



HOME SCHOOL HELPER

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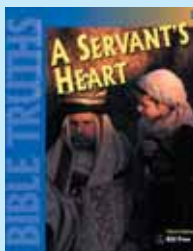
What's Available for Bible?

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

Bible Truths 2, 3rd edition

A Servant's Heart—
Teach your child how
to live the Bible as
well as know the Bible
through a thematic,
chronological study of
the Old and New Testaments.

Teacher's Edition, spiral (113563, \$39.00)
Student Worktext, softbound (113506, \$12.00)



Bible Truths 3, 3rd edition

Following Christ—Stress higher-level
thinking skills while encouraging
Christlikeness in the life of your child.

Teacher's Edition, spiral (114801, \$39.00)
Student Worktext, softbound (114793, \$13.00)

Bible Truths 5, 3rd edition

Living in God's Love—Guide your child
in learning more about God through
the study of His Word. Your child will
use Bible study aids such as cross-
references, a concordance, and a Bible
dictionary.

Teacher's Edition, spiral (125997, \$39.00)
Student Worktext, softbound (125989, \$13.00)

SECONDARY LEVEL

Bible Truths 8, 2nd edition

Portraits from the Old Testament—
Provide a foundation for learning what

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BIBLE: The Center of Education

"No," the home school specialist told me. "That's usually Dad's job whenever he gets home. They fit it into family devotions." Hmm.

I had asked her whether home school parents teach Bible. Her answer gave me pause to think, and I'm still thinking. Don't misunderstand me; it's good and right for Dad to lead family devotions and teach the Bible to his children. What concerns me is the impression that many home school families leave Bible education out of their regular curriculum.

As Meir Sternberg writes, "biblical study is not a discipline by any stretch of the term but the intersection of the humanities par excellence."¹ Leaving it out of education is like cutting the hub out of a wheel. The best churches cannot teach as much as children should learn, partly because of the amount to be learned and partly because church programs are simply not

designed to integrate Bible with the rest of human knowledge.

Bible should be part of the curriculum, but Bible is not a suitable subordinate to or substitute for any other discipline. The Bible is historical, but it isn't technically history; it is literary, but more than literature; it is scientific, yet not intended for science; it is the basis of social studies, but is not sociology; it is logical, but our categories of logic do not encompass its mosaic of truth.

Consequently, Bible must be a subject unto itself, but it must also be tightly woven into the fabric of all education.

Parents can set a strategy for teaching Bible that enhances their children's learning in every area and prepares them to live life enjoying and glorifying God. Such a strategy arises naturally from what we may call the two-two-one diagram: two possible approaches for



¹Meir Sternberg, *The Poetics of Biblical Narrative* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1985), 21.

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continued from cover

teaching Bible, two steps in learning how to understand the Bible, and one indispensable technique to flavor Bible study at every level.

First, there are **two approaches to teaching Bible**: content-based teaching and need-based teaching. Content-based teaching starts with the Bible and makes appropriate applications as they appear. Working systematically through a book or section of the Bible is usually content-based teaching. Need-based teaching recognizes a particular need in a child's life, locates an appropriate part of the Bible, and then teaches that part in order to meet the need. For example, if you realize that your child has a faulty view of romance and marriage, you might plan a topical study on love and family in the Bible.

Both approaches to teaching are legitimate. A mixture of them is best. Age and circumstances change a child's needs. Generally speaking, younger children should receive more content-based Bible teaching, and older children more need-based teaching, but at no stage in life can either be divorced from the other.

BJU Press offers a different set of materials on the high school level for each approach. The *BIBLE TRUTHS for CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS* series teaches through the Old and New Testaments twice in five years, from seventh through eleventh grades. On the other hand, units in the Bible Modular Series address certain needs, such as the need to understand missions, worship, or the origin of the Bible.

Along with two approaches to teaching, there are **two steps in learning how to understand the Bible**. The first seems simple but is widely under-appreciated. It is simply to read the Bible. Bible study is nothing more or

less than critical reading. Critical reading is reading intelligently, actively, as one would read a biography, novel, newspaper, textbook, tax code, or an owner's manual. Reading the Bible is not divination. Particular verses taken out of context do not reliably guide a Christian through life. The Holy Spirit has not designed the Bible to work by luck or whim, but as literature—as a book. Therefore, teach your children to read the Bible according to its innate divisions, to read and analyze books as wholes, to read shorter books in single sittings, to consider context and author's intent; above all, to *think about* what it says as they read it.

Although every part of *BIBLE TRUTHS for CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS* and the Bible Modular Series encourages critical reading, two examples can serve to illustrate its importance. *Beyond the Sun* leads students through a study of Ecclesiastes, a book difficult to decipher but directed squarely at young people whose whole lives lie before them. A completely consecrated life is also the subject of *Martyrdom: The Final Triumph of Faith*, a challenge to live wholeheartedly for God.

The second step in learning to understand the Bible comes on the heels of critical reading, for it is

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HOW DID THEY DIE?
The Martyrdom of Jesus' Disciples (according to tradition)
"And ye shall be loved of all men for my name's sake..."—Mark 13:12

Peter—crucified head-downward
James—crucified with the cross
John—crucified being placed in a cushion of boiling oil, located to the left of Peter
Andrew—crucified
Philip—led to a pillar and stoned
Bartholomew (Nathanael)—flayed alive and beheaded
Matthew—killed by the ground and beheaded
Thomas—killed alive in a fortress and exposed to death
James, son of Alphaeus—thrown off the pinnacle of the Temple, stoned, and finally beaten to death with a club
Simon Zelotes—crucified
Judas (Thaddeus)—beaten to death with rods

Portraits of Martyrs
To help better understand the price that has been paid for the sake of Christ, this chapter contains cameo portraits of several famous (and some not so famous) Christian martyrs. The purpose of this chapter is to give you a broader perspective of the suffering believers have endured through the centuries and to encourage you with a great cloud of martyred witnesses that have gone before. In spite of every attempt of wicked men to stop the spread of the work of Christ, the gospel has triumphed. Yes, Tertullian was right: the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church. The more believers suffer for the sake of Christ and the gospel, the more the church grows.

"He [Christians] multiply when we see men close by you; the blood of Christians is seed. Doing so conquers the moment we are crucified, that moment we go forth victorious."—Tertullian, *Apologues* 30

Read these pages slowly, thoughtfully, reverently. Allow yourself to enter into these martyrs' circumstances. Note their passion for God and His glory. Feel the heat of the martyrs' hearts. And let your own heart be moved by these men and women whose faith in the gospel stood firm until the end.

Ignatius
One of the earliest and most notable Christian martyrs was Ignatius, the leader of the church at Antioch in Syria. Tradition holds that he may have been discipled by the apostle John. Ignatius was well known for his love for God and faithful testimony of Christ. He would often say, "The crucified Christ is my only and entire love."
It was in the twelfth year of the reign of Emperor Trajan that the Roman armies won several decisive military victories. While in Antioch, the Emperor decided to give credit to the Roman gods for these military successes. On one of these occasions, Ignatius, a bold preacher of righteousness, openly reproved the Emperor for his pagan idolatry. Emperor Trajan was infuriated and immediately ordered Ignatius and had him transported to Rome for punishment. While in transport, Ignatius's sentence was made known; he was to be taken to places by wild beasts in the arena at Rome.
On his way there, Ignatius wrote several pastoral letters to the churches of Asia Minor. Many of these letters still exist today. Each is filled with wisdom, warning, and tender greetings. From these letters it becomes apparent that Ignatius was not dreading the fate that awaited him in Rome; but rather looked forward to the privilege of suffering for Christ's sake. In one letter Ignatius states, "Let the devil and evil men afflict me with all manner of pain."

"The crucified Christ is my only and entire love."

Martyrdom: The Final Triumph of Faith (Bible Modular Series)

painstakingly acquiring the skill of applying the Bible to life. Both Christian and secular educators tout the values of critical thinking. The highest level of critical thinking is evaluation, comparing a proposition to some standard and judging it to be accurate or not. Because the Bible provides a standard relevant to everything in the world, we must know the Bible in order to truly think critically. Bible application is virtually equivalent to critical thinking.


It is insufficient to always tell children what a passage means. They must learn to interpret for themselves. Application is a learned skill. Like any other skill, it takes time and effort to develop. The process is sometimes frustrating. You will make errors along the way, and you will never be as good at it as you could be. However, as the skill is sharpened, you and your child will “grow in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:52). Therefore, teach your children to apply Scripture by your personal example and by giving them chances to interpret passages themselves. *The Way of the Word*, a unit in the Bible Modular Series, is dedicated to teaching students to read the Scripture, interpret it, and obey its teaching themselves.

The **indispensable technique** in Bible education is reverse integration, or connecting the Bible to other subjects. Take every opportunity to make parallels between the Bible and history. Ancient history from Egypt through the Roman Empire is even more fascinating when used to illuminate the cultural background of the Bible. Likewise, have your child analyze Bible passages with the same techniques he learns in literature courses. Distinguish genres in Scripture, such as poetry, narrative, and epistle. Look for characterization, plot structure, drama, and rhetorical devices such as gapping (purposefully withholding information from the reader) and suspense. Point out the Bible’s underlying scientific assumptions: the physical universe is knowable and predictable, studying and utilizing the world is a proper endeavor, and human beings are both body and soul.



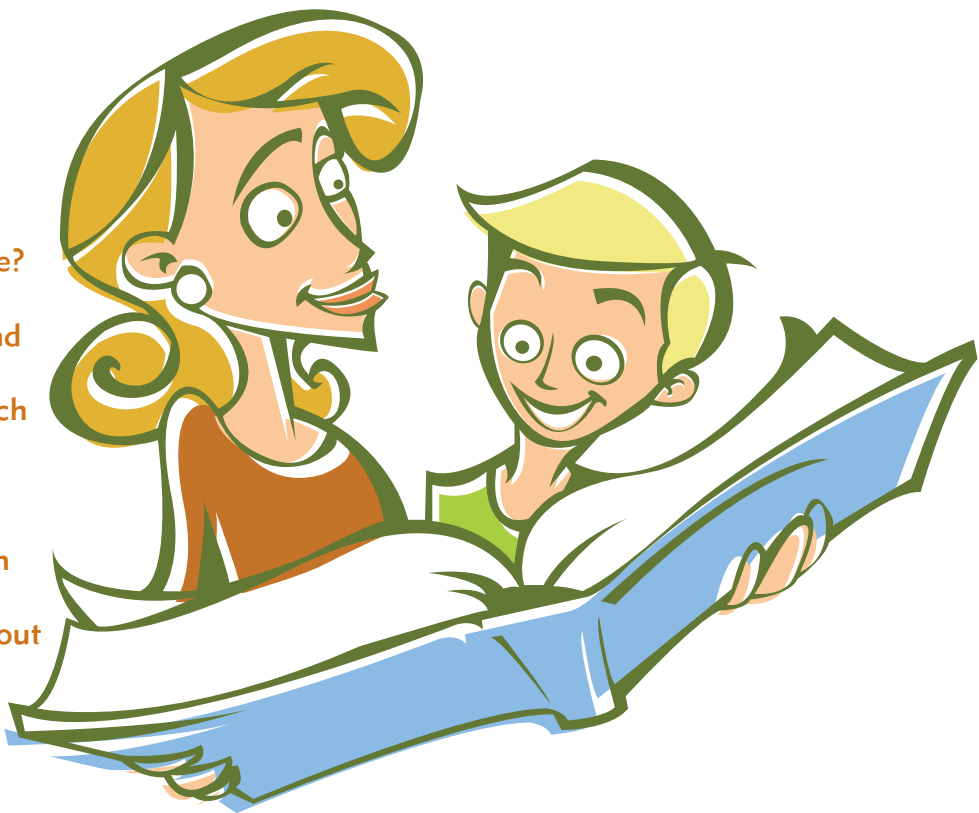
In God's Presence (Bible Modular Series)

Why the Bible Matters, another unit in the Modular Series, explores the relationship of the Bible to other academic areas and explains how the unity of knowledge means the Bible is necessary to understanding life and making life-shaping decisions. Likewise, *In God's Presence* uses a literary method to teach a practical point; the student text is written in the form of historical fiction, but the application to worship and the use of music in worship is fully relevant to the present day.

Rightly executed, a Bible course is not only an important part of a child's education but also the center of its diverse elements. Bible unifies the mass of information flooding our modern age and provides the framework for evaluating it and utilizing it for God's glory. Both approaches to teaching Bible, both steps in understanding the Bible, and the overall technique of Bible integration will make your Bible courses interesting, edifying, and as beneficial to you as they are to your child. 

Coart Ramey, a member of *Secondary Authors*, received his B.A. and M.A. degrees in Bible from BJU, and he has nearly completed his Ph.D. in Old Testament Interpretation. He has had a significant role in the Bible Modular Series, having authored *Why the Bible Matters*, *In God's Presence*, and *Beyond the Sun*. Coart and his wife Lori ('96) faithfully serve in their local church in Greenville, S.C.

CAN YOUR young child learn the truths of Scripture? Absolutely! God's command to Christian parents to teach their children about Him makes it clear that children are capable of learning about God and His Word.



Teaching the Bible to Your Young Child

PAUL WROTE to Timothy: “From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation” (II Timothy 3:15).

MUCH OF a child's learning will come from family devotions and indirect teaching-by-example in the home. But as a child gains study skills and begins to be schooled at home, he also needs direct, organized teaching of the Bible.

TO ASSIST parents in such Bible teaching, BJU Press provides a comprehensive Bible program in its third edition of *BIBLE TRUTHS* for grades 2-6. (Grade 1, still in second edition, is

now in the process of revision.) The Teacher's Edition gives helps for encouraging your child to develop the habit of reading the Bible and applying Bible knowledge to daily living. The materials include lessons for a missionary story and an application novel. The Student Worktext includes Bible references for independent Bible study, hymns, Bible area maps, and a glossary of Bible terms. The Student Materials Packet contains time lines and pictures of Bible characters and heroes of the Faith as well as other grade-level items like bookmarks and flash cards.

FOR CHILDREN in the sixth grade, *BIBLE TRUTHS* for *CHRISTIAN*

SCHOOLS 6 worktext, 3rd edition, *Redemption—God's Grand Design*, features thirty-eight two-page segments called Christian Living Skills. The first page of each segment is entitled “What Does God Say About . . . ?” It takes your child to Scripture passages that he can read to learn what God says about a specific topic pertinent to spiritual growth. The second page of the segment is entitled “Something to Think About.” It enables your child to evaluate his actions and attitudes in light of that Scripture passage. On this second page, the last section, entitled “What About Me?” serves as a personal evaluation opportunity. This section is not intended for grading. Instead,


it is designed for generating discussion between you and your child as you encourage him to cultivate this skill in his life.

BIBLE TRUTHS for CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS 6 presents specific topics such as Fear vs. Trust. Other topics included in the worktext are the following:

- Making Choices
- Honesty vs. Deceitfulness
- Being Happy
- Getting Even
- Serving Others
- Being a Good Citizen
- Choosing Friends
- Temptation
- Authority

Being Angry

FAMILIES WITH children on more than one grade level find that they can often teach their children together. When combining grades, consider the age of your children as well as the span of grades before adjusting your teaching and your expectations. Younger students need more explanation, less memory work, and more help in completing Worktext pages. Older children may review memory verses from previous weeks, complete Worktext pages independently, and apply the lessons further. Whether you use Bible Truths with one child or with more, it will be an enjoyable time for all.

One of your greatest rewards as a home school parent will be in seeing your child not merely knowing Bible truths but actually applying them and living them. 



Note for Customers

Over six months have passed since the tragedies of September 11, 2001, struck our nation. In the weeks following 9-11, some of our Customer Service representatives contacted many of our customers in New York state and in Washington, D.C. The CSRs were thankful to learn that none of our customers lost family members to the terrorist strikes; yet these same customers are friends of many who did suffer loss. Let us all continue to pray for the following:

*President Bush and all of our government officials,
the families who have suffered loss,
our military leaders and troops,
our nation and each other.*

All the staff members of BJU Press want to assure our fellow Americans of our continued prayers.

BLESSED IS THE NATION
WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD.
(PSALM 33:12)

I have always marveled at how young children can grasp God's Word. Their faces beam as their curious minds absorb what they hear. They listen intently as you read passages from the Scriptures. They don't create a philosophical realm around biblical issues but simply receive God's precious Word as it stands. Keeping that premise in mind, I decided to teach my special child the Bible. I would like to share with you some simple strategies that you may find helpful in teaching your special child as well.

1. Use an easy-to-read beginner's Bible. Choose one with pictures, easy words, and big letters.

2. Make it a habit to read to your child every day. If the story is too long, with too many pages, divide the pages in accordance with your child's needs.

3. Always have a quick review of yesterday's story by flipping through the pages and giving short sentences to refresh

your child's memory.

4. When you read the new story, limit your comprehension questions (with a maximum of three) to cover only factual information. Since every child has a different learning style, you will need to customize your questions to fulfill his needs and to accomplish your purpose for teaching that specific passage from the Bible.


5. Teach your child to pray for specific needs. I took pictures of people that we were praying for and filed the pictures in labeled envelopes, one for every day of the week. When my son Andrew learned how to read, I added the prayer request in writing. The combination of a picture and a prayer request served as a valuable visual reminder for him.

6. Choose one Bible verse for the week and write it on a long strip of paper. Cut the strip into one or two-word combinations and place the words in order. Read the verse out loud several times; then take out one of the words and see whether your child remembers it. If your child is nonverbal, take out several words and see whether he can put them back in their correct spot. By the end of the week, your child should be able to put the entire verse in order on his own. Keep the words together with a clip, and file the verse in an envelope for future use.

7. Teach your child to pray



before every meal and before sleeping. Teach him a small prayer that he can repeat out loud, or teach him one through the use of sign language in order to establish the habit of thankfulness.

Even though you may not be able to teach the Bible to your child on a daily basis, he will be hiding God's Word in his heart. By including Bible in your teaching, your home schooling of your special child will take on a new perspective as God rewards you both for building on this most important foundation for life. 

For the past three years, Nancy Sadka, Ed.D. (May 1995) has been home schooling her son Andrew, who is classified with communication disorder. In the October 2001 issue of Home School Helper, Nancy shared her story of working with Andrew in order to meet his specific educational needs. She hopes to encourage other home schooling families who have special children. Nancy and her husband, Paul, reside in Greenville, S.C., with Andrew and their older son, Mark.



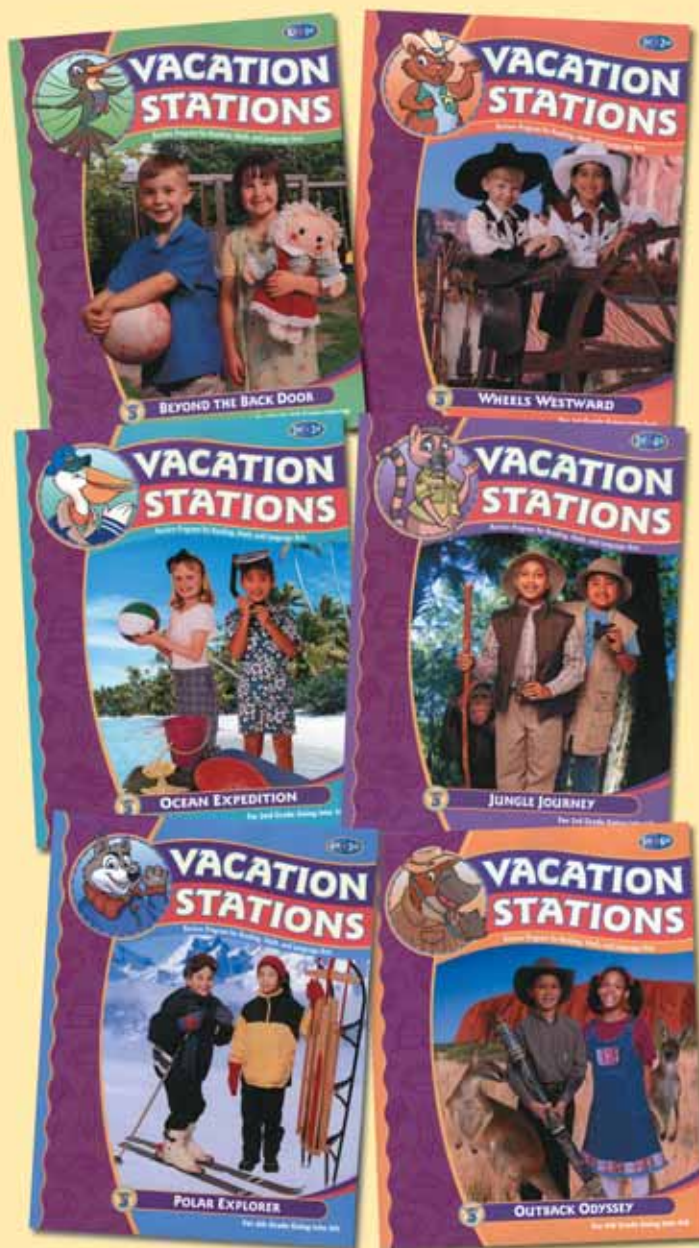
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1st through 6th grades



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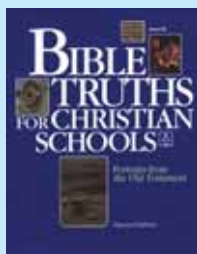
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WHAT'S AVAILABLE (cont.)

the Bible teaches about the consequences of attitudes and actions. Personal application is emphasized to help your student understand the rewards and challenges of the Christian life.



Teacher's Edition, ring binder (030429, \$42.50)
Student Worktext (028340, \$13.00)

Bible Truths 9, 2nd edition

Lessons from the Early Church—Teach the importance of the proper foundations of the early church and the faithfulness of first-century Christians through a study of the book of Acts and the early Pauline Epistles—Romans, Galatians, Corinthians, and Thesalonians.

Teacher's Edition, ring binder (031237, \$42.50)
Student Worktext (031245, \$13.00)

Bible Truths 12, 2nd edition

Patterns for Christian Living—Prepare your student for independent decision making by challenging him to apply Jesus' great commandments to daily life. Topics include Christian liberty, separation, evangelism, prejudice, suffering, and bitterness.

Teacher's Edition, ring binder (043588, \$42.50)
Student Worktext (043570, \$13.00)



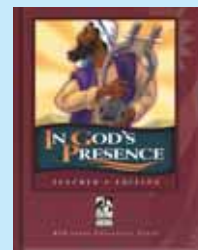
Bible Modules, grades 7-12

NEW! Beyond the Sun—What guides us through life under the sun is the wisdom that lies beyond it, the wisdom of God alone.

Explore with your teen the riches of the oft-misunderstood book of Ecclesiastes and discover God's life-shaping message to young people of all times.

Teacher's Edition, spiral (128769, \$12.00)
Student text, softbound (128751, \$5.00)

In God's Presence—After learning the biblical meaning of worship through a study of Chronicles, your student will learn how living in God's presence directs his principles and standards for music. The student book is creatively presented in story form.



Teacher's Edition, spiral (125229, \$12.00)
Student text, softbound (125211, \$5.00)

These entries show a sampling of our materials that are available for grades 1-12. To see listings of all the Bible materials, please request a copy of our Home School Catalog by calling Customer Services, 1-800-845-5731.

*Prices listed are subject to change.