Two Ways of Viewing God’s Word

Through what lenses do you view God’s Word? Me-centered or God-centered?

Small, Me-centered lenses:

Big, God-centered lenses:

Importance of Balanced Teaching

Focusing on one part of God’s Word for us leads to inconsistent growth.

We need the whole of God’s Word to become the full people He intends us to be.

In our teaching, we need to balance God’s blessing with God’s purpose.

Effects of Me-Centered Teaching of Scripture

On young children:

On teens:

Group Activity: Blessing and Purpose

* Moses and the 10 plagues – Exodus 7:1-5; 9:13-16; 12:37-38
* Crossing the Jordan River – Joshua 3:14-17; 4:19-24
* David and Goliath – 1 Samuel 17:20-47

1. Who did God bless and how? (Many times this is the easier answer to find. It usually involves the most prominent characters in the story.)
2. What is God’s greater purpose for the blessing? (This answer takes more practice to find. It is the part of the blessing that spills over to other people who may not be as noticeable.)

God’s Word/Bible Story Lesson

No matter what Bible story or passage you teach, provide ways for children to gain a biblical view of who God is, His global heart, and His purposes.

*Bible Story:*

Help your kids to be God-focused rather than me-focused. As you teach Bible stories, help your children to understand that:

* God is the main character in every story.
* God is always at work to make Himself known.
* God blesses His people for a greater purpose that includes others.

Integrate these concepts into the Bible story introduction, the story itself, discussion questions, and the story application.

*Memory Verse:*

Introduce a verse about God’s heart for the nations each month. Review it each week. Memorize the verse in fun way. Add hand motions, act it out, add rhythm, or sing the verse.

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| Psalm 46:10 | Psalm 67 | Psalm 86:9 | Psalm 105:1 | Isaiah 49:6 |
| Isaiah 45:22 | Habakkuk 2:14 | Malachi 1:11 | Matthew 24:14 | Matthew 28:19-20 |
| Mark 16:15 | Luke 24:46-47 | Acts 1:8 | Romans 10:12-15 | Revelation 5:9 |

*Singing:*

Include songs that help your children worship and praise God for who He is and songs that tell about God’s love for the whole world.

Small Group Activity

Bible Story: Look at the story you were assigned for the Blessing and Purpose Activity.

Introduction Group: Introduce the Bible story. Focus on God and what He may do through His people. Give any context that shows who the unbelievers are in this passage.

Discussion Question Group: Prepare a few questions to discuss after the Bible story. Make sure that your questions draw out both the blessing and greater purpose for the blessing.

Application Group: Give two ways to apply the story, one for young children and one for older children. Remember to focus not only on the child himself, but also on what God may desire to do through him.

Memory Verse Group: Choose a memory verse on God’s heart and purposes from the memory verse section of this handout. Decide how the children will learn it. Tell how you would modify this activity for younger children.

Worship Group: Choose a worship song that reflects who God is or His love for the whole world. Decide how you will present it to the children.

Impact of God-Centered Teaching of Scripture

Discipling children to know God’s purpose and minister to others will impart to them a purpose greater than themselves. It gives them a balanced perspective of God’s blessings in light of His purposes.

Children who have a God-centered understanding of the Bible:

* Know God has blessed them to be a blessing to others.
* Know they exist for God, to bring Him glory.
* Know their identity, deeply loved children of God and participants in God’s story.