

Every Thought Captive

A Curriculum for Children and Youth at Grace Bible Church
Biblical Framework Approach

Vision Statement:

To assist parents in training their children to know Christ, become like Him and become useful to Him (John 6:40; John 17:3).

Mission Statement:

To develop young Christians with a Biblical Worldview, able to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, thus bringing honor to the Father (2 Cor. 10:5).

Ministry Summary:

According to Scripture, the duty of training children belongs to parents (Prov. 22:6; Deut. 6:7; Eph. 6:4). With that understanding foremost in mind, the goal of Grace Bible Church's children's ministry will be to assist parents in this monumental task. Because God revealed His purpose, plan and Person progressively in the Bible we believe the best way for a child to learn Biblical truth is just the way He revealed it. That is why we have adopted a framework approach to teaching the Scriptures. The great events of the Old Testament (Creation, Fall, Flood, Abrahamic Covenant, Exodus, Law...) reveal the purpose, plan and Person of God. Without a proper understanding of this Biblical framework a child's understanding of the person and work of Jesus Christ will be lacking. For example, it is the Christ who walked with Abraham in Genesis 18 who said "...Before Abraham was I AM" (John 8:58). Thus the Bible should be taught in sequence (with the grand narrative of Scripture in mind) so that a thoroughly biblical foundation is laid in a child's mind, which will guard against the wiles of the devil, his world and the child's own flesh. God chose to reveal Himself to man in the way that he did because that is the best way for us to understand Him. If God is the "sum total of His infinite perfections" he could do no less. Thus our instruction should be modeled after His. We live in an increasingly pagan society. It is not enough for our children to sing Joshua fought the battle at Jericho on Sunday mornings. They must be equipped with Biblical Truth daily. That is why parents will receive a written summary of each lesson along with some suggested Scriptures relevant to the topic in order to help facilitate the child's spiritual growth. Because every Biblical truth is under assault today, the children will also be taught how to interact with the lies of Satan (e.g. evolution, earth worship...) as they are juxtaposed against God's truth. True worship of God must be in spirit and in truth (John 4:24). True fellowship is with the Father and the Son (I John 1:3) and only comes through the believer welcoming the implanted Word which is able to deliver our lives (James 1:21). All else is idolatry (1 John 5:21).

Although young children will certainly not be able to grasp the depths of each of these great Biblical Truths, they will become familiar with God's framework according to their own current ability (and the teaching ministry of God the Holy Spirit). At each new age level the parents and teachers will draw deeper from the framework thus developing in the child a thoroughly integrated biblical worldview. Should a child progress from early childhood to young adulthood in this framework system, he or she will have been through the bible several times with a systematic view of Who God is, What He is doing, What He will do, and what is required of us.