BIBLE LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Linda Mei Lin Koh
GC Children’s Ministries

Adapted from NAD’s CHM Certification Course
What Are Bible Learning Activities?

Learning by doing real or simulated experiences.
Bible Learning Activities

- **Bible**—*BLAs lead children to the Bible*

- **Learning**
  a. Not busy work
  b. Meant to help children understand a Bible concept

- **Activities**
  - *Not lectures*
  - *Learning by doing*
  - *Create opportunities to experience something*
Students remember what they do.

- If students cannot recall information from the week before, chances are that they did not learn much. They need to be more actively involved in learning.
- The more one experiences, the more one remembers.
Why Use Bible Learning Activities?

Percentage of Information Remembered

- **Hear**: 3 hrs.
- **See**: 3 days
- **Hear & See**: 3 days
- **Do**: 3 days
Characteristics of Active Learning

1. Emphasis is on learning — not teaching.
2. The learner processes information.
3. Everyone is involved.
4. The teacher covers less material (but more is learned).
5. Adults debrief students on what they learned.
6. Kids use a variety of materials.
Advantages of Active Learning

1. Children *learn* and *remember* more
2. Provides the *teachable* moment
3. Learning is *self-directed*
4. Each person is actively *involved*
5. Kids have a measure of *control* in the learning situation
6. Children have a *choice* of activities
7. Nobody gets *bored*
Disadvantages of BLAs:

1. The *noise level* may be a lot higher.
2. You need more *materials* for kids to work with.
3. You need to be organized.
4. Adults don’t get to *talk* so much.
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

**Research activities** -- get older kids digging for information.
- Map studies
- Dictionary search
- Concordance search
- Bible search
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

**Creative writing activities**—children of all ages put thoughts into words, by writing or taping.

- Letters
- Poems, raps, or song lyrics
- Bible stories
- Classroom newspapers
- Advertising copy for faith/virtues
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

**Art Activities**—children of all ages express themselves through color and line.

- Posters
  - Painted picture with caption
  - Cut-and-paste collages, using news magazines—words and pictures
- Greeting cards
- Picture books
- Stamps, silhouettes
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

**Craft Activities**—can give children something to share as a witness.

- Puppets
  - Paper bag puppets
  - Sock puppets
- Models
  - Sculpture
  - Construction
  - Relief maps
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

**Drama Activities**—children of all ages enjoy skits and role play.

- Skits & role play
- Charades
- Dramatized stories
- Interactive Bible stories
- Puppet plays
- Shadow plays
Kinds of Bible Learning Activities

*Life Simulation Activities*—these activities help children apply the lesson to everyday life.

- Food related activities: fixing snacks & food for the poor.
- Planning & designing program, wedding, a house.
- Budgeting, stewardship
  - Family living; playing house
  - Community living; interacting as community helpers
- Trust walk, trust fall
Debriefing an Activity

Debriefing helps children process what they learned.
Debriefing an Activity

Talk about what they did
- Ask the kids to show what they made or created

Talk about what they learned
- Ask how they feel about the activity
- Ask what they learned from the activity

Relate the activity to the Bible
- Ask what the activity tells them about the Bible verse

Relate the activity to the Bible and to the message.
Teaching from Bible Learning Activities

To help children learn from activities …

- Make kids feel *included*—especially those who come after an activity begins.
- Tell the *name* of each activity.
- Provide all the necessary *materials*.
- *Affirm* every person’s efforts.
- Give clear *directions* for the activity.
Teaching from Bible Learning Activities

Give clear *directions* for the activity.

- Tell what they will accomplish; show a finished product (optional)
- Tell what to do, step by step,
  - in the order they will do it
- Begin each step with a verb--take, cut, paste, color, etc
- Give written directions to children who can read
Providing Materials

- Equipment: Scissors, glue, rulers, a tape measure, stapler
- Most-used supplies
  - Paper--scrap paper, typing paper, construction paper
  - Markers, pencils, crayons, masking tape, clear tape
- Optional supplies: Poster board, paper plates, index cards, envelopes
- Scrap or recycled materials
  - Yarn, string, paper clips, cloth, leaves, bark
  - Sticks, matchsticks, candles, crayon pieces
Providing Materials

- List needed supplies in the church bulletin; “mothers in Israel” will see that you have what you need.
- Substitute or make your own:
  - Poster paint, finger paint, play dough, plaster
- Bring from home:
  - seeds, beans, salt, flour, soap, foil, wax paper
RESOURCES

- Creative Bible Learning Activities, by Fred & Kelly Cornforth; AdventSource.
- Scripture Word Finds for Kids
- 100 Creative Ways to Learn Memory Verses, by Karen Holford.
- www.childmin.com (see LINKS)