

Preparing a Lesson for Kids

Text _____

**Adapted from "The Twelve Essential Skills for Great Preaching" by Wayne McDill.*

1. **Outline and Observations** (outline the text and make as many notes about the text as you can on your own)

Background Info: Purpose of text, what is around it, what is happening, who is involved, when was it happening?

*Last step: Print out a copy of the text from the internet or make a copy of your Bible. Underline every important verb and circle every important or theological phrase/word. This will help you to more clearly see the themes of the text.

2. **Questions** (what questions arise in your mind or questions you think kids would have)

*Find the answers using concordances, Bible dictionaries, commentaries, ect. While reviewing the commentaries, make notes beside your outline about new things that you learned.

3. **Passage Idea** (what is the main message the text is saying, Ex. Jesus was tempted by Satan and used God's Word to battle that temptation)

*List as many themes as you can find and determine the main message in a few words. Prioritize these so that your lesson focuses on the most important one.

4. **What's the need?** (what needs in a kids life would this passage speak to?)

5. **What attitudes or behaviors are being prescribed in this passage?**

6. **How can Jesus be connected into this passage?**

7. **Lesson idea** (This statement takes the passage idea [#3] and need [#4] and connects them to a universal principle that the kids should learn. This becomes the main IDEA that you want to communicate at the beginning and application time of your lesson. Use a KEY word to categorize how you will get your point across. Ex. Jesus had three STRATEGIES (key word) for beating the devil when he was tempted)

8. **Lesson divisions** (Hash out 3-5 statements that expand on your lesson idea [#5]. These should move very fluidly through the Bible passage, in the most basic sense, these would be known as sermon points)

9. ***Lesson design*** (Plan out how you will begin your lesson, when illustrations, activities, or stories will be used, when children will interact with the lesson, and how you will conclude it. There is a great deal of individual freedom at this point.)

For interactive teaching, will you use: object lesson, skit, game, puzzle, notes on board, song, demonstration, analogy, stories, challenge, etc. For each lesson division (point) you may want to use the structure of: explanation, illustration, argumentation, application. Think of it this way: what “world” exists today that relates to the “world” I’m studying about in this passage—family, TV/Media, work, emotions, shopping, travel, relationships, school, etc.