

## Teaching for Application - Preschoolers & Children

*"Israel, listen to the statutes and ordinances I am proclaiming as you hear them today. Learn and follow them carefully."* Deuteronomy 5:1

We have the privilege and responsibility as teachers to help our students hear God's Word, know and understand what it says, connect it their own lives and learn how to live it out. Applying the Word is a transformational process, where the Holy Spirit changes the disciple from the inside out.

### Hear God's Word

Hearing parents and teachers tell them what God's Word says is an integral foundational stone for spiritual growth in children. Kids need to be saturated in the what the Bible says.

- ◆ Children learn to trust parents and teachers, and in turn, they listen and hear God's Word.
- ◆ Children hear as parents and teachers tell them foundational Bible stories.
- ◆ Children hear as they retell a Bible Story.
- ◆ Children hear as they hear foundational Bible truths.
- ◆ Children hear as parents and teachers read and discuss Bible verses.
- ◆ Children hear through story conversations.
- ◆ Children hear as they sing Bible related songs.



**What are ways that you have helped children hear God's Word in class?** Have you used storytelling, drawing, drama, maps, clues, objects? How many ways to tell and retell the story can you think of?



### Know God's Word

The second foundational element in a child's spiritual growth is knowing God's Word. Knowing happens

when children take what they heard and discover the what God is teaching in the Bible stories, Bible verses, and Bible truths that build foundations for salvation.

- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they understand and comprehend biblical concepts.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they have concepts introduced to them at appropriate ages and stages of development.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they hear words they can comprehend.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they see people in their lives living out what is taught.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they read and study the Bible.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they learn, discuss, and apply Bible verses.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word through engaging, hands-on Bible learning activities.
- ◆ Children begin to know God's Word as they participate in large and small group experiences.

**Think of a learning activity** that helped kids understand the concept being taught that day. What about that activity helped kids discover God's truth?

### Do God's Word

We only become disciples of Jesus when we follow. For example:

- ◆ Children exhibit a personal understanding of Bible truths as they do God's Word by applying it to their everyday lives.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by living out what they are challenged through the Bible.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by participating in mission activities.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by sharing their faith with family members and friends.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by studying their Bible each day.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by praying.
- ◆ Children do God's Word by developing Bible skills that will strengthen their spiritual development.

Teachers and parents help kids do what God's Word says when they:

- ◆ model obedience;
- ◆ create teaching experiences that imitate everyday experiences;
- ◆ guide discovery learning; and
- ◆ encourage and acknowledge life application.

**As you prepare your next lesson, find the "so what" statement.** What are you asking the kids to commit to doing based on what they have learned?

