



PREPARING A BIBLE LESSON

I. PREPARE YOUR HEART

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

II. REVIEW THE LESSON TOPIC AND THE SCRIPTURE PASSAGE

It is important that the child learn the Bible story facts that the topic and memory verse are build around. However; the life of the child will be changed as God the Holy Spirit speaks through His Word applying his teachings.

You will want to find the complete meaning of the scripture portion so that you can communicate more than story facts to the child. As you begin to prepare any scripture portion, read and reread the passage of scripture several times. Trust the Lord to reveal to you the meaning or message of the passage.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- A. When and where does the story take place?
- B. Who are the characters? Which one is the main character? Is the main “character “ actually a group (for example, the Israelite)?
- C. Is the main character a believer or nonbeliever?
- D. What is the main character learning about the character of God (such as His love, power, faithfulness)?
- E. What am I learning from this passage? (For example, to trust God to supply every need; to be more patient; to spend time in prayer each day.)

III. CONSULT ANY BIBLE COMMENTARIES OR OTHER RESOURCES YOU MAY HAVE

- A. See what others have written about this portion of scripture or topic to make sure your theological interpretation of the passage is correct.
- B. As you are preparing your lesson, look out for any background information and other insights that may aid you and the children in understanding the topic.

IV. WRITE OUT AN OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE LESSON TO USE AS A GUIDE

Introduction: Plan a brief opening that will create interest in what you will teach. The introduction can be a game, a question, a story, a personal experience, or you could be direct to the point, etc... Relate or link your introduction to the main lesson topic or scripture.

An introduction can be:

- 1. A question – Use a question to start the child’s thinking about the lesson topic or truths to be taught.

When teaching about the death of Lazarus (John 11:1-45), you might begin, “Have you ever had someone you really loved either leave you or die? How did you feel when it happened?”

- 2. An exciting story – Start with an event from the lesson that comes farther down in the progression of events. Then go back to the beginning of the lesson.

To introduce the lesson of Peter in prison (Acts 12:1-17), you might begin, “We need sixteen soldiers to guard this man! Chain his hands and feet” Don’t let him escape... Who was this man and why was he in prison?”

- 3. A direct approach – Go right into the lesson, making it interesting in order to capture the child’s attention.

For a lesson from Ester 1:19 – 2:18, you might say, “May I have the envelope please? And the winner is... Ester was excited and probably very nervous! She was a contestant in the most important beauty contest ever held in the kingdom of Persia...”

Memory Scripture Verse: After fully reviewing and understanding the scripture, determine how you are going to link the scripture to the main lesson. You should also fully explain the relevance of the scripture to the children as it relates to the topic of the lesson. You may also consider the option of having the children individually recite the scripture from memory for a reward, recite it as class group, and/or recite it and explain it to you or an assistant teacher.

Student Activity: The primary purpose of the student activity is to provide an opportunity for the children to become involved with the lesson. It should support, reemphasize the main lesson objective. The activity can be a song, a group game, bible challenge, sharing a testimony with the group, or an open discussion. The student activity used should be age/grade appropriate for the class.

Student Activity Sheet: The primary purpose of the student activity is to support and reemphasize the main lesson objective. The student activity sheet also serves as a hands-on activity for the students during their class time. The student activity sheet can be presented in various forms; a coloring sheet, a maze, a puzzle, word scrabble, scripture concentration, etc...The student activity sheet used should be age/grade appropriate for the class.

Main Lesson:

Objective

Appropriation of salvation (invitation)

What is God asking of the children as it pertains to the lesson.