

## A class model to support a Bible presentation emphasis

Please adapt the following “Class Model” for your context as you consider creating a learning experience to prepare children, adults and families for the Presentation of the Bible. Review the model prior to use for advance preparations, materials to have ready, and time considerations. Additional class ideas and suggestions are listed on page 33 of the 2001/02 Christian Education Planning Guide.

1. Welcome families. Ask participants to write their individual responses to the following questions (posted on newsprint or chalk board). Younger children may need some assistance.

- My favorite Bible story is?
- My least favorite Bible story is?
- When I hear the Bible read I feel...
- When I study the Bible I feel...
- One question I have concerning the Bible is..

Invite families to gather with at least one other family in a small group and share responses. Make certain everyone who wishes to has the opportunity to speak in their small group. After an appropriate amount of time, ask for a large group sharing. Note on the board or newsprint any common responses. Invite reflection and comments on what is learned in the large group sharing.

2. Provide copies of “The Word” for every participant (page 5, *Lutheran Basics for Teachers*, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, 1998, \$2.49 ISBN 0-8066-3718-8).

Ask each family to select a “guide” to help them work through the handout. The first section of the page can be read by the guide to the group. The guide may invite other family members to read each bulleted item under the next section, “What Does This Mean?” Ask each family to look up the Bible verse in the “Exploring Scripture” section. Invite those who find the passages in their Bible to offer a response to the question “Why did God give us the Bible?” Encourage families to share with each other their responses to the questions listed in the “Looking at Our Experience” segment.

3. After every family has had the opportunity to be guide through the handout, distribute copies of **Tips for reading the Bible together at home**. Ask participants to quickly review several or all of the Family Bible Study ritual options. Or select a single option for the entire class. Ask participants to read through their chosen Family Bible Study, or the study approach chosen for them. Next, prepare each family for their own Family Bible Study experience, making certain they understand the process and have all the materials they need. You may wish to supply a common scripture passage or have families select their own, possibly from a list you provide. When all questions and concerns have been addressed, set the families loose to enjoy a Family Bible Study experience.

4. After every family has completed the Family Bible Study, ask “What would this Family Bible Study ritual look like in your home?” Receive large group responses. Write responses in their proper place on the following graph, reproduced on newsprint or chalk board.

**Our Family Bible Study**

Day	Place	Time	Bible Study Method	Guide	Bible	Supplies

Record as many options and possibilities that are shared. Create additional columns to collect ideas as necessary. Encourage participants to brain storm other arrangements and items that would contribute to a successful Family Bible Study ritual.

Once you’ve collected all ideas, move the conversation toward helping families makes assignments and take responsibility for their first Family Bible Study experience. Additional questions, concerns and topics for further class study may surface during this time. Express your commitment to nurture Family Bible Study rituals with the families in your congregation.

As appropriate, discuss how your congregation will present Bibles to children and families. Close with prayer.