

How to Teach an Elementary Lesson

Teaching Elementary students the Bible is both challenging and satisfying. The instructions below will introduce you to the Grapevine method of teaching a lesson.

At Grapevine, we believe everyone can learn the Bible at their own level, including those in fourth, fifth, and sixth grade. Using the following step-by-step instructions you can successfully teach the children the Lord has entrusted into your care.

Let's get started!

- **Pray** Nothing can replace the time a teacher spends in prayer. We need the Lord to teach us before we are ready to teach our students. Praying for our students should be something we do throughout week.

- **Gather Materials**

Teacher Materials:

- **Bible** Use the translation of your choice.
- **Master Teacher Book** for your study, either the Old or New Testament.
- **Bible Dictionary**

Classroom Materials:

- **White Marker Board and Markers** to be able to draw the stick figure images for each passage. Have at least 8 colors: red, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, brown, and black.
- **(OR) Tablet** However, sometimes you might not be able to do that, so if drawing is not an available option; you can show them students the lesson images from your teacher book or the image from your tablet if you have the ebook/PDF version.

Student Materials:

- **Bible of your choice.** We recommend that you use a translation (KJV, ESV, NASB, etc.) and not a children's Bible or paraphrase Bible (Living Bible, Message Bible, etc.). Even if your young student is not able to read, we want them to get into the habit of having their Bible ready for Bible study.
- **Elementary Student Book** for grades 4-6 for your study; either the Old Testament or the New Testament. Elementary students can also use any of the Topical Studies.



Student Materials:

- **Colored Pencils** in at least 8 colors (red, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, brown, and black) but if your students want to use more, feel free to encourage them! Markers are not recommended because they bleed through the pages.
- **Index Cards** to create the Character and Events cards for each lesson. You will need one card per lesson, per student.

• Lesson Preparation:

Lesson 1: Timeline for the Study

The Teacher book includes the narration for the timeline. If you have never taught the timeline before you can read from the teacher's notes.

Each lesson following will look more in-depth at each event on the timeline, so avoid the temptation to go into detail about these characters and events at this point. Instead, you will introduce the person or event, tell how to draw it, and ask your students what they know about each point on the timeline.

Become familiar with the timeline and note any additional comments or questions you would like to add to the lesson.

Lesson Parts

Beginning with lesson 3, each lesson consists of three parts:

1. Timeline Review
2. Lesson Pages
3. Student Review

Lesson 2 follows the teaching of the timeline for the study, so it does not have the timeline review page, but has the lesson pages and student review page.

Part 1: Timeline Review Page

Timeline Review: Students begin each lesson by reviewing the last three points on the timeline. Note the questions you want to ask them about the previous lessons.

Memory Verse Review: Read over these verses and be ready to ask students to recite these verses.

Extra Memory Work: Review these facts and be prepared to review the new facts with your students.



- **Lesson Preparation:**

Part 2: Lesson Pages

Read Aloud: Recite the verses for each section of the lesson from the Bible of your choice. If you have time, I recommend reviewing at least two different Bible translations. This gives you two perspectives on each passage.

Discuss: Read over the teacher's notes in green, and add any of your own notes for each section of the lesson.

Look Up Words: In the Teacher book, you will see a list of words or phrases to look up in a Bible Dictionary. In addition to these words or phrases, look up any words you are not familiar with or that you think your students might have questions about.

Read the Lesson: Look through the questions and answers, adding any additional questions you would like to ask your students about the lesson.

Determine the Application: How do you want to apply these verses and this lesson to the lives of your students? Note any ways this application can be discussed into each section of the lesson.

Review the Memory Verse: Decide how to help your students memorize the verse over the coming week.

Part 3: Drawing page

Character and Event Card: On the front of the card, students will draw the timeline image, such as a green circle for Creation. On the back of the card, you can choose what information to have them write, like the memory verse or key facts from the lesson.

Student Drawing Area: Here students draw their favorite part of the lesson.

Memory Verse Review: Students will verbally recite the verse and start to memorize it.

Extra Memory Work: Here you will introduce the new memory work and help students begin to memorize it.

Map: Review your Teacher book for mapping assignments. The Teacher maps are in the back of the book and the locations are labeled for you, but students will label their maps.

Schedule

Schedules are included in the back of the teachers book.

Daily Schedule

- Day 1: Timeline Review Page
- Day 2: Lesson Pages 1 - 2
- Day 3: Lesson Pages 3 - 4
- Day 4: Drawing Page

Time Needed: 15-20 minutes a day

Weekly Schedule

Complete all pages in the lesson

Time Needed: 45-60 minutes a week



During Class

1. **Set out student books and pencils** or have students get their books and pencils. I have found that if I am teaching in a classroom setting, having the books and pencils set out before class helps students get excited to start the lesson.
2. **Pray** with your students.
3. **Lesson time:**

Lesson 1 – Timeline of the Study

- To teach the timeline for the study **introduce** the person or event, **show** your students how to draw it, and **explain** which colors to use.
 - **Avoid** the temptation to go into detail about these characters and events on the timeline; each lesson following will look with more depth into each point.
 - **Ask** students what they know about each point on the timeline. The answers will help you to better prepare for future lessons.

Part 1 – Timeline and Memory Verse Review

- **Timeline Review** Students begin each lesson by reviewing the last three points on the timeline. This is a good time to help students who have missed class to catch up on learning the timeline.
- **Memory Verse Review** Have students verbally recite the memory verses.
- **Extra Memory Work** Have students verbally recite the extra memory work.

Part 2 – Lesson Pages

- **Read** the passage from the Bible then paraphrase it. If possible, have your students read the passage. It is good for children to both read the Bible and hear it read.
- **Discuss** the passage and ask questions of your students to ensure they understand. Throughout the lesson ask them if they have any questions. If they ask a question you do not know that answer to, be honest and tell them that you will have to look for the answer. If it is a question that parents might view differently, encourage them to ask their parents that question.
- **Draw** the stick figure on the board as you discuss the passage. Explain what you are drawing. Next have your students draw the stick figure into their books. The minimum you want them to draw is what you have in your Teacher book. The more they draw and interact with the passage, the more they will retain.

Part 2 – Lesson Pages Continued

- **Maps** are found in the back of the book for your students to label if there is a mapping assignment in the lesson.
- **Read *Lesson Review* questions** and have your students answer them verbally. Ask any additional questions you have for them. Some teachers have their very young students or special needs students draw their answers if they have trouble verbalizing them.
- **Introduce the memory verse** for the lesson. If you have some kind of memory aid to help students memorize the verse, this would be the time to go over it with your class.

Part 3 – Student Drawing Page

- **Character and Event Cards** On the front of the card, have students draw the timeline image for that lesson. For the back of the card, have them write the information you want them to remember, such as the memory verse or key facts.
- **Student Drawing Area** Here students will draw their favorite part of the lesson. This is a good time to discover what your students understood and connected to in each lesson.
- **Memory Verse Review** Students will verbally recite the new verse to help begin to memorize it.
- **Extra Memory Work** Here you will introduce the new memory work and help students begin to memorize it.

Parents and Teachers

Notebooks: We recommend that you keep each student's lessons in a notebook that stay with you in the classroom, as opposed to sending lessons home with students each week. This accomplishes three goals:

1. **Not Disposable** Students see that what they are learning about the Bible is valuable and not to be thrown away. Plus, it makes parents happy to not have more paper to deal with each week when leaving church or class.
2. **Students Have a Record** We find that the students like to go back and look at their drawings and can often recall details from each lesson simply by looking at what they have drawn.
3. **Gift for Parents** Many churches and groups have found it very meaningful to give the notebooks to parents at the end of class. This is a keepsake that parents value and appreciate.

Parents and Teachers Continued

Parent involvement is the key to successful Bible teaching. Children often follow the example of their parents. If you, as a teacher, can get the parents excited and involved the children will follow their lead.

Classroom Parents: If possible, before class bring in the parents and teach them a lesson so they can see what their children will be learning and the teaching method. Encourage them to ask their children what they have learned after each class.

Parents If you are teaching at home, dinnertime can be a great time to review for Dad what Mom and the kids studied that day. The children can show him the pictures and retell the story. This gives dads a chance to be part of the lesson.

Teach Confidently

Like you, we believe every child deserves to understand the truth of Scripture in a fun and life changing way. With the Grapevine method, you can confidently teach your Elementary students the Bible.

At Grapevine, our mission is to help teachers, like you, to be successful! Should you have any questions, please contact us.

Chat with us at www.GrapevineStudies.com

Call us at 307-529-2019

