

Developing Bible Skills in Children

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 3:14-15 (ESV)

Nursery → Hearing

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17



The children should hear the word of God as it is spoken in prayers and blessings



Bible themes:

God is good
God is big
God is strong
Jesus loves you
Thank you Jesus
God made everything
We need God
Jesus is alive

Preschool → Seeing and Memorizing

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16



Children should see the Bible being used during teaching time and Bible memory should be emphasized



The Bible is ...

- God's word
- about God
- precious and true



Bible themes:

God is all-powerful
God is in charge
God knows everything
God made everything
God keeps His promises
Jesus is God
Jesus saves us

Kindergarten → Applying

These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31



The children should come to understand that the message of the Bible is for them



The Bible is ...

- written by God
- the most important book of all
- for everyone



Bible themes:

- God created us to know and love Him
- God is holy
- All people are sinners and deserve God's punishment
- Jesus never sinned
- Jesus died on the cross to save sinners
- Everyone who believes in Jesus will be saved and go to heaven



Bible skills:

- Learning the books of the Bible

1st and 2nd Grade → Reading

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart. Jeremiah 15:16



The children should become acquainted with their own Bibles and become actively engaged in the text



The Bible is ...

- the highest authority
- where we go for answers to the most important questions
- a book of promises from God



Bible themes:

- The attributes of God: almighty, eternal, glorious, holy, righteous, sovereign ...
- The doctrines of God, man, Jesus, and redemption
- The covenantal relationship of God with believers



Bible skills:

- Ordering the books of the Bible
- Sword Drills
- Definition of key Bible terms
- Identification of Bible promises

3rd and 4th Grade → Interpreting

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Luke 24:27



Through guided questions and explanations the children should learn how to understand the text



The Bible is ...

- one complete story, progressively revealed
- God's *inspired* word given to and written down by His chosen men
- our hope, guide, and protection from sin



Bible themes:

- Redemptive history
- The Person and work of Jesus
- The gospel message
- Salvation and Christian growth



Bible skills:

- Chronological order of the Bible— including people and events
- Understanding context

5th and 6th Grade → Analyzing

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15



The children should be taught how to examine, summarize, and apply the text



The Bible is ...

- the ultimate standard of truth
- without error
- living and active
- eternal and unchanging



Bible themes:

- The character of God
- The providence of God
- Spiritual warfare



Bible skills:

- Studying the Bible: what questions to ask about the text, key words to look for, identifying patterns, etc.
- Bible history
- Making notes and underlining or highlighting key passages

Recommended reading:

Teach Them Diligently, by Lou Priolo. Timeless Texts.

Systematic Theology, by Wayne Grudem. Zondervan