

CORE TRAINING SERIES



**TOOLS FOR
USING TRUTH78
CURRICULUM:
PRESCHOOL**

MINISTRY ROLE:

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

TARGET AGE:

Preschool Classrooms

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by Jill Nelson



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Preschoolers love stories. They usually find them captivating, and they have an amazing ability to recall and answer simple questions based on the story. This God-given ability presents an ideal opportunity to introduce children to the major stories of the Bible. These stories reveal the glorious character of God and His marvelous works and deeds. They reveal who man is and what he is like in relation to God. Told chronologically, these stories also weave together the narrative regarding of the redemptive work of God on behalf of His sinful people, culminating in the person and work of Christ. Hence, the preschool years provide a foundational platform for teaching children the whole counsel of God as you give them an age-appropriate Bible survey (see "[The Theological and Philosophical Foundations of Our Teaching Resources](#)" in the Core Training Series). In a sense, this Bible survey provides young children with a type of biblical "alphabet" upon which future theological disciplines can build.

Our two preschool curricula, [He Established a Testimony](#) (Old Testament) and [He Has Spoken by His Son](#) (New Testament), introduce children to 116, chronologically arranged Bible stories—more than two year's worth of weekly lessons. By doing so, children are not simply being taught a small core of familiar stories, but a vast scope—giving them a more comprehensive view of the greatness and worth of God and the goodness of the Gospel.

BASIC CLASSROOM STRUCTURE

The Truth78 preschool curricula suggests the following structure for the preschool class:

PRE-CLASS TEAM PRAYER TIME
10 minutes

CHECK-IN/ACTIVITY CENTERS
15-20 minutes

CLEAN-UP
5 minutes

LESSON (BIBLE STORY)
15 minutes

LARGE GROUP PRAYER
5 minutes

**SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION
OF LESSON/WORKBOOK**
10 minutes

LARGE GROUP WORSHIP
15 minutes

MEMORY VERSE REVIEW/SNACK
10 minutes

ACTIVITY CENTERS/CHECK OUT
15 minutes

This structure is highly adaptable and can be easily adjusted for your particular needs. The curriculum explains each of these classroom components and provides ideas and resources for implementing them.

TEACHING BIBLE STORIES TO PRESCHOOLERS

There are many elements involved in preparing and presenting a Bible story lesson to preschool-age children. But unlike many other preschool curricula, the Truth78 preschool curricula does not provide a written script for the lessons. Rather, we offer tools for teachers to use to develop each lesson. These tools encourage teachers to first study the Scriptures for themselves, thereby gaining instruction from the Word. We believe that this process, while requiring more work for the teachers, reaps numerous benefits for both teachers and students alike. Teaching from

a mind intimately acquainted with the Word, and from a heart that has been transformed by the Word, serves as a powerful witness to the children being taught. These tools, detailed in the curriculum introduction, also help the teacher communicate these truths in age-appropriate ways. There are also several written-out sample lessons included in the teacher’s notebook.

Additionally, here are three important things to note about our teaching philosophy as it relates to preschoolers:

The “Hook, Book, Look, Took” Method

We have employed Larry Richard’s method of structuring a Bible lesson outlined in his book, *Creative Bible Teaching*. This method is identified by the words: Hook—Book—Look—and Took.¹



- The **HOOK** is the attention getter. When teaching little children, it is important to grab their attention to spark their interest in what you are going to teach them. This is what the hook does.² It may also be used to help children understand a concept in the story. Each lesson has suggested hooks. These are brief and simple, leading naturally into the rest of the lesson.
- The **BOOK** is the telling of the Bible story. These tools include: **Scripture** references, **key themes** and **biblical truths** to incorporate in the lesson, an accompanying **visuals** (a few we provide, and suggestions for those you provide).
- The **LOOK** helps children apply the truth to their own lives. For young children, this is often done through simple questions. The curriculum lists discussion questions to use while the children color a corresponding lesson workbook page. By asking questions, you will get a sense for what the children did and did not learn so that small group leaders can fill in any missing points or correct any misunderstandings.

- The **TOOK** is when children act on the truth and puts into practice what they have learned. This will most likely happen outside the classroom in the course of everyday life. Parents are in a strategic position for this part of the process, and Parent Resource Pages provided for each lesson help them to be better equipped to lead their children in taking this step of faith.

God-Centered Teaching

It is easy to enthrall children with good storytelling. There are many ways a teacher can do this—voice inflection, vivid illustrations, exciting dramatizations, etc. However, we must keep in mind the main goal in teaching Bible stories: we want to enthrall children with the God of the Bible—His glorious character, works, deeds, and purposes. To that end, it is important to understand what God-centered teaching involves. Too often, Bible stories are told in a manner that inordinately focuses on people, places, and events without emphasizing the centrality of God. Our preschool curricula was written to encourage and highlight

the centrality of God in every single lesson. In looking through the titles of each lesson, you will notice this focus. For example:

God Judges the World and Sends a Flood

God Calls Abram and Makes Him a Promise

God has Mercy on Nineveh

The Son of God Walks on Water

Jesus Chooses His Disciples

Jesus, the Bread of Life, Provides Bread for 5,000

God Saves a Jailer

Pastor David and Sally Michael illustrate the important difference between teaching in a God-centered way instead of in a man-centered way in a short video clip. Watch it here: www.vimeo.com/60181452

The Benefits of Using a Flannel Board in Teaching Preschoolers

We highly recommend using a Bible flannel board set when teaching preschool children. Although it is definitely low-tech, it offers a wonderful way for children to visualize the Bible story. Furthermore, it gives children a much needed break from digital media, which often over-stimulate their senses. Additionally, a teacher can use the flannel board pieces as a means of including children in the actual story presentation—giving them opportunities to handle the pieces and put them on the board. More information about recommended Bible flannel board sets and where they can be purchased is available in the curriculum or from the Truth78 Customer Care Team.

FINAL THOUGHTS

In our experience, preschool is one of the most challenging ages to teach. But it also has the potential to be one of the most rewarding. The classroom experience can be greatly enhanced when teachers and volunteers are adequately trained, equipped, and encouraged. As with nursery ministry, there has often been a tendency to equate the preschool classroom to babysitting. We believe our preschool curriculum offers a vision, philosophy, and methodology that

elevates the preschool ministry to one of vital importance in the lives of these young children. What a great privilege and responsibility it is to teach these little ones about our glorious God and His amazing Gospel.

FURTHER TRAINING

Visit [Truth78.org/training](https://truth78.org/training) to read other articles in the Core Training Series and browse conference sessions.

For further training to equip preschool teachers and small group leaders to teach Truth78 curriculum, we encourage you to listen to following seminars on our website:

- [Preschool Teaching and Small Group Leading](#)
- [Preschool Lesson Preparation](#)

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

Endnotes

1. Larry Richards in his book, *Creative Bible Teaching*, uses Hook (introduction), Book (content), Look (implications), and Took (application), as an easy-to-remember structure.
2. See pages 108-113 of *Creative Bible Teaching* for a complete explanation.

NOTES



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:

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