

MBC Teacher Training Workshops

Information Pack



To request a workshop or for more information contact:

Mary Nelson

Email: mary@missionbibleclass.org

Purpose of Training Workshops

Although the main part of the Mission Bible Class Ministry is accomplished through providing free online resources, I am also able to conduct a limited number of training workshops each year as time and funds permit. A chief criteria for selecting a location or host for these events is that there is a multiplying component. This may mean a central location where teachers from a number of congregations might gather or it may be one congregation, organization or training school that has widespread influence in helping others.

The purpose of workshops is to equip local people to share God's Word with children using methods and resources available within their own communities. A natural and sustainable approach is used instead of a dependence on printed (and sometimes foreign) materials that are sometimes created with larger or more established churches in mind.

- Workshops can be tailored to training schools, larger established congregations or small churches and groups.
- For teachers (current or prospective), parents, church leaders, missionaries and others
- Mission Bible Class Workshops are designed to be interactive, fun and a blessing to those who attend.

A Successful Mission Bible Class Workshop Will:

Enhance what is already being done in local churches

Empower Christians to use local methods and resources

Encourage both current and prospective teachers

Equip attendees to pass the faith on to the next generation

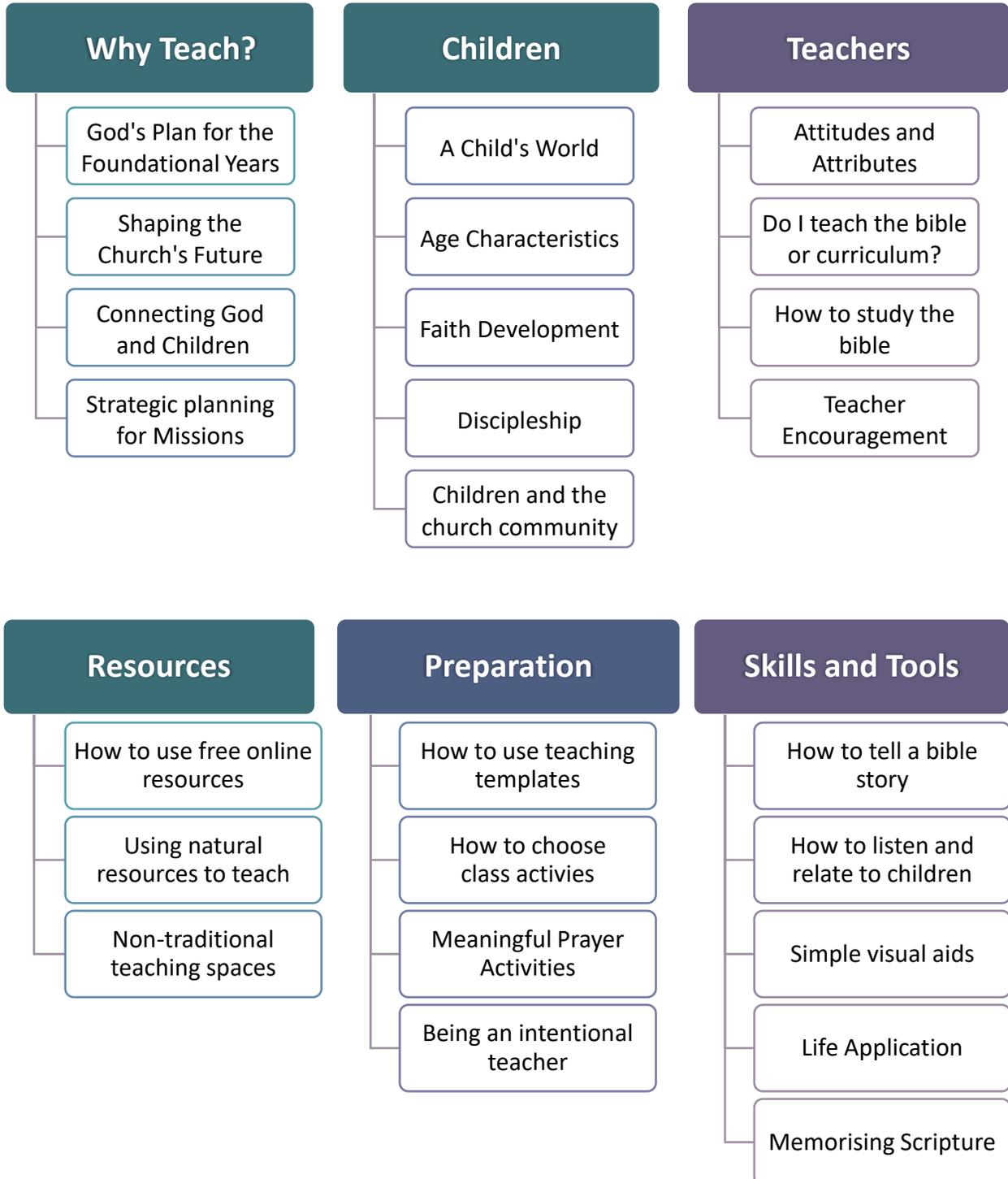
Introduce free online resources to use after the workshop

Be Encouraging and Fun!



Typical Workshop Topics

Many of these will be mentioned in any workshop but hosts should consider if there are particular areas they wish to be emphasised.



A Workshop Built Around Your Needs

Typically, in the months leading up to a workshop, time is spent in conversation or correspondence with the hosts determining topics that would best suit the situation. Although a number of topics can be touched on in a workshop, it can be helpful to particularly focus on a few. Refer to the topic list on the previous page as you consider. There is always more to learn and one workshop will not cover everything. Here are some things to think about:

- Amount of time available (one day or over a few days)
- Type and formality of event (lectureship, large group or an intimate group at a table)
- Audience/participants (interested parties, church leaders, students, actual teachers)

Hosting a Mission Bible Class Workshop

Workshops have been conducted in many different locations around the world and every situation is unique. “Mission” is a vital component of this ministry so please do not hesitate to ask if any of the responsibilities below are beyond the capability of the host. *“Let’s see how we might work together to make it happen.” Mary*

The host will:

- Provide a suitable venue, or place, for the workshop. This includes visual and audio equipment as needed.
- Handle all permissions and promotion as well as the registration and arrangements for attendees.
- Print or photocopy a workshop manual and/or handouts for each participant.
- Provide a point person to correspond with the speaker before, during and after the workshop. This includes providing advice for cultural sensitivities, customs and church traditions as needed.
- Provide for travel, accomodation and food for the speaker(s) for the duration of the workshop. An honorarium is appreciated but not assumed.

The speaker(s) will:

- Work with the host to produce and conduct a productive workshop experience unique to the needs of local congregations and teachers.
- Provide supplies needed for workshop activities.
- Be respectful of the local church community and culture. This includes speaking and acting in ways that enhance peace and unity.



More Information About Mary Nelson

Mary founded the Mission Bible Class Ministry in 2011. Over the years she has taught regular children's Bible classes and mentored teachers. Mary has trained teachers in New Zealand, Fiji, Australia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Germany, Ukraine, Greece, El Salvador, Honduras and the USA.

Mary and her husband, David, have been involved in ministry and missions for most of their adult lives. Although they have worked with churches in Texas, Michigan and Illinois they have worked as missionaries in New Zealand on and off since they were both 18 years old. In 1997 they moved their family to Tauranga, New Zealand and have lived here ever since.



Background

Mary was born to Christian parents in 1960 and grew up on a farm near Pleasanton, Texas. She has been teaching children's Bible classes since she was sixteen years old.

In 1978 Mary attended the Adventures in Mission (AIM) Program in Lubbock, Texas at what is now the Sunset International Bible Institute. David, the man that would eventually become her husband, and Mary were on a mission team that lived and worked in Palmerston North, New Zealand for a year and a half. That was when she knew she would always be involved in missions.

David is a teacher at the South Pacific Bible College and also serves as an elder for the Otumoetai Church of Christ. They are a team in regards to ministry.

Personal Faith

"I was baptised in 1977. I have a real and personal relationship with God and live in awe that Jesus Christ died so that I can have eternal life. I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God vital for every stage of faith development. It is my hope and prayer that I can live a life in the Spirit that extends to others the grace God has extended to me." *Mary*



The Mission Bible Class Vision

A vision of Christians around the world equipped to value and spiritually nurture children.

How is Mission Bible Class Unique?

Children are a “mission field”. The U.N. reports that 26% of the world’s population is under the age of 15 and studies show that this age demographic is five times more open to forming a life-long relationship with Jesus than in adulthood (*Statistic from Barna Institute*). Teaching in this vital time can be natural and does not have to be complex. Local Christians can begin sharing their faith with children quite early in their own faith journey using methods that are familiar and resources that are available to them.

Mission Bible Class Enhances Current Programs Instead of Replacing Them

Nothing is so frightening as having someone suggest you toss out good resources and systems and replace them with something new and untried. Some teachers make Mission Bible Class their “first stop” but be assured that the free resources found on www.missionbibleclass.org and the methods used in workshops can work alongside almost any system already in place.

Mission Bible Class Addresses Common Mission Challenges:

Natural and Simple	No Borders	Encourages Young Teachers	Cost Effective
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Free, quality resources (Biblical, adaptable, comprehensive)•Encourages and equips the "beginner teacher".•Provides context and bible study for the teacher.•Makes use of interactive learning activities.•Developed by a missionary for a wide variety of mission applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Joins God where He is already working in the lives of people who care about children•Equips local people to be self-sustaining and not dependent on foreign materials•Inspires reaching future generations•Reaches beyond local churches and missionaries to anyone who wishes to learn about God and share His Word	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Uses familiar technology.•Basic requirements are immediately available and accessible•Flexible format provides strong Biblical content that can be applied to either traditional classrooms or new and innovative methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Free online resources available 24 hours a day from home, laptops or mobile phones.•Intentional in helping teachers use locally available resources and teaching methods•Not reliant on printed materials•Allows countless people to be reached every day without travel costs or limitations

