



A Guide to Hybrid Sunday School

Tips and Ideas for Engaging
Toddler Children
and Their Families

(Toddlers & 2s)



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.

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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 IMMERSE

Immerse’s teaching resources are available in print and are also included in the Digital Classroom Pack files. 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.

Immerse Toddler Resources at a Glance

Toddlers & 2s

- *Toddlers & 2s Teacher Guide*
- *Toddlers & 2s Teacher’s Classroom Pack* (3 board books; posters; mobiles; photos; story figures; audio tracks; printable files, including *Family Together Time* family resource and Teddy the bear puppet patterns)

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Teaching Toddlers and 2-Year-Olds

Toddlers and 2-year-olds learn by moving and exploring. They are captivated by music and colorful objects. With the help of parents and older siblings, virtual lessons (using Zoom, Facebook Live, prerecorded videos, etc.) can engage even the youngest child and begin to build faith concepts.

Teaching toddlers & 2s (either in the classroom or online) provides opportunities to check in with children and their families, play together, and tell a simple Bible story. Here are some ideas for getting started and teaching the lesson.

FOR EACH QUARTER

- Look through the unit pages and lessons in *Toddlers & 2s Teacher Guide*.
- Familiarize yourself with the *Classroom Pack* visuals, printable files, and audio tracks.
- Decide which materials and portions of a lesson will work best for teaching online. Remember that water-play activities or activities that call for finding hidden objects will be harder to do virtually, unless parents are willing to set up the activities at home.
- Unit mobiles can get the children jumping. Peekaboo Picture Boards will engage toddlers through an activity similar to peekaboo games they play at home. Specific lessons will include other activities that can translate well from the screen to the home.
- *Toddlers & 2s Teacher Guide* provides materials for an extra hour of teaching. You can choose from any of the activities provided.
- The Bible Time story can be told in two ways: (1) Use the shorter story printed in the weekly lessons. (2) Use the longer version (on the unit pages) and tell the story in its entirety each week during the unit.
- Set a time limit for the lesson. Include time for socializing with parents before and after the lesson.
- Organize the digital files you will be using.
- Be sure you have a way to display story figures. If you don't have a story board, it's easy to make one. We've provided some ideas in our bonus curriculum content (coming soon)!
- Decide how you will get activity packs to parents (physical pickup/drop-off, download links, or both).
- Let families know how to access the lessons and the activity packs.

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♥ Don't forget to read the special-needs tips and helps provided in the teacher guide and *Classroom Pack* printable files. Plan activities that include and work for all children.

*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.

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FOR EACH LESSON

- Prepare your heart with prayer and the teacher devotion in the lesson.
- Familiarize yourself with the lesson focus, Scripture passage, and Bible Words.
- Prepare and organize your materials and digital files so you can access them easily while you teach.
- 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)!
- Create a special space for your sessions. Make it one that feels welcoming and fun for the children to see.
- Have a hand mirror, a Bible, the story figures, the *Classroom Pack* audio tracks, a media player, and other suggested props ready to use.
- Learn the simple rhymes and songs so you can lead them without reading from your teacher guide.
- Practice leading the Bible Time with props and visuals so you are comfortable presenting them on-screen.
- Don't forget your [Teddy the bear puppet](#)! If you don't have a plush puppet, use the patterns in the *Classroom Pack* printable files to make a paper bag or stick puppet.
- Let parents know ahead of time if there are any resources/materials their children will need so they can participate in the activities at home.
- Determine which materials you will provide to families for use during the lesson.
- Let parents know ahead of time if there are additional materials their children will need so they can participate in the activities at home.

Teach the Lesson

BEFORE THE LESSON STARTS

- Begin streaming your lesson 5 to 10 minutes before the scheduled start time so kids can join in.
- Show a countdown video or use PowerPoint or Google Slides to display a welcome message.
- Play songs from the *Classroom Pack* audio tracks.

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- Show a list of items that the children will need for the lesson. Remember that less might be more during this time!
- When it's time to start the lesson, use your Teddy the bear puppet to welcome the children and their families. If you know who is online, greet them by name.

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DURING THE LESSON

Activity Time

Lead an activity that allows toddlers to move. You could sing a song that includes actions. Or show the unit mobile and encourage children to jump as you move it up and down. Consider the time you have and lead other activities that involve movement and fun.

Bible Time

- Ask parents and siblings to sit at a low table or on the floor with their toddler.
- Lead the Bible Time story. Remember that you can tell either the shorter version found in each lesson or the longer version found on the unit pages.
- Encourage verbal children, their parents, and siblings to sing the songs with you as you move through the story.
- Use the *Classroom Pack* visuals as suggested for the story. You can either hold up the printed version or share your screen to show the digital file.
- Show and read the unit board book. If you have provided copies of the pages to parents, let the children show you their pages!

Discovery Time

- If time allows and toddlers still seem to be engaged, do one more fun activity, such as the Peekaboo Picture Boards.
- The children will want to see what [Teddy](#) is doing each week. Do Puppet Fun from the Extra Hour Discovery Time.

Closing the Session

- Remind parents of any resources you have provided to them (*Family Together Time* pages, coloring pictures, etc.).
- Close your time with a short prayer and invite families to join you next week.
- Sing another song. Let Teddy bounce along and then wave goodbye.



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 students and families that encourage them to interact with the lesson. You could send these packs home or provide them to children attending a family worship service.

Here are some resources you might include in the packs:

- A personal note to the child
- Ministry announcements
- Unit family letters, *Family Together Time* pages, and coloring pictures found in the *Classroom Pack* printable files
- Song tracks from the *Classroom Pack* digital files (Remember that these are reproducible!)
- Activities that correlate to the lessons—coloring pages, songs, rhymes.

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?

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

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Engage Families 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](#)
- Send parents quick tips and features pulled from the *Family Together Time* pages in the *Classroom Pack* digital files.
- Don't miss the Connect2 online helps available for teachers and families:
 - [Family Connections](#): These quarterly letters keep parents informed about what their child is learning from God's Word. Modifiable—just add your ministry name and information!
 - [Family Together Time for Toddlers & 2s](#): These weekly pages correlate to the lessons that children are learning in their Immerse class and can help parents continue faith conversations at home during the week.
 - [Teddy Puppet](#): Encourage families to buy or make their own Teddy puppet. Patterns for paper bag and stick puppets are available in the *Digital Resources*. Their children can use the puppet to sing and wave hello and goodbye.