



## Beginning Children's Bible Drill in your church

Although every child needs to develop Bible skills, not every child wishes to participate in Children's Bible Drill. For those children who do, Children's Bible Drill is an excellent program for giving children even more practice in using their Bibles. Here are the steps in starting a Children's Bible Drill program in your church:

1. Contact your state discipleship office for instructions on how to conduct Children's Bible Drill in your state. Also, ask for the dates of the state and associational drills and the cycle for that year. (See [sbc.net](http://sbc.net) for links to the state convention websites.) Be sure you learn what translations will be accepted at the state drill.
2. Set the date for your church drill. Usually the church drill occurs approximately two weeks before the associational drill.
3. Determine a schedule for your meetings. Some churches begin six months before their church drill. Others begin three months before the drill. Others begin with the new church year in September. The churches which allow more time are able to use more of the games and fun activities in Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills to help children learn.
4. Decide when and where you will meet. Reserve these times and places on the church calendar. Possible times to meet include the hour before children's discipleship, during children's discipleship, after school, Saturday morning, or Wednesday night. Choose a time that will allow the most children to participate. Include any special meetings such as a kick-off, parent orientation, or parties. The best place to hold Children's Bible Drill is in a children's room although an adult room will work. You will need a cabinet to store Bibles, workbooks, games, masking tape, and other supplies.
5. Advertise when Children's Bible Drill will begin. Along with articles in your church newsletter, letters to the parents of fourth, fifth, and sixth graders, and announcements in the children's Sunday School classes, you might lead some children from last year's drill in an exhibition drill during worship. Logos are on CD2 Item E.
6. Obtain resources listed on page 8. Other supplies that you will need include masking tape, markers, and pencils.
7. Hold an orientation meeting for drillers and their parents. Here are some suggestions for that meeting:
  - a. Explain the purpose of Children's Bible Drill.
  - b. Explain the four drills. (See CD2 Item F—Four Calls and CD2 Item 57—Children's Bible Drill Video Demonstration Drill.)
  - c. Give children the *Verse Card* for the cycle and translation you will be using.
  - d. Discuss how important the role is that parents play. Children will need parents to help them learn the Bible verses, Key Passages, and the books of the Bible.
  - e. Some churches may ask parents to contribute to the purchase of Bibles, activity books, music and game CD, and special T-shirts. Discuss these costs at this meeting. If overnight travel is involved in attending the state drill, talk about these plans.
8. (Optional) Hold a special kick-off. The kick-off could be as simple as an all-day party at the church or as elaborate as a lock-in. Use this time to help boys and girls get a jump-start on learning the Bible verses and the books of the Bible. Make the time fun with refreshments and games to help them learn.

9. Meet weekly for at least an hour to help children learn the material and to practice drilling. The *Bible Skills, Drills, & Thrills Leader Guide* provides instructions and activities for each meeting. Use the Skill Check List on page 15 or CD Item 1 to keep track of their progress.
10. (Optional) Plan a midway party. The party should include some time practicing the material along with other fun activities such as playing miniature golf, going to the park, playing games in the gym, or eating pizza.
11. Hold the church drill. Send the names of qualified children to your association.
12. Attend the associational drill.
13. Attend the state drill.
14. Recognize children in your church newsletter.

### **What Are the Levels of Participation?**

Children's Bible Drillers pass through at least three levels of participation\*:

#### ***Church Drill***

Schedule a church drill one or two weeks before the associational drill. A church drill should be conducted at the church before an audience of interested persons.

Children who participate in a church drill and give 12 or more correct responses are eligible to participate in an associational drill.

The person in charge of the church drill should notify the associational office of the names of the children who qualify for the associational drill.

Every child who participates in a church drill should receive some kind of recognition such as a certificate from the church.

## What Are the Drill Commands?

### 1 Attention.



Stand straight; one foot not extended in front of the other; eyes focused on the caller until the command “Start” is given. Hold your Bible at your side (in either hand) with the Bible’s spine down.



### 2 Present Bibles.



This call is used only in the Book Calls and Key Passage Calls.

Bring your Bible to waistline parallel with the floor.

Following the “Present Bible” command, the caller announces the call.

If you search with your right hand, hold the Bible in your left hand with Genesis down and with the right hand resting flat on the back of the Bible and no fingers extending over the edges.

If you search with your left hand, hold the Bible in your right hand, Genesis up, with the left hand resting flat on the front of your Bible and no fingers extending over the edges.



### 3 Start.

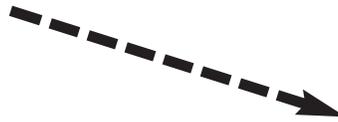


This command is the signal for you to step forward or begin searching in your Bibles.

For the Book Call and Key Passage Call, begin searching in the Bible when the command is given. It is a mistake to begin before this command is given. In the Book Call, the index finger must be placed upon any part of that book.

In the Key Passage Call, find any part of the reference, place your index finger on any portion, and step forward.

For the Quotation or Completion Calls, step forward when you can say the verse.



### 4 Time.



The timekeeper calls out “Time” at the end of 10 seconds. No one may step forward after this command, and all children should stop searching in their Bibles.

The caller calls on one child by number who will give a response.

The other children will remain quiet while the one called upon responds.

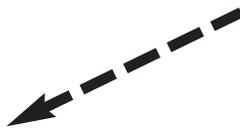
If the child called on does not give the right response, the caller calls on another child.

(See CD2 Item 57 for a video demonstration drill.)

### 5 Attention.



Close the Bible, return it to its original position, and take one step back.



## How Are the Drills Administered?

- The Children’s Discipleship Training director, a director or leader in a Children’s Discipleship Training department, or another worker may be asked to coordinate and lead the drill.
- The following leaders are needed for a drill: a caller, a timekeeper, and three judges. One of the three judges serves as chairperson. The chairperson checks the math and averages the scores given to each participant by the three judges.
- No more than 12 children should participate in a drill. If more children are involved, plan multiple drills.

## How Is Children’s Bible Drill Judged and Scored?

- Judging is based on the verses and Key Passages printed on the current *Verse Card* and the books of the Bible.
- Mistakes are marked on the score sheet.
- Only one mistake may be scored for a child on any single call.
- While mistakes are scored, only the number of correct responses are reported to each child.

Print out score sheets from CD2 Item H—Children’s Bible Drill Score Sheets.

Mistakes are listed below. CD2 Item 57 is a video demonstration drill that shows these mistakes as well as the correct method to use. Pack Item 7 has “What are the Drill Commands.”

Mistakes are:

1. The child fails to step out within 10 seconds.
2. The child gives the incorrect response. This includes any child who raises his or her hand, indicating an error.
3. The child fails to stand straight or keep his eyes on the drill caller until the command “Start” is given.
4. When the Bible is used, the child steps forward before the index finger is on the correct response.
5. The child fails to handle the Bible according to instructions or obviously misuses the Bible. The Bible should be parallel to the floor with one hand flat on the top and one hand flat on the bottom with no fingers extending over the edges.

## New Children’s Bible Drill Logo



## How Do You Call and Judge a Drill?

### **BEFORE THE DRILL**

- Prepare and write a drill to call. (See CD2 Item G, “Writing a Drill” for a sample.)
- Put a strip of masking tape on the floor. The children should stand behind this line.
- Judges should meet to read aloud and discuss the five mistakes that will be recorded. Give judges their score sheets.
- Judges should sit in front of the drillers, facing the drillers.
- Make a set of cards numbered 1 through 12. Pin a number on each child’s shirt or blouse. Line the children up in sequential order, facing the audience. (Judges record children’s responses on the score sheet under the corresponding number.)

### **DURING THE DRILL**

- A drill should be preceded by instructions to children and at least one practice call to acquaint the children with the voice and timing of calls by the caller.
- All judges should watch all the children.
- Judges should watch for the mistakes listed on page 19 of this sample.
- Only one mistake can be scored against a child on any one call.
- Some judges find it helpful to slide a piece of paper down the page so they do not lose their places on the score sheets. The line across the top of the score sheet represents the order (left to right) in which the drillers stand. The numbers top to bottom represent the calls to be given.
- The person calling the drill should go slowly enough for the judges to record the scores.
- Every child should be called on during the drill.
- Do not always call on the child who is first to step out.
- Wait the full 10 seconds after the “Start” command has been given before calling on a child.
- Judges should give the benefit of doubt to the drillers but should not lose credibility. The rules are the standards.

### **AFTER THE DRILL**

- In a church drill a child who gives 12 or more correct responses can advance to the associational drill. In an association drill, having 16 or more correct responses qualifies a child to participate in the state drill.
- Following a drill, the three judges go immediately to a private room. Each judge will add the mistakes made by each child.
- One of the three judges should serve as chairperson. This judge checks the math of the other judges. He or she then adds the three scores for each child and divides the sum by three to get the average number of errors. Then the chairperson subtracts the errors from 24 to get the child’s final score. (Example:  $4+4+4=12 \div 3=4$ .  $24-4=20$ . The child’s final score is 20.)
- Judges should resolve all questions and come to final decisions before they leave the room.
- Judges should not have scores announced to the audience. To let children know if they will advance to the next level judges can put a seal on their certificates. All children should receive certificates no matter what their scores.
- Judges should not discuss the scores. The decisions of the judges should be final.
- Encouragement should be given to children who qualify for the associational drill to continue their training in preparation for the drill. Following the associational drill, encourage those who qualify to continue their training for the state drill.