

SIZING UP SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

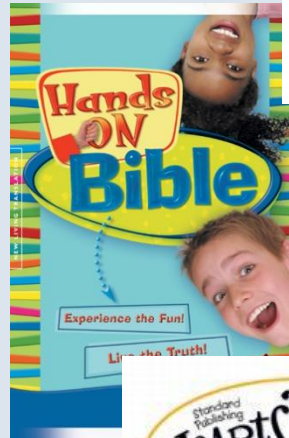
Saturday, May 22, 2010
Casowasco Camp and Retreat Center

*Making the biggest difference in the spiritual growth of
our children.....*

Helping children understand... the word of God

- What curriculums are out there?
- Vision, Purpose, Strategy
- Success in Children's Ministry
- Scope and Sequence
- 5 Different Models of Curriculums
- Resources Available
- Evaluation

252 BASICS



What curriculums are your churches using?

- Is it effective?
- Is it usable?
- What are the strengths and weaknesses?

Vision, Purpose, Strategy

- Curriculum choices need to be based on ministry vision, purpose and strategy
- A children's ministry vision should reflect the church's vision as a whole

Example of Vision:

- **A churches vision statement: “to be a healthy spiritual community marked by uncompromising love for Jesus Christ, caring commitment to each other and bold compassion for those who don’t yet know Christ.”**
- **The same churches children’s ministry vision: “to be a healthy community marked by uncompromising love for and commitment to children, families and Christ.”**

Why do we have a children's Ministry?

- The ministry purpose should answer this question.
- Remember that you are teaching the Bible, not a particular curriculum.
- Curriculum is a **tool** that helps you engage children so they experience, remember, understand and live God's word.
- When a curriculum is effective, the result is that lives have been truly changed.

Deuteronomy 6:1 – 9

- ¹ These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, O Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. [a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Psalm 78: 1 – 8

- O my people, hear my teaching;
listen to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth in parables,
I will utter hidden things, things from of old-
- ³ what we have heard and known,
what our fathers have told us.
- ⁴ We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done.
- ⁵ He decreed statutes for Jacob
and established the law in Israel,
which he commanded our forefathers
to teach their children,
- ⁶ so the next generation would know them,
even the children yet to be born,
and they in turn would tell their children.
- ⁷ Then they would put their trust in God
and would not forget his deeds
but would keep his commands.
- ⁸ They would not be like their forefathers—
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
whose hearts were not loyal to God,
whose spirits were not faithful to him.

Definition of Success in Children's Ministry

George Barna indicates three areas of successes in a local churches' Children's Ministry...

1st indicator of success

- Experiencing the widespread involvement of the parents in spiritual development
 - ▣ While that need is satisfied in different ways by various ministries of the church, the effort to nurture children is deemed deficient if it not led by the parents themselves in close partnership with the church

2nd indicator of success

- The church is strategically equipping parents to help children develop spiritually
 - ▣ It is for this reason many of our churches have changed the title of the ministry from “Children’s Ministry” to “Family Ministry”.

3rd indicator of success

- Witnessing elements of transformation in children's lives
 - ▣ Not the mere recitation of facts, but lifestyle transitions that suggest a deeper renovation for the heart and spirit.

Scope and Sequence

- What type of scope and sequence are available?
 - **Topical** — designed for children to learn bible lessons basic on topics (i.e. prayer)
 - **Unified** — designed to take children through the whole bible, all children learn the same bible lesson each week.
 - **Chronological** — designed to take children through the bible in 2- 3 years (Old in Fall, New in Spring)
 - **Age level** — each age group uses different scope and sequences

Scope & Sequence

- A scope and sequence spells out the full content of a particular curriculum (scope) and the order in which the curriculum presents that material (sequence).
- It is a guide for the publishers, Christian education directors, and teachers

5 Different Models of Curriculum

- Traditional
- Non-Traditional
- Mixed
- Large Group/Small Group
- Rotation

Traditional

□ **Strengths:**

- Biblically grounded
- Focus on teaching the Bible

Weaknesses:

- Tends to not be as effective at engaging children and helping them understand, remember and live God's Word

Traditional Curriculum Examples

Bible – in – Life (David C. Cook)



HeartShapers(Standard Publishing)



Non- Traditional

□ **Strengths:**

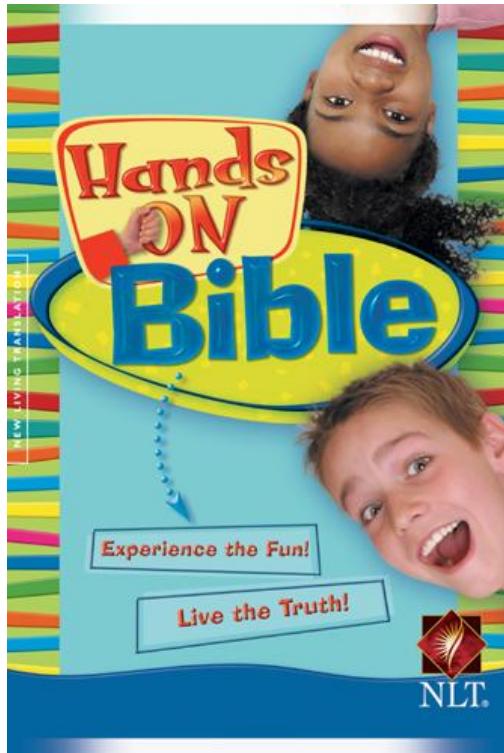
- Biblically grounded
- Focus on truly involving kids so they will learn

Weaknesses:

- Volunteers may end up extremely frustrated
- Volunteers should be gifted teachers, willing to teach in non-traditional manners.
- Teachers need to adapt and modify the curriculum

Non - Traditional Curriculum Examples

Hands-on Bible Curriculum (Group)



FaithWeaver (Group)



Mixed

□ **Strengths:**

- Volunteers use more active teaching
- Involvement is key in the kids learning the lesson

Weaknesses:

- Some volunteers will stick with the traditional teaching model they know rather than try the more active learning centers.

Mixed Curriculum Examples

RIO (David C. Cook)

- New curriculum coming out Fall 2010 (great reviews)



- This replaces GodPrints, produced by David C. Cook

Gospel Light (Gospel Light Publishing)



Large Group/Small Group

□ **Strengths:**

- Volunteers can be used according to their gifting
- The small group setting helps kids develop sound relationships.
- Curriculums tend to include family take home sheets so the learning continues all week.

Weaknesses:

- Churches are nervous about giving this a try
- Teachers who want to only “teach” tend to not enjoy this curriculum as much.

Large Group/Small Group Examples

252 Basics (reThink Group)



Live B.I.G. (Cokesbury)



Rotation

□ **Strengths:**

- Uses lots of activities to engage the children
- Kids learn according to their different learning styles and capabilities.
- Volunteers learn 1 lesson and repeat it for for weeks rather than a new lesson each week.

Weaknesses:

- Sometimes too much activity
- Volunteers must teach using non-traditional methods AND help make the connections for the kids.

Rotation Model Examples

PowerExpress (Cokesbury)



Potter's Publishing





Resources



Resources

- Augsburg Fortress, augsburgfortress.org
- Big Idea, veggiepiratesvbs.com
- Cokesbury, cokesbury.com
- Concordia Publishing House, cph.org
- David C. Cook, davidccook.com
- Empowering Kids, empoweringkids.net
- Gospel Light, gospellight.com
- Group Publishing, grouppublishing.com
- Lynda Freeman, kidzconnection.us
- LifeWay, lifeway.com
- Promiseland, promiselandonline.com
- Regular Baptist Press, rbpstore.org
- Re-Think Group, rethinkgroup.org
- Standard Publishing, standardpub.com
- Willow Creek, willowcreek.com/children/curr/
- Check local conference resource centers
- Borrow used curriculum from churches (VBS too)
- Order Samples from companies and do a trial run (semester/quarter) before purchasing for the year



Evaluation

