

Bible Drill CAN Start in January
Lisa Keeling
Children's Minister
Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston

The Pandemic has made us think out of the box of what we usually do. It is making us change our normal methods of teaching, and our normal start times for programming. Did you know you can have a successful Bible Drill program that begins in January? It is absolutely possible!

Here are some steps to Bible Drill success when starting in January:

1. **Have a plan** and a schedule. Set a calendar schedule that you give to parents so everyone knows what to work on. Starting in January is more of a season or semester approach. The shorter time commitment will encourage more kids/parents to participate.
2. **Learn all the material in 7 weeks.** Divide it up between the weeks you will be meeting. Start the very first week of January. This usually means that kids learn 4 verses a week. There will be 1 week where they learn 5 verses. Do five verses when they are shorter and a bit easier.
3. **Use games and fun methods** to introduce all the new material. We spend about 10 minutes on each verse as we introduce it. The kids love the fast pace.
4. **Challenge them to practice at least 5 days** of the week. This also encourages a good habit of spending time in God's word daily. Give a checklist so parents can check the days the kids practice.
5. **Reward the kids for practicing 5 days.** If they will practice a little each day, they will remember it so much better than a long practice right before coming to church. I give them a regular size candy for returning the practice sheet with parent's signature. It is best not to base rewards on the number of verses, but on the number of days practiced. This way you are encouraging good discipleship, rather than performance.

Following these steps has made Bible Drill a fun and exciting opportunity. I have followed this practice many years with great results. Participation is high and most of the drillers advance beyond Association in competition. It is completely possible and they will learn scripture and Bible skills that will help them for their whole lives.