



# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE: BONUS LESSON

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# **BOOKS OF THE BIBLE**

# PREPARATION GUIDE

#### **BONUS LESSON-ELEMENTARY & PRE-K**

The Books of the Bible lesson, is a stand-alone lesson meant to be used as a bonus lesson in the longer months with five weeks in them. Since each monthly unit is comprised of only four lessons, a bonus lesson (like this one) will be used to teach your children Christian disciplines and knowledge. This lesson focuses on how every story in the Bible connects together and how it is one big story about God. The verse for this week helps the kids realize that everything was written so we can believe in God: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God" (John 20:31). Learn and grow with your class this week as you teach about the Word of God.

# **WEEK 1- ELEMENTARY**

**LESSON MATERIALS:** Bibles (1 per child or 1 per pair), *Books of the Bible Labels* (1 pre-cut sheet per 3 kids), *Bible Color-By-Name* Sheet (1 per child), Markers or Crayons

#### **WEEK 1- PRE-K**

**LESSON MATERIALS:** Kid Puzzles (1 for every 3-4 children), Bibles (1 per class), *The Bible* Sheet (1 per child), Crayons

# THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

#### **BIBLE PASSAGE**

The 66 Books of the Bible

#### **BIG IDEA**

All 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God.

#### **FOCUS VERSE**

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God."

John 20:31 (NIV)

#### **LESSON MATERIALS**

| Bibles | Books of the Bible Labels | Bible Color-By-Name Sheet | Markers or Crayons |

## **GREET** – 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you know about the Bible?
- How do you find things you are looking for in the Bible?

# **WORSHIP** – 10 MINUTES

Worshipful hearts are important to God, and we want to make sure the children understand that worship is a way of being and living, not just a time of singing. Worshiping in song flows out of a worshipful heart. We can cooperate with God to cultivate worshipful hearts as we practice worshiping in a variety of ways: thinking about God, praying to God, talking with other people about God, sitting quietly listening to God.

Say, "Let's worship using a new way to praise God."

# **PRAY** – 5 MINUTES

Gather your children for prayer.

**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "Lord, we love You. You are so great. Help us desire You more and more each day. Make us better followers of You. In Jesus' name, Amen."

# **REVIEW** – 5 MINUTES

**BACKGROUND:** Say, "Today, we are taking a break from our normal, monthly, four-week units to talk about the Bible, God's Holy Word. We are going to make sure we understand why God gave us the Bible and how we can use it to find things that we are looking for."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "To get us thinking about what we will be learning, let's play a game about the books of the Bible."

## **ENGAGE** – 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Bibles (2 per team) | Books of the Bible Labels (1 set per team--pre-cut) |

Say, "Did you know there are 66 books in the Bible?! This doesn't mean that each book tells its own story, but instead, **all 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**. Let's see which team will be first to sort (in order) all the books of the Bible in a game we call, *Bible Book Sort*! I will give you a hint: You will need to use a Bible to help you with this sort!"



**GAME GOAL:** For each team to sort all the books of the Bible in order from first to last. **HOW TO PLAY:** 

- 1. Split up the class into teams of three to four people (or smaller teams for children who are capable of doing the sort quickly) and tell them to find a spot to sit together.
- 2. Give each team at least one Bible and a set of *Books of the Bible Labels* to put in order from first to last.
- 3. Using the "table of contents" at the beginning of the Bible, have each team work together to put the 66 Books of the Bible Labels in order from first to last.
- 4. If teams finish early, have them mix up the labels and try to sort them again trying to beat their previous time.

**CHALLENGE:** If you have extra time now or at the end of today's lesson, see which team can most correctly arrange the books of the Bible in order WITHOUT using a Bible for reference.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job playing *Bible Book Sort*! Let's see what else we can learn about the 66 books in the Bible."

# **LEARN** — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Bibles (1 per child) |



Say, "Did you know that **all 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**? We will be talking about and using the Bible to learn three things today: 1. What some of book names mean, 2. How to find specific passages in the Bible, and 3. The difference between the Old and New Testament. While I'm talking, I'm going to ask each of you to find certain things in the Bible and to follow along with me so we learn how to use our Bibles."

#### **What the Book Names Mean:**

Say, "Each book of the Bible is named for a specific reason. I'm going to share five of those reasons with you today."

- 1. Sometimes the book titles are names of actual people in that book like Joshua, Ruth, and Jeremiah. Can you think of other books of the Bible that are named for people?
- 2. Other times, the name of the book is about what kind of story is in it. For example, 1 and 2 Kings is about the good and bad kings in Jewish history. What do you think the book of Judges is about? Right! It's about some of the judges God sent to help guide His people.
- 3. Other books, like Exodus, talk about what God's people do in the book. Exodus describes the journey of God's people out of (or "exiting") Egypt. As you look at the Bible's table of contents, what other book names do you see that might fit this category? One example is Lamentations which expresses sadness (or laments) through talking or singing.
- 4. Another way of titling the book is with the name of the one who wrote it. The gospels of Matthew and John are examples of this type. Can you think of others? (Mark, Luke, 1 and 2 Peter would fit this category.)
- 5. One more type of Bible book title is those named after the people to whom it was sent like Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. Who can open their Bible and find a book that might fit this category?

# How to Find Passages in the Bible:

Say, "Who is ready to learn how to find specific passages in the Bible? When you need to look up a verse, Genesis 12:2 for example, you will find it in the same order in which you see it written: book, chapter number, verse number. Think of it as moving in order from biggest to smallest. The book title is BIG and first, the chapter number is AVERAGE (or in the middle) and it comes second, and the verse number is SMALL. It is also listed last. Let's find Luke 4:8 together. You can go to the table of contents to find the 'big' book faster. Great! Now let's find Joshua 14:14. Awesome job! Now you know how to find different passages in the Bible. Remember, biggest to smallest!"

#### **Old Testament vs. New Testament:**

Say, "This last part is going to be quick. The Old Testament is all of the books that were written before Jesus came to earth. The New Testament is all of the books written about Jesus' life and what happened after Jesus went back to heaven. There are 39 books in the Old Testament and there are 27 books in the New Testament. That makes a total of 66 books!"

Say, "The most important thing to remember about everything I've taught you is that **all 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**. Can you say that with me?"

Ask, "Who learned something from today's lesson? What did you learn? Great! God gave us the Bible for many reasons, but the biggest reason is so we can know Him. The Bible shows us what God is like, how He has come to save us from sin, and how much He loves us. **All 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**."

**TRANSITION:** Say, "I'm so grateful God gave us the Bible so we can know Him. Aren't you?"

#### **DISCUSS** - 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's see what you can remember about today's lesson."

1. All 66 books of the Bible make up one big story about who?

Response: All 66 books of the Bible make up one big story about God.

- 2. Can someone tell me one of the book names you liked and why the author named it that way?

  Response: Answers will vary (Use "What the Book Names Mean" in LEARN for more information).
- 3. How many books of the Bible are there? How many books are there in the Old Testament? How many books are there in the New Testament?

Response: There are 66 books total: 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books.

4. What three things do I need to know in order to find a passage in the Bible?

Response: You need to know the book name, chapter number, and then verse number.

5. What is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament?

Response: The Old Testament are the true stories about what happened before Jesus came to the earth and the New Testament are true stories that tell about Jesus' life and what happened for God's people after Jesus went to heaven.

6. Name one thing you learned from today's lesson.

Response: Answers will vary.

7. What does this lesson tell us about God?

Response: The Bible is a story about God, God loves us, God gave us the Bible so we can know Him, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Nice job everyone! Great listening ears."

# **RESPOND** – 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Bibles (1 per child) | Bible Color-By-Name Sheet (1 per child) | Markers or Crayons |

Say, "For today's craft, we will be looking closely at the Bible to figure out which books of the Bible are from the Old Testament and which ones are from the New Testament! You will probably need your Bibles to help you. Let's do this to help us remember what we just learned!"

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

- 1. Give each child a Bible and help everyone find the "table of contents."
- 2. Instruct the kids to color the Old Testament books with one color and the New Testament books

with a different color.

3. If there is extra time when the kids finish coloring, have them cover up their sheets and quiz each other on which books fit into each testament.

**TRANSITION:** Say, "Great job with your Bibles! Don't forget, all 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God."

### **MEMORIZE** – 5 MINUTES

Say, "Do you feel like you understand the Bible a little bit better after today's lesson? That is great news! Remember, **all 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**. We have a verse just for this week and it reminds us of why the Bible was written. Let's learn it together." Read the verse aloud a few times, and then invite the children to join in saying it with you.

"But these are written (pretend to write with a pencil) that you may believe (point to your head) that Jesus is the Messiah, (point straight up) the Son of God." John 20:31 (NIV) (hold your hands out like a book)

**CHALLENGE:** Since this is the only week you will work on memorizing this verse, encourage the kids to either write it down or draw a picture that reminds them of the words of John 20:31. The chance of memorization increases if kids use the verse in multiple ways: drawing it, writing it out, reading it, talking about it, etc.

# **REFLECT** — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We read the Bible because we want to know about God and what He is like. The more you get to know someone, the more you love and understand them. God, out of His love, gave us 66 books about Himself. **All 66 books of the Bible tell one big story about God**. Would anyone like to pray that God would help us know Him better through His Word, the Bible?"

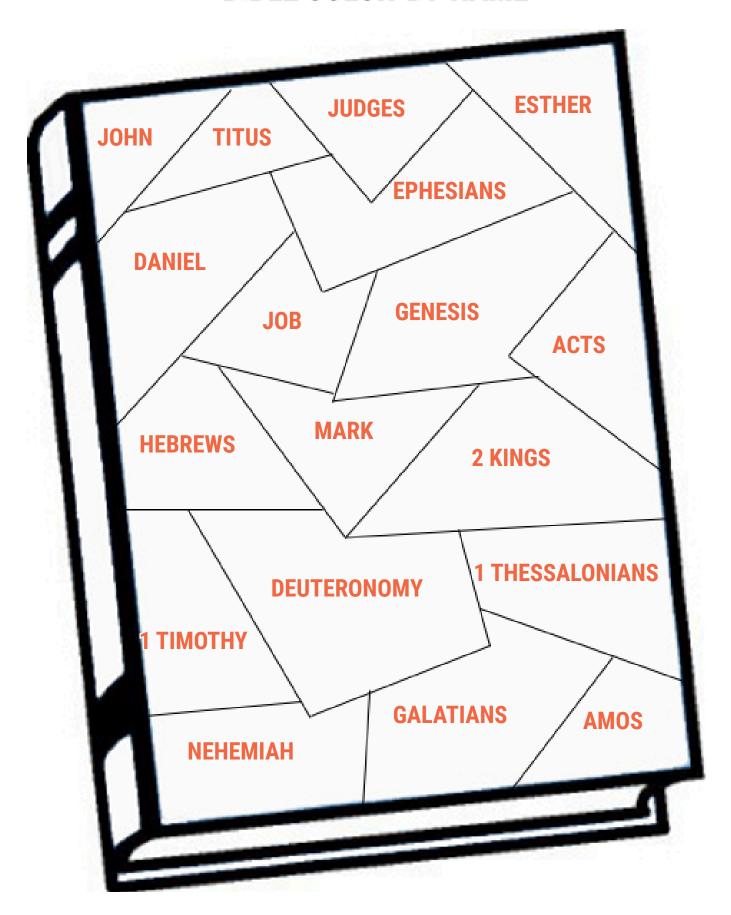
**SAMPLE PRAYER:** "God, You are marvelous! You blow us away with the many great ways You show Your love for us. Thank You for giving us the Bible so that we can know You and believe in Your Son, Jesus. Amen."



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN PURCHASING CHILDREN'S BIBLES, WE RECOMMEND:

- 1. THE CHILDREN'S HOLY BIBLE BY TOMMY NELSON (ICB)
- 2. THE ADVENTURE BIBLE BY ZONDERKIDZ (NKJV)
- 3. THE HANDS-ON BIBLE BY TYNDALE (NLT)

# **BIBLE COLOR-BY-NAME**



# **BOOKS OF THE BIBLE LABELS**

Genesis	2 Kings	Isaiah	Nahum	Romans	Titus
Exodus	1 Chronicles	Jeremiah	Habakkuk	1 Corinthians	Philemon
Leviticus	2 Chronicles	Lamentations	Zephaniah	2 Corinthians	Hebrews
Numbers	Ezra	Ezekiel	Haggai	Galatians	James
Deuteronomy	Nehemiah	Daniel	Zechariah	Ephesians	1 Peter
Joshua	Esther	Hosea	Malachi	Philippians	2 Peter
Judges	Job	Joel	Matthew	Colossians	1 John
Ruth	Psalms	Amos	Mark	1 Thessalonians	2 John
1 Samuel	Proverbs	Obadiah	Luke	2 Thessalonians	3 John
2 Samuel	Ecclesiastes	Jonah	John	1 Timothy	Jude
1 Kings	Song of Solomon	Micah	Acts	2 Timothy	Revelation