

Testimonies of Bible Drill

Beginning Bible Drill Robin Salazar Children's Minister, FBC Tyler

About three years ago we started Bible Drill in our church, and it is truly one of my favorite nights of the week. The reason we wanted to start Bible Drill is because it is a great tool to help children learn why it's important to memorize scripture as well as teach them how to do it. We also wanted our children to learn how to use their Bible while they are in our Children's Ministry.

I have three wonderful teachers that are passionate about Bible Drill and wanted to help from the start. Two of the teachers are great at creating fun games for the kids to learn Bible verses and the order of the books of the Bible. A night in Bible Drill looks the same each week. The children come in knowing we are going to start with reviewing scriptures, key passages, and the books of the Bible. Towards the end of the session we move to drilling. At the beginning of the semester we focus more on teaching the verses and key passages and towards the middle of the fall we review but focus more on drilling.

Recently I received a message from one of our parents who has a child that participates in Bible Drill. Her message said how grateful she is that her child is learning scripture through Bible Drill and can see the difference it is making in his life. This is the exact reason we do Bible Drill. It is not so children can memorize scripture for a drill--it's so that throughout their lives God's Word will come to mind when they are going through a hard time, when they are sharing their faith with a friend, and when they are ministering to others around them.

Personal Testimony
Jason Curry
Children's Minister, FBC Andrews

“Study to Show Thyself Approved Unto God ... **2 Timothy 2:15**” is embossed on the bottom right hand corner of my 1973, Broadman Press Bible. Amidst the bookshelf full of Study Bibles, Children's Bibles, and the Bible I preach from is that blue hardback Bible I received in 4th grade. My 4th grade year was the year we had to memorize **Malachi 3:10**. The biggest verse I had ever tried to memorize in my 10-year life. Now 37 years later, **Malachi 3:10** and **John 3:16** are the only verse and REFERENCE I never had to re-learn.

In **Mark 13:31** Jesus tells us His “Words will never pass away”. Within ministry, there is a constant need to present the Gospel in a current way. More tools and trends have gone by the wayside in my four plus decades than have stuck around. And today those tools expire exponentially faster. Yet we have Jesus' word, if you will, that His Words will NOT pass away.

Isaiah 40:8 promises us that “the Word of our God endures forever”. Occasionally, I will have a volunteer frustrated because they felt they did not do a good enough job with their lesson or activity. I remind them to like the kids and love the stories. Even if you didn't know a particular story before you began to study it, love the Gospel story. Within all three cycles of Bible Drill is a well-crafted and intentionally developed sampling of the Old and New Testament. They have created a masterful combination of 75 verses and 30 key passages that encapsulate the condition of man, the power of God, and the Gift of Jesus. Set aside the three-year scope; within each individual cycle are passages that equip the student and volunteer to share the Gospel message.

Again, in Isaiah, this time in the 55th chapter, God promises that “His Word will not return empty.” Over the years I have had numerous programs and events come and go. Some I mourned, others I gladly discarded. However, abandoned or stayed, having the kids hear the Word of God is paramount. God does not promise that VBS will return empty. Nor TeamKID. Nor ‘fill in the blank’. Only that His Word will not return empty. Yes, we should capitalize on the Word of God in each and every endeavor in our ministry whether children, youth, or adults. But our people and their minds are never as primed nor hearts as eager to **Hide God's Word in our Hearts** than those formative years. My heart may be more eager as a 40+ year old. But my mind is not near as primed. It is amazingly reassuring that God promises me that if we teach and reteach and teach again His Word it will not return empty. Not only that, He promises that His Word will accomplish what He desires and achieve the purpose for which He sent it.

I truly believe God honors our efforts to teach His Word. I doubly believe God honors and is honored when we strive to have our congregants hide, place, memorize God's Word. As ministers, we should be challenged above all else to see the kids in our programs are hearing, studying, planting, and walking away with the Word of God. If we do so, we can be confident they were given something of God and not merely of us.