



HOW TO USE IN YOUR CHURCH

Welcome to 'it'. We are both full time children's pastors who love bringing the Bible to life for the kids at our church! We created 'it' because we wanted a curriculum that offered lessons that revolved around 'it' – **the Truth of God's Word** – and present 'it' in a variety of ways all driving home the same main point, the 'it'. We also know that kids learn best when they are **HAVING A BLAST!** We understand a laughing classroom is a learning classroom. We strive to turn spectators into participants knowing God wired kids to move and do, not sit and listen. We aren't a big fancy publishing company with a huge production budget. We are just two guys who love God, His Word, and sharing 'it' with boys and girls. We hope you'll love 'it' as much as we love creating 'it'!

- Pastor Karl Bastian and Pastor Doug Olson
itBIBLEcurriculum.com

OVERVIEW OF LESSON ELEMENTS

The it



The **it** of the lesson is that ONE THING you say over and over until they understand it. If their parents ask, "What did you learn at church?", you want them to answer with the **it** of your lesson. If YOU ask the kids, "What am I trying to get you to learn/understand?" and they answer with this phrase, you can say, "That's **it**!"

Also known as "The Big Idea" or "The Main Point" the **it** is what you want the kids to go home knowing. **it** is the goal, the prime objective. You can't say **it** too many times during your lesson.

THE **it** THIS WEEK IS: your it will be here

The **BOX BELOW** is where we will list things you **MAY** need to print from the Resource Folder OR find, gather or buy. It all depends on what you choose to do. Many items we will make for you as a download, when possible. When you need to gather them yourself, we work hard to keep **it** simple, affordable, easy to find, and, if possible, re-useable so your collection of ministry tools grows!

Things you might need for this lesson:

PRINT FROM DOWNLOADS:

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FIND/GATHER/BUY:

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Whyit (Pronounced Wyatt)

EVERY LESSON will have an introduction that is an interaction between the primary leader/teacher and a character named Whyit (pronounced Wyatt).

NOTE: The name is optional! Pastor Karl uses a puppet named Gus that you may have seen in some of his online videos. You can use a puppet character with any name you like, or name him/her Whyit!

OPTION: If you aren't a puppeteer, these can just as easily be done with an actor playing Whyit, or another character you create. It's really up to you! A consistent character played by the same person, in the same costume, voice, and personality is ideal, but you may decide to change up the character with each unit for variety, and that is perfectly fine!

What it provides is a humorous opening to **INTRODUCE** the topic of the day. How you deliver it is limited only by your imagination and creativity!

Doug and I would LOVE to see YOUR Whyit character, or whatever character you choose to use to introduce your lessons. **KIDS LOVE FUNNY CHARACTERS** and they will truly bond with the character you create and cheer when he comes out – so put some time and energy into creating a fun Whyit personality!



Every Lesson in *it* will include a game! Yeeaaahhh!

Our games are not time-fillers or just for fun! They will help reinforce *it* and build on the lesson theme. We'll let you know how to **PREPARE** for the game, how to **PLAY IT**, and always provide **THE POINT**. Keep in mind that we know you're a great teacher, so we only give you the basic point. We know you'll expand and explore *it* further with your students.

WATCH *it* A video to set *it* up



Every Lesson in *it* will include a fun short video to introduce the lesson and/or the Bible Story. It does not replace the Bible Story or lesson! it is intentionally short, humorous, and intended to help reinforce the lesson, not teach it. You can use it as a teaser before the Bible Story or as a review toward the end. Just be sure to preview the video in advance so you can build off it or use it for review.

ONLINE POSTING PERMISSION: You are allowed to post the videos online as long as they are in a closed group or unlisted so that a link is necessary to view them. In other words, no one should be able to find them online unless they are a part of your church and visiting your protected groups or channels. If you need help with this, don't hesitate to ask. We want these to be easy to share while protecting the copyright and unauthorized use.

TELL *it* The Bible story that illustrates *it*



POWER TIP: We will often include some helpful teaching tips to make sure your presentation is as effective as possible! Watch for them!

it will vary how the Bible story is presented. Kids learn in different ways and so we make the effort to present stories in different ways. We also know that YOU are creative and amazing, so we don't get too deep into the details. We provide ideas, context, scope and helpful tips and then release you to teach how God wired you!

We will also tell you how to PREPARE and how to PRESENT the Bible story. Keep in mind, the story is not the lesson. Instead, it is the foundation upon which the lesson is built! So, keep the story pure and avoid teaching while telling – save that for the next section. That will make it easier for younger minds to focus and enjoy the story on its own merits if you aren't interrupting the story with teaching points. Remember, adults learn differently than children.

TEACH *it* The main points about *it*



This is the heart of the lesson! It will give you the main lesson points you should cover as well as some practical ideas for connecting with your young audience as you teach. Remember, just talking isn't teaching – you need to connect with the kids as you teach.

We don't script it all out, we give you the main points. Don't read them to the kids. Pray over them in advance, know them, own them, and share them in your own words and the impact will be far greater. Add your own personal stories or illustrations to add your unique favor.

SHOW *it* An object lesson or activity that illustrates *it*



This section will be seamless to the children as part of the lesson. It will provide an interactive, visual and engaging method for helping to explain the lesson topic to the kids. *It* may be, for instance, a WHAZZIT object lesson. If so, we'll tell you what you NEED, how to PRESENT it, and always THE POINT to wrap it up.

Or we may provide an activity or other idea to help kids engage with the lesson. We let the content of the lesson guide what the activity or engagement will be. But it will always help enhance the learning process.

FIND *it* Bible verses that help unpack *it*



We believe God's Word is POWERFUL and EFFECTIVE and WILL NOT RETURN VOID. We believe kids need to be IN THE WORD and USING BIBLES. This isn't just for learning, but so they understand the SOURCE of Truth. Every lesson in *it* will provide THREE BIBLE VERSES for kids to look up. You can do it in the classic "Sword Drill" style where kids race to look up verses, or you can just have a kid with a Bible look up the verse and read it. After each verse, briefly discuss the verse and how it relates to the lesson, to the *it*, but don't turn each into a sermon – keep it short but on point. This helps reinforce that what you are teaching them is not your opinion but is from God's Word and therefore is True and worthy of learning.

HIDE *it* The unit scripture that kids will memorize to hide *it* in their hearts



This is the THEME PASSAGE

Challenge the kids to memorize this verse during the series. You may want to have a fun prize or treat for the kids who memorize it!

We believe that Scripture Memory is a lost but powerful spiritual discipline. We also understand that today's kids (and parents) are super busy and weekly memory verses are challenging if not impractical. So instead, *it* has a THEME PASSAGE for the entire series, which will be longer than one verse, but still very doable for children of all ages.

First of all, **MEMORIZE *it* YOURSELF.** Never ask a child to do something you aren't willing to do. Then you can both model it as well as listen to kids without a "cheat sheet."

Take a little time each week to review the HIDE IT Bible Memory Passage. We'll provide a focus point for the week taking just one part of the verse to briefly comment on, but keep that super short. It's designed in a way to help them understand what they are memorizing. How exciting it will be when your kids know many important passages from God's Word!

LIVE it The practical life application challenge so the kids can live **it** this week!



Every week **it** will offer a very SIMPLE and EASY practical application that the kids can practice during the week. Some will be more challenging than others. Each week, if you have extra time at the end, you can review the LIVE IT from the week before and see if any kids can share an experience they had LIVIN' IT.

Don't be discouraged when kids can't report back dramatic stories from living out your LIVE IT challenges. Kids aren't wired that way. But they ARE learning, they ARE applying, and you ARE providing them practical real-world examples of what it means to live out what we learn at church. Years into the future they will have opportunities to do the right thing and the Holy Spirit will bring one of these challenges to mind. And, they'll DO it because they learned why they should from your teaching!

TAKE it Tool to help parents review **it** with the kids (paper and/or digital)



Finally, every lesson of **it** offers a take-home sheet that is offered as both a paper printable PDF file and a graphic image in a PNG format that you are welcome to use in email, on your church website, or online via social media with no restrictions.

Since today's digital kids won't do a long activity page, this is simple by nature, and is designed as a tool to help parents understand what the lesson was about and what verses they can look up to engage with their kids on the topic. It includes the theme passage for the series typed out, a few discussion questions they can use at a meal or on the drive home, and one simple activity the kids might enjoy over lunch after church, before bed, or some other time they find themselves bored and looking for something to do.

TIP: Some churches find success in encouraging kids to complete the activity and bring it back the next week in their Bible for a treat.

Thanks for teaching 'it'! We hope you enjoy how we've laid out the lessons – and we especially hope your kids have a GREAT TIME learning about God!

If you have any questions, ideas, suggestions or need help – please don't hesitate to ask! Just visit the Kidology Facebook Group and post a question there, and tag one of us! We'd also LOVE to see pictures of you using 'it' in your church!

As we like to say, Kids Need 'it', God's Word has 'it', and now YOU get to teach 'it'!

Because Jesus Loves Children,

*Pastor Karl Bastian and Pastor Doug Olson
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