

How can we adapt teaching to the needs of children In Classes 4 to 6? (Summary)

Class 4-6

Sometimes called Juniors

1. Physical Development-Class 4-6

Junior children are active and very, very noisy. They love to talk to one another, and they do it constantly. The wise teacher should plan for talking in some parts of the lesson. Examples: Reading the verse, giving a response, discussion, acting out parts that involve speaking, singing, etc. There must be a rule, however, that they all be quiet when the teacher or another child is talking. They should show respect and politeness. They need lessons on Christian politeness, and lessons that show how Christians can use their mouths in good ways that honor God.

They are physically very strong. They can walk long distances to sing in a choir at another village, and can become good helpers in the church. Examples: Making a garden, bringing thatch roofing, cutting sticks, cleaning the yard, sweeping the church, etc.

2. Mental Development-Class 4-6

Junior children can follow a Bible lesson even up to 20 minutes if it is well taught.

Some of them are becoming good readers and strong memorizers. This is the best time to teach them the books of the Bible and to encourage them to buy their own Bibles. If Bible verses are written out on flashcards, blackboard or the ground, the stronger readers can read them to the others.

They can easily memorize Bible verses, even long verses, even many verses or whole passages. A teacher can give children a list of Bible verses to learn at home (write out the whole verse if the children do not have access to Bibles in the home). It is still important to review verses they have learned in the past. They may recite verses they have learned for the adults in the worship time.

They want to learn about many things. It is very important for the teacher to listen carefully to the questions they are asking, and that he look for good answers to them whenever possible. Clubs that teach new games and skills will be popular with this age group.

3. Emotional Development-Class 4-6

Junior children are no longer afraid—of anything! They have lots of confidence and courage. They love lessons about Bible and missionary “heroes” or people who showed great courage. Stories of African Christians who showed great courage would be wonderful for them. Children at this age are no longer afraid to witness for Jesus, and can become strong witnesses to friends, family and neighbors.

4. Social Development-Class 4-6

At this age, boys do not like girls very much, nor girls like boys. It is better, if possible, to separate the children by sex, assigning a man teacher to the boys and a lady teacher to the girls.

The children love being part of a group. They can have a big influence on other children, either for good or for evil. Sunday school could be treated as a club by choosing a name and officers for the class. Clubs that meet at other times under the authority of the church would also be good.

Junior children love competition. The teacher can make effective use of Bible games and contests.

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5. Spiritual Development-Class 4-6

Junior children are quick to receive Jesus as Savior. These are the golden years for conversion. No lesson should ever be given without an invitation to receive Christ unless the teacher is positive every last child is saved. Many teachers of Juniors pray constantly that before the children leave their class and move on to Junior High School, every one of them will know Jesus as personal Savior.

These children can become strong believers. This is an excellent time to help them get settled in habits of Bible reading and prayer, and to give them many avenues for Christian service.