

Biblical Themes of Salvation-History

A Basic Outline for Teachers and Parents

Creation	Fall	Promise	Preparation	Incarnation	Redemption	Church	Kingdom
<i>LIFE</i>	<i>Death</i>	<i>Covenant</i>	<i>Law/Prophets</i>	<i>Son of God</i>	<i>Death/Resurr.</i>	<i>New Life</i>	<i>Salvation</i>
God creates the World	Sin and Temptation	Abraham obeys God	Moses saves God's people	Mary says "yes" to God	Jesus is baptized	Jesus returns to the Father	God gives life eternal
He makes man/woman	Adam/Eve disobey God	Father of a great nation	The Exodus from Egypt	God sends His Son Jesus	He brings God's Word	He sends the Holy Spirit	He will come again
Made in God's image	Separated from God	Isaac, Jacob, 12 tribes-Israel	God gives tablets of Law	Jesus is born as Man	He loves and heals	The Church is born	He comes to judge
Given care of God's world	Expelled from Paradise	The Covenant with God	David-Solomon Temple worship	Jesus comes to save us	He gives His life for us	Baptism gives new life	He brings a new creation
Communion with God	No longer live with God	Period of the Patriarchs	Period of the Prophets	He comes to bring new life	He rises from the dead	The Eucharist is God in us	A new heaven & new earth

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Cognition in Children and Suggestions for Developing Biblical Knowledge and Skills

Level 1 (4-7 yrs.)	Level 2 (8-12 yrs.)	Level 3 (13 & above)
Intuitive thinking: Pre-logical, imaginative, "magical" stage	Evolving logical thinking, but limited to concrete realities, understandings	Logical abstract thinking develops, uses comparisons, metaphors
Understanding is determined by perceptions (how the child "sees it"), which is not always the reality	Can distinguish the real from the imaginary; can order things in sequence or group into classes	Can reason abstractly, "in his head," work with propositions and hypotheses. and test his logic
Persons, stories and events are isolated and/or unrelated	Can tell a story from beginning to end, and relate characters to events	Has a sense of time and space, and emerging consciousness of history.
May focus only on one element, often peripheral, ignoring others. Can easily miss the main point.	Can investigate or look up simple information and relate pieces of information to one another.	Can develop Time-lines, rewrite or "translate" events into contemporary terms (e.g., TV news reports)
God is perceived as anthropomorphic, "humanized" & often understood as a parental-figure	(10-12 yrs.) Can find and use (with guidance) pictures and maps of biblical places and events.	Can compare a biblical text with a liturgical hymn or verse of the same event, drawing parallels/conclusions
Teachers or parents should <i>tell</i> (not read) a good story, using conversation and dialogue. Select short texts/phrases for emphasis or ask questions to elicit responses from children.	Show students how to find a biblical reference, going step by step with them. Help them distinguish between Old/New Testament persons and events (e.g., what/who comes before or after the life of Jesus on earth).	Help students to use a Gospel Parallels to examine common texts within the Gospels, and to use a Concordance, Bible Dictionaries and commentaries. Help them compare bible texts and translations.
Focus on naming, and identifying persons, places and things. Use icons to identify and retell stories.	Learn prokeimena, alleluia or communion verses related to biblical feasts. Learn to sing the refrains.	Encourage students to use psalms for personal prayer and meditation; develop a pattern of Bible reading.
Role-play (act out) behavior of characters. Make & use puppets.	Make murals in panels to show the sequence and relation of events.	Show how to locate and prepare texts for reading in church.