



BIBLE Milestone

“What is going to guide my child’s faith in the school years?”

Centering & Establishing Life on God’s Word

“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”

Hebrews 4:12

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A Letter to Parents

An **Encouragement** & **Challenge**

Welcome to parenting an Elementary school-aged child! You have some exciting, challenging, and, for some, maybe even terrifying years ahead! The thought of beginning your child's formal education, whether it's in a public, private, homeschool, or Christian school environment, can be intimidating and cause anxiety. The question becomes for parents who are believers in Jesus and who desire to pass that faith along to our children - **"What is going to guide my child's faith in the school years?"** As our children begin to be taught about many many things, interact with many different types of people, and as our child's brain and heart begin to be trained by maybe people other than you as the parent, what can we do to make sure that their faith not just *remains* solid but even *grows* and *deepens* during these years? We then as an HFFBC Student Ministry write you this letter then with a two-fold answer:

First of all then, we write you this letter and give you this packet as an **encouragement**. You are not alone! We as a church here at HFFBC are a body together who desires to come alongside you and help nurture not only your child, but also care for you as the parent(s). As the school years begin, a journey that can last nearly two decades and beyond for some students, don't forget that that's not the only place where a child is being poured into. As a church here we are blessed to have wonderful teachers, mentors, ministries, programs, and spaces available to you to take advantage of. The church was instituted by Jesus to be a place where God be glorified, where believers can grow and encourage one another, and where others can see the beauty of Jesus lived out. Be encouraged - the church here at HFFBC is with you and the founder of the Church global - Jesus - is with you too. We pray that you will take advantage of the opportunities and resources that God has gifted us with here at HFFBC to care for you and your family.



And secondly, this packet offers a **challenge** to you as the parents. The challenge is **to take on the responsibility of the primary role that you play in the spiritual upbringing of your children**. The Bible teaches that parents are the primary spiritual caregivers of their families (see Deut. 6) and that the role of the father and mother in the spiritual growth and development of their child cannot be understated. While it is the temptation to outsource the spiritual growth of your child to the the Sunday School classes or to the Wednesday night children's groups that will be provided to your child in the coming years, please do not forget that you are the most important spiritual voice in your family and for your child. Pray with and for them, lead Scripture times with them, take them with you to serve, and pour into their lives deeply the truths of the Risen Savior.



This "Bible Milestone" packet includes several items that we hope will help you in both ways (to be encouraged and to take up the challenge). We believe that God's written Holy Word is the key to these years, and well beyond! May God bless you richly in these years. We look forward to seeing you often!

In Christ,

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I. What is the "Bible Milestone"?



Hampton Falls
BAPTIST CHURCH

What the Bible Milestone is & what it leads to:

The "Bible Milestone" is the third Milestone of our Student Ministries at HFFBC. If you were to be born as a baby into HFFBC today, Lord willing, you would walk through 7 different unique, and intentional faith "Milestones" in the next 18 years of life before arriving at the final pinnacle milestone — "Commission." So if this is the third, then what is this Milestone and what is it leading up to?

The 1st and Beginning Milestone —> Laying a Foundation for Faith

- The "Dedication" milestone is all about laying the proper foundation, in our family, in our heart, and in our practices that puts God and His Kingdom first for this young person's life. This is about rooting our family in the church and under God's guiding, and about parent's rooting their identity in Christ so that a child can have every opportunity trust Christ for themselves over the course of your childhood & adolescence. It is about parent's dedicating themselves to raising their children to be like Jesus, the church dedicating itself to come alongside the family to spiritually nurture the child in faith.



Dedication
(0-2 years)

The Middle 6 Milestones —> Building a Faith that Lasts a Lifetime

- The middle 6 Milestones are aimed specifically at building up a young person's faith in Christ, at key development and spiritual junctures in a kid's life, so that they can trust in Jesus as their Savior and then grow to be full person disciples of Jesus - one who learning and coming to understand what means to be a **knowing, growing, and going** person for Christ and active participants and worshippers in His multi and inter-generational, global Church.



Foundation
(Preschool)



Bible
(1st Grade)



Communion
(5-6th Grade)



Step-Up
(7 & 9th Grade)



Discipleship
(10th Grade)



Baptism
(11th Grade)

The 8th and Pinnacle Milestone —> Sending that Faithful Person into the World

- The goal and aim then of the final Milestone, "Commission" is sending that faith that has been building in these young disciples during their childhood and adolescence out into a world that so desperately needs to hear the love of Jesus. In short then, the "Commission Milestone" is about **sending missionaries** of Jesus Christ out into the world with a church full of prayer warriors and faithful encouragers behind them.



Commission
(12th Grade)

So what then is this “Bible Milestone” and why do we do it at HFFBC during this time?

Below are a few answers of why we think this is a really important Milestone at this time!

1. It’s a powerful, public affirmation that the Bible is the highest authority in our lives

As Christians, and certainly at HFFBC particularly, we believe that God has given us His very words through the inspired, inerrant Word of God that we know as the Bible. As children begin to transition into their first doses of independence and formal education, we want to communicate to a watching world and, more importantly, to the families of our church that the Bible contains and reveals the answers to the deepest questions and purpose of life.



2. It’s a public celebration of the solid Biblical foundation provided to our children through our Nursery & Preschool Ministry.

The “Bible Milestone” provides a public chance for us as a larger church to celebrate what the Lord has done for the children of our church through our Nursery & Preschool ministry in the past 3-4 years. This is not the first time that children will have heard of the Bible or recognize God’s sovereignty over & activity in the world. Through our Nursery & Preschool Ministry here at HFFBC, children have already had a foundation built on which now to begin building a strong house that will last a lifetime. This milestone gives us a chance to celebrate that foundation, to transition to a new developmental phase (physically & spiritually), and to thank God for His goodness.



3. It’s a public encouragement to children to read the Bible on their own.

This Milestone emphasizes to children that they too can now begin the journey of a personal encounter with the Living God day by day through personal Bible reading. We encourage that and desire deeply that students fall in love with reading God’s Word!



4. It’s a public challenge to families to help train their children to read the Bible on their own.

This Milestone also concurrently emphasizes that families and especially parents have a joyous responsibility to help children learn how to read the Bible for themselves.



5. A chance for the church to take up its responsibility

Lastly, this Milestone gives the church here at HFFBC a chance to take up a beautiful responsibility - to care for, pray for, encourage, spur on, and journey alongside students as they make the Bible primary in their life. What a beautiful task God has given the church to be the people who show an example to young people what a life “built upon the rock” (Matt. 7:24) can look like.



II. Intro to the Bible

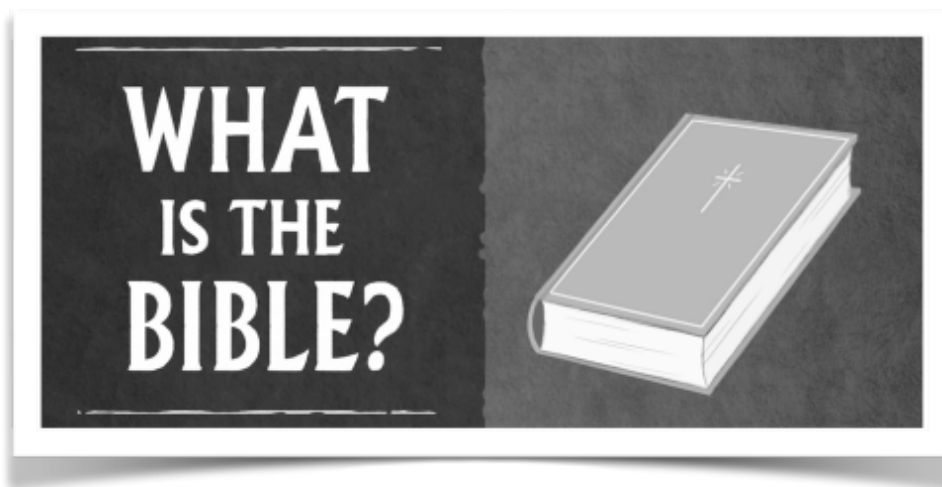
To capture the beauty and essence of what the Bible is, we've included a few helpful resources in this packet for you that help with each of the following categories.

What is the Bible?

Look for the enclosed two articles with the following pictures on the front.



From pg. 42-53 of *Visual Theology: Seeing & Understanding the Truth About God* by Tim Challies & Josh Byers



Made available online by *The Bible Project* at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>

What the Bible Does

From pg. 53 of *Visual Theology: Seeing & Understanding the Truth About God* by Tim Challies & Josh Byers

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES



MAKES US ALIVE

The Bible brings about internal revival, and this revival is a coming alive, a conversion, of the whole person. God's unblemished Word stirs the dead soul to awaken it to eternal life.



HELPS US TO BE WISE

In the Bible, God tells us who he is and what he requires of us. This knowledge is sure and right, and as we encounter it and believe it, it makes us wise.



GIVES US JOY

The Bible gives us precepts—rules for our behavior, and guidelines for our lives. When we live in these ways, we live lives of joy freed from our sin and freed to honor and obey God.



GIVES US CLARITY

The commands of God are not burdensome but allow us to see the world with clarity and to both please and honor God.



HELPS US TO BE PURE

God's pure Word cleans us up, forever changing our thoughts, our attitudes, and our behaviors, so we can live joyfully before our God.



HELPS US TO BE GODLY

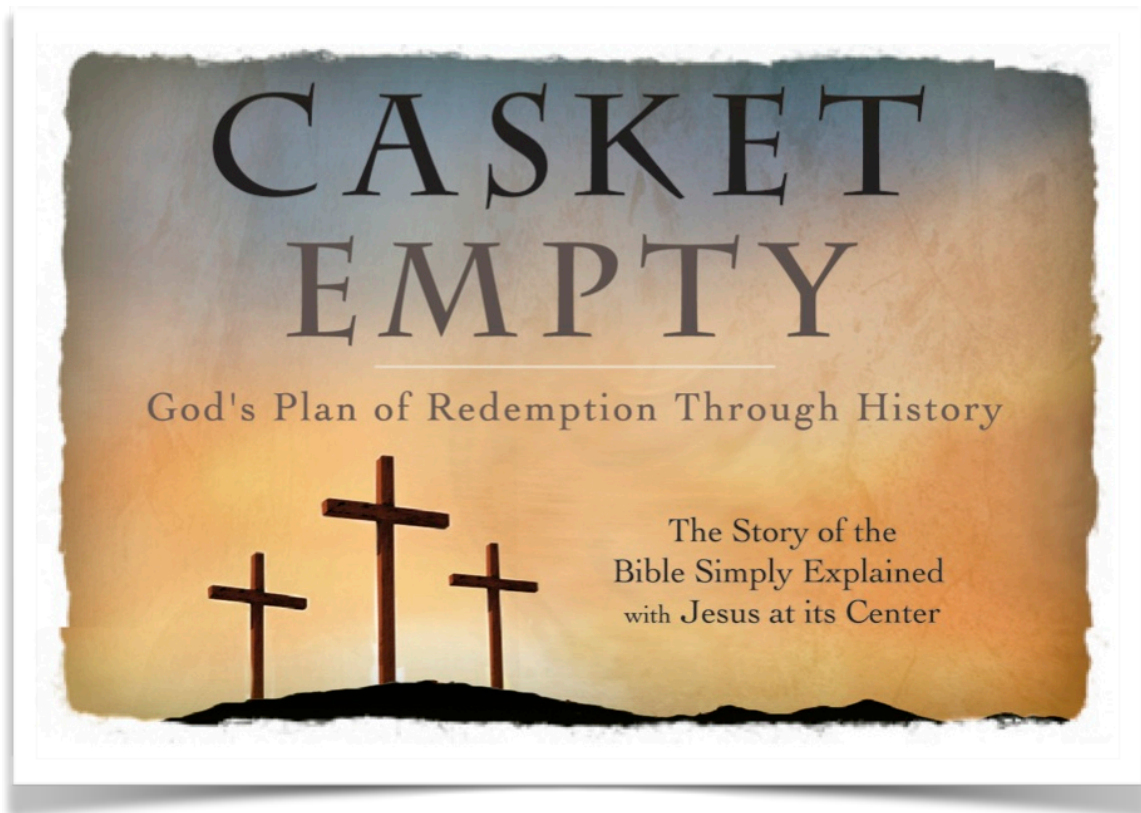
By reading the Bible, we can understand how and why God judges, and we can now live according to his standard—we can conform our lives to his desires.

The Story of the Bible

Look for the enclosed article that looks like this below, or read it online at <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/how-to-read-the-bible/>



Look for the enclosed bookmark that looks like this below, or discover more about the CASKET-EMPTY way of understanding the one-story plot line of the Bible at www.casketempty.com



What the Bible Says About Itself

just a sample of some of the many things the Bible says about itself!

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And God **said**, "Let there be light," and there was light."

Genesis 1:1-3

"You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you."

Deuteronomy 4:2

"And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord."

Deuteronomy 8:3

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Joshua 1:8

"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night."

Psalms 1:1-2

"The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

Psalms 19:7-11

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Psalms 119:105

"Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar."

Proverbs 30:5-6

"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Isaiah 40:8

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it."

Isaiah 55:10-11

"Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Jeremiah 23:29

"For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished."

Matthew 5:18

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

John 1:1, 14

"You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me"

John 5:39

"If anyone hears my words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects me and does not receive my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day."

John 12:47-48

"Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

John 17:17

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Romans 15:4

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

Colossians 3:16

"And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers."

1 Thessalonians 2:13

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"

2 Timothy 3:16

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high"

Hebrews 1:1-3

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12

"Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."

2 Peter 1:20-21

"And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures."

2 Peter 3:15-16

"Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls."

James 1:21

"I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book."

Revelation 22:18-19

III. What Your Child Can Know About God & the Bible... NOW



As Kids **GROW**, their understanding of **FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS** grows with them.



Learn more at LifeWay Kids. Go to www.lifeway.com and search for "Levels of Biblical Learning."

OLDER PRESCHOOL

~ Age 5



GOD

- God is good.
- God created everything.
- God is always with people.
- God hears people pray.
- God helps and provides for people.
- God shows His love to people.
- God loves people even when they make wrong choices.
- God tells people to worship Him.
- God tells people to obey Him.
- God can do all things.
- God always keeps His promises.
- God knows everything.
- God is real, the only true God.

JESUS

- God sent Jesus to earth as a real person.
- People in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be born.
- Jesus grew, learned, and had friends.
- Jesus prayed to God.
- Jesus taught people what God is like.
- Jesus performed miracles.
- People who love Jesus want to obey Him.
- Jesus died on the cross and is alive.
- Jesus is God's one and only Son.
- Jesus was tempted to sin but did not.
- Jesus is in heaven with God.

HOLY SPIRIT

Concept statements from the God concept area lay a foundation for later learning

about the work of the Holy Spirit. Examples of those statements are

- God helps and provides for people.
- God shows His love to people.
- God is always with people.

BIBLE

- Everything in the Bible is true.
- The Bible teaches us what God and Jesus are like.
- People wrote God's words in the Bible.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus died on a cross.
- The Bible teaches right and wrong.

SALVATION

- God sent Jesus to help people because He loves them.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, because He cares about us.
- People sometimes choose to disobey God.

CREATION

- God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh.
- God created people able to make choices.
- God provides for His creation.
- God planned for people to care for the things He made.
- God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy the things He created.
- God wants me to praise Him for His creation.

CHURCH

- The church is people who gather to learn about God and Jesus.
- Church helps teach about God and Jesus.
- The church provides ways for people to help others.
- People at church worship by praying, giving, singing, reading the Bible, and learning more about God and Jesus.
- People give money at church to help others learn about God and Jesus.
- The Lord's Supper is a special meal to remember Jesus.
- A person is baptized after he or she becomes a Christian.

PEOPLE

- People grow as God planned for them to grow.
- People are special because God made them.
- God allows people to make right and wrong choices.
- God made people able to do many things well.
- God wants people to pray.
- People can try to be like Jesus.
- Jesus taught how God wants us to treat other people.
- No matter what happens, God loves people.
- God has a plan for every person.
- People can show love for God by obeying Him.
- God wants people to take care of their bodies.
- God helps me obey Him.
- Because Jesus forgives, I can tell others I'm sorry for hurting them.
- God wants people to follow Jesus' example.

FAMILY

- God's plan for families is for mothers and fathers to raise children. Children are born or adopted into families.
- God wants families to show love, respect, and kindness to one another.
- God's plan is for children to obey their parents.
- Families worship God together.
- Families are made when people marry. The marriage of Adam and Eve shows us God's plan.
- God loves families even when they hurt each other, and He wants families to forgive each other.

COMMUNITY AND WORLD

- God made people alike and different, and all are special to Him.
- God works through people.
- People who love God tell others all over the world about Him.
- People can pray for others in their communities and world.
- The Bible tells me to love others in my community and world.
- Missionaries tell people about God and Jesus in my country and in other countries.

~ 1st & 2nd Grade

GOD

- God is perfect.
- God is Creator and worthy to be praised.
- God is everywhere.
- God hears and answers prayers.
- God has concern and care for all people.
- God shows His love to people.
- God loves people enough to provide forgiveness for sin.
- God tells people to worship Him.
- God expects people to obey, respect, and honor Him.
- God is powerful and in control of all things.
- God is fair and can be trusted.
- God knows everything.
- God is real, the only true God.
- God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

JESUS

- God sent Jesus to earth in human form.
- Prophets in the Old Testament told that Jesus would be the Savior. Jesus is the Messiah who fulfilled Old Testament prophecies.
- Jesus understands what it is like to be human.
- Jesus worshiped God.
- Jesus taught through His life what God is like.
- Jesus restored life.
- People who love Jesus want to obey Him.
- Jesus died on the cross, and God raised Him from the dead.
- Jesus was sent to be my Savior.
- Jesus was human and resisted temptation.
- Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.
- Jesus was with God at creation.

HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is a special helper.
- The Holy Spirit helps people understand God's plan for salvation.
- The Holy Spirit helps people in times of trouble.
- The Holy Spirit has always worked in the world.
- The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit led people to write the Bible.

BIBLE

- Bible truths never change.
- The Bible helps me know more about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.
- God helped people know what to write in the Bible.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead.
- The Bible teaches how God wants me to live.

SALVATION

- God provided a way for people to become Christians because He loves them.
- God sent His only Son, Jesus, to be the one and only Savior of the world.
- Sin is choosing my way instead of God's way.
- Jesus took the punishment for people's sins.
- God will forgive me if I ask Him.
- People who trust Jesus as their Savior and Lord are Christians.



CREATION

- God created the world from nothing.
- God created people to have a relationship with Him.
- God's creation follows His plan.
- God planned for people to care for His world.
- God wants me to feel a sense of wonder as I enjoy His creation.
- God wants me to praise Him for His creation.

CHURCH

- The church is not a building; it is Christians who gather to worship and serve God.
- Church leaders are chosen to teach about God and Jesus.
- The church meets the needs of people.
- God wants people to gather to worship Him.
- The money people give at church is called tithes and offerings.
- The Lord's Supper is a special event at church. People can remember Jesus when they see the Lord's Supper being observed.
- Baptism shows that people have trusted in Jesus as Savior.

PEOPLE

- Birth and growth are part of God's plan.
- People are God's most important creation.
- God helps people make good choices.
- God wants people to use their talents and abilities in ways that please and honor Him.
- God wants people to pray and read the Bible daily.
- People can follow Jesus' example by obeying God.
- When people follow God, they can love others, both friends and enemies.
- Good and bad happen to people, but God still loves them.
- God has a plan for every person's life.
- God wants people to live every day in ways that please and honor Him.
- People need to take care of their bodies because God created them.
- God helps me obey His commands in the Bible.
- God helps me know when I have hurt others. I can ask them to forgive me.
- God wants our actions, attitudes, thoughts, and words to be good.
- A disciple follows Jesus' example.

FAMILY

- God's plan for mothers and fathers is to be examples of God's love.
- God's plan for families is for them to love, respect, and help one another.
- God tells children to respect and obey their parents.
- God wants families to worship at home and other places.
- In a marriage, a man and a woman make promises to God and each other.
- God loves families and wants family members to love and forgive each other when difficult things happen.

COMMUNITY AND WORLD

- God values all people.
- God works through people to do His work in their communities and world.
- Christians are called to tell the people of the world about Jesus.
- People can pray for every people group.
- The Bible tells me to love others in my community and world.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.

GOD

- God is holy and perfect.
- God is Creator and worthy to be praised.
- God is everywhere at all times.
- God knows what people need and desire but still expects them to pray.
- God has concern and care for all people.
- God loves and values people around the world.
- God proved His unconditional love for people by sending Jesus.
- God is worthy of worship.
- God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
- God is all-powerful and in control of all things.
- God is faithful and just.
- God is all-knowing.
- God has always been and always will be.
- God is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (the Trinity).

JESUS

- Jesus was born of a virgin.
- God planned for Jesus to be the Savior from the beginning of time.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.
- Jesus taught that worship is focused on God.
- Jesus taught about faith, trust, and obedience to God.
- Jesus performed miracles through the power of God.
- People can obey Jesus as a response to His love.
- Jesus died to pay the penalty for sin.
- Jesus is the Messiah and Savior.
- Jesus was human and resisted temptation.
- Jesus ascended to heaven but promised He would return one day.
- Jesus is eternal.

HOLY SPIRIT

- God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit urges people to receive God's salvation.
- The Holy Spirit is the Comforter.
- The Holy Spirit has worked and always will work in the world.
- The Holy Spirit helps Christians tell others about Jesus.
- The Holy Spirit led people to write the Bible.

BIBLE

- The truths in the Bible will last forever.
- The Bible is God's message about Himself.
- God inspired people to know what to write in the Bible.
- The Bible teaches that Jesus died on a cross, was buried, and was raised from the dead.
- The Bible teaches how to live a Christian life.

SALVATION

- God provided a plan for salvation because He loves me.
- Salvation is the gift of eternal life in heaven with God. Through salvation, God adopts us as His children.
- The punishment for sin is separation from God.
- Jesus died to pay the penalty for my sins.
- God's salvation is a gift that every person needs and can receive.
- When the Holy Spirit convicts me of my sin, I can trust Jesus as my personal Savior.

CREATION

- God created the world from nothing.
- God created people in His image.
- God's world is orderly.
- God wants people to take responsibility for taking care of His creation.
- God is still at work in His creation and cares what happens in it.
- God wants me to praise Him for His creation.

CHURCH

- A church is a group of baptized believers who meet together to worship and serve God.
- Churches set apart people to do certain tasks.
- God uses the church to meet the needs of people in the community and around the world.
- God wants people to gather to worship Him.
- In addition to money, offerings can include time, talents, and possessions.
- The Lord's Supper is a way to remind people about what Jesus did. Christians participate in the Lord's Supper.
- Baptism by immersion shows that people have trusted Jesus as Savior and Lord.

PEOPLE

- God created me in His image.
- Each person is unique and of value to God.
- People are responsible for their choices.
- People can develop and use their abilities and talents in ways that please and honor God.
- God wants people to communicate with Him through praying and reading the Bible daily.
- People can follow the examples, teachings, and commands of Jesus.
- People can learn to love others as God loves them.
- People can learn to respond in positive ways to what happens to them.
- God wants every person to trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- People can learn about and recognize God's authority.
- People need to take care of their bodies and minds to honor God.
- God wants me to honor Him by choosing to do what is right and reject what is wrong.
- The Holy Spirit helps me know when I have hurt others. I can ask them to forgive me.
- God wants people to have pure thoughts and actions.
- God wants believers to be disciples who grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus.

FAMILY

- God's plan for mothers and fathers is to teach their children about God. Parents are examples of how God is our heavenly Father.
- God's plan is for all family members to work together so that God is honored by their family.
- God expects children to honor Him in the way they honor their parents.
- God wants families to worship together to help them grow stronger in their faith.
- In a wedding ceremony, a man and a woman make promises to God, to each other, and to all those present to be committed to each other through good and bad times.
- God loves families even when family members sin. God is always ready to forgive.

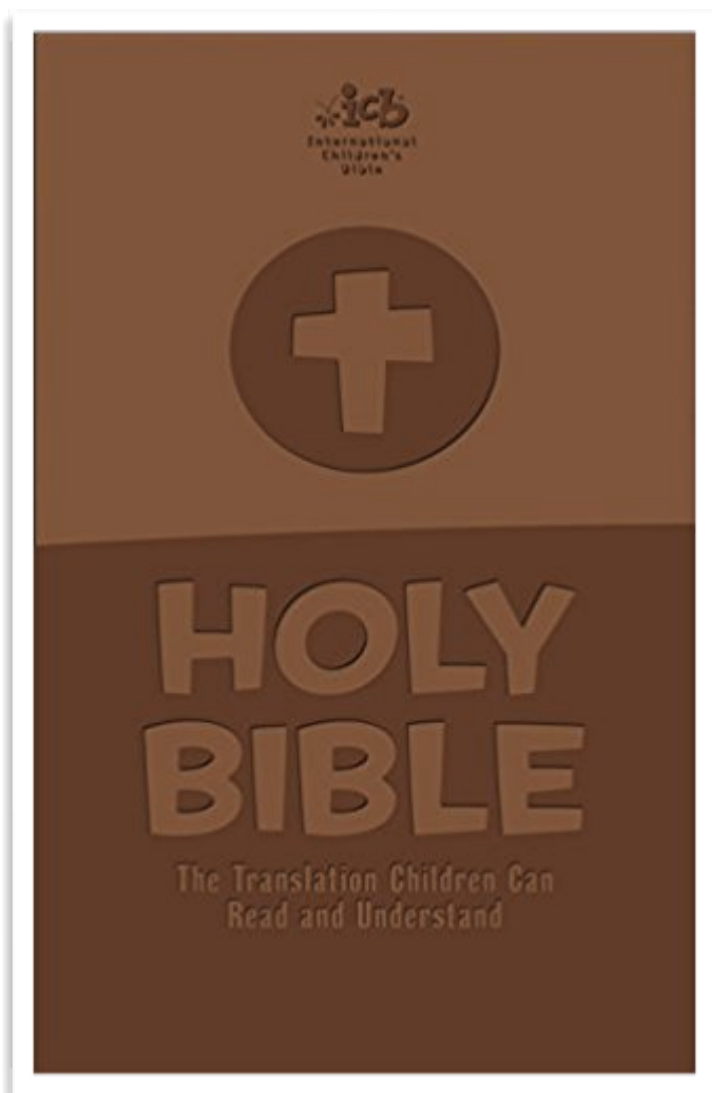
COMMUNITY AND WORLD

- God values all people.
- God works through people to do His work in their communities and world.
- Christians are called to tell people of the world about Jesus.
- People can pray for specific needs of others.
- God creates opportunities for people to connect with others.
- Missionaries are Christians called by God to tell another group of people the good news about Jesus.



IV. The “Bible Milestone” Gifts

For the Rising 1st Grade Student



About this Bible:

- The ICB® is the first version of the Bible *translated* specifically for children.
- Comprehension of the ICB® requires only a *third-grade* reading level.
- More than 21 trusted Bible scholars and translators were involved in the creation the ICB®. (Many of these same experts assisted with The New King James Version and the New International Version.)
- The best available Hebrew and Greek texts were used to assure a faithful translation of the original languages.
- The ICB® is a dynamic equivalent (thought-for-thought) translation of the Bible.
- ICB® has more than **300 Key Bible Verses** highlighted in the text so that children and new Christians can read and learn some of the most important and foundational truths of God's Word.
- A **topical index** with an introduction is included in the front matter of each new ICB® setting.
- ICB® now includes boldface words in the text that refer the reader to an entry in the **Dictionary/Concordance**. This helps the reader learn and understand new words or terms that might be unfamiliar.
- ICB® is now set in a **large readable format**. The type is a wonderful, easy-to-read, and full-bodied font that is great for children as well as adults.
- In-text **bold subject heads** are included to help readers as they go through the pages to instantly know what story they are reading.
- ICB® is available in the new updated setting in the **larger trim** and also in a **reduced "Small Hands" size** for our more popular young children's Bibles.
- ICB® contains **interior art** in a style that resonates so well with today's children.

To learn more about this Bible, please visit <http://www.tommynelson.com/kids-can-read-the-bible/>

Why we chose the “International Children’s Bible” as the Bible every 1st grader receives from HFFBC:

Below are a few answers!

1. It makes personal Bible reading attainable for an Elementary student

Because it is translated to a 3rd grade reading level, students can grow into this Bible and understand it more quickly than a NIV or ESV. So for instance, our pew Bibles at HFFBC are NIV and many of our classrooms use ESV. These Bibles simply are translated at a higher reading level than many of our young students can easily understand. While they are wonderful translations to work up into (which we will continue to encourage by 5/6th grade!) and to memorize Scripture from, they are not great for young elementary students to *personally read the Bible* themselves from.

Scripture Reading Levels:

- KJV — 12
- RSV — 12
- NRSV — 11
- NASB — 11
- ESV — 10
- HCSB — 7-8
- NIV — 7-8
- CEB — 7
- CSB — 7
- NKJV — 7
- NLT — 6
- GW — 5
- Message — 4-5
- NCV — 3
- NirV — 3

2. It is a “real” Bible

Yes, Children’s Bibles that tell stories from Scripture certainly are beneficial and tell real truths (most of the time). But most children’s Bibles are not *translations* from the original languages and are not meant to be word-for-word accounts of the Scriptures for children. The ICB is just that - a Bible is language children can understand, while still being a “real” Bible - every word is translated straight from the original Greek & Hebrew and it contains every verse that an adult Bible contains.

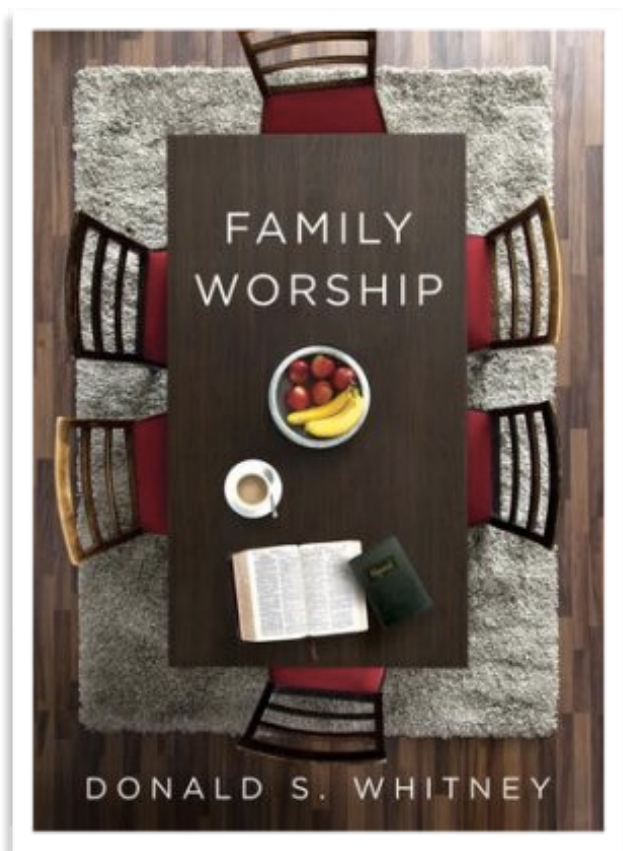
3. It provides an easy bridge to the NIV or ESV

This Bible is designed to be used up through the elementary school years. So that means children can get 4-6 years of solid, understandable and rich Bible reading in before entering even Jr. High! I certainly wish I had that kind of accessible Bible translation when I was a child! But it is not our hope that kids will *always only* use the ICB. We do hope by 5-6th grade (certainly by 7th) to begin transitioning to the NIV or ESV and thus use the same translation that is used in our preaching at HFFBC and in most Scripture memory exercises in our student ministry at HFFBC. But the ICB provides a much better bridge and transitional time to the NIV or ESV than any other children’s Bible, and provides much better understanding for 4-6 critical years than the ESV or NIV does for a child in this age-range.

About Scripture Memorization...

We know that some traditional verses will sound different in the ICB. Therefore, we do still encourage children, families and teachers to use a more common translation like the NIV or ESV for Scripture memorization during these years.

For the Parents & Whole Family



Family Worship by Donald Whitney

It is our deep encouragement for each family to not only read the Bible, come to church, sing songs, & pray to God *individually or personally*, but to also do that **together** & as a **family**! Therefore, we are giving this wonderful short book to each of your families at this time to encourage you to walk through your Christian life together as a family, and even with others of course! This book talks about the simple, yet powerful way for families to consistently **Read. Pray. Sing.** together.

Here's a description of the book:

"Gathering together for worship is an indispensable part of your family's spiritual life. It is a means for God to reveal himself to you and your loved ones in a powerful way. This practical guide by Donald S. Whitney will prove invaluable to families—with or without children in the home—as they practice God-glorifying, Christ-exalting worship through Bible reading, prayer, and singing. Includes a discussion guide in the back for small groups." (from Amazon)

Sign up for a free 5-day email course on family worship at [crossway.org/FamilyWorship101](https://www.crossway.org/FamilyWorship101)

V. How to Help Your Kids Read the Bible Personally

Read this helpful article below from Jon Nielson called "6 Ways to Teach Your Kids the Bible"

You can find this article online at

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/6-ways-to-teach-your-kids-the-bible/>



1. Pick a regular time and place for Bible reading.

In general, children tend to love a routine—a regular, anticipated time with Mom and/or Dad associated with a particular activity. Sporadic and random Bible reading may not engage your children in the same way a regular, planned, prioritized “special” time will.

In our home, we’ve chosen the chunk of time before bed for Bible reading. Our two older children know that, in the 15 to 20 minutes before bed, we’re going to gather in their room to read a Bible story, discuss it together, and pray. They’ve come to look forward to it, and it’s become as regular and natural a process as brushing their teeth. It may even help them sleep better, as many bedtime routines seem to.

2. Read short chunks.

Some of us will have to guard against being overly ambitious in the beginning. Since we believe in the power of God’s Word, we want our children exposed to as much of it as possible. So we read two full chapters from Genesis each night. Needless to say, a 5-year-old’s eyes will probably start to glaze over.

I encourage you to pick manageable passages, chosen based on thoughtful criteria. You may decide to begin in Genesis, and move through the Bible sequentially. The key is to not rush it, and to think ahead of time about the right “chunks” for each day.

3. Stop to explain and gauge comprehension.

Even if the passage for the day is only one chapter, that can be a lot for a young child to absorb if read all at once. It’s incredibly important to stop often along the way, explain things, ask questions to gauge comprehension, and ensure your kids are following along and grasping what the passage is saying.

4. Think of age-appropriate questions for discussion.

This aspect has become my children's favorite part of our nightly time together in God's Word. I've begun thinking of a few basic questions for each of them that will help them do three things with the passage we've read: (1) solidify their comprehension of the passage, (2) connect it to the Bible's overall story, and (3) apply it to their lives.

When you ask simple questions, you're doing much more than "quizzing" them to ensure they were paying attention. You are actually leading them, interactively, in a time of interpreting and applying God's Word. And you are preparing them to engage the Scriptures directly on their own in the years to come.

5. Connect each passage to Jesus.

Jesus makes an amazing—even shocking—statement to the Pharisees in John 5: "You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life. But it is they that bear witness about me." He is saying, in no uncertain terms, that the Scriptures are centered around him—his incarnation, his life, his teaching, his death, his resurrection, his return.

What does this mean for daily Bible reading with our kids? It means if we're trying to help them understand any part of the biblical storyline, we must give them a sense of how that part connects to the major character—and great climax—of that big story.

6. Let Bible reading lead to prayer.

Listening to kids who are learning to pray can be humorous. If yours are anything like mine, their prayers can be hilarious in their simplicity and self-focus. God has heard prayers in our home for dogs, movies, imaginary people, and, of course, coveted toys.

If we're honest, though, our children's prayers often are really just "kid versions" of our own. We can easily resort to praying only for our needs and wants, rather than spending time praising and adoring God, and asking for his Spirit's work in the lives of others. One way to grow in our prayer lives, then, is to intentionally tether our prayers to our reading. We can help our kids "talk back" to God daily, based on the ways he's speaking to them through the Scriptures.

Parents, press on. Daily, prayer-fueled exposure to the Word of God is the best gift we can ever give our kids.

VI. A Welcome & Intro to the HFFBC Elementary Ministries

So your growing child is now part of our Elementary Student Ministries at HFFBC! Below gives you a reminder/primer and vision for what we do as a Children's & Youth Ministry here at HFFBC. We look forward to partnering with you and continuing to help grow your child to be more like Jesus during their "school years"!

HFFBC Student Ministries

Our Purpose Statement:

*"To partner with families and students in
knowing Jesus,
growing to be more like Jesus, and
going to serve and tell the world about Jesus."*

A visual way to view this **know, grow, go** purpose and progression in student ministry is through the **head, heart, hands** visual. It is our goal and purpose here at HFFBC to develop full-person disciples of Jesus Christ, who are healthily balanced and prepared to leave home with a lifetime of genuine and bold faith in Christ ahead of them.



Our Vision - what we want things to look like if God blesses our efforts:

"Our vision is for this generation's students to come together at HFFBC and then become the next generation's Church and culture leaders, who are characterized by their **deep love** of Jesus, their **joyful obedience** to His Word, and their **missional living** in His world."

Our Mission - what we'll do everyday to advance the vision God has given us:

"Our daily mission is to **invite** students to know and experience God in Jesus, to walk alongside those students in **love**, and to **instill** in them a lifelong love for His Word and His world that would then **compel** them to participate in God's mission of redeeming all of life back to God through Jesus."

The Elementary School Years at HFFBC

As we talk about our vision of developing students who are full-person disciples of Jesus, takes place during the Elementary (grades 1-6) years? Out of our terms used above - head, heart, hands & know, grow, go - for these years, we continue as a student ministry at HFFBC to be most intentional about the **HEART** of a child.



While we are certainly interested during these years in teaching about *understanding* things (head knowledge) and the importance of *servicing* (using our hands), the first and primary important thing of student ministry is about having students fall in love with Jesus with their full heart. Jesus teaches adults in the New Testament that they should have faith like a child (Matt. 18:1-3) and so we believe that children have an enormous potential to know and love Jesus with a full heart, the kind of full faith that can even change and impact us as adults!

Notice what God in the Old Testament and then Jesus in the New Testament emphasize first when talking about which commandment is most important?

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your **heart**."*
(Deuteronomy 6:5-6)

*"The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart** and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'"* (Mark 12:29-30)

Therefore, the first step towards building a beautiful house that reflects the beauty and glory of its Creator is laying the proper foundation. And the **heart** that loves Jesus deeply and fully is the foundation we want to lay first in our young people.

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life." (Proverbs 4:23)

"For out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Luke 6:45)

We want children in the nursery, then in preschool, elementary, and even up through their teenage years to always have the constant *love* of Jesus first on their hearts, because that is what unlocks the **growing, and going** and the **head, and the hands**.



HFFBC Elementary Sunday School (grades 1-6)

About the Elementary Sunday School Ministry

"Welcome to Elementary SS at HFFBC! Working alongside parents, we are planting the seeds of faith in children Grades 1-6. It's our goal to give your children a firm foundation in the Bible and to know how they can have a personal relationship Jesus. All grades first meet in the music room downstairs for a time of worship, Bible memorization, Bible survey, and prayer. They are then dismissed to their classrooms where our fantastic teachers hold meaningful and interactive group teaching from the Bible and help children apply the truths of it to their everyday lives."

- **Laura Conant**, Elementary Sunday School Director

When is it offered? 9:15-10:15am each Sunday from September to June

Where? Downstairs from the lobby in the main church building. There are grade-specific classes for each class.

2017-2018 Teachers:

**could change for 2018-2019*

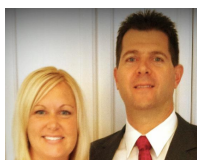
Grade 1-2 - Cathy MacArthur & Evie Whitten



Grade 3-4 - Marylee Mason & Rhonda Cameron

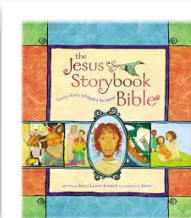


Grade 5-6 - Al & Julie Markert



Curriculum:

Our general curriculum that we use for grades 1-6 comes from the materials made available by **DiscipleLand "Core Bible"** curriculum. To learn more about this curriculum, please see the next page, which lays out a "Scope & Sequence" or go to <http://www.discipleland.com/Core-Bible-Curriculum>. Our younger classes in the past have also used the *Jesus Storybook Bible* emphasize the centrality and importance of Jesus to understanding the whole Bible.



Questions? If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our

Elementary Ministry Director, **Laura Conant**, at 603.773.9729 or darrenandlaura@comcast.net

Discipleland™

CORE BIBLE Curriculum Map

QUARTER	TITLE	TOPIC	DISCIPLESKILL	MISSIONS WORLD WATCH
Level One				
Discovering God's Greatness—the Lord's Character and Qualities (ages 6-8) <i>Topical Bible stories about God's people in Bible times (Children also read Mark 1-16)</i>				
1A	Family Life with God	God & Family	How to Show Respect	God's Great Family (William Carey)
1B	At Work with God	God & Work	How to Be Faithful Workers	God's Great Job (Gladys Aylward)
1C	At Worship with God	God & Worship	How to Worship God	God's Great Worth (Nate Saint family)
1D	Village Life with God	God & Community	How to Memorize God's Word	God's Great Passion (David Livingstone)
Level Two				
Treasuring the Bible—the Purpose and Power of God's Word (ages 7-9) <i>Topical Bible stories about God's Word (Children also read Psalms 1-41, James, & 1-3 John)</i>				
2A	How We Got the Bible	Bible Origin	How to Use My Bible	The Universal Message (Cameron Townsend)
2B	Why We Got the Bible	Bible Purpose	How to Navigate the New Testament	The "Heart" Message (12 missionary vignettes)
2C	The Bible Tells Me So	Bible Authority	How to Love God	The O.T. Message (Adoniram & Ann Judson)
2D	The Bible Guides My Life	Bible Guidance	How to Pray	The N.T. Message (Mary Slessor)
Level Three				
Serving the King—Jesus Christ's Life and Ministry (ages 8-10) <i>A chronological study of the four Gospels (Children read Matthew & Luke)</i>				
3A	Follow the King	Life of Christ, I	How to Be Jesus' Disciple	One Mandate (Hudson Taylor)
3B	Amazing Words	Life of Christ, II	How to Build Character	Many Messengers (Jackie Pullinger)
3C	Mighty Miracles	Life of Christ, III	How to Grow Spiritual Fruit	Many Methods (Sunder Singh)
3D	Triumphant Over All	Life of Christ, IV	How to Know the Truth	Global Mission (Mark Zook)
Level Four				
Transforming the World—the Church's Mission and Message (ages 9-11) <i>The unfolding drama of first-century Christianity (Children read Acts & Daniel 1-12)</i>				
4A	Eyewitnesses	Early Church, I	How to Walk in the Spirit	The First Team (Amy Carmichael)
4B	Powerful Messengers	Early Church, II	How to Explain My Faith	The Dream Team (12 martyr vignettes)
4C	Valiant Voyagers	Early Church, III	How to Make Good Friends	The Local Team (Geoorge Mueller)
4D	World Ambassadors	World View	How to Be World Christians	The Global Team (Loren Cunningham)
Level Five				
Following the Faithful—Panorama of God's Kingdom (ages 10-12) <i>An overview of God's plan for the ages (Children read Psalms 42-78, John, & 1-2 Timothy)</i>				
5A	Old Testament Champions	Tour the O.T.	How to Navigate the Old Testament	The Target (Don & Carol Richardson)
5B	New Testament Champions	Tour the N.T.	How to Discover Gifts and Talents	The Victory (Roland & Heidi Baker)
5C	Christian Champions	Church History	How to Follow God's Plan	The Pioneers (12 Church history vignettes)
5D	Tomorrow's Champions	Christian Service	How to Earn Eternal Rewards	The Visionaries (Floyd McClung)
Level Six				
Walking with God—the Christian's Highest Privilege (ages 11-14) <i>Practical disciplines for victorious living (Nehemiah, Jonah, Ephesians, & Philippians.)</i>				
6A	Bringing the Bible to Life	Bible Study Methods	How to Study My Bible	World-class Challenge (Bruce Olson)
6B	God—Up Close and Personal	Personal Devotions	How to Meet with God	World-class Preparation (Jim & Elisabeth Elliot)
6C	Standing Above the Crowd	Peer Pressure	How to Make Good Choices	World-class Opportunities (12 contemporary vignettes)
6D	After God's Own Heart	Christian Living	How to Walk Victoriously	World-class Living (Jonathan Goforth)



HFFBC Wednesday Night Children's Groups (grades 1-4)

About the Young Bereans (Grades 1-4)

In our Young Bereans class, our goal is to help children get familiar with the Word of God and His great love for them. This means holding, thinking on, examining and using their Bibles to help answer the tough questions that life brings, even to these young ones. Our belief is that if children start to use their Bibles now, that as they grow they will continue to search for the Truth of who God is from His Word. Our hope is that these little ones will grow to know who Jesus is and how much he loves them as His own; Princes and Princesses, heirs to the throne of God! Our children have an amazing night playing games, singing songs, making friends, learning teamwork, and doing service projects. We would love the privilege of time spent with your child! Please join us!"

- **Michelle Zaino**, Young Bereans Ministry Director

When is it offered? 6:30-8:00pm each Wednesday night from September to June
Where? Downstairs from the lobby in the main church building in L-3

2017-2018 Leaders:

**could change for 2018-2019*

Young Bereans

Michael & Michelle Zaino



Mike & Shani Garofalo



Kendall Prescott



Curriculum:

Our general curriculum that we use for Young Bereans comes from the curriculums offered by *Children Desiring God* (now called *Truth 7:8*). We encourage you to visit their website at <http://www.childrendesiringgod.org/> to learn more.

For 2018-2019 the specific curriculum for the year will be **"The Way of the Wise"**, which will focus on the theme of "Wisdom & Foolishness" particularly from the book of Proverbs.








Questions? If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Young Bereans Ministry Director, **Michelle Zaino**, at mndmjz@gmail.com

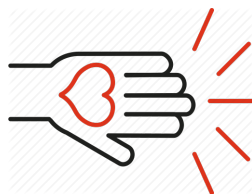
HFFBC Student Ministry Programs

What your child will grow into

(all offered from September to June)

	Sunday Mornings	Wed. Nights	 Emphasis
Preschool (ages 2-5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Preschool Wing • Age-specific classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 	
Elementary (grades 1-6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Downstairs Elem. Area • Age-specific classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Young Bereans (grades 1-4) • Plugged-In (grades 5-6) 	
Jr. High (grades 7-8)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am • Youth Sunday School class (grades 7-9) meets in Sr. High Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Jr. High Youth Group (grades 7-8) 	
Sr. High (grades 9-12)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:15-10:15am or 10:45-11:45am • Grades 10+ open to attend any adult Sunday School class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6:30-8:00pm • Sr. High Youth Group (grades 9-12) 	

VII. The Invitation from the Church to You



So, the invitation from the church here at HFFBC is to encourage you to jump into all that God has in store for you in these exciting elementary school years. Take advantage of what our church here at HFFBC can offer your family during these wonderful, challenging, busy, and beautiful years.

Parents, it is our sincere hope and desire that *you* jump into our fellowship and community here at HFFBC, that you will lean on the church for guidance, community, encouragement, challenge and correction, and spiritual resourcing. May you trust and allow the church to shepherd your children to be more like Jesus, allowing them the freedom to grow as they gain independence and seek to find their own identity for the first time. But also, parents, it is our *prayer* that you also do not rely on us too much - but that you take up the mantle of spiritual oversight of your family and that you gently, yet boldly, guide your children towards Jesus in your home life. We invite you to all our church has to offer to adults to help you learn how to best do this and not feel like you're doing this all on your own.

So our challenge and invitation to you is this - take a chance on Jesus (that He is who He says He is) and on His instituted vessel, the church, to do and be for you what it is meant to be and do - to shepherd and lead you towards the Risen Christ.

During these early elementary school years, when so much formation and nurture takes place, we pray that you will experience the fullness of who God is - the Blessed Three-in-One Trinity who loves His people, who desires us to pass along the pure faith of the Gospel of Jesus to the next generation with joy, and who gave everything to give us life. May you sense His presence with you during these years as you pour over the Scriptures, lean on His church, and seek His Spirit in prayer.

