

Executive Summary
Focus on God's Word
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“Fun Biblical Teaching That Ends At The Cross”

3 Sections: Before, During, and After

Welcome to the wonderful world of teaching the Bible to children. Whether you teach children on Sunday mornings, Sunday nights, Wednesday nights, or any time of the week it is important to teach children the truth of the Bible. Too often teachers tell the sweet version of Bible stories without giving the meat of the scripture. How do you teach the meat of the scripture? You teach the meat of the scripture through Biblical truth, and it is okay to have fun along the way. Before we dig into how to teach children the Bible, let's talk about the “why”?

Why do children need to be taught Biblical truth?

First, children are the church just like everyone else. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:13, *“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”* As you teach your class, no matter how young these believers (or soon to be believers) may be, you are teaching God's children.

Second, teaching children is biblical. Jesus said, *“Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of Heaven”* (Matthew 19:14). Jesus, by His words and actions, changed our attitude toward children. What the world considers as weak, insignificant, and dirty – Jesus sees as strong, innocent, and beautiful.

Third, teaching children is not a demotion. Every age should be taught the meat of the Scripture, while also understanding and making application to the age range in which you are teaching.

I will break our time into three sections: before Bible study, during Bible study, and after Bible study.

First, let's look at “before” – before Bible study we should have intentional preparation, read your Bible story three times before Sunday, and age awareness.

Before Bible study you want to make sure you have intentionally prepared your Bible study lesson. Children know when you have prepared your lesson and when you haven't. Make sure you know the Bible story before your time together. As a group discuss two ways you can have intentional preparation. (Pause here).

Before Bible study read your scripture for your lesson three times before Sunday. I know you are busy, busy, busy. Maybe you can use this as your quiet time.

Before Bible study be “age aware” and know what your students can comprehend. Pause here to discuss what your students age range is going through and what they can comprehend.

You can even look up the resource Ages and Stages on the Lifeway website to read and write down what your children can comprehend.

Second, let's unfold five things we can use during Bible study.

If you have a pen or paper write down these next five points and circle what you use in your Bible study time.

Use your Bible!
Use Bible skills!
Use Five senses!
Use recap questions!
Use Jesus, ALWAYS!

Circle the ones you use every time you teach your students the Bible. Which ones did you circle? Now I want you to underline which ones you need to work on the most.

As you use your Bible ***make reading the Bible the most exciting part and central part of your Bible study.*** *If you don't read from your Bible, then how can you expect your students to read their Bible at home?*

Use Bible skills. Use fun ways to incorporate Bible skills in your Sunday School class. You can listen to the books of the Bible song or create fun games with memory verses. Here are some resources to help you with Bible skills in your classroom: www.kidzlinkal.org, follow Families_In_The_Word on Instagram, and follow Alabama Bible Drill on Facebook. You will find fun, easy, and Biblical ways to plug in Bible skills into your Sunday School class.

Next, use your five senses. Children learn by getting their hands dirty or smelling something that is stinky sometimes. A smell or hands-on activity might allow a child to connect better to a Bible study and grow closer to the Lord.

The fourth point to use during Bible study is recap questions. Recap questions allow children to really remember what your lesson was about. Here are some questions you can ask: Who wrote our story today? Who was he writing to? Who were the main people in our story today? Was our story in the Old Testament or the New Testament?

The fifth point to use during Bible study is Jesus... always, always, always talk about Jesus and end at the cross. This presents the Gospel to children. They might not understand the Gospel at that point, but it allows seed to be planted and watered. All plants grow at their own pace and so do children. If you are unsure of how to highlight Jesus in your Bible study, then find a Jesus Bible or a commentary that might help you along the way.

Now let's discuss what happens after Bible study. There are two things you can do after Bible study. The first step is to give the parents a recap of what their child learned in class. You can give them a worksheet, coloring sheet, or review questions. Some parents are unsure how to disciple their children and giving them something to build on and work on at home is a huge

steppingstone for some parents. You can add a little fun twist on it. If a child brings their completed worksheet or coloring sheet back the next Sunday, they get a piece of candy.

The second step to take after Bible study is to contact the family in some way. There are so many ways to contact families through Facebook, Instagram, e-mail, text, phone call, or even a letter in the mail. Use your resources wisely. Sometimes a simple Facebook message or e-mail lets families know you are thinking about them. Don't you love it when someone says they were glad you came to something and adds something special about you personally? You can do the same for each child.

Now that we have discussed fun ways to have Biblical teaching, let's discuss fun ways to share the Gospel. There are a lot of tools out there that can help you share the Gospel with your students. Two keys to help the students in your room as you share the Gospel and end at the cross: repetition and place it in their hands.

First, let's unfold repetition as we examine sharing the Gospel with students and ending at the cross. While you always talk about Jesus you need to focus on the fact that Jesus came to die on the cross for our sins. Salvation is a gift God has given us and we can either reject it or accept it. How do you accept this gift of salvation? First, admit that you are a sinner and ask for forgiveness of your sins. Second, believe that Jesus is God's Son - He is the only way to Heaven. Third, confess your faith in Jesus as your Savior and your Lord *daily*. Once you become a Christian you live your life for the Lord every day and not for yourself or anyone else. If you repeat this to your children every time you meet, then one day it might click.

Second, how can you place the Gospel and the truth of the cross in your students' hands? Use fun Gospel sharing tools to share with your students. Show them and then see if they want to repeat what you have said. Here are some examples. Find fun tools at lifeway.com or letthelittlechildrencome.com. You can change it up each week or you can find 6 to 12 methods to share the Gospels and do the same one for an entire month. This will allow repetition and you can take steps to help with consistency. On the first Sunday of the month, you can demonstrate the Gospel tool. On the second Sunday of the month you can allow one child to demonstrate the Gospel tool. On the third Sunday of the month, you can have children partner up and practice using the Gospel tool. On the fourth Sunday of the month, you can have the children practice sharing the Gospel tool with their parents and maybe take it home. This way children have repetition, and they are having a hands-on experience in sharing the Gospel. You are helping grow evangelists when you take this extra step, way to go! Here are some Gospel tools I like to use. If you have them in front of you, then practice them with the people at your table.

- Evangacube
- Wordless book
- Wordless Bracelet
- Bracelets that share the Gospel
- Gospel Plane
- Gospel Tracts
- Gospel Bag

This brings our time together to a close. As you teach children God's word, know that what you are doing does not fall on deaf ears. These children need to hear from you, and you are exactly where you need to be! Keep up the great work and don't forget to always, always talk about Jesus and end at the cross.

Before:

1. Intentional preparation
2. Read your Bible story three times before Sunday
3. Age awareness

During:

4. Use your Bible.
 - a. Have kids use their Bible.
 - b. Read your Bible in front of the kids.
5. Use Bible skills.
6. Use your five senses.
7. Always, always, always, always talk about Jesus and end at the cross – share the Gospel.
8. Recap – ask serious questions.

Show three examples one from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels, and one from the letters.

After:

9. Give them something that recaps their Bible study.
10. Contact the parents in some way.
 - a. Let them know you are praying for them and that you care.
 - b. Facebook message
 - c. Text
 - d. Write a letter.
 - e. Call
 - f. E-mail