

# Methods for Teaching Upper Elementary Students (Grades 4-5)

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- A. How Upper Elementary Children (Grades 4-5) learn. They are characterized by:
1. An emphasis on group membership.
  2. Ability to analyze facts and intentions..
  3. Logical thinking.
  4. A love for facts.
  5. Demonstrated logic and sorting skills.
  6. A strong sense of “right and wrong” justice.
  7. Cooperation with common group goals.
- B. What works and what does not work for Upper Elementary Children.
1. Do’s for Upper Elementary Children:
    - a. Do provide opportunities for students to study the Bible and look up verses, references, and passages.
    - b. Do encourage acceptance of all God’s children-vary the seating frequently.
    - c. Allow students to come to group consensus about classroom rules.
    - d. Provide opportunities for cooperative group work as well as independent study.
    - e. Allow students to make choices between activities.
    - f. Keep classroom instruction as concrete and experiential as possible.
  2. Don’ts for Upper Elementary Children:
    - a. Don’t tell the students all the Bible content as they passively listen.
    - b. Don’t allow students to sit in cliques or always with the same peers.
    - c. Don’t present a set of rules to follow and exclude students from having input.
    - d. Don’t only have students work individually on projects and activities.
    - e. Don’t present abstract concepts without being more specific.
- C. Specific Suggestions:
1. Emphasize stories with heroes of good qualities, but do not hesitate to point out the qualities that are not so good.
  2. Be sure to explain difficult words and customs.
  3. Memorize Bible verses.
  4. Study background materials.
  5. Maps can be helpful.
  6. Stress the Bible as the inspired Word of God.
  7. Bible aids (Bible dictionaries, concordances, etc.) can be used.
  8. Book reports can be made on Bible stories.

9. Be sure to relate Bible verses and lessons to problems of children. Judge current events and community news in the light of Bible principles.