

The Bible Is God's Word

Lesson 1



Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:3; 2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 119:9-16, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17
Bible Memory: Psalm 119:89, 90
Focus: ♥ The Bible is God's Word.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

A steady light, a nourishing rain, a skillful sword—the Bible uses a wide variety of images to portray its purpose and its use. Perhaps in the sea of swift change of our lives, we could add another image. God's Word is an anchor—unmoved, unchanging, its power undiminished over time. First Peter 1:25 says, "The word of the Lord endures forever." Whatever else changes in our lives, our nation, or our world, we know that ♥ the Bible is God's Word—and it will stand forever.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one or both of these activities to help students <i>explore the Bible</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step How Did We Get the Bible?</p> <p> Option An Amazing Book!</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • watch, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles in different versions
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use these activities to help students <i>discover at least three things God teaches us through the Bible</i>.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Deuteronomy 8:3; 2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 119:9-16, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17</p> <p> Bible Memory Psalm 119:89, 90</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 4 • <i>Resources</i> Optional Bible Skills 1 printable files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles, pencils • Bibles, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker • Bibles, roll paper, markers
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help students <i>identify reasons we know the Bible is true</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Order in the Court!</p> <p> Option The Word of God</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> Order in the Court! printable file • <i>Resources</i> The Word of God printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • paper, pencils, gavel • pencils, whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help students <i>make a commitment to read the Bible and learn from it</i>.</p>	<p> Quick Step Choose a Challenge</p> <p> Option Strike It Rich!</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> for lesson 1 • none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pencils • chocolate chip cookies, toothpicks, napkins, paper plates, Bible

Focus In (10-15 minutes)

- 1 Use one or both of these activities to help students **explore the Bible**.

Welcome

- Welcome each student warmly by name.
- Early arrivers will enjoy doing one or more of the additional activities described on the unit page.

Quick Step How Did We Get the Bible?

Greet any guests and find out one interesting thing about each student. Distribute the leaflets, and have students turn to the How Did We Get the Bible? activity. Ask students to listen carefully as volunteers read. Then divide the class into two (or more) teams, and have the teams huddle up. SAY: **Let's play the 10-Second Game. When I ask you a question, your team has 10 seconds to answer. You get 100 points for correct answers. If your team doesn't answer correctly in 10 seconds, the other team gets 10 seconds to answer.** Ask questions from How Did We Get the Bible? and keep score on the board. Or instead of making the activity a competition, state facts and have kids identify whether the statements are true or false.

ASK: **What do you find surprising about the Bible?** Accept responses.
What questions do you have about the Bible? If kids ask any questions you're not sure about, tell them that you'll research and bring back some answers next week. Tell them to do the same.

SAY: **The Bible is such an amazing book! Did you know that the Bible is the best-selling book of all time? That's not really surprising since ♥ the Bible is God's Word!**

Option An Amazing Book!

Give each student a Bible. If you don't have a different version for each student, have kids pair up. Ask kids to show their Bibles and tell what versions they have. SAY: **Turn in your Bibles to 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.** Have willing students, with different translations, read the verses aloud. Tell students to follow along in their Bibles as the verses are read each time.

ASK: **What did you notice that was different? the same?**
Do you think the verses in the different translations mean the same, or are they different?
If someone asked you what the Bible is and what it's about, what would you say? (It's God's Word. It's about how God prepared for salvation, how God sent salvation—Jesus, and how God offers salvation to all people.)
Look at the contents page at the front of your Bibles. How is the Bible organized? (Old and New Testaments)
How many books are in the Old Testament? (39)
How many books are in the New Testament? (27)

SAY: **The Bible is such an amazing book! Did you know that the Bible is the best-selling book of all time? That's not really surprising since ♥ the Bible is God's Word!**

Focus

♥ The Bible is God's Word.

Materials

Activities for lesson 1, watch (or stopwatch), whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Teaching Tip

Display the poster for the quarter (*Resources* sheet 1). It will help kids think about the main focus of each lesson this quarter.



Materials

Bibles in several different versions (1 per student; if possible, have a different version for each student)



Focus

♥ The Bible is God's Word.

Explore His Word (25 minutes)

2 Use these activities to help students **discover at least three things God teaches us through the Bible.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Moses gave several speeches before his death (recorded in Deuteronomy) in which he tried to prepare the people for their entrance into the promised land. He told the people not to forget the Lord, but to remember what He had done for them. Moses reminded them that during their wilderness wanderings, their reliance on the Lord for their physical well-being taught them that they could trust and live by God's Word. God's promises were sure.

King David (in 2 Samuel 22) pointed out that God's Word sets the highest moral standards. Since God created us, He knows what we need and what is best for us. Through His Word He provides guidelines for a life that will bless us and bring glory to Him. If we follow its directions, which are described as flawless and eternal, God's Word will keep us from stumbling and falling and will always point us in the right direction.

The Bible throughout speaks of itself as the Word of God. It uses such phrases as "and God said," "my word," and "the word of the Lord came to me." Psalm 119 elevates God's Word and helps us remember the place it should have in our lives. The apostle Peter, in 2 Peter 1:20, 21, affirms the apostle Paul's statement in 2 Timothy 3:16 that "all Scripture is God-breathed." Because God was actively involved in the writing of Scripture, the Scriptures teach us what we need to know, they help us know how to do good and avoid evil, and they continually correct and train us. The Bible isn't just a good book—♥ the Bible is God's Word!

Materials

Bibles, *Activities* for lesson 1, pencils



Note

The Scripture text is provided in the *Resources* printable files in both the *New International Version* and the *King James Version*, if you want kids to read from the same Bible version.

Media Option

Record kids acting and doing motions. Let them watch the video before leaving.

Bible Exploration Deuteronomy 8:3; 2 Samuel 22:31; Psalm 119:9-16, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

SAY: Today we'll look at some verses from several books in the Bible—some in the Old Testament and some in the New Testament.

ASK: How can we find out where books are in the Bible? (For a printed Bible, look at the contents page in the front of the Bible. For a Bible on a computer, phone, or e-reader, open the Bible to the contents page.) Have students turn to the contents page in their Bibles.

What's the difference between the Old and New Testaments? (Lots of possible responses: The Old Testament tells about God making the world; tells about people like Noah, Moses, and Abraham; tells about things that happened before Jesus was born; tells how God prepared for salvation. The New Testament tells about Jesus coming to earth and dying on the cross; tells how Christians such as Peter and Paul told about Jesus; helps us know how God wants us to live; tells how God sent and offers salvation.)

Ask half the students to find Deuteronomy 8:3 in their Bibles and the other half to find 2 Samuel 22:31. Have kids follow along as volunteers read the verses aloud.

ASK: How important does Deuteronomy 8:3 say God's Word is? (We need it in order to live.)

How does 2 Samuel 22:31 describe God's Word? (flawless)

What does it mean to say that God's Word is flawless?

(It's perfect. Everything it says is true.)

SAY: **Let's dig deeper and discover more about God's Word.** Have kids turn in their leaflets to the Dig Deeper activity. Ask kids to form four groups. Two groups will do some acting; the other two groups will create motions. Assign each group a Scripture to read and question to answer. Groups should work together to create motions or do some acting. (If you have a small class, work through the Scriptures as one group.) Circulate among the groups, helping them as needed.

When everyone is ready, ask the first group to read its question and answer it. Ask all students to write in the correct answer. Then have the first group do its acting. The rest of the students can guess what they're doing. Continue in the same manner with the other groups. The groups that created motions can first do their motions while reading the Scripture. Then they can lead the rest of the students in doing the motions. (Answers: 1=God's Word; 2=lamp for our feet and a light on our path; 3=forever; 4=God)

ASK: **How are you doing at hiding God's Word in your heart?** Accept responses.

How can you either start or continue to hide God's Word in your heart? (read God's Word, study God's Word by myself and with others, memorize some verses, think about God's Word and what I should do about it, listen to Scripture that is set to music)

Light helps us keep going on the right path. It also helps us so we don't stumble and fall. How can God's Word be a light for you? (It can help me not to do wrong things. It can help me to do right things.)

SAY: **God chose to communicate to us through His Word. Let's remember that ♥ the Bible is God's Word and is useful for us every day.**

Bible Memory Psalm 119:89, 90

"Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures."

Display the Psalm 119:89, 90 poster on a wall (or bulletin board). Write "Psalm 119:89, 90" on the board. Ask a volunteer to come to the board and tell what each part of the Scripture reference means. (Psalm is the name of the book, 119 is the chapter number, the colon separates the chapter and verse number, and 89 and 90 are the verse numbers.) Have students turn to Psalm 119:89, 90, and ask a volunteer to read the verses aloud.

ASK: **What is going to last forever?** (God's Word, His faithfulness)
How does that make you feel?

Let students work in pairs or small groups to help each other begin to memorize these verses. SAY: **You may have heard it said that nothing lasts forever. But that's not true, is it? No, God and His Word will last forever!**

Materials

Bibles, *Resources* sheet 4, reusable adhesive, whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Note

The Bible Memory in the *King James Version* is included in the *Resources* printable files.

Optional Bible Skill Builder

Print and use the *Resources* Optional Bible Skills 1 activity printable file.



Focus

♥ The Bible is God's Word.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help students **identify reasons we know the Bible is true.**

Materials

copies of *Resources*
Order in the Court!
printable file (1 per student),
paper, pencils, gavel (or use
rolled-up paper or a pencil)



Teaching Tip

If you have a small class, form two groups and assign one of the defense-witness responses to each group. Discuss the other responses together as a large group.

Materials

copies of *Resources*
The Word of God
printable file, pencils,
whiteboard, dry-erase marker,
Bibles



Quick Step Order in the Court!



Divide the class into four groups, and distribute copies of Order in the Court! Assign each group one of the defense-witness responses to complete. Distribute paper and pencils. Direct group 1 to find helpful information in the archaeology handout, group 2 the science handout, and group 3 the prophecy handout. Group 4 can use information from any of the handouts, along with Scriptures from today's lesson. Each group should write a brief response for its part of the defense and choose a spokesperson to read the response during the skit. As groups work, choose kids for the parts of the judge and the four prosecution witnesses. Be sure every student has a job, and allow students to practice their roles. When the groups are ready, let them perform the skit.

ASK: If someone asks you whether the Bible is really the perfect Word of God, what will you say? Accept responses.

SAY: Science and archaeology findings, along with fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, continue to help us know that ♥ the Bible is God's Word—true and perfect in everything it says.

Option The Word of God

SAY: If you want to find out whether or not something is true, where would you look? Get up and interview three people and ask them where they would look. Give students a minute to do their interviews. Then have kids call out some of the places their friends look. Write their ideas on the board. (Answers might include the Internet, dictionaries, library, parents, encyclopedias, teachers, books, and the Bible.)

ASK: Where would you look to find out whether or not the Bible is true? Accept responses.

Distribute copies of The Word of God handout. Have a volunteer read the first section.

ASK: After reading this, how can we know that the Bible is true? (findings in science) Ask students to write "science" beside the first section.

Continue in this manner, having each section read, and then answering the question, "After reading this, how can we know that the Bible is true?" (2nd section: archaeology; 3rd section: prophecy; 4th section: archaeology; 5th section: prophecy) **SAY: Get up again and interview two people. Ask them to tell you a reason they believe the Bible is true.** When everyone is done, **SAY: Science and archaeology findings, along with fulfilled Old Testament prophecies, help us know that ♥ the Bible is God's Word—true and perfect in everything it says.**

Live It Out (10 minutes)

Focus

♥ The Bible is God's Word.

4 Use one of these activities to help students **make a commitment to read the Bible and learn from it.**

Quick Step Choose a Challenge

ASK: **When we really believe something, it causes us to act. If you believe that ♥ the Bible is God's Word, what are you going to do about it?** Accept responses.

Have students turn in their leaflets to the Choose a Challenge activity. Read the instructions, and read through the challenges. Invite each student to choose one of the challenges and put a check mark beside it. SAY: **Think about it—the God of the universe wrote just one book for you and me. God didn't write a series of books or a whole library full of books that He says we must read. He wrote one book. God's book, the Bible, tells about how He prepared for salvation, how He sent salvation when Jesus came to earth and died on the cross, and how He now offers salvation to all people. It's the most important book we can ever read!**

Ask kids to gather for a time of prayer. SAY: **Think about when you can do your Bible reading—in the morning, evening, or some other time. Think about where you can do it—in your room, the family room, or some other place.** You might like to share when and where you do your Bible reading. **What's important is that you read and learn from God's Word, that you find out about God and how to have a relationship with Him. Let's talk to God about that.** Encourage volunteers to pray, thanking God for the Bible and asking for His help as they read and learn from His Word.

Option Strike It Rich!



ASK: **When we really believe something, it causes us to act. If you believe that ♥ the Bible is God's Word, what are you going to do about it?** Accept responses.

SAY: **In the old West, people searched for gold. They wanted to strike it rich! Put a chocolate chip cookie on a plate. Let's see if we can strike it rich in this mine that's just full of nuggets! Before we do, let's see what Psalm 119:72 says about the value of gold.** Read Psalm 119:72 aloud. **David said that God's Word is more precious, more valuable, than gold or silver.** Use a toothpick to dig out chocolate chips. **Looks like I am striking it rich with some chocolate chips! But you can dig deep and strike it rich every day by reading God's Word.** Let kids enjoy some cookies.

SAY: **Think about it—the God of the universe wrote just one book for you and me. God didn't write a series of books or a whole library full of books that He says we must read. He wrote one book. It's the most important book we can ever read. Let's make a commitment to God that we'll read His Word and learn from it. Let's talk to God about that right now.** Tell students that you'll read some verses from Psalm 119. When you pause, they should silently say those same words to God as a prayer. PRAY: **Dear God, "I seek you with all my heart."** Pause. **"Do not let me stray from your commands."** Pause. **"I have hidden your word in my heart, (pause) that I might not sin against you."** Pause. **"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."** Pause. **In Jesus' name, amen.**

Materials

Activities for lesson 1, pencils



Materials

chocolate chip cookies, toothpicks, napkins, paper plates, Bible



Teaching Tip

Be sure to check about food allergies before using this activity.

Note

This object talk is adapted from *Super Fun Science Multisensory Object Talks from the Psalms* by Heno Head. Copyright © 2011 by Heno Head, Jr. Used by permission.

Kidz Chat

Give each student a *Kidz Chat* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

