

## Lesson #6 – OT Writers: One Author (God)

Teacher Prep: The Old Testament is the “Bible” that Jesus had while He was here. Jesus Christ, who is the Word made flesh, often used the Old Testament Scriptures to make His points, to explain Who He was, and even to answer Satan, who tempted Him in the Wilderness. The Old Testament isn’t something to be ignored, just because it has the word “old” in its title. Jesus says, “The Scriptures, they speak of me.” We need to read the Old Testament, so that we can understand more fully the New.

Major Points: **God Gave Us the Old Testament.**  
**The Old Testament Tells History from the Beginning**  
**The Old Testament Tells Us About the Christ – Jesus!**  
**There Were Many Writers, but God is the Author of it All**

Scripture Ref: **Hebrews 1:1-3a** *God, after He spoke long ago ... in the prophets ... **in these last days has spoken to us in His Son ...He is the radiance of His glory and **the exact representation of His nature,*****

**2 Peter 1:21** *...no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but **men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** *...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***

**Genesis 1:1** *In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

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:

### God Gave Us the Old Testament

- *(Start with the Bible out so everyone can see it.)*  
Today we are going to learn about the Old Testament.
- *Show in the Bible the point between the Old and New Testaments. Explain that the Old Testament was written BEFORE Jesus was here and that the New Testament was written AFTER Jesus was here.*
- *If you have a Time Line in your classroom, also point out the same information using it. Have a student help you.*
- So, when Jesus was here on the Earth, there was no New Testament yet. There was only the Old Testament.
- When Jesus was here, He spoke about “the Scriptures.” He was talking about what we now call the Old Testament.
- Jesus believed in the Scriptures (the Old Testament).
  - He often quoted the Scriptures when He was talking to people.
  - He even quoted the Scriptures in the Wilderness, when He was tempted by Satan.
  - So, Jesus not only knew the OT Scriptures, He believed in them and He quoted them to others.
- Jesus knew that the OT Scriptures spoke of Him; the Christ.
  - **John 5:39 ... the Scriptures...testify about Me**
- Remember that the Bible is the Word of God. God is the One who gave us the whole Bible, including the Old Testament.
  - **2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is inspired by God...*
- So, it is important for us to read and understand the Old Testament, as well as the New Testament.

### The Old Testament Tells History from the Beginning

- So, let’s take a look at the Old Testament. Let’s start with the first verse in the first chapter of the first book of the OT.
- *Have someone help you find the first book in the Old Testament, and then read the first verse of the first chapter.*
  - **Genesis 1:1** *In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
- So, the Old Testament tells History from the Beginning.
- It is important for us to remember that God created our world. He is the One who brought it into being, and we are here because He created Mankind.
  - The Bible reminds us that it is important for us to honor God as the Creator. (*Romans 1*)
  - Honoring God as the Creator may be as simple as when we see something beautiful in Nature (like a sunrise or sunset, a butterfly or a waterfall) saying something like, “Thank you, God, for making this.”

- God created everything that was created. He existed before anything else. He will always exist and will be here forever.
  - There is no Beginning or Ending of God
  - His name for Himself tells it all. It is “I AM.”
- It is good to know where we came from. God made us and He loves us. We can rely on Him and we can trust His Word.

### **The Old Testament Tells Us About the Christ – Jesus!**

- The Old and New Testaments are BOTH the Word of God
- Together they tell ONE STORY – the Story of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the Savior!
  - The word for Savior is “Messiah” (in the Hebrew language) or “Christ” (in the Greek language.)
  - Since the OT is written mostly in Hebrew, that is where we see the word “Messiah.”
  - Since the NT is written mostly in Greek, that is where we see the word “Christ.”
- The OT starts at the Beginning and explains WHY we need a Savior in the first place.
- When God first made the world, He said it was good. After He created Man and Woman, He said it was very good.
- At first everything was beautiful and wonderful.
- But then a sad thing happened. The first Man (Adam) and his wife (Eve) sinned. (*That means they did something on purpose that they knew they were not supposed to do.*)
- As a result of this, they died spiritually and were doomed to die physically as well. They could no longer stay in the beautiful Garden that God had given them to live in. They could no longer walk in the Garden with God every day.
- They were separated from God.
- But God had mercy on Adam and Eve. He promised them that one day a Savior would come and destroy the serpent (Satan) who had tempted them to sin.
  - Genesis 3:15 “*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.*”
- This Savior would fix it so that we wouldn’t have to be separated from God anymore.
- From that day on, God continued to tell people of this Savior that He would send. These promises are found all through the Old Testament.
- These promises (or prophecies) tell about Jesus!
- When Jesus was here, He talked about these promises in the Scriptures.

- **John 5:39 ... the Scriptures...testify about Me**
- Jesus knew that He was the Son of God, the Promised Savior (Messiah or Christ) that the Scriptures foretold.
- We can know that Jesus is the Promised Savior, too!

**There Were Many Writers, but God is the Author of it All**

- The Bible is God's Word, and that includes the Old Testament.
  - It was written down over 1000 years' time, from Moses who wrote the Pentateuch to Malachi
  - There were over 30 writers in the Old Testament
- But God is the Author of it all!
- God is the only one who can know how everything started.
- God is the only one who can see and tell about the future.
- In the Old Testament we find the story of Creation, when God spoke and things came into being.
- In the Old Testament we also find prophecies of the Promised Savior who would come.
- That Savior is Jesus!
  - Jesus has already fulfilled many of the prophecies of the Promised Messiah.
  - The other OT prophecies, such as the Savior reigning on Earth, will be fulfilled when Jesus returns.

Let's pray and thank God that He has given us the OT in His Word, the Bible.

Prayer:

Dear God,  
Thank you that you have given us the Old Testament in your Word, the Bible.  
Thank you that we can know you as Creator.  
Thank you for the promises of your Savior.  
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.

**Memorization** – *The children will work on memorizing the Books of the OT.*

Before Class: Provide copies of the Activity Sheet with the names of the Books of the Old Testament. *The children may already have a similar list their Bible replicas.*

During Class: Using a printed list of the Books of the OT, have the children practice with partners saying the names of the books in order. First have them look at the page and then try without looking at the page. See how many they can say in order. Use songs or other memory aids to help learn the Books of the OT.

**Writers of the Old Testament** – *The children will learn about some of the writers of the Old Testament; specifically, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, and Daniel.*

**Before Class:** Make up index cards with the names of these 5 writers on them. You will be using the Time Line in this activity. If you don't have one, you can use a chalk board or blank wall to display the index cards, with tape or mounting putty. Print off the Scripture references listed below and have children read them out loud.

**During Class:** Explain that there were many writers of the OT. Some of their names we know and others we do not. We are going to learn a bit more about 5 of them.

**Moses** – Wrote the first 5 books of the Bible (also called “The Pentateuch”) This includes Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. These books tell history from the Beginning, through the time that the Israelites were ready to enter the Promised Land. Moses wrote these books of the OT at about 1500 BC.

**David** - King David (also David from David and Goliath story) lived long after Moses. (David lived at about 1000 years BC.) Many of the Psalms are David's own songs, poems and prayers. He wrote **Psalms 23**, which talks about how God is his shepherd.

**Solomon** - King Solomon was King David's son. He was the wisest man on Earth. He wrote the Proverbs, the Song of Solomon, and Ecclesiastes. In addition, he built the Temple of God in Jerusalem.

**Isaiah** - Isaiah the Prophet said all of the things in the Book of Isaiah. He lived in about 740 BC and tried to tell the kings and people of Judah what God wanted them to know. Unfortunately, they didn't always listen! Isaiah has some of the most specific prophecies about the coming of the Savior (Jesus). Isaiah, chapters 42 and 53 are examples of this.

**Daniel** - Daniel is probably best known for spending the night in the Lions' Den. (This happened when he was an older man.) As a child (in about 600 BC) Daniel was taken away from homeland of Israel to a far-off country called Babylon. He lived there in captivity for over 70 years and worked for the kings there, but he always remembered his homeland. When it was time for the Israelites to return home (after 70 years) Daniel was one of the first to find the promise in God's Word and to write it down in his own book. God gave Daniel amazing visions of the future, which he wrote down in the Book of Daniel. Many have already occurred, but we are still waiting for some of these events to take place. **See Daniel 9.**

**Find the OT Bible Story!** – *The children will look up famous Bible stories in the Old Testament that they may have heard of in the past.*

**Before Class:** Write down the following Scripture references on slips of paper. Provide Bibles for teams of children in class. You might also write the names of the stories on index cards to place on the Time Line.

**During Class:** Have the children look up the verses and figure out which Old Testament Bible Story is told there. Allow them to match the verses with the answers on the Index Cards. Place the cards on the Time Line in order of their occurrence.

Genesis 2:4-8	Creation of Man (Adam)
Genesis 2:18-23	Creation of Woman (Eve)
Genesis 7:1-6	Noah and the Ark
Genesis 37:2-8	Joseph and the Multicolored Coat
Exodus 14:13-18	The Parting of the Red Sea
Exodus 20:1-17	The 10 Commandments
Joshua 6:1-5, 20	Walls of Jericho Fall Down
Judges 15:14-16	The Strength of Samson
Ruth 1:15-19	Naomi's Faithful Daughter-in-Law
1 Samuel 17:40-50	David and Goliath
1 Kings 6 (v. 1-2, 37-38)	Solomon Builds the Temple
Esther 2:15-18	Esther, the Beautiful Queen
Daniel 6:16-23	Daniel in the Lions' Den

**Bible Replicas** – *The children will work on adding OT Books to their Bible replicas. This will also help them learn the names of the Books of the Old Testament.*

**Before Class:** Provide printed copies of the Activity Sheet. Provide lots of paper (copy or notebook) along with pencils, or scissors and glue. Provide a hole punch.

**During Class:** Explain that you are going to work on the Bible replicas. Have the children take paper and write the name of each Book of the OT at the top of the page. Alternatively, have them cut up their copies of the Activity Sheet and paste the names on various sheets of paper. Punch holes as necessary and place the papers in Old Testament order, in their Bible replicas.

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