

What to Look for in a Good Sunday School Curriculum

When looking for a good Sunday School Curriculum remember that it must...

- Be Age Appropriate (taking into account developmental abilities for children)
 - For Children
 - Non-readers or “Pre-Readers” (4-7)
 - Listen to Bible Story
 - Respond to story verbally (ask and answer questions)
 - Respond to story through planned activities such as worksheets, coloring, drawing, singing songs, or playing games
 - Readers (7 and older)
 - Incorporate reading of the Bible (Bible stories)
 - Bible verse memorization
 - Writing, puzzles, age appropriate games
 - Learn to look through the Bible for answers to questions
 - For Teens (12-18)
 - Hear Bible Truths and Read from Bible
 - Discuss how these truths apply to their lives
 - Respond to Bible Truths with activities such as games, skits, role-playing
 - Exercises in service to others (increasing as time goes on.)
 - For Adults (18 and older)
 - Read through Bible passages together
 - Discuss truths found there as a group
 - Discover how these truths apply to our lives
 - Gain a general overview of the history and teachings of the Bible
 - Gain a deeper understanding of various passages of the Bible
 - Develop disciplines such as Bible reading and prayer
 - Learn to teach others about Jesus
- Have some reasonable, overall approach to covering the material at hand
 - Look at the set of lessons and the individual lessons themselves
 - Each lesson should be short, informative, and able to stand on its own
 - The lessons in a series should ALSO build upon one another
- Teach not only Bible lessons, but also new skills and disciplines (based on age and needs)
 - Examples include: Bible verse memorization, Learning to look up things in the Bible, Prayer, Witnessing to others, and Service to others

Choosing a Sunday School Curriculum

Of primary concern are the following things:

- It must be Bible-based and Christ-honoring.
- It must encourage students to come closer to God
- It must take students from where they are and move them forward

Or, to sum up, a good curriculum points you towards Jesus, gets you into the Bible more, and moves you forward in your spiritual walk.

- Learning more about Jesus
- Accepting Jesus as Savior
- Becoming dedicated disciples
- Sharing the Gospel with others

In addition, the teaching of the curriculum must agree with the general belief systems of your church. *(Always check with your pastor before using any new curriculum.)*

Secondary considerations in curriculum include the following:

The curriculum should have some reasonable, overall approach to covering the material you wish to study. And, while the whole set of lessons should gradually build upon one another, the individual lessons should be short, informative, and able to stand on their own

The curriculum should not just teach Bible lessons, but also new skills and disciplines *(depending on the ages of the students and their needs.)* Some examples might include:

- Bible verse memorization,
- Learning to look up things in the Bible,
- Prayer
- Witnessing to others
- Service to others

In addition to these things, a curriculum for children needs to be able to expand and contract a little to fit with your particular group and the amount of time you have allotted.

Finally, for children, the curriculum must be very age-specific. It must take into account the mental and physical abilities that develop with the child.

Arts and crafts projects should be challenging for the student, but easy enough to do for that average age group. For example: Do not expect little 4 year old children to be able to do complex art activities. They will become frustrated and disinterested. Instead choose a project which allows them to explore new things they can do, or a new media they haven't yet tried.