



the BIG
picture

Curriculum Overview

The Whole Picture

The goal of our curriculum in Starting Blocks is to give preschoolers a solid foundation of Bible knowledge by the time they reach elementary age. We cover 50 Bible stories (“Bible Biggies”) on an annual cycle. The same cycle of stories is repeated each year as a child moves up through Starting Blocks. Each successive year adds different activities and additional depth and application of the story. A child who goes all the way through Starting Blocks will go through the Bible Biggies 3-4 times.

The Date Stamp

The individual stories are organized chronologically from Creation (on Promotion Sunday in August) through Revelation (at the end of May). This school year schedule is supplemented with summer units on the Parables of Jesus, Serving Others, and additional Old Testament stories.

Using the chronology of the Scriptures, the curriculum emphasizes to preschoolers the big picture of the story that God is telling in the Bible. The connections from one story to the next as well as how each story fits in The Big Picture are a new aspect of this curriculum. The goal is for preschoolers to not only have a solid knowledge of the key stories of the Bible but also an understanding of how they all fit together.

The Slide Show

Teaching truths drawn from the Scripture are presented with each week’s lesson. As God’s Story unfolds through the year, those truths are repeated again and again. For example, starting with Creation, preschoolers hear about God’s plan to rescue the world from sin, and then at Christmas that Jesus was the Promised One who rescues us from sin, and in Revelation they learn that God’s plan includes a wonderful place called heaven.

The Snapshot

The Bible story for each lesson is told both through the classroom teachers reading the story from either *The Beginner’s Bible* or *The Jesus Storybook Bible* and in a creative way by a storyteller. Age-appropriate classroom activities support the storyline and teaching truths. Activities range from crafts to games to special snacks.

Each lesson is formatted in an easy-to-follow format. Classroom volunteers should read the lesson prior to class each week. All needed supplies will be ready-to-go in the curriculum tub for each classroom. The first activity each week should be to read the Bible story from the bible provided. All other activities can be done in any order. Some weeks there will be more activities than time; some weeks extra activities (singing with a CD; read-aloud books) will be needed to fill time.

The Lab

The most important part of the Sunday lesson actually happens at home. Parents are encouraged to review the Sunday lesson at home during the week with their kids. Watermark Kids publishes a weekly blog post to aid parents in this process. Each week the blog lists a summary of the week’s story along with additional activities to reinforce the lesson at home. There is a weekly post for parents of elementary kids as well. Find all this at watermark.org/blog/family.

a preschool look at the Story God is telling