Elementary Bible Study

Your Job Description

Your job is to lead the elementary-aged children in their daily Bible study. Feel free to adapt the material and make it your own. Before VBS week, please take the time to read through this entire curriculum. Pray now for the kids and families God will bring to VBS, that their hearts would be open to the gospel. Let your leaders know if you have any questions.

Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>K</th>
<th>GRADE 1</th>
<th>GRADE 2</th>
<th>GRADE 3</th>
<th>GRADE 4</th>
<th>GRADE 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
<td>Opening Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Games</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:10</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
<td>Arts/Crafts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:20</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
<td>Snack/Music</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing</td>
<td>Closing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General Bible Study Format

The Bible studies in this guide follow the HOOK-BOOK-LOOK* format:

- **HOOK—Grab their attention!** A HOOK activity is designed to introduce and overview the lesson. This is a preparation activity designed to engage the child’s senses as well as introduce new vocabulary and concepts. This part of the lesson is intended to capture the attention of the children, to set the stage for God’s Word. It answers the question, “Why do I need to know this?”

- **BOOK—This is where you school them.** This is intended to be an interactive time. The BOOK time speaks to the analytic learning style, and it answers the question, “What do I need to know?” The Bible story is the main focus of the lesson. Since learning about God through the Bible is our primary point, we’ve been painstaking about putting quality preparation into studying the Scripture passage and writing clear, interesting, and interactive stories. The truths of Scripture should be explained in a way the children will understand and enjoy. Each successive day will build on these stories, bringing increasingly profound truths to the children’s attention, so don’t feel pressured to communicate everything at once. Use visual aids to help keep the children’s interest.

- **LOOK—Look at your heart. Look to Jesus.** The LOOK section works in two ways. First, we want our kids to look to Jesus—seeing Jesus at the heart and center of the Bible story we are teaching. Second, we want our kids to look at their hearts and connect the lesson to their lives. So, we have tried to include creative activities for helping children move from the Bible to their own hearts and lives. The LOOK section speaks to the pragmatic learning style, and it answers the questions, “How
does this truth work? How does it work out in my life?"


**Supplies**

Some supplies will be needed every day and do not appear on the supply list: Bibles for the class, crayons/markers, paper, whiteboard, and dry-erase markers.

**Daily Supplies**

**Day 1: Laugh!**

- A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don’t belong together)
- Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
- A buzzer from a board game

**Day 2: Clap!**

- A military uniform or camouflage clothing
- A train table or battlefield landscape drawn on a piece of poster board
- Plastic army men (green and tan)
- A larger male doll such as Barbie’s Ken or a G. I. Joe figurine. It should be clearly larger than the plastic army men.
- Slingshot
- Five smooth stones
- Paper crown

**Day 3: Sing!**

- Rock star outfit (sunglasses, tight jeans, T-shirt, scarf, etc.)
- 3 pieces of Poster board (with the mad lib activity prewritten on them)
- Marker

**Day 4: Shout!**

- Ark of the covenant visual
- Homemade Ark of the Covenant—a wooden or cardboard box spray painted gold with two angels on top facing one another. The ark should have a place on the sides so that it can be carried by poles. Inside, put pictures of the ten commandments, Aaron’s rod, and manna.
- A skateboard or wagon that can be pulled by a rope.
- *Are You Close to God?* gospel tract
ELEMENTARY DAY 1

LAUGH!

MAIN POINT:
Laugh! God chooses surprising people!

SCRIPTURE THEME FOR TODAY:
“But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.’” (1 Samuel 16:7)

PSALM MEMORY FOR TODAY:
“Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, ‘The LORD has done great things for them.’ The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.” (Psalm 126:2–3)

TEACHERS:
Some things don’t belong together—like a scoop of ice cream on top of spaghetti or a teddy bear on a basketball team. But God often chooses people who look like they don’t belong to accomplish his sovereign purposes. When the shepherd boy David became king of Israel, it was just this kind of surprise. How do we respond to God’s surprising choice? We can laugh with joy, because God chooses surprising people like you and me. Take this lesson, study it, and make it your own. Allow the truths of Scripture to sink into your heart. Know what you are saying and say it with confidence and excitement.

SUPPLIES
+ A plate of cooked spaghetti noodles and ice cream (or two foods that clearly don’t belong together)
+ Basketball and a teddy bear (or sports equipment with any stuffed animal)
+ A buzzer from a board game
Introduce the Theme
(2–3 minutes—first day only)

ASK: Do anybody know what this week’s theme is? That’s right, Clap Your Hands, Stomp Your Feet. Let’s all do that. (Lead the kids in a rhythmic stomp-stomp-clap, stomp-stomp-clap, and chant “Clap-Your-Hands, Stomp-Your-Feet” to the beat.)

Now why is this our theme? It’s because clapping and stomping are two of the things the Bible instructs us to do when we worship God. The Bible tells us that we should worship God in response to what He has done for us.

SAY: This week, we’re going to be learning all about how we worship God. We worship God because He is great. He has done great things. This week we’re going to learn how to worship God by laughing, clapping, singing, shouting, and giving thanks.

While we do that, we’re going to be learning about what God did in the life of David. The Bible tells us that David was a man after God’s own heart. It would be easy to say that David was one of the greatest worshippers of God of all time. He danced, wrote songs, sang, shouted, gave thanks—he did all of it! Let’s start learning about him today.

HOOK
Grab their attention!
(2–3 minutes)

Have a table set in the teaching area with the props prepared to use as object lessons.

SAY: There are some things that DO NOT belong together. I’m going to show you some pairs of things that work on their own, but it’s hard to see how they’d ever go together.

ASK: First, who likes spaghetti? Hold up the plate of spaghetti and wait for a response. You may consider asking what kinds of things the kids like to put on spaghetti—like meatballs or Parmesan cheese. Now, who likes to put ice cream on their spaghetti? Take the plate of cooked
spaghetti noodles and put some ice cream on top. This should get the kids involved and laughing.

**ASK:** Second, who likes basketball? *Hold up a basketball and wait for response from the kids. You may consider asking about their favorite team.* Now, who would like to have a teddy bear on their basketball team? *Pass a basketball to the teddy bear on the table so that it knocks him over.* The kids should be laughing some more.

**SAY:** Today we’re going to hear a story about David. David was the youngest boy of a big family. He was a shepherd too. He was the last person that anyone would have expected to become a king. Like spaghetti and ice cream or basketball and our teddy bear, David and being king just didn’t go together... BUT God chose David to be king. Let’s repeat today’s main point together.

**Main Point:** *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

---

**BOOK TIME**

This is where you school them!

*(10 minutes)*

Tell the story below. Try to put it to memory so that you don’t have to read it. If the children are younger, it may be helpful to use the visuals from the preschool lessons or abridge the story in order to keep their attention. Essential **plot points** are highlighted to aid in summarizing.

**Tell the Story:** Long ago, there was a man named Samuel. *Everyone say Samuel.* *(Wait for the kids to respond.)* Samuel was a man of God. God used prophets like Samuel to anoint new kings for God’s people, Israel. God would tell the prophet who should be king, and then the prophet would go and anoint him as king.

The first man Samuel anointed king was named Saul. Everyone say Saul. *(Wait for the kids to respond.)* Saul was everything you would **think** a king should be. He was bigger and taller than everyone else. He was good-looking and most people liked him. At first, he seemed like he was going to be a great king. He listened to God, and he defeated Israel’s enemies. But then Saul started doing things that were **not** pleasing to God. He disobeyed God’s commands. He did evil things, and he led God’s
people to do evil as well. Israel needed a new king.

One day, God told Samuel, “I have rejected Saul as king. Go to the house of a man named Jesse in Bethlehem. I want to make one of Jesse’s sons the king instead of Saul.” Samuel was afraid. Samuel knew King Saul would kill him if the king heard he had anointed one of Jesse’s sons. But even though he was afraid, Samuel obeyed. He went because God told him to go.

So, Samuel went on a journey to the town of Bethlehem. Everyone say Bethlehem. (Wait for the kids to respond.) This is where Jesse and all his sons lived.

When Samuel arrived at Jesse’s house, he noticed one of Jesse’s sons, Eliab. Eliab was tall and impressive. He looked the way a king should look! So, Samuel thought, “This must be him! This must be the one God has chosen to be the next king!” Let’s read what happened next from the Bible.

Read 1 Samuel 16:7 from your Bible (or have a child read). “But the LORD said to Samuel, ‘Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

This is amazing! God is saying that it’s not our appearance that matters. God doesn't see the same things people see. God chooses differently than people choose. Let’s repeat our main point:

**Main Point:** Laugh (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

Eliab was not the one chosen by God to be king, but Jesse had lots of sons, so he just started to bring them out to meet Samuel. (Line the VBS volunteers up in the classroom in the order of their height.) Jesse brought out his second son, and he was rejected [Sound the buzzer]. Then his third son was brought out, rejected [buzzer!]. Fourth son, rejected [buzzer! The kids should be roaring with laughter at this point!] Fifth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Sixth son, rejected [buzzer!]. Seventh son, rejected [buzzer!]. [Thank the workers and have them sit back down with the kids.]

Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse answered, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him, I will not even sit down until he gets here.”
So, Jesse went and got the youngest son out of the field with the sheep. The youngest son was named David. Jesse may have said something like, “David, come in here. There’s a guy in here who wants to talk to you.” David had no idea that Samuel was there looking to find a new king. David was not expecting to become a king this day, but, when he came in, Samuel knew he was the one. Samuel took David and he anointed him as king. And then the Bible says the Spirit of God came upon him. Nobody thought David would be king. He wasn’t particularly impressive. He wasn’t even the first pick in his own family! But God chose David. Let’s repeat the main point again...

**Main Point.** *Laugh!* (Laugh out loud) God chooses surprising people.

### LOOK
**Look at your heart. Look to Jesus!**

**(15 minutes)**

**DO:** Have the kids draw a picture or write a brief story about a time when they were surprised. Were they surprised by something funny or something scary? Have each child share their picture/story with the class. Or, for large classes, have each child share their picture/story with a smaller group of four or five classmates. After everyone has had a chance to share, gather the group back together.

**SAY:** Did you know that Jesus is a surprising choice? David was Jesus’s great, great, far-off grandfather. And Jesus was just as surprising as David. He came from a small town in the middle of nowhere. Do you remember the name of that town? It was Bethlehem—the same as David. Jesus’s family wasn’t rich. No one would have chosen Jesus to be our king. Jesus wasn’t particularly good looking. The prophet Isaiah says, “He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him” (Is. 53:2b). But he is our king! God has chosen to save us through HIM!

**ASK:** Do you ever feel like you will never be good enough? Like you will never be a good at sports? Like you will never be pretty enough? Like you are unlovable? Even if we are adored and loved by friends or parents, part of being human in a broken world is feeling lonely and forgotten sometimes. And if you’ve ever felt this way, I have bad