

The Bible is the Story of God

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

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

THE GOD WHO LOVES US

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP**Who God is:** The God Who Loves Us**THE WORD****Bible Story:** John 20:30-31, 21:25**What He has done:** He gave us the Bible as His Word.**THE WAY****Whisper Verse:** "Hear God's Word."**Bible Memory Verse:** "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

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

Familiarize yourself with John 20:30-31, 21:25.
Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. 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.

PRESET**THE WELCOME**

- ☐ Treasure Chest: Stamp or sticker of a Bible

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Blessed Are Those" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Reserve Lesson R-1: The God Who Loves Us

THE WORD

- ☐ Teacher's Bible with bookmark at John 20:31
- ☐ Watch the Word visual: A Bible wrapped with ribbon and bow

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Sturdy white and black paper, yarn, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, double-sided tape, hole punch
- ☐ Game Supplies: Bible
- ☐ Snack: Any snack with a treat in the middle (cookie with cream in center, cream puff, etc.)
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Reserve Lesson R-1: The God Who Loves Us

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Bible Memory Verse Song and player (or teacher may lead unaccompanied), Large toy blocks, strips of paper, tape
- ☐ Color This Story: "The Bible is the story of God."
- ☐ Story Time: Any story about reading the Bible.



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"Hear God's Word."

SAY> (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** (Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker with a picture of a Bible.) **I am placing this sticker close to your heart to remind you that the Bible is a true story about God's love for us. It's called God's Word because it is filled with words to us from God. God wants us to hear His Word. That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse: "Hear God's Word."** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "Hear God's Word."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

"Hear" (Listen) The hand cups the ear as if to listen more carefully.

"God ('s)" The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together.

"Word." (Bible) The signs JESUS and BOOK are combined. JESUS: The middle finger of one hand touches the middle of the palm of the other hand, and then the same is repeated using the middle finger of the other hand. BOOK: The hands show the covers of a book opening.

SAY> (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "Hear God's Word" from Luke 8:21. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship the God who loves us.

***Teacher Tip:** Play “It’s Praise Time!” as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY> It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who loves us. He gave us the Bible as a true story that shows His love for us. The Bible is called the Word of God. We know that every word of the Bible is true, because it comes from God. That reminds me of today’s Whisper Verse, “Hear God’s Word.” Let’s try it together. (Review Whisper Verse together: “Hear God’s Word.” Include sign language.) **It is important to hear God’s Word, the Bible, because that is a way God speaks to us. That’s why we listen so carefully to Bible stories.** (Sing: “I Will Listen to the Lord.”)

SAY> Let’s ask God to use our offering to help people all over the world hear God’s Word, the Bible. It is a story that shows how much God loves us. We want everyone to hear it so they will know how much God loves them. He is loving to all He has made. (Sing: “The Lord is Faithful” while collecting the offering.)

SAY> The Bible is called God’s Word because the words come from God. It is filled with true stories and teachings joined to tell one main story – the story of who God is and what He has done for us. It is a story about God’s love for us. (Sing: “Jesus Loves Me.”)

SAY> Let’s see if our friends Delbert and Lello know that the Bible is God’s story to us. (Read the Reserve Lesson R-1 Chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* or interact with puppets according to Reserve Lesson R-1 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY> God’s Word shows us how much God loves us. We want to show Him that we love Him. Obeying Him is a great way to show God that we love Him. The Bible teaches us that we are blessed when we hear the word of God and obey it. (Sing: “Blessed are Those.”)

Reserve Lesson Praise Time Song Suggestions

Songs available for download at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

“Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God”

“I Will Listen to the Lord”

“Blessed are Those”

“The Lord Is Faithful”

Additional Song Suggestions

“Jesus Loves Me” Traditional Hymn



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

John explains why the Bible was written.

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> **With my eyes on my teacher;** (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> Let's open our Bible to see what the disciple John said about the words written in the Bible. (Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to John 20:31.)



WATCH THE WORD: JOHN 20:30-31, 21:25

Read poem below or retell passage in your own words using points of poem as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a Bible with a ribbon and bow. Other visual options include craft sample, Color This Story, picture or story cards.

- **The Bible is called the Word of God,**
- **And all its' words are true!**
- **It's filled with words from God Himself,**
- **About how He loves me and you.**

- **It tells us about Jesus,**
- **And the miracles He has done,**
- **Written down to help us**
- **Believe Jesus is God's Son.**

ASK> **Why were those miracles written down in the Bible?** (To help us believe in Jesus.)
Let's find our answer in the Bible. (Read John 20:31 from teacher's Bible.)

ASK> **The Bible is called God's Word. What does Jesus want you to do when someone is reading a Bible story to you?** (Hear God's Word.) **Our Whisper Verse gives us the answer.**
Let's say it together. ("Hear God's Word." Include sign language or hand motions.)



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

The story of God shows God's love for us.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: Bible Story application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT: HEAR GOD'S WORD NECKLACE

"Hear God's Word!" Luke 8:21

Purpose: Create a Bible necklace to remind children that God want us all to hear His Word.

Supplies: Sturdy white and black paper, yarn, crayons or markers, glue or glue stick, double-sided tape. (Option: On blank Bible shape, preprint and attach a drawing of Jesus or a Bible story to be colored.)

Prepare:

1. Precut two 5-inch open Bible shapes from sturdy white paper.
2. Precut 5-inch cross from sturdy black paper.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the top edge of both Bible shapes.
4. On one of the Bible shapes, pre-print or write: "Hear God's Word!" Luke 8:21.
5. Cut a 24" piece of yarn.

SAY> The Bible is the story about who God is and what He has done for us. The story shows us how much God loves us. It is called God's Word. When we hear a story from the Bible, we are hearing God's Word to us. Let's make a special necklace to remind us to hear God's Word, the Bible.

Directions for the children:

1. Top page: Glue the cross in the middle of the Bible shape that says, "Hear God's Word!"
2. Bottom page: On the blank Bible shape, draw or color a picture of Jesus or a favorite Bible story on each side.
3. Use glue or double-sided tape to attach the middle of the top page to the bottom page to create a book. Make sure the hole punches line up.
4. Feed piece of yarn through hole punches and tie ends so craft can be worn as a necklace.

Craft Discussion:

- **What does God want us to do when someone is telling us a Bible story?** (To listen and hear God's Word to us.)
- **Who remembers today's Whisper Verse?** (Respond.)
- **Let's all say that together: "Hear God's Word!"** (Include motions.)
- **Who does God want to hear His Word?** (Everyone.)
- **What is your favorite story in the Bible?** (Respond.) **How does that story show you how much God loves us?** (Respond.) **When you wear this necklace close to your heart, remember how much God loves you and everyone in the world. That's why He wants us all to hear His Word, the Bible.**

THE WAY continued...



GAME: MY FAVORITE BIBLE STORY

"Hear God's Word!"

Purpose: To hear and share favorite Bible stories.

Supplies: Bible

SAY> The Bible is called God's Word. It is the story of God. Let's share our favorite Bible stories with each other. Be sure to listen carefully to others as they tell you their favorite story, so you can hear God's Word.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. Choose one child to stand in the middle holding a Bible.
3. Child with Bible says, **"The Bible is the story of God. My favorite part is ____."**
4. Child gives Bible to another child. Repeat steps 2 and 3 until everyone has had a turn.

Familiar Bible Stories

- | | |
|--|--|
| - Jesus was born in a manger. | - God created the heavens and the earth. |
| - Jesus fed a big crowd with a boy's lunch. | - Noah and the Ark. |
| - Jesus walked on water. | - Moses and the Red Sea. |
| - Jesus told the man on the mat to walk. | - David and Goliath. |
| - Jesus died on the cross and then rose to life. | - Jonah and the Big Fish. |
| - Jesus was lifted up to heaven. | - Paul and Silas sing in prison. |

Teacher Tip: To assist younger children, read aloud the above list of Bible stories as suggestions.



GAME: WE BELIEVE

"But these are written that you may believe..." John 20:31

Purpose: To learn that the miracles are included in God's story to help us believe in Jesus.

Supplies: None

SAY> The Bible is the story of who God is and what He has done for us. God made us, loved us and sent His Son Jesus to bring us life forever close with God. The Bible is filled with stories of miracles. They are in the Bible so that we may believe in Jesus and live forever close to God.

Directions:

1. Have the children crouch down.
2. **SAY> Jesus turned water to grape wine.** Have the children whisper, **"We believe."**
3. Name additional miracles Jesus did. With each miracle, have the children stand a little straighter and say **"We believe!"** a little louder. End with the children standing tall and shouting **"We believe!"**
 - Jesus fed a crowd with five loaves and two fishes.
 - Jesus healed the blind man.
 - Jesus calmed the storm.
 - Jesus rose from the dead.
 - Jesus healed Jairus' daughter.
 - Jesus walked on water.
 - Jesus brought Lazarus back to life.
4. Repeat if desired using different miracles or Bible stories.

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: INSIDE THE BIBLE

"Hear God's Word!"

Purpose: Children will look for the surprise when they bite into the middle of the snack.

Snack Suggestion: A snack with a treat in the middle (cream-filled cookies or sandwiches), drink.

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY> Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.

Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **What do you find if you open your cookie?** (Cream.)
 - **What do you find if you open the Bible?** (God's Word, stories...)
 - **God gave us the Bible to help us learn who God is and what He has done. We learn that when we open the Bible and hear or read the stories inside it.**



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY> God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY> Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____, _____, _____, (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Thank you for coming today! Wear your Bible necklace close to our heart to remember that God's Word, the Bible, is the story of God's love for us. God loves you!

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Tell them that the Bible is the story of God's love for us.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Blessed are Those" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.



GAME: SAY & DO: JOHN 20:30-31, 21:25

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **The Bible is called God's Word,** (Use palms as an open book.)
- **And all of it is true!** (Raise thumbs up as OK.)
- **It's filled with words from God Himself,** (Point to heaven.)
- **About how He loves me and you.** (Point to self and others.)

- **We hear God's Word about Jesus.** ("Hear God's Word!" Whisper Verse motions.)
- **And the miracles He has done,** (Place hands on cheeks in surprise.)
- **Written down to help us** (Use palms as an open book.)
- **Believe Jesus is God's Son.** (Point to heaven.)



GAME: BUILDING THE VERSE

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Large toy blocks, tape and small strips of paper

Prepare:

1. Pre-print or write each word or word symbol of the Bible Memory Verse on individual strips of paper.
2. Tape one word or symbol strip on each toy block.

SAY> We call the Bible "the Word of God" or "God's Word." When we hear and obey the word of God, we are showing God that we love Him.

Directions:

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each word for children to repeat.
2. Give a block to each child and help the children stand in the order of the Bible Memory Verse. (If you have more than 13 children, create two sets of words and blocks and play the game simultaneously. For groups of less than 13, give some children more than one block.)
3. Ask the first child holding the "Blessed" block to place the block on the ground as the first part of the wall.
4. Have the children say, "Blessed."
5. Children continue to add each block and repeat each word until all of the blocks are stacked.

Got Time? continued...



GAME: LISTEN AND OBEY

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." Luke 11:28

Purpose: Children practice obeying God's Word as instructed in the Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Bible with the following passages marked: Numbers 10:32, Hosea 1:7, Leviticus 19:11a.

ASK> Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it." That is our Bible Memory Verse. The Word of God is a name for The Bible. What should we do when we hear words from the Bible? (Listen and obey.)

SAY> I am going to read God's Word from the Bible. Then I will ask you about different choices some children made. If the child obeyed God's Word, clap and stand up tall. If the child did not obey God's Word, sit down.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle as the teacher reads from a Bible in the center of the circle.
2. Read the Bible Verses and examples allowing the children to respond after each example:
 - **The Bible says, "We will share."** (Numbers 10:32.)
Patti shared her crayons with her friend. Did Patti obey God's Word? (Children clap and stand up tall.)
Sarah didn't let her friend use her crayons. Did Sarah obey God's Word? (Children sit down.)
 - **The Bible says, "Show love."** (Hosea 1:7.)
Bobby hit his sister. Did Bobby obey God's Word? (Children sit down.)
Sammy hugged his mommy. Did Sammy obey God's Word? (Children clap and stand up tall.)
 - **The Bible says, "Do not steal."** (Leviticus 19:11a.)
Billy took Tommy's toy car. Tommy was sad. Did Billy obey God's Word? (Children sit down.)
Molly asked to hold Sally's doll. She waited patiently for her turn to hold the doll. Did Molly obey God's Word? (Children clap and stand up tall.)



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: "The Bible is the Story of God."

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or any story about reading the Bible.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY, & PLAY

Reserve Lesson R-1: The Bible is the Story of God

PONDER! Read John 20:30-31 and John 21:25. The Bible is called God's Word because the words come from God. It is filled with true stories that join to tell one main story of who God is and what He has done for us. It shows God's love for us. Ask your family to share favorite Bible stories together.

PRAY! Pray this prayer, each day this week: "Lord, thank You for Your Word, the Bible. Thank You for making us, loving us and sending Your Son to bring us life forever close with You. Amen."

PLAY! Play a game of family charades. Act out your favorite Bible story. The player acting out the story must finish each story by giving a big hug to everyone. This reminds the whole family that God's story shows them His love.

Today's Bible Memory Verse: Luke 11:28.

"Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and obey it."