet or brown craft paper) on the floor where this segment will take place. When the Bible Story ends, line your “ants” back into an ant line and zig zag to where the blanket is. Announce “the Ant Meeting is beginning please tunnel your way to the floor”. Tell the “ants” to use digging hands as they sit down. When the “ants” are seated, cover everyone with the “tunnel”. You are now in the ant tunnel, ready for the meeting. Talk about the Bible Story and what hard-working ants could learn from the story. After 3 or 4 questions about the story, tell the kids to put their hands in a pile together and say together, “Ants work hard, think and be like ants. Hurray!” Uncover the kids and move to the next segment.

MUSIC: Kiddie Blitz recommends the following songs for praise time. These are songs all preschoolers should know.

1. Fruit of the Spirit song and video (Brentwood Kids Music)
2. Whoa, I Have Life (*Little Praise Party* album by YANCY)
3. My Best Friend (*Little Praise Party* album by YANCY)
4. Books of the Bible song (The Bigsby Show)
5. Joy (*To Be Like Jesus* album from Sovereign Grace Music)

THE FRUIT LOOP (GAME): To prepare, stock the class picnic baskets with enough plastic fruit so that each child will have one. For example: if you have 15 kids, your picnic basket may contain 3 oranges, 2 apples, 2 lemons, 1 cherry, 1 grape bunch, 2 strawberries, 2 bananas and 2 limes. You may prefer to use the Fruit Cards provided. To make more cards, use the Fruit Cards file on your **PICNIC** graphic CD. Children will sit in a circle around the picnic blanket. Pass the picnic basket around and have each child take a piece of fruit or fruit card. When the music starts the children pass their fruit to the left. Stop the music. When the music stops, the kids hold the fruit they have now. Spin the Fruit Loop Wheel. The kids holding the kind of fruit the arrow lands on shout out the Nugget phrase. Repeat the game a few times.

OBJECT CONNECTION (SQUIRREL): Winston Squirrel finds the object lesson in the picnic basket. Winston takes the item without permission, so the leader reminds him that it does not belong to him and will have to be returned. The object connection is two-fold: it ties in to the lesson topic and also reminds kids that they do not take things that do not belong to them.

PRAYER: PICNIC'S intimate setting provides a perfect opportunity to pray with the little ones. Each lesson allows time for the class leader to offer prayer over them. This may be the only time of the week some of them experience prayer.

SNACK TIME: This is an optional segment, but in keeping with the theme, we suggest you incorporate this into your schedule.

CRAFT: The craft suggestion includes a supplies list and instructions.

JUST FOR FUN GAME: These Just-For-Fun-Games are *Kiddie Blitz* versions of *Kidz Blitz* approved games which can be used as time-fillers or as the closing segment.

MEMORY VERSE MAGNETS: The take-home item is optional. Each memory verse for each series comes with a print-ready, magnet-size image. VistaPrint makes full color magnets at a rate of \$19.99 for 50. The images are in the lesson file on your **PICNIC** CD.

As with all *Kidz Blitz* and *Kiddie Blitz* products, if you lose a lesson or CD, we will replace it for free.