

Ten Reasons I use Handouts for Bible Study

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August 2025

Why do I include printed lesson handouts for all of the Bible 101 Bible studies? I have always used them, and one time, a volunteer who did not generally use the handouts claimed, “No one even takes them home – it’s just a waste of paper!” But I have found that using a short, fill-in-the-blank paper handout during a Bible discussion is helpful for many reasons:

Reason #1: Using a handout engages more of senses. The handout serves as a visual aid and kids are actively filling in the blanks. This adds seeing and doing to listening and talking, which help the students learn and remember more.

Reason #2: Kids’ hands are kept busy. One leader remarked that she noticed the group was less likely to be on their phones when they were writing something down.

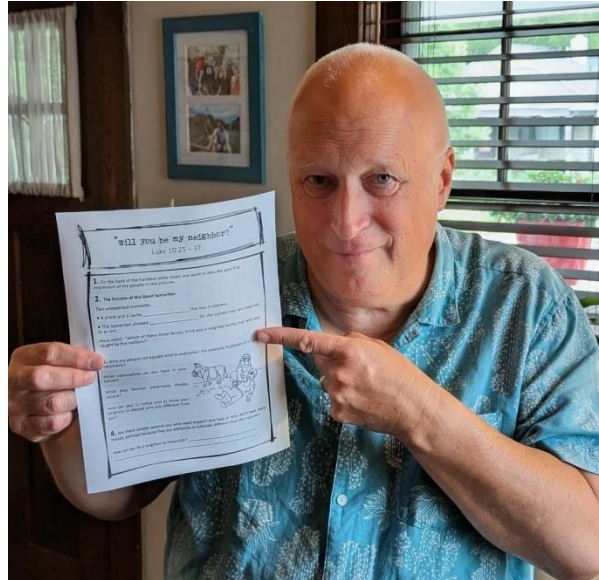
Reason #3: A handout clearly defines when the study is starting and ending. Kids are less likely to get restless when they can see the progression and how close they are to being done.

Reason #4: Some teens enjoy coloring the picture (each lesson includes a black and white illustration drawn by my friend David). This, like doodling, is pleasant and helps them calmly listen, and they absorb more.

Reason #5: It saves time and helps focus by providing some of the Bible verses being used. We hope the kids will use Bibles for the main passage, but other texts can be printed in the handout. This cuts down on delays or distractions from the process of flipping to multiple verses in their Bibles.

Reason #6: You don’t have to keep repeating the Bible reference – its right there in writing. I don’t know how many times I’ve said something like, ‘Open your Bible to Mark 10:45’ only to hear, “What book was that?” “What chapter did you say?” “What verse are we starting with?”

Reason #7: A handout helps the leader not miss an important point. If you do, kids will remind you, “What do we fill in this blank?”



Reason #8: Often the handouts include a Bible-reading plan for the week that reinforces the passage. Some kids try to read their Bibles on their own, and this gives them ideas for their personal study.

Reason #9: Writing down answers before sharing helps more kids participate. When we verbally ask questions, the same few extraverts usually answer, leaving the ones who need more time to think in the dust. By giving everyone more time by having them write their answers first, we will hear from more kids and the answers will often be more varied and thoughtful.

Reason #10: Those who do take their handout home might see it again and be reminded of something important. But in answer to my skeptical volunteer, the handout served its purpose during the lesson.

Each of the Bible 101 Bible studies include a one- or two-page printable handout. These may include questions, charts, maps, a Bible reading plan and coloring picture. You also can customize your handouts by cutting and pasting, changing anything you want to do differently.

There may be reasons you don't want to use handouts, or you may be in a situation where they are hard to use. If this is the case, maybe you can think of other ways to reap the benefits I've shared above. But it's been my experience that this little tool makes a big difference in teens' attention and learning in the study of God's Word.

Here is a link to the Bible 101 lessons:

<https://www.youthministry22.com/bible-lessons-2>