



# Teaching Kids the Word

by David Boyd

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**P**earl Gange was an endless source of answers for a young man who had an endless source of questions. The young man was me. "What is speaking in tongues? Why can't I understand it? How do people get healed? Does God hear me when I pray?" These and many more questions were patiently answered for me by Pearl Gange, my junior boys' Sunday School teacher. As a boy who rode the bus to church, there wasn't anyone at home who could answer these questions for me, but Pearl Gange did. Long before I realized it, I was growing up in a "Radiant Life Sunday School"!

What is a "Radiant Life Sunday School"? It is a place where Pentecostal teachers use Pentecostal curriculum and introduce children to the full gospel message of the Bible!

## Scope and Sequence

A few years back, I took some masters courses and began my first serious study of "scope and sequence." Scope and sequence is the multi-year plan that Sunday School curriculums use to insure that children learn a thorough balance of the Bible. A good scope and sequence takes several years to complete and includes lessons on: people of

the Bible, parables, the commandments, miracles, doctrine, fruit of the Spirit, gifts of the Spirit, sacraments, Pentecost, the life of Jesus, etc. I am so thankful I attended an Assemblies of God Pentecostal Sunday School and received a thorough study of God's Word.



It has been quite a rewarding experience for me to meet the people here at headquarters who write, create, edit, and print our *Radiant Life* Sunday School curriculum. It has been exciting to see the curriculum continually transformed into the full-color, variety-filled product that it is. I'm so proud and thankful every time I see the writers extensively researching the Bible in order to create the most in-depth, biblically accurate lessons possible.

## Center on the Bible

As we center upon the importance of teaching children the Bible, I realize how valuable Sunday School was in planting the Bible and Pentecost in my life. I'm thankful for it. The Bible is the cement that stays in the foundation of a child's life for years to come.

Let me challenge each children's leader to make the Bible the center of the classes you teach. It is too easy in children's church to follow a curriculum that utilizes only one Scripture, which gives the kids more of a Bible "morsel" rather than a full Bible meal.

Assume, for instance, that your key verse of the day is Leviticus 19:11, "Do not lie." As good as this verse is, the children will remember the lesson far longer by learning additional Biblical verses such as:



"The Lord detests lying lips." (Proverbs 12:22)



"There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue." (Proverbs 6:16.)



"He [the devil] is a liar and the father of lies" (John 8:44)

## Worship or Entertainment?

Never forget that you are “preaching” the Word of God to young disciples. Games, fun, excitement, and humor have their place, but it is the Word of God that introduces the children to the Spirit of God, who will change their lives forever.

Too often kids are given a “Nickelodeon” show instead of a “godly” worship service that prepares them for life. A good children’s church prepares children for the time when they are old enough to attend the adult sanctuary service.

I am thankful for the Assemblies of God children’s

ministries that teach and train children about the Bible. **Junior Bible Quiz** is the best Bible quizzing program available anywhere. **Missionettes** is an incredible program for teaching and mentoring girls. It is biblically powerful and extremely visitor friendly. **Royal Rangers** is the best Christian club for boys in the United States, and the new program is biblically solid and teacher friendly. Couple these programs with **Radiant Life Sunday School**, and our children will have a tremendously solid biblical and Pentecostal foundation to carry with them the rest of their lives.

Encourage your kids to attend

Sunday School and Wednesday nights and not just the children’s church session. One children’s church session a week won’t ground your children in the Word nearly as well as regular attendance in a small-group class. It’s in these classrooms that questions can be asked and answered and where the Word of God and Pentecost are taught in a systematic way. Children need to have every opportunity to learn and to grow in their knowledge of God and His Word.

We are thankful to all of those who provide us with these great tools as we “REACH KIDS, UNTIL HE COMES!”

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## Questions for Further Study—

1. Why is it important to have a good scope and sequence for your Bible study curriculum?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is it important that children attend more than just Sunday morning services?

This article is reprinted from the Winter 2002 issue of *Fanning the Flame*, a quarterly newsletter for children’s workers produced by the National Children’s Ministries Agency. *Fanning the Flame* is mailed free to children’s pastors and directors in the local church. For additional copies and back issues contact GPH at 1-800-641-4310.

