

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 scrip-ture 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