

## 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><b>NOTE:</b> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.”*

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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](http://www.lwf.org)) who originally came up with these questions.*