

Learning About the Bible

A Bible Literacy Program for 7-11-year-olds

By Sharon Kay Chatwell

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Greetings!

Learning About the Bible was written for children, 7-11 years old, and it is meant for teachers to use in their Sunday School classes (or wherever children learn about Jesus) to help introduce young readers to basic Bible Literacy.

- It can be used as a stand-alone Bible Study, **or as a supplement** to go along with your regular Sunday School curriculum.
- The lessons are short, clear, and lend themselves to pairing with Bible Studies which might be going on in any 2nd-5th grade classroom.
- Each lesson stands on its own, but when taken in order they build on information presented in earlier lessons.
- Feel free to divide any lesson into two parts, if it is too long or if you want to do extra activities in any one lesson.

When children are old enough to start reading books for information, typically around age 7 or 8, they can also begin reading the Bible. But often, children who have been given Bibles have no idea how to start reading one; or even that it can be done!

I chose to write to this age group because I wanted to help them know more about this BIG book that we call the Bible. My hope was that, perhaps, they will realize that it is a book meant for them, as well as for others.

Churches that present Bibles to their young students, or that have classroom Bibles, would do well to have regular and systematic teaching on how to read the Bible and to find information in it.

Bible literacy is important to help us understand things about the Bible, which might otherwise confuse us. For example: We know that there are four Gospels, which have many of the same stories in them about Jesus. If the children know this when they begin reading the Gospels, then maybe they won't be as surprised as I was, when as a teenager reading through the Bible for the first time, I underlined one of the parables in ink and later found the same parable with no underlining!

So, please feel free to use this study on its own, or as a supplement to your classroom studies. I pray that these lessons will be a blessing to you and your students, as well as to their families!

May God continue to bless you and your ministry. And, through the power of the Holy Spirit, may we all continue to learn more about this wonderful gift that God has given us; the Bible.

With love in Christ,
Sharon

Creating a Time Line in Your Classroom

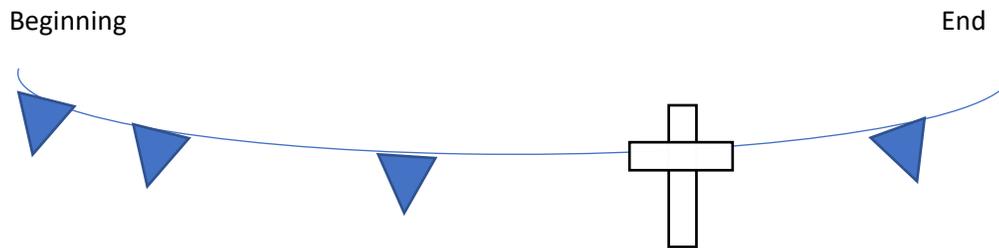
Creating a Time Line in your classroom will help your students more easily understand when the Bible Stories happened and when they were written down. Try to create a Time Line in your classroom by the second lesson. If possible, leave it up from week to week until your studies are completed.

Just like in a Number Line (which should be familiar to children this age) the smaller numbers or years are on the left and the bigger numbers or years are on the right. So, the Beginning of Time would be at the far-left side of the string, and the End of Time would be at the far-right.

Although this undoubtedly seems like a BIG undertaking, it can be accomplished easily by draping some string or yarn across one wall in your classroom.

NOTE: *For safety reasons, make sure the string or yarn for your Time Line is up high enough that very young children cannot reach it or get tangled in it.*

Bring clothespins or other fasteners, so that you can place points of reference on your line. (For example: You might put a paper Cross on the line to show when Jesus was Crucified.)



Each lesson will provide opportunities for you to explain **WHEN** something occurred. The Time Line will provide a visual representation of time, which is often too abstract a concept for young children to understand (*and there are many of us adults who feel the same way!*)

It is **NOT** necessary for your Time Line to be to scale. Nor is it necessary for you to leave things exactly where they are all the time. For instance, if you are talking about the writing of the New Testament, you might slide the Old Testament things further to the left so that you can have more room to better show the time period you are discussing that day.

As you go through the lessons, ideas for what historical events to show on your Time Line will be given. You may also use any activity sheets that are applicable to help show when things occurred. You can just add them to the Time Line!

Occasionally take some class time to review what you have already learned from your Time Line. This will help refresh everyone's memory and help students who may have missed previous classes to understand better what is being presented.

Best wishes!

Creating Bible Replicas in your classroom for each child will help the students better understand how the Bible is set up, and how to find things in it. This creative, hands-on approach of fashioning their own replica of the Bible will involve each child in a way that helps them connect more fully with the information they get in class.

The idea is this. The first week each child creates the cover for their own “Bible” and in the weeks to follow they can add dividers for the Old and New Testaments, pages with the names of the Books of the Bible, and various verses that they learn and copy down on pages of paper during each lesson. This helps fashion their Bible.

It will be a “pretend” Bible, of course, because it won’t have all the words in it, but it will have the structure of one of our modern-day Bibles, and have lots of information in it that the children will learn during class time. And, of course, the children will enjoy making their own keepsake of your class!

You will need to decide ahead of time how you would like to create the Bibles. It would be best to provide materials for each child that are more or less the same.

Folders or binders work well for the covers of the Bibles, or even cardstock with holes punched in it. You will need heavy paper or construction paper to make the divisions for Old and New Testaments. Notebook paper will do well for other work.

Markers, crayons, pencils and hole punches will need to be available each time.

In the end, each child should have their own replica of the Bible to take home; complete with front and back covers, divisions for OT and NT, a list of all of the Books of the Bible, as well as pages with various scriptures that they have studied.

Sharon’s Thoughts:

The great thing about this curriculum is that you can choose to create a “Bible” for each child in the classroom as you go along. **You don’t have to do this**, but it is a really fun and instructional activity; and the kids will love it!

I first saw this done in one of our preschool classrooms at church and it was an incredible hit, even though those children were a bit young to understand it all. If you are working with children ages 7-11, they should be able to understand everything that they are doing on the project.

I promise you that this will be a worthwhile endeavor.

Many thanks to my friend, Maggie D., for coming up with this idea originally and for introducing me to it through the children in her classroom. Well done, Maggie!
Thank you!

God bless you!

Sharon

How to Use These Lessons

These lessons are arranged to help the teacher. There is no need to make copies of the lesson for the children. Only the Activity Sheet needs to be printed out for the students, and then only if you choose to use that particular activity for that lesson.

The various sections of the lessons are outlined here:

- Teacher Prep. This is intended to help you understand **WHY** the lesson was written in the first place. It is basically a note from one teacher to another – from me to you!
- Major Points In any class, you can hope to convey only so many “take home” messages in one lesson. These messages are the Major Points. When your students leave your classroom, you will want them to have learned **AT LEAST** these few things.
- Bible Verses Whenever you teach a child in Sunday School, you need to make sure that **WHATEVER** you say has a Bible verse to back it up. The Bible Verses offered help support the Major Points of the lesson. You may refer to them as you like while you are teaching. They are often cited within the lesson for your convenience. Encourage your students to read the verses out loud for the class, as you go along with the lesson.
- Lesson During the lesson you will lead your class from one Major Point to another; usually starting with a short review and then flowing along until you have presented them all. The **BULLET POINTS** under each Major Point are offered as explanations as to why that particular point is true. There you will find reasoning, examples, and Scripture Verses to help you prove your point.
- If you find a bullet point that is tabbed in further than the others, it is offered mainly for your own interest.
 - It may contain additional information or a review of something already covered in other lessons.
 - Use this information to answer questions your students may have, or however you may see fit.
- Prayer **ALWAYS** pray with and for your students. You can use this outline or offer up your own prayer. God is always listening!
- Activities Remember, these are **SUGGESTED** activities. You can use them in class, or not, as you like. You certainly won't be able to do them all in one class period, so it will be necessary for you to **CHOOSE** one or two to do. Choose the ones that make the most sense for your class. Older children may need the more complicated activities. *(Make copies of the Activity Sheet for the children **only** if you are planning to do that particular Activity.)*

Lesson #1 – The Bible: God's Word

Teacher Prep: There is so much talk today about truth; and whether what is true for you is also true for me. You will find none of that nonsense in the Bible. As God is the Source of all Truth, God's Word is also true. When Jesus said, "I am the Truth," He wasn't kidding. Here we will study God's Word; His Truth, which was revealed to us by His grace for our instruction. God's Word stands as a Rock, to which we may cling in faith, or upon which we may dash ourselves if we choose to disbelieve it.

Major Points: **Introduction to Learning About the Bible**
We Can Trust God
The Bible is God's Word
We Can Trust God's Word (The Bible)

Bible Verses: **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

Psalm 12:6 *The words of the LORD are pure words; As silver tried in a furnace... refined seven times.*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson: **Introduction to Learning About the Bible**

- (Stand or sit, so that your students can see you easily. Make sure to have your Bible with you.)
- Hold up the Bible and ask, "What is this?" (Answers will vary. "Holy Bible, The Bible, The Scriptures, God's Word, a book")
- That's right! It's the Bible!
- Sometimes we call it "The Bible." Sometimes we call it "The Holy Bible" or "The Scriptures." But no matter what name we give it, it is always "God's Word."
- And, yes, it is a book!
 - In fact, the Word "Bible" means "book" and the word "Holy" means "Sacred" or "Set Apart for God."
 - So, the words "Holy Bible" means "Sacred Book."
- For the next few weeks we are going to be studying this sacred book, the Bible.

- We are going to be learning things like: Who wrote it all down? How it is divided up? What kinds of things are in it?
- We're also going to learn how to find things in it and, maybe most importantly, **how to read it for ourselves!**

We Can Trust God

- Before we start reading God's Word, we better know that we can trust this God, whose Word this is. We should know Who He is and What He is like.
- What is God like? (*Wait for answers. You will probably have lots of them. Make sure to talk about the points below.*)
 - Jehovah (Creator God) is absolutely good.
 - God is absolutely faithful.
 - God cannot lie.
 - God loves us.
- We can know these wonderful and true things about God through His Creation that is all around us.
- We can also know these things through Jesus Christ, who was here and taught us about God the Father.
- We can also know them through His Word; The Bible.
- Since God is good and cannot lie, and since He loves us and is absolutely faithful, **we can trust Him** (and His Word.)

The Bible is God's Word

- (*Thumb through your Bible, showing different pages*)
- God gave His Word to us through many writers over many years, but all of the words in the Bible are God's words.
- God gave us His Word because He loves us.
 - God gave us His Word to help us.
 - And because He wants us to know Him.
 - And because He wants us to know what He has done for us: Jesus came that we might be saved
- In **2 Timothy 3:16** the Bible says, "All Scripture is **inspired** by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"
 - In the original language (Greek), this verse says that "All Scripture is **God-breathed**."
 - This means that the Scriptures are actually God's words – as in, He breathed them out, or said them.
- It has been said that when we say Bible verses, or think about them, we are "thinking God's thoughts after Him."
- The Bible is God's Word.

We Can Trust God's Word

- Since God is always trustworthy, we know that we can always trust Him.

- Since we can trust God, we can also trust what He says!
- This means that **we can always trust what the Bible says, because it is God's Word!**

Let's pray together and thank God for giving us His Word, the Bible.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for giving us your Word, the Bible.
Thank you that we can trust in your Word, because we know that we can trust you!
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Create A Bible Cover – *The children will create the front and back cover for their own Bible replica, (see page v.) which will be added to, as the course continues.*

Before Class: Obtain covers for Bible; either binders, folders, or cardstock. Provide markers, crayons, pencils, pens, and a hole punch. Provide a way to bind the cardstock together, such as brads, rings or clips that open and shut. Make up a demo ahead of time to show the children. *You may use the activity sheet to help the children decorate the Bible Covers, if you would like. If you want to do so, make a copy for each child in your class. You will need to have scissors and glue available.*

During Class: Explain the project to the children. Tell them that this is going to be an ongoing project during your study over several weeks, and that you will be adding pages to it as you go along. Explain that the cover for their Bible has to be sturdy, so that it will stand up to all of this work. Let the children decorate the covers of their Bible. Ask them to write "Holy Bible" or "The Bible" on the front cover. Have them put their names on them somewhere, so that everyone can tell them apart. If you are using the Activity Sheet to help decorate the front covers, hand them out and let the children color them and cut them out to paste on their covers.

All Scripture is God Breathed – *The children will look up and copy a Bible verse.*

Before Class: Have Bibles available for the children to use to look up the Bible verse. Provide paper and pencils, markers, and hole punches as necessary.

During Class: Explain that you are going to show the children how to look up a verse that you have studied today in class. Write the Scripture Reference on the board:

2 Timothy 3:15-17. Explain that the "2 Timothy" refers to the second book of Timothy, which is in the New Testament, that the 3 means that the scripture is in the 3rd chapter, and that the numbers 15-17 means that it is in the 15th-17th verses. Find the verses in the Bible together. Help the children find the verses in their Bibles. Read them all together. Hand out paper. Let the children copy down the entire verse along with the reference. Allow them to decorate their pages, if they would like to do so. Place the page in their Bible replicas or allow them to take them home.

It's All Greek to Me – *An optional study of the Greek words for "Holy Bible."*

Before Class: Read through the information given. Practice writing the Greek letters for the words, or write them out ahead of time on pieces of construction paper.

During Class: When prompted, write the words in Greek on the chalkboard or show the already-written words on construction paper. Explain the lesson as follows:

- The Holy Bible
 - Bible means Book.
 - Holy means "Set Apart" or "Sacred"
- In Greek – βίβλος (or biblos; pronounced beeb'-los) means written book or roll of paper.
 - This is where we get our word "Bible".
- In Greek ἅγιος (written "hagios"; pronounced hag'-ee-os) means "set apart" or "sacred"
 - This is where we get our word "Holy".
- So, in English, the term Holy Bible means "Book that is Set Apart" or "Sacred Book."

Optional Further Study for older students: *Look up the following Bible verses that refer to holiness.*

- In the Bible, the word "Holy" (hagios) is often used to refer to God Himself
- In **Revelation 4:8**, we find the word "ἅγιος" ("hagios") or "Holy" being repeated by the four living creatures that worship before the throne of God.
 - "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *is* THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."
- In this sense "Holy" means "worthy to be revered" or "worthy to stand in awe of"
 - "Holy" is used to refer to God "*on account of His incomparable majesty.*" (Thayer's Greek Lexicon)
- When things or places are referred to as "holy", it means that they are "set apart" from all other similar things, because they have to do with God.
 - The Scriptures are referred to as being "holy Scriptures" (or ἅγια γραφαί)
 - Example: **Romans 1:2** "*...which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,*"

Activity Sheet – *The children will color the activity sheet that says Holy Bible. They may then cut out and paste the words "Holy Bible" on their Bible Cover, if they like.*

Before Class: Make a copy for each child of the activity sheet. Provide colors or markers for them to use to decorate the page. If using to decorate the Bible Cover, be sure to provide scissors and glue.

During Class: Give each child a copy of the activity sheet and let them to decorate it as they wish. The child may take the copy home with them or, if you are using them to decorate the front cover of their Bibles, allow the children to cut out the words and glue them on to their Bible Covers. Allow adequate time for the glue to dry before stacking them together.

HOLY
BIBLE

Lesson #2 – Two Testaments: One Bible

Teacher Prep: The Holy Bible is one large book, written in two different parts; one before Jesus came and one after Jesus came. How and when all of this happened, we will get to later on, but for right now it's important for us to understand that the Bible is God's Word, that God gave it to us, and that it all points to Jesus. The Pharisees in Jesus' day missed this important fact. It's really important that we don't.

Major Points: **The Bible is God's Word**
God Gave Us the Bible
The Bible is One Book, Written in Two Parts
The Whole Bible Tells Us About Jesus

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ...*from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

Matthew 4:4 (Jesus said) *"It is written, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'"*

John 5:39 (Jesus said) ... *the Scriptures...testify about Me*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson. *Prepare Time Line and set up in classroom. (see p. iv.)*

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

NOTE: *If you are introducing the Time Line today, you have the option of introducing it briefly before the lesson starts.*

The Bible is God's Word – Review from last lesson

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- Hold up the Bible and say, "For the next few weeks we are studying this book. What is it?" That's right! It's the Bible!"
- Sometimes we call it "The Bible." Sometimes we call it "The Holy Bible" or "The Scriptures." But no matter what name we give it, it is always "God's Word."

- *(Thumb through your Bible, showing different pages)*
- Inside of it are many words that God has used to tell us things; important things!
- God is always trustworthy. So, all of the things that the Bible says can be trusted, because it is God's Word.
- **Read 2 Timothy 3:16** *"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;"*

God Gave Us the Bible

- The Bible is a great BIG book!
- It was written down...
 - By many different writers (at least 40 of them)
 - Over a timespan of many years (about 1500)
 - In lots of different parts; called "Books" (There are 66.)
- But no matter how many different parts there are, or how many writers there have been, or how many years it took to write it all down, it all came from God! **God gave us the Bible!**
- In the last lesson, we learned that the words in the Bible are God-breathed; or "inspired by God"
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** *"All Scripture is inspired by God..."*
 - What does the word "inspired" mean?
 - That's right, it means "God breathed."
- Over the years God **inspired** many different people to write down the different parts of the Bible
- But, all of it, all of it, ALL of it... came from God Himself!

The Bible is One Book, Written in Two Parts

- The Bible is all one BIG book.
 - Even though it has lots of smaller parts (or "books") in it, we still call it one book
- Generally, the Bible is divided into two BIG parts
 - The Old Testament (the original Hebrew Scriptures)
 - The New Testament (written after Jesus came)
- *(Find the place in the Bible between the Old and the New Testaments. Show the class.)*
- "This is the place in the book between the Old and the New Testaments."
 - The Old Testament is the part in front of this place.
 - The New Testament is this part in back of this place.
- All of the Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus came
- All of the New Testament was written AFTER Jesus came
 - *(Show on Time Line also, if you like.)*
- The Bible is one book, written in two parts.

The Whole Bible Tells Us About Jesus

- God inspired many people to write down the parts of the Bible
- But He had ONE reason for writing it all – **Jesus!**
- All of the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, point to Jesus as the Savior of the whole world.
- God wanted us to know how He loves us, how we need Him, and how He has provided for our salvation through faith in His One and Only Son, Jesus Christ.
- **READ 2 Timothy 3:15** *...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom **that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***
 - This bible verse talks about the “sacred writings” or “Scriptures” – these are the words in the Old Testament
 - So, even the Old Testament (which was written before Jesus came) can teach us about Jesus!
- **READ John 5:39** (Jesus is speaking) “... *the Scriptures... testify about Me*”
 - Here Jesus is talking about the Scriptures – or the Old Testament
 - When Jesus was here, people only had the part of the Bible that we now call the Old Testament (Scriptures)
- Jesus believed the words of the Scriptures and often referred to them and quoted them when He talked to people.
- In **Matthew 4:4** Jesus said “*It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’*” Here Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, which is found in the Old Testament
- So, God inspired the Bible to be written down by different people over a long period of time, but all of the Bible is from God and all of it tells us about Jesus. How amazing!

Let’s take a moment to thank God for what He has done in providing the Bible for us.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for giving us the Bible.
Thank you for telling us all the truths that are in it.
Thank you for loving us and for sending Jesus to save us from our sins.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Time Line Introduction – *The children will learn about the Time Line, which has been created in your classroom. (See page iv. for more information.)*

Before Class: Use string or yarn to create a Time Line in your classroom by draping it across one wall. Bring clothespins or other fasteners, so that you can place points

of reference on your line. Make paper signs for reference points. Two might say “Beginning” and “End”, which you can put on either end of the Time Line. Another might be in the shape of a cross to show the time that Jesus was on the Earth. You can also make a “You Are Here” sign (like an arrow) to put somewhere on the line.

NOTE: *For safety reasons, make sure that the string or yarn for your Time Line is up high enough that very young children cannot reach it or get tangled in it.*

During Class: Point out the new Time Line to the children and explain to them what it is. You might use some of the following ideas for your explanation.

- Many of them may have seen a **Number Line** in their school classrooms.
- A Number Line starts on the left side with very low numbers, like 0 or 1, and as it continues to the right the numbers get larger.
- Explain that in the same way, your Time Line starts on the left side at the Beginning of Time (*put the Beginning card on the far-left side*) and ends on the right side at the End of Time. (*Place the End card on the far-right side.*)
- Explain that Time is a really abstract concept. That means we know it’s there, but we can’t really see it. So, we plan to use this Time Line to represent Time, so that we can all look at it and think about Time together.
- Explain that in between the Beginning and the End cards is all of Time; **Past, Present, and Future**. Everything that ever has happened or will happen is somewhere on this line. We are also somewhere on this line, but it is hard to know where, without some sort of reference point. Right now, it all looks alike!
- As a reference point, put the paper **Cross** on the line, to represent when Jesus lived, died on the cross, and was raised from the dead.
- Place the “You Are Here” sign somewhere in between the Cross and the End sign. We know that Jesus has already come, and we know that the End of Time hasn’t occurred yet, so we are somewhere in between here and there.
- The Past, for us, is everything to the left of the You are Here sign. The Future, for us, is everything to the right of the You are Here sign. The Present is where we are now; at the You Are Here sign.
- Have some children come up and talk about the Time Line. Ask them some questions about where we are now (the present) where the past is for us, and where the future is. Also have them point out the time when Jesus was here.
 - For extra credit, ask “When Jesus was here, what was in the past?” (before the cross) “And what was the future?” (after the cross.)
- Explain that you will be using the Time Line in your classroom during the next few weeks to help demonstrate when things in the Bible happened in time, and that you will be adding things to it as you go.
- Point out that the children need to be careful with the Time Line, so that it will survive over the next few weeks!
- The idea of the Time Line is to help the children gain a sense of perspective of past, present and future at different points in Time.
- It will also help them understand that the things in the Bible actually happened **here on Earth**, where they exist now; which can also be an abstract concept.

Create Bible Dividers – *The children will add Old Testament and New Testament dividers to their Bible replicas in class. (For information on replicas, see page v.) Or they will create pages that say Old and New Testament to take home.*

Before Class: Obtain 2 dividers for each child. These may be made of card stock or construction paper. Provide markers, pens and pencils, and a hole punch, if needed. If you plan on using the Activity Sheet to help create the dividers, then you will also need one copy of the activity sheet for each child, as well as scissors and glue.

During Class: Write the words “Old Testament” and “New Testament” on the board. Allow the children to copy each set of words on their dividers for their Bible replicas. Punch holes in them as necessary to fit into the Bible Covers created in Lesson #1. Place these dividers in the Bible replicas with the Old Testament in front of the New Testament. If you are using the Activity Sheet, allow the children to color the words Old and New Testament on it and then cut out the two rectangles and glue them on their Bible Dividers. If not making Bible replicas, they may glue the rectangles on construction paper to take home. Remind them that the Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus came and that the New Testament was written AFTER Jesus came

Discussion about Old and New Testaments: *The children will learn more details about the Old and New Testaments.*

Before Class: Read through these facts and decide how best to present them. It is not necessary to present all of them at this time.

During Class: Use the Time Line as a visual aid, or write these ideas on the board.

- While the Old Testament and New Testament were written down over a certain period of time (about 1500 years), they have information and prophecy that cover **all of Time**, from the Beginning to the End.
- OT – tells history, stories, and prophecy that was written down prior to Jesus’ Birth. Talks about things like: Creation of the World, God’s interaction with the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) and with His People (the Jewish nation) in the past, and the promise of a Savior (Messiah), who was to come.
 - The first 5 books (The Pentateuch) were written down by Moses
 - Other books were written down by others (EX: King David, Solomon, and all of the prophets)
- NT – was written down after the Resurrection of Jesus, by people who had actually met Him. It tells Jesus’ Story and reveals Him to be the Son of God and the Promised Messiah. It records Jesus’ words and the prophecy that was written down after He came; as well as instructions to all Believers. All of the New Testament was written down within about 60 years of Jesus’ Resurrection. Some consider James’ epistle to be the first one written (about 44 AD) and Revelation (by John) was the last one written (about 90-95 AD.)
- From the time Jesus was here until now has been about 2000 years.

OLD
TESTAMENT

NEW
TESTAMENT

Lesson #3 – Books of the Bible

Teacher Prep: My favorite Bible joke is that I believe everything in it “from Genesis to Maps.” Whether your Bible has maps in it or not (or actual pages or not) it’s important for us to understand that God gave us His Word and that we are to help others learn and appreciate what is in it. In a world of Bible apps and Internet access, the idea of a set of books may seem abstract or even archaic to some. But it is nice to know that there are actual written books and that there is an order to them; and that there is an actual meaning to Who wrote them and why.

Major Points: **The Bible is Divided into Books**
Each Book has a Name
Different Types of Literature are Found in these Books
All of the Books of the Bible are from God

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:15-17** ...*from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***

John 5:39 (Jesus said) ... ***the Scriptures...testify about Me***

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson: **The Bible is Divided into Books**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- Today we are going to study the Books of the Bible
- Last time we learned that there are two major parts of the Bible – the Old and New Testaments
 - The Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus was here on the Earth
 - The New Testament was written AFTER He was here
- Each of these Testaments is made up of a set of books.
- That means that the whole Bible is made up of many different books.
 - It may seem funny that one book could be made up of many books, but the Bible is!

- You can think of the Bible as a “Library” of Books.
- The Bible is actually made up of 66 Books.
 - 39 books in the Old Testament
 - 27 books in the New Testament
- Each book was written separately and at different times.
- They were written by different writers through time.
 - Some writers wrote more than one book of the Bible.

Each Book has a Name

- Each book of the Bible has its own name.
 - These names were assigned to them over time
- Sometimes the name refers to what the book is about.
 - EX: Genesis (which means Beginning) is written about Creation and the Beginning of Time
 - Appropriately enough, Genesis is the first book!
- Sometimes a book is named for the person who wrote it.
 - EX: Isaiah (a book of prophecy in the Old Testament)
 - It’s named for the prophet Isaiah, who gave us all the prophecies written in that book.
- Sometimes a book is named for the people to whom the book (or letter) was originally written.
 - EX: Philippians (a book in the New Testament)
 - It’s actually a letter written by an apostle named Paul
 - Written to the Believers (or church) in Philippi
 - which was in Ancient Greece.
 - The people there were called Philippians.
- Originally these books were actually written on scrolls of parchment, which were rolled up
- Our modern versions of these books are written on paper and bound all together as one BIG book; the Bible
 - More recently Bibles have become available online.
 - You can even download Bible apps!
- We will be learning the names of the Books of the Bible.
 - We are going to do this so that we can more easily find the parts of the Bible we are looking for

Different Types of Literature are Found in these Books

- The Bible has different types of writing (or literature) in it.
- Some books have a majority of one type or another
- Some are **History** books
 - (Example: Exodus, that tells the story of the escape of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt.)
- Some books are **Letters**, others are full of **Poetry** or **Psalms** (or songs) and there are books of **Prophecy**, which is the foretelling of future events.

- We will learn more about each type of this writing (literature) in the books of the Bible.

All of the Books of the Bible are from God

- No matter how many books there are in the Bible, or what kind of writing they have in them, we must remember that the Bible is One Big Book, and that it is the Word of God.
- We have been reading this Bible verse the last few times. And we will read it again today.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
- God has preserved His Word for us down through the ages by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is here for us to read and to learn from.
- The Scriptures are from God and they are here to help us.

Let's pray and thank God for giving us His Word.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you have given us your Word, the Bible.
And that you have preserved and protected it for us through the ages.
We ask that you will help us learn more about it.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Memorizing the Books of the Bible – *The children will begin the process of memorizing the names of the Books of the Bible and their order in the Bible.*

Before Class: Make copies of both activity sheets for each child in your classroom.

Research any songs (or other memorization techniques) that might help the children learn the names of the books of the Bible in order. Provide a hole punch as needed.

During Class: Distribute copies of the two Activity Sheets to each child. Look over the list of Books of the Bible with the children. Read the names of the books in the New Testament first. Next, read over the names of the books in the Old Testament. Which names are easy to say? Which are harder to pronounce? Practice reading the lists together, encourage the children to participate. Have each child read one name and then have them call on someone else to read the next one. (Or have them throw a ball to the next person who will read the name.) Help the children with the pronunciations of the difficult words. Listen to a song that helps people remember the books of the Bible. Practice together. Punch holes in the pages and place the lists of Books of the Bible inside the front covers of the Old and New Testaments in

your Bible replicas. Alternatively, send the list home for children to practice over the next few weeks. Work with the children over the next several classes on memorizing the Books of the Bible. Consider having a reward system for memorizing them.

NOTE on Multiple Books of the same name:

Some of the books have the same name with numbers in front of them. (Ex: 1 and 2 Kings - pronounced “*First and Second Kings*”). They have these numbers for different reasons. One is that the “books” were originally so big that they were on separate scrolls (1 and 2 Kings); the other is that they were letters written to the same church, or by the same person, at different times. (Ex: 1 and 2 Corinthians.)

Types of Literature – *The children will be introduced to the different types of literature contained in the books of the Bible.*

Before Class: Make up the index cards with information on them as described below. Provide yarn and tape (or Sticky Tack) to create a “matching game”.

During Class: Explain that you are going to help the children understand some of the different types of literature (or writing) that we find in the Bible. Use the names and descriptions below, which are written on different index cards, to help the children figure out the names of the various types of literature and their definitions.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| History | This is the telling of a story, as it happened in the past. |
| Poetry | This is the expression of emotions or thoughts in word form. Sometimes it can have a special form, like rhyming. |
| Psalms | This is a fancy word for “Songs.” In the book by this name you will also find prayers and poetry. |
| Letters | These were written down by one person and sent (or mailed) to people in a different place. |
| Prophecy | This is the foretelling (or prophesying) of future events. |
| Gospels | These are the four books that tell about Jesus’ life, and about some of the things that He did and said. |

BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS	ECCLESIASTES
EXODUS	SONG OF SOLOMON
LEVITICUS	ISAIAH
NUMBERS	JEREMIAH
DEUTERONOMY	LAMENTATIONS
JOSHUA	EZEKIEL
JUDGES	DANIEL
RUTH	HOSEA
1 SAMUEL	JOEL
2 SAMUEL	AMOS
1 KINGS	OBADIAH
2 KINGS	JONAH
1 CHRONICLES	MICAH
2 CHRONICLES	NAHUM
EZRA	HABAKKUK
NEHEMIAH	ZEPHANIAH
ESTHER	HAGGAI
JOB	ZECHARIAH
PSALMS	MALACHI
PROVERBS	

BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LUKE	TITUS
JOHN	PHILEMON
ACTS	HEBREWS
ROMANS	JAMES
1 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
2 CORINTHIANS	2 PETER
GALATIANS	1 JOHN
EPHESIANS	2 JOHN
PHILIPPIANS	3 JOHN
COLOSSIANS	JUDE
1 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
2 THESSALONIANS	

Lesson #4 – Chapters and Verses

Teacher Prep: Virtual Bibles and search engines have drastically reduced the reasons for us to have to memorize the locations of our favorite Bible verses. Often, we can just “search” for them online and find them. (That is, if we already know what’s in them!) But online searches can’t take the place of us memorizing verses. As our memory verse today reminds us, we are to treasure God’s Word in our hearts, that we might not sin against Him. Even at our worst possible moment, the Holy Spirit may bring to mind a Bible verse that we have learned in the past. For this reason, we need to take every opportunity to speak the Truth of God’s Word into the lives of our students. God bless you!

Major Points: **The Bible is Made up of 66 Different Books**
These Books are Divided into Chapters and Verses
We Can Learn God’s Word from the Bible
The Holy Spirit Reminds us of All that Jesus Said

Scripture Ref:

Psalm 119:11 *Your word I have treasured in my heart,
That I may not sin against You.*

Psalm 119:105 *Your word is a lamp to my feet
And a light to my path.*

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

The Bible is Made up of 66 Books

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- Last time we learned that the Bible is made up of 66 different books. You can think of the Bible as a “Library” of Books.
- The Bible is made up of two large divisions: The Old and New Testaments.
- There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 Books in the New Testament.
- We are memorizing the Books of the Bible

- *Discuss Bible Book memorization and how it is going. Explain that you will all practice together again today. (If anyone was not here last time, make sure that they get the activity sheets from lesson #3 today.)*

Bible Books are Divided into Chapters and Verses

- As we discussed last time, originally the books of the Bible were written on scrolls that were rolled up.
 - The scrolls were kept at the synagogue (or church).
 - Now we have printed Bibles (as well as Bibles online).
- Back then, there were no chapters or verses marked out.
- That made it harder to talk about exactly where a verse of Scripture was found.
 - People of that time would say things like... “It is written” and then go on to quote what the verse said.
 - They could tell you which book the verse was in, but that was about it.
- Eventually, people decided to divide up the various Books of the Bible into chapters; and the chapters into verses.
 - This made it easier to find verses, and to refer to them in other writings.
- So, it is a fairly modern thing to have chapters and verses.

We can Learn God’s Word from the Bible

- There are many words in the Bible and all of them are important, because they all come from God.
- If we are wise, we will want to learn as much of the Bible as we can. Do you know why? (*Wait for answers.*)
- Remember our verse from last week: **2 Timothy 3:15-17**
*...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom **that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; **so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***
 - If we are not yet Christians, the Scriptures are able to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation
 - If we are already Christians, the Scriptures help us be adequate and equipped for every good work.
- Our Bible verse for today reminds us of another good reason to learn what is in the Bible:
- **Read Psalm 119:11** *Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You*
- We don’t want to sin against God. So, it’s a good idea for us to learn God’s Word.

The Holy Spirit Reminds Us of All that Jesus Said

- We can read and study the Bible. We can learn all of the Books of the Bible and we can memorize lots of verses. BUT.... Unless we can apply the meaning of those verses to our lives, they do us no good at all.
- The Holy Spirit is there to help us remember truths from the Bible when we need them most.
 - In **John 14:26**, Jesus told His Disciples: *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*
- This reminding by the Holy Spirit helps us remember (and hopefully to apply) the Bible verses we have learned or heard in the past.
- Without the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to understand or correctly apply God's Word to our lives
- The Good News is that the Holy Spirit calls to each of us and He lives in the heart of each Believer.
- He is always faithful to remind us of all that Jesus said!

Let's pray and thank God for His Word and for His Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for giving us your Word, the Bible.
Thank you for sending us your Holy Spirit.
Thank you that the Holy Spirit reminds us of all that Jesus said.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group

Bible Skills – Chapters and Verses – *The children will practice finding certain books, chapters and verses in the Bible.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles for students to work either alone or in teams of 2 with one Bible between them. Also have a Bible for yourself.

During Class: Show your Bible and review some of the things we have already learned about the Bible. (Ex: One book, but made up of many books. OT/NT. Chapters and verses in each book.) Ask the children to find the start of the OT and find the first book in the Bible ("Genesis" means "beginning") Have them find the first chapter and the first verse and read it. (Genesis 1:1) Ask the children to find the last book in the NT (Revelation) and read the last chapter and verse in Revelation. (Revelation 22:21) Have the children open their Bibles at the "middle", where they will find the Book of Psalms. The word "Psalms" basically means "songs." It contains many songs, poems, and prayers. Ask the children to find Psalms 119, which is the longest chapter in the whole Bible. Have them find the first and last

verses of this chapter. Remark about how many pages this one chapter takes up. Find Psalms 117. It is the shortest chapter in the Bible. Read through it.

Famous Scriptures – *The children will learn where some of the most well-known verses in the Bible are found, by looking them up and playing a matching game.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles and 24 index cards. On half of the index cards write part or all of the well-known Bible verse and on the other cards write the references. Bring tape or Sticky Tack to put the cards up next to each other for matching.

During Class: Allow the children to work together in teams of two, with one Bible between them. Put the index cards with the verses on them up on the wall or chalk board. Divide up the cards with the references on them among the teams of children. Have them find the Scripture verses in the Bible and read them. Then let them match their references to the correct verses. (They can tape theirs up next to the correct one.) When they are done, check their work with them. Read the verses and talk about them. Who had heard them before? Which ones do they like the best?

- John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.
- Luke 6:31** Treat others the same way you want them to treat you.
- Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- John 10:10** I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.
- John 8:32** "...you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
- Luke 2:11a** "...for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
- Psalms 23:1** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
- Deuteronomy 6:5** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- Matthew 5:5** Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.
- Exodus 20:12a** Honor your father and your mother,
- Luke 22:42b** "... yet not My will, but Yours be done."
- John 19:30** ..."It is finished!" ...
- Philippians 4:7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Bible Book Trivia – *The children will match several books of the Bible with their descriptions.*

Before Class: Provide a copy of the “Bible Book Trivia!” Activity Sheet for each child in class. Also provide Bibles and pencils for the students to use.

During Class: Distribute activity sheets, Bibles and pencils to students. Ask them to follow the instructions; looking up different books in different parts of the Bible and choosing from the list that is provided to fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

Answers: 1) Genesis 2) Psalms 3) Matthew 4) Malachi 5) Revelation

NT Bible Book Puzzle - *The children will practice putting the Books of the Bible in order on a sheet of paper, after creating their own puzzle.*

Before Class: Provide one copy of the Bible Book Puzzle Activity Sheet for each child. Also provide scissors.

During Class: Pair the children in groups of two. Give each group two copies of the Activity Sheet. Ask the children to cut up ONE of the sheets, dividing up the Books of the Bible, by cutting on the lines. Then have them work together to place the cut-up pieces over their remaining intact copy of the Activity Sheet, putting the names of the Books of the Bible in the right places. After the children have done this successfully, have them take turns trying to place the names in the right order, using the intact sheet only to check their work.

Have them practice saying the names of the Books of the Bible as they put them in place. Help them with their pronunciation of the words. Keep these puzzles in class (in envelopes or plastic bags) for other times of practicing or for other projects.

Books of the Bible Memorization – *The children will continue to practice memorizing the Books of the Bible in order. (See information in Lesson #3.)*

Before Class: Make sure to have some copies of the Books of the Bible lists available in your classroom. Consider a reward system for memory work. At the end of the 12 lessons, consider having an Open House or Party for families to come and view the children’s work during this study. You could hand out certificates to the children at that time for memorizing the Books of the Bible.

During Class: Encourage the children to work together in pairs to memorize the Books of the Bible. Hand out copies of the Activity Sheets from Lesson #3 as needed to people who didn’t receive a copy last time. Ask the children to place their copies in their Bible Replicas.

Bible Book Trivia!

From the list below, choose the word that goes in each blank.

GENESIS

MATTHEW

MALACHI

REVELATION

PSALMS

This book is the first one in the Old Testament. Its name means Beginning.

This book has the most chapters in it. Its name means Songs. It is found more or less in the middle of the Bible.

This book is the first one in the New Testament. It was written by one of the Disciples of Jesus.

This book is the last one in the Old Testament. It is named after one of the Old Testament prophets.

This book is the last one in the New Testament. It talks about the things that will happen in the future.

New Testament Bible Book Puzzle!

MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LUKE	TITUS
JOHN	PHILEMON
ACTS	HEBREWS
ROMANS	JAMES
1 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
2 CORINTHIANS	2 PETER
GALATIANS	1 JOHN
EPHESIANS	2 JOHN
PHILIPPIANS	3 JOHN
COLOSSIANS	JUDE
1 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
2 THESSALONIANS	

Lesson #5 – NT Writers: One Author (God)

Teacher Prep: The New Testament is one of the most exciting books in the world, because it tells one of the most amazing and exciting stories ever told; the story of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us! It follows His story, not from the cradle to the grave, but from the Manger to the Empty Tomb... and beyond! It tells us how to live as His Followers and what to expect in the years to come; even after our own deaths. It is a marvelous, perfect outpouring of God into our lives, which is enlivened in each of us by God the Holy Spirit, Himself.

Major Points: **Because Jesus Came, We have a New Testament**
NT was Written by People who Knew Jesus
NT Tells About the Early Church and Teaches Christians
NT Had Many Writers, but God is the Author of it All

Scripture Ref: **Hebrews 1:1-3a** *God...spoke long ago ... in the prophets ... **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son... the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature,***

1 John 1:1-3 *...what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands... **what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also...***

2 Peter 1:16 *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, **but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.***

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson: **Because Jesus Came, We have a New Testament**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- Today we are going to learn about the New Testament.
- *Use the Time Line to show the next few points.*
- On our Time Line, all of Time is divided into years BEFORE Jesus was here and years AFTER Jesus was here.
- The Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
- When Jesus was here on the Earth, there was no New Testament yet; only the Old Testament (or The Scriptures.)

- When Jesus was here, He spoke about the Scriptures and said that they testified about Him.
- Jesus believed in the words of the Old Testament.
- God wanted us all to know about His great love for us.
- He also wanted to provide the Way to pay for our sins.
- For these reasons, God sent His Son, Jesus, here.
- We can know what God is like, by looking at Jesus.
 - Hebrews 1:1-3a *God... **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son...** And He is the radiance of His glory **and the exact representation** of His nature*
- When Jesus came here and died for our sins, things changed between God and Mankind.
- Now there was a New Covenant between God and Mankind.
 - Because there was a New Covenant, we needed a new book to tell about it. The NT is that book!
- The New Testament tells about the New Covenant and about the beginning of the Church Age
 - The Church Age started at Pentecost with the coming of the Holy Spirit and continues to this day.
 - The Church Age will end when Jesus returns!

NT was Written About Jesus, by People who Knew Him

- All of the words in the New Testament were written AFTER Jesus lived, died, and was raised from the dead.
- They were all written within 60 years of the time when Jesus was raised from the dead (or resurrected.)
- Since the words were written down so quickly, many people, who had been alive when all of these things happened, were still alive and able to testify to the truth of them.
- The New Testament was written down by people who had actually met Jesus and knew Him personally.
 - Some of these people were His Disciples
 - Others had met Jesus in other ways and knew Him.
 - Ex: Paul, who met Jesus on the Road to Damascus, and James and Jude, who were Jesus' half-brothers.
- The Gospels are the first 4 books of the New Testament
 - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
- The 4 Gospels tell the story of Jesus' life on Earth.
 - Each one contains different details about Jesus' life.
 - Each one was written to a different group of people.

NT Tells About the Early Church and Teaches Christians

- Beside telling us about Jesus' life, the New Testament also tells us about what happened after Jesus ascended (left the Earth and went back to Heaven to be with God the Father.)

- The NT tells how the first Believers (now filled with the Holy Spirit) went out into the world telling others about Jesus, and how these new folks came to believe in Jesus, too!
 - These people who God sent out to tell others were called “Apostles.” (For example: The Apostle Peter)
- Soon churches with new Believers began to grow! Then there were more Believers in Christ, and more churches!
- Sometimes, the men who had started the churches wrote letters to tell them things they needed to know.
- Some of the letters they wrote became part of the NT
 - These letters are called “epistles.”
- As Believers, we can read these same letters. They help us to understand things we need to know *to be more like Jesus!*
- The NT also includes prophecy about things that will happen in the future; even all the way to the end of Time!
- So, the NT tells us about all the time from just before Jesus came as a baby until the end of time. We can see it on our Time Line as everything from the cross, indicating Jesus’ life, to the end of the string on the right, which is the end of Time.

NT Had Many Writers, But God is the Author of it All

- The NT had at least 9 different writers; but, through God’s Holy Spirit, it only had ONE Author – God!
- The writers wrote down things they had actually seen and heard, while they were with Jesus.
 - **Read 1 John 1:1-3** *...what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands... **what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also...***
 - **Read 2 Peter 1:16** *For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but **we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.***
- Even though there were many writers of the New Testament, there was just one Author– God!

Let’s thank God for sending Jesus and for the truth found in the New Testament.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus.
Thank you for giving us the New Testament.
Thank you for preserving it for us, through your Holy Spirit.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back!
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Memorization – *The children will continue memorizing the Books of the NT.*

Before Class: Provide copies of a printed list of the Books of the NT (*See Activity Sheets from lesson #3 or 4. The children already may have copies of these.*)

During Class: Using a printed list of the Books of the NT, have the children practice with partners saying the names of the books in order. First have them say them while looking at the page and then without looking at it. See how many they can say in order. Use songs or other memory aids to help learn the Books of the NT.

Bible Replicas – *The children will work on adding NT Books to their Bible replicas.*

This will also help them learn the names of the Books of the New Testament.

Before Class: Provide printed copies of the Books of the NT Activity Sheet found in lessons #3 or 4. Provide lots of paper – copy paper or notebook paper will be fine – along with pencils, or scissors and glue. Provide a hole punch, as necessary.

During Class: Explain that you are going to work on the Bible replicas. Have the children take paper and write the name of each Book of the NT at the top of the page. Alternatively, have them cut up their copies of the Activity Sheet from Lesson #4 and paste the names on various sheets of paper. Punch holes as necessary and place the papers in New Testament order, in their Bible replicas.

Point of View – *The children will learn about point of view and see how it can affect how you remember an event. They will discuss this in regard to the 4 Gospels.*

Before Class: Plan an unexpected event or experience that you will stage in your classroom on the day of your class. Let it be something that surprises (**but does not frighten**) the children. If necessary, ask another adult to help. As far as necessary, script out what you will do or say. Gather up any props you will need.

During Class: After the lesson, do the unexpected thing, which you have planned. Afterwards, ask the children to describe what they saw and heard. Take some time and let each child tell you their version of the story. (Each child's explanation may be slightly different.) Explain that whenever we see something happen, we experience it from different points of view. When we talk about the story later, we may all tell the story a bit differently, but that doesn't mean that any of us are wrong. Our stories will usually agree on the major facts. Explain to the children that the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) were written by 4 different writers, each of whom knew Jesus. These books all tell about the Life and Teachings of Jesus. In them, many of Jesus' miracles and parables are found recorded; often the same story can be found in more than one of the Gospels. The accounts are not usually word for word the same, but that is related to the different points of view of the various writers, and their various audiences. The 4 Gospels each agree on all of the major facts and teachings of Jesus, and they complement one another; meaning that some of them offer details that are left out of other versions.

Matthew was writing to the Jews in Jerusalem.

Mark was writing to the Gentiles in Rome

Luke was writing to the Greeks

John was writing to everyone.

Names of the New Testament Books – *The children will learn more about how the Books of the New Testament got their names.*

Before Class: Study the following information and decide how best to present it.

During Class: Use the following notes to present this additional information.

How did the Books of the New Testament get their names?

- 1) Sometimes the name of the book came from **the person who wrote it** down.
 - a. The Gospel of Matthew was written by the disciple named Matthew, who had been a tax collector – he was also known as Levi.
 - b. The Gospel of John was written by the “beloved disciple”, John. He also wrote the books of 1, 2 & 3 John, as well as Revelation.
 - c. The Gospel of Mark was probably written by John Mark, who was a follower of Jesus and accompanied the Apostle Peter on his journeys.
 - d. The Gospel of Luke was written by a doctor named Luke, who accompanied the Apostle Paul on his missionary journeys. Luke was a wonderful historian. It is thought that he actually talked to Mary (the Mother of Jesus) to get some of the information in his Gospel.
- 2) Sometimes the name of the book came from the **person or group it was written to**.
 - a. Philippians was written to a church located in the town of Philippi.
 - b. Ephesians was written to the believers in the town of Ephesus.
 - c. 1 & 2 Timothy were letters written to Paul’s pastoral protégé, Timothy.
 - d. Letters written to a person or a group are often called “epistles.”
- 3) Sometimes the name of the book is **self-descriptive**.
 - a. The book of Acts is actually titled “The Acts of the Apostles.” Acts was also written by Dr. Luke. It tells what happened during those first few years after Jesus went back into Heaven. It tells what the Apostles and the other early missionaries did on their travels.
 - b. Revelation is actually titled “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” It is a letter written by the Disciple John. It was sent to all of the churches and tells about a revelation he received, where he saw Jesus, the Risen Christ, and was told what would happen in the End Times. It was written to encourage Believers. It says that Jesus is coming back!

Types of NT Books – *The children will learn about grouping the books of the NT.*

Before Class: Copies of Activity Sheet and Key. Provide watercolors or map colors.

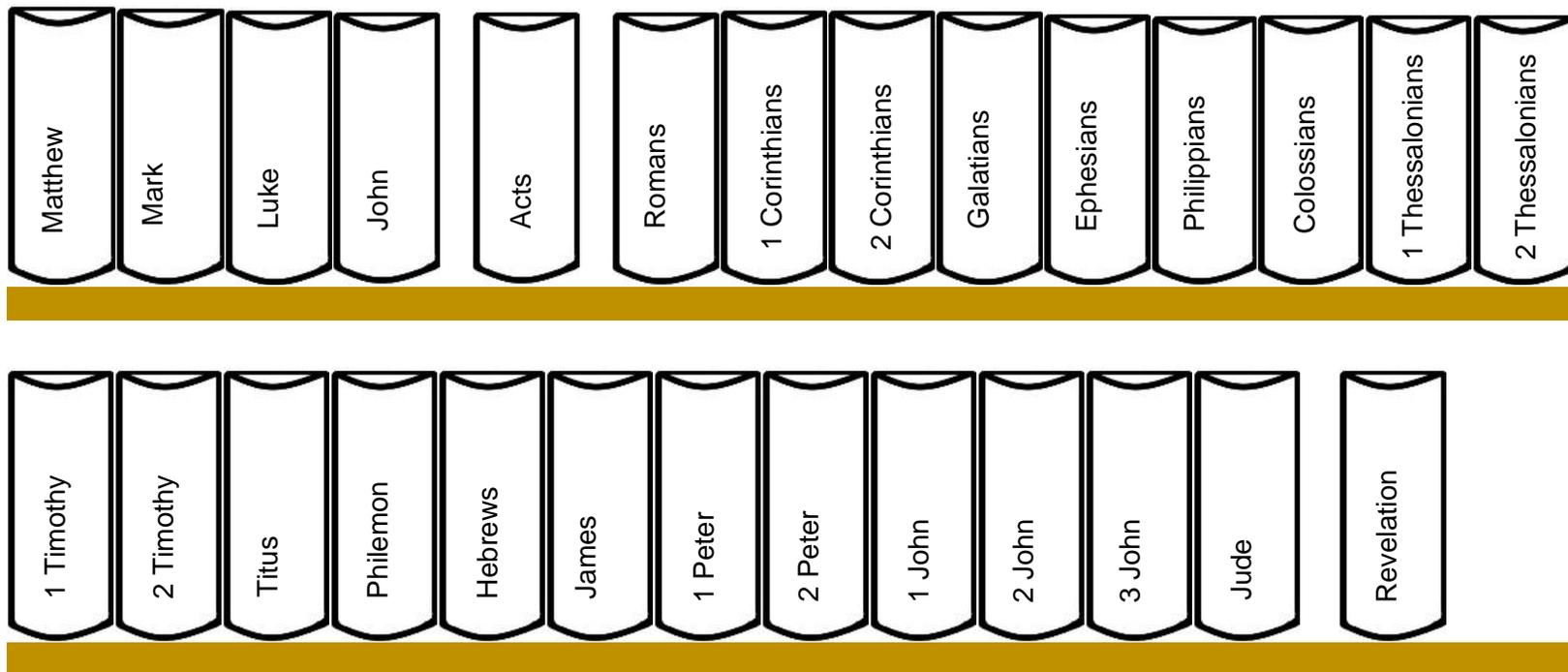
During Class: Talk about the names of the different books of the NT. Remind the children that they were all written by people who actually knew Jesus. Allow the children to color the activity sheet indicating the types of literature in these books. Use the answer key, which is already colored, to use if the children have difficulties. *(Have them color lightly so that the words on the books will show!)*

Gospels – The first 4 books of the NT that tell the story of Jesus’ life.

History – Acts tells the story of the very early church and missionary journeys.

Letters (or Epistles) – the 21 letters written by the Apostles to a person or a group.

Prophecy – Revelation – the last book of the NT, which tells what will happen in the future when Jesus returns.



Books of the New Testament:

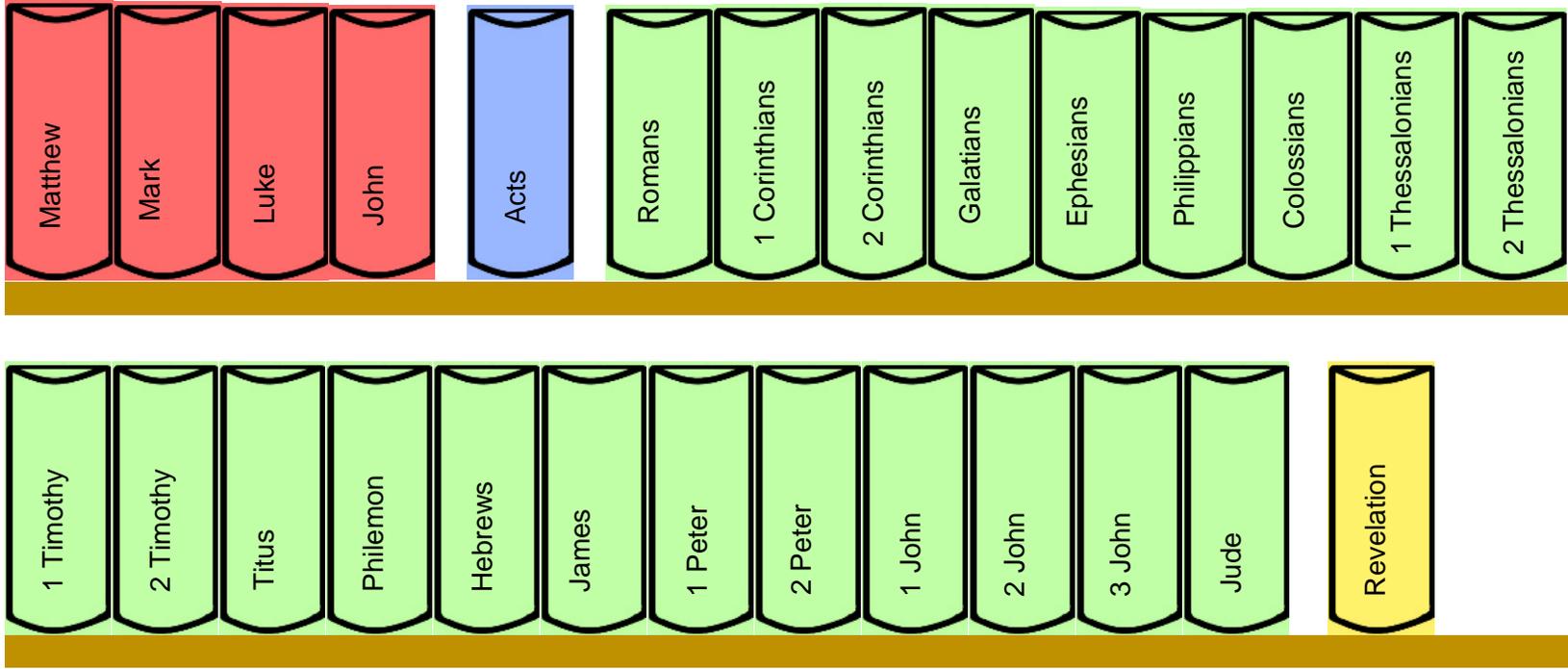
Consider the Books of the New Testament like Books on a Shelf. You can pick them up and read them anytime!

Color the four Gospels RED

Color the book of History (Acts) BLUE

Color the 21 Epistles (the 21 different Letters) GREEN

Color the book of Prophecy (Revelation) YELLOW



Books of the New Testament:

Consider the Books of the New Testament like Books on a Shelf. You can pick them up and read them anytime!

Color the four Gospels RED

Color the book of History (Acts) BLUE

Color the 21 Epistles (the 21 different Letters) GREEN

Color the book of Prophecy (Revelation) YELLOW

Lesson #6 – OT Writers: One Author (God)

Teacher Prep: The Old Testament is the “Bible” that Jesus had while He was here. Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh, often used the Old Testament Scriptures to make His points, to explain Who He was, and even to answer Satan, who tempted Him in the Wilderness. The Old Testament isn’t something to be ignored, just because it has the word “old” in its title. Jesus says, “The Scriptures, they speak of me.” We need to read the Old Testament, so that we can understand more fully the New.

Major Points: **God Gave Us the Old Testament.**
The Old Testament Tells History from the Beginning
The Old Testament Tells Us About the Christ – Jesus!
There Were Many Writers, but God is the Author of it All

Scripture Ref: **Hebrews 1:1-3a** *God, after He spoke long ago ... in the prophets ... **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son ...He is the radiance of His glory and **the exact representation of His nature,*****

2 Peter 1:21 *...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

2 Timothy 3:16-17 *...from childhood you have known the **sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.***

John 5:39 (Jesus said) *... **the Scriptures...testify about Me***

Genesis 1:1 *In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

God Gave Us the Old Testament

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
Today we are going to learn about the Old Testament.
- *Show in the Bible the point between the Old and New Testaments. Explain that the Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus was here and that the New Testament was written AFTER Jesus was here.*
- *If you have a Time Line in your classroom, also point out the same information using it. Have a student help you.*
- So, when Jesus was here on the Earth, there was no New Testament yet. There was only the Old Testament.
- When Jesus was here, He spoke about “the Scriptures.” He was talking about what we now call the Old Testament.
- Jesus believed in the Scriptures (the Old Testament).
 - He often quoted the Scriptures when He was talking to people.
 - He even quoted the Scriptures in the Wilderness, when He was tempted by Satan.
 - So, Jesus not only knew the OT Scriptures, He believed in them and He quoted them to others.
- Jesus knew that the OT Scriptures spoke of Him; the Christ.
 - **John 5:39 ... the Scriptures...testify about Me**
- Remember that the Bible is the Word of God. God is the One who gave us the whole Bible, including the Old Testament.
 - **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*
- So, it is important for us to read and understand the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament.

The Old Testament Tells History from the Beginning

- So, let’s take a look at the Old Testament. Let’s start with the first verse in the first chapter of the first book of the OT.
- *Have someone help you find the first book in the Old Testament, and then read the first verse of the first chapter.*
 - **Genesis 1:1** *In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- So, the Old Testament tells History from the Beginning.
- It is important for us to remember that God created our world. He is the One who brought it into being, and we are here because He created Mankind.
 - The Bible reminds us that it is important for us to honor God as the Creator. (*Romans 1*)
 - Honoring God as the Creator may be as simple as when we see something beautiful in Nature (like a sunrise or sunset, a butterfly or a waterfall) saying something like, “Thank you, God, for making this.”

- God created everything that was created. He existed before anything else. He will always exist and will be here forever.
 - There is no Beginning or Ending of God
 - His name for Himself tells it all. It is “I AM.”
- It is good to know where we came from. God made us and He loves us. We can rely on Him and we can trust His Word.

The Old Testament Tells Us About the Christ – Jesus!

- The Old and New Testaments are BOTH the Word of God
- Together they tell ONE STORY – the Story of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the Savior!
 - The word for Savior is “Messiah” (in the Hebrew language) or “Christ” (in the Greek language.)
 - Since the OT is written mostly in Hebrew, that is where we see the word “Messiah.”
 - Since the NT is written mostly in Greek, that is where we see the word “Christ.”
- The OT starts at the Beginning and explains WHY we need a Savior in the first place.
- When God first made the world, He said it was good. After He created Man and Woman, He said it was very good.
- At first everything was beautiful and wonderful.
- But then a sad thing happened. The first Man (Adam) and his wife (Eve) sinned. (*That means they did something on purpose that they knew they were not supposed to do.*)
- As a result of this, they died spiritually and were doomed to die physically as well. They could no longer stay in the beautiful Garden that God had given them to live in. They could no longer walk in the Garden with God every day.
- They were separated from God.
- But God had mercy on Adam and Eve. He promised them that one day a Savior would come and destroy the serpent (Satan) who had tempted them to sin.
 - Genesis 3:15 “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*”
- This Savior would fix it so that we wouldn’t have to be separated from God anymore.
- From that day on, God continued to tell people of this Savior that He would send. These promises are found all through the Old Testament.
- These promises (or prophecies) tell about Jesus!
- When Jesus was here, He talked about these promises in the Scriptures.

- **John 5:39 ... the Scriptures...testify about Me**
- Jesus knew that He was the Son of God, the Promised Savior (Messiah or Christ) that the Scriptures foretold.
- We can know that Jesus is the Promised Savior, too!

There Were Many Writers, but God is the Author of it All

- The Bible is God's Word, and that includes the Old Testament.
 - It was written down over 1000 years' time, from Moses who wrote the Pentateuch to Malachi
 - There were over 30 writers in the Old Testament
- But God is the Author of it all!
- God is the only one who can know how everything started.
- God is the only one who can see and tell about the future.
- In the Old Testament we find the story of Creation, when God spoke and things came into being.
- In the Old Testament we also find prophecies of the Promised Savior who would come.
- That Savior is Jesus!
 - Jesus has already fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Promised Messiah.
 - The other OT prophecies, such as the Savior reigning on Earth, will be fulfilled when Jesus returns.

Let's pray and thank God that He has given us the OT in His Word, the Bible.

Prayer:

Dear God,
Thank you that you have given us the Old Testament in your Word, the Bible.
Thank you that we can know you as Creator.
Thank you for the promises of your Savior.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Memorization – *The children will work on memorizing the Books of the OT.*

Before Class: Provide copies of the Activity Sheet with the names of the Books of the Old Testament. *The children may already have a similar list their Bible replicas.*

During Class: Using a printed list of the Books of the OT, have the children practice with partners saying the names of the books in order. First have them look at the page and then try without looking at the page. See how many they can say in order. Use songs or other memory aids to help learn the Books of the OT.

Writers of the Old Testament – *The children will learn about some of the writers of the Old Testament; specifically, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, and Daniel.*

Before Class: Make up index cards with the names of these 5 writers on them. You will be using the Time Line in this activity. If you don't have one, you can use a chalk board or blank wall to display the index cards, with tape or mounting putty. Print off the Scripture references listed below and have children read them out loud.

During Class: Explain that there were many writers of the OT. Some of their names we know and others we do not. We are going to learn a bit more about 5 of them.

Moses – Wrote the first 5 books of the Bible (also called “The Pentateuch”) This includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These books tell history from the Beginning, through the time that the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses wrote these books of the OT at about 1500 BC.

David - King David (also David from David and Goliath story) lived long after Moses. (David lived at about 1000 years BC.) Many of the Psalms are David's own songs, poems and prayers. He wrote **Psalms 23**, which talks about how God is his shepherd.

Solomon - King Solomon was King David's son. He was the wisest man on Earth. He wrote the Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. In addition, he built the Temple of God in Jerusalem.

Isaiah - Isaiah the Prophet said all of the things in the Book of Isaiah. He lived in about 740 BC and tried to tell the kings and people of Judah what God wanted them to know. Unfortunately, they didn't always listen! Isaiah has some of the most specific prophecies about the coming of the Savior (Jesus). Isaiah, chapters 42 and 53 are examples of this.

Daniel - Daniel is probably best known for spending the night in the Lions' Den. (This happened when he was an older man.) As a child (in about 600 BC) Daniel was taken away from homeland of Israel to a far-off country called Babylon. He lived there in captivity for over 70 years and worked for the kings there, but he always remembered his homeland. When it was time for the Israelites to return home (after 70 years) Daniel was one of the first to find the promise in God's Word and to write it down in his own book. God gave Daniel amazing visions of the future, which he wrote down in the Book of Daniel. Many have already occurred, but we are still waiting for some of these events to take place. **See Daniel 9.**

Find the OT Bible Story! – *The children will look up famous Bible stories in the Old Testament that they may have heard of in the past.*

Before Class: Write down the following Scripture references on slips of paper.

Provide Bibles for teams of children in class. You might also write the names of the stories on index cards to place on the Time Line.

During Class: Have the children look up the verses and figure out which Old Testament Bible Story is told there. Allow them to match the verses with the answers on the Index Cards. Place the cards on the Time Line in order of their occurrence.

Genesis 2:4-8	Creation of Man (Adam)
Genesis 2:18-23	Creation of Woman (Eve)
Genesis 7:1-6	Noah and the Ark
Genesis 37:2-8	Joseph and the Multicolored Coat
Exodus 14:13-18	The Parting of the Red Sea
Exodus 20:1-17	The 10 Commandments
Joshua 6:1-5, 20	Walls of Jericho Fall Down
Judges 15:14-16	The Strength of Samson
Ruth 1:15-19	Naomi's Faithful Daughter-in-Law
1 Samuel 17:40-50	David and Goliath
1 Kings 6 (v. 1-2, 37-38)	Solomon Builds the Temple
Esther 2:15-18	Esther, the Beautiful Queen
Daniel 6:16-23	Daniel in the Lions' Den

Bible Replicas – *The children will work on adding OT Books to their Bible replicas. This will also help them learn the names of the Books of the Old Testament.*

Before Class: Provide printed copies of the Activity Sheet. Provide lots of paper (copy or notebook) along with pencils, or scissors and glue. Provide a hole punch.

During Class: Explain that you are going to work on the Bible replicas. Have the children take paper and write the name of each Book of the OT at the top of the page. Alternatively, have them cut up their copies of the Activity Sheet and paste the names on various sheets of paper. Punch holes as necessary and place the papers in Old Testament order, in their Bible replicas.

GENESIS	ECCLESIASTES
EXODUS	SONG OF SOLOMON
LEVITICUS	ISAIAH
NUMBERS	JEREMIAH
DEUTERONOMY	LAMENTATIONS
JOSHUA	EZEKIEL
JUDGES	DANIEL
RUTH	HOSEA
1 SAMUEL	JOEL
2 SAMUEL	AMOS
1 KINGS	OBADIAH
2 KINGS	JONAH
1 CHRONICLES	MICAH
2 CHRONICLES	NAHUM
EZRA	HABAKKUK
NEHEMIAH	ZEPHANIAH
ESTHER	HAGGAI
JOB	ZECHARIAH
PSALMS	MALACHI
PROVERBS	

Lesson #7 – Types of Writing (Literary Styles)

Teacher Prep: The Bible is an amazing book because not only was it written by many writers over an incredible amount of time, it was also written using many different types of writing (or literature.) It has history, poetry, prophecy, and songs; just to name a few! This greatest book of all contains some of the greatest forms of literature. Written for all of us to be able to relate to, through the power of the Holy Spirit, the Bible doesn't disappoint. Whether we are looking for information, encouragement, comfort or new ways to praise our Creator, the Bible has it all.

Major Points: **The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**
The Holy Spirit Moved Men to Write the Bible
There are Different Types of Writing (Literature) in the Bible

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*

2 Peter 1:20-21 *...know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson: **The Bible is the Inspired Word of God**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- We have been learning about the Bible!
- So far, we have learned many things about it. What are some of the things we have learned? *(Wait for answers.)*
- That's right! We have learned things like the Books of the Bible, that it has an Old and New Testament, and that it has chapters and verses.
- We have learned that the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*
- And we have learned that there were many writers for the Old and New Testaments, but that God is the Author of it all.

The Holy Spirit Moved Men to Write the Bible

- Over time, God used different men to write down His words for the rest of us to read.

- He inspired them to write down just the right words by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- In 2 Peter 1:20-21, the Apostle Peter explained that “...*no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*”

There are Different Types of Literature in the Bible

- These men were also inspired by the Holy Spirit to use different types of literature as they wrote.
- Some of the forms they used were History, Poetry, Prophecy, Letters, and Wisdom Literature.
 - Some of the Poetry rhymed, but some didn’t (prose).
 - Some of the Poetry that we find in the Psalms are actually songs that were sung at the time.
- In general, people use different types of literature to express themselves in different ways.
 - Let’s say, that you want to write something nice in a Valentine’s Day card for someone you really like... (*Like your Mom!*) You might use **Poetry** to do so.
 - But if you wanted to write a report on how you went to the store to buy her some candy, you might use a historical type of writing. (Because, like **History**, it happened.)
- The Bible uses different types of writing (or Literature) for telling stories or saying other important things.
- This makes it easier for us to relate to what is written
- It also makes it more interesting... and easier for us to read and understand what God is trying to tell us!

Let’s pray and thank God for writing down the Bible for us, so that we can read it.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for writing down the Bible, so that we can read it.
Thank you for being so creative that you used different types of writing.
Thank you for helping us be able to understand better.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Literary Styles in the Bible – *The children will learn different types (genres) of literature in different books of the Bible.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Literary Styles in the Bible Activity Sheet. Make signs that have the names of the different types of literature to put on the wall.

During Class: Bring out the various signs you have made and hold them up or place them on the wall, so that the children can see and read them easily. Talk about the various types of literature in the Bible. Give the children copies of the Activity Sheet.

History - History is the type of literature that describes something that has already happened. We often study history in school. Like the history of our country or of our state. The Bible is full of historical books. For instance, Genesis tells the story of how the world was created, and it gives the early history of the Israelite nation.

Gospels - The word Gospel basically means “Good News.” The Gospels tell the story of Jesus and how He is the Savior of the world. This is the best news ever! Since the stories in the Gospels have already taken place, they are a special type of history. They record the history of Jesus’ life.

Prophecy - Prophecy means the foretelling of future events, as they will happen one day. So, in a way, it is like the telling history before it happens! Most of the prophecy in the Bible is found in the Old Testament. The prophecies that God gives us will ALWAYS come true. Many of the Bible prophecies have already happened; some of them hundreds of years after they were written!

Law - God gave His Law to the Israelites when Moses led them out of Egypt on their way to the Promised Land. We sometimes think of the Law as the 10 Commandments. This is an easy way to remember them.

Letters - A letter is written from one person to another to tell them something. Back in the New Testament times there were no phones or computers, so people actually wrote down what they had to say and sent it to others. The letters in the Bible were written down by the Apostles and mailed to various churches, in order to teach the new Christians something that they needed to know. We can still learn from these!

Poetry - Whether or not it rhymes, a lot of poetry is found in the Bible. In the original languages much of it did rhyme. Some of the poems were actually songs. Some of the poetry is happy and some is sad.

Wisdom - Wisdom Literature is the kind that tells good ideas in short sentences (like a proverb.) It helps give us knowledge about what life is like, or what the meaning of life is.

Old Testament Books– *The children will learn about grouping the books of the OT by their predominate types of literature.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Activity Sheets (Literary Styles and Books of the Old Testament.) Provide watercolors or map colors. You will find an Answer Key of Activity Sheet, which is already colored in, to use in class as a reference if the children have difficulty.

During Class: Talk about the names of the different books of the OT. Allow the children to color the activity sheet indicating the types of literature in these books. *(Have them color lightly so that the words on the books will show!)*

NOTE: It is important to understand that these are general categories. King David prophesied in Psalms as well as writing poetry and songs. Exodus contains both historical events and the Law. And Wisdom Literature contains much poetry also.
--

History – Sixteen of the books in the Old Testament are historical in nature. They tell the history of the world from Creation on through the time just before Jesus.

Law – Two books in the Old Testament (Exodus and Deuteronomy) contain the Law. Exodus has History in it as well.

Wisdom Literature – Three of the books (Job, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes) contain what is considered Wisdom Literature. They convey wisdom in stories or examples, some of which are very short and to the point.

Poetry – Three other books (Psalms, Song of Solomon, and Lamentations) contain poetry. Some of the poetry in Psalms are actually songs that were sung at the time they were written. Psalms also contains other things, such as prayers.

Prophecy – The remaining 15 books of the Old Testament contain prophecy. These books reveal what God said would happen in the future. Much of the OT prophecies have already been fulfilled, but there are some things that have not yet taken place.

LITERARY STYLES IN THE BIBLE

HISTORY

GENESIS
EXODUS
NUMBERS
JOSHUA
JUDGES
RUTH
1 & 2 SAMUEL
1 & 2 KINGS
1 & 2 CHRONICLES
EZRA
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
JONAH
ACTS

LAW

LEVITICUS
DEUTERONOMY

POETRY

PSALMS
SONG OF SOLOMON
LAMENTATIONS

GOSPELS

MATTHEW
MARK
LUKE
JOHN

PROPHECY

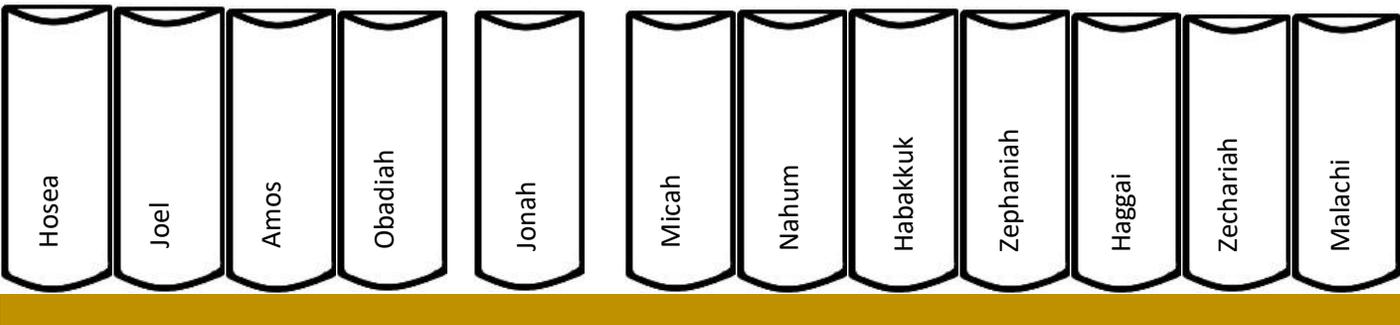
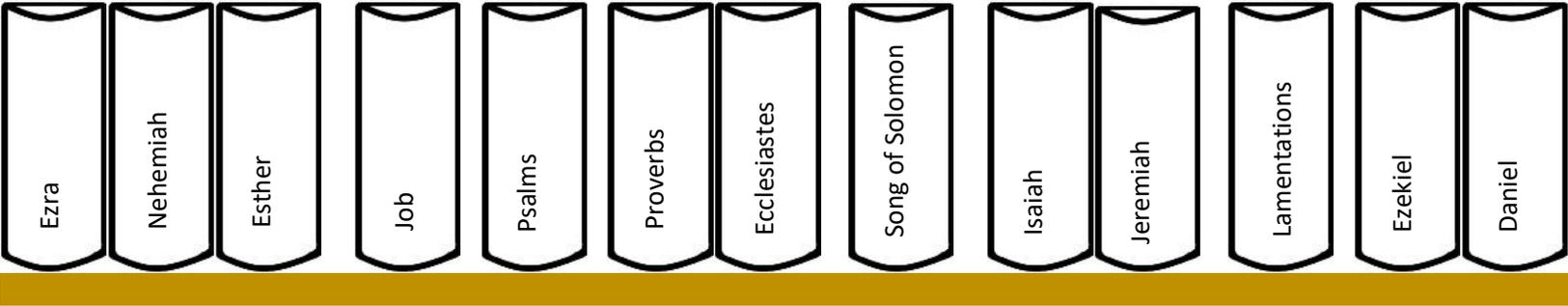
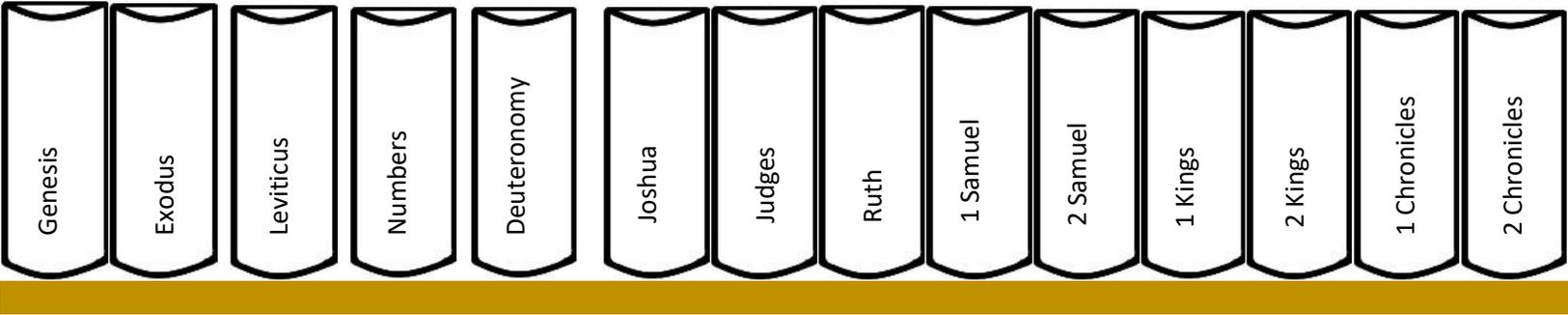
ISAIAH
JEREMIAH
EZEKIEL
DANIEL
HOSEA
JOEL
AMOS
OBADIAH
MICAH
NAHUM
HABAKKUK
ZEPHANIAH
HAGGAI
ZECHARIAH
MALACHI
REVELATION

LETTERS

ROMANS
1 & 2 CORINTHIANS
GALATIANS
EPHESIANS
PHILIPPIANS
COLOSSIANS
1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
1 & 2 TIMOTHY
TITUS
PHILEMON
HEBREWS
JAMES
1 & 2 PETER
1, 2 & 3 JOHN
JUDE

WISDOM

JOB
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES



BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

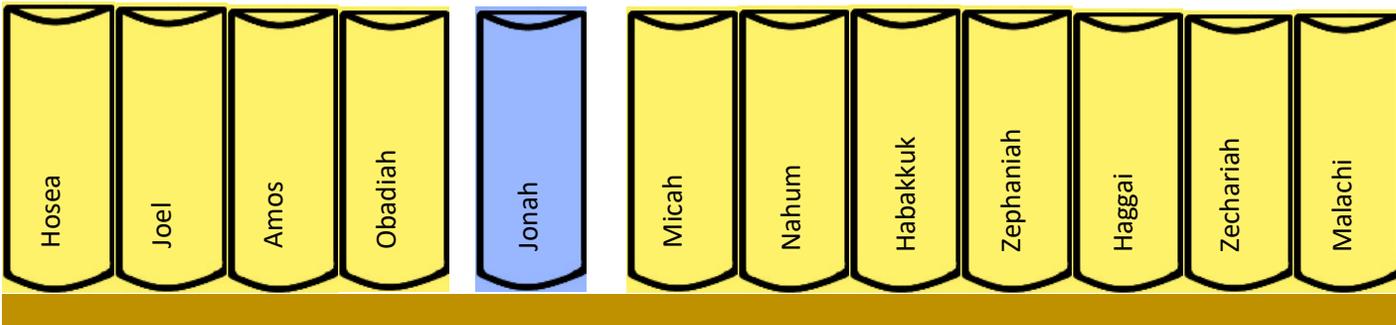
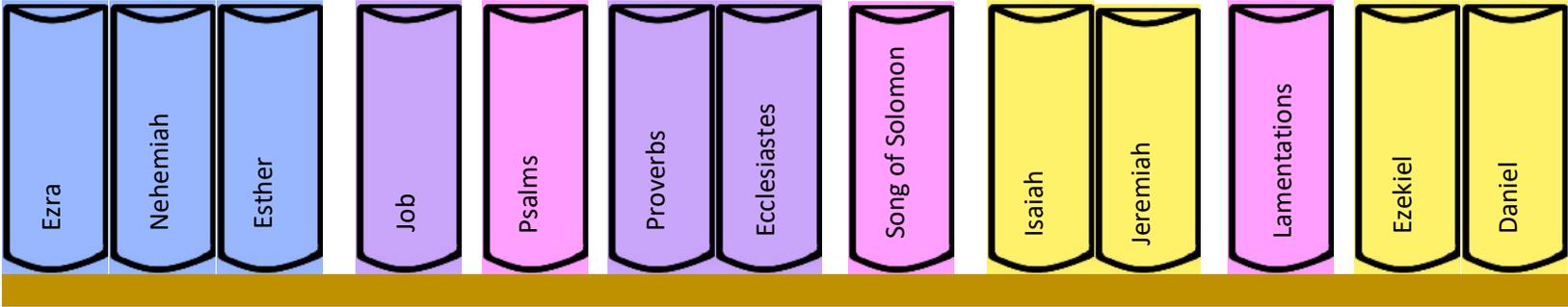
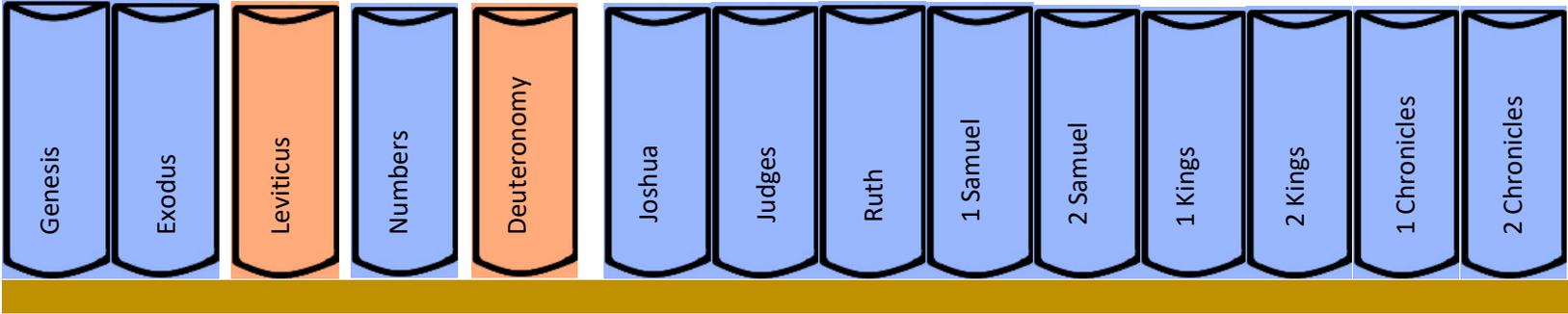
Color the books of Poetry PINK

Color the books of History BLUE

Color the books of Prophecy YELLOW

Color the books of the Law ORANGE

Color the books of Wisdom Literature PURPLE



BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Color the books of Poetry PINK

Color the books of History BLUE

Color the books of Prophecy YELLOW

Color the books of the Law ORANGE

Color the books of Wisdom Literature PURPLE

Lesson #8 – One Interpreter (Holy Spirit)

Teacher Prep: Of all the things to teach about, the Holy Spirit seems like one of the most ethereal topics we could choose. But there are plenty of straightforward, Biblical facts that we can know about the Holy Spirit, and we are going to sort out some of these today... with our trusty Bibles in hand. One fact is that since the Bible was written by men, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, certainly it is the Holy Spirit who can best interpret it for us.

Major Points: **God Inspired Men to Write the Bible**
The Holy Spirit was Given to Believers
The Holy Spirit Indwells Believers
The Holy Spirit Reminds us of All that Jesus Said
The Holy Spirit Helps Us Interpret God's Word

Scripture Ref: **2 Peter 1:20-21** *...know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

Luke 24:49 *...behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."*

Ephesians 1:13-14a *...you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...***

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. ...the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

1 Corinthians 2:12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but **the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...***

1 Corinthians 2:14 *...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

God Inspired Men to Write the Bible

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- We have learned that the Bible is the inspired Word of God!
- God used men to write down the words in the Bible.
- He did this through His Holy Spirit.
- **Read 2 Peter 1:20-21** ...*know this... that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***
- This tells us that the men, who wrote down God's words in the Bible, were moved to do so by the Holy Spirit.
- Since Holy Spirit moved men to write down the Scriptures, He is the One, who will help interpret them for us!
- But how do we connect with the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit was Given to Believers

- Before Jesus went back to Heaven (or "ascended") to His Father, He gave His Disciples some instructions.
- He told them to go and make disciples of all the nations.
- **Matthew 28:18-20** (The Great Commission) Jesus said, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*
- That is one BIG JOB!!
- He also told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received "power from on high". (The Holy Spirit)
 - **Luke 24:49** ...*behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high.***
- 40 days after Easter, Jesus ascended into Heaven
- 50 days after Easter, (10 days later) was the Feast of Pentecost
- On that day, the Holy Spirit came on the followers of Jesus.

- They received great power for preaching and for speaking to people about Jesus. It was a miraculous time!
- Many people believed on Jesus and received the Holy Spirit.
 - Later on, when the Good News about Jesus was preached to those who weren't Jewish (the Gentiles) the Holy Spirit came on them in the same way!
- God had given the Holy Spirit to Believers so that they would have the POWER needed to accomplish that BIG JOB Jesus had given them! (The Great Commission)

The Holy Spirit Indwells Believers

- From then on, the Holy Spirit has been given to all who believe.
- Read **Ephesians 1:13-14a** *...you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, **you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...***
- He lives in us, or indwells us. This means that the Holy Spirit is always with us.

The Holy Spirit Reminds us of What Jesus Said

- Jesus told His Disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach us all things and remind them of all He had told them.
- Read **John 14:26** *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.***
- The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus and all that He has accomplished for us (our salvation)

The Holy Spirit Helps Us Interpret God's Word

- The Holy Spirit helps us understand spiritual things.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:12** *...we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...*
- People who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior often have trouble understanding the truths of God
 - **1 Corinthians 2:14** *...a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*
- The truths of God must be revealed to us by the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God's Word.
 - We can pray and ask God for the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are reading.
- The Holy Spirit reveals the meaning of the Scriptures to us.

- He brings to mind things we have learned from the Bible.
- Each time that we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit can reveal new things to us. Even when we read over familiar verses.
 - **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** *For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*
- It is like there are “layers” of learning in the same scripture verses.
- So, never quit reading God’s Word! You always learn something new!

Let’s pray and thank God for sending us the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to us.
Thank you that He helps us understand your Word.
Thank you that He leads us into all Truth.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Bible Verse Look Up – *The children will look up (and may write down) Bible verses from the NT that refer specifically to the Holy Spirit and how He interacts with us.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles for the children to use. Also provide paper and pencils and a hole punch, as needed, for them to write down the various verses and put the papers in their Bible replicas.

During Class: Give the children the following list of Bible verses. Work with them to look them up and read them. After they have read them, have the children choose some of the verses to write down and place in their Bible replicas.

John 3:8 *The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*

Ephesians 1:13-14a *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance,*

Ephesians 4:30 *Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*

1 Corinthians 2:12 *Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God...*

1 Corinthians 2:14 *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*

Songs – *The children will listen to music, or read lyrics, that refer to the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Look up the following songs in a hymnal or Online, to give children the opportunity to hear hymns that talk about the Holy Spirit and how He interacts with us. Provide a means for the children to hear the songs, if possible. Most will be available Online, or find someone to play or sing them to the students.

During Class: Discuss how over the years it has been difficult at time to describe how the Holy Spirit interacts with us. Sometimes people have felt it easier to express their experiences in song. We are going to look up and listen to some of these songs. Play or read the lyrics of the songs to the children. Let them respond to the music. If you have a hymnal, review how to find songs in it. Look up online where to find contemporary Christian music, as well as other places with older hymns.

Suggested songs:

Hymns:

Open My Eyes, that I May See by Clara H. Scott

Holy Spirit, Breathe on Me by B. B. McKinney

Spirit of the Living God by Daniel Iverson

Contemporary Christian Music:

(It's Just a) Spirit Thing by the Newsboys

The Key to a BIG JOB! – *The children will learn more about the Great Commission.*

Before Class: Write the words to the “Great Commission” on the board, so that the children will be able to see them easily. Provide paper and pencils and a hole punch.

Matthew 28:16-19 *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

During Class: Point out the words of the Great Commission. Talk about each portion of it and what it means. Explain that this was a very BIG JOB! To go and make disciples of all the nations is a HUGE JOB! How were the disciples supposed to be able to do this? The answer is found in the first few and the last few words of the Great Commission. “All power and authority in heaven and on earth have been given to Me” Who? To Jesus! And Jesus says that He will be with us always, even to the end of the age. So, Jesus is WITH US in this BIG JOB! Another part of the answer is found in **Luke 24:49** *...behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”*

This talks about the coming of the Holy Spirit! Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from on high and He indwells us as Believers and enables us to do this very BIG JOB!

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament – *The children will look up Bible verses in the Old Testament about the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles.

During Class: Talk to the children about the Holy Spirit in OT times. Remind them that in the NT times, after Jesus went back to His Father in Heaven, He sent the

Holy Spirit to Believers to live in us and to be with us always. But in the Old Testament, the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) had not yet been given like that. At that time, the Holy Spirit might rest on one person or another for a period of time. (For example: On the Prophets, Kings, or Patriarchs.) Now, however, the Holy Spirit indwells each Believer. The Holy Spirit is mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. Look up the following verses. Point out on the Time Line when some of these verses would have taken place. Hints for when they occurred are in the parentheses in each example.

Genesis 1:2 (The Creation)

*The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters.*

Exodus 31:2-5 (The Building of the Tabernacle, during the Exodus)

*“See, I have called by name Bezalel, the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. I have filled him with the **Spirit of God** in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all kinds of craftsmanship, to make artistic designs for work in gold, in silver, and in bronze, and in the cutting of stones for settings, and in the carving of wood, that he may work in all kinds of craftsmanship.*

1 Samuel 10:10 (This talks about Saul, when he became the first king of Israel.)

*When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the **Spirit of God** came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them.*

2 Chronicles 15:1-2 (The Prophet Azariah speaks to King Asa of Judah; long after the division of Judah and Israel.)

*Now the **Spirit of God** came on Azariah the son of Oded, and he went out to meet Asa and said to him...*

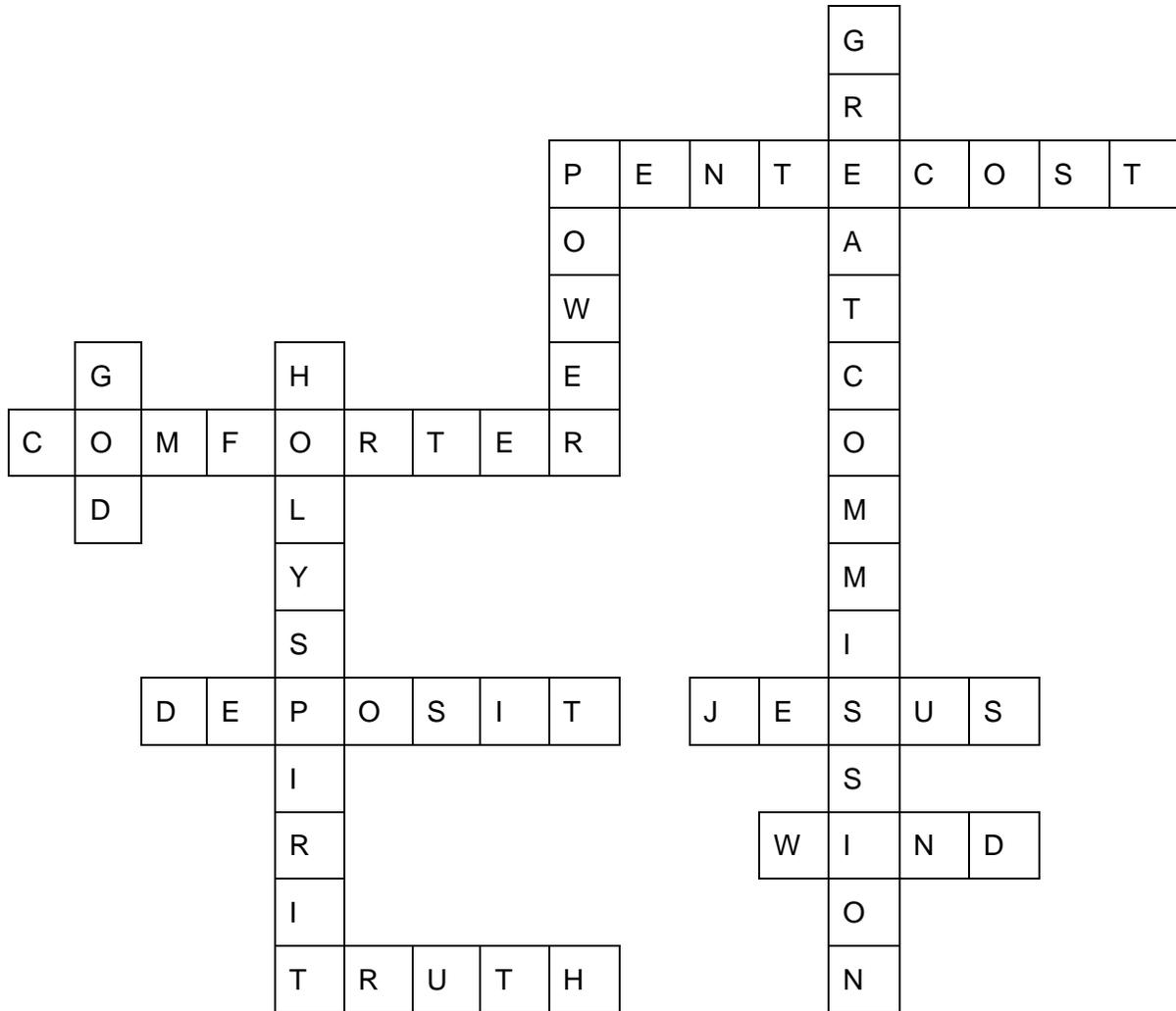
Crossword Puzzle – *The children will do a crossword puzzle using words that refer to verses in the Bible about the Holy Spirit.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Activity Sheet for the children. You will also need ONE copy of the Teacher’s Answer Key for the activity. Provide pencils/erasers.

During Class: Pass out the activity sheets and pencils. Have the children fill in the words that go in the blanks. **Work in pencil**, so that it is easier to correct mistakes. Note that some words will fit into more than one blank! Spaces between words in a phrase do not count. (Ex: “Great Commission” fits in the space with 15 letters.)

HINTS: Start with the longest phrase (Great Commission). It fits into the longest space, with the most boxes. Then go to the second longest phrase (Holy Spirit) which goes into the 2nd longest space. Use the letters where the words cross, as well as the length of the spaces available, to figure out which of the other words go where.

TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY:



Place the following words or phrases in the blank spaces. (HINT: Start with the longest phrase!)

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Pentecost | Holy Spirit |
| Deposit | Truth |
| Jesus | God |
| Wind | Power |
| Great Commission | Comforter |

Lesson #9 – One Story (Jesus)

Teacher Prep: The Bible is one long story about God's Love for us, expressed in many ways, and culminating in the coming of Jesus (the Christ) the Son of God. Jesus, through whom and for whom the world was made and who existed with the Father and the Spirit in the Beginning, came here as prophesied and died on the cross, taking away the sins of the world. Everything in the Bible, whether Old Testament or New, speaks of Him and leads us to Him. Whether through word pictures and symbols, or direct prophesy, His coming is foretold, explained and chronicled. He has preserved His Word for us. To God be the glory forever!

Major Points: **The Bible is God's Word**
The Whole Bible Tells Us of Jesus
Jesus Fulfilled Prophecies of the Messiah
Jesus will Come Again

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:15** *...from childhood you have known **the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.***

John 5:39 (Jesus said) *... **the Scriptures...testify about Me***

Luke 24:44-48 *Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, **that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**" Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

The Bible is God's Word

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*

- Hold up the Bible and say, “For the last several weeks we have been studying the Bible.
- We have learned many things about it. What are some of the things we have learned? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That’s right! We have learned that the Bible is God’s Word, that it was written by men across a long period of time, as they were inspired by God and moved along by the Holy Spirit.
- We know that it was written in two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament, both of which have lots of different books.
- Last time we learned that the Holy Spirit can and will help us interpret (or understand) the Bible.
- But there is one thing we have NOT learned. And that is WHY God chose to write down His Word for us. Why did He do it?

The Whole Bible Tells us of Jesus

- God wrote down His Word (and preserved it through the years) so that we would know how much He loves us.
- He has shown us that He loves us in many ways.
- The biggest and very best way He has shown His love to us is in sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Savior.
- Jesus said, in **John 5:39** ... *the Scriptures...testify about Me*
- Here Jesus was talking about the Old Testament.
 - He called them “the Scriptures.”
- We know that the New Testament tells us all about Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.
- But, how is it that the Old Testament tells us about Jesus? (*Wait for answers.*)

Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies of the Messiah

- Yes! We have learned that in the Old Testament there were many prophecies that foretold (or told about) the Savior who was to come.
- The Savior was called the Messiah or the Christ.
- When Jesus was here, through His birth, life, death and resurrection He fulfilled those prophecies.
- **Read Luke 24:44-48** *Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**” Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.*

Jesus will Come Again!

- There are still more prophecies in the Bible about what the Messiah will do in the future.
- We know that Jesus will fulfill all of the remaining prophecies when He comes again.
- Prophecies from both the Old and New Testaments tell about what will happen in the future.
 - *Show on Time Line where we are now in relation to Jesus' life on Earth*
 - *Explain that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Messiah when He was here.*
 - *Some of these prophecies have not happened yet, but they will when Jesus returns.*
 - *Show on the Time Line that the future is on the right side of us, here and now. That means it is still to come.*
- God knew what would happen when Jesus came, and He told people about it ahead of time.
- God also knows what will happen in the future when Jesus returns, and He has told us about it ahead of time in the Bible.
- We can rely on God, who is the only One who knows the future.
- We can know that God loves us and that He is always good.

Let's pray and thank God, who is good, for telling us about Jesus, in His Word.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for telling us about your Son, Jesus, in your Word.
Thank you that we can trust you.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Pictures of Christ – *The children will become more familiar with the concept of "foreshadowing" of the Messiah in the Old Testament Bible Stories.*

Before Class: Choose one or two of the examples given below to talk about with your class. Read through the familiar Bible Story and consider how it foreshadows who the Messiah would be and what His sacrifice would mean.

During Class: Read **John 5:39** (Jesus said) ... *the Scriptures...testify about Me*
Read **Matthew 24:25-27** (The **Road to Emmaus** – Matthew 24:13-27 and following)
And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Explain that clearly Jesus knew the Old Testament scriptures talked about Him and foretold His coming. Not only were there direct prophecies in the OT, about the Messiah, there were also pictures of Jesus (or foreshadowing) in the OT Stories that taught people WHY He would come and WHAT His sacrifice would mean.

The Story of Noah and the Ark – Found in Genesis 5:32-10:1. In this story, God's wrath is shown against the world in bringing a devastating flood that destroys all mankind, and all animals that breathe air, because of the sinfulness of Mankind. Genesis 6:9 says *Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his time; Noah walked with God.* Only Noah and his wife, along with his three sons and their wives are saved; eight people in all. Noah also took with him 2 of every kind of animal; male and female, that all of these species might be saved. They are all saved in an Ark, which was 300 cubits by 50 cubits by 30 cubits, made of gopher wood, and covered inside and out with pitch. This foreshadows the Christ as the One who would save His people from God's wrath. The 8 passengers were safe within the ark from the destruction brought about by God's wrath upon Mankind's sinfulness, and just so are all Believers safe in Jesus from the coming wrath of God on all sinners.

The Offering of Isaac – Found in Genesis 22:1-14. In this story, Abraham is tested by God when He tells him to offer up his son Isaac, as a sacrifice. Genesis 22:2 *"Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."* Abraham does exactly what God tells him to do, but God stops him before he harms the boy and provides a substitute sacrifice; a ram with its horns caught in a thicket. This story vividly foreshadows the death of the Christ, who is the Son of God. God gives us a picture of what He would do many years later, when He sacrificed His One and Only Son for the forgiveness of sin. It is significant as well that God sent Abraham to a certain hill in Moriah, as Moriah was the region where the city of Jerusalem would eventually be built, and the place where Jesus would later be crucified. (Hebrews 11:17-19 speaks of Abraham's faith that God could raise the dead and of how he received Isaac back from death, in a manner of speaking.)

Passover (Lamb) – Found in Exodus 12:1-13. In this story, God's wrath is shown against the Egyptians who have enslaved His people (the children of Israel) and who will not let them go. The Passover Lamb was a young lamb (sheep or goat) that was brought into each home, kept there for 3 days and then sacrificed. They roasted the lamb and ate it in a special dinner. The Lamb's blood was to be placed on the doorframes (sides) and lintel (top) of the door of the house and the people were to stay in the house all that night. Exodus 12:13 (God said to Moses) *The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live; and when I see the blood I will pass over you, and no plague will befall you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.* The Passover Lamb and its blood foreshadow the blood of the Christ, which would be spilled to save Believers from God's coming wrath on all sinners. The people in the house, who did as God said and put the blood on their door, were safe from God's wrath that fell on all Egypt that night. The placing of the blood on the door actually formed a rough sign of a cross as they put it on the doorframes and lintel.

Jesus Fulfills the OT Prophecies of the Messiah – *The children will find some of the OT prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus.*

Before Class: Read through the Activity Sheet and determine how best to use it in your classroom. There are several options. You may assign different verses for individual children to look up and read aloud. You may make copies of the pages for each child and have them look up one or more sets of the verses, or cut them up and place them in their Bible Replicas. The children may work in small groups or pairs, if you like. Provide Bibles, pencils, scissors, and glue as necessary.

During Class: Distribute sets of verses or pages of verses as desired. Allow the children to look up the OT verses of prophecy with the corresponding NT fulfillment verses.

Explain that the OT prophecies of the Messiah were written hundreds of years or even a thousand years, before Jesus was born. Psalms (about 1012 BC) Micah (700's BC) Isaiah (about 538 BC), Zechariah (about 520 BC). It is estimated that the prophecy in Psalms 22:16, saying that His hands and feet would be pierced, was written about 800 years before the Romans ever started using crucifixion as a form of capital punishment.

Explain that there are 300 OT prophecies of the Messiah, which Jesus fulfilled. Mathematically, the chances of one person fulfilling all of these prophecies are staggering. But, Jesus did it! God put these prophecies in His Word, the Bible, so that we would recognize the Messiah when He came! Jesus is the Messiah!

For more information on Prophecies of the Messiah Fulfilled by Jesus, see these references:

Josh McDowell Ministries

<https://www.josh.org/jesus-fulfill-prophecy/>

Christian Broadcasting Network

<https://www1.cbn.com/biblestudy/biblical-prophecies-fulfilled-by-jesus>

Science Speaks, Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible; By Peter W. Stoner, M.S. and Robert C. Newman, S.T.M., Ph.D., Moody Press Chicago. Online version, revised 2005, Donald W. Stoner.

http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html

Jesus Fulfills the Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah

Old Testament Prophecies of the Messiah	New Testament Fulfillment by Jesus Christ
<p>Born of a Virgin Isaiah 7:14</p> <p>Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18 (also verses 19-23)</p> <p>¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.</p>
<p>Born in Bethlehem Micah 5:2</p> <p>“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”</p>	<p>Luke 2:4-6</p> <p>⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵ in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶ While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.</p>
<p>Arrives in Jerusalem on a Donkey’s Colt Zechariah 9:9</p> <p>Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout <i>in triumph</i>, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.</p>	<p>Matthew 21:1-2, 6-7</p> <p>When they had approached Jerusalem ...at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied <i>there</i> and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me. ⁶ The disciples went and did just as Jesus had instructed them, ⁷ and brought the donkey and the colt, and laid their coats on them; and He sat on the coats</p>
<p>Betrayed by one close to Him Psalms 41:9</p> <p>Even my close friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.</p>	<p>John 13:18-19, 21</p> <p>I do not speak of all of you. I know the ones I have chosen; but <i>it is</i> that the Scripture may be fulfilled, ‘HE WHO EATS MY BREAD HAS LIFTED UP HIS HEEL AGAINST ME.’ From now on I am telling you before <i>it</i> comes to pass, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am <i>He</i>. When Jesus had said this, He became troubled in spirit, and testified and said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, that one of you will betray Me.”</p>
<p>Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zechariah 11:12-13</p> <p>I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give <i>me</i> my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty <i>shekels</i> of silver</p>	<p>Matthew 26:14-16</p> <p>Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What are you willing to give me to betray</p>

<p>as my wages. Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter, <i>that</i> magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty <i>shekels</i> of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.</p> <p>(NOTE: A shekel was a small piece of silver)</p>	<p>Him to you?” And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.</p> <p>Matthew 27:3-4, 7 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers.</p>
<p>Crucifixion prophesied Psalms 22:16 A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.</p>	<p>Luke 23:33a When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him...</p>
<p>Garments taken, lots cast Psalms 22:18 They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.</p>	<p>John 19: 23-25 Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and <i>also</i> the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. So they said to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, <i>to decide</i> whose it shall be”; <i>this was</i> to fulfill the Scripture: “THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS.” Therefore the soldiers did these things.</p>
<p>Resurrection! Psalm 16:10 For You will not abandon my soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.</p>	<p>Luke 24:1-8a But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing; and as <i>the women</i> were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, <i>the men</i> said to them, “Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.” And they remembered His words...</p>

Lesson #10 – Bible Translations (Missions)

Teacher Prep: The first time I stumbled upon a copy of “The Good News Bible,” picked it up and read a few words, I was amazed! There were no Old English words in it; there was no “thee” or “thou” or “wilt” ... just plain English words like I was used to reading. For the first time I realized that I could read and (basically) understand the Bible. It was a new day for me! Having a translation of the Bible that is easy to read, while remaining true to the original texts, is greatly beneficial to a new Believer. In today’s world of nearly universal Internet access, more people have access to Bible versions they can read than ever before.

Major Points: **The Bible is God’s Word**
Jesus Said to Make Disciples of All the Nations
People Can Read the Bible in Different Languages

Scripture Ref: **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Luke 24:46-47 ...and He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, **and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

The Bible is God’s Word

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- *Hold up the Bible and say, “We are drawing to the end of our time together studying the Bible. We have learned a lot about it in the last few weeks. We just have this lesson and 2 more.”*
- But even if we only have a few more lessons, we know that we can go on reading and learning about God’s Word, the Bible, and all of its promises, for all of our lives.

- In order for us to go on studying the Bible, it is important for us to have access to a Bible, or to someone who has a Bible or knows what it says.
- How can we hear more about the Bible? (Wait for answers.)
 - Sunday School (Teacher)
 - Church Services (Pastor)
 - Home (Parents, Grandparents, Siblings, etc. may have a Bible we can read, or that they can read to us.)
 - We may have our own Bible to read.
 - We can access the Bible Online.
 - Bible apps for phone, tablet, computer
- There are many ways for us to read the Bible or to find out what the Bible has to say.
- Remember, we can always ask someone to help us read the Bible.
- And we can always pray and **ask the Holy Spirit to help us** understand what we read.

Jesus Said to Make Disciples of all Nations

- After Jesus was raised from the dead, He appeared to His Disciples and spoke with them many times.
- Let's hear about one of those times...
- **Read Matthew 28:18-20** *And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**"*
- So, Jesus told His Disciples to go and make disciples of all the nations.
- That is a very big job! But Jesus said that He is with us!
- Jesus also sent the Holy Spirit to give the power needed to do this BIG job.

People Can Read the Bible in Different Languages

- After the Holy Spirit came, the Disciples started telling everyone about Jesus, the Messiah.
- They started right there where they were, and then as they moved from place to place, they talked to other people too.
 - Luke 24:46-47 ...and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, **and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations**, beginning from Jerusalem.
- Eventually, the Disciples went out preaching across the known world. Everywhere they went they talked about Jesus.

- As more and more people believed in Jesus, the church grew and grew.
 - The new Believers told more people, and they told more people, and they told more people...
- And now people all over the world know about Jesus and believe in Him as their Savior.
- Since the Bible was originally written down in Hebrew and Greek, at first people read it only in those languages.
- When more people wanted to read the Bible, it was eventually translated into other languages (Example: German, English)
 - Later it was published in these and other languages, so that many people could read it for themselves.
- We have our Bible here, and it is written in our language.
- People, who live in other places, have Bibles that are written in their own languages.
- People can read God's Word in many different languages, but in whatever language we find it, it is still God's Word!

Let's pray and thank God for His Word, which we can read in our own language.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for your Word, the Bible.
Thank you that we can read the Bible in our own language.
Thank you that you have made this possible, through your Holy Spirit.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Exploring Bible Translations – *Through discussion, the children will learn more about Bible translations and understand why these are important for Missions.*

Before Class: Obtain examples of different Bible translations. These can include translations with different languages (enlist friends of different language groups to loan their Bibles, or better yet, to bring them to class themselves!) You may also want to bring different English translations (KJV, NKJV, NIV, NASB, etc.)

During Class: Talk with the children about the following topics. Discuss as needed. Use examples of different translations, as available. If you have guests who have brought their own Bibles in their own languages, introduce them to the children and engage the children in conversation with them.

Topics:

There are many translations of the Bible.

- The Bible is the most read book ever.
- It is also the most translated book ever.
- Therefore, there are many translations of the Bible.

Language Translations of the Bible help Missionaries.

- Missionaries use translated Bibles to reach out to people in faraway places.
- Wycliffe Bible Translators, and other Bible translating groups, want to make sure that everyone can read the Bible in their own native language.
- These groups work hard making sure they have reliable translations for people who speak different languages all over the world.
- It feels special to have a Bible in a language that you can read.

Our Bibles came from a translation of the original texts.

- Bibles were originally written down mostly in Greek (NT) and Hebrew (OT)
- Most of us don't read Greek or Hebrew. (*Do any of you?*)
- So, to have a Bible in our language, scholars worked hard to translate the original Greek and Hebrew into our language.
- There are many copies of the Old and New Testaments from antiquity.
- The very earliest and best of these copies are the ones the translators used to give us our translations of the Bible in our language.

The Holy Spirit can help us interpret the Bible.

- Anytime we read God's Word, we can pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand what we are reading.
- Since God is the Author, He can always help us understand what it says.

The Bible and Technology – *The children will explore various Bible options available online or through applications.*

Before Class: Explore various Bible apps and Bibles available online. Please take care to make sure that you are escorting the children to SAFE sites online and recommending reliable Bible resources! Decide how best to share this information.

During Class: Using the technological resources available to you (phone, computer, etc.) show the children several different ways of finding and exploring the Bible online or through Bible apps. Discover how to search for keywords (in verses) to find familiar ones. Also look at other available resources on those programs, such as various translations and other Bible Study resources, like dictionaries, commentaries and weight & measure conversion tables. Here are some suggestions:

Bible Gateway <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Bible Hub and application <https://biblehub.com/>

The "Bible" app <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/bible/id282935706?mt=8>

Weights and Measures <https://biblehub.com/weights-and-measures/>

NOTE: There are also many online resources for continued spiritual growth and for sharing your faith with others. Here are just a few of these types of resources.

Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) <https://www.cru.org/us/en/train-and-grow.html>

God Tools App <https://godtoolsapp.com/>

Jesus Film Project <https://www.jesustfilm.org/watch.html>

Sharing our Faith – *The children learn more about the **Great Commission** and how we can share out faith with others.*

Before Class: Copy the Activity Sheet on the Great Commission for each child. Consider inviting the pastor or a missionary to speak to the children during class regarding how we can more effectively share our faith with others.

During Class: If you have a guest speaker, such as the pastor or a missionary, introduce them to the children. Together, share the information on the Activity Sheet and answer any questions that the children may have. Explain that as Believers, we can be part of bringing other people to Christ. Explain that The Great Commission is not just for pastors and career missionaries, it is for all of us who believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Telling someone about Jesus doesn't have to be hard. We can just share what we know about Jesus with someone we love.

Consider discussing some of these questions in your group:

- Who are some of the people you know who might need to know about Jesus?
- How can we be part of telling others about Jesus?
- How could we invite friends and family members to join us at church or Sunday School, so that they could hear more about Jesus?

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus said... *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

This is a BIG JOB... so, how do we do it?

Sometimes following Jesus and telling others about Him is as simple as sharing what we know about Him with the people we love.

How are we supposed to accomplish this BIG JOB?

The Holy Spirit was given to the first Believers in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, 10 days after Jesus ascended into Heaven. Since then, the Holy Spirit indwells each Believer. He is the One who gives us the power to accomplish all that Jesus has asked us to do. If we ever wonder what we should do, we can always ask God to help us know. He has promised to give wisdom to all who ask for it.

What things should I say to someone who wants to believe in Jesus?

- 1) God loves us and wants to have a relationship with us.
- 2) We have sinned against God and so we are separated from Him.
- 3) God provided the Way for us to come back to Him, through His Son, Jesus Christ, who paid for our sins on the cross.
- 4) When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we have a new and lasting relationship with God that will never end.

John 3:16-17

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

Lesson #11 – I Can Read the Bible

Teacher Prep: Figuring out that you can read the Bible for yourself is one of the biggest turning points in anyone's spiritual life. Having the opportunity to study God's Word on your own, and being able to discuss it with others later, is a wonderful growing experience. Let's encourage our young readers to dive into God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to lead them into understanding of it.

Major Points: **The Bible is God's Word**
We Can Read the Bible Ourselves
The Holy Spirit Can Help Us Understand the Bible

Scripture Ref: **2 Timothy 3:15-17** *...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*

John 14:26 *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*

Before Class: Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson. You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

<p>NOTE: If you are going to have a class party next week, remember to send out invitations today! (See end of lesson.)</p>
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Lesson:

The Bible is God's Word

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- *Hold up the Bible.* Today we are learning more about the Bible itself. We have been learning a LOT about it!
- We have been reading the Bible and learning how to find books and chapters and verses in both the Old and New Testaments.
- Let me ask you a question. How many of you had ever read the Bible at church or at home before we started these lessons?
(Wait for answers.)
- That's great! Some of you have and some of you haven't, and that is wonderful, because it shows that we are all different! Each of us has our own experiences!

- *(If possible, give a personal testimony about when you started reading the Bible and what it was like for you at first.)*
- The Bible is God's Word! And whether we read it or not, and no matter when we start reading it, it is STILL God's Word. Nothing changes God's Word. It is always true.

We Can Read the Bible Ourselves

- One of the reasons we have been studying the Bible is to get you familiar with it and get you locating and reading things in it!
- One of the most exciting things we can learn is that we can read the Bible for ourselves!
 - To some folks, the Bible may seem hard to read or understand.
 - It may seem full of words or ideas that seem strange.
 - It may even seem like it was written so long ago that it doesn't matter anymore!
- We know that the Bible matters because the Bible is God's Word.
- We know that God has given it to us, and protected it down through the years.
- We know that God gave it to us so that Believers can be equipped for every good work.
- We also know that the Bible is able to give people the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
 - **Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17** ...*from childhood you have known the sacred writings **which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.** All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.*
- And we know that God's Word never goes out of date! It is always relevant and true.
- For all of these reasons, I hope you will start reading the Bible with the people who love you, and that you will know that you can always read the Bible for wisdom and to find out what God says about things.

The Holy Spirit Can Help Us Understand the Bible

- Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to help teach us the things we need to know and to remind us of all that Jesus said to us.
- The Holy Spirit can help us understand what the Bible says.
- Before we read the Bible, we can pray and ask God to help us understand what we read, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

- If we ever have questions about what we read in the Bible, we can also ask the people who love us to help us to understand. (*Who are some of those people in your life?*)
 - Moms and Dads, Grandparents, Older Siblings
 - Pastor and Sunday School teachers

Let's pray and thank God for giving us His Word, the Bible.

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you for giving us your Word, the Bible.
Thank you that we can read it for ourselves.
Thank you that the Holy Spirit will help us understand your Word.
Thank you for loving us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Reading the Bible – *The children will hear some ideas on how to understand the meaning of what they read the Bible. (EX: Reading the verses in context.)*

Before Class: Bring a large book that you have read – preferably an old novel – to class. Pick out a few different paragraphs in the book that you will read to the children. Choose one or two sentences to read from those paragraphs. You will be teaching the children the importance of reading in context.

During Class: First, talk with your class about some of the important tips for gaining understanding when they read the Bible for themselves.

- 1) Pray and ask God to help you understand what He is saying in His Word.
- 2) Remember that the Bible was originally written to people a long time ago, in a place far away, but that it still talks to us today; and its message is important!
- 3) When you are reading, be sure to read verses **in context**. In other words, make sure that you don't just read one verse without thinking about the verses around it. Read the paragraph or the chapter that the verse is in and try to figure out its meaning in relation to the other verses around it.
- 4) While you are reading, ask yourself questions to help you understand what is going on in the story. Who were the verses written to originally? Approximately when were they written? What was going on back then?

Bring out the book you have brought with you. Show it to the children and tell them the name of it and how long ago you first read it. Read a sentence or two from one of the paragraphs that you have chosen. (Out of context, the sentences may make no sense at all!) Ask the children what they think the sentences mean. Now read the whole paragraph with the sentences in context. Ask the children if the sentences make more sense now. Answer any questions they may have about what is going on in the story. Repeat with other paragraphs you've chosen. **Remind the children that when we read Bible verses in context, we are more likely to understand what God is trying to say to us!**

Reading Through Proverbs – *The children will learn an easy way to read through the book of Proverbs in one month.*

Before Class: Provide Bibles for the children to use.

During Class: Discuss that you are going to teach the children a new way to read the Book of Proverbs in a month. Ask someone how many chapters the Book of Proverbs has in it. (*Answer: 31 chapters.*) Since there are usually 30-31 days in a month, one way of reading through Proverbs is to read one chapter each day for the month. You can start on any day as you can read the same chapter number as the day of the month. (Ex: Read chapter 10 on the 10th day of the month.) For months without 31 days, you can always read the extra chapters on the last day of the month. Read through all or part of one of the chapters of Proverbs together. What verses did they like the best?

Asking Questions While I Read – *The children will learn one pattern (first outlined by Rev. Dr. Adrian Rogers) for looking at individual Bible verses or stories.*

Before Class: Make copies of the Activity Sheet for the children. Provide pencils.

During Class: Go over the 5 questions to ask yourself while reading a Bible verse and trying to understand it. When we look at any Bible verse, we can ask ourselves these 5 questions, to help us figure out what God is trying to say to us personally.

- 1) Is there a lesson to learn?
- 2) Is there a sin to avoid?
- 3) Is there a blessing to enjoy?
- 4) Is there a promise to claim?
- 5) Is there a new thought to carry with me?

Practice doing this together with these verses. Note that not all verses will have all five of the things. It is just a device to get us thinking about what the verses are saying to us. Point out that these verses are from the OT and NT. Let the children write down their responses on Activity Sheet. Place the sheets in your bible replicas.

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Proverbs 10:1 *A wise son makes a father glad,
But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.*

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your works to the LORD
And your plans will be established.*

Teacher Page

Invitation to the Party! – Use this idea to create your own invitations to your class party or Open House for next time, which is our last lesson! Encourage the children to give these to their parents and loved ones! Consider inviting the pastor and other folks who have helped during this study. Invite them to come to class for all or part of the time for a small party or Open House.

Involve the family members by allowing them to help provide snacks and possibly to help serve others. Let the children help prepare your room, this week and next, to be able to show their work, the Time Line, and their Bible Replicas to family members.

If you are going to give out certificates for having memorized Books of the Bible, be sure to know who has completed all of their memory work! Have fun!

You are invited to a PARTY!

The party will be in our classroom,

On (DATE)

Starting at (TIME)

We want you to join us!

We will be talking about things we have learned about the Bible!

We are celebrating the fact that God loved us and sent His Son.

For more information, contact (NAME)

At (EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE)

You can help us by (IDEAS FOR HOW TO HELP)

Asking Questions While I Read

It is OKAY for me to ask questions while I read the Bible. God WANTS me to understand what He is saying to me through His Word! I can always pray and ask the HOLY SPIRIT to help me understand what the Bible says. I can also ask myself some questions to help me figure out what God is trying to say to ME!

Here are 5 questions that I can ask myself when I am studying any Bible verse.

- 1) Is there a lesson to learn?
- 2) Is there a sin to avoid?
- 3) Is there a blessing to enjoy?
- 4) Is there a promise to claim?
- 5) Is there a new thought to carry with me?

Let's practice with these verses:

John 3:16 *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Matthew 28:18-20 *Jesus said... “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Proverbs 10:1 *A wise son makes a father glad,
But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.*

Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your works to the LORD
And your plans will be established.*

Many thanks to Rev. Dr. Adrian Rogers (www.lwf.org) who originally came up with these questions.

Lesson #12 – The Bible: God’s Message of Love

Teacher Prep: So, why do we read the Bible? To find out what God is saying to us! And what is God saying to us? He is saying that He loves us and He wants to be in fellowship with us. His plan throughout Eternity has been to show His love to us; first by creating us, and then by sacrificing Himself to pay for our sins, even after we willfully rebelled against Him. Basically, the Bible is a love note, from the One and Only God, the Infinite Creator... to us.

Major Points: **The Bible is God’s Word**
God Loved Us and Sent His Son
We Can Accept God’s Love
Jesus is the Beginning and the End

Scripture Ref: **1 John 4:9-10** *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.*

John 1:1, *“In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*

Revelation 22:13 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*

Before Class: For this lesson, consider **inviting your Pastor** to come to class to talk with the children and to explain about how the Bible is God’s Message of love, forgiveness and reconciliation to all of us, and about how we can **personally respond** to God’s invitation to Believe on Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Consider **inviting the parents** as well, to hear what the Pastor has to say, and to see what your class has been doing over the past 12 weeks. Show them the Time Line and the Bible replicas. NOTE: *Be sure to invite family members ahead of time! Find an idea for your invitation in the Activity section of this lesson.*

Bring your Bible, provide Bibles for the children (if possible), and consider writing down the Scripture verses (copied from the lesson) on slips of paper for children to read out loud during the lesson. You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson:

The Bible is God’s Word

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- *Hold up the Bible.* Over the past twelve weeks, we have been learning about the Bible. We have learned many things!
- What are some of the things we have learned about the Bible? *(Wait for answers. Give feedback.)*
- Yes! And we have learned that the Bible is God’s Word.
- God is always truthful and good. We can always trust His Word.
- God won’t ever tease us or lie to us. God can always be trusted.
- God gave us His Word so that we could read it and know that He loves us and that He wants to be in relationship with us.

God Loved Us and Sent His Son

- God gave us His Word so that He could tell us a long story. It is a story that begins at the Beginning of time *(Show on Time Line)* and concludes at the very end of time *(Show on Time Line.)*
- God’s Story is a story of LOVE. And that love for us will continue forever, even after the end of known time.
- This love that God has for us isn’t a mushy kind of love, or a half-hearted kind of love, or an “I’ll love you, if you’re good” kind of love. (Those are examples of “conditional” types of love)
- God’s love is **unconditional** love.
 - That means that God loves you; no matter what.
 - It doesn’t matter who you are, or how tall you are, or how strong you are, or anything else.
 - It doesn’t even matter how good or how bad you are.
- God loves you.
 - **Read 1 John 4:9-10** *By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** to be the propitiation for our sins.*
 - “Propitiation” means to appease God’s wrath and to reconcile us to (or make us right with) God.
- Because God loved us and sent His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Sacrifice for our sins, we can be saved! (Or be made right with God again.)
 - When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are made right with God forever.
 - God accepts Jesus’ sacrifice for our sins and is reconciled with us, because of what Jesus did for us.
 - We just have to say “Yes!” to God’s offer of Salvation.
- This is how God has shown His great love for us!

A quote about reconciliation with God from GotQuestions.org: God in His infinite grace and mercy has provided a way that His wrath can be appeased and we can be reconciled to Him. That way is through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ, as the payment for sins. It is through faith in Jesus Christ as God’s perfect sacrifice that we can be reconciled to God. It is only because of Christ’s death on the cross and His resurrection on the third day that a lost sinner deserving of hell can be reconciled to a holy God. The wonderful truth of the gospel is that Christians are saved from God’s wrath and reconciled to God not because “we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

We Can Accept God’s Love

- How should we respond to so great a love?
 - We get to decide how we will respond to it.
 - God does not make us love Him.
 - We get to decide what we will do.
 - But, what will we do?
- If you received such a marvelous love note as the Bible, what would you do with it?
 - Would you crumple it up and throw it away?
 - Would you laugh at it and put it down?
 - OR... Would you be moved by God’s love and want to respond to it in some way?
- The Good News is that we can respond to God’s Love.
 - We can either accept it or reject it.
- Each of us has to decide.
- (Presentation of the Gospel – Invitation to receive Christ)

Jesus is the Beginning and the End

- The Bible is the story of Jesus
- The Bible says that Jesus is the Beginning and the End
- John the Disciple said in **John 1:1**, *“In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”*
- John was called the Beloved Disciple. He knew Jesus as well as anyone who ever walked with Him here on the Earth. He knew that Jesus had existed from the Beginning of time and that all things were created through Him. Jesus was a Man, but He was also God.
- In the book of Revelation (the last book in the Bible) we find Jesus talking to John about things that will happen at the end of time.
- In Revelation 22:13 Jesus said: *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”*
 - Alpha is the FIRST letter in the Greek alphabet
 - Omega is the LAST letter in the Greek alphabet
 - What are the first and last letters in our alphabet? (A, Z)
 - So, if Jesus had been speaking in English, He might have said, “I am the A and the Z...”
- Why did Jesus say that? (*Wait for answers.*) Good answers!

- Jesus was saying that He was the Beginning and the End of all things. He was there when everything was created. And He will be there at the end of time.
 - Point out the Beginning and the End of our Time Line!
- Since Jesus is at the Beginning and the End, we can know that He will be here **at all the points in between as well!**
- We can also know that, when we trust in Jesus as our Savior, He will be with us now and we will be with Him forever and ever.
- Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End!

Let’s pray and thank God that He loved us and sent His Son, Jesus!

Prayer: Dear God,
Thank you that you loved us and you sent your son, Jesus.
Thank you that Jesus is the Beginning and the End.
Thank you that you love us.
We love you back.
Amen.

Suggested Activities: Pick 1-2 activities to do that will work well with your group.

Alpha and Omega – *The children will become more familiar with the Greek letters Alpha and Omega and the Bible verse, Revelation 22:13.*

Before Class: Provide copies of the Activity Sheet for the children in your classroom. Provide glue, gold or blue glitter, and/or markers and crayons. If you are going to use glitter and glue, cover the tables with newsprint or a plastic tablecloth. Consider using an old sheet to cover the floor. Be prepared to clean up glitter afterwards!

During Class: Explain that you are going to learn more about the Greek letters Alpha and Omega. Look at the Activity Sheet with the children. Explain that the capital letter for Alpha looks just like our capital letter “A”. The capital letter for Omega looks more or less like a horseshoe, or a rainbow. Read the Bible verse together. Revelation 22:13 *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.* Remind the children that because Jesus is the Beginning and the End, it means that He will always be here at all the points in the middle, too. Allow the children to decorate the letters using glue and glitter (or markers and crayons.) Allow the papers to dry before putting them in your Bible replicas.

Awards for Memorizing Books of the Bible – *The children will receive awards for having memorized the Books of the Bible in order.*

Before Class – Prepare any awards or certificates for having memorized the Books of the Old Testament and/or the Books of the New Testament. Add each child’s name to their own certificate(s).

During Class – Hand out the awards or certificates to each child (along with their work they have done during the study) to take home with them. Congratulate everyone on their hard work! *Do this at the party, if you are having one!*

Party Time! – *The children will enjoy an end of study party with their teacher, parents, pastor and other invited guests. This is much like an Open House at school.*

Before Class: Send out printed invitations to the party the week before class. Invite parents, the pastor, and any other guests you would like to have there for the party! Prepare your classroom to receive guests. (Include the children in this preparation as much as possible.) Straighten the room, put up decorations, make sure that the Time Line is in good order. Place the Bible Replicas on display, as well as any other work the children may have done in class that you have kept. Provide simple refreshments for guests and the children. (For fun, invite family members to participate in bringing treats, drinks, napkins or cups.)

During Class: Welcome your guests. Share refreshments together. Talk with parents and other guests about what the children have been doing in their study over the past 12 weeks. Have the children show their loved ones the work that they have been doing. Explain the Time Line. Show everyone the Bible replicas. If any of the children prayed to receive Christ as their Savior, be sure to talk to the parents and discuss it with them and the pastor. End your time together with prayer, asking God's favor over these children's lives. Pray that they will always remember that they can read the Bible and that God's Word is always true!

Invitation to the Party! – Use this idea to create your own invitations to your class party. Encourage the children to give these to their parents and loved ones!

You are invited to a PARTY!

The party will be in our classroom,

On (DATE)

Starting at (TIME)

We want you to join us!

We will be talking about things we have learned about the Bible!

We are celebrating the fact that God loved us and sent His Son.

For more information, contact (NAME)

At (EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE)

You can help us by (IDEAS FOR HOW TO HELP)

Revelation 22:13 (Jesus said)
*"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last,
the beginning and the end."*

