

# MONTH #1 (September)

- **Theme:**

**A RIGHTEOUS NATION**

- **Bible Songs:**

**“Life, Righteousness, and Honor”**

(Proverbs 21:21)

**“Righteousness Exalteth a Nation”**

(Proverbs 14:34)

- **Gospel Song:**

**“We Love America”**



NOTE: Activity Sheets 1 and 1A, which correspond with this month's lesson theme, are available under the "Reproducibles" tab of this notebook.

# Teaching Tips!

Fun and practical ideas for the teacher to incorporate into the lessons each month, as time allows.

## Vocal Warm-Up



### Climb the Ladder!

Part of warming up for singing involves relaxing the body and singing with energy. Warm ups that use physical action help to do this! Have the children reach each hand one at a time above their head as if they were pulling themselves up a ladder. Have them “climb” the ladder slowly and then quickly. Pretend that the rungs on the ladder are close together and then farther apart. Get them to really reach!

## Vocal Training



### Singing goals for children:

At this age, fun and healthy singing should be your goal. Never allow the children to scream or shout while singing. A shouting choir of children is not cute. A group of children using their voices in the way God created them to work glorifies Him and is eternally valuable!

## Bright Idea!



**Get to Know Your Students!** Keep a 3x5 card for each student on which you list specific things you want to pray for about that student, on your own personal time. You could even ask each child if they have specific prayer requests. This is a good way to get to know your students better and to show them how much you care about their individual lives.

## Platform Pointer



### No Scratchers and Fixers!

As we stand before the congregation and sing our songs for the Lord, let's remember:

- **Do your best to keep your hands at your side when singing in church.** Each time you scratch your face, wipe your nose, fix your hair, etc... you draw attention to yourself. Our goal is to draw attention to the Lord and away from ourselves! Get all of those itches out and hairs in place BEFORE you go onto the platform!

•THEME: **A RIGHTEOUS NATION**

•SONGS:

Bible Songs:

-*Life, Righteousness, and Honor* (Proverbs 21:21)

-*Righteousness Exalteth a Nation* (Proverbs 14:34)

Gospel Song:

-*We Love America*



•SONG REHEARSAL: (Use DVD to introduce songs to the children.)



-*Life, Righteousness, and Honor*

-*Righteousness Exalteth a Nation*

•MUSIC LESSON: **How To Use Your Songbook**



-*Supplies needed: Children's Songbook*

For some of you, this is your first time to be in a choir! We are excited you are here! This choir book is just for you! (*Hold up the book for the children to see.*)

Let's talk about how we use this special book.

**1.) Take good care of this book.** Don't toss it on the floor or bend the cover or the pages. Music like this does cost money!

**2.) Hold the book up so you can see it and see your director as well.**

**3.) Learn to follow the music and the words as you sing.** (*Pass out the books to the children.*) Where does the song begin? (*Using one of the songbooks, hold it up and point to the start of the song.*) The beginning of the song is where the music notes and the words start. The words have music notes right above them. They work together in a special way. We need to know the words of the song, don't we? But we also need to know the tune of the song. We need to know if the tune goes higher, lower, or stays on the same note. The music notes tell us what the tune is. Following the music is really not hard at all. We will learn more about this in a later lesson. Let's sing this song together while following along in our books.

•SONG REHEARSAL: (Use DVD and/or Songbook to introduce the song to the children.)



-*We Love America*

•BIBLE / OBJECT  
LESSON:

**Righteousness and Mercy** (Proverbs 21:21)

-*Visuals Needed: 1 clean sheet of white paper; 1 sheet of white paper that is dirty with pen marks, smeared, crumpled, etc.*

**1.) Our Scripture song says that we are to follow after "righteousness."** What is righteousness? (*Show the children the clean sheet of white paper.*) If someone is righteous, he is completely clean in the sight of God, just like this clean sheet of white paper. He has done nothing wrong. Being righteousness means being free from sin and wrong things.

**2.) Am I righteous?** Have you ever done anything that was wrong? Then you are not righteous. You are not clean like this white paper. The Bible tells us in

*lesson continued on next page*



Romans 3:10, “There is none righteous, no, not one.” (*Show the children the dirty paper.*) We cannot be good enough on our own to be called righteous. We are like this dirty piece of paper.

**3.) How do I become righteous?** God’s mercy is the way! Mercy is not giving someone the punishment they deserve. God has been good to us even though we do not deserve it. God has made a way for us to escape the punishment for our sin. God gave us His Son Jesus to die for us and take our punishment so that we could be righteous in the sight of God (II Corinthians 5:21). **God’s mercy and righteousness are not things that we can earn. We must ask for God’s mercy to become righteous.** God says that we can be cleansed from our sin and made new again like this white piece of paper. (*Show the children the clean piece of paper again.*) If we are going to follow after righteousness and mercy, then we first have to ask Jesus to save us and make us clean from our sin. (Romans 10:13).

**4.) God tells us to “follow after” righteousness and mercy.** To “follow after” something means to seek for it, search for it, desire it and pursue it! We need to search for God’s righteousness and mercy as if they were more important than anything else in our life! You can talk to God and say, “Please have mercy on my sin. Thank You that through Jesus I can be righteous in Your sight.”