

Life-Changing Growth Bible Lessons

(Bible Lesson Preparation and Presentation)

I. Prepare your heart

- A. Pray: for yourself – understanding in study; your students – receptive hearts; and the lesson – that God will use it to change hearts of the hearers.
- B. Depend on the Holy Spirit as you prepare and as you teach. Trust Him to meet the needs of each child.

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 saved child will choose to remain steadfast and faithful to God even when he must stand alone.")
- 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: "God will help you be steadfast and faithful to Him.")
- D. Notice the four parts of the Bible lesson.
 - 1. Introduction
 - 2. Progression of events
 - 3. Climax
 - 4. Conclusion

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.

“The Bible dramatically deals with difficulties that discourage us, temptations that test us and problems that plague us. It richly reveals the Christ who can change us, the Friend who can free us and the Light who can lead us.” – William A. Ward

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 a growth lesson is the character who has a problem or dilemma that can be related to the challenges the saved child faces in his Christian walk.*
- 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?

“As we read and study a passage on our own, we begin to see how the Lord is working in our own lives. It adds authenticity to our teaching when we can say, ‘Look what the Lord taught me this week with this passage.’ Nothing teaches more effectively than authenticity backed up with enthusiasm.” – Jody Capehart

How can I apply this message to the children?

IV. Develop applications for the saved child

To determine **two** natural places to draw out the teaching for the saved child, ask yourself the following questions:

A. Where does the problem or dilemma begin in the story? (This is where you will relate the problem in the story to a similar problem the saved child will face.)

1. Begin the application by addressing the Christian child and using your main teaching statement.

Example: “If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you be steadfast and faithful to Him.”

2. Define the conduct or main teaching (e.g., steadfast, faithful, etc.)

3. Use the acronym “YES” to help you remember the other important elements in the application:

Y—“You” Make your teaching personal.

E— Examples Suggest times the saved child might face this problem.

S—Scripture Share a verse that shows God’s view of this problem or why the problem conflicts with God’s character, ways or instructions.

- B. What solution does God offer? OR How does God intervene? (This is where you will relate God’s solution for the character to the life of the child.)

1. Begin the application by addressing the Christian child and using your main teaching statement.

Example: “If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you be steadfast and faithful to Him.”

2. Use the acronym “YES” to help you remember the other important elements in the application:

Y—“You” Make your teaching personal.

E— Examples Suggest practical ways the child can deal with this problem.

S—Scripture Share a verse that teaches how God can help the child overcome the problem.

V. Include a brief presentation of the message of salvation

- A. Choose a place in the progression of events where it fits naturally.
- B. Keep it separate from the two applications for the saved child.
- C. Include an invitation for children to receive Christ at the end of the lesson.
- D. Reinforce the message during the class hour through songs, memory verse, review questions, etc.

VI. Develop the challenge

The purpose of the challenge is to motivate the saved children to put the Bible truth into action in daily life. The challenge is usually given at the end of the Bible lesson.

- A. Use the acronym “GROW” to help you remember the other important elements in the challenge:

G—Give Give the main teaching statement at the beginning of the challenge.

Example: “If you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior, God will help you be steadfast and faithful to Him.”

R—Remind Remind children of the verse and examples given in the second application.

O—Obey Obey God’s Word—Challenge the will of the child.

Example: “Will you let God help you be steadfast and faithful to Him this week?”

W—Way Way to do it—Remind them of practical ways they can carry out the main teaching this week. (You may want to provide something for the child to take home to serve as a reminder of his decision throughout the week.)

VII. Tips for presenting the lesson

- A. Do not memorize or just read the lesson—Tell the story using your outline as a guide.
- B. Always use your Bible.
- C. Use your voice effectively.
- D. Use language appropriate for children.
- E. Involve your audience in the lesson.
- F. Practice out loud.
- G. Practice using visuals.
- H. Practice! Practice! Practice!

Teaching Aids to Help with Bible Lesson Preparation

1. Bible Lessons 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

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