



Dragonfly Ministries Teaching Ideas for sharing “A Walk With Papa” with Children

Idea – Visual and Touchable Teaching Aids

This idea may be used with one child, several children, or a classroom of children. The instructions are written in the plural for a group of children.

Before reading “A Walk with Papa” to children, assemble and give each child a bag containing the following:

1. Several pieces of hay, tied together with string (pages 2, 15)
2. A small stone (pages 7, 14)
3. A twig (pages 6, 19)
4. A bandage (band-aid) (pages 4, 17)
5. A cross made of sticks (pages 9, 20) (two sticks tied together with string)

Ask the children to take the items out of their bag as they hear the items mentioned in the story or as they see pictures of the items as you read the story. Note: The children should take everything out of their bag by the time you reach page 14.

Before beginning to read page 15, explain to the children that now they will place their items back into the bag as they hear each item mentioned in the story.

As the story reaches page 23, explain to the children that you have one more item to go into their bags. Ask them to pay special attention to the words that you are going to read as you give each child a heart shape cut from felt fabric (or heart shapes made of wood, plastic, etc.)

When you have finished reading “A Walk with Papa”, explain to the children that Jesus wants to live in their heart too. Ask the children to place the heart in their bags as a reminder of how much Jesus loves them. Then give the children time to ask questions or to comment about the book or the items in their bags.

Sometimes God uses parents and teachers to plant seeds in the hearts of children and when the child is ready to ask Jesus into their hearts, the child will ask the adult to “show them how”.

Idea – A Walking Path

This idea was presented by Pamela who lives on a farm in New England. Pamela prepared a path on her farm that walked through a field of hay, alongside a stream, walked into a clearing, and had a big rock along the pathway. She invited children from her community to come to her farm and take a walk with her through the path. As they walked along the path, Pamela pointed out places along the path that she could later refer to as she read the book to the children. The walk ended inside Pamela’s barn where she invited the children to sit and listen to her read them a story. She then shared “A Walk with Papa” with the children and presented each child with their own copy of the book as they left to go home.



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Idea – CLUES!

For the teacher who wants to build anticipation toward the salvation message and teach children to search scripture, use this idea.

Option A. As the children are leaving the classroom, give them a bag with the clue inside (clues are listed below). Explain to them that they are to find the scripture in the Bible (scripture reference included in the bag; getting help from an adult is fine), read the scripture (or have someone read it to them), and determine how the clue item relates to scripture. (This idea helps the children learn to use and apply Bible scripture.)

The following Sunday when they return to Sunday School, use the clue from the previous week as the opening discussion. Ask the children if they have brought in the answer from the clue the previous week. Look up the scripture as a group, read the scripture aloud, and discuss the answer to their ‘clue’.

Option B. The clues may bring up more questions than answers, so if you do not feel that the parents of your children will be able to answer the questions, you may opt to teach this during the opening or closing session of your Sunday School time. If you choose this option, give each child a bag containing the items outlined below; give them time to search scripture and help them find the scripture so that they are learning to search the Bible, then read the verse together (or aloud to them) and allow time to discuss how the item in the bag relates to the scripture.

Week One Clue:

In a baggie, give each child several pieces of hay, tied together with a string, and include a piece of paper that says, “**CLUE: Look up Luke 2:4 in your Bible. How was hay used in this verse?**”

Week Two Clue:

In a baggie, give each child a small twig and include a piece of paper that says, “**CLUE: “they twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head” (This is found in Matthew 27:29a.** If you are teaching younger children (up to age 8), I suggest that you actually write this verse out for the child rather than having them do a search of scripture because the intensity of these verses is so great that the child may not be ready to process this – having them think through this verse to determine how the twig was used will be enough. When you read “A Walk With Papa” it will bring this clue more into light.

Week Three Clue:

In a baggie, give each child a bandage (band-aid) and include a piece of paper that says, “**CLUE: Look up Psalm 6:2 in your Bible. How does this band-aid help you understand this verse?**” (When you read a walk with papa, you will relate this discussion to the part where Jesus was hurt).

Week Four Clue:

In a baggie, give each child a cross made of sticks (two strings tied together with string). Include a piece of paper that says, “**CLUE: Look up Matthew 27:32. What does this verse say about a cross?**”

Week Five: Bring all four clues previously used when you read “A Walk with Papa” aloud to the children. Look at “Idea—Visual and Touchable Teaching Aides” to see which pages the items are mentioned in the book. Seeing the items again will remind the children of the discussion time that you had about each item and will help them understand the message a little clearer.

When you have finished reading “A Walk with Papa”, explain to the children that Jesus wants to live in their heart too. Give each child a heart shape (cut from felt, wood or plastic) with a piece of paper that has “Psalm 86:13, For great is your **love** toward me.” Give the children time to ask questions or to comment about the book or the clues from previous lessons. Remember, sometimes God uses parents and teachers to plant seeds in the hearts of children and when the child is ready to ask Jesus into their hearts, the child will ask the adult to “show them how”.