

# Quick Start Guide for *Timelines*

## Why Teach Timelines?

One of the surprising things we have discovered in training new teachers is how many of them never learned the Bible timeline as children or even adults. Many of us know the stories, but we don't know how they all fit together. It doesn't have to be that way for your students! Teaching the Bible timeline is important for three reasons, it gives students the big picture of the Bible, layouts the chronology of the Bible in a visual way, and gives context to a character or event.

1. **Big Picture** – Timelines help students see how different characters and events relate and connect to one another in the context of time. Timeline can give students the Big Picture of the Bible or individual events, such as the birth of Jesus.
2. **Chronology** – Timelines encourage students to sort and classify the information they are discovering as they read their Bibles. Having students create a timeline provides them with a visual picture they will not easily forget.
3. **Context** – Timelines give students context for the passages they are studying and provide a foundation for future studies. As students get older, and begin to study the Bible on their own, knowing the timeline will enable them to study more effectively.

## How to Teach with Timelines

### Pray

Nothing can replace the time you spend in prayer with the Master Teacher, the Lord Jesus. We need the Lord to prepare and change our hearts so that we will be ready and excited to teach our students or children. Prayer for our students should be something we sprinkle throughout our week.

### Gather Materials

- Timeline pages for students
- Colored Pencils
- White Board and Markers

### Draw and Explain

As you **introduce** each character or event, **draw** a stick figure or other icon and **show** your students what to draw and which color to use.

Grapevine does **use specific colors** for people and events. For example, we save the color purple for references to God in general, God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Children will often ask to use different colors, and we leave that decision to the teacher.

### Example:

- We draw Creation using a green circle.
- We draw Adam as a blue stick man and Eve as a red stick woman.

## Ask Questions

In lesson one, you may have new students in your class. Since the timeline is the first thing you teach, this is a good time to **find out what your students know** about the Bible. Are you dealing with students that are well taught or brand new to the Bible?

The timeline for each study can be used to frame each lesson. Once you have completed your drawing and explanation, **ask questions** of your students. You want to **gauge how much your students know** about specific characters or events. This will be helpful as you prepare to teach future lessons to know whether to keep it very basic or to add more information.

### Examples:

- Tell me one thing you know about Noah.
- Can you name Adam's wife? (Asking this after you draw Adam)

Allow the timeline exercise to guide your questions, and give students a chance to answer.

## Evaluate Drawing Ability

If you are teaching at home or for a class of multiple ages, you will likely need to **account for different drawing abilities**. You may need to simplify your drawings if you have younger children.

### Examples:

- Draw just the faces of the people on the timeline instead of the entire stick man.
- Draw only the snake for The Fall, instead of the snake in the tree.

While younger students are completing their drawings, begin to **engage with older students** by asking them questions about that character or event. For each of our studies, we do have a traceable guide that helps younger children keep up with the older students.

Older students can add details to the characters and event symbols, making them unique. For more advanced students, one could also add key geographical locations below the timeline and dates above the timeline.

## Add Dates for Older Students

Biblical dates are controversial, so we have chosen to leave them out of the curriculum. However, when we teach timelines to older students, we do include the dates. Our two favorite resources are:

- Annals of World History by James Ussher
- Newton's Revised History of Ancient Kingdoms by Isaac Newton

These resources provide a fun way to help your students see when biblical events happened in time and the distance in years between particular events.

## We are here to help!

Call us at 307-259-9429

Chat with us at [www.GrapevineStudies.com](http://www.GrapevineStudies.com)