

Learning About Our Bible

Lesson 36a — How Did We Get Our Bible?

Lesson 36b — What Is the Old Testament About?

Lesson 36c — What Is the New Testament About?

Lesson 36d — The Bible's Main Theme — Love

Lesson 36e — What Should We Do With Our Bible?

OVERVIEW

This unit is divided into a five-part study of our Bible, which contains the inspired record of God's revelation to mankind of Himself and His will for us. The thrust of this series is to provide the children with a basic understanding of what the Bible is, how it is divided, some of the main themes it covers, and why it is important to us.

Your students should realize that the Bible is not just one book — it actually is a library of sixty-six books written over a span of many centuries. The words recorded were inspired by God, but the personality of the various writers comes through in the Scriptures.

Focus your attention on getting your students familiar

with how the Bible is laid out. A number of the activities presented in the student handout and Teacher's Guide provide opportunities to work on this. Some of the activities presented may appear difficult on the primary level, but we would encourage you to work together with your students on them. We want the children to have a hands-on experience in learning to find things in their Bibles.

Overall, our goal is to help these little ones realize that the Bible is a book for today — a book which provides inspiration, knowledge of God, and instruction from Him regarding how we can be ready for eternity.

GAMES FOR REVIEW

Write the memory verses on a set of large index cards, using one card for each word (be sure to include the Scripture reference). To help keep them separated, use a different colored marker for each verse. The first verse has eight words, plus the Scripture reference, so choose nine children and have them draw a word card at random. Have them line up in the proper order to form the completed memory verse. Go down the line and have each say his word. Then have everyone repeat the verse in unison. Do this with each memory verse. Or, for variety, line up the word cards in proper order to make the memory verse, then turn over a few of the cards and let the children guess the missing words.

Make a simple drawstring bag for this Scripture Sack review game. Fill the sack with small objects that represent different stories or things talked about in the Old and New Testaments. Select students to take an object from the sack and tell what the object reminds them of from their Bible. If they are able to do this they may keep what they choose. Some suggestions for items to

use: miniature creche — Christmas; plastic baby — Moses; band-aids — Good Samaritan; lamb — Parable of lost sheep; snake — Serpent in Eden; Dove — Noah. And there are many more! Some objects can represent more than one story so if the child's answer makes sense, let him be a winner. This review is meant to emphasize that our Bible is full of wonderful stories.

If you have the space, jump rope rhymes are fun to do. Below, the words to the memory verse songs for this unit have been set up for such a game. Each word or part of a word that is underlined represents one jump. For example: "All scripture is giv-en" (two jumps). If you choose to sing the songs at a slower tempo you may want to add jumps to the song. In that case you would do: "All scrip-ture is giv-en" (four jumps). Each jump will match up with the beat of the music.

36a — All scripture is giv-en, all scripture is giv-en by the in-spi-ra-tion of God. All scripture is giv-en, all scripture is giv-en by the in-spi-ra-tion of God.

36b — This shall be writ-ten, this shall be writ-ten for the gen-er-a-tion to come. This shall be writ-ten, this shall be writ-ten for the gen-er-a-tion to come.

36c — But these are writ-ten, that ye might believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God. But these are writ-ten, that ye might believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

36d — Be-lov-ed, Be-lov-ed, let us love one an-oth-er: let us love one another: for love is of God.

36e — Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, the book of the LORD, the book of the LORD, seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and R-E-A-D, READ!

CONTEST IDEAS

Give each child a set of five paper-chain men (see Patterns). Across the front of the shirts write in the Scripture references of the memory verses for each week. Each Sunday let them color in the section that applies: the head for attendance, the shirt for knowing their memory verse, the pants for bringing their Bibles. If they bring someone to Sunday school put a gold star sticker on the shirt.

At the beginning of the unit, identify certain behaviors which will earn points for your students. Some examples: attendance, bringing their Bible, saying the memory verse, learning the books of the Old and New Testaments. Cut out a number of each of the bubble letters B-I-B-L-E. For each behavior performed, the child may select a specified number of letters from a container into which you have put the letters. At the end of the unit, the child who is able to spell the word "Bible" the most times is awarded a prize.

As a prize for one of the contests, give a copy of the cassette tape, "The Bible — The Amazing Book," listed under Support Material.

BULLETIN BOARDS

Cover your entire bulletin board with the word BIBLE (see Patterns). The large letters should be made from a pastel color. Write all the names of the books of the Bible inside these large letters.

Title your board MY FAVORITE BOOK — THE BIBLE! (see Patterns). Use black paper to make a cover for the Bible. Lay a white sheet of paper over this to represent the pages of the Bible. Write in several Scriptures of your choice to fill in the pages. Center this on your bulletin board. Give your students a 5½" x 8½" sheet of paper and ask them to draw a picture of a favorite Bible story. Frame these with different colors of construction paper and display them around the Bible on your board.

There is a poster which comes with the cassette tape "The Bible — The Amazing Book" listed under Support Material. It looks like a library bookshelf containing volumes labeled with the names of the books of the Bible. It would be perfect for a small bulletin board.

Use the memory verse for lesson 36e as the title of this board, SEEK YE OUT OF THE BOOK OF THE LORD, AND READ! Take photos of several different church members and Sunday school children reading the Bible. Frame these pictures with brightly colored construction paper and display them on your bulletin board. Use a background color that will help to set off the pictures.

UNIT SONGS

All the songs from "The Bible — The Amazing Book" listed under Support Material.

CHART IDEAS

Make bookworm charts for each of your students. They won't be reading entire books of the Bible but reward them for knowing their memory verses and also for any other verses from the Bible that they read to you. To make the bookworms, cut out a number of 3" circles (use several colors for interest). Give one circle to each child and have him draw a face for his "worm." Tell them they may earn circles for their bookworms by learning their memory verses and also by reading other verses to you (this is a good pre-class activity). One circle is awarded for each verse. They may write in the Scripture reference on the circle and have you sign your name. Then tape or staple the circles together. It will be fun to see how long these "worms" can grow.

Help your students make a unit chart using the letters BIBLE hanging from a heart shape, on which the words "I Love My . . ." are written (see Patterns). On the first Sunday, give each student a heart shape and have him tie a length of ribbon through the top hole so it can be suspended. On each Sunday, give your students a letter of the word. Have them write their memory verse for the week on the letter, and then hang it from the heart.

Enlarge the My Bible Tells Me chart to make a poster for each child (see Patterns). Each week let him color a portion of the poster.

SUPPORT MATERIAL

God's Word (Bible Activities) — Rainbow Books
My Bible — Discover God's Word (4 each of 6 coloring and activity pages), Rainbow Books
The Books of the Bible — Bible "Foldoramas"
The Bible Tells Me — Bible "Foldoramas"
The Bible — The Amazing Book — An Agapeland cassette tape by Sparrow Corporation
The Bible — The Amazing Book — A book by Tony Salerno, Nelson
What the Bible Is All About for Young Explorers — Editor, Frances Blankenbaker, Regal Books, GL Publishing
Learning About the Bible — Lion Book

TEXT Jeremiah 36:1-32; Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1,2; II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:19-21

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that over a period of many years, men who were inspired by God wrote the Bible so all people could know about Him. They will know that it is divided into two sections consisting of sixty-six books.

MEMORY VERSE All scripture is given by inspiration of God. — II Timothy 3:16

How Did We Get Our Bible?

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

ALL SCRIPTURE — Hold hands before body like an open book.

IS GIVEN — Place hands in front of body, finger tips touching thumbs, move hands toward self.

BY INSPIRATION — Point up with fully extended arm and then point to self.

OF GOD — Point up.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

An open Bible is the focus of our visual representation of the memory verse for the week. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut apart the three pieces as indicated by heavy black lines. Reassemble the picture one piece at a time as your group learns the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Take a large stack of books to class. Include a songbook, a dictionary, a cookbook, a textbook, a storybook, etc. Talk about the uses for each of these kinds of books. Then bring out your Bible. Explain that today's lesson is going to help them discover why the Bible is the most important book of all.

1. The Bible has two sections: the Old Testament and the New.

2. Jeremiah was one of the Old Testament writers who faithfully recorded God's messages for Israel and for us, even though men tried to destroy him and his writings.

3. In the New Testament, Jesus' disciple named Luke wrote the books of Luke and the Acts. He had perfect understanding of what the Apostles had seen and learned of Christ, and had traveled with Paul.

4. Paul declared that all Scripture is inspired of God. Peter tells us that it was recorded for us by holy men who were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Climax: God inspired holy men of old to write the books included in our Bible.

Conclusion: All men can know God and learn how to

please Him because He gave us the Bible.

Response: The students will be able to explain that the Bible is inspired by God. They will know that it is divided into two sections that are made up of many books which tell what God has done and will do.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The word *Bible* comes from the Greek word *biblia* which in turn was derived from *byblos* (papyrus) or the parchment of which books were made. It was not used with reference to all the books of the New and Old Testament until the fifth century A.D. Most of the Old Testament was written in Hebrew. Following the return of the Jews after the Babylonian Captivity some were written in Aramaic. The New Testament, was for the most part, written in Greek.

The first and most important of the ancient translations was from Hebrew into Greek and was called the Septuagint. The name was derived from the number of men (actually seventy-two) doing the translation and was usually designated by the Roman numerals LXX. The translation was completed around three hundred years before Christ. Scholars differ in their opinion why the translation was made, but most think it was for the benefit of the Jews in Alexandria, Egypt, who for the most part spoke Greek. However, the seventy-two Hebrew scholars were sent by the high priest to Alexandria at the request of the Egyptian monarch.

The Bible is composed of sixty-six books, thirty-nine in the Old Testament and twenty-seven in the New. When we consider that it was written over a period of fourteen hundred years, and by at least thirty-six different authors, we can readily understand that it had to be inspired by the Spirit of God to maintain its cohesive theme — the redemption of mankind. The Bible was copied laboriously by scribes until 1455 A.D. when it became the first major book to be printed on the newly-designed press that Gutenberg built.

The books of the Bible originally had no chapters or verses. It was first divided into chapters in the 13th century. Later the chapters were divided into verses. In 1560 the first English Bible was printed with chapters and verses.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

This activity can be used for the entire unit and can be for pre-class time, etc. Make a copy of the Old and New Testament smiley faces and also make sixty-six of the small smiley faces (see Patterns). To help keep them separate, copy the Old Testament books onto one color and the New Testament books onto another. On each of the small smiley faces write the name of a book of the Bible. Let the children use them to place the Old or New Testament books in the correct order. The large smiley faces are for them to refer to if they have a problem remembering the correct order. Store the smiley faces in Ziploc bags.

Fill a bag with objects such as a road map, a cookbook, a dictionary, and a Bible. Take out one object at a time, saving the Bible until last. Show the children how each object was prepared for a specific function. For example, when you show the road map tell the children the map shows you the way from point A to point B. Let them know you are thankful someone put this information together. Tell them the cookbook has directions in it to help you make a certain meal. Bring out the same ideas for each item. When you take the Bible from the sack, tell the children that this has the most important information you will ever need. Explain that you are thankful to all the people in history who recorded God's words so we could read them today.

Start off this unit by giving each of your students the Find a Book project to put together (see Patterns). Help each child fill in the blank lines with the necessary names. (You may choose a book of the Bible for him to look up or ask if he has a special one he would like to find.) Also, each child will need a book marker. When the students have completed their projects, help them cut the page apart and put it together to make a book that will be their very own story of how they found a book in the Bible.

QUESTIONS

How was the Bible written?

Name the two main parts of the Bible.

Our memory verse is found in Psalm 102:18. What is Psalms? What is 102? What is 18?

Why do you think the Bible is the most popular book in the world? How did people know what to write?

How many people had a part in writing the Bible? How many books make up the Bible?

How do we know that the whole Bible is true?

How does the Bible, which was written many years ago, affect our life today?

If all the Bibles were destroyed, how would we still have God's Word with us?

What is your favorite part or story in the Bible?

How should we take care of our Bibles?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Use of a picture cube will encourage recall of Bible facts. Choose six stories or happenings from the Old and New Testaments and illustrate them in some way on the six sides of a picture cube or small box. For example, Noah — ark, Moses — baby in basket, Jonah — whale, Jesus' birth — manger, Lost sheep — lamb, Jesus' death — cross. Let the children take turns tossing the cube in the air. The child who tossed the cube gets first chance at guessing which story the illustration on top represents. Ask the children if they know whether that story is in the Old or New Testament. They probably won't, so ask your questions in such a way that will give them the answer. Such as, "Moses was born such a long time ago. Do you suppose his story is in the Old Testament?" or "Jesus told the story of the little lost sheep. Should we look in the New Testament to find that story?"

Take some storybooks to class which your little ones would be familiar with. Talk about whether we believe that such characters as Little Red Riding Hood or the Three Little Pigs are real. Help them understand that the Bible is special because all the stories in it are true or had special truths to relate.

Copy the set of simple pictures illustrating the main points in the Bible (see Patterns). Pictures include: a world, Jesus in manger, a white heart, a cross, simple sketch of Heaven. Insert them here and there in your Bible. Let your little ones take turns pulling one picture out and then you explain what the picture is about. As an alternative suggestion, you might want to insert purchased pictures of well-known Bible stories such as Noah, Jonah, Baby Moses, Jesus walking on the water.

REVIEW IDEAS

Use the "sack filled with objects" idea given under In-Class Activities.

Have four people sit in front of your group with pencils and paper. Tell a story to everyone, and ask the four

people to write in their own words what they heard. Afterwards, have each of the four people read what they wrote. No doubt there will be some differences in how the story is retold. But the point should be made that though each person said it differently, the message is the same because it originated with one person. Just so, the Bible was all inspired by God, even though different people actually wrote the words.

Dramatize the wicked king burning the pages from the Book of God, as recorded in our Jeremiah text. Explain to your group that even though this king perhaps thought that would be the end of it, God's Word cannot be destroyed. It will live on eternally.

COORDINATING SONGS

"I Have a Wonderful Treasure"

"The B-I-B-L-E"

"The Books of the Bible"

"The Amazing Book"*

"The Good Book"*

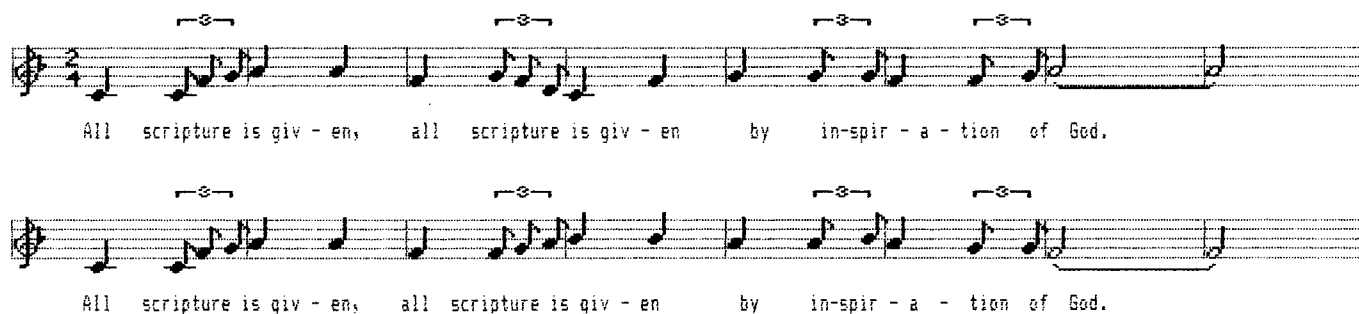
"The Writers of the Bible"*

"Sixty-Six Books"*

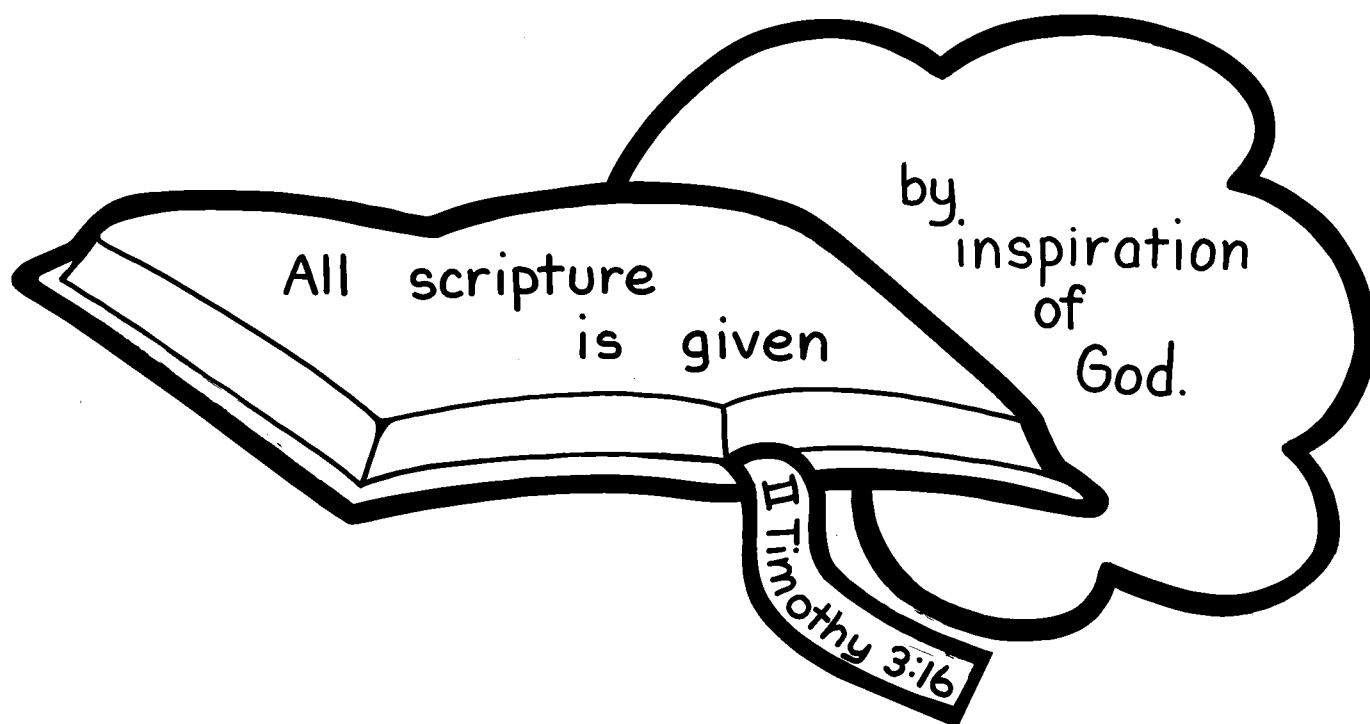
"The Divine Library"*

*The Bible — The Amazing Book — An Agapeland cassette tape by Sparrow Corporation

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT Psalms 24:1-4; 105:7-10; 132:12,13

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that the Old Testament includes a written account of the Creation, history of the Jewish nation, and poetic and prophetic writings. It points ahead to the coming of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE This shall be written for the generation to come.
— Psalm 102:18

What Is the Old Testament About?

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

THIS SHALL BE WRITTEN — With index finger of right hand, act as though writing on left palm.

FOR THE GENERATION — Mimic rocking a baby in your arms.

TO COME — Make a beckoning motion with right arm.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

This week our memory verse is illustrated by a little girl who is holding a large pencil and writing on two pieces of paper. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut apart the sections as indicated by the heavy black lines. Put the arrangement back together, one section at a time, as your students learn the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Bring a baby book to class. Briefly review the comparison between a baby book and the Old Testament given in the Primary Pals story. Point out the various sections mentioned.

1. The Old Testament has three main sections: history, poetry, and prophecy.
2. The history section reveals God as creator of man and the world in which he lives. It is a historical account of the Jewish nation and also tells of the promised Messiah.
3. In the poetry section we find Psalms, Proverbs, and other inspirational writings.
4. Prophecy is a large part of the Old Testament. We read thrilling accounts regarding God's prophets and what they proclaimed.

Climax: The Old Testament tells of God's marvelous works, promises, and love for mankind.

Conclusion: We can gain a knowledge of God by studying the various sections of the Old Testament.

Response: The students will be able to explain that the Old Testament was written so we would have knowledge and hope in God.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Protestant Bible includes thirty-nine books in the Old Testament. The Catholic Bible has seven additional books that are called the Apocrypha. The majority of Bible students do not include them in the canon of the Scriptures because neither Christ nor the Apostles allude to them. Jesus quoted from various Old Testament Scriptures and speaks of Moses and the prophets, or the Law and the prophets. The first five books of the Old Testament are attributed to Moses and are called the books of the Law or the Pentateuch. The next twelve, from Joshua through Esther, are the historical books. Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are often called the poetical books. The balance are referred to as the major and minor prophets.

When we consider that the Scriptures were handwritten and then recopied as the need arose, it is remarkable that we have them as they are today. Paul told Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Timothy 3:16). Peter tells us "holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:21). Since this is the case, it is very evident that the Lord has carefully guarded the Word that it would be available to us centuries later. In I Corinthians 10:11 we read, "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come."

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Copy and cut out a notched Old Testament memory verse card for each student (see Patterns). Also give each student a piece of string or thin yarn two yards long. Instructions: Staple one end of the string to the black dot at the top of the card. Wrap the string from

one notch to another in the correct order of the memory verse and say each word aloud as it is wrapped. Fasten the end and use this as a book marker for your Bible.

Name several Old Testament stories for the children and let each of them choose one to illustrate with multi-colored felt figures (see Patterns — also use silhouette shapes given in Unit 28). Give each child a little felt board made from heavy cardboard covered with a piece of felt. (Be creative and put a border around the edge to make it look like a Bible!) Have three open boxes of felt Bible figures for the children to choose from. In one have people figures. In the second have animals. And in the third have the other props. Be sure to include some long strips, ovals, and rectangular pieces in various sizes to use as basic building pieces. Talk about how we know each of the stories are true because they are in our Bible. Tell them which book each of their stories is from. Also, talk about how thankful we are for the many people who wrote the stories.

Have the children make a scroll with the memory verse written on it. They could draw different objects from the Old Testament around it — rainbow, tables of stone, lamb. Stickers could also be used. Use a Baby Jesus sticker for the prophecy about His birth.

Make a large chart of the children's favorite Old Testament stories. If they name a story from the New Testament tell them to remember it for next Sunday when you will list New Testament stories. Save the chart for next Sunday's lesson. This is a chance for the students to learn that the Old Testament tells of the time before Jesus was born and the New Testament tells of the time He lived and after He died.

QUESTIONS

Who are some of the men that God used to write the Old Testament?

Name the three main sections of the Old Testament.

What does the history part tell about?

What does the poetry section tell about?

What does the prophecy part tell about?

What does the word *testament* mean?

What is the most important purpose of the Old Testament?

How would living be different in the Old Testament times as opposed to the New Testament times? Talk about differences in worship of God, praying, churches, etc.

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Help your preschoolers make a Bible-verse garden. They will each need a paper cup halfway filled with clay dough to use as a flowerpot. Prepare verse flowers for the children to add to their flowerpots (see Patterns). On each of the flowers print verses from the Old Testament. Tape a chenille wire to the back of each flower so it can be pushed into the clay dough. The children may win flowers in many ways to add to their flowerpot gardens: smiling, sharing, obeying, etc. (Suggestion: Print the different verses on your original sheet of flowers before you run them off onto different colored paper. Divide the flowers so each child has different colors and verses in his set. Put each set into a baggie with the child's name on it.)

Show colorful pictures of stories and lessons the children know from the Old Testament. Bring out the fact that God told the writers of all these stories what to write. They are stories of beginnings and promises. Because God was with these people, we know that everything in the Bible is true.

Copy the Old Testament puzzle cards onto heavy paper (see Patterns). Cover them with clear contact paper and cut them apart. Let the children put them together and tell you what stories are illustrated on the cards. Tell them these stories are from the Old Testament part of their Bibles.

REVIEW IDEAS

Divide a large sheet of posterboard into squares to use as a tic-tac-toe game. At the top of each square attach an adhesive-backed picture hook. Choose three squares at random and write "true or false" inside. In three others write "something's missing." In the last three write "multiple choice." Make five X cards and five O cards, large enough to fit over the blocks and cover the wording. Punch a hole at the top of these cards so they may be hung on the hooks. Cover the X and O cards with clear contact paper so they can be used again. Divide the children into two teams. Let them take turns choosing a block and then trying to answer that type of review question. Have plenty of questions. If they answer correctly they may place an X or O card over that square. Three X's or O's in a row will win the game. The game can be played more than once if time allows.

Set up a Bible ABC's review game of the Old Testament. Tell the children that you are going to ask them twenty-six questions. All the answers are found in the Old Testament. They must listen carefully because the one clue that will help them is that the answers are in alphabetical order. For example: Who was the first man? — Adam. What was the name of the tower that people built trying to reach Heaven? — Babel. What

was the name of Abel's brother — Cain. Keep the questions as simple as possible. If you absolutely can't find a question for a certain letter (such as X) make it a bonus (X-tra point, etc.).

Prepare a large poster with the letters OT (see Patterns). Ask the children to suggest stories and events from the Old Testament that can be written into these larger letters. (If they happen to mention something from the New Testament try to suggest an Old Testament happening that might be similar. You don't want to scare them off from participating.) Fill the poster with

Old Testament details. Present to the children the fact that the Old Testament is loaded with wonderful happenings. You can then put the poster on display or have a drawing to see which child gets to keep the poster.

COORDINATING SONGS

"A Story-Telling Book"*

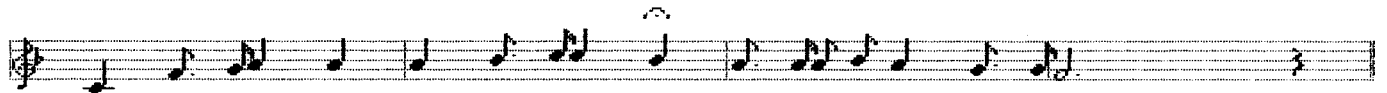
"Believe It or Not"*

*The Bible — The Amazing Book — An Agapeland cassette tape by Sparrow Corporation.

MEMORY VERSE SONG

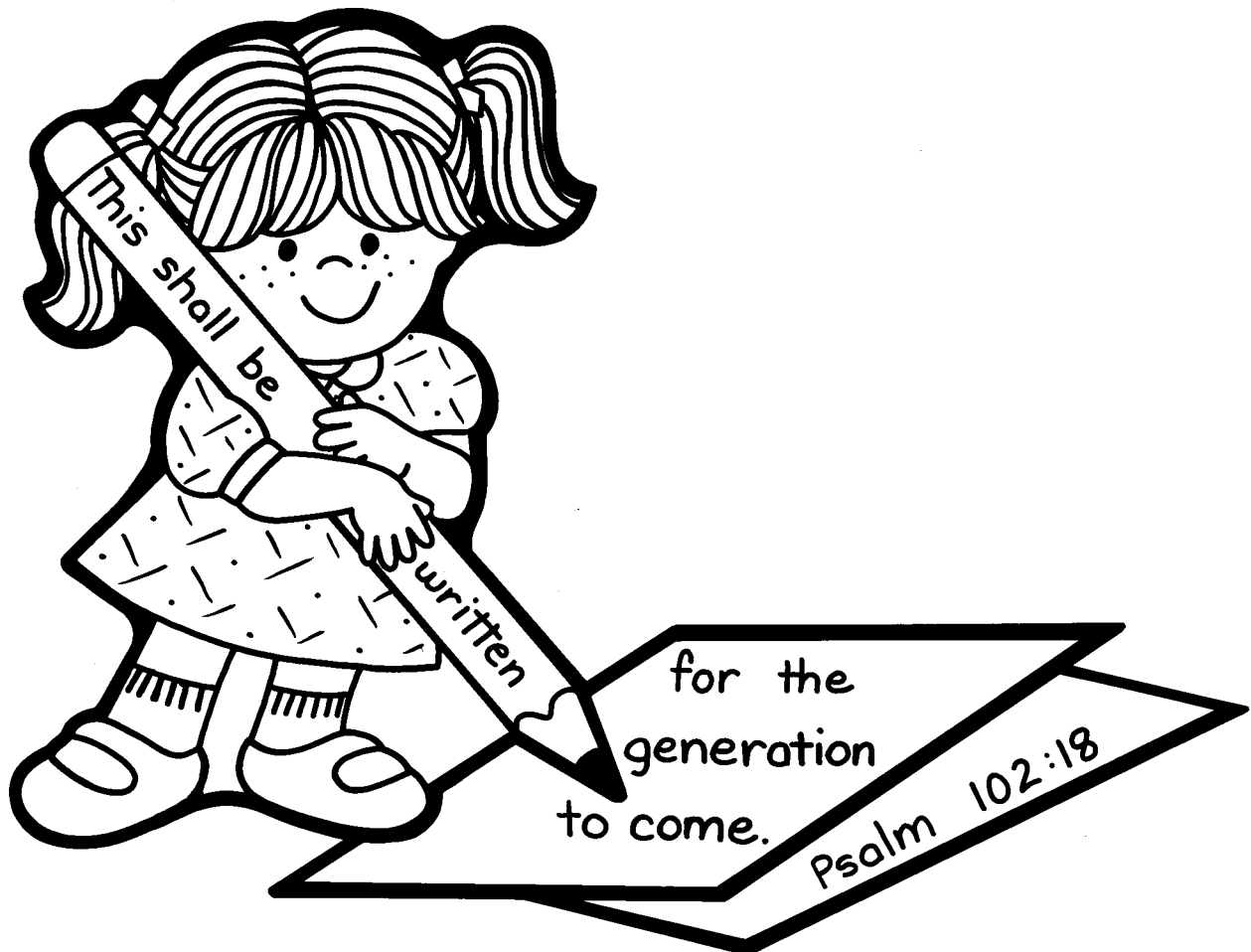


This shall be writ - ten, this shall be writ - ten for the gen-er-a - tion to come.



This shall be writ - ten, this shall be writ - ten for the gen-er-a - tion to come.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT Romans 3:28-31; 10:12,13; Hebrews 9:13-17,28; I Peter 1:3-7; I John 1:1-4

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that the New Testament was written so all could know that Jesus is God's Son and that by believing in Him we can have eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. — John 20:31

What Is the New Testament About?

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

BUT THESE ARE WRITTEN — With index finger of right hand, act as though writing on left palm.

THAT YE MIGHT BELIEVE — At eye level, hold fists on top of each other as though holding onto an imaginary rope.

THAT JESUS — Put right middle finger to left palm, left middle finger to right palm.

IS THE CHRIST — With right hand cupped to form a C, touch finger to left shoulder, bring across in front of body touching right waist.

THE SON OF GOD — Mimic rocking a baby in your arms.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Our visualization of this week's memory verse features a little boy pointing to a picture of Jesus. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut the sections apart on the heavy black lines. Assemble the complete picture with your group, a piece at a time, as they learn the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Insert pictures of Jesus' life on earth (such as His birth, death, healings, with the children) into a plastic picture cube. Use this to open your class session. Let the children pick out the important figure in each picture. Then explain that Jesus is the most important person in the New Testament part of our Bible. All the pictures they looked at were told about in the New Testament.

1. The New Testament has three main sections: the history of Jesus' life on earth and early ministry of His followers; letters of instruction from Jesus' followers; prophecy of things yet to be.
2. It tells of Jesus' life on earth, death, resurrection, ascension, and His second coming.
3. The New Testament promises that salvation is for

"the whosoever will," and gives us the promise of eternal life.

Climax: Through studying the New Testament, we can know Jesus and God's plan for the way to receive eternal life.

Conclusion: The New Testament is the complete revelation of God's plan for mankind's eternal salvation through His Son, Jesus.

Response: The students will be able to explain that the New Testament shows us how to receive salvation and live a Christian life that will qualify us for Heaven.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The names "Old" and "New Testament" first appeared around the close of the second century. They were thus named to classify the Jewish and Christian Scriptures. There are twenty-seven books in the New Testament and it is believed that all were written in the first century. Of course they were individual articles or letters when first written. The combined group, which we know as the New Testament, made its appearance in the second century. The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels, but are actually four records of one Gospel. The fifth book, the Acts of the Apostles, gives a short account of the spread of the Gospel from Jerusalem to Rome. Of the next twenty-one, thirteen bear the name of Paul, one the name of James, two have Peter's name, and one the name of Jude. Of the other four, three are considered to be John's writings and many scholars believe that Paul also wrote the Book of Hebrews. The Apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation which is primarily a book of prophecy.

While some may wonder if there were other inspired writings, the child of God does not need to worry that anything has been lost that would be necessary to take us on our journey from earth to Heaven. We have a

very well-documented account of the plan of redemption and need only to follow the instructions that are in the Word to have a truly satisfying life here below and a knowledge that the Lord will take us Home to be with Him.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Copy and cut out a notched New Testament memory verse card for each student (see Patterns). Also give each student a piece of string or thin yarn two yards long. Instructions: Staple one end of the string to the black dot at the top of the card. Wrap the string from one notch to another in the correct order of the memory verse and say each word aloud as it is wrapped. Fasten the end and use this as a book marker for your Bible.

Use the same idea for the New Testament stories told in felt figures as was used in lesson 36b for the Old Testament. Name several stories from the New Testament and let each child choose one to illustrate with felt figures (use pattern given for 36b and also silhouette shapes given in Unit 28).

Little Wordless Books could be made to help explain what Jesus did for us.

Make a large chart of the children's favorite New Testament stories to go with the Old Testament chart from 36b. If they name a story from the Old Testament, simply add it to the Old Testament list. These charts can be saved and each Sunday's lesson can be added to one of the lists so the children can see where each lesson is found. It is also a quick review for previous lessons.

QUESTIONS

Who are some of the men that God used to write the New Testament?

Name the three main sections of the New Testament.

What does the history part tell about?

What do the letters tell?

What does the prophecy part tell about?

Why is it called "New"? What is new about it?

Were there people still alive from the Old Testament days when the New Testament came about? What do you think they thought about Jesus' coming and fulfilling the promises of God?

Do all people believe in Jesus today?

What are some of the main points of the New Testament?

How did Jesus' life on this earth teach us how we should live?

What story do you like best in the New Testament?

What promises were fulfilled in the New Testament? Talk about how both Testaments are important to read.

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

The Bible-verse garden suggested in 36b can be carried over and used in this lesson also. They can use the same flowerpot cup for both lessons or make one for each. Again, prepare verse flowers for the children to add to their flowerpots (use same pattern as for 36b). On each of the flowers print verses from the New Testament. Tape a chenille wire to the back of each flower and then it can be pushed into the clay dough where it will stand up like a flower. The children may win flowers in many ways to add to their flowerpot gardens: smiling, sharing, obeying, etc. (Refer to lesson 36b for suggestions.)

Show colorful pictures of stories and lessons they know from the New Testament. Bring out the fact that the New Testament is the story of Jesus. It tells of His coming to earth, the life He lived, the message He brought, the people who followed Him, His death and resurrection, and of His promise to come again.

Put together the circle chart of the New Testament stories (see Patterns). Lay the top circle (with a wedge missing) on the circle with the pictures. Attach them together in the middle with a paper fastener. Turn the circle to the different pictures and ask the children if they know what story it is. Tell them that the story is found in the New Testament.

REVIEW IDEAS

Use the same idea as was related in lesson 36b for the OT poster. This time prepare a large poster with the letters NT (see Patterns). Ask the children to suggest stories and events from the New Testament that can be written into these larger letters. (If they happen to mention something from the Old Testament, try to suggest a New Testament happening that might be similar. You don't want to scare them off from participating.) Fill the poster with New Testament details. Present to the children the fact that the New Testament is filled with the wonderful story of Jesus and His love. You can then put the poster on display or have a drawing to see which child gets to keep the poster.

Challenge the children to learn some facts that are found in the New Testament. Have them take turns

spinning and answering questions suggested by the game wheel (see Pattens). Allow them to ask their teachers to help, but the teachers must refer to their Bibles when helping. The six categories are, Name, Book, Verse, Meaning, Before/After, Story. Ask such questions as, "What was the **name** of Jesus' mother?" "What is the last **book** of the Bible?" "What is today's memory **verse**?" "What is the **meaning** of prayer?" "The four books **before** Acts are called the Gospels.

Name them." "What **story** does a star remind you of?" Remember that the New Testament is the story of Jesus, so include Him in most of your questions.

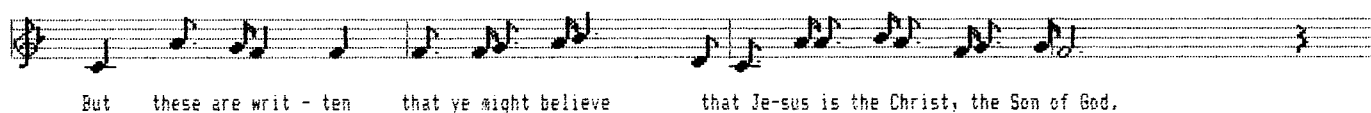
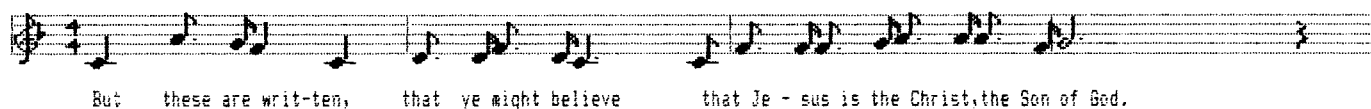
COORDINATING SONGS

"Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"

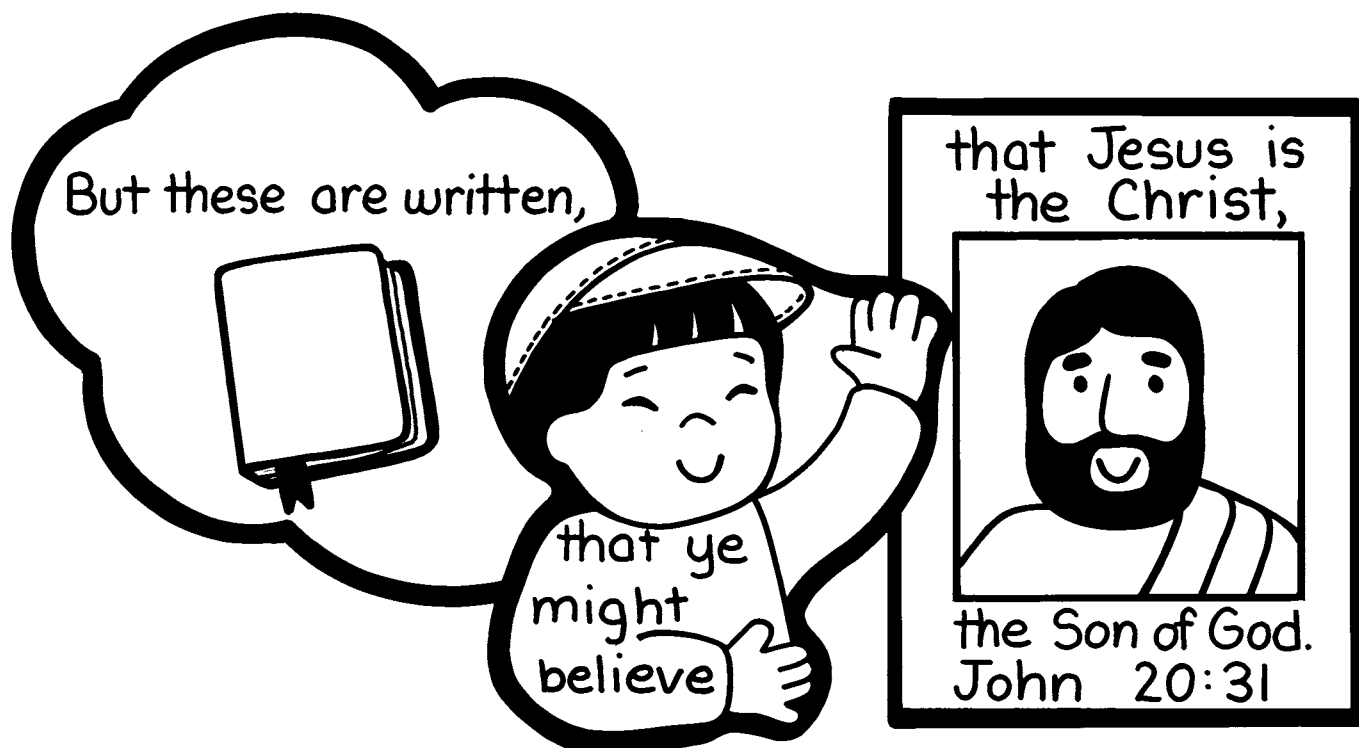
"More About Jesus"

"His Story" — The Bible — The Amazing Book, an Agapeland cassette tape by Sparrow Corporation

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT I Corinthians 13:4-7,13; I John 4:7-21

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain that God's love is shown throughout the Bible: from His promise of the Messiah, to the birth of Jesus, to the promise of Jesus' soon return. They can describe ways that those who love Him can share His love with others.

MEMORY VERSE Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God.
— I John 4:7

The Bible's Main Theme — Love

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

BELOVED — Cross fists over heart then point to others.

LET US LOVE — Cross fists over heart.

ONE ANOTHER — Open arms toward others.

FOR LOVE — Cross fists over heart.

IS OF GOD — Point up.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

Two little boys with baseball equipment are the visualization of the memory verse for this week. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut apart the pieces on the heavy black lines and place them on your board in the correct sequence as your students recite the verse.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: On a large piece of construction paper or posterboard, write large outline letters spelling LOVE. Bring a set of colored marking pens to class. Let your students use the pens to write inside the letters the names of people they love. While they do this, explain that the main theme of the Bible is love.

1. Paul enumerated the attributes of love in I Corinthians 13 and emphasized our need of this spiritual gift.
2. God sent Jesus to die for our salvation, and since He loved us so much we should love one another.
3. If we truly love God we will have no fear of the Day of Judgment.

Climax: Throughout the ages God has shown His love to man by promising and providing a Savior and eternal life.

Conclusion: God showed His love for us by giving His Son. We show our love for Him and others through the greatest of Christian graces, charity (or love).

Response: The students can explain that God's love is revealed throughout the Bible from the promise of the

Messiah, through the birth of Jesus, to the promise of Jesus' soon return. They can tell that those who truly love the Lord will show it by their lives and their love for others.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bible is a beautiful expression of God's love to man. In the process of creation when God created the vegetation, He saw that it was good (Genesis 1:12). But God went to extra effort to make a place for man to live. He planted a special Garden for him. Had Adam remained faithful to God, he could very well be living in that Garden today. We know the story of the fall of man and that because of sin Adam was driven from the Garden and the earth was put under a curse (Genesis 3:17). Even as God was punishing Adam and Eve, He dropped a hint of the coming Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).

Some centuries later God saw that wickedness was great in the earth and He determined to destroy both man and beast from the face of the earth. God found one man, Noah, who was righteous and through him God planned for mankind a way of escape from the coming destruction. We are told Noah was a preacher of righteousness and had any others repented of their evil ways, God would have provided a way of escape for them as well.

There are many prophecies in the Old Testament foretelling the coming of Christ who was God's supreme expression of love to this world. Through Christ's death and resurrection a way was made to restore man to fellowship with God. When the love of God enters the heart of man it will also generate in that heart a love for his fellow man.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Give each child a sheet of the Jesus Loves You coupons (see Patterns). Use a lightweight paper on which to copy the coupons. Let the children cut them apart and staple them together to make a coupon book. Show them how to crease the paper on the dotted lines so the coupons will be easy to tear from the book. Tell them to think of someone with whom they would like to share God's love. They should then fill out a coupon for that person and give it to him. It doesn't have to be a fellow student, but it can be.

Set up a treasure hunt for your class. Prepare several red hearts and write or glue a picture on each one of some way to show God's love to others. Put all these hearts together in a box and hide it somewhere in your classroom. Next, cut out seven or eight pink hearts. On these, write the clues for finding the box of red hearts. The clues could read something like: "On this day you'd better take care, There could be a clue hiding under your chair." Then, "Looking for clues need not be a chore, You might find something as near as the door." One clue should lead the children to another. You read the first clue and let the children take turns reading the others as they are located. When the box of red hearts is finally found, show the hearts one at a time and discuss how they illustrate ways to show God's love to others.

Prepare a game board so the children can play the Share God's Love With Others! game (see Patterns). There will be two pages for this pattern but they need to be run onto one larger sheet of heavy paper to make the complete playing board. The children may use buttons for marker pieces. Make a set of eighteen 2" x 3" cards cut from tagboard or construction paper. Number them 1, 2, and 3, alternately. Shuffle the cards and place them upside down in the center of the game board. Each child, in turn, draws one card from the top of the pile and moves his button marker the number of spaces on the game board indicated on his card. If he lands on an activity space, he should do what the instructions suggest. If he lands on a space depicting a child, help him identify the nationality and say, "Jesus loves the Children in (China)."

QUESTIONS

How do you know that God loves you?

How will others know that you love Jesus?

What are some ways you can show people that you love them other than just saying, "I love you"?

Is it always easy to love someone? Why?

How can Jesus help us love someone who has hurt us?

How many chances do we give someone to love us in return before we quit loving them?

What does "Christian love" mean? Talk about ways that Jesus showed His love.

Who deserves to be loved?

How do you feel inside when you have Christian love for everyone? How do you feel when you have hate in your heart?

Did Jesus love even those that put Him on the Cross? Talk about how He loved and forgave them.

How can we best show our love for Jesus? Parents? Friends? What about enemies?

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Do an easy little finger play about God's Word (see Patterns).

Give each child a red heart, on which you have drawn a smiley face, to hold up as he tells of some way he can share Jesus' love with others.

Make a Jesus' Love wheel for each of your children (see Patterns). Show them how to turn the wheel and then explain what each picture represents concerning the story of Jesus.

Make some "Love" fortune cookies for your class. Cut out several 2" x 1½" strips of paper. On each strip write out a verse about love. Fold them in half and set aside until needed. Heat oven to 350 degrees and grease two cookie sheets. In a large bowl, combine the whites of 4 eggs with 1⅔ cups of sugar. Stir until the sugar is completely dissolved. Melt 1 cup of butter and cool slightly. Add the melted butter, 1 cup of flour, and 1 teaspoon almond extract to the sugar mixture. Mix together with an electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Drop dough by teaspoonfuls, 4 inches apart, onto cookie sheets. Bake for 10 minutes or until edges are slightly browned. Remove cookie sheets from oven and place on a wire rack. Put a love verse on one half of each cookie and fold each cookie in half (you'll need to work quickly at this point). Drape the warm cookies, on their folded side, over the edge of a bowl until they are cool. Let each child choose one and share the verse (you can read it for him) with the rest of the class.

REVIEW IDEAS

From construction paper cut out pieces shaped like Bibles. On one side of each Bible shape write a question about a lesson from this unit. Pin the Bibles on a board, question side down. Let a child pick a Bible and answer the question. Little prizes could be given for answering the questions correctly.

With a marker, write the word LOVE on a large piece of paper. Give your students pieces of paper and ask them to write down various ways you can show your love to someone such as being kind or forgiving. Then ask for examples of ways to show kindness, etc. Write these on the large piece of paper around the word LOVE. What are some ways God shows His love to us?

Draw an S-shaped path on a large sheet of poster-board. Write the word GENESIS at the beginning and the word REVELATION at the end. Use this to represent your travels throughout the Bible. Cut out several

hearts and on each one write the title or draw a picture of a story from the Bible which shows God's love. For example: Creation, The Ark, Rainbow, Commandments, Manger, Cross. Arrange these in Biblical order and put them on the pathway, one at a time, as you tell them of God's love shown all through the Bible.

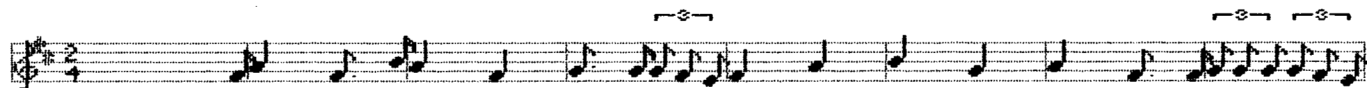
COORDINATING SONGS

"Jesus Loves Even Me"

"Jesus Loves Me"

"Letter of Love" — The Bible — The Amazing Book, an Agapeland cassette tape by Sparrow Corporation

MEMORY VERSE SONG



Re-lov - ed, Re-lov - ed, let us love one anoth - er: let us love one another: for love is of



God.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED



TEXT James 1:22-27; Matthew 7:24-27

OBJECTIVE The students will be able to explain why the Bible should be a daily part of their lives. They can describe different things in it that will help them in their Christian life: Understanding of God's law, assurance of God's love for all, examples of Biblical characters, admonitions in the Word, knowledge of God's plan of redemption.

MEMORY VERSE Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read.
— Isaiah 34:16

What Should We Do With Our Bible?

MEMORY VERSE IN ACTION

SEEK YE — Make letter C with both hands, hold hands to eyes, look from side to side.

OUT OF THE BOOK — Hold hands before body like an open book.

OF THE LORD — Make an L with thumb and first finger of the right hand. Touch thumb to left shoulder, bring across in front of body touching right waist.

AND READ — Extend left hand, palm facing self, with right index finger, scan left palm as though it is a book.

MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

This week's memory verse is illustrated by a little girl lying on a rug and reading her Bible. (See pattern at the end of this lesson.) Cut apart the pieces on the heavy black lines and display them as your students learn their verse a phrase at a time.

BIBLE LESSON OUTLINE

Introduction: Give each of your children a Bible bookmark as you open your class time. (These are described under Preschool Suggestions, and a pattern is provided.) Let your students color the bookmarks as you explain that these markers are to help you find your place in the Bible where you have been reading.

1. Bible reading and study should be a daily part of our lives.
2. The Bible helps us to be real Christians through its teachings.
3. Those who hear God's Word and do what it says are like wise men who build on a good foundation. Those who don't read the Word and follow it are foolish.

Climax: The Bible should be read, loved, and obeyed.

Conclusion: Included in the books of the Bible are in-

structions for daily living that will enable us to please God.

Response: The students will be able to explain that the Bible shows us how to receive salvation and make Heaven our home, and that the Bible should be read every day.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Bible, as we know it, was not written all at once. In the days of the patriarchs the Word was handed down from father to son. In Exodus 24, we have an account of Moses' writing the words of the Lord and also reading them to the people. In Deuteronomy 6:6,9, Moses instructed the Israelites to teach the Commandments of the Lord diligently unto their children, speaking of them when they sat in their houses and walking by the way, when they rose up and when they lay down. They were also to inscribe the Commandments on the posts of their houses and on their gates. It was made very clear that the Word was to be ever before them.

After Joshua had conquered Ai, he erected an altar on Mt. Ebal. He inscribed the Law of Moses on the stones and afterward read unto the people all that Moses had commanded. However, it is obvious that the Children of Israel did not always teach the Word to their children. The Israelites served God all the days of Joshua, as did the elders that outlived Joshua, but the generation after them went into idolatry.

How much reading of the Word was done during the reign of the kings, we aren't told. When Josiah was made king, he set his heart to seek God, and a copy of the Law was brought to him. He had it read to all who would come to Jerusalem from both Judah and Israel. It was said of him that there was no king like him before

or after who had turned to the Lord with all his heart (II Kings 22:25). We must not underestimate the importance of reading the Scriptures.

IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES

Copy a set of Study the Bible keys for each child (see Patterns). Each key gives a daily challenge for the children to follow. There is also a Scripture reference to match. Cover each sheet of keys with clear contact paper and let the children cut out their own. Have them punch out the top circle in each key with a hole punch. Give each of the children a small key chain (not a key ring) to put their keys on, and instruct them to use the Scripture references as a help when they read their Bibles.

Help your children make “warm fuzzies” to use as reminders that God’s Word should be a daily part of their lives (see Patterns). Use construction paper on which to copy the “warm fuzzy” cards. Give a sheet to each student. Have them cut apart the cards and write their names on the backs. For every card you will need one pom-pom and two eyes (40 cards plus 40 pom-poms plus 80 eyes). Let the children glue the eyes onto the pom-poms and then glue the pom-pom onto the feet that are printed on the cards. Tell them to put these in places where they will see them every day.

Give each child a copy of the Verse Search work sheet (see Patterns). Tell them they have two minutes to open their Bibles and find a verse they would like to learn. After they have found a verse, tell them to write it on their work sheet. Let them share the verse with the class. Tell them to take their work sheet home and share the verses with their families. Sharing God’s Word is a part of doing what the Bible says.

The book of Proverbs is filled with ways to make God’s Word a living part of your life. Let your class make a Proverbs poster. Supply a large sheet of butcher paper and a package of colored markers. Tell the children to look through the book of Proverbs and choose at least one. Have them write out the Proverb on the butcher paper and then illustrate it. Hang the poster in your class or have the children choose someone to whom they would like to give it as a gift.

QUESTIONS

Why should you memorize verses from the Bible?

Show the class your Bible. Tell them where you got it and when.

If you could give a Bible to one person, who would you give it to? Why?

What does it mean to be a hearer of the Word? A doer? Which is more important and why?

How does what we say tell people what is in our heart?

What are some actions that tell people we are or are not Christians?

Talk about building sand castles and how they never last. Talk about building things that last — that count, like doing things for Jesus.

PRESCHOOL SUGGESTIONS

Give each child one of the Bible book markers (see Patterns). Let them color and decorate their book markers with stickers. Help them find the verse and put the markers in their Bibles.

Help the children to recognize some of the people with whom they can share God’s Word. Cut out six large hearts from posterboard. On each heart paste one of the following pictures: Jesus, a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, grandparents. When you show the children the picture of Jesus tell them that sharing God’s Word with other people is what Jesus wants us to do. You can use the picture of the mother to represent a mother, neighbor lady, store lady, or whoever the children may suggest. The same goes for each of the other pictures shown. Tell the children it makes Jesus happy when they share God’s Word. Then they are happy also!

Cut posterboard into 5” squares. Make enough so that each of your children has at least two. Punch two holes in the top of each card, side by side, about 2 inches apart. Supply lots of Bible story stickers for them to use. Let them choose stickers of the stories they know and stick them onto one side of their cards. Give them one 18” length of yarn for each card. Help them to lace their card and tie a bow. They can use these to help them tell other people some of the stories in their Bibles.

REVIEW IDEAS

Across the top of a large bulletin board write the verse, “Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” (James 1:22). In the center of the board place a picture of a child. All around the child put lots of thought balloons. (These look like a cloud and have circles attached that get progressively smaller as they point toward the person.) Tell the children that God certainly wants us to read our Bibles. But He also wants us to do what His Word says. Ask them to help you fill in the thoughts of this child who is pictured on the board. What are some of the things he plans to do and will do for Jesus now that he has read his Bible? Example: Obey my parents, Forgive others, Share with others. Write in the children’s responses. If more than one child has the same thought just put a check mark into the thought balloon showing that idea.

Use the text in the book, "The Very Best Book of All," as a basis for your review (see Patterns). Give this as an overhead review. Or, enlarge the patterns and copy them onto large sheets of paper and make a huge storybook to show the children as you read the book to them.

Make several road signs such as: Slippery When Wet, Stop, Speed Limit. Ask the children what they mean. Ask what could happen if we don't watch for the signs and obey them. Explain that this is like our Bible. It is filled with directions and information for us. We should read and obey God's Word.

Bring the ingredients and mix up a batch of cookies in front of the children. Read your recipe instructions aloud but be careless in following them. For example:

Don't measure the liquid, leave something out. When you are through mixing you will have something that is not so good. Have some bad and some good cookies that you have prepared ahead of time. Show the children the difference. Tell them that it is even more important that we read and obey God's Word, the Bible.

COORDINATING SONGS

"Thy Word Have I Hid in My Heart"

"Stop! And Let Me Tell You"

"The B-I-B-L-E"

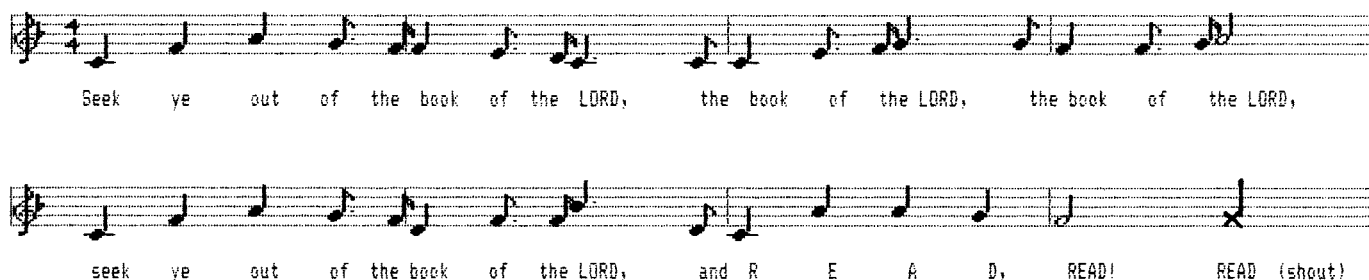
"Read Your Bible, Pray Everyday"

"Every Promise In the Book Is Mine"

SUPPORT MATERIAL

The Very Best Book of All — A Happy Day Book

MEMORY VERSE SONG



MEMORY VERSE VISUALIZED

