

## Sunday Software's Kid Pix 3 Teaching Tips, Project Ideas, and Technical Notes

Thank you for purchasing Kid Pix 3 from Sunday Software. Your support allows us to build new Christian software, keep other Christian software available, provide free teaching support online and over the phone, and provide free Teaching Tips like these. This document was printed from [www.sundaysoftware.com/kidtips.htm](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/kidtips.htm)



I've been teaching with programs like Kid Pix 3 in the church since 1990. Many of the ideas here come straight from my own computer lab and those who have used creative writing and drawing programs for many years.

Occasionally, someone isn't sure how a program like KP3 "fits in" to the curriculum. With KP3, your students will be creating, relating and reflecting on Bible content. KP3 allows them to make their own multimedia presentations. They'll be giving it their own personal spin and then sharing their presentations with others. Creative writing and drawing are powerful learning tools to drive the message deep into their hearts and minds.

It's the READ ALOUD feature! This is what the kids really like about programs such as KP3. Whatever they type, the computer can read aloud. You can get creative with it too. On a Psalm 23 project several years back, we assigned each computer a different verse and then played the computers one after the other, each speaking in a different voice. In another class, we had the kids rewrite it in their own words and then run the computers one after the other. The effect was terrific and it focused everyone on writing, rather than just drawing.

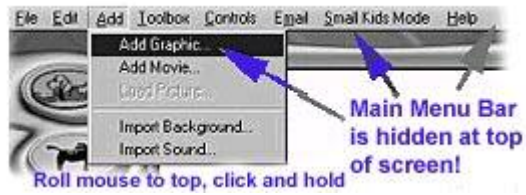
If you like the Text-to-Speech capability of Kid Pix to help your student express their thoughts, then take a close look at Sunday Software's "Let's Talk CD". In Let's Talk, students and/or teachers can create their own talking lessons, and speak aloud their responses to questions they create onscreen. They can "instant message" each other with speak aloud responses. Let's Talk is the next step beyond Kid Pix" that will especially appeal to older students.

Learn to IMPORT Bible graphics into the program. It's easy! Import photos, graphics, Bible clip art and more. There's an excellent manual on the CD if you're unfamiliar with importing graphics. Digital photos are easy to import into Kid Pix.

Editing and Pasting pictures into Kid Pix is easy. See Bildad the Bible Explorer in the picture above? That picture was actually made using TWO imported graphics: one from Footsteps of Jesus CD, and the other from Good Sam the Samaritan. I have a web page describing how I did it (simple really). [www.sundaysoftware.com/kidpixgr.htm](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/kidpixgr.htm)

Technical Help: Your Kid Pix 3 CD has a very helpful manual on it. Sunday Software has also provided some technical helps/troubleshooting at [www.sundaysoftware.com/kidpixhelp.htm](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/kidpixhelp.htm)

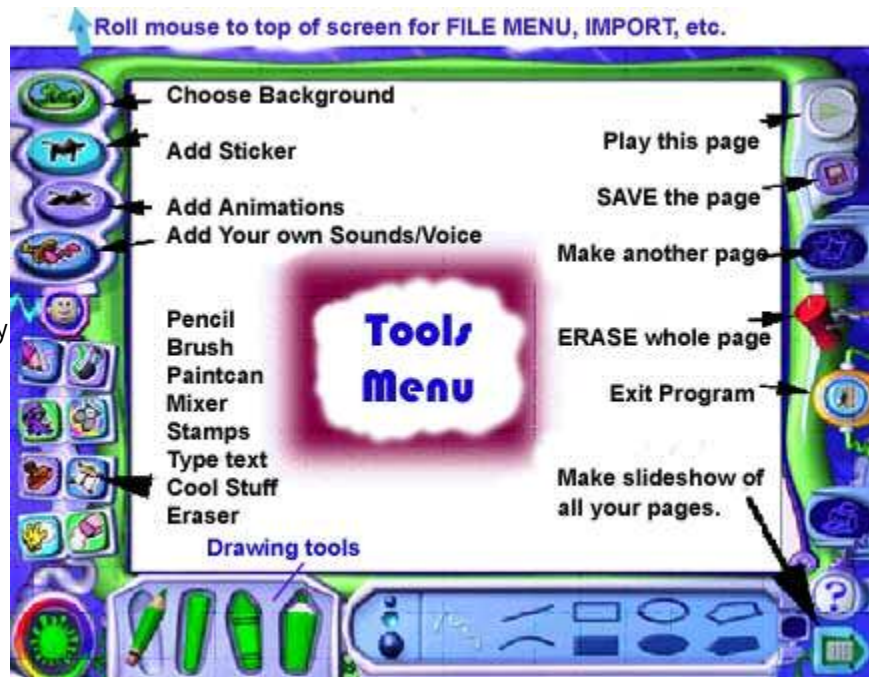
**HOT TIP** Where is the file menu on the Kid Pix screen?? They've hidden it at the top of the screen. Roll your mouse up there and click/hold to reveal a pull down menu. That's where the FILE menu is, as well as, adjustments you can make to Kid Pix's appearance, functionality, and tools. It also holds the Import menu and the all important EXIT link.



Take some time and browse/experiment with items in the toolbar. One of the most useful features there is the IMPORT backgrounds and ADD graphics options. They're easy to use. Did you know you can even import MOVIES into Kid Pix? If you have one of those inexpensive little webcams, your class can create videos for their presentations in about 10 minutes.

**The Key to Teaching with Kid Pix:** Sit right with your students as they work on their creations. Discuss ideas with them. Ask them about their work while it's in progress. Make suggestions while they are working, don't wait til the end. Computers and fun software put them in an attentive state and they'll be open to talk with you. Encourage students to work together on ideas (more on collaboration in a moment). At least HALF of your teaching opportunities will occur DURING the creative process. Don't wait til they're done! After they are done, ask them to show the class what they've created. Ask them to explain it. Ask them questions about their work. Ask them to compare their content/reflections to other presentations on other computers.

Kid Pix 3 can be used with just about any subject. Kids can rewrite Bible stories, reflect on meanings, illustrate key verses, etc. Kid Pix 3 can be used with just about any AGE group. I've enjoy kicking around with it! The tools possess sufficient complexity for older students to grab onto and yet presentations can be simple enough for younger kids to quickly create. Preschoolers and Early Readers can also use KP3, even though they don't know how to type or read. Here's an example from my class on Psalm 23: The younger children could recite the words with me in response. We identified several key words and wrote them on the board (shepherd, staff, table, house of the Lord). The kids drew each of these things and the teachers helped them type the words. They were very proud of their creations (the students, that is).



Here's an example from my class on Psalm 23: The younger children could recite the words with me in response. We identified several key words and wrote them on the board (shepherd, staff, table, house of the Lord). The kids drew each of these things and the teachers helped them type the words. They were very proud of their creations (the students, that is).

## A typical lesson plan with Kid Pix 3:

1. Bible Study and discussion of key points.
2. View Bible story or related material in a Bible story CD.
3. Open up Kid Pix to create a project that REFLECTS on what you've learned today.

There are bunches of Bible story lesson ideas and some sample lesson plans that use Kid Pix mentioned up at my website, [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com) in the Teaching Tips section.

Budget your time and printer expenses with KP3. Tell your kids exactly how long they have to create. Less time and shorter presentations will force them to think more concisely and keep them from doodling. Doodling is exactly what they will do if you do not give them specific time and content goals. Smaller projects will also take less time to print out (color inkjet printers can be slow) and cost you less color ink (which is expensive). Other time savers: Tell them which tools they can and cannot use for a certain project. Have them draw quick stick figures. Have older students there to help younger ones.

Kid Pix 3 works well in conjunction with other software too. For years, many of us have started a Bible study in another program (such as Bibleland.com or Play and Learn Children's Bible) then gone in to our writing/drawing program to reflect on what we learned in that other program. Many Christian software programs have short stories in them that don't take much class time to go through. By adding a KP3 project to the lesson plan, we spend more time at the computer (which makes the kids happy) and end up focusing on the story for a longer period of time (which makes the teachers happy). You can see examples of lesson plans that do this in the Teaching Tips section of [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com).

Sharing KP3 at a computer. The typewriter and mouse appear built for one but can easily be passed if the kids won't switch chairs. If needed, buy inexpensive keyboard and mice extension cables. A simple rubric such as shouting "switch" every two minutes will help them get in the spirit and force them to consider each other's ideas. Here are a few more collaborative pointers: Be right there with them to monitor use. Create projects that require kids to value and seek others input (such as interviewing). Split up tasks such as drawing, typing, playback. Remember, the kids like to type, but they REALLY like to doodle. Limit the doodling. Limit the number of pages to create -it will reduce the printing time, and many color printers are slow.

## Project Ideas for Kid Pix 3 ...in addition to basic recreation of a Bible story:

- I wonder how the Prodigal Son story ended? Jesus didn't say but your kids could write and illustrate it.
- How might the story have ended differently if Adam and Eve had not hidden but confessed? Write the dialogue.
- Write a modern day version of the story.
- Rewrite the story telling it from God's point of view, ....from \_\_\_\_\_'s point of view.
- Make a newsletter announcing the strange happenings at Bethlehem.
- Create a 3 frame "cartoon strip" project. Use "thought bubbles" and "dialog bubbles." Print sheets and tape together.
- Older kids create storybooks then show or give to younger classes
- Students interview each other, each typing their questions and responses about a subject, such as, what you would have done if you had been David facing Goliath, or been by the fire with Peter when the soldiers identified you.

- Create journals, prayer journals, etc. (there are journal graphics built-in to the program)
- Design "Commercials" about the church budget, a mission project, or "Elijah's miracle cures."
- Import your own pictures, and bible graphics clip art. (I recommend you load it before the kids come).
- Rotate kids to different computers each adding a thought or answer to a question or comment posed by the teacher.
- Use a digital camera to take pictures of the kids re-enacting parts of the story, import into KP3 and add "thought bubbles" over their heads. (Many digital cameras can also take short videos).

**HOT TIP** One of my favorite lesson ideas using Kid Pix is to "translate" scriptures into a "new language" using the typing and read aloud features. "Surfer Dude" language is one of my favorites. Pirate language, Baby language. Rethinking the words and their meanings in different ways creates some fun lesson moments and great discussion fodder.

You will find several more Kid Pix 3 lesson ideas associated with specific Bible stories in "Neil's Brain Dump." This a collection of story ideas located in the Teaching Tips section of [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com). Here are two such ideas from Neil's Brain Dump that mention Kid Pix 3. How would a Disciple share the Gospel to pirates on Pentecost? Hearing the results of their rephrasing is a lot of fun and it makes them think. What would the "Call of the Disciples" sound like if Jesus had found them building a house instead of fishing? "Come with me and I will make you \_\_\_\_\_ of men." There's even a lesson plan idea for creating a "magic eye" puzzle in Kid Pix. Check out the Brain Dump at our website.



Don't let the "slideshow" title in the program trap you into thinking "we can just create picture slides." You don't have to use the slideshow feature. KP3 can be used to create booklets, cards, posters, letters, etc. There are many templates in the Backgrounds section.

MOST of the time, students will start their project by selecting a Background. Click the BACKGROUND icon (seen above) and then scroll through the list of Background categories. Kid Pix also has tons of nature/outdoor backgrounds and animated pictures, but it also has many other categories. Here are some you'll find that are of particular use in Sunday School: A Scroll –found in Mystery backgrounds. Family Trees and Photo borders -found in family Holidays- including card templates Maps –outlines of countries including Israel My Journal, Nature, Self Portrait, Thank You templates, Thankfulness, Travelogue, Pictures of the World, Countries, Flags.

### Other Hot Tips about Kid Pix 3:

- When you're in the Slideshow screen, click the icons underneath each frame. One allows you to select which file to play as that slide. The other allows you to make changes to the SLIDE TRANSITIONS. It's very useful for slowing down the presentation, allowing animations to run smoothly before changing slides, etc.
- The default slideshow setting for each slide is 7 seconds. If your typed text takes longer than 7 seconds to read, it will cut it off and switch to the next slide. To MODIFY this setting, click the Movie Camera Icon in the Slideshow screen. This will reveal the phrase "7 seconds" below each slide you have put in the slideshow. Click on that phrase and a

Options Box will appear. You can change the duration of each slide, or you can select "Read Text Done" so that the slide won't change until all the text is read on it. A graphic of this screen is provided below.

- Don't use the paintcan tool with imported graphics. The paintcan fills areas with color and often "breaks out" of the boundaries of imported graphics. In order for it to stay within a bounded area, the area must have an unbroken circle of color around it. A lot of hand-drawn graphics have broken lines/boundaries which allow the paintcan to "leak" across the page.
- Teach your older students how use all the features in Kid Pix 3. They make excellent teaching and program assistants.
- Younger students who can't read CAN type simple words -if you show them the word. And remember, Kid Pix reads the words aloud.
- Teach students to make pages rather quickly and focus on content.
- Hold a "training day" for your teachers to learn how to use Kid Pix 3. Have some students there to help them ;-)
- If you press your printscreen key on your keyboard in most programs you are using, Windows saves that screenshot to the invisible Windows clipboard. Open up a new page in Kid Pix and go to the EDIT menu (on top toolbar) and click paste....and there's your screen. You can crop it from there and fuss with it.
- Kid Pix 3 can install entirely on your harddrive and you can put the CD away for safe keeping. Please remember, however, that you cannot use the CD to create multiple copies of Kid Pix on other computers. That is stealing. If you're going to do that... quit teaching kids.
- Access the File taskbar at the top of the screen and change the voices and text appearance for Kid Pix.
- Access the File taskbar to teach Kid Pix how to say words like "Gethsemane."
- PRINT in Economy or DRAFT MODE to save color ink. When you select Print in Kid Pix 3, a printer dialog box should appear, open up it's "properties" selection and look for the controls which change color vs. b/w and full ink mode vs draft mode. With many printers "draft mode" is all you need to create projects good enough.



If you type a lot of text in each illustration you will need to change the default time a slide is display so all the text can be heard.

**TECHNICAL NOTES:**

We have link to a technical page for Kid Pix 3 located at [www.sundaysoftware.com/support](http://www.sundaysoftware.com/support)

**HOT TIP** If you get a "Can't find JPEG compressor" error message while trying to save or print your Kid Pix picture, do this: Reinstall Quicktime from the Kid Pix CD selecting the "Recommended" installation, rather than "Minimum." Quicktime is located on the Kid Pix CD.

**How to Delete Users from the Kid Pix Menu**  
TYPE this password in the Log-in Screen



Kid Pix 3 Teaching Tips Copyright 2003-05 Sunday Software and Neil MacQueen. These may not be distributed beyond local classroom/teacher use. Printed from [www.sundaysoftware.com](http://www.sundaysoftware.com)