



Constance Dever

Dear Friend,

This booklet is the pitchbook I created to tell pastors and children's ministry leaders about Praise Factory at conferences. Each page represents a poster at our display booth.

This book allows you to skip the airfare and crowds, and learn a little about Church-Shaped Children's Ministry and the many, free, Praise Factory resources from the comfort of your easy chair. May you find them thought-provoking and helpful.

Visit praisefactory.org to learn more and to download everything!

Constance Dever

in association with

IX 9Marks

THE PRAISE FACTORY



**BUILDING *TOMORROW'S*
HEALTHY CHURCHES
TODAY!**

RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

CURRICULUM FOR KIDS

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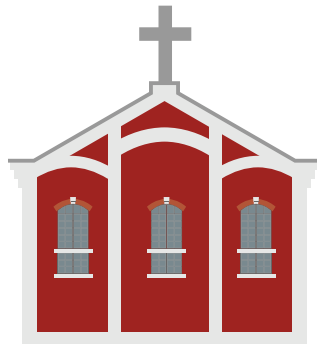
FREE DOWNLOADS

THE PRAISE FACTORY

www.praisefactory.org

A LABOR OF LOVE

from



CAPITOL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

The Praise Factory curriculum
has been being created for and used with
the children of
Capitol Hill Baptist Church,
in Washington, DC,
over the past 20+ years.

Others became interested in
the curriculum; and so,
praisefactory.org was born.

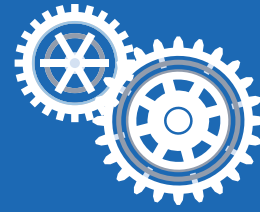
The curriculum and the website
are a labor of love
of Constance Dever,
wife of senior pastor, Mark Dever.

She creates it for CHBC,
but humbly offers it to you....
and that's why it's free.

Think children's ministry seems unimportant? Think again!
Its impact upon the church...upon YOUR church... is profound.

5

REASONS WHY
YOUR MINISTRY
Is
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



1

THE HARVEST-RICH, 4-14 WINDOW

The 4-14 window is the most common age range of conversion... and false conversion.

- How will you bring the gospel to these children?
- How will you look for true conversion *BEFORE* you baptize, for the sake of the children and the purity of the church?

2

EVERYONE IS A CHILD

Everyone who attends your church is, or once was, a child.

- How can you fortify these future members and leaders today, preparing them be a stronger part, Lord willing, of the church of tomorrow?

3

MOST WILL BE PARENTS

Most people who attend your church are, or will be, parents, the primary spiritual caregivers of their kids. This will be one of life's most important, time-consuming, and challenging callings.

- How can you equip your membership for their leading role in spiritually nurturing their children?

4

MANY MEMBERS ARE INVOLVED

Children's ministry frequently enlists more volunteers, teaching and caring for more souls, than any church ministry other than preaching from the pulpit.

- How do you balance nurturing your volunteers' own spiritual needs with their service to your church's families?

5

PASTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE

Pastors are responsible before God for the soundness of all teaching that takes place in their local church. This includes the teaching in the kids' classes.

- How can you oversee curriculum choices and volunteer teachers, ensuring that the teaching is sound?

The Praise Factory
provide churches with
2 kinds of resources
focused on
supporting parents
and teaching children...

learn more at
praisefactory.org

THE PRAISE FACTORY

...while caring for volunteers,
and keeping
the worship gathering
“the main thing” for
ALL of the church.



The two kinds of Praise Factory resources

1

CHURCH-SHAPED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

ideas to help churches
of all sizes,
create a church-shaped
children's ministry

2

CHURCH-SHAPED CURRICULUM FOR KIDS

curriculum that
prepares children
to gather meaningfully
with the church

Ideas to help churches of all sizes,
create a church-shaped children's ministry in their setting.

BUILDING *Tomorrow's* HEALTHY CHURCHES *Today!*

in association with

IX 9Marks

CHURCH-SHAPED CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

learn more at
praisefactory.org

THE PRAISE FACTORY

IT STARTS with YOU,
the **PASTOR!**



SERVE WHO YOU HAVE...



with WHAT YOU HAVE...



...that ALL MIGHT WORSHIP,
for the **GOOD** of ALL,
to the **GLORY** of GOD!

1

Children's Ministry that **THRIVES**
under the leadership
of the pastors...

3

And, that supports parents
as they fulfill their calling to
spiritually nurture their children...

2

...within the
healthy, sustainable limits
of your church's resources.

4

...and leads the children
on the path to gathering together
meaningfully with the church.

CHURCH-SHAPED MEANS:

Mindful of the Gathering



...that ALL MIGHT WORSHIP!

POINTS TO the Gathering

HOW?

- Church-shaped Children's Ministry points to the final, Great Gathering of all God's people with God at the end of time. It desires for all children to hear and receive the gospel with repentance and faith, that they might become God's people and be a part of that gathering (Revelation 19:6-9).
- It points to the earthly gatherings of God's people in local churches, the weekly "dress rehearsal" for the Great Gathering to come. Hebrews 10:25 urges us to regularly be a part of these gatherings.
- It even points to the daily, family gatherings of godly parents with their children at home, where parents continue training up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4)

WHY?

These biblical gatherings are God's good plan for His people to come to faith and grow to maturity.

PROVIDES THROUGH the Gathering

HOW?

- Families are equipped through the preaching of God's Word and are strengthened through the worship of God, as they gather together with the local church (Ephesians 4:11-12).
- They are encouraged by fellow members as they share, pray, and work to present each other mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28). They spur one another on toward love and good works (Hebrews 10:25), including helping each other to raise the children under their care (Titus 2:1-8).
- Children hear God's Word and see the church body living for God and loving one another.
- Parents are equipped at church to train their children at home (2 Timothy 14-17).
- There are simple things pastors can do to enhance the gathering times for children, such as preaching from an outline that children can follow, being mindful of children in applications and illustrations, or giving children a related question to ask their parents when they get home.

WHY?

- This is the core of biblical children's ministry. If you are faithful in this basic, biblical model, in a real sense, you are being faithful to equip parents and train children. As you add more to this core, make sure it supports the worship gathering. Keep the main thing, the main thing.

PROVIDES FOR the Gathering

HOW?

- When thinking about going beyond the basic model, start by looking for who would especially benefit from extra help, so they can be better fed through the worship service.
- Providing safe childcare for parents with small children is an invaluable service that supports the preaching of the Word. It gives these parents a chance to learn and grow, instead of being distracted. And that in turn, helps parents to better disciple their children. Be sure to have a child protection policy in place before you offer any childcare.
- By providing a simple worship bulletin for the service for children to write down the outline or draw a picture related to something in the service or sermon can be very helpful.

WHY?

- To enhance the equipping of God's people and the children under their care through what the church is doing already in the worship gathering.

PREPARES FOR the Gathering

HOW?

- By providing the next week's sermon Bible passage for families to read and discuss ahead of time.
- By offering classes for adults or children, other than during the worship service time. Children's classes can even include elements such as prayers, hymn singing, Bible verse study, or catechism work that prepare them for what they will hear in the worship service.
- By even offering classes during all/part of the worship service for younger children with short attention spans, but **WHICH PHASE OUT** as the children get older.
- Pastors need to be involved in setting the teaching vision for classes. They also need to be, on some level, involved in choosing teachers and curriculum, so that doctrine taught in the classes is in keeping with the preaching, and with the church covenant. Overseeing all the teaching in their local church is their God-given responsibility (2 Timothy 4:2-5).

WHY?

- To provide children with a ramp up into the Sunday gatherings. Thinking about the Bible passage ahead of time as a family, gives parents a chance to help their children better understand the preaching in the worship service. (Some parents even help their kids choose words from the passage to listen for during the worship service/sermon. Great idea!)
- Classes offered during all or part of the worship service are always temporary. They are never to provide a permanent substitute. They phase out by age limit, as older children are able to take part meaningfully in the service. Teachers and parents can be encouraged to look for signs of a child's readiness for more extended time in the worship service and increasingly include them in it.

PROTECTS VOLUNTEERS FOR the Gathering

HOW?

- By setting healthy limits on how frequently someone volunteers in children's ministry programs.
- By making sure the number of programs you provide meets the sustainable number of volunteers you have, so that no one is being asked to serve too frequently for their own spiritual good.
- By setting up teaching priorities for children's ministry programs, so if there becomes a regular pattern of insufficient volunteers, pastors know to limit or even cut out a program of a lower teaching priority. This helps the church continue to sustain programs of higher teaching priority.

WHY?

- Children's ministry is notorious for either being a hiding place for those who don't want to go to the church service; or, as a burn-out place for those who feel responsible for making sure there are always enough volunteers to staff every program. These are both, in practice, forms of neglecting to meet together that the church is to avoid (Hebrews 10:25). Protect both of these kinds of people for their own, spiritual good.

PATIENTLY WAITS TO FULLY PARTICIPATE IN the Gathering

HOW?

- Children are not just small adults. They go through developmental phases that gradually give them the same decision-making skills as an adult. These phases need to be kept in mind as we talk to children about God, share the gospel with them, and encourage them in discipleship.
- Young children memorize better than they can understand. We can fill their minds with truths that they can increasingly interact with and choose to live by as they grow up. Such a legacy of truth is a great gift. It is one that continues to be unwrapped over years, even decades, as a child matures into adulthood.
- Young children can be sincerely converted, but are better served by being asked to patiently wait to be baptized, take the Lord's Supper, and become a church member. This act of waiting can be a converted child's first step in trusting the pastors' wisdom, even at a time when they don't fully understand the reasoning, and they would rather not wait. For children who are NOT truly converted, this waiting time allows for their hearts to be revealed, and keeps the needed decision before them.
- Waiting for a child to become commonly known by other church members (not just parents) as a disciple in their own right, is the same mark of conversion looked for in every other person received into membership by the congregation. It is right and good to give these converted children of the congregation time to be seen as members in their own right.
- Parents should be made aware of the patient-waiting approach to baptism before they become members, in case they cannot assent to this position. This can save much difficulty, and even disunity, within the church.

WHY?

- Willingness to wait patiently and persevere in growing is a great indication of conversion.
- This is extremely important for giving a child true assurance of faith, as well as protecting the pure witness of the church.

CHURCH-SHAPED MEANS:

Encouraging One Another



...that ALL MIGHT WORSHIP!



PASTORS

WHAT?

Pastors love, lead, limit; preach, pray, protect; equip and encourage the congregation as they work together to raise the children in their care in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

HOW?

- Pastors provide pastoral oversight of families, programs and children's ministry volunteers.
- They love the flock under their care, from youngest to oldest.
- They are known as the church's leaders over children's ministry, and take responsibility for it.
- They lead by providing teaching priorities; approving program and curriculum choices; and, by setting healthy limits on volunteering.
- They encourage, advise, and support parents, teachers, and the children's ministry team.
- They hold regular meetings with children's ministry leaders to best care for all involved.
- They protect children and volunteers through a child protection policy.
- They pray for their congregation and equip them through the preaching of God's Word.



PARENTS

WHAT?

Parents are equipped to train up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

HOW?

- Parents provide the primary, spiritual care (discipling) for their children, training them at church and at home.
- God equips parents through His Word, preached at church and studied at home.
- They parent by the power of the Holy Spirit, and with the help, prayers, wisdom, and encouragement of the pastors and fellow members of their local church.



CHILDREN

WHAT?

Children are equipped for life, godliness and gathering with God's people.

HOW?

- Children usually join in the church's worship services with their parents or other who bring them.
- They hear the gospel and learn about God from the preaching of God's Word in the worship services, in Bible classes, and through the fellowship of members caring for one another.
- They watch God's people worship God and love one another. The church provides children with a living testimony of God's transforming work in His people, through His Word, and by the power of His Holy Spirit.
- If their parents are believers, children also have the honor of learning more of the gospel and seeing it lived out at home.
- Children are a developmental work in progress. The church knows this and cares for them with patience, love, perseverance, and prayer. The Lord may use what the children learn and watch while they are still young, but sometimes not for many years to come.
- Pastors encourage young children who profess Christ to patiently wait for their faith to bear mature fruit before being baptized into church membership and taking the Lord's Supper. The process often takes years. This is done out of care for the child, so as not to confuse childish eagerness with true conversion. And for the church, to keep its witness pure.



WHAT?

The basic, biblical model for equipping parents to train their children is through the church's corporate worship. Here, God's people are strengthened through worship, prayers, and the preaching of God's Word. These gatherings are where children come to watch, listen, learn, and hopefully worship, too. Everything else churches do to equip parents and teach children should flow to and from this gathering, not serve as its replacement.

HOW?

- The church worship services provide a glimpse of Great Gathering of all God's people with God at the end of time. It can be a beautiful witness to the children, too.
- God chooses to use the preaching of His Word not only to equip and teach parents, but children, too. He uses His people's worship of Him to make Himself known even to children.
- Churches can help parents train up their children in the corporate worship services. They can suggest or provide resources, such as special, worship bulletins. They can give out the sermon Bible passage in advance, so families can read, discuss, and begin to understand it ahead of time.
- Pastors preach using a simple sermon outline, kid-friendly applications and illustrations when able.

WHAT?

Programs partner with the preaching, so that all members might be better equipped and children might be better trained up for life, godliness, and gathering with God's people.

HOW?

- Programs support, not replace, the parents' own spiritual training of their children.
- Pastors choose programs as part of the teaching of God's Word in the church under their care.
- Programs are carefully scheduled so as to not interfere with the worship services, unless they provide support for the worship service (such as childcare for infants and toddlers; or classes for younger children with limited attention span). Programs like these are phased out as children grow older, so that eventually, all the children are in the worship service. The gathering is always the goal.
- Pastors not only choose the programs, but prioritize them in order of highest importance for the edification of all. Usually, the children least able to understand the worship service (infants and toddlers), but who also have the greatest capacity of distracting their parents or the congregation in the worship service, take top priority.
- Changing families' needs, fluctuations in volunteers availability, and other constraints (such as budget and classroom space) cause the pastors to be continually reassessing what the church needs and can sustainably offer. Sometimes there is growth, and new needs can be met. Sometimes there are decreases, and cutbacks are needed. The priorities the pastors set on programs help them discern what to add when they can, or where to make cuts that protect those needing the most help.
- Care for the WHOLE church--families and volunteers-- is of prime concern to the pastors, and directly affects what programs are offered when.



WHAT?

Members are equipped to encourage and support parents and children.

HOW?

- Members support and encourage parents by mentoring each other; and, by helping to care, teach and mentor their children through the local church.
- They provide the children with a testimony of God's grace at work in their lives.
- They serve in children's classes within healthy limits set by elders, to meet the needs of children's ministry, but not at the expense of their own spiritual nurturing.
- They are carefully screened and trained for serving with the children. They comply with the church's child protection policy for their own good, the good of the children, and the good of the church.
- They may serve in "over-sized" teaching teams that don't require every teacher to teach every session. This spreads out the teaching load, helps avoid burn-out, and provides built-in, substitute teachers for classes. This is also a great way to train less-inexperienced teachers, by pairing them with more experienced, lead teachers.



WHAT?

Children's ministry leaders are equipped to carry out the pastors' vision for children's ministry.

HOW?

- Children's ministry leaders work under the leadership of the pastors.
- They bring the pastoral vision to life through the curriculum they implement; the volunteers they enlist and help train; by keeping pastors informed; and, by generally encouraging families.
- They regularly keep the pastors informed, so they can care well for families and volunteers.
- Pastors care for them by even setting limits on how much they miss services. And, by providing deacons and other helpers to serve alongside them.



**BIBLE
TRUTHS
FOR KIDS**
AGES 2-11

CHURCH-SHAPED CURRICULUM FOR KIDS

UNDERSTANDABLE
ENJOYABLE
MEMORABLE
... FREE!

Family of 3 Curriculums

16 Units in Each Curriculum

1



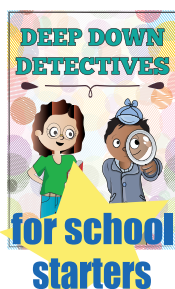
**for your
youngest children**

Hide 'n' Seek Kids
designed for ages 2-3,
often used with ages 2-5



Provides 16, five-lesson
Bible Truths, 80 sessions in all

2



Deep Down Detectives
designed for ages 4-6,
often used with ages 3-7... and even adults!



provides 70, three-lesson Bible Truths
210 sessions in all

3



Praise Factory Investigators
designed for ages K5-11 year olds
often used with ages pre K5-12 year olds...
and even adults!



provides 104, three-lesson
Bible Truths, 312 sessions in all*

1 Old Testament, 1 New Testament, 1 Church History/Missions each

THEME 1
How God
Reveals
Himself

THEME 2
God's Word,
the Bible

THEME 3
The Gospel,
God's Good
News

THEME 4
What God
Is Like

THEME 5
God, the
Good
Creator

THEME 6
God, the Just
and Merciful
(The Fall)

THEME 7
God's
Good
Laws

THEME 8
God's Love
for His
People

THEME 9
Jesus,
God with
Us

THEME 10
God,
the Holy
Spirit

THEME 11
The God
Who
Saves

THEME 12
How God's
People Live

THEME 13
God's
Sustaining
Grace

EACH THEME IS INTRODUCED
BY A BIG QUESTION
AND ANSWER

THEME 14
Prayer:
Talking to
God

THEME 15
The Church:
God's People
Gather
Together

THEME 15
The Church:
God's People
Gather
Together

THEME 16
Jesus,
The King
Returns



Preparing kids to gather meaningfully with the church

1

Bible Truths
set in redemptive history,
on a framework of theology.

3

Colorful, musical, activity-packed
made to be customized
for your needs ... and it's all free.

2

Children learn
more deeply
with each curriculum.

4

Each lesson includes elements that
prepare children to gather
meaningfully with the church.

*Hide and Seek Kids and Deep Down Detectives are completely available now. However, due to the after-effects of cancer, only 52, three-lesson Bible Truths (156 sessions) of Praise Factory Investigators (PFI) are available at this point. As God enables, I would love to write more. But the great thing about this curriculum is that all of redemptive history, all 16 theological themes, are woven into what is available in PFI already. (Units 1,4,5,6,7,8,10,11, and 12.) Please pray for Units 2,3,9,13-16!

PRODUCTION LINE

some Praise Factory distinctives

Understandable.



Simple enough for kids to grasp.
Deep enough that even adults learn.

Teachable.



Scripted lesson plans and stories help
even inexperienced teachers.

Memorable.



Truths are learned, not just introduced.
Multiple lessons are provided for each Bible
Truth. (Use as few or as many as you want.)

Enjoyable.



Choose from 5+ activities each session that
reinforce truths in fun, but meaty ways.
Music, games, art and more. They are all here.

Flexible.



Each theme is a unit of material.
They can be used in any order.
Use one or use all. Mix and match.

**Available
to Parents.**



Easy access to take home sheets, stories,
and music in Parents' Resources sections
at praisefactory.org.

**Easily
Customizable.**



Two ways to download curriculum:
whole units, or to go "Bits and Pieces"
and simply download what you want.

**Affordable...
Actually, Free!**

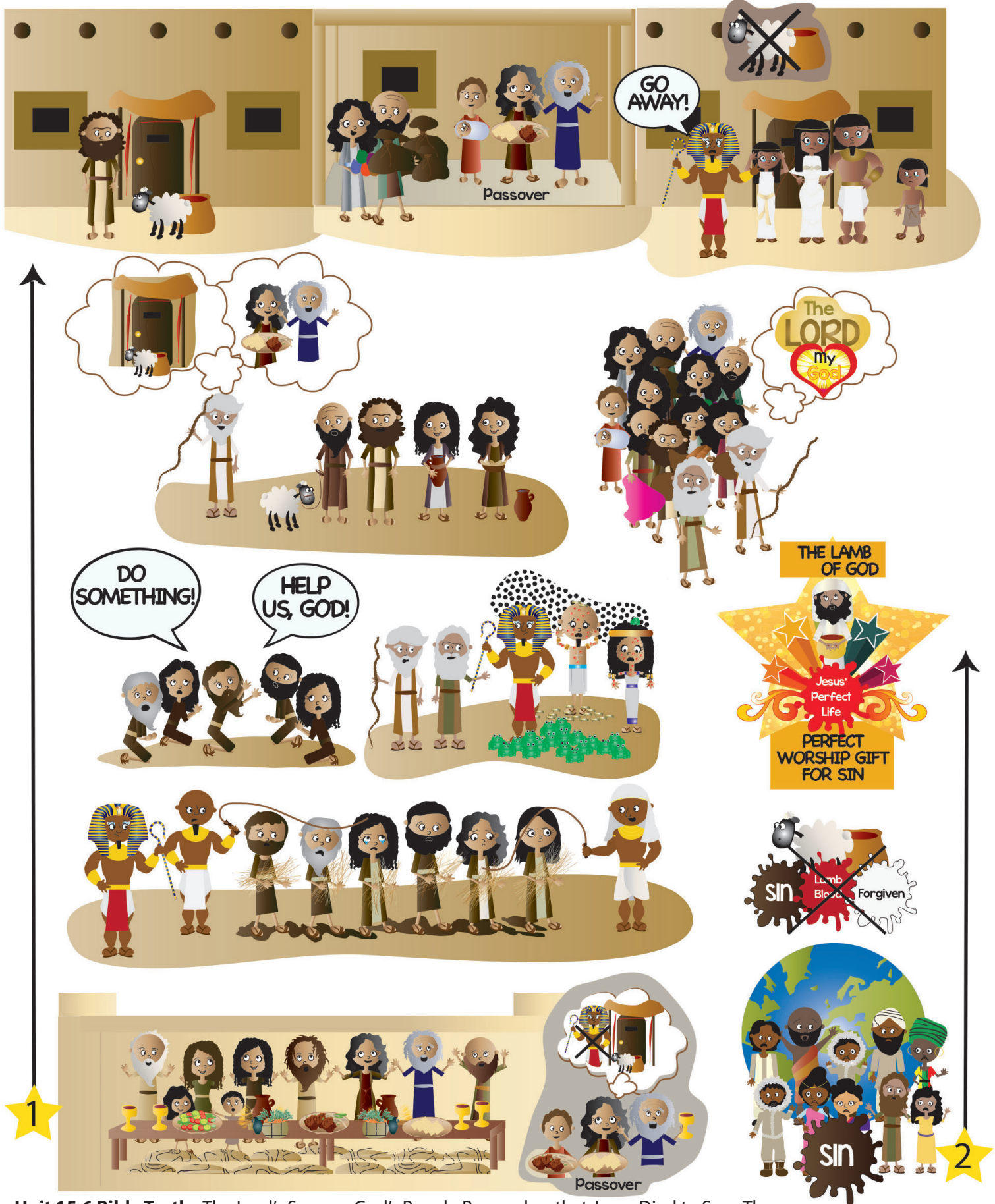


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Amazon.

Bible Truths Set in Redemptive History on a Framework of Theology

Deep Down Detectives Unit 15, Bible Truth 6: The Case of the Remembered Rescue Exodus 12; Luke 22; Isaiah 25:6-9



Unit 15.6 Bible Truth: The Lord's Supper: God's People Remember that Jesus Died to Save Them

Set In Redemptive History: Passover to Lord's Supper to Wedding Feast of the Lamb

On a Framework of Theology: The Church; Covenant; Substitutionary Atonement; Justification; Resurrection; Echatology

The Story Line

1

The people of Israel celebrated the Passover each year to remember how the LORD rescued them from slavery in Egypt.

2

But there are far greater enemies that we ALL need rescuing from: sin and death! We all deserve God's punishment for disobeying Him. And no blood from a lamb will cause God to pass over our sins and rescue us from death...

3

Jesus took the Passover feast and used it to tell His disciples that His body and blood would rescue God's people from sin and death, once and for all.

4

And that's just what Jesus did, when He died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day. He beat sin and death!

5

God's people are those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. They gather together as the church to worship God and to love one another. They remember what Jesus did for them as they take the Lord's Supper.

6

And they will keep on doing this until at last, all of God's people will be gathered together with Jesus, their Savior and King at the end of time. Then, the Lord's Supper will be fulfilled in the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. God's people will live and rejoice in Him forever.

We can become God's people, too, when we turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Ask God to help you! He loves to answer this prayer!



This is an example of the storyboard pictures included with each Hide 'n' Seek Kids and Deep Down Detectives Bible Truth story. You can put up the pictures separately, in clumps, or even as one, big scene. Free downloads: praisefactory.org; hard copies: amazon.com

THE PRAISE FACTORY



Curriculum Mindful of the Regulative Principle

WHAT and WHY?

- Praise Factory curriculum seeks to help children to love God, to live for Him, and to worship Him with God's people.
- The regulative principle is a biblical summary of how God wants to be worshipped.
- Praise Factory incorporates the five elements of this principle into each lesson.
- This is to aid the worship of God during class time; and, to prepare the children to take part meaningfully in their church's worship services, where this principle is fully in use.

READ the BIBLE



PRAISE FACTORY RESOURCES

- Every Praise Factory Bible Truth is taken back to its biblical roots with a Bible passage.
- A kid-friendly explanation of the passage and any special theological terms is included.
- Every lesson also includes a Bible verse game with review questions as a fun way to encourage memorization, while also providing a simple inductive study of the passage.

PREPARING FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP SERVICE

- Bible reading in church sometimes includes concepts that children don't understand.
- Taking time to learn and explain these Bible passages and concepts in class can help children better engage with the Bible readings and preaching in the worship service.

PREACH the BIBLE



PRAISE FACTORY RESOURCES

- A story sermon presents each Bible Truth in the context of redemptive history.
- Some stories have the short span of only a single Bible story. Others include larger chunks of redemptive history (sometimes even the whole story from start to finish!).
- Each story is introduced with a listening question.
- The gospel is always included.

PREPARING FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP SERVICE

- The preaching of God's Word is central to your church's worship service. It can also be the most difficult part for kids to understand.
- The story sermon format provides a little dress rehearsal for listening to the preaching of God's Word in church.
- The biblical and theological content of the story sermons can prepare children to better understand concepts the pastor uses when preaching.
- The listening question helps children learn to listen with a purpose, just as adults do when God's Word is preached in the worship service.

PRAY the BIBLE



PRAISE FACTORY RESOURCES

- Every Bible Truth is turned into an ACTS prayer (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication).
- This prayer format helps the children see how each Bible Truth points us to: praise God; to confess our sins to Him; to thank Him for what He's done through Jesus; and, to ask Him to do great things in this world and in us, for His glory and for our good.

PREPARING FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP SERVICE

- These prayers familiarize the children with these same ACTS elements of prayer that they will hear in church.
- The practice of looking for ACTS in Scripture deepens children's understanding of God, and hones their ability to glean truth from His Word, themselves.
- Hopefully these prayers will also become the children's own prayers that God uses in their hearts and lives, that they might be His people, the church's next generation of members and leaders.

SING the BIBLE



PRAISE FACTORY RESOURCES

- Praise Factory curriculum is filled with music. Music is one of the most powerful, long-lasting, memory tools God has given us... and it is so enjoyable at the same time!
- Each Praise Factory curriculum has a theme song.
- Every unit has a theological summary song.
- Every Bible passage is set to music.
- Hymns are included with important theological words and concepts explained.
- Even the classroom rules and other regular classroom elements are set to music.

PREPARING FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP SERVICE

- Music is an important element of every worship service, but sometimes the songs we sing in church include words or theological concepts children do not understand.
- Introducing Bible verse songs and hymns, and explaining their meaning in class can help children participate more meaningfully in church when the congregation sings or Scripture is read.

SEE the BIBLE



PRAISE FACTORY RESOURCES

- "Seeing the Bible," in the classic, regulative principle sense, is speaking of the sacraments of baptism and Lord's Supper--the two "visual aids" Jesus gave the church to remember His work done for them and in them.
- Praise Factory curriculum definitely does NOT include these sacrament as an activity. But, each curriculum DOES include a unit on the church with specific teaching on baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- In addition to this, the curriculum uses very careful language that holds out the gospel and provides a clear picture of how God's people live and worship, but without pressuring a decision or assuming conversion.

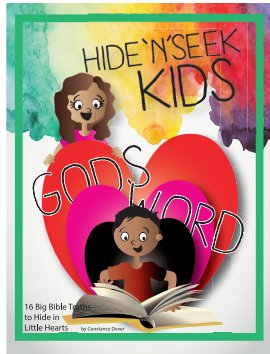
PREPARING FOR A MORE MEANINGFUL WORSHIP SERVICE

- Direct teaching on baptism and the Lord's Supper in class helps children understand these sacraments when they occur in the church services.
- Careful language about conversion and discipleship helps clarify what God requires of any of us before we can be baptized or partake in the Lord's Supper. This is especially important for sake of our children's souls and the purity of the Church. False conversion helps no one, and has harmed many.

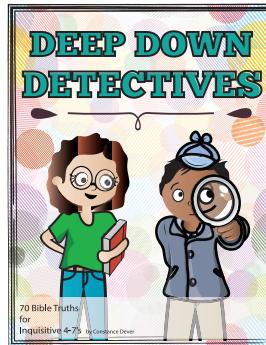
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Hide 'n'
Seek Kids



Deep Down
Detectives

OR, Download from “Bits and Pieces” to Create Your Own Custom Curriculum

(materials for
each Bible truth
laid out ala carte)

Make It Your Own

STEP #1

Pick Your Story



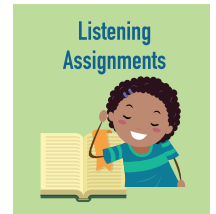
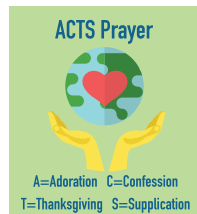
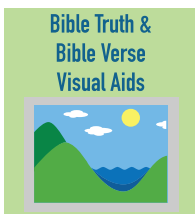
Look at our Lesson Plan

(optional, but helpful)



STEP #2

Bring It to Life! (choose none, any, or all)



STEP #3

Review It!



discussion questions...

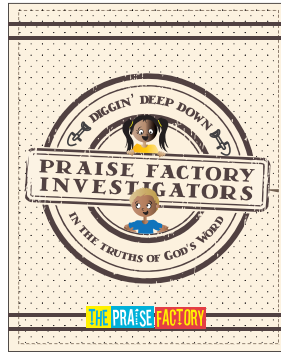
...used with any of these activities:



Downloading and Customizing Curriculum: Praise Factory Investigators

Download Full Curriculum Units

(same as
amazon.com
hard copies)



Praise Factory Investigators

OR, Download from “Bits and Pieces” to Create Your Own Custom Curriculum

(materials for
each Bible truth
laid out ala carte)

Make It Your Own

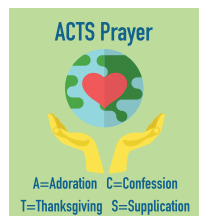
STEP #1

Pick Your Story **Look at our Lesson Plan**
(optional, but helpful)



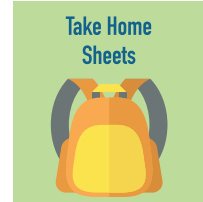
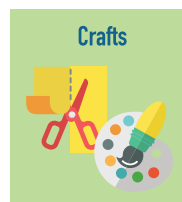
STEP #2

Bring It to Life! (choose none, any, or all)



STEP #3

Review It! choose from these activities (with discussion questions):



**plus, a
take home
sheet**

Review
inspired by
Fun

THE PRAISE FACTORY

Conduits of Truth

Truth
reinforced by
Action

Drama
Activities



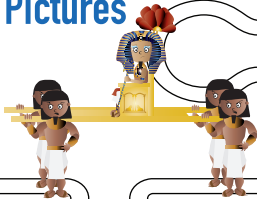
Story-related Snacks



Crafts and
Coloring Sheets



Storyboard
Pictures



**Choose What
to Use**
**The Choice Is
Up to You**

every activity is available
in every lesson;
piece together activities that
best fit your needs

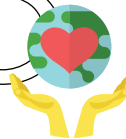
Music &
Sign Language



ACTS Prayer



VIPP Prayer



Story Review
Games



Music, Movement
& Memory Games



Bible Verse
Games



Discussion Questions
(and Answers) to make every activity
as truth-rich as it is fun

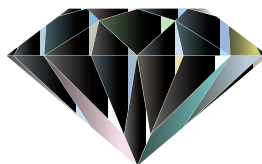


**Take Home Sheets &
Complete Resources Online**
to keep learning more at home



"theology is not just
dry, heady stuff,
but how you live and die"

2 Dead Man and a Diamond



"look at truth from many angles" -- the Puritans



"use the body
as gates
to the heart"

More about Music



Each of the 16 Themes & all of the Bible verses are set to music.



Song games are included that can enhance learning even further.



Praise Factory Investigators also includes sign language and hymns for each Bible Truth.

More about Prayer Time



The ACTS prayer not only includes the children's personal prayer requests, but also springboards off of each Bible Truth.



It broadens their understand of:

A: Who God is (**Adoration**);



C: How we have sinned against Him (**Confession**);

T: What He has done for us through Jesus (**Thanksgiving**); and,



S: How we need God's help to live (**Supplication**).



VIPP

VIPP stands for "Very Important Prayer Person". The children take time to learn and pray for others in their church or overseas. Coloring sheets and games are used to introduced the VIPP before praying for them.

More about Games



Each curriculum comes with three sets of simple games that help 3 children review the Bible Truth, the Bible Verse or the Bible Story.



Assemble each set of games and store them. Use them over and over throughout the curriculum.

Discussion questions (with answers) from the curriculum are used with each game.

The fun of the games makes review of important Bible truths enjoyable and memorable.



More about Crafts and Coloring Sheets



Every session offers AT LEAST one craft/coloring sheet.

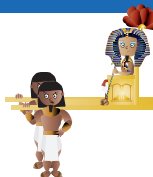


All crafts include meaningful truth.



Use the provided discussion questions to add even more learning depth to craft time.

More about Storyboard Pictures



Available for all Hide' 'n' Seek Kids & Deep Down Detectives Bible stories.

Used to tell story and in playing Bible Story Games.



Cut out, laminate and go! Ready to re-use as you repeat the curriculum.

Available in **2 SIZES** for smaller or larger storyboards.

More about Drama Activities



Every session of Praise Factory Investigators includes **TWO** drama activities—one for younger children, one for older children. There is a simple script for the teacher to read as the children act out the main elements of the story.

This activity is particularly good for sharing with parents or other classes of children at the end of your session.

More about Story-related Snacks



Every session of Praise Factory Investigators includes a story-related snack that is a great discussion starter after story time.

4 Ways to Use the Hide 'n' Seek Kids and Deep Down Detectives Storyboard Pictures

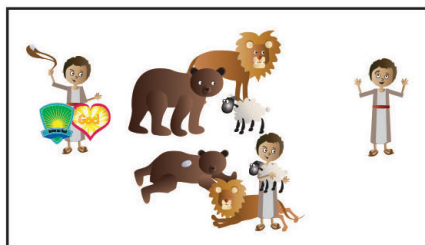
#1 CHOOSE A FEW

Choose a few, key pictures to put up as you tell the story.

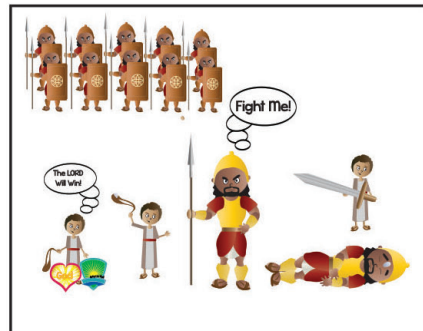


#2 CLUMP IN BUNCHES

Clump pictures together as consecutive story scenes. Posterboard cut into sections works great for these. Just glue and stick! You can have different sized scenes, based on how many pictures you clump together.



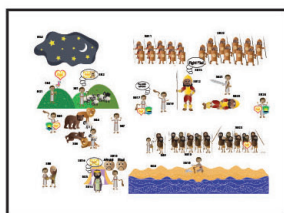
Make your own story scenes



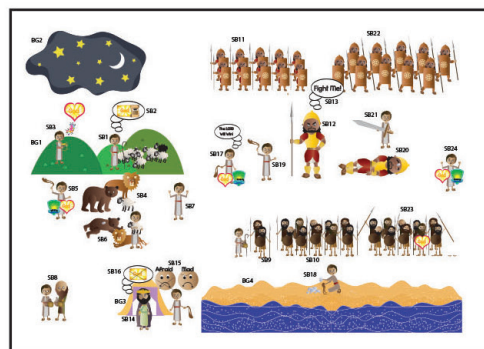
#3 PRINT AND POINT

Print out the Storyboard Picture Placement Key and point to pictures as you tell the story. (Each story includes picture numbers so you know when to point to what picture.)

There's the original, small, 8.5" x 11" version (same as found in the curriculum), but also a much bigger, 20" x 30" poster size version. (Most printers allow you to choose "print tile imageable areas" and it will print out the entire poster as page pieces that you can assemble into a single, large poster.)



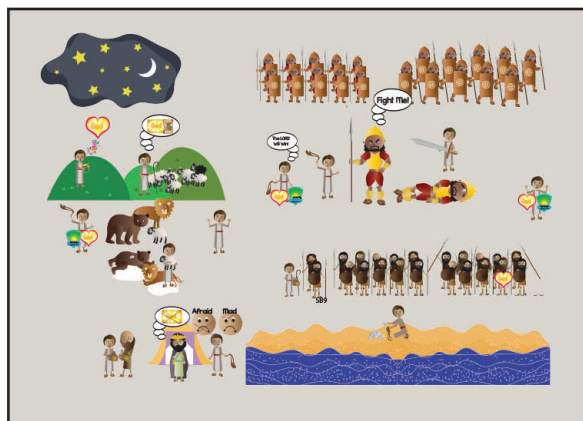
8.5" x 11"
Single page size



20" x 30" Poster size

#4 TELL AND PLACE THEM ALL

Use all the pictures as separate storyboard pieces, putting them up on the board one at a time to tell the story. (Each story includes picture numbers, so you know when to put them up.) The kids love helping to put these up!



Full set of pictures put up one at a time on a flannelgraph board

Website Resources



www.praisefactory.org



classic.praisefactory.org

"OLD" PRAISE FACTORY

For those who started using Praise Factory years ago and are happy to keep using this NIV-only, "beta" version of the original 12 biblical themes.



praisefactory.org

"NEW" PRAISE FACTORY

The new version of the Praise Factory website. This updated and expanded version of the original curriculum includes NIV and ESV versions of the curriculum, as well as 16 rather than 12 biblical themes. These resources are also available as hard copies through amazon.com in addition to downloads.



praisefactory.org

**CURRICULUM
DOWNLOADS**



Full Curriculum Downloads

Same contents
as hard copies
you buy
on Amazon.

Bits & Pieces Downloads

The resources
split up so you
can choose just
what you want
to use.

**PARENTS'
CORNER**



Resources for Parents from Each Curriculum

Stories, music,
take-home
sheets

MUSIC



Music Resources from Each Curriculum

Download or
listen online

**CHURCH-SHAPED
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
RESOURCES**



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Available at
amazon

The Path to Gathering Together at Capitol Hill Baptist Church

Why the Elders Care to Create a Path

The elders hope that all children, 4th grade and up will be a part of all the worship services. For children under that age, they have provided options for children to gradually be a part of the worship services. This “ramp-up” approach helps children become familiar with gathering together with the congregation, but is mindful that developmentally the whole service (especially the hour long sermons) might be too much for some.

Many Roads Lead to the Same Place

While the elders have set age limits that are the guiderails along what they think is a good path to gathering together, there are almost as many variations as there are parents in terms of how to get there.

Here’s some of the variations the parents of these younger children use:

Sunday Morning:

- Include their children in all available child-care/Bible classes. These families will be fully using the “guide-rails” set by the elders for ramping up to gathering together with the congregation.
- Sunday School classes, then join for full worship service.
- Sunday School, then join for the entire, 45 minutes of singing, prayers, Bible readings, then go to their class during the sermon.
- Sunday School, then join for the first 15 minutes of preparation music (just singing), then go to their class.
- Parents will pick up a children’s worship bulletin that we provide, or bring along their own version of one, to help the children engage in the service.

Sunday Evening:

- Include their children in child-care/Bible classes through the whole service.
- Join for the first 15 minutes of singing, then go to child care/class.
- Stay in for the whole service.

Preparing to Gather Together through Elements of Classroom Time

There are a number of ways we prepare our younger children in their classroom time to gather together with the whole congregation:

- Introduce hymns and songs that will be used in our worship services. Not only do we teach the music, but we also explain the meaning of the lyrics.
- Pray prayers using the ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication) model to introduce the children about the types of prayers that will be used in the worship service.
- Use Bible story sermons, which are much shorter than the expositional preaching they will hear in the main worship service, yet still echoes the teaching model.
- Take time to go through the worship service bulletin, either before or after a service, and help them understand the aspects of the service.

Preparing to Gather Together by What Families Do at Home

- Our church has a sermon card that lets the congregation know what passage will be preached on. Some families read the passage together ahead of time, preparing their hearts for the pastor’s sermon on Sunday.
- Many take home and use the worship bulletins (especially the songs) to sing together at home.

The elders have chosen to stagger class offerings to create the up-ramp for gathering together:

Sunday School Hour:

- **ages 0-2** childcare (no teaching)
- **ages 2-3:** Hide 'n' Seek Kids (Praise Factory 1 "Theology" Bible truths)
- **ages 4-preschool 5:** Deep Down Detectives (Praise Factory 2 "Theology" Bible truths)
- **K5-4th grade (5-10 year olds):** Treasuring Christ (Old Testament/New Testament Overview)
- **5th-6th grade (11-12 year olds):** Seeking Wisdom (Inductive Bible Study)
- **7th-12th grade (13-18 year olds):** Youth Core Seminars (Variety of topics for growing as a Christian.)

"Ramp-up" Notes for Sunday School:

- Child care/Bible teaching does not interfere with worship service, so it is offered for all ages.
- In Praise Factory classes, the children learn songs and prayers that will help them better gather together with the whole church. The stories used are more like story sermons, helping them prepare for more in-depth preaching in the worship service.

Sunday Morning: One, Main Preaching Worship Service:

- **ages 0-2** childcare (no teaching)
- **ages 2** childcare (no teaching)
- **ages 3:** Hide 'n' Seek Kids, pt. 2 (Praise Factory 1 "theology" Bible truths)
- **ages 4-preschool 5:** Deep Down Detectives, pt. 2 (Praise Factory 2 "theology" Bible truths)
- **K5-3rd grade (5-9 year olds):** participate in worship service and are dismissed before the sermon for a separate teaching time. Praise Factory Investigators (Praise Factory 3 "theology" Bible truths)
- **ages 4th grade and up (10+ year olds):** in the service the entire time

"Ramp-up" Notes for Sunday Morning Worship Service:

- Two year olds just have play time. One teaching time during Sunday School is plenty for these kids.
- Three year olds, four and five years olds continue with Praise Factory curriculum that we have stretched over the Sunday School/Worship Hour and stuck play times in between, so both Sunday School kids and those who only come to church will get teaching.
- Worship bulletins are provided to help the K5-7th graders learn more during this service.
- Younger elementary school comes in for the first part of the worship service (first 35 minutes) to gather together with congregation.
- In Praise Factory classes, the children learn songs and prayers that will help them better gather together with the whole church. The stories used are more like story sermons, helping them prepare for more in-depth preaching in the worship service.
- Teachers and parents look for signs of readiness for kids to stay in the service and encourage this.

Sunday Evening Church-wide Prayer/Share Meeting:

- **ages 0-preschool 5:** child care/Bible classes for the ENTIRE SERVICE
- **ages K5-8:** participate in singing time of the worship service and are dismissed for a separate teaching time. Great Commission Club (Missions)
- **ages 3rd grade and up (10+ year olds):** in the service the entire time.

Note on class during evening service:

- Younger elementary school comes in for the first part of the worship service (first 15 minutes) to gather together with congregation.
- Because this service has a shorter preaching time; and, the sharing/praying content is more assessable to younger children, we lower the age limit on this class by another year down to 2nd grade (from the 3rd grade age limit for Praise Factory which takes place during the morning sermon).

See this information in a diagram on the next page

The Path to Gathering Together										Youth Group (Fridays)	Youth Group (Fridays)	Campus Outreach (CO)
CHILD GROUPINGS	BABIES 0-23 months	TODDLERS 2 year olds	EARLY PRESCHOOL 3 year olds	LATE PRESCHOOL 4-5 year olds	K-2nd GRADE 5-8 year olds	3rd GRADE 9 year olds	4th GRADE 10 year olds	5th-6th GRADE 11-12 year olds	7th-8th GRADE 13-14 year olds	9th -12th GRADE 15-18 year olds	College 18+	
												
												
												
												
CHURCH EVENT	9:30-10:30 CORE SEMINARS worship of Christ not age-based	10:30-12:30 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 1 hour service	5:00-6:30 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 45-minute devotion	9:30-10:30 CORE SEMINARS worship of Christ not age-based	10:30-12:30 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 1 hour service	5:00-6:30 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 45-minute devotion	9:30-10:30 CORE SEMINARS worship of Christ not age-based	10:30-12:30 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 1 hour service	5:00-6:30 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 45-minute devotion	9:30-10:30 CORE SEMINARS worship of Christ not age-based	10:30-12:30 MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 1 hour service	5:00-6:30 EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE 45-minute devotion

Our goal is for all to gather together as one body,
while being sensitive to developmental needs and special, teaching opportunities.

CHURCH EVENTS



Sunday School



One, Main-Preaching
Worship Service



Church-wide
Prayer Meeting

FOR THE CHILDREN



Play Time
Caregivers take care of basic needs as children play



Hide 'n' Seek Kids
Deep Down Detectives
Praise Factory Investigators
3 curriculums of the Praise Factory family Theology based around 16 "Big Questions"
Created here at CHBC
Available through Amazon and online at praisefactory.org (free)



Treasuring Christ
Old Testament and New Testament curriculum that always points to Christ. Everyone learns the same truth each week.
Available through treasuringchristonline.com annual subscription, pricing varies by church size. Greatly reduced pricing for missions and church plants



Seeking Wisdom
Highlights of redemptive history & what it has to do with us. Inductive studies written by Ryan Townsend here at CHBC



Core Seminars
Junior High/High School Special versions of the adult Core Seminars and other special topics targeted for this age group

Thanks for visiting!



These and many more
free resources
can be found
at praisefactory.org

Check out our
free Saturday workshops
and observation Sundays
in Washington, DC,
every
March, May, and September!
Learn more and register online.

learn more at



praisefactory.org