

Life-Changing Evangelistic Bible Lessons

(Bible Lesson Preparation and Presentation)

I. Prepare your heart

- A. Pray for yourself; ask God to speak to you through this Scripture passage.
- B. Pray for your students and ask God to speak through you as you teach them.
- C. Depend on the Holy Spirit as you prepare and as you teach. Trust Him to meet the needs of each child.

“Never rely on the cleverness of the exposition, but on the Holy Spirit.” -E. M. Bounds

II. Look at the teacher's manual

- A. Read the lesson text.
 - 1. Locate and read the passage from the Bible.
 - 2. Read the lesson text in the teacher's manual.
- B. Consider the teacher's objective.

An objective is what the teacher desires the child to do as a result of hearing the Bible lesson.

(Example: “The unsaved child will receive Jesus, who will take away the darkness of sin.”)
- C. Notice the main teaching.

The main teaching is the biblical truth which is the focus of the Bible passage. The main teaching should be stated on a child's level and emphasized throughout the lesson.

(Example: “The Lord Jesus came to save sinners.”)

III. Study the Scripture passage (as noted in the teacher's manual)

Ask yourself the following questions.

1. What does it say?

Consider the characters, places and time when the story took place.
Make a list of the essential Bible story facts (8-20 are sufficient).

2. What does it mean?

Look for biblical principles that transcend time.

R.C. Sproul said, “Transcendence means literally ‘to climb across.’ It is defined as ‘exceeding the usual limits.’”

Look for biblical principles that “climb across” the time when it was written to today, i.e., in the Calming the Storm narrative, the disciples needed to trust Jesus who was in the storm with them. Today, we need to trust Jesus in every situation of life because just as He was present with the disciples, He is present with us today.

Things to consider:

- What can be learned about God in the passage? (*His character, His actions, etc.*)
- Why is this story or teaching in the Bible? *Is there a principle that was true when it was written that also relates to life today?*
- How is the redemption story seen in this passage? *How does this story fit into the whole context of Scripture?*
- Who is the main character(s) in the story? *The main character in an evangelistic lesson is the character who has a need or problem that can be related to the unsaved child’s problem of sin.*
- What is the theme (*main point*) of the passage?

3. What is God saying to me? To the child?

Make it personal—how will I respond to God’s truth?

How can I apply this message to the children?

IV. Know the four parts of a Bible lesson

A. Introduction

Plan a brief opening that will create interest in what you will teach.

An introduction could be:

1. A short illustration that relates to the lesson
2. A question
3. An exciting story event
4. A direct approach

B. Progression of events

Events of the story are listed in order from the Scripture passage. These provide the action of the story and lead up to the climax.

Analyze the Bible passage for natural places to teach the message of salvation truths.

1. What sin, problem, or sickness is evident in the life of the main character or in the Bible story?

Relate this to the NEED—the unsaved child’s problem of sin.





2. What solution does God offer for the problem?

Relate this to the WAY of salvation—the solution for the unsaved child—the Person and Work of Christ.



3. Where can I teach God's love for the main character? OR Where can I teach a truth about God that will also enable me to teach His love?

Relate God's love for the child.

C. Climax

The climax is one definite statement. It is the high point of the story where the problem is solved.

D. Conclusion

The conclusion follows the climax and is brief. It finishes the action of the story, bringing it to a satisfying end.

Show the progression of events for the sample lesson, "Zacchaeus Meets Christ," on PowerPoint. Have the students locate the climax and conclusion. Mark these places on the progression of events. Next, have the students analyze the passage to determine natural places where the message of salvation truths can be taught. Mark these places on the progression of events. Afterward, let the students look at the sample lesson outline in their notes and discuss how each of these message truths are applied.

V. Give an invitation



The invitation is the opportunity given to the unsaved child so he can respond to the teaching of the Word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit and show his desire to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

- A. Review the NEED and the WAY of salvation.
- B. Read and explain an invitation VERSE containing both a condition and promise.
(Example: Acts 16:31; John 3:16 or John 1:12)
Invite the children to respond to God ("Will you believe..." or "Do you believe...").
- C. Have the children BOW their heads and close their eyes.
- D. Ask for a RESPONSE ("show me:" raise hand, open eyes, stand up).
"If you are ready to believe (use terminology in verse) in Jesus today, or have questions about believing in Jesus, please show me by..."
- E. When a child responds, SEPARATE him from the group so you can counsel him.
Give direction where and when the child can meet you for counseling.

VI. Include teaching for the saved child

Every evangelistic Bible lesson should contain a brief teaching for the saved child in at least one natural place in the lesson. This teaching should not be done where message of salvation truths are being taught.

A. Teach this truth in one simple sentence using the word “you.”

(Example: “Others should see the difference God makes in your life.”)

B. Give examples of how the child can apply this truth in his life this week.

(Answer questions such as where, when and how others can see a difference.)

C. Use a verse of Scripture to reinforce this teaching.

(Example: 2 Corinthians 5:17)

Teaching Aids to Help with Bible Lesson Preparation

1. Bible lessons (CEF Press®) cefpres.com
2. *Children's Ministry Resource Bible* (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
 - Full-page articles
 - “Preparing a Bible Lesson” (page 1161)
 - “Message of Salvation Hand” (page 923)
 - “Teaching Doctrine Effectively” (page 1520)
3. Children's Ministries Institute® cefcmi.com
 - Training opportunities
4. CMI Online online.cefcmi.com
 - Training offered online

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