

## 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.jesusfilm.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.”*