

Through the Bible in a Year

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Years ago, I was reading a book on worship and was introduced to the church calendar. I know many churches follow the church calendar in their worship services and many don't. I had teens in Sunday School at the time and decided I would start organizing my group studies around the structure of the Bible and (loosely) the church calendar.

In the fall we looked at passages from the Old Testament:

- September & October: a series from the Law or history books
- November: a series from the poetical books
- December: a series from the prophets, especially highlighting the promise of a Messiah's birth (Advent), culminating with Christmas.



In the new year, we moved into the New Testament:

- January through March: a series from the gospels on the life and teachings of Christ, often leading up to Easter and Christ's death and resurrection.
- After Easter, a series from the book of Acts
- May into the summer: a series from the epistles or Revelation

Then in the fall we started again with the same plan (but different lessons).

There were several benefits to studying the Bible this way. One was that over the year, kids got a 'big picture' view of the Bible and how its organized. This approach also ensures less repetition, drawing from all sections of the Bible. Finally, it lines up nicely with major Christian holidays.

I would also recommend that you sprinkle a little variety into your schedule, so that your meetings don't become too predictable. For example, try preparing a Bible lesson three times a month and on the fourth week, discuss a topic, do a service project, celebrate a holiday or birthdays, watch a movie together.

The Bible 101 studies follow this plan with enough material for one year, drawing from six sections of the Bible. Take a look:

Bible Section	BIBLE 101 - Year 1	BIBLE 101 - Year 2
<i>Old Testament</i> History	The Life of David (6 Lessons)	The Life of Joseph (6 Lessons)
Poetry	Psalms of David (5 Lessons)	Proverbs (4 Lessons)
Prophets	OT Prophecies about Jesus (3 Lessons)	Malachi (4 Lessons)
New Testament (Gospels)	Parables of Jesus (8 Lessons)	Jesus meets ... (7 Lessons)
Acts	The Life of Peter (7 Lessons)	The Birth of the Church (4 Lessons)
Letters	1 Peter Philemon (5 Lessons)	1 Corinthians (8 Lessons)

Here is the link for the Bible 101 curriculum online, where studies may be downloaded for free:

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

Praying that this approach will help you and your kids deepen your study of the Bible!