

The Books of Moses

(The “Law”)

Pre-Session Warm Up

If you started to read a chapter book, would you read only the middle chapter and then close the book? No! You would want to read the whole book so that you know what happens.

It's the same thing with the Bible. Many people know some of the Bible characters and some of the main stories in the Bible, but they can't see how the stories connect. The Bible is one book. It's the story of God's wonderful plan to save us from our sins and prepare us to live for all eternity with Him in heaven. You cannot read the Bible in bits and pieces and expect to understand the wonder of God's plan. You would never read any other book in such a way.

Today we're going to learn more about this very special book, called the Bible.

Opening Prayer

Father, I pray that You would open the eyes of our hearts this morning so that we might see wonderful things in Your word. Give us understanding so that we will keep and obey your word with all our hearts. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Memory Verse:

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law. (Psalm 119:18)

Lesson

Last week we began a new series of lessons about the Bible. Let's do a little review:

1. Who remembers another name for the Bible? (*The Word* or *God's Word*, because the thoughts and ideas are God's. The men who

wrote the words were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write them down.)

2. How many books are there in the Bible? (66)
3. How many men wrote the 66 books of the Bible? (40)
4. Over how many years did it take to write the Bible? (1,600 years)
5. What is the main theme of the Bible? (God's message of salvation; His plan of redemption.)

The Books of Moses

We divide the books of the Bible into groups. The first five books in our Bible were written by Moses so we call these five books, "*The Books of Moses*". Because these books tell of God's Ten Commandments and other instructions, these five books are also called *The Books of the Law* or sometimes just *The Law*. Turn to your Table of Contents and read the names of the Books of Moses with me. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.)

Genesis

Find the book of Genesis in your Bible. Genesis is the first book in the Bible. The word *Genesis* means "*Beginnings*." It tells us about the creation of the world. Look at Genesis 1:1 [Teacher, review how to find Bible references, if necessary.] Who does the Bible say created the heavens and the earth? (God.) Genesis is a book of firsts. It tells us about the first man and woman (1:27) and the first sin (3:6). Genesis is also the first place where we can read God's promise to send a Savior so we can have our sin forgiven (3:15). In this book we also learn about the first murder (4:8) and the first and only worldwide flood (chapters 7 and 8).

After God made everything we see around us, He made people, so He could love them and be loved by them. In the beginning God created everything perfect. But over time, people forgot about God and became so wicked that God had to destroy it with a great flood. He saved Noah and his family and started over with the human race.

Then God chose a special man and made a promise to him that even though he and his wife were very old, out of them would grow a great nation of people that would be known as "*God's Chosen People*." And out of that family would be born, Jesus, the Savior of the whole human race.

That man's name was Abraham and his wife was Sarah. They had a boy named Isaac and Isaac had a son named Jacob. Jacob had 12 sons. Then Jacob's name was changed to Israel. That is why we say that out of Abraham and Sarah came the nation of Israel.

Why did God want a special nation of people? He wanted them to be His messengers to the rest of the world, to tell them about God and His wonderful plan of salvation. Through this nation, God promised to bless the whole world (12:1-3). That blessing came when the Lord Jesus was born into a Jewish family.

In Genesis the Israelites end up in Egypt as slaves; this is a type (or example) of how all mankind is in bondage to sin. (Egypt is a type of the sinful world.)

Exodus

In Exodus Moses rescues the Israelites from Egypt and leads them back to Israel, the Promised Land. Exodus means "*Exit*" or "*This Way Out*."

In Exodus we find the story of Moses. In the beginning of this book God's people are living in Egypt as slaves. Exodus tells about the plagues God sent to Egypt to convince Pharaoh to let His people go. We read in this book how God led the Israelites through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land.

The Promised Land is a type of heaven; Moses is a type of Jesus who rescues us from the bondage of sin in the world and leads us to an eternal dwelling place with God in heaven.

When they stopped at Mt. Sinai, God called Moses to meet Him on the mountain where He gave him the Ten Commandments. Please

find Exodus 20:1-17. God's instructions for building the tabernacle are here in the Book of Exodus, too (25:8, 9). The tabernacle was a special tent where the people would come to worship. The tabernacle was set up as the center of worship wherever the people settled.

Leviticus

Find the book of Leviticus. In this book God told His people how He wanted them to worship Him. Chapters 1 – 7 lay out the exact ways in which offerings should be made. The animal sacrifices described here are a picture of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross (John 1:29; Ephesians 5:2; 1 Peter 1:18, 19). Then we learn about Aaron, the first high priest, and his sons, who also served as priests (chapters 8 and 9). Today we go to God directly through the Lord Jesus, our Great High Priest (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14). Chapters 10-22 record special laws the priests and people were to follow. And God also gave the Israelites several feasts or holidays, as well as other special days to celebrate as they worshiped Him (chapters 23 – 25). Even these special days picture certain parts of God's wonderful plan to save us from our sin (for example, see 1 Corinthians 5:7).

Numbers

Now find the book of Numbers. This book begins and ends with the census or the numbering of the people of Israel. But there are more than just numbers in this book. We also find the story of God's people as they traveled toward the Promised Land. Joshua is introduced here as one of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land (13:16). Too bad the Israelites didn't trust God enough to obey Him and go in. Because they chose to disobey, they had to spend forty years wandering around in the Wilderness (14:33).

Deuteronomy

Finally, let's find the Book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy means "*Second Law*." In Deuteronomy, the Israelites were just about to enter the Promised Land.

Since most of the people who followed Moses out of Egypt had died in the Wilderness, God reviewed the history of Israel for them. Then, for the second time, God gave Israel His commandments. We can read them again beginning in Deuteronomy 5:6 (find and read the Ten Commandments again.) Through Moses, God tells His people how they are to live in the Promised Land. Read at Deuteronomy 11:26. God warns Israel of what will happen to them if they disobey Him and promises to bless them if they will keep His laws.

So far, we've only talked about the first 5 books of the Bible, the Books of Moses, or the Law. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy are important to us. They teach us about God's laws. Breaking God's law is sin. In these first five books, God shows us that only by the shedding of blood can our sins be forgiven (Leviticus 17:11). Though the Israelites had to make animal sacrifices again and again, God gave His promise that one day He would send a Savior who would shed His Blood once and for all to save us from our sin (Genesis 3:15). That Savior is the Lord Jesus Christ (Hebrews 9:12, 27, 28; 1 Peter 3:18). Next week we will talk about the next group of books called the books of History.

All the books in the Bible make the whole picture — it's the whole puzzle put together. They tell one complete story — God's plan of redemption.

Closing Prayer

Father, thank You for not leaving us clueless as to why we exist and what Your plan is for our lives. We love You, Lord, and appreciate the fact that You want to communicate with us through Your Word, the Bible. Give us a desire in our hearts to read and understand it every day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Learning Activities

Books of the Old Testament Song

(To the tune of "Did You Ever See a Lassie?")

Let us sing the books of Moses, of Moses, of Moses,

Let us sing the books of Moses, for he wrote the law.

*First, **Genesis**; second, **Exodus**; third, **Leviticus**; fourth, **Numbers**;*

*And the fifth is **Deuteronomy**, the last of them all.*

Game Center

Bible Ping Pong

Divide the class into two teams. The first member of team #1 says "Genesis." The first member of team #2 says "Exodus." The second member of team #1 must say "Leviticus," etc. until all five books are named. If a child misses, have him sit down, and give the opposing team the opportunity to respond. Set a timer for one to three minutes, depending on the size of your group. To keep the game moving, allow each player only until the slow count of three to name the next book. After Deuteronomy, go back to Genesis and repeat until the timer goes off. The team with the most members standing when the timer goes off is the winner. This drill may be repeated adding more book names as they are learned.

Or, Use the following review questions in a game of your choice:

1. How many books are in the Bible? (66)
2. How many men wrote the 66 books of the Bible? (40)
3. Over how many years did it take to write the Bible? (1,600)

4. Whose ideas are written in the Bible and how did the authors get them? (The thoughts and ideas are God's. The men were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write them down.)
5. Why can you trust that what is written in the Bible is true? (God inspired it and He never changes His mind.)
6. Where do you read about the beginnings of things? (Genesis)
7. Where do you read about the endings of things? (Revelation)
8. What is the main theme of the Bible? (God's message of salvation; His plan of redemption.)
9. What are some "beginnings" told in the book of Genesis? (Time & matter, heavens & earth, man, sin, judgment.)
10. Who did God promise to make a great nation of people from? (Abraham)
11. What is the name of the nation of people that came from Abraham & Sarah? (Israel)
12. Why did God want a special nation of people? (He wanted them to be His messengers to the rest of the world, to tell about God and His wonderful plan of salvation.)
13. Why is it important for us to read and understand the Bible? (What pleased God in those stories will please Him today.)