

Development Of Learning Media For Sunday School Children Based On Book Creator To Improve The Mastery Of Learning Materials For Sunday School Children In Pgi Member Churches In The North Tapanuli Region

Ibelala Gea¹, Nurelmi Limbong², Marlinawati Situmorang³, Yan Pratama Tarigan⁴

Email: pakgea.iakn@gmail.com, limbongnurelmi01@gmail.com, marlinasitumorang1976@gmail.com, yanpratama1@gmail.com

^{1,2,3,4}Institut Agama Kristen Negeri Tarutung (IAKN Tarutung)

Abstract:

Children have an important role in the fabric of society, the growth of civilisation and faith starts from childhood. The status of children in theology is seen in biblical texts including; children are the gift of God (Genesis 33:5), children as the address of preaching the word of God (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), children are the inheritance of the LORD (Psalm 127:3), and heirs of the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:14). These statuses show how important children are before God. Therefore, the church or adults are responsible for teaching children to know God from an early age. In keeping up with the times, the church has opened itself to accept digital learning media such as book creators to replace conventional learning media. This is evidenced by the request of PGI member churches in the North Tapanuli region to be trained in using book creators. Book creator is very helpful for teachers to deliver material on God's word. The steps taken by reveal theological truths in Sunday school teaching materials, produce book creator products, and find out the church's response using the ADDIE method. After the research was carried out, the results showed that the material used by the church in terms of the language of teaching material was still general and tended not to be relevant to the needs of children, the teachers tended not to be competent, the media was still charta but not continuously used. However, after the introduction of book creator-based learning media, the results showed that the teachers responded positively and the product was declared suitable for use.

Keywords: Media development, Sunday school learning, book creator, PGI churches in North Tapanuli region.

INTRODUCTION

Children play an important role in the fabric of society, and the growth of civilisation begins in childhood. The study of children is aimed at adults as a theological reflection as well as material for teaching children. The theology of children can be the subject of study with the aim of understanding God's will through the status of children. The fact is that children and adults who live in this digital age are pampered with various conveniences and various offers of extraordinary life enjoyment. How do Christian Religious Education services or church pedagogy work?¹ Being able to remain present and able to answer the needs of God's people is a task that is not easy to undertake.²

In understanding the theology of children, the Bible provides information on the status of children through the following discussions: children are the gift of God (Genesis 33:5), children are the address of God's word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), children are the LORD's heritage (Psalm 127:3), and heirs of God's kingdom (Matthew 19:14; Luke 18:15-17). The stories about children in the Bible are addressed to adults. Thus, God's love for children is also God's love for people adults. Children's theology provides the right understanding in ministering to children. Just as the Lord Jesus considered children important, so too should educators consider the teaching delivered to children important.

One place of service to children is Sunday school which has the purpose of educating children in the truth of the Bible, serving children who are undergoing changes and preparing children for the future.³ Therefore, church leaders are obliged to plan Sunday school development programmes that aim to prepare children for the times.

In observations in PGI member churches in the North Tapanuli region, it was stated that a theological foundation was needed in teaching Sunday school children, so far the media used by Sunday school teachers in the Sunday school learning process were still charta, the use of digital media only on special occasions such as Easter and Christmas Sunday school, almost all research subjects were not familiar with the use of book creator learning media. The church stated the need to make updates in conventional learning media. So

¹ Tiur Imeldawati, Binur Panjaitan, and Warseto Freddy Sihombing, "Pendidikan Agama Kristen Di Masa Lalu-Masa Kini Dan Pada Perspektif Masa Depan," *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai* 6, no. 2 (2022): 13605–14.

² Imeldawati, Panjaitan, and Sihombing.

³ (Anthony and The Christian Education Faculty of Biola University Talbot School of Theology, 2012).

a solution was designed by compiling Sunday school teaching materials according to theological truths in supporting the development of book creator-based learning media. In the development of the times, the church is responsive to preparing materials, media, and language to be relevant to the needs of children.

Sunday school as a place of education for children should be managed well so that the goal can be achieved.⁴ One element that is no less important in education are teachers, because teachers have a direct duty to educate children.⁵ This research aims to reveal theological truths in Sunday school teaching materials, produce book creator products, and find out the church's response by using the ADDIE method.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research method uses ADDIE developed by Robert Maribe Branch, which consists of five steps: Analysis, design, development, implementation, evaluation. This method aims to reveal theological truths in Sunday school teaching materials, produce products, and find out the church's response to the use of book creator learning media.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Theological Views on Children

The discussion of child theology examines the Bible's view of children. In the Old Testament, we find the topic of children as a gift of God (Genesis 33:5), children as an address for the preaching of God's word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), children as the LORD's heritage (Psalm 127:3), and in the New Testament children as heirs of God's kingdom (Matthew 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16). The outline of the topic is to recognise children from a biblical perspective and support teaching children to know God's word. The aim is to find reasons why learning for children needs to be developed, and why children need to be taught better. The next stage of looking at children's theology aims to connect children's theology with learning media. A theological foundation needs to be built in the church by emphasizing the primacy of the Bible as the foundation of absolute truth that regulates the standard of life of God's people.⁶ Building theology in the

⁴ Warseto Freddy Sihombing et al., "Peningkatan Kemampuan Mengajar Sekolah Minggu Di GPKB Lumban Tongatonga Ressort Aek Mabar Distrik V Humbang Kec . Siborongborong," *JuRNAL SOLMA* 12, no. 1 (2023): 231–37, <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.22236/solma.v12i1.9887>.

⁵ Sihombing et al.

⁶ Warseto Freddy Sihombing and Antonius Seri, "Membangun Teologi Pendidikan Agama Kristen Di Gereja Lokal," *Jurnal Teruna Bhakti* 5,

implementation of church pedagogical services is an urgent matter at this time, because logically if theology is weak and tends to deviate, then pedagogical practice will also be wrong.⁷

Relationship between Children's Theology and Learning Media

Children's theology is the endeavour to know the will of Jesus through children. The Old and New Testaments explain a lot about who children are with interesting topics such as children are gifts, preaching, inheritance, and heirs of the Kingdom of God. These explanations all refer to one of the missions, namely service to children through Sunday school programmes. The church has made many alternatives to answer this problem, one of which is online worship broadcastlive from the church-by-church servants, no exception for children's services.⁸

In Sunday school, learning the word of God to children is embedded. Learning requires media in the delivery of material. The development of technology supporting learning media is an opportunity for Christians to develop various forms of service, and theology must also intersect with technology, because technological developments make it easy to disseminate information, especially for teaching about theology. Therefore, the development of technology through learning media is expected to support children's theology and carry out the great mandate conveyed by the Lord Jesus Christ.⁹

Book Creator as Learning Media

Book creator is a very simple and popular application for creating multimedia ebooks. For example, creating children's picture books, school assignments, family histories, cookbooks, textbooks, and more. Book creator is a simple way that can be used by young students and is free to use for professional publications.¹⁰

In Sunday school, the process of delivering God's Word still uses the story or lecture method. Meanwhile, the use of book creators can provide a valuable alternative source. Students can learn or listen

no. 1 (2022): 126–35, <http://stakterunabhakti.ac.id/e-journal/index.php/teruna/article/download/70/86>.

⁷ Sihombing and Seri.

⁸ Jungjungan Simorangkir et al., "Craft Making Learning Design for Sunday School Teachers in the Silindung Area," *AL-ISHLAH: Jurnal Pendidikan* 14, no. 4 (2022): 6305–14, <https://doi.org/10.35445/alishlah.v14i4.1812>.

⁹ Asaf Kharisma Putra Utama, Dedy Katarso, and Sari Saptorini, "Media Digital Dalam Pemuridan Generasi Muda Kristen Di Era Industri 4.0," *Magnum* 3, no. 2 (July 2022): 143, <https://doi.org/10.52220/magnum.v3i2.143>.

¹⁰ Sam Gliksman, *Creating Media for Learning: Student-Centered Projects Across the Curriculum* (2455 Teller Road, Thousand Oaks California 91320: Corwin, 2016), 98, <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781483395203>.

to the Word of God collaborated with the creation of media as a means of self-expression of what they know.

The use of book creators offers several benefits to learning, such as: Customised expression, interaction with readers, collaboration, sharing and publishing.¹¹ Christian children teacher professionalism refers to teachers who carry out their duties as teachers and educators of students skillfully, intelligently, carefully and have high character, which is reflected in their mental attitude and commitment to realizing and improving their professional quality through various methods and strategies.¹²

Basically, Book Creator was created to help the learning process in formal schools, but because its use wants to be applied in non-formal schools such as Sunday schools, so the application process can be adjusted to the teaching methods of each Sunday school teacher. Of course, the myriad features collaborated with weighty and easy-to-understand material will greatly help creative teachers in creating interesting learning for Sunday school children.

Research Results of Sunday School Teaching Materials and Book Creator Learning Media Development

The teaching materials presented in Sunday schools tend to be good and theologically sustainable. However, the researchers noticed that Sunday school teachers in the North Tapanuli region tend not to fulfil the academic competence as teachers. The learning media used still use charta. Even the use of digital learning media has not been implemented so the teachers are not familiar with Bookcreator.

So the researcher developed a book creator-based Sunday school children's learning media using the ADDIE model. The main purpose of the development model is to design and develop an effective and efficient product.

Analysis

Based on the survey results in PGID member churches in North Tapanuli, it became a guideline and consideration in developing Sunday school learning media. The analysis includes performance and needs analysis.

In the performance analysis, it was found that the teaching materials used in general tend to be theologically sound, each church has sustainable teaching materials. Teaching staff tend not to fulfil academic competence. Then the use of media is conventional such as

¹¹ (Gliksman, 2016, pp. 90-91)

¹² Warseto Freddy Sihombing Rida Gultom, Marlinawati Situmorang, "Dampak Profesionalisme Guru PAK Terhadap Disiplin Dan Prestasi Belajar Siswa," *Jurnal Christian Humaniora* 6, no. 1 (2022): 65–74.

teaching aids and charta so that they have not recognised the use of bookcreator.

In the needs analysis, existing teaching materials need to be developed into bookcreators, so that teachers can improve their competence and teaching quality and students can understand the Word of God. Learning using book creator media has the advantage of drawing, typing, recording, importing, embedding, and others making the possibilities endless. Whereas if you only use textbooks and conventional teaching aids, the understanding of students is very limited, tends to use large costs. The book creator feature provides space for teachers to be creative and students to more easily understand the Word of God, of course the costs incurred are not too large. Of the many churches that are the object of research, only 3 churches have Sunday school facilities.

Design

In the development of Sunday school learning media, the design format was designed. The cover contains a Sunday school theme that is adjusted to the theme of teaching materials from each church book. While the content consists of images according to the material, method, and explanation. The method in question can be in the form of stories, learning to sing, and playing so that children can choose the method they like. The explanation section contains the content of the story, learn to sing, and play.

The story has a flow in the form of theme, introduction, content, and conclusion. Story content is filled with images, audio, and colourful writing that varies but does not contrast. Learn to sing contains links or videos related to the learning theme. Children learning songs and movements can enhance quality learning. In playing, children are given choices such as puzzles, guess the name of the character, guess the Bible verse, and even trained to play the role of the character.

In addition to the content of the material, there are pictures and videos related to the theme of the material. The criteria are cartoon and animation. Then the colour is used white as the background, varying colours in the font. The technique used in designing the material uses bookcreator as the main media, canva to edit videos and source some images. Bookcreator media can be saved in epub format, and published on the Internet. The material design uses the reference of each church book because it follows the theological flow. Then the language design uses words that are clear, straightforward, and easy for children to understand.

Development

Comparison of learning media used by Sunday schools, namely teaching aids or charta with bookcreator can be seen in table 4.1 as follows:

Table 4.1 Comparison

Learning media teaching aids/charta	Book Creator Learning Media
Design Sense	
The differences seen in terms of design are as follows: The display is only in the form of images, less attractive, disposable, and not varied. While the Book Creator design has attractive images, audio, video, and fonts with varied colours.	
Content	
The differences in terms of materials are as follows: The materials used tend to be good, but in general the teachers do not fulfil the competencies. Book Creator helps teachers to develop accurate, detailed and simple materials.	
Language	
The differences seen in the language aspect are as follows: The language used tends to be general, boring, and less simple because it is still limited for children to understand. Whereas Book Creator's language is specific to children, easy to understand, and simple.	

Furthermore, after the product is developed, validation of the feasibility/validity of the material, media, and language is carried out by experts.

Assessment by material expert validation can be known to have an average result of 80% with the category "feasible". Assessment by media expert validation can be known the average result of 78.3% with the category "feasible". Assessment by linguist validation can be known the average result of 82% with the category "feasible".

Implementation

The product has gone through development, validation, and revision. The next step was to conduct small and large group trials involving 75 teachers from PGID member churches in the North Tapanuli region. The interviews were analysed to obtain the following summary data:

The quality is very good and supports the learning of God's Word in Sunday school. But it needs improvement in the originality of the pictures and videos included. Furthermore, a team is needed to improve the quality of learning media.

The response and interest of students is very good, when telling stories students listen and listen, the most favourite is when students collaborate with teachers, not only the material is understood but there is a good chemistry between teachers and students and vice versa. The desire to apply with frequent intensity in Sunday school.

Training is a good idea, it requires the cooperation of PGID member church synods with IAKN Tarutung, to realise it maybe starting from a willing church. Very helpful for Sunday school children to understand the word of God.

Advantages, the cost is not too large, the media can be used repeatedly, is flexible, uncomplicated to use, fun learning methods such as playing, making learning media can be adjusted to the Sunday school guidebook in the church of PGID members in the North Tapanuli region. Disadvantages, if the internet connection is problematic, bookcreator media cannot be used, supporting tools such as infokus and laptops are still expensive, the use of links is still very doubtful in sharing work because of rampant fraud cases.

The impression of teaching and learning is like a luxury school, feeling happy when students understand learning. Suggestions Bookcreator learning media can be present again intensively to Sunday school, more creative teaching methods.

Evaluation

After implementation, the researchers conducted an evaluation. From the design aspect, it is necessary to develop the originality of the images used, the colours are adjusted to attract children's attention. From the material aspect, it is in accordance with the book references from each church. From the language aspect, it needs to be adjusted to language that is easy for children to understand because there are levels / classes in Sunday school, even developed in regional languages such as Batak, Karo, and angkola. In general, Sunday school teachers are not familiar with Bookcreator but after being implemented, they welcomed it and hoped for training in their respective churches.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research analysis, it can be concluded that:

Teaching materials in Sunday school are good and fulfil theological criteria because PGID member churches in the North Tapanuli region have a Sunday school guidebook. However, the language in the material book tends to be general.

So far, the media used by Sunday school is still conventional and even then it is not continuous. With the bookcreator learning media, it is very helpful in improving the mastery of teaching materials.

The response from Sunday school teachers was very favourable to the bookcreator-based learning media. The teachers requested training to design similar media.

Advice

Based on the conclusions, there are several things that need to be suggested as follows:

For churches that already have materials, it is recommended to use simpler and more understandable language, even using local languages.

Teachers are advised to adapt to the times, so in learning it is recommended to use digital learning media more massively.

The church is advised to be responsive and facilitate Sunday school teachers by opening up to technology and inviting experts according to their fields in improving the quality of Sunday school teachers.

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