

Quick Start Guide for *Topical Studies*

Gather Your Materials

Bibles

Teacher book

Dry erase board and markers

Student books

Colored pencils

Atlas of Bible Lands (optional)

Teach the Timeline first

Before you dig into the lessons, you will first teach the timeline for the study to get a big picture of the characters and events you will be exploring. This is a great time to ask questions about what your students know about each point on the timeline.

- **Draw** each event of the timeline on the dry erase board and have students fill in their timelines.
- **Briefly explain** each event (you can use the descriptions in the teacher book) and which colors to use. You will dig into each character and event later.

The timeline can be taught in one lesson or split up into two lessons if the children are younger.

Teach the Lesson

Here are the different parts of the lesson in order. You can either teach the entire lesson in one setting or spread it out. There is a suggested teaching schedule in the back of the book which gives you weekly and daily schedule options for each grade level.

- **Timeline Review:** Each lesson (after Lesson 2) starts with a Timeline Review. This is a brief review of the last few points on the timeline. This review helps students continue to memorize the timeline while setting the context for the lesson you will be starting. Students draw/write in the missing timeline elements and then review it with the class.
- **Memory Verse Review:** Memory verses from the last few lessons are quickly and verbally recited.
- **The Lesson Pages:** You will draw the stick figure on the dry erase board for the students. The Scripture passage is read and discussed for the section while the student draws the picture. Discussion notes are in the Teacher book and you can add your notes right on the page. Older students can complete the map work if there is any for the lesson.
- **Lesson Review Questions:** You ask the review questions and the students answer verbally.
- **Memory Verse:** Each lesson ends with a memory verse for that lesson.
- **Drawing Page:** The Student Drawing page is for students to draw their favorite part of the lesson. This is a great way for you to see what your students learned and remember. On this page students review the memory verse verbally or by writing it out.
- **Character/Event Cards:** Using an index card draw the timeline character/event on the front and on the back put information you want your students to remember, the Teacher book has recommendations for each lesson. Students can also write out their memory verses on the back of the card.

Final Review

At the end of the section there is a Final Review. These can be completed verbally or used in a game like Jeopardy. That's all there is to it!

Teaching Tips

1. Use colored pencils, not crayons or markers for drawing the stick figures. Crayons have a thick line and make drawing in the boxes difficult. Markers bleed through the page.
2. If you are printing your own books, we recommend the thicker paper "24-pound paper" instead of "20 pound".
3. Take the lesson pages out of the student binder before class, the binder rings are hard to draw over.
4. Set out the lesson pages and colored pencils before class. When students come to class, everything is ready to go.
5. Write your notes and application points in the teacher book so you have them now and in the future.
6. Encourage children to add to their drawings, the more they draw and add, the more they remember.
7. Read the lesson passages from different versions of the Bible, if time allows.
8. Simplify the drawings for younger children if needed. The traceable version of the student book is great for younger children who are in a class with older children.
9. Allow different students to draw the pictures on the board.
10. Add as many extra questions to the Lesson Review as time allows and questions you feel your students need to understand that lesson.
11. Have the students review their drawings with dad or a friend. You will be amazed at what they remember!
12. Have older children write the Lesson Review for the younger children. Each question must start with Who, What, When, Where, Why or How. This helps them to see the important facts from the lesson.
13. Have your teens teach an occasional lesson for you. This helps prepare them to teach in the future.
14. Keep the completed student books as a gift for parents or keepsake. We find kids love to keep them and refer back to them when talking to their friends. Many churches and schools keep the student books in the classroom until the end of the study so that pages are not lost.
15. For Middle School students, help them to find online study resources for their Quest page assignments like BibleGateway.com, BlueLetterBible.org or BibleHub.com.
16. Use different kinds of games to do Section Reviews and Final Reviews to make them fun.

We are here to help!

If you have any questions, please contact us!

Call us at 307-529-2019

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