



2025

Children's Bible Drill

(Grades 4-6)

Leader's Guide



**Tennessee Baptist Churches giving through the
Cooperative Program make this ministry possible.**

I am excited that you are embarking on the wonderful journey called **Children's Bible Drill**. This is a strategic part of the childhood discipleship ministry experience for children in grades 4-6. Bible Drill empowers kids to learn to "hide God's Word in their hearts". It offers them, and their leaders, an exciting way to learn God's Word. Children who participate in **Children's Bible Drill** learn the value of scripture memorization, and the impact it has on their lives. **Children's Bible Drill** helps drillers learn the importance of honesty, self-discipline, and personal integrity.

May God bless you as you lead out in **Children's Bible Drill**.

Donna Blaydes
Bible Drill Specialist
Tennessee Baptist Mission Board
dblaydes@tnbaptist.org

GENERAL INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL

The purpose of Children's Bible Drill is to help children:

- * Increase their knowledge and love of the Bible.
- * Memorize the names of the books of the Bible in order
- * Develop skills in locating books in the Bible, along with key passages.
- * Memorize Bible verses and key passages identified in the current cycle
- * Learn how to apply the teachings of the Bible to their lives.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Children who are in 4th-6th grade are eligible to participate in Children's Bible Drill.

Bible Drill, Jr. is available for children in 1st-3rd grade. See page 13 for information on Bible Drill, Jr.

In churches where 6th graders are part of the youth department, 6th graders have the option to drill in Children's Bible Drill or move to Youth Bible Drill. They will remain eligible for a 3-year Children's Bible Drill Award if they drill in their church's Youth Bible Drill program during their 6th grade year.

Attempts are made to assist drillers who require special accommodations. Broken arms and accidental injuries may happen just before a drill resulting in a need for special accommodations for that driller to participate effectively. Some children may need for the drill experience to be modified in a non-standard way that will enable them to participate in Bible Drill. Church leader should notify the Children's Bible Drill Coordinator in his/her region of this need as soon as possible. This will allow time for the church leader and coordinator to customize a plan to meet a child's special needs.

ELEMENTS OF CHILDREN'S BIBLE DRILL

Children's Bible Drill has three cycles. These cycles rotate over a three-year period. Churches will use the blue cycle for 2024-2025, green cycle for 2025-2026, and red cycle for 2026-2027.

Each child who participates in Children's Bible Drill will:

- * Learn the names of the 66 books of the Bible in their proper order and be able to locate each book within 10 seconds.
- * Memorize 25 Bible verses and their references printed on the current cycle Verse Study Card.
- * Learn the names, references, and locations in the Bible of the 10 Key Passages printed on the current cycle Verse Study Card.
- * If a child participates in Children's Bible Drill for 3 years, he or she will learn 75 Bible verses, 30 Key Passages, and the names and sequence of the 66 books of the Bible.

Administering Children's Bible Drill Leaders- Here is what you will need!

Leader's Guide

The *2025 Children's Bible Drill Leader's Guide* is available **FREE** online.

- Download as many copies of the Leader's Guide that you will need at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>
- A leader might want to 3-hole punch the Leader's Guide and place it in a notebook for easy accessibility.

Drill Verse Cards

2025 Children's Bible Drill Verse Cards- Blue Cycle are available **FREE** online.

- **NEW:** Beginning with the Blue Cycle for 2024-25, approved verse cards are prepared by TBMB and available to be downloaded at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>. Verse cards are available in **King James Version (KJV)** and **Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**
- **NEW:** In addition to the above verse cards, downloadable Verses Cards that can be placed on a 2" ring are also available at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>.

NOTE: You will need **one** drill card (front and back) for each Children's Bible Drill driller. Ring verse cards are optional.

Approved Drill Bibles

Each driller is **required** to use an approved Drill Bible in church, association, and state drills. It is up to the church leader which version of the Bible drillers will use.

You can order the King James Version and Christian Standard Bible by calling the LifeWay Christian Bookstore Customer Service Center at (800) 458-2772, by ordering online at www.lifeway.com.

King James Version - Blue Hardcover -

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/kjv-drill-bible-blue-hardcover-P005670783>)

Christian Standard Bible – Grey Leathertouch Cover -

(<https://www.lifeway.com/en/product/csb-drill-bible-gray-leathertouch-over-board-P005787337>)

Please note: In 2020, text revisions were made to the CSB translation. The 2020 CSB Drill Bible looks like the original CSB Drill Bible, however the 2020 version has a CSB logo at the top of the spine. The Drill Bible with the text revisions has the same ISBN number as the original CSB Drill Bible. Both the original and the 2020 revision are acceptable Drill Bibles for TBMB. The revisions to the text have impacted several Bible Drill verses. To handle any discrepancies, we have created verse cards for Children’s Bible Drill. Verse cards are available at no charge at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>. Please use the verse cards available through TBMB to ensure the verses memorized are consistent with the drills being prepared by TBMB.

Practice Drill(s) & Score Sheets

There are two practice drills available online (*Blue Cycle Bible Drill Practice Drill 1 & Practice Drill 2* for King James Version and Christian Standard Bible) A sample score sheet is also available. Download these resources at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>

Suggested Leader’s Checklist to prepare for 2025 Children’s Bible Drills

- Download your Blue Cycle Children’s Bible Drill verse cards (original and ring available), Bible Drill Score Sheets and Practice Drills.
- Secure approved Drill Bibles for each driller.
- Secure date of your 2025 Associational drill from your local association office.
- Secure date of your 2025 Regional State drill from the TBMB Bible Drill Specialist.
- Schedule a date for your 2025 Church drill on your church calendar.
- Put all the 2025 Children’s Bible Drill dates on your church calendar.
- Be completely familiar with the **2025 Children’s Bible Drill Leader’s Guide** (rules, judging, awards, etc.)
- Set a time and place for drillers to meet weekly.
- If this is your first time to lead **Children’s Bible Drill**, the TBMB Bible Drill Specialist is available for training on how to conduct **Children’s Bible Drill**.
- Consider calling your Association Secretary to get the names of other local churches who have participated in **Children’s Bible Drill** in your area. Invite these churches to come to your church to do a demonstration drill for your group.
- Enlist your caller, 3 judges, and timekeeper for your church drill.

Participation

- No more than 12 children should participate in any single competition drill.
- Drillers using King James Version or Christian Standard Bible **can** participate in the same drill.
- Participation in Children's Bible Drill is open to **any** child in 4th-6th grade who regularly attends and participates in a Children's Bible Drill group in a Tennessee Baptist church. Exceptions for 3rd grade drillers can be
- All participants who qualify can compete at all levels - church, association, and state.
- Bible Drill awards at the state level are based on number of years of participation in each age division.

Dress Code for Competitions

- At the church & associational drills, drillers should exhibit good taste in clothing. It shows respect and discipline for the Bible Drill. Neat casual clothing is acceptable.
- During the state drill – jean with tears, shorts, t-shirts, and short tops are inappropriate.
- At **all** drills, special church Bible Drill t-shirts or other church logo shirts are acceptable and encouraged!

Before your Church Drill you will need:

- Typewritten copy of the drill for the caller- (if KJV and CSB versions will be used in the same drill, be sure to include these translations as a part of the drill provided to the caller.)
A church drill can be obtained by emailing the TBMB Specialist at dblades@tnbaptist.org and requesting a copy of a church drill. If you desire, you can write a drill using ALL sections from the Verse Cards.
- Numbered labels (1-12) for driller identification. 3x5 adhesive labels or index cards can be used.
- Pencils
- Caller Frequency Card (available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill>). This lets the caller know which drillers have been called upon
- Score Sheets — one per judge for each drill (available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill>)
- Calculators for tallying
- Stopwatch for timekeeper. Stopwatch on a smartphone may be used.
- Masking tape to place on floor.
- Any certificates for recognition that the church will provide to children.

Conducting a Children's Bible Drill

BEFORE THE DRILL

- Put a strip of masking tape or painter's tape in a straight line on the floor. Children will stand behind the masking tape line facing the caller and judges. Make line long enough that children have ample room between them.

- Judge should meet to read aloud and discuss the five mistakes that will be recorded. Give judges their score sheets and pencils.
- Judges should sit in front of the drillers, facing the drillers.
- Timekeeper should practice using the stopwatch.
- Place numbered tag on the shirt of each driller. Be sure numbers are visible to the caller and the judges. Line the drillers up in numerical order, behind the masking tape on the floor, facing the caller and judges.

DURING THE DRILL

- Caller should give the audience instructions on expectations for their conduct during the drill. (Rules of the Room) Explain that the children are not in competition with each other. They are here to display what they have learned.
- Caller should give instructions/reminders to the children on proper responses to drill commands.
- Caller should begin by leading in a time of prayer.
- Caller should always be on the child's side, but not at the expense of other children. Be sensitive to the children.
- Caller should remember that you are in charge during the drill. Remind judges to talk directly to you and not to the children.
- Caller should go slowly enough for the judges to record the scores.
- Caller should call on every child as evenly as possible during the drill. Do not always call on the child who is first to step out.
- Caller, even if all children have stepped out, should wait on time to be called before proceeding with the drill.
- Caller, if a child gives an incorrect answer, you may give **one second chance** for the child to give a correct response before calling on another child. Do not call on a third child, just read the correct response and proceed with the next call.
- Caller should use the practice call to acquaint the children with their voice and manner.
- Caller may repeat the call once per drill.
- Timekeeper should use a stopwatch or watch with a second hand to keep time for the caller and judges during the drill. Ten seconds for each call. Even if all children have stepped out before time is called, the timekeeper should allow the 10 seconds to lapse and then call "Time".
- Timekeeper should maintain a calm, pleasant voice.

AFTER THE 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 of correct responses.

- Judges should resolve all questions and come to final decisions before they leave the judges' room. The decisions of the judges should be final. Judges should not discuss or review the scores after leaving the room.
- Judges should not have the scores announced to the audience. All children should receive a certificate and seal no matter what their score.

In conducting a **Children's Bible Drill**, callers will use the following commands:

“Attention”

Stand straight; one foot not extended in front of the other; eyes focused on the caller until the command “Start;” Bible held at side with Bible spine down, palm under the Bible. (Only approved drill Bibles may be used.) Bibles must be in good condition and unmarked.

“Present Bible”

Bring Bible to waistline. **Bible must be held parallel to floor.** A driller who searches with his right hand should hold the Bible on his left hand with Genesis down and his right hand resting flat on top of the Bible. A driller who searches with his left hand should hold the Bible on his right hand, Genesis up, with left hand resting flat on the front cover of the Bible. The driller's thumb and fingers cannot extend around the sides of the Bible. Following “Present Bible,” the caller announces the call. The call is stated only once. At the caller's discretion, a call may be repeated once if room noise or distractions warrant a repeat of the call.

“Start”

This command is the signal for participants to begin searching. In searching, proper handling of the Bible is required. Proper handling includes no rustling, slapping, or wrinkling of pages.

In the Book Drill, the index finger may be placed upon any verse in that book before stepping forward.

In all other drill categories, the driller finds the verse, places his index finger on the verse **BEFORE** stepping forward.

Drillers must locate the verse and step across the masking tape line within **10 seconds** or it is counted as a mistake.

If a driller crosses the masking tape and then realizes he/she has made a mistake in locating the scripture, he/she cannot step back. The driller should then raise his/her hand indicating that he/she has made a mistake. The caller must acknowledge a student who raises his/her hand for the mistake so that the judges are aware. The judge chairman can let the caller know there is a mistake if the caller does not acknowledge the mistake. The caller must acknowledge the mistake by saying “Thank you, number ____”.

Note: Under no circumstances can a driller step forward, step back and step forward again even if they are within the 10 seconds.

Drillers need to be accurate in locating the call **BEFORE** they step across the masking tape line. When called upon to respond, if a verse is on two pages in the Bible, the driller should ask the caller if the page may be turned.

“Time”

The timekeeper calls out the word “Time” at the end of ten seconds. No one may step forward after this command, and all children should stop searching in their Bibles. Bibles should not be slammed shut.

The caller will call upon one driller by number to respond. The other children will remain quiet with their eyes on the caller while the one called upon responds.

If the child called on does not give the right response, the caller should give the child only one (1) second chance to give a correct response before calling on another child to give the correct response. Do not call on a third child, just read the correct response and proceed to the next call.

To give all drillers opportunities to recite calls, the caller should use the Caller Frequency Card (provided online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>)

After the response, the caller says “**Attention**”, at which time the drillers close their Bibles, return it to its original position, and take one step back.

Types of Drills

Book Drill

(6 calls – Bible is used)

The caller announces the name of **any** book in the Bible. It is suggested that the drill include books from both the Old and New Testament.

At the command “Start,” participants begin searching for the book that was called.

A driller locates the correct book and places his index finger on any verse in that book **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the driller must be able to (1) name the book which immediately precedes the book called, (2) name the book called, and (3) name the book which immediately follows the book called. They must do this in the order of 1, 2, and 3.

Key Passage Drill

(6 Calls – Bible is used)

The caller announces the title of a key passage.

A driller must locate the correct Scripture reference and place his index finger on any verse in the passage **BEFORE** he steps forward.

If called upon, the driller must state the key passage title, the reference and read the requested verse within that passage.

Quotation Drill

(6 Calls – Quoted from memory)

The caller will give the reference of a verse. If a driller knows the verse, he steps forward. If called upon, the driller must quote the verse and reference.

Completion Drill

(6 Calls – Quoted from memory)

The caller quotes the underlined portion of the verse found on the drill card. If a caller is calling more than one Bible version, the caller states each version before saying the underlined portion.

If a driller knows the entire verse and where it is found, he steps forward. If called upon, the driller must recite the entire verse and the reference.

NOTE: Caller should direct children whether or not to hold their Bibles during the Quotation and Completion calls. When possible, it is nice to let children place Bibles on the floor behind them so they can relax.

Judging Children's Bible Drills

Each **Children's Bible Drill** needs **3 adult judges (ages 18 or older)**. One of the experienced judges needs to serve as judge chairperson. Try to enlist adults who are interested and have an understanding about children. Try to avoid enlisting parents of drillers.

Leaders will need to provide training for the adults enlisted to judge the drill(s). Your TBMB Bible Drill Specialist can assist you in the training of your judges. The training session should include instructions on how to use the score sheet, the criteria for judging, and specific duties of the caller, judges, and timekeeper.

In judging **Children's Bible Drills**, if at any time there is any discrepancy in judging, judges will always give the benefit to the child!

For Church and Associational Drill(s), use the official score sheet available at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>. Score sheets are reproducible and should be used for all drills.

Judges should sit facing the participants (preferably behind tables). Drillers should be standing in front of the judges behind a straight masking-tape line. The caller should be in the center of the judges, facing the drillers.

Judges score each driller as individuals and use the number they are wearing and not names on the score sheet and in any discussion of drillers.

No more than 12 children should participate in a single drill. This aids the judges in being able to accurately score the drillers, as well as allows the Caller to call on all drillers at least once during the

drill. (Note: The caller should use the Caller Frequency card which is available online at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>).

If you have more than 12 children participating, you will want to divide them into multiple groups.

The Caller (1 person)

The drill caller is responsible for conducting the drill and checking the accuracy of answers.

Be prepared to handle the unexpected.

If some distraction occurs when the call is being given causing a child to make a mistake in responding, instruct the judges to disregard that call and give an alternate call or the caller can choose to repeat that call.

Callers should remind all audience participants to turn off all electronic devices during the drill and to place everything in their laps on the floor and not to get up and leave during this drill as this is a distraction to the drillers.

Judges (3 persons)

The three judges are responsible for scoring all drillers using the standards by which all Bible Drill groups are judged to ensure uniformity in procedure.

These rules are the Bible Drill judging standards:

- Judges watch and score all drillers. Judges record the drillers' responses on the score sheet under the driller's corresponding number. Mistakes are listed on the bottom of score sheet.
- Only one mistake can be scored against a driller on any one call.
- Judges should give the benefit of the doubt to the drillers but should not lose credibility by ignoring errors.
- Judges should alert the Caller quietly and discreetly when they see repetitive errors by any of the drillers. The Caller **cautions** the drillers by calling attention to the mistake without referring to any individual driller by name or number.
- Once the Caller has cautioned drillers on **two occasions** for the following type of mistakes (lack of eye contact, failure to firmly plant finger before stepping forward, mishandling their Bible etc.) judges should count them as mistakes, but only once during any one type of drill.
- When a driller makes a mistake, write the letter **a-e (listed below)** in the corresponding box on the score sheet.

NOTE: If two mistakes in one call are made, points are deducted for only one mistake.

Mistakes

No Points are given if the driller:

- a. Fails to step out within ten seconds.
- b. Gives an incorrect response. This includes any driller who raises his hand indicating an error and is acknowledged by the caller.
- c. Fails to stand straight or keep his eyes on the caller before the command “Start” is given.
- d. When the Bible is used, child steps forward before the index finger is on the correct response.
- e. Fails to handle the Bible according to instructions, or obviously misuses the Bible. Bible should be held parallel to the floor with one hand flat on the bottom with no fingers extending over the edges.

At each level of drill, children are scored by three judges whose totals are averaged.

The Timekeeper (1 person)

The timekeeper will call “Time” ten seconds after the caller gives the command “Start”. Even if all drillers have stepped forward, allow the ten seconds to lapse before calling “Time”.

The timekeeper needs a stopwatch to accurately call time. A smartphone can be used.

The judges should mark a mistake (“a”) on any drillers who do not step out before the Timekeeper calls “TIME”.

Children’s Bible Drill Advancement and Awards

Advancement Progression Summary:

Church Drill—Children’s drillers with 12 or more correct responses may advance to the Associational Children’s Bible Drill

Association Children’s Bible Drill-- Participants: All children’s drillers with 12 or more correct responses in their church drill. Drillers with 16 or more correct responses in the Associational Drill may advance to the State Children’s Bible Drill

State Children’s Bible Drill-- Participants: All children’s drillers with 16 or more correct responses in their Associational Drill may advance to their State Drill. Participants with 19 or less correct responses will receive a State Driller seal; participants with 20-21 correct responses receive a State Winner seal; and participants with 22-24 correct responses will receive a State Winner Superior seal.

Church Children’s Bible Drill

Drillers with 12 or more correct responses may advance to the Association Drill.

The value of the church drill is to give the drillers a practice drill and the opportunity to demonstrate their Bible skills. Each church is encouraged to give special recognition to each participant in the Church Children’s Bible Drill. Be sure to recognize their leaders and parents.

The church Children's Bible Drill leader should immediately contact their Association Office and let them know the names of drillers who will be participating in the Associational Children's Bible Drill.

2025 Associational Children's Bible Drills

Take note: For the date and location of your Associational Children's Bible Drill contact your local Baptist Association office. If your association is not hosting an Association Bible Drill, contact the TBMB Bible Drill Specialist at dblades@tnbaptist.org for an association close to you.

Drillers at the Associational Children's Bible Drill with 16 or more correct responses may advance to the State Children's Bible Drill.

It is the responsibility of the Association to certify that all drillers coming to the State Children's Bible Drill have participated in a drill and had a minimum of 16 correct responses.

At the conclusion of the Association Drill, the Association leader should provide the necessary information to the drillers advancing to the State Children's Bible Drill as to the date, time, and location of their State Children's Bible Drill. This information is available from the TBMB Bible Drill Specialist.

Association leaders must complete the Report Form and get it to the TBMB Regional Coordinator as soon as possible after the completion of the Association Drill.

2025 Children's Bible Drill & Awards

At the Associational Children's Bible Drill

- All associational participants will receive a special certificate recognizing the child's participation in 2025 Children's Bible Drill. Each driller will receive a seal for his or her certificate which is determined by the correct responses given.

At the State Children's Bible Drill-

- All state participants will receive a seal to add to the certificate received at the Associational Drill. The seal given is determined by the correct responses given.

Additional Award:

3-Year Award

Bible Drillers who have **participated** in the State Children's Bible Drill during their 4th, 5th, & 6th grade years will receive a 3 Year Award. This award will be presented at the State Drill.



Bible Drill, Jr. is a fun, hands-on discipleship program for 1st-3rd graders. Bible Drill, Jr. is designed to help Jr. Drillers develop Bible skills. Drillers participating in Bible Drill, Jr. will primarily focus on learning the books of the Bible, where they are located and how to find them. Jr. Drillers will also memorize verses and key passages.

ELEMENTS OF BIBLE DRILL, JR.

Bible Drill, Jr. will follow the three cycles in Children’s Bible Drill. Each child who participates in Bible Drill, Jr. will:

- * Learn the names of the 66 books of the Bible in their proper order and be able to locate each book.
- * Memorize the 8 verses with references listed below taken from the Blue Cycle Verse Card.
- * Learn the name and reference of 3 Key Passages listed below taken from the Blue Cycle Verse Card
- * Bible Drill, Jr. Verse Cards are available online for download at <https://www.tnbaptist.org/childrens-bible-drill/>
- * Have the option to participate in an end of the year demonstration drill showing what they have learned.

2025 Bible Drill, Jr. – Blue Cycle		
OLD TESTAMENT VERSES	NEW TESTAMENT VERSES	KEY PASSAGES
Genesis 1:31 Joshua 24:24 Psalm 56:3 Psalm 119:11	Luke 2:52 John 13:35 1 Thessalonians 5:18 James 1:22	The Shepherd’s Song – Psalm 23 The Parable of the Good Samaritan – Luke 10:25-37 The Love Chapter – 1 Corinthians 13

Follow **TN Baptist Bible Drill** on Facebook for our posts that includes hands-on activity ideas for teaching Bible skills.

**For additional information or any questions about
Children's Bible Drill in Tennessee, contact**

Donna Blaydes, TBMB Bible Drill Specialist

cell 865.850-0455

Email: dblaydes@tnbaptist.org

P.O. Box 682789
Franklin, TN 37068