



## Gospel Faithfulness in the Classroom

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*... from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. – 2 Timothy 3: 15-17*

**What is “gospel-centered” or “gospel-focused” teaching?** (Video Q&A with David Michael and John Piper)

### **A narrow and broad understanding of the gospel**

*The gospel is the good news that...*

*“the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (Luke 19:10)*

*The gospel is the good news that...*

*“God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4-10)*

### **Grounding gospel faithfulness within the “big picture” of biblical education in the classroom**

#### **1. Defining our role as teachers**

#### **2. Distinguishing formal vs informal teaching**

In the classroom

- formal teaching is primarily done in the actual Bible lesson
- informal teaching may include: worship (singing), prayer, small group time, missions focus, etc.



**3. Understanding where your specific curriculum/lesson fits into the entire scope and sequence**

**4. Knowing the cognitive abilities and emotional maturity of the age group you teach**

**5. Proclaiming the breadth and depth of the gospel in a step-by-step, age-appropriate manner**

Consider how children learn to read. They first learn the “alphabet” which provides them with a foundation for words, phrases, then sentences, and more and more complex writing. Giving our children a type of gospel “alphabet” is similar. It includes a progressive approach: teaching foundational biblical truths that are necessary for rightly understanding the gospel. In time, and by God’s grace, our prayer is that this formal teaching done at progressively deeper levels, along with the many hours of informal teaching they receive, will serve to produce in them a vibrant faith in Christ.

- The nature of Scripture – Its authority, inerrancy, clarity, necessity, and sufficiency
  
- A robust doctrine of God
  
- Who man is in relation to God
  
- The law of God and God’s moral instruction
  
- The nature of sin and God’s judgment
  
- The Person and work of Christ
  
- The meaning of grace, repentance, and faith
  
- The church – living together as God’s covenant people



## Planning & Preparing a Gospel-focused class when teaching a lesson

Example 1 – God sends Elisha to heal Naaman

Prayer

Small group time

Additional activities

Worship

Example 2 – God is Glorious

Prayer

Small group time

Additional activities

Worship



## From Childhood You Have Known

Biblical Literacy For the Next Generations

### Additional resources

From Truth78.org -

[\*Does Every Lesson Need to be a “Jesus and the Cross” Lesson?\*](#)

The Gospel Alphabet series (Blog)

- [\*Giving Children a Gospel Alphabet\*](#)
- [\*The Gospel Alphabet—Teaching the “Antecedents”\*](#)
- [\*The Gospel Alphabet—A Robust Doctrine of God\*](#)
- [\*The Gospel Alphabet—Who We Are in Relation to God\*](#)
- [\*The Gospel Alphabet—Sin\*](#)
- [\*The Gospel Alphabet—Jesus Saves!\*](#)

*The Theological and Philosophical Foundations of Truth78 Teaching Resources* (web document)

*Helping Children to Understand the Gospel* (booklet)

*Indestructible Joy for the Next Generations* (book – Ch. 7)

### Others

*The Great Story and the Single Verse* (article by John Piper at [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org))

[\*Jesus in Every Old Testament Passage? Parts 1 and 2\*](#) by Eric Davis ([thecripplegate.com](http://thecripplegate.com))