

# I Love My Bible!

## Lesson 1: God's Word Is a SWORD

STAFF PRAYER & WELCOME (30-45 minutes before class)

All Staff

All staff should arrive early for PRAYER, to make sure CLASSROOM is completely ready, and to be in place to WELCOME early arrivers. Have music playing and activities ready to immediately engage with students.

LARGE-GROUP MEMORY WORK (20-30 minutes)

Teacher:

Choose some of the following to work on with the entire class:

- Books of the Bible  
Choose activities from "Books of the Bible Memorization Activities." Also allow time for students to quote the names of the books of the Old and New Testaments in order as they master them. You may want to have prizes to motivate and reward students who do so, as well as have a chart for them to record their names.
- Psalm 1  
Say Psalm 1 together each week. Display a posterboard with the words and use actions to aid in memorization. Discuss the meaning of the passage and what specific words mean, such as: blessed (happy), counsel (advice), ungodly (without God, sinful), scornful (those who mock and are disrespectful), delight (enjoyment, happiness), meditate (think about, ponder), wither (dry up, die), whatsoever (whatever), prosper (succeed, do well), chaff (dry outer covering that is separated from grain), judgment (time when God judges), congregation (gathering of people), righteous (right with God), and perish (die, come to nothing).

### PSALM 1

<sup>1</sup>Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,  
(walk) (shout "NOT!" & stop walking)

nor standeth in the way of sinners,  
(stand straight and stiff, arms at side)

nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.  
(sit)

<sup>2</sup>But his delight is in the law of the LORD;  
(big smile) (hold hands like a book)

and in his law doth he meditate day and night.  
(hands like book) (point to head) (eyes big) ("sleep" w/ head on hands)

<sup>3</sup>And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water,  
(stand, put arms up & out) (hands make ripples)

that bringeth forth his fruit in his season;  
(take bite of imaginary fruit)

his leaf also shall not wither;  
(hold up hand, fingers together) (shout "NOT!") ("crumple" hand)

and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.  
(thumbs up)

<sup>4</sup>The ungodly are not so:  
(shout "NOT!")

but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.  
(blow "chaff" from hand)

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,  
(shout "NOT!")

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.  
(make gathering-in motion with arms) (point right)

<sup>6</sup>For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous:  
(point to head) (hands together, then out & apart) (point right)

but the way of the ungodly shall perish.  
(hands together, then out & apart) (point left) (cross & then open arms horizontally, like for a missed field goal)

- Memory Work Songs  
Before you go to small groups, sing together any songs you have for Bible verses students are memorizing. For ideas and songs see: [Creative-Sunday-School-Ideas.com](http://Creative-Sunday-School-Ideas.com) Memorize Bible Verses by Setting Them to Music. Use associated visuals and actions as you sing.

### SMALL-GROUP MEMORY WORK (10-15 minutes)

All Staff

Break the class into small groups, one teacher with each group, to work on individualized Bible memory work. Have a set of six verses for each student to work on at his/her own pace. Place printed verses and a chart into a folder for each student. Students work on quoting one verse at a time, then two at a time, then three at a time, etc., until they are ready to quote all six at once.

- Remind students that everyone must be working and/or helping, not distracting each other, during this time.
- Remind students there are prizes for students who accurately quote all six verses at once (test). Students may have slight help when they test (for example, the first word) or make slight mistakes (for example, leaving out a word) on up to three of the verses and still pass. Students should work on references also. To test, the teacher should state the reference (for example, "Acts 2:38"), and the student should respond with the correct verse. (Exceptions to these guidelines may be made for younger students.)
- To cut down on noise and confusion, you may have one or more groups leave the main classroom and go to other rooms or areas.
- Have coloring pages available to help occupy visitors or younger students, especially when you are short-staffed and teachers will be busy listening to students quote.

### REVIEW (10 minutes)

Teacher:

Items needed: Different translations of the Bible

Since this is the first lesson of the series, there is no review. Instead use this time to introduce the series topic: "I LOVE MY BIBLE!"

**This quarter we will be learning about how amazing God's Word is and the many different things it is to us. I love my Bible!**

**The Bible was written by over 30 different people over hundreds of years of time, but all the writers were inspired by God. It is HIS book to us.**

- **The Bible was originally written in what languages?** (*Old Testament: mainly Hebrew; New Testament: Greek*)
- **Do you speak or read Hebrew or Greek?** (*probably not*)
- **What language do you speak and read?**

**In 1525 (about 500 years ago) William Tyndale published the first English translation of the complete New Testament. Sadly, there were powerful people who didn't want the Bible to be translated into the language of ordinary English speakers. They wanted to keep it in Hebrew and Greek so that it could only be read by highly educated people, like priests. While William Tyndale was working to translate the Old Testament into English, he was arrested and killed (burned at the stake).**

**Because of sacrifices like William Tyndale's, today we not only have the Bible in English, we have several different English translations.**

Show different Bible translations.

One translation we often use is called the King James Version. King James of England ordered this translation in 1611, 400 years ago. Other versions may use more modern words or phrasing because language changes over time. However, translators must always be very careful and prayerful as they translate because they must not change the meaning of the original text.

Let's listen to Revelation 22:19 in a few different English translations. Read or choose students to read from three different translations and briefly discuss the meaning.

WORSHIP (10-15 minutes)

Teacher:

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Lead the kids in two or three songs—some energetic, some worshipful. Tie the songs to today's topic or just sing what's on your heart.

RULES & PRAYER (5 minutes)

Teacher:

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- Go over class rules (or "Class Promises"), posted for everyone to see. Call on students to read, or see how many they can remember, or have them stand as each is read as a sign of their promise to keep the rule. Our Class Promises:
  - I will listen when others are talking.
  - I will raise my hand if I have something to say.
  - I will keep my hands and feet to myself.
  - I will say only good and kind things.
  - I will participate and have fun!
- Pray together for the Bible lesson and the class. Take individual requests from students as time allows.

BIBLE LESSON (20 minutes)

Teacher:

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Teacher Prep: Read Matthew 4:1-11. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed: Play sword, Bible, "Sword" visual.  
OPTIONAL: Copies of "Jesus Defeats the Devil with the Word" skit, additional play sword, large Superman T-shirt, large red T-shirt, two chairs students can stand on.

Show kids a play sword.

- **What is a sword used for?** (battle, protection, etc.)
- **How should you take care of and handle a sword?** (*keep it clean and sharpened, keep it near you at all times, handle it carefully*)
- **How could you become an expert swordsman(woman)?** (*practice regularly*)
- **How do you think the Bible (God's Word) is like a sword?** (*it helps us fight the devil and protects our hearts and minds*)

**Jesus fought the devil with the sword of the Word. Listen to this.**

Read Matthew 4:1-11 to the kids with feeling, using actions (e.g., rubbing stomach with hunger, teetering on the pinnacle of the Temple, etc.) and brandishing a Bible each time Jesus or the devil says, "It is written..." OR: Choose students to act out the "Jesus Defeats the Devil with the Word" skit.

**The devil tried using the sword of the Word too, misusing Bible verses to tempt Jesus, but Jesus is the superior swordsman. He defeated the devil, using the sword of the Word with skill!**

- **Earlier we talked about how you should take care of and handle a real sword. How should you take care of and handle the sword of God's Word, the Bible?** *(make sure it's kept clean—not lying around getting dusty, not on the floor, not under a pile of things; bring it to church, and other places, with you; listen respectfully when it's being read, taught, and preached)*

**If you want to defeat the devil with sword of the Word of God, you will have to know how to use it very well.**

- **How can you become an expert at using your Bible?** *(learn where and how to find things in your Bible; read your Bible; study your Bible; memorize Bible verses so you will always have God's Word—your sword—with you; listen when the Word is taught and preached; don't just listen—DO—what the Bible says)*

Have a student attach the "Sword" visual to board.

**Let's pray right now that God will help us learn and obey His Word.**

Lead the students in prayer in response to the Bible Lesson.

**BIBLE SKILLS (10 minutes)**

**Teacher:**

Goal: To familiarize students with the structure of the Bible and how to locate specific verses. Use a board with the books of the Bible and their divisions to assist with this. Have plenty of Bibles in the classroom for students to use, but also encourage them to bring their own to class.

- **How many books are in the Bible?** (66)

**The Bible is a BIG book made up of 66 smaller books.**

- **Each book is also divided into smaller parts. What do we call these smaller parts of books?** *(chapters)*
- **Each chapter is also divided into even smaller parts. What do we call these smaller parts of chapters?** *(verses)*

**The Bible is divided into parts like this to make it easier for us to find things. We're going to practice looking up some verses.**

Choose students to hand out Bibles. Remind all students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students.

**Find the BOOK of Hebrews.**

- **Is Hebrews in the Old or New Testament?** *(New)*

- **What division of the New Testament is Hebrews in?** (*Letters/Epistles*)

**Now find CHAPTER 4 of Hebrews. Turn the pages of Hebrews, looking for a bigger number 4.**

**Now look at the smaller numbers and find VERSE 12. Have a student read Hebrews 4:12 to the class.**

- **Hebrews 4:12 compares the Word of God to what?** (*a sword*)

**Now find the BOOK of Ephesians.**

- **Is Ephesians in the Old or New Testament?** (*New*)
- **What division of the New Testament is Ephesians in?** (*Letters/Epistles*)

**Now find CHAPTER 6 of Ephesians. Turn the pages of Ephesians, looking for a bigger number 6.**

**Now look at the smaller numbers and find VERSE 13. We are going to read verses 13 through 17. Have students read these verses to the class as everyone follows along.**

**These verses are about the armor that God gives us. Most of us don't wear "real" physical armor.**

- **What kinds of people do wear armor?** (*policemen, soldiers, knights [in the Middle Ages]*)

**We don't usually wear "real" physical armor to protect our bodies, but we should always wear the spiritual armor of God to protect our minds, hearts, and souls.**

- **Look at the verses we just read and tell me what the pieces of the armor of God are.** (*Belt [loins girt about] of Truth, Breastplate of Righteousness, Shoes [feet shod] of the Gospel of Peace, Shield of Faith, Helmet of Salvation, Sword of the Spirit*)
- **What does verse 17 say the Sword of the Spirit is?** (*the Word of God*)

**Later this year we plan to study the Armor of God in more detail. Today I want you to remember that the Word of God is your weapon to fight the devil.**

**Choose a couple of students to carefully collect the Bibles and put them away.**

**ACTIVITY/SNACK (15 minutes)**

**Teacher:**

Supplies:      Copies of "Sword Bookmark" printed on cardstock  
                      Scissors  
                      Crayons/pencils  
                      Small snack if desired

Give each student a sword bookmark to color and cut out. Be sure they write their names on them. They may eat a small snack as they are doing this.

Challenge the students: **Take your bookmark home and see if you can find the verse, Hebrews 4:12, in your very own Bible. Use the bookmark to mark your place in your Bible.**