

Curriculum: **Hands-On Bible Curriculum**

Publisher: Group Publishing, Inc. 1-800-447-1070 www.HandsOnBible.com

Denomination: Independent

Foundational doctrine: *We believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative Word of God. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in his personal return.* Children learn the most when they're having fun. Kids need action (active learning). Kids need to think (respond – not memorize). Kids need to talk.

Scriptural/Theological Content: Scripture is used in general terms, allowing teacher flexibility in its interpretation and use. Scripture verses (New Living Translation) are used to support the theme and activities within each lesson. Consistent with its non-denominational focus, there are no references to creeds, documents or sacraments with the exception of someone being baptized or sharing the Last Supper in scripture references.

Articulation: Beginning of each unit contains a chart of key scripture to be used for each lesson. Most scripture comes from the Gospels and Paul's letters. Uses one-point Bible learning. One important Bible Point at a time is emphasized to help children remember. Emphasis is on the 5 senses used in learning the story than a search for spiritual meaning.

Interest / Abilities of Teachers: Contains sections for teachers: *What to expect from your age group, How to set up a classroom, the Nature of (topic) as a Core Christian Belief and How the Bible describes (topic) to assist teachers in planning.* No special skills required of teachers to lead activities. Teacher training video available. Director's manual contains training sessions and teacher tips.

Learning Activities, Format & Media: Lessons each focus on one specific point, and use a variety of activities to reinforce that message. The goal is to send children home with one life-applicable piece of Bible truth each week. Variety of different activities, crafts and games using standard arts/crafts or household materials. Supplemental material (purchased separately) includes puppets, songs/music, storyboards, interactive Bible bulletin board, and snack time with reference to scripture of the day. Suggests use of toys, blocks, puzzles, pictures and Bible big books. Reading skills are not required. Each Learning Lab is "packed with gizmos and a streamlined Teacher Guide, including a CD of music, skits and drama."

Setting: Assumes 60-minute class period that can be used for Sunday school, children's church, after-school programs or mid-week programs.

Inviolable Principle of Choice: Teacher directed activities.

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Age group differentiation: Closely graded. (Toddlers-2s through 6th Grade)

Home Involvement: Parent Hand-out at the beginning of each module which explains the lesson plans, family activity ideas and words to songs that will be learned.

Language: Lessons contain statements for the teacher such as, “say . . . do . . . pray . . . do . . .” Formal convictional language is stated in the key verse of scripture for the lesson. Throughout the curriculum, informal convictional language is used, using paraphrased scripture, instructing teachers to relate the story to the students. For example, “use this lesson to help kids realize that Jesus wants us to believe in him – John 20:24-31). Opinion statements of belief of the editors are used throughout.

Sociological: Language is inclusive and materials are multi-culturally presented. God is referred to as “He.”

Attendance Pattern: The same Bible lesson is used for 4 weeks, approached in a different manner each week.

Cost: Learning Lab \$63.99-73.99; Teacher Guide \$24.99; Ready-to-Copy Hand-outs (downloadable only) \$17.99 (for one class/one quarter); Puppets \$34.99; Poster Set \$7.00; CD \$18.49