

I LOVE MY BIBLE!

1

All Staff
Pre-Class

MEMORY WORK -
LARGE GROUP

(Leader/Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(15 min.)

God's Word is a SWORD

- Arrange tables and chairs.
 - Pray for today's class.
 - Have music playing.
 - Welcome kids as they arrive and begin taking attendance.
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- Chose activities to help students begin learning the books of the Bible. To aid in memorization, use a Books of the Bible Demonstration Board (the names of all the books, as well as the testaments and divisions, printed and organized on a folding cardboard demonstration board). Several of the following activities use Books of the Bible Cards (cards printed with the names of the books of the Bible, one name to each card).
 - **Book Order Races**
Form teams and have them race using the Old or New Testament book cards to see which team can put them in order more quickly.
OR
Deal out the Old or New Testament book cards to all the students. Time the class to see how long it takes them to put the cards in order (on the floor at the front of the room). Repeat and have them try to beat the previous time. (Record their best time so that they can try to beat it next week.)
 - **Old or New** (Combine decks of Old and New Testament book cards for these games.)
Have a student draw a random card from the deck and call out the name of the book. Then choose a student to say whether the book is in the Old or New Testament. If correct, he/she gets to draw the next card.
OR
Display the Books of the Bible Demonstration Board at the front of the classroom. Have students stand in a line (or if you have a larger class, just have them stand at their seats) facing the board. Make sure cards are mixed up, and then have a student begin turning cards and calling out their names. If the book called is from the Old Testament, students take a step toward their left; if it is from the New Testament, they take a step toward their right (since, as they are facing the Books of the Bible Demonstration Board, the Old Testament is on their left and the New on their right). Let the student-caller draw and call several cards; then choose a new caller. Continue in this manner as you have time or until you have gone through all the Bible book cards.
OR
Form two teams. Have a member of each team come to the front of the class. Randomly chose a card from the deck and call out the name of the book. As quickly as possible, each team member calls out "Old" or "New." Award a point for the speediest correct answer (or award each correct answer a point). Continue, having a new player from each team come to the front.
 - **Musical Books**
Seat kids in a circle. Choose cards of consecutive books of the Bible equal to the number of players. Mix up the cards and give one to each player. As the music plays, players pass the cards around the circle. When the music stops, whoever

has the first book in the series places his card in the center of the circle and is out of the game. Play resumes until all the cards have been placed in order. The last person to place a card gets to choose the next cards used in the game.

- **Callout-Repeat**
Call out 3-5 books (e.g., "Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus") at a time and have students repeat them. Repeat the callout-response several times. Then call out the next 3-5 books and have them repeat those.
VARIATION: Have a student lead the callout.
 - **Pass the Beanbag (or Ball)**
Have students stand or sit in a circle. Pass a beanbag (it can't roll away like a ball). As each person receives the beanbag, he/she names the next book of the Bible (start wherever you'd like).
OR
Have the entire group call out the next book as each person receives the beanbag.
VARIATION: From time to time call out "Freeze." The person holding the beanbag must name the next three books in order.
 - **Before or After**
Randomly choose a card from either the Old or New Testament deck. Don't let the students see the card. Have them try to guess the name of the book on the card by randomly naming a book. If the card you're holding comes before the book guessed, say "Before." If it comes after the book guessed, say "After." Keep narrowing it down until someone guesses the correct book.
 - **Memory (Concentration) Game**
Choose several pairs of identical book cards from two Old or New Testament decks. Mix the cards and lay them out in a grid on the floor or a table. Have students take turns turning over two cards at a time, trying to find matches. If a match is found, the student gets to hold the cards. (Although in normal "memory game" rules the player gets another turn after finding a match, we usually have play pass to the next player.) The player with the most pairs at the end wins. Variation: Break into several smaller groups instead of playing with the whole group.
 - **Sing the Books**
Sing the "Old Testament Song" (books of the Old Testament set to the tune of "Yankee Doodle") and/or the "New Testament Song." Have a student point (with a pointer or play sword) to the names of the books as the group sings. Repeat several times with different students pointing.
 - **Sing Go Fish's "Ten Commandment Boogie"**
Sing with lots of action. Use this song to discuss the meaning of each commandment.
- **Memorize Psalm 1 by repeating it together each week before going to small-group time.** Display a posterboard with the words. Discuss the overall 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).

Use actions to aid in memorization:

¹Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly,
(walk) (stop walking; shout "NOT!")
 nor standeth in the way of sinners,
(stand straight and stiff, arms at side)
 nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
(sit)
²But 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)
³And 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)
⁴The ungodly are not so:
(shout "NOT!")
 but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.
(blow "chaff" from hand)
⁵Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment,
(sit while shouting "NOT!")
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
(make gathering-in motion with arms) (point right)
⁶For 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 - SMALL GROUP

All Staff

____:____ - ____:____
 (15 min.)

- Break into smaller groups, one teacher with each group, and work with students on individualized memory work.
 - For our class, we divide into four groups: two each for 5- to 7-year-olds and 8- to 10-year-olds. (To cut down on noise and confusion, two groups may leave the room to practice verses in another classroom, the hallway, etc.)
- Work with each student on a list of Bible verses that you would like him/her to memorize. Allow students to work at their own pace (e.g., older kids not held back by younger), keeping track of their progress on charts or in workbooks.
 - We use workbooks entitled *Quick and Powerful Scriptural Concepts for Children* by Valda Johnson and Ilene Sargeant, ordered through Pentecostal Publishing House. In these, students memorize a set of six verses at a time, quoting

them one at a time, then two at a time, then three at a time, etc., until they are ready to test on all six at once.

- Also allow time for the kids to quote the names of the books of the Old and Testaments in order as they learn them, as well as Psalm 1.
- Remind students that there will be prizes for those who memorize.
 - Students must pass with a score of 80 percent or better when working in their *Quick and Powerful* workbooks.
- Remind students that during Bible Memory Work time, everyone must be working! Encourage them to work together to memorize verses, as opposed to distracting each other.
- Coloring pages are available to help occupy visitors (or younger/distracted students) while their classmates are quoting verses.
- As students achieve memory work goals, reward them during a large-group time so that everyone can congratulate them on their accomplishments.

REVIEW

(Leader/Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(10 min.)

Items needed: Different translations of the Bible

Since this is the first lesson of the quarter, there is no review. Instead use this time to introduce this quarter's 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 student(s) to read from three different translations and briefly discuss the meaning.

RULES & PRAYER

(Leader/Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(5 min.)

- Go over rules (Power Hour Promises) by calling on students to read/remember the rules.
- Pray together for the class. (Take individual requests from students only as time allows.)

BIBLE LESSON

(Leader/Teacher)

____:____ - ____:____
(15 min.)

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

Items Needed: Play sword; Bible; "Sword" visual.

Show kids the 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..."

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 this 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 kids in prayer—response to lesson.

(Leader/Teacher)

_____ : _____ - _____ : _____
(15 min.)

Begin to familiarize students with the structure of the Bible and the names of all the books. Point out the two testaments, division names, and book names using a Books of the Bible Demonstration Board (the names of all the books, as well as the testaments and divisions, printed and organized on a folding cardboard demonstration board).

- **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.

Hand out Bibles. Remind students to handle Bibles carefully and to help younger students find verses. Teachers will need to assist students until they become familiar with finding verses.

Find the **BOOK** of Hebrews.

- Is Hebrews in the Old or New Testament? (*New*)
- What division of the New Testament is Hebrews in? (*Lettters/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. Everyone follow along in their Bibles as _____ reads. **Have a student who reads well read these verses to the class.**

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.

ACTIVITY/SNACK

(Leader/Teacher)

_____:_____-_____:_____
(15 min.)

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.**