

Grace Christian Schools Preschool Curriculum Guide for Parents



September 2016 - June 2017

SEPTEMBER 2016

Themes

Welcome / Family & Friends

Verse

“For the grace of God...teaches us to say “No”...and to live self-controlled” Titus 2:11-12

Curriculum

How excited we are to start the new school year! It is a time when we will be meeting some new friends, saying “Hi” to friends from last year. We will have fun exploring our classrooms, and getting to know our teachers. God has made each one of us special and unique. We will learn that Jesus is a special friend who loves us so much. God has given us families to love. We will talk about how God made our families special and unique too! We will learn about using our **Five Senses** when we learn about the world God created. As we settle in and learn the routine of school, we’ll **feel** play-dough, **see** through magnifying glasses on the science table, **taste** the snacks, **hear** the songs in chapel, and **smell** yummy things that we may cook. We’ll also learn about using our self-control as we sit in Circle Time, line up with our classmates, and how there are times we need to wait our turn during snack time. We’ll begin to learn about putting things back where they belong.

Chapel

During our daily chapels, we will begin our “walk” through the Beginner’s Bible. We start at the very beginning of the Bible, and by June, we will have learned God’s message and plan for us taught through His Word. We will also learn about the Bible and that it is God’s Word, and that it is Truth! This month, we begin that journey by hearing about how God created this beautiful world and everything in it. We will hear how sin entered the world, but how even that was part of God’s plan. Even though sin entered the world, because He loves His precious children so much, God has a plan for us to be with Him forever! We will hear the story of Noah and how he obeyed God and built an ark and then put two of every kind of animal on it. We will meet some friends, Candy and Jimmy, who help us learn our Character Traits throughout the year.

Learning Themes

Character Trait: Self-Control – Control over one’s body and emotions;
keeping your hands and your feet to yourself.

Shape: Circle **Colors:** Red, Yellow, & Blue

Letters: A & B **Science:** Five Senses

Things You Can Do With Your Child

Talk about the fun things your child is doing at school i.e. *playing with our new friends, playing on the playground, going to chapel, making art pictures, hearing stories, and finding out what is in our new classrooms.*

- Talk about new friends. Try to remember classmates’ names
- Play a hunting game around the house, to find things that are round.
- If your teacher asks for a family picture, help your child find one, and practice saying everyone’s name.
- Help your child become self-sufficient at dressing and undressing. Practice those shoes, too!
- Make sure to check your Newsletter for important information about this month.
- Read pages 7-25 in the Beginner’s’ Bible.



OCTOBER 2016

Themes

Pets / Body & Exercise

Verse

“Let your gentleness be evident to all” Philippians 4:5

Curriculum

As we continue to settle in to the routine of our school days, we will learn about how God wants us to be gentle with one another. We will practice showing gentleness with our school pets and pets we have at home. We will talk about how God gave us pets to love and take care of, and how they are a part of our families as well. We might pretend to be veterinarians and set up a pet hospital in our classrooms so we can take care of our stuffed animals. We will learn how God put everything in order and that we will learn this as we begin to be able to clean up our toys and put them in their proper place. As we begin to learn about our bodies, we will learn about what parts of our bodies bend, stretch and wiggle. We will talk about the wonderful way God takes care of us, and how we can make our bodies strong by eating the right things and exercising. We will enjoy a trip to the Pumpkin Patch where we will get to pick a pumpkin, green beans, onions, radishes and carrots. Back at school, we may cook something with our vegetables. Some of us may write a group story about our adventure.

Chapel

This month, we will hear about God’s promises to Noah and Abraham. We will hear about Abraham’s son Isaac and how God blessed him. We will learn more about Abraham’s family as we hear the story of Joseph, and hear about a very colorful coat he was given. We will learn about Moses as a baby, and how he grew to be a man who was used by God. We will hear how God talked to Moses while in the desert and how he led God’s chosen people, the Israelites, out of Egypt. We will get to hear how Joshua and the Israelites marched around Jericho and how God made the walls fall.

Learning Themes

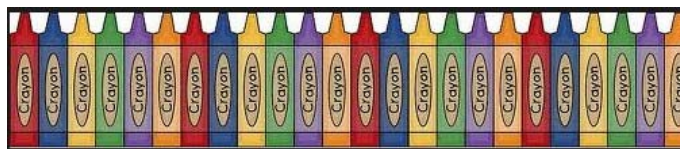
Character Trait: Gentleness—Treating others with God’s tenderness.

Shape: Square **Colors:** Red, Yellow, & Blue

Letters: C, D, & E **Science:** Pet Care & Fitness

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Check with your teacher about sharing a family pet.
- Begin planning play days at the park with your classmates and the moms/dads.
- Let your child help in the kitchen by washing the fruits and vegetables and cutting them into pieces, measuring ingredients, and mixing things for salads or muffins.
- Make vegetable soup or a salad with the vegetables you picked at the pumpkin patch.
- Go on a family bike ride.
- Give your child the chore of putting things away in an orderly manner.
- Read pages 26-85 in the Beginner’s Bible.



NOVEMBER 2016

Themes

Harvest / Nutrition / Manners

Verse

“. . . You are God, and Your Words are true, and You have promised this goodness to Your servant”

2 Samuel 7:28

Curriculum

This month we will learn about God's goodness through what He has given each of us - our families, our friends, good food and especially Jesus. We'll say thank you to God and our parents for all they do for us. Each class will plan a Thanksgiving feast as we learn about the Pilgrim's first Thanksgiving in America. We will learn that after their harvest, they thanked God for their new home, food, families, and new friends. They could worship and pray to God the way they wanted to do and for that they were thankful. We'll taste some new foods and some classes may cook as we prepare for our feast. We may get a chance to wash, cut, measure, and help stir the ingredients. We might make corn muffins or pumpkin pie as a class. We will also learn about good manners. We will get the chance to practice using them in our classrooms as we listen to each other, use kind words with one another, and say, "Please and Thank you."

Chapel

This month we will hear about Hannah, who had a special prayer request for God and how God answered her prayer. She was very thankful to God when He gave Samuel to her. We will hear the story of how Samuel heard God's voice in the night. We will hear about a boy named David and how he loved God. We'll see how David showed obedience as he trusted God when he fought a giant. The First Thanksgiving will come to life as our Jr. Kindergarten classes will reenact that first Thanksgiving that happened so long ago. We will also learn about a man of God named Elisha and some jars of oil.

Learning Themes

Character Trait: Goodness — Being helpful and kind..

Shape: Triangle **Colors:** Green, Orange, & Brown

Letters: F, G, & H **Science:** Food Experiments & Cooking

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Let your child help set the table. Help them practice putting things in order.
- Make a "Thankfulness" Banner with your Family.
- Take a nature walk and listen for birds singing, water in the stream or leaves rustling.
- Rake leaves into a pile and jump in them.
- Plant together in your yard at home.
- Make cookies or muffins and share them with a neighbor or friend.
- Pray together and thank God for each other and all He has given you.
- Help your child make nametags for the Thanksgiving table.
- Read pages 86-145 in the Beginner's Bible.



DECEMBER 2016

Themes

Jesus' Birth / Christmas

Verse

"Come let us sing for Joy to the Lord. . ." Psalm 95:1

Curriculum

This is such an exciting month for us at Preschool, and it will be filled with joy as we celebrate Jesus' birth and give our gifts of singing and praise. We will also learn about how God wants us to have His joy in our lives. We will give the gift of song to family and friends to enjoy as we tell the message of Baby Jesus' birth, born that first Christmas during our Christmas program. After the program, we will all go back to our classrooms and celebrate with a "Happy Birthday" party for Jesus. Our friends and families will get a chance to see the creations we have made, and then used them to decorate our classrooms. Some of us may make gifts and cards to give to others. We might get a chance to practice wrapping "presents." As we hear the Christmas story, we'll make glittery stars and paint beautiful angels to remind us of God's precious gift to us, and the joy that we have because of His gift, Jesus.

Chapel

This month, we will hear about Elijah who showed the Israelites who the One True God is. We will hear the story of Esther the Brave Queen. We will hear how Jonah spent 3 days in the belly of a big fish before he was ready to listen and obey God. In September, we heard that God had a plan when Adam and Eve disobeyed. Jesus' birth is the BEST part of that plan. We will act out the story of how Jesus obeyed His Heavenly Father by coming to earth to be born in a stable. This is God's greatest gift to us. This is the best news, and we can share it with everyone we know. It can be our gift to others. What a Gift we have in Him!

Learning Themes

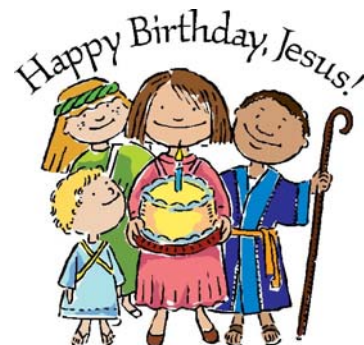
Character Trait: Joy—a feeling of pleasure or happiness that comes from God.

Shape: Star **Colors:** Gold, Silver, Green, & Red

Letters: I, J, & K **Science:** Wheels, Gears, & Gadgets

Things You Can do With Your Child

- Help someone by giving of your time.
- Have a cookie decorating party.
- Sing the songs from the Christmas program.
- Make homemade Christmas cards with your children.
- Sign up to bring something to the "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Party.
- Have a gift-wrapping party.
- Get an advent calendar and open a window every day. Talk about different parts of the Christmas story.
- Read the Christmas story together as a family from Luke 2: 1-20.
- Read pages 146-205 in the Beginner's Bible.



JANUARY 2017

Themes

Winter / Animals in Winter / Favorite Authors

Verse

“...growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened . . . So that yiu may have great endurance and patience. . .” Colossians 1:10-11

Curriculum

This month, we will be learning how God wants us to be content with the things He has given us. We will also be talking about winter. We might do some experiments with ice or make frost. We will talk about the animals that live in the snow and ice. *What do they eat? How do they keep warm? What does hibernation mean?* We may also create a “Winter Wonderland” scene at the science table. We will also take a look at some Favorite Authors and read many of the stories they have written. We may get the chance to act out these stories, or even “write” some a class story. Another fun thing that we will do this month is wear our pajamas and slippers to school!! We will snuggle in with a blanket and stuffed animals and have a fun-filled day with our friends. We might even hear a good “Bedtime” story.

Chapel

This month we will hear about when Jesus had special visitors that followed a Bright Star. We will learn that Jesus did not stay a baby, but grew up. We'll hear the story of how He was teaching in the Temple when He was only twelve years old! We will learn about the special job God had for Jesus. We will learn about Jesus' cousin John and the job he had – to baptize Jesus. We will also hear how Jesus called His special helpers, the Disciples. We will hear the story of Jesus' First Miracle that took place at a wedding. We will learn the story of how a group of friends helped another friend get to see Jesus by lowering him through a roof, We will continue to learn of God's amazing plan for us.

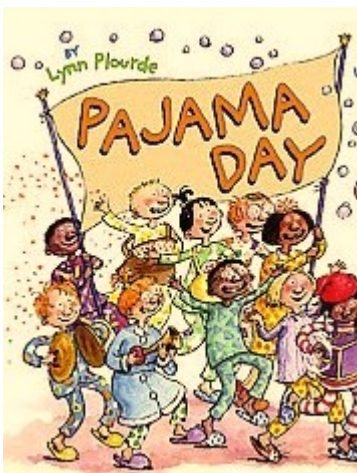
Learning Themes

Character Trait: Patience—Using self-control and waiting without complaining.

Shape: Rectangle **Colors:** Color Variations

Letters: L, M, & N **Science:** Winter Weather & Color Mixing

Things You Can Do With Your Child



- Snuggle at home reading favorite stories or learning some nursery rhymes.
- Help your child pick out favorite pajamas and slippers for Pajama Day.
- Talk about ways to share with friends, brothers and sisters.
- Decide what types of jobs your child can do around the house to learn to be responsible.
- Make up a game trying to think of different endings to favorite stories.
- Plant bulbs in your garden.
- Read pages 206-265 in the Beginner's Bible.

FEBRUARY 2017

Themes

Friendship / Space

Verse

“...Let us love one another, for love comes from God.” 1 John 4:7

Curriculum

All year we are leaning about Jesus' love for us. This is a special month when we focus on showing our love to others and being friendly to those in our lives. We may make special cards or pictures for each other and for our families. We'll have a Friendship Party in our classroom where we can celebrate the friendships we have made this year. This is a time to be extra loving and friendly to those who love us – our grandparents, moms, dads, and neighbors. The second part of the month, we'll learn that God not only made the earth, but the whole universe. We will be exploring space and talk about the planets, the sun, the moon and all of the stars this month. We'll use our imaginations to make up our own adventures in space. We'll pretend we are astronauts and BLAST OFF! We may spend time pretending to dodge asteroids or to go for a walk in space. We might turn off the lights and use flashlights to make stars on the ceiling. We will also have a visit from a dental office, Dr. Shannon's, to talk to us about taking care of our teeth!

Chapel

This month in Chapel, we will hear more about the miracles Jesus performed while he was here on earth. We will hear how he fed thousands with just 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. We will learn about a man names Jairus and how Jesus performed a miracle with his daughter and how a woman was healed just touching Jesus' cloak. We will learn how important it is to keep our eyes on Jesus when we hear the story of Jesus walking on the water. We will hear about The Good Samaritan and how important children are to Jesus. We will also hear the story of a man named Zacchaeus and how even though he was small, he was able to see Jesus. During Chapel time, we will also hear about a special prayer that Jesus taught us.

Learning Themes

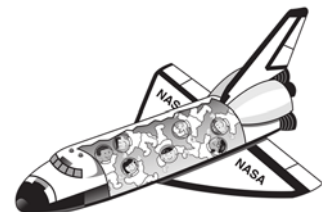
Character Trait: Love—Showing a warm affectionate liking from God.

Shape: Heart **Colors:** Purple & Pink

Letters: O, P, & Q **Science:** Emotions & Gravity

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Get Valentine's cares ready for your class. Please **DO NOT** put names on the envelopes. Just write your name on the valentine card.
- Make cards for family members of neighbors and deliver them with a special treat.
- Go to the library and check out some books on space.
- If you would like to share a tradition, food or story from another country, talk to your child's teacher to schedule it.
- Read pages 266-327 in the Beginner's Bible.



MARCH 2017

Themes

Wild Animals/Art

Verse

“Let love and faithfulness never leave you. . .” Proverbs 3:3

Curriculum

What an awesome thing to know that with God’s help, we can have faithfulness in Him. During this month, we will also learn about the different wild animals that God created. We may get to pretend to be those animals crawling, swinging, running, and galloping. We may draw pictures of our favorite wild animal and then dictate a story to our teacher about it. We will learn about the different animals that can be found in the zoo, the jungle or even the safari of Africa. We might get to make animal masks or set up a jungle or zoo in our classroom. Maybe we’ll pretend to be lion tamers or feed peanuts to the elephants. This month we will enjoy a special Art Party here at school, where we will make a variety of special creations. We will learn the colors of the rainbow, and how God placed them in His special order.

Chapel

We will hear a couple of parables that Jesus told about a group of ten lepers, but how only one came back to thank Jesus for healing him. We will also hear about The Lost Son, and what forgiveness meant to a father. We will hear about some friends of Jesus, Mary, Martha and Lazarus. We will all help act out the story of Palm Sunday, when Jesus came riding on a donkey, and we will get to wave palm branches we made in our class and say “Hosanna!”. We will learn how Jesus was a servant to His disciples as He washed their feet before He shared His last supper with them. We will also hear about a special gift for Jesus.

Learning Themes

Character Trait: Faithfulness—Firm belief and devotion to God. .

Shape: Diamond **Colors:** Rainbow

Letters: R, S, & T **Science:** Habitats, Sounds & Rhythms

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Set up a habitat for some of your stuffed animals.
- Go to the library and find some books on wild animals to read together.
- Paint a picture together with your child.
- Listen to different kinds of music and then dance to them together.
- Talk about ways that you can help one another like Jesus did with His disciples.
- Read pages 391-452 in the Beginner’s Bible.



APRIL 2017

Themes

Easter/New Life/Planting

Verse

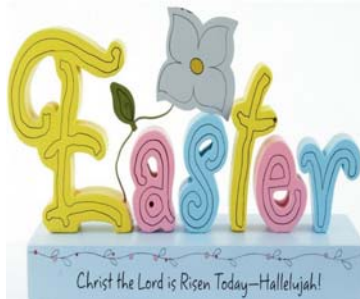
“For God so loved the world that He gave His One and Only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

Curriculum

This is the most exciting month for our school. We have the joy of knowing that God’s plan is perfect and although Jesus had to die on the cross, He is alive now and forever! We will hear all about new life, and that we can have New Life in Christ! We will talk about new life when we plant seeds in our classrooms and our school garden and get to watch them grow. We’ll talk about the new life plants and baby animals have just as we have new life with Jesus. We’ll talk about baby animals and how they are different from their grown up moms and dads. We’ll identify animal sounds and talk about different animal houses. We may take nature walks and look for all the buds on the trees and listen for spring sounds like the birds singing in the trees.

Chapel

We will hear The Easter Story about Jesus’s death and resurrection. He Is Alive!! After we hear this wonderful story, we will walk up to the wooden cross on the grass area with our special flowers and sing praises to God. When we come back from our Easter vacation, we will hear about what Jesus did when He appeared to His friends after He died and rose again. We will hear the stories of how Jesus visited His Disciples in the Upper Room and how He cooked breakfast on the beach for His friends.



Learning Themes

Character Trait: Forgiveness—The ability to overlook another’s weakness or mistakes by expressing Christ’s love.

Shape: Oval **Colors:** Pastels

Letters: U, V, & W **Science:** Eggs, Seeds, and Baby Animals

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Plant flowers and vegetables in your garden at home.
- Help take care of a pet or sign up to take care of one of our bunnies.
- Talk about baby animals and how they change when they grow up.
- Find a special flower in your garden that you want to bring to the cross for Jesus. Bring it to school on the day of our special chapel.
- Attend Good Friday and Easter services with your child.
- Read pages 328-390 in the Beginner’s Bible.

MAY 2017

Themes

Patriotism / Mother's Day & Father's Day

Verse

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, . . . “ Colossians 3:15

Curriculum

This month we will be learning how we can have peace because God is always with us and He will guide us when we allow Him to rule in our hearts. We will also talk about the United States and how God has blessed us with a place to live where we can go to church and worship and praise Jesus. We can pray anytime we want. We'll learn about our President. Some of the classes may make American Flags. During our Patriotic Day, we will meet first thing in the morning for a special Assembly reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and the Pledge to the Bible and our classes will be singing special Patriotic songs. We will thank God for all those who keep us safe and protect us so we can live in freedom. We will be having a special day to honor our Moms and come to school on a Saturday. We'll make special gifts and cards for them.

Chapel

This month, we will be hearing about what happened after Jesus went up to Heaven to prepare a special place for us. We will learn about when God sent His Special Helper, the Holy Spirit, to the disciples just as Jesus promised. We will also hear about the job that the disciples had after Jesus left, to continue to tell everyone about God's plan for them. We will hear the story of The First Church. We'll hear about a man named Saul, who went from hurting God's people to teaching many to love and follow God. And then his name was changed to Paul. We will learn about how Paul started up many different churches as he shared God's love as he went on many journeys. We will hear how Paul and Silas who trusted in God as they were in prison and how God used an earthquake to deliver them. We will hear about how God has blessed our wonderful country and that we can continue to ask Him to bless us. We also will hear the story that Jesus is coming back for us one day!

Learning Themes

Character Trait: Peace—God's freedom from bad thoughts or feelings, so we can live in harmony with others.

Shape: Review **Colors:** Red, White, & Blue

Letters: X, Y, & Z **Science:** Tools & Transportation

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Dad, help plan a special Day for Mom.
- Find things around the house to make a picture with.
- Listen to some Patriotic music as you draw a picture.
- As a family, pray for our country.
- Put flags in your yard to celebrate Memorial Day.
- Start taking swimming lessons.
- Read pages 453-508 in the Beginner's Bible.



JUNE 2017

Themes

Ocean

Verse

“Be kind and compassionate to one another. . .” Ephesians 4:32

Curriculum

This month we will learn how God wants us to show kindness and compassion to others. We will also learn about the ocean and all the creatures God created to live in the ocean. We'll hear stories about whales, sharks, octopi, crabs, fish and sea stars. We will learn how fish 'breathe' under the water, how sea stars move along the bottom of the ocean floor and how hermit crabs find another house when they get too big for the ones they are living in. We will do some experiments with water like guessing if objects will sink or float. We will enjoy a special day where we can exercise our bodies when we have Fitness day. We will have a fun day out on the Playground during our Beach Day! (Weather permitting).

It's hard to believe our year is over. We have learned and grown so much. We are putting the finishing touches on our projects and reviewing all we have learned this year. We have learned so much about Jesus and God's plan for us; and we know He will be with us as we say "goodbye" to school and enjoy summer fun with our families.

Chapel

We will learn about God's Plan using a "Wordless Book" and what the different colored pages mean. We will then be able to go and tell everyone how much Jesus loves us by using the special bracelet we will receive after the Chapel story. We will be reminded that wherever we go, whether it's another year at preschool or "Big School", Jesus will be with us.

Learning Themes

Character Trait: Kindness—Liking to do good and bring happiness to others and showing God's love.

Shape: Review **Colors:** Review

Letters: Review **Science:** Sink & Float

Things You Can Do With Your Child

- Go to the tide pools. What kinds of things can you find? You can't bring them home, but you can draw a picture and share it with the class.
- Attend a family tour at the Marine Institute in Dana Point or visit the Long Beach Aquarium.
- Get a hermit crab. They are fun to watch and easy to care for. Talk about what happens to a hermit crab when it gets too big for its house.
- Go to the beach and build sand castles together.
- Draw a picture of your favorite thing you did at preschool.
- Plan a vacation or some fun day trips with your family.
- Look through your Beginner's Bible and review stories with your child.

