

# Introduction to The Bible

(God's True Story)

## Pre-Session Warm Up

How many of you have gone camping? Did you take a flashlight with you? Was it handy? Why? [Teacher, help the children discover that a flashlight can help you find your way in the dark. It can keep you from bumping into trees or tripping over rocks or even getting off on the wrong path.] In what ways do you think that the Bible is like a flashlight? [Teacher, help the children discover that the Bible shows us the way to live our lives so that we stay on the path of righteousness that leads to heaven.]

## Opening Prayer

Father, thank You for giving us Your Word, the holy Bible! How else would we know You or understand Your marvelous plan of salvation if You hadn't? Your Word is like a flashlight on a dark path at night; it helps us see the right way to go in life. Give us a hunger and a thirst to read and understand Your Word so that we might fall more in love with You. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

## Memory Verse:

*Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)*

## Lesson

I have in my hand a very special book. It is actually 66 separate books combined into one. We call all 66 books "the Bible". *Bible* means "book." Even though God used men to write the Bible, the words they wrote were not simply their own. They were the thoughts and ideas of God. The inspiration for this book was given to men from God; they wrote down what the Holy Spirit inspired them to write. That's why we call it the *Word of God*.

2 Peter 1:20-21

*Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, (21) or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

God gave us the Bible to teach us how to live our lives in a way that pleases Him.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (17) God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

You can trust God's Word, the Holy Bible. None of this book was made up by men. Everything in it is true. And everything in it will always be true. God's Word will never change, and it will last forever.

Psalm 119:160

*The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.*

You can always trust God's Word. Jesus said...

Matthew 24:35

*Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.*

God used as many as 40 different men to write the 66 books of the Bible. These 40 men didn't all live at the same time. It took over 1,600 years for these men to write the whole Bible. But because the Holy Spirit guided each writer, the things that were written the first year agree perfectly with those written the last.

The Bible is one book, one history, one story — His story. The author of it is God. From the beginnings described in Genesis to the ending described in Revelation, God is working things out. Right down to the minutest detail there is one great purpose moving through the ages: the eternal design of the Almighty God to redeem a wrecked and ruined world. The Bible tells the story of God's plan and purpose for our lives — His wonderful plan to save us from Satan's clutches.

Reading the Bible is like putting together a puzzle. All the stories we read in the Bible help us to see a true picture of what God is like, so we can know and love Him.

That's why it is important to understand that the 66 books of the Bible are really one book, telling one story. The Bible is God's true story and reading it helps us know and love Him.

### **Old and New Testaments**

The 66 books in the Bible are divided into two sections. The first section is called the Old Testament. It contains all the books that were written before the Lord Jesus came to earth. You'll find the Old Testament in the front part of your Bible; it has 39 of the 66 books in it. The first book in the Old Testament is called Genesis. The last book is Malachi. [Teacher, show the students how much of the Bible is the Old Testament by showing the thickness of Genesis through Malachi in your Bible.]

The last 27 books are called the New Testament. The New Testament begins with the book of Matthew and goes all the way through the book of Revelation. [Teacher, show this section.] These books tell about the time when Jesus came to earth and about what happened afterward. Revelation tells us what will happen at the end of time.

### **Finding a Book**

You can find any book in the Bible easily if you know how to use the Table of Contents. So, I want you to open your Bibles to a page at the front of your Bible called *Table of Contents* that lists all the books in the Bible. [Teacher, help the children find the page. Then help them locate several Old and New Testament books, using their Table of Contents.]

### **Finding a Verse**

Each book of the Bible is divided into chapters and verses. Each chapter and verse are numbered. Let's look at the Book of Genesis, the first book in the Bible. Now turn to the second page of Genesis. Do you see some big numbers? Those are the chapter numbers. The little numbers are the verse numbers. How many verses are in Genesis chapter 1? (31). How many verses are in Genesis chapter 2? (25).

You can find any verse in the Bible if you know the name of the book, the chapter number, and the verse number. The exact place in the Bible where a verse is found is called its reference. Here's how you write it out. [Teacher, write Psalm 119:160, then have the children find that verse and read it.]

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.

Your Bible is God's very special message to you. In it you will find everything you need to learn: how you can know God and please Him, how to get along with other people, how to be happy and find success in life. Since all that is in your Bible, you need to learn to use it. No other book in the world can do all this for you!

### **Closing Prayer**

Father, thank You so much for giving us your Word! We'd be lost without it. It's like a flashlight in the darkness showing us the way to live. Help us to always love and cherish our Bibles and give us a desire to read them every day. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

## Learning Activities

### The Bible Song:

The B I B L E

Now that's the book for me

I stand alone on the Word of God

The B I B L E

### Game Center

#### Sword Drills

Practice finding verses in the Old and New Testaments. [Teacher, print references on flashcards. Hold up one flashcard at a time, and see who can find the book first. But be sure to congratulate each child as he finds it, and then have someone read the verse.]

- Psalm 119:18 *Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.*
- Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth will disappear, but my words will never disappear.*
- Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.*
- 2 Peter 1:20-21 *Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.*

- John 20:31 *But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.*
- Psalm 119:160 *The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.*
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. (17) God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work.*

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 years)
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. What is the main theme of the Bible? (God's message of salvation; His plan of redemption.)
7. Why is it important for us to read and understand the Bible? (What pleased God in those stories will please Him today.)

