

I Love My Bible!

Lesson 2: God's Word Is LIGHT

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

¹Blessed 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)

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,
(shout "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 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 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 forms of the Bible such as electronic versions on your computer and phone, as well as a regular printed copy.

Since this is only the second week of the quarter, there are only a few review questions from last week's lesson. Before I ask those, I want to ask you a couple of other questions:

- **What was the Bible originally written on?** (*stone tablets [e.g., the 10 Commandments], animal skin parchments, scrolls, etc.*)
- **What is your Bible printed on today?** (*paper*)
- **Aren't you glad you don't have to carry around a Bible made of stone?!**

The Bible was the first major book printed after the invention of the printing press by Johannes Gutenberg around 1440. Now we have all kinds of Bibles printed on paper. Show yours.

In the last few years, there have been many new inventions, and now we have other ways to read the Bible. Show and briefly discuss how your electronic versions work, including audio versions.

Who knows how we will be reading the Bible in the future! The important thing is that we read and obey it!

Now for the review questions:

- **The Bible was originally written in what languages?** (*Old Testament: mainly Hebrew; New Testament: Greek*)

- **Why must translators always be very careful and prayerful as they translate the Bible into other languages?** (*because they must not change the meaning of the original text; God’s Word must not be added to or subtracted from*)
- **Last week we compared God’s Word to a what?** (*sword*)
- **What is a sword used for?** (*battle, protection, etc.*)
- **Whom did Jesus defeat by quoting Scripture?** (*the devil*)
- **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*)

WORSHIP (10-15 minutes)

Teacher:

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:

- 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:

Teacher Prep: Meditate on Psalm 119:105. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed: Various types of lights (flashlights, lamps, glowsticks, etc.); Bible; “Light” visual.

Show kids the various lights and how they work.

- **What natural (not manmade) lights do we have in our world?** (*the sun, moon, and stars—created by God, the source of all light*)
- **Why do we need light? How does it help us?** (*to see, as our eyes don’t work well in the dark [flashlights, spotlights]; to guide us [headlights]; to make things more beautiful [track lighting on artwork, light shining through stained glass, etc.]; plants need light to grow [and we need plants]; light also adds warmth [especially the sun!]; etc.*)
- **What would it be like if we had no light at all?** (*gloomy, depressing, hard to find our way, hard to read, hard to do anything at all*)
- **How is the Bible—God’s Word—like light?** (*it helps us see the truth; it guides us; it makes things clearer and more beautiful; it helps us grow; etc.*)

Read Psalm 119:105 from your Bible. Have someone turn off the lights in the room. Attempt to walk to the door holding your flashlight but NOT turning it on. Then turn on your flashlight to guide your steps.

God's Word can guide our lives so we don't bump into problems and fall down and hurt ourselves—but only if we read it, listen to it, study it, and obey it. If we have a Bible and we don't read it, listen to it, study it, and obey it, it's like trying to walk in a dark place without turning on our flashlight.

Have a student attach the "Light" 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 of the 66 books is divided into parts called what? (chapters)**
- **Each chapter is divided into even smaller parts called what? (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.

Open your Bible in the middle and find the BOOK of Psalms.

- **Is Psalms in the Old or New Testament? (Old)**
- **What division of the Old Testament is Psalms in? (Poetry)**

Now find CHAPTER 119 of Psalms. This is the longest chapter in the Bible!

- **How many verses does Psalm 119 have? (176!)**

Nearly every one of these 176 verses mentions God's Word! We are going to read verse 105.

Have a student read Psalm 119:105 to the class.

This is the verse we talked about in our Bible lesson. God's Word is the light that shows us the right way to go.

Now look further down chapter 119 and find verse 130.

Have a student read Psalm 119:130 to the class.

- **When God's word enters our hearts and minds, it gives what? (light)**

God's Word helps us understand important things. Don't let anyone tell you the Bible is too hard to understand. Read, listen, and pray, and God will make it clear and understandable.

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

ACTIVITY/SNACK (15 minutes)

Teacher:

Supplies: Stained glass coloring pages (books available at bookstores, amazon.com, doverpublications.com)
Markers and/or crayons
Small snack if desired

BONUS: Glowsticks (glowstick eyeglasses are especially fun)

Give each student a stained glass coloring page and markers or crayons. As they color the pages, serve a small snack if desired. You may also wish to pass out glowsticks and show students how to activate them.

Light makes things more beautiful. Take your picture home and place it in a window to remind you how necessary and beautiful light is in your life—just like God's Word.

Even a small light like a glowstick shines brightly in the dark. God's Word is the bright light this dark world needs.