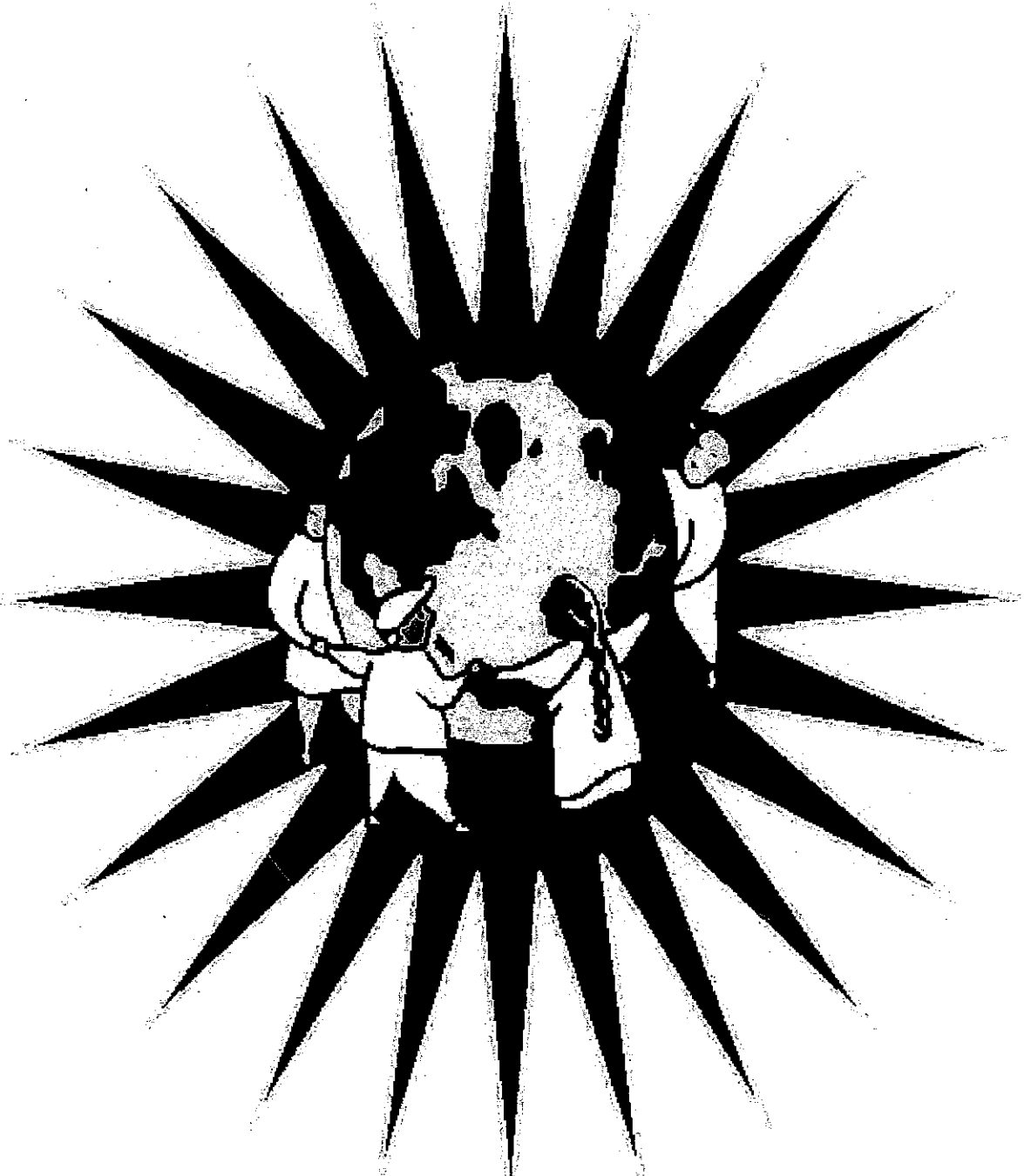


Fresh Start Resource Handbook



The Sunshine Band

Dr. Lytia Howard
International President

The Sunshine Band Fresh Start Resource Handbook

**Organizational Guide
Curriculum Guide
Sunshine Band Lessons**

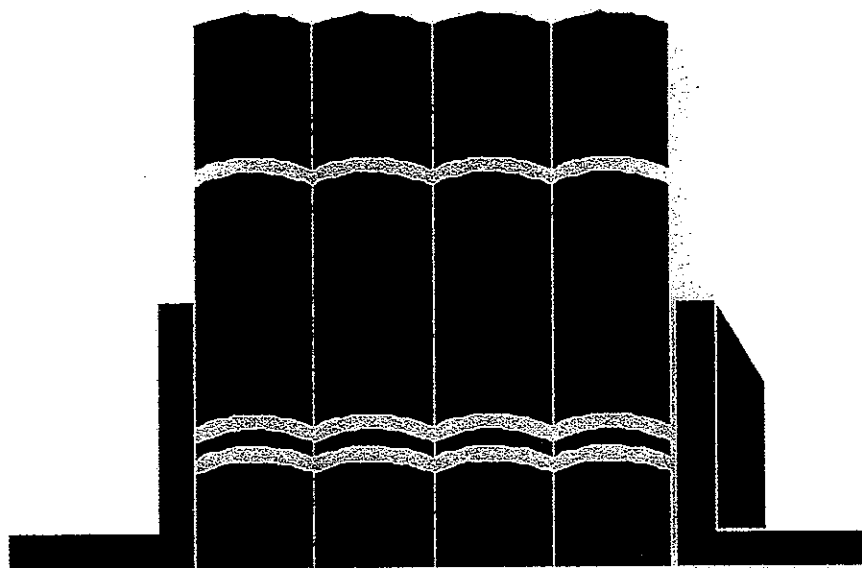
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The Sunshine Band Curriculum Guide



*Training and Resource Materials
for Effective Sunshine Bands*

Dr. Lytia R. Howard,
International President

PREFACE

*"Even a child is known by his doings,
whether his work be pure and whether it be right."
Proverbs 20:11*

We have a great charge in this ministry with children for we are in a key position to play a vital role in their lives from now on. If we will teach them what is right, show them the way and offer alternatives for what is best for them by exemplifying the love of Christ, we can make a difference. The foundation that we give them today will be the one that they build upon in the future.

This Curriculum Guide came about as result of our mutual concerns that too many of our Sunshine Bands are acting independently and that we are not all teaching the same things. As a result of two workshops with Sunshine Bands across the country, a basic curriculum was outlined and endorsed as basic to the growth and maturation of our children and their ability to become involved and committed to Christ and the Church. This Curriculum Guide contains the material that we feel every Sunshiner must know and every president must teach.

As you use this guide, feel free to supplement it with additional scriptures and visual aids. Any materials that you feel are vital and possibly omitted, please submit to the Sunshine Band Publication Committee or the President for review and possible inclusion in the next edition.

An effective ministry to children is most important and vital for their spiritual success. We must endeavor to meet the challenges and needs of this ministry responsibly. Join us in prayer for the Sunshine Band and its workers everywhere.

The Editorial Staff

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Part I:
The Sunshine Band

The Sunshine Band

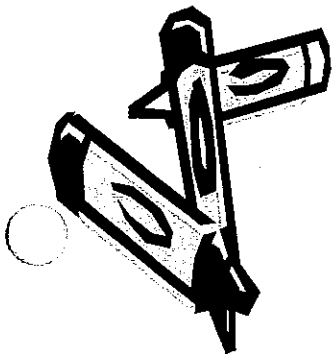
Purpose

Four Major Components

Sunbeams

Sunrays

Illuminators



What is the Sunshine Band?

The Sunshine Band is an auxiliary of the Women's Department of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. It is one of the oldest auxiliaries and proud of past sunshiners who are now being greatly used by God in our church and nation. This auxiliary is the ministry that nurtures our children as they are passing through mental, social physical, emotional and spiritual changes as they grow into adolescence.

It certainly takes prayer, planning, preparation and patience to be an effective leader in the Sunshine Band. Our primary concern is reaching and saving our children by introducing them to Christ and what it means to be Christ-like during these tender years. There is no investment that is too great to provide a Biblical foundation for our children. We teach the children about the true meaning of God, the Love of God and His Son Jesus, basic Bible concepts and knowledge, worship and service through Bible Study, Music, Drama, Arts and Crafts, Worship Services, Special Programs and Field Trips.

Sunshine Bands range greatly in size but the wise leader knows how to manage the group. Larger units should be divided into smaller sub-groups by age cohorts. Smaller units should ensure that each child's needs are addressed in respect to the variations in age. Regardless of the size, we need the Sunshine Band more than ever to be a vibrant unit in order to capture and fill the minds of our children with knowledge of Jesus, His saving and keeping power before they are contaminated and/or consumed by the standards of the world.

The Sunshine Band assists in personality development, training children for leadership, fostering good companionship and helping children learn how to live harmoniously with others according to God's instructions. We want every child to know that they have a responsibility to be the best saint that they can be so that others may see Jesus through their lives.

It should be interesting, exciting, informative, captivating, enthralling and enriching. It should have a positive impact on every aspect of the development each child. The Sunshine Band is still the best Band in the land and that we are continuing to 'let our light shine'.

Four Major Components Of The Sunshine Band

BIBLE STUDY

- Teach Bible Lessons utilizing Sunshine Band Topics
- Instruct the children to memorize scriptures
- Use Objects in Scripture Lessons
- Utilize scripture songs to aid in memorizing scriptures
- Use visual aids (puppets, flannel graphs, toys, etc.)
- Role Play Bible Characters
- Conduct Bible Bowl competitions

DRAMA

- Select skits and presentations that have meaning
- Select skits that children understand and can handle
- Introduce how to be creative and imaginative
- Stresse pronunciation of words
- Utilize the talent and expertise of others in the church
- Consider time constraints in planning your presentation
- Use your best performers for your activities (make sure you can count on participants to be present)
- Use as many of the children as possible

MUSIC

- Teach songs that children can relate to and enjoy
- Teach a variety of songs
- Use instruments where possible
- Feel free to utilize soundtracks
- Use the current Sunshine Band Tape Series

ARTS AND CRAFTS

- Plan activities ahead of meeting
- Have all supplies and materials ready
- Allow children to make things that are of interest to them
- Allow the appropriate amount of time for clean-up
- Allow the children to make crafts, cards, etc. for holidays
- Allow the workers and children to make suggestions for what they would like to do

The Purpose of the Sunshine Band

Through Bible Study, Arts and Crafts, Music, Drama and Field Trips, the Sunshine Band accomplishes the following:

TEACHES:

- Biblical Principles and Scriptures
- Appropriate Behavior
- Leadership Behavior
- Church History, Doctrine and Decorum
- Stewardship
- Self-Esteem and Personal Care
- Respect for Others
- Obedience

PROMOTES:

- Salvation
- Dignity
- Spiritual Development
- Healthy Relationships
- Talent and Presentation Skills
- Spiritual Growth
- Academic Success
- Teamwork

BUILDS:

- Character
- Pride
- Self-Respect
- Self-Worth
- Leadership Skills
- Faith

DIRECTS:

- Youth Activities and Groups
- Worship Services
- Workshops
- Trips/Field Trips
- Health and Safety Fairs
- Ministry for Children

Suggested Activities for the Sunshine Band

Local Level:

Weekly Sunshine Band Meetings
Weekly Bible Lessons
Sunshine Band Vacation Bible School
Field Trips- Bakery, Police Station, Hospital,
Senior Citizens Homes, Fire Station, Local Attractions, Fun
Places, Museums, Summer Camps,
Concerts, Worship Services
Arts and Crafts Exhibits

District Level:

Talent Presentations
Field Trips and Outings
Promotional Exercises
Attend State Meetings

Jurisdictional Level:

Talent Presentations, Programs
Promotional Exercises
Quarterly Parent Awareness Services/Meetings
Mini-conferences, Festivals, Worship Services
One-day Workshops, Seminars

Regional Level:

Resource for 12 or more jurisdictions,
Mini-conferences, Training Workshops,
Festivals, Field Trips, Worship Services
Concerts, Recordings, Dramatic Presentations
Liaison for National Office

National Level:

Annual Programs during Convocation and Women's
International Conventions
Awards and Recognition Services, Annual Retreats
National Sunshine Band Recordings
Field Trips
Support National Mission Efforts

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES OF SUNBEAMS

Sunbeams : Ages 1 - 5

There is a wide range of differences among children. Each child is an individual and develops at his/her own rate. However, there is enough similarity among children of the same age that specific characteristics can be noted.

PHYSICAL GROWTH

At this age level, children are developing large muscle control. They still lack sufficient coordination for dependable use of small muscles. This age group plays hard and tires easily. Alternating periods of active and quiet play should be provided. Be alert to the child who is becoming over stimulated. Their tiredness may result in unacceptable behavior.

MENTAL GROWTH

These children are attentive only as long as they are interested. Their attention span is limited. When children become restless, use songs and finger fun which allows them to move. Alternate listening times with more active experiences. Children have a strong desire to learn. They are curious and questioning. Their favorite words seem to be how, what and why. They learn by doing.

EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Sunbeams are sensitive to your actions, attitudes and feelings. Know each child as an individual. You represent God's love to the young child. As you express a genuine interest in him as an individual, you are vividly communicating God's love in a way the young child can understand. The Lord Jesus' Command that we love one another (I John 4:7) becomes alive with meaning. God's Word demonstrated is often more convincing to young children than God's Word explained. The young child is keenly aware of the way you handle your Bible. Your attitude of prayer and your enthusiasm help him/her know what God's Word says. Your respect and reverence toward the Bible helps lay the foundation toward God's Word.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

At this age, children are trusting and ready to accept what you tell them about God and the Lord Jesus. In conversation and song, use Bible truths to assure each child of God's (Jesus') love and care for him/her. Wherever a child goes, he/she takes all of himself/herself, he/she takes a child who is fearfully and wonderfully made. A child who grows in his/her own way and at his/her own rate, just as God has planned.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS FOR SUNBEAMS

Know these facts--

- Mommy and Daddy love them
- Jesus loves them
- Jesus is their friend
- Church is a place to confirm happiness
- God is powerful
- God is good
- God keeps His promises
- God sent baby Jesus: Baby Jesus grew as I am growing
- Jesus can do wonderful things because He is God's son.

Manifest these attitudes--

- Enjoy trying to sing a song or clapping when the teacher sings
- Desire to do simple tasks to show love for God, for Jesus, for others
- Trust that God is everywhere and will always be with them
- Want to hear Bible stories
- Have a well-defined sense of obedience/disobedience
- Feel remorse after doing something wrong
- Think of Jesus as a friend who can forgive us when we do wrong

Exhibit these desirable behavior patterns--

- Thank God for sending Jesus
- Talk to God expressing thanks and praise as well as asking for help or for things
- Sing songs about God, Jesus, and the Bible
- Ask questions about God, Jesus, and the Bible

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES FOR SUNRAYS

Sunrays: Ages 6 - 8

PHYSICAL GROWTH

This age group is going through a period of decreased physical growth, while coordination and muscle control are improving steadily. . Plan appropriate activities in which the child may be a "doer of the word and not a hearer only". (James 1:22).

MENTAL GROWTH

An intense eagerness to learn is a delightful and extremely important characteristic of this age level. They ask innumerable questions. Try to frequently answer them through use of experimentation and discovery methods. Even though their attention span is short, they enjoy repetition. Familiar stories and activities can be very meaningful. It is important to plan ways which will encourage the eagerness present at this point in the child's life.

SOCIAL GROWTH

Sunrays are deeply concerned about receiving adult approval while struggling to become socially acceptable to other children. The concept of "Do for others what you would want them to do for you" (Luke 6:31) is a difficult one to accept. Being first and winning are very important at this age. However, these children are becoming capable of accepting the opinions and wishes of others and thinking about the welfare of the total group. The child's social growth process involves a movement from "I" to "you" to "we".

EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Sunrays have a desire for independence but are still dependent on home and parents. Making decisions sometimes is difficult.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

These children are able to accept the fact of God as Creator, all knowing and ever-present, yet they ask many questions about the why and how of creations. They understand that God sent His Son, Jesus, as an expression of His great love.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS FOR SUNRAYS

Know these facts--

- The creation account from Genesis 1-2
- The promises God has kept such as, a son for Abraham and Sarah, deliverance for the Israelites, a new home for his people, a Savior, etc.
- That God knows all about us-good and bad-and loves us anyway
- Are able to cite examples of God's love: the death and resurrection of Jesus
- The basic Bible stories
- Have memorized selected scriptures such as Matt. 5:16; Jn. 3:16; Psalm 23; and the model Prayer

Manifest the following attitudes--

- Love God and God's people

- Want to please Jesus
- are friendly toward others
- Desire to do his/her best

Exhibit these desirable behavior patterns--

- Attend Bible school and church activities as he/she is able
- Read short Bible stories
- Carry the Bible to Church
- Show respect for self and others
- Begin reasoning out his/her own decisions on the basis of Biblical truths that he/she has learned

DEVELOPMENTAL STAGES FOR ILLUMINATORS

Illuminators: Age 9 - 12

PHYSICAL GROWTH

The Illuminators are in a period of steady growth. These years are filled with rough and tumble activities. They enjoy adequate energy, much enthusiasm, and enough self-confidence to permit them to be active participants in projects which capture their keen interest.

MENTAL GROWTH

Communication skills of these Illuminators are developing at a rapid rate. They want to know more about Bible characters. They are very verbal and seem to constantly question adults. Their interest span is longer than the Sunrays group. They should therefore be challenged. They have the capacity to retain more knowledge. They ask more detailed questions and expect more thorough responses. They are capable of analyzing, sorting, categorizing and differentiating what is real from what is not.

EMOTIONAL GROWTH

This age group is characterized as seeking and reaching emotional balance. The Illuminator is usually cooperative, easygoing, verbal, friendly and full of questions. These children are beginning to make decisions and choices about their future as adults and have a wide array of individual interests. They are highly influenced by peer perceptions, constantly seeking acceptance and approval and generally experience mood swings from day to day. For this reason, children in this group require patience and understanding.

SOCIAL GROWTH

The Illuminator has a broad sphere of social relationships. They no longer center their existence in the home. They are largely affected by peer groups, friends, significant others or role models outside of the home. Children in this

group long to be a part of the group. They like to contribute and are always willing to participate. The leader must balance the fact that they are seeking independence all the while they are trying to be a part of the group. Illuminators love conversation and much can be gained by listening to them thoughtfully, prayerfully and objectively.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

This age group is very capable of experiencing deep feelings and a relationship with God. The child can be taught responsibility toward the church, home and others. They can reason and recognize Bible truths and should be encouraged to read the Bible and pray for themselves.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS FOR ILLUMINATORS

Know these facts--

- Believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word
- How to use the Bible, Bible dictionaries, concordances reference books and handbooks
- Have a basic understanding of the Bible
- How to lead someone to Christ
- History of the early church as revealed in Acts and epistles

Manifest these attitudes--

- Love for God and respect for God's Word
- Are able to disagree with others without getting angry
- Identify with good Bible characters as models for behavior
- Are able to express questions and doubts without embarrassment
- Are respectful and courteous toward everyone
- Are humble in the presence of the Almighty God

Exhibit these desirable behavior patterns--

- Pray regularly remembering to worship God, praise God, thank God, and ask God for His help
- Talk over matters of importance with parents or other Christian adults
- Make significant contributions to group Bible study and discussion time
- Are able to cite scriptures
- Are able to list in proper sequence major events in the life of Christ
- Talk to God in a sincere, conversational manner
- Encourages others

Part II: Ministering to Children

Role of the Leader

12 C's for Children's Ministry

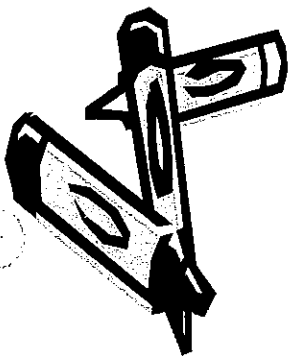
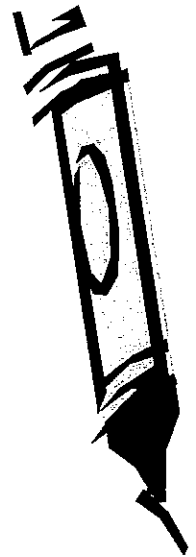
Teaching and Learning Process

Selecting a Method of Teaching

Preparing To Teach

Leading Sunshiners to Christ

Teachers Code of Ethics



Profile Of The Sunshine Band Leader

The leader in the Sunshine Band is vital to the ministry. The President and the teachers can make or break the unit. It is so critical that the persons working with children possess certain qualities such as, sincerity, faith, vision, determination, consecration, humility and salvation. The persons must have solid leadership skills and be fair.

The leader in the Sunshine Band must be able to lead decisively and fairly. The person must know how to share responsibility making sure that the right person is in charge of the right activity. ***ALWAYS REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT EXPECTED TO DO IT ALL!*** The effective leader delegates to others in the church body in order to have an exciting and successful unit.

The leader must know how to communicate appropriately with children, parents, and church officials on the local, district, and state levels. As a leader you must remember that you do not operate in a vacuum. Your leader expects you to also follow leadership. Leaders expect you to give them information, cooperation, competence, appreciation, assistance and respect.

The leader must know to appreciate the children, parents, and appropriate leaders for their support and accomplishments. This can be done with certificates, points, plaques or treats.

The personality of the leader is also important. The leader must be friendly, flexible, courteous, tactful, patient, kind, forgiving, and fair in all their dealings with others. Always keep in mind that you are a role model and that children will watch and emulate what they see quicker than what they hear.

The leader must keep a positive attitude towards the work and ministry to children. The leader must be courageous, persistent, positive, original, observant, a visionary and most of all exemplify Christ in their lives.

The Sunshine Band leader must be consecrated and capable of working alone or in a group. The leader must be resourceful and willing to utilize their personal resources. Realizing that to others children's ministry is not always a priority. Never forget that your labor of love is not in vain.

12 C's for Children's Ministry

1. **Children**
 - a. Who comes to your group?
 - b. What do they know about each themselves and each other?
2. **Common Mission**
 - a. Do you have a well defined common mission?
 - b. Are you a part of the vision?
3. **Curriculum**
 - a. What is the bottom line?
 - b. Is it teachable?
 - c. Is it appropriate for your children?
4. **Compassion**
 - a. How do you show compassion?
 - b. How can the children be taught to show compassion?
5. **Competence**
 - a. How do you level the playing field?
 - b. Are you prepared?
6. **Collaboration**
 - a. How can you organize leaders and teachers to work together?
 - b. How can you organize the parents and children to work together?
7. **Communication**
 - a. Who talks to the children?
 - b. Who talks to whom?
 - c. When?
 - d. Where?
 - e. How?
 - f. Do you talk to them or at them?
8. **Colleagues**
 - a. Who supports your efforts as leader or teacher?
 - b. With whom do you network?
 - c. What help do you need?
9. **Challenges**
 - a. Where are you trying to go?
 - b. Is everyone with you?
 - c. How are you addressing your obstacles?
10. **Community**
 - a. How do you foster a sense of belonging?
 - b. How do you involve your children in the community?
11. **Church**
 - a. How do you impact the church?
 - b. Are you an asset or a liability to the church?
 - c. How are you involved in the ministry of the church?
12. **Change**
 - a. What is your plan for the future?
 - b. What do you need to keep or discard to improve the quality of the group

POSSIBLE PROCEDURES IN THE TEACHING-LEARNING PROCESS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Lecture | 11. Field Trips |
| 2. Resource Person | 12. Audio-visual Aids |
| 3. Question-Answer | 13. Worship |
| 4. Role-Playing | 14. Music |
| 5. Cartoons and Puppets | 15. Problem-Solving |
| 6. Discussion Groups | 16. Oral Reading |
| 7. Sentence Completion | 17. Storytelling |
| 8. Dramatic Reading | 18. Tape Recorder |
| 9. Silent Reading/ Discussion | 19. Creative Writing |
| 10. Art-Coloring, Paints, etc. | 20. Character Studies |

QUESTIONS TO ANSWER BEFORE USING A PROCEDURE

1. Will this procedure move us toward our goal?
What are we trying to do?
2. Does the group have a preference?
3. Is this group ready for this procedure? Am I ready as the leader?
4. Size of group? Room adequate? Will this procedure disturb others in this building?
5. Is this procedure Christian?
6. Have we used a variety of methods?
7. Is this procedure in harmony with good teaching-learning?
8. Can I execute this well? Has it worked before?
9. Are resources available? Equipment?
10. Is this procedure mature for this age group?
11. Do we have adequate time for use of this procedure?
12. Is this the appropriate time to introduce a NEW procedure?

Author Unknown

SELECTING A METHOD OF TEACHING

1. Always evaluate whether this procedure will help you to reach your goal.
2. Is there a particular method that your group prefers?
3. Consider the size of the group and the amount of space required for the presentation. Determine whether the method you desire is appropriate for the size of the group and the place designated for your session.
4. Only use procedures that you can do well. Leave the other procedures until you have time to learn how to use them.
5. What resources are needed and are those resources available to you?
6. Do you have enough time to make the presentation using the particular method that you desire to use?
7. Is this method appropriate for the particular age group?
8. Do you need to use a combination of methods to be effective for this lesson?
9. Do you need to divide your group by age in order to make the lesson more appropriate?
10. What questions can you include in a review in order to ensure that the lesson has been understood?

Leading Children to Christ

Steps to Becoming a Christian:

1 - Recognize that God wants everyone to enjoy the best life possible and live for Him.

"He wants all of us to lead full, rich lives, and experience His love."

Jer 31:3 - KJV

2 - Acknowledge that everybody has rebelled against God and lived sinfully.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Rom 3:23 - KJV

3 - Remember that Sin separates us forever from God.

"For the wages of sin is death and the gift of God is eternal life."

Rom 6:23 - KJV

4 - Recognize that only God can solve this problem and He did so by sacrificing His life.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Jn 3:16 - KJV

5 - Acknowledge that you have a choice. You can accept God's solution. Ask God to forgive you of your sins. Ask God to enter into your life and have His way. Acknowledge that you believe on Him and accept Him into your life.

"That if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"

Rom 10:9 - NIV

6 - Declare openly that Jesus has entered your life and that you are declaring Him Lord of your life.

"For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

Rom 10:10 - NIV

Preparing To Teach Children

Topic_____

Lesson_____

Scriptures_____Page_____Date_____

I. This lesson will utilize: activities_____ visual aides_____ drama_____
class participation_____ music_____ arts and crafts_____ storytelling_____

II. Things I want to accomplish in this lesson:

III. Points that need to be presented:_____

IV. Main point to be stressed:_____

V. Memory Verse:_____

VI. Alternate plans:_____

VII. Supplies that are needed:_____

VIII. People who are needed to complete this task:_____

IX. Additional scriptures: Sunbeams:_____

Sunrays_____ Illuminators_____

The Teachers Code of Ethics

As a teacher in the Sunshine Band, I will do my best to:

- † • esteem Christ first and foremost in all of my behavior, preparation and actions;
- † • make every effort to grow in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and lead the children to do the same;
- † • prepare for the class with a reverent attitude;
- † • contact children who are absent promptly, personally and with persistence;
- † • be an example in stewardship, attendance, and punctuality;
- † • adapt the lessons to the needs of the children and select the most appropriate method for each class;
- † • use every possible resource for improving my teaching;
- † • set an example by respecting and obeying leadership;
- † • practice fairness and impartiality in all activities; and
- † • be prepared and enthusiastic.

Part III: The Curriculum

Pledges

Mottos

Books of the Bible

Dynamic Doctrines

Historical Highlights

Selected Scripture

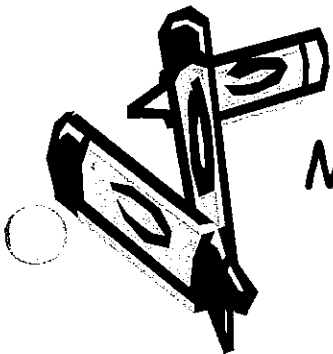
Who is Jesus?

Highlights of Ministry of Jesus

Twelve Appearances of Jesus after
the Resurrection

Miracles and Parables of Jesus

Biblical Promises



Pledges Of Allegiance

The United States

I Pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands: one nation under God, Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Sing: *My Country Tis of Thee*

My Country tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrims pride,
from every mountainside, let freedom ring.

The Bible

I Pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's Holy Word. I Pledge to make it a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. I Pledge to hide it in my heart that I might not sin against thee.

Sing: *The B I B L E*

The B I B L E, yes that's the book for me,
I stand upon the word of God, it's the B I B L E.

The Christian Flag

I Pledge allegiance to the Christian Flag, and to God's kingdom for which it stands; one brotherhood, united in all mankind, in service and in love.

Sing: *Isn't It Grand To Be A Christian*

Isn't it Grand to be a Christian, Isn't it grand--Amen! (repeat)
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, All day
Sunday, Isn't it Grand to be a Christian, Isn't it Grand--Amen.

THE MOTTO and THEME SONG

National Sunshine Band Motto

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

Matthew 5:16 - KJV

Theme Song for Children

Words and Music by T. Lynn Smith

"Let Your Light So Shine"*

(*SB CD Available)

Let your light so shine,
that they may see your good works,
glorify your father, which is in heaven.

In the Sunshine Band, we do things together,
In the Sunshine Band, we all are one.

Let It Shine,
Let it shine all over the world, let it glorify the Lord,
Let It Shine,
Let it shine across the sea, let it glorify the Lord.



National Sunshine Band Motto (Adult Presidents)

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and
when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Prov. 22:6 - KJV

Books Of The Bible

The Bible is made up of sixty-six (66) books divided between the Old (Before Christ) and the New (After Christ) Testaments:

39 Books of the Old Testament

5 Books of the Law

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

Joshua
Judges
Ruth
I Samuel
II Samuel
I Kings
II Kings
I Chronicles
II Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms

Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

4 Major Prophets

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Ezekiel
Daniel

12 Minor Prophets

Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Joel	Micah	Haggai
Amos	Nahum	Zachariah
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi

Books Of The Bible

27 Books of the New Testament

The Four Gospels

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Establishment of the Church

The Acts

The Epistles

Romans
I Corinthians
II Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Collossians
I Thessalonians
II Thessalonians
I Timothy
II Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
I Peter
II Peter
I John
II John
III John
Jude

Prophecy

Revelations

Dynamic Doctrines

God's Greatness and Human's Weakness	Isaiah 40
Humans Universal Guilt	Romans 1:18 2:2:16
The New Birth	John 3
Justification By Faith	Ephesians 2:1-10
Christ's Intercession for His Own	John 17, Hebrews 7:25
The Second Coming of Christ	Matthew 24
The Last Judgement	Revelation 20:10-15
The New Heaven/New Earth	Revelation 21 and 22
The Fruits of the Holy Spirit	Ephesians 5:22-23



Practical Precepts

A *PRECEPT* is a command or principle intended as a general rule of action.

Christian Responsibilities	Romans 12 and 13
Christian Stewardship	II Corinthians 8 and 9
Christian Witnessing	Matthew 28:18-20 John 17:18-20
Prevailing Prayer	Matthew 6:5-15
Consequences of Forgetting God	Hosea 4-11
The Value of the Soul	Mark 8:36-37
Christian Fruitfulness	John 15

Historical Highlights

The Creations	Genesis 1 and 2
The Fall of Humankind	Genesis 3
The Flood of Noah	Genesis 6-9
The Call of Abraham	Genesis 12: 1-9
The Ten Plaques of Egypt	Exodus 7:14 -11:10
Deliverance Out of Egypt	Exodus 12:51
a. Passover Deliverance	Exodus 12:1-13:16
b. The Red Sea Deliverance	Exodus 13:17-14:31
The Babylon Captivity of Israel	II Kings 24:11
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20: 1-17
David and Goliath	I Samuel 17:1-58
The Birth of Christ	Matthew 1: 18; 2: 23
	Luke 1: 26
The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7
	Luke 6: 20-49
The Greatest Commandment	Matthew 22: 36-40
Christ's New Commandment	John 13: 34; 35
The Garden of Gethsemane	Matthew 26: 36-46
The Betrayal of Jesus	Matthew 26: 47-56
The Last Supper	Mark 14: 12-26
The Arrest and Trial of Jesus	John 18: 1-18
The Death of Christ	Luke 23: 25-49
	John 19: 28-42
The Resurrection of Christ	Luke 24: 1-12
	John 20: 1-29
The Ascension of Christ	Acts 1: 1-11
The Coming of The Holy Spirit	Acts 2: 1-21
The Heroes of Faith	Hebrews 11

One Verse Scriptures Worth Remembering

Romans 8:31	John 15:7	Matthew 5:16	Matthew 7:7
Philippians 4:19	John 3:16	Psalms 27:4	Matthew 11:28
Isaiah 26:3	Philippians 4:8	Psalms 30:5	Job 5:17
Matthew 6:21	James 1:8	Colossians 3:20	John 14:6
Psalms 8:4	Proverbs 22:1	Galatians 6:7	Matthew 5:44
Mark 8:36	Matthew 7:1	Proverbs 3:5	Psalms 22:1
2 Timothy 2:15	Psalms 37:21	Leviticus 19:11	Proverbs 10:27

Who Is Jesus?

Jesus is the only begotten Son of God who was born to Mary and Joseph for the purpose of saving a dying world. Jesus is unique in that He was both human and divine while He lived on earth. After the resurrection, He became totally divine. By believing in Jesus, His life, word, and teachings, we are cleansed from sin and receive instruction and power to live right. Jesus' earthly ministry primarily consisted of preaching, teaching and healing. "And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and disease among the people." (Mt. 9:35)

According to John 1:1, Jesus is eternal. He existed with God the Father from eternity and will live forever. Jesus sacrificed His life for us. He died for our sins. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is to be our everything. In fact Jesus is our:

• Access to God	Jn. 14:6	• Righteousness	2 Cor. 5:21
• Freedom	Col. 2:16-17	• Sanctification	Jn. 17:19
• Hope	Col. 1:26-27	• Self-Control	Gal. 5:22-23
• Joy	Jn. 16:24	• Source of Love	Jn. 17:26
• Life	Phil. 1:21	• Strength	Ps. 27:1
• Peace	Rom. 5:1	• Victory	1 Jn. 5:4
• Redemption	1 Cor. 1:30	• Wisdom	1 Cor. 1:30

Selected Teachings Of Jesus

What did Jesus say about:

- Anger Mt. 5:21-26
- Criticizing Others Lk. 6:37-42
- Fasting Mt. 6:16-18
- Final Judgment Mt. 25:31-46
- Giving to needy Mt. 6:1-4
- Holy Spirit Jn. 16:7-15
- Hypocrisy Lk. 12:1-12
- How to Treat believers who sin Mt. 18:15-20
- Inner Purity Mk. 7:1-23
- The Law Mt. 5:17-20
- Light Within Lk. 11:33-36
- Love Jn. 15:12
- Loving Enemies Mt. 5:43-48
- Money Mt. 6:19-24
- Obedience Heb. 13:17
- Prayer Mt. 6:5-15
- Retaliation Mt. 5:38-42
- Seeking Mt. 7:7-12
- Seeking Honor Lk. 14:7-14
- Serving Others Mk. 10:35-45
- Unbelief Jn. 8:46-47
- Using His Name Jn. 16:16-33
- Wisdom 1 Cor. 1:30

Highlights Of The Ministry Of Jesus

The Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3: 13-17
Jesus Tempted by Satan	Luke 4: 1-13
First Miracle	John 2: 1-11
Jesus and the Samaritan Woman	John 4: 5-42
Jesus calls Four Fisherman	Matthew 4: 18-22
Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law	Matthew 8:14-15
Jesus chooses 12 disciples	Matthew 10: 2-4
Jesus commissions the disciples	Matthew 9:35; 11:1
Sermon on the Mount	Luke 6: 20-49
Raising Jarius's daughter from dead	Mark 5:21-43
The Parable of the Mustard Seed	Mark 13:31-32
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	Mark 6:30-44
Jesus Walks on the Water	Mark 6:45-52
Jesus Feeds Four Thousand	Mark 8:1-9
Jesus Predicts His Death	Luke 9:22-25
Jesus Pays Taxes	Matthew 17:24-27
Jesus With Mary and Martha	Luke 10:38-42
Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11:1-44
The Triumphal Entry of Jesus	Matthew 21:1-11
The Cursing of the Fig Tree	Matthew 21:18-19
Cleansing of the Temple	Mark 11:15-18
Authority of Jesus Questioned	Luke 20:1-8
Jesus Teaching in the Temple	Luke 20:9 - 21:4
Anointing of the Feet of Jesus	John 12:2-11
Garden Gethsemane	Mark 14:32-42
The Arrest and Trial of Jesus	Mark 14:43-15:15
Crucifixion and Death of Jesus	Matthew 27:27-56
The Burial of Jesus	Matthew 27:57-66
The Resurrection of Jesus	Matthew 28:1-8

The Twelve Appearances of Jesus After the Resurrection

Resurrection Sunday

Mary Magdalene	Mark 16:9-11
Other Women	Matthew 28:8-10
Two On the Road to Emmaus	Luke 24:13-22
Peter	Luke 24:34
Ten Disciples in the Upper Room	Luke 24:36-45

Following Sunday

Eleven Disciples in the Upper Room

John 20:26-31

Some Time Later

The Seven Disciples Fishing

John 21:1-15

Eleven Disciples on the Mountain

Matthew 28:16-20

More Than Five Hundred

I Corinthians 15:6

James

I Corinthians 15:7

Forty Days After Resurrection

The Disciples at His Ascension

Luke 24:44-51

Several Years Later

Paul on Damascus Road

Acts 9:1-19

Selected Scriptures

The Key Miracles of Jesus

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| • Man with leprosy | Mt. 8:2-4 | • Deaf Mute | Mk 7:31-37 |
| • Feeding the 5000 | Lk. 9:10-17 | • Crippled Woman | Lk. 13:11-13 |
| • Walking on the Water | Jn. 6:19-21 | • Lazarus | Jn. 11:1-41 |
| • Peter's Mother-In-Law | Mt. 8:14-15 | • Jairus Daughter | Mk. 5:22-24 |
| • Demoniac Boy | Mk. 9:17-30 | • Withered Fig | Mt. 21:18-22 |

Parables Of Jesus

- | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Light under Bushel | Mt. 5:14-16 | • Wheat/Tares | Mt. 13:24-30 |
| • Mustard Seed | Mk. 4:30-34 | • Good Samaritan | Lk. 10:30-37 |
| • Lost Sheep | Mt. 18:10-14 | • Ten Virgins | Mt. 25:1-13 |
| • Talents | Lk. 19:11-27 | • Rich Fool | Lk. 12:16-21 |
| • Leaven Bread | Lk. 13:18-21 | • Sheep/Goats | Mt. 25:31-46 |
| • Wise Builders | Mt. 7:24-28 | • Prodigal Son | Lk. 15:11-32 |
| • Sower | Mk. 4:1-20 | • Great Supper | Lk. 14:15-24 |

Prayers

• Prayer and Confidence	Isa. 41:10,13,14	• Prayer of a Pilgrim	Ps. 90, 91
• Prayer As A Song	Deut. 32:1-47	• The Lord's Prayer	Mt. 6:8-13
• Prayer for Justice	Jer. 10:23-25	• Prayer of Anguish	Jn. 12:27-28
• Prayer from the Cross	Lk. 23:34	• Prayer of Confession	Dan. 9
• Prayer of Pain	Lam. 1:20-22	• Prayer for Peace	Isa. 26
• Forgiveness	Mt. 5:22-26	• Prayer and Practice	Isa. 55:6-7
• Prayer and Giving	I Chron. 29:10-20	• Prayer of Trust	Ps. 71:4-16

Precious Promises in the Bible

Promises are the statements that are made in the Bible reflecting someones commitment, vow and/or covenant. Promises are made when someone pledges to do or not to do something. There are thousands of promises in the Bible. There are promises of God to mankind, mankind to God, mankind to mankind, God to Satan and Satan to man. The promises that we hold most dear are the promises that are made by God to us. Below is a list of precious promises made to us.

Anger	Ps. 16:32; 145:8; 30:5; Eph. 4:26; 4:31, 32; Eccl. 7:9; Rom 12:19-21;
Belief	Jn. 3:16; 1:12; 3:36; 6:47; 6:35; Acts 10:43; 16:31; I Pet. 2:6; Mk 9:23
Charity	Prov. 19:17; 14:21; Eccl. 11:1; Prov. 19:17; 28:27; 2 Cor. 9:7;
Children	Isa. 44:3; Ps. 107:41; 127:3-5; Prov. 17:6; Mk 10:14-16; Acts 2:39
Duties of Children -	Col. 3:20; Lk. 18:20; Deut. 5:16; 27:16; Prov. 6:20; 13:1; 28:7 8:32-33;
Comfort	Ps. 22:24; 18:2; 37:24; 46:1-3; 55:22; 9:9; 27:14; Jn. 16:33; Mt. 11:28;
Correction	Ps. 94:12-13; Prov. 3:12; Job 5:17-18; 1 Cor. 11:32; 2 Cor. 4:16-17;
Courage	Ps. 27:14; 37:28; 37:3; 31:24; Isa. 43:1; 40:29; Phil. 4:12-13
Enemies	Isa. 54:17; Ps. 27:5-6; 37:40; 60:12; Prov. 16:7; Job 8:22; Deut. 28:7;
Faith	Heb 11:1; 11:6; James 1:5-6; Gal. 2:20; 3:26; 5:22; Mark 11:22-23; 2
Fear	Isa. 41:13; 54: 14; Prov. 3:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:7; Rom 8:15; I Pet.3:12
Forgiveness	Prov. 20:22; Mt. 5:44-45; 6:14; Mk. 11:25-26; Lk. 6:35-37
Gossip	Prov. 16:28; 18:8; 20:19; Ps. 34:13; 52:2; Lev 19:16
Help in Trouble	Ps. 9:9; 32:7; 34:19; 37:39; 37:24; 71:20; 126:5-6; 138:7; Lam 3:31-33
Honesty	Lev. 19:11; 19:35; Deut. 25:15-16; I Thes. 4:6,7; Prov. 16:8;
Jealousy	Ps. 10:3; 37:7; Prov. 3:31; 14: 30; 24:1; 23:17-18; James 3:16; 3:14
Laziness	Prov. 28:19; 13:14; 15:19; 24:30-34; Eccl. 5:18-19; I Thes. 4:11-12
Lying	Lev. 19:12; Prov. 19:5,9; 24:28; 25:18; Zech. 8:17; Col. 3:9-10;
Obedience	Deut. 30:15,16; 6:3,18; 7:12; Phil. 4:9; Mt. 5:19; 7:24,25; Rom. 2:13;
Prayer	Ps. 34:17; Prov. 15:29; John 15:7; 14:13,14; 16:23,24; Mt. 6:6; 7:7,8;
Protection	Ps. 4:8; 27:1; 91:9,10; 112:7; 121:7,8; Prov. 1:33; 3:24; 18:10.

Part IV: The Church of God in Christ

What We Believe: Doctrine of the
Church

The Affirmation of Faith

Mission of the Church

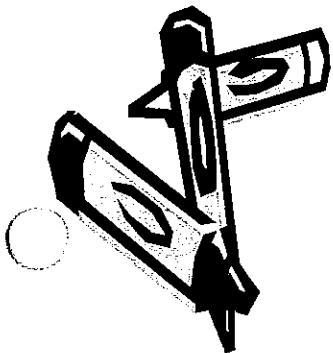
Ordinances of the Church

Overview of The Sunshine Band

Sunshine Band Leaders

Mo. Lydia E. Hinsley

Dr. Lytia R. Howard



"WHAT WE BELIEVE"

Trinity

We believe in the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Father

We believe in God, the Father who is all-powerful. He is the one who invented everything. If there is anything on earth, God, the Father created it.

Son

We believe that Jesus Christ was the son of God in the bible. Still today, Jesus Christ is the son of God and always will be. Jesus has the same understanding, power and love of God.

Holy Ghost

We believe in the power of the Holy Ghost to keep us closer to God, and that the Holy Ghost comes from the Father and the Son. He is the one who is along side us so we can carry out the plan of God on the earth.

The Baptism Of The Holy Ghost

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is what will happen after receiving the Lord Jesus into one's heart and life. And that speaking in tongues is what happens upon receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Speaking in tongues is a fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23; Acts 10:46; 19:1-6).

Salvation

Salvation is the cleansing of sin from the life of one who has given their life to God. Jesus Christ died on the cross paying the cost for our sins. Salvation takes us from strangers living in sin to children who are loved by God.

The Affirmation: The Statement of Faith The Church of God in Christ

We believe the Bible to be the inspired and only infallible Word of God.

We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

We believe in the Blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God which is in Christ, at His return.

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance: faith in the precious Blood of Jesus Christ and being baptized in water.

We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation.

We believe that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing for the human body in answer to believing in prayer.

We believe that the baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers who ask for it.

We believe in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by Whose indwelling, the Christian is enabled to live a holy and separated life in this present world.

Amen

UNDERSTANDING DOCTRINE

1. What Does Doctrine Mean?

- A. Doctrine means teaching or instruction and education.
- B. It includes what is being taught and its points of educating.
- C. The Doctrine of the Church of God in Christ speaks of what is taught in the Church of God in Christ.

2. Why Is Doctrine Important?

- A. God-Proverbs 4:1-2 says,
"Hear, my children, the instruction of a father and give to know understanding; For I give you good doctrine do not forsake my law."
- B. The Son-John 7:16-17
"Jesus therefore answered them, and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or whether I speak from Myself.
- C. The Holy Ghost-John 14:26
"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."
- D. It is important for us to be able to have a good relationship with Him, and to grow to be mature Christians. Eph. 4:14 says, We should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting..."

3. What Is The Value Of Having A Doctrine?

- A. It is key and necessary to salvation. I Tim. 4:16 says,
"Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; preserve in these things; for as you do this you will insure salvation both for yourself and for those who hear you."

- B. It is the groundwork or foundation for living godly. I Tim. 6:3 says, "If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness..."
 - C. It frees you from the power of hold of sin. Rom. 6:17 says, "But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered."
 - D. It helps you to tell others about God. Titus 1:9 says, "Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."
 - E. It brings you into the knowledge of the things of God. Mk. 4:2 says, "And He taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine..."
 - F. It gives you the tools you need to serve Christ. II Tim. says, "That the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."
4. Is All Doctrine Good?
- A. No. The Bible talks about "sound doctrine". This lets us know that there is "unsound doctrine" or doctrine that will not help us live for God.
 - B. I Tim. 1:10 says, "...and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine..."
 - C. II Tim. 4:3 says, "For the time will come that they will not endure sound doctrine."
 - D. The Bible also talks of strange doctrines or doctrines that are not lined up with the Word of God. Heb. 13:9 says, "Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines."
5. How Did False Doctrine Begin?
- A. It Began With Satan.
 - 1. "But, I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it."
 - B. Satan's demons, evil spirits or persona, spread his lies and false doctrines.
 - 1. I Tim. 4:1 says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons..."
6. How Is False Doctrine Used Incorrectly?
- A. Through false prophets, II Cor. says, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, changing themselves into apostles of Christ."
 - B. False teachers, II Peter 2:1 says, "But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies..." and
 - C. False leaders/pastors. Jer. 50:6, "My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray..."
7. Has The Church Always Been Attacked By False Doctrine?

- A. Yes. Many of Paul's epistles (to the Cor., Gal. and Col.) were written to straighten out those churches where false doctrines were being used.
 - B. John's first two epistles were written to refuse the false doctrine that said Jesus had not come in the flesh.
 - C. Jude also had to denounce the doctrine of false teachers.
 - D. All sorts of untrue and false teachings still exist today.
8. What Is The Christian To Do Because Of False Doctrines?
- A. The New Testament is full of exhortations and warnings to guard against false doctrine. It uses the following terms:
 - 1. "Let no man deceive you..." (Mat. 24:4)
 - 2. "Let no man beguile you with enticing words..." (Col. 2:4;18)
 - 3. "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheeps clothing, but inwardly they are raving wolves.." (Mat. 7:15)
 Other scriptures that relate to this are: I Tim. 1:4; Eph. 4:14; I Jn. 4:1; Heb. 13:9 and Tit. 1:24.
9. How Can I Determine If A doctrine Is Right Or Wrong?
- A. By asking God in prayer (James 1:5)
 - B. By studying the church's doctrine (I Tim. 4:13 and 5:17)
 - C. By studying the bible until it affects you (Jn. 16:13; I Jn. 2:27)

The Naming Of The Church Of God In Christ

1. How Did It Get It's Name?
- A. It was given to our founder, the late Bishop Charles H. Mason, in Little Rock, Arkansas.
 - B. It was supported by the scripture that says, "For ye, brethren, became followers of the Churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus: for ye also suffered like things of your own countrymen, even as they have of the Jews." (I Thess. 2:14) Resulting in the name, The Church Of God In Christ.
2. What Are Some Of The Things That Distinguish The Church Of God In Christ's Doctrine From Other Doctrines?
- A. The doctrine of the Church of God in Christ is similar to most other pentecostal churches. There are some slight variations or differences on subjects, like sanctification and water baptism.
 - 1. Its belief as an experience that will ensure salvation and that the speaking in other tongues is the initial physical evidence that one has been filled with the Holy Ghost.
 - 2. Its belief in the gifts of the Spirit and supernatural signs such as divine healing and casting out demons.
 - 3. Its belief in high-spirited, free and spontaneous worship.
 - 4. Its belief in sanctification and holiness as a way of life.
 - 5. The Ordinances.

The Ordinances Of The Church

1. What Are The Ordinances Of The Church?

The Ordinances of the church are those special services which were established by Christ. They are administered as outward signs of an inward change.

A. The Lord's Supper, (Mt. 26:26-30; Mk. 14:22-26; and Lk. 22:19-20). I Cor. 11:24-30.

1. We commemorate the body of Christ that was broken and His blood that was shed as a ransom for us. When we partake in communion it is a time of remembering Christ and His example.
2. We proclaim the Lord's death and return. It is our goal to live in anticipation for the soon return of our King The Christ.
3. We celebrate as believers to identify with Christ in His sacrificial death. This celebration is a joyous time of worship.

B. Water Baptism (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 26:15-16)

1. The act of being dipped or immersed (not sprinkled) in water as a rite of admission to fellowship with the church.
(Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12, 36 & 38; 9:18; 10:47; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 22:16)
2. This act also symbolizes the believer's union with Christ, His death, burial and resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-5)
3. Baptism is for believers and not sinners. (Acts 8:36-38)
This point differs from other denominational teaching. We believe water baptism does not save or wash away sins. Only the blood of Jesus does. (Rev. 1:5) Therefore, we are not baptized as a means of getting saved. We receive Water Baptism because we are already saved. The baptism is an outward sign of our faith confession.
4. We do not baptize infants. We believe that all individuals who are baptized must have reached the age of accountability and have developed a personal relationship with Christ.
5. The baptism formula that we use is one done in obedience to Jesus, who taught baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. (Matt. 28:19)

C. Feet-Washing. (Lk 7:36-50; Jn 12:10-17; I Tim 5:10)

1. We exercise feet-washing also as an example Christ left with the disciples to follow. (Jn 13:14-15)
2. The act of feet-washing is done as a sign of servitude and humility. As Christ left the example, we are to minister to others not waiting to be ministered to by others. The Christ meaning of the word minister is 'to serve'! (Jn 18:8; Matt 20:28)
3. The act of feet-washing is a sign of humility. (Jn 13:16; Jas 4:6; Pet 5:5)

About the Sunshine Band

The Sunshine Band is an auxiliary of the Women's Department of our Church. Established by Bishop C. H. Mason, it is one of the oldest auxiliaries of our Church. In 1911, Bishop Mason saw fit to establish the Office of the General Supervisor of the Women to which Mother Lizzie Roberson was appointed. She began to appoint state supervisors and they in turn were to organize jurisdictional units of the various auxiliaries. The original four auxiliaries established by Bishop Mason and Mother Roberson were the Sunshine Band, Sewing Circle, Prayer and Bible Band, and Home and Foreign Mission.

In the earlier years, prior to 1922, Saint Samuel was the first to gather the children together to instruct and guide them in the church. He was known as Big Brother Sunshine. Along with Sister E. Sparks, also from Memphis, they continued to give the children scriptural lessons on their level. By 1922 Mother Lydia E. Hinsley became involved with the Sunshine Band and began to unify it as an organization.

In the late forties, Mother Coffey interceded on behalf of the children to be included for at least one hour in the National Holy Convocation which was held annually in Memphis, Tennessee. By then, Mother Hinsley was joined by Zamora Murry (California), Sallie Williams (Florida), Mary Hallman (North Carolina) and Hattie Little (Georgia). With these women, children were gathered who were in attendance at the convention and from the city of Memphis to participate in the program. Since that time, The Sunshine Band has been a part of the National Convocation. In 1987, the Sunshine Band became a part of the Women's International Convention by offering a Children's Institute for delegates between the ages of two to twelve. By 1990, the Sunshine Band was also offering an annual program displaying the talent from around the country in the Women's Convention.

Over the years, the Sunshine Band has grown and is now on the local, district and state level in each jurisdiction. The Sunshine Band is also located in many countries all over the world. The Sunshine Band has been responsible for leading countless numbers of children to Christ, supplying their various school and personal needs, providing leadership training that has been used in their adult years, and offering the emotional support necessary for effective growth and development. We are proud of past sunshiners who are now being used greatly by God in our Church and nation.

The auxiliary has always focused on the ministry to and nurturance of our children under twelve years old. The primary concern is reaching and saving our children by introducing them to Christ and what it means to be Christ like as a child. We teach the children about the love of God and His Son Jesus, basic Bible concepts and knowledge, and worship and service. It is our intent that the children come to know and love Jesus as the light of the world.

The Sunshine Band plays a vital role in the lives of children. As we teach God's Word, we can arrest the satanic attacks being made on their young minds. We will teach them what is right, show them the way and offer appropriate alternatives and responses to life's challenges, *'we make a difference' and build for the future.* Prov. 22:6 affirms that we "Train up a child in the way he/she should go: when he/she is old, he/she will not depart from it."

Mrs. Lydia E. Hinsley

MOTHER LYDIA ELIZABETH HINSLEY was many things to many people, but to those that knew her, she was a source of sunshine and inspiration. In 91 years, she managed to significantly touch the lives of thousands of children and adults across these United States. A beacon of light to the lost, needy, and overlooked, she will be remembered and kept alive in all our hearts. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Powell on March 21, 1895 in Griffin, Georgia, Lydia was a little spit-fire who loved to tell on her 4 sisters and 5 brothers on the one hand, and in her self-styled mercy, lie for them on the other hand. She was not above fighting for them when attacked by other children.

She was saved at the age of 9 in a holiness church of which she was well pleased, convinced and convicted when she found that she no longer fought or lied for her sisters and brothers. Lydia lost her father and consequently her mother at an early age. However, before her mother's passing, Lydia promised to keep her younger siblings together and care for them as best as she could.

Her characteristic spirit of determination was first noted when she purposed in her heart to get to the 'big city' of Atlanta, recognizing that better educational and job opportunities existed there. She continued to work in Griffin until she had saved bus fare for herself and each of her brothers and sisters. She left Griffin to find a job and support her five sisters and brothers there. Tempted by a prominent Baptist woman to quit that "sanctified" church and receive a "free education", young Lydia determined right then that she was not going to turn from God. She often said that during that period of her life, "Nobody can tell me that a young girl cannot live holy because I did it! I was not going to let anything or anybody make me sell out. I didn't go to any picture show. I didn't take any set-ups. They called me a holy roller. But that didn't matter. YOU CAN MAKE IT, IF YOU TRY!"

She was married to the late James J. Hinsley in 1917. This union was the culmination of much prayer and waiting before the Lord. For young James' announcement that the Lord had told him that she was his wife, was met with the statement from Lydia, "Well, He may have told you that, but since I am involved in this, He'll have to tell me too!" For young Lydia had decided long ago that she would not marry anyone who would not accept her raising her mother's 5 children. She didn't expect to find anyone who would do this, so she had prepared herself to remain single if that was what it took. This union produced three children of her own: James J Hinsley, Jr., Luther R. Hinsley, Sr., and Gwendolyn I. (Hinsley) Howard.

Always an avid worker in the local church, Mother Hinsley was right by her husband's side in every aspect of his life and ministry. The young couple lived in Cleveland, Ohio, and Tallahassee, Florida, before settling in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1947, in the Pittsburgh area of Atlanta, Elder Hinsley (James J.) began building with his own hands, a \$90,000 church, in what man regarded as a mud hole. The same church is now valued at over \$500,000. The church was built and served as the jurisdictional headquarters for many years.

Seeing the struggle of young unwed mothers in her local community, Mother Hinsley started one of the first private and church-operated Day Care Centers in Atlanta. Her goal was to provide much needed care, transportation, and training for the children of these mothers and at the same time free the mothers to seek employment. She started out with four children who often had to be cleaned before they could begin that day.

One parent brought her child complaining the he was 'hard-headed' and had to be beaten before he would obey. Mother Hinsley told her small volunteer staff to look carefully at the child before any punishment was given. It was then learned that the child had been born deaf. Help was requested from a State Agency and the child was subsequently entered in a school for the deaf. The fee charged, but often not paid, was \$1.00 per week. Hinsley Day Care Center was left in the hands of her daughter Gwendolyn I. (Hinsley) Howard who 'went home' to be with the Lord in December of 1993. The facility is now flourishing under the leadership of Mother Hinsley's granddaughter, Dr. Lytia Howard and son-in-law, Dr. G. LaMarr Howard.

Her love and concern for children gained the notice of Bishop Mason and Mother Lizzie Roberson, the National Supervisor of the Women's Department of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. She was appointed to the first NATIONAL BIG SISTER SUNSHINE BAND. Mother Hinsley delighted in gathering children from the neighborhood and bringing them to the house of God to be taught. It did not matter where she was, Lydia was known for bringing the little ones to Jesus. The Lord gave her the words, "Let Them Pass" as the slogan for this organization. In this capacity, Mother Hinsley had the distinction of being able to say that she missed only two Women's Conventions and two Memphis Convocations in the history of the National Church. She worked diligently in the organizational structure of the Sunshine Band and in promoting a ministry geared toward the interest of children for over 50 years.

Mother Hinsley traveled extensively throughout the United States, Haiti, Jerusalem, and Canada doing the work of the Lord. She was a missionary, social worker, educator, teacher, godly woman, woman of much joy and sorrow, and one that could get a prayer through to God. Her concern for people reached throughout this world. When she was younger and able to do more physical things, work was not beneath her. In her later years, no need escaped her concern. She never stopped visiting the sick, prisoners, and the shut-in; sending or giving clothing, food, and money to the poor. At 91 years of age, she had developed a habit of collecting and selling soda cans weekly in order to supplement her SUNDAY SCHOOL offering from which her Mother's Class rarely lost the offering banner.

Mother Hinsley served as a Pastor's wife for 46 years. She set up every auxiliary in her local church and state, as the Assistant State Mother of the Central Georgia Jurisdiction, and as the State Mother of the Southeast Georgia Jurisdiction. She held up the banner of righteousness. She waved the banner of victory before the eyes of everyone, she served, praised, and loved her God. God gave her a full and long life and she in turn gave something of herself to each person with whom she came in contact. She did not waste time, she redeemed it. She not only finished her course, but she reached her goal.

Dr. Lytia R. Howard

Second International President of the Sunshine Band

Dr. Lytia Ramani Howard, is a graduate of Spelman College, University of Tennessee, Atlanta University, and the Interdenominational Theological Center of Atlanta, Georgia. She has earned the following degrees: BA in Sociology; M.A.C.T. in Sociology and College Teaching; MA in Administration; M.R.E. in Religious Education and the Doctor of Education.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. G. LaMarr Howard in Atlanta, Georgia, she grew up in the Church of God in Christ where her parents and grandparents guided and supported through the youth organizations of the church. Dr. Howard was blessed as a baby at Hinsley Temple Church of God In Christ, (where her late grandfather Bishop James J. Hinsley pastored) by being baptized by the founder of the church, the late Bishop Charles H. Mason. She went to work early in the church first as a Sunday school teacher. Over the years, Dr. Howard worked in various capacities on the local, district and state levels. It became evident that she was called, chosen and sent.

During the last 28 years of her grandmother's life, she worked and traveled faithfully for the Sunshine Band with her. In addition, throughout her high school and college years, she worked with underprivileged children in public housing, young people in the church and community. Her simultaneous capacities included: Youth Advisor; Minister of Music; Director of Christian Education; Choir Directress and Speaker. After graduation from college and throughout graduate school, her work continued to flourish.

Dr. Howard has developed a reputation for organizing successful youth programs which characteristically enhance the knowledge, spirituality and exposure of children and adults as well as increase church attendance. Because of the excellent leadership and service she has freely given, the Honorable Mayor Maynard Jackson proclaimed December 5, 1981, DR. LYTIA R. HOWARD DAY in the city of Atlanta, Georgia.

Since that time, she has continued to render service to the church and community. Her community work has been recognized by various plaques and certificates from the Young Women's Christian Association, Aurora University, College of St. Francis, Illinois Benedictine College, the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Lake Forest College, North Central College, Spelman College, Outstanding Young Women of America, Who's Who Among Black Americans, J. J. Hinsley Scholarship Fund, New Hope COGIC, Central Georgia COGIC, Graduate Consortium for Minorities in Engineering (GEM), City of Atlanta, City of Detroit, Michigan, Prime Minister of Israel, Golden Dome Chapter of the National Association of Business Women of America, the Association for International Inter-cultural Studies (ACUIIS), the Ford Foundation, District of

Columbia Sunshine Band, the Association of Evangelical Gospel Assemblies, and Atlanta Public Schools.

Because she believes in Outreach Ministry, she has served as an Interfaith Chaplain for the Atlanta Airport and the Fulton County Jail. She continues to serve on Boards of Directors for numerous organizations. An ardent worker and resource person, she is a frequent speaker at schools, churches, banquets, and conferences. She is also a dynamic gospel preacher who teaches under the anointing of the Holy Ghost, and assists her father, Superintendent G. LaMarr Howard as the Pastor of the New Hope Church of God in Christ in Atlanta, Georgia.

Prior to her position as Assistant Dean for Minority and Special Programs for the College of Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, she was the Assistant Dean of Freshman Studies and Academic Advising at Spelman College. She is the author of "Messages to Your Mind" and "Surviving the Times".

She presently serves the Church of God in Christ as an evangelist and the International President of the Sunshine Band, the educational and training arm for the children of that denomination. Since her appointment as president in 1986, the Sunshine Band has grown and begun to take giant steps for little feet. Following in the footsteps of her beloved grandmother, she too is a young woman with a vision, a burn and a concern for the young; our hope for tomorrow and today. She is a woman with a message and method for maximizing one's potential in all areas of life.