
Essential Overview for Teaching

In addition to the notes provided below, please keep in mind that prayer is essential for all involved in the discipleship of the next generation—prayer for our own hearts as teachers and leaders, prayer for God to be at work in our students' hearts, prayer for our students throughout the week, etc.

Notes for Teaching

The teacher is responsible for presenting the designated lesson portion of the material.

- In preparation, carefully review the entire lesson. Prayerfully focus on the main themes and Scripture texts you will be presenting.
- If possible, review the lesson that was taught the previous week. Usually, there is an intentional flow in which the current lesson builds on the previous one.
- Gather all the materials listed in the Curriculum Resources section on the first page of the lesson and print those provided as printable PDFs.
- Formatting cues are used to help guide the teacher through the lesson material.
 - » *Visual Thumbnails*—Visual thumbnails and short text descriptions in the left margin give teachers a quick reference to what should be displayed at certain points during the lesson.
 - » *Font Style*
 - Sentences in *italics* often recommend a specific wording of the concept or illustration being taught. This is used to make certain theological points very clear, to convey a specific tone, or to address the heart of the students in a special way.
 - Lesson material **not** in italics should be conveyed in your own words.
 - Scripture portions are in ***bold italics***.

» *Scripture*—While the portions are usually included in the lesson, you are strongly encouraged to read from your Bible while teaching the lesson so that the authority of the Bible in teaching is emphasized. Some lessons may reference Bible stories that may or may not be familiar to your students. Be aware of the Bible literacy of your classroom, and be prepared to provide additional background information when needed.

» *Parenthetical Teacher Instructions*—Each lesson contains teaching instructions and other helpful information in parentheses for the teacher. Read these carefully when preparing to teach the lesson. In addition to reading these instructions, it is important to think through the lesson yourself and decide how you can most effectively teach the concepts presented.

- For more in-depth help on how to teach a lesson, please refer to the Introduction section in the Teacher's Guide.

Notes for Small Group Leading

The small group leader is responsible for the application discussion that follows the lesson.

- In preparation, carefully review the entire lesson, focusing on the main themes and Scripture texts that will be presented.
- After reading the lesson, prayerfully consider the suggested application discussion questions and activities. Notice that you are not expected to cover every possible application point with the students. These are suggestions about how you might direct a conversation with the children. Realistically, you may only have time to cover one or two of these.
- Keep in mind that the goal of this time should be aimed at encouraging a right heart response to what has been taught, not providing additional teaching. However, especially with younger children, a short review of the main ideas may be helpful.

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- If student resources (e.g., workbooks, notebooks, journals, etc.) are provided for your classroom, be prepared with any additional instructions or supplies that may be required.
 - For more in-depth help on how to lead a small group application discussion, please refer to the Introduction.

Additional Classroom Information Specific to My Church

(provided by class team leader, regular teacher, or small group leader)