

A NOTE TO PARENTS



The curriculum we will be using this year is *HE ESTABLISHED A TESTIMONY: Old Testament Stories for Young Children*. This is a chronological teaching of Old Testament stories with the aim of acquainting your child with a great, big God. Each story will be told with an attempt to answer the question, “What does this say about God?” God will be presented as the main character in each story rather than Abraham, Noah, Moses, David, or Esther.

Key doctrinal themes will be emphasized such as: God can do anything, God knows everything, God is holy, man is sinful, sin must be punished, God is merciful and loving, God is sovereign (He is over all things), man needs God, faith pleases God, God is faithful, and God is unchanging.

Each child will receive a **CHRONOLOGICAL COLORING BOOK OF OLD TESTAMENT STORIES** containing the story title, Bible reference, and key themes, which he will be able to take home at the end of this study and keep as an ongoing review of what has been taught.

In addition, your child will be encouraged to memorize simple Bible verses called **FOUNDATION VERSES**. Although these will be introduced and reviewed in class, it is imperative that parents help their children learn the memory verses. This can be done simply by stating the verse a phrase at a time and asking your child to repeat each phrase. As each phrase is learned, add the next phrase until the verse has been completed. Then use the verse in everyday life. Review the verses daily so they are not forgotten. A list of verses is attached. In addition, Foundation Verses Packs are available either through the church or through Desiring God Ministries.¹ They include a picture with each verse and can easily be tucked in a pocket or purse so review can be done while waiting in the grocery line, driving in the car, waiting for an appointment, etc.

Recognizing that parents are the primary faith nurturers of their children and that the opportunity and time to nurture your child is limited in the classroom, a **PARENT RESOURCE PAGE** is sent home each week to inform you of the story, scripture reference, and key themes of the lesson. Each page provides you with suggested discussion questions to assist you in reinforcing and building upon the truth presented in class. The purpose of the Parent Resource Pages is to help you and your child interact with the Bible story and to solicit a personal response from both you and your child to the truths in the scripture passage. This is best done if you yourself are familiar with the Bible story and have gleaned some truth from it that is meaningful to you.

The actual time with your child will probably take only a few minutes, due partly to the inability of your young child to sit still for an extended amount of time (this varies with the age of your child and his temperament). But it will be helpful to take some time to prepare for the time with your child:

1. Be familiar with the Bible story (read it for yourself).
2. Glean some truth from it that is meaningful to you and understandable to your child. It is important to both stay true to the intent of the scripture passage, and to share it from your heart.
3. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide you and your child.

The “Questions and Responses” section is intended to be a guide only. All the possible questions and responses you and your child could have to these Bible stories cannot be included in this section. Usually only one aspect of the story has been highlighted. However there is a myriad of other truths that could be focused on as well. It is important to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit in knowing which aspect of the story God wants you to focus on with your child. Because young children can be easily confused, it is recommended that your presentation of truth be very simple.

May God bless your efforts to guide your child in truth. May he love God and become strong in faith.

¹ Available through Desiring God Ministries: www.desiringGOD.org ; 1-888-346-4700.

May you establish a testimony to your child of the glorious deeds of the LORD, and His might, and the wonders that He has done.

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,
things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,
that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children, so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

Psalm 78:2-7*
(English Standard Version Bible)

Below are the Foundation Verses that correspond to each lesson.

Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse	Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse	Lesson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Foundation Verse
1		Genesis 1:1	23		Review	44		Review
2		Matthew 6:24	24		Psalm 121:8	45		Psalm 1:1
3		Proverbs 3:5	25		Psalm 86:7	46		Psalm 1:2
4		Psalm 1:6	26		Review	47		Psalm 1:3
5		Review	27		Proverbs 18:10	48		Review
6		Isaiah 30:15	28		Psalm 95:3	49		Psalm 1:4
7		Isaiah 43:5	29		James 1:17	50		Review
8		Psalm 119:105	30		Review	51		Psalm 1:5
9		Proverbs 30:5	31		Exodus 20:2-3	52		Review
10		Review	32		Review	53		Psalm 1:6
11		1 Chronicles 16:34	33		Exodus 20:4	54		Hebrews 13:16a
12		Proverbs 1:7	34		Exodus 20:7	55		Proverbs 19:20
13		Review	35		Exodus 20:8	56		Psalm 36:5
14		Review	36		Exodus 20:12	57		Review
15		Review	37		Exodus 20:13-15	58		Review
16		Review	38		Review	59		Proverbs 1:10
17		Psalm 56:3	39		Exodus 20:16	60		2 Corinthians 10:17
18		Psalm 121:1-2	40		Exodus 20:17a	61		Romans 12:21
19		Psalm 121:3-4	41		Joshua 1:9	62		Proverbs 15:1
20		Psalm 121:5-6	42		Review	63		Review
21		Review	43		Ephesians 6:1	64		Review
22		Psalm 121:7						

*"Scripture quotation is from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved."