



## Teaching Preschoolers: Why and How?

Holly Urbanski

*Your Heart First*    *Teach Them TRUE Things*    *Chronology + Theology*  
*Deuteronomy 6:6*        *Exodus 15:11,13; John 17:3*        *Stories/Facts + Themes*

### Pre-writing:

1. Prayerfully read the Scripture passages first
2. Read the key themes
3. Re-read the Bible passages with the themes in view; Identify possible theme(s)  
Optional: Outline main events; refer to Grudem and/or Walton (see Resources list)
4. Read prior version (if you've taught this lesson previously)
5. Look at the Coloring Picture
6. Read Hooks & Looks sections of the lesson and review Parent Resource Page

### Writing Process:

1. Pray
2. Identify which parts of the story you must include (& those which can/should be eliminated)
3. Write 1<sup>st</sup> Draft of the body of the lesson (focusing on 1-2 themes)
4. Choose Hook, locate props
5. Write Review and Summary sections
6. Determine whether something in the story lends itself to a particular prayer focus or type of prayer

### Revising – Look for:

1. More opportunities to repeat the theme
2. At least one place where you will read directly from the Bible
3. Smooth, logical flow
4. Simple language/vocabulary (define/explain if needed) – ensure the youngest can understand
5. Short sentence length
6. Opportunities for child participation (with clear instructions)
7. Any questionable statements (anything not supported by the Biblical narrative)

### Final Preparation:

1. Pray
2. Put all the flannel pieces in order (make note of any missing items you'll pull later)
3. Practice telling the story, with the hook and flannel pieces (time it – should be 10-15 minutes)
4. Practice again (until you're comfortable)

## #49 II Samuel 11-12

### David Breaks God's Commandments & Repents

- Man is sinful/unable to keep God's commands
- **Sin doesn't please God**; God will punish sin
- **God is rich in mercy; His forgiveness is great**

#### Hook: Show Crown

? What do you think this story is about?  
Yes – it has a king in it. People bow down to kings, don't they? But in this story, it's the king who bows down – let's see what happened.

Ⓟ Pray (*If my team leader didn't pray before I came to the front, I'd pray briefly here*)

#### Review (show last week's coloring picture):

Last week when Mrs. Oman taught us about the ark of God (which held the 10 commandments), we learned that God is holy, and that we must obey God in EVERYTHING.

#### Lesson:

This week's lesson is again from the book of II Samuel in the Bible. We'll learn that **when anyone sins** (even a King), **it does NOT please God** – and we'll see what God does about it.

F+ **David** loved God, & God made David the King. God also made David very rich & powerful. He could have just about anything he wanted.

F+ Well, King David saw a pretty lady, and because he was King, he brought **her** to his palace and acted like she was his wife. But she was already married, so David then had that man killed! Oh NO!

📖 You remember the 10 commandments God gave Moses. **In Ex. 20:13-15** God said "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal." David just did all of those things. That was a very bad sin wasn't it?

F- **Sin does NOT please God.** [*remove lady*]

David thought he could get away with it because he was king, but God sent a prophet (Nathan) to talk to him.

F+ **Prophet Nathan** was wise. Instead of telling David right away that God knew what David had done, he told him a story; this is what he said:

F+ [*Add half-size flannel background for story*]

F+ There were 2 men in a certain city – one was **rich**, but the other was very **poor**.

F+ The rich man had **many, many sheep**

F+ but the poor man had only one little **lamb**. This poor man had raised the lamb since she was a baby, she was like a pet, and he loved her very much.

One day the rich man had to fix a dinner. He was a greedy man, and didn't want to lose one of his own animals, so he went to his poor neighbor and stole

F- his little lamb, killed it, & cooked it.

[*remove lamb, then remove half flannel sheet*]

King David got really, **really** mad – this is terrible, he said. The man who has done this should die!

Prophet Nathan said to King David,  
"YOU ARE THAT MAN!"

"God says that He made you the King of Israel - He gave you riches, and everything you needed - But you stole a man's wife and then had the man killed.

"Why have you hated God's word and done this terrible sin?"

Sometimes when people do a wrong thing and are caught, they try to get out of it by blaming someone else or making excuses – that makes it worse.

F But King David didn't do that. He said, "I have sinned against God" & he did a hard thing – he repented. Then, even though he was a king, he **bowled down to God** (*lay David down*)

? Do you know what that word means -- **repent**? [DISCUSS - being sorry, turning away from the sin, turning to God, & trying to obey Him]

**Kids** Here's an easy way to remember that: [**Hand motions** – Repent: turn FROM sin, turn TO God]

King David knew that **sin doesn't please God**. He knew he deserved to die, just like he said the rich man who killed the poor man's lamb should die.

! But **God is very merciful and forgiving**; when David repented, **God forgave him**.

God said there would still be a punishment, but God was merciful and forgave him, even though David didn't deserve it.

#### Summary: (Show Coloring Picture)

? Who can tell me what David is doing in this picture? [*Repenting – review hand motions*]  
YES – King David repented from his sin, from breaking God's commandments.

**God was NOT pleased by David's sin**, but when David repented,

**God had mercy on him, & forgave him.**

Ⓟ Pray

You can go to your small groups now.



## Sample Schedule

This schedule allows for ~1.5 hours of class time. The most critical elements are the Lesson and Application. In a 45-minute setting kids are probably worshipping with their parents in church before Sunday School, so if you wanted to include a worship time, it could be brief – perhaps include just one worship song before the large group prayer time.

Pre-class Team Prayer Time	10 minutes
Check-in/Centers	15 minutes
Clean-up	5 minutes
Lesson	15 minutes
Large Group Prayer	5 minutes
Small Group Discussion of Lesson/Workbook	10 minutes
Large Group Worship	15 minutes
Memory Verse Review/Snack/Small Group Prayer	15 minutes
Centers and Check-Out	10-15 minutes

## Preschool Prayer

Encourage the preschool children to pray. They may amaze you with their GOD-centered prayers.

Give children a suggested prayer topic. Instruct them on different kinds of prayers: I love you prayers, I'm sorry prayers, thank you prayers, and help me prayers.

For Large Group Prayer, you can teach the children to keep their heads bowed, but to raise a hand if they want to pray. An adult can open with a brief modeling prayer, then the leader can quietly call the name of each child when it's their turn to pray. Another adult can close the prayer time.

## Scripture Memory

Pre-readers can memorize easily if we provide them with tools and opportunities to learn. Repetition for learning, and review for retention are key. Use visual cues (Foundation Verses include these), songs (<https://fighterverses.com/memory-aids/children-bible-memory/foundation-verses-songs-audio/>), hand motions, and incentives (sticker charts, tote bags with stars, etc.).



## From Childhood You Have Known

Biblical Literacy For the Next Generations

### Additional Resources:

*Bible Story Handbook: A Resource for Teaching 175 Stories from the Bible* by John & Kim Walton

God-centered approach; helpful sections on historical background and mistakes to avoid  
Generally solid but, for example, the Biblical text (2 Samuel 12:9-14) doesn't support his view that the main issue with David's sin was abuse of power

*ESV Children's Bible* ©2005 & 2011

Full-text ESV, book introductions, Bible Study Helps, >200 realistic full-page illustrations, large print

Out of print; the ©2015 version contains the updated ESV text, but does not contain the same helps in the back or the book introductions – and the printing is less child-friendly

Felt Sets and Alternatives:

Betty Lukens Deluxe Bible Set (over 600 pieces + backgrounds and manual: [BettyLukens.com](http://BettyLukens.com))

Recommend only using the manual for scene layouts – the stories tend not to be God-centered

Distant Shores / Sweet Publishing: <https://www.unfoldingword.org/sweet-publishing/>

Over 3,000 color illustrations, grouped together according to the book of the Bible that they illustrate

Ethnos360: <https://biblestudy.ethnos360.org/collections/maps-and-timelines>

Two different 105-picture sets, download or printed – helpful for review

Free downloadable Bible Images: [www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org)

Many images, but won't cover all our stories; varied styles - some photo, some illustrations

Foundation Verses – 76 Bible memory verses, each with a simple illustration

Available as cards on a ring, or on the Fighter Verses app for iOS or Android

Request PDF of 8.5x11 color version for classroom use: [info@Truth78.org](mailto:info@Truth78.org)

Introduction to *He Established a Testimony* and *He Has Spoken by His Son* by Sally Michael  
Preschool curricula published by Truth78

*Leading Little Ones to God: A Child's Book of Bible Teachings* by Marian Schoolland

“Systematic Theology 1/2” – tried and true resource for home or church use – some churches use the Truth78 curricula for preschool Sunday School and this book as the basis for a midweek program

Preschool Training Videos (by Connie Oman) on Truth78 Website:

Preschool Lesson Preparation

Preschool Teaching and Small Group Leading

<http://www.Truth78.org/training?training=840> (filter by Speaker – Connie Oman)

*Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine* by Wayne Grudem

A helpful, worship-fueling, systematic theology resource