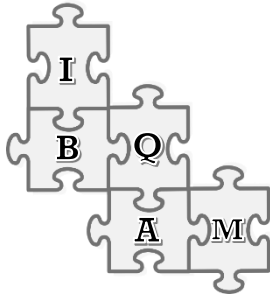


# Building Your Lesson

The Bible Lesson is the most important part of the Sunday School class time. Though it roughly takes only 20-30 minutes, it is the lesson and the given application which challenges the learner to change their life. The lesson should be the main focus of every class time.



**The lesson consists of 5 parts:**

- I** - Introduction
- B** - Bible Story
- Q** - Questions
- A** - Application
- M** - Memory Verse

## I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The purpose of the introduction is to stimulate the learner's interest.
  - Use discussion or questions.
  - Review previous lesson.
  - Relate personal experience.
  - Bring in an object relevant to the lesson.
- B. The teacher must build a bridge for the known to the unknown subject.
  - Connect your previous lesson to this lesson.
  - Lead the children from their thought to yours.
- C. The introduction tells the topic and the aim of the lesson.
- D. Explain different words.
  - By explaining new words before the lesson, you won't need to interrupt your lesson with definitions.
  - Write new words on the black or white board.
  - Definitions should be short.

## II. BIBLE STORY

- A. Tell the Bible Story from the beginning to end.
  - Read the story from the Bible.
  - If working with young children, tell the story in your own words.
  - Don't get side tracked.

- B. Be lively as you read or tell the story.
  - Be active as you read.
  - Let your intonations, facial expressions, and body language speak louder than your words.
  - Be careful about adding details that change the Biblical story or Bible meaning. Example: What Zacchaeus was planning to do with his money before he meets Jesus Christ.
  
- C. Use visual aids.
  - There are many resources to help you tell the Bible story. Use them!
  - Books, Powerpoint Presentations, story cards, flannel graph boards, etc.
  
- D. Keep your class' attention.
  - Stay on track.
  - Don't let children ask question during lesson, they can lead you astray!

### III. QUESTIONS

- A. Review the story.
  - Ask 5-10 questions of the main events of the story.
  - Preplan your questions and write them down.
  
- B. Ask rich questions.
  - Not just the "what" questions.
  - Not just "yes" or "no" questions.
  - Ask the "who", "when", "why", "where", "which", "how much", and "how many" questions.
  
- C. Ask age appropriate questions.
  - Questions that are too easy don't require thinking.
  - Questions that are too difficult will confuse the student.
  - Be direct. Be careful when asking questions that have more than one answer.
  
- D. Questions will help you:
  1. Review the lesson.
  2. Make sure the learners have understood the teaching.
  3. Explain anything that wasn't clear or was misunderstood.
  4. Evaluate your lesson.
  5. Give the learners a change to participate.

#### IV. APPLICATION

- A. One story can have more than one application.
  - Focus on one application per story.
  - Older students can be given 2-3 applications, with high emphasis on the first application given.
  
- B. Help the learner to understand how the Word of God is applicable to their everyday life.
  - Share an example from your life (at that age.)
  - Talk about events that happen in their life.  
Example: “When you go to school...”, “If you argue with your brother...”, “If your mother asks you...”, “When you see your neighbors...”, etc.
  - Ask if someone can share a story in their family.
  
- C. Keep the application relevant to the age group.
  - Applications must be relevant to the age group. (1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are worlds apart.)
  - The length of the application must also be age appropriate.

#### V. MEMORY VERSE

- A. Choose a verse that strengthens your application.
  - The verse can come from the Bible story that day or a different passage in the Bible.
  
- B. Choose a verse that is easy to learn and understand.
  - Read the entire verse from your Bible.
  - Explain difficult words.
  - If the passage is too long, learn one part being careful it doesn’t change the meaning of the passage.
  - Don’t be afraid to give more than one verse for older students.
  
- C. Read the verse from the Bible or have children open their Bibles to find the verse for themselves.
  - Be certain to include passage where in the verse is found so students memorize that too. (Matt. 5:13, Gen. 1:1, etc)
  - Opening their Bibles gives students practice finding passages and a chance to memorize Bible Book order.
  - By opening their Bible, it gives the “doers” in class a change to do something, rather than listen and watch you do it.

## D. Repeat the verse.

- *“Repetition is the mother of retention.” -Anonymous*
- Have the verse written on the board before class begins.
- Have a class activity learning the verse.
- Allow students who can write to write the verse down into a notebook or on a paper.
- Call on individual students to repeat individually or in a group.
- Repeat the verse at the end of the class before prayer.
- Review the verse the following class time.

## VI. PREPARING THE LESSON

A. *The Teacher*

1. When you know you will be teaching, begin preparation a week before.
2. Prepare with prayer!
  - Pray that the Holy Spirit guides you in lesson preparation and execution.
  - Pray for the students who will be listening to your lesson.
3. If topics, questions, or concerns were raised in class by students, don't be afraid to plan a lesson on that topic.

B. *The Lesson*

1. The Biblical Text
  - Read the Bible passage you will be teaching several times in context!
  - Make certain you understand what is being said. Use other references to help you understand. (Concordance, dictionary, Bible commentaries, and other Bible versions, etc.)
  - As you read the passage, mentally think through the “5 W’s & H”: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How
  - Find other passages that support the topic and compare.
2. The Message
  - After understanding the Biblical Text, what message, or Biblical Truth, do you want to teach to your class?
  - Find passages that support that message.
  - Find visuals that support the message.
  - Think through how to present the application in the best way.
  - Find a suitable song you can sing with your class that further supports the message you are teaching.



3. The Memory Verse
  - Find the Memory Verse that supports the message, or Biblical Truth, you are teaching.
  - Think how to best teach the verse.
  - Prepare necessary supplies, if needed.



### C. *The Materials*

1. Once you have read the Bible Text and know the message you are teaching, prepare your lesson materials.
2. Write your **Introduction** down. Prepare necessary materials to help arouse the learner's attention before the lesson.
3. Write your **Bible Story** down. Pay careful attention to names of characters, numbers, places, and other facts so you can recall them quickly and more important, accurately. (Example: God told Gideon his army was too big & he must send men away.)
4. Write the **Questions** you will be asking the class.
5. Write down the **Application** you want your students to remember.
6. Write down your **Memory Verse**. Prepare necessary materials to help teach the Memory Verse.
7. Practice using your visual aids and/or object lessons.
8. Prepare any supplies you will need for your lesson. Power Point Presentation, white board markers, maps, books, posters, etc.
9. Prepare any materials your students will need: pens, markers, paper, scissors, glue, etc.
10. Lastly, pray that the God gives you grace and wisdom as you teach His Word with love and patience.

## LESSON OUTLINE

Sample lesson for Grades 4-6

### **I** Introduction (Stimulate Learner's Attention)

*"Follow the recipe" object lesson. Bring in a recipe. Have a volunteer student read what recipe requires. Tell which items you don't like, so you won't add them in, like eggs, oil, or flour. Ask the class: "Will my final product be successful? Why not?" Answer: "No, because the recipe requires those ingredients. They are not optional!" Today's lesson is about a King who decided following God's recipe was optional.*

### **B** Bible Story (Bible Story and Scripture Passage)

*1 Sam. 15 (Read entire chapter)*

- *Pr. Samuel gives King Saul a command from God regarding Amalekites.*
- *K. Saul carries out God's command, partially.*
- *K. Saul builds monument in honor of himself.*
- *Pr. Samuel rebukes to disobedient king.*
- *God rejects King Saul. God regrets He made Saul the king of Israel.*

### **Q** Questions (Questions for Review)

1. *Which nation was King Saul given specific orders to punish? Why? (vs. 1-3)*
2. *Who and what did King Saul spare and not destroy as commanded? (vs. 9)*
3. *How does Saul react after being rebuked and chastised? (vs. 20-21)*
4. *What does King Saul want the Pr. Samuel to do for him? (vs. 24-31)*
5. *What finally happened to Agag, king of the Amalekites? (vs. 33)*

### **A** Application (Application to Learner)

*God wants your obedience more than your praises or money offerings at church. In order to obey God, we must first learn to obey our parents. It is NOT easy to do! Obedience teaches us to be humble & God gives grace to the humble. (James 4:6)*

### **M** Memory Verse (Scripture Passage for Memorization)

*1 Sam. 15:22*

*"Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed is better than the fat of rams."*

# LESSON OUTLINE

## **I** Introduction (Stimulate Learner's Attention)

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## **B** Bible Story (Bible Story and Scripture Passage)

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## **Q** Questions (Questions for Review)

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## **A** Application (Application to Learner)

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## **M** Memory Verse (Scripture Passage for Memorization)

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