

## Lesson #3 – Books of the Bible

Teacher Prep: My favorite Bible joke is that I believe everything in it “from Genesis to Maps.” Whether your Bible has maps in it or not (or actual pages or not) it’s important for us to understand that God gave us His Word and that we are to help others learn and appreciate what is in it. In a world of Bible apps and Internet access, the idea of a set of books may seem abstract or even archaic to some. But it is nice to know that there are actual written books and that there is an order to them; and that there is an actual meaning to Who wrote them and why.

Major Points: **The Bible is Divided into Books**  
**Each Book has a Name**  
**Different Types of Literature are Found in these Books**  
**All of the Books of the Bible are from God**

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 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.

You may also need materials for the activities you choose.

Lesson: **The Bible is Divided into Books**

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*
- Today we are going to study the Books of the Bible
- Last time we learned that there are two major parts of the Bible – the Old and New Testaments
  - The Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus was here on the Earth
  - The New Testament was written AFTER He was here
- Each of these Testaments is made up of a set of books.
- That means that the whole Bible is made up of many different books.
  - It may seem funny that one book could be made up of many books, but the Bible is!

- You can think of the Bible as a “Library” of Books.
- The Bible is actually made up of 66 Books.
  - 39 books in the Old Testament
  - 27 books in the New Testament
- Each book was written separately and at different times.
- They were written by different writers through time.
  - Some writers wrote more than one book of the Bible.

## Each Book has a Name

- Each book of the Bible has its own name.
  - These names were assigned to them over time
- Sometimes the name refers to what the book is about.
  - EX: Genesis (which means Beginning) is written about Creation and the Beginning of Time
  - Appropriately enough, Genesis is the first book!
- Sometimes a book is named for the person who wrote it.
  - EX: Isaiah (a book of prophecy in the Old Testament)
  - It's named for the prophet Isaiah, who gave us all the prophecies written in that book.
- Sometimes a book is named for the people to whom the book (or letter) was originally written.
  - EX: Philippians (a book in the New Testament)
  - It's actually a letter written by an apostle named Paul
  - Written to the Believers (or church) in Philippi
    - which was in Ancient Greece.
  - The people there were called Philippians.
- Originally these books were actually written on scrolls of parchment, which were rolled up
- Our modern versions of these books are written on paper and bound all together as one BIG book; the Bible
  - More recently Bibles have become available online.
  - You can even download Bible apps!
- We will be learning the names of the Books of the Bible.
  - We are going to do this so that we can more easily find the parts of the Bible we are looking for

## Different Types of Literature are Found in these Books

- The Bible has different types of writing (or literature) in it.
- Some books have a majority of one type or another
- Some are **History** books
  - (Example: Exodus, that tells the story of the escape of the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt.)
- Some books are **Letters**, others are full of **Poetry** or **Psalms** (or songs) and there are books of **Prophecy**, which is the foretelling of future events.

- We will learn more about each type of this writing (literature) in the books of the Bible.

**All of the Books of the Bible are from God**

- No matter how many books there are in the Bible, or what kind of writing they have in them, we must remember that the Bible is One Big Book, and that it is the Word of God.
- We have been reading this Bible verse the last few times. And we will read it again today.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;*
- God has preserved His Word for us down through the ages by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is here for us to read and to learn from.
- The Scriptures are from God and they are here to help us.

Let's pray and thank God for giving us His Word.

Prayer: Dear God,  
Thank you that you have given us your Word, the Bible.  
And that you have preserved and protected it for us through the ages.  
We ask that you will help us learn more about it.  
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.

**Memorizing the Books of the Bible** – *The children will begin the process of memorizing the names of the Books of the Bible and their order in the Bible.*

**Before Class:** Make copies of both activity sheets for each child in your classroom.

Research any songs (or other memorization techniques) that might help the children learn the names of the books of the Bible in order. Provide a hole punch as needed.

**During Class:** Distribute copies of the two Activity Sheets to each child. Look over the list of Books of the Bible with the children. Read the names of the books in the New Testament first. Next, read over the names of the books in the Old Testament. Which names are easy to say? Which are harder to pronounce? Practice reading the lists together, encourage the children to participate. Have each child read one name and then have them call on someone else to read the next one. (Or have them throw a ball to the next person who will read the name.) Help the children with the pronunciations of the difficult words. Listen to a song that helps people remember the books of the Bible. Practice together. Punch holes in the pages and place the lists of Books of the Bible inside the front covers of the Old and New Testaments in

your Bible replicas. Alternatively, send the list home for children to practice over the next few weeks. Work with the children over the next several classes on memorizing the Books of the Bible. Consider having a reward system for memorizing them.

**NOTE on Multiple Books of the same name:**

Some of the books have the same name with numbers in front of them. (Ex: 1 and 2 Kings - pronounced “*First and Second Kings*”). They have these numbers for different reasons. One is that the “books” were originally so big that they were on separate scrolls (1 and 2 Kings); the other is that they were letters written to the same church, or by the same person, at different times. (Ex: 1 and 2 Corinthians.)

**Types of Literature** – *The children will be introduced to the different types of literature contained in the books of the Bible.*

**Before Class:** Make up the index cards with information on them as described below. Provide yarn and tape (or Sticky Tack) to create a “matching game”.

**During Class:** Explain that you are going to help the children understand some of the different types of literature (or writing) that we find in the Bible. Use the names and descriptions below, which are written on different index cards, to help the children figure out the names of the various types of literature and their definitions.

- |          |  |
|----------|--|
| History  | This is the telling of a story, as it happened in the past.  |
| Poetry   | This is the expression of emotions or thoughts in word form. Sometimes it can have a special form, like rhyming. |
| Psalms   | This is a fancy word for “Songs.” In the book by this name you will also find prayers and poetry.                |
| Letters  | These were written down by one person and sent (or mailed) to people in a different place.                       |
| Prophecy | This is the foretelling (or prophesying) of future events.   |
| Gospels  | These are the four books that tell about Jesus’ life, and about some of the things that He did and said.         |

## BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS	ECCLESIASTES
EXODUS	SONG OF SOLOMON
LEVITICUS	ISAIAH
NUMBERS	JEREMIAH
DEUTERONOMY	LAMENTATIONS
JOSHUA	EZEKIEL
JUDGES	DANIEL
RUTH	HOSEA
1 SAMUEL	JOEL
2 SAMUEL	AMOS
1 KINGS	OBADIAH
2 KINGS	JONAH
1 CHRONICLES	MICAH
2 CHRONICLES	NAHUM
EZRA	HABAKKUK
NEHEMIAH	ZEPHANIAH
ESTHER	HAGGAI
JOB	ZECHARIAH
PSALMS	MALACHI
PROVERBS	

## BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW	1 TIMOTHY
MARK	2 TIMOTHY
LUKE	TITUS
JOHN	PHILEMON
ACTS	HEBREWS
ROMANS	JAMES
1 CORINTHIANS	1 PETER
2 CORINTHIANS	2 PETER
GALATIANS	1 JOHN
EPHESIANS	2 JOHN
PHILIPPIANS	3 JOHN
COLOSSIANS	JUDE
1 THESSALONIANS	REVELATION
2 THESSALONIANS	

