

Tips for using *Great Adventure Kids* materials by Emily Cavins

Key reason for materials: Teach children the overview of salvation history as expressed in the Bible.

Learning by Books of the Bible: It is helpful for children to learn the layout of their Bibles. By taking the books of the Bible referred to on the Timeline chart (the 14 narrative books), have children find them in a real Bible. If children are old enough, have them read through these books using the bookmark to keep their place. With younger children, match the stories from a children's Bible to the actual Bible books. In the chart below are listed narrative books that contain familiar stories within the time period.

The Great Adventure's Narrative Timeline of Scripture

<u>12 Periods</u>	<u>14 Narrative Books</u>
Early World	Genesis (1-11)
Patriarchs	Genesis (12-50)
Egypt and Exodus	Exodus
Desert Wanderings	Numbers
Conquest and Judges	Joshua, Judges; supplemental -- Ruth
Royal Kingdom	1 and 2 Samuel; 1 Kings (1-11)
Divided Kingdom	1 Kings (12-22); 2 Kings; supplemental -- Jonah
Exile	2 Kings (17, 23-25); supplemental -- Daniel
Return	Ezra; Nehemiah; supplemental -- Esther
Maccabean Revolt	1 and 2 Maccabees
Messianic Fulfillment	Luke
The Church	Acts of the Apostles

Learning by Time period: The time periods each come from a narrative book of the Bible. (There are 14 narrative books and they are listed on the Timeline chart, in the coloring book and as a category in the cards.) The stories from each time period can be read in order from a children's bible or an adult bible. The coloring book highlights four stories from each time period. The coloring book is a great overview of the chronological story. A very important feature on the Timeline chart is "How You Fit into the Story." This explains how each person can be part of God's plan of salvation. The card games "Doubt It" and "Crazy Eights" are excellent for reinforcing the flow of the time periods. The best references for the Time periods are found on the Timeline chart. The bookmark also can be used as a quick reference.

Learning by color: The color code and/or symbols can be used to memorize the 12 periods of Bible History in these ways:

- the coloring book has a page for children to color in the time periods and each color page also has a symbol that can be colored in.
- the prayer beads are useful for reciting the time periods as the beads are slid to one side. Using the beads in conjunction with the prayer on the Timeline Chart is a prayerful way to walk through salvation history.
- the card games are all based on matching the color-coding to the time period. Each card matches a person, event, Bible book or symbol to a color as well.

Learning by Story: Learning the Bible is the main point for the *Great Adventure Kids* products and they are designed to be used in conjunction with a real Bible or children's bible. Read through a children's picture Bible and match the stories to the Timeline chart to pinpoint where the story occurs within salvation history. Older children can read a real Bible and match the stories to the chart or find playing card pictures that match the story.

Learning by Covenants: During the course of time as God reveals himself to people, God makes covenants in an ever broadening way until the entire world is included. The six major covenants are explained on the back of the Timeline chart and appear as symbols on the Timeline chart. Many of the covenants are pictured in the coloring book and on the cards.

Learning by Christ's bloodline: Another feature interwoven into the salvation story is the ancestors of Christ to whom God revealed himself. On the Timeline chart there is a red line with the names of Christ's forbearers. Emphasis on Abraham and David are important because Christ fulfills God's promises to them of an eternal kingdom.

Learning by Memorization: Memorizing the 12 periods in order by name is very important in laying a framework for all the familiar Bible stories. To help in this, the prayer beads can be used as the periods are recited. Scrambling up the playing cards that list the 12 time periods and putting them back in order is a fun way to memorize. Memorizing the bible verses listed in the coloring book is a great way to begin memorizing the story.

Learning by God's Message: In each of the stories in the Bible, God is conveying his love to us. Explaining the Bible stories in the context of Christ's love poured out to us through his cross and resurrection make all the rest of the story more relevant. Tying the stories into the fulfillment of Christ is essential in fully understanding God's love.

Learning by Devotion: Make the prayer part of daily or weekly devotional time.