

The Bible Clicks

A Resource for Parochial and Private Schools

At the request of William Farnau, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky, author Angela O'Donoghue has responded to this question: "How would you use *The Bible Clicks* in the classroom?" The following document provides a brief overview of *The Bible Clicks*, followed by specific guidelines for using it as an educational resource.

What is "*The Bible Clicks*"?

The Bible Clicks is a series of stories from Scripture, re-told as narratives, that allows readers to go through the Bible chronologically in one year. A new Bible story is posted each day at <http://thebibleclicks.com>, with a format that provides two themes for personal application: God's Attributes (God's character qualities) and People's Choices (the constant pull between "Choices that Please God" versus "Choices that Grieve God"). Icon images serve as mnemonics (memory posts) to help readers analyze what they have read. At the end of each story, questions guide readers through the interactive process.

Readers check their understanding by clicking the icons that appear below each question. If their answer is correct, a pop-up box appears, reinforcing that concept. Pop-up boxes appear when the story offers clear evidence for the Attribute or Choice selected. The purpose is not to tabulate how many "right" answers are clicked; rather, to engage the reader to use critical thinking skills and make personal applications.

How can teachers use *The Bible Clicks* in the classroom?

There are many ways to implement *The Bible Clicks*, depending on the particular discipline or class. The following are guidelines for using <http://thebibleclicks.com> in a variety of classes:

As an English/Language Arts Teacher

Research shows that students of all ages benefit from the routine of writing frequently, especially when asked to respond to a question or to an item recently read. This may take the form of a "quick write" or a daily journal entry. Consider the following writing prompts in response to daily stories from *The Bible Clicks*:

- Which, if any, of the characters in **Today's Story** remind you of yourself? In what ways?
- Describe a time when you were faced with the same choices as one of today's characters.
- In what ways does **Today's Story** drop hints about God's character?
- Do you agree with the icon answers from **Today's Story**? Explain and cite evidence.
- Pretend you are a professional writer: Create your own blog entry for **Today's Story**.
- Imagine God was sitting beside you and you could ask him anything about **Today's Story**. Describe that conversation.
- If you could talk to any of the characters in **Today's Story**, what would you ask? How do you think that person would respond? Use those thoughts to create a story.
- If you could be one of the characters in **Today's Story**, who would you be? Why?
- Create a modern-day story with the same conflict or similar story line as **Today's Story**.
- Design your own cartoon characters and use their dialogue or their actions to help readers think creatively about **Today's Story**.
- List ideas that you think would make good writing prompts based on *The Bible Clicks*.

As a Bible Teacher

Assign your students to spend five minutes a day reading **Today's Story** from *The Bible Clicks*. Encourage students to be prepared to discuss what they read, to raise questions about the reading, and to respond to any questions you might pose. Writing prompts, such as those listed above, could also be implemented in Bible classes. Consider asking students to keep a daily “spiritual journal,” their own personal reflections based on **Today's Story**. A good follow-up is “Pair and Share,” having students meet in pairs to share what struck them most from the story, perhaps even sharing directly from their journals.

As a General Classroom Teacher

There are many creative ways you can implement *The Bible Clicks* in a general course, such as an elementary class or an electives class. Consider the categories of Multiple Intelligences, derived by Harvard's Prof. Howard Gardner, and capitalize on those gifting in ways such as these:

- Invite students to do a dramatic read aloud, with a narrator and individual characters.
- Assign students to design their own illustrations for **Today's Story** then share the results.
- Let students form their own TV journalism teams to recreate the story as roving reporters.
- Allow students to create a poem, a song, a dance, or a rap that portrays **Today's Story**.
- Create journal entries that extend beyond writing (e.g. illustrations, collages, etc.).
- Have students write a modern-day parody of **Today's Story** and perform it for the class.

Regardless of what you teach . . .

Offering choices is key element in ensuring the success of whatever assignments you choose to give. Let your students assist you in creating those assignments. As you consider how you might implement <http://thebibleclicks.com/>, note that these daily Bible stories could apply to the core content of many different disciplines. We who teach in private Christian schools have this advantage over our public school counterparts: We can offer character education in every class and we already have the leading textbook—God's Holy Scriptures. To that end, may your students conclude, “*The Bible Clicks*.”

—Angela Merici O'Donoghue

About the author . . .

Angela O'Donoghue is a professional teacher, certified in language arts and social studies for both middle school and high school. She began her career teaching English and journalism at Portland Christian High School in Portland, Oregon. For the past eight years she has taught both language arts and social studies in Fayette County Public Schools. She has also served as a reading specialist and a Read 180 instructor.

In the years between those teaching stints, Angela worked as a magazine editor in Chicago, most recently as a managing editor for the Christianity Today publications. Her educational background includes a major in Bible from Multnomah University, a B.S. in journalism from the University of Oregon, and a Masters in Teaching from Eastern Kentucky University.

Angela is an active member of the Cathedral of Christ the King in Lexington, Kentucky. In completing her work on *The Bible Clicks*, she has obtained the services of Douglas Culp, Catechesis Director for the Lexington Diocese, as a bishop-appointed theological reader. As of January 2010, Book One of *The Bible Clicks* trilogy has been read, reviewed, and approved, making it a successful candidate for receiving the official stamp of the *Imprimatur*, to be issued by the Most Reverend Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky.