

SCRIPTURE SYLLABUS

It is hoped that the Scripture lessons as well as daily School Assembly will be times when the children may be gradually helped to see life as a whole, and to understand that religion is a matter of thinking, living and worshipping, which must permeate everything. All lessons, all school life will help to build up the children's attitude towards truth, beauty and goodness; the Scripture lesson should provide a time for thinking about God and the relationship between God and man; and such thought will most often be prompted by stories dealing with this relationship as found in the Bible.

Lower Kindergarten

4-5 years

Stories of children and animals in familiar surroundings giving instances of what is meant by love, care, forgiveness, etc. A few of the parables will also be told, e.g. the lost lamb, the lost coin, the sower, the leaven, the mustard seed, etc. Stories such as Jesus blessing the children; Zaccheus.

Upper Kindergarten

5-6 years

Stories using the parables, to show how Jesus lived as a boy. Stories Mary used to tell to Jesus, about Joseph, David, Daniel, etc.

Transition

6-7 years

Stories of the Israelites in earliest times, beginning with the story of how Abraham was called from Ur to worship the God who was a Spirit. Tales of his descendants and how Moses brought the Israelites back to Canaan, welding a rabble of slaves into a nation. These stories show how gradually a greater understanding of God dawned in men's mind. They also show how often men misunderstood the nature of God, and that we must allow for all that men of those days did not know: knowledge which was revealed later by the prophets and by Jesus Christ. The story of the gradual growth in law and order, coming to the turbulent Israelites in the desert, seems to have a special appeal to these 6-7 year old children.

Form I

7-8 years

More stories from the Old Testament, from the books of Samuel, Kings and Chronicles. Tales of the heroes and of the poet king and of the early prophets. These stories show how often "Man seeth not as God seeth", but they also reveal how men continued "to progress in the idea that God is good and demands goodness and loving kindness of men".

Form II

8-9 years

The story of the life of Jesus on earth. Jesus the Hero. The children now have a copy each of "The Short Bible" for reference, but most of the stories are told either before or after they are read so that the children can see the action against

a background. The film "The Home" in the series "Two Thousand Years Ago", is often used to help to build up this background. The teacher uses Basil Matthews' "Life of Jesus" as a help in interpretation, as well as some of G. Hoyland's books and many others.

Form III
9-10 years

The first covenant. God's promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and through Moses to the Hebrews. The message of the prophets Amos, Hosea, Isaiah and Jeremiah. Using "A Dramatised Bible Reader" by E. G. Gray.

Form Lower IV
10-11 years

Study of St. Mark's Gospel. God's new covenant with men.

Form Upper IVB
11-12 years

The work of the friends of Jesus after His ascension as told in the Acts of the Apostles. The teacher also uses "The Adventures of St. Paul" by Basil Matthews, and other books. If there is time some study is given to the lives of missionaries and servants of God who live after Bible times.

Form Upper IVA

The work in this form is mainly revision undertaken under various headings. The aim is to get the children to study and find their way about their Bibles.

New Testament: Such topics as the parables of Jesus and His teaching; the friends of Jesus; miracles of healing; the records of the Last Supper and the Crucifixion, as found in all four gospels and compared.

Old Testament: Revising especially those stories which show how Hebrew thought about God gradually grew up to a readiness for the coming of Christ.

Books: The Bible itself of which each child will have and use a copy from Form Lower IV upwards.
The Short Bible (Oxford University Press) for lower forms.

For the teacher:

The Bible for Home Reading
Dictionary of the Bible
Life of Jesus
Adventures of St. Paul
The Great Outlaw
Matthew's Tea Party, etc.
Dramatised Bible Reader
and many others.

C.G. Montefiore
Hastings
Basil Matthews
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G. Hoyland
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