



CHILDREN & YOUTH VBVM CURRICULUM

PURPOSE

At Verse By Verse Ministry International, we believe investing in the next generation of Bible students is essential to strengthening the body of Christ. This verse-by-verse curriculum is designed as a rich yet accessible supplement for younger and new believers—whether used in church children’s and youth ministries, connect groups, or at home with homeschool families.

Our goal is to preserve the depth and faithfulness of Scripture while presenting it in a way that engages and equips developing Bible students. Rather than simplifying truth, we aim to make it understandable—training young learners to think biblically and grow confidently in their faith.

This curriculum is intentionally designed to partner with Pastor Stephen Armstrong’s teaching, aligning lesson by lesson so students, families, and churches can study the same passages together—creating a unified, multi-generational approach to discipleship.

HOW TO USE THE CURRICULUM

Think of each lesson as a platter of information with three distinct areas: the Bible teaching, activities, and engaging questions for group discussion. Each component is designed to work together while also standing on its own.

Not every age group will use every element in the same way. This flexible design allows you to adapt each lesson to fit different ages and levels of spiritual maturity. By structuring the curriculum this way, it can effectively serve a wide range of learners—from younger students to those growing deeper in their walk with Christ.

THE HANDOUTS

Intro at top of lesson:

Each curriculum book begins with a book introduction handout that provides an overview of the entire book. This can be shared with parents (by email or print) and helps teachers understand what will be covered.



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At the top of each lesson includes the book name, title of the lesson, and Scripture passage. This is followed by the Big Idea (the main point), a Call to Action (a personal challenge), and a Family Action (practical ways families can engage with the Scripture together).

The Family Action can be used in a variety of ways—teachers may choose to send it home each week on a note card, or parents can use it as a guide to apply the lesson within their own home. Altogether, the curriculum is designed like a platter of content, allowing you to use and adapt each part in whatever way best fits your group or family.

Exposure to Exposition & Exploring Section

Bible Drills: The next section is designed to help children, youth, and new believers become familiar with the Bible as a whole. Bible drills are a simple and effective way to teach the books of the Old and New Testaments.

Spend 3–5 minutes each class reciting the books in order, starting with the New Testament. Add one or two new books each week, while continuing to review all previously learned books.

A helpful approach is to go around the room with each student saying the next book in order. You can then invite anyone who is willing to recite all the books learned so far as a fun challenge.

The teaching portion starts at the review and moves down the page in order. The review helps remind students where you left off and introduces where you're going next. After that, begin with the opening question tied to the passage, allowing students to answer as much as possible. Asking questions and encouraging participation is key to helping them understand and retain the lesson.

Help students learn how to find the book they'll be studying. When you begin the reading, have them follow along with their finger to stay engaged.

Notes Section: Some lessons may include a notes section. This provides additional context and deeper insight into the Scripture being taught. Feel free to use it during your lesson—especially with older students—or as a reference to help you teach the material more thoroughly.



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The Full Scripture Section

Next, you will find the section of Scripture for the lesson. We recommend the teacher first read the full passage aloud so students can hear it clearly and at a slow pace. Then, as you move through the lesson, invite different students to read smaller portions of the Scripture along the way.

Break up of Scripture

After the main reading, you'll find smaller portions of Scripture to go back and read. We suggest calling on students to read these sections aloud, and then you can dive into the breakdown of these specific, smaller portions of scripture.

Verse-by-verse Breakdown: After each Scripture portion, you'll find a verse-by-verse breakdown of the passage. The bolded sections highlight the main idea or theme and are especially helpful for explaining the passage to younger children (K–3rd).

Below that, you'll see a "platter" of supporting information for each verse. The bullet points provide a deeper explanation, which is best suited for older students (4th–8th grade). How much you use is up to you—adjust based on your group's age and engagement level.

As a rule of thumb, read the room. You'll sense when to simplify or when students are ready for more depth. The kid's point provides a simple, relatable takeaway that all students can grasp from the passage.

Questions: Next, you'll find a section of questions. These are primarily geared toward older students but can easily be adapted for younger ones. You can use them in a group setting or break into smaller groups to encourage more open discussion.

The questions are divided into three categories: Observation ("What does the Scripture say?"), Understanding ("What does it mean?"), and Application ("What should we do in response?"). How you use these—whether in class or at home—is completely up to you.



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Activities

Next, you'll find activities geared primarily toward K–6th grade, though they can also be used with older students. Each activity flows directly from the teaching and includes a clear lesson point to reinforce what was just learned.

If you choose not to use the activity, you can substitute a memory verse activity, which can be used in many creative ways. For example, write each word of the verse on index cards and have students race to put them in order, use a clothesline with clothespins to build the verse together, create hand motions (a favorite for kids), make up a jingle, or draw a picture of what the verse means. There are many ways to make Scripture memorable and engaging.

For older students, we strongly recommend always including a memory verse. Ask them what the verse means, how it applies to their lives, and why memorizing Scripture matters. Help them understand that God's Word is our weapon in spiritual warfare, a guard against temptation, and a source of encouragement both for ourselves and for others.

Activity #3 : This section is included with every lesson and is primarily designed for students in 6th–10th grade. Activity #3 is formatted to be easily printed for teachers and volunteers leading gender-specific small groups.

The goal is to divide into small groups after the teaching to discuss deeper, life-applicable scenarios and encourage meaningful conversation. However, you are welcome to adapt the material as needed and use some of the questions or ideas with younger students as well. The flexibility is entirely up to you and your ministry setting.

The Gospel

Every lesson includes a short summary of the gospel. This is a crucial element to revisit often, as many Christians do not clearly understand what the gospel is. The gospel is the message that saves and the message we are called to share—so students must know it well.



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Take time to challenge students to explain the gospel in their own words so you can guide and correct their understanding. One effective activity for all ages is having students write a letter to someone sharing the gospel. This gives insight into what they truly understand—and the results may surprise you.

Supporting Truths Kids Can Grasp

This section provides a snapshot of the specific Scripture covered, highlighting simple, take-home truths. You may choose to print these for students to review throughout the week.

Parent Handouts

After each chapter is completed, there is a parent handout that includes the Scripture covered, supporting truths kids can grasp, and the Family Action from each lesson. As you progress, this handout builds chapter by chapter.

It is designed to be shared with parents so families can discuss and reinforce what's being learned. For children's ministry, you can print or email it to parents. For older students, it can be given directly or shared electronically.

Activity Extras

Some lessons include activity printouts, which you will find within the lesson tabs. Be sure to print enough copies for each student to have one to use and take home.

Encouragements:

Teaching the next generation is not an easy task. Some portions of Scripture will be harder to explain and for students to understand—but keep going. God is using His Word to change hearts, both slowly and powerfully, for His kingdom.

Walking students through an entire book of the Bible is deeply rewarding, not only for you as the teacher but for them as well. Above all, remain committed to prayer—both with your students and in your own time with the Lord.

- Verse by Verse Ministry International Staff