



# THE ENCOURAGER

Help for Sunday School Teachers— Dedicated to those who take the Word of Life to Children Everywhere

## 10 Ways to Read the Bible with Your Class

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Three exciting ideas to try out. It is always a stimulant to the class when a sprinkling of variety is included in the lesson. The class will enjoy the changes so much, they will hardly notice that they are taking in truth in an unexpected way. Give these three a try and we'll add some more for your consideration in the future.

Students must read the Bible in order to know what it says. While it is often easier to read a passage to younger children, yet when you are given the golden opportunity to teach the pre-teen and the teen class, here are some suggestions to make the reading of the scriptures something they will remember.

### 1. Find the key verse

If you are studying a chapter or a story, ask the students to find a key verse, that is, a verse that best summarizes the theme. This type of activity requires some time and thought since it requires a good understanding the entire passage. Guide the student to their conclusions by the following steps: (1) first read the passage (2) discuss its main idea/ideas (3) ask students to suggest possible candidates for key verse (4) let each student choose a verse & defend his point of view with a brief explanation.

For example, ask the students, "Romans 3, is a chapter that talks about the guilt of mankind. Which verse best summarizes the fact that everyone has broken God's law? Some suggestions might be verse 9, 19 or 23." Then discuss why and how.

Extensions: Allow the students to create their own "framed text" using the key verse he/she chose. Use crayons, markers, computer printer or whatever your favorite method is to create a text like we use in our homes. Put the texts on the classroom bulletin board or even more impressively, mount their works in real frames. Assign to the student his chosen key verse for the week's memory verse.

### 2. Question Search

Some Bible passages have many questions in them on which the whole story hinges. Ask the students to underline or copy the questions in a passage.

For example, Romans 6 has several bold questions such as "Shall we continue in sin?"

"Shall we sin because we are not under law?"

Other example: underline all the questions in Genesis 3. Who asks the questions? Did he/she ask the question in order to receive information or were they questions to provoke thought?

Extension: Ask the students to make a chart of the questions and put it on the bulleting board to use as review for the next weeks. The chart might be colorful, a banner or a face who is speaking his questions in cartoon bubbles. Use your imagination.

### 3. Name Search

Sometimes simply remembering the names of a story helps the student remember what the story was about. Some examples:

- In the book of Esther, circle the first time each person's name is used.
- In John chapter 4:1-42 (woman at the well), circle the different names or descriptions of Jesus. For example, verse 9, "thou, being a Jew" is an example of what Jesus was called.
- Psalm 119 has many different names for the Word of God. How many can you find? What difference does a name make when their meanings are so similar?
- How many different names are there for Jesus in Revelation chapter one?

Extensions: Create a poster as a class project. After finding the list of names from the lesson, each student is given a different color marker and asked to write one of the names.

