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Train & Multiply™

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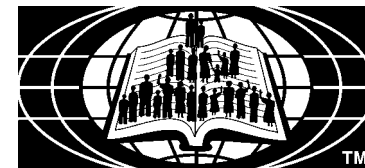
Let the Children Come to Me



Pastoral Leader Training Booklet

51

Train & Multiply™



T&M™

An obedient church prepares parents and other church members to instruct the children. Ask the Lord to help you implement the following ways of teaching children.

MOBILIZE PARENTS AND FRIENDS TO INSTRUCT THE CHILDREN

Many children stop coming to our church when they become adolescents. We didn't make them active disciples who love Jesus, but merely "hearers" of the Word. What should I do?



Listen, brother. Establishing children in the faith is the parents' responsibility. You can give the parents lists of Bible stories to tell their children. Help them to have family prayers. (See the Pastoral Training Booklet Number 6 "Family Prayers.")

Order of Presentation:

- 1. _____ (minutes)
- 2. _____ (minutes)
- 3. _____ (minutes)
- 4. _____ (minutes)
- 5. _____ (minutes)
- 6. _____ (minutes)
- 7. _____ (minutes)

Present: _____ Late: _____ Offering: _____

Underline how well you achieved the specific objective:
poorly — fairly — satisfactorily — very well — perfectly

Concerns, things to improve at the next meeting:

EXAMPLE: PLAN FOR A CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASS

Date: _____ Group: _____ Teacher: _____

Assistant disciplers who will help: _____

General Objective:

Time: _____ Place: _____

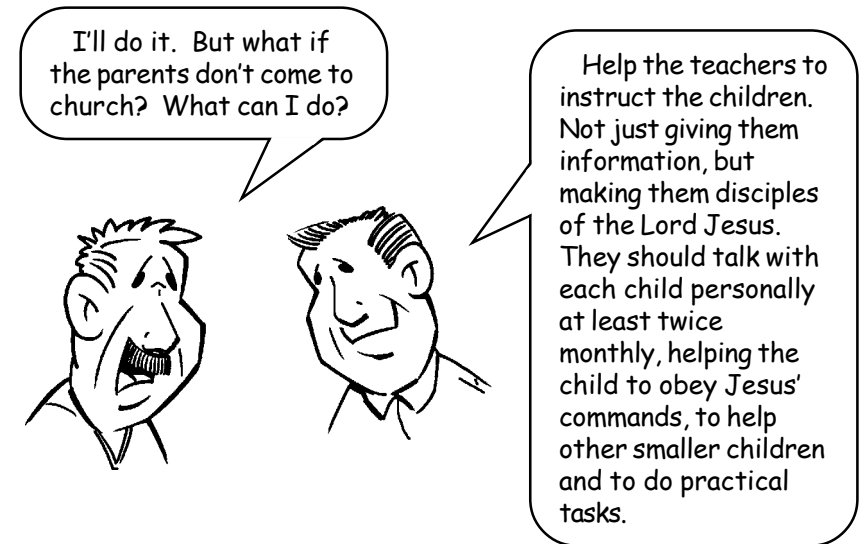
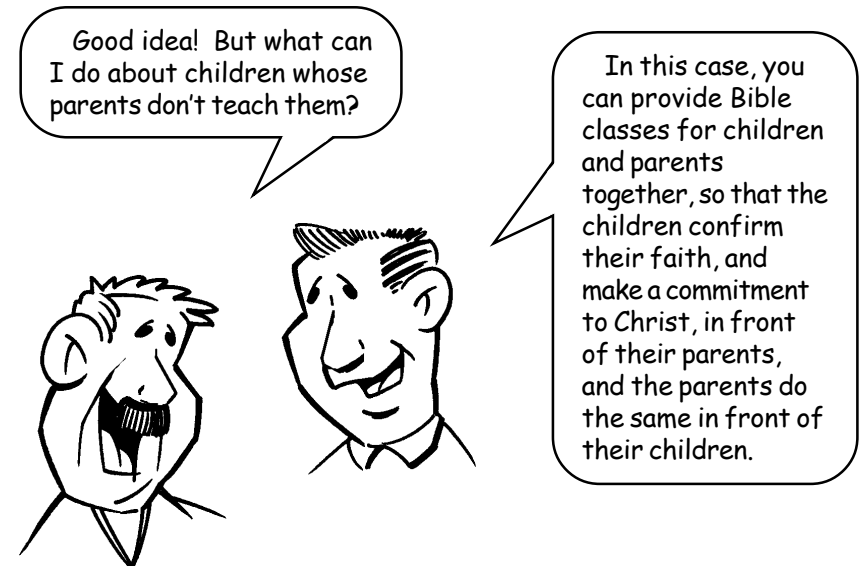
Specific Objective: _____

Biblical Text(s): _____

Contents:

Methods:

Material:





Notice the wise advice given above for a good Bible teaching program:

- ☐ Help parents to instruct their children in God's Word.
- ☐ Get the more capable children to serve, (as teacher's assistants), in the ministry of teaching and discipling other younger children.
- ☐ Help children and parents to carry out practical tasks that apply God's Word to their lives.
- ☐ Give parents lists of Bible stories to tell their children at home. You can find a list of appropriate stories at the end of this study.

Review these suggestions, and mark the ones you plan to develop more.

- Jesus' baptism: Matthew 3
- Jesus' temptation: Matthew 4:1-11
- Jesus' calls His disciples: Matthew 4:18-22, 9:9-13, Mark 3:13-19, John 1:35-51
- Jesus' transfiguration: Matthew 17
- The triumphal entry into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-17
- Institution of the Lord's Supper: Matthew 26:17-29
- Jesus' agony in Gethsemane: Matthew 26:36-56
- Jesus' trial: Mark 14:55-65, John 18:28-40, 19:1-16
- The crucifixion: John 19:17-37
- The burial: John 19:38-42
- The resurrection: John 20-21
- The ascension: Luke 24:50-53
- The coming of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2

- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem: Luke 13:31-35, 19:41-44, 21:5-7, 20-24
- Daniel in the lions' den: Daniel 6
Trust God to deliver us from the devil.
- Deliverance of the demon-possessed man in the region of the Gerasenes: Mark 5:1-20
- Jonah is swallowed by the great fish: Jonah 1-2
Trust in God's power to raise from the dead.
- The Pharisees demand miraculous signs: Matthew 12:38-40
- Thomas recognizes Jesus, after His resurrection: John 20:24-29

STORIES FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

(Some stories from the four Gospels and Acts are listed above, combined with stories on corresponding themes from the Old Testament.)

Important events in the New Testament are:

- The birth of Jesus: Matthew 1-2, Luke 2

Why worry about the children?

Christian parents pray for their children, claiming the promise, *"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your family"* (Acts 16:31) All children inherit a corrupt nature from Adam: *"...sin came into the world through one man, and his sin brought death with it. As a result, death spread to the whole human race, because all men sinned... So then, as the one sin condemned all men, in the same way the one righteous act sets all men free and gives them life."* (Romans 5:12,18)



So we see that every child is a sinner by nature, and does wrong things. *"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."* (Romans 3:23) This is why we teach every child to confess his sin, sincerely repent and put his faith in Jesus Christ.

Which children need to be saved by Jesus Christ?

- ☐ Those badly raised in non-Christian homes.
- ☐ All of them.

“There is no one who is righteous, no one who understands, or seeks for God. All men have turned from God; they have all gone wrong; no one does what is good, not even one.”

“Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

(Romans 3:10-12, 20)



Normally, a child receives Jesus Christ into his heart, and perseveres in the faith, when a friend or relative evangelizes him and disciples him.

To evangelize a child, the most important thing is:

- ☐ to buy expensive materials for evangelism.
- ☐ to provide well-illustrated Sunday school materials for the teachers.
- ☐ that parents or friends bring them up in the faith.

- Jeremiah and the broken water pot: Jeremiah 19
Avoid all hypocrisy.
- Those who say they see are blind: John 9
- Jeremiah’s message is rejected: Jeremiah 36-39
Teach the truth, whatever the cost.
- Paul’s message is rejected: Acts 21-26
- The dry bones: Ezekiel 37
The Holy Spirit gives new life in Christ.
- Jesus is criticized for raising the paralyzed man on the day of rest; He promises that He will raise even the dead: John 5:1-29
- The three young men in the burning, fiery furnace: Daniel 3
Always ask for God’s protection.
- Enemies swear not to eat until they have killed Paul: Acts 23:12-33
- The writing on the wall: Daniel 5
Be prepared for the day of judgment.

- Jesus accepts His Father's will, in Gethsemane:
Matthew 26:36-46
- God calls Isaiah to preach: Isaiah 6
Obey God when He calls.
- Jesus commanded His disciples to make disciples of all nations
of the world: Matthew 28:16-20
- The risen Christ commands Peter to feed His sheep:
John 21:15-22
- Sennacherib invades Judah: Isaiah 36-37
Trust that God will be with us in all danger.
- God protects Paul and Silas in Philippi: Acts 16:16-40
- The risen Christ promises salvation to all those who believe in
Him: Luke 24:36-49
- Healing and pride in King Hezekiah: Isaiah 38-39
Trust in God, not in riches.
- The rich fool: Luke 12:13-34

The best way for children to know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ is through their own parents or friends taking on the responsibility, not just relying on a teacher, who is in charge of many children.

My neighbor's unruly children do not go to church. I'll invite them to my house for a snack. I'll tell them stories of David, Daniel and the Lord Jesus Christ, together with my own children.



My niece Charlotte has no one who cares about her spiritual life. I'll pray for her. On Sunday, I'll ask the whole family to come to church with us. If they won't, I'll ask my sister to let Charlotte come to church with my children.

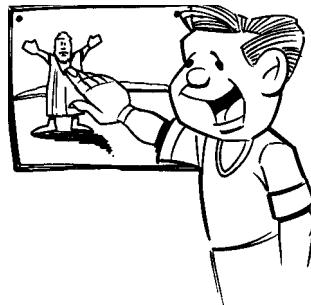


Write down the names of neighbors' children, who need to know Christ:

Please pray for them, constantly.

Who could take on the responsibility for them? Which church members could tell Bible stories to their own, and other children, at home? Write down their names, to ask them:

Who could prepare visual aids, pictures, puppets, and light refreshments to help the children's teacher? (Children learn much better when they have something to look at, rather than just listening.) Write down their names:



Stories of the time of the exile and restoration, with related stories from the New Testament, and their applications:

STORIES

- Nehemiah rebuilds Jerusalem: Nehemiah 1-4
- The lost sheep: Luke 15:1-7
Ask God to restore the fallen.
- God saves His people through Esther: The whole book of Esther
Acknowledge that our Holy God will justly judge all men.
- The Good Shepherd promises to keep His people for all eternity: John 10:1-30
- Job accepts his sufferings with faith: Job (the book of Job is one story; it can be gone over mentioning the principal parts of chapters 1-4, and portions of dialogue such as Job 6:1-4, 8:1-8, 9:1-4, 11:1-6, 12:1-3, 19:1-6, 25-27, 38:1-7, 40:1-9, 42) Accept such suffering as God permits.

- Saul is converted on the road to Damascus: Acts 9
- Reforms of Josiah, the boy king: 2 Kings 22-23
Discern who are false Christians.
- The wedding feast: Matthew 22:1-14
- The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon: 2 Chronicles 9
Recognize God's blessings.
- Ten young women with lamps: Matthew 25:1-13
- Micaiah predicts the fall of Ahab: 2 Chronicles 18
Use the abilities and talents God has given us, for His glory.
- The parable of the talents (money): Matthew 25:14-30
- The fall of Jerusalem: 2 Kings 25
Obey God, who judges the nations.
- The judgment of the nations: Matthew 25:31-46

EVANGELIZING CHILDREN EFFECTIVELY

The child who follows Jesus Christ has normally experienced the following:

- Some relative or friend has loved and raised him with Christian discipline and example.
- He has helped to disciple other younger children.
- He has felt love, understanding and support in the church.
- He has been to services or classes in church, and has heard teaching he could understand.
- He has received Christ and been baptized.
- He has been discipled so that he obeys Jesus' commands (e.g. to repent, believe, be baptized, love, share in the Lord's Supper, pray, feed on God's Word, give, and make disciples of others).
- He has memorized portions or verses from God's Word.

In the following list, underline nine things that most help a child to know and follow the Lord Jesus Christ:

- a. Someone prays regularly for him.
- b. His parents teach him and set a good example.
- c. He memorizes key verses of Scripture.
- d. He has a teacher with a diploma.
- e. He learns to pray, give, and share in the Lord's Supper.
- f. He disciples other, younger children.
- g. He attends meetings in a large, well-ventilated hall.
- h. Someone loves him, and meets with him weekly, or at least every two weeks, to disciple him.
- i. He feels love, when he goes to church.
- j. He memorizes the names of all biblical kings.

- Elymas is punished with blindness: Acts 13:4-12
- Elijah goes up to heaven; Elisha succeeds him: 2 Kings 2
Meditate on heavenly things.
- Jesus ascends to heaven in a cloud: Acts 1:1-11
- Elisha and the miracle of the water: 2 Kings 3
Praise God for His supernatural power.
- Jesus Christ walks on water: Matthew 14:22-33
- Elisha and the miracle of the oil: 2 Kings 4:1-7
Ask God to help and heal us.
- Jesus Christ heals Bartimeus the blind man: Mark 10:46-53
- Elisha and the Shunnamite woman: 2 Kings 4:8-37
Trust in God's restoring power.
- Peter and Dorcas: Acts 9:36-43
- Naaman is healed of his leprosy: 2 Kings 5
Allow God to transform your heart.

**Bible stories of the time of the divided kingdom,
with related stories from the New Testament, and
their applications:**

STORIES

- Through the king's avarice, the kingdom is divided: 1 Kings 12
Beware of the dangers of riches.
- The rich young man leaves Jesus: Matthew 19:16-30
- Elijah and the prophets of Baal: 1 Kings 18
Keep away from false religion.
- Jesus warns of the leaven of the Pharisees: Mark 8:14-21
(Compare Mark 11:15-19)
- Elijah provides for the widow at Zarephath: 1 Kings 17
Love your neighbor as yourself.
- The love shown by the Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37
- God burns the rebels: 2 Kings 1
Respect and obey with great care the Supreme Judge.

- k. He understands what he is taught, and puts it into practice in his life.
- l. He has repented and received forgiveness in Christ, and has been baptized.

Answer: You should have underlined all of the above except the items about the diploma, the ventilation and memorizing kings.

Before God, who is primarily responsible for evangelizing children?
(See Ephesians 6:4)

- ☐ The church.
- ☐ The parents.

Parents should lead their children to Christ and raise them in the faith.
(See Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Joshua 24:15.) Nevertheless, some parents do not do this, and the church must help them to fulfill their responsibility. If they still fall short, the church takes on the responsibility, and does it for them.

Listening to Bible stories about Jesus Christ, children get to know Him for themselves. Parents and teachers help the children to give their lives to the Lord. For this purpose, we personally help each parent and teacher to:

1. Ask God the Holy Spirit to convict the child of sin, and show him the value of death and the resurrection of Jesus for his family and himself.
2. Show the child why he needs to be saved (because of his sin: Romans 3:23, Revelation 21:27).
3. Tell Bible stories so that every child knows Jesus Christ as a person. They learn of His birth, compassionate miracles, His love for children, and His hatred of all sin.
4. Tell the stories of Jesus' arrest, trial, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension to glory. A true believer witnesses to Christ's resurrection. (Romans 10:9-10)
5. Help the children to pray, and give their lives to the Lord.

- A father forgives his son: Luke 15:11-32
- Saul consults a witch: 1 Samuel 28
Keep away from all occult activity and contacts.
- Books of witchcraft are burnt: Acts 19:17-20
- King David moves the Ark of God to Jerusalem: 2 Samuel 6-7
Receive and obey Jesus as King.
- Jesus enters Jerusalem as King: Luke 19:28-44
- David is gracious to Mephibosheth: 2 Samuel 9
Gratitude for God's unmerited grace to us.
- The workers' wages: Matthew 20:1-16
- Absalom rebels against David: 2 Samuel 15-19
Remain faithful to the only King.
- The wicked laborers: Matthew 21:33-46
- King Solomon asks for wisdom: 1 Kings 3-4
Seek true wisdom.
- Jesus is the way and the truth: John 14:1-10

- The rich man and Lazarus: Luke 16:19-31
- God chooses David as king: 1 Samuel 16
Do not judge by appearances.
- The weeds among the wheat: Matthew 13:24-43
- David defeats Goliath: 1 Samuel 17
Trust that God defeats the enemy.
- Jesus triumphs over the devil, in His resurrection:
Luke 24:36-53
- David escapes from Saul: 1 Samuel 18-19
Trust in God's protection.
- Jesus escapes from Nazareth: Luke 4:16-30
- Jonathan helps David to escape: 1 Samuel 19:1-5 and 20
Help all your friends to be saved.
- Jesus offers salvation to the Samaritan woman: John 4
- David spares Saul's life: 1 Samuel 24
Forgive even your enemies.

DISCIPLE THE CHILDREN

As soon as a child has repented of his sin and believes in Jesus Christ, he must begin to learn to obey the Lord Jesus Christ's other commands. We help his parents or someone else to do this. If the parents fail in this aspect, a responsible and loving young person or older child can disciple him.

He is taught to:

- Pray daily.
- Be baptized (if this has not already occurred).
- Give what he can as offerings (if he has no money, let him know that he can offer to help in some task such as cleaning up).
- Share in the Lord's Supper, confessing to God any wrong he has done, and enjoying the presence of Christ in loving fellowship with other Christians.
- Read the Bible and apply it to his life.

Suggestions for all those who disciple children:

- Be responsible for each child's spiritual growth.
- Establish a friendship with each child.
- Talk with each child personally every week or two weeks, to ask how things are going and help him obey the Lord's commands.
- Take part with others in Christian service and leisure.
- Share their personal testimonies and experiences as Christians.
- Spend time together, in class and during the week.
- Help each child to pray and live the Christian life.
- Help each child with any problems.

A child may well attend adult services. But he also needs another meeting, at a level suitable for his age. These children's meetings can be held in a home, or in the normal meeting place, any day of the week.

- A foreign woman asks Jesus, in faith, to heal her daughter: Matthew 15:21-28
- The Lord calls Samuel: 1 Samuel 3
Obedience when God's Spirit calls us.
- The Spirit of Jesus guides Paul: Acts 16:6-15
- The Ark of God is captured: 1 Samuel 4:1-10
Realize what Jesus suffered for us.
- Jesus is handed over to wicked men: Mark 14:43-65, Mark 15:1-32
- Israel wants a king; Samuel anoints Saul: 1 Samuel 8-12
Follow Jesus, our Lord and King.
- Peter declares that Jesus is the Messiah: Matthew 16:13-20
- Jonathan fights bravely: 1 Samuel 14
Facing up to God's enemies.
- Stephen's courage: Acts 6:8-15 and 7
- King Saul rejected: 1 Samuel 14:24-52 and 15
Fear Him who knows our hearts: God.

- Jephthah saves Israel, and loses his daughter: Judges 11
Be very careful what you promise.
- Peter promises to follow Jesus, then denies Him:
Matthew 26:31-75
- Samson frees the people, and dies in the attempt: Judges 13-16
Believe in God's power to save.
- Jesus dies, and rises from the dead to save us: Mark 15-16
- Boaz redeems Ruth's inheritance: the Book of Ruth
- The redeeming death of Jesus: Matthew 27:32-66

Stories of the time of the united kingdom (Saul, David and Solomon), with related New Testament stories, and their applications:

STORIES

- Hannah prays for a child: 1 Samuel 1 and 2:1-11
Make prayer requests to God with a pure heart.

FIND GOOD TEACHERS FOR THE CHILDREN

For children, find teachers who know how to adapt their style and vocabulary to the mental age of their pupils. Use this Booklet to instruct them.

The church prays for parents and their teachers, that they may be good examples and guide the children in the Lord's ways.



The church elders must approve of the teachers, who must believe sincerely in Christ as their Savior and Lord, be baptized, obey the Lord in everything, and be a good example to their students in their lives.



We must apply biblical teaching to our own lives.
"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."
(Romans 10:17)

A wise teacher is also a discipler (or finds a helper who is). He prays for the children individually and specifically. He visits them to get to know their needs, and deals with these biblically. He shows them the love of Christ through his life, his smile, and his friendship with his students and other workers. The Holy Spirit uses the gift of teaching only where there is love for the students. Why? (1 Corinthians 13:1)

A small child forgets much of what we teach him. But our love remains engraved on his heart, through the Holy Spirit. A new teacher can start without pupils. He finds his own.

Each teacher should name assistants who disciple the children.

Some older children can act as teacher's aides. They meet with the teacher beforehand, to prepare the lesson. They can teach parts of the lesson, and help other children with their assignments, as well as disciple younger children.

- Joshua is tricked by the deceiving Gibeonites: Joshua 9
Keep your promises, but be careful to whom you make them.
- Peter and John witness bravely: Acts 3-4
- The sun stands still, and the Amorites are defeated: Joshua 10
Ask God to act on our behalf.
- Paul's faith saves the shipwrecked seamen: Acts 27
- Ehud frees Israel from Moab: Judges 3
We must turn from all idolatry, and receive God's Word.
- The sower: Matthew 13:1-23
- Deborah frees Israel: Judges 4-5
Do everything for God's glory.
- The woman anoints Jesus with perfume: Matthew 26:6-13
- Gideon liberates Israel: Judges 6-7
Trust in God, not in man.
- Jesus heals the young demoniac: Matthew 17:14-21

- Jesus, risen from the dead, commands us to make disciples of all nations: Matthew 28
- Rahab protects the spies: Joshua 2 and 6:24-25
Act in simple faith.
- Through the faith of the paralytic and his friends, Jesus forgives the sick man's sins and heals him: Mark 2:1-12
- The crossing of the river Jordan: Joshua 3 and 4
Follow Jesus Christ with all your heart.
- Jesus is baptized in the river Jordan: Matthew 3, Romans 6:1-9
- The capture of Jericho: Joshua 5:13-15 and 6
Face difficulties with faith.
- Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead: John 11
- All are affected by one person's sin: Joshua 7
Confess all sin to God, and turn from it.
- Ananias and Sapphira die because of their sin: Acts 5:1-11

PRINCIPLES TO FOLLOW IN TEACHING CHILDREN

Remember: parents, as well as teachers and their assistant disciplers, should follow the majority of these principles.

First Principle TEACH WITH A PURPOSE

We find out the student's needs. A teacher can only teach well when he knows his student's needs.

The main purpose of all Christian teaching is to help the student to love and obey God. We set these goals for each child:

- First, that he repent of his sins, and receive Christ as Lord.
- Second, that he obey Christ's commands. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- Third, that he know and apply the Bible to his life.
- Fourth, that he trust the Holy Spirit to help him grow and mature in his faith.

As well as these general goals for teaching, each lesson also has its specific goal. This depends on the children's needs. Make copies of the list of Bible stories for each teacher. Each child receives personal help for any specific needs, from the teacher's assistant disciplers.

Common Needs of Children

The need	A child has no friends.
How to identify it	The child remains by himself, or comes for the first time.
How to deal with it	An assistant discipler speaks to the child, and introduces him to other children. The teacher asks these to welcome him into the group.

The need	Many children are selfish.
How to identify it	They do not cooperate, they fight, or their parents have to correct them continually.
How to deal with it	Teach the whole class Bible stories about love (Ruth, the friendship between David and

- James and John ask for preferential treatment: Matthew 20:20-28
- The bronze serpent: Numbers 21:4-9
Trust Jesus for salvation.
- Jesus speaks to Nicodemus: John 3
- Balaam's ass speaks: Numbers 22
Recognize God's voice.
- Jesus is accused of having demonic power: Matthew 12:22-45
- Balaam blesses Israel: Numbers 23-24
Acknowledge and bless God's people.
- Peter acknowledges Gentiles as brothers in the Lord: Acts 10

Stories from the times of Joshua and Judges, and the New Testament, with their applications:

STORIES

- God commands us to be courageous and go on to victory: Joshua 1
Courageously make disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Nadab and Abihu die before the Lord: Leviticus 10
- Jesus purifies the temple: John 2:13-22
Be reverent before Him.
- God provides quail to eat: Numbers 11
Being content with what God gives us.

- Jesus feeds the four thousand: Matthew 15:32-39
- Miriam and Aaron criticize their brother Moses: Numbers 12
Respect for our pastors.
- Herod persecutes the apostles: Acts 12
- The spies return from the Promised Land, in fear:
Numbers 13-14
Obedience to God, even when others fear.
- Paul and Barnabas plant churches, in spite of persecution:
Acts 13-14
- The earth swallows up the rebels: Numbers 16
Maintain humility, unity and love among the believers.

Jonathan, David and Mephibosheth, etc.), ask and plan what each child will do to show love to their relatives, at school, and to their friends. When a child is putting this into practice, an assistant registers this on the Discipleship List List that follows this section.

The need

Some children do not yet know Jesus.

How to identify it

A parent, relative, friend or assistant teacher speaks to each child about his or her faith, and also to the parents.

How to deal with it

If only one or two have this need, an assistant teacher evangelizes them and their relatives, in their homes. When a child comes to know Christ, the fact is registered in the Discipleship List. If many have this need, the subject is presented to the whole class. Bible stories about Jesus are told. Then each child is spoken to personally, and their parents, too. The subject of salvation in Christ is dealt with at least twice a year.

The need	Several older children are not yet baptized.
How to identify it	An assistant teacher asks the child or his parents if he is baptized.
How to deal with it	Bible stories about baptism are told, and discussed. The assistant teachers arrange with the parents for baptism. When this has been done, it is registered in the Discipleship List.

The need	A baptized child does not yet take part in the Lord's Supper.
How to identify it	The child or his parents are asked if he participates in the Lord's Supper.
How to deal with it	Accounts of the Passover Lamb are read (and of the exodus from Egypt) and also of the institution of the Lord's Supper. Arrangements are made for the children to accompany their parents at the Lord's Supper. This is registered in the Discipleship List.

- Jesus feeds five thousand people: John 6
- God gives water from the rock: Exodus 17, Numbers 20
Thank God for life.
- Jesus is the Bread of life: John 6
Give thanks for eternal life.
- Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper: Luke 22
- Preparation for receiving the Law: Exodus 19
Above all else, obey God for love of Him.
- Jesus prepares Israel to receive His Kingdom: Matthew 10
- God gives the Ten Commandments: Exodus 20, 24
Obey all God's commands.
- The house built on the rock: Matthew 7:24-29
- The golden calf is made: Exodus 32
Keep from all idolatry and wickedness.
- The great, final judgment: Revelation 20:11-15, 21:7-8

- The ten plagues: Exodus 7-11
- Jesus' first miracle: John 2:1-12
Fear and obey the Lord.
- The blood on the doorposts: Exodus 12
- Jesus' crucifixion: Mark 15, John 1:29
Trust in the Lamb of God.
- Jesus' resurrection: Matthew 28
- The pillar of cloud and of fire: Exodus 13:20-22
Following the leading of God's Spirit.
- Jesus calls Levi: Mark 2:13-17
- The Israelites cross the Red Sea: Exodus 14
Ask for God's protection.
- Jesus calms the sea: Matthew 8:23-27
- God provides manna in the desert: Exodus 16
Trust in God's provision.

The need	Several children do not know basic doctrine.
How to identify it	At regular intervals ask all the pupils about basic doctrines.
How to deal with it	Portions of the Old and New Testaments that relate to doctrine are read. The children may take part in a drama that relates Bible history. The doctrine is applied to the children's lives. When a child has carried out the practical task assigned (memorized a verse, etc.), this is registered in the Discipleship List.

In the following list of Discipleship goals, the child's level of comprehension, and what he can share with others, depends on his mental age and spiritual development. We hope that year-by-year he will grow in the love and knowledge of the Lord.

Discipleship List and Goals

Make a copy of the following list of goals for each child. Mark them when the child has achieved them.

Child's Name: _____

- ☐ Has received Christ as his Lord and Savior.
- ☐ Acknowledges any current sins before God and turns from them.
- ☐ Has been baptized.
- ☐ Shares in the Lord's Supper.
- ☐ Prays daily.
- ☐ Shows love at home.
- ☐ Shows love to his friends.
- ☐ Has memorized key Bible verses.
- ☐ Gives offerings.
- ☐ Witnesses to Christ.
- ☐ Helps to disciple younger children.
- ☐ Can tell of Jesus' birth.
- ☐ Can tell of Jesus' temptation.
- ☐ Can tell of Jesus' miracles.
- ☐ Can tell of Jesus' death.
- ☐ Can tell of Jesus' resurrection.
- ☐ Fulfills his social duties.
- ☐ Has a ministry in the church.

Knows of, and can share about:

- ☐ Jesus' humanity.
- ☐ Jesus' deity.
- ☐ Jesus' ascension.
- ☐ The coming of the Spirit.
- ☐ The work of the Spirit.
- ☐ The Trinity.
- ☐ What the Church is.
- ☐ The origin of sin.

- Paul's sufferings: Acts 21:27-40, Acts 22-23, 2 Corinthians 11:21-33
- The princess saves the child: Exodus 2:1-10
Trust that God will care for us during trials.
- Jesus heals a leper: Matthew 8:1-4
- Moses flees from Egypt: Exodus 2:11-15
Controlling our emotions.
- Jesus reproves John and James for their vengeful spirit: Luke 9:51-56
- God calls Moses, from the burning bush: Exodus 3-4
Being reverent before God.
- Jesus' transfiguration: Matthew 17
- Moses and Pharaoh: Exodus 5; 6:28-7:13
Seek justice, courageously.
- The death of John the Baptist: Mark 6

- Joseph interprets two dreams: Genesis 40
Trust in God's salvation.
- Jesus, resurrected, appears to Mary Magdalene: John 20:1-18
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh's Dreams: Genesis 41
Trust God to give us wisdom.
- The miraculous catch of fishes: Luke 5:1-11
- Joseph rescues his brothers: Genesis 42-47
Forgiving those who have done us harm.
- The servant who would not forgive: Matthew 18:23-35

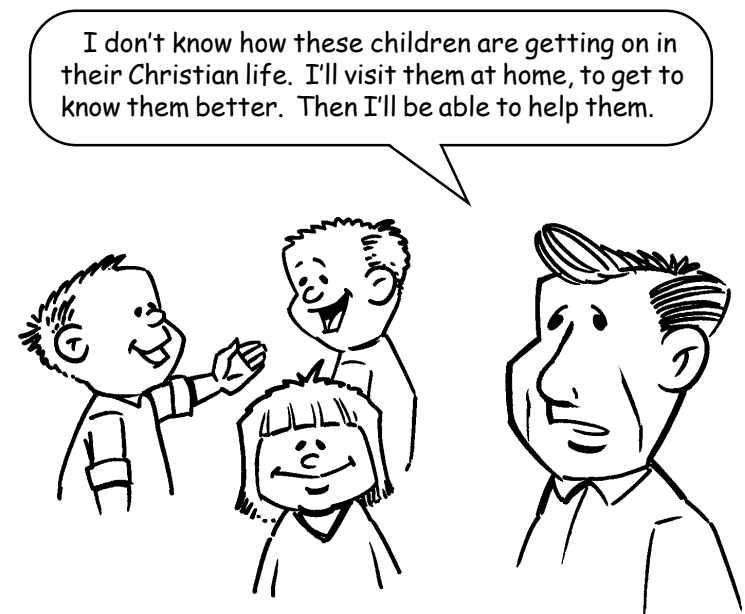
Bible stories about Moses, with related New Testament stories and their applications:

STORIES

- The Israelites suffer in Egypt: Exodus 1
Undergoing suffering with faith.

The teacher always finds out which is the next step a child must take, and registers the progress of each pupil on the Discipleship List. Using this list, he can measure the progress of each one in his practical work, and know if the student is obeying Jesus' commands, and what he still needs to do. In this way the teaching that each student needs can be prepared.

Note: For those who teach older classes, you can copy the Discipleship Goals in Pastoral Training Booklet number 61 "Your Church's Teaching Program."



We teach the child according to his need. If the child is already a baptized believer, it is not helpful just to repeat the first doctrines of salvation. What should we help him do? Look for your answer in Hebrews 6:1-2 and Matthew 28:18-20.

If a student is not yet a believer, or is new in the faith, we do not force him to study what he cannot yet understand. Why not?

We teach unbelievers about the Gospel. (The love and holiness of the only God, who punishes all sin, the death and resurrection of Christ, and eternal forgiveness for all who receive Him as Savior.)

A child, like any adult, understands spiritual things only when he comes to know Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord. Why? (See 1 Corinthians 2:9-16.)

A study is edifying for the children when we apply it to their needs, whatever they are.

- Jacob works 14 years to get Rachel as his wife: Genesis 29
Perseverance in obeying God's will.
- Paul perseveres as a missionary: Acts 14
- Jacob is reconciled with Esau: Genesis 32-33
Being reconciled with those we have offended.
- Sinners are reconciled to God (John's baptism): Matthew 3
Reconciliation with God, whom we have offended.
- Jacob wrestles with an angel: Genesis 32:22-32
Persevere in prayer to God.
- The widow and the unjust judge: Luke 18:1-8
- Joseph sold by his brothers: Genesis 37
Turning away from all envy and avarice.
- Judas sells Jesus for money: Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50,
Matthew 27:3-10
- Joseph resists evil enticement by Potiphar's wife: Genesis 39
Keeping away from all immorality.
- Things that defile: Matthew 15:1-20

- Jesus accepts His Father's will, to give His life for us, then He is crucified: Matthew 26:36-46, John 19:17-27
- Seeking a wife for Isaac: Genesis 24
Letting God guide us in our lives.
- The fishermen follow Jesus: Matthew 4:18-22
- Esau sells his rights as eldest son: Genesis 25:14
Being thankful for our heavenly inheritance.
- The wise men seek God's Son: Matthew 2
- Isaac blesses Jacob and Esau: Genesis 27
Seeking God's blessing.
- Jesus heals the woman who touches His garment:
Matthew 9:18-26
- Jacob sees the ladder reaching up to heaven: Genesis 28
Pray in faith, knowing God is with us.
- The tax-collector prays: Luke 18:9-14

Second Principle

PREPARE IN GOOD TIME

We prepare, to be able to help the child himself deal with his problems and needs.



The wise teacher begins this preparation at least a week beforehand. To leave things to the last minute is to scorn the Scriptures and the students. The Lord requires that teachers prepare well. (1 Timothy 4:13, 2 Timothy 2:15) Pray first. Read the appropriate Bible passages carefully. Apply the Word to the student's needs.

The teacher chooses the best way to present the theme, e.g. tell a story, ask questions, lead a discussion, go for a walk. To comment on things that can be seen outside, use visual aids such as:

- pictures,
- blackboard,
- objects to illustrate teaching,
- short dramas,
- flannel graph,
- illustrated poetry,
- games,
- mime,
- etc.

Important: We remember about 10% of what we hear, 50% of what we see, and 80% of what we do.

When should the teacher begin to prepare the class study?

Encourage teachers to begin preparing at least a week beforehand.
Pray for each student and his needs.

- God's promise to Abraham: Genesis 15
Living by faith in God.
- Jesus heals two blind men: Matthew 9:27-31
- The risen Christ reveals Himself in Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35
- The Lord promises Abraham a son: Genesis 18
Come to God's Word with faith.
- God promises Mary a son: Luke 1:26-56
- Abraham intercedes for Sodom: Genesis 18:16-33
Pray for the lost.
- The Good Shepherd seeks the lost sheep: Luke 15:1-7,
Jesus prays for His own: John 17
- Birth of the promised son: Genesis 21
Belief in God's promises.
- The birth of Jesus: Matthew 1
- God tests Abraham's faith: Genesis 22
Obedience to God above all else.

- Noah and the ark: Genesis 6-9
We should repent of our sin.
- The Prodigal Son: Luke 15
Repentance and turning to God.
- The Tower of Babel: Genesis 11
Trust in God, not in human power.
- The coming of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2
- Abraham obeys God's call: Genesis 12
Faith in action.
- Jesus heals the believing centurion's servant: Matthew 8
- Abraham frees Lot: Genesis 14
Be brave when faced by wicked people.
- Peter and John imprisoned: Acts 4
- Abraham's and Lot's herders quarrel: Genesis 13
Leave aside all selfishness.
- The faithful and the unfaithful servants: Luke 12:41-48

We ask the Lord for wisdom to help the child to receive Jesus Christ, to obey His commands, and to love his family and fellow students at school.

To prepare for the study, the teacher takes three steps:

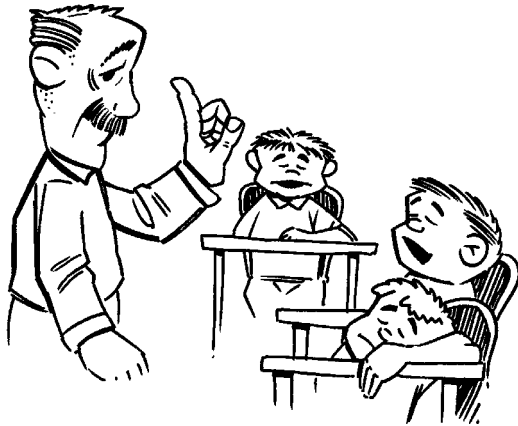
1. Studies the Bible passages prayerfully, to apply them to the needs and life of the student.
2. Chooses and prepares the presentation. (stories, music, illustrations, etc.)
3. Works out how to check that the students' practical work has been done.

Before the class itself teachers prepare the room, and arrange what they will need. (notebooks, Bibles, pencils, scissors etc.)

Third Principle

PRESENT THE LESSON CLEARLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY

Children cannot pay attention as long as adults do. Good teachers do not lecture children so long at a time that they become bored and distracted.



Teaching is not just reading out a lesson. The most important points must be noted down. Speak clearly and forcefully.

Speak to the children with love and a warm smile. Think about them as you talk. If teachers are only thinking about the content of what they are teaching, the children will be bored, and the study will not seem important to them. A wise teacher will pray out loud for the Holy Spirit to give understanding to both teacher and students.

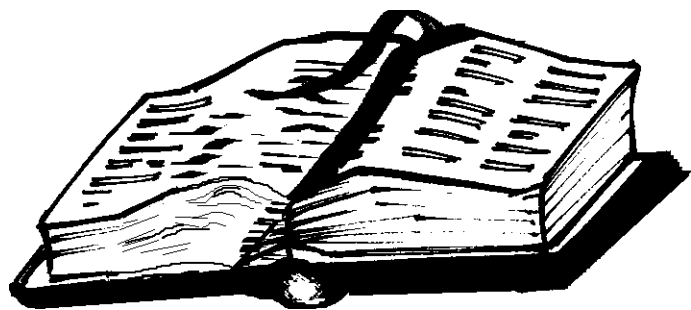
BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN

Stories of the Patriarchs with related stories from the New Testament, and their applications:

STORIES

- Creation: Genesis 1-2
Give thanks to God in everything.
- Jesus' Resurrection: Matthew 28
Give thanks for the New Creation
(Jesus was resurrected as the first-fruit of this).
- Adam and Eve: Genesis 3
Use God's Word to resist temptation.
- Jesus resists temptation: Matthew 4
- Cain and Abel: Genesis 4
Worship God with a pure heart.
- Jesus and the Samaritan woman: John 4

- Children enjoy celebrating special events. Plan programs that don't simply make them recite meaningless phrases but that communicate the real meaning of sacred seasons and days such as Advent and Christmas, Lent and Easter, Pentecost and Mother's Day.
- Help the teachers to learn and practice how to tell Bible stories, and to include practical applications on how the children will obey God's Word in their lives. You can use the following list of Bible stories.
- Provide a list of Bible stories for parents, so they can teach their children.



A child can concentrate on an activity for the number of minutes equal to his age in years. For example, a child of seven can concentrate well only about seven minutes. After this time, he needs a change of activity.

Children respond more to the teacher's love than to his way of teaching.



The wise teacher does not teach what the pupil can find out for himself. For example, we should not teach the contents of Romans 8, like a sermon, while the children merely listen. It is better to say: "Let's find at least three things that the Holy Spirit does for us, while we read parts of Romans, chapter 8."

In the same way, it is better to say: “Let’s find out what things happened to start a church in Cesarea, while Etienne tells us about Peter and Cornelius, in Acts 10.”

Keep the presentation short. For smaller children, three or four minutes are enough to tell a short story, and apply its teaching to their lives. Next, the children are given something to do:

- memorize verses,
- color pictures,
- learn poems or choruses,
- make things associated with the study,
- act in a drama, etc.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Improve the presentation with practice.

Practice reading and telling a story several times before telling it to the children. With time and practice, it will become easier.

PRACTICAL WORK

- Begin to train parents and other responsible persons (men and women, young people and older children) to serve as disciplers for the children. Use this study to train them.
- Write down plans to evangelize other children in the area (not only on Sundays in formal meetings but also in their homes during the week).

Eighth Principle

PRESENT THE STORIES IN AN EDIFYING WAY

Repeat the stories, especially those of the death and resurrection of Jesus, several times during the year.

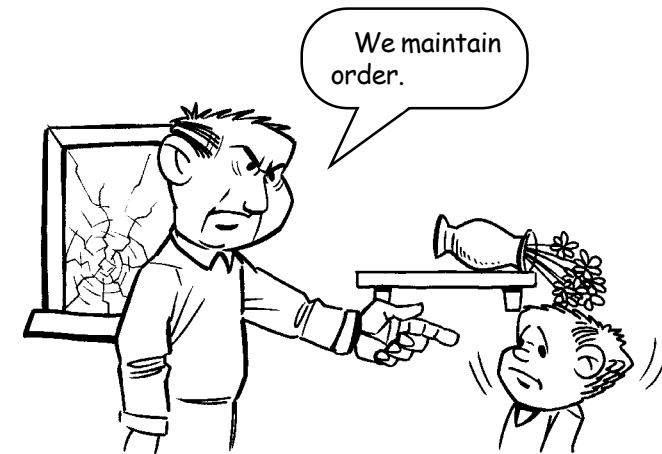
Limit the time to the children's attention span, according to their age and development. Some stories cover several chapters of the Bible; the most important parts must be chosen. For example, Noah's story in Genesis includes chapters 6 to 9 (written in the list "Genesis 6-9" on the following pages); read them several times to select what you will tell the children. The littlest ones are only told three or four points.

Combine stories from the Old and New Testaments.

The Old Testament stories illustrate truths about God with common, everyday things; they are easy to understand. Those of the New apply the same truths to spiritual, eternal, invisible things. It is good to tell the two stories during one lesson or two consecutive ones.

Fourth Principle

MAINTAIN ORDER WITH THE CHILDREN



Children who misbehave prevent others from learning. The teacher should not tolerate disorder. Ask the more responsible children to help maintain order. Correct with love, consistency, fairness and firmness, from the first moment. If bad behavior is permitted, the children will not respect their teachers.

Ways of Correcting the Disorderly:

- Stop speaking. Look at the child in silence. Wait till he is quiet.

- In a low voice (never shout) ask the disorderly child: “What are you doing?” and “Should you behave like that in God’s presence?” Let him answer. He should acknowledge his error, and judge his own conduct.
- Ask his father to speak to him about his conduct.
- Have him sit near the teacher.
- If he has too much energy, give him something useful to do. Ask him to help you in something, or to help another pupil.
- Speak to him alone, to assure him of your friendship. Ask him to help with the class.

Prepare a comfortable, attractive place for the children to be. If the room is too hot, too cold, or lacks enough chairs, the students cannot concentrate well.



The more capable children should prepare the stories to tell to other children. The teacher tells a child a Bible story in private, and helps him practice it, to be able to tell it to the group.

Arrange for older students to tell the story, perhaps in a shorter form, to younger children.

Underline what is appropriate with older children:

- Repeat sounds frequently.
- Prepare Bible stories to be presented as drama.
- Present Bible dramas to younger children.
- Separate the girls from the boys, when dealing with matters related specifically to their group.
- Draw figures for younger children.
- Make and use puppets.
- Punish the younger children when they misbehave.

Answer: b, c, d, e, f.

From 10 years to adolescents

These children like to act in simple dramas.

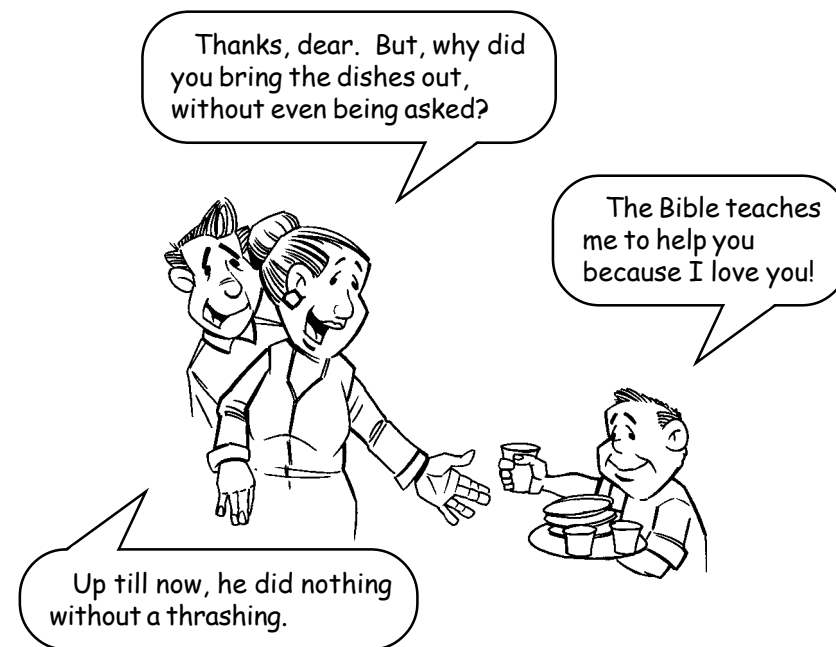
They will listen to a story for more than 15 minutes, if it is well prepared and applies to their lives. They often learn better if the boys and girls are separate.

They can prepare dramas. They find it easy to memorize the dialogue in Bible stories, and to act out the stories. They can also tell the stories to younger children, or dramatize them. Work this out with the other teachers.

They can make and use puppets to tell the Bible stories.

If they can write sufficiently well, they can write answers to questions. You can ask: "How does this affect the way you live?" Ask questions to reinforce and apply each lesson.

Fifth Principle APPLY GOD'S WORD TO THE STUDENTS' LIVES



The student does the practical work corresponding to the study.

If the child only listens to the study, this is no use. Why?
(James 1:22)

The teacher and the students apply the study to their lives. They obey God's commands:

- They receive Christ as Savior and Lord.
- They are baptized and take part in the Lord's Supper.
- They help the church with their offerings and involvement.
- They witness for Christ and share in church activities.
- They show Christ's love at home, at school, and everywhere.
- They help the sick and needy.

The Bible teacher's goal is that each student should work for the Lord, in however small a way. For example, older children act as assistant teachers, helping younger students to learn what they already know. Other children witness to friends. Others show love in some practical way for their friends and neighbors.

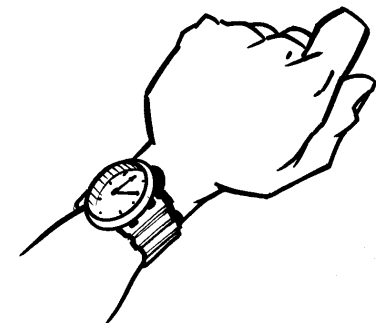
No one does something well only by hearing about it. A soccer player does not learn how to play from a book.

Their parents and teachers lead the children to give their lives to Christ, and teach them to pray and read the Bible daily, to go to church faithfully, to tithe and give offerings, and to speak about Christ to others.

Underline what corresponds to children of about 6-9 years old:

- a. They are very active.
- b. They like to act and imitate actions in a story.
- c. They can easily be spoken to for a whole hour.
- d. They like to answer questions and discuss.
- e. They like to be responsible for simple jobs.
- f. They can help teach younger children.

Answer: a, b, d, e, f. They will listen to a story no longer than about fifteen minutes, or twenty if it is divided and includes actions.



Teachers can get the children drawing pictures related to the story, coloring them and cutting them out.

Children of this age learn easily with illustrations or related objects that teach something about God. Using a flower, you can explain that God provides us with beautiful things. (Matthew 6:28-30) Use simple, known objects, which they come across every day. When they see these things, the children will think of God daily, too.

At this age, the children can take on responsibilities. Teachers can ask them to disciple smaller children. For example, if they are able, they can tell Bible stories to the younger ones. They can also help them clean the room they use, and make decorations to take home.

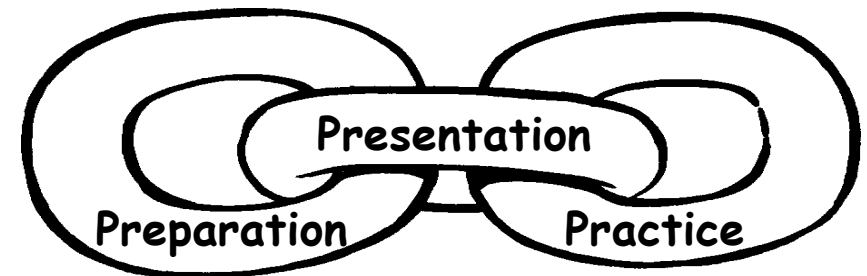
Ask simple questions that they can answer or comment on. First give guidance about it. For example, when beginning to tell Ruth's story, you could say "I'm going to tell you who saved Ruth from being terribly poor. Listen so you can tell me who it was."

The Bible requires that we teach with our example, as well as by the Word. In every lesson we include some corresponding practical work. James 1:22 commands us:

"Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Why should each study include practical work?

A study includes its practical application, so that the child does something concrete as a result. He is not merely a hearer of the Word. If a Christian does not work for the Lord, he deceives himself.



If any of these three links breaks, the chain is no use. What use is a teaching point, if the teacher has not prepared it well?

If the teacher prepares and applies his teaching well, his teaching builds up the pupils. Why is the student not built up, if he does not carry out the practical work?

Putting God's Word into practice in the students' lives is the goal of all Christian teaching.

Which are the three necessary aspects of every lesson?

1. The Pr_____
2. The Pr_____
3. The Pr_____

6 to 9 years old (approximately)

At this age children are still very active. They like to work together. They like to act out what the people in the story did.

For example, after telling them about Noah and the ark, the teacher gets the children to be the animals who go into the ark, two by two.

Say: "Now we are going to do as they did. Charles-Edouard and Henri, you are the rabbits who jump along. Marie and Elisabeth, you are the elephants, who walk slowly and heavily. Alain-Serge is Noah who opens the door of the ark, over here. The rest of you are sheep, that go on all fours crawling over here saying, 'baa.' Ready, now! It's starting to rain! Noah opens the door. The water is rising, rising, rising. Start off! Come along, two by two. First the rabbits. Now the elephants. The sheep. Quickly! The water is rising! You'll drown!"

The talk can last fifteen minutes, or even twenty if the story is divided and actions added.

These children like to imitate. Good teachers will use many gestures or actions that the children imitate.

If you speak of Peter fishing in a boat, make the movements of a boat rocking in the waves, or of Peter pulling in the net. Repeat the action, several times, so that the children imitate you.

They like to hear repetition. For example, “Baby Moses was floating in a basket on the river Nile, he was floating, floating, floating. Let’s do the basket. Moses was floating on the river. Floating, floating, floating on the water.” (Move your arms as though they were a basket floating, rocking repeatedly from side to side)

Underline what is appropriate for children between 3 and 5 years old:

- a. Stories with much repetition.
- b. Many actions.
- c. Very simple questions.

Answer: a, b, c. All three are important.

Each study needs Preparation, Presentation and Practice.

Preparation includes prayer, finding out the children’s needs, studying the biblical texts, and working out the presentation. (delegating parts of the presentation to assistants, visual aids, games etc.)

Presentation includes teaching what has been prepared, and asking questions to ensure that all have learned and applied the teaching to their lives. When a student has not yet answered a question, ask him easy ones.

Practice includes what the child does to obey the teaching. It is explained first in the presentation. The teacher explains exactly what the student must do. No biblical doctrine is taught without being immediately put into practice. Sometimes this will be something the child will do at home. Other times, the child will relate the Bible story and its application to his parents, to friends or a younger student. Leave time for the assistant disciples to speak to each student about how they are going to put into practice what they are learning.

Which would be the best way to put into practice a lesson about loving one's neighbor?

- ☐ Reading the story of the Good Samaritan.
- ☐ Visiting a sick friend and taking something, or telling him a story.
- ☐ Learning by heart a verse about love.

The best application would be to visit the sick person, because it is a practical action.

A lesson has been learned in a biblical way, only when it has been put into practice. Why?

The Lord Jesus Christ and the writers of the Bible did not teach doctrine only for love of doctrine. They always applied the truth to people's needs. They taught so that men would respond, changing their lives and obeying God. This is why teachers' assistants help each individual child in their practical work.

3 to 5 years (approximately)

At this age, children are very active. They like to help the story, adding sounds and actions.

Wise teachers tell stories with much movement, so that the children can carry out many actions (stand up, sit, walk, jump, move like animals). Prepare pictures, which the children color, and then show, when the person illustrated is mentioned in the story. For example, they could color a picture of David. They would have difficulty in doing the drawing at this age, but they can fill in colors, however poorly. They raise the figures every time David is mentioned in the story. These simple activities help the children to fix in their minds the truths that they learn in the lessons.

A story should last no longer than five minutes (if they act out the story, and make plenty of noises, they may pay attention for a few more minutes). If the Bible story is long, teachers tell it in abbreviated form, including only the most important parts.

Ask only very simple questions. For example, "Who killed the wicked giant? Was David young, or grown-up?"

Underline five things that are useful with tiny children:

- a. long stories,
- b. short stories,
- c. stories with lots of repetition,
- d. good quality, expensive bought pictures,
- e. homemade pictures they can color,
- f. listening to and repeating sounds,
- g. seeing pictures move according to the story,
- h. doctrinal questions to answer.

You should have underlined b, c, e, f, g. At this early age, questions on doctrine are not suitable.

To plan the practical work, the child works out his plans with the assistant discipler. For example, during a class that deals with evangelism, they agree that each child will speak of Christ to someone during the week. The person's name is written down, to remember, and the child will invite the friend to the next meeting. If the class learns about stewardship, they may agree to join in giving for a special project. The teacher writes these plans down as "practical work". At the following meeting, he finds out if the practical goals were reached.

Sixth Principle

CHECK THAT THE PRACTICAL WORK IS DONE



The teacher and his assistant disciplers help the student to carry out his practical work.

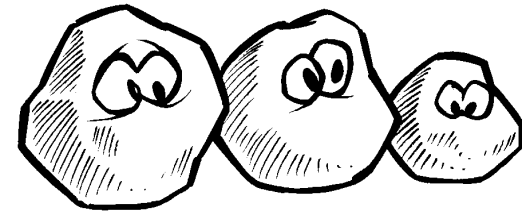
Every week, we ask if they have done the previous week's practical work. The student tells what he has done. The teacher praises the student who carries out his task. This encourages him to go on, and stimulates the rest. If the assistant disciplers visit those under their care during the week, they will remember and carry out their practical tasks.

Encourage the teachers and assistants to spend time with students who are falling behind. Another student can act as assistant, for a child who needs help.

How do you make sure a child carries out his practical work?

The figures do not need to be very well made. It is all the same to the child, if the figure is roughly made. In fact, it is better if the visual aids are simple and hand-made. This encourages the children themselves to make them up, too. Anything can be used to illustrate the stories. Two eyes can be painted on a pebble, and then say, "This is the Apostle Peter."

Dolls, homemade puppets or cardboard figures that stand on the table can be used.



Small children like to listen to sounds. They also like repetition. For example, don't just say, "The Virgin Mary, riding the donkey, traveled to Bethlehem."

It is better to say: "The donkey, with Mary on its back, went clip clop, clip clop along the road to Bethlehem. Clip clop, clip clop... clip clop, clip clop..." (Make the noise, then repeat the sentence and ask the children to make the noise too.) "Come on. Make the donkey noise." ("Clip clop, clip clop")

Some children will not imitate the actions, but like to watch and listen. They also like to play alone, with dolls or paper cutouts.

Older children can help prepare the cutouts for little ones; draw, color and cut them out. (Use scissors with blunt ends, as a safety measure.)

It helps to illustrate a story with some object or picture.



Tiny children love to see the teacher moving figures while telling a story. For example, not only saying, “Abraham walked from Ur to the Promised Land.” Move the cutout of Abraham across the wall, and then you can say, “Abraham went, walking, walking, walking, from Ur to the Promised Land.”

Seventh Principle

HAVE MEETINGS APPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN

Children’s classes could follow this pattern, for example:

- Prayer.
- Praise.
- Prayer for special requests.
- Brief Bible teaching, as story and questions.
- Notices.
- Personal Discipleship: the assistant disciplers help each child to make plans for their practical work (every week they review the previous week’s work).

We ask the children questions according to their age. Suitable questions:

- are brief.
- are not answered only with a “yes” or “no,” but need an explanatory answer.
- deal with something known.

- encourage the children to use their imaginations: “What would you have done, if you were the person in the story?”
- ask for reasons: “Why did Eve eat the forbidden fruit?”
- exercise the memory: “What did Jesus do in Cana of Galilee?”

Up to about the age of ten, children tend to think in very concrete terms. For example, if you say to them: “Carrots are good for you; they contain a lot of iron,” they might look for little bits of iron in the carrots, and not want to eat them. In the same way, if we say: “Jesus wants to live in your heart,” they might wonder how a man could fit into a child’s body. We must explain that it is the Spirit of Jesus who lives in us. He cannot be seen, and does not have a body on earth.

All the vocabulary and style of teaching must be adapted to the child’s age.

We use songs appropriate to each age group:

- that have a real message.
- that help the children to worship the Lord.
- at different times during the meeting; not all at once.
- using the best songs frequently, so the children learn them well.

HELP FOR DIFFERENT AGE GROUPS

So that the meeting suits children’s ages, we must distinguish between different age levels. Explain to each teacher the characteristics of the class he will be teaching.

18 months to 3 years

These will listen to a story for only one or two minutes. They have a short attention span. Make the story short. Tell it, or read it, showing illustrations at the same time. (It is better to tell the story from memory). If the story is too long, tell the tiny children only what would interest them most, and that they could understand, without questions.

Children of this age like to look, briefly, at pictures (10 or 15 seconds). These pictures can be simple drawings made by the teacher or assistant. Older children could also draw them.

They like stories or songs with simple actions (clapping hands, walking, making animal noises, etc.)