

# I Love My Bible!

## Lesson 3: God's Word Is Sweeter than HONEY

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:

Review previous lessons, beginning with last week's and working back from there as time allows. See "I Love My Bible Review Questions." Some ideas:

- Toss out candy for correct answers.
- Form teams and play tic-tac-toe. (Teams place an "X" or "O" for each correct answer.)
- Play musical chairs. (If student answers a question correctly, he/she is NOT out.)
- Form teams and play Bible baseball.

### 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.

Teacher Prep: Study Psalm 19:7-11. Pray for anointing.

Items Needed: Honey and products that contain honey, marker board and markers, "Uses & Benefits of Honey" and "Uses & Benefits of the Bible" visuals, Bible, "Honey" visual.

Show kids the honey and honey products.

- **What is honey used for and what are some of its benefits?** Show "Uses & Benefits of Honey" visual and discuss. (*natural sweetener, boosts energy, soothes sore throats, used in beauty products, home remedy, etc.*)

**Now listen to these verses from God's Word about God's Word:**

Read Psalm 19:7-9 from your Bible, discussing and writing on the marker board each word that is a synonym for God's Word: LAW, TESTIMONY, STATUTES, COMMANDMENT, JUDGMENTS.

**God's words—His law, testimony, statutes, commandment, judgments—are compared to some things in the next verse:**

Read or have a student read Psalm 19:10.

- **What are God's words compared to in Psalm 19:10?** (*gold, honey and the honeycomb*)
- **How is the Bible (God's Word) like honey?** Show "Uses & Benefits of the Bible" visual and discuss. (*it adds sweetness to our thoughts, gives us a spiritual boost, soothes and smooths our words, helps us act more beautifully, contains the remedy for sin and its problems, etc.*)

**Listening to and obeying God's Word has many benefits! Listen to Psalm 19:11:**

Read Psalm 19:11 from your Bible.

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

**I want all the rewards and benefits from God's Word, especially the cure for sin! What about you?! Let's pray right now that God will help us listen to and obey His Word. And let's ask Him to forgive our sins because one of the benefits (listed in I John 1:9) is that "if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins."**

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

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 Old Testament?** (39—3 letters in "OLD" and 9 letters in "TESTAMENT")
- **How many books are in the New Testament?** (27 = 3 letters in "NEW" x 9 letters in "TESTAMENT")
- **How many books are in the entire 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*)

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 the 119th Psalm.**

- **What is special about Psalm 119?** (*it 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! Starting at verse 1, let's look through some verses and list on the marker board some synonyms (words that mean the same) for God's Word.**

Have kids skim through the first few verses: verse 1, law; verse 2, testimonies; verse 3, ways(?); verse 4, precepts; verse 5, statutes; verse 6, commandments; verse 7, judgments; verse 8, statutes, etc.

**Now find verse 103.** Have a student read Psalm 119:103 to the class.

**God's words are SWEET!**

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

**ACTIVITY/SNACK (15 minutes)**

**Teacher:**

Supplies: Honey treats (Honey-Comb or Honey Nut Cheerios cereal, Honey Maid graham crackers, Honey Teddy Grahams, Honey Buns, Bit-O-Honey, etc.)

Drinks

Napkins, plates or bowls, and cups as needed

Serve honey snacks. Be sure the kids take time to pray and give thanks for their snacks. Remind them: **Honey is sweet. God's Word is sweeter!**