



A good teacher is:

- A growing Christian who loves God
- A member of the church
- A compassionate person who loves and enjoys children
- Someone who understands children and their development
- An individual gifted by God to teach and guide children
- One with a willing attitude to plan and prepare
- A cooperative and flexible team player



Getting Ready to Teach

Spend a few minutes paging through this manual. This book is your basic resource to help you prepare effectively for the lesson period. You will notice that each lesson is designed to take about 45 to 60 minutes to present, and contains step-by-step plans for guiding Middle Elementary students to discover Bible truths and learn how to apply them to life. Lessons also include teaching suggestions, additional activities and activity tips to help you make the best use of your time and your classroom during the Sunday school hour.

The first page of each lesson has a sidebar with an overview of the lesson content. The Scripture passage is the basis of the lesson. The Bible Truth is the heart of the lesson and is a summary of the Scripture passage. The goal of the Lesson Focus is to help students catch the Bible Truth and internalize it. It is important to keep it in the forefront of your planning, and always before the students during the lesson. You will notice that Memory Work is also listed in this section.



Growing as a Teacher

Each week, focus on your own spiritual nourishment and education by taking time to go through this section. It is designed to help you grow, and to prepare your heart and mind for teaching.

First, read through and meditate on the lesson Scriptures. Think about the words and truths, examine your life in the light of God's Word and pray for God's help in your walk with him by faith. As you submit yourself to the Holy Spirit, you will be better prepared to lead and guide your students.

As you spend quiet time reflecting, remember to pray for the students in your class, asking the Lord to work in their hearts and in their families. Pray that you will love them and effectively show them Jesus as you meet with them each week and get to know them.

In this section, you will also find valuable Bible study notes that serve to bring the lesson into clear focus. Filled with theological truths, historical facts and biographical details, this section will increase your knowledge of God's Word and the world of the Bible.

Give special attention to your heart and mind preparation as you get ready each week. You will be enriched and blessed, and so will the students you teach.

final development and expression of his covenant with his people. In that covenant, God said,

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts” (Jeremiah 31:33).

Through Ezekiel God promised,

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:26–27).

The writer of Hebrews tells us that with the coming of Christ, the accomplishment of salvation and the outpouring of the Spirit, this promise is fulfilled (Hebrews 10:5–18). The new covenant includes all God’s people of every tongue, tribe and nation. God sent his Son to deal with sin “in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit” (Romans 8:4).

Focus of This Quarter

Most of our attention this quarter will be directed toward the third use of the law—its special use for believers. Our aim is to show covenant children, to whom God has made promises of salvation, how God wants them to live. They will discover that the law is not the enemy but the friend of those who are redeemed by Christ and united to him by faith.

Toward the end of the quarter, we will turn to the second use of the law to show those who lack faith that they need Christ for salvation from the penalty for breaking the law. And the last lesson will remind those who have faith that they must continue to rely upon the work of Christ, not their own works, for their acceptance with God, now and always.

The first unit, Learning to Love and Worship God (Lessons 1–5), covers the first four commandments. It shows that God reminded Israel he was the Lord their God who had redeemed them from slavery with mighty acts of power, then gave the Ten Commandments to show them how to live as his people. Students learn that God has redeemed us from sin through Christ, and calls us to trust and obey him.

The second unit, Learning to Love and Value Others (Lessons 6–11), studies the last six commandments, which show how to love and value other people. These commands are a revelation of God’s own character, and God’s desire is that his people become more and more like him in character and conduct.

The third unit, Learning to Depend on Jesus (Lessons 12–13), shows how the law convicts sinners of their sin and points them to Christ as the Savior who kept the law and suffered its penalty for the sinner. But the Ten Commandments not only point the unsaved to the Savior, they show forgiven Christians how Jesus wants them to live in gratitude for such a great salvation.



Teaching Method

You will note that in Middle Elementary there is a shift in the teaching method to allow interactive learning to take place. In younger classes, the teacher tells a Bible story while the students listen, then the teacher leads them in follow-up activities to help them remember and apply the truths they learned, much like a mother bird feeds worms to her open-mouthed babies. However, in Middle Elementary, the teaching style changes from telling a story or teaching a truth to interactive discovery by the students. The teacher becomes a facilitator and instructor, enabling students to actively find out Bible truths on their own, learning Bible study skills as they read from the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit works in their hearts and minds as they discover what God’s Word says.

At Home Paper

The weekly *At Home* paper includes a section titled *Daily Soul Food* that encourages students to read and study the Bible regularly and to pray. The selected Bible passages reinforce the biblical truths studied in class. As students learn to “feed” on God’s Word, they will discover a deepening treasure that will last a lifetime.



Lesson at a Glance

This table gives you a quick and helpful overview of the lesson. Lesson at a Glance summarizes what you and the students will discover during each of the five lesson steps. A suggested time allotment is given for each step, which allows flexibility in deciding how much time to spend on any given activity. The table also gives you a list of required and optional supplies for each lesson, and shows the lesson steps when the items will be needed.

Each quarter, a variety of teaching visuals can be found in the Middle Elementary Teaching Aids Pack. Included is a Teaching Aids Content Sheet, which lists all visual aids for easy reference. The Supplies section in Lesson at a Glance indicates which Teaching Aids you will need for the lesson. Be sure to save all of your Teaching Aids. A number of visuals will be used more than once throughout the quarter. You will find that a large zip-lock plastic bag is useful for keeping all these pieces together.

The *In Class* paper, found in the Middle Elementary Student Activities Pack, is designed for students to use during the lesson. This paper includes a variety of activities to engage the students in the lesson and motivate them. It will help them discover Bible truths and learn Bible facts, as well as help them practice what they have learned and apply it to their lives.

The *At Home* paper, also found in the Middle Elementary Student Activities Pack, provides fun activities related to the lesson and ways for students to learn how to read and study the Bible for themselves. Hand out the *At Home* paper at the end of the lesson, go over the *Daily Soul Food* section and encourage students to return the completed paper (especially *Daily Soul Food*) for a small reward (for example, a sticker, some candy, a pencil, etc.). Always encourage the children to share their papers with their families. The *At Home* paper should always correspond with the lesson you teach from the manual.

Along with the *In Class* and *At Home* papers, you will find MVP memory work cards and other items in the Middle Elementary Student Activities Pack. Included is a Student Activities Content Sheet, which lists all the items for easy reference.

Practical Prep

This section provides hands-on tips to help you prepare for the lesson. It informs you of the special (and optional) materials you need and what you must do ahead of time to be ready for Sunday's class. Read this section carefully and follow all preparation procedures. Being ready to teach with items you need at your fingertips will help the lesson flow smoothly and will give you time to focus on the students.

To better prepare to lead an interactive lesson, complete the *In Class* paper ahead of time. Practice asking questions aloud and waiting a few seconds for answers. Don't be afraid of silence—give students time to think. You may need to write down more questions to ask to stimulate discussion. Perhaps you can jot down additional teaching points that might help get your students thinking and interacting.

Step	Minutes	Activities	Supplies
1. Welcome	5-10	Do a group activity to find out about topics.	TA 1a (all items listed) TA 1b (if available)
2. Bible Verse	20	Study what the Bible teaches. Ten Commandment verses.	TA 1c (NTV) pencils TA 1d (if available) TA 1e (What Does It Mean?) Markers (any color) Optional: dot markers and dry-erase markers
3. Explore and Apply	10-15	Discuss our behavior and what God's loving parent and our Prey register.	TA 1c (if available)
4. Memory Verse	5	Do a group activity to memorize Exodus 20:1-2, 17:17.	TA 1c (if available) TA 1d (if available) TA 1e (if available)
5. Final Prayer	5-10	Sing "The Ten Commandments" (songs 1-3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100).	TA 1c (if available) Optional: flashcards of songs (1-5) TA 1d (if available)

Teaching Posters

There are 12 classroom posters in the Middle Elementary Teaching Aids Pack. These posters are designed to enhance your lessons as students study the Ten Commandments and Shorter Catechism, learn special Bible words and terms—the vocabulary of faith—and sing about God's good law.

As each poster is introduced, mount it on poster board, on a display wall or bulletin board, or attach it to a clothesline strung across the room. For each commandment, you will put on view a new poster, so plan one way to display them in sequence that works in your learning setting.

At the beginning of the quarter, put up TA 1c What Does It Mean? poster. Each time a special Bible word or term is introduced, write it in the space provided on TA 1c.





Activity Option

Each week, you will find an Activity Option listed in the Welcome sidebar. This additional activity may be used during the lesson for enrichment, or it may be used before the lesson begins as a pre-session activity to give early arrivals something meaningful to do that relates to the lesson.

In Class Papers

Having students write down what they are learning is a wonderful technique to help them

receive a lasting impression of the lesson. *In Class* is a student paper designed to help your learners connect with what they are discovering in the Bible each week in Sunday school. Used in a variety of ways each session, *In Class* activities are fun, creative and an important component in active learning.



Link to Lesson . . .



Provide building blocks of Bible learning by connecting each new lesson to the last one.

You will note that, beginning with Lesson 2, a hands-on link to the previous lesson is provided in the sidebar for you to include in your lesson plan. It is a good idea to introduce the lesson link at the outset of the Sunday school session. This is a time to recall what students learned last week and to put it into practice before adding new material to their growing spiritual foundation.

1 Welcome

5-10 minutes

The lesson begins with the Welcome step, and you should allow 5 to 10 minutes for this segment. An opening game, discussion, story or some other activity gets students interested in finding out what the lesson is about. The purpose of this first step is to make a meaningful connection between the students and the new information that will be presented to them in the lesson. The focus is on active learning because students remember best what they do. This part of the lesson is intended to move quickly and capture the minds and hearts of your learners—a good way to set the stage for God's Word.

2 Bible Time

20 minutes

This segment, the heart of the lesson, is a time of interactive learning between student and teacher. A variety of methods is used to help the students discover Bible truths for themselves and recall what they already know from God's Word. In this step, students use the *In Class* paper as they read and study the Scriptures, work on assignments in groups, ask and answer questions, and listen to you and to each other. As they come face to face with the living God in his Word each week, pray that God will give your learners hungry hearts and minds, and the desire to get to know him as he is revealed there.

Your preparation involves learning to facilitate discussion rather than lecturing, telling Bible stories or dispensing Bible facts. Work to master the art of asking questions, giving students enough time to think before answering. Draw students' attention back to the Bible and specific verses and phrases, asking another question if you don't get a response to the first one. Bible Time is presented in a way that is both appropriate and challenging for Middle Elementary students and easy for you to prepare. If necessary, be ready to adjust and adapt the lesson format to suit your needs and those of your class.

Plan to spend 20 minutes on Bible Time each week. Make it a time of interactive learning when your students are actively engaged in exploration and discovery.

3 Explore and Apply

10-15 minutes

In this section, you check that students understand what they are learning from God's Word so that they can apply it to their lives. Through activities, discussion, writing and drawing in their *In Class* papers, students confirm what they know and explore what God's Word is teaching them. You want your third and fourth graders to learn to develop a practical plan of action, so that God's Word is not simply head knowledge but is also being incorporated into their daily lives.

In this step, take time to discuss ways they might put the things they've learned into action at home, at school or in the neighborhood. Encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit to enable them to do this. Plan to spend 10 to 15 minutes on this segment.

4 Memory Work

5 minutes

Plan to help your students memorize the Ten Commandments, including the Preface, this quarter. If your students have already memorized Exodus 20:1–17, NKJV, you may want to encourage them to learn the Shorter Catechism questions listed on TA 1b–TA 11 classroom posters. Fun group activities that include repetition are useful ways to teach and review memorization. Allow about five minutes of class time for this step each week. Each time new memory work is introduced, each student will receive a pair of MVP (Memory Verse Partner) cards. The memory work is found on each MVP card, and some cards include fun Bible facts and interesting notes. The student keeps one card to practice the memory work. The other card should be given to a family member or friend, someone who will help the student learn the Preface or a commandment, perhaps learning it too. Or the card can be given away to someone who is just beginning to find out about God and his Word.

Each card is hole-punched. Consider buying single round key rings for students to collect cards throughout the quarter and year.

Catechisms

The Shorter Catechism provides key biblical teaching on the Ten Commandments. It is used this quarter to help students understand and learn what each law requires and forbids. Along with each commandment, you will find relevant Shorter Catechism questions and answers on each Ten Commandments poster (TA 1b–TA 11). You will find suggested Larger Catechism questions listed at the beginning of each lesson to help you in your own study. These can be ordered from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.

MVP Cards



Options for MVP Cards

Keep the second set of student MVP cards in class to give to visitors or use in review games. Or save them until the end of the quarter and give them to students who may have lost any.

At Home Papers

Encourage your class to work on *Daily Soul Food*, a Bible study for students found in the weekly *At Home* paper. Give students an opportunity to return the paper the following week to discuss and for you to check the work. Bring a special treat to class for each student who brings back his or her completed assignment.



5 Final Focus

5–10 minutes

To conclude the lesson, spend time singing about God's law using the *Middle Elementary Vol. 2 Songbook* and CD. This may also be a time to highlight important lesson points, take prayer requests, pray together, and listen to your students as they discuss the coming week. You should plan to spend about 5 to 10 minutes on this wrap-up segment.

Hand out and discuss the *At Home* paper, especially the *Daily Soul Food* section. Emphasize to your students the importance of learning to feed themselves spiritually by reading God's Word and praying daily. Tell them that if they bring back their completed *At Home* papers next week, they will receive a small prize or reward (for example, a sticker, some candy, a pencil, etc.). Be sure to do the *At Home* activities yourself each week so you can discuss and answer any questions students may have.

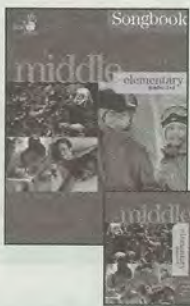
At the end of this step, make sure students leave with all their take-home materials.





Singing "The Ten Commandments" Song

Consider buying Songbooks for your students so they may follow along as they sing "The Ten Commandments" song this quarter. You may, however, photocopy the song sheet in the Songbook (p. 8) for students to use. The *Middle Elementary Vol. 2* CD separates the song into nine



tracks to assist you as you teach each stanza. Tracks 1-9 will also automatically play through without a pause.

Order CD and/or extra Songbooks from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.

Special Lesson Features

Explanations, Instructions and Questions

For lesson preparation:

- Explanations and instructions to the teacher are in regular type.

While teaching the lesson:

- Some explanations and instructions to the teacher *are in colored italic type*.
- Things for the teacher to say **are in bold type**.
- Answers to questions (*are in colored italics and enclosed in parentheses following each question*).

Optional and Adaptable Activities

- Ways to adjust teaching activities are suggested to meet the needs of your students and the size of your classroom.
- Optional activities are provided for early arrivals or for lesson enrichment.

Sidebar Items

- Pictures, symbols and graphics are supplied to make this manual teacher-friendly and easy to follow.
- Quotes from the Bible and from Christian authors are given to help you grow.
- Tips and suggestions are furnished to enhance your teaching.
- Optional activities that you might like to include in addition to the basic lesson plan are provided.

Music

This quarter, two hymns have been carefully selected to help students understand what the law of God teaches, and what it means to follow his decrees and keep them to the end (Psalm 119:33).

Songbook: The *Middle Elementary Vol. 2* Songbook (included in the Fall Teaching Aids Pack) includes all the songs for Year 2, so plan on saving the Songbook and using it during the next three quarters also. Additional copies may be ordered from Great Commission Publications at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org.

CD: The *Middle Elementary Vol. 2* CD is available from GCP at 800-695-3387 or www.gcp.org. It includes all the songs for Year 2.

Music: Use the CD or have someone play a piano, keyboard or guitar to accompany the singing.