

# Using the Bible As Your Primary Textbook

by Anne Elliott

*We know that God's Word says we are to impress His commands on our children by talking about them when we sit, walk, lie down and get up (Deuteronomy 6:4-9). That's all the time! What better tool can we have than homeschooling -- but how often our good intentions are sidetracked by "necessities" like school, chores, and schedules. Wouldn't it be nice if we could use the Bible as our primary textbook so that all our conversations and actions centered around God's Word? In this session, we'll try to make this practical. We'll talk about how to use the Bible for all subjects, including reading, grammar, math, history, science, and everything in between. We'll also talk about how to apply the Bible with our children in every hour of the day.*

## God's Prescription for Parenting


*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates" (Deuteronomy 6:4-9, NIV).*

1. Your heart first
2. Talk about them
  - a) When you sit at home
  - b) When you walk along the road
  - c) When you lie down
  - d) When you get up
3. Display them
  - a) As symbols on your hands (daily, easily accessible)
  - b) Bind them on your foreheads (memorization)
  - c) Write them on the doorframes of your houses (copywork)
  - d) Write them on your gates (share with others)

## Using the Bible as Your Primary Textbook

### Teaching Bible

1. Read it aloud
2. Learn to use it (find books of Bible, then verses, learn to read it with expression)
3. Discuss it
4. Memorize it
5. Journal it

 See our homeschooling curriculum at <http://homeschoolingbible.com>

## Learning to Read

For an excellent description of how to teach someone to read, see

<http://web.archive.org/web/20060704032720/www.isd.net/~bhill/reading/index.html>

45 minutes per day, 5 days per week

- 📖 30 minutes read WITH and TO them (let them help by reading easier words, finishing sentences, and reading occasional sentences on their own) – read directly from God’s Word
- 📖 10 minutes of phonics instructions (such as <http://www.all-about-spelling.com>, Abeka’s phonics program, *Teach Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons* by [Siegfried Engelmann](#))
- 📖 5 minutes reading (sentences, etc.) – good readers are Abeka, Bob books, Dr. Seuss books, Rod and Staff (Pathway) readers

Choose a version of the Bible.

Be consistent – daily practice is best.

If child hits a tough spot, slow down and let him grow up.

1<sup>st</sup> grade – words, decoding, phonograms

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – verses, paragraphs

3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – chapters, independent reading

7<sup>th</sup> grade – read the entire Bible each year

## Handwriting

Begin with copywork from the Bible:

1<sup>st</sup> grade – letters, phonograms, words, sentences

2<sup>nd</sup> grade – verses, paragraphs

3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up – paragraphs, poetry (such as Psalms and Proverbs)

- 📖 Begin by teaching proper letter formation (<http://cursivefirst.com>, Abeka <http://www.abeka.com>).
- 📖 Always correlate phonics sounds with letter formation.
- 📖 Use “Start Write” software (<http://startwrite.com/>) to make worksheets.
- 📖 Help student choose favorite passages to add to a personal notebook.
- 📖 Kings copied God’s Law (Deuteronomy 17:18) and kept a copy with them.
- 📖 Memorize weekly from copywork.

## Grammar

Choose a sentence each day from the Bible. Analyze it with these 5 steps:

1. Identify prepositions and prepositional phrases (mark with parenthesis).
2. Identify sentence patterns. Resource: *English Handbook*, by Bob Jones University Press  
<http://www.bjupress.com/product/023481>
3. Find complements (modifiers such as adjectives and adjectives).
4. Find functions of subordinate clauses.
5. Diagram sentence.  
- Why diagram? <http://www.redshift.com/~bonajo/diagram.htm>

## Spelling & Vocabulary

- 📖 Begin by incorporating spelling with phonics instruction (<http://www.all-about-spelling.com>).
- 📖 Have a spelling/vocabulary notebook; add words to it as you encounter them.
- 📖 Teach Latin roots, prefixes, suffixes (see game “Rummy Roots”) because students can use these to figure out the meaning and spelling of unfamiliar words.

## Writing

1. Mom reads aloud (Bible, other books), then all discuss concepts based on biblical knowledge
2. Narration – Child tells Mom what he learned, in his own words.
3. Outlining
  - 📖 Helps child understand logic, legal concepts

- 📖 Broad to specific (book titles, chapter titles, paragraph titles such as NIV, diagram sentences)
- 📖 Be sure to introduce various genre such as biblical poetry and proverbs, genealogies, histories, epistles, parables)
- 📖 Takes writing apart; student can see how it was constructed in the first place.

## Math

Why excel at mathematics?

- Learn about the God of creation
- Learn that addition and subtraction facts teach us about the reality God created
- Learn that there is always a right and a wrong answer (moral absolutes)
- Learning should be line upon line, precept upon precept (Isaiah 28:9-10)
- Learn to be precise and exact
- Learn that math always has an application to everyday life
- Learn to memorize and recall facts quickly, without having to think much
- Learn to finish a job with excellence (neatness)
- Learn to excel (competition)
- Learn to be disciplined and obedient
- Learn how to have dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:28)

The Bible is full of “story problems.” Try to work one each week, from your family Bible reading.

- 📖 Examples include the ark (size, mass, accuracy), the Tabernacle, the Temple, timelines, ages of patriarchs, calculate size of people groups, fulfillment of prophecy, money, weights and measurements, distances between locations, etc.

## History

- Includes geography, anthropology, governments, timelines, history of people groups outside of main storyline of Bible (such as China and South America, using Genesis 10).

*They will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty, and I will meditate on your wonderful works. (Psalm 145:5)*

Key Bible Passages:

- 📖 Genesis through history books of O.T. -- ancient history
- 📖 Daniel -- vision of Nebuchadnezzar
- 📖 Revelation -- seen from an historicist viewpoint (traditional view in church history)  
<http://www.homeschoolblogger.com/christinemiller/>

Consider teaching world history primarily, showing where America fits into God's ultimate plan.

Resources:

- 📖 One possible plan - <http://www.classical-homeschooling.org/curriculum/history-grammar.html>
- 📖 *All Through the Ages*, Christine Miller <http://nothingnewpress.com>
- 📖 Ruth Beechick, *World History Made Simple, Adam and His Kin, Our Genesis Roots*  
<http://mottmedia.com>
- 📖 Diana Waring, <http://dianawaring.com>

## Science

- 📖 Start with creationism (Answers in Genesis, <http://www.answersingenesis.org>)
- 📖 Days of creation for elementary ages (Jeannie Fulbright, <http://www.apologia.com>)
- 📖 Learn to refute evolution as students get older (Answers in Genesis, *Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution* videos <http://www.explorationfilms.com/exploration-films-incredible-creatures-3.html>, the Truth Project <http://thetruthproject.org>, Summit Ministries <http://www.summit.org>)
- 📖 Do a yearly science project inspired from Bible reading. Include a written and oral report.

## Application of God's Word All Day Long

*How can we apply the Bible with our children in every hour of the day?*

*Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: (Isaiah 28:9-10, KJV)*

### Excellent Resources:

- 📖 *Creative Family Times*, by Allen & Connie Hadidian and Will & Lindy Wilson (Chicago: Moody Press, 1989). See especially chapter 1, "Devotional Living."
- 📖 *A Mother's Touch*, by Elise Arndt (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor, 1983).
- 📖 *The Shaping of a Christian Family*, by Elisabeth Elliot (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1992).
- 📖 Doorposts (<http://www.doorposts.com>) - Bible-based character training. I especially like their book, *For Instruction in Righteousness*, but I like all their other products, too!

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