

Lesson #15: The remarkable results of repeating.

While it might sound boring to revisit the same Bible truth, verse and story, we have found that repetition allows children to actually understand and remember the truths we are teaching them.

Repetition can take come in a number of forms:

#1 Repeating a truth in different ways within the same lesson:

Such as teaching a truth, then singing a song about it, doing a craft that illustrates it or playing a game that includes questions that review the truth. Using different activities to repeat the same truth keep the learning fresh.

#2 Repeating a truth over multiple sessions:

Most curriculums take the take the one-new-concept-every-lesson approach, but we have found that if we repeat a truth over multiple sessions, the children are actually far more likely to remember it. Of course, this is exactly what is going on in their schoolrooms each week. No teacher would teach multiplication tables one day and assume the children have learned it. And don't most preschoolers drive their parents crazy by asking them to read the same story over and over and over again? There is a world of different between introducing a new concept and understanding it and retaining it.

#3 Repeating a truth at home:

By sending home a take home sheet of the truths or even copies of the story the children are learning in class, you provide an opportunity for them to be repeated and learned more deeply in families.

The Praise Factory curriculums repeat truths and even Bible stories for multiple lessons. Hide 'n' Seek Kids--for the youngest children-- provides five lessons on the same Bible truth, Bible verse and Bible story. Deep Down Detectives --for older preschoolers and early elementary--provides three lessons on the same Bible truth, verse and story. PFI--for elementary age children-- provides three lessons on the same Bible truth and verse, though it uses a different story for each of the three lessons. By using new activities each session, the children get the variety they also enjoy, while getting enough time to grasp the truths being taught. Take home sheets of the key concepts and even the stories are available to send home for the families to continue to learn from.

Lesson #15: Questions for You in Your Ministry Setting:

1. Do your children retain the truths you are trying to teach them?
2. Does the curriculum you use include repetition? How?
3. Are there ways more repetition might help your children better learn and remember the truths you want them to know? What would those be?
4. Does your curriculum provide take-home sheets? If not, how difficult would it be to create them from your resources?