

Introduction to Christian Light Education's Bible Program

Goals

The general goals of the CLE Bible program are that all levels of the course will assist the student in doing these things:

1. Gain a knowledge of God's attributes and develop a reverence and awe for Him through studying His mighty acts in the Bible. This should help the student develop an unshakable confidence in the absolute sovereignty and goodness of God.
2. See the life and actions of Jesus as the model for Christian ethics and daily life, and understand His role as the Lord and Savior of all men.
3. Understand that the Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity, who guides men into truth and empowers the believer to follow Jesus in life.
4. Understand his parents' role in maintaining his physical and spiritual well-being and to increase his love and honor for them.
5. Realize that the Christian church is the actual body of Christ, empowered and charged by Him to do His work in the world. The student will grow in his desire to become a part of the church.
6. Understand and be able to give Scripture references for teaching on major doctrines of the Bible.
7. Grow in the love of and confidence in the written Word of God. Grow in enjoying to read, study, and memorize the Bible, coming to understand it as the completely reliable written revelation of Jesus Christ.
8. Possess a thorough knowledge of Bible facts and principles out of which the Holy Spirit and faithful parents can help the student make applications.
9. Master the historical, cultural, and geographical setting of Bible events.
10. Accept and be able to use the Old Testament as the introduction, foundation, and authority for the revelation of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Philosophy and Methods

We attempt to achieve these goals by following sound principles of Christian education.

The scope and sequence for CLE's Bible program takes into account the age and development of children on each grade level. During the earliest years, we endeavor to familiarize the student with the content of Bible accounts and to generate enthusiasm for God's story, thus laying a foundation for building deeper understanding as children mature. We believe that young children are safe in Jesus and emphasize that they are responsible to obey their parents. We also teach that God will help them to do what is right.

From this early foundation, we build by increments, adding more and more details to the Biblical narrative as the stories are retold and reread in subsequent years. Stories which might confuse or frighten very young children will be read later as maturity allows.

We present the Bible stories as they occurred historically, the chronological record of God's self-revelation to men. We also focus on His unique workings with Israel in preparation for the Redeemer in whom He would most fully reveal Himself.

As children develop, we want them to benefit from a thorough acquaintance with the Scriptures, which are able to give them the wisdom that leads to salvation. As their understanding of God's character matures, they can then come to realize that God requires a righteousness which men cannot experience apart from Christ.

While the ultimate goal of CLE's Bible program is to point children to Jesus Christ, it is not our goal for the curriculum to engage in "child evangelism," nor will the course attempt to secure conversions in young children. It is our belief that as a child matures, he should learn to make the transition from obedience to parents to a personal surrender to the authority of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that the goal of instructing children in the Scriptures is that they might set their hope in God. (Psalm 78:1-7)

Introduction of the Second Grade Course

Goals for the Teacher

Lead the student to

1. Recognize some of God’s attributes
2. Recognize things created by God’s power and love
3. Recognize Jesus Christ as the Son of God
4. Recognize the key Bible characters in stories
5. Grow in reverence and love for God
6. Develop a desire to read the Bible and talk about God
7. Do simple activities to reinforce the Bible stories

Philosophy and Methods

In striving to achieve these goals, we keep the second grade Bible lessons simple to prevent adding a greater burden to the already heavy workload. However, the teacher needs to guard against viewing Bible class as an unnecessary “extra,” but rather approach it as the most important subject. After all, what could be more important than teaching children to know and love God, their Creator and Redeemer?

We suggest using the Bible lesson as a devotional two or three times a week, depending on the length of your school year. In a multi-grade room that may not work, in which case you will schedule it as a regular class.

Each Bible lesson focuses on one of God’s attributes. Remember that the facts of Biblical events are meaningful only if you use them to nurture a reverence and love for the God who engineered them all.

Layout of the Course

CLE’s second grade Bible course has five LightUnits with sixteen lessons each. You will find a simple form of the Bible story on the left-hand page of each double spread, with a corresponding activity on the right-hand page.

There are no quizzes, self checks, or tests. We want this course to be so enjoyable that the student eagerly looks forward to every class.

The students will enjoy rereading stories in their LightUnits. Therefore, encourage them to work carefully on the activity pages so as to have a nice, neat book they can keep. They might also enjoy sharing them with their younger siblings.

The notes in this Teacher’s Guide give general as well as specific suggestions to help you develop your own presentation. We recognize different skills among teachers, and therefore suggest several methods—use whichever best suits you.

A longer version of the Bible story appears in the Teacher’s Guide. This version clarifies the background of the story and connects it to the preceding story. It also includes many details that are important for the student to know, but which cannot be given in the short version in the pupil’s book.

The stories in the LightUnit are simplified so that the student will be able to read it.

Children find it hard to resist a well-told story. Therefore, if you choose to tell rather than read the story, it is important that you familiarize yourself with its many details so they are not missed.

A well-read story can also hold the pupil’s attention and be effective and enjoyable for all. It is highly important, with either method, to use good voice and facial expressions, and occasionally make eye contact in order to keep the students’ attention and interest.

Consider it essential to tell or read the story *before* the student works on the lesson. A full detailed account of the story in the Teacher’s Guide is necessary to insure the child’s comprehension of the brief story found in his book.

After the story has been presented, the activity may be done together during the devotional time or used as individual seatwork. You will find specific directions for each activity in the “Activity Page” section of each lesson.

Items needed to do a LightUnit will be listed at the beginning in the notes for that LightUnit, in the Teacher’s Guide.