



SHARPEN THE SWORD:

*Preparing a Child's
Heart, Mind, and
Spirit for Action*

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Sharpen the Sword: Preparing a Child's Heart, Mind, and Spirit for Action

One of our favorite parables is Matthew 13:44-45.

“The Kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”

When we look at this parable, we ask, “What is the treasure? What are the pearls?” We also ask, “Who is the man that found the treasure? Who is the merchant that found the pearl?”

Jesus told stories, and they often had layers of meaning. These parables have two meanings (at least).

God is the Great Treasure and God is the Pearl! GOD is the most valuable prize, and WE are the seekers! Like the man who found the treasure or the merchant who found the pearl, we should willingly give everything we have to follow Jesus and live out his kingdom. Finding God is worth paying any price!

We are the Treasure and the Pearl! This parable also teaches that WE are the prize, and GOD is the seeker! In these parables we see the redemption story. Jesus saw that His image-bearers were separated from God because of our sin. God wanted to redeem humanity from the clutches of the Enemy. So, God “sold everything” – God gave his life and paid ALL He had to redeem humanity.

Jesus wanted to convey:

People are valuable. We are God’s great treasure.
God is valuable. God is our great treasure.

“Preparing a child’s heart, mind, and spirit for action” means helping children grasp God’s perspective. Therefore, **this eBook seeks to help kids treasure both God and His Word and value what God treasures – people from all ethnic groups.**

While living in Thailand, we gathered kids from multiple nations. Our invitation to 3rd to 6th graders was simple, “Come learn to handle your Sword (Word of God) with speed, and come pray for the nations since God loves the world so much!” The children came consistently and eagerly – they wanted a challenge. One 6th grader said, “I like coming here because it’s real and deep. We have fun, but our goal is to be a soldier with Jesus. I get bored with a lot of youth group games.”

God has allowed us to serve in various nations where we found friends who also loved Bible Drill! House churches in China loved the speed of Bible Drill. It’s really hard to fathom the amazing memorization skills of Chinese believers as we met “Brother Matthew” and “Sister 1 Corinthians” and “Brother Galatians.” Oh my, they were the walking Bible, and they loved God’s Word! In North India, high school and university students laughed and had tons of fun with Scripture memory and Bible competition, not to mention the daily, hour-long prayer gatherings that they initiated! These young

people worked hard to prepare their hearts. The Bible and prayer are a couple of God's greatest gifts to the world, we have the privilege of making them fun!

We compiled this eBook specifically to help anyone who wants to gather children for the purpose of treasuring God, His Word, and His world. May this resource assist you to train up children by preparing them in "Bible Drill" (chapters 1-3) and "Prayer for the Nations" (chapter 4). We hope that this small guide will help you sharpen their outward-focused prayers and sharpen their upward-focused love toward Jesus.

The New Testament author Jude wanted to encourage believers. He felt compelled to "write and urge [believers] to contend for the faith, that was once for all entrusted to God's holy people" (Jude 3). God wants all believers to know His Word and to fight earnestly in defense of the faith. That willingness to contend for the faith comes from *knowing God's Word* and *knowing how to use the sword of the Spirit* offensively and defensively. In the Bible, God reveals his character and God shows his passion for the world. Applying this knowledge, this true wisdom, leads to changed lives!

So, put on your armor. Stand up. Raise your sword. Listen to the Word. Recognize the Shepherd's voice. Know you are deeply loved because Jesus paid it all to rescue you, his treasure. And with that identity, expend your life valuing and treasuring Jesus. Share his heart for the world. Contend for the faith that set you free. Fight gloriously for the Savior who wants to set the whole world free.

Attention. Ready. Go.
Until All Know,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie + Chad". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Until All Know,".

Leslie and Chad

One

Prepare with Bible Skills – Books, Drills, Keys, and Memorization

What exactly is Bible Drill, and how do you lead it? Some of you may be familiar with Bible Drill. Maybe you grew up competing in Sunday School when the teacher called out a Bible reference and you raced your peers to find it. Others of you participated in an official program at your church and Bible Drill came with a list of verses that each child or youth learned. Or maybe your church had a version of “Bible Quiz” or “Bible Memorization Contest.” You already know the benefits and the blessings of being familiar with God’s Word and hiding it in your heart. In this eBook, we jump past the biblical basis/rationale for Bible Drill, and we start with the “how-to’s” of how we did Bible Drill in Asia for kids of multiple nations. We combined our own version of Bible Drill with also time for facilitated prayer for the nations.

This eBook combines various strategies but aims at helping kids (and adults) learn key passages that directly enable them to understand God’s heart for the world, equip them to defend their faith, and empower them to remember key passages when sharing their faith.

During the Bible Drill portion of the gathering, we do a variety of skills to enable kids to work with their Sword. If you prefer to watch a demonstration video, click on the links.

For a typical evening of Bible Drill/Prayer for the Nations, the kids gathered for an hour and a half. We (leaders) took the first 45 minutes to guide the kids to pray for specific world situations. We wanted to focus on, and guard the prayer time, so we *started* with prayer. In the second 45-minute section, we divided them by grade level, and we did Bible Drill. You can adjust the time as you need.

Bible Skills

Memorize the Books of the Bible – One skill each child should gain is memorizing the books of the Bible in order. At the beginning, kids may need to open their Bibles to the Table of Contents for this drill. The goal is that the kids can eventually say the books of the Bible from memory (fast is fun)!

How to Play:

- a. Say all the books of the Bible in order together as a group. Everyone says, “Genesis, Exodus...” Helps them know how to pronounce some of the harder ones.
- b. Go around and say each book of the Bible one person at a time. Example: Suzy says “Genesis.” Rani says “Exodus.” Marco says “Leviticus,” and so on. This enables the kids to work as a team and helps them hear and participate.
- c. Arrange the books of the Bible in order using flash cards. This option is less verbal, but this strategy helps kids see if they need to work on one area, like Minor Prophets or Epistles.
- d. With flash cards, show kids the name of a book. The child tries to say the book *before*, the book seen on the card, and the book *after*. This helps them place it in nearby context.
- e. Eventually each child should aim to say all the books in order all by themselves.

Book Drill – This drill shows students how to find books of the Bible quickly and challenges them to remember what book comes *before* and what book comes *after*.

How to Play:

1. Leader instructs the kids with certain commands – “Attention, Present Bibles, Go, Time, Close your Bible...”

2. Leader says, “Attention,” and kids stand in a row.

Attention – Bring the Bible to your side with arms straight.

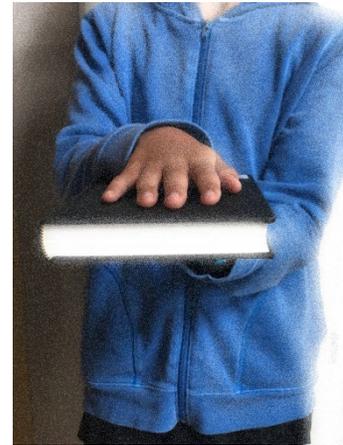
- Right-handed kids hold the Bible in their left hand, with the Bible spine down. (See image →)
- Left-handed kids hold the Bible in their right hand, with the Bible spine down.



3. Leader says, “Present Bibles.”

Present Bibles – Kids bring the Bible flat to waist level with palms on top and bottom.

- Right-handed kids have Revelation on top. (See image →)
- Left-handed kids have Genesis on top.
Thumbs and fingers remain on top of the Bible – not on the spine or on the pages. No cheating! Ha!



4. Leader calls out a book “Matthew... (pause to think)... Go.”

5. Child searches, finds the book, puts their finger on the page, and takes one step forward.

6. Leader waits a few seconds and calls, “Time.”

You can call “Time” at 10 seconds, or 20 seconds if kids are just beginning, or 5 seconds if the kids are fast! Make it fun. Be sensitive. Keep it moving, so kids know they will have another chance next time.

7. Leader says, “Close your Bibles,” and calls on one person saying, “State the book before, the book I called, and the book after” (“Malachi – Matthew – Mark”).

8. Have all the kids repeat the three books together.

This is good at the beginning. Leaders can leave out this repetition step when kids are familiar with the books.

9. Repeat the process, “Attention.”

10. Do this drill 5-6 (or 20) times with different books of the Bible.

Video Link of Demonstration Drill ([available soon](#))

Fun Bible Fact Hints:

- The Old Testament (OT) has 39 books. The New Testament (NT) has 27 books. Total of 66 books.
- 4 Quarters – Find and hold your fingers in the following books. Notice the 4 divisions.
 1. 1st Quarter marker – 1 Samuel
 2. 2nd Quarter marker – Psalms Psalms is roughly the half-way point.
 3. 3rd Quarter marker – Matthew The New Testament is the whole last quarter.
- Remember the OT divisions 17-5-17
 1. Pentateuch 5 books
 2. Historical 12 books
 3. Poetic 5 books
 4. Major Prophets 5 books
 5. Minor Prophets 12 books
- Remember the NT divisions
 1. 4 Eye-witness Gospels Matthew, Mark (Peter), Luke (Mary), John
 2. 1 Historical Luke's early church history and mission.
 3. 13 Letters of Paul Missionary letters. Arranged longest to shortest.
 4. 8 Letters of Others Hebrews is unknown. 2 half-brothers of Jesus.
 5. 1 Revelation John's apocalyptic vision.

Key Passage Drill – Key passages are vital Scripture portions the children should know. This skill enables children to hide God's Word in their hearts so that when a situation comes up in their lives, they can quickly remember a passage which answers that issue/concern/objection. When calling out Key Passages, leaders will use the same commands and pattern as the Book Drill.

How to Play:

1. Leader says, "Attention." "Present Bibles."
2. Choose a passage from the semester's list, i.e. "Ask God for the Nations... (think)... Go."
3. Child remembers "Psalm 2:8" and searches. Find it. Finger on verse. One step forward.
4. Leader instructs a child to read the key passage or a portion/verse if it's long.
5. Repeat aloud for all children to participate. "Ask God for the Nations." All of the children answer, "Ask God for the Nations. Psalm 2:8."
6. Repeat the process with the next key passage. "Attention..."

Video Link of Demonstration Drill (available soon)

Memorization Drill – We love memorizing Bible passages! Some kids find this easier than others. There are numerous ways to practice hiding God's Word in our heart. Once children *find* the key passages, if they can *memorize* part or whole, go for it! As amazing sponges, the minds of children can often memorize large Scripture portions.

Leaders can set up an appropriate challenge for your group.

- Who can memorize 1 verse, 10 verses, 25 verses, 50 verses, 100 verses?

- Who can memorize an entire key passage? All the key passages?
- Who can memorize a chapter?
- Who can memorize a whole Bible book?
- Who wants to be known as “Brother Philipians” or “Sister 1 John”?

The practice of Scripture memory will stay with kids their entire lives. One of our friends in China memorized 1,000 verses on love and forgiveness the year she became a Christian. She taught her Bible school students to do the same. Our daughter’s class at her school memorized Psalm 91. So as a family, we also took up the challenge and worked to memorize the whole chapter. We find that Scripture memory on long car drives (or school commuting) is time well spent. You can watch amazing and inspirational videos online of young people quoting passages of Scripture. If your group wants the challenge, set a goal, make a chart, check those verses off, and review regularly.

Did you know... a person who has memorized the entire Qur’an in Arabic is called a “Hafiz.”

As we shared earlier, the goal of Bible Drill skills is to help kids fall in love with Jesus and his Word. The leader should also grow the kids’ understanding of why these passages are important. Kids should learn to obey what the Bible says (and not be hearers only!) In a later section, we will share how to help the kids apply the key passages with a simple set of questions that are used in disciple-making movements in many nations.

The Books of the Bible Old Testament

When learning the books of the Bible, we explain the main sections so kids can comprehend the big picture. It's good for all of us to understand how and why the Bible is arranged in its order.

Video Link Explaining Key Points of Bible Arrangement (available soon)

Books of Moses

Genesis

Exodus

Leviticus

Numbers

Deuteronomy

Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah

Lamentations

Ezekiel

Daniel

Books of History

Joshua

Judges

Ruth

1 Samuel

2 Samuel

1 Kings

2 Kings

1 Chronicles

2 Chronicles

Ezra

Nehemiah

Esther

Minor Prophets

Hosea

Joel

Amos

Obadiah

Jonah

Micah

Nahum

Habakkuk

Zephaniah

Haggai

Zechariah

Malachi

Books of Poetry (Wisdom)

Job

Psalms

Proverbs

Ecclesiastes

Song of Solomon



The Books of the Bible

New Testament

The Gospels

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

History of the Church

Acts

Epistles by Paul

Romans

1 Corinthians

2 Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

1 Thessalonians

2 Thessalonians

1 Timothy

2 Timothy

Titus

Philemon

General Epistles

Hebrews

James

1 Peter

2 Peter

1 John

2 John

3 John

Jude

Prophetic Epistle by John

Revelation



Two

Prepare with Eight Semesters of Key Passages

May the Holy Spirit use these key passage lists to build a strong biblical worldview! The sets of Scriptures listed here cover eight semesters so leaders can rotate fresh material over a four-year cycle. Ideally, a child will “sharpen their swords” for four years (and beyond!) and move through all eight semesters. The 20 key passages highlighted in each semester develop different facets of worldview. If you need to repeat a semester, or if one set of passages is more applicable in your context, feel free NOT to go in order. Choose the semesters that most benefit your group.

Purpose of Each Semester

Semester 1 *Who Is God? – Names of God*

This most foundational question seeks out the identity of the Most-High God. These key passages help the student discover God’s character, nature, and desire for relationship, as well as God’s kingdom and mission.

Semester 2 *Who Am I? – My Identity in Christ*

Grasping who we are in Christ grounds us strongly on his firm foundation. Realizing our identity prepares us to withstand the attacks against us and prepares us to go on offense.

Semester 3 *The Big Story – Basic Disciple Story-Set*

From Creation to Christ and beyond, these passages lay the foundation for understanding the Christian worldview.

Semester 4 *God’s Mission Through the Bible*

For those who believe that “missions” is only in Matthew 28 and Acts 1:8... think again! God’s global mission runs from Genesis to Revelation, and every Christian has a responsibility to engage in His global purposes. Discover God’s plan for the nations!

Semester 5 *Apologetics for Worldviews*

The Bible contains Good News for each and every religious block. Learn key passages that speak into the hearts of people groups from T.H.U.M.B. backgrounds.

Semester 6 *Spiritual Disciplines*

Expand your heart regarding spiritual practices. Realize that these multiple disciplines are powerful spiritual weapons.

Semester 7 *Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus*

Jesus did not just appear. He was *anticipated* for centuries! Dig into the prophetic hope of the Messiah and see how Jesus fulfills them all (with more fulfilling to come)!

Semester 8 *Heroes of Great Faith*

The Bible presents numerous imperfect characters who take risks and demonstrate powerful faith. May their faith inspire you to expect great things from God and attempt great things for God!



Semester 1 Who Is God? – Names of God

Psalm 119:11 *“Holy and awesome is His name”*

KEY PASSAGE	HEBREW MEANING	REFERENCE	✓
1. Yahweh	LORD, God	Deuteronomy 6:4	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Elohim	God of Power and Might	Genesis 1:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. El Shaddai	Lord, God, Almighty	Job 5:17	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Jehovah Sabaoth	The Lord of Hosts	Isaiah 1:24	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. El Elyon	God Most High	Genesis 14:18-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Jehovah Jireh	God is Provider	Genesis 22:13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Jehovah Nissi	God is My Victory	Exodus 17:15	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Jehovah Raah	God is My Shepherd	Psalm 22:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Jehovah Rapha	God is Healer	Exodus 15:26	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Jehovah Shalom	The Lord is Peace	Judges 6:24	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Jehovah Tsidkenu	The Lord Our Righteousness	Jeremiah 23:6	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Immanuel	God with Us	Matthew 1:23	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Way, Truth, Life		John 14:6	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Savior		John 4:39-42	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Alpha and Omega		Revelation 1:8	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Good Shepherd		John 10-11-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Messiah		Mark 14: 61-64	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Friend		John 15:13-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. King of Glory		Psalm 24:7-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Bread of Life		John 6:48-51	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Lion of Judah/Lamb of God		Revelation 5:5-8	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 2 Who Am I? – My Identity in Christ

Psalm 8:4 *“What are mere mortals that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?”*

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. I am made in God's image.	Genesis 1:27	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I am God's child.	John 1:12	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I have been justified and declared righteous.	Romans 5:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ.	John 15:15	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I am united with Christ, I am one with Him in spirit.	1 Corinthians 6:17	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.	1 Corinthians 6:19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. I am a member of Christ's body.	1 Corinthians 12:27	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.	Ephesians 1:3-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.	Colossians 1:13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. I am complete in Christ.	Colossians 2:9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. I have access to the throne of grace through Jesus.	Hebrews 4:14-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.	Romans 8:28	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. I am free from any condemnation, and I cannot be separated from the love of God.	Romans 8:31-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. I have been established, anointed and sealed by God.	2 Corinthians 1:21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. I am hidden with Christ in God.	Colossians 3:1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. I am confident God will complete the good work He started in me.	Philippians 1:6	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. I am a citizen of heaven. Heaven is my home.	Philippians 3:20	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind.	2 Timothy 1:7	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. I am born of God and the evil one cannot touch me.	1 John 5:18	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.	John 15:16	<input type="checkbox"/>
AND SOME EXTRA-AWESOME ONES!		
21. I am God's temple.	1 Corinthians 3:16	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms.	Ephesians 2:6	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. I am a minister of reconciliation for God.	2 Corinthians 5:17-21	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. I may approach God with freedom and confidence.	Ephesians 3:12	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. I am a personal witness to Christ.	Acts 1:8	<input type="checkbox"/>

Semester 3 The Big Story – Basic Disciple Story-Set

Deuteronomy 6:4 *“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.”*

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. Creation by a Creative God	Genesis 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Fall from a Perfect God	Genesis 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Flood from a Righteous God	Genesis 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Red Sea Miracle with a Delivering God	Exodus 14	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Ten Commandments by a Law-Giving God	Exodus 20:1-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Judges from a Just God	Judges 4:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Kings from a Ruling God	2 Kings 22	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Psalms from a Magnificent God	Psalms 19	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Proverbs from a Wise God	Proverbs 3:5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Prophets from a Communicating God	Jeremiah 29:11-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Jesus' Birth	Matthew 1:18-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Jesus' Baptism	Luke 3:21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Jesus Walks on Water	Matthew 14:22-33	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Jesus Raises Lazarus	John 11:1-44	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Jesus Crucified	Luke 23:26-49	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Jesus Resurrected	John 20:1-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Church Expands by the Holy Spirit	Acts 2:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Bold Apostles Sent by a Missionary God	Acts 9:1-31	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Basic Disciple-Making for Young Believers	Hebrews 6:1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. End of Time from a Revealing God	Revelation 1:9-20	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 4 God's Mission Through the Bible

Psalm 96:3 *"Declare His glory among the nations, His wonderful works among all peoples."*

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. Great Commission to Make Disciples of All Nations	Matthew 28:19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. A Heavenly Multitude from All Nations	Revelation 7:9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. God Calls Abram and Sarai to Bless Nations	Genesis 12:1-3	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Daniel in the Lions' Den for the Nations	Daniel 6	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. In the Exodus God Crushes Egyptian Deities	Exodus 12	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. God's Powerful Witnesses to all Nations	Acts 1:8	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Priestly Duty for the Nations	Romans 15:16	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. House of Prayer for All Nations	Mark 11:17	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Declare His Glory Among the Nations	1 Chronicles 16:23-36	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Tower of Babel and Scattering Nations	Genesis 11:1-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. God's Mission through Image Bearers	Genesis 1:26-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Rahab and the Fear of the Nations	Joshua 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Hebrew Church Expands to Gentiles	Acts 11:19-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Jesus Died for the Sins of the Whole World	1 John 2:2	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. All Nations Purchased for God	Revelation 5:9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Queen of Sheba for the Nations	1 Kings 10:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Pentecost Launches Believers to All Nations	Acts 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Good News Preached to All Nations	Luke 24:44-49	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Ask God For the Nations	Psalm 2:8	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. 12 Tribes Are Too Small... a Light for the Gentiles	Isaiah 49:6	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 5 Apologetics for Worldviews

1 Peter 3:15 *“But honor the Messiah as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.”*

KEY PASSAGE	IMPACTS	REFERENCE	✓
1. Live Once, Die Once	Buddhist/Hindu	Hebrews 9:27	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. God...Creator of All Things	Atheist	Genesis 1:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. We Believe in One God	Muslim	Deut. 6:4, Mark 12:29	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Fear Not!	Animist	Psalm 46:2	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Salvation Found Where?	All Groups	Acts 4:12	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Doubting Thomas	Atheist	John 20:24-29	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Jesus Calms the Storm	Animist	Mark 4:35-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Word of God Stands Forever	Muslim	Isaiah 40:8	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Abraham Sacrifices His Son	All Groups	Genesis 22	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Weary? Carry Jesus' Burden	All Groups	Matthew 11:28-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Suffering Servant Dead/Alive	Jewish	Isaiah 53	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Jesus Gives Peace	Hindu	John 14:27	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Jesus on Road to Emmaus	Muslim	Luke 24:13-35	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Worship Creator Not Creation	Animist	Romans 1:20	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Sloth vs. Diligent Desire	Buddhist	Proverbs 13:4	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Golden Calf Displeased God	All Groups	Exodus 32	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Jesus Predicts His Death	Muslim	Matthew 16:21	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Dead Man's Wish for Lazarus	All Groups	Luke 16:19-31	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Gain the World, but Lose	Atheist/Secular	Matthew 16:26	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. No Other god Before or After	Hindu	Isaiah 43:10-13	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 6 Spiritual Disciplines

1 Peter 2:21 *“For you were called to this, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in His steps.”*

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. Make Multiplying Disciples	2 Timothy 2:2	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Memorizing and Meditating	Psalm 119:11-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fasting	Matthew 6:16-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Prayer	Luke 11:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Giving	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Pilgrimage	Psalm 84:5-7	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Silence and Solitude	Luke 4:42-44	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Listen to God’s Voice	1 Samuel 3:1-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Put on Spiritual Armor	Ephesians 6:10-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Spread News of Jesus and His Kingdom	Acts 28:30-31	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Abide in Christ	John 15:5-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Worship	2 Kings 17:35-39	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Lord’s Supper	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Baptism	Romans 6:3-5	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Fruit of the Spirit	Galatians 5:22-23	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Foot Washing	John 13:13-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Physical Exercise	1 Timothy 4:7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Purity and Separation	Leviticus 19:1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Prepare Your Minds	1 Peter 3:15	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Christ-like Ethics...Conquer Evil	Romans 12:9-21	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 7 Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus

Luke 24:27 *“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”*

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. Jesus Explains that Scriptures Talk About Him	John 5:39	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. First Prophecy of Jesus	Genesis 3:15	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. God Will Provide	Genesis 22:1-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Passover Lamb	Exodus 12:1-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Bronze Serpent and the Look of Faith	Numbers 21:4-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. A Prophet Like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Messiah’s Birth in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Messiah Came Out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Samson Foreshadows the Cross	Judges 16:26-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Crucified, But Not Abandoned	Psalms 22	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. God’s Holy One Will Not See Decay	Psalms 16:8-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. A Virgin Will Conceive	Isaiah 7:14	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Unto Us a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9:6	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Suffering Servant and Slaughtered Lamb	Isaiah 53	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego	Daniel 3:1-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Riding a Colt Into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Jesus Predicts His Own Death and Resurrection	Matthew 17:22-23	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Betrayed By a Friend Who Shared Bread	Psalms 41:5-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Promised Holy Spirit	Acts 1:3-9	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Son of Man Returning to Rule	Daniel 7:13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>



Semester 8 Heroes of Great Faith

Hebrews 11:38-39 *“The world was not worthy of them.*

They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.

These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised.”

KEY PASSAGE	REFERENCE	✓
1. Abel Offers the Best	Genesis 4:2-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Abram and Sarai Change Their Names by Faith	Genesis 17	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Joseph from Pit to Prison to Palace	Genesis 39-41	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Moses Meets God at Burning Bush	Exodus 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Rahab Saves Her Family	Joshua 6:22-25	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Gideon Leads a Tiny Army	Judges 7	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Ruth the Honorable and Devoted	Ruth 1:16-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Samuel Hears God’s Call	1 Samuel 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Elijah Defeats Baal’s Prophets	1 Kings 18	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Esther Bravely Intercedes	Esther 4, 5, and 8	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Ezekiel Prophecies to Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Jonah Reluctantly Evangelizes Ninevah	Jonah 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. John the Baptist Prepares the Way	Mark 1:1-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Mary’s Song and Sacrifice	Luke 1:46-56	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Elizabeth Prophecies	Luke 1:39-45	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Stephen Dies as the First Martyr	Acts 6:8 - 7:60	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Paul and Silas Sing and Witness	Acts 16:16-40	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Lydia Hosts Europe’s First Church	Acts 16:11-15, 40	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Priscilla and Aquila Teach and Lead	Acts 18:18-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. John Endures Suffering and Sees the Future	Revelation 1	<input type="checkbox"/>



Three

Prepare with Multiplying Skills – The Four Questions

Each time when you gather and work through the *Sharpen the Sword* Bible material, we encourage you to teach/disciple the kids to ask **4 questions** about each key passage. This powerful skill will enable them to study and apply the Bible from a young age. These four questions serve many disciple-making movements as believers of all ages share the Good News and multiply *leaders* who multiply *churches* that multiply *movements*.

The questions move the Bible into an “obedience” framework. Head-knowledge may change minds, but obedience changes hearts and lives! To merely listen to the Bible, and know what to do, but not do it, is sin (James 1:22). And of course, “To obey is better than sacrifice” (1 Samuel 15:22).

Your goal is not just to rush through Bible Drill passages and speedily look up references. This step is where you can lead the children to soak in the story and extract the truths that will impact their hearts. Look up the references fast... then *slow down* and hear God speak!

Since we and you want to multiply disciples, let’s use some of the simplest and most reproducible questions. The questions make facilitating a Bible study or a house fellowship easier. They transform the focus from “the wise person up front who seems to know everything” to “let’s hear from God and seek to obey His word.” The questions have been used in multiple nations, with multiple religious blocks, with multiple age groups, and resulted in multiplying movements toward Christ. Let questions become a normal way we and our children learn to work through a passage.

The Four Questions

1. What does the passage tell us about God?
2. What does the passage tell us about people?
3. Based on this passage what should I do?
4. With whom can I share this truth/message?



Unpacking the Questions

1. What does the passage tell us about GOD?

GOD is the focus and main character in the Bible – not ourselves. We all need to understand God’s nature and character. This first question allows readers to discover “Who is God?” and see how the Most-High God stands in contrast with other worldviews. By learning to examine Scripture with this question, we equip ourselves and our children to seek out God as the ultimate treasure in every Bible passage.

2. What does the passage tell us about PEOPLE?

People do great and wonderful things with God’s help. People also do terrible things and have massive needs. People can exercise great faith, and we can fail miserably. The question helps us discover that we are not alone in the depths, and that we can aim higher. God’s plan is not about God acting independently of people. God works through flawed people, and thankfully, this includes us!

3. Based on this passage what should I DO?

Disciple-making is about hearing, understanding, and following, not just learning facts and gaining knowledge. This question pivots from simply reading a passage and thinking about it rationally to seeking to “obey and apply” the Word to everyday life. Teach the children to listen quietly before answering this question. What action does God want *me* to take? According to Jesus, we are to “teach them to *obey*” not just “teach them.” Making disciples means helping people listen to the Shepherd’s voice and taking steps of action through obedience.

4. With whom can I SHARE this truth/message?

This is the multiplication step. The fourth question helps us turn outward with an expectation that *my* own understanding in *my* own mind for *my* personal life is not “the end point.” Indeed, we are to become a channel of blessing to others. So, open your mouth and tell someone what you have learned/experienced. Certainly, another person can benefit from what God has shown you!

These four questions can lead to a lifetime of making disciples of all nations. It is helpful to record your thoughts and steps of obedience in a notebook for later reference. Writing things down also allows follow-up. “Did I actually obey what God showed me? Did I actually share with someone?” May it be so!

For more information into “The Four Questions” – www.2414now.net

24:14 is a collaborative community catalyzing, multiplying, and supporting church planting movements.

We work together to urgently engage every unreached people and place globally.

Four

Prepare with Prayer for the Nations – Defense, Information, Offense

BEFORE kids get to the Bible Drill fun, we use the FIRST half of our time to turn their focus toward God's heart for others. We equip them on urgent world issues, teach them terms used in mission, or guide them in how to witness. We spend the majority of the time leading them through praying for a specific nation, people group, or religious block. We love the worldview shaping that takes place during this time – after all, what you pray about reveals your heart.

We consider praying for the nations in three distinct parts:

- 1. Defense** – Recognizes that prayer is work and warfare. So, get ready!
- 2. Information** – You have to know something to pray about it!
- 3. Offense** – Interceding for people and situations calls on Jesus to move powerfully in the world, to make peace, to advance God's agenda, and to push back the enemy's kingdom.

We should prepare our own hearts as we guide children to engage in prayer for those who have no one praying for them.

Defense – Spiritual Armor

Remember that you as leaders are equipping the kids to serve as soldiers who treasure Jesus above all, honor the Word, and share a heart for God's world.

But to be a soldier, you MUST suit up! Spiritual armor is found in Ephesians 6:10-20. The good news is that each piece of armor is BOTH offensive and defensive. So, if you plan to engage in the battle, get dressed. Make it automatic, not just on Bible Drill/Prayer nights. EVERY DAY! Put on the armor piece-by-piece. This step cultivates a mindset of action and an awareness that Jesus and the Church have a real enemy, and that we are ready to engage.

How to Put on the Armor:

1. Ask the kids to quickly name the armor pieces (Ephesians 6:10-20).
2. Get kid volunteers to stand up front and "pray on" that piece of armor.
3. The kids will then lead all the kids in putting on armor before starting the evening.
 - Child 1 – Lord, we put on the Belt of Truth (use hand motions to put on belt).
 - Child 2 – The Breastplate of Righteousness (put on breastplate).
 - Child 3 – Feet ready with the Gospel of Peace (put on shoes).
 - Child 4 – The Shield of Faith (hold up shield).
 - Child 5 – The Helmet of Salvation (all the kids put on the helmet).
 - Child 6 – The Sword of the Spirit (hold up sword).
 - Child 7 – Prayers that Surround us (put on like a prayer shawl surrounding you).
 - Child 8 – Garment of Praise (praise is a spiritual weapon so our kids added this one).
4. Adult Leader then closes the prayer of protection and prays for the evening.

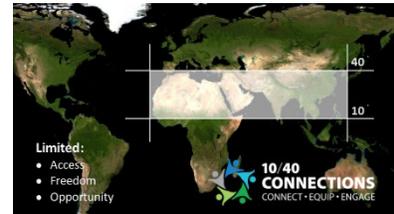
At the beginning of each semester or year, as a fun activity we divide the kids up into small groups. We hand each group a big piece of aluminum foil and have the kids construct the spiritual armor. Each group is given a different piece of armor. They present their piece to the group, and share why their piece is important. We discuss spiritual war, dressing as a soldier, the significance of each part, and no need to fear. After all the groups present their piece of armor, we dress one kid up in all the armor. Quite fun!

Video Link of Spiritual Armor Info (available soon)

Information – Mission Definitions

Get on the same page with vocabulary! Children need to know certain important terms related to God’s mission in the world. They may have already learned in school about geography, latitude, nations, and other belief systems. Now leaders have the privilege of opening their eyes to begin seeing the world in terms of spiritual access/lostness and the task remaining.

- **10/40 Window** – Area with least access, freedom, and opportunity to know Jesus.
- **4/14 Window** – Kids’ ages when the majority of their worldview develops.
- **People Groups** – Share a common and distinct language, culture, or belief. “Us” vs. “Them.”
- **Unreached People Group** – UPG is a people group with <2% Evangelical Christians.
- **Unengaged Unreached People Group** – UUPG is a UPG where no Christian group is even focused. They are lost and NO ONE is looking for them.
- **T.H.U.M.B.** – The 5 religious blocks with the fewest Christians.
 - **Tribal** Animistic groups that worship rocks, trees, spirits. They fear nature.
 - **Hindu** Pantheistic belief system in South Asia. Over 1 billion.
 - **Unreligious** Atheistic belief in Communist nations. Worldview of macroevolution.
 - **Muslim** Over 1 billion believe in Allah and his prophet and the Qur’an.
 - **Buddhist** 800 million seeking enlightenment. India, Japan, Thailand, Tibet.
- **Other Vocabulary** – House Church, Disciple-Making Movement, Church Planting, etc.



Video Links of Mission Definitions (available soon)

Information – Cat/Dog Theology

Cat/dog theology is one helpful way to enable children to recognize if they are living their Christian lives focused on “self” or God. You can purchase cat and dog theology cartoons which makes theology fun and practical for the children. Here is a link for the cartoons. <https://bit.ly/37n65zR>

Information – People Group Resources

As you gather info to increase prayer, we have found these online resources helpful.

- www.operationworld.org
- www.joshuaproject.net
- www.prayercast.com
- www.opendoors.org/en-US
- www.ethneprayer.org/resources-global-region



Going on Offense – Video Resources to Pray for the Nations

- [Iran](#)
- [Indonesia](#)

Buddhism

- [Laos](#)
- Japan
- [Vietnam](#)
- [Tibet](#)



Going on Offense – Concerts of Prayer

So, how do you get kids to pray? Here you go...

You may be familiar with a “concert of prayer.” It’s called a “concert of prayer” because many instruments (kids) are guided by a conductor (leader) to focus their voices on one task that brings a harmonious effect. Concerts of prayer are both fun and hard work. So, figure out the balance that works best for your group.

For the specific nation or people group in focus, we use powerpoints to highlight key national leaders, updated statistics, names of UUPG’s, the status of the Church, and urgent prayer requests based on current news. Give them specific things to pray about... then let the kids pray!

As with all learners, try not to overload the kids with too much information. Also, with children you will need to phrase the prayer points in a way that informs without bringing fear. You will need a sensitive heart of ministry obviously! Usually, we give one request, then pause to pray. Give another request, then pause to pray again, etc.

You may know that most people have never (or rarely) prayed in front of a group. This is especially true for children. Leaders have the privilege to make praying aloud a normal practice for kids.

To make it easier and more natural for kids to pray aloud, we vary the way we ask the kids to pray. We want the prayer-times to be normal and reproducible, not reserved for “adults” or “experts.”

Here are some suggestions:

1. **Popcorn Prayer** – One voice at a time, pops up and prays a short 1-2 sentence prayer for the request. They stop, and the next person pops up. Go on until no more “pops.” Then move to the next request and continue “popping.”
2. **Mass Prayer** – With mass prayer, everyone lifts their voices aloud at the same time. It sounds rather like a rushing river when all voices are lifted up together. All-at-once (mass) prayer is normal in Asia, but we have not seen it used much in the West.
3. **Groups of 2-3** – This is the most common system and seems to cause the least amount of nervousness for beginners in prayer. They team up with a partner and one person prays aloud for the request at a time, then they switch. If you have 20 people, then 10 people will be praying aloud at once. It is similar to mass prayer, but a little quieter. This option can get everyone praying easily.
4. **Bonhoeffer Prayer** – Named after the German style of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. One person prays aloud and the whole group prays *for that person* who is praying. The one person is

voicing the prayer on behalf of the whole group, and others pray that he/she intercedes as God wants. This can be effective at certain times, when people may not know what to pray.

5. **Chinese Prayer** – This type of prayer takes some practice. One person prays one sentence, pauses, and the whole group says “Amen.” The same person prays another sentence... “Amen.” It is quite rhythmical once you get the hang of it. Similar to the Bonhoeffer prayer, but others keep the flow going with their “Amens.”
6. **Rotating Prayer Stations** – If you have the space, kids can physically move from one “prayer station” to the next. At each station they will pray aloud for the designated request. This one takes more preparation and coordination. It is not as simple, but it can be fun/useful.

There are so many ways to go about it, but the main idea is... **point them in the direction and let the kids pray!**

Going on Offense – Personal Testimony

In addition to prayer for the nations, one basic skill we hope each child develops is the ability to share their salvation testimony. At the beginning of a semester, you as leaders can offer simple ways to share your story of salvation. Then if kids desire, each time you meet, have a child share their story of salvation.

The testimonies can take 2-3 minutes, so nothing long and drawn out. They can pre-write it and read it, or they can speak from the heart. The group will listen and discuss. Praise, sharpen, clarify, and pray. Adjust as necessary for size or time. Speaking aloud is a great way to help children open their mouths with a clear testimony of NPR:

- **Need** We all have a sin problem and are separated from the Holy God.
- **Provision** Jesus provided forgiveness by his cross and resurrection.
- **Response** Each person must choose to follow Jesus.

Video Link of NPR Testimony (available soon)

Going On Offense – Advanced Testimony/Sharing = Role-Play

For the older kids, this is great fun! Potential examples here could expand into an entire book! Basically, a small group of kids witnesses to the leader who role-plays a different worldview.

The leader sets up the encounter:

- Select 2-3 kids to be on a team.
- Select a worldview. Nominal Christian, Islam, Atheist, Buddhist
- Determine the setting/situation Taxi ride, Grocery store, Sports team, Cafeteria
- Choose the difficulty level. Eager? Confused? Hopeless? Angry/Antagonistic?

Let the role play begin... Leader describes the situation and begins the dialogue. The kids find a good entry point, engage, and share the Good News with the leader. Let the conversation run for 3-5 minutes. Debrief and discuss good/bad, great truths/not-so-good phrases, anything confusing, etc.

Keep it fun and encouraging.

At some point, let the team practice leading someone to Christ through prayer. Did they remember Jesus' cross and resurrection? What do you say to a new believer afterwards? What are the first steps a new Christian should take?

May these outward-focused skills prepare the kids for action and result in multiplied hours of specific prayer!

Conclusion
Challenge and Charge

Jesus is truly a treasure to seek and know with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind. Jesus treasures all ethnic groups. When we treasure Jesus, we will want what He wants!

One day we asked our kids, "In this world what lasts forever?" They thought about the question for a while, and one shouted, "People! We have souls and every person is forever!" Absolutely! Jesus treasures all people, and he wants us to use our heads, hearts, and hands to help bring in God's treasure!

We asked again, "Will anything else in the world endure forever... besides people?" They thought about this question, and then one said, "The Word of God! 'The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the Word of our God endures forever.'" We followed up this question with, "Then should we try to blend in with the world or be transformed by the Word?" They obviously answered, "The Word – not culture."

This *Sharpen the Sword* curriculum equips us all to treasure what God treasures (people) and to honor what God has given us (the Word) which will endure even after the world is over. Through His Word, we learn to treasure the One who is above all.

We will close with a few prayers for you:

- May we each grow to use our spiritual swords effectively.
- May we allow God's Word to transform us and guide us, as we hear and obey.
- May we contend for our faith with grace and truth.
- May we share the Good News simply and consistently.
- May we each grow to understand God's heart for the world.
- May we pray for God's treasures (all ethnic groups) to be brought into the Family of God!
- May we make disciples, who raise up leaders, who multiply churches, who multiply movements for Jesus!

Keep picking up that Sword, continue to bend those knees in prayer, and courageously share God's Word with others so that people everywhere will flourish by knowing the Most-High God – Jesus!

Until All Know,

Leslie and Chad

About the Authors



Leslie and Chad Neal Segraves are the co-directors and co-founders of 10/40 Connections, a mission organization that seeks to cast hope to unreached peoples so that they hear, experience and then multiply the Good News of Jesus in their own contexts. Since its founding, 10/40 has helped rescue and restore thousands of women from trafficking, fed and educated hundreds of at-risk children, planted multiplying house churches among unreached people groups, installed scores of water wells offering clean water to thousands, and promoted curriculum and teaching that advocates for both women and the unborn.

Chad and Leslie are motivational teachers and speakers whose greatest passion is to see the Great Commission finished in their lifetime. As entrepreneurial, mission-focused leaders, Leslie and Chad love theology made practical – where good thinking leads to active engagement in a broken world.

Chad and Leslie both received Doctorates of Missiology at Fuller Seminary. Having lived and worked in North Africa, South Asia, East Asia, and Southeast Asia, they have 20+ years of global ministry experience. Chad and Leslie serve as Lausanne Catalysts for *Men and Women Partnering in the Gospel*. As practical theologians and equippers they seek to multiply God’s laborers and mobilize the church in North America and beyond. They currently reside in Southeast Asia.

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