



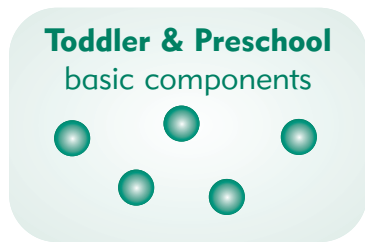
The Complete Plan for Teaching God's *Complete* Word



Many Sunday school teachers are perplexed about their role in the overall scope of Christian education. Comparing the seven departments of GCP's curriculum to a string of beads is a helpful analogy.

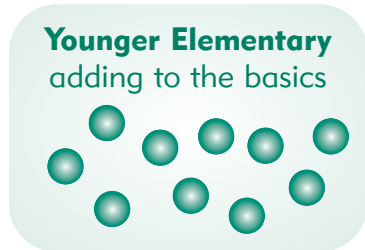
Toddler & Preschool

First you must have beads. In Toddler and Preschool curriculum, we begin to teach the vocabulary of faith by presenting the Bible stories—the *beads*. Even children this young are able to acquire proper beliefs and do what God requires of them.



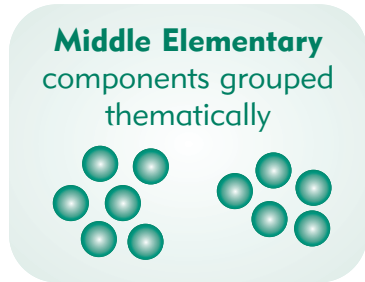
Younger Elementary

Younger Elementary teaches stories from the entire Bible. The students begin to learn biblical truths and gain some familiarity with how they relate to one another. Chronology is considered in this course, but it is periodically ignored; children at this age cannot handle it developmentally. They continue to add beads to their repertoire, learning the different kinds of beads and how they relate to each other. This is essential before putting the beads in order.



Middle Elementary

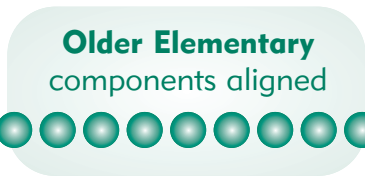
Middle Elementary integrates Bible stories around certain unifying themes such as worship, grace, missions, witnessing, trusting God, and servants of God. Because students at this age are developing skills of conceptual thinking, discovery of truths from Scripture through comparing, contrasting, and analyzing is emphasized. *Daily Soul Food* in the take-home paper encourages personal devotions. The second year of Middle Elementary begins to acquaint students with chronological sequencing. In our bead analogy, this department begins to group the individual beads together thematically.



Older Elementary

Older Elementary deals with Bible history and chronology in particular. Preteens develop an understanding of how God has revealed himself in his Word by studying God's redemptive plan through a survey of all the books of the Bible. The emphasis is that Jesus Christ is central in all of God's Word.

Older Elementary puts the beads in order. The holes must line up, and the beads must be in proper relationship to one another. The students discover the development of God's plan to redeem his people through history.



Junior High

The Junior High course is the capstone of the curriculum—studying God’s Word through the lens of the covenant. The students trace God’s covenantal dealings with his people and their significance from Genesis to Revelation. They build on the historical, chronological foundation studied in Older Elementary. The doctrine of the covenant is central to understanding who God is and his mighty acts revealed in Scripture. Covenant is defined in terms of the relationship between God and his people. He is our God and we are his people.

In the bead analogy, the Junior High course is the string that holds everything together. Just as beads will not hold together without a string, neither will our understanding of the Bible without a grasp of the doctrine of the covenant.

Junior High
how they are held together



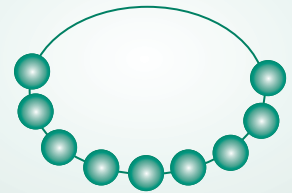
Senior High

Senior High teaches teens how to live out their faith day by day in every area of life. As God’s creation, Christians are to use their gifts and skills in whatever God calls them to do. The curriculum focuses on what characterizes mature Christians—commitment to a biblical worldview of

- 1) trusting and obeying the triune God,
- 2) being the people God created them to be, and
- 3) serving others.

What good is a string of beads if it is never worn? Senior High addresses this question. Once the beads are examined, put in order, and strung together, they should be worn. Senior High helps the students understand how to wear them in daily life.

Senior High
beads are to be worn



A string of beads is valuable when all the beads are in place and worn. The study of God’s Word enables us to grow in living out our faith. The goal of Great Commission Publications’ *Show Me Jesus* and *Show Me Jesus Youth* curriculum is to raise up mature covenant disciples who are committed to glorifying God and enjoying him forever.

Adapted from Allen Curry’s article “Drawing a Bead on Curriculum”



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