

We Are...the Bride

- All Pre-Class
- Arrange tables and chairs.
 - Pray for tonight's class.
 - Have music playing.
 - Take attendance.

7:00-7:20

REVIEW

Choose an activity or activities from the following ideas:

- Review previous lessons.
 - Ask questions regarding the last few lessons using the "We Are... Review Questions" and "Jesus is...A through Z Review Questions" (in KPH binder). Reward correct answers with Starbursts, etc.
 - Play "baseball" with the review questions. Have the entire class play as one team, trying to beat a score of 20 runs (their record), or divide them into two teams and see which team can score the most runs. An incorrect answer equals an out. After three outs, it's the other team's turn to "bat" (or if playing with the entire class as one team, clear the bases of "runners" after three outs). Make sure each team gets an equal number of "at bats." Have another teacher keep track of outs and points on the marker board.
 - Play musical chairs. When the music stops, ask the player without a chair a review question. If the student answers correctly, he or she gets to stay in the game.
 - Divide the group into pairs. Give each pair one of the "mini posters" with adjectives and titles of Jesus (i.e., the "A" sheet or the "B" sheet, etc.; in KPH binder). Have each team work together to memorize every adjective or title on their sheet. Then have them come up front and recite them to the class.
 - Have a student come to the front of the class and pick a letter (A-Z) out of a bag and then try to remember all the adjectives/titles that go with that letter.
 - Play A-M or N-Z "BINGO" with adjectives/titles.
- Review other previously memorized items. Use cardboard chart and cards with books of the Bible, as well as other props.
 - "One God," "Sin and Repentance," etc., verses that students have been working on.
 - Sing verses set to song
 - Books of the Old and New Testaments
 - Divisions of Old and New Testaments

All 7:20-7:40

BIBLE MEMORY WORK

Divide the class into four groups: two each for 5- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 10-year-olds, one teacher with each group. (To cut down on noise and confusion, two groups may leave the room to practice verses in the hallway, stairwell, or another classroom.)

Students will work on memorizing doctrinal verses. Each student will have his/her own list or booklet to work from, containing a chart for teachers to initial as students quote the verses one at a time, two at a time, etc. (Teachers: Please read instructions on the bottom Bible memory work charts or in the front of the booklets.)

Coloring pages with the 10 Commandments or other Bible verses are available (in the KPH binder) to help occupy visitors or younger/distracted students while their classmates are working on verses.

- Remind students that there will be prizes for those who pass with a score of 80 percent or better.
- Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working, not distracting others. They should help each other learn the verses. It's fun working together!

7:40-7:45

RULES & PRAYER

- Review "Power Hour Promises" with the students, reminding them of proper behavior during class.
- Pray together, thanking God for your time together and praying that each person will understand and obey God's Word and grow into a strong Christian.

7:45-8:05

BIBLE LESSON

Teacher Prep:

Read John 14:2-3, Revelation 19:6-9, Ephesians 5:22-33, Hebrews 13:5, and Romans 8:38-39.
Pray for anointing.

Items Needed:

"We Are..." display board; wedding mementoes (announcement, bouquet, veil, pictures, etc.); "The Bride" Visual, picture of "The Marriage"

Supper of the Lamb" (from picture Bible or internet).

Introduction

During the first part of the year we learned about Jesus' titles and adjectives from A through Z. Refer to the "Jesus is...A through Z" board.

Now we are learning about some of the things that the Bible says we Christians are. Refer to the "We Are..." display board.

All of these things are metaphors (comparisons) that describe a little bit of what we are to Jesus. Christians aren't literally salt, light, sheep, or epistles, but there are ways we are LIKE salt, light, sheep, and epistles.

Show wedding mementoes.

Today we're going to talk about how we are like the Bride of Christ.

Briefly answer any questions/discuss your wedding mementoes.

Lesson

Before the Wedding Ceremony

- When two people decide to get married, what are some things they do to prepare for their wedding day? (*send out invitations, ask people to be in their wedding, buy wedding clothes, prepare a place to live together, etc.*)

Listen to John 14:2-3 for some of Jesus' wedding preparations:

Read John 14:2-3 from your Bible.

- What is Jesus preparing for us? (*a place, a mansion, a home*)

Whether you're a boy or a girl, if you are part of the church—I don't mean the building but the group of people who have been baptized in Jesus' name and filled with His Spirit—YOU are the bride of Christ. (Remember this is a metaphor to help us understand some things about Jesus and about us.)

While Jesus, the groom, is preparing a home for us, we are supposed to be getting ready for the wedding. Listen to these verses from Revelation:

Read Revelation 19:7-8 from your Bible.

Notice that in these verses Jesus is called by one of His titles, the Lamb.

- The bride arrayed (dressed) herself in what kind of linen? (*fine linen, clean and white*)
- And what is the "fine linen" the bride has dressed herself in? (*the righteousness of the saints*)
- What is "righteousness"? (*the quality of being right and doing what is right*)

Show wedding picture or "The Bride" visual.

The bride's dress is clean and white and pretty.

- How would she react if she spilled a Coke on her dress or sat on a dirty bench, leaving a stain? (*she would be upset, angry, sad, distraught, in tears, etc.*)

A bride wants to look her best on her wedding day. Just one spot on her dress would take away from all the beautiful clean whiteness of the rest of the dress. Just one sin takes away from our righteousness.

- Can we be righteous (be right and do the right things) on our own? (*no; we need Jesus' righteousness*)

Jesus, the groom, loves us, His bride, so much that He shed His blood to cleanse our sins and make us righteous.

Read Ephesians 5:25-27 from "The Bride" visual and have a student attach it to the "We Are..." display board.

The Wedding Ceremony

Let's talk a little bit about the actual wedding ceremony.

During the ceremony, the bride and groom make vows to each other.

- What is a vow? (*a solemn promise*)

The bride and groom each repeat after the preacher something like this:

I, (Groom's Name), take thee, (Bride's Name), to my wedded wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse: for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

I, (Bride's Name), take thee, (Groom's Name), to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse: for richer, for poorer; in sickness and in health; to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy law; and thereto I give thee my troth.

- **What is "troth"? (*faithfulness, loyalty*)**
- **Brides and grooms promise to do what for each other? (*be with each other through good and bad times, love and cherish each other, be faithful and loyal to each other for the rest of their lives*)**

Jesus has made promises to us. In Hebrews 13:5 He said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." And in Romans 8:38-39 it says that Jesus' love for us is so strong, nothing can stop it:

Read Romans 8:38-39 from your Bible.

- **As His bride, what are some promises we should make to Jesus? (*to love Him; to obey Him [He said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" John 14:15]; to be loyal to Him [serve no other gods]; to keep our hearts clean and ready for when He comes for us, etc.*)**

After the Wedding Ceremony

After the vows have been made and the wedding ceremony is over, there is usually a reception—a party—with food and music and lots of joy and laughter. The bride and groom celebrate their new life together with their family and friends.

When we—the bride—finally get to heaven with our groom—Jesus Christ, there is going to be a party! The Bible calls it the "marriage supper of the Lamb."

Show picture of "The Marriage Supper of the Lamb."

- **What kind of food do you suppose will be at the marriage supper of the Lamb? (*allow responses; the Bible doesn't specify*)**

Life Application

Who wants to go to the party in Heaven—the marriage supper of the Lamb? I do!

Let's talk to Jesus right now and renew our vows—our promises—to love and obey Him and to be ready when He comes back to take us to that wonderful home in Heaven that He is preparing for us.

Lead the kids in prayer—response to lesson.

8:05-8:15

BIBLE SKILLS

Use the "Books of the Bible" display board to point things out as you ask these questions:

- How many books are in the New Testament? (*27 [3 letters in the word "New" x 9 letters in the word "Testament" = 27]*)
- Last week our lesson was about us being "epistles." What is an epistle? (*a letter*)
- How many Epistles or Letters are there in the New Testament? (*21*)

Most of the books of the New Testament (21 out of the 27) are Epistles.

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses.

Find the Epistle to the Ephesians. Find Ephesians 5:25. (*Have a student read this verse aloud.*)

- Jesus Christ loved the church—His bride—so much He did what for it? (*gave Himself*)
- What is the last book in the Bible? (*Revelation*)

Find the last chapter in the last book in the Bible; then find verse 17. Revelation 22:17. (*Have a student read this verse aloud.*)

- What do the Spirit and the bride say? (*"Come."*)

The bride (that's us) invites everyone to come and drink of the water of life that Jesus offers.

Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles.

8:15-8:30

ACTIVITY/SNACK

Supplies:

Wedding cake or cupcakes

Punch

Festive cups, plates, and napkins ☺

Forks (if needed for cake)

Bubble wedding favors (extra idea: use a ribbon to tie on a small piece of cardstock printed with the words "We are the Bride of Christ ~ Ephesians 5:25-27")



Optional: Camera, veil, bouquet, suit jacket, boutonniere

Serve wedding cake and punch. After they eat, kids can blow bubbles to celebrate being the bride of Christ.

Extra idea: Bring a camera and take pictures of the girls posing in a veil with a bouquet and the boys in a suit jacket with a boutonniere. After class, you can have the pictures printed up with as collage with the words: "We are the Bride of Christ ~ Ephesians 5:25-27."

