

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, and that the numbers 15-17 means that it is in the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 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.

