

Step by Step...a suggested planning outline for Children's Bible Drill

OCTOBER

- Enlist the support of your pastor and church staff. Request a small budget to cover expenses for materials and driller recognition.
- Secure the dates for the associational and state drills. Set a date for the church drill (at least one-week before associational date). Include all dates on the church calendar.
- Contact your state Discipleship Training Department office and secure enough copies of the current cycle of drill verses for all children and children's leaders.
- Order copies of the Leaders'/Judges' Guide for each judge and each adult who will be working with drillers. Also order copies of the verse cards from your state office or LifeWay Christian Resources.
- Enlist two or three adults to assist you as a training and preparation team. Provide each adult member of the training team with a copy of the Leaders'/Judges' Guide.
- The associational Discipleship leader can be a valuable resource person. Call the associational office and secure his/her name.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Before you begin training children, practice by yourself or with another adult who has worked with Bible Drill. Master the rules and commands and calls at home in front of a mirror. Be consistent with the wording of the commands. Become thoroughly familiar with the rules.
- Learn the proper responses to the commands. Judges will be looking for any behavior that does not comply with drill rules. You must be familiar with the rules in order to caution participants when necessary.
- Promote the drill and its purpose to the children and their parents.
- Contact all children who participated in the Children's Bible Drill the previous year and encourage them to continue building their Bible skills.
- Enlist children.
- Set a time and place for drillers to meet weekly. Announce dates of training sessions, church, associational, and state drills.
- Begin weekly meetings. As you lead the weekly group sessions, work on developing skills in this order:
 - ❖ handling the Bible with respect
 - ❖ accuracy in locating books and verses
 - ❖ knowledge of the Bible
 - ❖ finally speed

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

- Continue weekly practice sessions and practice drills.
- Make posters promoting the church drill. Place articles in the church newsletter to generate interest and give support to drillers.
- Work with other children's leaders in the association to schedule ways to feature children who are preparing for the drill. A practice drill involving two or three churches might help drillers become more relaxed and better prepared for the actual drill.
- Pray for each child and adult worker involved.
- Encourage children. Invite adults to sessions to allow children to demonstrate their knowledge and skill. The adults will be impressed and will encourage the children. Drillers will gain confidence as they drill before an audience. Take advantage of this contact with adults to enlist their help in transporting drillers to the associational drill.
- Encourage the adult leaders who are working with drillers.

MARCH-APRIL

- Continue to encourage and support the drillers and continue to allow them to demonstrate in front of others.
- Plan to recognize the efforts of drill participants. A certificate of recognition or a small gift would help them remember the event.
- Begin enlistment of judges. Each judge will need a copy of the Leaders/Judges Guide, a copy of the drills you will call, and score sheets (one sheet per twelve drillers).
- Enlist a timekeeper. The timekeeper will need a stopwatch to accurately call time.
- Enlist the minister of music and pianist to lead congregational singing while the judges are recording scores.
- Enlist someone to be responsible for the sound system.
- Enlist ushers. They will assist late-comers in being seated in order to assure the drillers are not disturbed by people moving in or out during a drill. The ushers should seat people only between individual drills.
- Conduct a training session at least three days before the drill for judges and others who will assist with the church drill. Go over the score sheet, specific duties of judges, timekeeper, ushers, and all others involved.
- Practice where the church drill will be held if possible.
- A sample warm-up drill should be used.
- Select the verses you will call for the church drill. Choose six calls and one alternate call for each drill. For the Book Drill, choose calls from any part of the Bible. For the other three drills, you must choose calls from the official annual list of cycle verses.
- Prepare a typewritten copy of you church drill calls or order from the state office.
- In your church drill, all children will probably be using the same Bible translation. However in the Associational and State Drills, there may be some children using the KJV and others using the NIV. Help your children prepare for a drill using both translations.
- Gather items for the drill.
- Conduct the church drill. Be available for drillers to get feedback on their scores. Help drillers understand ways they might prepare if they will be going on to another drill.
- Honor **all** drillers in some way.