

Lesson

WHY I Believe the Bible Is God's Word

Jackie Perseghetti Art by Eric Norman / Design by Dale Oates

**Two-session
training for
Christian
children ages
9-11 with an
adaptation for
primaries.**

Teaching Schedule

Session One

Introduction
Discovery Stations/Group Sharing
Bible Background
Gospel Presentation
Prayer and Praise

Session Two

Review and Reports
Object Lesson
Demonstration/Practice Sessions
Prayer and Praise

Teaching Objective

That each child will be able to state reasons why he believes the Bible is God's Word.

Proof Verse

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"
2 Timothy 3:16.

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Fantastic Fact Finder

- The Bible is outstanding!**
Although 40 different men wrote God's message over 1,500 years, the message of God's love is the same throughout the whole book. God is the author!
The Bible said that God hung the earth on nothing long before man discovered it. (Job 26:7)
Even though the Bible is thousands of years old it tells about things that are happening today. (Galatians 3:12-24, 1 Timothy 6:16 Proverbs 30:1)
The Bible has been translated into nearly 2,000 languages. Billions of Bibles have reached every continent in the world.
Although many people have tried to destroy the Bible, God has protected His message all through the years so that we can have it today! (Isaiah 40:8)
- The Bible is accurate!**
Very old copies of the Bible were found near the Dead Sea. The scribes who copied the Bible today with very few changes. God has preserved His Word for us.
Archaeologists discovered clay tablets which tell of the Bible. They were eyewitnesses! (2 Peter 1:16)
- The Bible tells how it came from God!**
"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)
"For the prophecy came not in old times by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:21)
"Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (Jeremiah 1:9)
- The Bible changes our lives!**
Because the Bible is God's Word it is powerful. As people believe and obey the Bible, their lives are changed! (Psalm 119:11) (Give examples of Paul's life.)
(Tell how the Bible changes your life.)

How God Kept His Word FOR YOU!

All Scrip...

Visual Aids and Other Teaching Helps

Supplies

- 3 books, each 2-3" thick
- Bible
- Brown paper (can use grocery bags)
- Black felt marker
- Oversized white shirt to simulate a lab coat
- 3 sheets notebook paper
- 3 pencils
- 3 Discovery Sheets
- Box containing broken appliance or equipment
- Fantastic Fact Finder for each student
- Paper fastener for each student
- Gospel at Your Fingertips

Preparation

1. Commit your teaching to God. Pray for your students' interest and understanding.
2. Cover the three books with brown paper. Using a black felt marker, write one of the following titles on each cover: *Koran*, *Tripitaka*, *New Age Beliefs* (not an actual title).
3. Ask two adults, or two responsible teens, to be your helpers for this hour. They will be needed when class is divided into three discovery stations.
4. Set up each discovery station with a sheet of notebook paper and pencil.
5. Photocopy the three Discovery Sheets on bright paper. Use a different color for each topic.

6. Place a broken piece of equipment or a broken appliance in a box with a lid.
7. Photocopy Fantastic Fact Finder (one per child) on bright card stock. Laminiate if possible. Cut apart and assemble the Fantastic Fact Finder with a paper fastener or key ring.
8. Prepare "Gospel at Your Fingertips" visual as shown below. On a yellow strip of construction paper 3" x 18" draw bold figures. Fold strip on dotted lines. Make a contrasting paper sleeve 3¼" x 12", adding the title GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU! Slip the sleeve over the strip and fold ends back. If you teach a large group, increase strip size to 5" x 24" and sleeve to 5¼" x 19".



Session One

Introduction

In my hands, I have the Bible as well as books that are important to people who are not Christians. The *Koran*, written by a man named Muhammad, is used by Muslims. The *Tripitaka* is a collection of Buddha's teachings and this book (*New Age*) represents many other beliefs that do not follow what the Bible teaches. What makes the Bible different from these books? (*Let students respond.*) The Bible is different because it is God's Word. But can't these books be God's Word, too?



How can we be sure the Bible is God's one and only true message to us?

This is a question people sometimes wonder about. We're going to be able to answer this question by the end of class today.

Discovery Stations/ Group Sharing

(Optional: Teacher puts on an oversized white shirt or other prop to simulate a lab coat.)

I'm not going to stand here and tell you all the reasons why I believe the Bible is God's Word. You are going to examine the facts and see what you can find. You will divide into three "discovery stations."

Each group will have a different test it will be putting the Bible through. At the end of 20 minutes we will come back together to see what each group has found.

(Make sure each group has paper, pencil and appropriate Discovery Sheet. Provide enough sheets so two people can share one. One adult or teen helper per group is recommended. Instruct students to read the facts and check the Scripture verses, then pick two or three reasons to share with the entire group. Have two or three children volunteer to report. Call groups together at the end of 15 minutes and tell them to be prepared to share when called upon. Allow maximum of five minutes for each group.)

There are other books that claim to be from God but the Bible is different from all other books that have been written. Even though people have tried to

destroy the Bible or to prove it wrong, they haven't been able to.

Sometimes you might hear people make fun of the Bible, saying, "Oh, it's just an old, outdated book. It doesn't have anything to say to us today!" Discovery group #1, what outstanding facts can you tell us about the Bible? (Group 1 shares.)

The Bible is not outdated because God, who is the author, made all things and knows all things from the beginning to the end of time. The Bible is outstanding.

Perhaps you've heard people say the Bible sounds like a bunch of made-up stories which couldn't possibly be accurate. Some of these people have not even studied the Bible. They are just saying what someone else has told them. What are some things different records show us? (Group 2 shares.)

We know from ancient records, archaeology and Jesus that the Bible is accurate.

So far we have found that the Bible is an outstanding book and it is an accurate record of God's message. But there are also people who say the Bible is only the words of men. How do we know the Bible is God's Word and not man's ideas? (Group 3 shares.)

Hundreds of prophecies in the Bible have come true exactly as they were told. Only God could know these things in advance!

Bible Background

(Pick up the stack of books used earlier, holding them in one hand while holding the Bible in the other. Raise one hand to elevate the Bible above the other books.)

None of these other books could stand up to all the tests we have placed the Bible through today. No other book comes from God. The Bible is a very special book—one of a kind! (Have children turn to 2 Timothy 3:16.)

In 2 Timothy 3:16 we learn

how the Bible was written—all Scripture is given by *inspiration of God*. Inspiration of God means *God breathed*—God gave His message to chosen men to write down. We know the Bible is truthful and reliable. How do we know these words are God's words? (Let children respond.) That's right. The Bible says so right here in 2 Timothy 3:16.

Since the Bible is supported by accurate records, outstanding facts and fulfilled prophecies we have no reason to doubt it when it claims to be God's Word!

(Put Bible down and show side A of poster. Refer to different segments as you discuss.)

Do you know how we got the Bible we have today? (Allow children to share what they know.) The Bible was written before man invented paper. God gave certain laws to Moses and they were carved in stone. Other important laws began to be written on scraped animal skins called *parchment* or on sheets of papyrus leaves. Why would they need to be handled carefully? (They were the only copies and with constant use would begin to fade and fall apart. New copies were then needed to replace the older ones.)

Do you think just anyone could make new copies of God's Word? No! Only special people called scribes were allowed to copy God's Word and they had to follow certain rules. Not one mistake was allowed!

Do we have any evidence that these scribes did a good job? Yes! About 50 years ago (1947)

THE BIBLE: **What Do Records Show?**

Some people say the Bible is a bunch of made-up stories which couldn't possibly be accurate. Some of these people have not even studied the Bible. They are just saying what someone else has told them. What are some things different records show us? (Group 2 shares.)

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Hundreds of prophecies in the Bible have come true exactly as they were told. Only God could know these things in advance!

THE BIBLE: **What Do Prophecies?**

In A.D. 70 the Jewish temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Within about 200 years the Jews were banished from their land. But the prophet Ezekiel told that they would return as a nation many years later (Ezekiel 37:21). It happened in 1948, more than 2,500 years after God gave Ezekiel His message; the Jewish nation again came to be in Israel.

Some people say the Bible was written after it happened so that parts could be made up. But many examples of things that were written long before they happened. The Bible told the exact city where Jesus would be born hundreds of years in advance. Only God would know when and where His Son would come to earth (Micah 5:2).

500 years before Zechariah told how the prophecies would be fulfilled in Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9-10) Sunday (John 12:12-15)

a shepherd boy discovered copies of Scripture almost 2,000 years old. They were found in a cave near the Dead Sea and are called "The Dead Sea Scrolls." Does someone remember what you learned about the Dead Sea Scrolls in your discovery group? (*Our Bibles today are very close to the wording of those scrolls.*) The scribes did a fantastic job!

Can anyone tell me what language the Old Testament was written in? (*Let children respond.*) Right! It was written mainly in Hebrew. How about the New Testament? Yes, in Greek. Since those first copies, translations of the entire Bible have been made into other languages as well. Today we have Bibles we can understand. God has protected His Word through the years so that we can have His true message today.

But why is it so important that we have God's message today? God has a plan for your life. Without the Bible you would not know that plan!

Gospel Presentation

(See "God's Plan for You" in "Gospel at Your Fingertips" section of Resource Cards.)

Review

(Use side B of the poster to review the general reasons we believe the Bible is God's Word. Ask the children for specific examples in each category.)

Prayer and Praise

(Conclude class by reading Isaiah 40:8 and learning the song, "God's Word Endures Forever," p. 18. Depending on the maturity or background of your class, you may want to choose another chorus or use the words of the song as a rap.)

Have children take turns thanking God for keeping His Word for us and for placing details in it long ago that help us know the Bible is His message to us.)

Assignment

(Have two children prepare to give reports on how God has protected His Word.)

SESSION TWO

Review and Reports

(Use side B of the poster to review the reasons we believe the Bible is God's Word. Review the Bible Background from Session One, then have reports on Baruch and Tyndale to show how God protected His Word.)

God Protects His Word through Jeremiah

King Jehoiakim, a ruler in Old Testament days, was not a good king. He turned from the true God and set up idols. Many of the people followed him in his sinful ways. So God gave His Word to His prophet, Jeremiah, and sent him to warn the king and the people about the consequences of sin. The people became so angry that Jeremiah had to hide from them.

One day God said to him, "Take a scroll and write on it all the words I have spoken to you." Jeremiah sent for his

THE BIBLE:

Outdated or OUTSTANDING?

40 different men wrote down God's words over 1,500 years ago. Man has disobeyed God and deserves to die. But God loves us and desires to save us from our sins. This helps us know there was one author—God!

At one time some people thought the earth was carried on the back of a huge turtle! Two thousand years before Jesus came to earth the Bible said, "He [God] hangs the earth on nothing" (Job 26:7). In 1687 Isaac Newton discovered the earth is not supported by anything. When we saw the first pictures taken from space we knew for sure what God knew all along!

CHANGE

NO OTHER BOOK, ANCIENT OR MODERN, CAN MAKE ALL THE

The Bible continues to speak about things that are happening in our world today. (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 6:16-19.) It has been translated into nearly 2,000 different languages. From the first copy until today billions of Bibles have reached every continent of the world.

Tell how the Bible has changed YOUR life!

Isaiah 53

In Isaiah 53, 15 facts were written about Jesus' death 700 years before He was nailed to the cross for our sins. Every one of these facts came true exactly as God said. (See examples--Isaiah 53:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12.)

TYRE

Before the prophet Tyre would never be destroyed and fishermen are still spreading the gospel.

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friend, Baruch, who was a scribe. Jeremiah asked Baruch to write down all the Word of God, then to take the scroll to the House of the Lord.

Baruch read God's Word to the leaders there and they became afraid. They heard that God punishes sin. They said, "We will surely tell the king of all these words." But when they told the king he grabbed the scroll, cut off the part that was read and angrily cast it into the fire. He didn't stop until the whole scroll was burned. Would this part of God's Word forever be destroyed? No. God says in Psalm 119:89: "Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." No king or fire can destroy God's Word. God gave His words again to Jeremiah and Baruch wrote them on another scroll. Today we still have the words God gave to Jeremiah! (See *Jeremiah 26:29-31*.)

God Protects His Word through Tyndale

Many years ago there were very few Bibles because they had to be copied by hand. Then, about 500 years ago a wonderful thing happened. A man by the name of Gutenberg invented the printing press. He wanted the Bible to be the very first book printed on his press because he knew it was God's Word. About 100 copies were made.

But the King of England and the church leaders, who did not want to admit they were sinners and needed to change their ways, tried to keep people from getting Bibles.

God had been preparing a man named William Tyndale to help spread His Word. Tyndale began to translate the New Testament into a language all the people could understand. Finally he had to leave England because his life was in danger.

God protected Tyndale in the country where he was hiding and he was able to keep working until the New Testament was finished. At last, several thousand copies of the New Testament in English were printed. But how would they get the Bibles to England?

God helped them think of a plan. A ship leaving for England was to be loaded with large sacks of wheat and bales of cotton. So the New Testaments were hidden in these sacks. Although

most of these were confiscated Tyndale printed more and better copies! No matter what the leaders and rulers did, God's Word could not be destroyed.

Tyndale was put in prison but he continued to work on the Old Testament. One day wicked rulers tied him to a stake and burned him. William's last words were a prayer something like this: "Help the king to see that everyone needs a Bible." Later, when a new king became ruler of the land, that prayer was answered. Everyone who had enough money could buy a Bible!

God used William Tyndale in a special way to protect His Word so that we could have it, too.

Object Lesson

We have learned that God gave us the Bible and has protected it so that we could know the way to Heaven.

In 2 Timothy 3:16 we find a list of all the reasons why God kept His Word for us. What are they? (*Doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness.*) These are all part of God's wonderful plan for our lives. By giving us the Bible He shows how much He loves us. Sadly, though, some Christians choose to live their lives without reading or knowing God's Word.

(*Show box containing obviously broken appliance or equipment.*) Some people don't realize their lives are like what is inside this box. (*Show contents of box.*) It could be something very useful. But it is not working right. Someone needs to find the instructions to fix it.

Our lives might be like this _____ (*name of broken item*).

What are some of the things that cause people to have "broken" lives today? (*Divorce, drugs, fighting, lying, bitterness, abuse, breaking the law.*)

The Bible is our instruction book, showing us how to live right. It is also the fix-it manual that can put our lives back together so we can be all God made us to be.

Remember, when we obey the Bible *it changes our lives*. It is not an ordinary book. God says that it is "sharper than

any two-edged sword." It gets right down into our hearts where no one else can see and God uses His Word to change us.

John, a fifth grader, tells this story. "One time I stole two dollars from my sister's room and spent it on candy. A few days later in Sunday school I learned about God's command, 'You shall not steal.' It really stuck in my head. Several days later I made two dollars and gave it to my sister." God's Word showed John what was wrong in his life (*reproof*) and helped change him for the better (*correction*).

After we allow God's Word to reprove and correct us we can follow God's directions (*instruction in righteousness*) to keep our lives from getting "broken" again!

God uses His Word to change us because He loves us and wants us to bring honor to His name (Ephesians 1). This is good news and worth telling others about! There are many people who have not heard the truth. That's one of the reasons we need to be able to share the things we've learned about God's Word today. Let's look at the following situation and think how you might have handled it.

Demonstration/ Practice Session

(*Teacher: Demonstrate with a helper a situation similar to the following.*)

Jason: How come you're reading the Bible, Jerry?

Jerry: It's really awesome, Jason. God tells us a lot of neat things we need to know.

Jason: What makes you think God wrote it?

Jerry: Well, for one thing, the Bible says God did and everything else the Bible says about people, places and events is true.

Jason: Like what?

Jerry: Well, it says God hung the earth on nothing. We didn't really know that for sure until a couple thousand years after the Bible was written. The Bible tells about cities that were going to be

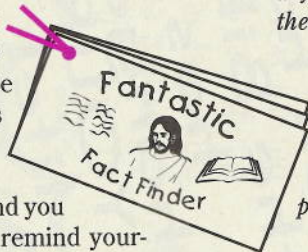
destroyed hundreds of years before it happened. Hey, maybe you'd like to see my Fantastic Fact Finder. It tells a lot more about the Bible.

Jason: Sure, why not.

(Choose one child to pass out Fantastic Fact Finders.)

These fact finders are to help you share with other kids who may not know the Bible is God's Word. And you can use them to remind yourself of the things we learned today.

Now, suppose a skeptic (someone who doubts the Bible is God's Word) laughs and says to you, "Ha! I don't believe the Bible! It's just a bunch of made-up stories, that's all!" Using your fact finder, what are some things you might say in response? Go ahead and



practice this with your partner.

(Have group break up into twos. Have each child take a turn as "presenter" and "skeptic." Only the presenter should be using his fact finder. Have adult or teen helpers circulate, listening and encouraging each couple. Give children a few minutes to practice. Then have them trade roles.)

It's time to trade places. Suppose another skeptic says: "Ha! The Bible is full of errors! It's so old—there's no way it could be accurate!" *(Allow children several minutes to practice.)*

Prayer and Praise

(Conclude class by singing, "God's Word Endures Forever." Review 2 Timothy 3:16, giving examples of doctrine [1

Cor. 15:3-4], reproof [Rom. 12:9], correction [Rom. 12:21] and instruction in righteousness [Eph. 4:32]. Divide group into pairs and have each person say the verse to his partner.

Request volunteers to praise God for each of the profitable things in His Word. Pray for opportunities to use their Fantastic Fact Finder this week.)

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MATERIAL TO BE USED FOR PRIMARY CHILDREN

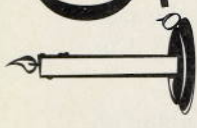
1. Use the poster, side A, to teach the "Bible Background" segment and the stories of Jeremiah and Tyndale.
2. Learn 2 Timothy 3:16a and use side B of the poster to teach some additional reasons we believe the Bible is God's Word.
 - a. Although many different men wrote down God's Word, it is the same message from beginning to end.
 - b. When we obey God's Word it changes our lives.
 - c. God has protected His book for thousands of years so that we could have the truth today.
 - d. People who actually saw Jesus wrote the words He spoke in the Bible.
 - e. The Bible told where Jesus would be born many years before it happened.

(Add additional reasons according to the age of your students.)

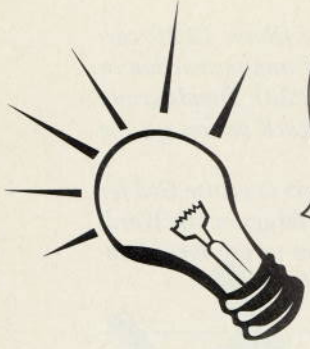
How to Lead a Child to Christ

1. Show him his NEED of salvation; that all persons are not going to Heaven; that no one in himself is good enough to go and the result of sin is forever separation from God (Romans 3:23; Revelation 21:27; John 8:21, 24).
2. Show him the WAY of salvation. Salvation is a free gift because the Lord Jesus took our place on the cross, was buried and rose again from the dead (John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4).
3. Lead him to RECEIVE the gift of salvation, even Jesus Christ, by trusting Him as his personal Savior (John 1:12; Revelation 3:20).
4. From the Word of God, help him find ASSURANCE of his salvation (John 3:36; Revelation 3:20; Hebrews 13:5).
5. Lead him to CONFESS Christ (Matthew 10:32). This confession should be made to you, other workers, later to his friends and as circumstances permit, in a public church service.

THE BIBLE:



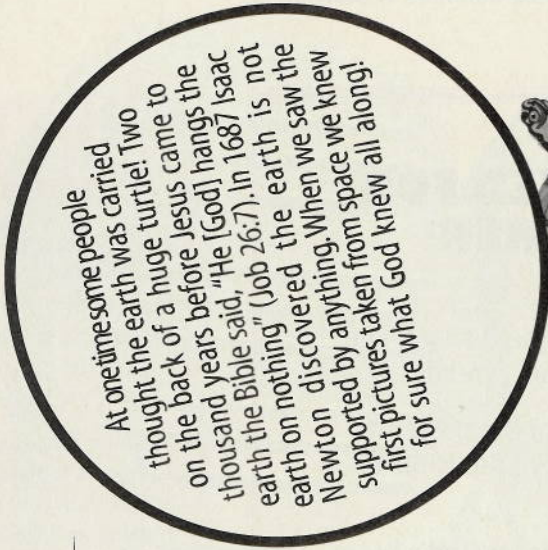
Outdated or OUTSTANDING?



40

different men wrote down God's words over 1,500 years but their message agrees: Man has disobeyed God and deserves to die. But God loves us and sent His Son to save us from our sins. This helps us know there was one author--God!

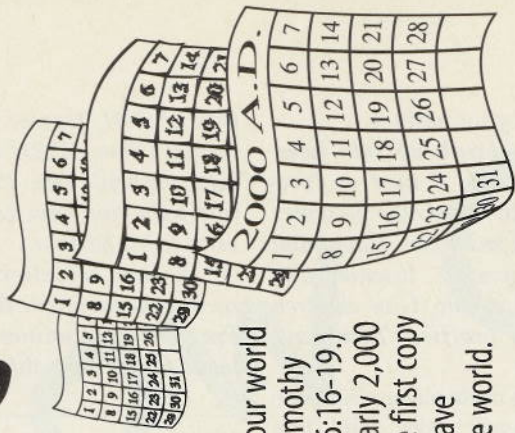
CHANGE



At one time some people thought the earth was carried on the back of a huge turtle! Two thousand years before Jesus came the earth the Bible said, "He [God] hangs the earth on nothing" (Job 26:7). In 1687 Isaac Newton discovered the earth is not supported by anything. When we saw the first pictures taken from space we knew for sure what God knew all along!

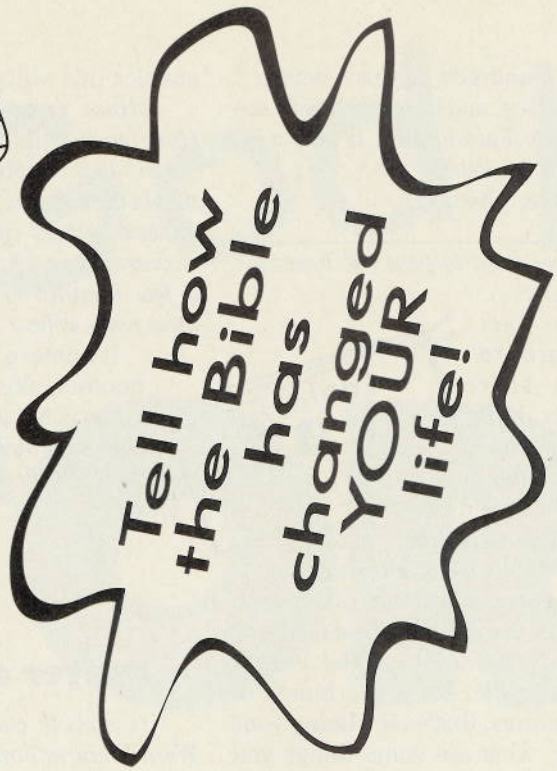


When the Bible is obeyed it changes lives today just as it did thousands of years ago (2 Corinthians 5:17). Paul's life was changed from a murderer to a preacher (Acts 9). John Newton's life was changed from a drunken man to a preacher. He wrote the wonderful song, "Amazing Grace."



The Bible

continues to speak about things that are happening in our world today. (Galatians 5:19-21; 1 Timothy 6:10; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 6:16-19.) It has been translated into nearly 2,000 different languages. From the first copy until today billions of Bibles have reached every continent of the world.



Tell how
the Bible
has
changed
YOUR
life!

NO OTHER BOOK, ANCIENT OR MODERN, CAN MAKE ALL THE CLAIMS THE BIBLE CAN!

What Do Records Show?

THE BIBLE:



In 1947 A.D. ancient scrolls were found in caves by the Dead Sea. They were early copies of Scripture and match very closely the words in our Bible today. For example, in the 66 chapters of the Isaiah scroll there are only 13 differences, mostly spelling changes. Our Bible is accurate after 2,000 years! (See Isaiah 40:8.)



Jesus knew the Bible was God's Word

and taught from it. He spoke about God's creation in Genesis (Matthew 19:4). Jesus told about the great flood in Genesis (Matthew 24:37-39). He referred to the books of Moses (first five books of the Bible), the prophets and Psalms (Luke 24:44).



Some people think they have discovered errors in the Bible when they see differences or confusing things they don't understand. One such person was Dr. William Ramsay. He thought the book of Acts was full of errors and wanted to prove it. He studied other old books and even went to the places Acts described. Ramsay was shocked. Everything was correct! The Bible record is trustworthy.

People who actually saw Jesus wrote down the things He said in the New Testament. They were eyewitnesses (Luke 1:1-3; 2 Peter 1:16!)

What about the Hittites?

The Bible mentions a group of people called the Hittites (Genesis 23:10). For a long time no traces of these people could be found. Was the Bible mistaken? No. About 100 years ago, archaeologists discovered clay tablets in Egypt which tell of a battle involving the Hittites. In 1906 a man named Hugo Winckler discovered the Hittite capital while digging in the country of Turkey.



THE BIBLE TELLS US HUNDREDS OF TIMES IT IS GOD'S WORD!



What Do Bible Prophecies Show?

THE BIBLE:

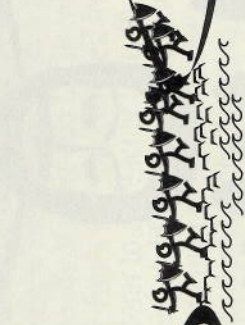


IN A.D. 70 the Jewish temple in Jerusalem was destroyed. Within about 200 years the Jews were banished from their land. But the prophet Ezekiel told that they would return as a nation many years later (Ezekiel 37:21). It happened! In 1948, more than 2,500 years after God gave Ezekiel this message, the Jewish nation again came to be in Israel.

Some people say the Bible was written after the events happened so that parts could be made up. But there are many examples of things that were written long before they happened. The Bible told the exact city where Jesus would be born hundreds of years in advance. Only God knew when and where His Son would come to earth (Micah 5:2).

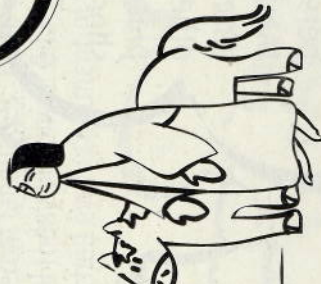


500 years before it happened the prophet Zechariah told how the promised Savior would ride into Jerusalem (Zechariah 9:9). We remember that day as Palm Sunday (John 12:12-15).



In the Old Testament God told how the city of Tyre would be destroyed--250 years before it happened (Ezekiel 26:3-6). Tyre would never be rebuilt on that spot and would only be a place for fishermen to spread their nets. Today there is only a bare place where Tyre once existed and fishermen are still spreading their nets there.

In Isaiah 53, 15 facts were written about Jesus' death 700 years before He was nailed to the cross for our sins. Every one of these facts came true exactly as God said.
(See examples--Isaiah 53:3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12.)



ALL THE PROPHECIES OF THE BIBLE HAVE COME TRUE EXACTLY AS TOLD OR ARE WAITING TO HAPPEN. ONLY GOD COULD KNOW ALL THESE THINGS IN ADVANCE!

Fantastic



Fact Finder

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- About 100 years ago archaeologists discovered clay tablets which tell of a battle with the Hittites. The Bible mentions people called Hittites 2,000 years ago! (Genesis 23:10)
- People who saw Jesus, God's Son, and actually heard His words were the ones who wrote them in the Bible. They were eyewitnesses! (2 Peter 1:16)
- Jesus taught the people from the Old Testament. He recognized it as God's Word. (Luke 24:44)

○ The Bible told things before they happened!

- The Bible told the exact city where Jesus would be born hundreds of years in advance. (Micah 5:2) Only God could know that.
- Ezekiel in the Bible prophesied that the Jewish people would return to their land as a nation. In 1948, almost 2,000 years later, the Jewish nation was made official in Palestine. No other nation ever came back together like this. (Ezekiel 37:21)
- In the Old Testament God told how the city of Tyre would be destroyed—250 years before it happened. (Ezekiel 26:3-6)
- In Isaiah 53, 15 facts were written about Jesus' death 700 years before He died on the cross.

○ The Bible tells how it came from God!

- "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)
- "For the prophecy came not in old times by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:21)
- "Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (Jeremiah 1:9)

○ The Bible changes our lives!

- Because the Bible is God's Word it is powerful. As people believe and obey it their lives are changed! (Psalm 119:11) *(Give examples of Paul and John Newton.)*
- *(Tell how the Bible changes your life.)*

THE GOSPEL AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Keep these favorite Gospel presentations on a key chain. Pull the one you need. Study the message, then tuck it in your Bible for easy reference.

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU

(See page 25 for visual instructions.)



(Show GOD'S PLAN FOR YOU.)

I'm going to tell you the story of the Bible from beginning to end in just five minutes. Watch closely!

(Pull flap forward, showing the world.) **God made the world and everything in it.** (Read Gen. 1:1.)

The Bible tells us that everything God made was good—the earth, plants, trees and people.

(Pull flap at end forward, showing Heaven.) God's plan is that you and I live with Him in His home in Heaven some day. The Bible is the story of how we can get from earth to Heaven.

(Pull strip to show man and woman.) **God loved the man and woman** He made and talked with them each day. But one day a terrible thing happened.

(Pull strip to show dark heart.) **The man and woman disobeyed God!** God is perfectly good—holy. So now the people He made were separated from Him by their sin. God loved His people but sin had to be punished! The punishment for sin, for disobeying God, is death.

God already had a plan to save His people from their sin. He would send a Savior—a person who would take their punishment for sin.

(Pull strip to show manger.) Many years went by. At last the day came for God to send the Savior of the world. Listen to these very special words from the Bible. (Read Luke 2:11.) **God sent His own perfect Son from Heaven** down to earth to be born as a baby. His name was Jesus, which means *Savior*. He was God but He took on a human body. He was the only one who obeyed all of God's laws. Because Jesus is God's

RESOURCE CARDS

Use these tested ideas to add fun and additional learning to your children's class! File by category for easy access.



SEASONAL IDEAS Junior

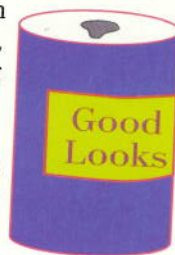
HUNGER/THIRST EXPERIMENT

Objects: Containers of vinegar, salt, sugar, Koolaid, baking soda, flour, ¼ measuring cup, a tablespoon and a pint jar. Tape labels on items as follows: Hunger and Thirst (vinegar), Good Looks (salt), Friends (sugar), Money (Koolaid), Righteousness (fresh baking soda), Fame (flour). Make a posterboard chart as shown.

Scripture: Matthew 5:6.

Lesson: (Display labeled food chart, containers and utensils on small table.) We're going to conduct an experiment to discover which ingredient when mixed with vinegar will fill this jar (hold up pint jar). If you have done this experiment before don't say the answer out loud.

The ingredients represent: (Let children read labels. Explain that hunger



BULLETIN BOARDS Primary/Junior

THE BIBLE IS ALIVE

As a challenge for Bible reading create the following bulletin board.

Materials:

- A light-colored background
- 6"-8" bright blue letters spelling THE BIBLE IS and READ IT!
- Green letters to spell ALIVE. (These may be outlined with a black felt-tip pen).
- Six white construction paper open Bibles (4½" x 6½") glued on black paper covers.
- A large picture of a Bible. (Optional: For a three-dimensional look, the top and one side of a shallow box can be covered. Gold letters and a strip of gift wrap



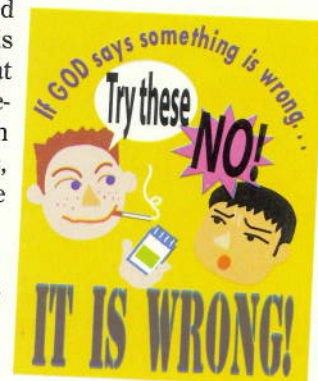
TEACHING TIPS

Primary/Junior

REINFORCEMENT IDEAS

Most teachers in Sunday school and Bible-based clubs have their students only one hour a week. This can bring frustration as we think of influences that bombard the child's mind during many hours in between. As you look through your curriculum, search for ideas you can reinforce over and over so that themes, verse phrases, prayers and biblical "mottoes" will be retained by your students.

Choose a few ideas you can incorporate every week, some that you will return to during the entire year, and others for a month or a quarter.



and thirst means "to really want something.") We will write the reaction for each combination on the chart. (Conduct experiment in the order listed.) If you keep on hungering and thirsting for righteousness, what will happen to your life? (It will be filled with right thoughts and actions. Read Matthew 5:6. Ask children for examples of righteousness: obey parents, read the Bible, pray, memorize Scripture, treat others as Jesus would, etc.)

—Susan Addington

Mix	One Tablespoon	Filled Jar: Yes or No
1/4 c. vinegar	salt	
1/4 c. vinegar	sugar	
1/4 c. vinegar	koolaid (or water)	
1/4 c. vinegar	flour	
1/4 c. vinegar	baking soda	

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can be used for the edges of the Bible. It can be fastened to the board with straight pins.

- Red yarn for connecting accents.

Print one of the messages below on each open Bible. Use different-colored, wide felt-tip pens for words and fine-tip felt pens for the references:

IT SPEAKS Psalm 119:24

IT SAVES James 1:21

IT CLEANSSES Psalm 119:9

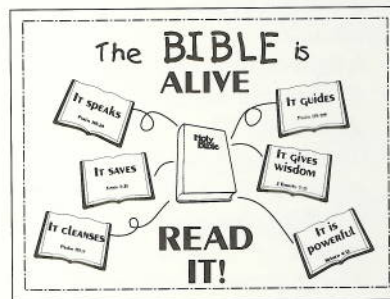
IT GUIDES Psalm 119:105

IT GIVES WISDOM 2 Timothy 3:15

IT IS POWERFUL Hebrews 4:12

Arrange board as shown. Have volunteers read each phrase and Scripture.

—Carolyn Lehman



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- Illustrate the truth with pictures and/or a poster.
- Personalize the phrase by relating it to individual students.
- Act it out through a puppet skit.
- Get the children to talk about it in small groups.

Here are a few examples:

Telling the truth makes me strong.

If God says something is wrong it is wrong!

I can do *all* things through Christ.

God cares about my problems.

God lives in me to help me not to sin.

God loves me but He hates my sin.

It doesn't pay to disobey.

God, have Your way in my life today.

—E. L.

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perfect Son, when He grew to be a man He could die for the sins of all the world.

(Pull strip to show cross.) The Lord Jesus Christ let wicked men nail Him to a wooden cross. How painful it was to hang on that cross until at last He died. You and I have sinned. We have lied and cheated and done mean things. We have not obeyed God's laws. We deserve to die for our sins. **But Jesus, the Savior of the world, died in your place and mine so that we could be with God forever.**

Listen to these wonderful words from the Bible, "Christ died for our sins, ... he was buried ... and rose again ..." (1 Cor. 15:3-4).

(Pull strip to show open tomb, then arrow pointing up.) Did Jesus stay dead? No! He rose again. That means He's alive! He returned to Heaven to be with God the Father.

(Pull strip to show a person and clean heart.) Did you know you are in the Bible? You are! God says, **Who-so-ever believes on Jesus will have everlasting life** (from John 3:16). *Who-so-ever* means every person in the world. It means you! If you believe today that Jesus died for your sins and rose again and trust Him as your Savior, God will forgive all your sins and give you life that lasts forever. He will live in you and help you obey God.

(Pull strip to show arrow pointing up to Heaven.) All those who have Jesus as their Savior will be able to go to His home in Heaven when their life on earth is done. They will live forever and ever with God. Will you believe Jesus died and rose for you? Will you trust the Lord Jesus Christ to save you from your sin today?

—M/J '97

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