

Being the Solid Rock Behind Bible Drill

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Isaiah 26:4 says, "Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock".
1 Peter 1:25 states that "the word of the Lord endures forever".

As Bible Drill teachers and leaders, we have the incredible privilege of helping the children and students of our churches to learn God's word. Memorizing verses and passages from the Bible not only gives us strength and guidance as we deal with everyday situations, but it also teaches the children and students important life lessons about truth, honesty, and character. During the Bible Drill season, verses build a foundation of basic knowledge of the Bible and this training increases their discipline, determination, and commitment to God's word. The practice of memory recall also helps them in all areas of schoolwork. The challenges of competition promote confidence and poise as they share what they have learned.

When working with Bible Drillers, it is important to give consistent encouragement to keep them from falling to the wayside. If you have enough drillers to form small groups, please do that. You could have from two to four drillers in a small group with an adult leader for each group who teaches and mentors the drillers. When my wife, Sherry, and I were leading Bible Drill in our church, we met with the children on Sunday afternoons from 2:30-4:30. They, as well as our youth, still have a similar schedule. We start off in large group and had a large group game. We always allowed some small time with the teachers to work with the children. Group leaders became "solid rocks" for their group members not only on Sunday afternoons, but also during the week. Leaders made phone calls, had pizza meals together, work and play parties, or inviting drillers over to their houses on a Saturday afternoon for fun, drills, and memorization. Our children always enjoyed those times together.

If a driller did not show up for Bible Drill, I would call the parents to find out if the child was coming that day. They soon learned to call me first if the driller was sick or out of town. Be sure that parents understand the important role they play in helping their drillers. They need that support at home. Many times, I had to call parents to remind them that a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon is not enough for the children to memorize verses. Spending small chunks of time each day on Bible Drill produces far better results. We give flash cards to every Bible Driller for verses, key passages, and books of the Bible. They can work on these at home by themselves, but most of them need a small amount of parental encouragement. It is surprising how many parents learn right along with their children and youth.

I remember one girl who was struggling, and church competition was getting close. I called the parents and asked them to take time to work with her. The next Sunday, the

girl came up to me with a big smile and said, “My Daddy worked with me this week on my Bible Drill.” She was excited and ended up going all the way to the state drill. Get those parents involved!

At the beginning of the Bible Drill season, we have a few Sundays where we invite parents to come and observe for a week or two. Several of them will continue to come and end up becoming future helpers and group leaders.

I have had several of our former Bible Drillers to come back from college for a visit and tell me the verses they learned in Bible Drill have helped them make the right decisions at school. Many former Bible Drillers, including my own children, tell me that they still remember verses that they learned in Bible Drill. We just received an invitation from a former Bible Driller to attend his wedding in Austin in October. We are going. When in high school, he also worked with us as a student helper.

Sherry and I will work with children one-on-one Sunday afternoons during the Bible Drill season, even though we are retired from leadership. The new leader is in her 30's and was one of our former Bible Drillers. Her mother started working with us and now she is the leader of our Children's Bible Drill, and her mother is still working as a group leader. Many of our group leaders came in when their children were in the program, and they are still working. Some of our group leaders are now grandparents, and their grandchildren are coming through the program.

“Being the Solid Rock Behind Bible Drill” involves more than just one person being an encourager. It takes all of us working together and having fun as we apply God's Word to our lives. The Bible says that we are to build our lives on solid rock. Christ likened Himself—His Words—to Solid Rock. We need to know His work, the everlasting truth, so that we can renew our hope and survive the storms that life may bring.