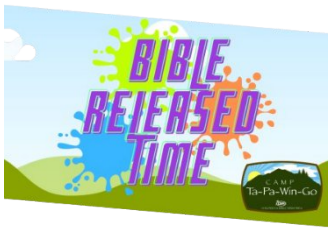
Hey Kids! Take these forms home to get them signed so you can go to Bible Released Time!



I give permission for my child, _____ to be excused
PLEASE PRINT NEATLY CHILD'S FIRST & LAST NAME

from school for one class period, once a month, to attend the Bible Released Time program,

sponsored by Children's Bible Ministries. _____ _____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN *DATE*

Printed name of
Parent or Guardian _____ Teacher's Name _____

If needed, best phone number to reach you: _____ Home Cell Work (Circle One)

Address_____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

School _____ Grade _____ Child's Birth Date _____ / _____ / _____
MONTH DAY YEAR

May we add you to our text reminder of class times? ___Yes ___ No
Number to text if different than above _____

Bible Released Time… what's this all about?

If you are taking a moment to read this, you're doing exactly what I would do! My wife, Kathy and I raised four children, and when they wanted to go anywhere, we wanted to know *who they would be with and what they would be doing*. Any good parent would! In short, this is an elective "Bible story time" for children who, with parental consent, are excused from school for one class period, once per month. In Tennessee, thousands of children enroll in Bible Released Time programs each year. But since this is a "religious program", you may still have some questions about what your child will be taught and who we are. So let me share a little about us …

First of all, Bible Released Time is sponsored by Children's Bible Ministries of East Tennessee (CBM). CBM is based right here in the Tri-Cities area at Camp Ta-Pa-Win-Go, just outside Elizabethton. We are a respected, non-profit children's ministry, providing school programs and affordable summer camps for children since the 1940's. Many area parents and grandparents can still recall our monthly school visits and flannel board Bible stories in their school auditorium or gym when they grew up! Now held off school property at neighborhood churches (bus ride provided), the program continues to grow each year with over 2000 students enrolled last year in the east Tennessee area!

In 2020, Tennessee enacted a new law making Bible Released Time accessible for all students. The Sullivan County Board of Education can allow the program but does not sponsor or endorse it in any way. The additional form attached is to make sure you are aware of this and also needs your signature. Classes each month will take place during a non-tested subject time and will be considered an excused absence from school.

Our program is for students in grades 3-5. Kids enjoy our classes whether they go to church regularly or if they know very little about the Bible! Our presentations are not "preachy"… we just teach the Bible in a fun and creative way that your child can learn from. You may also appreciate knowing that CBM does not represent any church or denomination. We focus on Bible basics in our classes. Denominational teachings, we feel, should be left to parents and their church.

If you think learning about the Bible is something your child would enjoy, we encourage you to let them give it a try! We often find that many of the students who miss the first class decide they want to go after they hear their friends talking about it, so we encourage you to send these forms back right away, so they don't miss the first trip!

To enroll your child, fill out both forms and return to your school.

SULLIVAN COUNTY SCHOOLS

RELEASED TIME PERMISSION FORM

Students Name: _____ Student's Grade: _____

School: _____ School Year: __2026-27__

Parent/Guardian's Full Name: _____

Organization Responsible During Released Time: __Children's Bible Ministries of East Tennessee_____

My signature on this Form confirms that the above named student may be excused from school and may be transported during the school day to participate in a released time course off of school property under the following conditions as permitted by Tenn. Code Ann. 49-2-130(a) and the Sullivan County School Board.

- Student is released for one class period per month. The released time course must coincide with school class schedules. Student may not be excused to participate in a released time course during any class in which subject matter is taught for which the State requires an examination for state or federal accountability purposes. The school's principal, or his/her designee, shall determine the class(es) from which Student may be excused to participate in the released time course.
- CBM must maintain attendance records for Student and must make such records available to Sullivan County Schools;
- Any transportation to/and from school the place of released time instruction is the responsibility of CBM. Sullivan County Schools is not responsible for transportation.
- No public funds will be expended, and no public school personnel will be involved in providing instruction for released time courses.
- If applicable, Student is responsible for any missed schoolwork.
- The religious education program is NOT a school-sponsored activity and, as such, the Sullivan County Schools does not endorse, sponsor, supervise or otherwise involve itself in transportation, religious instruction or any activities of CBM, its employees or its volunteers.
- Parent/Guardian and CBM assume all responsibility and liability for Student's participation in the released time course and any transportation required for such participation. Parents/Guardians - on behalf of themselves and the minor Student- expressly waive any right to hold Student's school and Sullivan County Schools, including their agents, administrators, board members, contractors, and employees, and the State of Tennessee, liable for any and all claims, suits or damages related in any way to and/or stemming from Student's participation in the released time course, including, but not limited to, transportation thereto or therefrom.

I certify that I am the legally responsible parent or guardian of the above named Student and that I have read and fully understand the conditions of my child's participation in released time religious moral instruction.

_____ _____

Signature of the Parent/Guardian Date of Signing