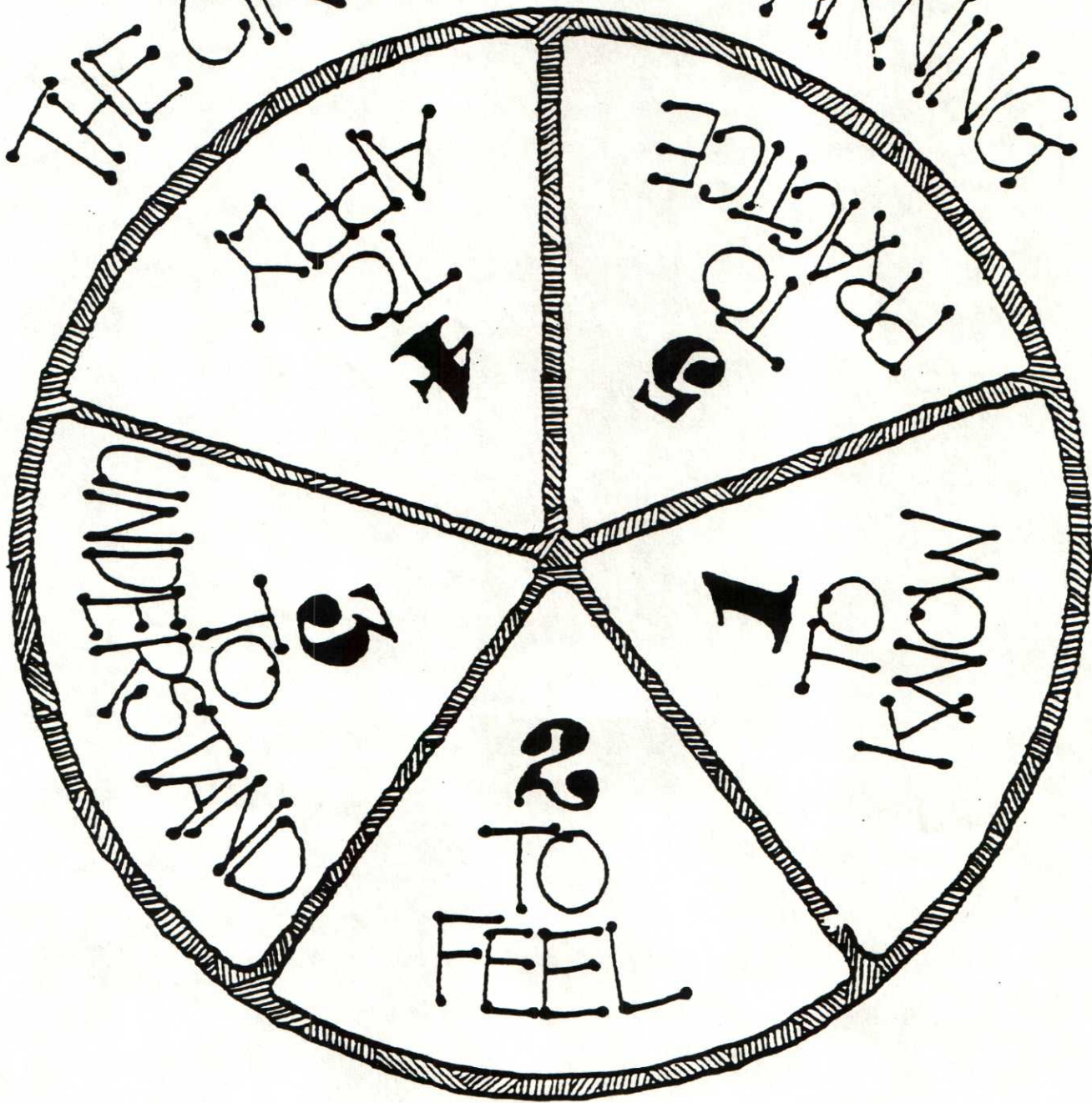


THE CIRCLE OF LEARNING



KNOW

PRACTICE

KNOW

FEEL

UNDERSTAND

How Does the Circle of Learning Work?

Children in a Sunday kids' class are studying the memory verse "Love one another" from John 13:34. When taught according to the principles of the Circle of Learning, here is how the teaching might proceed.

First, the teacher, in attempting to help girls and boys **to know** the memory verse, might offer several activities. Children could:

- Match halves of the Bible verse;
- Fill in missing words;
- Put the words in the correct order;
- Sing the verse to a familiar tune.

Second, in helping girls and boys **to feel** the meaning of the verse, the teaching might:

- Encourage children to talk about how they feel when they are loved;
- Lead them to talk about how it feels to love another person;
- Guide them to draw pictures of how they feel; or
- Use open-end stories to help them discover, identify, and think about their feelings.

Third, as the teacher guides the children **to understand** the verse "Love one another," she might:

- Encourage children to talk about how people show their love to other people;
- Guide children to think of ways to express loving one another in words or pictures; or
- Ask for examples from the lives of the children themselves of ways someone showed love to them.

Fourth, as the children learn **to apply** the verse in their own lives, the teacher may guide them to think of actual ways they could show their love to others. She may let them choose to:

- Make cards or gifts and deliver them to children in the hospital;
- Plan to help their family in specific ways during the week;
- Bring a friend to church; or
- Plan to do something special for a neighbor who needs help.

In carrying out such plans, a teacher needs to make sure that time is provided in succeeding sessions for girls and boys to share how they have shown their love for others.

Fifth, as the teacher becomes aware that the children are applying the Bible verse, she must commend their behavior and continue to remind them of the Bible truth. Only as the children begin **to practice** will the Bible truth become part of the way in which each child lives.

If a teacher stops teaching before the Circle of Learning can be completed, she deprives the girls and boys of learning one of the greatest things they can learn—that of understanding, at their developmental level, how the truths contained in the Bible can have meaning in their lives.