

TEACHING

ANNUAL STRATEGY GUIDE



It's so important to have a strategy for what you'll teach. Without a strategy, we run the risk of missing important ideas, teaching only the topics that interest us most, and ultimately failing to give kids a full and holistic view of God. The Grow teaching strategy is designed to give kids **both deep Biblical teaching and relevance to their everyday questions, experiences, and struggles**. It's designed to give you curriculum that is **both faithful to Scripture and developmentally appropriate for kids**, including toddlers, preschoolers, elementary-aged kids, and preteens.

HERE'S THE PLAN...

1 REVIEW GROW'S SERIES TOPICS

The Scope & Sequence for Grow Kids is based on **a semi-chronological approach to Bible teaching** that covers every major Bible story for kids in three years. Every year, we spend six months in the Old Testament and six months in the New Testament. The Old Testament is taught chronologically over three years (six months at a time) while the New Testament is taught chronologically every year from Jesus' birth through the early church, using different stories each year. Here's how those topics break down...

- **OLD TESTAMENT:**
 - Creation and early humanity
 - Abraham and his family
 - Joseph
 - Moses and the Exodus
 - Israel in the wilderness
 - Joshua, Judges and Ruth
 - David & the Psalms
 - Solomon & Proverbs
 - The prophets
 - Nehemiah & Esther
- **NEW TESTAMENT:**
 - Christmas
 - Jesus' early life and ministry
 - Jesus' ministry
 - Jesus' teachings
 - Jesus' miracles
 - Easter
 - The early church

2 DIVIDE YOUR YEAR INTO SERIES

For kids, we recommend teaching in series of four or five weeks, depending on the month. Most months have four weeks, but if you meet on Sundays, and a month has five Sundays, you'll probably want to plan a five-week series for that month. The majority of the Teaching Series you'll find [in the Grow Marketplace](#) are 4-week or 5-week series to help you reach the right number of weeks each year.

3 CHOOSE A TOPIC FOR EACH SERIES

Every year, your goal should be to cover **six of the topics in our Old Testament list**, plus six of the topics from our New Testament list. You'll find a mixture of all of these types of series [in the Grow Marketplace](#)!

And keep this in mind: **while you may reuse some of the same topics within three years, try not to reuse any of the same stories!** For example, you may want to spend three consecutive series on "the prophets," but talk about different prophets in each series. Or, you may do one series on "Jesus' teachings" that focuses on his parables, and another that focuses on his most famous sermons, like Sermon on the Mount. **This list of topics isn't meant to limit you, but to give you a structure** that helps you identify the most important Bible stories for kids, and then organize them.

4 ALIGN YOUR TEACHING WITH YOUR DISCIPLESHIP STRATEGY

If you started with your Discipleship Strategy and already determined which spiritual habits you'll focus on during each quarter, it's time to **arrange your Teaching Series in a way that complements your discipleship efforts**. Not every series needs to line up with your Discipleship Strategy perfectly, but look for ways you can be even more effective by allowing your teaching and discipleship efforts to work together.



SPEND TIME WITH GOD: Since you're talking about personal spiritual disciplines, this quarter is a great time to emphasize...

- **Jesus' life, death, and resurrection**
- **Spiritual growth** (like an overview of the four spiritual habits or a deep-dive on a specific topic like prayer, worship, or studying Scripture)
- **Doubt and questions**



SPEND TIME WITH OTHERS: Since you're talking about relationships with others, this quarter is a great time to emphasize...

- **Healthy friendships**
- **Family relationships**
- **Relationships with authority figures**



USE YOUR GIFTS: Since you're talking about using our unique gifts to love God and others, this is a great time to emphasize...

- **What makes us unique**
- **Loving our neighbors**
- **Generosity and service**



SHARE YOUR STORY: Since you're talking about sharing the good news of Jesus, this quarter is a great time to emphasize...

- **The good news of Jesus**
- **Sharing the gospel**
- **Loving others like Jesus does**

If you're shopping for teaching series [in the Grow Marketplace](#), keep an eye out for **Teaching Series that are designed to go along with specific Discipleship Activities!**

5 CHOOSE YOUR TEACHING SERIES FOR THE YEAR

Once you know which topics you'll focus on during the year, it's time to [visit the Grow Marketplace](#) and choose the series you'll teach this year. (Or, of course, you can create your own series from scratch!)

Every Teaching Series in the Grow Marketplace has **both a preschool and an elementary version**. Each series comes with...

- **Weekly lesson guides**
- **Weekly small group discussion guides**
- **Weekly teaching videos**
- **Bible story illustrations**
- **Coloring pages**
- **Handouts**
- **Hacks** for toddlers, preteens, and kids with disabilities
- **Memory verse** with a tutorial video in sign language
- **Editable graphics**
- **Bumper & countdown videos**
- **Weekly Grow at Home conversation guides** for families
- **Music suggestions**
- **Ideas for decorating, snacks, prizes, and giveaway** with links and a Pinterest board
- **Weekly devotionals** for volunteers & parents
- **Pre-written emails** for volunteers & parents
- **Social media posts and captions**
- **Shop and prep lists**
- And everything else you need to make each series happen!



When you've chosen your teaching series for the year, **put one red card per series on your Grow Strategy Calendar!**