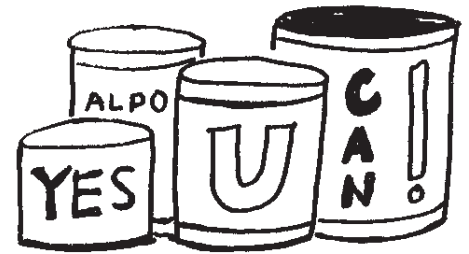


Short Tips



Exercises to Help Reading Comprehension

The lack of education is the number one perpetuator of the cycle of poverty. That's why TastyFaith encourages the use of written materials in Christian outreach programs to help with writing, phonics and reading comprehension. Here are some tips:

Set an Example

If you tell kids it's important to read, but you don't incorporate reading into your program, they are not going to believe you. Have students catch you reading anything -- from your Bible to the ingredients on a bag of hot chips.

Read Out Loud

Reading together will help kids form the habit of reading on their own. Ask questions that make them think what will happen next. Anticipating what's to come will help with basic reading skills.

Call on Eager Volunteers

You do not want to put a student who cannot read on the spot.

Word Scrambles

Take a long biblical word, such as righteousness, or a hard to pronounce place like Thessalonica, and have teens see how many words they can make out of those same letters (over 800 words can be made out of Thessalonica). Visit www.wordplays.com for fun word scramble ideas.

Those crazy names and places in the Bible can turn into great "phonic" exercises for youth of all ages. Take a hard to spell name in the Bible such as Nebuchadnezzar. Say the word out loud then ask if anyone can spell it. Students will spell the word the way it sounds. Have them write both their spelling and the correct spelling. This helps visualize new words, consonant blends, as well as connect the written and spoken word.

Write it In Your Own Words

A big part of reading is understanding what everything means. Have kids write down a verse in their own words. This will help them with comprehension.

Be Wise. Memorize

Do whatever it takes to glue scripture to their brains. Reward students with pizza, mini candy bars, etc. for memorizing verses. Memorized verses can enrich their lives today, as well as help students years down the road.

Pump up Vocab Flab

When new words are introduced in a lesson, have kids create a sentence with that word. Ask, what is a word similar to that new word? What word is opposite?

Bi-lingual means Twice as Smart

Many might have total English comprehension yet have been labeled as "below average intelligence" by testing standards. Remind those kids that they know twice as much as most folks! If they aren't grasping a concept or word in English, ask them to say it in their native language, regardless if you can understand. Then praise them for what they know.

Spotting Real Problems

Writing words consistently backwards or upside-down might be signs of a real learning obstacle. Be careful how you approach the student. Contact the parent or school if possible. This student deserves special attention and help, not discouragement.

But most important of all, remind each and every youth in your program that Jesus loves 'em big time. There's nothing more important to know than that.

