

Homework is for Big Kids, Too!

Rich was in the Sunday School class I attended. He owned a huge garbage truck and he wanted to spend time with me. So I hauled trash starting at 4 a.m. one day each week for a couple months [*gratis*]. We talked trash and the garbage business some, but mostly he wanted to talk about Jesus. Although he was an impassioned soul winner, he admitted that reading the Bible was "just not much fun."

I gave him the big overview of Bible history between stops along rural Route 261 and told him what to look for in each of the five sections of the OT: Moses' laws, the judges, the kings, the poets, and the prophets' sermons.

He soaked it all in and was eager to start reading. One week I wrote out by hand a schedule on five sheets of notebook paper which chapters he'd have to read to finish the whole Bible in one year. I told him it would mean reading about three or four chapters every day.

Our family was on the road living in a motor home for about eight months that year giving Bible Teachers' Workshops around the country. Every two months or so we'd be back in our home church and Rich would keep me posted on his progress. "I'm already in Leviticus," he announced in March. The next time I saw him, he was half-way through Isaiah. And when December rolled around he found and bought enough pre-printed Bible reading schedules for every adult in the church and handed them out individually with a brief word of testimony and encouragement. He told them how much it had helped him to read the entire Bible in one year.

Don't be afraid to design a homework assignment for those in your care. Find out where they would like to grow and make a plan to help them.