

Building on the Rock Considerations for Adoption

In a media-saturated world where children are exposed daily to multiple non-biblical worldviews, Christian teachers and parents express concern that traditional Bible curricula in schools and churches seem to have little effect in helping children develop and apply a Biblical Christian Worldview. Even after years of education in a Christian environment, the number of students who abandon their Christian beliefs or merge them with other worldviews is alarming.

In response to this concern and realizing that a child's worldview is formed early in life, Summit Ministries has developed *Building on the Rock*, a revolutionary six-year Biblical Worldview and Bible Survey curriculum for elementary aged children. The uniqueness of the curriculum requires a basic understanding of its design and philosophy for successful teaching.

First, *BOTR* is much broader than the traditional Bible course taught in most Christian schools. It is designed to help students not only develop a Biblical Christian Worldview, but also to use this worldview as the lens through which they interpret and apply the truth of all subjects in the curriculum. Even the Bible Survey segment in each grade level is taught through the framework of the Biblical Christian Worldview. To successfully teach the depth and scope of *BOTR*, schools may need to devote additional time to the subject we traditionally call "Bible."

Second, *BOTR* requires teachers to have a solid understanding of the Biblical Christian Worldview and be able to model it to students through personal application. Resources for helping teachers develop this understanding are provided with each *BOTR* curriculum package and should be studied carefully to ensure successful teaching of the curriculum.

Third, *BOTR* is designed to stimulate Biblical Christian Worldview thinking through thoughtful questions, challenging discussions, and critical thinking. While not a scripted curriculum, its design is linear, guiding teachers through a series of topics and concepts to develop, but allowing them complete freedom in how they want to teach each lesson. *BOTR* provides ample resources and teaching suggestions to accommodate a variety of teaching styles, acknowledging that no two teachers will teach the concepts identically. For teachers most familiar with scripted curricula and student

responses, *BOTR* will require a new way of thinking and teaching. Only when teachers understand the “big picture” of the Biblical Christian Worldview and the specific concepts they are teaching will they feel comfortable with this curricular approach.

Fourth, for *BOTR* to be implemented successfully, the entire teaching staff needs to embrace it. Because the curriculum is unique in its design and approach, administrators, curriculum coordinators, and teachers need to explore the material together and make a joint decision regarding its adoption. For this reason, Summit Ministries provides hard copy preview materials, training DVD, and study guides to schools considering *BOTR* and recommends that everyone involved carefully examine these materials.

Fifth, schools committed to the purpose and design of *BOTR* attest to its success by sharing comments such as the following: “Awesome—the kids are really thinking for the first time.” “Our students are benefiting from such a solid foundation.” “We LOVE *BOTR*.” “Kids are developing ways of thinking that help them interpret other subjects biblically.” These positive responses are balanced by teacher comments such as the following: “Wow, as a teacher I’ve really had to study and rethink how I teach Bible.” “I can’t walk into class on Monday, pull out the teacher manual, read the script, and give the kids a worksheet. I’ve had to study and prepare.” Some teachers even respond by saying, “It’s just too much work. I don’t have time to teach something with so much depth.”

An additional note regarding the Bible translations used in *Building on the Rock*: Grades 1-3 present Scriptures using the *International Children’s Bible*. The *ICB* is not a children’s paraphrase. Rather, it was developed using the most recent scholarship and best available Hebrew and Greek texts by experts involved in the translations of other widely accepted versions such as the *NIV*, the *NASB*, and the *NKJV*. This clear translation is scaled to a Grade 3 reading level and encourages young children to read the Bible for themselves. The *ICB* presents abstract doctrinal terms with unusual clarity, helping young children begin to understand complex Biblical truths.

Grades 4-6 present Scriptures using the *New International Version (NIV)* as the primary translation. However, where deemed appropriate for comprehension, other translations including the *NASB*, the *NKJV*, and the *NLT* are used.

Because the Teacher Manuals, Student Workbooks, and Visual Aid Cards of *BOTR* teach through an extensive use of Scripture passages, schools dedicated to using one particular Bible translation other than those used in *BOTR* may need to adapt the curriculum to their preferred translation.