



# 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)

