



BIBLE BASICS CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The Bible Basics Curriculum is the first of a four-year curriculum geared toward ages 8 – 12. The four-year curriculum includes:

Series One – Bible Basics – “Discovering My Bible”

Series Two – Bible Foundations – “Discovering What I Believe”

Series Three – Bible Character – “Discovering My New Nature” – *Currently being developed*

Series Four – Bible Fire – “Discovering God’s Plan for my Life” – *Currently being developed*

The purpose of this Year One, Bible Basics Curriculum is to give children a basic understanding of the Bible, what it is and its contents. This will be accomplished by going through the Bible and highlighting major people and accounts in the Bible. The children will also learn the books of the Bible during this year by memorizing two books per week.

Included in this curriculum is a “games” book. Certain elements of the lessons are left blank for you to fill in with your class’ favorite games. You can use this book choose memory verse games, books of the Bible memory games Review games and other activities.

Use the planning sheet (Page 1 of each lesson) to personalize your own plan for each Sunday – it’s the entire lesson at a glance.

Each lesson includes a reproducible coloring sheet with the central truth, memory verse and activity for the children to take home. They are suitable for printing two copies per page (most printers can be set to print 2 copies per page).

Take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the parts of this curriculum. Following is the outline used for each lesson and an explanation and purpose of each part:

I. Opening Activities

Helps put the children in the mindset of being at church, reminds them of the story last week

A. Welcome Children

Let the children know you are glad they are there today and that there are special activities planned for the day. Raise their expectancy level to receive all that God has for them that Sunday.

B. Remind of classroom rules and hand out clothes pegs for coming to church

- a. Listen – to the teacher
- b. Love – those around you by being kind and considerate
- c. Learn – by being attentive and respectful

- d. Have FUN! – church is a great, FUN place to be!

The children will have a more enjoyable time if certain rules are in place and enforced. Even children do not enjoy chaos! Clothes pegs are used for discipline in the classroom and represent one Bible Buck (see below) each. Children have to give up a peg each time they disobey the classroom rules. For all remaining pegs, children can redeem them for one Bible Buck after class.

C. First Time Visitors

- a. Recognize them
- b. Hand out “Mystery Person” Paper
- c. Record their name (and address if possible) on the attendance roster.

- D. Mystery Person – Read a profile and see if the children can guess which one of their friends the paper is describing.

The Mystery Person Paper is included for you to photocopy and hand out to each child and is used for the children to get to know one another. At the beginning of a new school year or new Children’s Church term, each child completes the questionnaire. First time visitors also fill one out. Each Sunday, the teacher chooses one or two questionnaires to read and the children try to guess which of the children the questionnaire belongs to. Teacher may award Bible Bucks to the person who correctly guesses.

E. Attendance

Track the attendance of your children. This will both train children of the importance of attending church every Sunday (you may want to offer a prize or recognition for above average attendance) AND it will allow you to check on children who may be absent for a period of time and use it for an opportunity for evangelism. If a child misses, teachers or representatives from the church may go to the child’s house to check on the child, giving opportunity to meet the family (especially if they don’t attend church). Teachers may also mail to the child a “We Miss You” note through the post.

F. Announcements

Acknowledging birthdays says, “We’re so glad you were born!” You can ask, “who had a birthday this week?” and have the child/ren come forward, sing Happy Birthday and give each Bible Bucks. Children’s Church is not separate from the adult congregation. Children are part of the whole. Include announcements of upcoming church events. They can invite their parents as well. Children are separated for the purpose of effectively ministering to them. Talk to them about their pastor and how much he loves them to make sure they have a good Children’s Church to come to. Choose ushers, greeters and a child to prepare a verse to read for offering the following week.

- a. Birthdays_____
- b. Upcoming church events _____
- c. Sunday school events / contests_____
- d. Receive offering next week_____
- e. Ushers/Greeters next week:_____
- f. Other_____

G. Receive Offering

Allowing children to participate by receiving offering and by ushering and greeting teaches the children that they are important in the church and trains them for working in church for the rest of their lives. Participating begins at an early age and continues into adulthood. Church is a place you can be involved; not a place to sit and watch!

H. Review Last Week’s Lesson

Review can be done with a game, by asking the previous review questions or by the teacher reminding the children of the previous story and lesson learned from the story. Children can have the opportunity to say their memory verse from last week as well as the books of the Bible.

- a. Review Questions
- b. Memory Verse
- c. Books of the Bible

I. Songs for This Week's Lesson

A child's heart desires to worship God. Songs can be "fun and games", but also include songs that allow the children to worship God. The best way to lead children in worship is to first explain to them about worship and then for YOU to worship with them.

II. New Bible Story

Each Bible story includes scriptures for the teacher to review in preparation for class, a central truth that is emphasized throughout the lesson and ideas for visual aids which may be used to enhance the story. The key to an exciting Bible story time is to KNOW the story. Reading a story for the first time in front of the class will not be interesting. Plan your gestures, examples and visual aids in advance. Bring the story to life by having an understanding of culture, dress, food, houses, work... Allow the children to "see" with their mind the Bible story. This way, the children will have no problem with "wiggling" during the story because they are interested to know what happens next in the story. This "sit still" time, should be no more than 10-15 mn long, depending on the age of your class and the teacher's ability to hold the children's attention. For the visual aids, use as many senses as possible – sound (vary your voice from loud to very soft, clap), touch (something the children can pass around and feel), smell (let the children smell something) sight (use pictures, costumes, puppets) and taste (if you use a type of food for an aid, let the children eat it!)

- A. Title:
- B. Scriptures:
- C. Central Truth:
- D. Visual Aids:

III. Bible Story Review

This section reviews TODAY's story. Some stories include a review game, others do not. You may use the Bible Basics Game Book to insert your class's favorite review game here

- A. Questions
- B. Game: _____

IV. New Memory Verse

Some lessons include a Memory Verse Game, others do not. You may use the Bible Basics Game Book to insert your own Memory Verse Game here. Learn the verses with the children!

- A. Verse:
- B. Game: _____

V. Books of the Bible Memory

- A. Books:
- B. Game: _____

Some lessons include a Books of the Bible Memory Game, others do not. You may use the Bible Basics Game Book to insert your own Game here. Teachers can learn the books of the Bible with the children

VI. Activity

Some stories include an activity that pertains to the lesson, others do not. If not, you may use the Bible Basics Game Book to insert your own activity here. If space permits, you may take the children outside for an outdoor active game, you may choose a craft for the children to do or you may choose to omit this activity if you have included other games for Bible story review, a memory verse game or a game for learning the books of the Bible.

Alternate activities: *There may not be time each Sunday to do all of the games. One Sunday, play a review game to review questions for the new Bible story, while reviewing the memory verse and the books of the Bible without a game. The next Sunday you may want to play a Memory verse game and just ask the review questions and review the books of the Bible.*

- A. Title:
- B. Supplies Needed:
- C. Instructions

VII. Supplementary Lesson

The supplementary lesson is an object lesson, a story, a puppet skit or some other “modern day” item which again reinforces the central truth of the Bible story.

- A. Title:
- B. Supplies Needed:

VIII. Closing

The children are settled and can be led in a time of prayer, personal reflection of how the central truth could be applied in their life. Always give the children an opportunity to respond in some way to the lesson. This may include an invitation for salvation, healing, to forgive those who have hurt them, etc. Make this a reverent time and remind the children to be respectful of other children’s needs, fears or hurts. Take time to minister to them, as the Holy Spirit leads.

IX. Take Home Paper

In each lesson is included a reproducible paper the children may take home. This may be completed in the classroom OR they may take it home and complete the fun page there. Be sure they bring them home so mom and dad can see what they’ve learned, either as a testimony to the family or so mom and dad know how to reinforce what was learned.