BIBLE SKILLS FOR KIDS
THE BIBLE WAS WRITTEN FROM THREE CONTINENTS—ASIA, AFRICA, EUROPE.

AN OSTRACON IS A PIECE OF BROKEN POTTERY USED TO WRITE A MESSAGE. A SONG TO JESUS WAS WRITTEN ON THIS ONE.

THE "TRIBUTE PENNY" WAS PAID AS A TAX TO THE EMPEROR AND HAS THE EMPEROR’S IMAGE ON IT.
Why do we need to focus on Bible Skills?

While the majority of churchgoers desire to honor Christ with their lives and even profess to meditate on biblical truths, a LifeWay Research study found few actually engage in personal reading and study of the Scriptures.

When asked how often they personally (not as part of a church worship service) read the Bible, a similar number responded “Every Day” (19 percent) as responded “Rarely/Never” (18 percent). A quarter indicated they read the Bible a few times a week. Fourteen percent said they read the Bible “Once a Week” and another 22 percent said “Once a Month” or “A Few Times a Month.”

“God’s Word is truth, so it should come as no surprise that reading and studying the Bible are still the activities that have the most impact on growth in this attribute of spiritual maturity,” LifeWay Research stated. “As basic as that is, there are still numerous churchgoers who are not reading the Bible regularly. You simply won’t grow if you don’t know God and spend time in God’s Word.”

How do I use this booklet?

We all want our children to have a Bible, use it, and learn from it. We want it to be the treasure to them that it is to us. How do we help that happen? How do we develop Bible skills from birth through preteens that will last a lifetime?

1. **Use the information here to help you** and your church encourage and guide the development of Bible skills in children. Begin to think of ways you can implement the ideas and suggestions into your ministry. Bible skills are more than finding verses quickly or reciting verses from memory. Children who learn to use their Bibles can become adults who know how to study their Bibles, use it in times of trouble, and make good decisions.

2. **Start where each child is** and begin with basic skills he can handle. Use the Bible Skills for Kids poster to gain an understanding of where you are going with Bible skills by the preteen years and an approximate place to begin with each child.

3. **Develop skills by instruction and demonstration.** Children learn by doing. They can hear a verse and repeat it. They can find a book in the Bible by saying the books in order and looking for the book in their Bibles. They can hear a word and its definition and then look it up in a Bible dictionary.

4. **Always integrate Bible skills.** Like any other skill, the more kids use their Bibles to find books and references, the more they will feel comfortable with their Bibles. The more they feel comfortable with their Bibles, the more they’ll use them. Children need an opportunity to use their Bibles every time they come to church.

5. **Work with parents** to encourage Bible skill development in the home. Parents can model good Bible skills when they take their own Bibles to church and conduct their own quiet times.

Building Bible skills for a lifetime begins now.

“Be diligent to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed, correctly teaching the word of truth” *2 Timothy 2:15.*
How can I distribute this booklet?

- Give one to every teacher in your ministry.
- Present one to parents at baby dedications.
- Add one as part of a first grade Bible presentation.
- Distribute them as part of your Bible Drill ministry.
- Incorporate them into New Christian classes.
- Include them as part of a follow-up to families who visit your church or attend VBS.
Using Bible Skills with Preschoolers

Teachers and parents have the opportunity to introduce preschoolers to God’s special book—the Bible. This is accomplished through the use of Bible verses and phrases, which are portions of Bible verses that are paraphrased or restated using words preschoolers understand. Teachers and parents can repeat Bible verses as girls and boys engage in everyday activities.

The goal for using Bible verses with preschoolers is to encourage life application, not memorization. However, if an older preschooler hears the same Bible verse several times in the context of an activity, the child may be able to remember that Bible verse.

Bible verses and phrases used with preschoolers should contain concrete facts. The purpose is for preschoolers to apply biblical teachings to their own lives. “Jesus is the Lamb of God” may be confusing to literal-minded preschoolers, but “Jesus is God’s Son” communicates the same truth.

As preschoolers learn that the Bible’s teachings apply to their lives, they also need to know that the Bible verses they hear are actually in the Bible. Teachers can do this by placing Bible markers at the correct references. As teachers talk about Jesus’ birth, they can open the Bible to Matthew 2:1 and point to the verse.

Using Bible verses with young children gives adults opportunities to reinforce the truth that the Bible is a special book.

Using Bible Skills with Kids

Developing Bible skills with kids takes place every time they use their Bibles. Consider all of the moments in a single Bible study time:

• As girls and boys gather, they can place the book cards of the Old Testament in one bag and book cards of the New Testament in another bag.
• Children find the book of the Bible, chapter, and verse where today’s story is found. They look in the first verse for the name of a person in the story. The teacher explains that the Bible story is God’s Word. The teacher identifies which division of the Bible contains the story.
• Children find the memory verse in their Bibles and read it, talk about what it means, then play a game to learn the words of the verse.
• In small groups the teacher guides the children with her Bible open and references the Bible as she teaches.

When did children develop Bible skills that day? They worked on Bible skills during the entire session. Each time a child found a reference in his Bible or looked up a verse to discover information, he was practicing Bible skills. He was becoming more comfortable using his Bible. He was building on the foundations for lifelong Bible use.

DID YOU KNOW?

Animal horns were used as oil flasks during Bible times because of their built-in spout for pouring. This one is from Ancient Egypt 3,300 years ago.
Using Scripture Memory with Kids

The Bible tells us that memorization is one of the keys to hiding God’s Word in our hearts so that God can use it to change us and grow us in His will. Psalm 119 is filled with verses that speak toward the importance of God’s Word.

Memorizing Bible verses is so much more than “saying the words by heart.” Consider these suggested guidelines:

- **Children’s lives can be impacted.** Plan more than a one-time use of a verse so it impacts kids long term.
- **Children absorb new material gradually.** Generally speaking, the younger the child, the fewer verses he can be expected to learn and relate to life.
- **Children differ in their abilities.** Some children can memorize words and grasp meanings more quickly.
- **Children learn by repetition.** The more often a Bible verse is used and recalled, the better a child will remember and apply it.
- **Children are more interested** in learning when methods are varied and engaging.
- **Children’s learning is enhanced** when they are involved in activities. These can include singing a verse, acting out the meaning of the verse, matching verses with present-day pictures, and other activities suitable to the age group.

The Most Important Verses to Remember

The following 75 verses are considered the most important verses for our children to hide in their hearts.

1. Genesis 1:1
2. Genesis 1:27
3. Genesis 1:31
4. Exodus 20:12
5. Leviticus 22:31
6. Deuteronomy 6:5
7. Deuteronomy 16:17
8. Joshua 24:24
9. 1 Chronicles 16:8
10. 1 Chronicles 16:9
11. Job 37:14
12. Psalm 19:14
13. Psalm 54:2
14. Psalm 56:3
15. Psalm 118:24
16. Psalm 119:11
17. Psalm 119:105
18. Psalm 145:9
19. Proverbs 3:5-6
20. Proverbs 8:33
21. Proverbs 15:1
22. Proverbs 20:11
23. Proverbs 22:1
24. Isaiah 6:8
25. Isaiah 9:6
26. Isaiah 40:8
27. Isaiah 45:5
28. Micah 6:8
29. Nahum 1:7
30. Malachi 3:10
31. Matthew 4:10
32. Matthew 5:44
33. Matthew 5:16
34. Matthew 21:22
35. Matthew 28:19-20
36. Mark 13:31
37. Luke 2:52
40. Luke 11:9
41. Luke 19:10
42. John 3:16
43. John 4:24
44. John 8:32
45. John 13:35
46. John 15:12
47. John 15:13
48. Acts 1:8
49. Acts 4:12
50. Acts 16:31
51. Romans 8:28
52. Romans 10:9
53. Romans 12:1
54. Romans 14:12
55. 1 Corinthians 3:16
56. 1 Corinthians 4:2
57. 1 Corinthians 10:31
58. 1 Corinthians 14:40
59. Ephesians 2:8
60. Ephesians 4:32
61. Ephesians 6:1
62. Philippians 4:13
63. Colossians 3:23
64. 1 Thessalonians 5:18
65. 1 Timothy 4:12
66. 2 Timothy 1:7
67. 2 Timothy 2:15
68. 2 Timothy 3:16
69. James 1:19
70. James 1:22
71. 1 Peter 4:9
72. 1 John 1:9
73. 1 John 4:19
74. 1 John 4:21
75. Revelation 4:11
The Church Connection

There are many opportunities to help children understand how to use the Bible or help them develop advanced Bible skills at church. Here are some ideas:

1. **Provide Bibles** in your worship center for kids to use as they participate during worship or as part of a kids worship hour.

2. **Develop a Bible skills program** at your church for grades 1–6.

3. **Schedule a parent meeting** to discuss the importance of parents helping their children develop Bible skills. Use this resource as the basis of that meeting.

4. **Train children’s leaders** on the importance of including time during any Bible-teaching session to help children develop Bible skills.

5. **Challenge children** each month to learn all the books in a particular division of the Bible.

6. **Plan a Bible Game Night for families.** Use some of the activities found in this resource to help you plan.

7. **Organize a Bible Drill retreat** with older children. Spend time helping children learn, locate, and memorize books of the Bible, key passages, and the plan of salvation. Encourage children to make their own Bible games.

8. **Provide daily devotional magazines** for children to promote their personal Bible study.

9. **Enlist the support** of your pastor to urge parents and children to participate in worship services by using their Bibles and memorizing Scripture.

10. **Model Bible skills** when and wherever possible.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

THE UR-NAMMU LAW CODE IS THE OLDEST KNOWN LAW FROM PEOPLE CALLED THE SUMERIANS OVER 4,000 YEARS AGO!
The Parent Connection

Helping your children develop Bible skills is part of your task as the primary spiritual leader in your children’s lives. You might ask, “How can I do this?” Here are some quick tips to use at home with your children.

1. **Model the importance** of Bible study by setting aside a regular time for family devotions.

2. **Make sure each child** in your family has his own Bible to use during personal and family devotions.

3. **Take your Bible to church** and encourage your children to take their Bibles to church too.

4. **Guide your children** to participate in the worship service by helping them find the Scripture passage used during the sermon.

5. **Encourage children** to find the Scripture reference they studied at church. With preschoolers, mention the name of the book; with elementary kids, mention the division of the Bible, book, chapter, and reference.

6. **Challenge your school-age children** to name the books before and after the book you located.

**Q:** Why should we teach kids how to use print Bibles when digital Bibles are located everywhere?

**A:** Children who learn to use a print Bible can easily transfer those skills to a digital Bible. Print Bibles reinforce visually that the Bible is one big story of God’s redemptive plan. Concrete and logical learners discover how the Bible is organized when they hold a print Bible.

DID YOU KNOW?

**ALTHOUGH DAVID FACED A GIANT WITH ARMOR AND WEAPONS, GOD’S POWER LED DAVID TO DEFEAT GOLIATH WITH ONLY A SLINGSHOT AND A STONE...A STONE ABOUT THE SIZE OF A TENNIS BALL!**

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So should we allow kids to use their Bible apps?

Yes! If we want kids to learn how to use the Bible anywhere and at any time, then we need to encourage them to access the Bible in whatever format is readily available. In the end, we want kids to cherish God’s Word, regardless of whether they are reading from a well-worn print edition or on the latest tablet.
### Preschool Foundational Stories

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<td>David and Jonathan</td>
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<td>Jesus Taught About God’s Care</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Colosseum was built almost 2,000 years ago. Christians were persecuted because of their faith in front of huge crowds gathered in this arena.
Jesus Taught About Prayer  
MATTHEW 6:5-15
Jesus Fed the 5,000  
JOHN 6:1-15
Jesus Made Bartimaeus Well  
MARK 10:46-52; JOHN 9:1-11,35-39
The Four Friends  
MARK 2:1-12
The Ten Lepers  
LUKE 17:11-19
Jesus Calmed the Storm  
MARK 4:35-41
Jesus Healed the Woman With the Crooked Back  
LUKE 13:10-17
A Woman Met Jesus  
JOHN 4:1-26
Jesus Read the Bible Scroll  
LUKE 4:16-28
Jesus Told the Parable of the Lost Son  
LUKE 15:11-32
Jesus Told the Parable of the Good Samaritan  
LUKE 10:25-37
A Woman Gave Her Money  
LUKE 21:1-4
Jesus Visited Mary & Martha  
LUKE 10:38-42
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Jesus’ Special Supper  
MATTHEW 26:17-30
Jesus Washed His Disciples’ Feet  
JOHN 13:1-17
Jesus Is Alive!  
MATTHEW 28:1-8; JOHN 20:1-10
Breakfast With Jesus  
JOHN 21:1-13
The First Church Meets Together  
ACTS 2:41-47; 4:32-36
The Church Helped People  
ACTS 6:1-10
Philip and the Ethiopian  
ACTS 8:26-31,34-35,38-39
Timothy Learned About God  
1 TIMOTHY 1
Lydia Learned About Jesus  
ACTS 16:11-15
Peter and Cornelius  
ACTS 10:9-43
The Church Prayed for Peter  
ACTS 12:1-17
Barnabas and Paul  
ACTS 13:13-52
Paul, the Missionary  
ACTS 9:1-20
Paul and Silas in Prison  
ACTS 16:16-34
Aquila and Priscilla  
ACTS 18

DID YOU KNOW?  
Jesus might have used a basin like this to wash His disciples’ feet. The basin was filled with water, and a person’s foot was placed on the raised pedestal in the center to be washed. This basin is almost 2,800 years old!
Kids Foundational Stories

**CREATION**
- God Created the World
  GENESIS 1:1-2:2
- God’s Plan for People
  GENESIS 1:20-28; 2:4-9
- Adam and Eve’s Sin
  GENESIS 2:15; 3
- Cain and Abel
  GENESIS 4:1-16

**CHRISTMAS**
- Prophets Told About Jesus
  ISAIAH 7:14; 9:6; MICAH 5:2
- Angels Visited Mary and Joseph
  LUKE 1:26-38; MATTHEW 1:18-25
- Mary Visited Elizabeth
  LUKE 1:13-17; 39:45; 57-66
- Jesus Was Born
  LUKE 2:1-20
- Wise Men Saw Jesus
  MATTHEW 2:1-12
- Simeon and Anna
  LUKE 2:25-38

**EASTER**
- The Triumphant Entry
  MATTHEW 21:1-11
- The Last Supper
  MATTHEW 26:17-30
- Jesus Washed the Disciples’ Feet
  JOHN 13:1-17
- Jesus Prayed in the Garden
  MATTHEW 26:36-46; JOHN 17
- Crucifixion and Resurrection
  MATTHEW 27:27-61; 28:1-8
- Thomas Believed
  JOHN 20:24-29
- Peter Had Breakfast with Jesus
  JOHN 21:1-13
- The Ascension
  ACTS 1:1-11

**FOUNDATION STORIES:**
- Noah
  GENESIS 6:9-22; 7:1-10
- Abram and Lot
  GENESIS 12:1-9; 13
- The Sacrifice of Isaac
  GENESIS 22:1-9
- Isaac the Peacemaker
  GENESIS 26:12-33
- Jacob and Esau
  GENESIS 32:1-11; 33; 35:1-7
- Joseph and His Brothers
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- Joseph Forgave His Brothers
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- Miriam and Moses
  EXODUS 2:1-10
- The Israelites Crossed the Red Sea
  EXODUS 14
- God Gave the Ten Commandments
  EXODUS 19:3-6; 20:1-17
- Joshua Was Chosen
  NUMBERS 27:12-23
- Joshua and Jericho
  JOSUA 6:1-21
- God Chose Gideon
  JUDGES 6:14,16; 7:1-8,15-22
- Samson
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- Hannah Prayed
  1 SAMUEL 1:1-18
- Samuel’s Birth and Calling
  1 SAMUEL 1:20-28; 3
- King Saul
  1 SAMUEL 9:15-17; 10:20-28
- David the Shepherd
  1 SAMUEL 16:1-23
- David and Goliath
  1 SAMUEL 17:12-49
- David and Jonathan
  1 SAMUEL 18:1-5; 19:1-7; 20:1-42
- King David
  2 SAMUEL 5
- Solomon and the Temple
  1 KINGS 8:1-61
- Hezekiah and the People Worshiped God
  2 CHRONICLES 29
- Joash and the People Gave Offerings
  2 CHRONICLES 24:1-14
- God Cared for Elijah
  1 KINGS 17:7-16
- God Protected Elijah
  1 KINGS 19
- Elisha and the Widow
  2 KINGS 4:1-7
- A Couple Helped Elisha
  2 KINGS 4:8-17
- Josiah and the Lost Scroll
  2 KINGS 22
- The People Sang
  EZRA 3
Esther
ESTHER 2-5

Jeremiah Wrote God’s Words
JEREMIAH 36:1-4, 22-24, 27-28, 32

Daniel Chose to Obey
DANIEL 1:1-20

Daniel and the Lion’s Den
DANIEL 6

Jonah
JONAH 1-3

Jesus Went to Temple
LUKE 2:41-50

John the Baptist
MATTHEW 3:1-12

Jesus Was Tempted
MATTHEW 4:1-11

Jesus Performed Miracles
MARK 2:1-12

A Widow Gave
LUKE 21:1-4

Jesus Fed the People
JOHN 6:1-15

Jesus Taught About Prayer
MATTHEW 6:5-15

Peter Walked on Water
MATTHEW 14:22-33

Jesus Taught about Forgiveness
LUKE 17:1-10

Jesus Healed a Blind Man
JOHN 9:1-11, 35-39

Four Friends Helped
MARK 2:1-12

Jesus Calmed the Storm
MATTHEW 8:23-27

Jesus Went to the Temple as an Adult
LUKE 4:14-24

Jesus Chose Twelve Helpers
MATTHEW 4:18-22; 10:2-4

The Good Samaritan
LUKE 10:25-37

Mary and Martha
LUKE 10:38-42

Jesus Healed Ten Lepers
LUKE 17:11-19

The Rich Young Ruler
MATTHEW 19:16-29

Jesus and Zacchaeus
LUKE 19:1-10

Jesus and the Woman at the Well
JOHN 4:1-26

The Holy Spirit Empowered Witnesses
ROMANS 8:14-16

The Church Began
ACTS 2:41-47

The Church Chose Leaders
ACTS 14:23-28

Stephen Preached
ACTS 6:8-15

Saul’s Conversion
ACTS 9:1-20

Philip and the Ethiopian
ACTS 8:26-31, 34-35, 38-39

Saul Told about Jesus
ACTS 9:20-31

Peter and Cornelius
ACTS 10:9-43

The Antioch Church Helped
ACTS 11:19-26

The Fruit of the Spirit
GALATIANS 5:22-23

People Prayed for Peter
ACTS 12:1-5

Paul Became a Missionary
ACTS 13

Paul and Barnabas Told about Jesus
ACTS 13:13-52

Paul’s Second Journey
ACTS 15:36-41

The Church in Corinth
1 CORINTHIANS 1; 3; 4; 12

Paul Taught Peter
GALATIANS 2

Paul Wrote a Letter to Timothy
1 & 2 TIMOTHY

Peter Wrote Letters
1 & 2 PETER

DID YOU KNOW?
1 PETER 2:3 says that we should taste that the Lord is good. In ancient Ur, people used straws like this one so they didn’t drink trash or insects floating on top of the water, and they could taste the clean water underneath.
Choosing a Child’s Bible

A Bible is one of the most valuable gifts you can give your child. The value of the Bible you choose is not dependent upon whether or not it is expensive. The Bible’s value lies in the fact that it is God’s Word. Choose a Bible that will last for several years. As your child grows, she may need a Bible more suitable for her age. Your child may benefit from having two different Bibles before entering the teen years—one as a preschooler and one to use while in elementary school.

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING A CHILD’S BIBLE

1. **Size**—The Bible should be large enough for the child to hold easily, but not too large or heavy to carry. Consider a tote for younger children to help to carry their Bible.

2. **Complete**—Preschoolers and school-age children alike need to know that both Testaments are included in the Bible and are equally important. Choose a complete Bible. Bible storybooks are great to use at home, a companion to the full-text Bible.

3. **User friendly**—The Bible should be easy to use. Consider purchasing a Bible that contains a Table of Contents to assist school-age children in locating hard-to-find books and verses in the Bible.

4. **Realistic illustrations**—Pictures in the Bible can reinforce that people and stories in the Bible are real and true.

5. **Translation**—Choose an accurate translation of the biblical text rather than a paraphrase. The best Bible translations for children combine reliability with readability, such as the CSB®.

6. **Study helps**—School-age children may wish to know more about the customs or lifestyles of the people in the Bible. Many Bibles include great maps and other study helps.

7. **Durability**—Make sure the cover is of good quality. Consider purchasing a Bible carrying case that will protect and add length to the life of a child’s Bible.

8. **Your child’s input**—Allow your school-age child to help select the color or cover design of his Bible. Monogramming the outer cover or inscribing the inside cover will give him a feeling of ownership.

DID YOU KNOW?

It's never too early to purchase a full-text Bible for your child!
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<tr>
<th>Toddlers</th>
<th>Younger Preschoolers</th>
<th>Older Preschoolers</th>
<th>Elementary-age Kids</th>
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The longest word in the Bible is "Mahershalaalashbaaz" in Isaiah 8:3.

There are 49 different foods mentioned in the Bible. This decoration is from a Capernaum Synagogue 1,700 years ago.

Philip didn’t walk; he ran to the Ethiopian’s chariot to speak with him about Jesus. This chariot is from ancient Egypt.

Two coins were allowed for the temple tax, but the Tyrian shekel was the most common coin used by the Jews.

The Hammurabi code is 282 laws from 3,800 years ago. It gives the crimes and punishments for people in Mesopotamia.

The Christians met in a place called Solomon’s Colonnade. Many people thought that it was part of King Solomon’s temple complex about 1,000 years before the disciples’ time. It had rows of 27-foot-high stone columns and a roof of cedar. This is likely where people gathered for discussions about the Law.

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