

## ***Choosing Curriculum for Childhood Ministry***

A new school year is right around the corner, so now is the time to evaluate current classes and resources for childhood classes at church. If you are looking for new curriculum or trying to determine what curriculum is best for your needs, the following list is a great place to begin. Good curriculum is:

**A Activity-oriented**

Since children learn best when actively participating in the learning process, the curriculum is heavy on learning activities and light on lecture/listening.

**B Bible-based**

Bible teaching is the focus. Bible verses are used in context. Stories are not “embellished” by material that is not in the Bible. Fantasy and cartoon characters are not depicted. Teaching suggestions are given to help children develop skills in using the Bible. Children are encouraged to memorize Bible verses and apply those verses in everyday life.

**C Child-centered**

Concepts are applicable to what the child needs to learn at this particular stage in his/her life. Children are given choices of learning activities, are given opportunities to express creativity and ideas, and are active participants. Artwork is colorful and appealing to children.

**D Doctrinally Sound**

All teachings are biblically correct and in line with the church’s beliefs. Salvation is presented as coming by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, not through following Christ’s teachings or doing good works.

**E Educationally Correct**

A variety of activities and methods is suggested for different learning styles. Teaching suggestions and Bible stories are appropriate for the age group. Symbolic language and abstract illustrations are avoided. Activities involve children so they will grow in knowledge and skills, not just do “busy work.”

**F Foundational**

The curriculum follows a plan to build foundations through the childhood years for understanding God and His plan of salvation. Basic concepts taught in younger years lead to more developed concepts in later childhood.