

CORE TRAINING SERIES



**TOOLS FOR
USING TRUTH78
CURRICULUM:
ELEMENTARY**

MINISTRY ROLE:

Children's Ministry Leaders, Team Leaders, Teachers, Small Group Leaders, Worship Leaders

TARGET AGE:

Elementary Classrooms

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by Jill Nelson



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Children undergo enormous cognitive changes from kindergarten through the elementary years. One of the most distinctive features is the transition into reading and writing. Along with that comes an increasing ability to absorb and retain information, apply critical thinking to what they learn, and make personal application to their everyday lives. That is why it is essential to use these years to instruct the mind, engage the heart, and influence the will with the whole counsel of God. Our hope and prayer is that they become well acquainted with the Scriptures so they might be made wise for salvation in Christ and then be equipped to be faithful disciples (2 Timothy 3:15-17). Toward this end, Truth78 has carefully designed a scope and sequence emphasizing several theological disciplines at various ages to acquaint children with the whole counsel of God. Whatever age group and curriculum you are teaching, we strongly encourage you to read

- **The Theological and Philosophical Foundations of Our Teaching Resources**
www.truth78.org/training?training=810
- **The Values That Define the Truth78 Curriculum**
www.truth78.org/values
- **An Explanation of Our Scope and Sequence**
www.truth78.org/scopes-sequence-explanation

These documents will help you understand the content and structure of our curricula and how a particular curriculum fits into the greater context of teaching the whole counsel of God.

THE ROLE OF THE BIBLE IN THE CLASSROOM

Truth78 is committed to boldly upholding and communicating the authority, sufficiency, clarity, and necessity of Scripture. Therefore, our lessons are written

to train students to rightly read, study, interpret, and apply Scripture. We believe this is best accomplished with an incremental, age-appropriate approach. Toward that end, teachers should use the Bible—in print form—when they teach, reading from the actual text of a Bible instead of simply reading the text from the Teacher's Guide. Additionally, beginning in first grade, children should be encouraged to bring a Bible to class each week, as the lessons encourage children to look up and interact with the text.

Please note that the curriculum uses the English Standard Version (ESV) translation of the Bible. We recommend teachers, small group leaders, and students use this translation, too.

THE GOSPEL-FOCUS OF TRUTH78 CURRICULA

We believe teaching on the Gospel must be firmly grounded within the whole counsel of God, consistently and carefully explaining essential doctrines necessary for a proper and thorough understanding. The scope, sequence, and content of our curricula reflect this incremental and comprehensive approach. While every lesson presents essential Gospel truths, not every lesson includes an explicit presentation and explanation of the entirety of the Gospel. It is also important to note that we are committed to the Gospel's serious and urgent command to repent and believe in Jesus. Consequently, the lessons encourage thoughtful, meaningful, sincere, biblical reflection in responding to Gospel truth, rather than a simple affirmation of Gospel facts.

BASIC CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

The Truth78 kindergarten and elementary curricula suggests the following classroom structure:

PRE-CLASS TEAM PRAYER TIME
10 minutes

TRANSITION TIME
(check-in, small group time, or activity centers)
5-15 minutes

WORSHIP
10-15 minutes

LESSON PRESENTATION
20-30 minutes

SMALL GROUP APPLICATION/WORKBOOKS
15-20 minutes

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES
10-20 minutes

The basic curriculum essentials (Lesson Presentation and Small Group Application) will require about 40 minutes for the younger ages, increasing to 50 minutes for older students. Add the other classroom elements as time allows. This structure is highly adaptable and can be adjusted easily for your particular needs. Each curriculum provides an explanation of these classroom elements, along with numerous ideas and resources for implementing them.

CLASSROOM ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The most positive classroom experiences happen when there is a sufficient number of well-trained and properly equipped volunteers. Assigning specific roles and responsibilities to these volunteers is an important first step in this process. At minimum, the curriculum lessons call for two main roles:

Teacher

Responsible for teaching the Large Group Lesson. It may be preferable to have two or more teachers who alternate weeks.

Small Group Leader

Responsible for leading the Small Group Application, which follows the Large Group Lesson. This should be an adult or spiritually mature older youth. We suggest one Small Group Leader oversee a group of 4 to 8 students.

Additionally, if possible, we recommend two more classroom roles:

Team Leader

Responsible for organizing and administrating the class, communicating with parents, and encouraging the team of volunteers.

Worship Leader

Prepares for and leads the time of worship.

UNDERSTANDING THE CURRICULUM COMPONENTS

The first and most essential component you will need for each classroom using a particular study is the **Classroom Kit**, which includes:

- **Teacher's Guide:** Introduction, lessons, and appendix.
- **Curriculum Resources:** PDFs of lesson visuals, classroom handouts, optional activities, Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) pages, and additional classroom resources.
- **Student Workbook or Notebook:** One sample copy.
- **Verse Cards:** One sample copy.

In addition to the Classroom Kit, the following component are important for your volunteers.

FOR THE TEACHER: The **Teacher's Guide** and **Lesson Visuals** are essential components for the classroom teacher. You can purchase a print set of full-color lesson visuals from Truth78 or print your own from the PDFs included with the Curriculum Resources.

FOR THE SMALL GROUP LEADER: Each Small Group Leader should have a **Teacher's Guide**, as it includes all of the lesson and the corresponding Small Group Application discussion information.

FOR STUDENTS: We strongly encourage providing every student with a **Student Workbook or Notebook**. Workbooks (for younger students) and notebooks (for older students) compliment the Small Group Application discussions with age-appropriate activities, and provide each student with a lasting remembrance of the studies. Additionally, you may want to provide a set of **Verse Cards** for each student to take home for help in Bible memory.

FOR PARENTS: Each study includes Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) parent and child resource pages provided as Curriculum Resources PDFs for you to send home with the students or email to the parents after each lesson.

Our website offers a complete list of curriculum components for each study for you to purchase as printed resources or electronic downloads.

NEXT STEPS

The Introduction and Appendix sections of each Teacher's Guide provide some of the best tools to equip you in using the Truth78 curricula. Here are some of the topics covered:

- Curriculum Overview
- Your Classroom Schedule
- Building Your Classroom Team
- Walking Through a Lesson
- Small Group Application Time
- Using the Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) Pages
- A Quick Guide for Substitute Teachers and Small Group Leaders
- Bible and Memory Verse Activities
- List of Worship Songs

- Welcoming Children with Special Needs
- Sharing the Gospel with Children
- Using Truth78 in the Home or Christian School

FURTHER TRAINING

Visit Truth78.org/training to read other articles in the Core Training Series and browse conference sessions.

For further training on using Truth78 curriculum, we encourage you to listen to following seminars on our website:

- [Elementary Lesson Preparation and Presentation](#) (Teachers)
- [Reaching the Heart: The Importance of Application](#) (Small Group Leaders)
- [Leading Children in God-Centered Worship](#) (Worship Leaders)
- [Mentoring Teachers](#) (Children's Ministry Leaders, Teachers)
- [Involving Parents in the Classroom](#) (All Classroom Volunteers)
- [Disability, Autism, and the Tender Mercy of Our God](#) (All Classroom Volunteers)
- [Involving Students in the Learning Process](#) (Teachers)
- [Teaching Difficult Doctrines in Children's Ministry](#) (Teachers, Small Group Leaders)
- [The Importance of Biblical Literacy for the Next Generation](#) (Teachers)
- [Recruiting and Retaining Volunteers](#) (Children's Ministry Leaders)

(Note: These seminars were produced under our previous name, Children Desiring God.)



Equipping the Next Generations
to Know, Honor, and Treasure God

Truth78 is a vision-oriented ministry for the next generations—that they may know, honor, and treasure God, setting their hope in Christ alone, so that they will live as faithful disciples for the glory of God.

Our mission is to nurture the faith of the next generations by equipping the church and home with resources and training that instruct the mind, engage the heart, and influence the will through proclaiming the whole counsel of God.

We are committed to developing resources and training that are God-centered, Bible-saturated, Gospel-focused, Christ-exalting, Spirit-dependent, doctrinally grounded, and discipleship-oriented.

RESOURCES AND TRAINING MATERIALS

Truth78 currently offers the following categories of resources and training materials:

VISION-CASTING AND TRAINING

We offer a wide variety of booklets, video and audio seminars, articles, and other practical training resources that highlight and further expound our vision, mission, and values, as well as our educational philosophy and methodology. Many of these resources are freely distributed through our website. These resources and trainings serve to assist ministry leaders, volunteers, and parents in implementing Truth78's vision and mission in their churches and homes.

CURRICULUM

We publish materials designed for formal Bible instruction. The scope and sequence of these materials reflects our commitment to teach children and youth the whole counsel of God over the course of their education. Materials include curricula for Sunday School, Midweek Bible programs, Backyard Bible Clubs or Vacation Bible School, and Intergenerational studies. Most of these materials can be adapted for use in Christian schools and education in the home.

PARENTING AND FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

We have produced a variety of materials and training resources designed to help parents disciple their children. These include booklets, video presentations, family devotionals, children's books, articles, and other recommended resources.

Furthermore, our curricula include Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Pages to help parents apply what is taught in the classroom to their child's daily experience in order to nurture faith.

BIBLE MEMORY

Our Fighter Verses Bible memory program is designed to encourage churches, families, and individuals in the lifelong practice and love of Bible memory. The Fighter Verses program utilizes an easy-to-use Bible memory system with carefully chosen verses to help fight the fight of faith. For pre-readers, Foundation Verses features 76 key verses with simple images. Visit FighterVerses.com for weekly devotionals and free memory aids. Download the Fighter Verses App for quizzes, songs, devotionals, review reminders and other helps.

For more information on any of these resources and training materials contact:

Truth78.org • info@Truth78.org • 877.400.1414 • @Truth78org