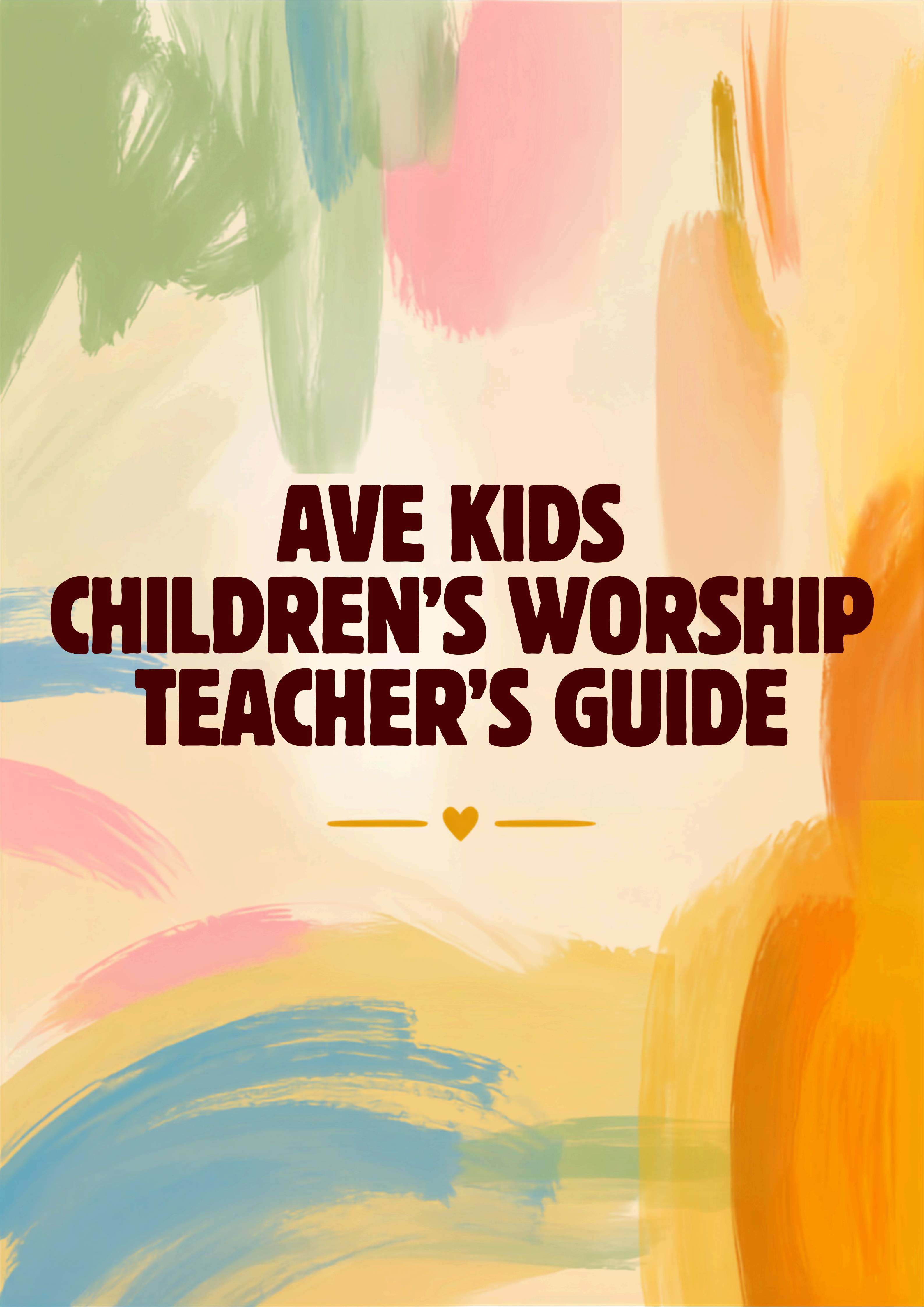




AVE KIDS CHILDREN'S WORSHIP TEACHER'S GUIDE





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Welcome, Teachers!

We are thrilled that you care about investing in the lives of the children here at the Avenue Church. Your time, energy, and love for each one is vital to the mission of our church. Children's Worship is designed to teach our children ages 3-7 about the love of God in fun and age appropriate ways during our Sunday morning worship service. You get to be a part of showing our children what a joy it is to be a follower of Christ!

Here is the general flow of Children's Worship:

1. Songs of Worship

We fill our space with joyful noise! Each week starts with songs that teach about the Bible and Jesus' love. This time can also help get some wiggles out before sitting to listen to a Bible story!

A list of songs and lyrics are available in the Song Lyrics section of this binder. You can also use the Youtube app on the TV in the room to search for relevant songs.

2. Character Stories & "I wonder..."

Every week we'll focus on a specific Bible character or topic. Most weeks will be focused on a well-known character, but we'll include lesser-known characters and other topics as well. Each story will be connected to the sermon that grown ups are hearing that week. **We hope you'll encourage children to talk to their grown ups about the lesson so our Avenue families can make connections together about what they are learning during the church service!**

Most weeks there will not be a “Big Idea” we are trying to teach. Instead, as you read the bible story, ask simple “I wonder” questions to help children think more deeply. These questions don’t have “right answers.” Instead, we’re asking children to use their imaginations and share their thoughts and feelings about the story. This may be a new way of thinking, but we believe it’s a way to help kids understand that we don’t have to have the answers, what’s important is that we engage with the story itself! Some sample “I wonder...” questions are available in the **Story Questions section of this binder**.

3. Game, Snack, & Activity

A list of games is available in the **Games section of this binder**. However, feel free to get creative if you have game ideas that are relevant to the story! This is not an exhaustive list...just a place to help get you started if you need it.

After games is a great time for a snack! A tub of snacks are available in the Teacher’s Work Room located in the bible class hallway.

An activity can be as simple as a coloring sheet or as complicated as you are up for! Each week’s guide, will include a coloring page and craft idea related to the story. Feel free to use the copier in the Teacher’s Workroom or in the church office.

4. Wrap-up & Dismissal

Before parents come, please say a prayer with the children. You can say it or ask one of them to pray. Let’s help them learn that kids can talk to God and take it seriously, too!

General Guidelines

Children are never left unattended. If you need to step out for any reason, please alert the security team so they can monitor the room. The security team is also helpful if there is an issue and you need to call a parent to come get their child.

A parent or guardian must drop off AND pick up their children. Do not allow children to leave without their adult.

Feel free to use any of the supplies located in the closets and teacher's work room. If you notice something running low or have supplies you think should be stocked in our closets, please contact Emily.

If you have any questions, comments, or need a sub please contact

Emily Childers at (908)255-9760 or ejchilders95@gmail.com.



SONG LYRICS

Our kid's songs should help children worship God joyfully together and give them a fun way to get wiggles out before story time! Here are some ideas and songs we expect our kids to know and sing during their time with us.

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood
I'm going to let it shine
All around the neighborhood

I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine

Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Hide it under a bushel? No!
I'm going to let it shine
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

The Greatest Commandment

by The Porter's Gate

[Chorus]

Love the Lord your God
With all your heart and soul and mind
And love your neighbor as yourself
Love the Lord your God
With all your heart and soul and mind
And love your neighbor as yourself

[Verse]
Let us be known, let us be known
By the way we love
Let us be known, let us be known
By the way we love

[Chorus]

Hip, Hip, Hip, Hippopotamus

In the beginning, God made the sea
And the forest filled with trees
He made the mountains up so high
And on the top he placed the sky

God's fingerprints are everywhere
Just to show how much He cares
But in between He had loads of fun
He made a hippo who weighs a ton.

Chorus
Hip-hip-hip-hippopotamus!
Hip-hip-hooray! God made all of us.
Hip-hip-hip-hippopotamus!
Hip-hip-hooray! God made all of us.

Creation sings of His praise,
The sparrow and the tiny babe.
We can sing and say, "well done."
But some things He just made for fun!

Chorus

In the end He had lots of fun.
He made a kangaroo that jumps and runs.
Kanga-kanga-kangaroo.
Hip-hip-hurray God made me and you.
Kanga-kanga-kangaroo.
Hip-hip-hurray God made me and you.

In the end He had lots of fun.
He made a manatee just for fun.
Mana-mana-manatee.
Hip-hip-hurray God made you and me.
Mana-mana-manatee.

Hip-hip-hurray God made you and me.

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

2 He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
(Sing three times)
He's got the whole world in his hands.

3 He's got the little tiny baby in his hands. . . .
He's got the whole world in his hands.

4 He's got you and me, brother, in his hands. . . .
He's got the whole world in his hands.

5 He's got you and me, sister, in his hands. . . .
He's got the whole world in his hands.

6 He's got everybody here in his hands. . . .
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Johnny Appleseed Grace

Oh, the Lord's been good to me.
And so I thank the Lord
For giving me the things I need:
The sun, the rain and the appleseed;
Oh, the Lord's been good to me.

Oh, and every seed I sow
Will grow into a tree.
And someday there'll be apples there
For everyone in the world to share.
Oh, the Lord is good to me

I wake up every day,
As happy as can be,
Because I know that with His care
My apple trees, they will still be there.
The Lord's been good to me.

Lord We Lift Your Name On High

Lord, I lift Your name on high
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way
From the earth to the cross

My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high

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From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
All are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong.
They are weak, but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me.
The Bible tells me so.



GAMES

Our kid's games should help children learn about how to show God's love, play respectfully, and have a blast together! Here are some games ideas but feel free to be creative or search for your own.

Playdoh

Create the character and parts of the story with playdoh!

Reenact the Story

Have kids reenact the story (older kids plan, etc)

Creation I-Spy

Look around the room and take turns saying, "I spy something God made that is blue!" Let children guess!

Guess the Object

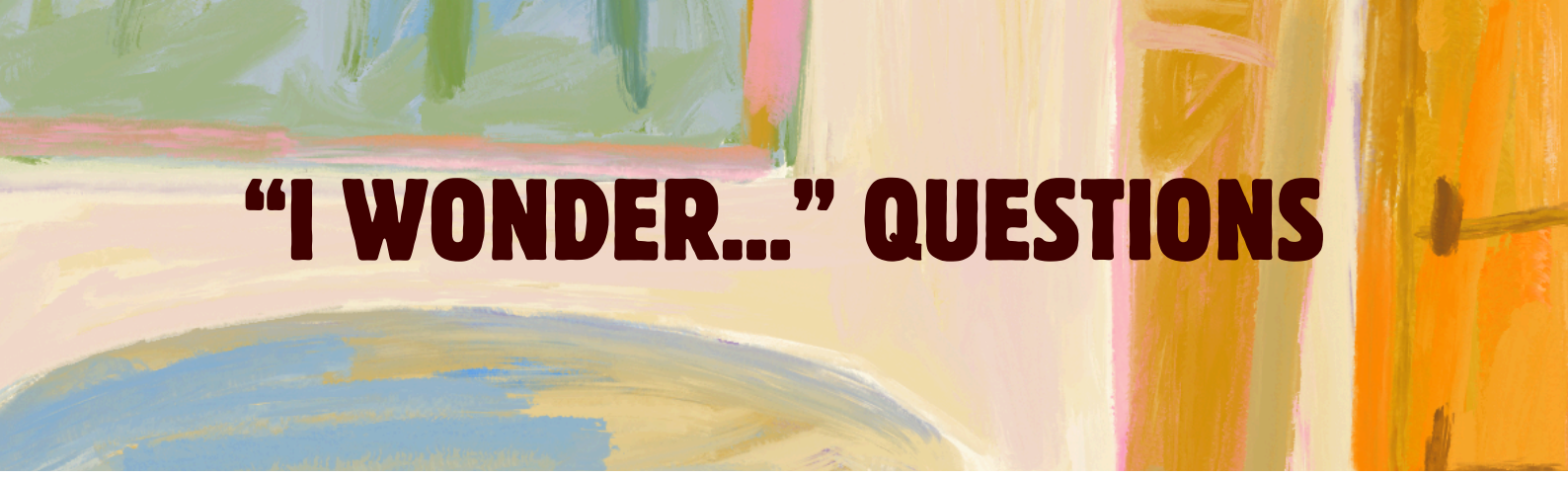
Place several toy animals or objects related to the Bible story inside an opaque pillowcase. Let children reach in, feel an object, and guess what it is.

Follow the Shepherd

Play like Follow the Leader. You act as the shepherd, and the children are your sheep. Do silly actions like hopping, crawling, or patting your head for them to copy.

The Blessing Ball

Roll a soft ball across a circle to a child. When they catch it, they name one thing they are thankful for (example: "Mommy," "My dog," "Apples") before rolling it to someone else.



“I WONDER...” QUESTIONS

I wonder what part of the story you liked a lot, today?

I wonder what part of the story felt important to you, today?

I wonder where you are in the story, or what part feels like it is about you?

Which character would you want to be friends with in real life, and why?

Can you think of a time when you felt the same way the main character did?

Why do you think the character made that choice?

What questions or wonderings are popping into your head right now?

Does this [character, story, setting, situation, etc] remind you of anything?

Did you find anything in this book confusing? What questions do you have about it?