

The Bible is God's Story

Lesson Aim: To learn the Bible is the true story of who God is and what He has done for us. It shows God's love for us.

Reserve lessons do not belong to a specific unit, and may be taught separately or inserted into a unit.

RESERVE LESSONS

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God Who Loves Us

THE WORD

Bible Verses: Genesis 1:1, Exodus 15:13, Isaiah 45:5-6

What He has done: He gave us His Word

Key Verse: Exodus 15:13

THE WAY

Christ Connection: John 3:16, Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 21:3-5

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

For your own encouragement this week, read 2 Timothy 3:14-17. Please join us in praying this week's Teacher's Prayer: "Thank you, Lord for giving us Your Word. Fill us with the Holy Spirit so that we might effectively teach it to the children. Open their hearts to hear Your Word and believe in You. Amen."

✓ PREPARE

Highlight in your Bible:

- ☐ Genesis 1:1, Exodus 15:13,
Isaiah 45:5-6
- ☐ John 3:16, Matthew 28:19-20,
Revelation 21:3-5

Read:

- ☐ Teacher's Guide
- ☐ At-A-Glance

✓ TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, and THE WAY. If time allows, choose a Got Time? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim, or the Bible Memory Verse.

Resources: The additional resources referred to in this lesson and supplemental materials are available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net. To be a resource yourself, click on the Teacher's Blog tab to share your ideas with teachers worldwide.

✓ PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Getting Started—3 preprinted messages

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Worship Scripture Reading—Ephesians 3:14-18
- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song—"For God So Loved the World"
- ☐ Other related music
- ☐ Worship Illustration or Storybook Reserve Lesson R1

THE WORD

- ☐ Golden Bowl—Pencils & note cards
- ☐ Bibles, highlighters
- ☐ Conceal the Bible Story and Christ Connection Scripture references to be unveiled during THE WORD and THE WAY.

THE WAY

- ☐ Daily Way Reserve Lesson R1
- ☐ Treasure Treat—John 3:16 Bible Bookmark

GOT TIME?

Fruit leathers, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, sturdy colored paper, white paper, label sticker, ribbon or yarn, crayons/markers, scissors, hole punch, and available craft decorations such as glitter glue, foam shapes, colored paper scraps, sequins, or stickers, Bible Memory Verse song and player (or teacher may lead unaccompanied), chairs, Bible Memory Verse poster (John 3:16), four signs titled as follows: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John



1. THE WELCOME

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Getting Started

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's
Meet & Greet Question: What is your favorite storybook?

GAME: WHAT'S THE STORY?

Purpose: To introduce the theme of the Bible as a story.

Supplies: Print the three messages below, each on a separate piece of paper:

1. We call God's Word or the Scriptures the Bible.
2. The Bible is the story of God's love to us.
3. It's the story of who God is and what He has done.

SAY> Welcome! Today we are going to look at the whole story of the Bible, from beginning to end! Let's get started today by quickly passing a secret around the circle.

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Whisper the first message from the above supply list to the first child.
3. The first child whispers what he or she heard to the child on their left.
4. Children continue to pass the message around the circle.
5. The last child announces the message he or she heard.
6. To compare it with the original, choose a child to read the original message aloud.
7. Repeat the game using the remaining messages. Begin each round with a different first child.

SAY> Sometime the message gets lost as it is passed along. God chose faithful people to write down His story, the Bible. Writing it down is the best way to make sure the true story is passed on correctly from generation to generation.



2. THE WORSHIP

(15 minutes)

Worship Theme: The God Who Loves Us

Today we will worship the God who loves us. He loves us so much that He has given us His written Word, the Bible so we will know who He is and what He has done for us.

The Bible is filled with amazing true stories that have happened over thousands of years. These stories combine to tell us the story of God.

The Bible shows us how God made people, and watched over them. Then He sent His son Jesus to save them and us from our sins so that whoever believes in Him is given life forever close with God, now on earth and later in heaven.

It's hard to understand how much God loves each of us, so I'm going to pray the same prayer Paul prayed for you. (Read Ephesians 3:14-18.)

Let's ask God to use today's offering to help everyone in the world know His love. (Sing: "For God So Loved The World" as offering is collected.)

Worship Elements:

Designate a special corner or area for worship.

Select songs that focus on God's love.

Worship Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:14-18

Lead a prayer to bless the offering; collect offering

Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:

- Reserve Lesson R1

Reserve Lesson Song Suggestions:

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

- Reserve Lesson R1 Bible Memory Verse Song: "God So Loved the World"
- "Neither Death Nor Life"
- "I Am The Way"

Reserve Lesson Hymn Suggestions:

- "Jesus Loves Me"
- "This Is My Father's World"
- "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"

Unit 4 Song Collection Suggestions:

- Shout Praises Kids 3
- Hillsong Kids—Supernatural

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

"For God So Loved The World"

John 3:16



(Verse in English)

For God so loved the world
That He gave His one and only Son,
That whoever believes in Him
Shall not perish,
but have eternal life.

(Chorus)

I believe. Yo creo.
For God so loved the world,
He gave His only Son.

(Verse in Spanish)

Tanto amo Dios al mundo,
Que dio a su Hijo unigenito,
Para que todo el cree en El.
No se pierda,
sino que tenga vida eterna.

(Chorus)

(Spoken) Tanto amo Dios al mundo, Que dio a su Hijo unigenito, Para que todo el cree en El. No se pierda, sino que tenga vida eterna.

(Verse: each Spanish line echoed in English)

(Chorus)

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.



3. THE WORD




(5 minutes)

The Bible is God's Story.

Transition: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant. (Read Class Covenant.)

CLASS COVENANT

**I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my  s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.**

Each Bible story you read is part of a much bigger story – the story of God. Over a period nearly 1,500 years, God chose faithful people to write down His story. Some of those writers included Moses, King David, King Solomon, the prophet Isaiah, and Apostles such as Matthew, Peter, James, John, and Paul. God showed them what to write. These people led very different lives. They were kings, priests, prophets, worship leaders, poets, tax collectors, fishermen and tentmakers!



Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you. (Hand out spare Bibles.) Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain. (Or secret door, secret window, etc. Child unveils Bible Story Scripture reference: Genesis 1:1, Exodus 15:13, Isaiah 45:5-6.)

We'll start with Genesis 1:1. See who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! (Children race through the pages to find it first. The winner helps others find it.) Let's highlight our Key Verse: Exodus 15:13.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? (Child prays aloud.) Be seated. The story begins on the first page of the Bible. (Read Genesis 1:1.) After God made the world and all that is in it, Adam and Eve disobeyed Him. Because of that sin, all people had to be separated from God. But God still loved them and watched over them. After seeing God part the Red Sea to free His people, Moses knew that God would make a way for the people to be close with God again. (Read Exodus 15:13.) 800 years later, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah. Hear God's words to the people who had turned from Him and did not acknowledge Him. That means they ignored God and did not give Him thanks or praise. (Read Isaiah 45:5-6.)



4. THE WAY

(13 minutes)

We can tell the story.

Why is the Bible called God's Word? (God told or showed each writer what to write, so the words are from God or about God.)

The Bible shows us how God used His power to create us, protect us, teach us and guide us. Those are some of the ways God loves us. Why do you think God wants us to know how much He loves us? (Respond.)

What is your favorite Bible story? (Respond. Teacher may want to write down the story titles on a display board or note pad.) **If we look for it, we can see God's love in each of these stories. How does each of your favorite Bible stories show us that God loves us?** (Respond. Assist children in brainstorming about each story they have mentioned.)

CHRIST CONNECTION

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

After Moses spoke of God's unfailing love, all people continued to sin. When the prophet Isaiah spoke, most people worshipped false gods. Most Israelites had turned away from Him. Some truly loved God and faithfully tried to do what was right, but no one was perfect. God's love never failed. When the time was right, He made a way for them to be close with Him. 700 years after God spoke through Isaiah, He sent His Son Jesus to earth. There, Jesus explained why God sent Him.



FIND IT FIRST> **Everyone place your Bibles closed on your laps.** (Choose a child to unveil Christ Connection Scripture references: John 3:16, Matthew 28:19-20, Revelation 21:3-5.) **Let's see who can Find It First! Find John 3:16 and highlight it. Ready? Set? Go!** (Read John 3:16.)

Jesus died on the cross so that we could have eternal life. He loved the world so much that wanted everyone to have the chance to believe in Him. Let's hear what He told His disciples before He was lifted up into heaven. (Read Matthew 28:19-20.) **Eternal life is life forever close to God, here on earth and later in heaven. What do you think heaven will be like?** (Respond.) **At the end of the Bible, God gave John a vision of what heaven would be like. As we read it, imagine how life in heaven will be.** (Read Revelation 21:3-5.) **What did the voice from the throne of God say about the words in the Bible?** (They are trustworthy and true.)

If you met someone who had never heard of the Bible, and did not know about Jesus, how would you tell him or her the true story of God in your own words? (Respond. If time allows let each child tell the story of God from the beginning to end. Younger children may need to simplify the story to 3 points: (1) God made us. (2) He loved us so much He sent Jesus to die for us. (3) Whoever believes in Him will have life forever close with God, now on earth and later in heaven.)

Why is it important to tell the story? (Respond.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GOLDEN BOWL

Revelation 5:8

The Golden Bowl contains names of classmates, a local church leader and a child in another nation.

The Bible says that our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. So I'm going to lift each one of you up to God's throne out loud as you pray for each person silently. Then we'll pray out loud the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13.) Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say out loud and the ones hidden in our hearts.

First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____ (read names in Golden Bowl).

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

TREASURE TREAT



Today your Treasure Treat is a John 3:16 Bible bookmark. Place it in your Bible to remind you that the Bible is the true story about who God is and what He has done.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE



Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? (Praise or reward those who returned Daily Way; collect in basket.) Take home this week's Daily Way. (Distribute Reserve Lesson R1 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.) Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Return it and place it in our class basket. When we fill the basket, we'll celebrate with a class surprise!

OFFERING OF ART



Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture about your favorite part of the Bible.

The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering to the teacher for display.

PRAYER REQUESTS



As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write individual requests in your teacher's prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG



Play the Unit 9 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.



SNACK, GAMES AND CRAFT

SNACK: TASTY SCROLLS

Purpose: Children enjoy a snack and consider spiritual hunger.

Supplies: Any snack that rolls up such as tortilla wraps, or fruit leathers, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

Option: Two square crackers with a slice of cheese in the middle could be used to resemble Bibles.

SAY> Over the past 3000 years, God's Word has been carved into tablets, written onto scrolls, typed onto paper, and entered into computers. Today's snack rolls up like a scroll to remind us that God's Word feeds our soul just as good snacks feed our bodies.

Directions:

1. Serve the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **Where is your favorite place to read the Bible?**

CRAFT: MY BIBLE JOURNAL

Purpose: Children will make a journal to record their thoughts about the Bible and its stories.

Supplies: Sturdy colored paper, white paper, ribbon or yarn, crayons/markers, scissors, hole punch, and available craft decorations such as glitter glue, foam shapes, colored paper scraps, sequins, or stickers.

Prepare: On sticker (or small note card) preprint the following text:

The Bible is a collection of amazing true stories that combine to tell us the story of who God is and what He has done. It shows God's love for us. This journal is a great place to write your thoughts about the story of God, the Bible. Write the names of your favorite Bible stories and where to find each one in the Bible. Then write (or draw) what it shows you about who God is, what He has done for us, and how it shows God's love for us.

SAY> The Bible is a collection of amazing true stories that combine to tell us the story of who God is and what He has done. It shows God's love for us. Today we will make a journal for you to take home and write your thoughts about the story of God, the Bible.

Directions:

1. Neatly stack the 3 white sheets of paper on top of 1 sturdy sheet of colored paper.
2. Fold all 4 sheets in half, so the colored paper becomes the outside cover for the white paper.
3. Punch holes on the creased side - one at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom.
4. Tie a piece of ribbon or yarn through each hole.
5. Place sticker with preprinted text on inside cover.
6. On front cover, use crayons/markers to write MY BIBLE JOURNAL, and your name.
7. Decorate the front cover using crayons/markers, glitter glue, any craft decorations, etc.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: FOUR GOSPEL CORNERS

Purpose: This game helps children memorize John 3:16, reminding them of the story of God.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse poster (John 3:16) or bible, four signs titled as follows: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.

Prepare: Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

Option: Limited space? Give each child 4 slips of paper labeled Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. When Caller begins to count, children place one card face up on the table, with three remaining face down. When the book title is called, children with that title card face up, stand and recite John 3:16.

SAY> In this game, our corner titles will be named after the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They are called the four gospels. They give eyewitness reports on the life of Jesus.

Directions:

1. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to 10 with eyes closed.
2. Children rush to stand in different corners before the Caller says, "10."
3. Caller calls out one of the four corner titles.
4. All children in that corner recite the Bible Memory verse together as quickly as possible.
5. Choose another Caller and play again. All children remain in the game.

Teacher Tips and Variations:

-Instead of having the Caller count to 10, play the Bible Memory Verse song (John 3:16.). When you stop the music, the children must be in a corner. The Caller (with eyes closed) then calls out a corner.

-To increase difficulty, have children whose corner was called stand in a line. Each child recites the next word in the verse. Children say each word as quickly as possible. If a word is incorrect, they begin again; the child who made the error will start the verse over.

GAME: FACT FINDERS

Purpose: This fact hunt familiarizes the children with Bible facts.

Supplies: Bibles (enough to share)

SAY> The name "Bible" comes from the Greek word meaning books. The Bible is one main story made up of 66 smaller books. Let's see which team will be the fastest to answer these Bible challenges.

Directions:

1. Divide children into 3 or more teams, and distribute Bibles.
2. Offer the questions and challenges below.
 - **How many chapters are in the book of John?** (21.)
 - **What is the tenth book of the Bible?** (2 Samuel.)
 - **Find and read the last verse of the last book of the Bible.** (Read Revelation 22:21.)
 - **Find and read _____** (Teacher chooses a familiar verse such as the Bible Memory Verse.)
 - **How many chapters are in the book of 2 John?** (One.)
 - **What is the last book of the Old Testament?** (Malachi.)
3. The first team to answer correctly wins 1000 points. (Be sure to keep score.)
4. For continued play, teacher locates and reads a familiar Bible quote, and then challenges team to be the first to find that quote in the Bible. Offer hints such as the name of the book, or chapter.
5. Continue playing until all the questions and challenges have been answered.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

GAME: JOHN 3:16 WAVE

Purpose: Children will memorize the Bible Memory Verse to remember the overarching story of the Bible.

Supplies: Chairs, Bible or John 3:16 poster

Prepare: Arrange chairs in a large circle.

Directions:

1. Children sit (in chairs) in a large circle.
2. Recite John 3:16 several times together.
3. Assign one word or phrase from John 3:16.
4. As helper directs, each child quickly stands, says assigned word or phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to thighs and sits down, until John 3:16 has been completed.
5. Repeat steps 2-4 three times, each time at a faster pace.

GAME: MEMORY VERSE MUSICAL CHAIRS

Purpose: This version of the musical chairs game helps children memorize the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible Memory Verse song (John 3:16) and player (or teacher may sing unaccompanied)

Prepare: Set two rows of chairs facing back to back. (Chair backs may touch.)

SAY> To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Musical Chairs!

Directions:

1. As Bible Memory Verse Song plays, children march around the row of chairs and sing along.
2. The teacher stops the music at different times during the song.
3. When the music stops, children find the nearest chair and sit immediately.

Teacher Tips:

-In this version of musical chairs, no chair is removed, so all children remain in the game. Encourage quick listening, and affirm those who are the first to hear the music stop and be seated.

-For older children to increase difficulty, remove one chair. When the music stops, the child without a chair tries to say John 3:16 from memory. If the child cannot complete it, that child chooses another child to complete it. Then all children play again.