

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