

**USING THE VERY
WORDS OF GOD
FROM THE BIBLE
WHEN TEACHING
CHILDREN**

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WHAT IS CALVARY CURRICULUM BIBLE STUDIES?



Calvary Curriculum has been designed to be a support for using the Bible as the curriculum itself, not as some curriculums where the Bible is there to support the curriculum. We want to use the very words of God to teach the children.

We believe that children can experience a personal and close relationship with the Lord that will sustain them each day of their lives. Experiencing fellowship with our Maker is foundational to the Christian life.

We must train the children in how to read the Bible so they can hear from God and experience for themselves that close and personal relationship with God.

We must also train the children in what it is to have a prayer life with God, to talk with God as He desires and invites each of us to do.

*"The voices of childhood echo throughout life,
the first learned is generally the last forgotten." C. H. Spurgeon*

SOME GUIDELINES - TO HELP YOU TO THINK LONG-RANGE

1ST - 2ND GRADES:

- Look for a **simple truth** and **simple life application**
- **Introducing** of the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions (At this age, just use them).
- Teacher start giving examples of **responding back to what God has said** in the Bible (show students what responding looks like).
- **Narration** (to tell back). Have the children narrate (tell back) the Bible story. **Using flannelgraph, drama, storytelling, and picture illustrations.**
- Younger ages: very simple; talk about and explain the lesson.

3RD - 4TH GRADES: *continue with the (above)*

- **Introduce the questions**, such as: "Is there a promise to claim?" or "a warning to heed?" What do these questions mean?
Introduce the concept of "**praying back**" the Scriptures.
Slowly move into responding to what God has said in His Word.

5TH - 6TH GRADES: *continue with the (above)*

- Fully develop the concept of "**how to respond personally** and **correctly** to God through His Word." **How to have a two-way conversation** with God. Responding to God as they read the Bible.
By age 12, the goal should be they know how to do all that they've been taught (1-6) and that they can (will) read their Bible daily, for themselves, **asking questions** that they've learned and **responding** to what God has said in His Word.

1. Simply read the portion of Scriptures you are considering that day and talk about it.

First, to simply read their Bible verse by verse to set in their minds how one would simply talk.

The idea behind communicating with someone, having a 2-way conversation.

The children will grow into this with training and practice.

The teacher will hold the key to this, by demonstrating to the children how it works to respond to God through His Word.

Also, when teaching this to younger children, such as 5-7 years of age, you will simply teach them by showing them what it is to say back in response. (Thinking long-range)
“So, they read distinctly from the book, in the law of God, and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.” Nehemiah 8:8

- “So, they read distinctly... they read word for word, unmistakably, clearly. “...from the book...” the Bible.
- “...in the law of God;” from the first 5 books of the Bible.
- “...and they gave the sense...” they made sense of it.
- “...and helped them to understand the reading.” Explained the meaning. They got it.

We want to teach the children to read their Bible on their own, for themselves, every day. Then talk to God about what they read.” When we teach, we need to think long-range. This is important.

2. Train the children to look for a SIMPLE TRUTH and SIMPLE LIFE APPLICATION

Train the children to look for a simple truth and a simple life application.

- In Matthew 14:22-33 “Jesus Walks on Water” we read:
V.22 “And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray.”
- A possible simple truth and simple life application.
“Simple truth” - Jesus told the disciples to do something (to get into the boat) and they got into the boat; they obeyed Jesus.
“Simple Life Application” - **I should obey Jesus.**
Has God shown you something in the Bible or in your heart that He wants you to do? Now, pray in response.

- Another possible simple truth and simple life application.
"Simple truth" - Jesus took time by Himself to pray.
"Simple Life Application" - I should take time by myself to pray to the Lord. Now, pray in response.

Think about this, if you find one simple truth and simple life application each week, the children will receive **52 important truths and life applications in just one year.**

- Another possible simple truth and simple life application.
"Simple truth" V.29 Jesus said to Peter "come" and Peter obeyed. Jesus tells those who love Him to do certain things.
"Simple Life Application" Jesus' words from the Bible tell us to do certain things. If I am a follower of Jesus (a Christian), I need to obey His words. What has Jesus told you to do? Now, pray in response.
- Another possible simple truth and simple life application.
V. 30 ...Peter cried out saying, Lord, save me!
"Simple truth" - V. 30 ...Peter was afraid and cried out to the Lord for help.
"Simple Life Application" - When I have troubles (problems), I should pray to God for help. What am I afraid of or what problem do I have that I need God's help with? Ask the children if they have some issue, then pray in response.
- Another possible simple truth and simple life application.
V. 33 "Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Jesus.
"Simple truth" - The disciples worshipped Jesus.
"Simple Life Application" - As a **follower** of Jesus (a Christian), I should worship Jesus. Now, pray in response, worshipping Him. **What is worship?**

3. Train the children to pray back God's Word.

Proverbs 3:5-6 **You might pray back:** Reply or respond to what God has said.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." "Lord, help me to trust and depend on You more"

...and lean not on your own understanding... "and not to think I have all the answers."
"Lord, help me to trust you even though I am sad."

...in all your ways acknowledge Him... "Lord, help me to trust You and not to try to figure it out all by myself." "Help me to talk to You about everything in my life." "Lord, help me to talk to you every day about my family, friends, etc."

... and He shall direct your paths." "Thank you that you will show me the right ways to go and the right things to do." "Lord, thank You that I can trust You to show me what I should do about..."

4. Train the children to ask the questions such as: *Is there a...*

It's important to explain meaning of words in these questions.

- a. **Promise to claim?** What does God say He will do?
- b. **Sin to avoid?** What is it exactly? What is the sin to avoid?
- c. **Warning to heed?** What is it exactly? What does the word "heed" mean?
- d. **Command to obey?**
- e. **Good example to follow?** What is the good example to follow?
- f. **Bad example to shun?** What does the word shun mean? To void, keep away
- g. **New/fresh thought about God the Father** What character of God do you see?
- h. **New/fresh thought about God the Son** What characteristics of God do you see?
- i. **New/fresh thought about God the Holy Spirit** What role does the Holy Spirit play in the passage?
- j. **Fresh insight into the person of Satan**
- k. **Fresh insight into Satan's cruel goals** Might this give me insight into how the world operates? *John 10:10*
- l. **Fresh insight into Satan's subtle devices** Does this give me a warning to heed?

We need to teach/train the children in these questions.

They will become tools for life as the children read their Bible.

Let's look for some of these questions

Mark 10:13-16

v.13 "Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them, but the disciples rebuked those who brought them.

v. 14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them; 'Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

v. 15 "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

v. 16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them."

5. Train the children in the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How questions.

Teaching the children these questions is so important! One of the greatest defenses for our children is to teach them how to critically think. If our children learn to ask these questions in life, it will be a game-changer. This will help expose the lies they will face and teach them to see the truth.

Psalm 48:14

***“For this is God, our God forever and ever;
He will be our guide even to death.”***

- **WHO** is this talking about? God.
- **WHOSE** God is He? Ours.
- **WHO** is “our”? Am I a part of the “our”?
- **HOW** long will He be God? Forever and ever.
- NEW/FRESH THOUGHT ABOUT GOD? **WHAT** might this tell me about God? He is different than people and He is greater than people. He understands things differently than I do because He’s lived longer than I have. He knows more than I do.
- **HOW** long will He be my God?
- **WHAT** will He be to me? My guide.
- **WHAT** is a guide? **WHAT** does a guide do? (Can look in a dictionary. Can discuss this idea with family or others. Can remember a time when you were led by a guide...what did that guide do?)
- **WHAT** might be some things He’ll be my guide in? To help me know how He thinks about things and what He would like me to say, do, or where to go.
- **HOW** long will He be my guide? He’ll be my guide for my whole life.
- IS THERE A PROMISE TO CLAIM IN THIS VERSE? **WHAT** is it?
- If I really took the words in this verse seriously, would it make a difference in my life? **WHAT** difference would it make? **HOW** might my life look differently?

Hebrews 11:6

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

You could teach a complete Bible lesson from this one verse.

- **WHAT** is faith? Trusting in God
- **WHAT** pleases God? Faith
- **WHAT** does it mean “to please”? To make happy

- Might this tell us something about God? **Faith pleases Him**
- Is there a warning to heed? (We can't please God without faith)
- Is there a promise to claim? (It is possible to please God - if we have faith)
- Is it possible to please God? **Yes**
- **WHAT** element is necessary to please God?
- **HOW** does that element play out? **When** is it impossible to please God?
- Does faith require action? **Yes - doing something**
- Is there a fresh insight into Satan's subtle devices?
- **WHAT** must we believe when we come to God? **Believe that He is real**
- **HOW** should we seek God?
- **WHAT** does it mean to seek God? **Diligently**
- **WHAT** does it mean to be diligent? **To be steady, earnest, strong effort**
- **WHAT** will God do for those who diligently seek Him? **Give a reward**
- **WHAT** is the reward? **Gen. 15:1**
- Is it possible to come to God? **Yes**
- Is there a promise to claim? (He will reward those who diligently seek Him)
- Is there a new thought about God the Father? (He wants us to come to Him)
- **HOW** do we come to Him?
- **WHAT** does the word "believe" mean?
- **WHAT** are we to believe? **That He is real**
- **WHAT** does "that He is" mean?
- Which God are we to seek? **The God of the Bible/the Creator God**

"If you teach the child wrongly, he believes you, if you teach him heresies, he will receive them. What you teach him now, he will never forget." ~C.H. Spurgeon

6. Train the children to Respond to God through His Word.

They need to know how to respond in a personal and correct way, having a two-way conversation.

As we respond to God, we must respond personally and correctly.

The Bible is not a textbook or a fact book.

- It is God's living Word.
- The primary way God speaks to us.
- We test everything with the Word of God.
- The Bible is a spiritual book; it is alive.
- The message is spiritual.

RESPONDING - meaning to "send back" or "say something in reply.

Someone walks into the room and says, hello. If you respond, you'll say hello in return.

What would you say (respond) back to God if you were together?

Respond back to what He has said in His Word in a personal way, in a living fellowship with Him. (Heb. 4:12) "For the Word of God is living and powerful... and is a *discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"

PERSONALLY - personalize our response back to the Lord.

When responding to God we need to **personalize** our response by using words like: (**personal pronouns**)

- EXAMPLE: "Forgive **me** of **my** sin, NOT forgive **us** of **our** sin."
- "**I** have come to worship you, NOT **we** have come to worship you."
- "Create in **me** a clean heart, NOT create in **us** a clean heart."

CORRECTLY - using the very words of God. Not changing anything He said.

Correct example: When God initiates through His word - we respond back to Him.

God will incline our heart to something He wants us to understand, as we read, ready to hear from Him.

TWO-WAY CONVERSATION - Teach to have a two-way conversation with God

From Dr. Bennett's **Food for Faith**: "Together Time is really a two-way conversation with our living Lord. Through His Word, the Bible, God speaks to His children. As we respond correctly and personally to what God is saying, we will learn how to pray biblically and with expectant faith." Dr. Bennett goes on to say: "When I speak about 'praying biblically', I mean that we actually use the very words of the Scriptures we are reading when we respond to our Lord in prayer." **WWW.CCIM-media.com Dr. Richard A. Bennett**
Read the email "Pastor Larry Enterline"

7. Train the children to ask the question: "What choices were made," and "What happened because of the choices made?"

Choices are important! What is a choice?

8. Train the children to ask: "If someone took the teaching of Jesus in this passage seriously, what difference would it make in their life?"

The teacher should ask this question repeatedly!

9. Children lack vocabulary and life experience.

Words need to be explained and defining the words is extremely important!

10. Narration:

- Parent or teacher reads or tells the Bible story/study enthusiastically, with an open Bible.
- Then, encourage the child to TELL BACK (NARRATE) the story as much as they can remember.
- Try not to correct them; they are telling what they remember. You may ask clarifying questions when they are finished.
- Praise your child for their efforts.