

Teaching the Bible Lesson Effectively

I. Prepare your heart

- A. Pray for yourself; ask God to speak to you through this Scripture passage.
- B. Pray for your students and ask God to speak through you as you teach them.
- C. Depend on the Holy Spirit as you prepare and as you teach. Trust Him to meet the needs of each child.

II. Look at the teacher's manual

- A. Read the introductory text in the gray box.
 - 1. Notice the type of Bible lessons—there are two classifications used in *CEF* curriculum.
 - a. Evangelistic
 - b. Growth
 - 2. Evangelistic Lessons: focused on teaching unsaved children the message of salvation. There are three types of evangelistic lessons:
 - a. Narrative: a story from Scripture in which the message of salvation can be clearly drawn from the text. Gospel applications will be taught in the Bible lesson, however at times, specific truths from within those applications may be included elsewhere in the club hour. Teaching for the saved child will be included either in the lesson or in the class hour.
 - b. Topical: focused on a topic related to the plan of redemption; i.e., God's holiness and purity; *God's Good News: The Wordless Book*, lesson 1.
 - c. Doctrinal: focused on a certain foundational doctrinal truth. This may be either a narrative or topical lesson; i.e., Deity of Christ, *God's Good News: The Wordless Book*, lesson 3 (doctrinal narrative); Meet the King, *God: The Creator King*, lesson 1 (doctrinal topical).

Note: In Topical or Doctrinal lessons, Gospel truths will be taught either in the lesson or in the club hour, depending on where they naturally occur.
 - 3. Growth Lessons: focused on teaching saved children how to grow in their faith and walk with God. There are three types of growth lessons:
 - a. Narrative: a story from Scripture in which the message of salvation can be clearly drawn from the text. Growth applications will be taught in the Bible lesson. Teaching for the unsaved child will be included either in the lesson or in the class hour; i.e., God Rewards Joseph, *God's Sovereignty: The Life of Joseph*, lesson 4.
 - b. Topical: focused on a topic related to spiritual growth; i.e., The Green Page: God's Word Helps Me Grow, *God's Good News: The Wordless Book*, lesson 5.

- c. Doctrinal: focused on a certain foundational doctrinal truth. This may be either a narrative or topical lesson; i.e., *The Clean Page: Jesus Changed Me*, *God's Good News: The Wordless Book*, lesson 4 (doctrinal narrative).
4. Notice the concepts to be covered in the lesson.
- B. Consider the teacher's objective.
- An objective is what the teacher desires the child to do as a result of hearing the Bible lesson. (Example: "The unsaved child will receive Jesus, who will take away the darkness of sin.")
- C. Notice the main teaching
- The main teaching is the biblical truth which is the focus of the Bible passage. The main teaching should be stated on a child's level and emphasized throughout the lesson. (Example: "Jesus came to take away your darkness of sin.")

III. Read the Scripture passage (as noted in the teacher's manual)

Note: Read the Scripture prior to reading the text provided in the curriculum.

Ask yourself the following questions.

1. What does it say?

Consider the characters, places and time when the story took place.

Make a list of the essential Bible story facts (8-20 are sufficient).

2. What does it mean?

Look for biblical principles that transcend time.

Theologian Graham Scroggie described the transcendence of biblical truth this way: "The New is in the Old contained, and the Old is in the New explained."

Things to consider:

- What can be learned about God in the passage? *(His character, His actions, etc.)*
- Why is this story or teaching in the Bible? *Is there a principle that was true when it was written that also relates to life today?*
- How is the redemption story seen in this passage? *How does this story fit into the whole context of Scripture?*
- Who is the main character(s) in the story? *The main character in an evangelistic lesson is the character who has a need or problem that can be related to the unsaved child's problem of sin.*
- What is the theme (*main point*) of the passage?

3. What is God saying to me? To the child?

Make it personal—how will I respond to God's truth?

How can I apply this message to the children?

IV. Read the lesson text

- A. Read the lesson text for background information, story flow, and applications.
- B. Look at the visual aids (See how the pictures align with the story flow).

V. Know the four parts of a Bible lesson

A. Introduction

Plan a brief opening that will create interest in what you will teach.

An introduction could be:

- A short illustration that relates to the lesson
- A question
- An exciting story event
- A direct approach

B. Progression of events

Events of the story are listed in order from the Scripture passage. These provide the action of the story and lead up to the climax.

Look at the progression of events for natural places to teach the message of salvation truths and brief teaching for the saved child in the lesson.

Why include applications within the lesson?

1. Where is teaching about sin drawn out in the lesson?

*What specific truths about sin are included in the application?
How are they applied to the life of the unsaved child?*

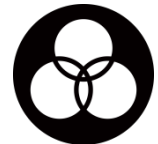


2. Where is teaching about the Person and Work of Christ drawn out in the lesson?

*What specific truths about Christ are included in the application?
How do these truths apply to the unsaved child?*

3. Where is teaching about God (His character/love) evident in the lesson?

How are these truths applied to the life of the unsaved child?



4. Where is teaching for the saved child drawn out in the lesson?

What elements are included in this application, practically applying it to the saved child's life? (Main Teaching Statement, personal "you," examples, Scripture)

C. Climax

The climax is one definite statement. It is the high point of the story where the problem is solved.

D. Conclusion

The conclusion follows the climax and is brief. It finishes the action of the story, bringing it to a satisfying end.

VI. Give an invitation



The invitation is the opportunity given to the unsaved child so he can respond to the teaching of the Word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit and show his desire to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

- A. Review the NEED and the WAY of salvation.
- B. Read and explain an invitation VERSE containing both a condition and promise.
(Example: Acts 16:31; John 3:16 or John 1:12)
Invite the children to respond to God ("Will you believe..." or "Do you believe...").
- C. Have the children BOW their heads and close their eyes.
- D. Ask for a RESPONSE ("show me:" raise hand, open eyes, stand up).
"If you are ready to believe (use terminology in verse) in Jesus today, or have questions about believing in Jesus, please show me by...."
- E. When a child responds, SEPARATE him from the group so you can counsel him. Give direction where and when the child can meet you for counseling.

Teaching Aids to Help with Bible Lesson Preparation

1. Bible lessons (CEF Press®) cefpress.com
2. *Children's Ministry Resource Bible* (Thomas Nelson Publishers)
 - Full-page articles
 - "Preparing a Bible Lesson" (page 1161)
 - "Message of Salvation Hand" (page 923)
 - "Teaching Doctrine Effectively" (page 1520)
3. Children's Ministries Institute® cefcmi.com
 - Training opportunities
4. CMI Online training online.cefcmi.com

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The Light of the World

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| Scripture: | Luke 18:35-43 |
| Memory Verse: | John 3:36 " He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." |
| Teaching Objective: | The unsaved child will trust Jesus to forgive his sin. |
| Main Teaching: | Call on Jesus for mercy. |
| Emphasis for Saved: | Praise God for the good things He does for others. |

I. Introduction

Have you ever thought what it would be like to not be able to see—to always be in darkness?

II. Progression of Events

A. Blind Bartimaeus sat by the roadside begging (18:35)

Bartimaeus was in darkness physically because of his blindness. He was also in darkness spiritually because of his sin.



You and I are also born in the darkness of sin. Living in sin is like being in darkness because you are apart from God and can't find Him on your own. Sin has blinded you from seeing the truth about yourself and about God. (*Read Proverbs 4:19.*) We all deserve to be punished for our sins, the things we do that are wrong and hurtful that do not please God. Things like lying, cheating, or thinking mean thoughts about others are sins. God is perfect and sinless. Everything He does is always right! But because we sin and are not perfect, we deserve to be separated from God both now and forever. If you haven't believed in Jesus as your Savior, you can't live God's way and you keep doing wrong things. There is nothing you can do on your own to get rid of the darkness of sin. Being in the darkness of sin is a big problem.

Bartimaeus was in the darkness of sin but he was also in physical darkness because he was blind.

B. He heard a crowd going by and asked what was happening (18:36)

C. They told him Jesus was passing by (18:37)

D. Bartimaeus called out to Jesus (18:38)

E. The crowd tried to quiet him, but he shouted louder (18:39)

F. Jesus stopped and asked that the man be brought to Him (18:40)

Jesus loved Bartimaeus so much and wanted to show mercy to him!



Do you know Jesus loves you and wants to show mercy to you? Jesus is God the Son. He made the world and everything in it. God made you and loves you very much. He knows all about you—even about your sin. But because of His great love for you, He wants to show you mercy. (*Read Ephesians 2:4.*) Jesus can forgive you and have mercy on you because He is the good and holy God. He is separate from any sinful thing. He cares for you because you are His creation. There is no one like the one true God! Even though your sin is completely against God and who He is, because of His great love He shows mercy to you.

Jesus loved Bartimaeus and wanted to show mercy to him too! When Jesus heard Bartimaeus calling, He immediately stopped walking. "Bring him to me," Jesus said.

G. Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted Jesus to do for him (18:41)

Jesus was the only one who could make Bartimaeus see, and He was the only one who could save him from his bigger problem of sin.



Jesus is the only one who can save you and me from the darkness of our sin. Just a few days after this story took place, the Lord Jesus died on the cross. Jesus is perfect and didn't deserve to die, but He willingly bled and died so you could be forgiven when you believe in Him. Was it fair that Jesus, who never did anything wrong, was punished and killed? No! Because He loves you and wants to show you mercy, God allowed His Son, Jesus, to take your punishment. If you do something wrong and need to be punished, do you think your brother or sister would be willing to take your punishment? (*Allow response.*) Probably not! But that's exactly what Jesus did—He took your punishment so you don't have to. And because He did that, God offers you mercy. What is mercy? (*Allow response.*) It is not getting the punishment you deserve. God, in His great love, offers mercy to you because of Jesus. He gives you the choice to trust Jesus as your Savior and have your sins forgiven. The Bible says that Jesus has rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us into His light (Colossians 1:13). After Jesus died, His body was buried but on the third day He came alive again! He lives today in Heaven in a place of honor. He is the promised Savior. He is the only one who can save you from the darkness of your sin.

Jesus was the only one who could save Bartimaeus from the darkness of his sin and from his blindness. When Jesus asked Bartimaeus what he wanted, what do you think Bartimaeus said? (*Allow response.*)

H. Bartimaeus asked to receive his sight (18:41)

I. Jesus told him to receive his sight; his faith had healed him (18:42)

III. Climax

Bartimaeus received his sight—he was no longer in darkness! (18:43)

IV. Ending

A. Conclusion

Bartimaeus followed Jesus, praising God (18:43)

The people also praised God for the good thing He had done (18:43)



If you have already believed on Jesus as your Savior, you can **praise God for the good things He does for others**. When God saves someone from sin or blesses someone in a special way, how do you react? Do you ignore him? Do you get jealous that something good happened to her and not to you? God says in His Word that His children are to “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4). God wants you to praise Him for all the good things He does—even if He does them for someone else! When someone you know believes on Jesus as his Savior, praise God for what He has done. Also encourage that person by letting him know you are happy for him. God is pleased when His children **praise Him for the good things He does for others**.

The crowd praised God for the good thing He had done for Bartimaeus. The Bible tells us that from then on Bartimaeus followed Jesus.

B. Invitation

Jesus had shown mercy to Bartimaeus, had taken away his blindness and saved him from his sins.



Jesus is the only one who can show mercy to you so you will not be in the darkness of sin anymore. If you don't know Jesus as your Savior, your sin still separates you from God.

But God loves you and wants to show mercy to you. The Bible says, *(read Acts 16:31a)*. This means if you believe on Jesus, you will be saved. God will save you, not because of anything good you have done, but because of His mercy. You can turn from sin and turn to Jesus, trusting that He is God's Son who died on the cross to take the punishment for your sin. When He saves you, He will help you love Him and live for Him. Have you trusted Jesus as the only one who can save you today? Please close your eyes. If you are making the decision today to believe on Jesus as your Savior or you would like to talk to me more about that, please show me by raising your hand. *(Acknowledge responses.)* You may all open your eyes. If you raised your hand, please meet me *(designate time and location)* so I can show you what the Bible says about being saved.