

# LESSON 1

## What's The Bible and How Do I Read It?

### (God's Map for Our Lives)

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#### **Lesson Objective:**

To know how to look up a Bible verse and why we have different versions of the Bible. Hopefully, your students will have a sense of awe for the power of God's Word.

#### **Prayer as You Prepare:**

God, as our "Seek the Treasure" verse says, Your Word "is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." Your Word changes lives. I pray that it would change my students' lives this week. Help them become more familiar with the Bible as they strive to know You more. Amen.

### **IN THE CLASSROOM**

#### **Begin the Journey:**

Have you ever had to make a tough decision? Everyone has had these moments. This might be a great time to share a story from your life with your students. Did the Bible help you make the right decision? A personal story will help your students get to know you and show them that everyone faces difficult choices in life. It will also show them that the Bible can point us in the right direction in these difficult times.

#### **ACTIVITY PAGE: WHAT SHOULD I DO?**

We all have times in our lives when we have to make tough decisions. Even your students make decisions that affect their lives each and every day. But, how do they make these decisions? Do they react based on their emotions? Do they respond based on how they have seen others respond? Or do they decide based on what the Bible says? This week's handout explores the question, "What does the Bible tell me to do when I have to make a tough decision?" Have your students look up the Bible verse following each tough situation to come up with a decision that is based on God's Word!

#### **NOTE:**

- Encourage your students to start saying, "Because the Bible says this, I will:" in order to rely on God's Word for direction.

#### **Did You Know?**

Take out your Bibles and walk through looking up a Bible verse. Familiarize your students with the parts of a Bible address. The answers are:

*Genesis (book)          1 (chapter)          3 (verse)*

**OBJECT LESSON: THE BIBLE**

What better object lesson than a Bible? Show your students the Bible. Open up its pages, show your students the chapters and even encourage them to check out the table of contents. Make sure each student has their own Bible to read through and investigate so you can begin to show your students how to study the Bible.

**Seek the Treasure:**

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

**Uncover the Truth:**

Be sure each student has their own Bible to work through this section. If not, encourage students to share and help each other out. You will have some extras to use during Kids Small Groups in your classroom.

- The Bible is divided into two major sections. Do you know what they are?  
*Old Testament and New Testament*
- The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The New Testament was written in Greek. Does anyone in your small group know either of these languages?  
*Answers will vary. The vast majority will be "no," but if you happen to have a true, genuine "yes," ask that student more about the language such as how did they learn it, was it hard and even see if they are willing to teach the small group some.*
- My Bible version:  
*Answers will vary. If your students still need to purchase a Bible, we recommend NIV as it is the most straightforward read for children, widely available and the translation used for the Bible references in "The Journey."*
- What do the letters stand for?  
*Answers will vary. NIV is New International Version. NLT is New Living Translation. And NASB is New American Standard Bible. These are some of the more popular Bibles that your students may have.*
- Look up Psalm 119:105. What does this verse describe the Bible as?  
*"A lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*
- What do you think that means?  
*Answers will vary based on student response. Answers may include that the Bible enlightens your thoughts, helps you to see where to go next in the dark paths of life, sheds light on the situation when we cannot see or do not know what to do or the Bible helps us to see the next step or make the right choice no matter what.*

**Find the Purpose:**

Your students may or may not have a favorite Bible verse. If not, look up themes or keywords in the index. Maybe share some of your favorites to get your students started in the right direction. This is a great chance for your students to freely thumb through the Bible and see what catches their attention.

- Read Mark 1:35. Based on this Scripture, what do you think a quiet time is?  
*According to Mark 1:35, Jesus modeled a quiet time. Some things we can learn from His quiet time are: it was early in the morning (apart from working time), out of the house (a special place), secluded (alone) and spent in prayer (one-on-one fellowship with God).*

Set the tone from the start as far as Quiet Time Check-in. Remember that we can only take a student as far as we are willing to go ourselves. With that in mind, you must model a consistent quiet time. Maybe you have something that you separately are working through in your quiet time; keep it up. If not, read alongside what your students will be doing during Kids Small Groups.

In this first year, the Children's 101 students will read through Matthew and Mark over five days out of the week. When this is spread out over 23 lessons (Lesson 24 does not have a Quiet Time Check-in), that is only 115 days out of 365 in the year. In the grand scheme of things, it is not asking too much to have your students set aside a quiet time, following Jesus' model, to spend time with our Heavenly Father. They can do it and you can be there to support them, pray for them and hold them accountable.

**GAME: THE BIBLE SAYS**

**Objective**—To live out what the Bible says to do and to know what the Bible does not say to do.

**Materials**—List of what the Bible says to do

**Instructions**—Have your students stand up. Tell them that they are to follow the leader's instructions. If the leader says, "The Bible says" they are to do the action. If the leader does not preface an action with "The Bible says" your students should not do the action. If they do the action without "The Bible says" they must sit down. Basically this game is a simple spin on "Simon Says."

For example, "The Bible says, 'Love your Neighbor' in Mark 12:31." Your students should then show a friend love with a hug, high five or handshake. If you just say "Hit your Neighbor" your students should not do anything because "The Bible did not say so." Play for five minutes. The final student standing is the winner! If there are multiple students standing, then they are all winners!

**NOTE:**

- Make sure your students listen carefully to the instructions. After all, we would want them to model this careful attention if they were looking into the Bible themselves for wisdom and direction.

**Discussion**

1. Is the entire Bible true? How do we know?
2. What happens if you do not read your Bible?
3. What does it mean to "hide God's Word in your heart?" Why is this so important?

**FOLLOW-UP:**

Use the provided post cards to send a postcard to your students. You could share one of your favorite Bible verses or send a postcard with "The Journey" theme verse of Psalm 25:4 on it. Even encourage your students as they begin to dig deeper through their quiet time at home. Be creative and make it personal as you encourage your students through "The Journey."