

5.2 How can we plan a series of lessons in Bible order?

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When a church does not have access to a series of lessons plans, or sometimes just by choice, they can still quite easily plan a series of lessons in Bible order. This is called a Chronological Series, meaning stories presented in the order in which they happened according to the Bible. Often stories from the Bible books of history are chosen for such a series.

Historical books of the Bible

Some books of the Bible are called historical books, but in reality many other books also contain history.

Books containing much history include: (Old Testament)

- The history of beginnings and the Patriarchs.....Genesis
- The history of the beginning of Israel & God’s leading them to their land.....Exodus & Numbers
- The history of their conquest of their land.....Joshua
- The history of the time of the Judges.....Judges & Ruth
- The early kingdoms of Israel.....1 & 2 Samuel
- Later history of Israel up to the captivity.....1&2 Kings, 1&2 Chronicles
(The history of these books overlaps a lot.)
- The history of the captivity.....parts of Daniel & Jeremiah, Esther
- The history of the return to their land after captivity.....Ezra & Nehemiah

(New Testament)

- History of Jesus’ life.....Matthew, Mark, Luke
(These three overlap a lot.).....John
- History of the early church.....Acts

Dividing up the material

A church may choose to follow one book of the Bible, or they may choose an historical section within a book—for instance, the life of Joseph in the book of Genesis.

Then they divide up the material into segments that are the right size for the age group under consideration, making sure to include one complete story or story segment in each lesson. Material is presented consecutively in Biblical order. Verses that do not carry forward the lesson theme may be skipped.

Advantages of this method

These lessons have the advantage of helping students become more familiar with the teaching of whole books or sections of the Bible as opposed to individual verses. The context of the lessons is more easily understood as well. Students beginning about Class 5 and up may enjoy making or studying time lines or following the flow of events on a map. Review is also easy with this method, as each lesson builds on the ones before it.

LET’S PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Choose an historical section of the Bible that you might like to teach in your class. Then divide up a couple of chapters into lessons. Make sure the Scripture for each lesson is not too long. Give each lesson a title and a theme.

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