

CORE TRAINING SERIES



**TOOLS FOR  
USING TRUTH78  
CURRICULUM:  
INFANTS &  
TODDLERS**

**MINISTRY ROLE:**

Children's Ministry Leaders, Team Leaders, Teachers, Nursery Caregivers

**TARGET AGE:**

Infant to Toddler Classrooms

# TOOLS FOR USING TRUTH78 CURRICULUM: INFANTS & TODDLERS

by Jill Nelson



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## OUR VISION AND PHILOSOPHY

The church nursery can and should be an exciting and vital ministry as it serves to nurture the faith of the next generations... not just part of church life because “somebody” has to take care of the infants and toddlers! The nursery should be a place where babies and toddlers are...

- Welcomed and cared for with the love of Jesus.
- Prayed for by name.
- Taught about God through the repetition of simple truth statements.
- Introduced to foundational Bible stories.
- Encouraged with Scripture memory verses.
- Surrounded by sights, sounds, and experiences that provide spiritual nourishment for young souls.
- Tenderly acquainted with the Gospel.

This puts nursery ministry in a whole new light. Nursery is not just a ministry to parents as we care for their children. It is more than changing diapers, bottle feeding, and calming crying babies. It is kingdom ministry to the “least of these.” Consider these words from John Piper:

**Jesus took the child-belittling culture of his day, which defined “greatness” to exclude “receiving children,” and he turned it upside down. He said: “Receiving children in my name is the world’s least, and the world’s least is my great.” So wherever the Spirit of Christ pervades, the people who receive children will no longer be the “least.” They will be “great.”**

**Really? Why? Because to receive a child in Jesus’ name (i.e., out of love, in his strength, and for his glory) is to receive Jesus, and to receive Jesus is to receive God the Father. Which means that the nursery may be more full of God than any other room in the church.<sup>1</sup>**

At Truth78, we earnestly desire to highlight the significance of the church nursery by providing resources and training that aids churches—ministry leaders, volunteers, and parents—in creating a Gospel-loving, Bible-saturated, Spirit-dependent atmosphere for babies and toddlers. When this type of vision and philosophy is established and communicated, a nursery worker will no longer see his or her involvement merely as babysitting. Rather, participation in nursery ministry will be understood as laying the foundation for the faith of the next generation. An hour strategically used for Kingdom purposes can, by God’s sovereign grace, reap a harvest of souls.

## CREATING AN ATMOSPHERE FOR THE SPIRITUAL NOURISHMENT OF BABIES AND TODDLERS

We believe there are at least three important elements of the atmosphere of the nursery. Each is strategically incorporated and further explained in our nursery curriculum: [\*A Sure Foundation: A Philosophy and Curriculum for Ministry to Infants and Toddlers.\*](#)

### 1. Create an atmosphere that is God-oriented in its character.

A nursery ministry focused on spiritual work will have an atmosphere permeated with the

fragrance of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 2:14). It should be obvious to anyone entering the nursery that the nursery is a place of loving kindness and soul nurturing. Here are several practical ways to implement this:

- Strive for calmness and joy in the nursery. Be the “fragrance of Christ.” Encourage volunteers to exhibit this demeanor in their interactions with the children and each other. To facilitate this, consider playing hymns and worship music in the background. Join in the singing at times. These can be upbeat, happy songs, or soothing, gentle music. You could display posters of worship songs and hymns on the nursery walls to facilitate singing.
- Decorate the room with pictures and posters that reflect biblical truth. These can be used to point children Godward. For example, it is more strategic to have a picture of Jesus with the little children than a picture of a cartoon character. A volunteer can use the former to tell children, “Jesus loves the little children.” A poster of a kitten is cute, but a poster of a kitten with the saying, “God made kittens” is better.
- Be intentional about using speech and singing to convey biblical truth. Although a baby may not understand the words “Jesus loves you” or “God made these little toes,” we should not underestimate what God might be pleased to do through the telling of these simple truths. Speak prayers and words of blessing over a child as you place him in a crib or as he leaves the nursery.

## 2. Create an atmosphere of humble dependence.

Psalm 127:1 says that “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.” All of our efforts will be fruitless unless the Lord is at work in the hearts of the little ones in the nursery. We are called to be faithful in imparting truth and sharing our faith, but God is the one who causes our efforts to bear fruit. It is good for nursery workers to remember that our attitude should be one of humble dependence on God.

One way to exhibit this is to begin the nursery time in prayer and incorporate it throughout various times of the nursery session.

## 3. Create an atmosphere characterized by godly people.

Although a baby may not understand the words you speak, he can sense your tone or emotion. The godly spirit of a nursery worker can minister to a baby in his care. Therefore, it is strategic to nurture the souls of the nursery workers so they can nurture the souls of the babies in the nursery. This means hiring unbelievers to work in the nursery will defeat your goal of having a spiritual atmosphere. Carefully screen, train, equip, and encourage nursery volunteers.

## GETTING STARTED

Truth78’s nursery and toddler curriculum, [A Sure Foundation](#), provides a thorough explanation of our vision, philosophy, and methodology, as well as numerous visuals, Bible stories, memory verses, and other helpful resources. We encourage you to carefully read all of the introductory material to understand how the curriculum is structured and how it can be used in your particular setting.

## FURTHER TRAINING

Visit [Truth78.org/training](http://Truth78.org/training) to read other articles in the Core Training Series and browse conference sessions.

For further training and practical tips for using the Truth78 nursery curriculum, we encourage you to listen to following seminar on our website:

- [Laying Foundations in the Nursery for Infants and Toddlers to Know a Holy God](#)  
*(Note: This seminar was produced under our previous name, Children Desiring God.)*

### Endnotes

1. Piper, John. Copyright Desiring God Foundation, [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org).



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](http://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:

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