

## 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](http://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.”*

