



illuminance  
Bible Memory Work

# Curriculum Introduction

*An overview and instructions for using  
Illuminance Bible Memory Work & Curriculum*

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# **THANK YOU FOR USING ILLUMINANCE BIBLE CURRICULUM!**

“Illuminance” is a term used to describe how much light falls onto (i.e. illuminates) and spreads over a specified area. The purpose of this program is to develop and enrich our young people's knowledge of the Scriptures, so that the light of Christ can shine through them and onto the world. This material has been thoughtfully designed to strengthen Bible learning in homes, Sunday Schools, co-ops, and clubs by using the classical model of education, capitalizing on a young child's natural ability to memorize, an older child's desire to converse, and a young adult's desire to explain. The ultimate goal of this curriculum is to equip you, your children, and/or your students for a lifetime of loving, serving, and knowing the Lord in a way that explains both the stories of the Bible and the way in which they all tell His Story.

## **THE VALUE OF MEMORIZATION**

Not many people can recite the ABC's without singing the song they learned as toddlers. In the model of the classical education, the idea is to encourage the memorization of valuable content at a young age, so that it can be more fully understood and digested as children grow in understanding the content of which they have already memorized. Illuminance Curriculum desires to capitalize on this ideal by aiding parents and educators in supplying Biblically rich content for memorization and exploration.

For each cycle, 36 questions and answers, along with key texts of Scripture for each one have been provided. (If you need less than 36 for your purposes, see the Memory Work appendix for more information.) During the cycle, memorize each week's answer, along with a key memorization element for that cycle. If this is your second time through the cycles, memorize the key memorization element, each week's question and the answer. If this is your third (or fourth, or fifth, or sixth) time through the cycles, add memorizing the Scripture texts for each question and answer too! Use the coordinating lesson for each question and answer to delve deeper into the content of the Memory Work.

## **CLASSROOM AND UTILIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS**

"Illuminance Bible Memory Work" is a catechism of successive questions and answers that helps students of all ages navigate through the whole story of the Bible to reveal its relevant application for today. To coordinate with the cycles of Illuminance Bible Memory Work, we have developed lessons to delve further into each question and answer one-by-one.

Each lesson contains a lesson and Bible Study for all ages, plus games, crafts, and activities appropriate for elementary children, discussion questions to engage early teens in the application process, and further study resources and topics for older teens and adults to grasp the depth of the Scriptures.

As these lessons could be utilized in a variety of different settings, the following guidelines are designed to help establish the best outline for each environment and time constraint. Know your students enough to know where they would most benefit from the pieces provided.

**One Day a Week: 45 minutes  
(Sunday School, Small Groups, Homeschool Co-Ops, or in home)**

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Young Teen</b>	<b>Teen &amp; Adult</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Cycle Memory Work Game Activity Lesson Introduction Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson Art Activity	Cycle Memory Work Game Activity Lesson Introduction Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson Discussion Questions	Cycle Memory Work Lesson Introduction Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson Discussion Questions Further Study

**Three Days a Week: 15-20 minutes each day**

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Young Teen</b>	<b>Teen &amp; Adult</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Cycle Memory Work Weekly Memory Work Lesson Introduction	Weekly Memory Work Game Activity Lesson Introduction	Cycle Memory Work Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson
<b>Day 2</b>	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson	Weekly Memory Work Discussion Questions
<b>Day 3</b>	Weekly Memory Work Game Activity Art Activity	Weekly Memory Work Cycle Memory Work Discussion Questions	Weekly Memory Work Further Study

**Five Days a Week: 10-15 minutes each day**

	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Young Teen</b>	<b>Teen &amp; Adult</b>
<b>Day 1</b>	Cycle Memory Work Weekly Memory Work Lesson Introduction	Cycle Memory Work Weekly Memory Work Lesson Introduction	Cycle Memory Work Weekly Memory Work Lesson Introduction
<b>Day 2</b>	Weekly Memory Work Game Activity	Weekly Memory Work Game Activity	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - Read the Bible - What Happened in the Passage?
<b>Day 3</b>	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - Read the Bible - What Happened in the Passage?	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - Read the Bible - What Happened in the Passage?	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - What Does this Tell Us About God? - How Does This Help You Today?
<b>Day 4</b>	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - What Does this Tell Us About God? - How Does This Help You Today?	Weekly Memory Work Bible Story & Lesson: - What Does this Tell Us About God? - How Does This Help You Today?	Weekly Memory Work Discussion Questions
<b>Day 5</b>	Weekly Memory Work Art Activity	Weekly Memory Work Discussion Questions	Weekly Memory Work Further Study

## **MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

A list of additional materials and supplies needed will be provided throughout the lesson at the appropriate time in the lesson. Many of the activity and art resources are included with each lesson. All items, including printouts, should be gathered before class and handy for use during the session. A master list of all non-printed materials for all lessons is available in each cycle's download.

## **LESSONS OUTLINE**

### **WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER (5 MIN)**

This is a time to welcome the students to the class and give them a sneak peek at the topic of the day's lesson while also reviewing the previous lesson. Since each question and answer of the memory work builds upon each other, this welcome is a great time to catch up students who may have missed the prior study and refresh the memories of those who were there. Be sure to begin your time in prayer, inviting the Lord to be with your class.

### **CYCLE MEMORY WORK (5 MIN)**

For each cycle of Illuminance Bible Memory Work, students will work to memorize one larger section of content that will have significance for the cycle's weekly work as well. In Cycle 1, students will memorize the Ten Commandments; in Cycle 2, the Lord's Prayer; in Cycle 3, the Books of the Bible; and, in Cycle 4, the Apostles' Creed. The version of each of these is left to the discretion of the teacher and it is recommended that you follow whatever will be most likely to be encountered by the students in their environments (church, school, etc.).

Use a variety of methods of repeat the cycle memory work during each lesson. Songs, hand motions, and visual aids are all useful tools to aid students in committing these larger portions to memory, but do whatever is best for the students. Although it may seem repetitive to do these larger sections each lesson, the continued use of the entirety of the cycle's memory work will be helpful to the overall learning of each lesson and its commitment to memory.

### **GAME ACTIVITY (5 MIN)**

In most cases, this will be an active and/or physical game to get students bodily involved in the lesson. These games are designed to engage more active learners of all students with occasional variations of activities given for different ages or settings. Materials will be listed for the games, but alternatives can be adapted as necessary. Although the time allotted to play these activities is not extensive, most can be adapted to longer or shorter times as student's response can vary. The goal of these games are not competition, but to help more kinesthetic learners engage with the content of lesson.

### **LESSON INTRODUCTION (3 MIN)**

During this part of the lesson, the general topic of day will be introduced and students will begin to consider the implications of such a topic. Questions posed to the students and

outside illustrations are utilized to help bring the topic of the day to life outside of the classroom. For more theologically heavy topics, this time may also include more background information that may be pertinent to grasping the depth of the lesson. It is the overall goal of this time to get the wheels turning in the right direction and begin to focus their attention to the specific topic of the day.

### **WEEKLY MEMORY WORK (5 MINUTES)**

This is the time in each lesson to review the week's memory work question and answer. If you are teaching students who are going through this cycle for the first time, we recommend skipping the key text, but please include it if your setting has been over the cycle before. It is a great time in the lesson to include movement and motion so let the students get out of their seats and use as much of their body as possible to review the questions and answers. If your class is able to read, it may be beneficial to write the question and answer on a board for an additional layer of learning.

We recommend the class to hear and recite the question and answer a minimum of 7 times. This may sound like a lot given the five-minute time frame, but it is helpful to keep the lesson moving. Tactics like repeating short phrases, repeating with funny voices, speeding up/slowing down the words, various exercises while repeating, are just some of the many ways to make this key part of the lesson easy to memorize for your students. Don't forget that this is not the student's only opportunity to memorize this question and answer. It will be the family's task during the remainder of the week to review and memorize this information. Your job is simply to introduce it and give them excitement to continue to work toward memorization.

### **BIBLE STORY & LESSON (12 MIN)**

A generic question or pertinent background information may be given at the beginning of the Bible lesson, but is kept to a minimum so as to let the text of Scripture speak for itself.

#### **Read Scripture**

Take the time to allow students to find the Bible passage in their own Bibles. Help them to own their Christianity by seeing for themselves first-hand the truths of Scripture. Read the passage aloud or even let confident readers read aloud while encouraging younger students to follow along closely in their own Bibles.

#### **Ask: What happened in this passage?**

Taking time to ask questions allows students to summarize the story, as well as verify that they have understood the passage as a whole. This encourages them to pay attention to the story and allows even the youngest students time to speak. For very young students or passages that are less narrative in style, you may even ask for a few key words that they heard. Help them to engage directly with the text and see that the Bible is for them too!

Comments provided are meant to focus the students to the main topic of the day, but may not actually be necessary if students are able to summarize well. Use your best judgement to steer relevant comments to the overall goal of the day.

**Ask: What does this tell us about God?**

This is the time to consider the implications of the text at hand to the way that it shapes the worldview of a Christian. This question is intentionally very broad to allow students to begin to consider for themselves the way that God intersects with their world. There is not one right answer to this question. There may be a variety of appropriate answers. As students grow in their understanding of the Lord and His Word, encourage further connections to other parts of Scripture all the while being as centered on God as possible. This is NOT the time to talk about how the Bible passage changes how we live, but should be more focused on how it shapes our understanding of God Himself.

**Ask: How does this help you today?**

Allow students to be personal as they respond to this question. Give them a moment to consider where this story intersects with their life. Answers will clearly vary, but encourage them to be as concrete as possible, even being the first to offer your response. Help students to see that the Scripture is relevant to their lives today by helping them to be specific.

**CLOSING PRAYER (2 MIN)**

Pray in light of the immensely personal way that the Scriptures have impacted the students. Thank the Lord for His Word shaping how we think about Him and how we live our lives.

**ART ACTIVITY (8 MIN)**

This time allows for a creative expression of the lesson designed to make the lasting implication of the day's topic to continue to impact students after the lesson is complete. Encourage students to put their completed projects in a prominent place in their lives so as to continue contemplation on the lesson throughout the week.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Dialogue can be so helpful to engage learners in the hard work of application and the actions of the Gospel. It is our hope that these questions would engage middle school students in considering the next level of application for the lesson. How do you live in light of what you have just learned? What outside of their own life is impacted by these truths? The questions provided would be great questions to begin conversations around the dinner table or in a small group setting.

**FOR FURTHER STUDY**

This section of each lesson will give you more Scripture to study with guidance for in-depth conversations and discussions. We recommend taking the time to read each passage provided as a group or as individuals. Discuss the lesson's implications for conversations with non-believers and how the lesson as a whole brings the Gospel to your present context and situation.