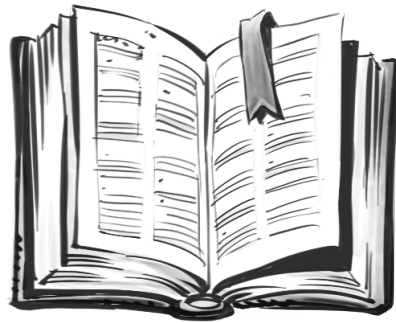


The Easy and Engaging Way to Teach the Bible to Children

(ages 4 - 8+)



Five important things to remember:

1. *"...the best preparation for teaching Christ's lambs is love - love for Jesus and for them."*
- C.H. Spurgeon
 2. Treat the children as people, just little people. Use words and examples that they understand.
 3. Do not assume that the children know about God and about what the Bible teaches. Assume that they have no Biblical knowledge. Don't be afraid to teach, and repeat, truths about God over and over again. Children love it when they recognize truths and know the answer!
 4. Don't just "lecture" while teaching the Bible story. Engage the children by asking questions, listening to their answers, and responding to them.
 5. Your class doesn't have to be "fun," but it should be enjoyable! The children should leave your class having enjoyed their time learning about God and having experienced the love of God through you, their teacher.
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Important "extras":

1. Teach the children to treat the Bible carefully, treating it "special." It has God's words in it!
2. When teaching these younger ages, try not to stand above them, but rather on their level, while still being able to be seen by them.
3. When teaching the Bible story -
 - Use simple words and examples that children understand.
 - Pay attention to your tone of voice and your body language to help accurately communicate the Bible story.
 - Use simple drama, if desired, to communicate the Bible story.
 - Before telling the Bible story, remind the children to really listen and pay attention because you, as the teacher, will be asking them questions about the story!

"AT HOME" PREPARATION AND PRACTICE BEFORE TEACHING IN CLASS:

1. Pray first, asking God for wisdom.

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him." James 1:5

2. Learn the Bible story this EASY way, focusing and paying close attention to what you are reading:

- 1.) Read through the story OUT LOUD.
- 2.) Close your Bible and close your eyes.
- 3.) Say OUT LOUD as much of the story as you can remember.

(REPEAT)

- 1.) Read through the story again OUT LOUD.
- 2.) Close your Bible and close your eyes.
- 3.) Say OUT LOUD as much of the story as you can remember.

- CONTINUE repeating this process until you know the Bible passage/story well enough so that you will be able to accurately "tell" it to the children.
- After a few, or several times of practicing this way, you will be surprised at how much you can remember!
- Also, practice your tone of voice, body language, and using simple drama.

3. "Study" time:

- To enhance your understanding of a Bible passage/story, you can read a commentary or listen to your favorite Bible teacher. But, remember, keep it simple; you are teaching young children.
- Know the context (background) of the Bible story, so that you can communicate it to the children in class.
- Look up definitions of words that you are unsure of. Also, think of simpler words that children will understand.
- You may also find it helpful, if you are using a Bible story/study from the "Little Ones Curriculum" from Calvary Curriculum, to look at the Teacher/Parent Question Sheet for help and ideas.
- Ask the Lord to show you a simple truth in the Bible story, with its simple life application, to share with the children during the class time. Teacher, respond to that truth by praying in your own preparation time. Then, you as the teacher, model responding to that truth, by praying first in class. This gives the children an example to follow.

NOW, YOU ARE **PREPARED** TO TEACH THE BIBLE STORY IN YOUR CLASS!

CLASS TIME:

The following are ideas of some things you could incorporate into your Bible story time in class, depending on the amount of time you have.

(Remember to remind the children to really listen, because you will be asking them questions).

Context-

Give a simple and brief context (background) of the Bible story if the information would help the children to understand the story better.

Define-

Define/explain words and concepts that children may not understand. Do not assume that they already understand this information.

Tell/teach-

Tell the Bible story meaningfully and enthusiastically; these are God's Words! Make eye contact with the children, looking at the Bible passage in the open Bible on your lap. You want the children to know that the story is in the Bible!

(This will be the FIRST time that the children hear the Bible story in class.)

After the Bible story...

Review- (if time permits)

Review the Bible story verse by verse, by saying one verse at a time, leaving a "blank" or "pause" for a child to say the missing word. Give "hints" as needed, because you want their "guesses" to be accurate. Respond enthusiastically to their answers, trying not to overly correct them. We want to encourage them to keep trying!

(This will be the SECOND time the children hear the Bible story in class.)

Narration- (if time permits)

Ask children to “narrate” or “tell back” the Bible story. If children are hesitant, ask them to say just one thing they remember. Often they will repeat what another child just said, or get the details and order mixed up. That’s okay! As children (and teacher) get comfortable with this interactive method, children will delight in telling back the Bible story in great detail, accurately. It just takes practice! Don’t give up in trying this wonderful, interactive method – it may take a few weeks or more, but you and the children will be blessed!

(This will be the THIRD time the children hear the Bible story in class.)



Questions- (if time permits)

Ask the children simple “who,” “what,” “when,” “where,” “why” questions about the Bible story. You may also find it helpful to ask a few questions from the Teacher/Parent Question Sheet. (from the “Little Ones Curriculum” on Calvary Curriculum)

Simple truth/simple application-

Remember that during your study and preparation time, you asked the Lord to show you a simple truth in the Bible story, with its simple life application, to share with the children during class time? Now is the time to share that simple truth with the children and how it applies to their lives. Then, teacher, you respond first to the Lord in prayer. This encourages the children to also pray and gives them an example to follow.

Pray-

Continue to give the children the opportunity to pray in response to the SIMPLE TRUTH/ SIMPLE APPLICATION that the teacher shared.

Also, encourage children to pray to the Lord for other things. If children are hesitant/shy, then you as the teacher ask what they would like prayer for, and you pray for them! Don’t overlook this opportunity to “model” praying to the Lord. Your class may be the place where the children learn to pray! Teach the children to pray!

“EVERY CHILD YOU ENCOUNTER IS A DIVINE APPOINTMENT.”

MAKE EVERY MINUTE COUNT.

*YOU ONLY HAVE A SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME IN CLASS;
DO THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS. GIVE THE CHILDREN WHAT
THEY MAY NOT BE GETTING ANYWHERE ELSE;
GIVE THEM JESUS!*

JESUS VISITS MARY AND MARTHA

LUKE 10:38-42



UNDERSTANDING THE STORY:

Jesus had special friends who lived in the town of Bethany. Jesus would often spend time with them at their house.

- What was the name of the sister who welcomed Jesus into her house? What was the name of Martha's sister? (They also had a brother named Lazarus.)
- What was Mary doing in this story? What was Martha doing? Is it a big job to make a meal and serve it?

Martha was serving Jesus, but she was distracted because of her work.

- Was Martha thinking more about her work or more about Jesus?
- What did Martha say to Jesus when she came to Him? Did Jesus do what Martha told Him to do?

Jesus told Martha that she was worried and troubled about many things.

- Martha was working hard for Jesus. Was that a good thing? Was it good for her to be worried and troubled? (Martha was doing something good, but her attitude was wrong.)

Jesus said one thing was needed and Mary had chosen that good part.

- What was Mary doing? Was it good that Mary was listening to Jesus' words? Did Mary understand what was the most important and best thing?

SIMPLE TRUTHS:

When we love Jesus, we want to do good things for Him.

- When we do good things for Jesus, does that show Jesus that we love Him?
- When we are serving Jesus, what kind of attitude should we have? If we are joyful when we serve Jesus, will that be a blessing to Him?

Martha did love Jesus, but she became frustrated because she forgot what she needed most.

- If we do good things for Jesus, but we don't spend time with Him, is that a good thing?
- Why should we spend time with Jesus? (It will help us know Jesus better, etc.)
- Mary sat at Jesus' feet to hear His words. We can't see Jesus with our eyes, but how can we spend time with Jesus?
- Think about how you spend time with friends. You like to talk to them and listen to what they say to you. It's the same way with God. When we listen to His words in the Bible, that's Him talking to us. When we talk to Him, He hears us.

Jesus died on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven and we could be with Him now and forever in heaven.

- It's important to have our sins forgiven, because sin will keep us away from Jesus. Have you ever given your life to Jesus and told Him that you want to have your sins forgiven?

It's special to Jesus when we want to be with Him!

- Do you ever spend time with Jesus? We should remember to spend time with Jesus! Would it bless Jesus if we talked to Him right now?

AND REMEMBER...

Jesus loves you and He wants to be with you!

MEMORY VERSE:

*"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."
Luke 10:42*