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MAGAZINE



Higher Learning

Children's Ministry Magazine

School bells across the nation are ringing!

As summer winds to a close, the air is punctuated by kids' anticipation of the coming school year. Many are thrilled and excited to join new classes and make new friends, while others may face the year with anxiety.

You too may feel a quiver in your stomach as you try to think of great new ways to get to know the children in your class or as you wonder how fruitful the year will be.

Tap into kids' natural excitement this time of year and give them practical faith lessons they can use in their everyday lives with the ideas, activities, and tips in this special back-to-school section. You'll find ways to transform the everyday curriculum of life into higher learning!

Lifelong Bookmarks

Start the school year with this new way to build community in your congregation. Have kids create bookmarks using 2 x 6-inch pieces of card stock. Attach one child's photograph and write the child's first name on one side of each bookmark. Have kids each decorate their bookmarks and write the following poem on the side opposite their photo:

*Pray for me in what I've sown.
Pray for me until I'm grown.
In what I do, in what I say,
Please pray for me every day.*

Laminate the bookmarks so they'll last for years.

Ask your congregation members to become a lifelong prayer sponsor of a child in your ministry by choosing a bookmark. Instruct

them to keep the bookmark in a Bible or devotion book and to pray for the child they've chosen every day until the child reaches adulthood. This is a great way to support the children in your ministry and keep them in the hearts and minds of your congregation.

*Deborah Harless
Canton, Ohio*

Lion Locker Magnets

Starting the school year can be scary for kids, but you can help them learn to rely on God for strength and confidence by having them make reminders that God protected Daniel in the lion's den.

You'll need felt, scissors, fine-tipped permanent markers, glue, magnets, and a Bible.

Have kids cut out a sun-shaped

piece of yellow or tan felt for the lion's mane. Then have them cut out a face shape from a lighter-colored piece of felt. Glue the face shape onto the center of the mane and allow to dry. Then have kids draw eyes, a nose, mouth, and whiskers on the face shape. Finish the lions by gluing magnets to the back of the felt.

Read aloud Daniel 6:16-23 and 1 John 4:4. Ask kids to brainstorm times they'll rely on God to protect them.

Kids can use their magnets inside their lockers at school or as refrigerator magnets at home.



