

Greetings!

Learning About the Bible was written for children, 7-11 years old, and it is meant for teachers to use in their Sunday School classes (or wherever children learn about Jesus) to help introduce young readers to basic Bible Literacy.

- It can be used as a stand-alone Bible Study, **or as a supplement** to go along with your regular Sunday School curriculum.
- The lessons are short, clear, and lend themselves to pairing with Bible Studies which might be going on in any 2nd-5th grade classroom.
- Each lesson stands on its own, but when taken in order they build on information presented in earlier lessons.
- Feel free to divide any lesson into two parts, if it is too long or if you want to do extra activities in any one lesson.

When children are old enough to start reading books for information, typically around age 7 or 8, they can also begin reading the Bible. But often, children who have been given Bibles have no idea how to start reading one; or even that it can be done!

I chose to write to this age group because I wanted to help them know more about this BIG book that we call the Bible. My hope was that, perhaps, they will realize that it is a book meant for them, as well as for others.

Churches that present Bibles to their young students, or that have classroom Bibles, would do well to have regular and systematic teaching on how to read the Bible and to find information in it.

Bible literacy is important to help us understand things about the Bible, which might otherwise confuse us. For example: We know that there are four Gospels, which have many of the same stories in them about Jesus. If the children know this when they begin reading the Gospels, then maybe they won't be as surprised as I was, when as a teenager reading through the Bible for the first time, I underlined one of the parables in ink and later found the same parable with no underlining!

So, please feel free to use this study on its own, or as a supplement to your classroom studies. I pray that these lessons will be a blessing to you and your students, as well as to their families!

May God continue to bless you and your ministry. And, through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we all continue to learn more about this wonderful gift that God has given us; the Bible.

With love in Christ,
Sharon

Creating a Time Line in Your Classroom

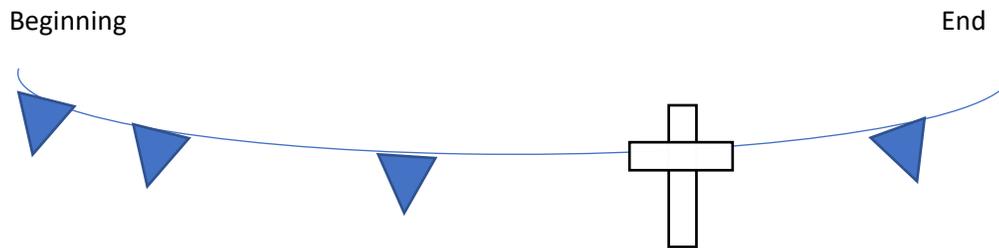
Creating a Time Line in your classroom will help your students more easily understand when the Bible Stories happened and when they were written down. Try to create a Time Line in your classroom by the second lesson. If possible, leave it up from week to week until your studies are completed.

Just like in a Number Line (which should be familiar to children this age) the smaller numbers or years are on the left and the bigger numbers or years are on the right. So, the Beginning of Time would be at the far-left side of the string, and the End of Time would be at the far-right.

Although this undoubtedly seems like a BIG undertaking, it can be accomplished easily by draping some string or yarn across one wall in your classroom.

NOTE: *For safety reasons, make sure the string or yarn for your Time Line is up high enough that very young children cannot reach it or get tangled in it.*

Bring clothespins or other fasteners, so that you can place points of reference on your line. (For example: You might put a paper Cross on the line to show when Jesus was Crucified.)



Each lesson will provide opportunities for you to explain **WHEN** something occurred. The Time Line will provide a visual representation of time, which is often too abstract a concept for young children to understand (*and there are many of us adults who feel the same way!*)

It is **NOT** necessary for your Time Line to be to scale. Nor is it necessary for you to leave things exactly where they are all the time. For instance, if you are talking about the writing of the New Testament, you might slide the Old Testament things further to the left so that you can have more room to better show the time period you are discussing that day.

As you go through the lessons, ideas for what historical events to show on your Time Line will be given. You may also use any activity sheets that are applicable to help show when things occurred. You can just add them to the Time Line!

Occasionally take some class time to review what you have already learned from your Time Line. This will help refresh everyone's memory and help students who may have missed previous classes to understand better what is being presented.

Best wishes!

Creating Bible Replicas in your Classroom

Creating Bible Replicas in your classroom for each child will help the students better understand how the Bible is set up, and how to find things in it. This creative, hands-on approach of fashioning their own replica of the Bible will involve each child in a way that helps them connect more fully with the information they get in class.

The idea is this. The first week each child creates the cover for their own “Bible” and in the weeks to follow they can add dividers for the Old and New Testaments, pages with the names of the Books of the Bible, and various verses that they learn and copy down on pages of paper during each lesson. This helps fashion their Bible.

It will be a “pretend” Bible, of course, because it won’t have all the words in it, but it will have the structure of one of our modern-day Bibles, and have lots of information in it that the children will learn during class time. And, of course, the children will enjoy making their own keepsake of your class!

You will need to decide ahead of time how you would like to create the Bibles. It would be best to provide materials for each child that are more or less the same.

Folders or binders work well for the covers of the Bibles, or even cardstock with holes punched in it. You will need heavy paper or construction paper to make the divisions for Old and New Testaments. Notebook paper will do well for other work.

Markers, crayons, pencils and hole punches will need to be available each time.

In the end, each child should have their own replica of the Bible to take home; complete with front and back covers, divisions for OT and NT, a list of all of the Books of the Bible, as well as pages with various scriptures that they have studied.

Sharon’s Thoughts:

The great thing about this curriculum is that you can choose to create a “Bible” for each child in the classroom as you go along. **You don’t have to do this**, but it is a really fun and instructional activity; and the kids will love it!

I first saw this done in one of our preschool classrooms at church and it was an incredible hit, even though those children were a bit young to understand it all. If you are working with children ages 7-11, they should be able to understand everything that they are doing on the project.

I promise you that this will be a worthwhile endeavor.

Many thanks to my friend, Maggie D., for coming up with this idea originally and for introducing me to it through the children in her classroom. Well done, Maggie!
Thank you!

God bless you!

Sharon

How to Use These Lessons

These lessons are arranged to help the teacher. There is no need to make copies of the lesson for the children. Only the Activity Sheet needs to be printed out for the students, and then only if you choose to use that particular activity for that lesson.

The various sections of the lessons are outlined here:

- Teacher Prep. This is intended to help you understand **WHY** the lesson was written in the first place. It is basically a note from one teacher to another – from me to you!
- Major Points In any class, you can hope to convey only so many “take home” messages in one lesson. These messages are the Major Points. When your students leave your classroom, you will want them to have learned **AT LEAST** these few things.
- Bible Verses Whenever you teach a child in Sunday School, you need to make sure that **WHATEVER** you say has a Bible verse to back it up. The Bible Verses offered help support the Major Points of the lesson. You may refer to them as you like while you are teaching. They are often cited within the lesson for your convenience. Encourage your students to read the verses out loud for the class, as you go along with the lesson.
- Lesson During the lesson you will lead your class from one Major Point to another; usually starting with a short review and then flowing along until you have presented them all. The **BULLET POINTS** under each Major Point are offered as explanations as to why that particular point is true. There you will find reasoning, examples, and Scripture Verses to help you prove your point.
- If you find a bullet point that is tabbed in further than the others, it is offered mainly for your own interest.
 - It may contain additional information or a review of something already covered in other lessons.
 - Use this information to answer questions your students may have, or however you may see fit.
- Prayer **ALWAYS** pray with and for your students. You can use this outline or offer up your own prayer. God is always listening!
- Activities Remember, these are **SUGGESTED** activities. You can use them in class, or not, as you like. You certainly won't be able to do them all in one class period, so it will be necessary for you to **CHOOSE** one or two to do. Choose the ones that make the most sense for your class. Older children may need the more complicated activities. *(Make copies of the Activity Sheet for the children **only** if you are planning to do that particular Activity.)*