

FOUNDATIONS CORE CURRICULUM:

I love the Bible - Lesson Plan

By Millie Gerhart © April 9 2019 May be copied for personal and classroom use. -

Click [HERE](#) for video for this lesson

For parents and nursery workers - Children 0 to 3 years.

The basic elements of "Core" lessons are repeated every week.

Goals:

- To encourage a love for the Bible and Jesus,
- Teach the basics of the Christian faith so they will remember them forever.
- To show that written words have meaning.

Why present large written words to infants and small children, along with objects, pictures, and sign language?

- To grow infants' and toddlers' ability to learn, increasing language and cognitive development, thus retaining the natural genius God put into every newborn. The body destroys brain cells that are not used and wired for future learning. See the following web sites for the scientific data showing the importance of early learning.
 - <http://www.educarer.org/brain.htm>
 - <https://thescienceofearlylearning.com/science/early-brain-development/>

The "I Love the Bible" finger play is done with motions, words, a Bible, and pictures, allowing the child to touch and look at a Bible that has only words. This gives infants love for the Bible, the desire to read words.

The following questions are answered by the "I LOVE THE BIBLE"

Core lesson:

- Why do we love the Bible more than other books?

"It's God's Words to me."

- Who is Jesus?

"Jesus is God."

- What did Jesus do?

"Jesus made everything. He died for my sins. But did He stay dead? NOOO!! He came back to life again."

- What do I know about how Jesus feels about me?

"I know, I know Jesus loves me!"

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Print out words and pictures [best on card stock]. Put into sheet protectors or laminate. The infants will want to touch and even taste the words - you need to be able to wash the cards.
- If you use sheet protectors, tape the top shut with clear tape.
- A Bible with NO pictures. Pictures distract from the words.
- Pictures of Jesus or children loving the Bible that look like real people - NOT stylized cartoons.

TIPS FOR TEACHING

As the child looks at and touches the Bible, say, **"You are a good learner. Soon you will read all God's words."**

How to use the Word cards: Note that each word is in sets of two. One is black and one is red. **Always present words very quickly and joyfully!** Even though it may not seem like it, babies take in information extremely rapidly. Don't bore them! Show each word - one a second or less.

When you show the picture of Jesus or the Bible, however, - hug it, tell the child how much you love Jesus/Bible. Sing a song with motions about the picture. Here's how I would do the word Jesus:

- Show black word, "Jesus" Say: **Jesus**
- Show red word, "Jesus" Say: **Jesus**
- Ask: **Where's Jesus?**
- Then the picture of Jesus. Say: **"Here's Jesus!"**
- Hug the picture, **"I love you, Jesus!"**
- Sing a song with motions like: **"Oh how I love Jesus. Oh how I love Jesus. Oh how I love Jesus. Because He first loved me."**
Or sing the song, **"Jesus Loves Me."**
- If the infant tries to mimic you in any way, repeat what the infant tried to do. **Follow the infant's lead.**

Do this with the infant's name:

- Make word cards in black and red with each child's name.
- Show the **black** word card with the child's name - Say his/her name.
- Show the **red** card with the child's name. Say his/her name.
- Put a soft cloth or the card over the child's face and ask:
Where's _____[child's name]?
- Quickly uncover the child's face and say: Here's _____[child's name] - give infant a hug *[you might also show the child a mirror so they can see their own face. Most children like to*

have the top of their head rubbed affectionately, you might try that. Follow what the infant seems to enjoy.

Example for child named Luke:

Luke, Luke. Where's Luke? Cover the infant's face, then quickly uncover his face, saying. **There's Luke.** [Like Peek-a-boo game]

Ask: **Who is Luke?**

Put your finger into each of the Luke's hands, bounce hands in time with the song. Sing: [Tune: Are You Sleeping] **Luke is God's man! Luke is God's man! Jesus loves Luke. Jesus loves Luke.**

For Mother to do:

- Show word cards - black, then red - "**Mommy**" - "**Mommy**"
- Hold card your face as you say, "**Where's Mommy?**"
- Pull the card away like Peek-a-boo and say, "**Here's Mommy!**"

For Dad to do:

- Use the "Daddy" Word Cards - follow same pattern as above.

Sign language for words used in this lesson:

- **Oh How** [Song: Oh how I love Jesus] - Make both hands into an "O" shape and make big circles in the air.
- **Jesus** - Middle finger point to palm of each hand.
- **Bible** - Sign "Jesus", praying hands move to open like a book.
- **Love or loves** - open hands cross over heart like a hug
- **Me** - point to self
- **Mommy** - Open hand, thumb touches chin 2 times.
- **Daddy** - Open hand, thumb touch forehead 2 times.
- **Heavenly father:** 2 open hands, thumbs touch forehead 2 times, then hands go up to God in praise.

I LOVE THE BIBLE FINGER PLAY

Show the children the Bible - I use a Bible without pictures. Pictures distract from your purpose in this activity. Open it, let them touch the words. Tell them "You will soon be able to read those words. You are a good learner.

Put the Bible in your lap or table - NOT on the floor.

Teach respect for God's Word.



I love the Bible



Hug self as if hugging a Bible

It's God's Words



**BOTH HANDS:
Point up to God,
then
POINT TO MOUTH
AND
THEN MOVE HANDS
OUT AS IF THE
WORDS ARE COMING OUT YOUR MOUTH.**

To me..

Point to self



I open the pages
and this is what I
see.



Hands together like a
book, then open them
as you would a book.



Jesus

Finger of right hand in palm of left
hand, then the pointer of left hand
in the palm of the right hand to show
nails in Jesus' hands.



Is God

Point up to God.



<p>He made everything.</p>	<p>Open arms to indicate everything.</p>	
<p>He died for my sins</p>	<p>Lean over to the side.</p>	 <p>He died for my sins</p>
<p>But did He stay dead?</p>	<p>Look at children and ask in an excited way.</p>	
<p>NOOO!</p>	<p>Shake head and say NOO! Students will soon begin to say NOOO! - even the 1-year-olds will.</p>	
<p>He came back to life again.</p>		<p>Come back to straight up position.</p>

<p>I know, I know</p>	<p>Touch head 2 times.</p>	
<p>Jesus loves me!</p>	<p>Sign Jesus [nails in hands] Hug self Point to self.</p>	
<p>I know, I know Jesus Loves me!</p>	<p>Repeat motions above.</p>	

J e s u s

J e s u s



Picture from Gods411.org

Jesus Loves Me

l o v e s

l o v e s

me

me

I

love

I

love

the

the

Bible

Bible

I love the Bible.

It's God's Words to me.



Mommy

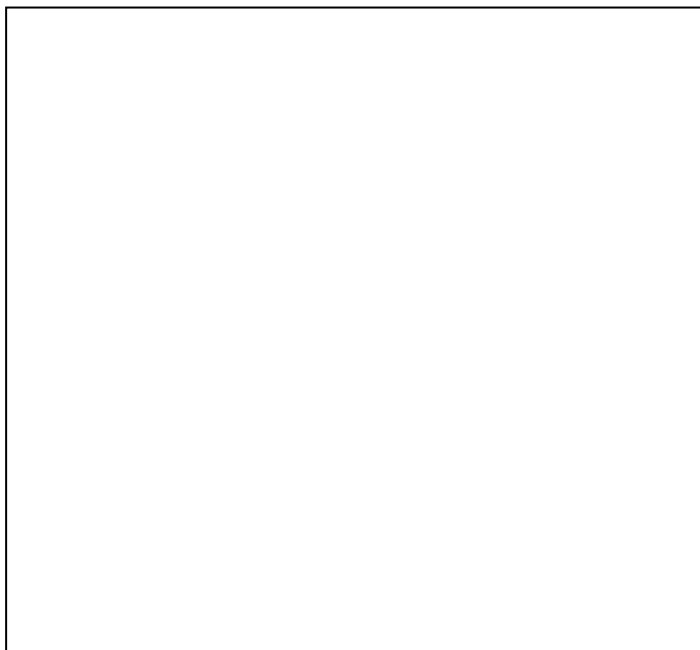
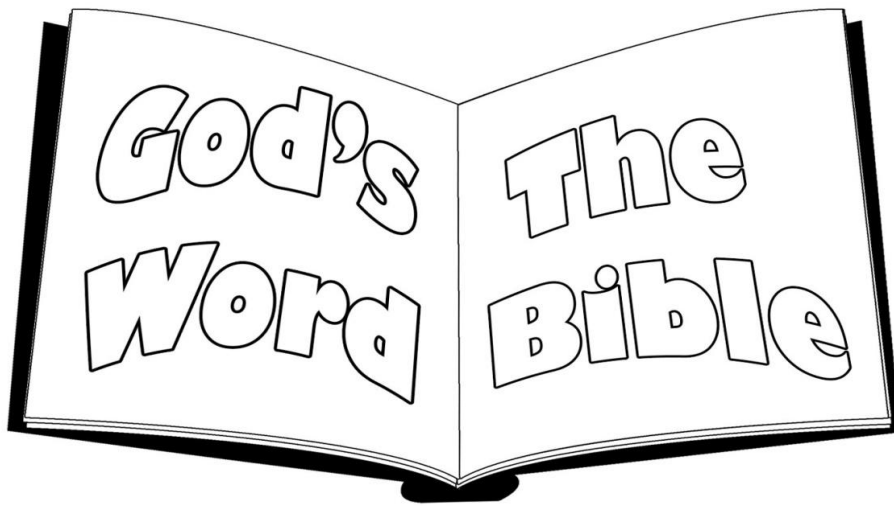
Mommy

Daddy

Daddy

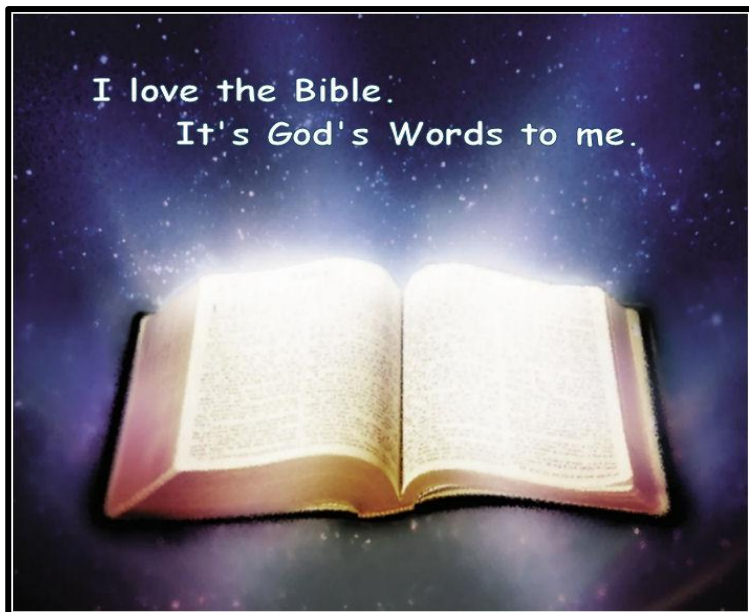
Craft: For children 18 months and up.

Bible



Cut out the pictures ahead of time. Let each child pick the picture they want to glue or tape on the square.

Some children like to put small stickers in the open shape of the word, other's just scribble - both are OK. If the child enjoys taping or gluing, let them tape or glue the other pictures on the back. **Follow the child's lead.**



Stories from Mothers whose children had done the "I Love the Bible" activity in class.

2015 - Mom wrote: "I wanted to share a story I thought you may appreciate.

"We were at my brother's wedding, and they had a bible laying out. This older gentleman was talking to Cherry [age 3], and she touched the bible. He said "that's the Bible!" She said, "yes, it's God's word to us!" It was a proud mama moment! "

1982 - NOTE: When children are learning, it might not look like it. They might just stare at you, and it may look like they're not learning anything. Not so! Read below.

STORY OF 2 YR OLD - She didn't look like she was learning anything when we did the "I Love the Bible" activity, but boy was I wrong! She didn't do the motions or say anything in class. She just sat and stared. A few weeks after we started doing the activity, her grandmother told me this. When she got home, the little girl gathered all her dolls and stuffed animals around in a semi-circle and taught them everything I taught in class. One day, a neighbor came to visit Grandma. The neighbor asked, "Who is Jesus anyway?" The little girl looked up from across the room and said very emphatically, "Jesus is God! He made everything!"

So when infants and toddlers just stare at you during an activity, and you are tempted to think they are not getting it, know they are taking in every word and gesture.

Even 10 month old children will say what they learned as infants as soon as they are verbal.

We had parents rotate into the nursery for training. This boy's parents moved out of the area when the baby was 10 months old. Months later, I got a call from the mom. She had not done the "I love the Bible" activity with her son since they moved. She thought she would do it with her 20 month old son. So she started, "I love the Bible. It's God's Words to me. I open the pages and this is what I see. Jesus is..." she paused to see what her son would do. He finished it, "...God. He made everything." He remembered what he had learned before he was 10 months old.

Reason for Millie's Core Activities Repeated Every Class

In 1983, I was teaching a fifth grade Sunday school class. Most of the students had been in church all their lives, some were children of the pastors. I discovered many of them did not know or believe the basics of the Christian faith in which they grew up. They had no foundation and were already set in their unbelief. Fifth grade was too late to lay a foundation. How had the church failed them? Why were these children so vulnerable to the lies of "the foe and the avenger?"

At the same time, I was receiving training from the Better Baby Institute in preparation for working with brain damaged babies and children. God led me to start using my training to teach infants and preschool children at church.

So I prayed. "Holy Spirit, make me one with The Father's heart. What does The Father want children to remember forever and ever, even when they are 93 and can't remember their own children's names?" The "I Love the Bible" is the answer to that prayer. It lays a foundation for love of God's Word, faith in Jesus Christ, a deep knowledge that they are loved by Jesus, and that they are God's treasured son or daughter of the Creator of the Universe--God's man or God's princess.

I call these activities the "core" curriculum, because they are repeated every Sunday, no matter what story is being presented that week. Infants and preschool children up to the age of 3 love repetition. It's how they learn. What they learn in fun, repeated ways, before the age of three, will be remembered and treasured when they are 93. If you go into any memory care facility for older people with dementia or Alzheimer's disease and sing "Jesus Loves Me" or say "The Lord's Prayer," Psalm 23, or anything they learned as children. These people with impaired ability to remember will sing it or say it with you.