

UNIT ONE**Lesson One: The Bible****OBJECTIVES:**

- Convey the truth that the Bible is God's Word.
- Understand how the Bible came to be.
- Know why the Bible is important in our lives.
- The Bible points us to Jesus, from Genesis through Revelation.

LESSON SUMMARY:

- Know why the Bible was written.
- Know where the Bible came from.
- Know how the Bible was written.
- Learn that the Bible is the truth.

Materials Needed:

- A Bible for every student
- Colored pencils or Bible highlighters
- Picture cards: Bible, world, heart, heaven, Jonah, Daniel, Jesus in manger, feet/follower
- Follow-up worksheet: "God's Word is True".

Notes:

- > John 17:17 & 2 Timothy 3:16 are used in this lesson.
- > There are memory-helpers listed at the end of this lesson that can be inserted throughout the lesson.
- > The closing prayer includes prayer requests from the group.

Possible Adaptations:

- Preprint Bible verse stickers (John 17:17, 2 Timothy 3:16).
- Preset location of verses in students' Bibles using sticky notes.

LESSON:

Have a Bible available for each student in your class. Encourage them to see it, feel it, write or draw in it, and make it their own during the lesson. The suggested version is NIV.

OPENING PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, help us learn about Your Holy Word, the Bible. Teach us that the Bible is Your true and only Word; there is nothing else that can take its place. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION: *(Show Bible O/N picture card.)*

Today we will learn about the Bible, sometimes called the Word of God. We will learn who wrote the Bible and how old it is. We will also learn why reading or listening to the Bible is so important. Lastly, we will learn God's Word is true! Say it with me, "God's Word is true!"

NOTES FOR CLASS OR HOME

Throughout this lesson look for names for God. List them here:

1. Yahweh

2. Immanuel

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

CHECKOUT:

Proverbs 30:5

The Bible is sometimes called:

My Bible looks like this:



What Is the Bible?

The Bible is a collection of books or ancient writings where we learn about God. Everything we need to know about God and how to live our lives can be found in the Bible. God did not leave anything out! Most importantly, the Bible tells us all about Jesus and everything we need to know in order to be forgiven by God and live in heaven someday. We also know... "God's Word is true!"

- Have students put their name in their Bibles if they have not done so already.
- Use the index to show all the books of the Bible.

Why the Bible was written: *(Show picture cards: world, heart, heaven.)*

The Bible is God's story of love for His people. God begins by telling how He created the earth and heaven. God created everything! God is the Maker and Creator! He finishes His story telling about our home in heaven. In the middle, God tells how He loves and saves us, and how He has loved and saved people for of thousands years. We are in the middle of the story! "God's Word is true!"

Who the writers of the Bible were:

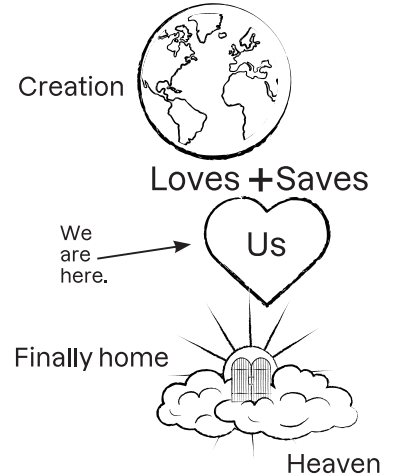
The Bible was written by many different people, but each of those authors was chosen by God to write down His words. Because God inspired the writers, leading their thoughts, there are no mistakes in the Bible. It is the true Word of God and we can trust it. "God's Word is true!" reading or listening to the Bible is so important. Lastly, we will learn God's Word is true! Say it with me, "God's Word is true!"

- Have students look up John 17:17 and highlight "Your word is truth." in their Bible. *(Use a colored pencil. Markers tend to bleed through the paper.)*
- Consider having the students write the verse on the inside cover of their Bible for a quick reference point.
- If writing is an issue, preprint the verse on sticker paper and have the students add the sticker to inside cover.
- See John 17:17 chant at end of lesson.

God chose three different ways throughout history to tell us His story and lead us to heaven. *(Show picture cards: Jonah, Daniel, Jesus in manger, heaven, feet/ followers).*

1. From the time of creation until the time when Jesus was born, God chose people, who we call **prophets**, to share His words with others.
 - a. The prophets were filled with God's spirit; the Spirit gave them the power and words to use. They wrote in their own words, yet what they wrote was truly the **Word of God**. The Bible says they were inspired
 - All scripture is inspired by God. See 2 Timothy 3:16.
 - Highlight or label verse with sticker.
 - b. The prophets were given the ability to preach God's message to people.
 - c. The prophets were the writers of the **Old Testament**, the first half of the Bible. They offered hope that a Savior (the Messiah) would come some day.

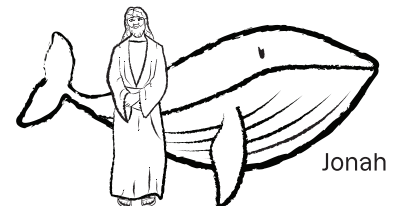
NOTES FOR CLASS OR HOME



JOHN

17:17

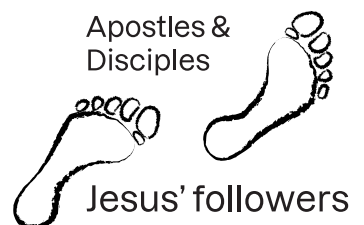
Two examples of prophets
in the Old Testament:



Jonah



Daniel



2. When Jesus was born and living on earth, Jesus told us what God is like. Jesus is God's Son, our Savior (the Messiah). Jesus shows us how much God loves us.
3. After Jesus returned to heaven, His followers, the **apostles and disciples**, were given the power of the Spirit. They were the first missionaries. They took the words and promises of forgiveness and heaven to people all over the world. They were also the writers of the **New Testament**, the second half of the Bible.

How old is the Bible?

The earliest writings in the Bible are now over 3,000 years old. It took about 1,100 years in total to write the Bible. It was written in many different places by many different people who were inspired by God.

It was brought together and put into one book by the leaders of the church.

Why do we read the Bible? *(Show picture cards of heart, heaven.)*

The Bible tells us all about who God is, and it tells us about God's Son Jesus Christ. The Bible helps us understand how God wants us to live and act. It shares the stories of many people just like us who were faithful to God and His teachings. These stories help us understand about things in our own lives, and we can share them to help others. Reading God's words of love and forgiveness gives us joy and the hope of heaven.

Review

1. The Bible is God's Holy Word.
2. The Bible is true.
3. Nothing can replace the Bible.

(Before praying, take prayer requests from the group.)

Closing Prayer: Dear God, thank You for the great gift of Your Bible. It helps us learn about You and how You want us to live our lives. Help us be like the writers of the Bible and share Your good news about Jesus with everyone we meet. Today we'd like to pray for *[insert prayer requests here]*. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

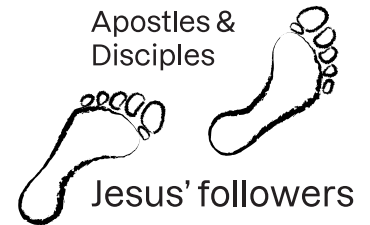
Tune of Thank You

Thank You, for giving me the Bible
Thank You, because I know it's true.
Thank You, for giving me the Bible
I know that it's true.

John 17:17 Chant:

Your Word (clap, clap)
Is Truth (clap, clap)
John 17 (clap, clap)
17 (clap, clap)

NOTES FOR CLASS OR HOME



UNIT ONE

ALTERNATE LESSON

Lesson One: The Bible

OBJECTIVES:

- Convey the truth that the Bible is God's Word.
- Understand that God's Word is true.

Materials Needed:

- A Bible
- Picture cards: world, heaven, heart

If applicable: consider having the original student worksheet available for staff or volunteers who may be assisting the group. It is a good source for background knowledge, especially if questions arise at a later time.

OPENING PRAYER:

Dear Heavenly Father, help us learn about Your Holy Word, the Bible. Teach us that the Bible is Your true and only Word and there is nothing else that can take its place. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO THE LESSON

Today we will learn about the Bible, sometimes called the Word of God. We will learn that "God's Word is true!" Say it with me, "God's Word is true!"

LESSON:

This is my Bible. The cover is (name color of cover). Not all Bibles are (color). Some are (name other colors). It doesn't matter what color your Bible is on the outside; the outsides of Bibles can be different or look the way you want them to. But, God is in charge of the words inside of the Bible. (Show the inside of your Bible.) God told some people over 3,000 years ago what to put in the Bible. God told the writers everything they needed to know yesterday, everything we need to know today, and everything we need to know for tomorrow. "God's Word is true!"

Possible Discussion Questions.

- Do you have a Bible? If so, what does it look like?
 - If you don't have a Bible, do you know someone who does have one? Who is that person?
 - If you don't have a Bible, would you like a Bible? If so, who could help you get a Bible?
1. The Bible starts with the story of creation. It tells us God made everything. *(Show world picture card.)*
Here we learn that "God's Word is true!"
 2. The Bible ends with heaven. Some day we will live in heaven with Jesus. *(Show heaven picture card.)*
Here we learn that "God's Word is true!"
 3. In the middle of the Bible, God tells us how He loves us and saves us from our sins. *(Show heart picture card.)*
Here we learn that "God's Word is true!" *(Put all three cards in order and review creation, love and heaven.)*

Tune of Thank You

Thank You, for giving me the Bible
Thank You, because I know it's true. -or-
Thank You, for giving me the Bible
I know that it's true.

John 17:17 Chant:

Your Word (clap, clap)
Is Truth (clap, clap)
John 17 (clap, clap)
17 (clap, clap)

CLOSING PRAYER: *(Before praying, take prayer requests from the group.)*

Dear God, thank You for the great gift of the Bible. It helps us learn about You and how You want us to live our lives.

We know the Bible is true; thank You! Today we'd like to pray for *[insert prayer requests here]*. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.